



Study of the impact of microstructure on electrical properties in lithium-ion batteries; simulations on actual microstructures and generation of numerical architectures

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François Cadiou, François Willot, Bernard Lestriez, Jérôme Adrien, Thierry Douillard, et al.. Study of the impact of microstructure on electrical properties in lithium-ion batteries; simulations on actual microstructures and generation of numerical architectures. 12th European Congress for Stereology and Image Analysis, Sep 2017, Kaiserslautern, Germany. hal-02430265

HAL Id: hal-02430265

<https://hal.science/hal-02430265>

Submitted on 7 Jan 2020

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Study of the impact of microstructure on electrical properties in lithium-ion batteries; simulations on actual microstructures and generation of numerical architectures

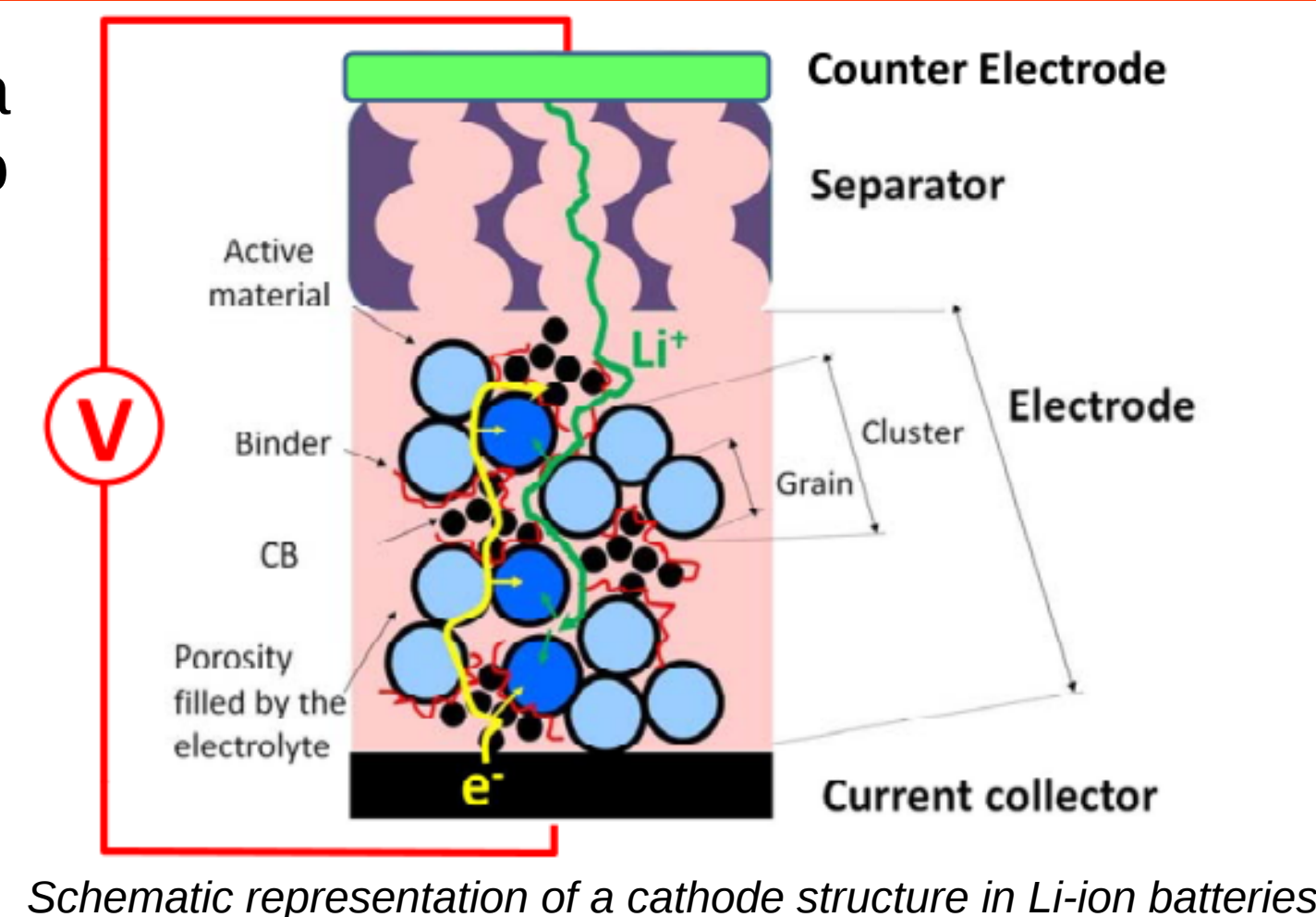
François CADIOU, F. Willot, B. Lestriez, J. Adrien, T. Douillard, and E. Maire

Li-ion batteries are interesting for multiple applications because of their **power and energy densities**. However there is still a **gap to be bridged between theoretical models like Newman's and experiments**. One of the reasons for that is the difficulties to understand the **links between microstructure and effective properties within the positive electrodes** also named cathodes.

Cathode composition:

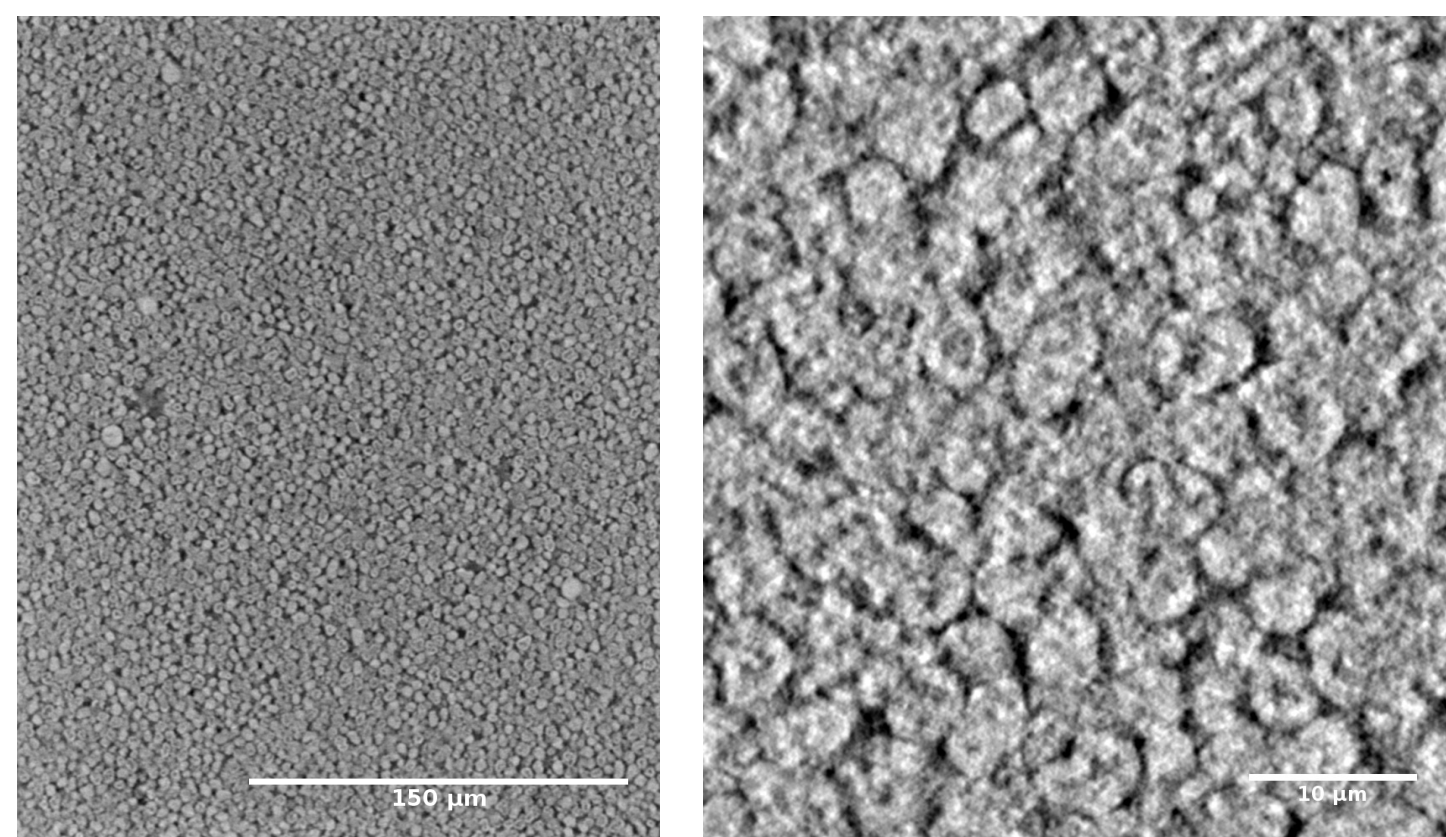
- clusters of **active material** (AM), energy storage;
 - **blend of polymer** with **conductive additive** (mechanical coherence and main electronic conduction)
 - **porosity**/electrolyte (ionic conduction)
- => complex multiphase composite that have a **huge impact on effective properties** like conduction.

The aim of this work is to **investigate this microstructure in 3D** and use this data to conduct simulations for effective properties.



Volume acquisition X-ray tomography

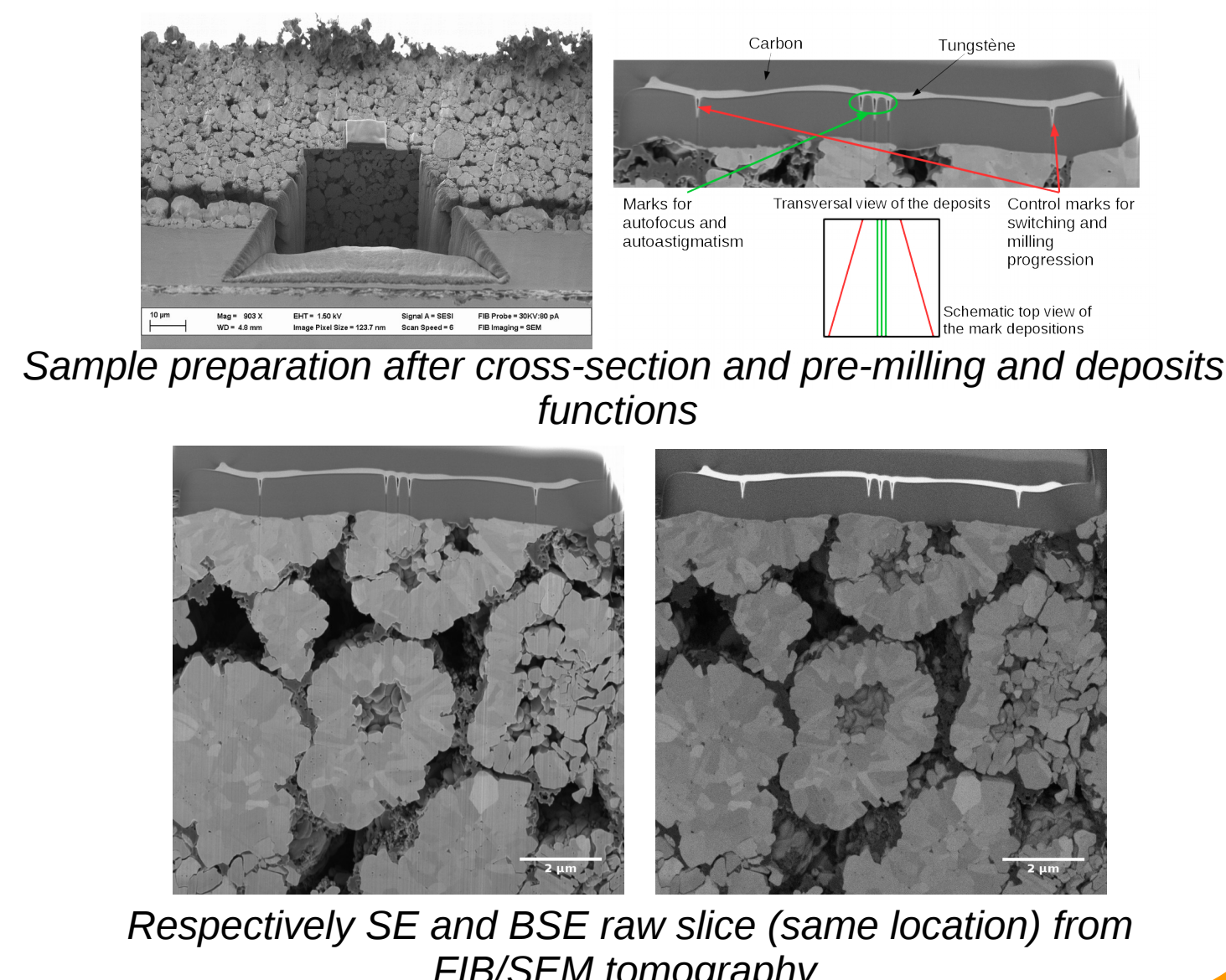
- **Non destructive** technique
- Lab tomography at **0.3µm resolution**
- Synchrotron tomography at **0.05µm resolution**
- **Polymeric phase non visible**



Ideal for wide range views but of limited interest for simulation (resolution and phase visibility).

FIB/SEM tomography

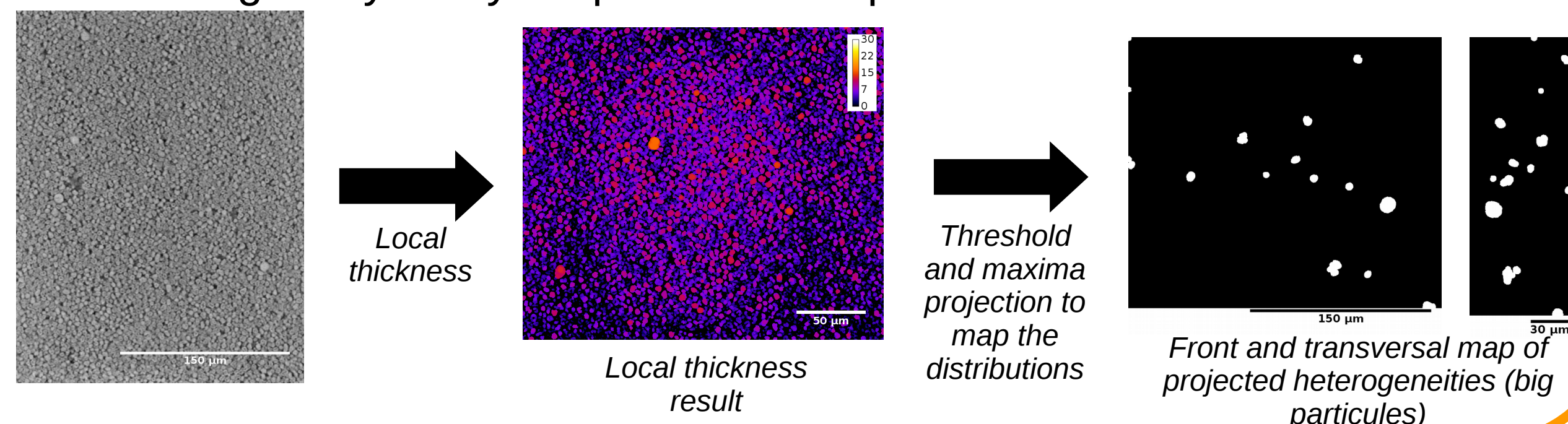
- **Destructive** technique
- **10nm resolution**
- **10x10x10µm³ volume maximum**
- **Special preparation**
- **All phases visible**
- **Zeiss Nvision 40 and Fibics software**



Very good description of the microstructure except for ROI size (representativity), setup complexity and time consuming.

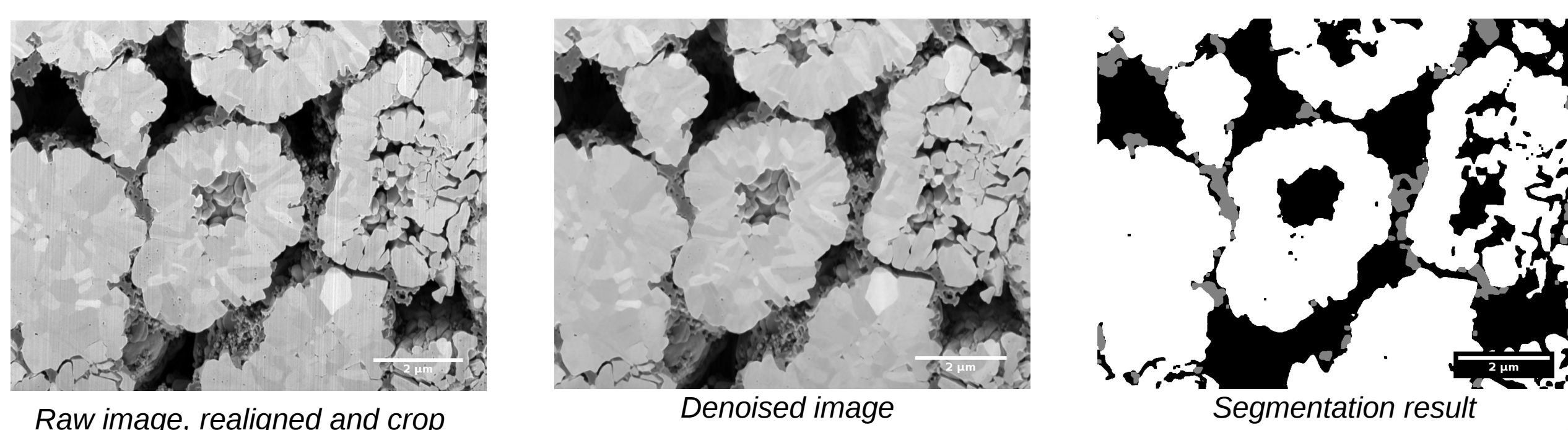
Image post-treatment Image analysis from XR tomography

- Mean radius determination
- Heterogeneity analysis: particles and pores



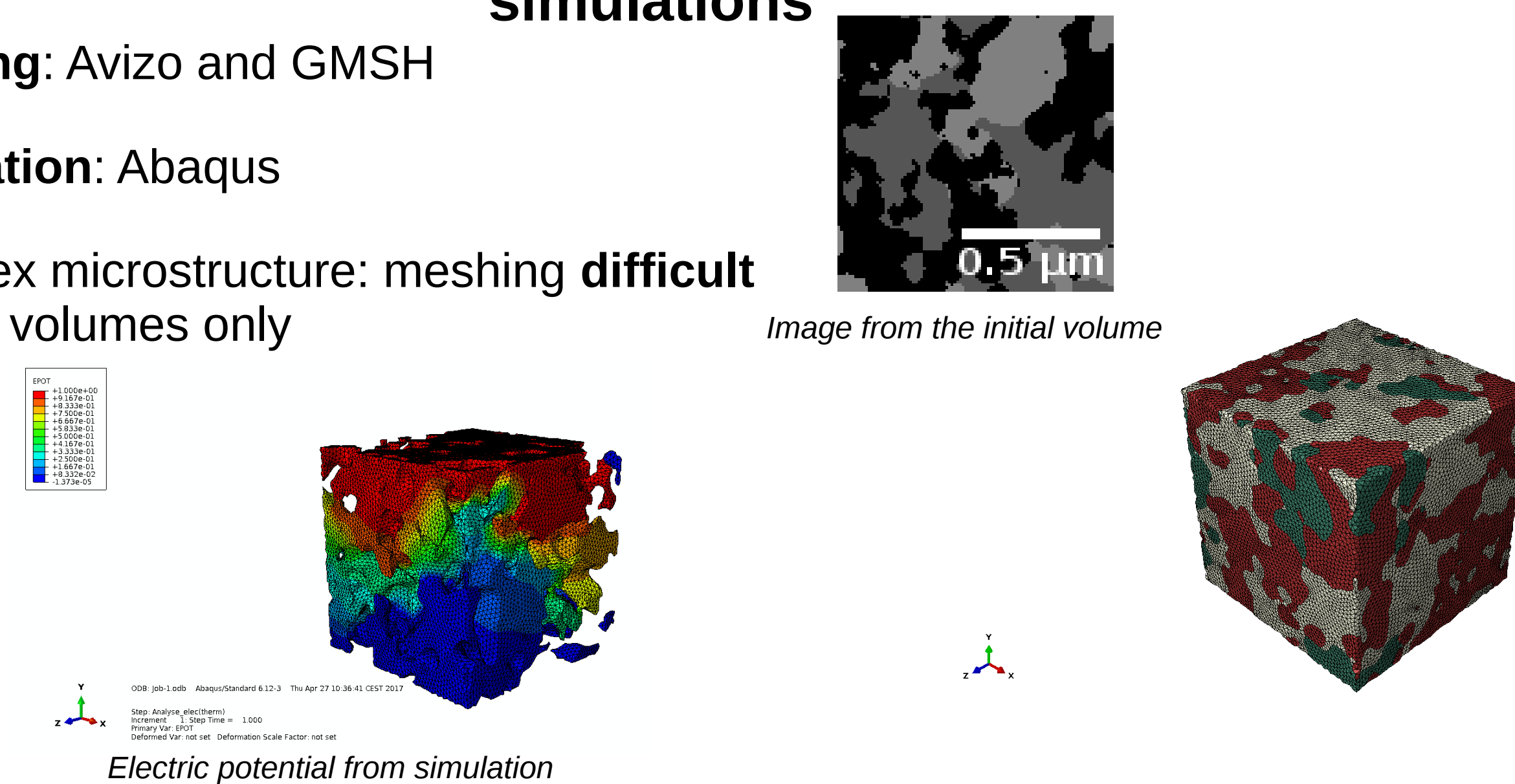
FIB/SEM tomography volume segmentation

- Process:**
- Image **realignment**: Fiji MultiStackReg plugin
 - Crop to **ROI**
 - Remove **draped effect**: Fiji VSNR_V2 plugin
 - **Segmentation**: Fiji Macro (shine through artifact) (T. Prill and A. Etienne)



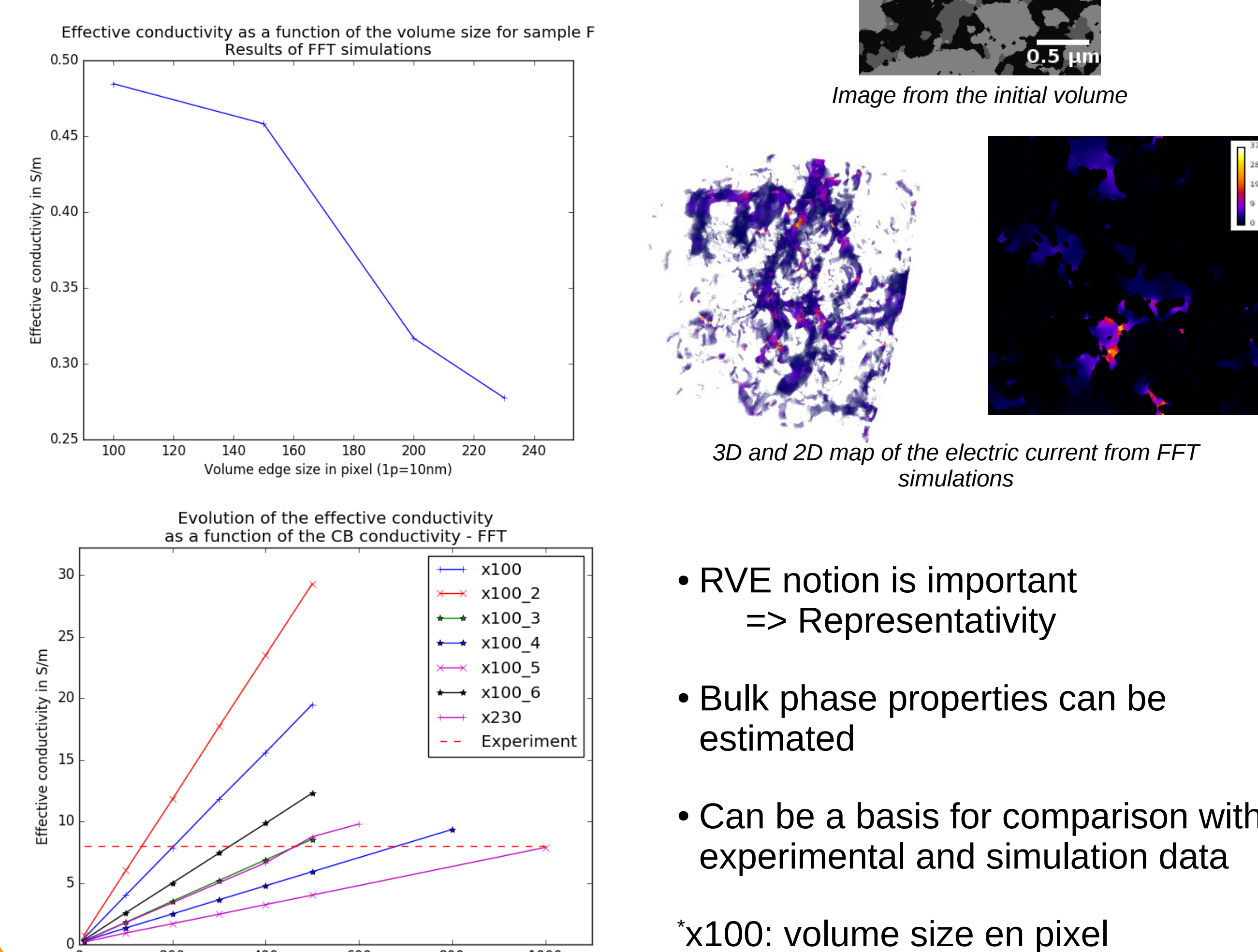
Numerical simulations Finite elements simulations

- **Meshing**: Avizo and GMSH
- **Simulation**: Abaqus
- Complex microstructure: meshing **difficult**
- Small volumes only



FFT simulations

- **Morphom software** from F. Willot
- Useful for test campaigns and property determinations

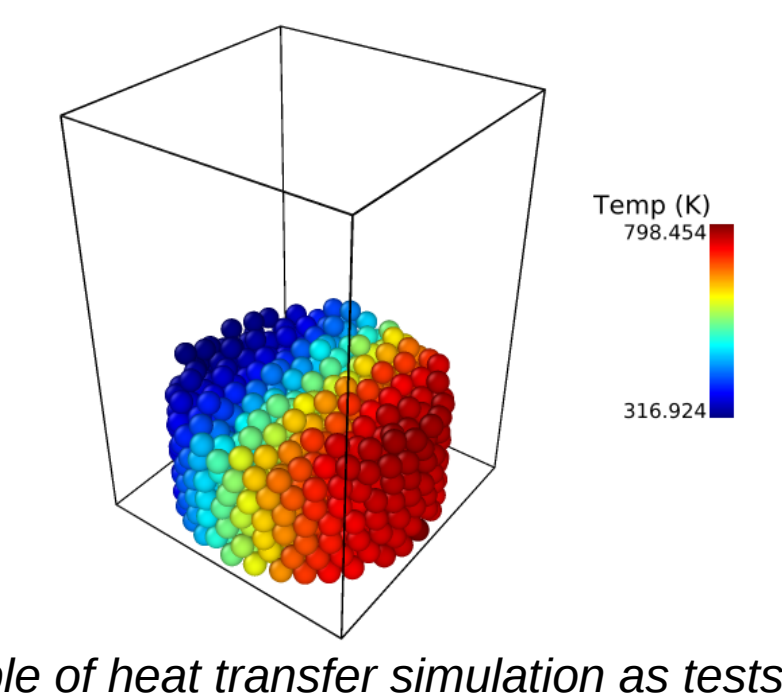


- RVE notion is important
=> Representativity
- Bulk phase properties can be estimated
- Can be a basis for comparison with experimental and simulation data

Discrete elements simulations

- **LIGGGHTS software**
- Collaboration with SIMAP laboratory and C.L. Martin

- Very **versatile** and promising tool
- Heat transfer feasible then electric conduction too
- **2 ways** for simulations:
 - Classic: 1 numerical particle = 1 physical particle
=> works, have been done
 - 1 physical particles = multiple numerical particles with global simulation laws => possibilities for complex behaviour
- **Work in progress**
- Models to be developed



Conclusion:

- **2 imaging technologies** and **3 simulation ways** investigated
- **RX tomography** shows some **limitations** (resolution and phase description) which reduce its interest for simulation while **FIB/SEM tomography** allows a **precise description** of the microstructure. However it is time consuming and more difficult to setup and post-process.
- **FEM** simulation seems particularly unadapted due to the **difficulties** to perform the meshing. On the contrary **FFT** simulation is an easier way to perform calculation as long as a segmented volume is available. The **DEM** simulation gathers good possibilities and should be a good way to conduct complex behaviour simulations.

Prospects:

- There is mostly two major leads for the short time works:
- **Develop the DEM** models and simulations
- **Improve the segmentation** method