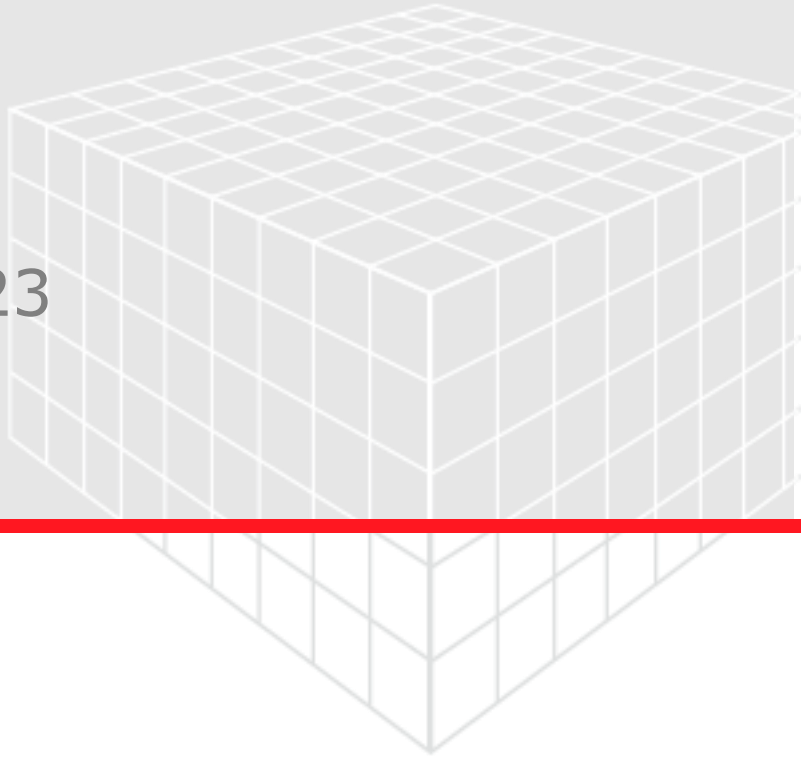
GrainFind



User Guide

GeoDict release 2023

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GeoDict

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The handbooks in the User Guide series of Math2Market GmbH can be obtained from:

Math2Market GmbH
Richard-Wagner-Strasse 1
67655 Kaiserslautern
Germany

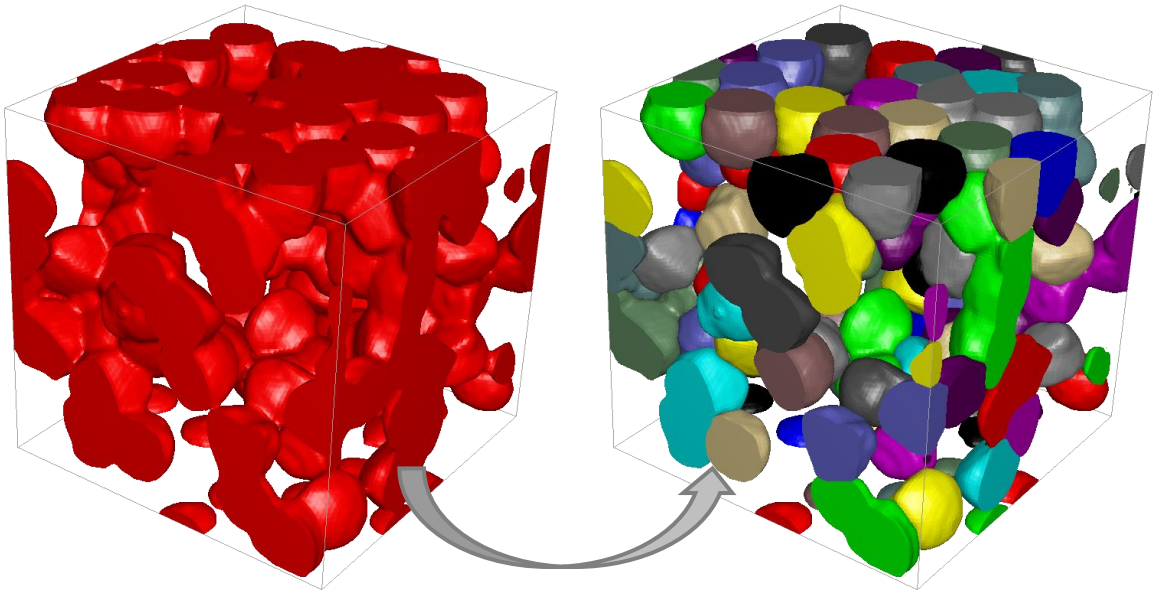
Phone: +49 631 205 605 0
Fax: +49 631 205 605 99
Email: info@math2market.de
Web: www.math2market.de

GRAIN ANALYSIS WITH GRAINFIND

With GeoDict's GrainFind module, individual grains can be identified in structures where the grain boundaries are previously unknown. For each identified grain, an individual best-fit shape is computed and its orientation in the structure is obtained.

In this way, simulations on the structure are possible which were impossible before, such as simulations of mechanical properties which depend on grain orientation. Furthermore, the structural information gained can be used to generate similar structures using the GrainGeo module – so-called *digital twins* of the structure can be modelled.

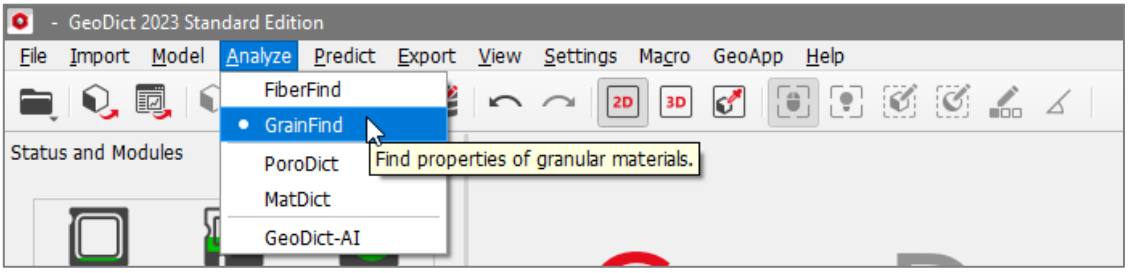
Possible applications are in the area of electrochemistry, where grains in battery electrodes can be identified, or in Digital Rock Physics, where information about individual grains fosters a thorough understanding of the rock structure. GrainFind can also be used to characterize particles in particle filtration applications.



Identify Grains

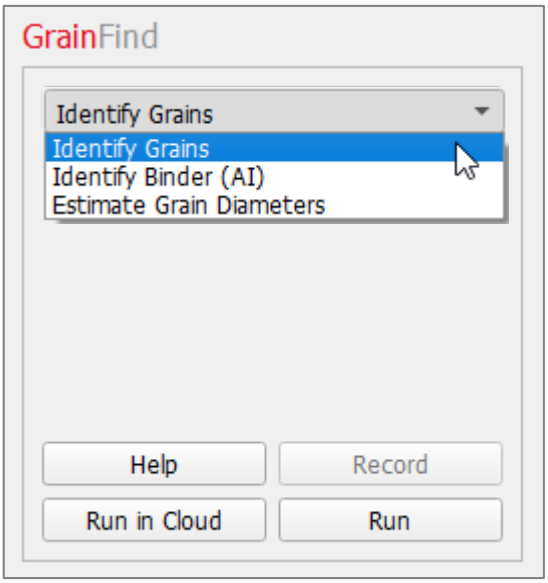
For successful GrainFind runs, the parameters for the module must be chosen carefully. The built-in default values cannot be set to deliver the best possible results for all applications. Best practice is to carry out a parameter study for the solver parameters at the beginning of the analysis.

To start GrainFind, select **Analyze** → **GrainFind** from the menu bar.



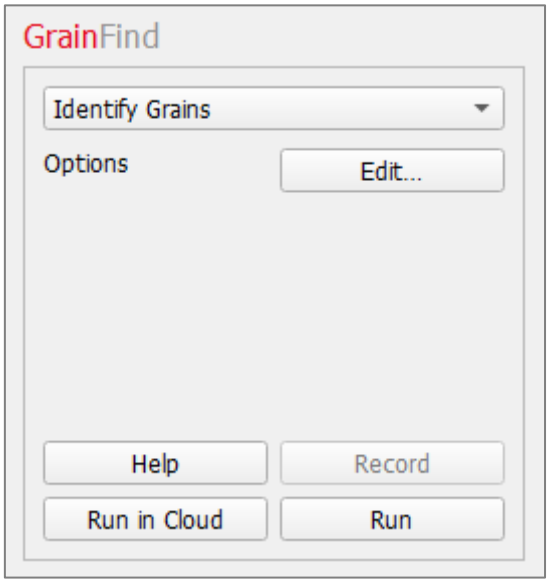
Additional to the grain identification, it is also possible to **Identify Binder (AI)** using machine learning technologies. Please note that for this feature a special license is required.

Moreover, the grain size distribution can be estimated through the **Estimate Grain Diameters** option.



IDENTIFY GRAINS

With GrainFind - Identify Grains, individual grains are identified and analyzed in a given structure. The analysis includes the determination of grain volume, sphericity, and the orientation of the grains. Based on the statistical properties of the identified grains, a digital twin of the structure can be created in GrainGeo.



Select **Identify Grains** from the pull-down menu in the **GrainFind** module section at the bottom-left of the GUI. The parameters needed by the GrainFind algorithm can be entered in the **Identify Grains** dialog, that is opened by clicking the Options' **Edit ...** button. Before describing the needed parameters in detail, we investigate the method behind the identifying algorithm.

HOW DOES IDENTIFY GRAINS WORK?

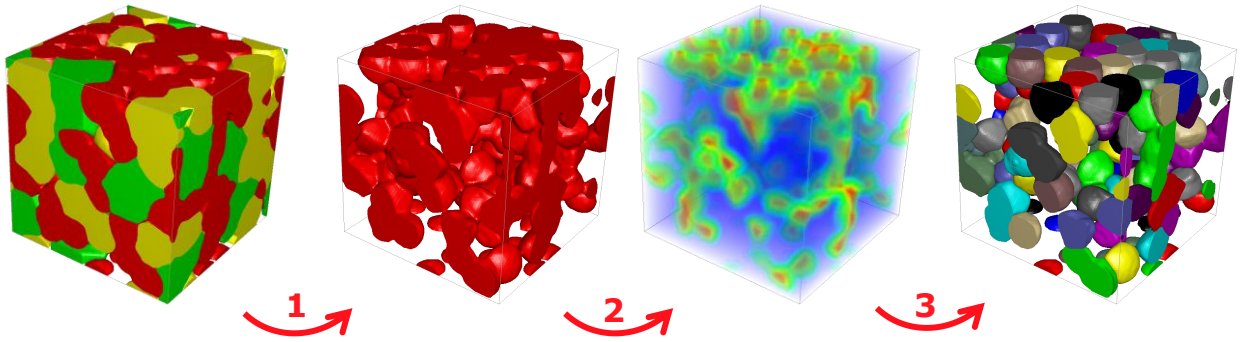
The grain identification process in GrainFind is mainly based on the **Watershed algorithm** (WA, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watershed_(image_processing)) that is widely used for the segmentation of image data. The challenge of identifying individual grains in a connected structure can be performed through a segmentation of the structure. The algorithm for the grain identification consists of the following steps:

1. Converting the image into a distance map using the **Euclidean Distance Transform** (EDT).
2. Identifying local maxima in the distance map and converting them to grain seeds as starting point for the WA.
3. Identifying individual grains by a grain-border determination through the WA.
4. Post-processing of the identified grains.
    a. Handling of grain fragments
    b. Handling of boundary grains

Only the parameterization of the watershed transform algorithm (choosing a minimal grain diameter) and the post-processing (reconnection of grain fragments, boundary grain handling etc.) require user input. The complexity of the algorithm – such as the EDT - is hidden "under the hood".

The main steps to run the watershed algorithm are:

1. Select the material to be analyzed
2. On the chosen material, the EDT is carried out as a preparation for the watershed transform
3. The watershed transform is conducted based on the EDT.

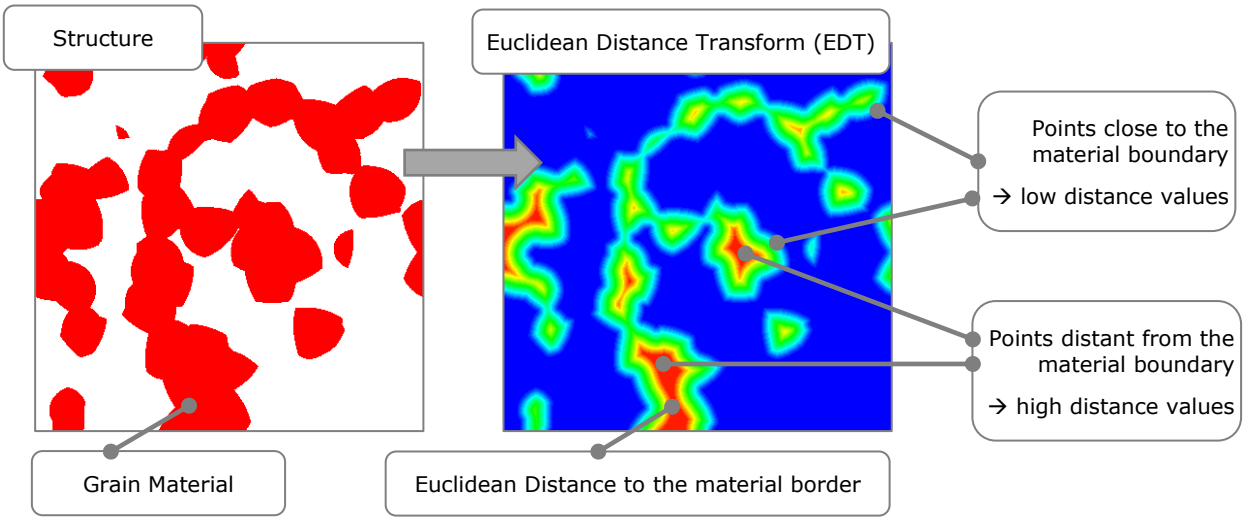


In many cases, the result of the watershed transform is enough to identify the grains. Otherwise, further steps are required.

Euclidean Distance Transform

For a given material in a structure, a distance transform computes the distance to the boundary of the material for every point (voxel) in the structure (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distance_transform). Points close to the material boundary get assigned low distance values, whereas points deeper in the material get assigned larger distance values. The larger the value of the Euclidean Distance Transform, the larger the sphere which can be inscribed in the structure. The EDT is therefore a measure for the grain sizes.

In the figure below, the EDT is illustrated in a simple 2D example. On the left side, a structure of several overlapping grains is shown. On the right, the resulting EDT is shown. Points close to the material boundary are marked in green, and points distant to the material boundary are marked in red.

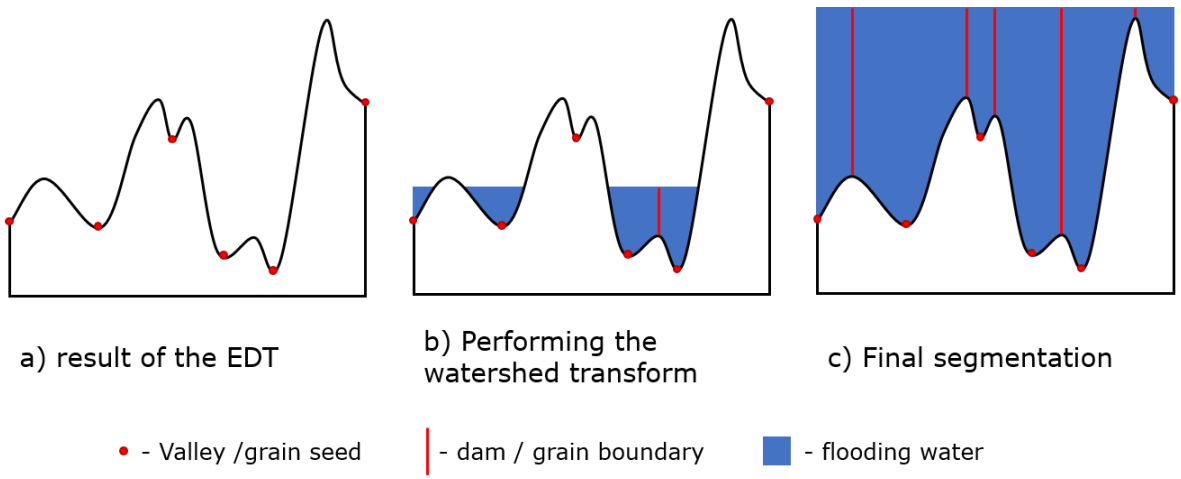


WATERSHED ALGORITHM

The watershed algorithm (WA) is a segmentation algorithm commonly used in image processing. The WA is based on the EDT. Grain seeds are placed in the local maxima of the EDT, and in those seeds, grains start to "grow". In the growing process, grain boundaries are formed as soon as grains touch.

The concept behind the watershed algorithm transform can be understood more easily in a 2D example. In this representation, the EDT can be regarded as a topographical relief where high values represent valleys and low values represent peaks. This topography is continuously "flooded with water", starting from the deepest valleys. As soon as the water from neighboring valley begins to mix, a dam is created (corresponding to the grain boundary). The result is a topography with water-filled valleys and dams that separate them. The identified valleys represent the grains and the dams that separate them denote the grain boundaries.

In the figure below, the progression of the watershed algorithm is illustrated. On the left side, the topographical relief corresponding to the EDT is shown where the grain seeds (valley bottom) are marked in red. This topography is successively flooded with water, and dams are formed between adjacent valleys.



Known information about the grain space, i.e. the minimal grain diameter, can be used to adjust the results of the Watershed Algorithm.

SPHERICITY PARAMETERS

While there are many definitions of sphericity, the two sphericity indices given in the GrainFind output are those defined by Sheppard (2006) (optional) and Krumbein (1941). See the references on page 48.

Based on Sheppard, the sphericity of a pore P_S is defined as the ratio of the inner radius R_i of a grain to its equivalent radius R_e.

$$P_S = \frac{R_i}{R_e} \tag{1}$$

The *equivalent radius* R_e is the radius of a sphere with the same volume as the grain. The *inner radius* R_i is the radius of the largest sphere which fits into the grain. The inner radius can be computed based on the EDT.

Sphericity values range between 0 and 1. The more the grain resembles a sphere, the higher is the sphericity value. A value of 1 marks a perfect spherical grain.

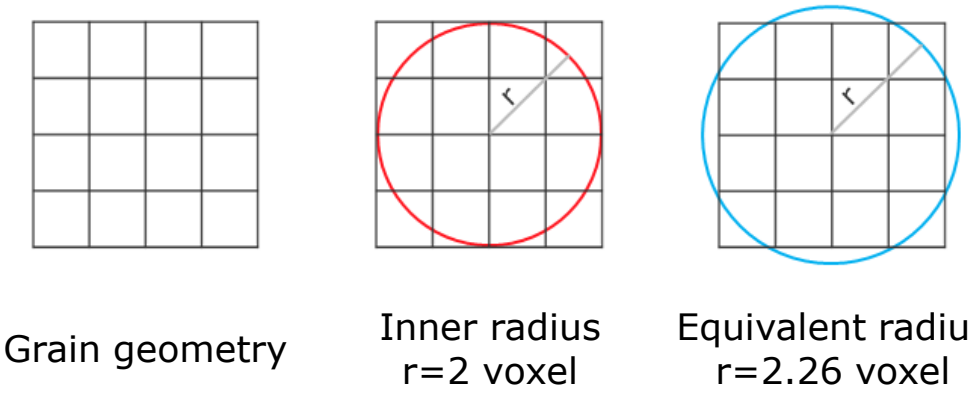


Illustration of a 2D grain geometry and its inner and equivalent radii.

To calculate sphericity based on Krumbein, three principal axes (*a, b, c*) are measured by fitting an ellipsoid into the grain. The Krumbein sphericity P_K is then calculated using the length of the axes

$$P_K = \sqrt[3]{\frac{bc}{a^2}} \tag{2}$$

where a is length of the longest axis, while b and c are the lengths of the two shorter axes.

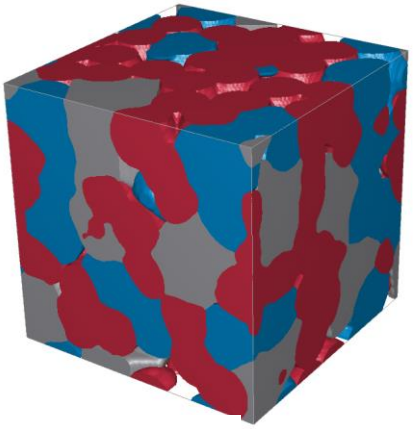
Analogously to the Sheppard sphericity, the values for the Krumbein sphericity range between 0 and 1, with 1 characterizing perfectly spherical grains.

Setting parameters for grain identification with GrainFind

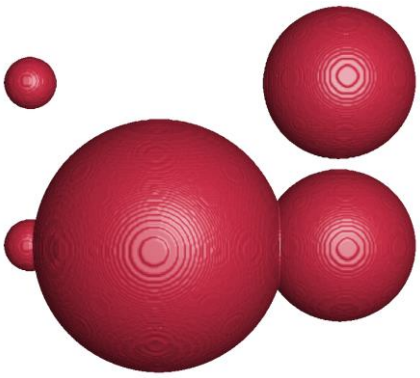
In the **Identify Grains** dialog window, enter the **Result File Name (*.gdr)** under which the results are saved in the chosen project folder.

The Identify Grains dialog consists of three tabs. In the **Grain Segmentation** tab the parameters for the segmentation can be entered. In the next tab the **Output Options** can be defined and in the **Constituent Materials** tab material specific properties like the density can be set.

The two structures used to explain these parameters are shown below: A structure with sintered grains, generated with GrainGeo (**Sinter**), and a simple structure with overlapping spheres (**Spheres**), generated with GadGeo.



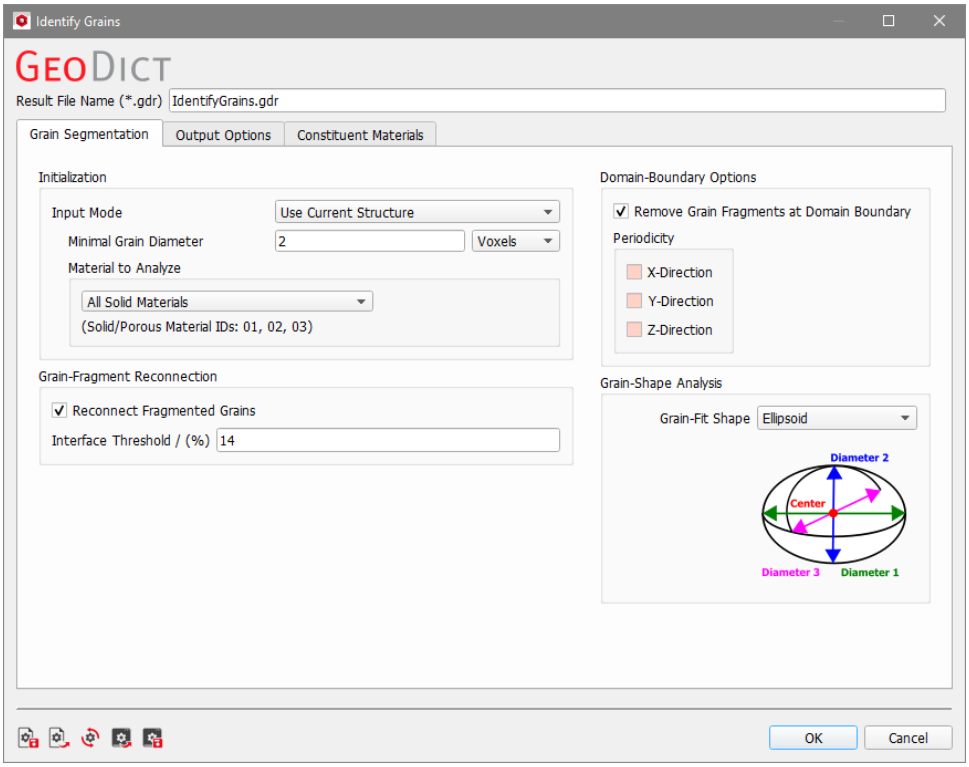
Sinter



Spheres

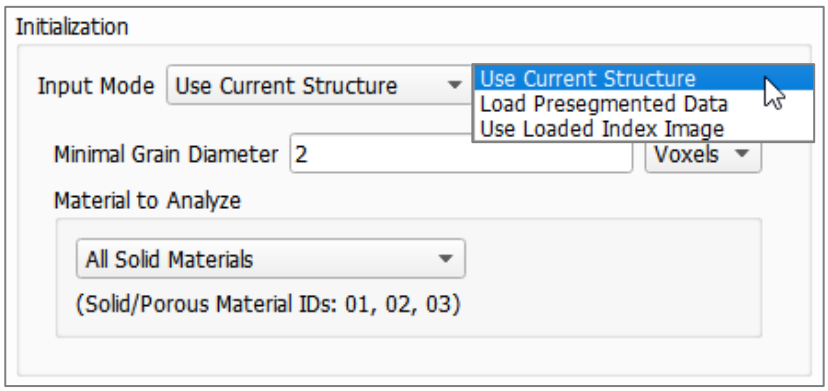
Grain Segmentation

The parameters under the **Grain Segmentation** tab are grouped into four panels: **Initialization**, **Grain-Fragment Reconnection**, **Domain-Boundary Options**, and **Grain-Shape Analysis**.



INITIALIZATION

The parameters in the **Initialization** panel define the basis for the analysis. The structure to be evaluated is chosen through the **Input Mode** and the material to be analyzed is selected through **Material to Analyze**.



For the **Input Mode**, three options are available:

- Use the structure currently in memory (**Use Current Structure**)
- Import already segmented data from an index-image file *.g32 or *.leS (**Load Presegmented Data**)
- Use the currently loaded *.g32 file (**Use Loaded Index Image**)

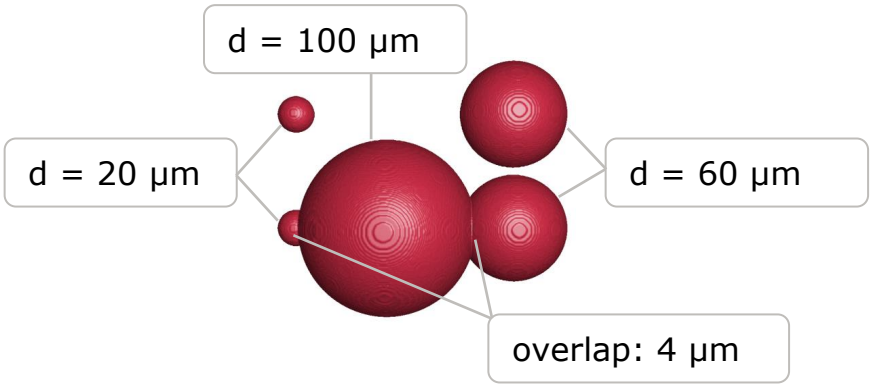
The initialization (the watershed algorithm) might be time consuming for large structures. Thus, the options **Load Presegmented Data** or **Use Loaded Index Image** are useful when performing parameter studies with GrainFind, where the initialization is kept unchanged while other parameters are varied. So, the segmentation results from previous GrainFind runs can be used.

Use Current Structure

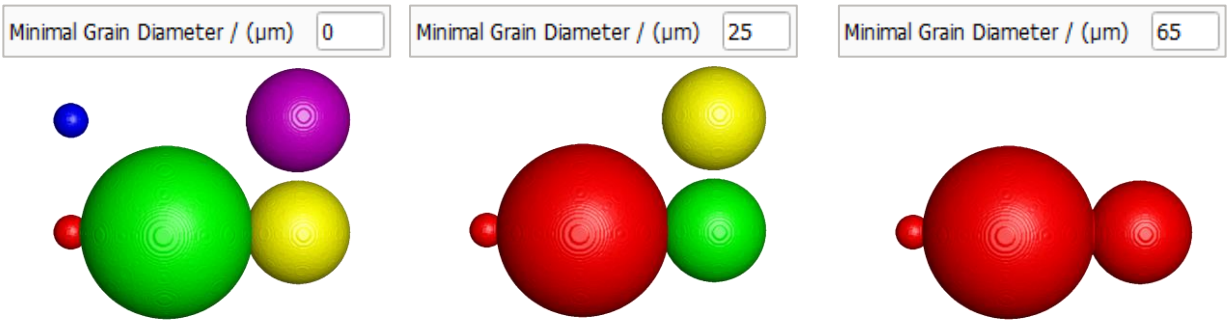
When **Use Current Structure** is used as **Input Mode**, the parameters for the watershed segmentation need to be defined. The **Minimal Grain Diameter** defines the minimal size an individual grain must have for the GrainFind analysis. This parameter determines which grains to keep and which grains to neglect or merge with others. If smaller grains exist which are connected to larger grains, these grains are merged. Single grains (i.e. which are unconnected to other grains) with a diameter smaller than **Minimal Grain Diameter** are neglected.

The **Minimal Grain Diameter** can be entered in unit of voxels or in unit of meters. The default value of 2 voxels works well in most cases and should therefore be left unchanged if a good estimation is unknown. The unit of the **Minimal Grain Diameter** can be changed through the pull-down menu next to the value box.

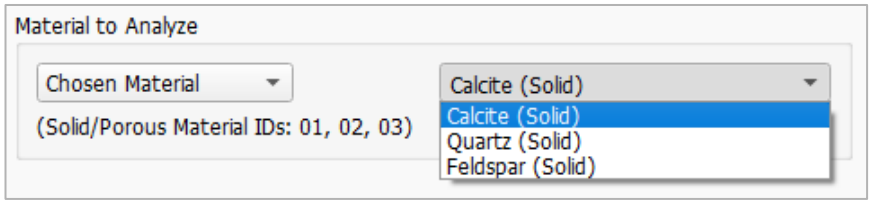
The effect of the choice for **Minimal Grain Diameter** is illustrated below. The figures show the result of the initialization step (of the watershed algorithm). The original structure contains spheres with diameters 100 µm, 60 µm, and 20 µm, and some of the grains overlap.

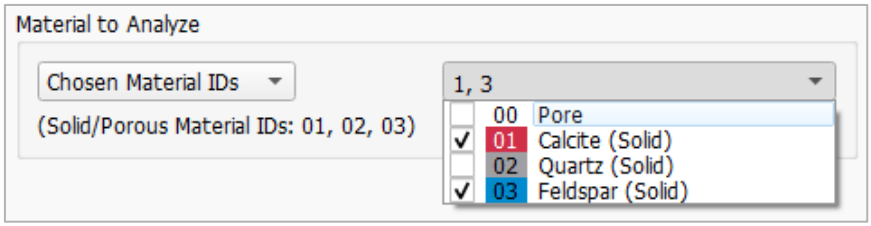


With **Minimal Grain Diameter** set to zero, all five spheres are identified as single grains and labelled in different colors. When setting the **Minimal Grain Diameter** to 25 µm, the single 20 µm sphere (top left) is neglected, while the 20 µm sphere connected to the larger sphere is merged. Analogously, for a choice of 65 µm, only one single merged grain is kept while the smaller spheres are neglected. The effect of removing small objects from the structure is suitable for denoising.



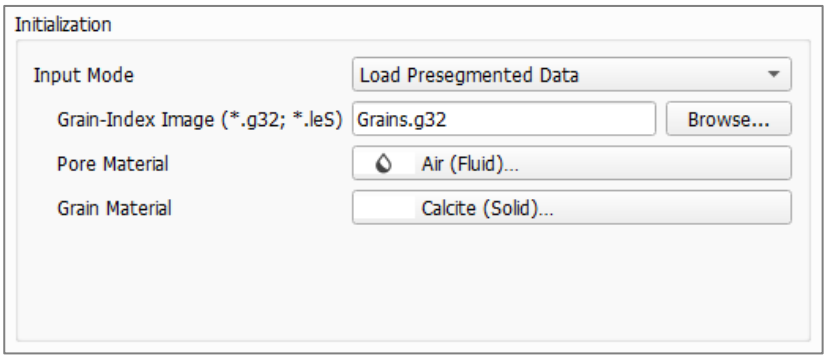
Under **Material to Analyze**, the user defines the part of the structure to be considered. Either the complete structure can be analyzed (**All Solid Materials**), an individual material can be selected (**Chosen Material**) or a choice of material IDs can be made (**Chosen Material IDs**). With **Chosen Material IDs**, one or multiple IDs can be chosen, which are then combined and analyzed as one single material.





Load Presegmented Data

For **Load Presegmented Data**, the data needs to be available as a GeoDict index image. An index image is a voxel image, where each voxel is assigned to an object ID. Such an image can e.g. be obtained from a previous GrainFind run. The file containing this index image can be selected with the **Browse...** button (*.g32 and *.leS files are allowed).

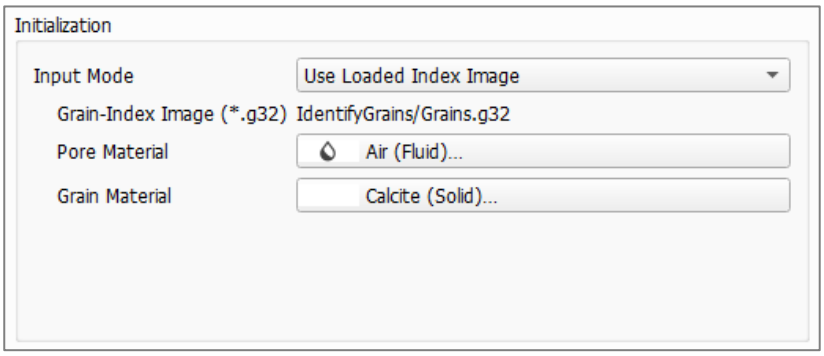


The difference between the *.g32 and *.leS formats is that *.g32 is a binary format, which produces comparatively smaller files but is not human readable, and *.leS is an ASCII-format which is human-readable, but produces larger files. Furthermore, loading a *.g32 file into GeoDict is much faster than loading a *.leS file. Therefore, we recommend to use the *.g32 option when possible.

GeoDict index images contain no material information. Therefore, a **Pore Material** and **Grain Material** must be selected. The material info is used in the Results Viewer to compute the grain mass and the moment of inertia.

Use Loaded Index Image

This mode works analogously to **Load Presegmented Data**. The only difference is that the index image must be already in memory. This is especially useful when an index image is created in GeoDict, but not yet saved to a file.



GRAIN-FRAGMENT RECONNECTION

In some cases (e.g. for complex grain shapes), the watershed algorithm in step 1 tends to over-segment the structure. This means, that some grains are identified as multiple grains ("*Fragmented Grains*") when, in fact, they may be a single grain with a complex shape. With **Reconnect Fragmented Grains**, it is possible to handle this over-segmentation by merging grains depending on the size of their shared interface.

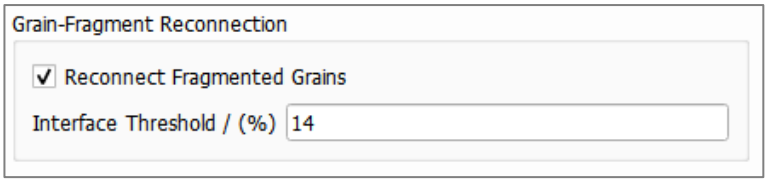
Activate the checkbox **Reconnect Fragmented Grains** to merge connected grains depending on the value chosen for **Interface Threshold**.

The probability that two grain fragments belong to the same grain is measured with the *interface ratio*. This *interface ratio* compares the interface area of two touching grain fragments with the surface area of the grain fragment with the smaller surface.

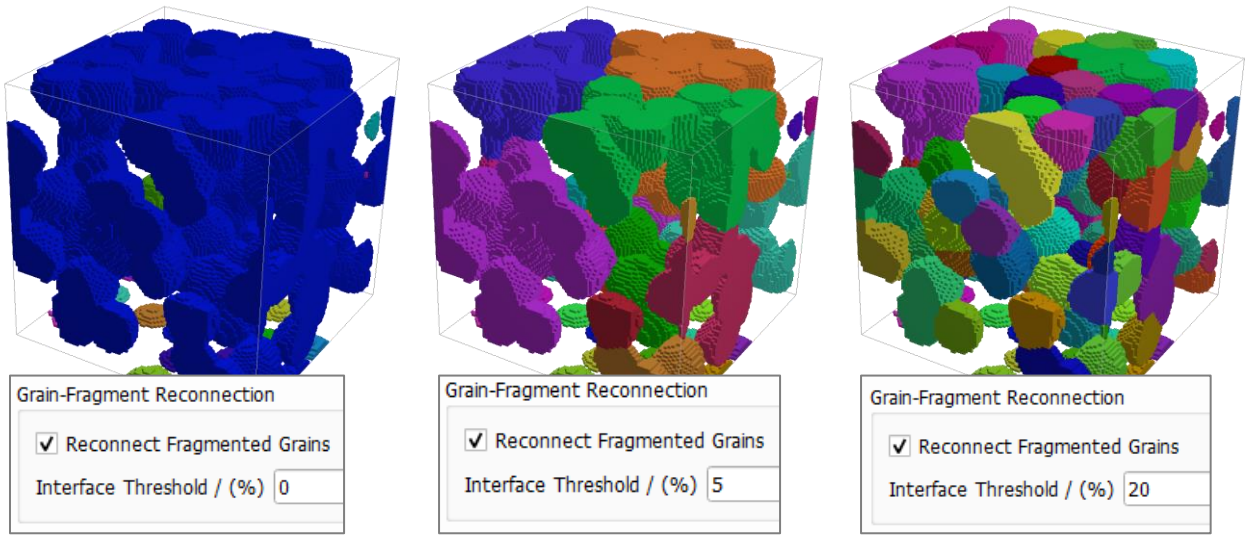
$$\text{interfaceratio} = \frac{\text{interface of the touching grain fragments}}{\min(\text{surfaceofgrain1}, \text{surfaceofgrain2})} \tag{3}$$

For the computation of the interface ratio, the grain surfaces and interfaces need to be computed. The surface area estimation is based on MatDict's "Estimate Surface Area" (see Ohser, Mücklich [3]).

If the *interface ratio* is larger than the percentage chosen for the **Interface Threshold**, the two grain fragments are merged. For example, if the **Interface Threshold** is set to **14**%, then all grain fragments with an *interface ratio* larger than 14% are merged.



The value for the **Interface Threshold** must be chosen carefully depending on the structure. The smaller the threshold, the more grains are merged. In the figure below, observe the effect of different choices for the **Interface Threshold**. For the extreme value 0 %, all connected grains fragments are merged to one. For a value of 5 %, several large and complex grains are detected in the structure, and for a value of 20 %, many small grains are detected. The choice of the **Interface Threshold** must be adapted to the expected grain shapes for the structure type. To help the user finding the correct **Interface Threshold** for the structure, the **Reconnection Indicators** histogram under the **Results** → **Plots** subtab in the Result Viewer can be used.

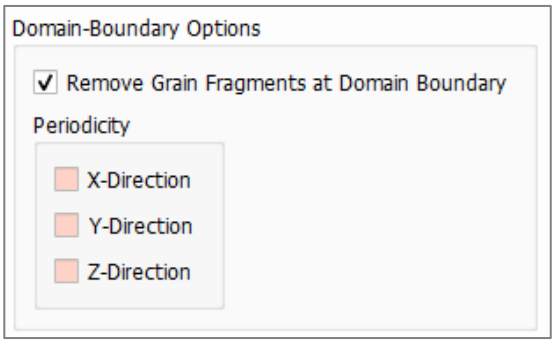


Domain-Boundary Options

In the **Domain-Boundary Options** panel, the handling of boundary grains is defined. When **Remove Grain Fragments at Domain Boundary** is checked, all grains

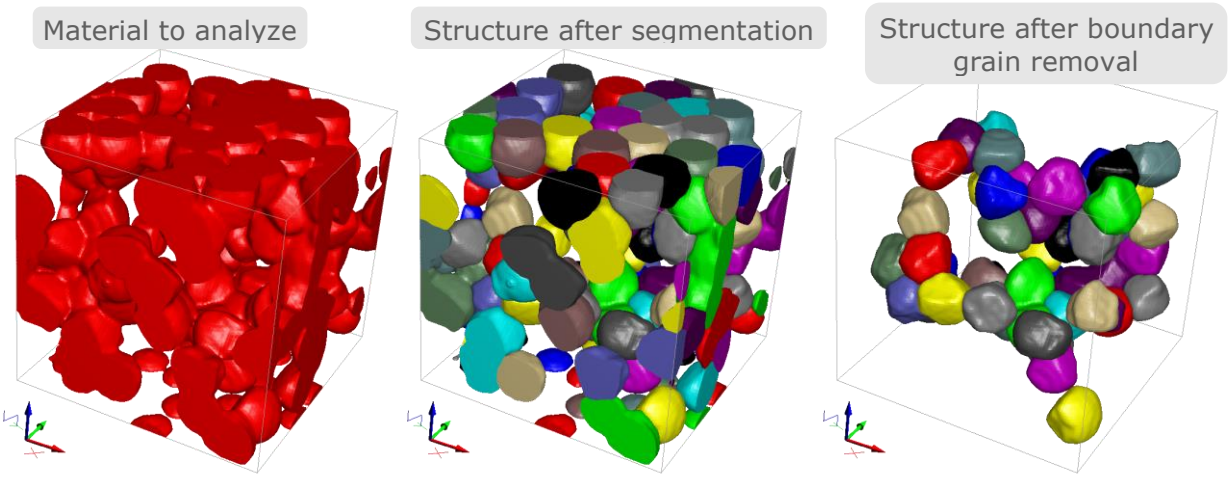
touching the domain boundary, after the initialization and the grain-fragment reconnection are done, are removed.

This is especially useful if the goal is to estimate the grain shapes and sphericity parameters in the structure: Boundary grains which lay not completely in the structure might lead to wrong estimates for the grain shapes. Nevertheless, also removing the boundary grains influences the results. See page 42 for an example and further explanations.



When **Remove Grain Fragments at Domain Boundary** is unchecked, the **Periodicity** options become available. By checking the X-, Y- or Z-Direction checkboxes, the structure is treated as periodic in the chosen direction(s) before the segmentation.

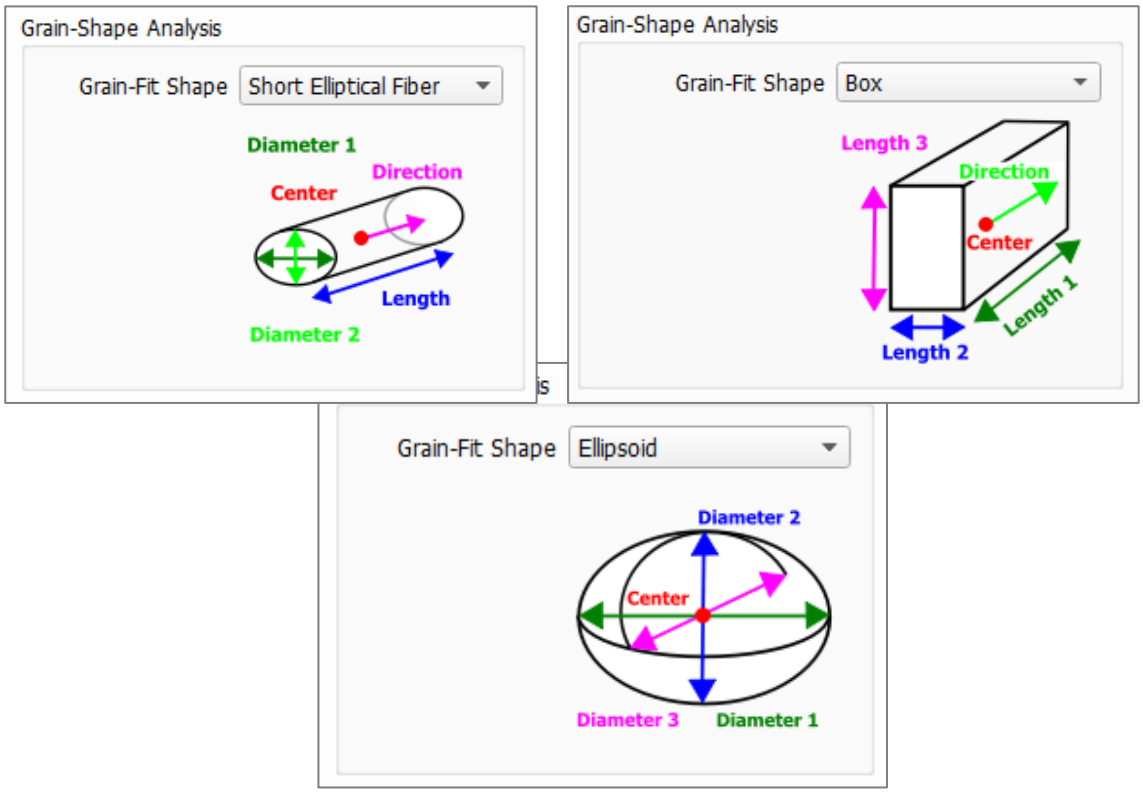
This option should only be chosen if the investigated structure is really periodic, otherwise it might lead to strange results (with grains which are treated as connected but are distant from each other in reality). Otherwise, when **Periodicity** is not chosen in a direction, the structure is analyzed with symmetric boundary conditions in this direction. This is the best option for estimating the shape of boundary grains.



Grain-Shape Analysis

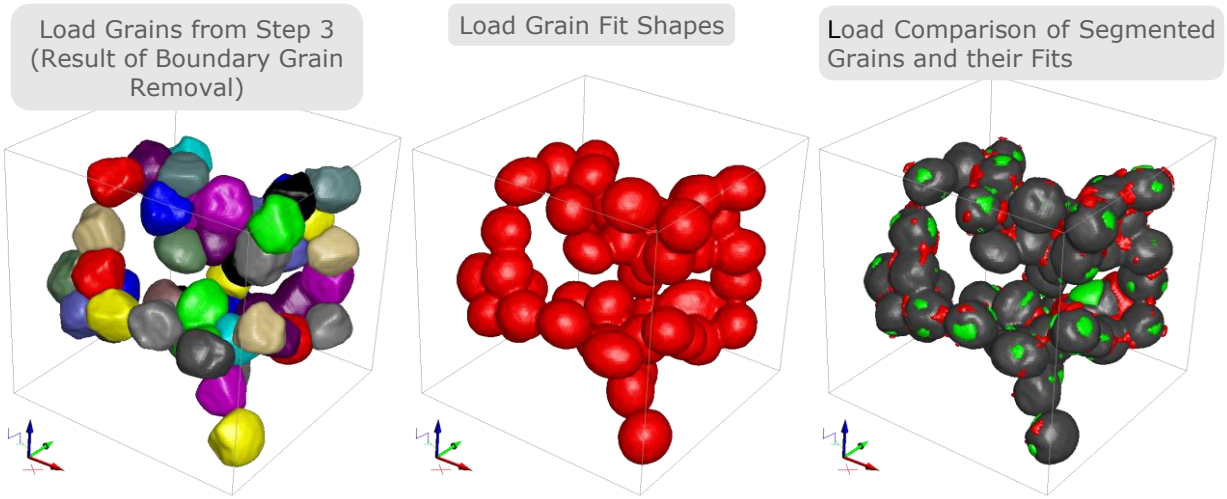
After the grain identification step (defined by the parameters under **Initialization**, **Grain-Fragment Reconnection** and **Domain-Boundary Options**), the shape of the grains is analyzed. This analysis is done with the help of best-fit shapes.

There are three options available for the **Grain-Fit Shape**: Either an **Ellipsoid**, a **Short Elliptical Fiber** or a **Box** can be chosen. The Grain-Fit Shape should be chosen depending on the grain shape appearing in the analyzed structure.



In the figure below, the results of the **Grain-Shape Analysis** are shown. These visualizations are loaded from the Results Viewer of the *.gdr result file (under the **Grain Visualization** tab), see page 16 for more information.

On the left, the structure after Boundary-Grain Removal is shown. In the middle, the grain-fit shapes are shown (here, **Ellipsoid** was chosen as the **Grain-Fit Shape**) and on the right, a comparison between the identified grains (red) and their fit shapes (green) is shown, where the matching voxels are shown in grey.



Output Options

Under the **Output Options** tab, some additional results to be computed and saved can be chosen. They are displayed later for visualization in the Result Viewer under the **Grain Visualization** tab. Some of these options need an additional computing effort and are unchecked by default.

- Choose **Save Grain-Size Distribution (Volume-Equivalent Diameter) as *.gsd** to save the computed grain size distribution as a volume field. This information can be used e.g. for visualization of the volume field of the Volume-Equivalent Diameter (see page 26) or for further analysis with Python.

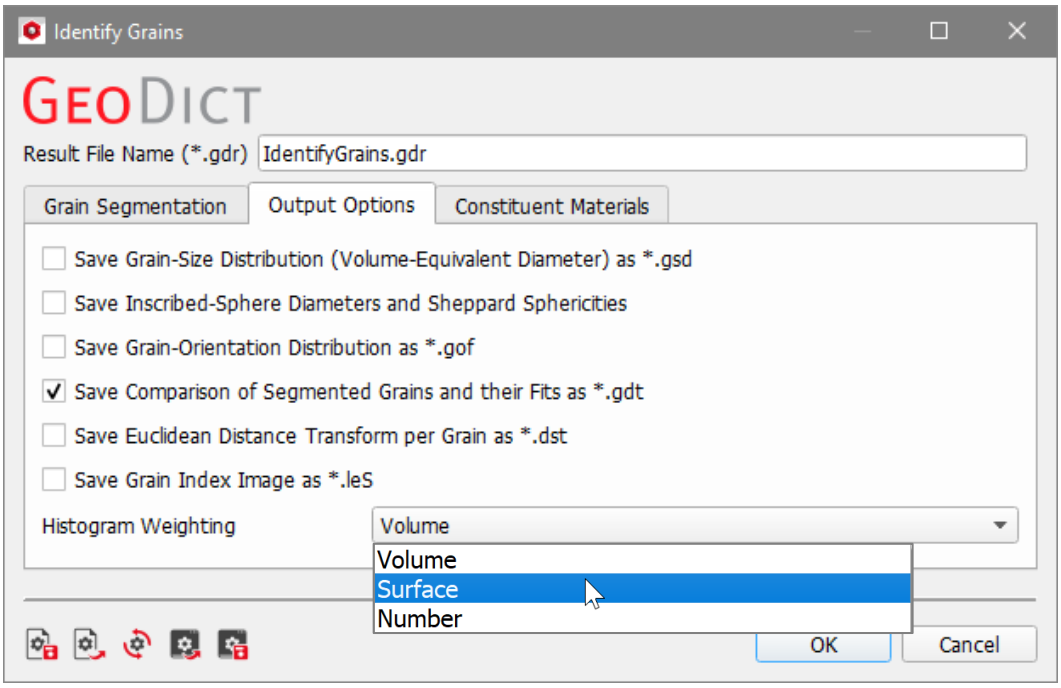
- With **Save Inscribed-Sphere Diameters and Sheppard Sphericities** checked, the diameter of the inscribed sphere for every grain is calculated as volume field and saved. The results of this volume field are saved in the *.gsd file and can be loaded with it. The Sheppard sphericities and the inscribed sphere diameters can be found in the Result Viewer (Results – Plots – Sphericities tab and Diameters tab, see page 18). Both options need additional computing effort and are unchecked by default.

- **Save Grain-Orientation Distribution as *.gof** to use the orientation information in simulations or for later analysis. For example, when predicting mechanical properties with ElastoDict, anisotropic material properties can be assigned depending on the grain orientation.

- The checked-by-default option **Save Comparison of Segmented Grains and their Fits as *.gdt** is useful to evaluate the quality of the computed **Grain-Fit Shapes** (Ellipsoids, Short Elliptical Fibers or Boxes, see page 11). A good accordance of the grain fit shapes and the identified grains is important as a basis for generating good digital twins of the structure with **GrainGeo Create – Load GrainFind Result** (See page 29).

- With **Save Euclidean Distance Transform per Grain as .*dst**, the Euclidean distance transform for every grain is calculated individually and the result is saved in one single *.dst file. This option needs additional computing effort and is unchecked by default.

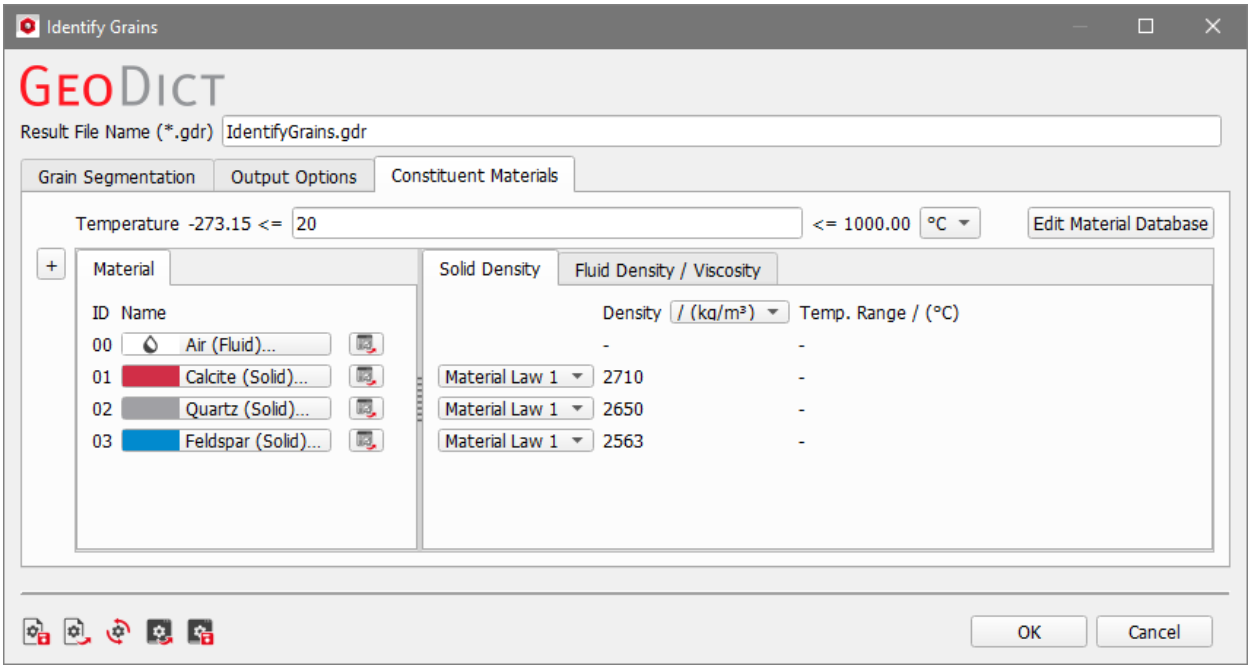
- The resulting grain index image is saved by default in the binary *.g32 format. With **Save Grain Index Image as *.leS**, it can be additionally saved as an ASCII file. This format takes more space and needs longer to write and load into GeoDict, but it is human-readable and can easily be imported into other software.



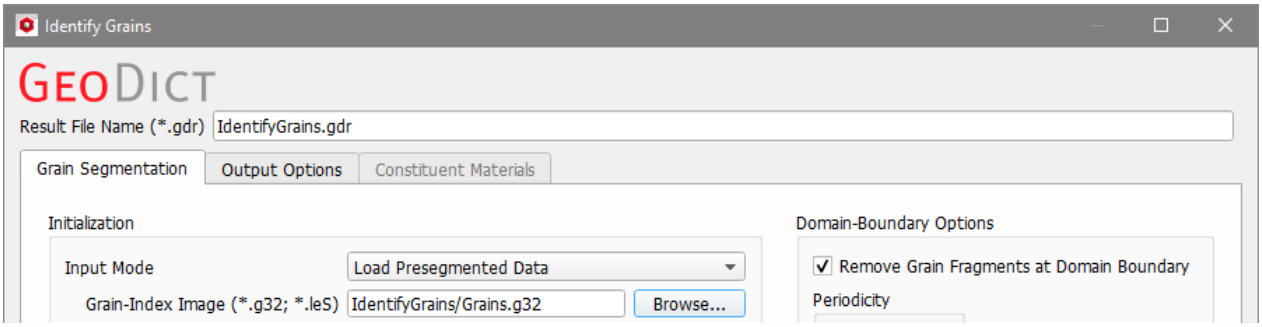
Choosing **Histogram Weighting** as **Volume**, **Surface** or **Number** changes the values on the y-axis of the resulting histogram plots. Then, either the grain volume probability, the grain surface area probability, or the grain count probability is shown. The **Histogram Weighting** can be changed in the result viewer after the simulation has been run.

CONSTITUENT MATERIALS

In the constituent materials tab, a material from the GeoDict material database can be assigned to each material phase in the structure. Alternatively, manual materials can be defined. In GrainFind-Identify Grains, the density of the grain materials is used to compute the mass and moment of inertia of the grains. For further information about material in GeoDict, see the GeoDict Material Database handbook of this User Guide



The **Constituent Materials** tab is only available if **Use Current Structure** is chosen as input under the **Grain Segmentation** tab. In the other cases, no material IDs exist to which the materials could be assigned, and the tab is greyed out.



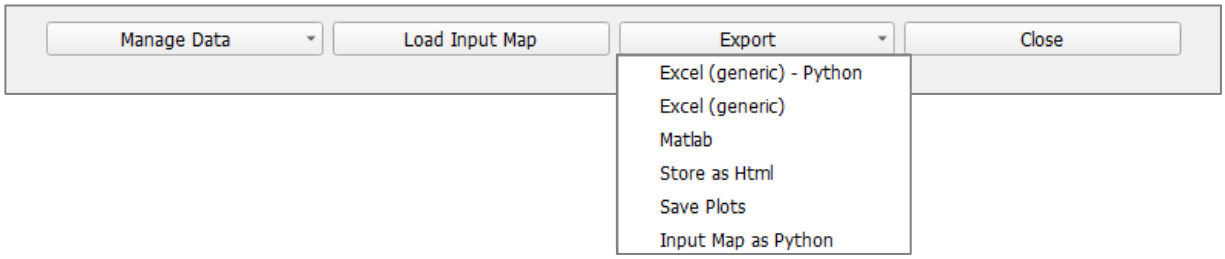
GRAIN IDENTIFICATION RESULTS

After performing the GrainFind analysis, the results are saved in a GeoDict result file (*.gdr) with the given Result File Name. When the analysis is finished the **Result Viewer** opens automatically. For more information about the GeoDict **Result Viewer,** refer to the Result Viewer handbook of this User Guide

By clicking **Load Structure**, the analyzed structure can be imported into the Visualization area of the GeoDict GUI. Observe the dot at the right side of the **Load Structure** button: a green dot means that the structure currently in memory corresponds to the results shown in the Result Viewer. A red dot means that the structure does not correspond to the results.

The **Result Viewer** contains several tabs. **Input Map**, **Log Map**, and **Post Map** contain the parameters concerning the GrainFind process. The **Log Map** contains information about the identification process, as e.g. the runtime and the used computer. The **Post Map** contains all information about the post-processing in the results viewer, as e.g. the chosen plots and their parameters. Only the **Input Map** is shown below in detail, the other two are structured analogously. The **Result** tab shows the report of the run as well as several plots, which are described in the Results section. In the **Grain Visualization** tab additional result files can be loaded depending on the choice made in the Output Options. A video of single grains and their fit object can be generated in the **Create Videos** tab. The **Metadata** tab contains some meta information about the results file.

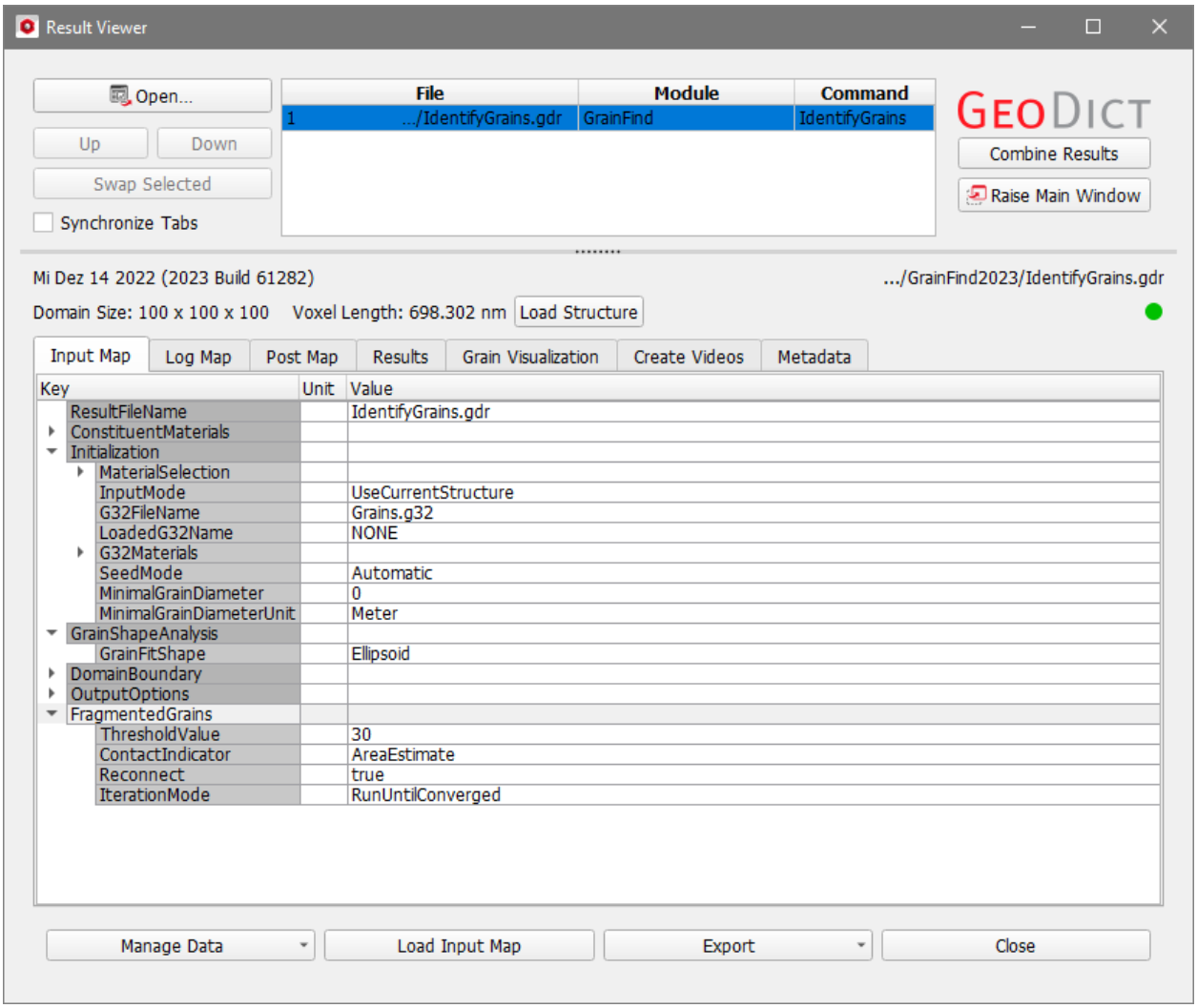
At the bottom of the Result Viewer, several buttons are available:



- With **Manage Data** by choosing **Clean Up/Pack** either old results files can be deleted (Clean Up) or the results can be packed to a *.zip file. Clicking **Rename** allows to change the name of the *.gdr file.
- With **Load Input Map**, the parameters in the input map are loaded in the GUI and can be used to analyze different structures.
- **Export** data:
  - Analyze and plot computation results in Microsoft Excel®. Check out the GeoDexcel and Result Viewer handbooks for more information.
  - Analyze the results in MATLAB® using GeoDict's MATLAB® interface GeoLab by clicking **Matlab**. All information included in the results file is loaded into MATLAB® automatically.
  - Save the information in the result file in *.html format by clicking **Store As HTML**.
  - **Save Plots** to save images for all plots of the Results Plots subtab at once.
  - Save the **Input Map as Python** file to re-execute the run as macro with the same settings.
- Close the results file by clicking **Close**.

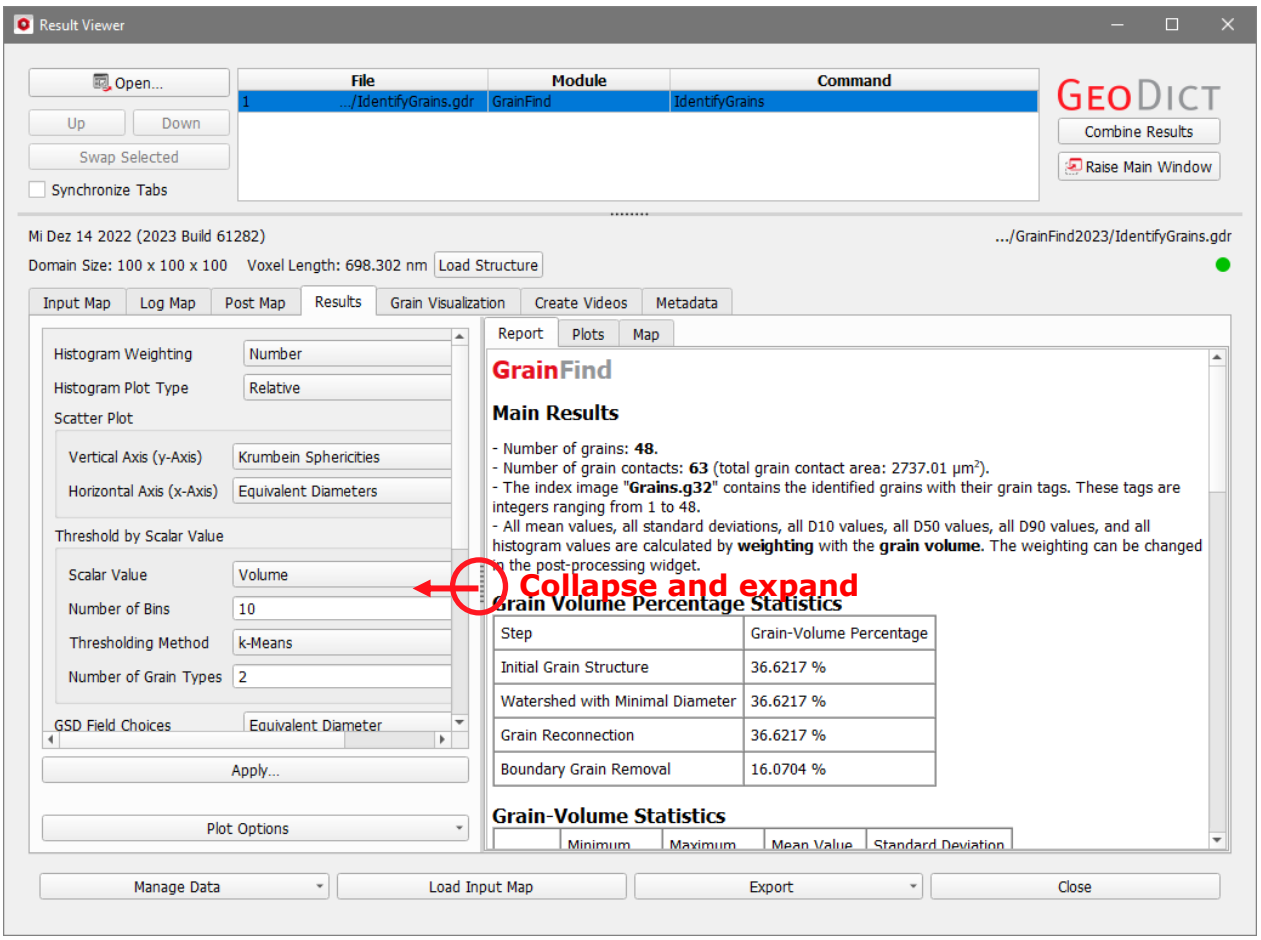
Input Map

The **Input Map** contains a table with all chosen input parameters for **Identify Grains**. For example, it is shown that **Reconnect Fragmented Grains** was enabled (true), and that **Ellipsoid** was selected as the **Grain-Fit Shape**.



Results

The **Results** tab is the central point for the analysis of the identified grains. It is grouped in three subtabs: **Report**, **Plots** and **Map**. The **Report** subtab shows statistics about the identified grains. The **Plots** subtab contains different plot options for the analysis of the results. The **Map** subtab contains all resulting data from the **Identify Grains** run. This data is the basis for the tables in the **Report** subtab and for the plots in the **Plots** tab. The **Report** subtab for the example is shown below.



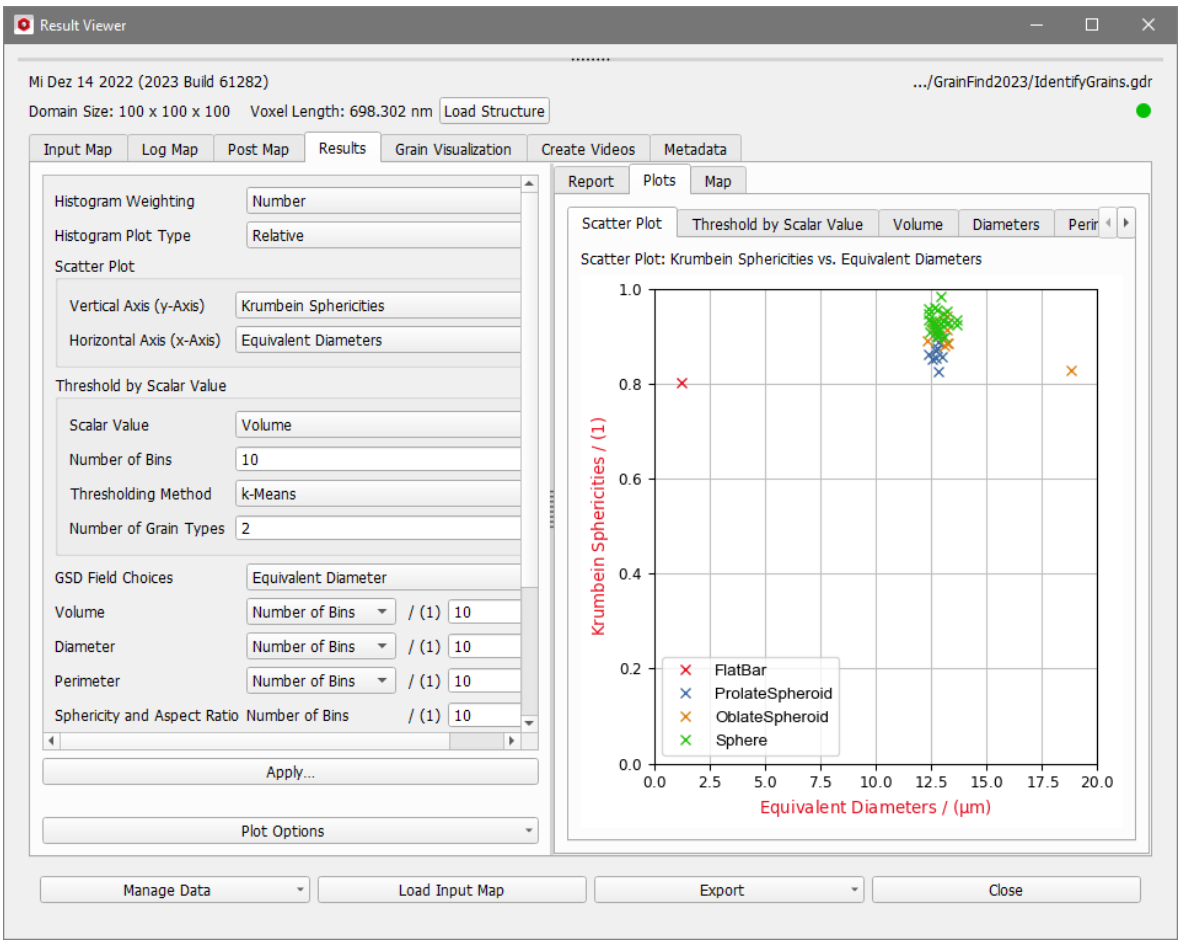
PLOTS

Under the **Plots** tab, several plots visualize the results. These plots are grouped in 13 tabs which show the relationship between grain parameters: **Scatter Plot**, **Threshold by Scalar Value** histogram, **Volume** histogram, **Diameters** histogram, **Perimeter** histogram, **Sphericities** histogram, **Aspect Ratio** histogram, **Surfaces and Contacts** histogram, **Mass** histogram, **Moment of Inertia** histogram, **Coordination Number** histogram, **Orientation** polar plot and **Reconnection Indicators** histogram.

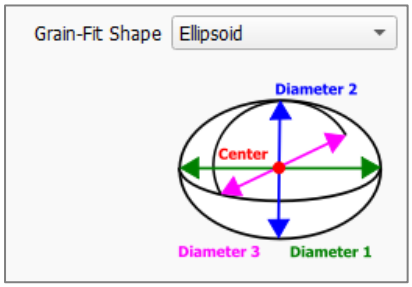
Settings for these plots can be selected in the panel at the left side of the **Plots** subtab. After changes, click **Apply...** to use the new values. The changes are also applied to the table under the **Report** subtab.

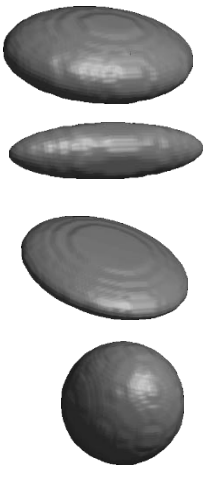
For the **Threshold by Scalar Value** histogram, the threshold parameter must be selected under **Threshold by Scalar Value** on the left (See page 23 for further explanations). The default is **Threshold by Volume**.

In the example below, observe in the **Scatter Plot** that all identified grains in the structure are nearly spherical (Krumbein Sphericities close to 1). Nearly all grains have an equivalent diameter around 12.5 µm, except of two outliers.



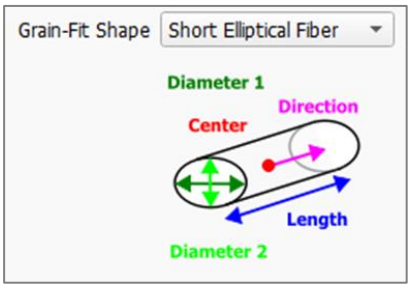
The plots Scatter Plot and Orientation distinguish between four possible shapes for the **Ellipsoids** that are fitted into the grains: **Flat Bar**, **Prolate Spheroid**, **Oblate Spheroid** and **Sphere**.

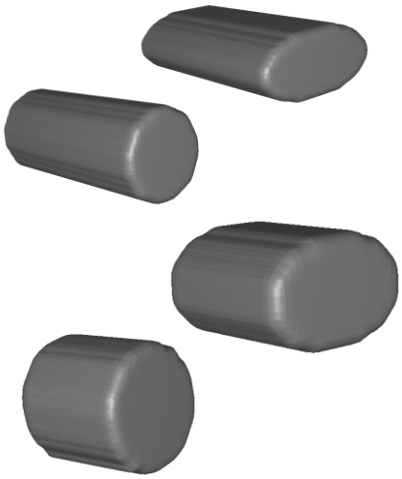




- An ellipsoid is formed as a **Flat Bar**, if all three diameters differ much from each other.
- A **Prolate Spheroid** has one bigger and two similar smaller diameters. Thus, it can be compared to a cigar.
- The two bigger diameters of an **Oblate Spheroid** are similar. Thus, it can be compared to a disk.
- For a **Sphere**, all three diameters are similar.

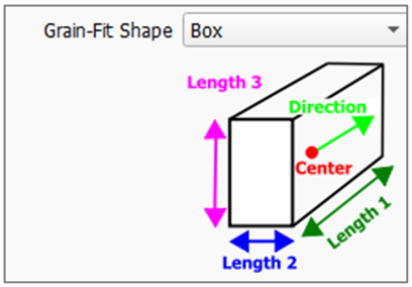
For the shape **Short Elliptical Fiber** the following four shapes are considered:

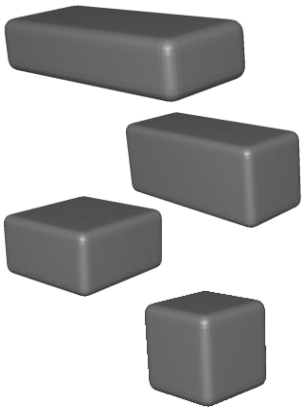




- A fiber is **Elliptical**, if the two diameters are different.
- It is **Circular**, if the two diameters are the same.
- An **Elliptical Stub** has at least one diameter larger than the length and the diameters are different.
- The **Circular Stub** is the same as above, but with equal diameters.

For the shape **Box** the following shapes are considered:



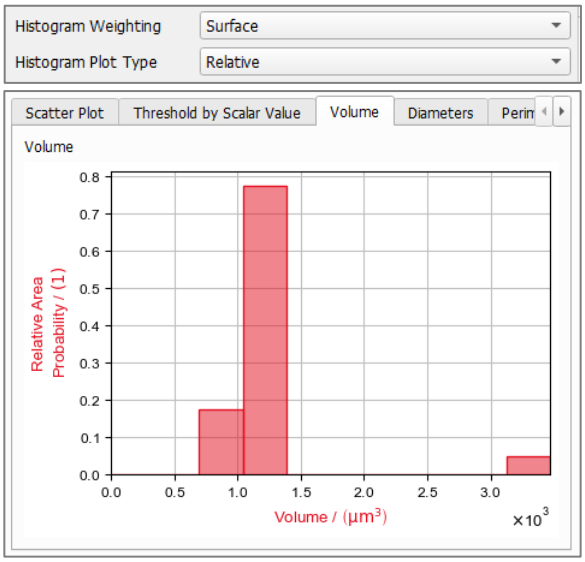


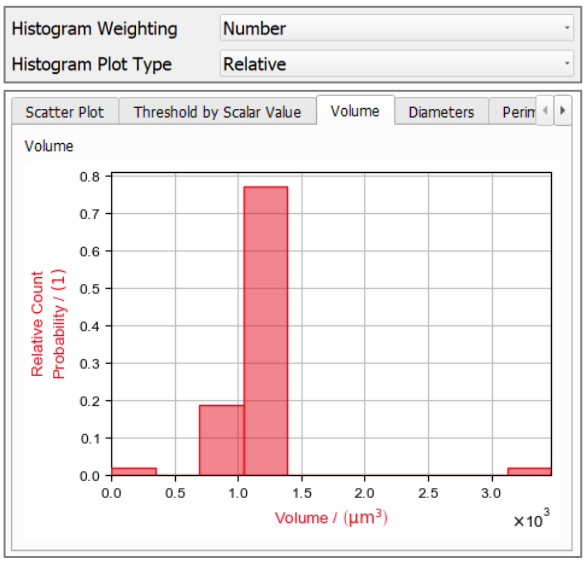
- If the all three lengths differ a box is called **Flat Bar**.
- For a **Rectangular Bar** the two shorter lengths are equal.
- For a **Rectangular Disk** the two larger lengths are equal.
- If all three lengths are equal the box is a **Cube**.

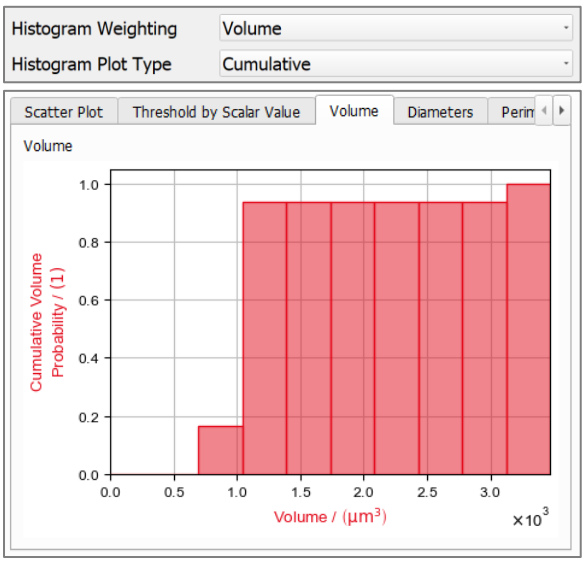
Histogram Weighting and Histogram Plot Type

The values on the y-axes of the histograms in all plots (except **Scatter Plot, Threshold by Scalar Value, Orientation** and **Reconnection Threshold**) can show Count Probability (weighting by **Number**), Area Probability (weighting by **Surface**) or Volume Probability (weighting by **Volume**), as a **Relative** or **Cumulative** plot. This can be set by adjusting the **Histogram Weighting** and **Histogram Plot Type**.

The Area (or Surface) Probability is defined by computing the surface area of each segmented grain (using the same algorithm as in MatDict's Estimate Surface Area command) and then weighting the grains by that value.

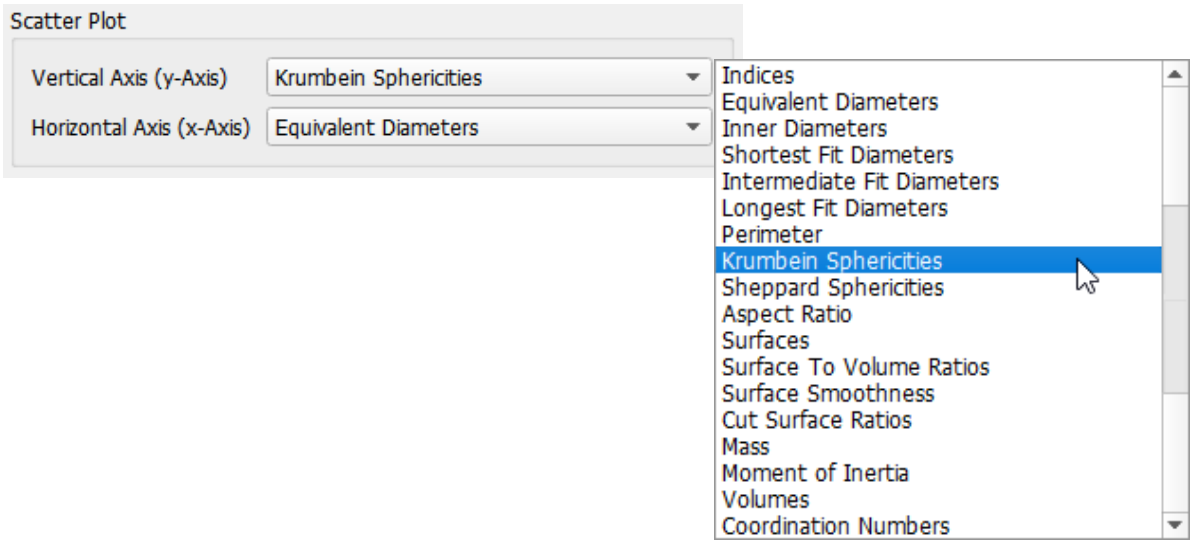






Scatter Plot

Under **Scatter Plot**, the variables for the x- and y-axis in the scatter plot can be chosen. More on the variables can be found in the next section.



Threshold by Scalar Value

In **Threshold by Scalar Value**, several options for thresholding the structure depending on the results are available. The choice of the **Scalar Value** affects the plot that is created under the **Plots** - **Threshold by Scalar Value** subtab. Additionally, a structure containing the materials of the thresholded grains will be created, that can be accessed through the **Grain Visualization** tab → **Load Grain-Type Structure** → click **Load *.gdt** or **Load *.gad** button.

The following Scalar Values are available for thresholding:

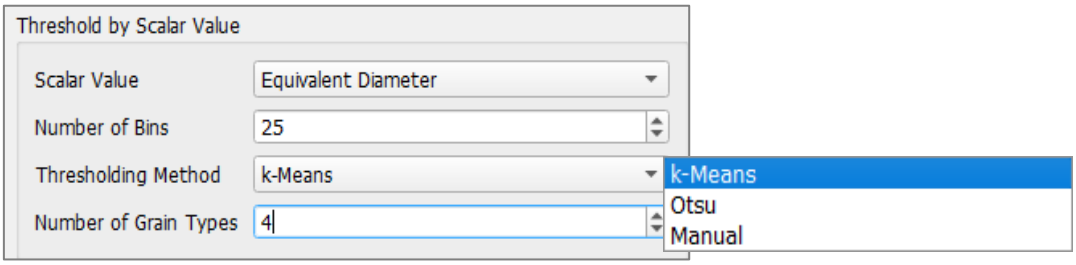
- **Equivalent Diameter**: the diameter of the volume-equivalent sphere.
- **Inner Diameter**: the diameter of the largest sphere that can be inscribed into the grain.
- **Shortest Fit Diameter**: the shortest diameter of the shape (ellipsoid, box, short fiber) fitted onto the grain.
- **Intermediate Fit Diameter**: the intermediate diameter of the shape (ellipsoid, box, short fiber) fitted onto the grain.
- **Longest Fit Diameter**: the longest diameter of the shape (ellipsoid, box, short fiber) fitted onto the grain.
- **Perimeter**: three diameters are needed to define the ellipsoid fitted into the grain. The perimeter is the shortest perimeter around this ellipsoid, which means it is computed as the perimeter of the ellipse formed from the two smallest of those three diameters.
- **Krumbein Sphericity**: a measure for the sphericity based on the grain fit (see page 4).
- **Sheppard Sphericity**: the diameter of the inscribed sphere divided by the diameter of the volume-equivalent sphere (see page 4).
- **Aspect Ratio:** the ellipsoid fitted into the grain is defined by three diameters. The aspect ratio is the shortest diameter divided by the largest of those diameters.
- **Surface Area**: surface of the grains estimated by an algorithm based on MatDict's **Estimate Surface Area** command (see Ohser, Mücklich [3]).

- **Surface-to-Volume Ratio**: estimated surface of the grain divided by the volume of the grain.
- **Surface Smoothness**: the surface of a fitted ellipsoid divided by the estimated surface. Usually the estimated surface is larger than the surface of the fitted ellipsoid. Hence, the surface smoothness is usually below 1. Only if the shape of the grain is very ellipsoidal, then the surface estimation might be a little smaller than the surface of the fitted ellipsoid.
- **Cut-Surface Ratio**: the interface of the grain with the domain boundary over the remaining surface of the grain. The **Cut-Surface Ratio** measures how much of the grain surface is part of the domain boundary. It is a measure for the quality of boundary grain. For example, a **Cut-Surface Ratio** of 1 means that the interface of the grain with the domain boundary is as large as the remaining surface of the grain.

  NOTE that the domain boundaries, that were set to be periodic, do not contribute to the interface of the grain with the domain boundary. Particularly, if all domain boundaries are set to be periodic, the cut-surface ratio will always be zero. Also, if **Remove Grain Fragments at Domain Boundary** was activated (page 10), then the cut surface ratio is zero, too, because there will be no grains left that have an interface with the domain boundaries.
- **Mass**: the mass of the grains is computed based on their volume and the density of the grain material.
- **Moment of Inertia**: the moment of inertia is computed based on the grain shape and the density of the grain material.
- **Volume**: the volume of the grain, simply determined by the number of voxels the grain contains.
- **Coordination Number**: the number of contacts of a grain to other grains.

NOTE that the choice of **Inner Diameter** and **Sheppard Sphericity** are only available if the option **Save Inscribed-Sphere Diameter and Sheppard Sphericities** was checked in the **Output Options** of the grain-identification options (page 13).

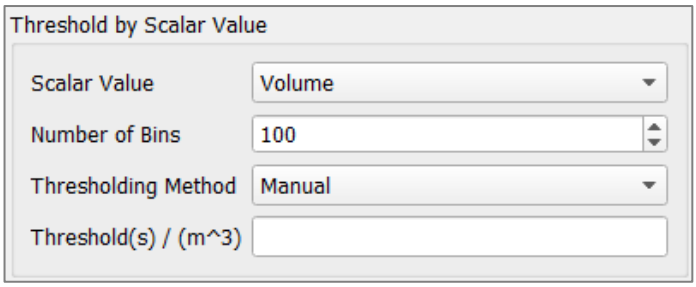
The **Number of Bins** defines how many bins the histogram **Threshold by Scalar Value** has.



The following **Thresholding Methods** are available:

- **k-Means**: uses the k-Means algorithm to find thresholds for the chosen **Number of Grain Types**.
- **Otsu**: uses the Otsu algorithm to find thresholds for the chosen **Number of Grain Types**.

- **Manual**: define your own thresholds by writing a comma-separated list of thresholds into **Threshold(s)**. They will then be applied to the computed grain index image.



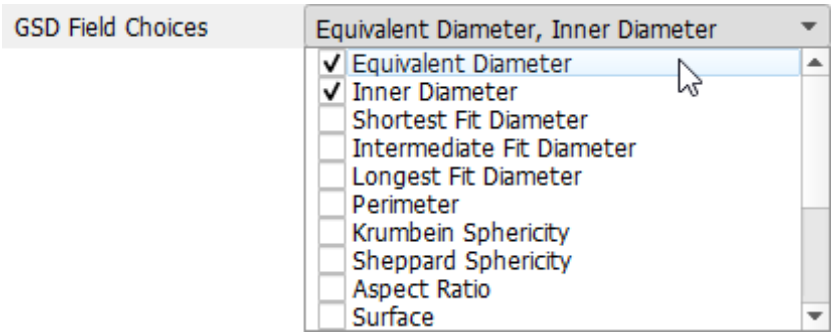
GSD Field Choices

The GeoDict size distribution (GSD) files allow to visualize the various scalar grain properties that are a result of the grain identification.

See the options for the configuration of a GeoDict size distribution (GSD) file in the figure below. For every chosen grain property, a volume field is created containing the 3D distribution of this grain property. These volume fields are saved together in a GSD file (*.gsd), which can be accessed through the **Grain-Visualization** tab → **Load Grain-Size Distribution** → click **Load *.gsd** button.

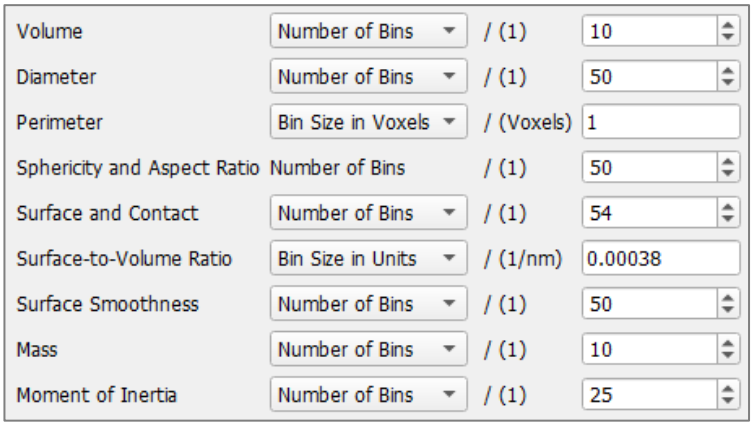
For example, by choosing **Equivalent Diameter** and **Surface**, the *.gsd file will contain two volume fields: one with the size distribution of the diameters of volume-equivalent spheres, and one with the distribution of the grain surface.

The same measures for assembling a customized size distribution are available as for the thresholding (see page 23).



Histogram Bin Sizes

The bin sizes used in the plotted histograms can be customized.



In general, it is possible to choose between:

- **Number of Bins**: choose how many bins the histogram should have.
- **Bin Size in Units**: choose the bin size for the histogram using the value in the appropriate unit (m, µm, nm, etc.).
- **Bin Size in Voxels**: choose the bin size for the histogram using the value measure in voxel lengths.

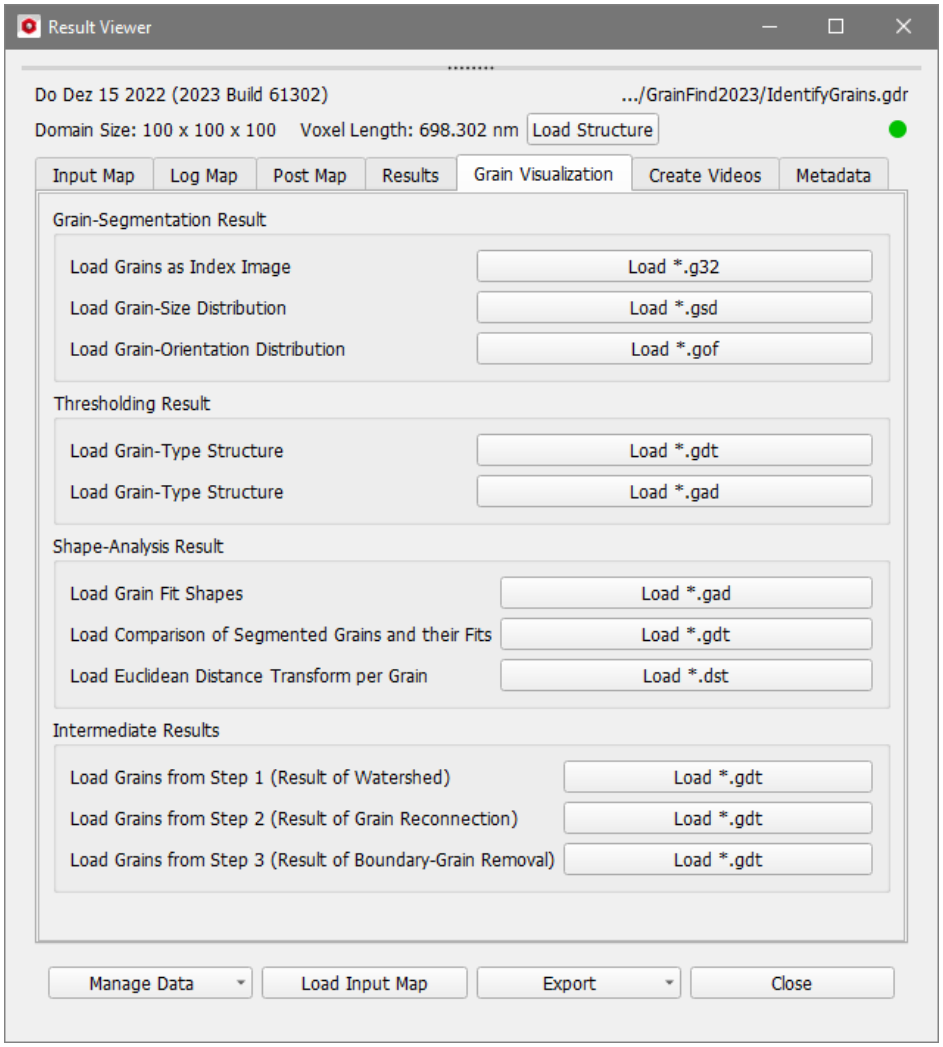
As the different histogram plots show different results, only those choices are available which make sense for the corresponding plot.

- The selection made under **Volume** changes the bin size for the plot under the **Volume** tab.
- The selection made under **Diameters** changes the bin size for all plots under the **Diameters** tab.
- The selection made under **Perimeter** changes the bin size for the plot under the **Perimeter** tab.
- The selection under **Sphericity and Aspect Ratio** cannot be changed, this affects the bin size for the plots under the **Sphericities** tab and the plot under the **Aspect Ratio** tab .
- The selection made under **Surface and Contact** changes the bin size for the **Surfaces** and **Contacts** plots under the **Surfaces And Contacts** tab.
- The selection made under **Surface-to-Volume Ratio** changes the bin size for the **Surface-to-Volume Ratios** plot under the **Surfaces And Contacts** tab.
- The selection made under **Surface Smoothness** changes the bin size for the **Surface Smoothnesses** plot under the **Surfaces And Contacts** tab.
- The selection made for **Mass** changes the bin size for the **Mass** histogram.
- The selection made for **Moment of Inertia** changes the bin size for the **Moment of Inertia** histogram.

Grain Visualization

The **Grain Visualization** tab is used to import structures and computed volume fields which illustrate the grain identification process and its results.

There are several options available for the visualization of the different steps of **Identify Grains** and for the evaluation of the quality of the results. Some options in the **Grain Visualization** tab might be unavailable, depending on the parameters chosen in the **Identify Grains dialog** (Output Options tab, see page 12). The visualization options are grouped into panels.



Grain-Segmentation Result

In the first panel, several options for the analysis of the identified grain shapes are available. With **Load Grains as Index Image**, all identified grains are assigned to a unique 32-bit color and can be investigated in the Visualization area. The 2D-view of *.g32 files is particularly suited for visual analysis of the correct segmentation.

The **Load Grain-Size Distribution** and the **Load Grain-Orientation Distribution** are greyed out when these two options have not been previously checked under the **Output Options** tab of the **Identify Pores** dialog (see page 12).

As mentioned above in GSD Field Choices, the option **Load Grain-Size Distribution** loads the Grain-Size Distribution file (*.gsd), that contains the 3D distributions of the grain properties chosen in the **Results** tab (page 24). **Load Grain-Orientation Distribution** loads the orientation distribution file (*.gof) of the grains found by the grain identification process.

Thresholding Result

The structure that contains the thresholded grain materials is loaded by clicking the **Load Grain-Type Structure** button. Here, either **Load *.gdt** or **Load *.gad** can be chosen. The options for the thresholding can be found in the **Results** tab as mentioned above in Thresholding.

Shape-Analysis Results

Several options for the analysis of the identified grain shapes are available in the **Shape-Analysis Results** panel. With **Load Grain Fit Shapes**, the best-fit shapes for the individual grains are imported into GeoDict as *.gad file and can be visualized.

The option to **Load Comparison of Segmented Grains and their Fits** is closely related to **Load Grain Fit Shapes**. The identified grains and their best-fit shapes are both imported into GeoDict and shown as different materials (**Original** and **Fit**). This visualization is useful to check if the chosen best-fit shape type suits the grain structure. It is also a good indicator to evaluate the performance of GrainFind with the chosen options (compare the figure on page 11 for reference).

With **Load Euclidean Distance Transform per Grain**, the results of the Euclidean Distance Transform for each grain can be imported if **Save Euclidean Distance Transform per Pore as *.dst** was previously checked under the **Output Options** tab of the **Identify Pores** dialog (see page 12).

Intermediate Results

In the **Intermediate Results** panel, results from the identification steps can be loaded.

With **Load Grains from Step 1 (Result of Watershed)**, the segmented structure after the watershed transform is shown without any post-processing. Depending on the structure and the chosen **Minimal Grain Diameter**, this step might already suffice for identifying the grains. Otherwise, this option is useful for checking the initialization options – mainly if the **Minimal Grain Diameter** was chosen correctly for the investigated structure.

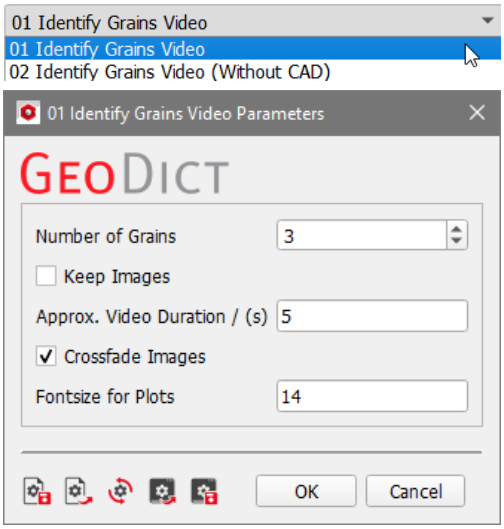
By clicking **Load Grains from Step 2 (Result of Grain Reconnection)**, the structure after the Grain-Fragment Reconnection is loaded in GeoDict. This way it can be investigated if the chosen value for the **Interface Threshold** suits the analyzed structure. This is only available if **Reconnect Fragmented Grains** was checked in the **Grain Segmentation** tab of the **Identify Grains** dialog (see page 9).

Load Grains from Step 3 (Result of Boundary-Grain Removal) imports the structure after the steps defined in the **Domain-Boundary options** are evaluated. This is only available if **Remove Grain Fragments at Domain Boundary** was checked in the **Grain Segmentation** tab of the **Identify Grain** dialog (see page 10).

For the visualization of the identified grains, remember that the visibility of all material IDs must be set to visible in **Settings → Color & Visibility Settings → visible**. The identified grains are assigned 15 random colors, which are unrelated to their size. The visibility of the pore space (ID 00) should remain unchecked and thus it will not be rendered.

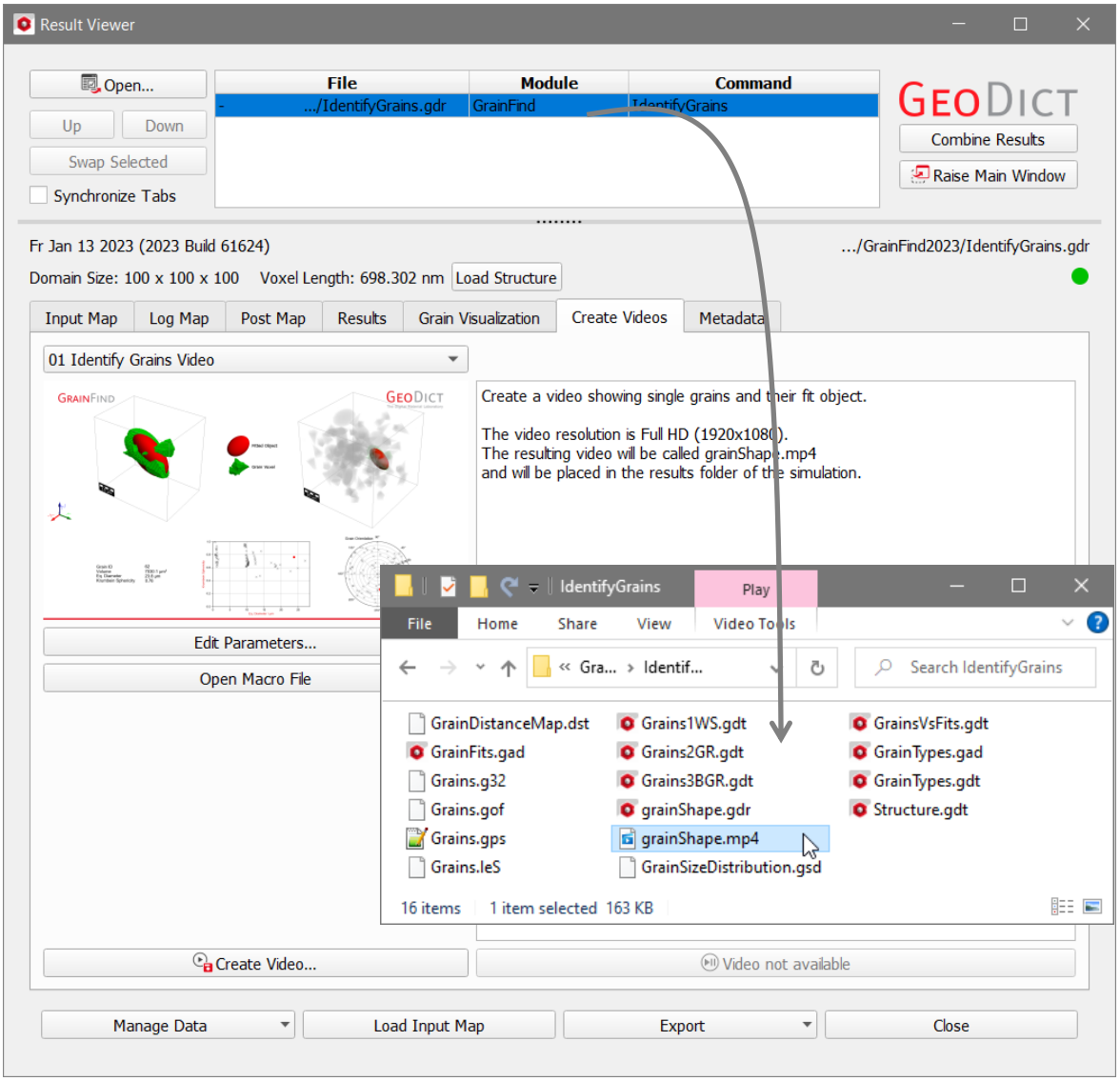
Create Videos

With **Create Videos**, it is possible to automatically generate a video showing the largest identified grains compared to their fit shapes. During the creation, ExportGeo-CAD is used to create a smooth surface for the visualized grains. Note that a special license is required to use this feature. Alternatively, in the drop-down menu there is the option to choose the video generation without the module ExportGeo-CAD by choosing **Identify Grains Video** (**Without CAD**).



Click **Edit Parameters...** to choose the number of grains that should appear in the video. Additionally, the video duration and the fontsize for the plot labels can be edited.

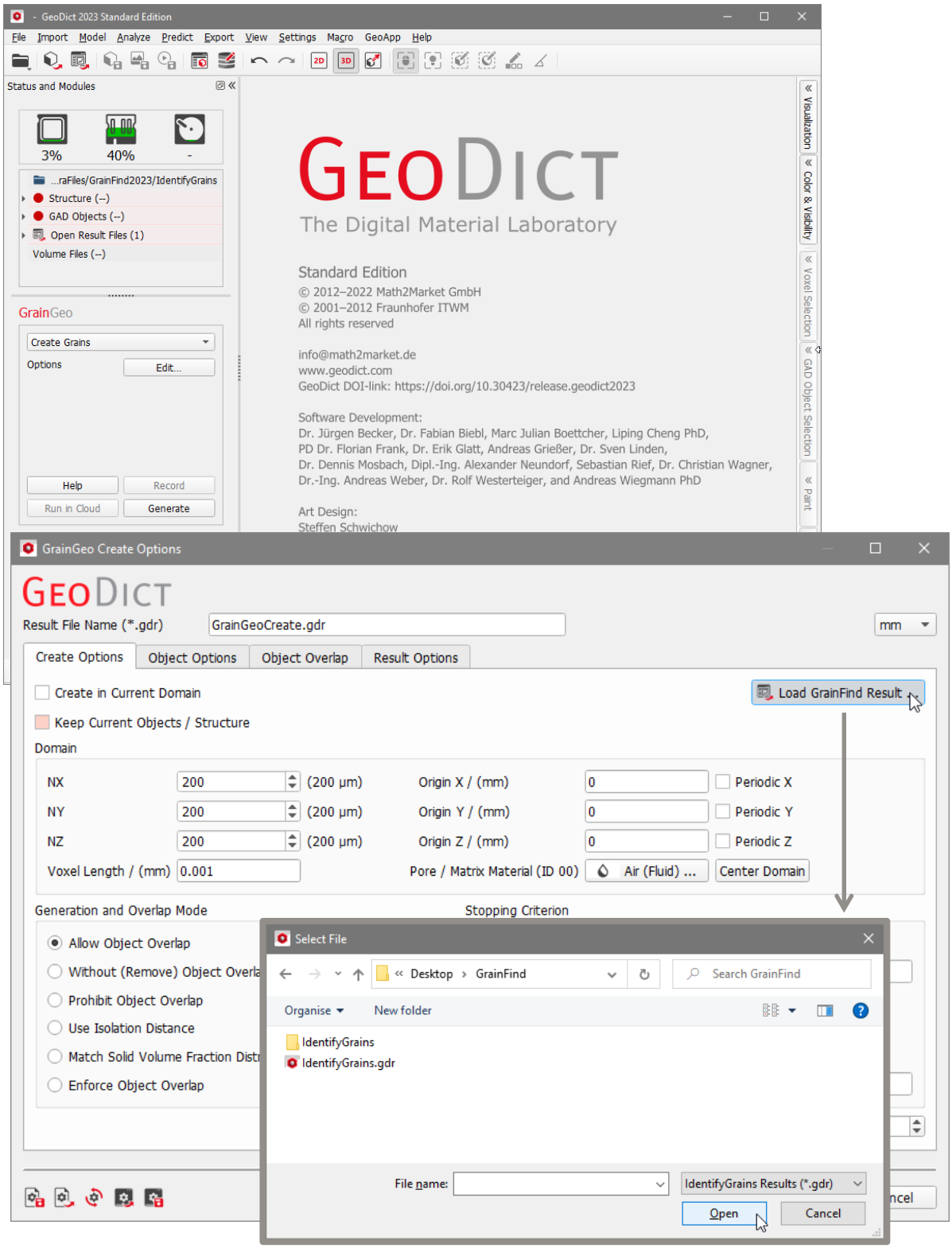
Clicking the **Create Video ...** button starts the creation of the video. When the video is finished, the video file is saved in the results folder belonging to the loaded *.gdr file. The result folder can be opened by right-clicking on the file name and path in the Result Viewer Header section box and choosing **Open Result Folder**.



CONNECTING GRAINFIND ANALYSIS RESULTS WITH GRAINGEO

The results of a GrainFind run can be used to generate structures with similar properties in GrainGeo – a "digital twin" of the material can be created. Here, this procedure is shown with the structure used for the examples above.

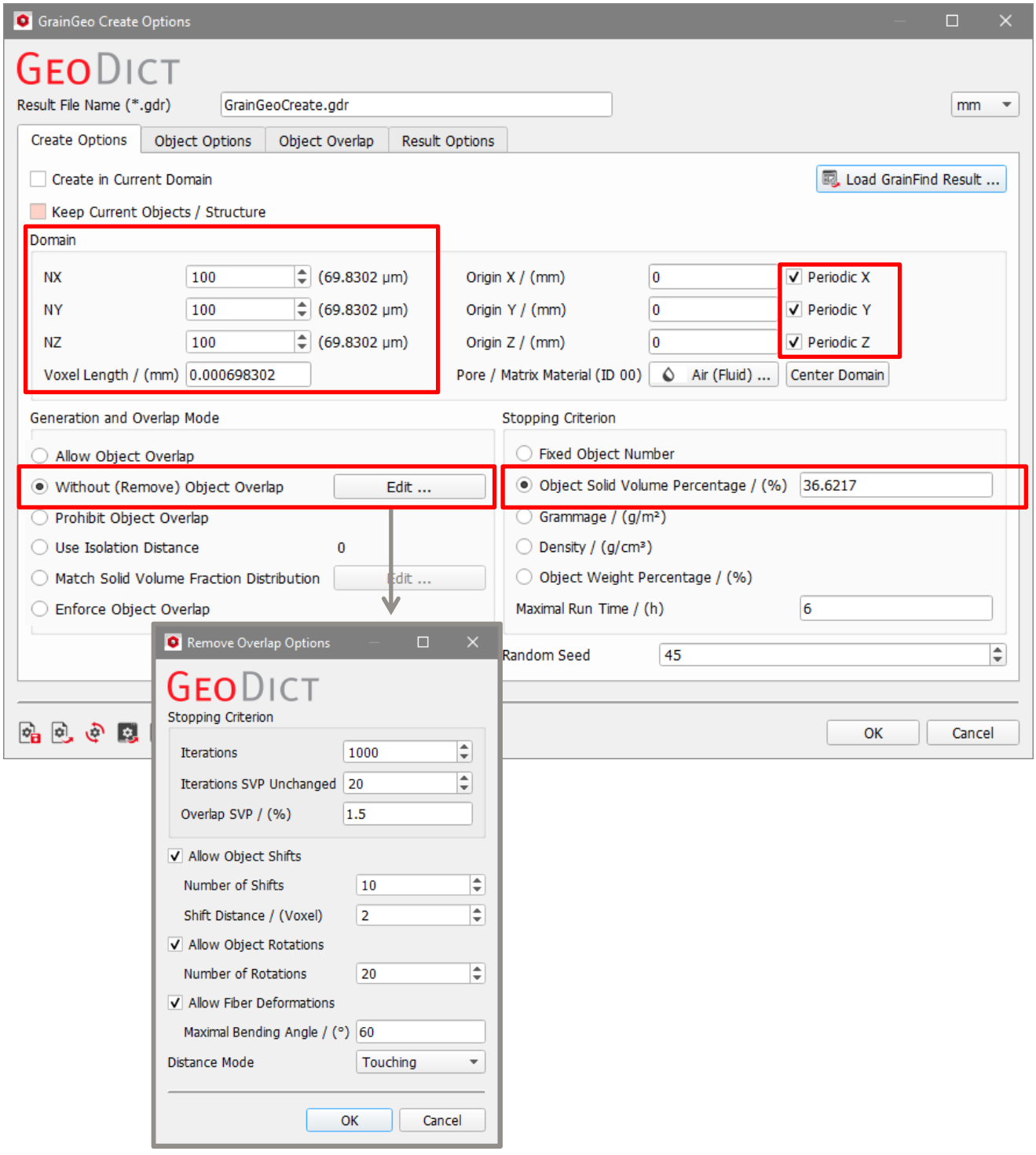
Start GrainGeo by selecting **Model** → **GrainGeo** in the menu bar and choose **Create Grains** from the pull-down menu. Click the **Edit...** button. In the upper right of the **GrainGeo Create Options** dialog, click **Load GrainFind Result ...** and select a GeoDict result file (*.gdr) from a GrainFind run.



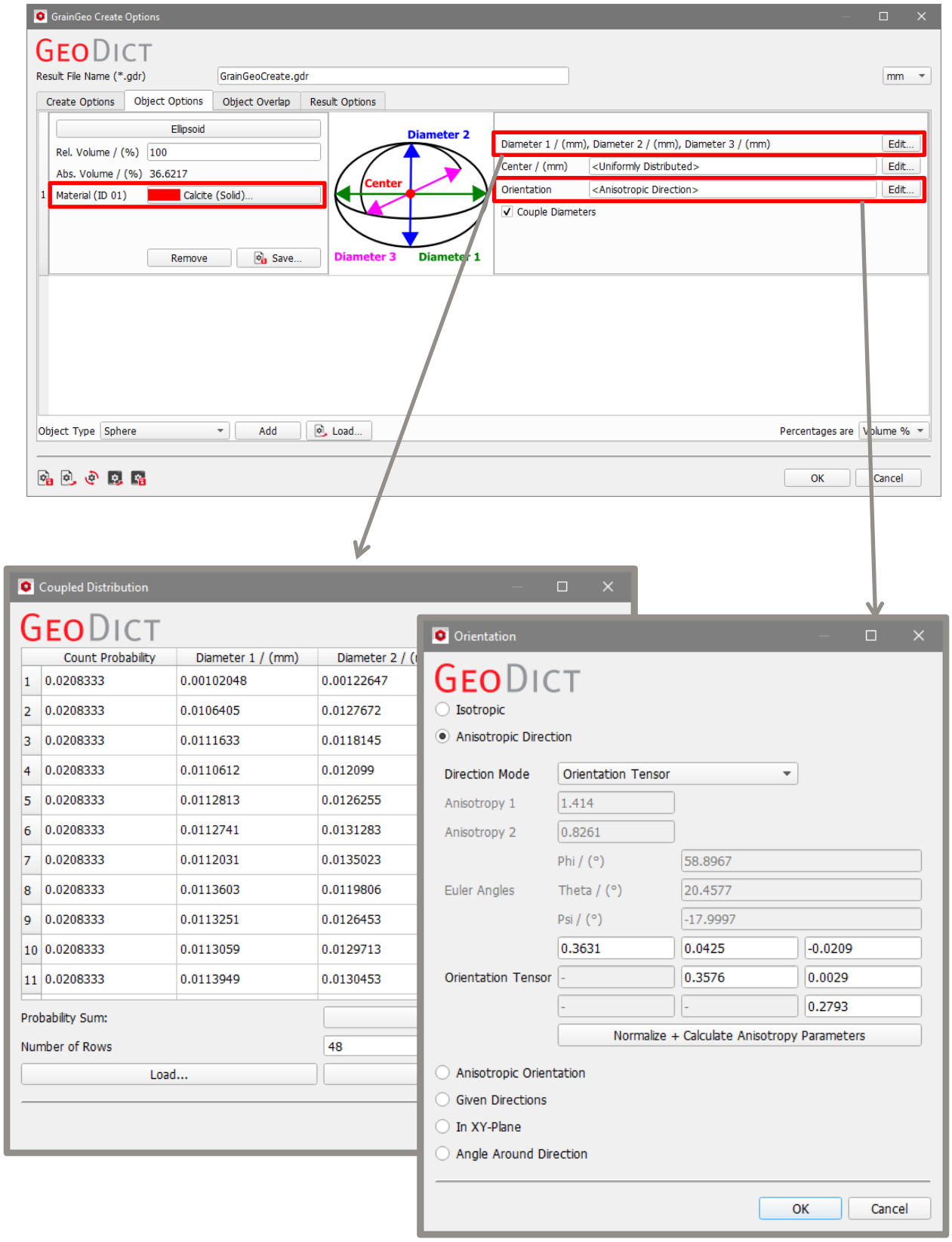
The data from the *.gdr file is now directly loaded into GrainGeo.

In the figure below, the parameters directly imported from the GrainFind result are displayed under the **Create Options** tab and the **Object Options** tab in the **GrainGeo Create Options** dialog.

The GrainFind results are automatically entered in the **Domain** parameters, the **Generation and Overlap Mode** (**Overlap SVP** in the options of **Without (Remove) Object Overlap**), and in the **Solid Volume Percentage** of the structure under the Create Options tab.

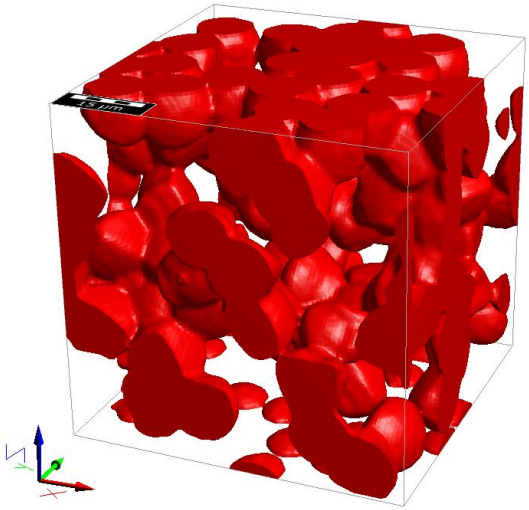


The identification analysis also automatically delivers the **Material** of the identified objects (for example, Calcite), the **Diameter** size and the **Orientation** parameters of the grains under the Object Options tab.

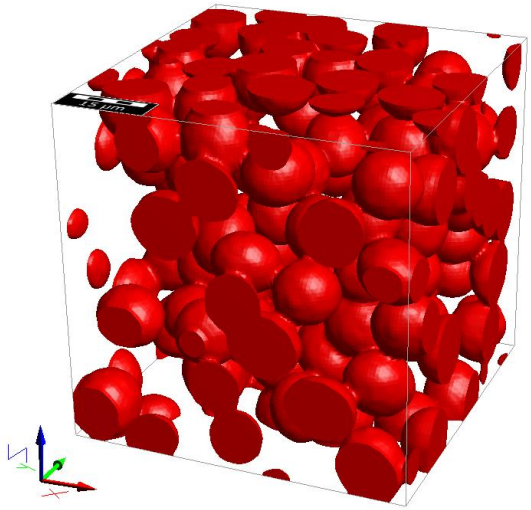


By clicking **Generate** in the **GrainGeo** section, a structure with the parameters obtained from GrainFind is created in GrainGeo. In the example below, on the left side the original structure (this structure is analyzed with GrainFind) and a structure based on the GrainFind parameters are shown.

Original structure

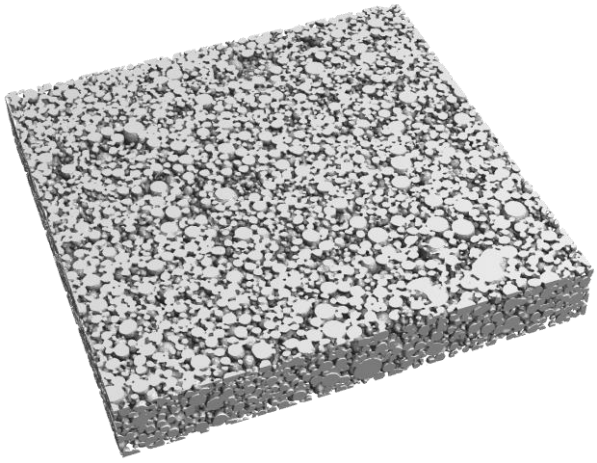


Structure created with GrainGeo and *Load GrainFind results*



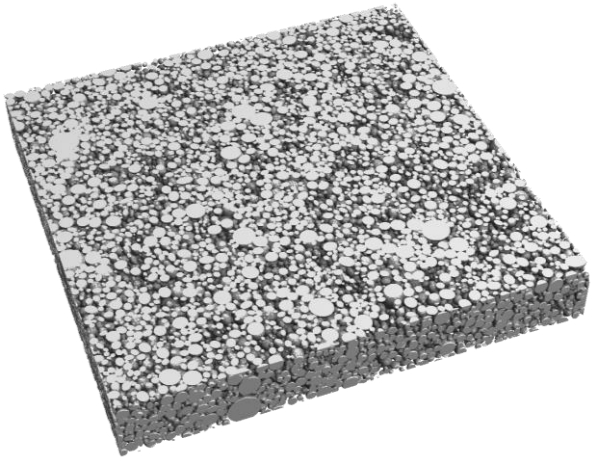
Example: Digital Twin of a 3D-Scan

With GrainFind and GrainGeo you can also create digital twins of large segmented scans, like the NMC cathode structure provided by the ETH Zurich, which can be seen below. For more details, please have a look at our tutorial "Building a Digital Twin of a cathode material with GrainFind and GrainGeo".



Segmented NMC cathode structure. Data provided by the Laboratory for Nanoelectronics, ETH Zurich.

See M. Ebner et al., Tortuosity Anisotropy in Lithium-Ion Battery Electrodes, Advanced Energy Materials, Volume 4, Issue 5, April 2, 2014. This structure is also used in the GrainFind tutorial.



Structure created with GrainGeo and "Load GrainFind Results"

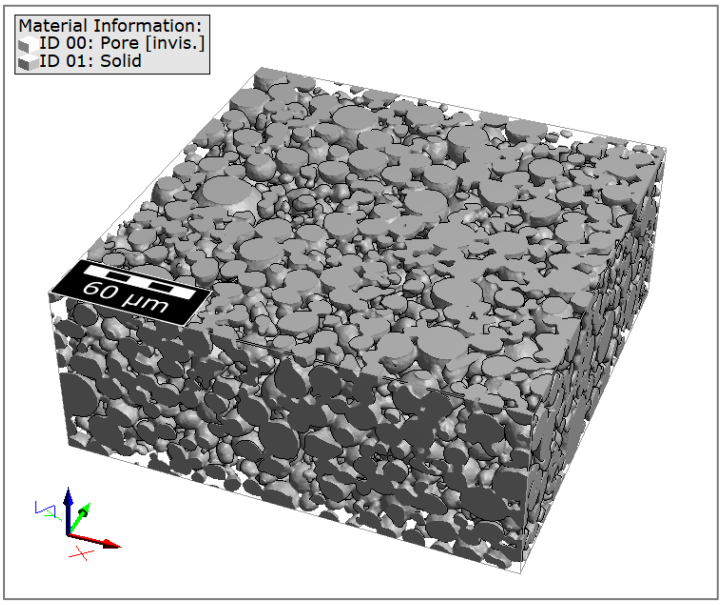
For more information, check the "Building a Digital Twin of a cathode material with GrainFind and GrainGeo" tutorial

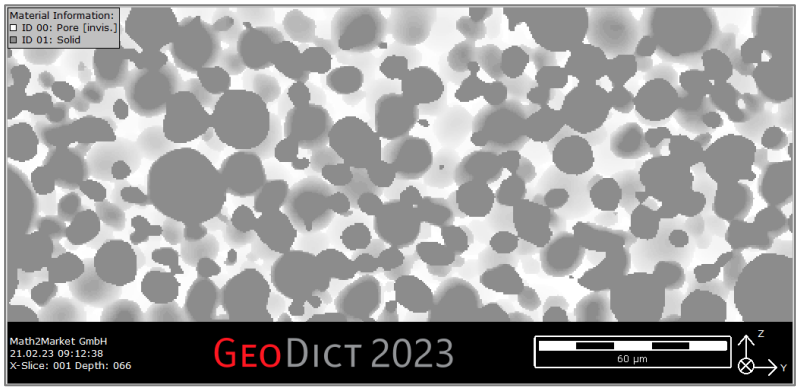
IDENTIFY BINDER (AI)

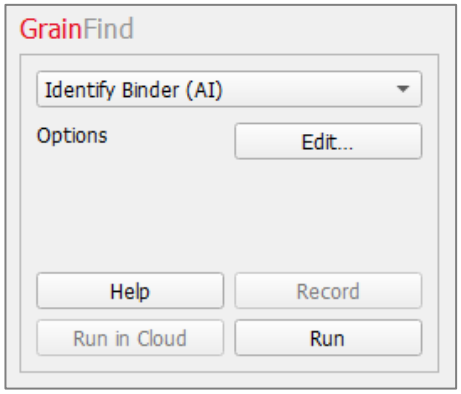
To use the **Identify Binder (AI)** functionality, a **GrainFind-AI** license is required.

The separation between solid and pores of a structure can usually be done using image processing methods during the import of the scanned data sets (see the ImportGeo-Vol handbook of this User Guide for more details). However, the separation of binder from grains is often not possible since they have similar gray values in the scan.

The structure shown here is a segment of sample of a NMC cathode structure from the Laboratory for Nanoelectronics, ETH Zurich (See page 32 for reference).







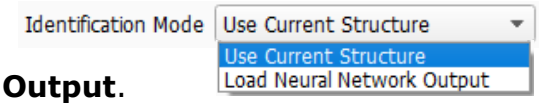
To start, select **Analyze** → **GrainFind** from the menu bar and, in the **GrainFind** section, select **Identify Binder (AI)** from the pull-down menu. Click the **Options' Edit...** button.

BINDER IDENTIFICATION SETTINGS

The **Binder Identification** dialog that opens includes the **Binder Identification** tab, the **Solver Options** tab and the **Equations & References** tab.

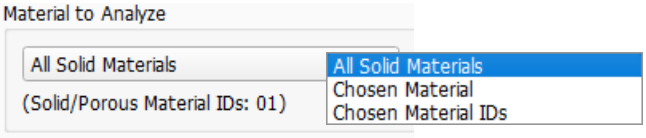
At the top, enter the **Result File Name (*.gdr)** under which the results are saved in the chosen project folder.

In the **Binder Identification** tab, two choices are available as **Identification Mode**: **Use Current Structure** and **Load Neural Network Output**.

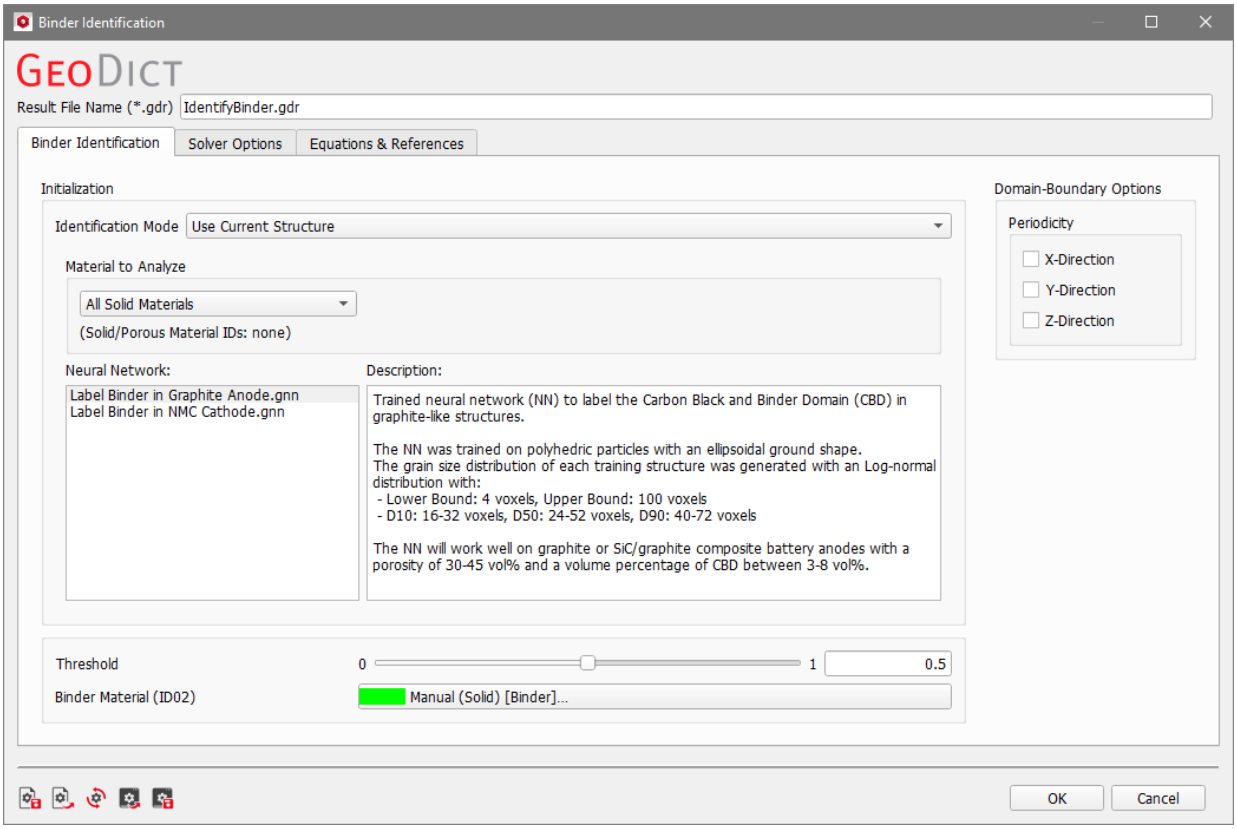


The default **Use Current Structure** applies the binder identification to the structure currently available in the GeoDict memory. This is the common use case for Identify Binder.

The **Material to Analyze** panel offers the choice of whether GrainFind-Identify Binder (AI) should be applied to all solids in the structure or only on a subset, defined either by choosing a material or several material IDs.



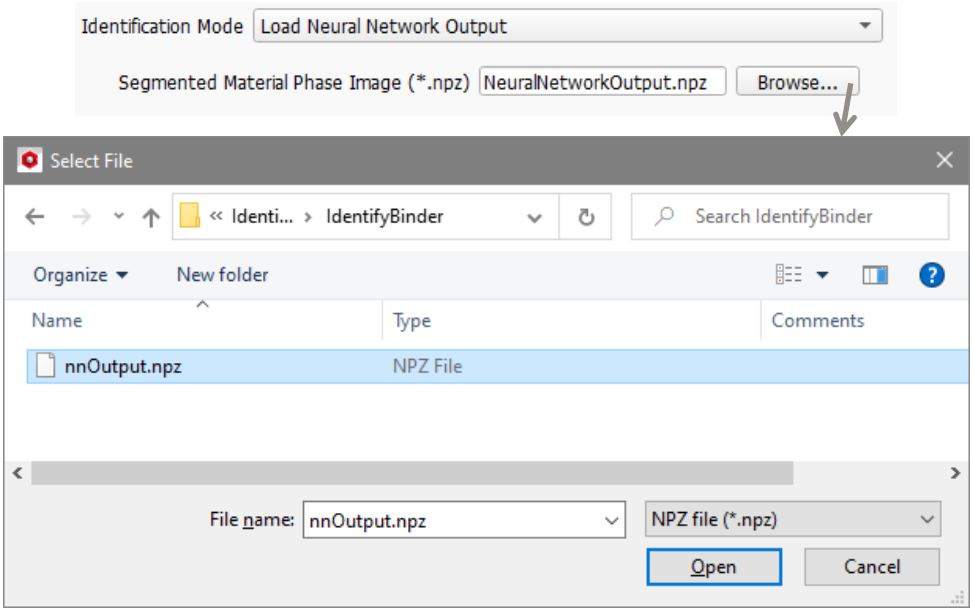
Next, select one of the neural networks available under **Neural Network**. Since GeoDict 2023, more than one neural network (.gnn stands for **G**eoDict **n**eural **n**etwork parameter file) will be provided, making it possible to select the best suitable one for the structure under consideration.



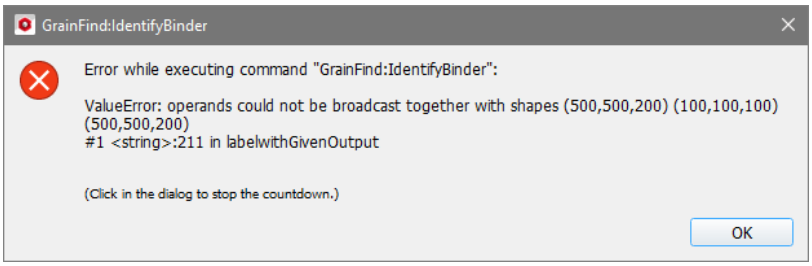
In the **Description**, the current constraints for the application of the chosen neural network are listed, like the grain shape and size for that the neural network was trained. In order ensure that the grains in the present structure fit to the grains with

which the neural network was trained, it is recommended to use Estimate Grain Diameter before running the binder identification.

On occasion, the user may want to change some parameters, without having to run the identification for each voxel with the neural network again and in that case, the option **Load Neural Network Output** may be very useful.

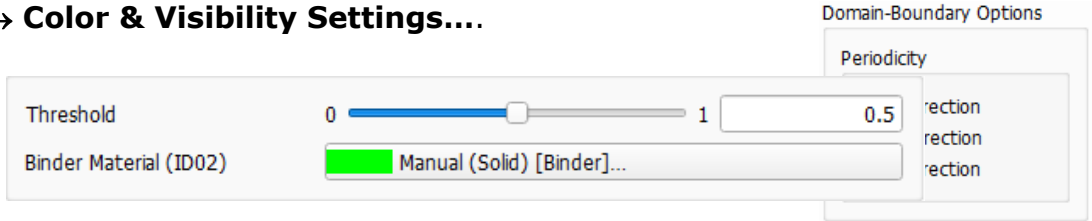


Browse to a GeoDict result folder of a previous run of GrainFind-Identify Binder (AI) and select a nnOutput.npz file from that folder. Since already the output of the neural network is used in that case, no selection of **Material to Analyze** or **Neural Network** is possible and the currently loaded structure needs to be the same with which the neural network was trained. Otherwise an error message appears.



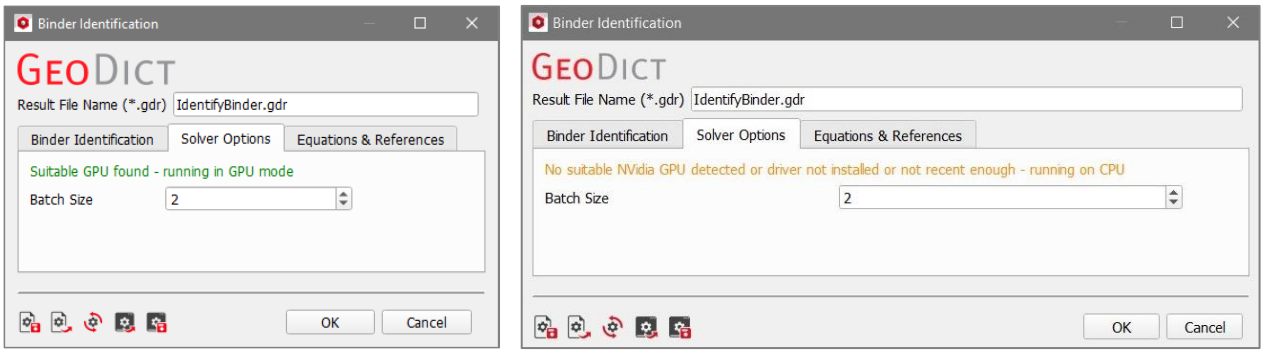
The **Threshold** is an expert parameter: The neural network provides probabilities if a solid voxel is binder or not. The **Threshold** defines the limit for labelling a voxel as binder. It is recommended to keep the default value of 0.5, since this reflects the computed probabilities correctly.

The **Binder Material ID** specifies the material ID to label the binder. The first unused material ID is used for the Binder Material. In the example below, the structure contains only material ID 00 and 01, thus the **Binder Material ID** is 02. To be able to distinguish the binder properly from the other materials, the color for this ID should be changed to a color different from the color of any solid or pore material present in the original structure after the identification has finished. This can be done under **Settings → Color & Visibility Settings...**.



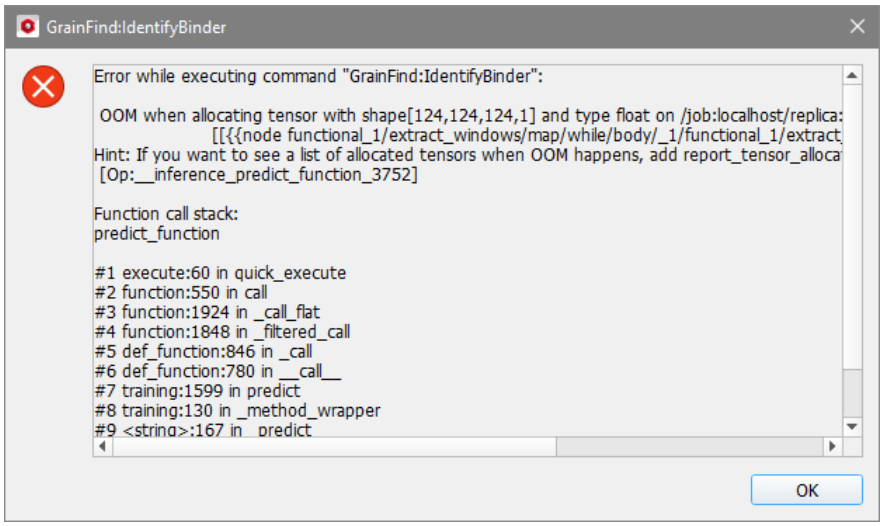
Select one or several boxes on the **Domain-Boundary Options** panel if the underlying structure for the binder identification is periodic in one or more directions. However, periodicity is unusual for most 3-D scans and this setting is rarely changed.

If a suitable graphics card is detected during installation of GeoDict, the GPU mode is used for running GrainFind-Identify Binder (AI), otherwise it is running in CPU mode. The version used is displayed on the **Solver Options** tab.



The choice for **Batch Size** is related to the memory available on the graphics card (GPU). Conceptually, GrainFind-Identify Binder loads the graphics card with portions of work called **batches**. Currently, the selection must be made manually, and the parameter is set following the value entered in **Batch Size**.

The batch size might be chosen too large for what is available on the graphics card. In this case, an error message appears.



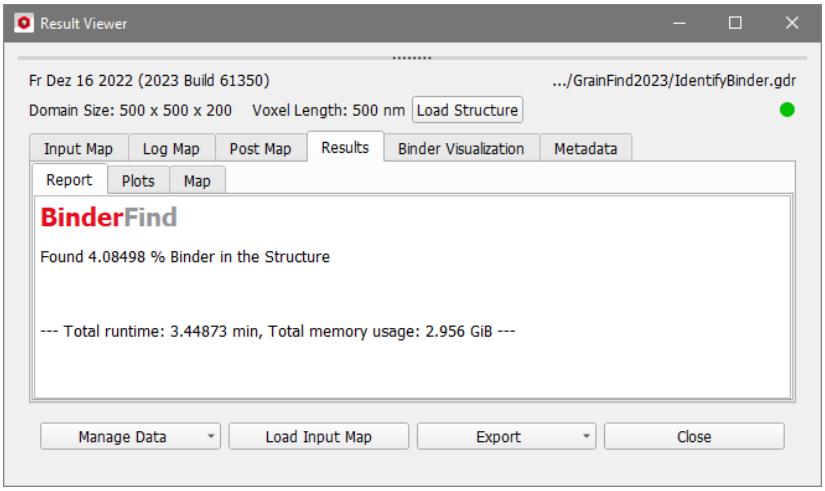
In this case, the number of batches needs to be reduced. Note that for CPU-based computation, the choice of batch size is not critical and can be left at the default.

The default setting in GrainFind-Identify Binder for the **Batch Size** is 2, and it is recommended to keep this setting.

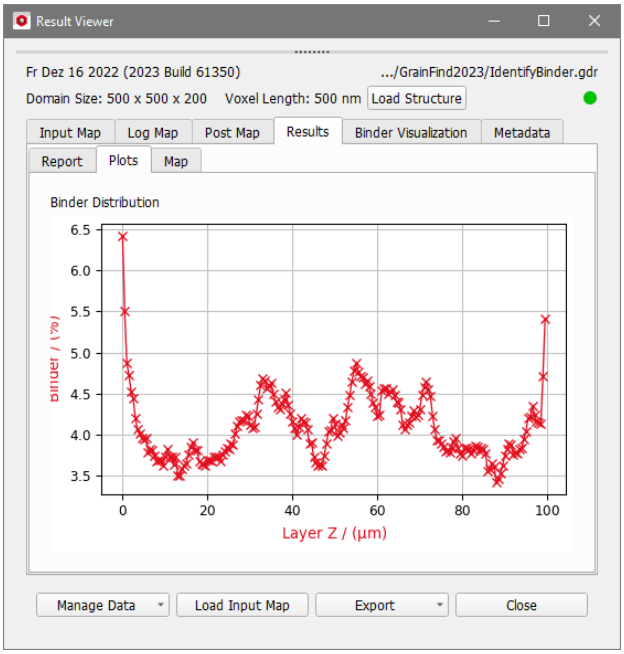
The **Equations & References** tab provides information about the methods used during this command. The references can also be found at the end of this user guide in the chapter References.

BINDER IDENTIFICATION RESULTS

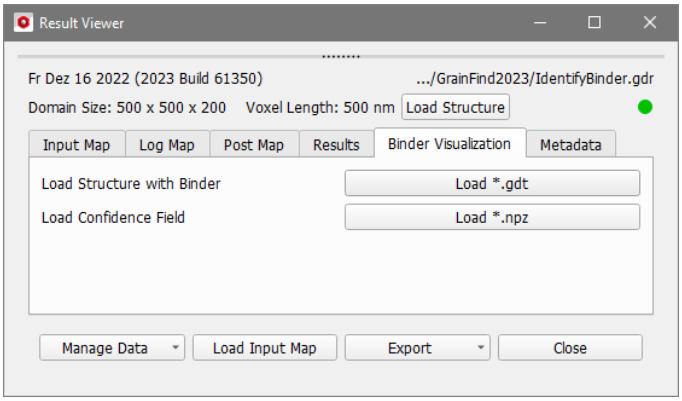
After the successful binder identification, the GeoDict Result Viewer opens for the result file (.gdr). Under the **Results - Report** tab, the percentage of solid voxels identified as binder is shown.



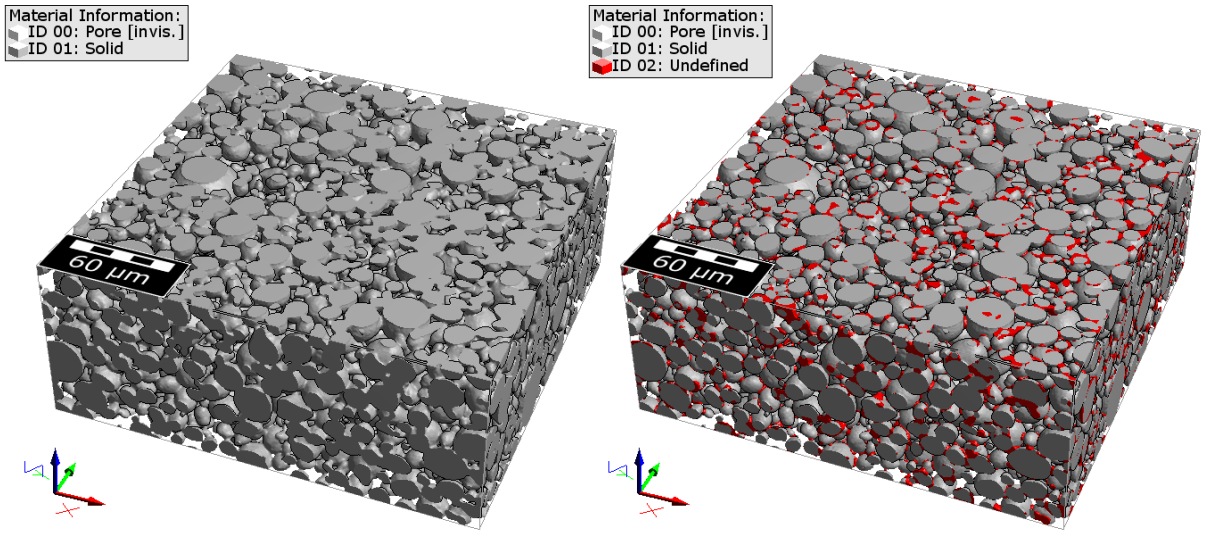
In the **Results – Plots** subtab, the Binder Distribution in the different Z-Layers is shown.



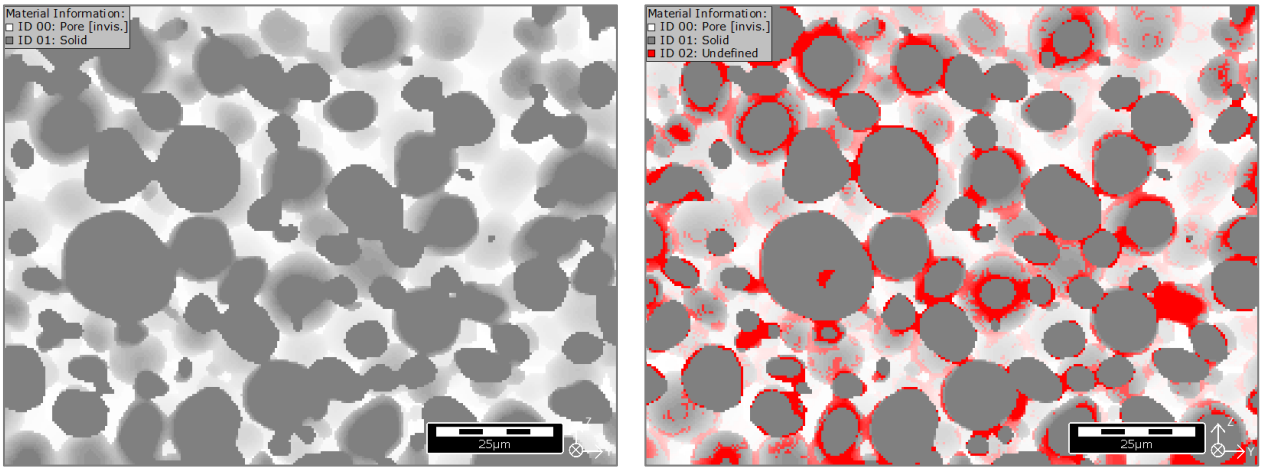
To load the structure with identified binder, click **Load *.gdt** under the **Binder Visualization** tab.



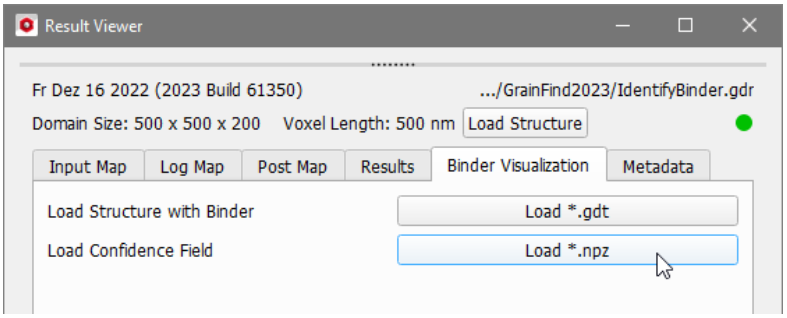
In the 3D visualization, the distribution of binder between the grains is visible for the whole domain.



The 2D view is useful to evaluate the result of the binder identification, as seen in the example below (left: without binder identification, right: with binder identification).

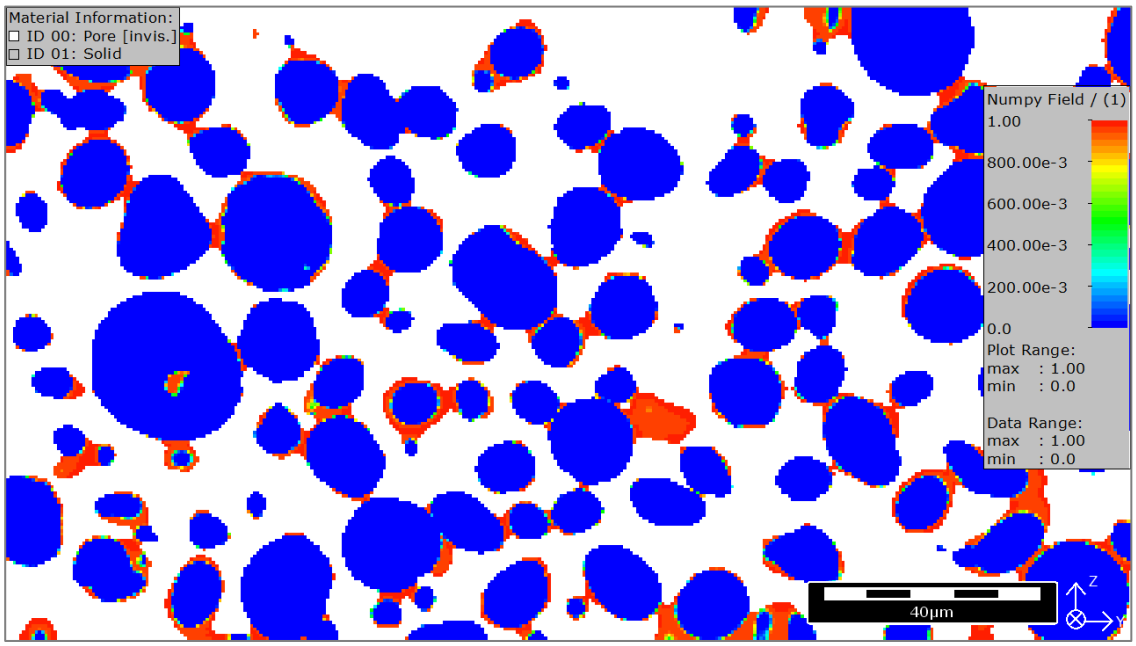


Load the confidence field, by selecting **Load *.npz** under the **Binder Visualization** tab, i.e. the unsegmented result of the binder identification.



The confidence field contains the probability for each voxel to be binder. In the figure below, the field is only visible for the solid materials and it is well visible where the neural network is confident of the choice and where it is uncertain: The dark blue

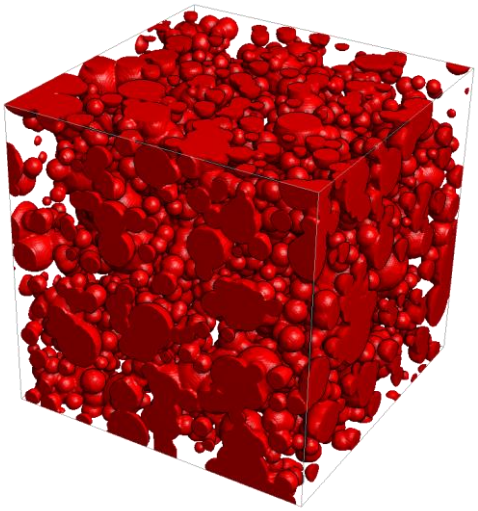
areas are clearly marked as grain, the red areas are clearly marked as binder, and the values in between (bright blue to orange) are uncertain.



ESTIMATE GRAIN DIAMETERS

Estimate Grain Diameters gives an estimate of the grain sizes in the structure by fitting spheres into the structure and evaluating their diameters. The algorithm is faster than Identify Grains and it does not need any information about the single grains in the structure. In post-processing, different diameter classes can be identified, and the structure can be segmented with respect to them.

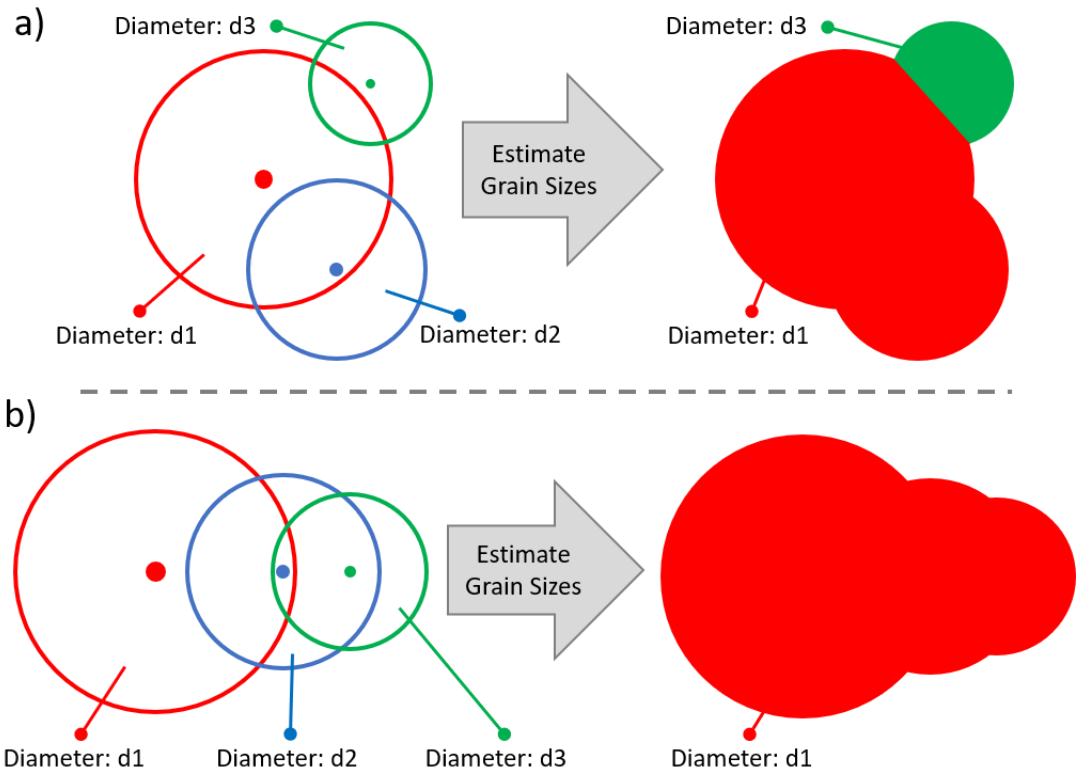
For this part of the User Guide, an example structure created with GrainGeo is used and shown here.



The algorithm behind **Estimate Grain Diameters** works as follows: At the start, each voxel gets assigned a Grain Diameter of 0. Then, spheres are successively fitted into the geometry, starting at the largest possible sphere. If a sphere fits and a voxel has no diameter assigned to it yet, the diameter of the fitting sphere is assigned to all voxels contained in the sphere.

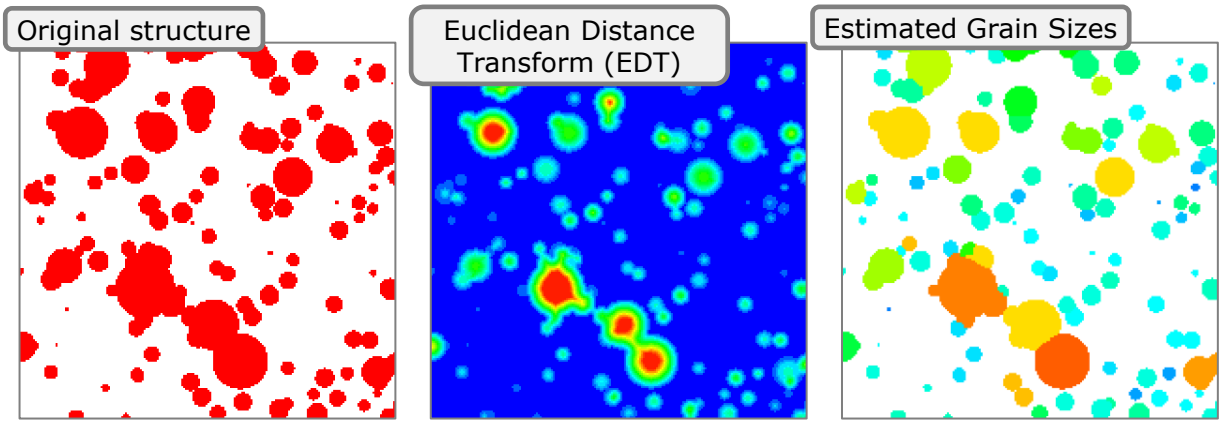
If a voxel is contained in multiple spheres, there are two options:

1. The center of a smaller sphere lays inside a larger sphere. The diameter value of the larger sphere is assigned to all voxels in the smaller sphere (in the figures below, see **a)** red and blue spheres and **b)** all three spheres)
2. The center of a smaller sphere does not lay inside a larger sphere. The overlapping area between both spheres is partitioned between both diameters (in the figures below, see **a)** red and green spheres)



This algorithm ensures that non-spherical grains get assigned the diameter of the largest inscribed sphere.

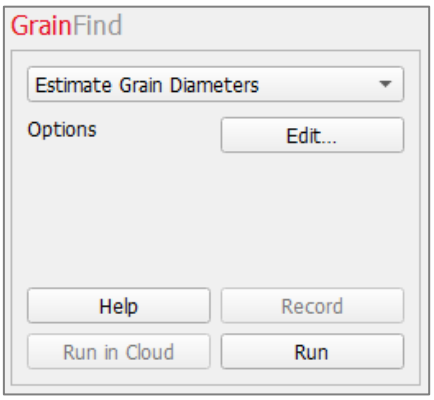
In the figure below, the process of estimating the grain size is illustrated on the example structure shown above. On the left, the original structure (the material which is selected to be analyzed) is shown. In the next step (middle), the EDT (see page 3) is calculated to find the maximal fitting sphere at every point. On the right, the result of **Estimate Grain Diameters** is displayed.

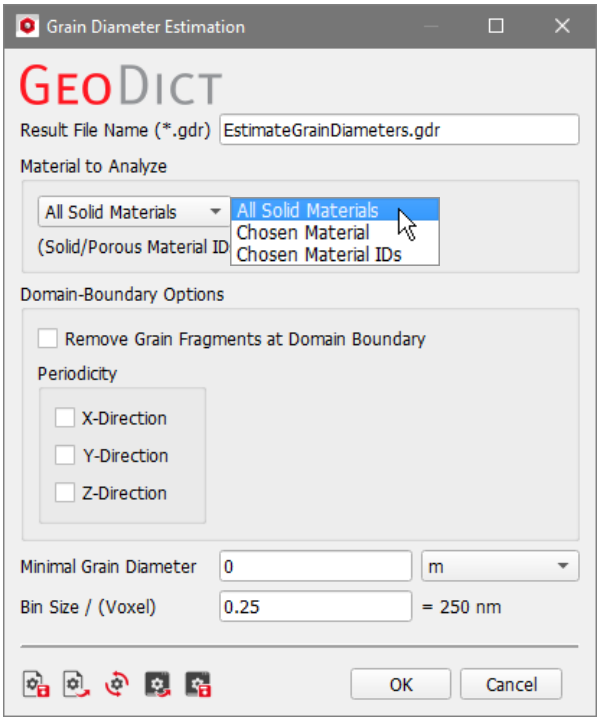


Estimate Grain Diameters Options

After selecting **Analyze** → **GrainFind** from the menu bar, the GrainFind section opens on the left bottom of the GeoDict GUI. Select **Estimate Grain Diameters** from the pull-down menu and click the **Edit...** button.

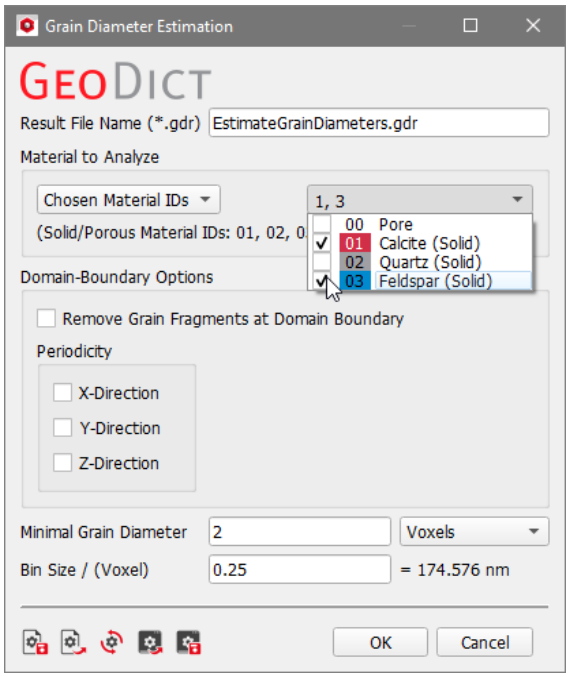
The default **Result File Name** can be kept or changed to a user-defined file name.

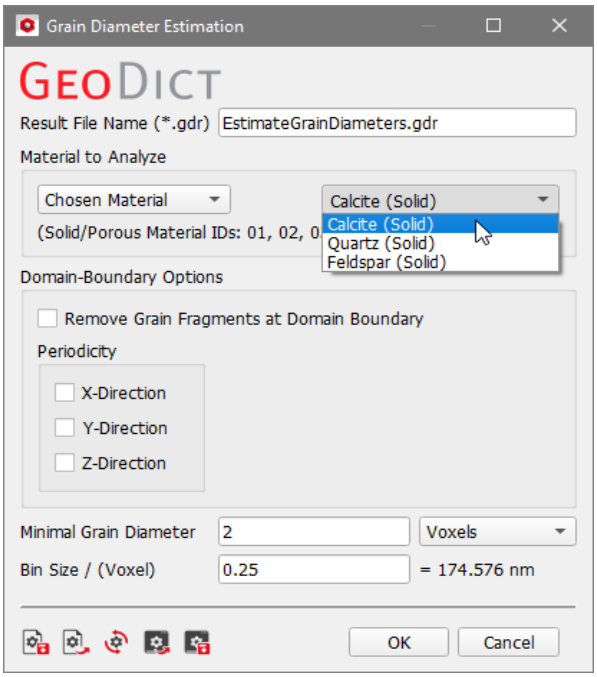




Under **Material to Analyze**, the materials for which the grain size is estimated are chosen.

The available options are **All Solid Materials**, **Chosen Material**, or **Chosen Material IDs**. The selected combination of materials (All Solid Materials or multiple material IDs) is analyzed as one.

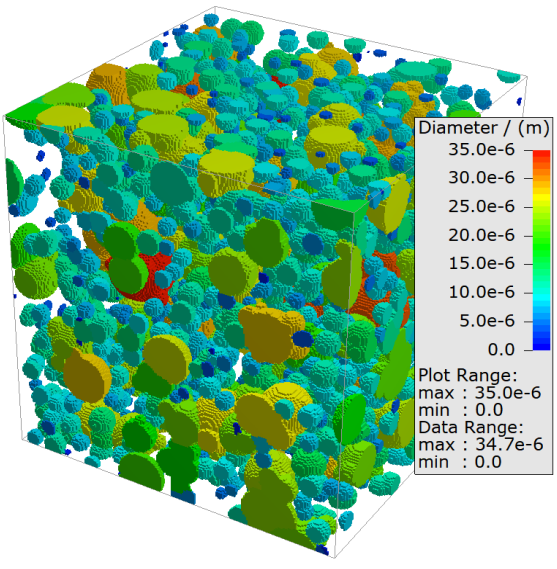


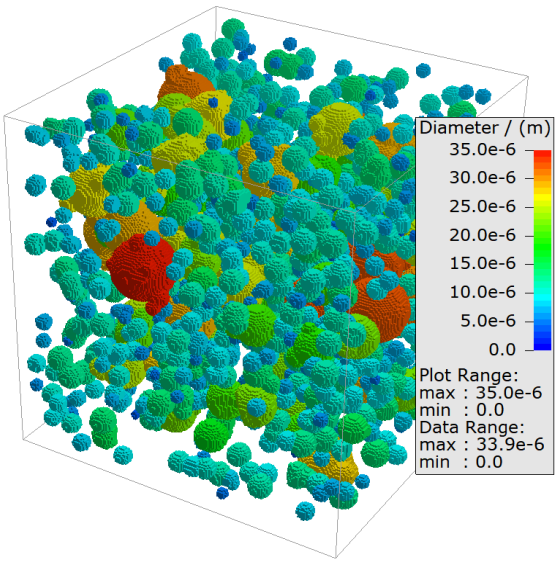


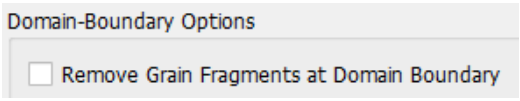
In the Domain-Boundary Options panel, the first option is to **Remove Grain Fragments at Domain Boundary**. A grain fragment in this context is a connected area with the same assigned diameter value.

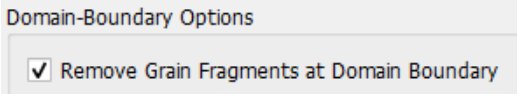
- Grain fragments at the boundary might corrupt the grain diameter estimation, since it cannot be known if the grains at the boundary lie completely in the domain or if they are cut at the domain boundary (compare the images below).
- Nevertheless, removing the boundary grains also influences the diameter distribution: Larger grains have a higher probability to touch the boundary, and therefore also a higher probability to be removed. Thus, large grains might be underrepresented in the diameter distribution.

The boundaries can have a critical influence on the results, and it must be carefully evaluated if **Remove Fragments at Domain Boundary** should be used or not.







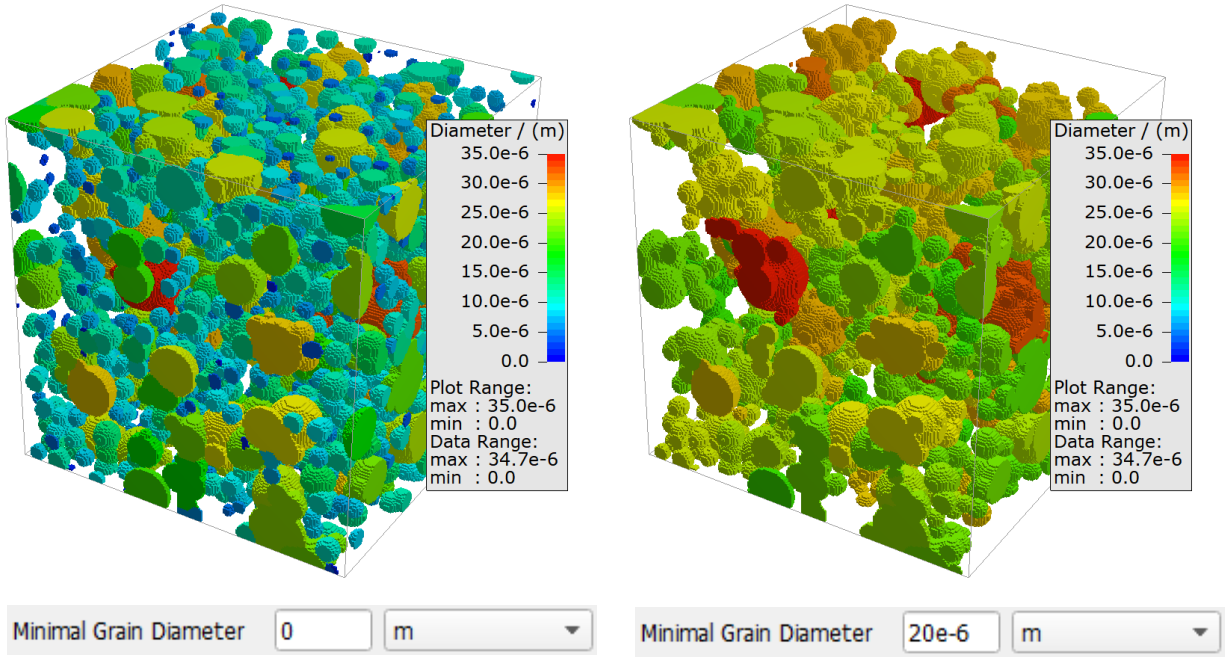


With the **Periodicity** option, the handling of the structure at the domain boundary can be defined. If a direction is chosen, periodic boundary conditions are applied in this direction. Otherwise, symmetric boundary conditions are applied. **Periodicity** should only be chosen if the corresponding real-world structure is periodic, too.

This option is important to define the handling of boundary grains, since no information is available about the structure outside of the domain.

All grain fragments with an assigned diameter value lower than the **Minimal Grain Diameter** are neglected. If they are connected to other grain fragments with a larger diameter value, the fragments are merged and get assigned the larger diameter value. If they are not connected to any other fragments, they are removed from the structure.

In the figure below, the behavior of the algorithm can be observed: On the left, the **Minimal Grain Diameter** is set to 0 µm, so all grain fragments are kept independent of their assigned diameter. On the right, the **Minimal Grain Diameter** is set to 20 µm and all fragments with an assigned diameter lower than 20 µm, which are not merged to larger grain fragments, are neglected.



Since GeoDict 2020, the units of the **Minimal Grain Diameter** are meters or voxels. The latter is new since GeoDict 2020 and allowed us to set a better built-in default value for the **Minimal Grain Diameter**.

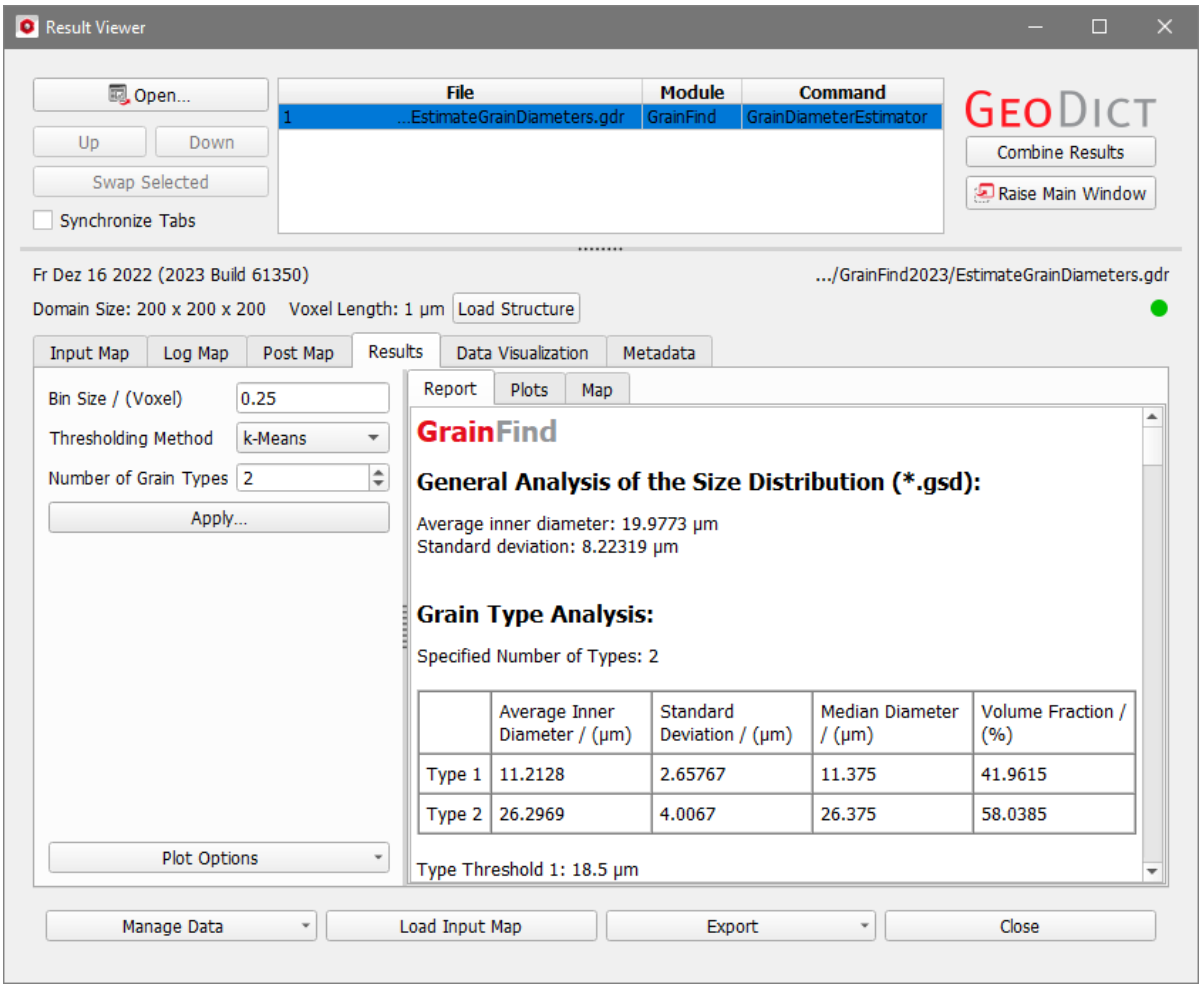
The **Bin Size** is the step size between following sphere diameters, which are fitted in the structure. The choice of the Bin Size is important in post processing. It affects the results in the *.gdr file, e.g. the Inner Grain Diameter Histogram (see page 45). If it was not chosen as desired, the value for the **Bin Size** can be changed later during postprocessing in the Result Viewer of the result file (under the **Results** → **Plots** subtab).

Grain Diameter Estimation results

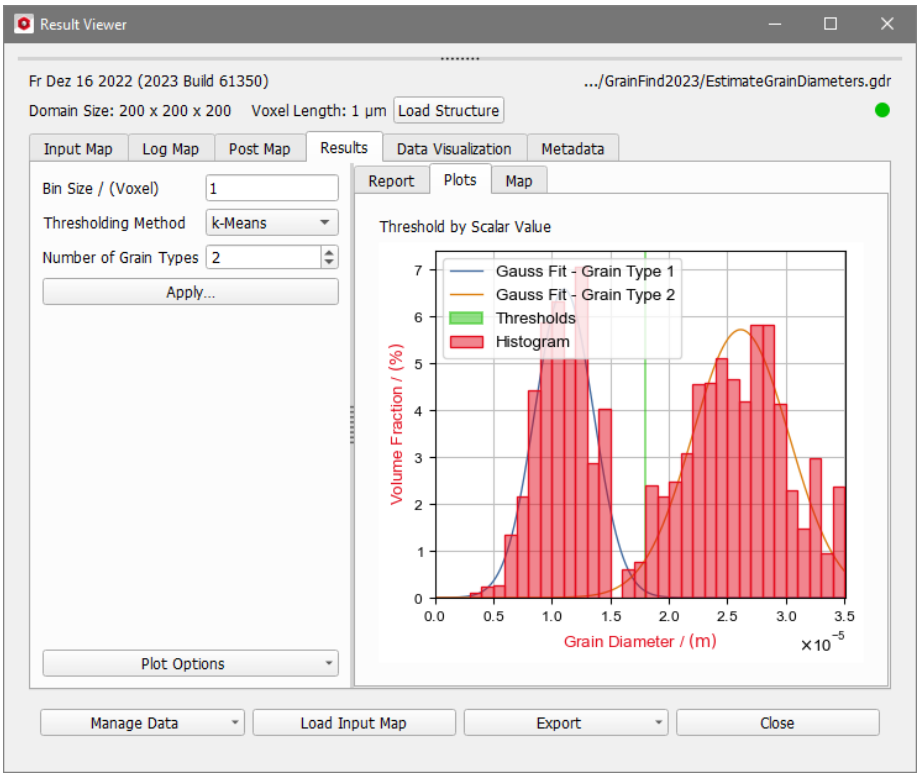
At the end of the estimations of grain diameter, the results are shown in the Result Viewer. Alternatively, they can be loaded at any time by opening the corresponding *.gdr-file in the project folder (File → Open Results (*.gdr)…).

The Result Viewer shows several tabs, but only the **Results** and **Data Visualization** tabs are explained here in detail. The others contain results similar to those explained above for **Identify Grains** (refer page 16).

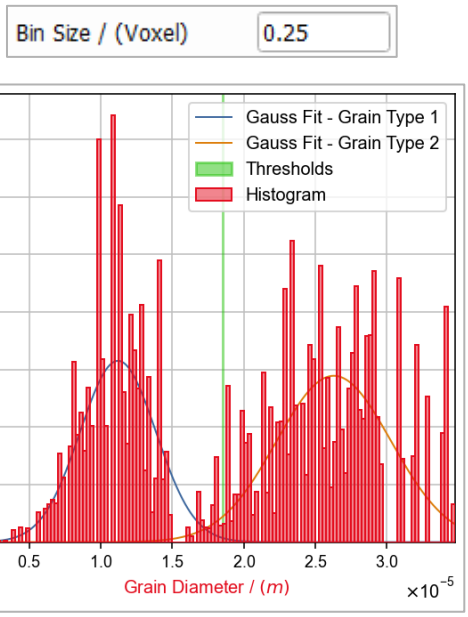
The **Results** tab contains the **Report**, **Plots** and **Map** subtabs, which are strongly interconnected. The **Report** subtab shows the results from the grain type analysis and a table with the bins for the histogram. The **Plots** subtab shows a histogram of the estimated grain diameters. The **Map** subtab contains the resulting data from Estimate Grain Diameters. This data is the basis for the tables in the **Report** subtab and for the histogram in the **Plots** subtab.

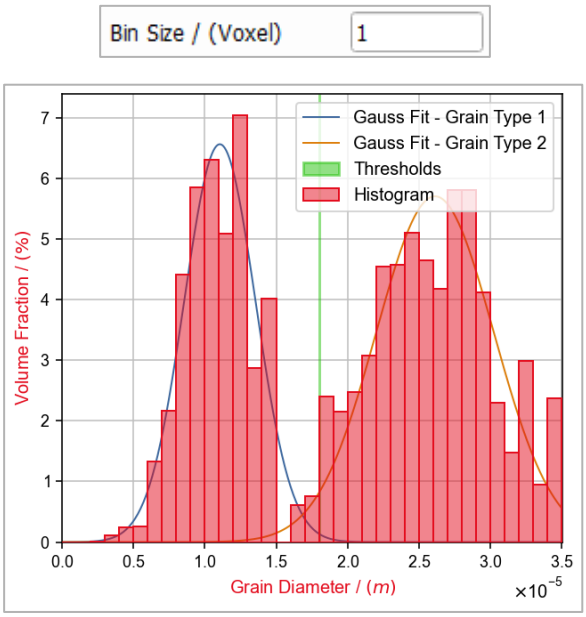


The three subtabs share the (collapsible and expandable) settings panel on the left, where the **Bin Size**, the **Thresholding Method**, and the **Number of Grain Types** can be chosen. Changing a value and clicking **Apply** immediately changes the results in the **Map** subtab, and therefore the tables in the **Report** subtab and the histogram in the **Plots** subtab.

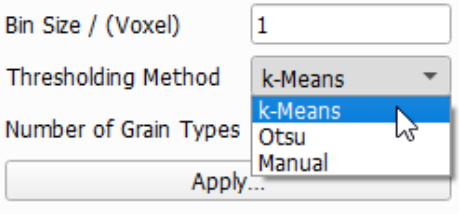


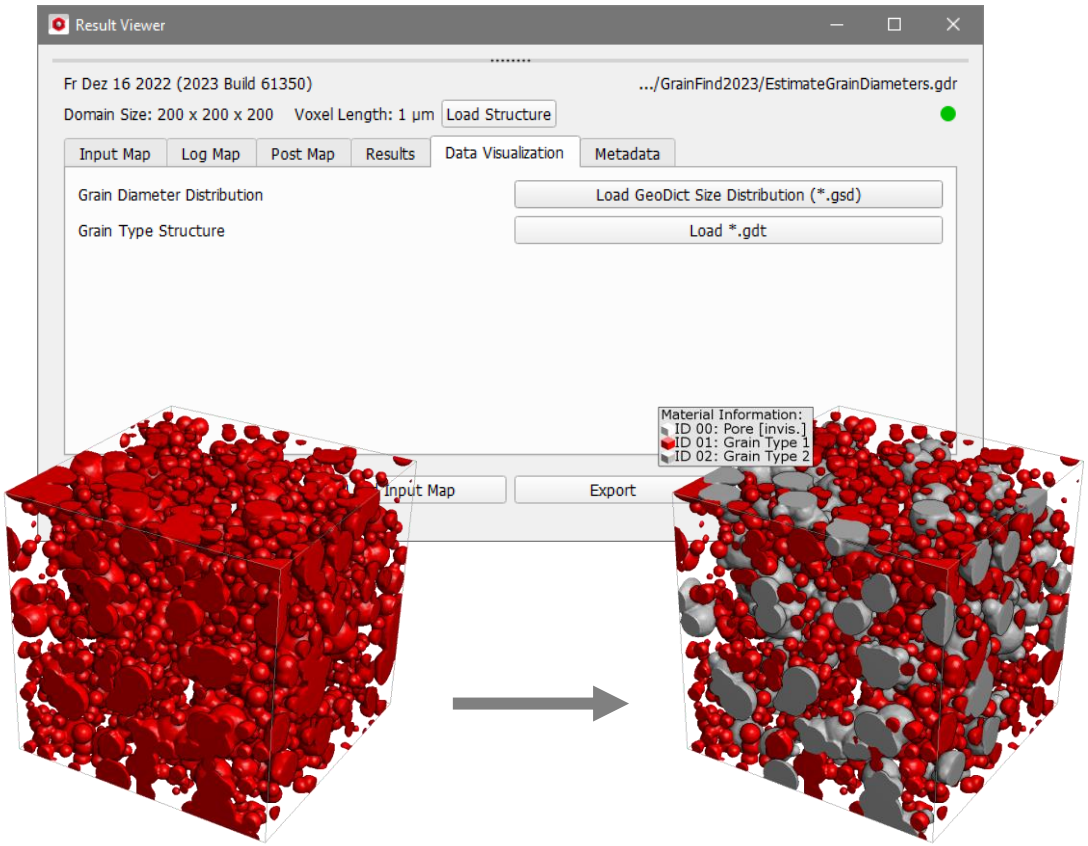
Changing the **Bin Size** mainly effects the resolution of the histogram in the **Plots** tab. A too large **Bin Size** leads to a "blocky" histogram, while a too small **Bin Size** leads to a volatile and noisy histogram. The **Bin Size** should be chosen so that the histogram is smooth and detailed. The effect of the Bin Size on the histogram is illustrated in the two images below.





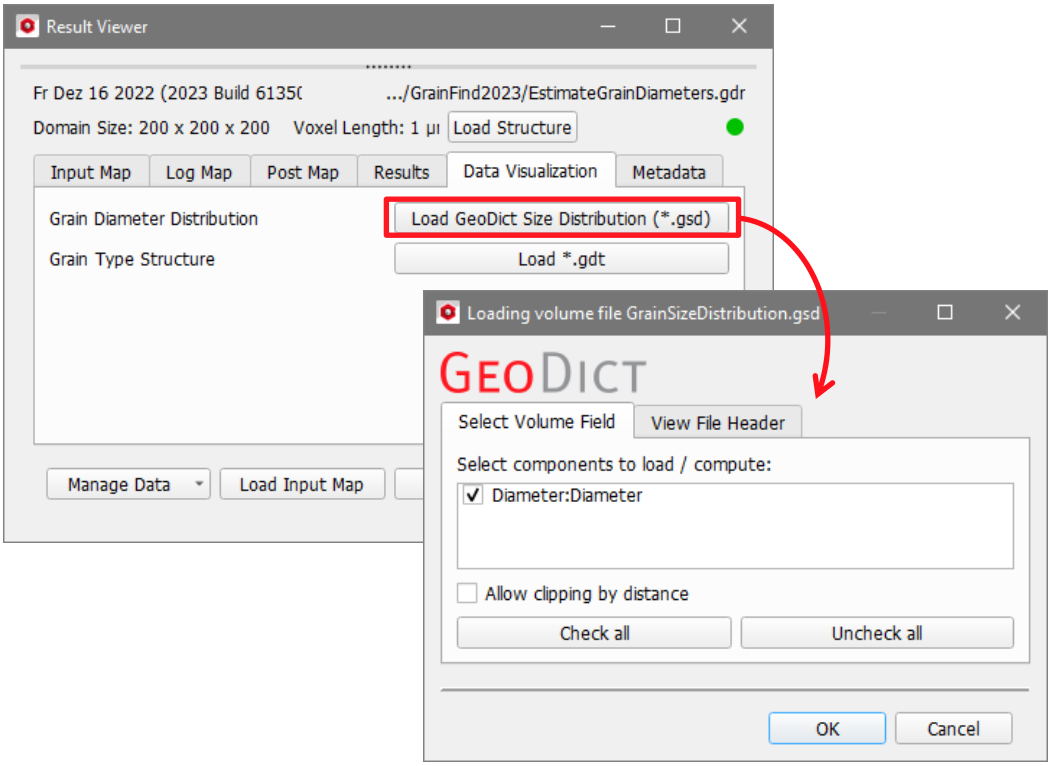
If the chosen **Number of Grain Types** is 2 or higher, the estimated grain diameters are assigned to different diameter classes based on the selected **Thresholding Method**., The **k-Means** method, **Otsu**'s method, and a **Manual** input are available as thresholding methods. Based on these diameter classes, the structure can be segmented by clicking **Grain Type Structure** → **Load *.gdt** in the **Data Visualization** tab, as seen below.



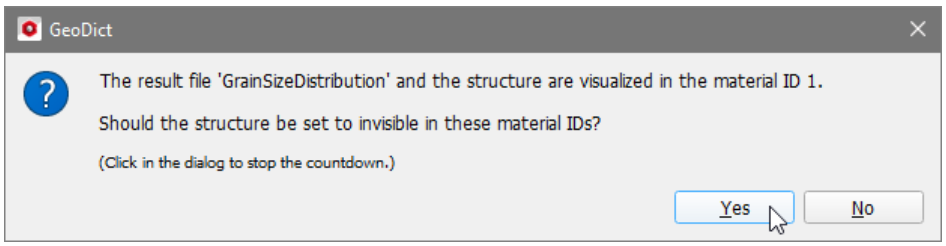


Under the **Data Visualization** tab, the **Grain Diameter Distribution** and the **Grain Type Structure** (as explained above) can be loaded. Load the **Grain Diameter Distribution** to visualize and examine in detail the estimated grain diameters in the Visualization area of the GeoDict GUI.

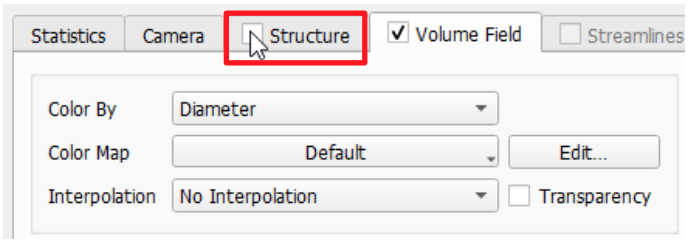
The workflow is as follows: To create images similar to those used for the illustration of the **Domain-Boundary Options** and for the **Minimal Grain Diameter** (see page 42), click **Data Visualization** → **Load GeoDict Size Distribution (*.gsd)**. Click **OK** in the pop-up window.



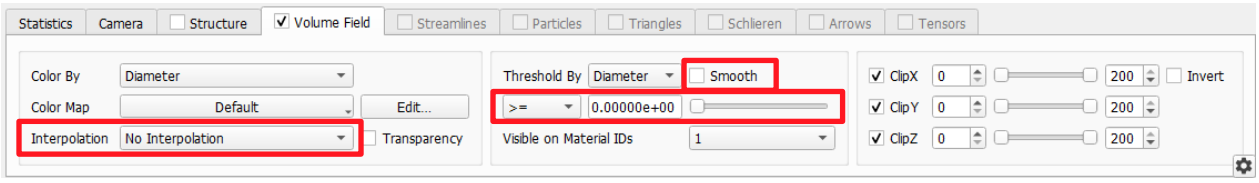
The structure is shown in the Visualization area of the GeoDict GUI with the default visualization settings and a message appears indicating that the visibility of the structure will be turned off (unless the user clicks No). Click **Yes**.

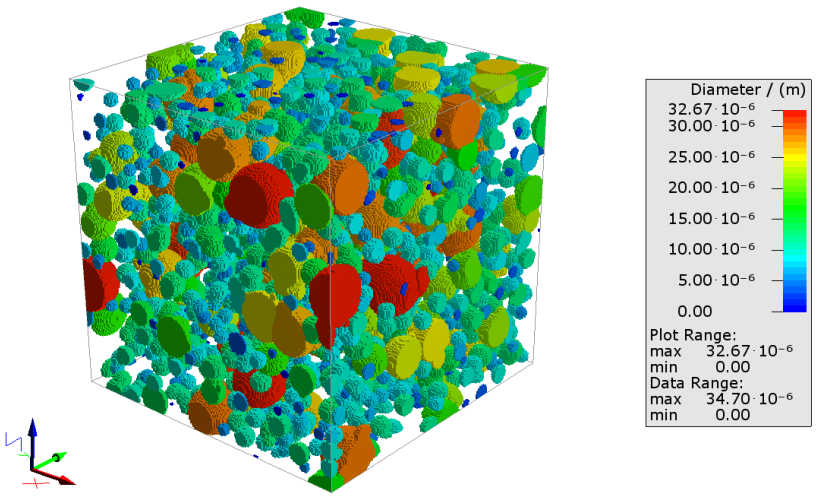


The visualization of the structure can also be turned off by unchecking the **Structure** tab in the Visualization panel above the Visualization area.



Next, in the **Volume Field** tab of the Visualization panel, check that **No Interpolation** is selected and **Smooth** is unchecked for **Threshold By**. Finally, if needed, use the slider for the threshold to select the grain diameters that should be displayed. Here all grain diameters are displayed by setting the **Diameter** to zero and the mode to **>=**.





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Technical documentation:

Anne Blumer

Jürgen Becker

Barbara Planas

Math2Market GmbH

Richard-Wagner-Str. 1, 67655 Kaiserslautern, Germany
www.geodict.com