



**USNCCM15 Short Course:  
Machine Learning Data-driven Discretization Theories, Modeling  
and Applications**

# **Transfer learning in structure-property predictions**

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Austin, TX, USA*

- **Motivations:** Unified set of databases covering the full-range structure-property relationship, improvement of training convergence
- **Transfer-learning strategy:** Non-random initialization, database extrapolation and interpolation
- **Micromechanics:** Continuous structure-property relationship
- **A materials design problem:** Design of material toughness and ultimate tensile strength
- **Summary and future work**

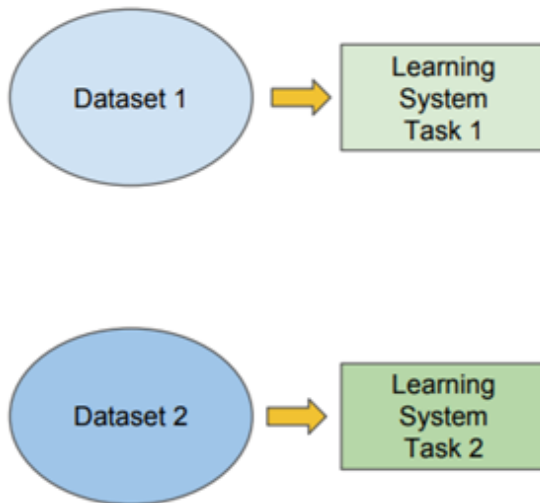


## Traditional ML

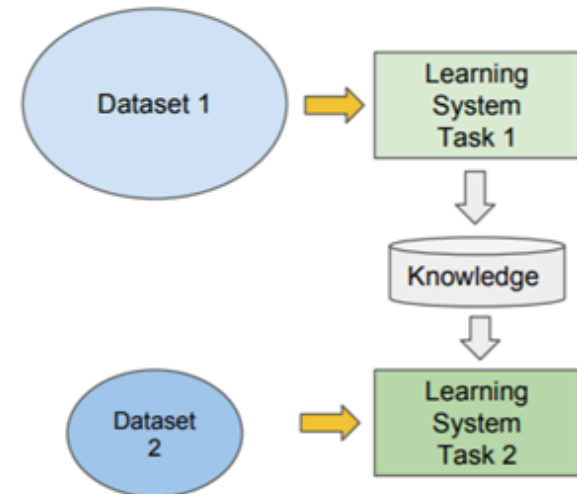
vs

## Transfer Learning

- Isolated, single task learning:
  - Knowledge is not retained or accumulated. Learning is performed w.o. considering past learned knowledge in other tasks



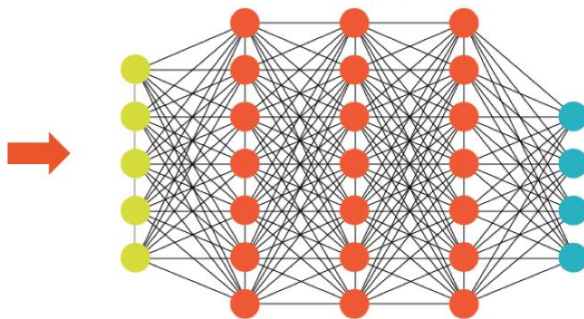
- Learning of a new tasks relies on the previous learned tasks:
  - Learning process can be faster, more accurate and/or need less training data



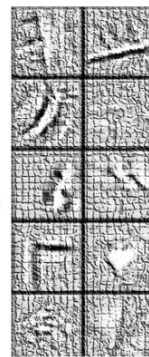
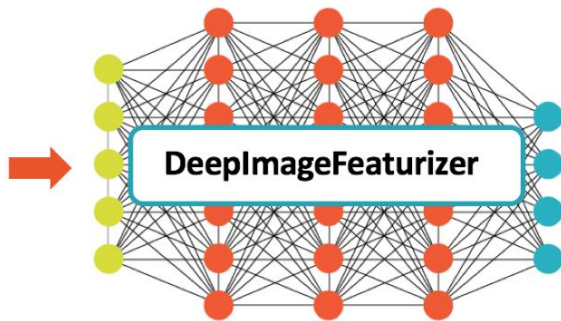
[Source: towardsdatascience.com](https://towardsdatascience.com)



# Transfer learning in image classification

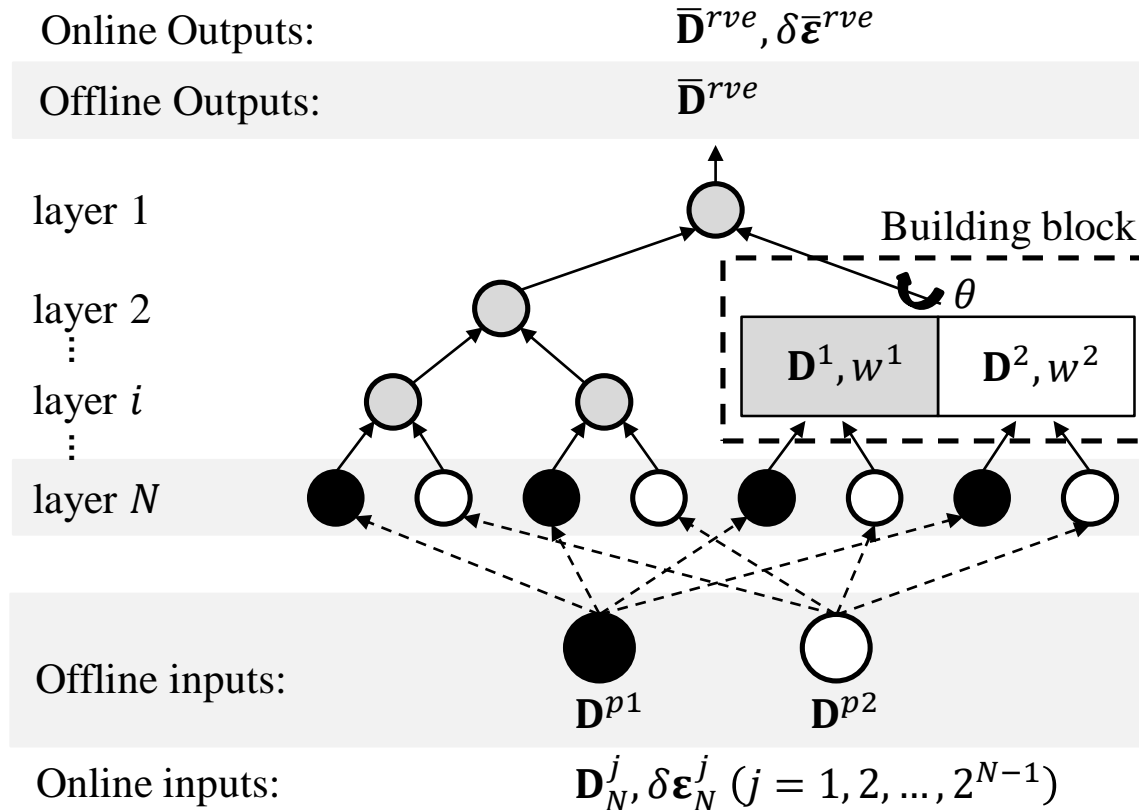


GIANT PANDA 0.9  
RED PANDA 0.05  
RACCOON 0.01  
...



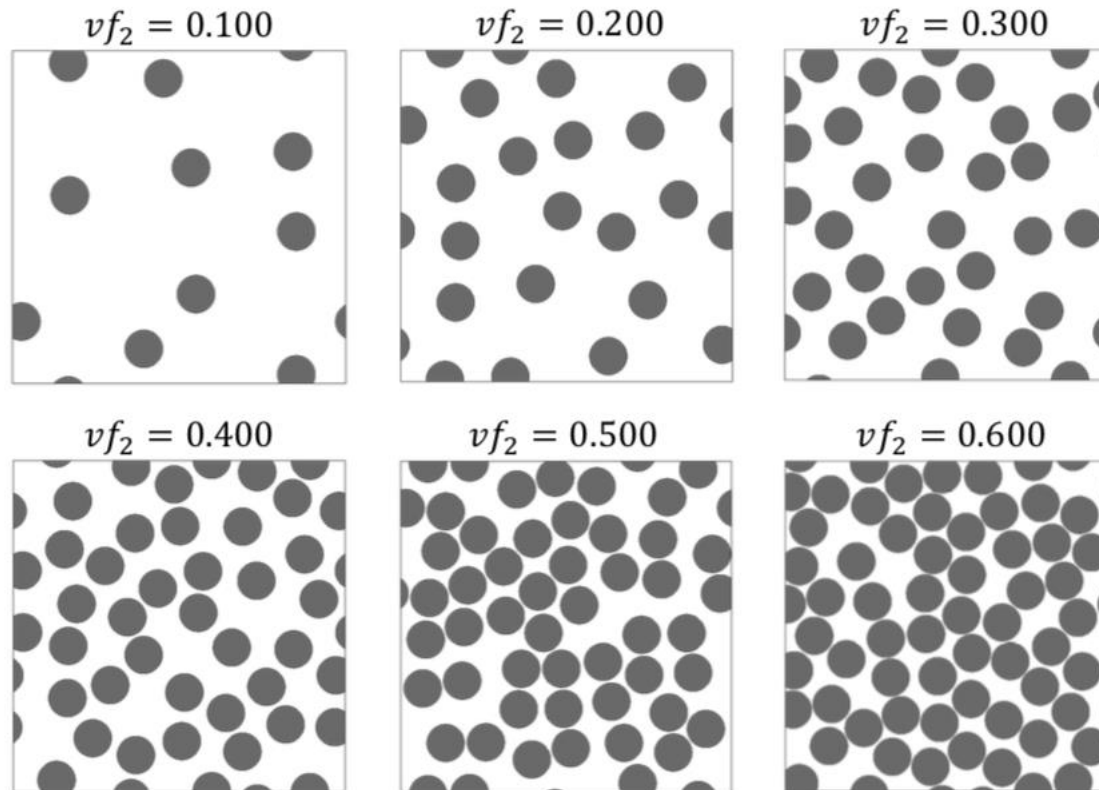
Chihuahua

[Source: databricks.com](http://databricks.com)



The fitting parameters are randomly initialized previously:

$$z_N^j(0) \sim U(0.2, 0.8) \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_i^{k(0)} \sim U(-\pi/2, \pi/2).$$



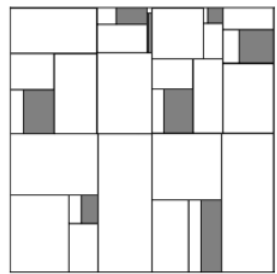
**Fig. 2** DNS microstructures of particle-reinforced 2D RVEs with the volume fraction of particle phase  $vf_2$  ranging from 0.1 to 0.6.

$vf_2 = 0.100$

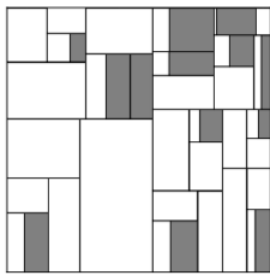
$vf_2 = 0.200$

$vf_2 = 0.300$

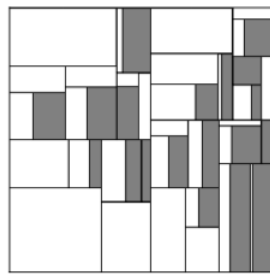
**Random initialization of fitting parameters**



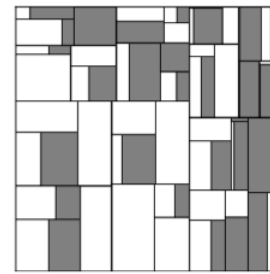
$vf_2 = 0.096, N_a = 35$



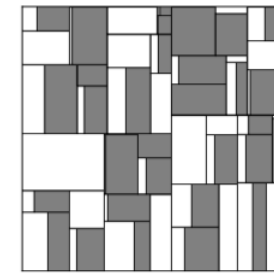
$vf_2 = 0.199, N_a = 44$



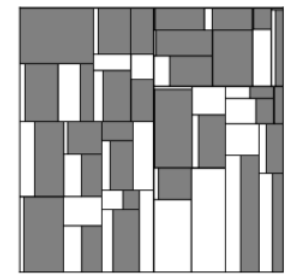
$vf_2 = 0.301, N_a = 50$



$vf_2 = 0.400, N_a = 69$



$vf_2 = 0.502, N_a = 75$



$vf_2 = 0.605, N_a = 72$

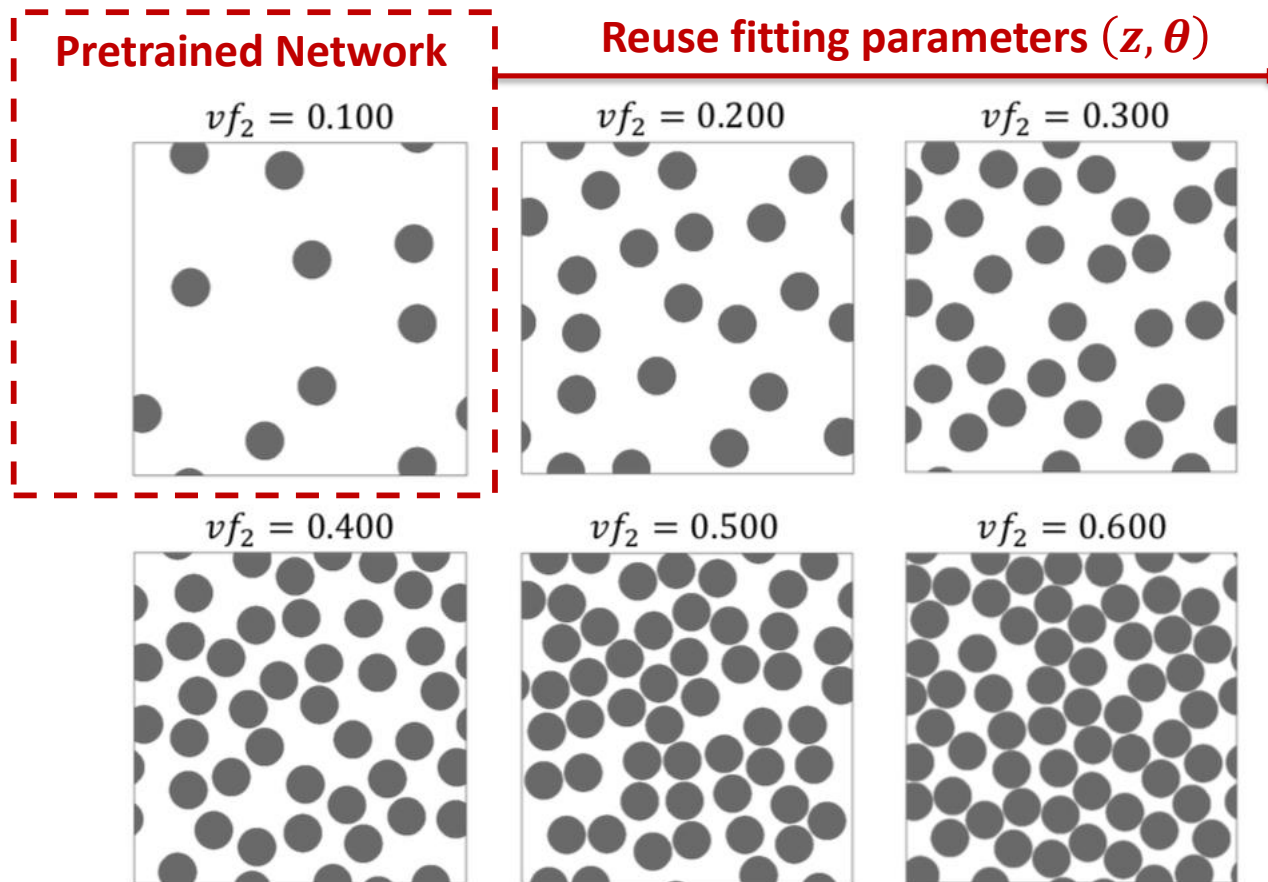
(c) Treemaps of DMN after 10000 epochs of training.

- With random initialization, the DMN databases trained for different RVEs are not analogous to each other in terms of the topological structure.

Fig. 2 DNS microstructures of particle-reinforced 2D RVEs with the volume fraction of particle phase,  $vf_2$ , ranging from 0.1 to 0.6.

- Continuous migration between different database can not be realized through direct interpolation of the fitting parameters



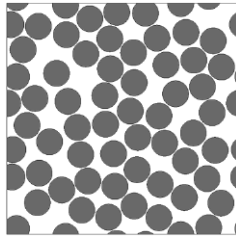


**Fig. 2** DNS microstructures of particle-reinforced 2D RVEs with the volume fraction of particle phase  $vf_2$  ranging from 0.1 to 0.6.





For each RVE:



## Generating orthotropic elastic samples:

- Inputs:  $\mathbf{D}^{p1}, \mathbf{D}^{p2}$
- Outputs:  $\bar{\mathbf{D}}^{dns}$

$$\mathbf{D}^{p1} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 1/E_{11}^{p1} & -\nu_{12}^{p1}/E_{22}^{p1} & \\ & 1/E_{22}^{p1} & \\ & & 1/(2G_{12}^{p1}) \end{array} \right\} \quad \mathbf{D}^{p2} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 1/E_{11}^{p2} & -\nu_{12}^{p2}/E_{22}^{p2} & \\ & 1/E_{22}^{p2} & \\ & & 1/(2G_{12}^{p2}) \end{array} \right\}$$

Design of Experiments (DoE): 400 training / 100 test samples

**Phase contrast:**  $E_{11}^{p1} E_{22}^{p1} = 1, \quad \log_{10}(E_{11}^{p2} E_{22}^{p2}) \in U[-6, 6]$

**Anisotropy:**  $\log_{10}(E_{22}^{p1}/E_{11}^{p1}) \in U[-1, 1], \quad \log_{10}(E_{22}^{p2}/E_{11}^{p2}) \in U[-1, 1]$

**Shear moduli:**  $\frac{G_{12}^{p1}}{\sqrt{E_{22}^{p1} E_{11}^{p1}}} \in U[0.25, 0.5], \quad \frac{G_{12}^{p2}}{\sqrt{E_{22}^{p2} E_{11}^{p2}}} \in U[0.25, 0.5]$



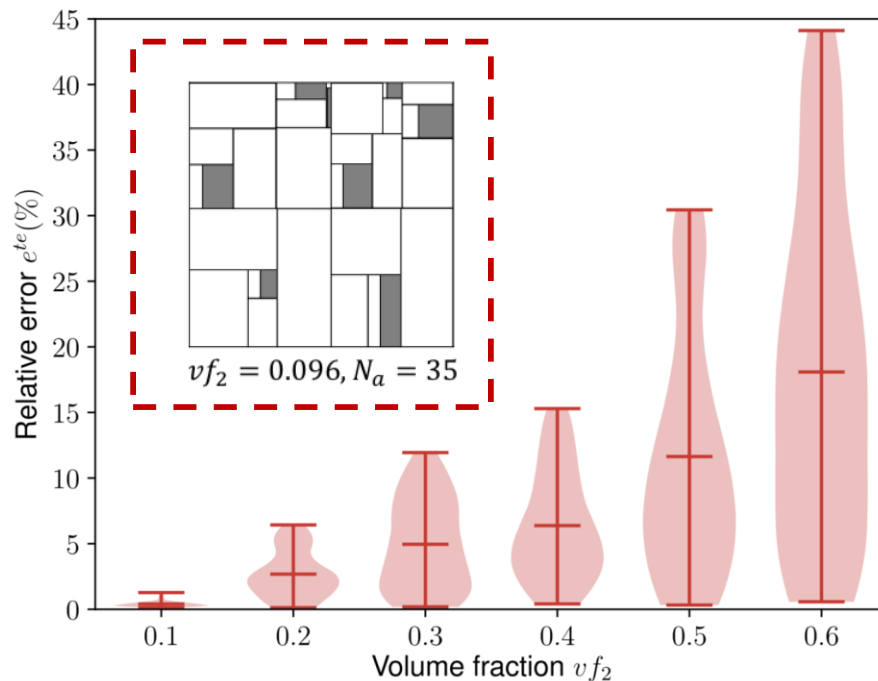
**Extrapolation of fitting parameters:** Update the activations of the base network to match the target volume fraction, and all angles remains unaltered.

$$z^{j(t)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - vf_2^{(t)}}{1 - vf_2^{(b)}} a(z^{j(b)}) & \text{if } j \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{vf_2^{(t)}}{vf_2^{(b)}} a(z^{j(b)}) & \text{if } j \text{ is even,} \end{cases}$$

$$\theta_i^{k(t)} = \theta_i^{k(b)}$$

(t): Target; (b): Base;

a(x): ReLU activation function

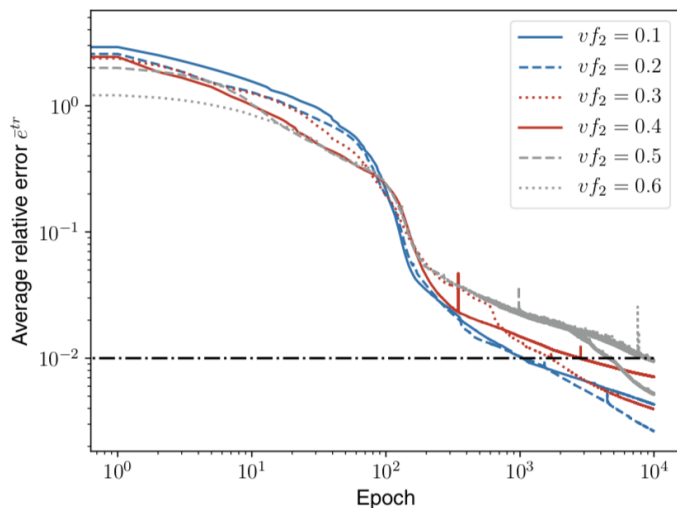


**Fig. 4** Distributions of errors on the test datasets from the naive approach. The network for  $vf_2 = 0.1$  is chosen as the base of migration

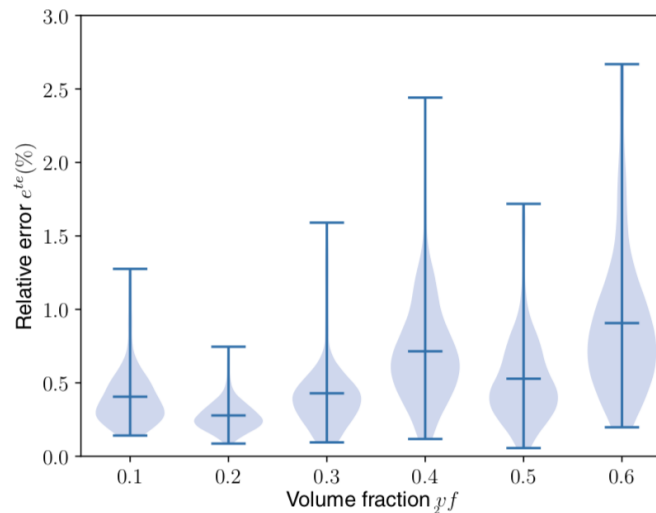
*The naive approach is adopted mainly for the initialization of transfer learning.*



## Random initialization

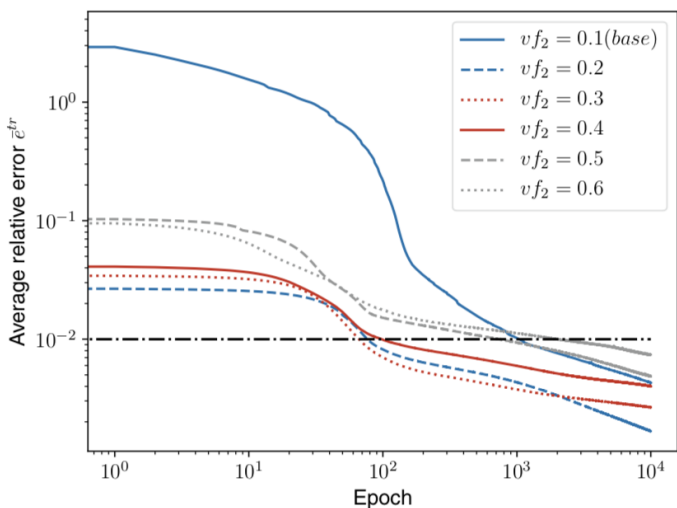


(a) Histories of average training error  $\bar{e}^{tr}$ .

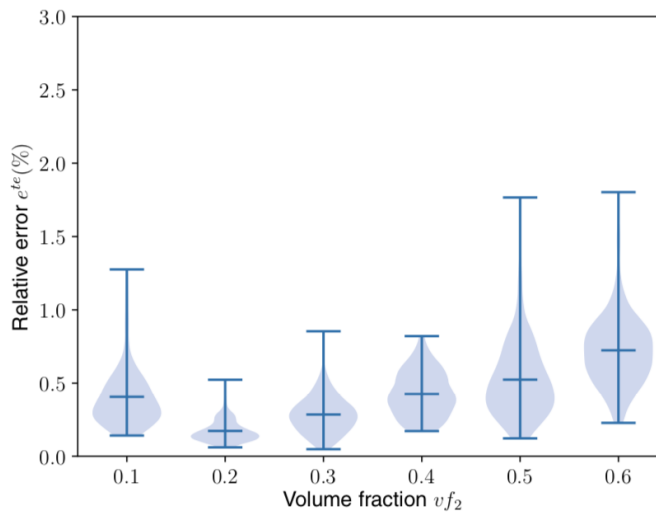


(b) Distributions of test error  $e^{te}$ .

## Transfer learning

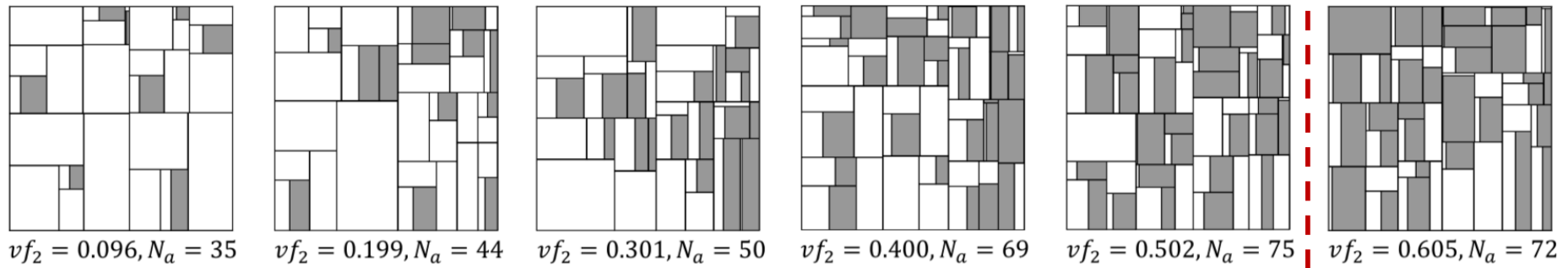


(a) Histories of average training error  $\bar{e}^{tr}$ .



(b) Distributions of test error  $e^{te}$ .

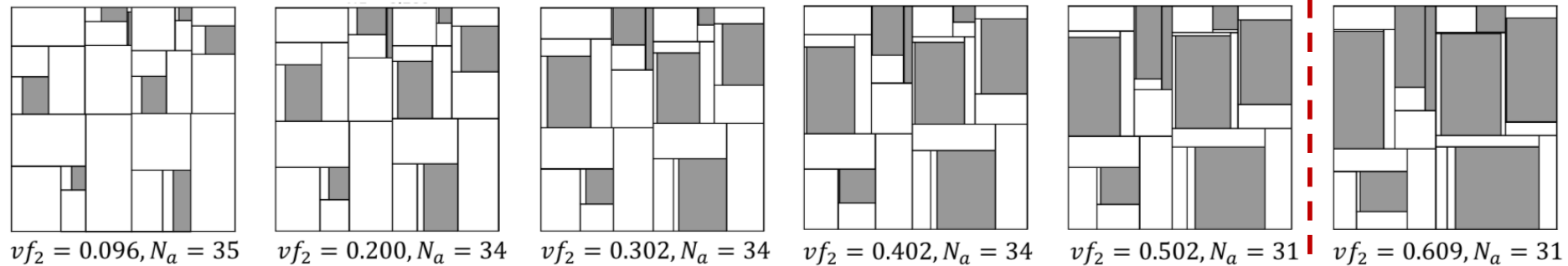
## Random initialization



(c) Treemaps of DMN after 10000 epochs of training.

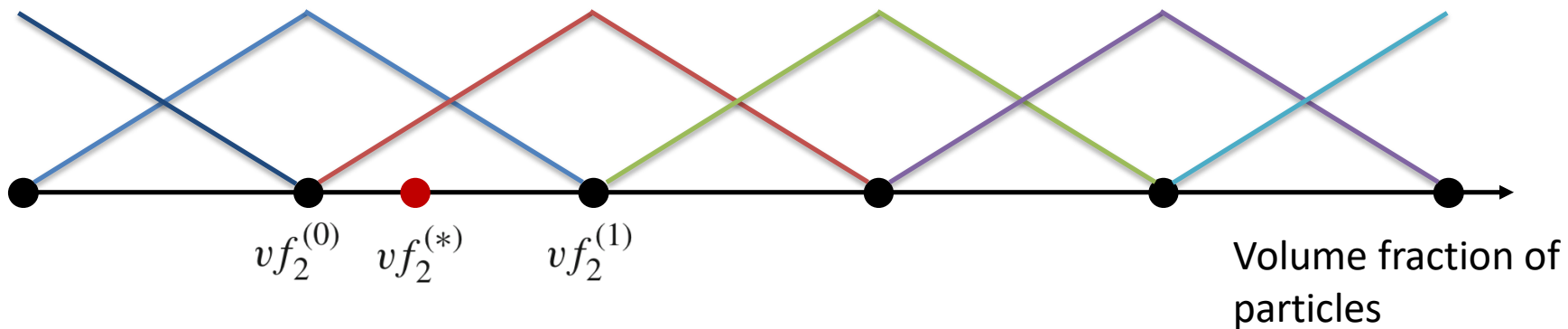
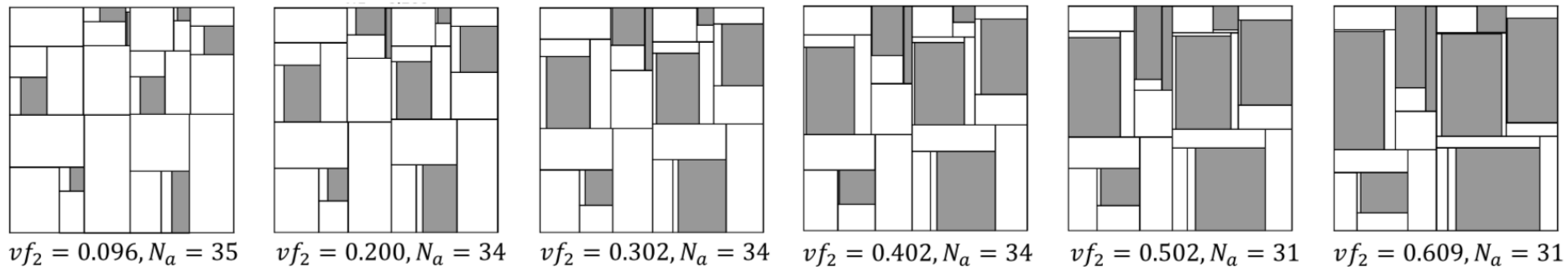
- Discontinuous topology structure
- Redundancy in the network

## Transfer learning



(c) Treemaps of DMN after 10000 epochs of training.

- Analogous topology structure, enabling interpolation of fitting parameters
- More compressed network, less number of DOFs



The parameters for the interpolated database at

$$\tilde{z}^{j(*)} = N_0 a(\tilde{z}^{j(0)}) + (1 - N_0) a(\tilde{z}^{j(1)}) \quad \theta_i^{k(*)} = N_0 \theta_i^{k(0)} + (1 - N_0) \theta_i^{k(1)}$$

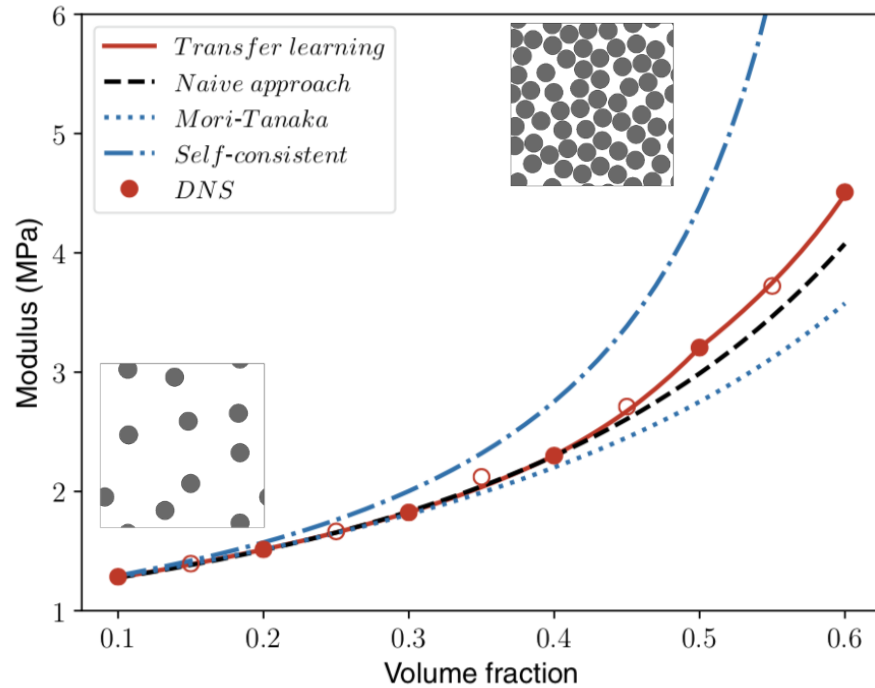
The shape function is given by

$$N_0 = \frac{vf_2^{(1)} - vf_2^{(*)}}{vf_2^{(1)} - vf_2^{(0)}}$$

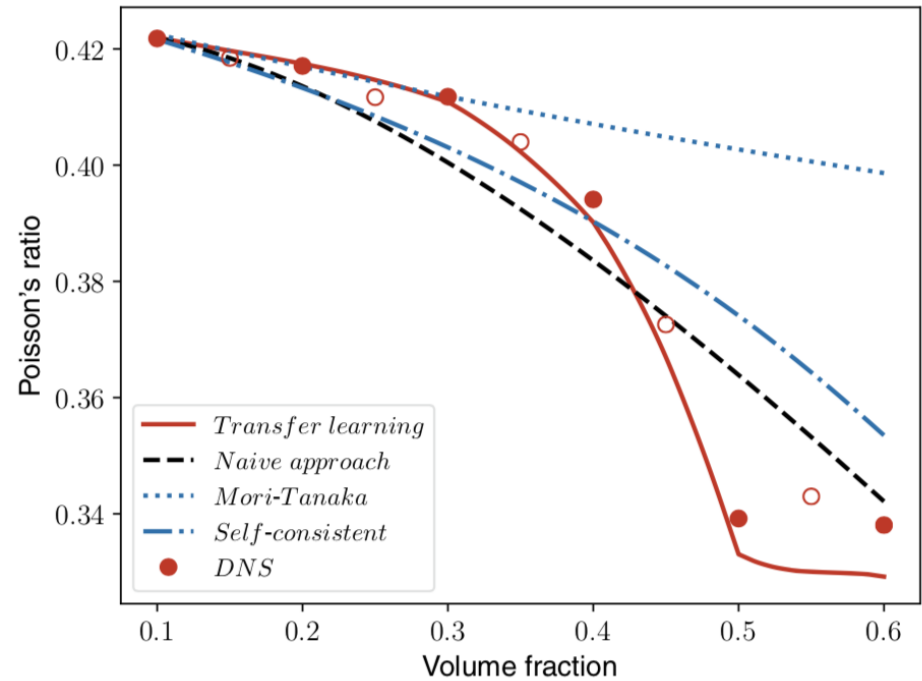


Matrix (phase 1):  $E_1 = 1 \text{ MPa}, \quad \nu_1 = 0.3.$

Hard particle (phase 2):  $E_2 = 1000 \text{ MPa}, \quad \nu_2 = 0.3.$



(a) Transverse Young's modulus.



(b) Transverse Poisson's ratio.

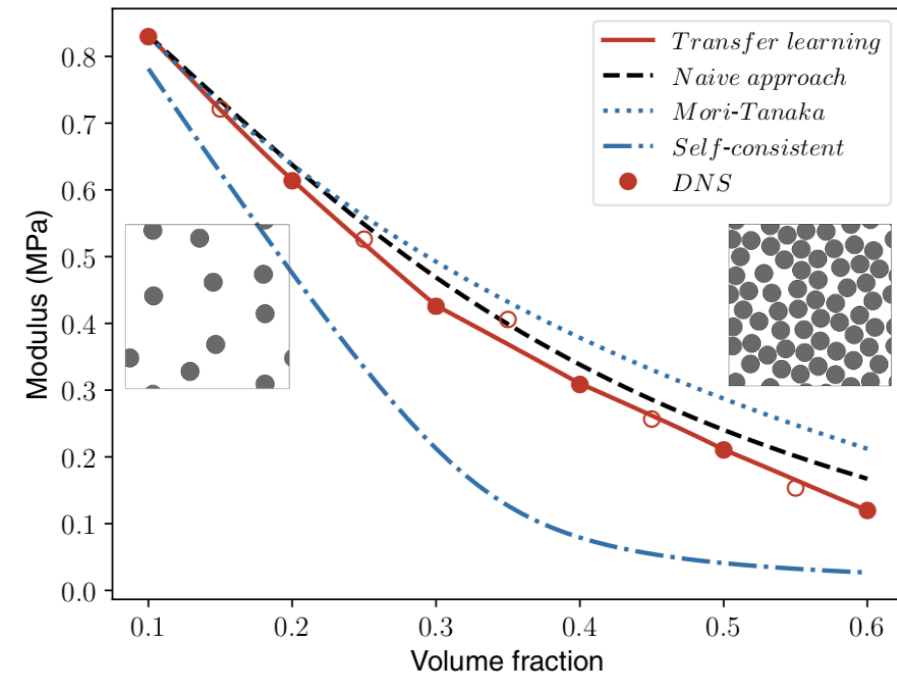


Matrix (phase 1):

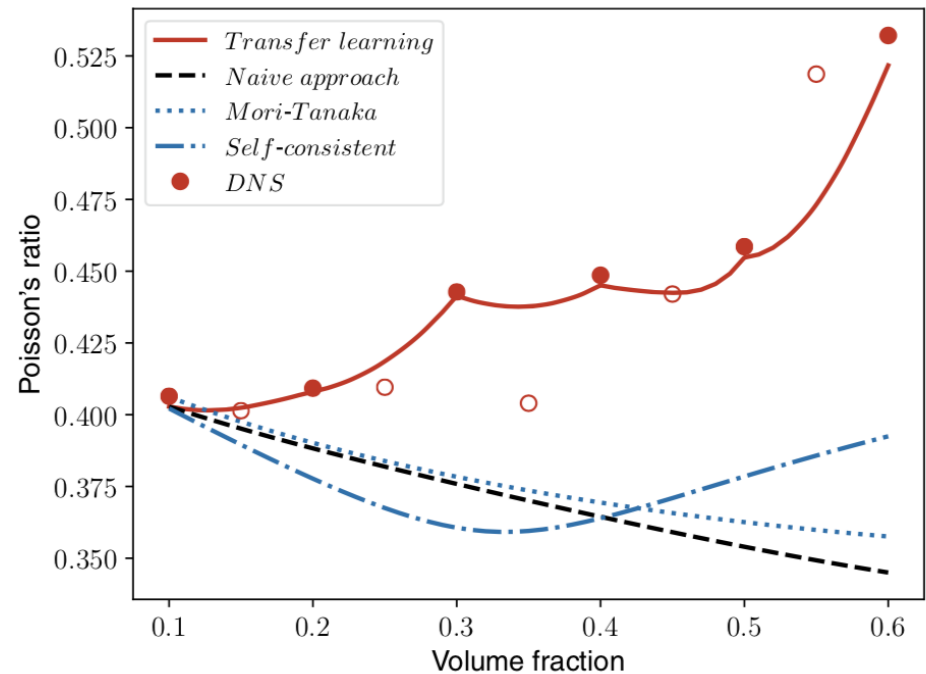
$$E_1 = 1 \text{ MPa}, \quad \nu_1 = 0.3.$$

Soft particle (phase 2):

$$E_2 = 0.01 \text{ MPa}, \quad \nu_2 = 0.3$$



(a) Transverse Young's modulus.



(b) Transverse Poisson's ratio.

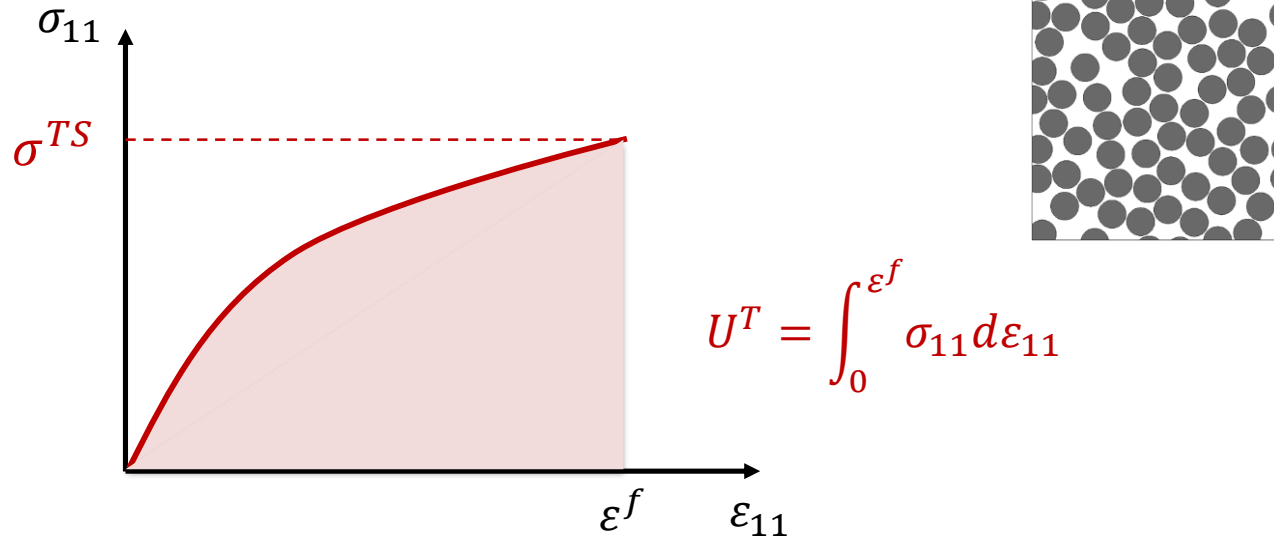




**Design parameter:** Young's modulus of particle  $E_2$ , volume fraction of particles  $vf_2$

**Objectives:** Ultimate tensile strength  $\sigma^{TS}$ , material toughness  $U^T$

**Other settings:** The matrix is assumed to be elasto-plastic with constant properties



**Definition of failure:** The composite RVE fails if any of the two conditions is met:

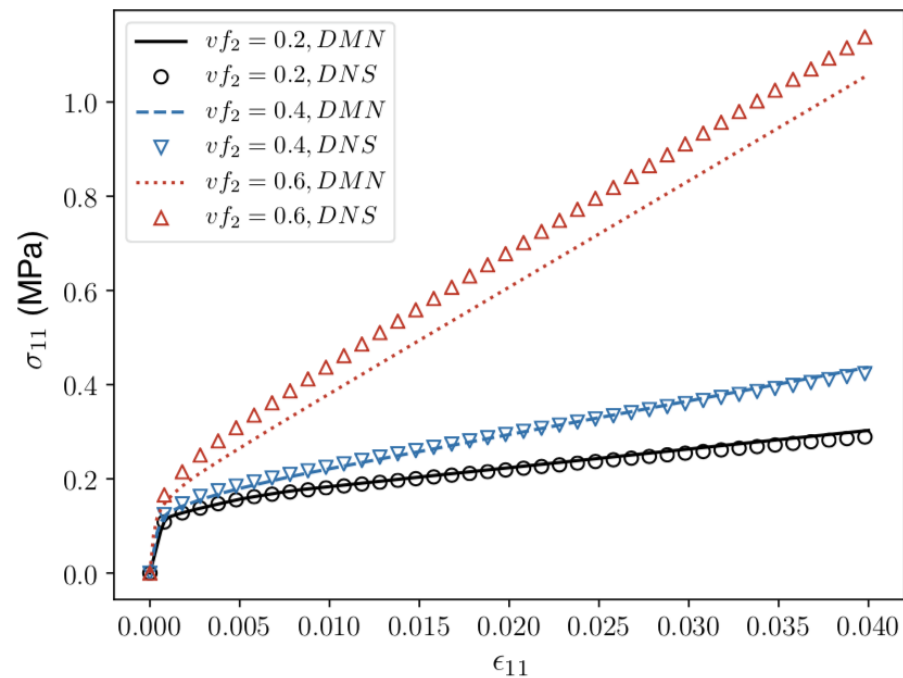
- 10% of the matrix phase has an effective plastic strain  $\epsilon_1^p$  above 0.07;
- The mean effective plastic strain in the matrix phase  $\bar{\epsilon}_1^p$  is above 0.05.



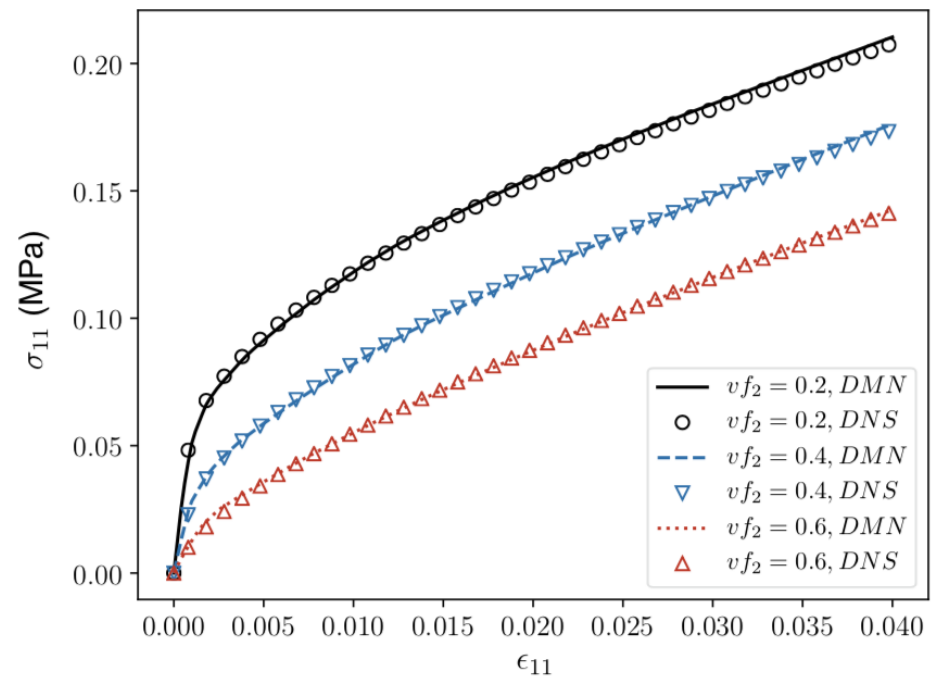
## DMN extrapolation

**Offline stage:** Both matrix and particle phases are orthotropic linear elastic

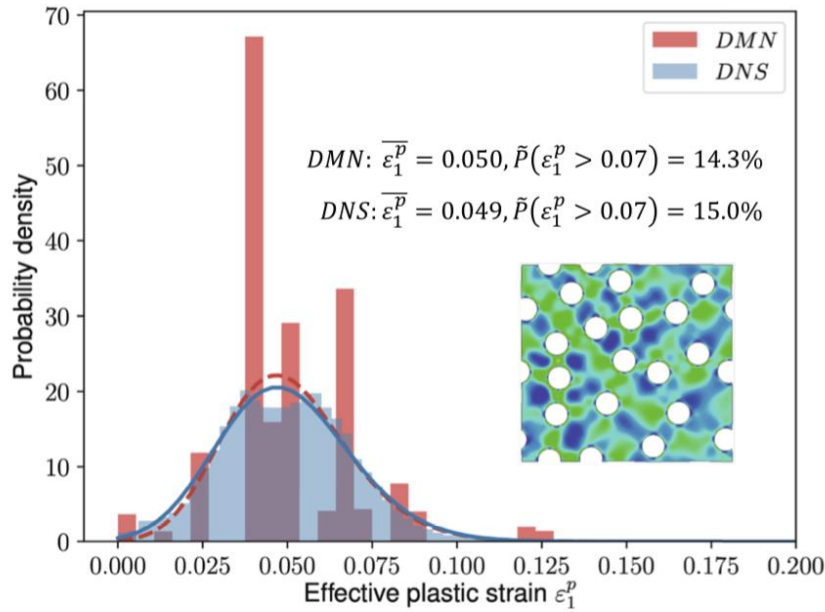
**Online stage:** The matrix is elasto-plastic with piece-wise linear hardening



(a) Hard particles:  $E_2 = 5000$  MPa.

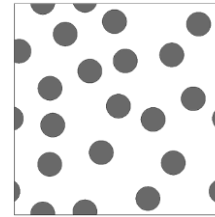


(b) Soft particles:  $E_2 = 2$  MPa.

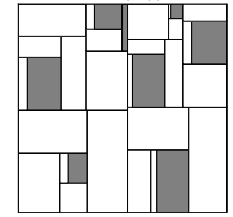


(a) RVE with  $\nu_{f2} = 0.2$  loaded at  $\varepsilon_{11} = 0.036$ .

DNS: 198212 elements



DMN: 34 nodes



Fit the DMN pdf to a log-norm distribution:

$$f_\varepsilon(\varepsilon, s, b, \eta) = \frac{1}{s y \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\ln y}{s}\right)^2\right)$$

**Table 1** Ultimate tensile strength  $\sigma^{TS}$  (MPa) for RVEs with different particle moduli  $E_2$  and volume fractions  $\nu_{f2}$

$\nu_{f2}$	$E_2 = 5000$ MPa			$E_2 = 2$ MPa		
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6
DNS	0.275	0.298	0.417	0.244	0.228	0.207
DMN	0.278	0.302	0.381	0.246	0.230	0.198
Error	+1.1%	+1.3%	-8.6%	+0.8%	+0.9%	-4.3%

**Table 2** Material toughness  $U^T$  (KJ/m<sup>3</sup>) for RVEs with different particle moduli  $E_2$  and volume fractions  $\nu_{f2}$

$\nu_{f2}$	$E_2 = 5000$ MPa			$E_2 = 2$ MPa		
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6
DNS	6.81	4.43	2.61	9.22	9.01	8.26
DMN	6.92	4.65	2.58	9.01	8.83	7.27
Error	+1.6%	+5.0%	-1.1%	-2.3%	-2.0%	-12.2%

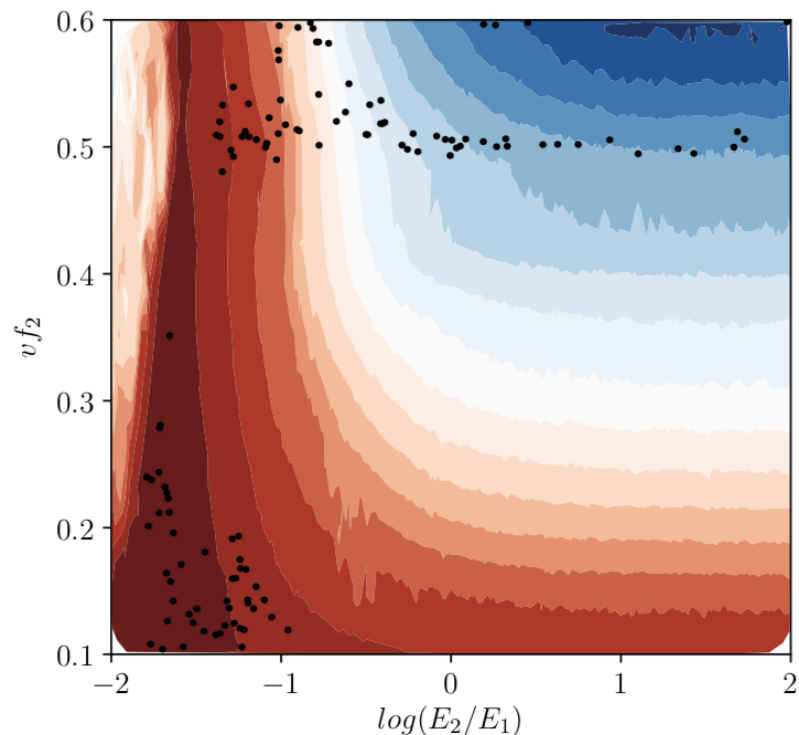


Matrix phase (elastoplastic):

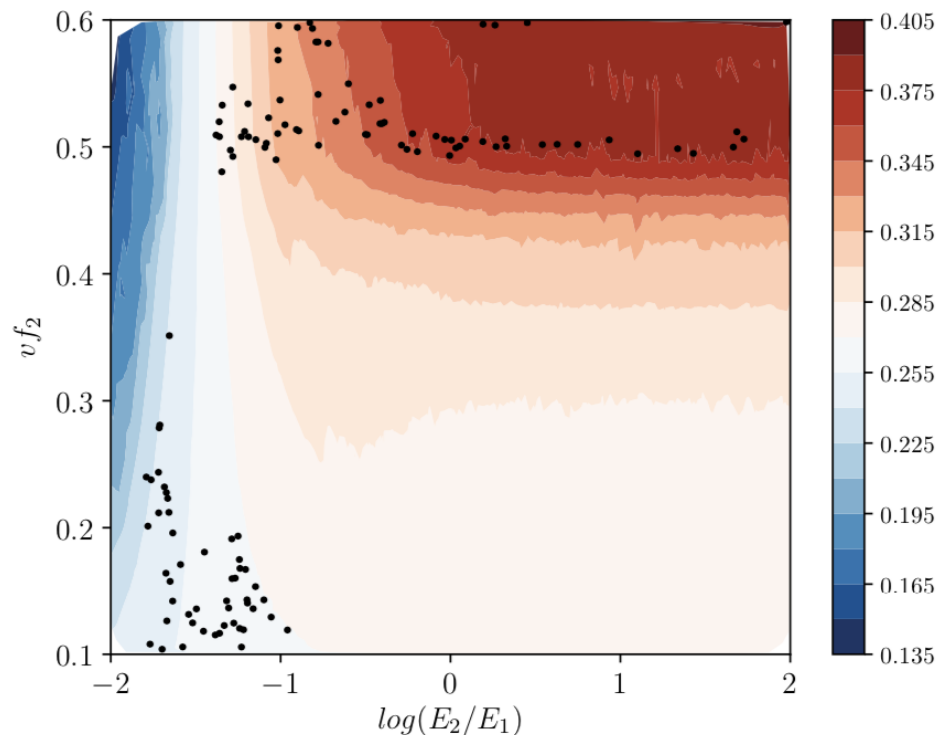
$$E_1 = 100 \text{ MPa}, \quad \nu_1 = 0.3 \quad \sigma_1^Y(\varepsilon_1^P) = \begin{cases} 0.1 + 5\varepsilon_1^P & \varepsilon_1^P \in [0, 0.008) \\ 0.124 + 2\varepsilon_1^P & \varepsilon_1^P \in [0.008, \infty) \end{cases}$$

Particle phase (elastic):

$$E_2 = [1, 10,000] \text{ MPa}, \quad \nu f_2 = [0.10, 0.60]. \quad \nu_2 = 0.3.$$



(a) Material toughness  $\text{KJ/m}^3$ .

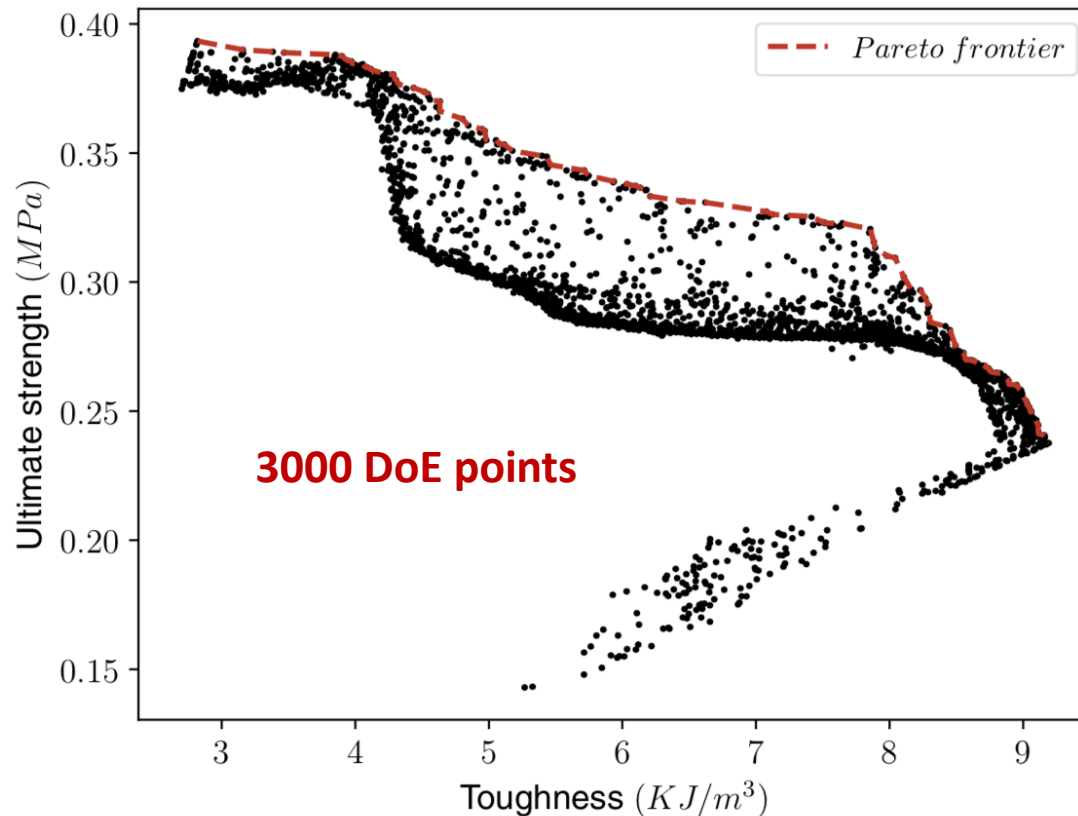


(b) Ultimate tensile strength (MPa).

**Multi-objective optimization:** A data point  $X' = \{E'_2, \nu f'_2\}$  is defined to be Pareto efficient if there does not exist such a point  $X'' = \{E''_2, \nu f''_2\}$  ( $X'' \neq X'$ ) that the conditions

$$\sigma^{TS}(X'') > \sigma^{TS}(X') \text{ and } U^T(X'') > U^T(X')$$

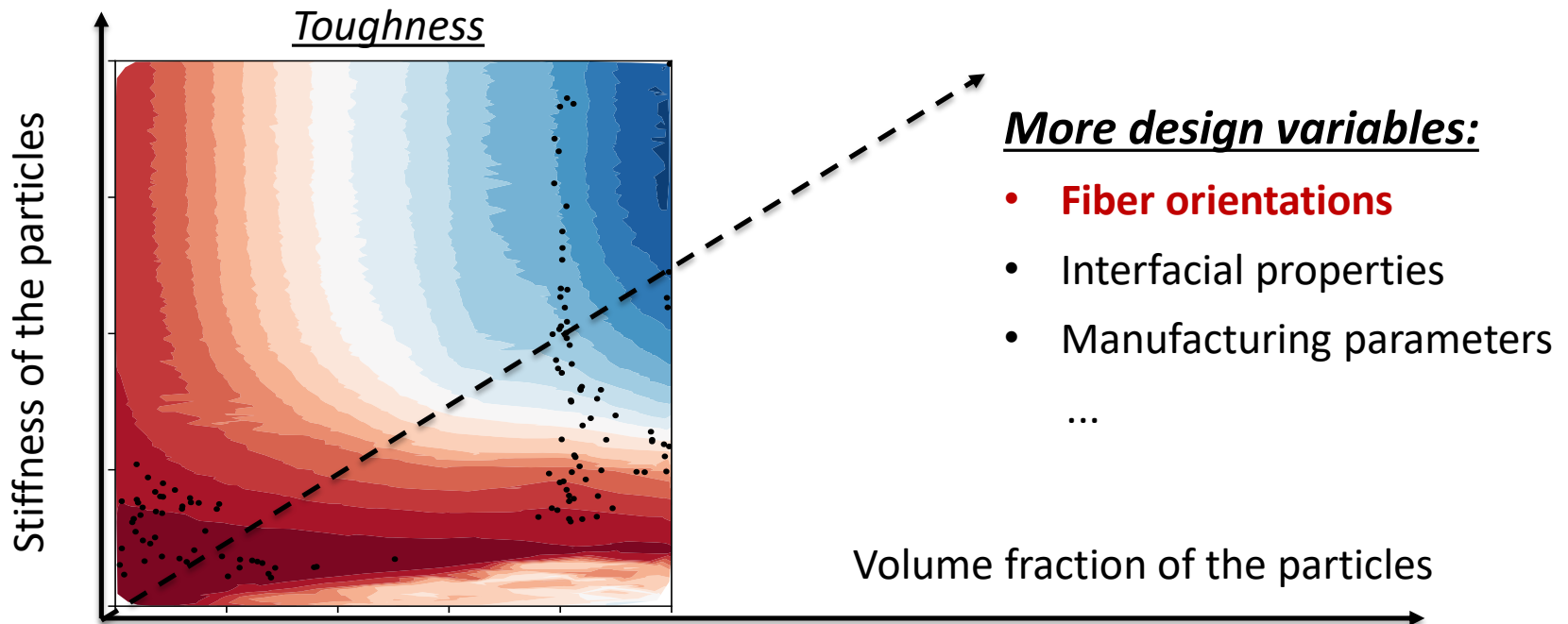
are both satisfied.





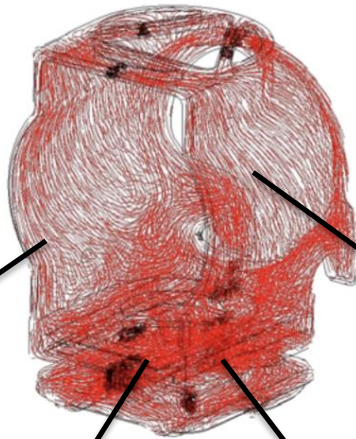
**Table 3** Computational times for DMN with transfer learning and DNS on 10 Intel® Xeon® E5-2640 CPUs.

	Offline stage for 6 RVEs		Prediction stage (3000 DoE points)
	Sampling (3000 data points)	Training (60000 epochs)	
DNS	0	0	≈ 3000 h (N/A)
DMN	71 h 30 min	12 h 40 min	38 min



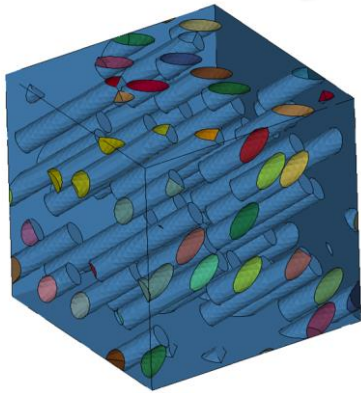


Injection molding simulation:

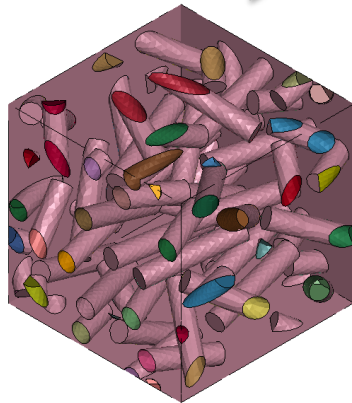


Orientation tensor:

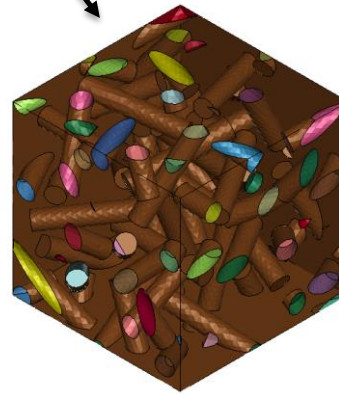
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$



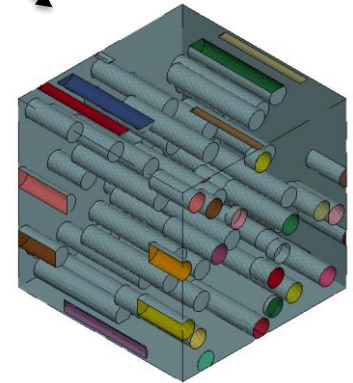
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ \text{sym.} & & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1/3 & 0 \\ \text{sym.} & & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0.2 & 0 \\ \text{sym.} & & 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & 0 \\ \text{sym.} & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Microstructural variations induced by Manufacturing Process





- **Transfer learning of deep material network:**
  - Initial database migration using a naïve approach
  - Faster convergence of training
  - Generation of analogous networks with the same base structure
- **A unified set of databases** are constructed by interpolating the fitting parameters
  - Continuous structure-property relationship
  - Encouraging micromechanical results of predicting the volume fraction effect on elastic properties
- **Materials design** enabled by the efficiency and accuracy of DMN extrapolation
  - Multi-objective optimization of material toughness and ultimate tensile strength
  - Failure prediction based on local distribution of effective plastic strain.

## Future opportunities

- More material systems: rubber composite, short fiber composite, polycrystals...
- Database interpolation for more design variables
- Process-structure-property relationship
- Uncertainty quantification



Thank you!