

# Influence of grain size on hydrogen sorption properties in cryomilled Pd-10Rh

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# Background

- Depletion of fossil fuels drives search for alternative fuel; H has emerged as alternative, sustainable fuel [1]
- Solid state storage preferable [2]
  - Metal hydrides show promise as H storage materials
  - Influence of decreasing length scales on storage and absorption/desorption kinetics
- Pd and alloys are simple fcc metals which can absorb large amounts of H [3]
  - Model material for solid state H storage studies



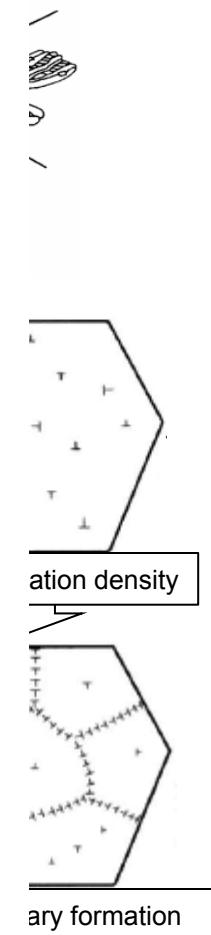
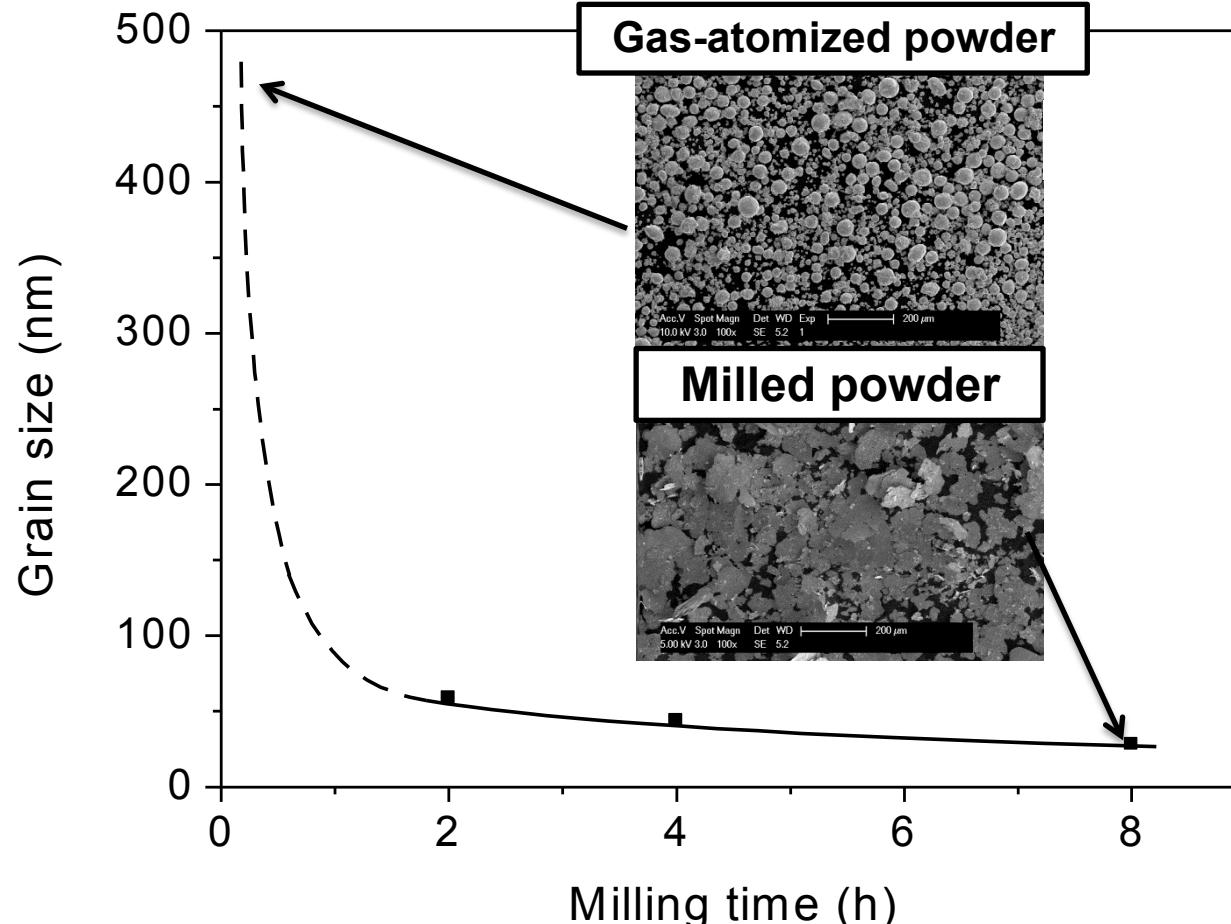
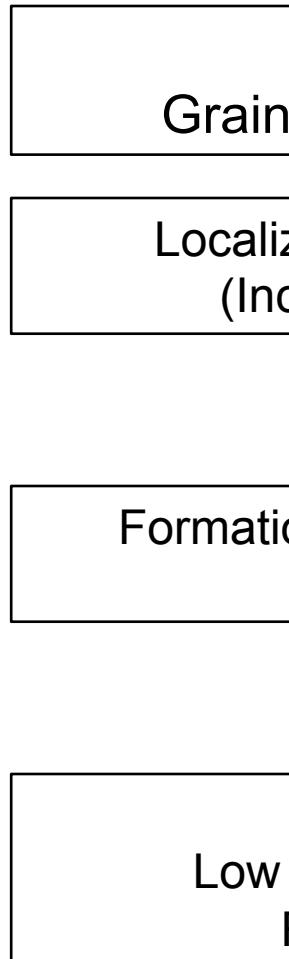
# Motivation/Objective

- Optimize processing route for producing Pd used for H storage
  - Manufacturability/scalability
  - Uniformity of composition
- Understand and study the mechanisms behind H uptake/discharge in heavily worked and defected Pd

# Approach

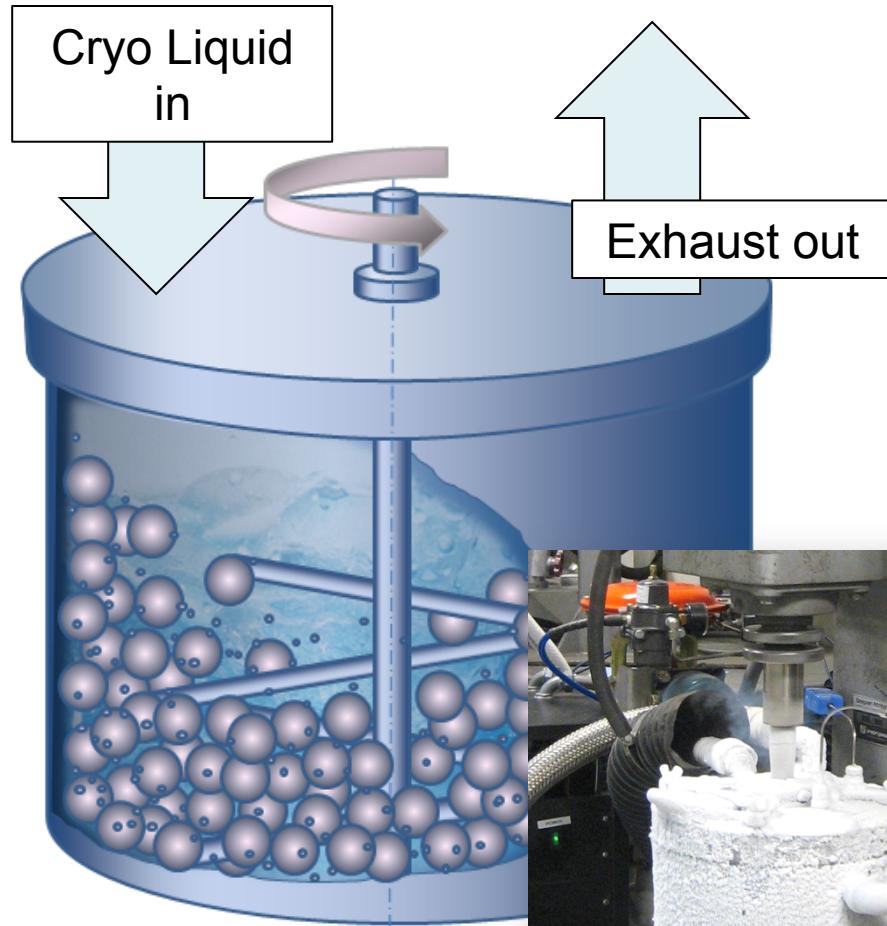
- Material selection
  - Pd-10%Rh has increased H storage capacity<sup>1</sup>
  - Solid solution alloy
- Inert gas atomization
  - Produce micron sized powder<sup>2</sup>
- Cryomilling
  - Decrease length scales (particle dimensions and grain size) in Pd for study<sup>3</sup>
- Characterization
  - OM, SEM, XRD, TEM, and H sorption properties (PC isotherms)

# Synthesis: Cryomilling



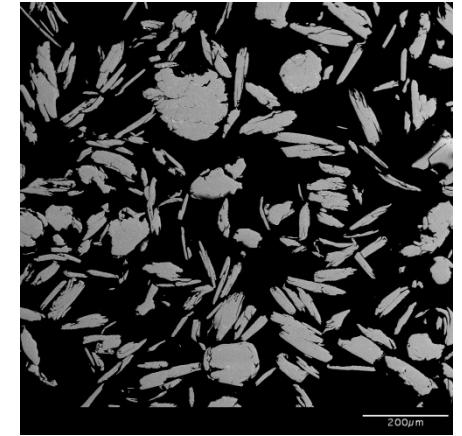
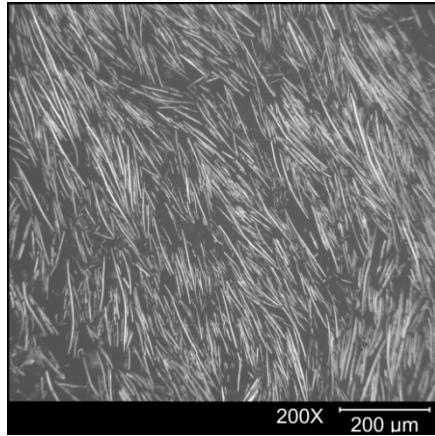
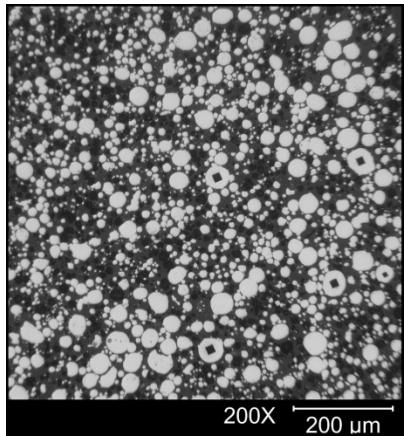
# Synthesis: Cryomilling

- Pd powder milled via attrition ball milling in cryogenic slurry (cryomilling)
  - Liquid Ar and N<sub>2</sub> used as cryogenic medium
  - Milling time varied (1h\*, 2h\*, 8h, 16h)
  - Ball-to-powder ratio varied (32:1 vs. 64:1)

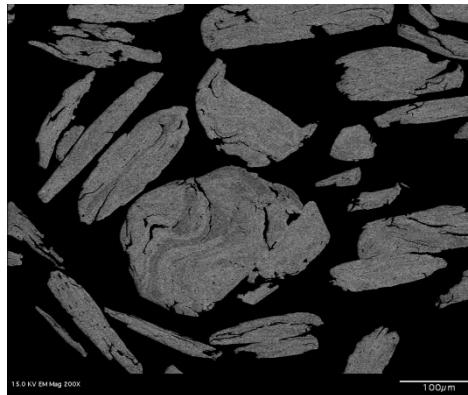
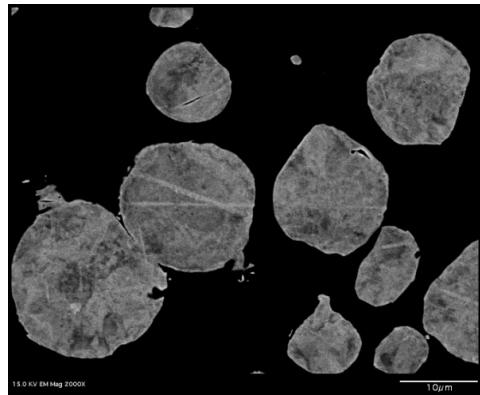


# Particle Morphology

Optical Microscopy (OM)- 200x



Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)- 2000x



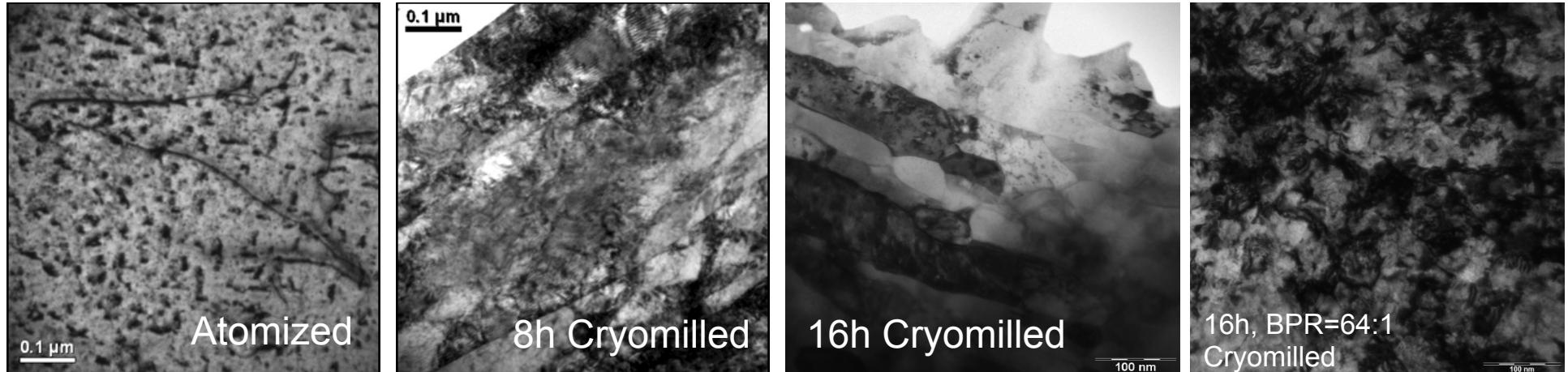
Atomized

8 hour

16 hour

16 hour, BPR=64:1

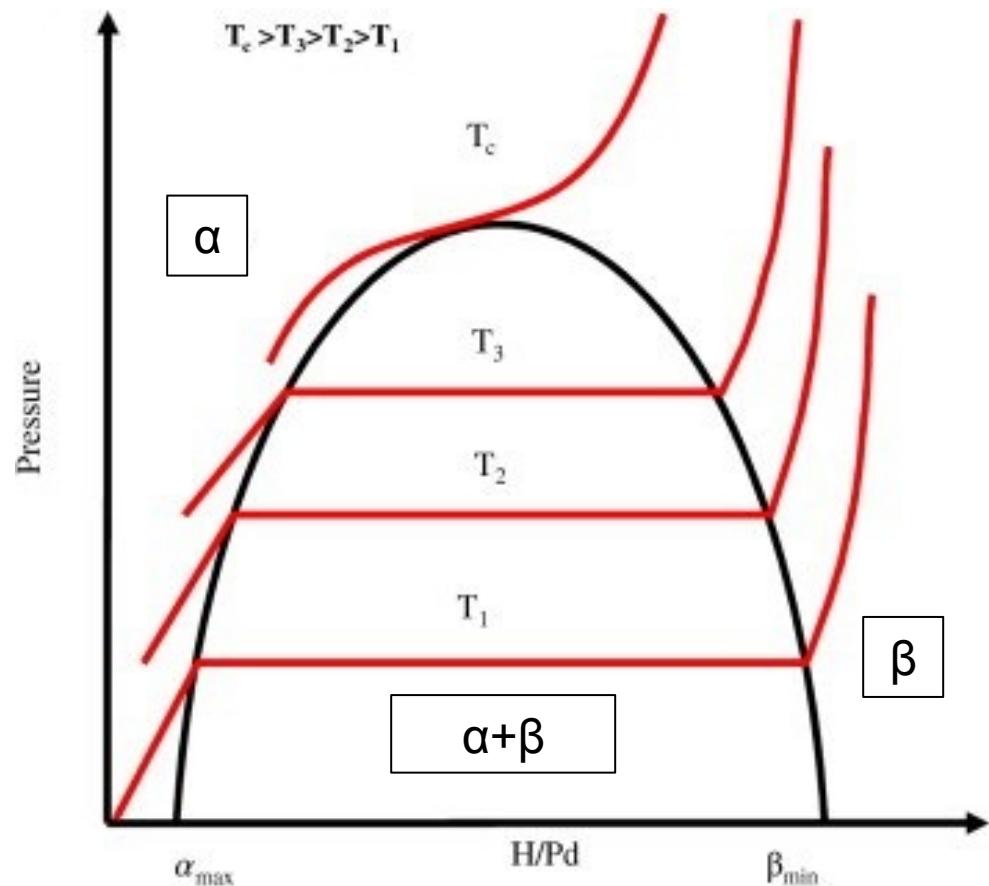
# Microstructural Characterization



- Dense dislocation cell walls present in samples up to 8h of cryomilling
  - Hundreds of nm in diameter
- High angle grain boundaries present in 16h cryomilled sample
  - Dislocations still present
  - Elongated grains: Aspect ratio ~3
- 16h, BPR=64:1 material is highly deformed

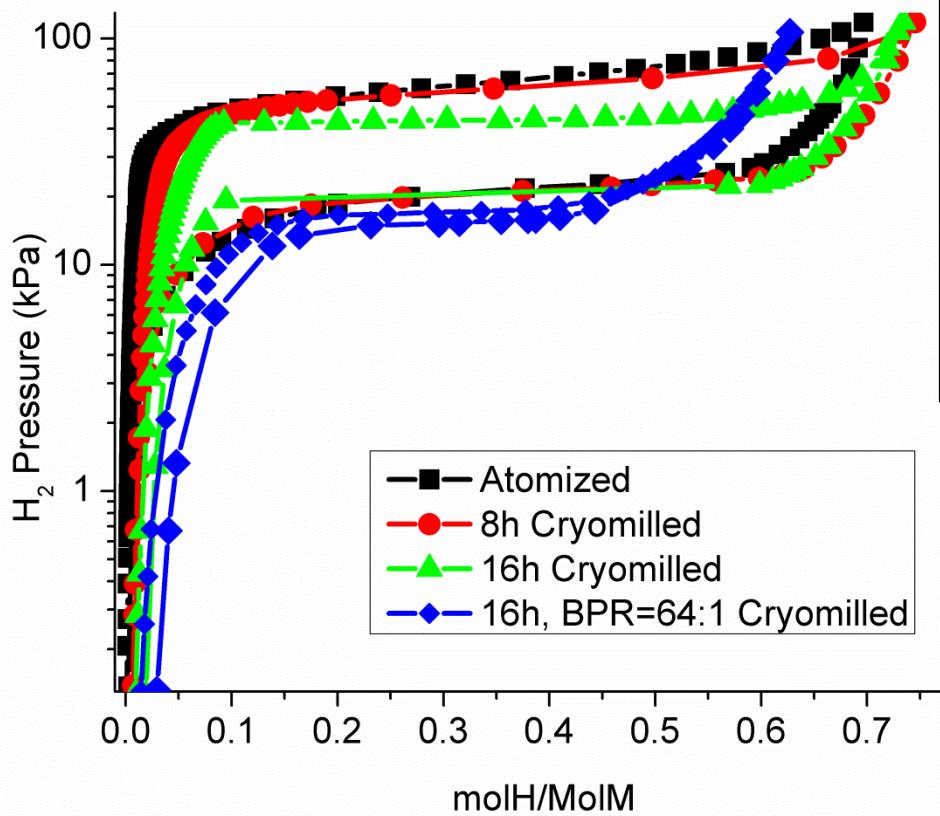
Material	Grain Size (nm)	Dislocation Density ( $\text{m}^{-2}$ )
Atomized	~5000	$1.2 \times 10^{14}$
8h CM	77	$2.4 \times 10^{15}$
16h CM	69	$5.0 \times 10^{16}$
16h, BPR=64:1 CM	32	$1.2 \times 10^{17}$

# Pd-H PC Isotherm Characteristics



- 2-phase miscibility gap ( $\alpha + \beta$ )
- 3 parameters measured in present investigation
  - $\alpha_{\max}$  - maximum  $\alpha$ -phase solubility
  - $C_H$  - H concentration when  $P_{H_2} = 760$  torr/ 101 kPa. Measure of  $\beta$ -phase
- All PC isotherms measured at RT in this study

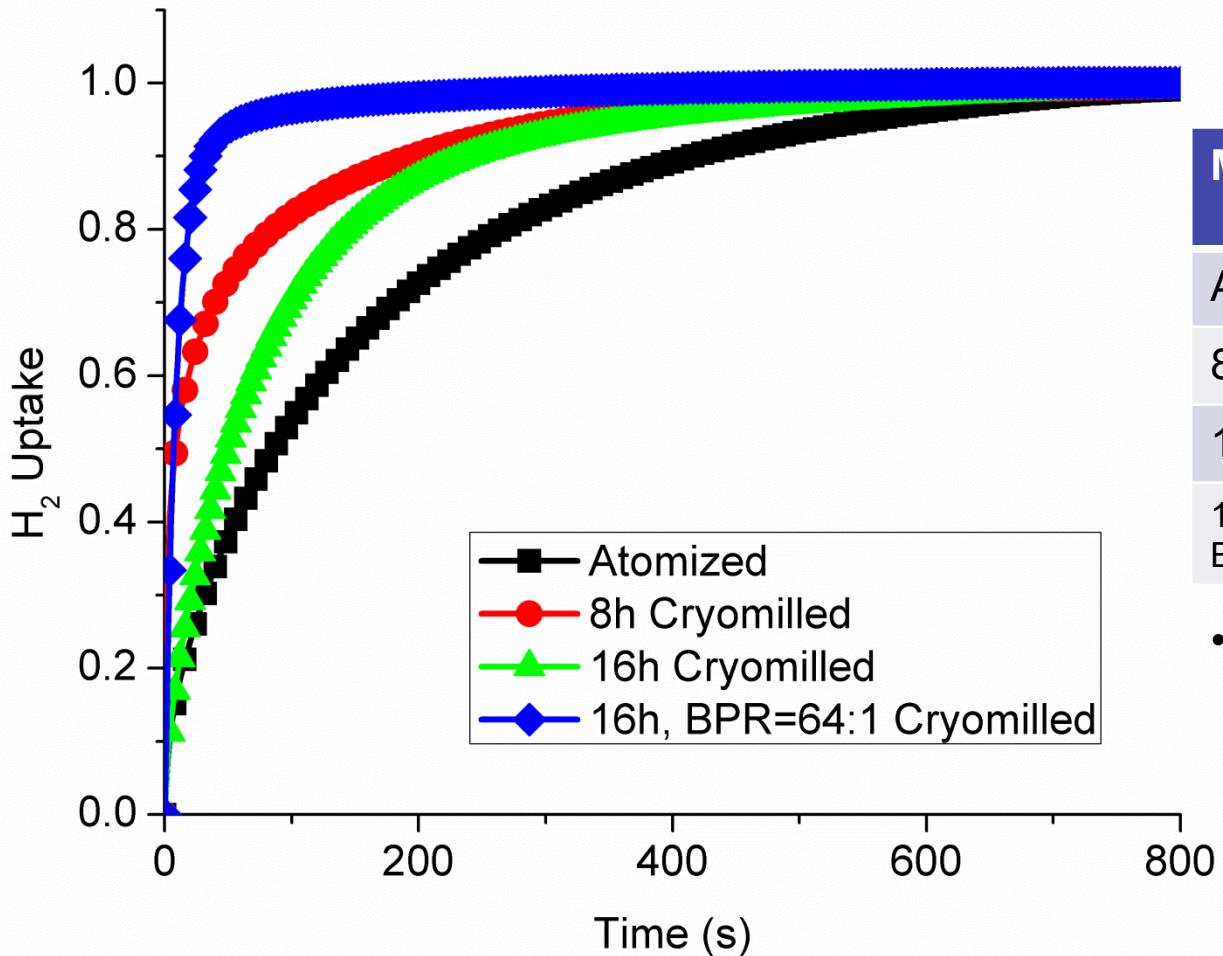
# Hydrogen Sorption Characteristics- PC Isotherms



- Sloping plateau pressure possibly due to inhomogeneous composition in Pd-10%Rh<sup>1</sup>
- Decrease in plateau pressure due to decrease in grain size<sup>2</sup>
- Decreased pressure hysteresis

Material	$\alpha_{\max}$ (H/M)	$C_H$ (101 kPa) (H/M)	$P_{\text{plateau}}$ (kPa)
Atomized	0.046	0.66	64.5
8h CM	0.070	0.72	64.2
16h CM	0.092	0.72	43.3
16h, BPR=64:1	0.17	0.62	17.3

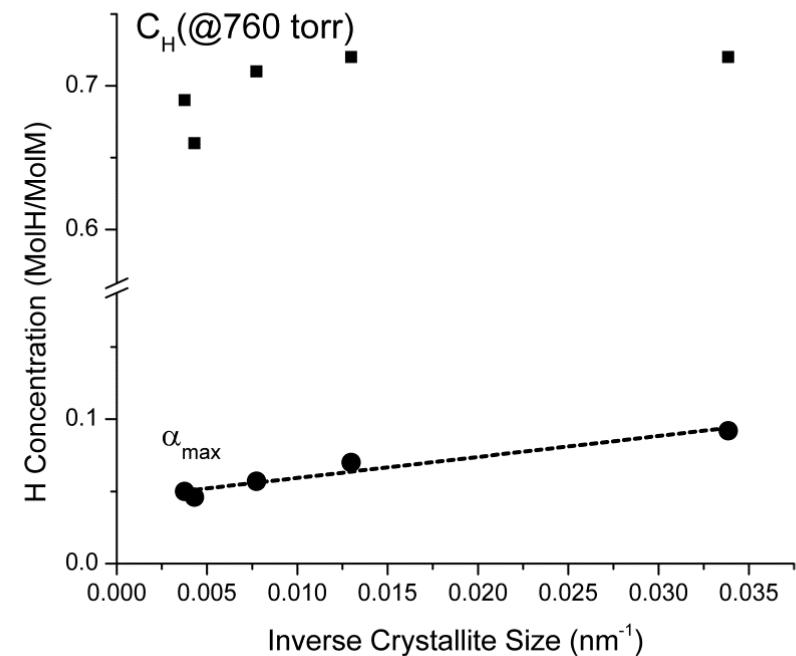
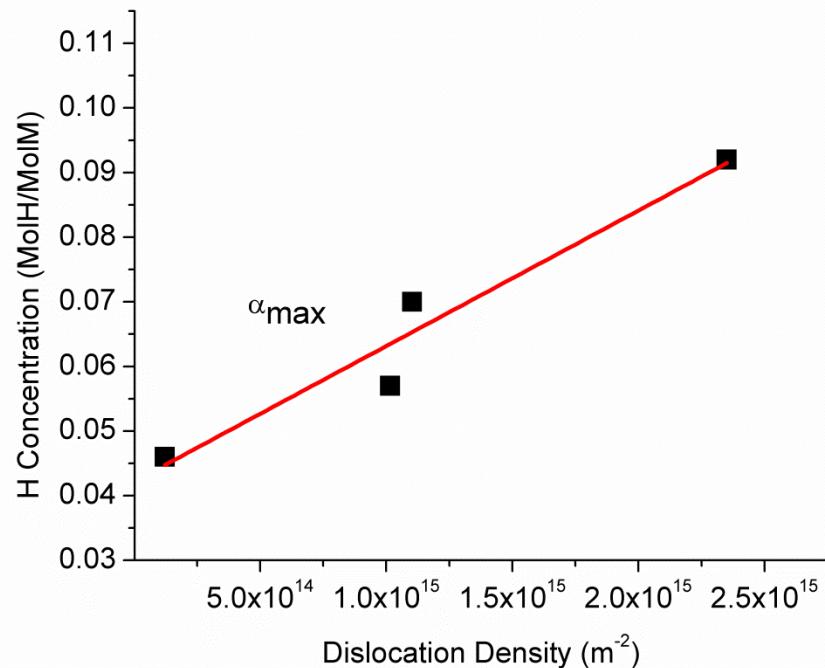
# Hydrogen Sorption Characteristics- Rate of Absorption



Material	Half-life (s)	Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)
Atomized	88	0.037
8h CM	8	0.44
16h CM	64	0.034
16h, BPR=64:1	6	0.044

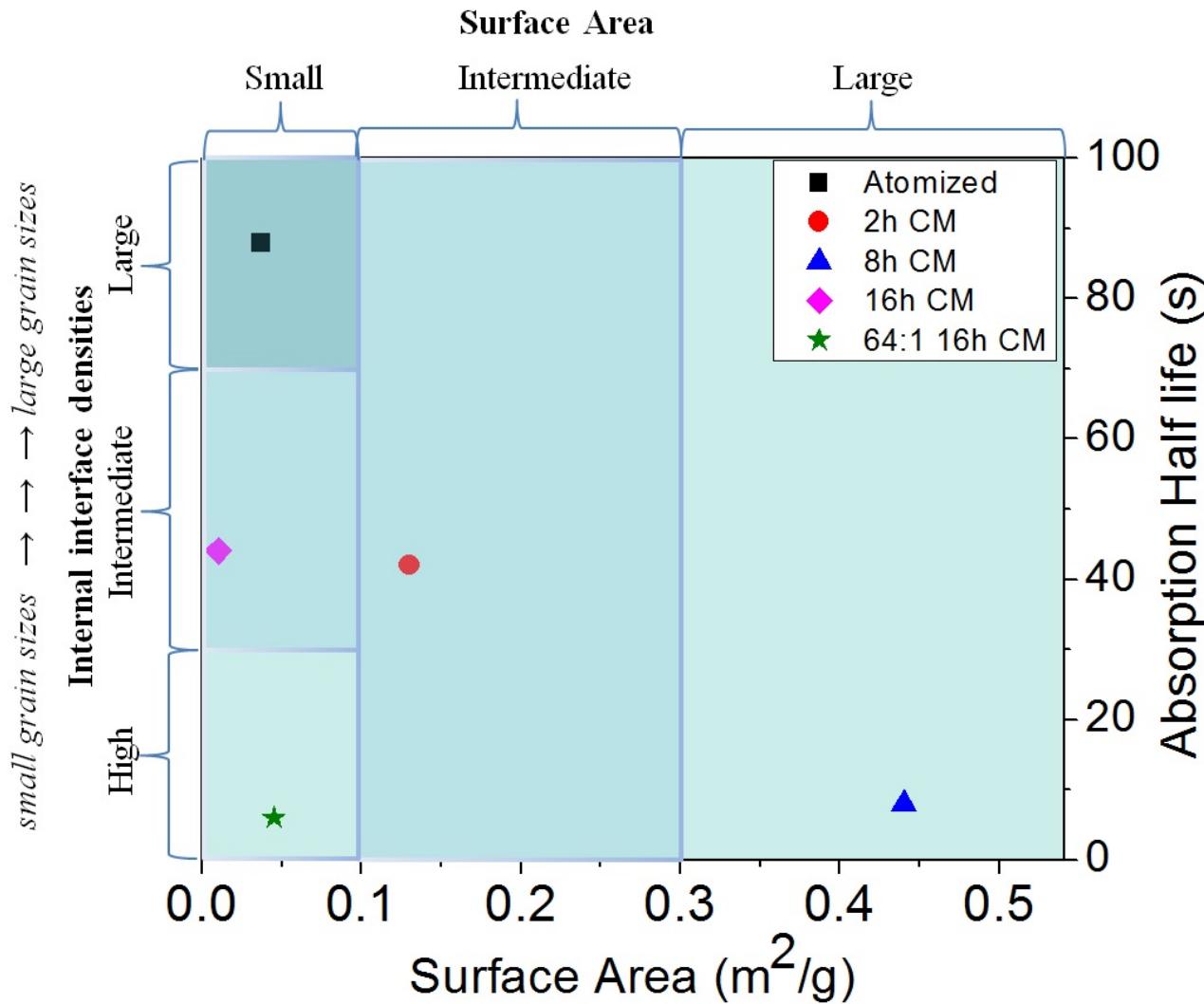
- Fast rates of absorption correlate with either high surface area or large grain boundary volume

# Microstructural Influences on H sorption



- $\alpha_{max}$  trend with increases in dislocation density and decreasing grain size
- $C_H$  cannot be explained by a relationship with grain size
- Deformation induced by cryomilling introduces microstructural changes, which influence H sorption behavior

# Microstructural Influences on H sorption



- 16h, BPR= 64:1 cryomilled material has fast rate of absorption, but low surface area
- Grain boundaries vs. surface area
- Adsorption rate-limiting
- Grain boundaries speed up adsorption and/or absorption?

# Summary

- Cryomilling is an effective post-atomization processing method for producing nanostructured Pd-10%Rh
- Cryomilled Pd-10%Rh exhibited:
  - Increased surface area with milling time
  - Refined grain size
  - Increased dislocation density
- Hydrogen sorption parameters influenced by microstructural changes induced by cryomilling
  - Increased  $\alpha$ -phase solubility and onset of  $\beta$ -hydride phase ( $C_H(760)$ )
  - Decreased hysteresis
  - Faster rates of absorption

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME! QUESTIONS?

