

Optimal transport problems in microstructure modelling

David Bourne

Heriot-Watt University &
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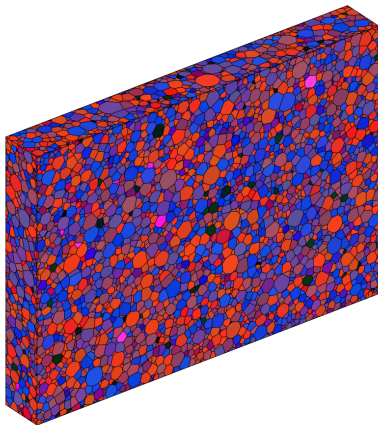
Optimal Transport Theory and Applications to Physics,
École de Physique des Houches, 13-17 March 2023

Collaborators

- Steve Roper: University of Glasgow
- Mason Pearce: PhD student, Heriot-Watt University
- Piet Kok: Tata Steel R&D (retired) & Ghent University
- Wil Spanjer: Tata Steel R&D (retired)
- Karo Sedighiani: Tata Steel R&D

Today's talk

How **optimal transport theory** can be used to generate geometric models of the microstructure of steels, foams, concrete, ...

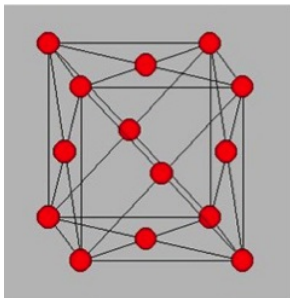
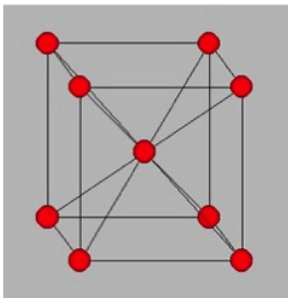


Part I: Background in steel

The microstructure of steel

The microstructure of steel

- Atoms in metals form lattices.

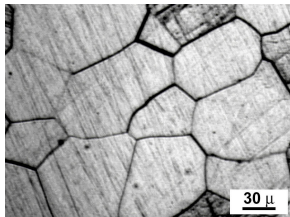
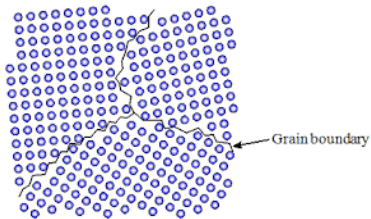


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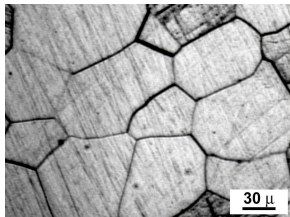
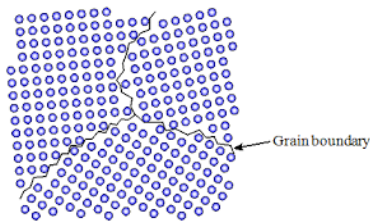
The microstructure of steel

- Atoms in metals form lattices.
- Zoom out: Metals are composed of grains.



The microstructure of steel

- Atoms in metals form lattices.
- Zoom out: Metals are composed of grains.



- Grains often resemble polyhedra. Under idealised cooling conditions, grains would form a Voronoi diagram.

The microstructure of steel

- High-performance steels: Grains of different sizes & shapes.

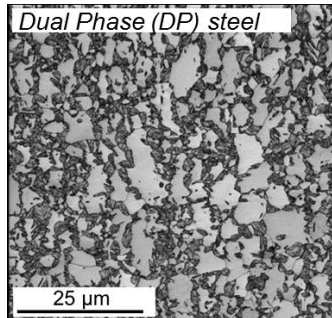
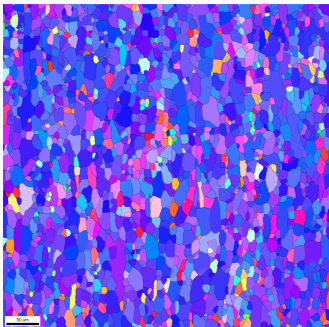


Figure: Left: DC06 steel grade. Right: Dual phase steel.

The microstructure of steel

- High-performance steels: Grains of different sizes & shapes.

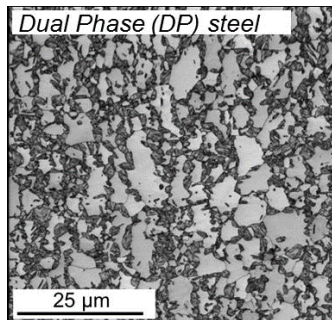
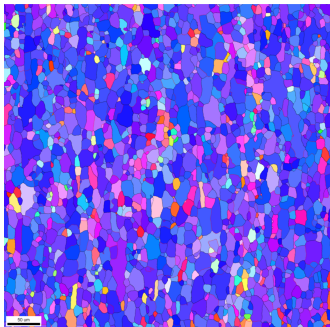


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The microstructure of steel

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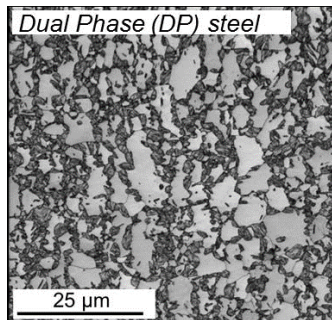
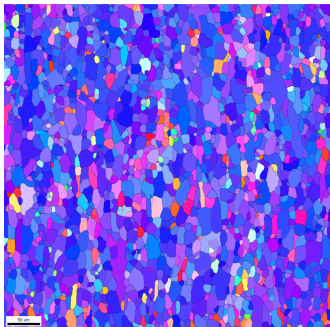


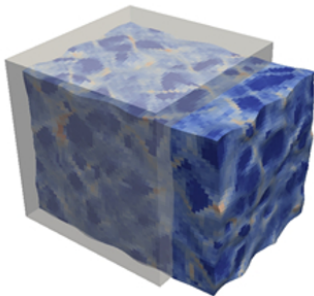
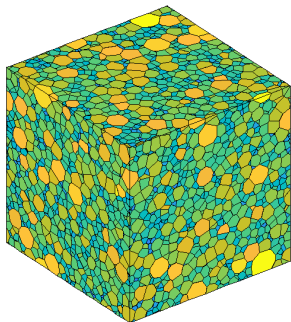
Figure: Left: DC06 steel grade. Right: Dual phase steel.

- Grain geometry affects the mechanical properties of steel.
- **Goal of Tata Steel:** Improve steel grades (alloys) and steel-forming processes by controlling the size and geometry of the grains.

Multiscale microstructure modelling

Approach: Computational homogenisation

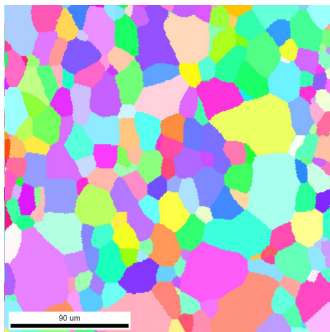
- **Geometric modelling:** Generate a geometric model (Voronoi tessellation or Laguerre tessellation) of the steel microstructure.
- **Computational plasticity:** Assign mechanical properties to each grain. Simulate standard mechanical tests (uni-axial load, shear).



Our goal

Generate geometric models of the microstructure of polycrystalline materials (Laguerre diagrams) with prescribed geometric properties:

- grain size distributions
- spatial distributions
- aspect ratio distributions

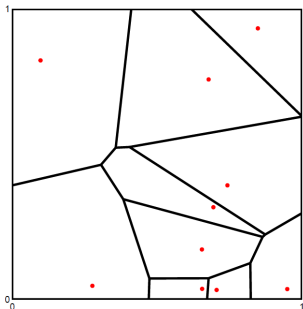


Part II: Background in semi-discrete OT

Laguerre tessellations

The **Laguerre tessellation** of $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ generated by the weighted points $\{(x_i, w_i)\}_{i=1}^n$, $x_i \in \Omega$, $w_i \in \mathbb{R}$, is the partition $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^n$ of Ω defined by

$$L_i = \{x \in \Omega : |x - x_i|^2 - w_i \leq |x - x_j|^2 - w_j \quad \forall j\}.$$



Laguerre cells are convex polygons in 2D and polyhedra in 3D.

Semi-discrete optimal transport

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- **Source measure:** Lebesgue measure $\mathcal{L}^d \llcorner \Omega$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

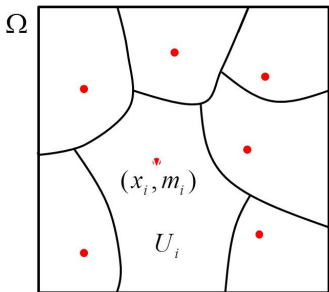
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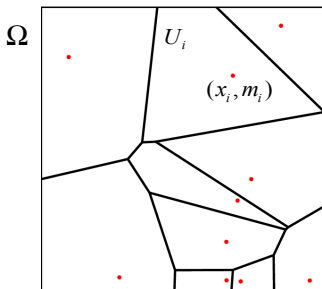
$$W_2^2\left(\mathcal{L}^d \llcorner \Omega, \sum_i v_i \delta_{x_i}\right) = \min_{\substack{\text{partitions } \{U_i\} \text{ of } \Omega \\ \mathcal{L}^d(U_i) = v_i \forall i}} \sum_i \int_{U_i} |x - x_i|^2 dx$$



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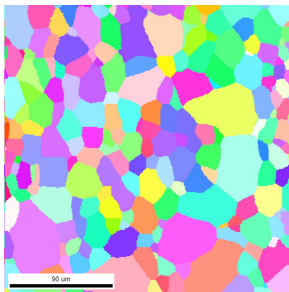
The optimal partition is a Laguerre tessellation $\{L_i\}$ with cells of volume $\{v_i\}$

Part III: Main results

Our goal

Generate geometric models of the microstructure of polycrystalline materials (Laguerre diagrams) with prescribed geometric properties:

- grain size distributions
- spatial distributions
- aspect ratio distributions



Bourne, Kok, Roper & Spanjer (2020), Bourne, Pearce & Roper (2023)

Controlling the grain size distribution

Question posed to us by Tata Steel: How do you generate a Laguerre diagram with polyhedra (grains) of given volumes v_1, \dots, v_n ?

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- For *any* x_1, \dots, x_n , solve the semi-discrete transport problem

$$W_2\left(1, \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \delta_{x_i}\right).$$

If $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is the optimal Laguerre tessellation, then $\mathcal{L}^d(L_i) = v_i$.

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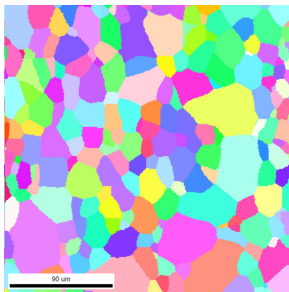
- Very fast algorithms (damped Newton method) and software:

Kitagawa, Mérigot & Thibert (2019), A. Gallouët, Mérigot & Thibert (2022), Lévy, Mohayaee & von Hausegger (2021), Lévy (2015), Mérigot (2011), ...
pysdot (Mérigot & Leclerc), Geogram (Lévy), sdot (Meyron), MATLAB-SDOT

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- Generate 'regular' microstructures by solving a **quantization problem**:

$$\min_{\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}} W_2\left(1, \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \delta_{x_i}\right)$$

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Algorithms/convergence: Mérigot, Santambrogio & Sarrazin (2021), B., Kok, Roper & Spanjer (2020), Xin, Lévy et al. (2016), Mérigot & Mirebeau (2016)

Example

Dual phase microstructure: 30 grains area a , 10 grains area $10a$

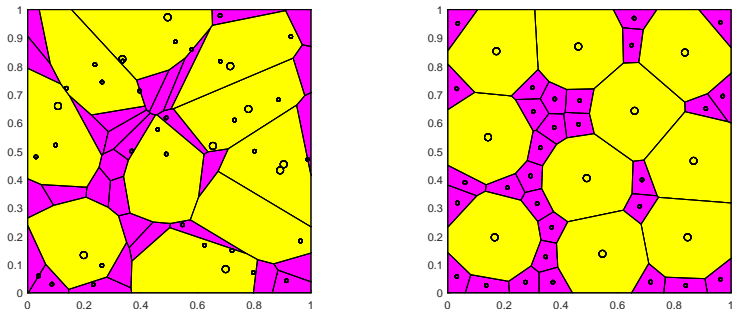


Figure: Left: x_i drawn at random. Right: Locally-optimal quantizer.

Quantization problem

$$\min_{\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}} E(x_1, \dots, x_n), \quad E(x_1, \dots, x_n) = W_2\left(1, \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \delta_{x_i}\right)$$

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- **Generalised Lloyd's algorithm.** Iteration k :

- $\{L_i^{(k)}\}$ = optimal partition for OT problem $W_2\left(1, \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \delta_{x_i^{(k)}}\right)$
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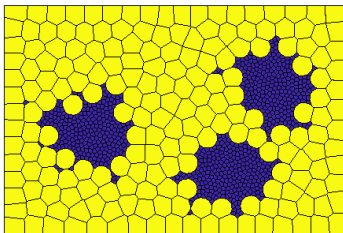
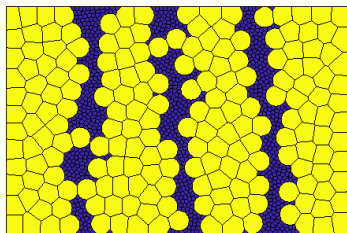
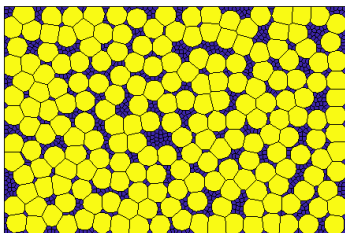
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- **Non-convexity:** Non-convexity is our friend!

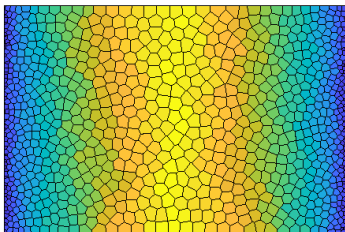
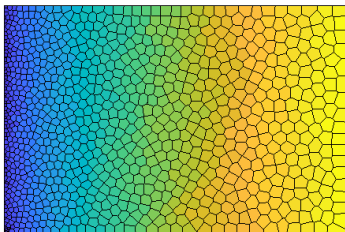
Using non-convexity to control spatial distribution

Initial choice of seeds $x_i^{(0)}$ has a big effect on the pattern:



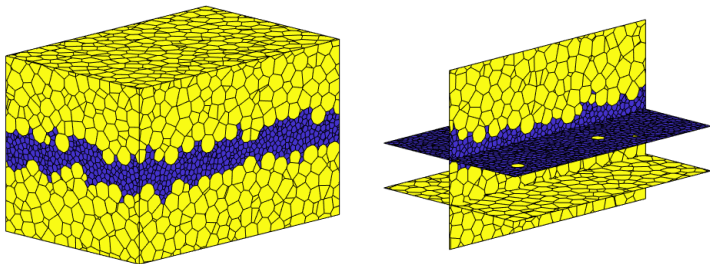
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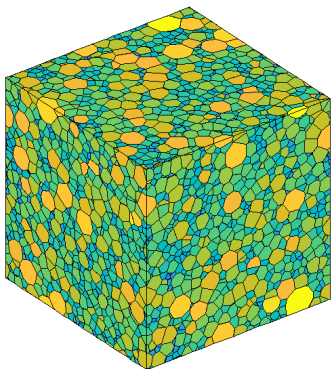
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Optimal transport with periodic quadratic cost

Same method works for **periodic** Laguerre tessellations (important for computational homogenisation), where

$$L_i^{\text{per}} = \{x \in \Omega : |x - x_i|_{\text{per}}^2 - w_i \leq |x - x_j|_{\text{per}}^2 - w_j \forall j\}.$$

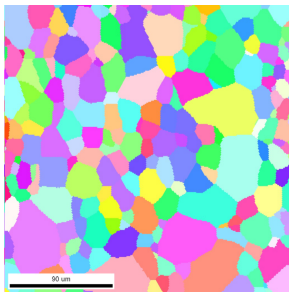


Bourne, Pearce & Roper (2023)

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Fitting volumes and centroids

Question: Given a list of target volumes v_1, \dots, v_n and target centroids c_1, \dots, c_n , find a Laguerre tessellation $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^n$ with grains of correct volume and 'minimum centroid error'.

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Notation: The centroid (barycentre) of a grain L_i is

$$b(L_i) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^d(L_i)} \int_{L_i} x \, dx.$$

Preliminary results: Special case

Theorem (B., Pearce, Roper)

Given a list of target volumes v_1, \dots, v_n and target centroids c_1, \dots, c_n , suppose there exists a Laguerre tessellation $\{L_i(X^*, w^*)\}_{i=1}^n$ such that $\mathcal{L}^d(L_i) = v_i$ and $b(L_i) = c_i$ for all i . Then

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(The *grains* are unique. The seeds can be uniformly translated and dilated, $x'_i = \lambda x_i + t$ for all i , without changing the grains L_i .)

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1. The Laguerre diagram is unique.
2. The seeds $X^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*)$ maximise the concave function $H : (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$H(X) = \frac{1}{2} W_2^2 \left(1, \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \delta_{x_i} \right) + \sum_{i=1}^n v_i c_i \cdot x_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n v_i |x_i|^2.$$

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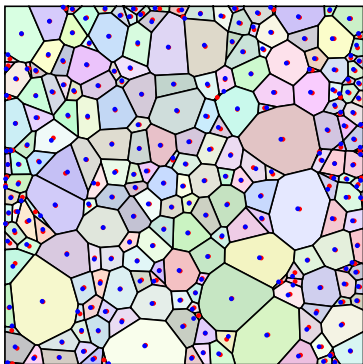
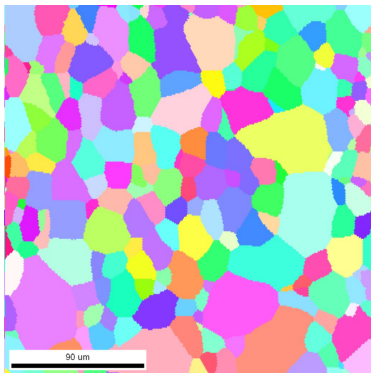
H is C^1 on the set $\{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^n : x_i \neq x_j \forall i \neq j\}$ and

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_i} = v_i (c_i - b(L_i)).$$

(Mérigot, Santambrogio & Sarrazin (2021))

Preliminary results: General case

Given a list of target volumes v_1, \dots, v_n and target centroids c_1, \dots, c_n , find a Laguerre tessellation $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^n$ such that $\mathcal{L}^d(L_i) = v_i$ for all i and $\sum_i |v_i(b(L_i) - c_i)|^2$ is minimal.

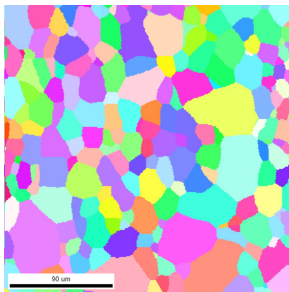


Left: EBSD image. Right: Fitted diagram. The **blue** dots are the target centroids, the **red** dots are the actual centroids.

Our goal

Generate geometric models of the microstructure of polycrystalline materials (Laguerre diagrams) with prescribed geometric properties:

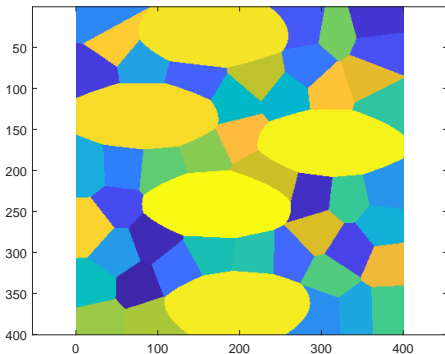
- grain size distributions
- spatial distributions
- **aspect ratio distributions**



Controlling the grain size and aspect ratio distribution

Controlling the grain size and aspect ratio distribution

We can represent anisotropic microstructures by **anisotropic Laguerre diagrams**.



A. Alpers, A. Brieden, P. Gritzmann, A. Lyckegaard, and H.F. Poulsen.
Generalized balanced power diagrams for 3D representations of polycrystals.
Philos. Mag. 95(9): 1016-1028, 2015.

Controlling the grain size and aspect ratio distribution

The **anisotropic Laguerre tessellation** generated by the weighted points $\{(x_i, w_i, A_i)\}_{i=1}^n$, where $x_i \in \Omega$, $w_i \in \mathbb{R}$, A_i are SPD matrices, is the partition $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^n$ of Ω defined by

$$L_i = \left\{ x \in \Omega : |x - x_i|_{A_i}^2 - w_i \leq |x - x_j|_{A_j}^2 - w_j \quad \forall j \right\}$$

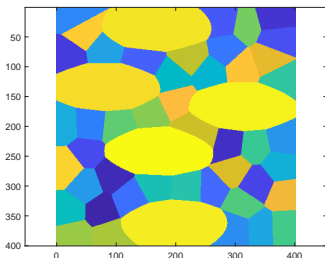
where $|\cdot|_A$ is the A -norm: $|x - x_i|_A^2 = (x - x_i) \cdot A(x - x_i)$.

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The A_i matrices give some control over the aspect ratio of the cells.

Controlling the grain size for anisotropic diagrams

Q. Can we choose the generators $(x_1, w_1, A_1), \dots, (x_n, w_n, A_n)$ so that the anisotropic Laguerre cells have desired volumes v_1, \dots, v_n ?

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- For *any* $\{x_i\}, \{A_i\}$, solve the semi-discrete transport problem

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with **anisotropic cost** $c(x, x_i) = |x - x_i|_{A_i}^2$.

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- The optimal partition $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is an anisotropic Laguerre tessellation and $\mathcal{L}^d(L_i) = v_i \forall i$.
- Implementation: Maximise the concave function $\mathcal{K} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\mathcal{K}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{L_i(w)} (|x - x_i|_{A_i}^2 - w_i) dx + \sum_{i=1}^n v_i w_i$$

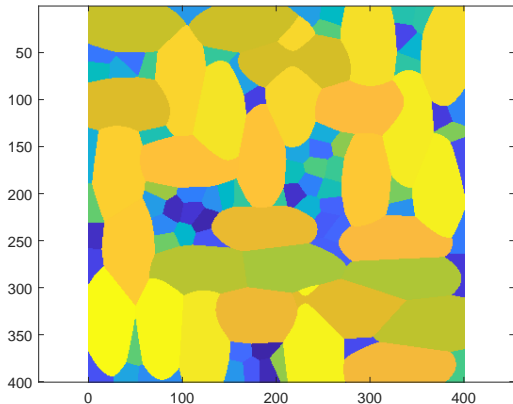
where

$$L_i(w) = \{x \in \Omega : |x - x_i|_{A_i}^2 - w_i \leq |x - x_j|_{A_j}^2 - w_j \forall j\}.$$

Example

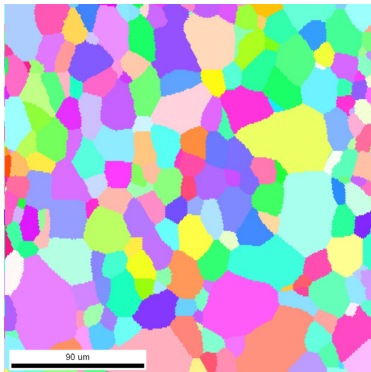
Dual phase microstructure: 100 cells: 70 small cells of area a , 30 large cells of area $10a$ (error less than 1%). The large cells have two different A_i (15 of each type):

$$A_{\text{small}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_{\text{large},1} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_{\text{large},2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

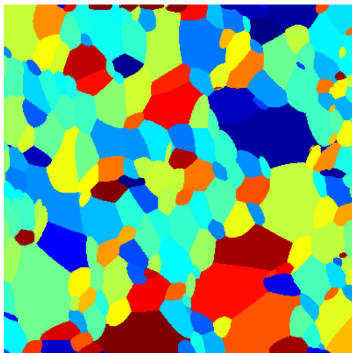


Fitting anisotropic diagrams to EBSD data

Basic fitting: Take x_i , A_i , v_i from EBSD data (grain centroids, ellipsoids, volumes) - solve the semi-discrete OT problem for w_i .



Left: EBSD image from Tata Steel.



Right: Anisotropic Laguerre.

Implementation issues

Question: How can we compute anisotropic diagrams efficiently?

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- **Pixel method.** Compute the “anisotropic distance” $(p_i - x_j) \cdot A_j(p_i - x_j) - w_j$ between every pixel i and seed j .
- **Geometric lifting method.** Compute a standard power diagram in dimension $d + d(d + 1)/2$, intersect with a surface, project. Boissonnat, Wormser & Yvinec (2007)
- **Entropic semi-discrete optimal transport.**
- **Stochastic optimisation.** Genevay, Cuturi, Peyré & Bach (2016)
- **Boundary method.** Dieci & Walsh III (2019)
- ...