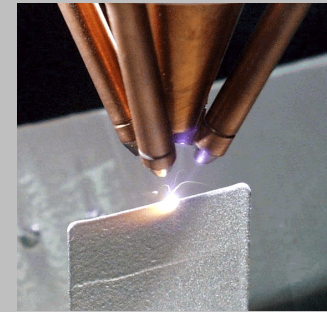
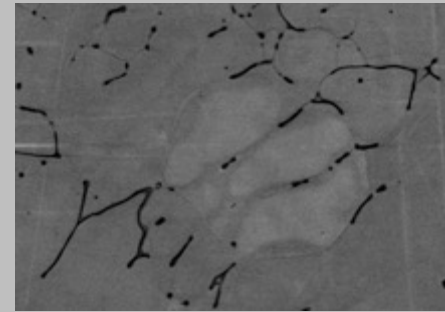
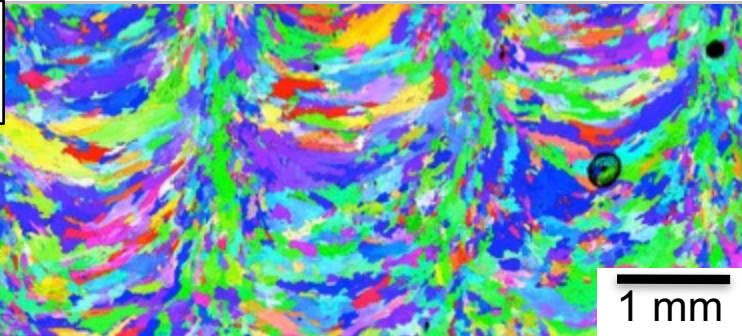


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



304L  
LENS 2 kW



## Fracture and Fatigue Behavior of Additively Manufactured Austenitic Stainless Steel

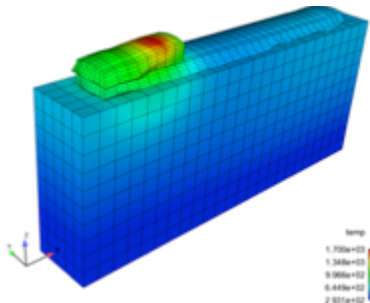
Chris San Marchi, Josh Sugar, Mike Maguire and Dorian Balch  
Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore CA

# Motivation:

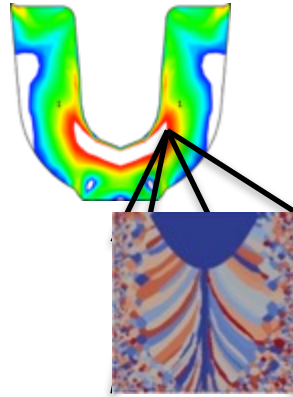
## Develop Lifecycle Analysis Framework for Additive Manufacturing

### Process Design and Simulation

Advanced process controls and diagnostics enable simulation tools to “grow” near-net-shape structure



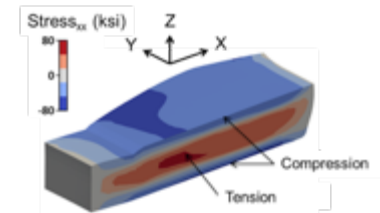
### Microstructure and Properties



Internal state variable models account for microstructural evolution and distribution of properties (related to spatial variations of thermal history)



### Residual Stresses



Solidification and thermal history result in strong residual stresses, which can impact performance



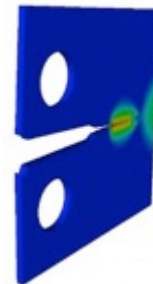
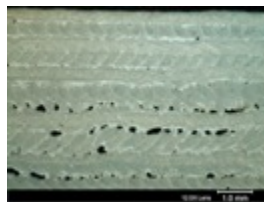
### Margin/Uncertainty → Design Life

- Predictive uncertainties result in large safety factors, reduced lifetimes, and increased costs.
- Our approach develops tools to reduce uncertainty, increase understanding, and enhance predictive capability.

### Crack Initiation, Growth and Failure

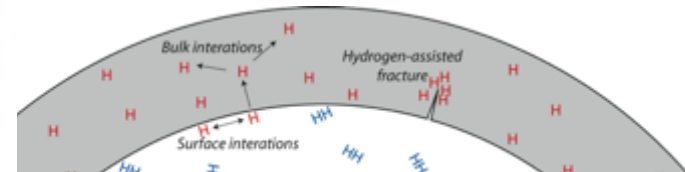


Transition from crack initiation to failure is not well characterized and depends on microstructure and defects



### Assembly and Service

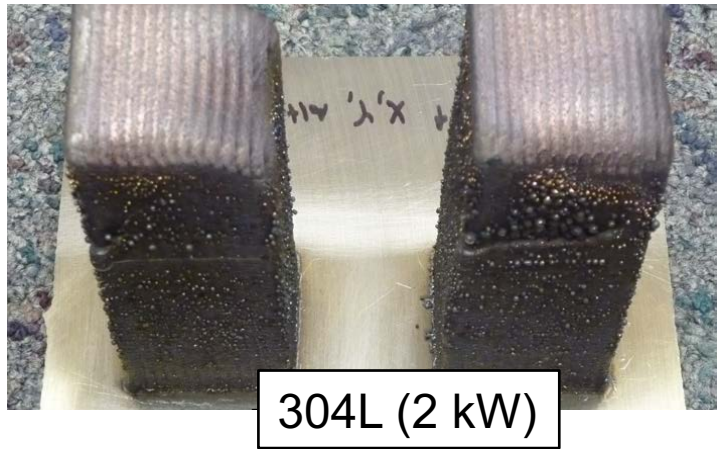
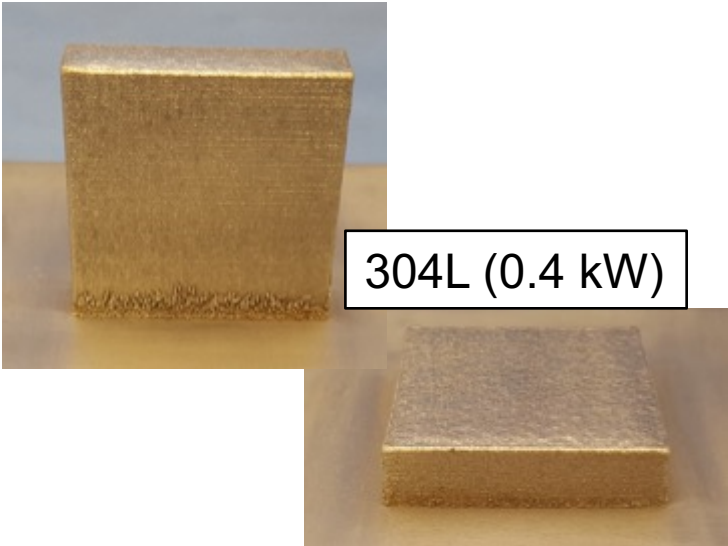
Multiphysics approaches for fully coupled simulation of chemical/thermal transport, mechanical loading, etc. to predict performance



(includes unique service environments, such as hydrogen embrittlement, corrosion, microstructural aging, etc)

# Materials

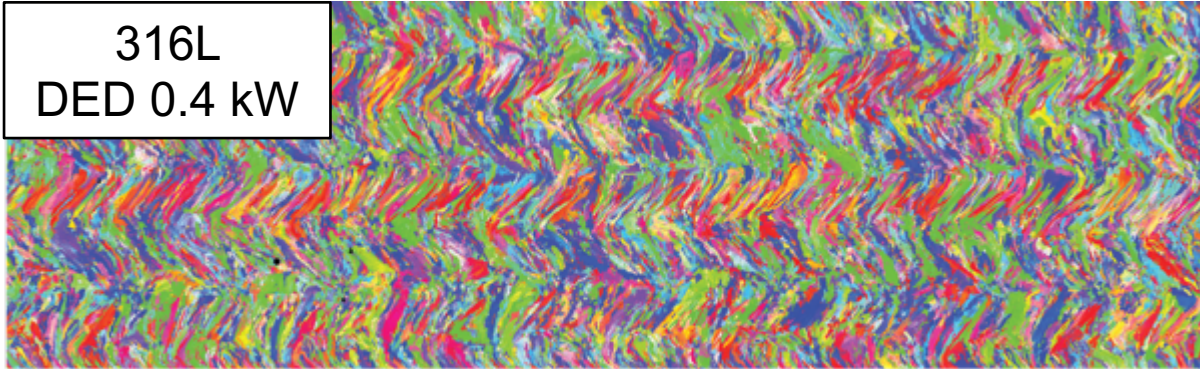
Nominal Powder Composition	Designation /Process	Test configurations
316L	DED (0.4 kW)	Tension Fatigue Fracture
304L	DED (0.4 kW)	Tension
304L	DED (2 kW)	Tension Fatigue Fracture
304L	SLM (0.5 kW)	Fracture
304L	DED	Fracture





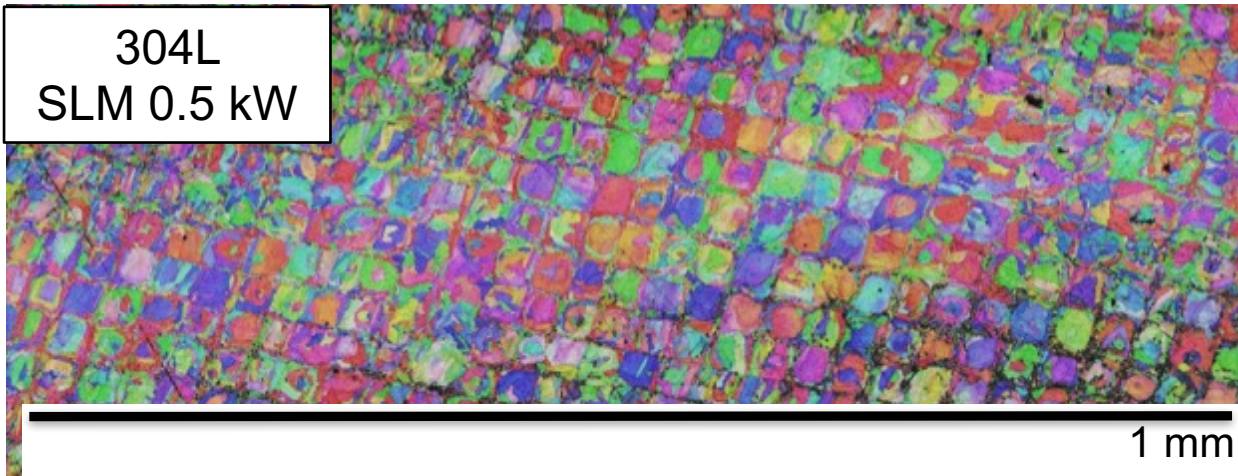
# Grain structure is distinct from wrought materials, similar in some aspects to weld microstructure

316L  
DED 0.4 kW



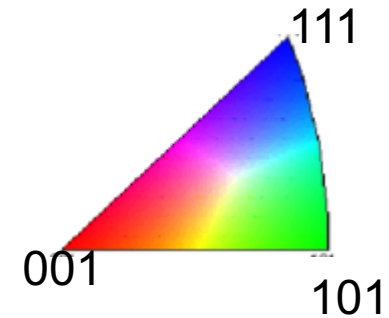
1 mm

304L  
SLM 0.5 kW

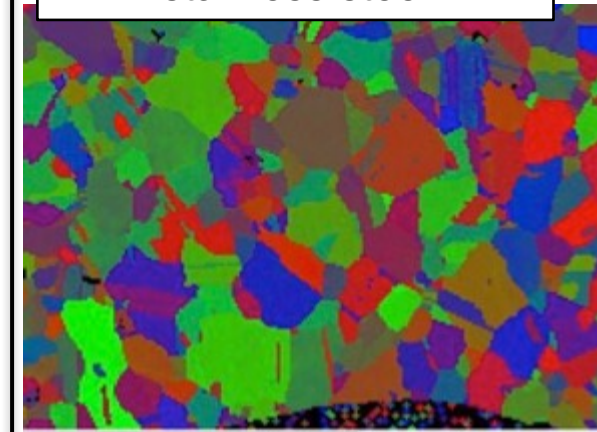


1 mm

- AM microstructures depend on processing conditions
- ***What is the effect on structural properties?***

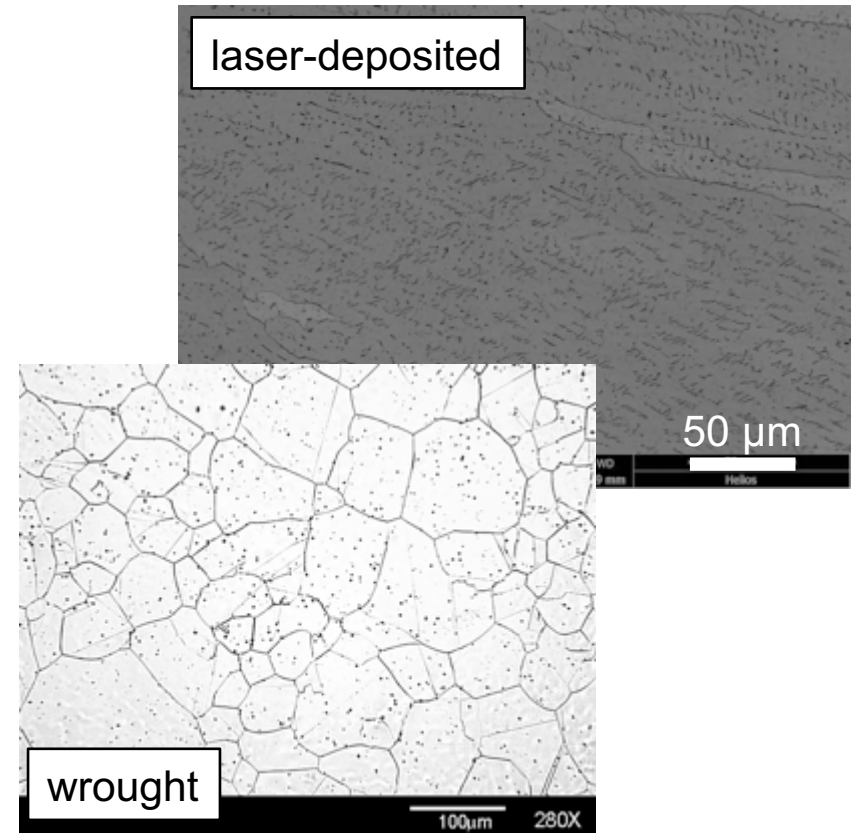
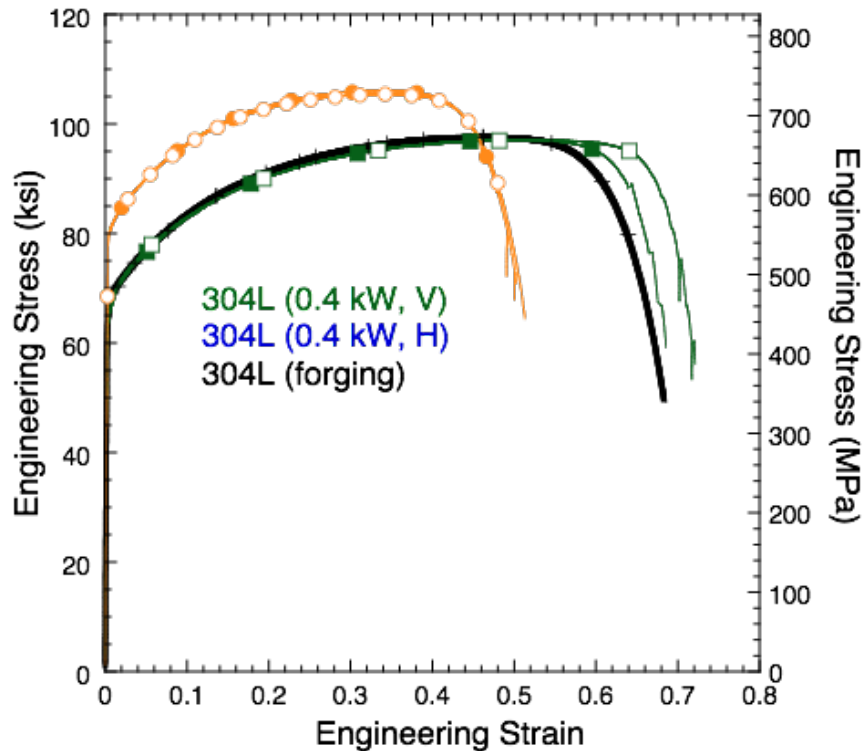


Wrought 304L austenitic  
stainless steel



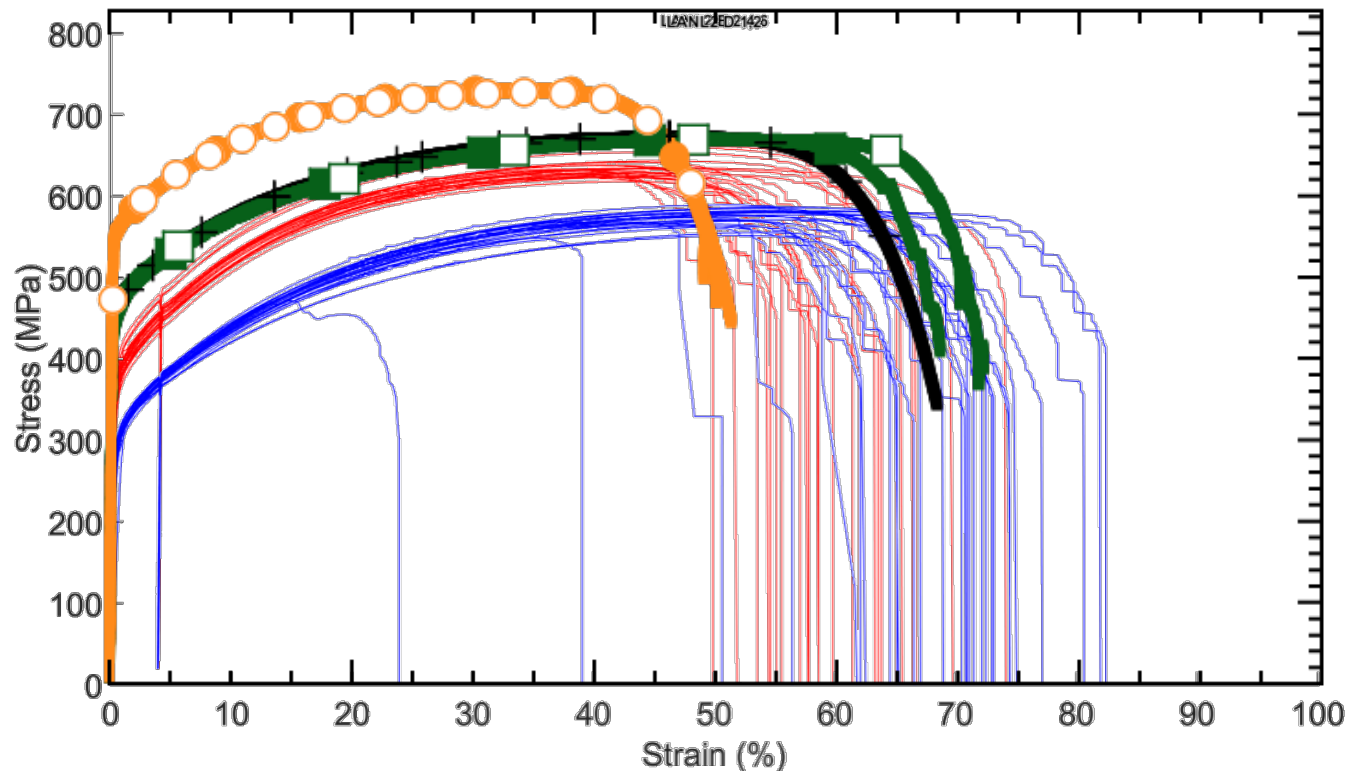
100 μm

# Tensile response can compare favorably to wrought materials



- Laser-deposited and wrought materials show similar tensile strength and ductility despite very different microstructures
- *How does the fracture response compare?*

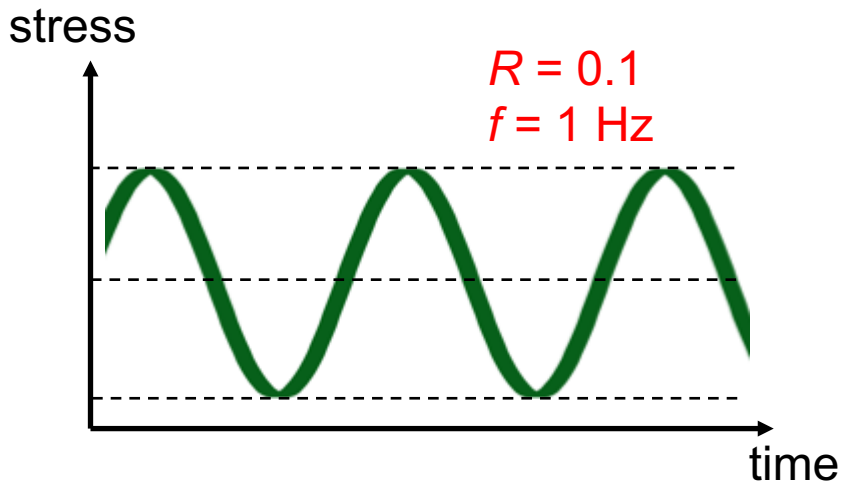
# Comparison of DED 304L materials with different pedigree



- **Strengthening in AM austenitic stainless steel is not well understood**
  - **Strength will likely impact fracture resistance**

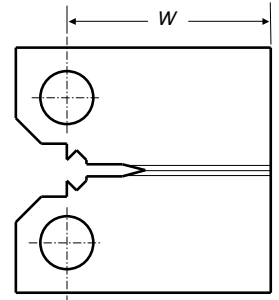
# Fatigue and fracture measurements

- Fatigue crack growth:  $da/dN$ 
  - ASTM E647, constant load amplitude
- Fracture resistance:  $J_{IC}$ 
  - ASTM E1820, elastic-plastic analysis using J-R curve determination



## • Compact tension geometry

- $B \sim 13 \text{ mm}$  (thickness)
- $W \sim 26 \text{ mm}$  (width)



*Fatigue test, then fracture test performed on same sample*

## • 3-point bend geometry

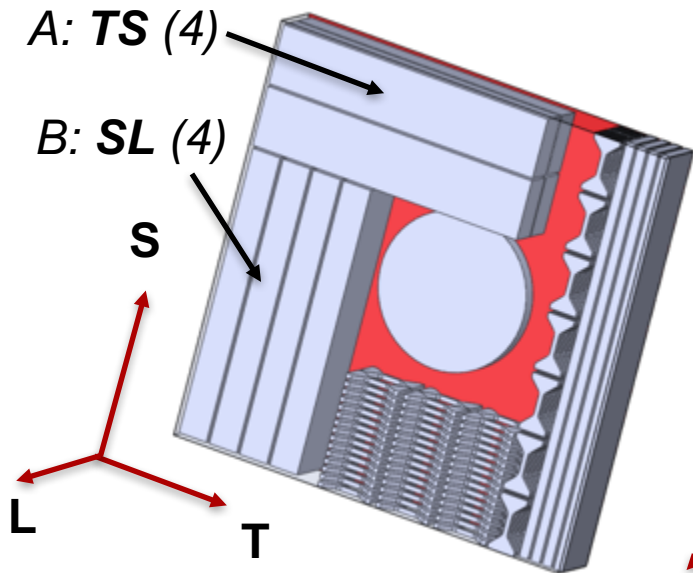
- $B \sim 6.3 \text{ mm}$  (thickness)
- $W \sim 13 \text{ mm}$  (width)
- $S \sim 50 \text{ mm}$  (span)

- Direct current potential difference (DCPD) method for in-situ monitoring of crack position

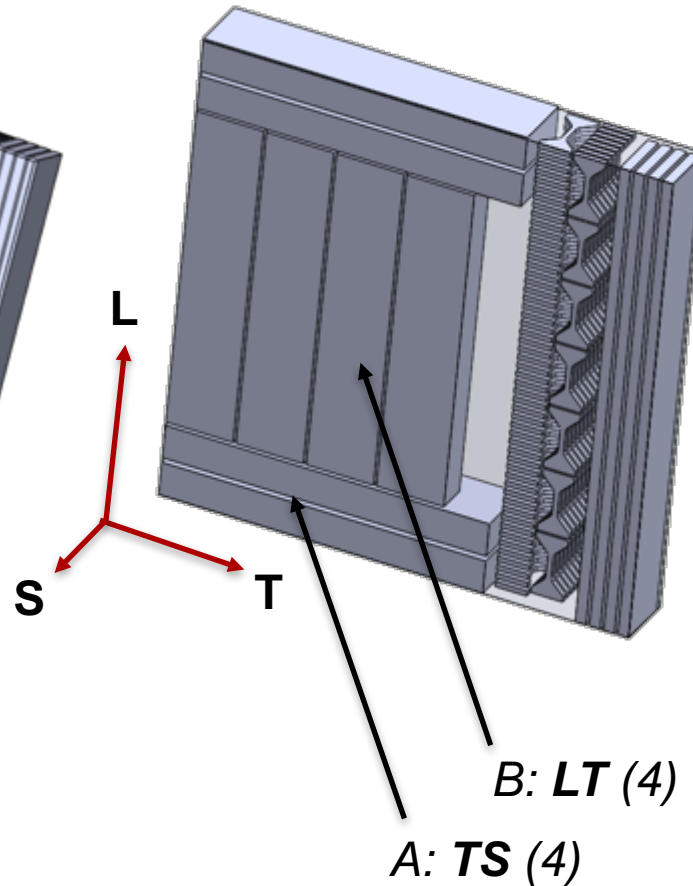


# Specimen designation and orientation

**SLM: R1-3**



**SLM: R2-2**



**DED**

**LT (3)**

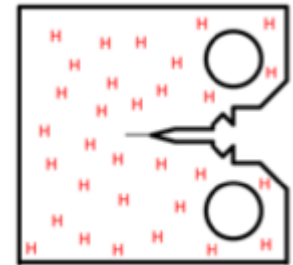
**L** = build direction  
**S** = shortest dimension

**TS:** **T** = crack plane  
**S** = crack direction



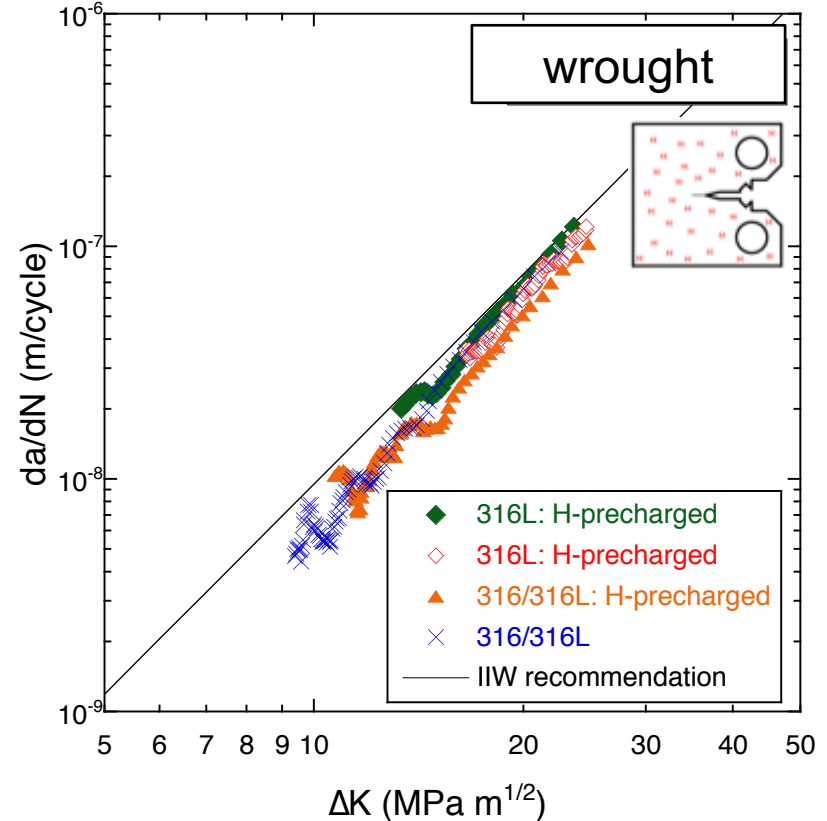
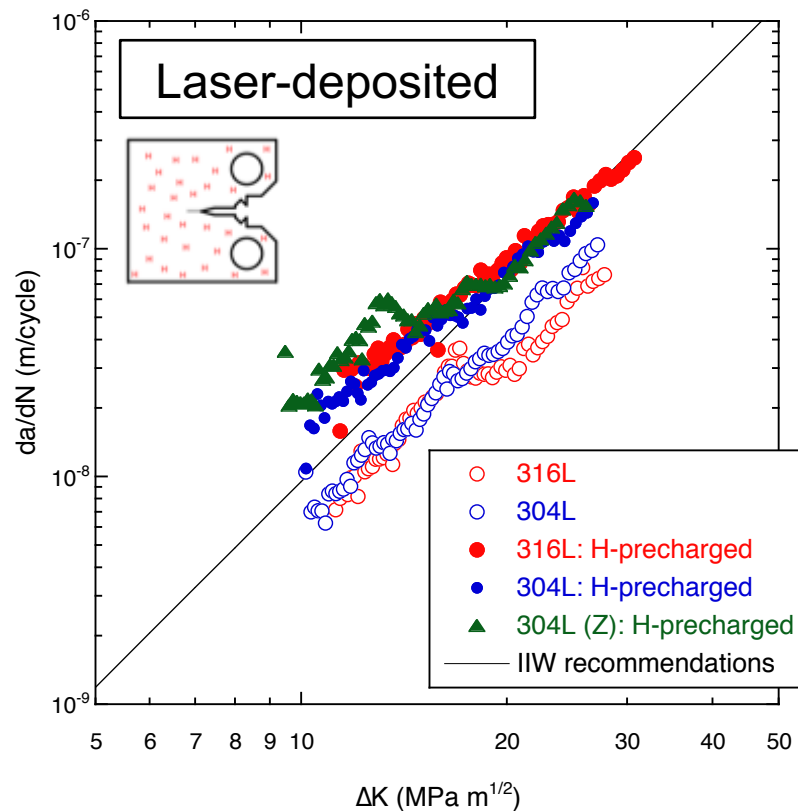
# Testing in the H-precharged condition

- Thermal H-precharging
  - Exposure to gaseous H<sub>2</sub> until saturated with hydrogen (~60 days)
    - Pressure: 138 MPa
    - Temperature: 300°C
  - Hydrogen content ~140 ppm (wt)
- Testing in air after precharging with hydrogen



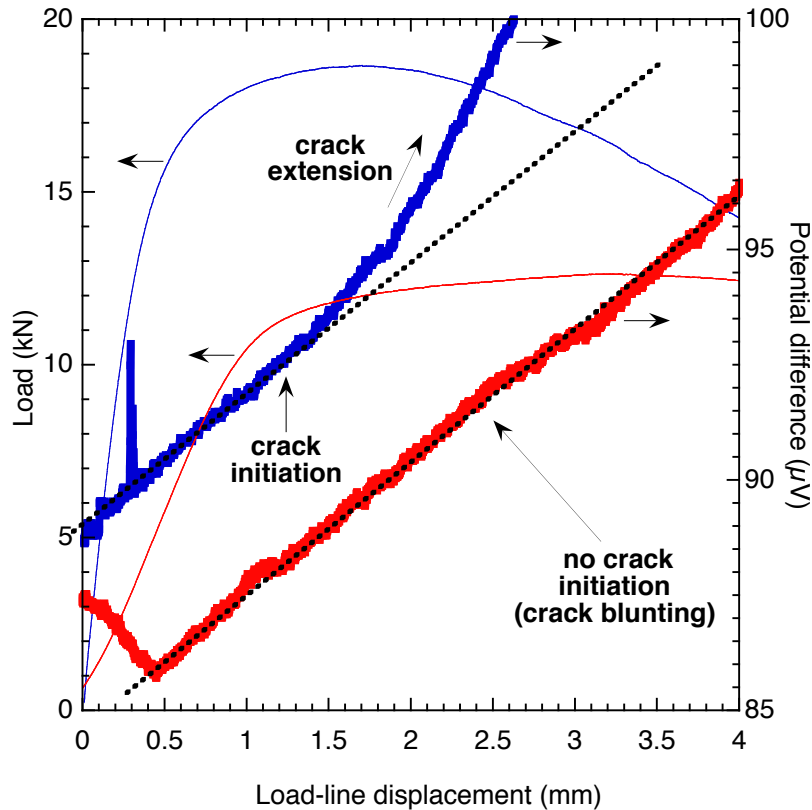
- Mechanical testing in H-precharged condition is similar to *in situ* testing in high-pressure gaseous hydrogen for tension, fatigue and fracture
  - *Must consider the H-solute hardening: strength increase of 10-20%*

# Fatigue crack growth measurements



- Fatigue crack growth rates of laser-deposited type 304L & 316L are consistent with wrought steels
- Hydrogen accelerates fatigue crack growth in laser-deposited materials, unlike wrought materials

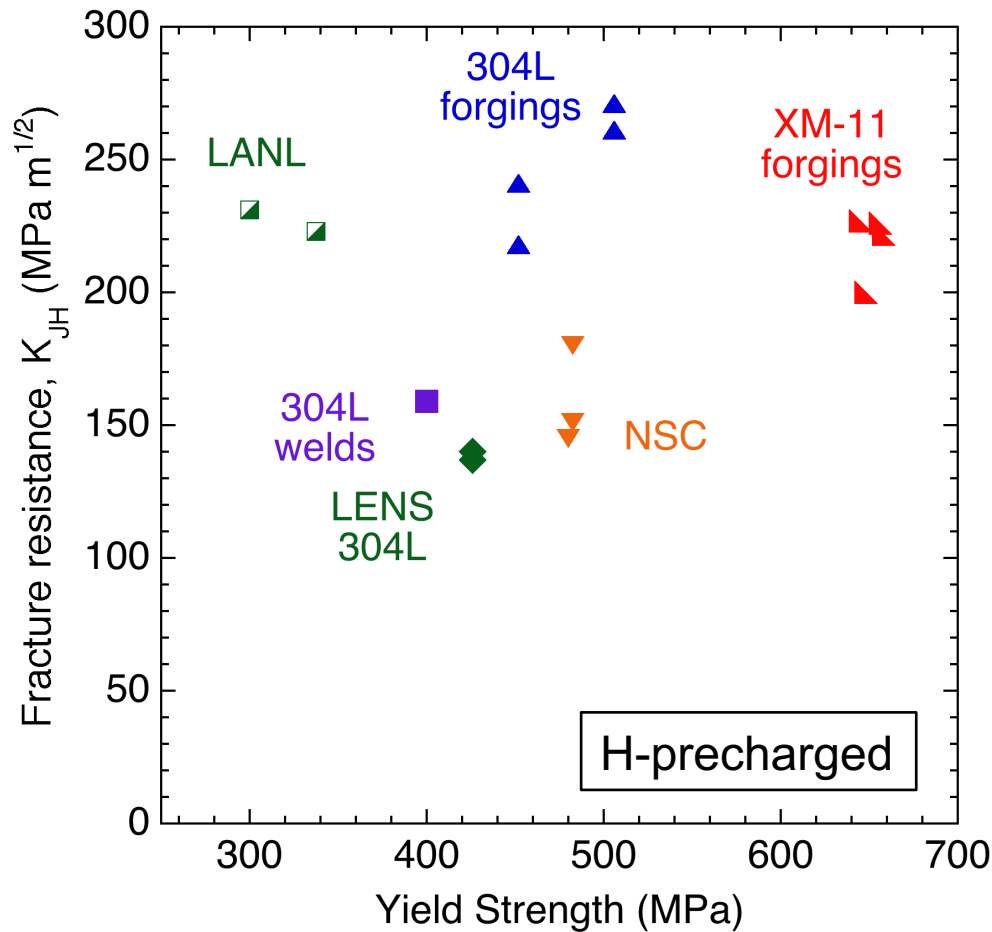
# Laser-deposited materials display crack blunting



**Crack blunting implies very high fracture toughness:  $>200 \text{ MPa m}^{1/2}$**



# Fracture measurements



- Fracture resistance of H-precharged AM 304L is:
  - *similar to response of austenitic stainless steels welds*
- Lower fracture resistance compared to forgings is consistent with accelerated fatigue crack growth
- Lower strength results in higher fracture resistance (as expected)

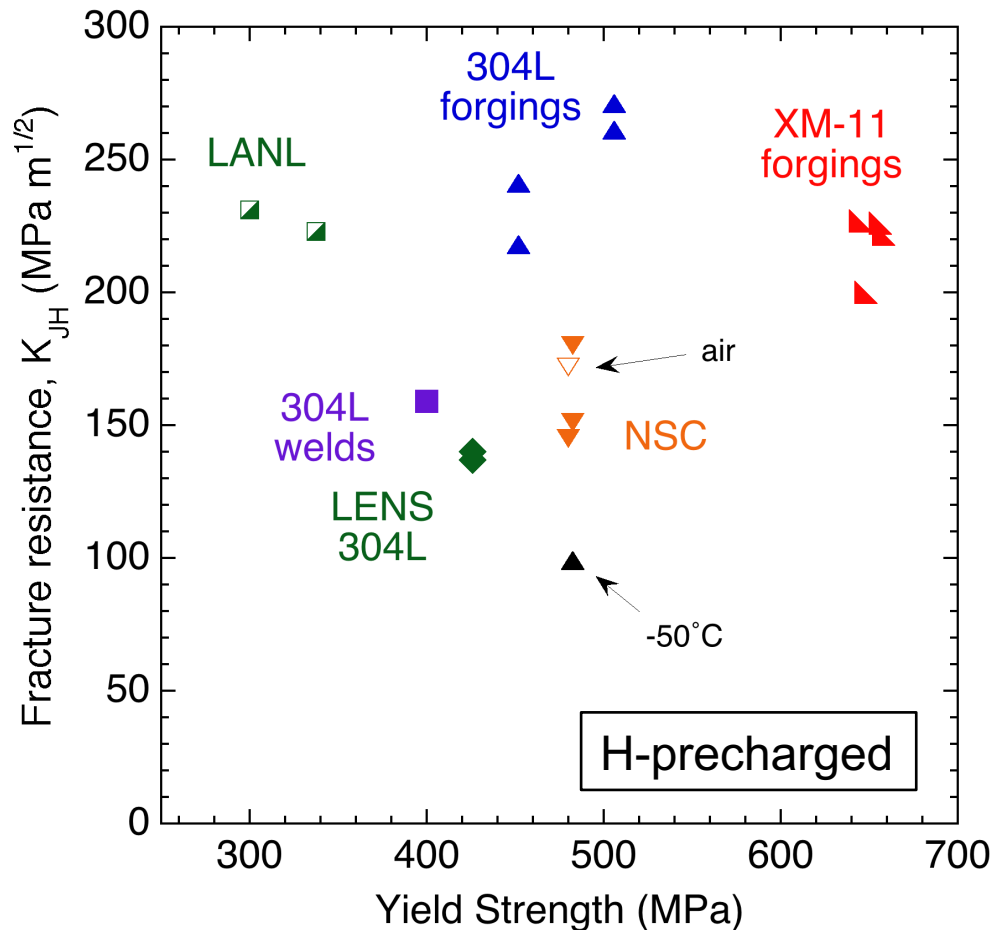
304L forgings: Jackson, Metall Mater Trans 47A

XM-11 forgings: Nibur, Acta Mater 57

Welds: Jackson, Corros Sci 60



# Fracture measurements



- Fracture resistance in air can be significantly lower than H-precharged forgings
- But generally, fracture resistance in air is high (not shown >200 MPa m<sup>1/2</sup>)
- Low temperature appears to significantly reduce fracture resistance
  - Work is under way to substantiate
  - Probably related to unique microstructures

304L forgings: Jackson, Metall Mater Trans 47A

XM-11 forgings: Nibur, Acta Mater 57

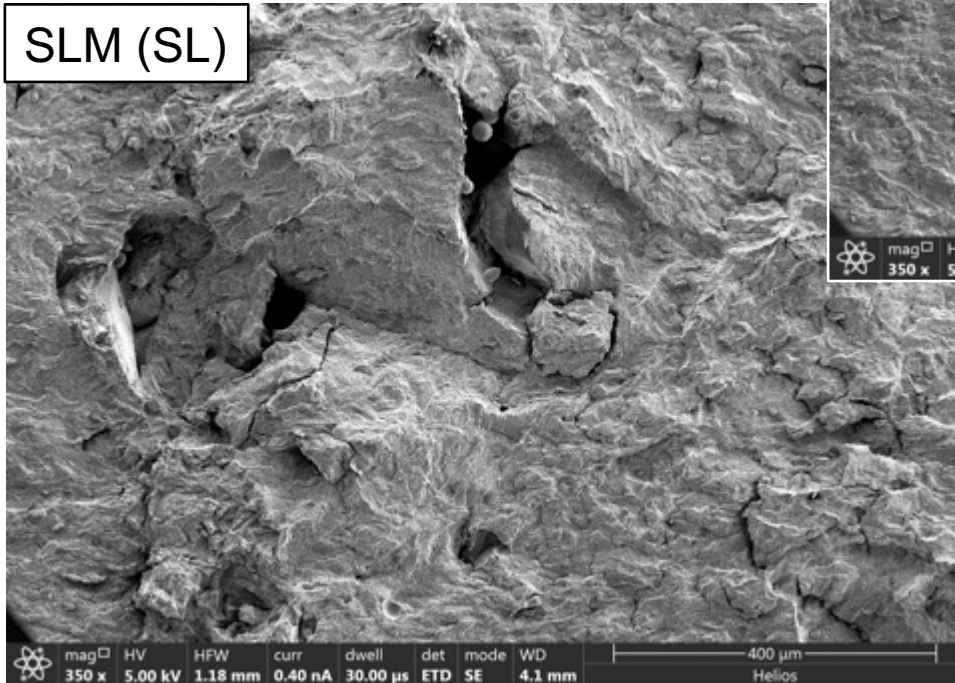
Welds: Jackson, Corros Sci 60

# Fractography illuminates defect structure

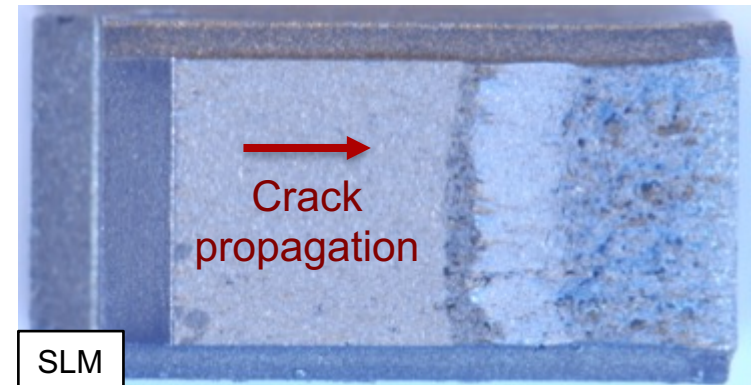
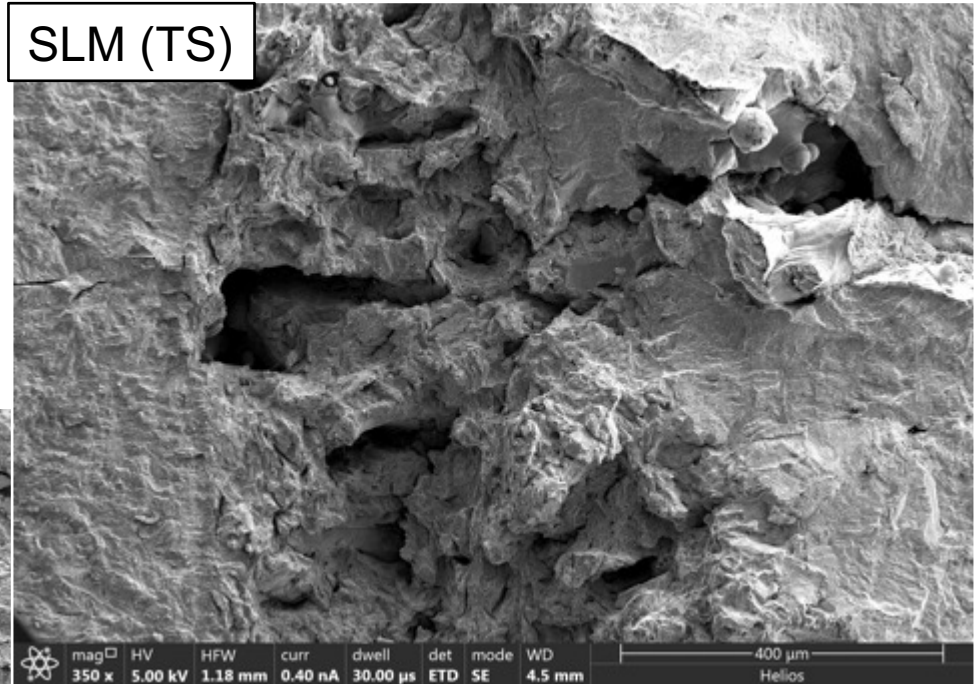
- Macroscopic defects are associated with interlayers of build (when H-precharged)



SLM (SL)



SLM (TS)

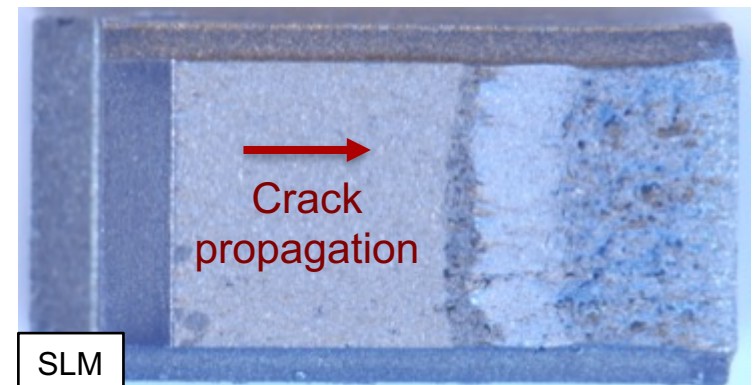
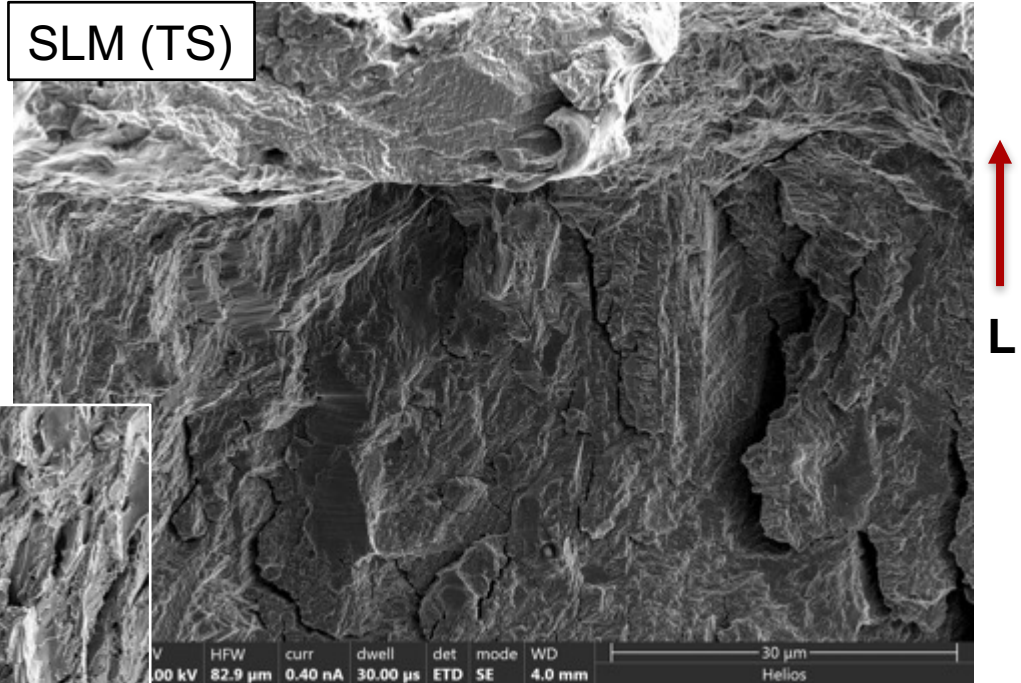
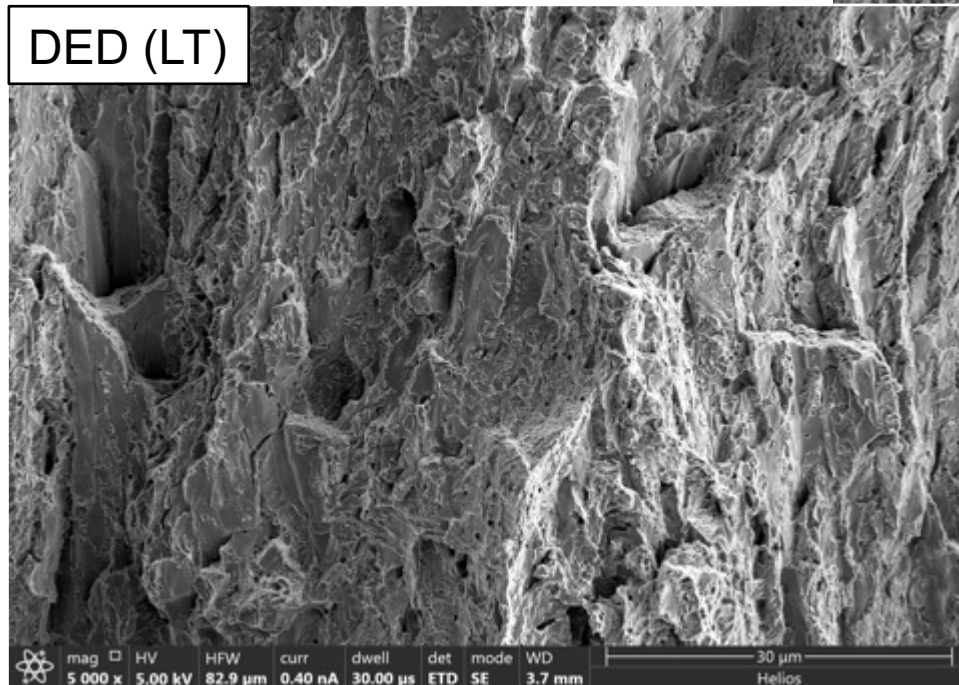


SLM

# Fine fracture features consistent with H-assisted fracture and microstructure

- Hydrogen induces boundary fracture

⊗ L



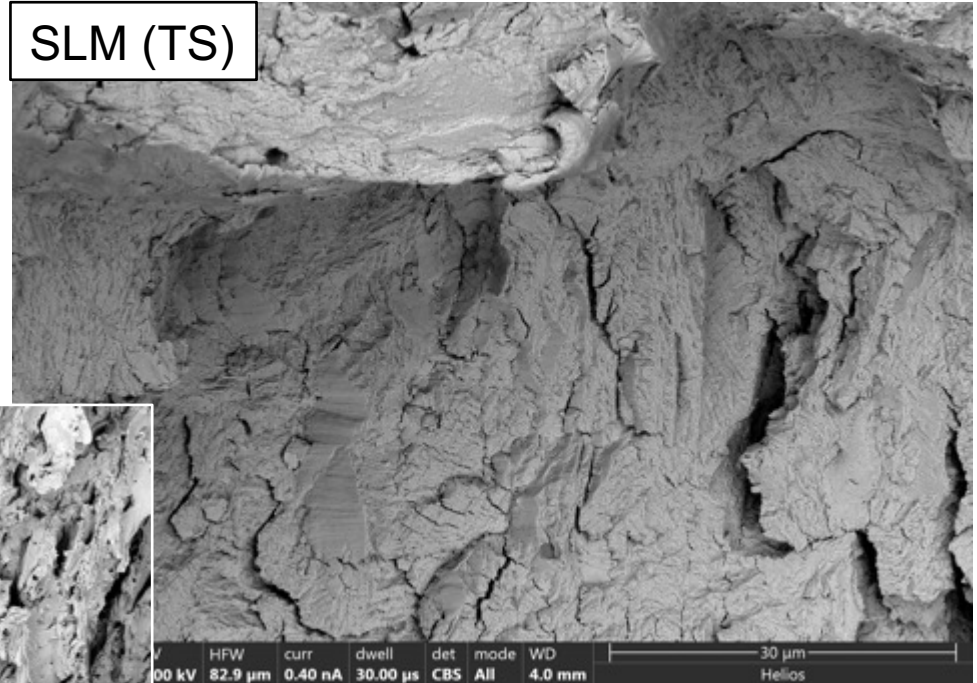


# Fine fracture features consistent with H-assisted fracture and microstructure

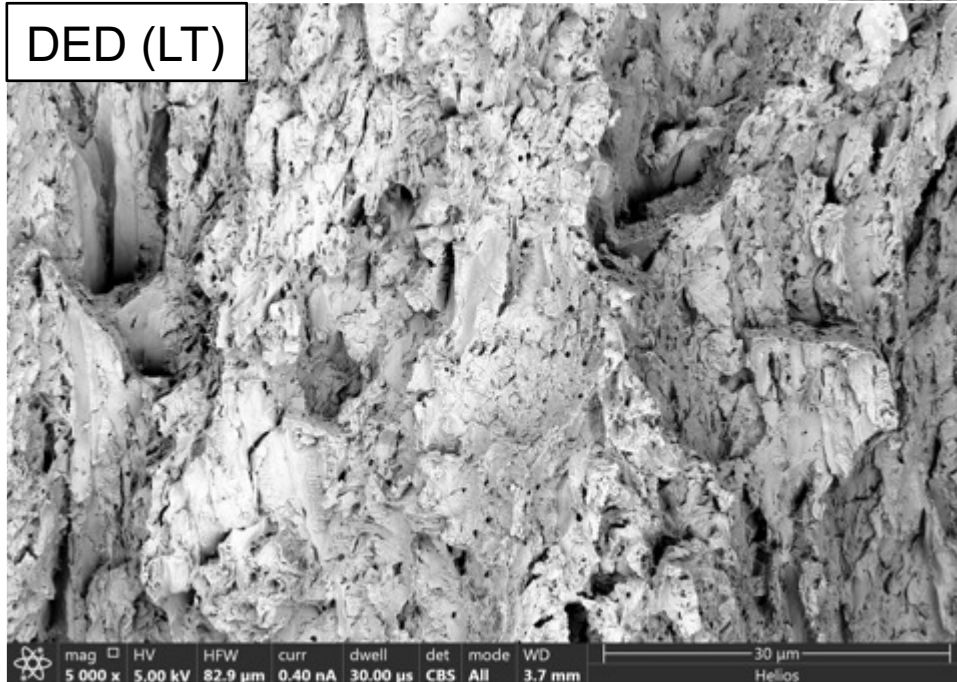
- Macroscopic defects associated with interlayers of build

⊗ L

SLM (TS)

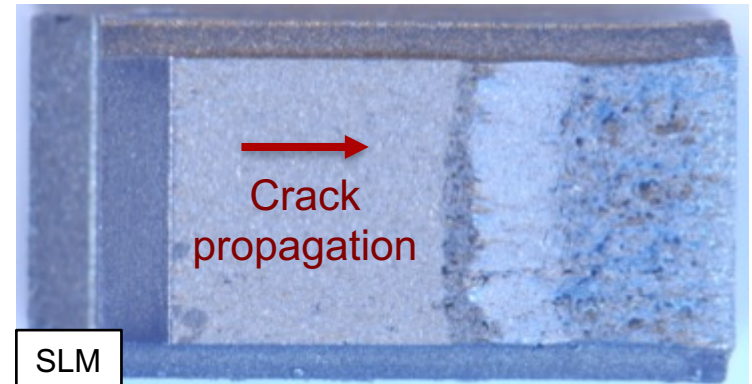


DED (LT)



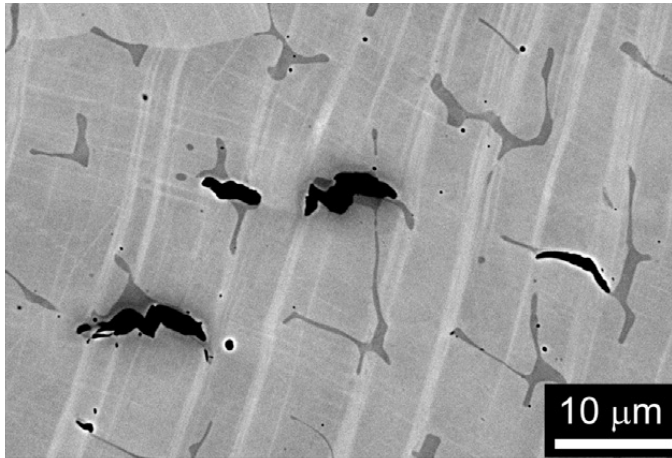
→  
Crack  
propagation

SLM





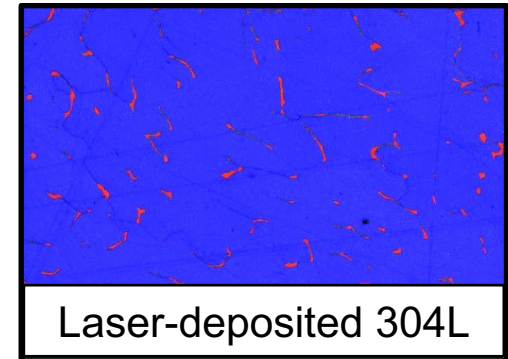
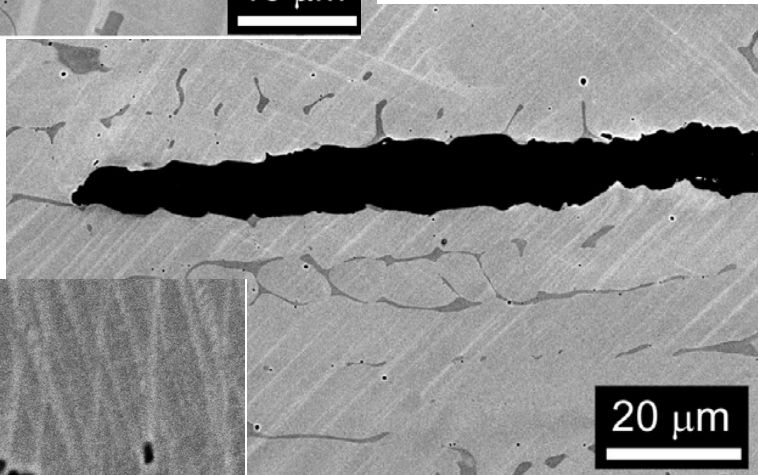
# Mechanisms of fatigue and fracture may be similar to observations for welds



Cross sections just below the fracture surface from fracture tests of H-precharged 304L/308L welds show:

- Fracture of ferrite
- Fracture at  $\gamma/\delta$  boundaries
- Void nucleation at ferrite boundaries

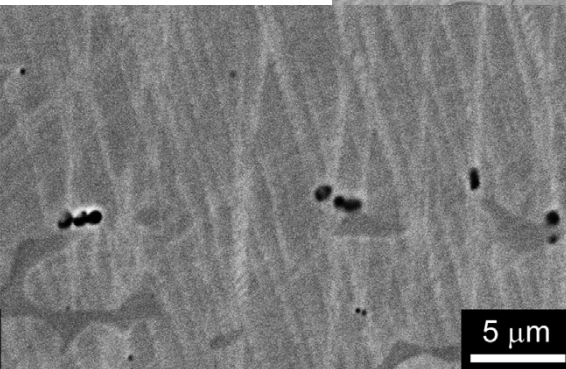
304L/308L  
welds



Laser-deposited 304L

Hydrogen-induced damage in *welded austenitic stainless steels* has been reported to be associated with the *ferrite phase*

from: Jackson, Corros Sci 60



# Summary

- Additively manufactured **austenitic stainless steels** feature good combination of strength and fracture resistance
  - Combination of properties is inferior to forged material
  - Quality AM materials are similar to welds
- Generally AM materials show greater sensitivity to hydrogen-assisted fracture than wrought materials
  - Mechanisms of hydrogen interactions appear qualitatively similar to welded microstructures
  - Unique microstructures of AM product may be more sensitive to temperature

