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## Modelling of Stress Corrosion

Talk at the 5:th B Broberg memorial symposium, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden, 2015

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117  
221 00 Lund  
+46 46-222 00 00

B Broberg symposium BTH 2015

# Formation and growth of hydrides

Per Ståhle

Solid Mechanics,  
Lund University, Sweden

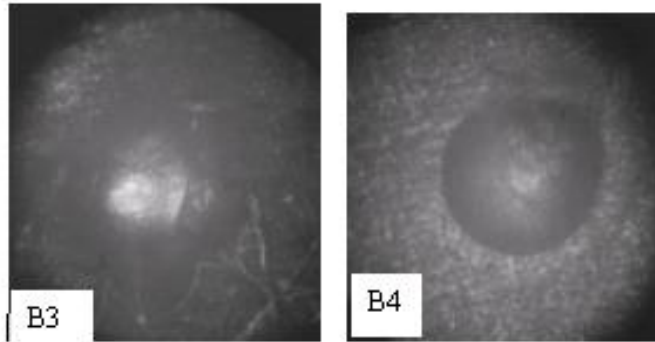
Collaborators:

Wurigul Reheman, Ram N Singh,  
Martin Fisk, Srikumar Banerjee,  
Ali Massih, Christina Bjerken



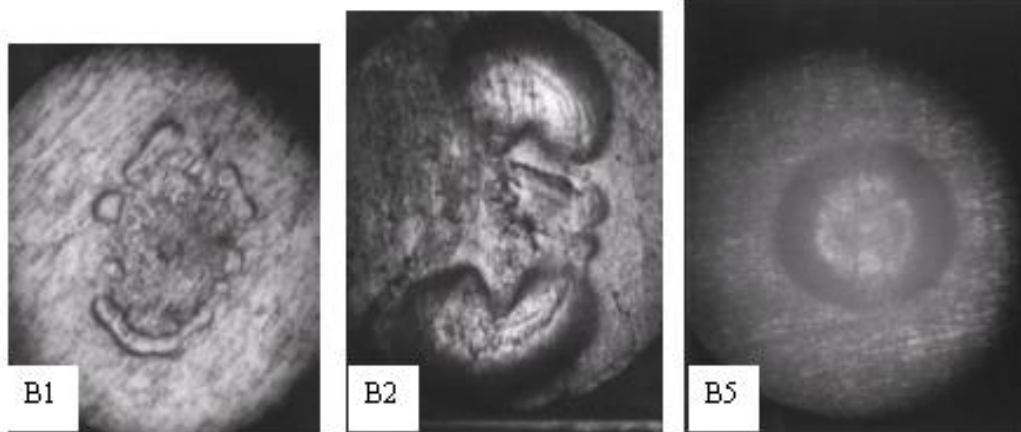
# Hydride Blister

Prior solution annealing



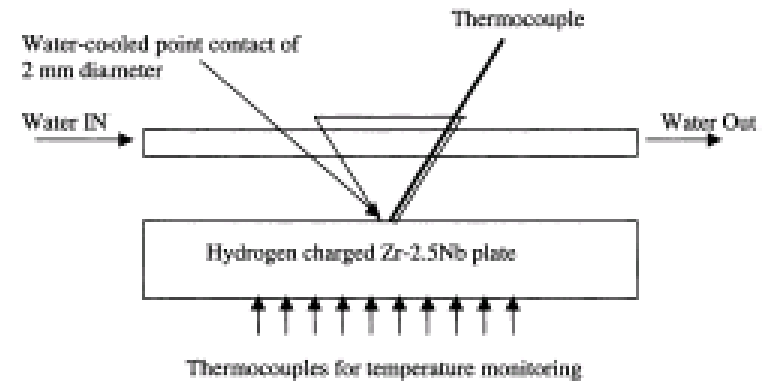
(a) Type I

Before cold finger is struck all the hydrogen is solid solution.  
As cold finger makes contact hydride precipitation occurs at cold spot which grows with the arrival of thermally migrated hydrogen resulting in single blister



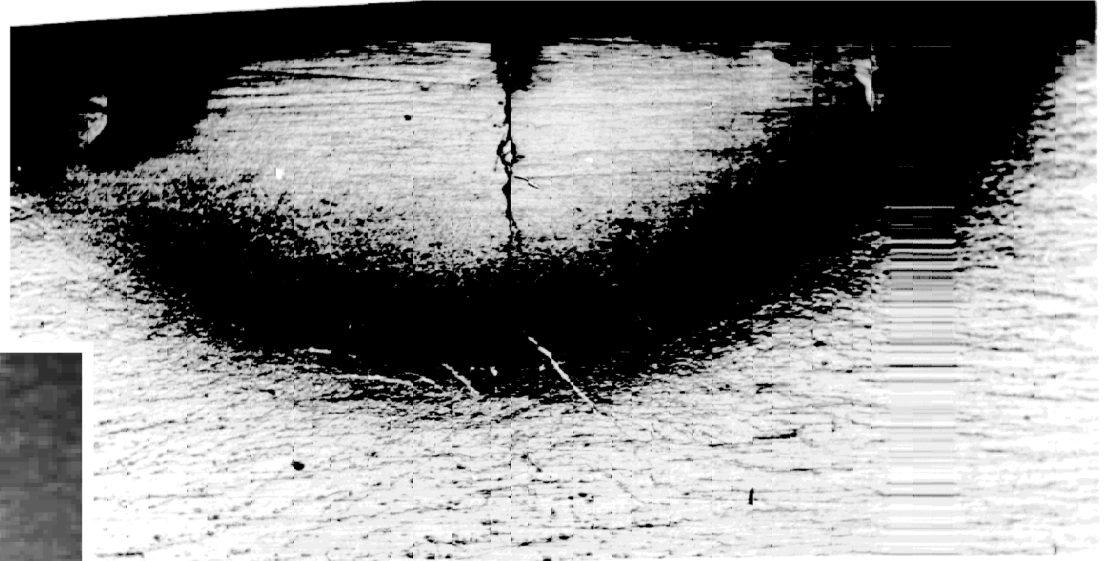
(b) Type II

Without solution annealing

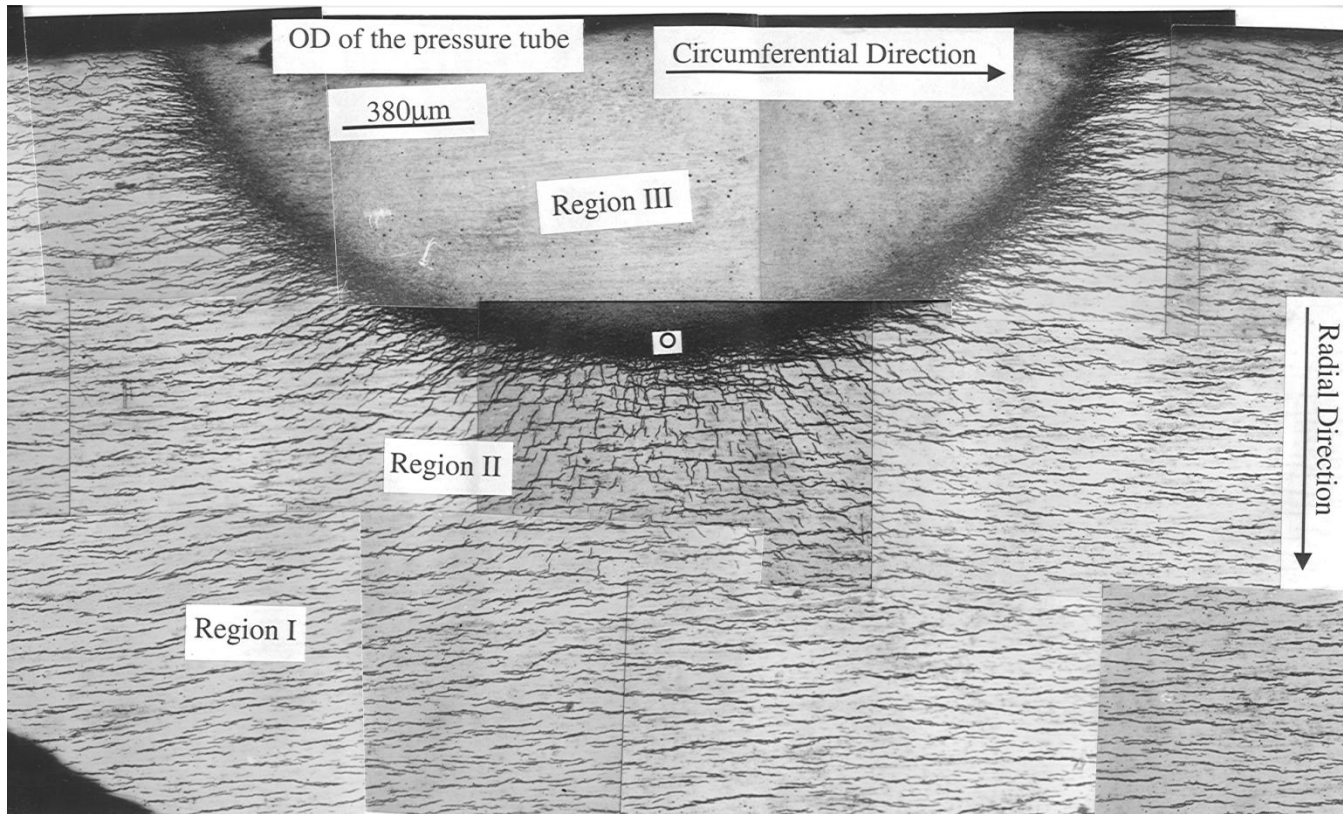


Cold finger is in contact all the time  
Hydride precipitation occurs around the cold spot resulting in ring of blisterets

a hydride blister grown in Zr–2.5wt%Nb  
pressure tube alloy (Singh *et al.*, 2001)



# Hydride Blister section



Optical micrograph of hydride blister section, grown in Zr-2.5wt.% Nb pressure tube material. Three regions - Region I - matrix & circumferential hydrides, region II - matrix containing both radial and circumferential hydrides and region III - mainly of  $\delta$ -hydride.

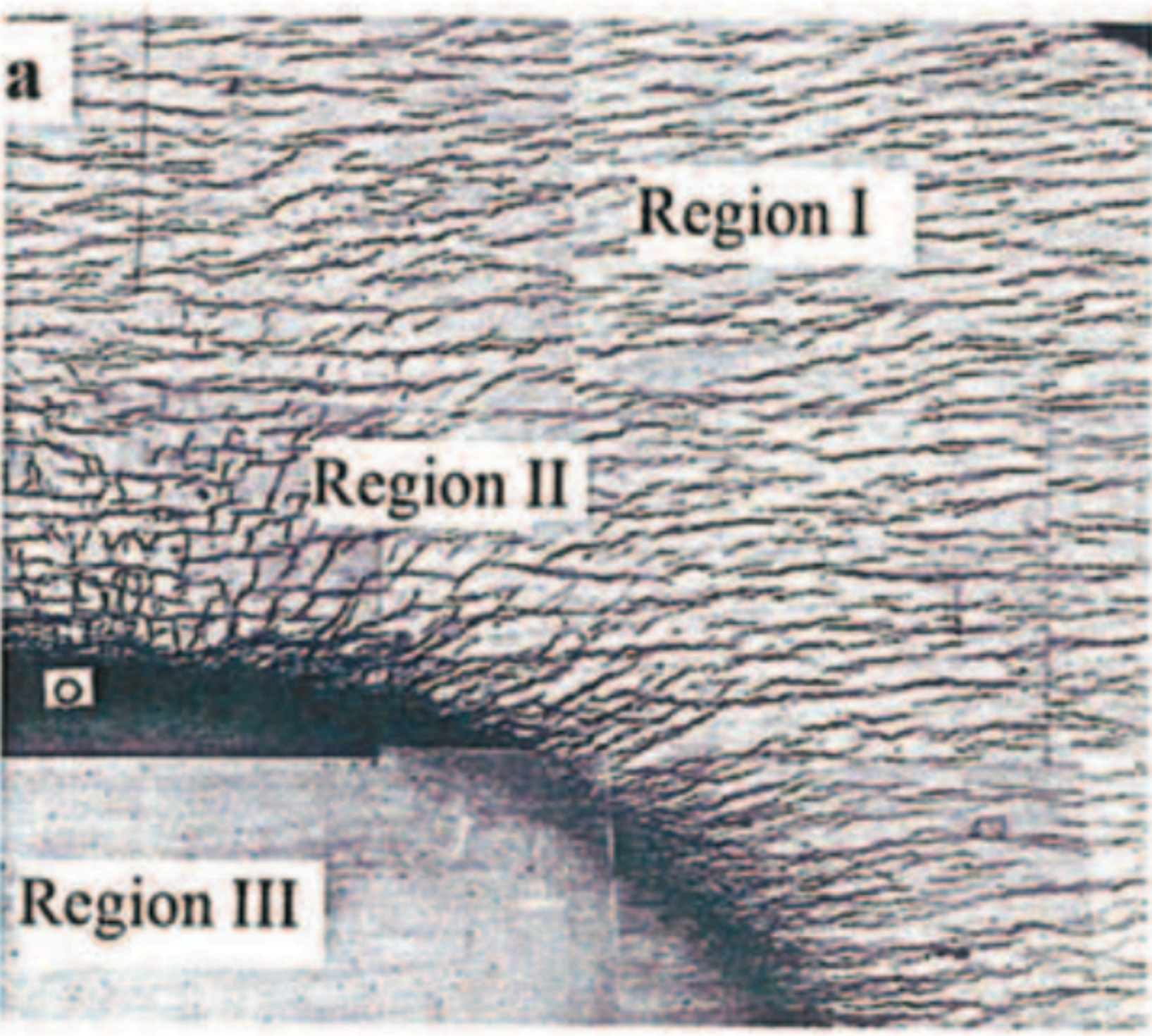
The basis of radial hydride formation is the stress field of blister in the matrix surrounding it.

**a**

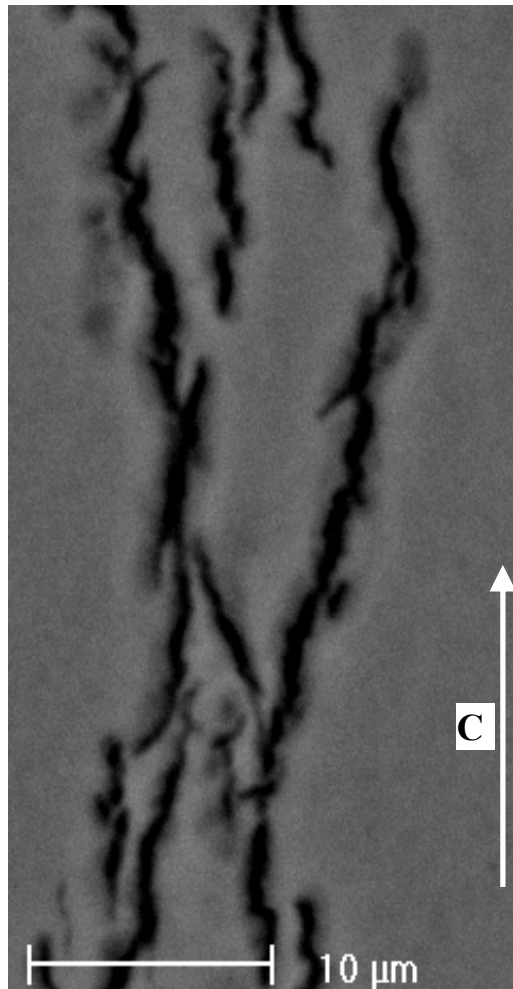
Region I

Region II

Region III



# Hydride – level of organization



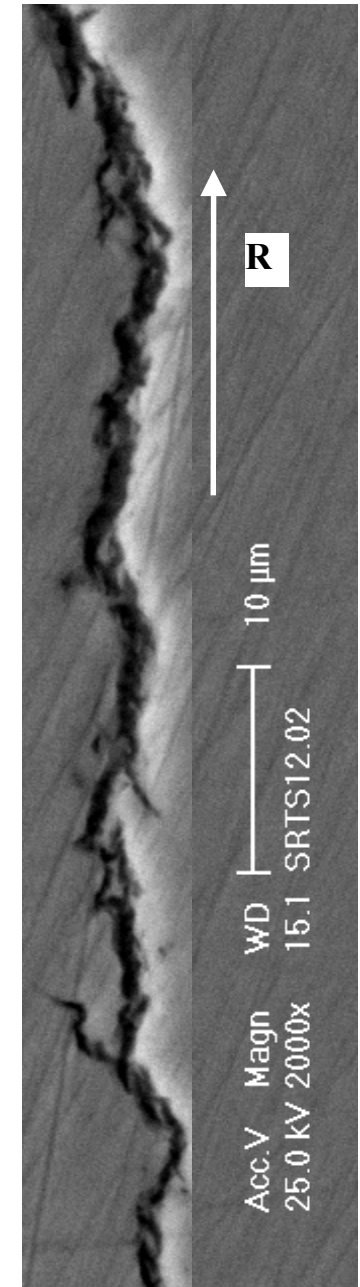
Hydride plate comprising of platelets stacked side by side

Each platelet comprising of sub-platelets stacked end to end

Circumferential hydride shows both level of organization

Radial hydride shows only sub-platelet level of organization

R. N. Singh et al. J. of Nucl. Mater. 2006



Hydride growth by:

0. Thermal diffusion

1. Concentration-driven diffusion

2. Uphill diffusion

3. Stress-driven diffusion

$$F = \int \mathcal{F} dV = \int (\mathcal{F}_{gr} + \mathcal{F}_{ch} + \mathcal{F}_{el}) dV$$



Contributions to the free energy

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{el} + \mathcal{F}_{ch} + \mathcal{F}_{gr}$$

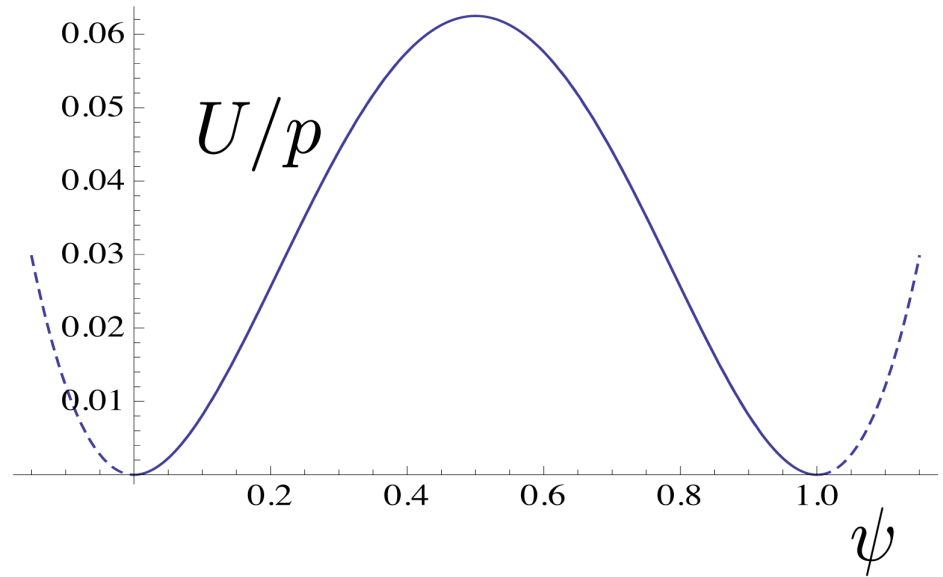
Elastic energy  $\mathcal{F}_{el} = \int \sigma_{ij} d\epsilon_{ij}$

Chemical energy  $\mathcal{F}_{ch} = U(\psi)$

Gradient energy  $\mathcal{F}_{gr} = \frac{g_r}{2} (\psi_{,i})^2$

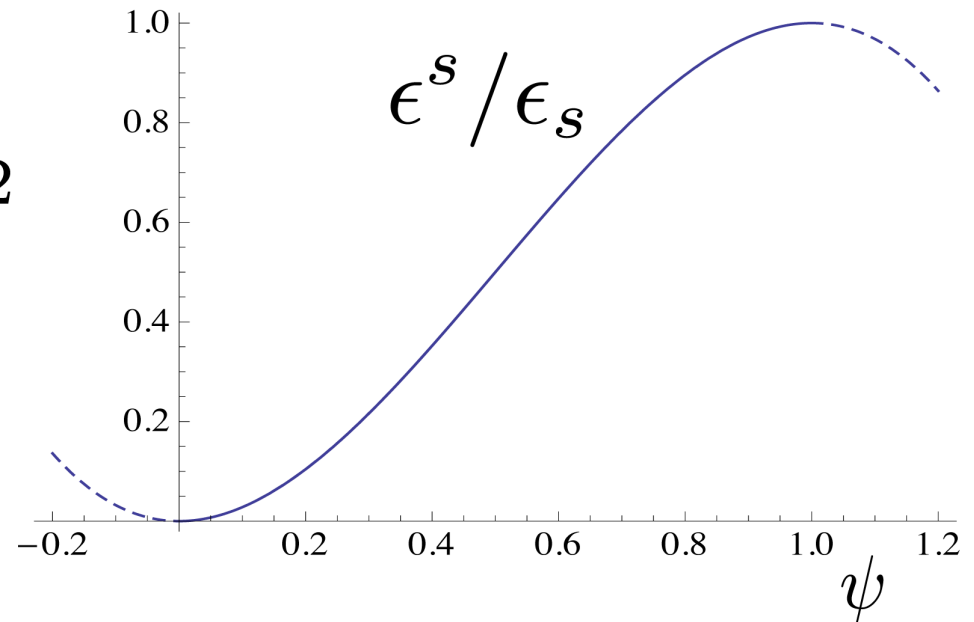
Double-well  
chemical potential

$$U(\psi) = p\psi^2(1 - \psi)^2$$



Expansion

$$\epsilon^s(\psi) = \epsilon_s(3 - 2\psi)\psi^2$$



Plane cases.

Unknown:  $\psi, u_1, u_2$

Phase: 
$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -L_{\psi} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \psi} - \nabla \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial (\nabla \psi)} \right)$$

Displ.: 
$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} = -L_{u_i} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial u_i} - \nabla \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial (\nabla u_i)} \right)$$

Evolution of the phase

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -L_\psi (\{3\sigma_{ii}\epsilon_s + 2p(1 - 2\psi)\} (1 - \psi)\psi - g_b\psi_{,ii})$$

Evolution of the displacements

$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} = -L_u (\mu u_{i,jj} + (\mu + \lambda)u_{j,ij} - (2\mu + 3\lambda)\epsilon_{,i}^s)$$

At equilibrium

$$\mu u_{i,jj} + (\mu + \lambda)u_{j,ij} - (2\mu + 3\lambda)\epsilon_{,i}^s = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -L_\psi (\{3\sigma_{ii}\epsilon_s + 2p(1 - 2\psi)\} (1 - \psi)\psi - g_b \psi_{,ii})$$

$$\frac{g_b}{p} \psi_{,ii} - \frac{1}{pL_\psi} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \{3\sigma_{ii}\epsilon_s/p + 2(1 - 2\psi)\} (1 - \psi)\psi$$

$$\tilde{x}_i = \sqrt{p/g_b} x_i, \quad \tilde{t} = pL_\psi t \quad \tilde{u}_i = u_i / \sqrt{g_b p}$$

Heat transfer with heat generation

$$\psi_{,ii} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tilde{t}} = \{3\epsilon_{ii}^{el} \tilde{\epsilon}_s + 2(1 - 2\psi)\} (1 - \psi)\psi$$

Mechanical equilibrium with thermal expansion

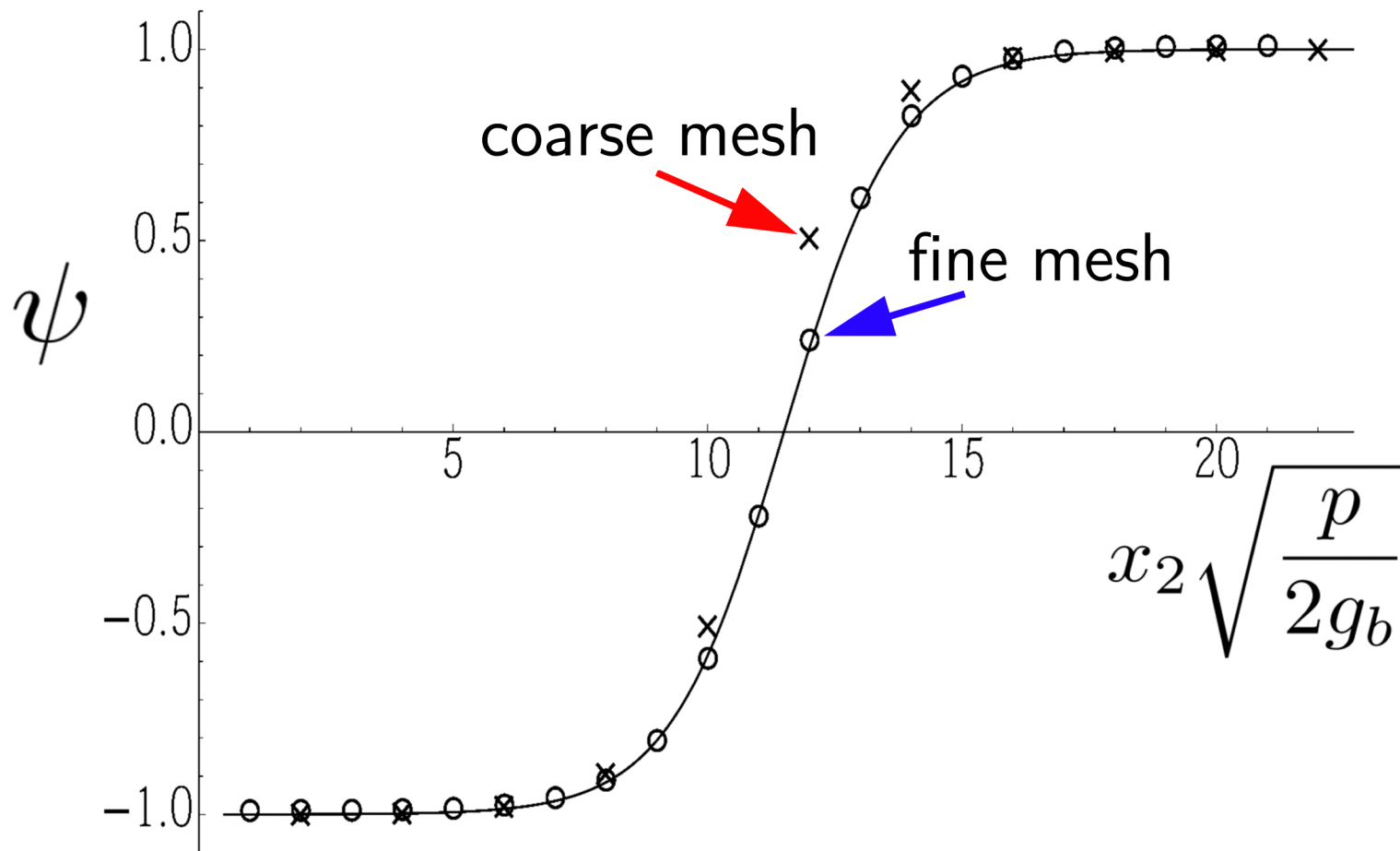
$$\tilde{u}_{i,jj} + \frac{1}{1 - 2\nu} \tilde{u}_{j,ij} - (\tilde{\epsilon}_s)_{,j} = 0$$

In analogy with a fully coupled thermal-stress

# One dimension static (Ginzburg, Landau 1950)

$$g_b \psi_o'' - p \psi_o (\psi_o^2 - 1) = 0 \quad \text{solved by} \quad \psi_o = \tanh(x / \sqrt{2g_b})$$

Phase vs. position



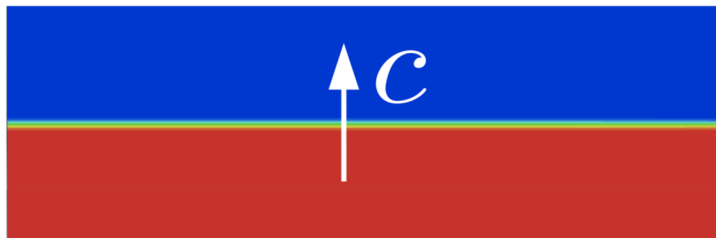
# Dynamic with mechanical loading

$$g_b \psi'' - p\psi(\psi^2 - 1) + \kappa p(\psi^2 - 1) - \frac{c}{L_\psi} \psi' = 0$$

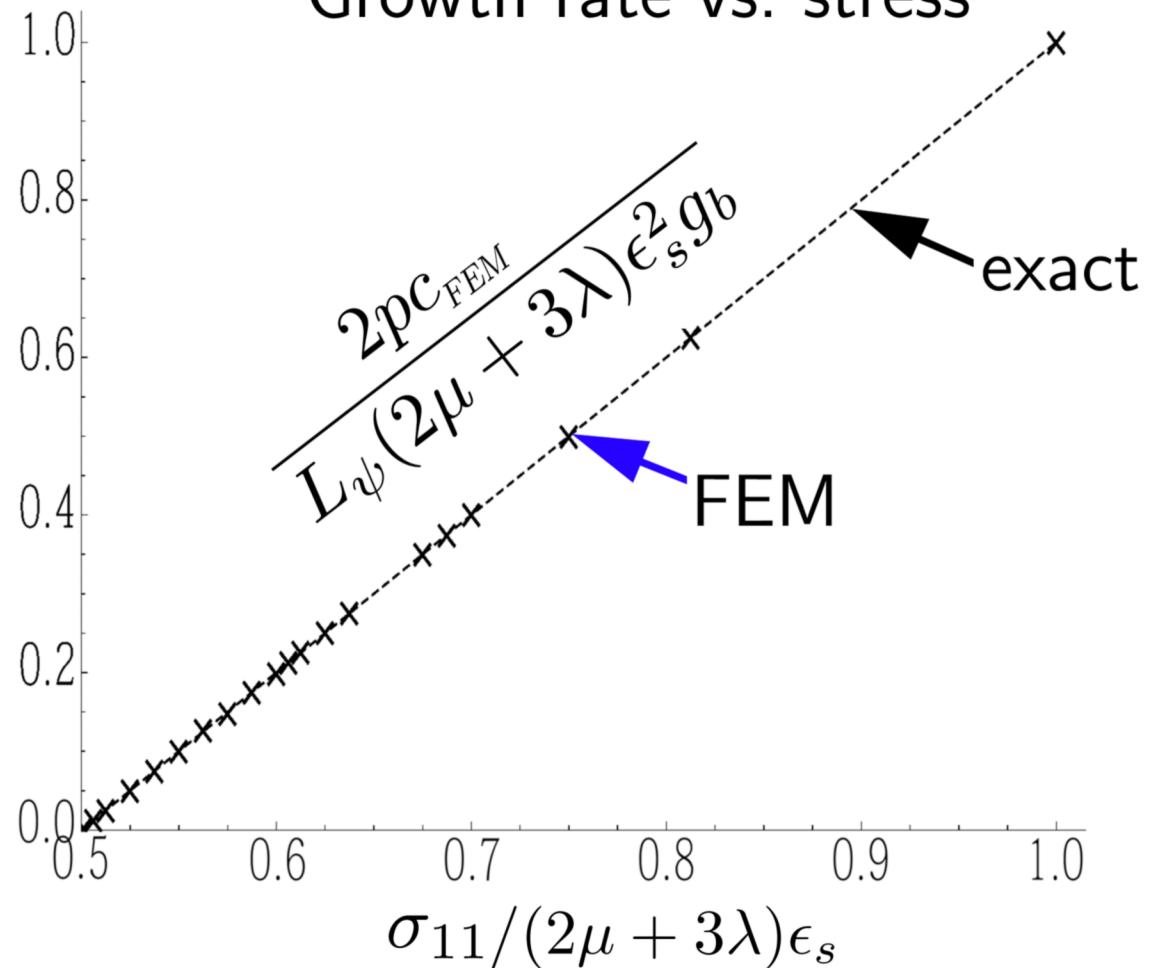
solved by 
$$\psi = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \tanh\left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2g_b}} x_2 + \frac{1}{4} L_\psi \sigma_{11} \epsilon_s \sqrt{\frac{2g_b}{p}} t\right)$$

Growth rate

$$c = L_\psi \sigma_{11} \epsilon_s \frac{g_b}{2p}$$



Growth rate vs. stress

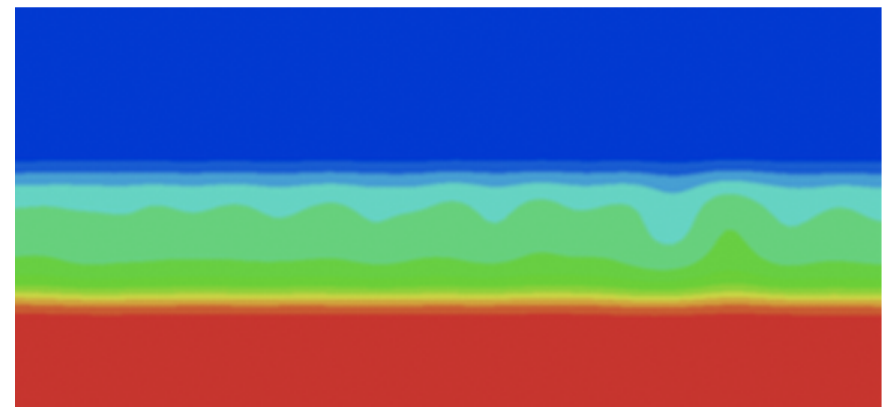
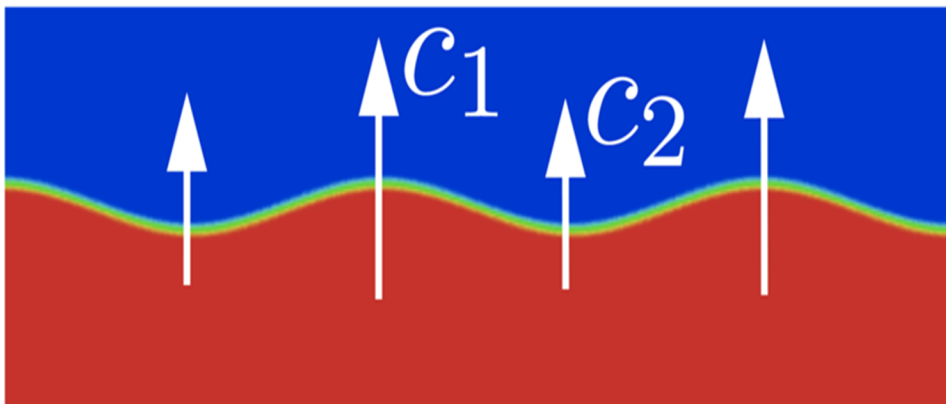




Surface energy  $\gamma = \sqrt{2p g_b}$  [F/L]

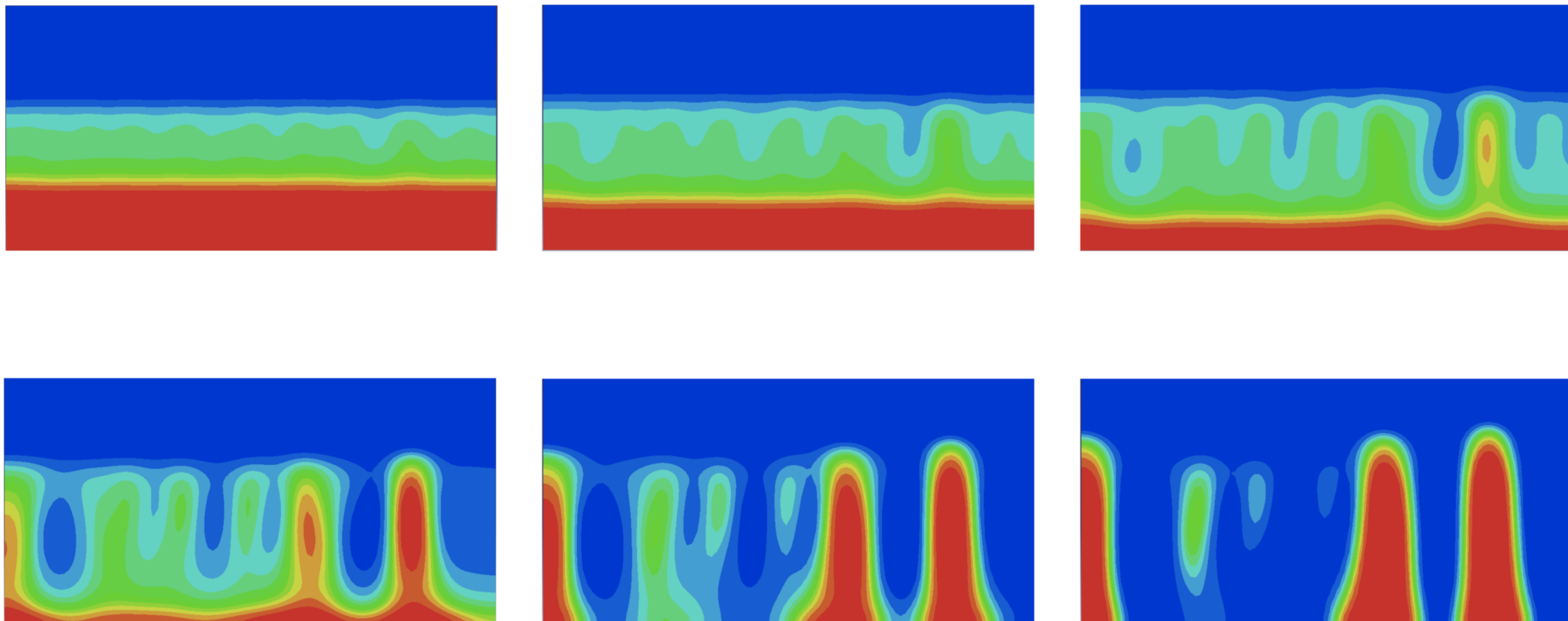
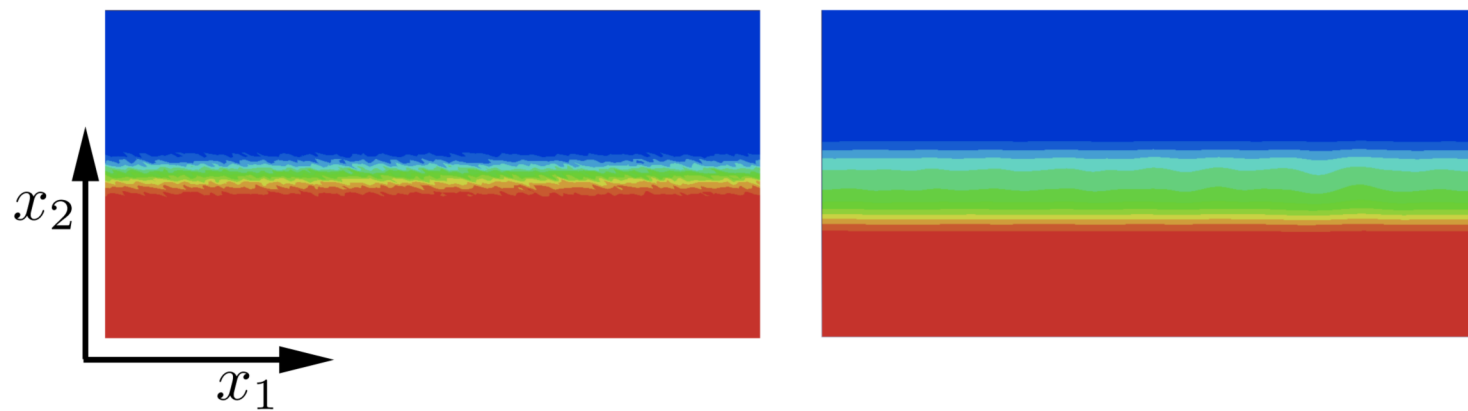
Strain energy density  $W = \sigma_{ii} \epsilon_s$  [F/L<sup>2</sup>]

Length parameter  $\gamma/W$  [L]



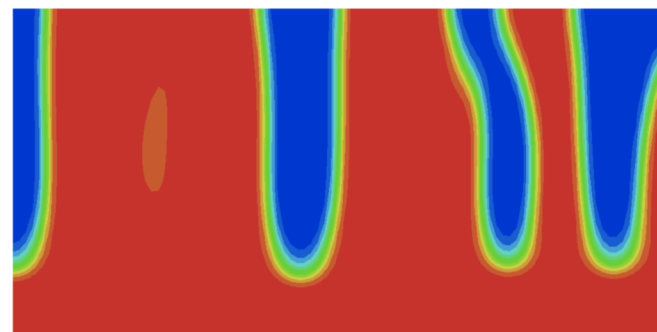
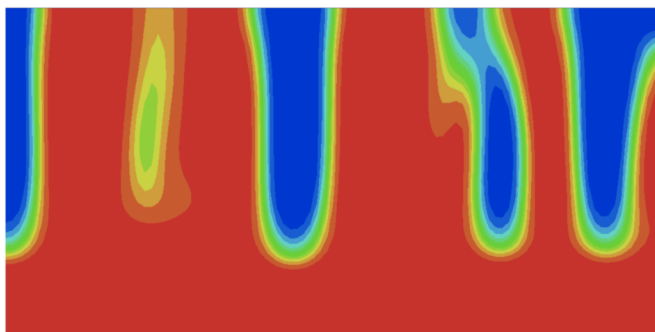
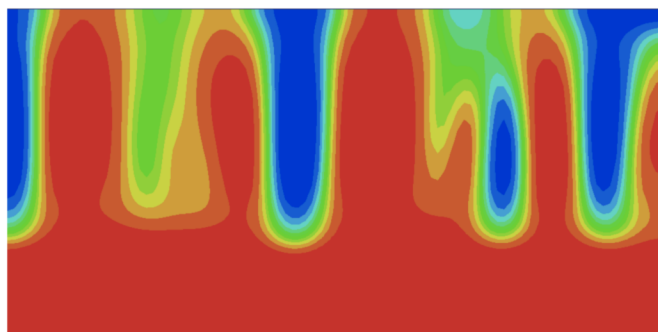
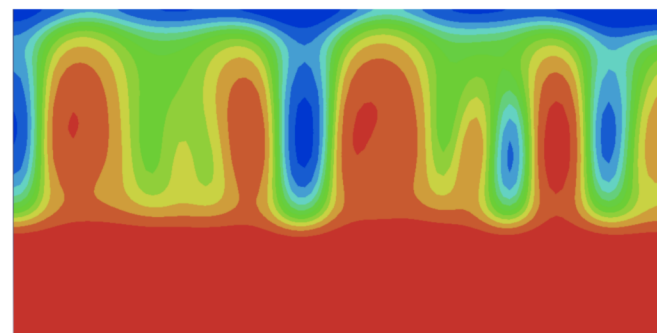
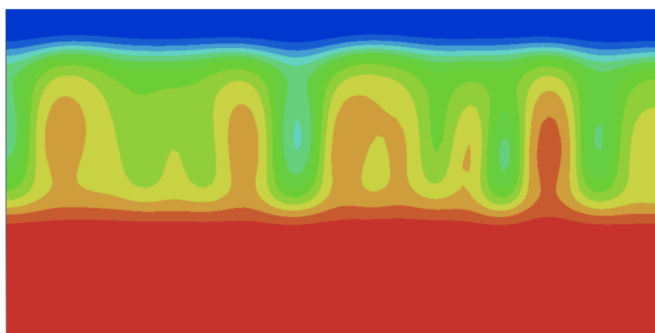
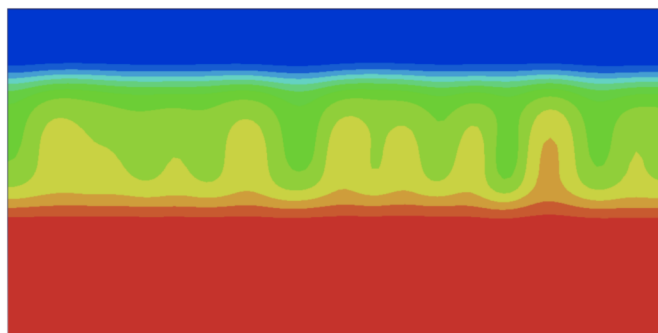
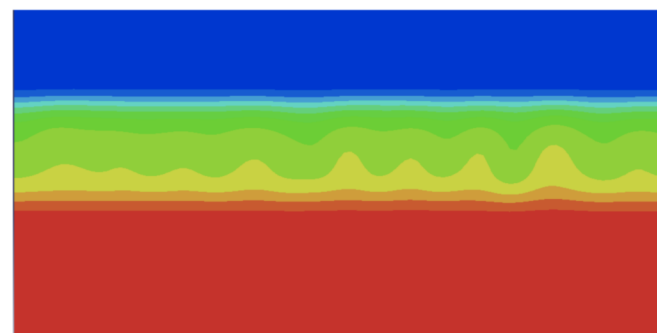
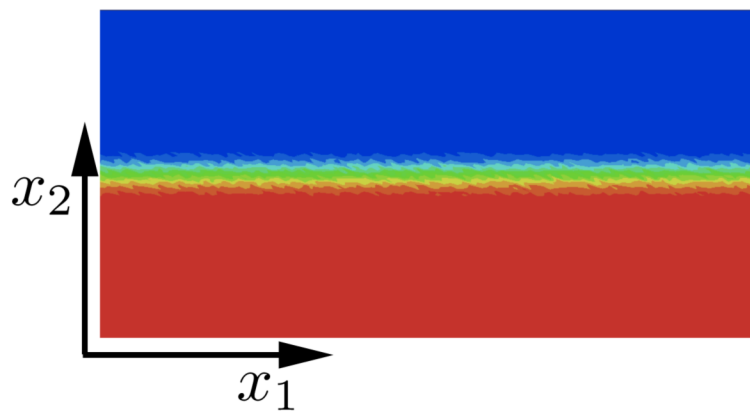
Noisy interface

$$\epsilon_{11} = 0.45\epsilon_s$$



Noisy interface

$$\epsilon_{11} = 0.55\epsilon_s$$



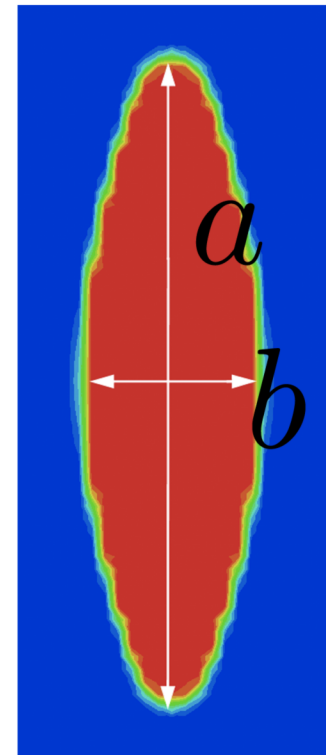
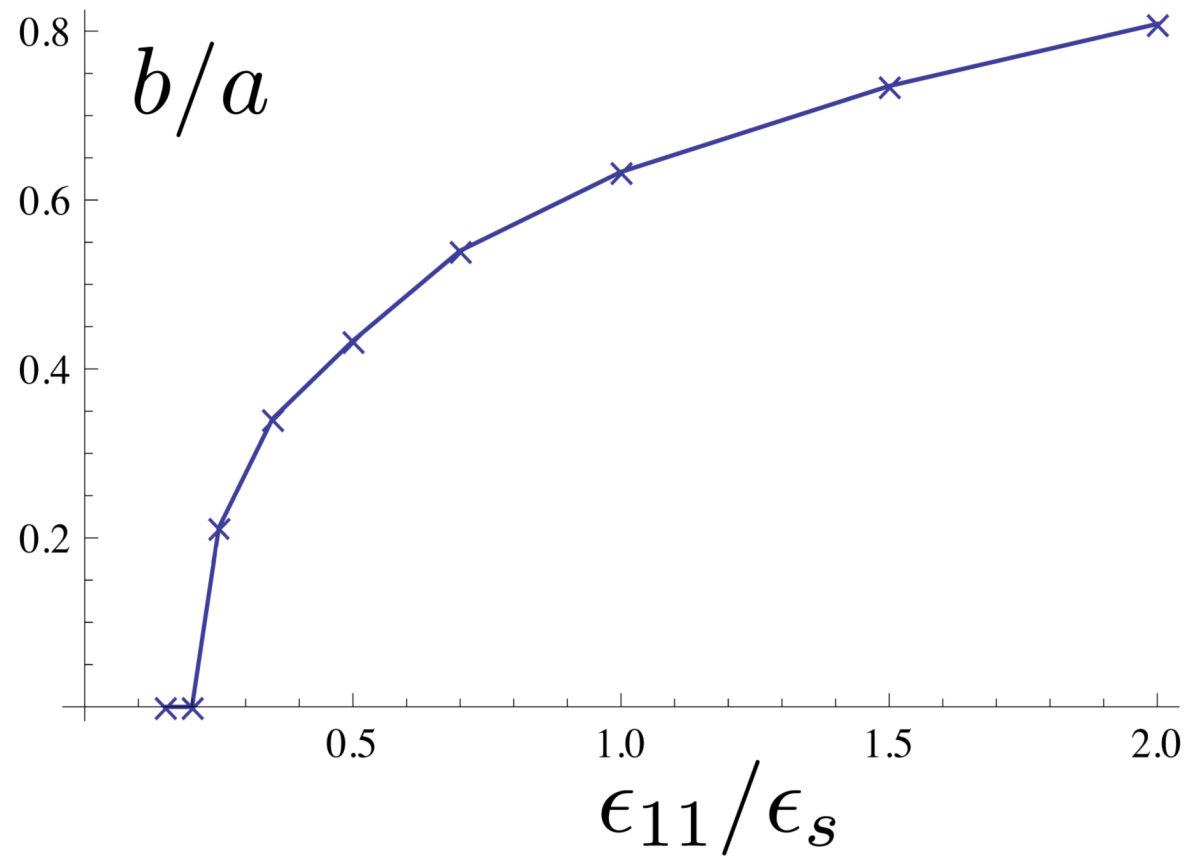
## Summary

Phase field modelling can be used in studies of phenomena occurring near the hydride surface

The hydride surface is unstable on a length scale given by the ratio of the surface energy and the strain energy density

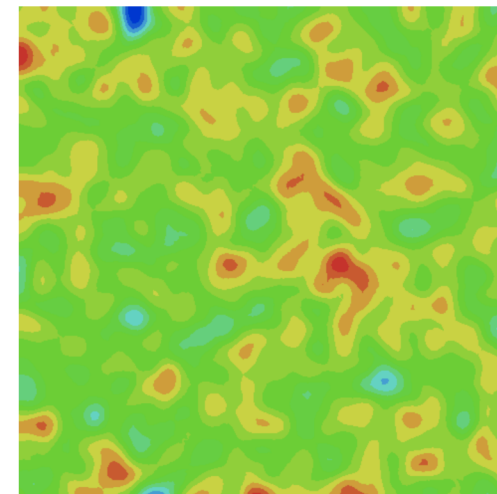
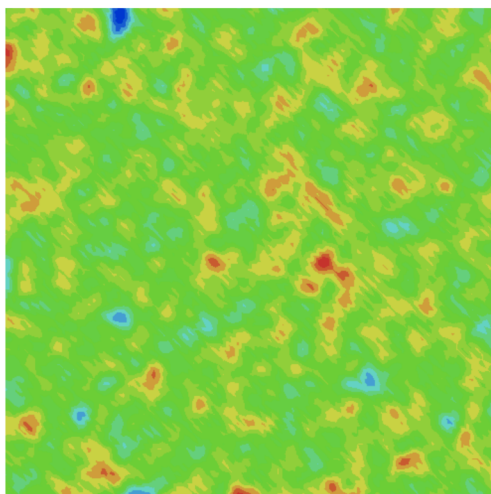
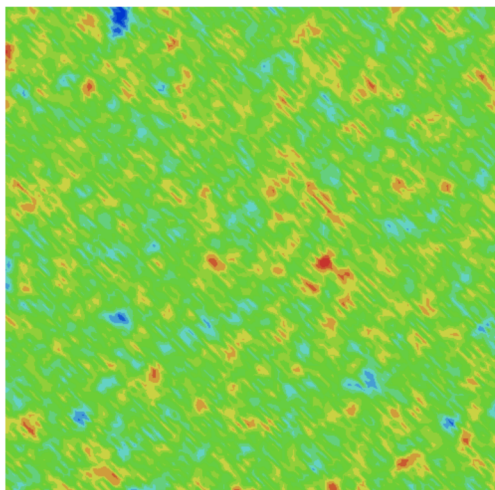
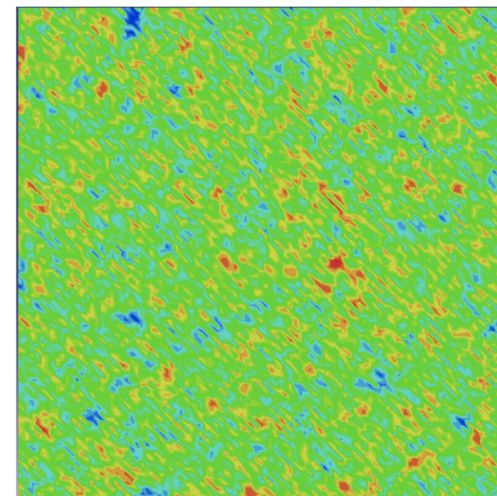
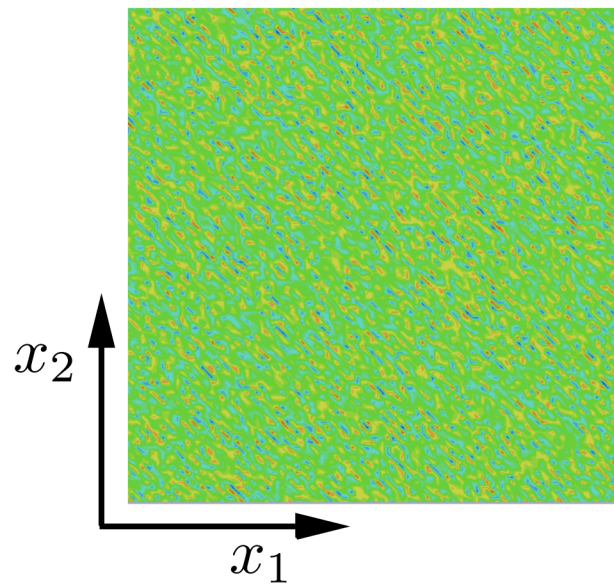
Platelet shape is affected by the ratio of stress free expansion strain and the elastic strain

## Aspect ratio of platelet axes



Noisy background

$$\epsilon_{11} = \epsilon_{22} = 0.5\epsilon_s$$



Noisy background

$$\epsilon_{11} = 0.5\epsilon_s$$

