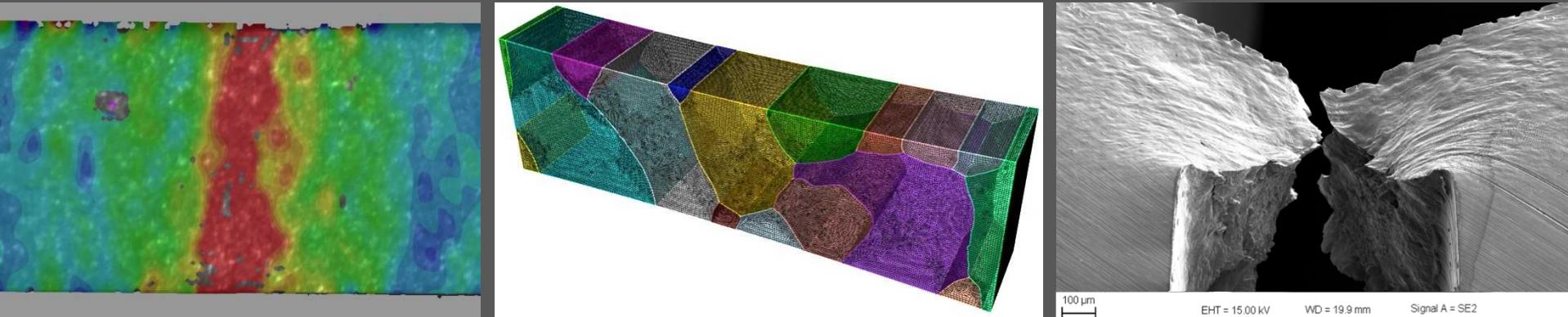


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# Characterization of Void-Dominated Ductile Failure in Pure Ta

B. G. Clark, J. R. Michael, B. B. McKenzie,  
J. Carroll, H. Lim, and B. L. Boyce

May 30th, 2016 • THERMEC 2016 • Graz, Austria



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# The Land of Enchantment

*Sandia Mountains at Sunset*



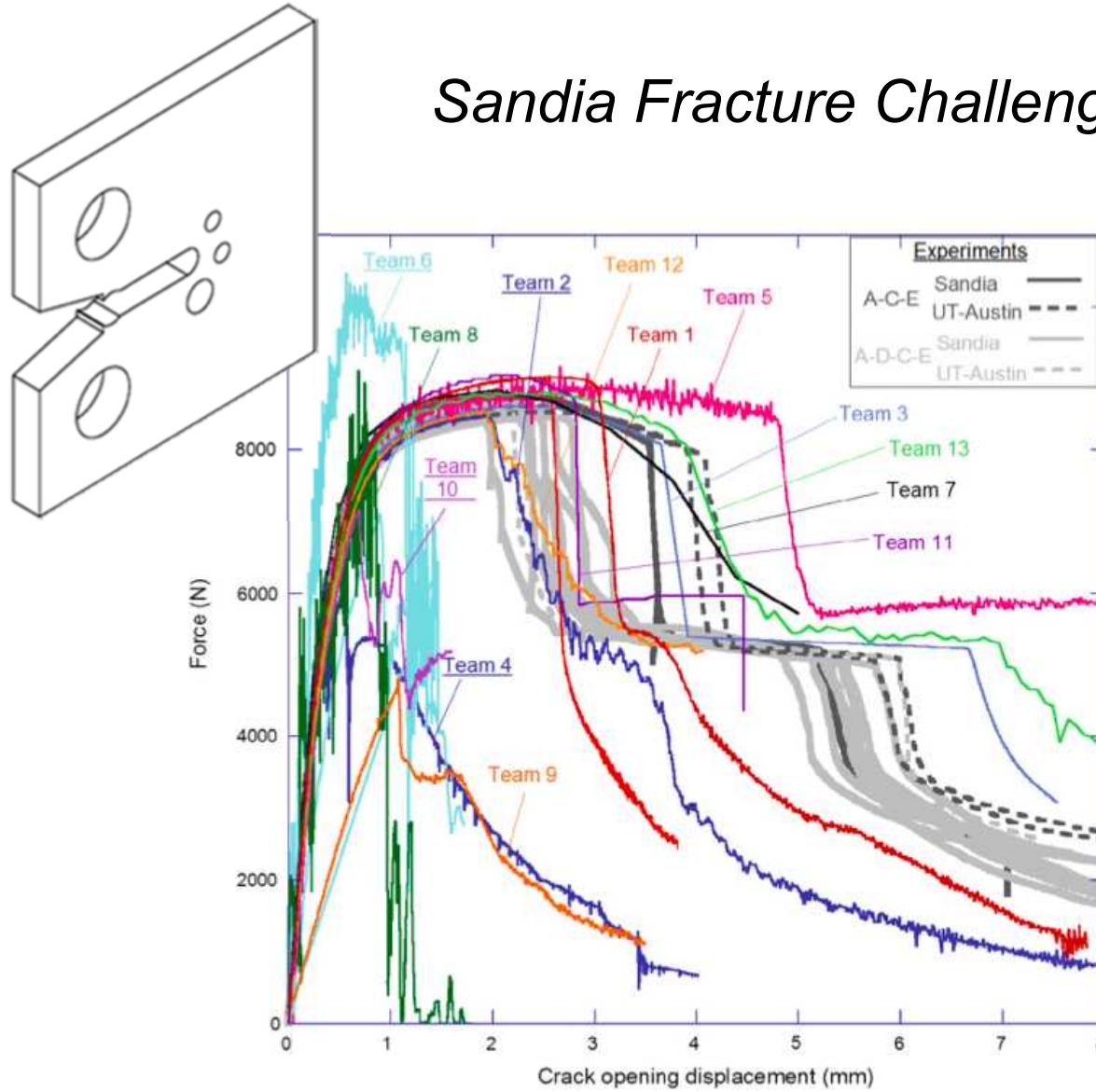
*Balloon Fiesta*



# Sandia National Labs



# Predictive Modeling is Challenging

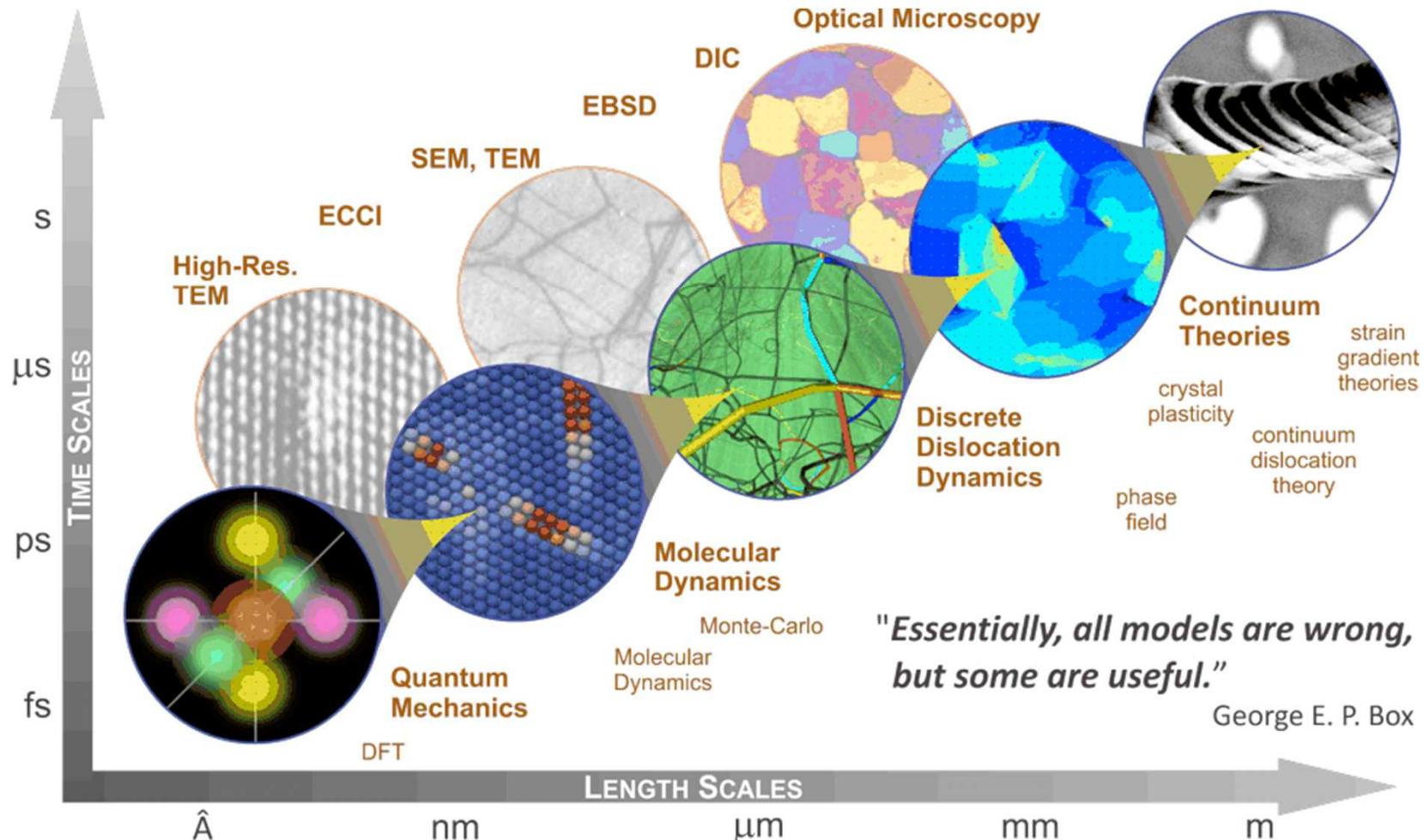


*Sandia Fracture Challenge →*

Teams asked to predict:

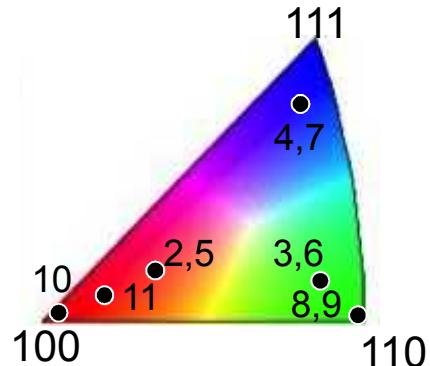
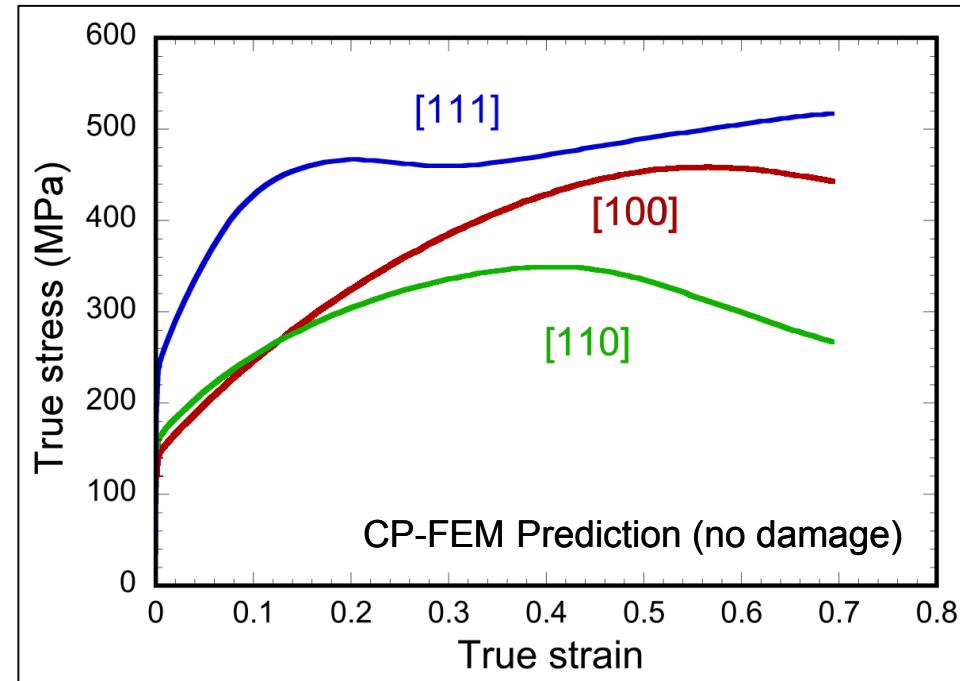
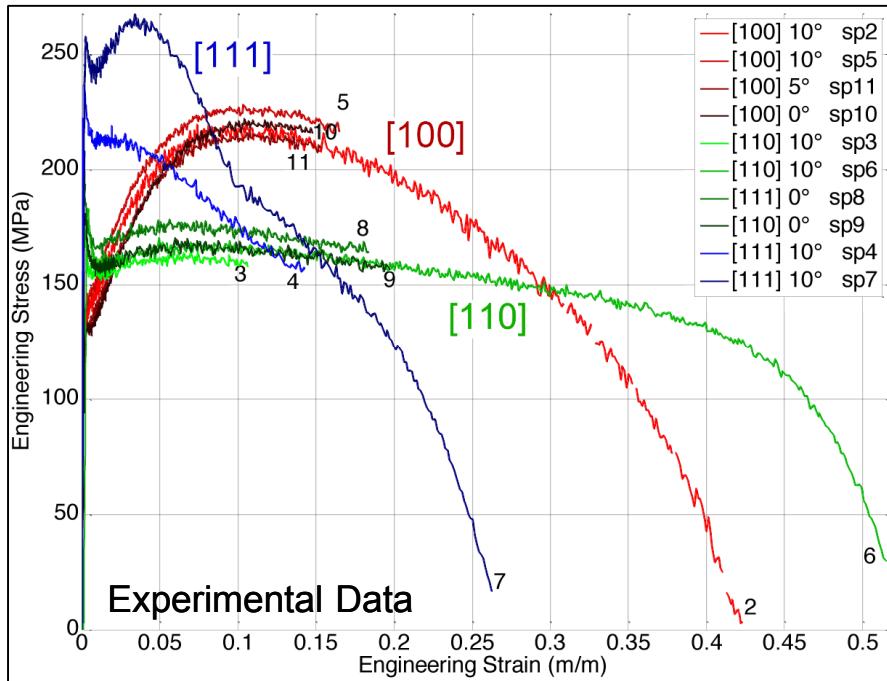
- Force and COD at which crack(s) initiate
- Path of crack
- 3 independent experimental labs collected data
- 13 groups gave predictions from models
- *Wide variety in predicted results*

# Microscopy Plays Key Role



Experimental data provides physical basis for predictive simulation development

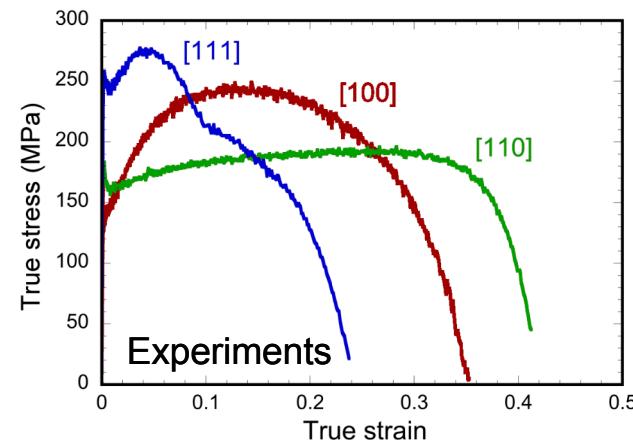
# Predicting Ductile Failure in Ta



Without including damage in CP-FEM:

- No softening occurs other than necking
- The material does not “degrade” (e.g. voids, crack, tearing)
- Stress-strain response does not match experiments

# Getting the Damage “Right”



Metrics for Microstructurally Small Fatigue Crack (MSFC)\*

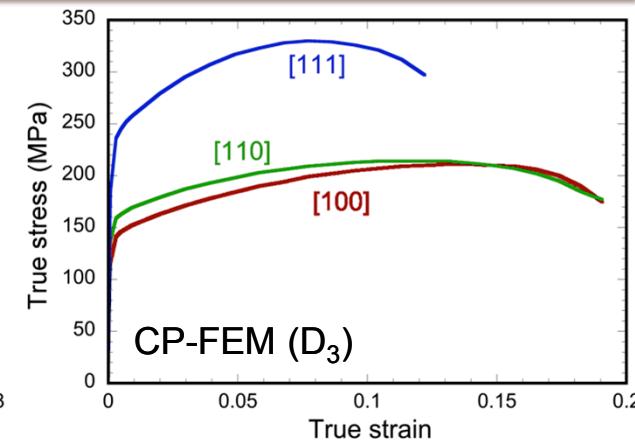
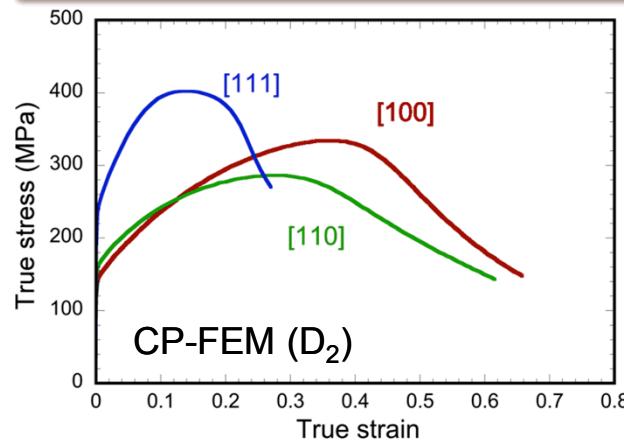
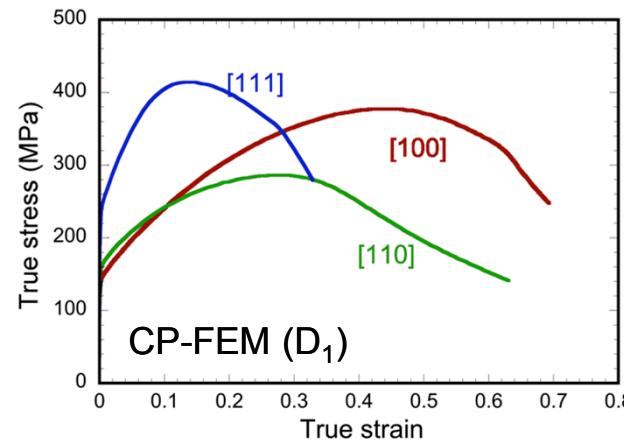
$$D_1 = \max_{\alpha} \int_0^t |\dot{\gamma}^{\alpha}| dt \quad (\text{Max. accumulated slip over each slip system})$$

$$D_2 = \max_p \int_0^t |\dot{\gamma}^p| dt \quad (\text{Max. accumulated slip over each slip plane})$$

$$D_3 = \sum_{\alpha=0}^N \int_0^t |\dot{\gamma}^{\alpha}| dt \quad (\text{Total accumulated slip over each slip system})$$

$$\dot{\gamma}^{\alpha} = \dot{\gamma}_0^{\alpha} \left( \frac{\tau^{\alpha}}{(1 - D_i) g^{\alpha}} \right)^{1/m}$$

“Accumulated slip”

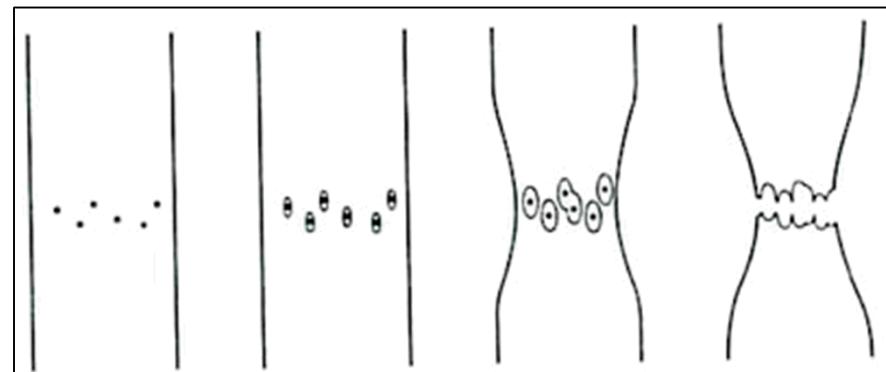
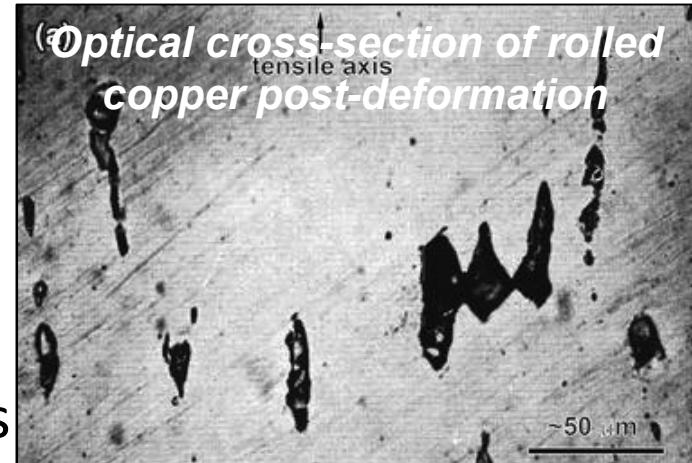


What controls the initiation of damage in Ta?

How can we better understand how damage nucleates and accumulates?

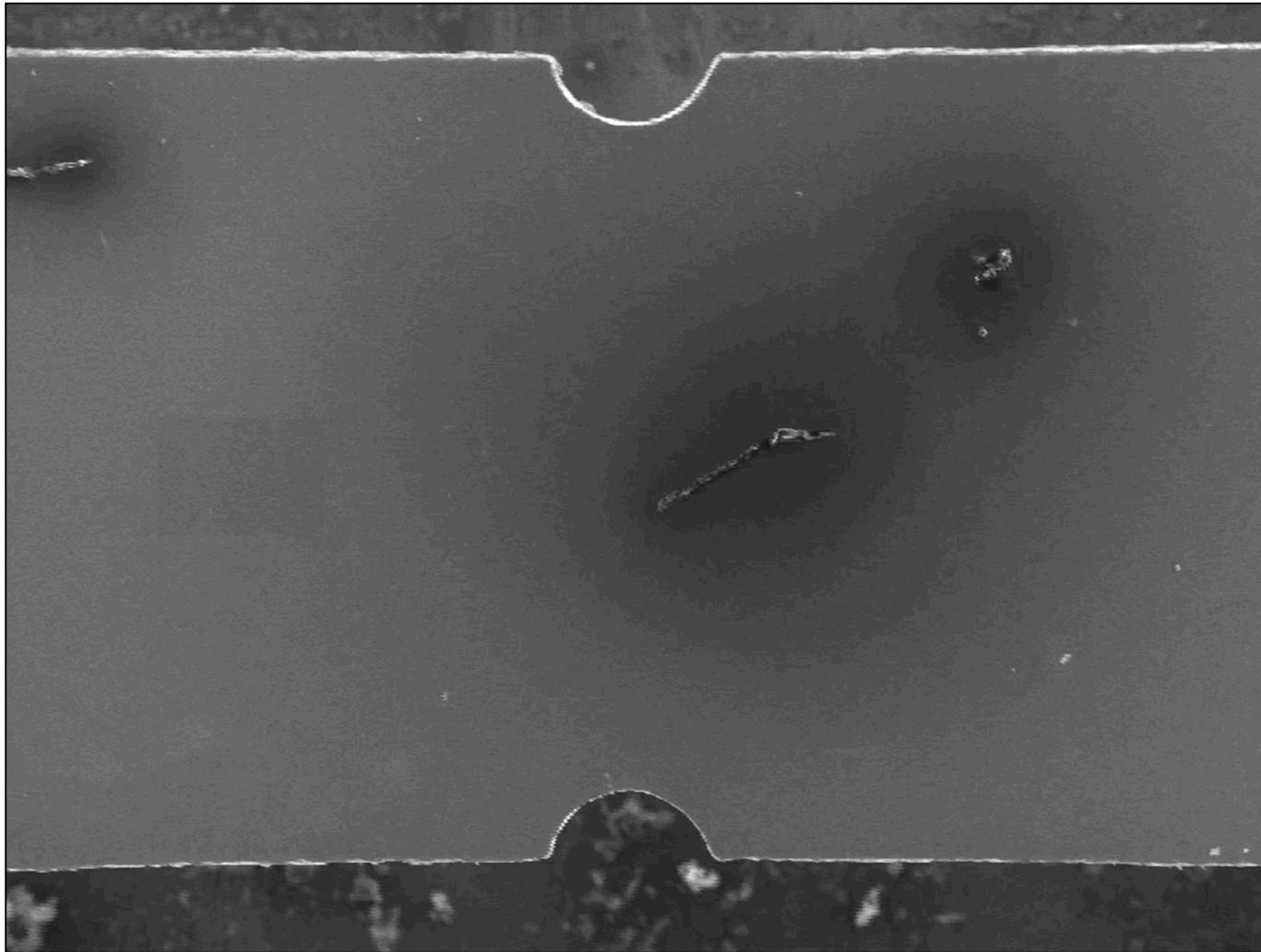
# Ductile Fracture Mechanism

- Mechanical description of void nucleation, growth, and coalescence largely based on studies in 50's and 60's
- Initiation of voids through decohesion at second-phase particles or inclusions
- Voids continue to grow in response to high stresses, eventually coalesce
- *In this study, 99.9% Ta used; no evidence of second-phases or inclusions via SEM/TEM*



Can modern techniques reveal how voids initiate in pure metals?

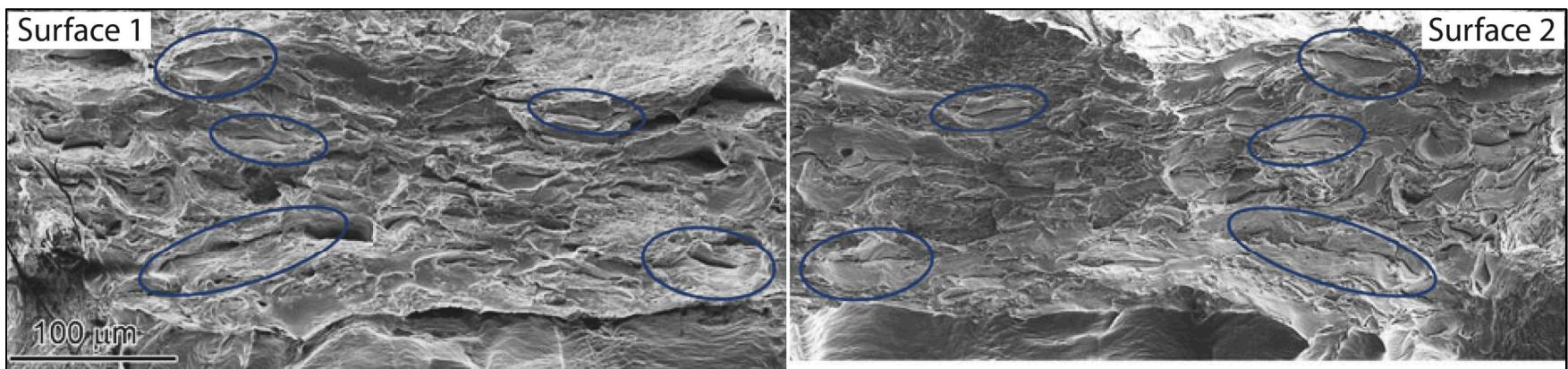
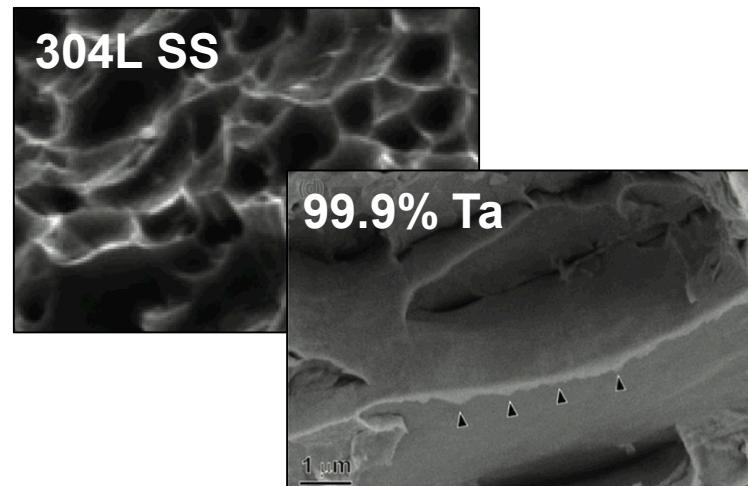
# Tensile Testing of 99.9%Ta



*In Situ* Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) tensile test on Ta

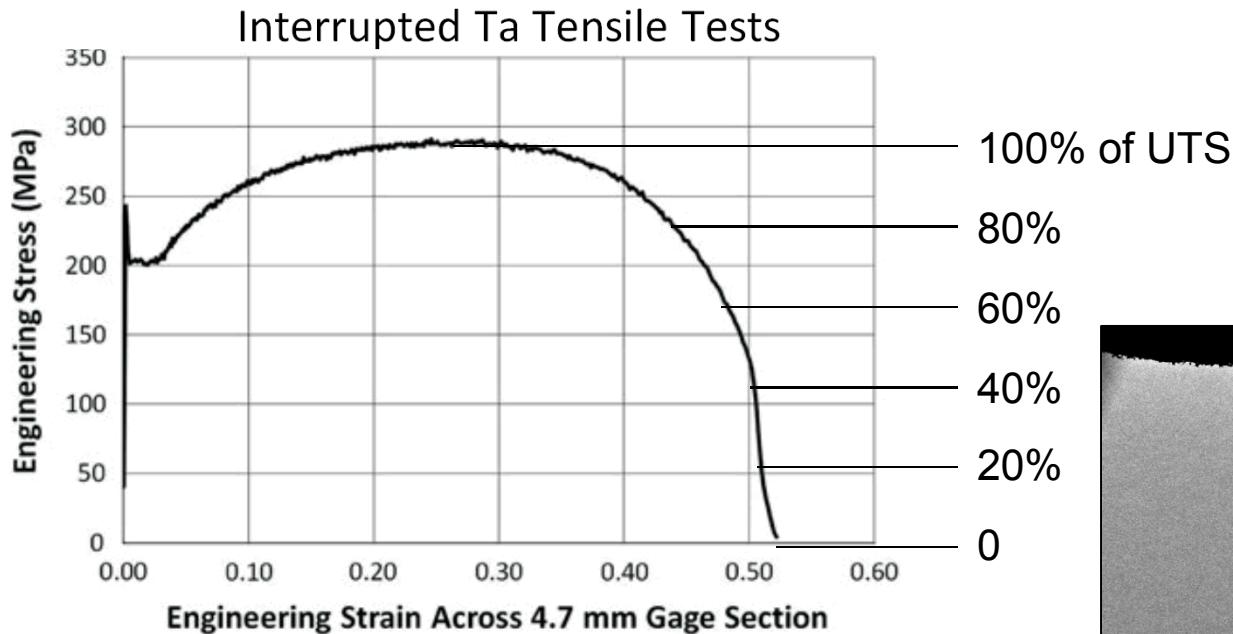
# Fractography of 99.9%Ta

- Ta exhibits significant ductility, but with valley/ridge fracture surface → no 'classic' hemispherical dimpling
- Mating surfaces are mirrored → with no evidence of cup-cone

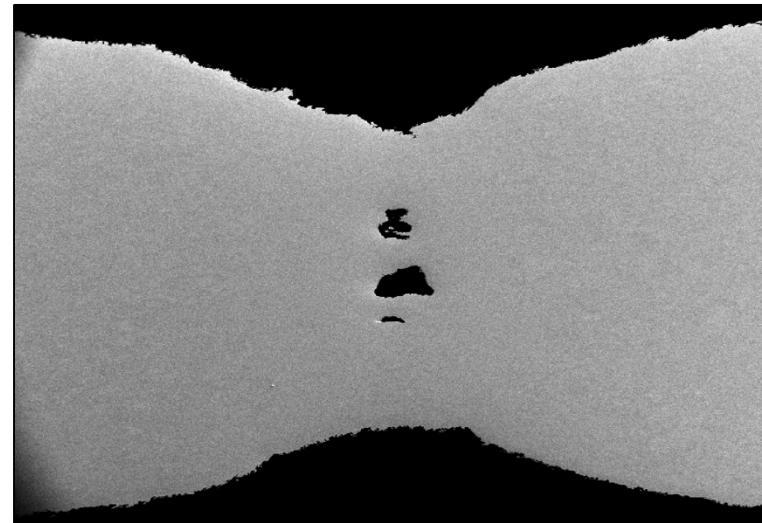


What role does local microstructure play in void initiation and growth?

# Characterization of Deformed Ta

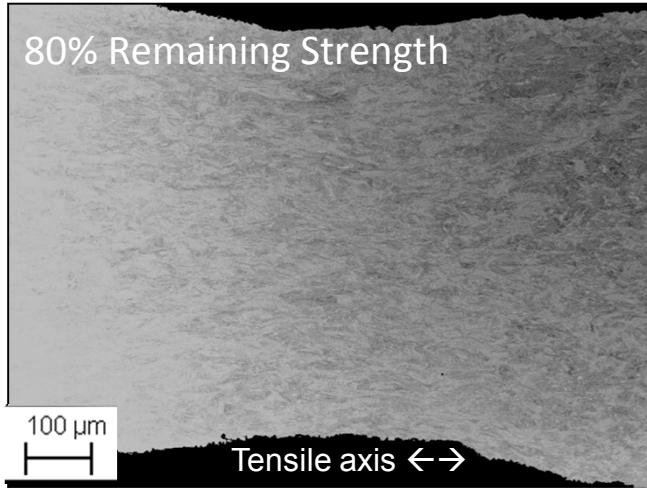


Deformed Ta samples polished to mid-plane to investigate local microstructure in voided regions

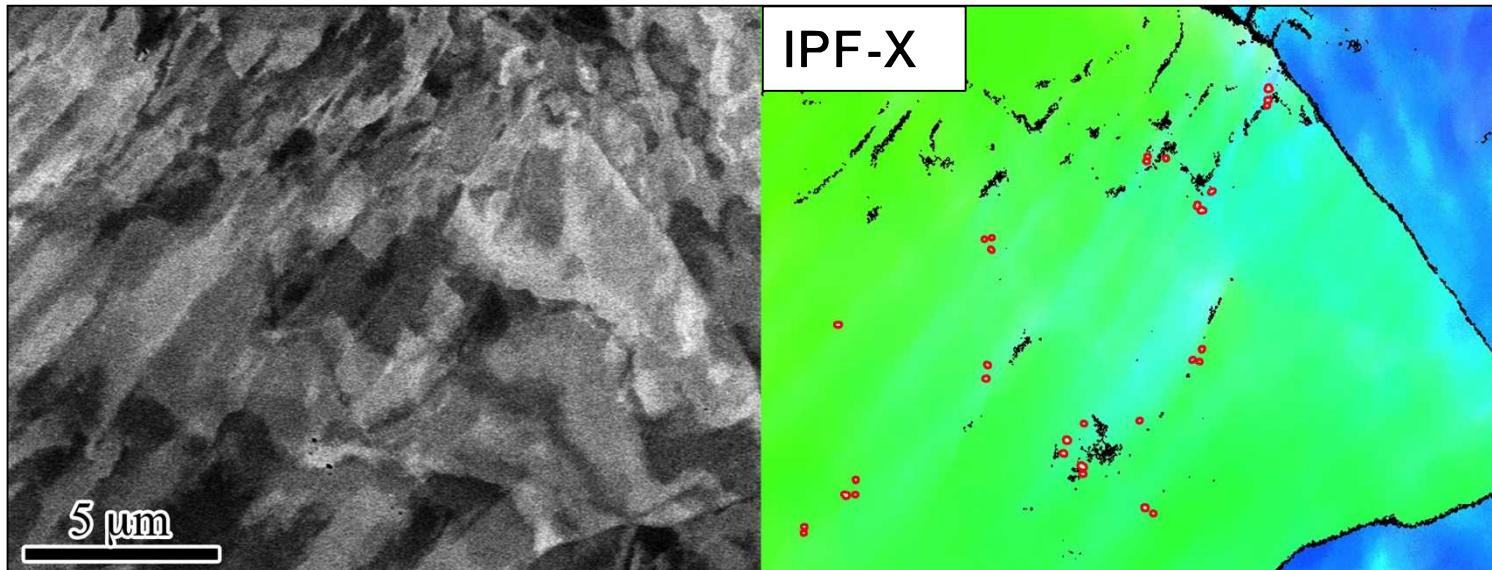


*Ta tensile bar deformed at  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  to 40% remaining strength and polished to mid-plane for void analysis*

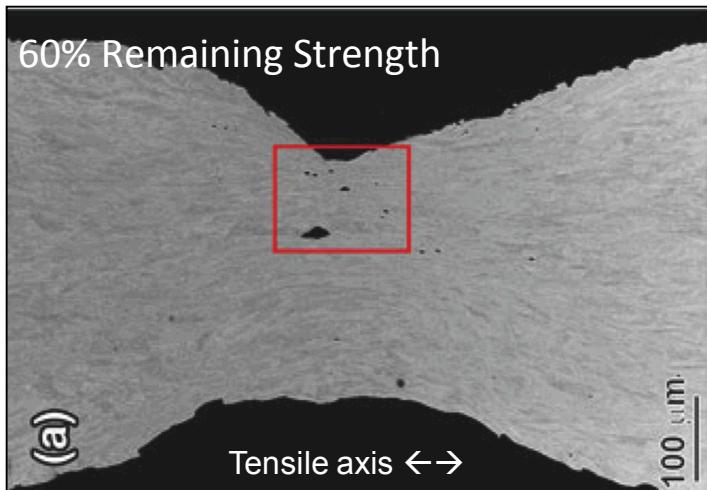
# Void Formation at 80% RTS



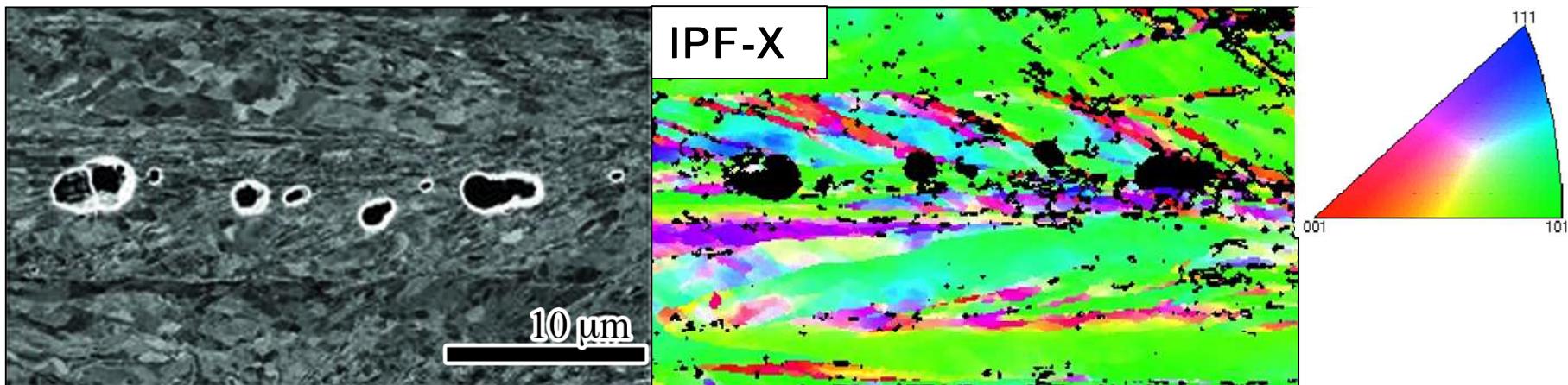
- Sample has begun to neck
- No large voids observed
- EBSD shows scattered small voids (30-100 nm) near bands of [122] / [110] aligned with tensile axis



# Void Formation at 60% RTS

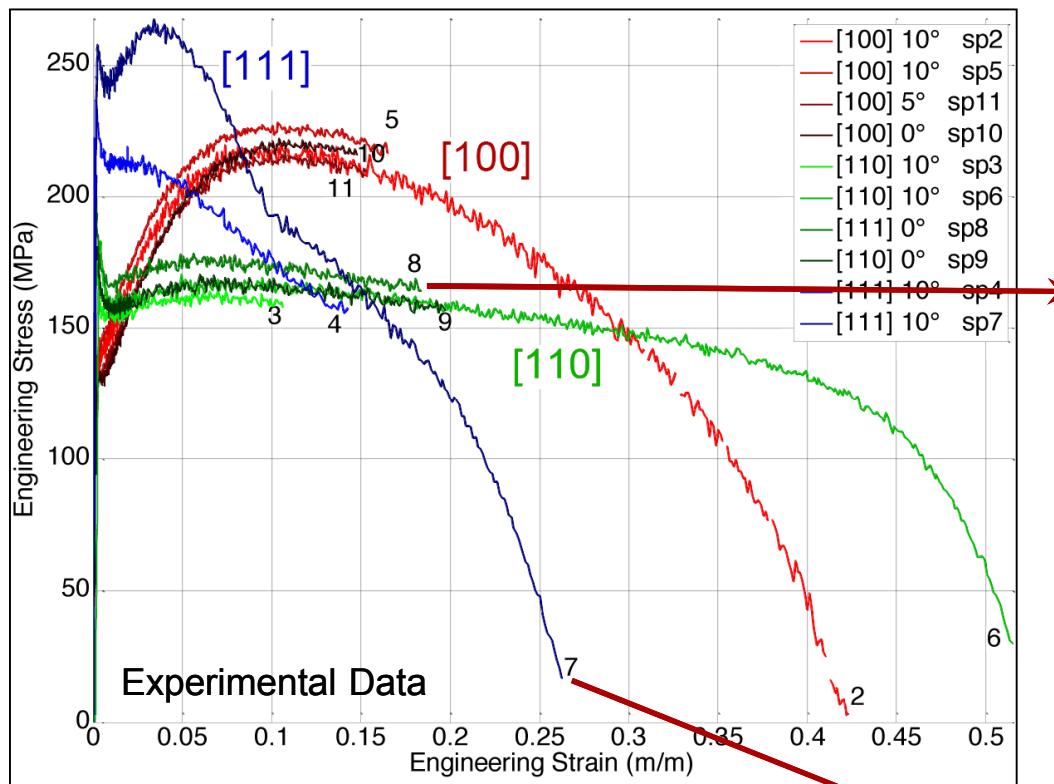


- Arrays of voids aligned along tensile axis
- EBSD shows elongated, inclined [001] subgrains associated with each void
- Alternating regions of [122] indicates high angle GBs

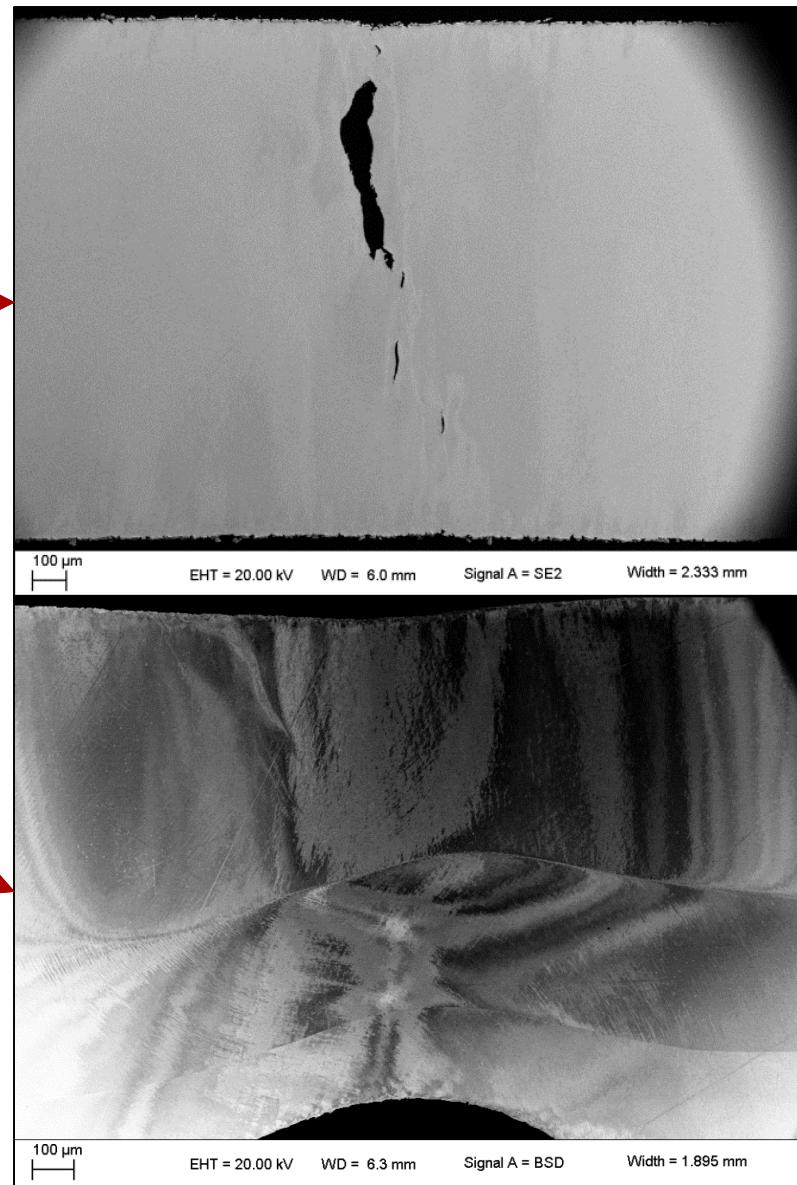


Deformation-induced microstructural changes and stress state controls the initiation/growth of voids

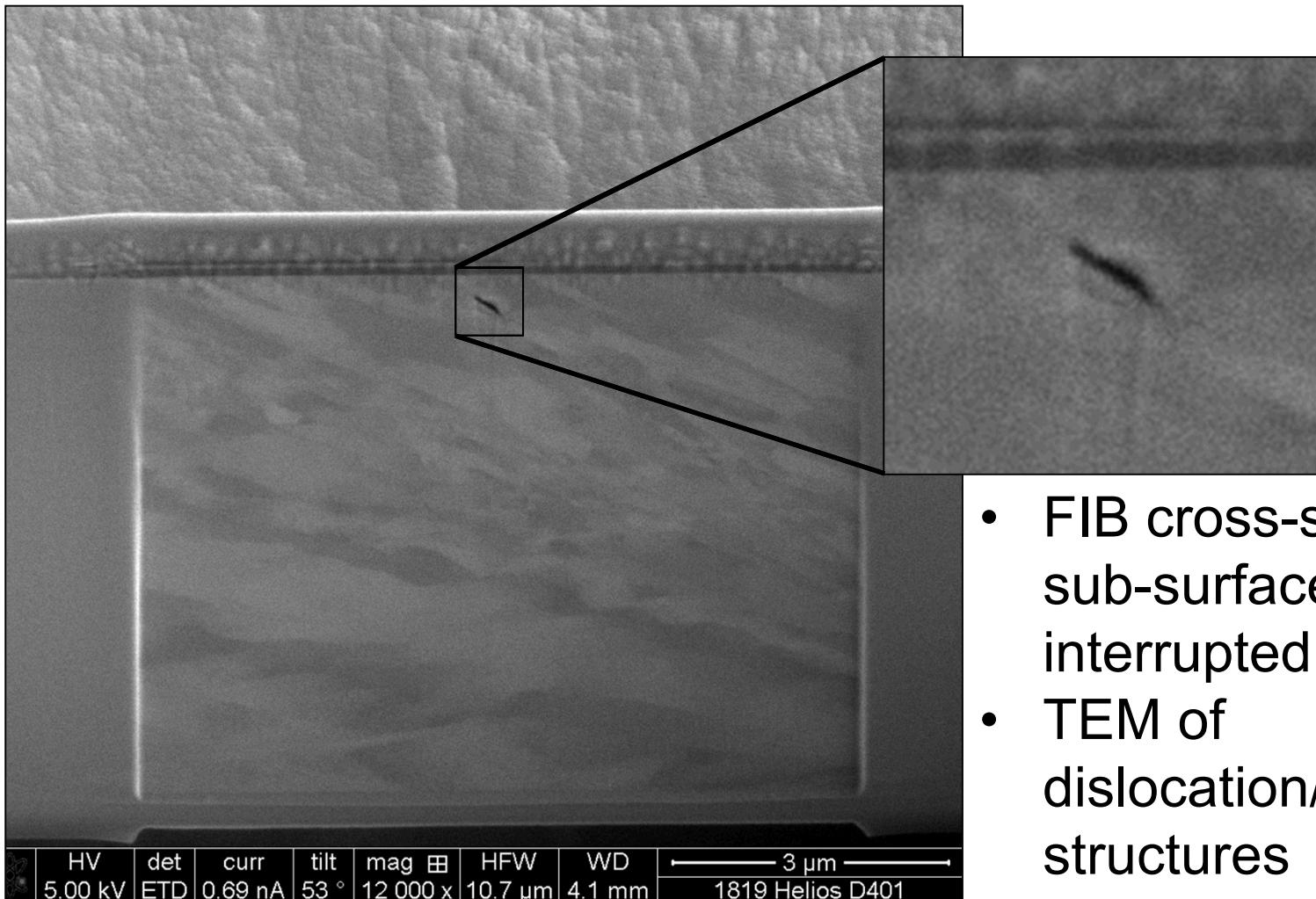
# Void Formation in Single Crystal Ta



- [110] Ta shows void formation well before failure
- [111] Ta shows necking, but no evidence of voiding, right up to point of failure

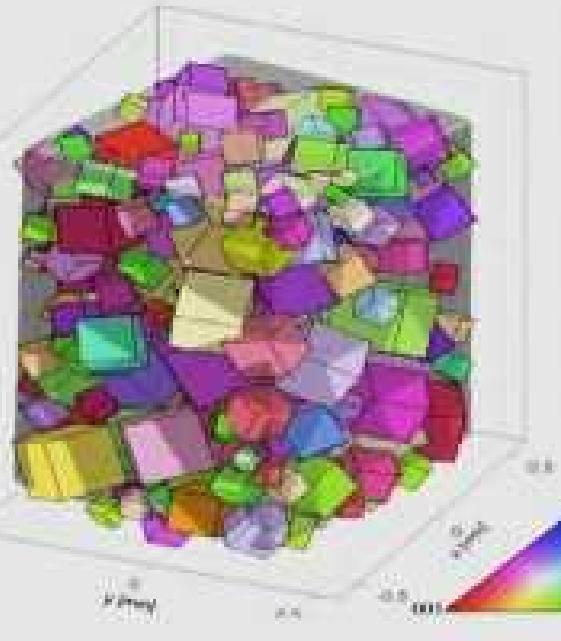


# Future Work: TEM of Voids in Ta

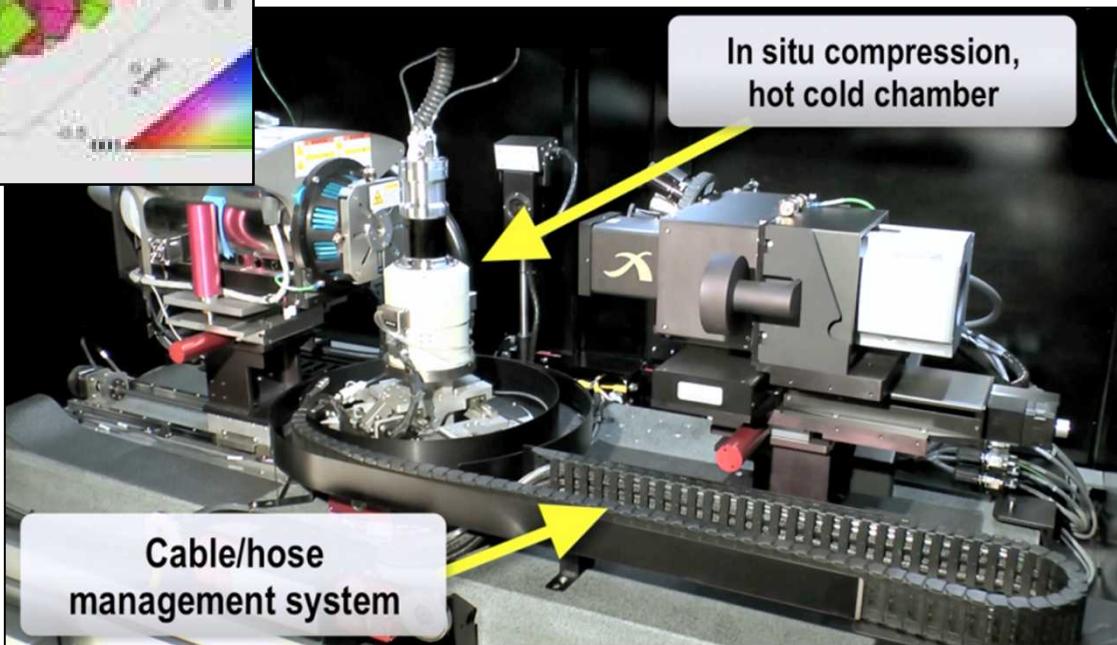


- FIB cross-sections of sub-surface voids in interrupted tensile bars
- TEM of dislocation/defect structures
- Further insight into void nucleation mechanism

# Future Work: X-Ray Tomography



- Diffraction contrast tomography to map grain orientations in Ta tensile bar
- Deform in-situ with 3D x-ray tomography to map void evolution
- Compare 1:1 experimental and modeling results from **same** starting microstructure

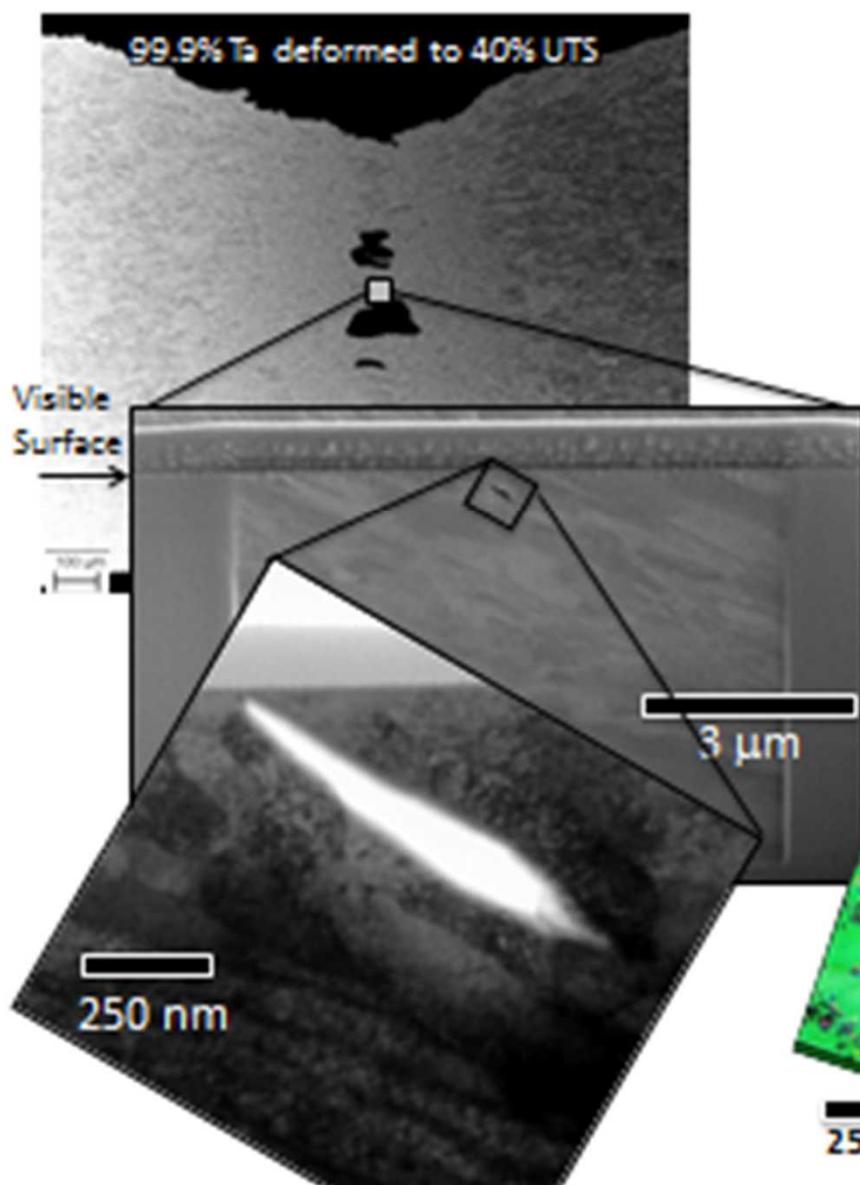


# Conclusions

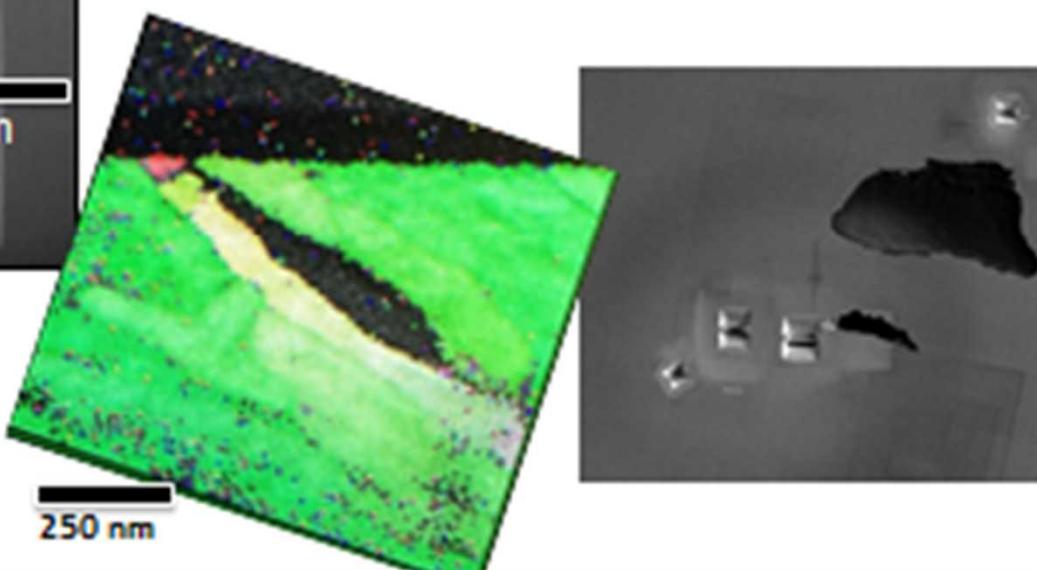
- 99.9% pure Ta is ductile, but does not exhibit a ‘classic’ ductile fracture surface (i.e. hemispherical dimples)  
→ but, fracture surface still indicates void-driven failure
- Voids in interrupted tensile test specimens were analyzed by SEM and EBSD  
→ voids prevalent in regions of high misorientation
- No inclusions or second-phases observed via SEM or TEM  
→ void initiation likely at dislocation junctions / sub-boundaries
- Early single crystal Ta results are consistent with polycrystalline results: Grains oriented as [110] form voids readily in Ta

Failure mechanism of Ta is void-driven, with deformation-induced microstructural changes and stress state controlling the initiation and growth of voids

# Nanoscale Analysis of Void Initiation



- Focused Ion Beam (FIB) used to locate subsurface, deformation-induced voids in interrupted tensile bar.
- Preliminary TEM shows void shape aligned with angle of sub-boundaries
- Transmission Kikuchi Diffraction (TKD) to determine crystallographic orientation near void.
- Orientations are consistent with EBSD analysis showing void nucleation along high angle misorientation boundaries



# Damage model in crystal plasticity

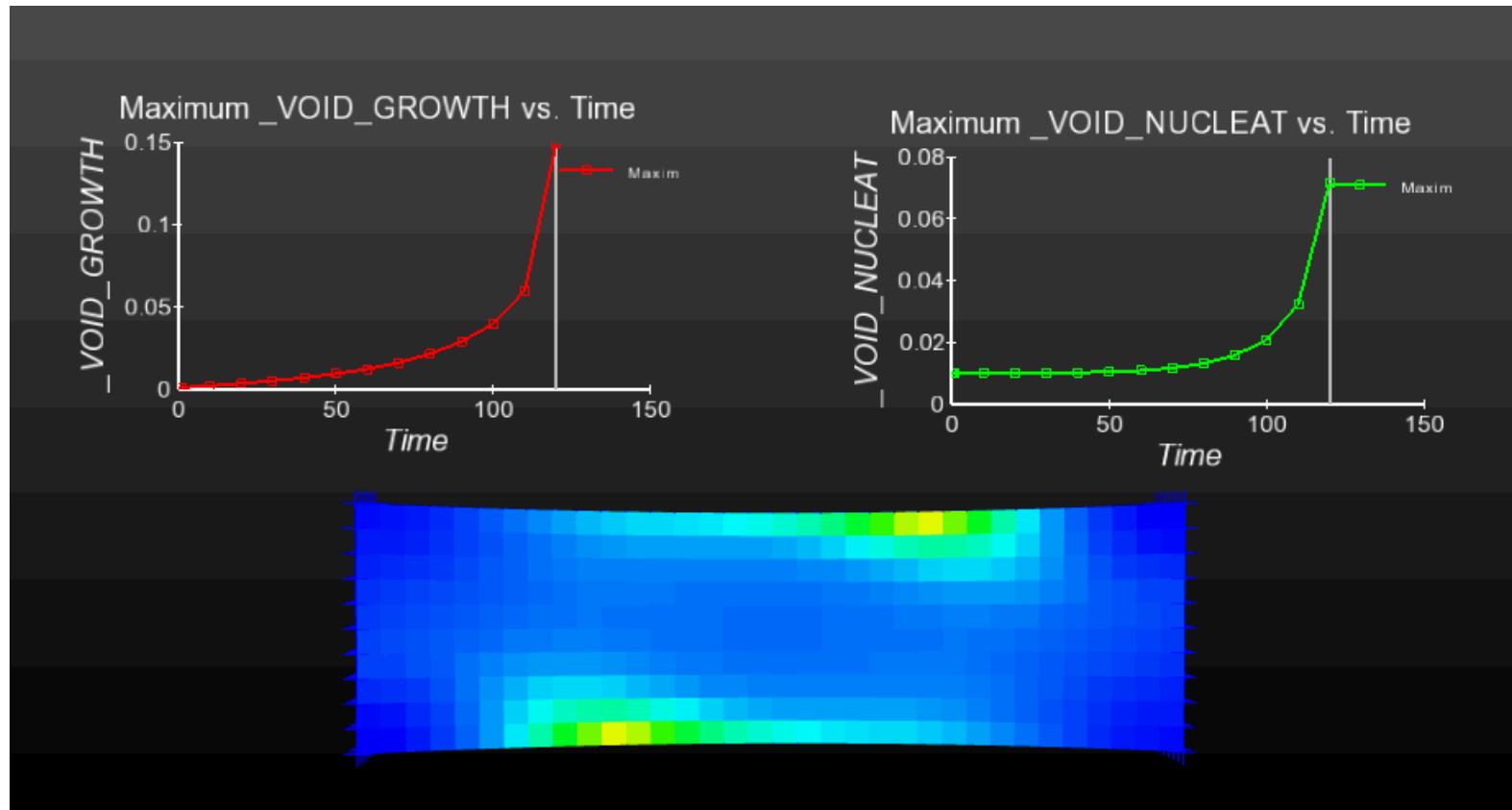
- Damage

$$\dot{\phi} = \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \dot{\epsilon}_p \frac{1 - (1 - \phi)^{m+1}}{(1 - \phi)^m} \cdot \sinh \left[ \frac{2(2m-1)}{2m+1} \frac{\langle p \rangle}{\sigma_e} \right]}_{\text{Void growth}} + \underbrace{(1 - \phi)^2 \dot{\eta} v_{vo}}_{\text{Void nucleation}}.$$

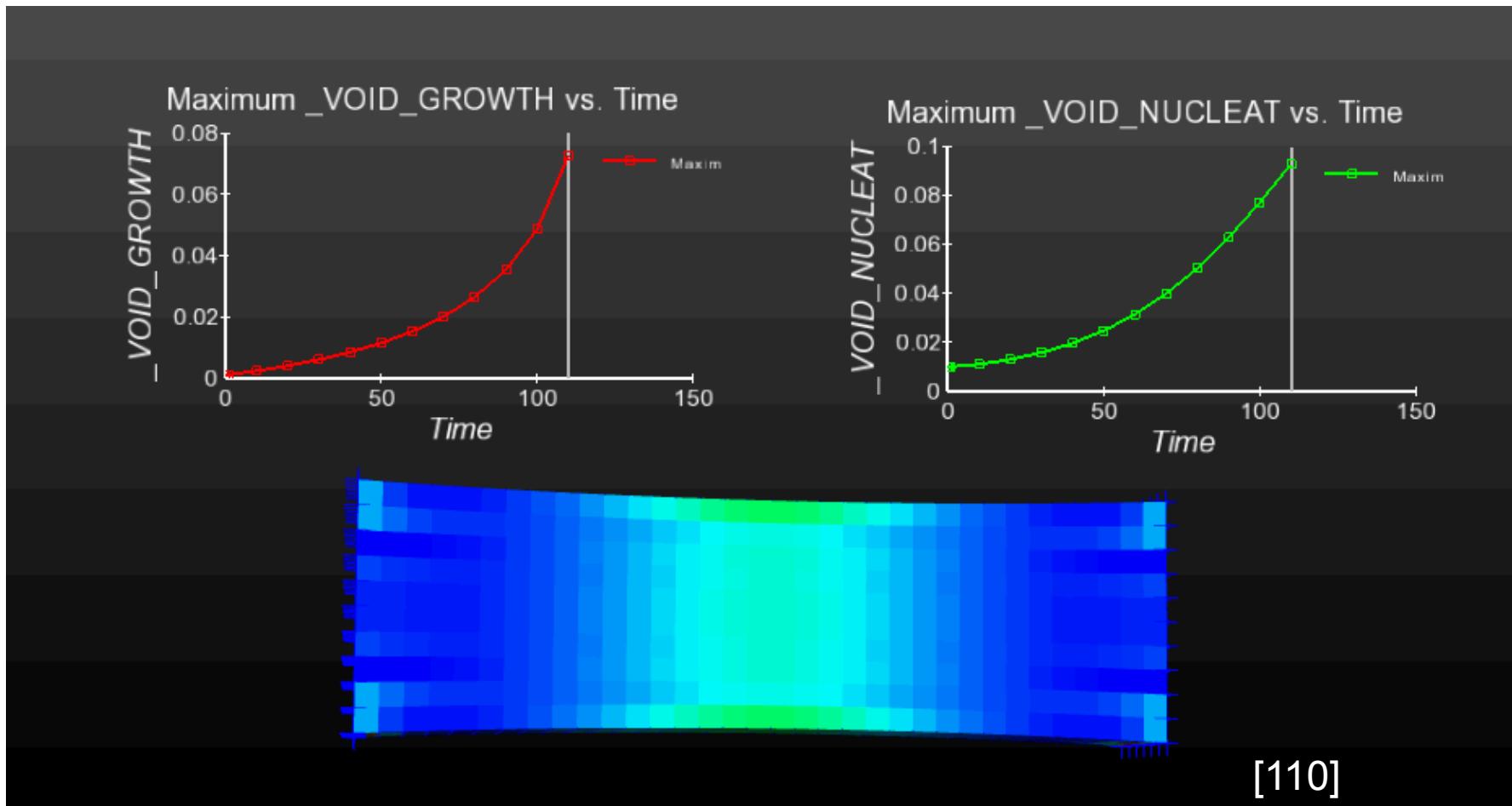
- Constitutive model

$$\dot{\gamma}^\alpha = \dot{\gamma}_0 \left( \frac{\tau^\alpha}{(1 - \phi) g^\alpha} \right)^{1/m}$$

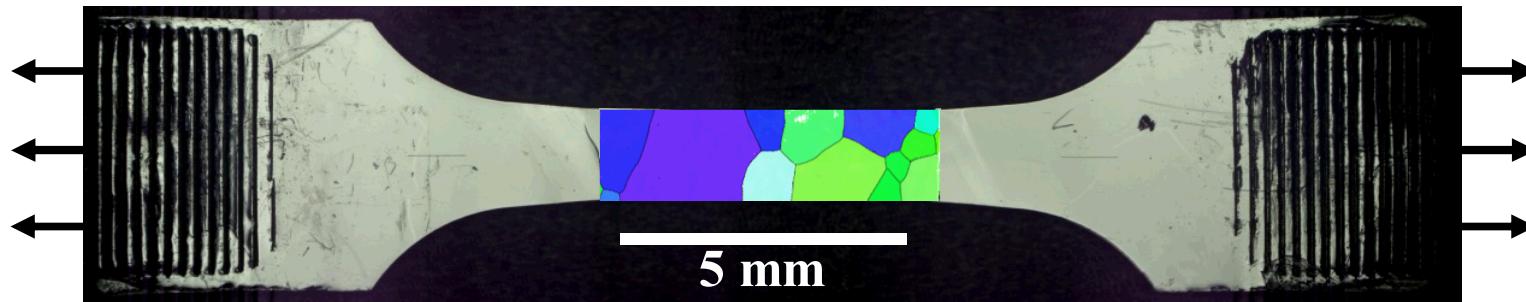
# Ta single crystal simulation: [111]



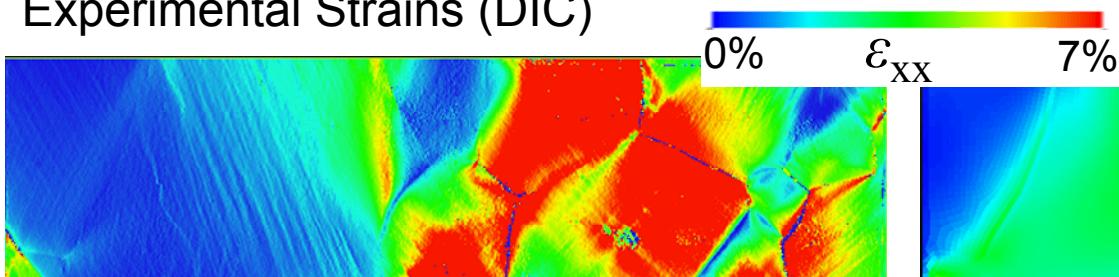
# Ta single crystal simulation: [110]



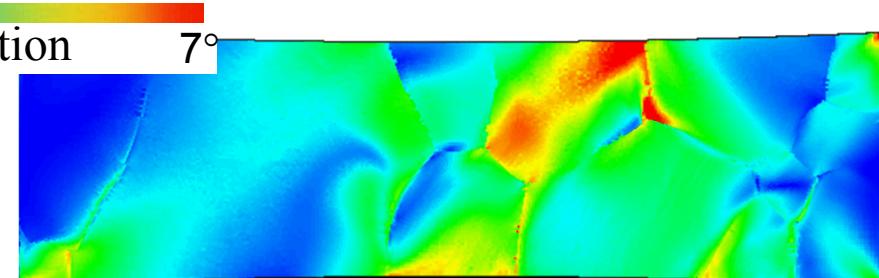
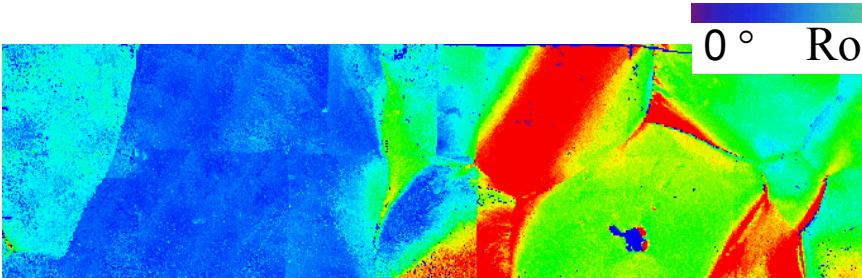
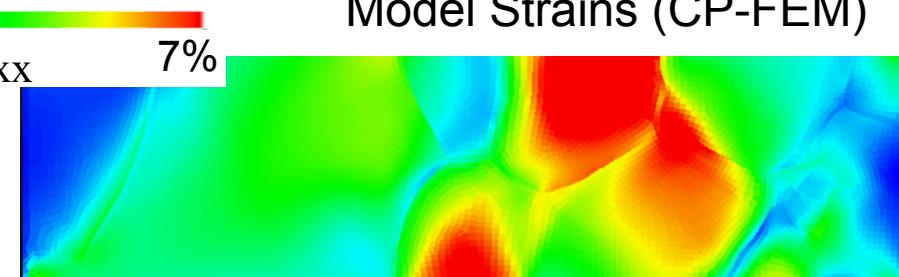
# Crystal Plasticity Predictions



Experimental Strains (DIC)



Model Strains (CP-FEM)



Great comparison *qualitatively*, but strain and rotation are underpredicted