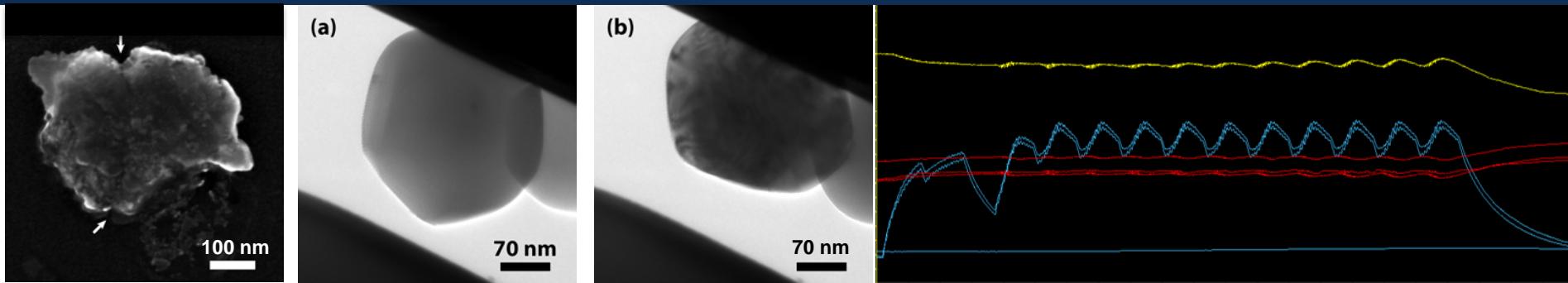


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## Thermal Spray Research at Sandia

Deidre Hirschfeld, Pylin Sarobol, Andrew Miller, Aaron Hall, Thomas Holmes, and Carlos Silva

ITSA, Oct 2, 2015

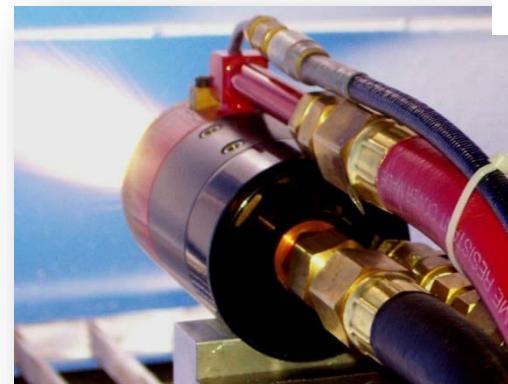
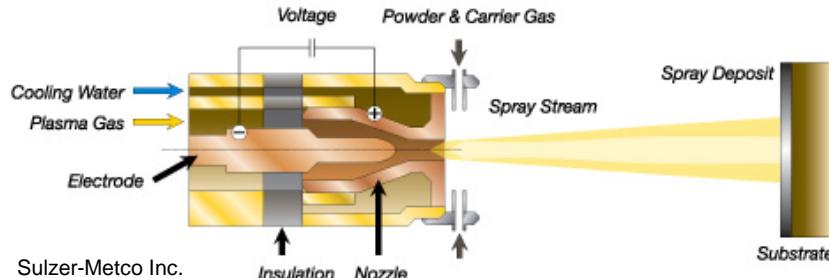


Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. SAND2015-3704C

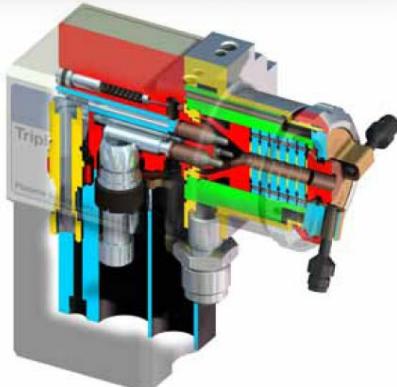
# Thermal Spray at Sandia

- Development of Thermal Spray Technologies
  - Plasma Spray, CAPS (VPS, VLPPS)
  - TWA
  - Cold Spray
  - HVOF
  - Powder Flame Spray
  - Aerosol Deposition
- Highlight Recent Work
  - Diagnostics: Use of Control Vision, DPV, and ICP
  - Aerosol Deposition: Deformation Mechanisms

# Plasma Spray Processes



SG-100 Praxair-Tafa Inc.



Triple cathode design

Triplex®Pro-200 Sulzer-Metco Inc.

## Air Plasma Spray

- DC Plasma heat source
- SG-100, Triplex®Pro-200
- $I$ ,  $V$ , & Gas Composition affect  $T_p$  &  $V_p$

## “Vacuum” Plasma Spray

- Plasma spray at  $\sim \frac{1}{2}$  atmosphere (380 torr)
- Oxide-free coatings

## Very Low Pressure Plasma Spray

- Plasma spray at 1.0 Torr (0.001 atm)
- Emerging Technology
- SNL has one of two systems in U.S.
- *Droplet Deposition*
- *Vapor Deposition!*
- *Thin coatings (< 50 microns)*

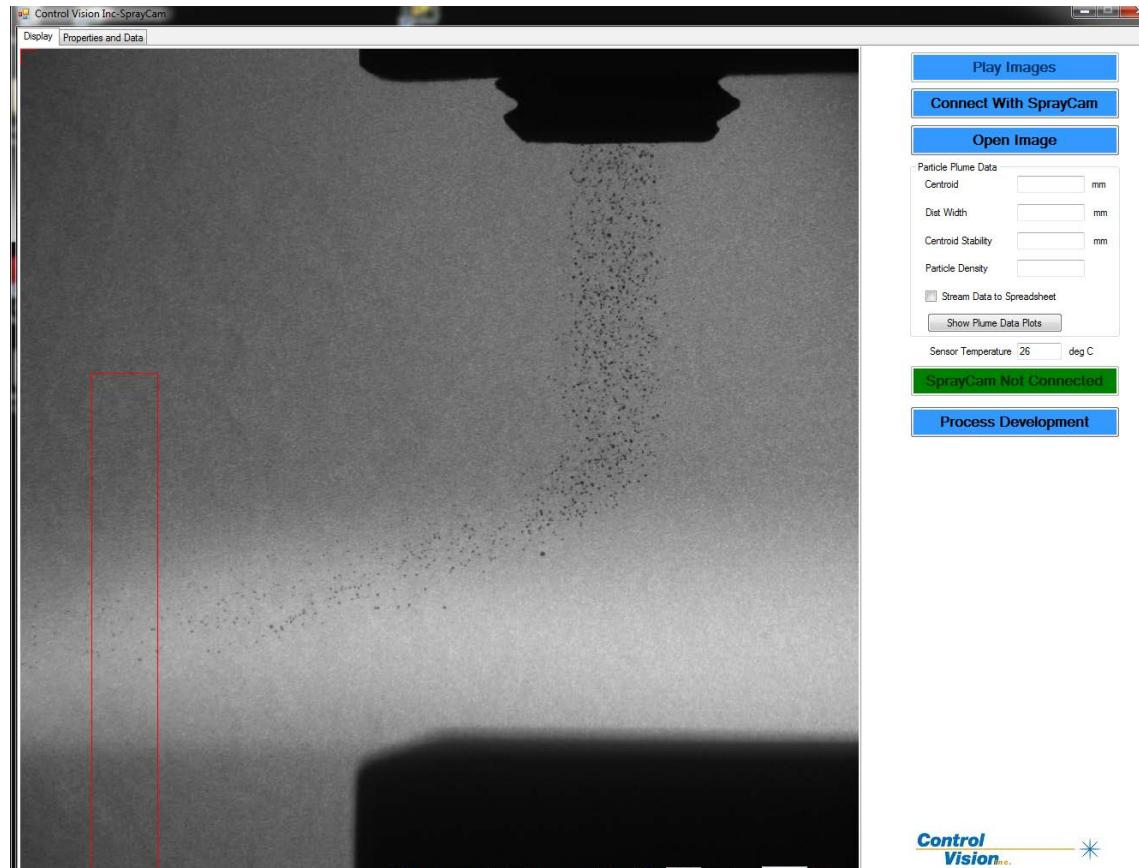


O3CA Suzler-Metco Inc.



Measuring the parameters between torch and substrate

# DIAGNOSTICS: TUNING THE PROCESS



## Control Vision

- Optimize particle insertion to the plume
- Quantify flux at a point in the plume

*Particle Temperature (Tp) and Particle Velocity (Vp) directly affect coating microstructure and properties.*

**Tp: Particle Thermal energy**

**Vp: Particle Kinetic energy**

- Are controllable
- Are measureable
- Make sense

**Increasing Tp or Vp**

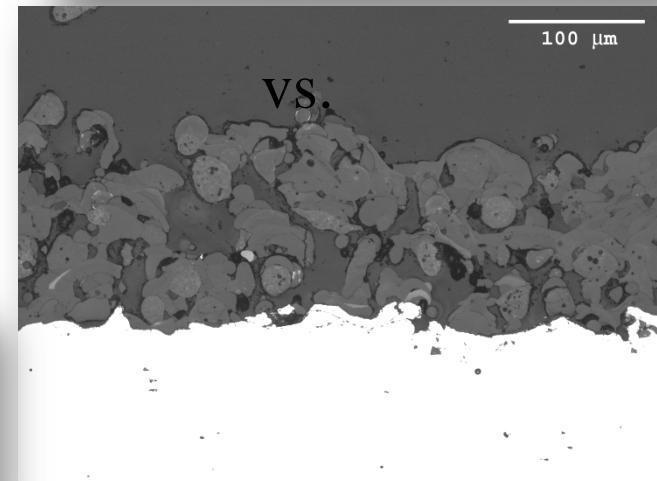
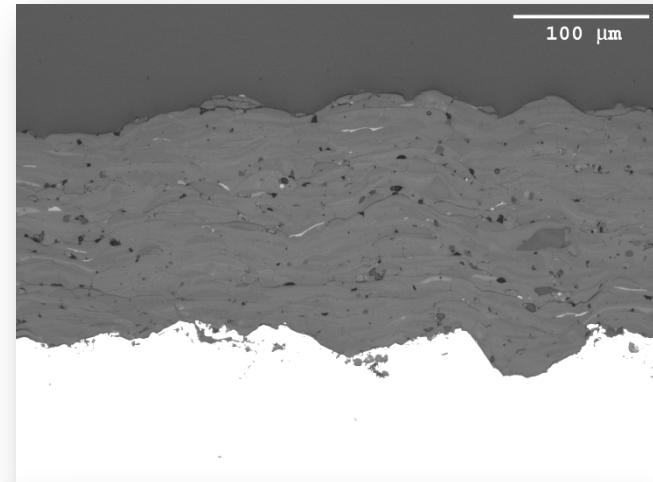
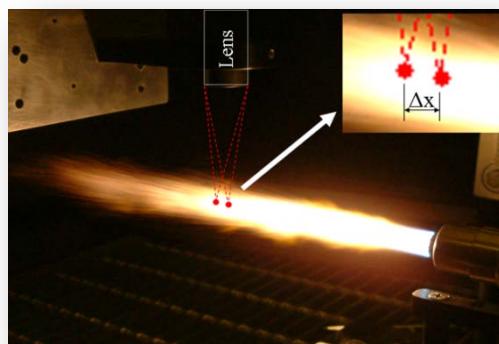
- Increases deposition efficiency
- Reduces coating porosity
- May increase residual stress
- May increase substrate damage

**Sensor-Based Particle Characterization**

- Simultaneous time of flight and two color pyrometry measurement

$$Vp = \Delta x / \Delta t$$

$$Tp = \lambda 1 / \lambda 2$$



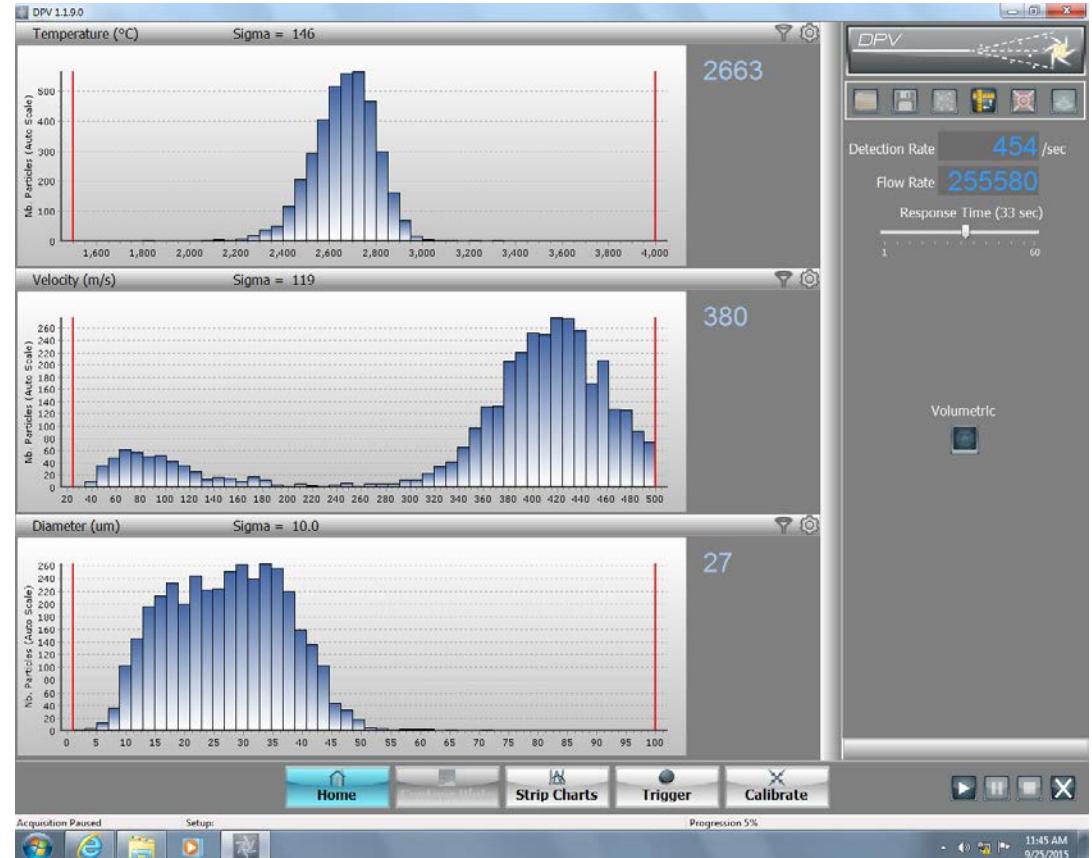
VS.

## DPV Histogram

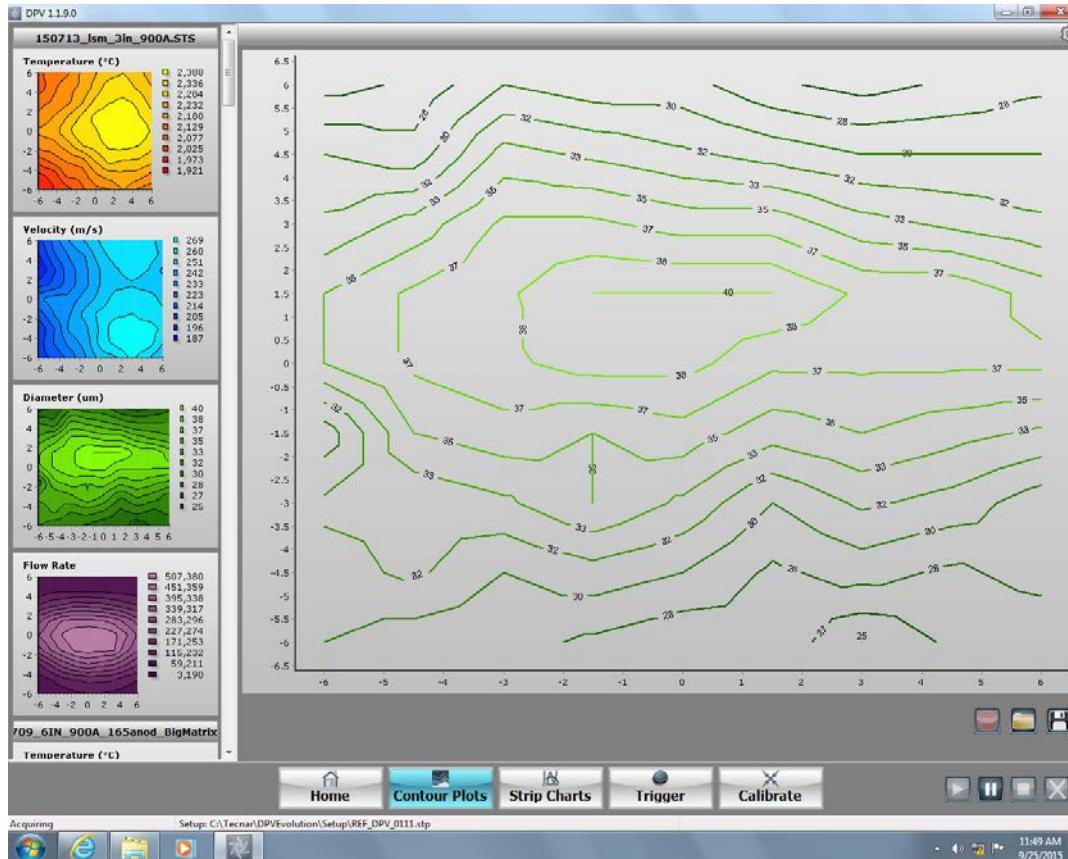
Precise measurement of velocity and temperature of up to 4000 individual particles per second

Auto-center function ensures measurement is centered on point of highest particle flux

Measurement taken at specified standoff distance provides details about particle state at impact plane



# DPV Contour



Temp, Velocity, Particle Diameter,  
Particle Flow Rate at specified standoff  
distance

Less precise than histogram

How can we know that one coating is the same as another?

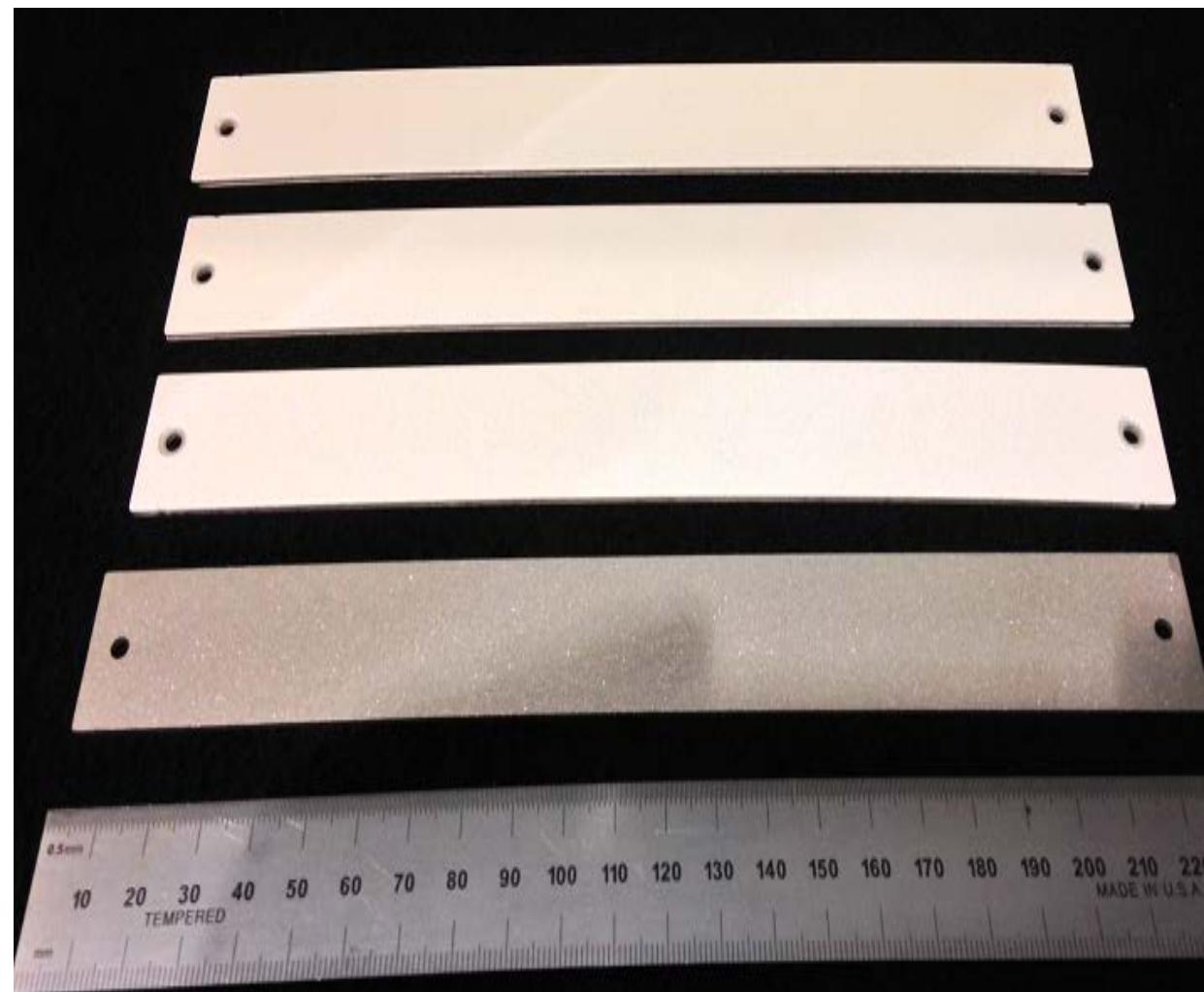
## MEASURING COATINGS IN-SITU

# Motivation

New instrument measures curvature and temperature real time, in-situ to determine residual stress and elastic modulus of sprayed coating

In-situ coating properties (ICP) sensor can be used to determine repeatability of coating based on these parameters with much faster turn around.

Limitations of the instrument require knowledgeable user and some institutional experience to effectively quantify and produce repeatable coatings



# Instrument Layout

Three displacement laser ports  
directly behind substrate



Two loose pin connections  
prevent binding as beam  
curves during deposition run



# Subjectivities of ICP



## Sample Prep:

- Grit blasting removes surface oxides and introduces surface texture for mechanical adhesion
- Induces offset curvature that will offset the curvature caused by the coating stresses

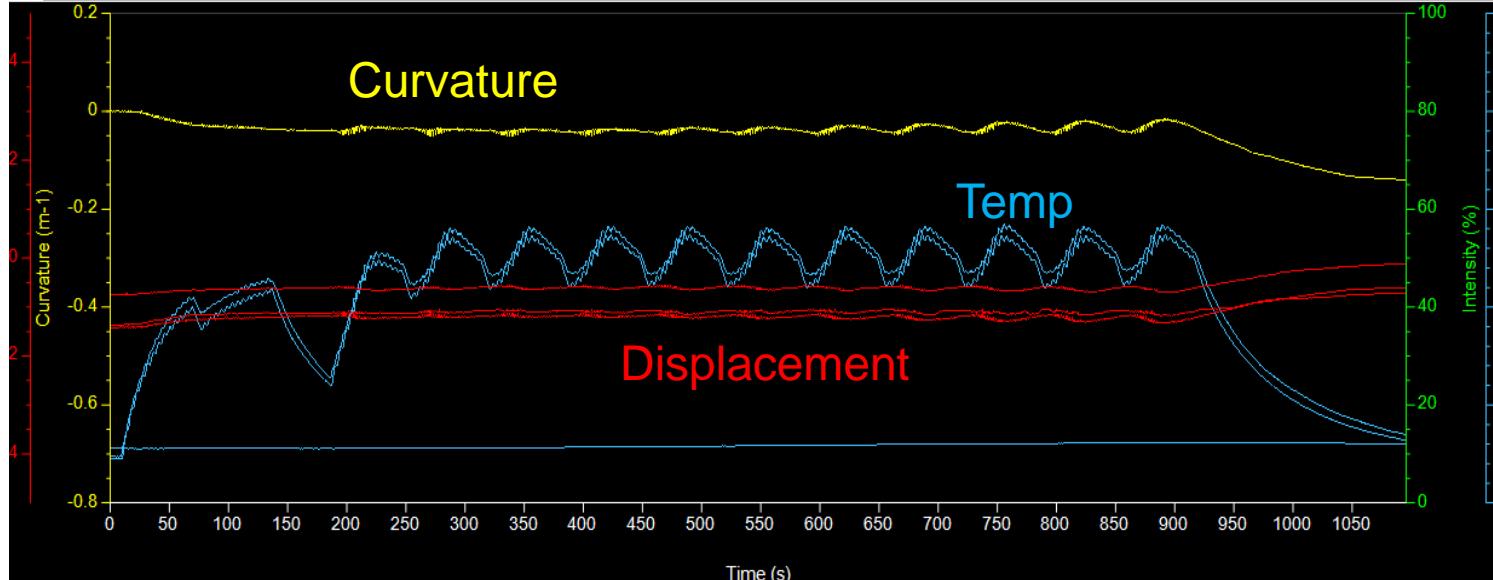
## Solution:

- Automate grit blasting process (costly)
- Apply to both sides of beam in attempt to “balance” the induced curvature
- Use one operator to perform all grit blasting for a given project

Edit View Settings Analysis Help



Data Curvature-Temp Graph Residual Stress Profiles



Temp (blue) note pre-heat, steady state through several raster passes

Three lasers (red) two at ends of lesser magnitude than center shows convex bending

Curvature (yellow) shows increasing flex with thermal cycling as spray run progresses, then slowly increases as thermal stress builds on cooling

Displacement	Laser 1 Intensity	Substrate Left
0 mm	0 %	0.0 °C
Displacement	Laser 2 Intensity	Substrate Right
0 mm	0 %	0.0 °C
Displacement	Laser 3 Intensity	User Temp
0 mm	0 %	0.0 °C
ICP Sensor	ICP Sensor	Data Recorded

Start

Water

Air

Time (s)

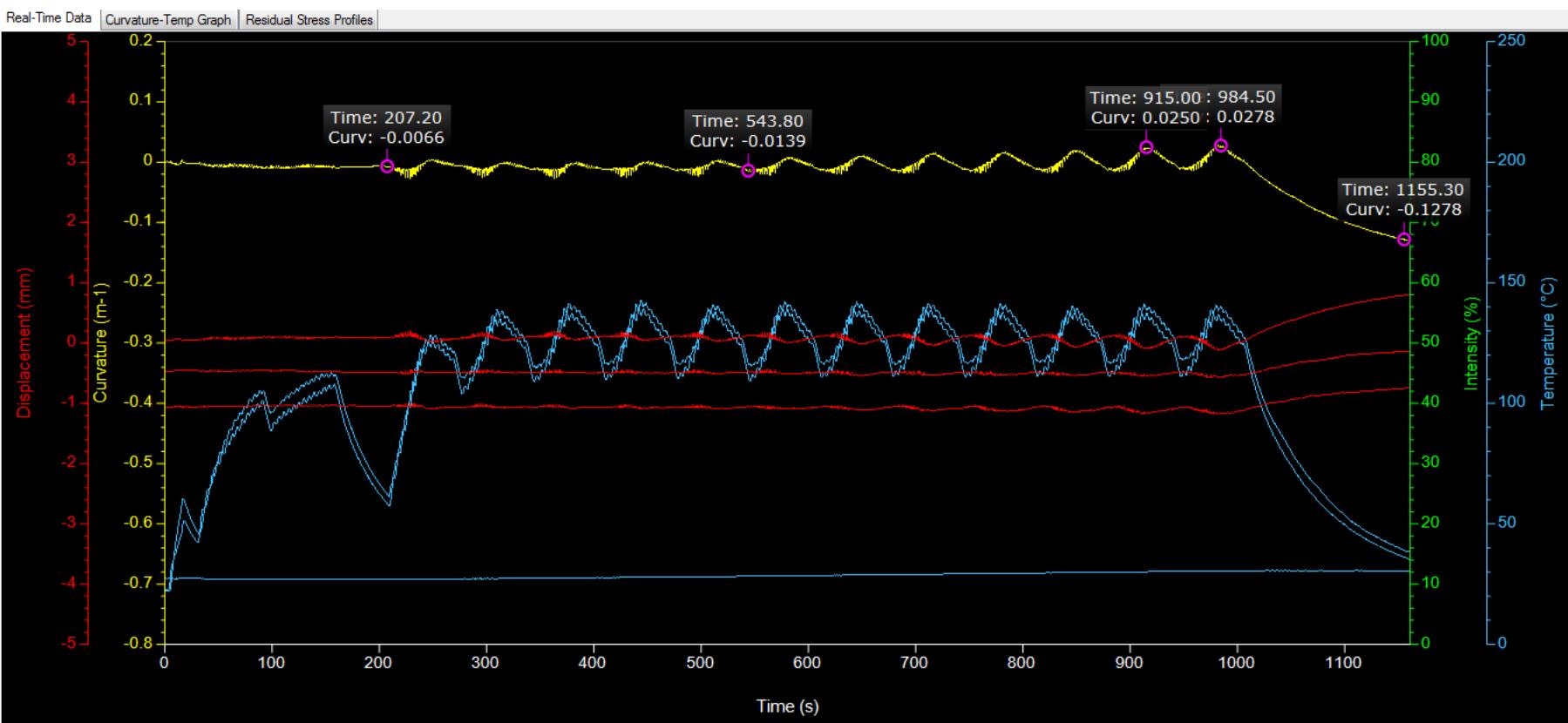
App Mem=56,820 K Free Mem=2,540,804 K



## Real-Time Data Collection Screen

Deposition Stress + Thermal Stress = Residual Stress

# Subjectivities of ICP



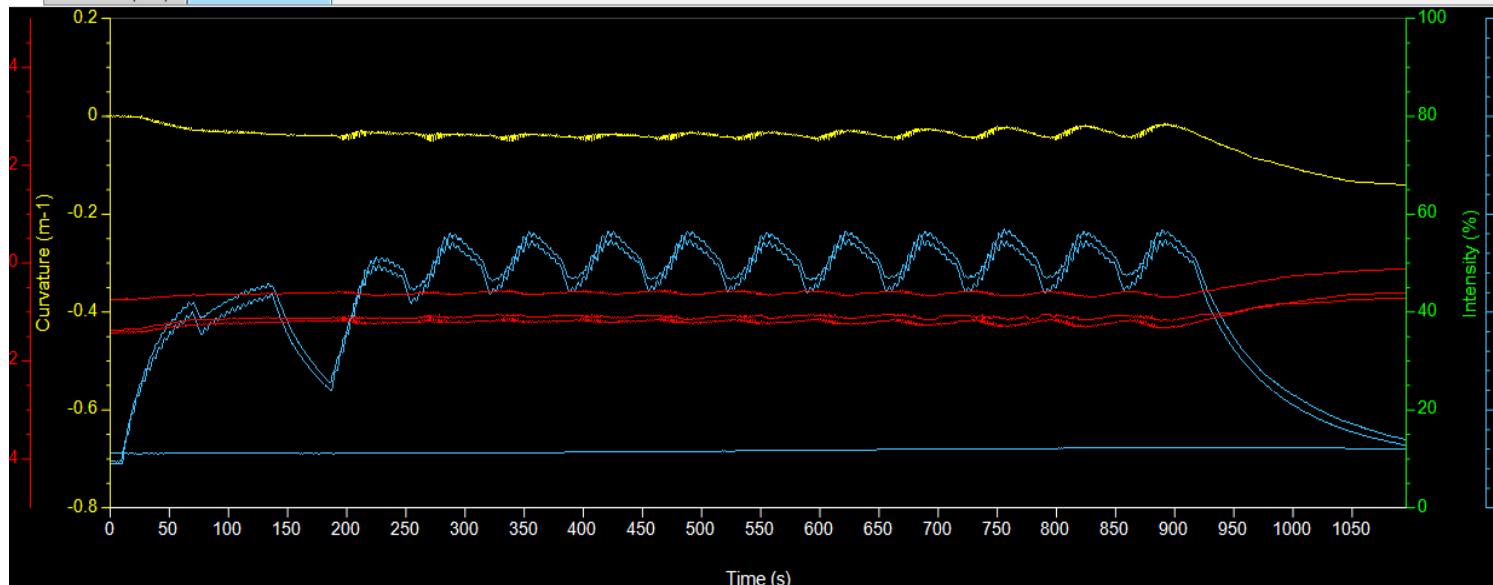
Selection of points performed by operator:

- Beginning and end of spraying
- Beginning and end of deposition stress regime
- End of cooling (approx. room temp)

Edit View Settings Analysis Help



Data Curvature-Temp Graph Residual Stress Profiles



Temp (blue) note pre-heat, steady state through several raster passes

Three lasers (red) two at ends of lesser magnitude than center shows convex bending

Curvature (yellow) shows increasing flex with thermal cycling as spray run progresses, then slowly increases as thermal stress builds on cooling

placement	Laser 1 Intensity	Substrate Left
0 mm	0 %	0.0 °C
placement	Laser 2 Intensity	Substrate Right
0 mm	0 %	0.0 °C
placement	Laser 3 Intensity	User Temp
0 mm	0 %	0.0 °C
are	ICP Sensor	Data Recorded

Start

Water

Air

Status

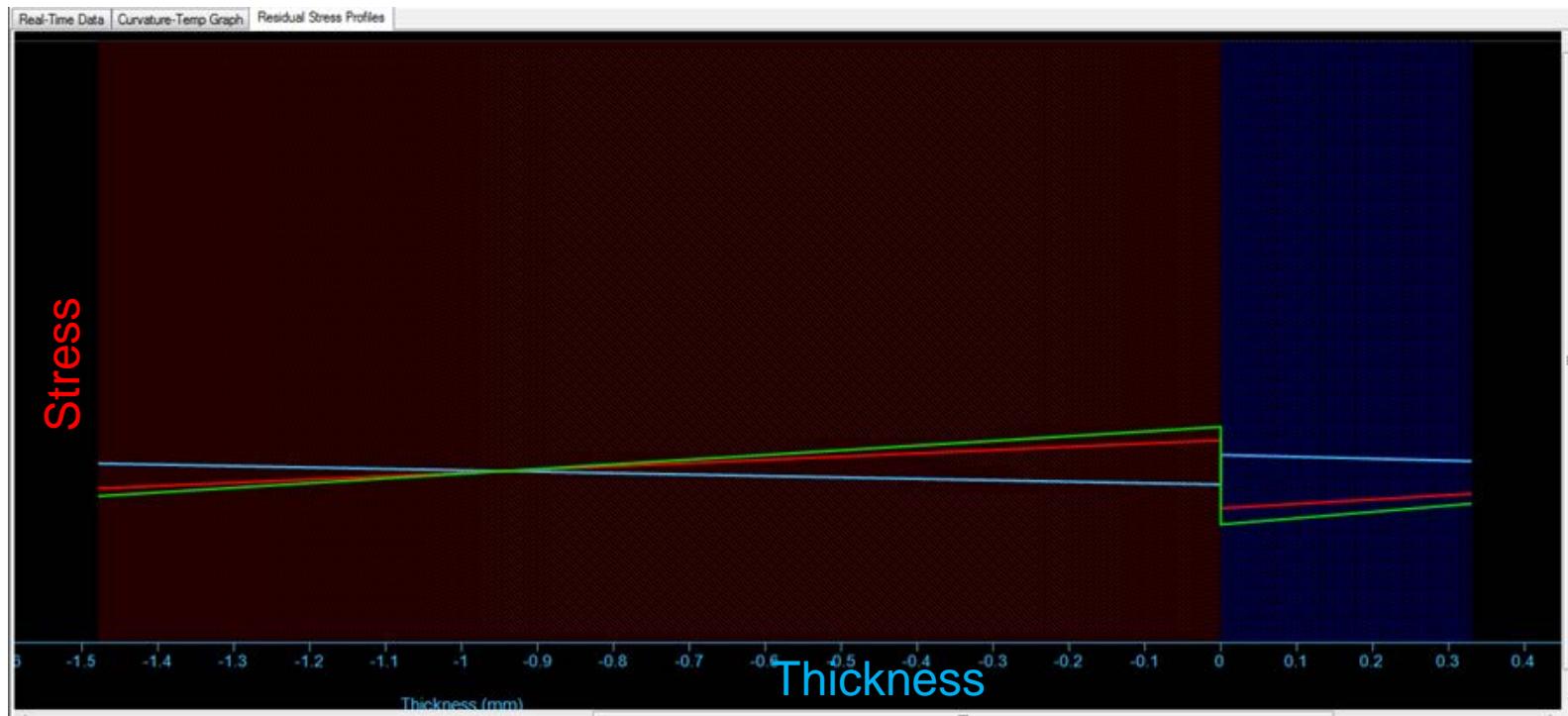
Data Recorded

App Mem=56,820 K Free Mem=2,540,804 K



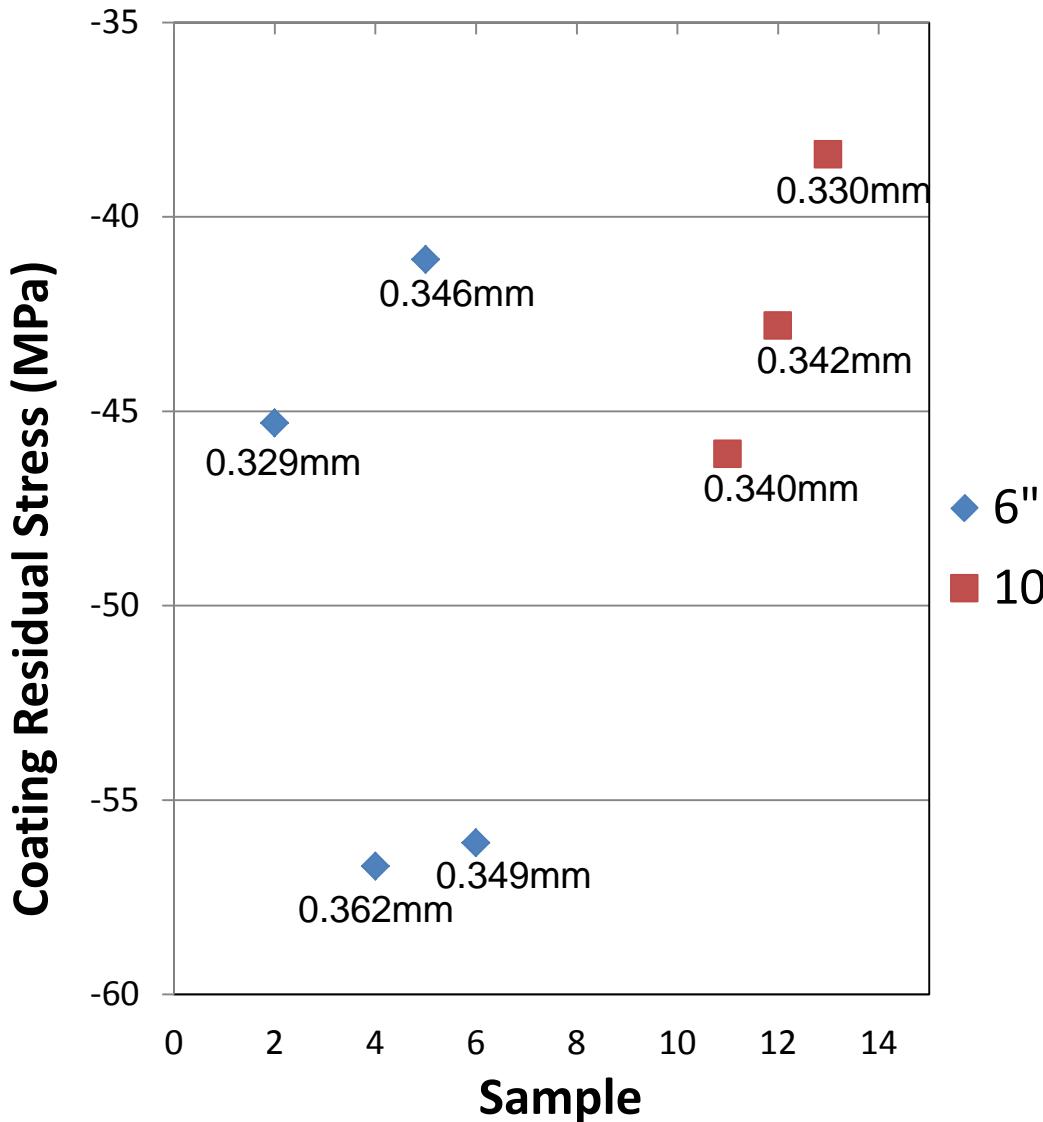
## Real-Time Data Collection Screen

# Stress Profile Plot



Stress profile shows build of stress through thickness of substrate and coating

Note differing slope of deposition stress (blue) and thermal stress (red)



Residual Stress =  
Quenching Stress +  
Thermal Stress

Large variability  
due to process  
variation

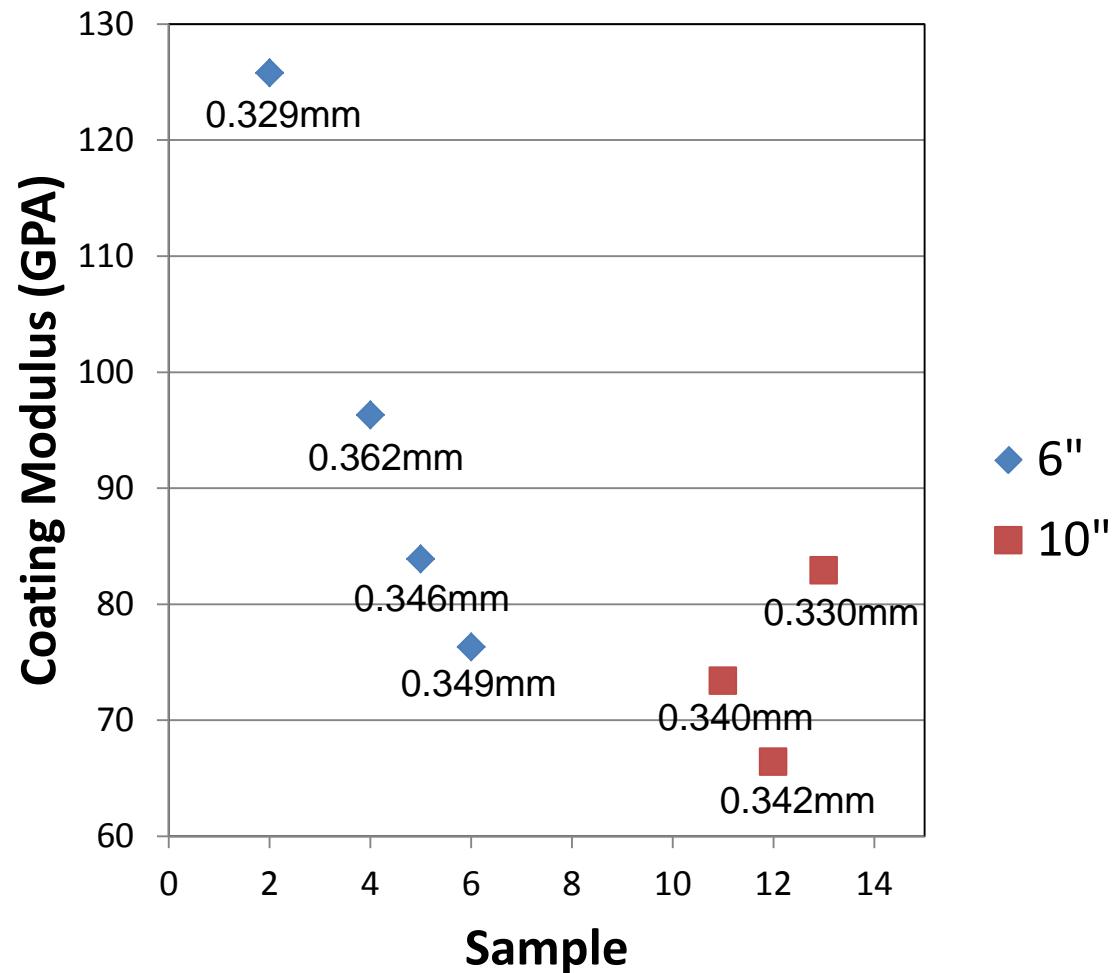
Reproducibility of  
process measured  
by variability of  
residual stress

Elastic modulus determined for linear range selected from Curvature – Temp plot.

Compare to bulk alumina modulus ~ 300 GPa. [accuratus.com]

Large variability due to process variation

Reproducibility of process indicated by variation of coating modulus



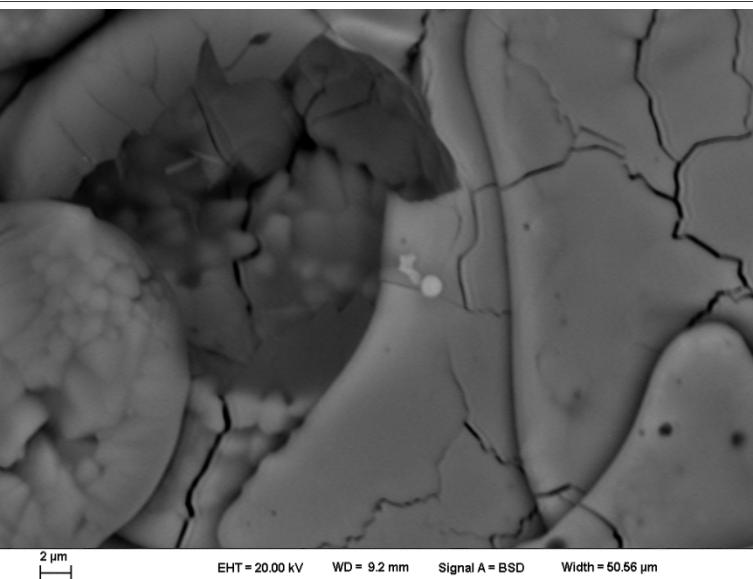
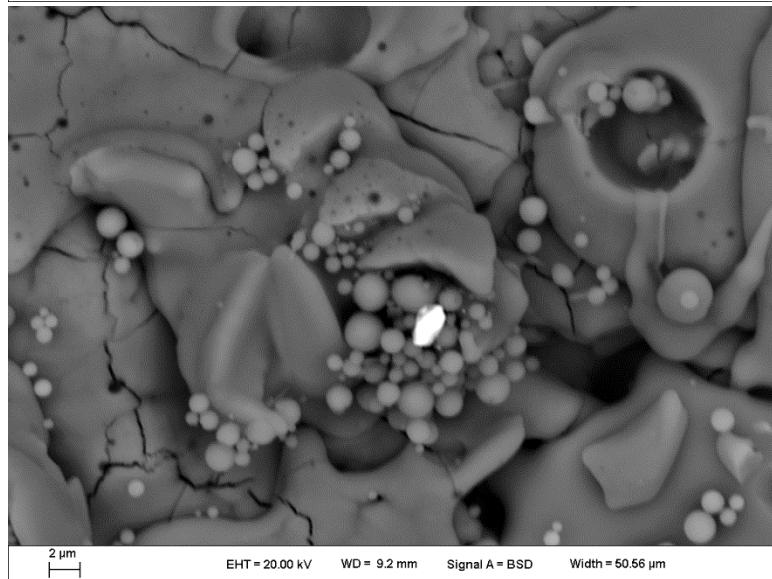
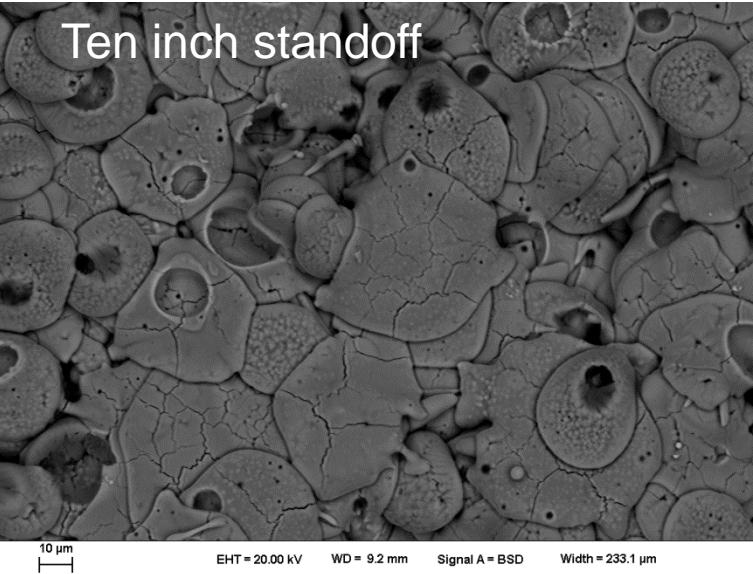
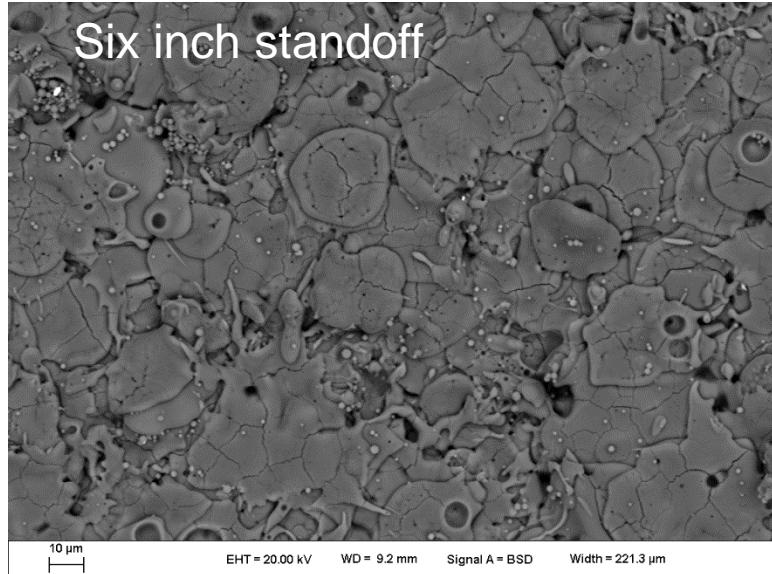
# ICP Data & Clyne Equation

$$\Delta\kappa = \frac{6E_0E_S(h + H)hH\Delta\alpha\Delta T}{E_D^2h^4 + 4E_D E_S h^3 H + 6E_D E_S h^2 H^2 + 4E_D E_S h H^3 + E_S^2 H^4}$$

$$\Delta\kappa \propto \frac{hH \Delta T}{(h + H)^3}$$

Input	Output
$E_{\text{substrate}}$	$E_{\text{substrate}}$ (calculated)
$E_{\text{coating (bulk)}}$	$E_{\text{coating}}$ (calculated)
Substrate Thickness (H)	Curvature (K)
Coating Thickness (h)	$\Delta T$
Coating Weight	Deposition
Feedstock Flow Rate	Efficiency
Traverse Speed	

zoom



Smaller splat diameters. More splashing.  
Less craters.  
More fine spherical particles (not splats).

Larger splat diameters. No splashing.  
More and larger craters.  
Dendritic solidification?

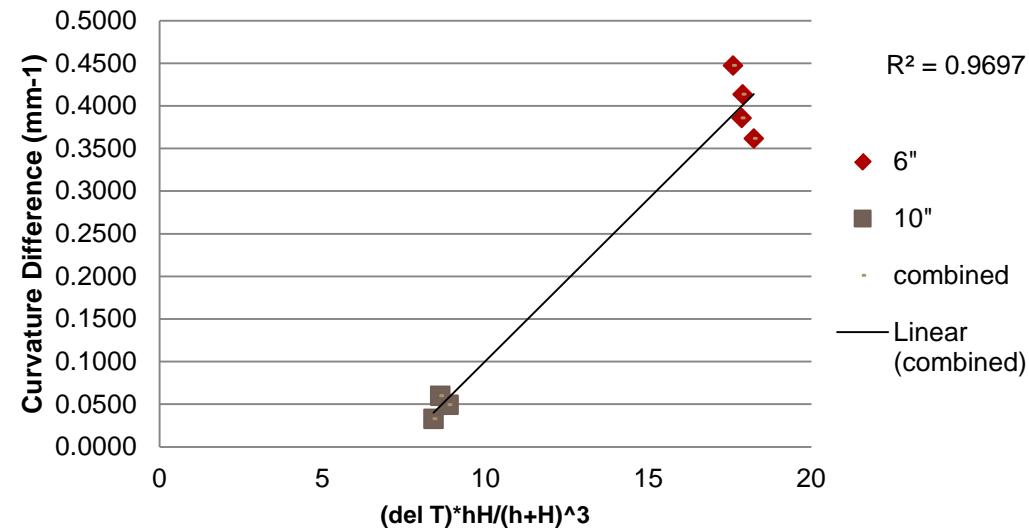
# Conclusions

TSRL currently has capacity to capture relevant process parameters and variations.

TSRL now has instrumentation to measure coating product properties in-situ, at the point of production

For this particular experiment, 6" standoff yielded particles with higher velocity and temperatures, resulting in coatings with higher magnitude of compressive residual stress and higher modulus.

Future work will focus on tuning these input and output parameters to determine repeatability of sprayed coatings for increased efficiency and higher quality products



$$\Delta \kappa \propto \frac{hH \Delta T}{(h + H)^3}$$

Deformation of Alumina Particles in Compression –  
Basis for a Room Temperature Ceramic Coating Deposition

## AEROSOL DEPOSITION

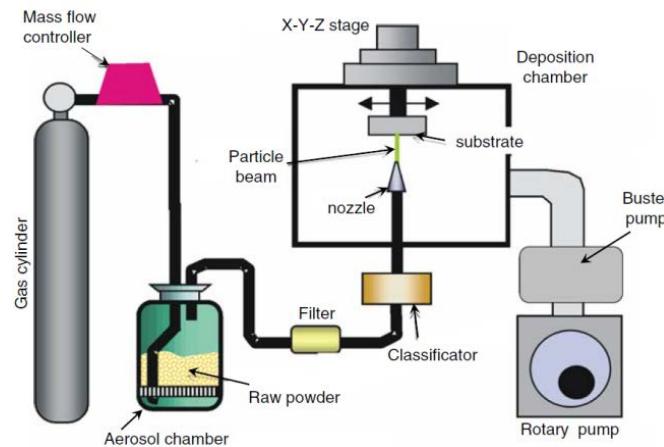
# Motivation

## Aerosol Deposition (AD) enables materials integration.

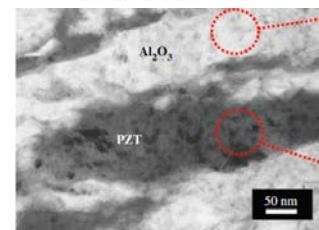
- Ceramics are conventionally processed at **2000°C**.
- AD process at **room temperature (RT)** in vacuum
  - sub-micron particles accelerated to high velocity by pressurized gas, impacted, consolidated to form a film.
- Similar AD ceramic film microstructures
  - sub-micron particles undergo *plastic deformation*
  - break up into *small crystallites* (20-75 nm)<sup>1-3</sup>
  - planar *defects* and *amorphous regions*<sup>4</sup>.

## Particle deformation/bonding not well understood

- Common deformation mechanisms exist.
- Examine sub-micron ceramic particles RT deformation as a building block for AD coatings.



AD process and coatings from Akedo *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2006;89:1834



AD Flexible electronics from J. Akedo. *JTTEE5*, 2007:17:181



AD magnetic films from Mizoguchi et al. *J. Magnetic Soc Japan* 2006;30:659

[1] Akedo, J. and Ogiso, H., *JTST*, Vol. 17, (2008), pp. 181-198.  
[2] Akedo, J., *JTTEE5*, Vol. 17, (2007), pp. 181-198.

[3] Akedo, J. *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, Vol. 89, (2006), pp. 1834-1839.  
[4] Park, H. et al. *Scripta Materialia*, 2015.

# Motivation

AD Deposition efficiencies are low

Why do some ceramic particles deform and others don't?

Akedo presented data indicating an optimum milling time but no explanation. Why is milling important?

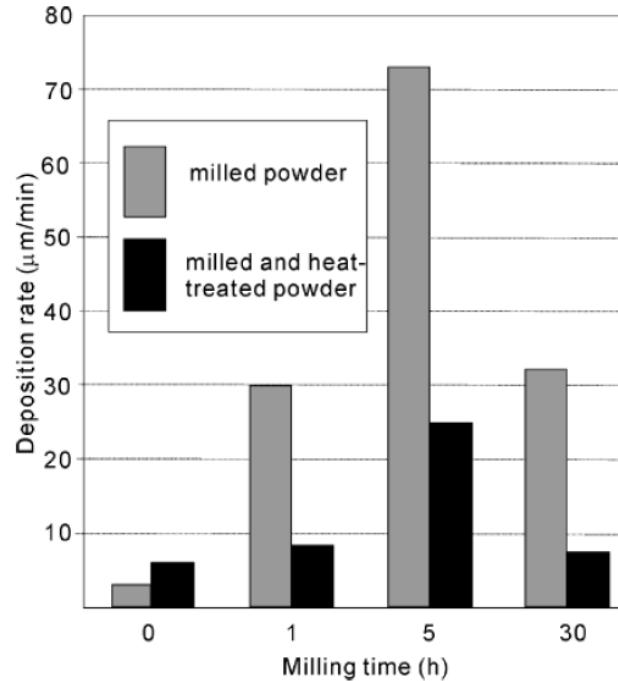
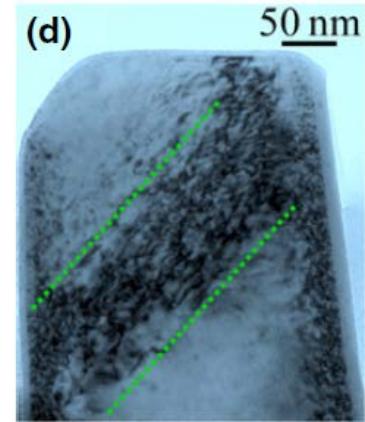


Fig. 4. Deposition rate for PZT film formation at room temperature using powder milled for different duration times with (black bar)/without (gray bar) heat-treatment procedure at 800°C for 4 h in air. The deposition area is 5 × 5 mm<sup>2</sup>.

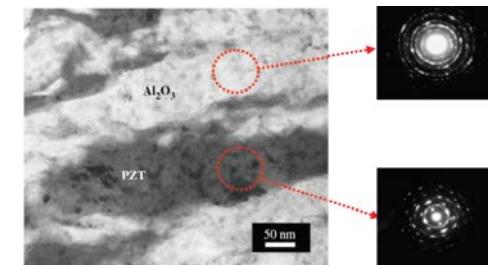
Akedo & Lebedev, Jpn. J. Appl. Phys. V. 41(2002) 6980-4

# Motivation

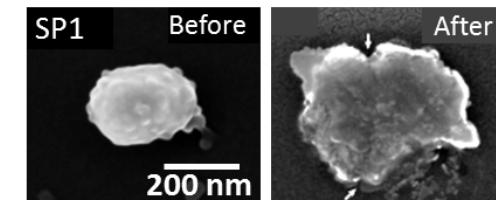
- Bulk materials with high degrees of covalent/ionic bonding, e.g. ceramics, typically undergo brittle fracture when strained.
  - a combination of limited fracture toughness and preexisting flaws.
  - The role of pre-existing flaws and defects can evolve as the characteristic length scale of materials decrease (e.g. micro-pillars and particles) [1-14].
  - In bulk ceramics → crack initiation sites.
- **At small length scales, significant plasticity observed in ceramic single crystals at room temperatures.**
  - Low strain rates → dislocation slip and shape change
    - compressed sapphire micro-pillars [10], particles [16], and confined zones underneath an indenter [36] at RT.
  - **High strain rates → aerosol deposition (AD)**
    - < 2  $\mu\text{m}$  particles are accelerated to high velocity (200-600 m/s) by pressurized gas, impacted, deformed, and consolidated on the substrates under vacuum [16-24].
- Room temperature plasticity in ceramics at small length scale gave insights into future development of alternative ceramic forming technology and high strength/high toughness functional ceramics.
- The focus of this study is to better understand the deformation behavior observed in small-scale, compressed ceramic particles, specifically sapphire or  $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and how they play a role in making AD coatings.



Dislocations on {001} planes in compressed ZrC pillar from S. Kiani, et al. *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2015;98:2313



AD Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and PZT composite film from J. Akedo. *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 2006;89:1834



Compressed sapphire particle from P. Sarabol, et al., *JTST.*, 2016:25

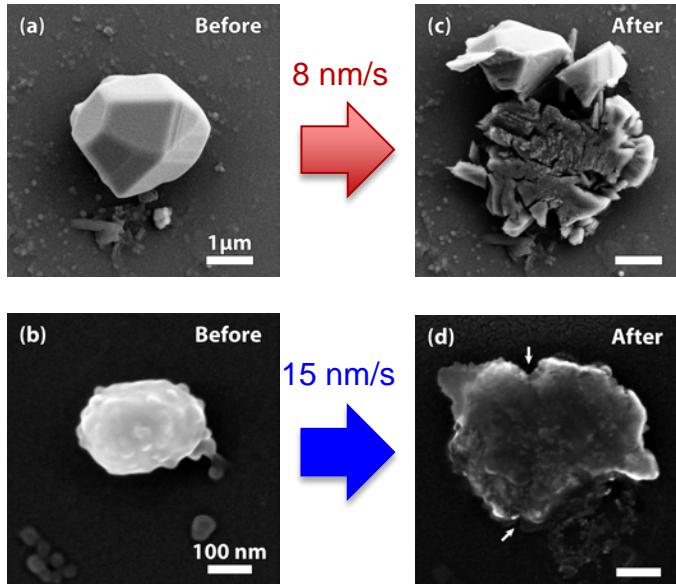
# Previous work – P. Sarobol, et al., JTST., 2016:25

DOI 10.1007/s11666-015-0295-2



- Performed micro-compression on 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$   $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  particles
- Micron sized particles - **brittle fracture**
  - Absorbed strain energy density before fracture  $107 \pm 69 \text{ MJ/m}^3$
  - Strain before fracture  $5.5 \pm 1\%$
- Sub-micron sized particles - **substantial plastic deformation** before fracture.
  - Absorbed strain energy density before fracture  $630 \pm 238 \text{ MJ/m}^3$
  - Strain before fracture  $18 \pm 9\%$
  - **Deformable sub-micron sized particles = AD coating building block**

- **6x** higher strain energy density
  - dislocation nucleation
- **3x** higher accumulated strain



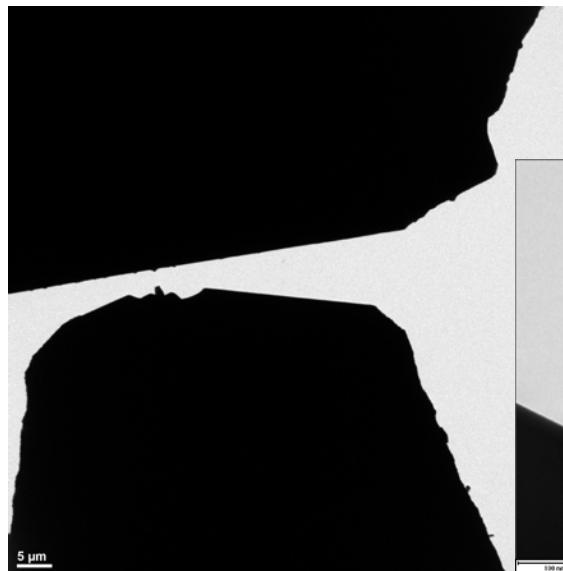
	Micron	Sub-micron
# Pre-existing Defects	High	Moderate
Energy Density Input	Low	Moderate
Governing Mechanism(s)	Fracture	Plasticity + Fracture
Response to Compression	Crack initiation & Propagation	Dislocation nucleation, slip, crack initiation & propagation

***Sub-micron sized  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  response to compression***  
– *In Situ TEM* micro-compression  
– Molecular Dynamics Simulation

# In Situ TEM Compression

## In Situ Micro-Compression<sup>5</sup> – 300 nm particles

- Single crystal, ultra pure 300 nm sapphire ( $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) particles.
- A Hysitron PI95 TEM Picoindenter with a 1  $\mu$ m diameter flat punch tip and the a JEOL 2100 LaB<sub>6</sub> TEM<sup>7</sup> at 200 kV were used.
- Compression done in ***open loop*** mode with the loading rate of 10  $\mu$ N/s (approx. < 2 nm/s displ rate). Images taken at 15 fps.

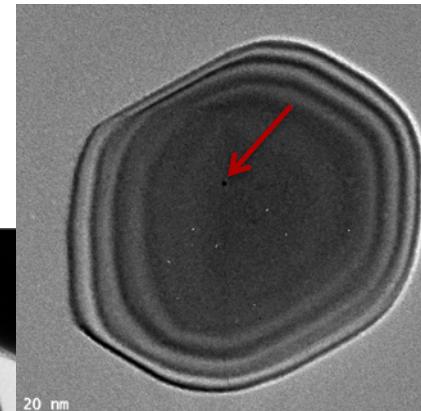


*In situ* TEM micro-compression on 0.3 $\mu$ m particle

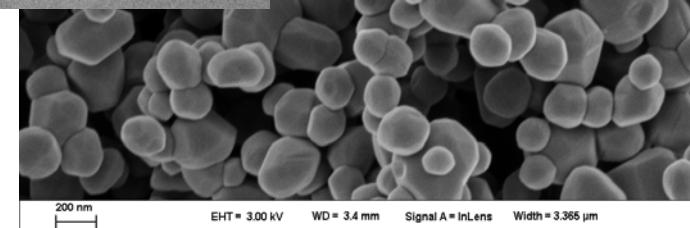
[5] Sarabol, P., et al., SAND2014-18127, (2014).

[6] Hysitron I (2013) SEM Picoindenter User Manual. Revision 9.3.0913 edn.

[7] Hattar, K., et al., Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B. Vol. 338, (2014), pp. 56–65.

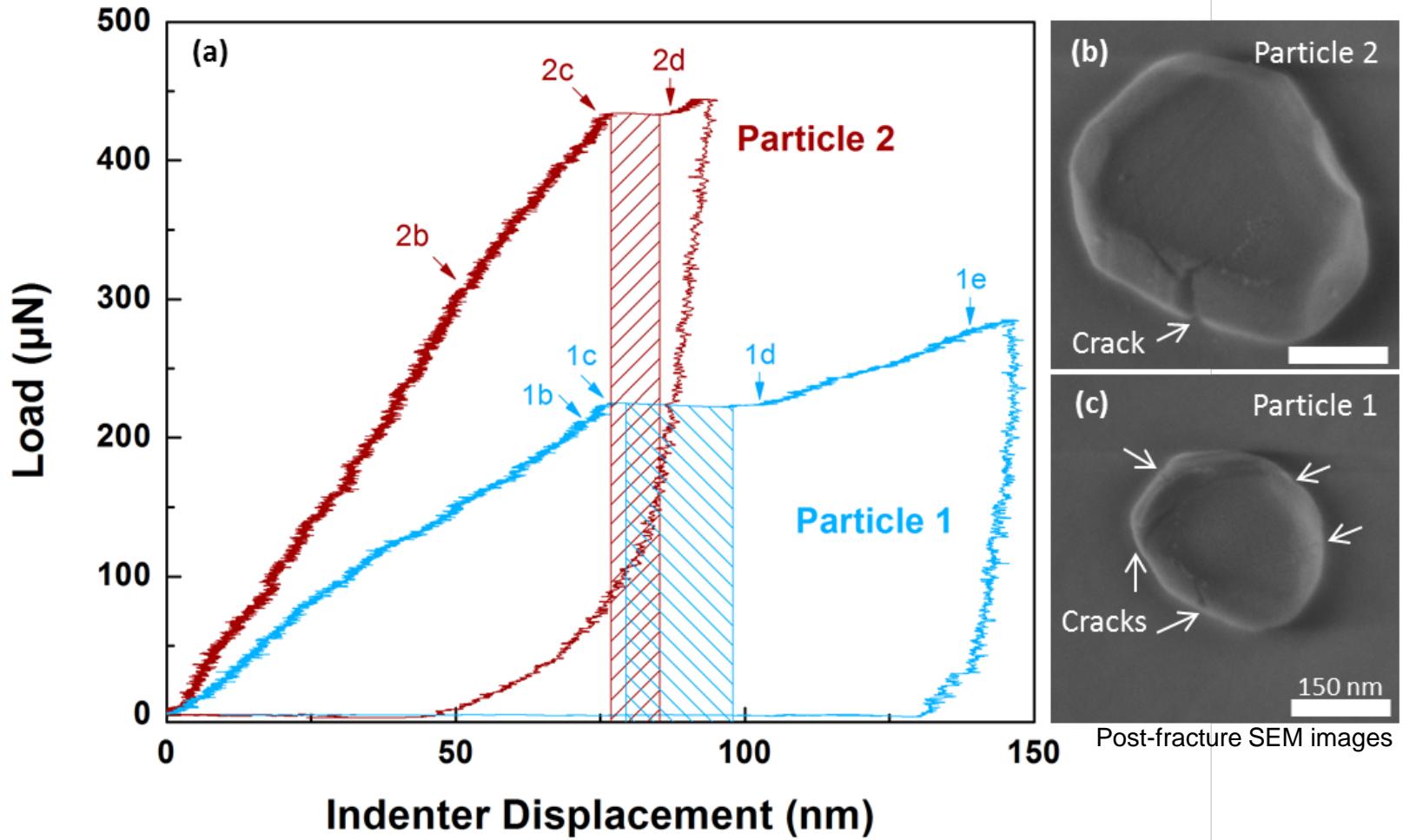


Bright field TEM image of a 300 nm particle oriented on the [001] zone axis.



SE SEM image of the 300 nm

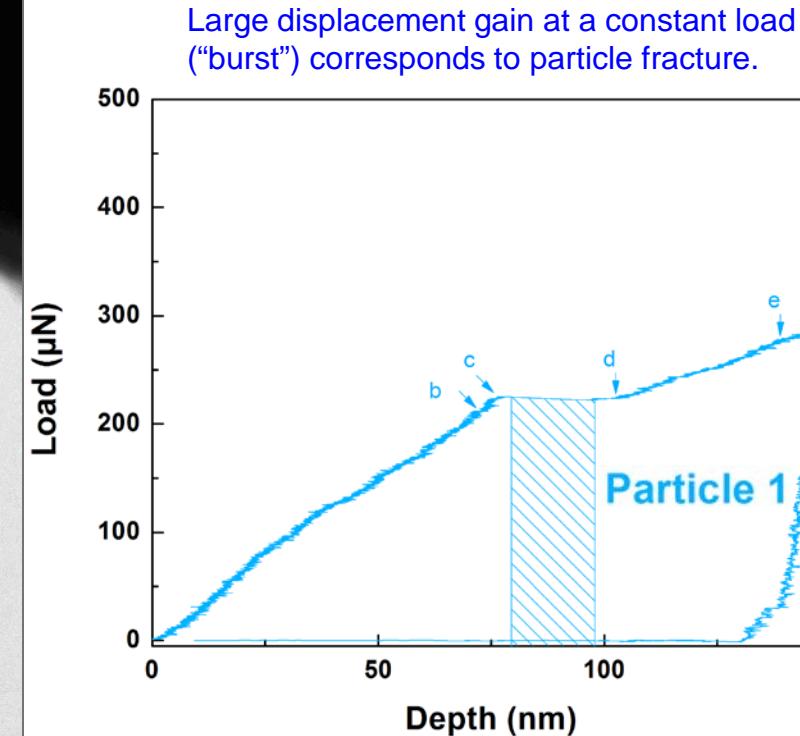
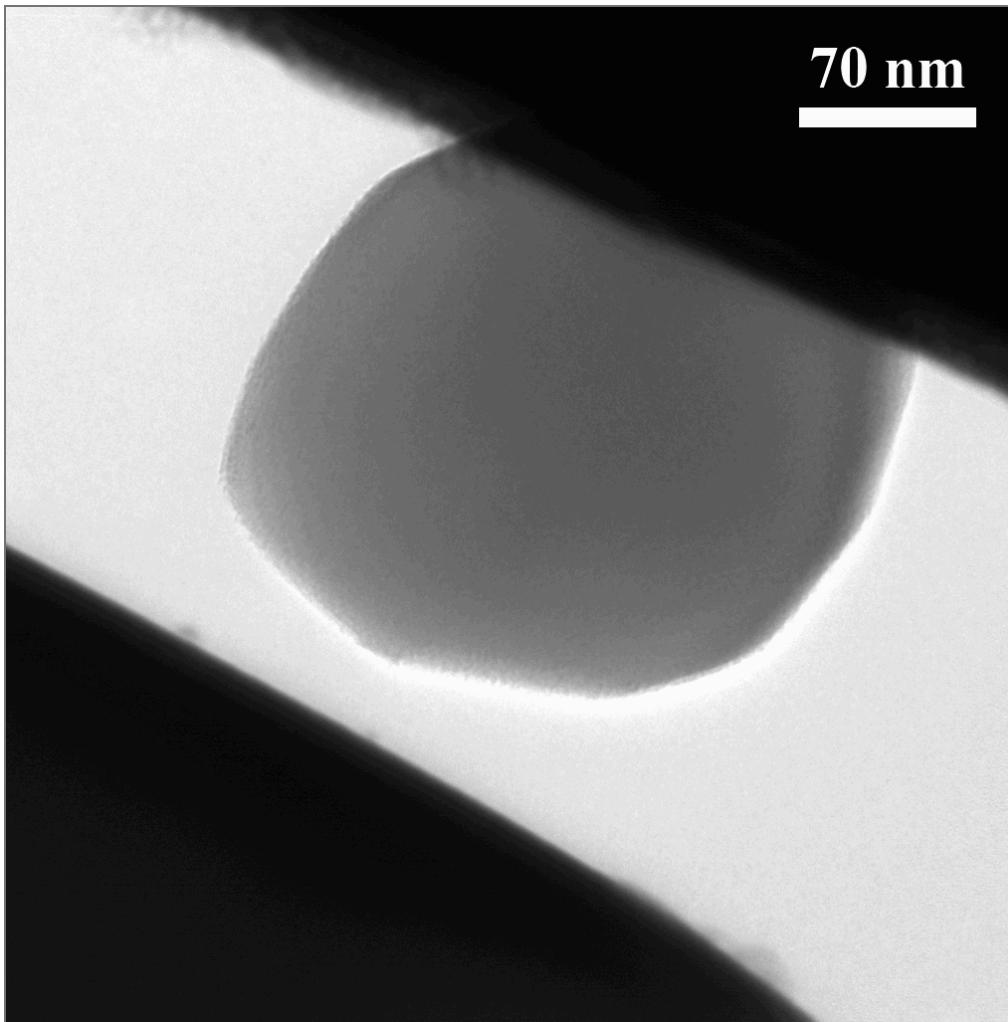
# In Situ TEM Compression



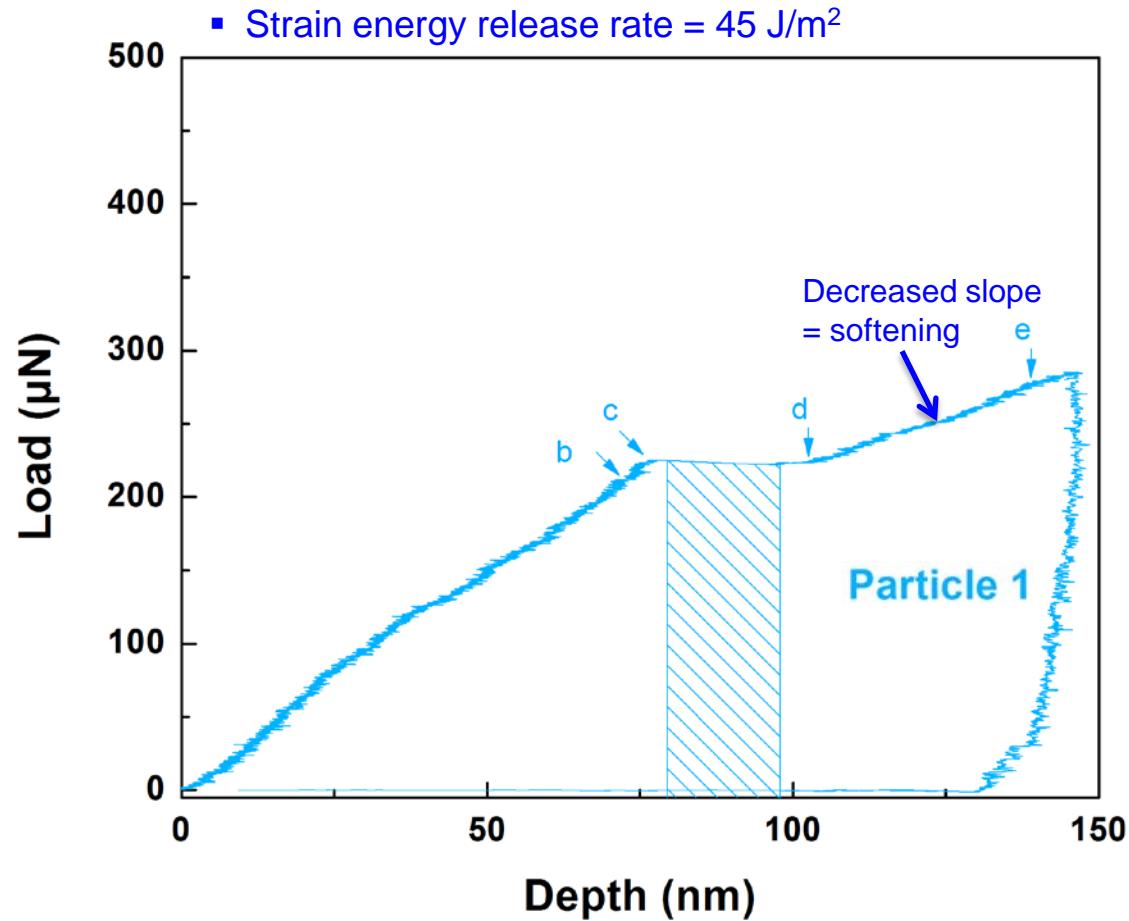
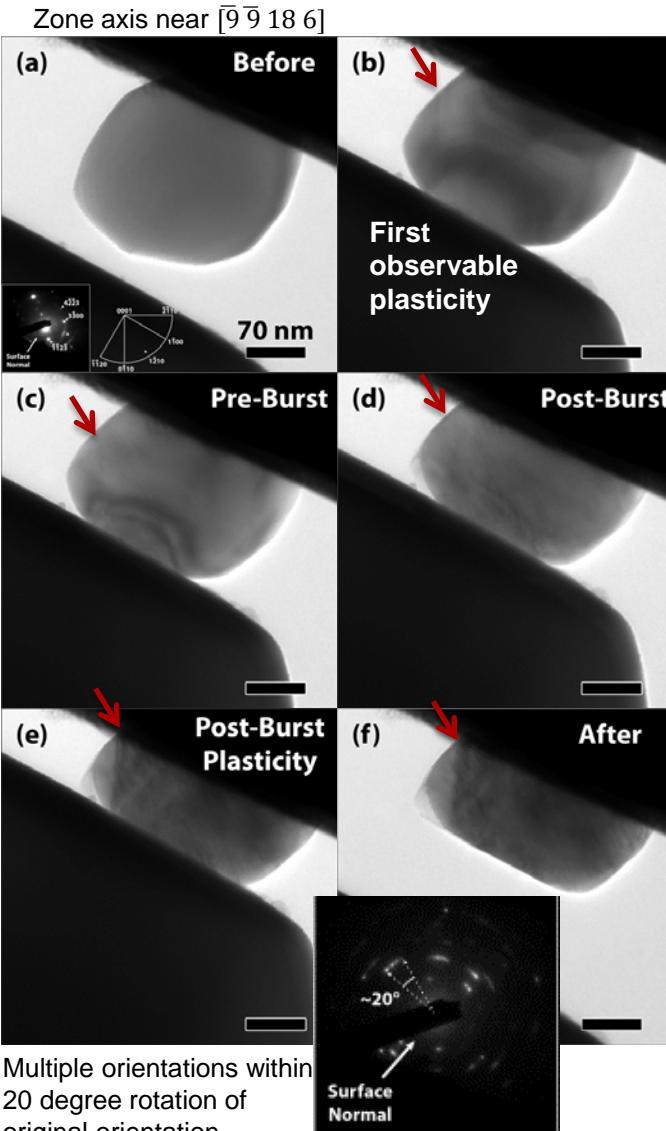
- Elastic to Plastic transitions are unclear. Seemed to happen much earlier in the loading (first 5-10 nm displacement). Absence of concavity and linearity of the curves were surprising.
- $G_C$  values for Particle 1 and 2 are 45 J/m<sup>2</sup> and 17 J/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Values within the calculated range of orientation-dependent  $G_C$  of single crystal alumina of 16 - 65 J/m<sup>2</sup> [47].

# *In Situ* TEM Compression – P1

Diameter  $\sim 0.24 \mu\text{m}$ , Open loop, Strain rate  $\sim 0.009 \text{ s}^{-1}$



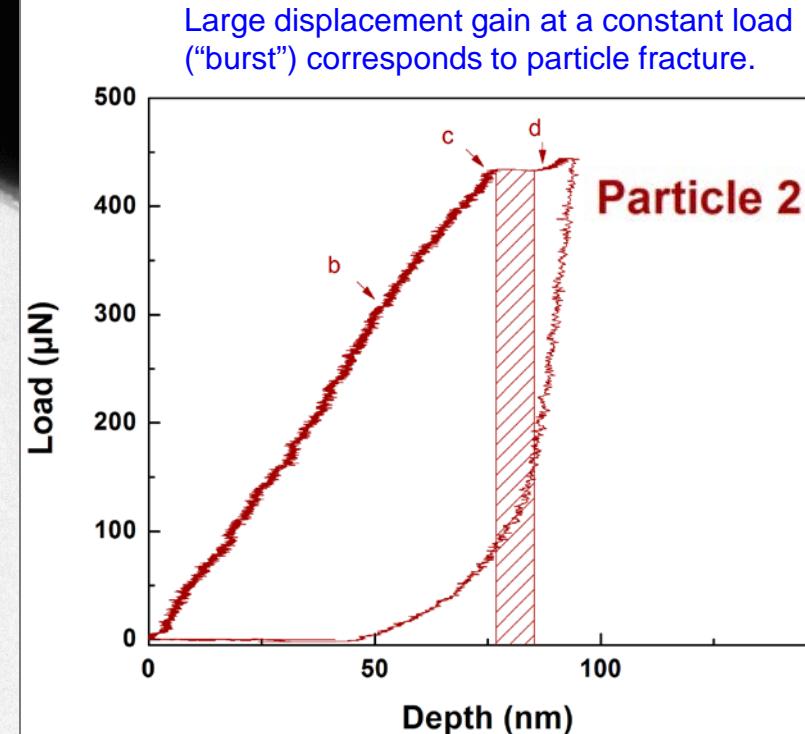
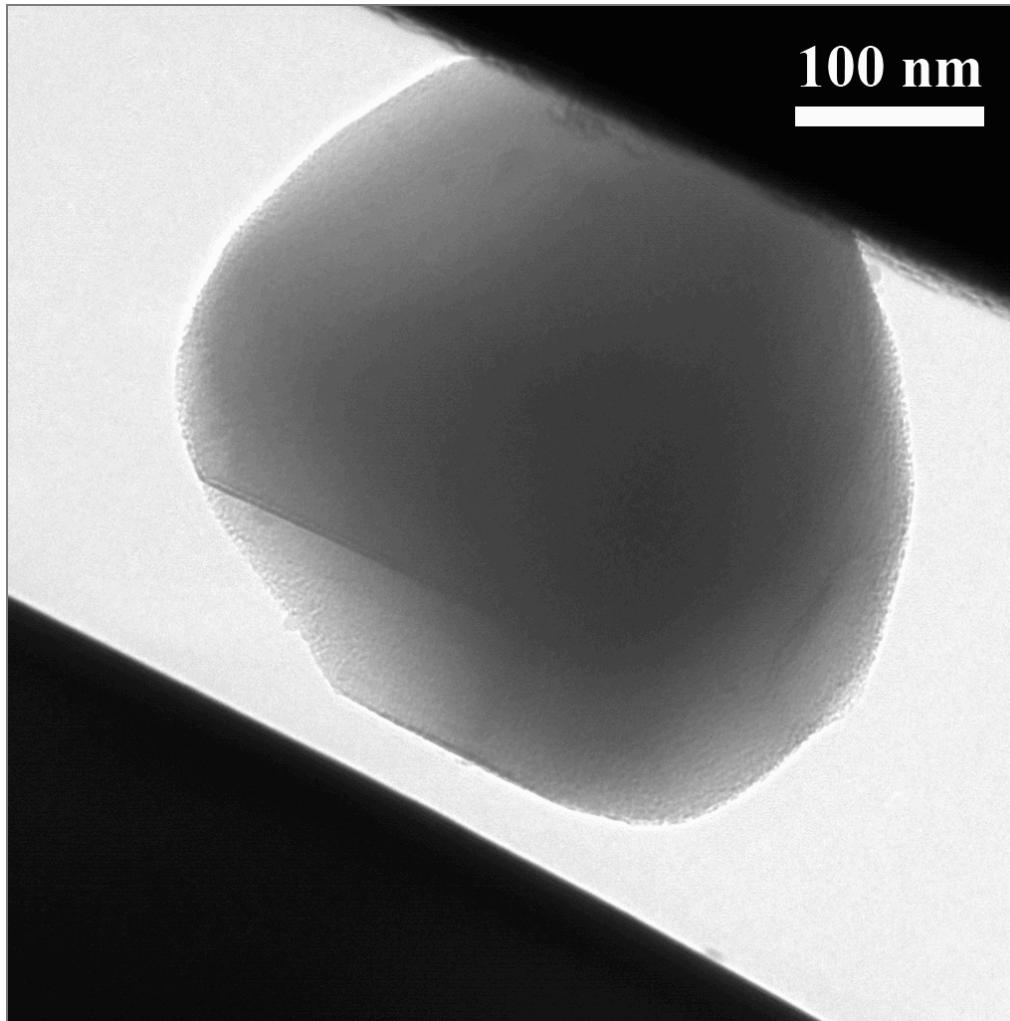
# In Situ TEM Compression – P1



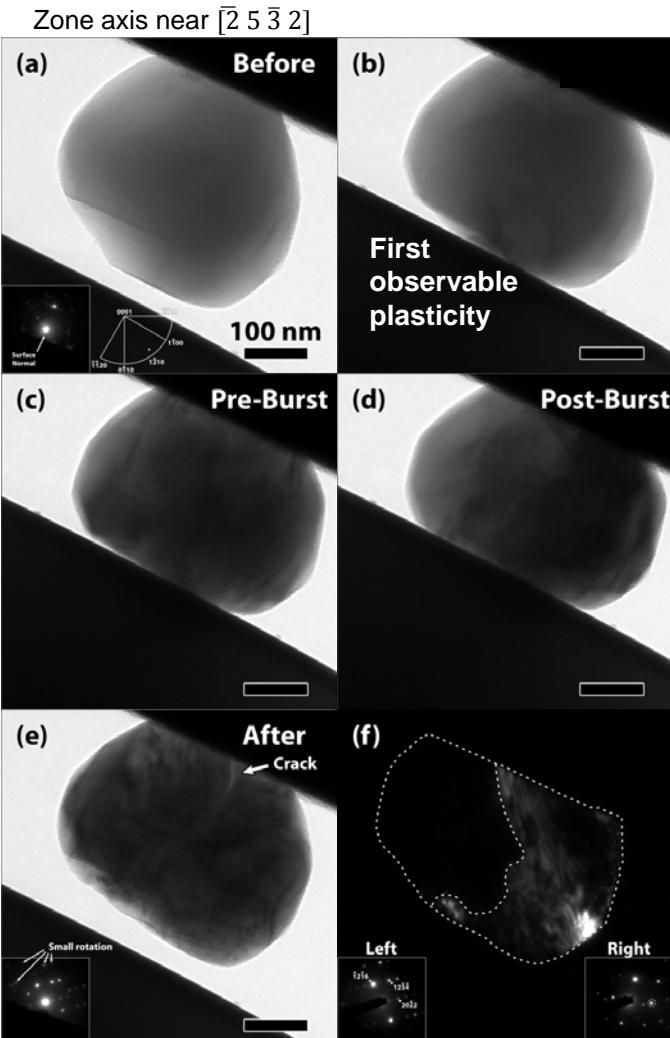
- Pre-burst plasticity: small regime with low dislocation activity.
- **Crack nucleation and propagation** leading to through-particle fracture.
- Post-burst plasticity: high dislocation activities, change in deformation mechanism as indicated by lower slope.
- **Mosaicity** with a 20 degree orientation spread.

# *In Situ* TEM Compression – P2

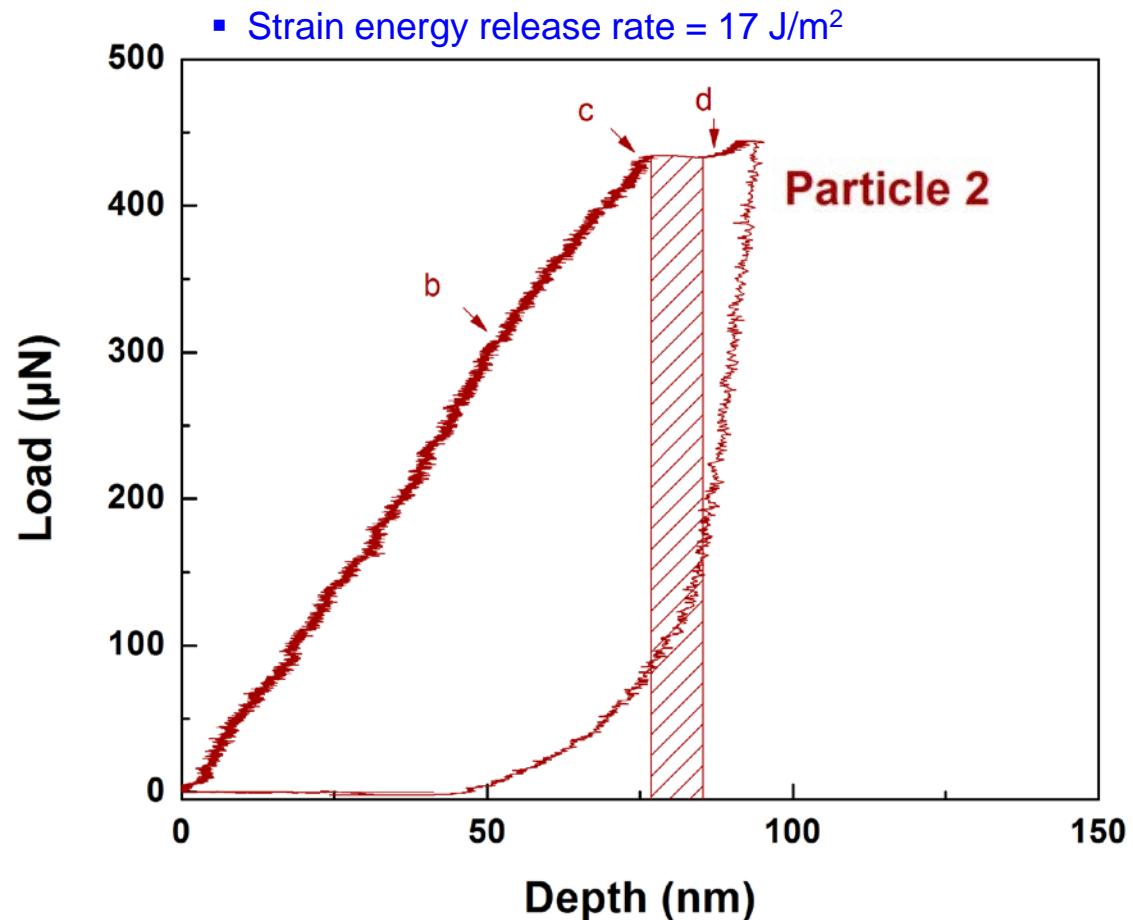
Diameter  $\sim 0.38 \mu\text{m}$ , Open loop, Strain rate  $\sim 0.005 \text{ s}^{-1}$



# In Situ TEM Compression – P2



Two halves related by slight rotation, both near  $\bar{1} 2 1 6$  zone axis

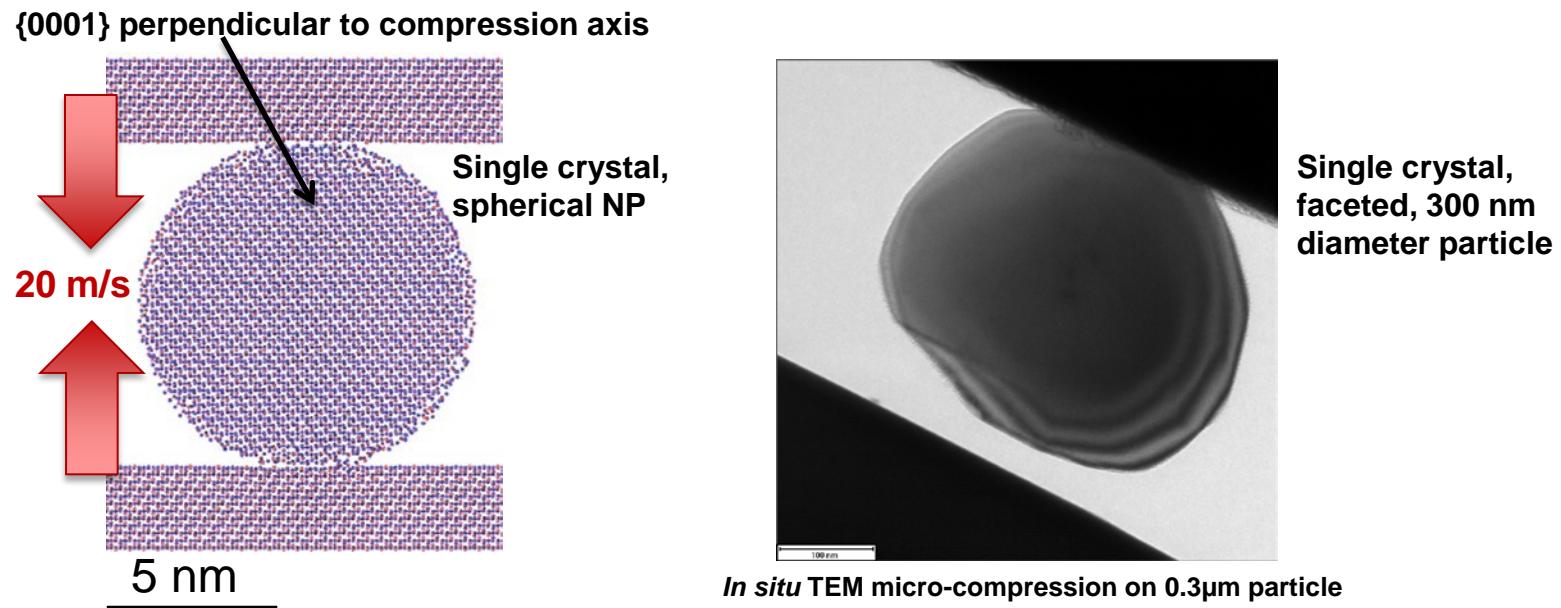


- Pre-burst plasticity: large regime with **high dislocation activity** (nucleation and moving through particle).
- **Crack nucleation and propagation** leading to through-particle fracture.

# Simulated Particle Compression

## Molecular Dynamics Simulations – 10 nm nanoparticles (NPs)

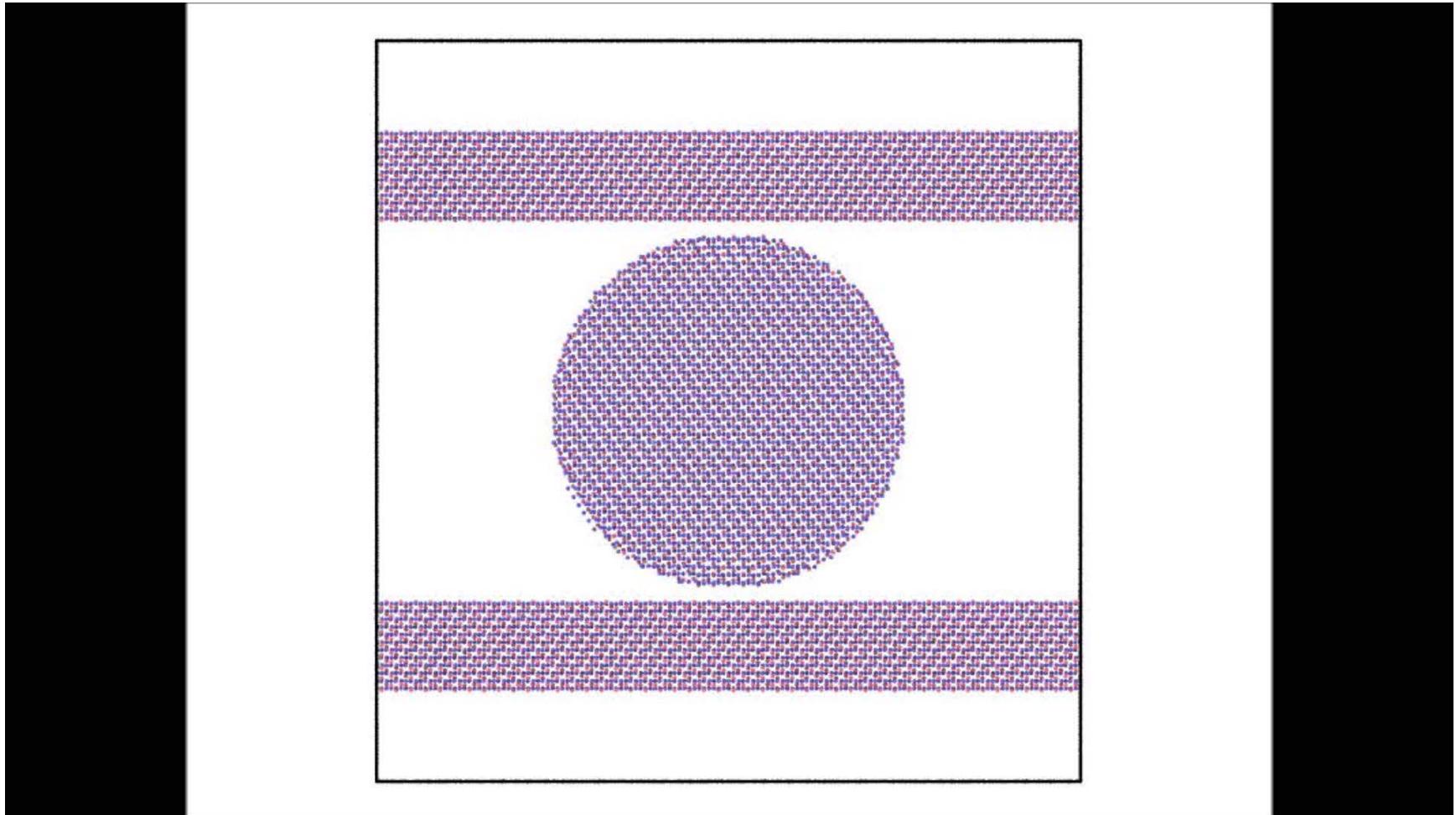
- MD allows identification of dislocations, slip planes, and particle fracture.
- Long computing time to simulate size > 50 nm (~36 million atoms)
- **Simulating 10 nm sapphire nanoparticle (NP) (~300,000 atoms)**
- A force-field for ceramics, developed by Garofalini<sup>8</sup>.
- NPs were compressed (by ~1/3 of the initial diameter) between sapphire (single crystal  $\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) walls at a constant velocity of **20 m/s**. “**Displacement control**”.



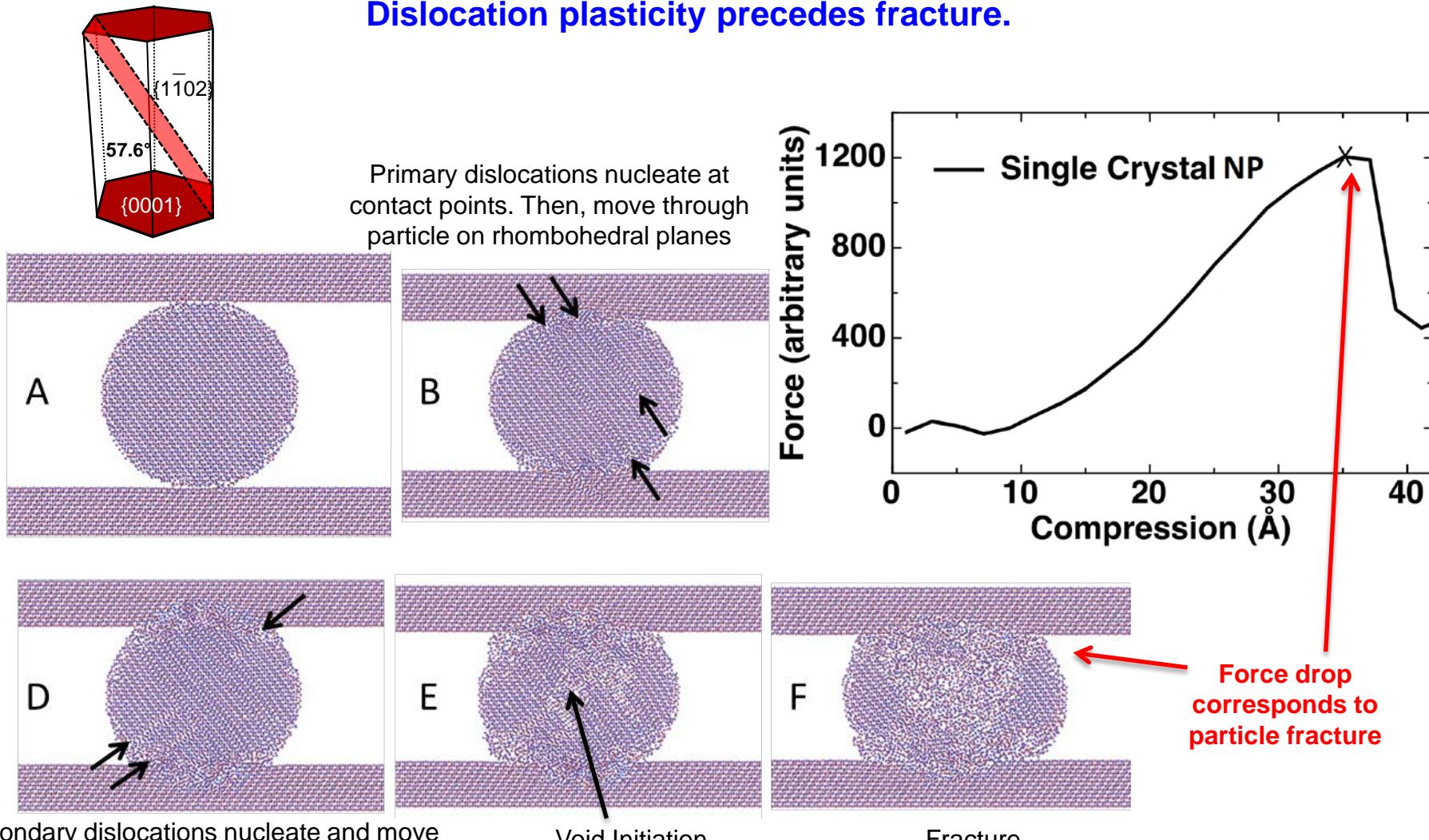
# MD Simulation Results

10 nm diameter, defect-free, single crystal  $\alpha$ -alumina, compression axis  $\perp (0001)$

20 m/s  $\rightarrow$  dislocation nucleation and glide on Rhombohedral planes then fracture



# MD Simulation Results



Secondary dislocations nucleate and move through particle on rhombohedral planes, terminating at the primary dislocation planes

# Conclusions

- The findings from *in situ* TEM micro-compression experiments and molecular dynamic simulations agree well:
  - Dislocation plasticity precedes fracture in compressed small sapphire particles at RT.
  - Range of responses to compression includes
    - Dislocation nucleation, slip, movement
    - Significant shape change
    - Orientation spread (mosaicity)
    - Fracture
- Use info to inform feedstock preparation, aerosol deposition parameters, and particle-particle bonding in the consolidated coatings.
- Room temperature plasticity in ceramics at small length scale gave insights into future development of alternative ceramic forming technology and high strength/high toughness functional ceramics.

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Thank you,  
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# Questions

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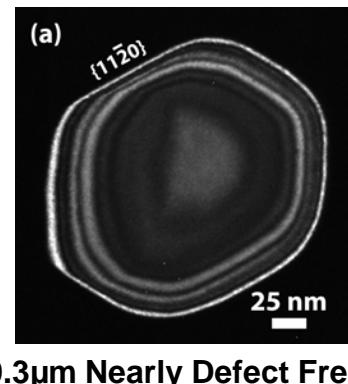
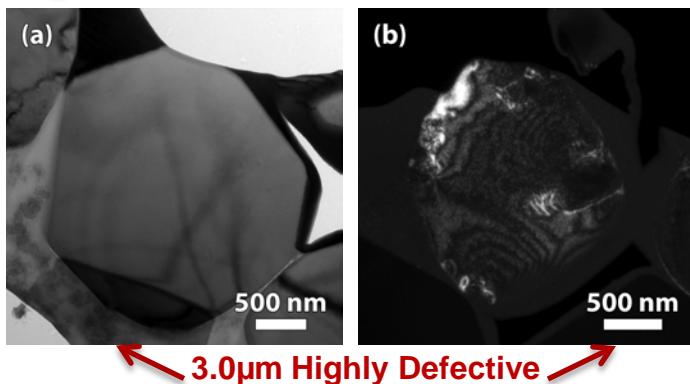
# BACK UP SLIDES

# Ceramic Particle RT Deformation - Sapphire

- Deformation behavior influenced by *number of internal defects*, temperature, crystal orientation/size. Numbers of pre-existing (immobile) defect scale with size.
- In situ SEM/TEM micro-compression and Molecular Dynamics Simulations

Proposed

	Micron	Sub-micron
# Pre-existing Defects	High	Moderate
Energy Density Input	Low	Moderate
Governing Mechanism(s)	Fracture	Plasticity + Fracture
Response to Compression	Crack initiation & Propagation	Dislocation nucleation, slip, crack initiation & propagation
Compression Testing	SEM	SEM and TEM



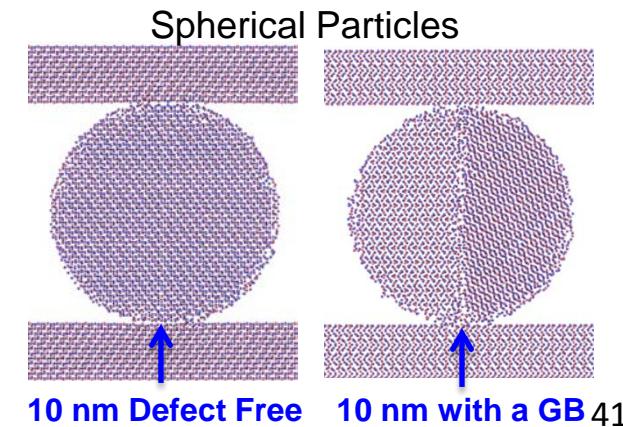
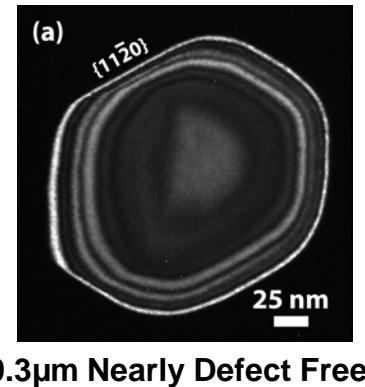
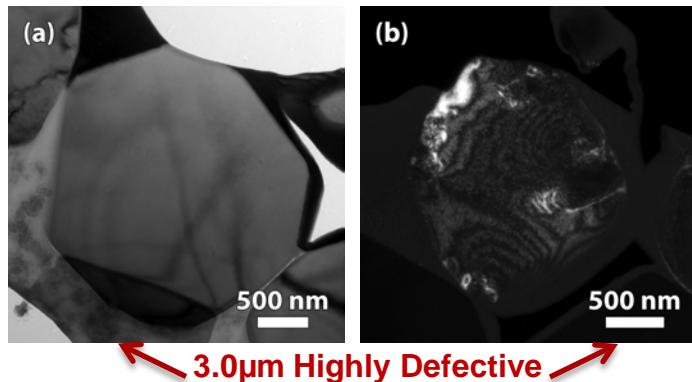
- Infeasible (long computing time) to perform molecular dynamics simulations on size  $>0.05\mu\text{m}$
- 'smaller' particles ( $0.3\mu\text{m}$ ) are nearly defect-free, and 'larger' particles ( $3.0\mu\text{m}$ ) contain immobile defects that serve as crack nucleation sites.
- Circumvented the size limitation of our models by simulating similar sized (10 nm) nanoparticles (NPs) that were either
  - single crystal
  - contained a grain boundary (GB) as an initial immobile defect.
- This approach still enables the study of NP deformation/fracture in computationally-feasible systems.

# Ceramic Particle RT Deformation - Alumina

- Deformation behavior influenced by *number of internal defects*, temperature, crystal orientation/size. Numbers of pre-existing (immobile) defect scale with size.
- In situ SEM/TEM micro-compression and Molecular Dynamics Simulations

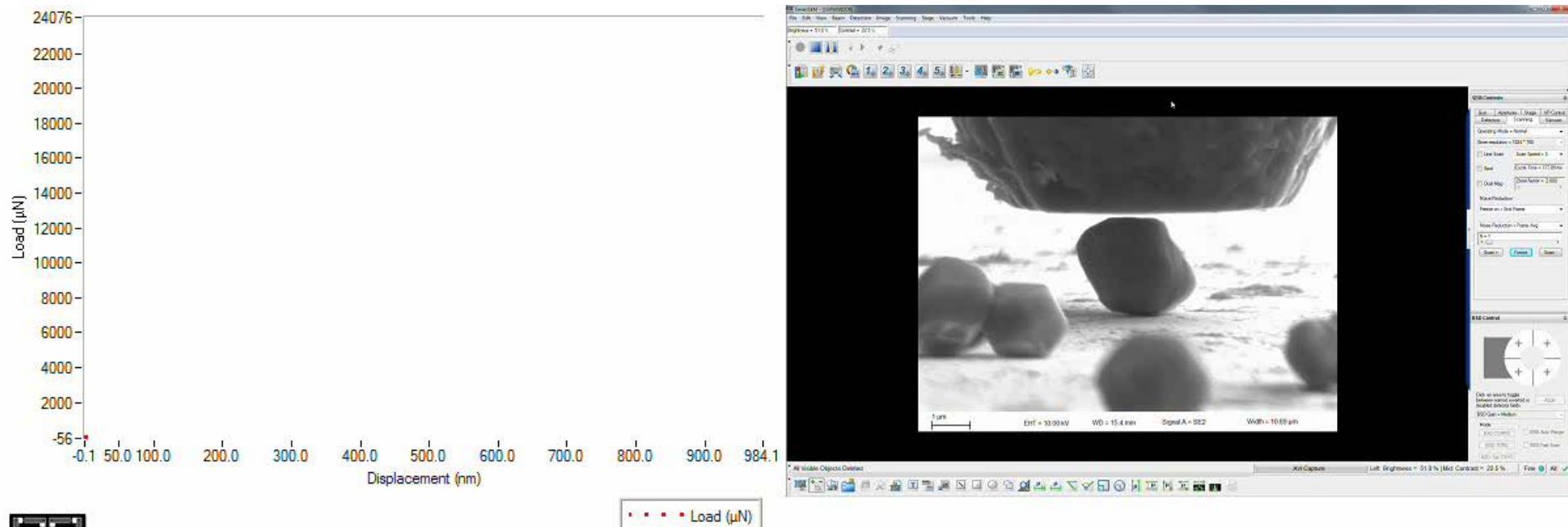
Proposed

	Micron	Sub-micron	Single Crystal Nano	Bicrystal Nano
# Pre-existing Defects	High	Moderate	None	Grain Boundary
Energy Density Input	Low	Moderate	High	Low
Governing Mechanism(s)	Fracture	Plasticity + Fracture	Plasticity	Fracture
Response to Compression	Crack initiation & Propagation	Dislocation nucleation, slip, crack initiation & propagation	Dislocation nucleation, Slip	Crack initiation & propagation
Compression Testing	SEM	SEM and TEM	MD Simulation	MD Simulation



# *In Situ* SEM micro-compression – 3.0 $\mu\text{m}$

Displacement control, Strain rate  $\sim 0.003 \text{ s}^{-1}$

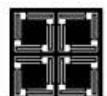
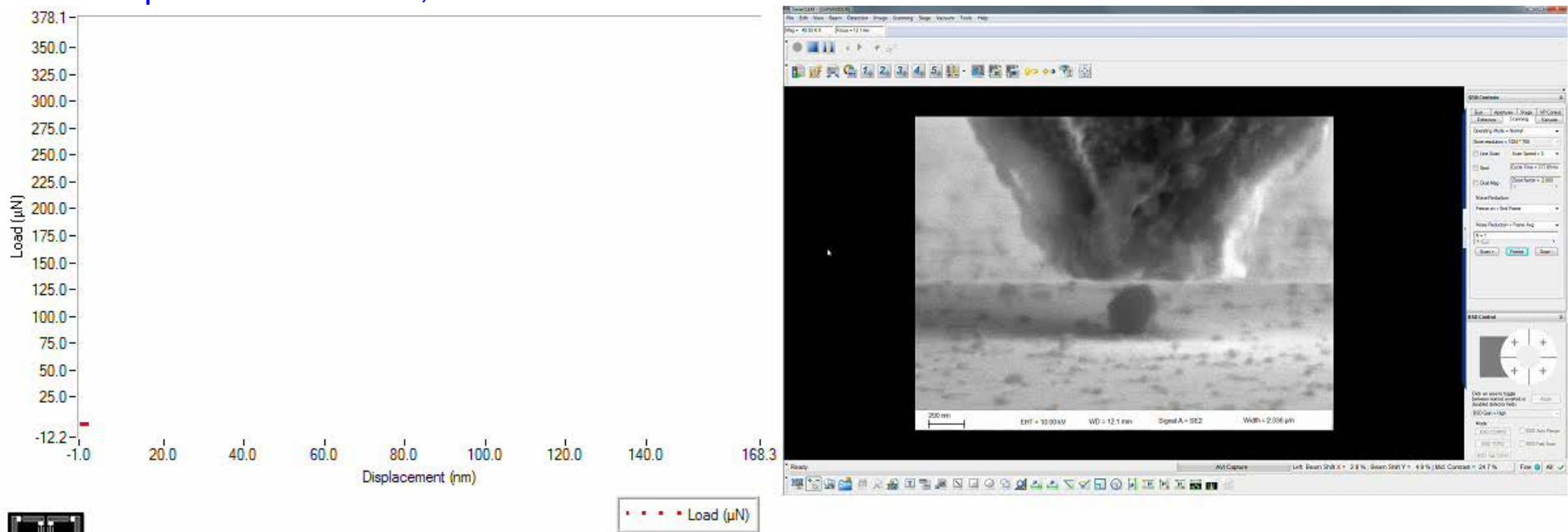


- Compressed 4 particles
- No observable shape change prior to fracture and fragmentation
- Displacement excursion corresponded to a fast fracture event
  - Strain Energy Density before Fracture  $\sim 203 \text{ MJ/m}^3$
  - Strain at fracture  $\sim 7\%$

Tip could not keep up with large displacement gained during fracture.

# In Situ SEM micro-compression – 0.3 $\mu$ m

Displacement control, Strain rate  $\sim 0.05 \text{ s}^{-1}$

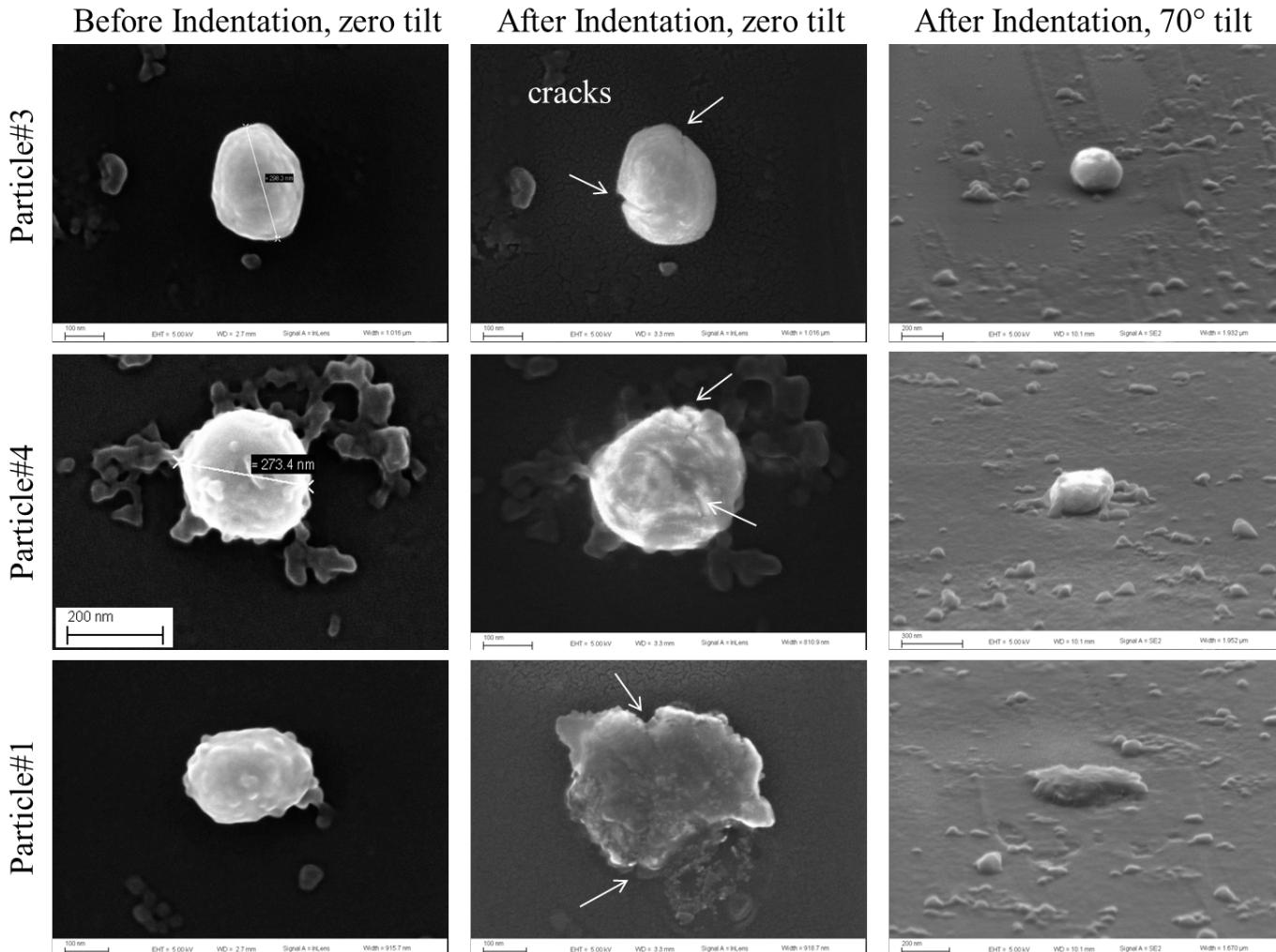


HYSITRON™

- Compressed 4 particles
- Significant plastic deformation/ shape change and stayed intact
- Displacement excursion corresponded to??? *Ex situ* observation
- Strain Energy Density before displacement excursion  $\sim 675 \text{ MJ/m}^3$ 
  - Strain at displacement excursion  $\sim 16\%$

Tip could not keep up with large displacement gained during fracture.

# Ex Situ SEM observation – 0.3 $\mu$ m



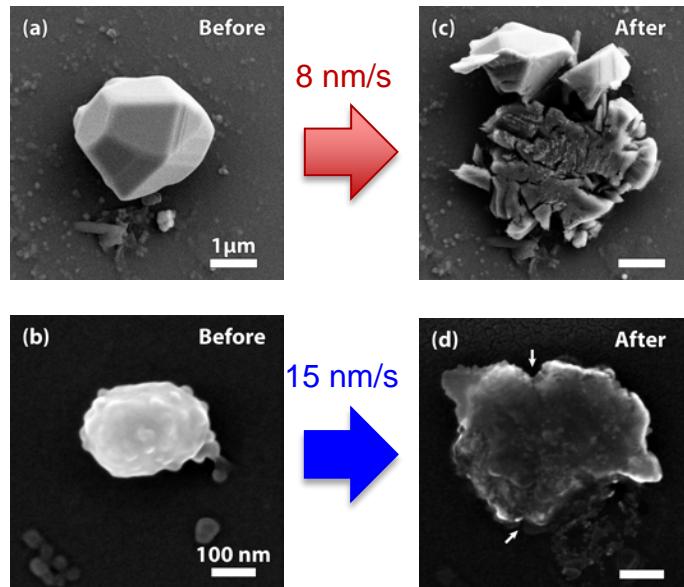
~307  $\mu$ N  
Max load

~420  $\mu$ N  
Max load

Extreme  
Loading

Different deformation behavior and load at first fracture may differ from particle-to-particle due to orientation differences and different pre-existing defect densities. However, overall, the sub-micron sized alumina particles exhibited significant plastic deformation before fracture.

# Micro-compression Summary



Particle Identifier	Diameter (μm)	Nominal Strain Rate (s <sup>-1</sup> )	Strain Energy Density Before Displacement Excursion (MJ/m <sup>3</sup> )	Strain at displacement excursion (%)
<b>Large Particles</b>				
SEM-LP1	2.9	0.03	47	5
SEM-LP2	2.6	0.006	106	5
SEM-LP4	2.9	0.005	70	5
SEM-LP5	2.9	0.003	203	7
<b>Avg Large Particles</b>	<b>2.8</b>	-	<b>106±69</b>	<b>5.5 ± 1</b>
<b>Small Particles</b>				
SEM-SP2	0.17	0.09	494	11
SEM-SP3	0.29	0.05	366	12
SEM-SP4	0.28	0.05	607	13
SEM-SP5	0.29	0.05	675	16
*TEM-SA2	0.38	*0.005	573	32
*TEM-SB1	0.24	*0.009	1066	27
<b>Avg Small Particles</b>	<b>0.26</b>	-	<b>630±238</b>	<b>18 ± 9</b>

	Micron	Sub-micron
# Pre-existing Defects	High	Moderate
Energy Density Input	Low	Moderate
Governing Mechanism(s)	Fracture	Plasticity + Fracture
Response to Compression	Crack initiation & Propagation	Dislocation nucleation, slip, crack initiation & propagation

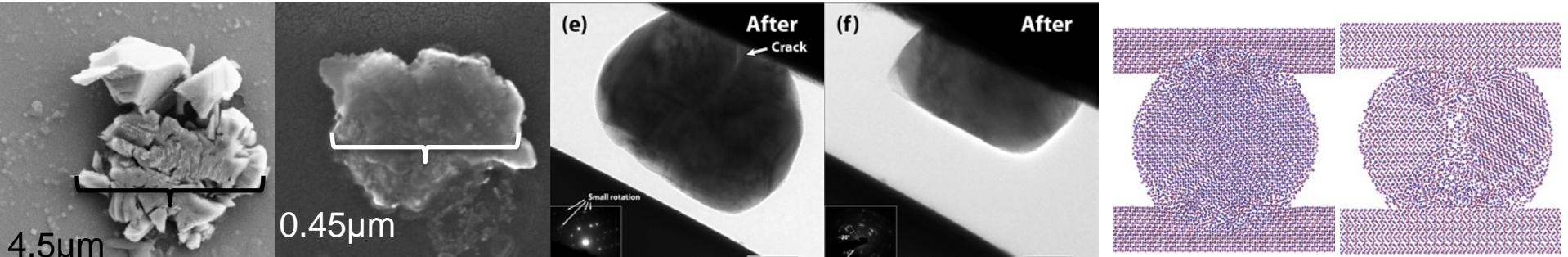
- Micron sized particles - brittle fracture
- Sub-micron sized particles - substantial plastic deformation before fracture and/or coordinated shear deformation.
  - **6x** higher strain energy density input
    - dislocation nucleation
  - **3x** higher accumulated strain
    - In some cases, became polycrystalline.

# Ceramic Particle RT Deformation - Alumina

- Deformation behavior influenced by numbers of internal defects, orientation, size.

**Verified**

	Micron	Sub-micron	Single Crystal Nano	Bicrystal Nano
# Pre-existing Defects	High	Moderate	None	Grain Boundary
Energy Density Input	Low	Moderate	High	Low
Governing Mechanism(s)	Fracture	Plasticity + Fracture	Plasticity	Fracture
Response to Compression	Crack initiation & Propagation	Dislocation nucleation, slip, crack initiation & propagation	Dislocation nucleation, Slip	Crack initiation & propagation
Compression Testing	SEM	SEM and TEM	MD Simulation	MD Simulation



**3.0 $\mu$ m - Fracture and Fragmentation**

**0.3 $\mu$ m – plastic deformation, shape change, cracking**

**0.3 $\mu$ m - Dislocation Plasticity & through particle fracture**

**0.3 $\mu$ m - Coordinated Shear Deformation - Polycrystalline**

**10 nm - Coordinated 10 nm - Fracture Shear Deformation**