Investigating Novel 3D Modular Schemes for Large Array Topologies: Power Modeling and Prototype Feasibility.

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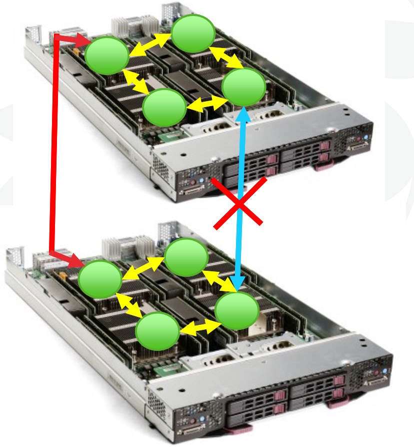
Background and Motivation

Alternatives to Rack-Mount

Background - Structural comparison

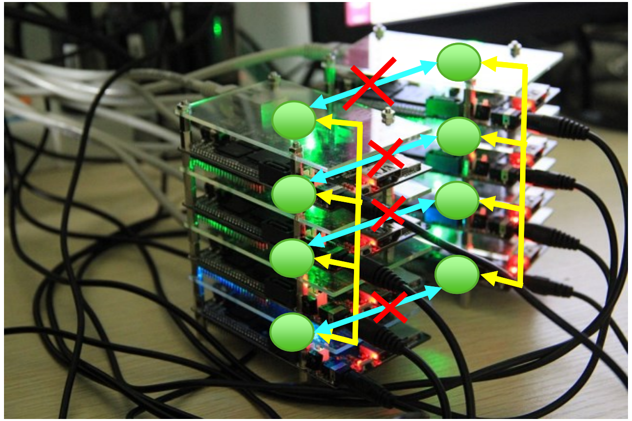
- Wiring effort (Power + data communication)
- Lengths of vertical and horizontal data channels
- Empty volume for cooling



Adapted from [1]

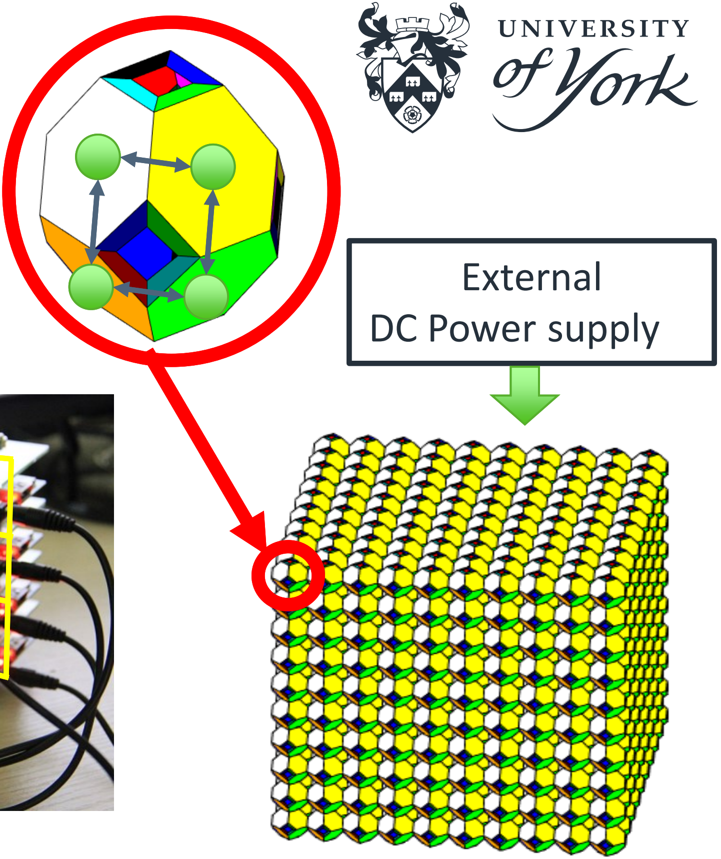
Blade server

(Vertical distance is for illustration purpose)



Adapted from [2]

Small single-board



External DC Power supply

Our 'ball computer' packaging

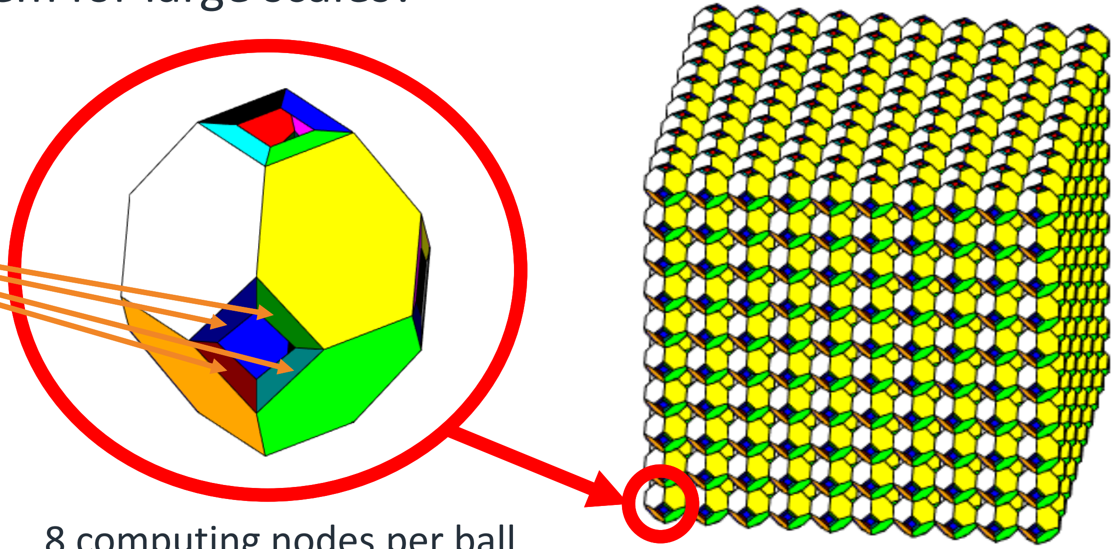
[1] https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d0/Supermicro_SBI-7228R-T2X_blade_server.jpg/1024px-Supermicro_SBI-7228R-T2X_blade_server.jpg

[2] https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/27/Cubieboard_HADOOP_cluster.JPG/1024px-Cubieboard_HADOOP_cluster.JPG

Motivation – Power grid simulation

- This power grid system does not exist in conventional rack/cabinet systems.
  - Direct external power sources supplied to each blade/rack server
- In this work, in contrast, how does it impact on the scalability in the concept of hexagonal-tile system for large scales?

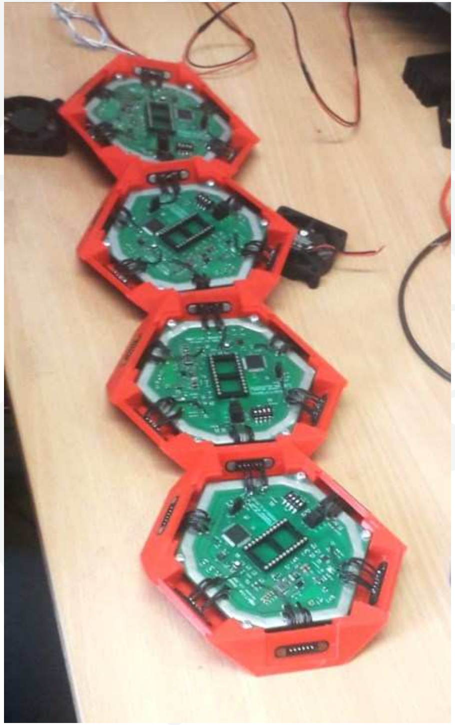
External power source connections
(for any external trapezoidal faces)

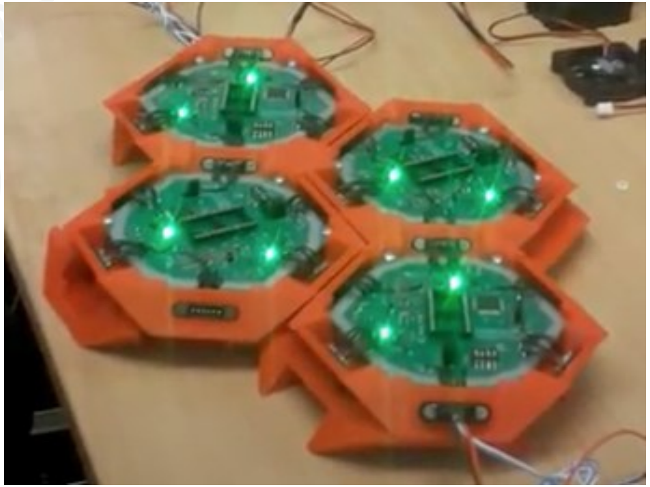


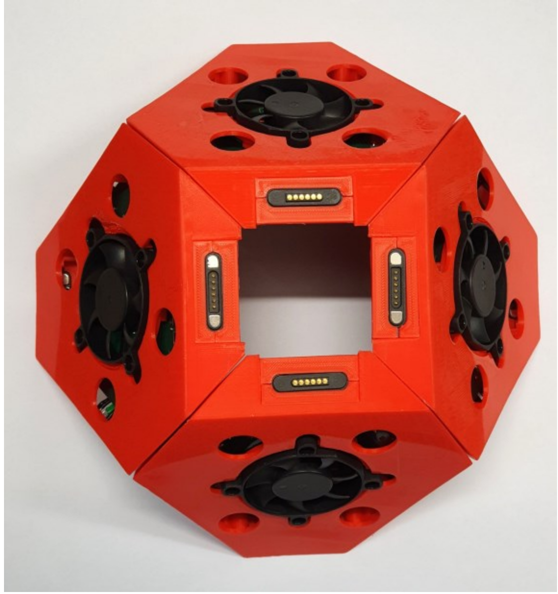
8 computing nodes per ball

Introduction – from tile to ball

1D/2D/3D compossible configurations (prototype)

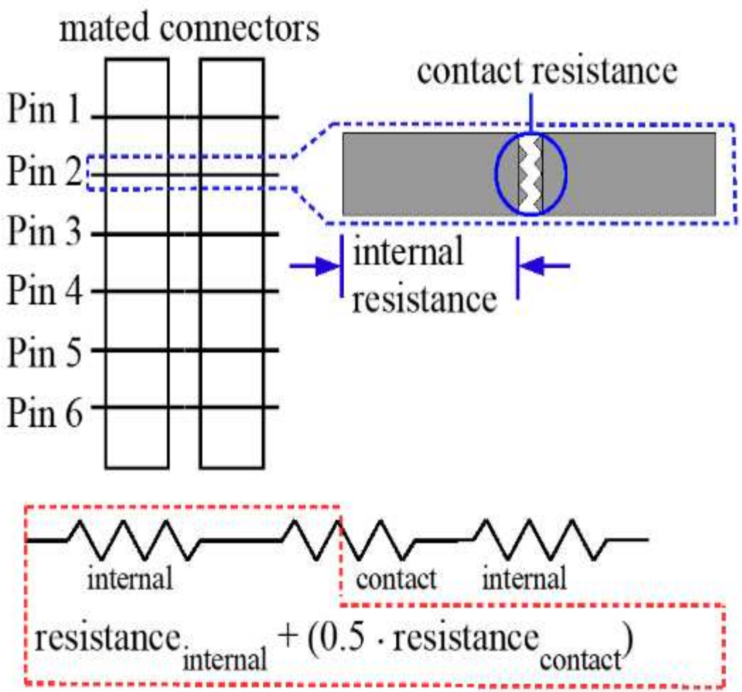


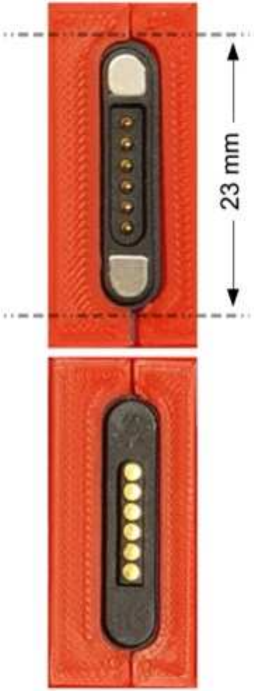




Simulation and Prototype Details

Model – Connector pin resistance



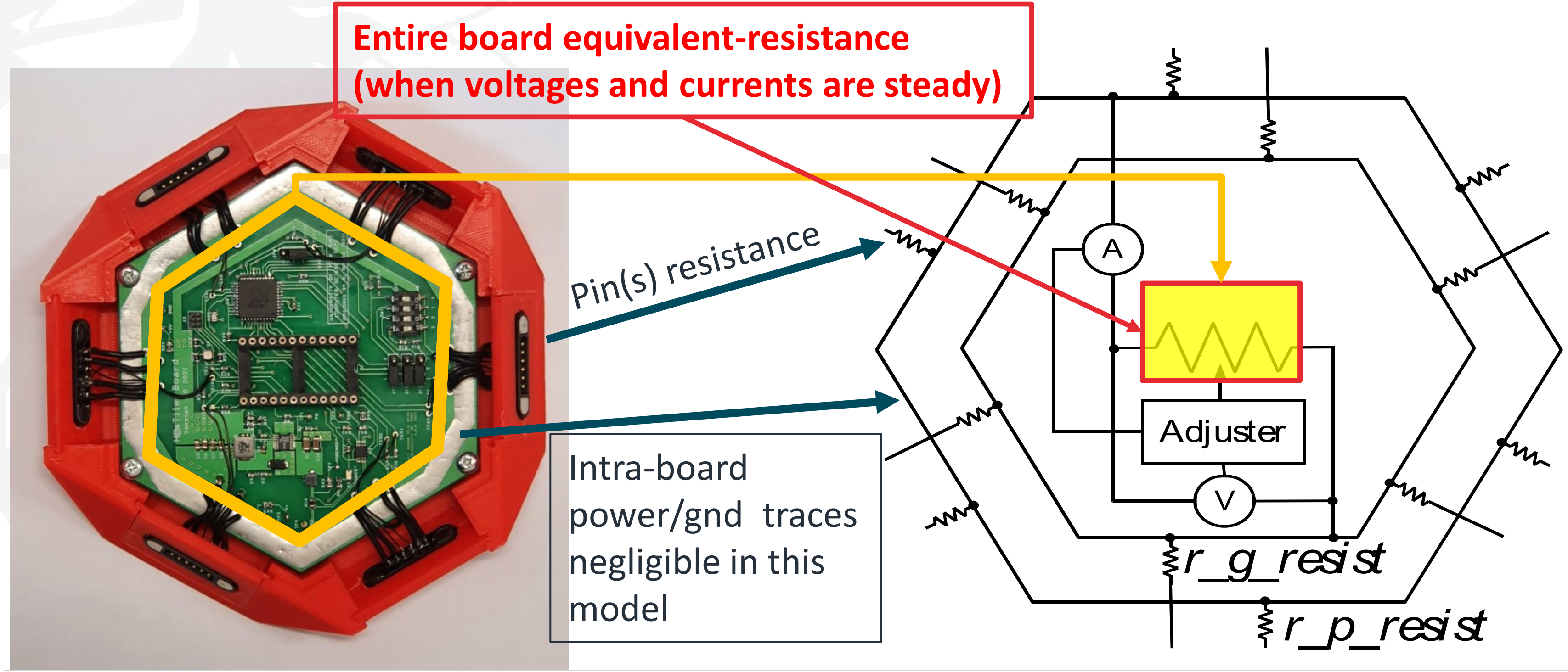


- ‘Off-the-shelf’ connectors in the current prototype

- Variants of (custom-made) more suitable connectors can be used for different power and data communication requirements.

Model – Simplified board-resistance model

- Switching regulator models take long simulation times.
- A Simplified model has been created for our scalability simulations.



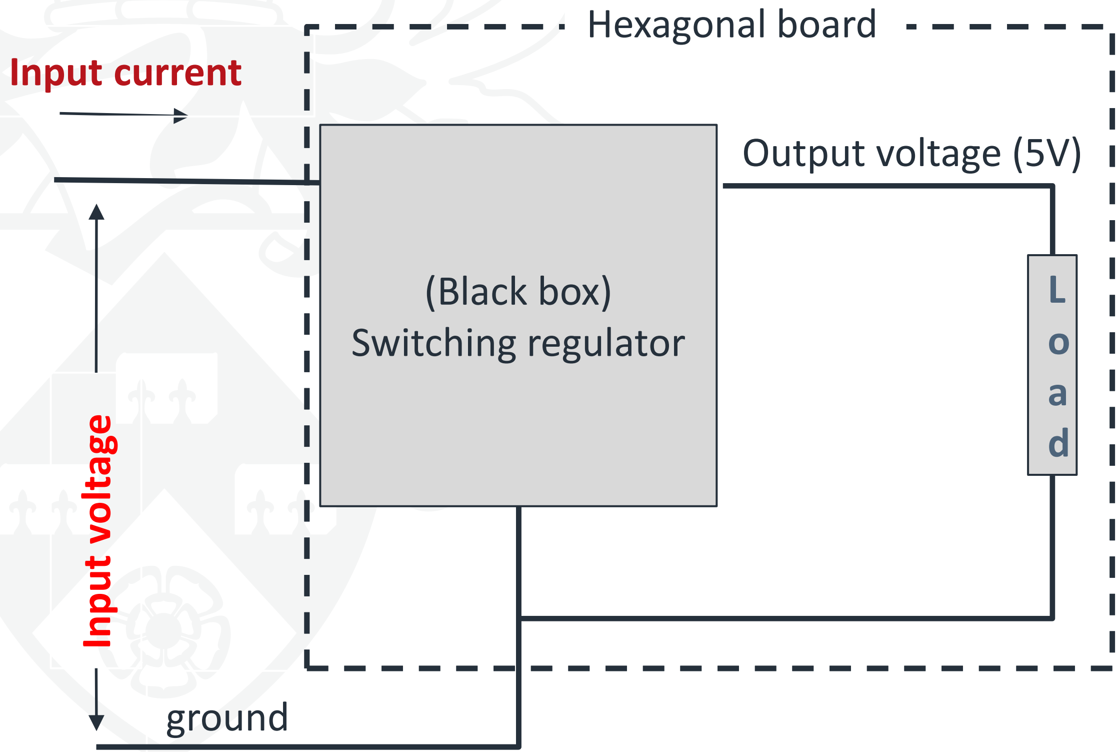
Entire board equivalent-resistance (when voltages and currents are steady)

Pin(s) resistance

Intra-board power/gnd traces negligible in this model

Model – Simplified board-resistance model

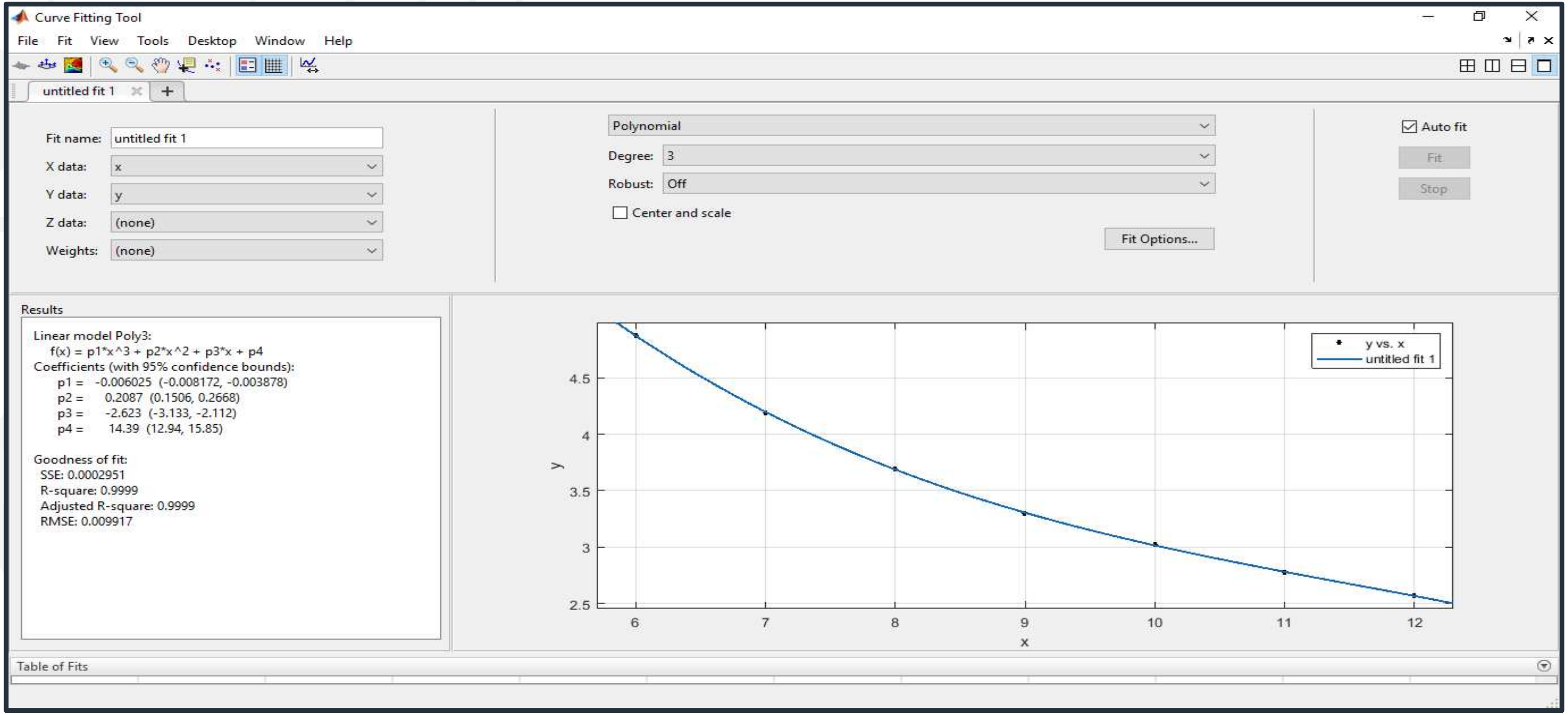
Curve fitting for the regulator and load



Input Voltage (V)	Load Resistance (Ω)	Input Current (A)
12	1	2.5706
11	1	2.775
10	1	3.0244
9	1	3.2982
8	1	3.695
7	1	4.1902
6	1	4.8733

Model – Simplified board-resistance model

Curve fitting for the regulator and load (for a constant load-resistance)



Fit name: untitled fit 1

X data: x

Y data: y

Z data: (none)

Weights: (none)

Polynomial

Degree: 3

Robust: Off

☐ Center and scale

☑ Auto fit

```
Linear model Poly3:
    f(x) = p1*x^3 + p2*x^2 + p3*x + p4
Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
      p1 =   -0.006025  (-0.008172, -0.003878)
      p2 =      0.2087  (0.1506, 0.2668)
      p3 =      -2.623  (-3.133, -2.112)
      p4 =       14.39  (12.94, 15.85)

Goodness of fit:
  SSE: 0.0002951
  R-square: 0.9999
  Adjusted R-square: 0.9999
  RMSE: 0.009917
```

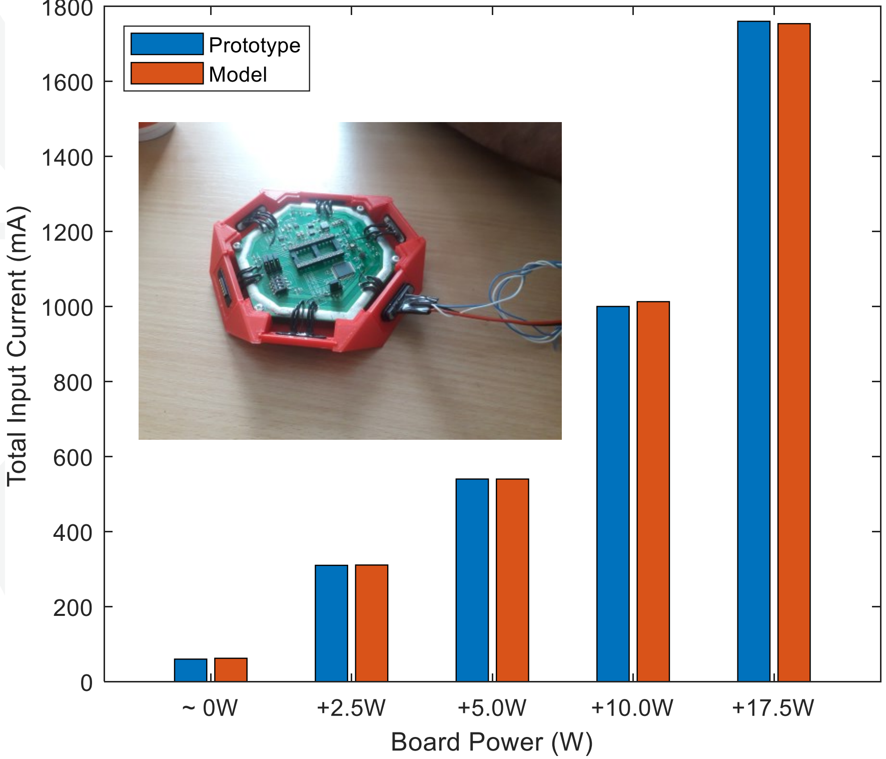
Validation

Simulator vs. Prototype

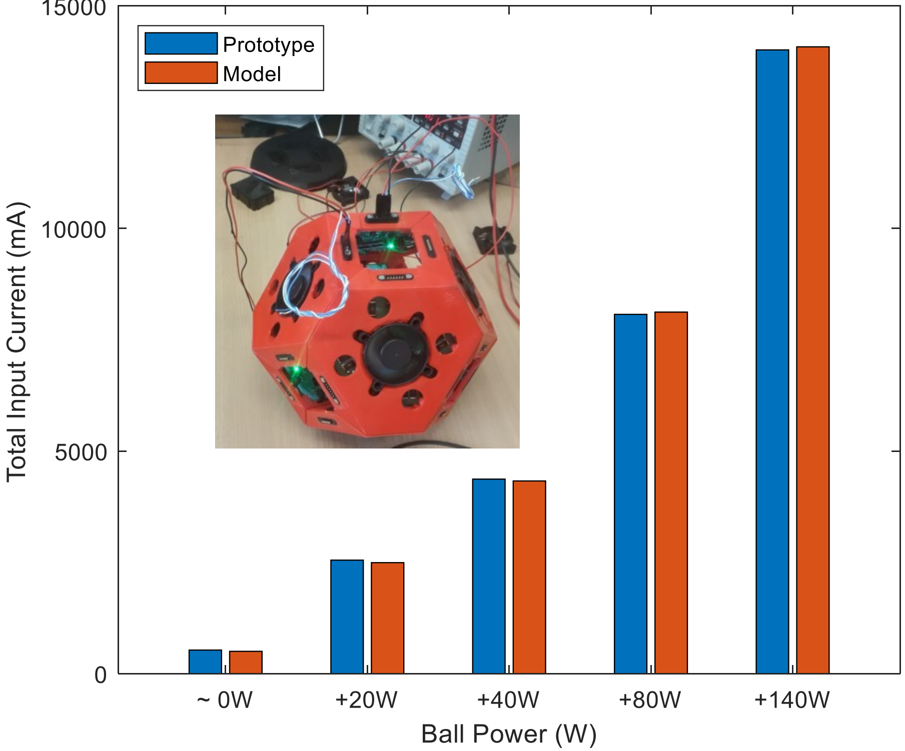
Model Validation – switching vs prototype

Input-current validation

Prototype VS Model: Single tile, Single connector



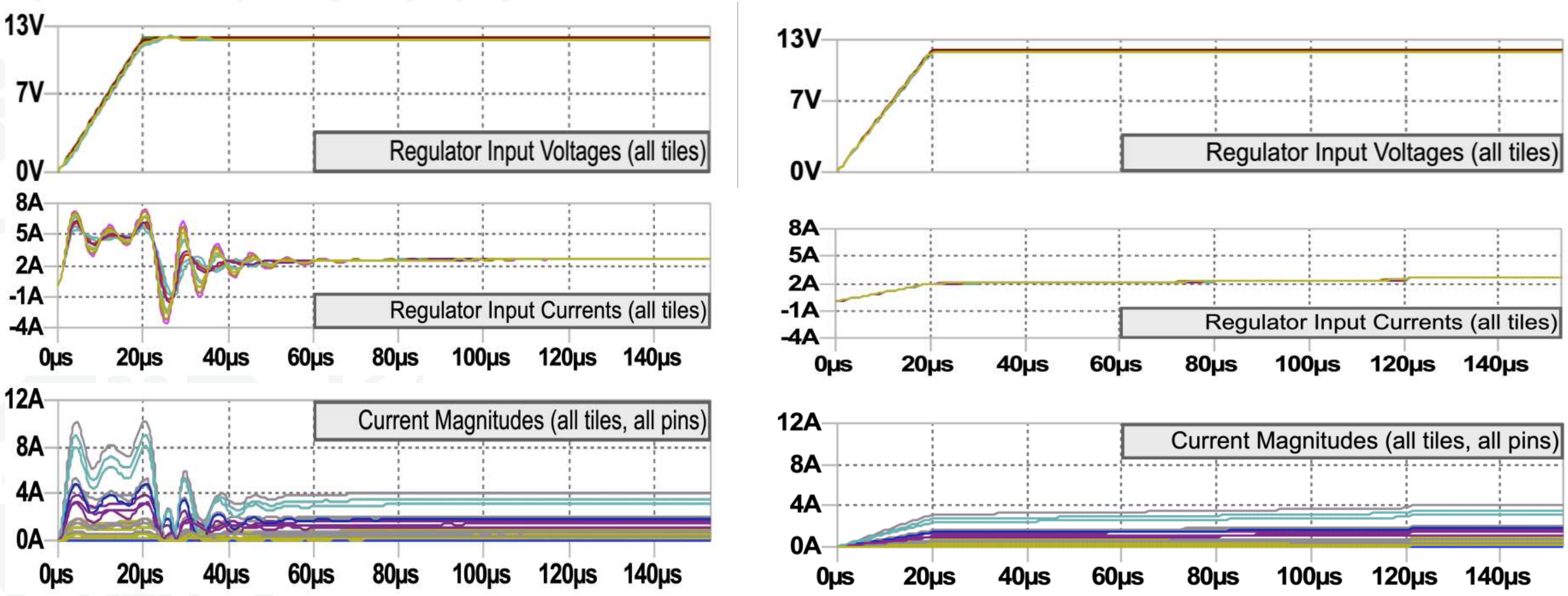
Prototype VS Model: 8-tile ball, 2 co-located power connectors



*LT3976 regulators, from Analog Devices, Inc., are used in our prototype.

Model validation

Switching VS Simplified model, 3x3x3-ball

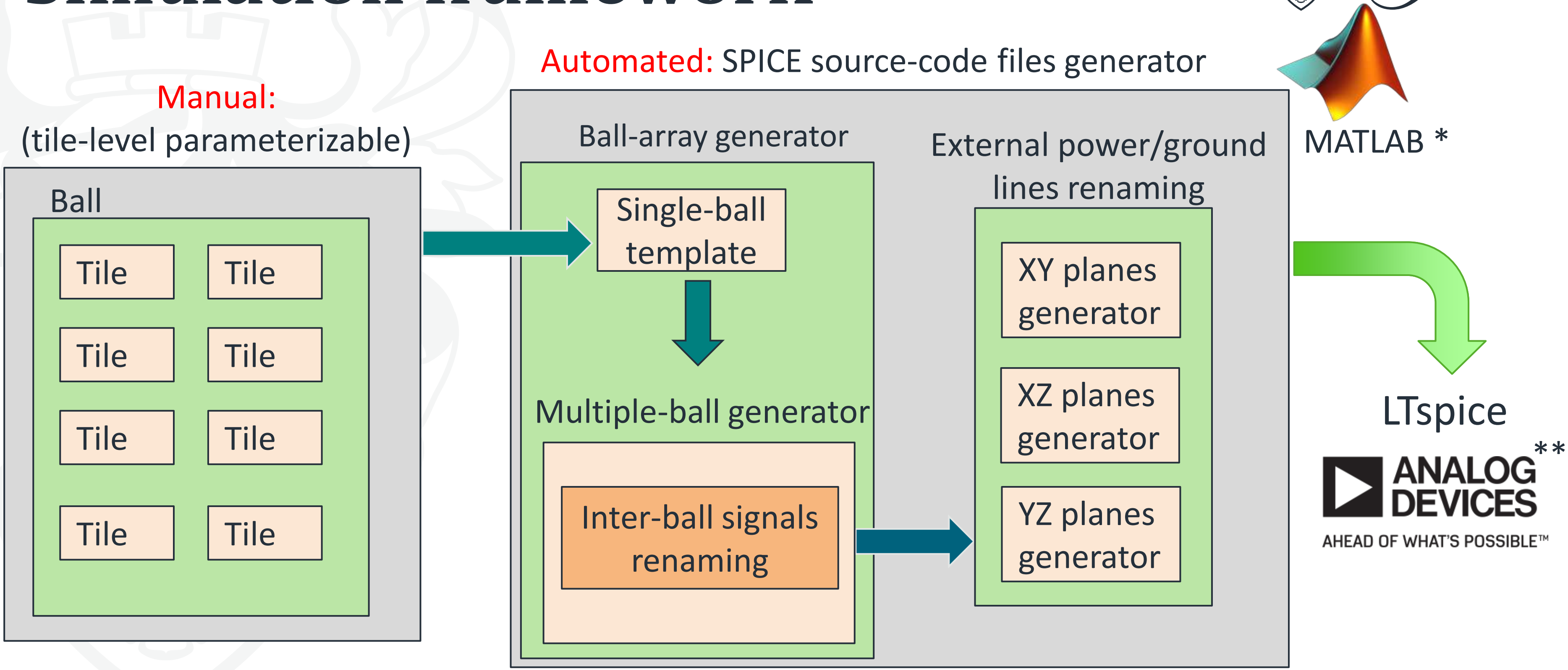


(a) Simulation based upon LT3976 regulator model

(b) Simulation using simplified (faster) model

* External power supplied to all surface power connectors

Simulation framework



Manual:
(tile-level parameterizable)

Ball

Tile Tile
Tile Tile
Tile Tile
Tile Tile

Automated: SPICE source-code files generator

Ball-array generator

Single-ball template

Multiple-ball generator

Inter-ball signals renaming

External power/ground lines renaming

XY planes generator

XZ planes generator

YZ planes generator

MATLAB *

LTspice

**

ANALOG DEVICES

AHEAD OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE™

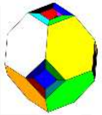
* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/21/Matlab_Logo.png/800px-Matlab_Logo.png

** https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/86/Analog_Devices_Logo.svg/1920px-Analog_Devices_Logo.svg.png

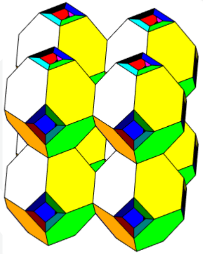
Scalability Evaluations

Scalability Results

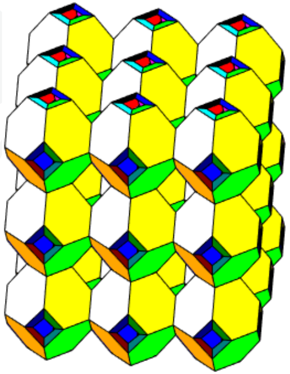
Experimental scenarios



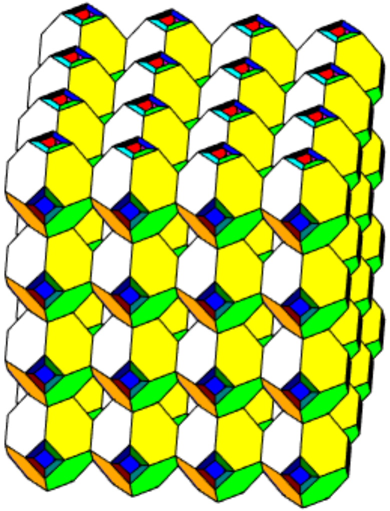
1 ball
8 tiles



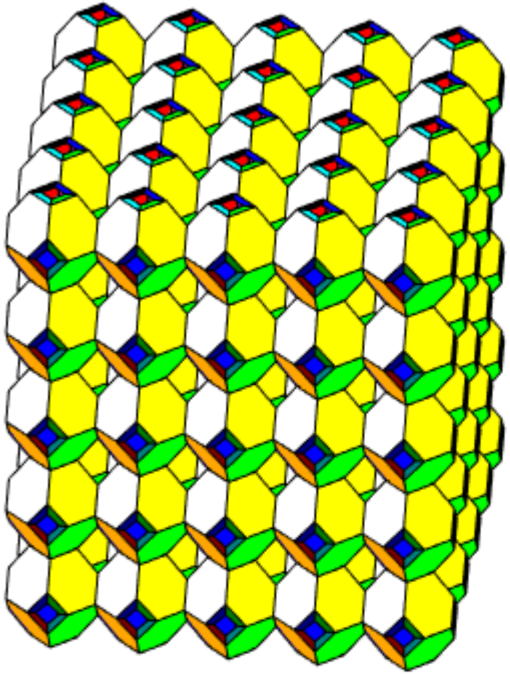
2x2x2 cube
64 tiles



3x3x3 cube
216 tiles



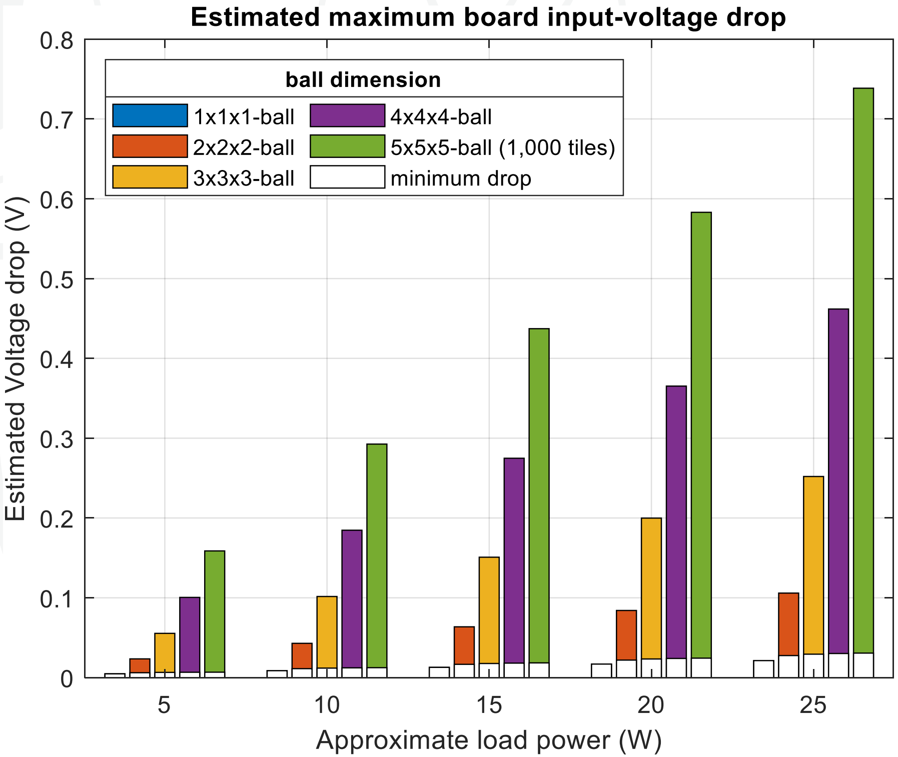
4x4x4 cube
512 tiles

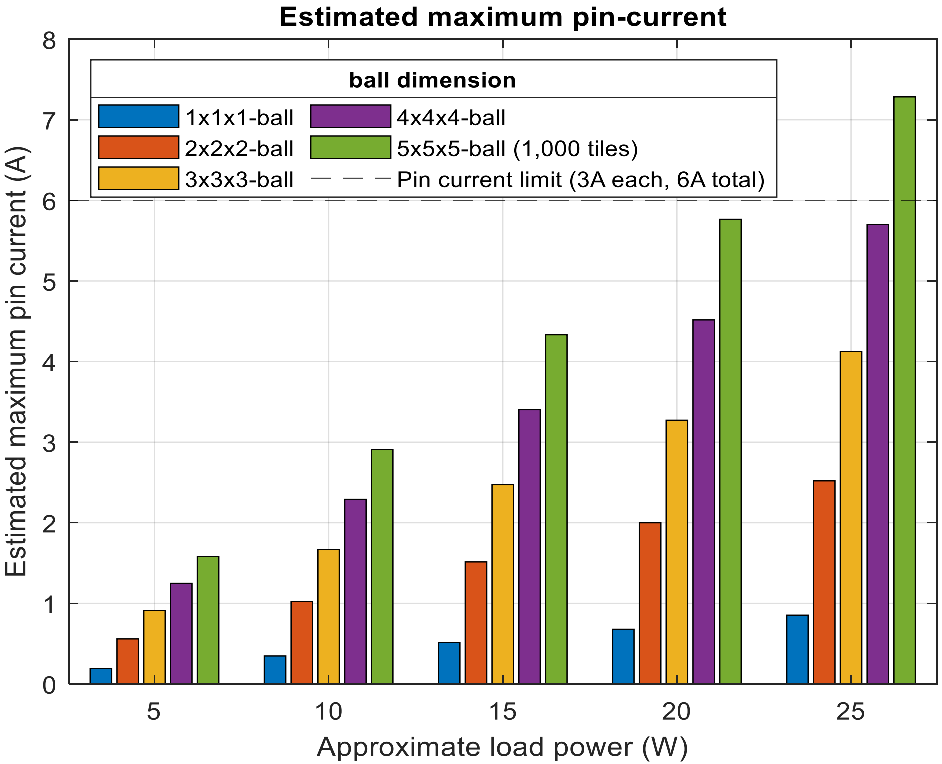


5x5x5 cube
1,000 tiles

Scalability Results

Uniform load-power per tile allocation





* Parameter: 50 mOhms mated pin-pair

Further Optimization

Brute Force ?

Genetic algorithms ?

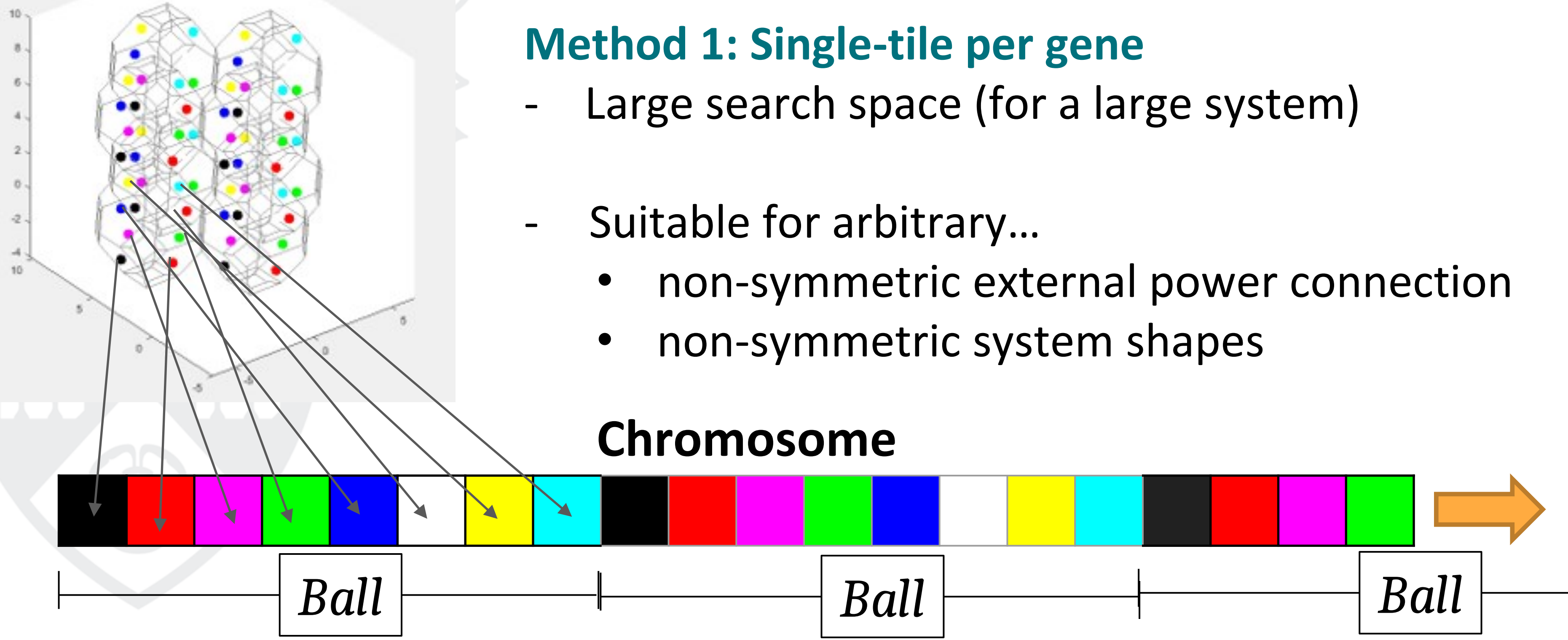
GA load-power per tile optimization

Non-uniform load-power per tile allocation

Method 1: Single-tile per gene

- Large search space (for a large system)

- Suitable for arbitrary…
  - non-symmetric external power connection
  - non-symmetric system shapes



GA load-power per tile optimization

Non-uniform load-power per tile allocation

Method 2: Center-distance allocation

Example: 2x2x2-ball system (64 tiles)

Single-tile per gene allocation:

- 5 power steps, 64 nodes

= 5^{64} cases

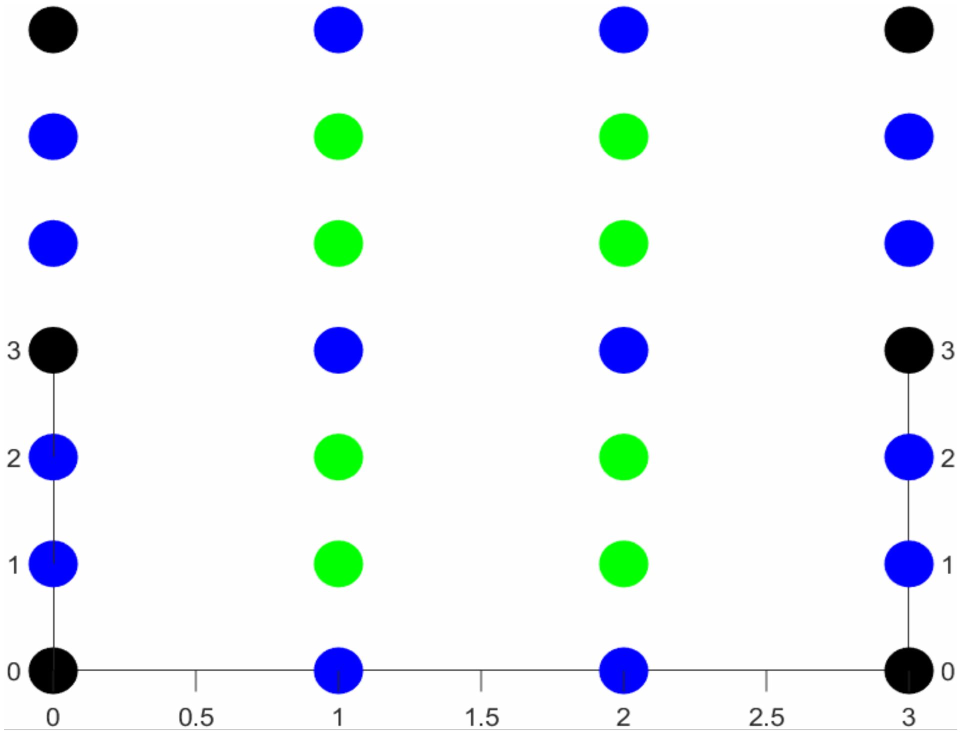
≈ 5.42 x 10^{44} cases!

Center-distance allocation:

- 5 power steps,

- 4 groups of nodes

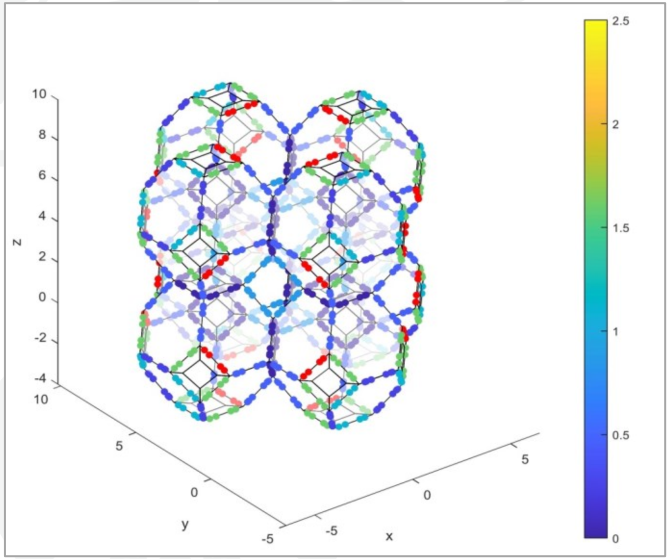
= 5^4 cases = 625 cases (Search space reduced)



GA load-power per tile optimization

Constraints: total 1000W-load per system, 3A connector pin

During optimisation

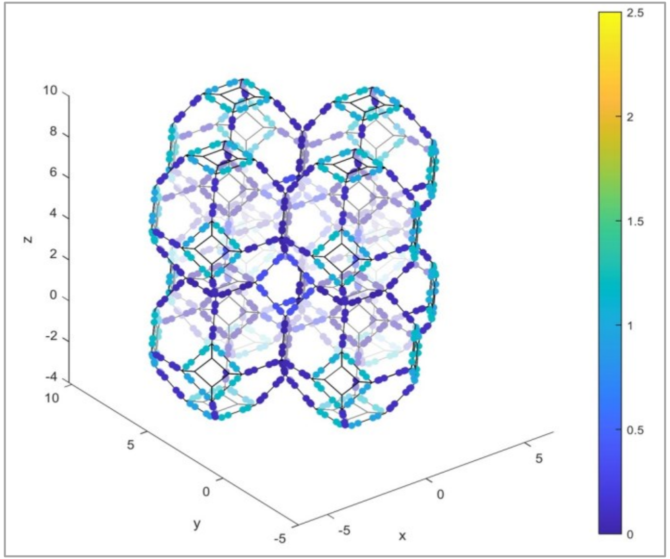


2.5 A

0 A

1000W, with pins overloaded

Stopping criteria reached



2.5 A

0 A

1000W, with pins under current limit

*Red dots = Overloaded pin currents (> 2.5A, for illustration purpose)

Outcomes and Implications

Outcomes

- **What we have done …**
  - **Hardware prototype system**
    - Testing the prototype
  - **Models and simulation framework**
    - Validating accuracy
      - Switching model vs hardware prototype
      - Switching model vs simplified model
    - Scalability projection
    - Power-grid optimization framework
      - Power pattern on a large scale
      - Visualization

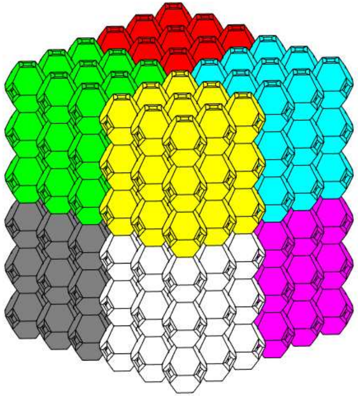
Implications

- **Existing prototype:** Allowing to achieve the system of the order of 1,000 processor tiles, even with a very basic prototype construction.
- With highly optimized fabrication, > 1000 tiles could be achievable.
- Reducing size = Higher density
- Current ball size: Many thousand processors in a server cabinet volume
- Cooling
  - More detailed investigation needed
  - But with the current tool capabilities, the power consumed at pins and tiles can be predictable.
    - Allowing a cooling model to be developed in the future

Possible future works

Simulation framework

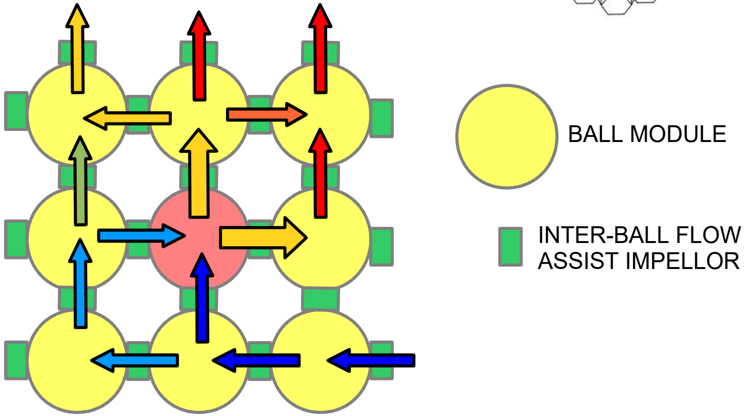
- Model: Temperature/Manufacture-affected pin-resistance variability
- Opensource SPICE simulator (Ngspice) for simplified models. (In progress)
- Simulations on a computing cluster (In progress)
- Interfacing with an interconnection network simulator (BookSim2, In progress)
- Cooling design and simulation



Hardware developments

- **Reducing hops:** Localized shared physical wires?
  - Bus: Beneficial for broadcast-intensive workloads?

    Concern: Serialization, bandwidth issues?
- **Power reservoir:**
  - Intra/Inter-ball power storage?
  - Reducing voltage/current spike
- **In-System Cooling:**
  - Intra-ball fan/pump/impellor?



Q&A

Thank you for your attention