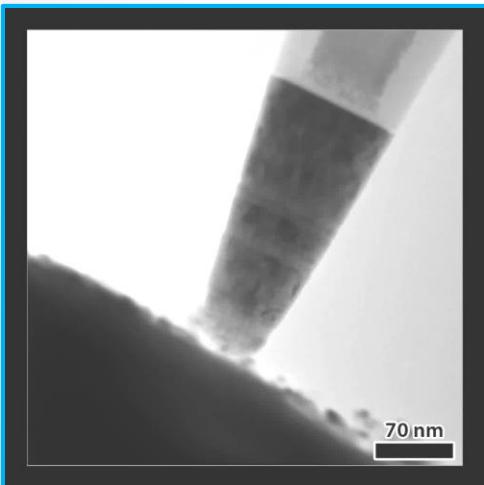


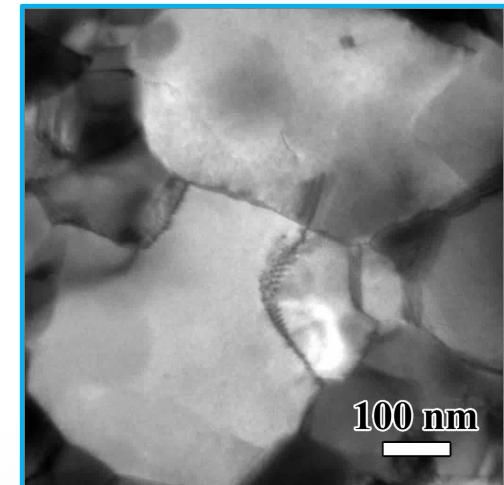


# Origins of material degradation and failure: real time nanoscale observations of deformation, fatigue, and radiation damage



Daniel Bufford\*  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Albuquerque, NM, USA

\*and many collaborators.



# My Background



**Olin College**  
of Engineering



**Sandia National Laboratories**

# Sandia's National Security Mission



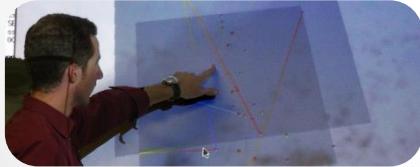
*Nuclear Weapons*



*International, Homeland & Nuclear Security*



*Energy & Climate*



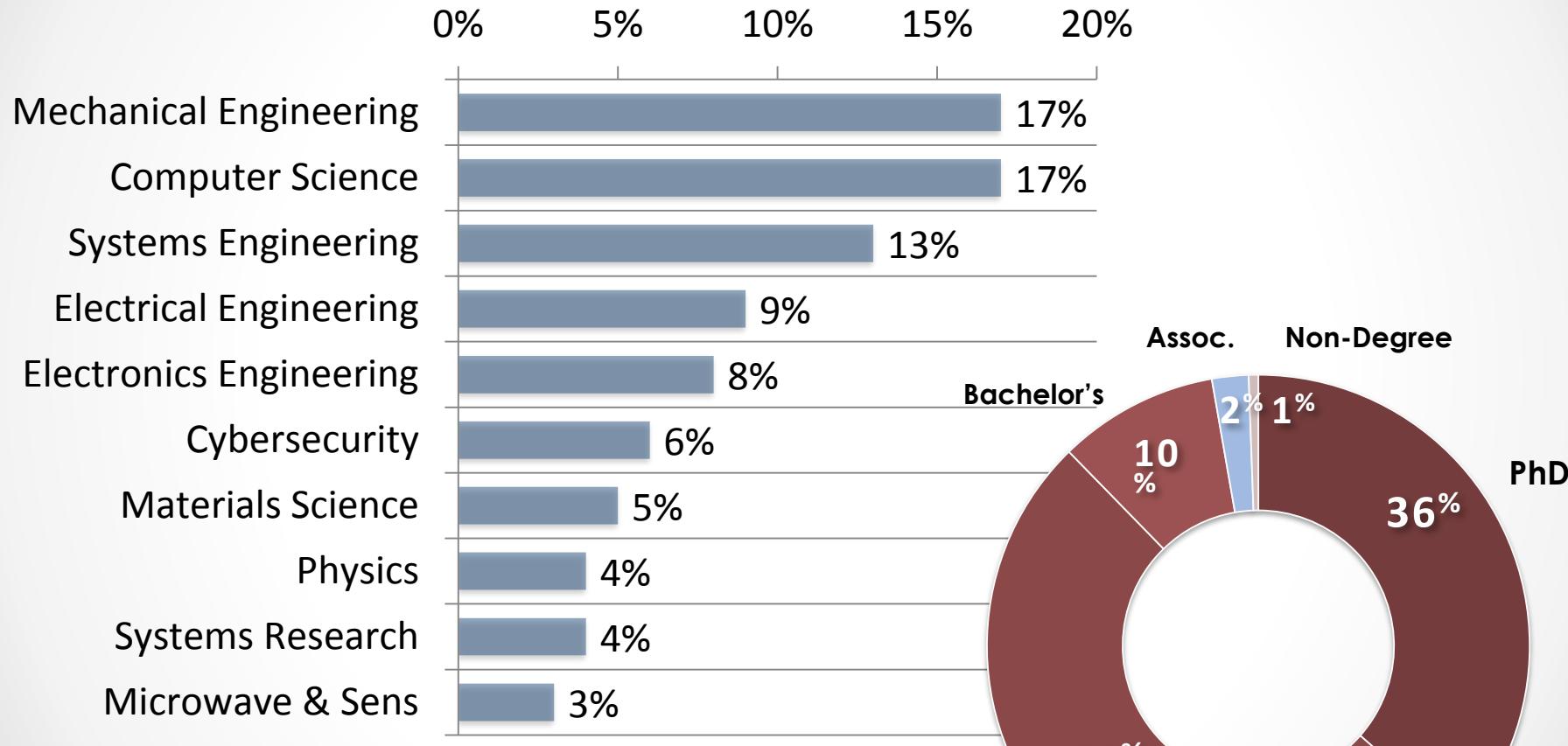
*Defense Systems & Assessments*

# DOE National Laboratories



- National Nuclear Security Administration labs
- Science labs
- Nuclear energy lab
- Environmental management lab
- Fossil energy lab
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy lab

# R&D by Discipline & Degree



Top 10 job descriptions shown, Regular exempt non-management employees only

**Internship opportunities for high school  
through graduate students.**

# CINT: a DOE Office of Science National User Facility



## Core Facility (SNL)



- TEM, SEM, FIB, XRD
- Low Temp Transport
- Scanning Probe Microscopy
- Ultra-fast Spectroscopy
- Molecular Beam Epitaxy
- Chem & Bio labs
- Molecular films
- E-beam lithography
- Photolithography
- Deposition & Etch

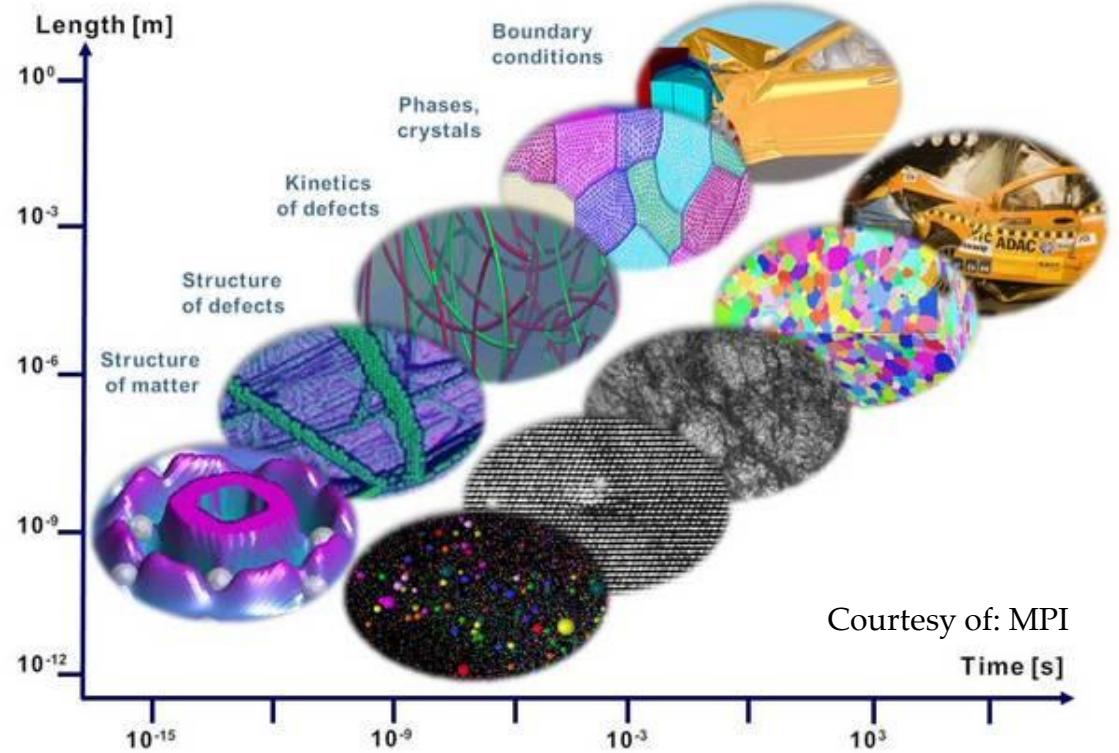
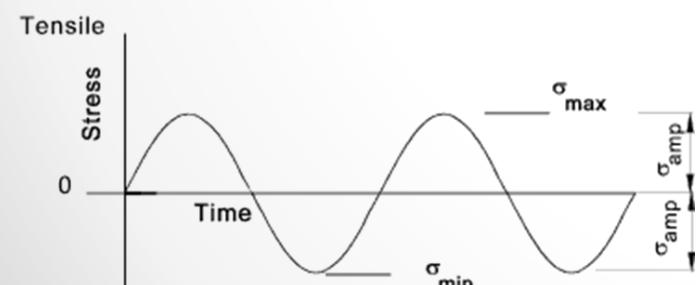
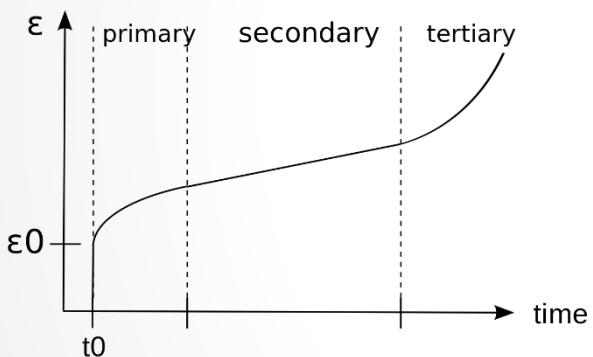
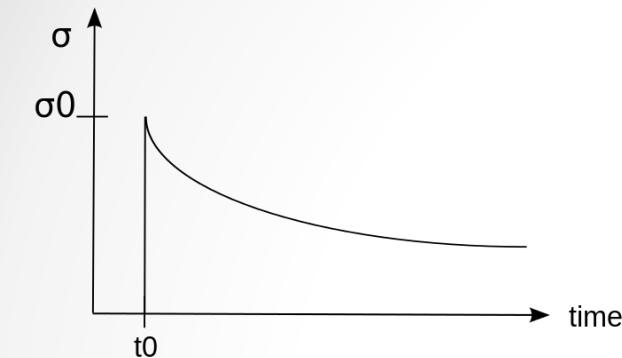
## Gateway Facility (LANL)



- Biomaterials & Chem synthesis
- XRD, SEM
- UV-vis, ellipsometry
- Nano-indentation
- Nanoscale optical probes
- Microscopies
- Physical Synthesis
- Pulsed Laser Deposition
- Ultra-fast Spectroscopy
- Computer Cluster
- Visualization Lab

**Many instruments/techniques in this talk available for use through CINT's competitive proposal-based system.**

# Material Evolution Over Time

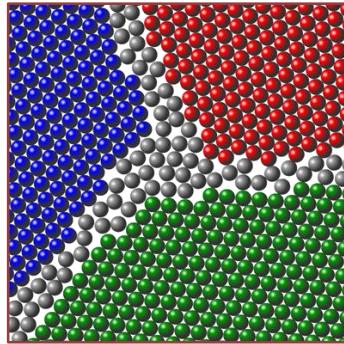
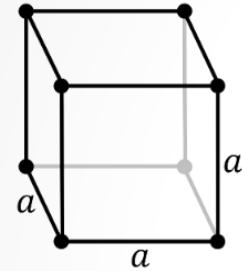


Courtesy of: MPI

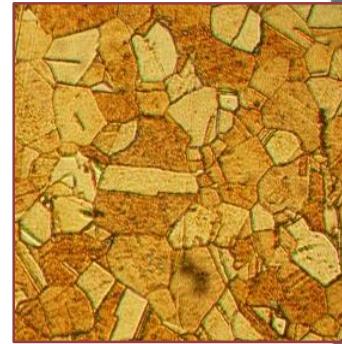
To develop predictive physics-based models, a fundamental understanding of the structure of matter, defects, and kinetics of structural evolution in the environments of interest are needed.

# Microstructures

Stannered, 2007, via  
Wikimedia Commons.



Strangerhahaha, 2008, via  
Wikimedia Commons.



Vassil, 2008, via  
Wikimedia Commons.



•  
nm

Tens of nm



Hundreds of nm

Thousands of nm

• Alabama Seminar **How does the internal structure affect material properties?**

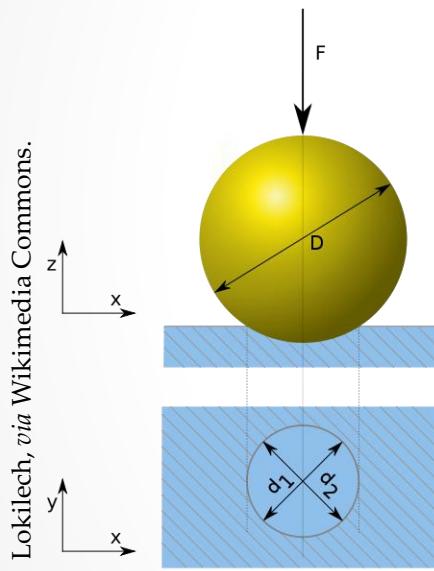
# Roadmap



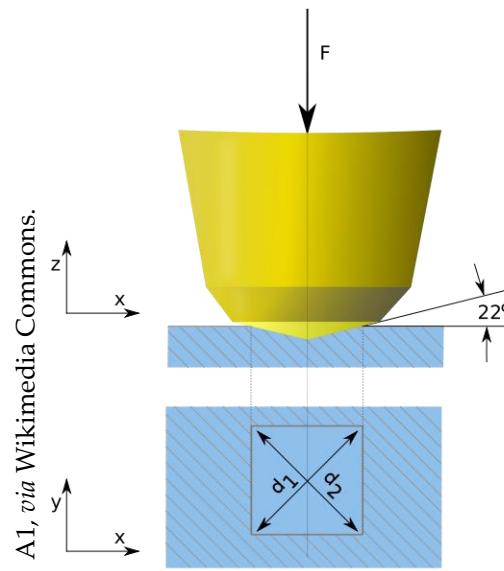
- Mechanical Testing
  - Bulk → Micro → Nano
- *In Situ* TEM Mechanical Testing
- Irradiation
  - Grain growth

# Macro/Microindentation

- Apply a static load
- Measure residual indentation area
- Depths from tens of  $\mu\text{m}$  to mm



Brinell



Vickers

Diamond Vickers Tip



R. Tanaka, via Wikimedia Commons.

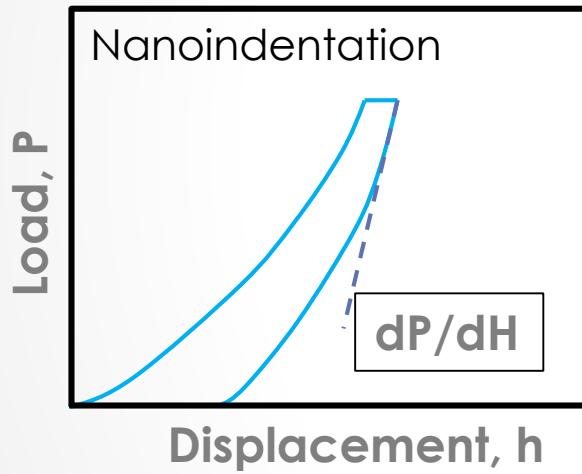
- Hardness,  $H = \frac{P_{max}}{A_r}$

Infer bulk properties from local resistance to plastic deformation in “small” volumes.

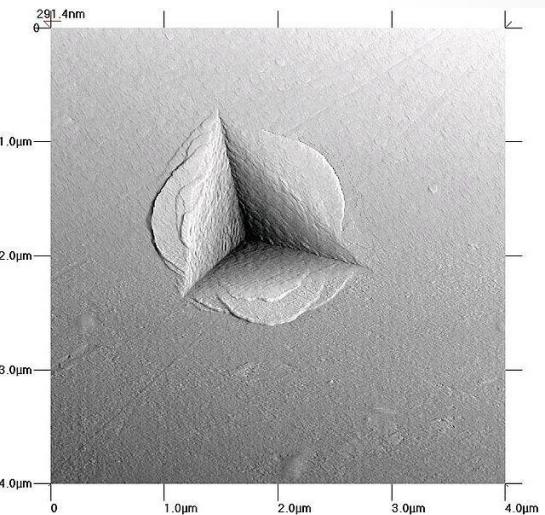
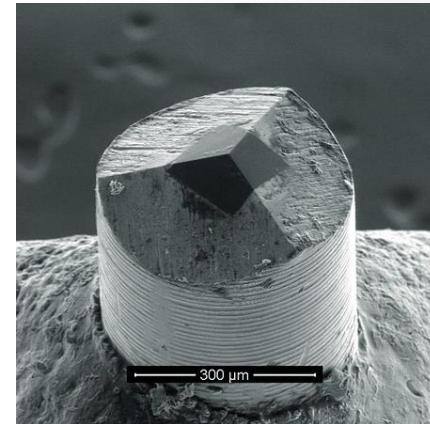
# Nanoindentation



- Apply a load
- Measure force and depth continuously
- Measure or compute residual area



- Depths from tens of nm to  $\mu\text{m}$
- Modulus and rate sensitivity



J. Puthoff, via Wikimedia Commons.

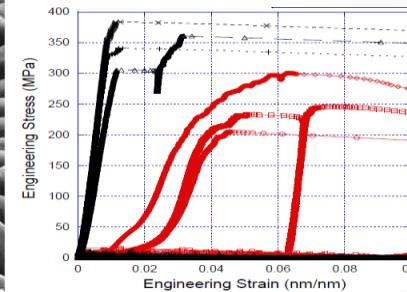
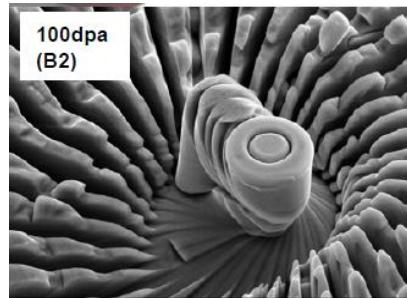
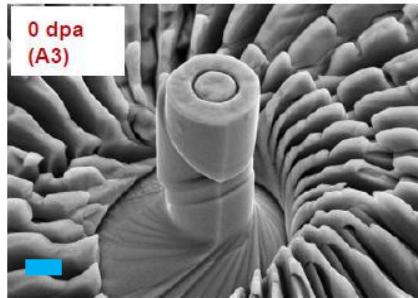
Quantifying mechanical response at the nanoscale.

# Micro- and Nanoscale Testing



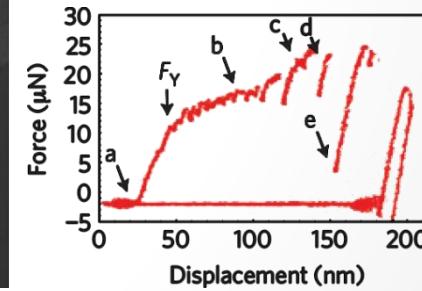
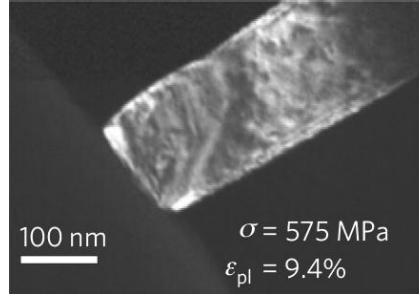
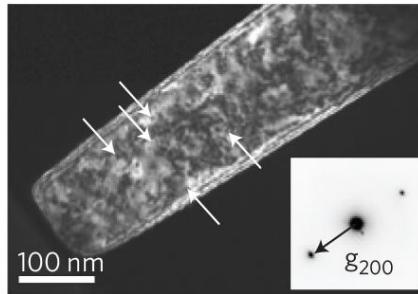
- Wealth of small-scale mechanical testing methods developed in last decade
- Capitalizing on advances in specimen preparation and testing instrumentation

30 MeV Cu<sup>5+</sup>  
100 DPA



Sharon, *et al*, Mater Res Lett, 2014.

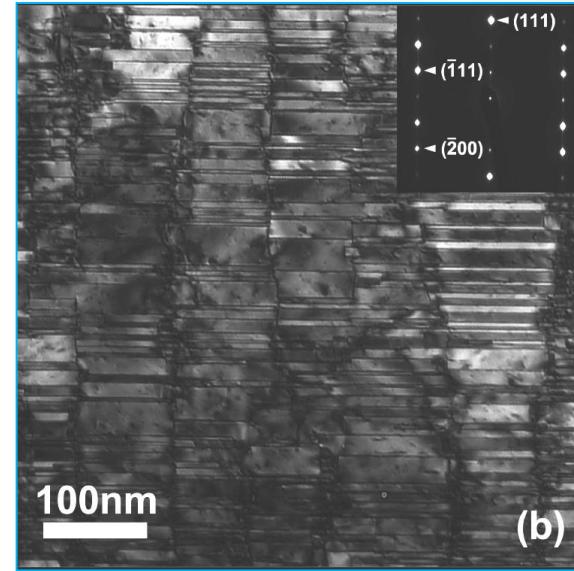
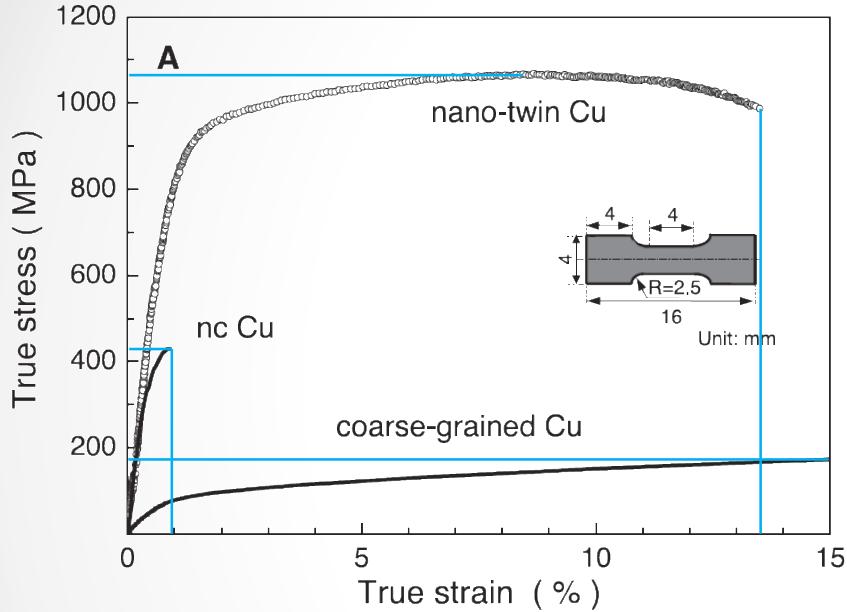
1.1 MeV H<sup>+</sup>  
0.8 DPA



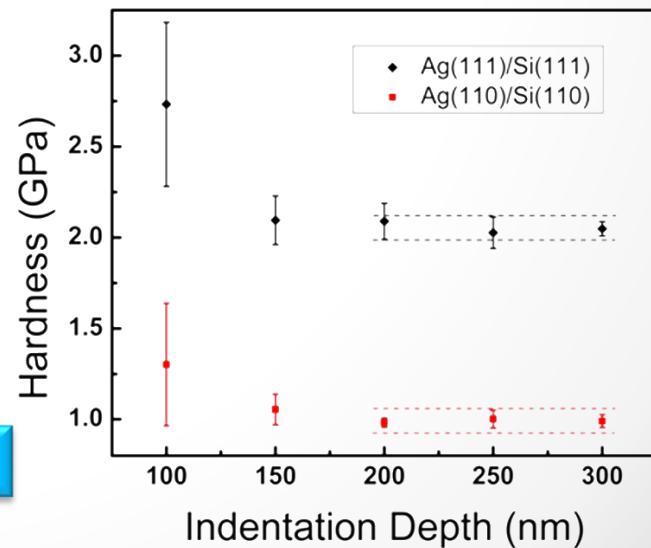
Kiener, *et al*, Nat Mater, 2011.

- Approaching length scales of small grains, dislocation sources, etc.
- Small enough to be placed in a microscope

# Nanotwinned Metals

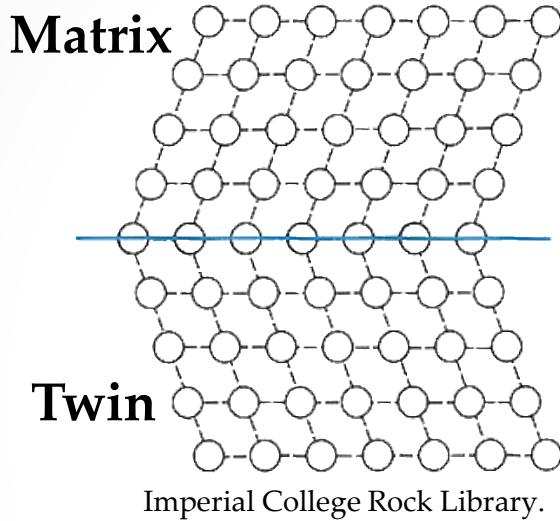


Bufford, D., et al. *Acta Mater.* Vol. 59, 1, 2011.

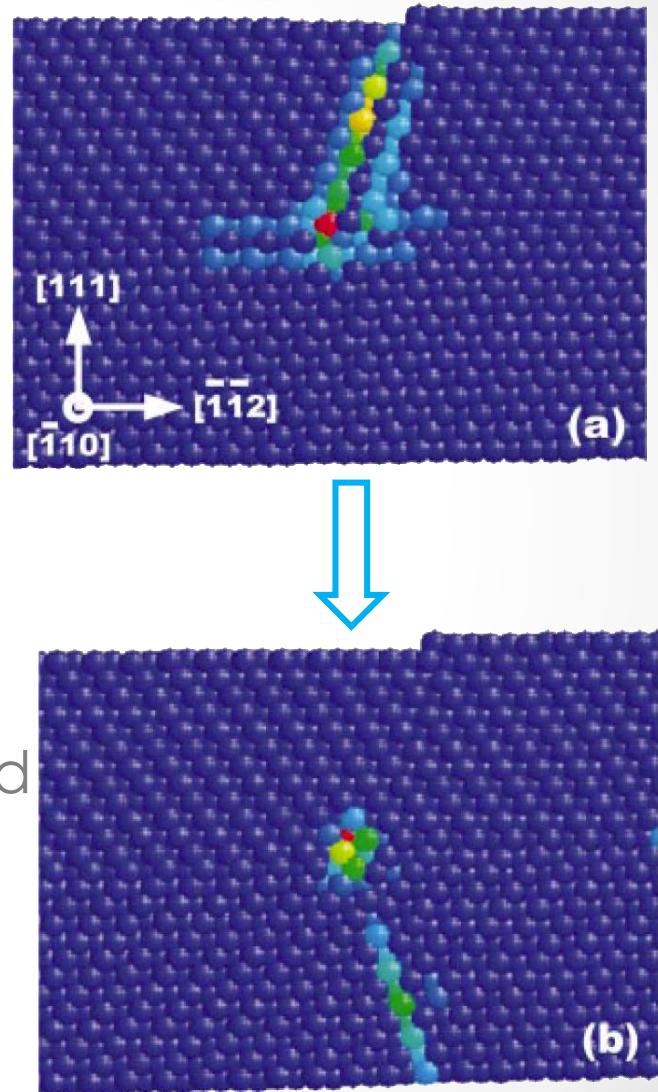


Structural origins of this mechanical behavior?

# Twin vs. Grain Boundaries



- Twin boundaries are less disordered than most other boundaries
- During simulated deformation:
  - Existing dislocation cross slips at high stress
  - Sessile dislocation left at the boundary



Zhang, X., et al, *Appl Phys Lett* 84, 2004.

# TEM and *In Situ* Experiments



Electron Beam Generation

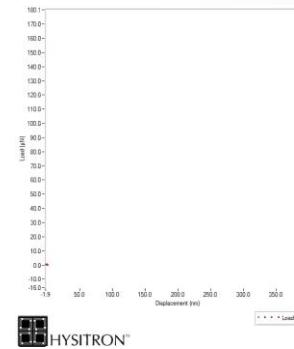
Sample Interaction

Magnification

Sub-nm imaging  
Electron diffraction

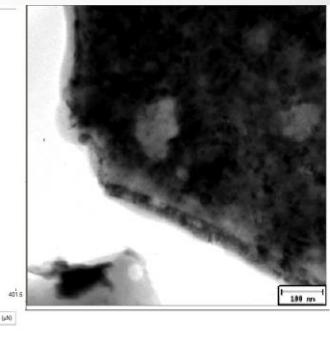
## Mechanical

Direct correlation of loading with changes in strength, ductility, and defect mobility



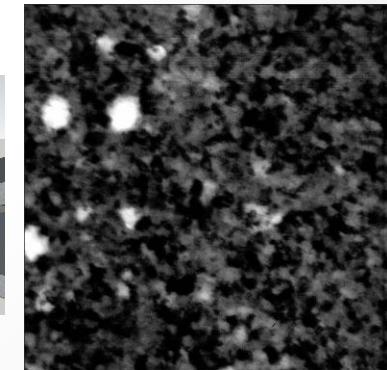
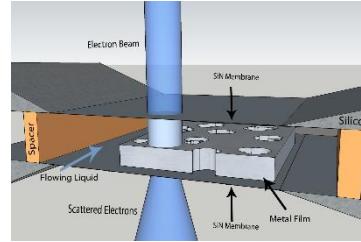
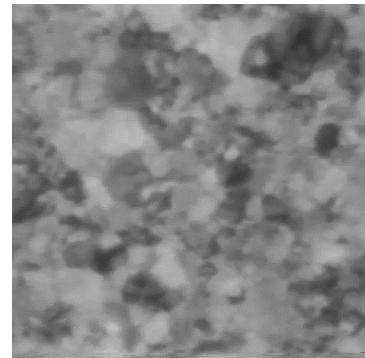
## Environmental

Effects of corrosion and gas loading at the grain level



## Thermal

Effects of temperature on microstructural evolution up to 800 °C



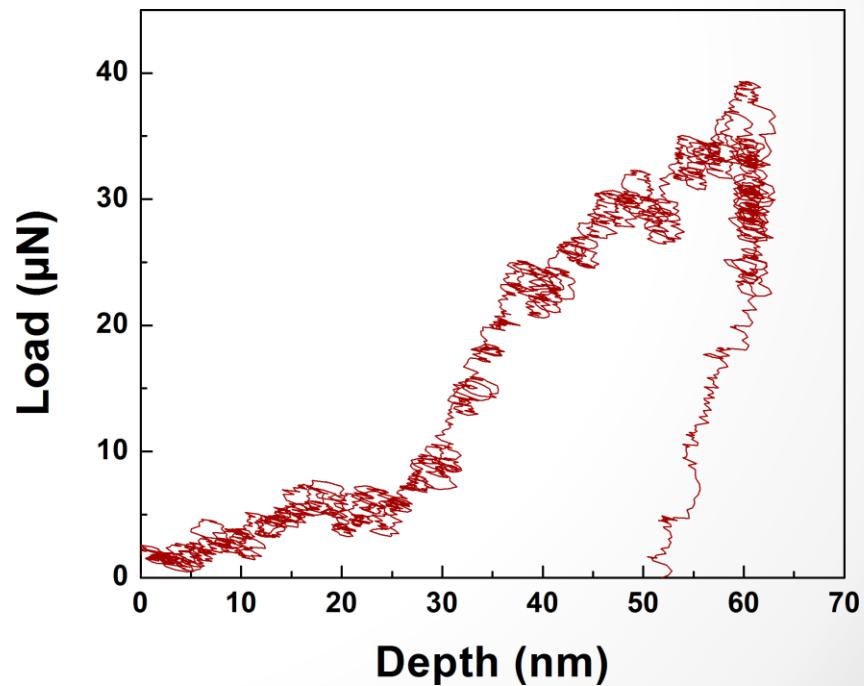
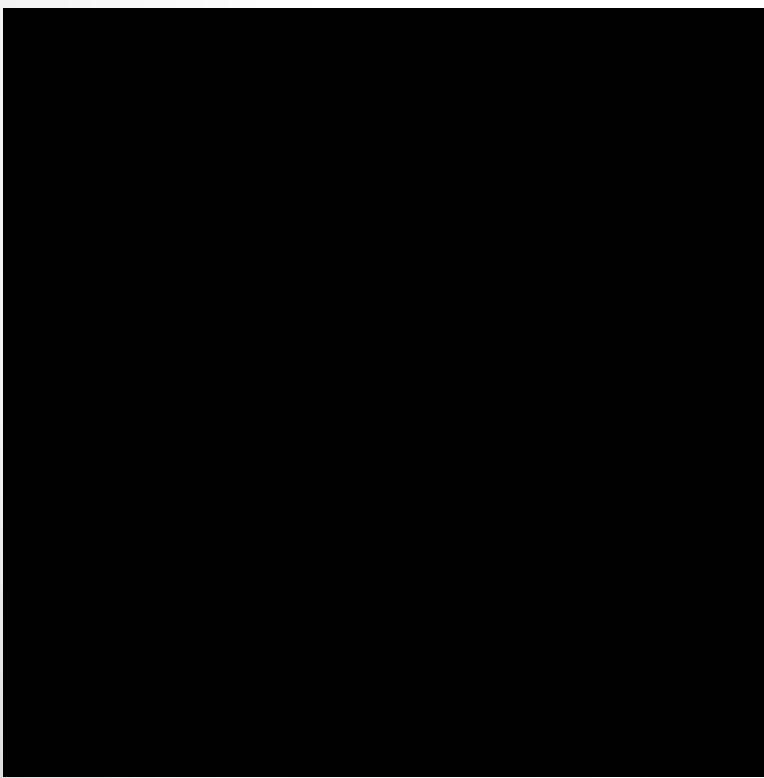
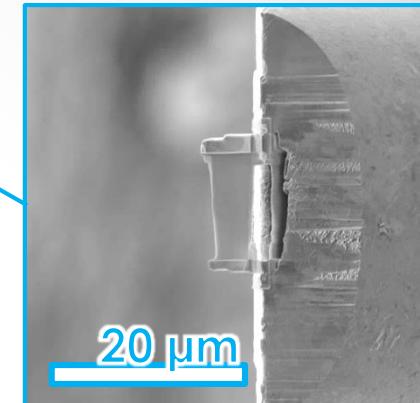
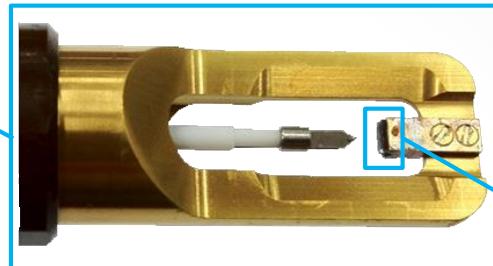
- Enables real-time studies of samples under various stimuli
- Limited to electron-transparent, vacuum & electron beam-compatible samples

# *In Situ* TEM Nanoindentation



Hysitron PI95 *In Situ* Nanoindentation TEM Holder

- Sub nanometer displacement resolution
- Quantitative force information with  $\mu\text{N}$  resolution



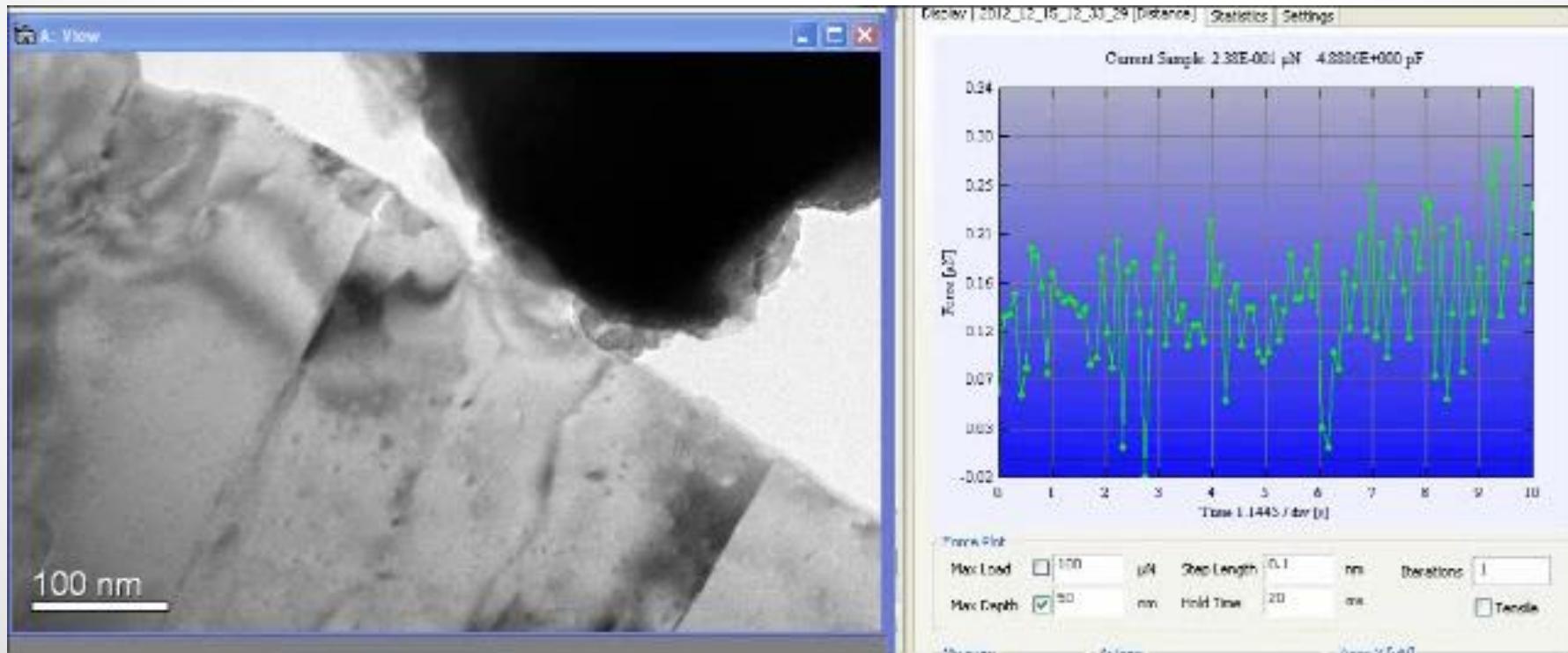
Quantitative deformation & observation at the nanoscale

# Initial Plasticity in Al



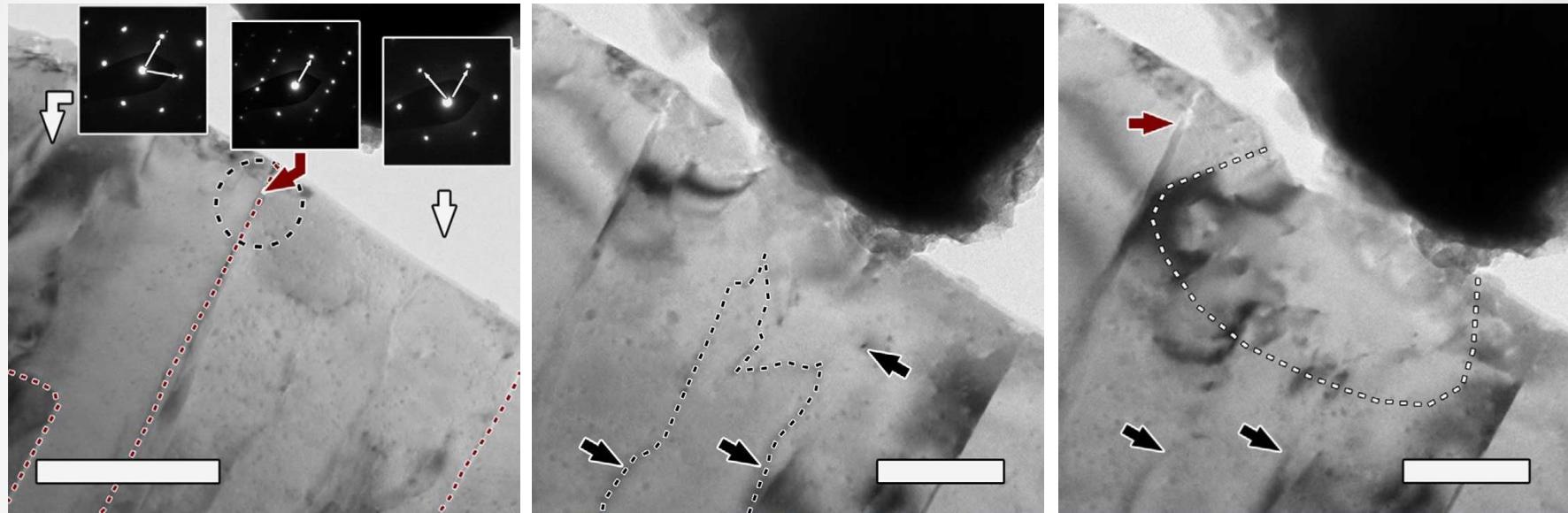
- *In situ* nanoindentation of Al near a  $\Sigma 3\{112\}$  twin boundary
- Initial cycle

Video playback  $\times 3$



Bufford, *et al.*, Nat Commun 2014.

# Initial Plasticity in Al



Bufford, et al., Nat Commun 2014.

- Grains initially mostly free of large defects
- Movement of existing dislocation observed
- Deformation confined by twin to single grain

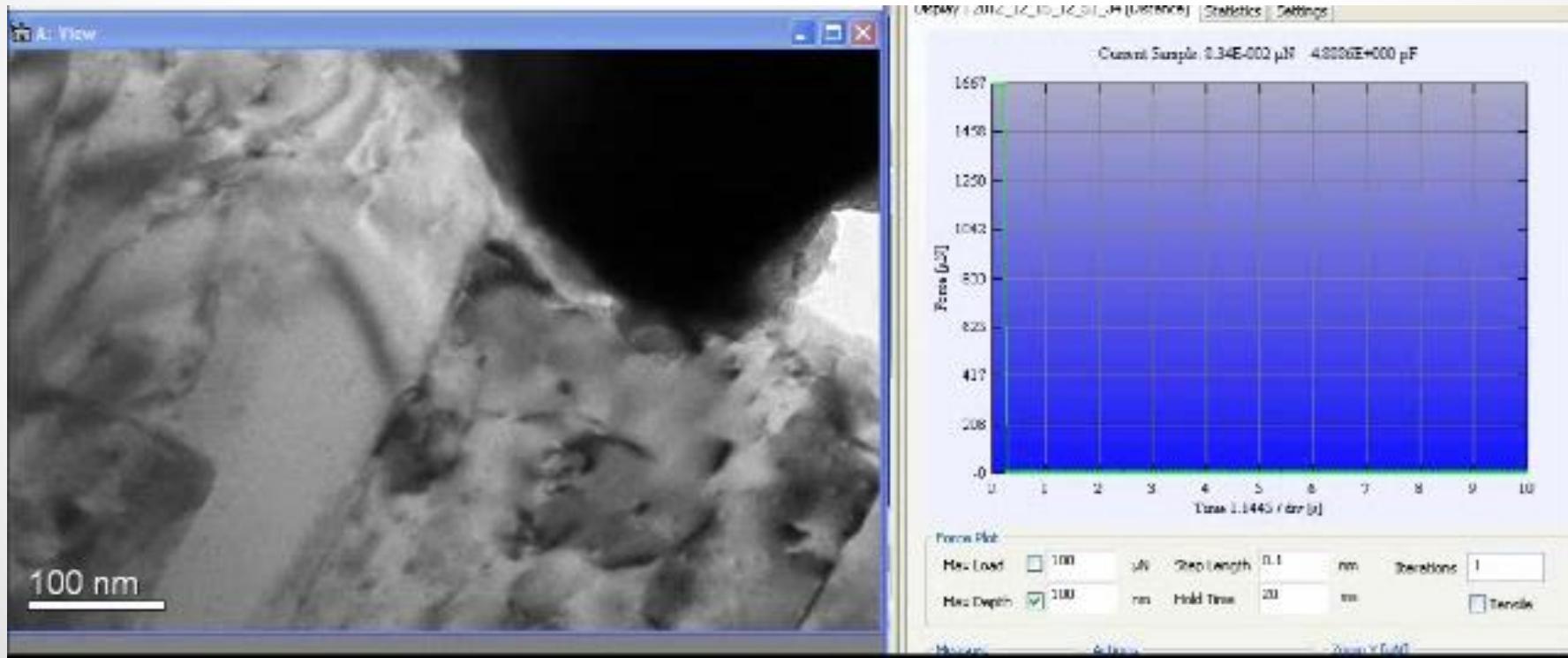
**Confinement of dislocation activity suggests barrier (Hall-Petch) strengthening.**

# Dislocation Transmission



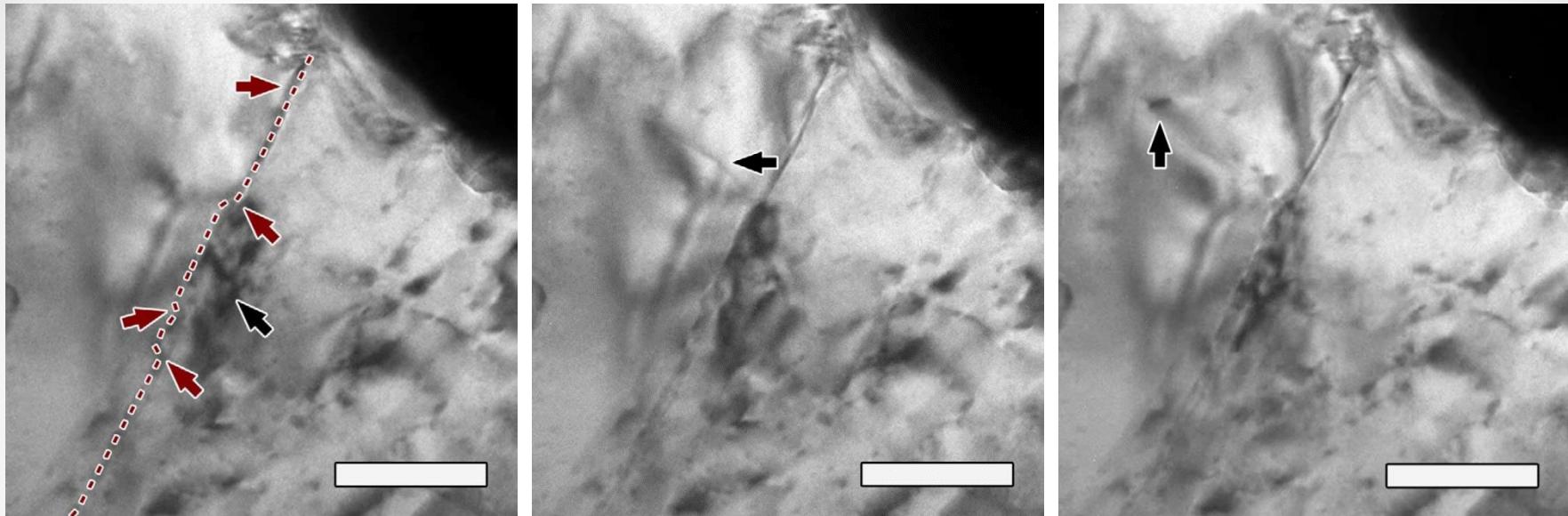
- In situ nanoindentation of Al near a  $\Sigma 3\{112\}$  twin boundary
- Cycle #4, after 3 previous cycles to progressively higher loads

Video playback  $\times 3$



Bufford, et al., Nat Commun 2014.

# Dislocation Transmission



Bufford, *et al.*, Nat Commun 2014.

- Boundary deformed by dislocation interactions in previous cycles
  - But no obvious plastic deformation in adjacent grain
- First observable plasticity event in second grain captured
- Measured forces associated with the event

Known bicrystal geometry and quantitative force measurements provide bounds for determining likely dislocation reactions and estimating associated local stresses.

# Cyclic Loading

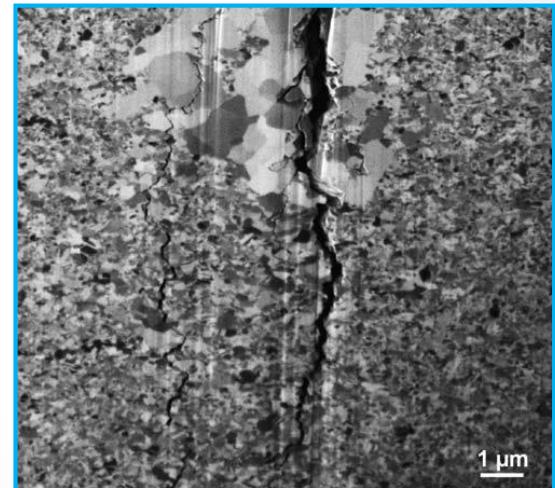


- Fatigue in bulk metals
  - Progressive microstructural change with cyclic loading
  - Often at loads below yield stress
- Fatigue in nc metals
  - Grain boundary migration and grain growth
  - Crack initiation
- What are the underlying mechanisms associated with these phenomena?
  - Pre-deformation microstructure
  - Grain and grain boundary orientations



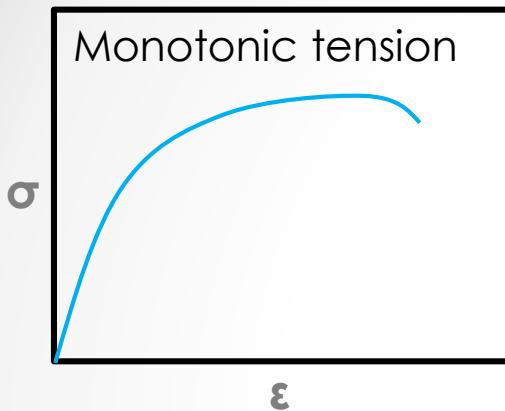
Execcharter, 2011.

- ***In situ TEM deformation is a tool capable of investigating these questions.***

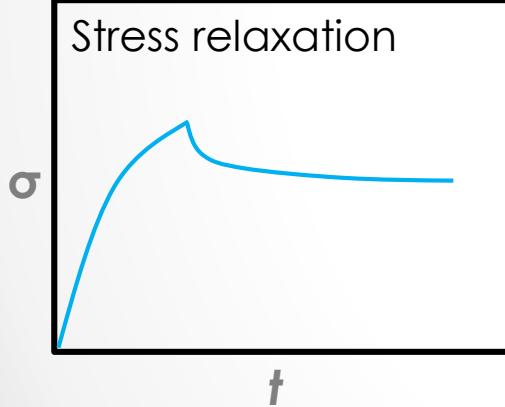


Padilla and Boyce, Exp Mech 2006.

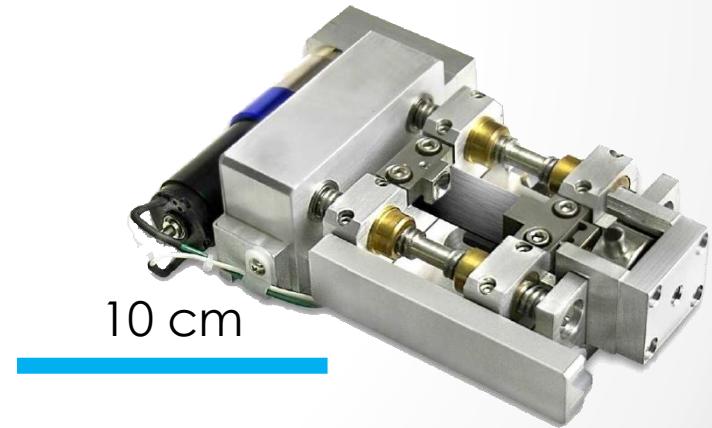
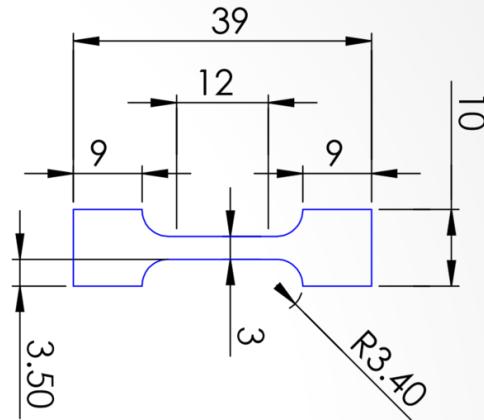
# Tensile Testing



- Lots of information:
  - $E$ ,  $\sigma_y$ ,  $\sigma_{UT}$ , elongation, toughness,  $n$ ,  $m$



- More information:
  - $m$ ,  $\Delta V$ , creep



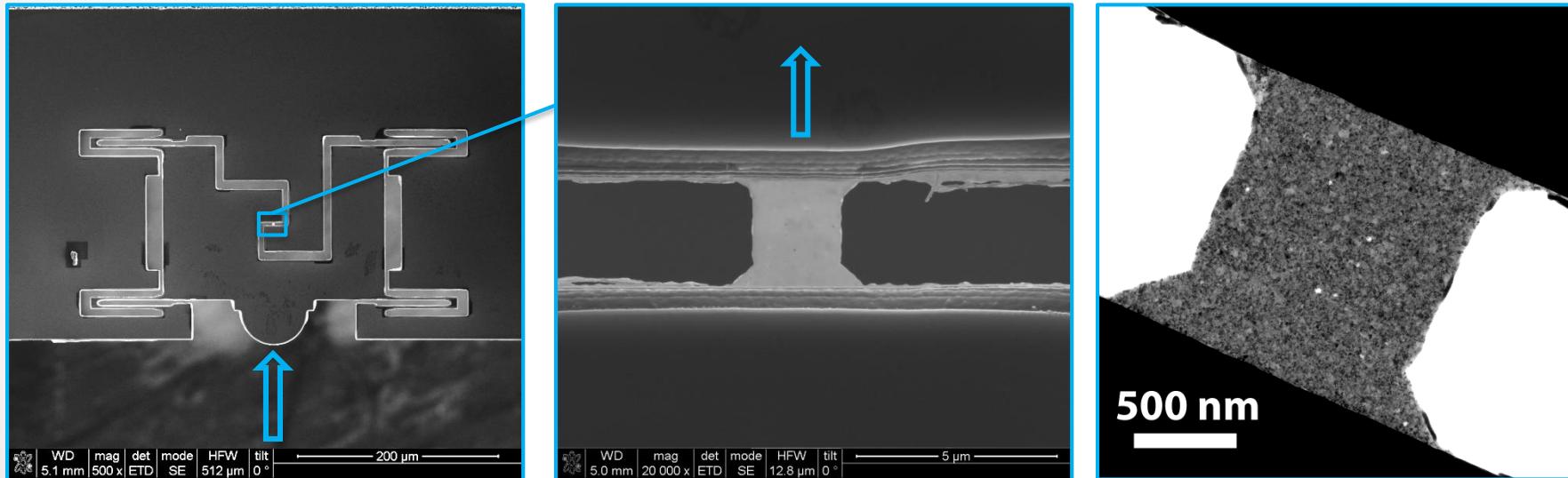
- **Gold standard for bulk mechanical properties**
- **Requires well formed specimens**

# Tension Specimen Fabrication



- Hysitron “Push-to-Pull” devices
  - Microfabricated Si test frame
  - Cu film (75 nm) floated onto device, then FIB milled

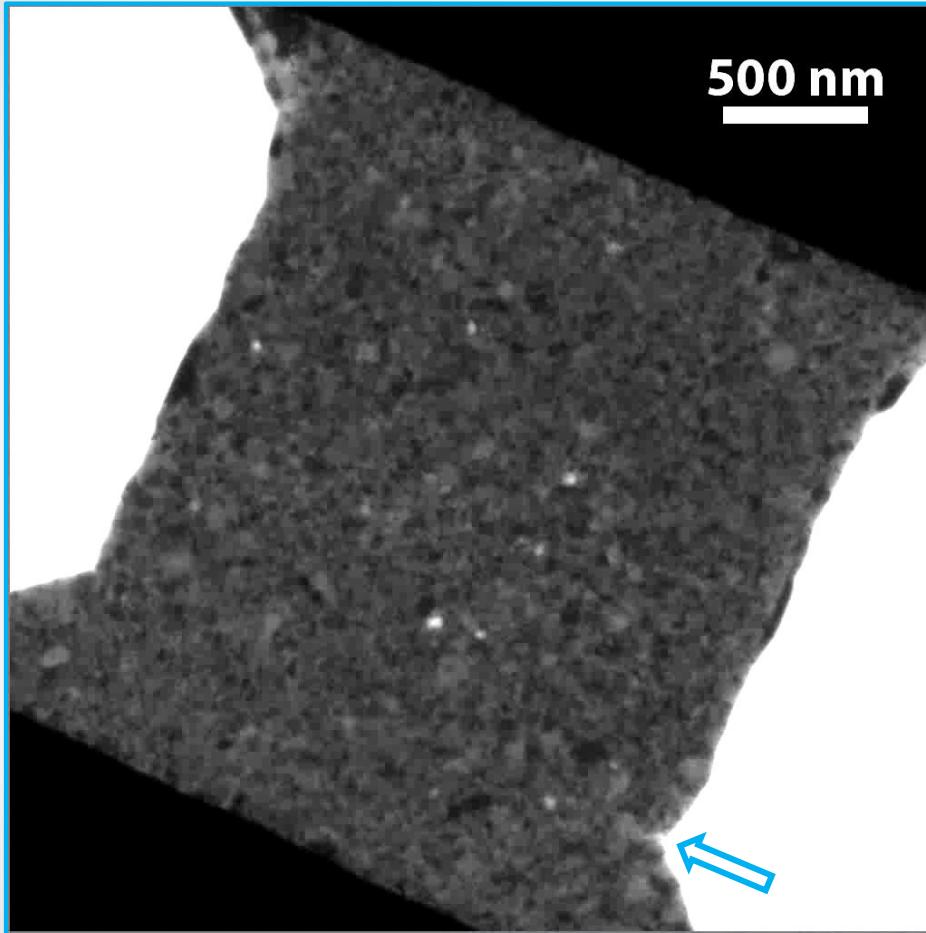
Collaborators: D. Adams, K. Hattar, W. Mook, C. Sobczak



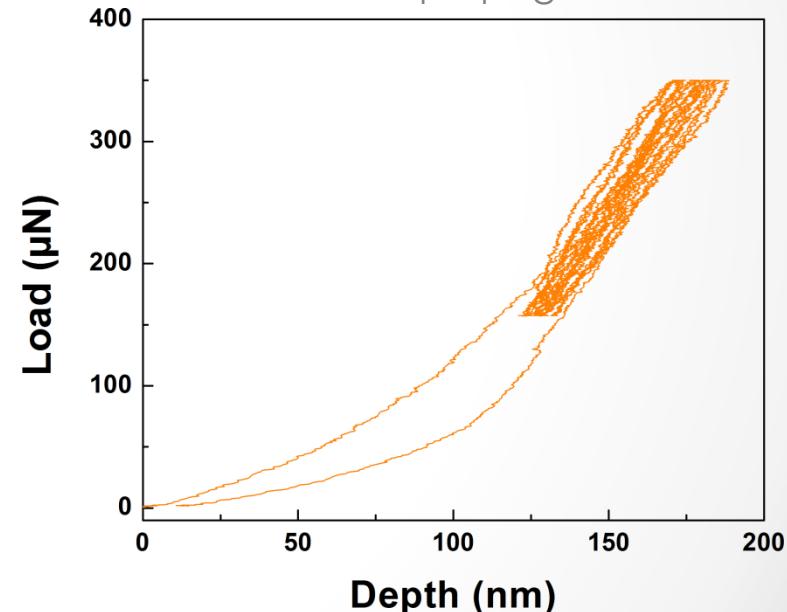
- Nearly pure tension, uniform cross sectional area, stable load frame
- Thin foil geometry not ideal for mechanics, but is electron-transparent

# Cyclic Tension *In Situ*

Video playback  $\times 10$



- Cyclic loading:
  - Crack initiated in previous monotonic test
  - 9 cycles to  $\sim 87.5\%$  of that load
  - 50 % unloading
  - Slow crack propagation

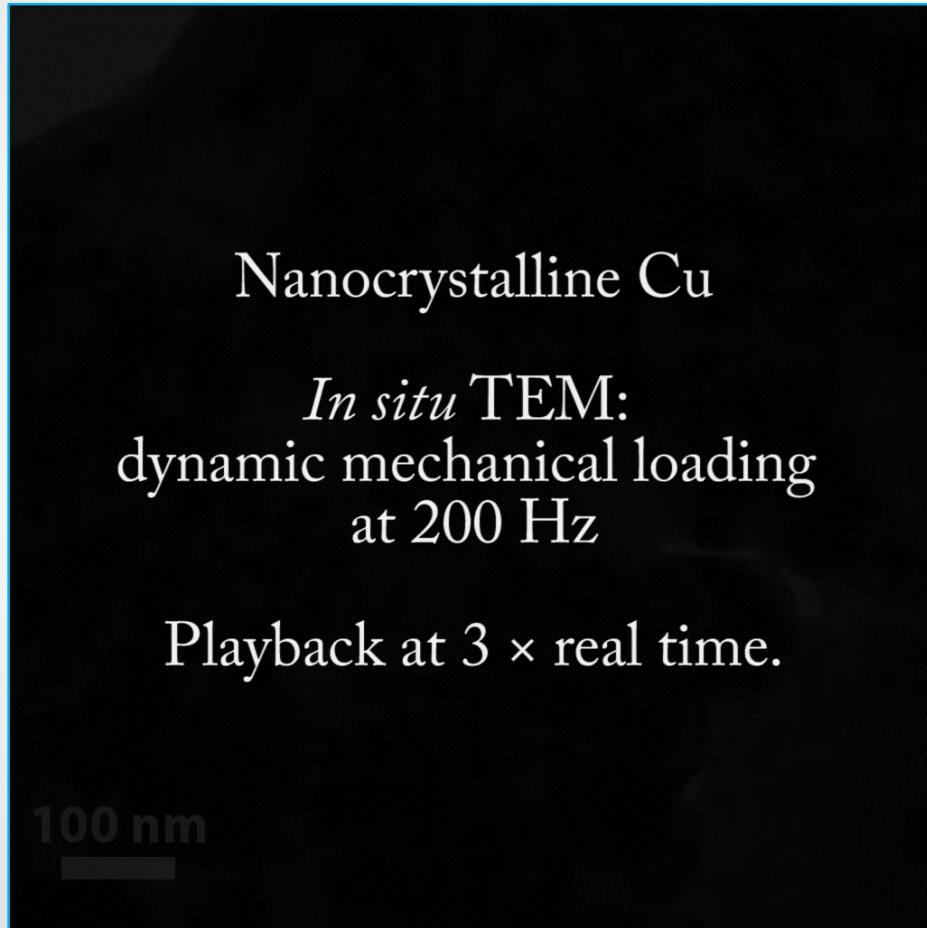


- Direct measurements of fracture parameters
- Structural evolution at the crack tip

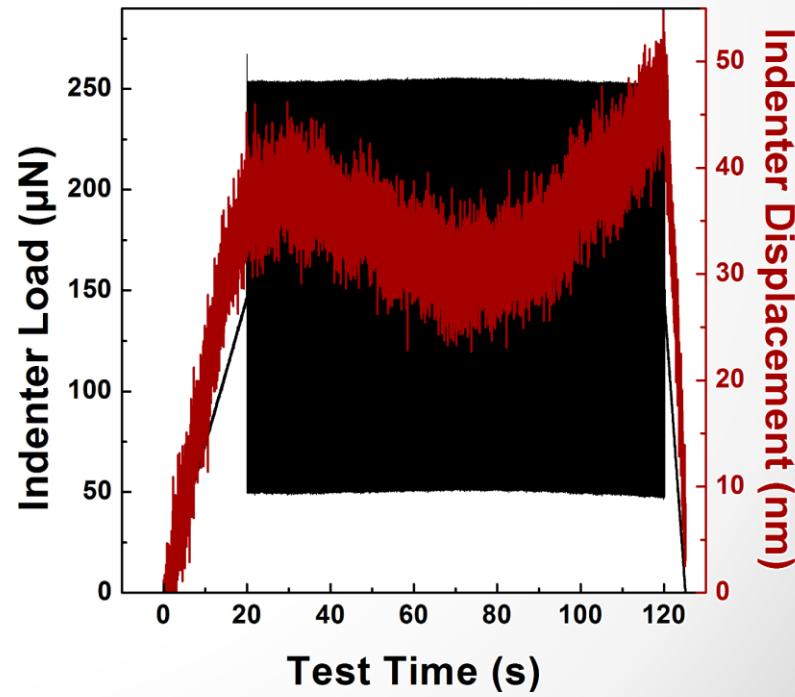
# High Cycle Fatigue



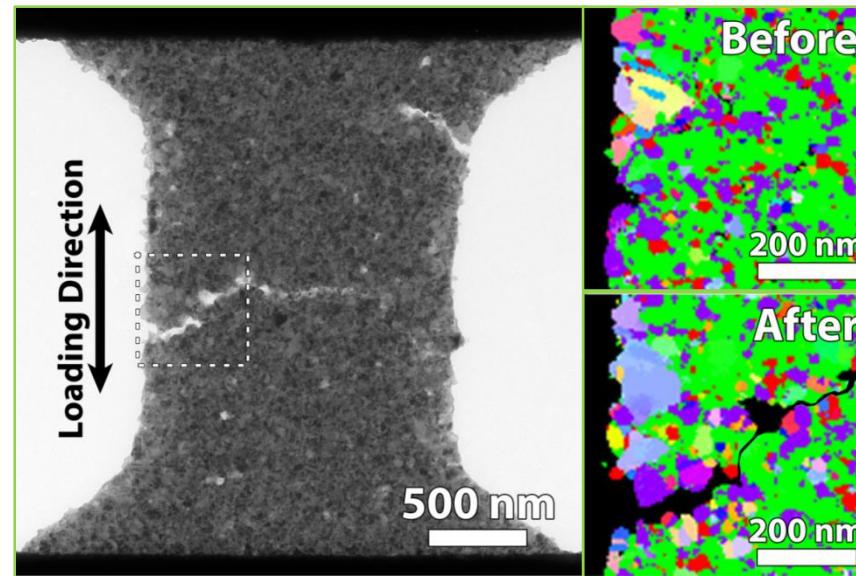
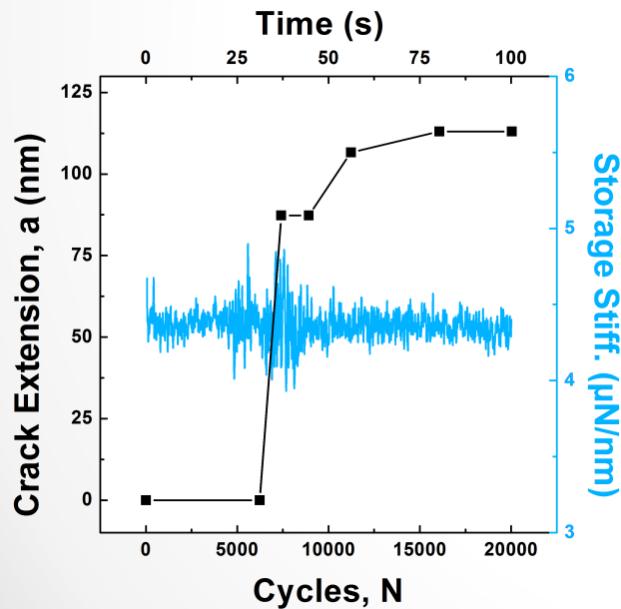
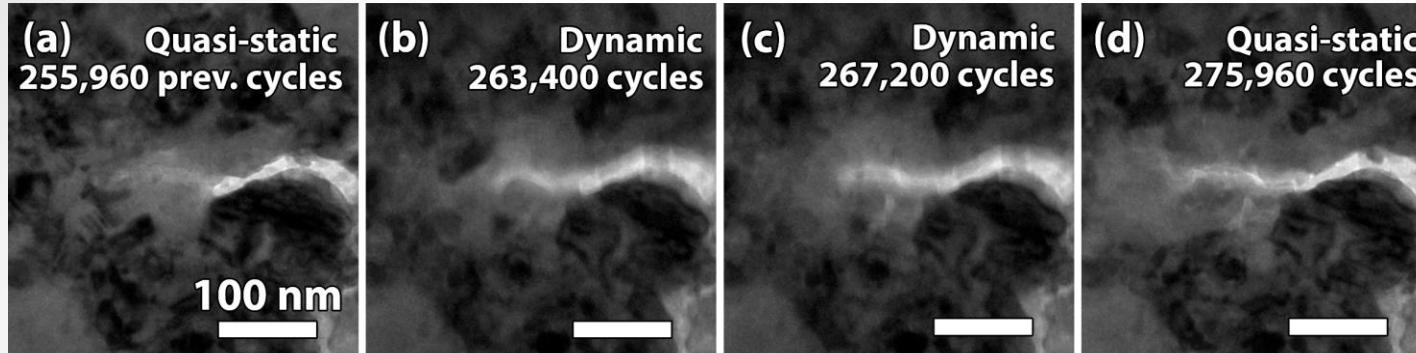
Collaborators: D. Stauffer, B. Boyce, K. Hattar, W. Mook



- Cyclic loading:
  - 200 hz
- Structural change at crack tip captured



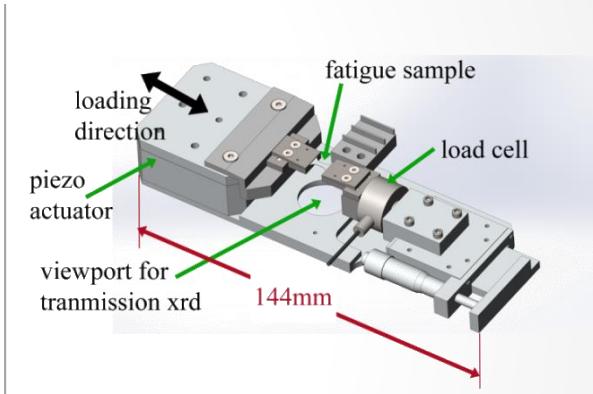
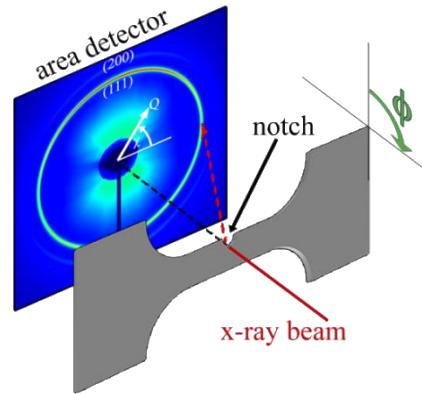
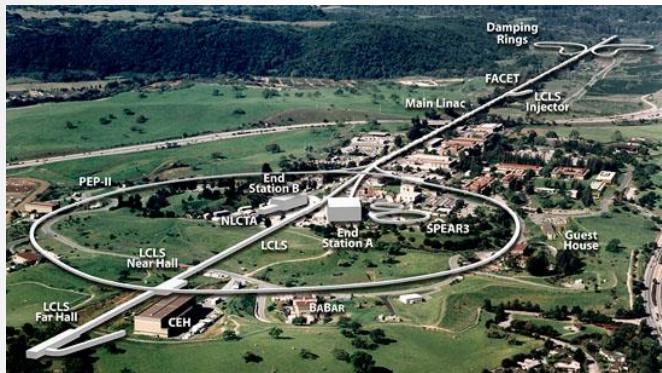
# Crack Growth Quantified



- Crack growth rate measured at  $6 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m/cycle!}$
- Evidence of fatigue-induced grain growth.

# Another Approach...

Collaborators: A. Mehta, D. Van Campen, T.A. Furnish, B.L. Boyce

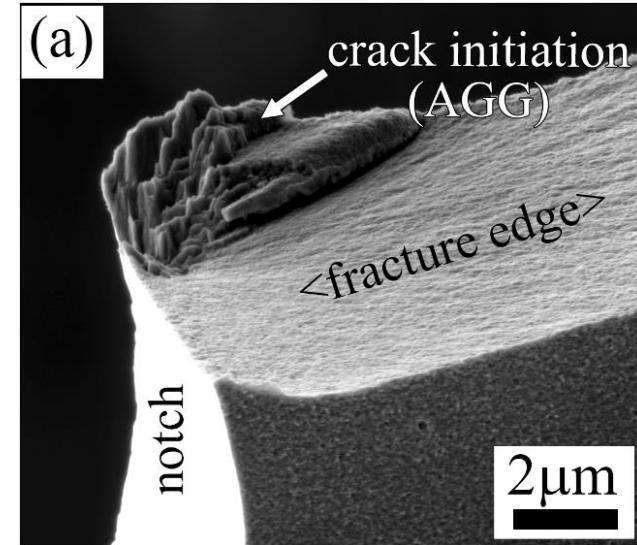
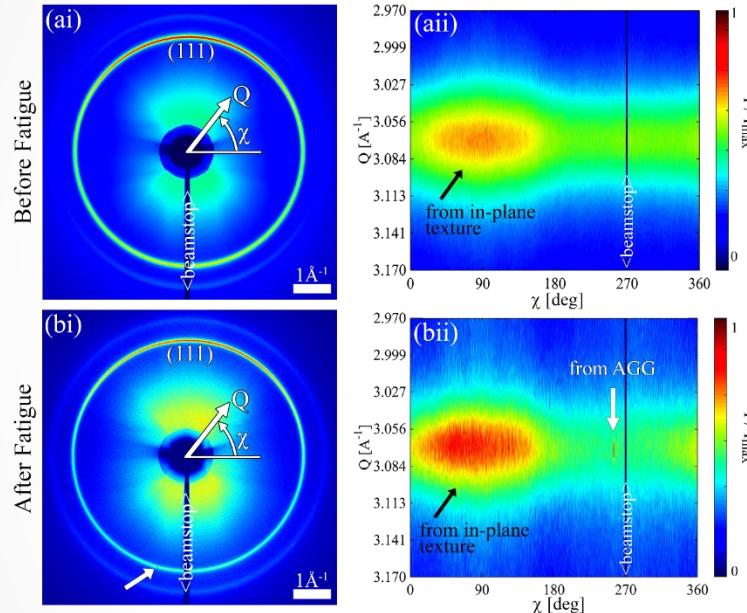


- *In situ* fatigue performed during X-ray diffraction analysis
- Experiments performed at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource (SSRL)

**Which comes first, grain growth or crack initiation?**

# Another Approach...

Collaborators: A. Mehta, D. Van Campen, T.A. Furnish, B.L. Boyce



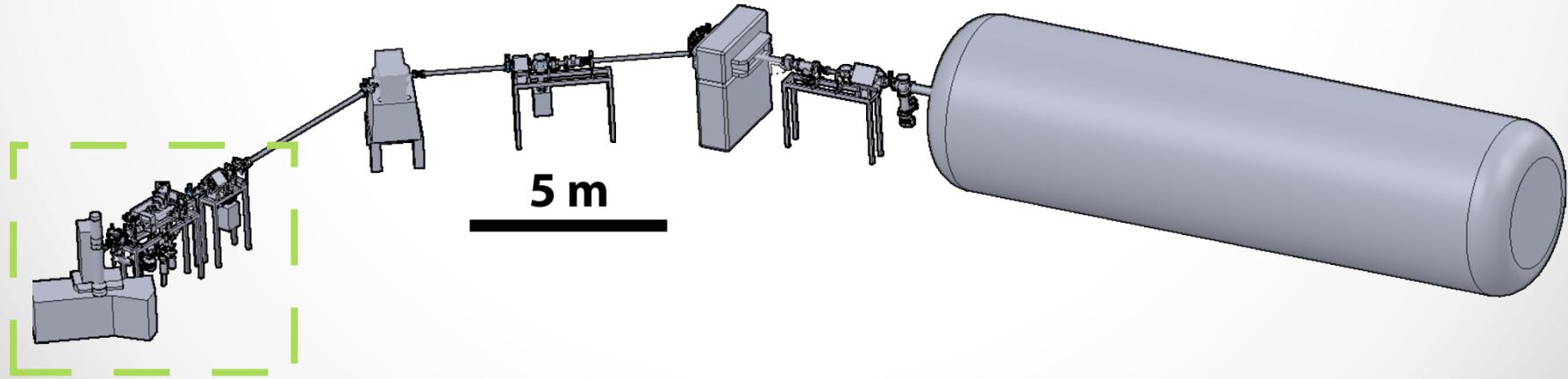
- Patterns processed and analyzed for outliers
- Fatigue-induced grain growth captured before failure
- Analysis of fracture surface suggests grain growth precedes crack initiation

**Detection of abnormalities in only  $\sim 0.00001\%$  of the sampled volume!**

# Roadmap

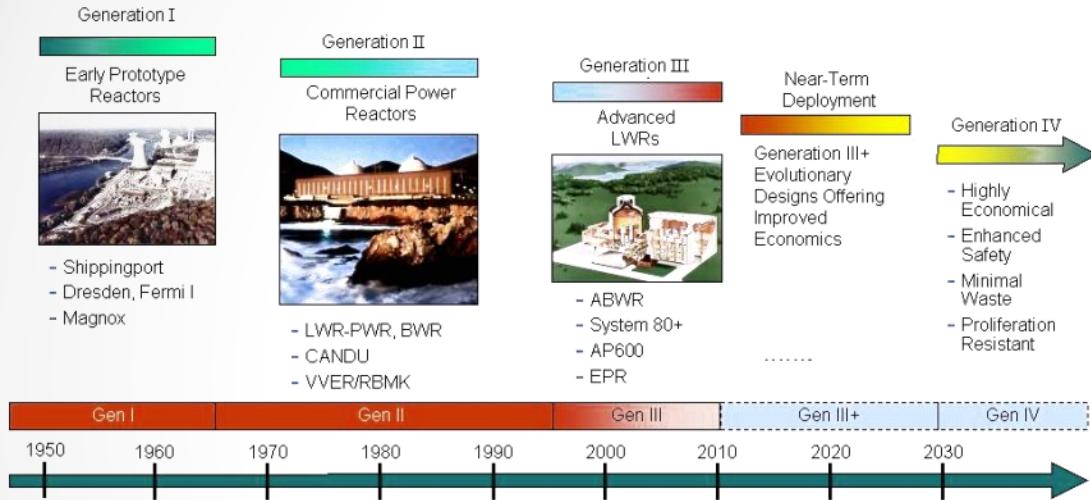


- Mechanical Testing
- *In Situ* TEM Mechanical Testing
  - Nanoindentation
  - Cyclic tension
- Irradiation
  - Grain growth



# Radiation Effects

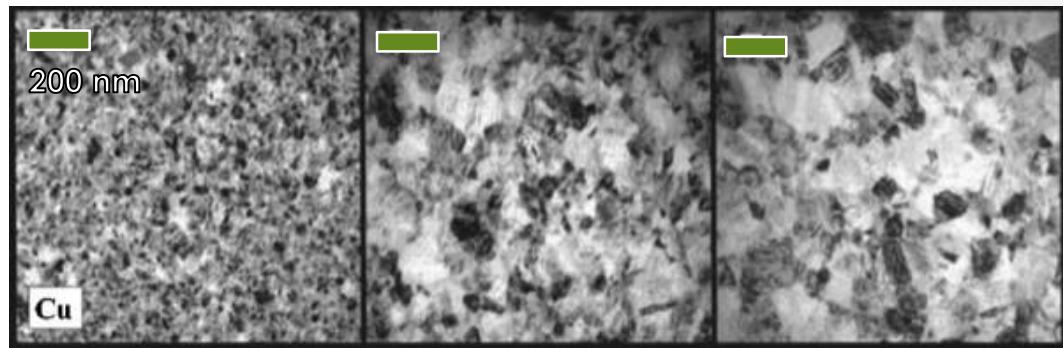
**Generation IV:** Nuclear Energy Systems Deployable no later than 2030 and offering significant advances in sustainability, safety and reliability, and economics



Aleš Buršić, via World-Nuclear-News.org

## Nanocrystalline metals

- Exemplary mechanical properties
- Abundant sinks for structural and chemical defects
- Ideal candidates for radiation-tolerant materials?

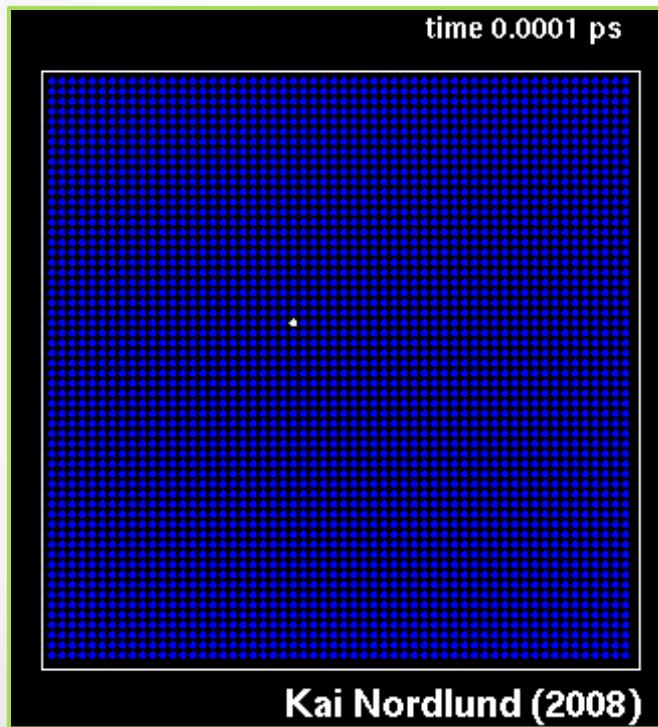


**What are the relationships among ion damage, grain boundary character, and grain growth?**

# Radiation-Solid Interactions

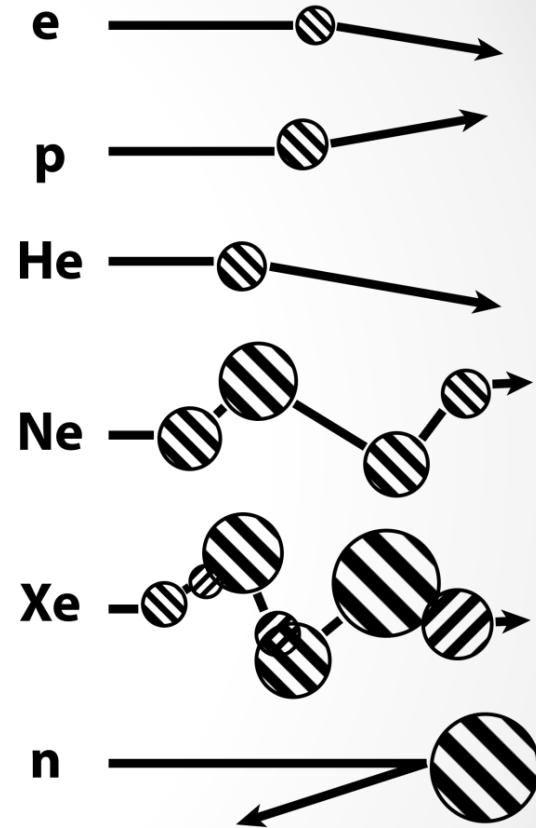


- Energetic ion displaces one or more target atoms
  - Frenkel (vacancy-interstitial) pair
  - Collision cascade
  - Nuclear and electronic interactions



Effective transient temperatures  
~thousand(s) of K!

Affected volumes  
vary based on  
radiation species,  
energy, and  
target material.



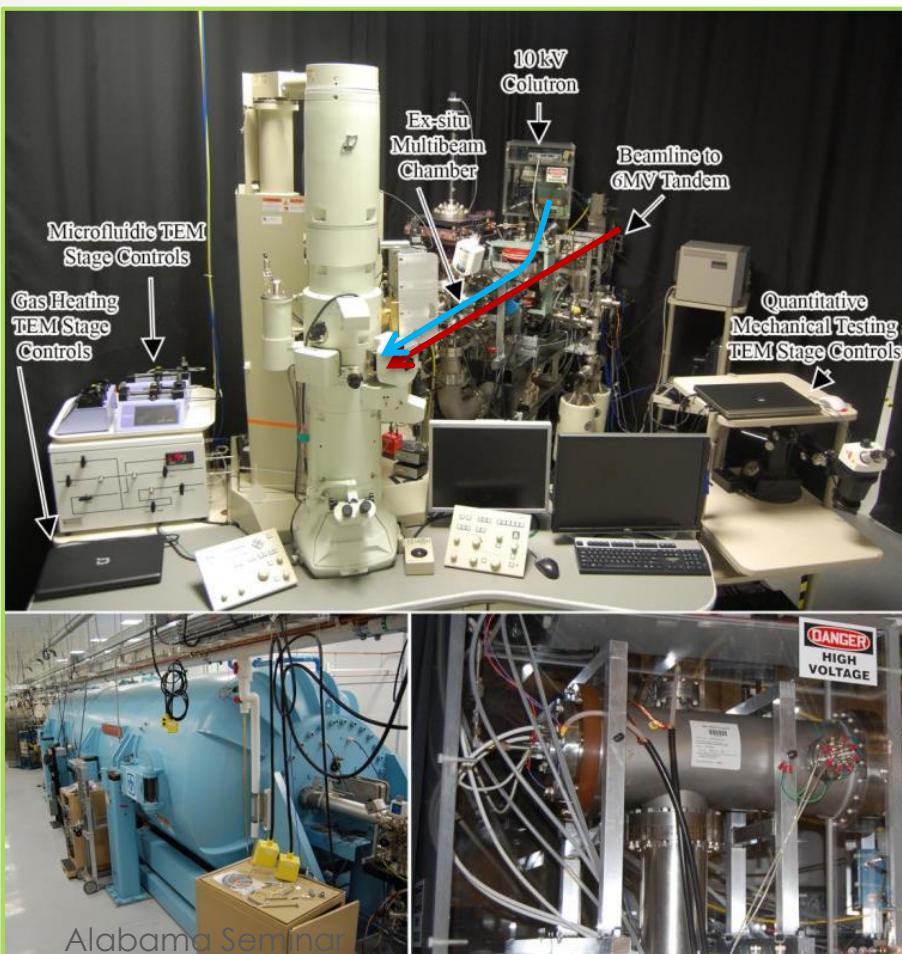
Highly temporally and spatially localized energy transfer drives microstructural change.

# Sandia's *In situ* Ion Irradiation TEM (I<sup>3</sup>TEM)

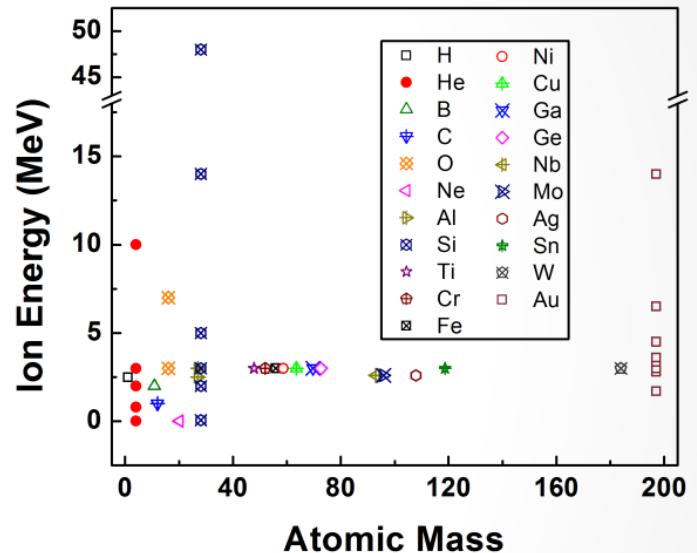


Collaborators: D. Buller, K. Hattar, J. Scott

10 kV Colutron - 200 kV TEM - 6 MV Tandem



Ion species & energy introduced into the TEM



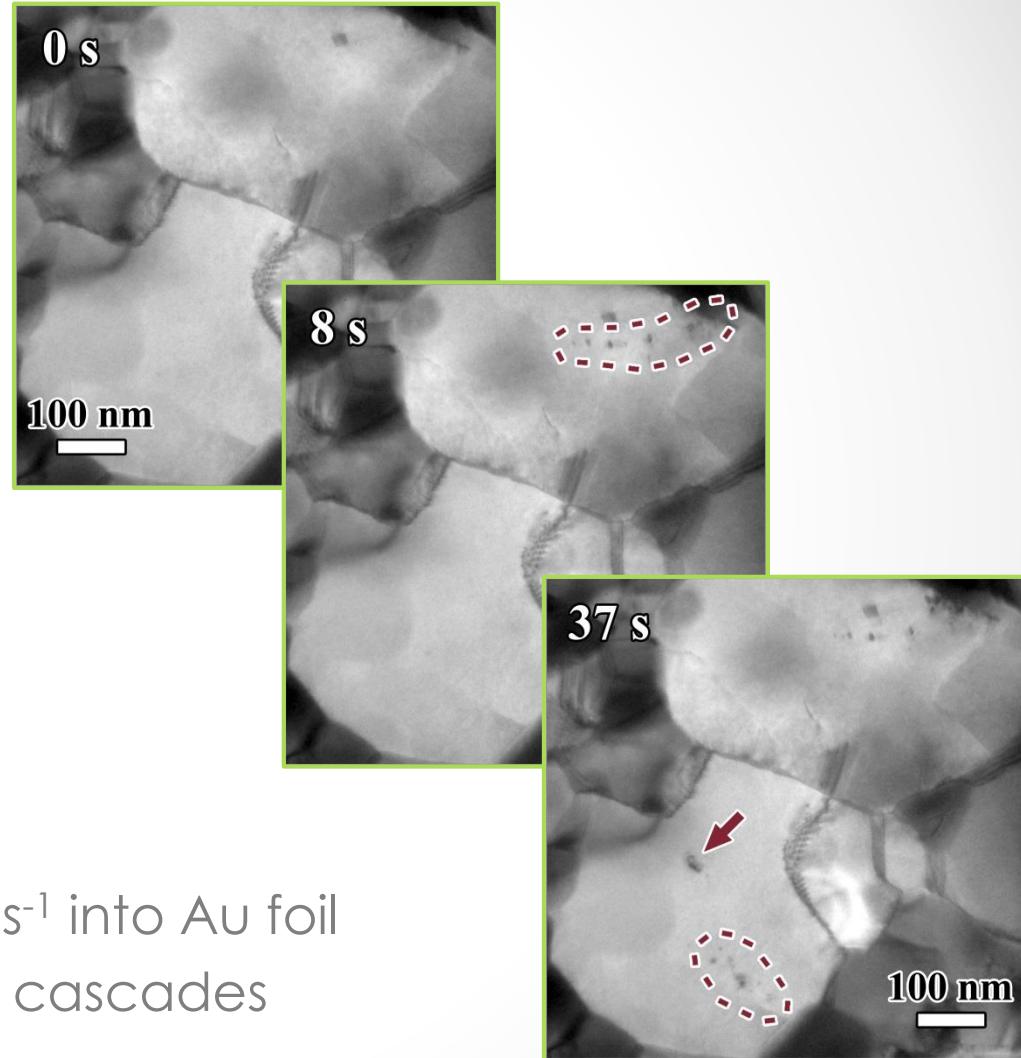
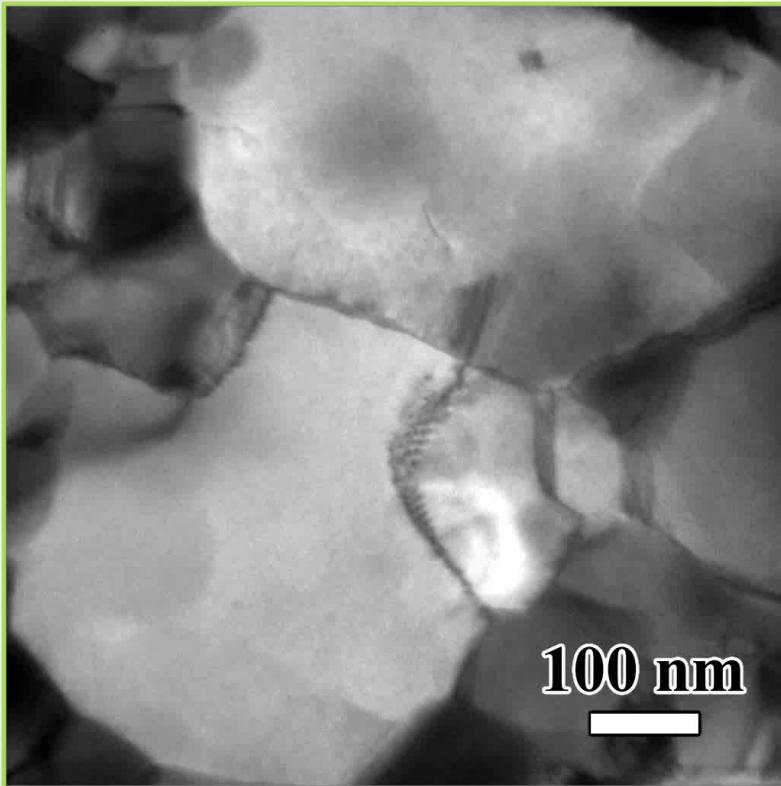
Direct real time observation of ion irradiation, ion implantation, or both with nanometer resolution.

Similar beams can be directed to the TEM and end stations.

# *In Situ* Irradiation: 3.6 MeV Au<sup>6+</sup>



Video speed  $\times 5$ .



- Au<sup>6+</sup> at  $2.1 \times 10^8$  ions  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  into Au foil
- Large defect clusters from cascades

What happens near grain boundaries?

# *In Situ* Irradiation



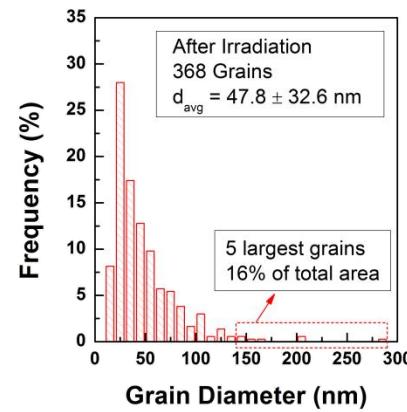
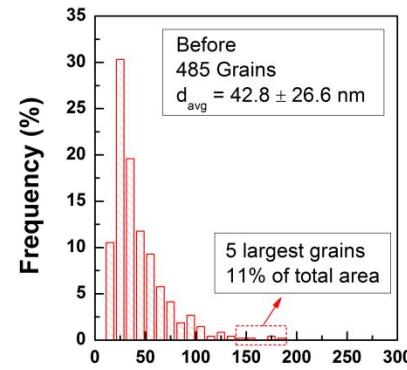
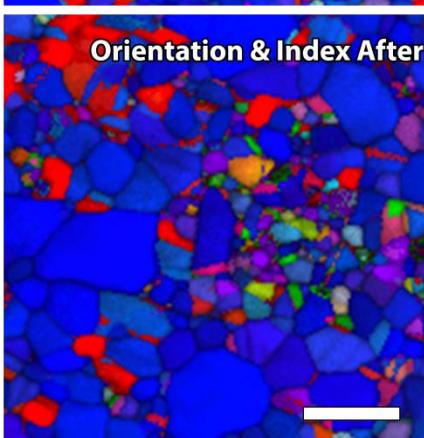
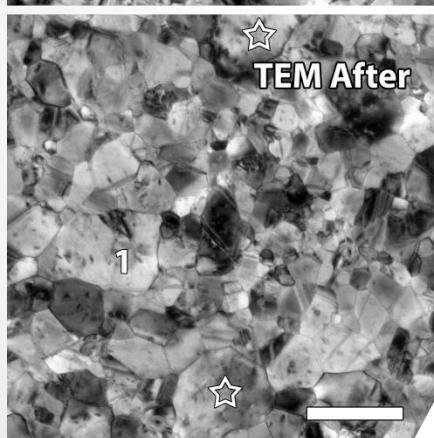
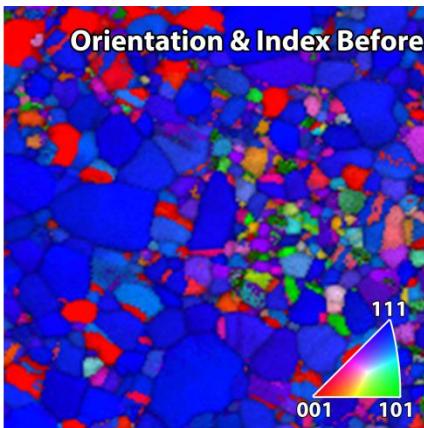
- Au foil during bombardment with 10 MeV Si<sup>3+</sup>
- ~22 s of 4000s total experiment time

*In situ* ion irradiation  
TEM: 10 MeV Si into  
nanocrystalline Au.

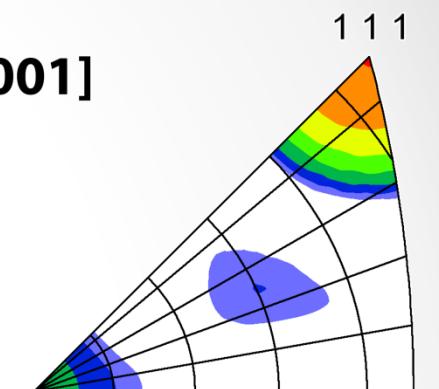
Playback at 2 × real time.

Locations of single ion strikes and resulting microstructural change captured!

# Quantification: Overall

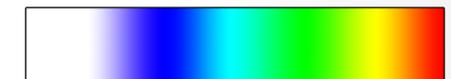


[001]



0 0 1

1 0 1



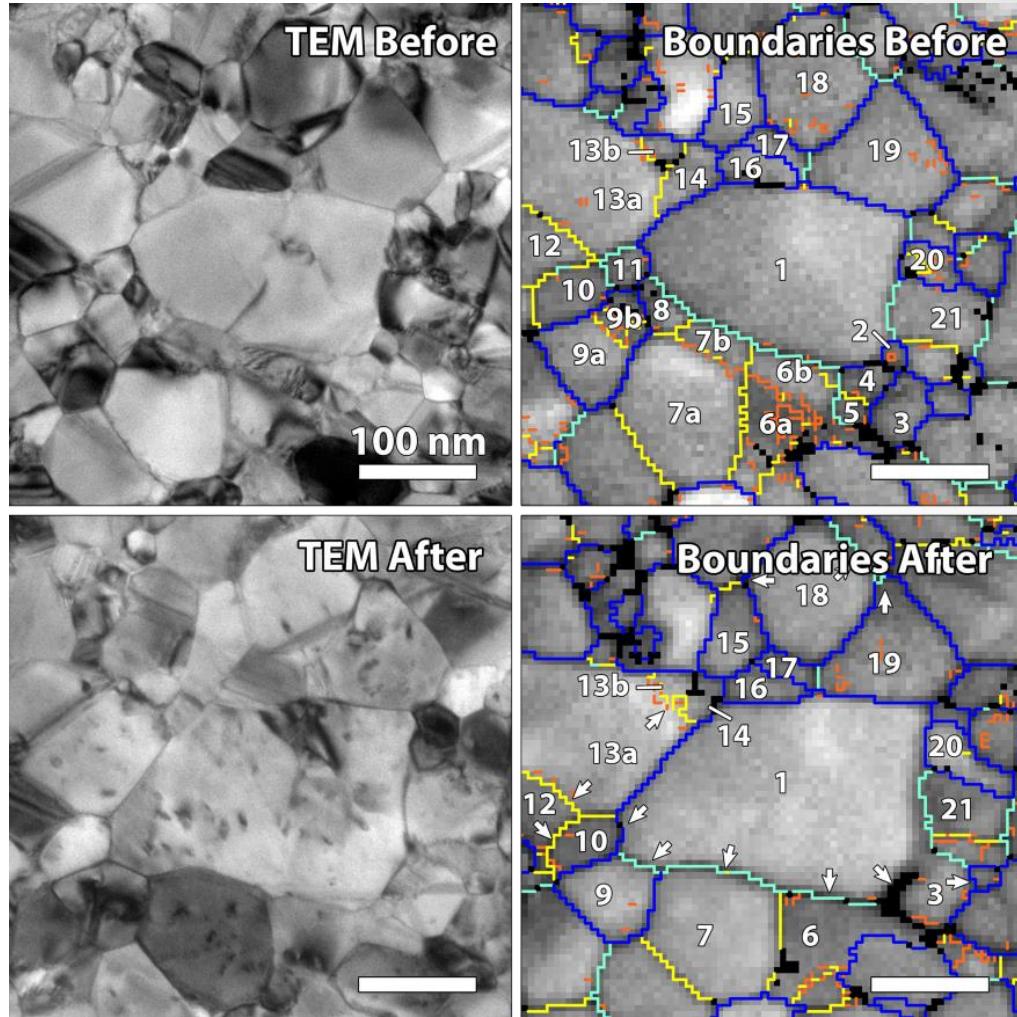
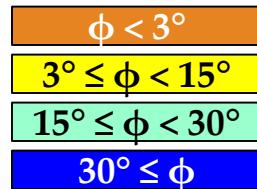
Increasing Intensity

- Same area characterized before and after irradiation.
  - Local grain size, orientation, boundary character
  - Hundreds of grains counted in minutes

Rapid quantification of statistically relevant numbers of grains and boundaries.

# Individual Boundaries

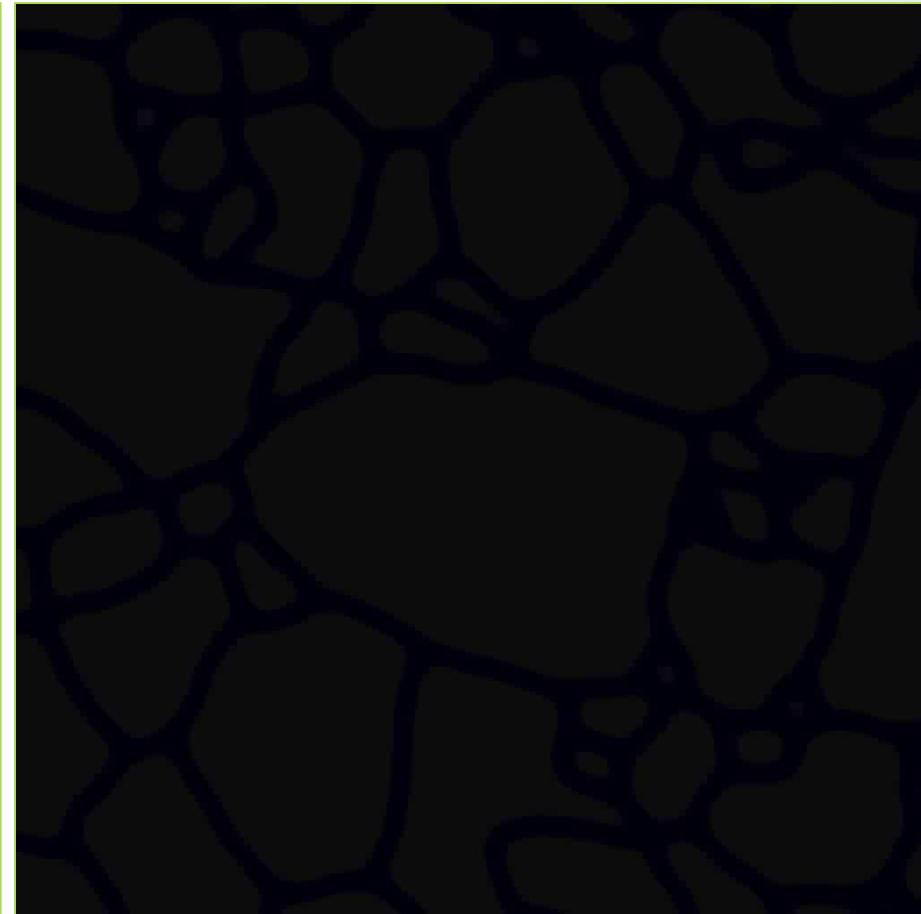
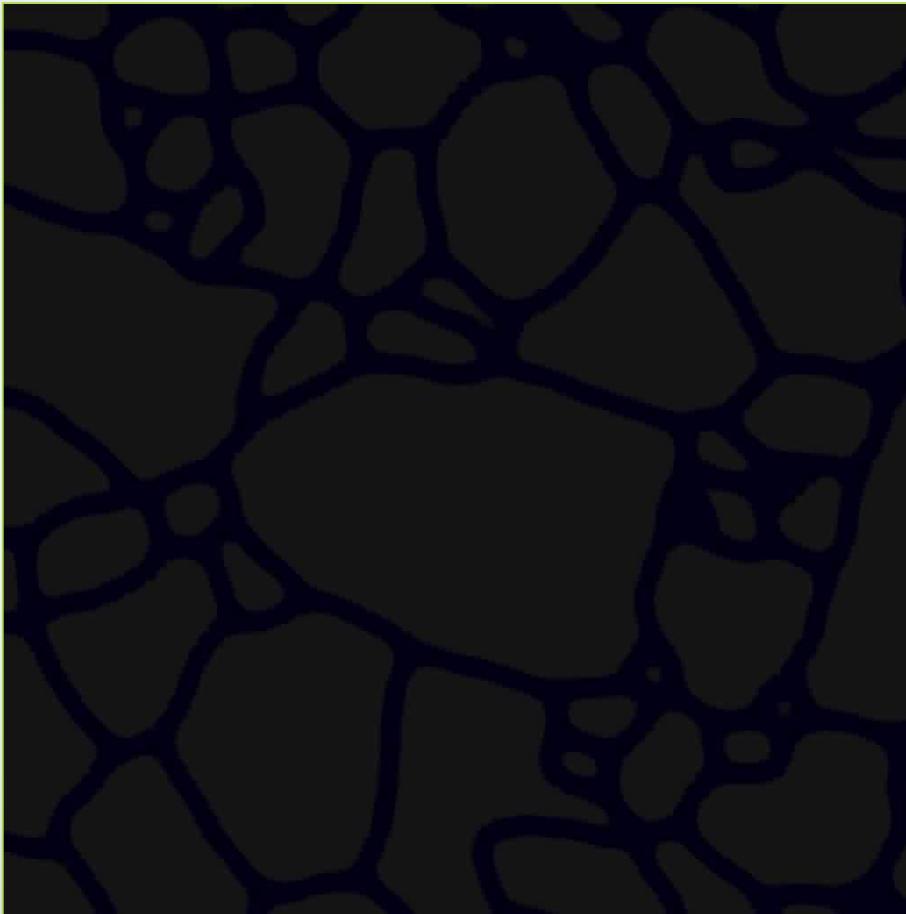
- The same grains identified before and after irradiation
- Individual grain boundary misorientation angles and axes quantified
- Correlation of GB properties and radiation-induced changes



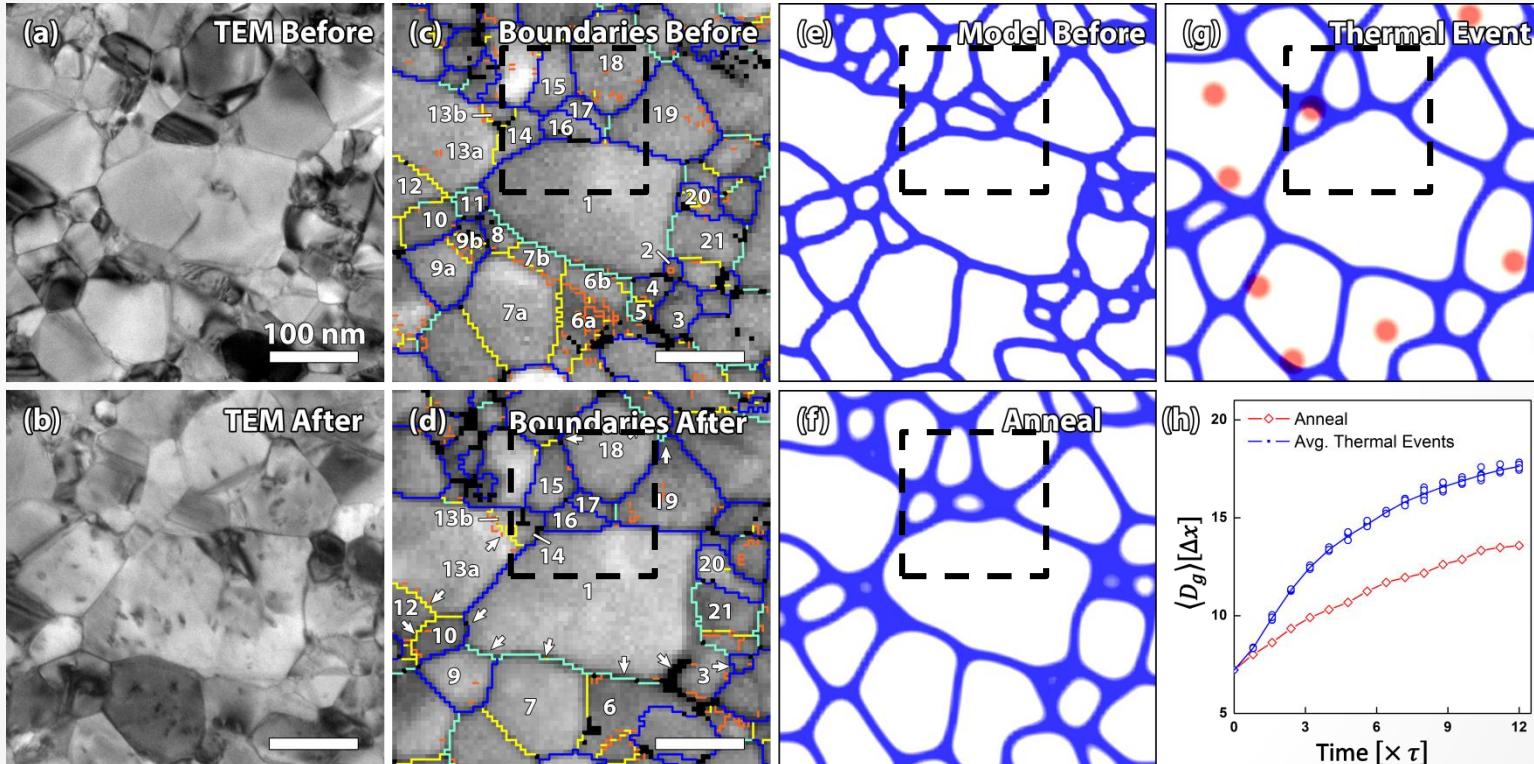
Grain boundary misorientation angle and axes quantified

# Simulated Irradiation and Annealing

Collaborators: F.F. Abdeljawad and S.M. Foiles



# Experiment/Model Discrepancies?



Bufford, et al, Appl Phys Lett, 2015.

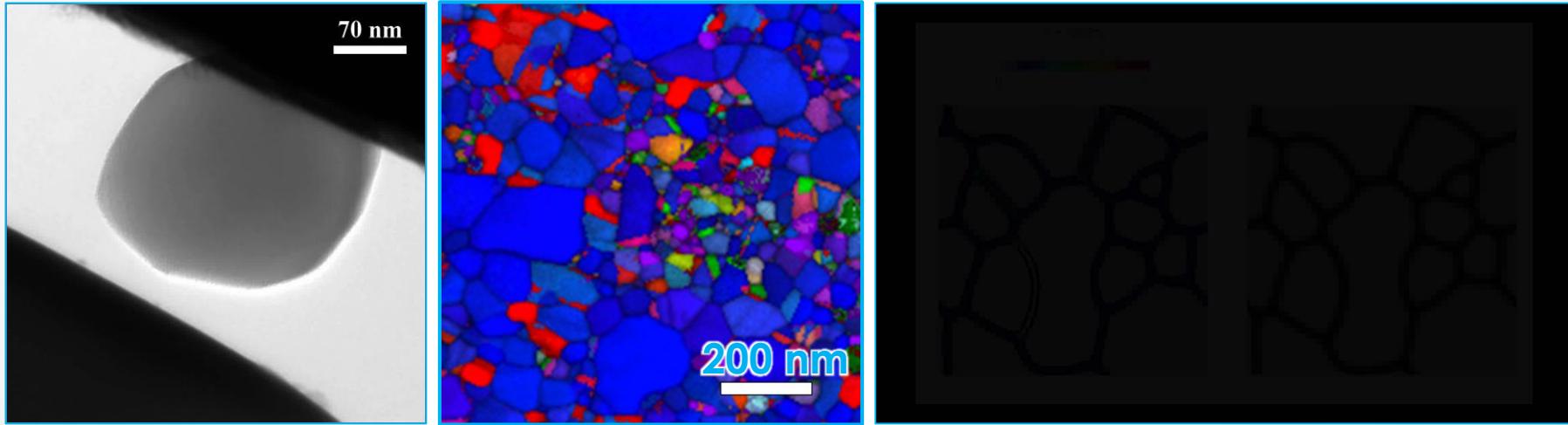
- Subtle deviations from homogenous grain growth
- Overall scaling laws appear consistent

**Immobile boundaries suggest importance of non-thermally activated mobility**

# Summary and Conclusions



- Mechanical deformation and irradiation-induced grain growth studied with quantitative *in situ* TEM techniques.
- Immediately relevant to small-scale devices.
- Fundamental knowledge of processes at the nanoscale informs models and improves understanding at longer length scales.



Acknowledgements: **IBL:** D.L. Buller, B.L. Doyle, C. Gong, K. Hattar, M.T. Marshall, B.R. Muntifering, M. Steckbeck. **Sandia:** F.F. Abdeljawad, D.P. Adams, B. Boyce, T.J. Boyle, S.M. Foiles, H. Lim, W.M. Mook, J.A. Scott, J.A. Sharon, S.H. Pratt, M. Rye, C. Sobczak. **External:** S. Bhowmick, L. Kuhn (Hysitron), A. Minor, C. Chisholm, P. Hosemann (UC Berkley), Z. Bi, Q.X. Jia, Y. Liu, (Los Alamos National Lab), A. Darbal (AppFive), D. Kaoumi (University of South Carolina), A. Leff (Drexel University), Y. Zhu, H. Wang, X. Zhang (Texas A&M University). Work performed by DCB at Sandia was fully supported by the Division of Materials Science and Engineering, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, U.S. Department of Energy. This work was performed, in part, at the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, an



Office of  
Science

Office of Science User Facility operated for the U.S.  
Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science under  
proposal #U2014A0026.

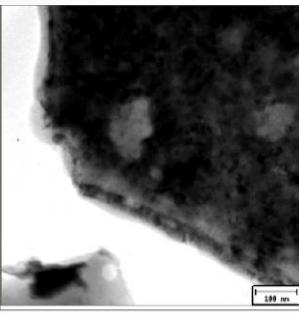




# Synergistic In Situ Capabilities



## Mechanical



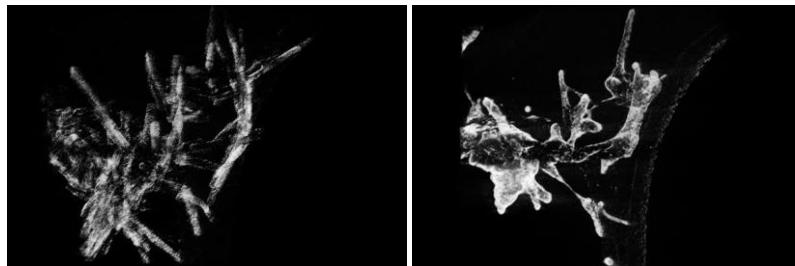
### Hysitron PI95 TEM Picoindenter Gatan 654 Straining Holder

Direct correlation of dose and defect density with resulting changes in strength, ductility, and defect mobility

## Structural

### Hummingbird Tomography Stage Gatan 925 Double Tilt Rotate

Morphology changes as a result of radiation damage



## Environmental

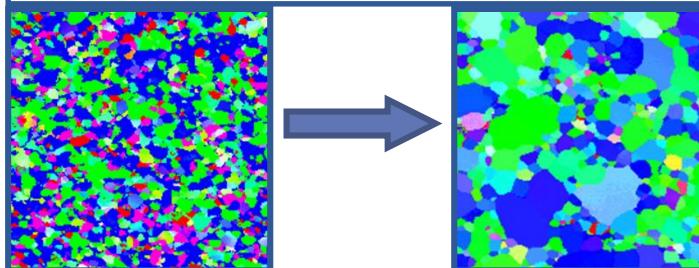
### Protobricks Liquid and Gas Flow

Effects of radiation on corrosion and gas loading at the grain level

## Texture

### Nanomegas ASTAR

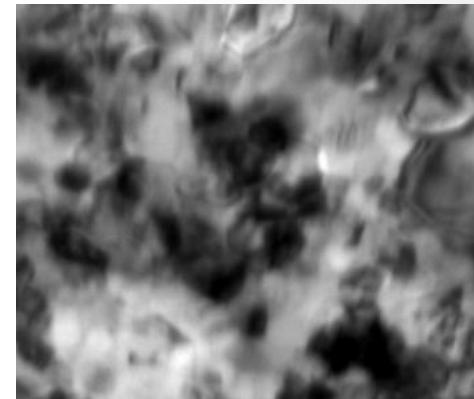
Quantifying orientation changes as a result of radiation, implantation, and heat.



## Thermal

### Hummingbird Heating Stage

Coupling effects of temperature and irradiation on microstructural evolution up to 800 °C

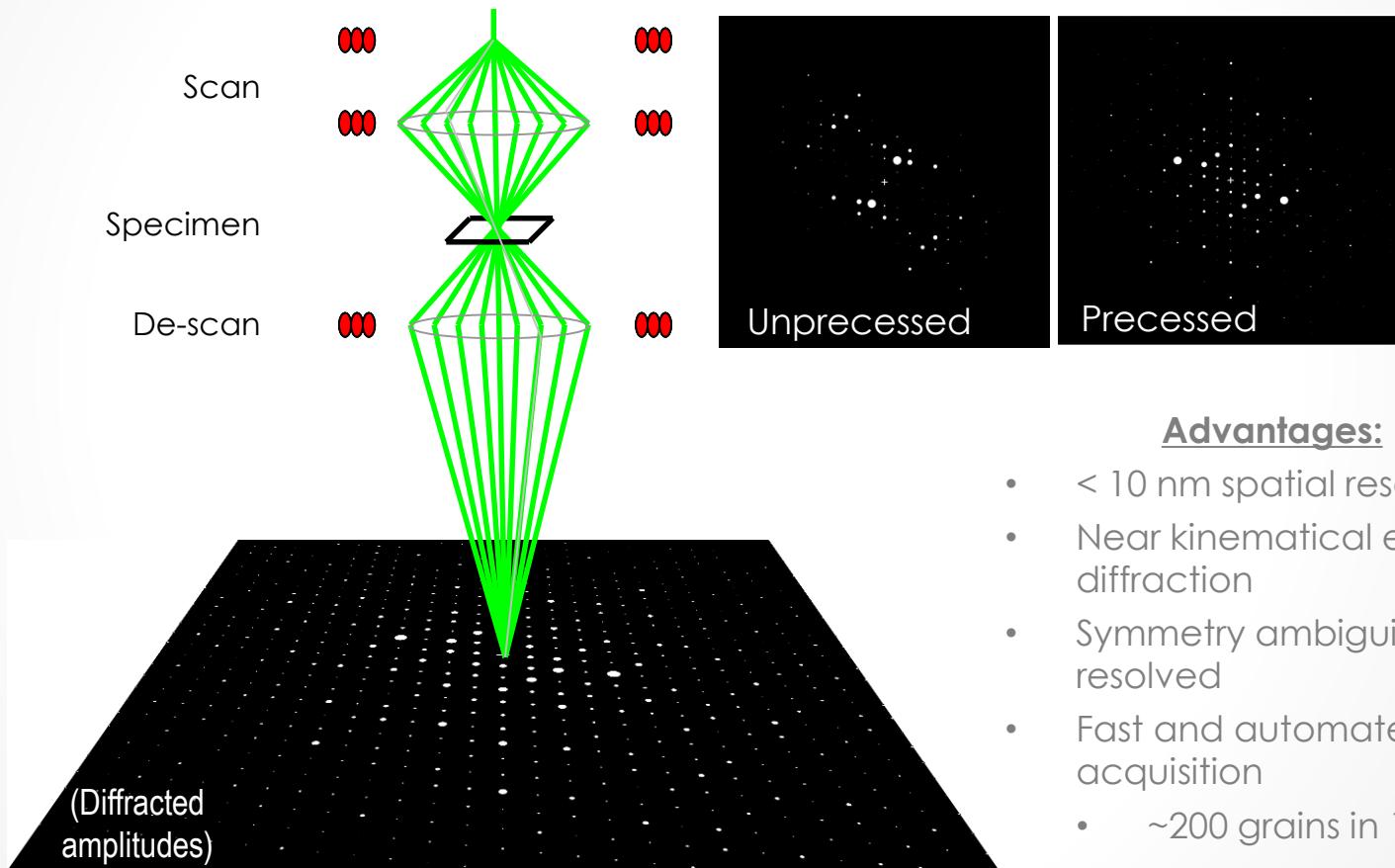


The application of advanced microscopy techniques to characterize synergistic effects in a variety of extreme environments

# Precession Electron Diffraction Microscopy



Collaborators: K.J. Ganesh, S. Rajasekhara, P.J. Ferreira

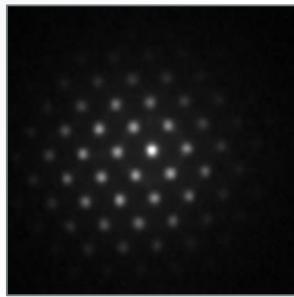


## Advantages:

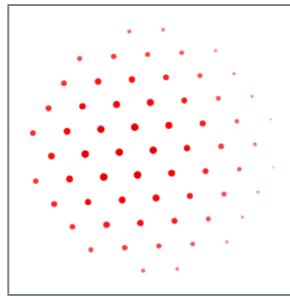
- < 10 nm spatial resolution
- Near kinematical electron diffraction
- Symmetry ambiguities are resolved
- Fast and automated acquisition
  - ~200 grains in 15 min.

Chris Own, PhD Dissertation

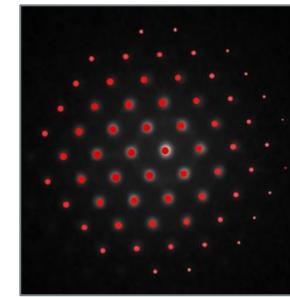
# Approach: Experimental



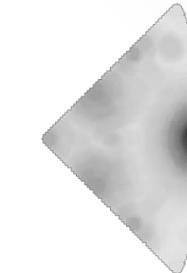
Experimental  
Pattern



Theoretical  
Template

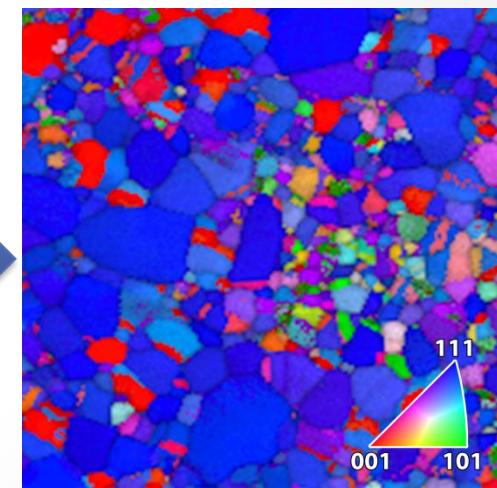
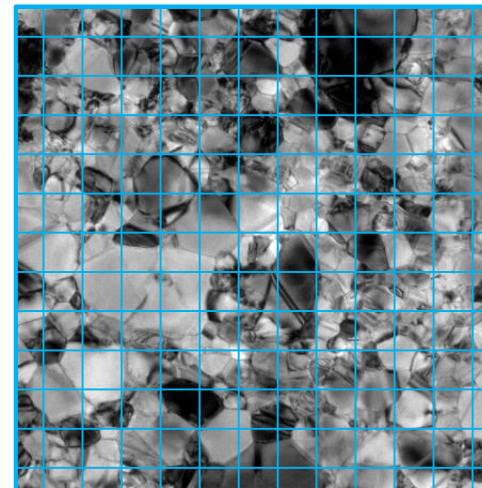


Template  
Matched



Point Mapped  
To IPF

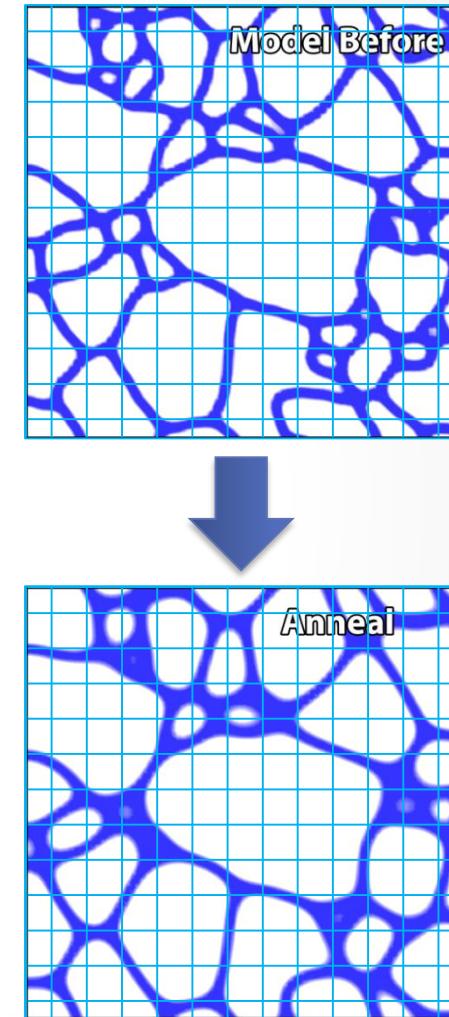
- Automated diffraction orientation mapping
  - Point by point grid of orientations mapped
  - 5 nm resolution
- Analogous to EBSD



Point diffraction data

# Approach: Modeling

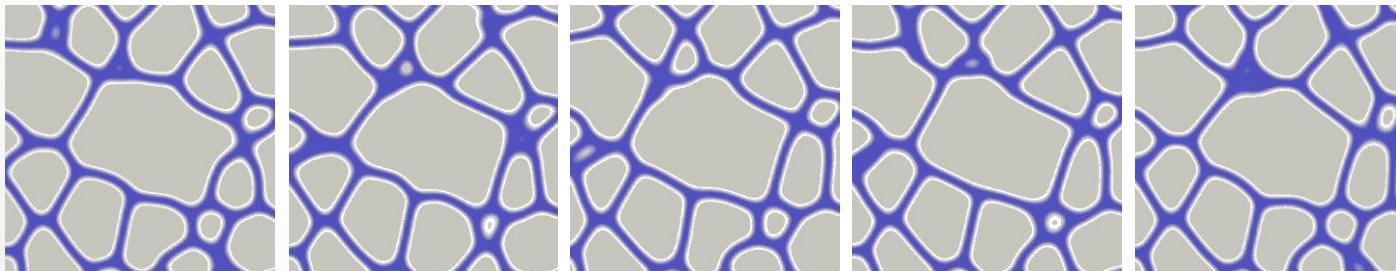
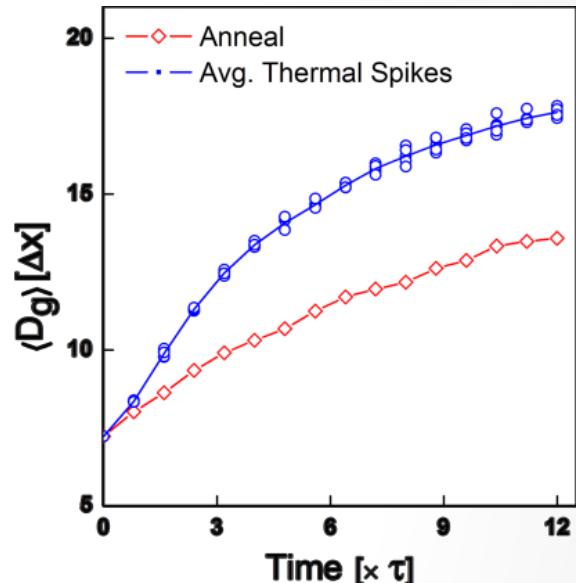
- What is phase field modeling?
  - Mathematical model for solving interfacial problems, like solidification, growth, etc.
- Example grain growth model
  - Thermodynamic free energy function
    - $dF = d(\gamma A) = \gamma dA$  ( $\gamma$ : GB energy,  $A$ : GB area)
  - Model for kinetics
    - $V = M\gamma h$  ( $M$ : GB mobility,  $h$ : GB curvature)
  - Solve at each pixel for a predetermined timestep
- See Abdeljawad and Foiles, Acta Mater, 2015 for more information

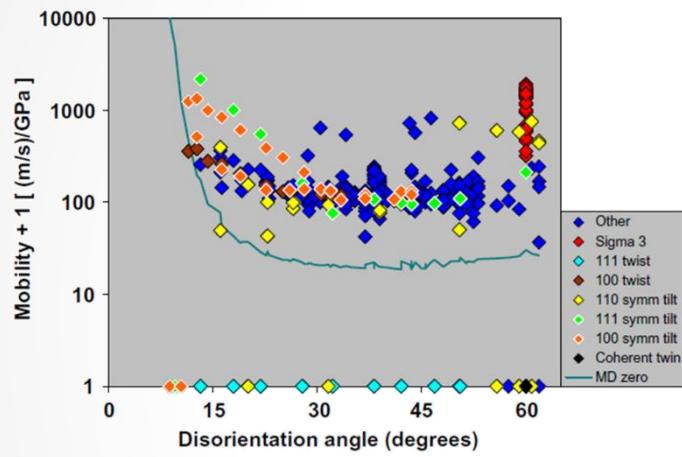


Can directly use experimental maps as input structures, and then compare evolutions!

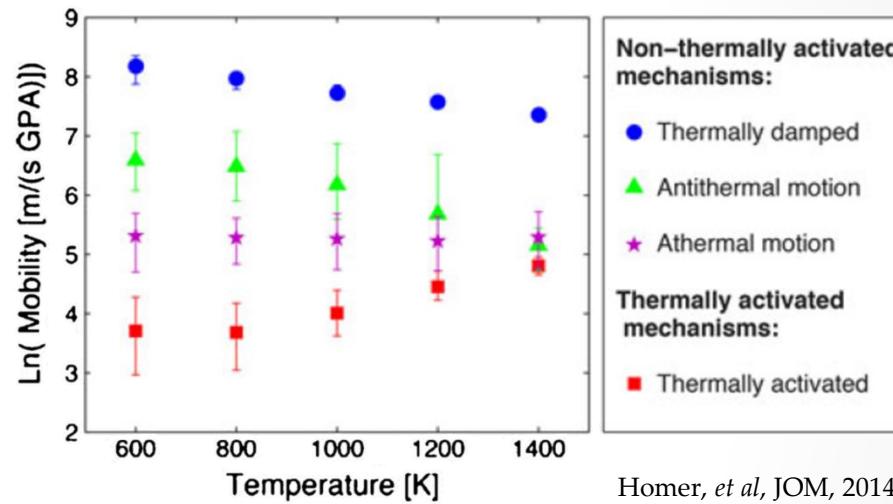
# Model Data Analysis

- During simulated annealing grain growth scales approximately with  $T^{1/2}$ 
  - Expected for homogenous grain growth
- During simulated irradiation, grain growth scales with  $T^{1/n}$ , where  $n \approx 3$ 
  - Initially faster, but stagnates sooner





Olmstead, *et al*, Acta Mater, 2009.



Homer, *et al*, JOM, 2014.

# Time scaling



Fraction of ion strikes that intersect grain boundaries (thus contributing to grain growth):

$$f_{\text{GB}} = \frac{\pi D^2 \frac{d_{\text{spike}}}{2}}{\pi D^3} = \frac{3d_{\text{spike}}}{D},$$

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = \frac{\Phi \chi \delta}{N_{\text{at}}} \frac{3d_{\text{cas}}}{D} \left[ \frac{4\gamma V_{\text{at}} N_{\text{at}} \nu}{D k_B} \frac{\sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \Gamma\left(\frac{8}{3}\right) k_B^{8/3}}{10\pi C_0^{2/3} \kappa_0} \frac{Q^{5/3}}{E_a^{8/3}} \right].$$

$$D^2 dD = \left[ 12\gamma d_{\text{spike}} \Phi \chi \delta \frac{V_{\text{at}} \nu \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \Gamma\left(\frac{8}{3}\right) k_B^{5/3}}{10\pi C_0^{2/3} \kappa_0} \frac{Q^{5/3}}{E_a^{8/3}} \right] dt.$$

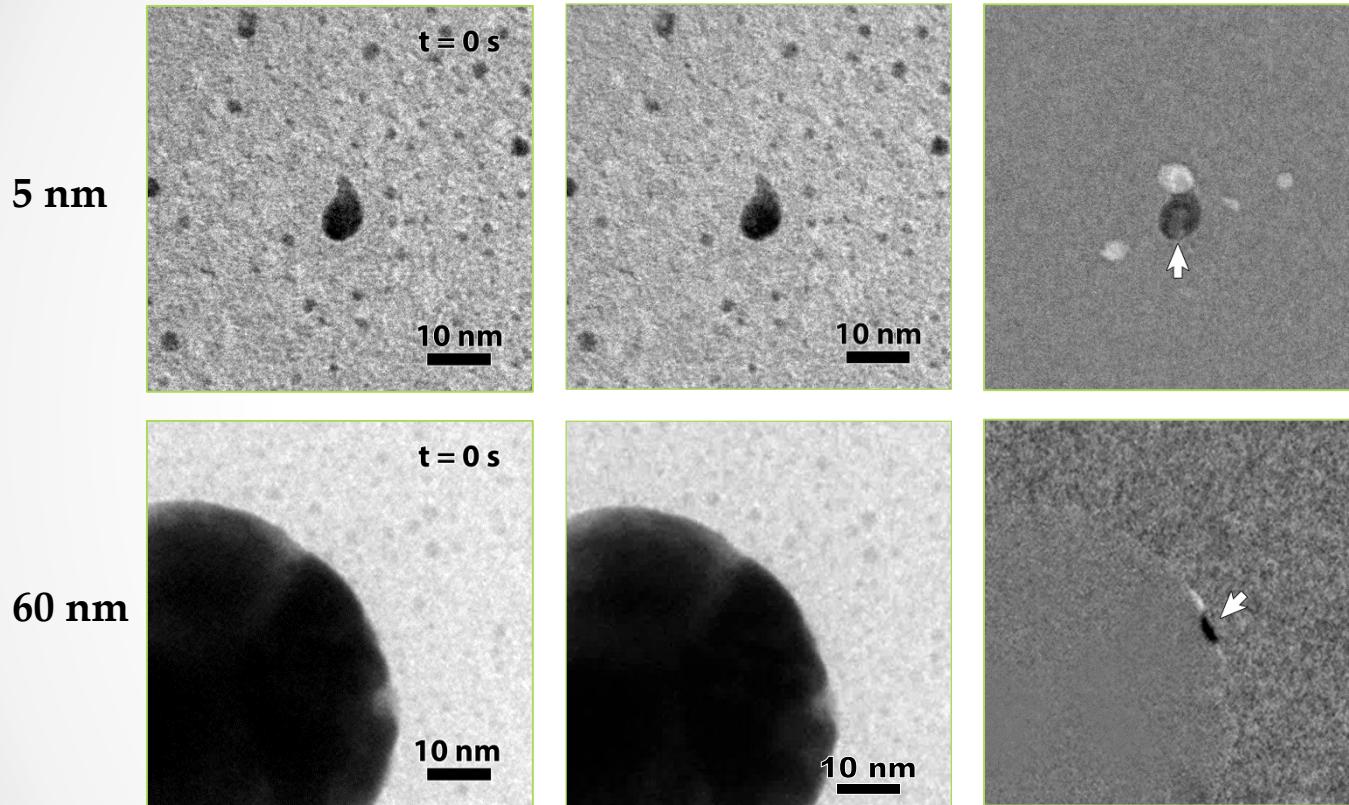
$$\begin{aligned} D^3 - D_0^3 &= \left[ 36\gamma d_{\text{spike}} \chi \delta \frac{V_{\text{at}} \nu \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \Gamma\left(\frac{8}{3}\right) k_B^{5/3}}{10\pi C_0^{2/3} \kappa_0} \frac{Q^{5/3}}{E_a^{8/3}} \right] \Phi t \\ &= K \Phi t. \end{aligned}$$

Kaoumi, *et al*, J Appl Phys, 2008.

# Single Ions in Nanoparticles



Collaborators: T.J. Boyle, K. Hattar, S. Pratt



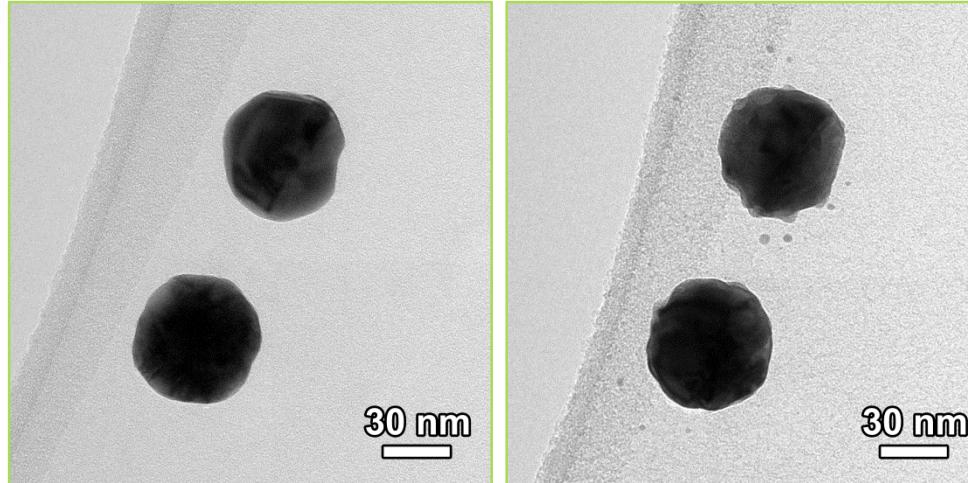
- Single 46 keV Au<sup>-</sup> ions into Au nanoparticles

## Difference Images

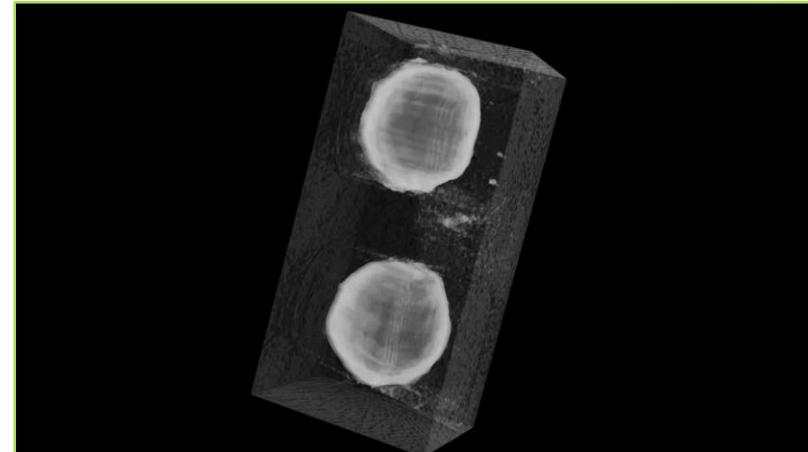
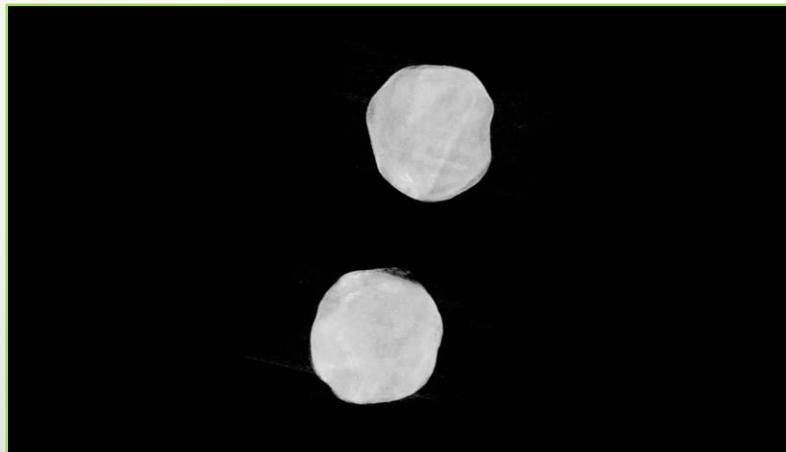
- **Dark:** Only present before
- **Light:** Only present after
- **Gray:** unchanged

**Effects of similarly sized cascades vary dramatically with particle size.**

# Surface Effects of Heavy Ions



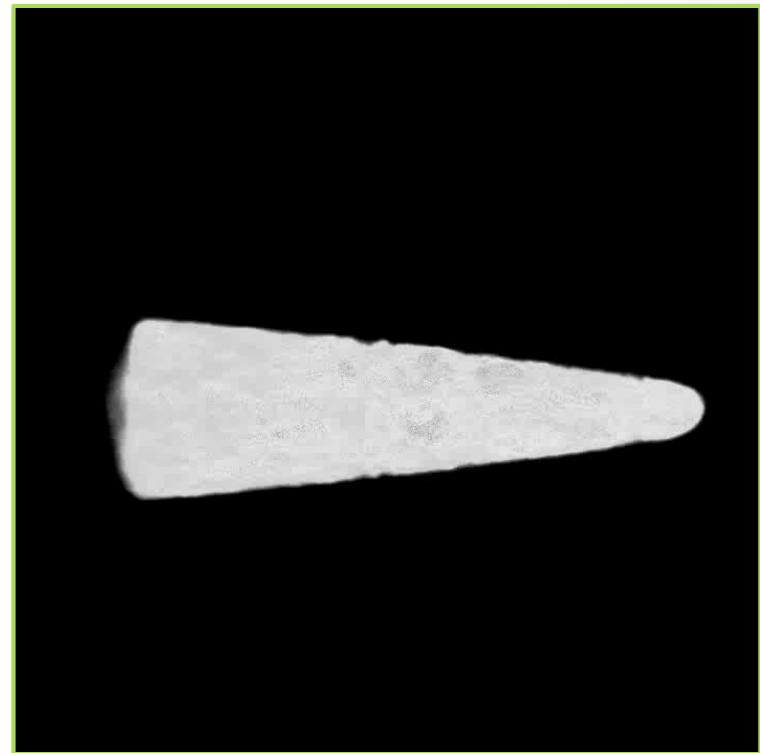
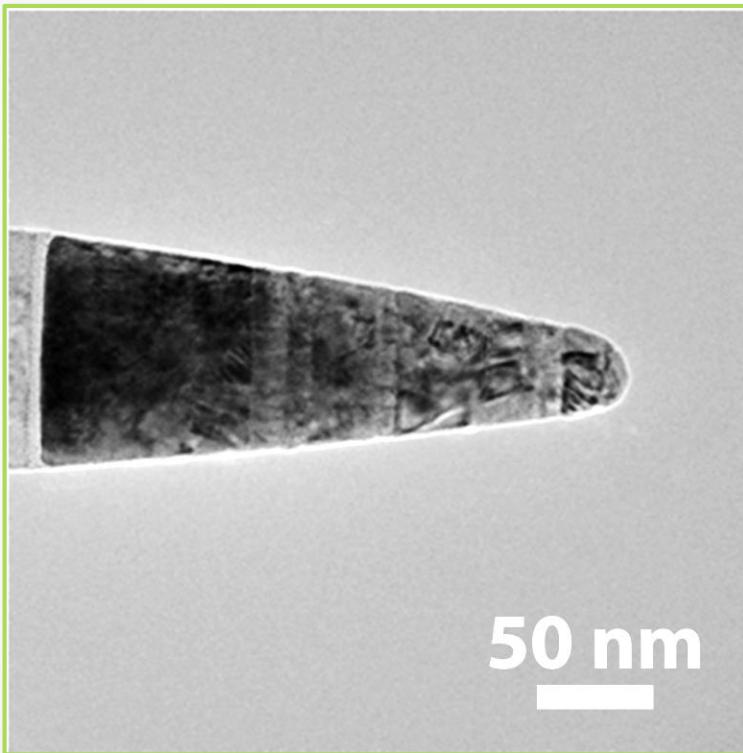
- 60 nm Au NPs before/after  $2.0 \times 10^{14}$  ions/cm<sup>2</sup> of 2.8 MeV Au<sup>4+</sup>



# Nanopillar Fabrication



- FIB-milled from 500 nm PLD Ni on Si
  - ~100 nm base diameter
  - Conical geometry



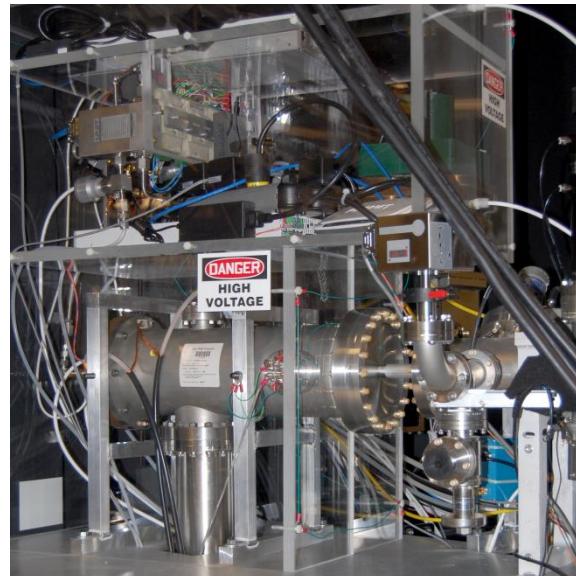
- Mostly electron-transparent, easy geometry for stress calculations
- Small volume, susceptible to vibration and shear

● Alabama Seminar

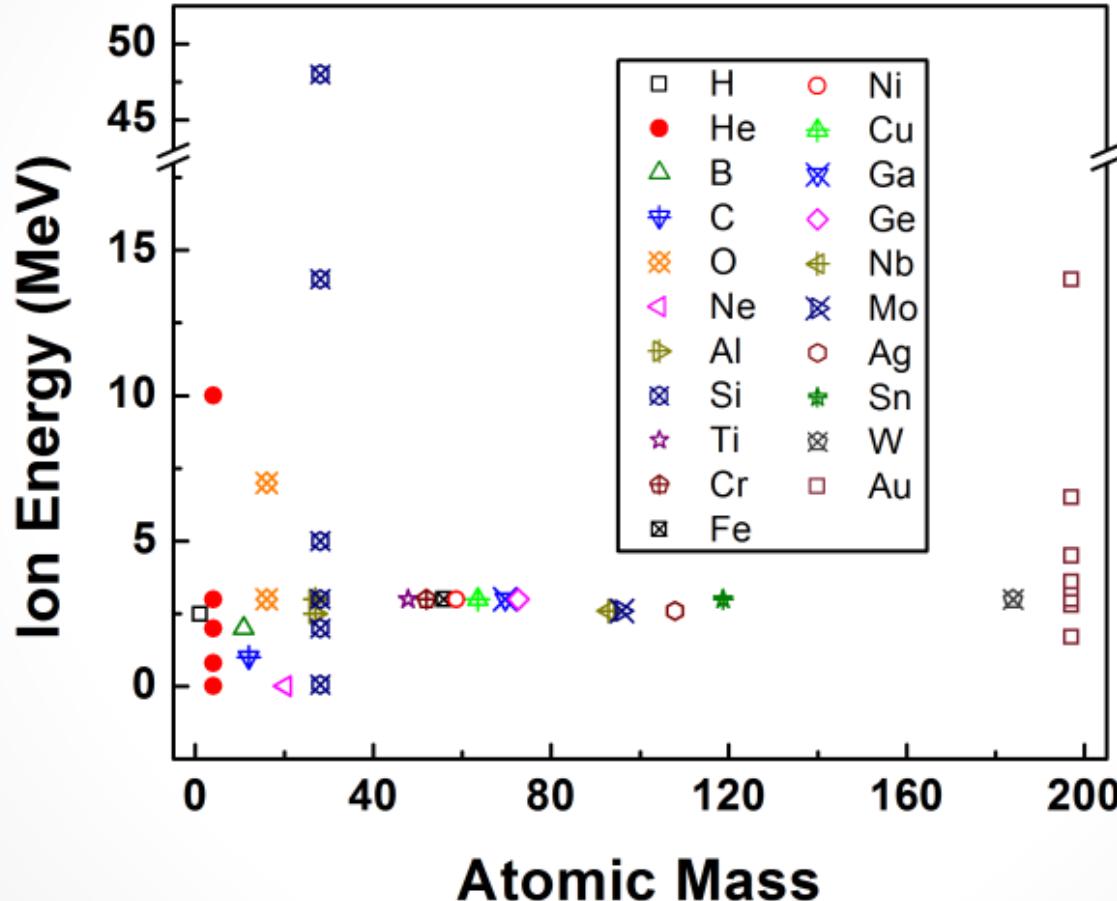
# Accelerators



- HVE EN Tandem
  - 0.8 – 6 MV
  - SNICS, Alphatross, Hiconex 834 sputter, and duoplasmatron sources
    - H, He, most elements except other noble gases
    - 1. ~3 MeV Au
  - Displacement damage
- Colutron G-1
  - 0.5 – 10 kV
  - Hot filament source
    - Gases
    - 2. 10 keV He
    - 3. 10 keV D<sub>2</sub>
  - Implantation



# Ions in the TEM



Hattar, *et al*, Nucl Instr Meth Phys Res B, 2014.

# Probability of Formation

$$r_{perfect}^* = \frac{\gamma}{\left( \frac{kT}{\Omega} \ln \left[ \frac{J \sqrt{2\pi m k T}}{P_s} \right] \right)}$$

$$r_{twin}^* = \frac{\gamma}{\left( \frac{kT}{\Omega} \ln \left[ \frac{J \sqrt{2\pi m k T}}{P_s} \right] - \frac{\gamma_t}{h} \right)}$$

$\gamma$  - surface energy

$k$  - Boltzmann constant

$T$  - substrate temperature

$\Omega$  - atomic volume

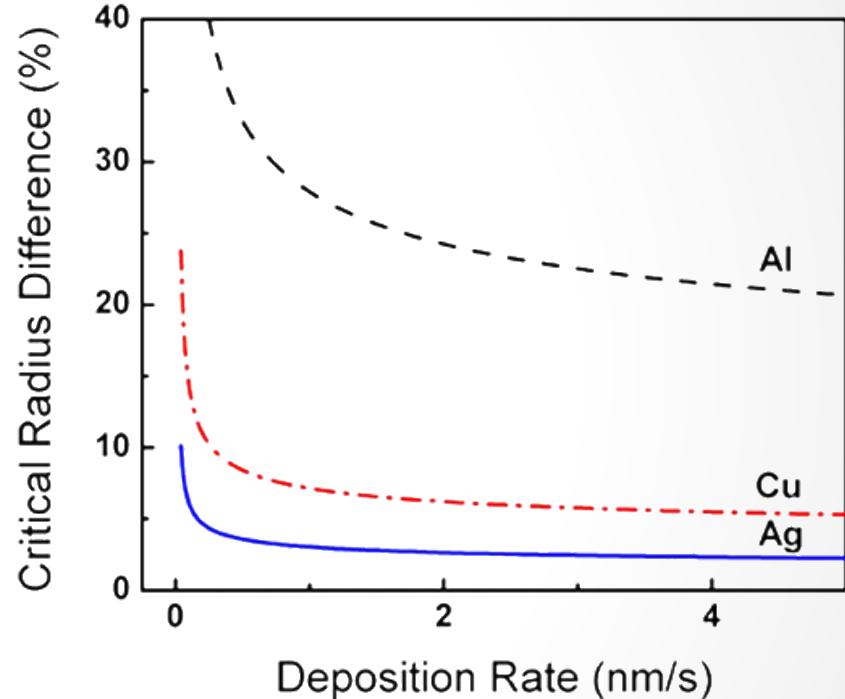
$m$  - atomic mass of the film species

$P_s$  - vapor pressure above the target

$\gamma_t$  - twin boundary energy

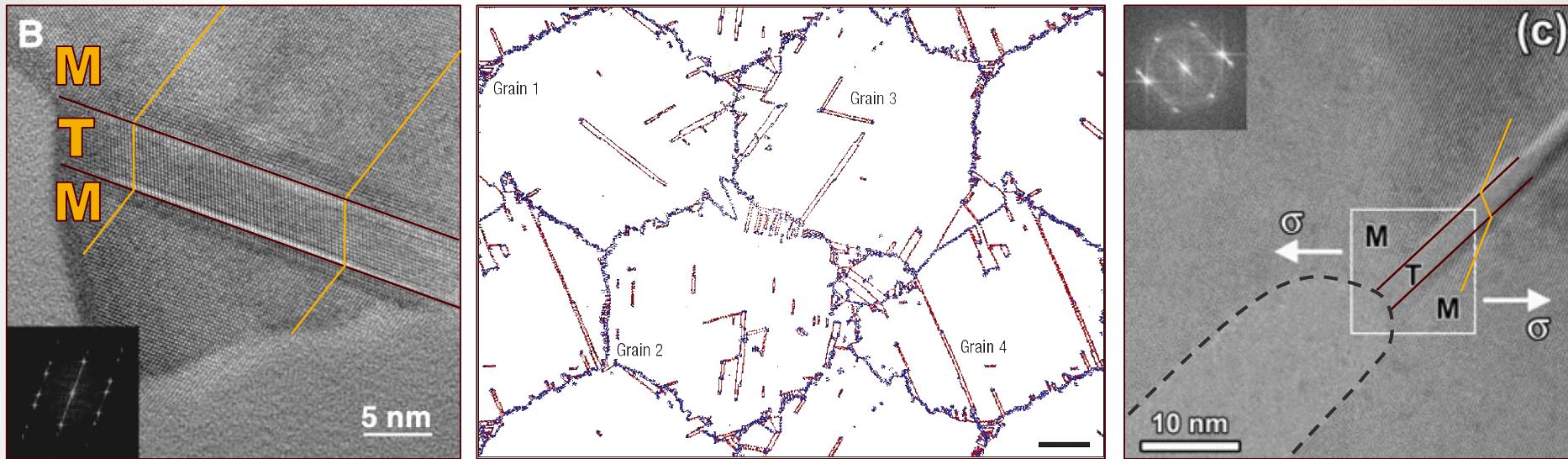
$J$  - deposition flux

$h$  - height of the nucleus



- Higher deposition rates and lower twin boundary energy favor twin formation

# Deformation twins in Al



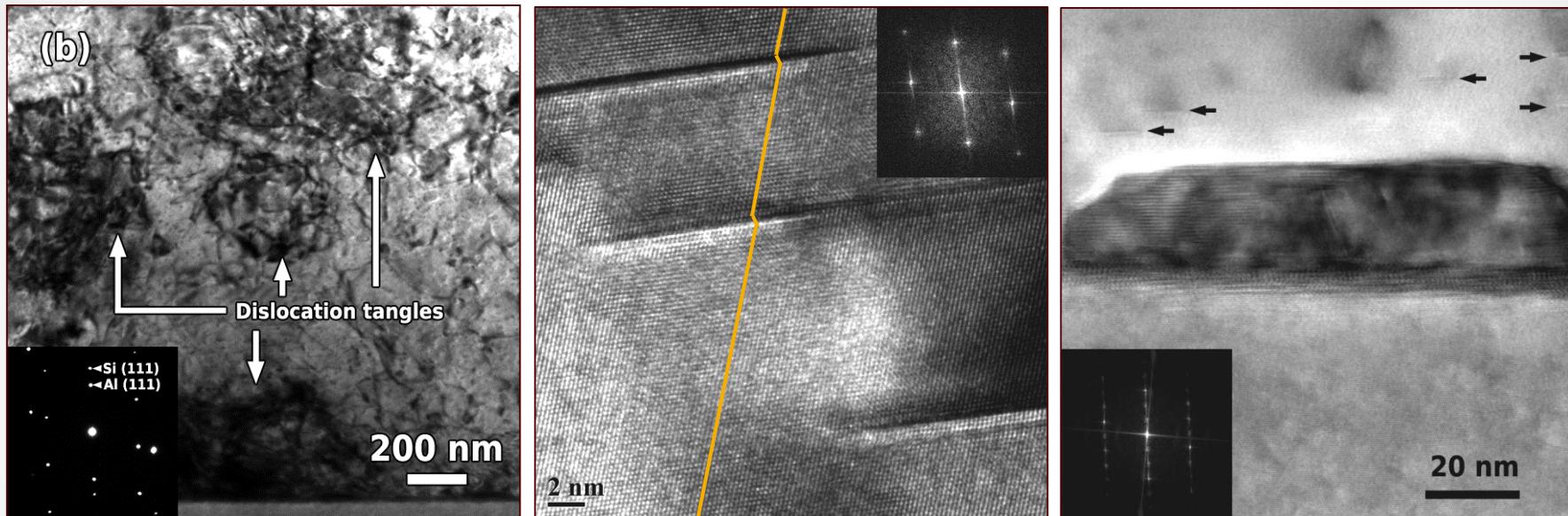
- Associated with extremely...
  - Low temperature..... (77 K)
  - High strain rate..... ( $>10^3$  s $^{-1}$ )
  - Small grain size..... (<8 nm)
  - High stress concentration

Chen, M. et al, *Science* **300**, 2003.

Li, B.Q. et al, *Phys Rev Lett* **102**, 2009.

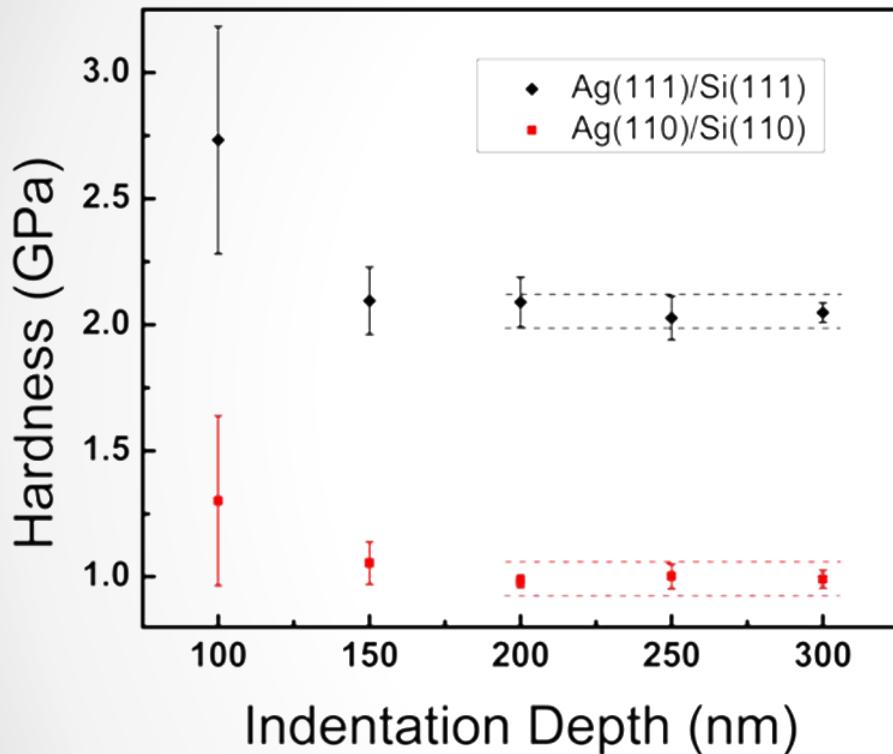
Yamakov, V. et al, *Nat Mater* **1**, 2002.

# Epitaxial Al / Si(111)



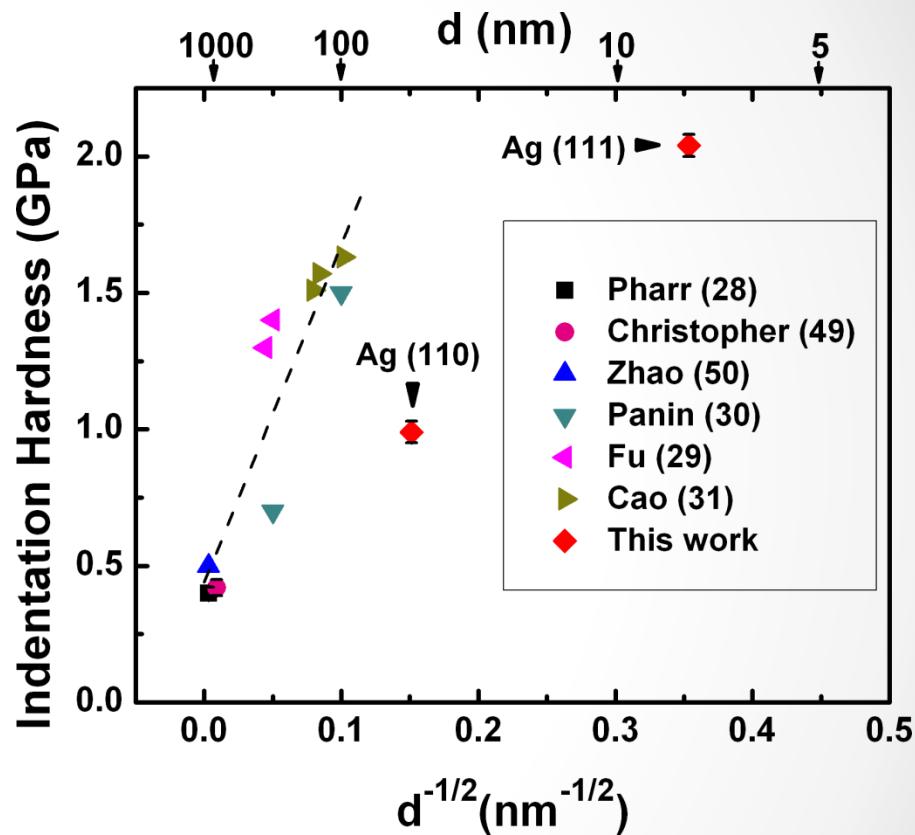
- Distinct lack of twins
- A few small, unstable stacking faults
- Rare twins at Al/Si interface

# Mechanical Properties



## Hardness vs. depth profile

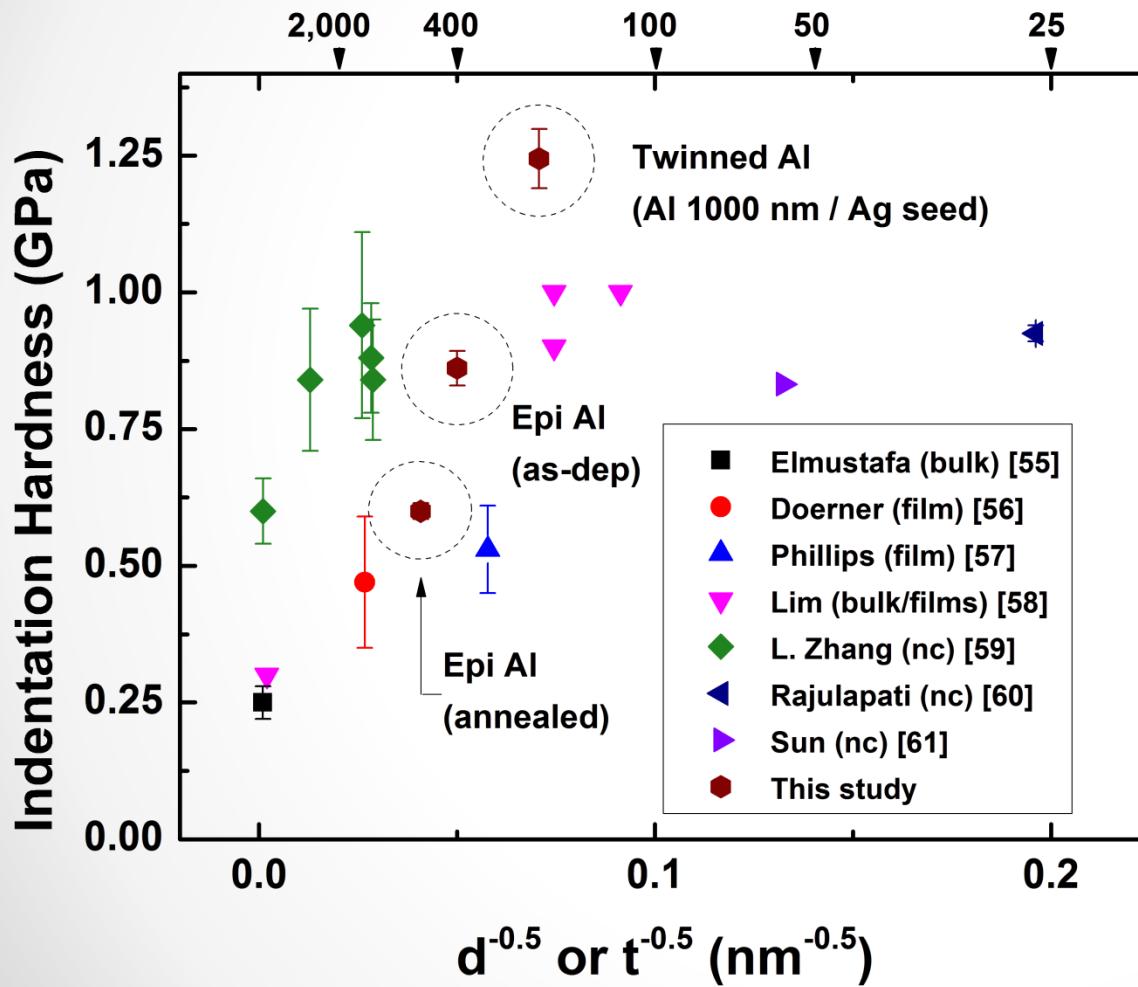
- Plateau achieved by ~200nm
- (111) and (110) films differ greatly
- Both films are harder than bulk



## Hall-Petch type plot

- (111) film is among hardest reported
- Positions are anomalous

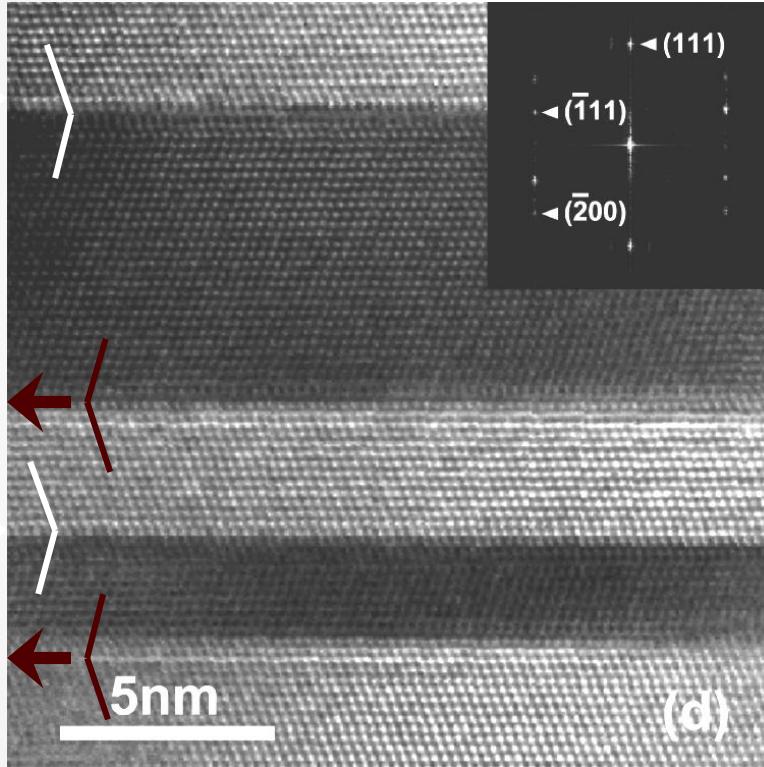
# Nanotwinned Al strength



## High Strength

- nt Al among hardest reported

# Epitaxial Ag(111)/Si(111)

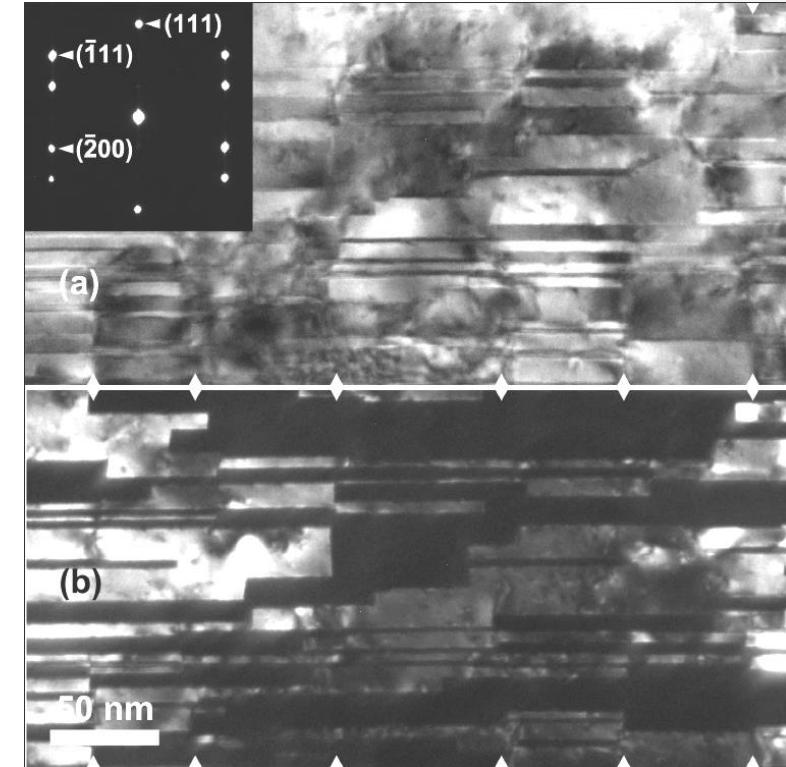


## High resolution XTEM

- Coherent TBs obvious in micrograph and FFT

● Alabama Seminar

Bufford, D., et al. *Acta Mater.*, Vol. 59, 1, 2011.

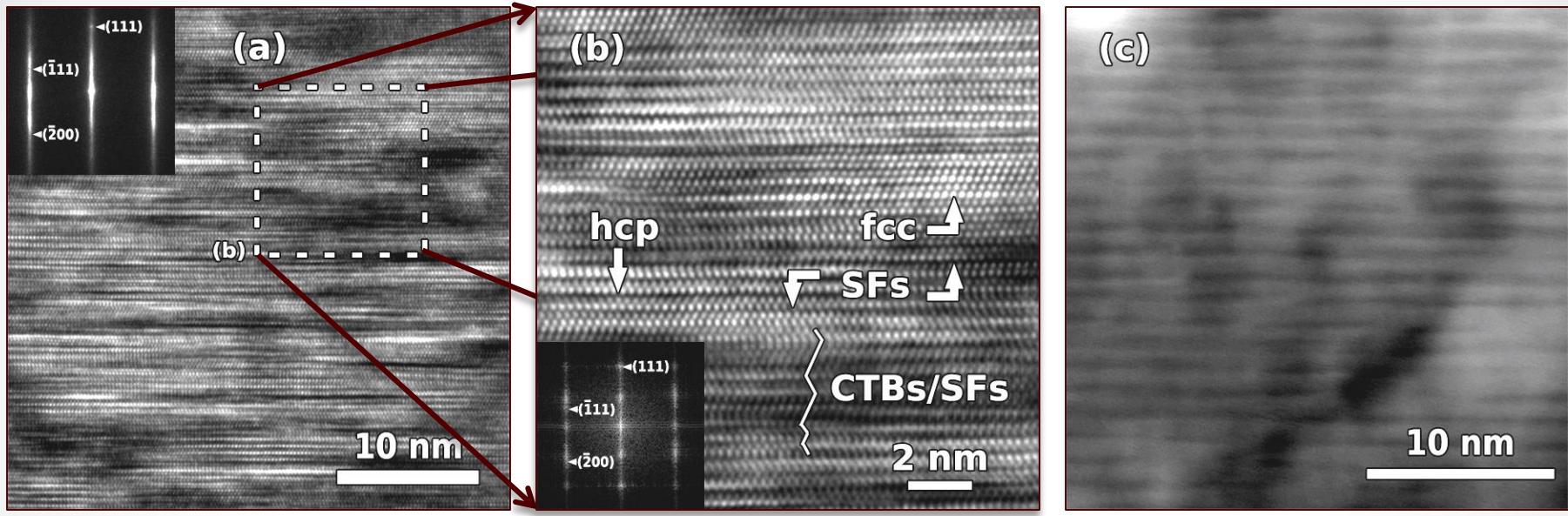


## Bright/Dark-field XTEM

- Same area
- Many twin variants pass through the domain boundaries

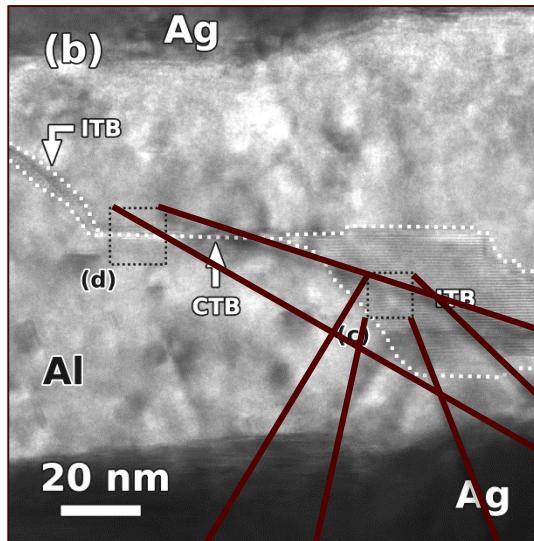
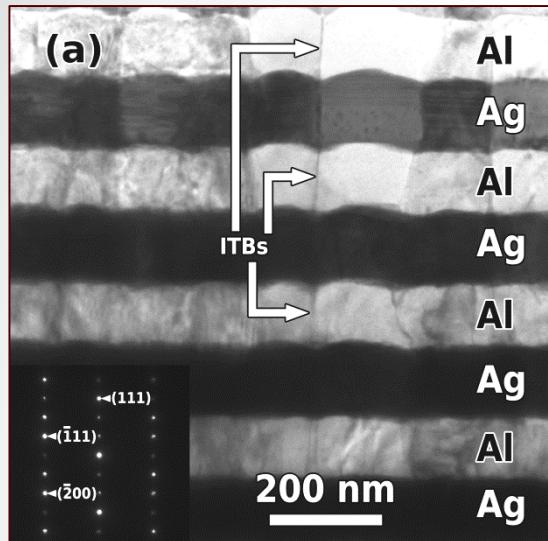
● 58

# Ag/Al multilayers: $h = 1 \text{ nm}$



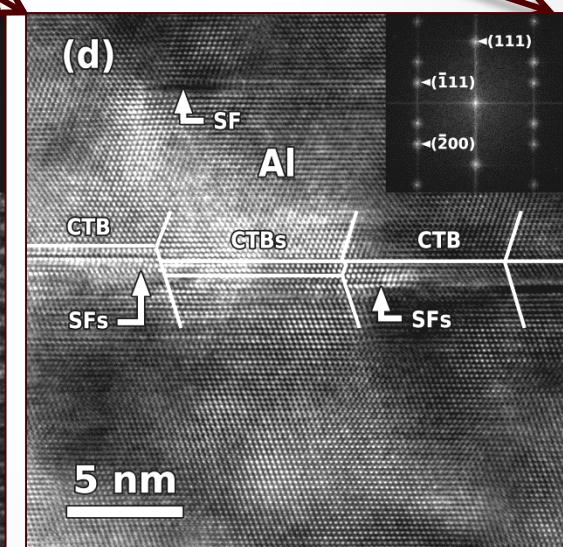
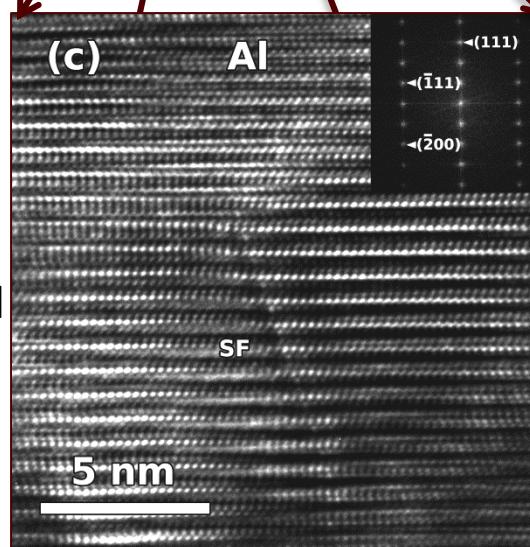
- Extremely dense stacking defects
- Local areas with twins, stacking faults, and hcp stacking
- STEM shows that the layers are still chemically modulated

# Ag/Al multilayers: $h = 100$ nm



## Low magnification

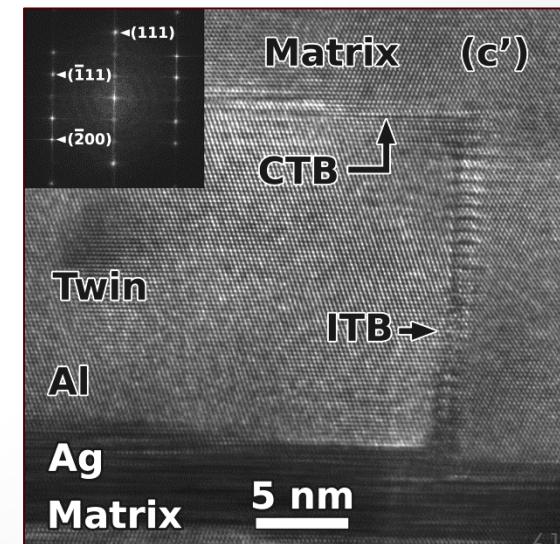
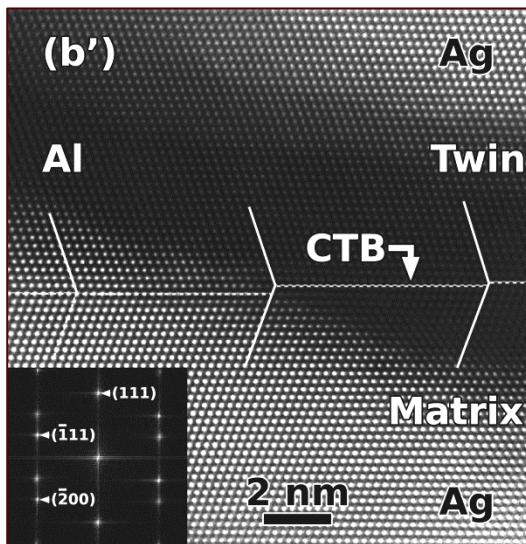
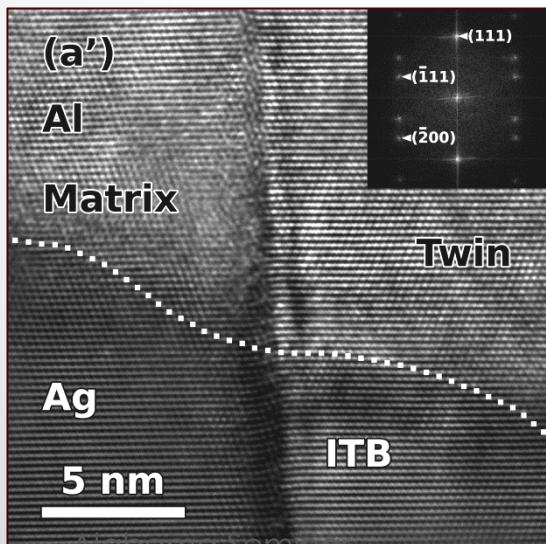
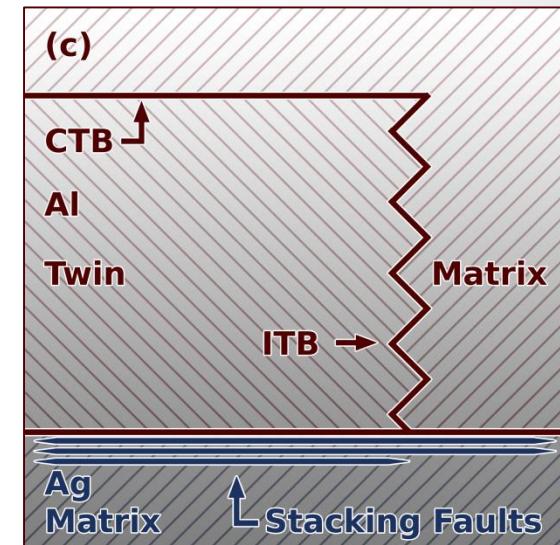
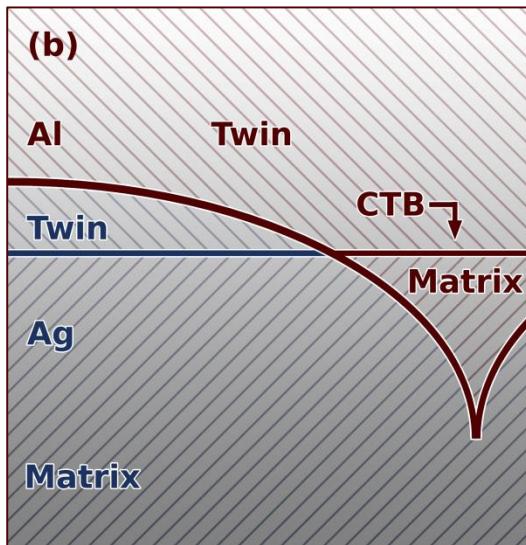
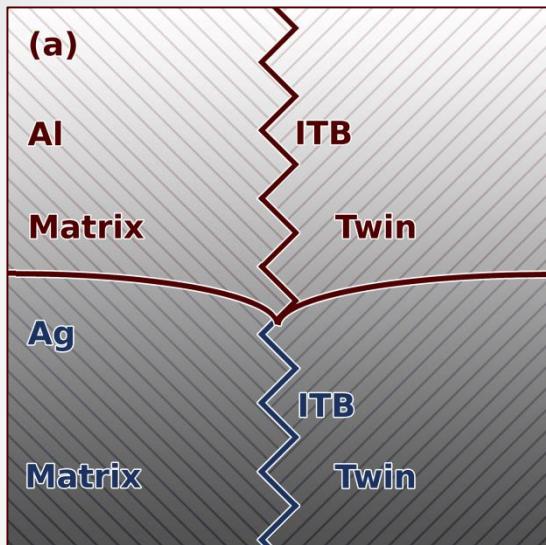
- Mixed TBs present in Al layers
- Penetrate through layers



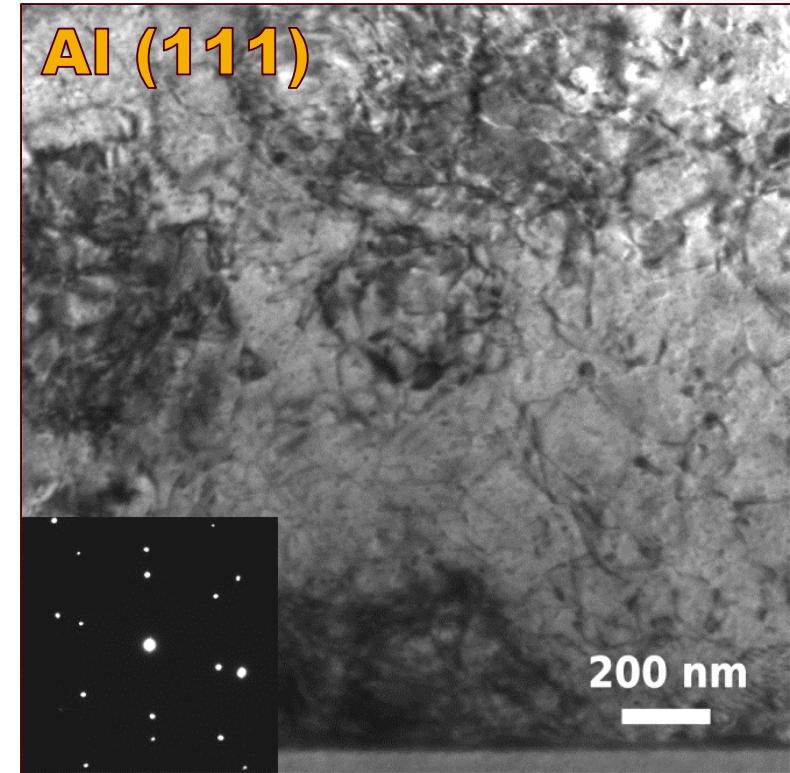
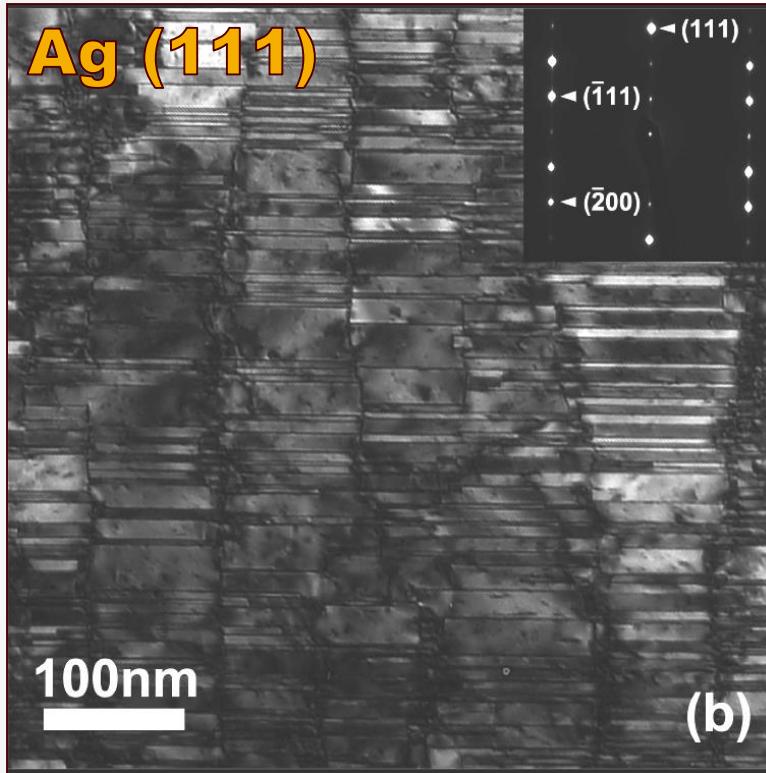
## Higher magnification

- ITB and CTB structures confirmed

# Twin replication mechanisms

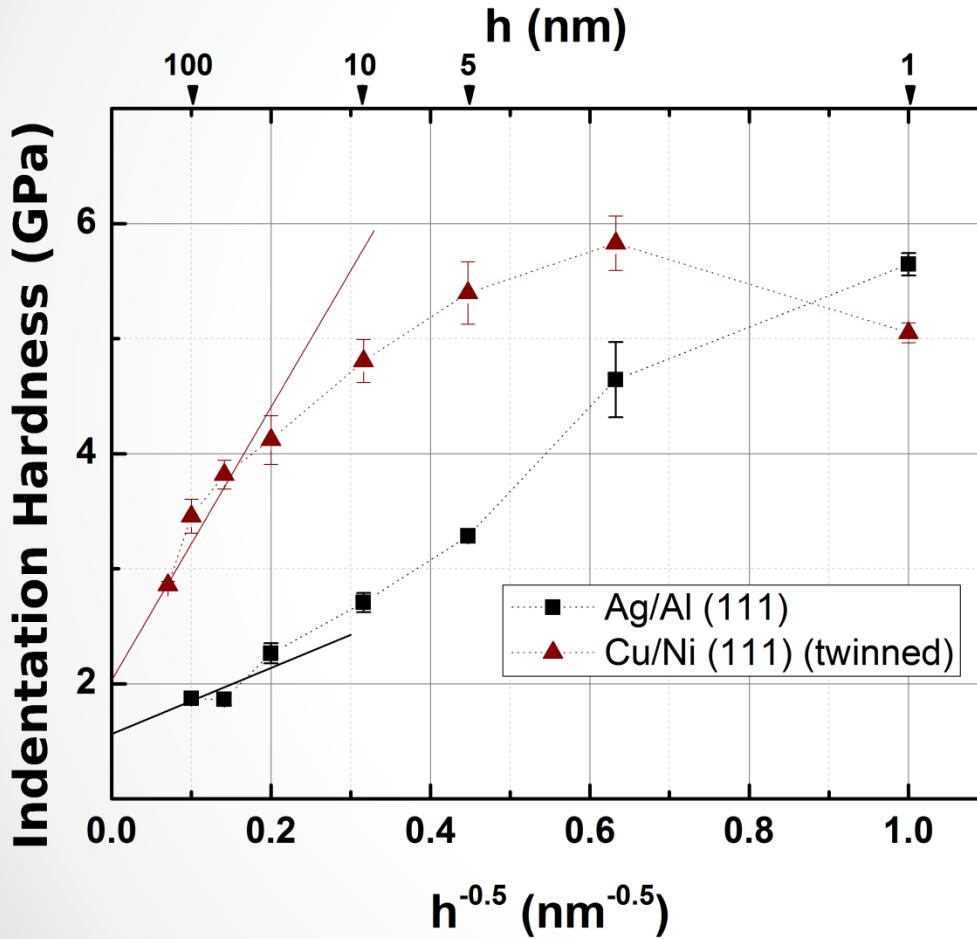


# Growth twin formation problems



- Similar deposition conditions yield dramatically different results

# Ag/Al Multilayer strength



## Unexpected behavior

- Very high hardness
- No softening
- Explained by multilayer film strengthening models
  - Shear modulus mismatch
  - SFE mismatch
  - Slip system discontinuity

# Ag/Al Multilayer Film Strength



The important contributors to strength in Ag/Al films are...

$$\tau^* = \tau_K^* + \tau_{ch}^* + \tau_\omega^*$$

Koehler stress (shear modulus)

$$\tau_K^* = \frac{\mu_1(\mu_2 - \mu_1)b}{4\pi(\mu_2 + \mu_1)h} \longrightarrow 0.05 \text{ GPa}$$

Chemical stress (SFE)

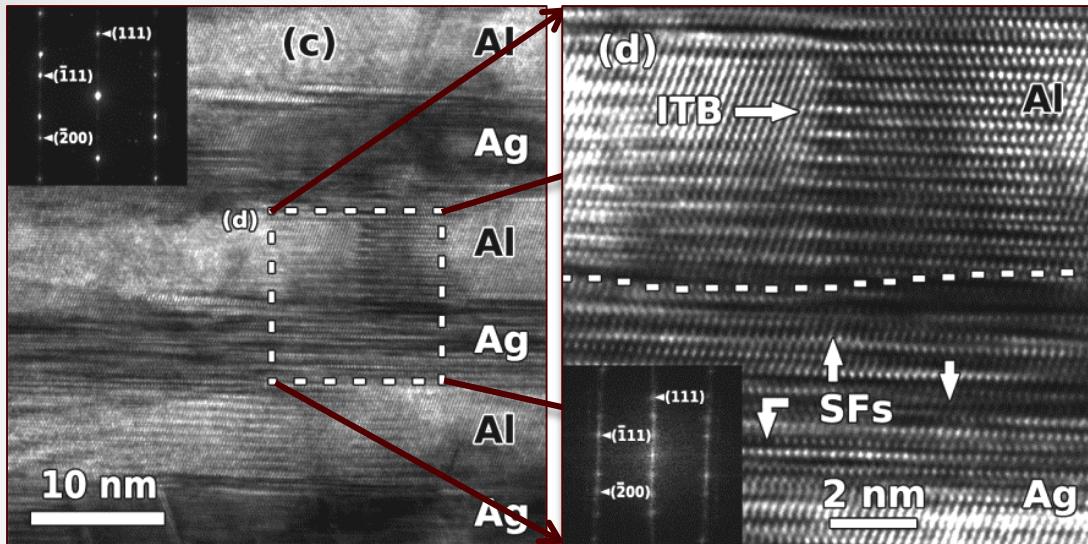
$$\tau_{ch}^* \approx \frac{\delta\gamma}{b} \longrightarrow 0.5 \text{ GPa}$$

$\omega$  interaction (Slip system continuity)  $\tau_\omega^* \longrightarrow 0.1 \text{ GPa}$

$H_{\max} \approx 5.2 \text{ GPa}$

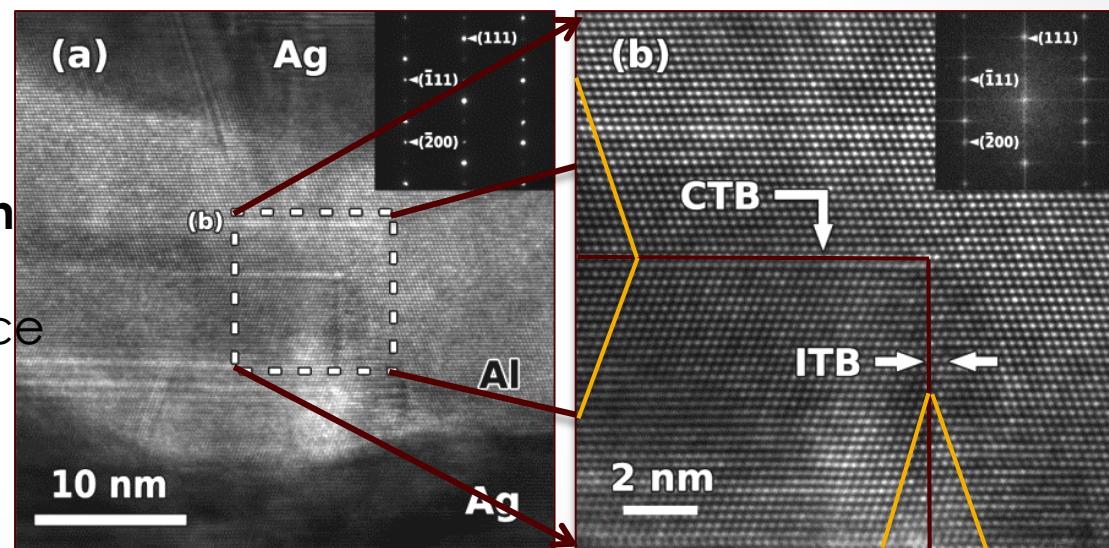
Measured  $H_{\max} \approx 5.5 \text{ GPa}$   
...consistent with experimental observations

# Ag/Al multilayers: $h = 10$ and 25 nm



## 10 nm: high magnification

- Wide ITBs present in Al layers
- Penetrate through the layer



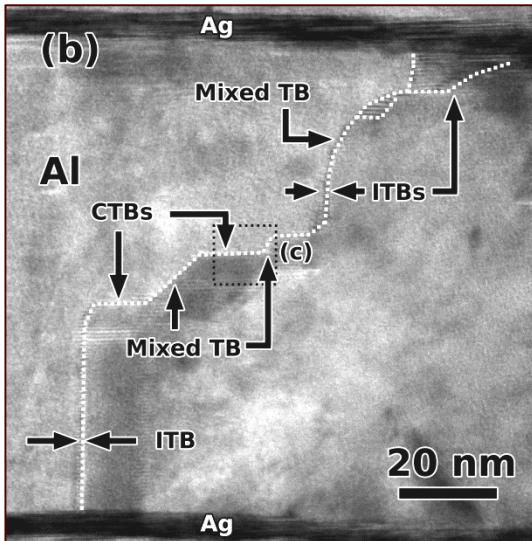
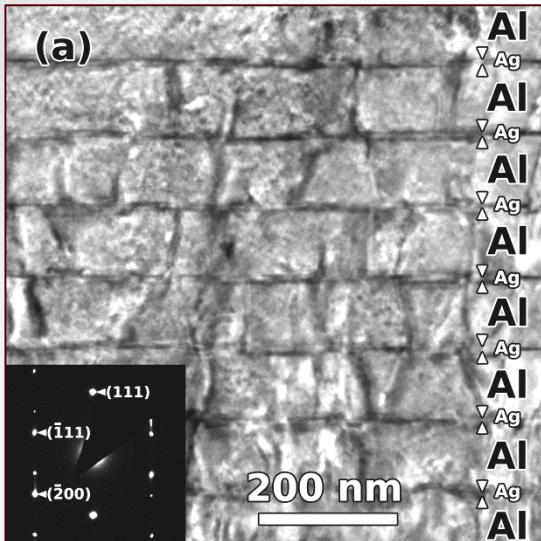
## 25 nm: high magnification

- CTBs appear in Al
- Away from layer interface

# Ag/Al multilayers: mixed



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

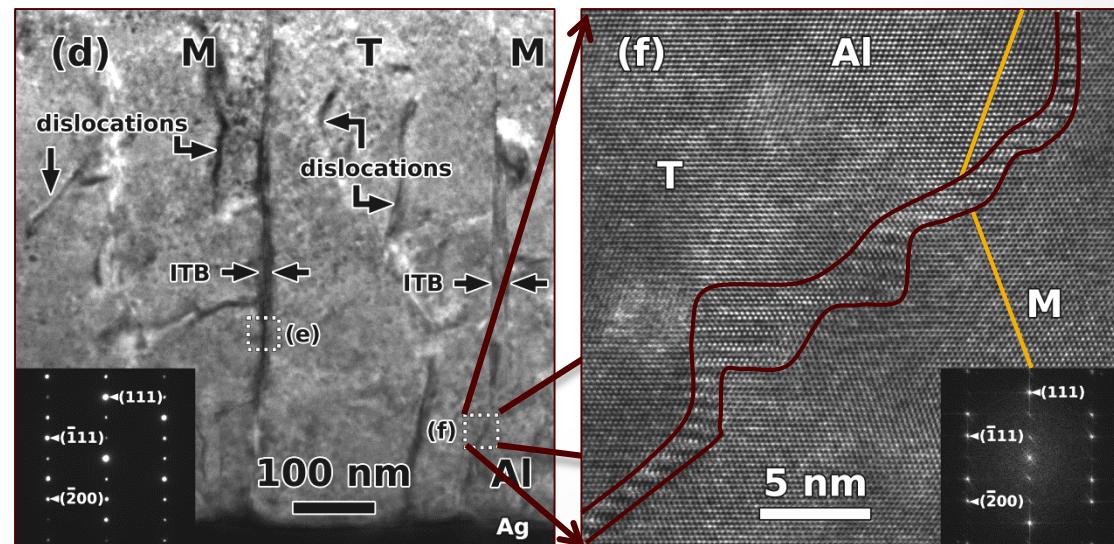


**Ag 5 nm / Al 100 nm**

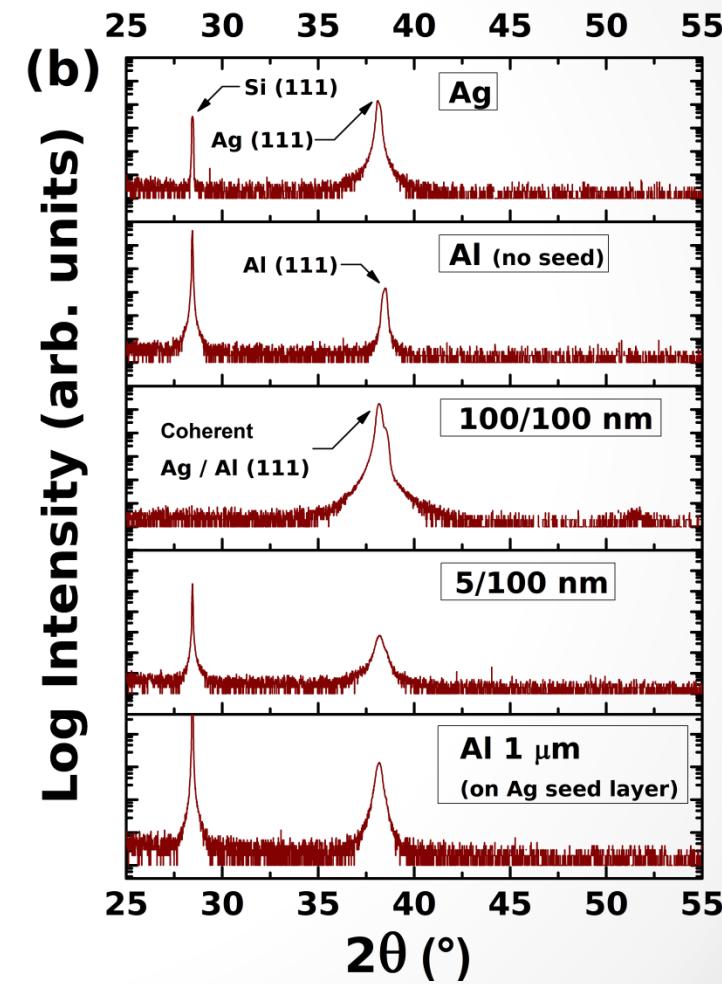
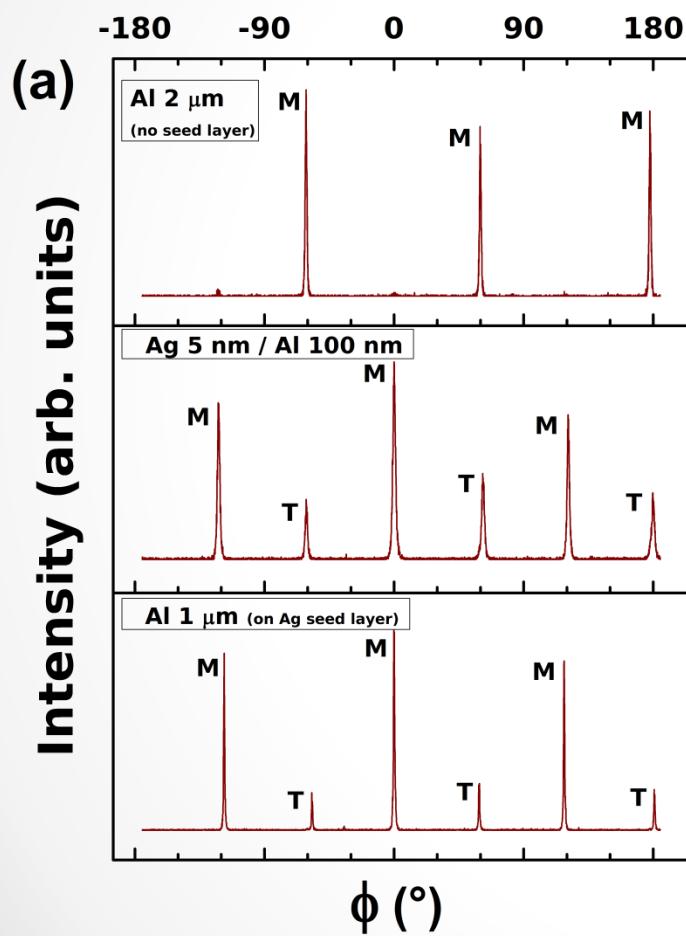
- Similar to 100 / 100nm films

**Ag 100 nm / Al 1000 nm**

- Preference for ITBs
- Some mixed ITB/CTB segments



# Twins in thicker Ag/Al layers

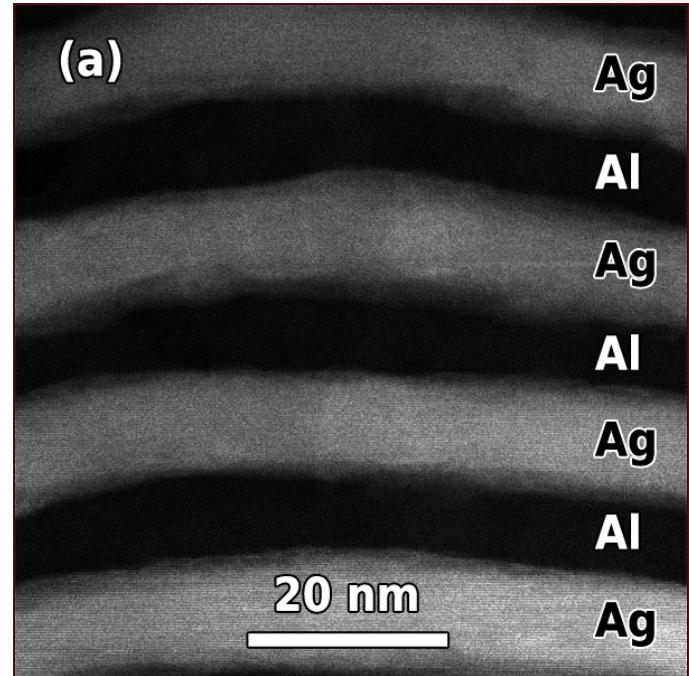
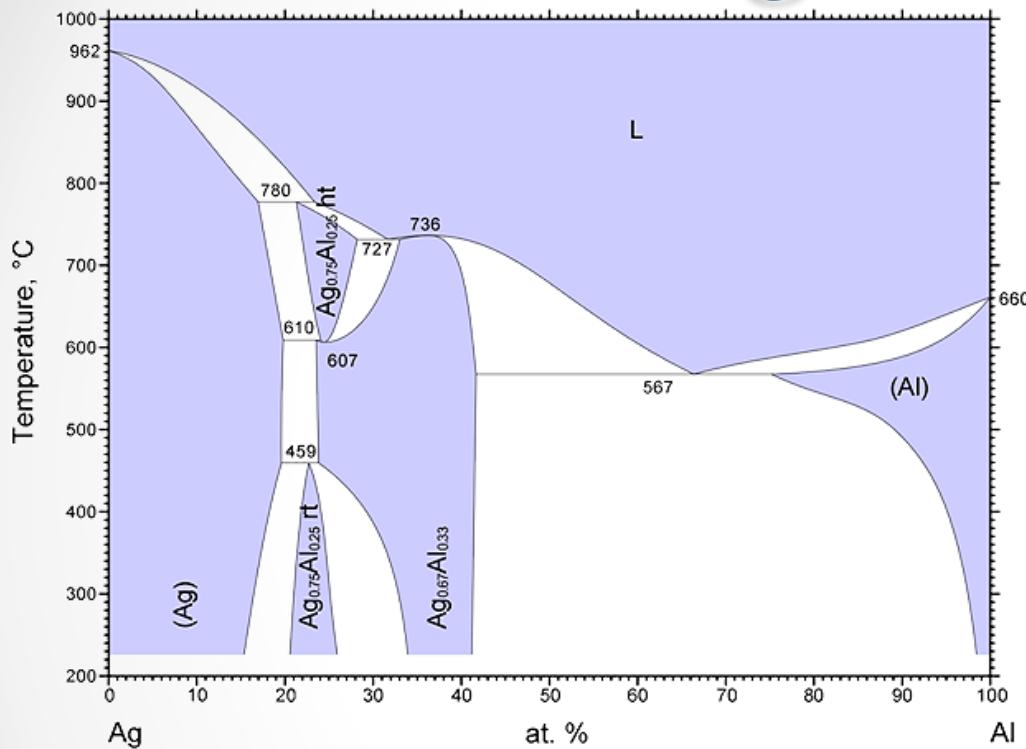


# Material Data



	Ag	Al	Cu
Young's modulus (GPa)	83	69	117
Shear modulus (GPa)	30	26	48
Lattice parameter (Å)	4.09	4.05	3.61
Burgers vector (Å)	2.89	2.86	2.55
Poisson's ratio	0.37	0.35	0.34
Stacking Fault energy (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	22	120-165	45
CTB energy (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	8	75	24-39
ITB energy (mJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	126	223-357	550-714

# Intermixing

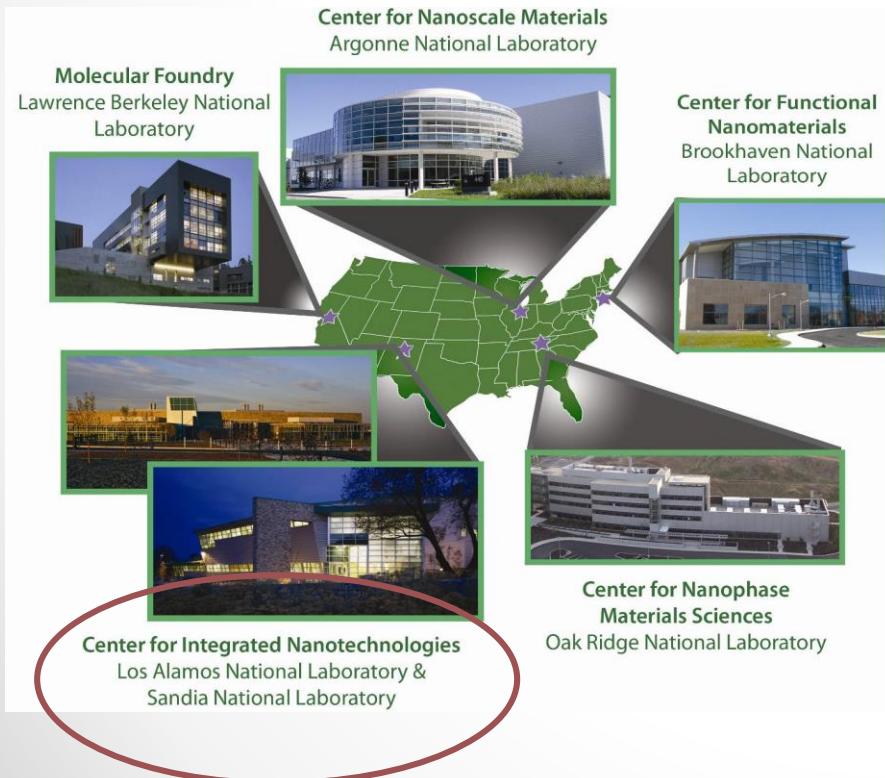


- Guns shuttered between layers
- Heating avoided
- HRSTEM micrographs show chemical modulation

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