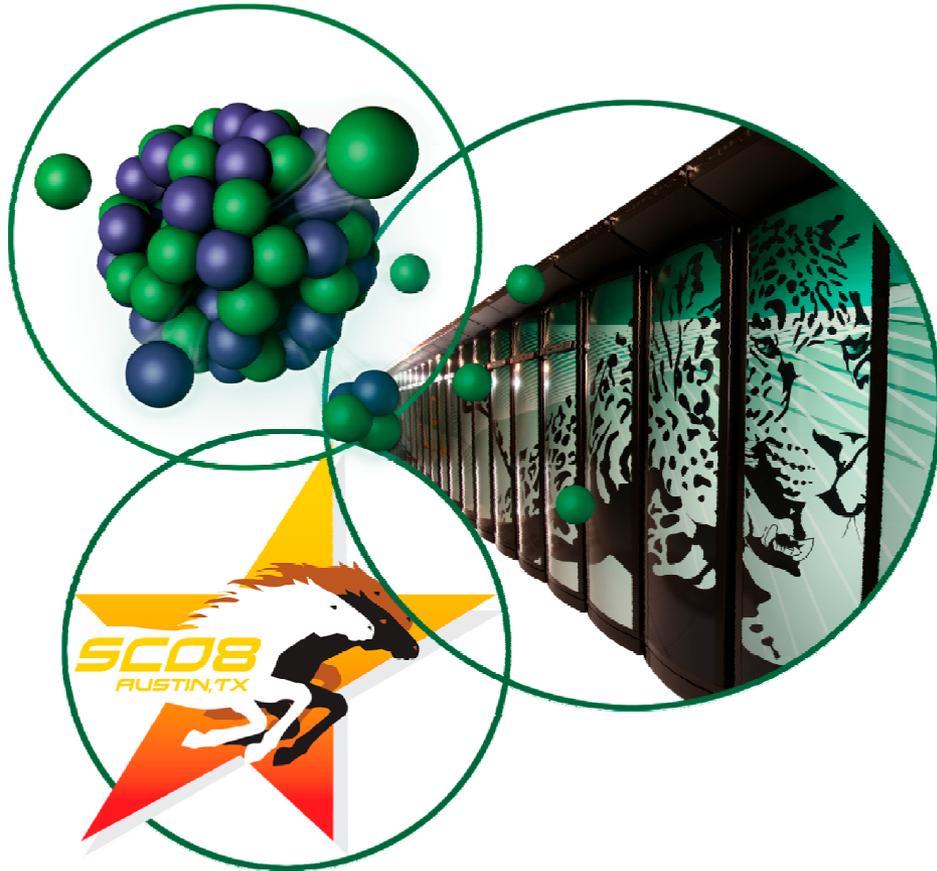


# Statistical Physics of Fracture: Recent Advances through High-Performance Computing

Presented by

**Thomas C. Schulthess**

Computer Science and Mathematics Division  
Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences

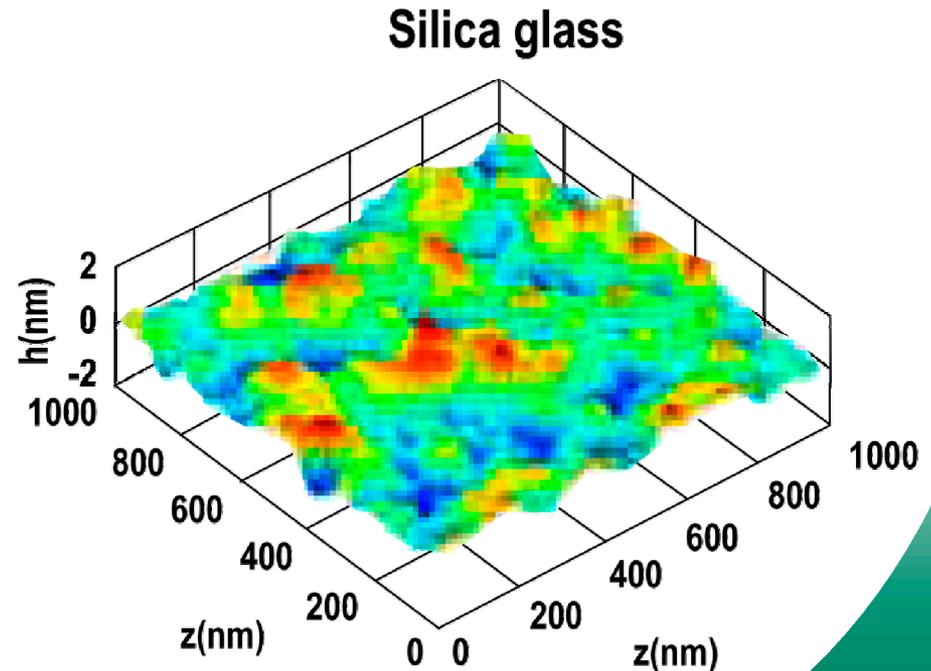
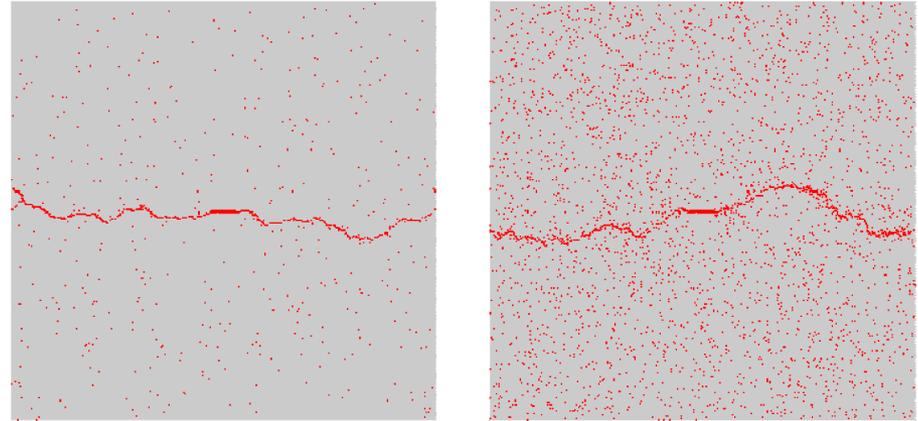


# Acknowledgments

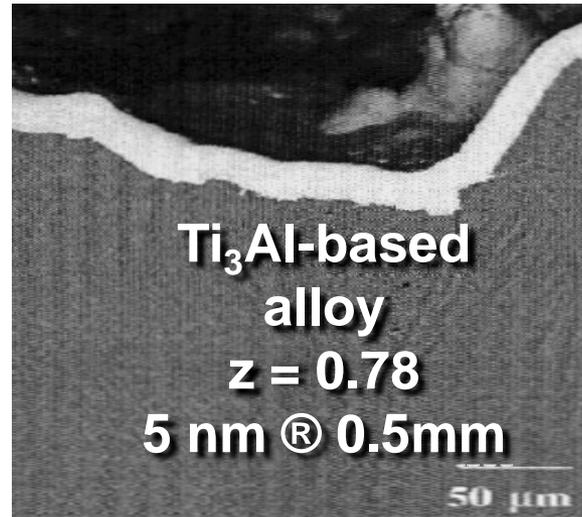
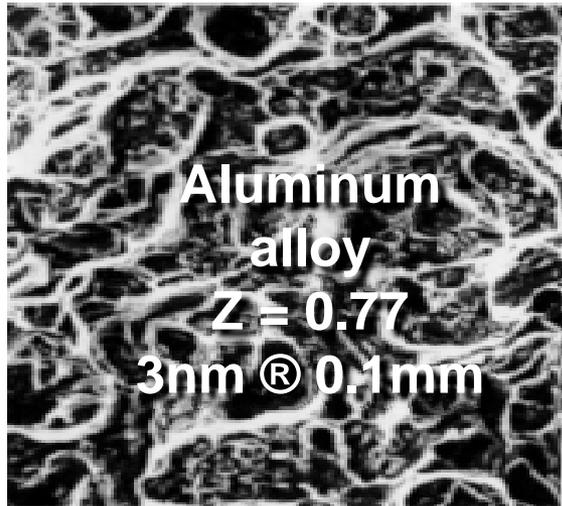
- **MICS DOE Office of Science**
- **INCITE award: Computer resources on BG/L at ANL**
- **Leadership Computing Facility allocation on Cray XT4 Jaguar at ORNL**
- **Relevant journal publications:**
  - **J. Phys. Math. Gen. 36 (2003); 37 (2004); IJNME 62 (2005)**
  - **European Physical Journal B 37 (2004)**
  - **JSTAT, P08001 (2004); JSTAT (2006)**
  - **Phys. Rev. E 71 (2005a, 2005b, c); 73 (2006a 2006b)**
  - **Adv. Phys. (2006); Int. J. Fracture (2006)**
  - **Phys. Rev. E (2007); Phys. Rev. B (2007); IJNME (2007)**
  - **Phys. Rev. Lett. (2008); Phys. Rev. E (2008); Int. J. Fracture (2008a, 2008b)**

# Motivation

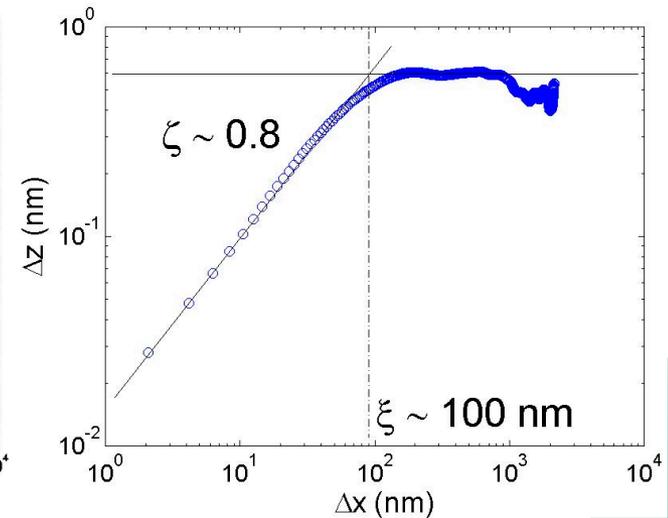
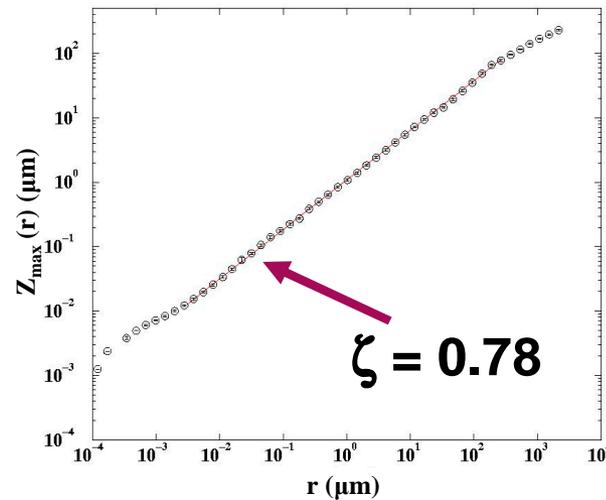
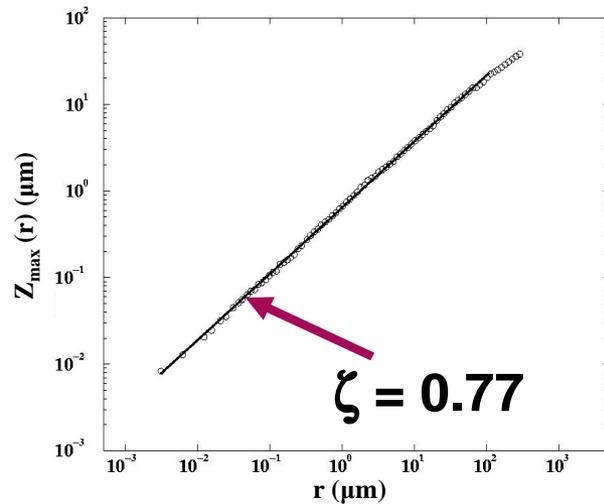
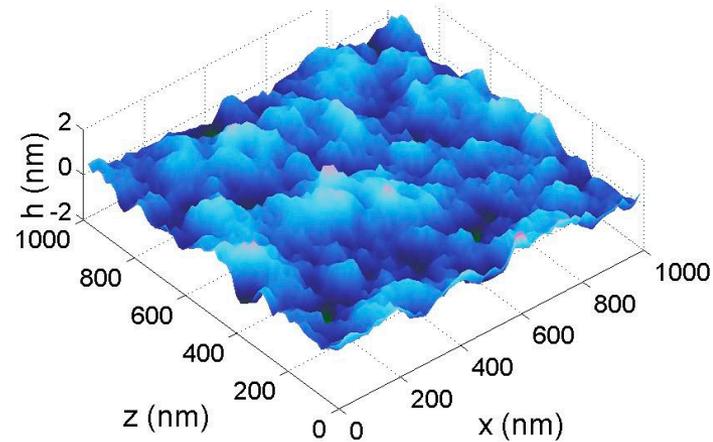
- What are the size effects and scaling laws of fracture of disordered materials?
- What are the signatures of approach to failure?
- What is the relation between toughness and crack surface roughness?
- How can the fracture surfaces of materials as different as metallic alloys and glass, for example, be so similar?



# Universality of roughness



## Amorphous silica



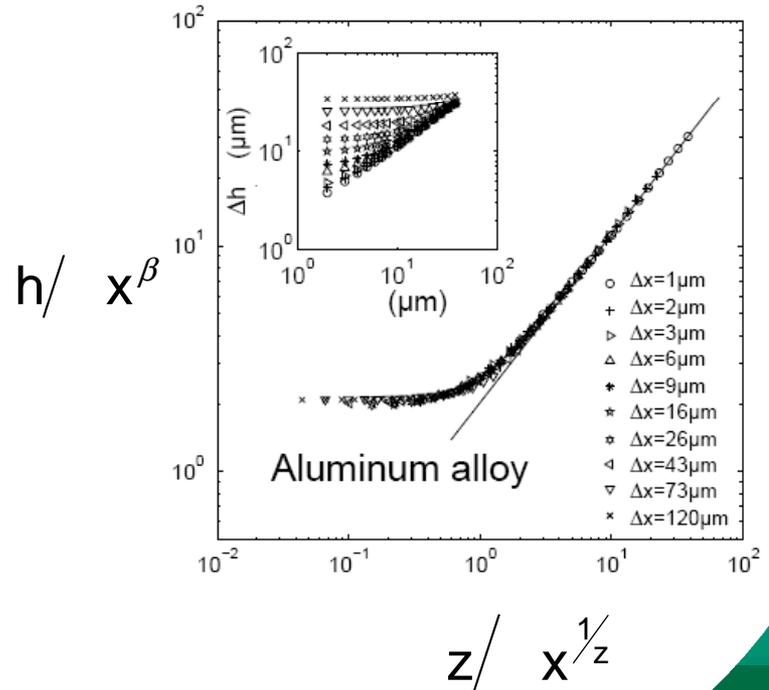
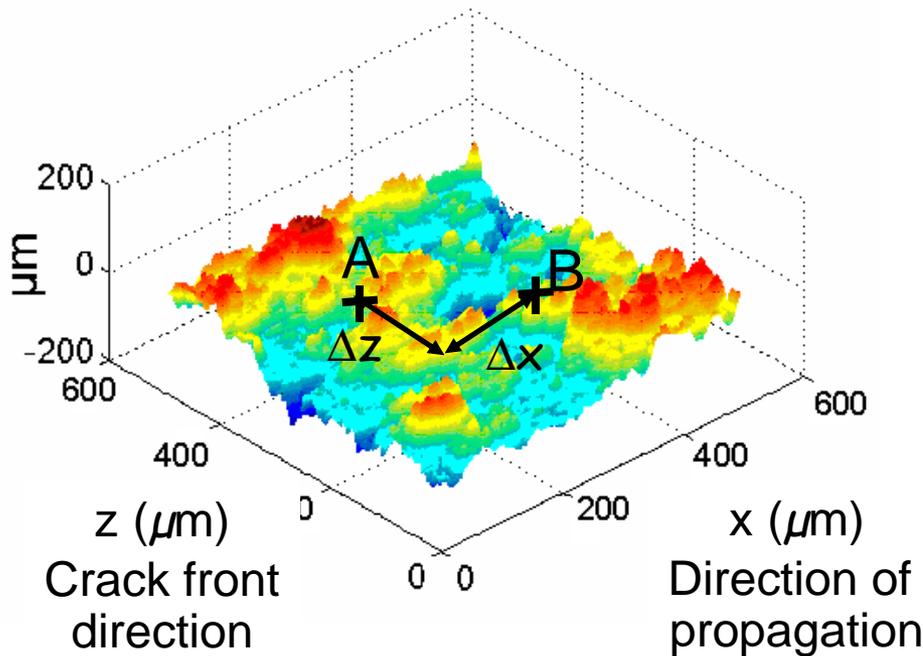
Fracture surfaces are self-affine with a universal roughness of  $\zeta = 0.78$  over five decades

# Universal roughness scaling law

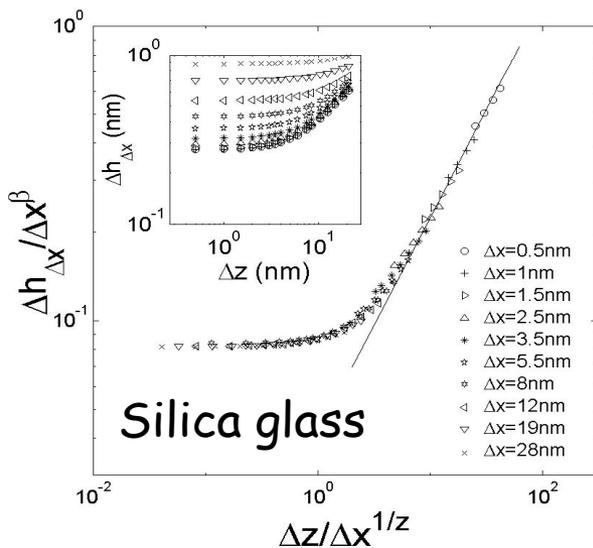
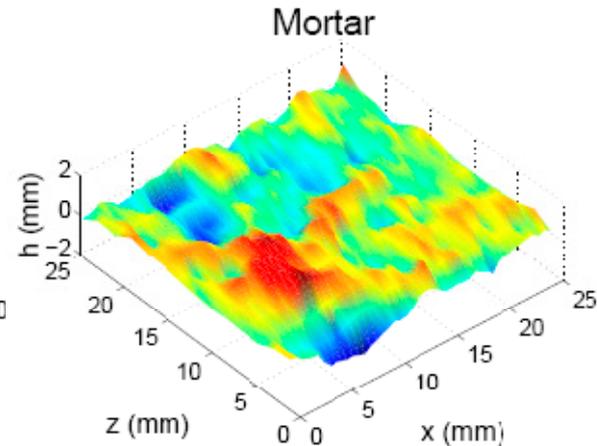
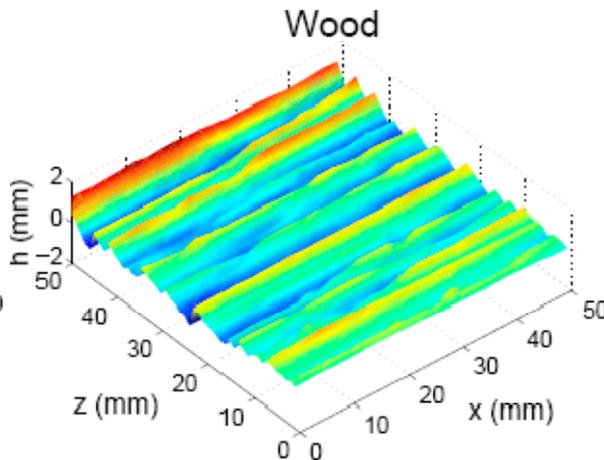
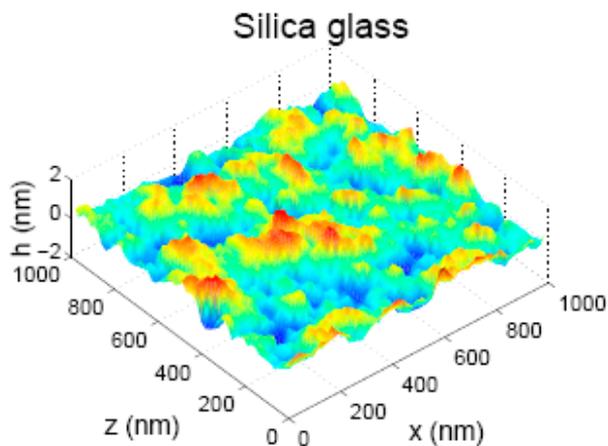
$$\Delta h_{2D}(\Delta z, \Delta x) = (\langle (h(z_A + \Delta z, x_A + \Delta x) - h(z_A, x_A))^2 \rangle)^{1/2}$$

$$\Delta h_{2D}(\Delta x, \Delta z) = \Delta x^\beta f\left(\frac{\Delta z}{\Delta x^{1/\beta}}\right)$$

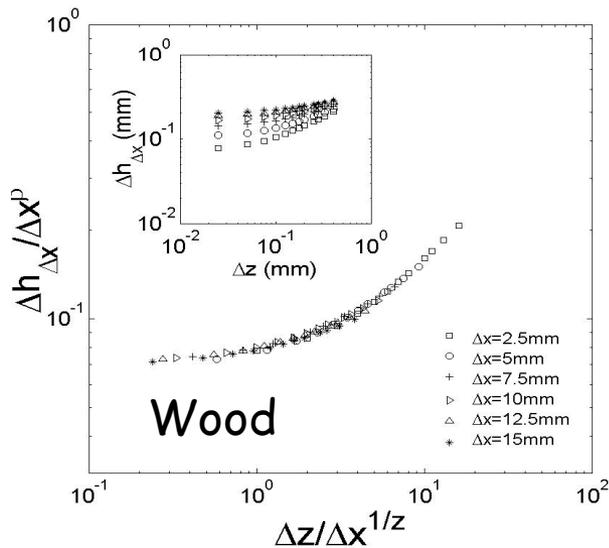
$$f(u) \propto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u \ll 1 \\ u^\zeta & \text{if } u \gg 1 \end{cases}$$



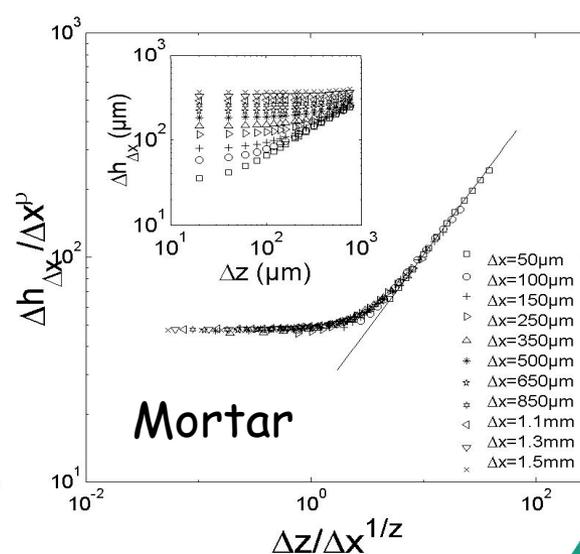
# Anisotropic roughness scaling



$$\zeta = 0.75 \pm 0.05$$



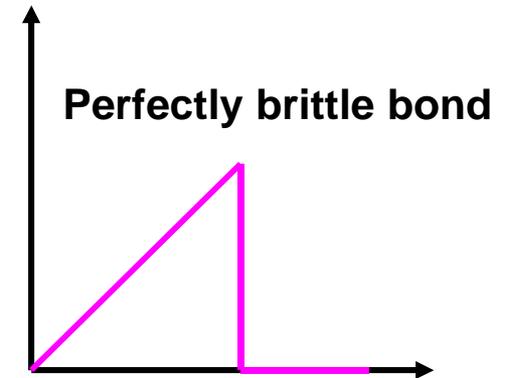
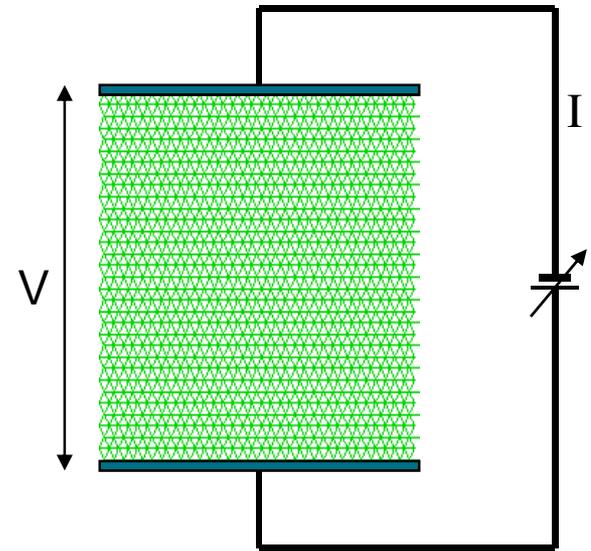
$$\beta = 0.6 \pm 0.05$$



$$z = \zeta / \beta = 1.25 \pm 0.1$$

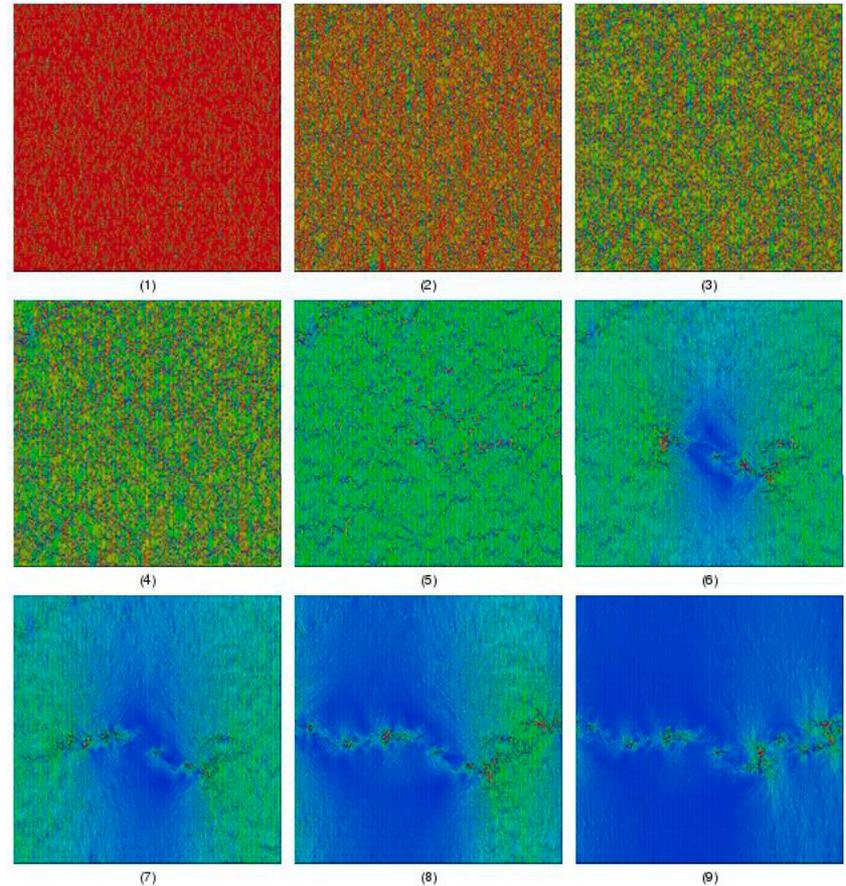
# Random thresholds fuse model

- **Scalar or electrical analogy**
- **For each bond, assign unit conductance, and the thresholds are prescribed based on a random thresholds distribution**
- **The bond breaks irreversibly whenever the current (stress) in the fuse exceeds the prescribed thresholds value**
- **Currents (stresses) are redistributed instantaneously**
- **The process of breaking one bond at a time is repeated until the lattice falls apart**



# Fracture of a 2-D lattice system

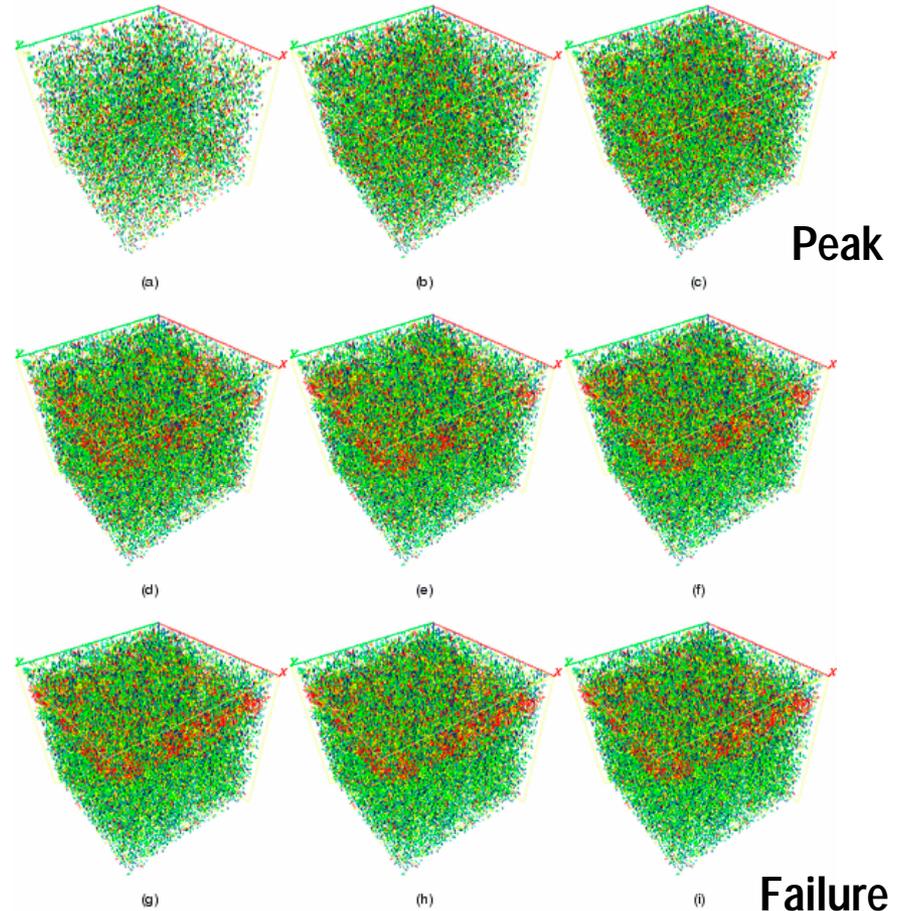
- CPU  $\sim O(L^{4.5})$
- Capability issue: Previous simulations have been limited to a system size of  $L = 128$
- Largest 2-D lattice system ( $L = 1024$ ) analyzed for investigating fracture and damage evolution
- Effective computational gain  $\sim 80$  times



**Stress redistribution in the lattice due to progressive damage/crack propagation**

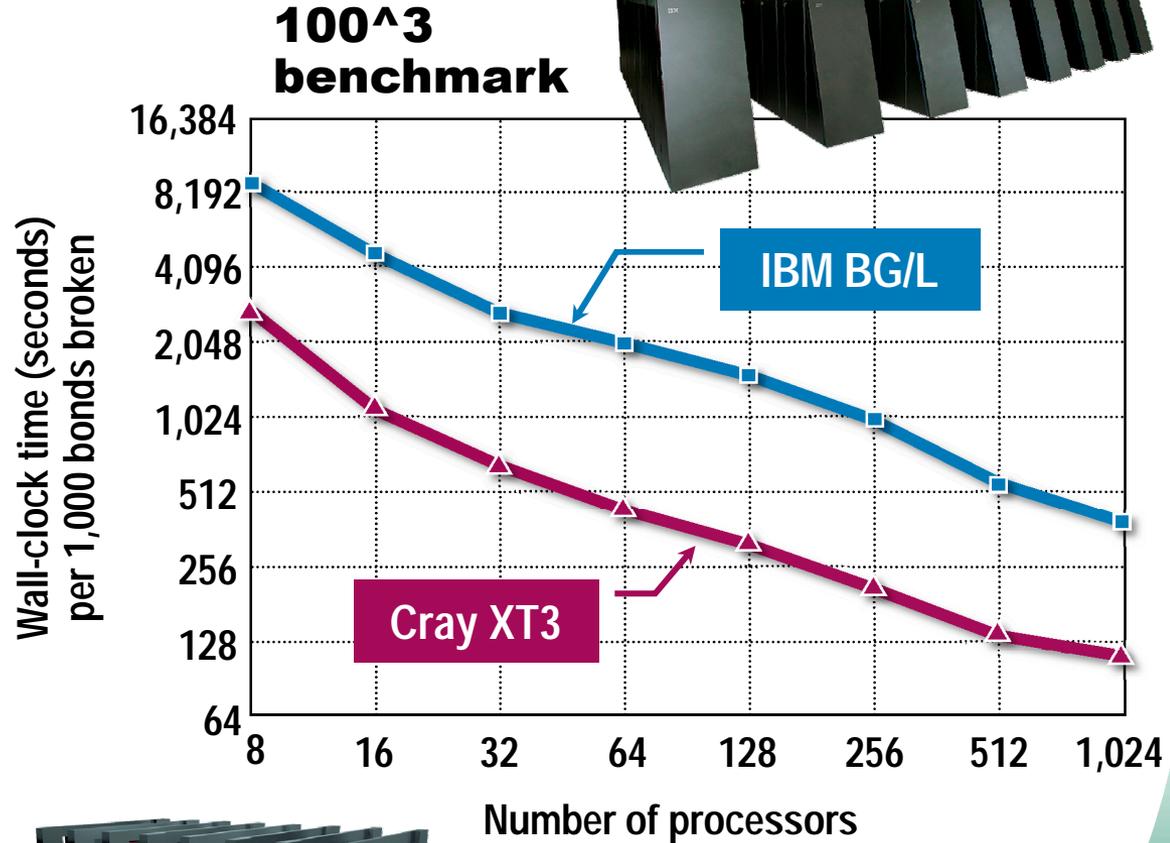
# Fracture of 3-D lattice system

- CPU  $\sim O(L^{6.5})$
- Largest cubic lattice system analyzed for investigating fracture and damage evolution in 3-D systems ( $L = 64$ )
- On a single processor, a 3-D system of size  $L = 64$  requires 15 days of CPU time!



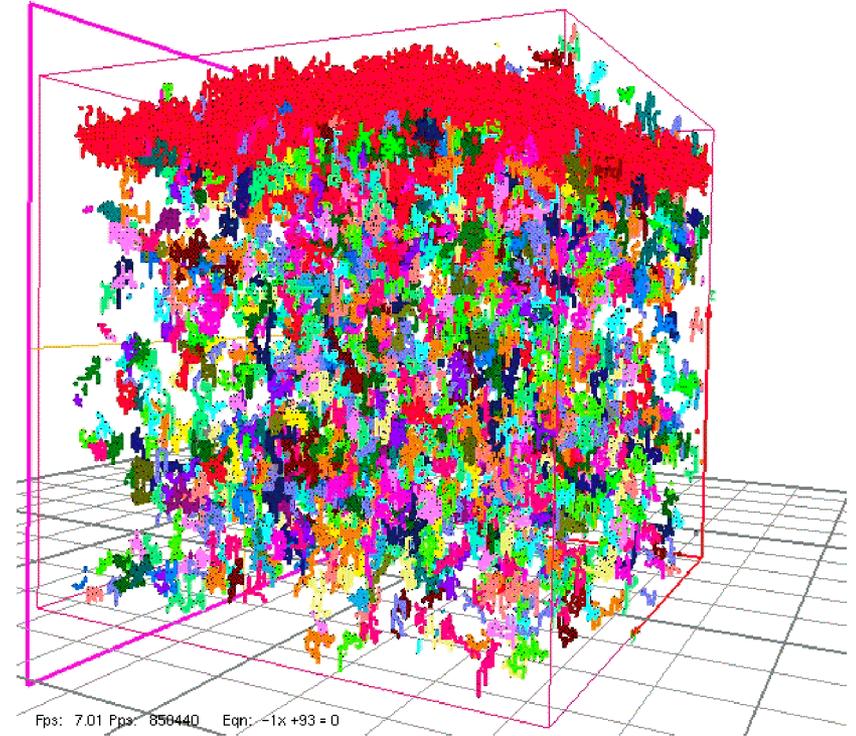
# High-performance computing

High-performance computing	Processing time
L = 64 on 128	3 hours
L = 100 on 1024	12 hours
L = 128 on 1024	3 days
L = 200 on 2048	20 days (est.)



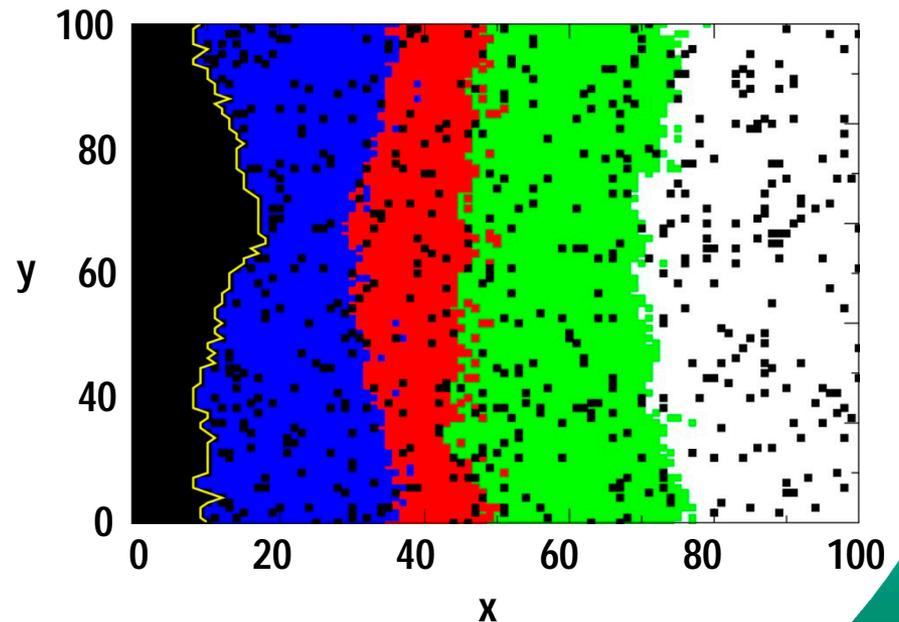
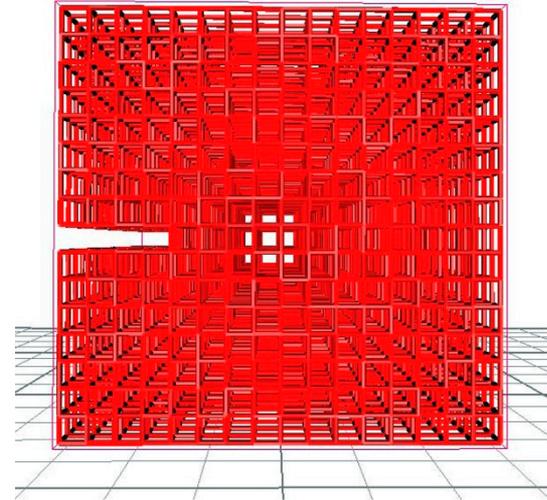
# Roughness 3-D crack

- Study the roughness properties of a crack surface
- Largest ever 3-D lattice system ( $L = 128$ ) used
- For the first time, roughness exhibits anomalous scaling, as observed in experiments
- Local roughness  $\sim 0.4$
- Global roughness  $\sim 0.5$



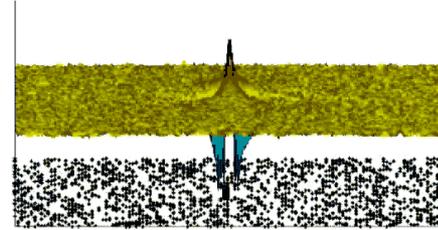
# Interfacial cracks

- Study the roughness properties of an interfacial crack front
- Largest ever 3-D lattice system ( $L = 128$ ) used for studying interfacial fracture
- Figures show crack fronts at various damage levels
- Roughness exponent is equal to 0.3



# Scaling law for material strength

- Study the size-effect and scaling law of material strength
- Largest ever 2-D ( $L = 1024$ ) and 3-D lattice systems ( $L = 128$ ) used for studying size-effect of fracture
- Figures show crack propagation and fracture process zone
- A novel scaling law for material strength is obtained in the disorder-dominated regime



# Summary of accomplishments

## FY 2006

- 7 refereed journal publications
  - 150-page review article
- 3 refereed conference proceedings
- 13 conference presentations (6 invited)
  - SciDAC 06 (invited)
  - Multiscale Mathematics and Materials (invited)
- INCITE award for 1.5 million hours on Blue Gene/L

## FY 2007

- 6 refereed journal publications
- 14 conference presentations (8 invited)
  - StatPhys 23 (invited)
  - Multiscale Modeling (invited)
- INCITE award for 1.1 million hours on Blue Gene/L

## FY 2008

- 6 refereed journal publications
- 2 refereed conference proceedings
- 10 conference presentations (6 invited)

# Contacts

## **Phani Nukala**

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**  
**(865) 574-7472**  
**nukalapk@ornl.gov**

## **Srdjan Simunovic**

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**  
**(865) 241-3863**  
**simunovics@ornl.gov**

## **Thomas Schulthess**

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**  
**(865) 574-4344**  
**schulthesstc@ornl.gov**