

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

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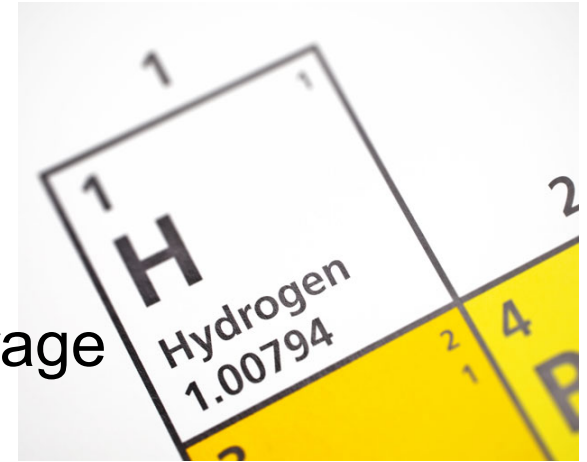
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Background

- 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 capacity¹
- Solid solution alloy

■ Inert gas atomization

- Produce micron sized powder²

■ Cryomilling

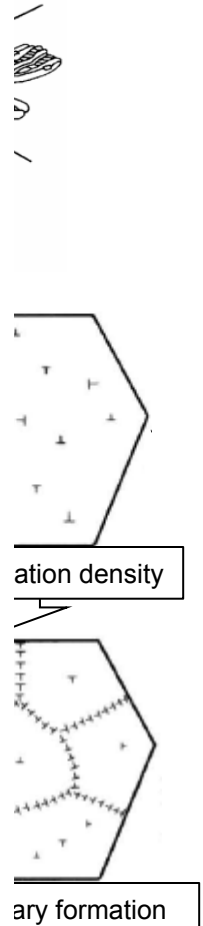
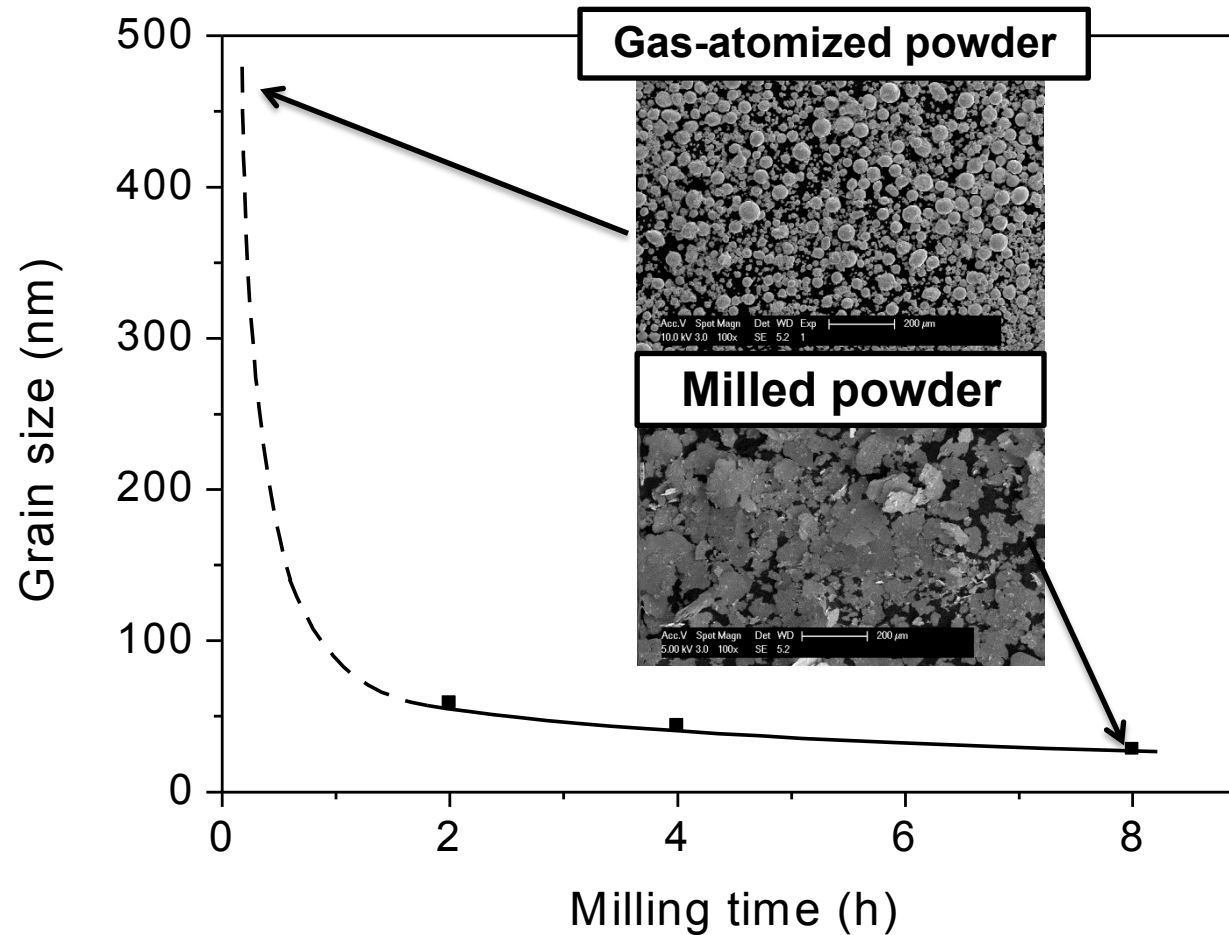
- Decrease length scales (particle dimensions and grain size) in Pd for study³

■ Characterization

- OM, SEM, XRD, TEM, and H sorption properties (PC isotherms)

Synthesis: Cryomilling

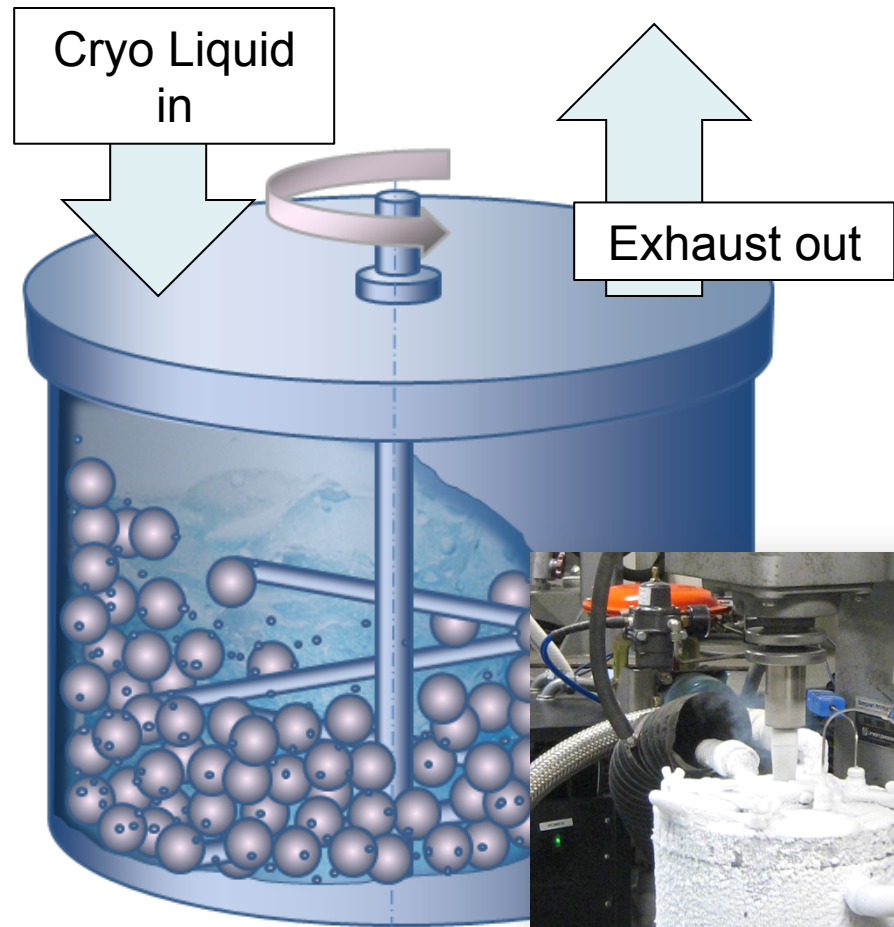
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Synthesis: Cryomilling

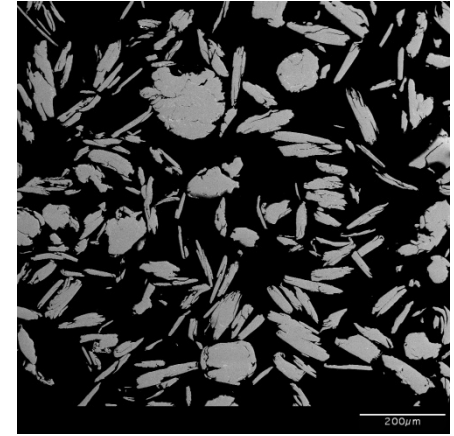
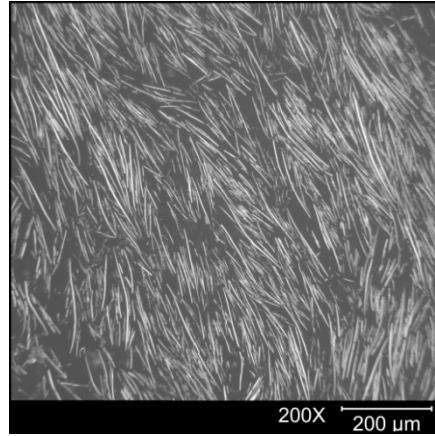
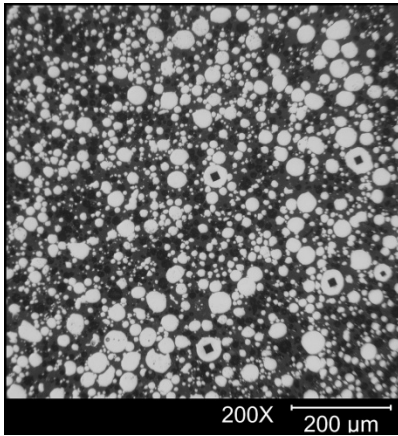
- Pd powder milled via attrition ball milling in cryogenic slurry (cryomilling)

- Liquid Ar and N₂ used as cryogenic medium
- Milling time varied (1h*, 2h*, 8h, 16h)
- Ball-to-powder ratio varied (32:1 vs. 64:1)

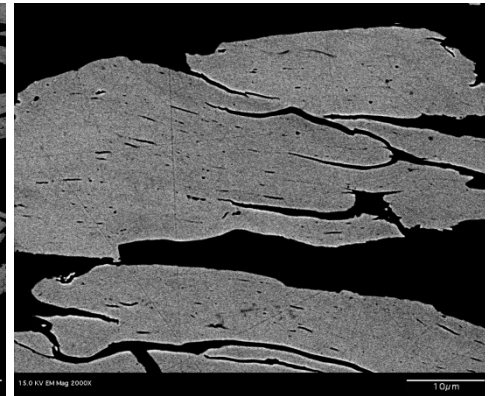
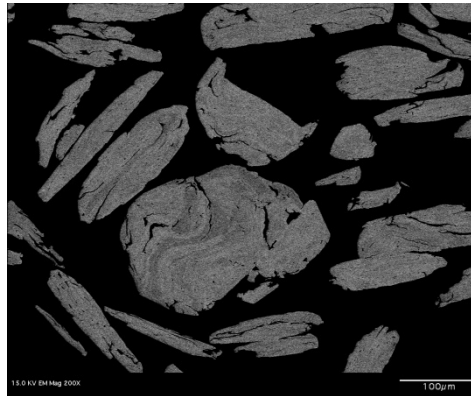
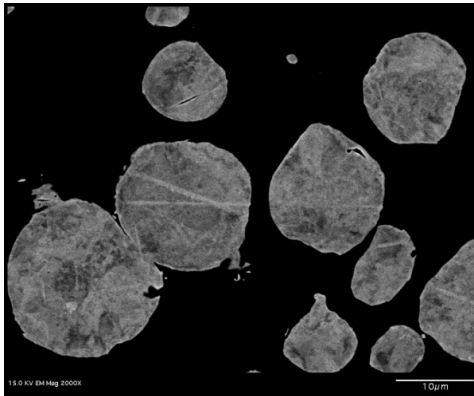


Particle Morphology

Optical Microscopy (OM)- 200x



Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)- 2000x



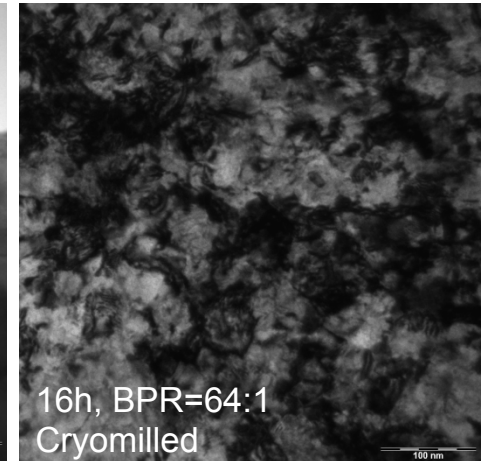
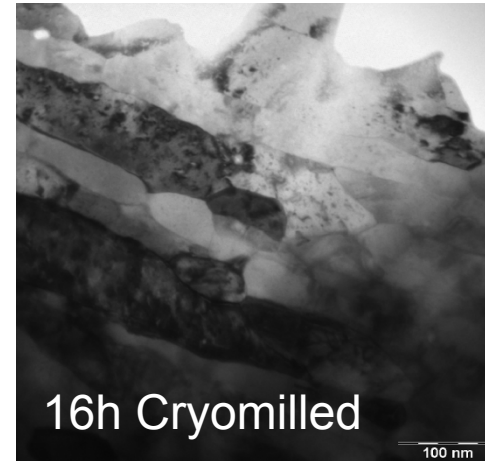
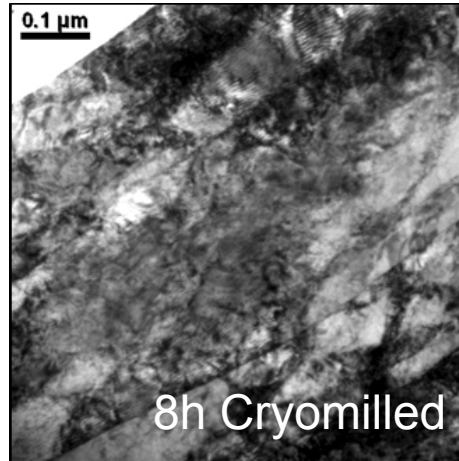
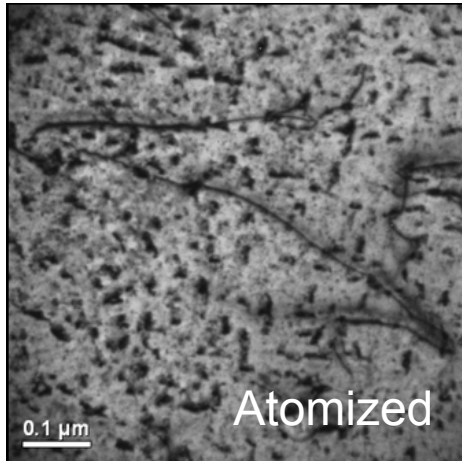
Atomized

8 hour

16 hour

16 hour, BPR=64:1

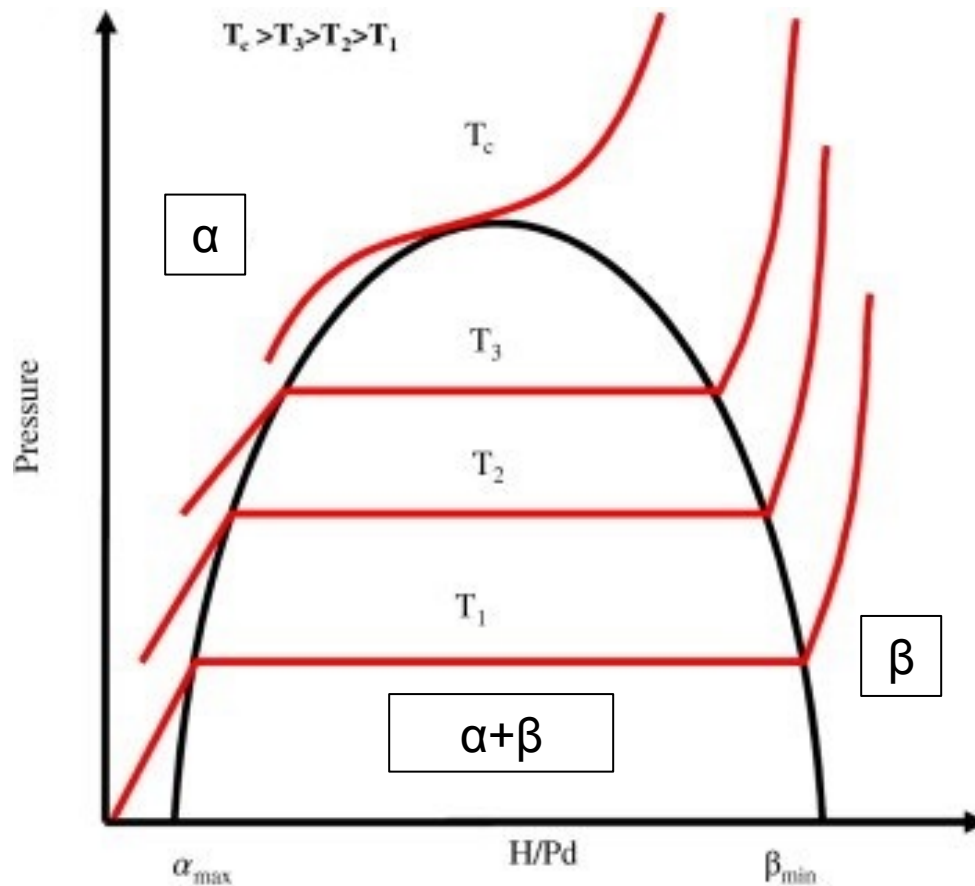
Microstructural Characterization



- 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

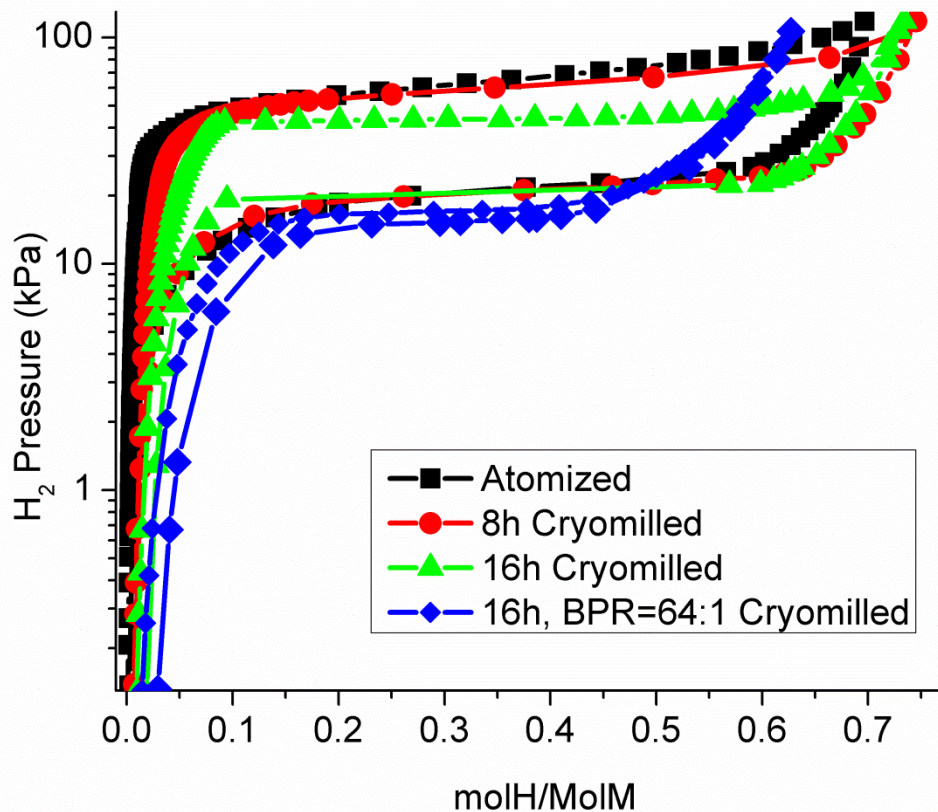
Material	Grain Size (nm)	Dislocation Density (m^{-2})
Atomized	~5000	1.2×10^{14}
8h CM	77	2.4×10^{15}
16h CM	69	5.0×10^{16}
16h, BPR=64:1 CM	32	1.2×10^{17}

Pd-H PC Isotherm Characteristics



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

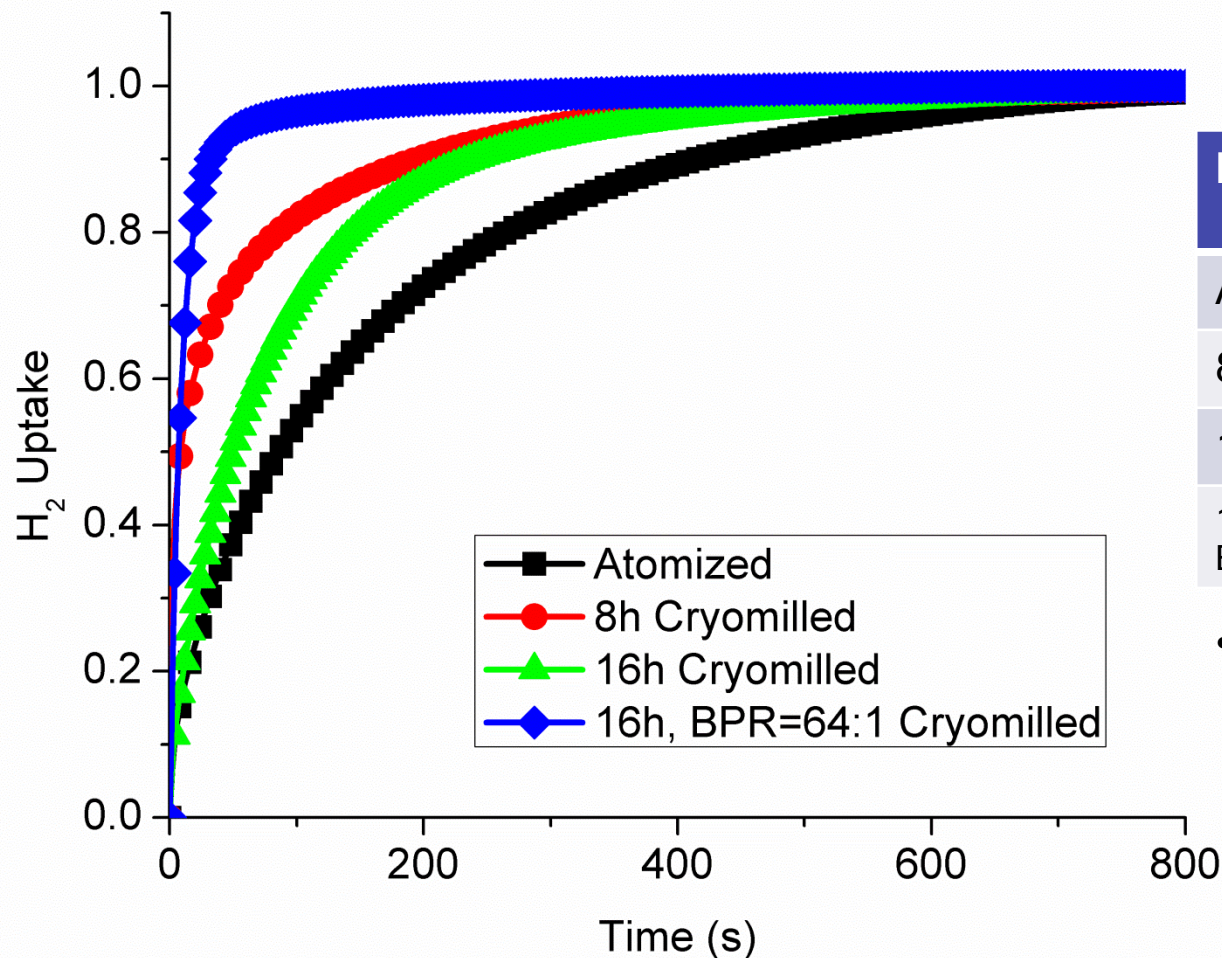
Hydrogen Sorption Characteristics- PC Isotherms



- Sloping plateau pressure possibly due to inhomogeneous composition in Pd-10%Rh¹
- Decrease in plateau pressure due to decrease in grain size²
- Decreased pressure hysteresis

Material	α_{\max} (H/M)	C_H (101 kPa) (H/M)	P_{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

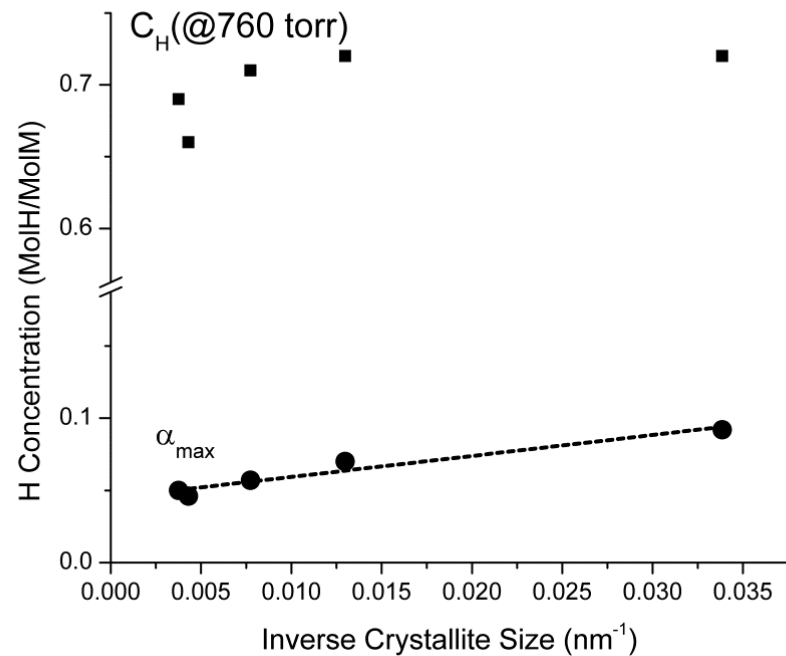
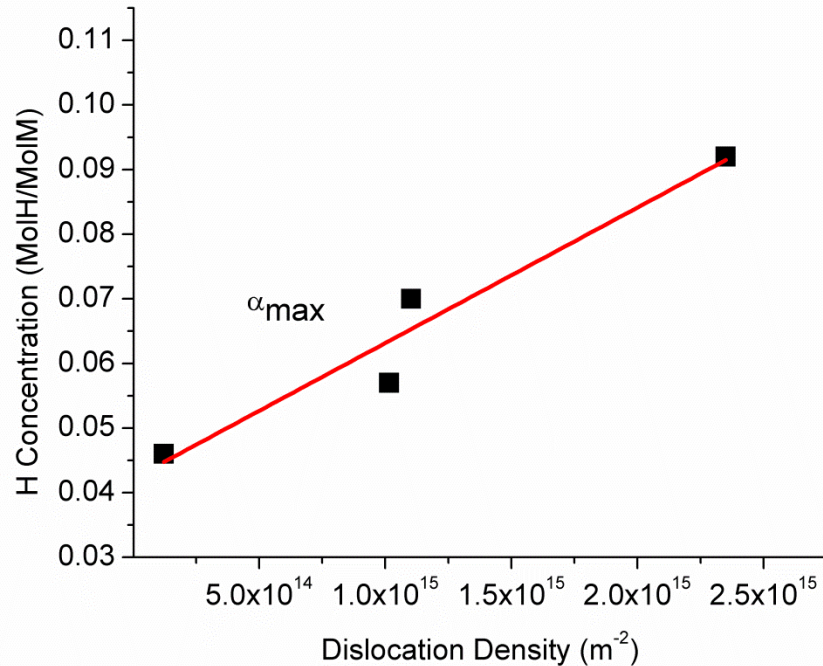
Hydrogen Sorption Characteristics- Rate of Absorption



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

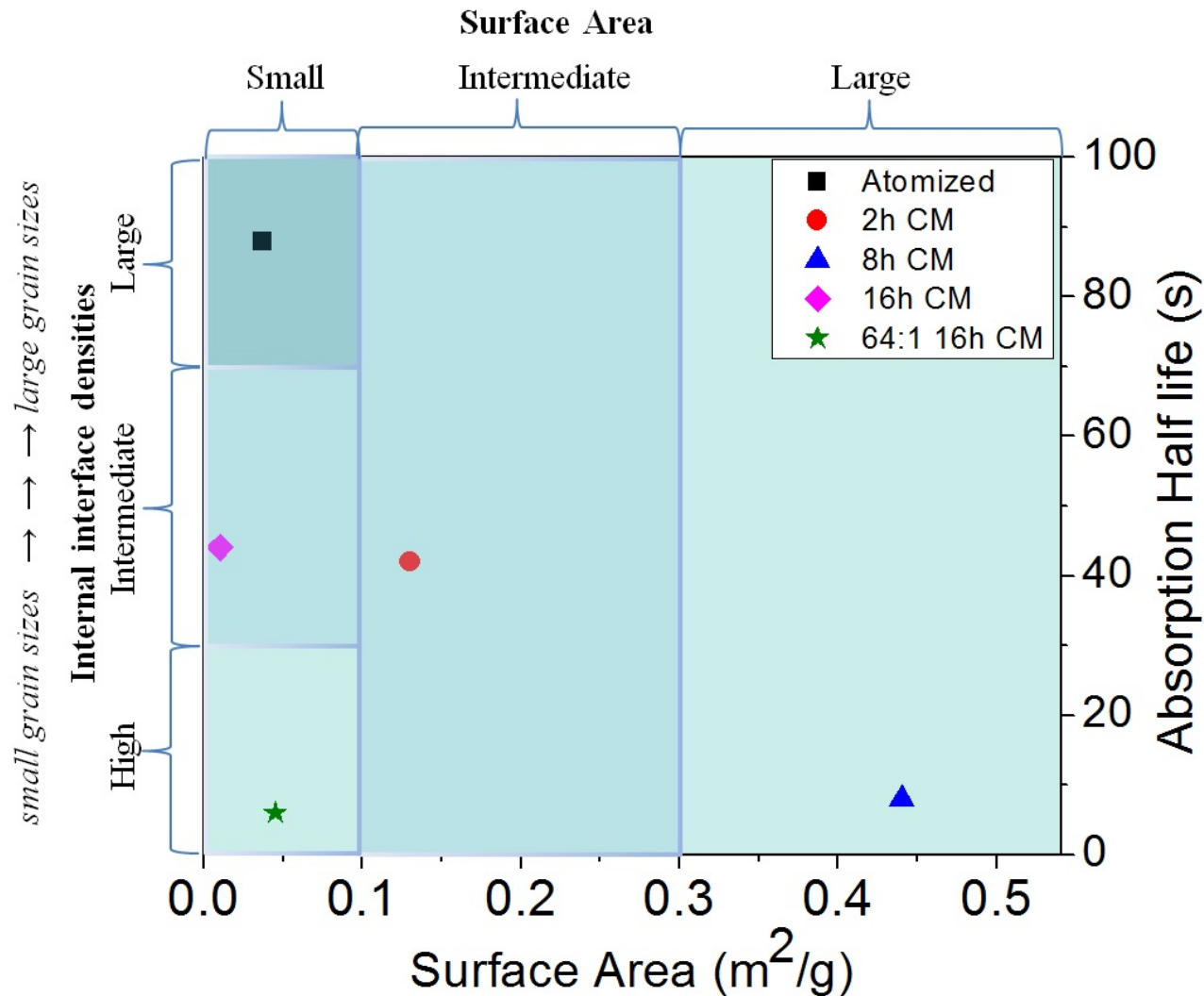
- Fast rates of absorption correlate with either high surface area or large grain boundary volume

Microstructural Influences on H sorption



- α_{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 α -phase solubility and onset of β -hydride phase ($C_H(760)$)
 - Decreased hysteresis
 - Faster rates of absorption

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!
QUESTIONS?