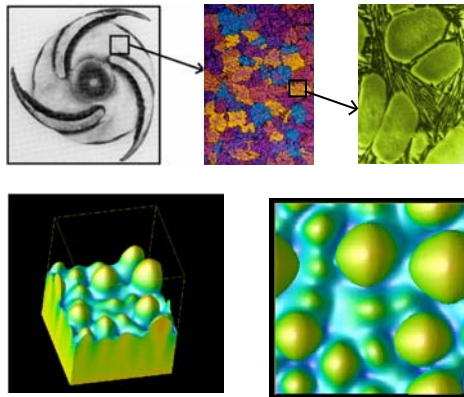


## Part 2. Modelling microstructure formation and phase transitions – an introduction how to start with a simple phase-field model



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- 1 Motivation
- 2 Phase-field modelling (PFM) for pure substances
- 3 PFM for Multicomponent and multiphase systems
  - ⇒ Model extensions
  - ⇒ Numerical methods
  - ⇒ Multi-phase applications: partial melts and crack sealing
- 4 PFM with volume constraints
- 5 **Case study: how to start with a simple phase-field model**
- 6 Applications:
  - ⇒ Dendritic growth in Nickel
  - ⇒ Binary/ternary solidification microstructures
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### A solid-liquid phase-field model: Case study

Ginzburg-Landau entropy density functional

$$\mathcal{S}(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} s(\phi) - \left( \epsilon a(\nabla\phi) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} w(\phi) \right) dx$$

Entropy density contributions:

$s = -f, T$	bulk entropy density
with $f(\phi) = \tilde{\eta} h(\phi) = \tilde{\eta} \phi^2(3 - 2\phi)$	free energy density
$w(\phi) = 9\gamma\phi^2(1 - \phi)^2$	potential entropy density
$a(\nabla\phi) = \gamma \nabla\phi ^2$	gradient entropy density

### Variational derivative of the entropy functional

$$\epsilon \partial_t \phi = \frac{\delta \mathcal{S}(\phi)}{\delta \phi} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \phi} - \nabla \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial (\nabla \phi)}$$

⇒ Phase-field equation

$$\epsilon \partial_t \phi = \epsilon \nabla \cdot a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla\phi) - A \frac{1}{\epsilon} w_{,\phi}(\phi) - B f_{,\phi}(\phi)$$

with derivatives

$$a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla\phi) = 2\gamma(\nabla\phi)$$

$$w_{,\phi}(\phi) = 18\gamma(2\phi^3 - 3\phi^2 + \phi)$$

$$f_{,\phi}(\phi) = 6\eta\phi(1 - \phi)$$

↑  
to switch on/off the terms

⇒ Phase-field equation with specific choice of entropy densities

$$\epsilon \partial_t \phi = \underbrace{\epsilon \nabla \cdot (2\gamma(\nabla \phi))}_{2\epsilon\gamma(\Delta\phi)} - A \frac{1}{\epsilon} 18\gamma(2\phi^3 - 3\phi^2 + \phi) - B 6\eta\phi(1 - \phi)$$

with e.g. natural boundary condition

$$\nabla \phi \cdot n_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$$

**Discretization on a rectangular region in two dimensions**

$$\Omega = [0, a] \times [0, b] \subset \mathbb{R}^2,$$

Cell spacing  $\delta x = \frac{a}{Nx} \quad \delta y = \frac{b}{Ny}.$

Grid points

$$x_{i,j} = (i\delta x, j\delta y), \quad i = 0, \dots, Nx, \quad j = 0, \dots, Ny$$

Finite difference expression of the laplace operator:

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial y^2}$$

$$(\Delta\phi)_{i,j} = \frac{\phi_{i+1,j} - 2\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i-1,j}}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\phi_{i,j+1} - 2\phi_{i,j} + \phi_{i,j-1}}{\delta y^2}$$

### Euler's method for the time discretization

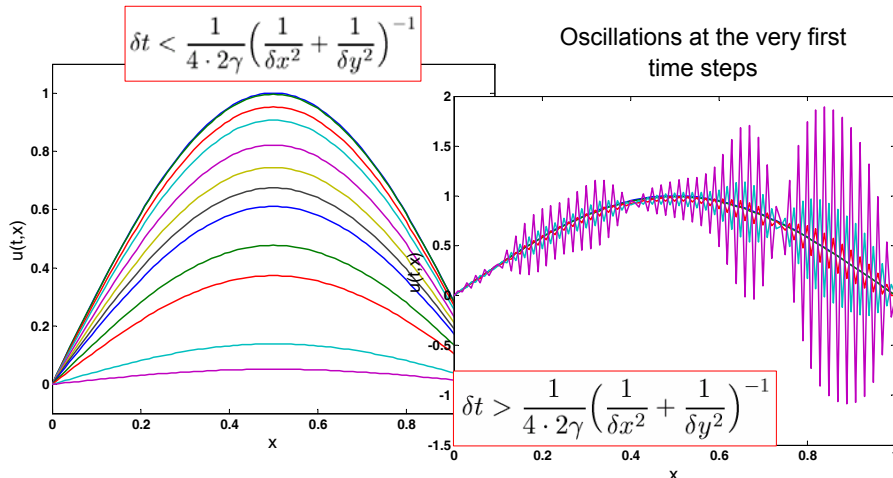
$$(\partial_t \phi)^{n+1} = \frac{\phi^{n+1} - \phi^n}{\delta t}$$

Explicit finite difference algorithm of the phase-field equation

$$\phi_{i,j}^{n+1} = \phi_{i,j}^n + \delta t \left\{ 2\gamma \left( \frac{\phi_{i+1,j}^n - 2\phi_{i,j}^n + \phi_{i-1,j}^n}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\phi_{i,j+1}^n - 2\phi_{i,j}^n + \phi_{i,j-1}^n}{\delta y^2} \right) - A \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} w_{,\phi}(\phi_{i,j}^n) - B \frac{1}{\epsilon} f_{,\phi}(\phi_{i,j}^n) \right\}$$

Stability condition  $\delta t < \frac{1}{4 \cdot 2\gamma} \left( \frac{1}{\delta x^2} + \frac{1}{\delta y^2} \right)^{-1}$

### Instability for the explicit difference method

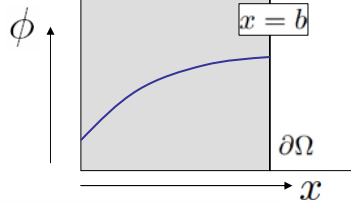


### Boundary values for the discrete equation

**(i) Neumann condition (isolation):**

$$\phi_{0,j} = \phi_{1,j}, \quad \phi_{Nx,j} = \phi_{Nx-1,j}$$

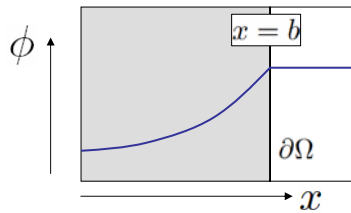
$$\phi_{i,0} = \phi_{i,1}, \quad \phi_{i,Ny} = \phi_{i,Ny-1}$$



**(ii) Periodic condition:**

$$\phi_{0,j} = \phi_{Nx-1,j}, \quad \phi_{Nx,j} = \phi_{1,j}$$

$$\phi_{i,0} = \phi_{i,Ny-1}, \quad \phi_{i,Ny} = \phi_{i,1}$$

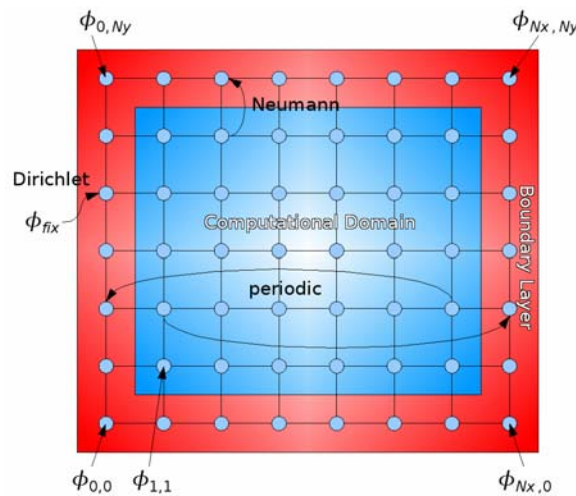


**(iii) Dirichlet condition:**

$$\phi_{0,j} = \phi_W, \quad \phi_{Nx,j} = \phi_E$$

$$\phi_{i,0} = \phi_S, \quad \phi_{i,Ny} = \phi_N$$

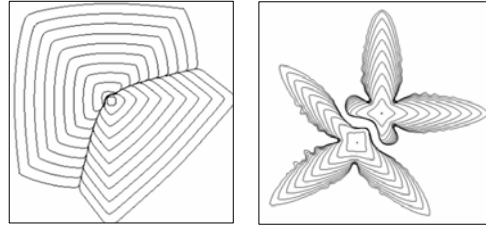
### Illustration of boundary conditions



$$\mathcal{S}(e, \phi) = \int_{\Omega} \left( s(e, \phi) - \left( \varepsilon a(\nabla \phi) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} w(\phi) \right) \right) dx$$

Anisotropic gradient entropy densities

$$a(\nabla \phi) = \gamma A(\nabla \phi) |\nabla \phi|^2$$



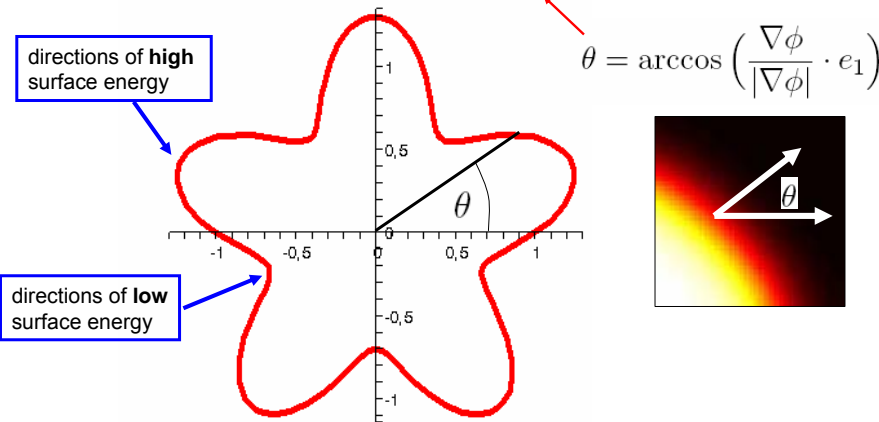
with e.g.

2D  $A(\nabla \phi) = 1 + \delta \cos(4\theta)$       $\theta$ : angle between interface normal and some fixed direction

3D  $A(\nabla \phi) = 1 - \delta_c \left( 3 - 4 \frac{1}{|\nabla \phi|^4} \sum_i \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i} \right)^4 \right)$      [ J. Bragard, A. Karma, Y. H. Lee, M. Plapp, Interface Science 10 (2-3) pp. 121-136 (2002) ]

Anisotropic gradient entropy densities

in 2D:  $A(\nabla \phi) = 1 + 0.3 \sin(5\theta)$

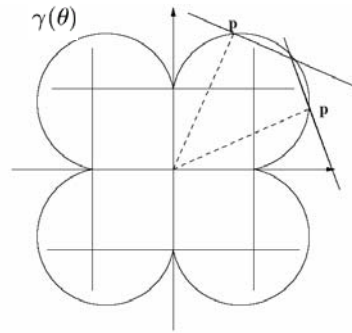


### Equilibrium crystal shapes

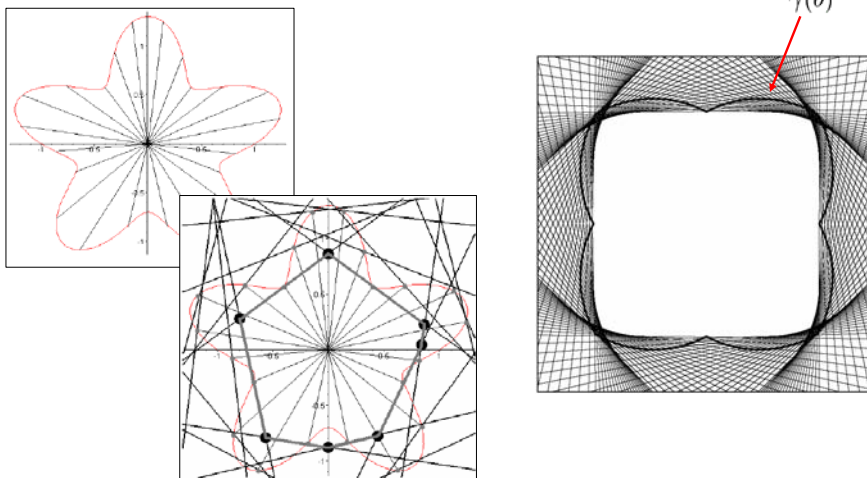
are determined by angular dependence of surface energy  $\rightarrow \gamma(\theta)$  - plot

#### Wulff construction:

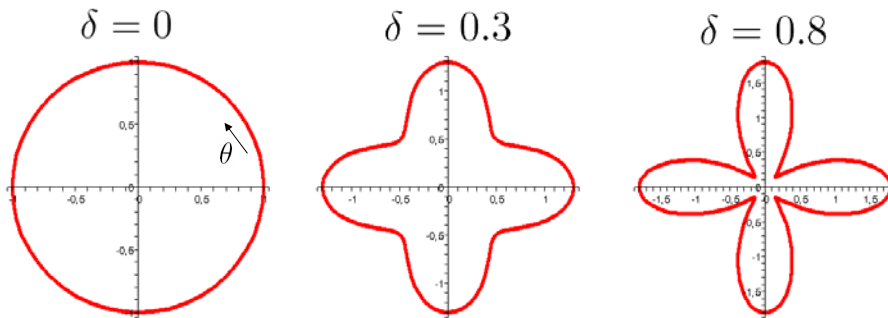
drop perpendiculars to all radius vectors on the curve  $\gamma(\theta)$ . The inner envelope of them gives the crystal shape.



### Wulff Construction of crystal shapes

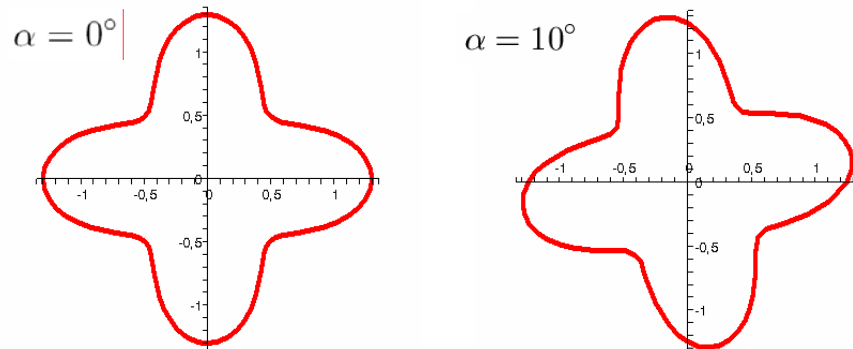


**Strength of the anisotropy**  $A(\nabla\phi) = 1 + \delta \cos(4\theta)$



**Orientation of the crystal**  $A(\nabla\phi) = 1 + \delta \cos(4(\theta - \alpha))$

adjust orientation of the crystal

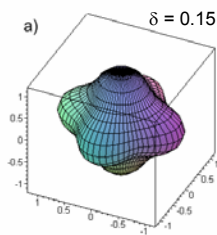


### Crystal shapes in 3D, multi-phase

examples for anisotropy function  $A(\vec{q}) = A(\phi_\alpha \nabla \phi_\beta - \phi_\beta \nabla \phi_\alpha)$

a) cubic (smooth)

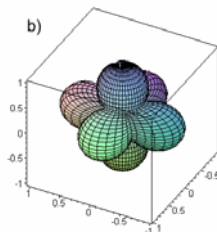
$$A(\vec{q}) = 1 - 3\delta + 4\delta \sum_{i=1}^3 \left( \frac{q_i}{|q|} \right)^4$$



b) cubic (faceted)

$$A(\vec{q}) = \left( \max \left\{ \frac{\vec{q}}{|\vec{q}|} \cdot \vec{\eta}_k, k = 1, \dots, n \right\} \right)^2$$

$\vec{\eta}^k$ :  $k^{\text{th}}$  vector in the Wulff diagram



### Anisotropic gradient entropy densities

$$a(\nabla \phi) = \gamma A(\nabla \phi) |\nabla \phi|^2 \quad \text{instead of} \quad a(\nabla \phi) = \gamma |\nabla \phi|^2$$

it is more convenient to discretize the divergence

$$\nabla \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial (\nabla \phi)} = \nabla \cdot (a_{,\nabla \phi}(\nabla \phi)) \quad \text{by} \quad \nabla^l \cdot (a_{,\nabla \phi}(\nabla^r \phi))$$

backward      and      forward differences

Forward differences

$$(\nabla^r \phi)_{i,j} = \left( \frac{\phi_{i+1,j} - \phi_{i,j}}{\Delta x}, \frac{\phi_{i,j+1} - \phi_{i,j}}{\Delta y} \right)$$

The discretization of the divergence gives

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \nabla^l \cdot (a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla^r\phi)) \right)_{i,j} &= \frac{(a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla^r\phi))_{i,j} - (a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla^r\phi))_{i-1,j}}{\Delta x} \\ &\quad + \frac{(a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla^r\phi))_{i,j} - (a_{,\nabla\phi}(\nabla^r\phi))_{i,j-1}}{\Delta y} \end{aligned}$$

Isotropic case

$$A(\nabla\phi) = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad a(\nabla\phi) = \gamma|\nabla\phi|^2$$

it is easy to show that  $(\Delta\phi)_{i,j} = (\nabla^l \cdot (\nabla^r\phi))_{i,j}$

### Energy equation (pure substance solidification)

Complex patterns arise when transport of conserved quantity (energy, solute) is limited by diffusion.

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial e}{\partial t} &= -\nabla \cdot \left\{ L_{00}(T, \phi) \nabla \cdot \frac{\delta S}{\delta e} \right\} \quad (*) \\ \tau \varepsilon \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} &= \frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi} \end{aligned}$$

mobility coefficient related to heat conductivity  $\kappa(\phi) = \kappa : L_{00} = \kappa T^2$

with thermodynamic relation  $e = f + Ts \Rightarrow \delta S / \delta e = T^{-1}$

and introduce thermal diffusivity  $k = \kappa / c_v$

and adiabatic temperature  $T_Q = L / c_v$

### Temperature equation (pure substance solidification)

We put all this into the energy equation (\*) and use the Ansatz for e:

$$e = -Lh(\phi) + c_v T \quad (\text{entropy of ordering} + \text{heat})$$

to change to the temperature equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \nabla^2 T + T_Q h'(\phi) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t}$$

standard Laplacian discretisation

← use the result from  
the recent phase-  
field update

use Euler scheme with new stability condition for both eqns.

$$\delta t < \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4 \cdot 2\gamma} \left( \frac{1}{\delta x^2} + \frac{1}{\delta y^2} \right)^{-1}, \frac{1}{4k} \left( \frac{1}{\delta x^2} + \frac{1}{\delta y^2} \right)^{-1} \right\}$$

and update synchronously with phase-field eqn.

### Phase-field equation for pure substance solidification

still necessary: use the correct temperature dependant term for the driving force in the PF eqn.

$$\tau \varepsilon \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi}$$

with thermodynamic relation  $e = f + Ts$  and

$$f(\phi, T) = L \frac{T - T_M}{T_M} h(\phi) - c_v T \ln\left(\frac{T}{T_M}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \varepsilon \tau \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \varepsilon \nabla \cdot a_{,\nabla \phi}(\nabla \phi) - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} w_{,\phi}(\phi) - \frac{f_{,\phi}}{T}$$

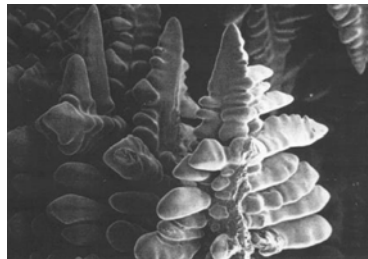
→ dendrites ...

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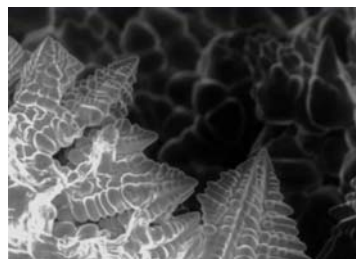
**Directional solidification – Experiments**

Microstructure images of alloy surfaces



Co-Cr-alloy

Labo de Micro-Analyses des Surfaces, Besançon



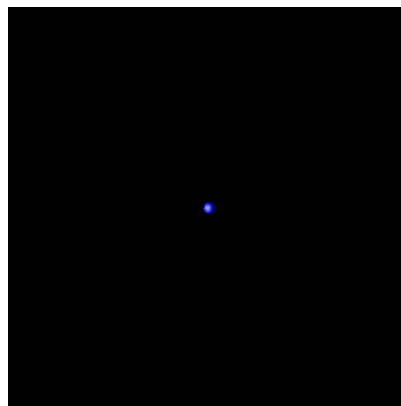
Ti-alloy

Iowa State University, Dept. of Mat. Science and Engineering

### Simulations of dendritic solidification in pure Nickel

Parameter	Symbol	Dimension	Ni - Data
Melting temperature	$T_M$	K	1728
Latent heat	$L$	J/m <sup>3</sup>	$8.113 \times 10^9$
Specific heat	$c_v$	J/(m <sup>3</sup> K)	$1.939 \times 10^7$
Thermal diffusivity	$k$	m <sup>2</sup> /s	$1.2 \times 10^{-5}$
Interfacial free energy	$\sigma_0$	J/m <sup>2</sup>	0.326
Strength of interfacial energy	$\delta_c$	—	0.018
Growth kinetics in $\langle 100 \rangle$ – crystallographic direction	$\mu_{100}$	m/(sK)	0.52
Growth kinetics in $\langle 110 \rangle$ – crystallographic direction	$\mu_{110}$	m/(sK)	0.40

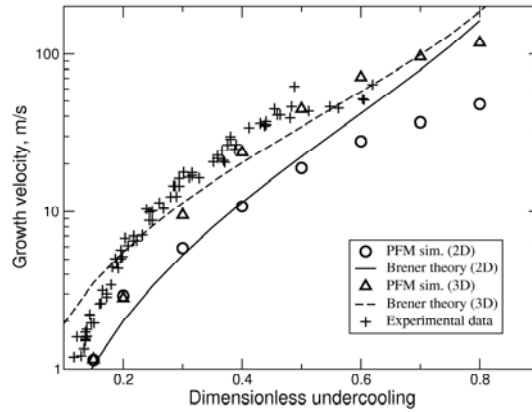
### Simulation of equiaxial dendritic growth of pure Nickel



Undercooling:  $\Delta T = 130$  K  
Grid:  $400 \times 400 \times 400$  (6  $\mu\text{m}$ )

### Comparison of with experiments and analytical predictions in pure Nickel

together with D. Herlach, P. Galenko, DLR Köln and Efim Brener, FZ Jülich



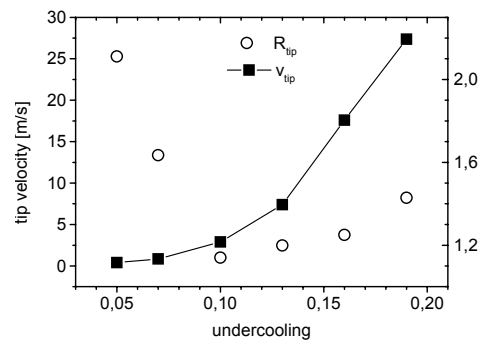
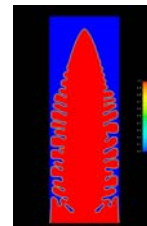
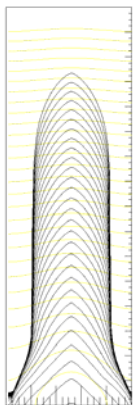
grid 400 × 400 × 400 (6 μm)

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### Dendritic arrays: Effect of undercooling

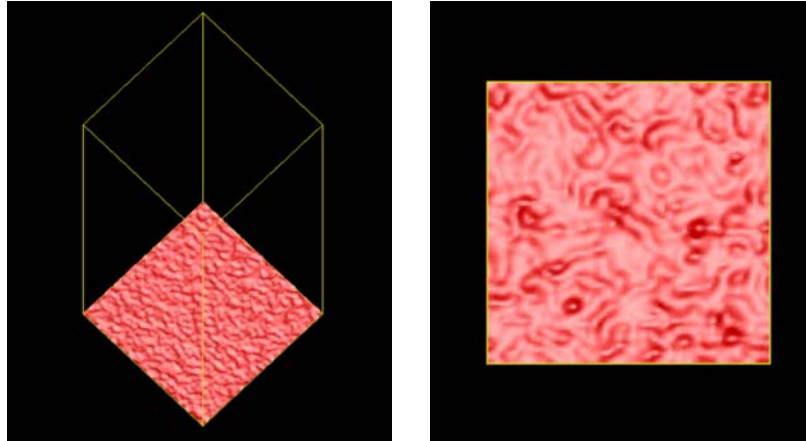
T=0.87: Sharp tip  
 $V_{tip} = 7.38$  m/s,  
 $R_{tip} = 1.20$  μm

T=0.93: parabola  
 $V_{tip} = 0.85$  m/s,  
 $R_{tip} = 1.63$  μm



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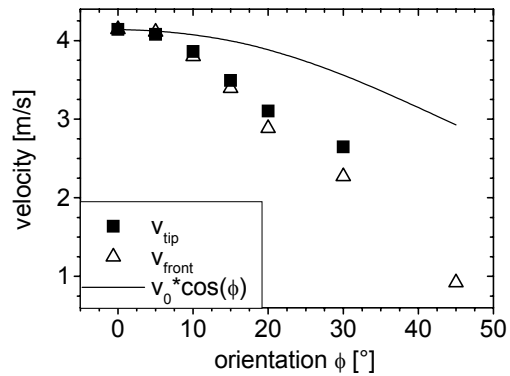
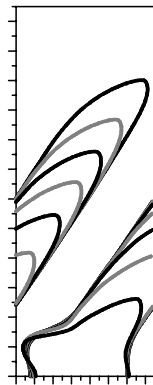
Ni - planar front, 15° off [001] normal,  $T = 0.85$ , grid  $80 \times 80 \times 300$



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### Dendritic arrays: orientation dependence

rotated 30°

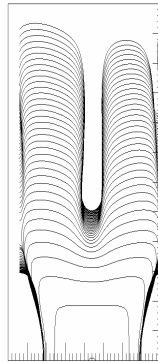


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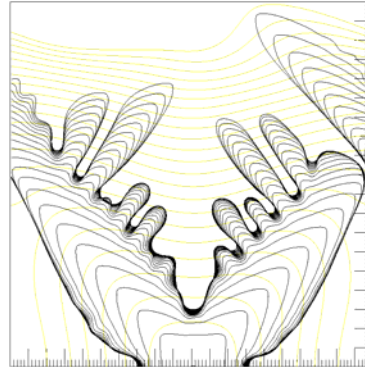
### Ni Dendritic arrays: 45° orientation

At small interdendritic distances, a transition to cellular growth occurs

grid 75×250



grid 250×250



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### Dendritic growth in Ni-Cu

**Data set:**

**Melting temperatures:**

$T_m^{Ni} = 1728 \text{ K}$     $T_m^{Cu} = 1358 \text{ K}$

**Latent heats:**

$L^{Ni} = 2.350 \cdot 10^9 \text{ J/m}^3$

$L^{Cu} = 1.728 \cdot 10^9 \text{ J/m}^3$

**Surface tension:**  $\gamma = 0.37 \text{ J/m}^2$

**Surface anisotropy:**  $\delta = 0.04$

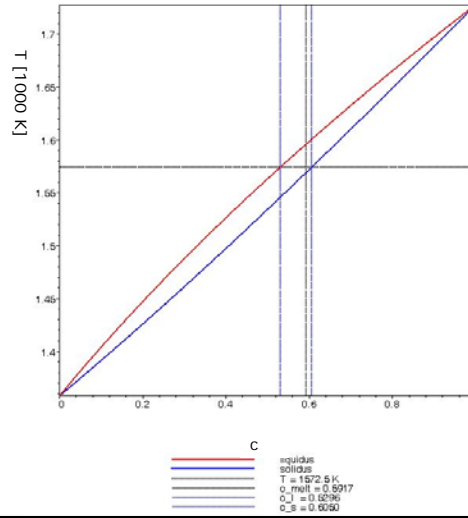
**Diffusion coefficients:**

$D_L = 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2/\text{sK}$     $D_S = 10^{-13} \text{ m}^2/\text{sK}$

**Mobility**  $\mu = 3.3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m/sK}$

**Initial condition:**

$c^{Ni} = 0.5917$     $c^{Cu} = 0.4083$

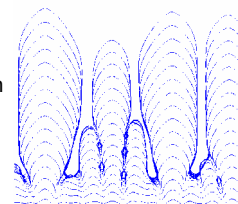


### Ni/Cu cellular growth (movies)

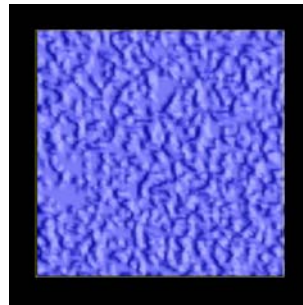
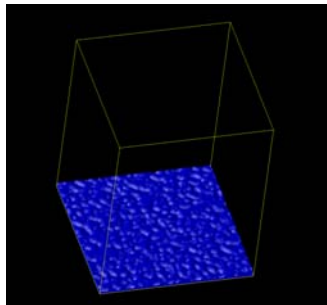
$Ni_{0.5917}Cu_{0.4083}$

Initial condition: rough surface,  
undercooling  $\Delta T = 20 \text{ K}$

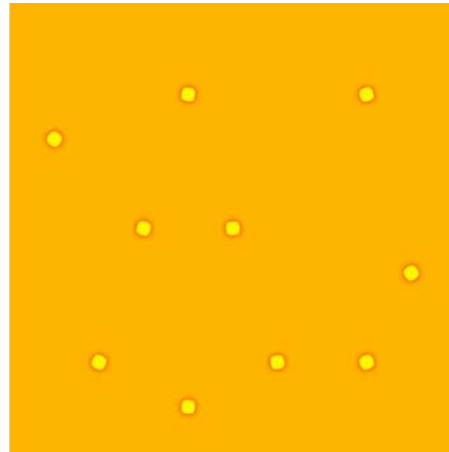
2D simulation  
 $L = 13.5 \mu\text{m}$



Phase-field isosurface with mapped Ni conc. ( $10 \times 10 \times 12 \mu\text{m}$ , moving box)

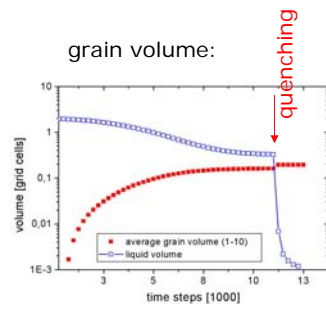


Simulations: Ni/Cu – evolution of polycrystals (2D)

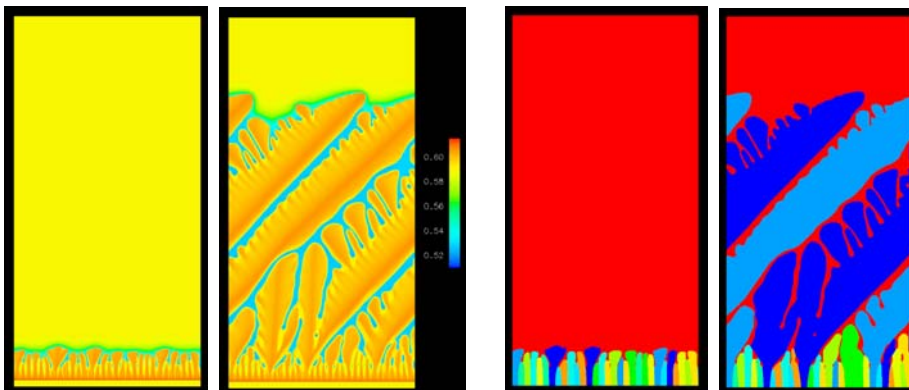


grid: 800x800 (160 μm)

10 orientations,  
10 grains  
 $S = 0.8$ ,  $c_{Ni,melt} = 0.592$



Directional solidification in Ni/Cu: Selection of orientations



concentration field

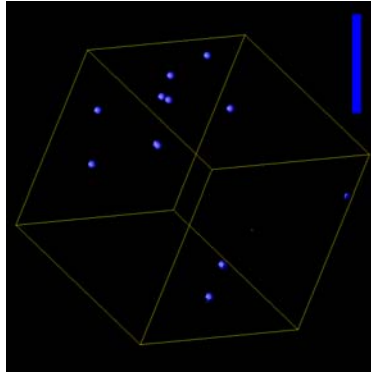
orientations

### Simulation of growth and melting of polycrystals (3D)

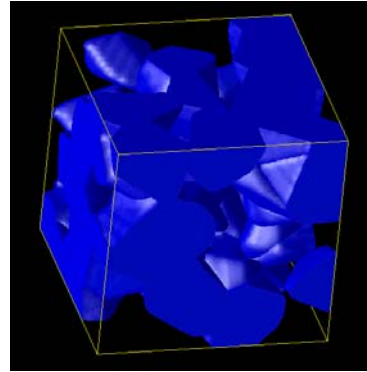
approx. 100 Ni-Cu grains, Ni concentration is shown



Anisotropic growth



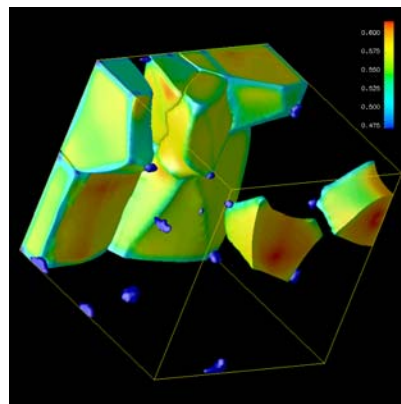
Melting (15 K superheated)



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### Simulations: Ni/Cu – annealing of polycrystals (3D)

Annealing and partial melting along grain boundaries



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**Phase-field model with fluid flow**

Substitution:

Total time derivative

$$\partial/\partial t \quad \Longrightarrow \quad D/Dt = \partial/\partial t + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla$$

General stress tensor

$$\mathbf{m} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \boldsymbol{\theta}_{cap}$$

irreversible viscous stress  
+ reversible stress tensor

Evolution equations with fluid flow:

$$\frac{De}{Dt} = -\nabla \cdot \left( L_{00} \nabla \frac{1}{T} + \sum_{j=1}^K L_{0j} \nabla \left( \frac{-\mu_j}{T} \right) \right) + \mathbf{m} : \nabla \vec{u}$$

$$\frac{Dc_i}{Dt} = -\nabla \cdot \left( L_{i0} \nabla \frac{1}{T} + \sum_{j=1}^K L_{ij} \nabla \left( \frac{-\mu_j}{T} \right) \right)$$

$$\omega \varepsilon \frac{D\phi_\alpha}{Dt} = \varepsilon \nabla \cdot (\rho a_{,\nabla\phi_\alpha}(\phi, \nabla\phi) - \rho a_{,\phi_\alpha}) - \frac{\rho}{\varepsilon} w_{,\phi_\alpha}(\phi) - \rho \frac{f_{,\phi_\alpha}}{T} - \lambda$$

### Navier-Stokes Equations

$$\rho \frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} = \nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \boldsymbol{\theta}_{cap}) = \nabla \cdot \left[ -p\mathbf{I} + \mu(\phi)(\nabla\vec{u} + (\nabla\vec{u})^T) + \boldsymbol{\theta}_{cap} \right]$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0 \quad \text{continuity equation}$$

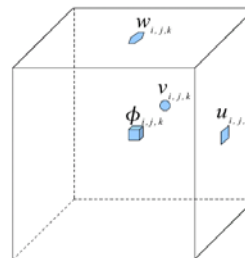
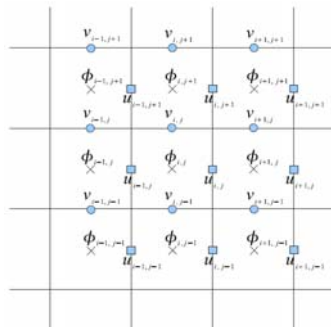
Viscosity

$$\mu(\phi) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \mu_{\alpha} \phi_{\alpha} \quad (\text{arithmetic}) \quad \frac{1}{\mu(\phi)} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \frac{\phi_{\alpha}}{\mu_{\alpha}} \quad (\text{harmonic})$$

Tensor representing capillary forces in the interfacial region

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{cap} = \left[ a(\phi, \nabla\phi)\mathbf{I} - \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \left( \frac{\partial a(\phi, \nabla\phi)}{\partial(\nabla\phi_{\alpha})} \otimes \nabla\phi_{\alpha} \right) \right]$$

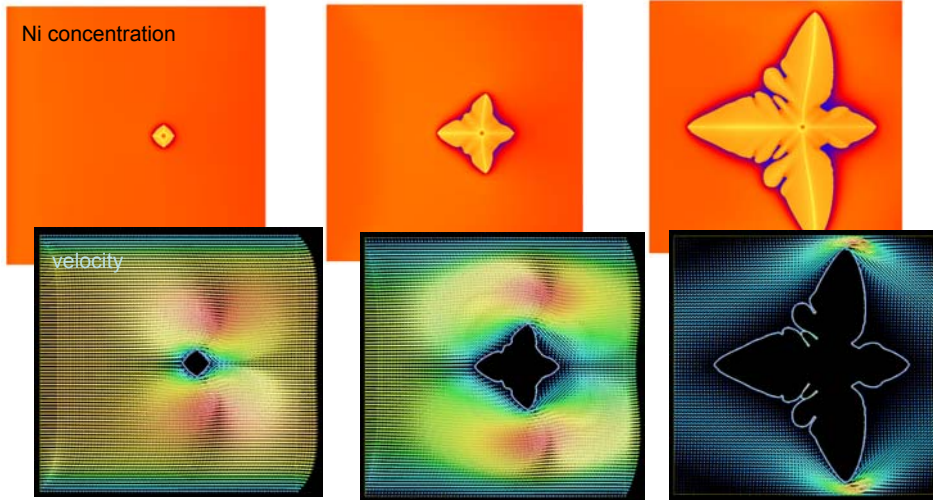
### Discretization on a staggered grid with SOR method for the continuity equation



Stability condition for the time step

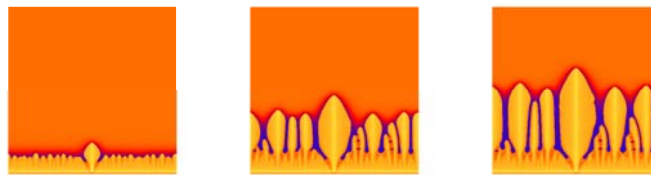
$$\delta t := \tau \min \left( \frac{Re}{2\mu(\phi_{\alpha})_{max}} \left( \frac{1}{\delta x^2} + \frac{1}{\delta y^2} + \frac{1}{\delta z^2} \right)^{-1}, \frac{\delta x}{|u_{max}|}, \frac{\delta y}{|v_{max}|}, \frac{\delta z}{|w_{max}|} \right) \quad \text{with } \tau \in ]0, 1]$$

### Growth of an equiaxed Ni-Cu dendrite into an undercooled melt

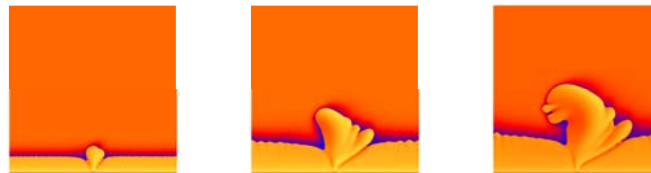


### Dendritic solidification in Ni-Cu

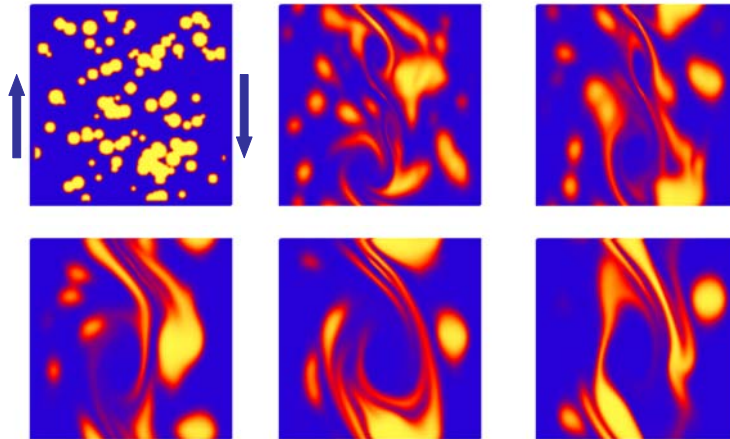
without fluid flow



with fluid flow →

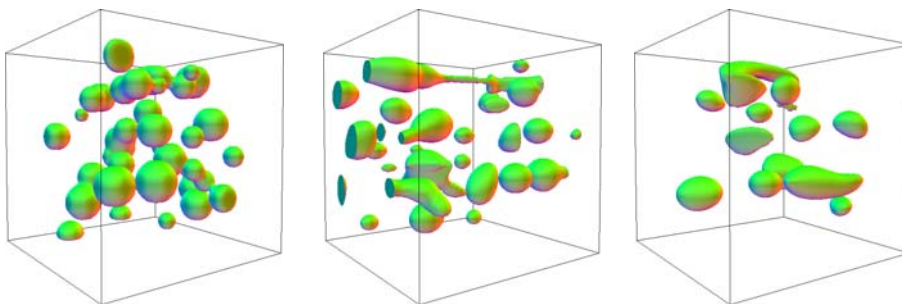


### Ripening of liquid droplets in a fluid medium within an induced flow field (shear flow)



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### Flow of liquid droplets in a fluid matrix phase



The colours indicate the interfaces between the droplets and the matrix phase

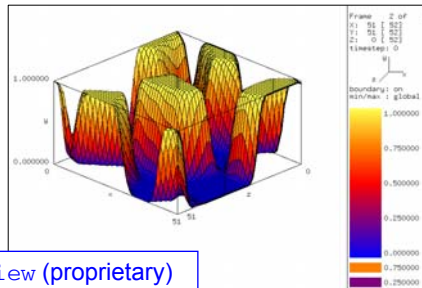
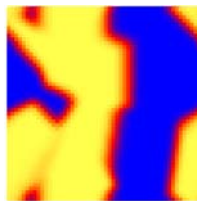
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- 2 Phase-field modelling (PFM) for pure substances
- 3 PFM for Multicomponent and multiphase systems
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**Postprocessing and data analysis** What can phase-field data be used for ?

- Visualisation



simply assign a colour or grey scale and plot it. (2D)

[xsimview \(proprietary\)](#)

calculate isosurfaces. (3D)



[openDX \(www.opendx.org\)](http://www.opendx.org)

### Postprocessing and data analysis

- Volume  $V = \int_{\Omega} \phi dV$  ( $\phi$  = volume fraction of the phase)

- Interfacial area  $A = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla\phi| dV$

- Normal vectors of interface  $\hat{n} = -\frac{\nabla\phi}{|\nabla\phi|}$

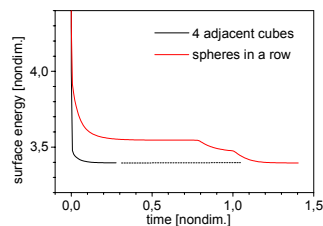
- Normal velocity of interface  $v_n = \vec{v}_i \cdot \hat{n} = \vec{v}_i \cdot \left(-\frac{\nabla\phi}{|\nabla\phi|}\right) = \frac{\partial\phi/\partial t}{|\nabla\phi|}$

### Postprocessing and data analysis

- Interface curvature  $\kappa = \nabla \cdot \hat{n} = -\nabla \cdot \frac{\nabla\phi}{|\nabla\phi|} = -\frac{1}{|\nabla\phi|} \left[ \nabla^2\phi - \frac{(\nabla\phi\nabla)|\nabla\phi|}{|\nabla\phi|} \right]$

with  $(\nabla\phi\nabla)|\nabla\phi| = \frac{\nabla\phi}{|\nabla\phi|} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \phi_x \phi_{xx} + \phi_y \phi_{xy} + \phi_z \phi_{xz} \\ \phi_x \phi_{xy} + \phi_y \phi_{yy} + \phi_z \phi_{yz} \\ \phi_x \phi_{xz} + \phi_y \phi_{yz} + \phi_z \phi_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$

- Interface and bulk free energies



$$\mathcal{F}_{surf} = \int_{\Omega(t)} T \left( \varepsilon a(\phi, \nabla\phi) + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} w(\phi) \right) dV$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{bulk} = \int_{\Omega(t)} f(\phi, c, T) dV$$

choose specific  $\alpha/\beta$  interfaces for solid / liquid energies etc.