

# Chemically-specific multiscale mechanical simulation of nanomaterials: improving tractability with machine learning

**Maxime Vassaux**

*Institut de Physique de Rennes  
Univ. Rennes, CNRS - UMR 6251*

**Peter V. Coveney**

*Centre for Computational Science  
University College London*

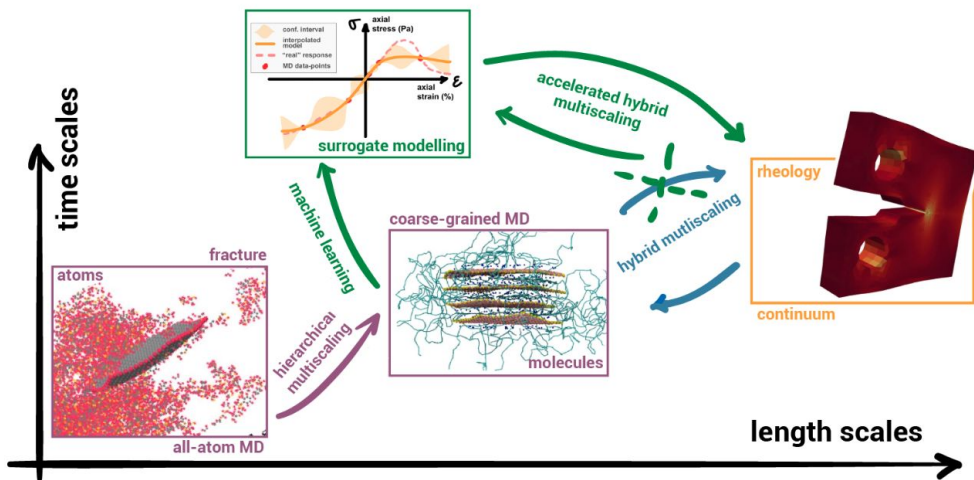
@mxvassaux

maxime.vassaux@cnrs.fr

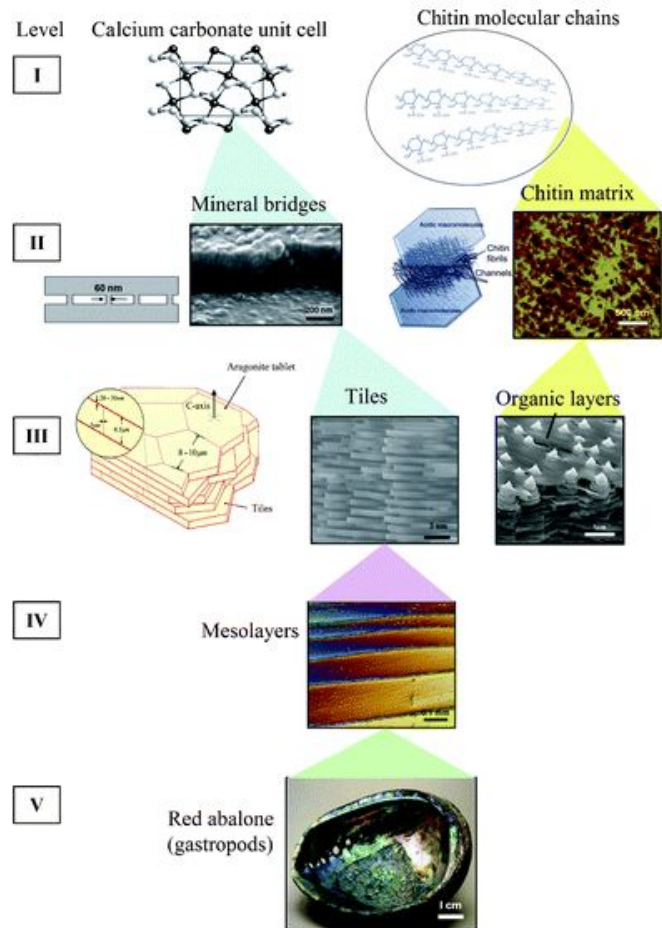


# Emergence of mechanical properties across scales

- hierarchy of scales more or less separated

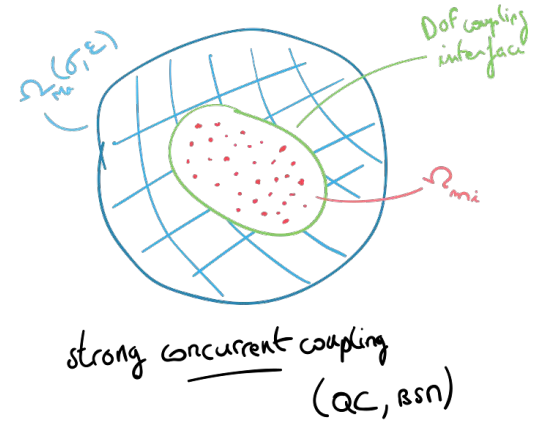
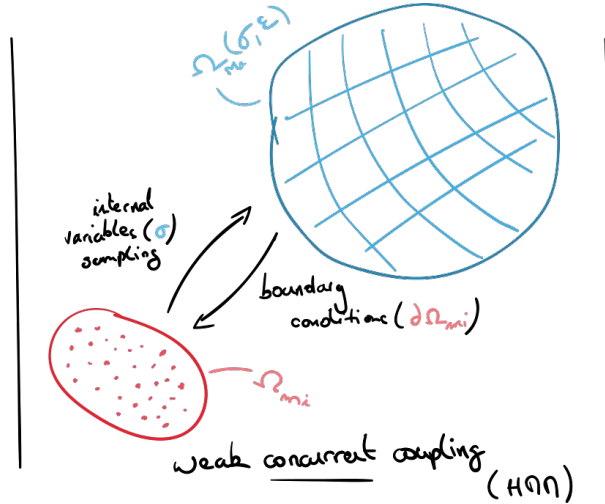
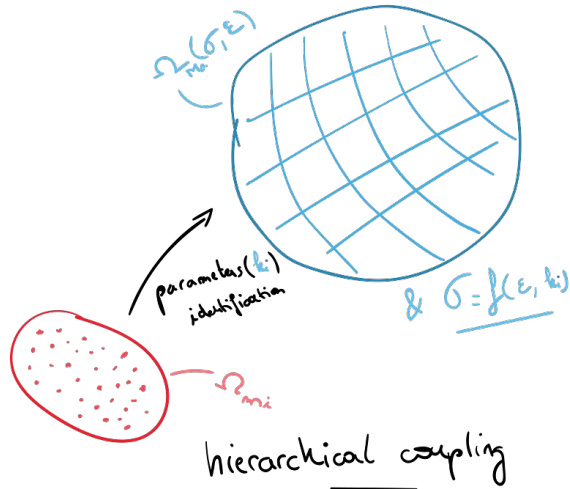


## Hierarchical structure of the red abalone (gastropods) nacre



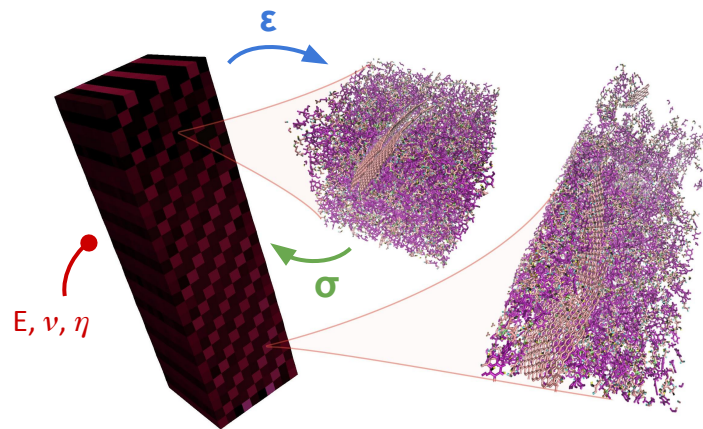
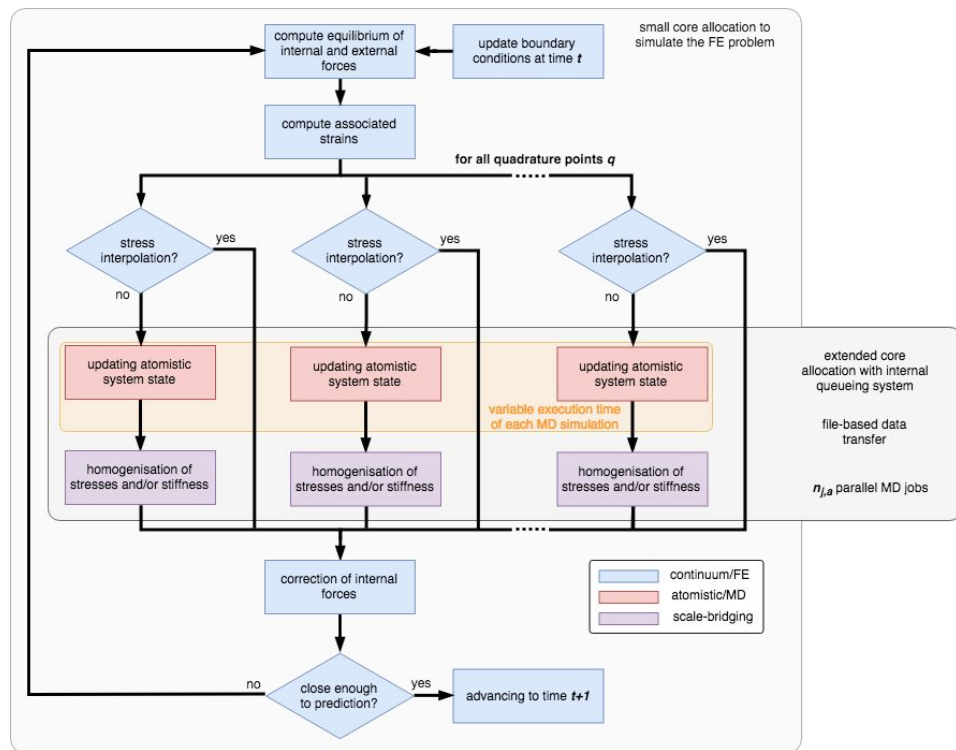
# A wide spectrum of multiscale strategies

- different feedback frequency and resolution
  - hierarchical
  - semi-concurrent
  - concurrent



[Shenoy et al. J. Mech. Phys. Solids \(1999\) 47.3](#)  
[E et al. Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter \(2003\) 67.9](#)

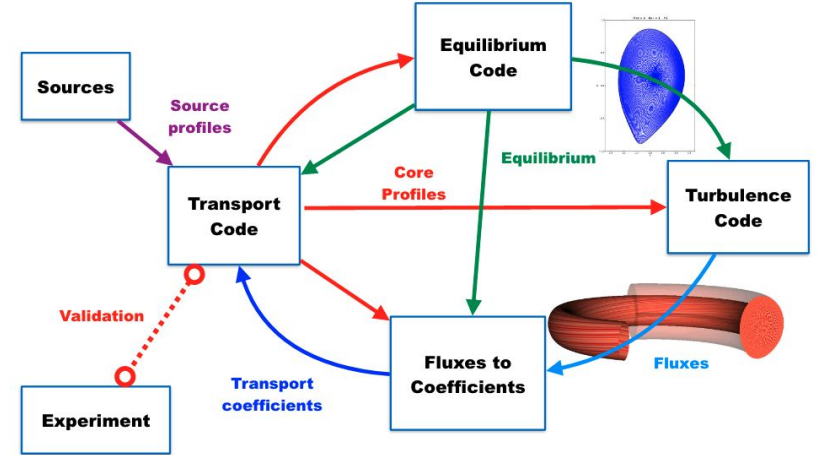
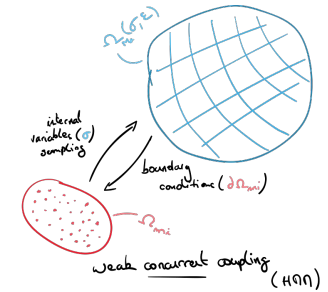
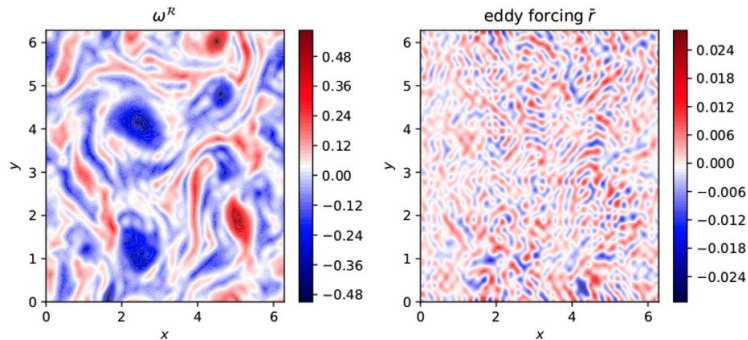
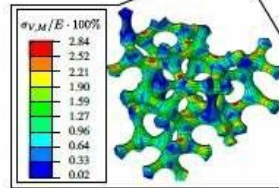
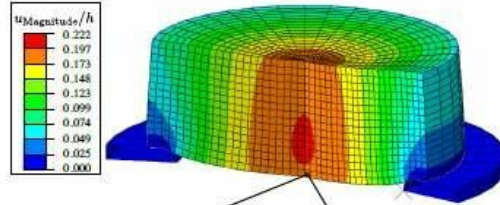
# SCEMa: Simulation Coupling Environment for Materials





# Ubiquity of semi-concurrent approaches

- $FE^2$ , FE-MD, ...



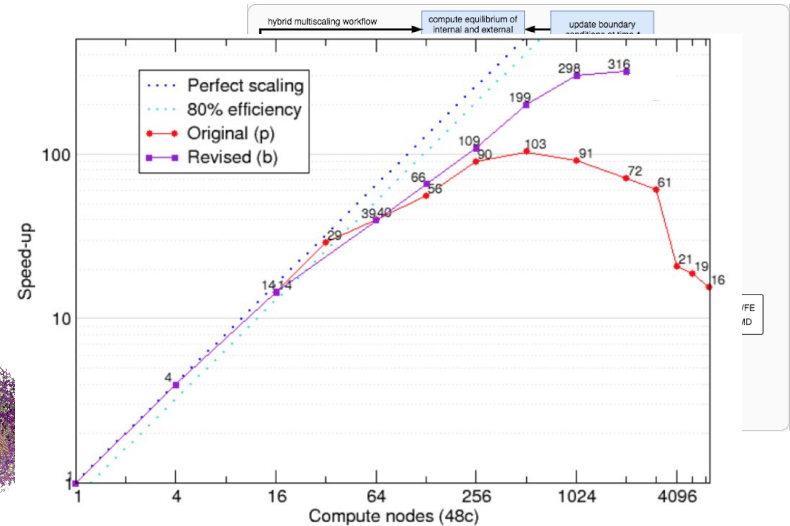
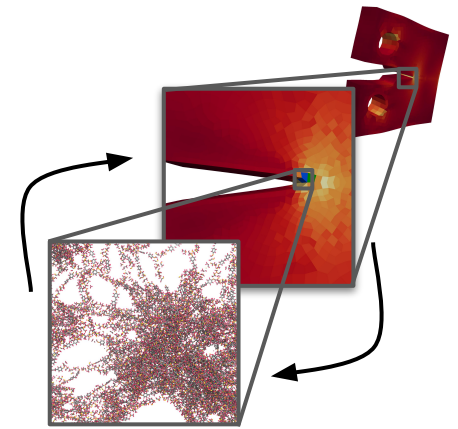
- mechanics but also fusion, climate applications

[Lange, et al. Adv. Eng. Mater. \(2021\) 24:2](#)  
[Edeling, et al. Comput. Fluids. \(2020\) 201](#)

[Lakhilii, et al. LNCTS. \(2020\) 12143](#)

# SCEMa: Simulation Coupling Environment for Materials

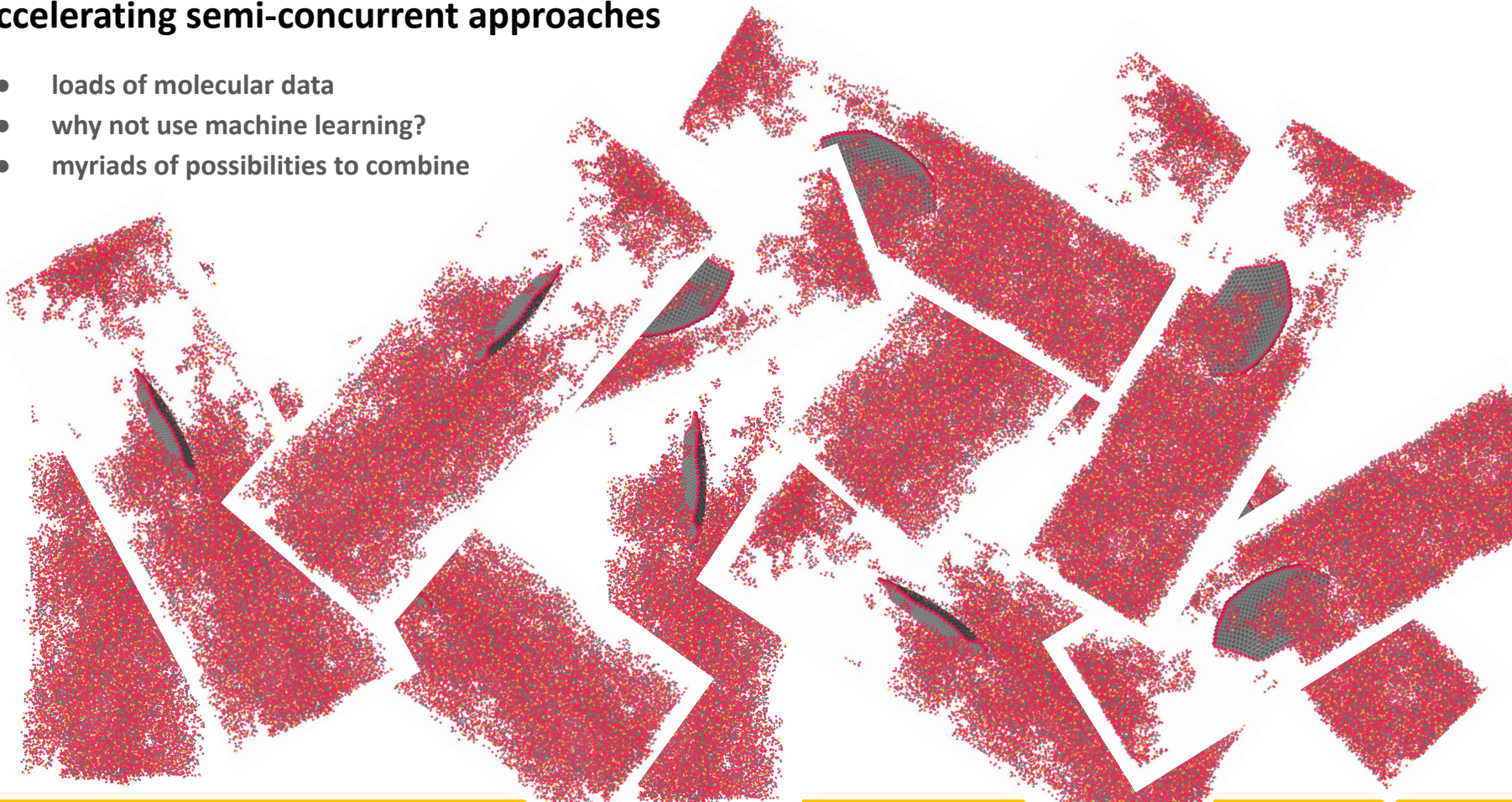
- Prediction of advanced structural materials properties at the meter/second scale
- Concurrent model coupling asynchronously
  - a continuum macroscale model (FE)
  - a molecular microscale model (MD)
- Computational cost
  - 0.1 core hour per microscale simulation
  - 10,000 cells x 8qps/cell x 5 replicas/qp
  - 400,000 independent microscale simulations per macroscale simulation time-step
- Scalability benchmark on **full partition**
  - 311,000 CPUs of SuperMUC-NG
  - 316x peak speed-up on 2048 nodes



[Vassaux, Richardson and Coveney. \*Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London, Ser. A.\* \(2019\) 377.2142](#)

## Accelerating semi-concurrent approaches

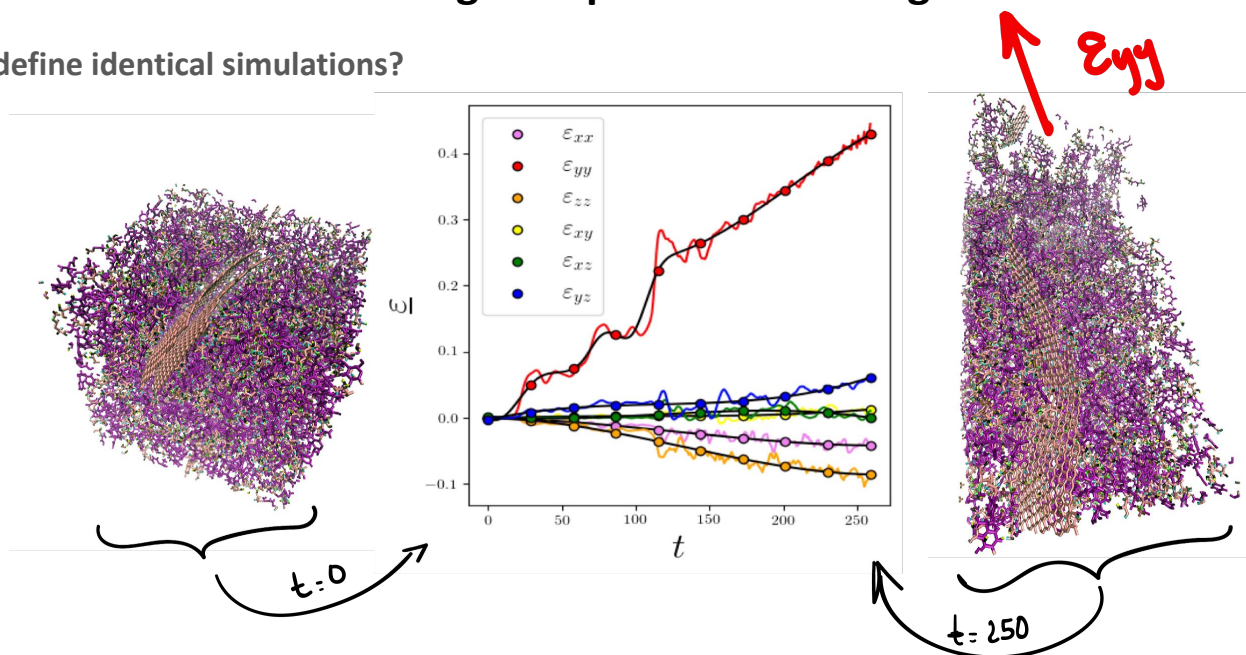
- loads of molecular data
- why not use machine learning?
- myriads of possibilities to combine





# Determine identical simulations using unsupervised learning

- how do we define identical simulations?



- fitting 7D splines (history matters, not rate)
- similarity of a pair of splines inversely proportional to their euclidean distance

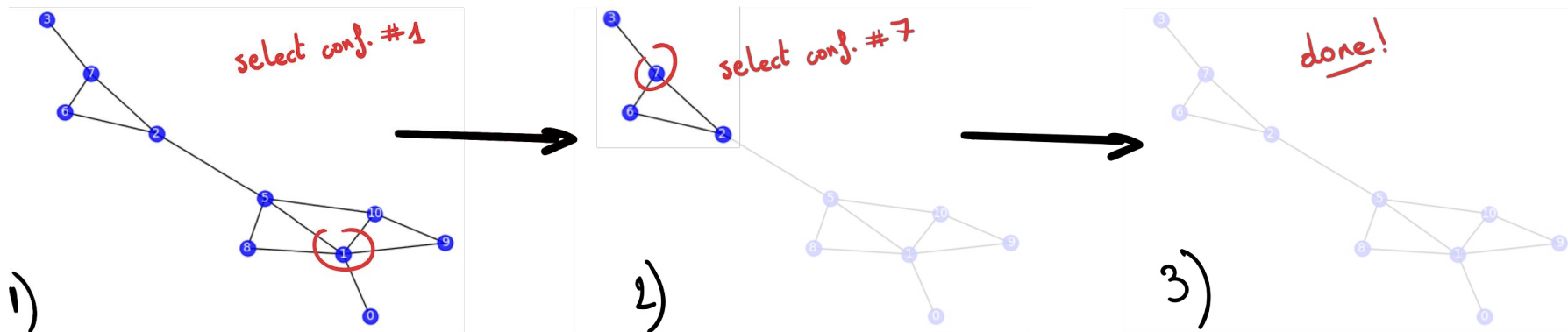
$$\frac{1}{s_{1,2}} \propto \sum_{n=1}^{n_{cp}} \sum_{i=1}^6 \sqrt{(\tilde{\epsilon}_{1,n,i} - \tilde{\epsilon}_{2,n,i})^2}$$



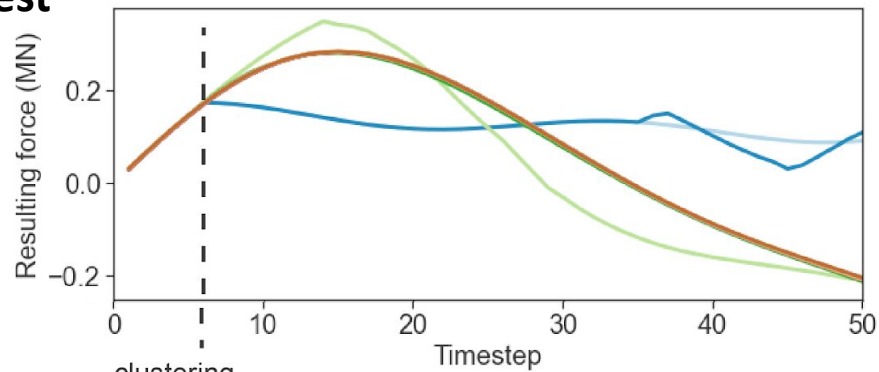
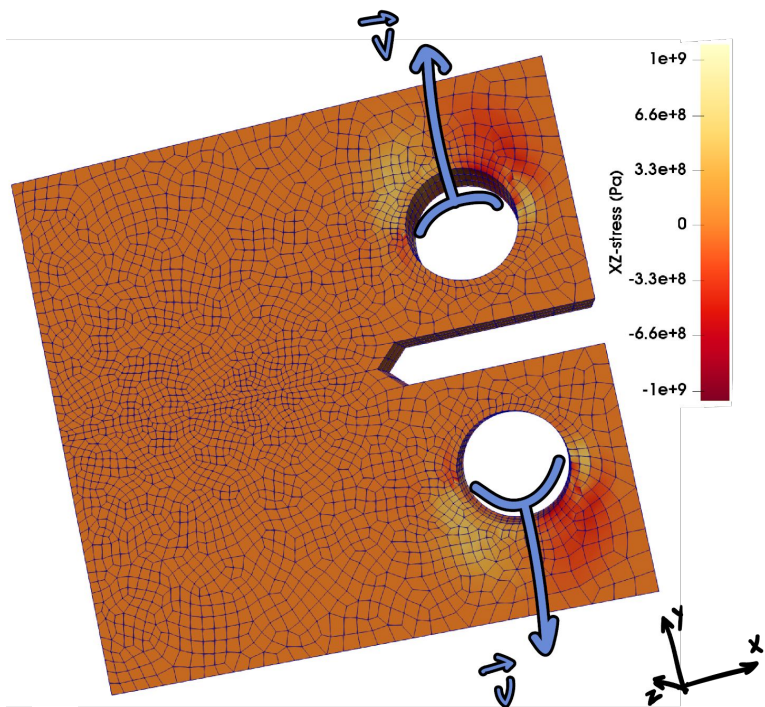
## Compute as few molecular simulations as possible

- **clustering** to minimise computational effort
- splines are considered similar if below arbitrary threshold  $\alpha$
- algorithm
  - build the graph of similar configurations
  - compute the most connected configurations
  - remove simulated configurations and similar ones from the graph
  - return to 1. (until no more configurations to compute the stress from)

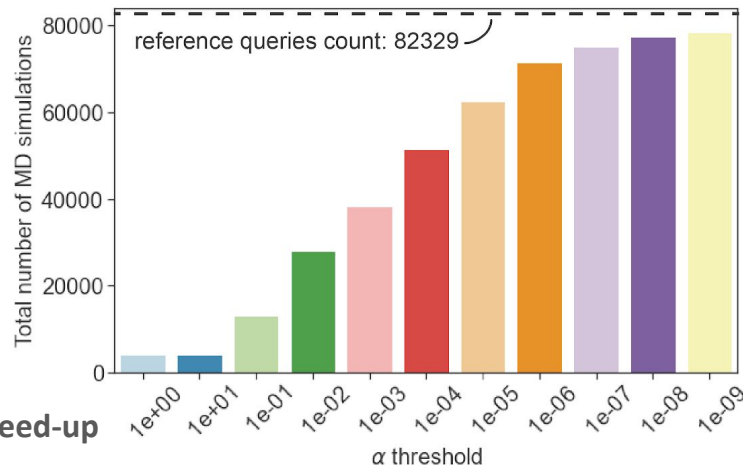
$$\frac{1}{s_{1,2}} \propto \sum_{n=1}^{n_{cp}} \sum_{i=1}^6 \sqrt{(\tilde{\epsilon}_{1,n,i} - \tilde{\epsilon}_{2,n,i})^2}$$



# Multiscale simulation of a compact-tension test



clustering begins

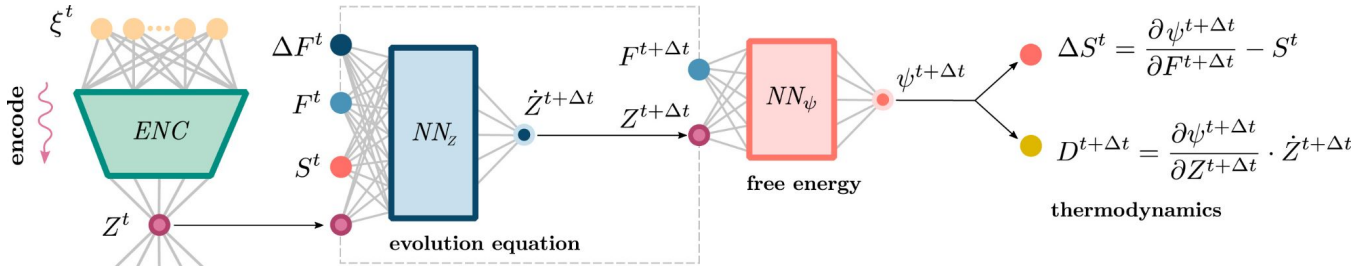


➔ Accurate global prediction with threshold  $\alpha < 0.01$  → x3.03 speed-up

[Vassaux, et al. Adv. Theor. Simul. \(2020\) 4.2](#)

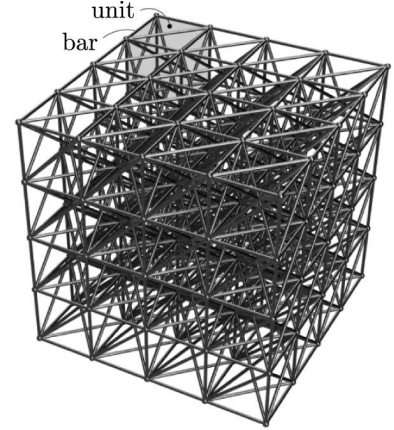
# Make it faster using interpolation (rather than database look up)

- supervised machine learning can fit mechanical data

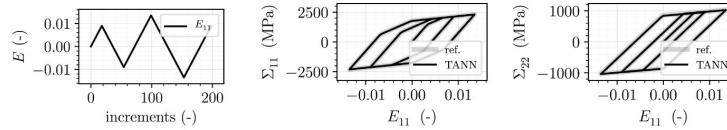


thermodynamically-admissible neural network

microscale model for training data generation

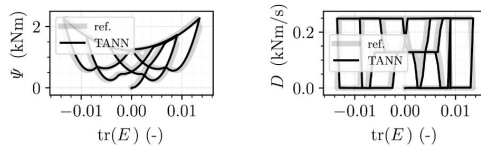


3D lattice material structure



(a) strain path

(b) stress-strain behavior



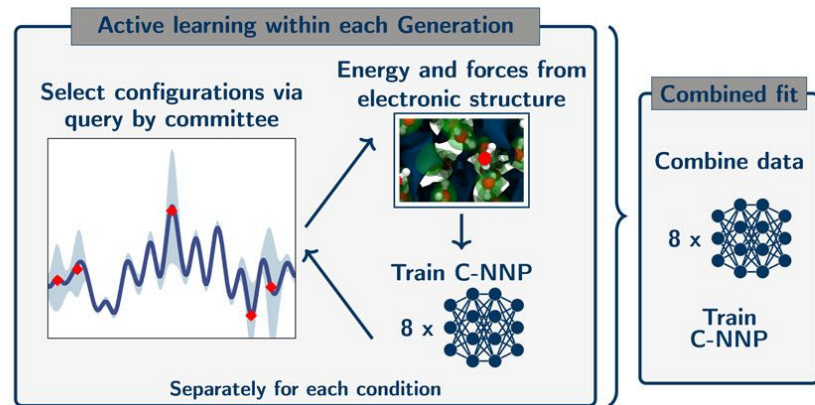
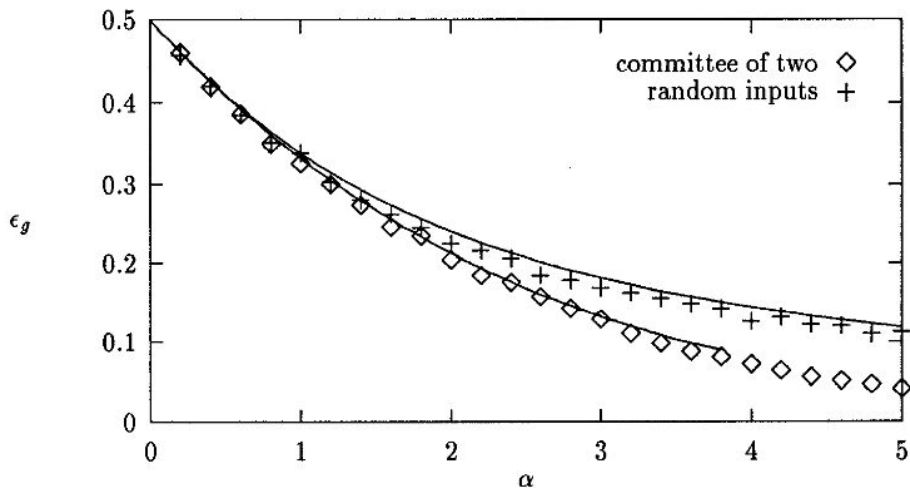
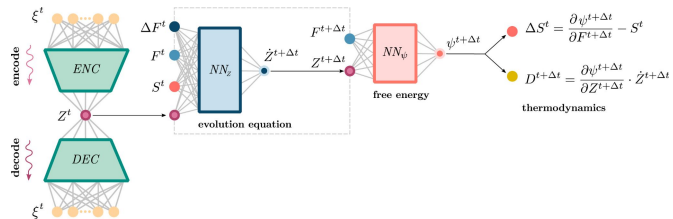
(c) free-energy and dissipation rate in function of volume change

validation of the ML-based model



# But how to quantify accuracy of ML-model prediction?

- ML models most often do not have uncertainty estimates...
- Query-by-Committee
  - from Active Learning
  - minimise size of training datasets
  - improve generalization of ML model



# Adaptation of the concurrent multiscale workflow

- ask the Committee: do we need to compute a new MD ensemble?

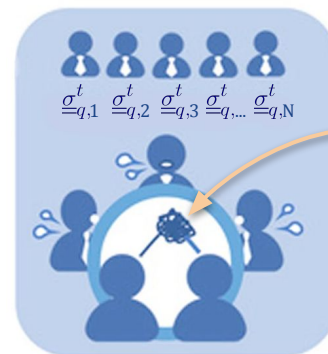
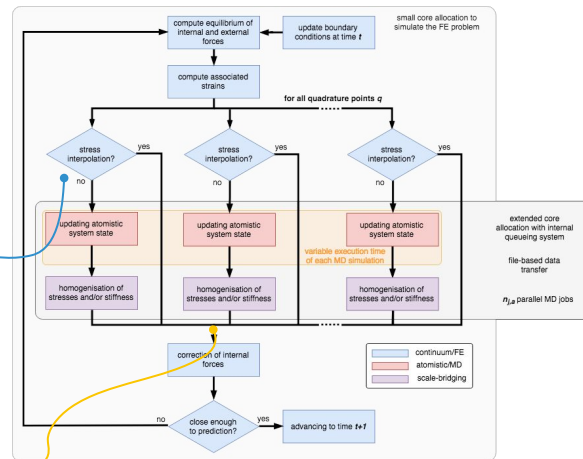
$$\left( \underset{=}{\underline{\epsilon}}_q^{t-1}, \underset{=}{\underline{\sigma}}_q^{t-1}, \Delta \underset{=}{\underline{\epsilon}}_q^t \right) \text{inputs} \rightarrow \left( \underset{=}{\underline{\sigma}}_q^t \right) \text{outputs}$$

```

t ← timestep;
q ← quadrature point;
σacc ← MD stress accuracy;
NC ← committee size;
trainset ← [];
for i ← 0 to NC do
  | σ̃q,it = Committee(i, εqt-1, εqt, σqt-1)
end
if Var[σ̃q,it]i < σacc then
  | σqt = E[σ̃q,it]i
else
  | σqt = MD(εqt, i);
  | trainset ← (εqt-1, εqt, σqt-1, σqt)
end
    
```

```

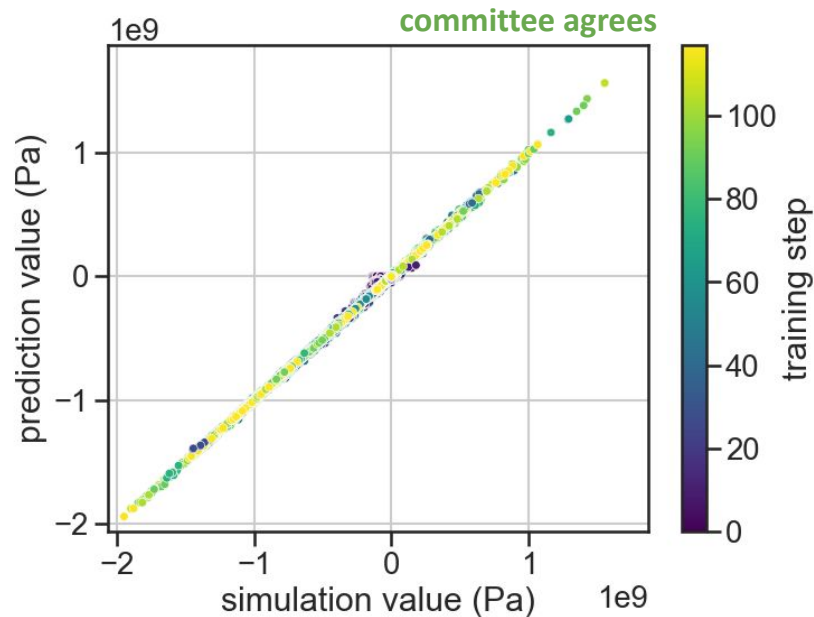
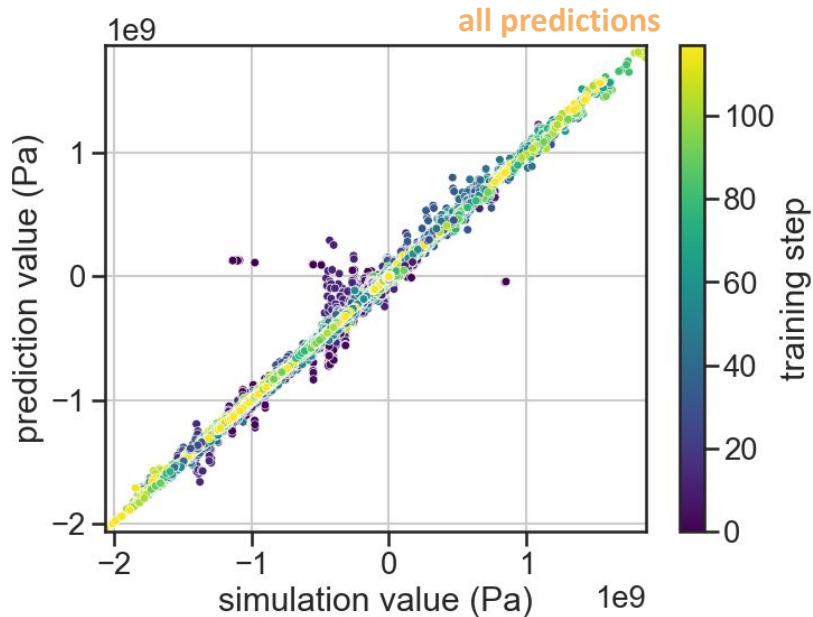
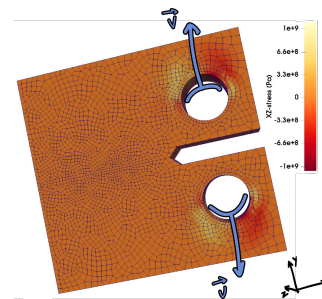
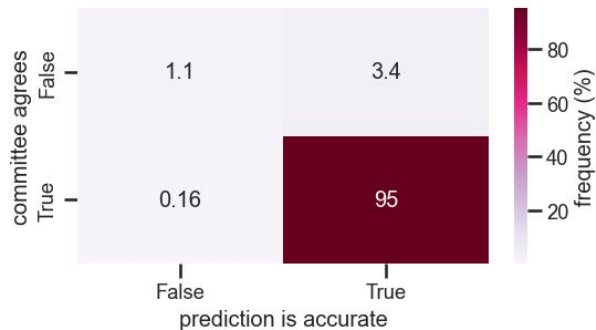
freq ← training frequency ;
if trainset.size() % freq = 0 then
  | Committee = TrainCommittee(trainset)
else
end
    
```



$$\text{Var}[\sigma_{q,i}^t]$$

# Can we trust the committee?

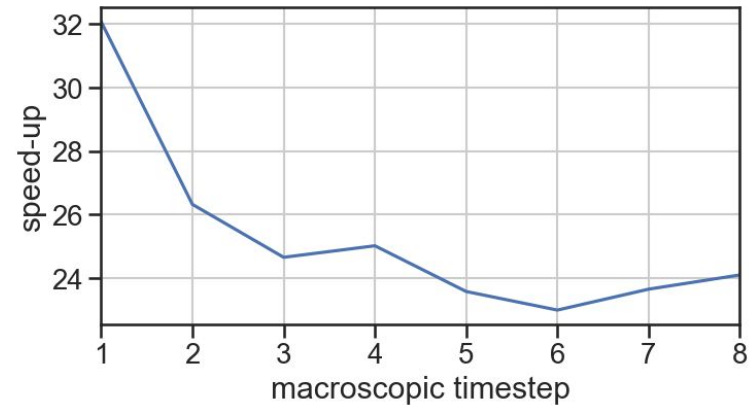
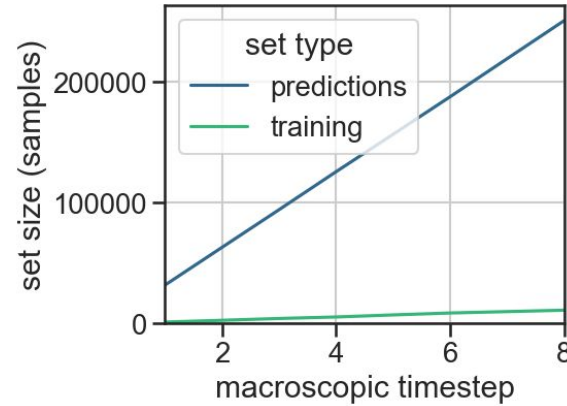
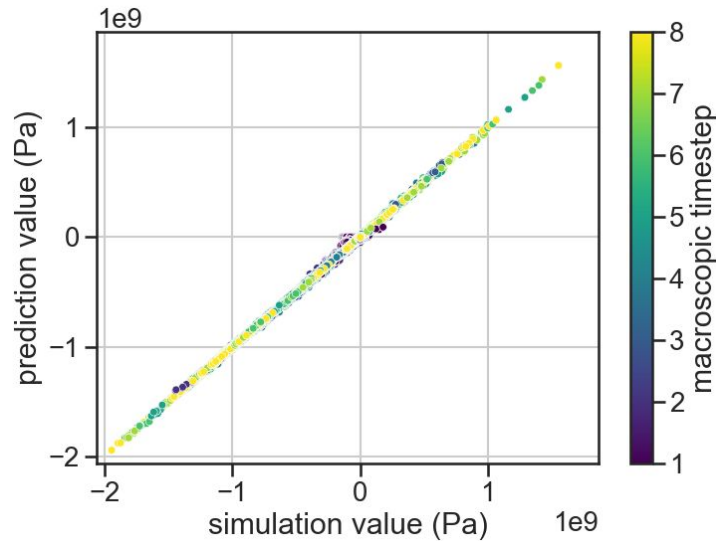
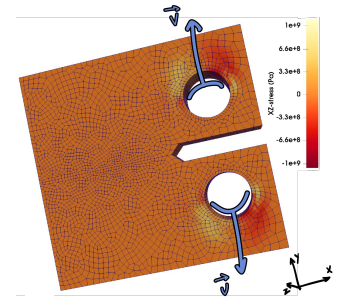
- reference configuration
  - committee size: 4
  - strain accuracy: 30 MPa
  - train frequency: 100 samples



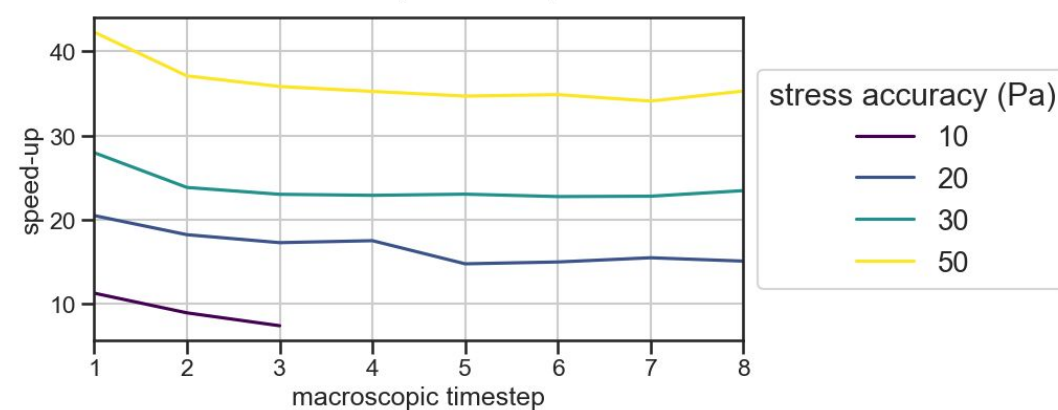
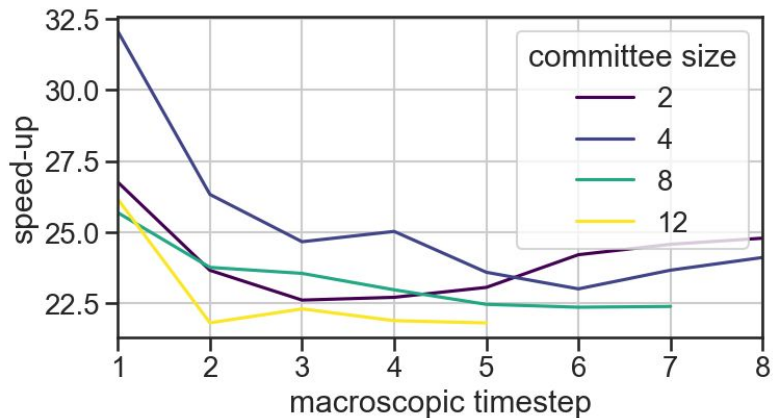
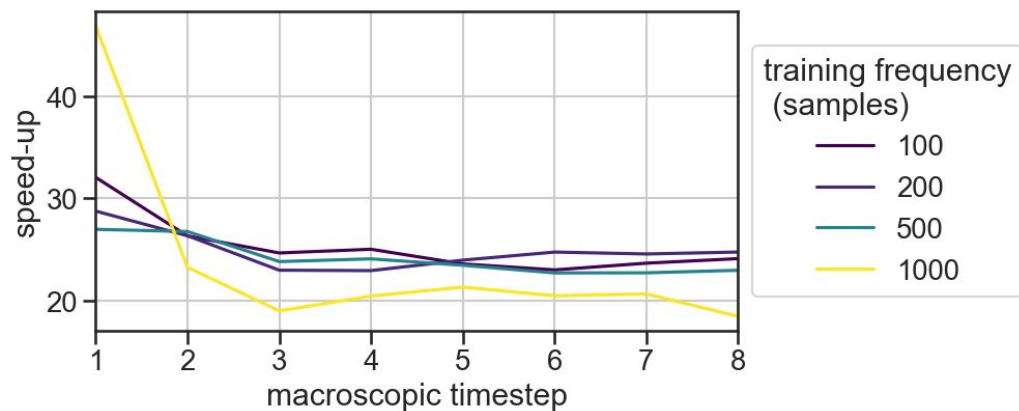
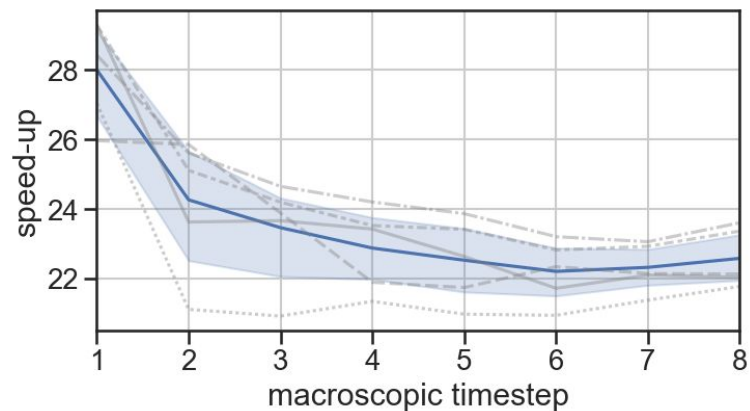


# Accuracy, data requirements and speed-up

- reference configuration
  - committee size: 4
  - strain accuracy: 30 MPa
  - train frequency: 100 samples

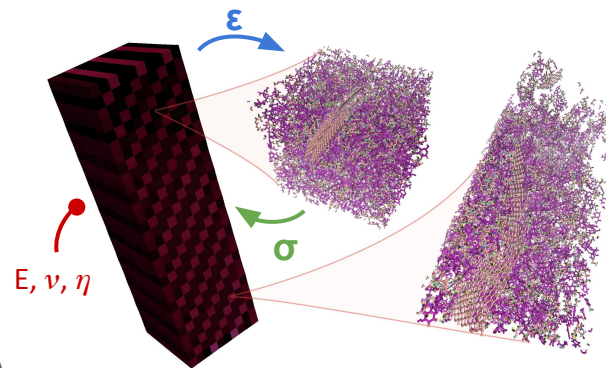


# Influence of parameters: seed, committee size, accuracy and training frequency



# Conclusions

- **MD is already a powerful tool**
  - to capture some material properties
  - to understand physics at hardly accessible scales
  - **but!**
    - MD has limited (scale) capacities
    - MD needs to be made more reliable (VVUQ, see other talk)
- **multiscale strategies and data-based methods help**
  - **hierarchical**: cheap, efficient but limited transferability
  - **semi-concurrent**: expensive but widely applicable
  - **compromise**: using machine-learning approaches



- **unsupervised and supervised acceleration**
  - *a priori* assessment of ML model uncertainty
  - **$10^1$  to  $10^2$**  theoretical speed-up of multiscale simulations



## Acknowledgements

- Éric Robin
- Peter Coveney
- Werner Müller
- James Suter
- Wouter Edeling
- Robin Richardson
- Robert Sinclair
- and many others ...



[ucl.ac.uk/mesoscale-modelling-consortium/](http://ucl.ac.uk/mesoscale-modelling-consortium/)

