



Nanoscale Corrosion Characterization for Global Impact

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DOE Nanoscale Science Research Centers

“A DOE/SC user facility has **unique world-class research capabilities and technologies** which are **available broadly to science community** worldwide from universities, industry, private laboratories, and other Federal laboratories for work that will be **published in the open literature.**”



CINT: Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies



About CINT:

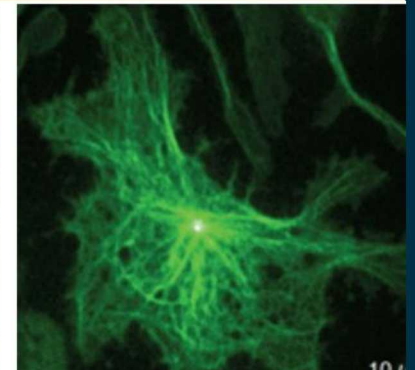
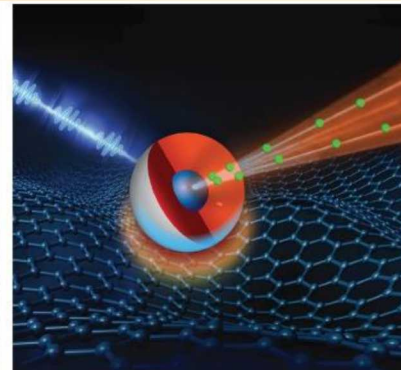
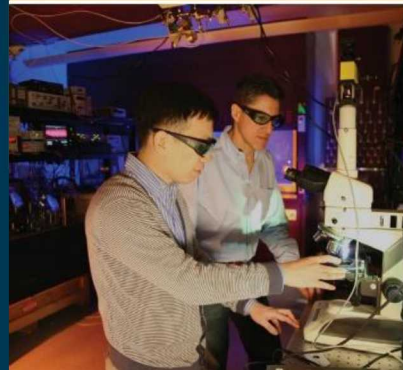
- Free access to staff expertise and equipment for open science
- Two proposal calls per year; proposals for short-term projects are accepted continuously
- Simple 2-page proposal
- Proprietary research is possible with full-cost recovery

Research areas:

- **In-Situ Characterization & Nanomechanics** – Developing and implementing world-leading capabilities to study the dynamic response of materials and nanosystems to mechanical, electrical, or other stimuli.
- **Nanophotonics & Optical Nanomaterials** – Synthesis, excitation, and energy transformations of optically active nanomaterials and collective or emergent electromagnetic phenomena (plasmonics, metamaterials, photonic lattices).
- **Soft, Biological & Composite Nanomaterials** – Synthesis, assembly, and characterization of soft, biomolecular, and composite nanomaterials that display emergent functionality.
- **Quantum Materials Systems** – Understanding and controlling quantum effects of nanoscale materials and their integration into systems spanning multiple length scales.



<https://cint.lanl.gov>
<https://cint.sandia.gov>
cint@lanl.gov



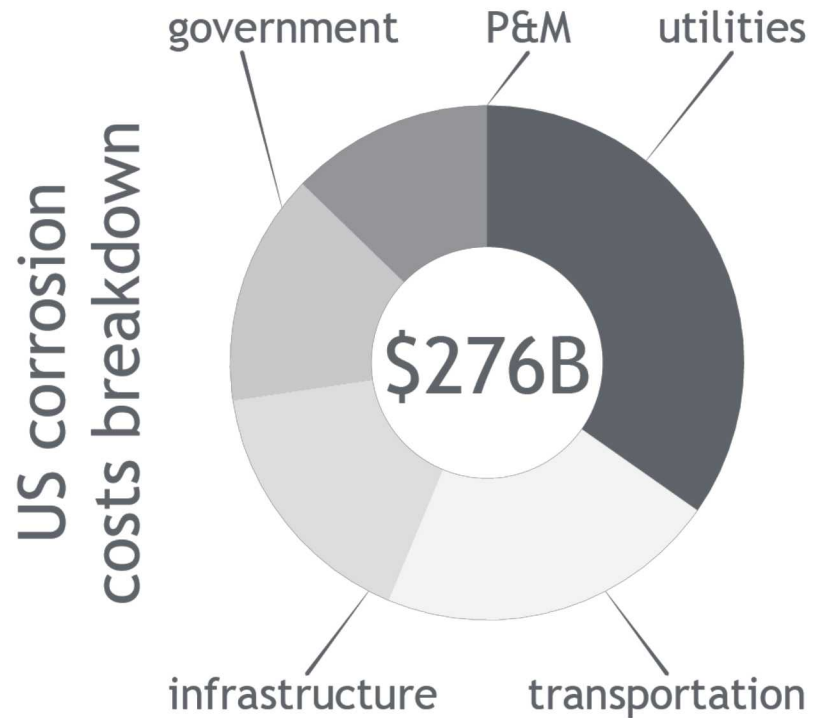
annual corrosion costs
240,000 broken US water mains



**annual corrosion costs
1 in 3 US bridges rated
structurally deficient or functionally obsolete**



Corrosion: A Global Concern



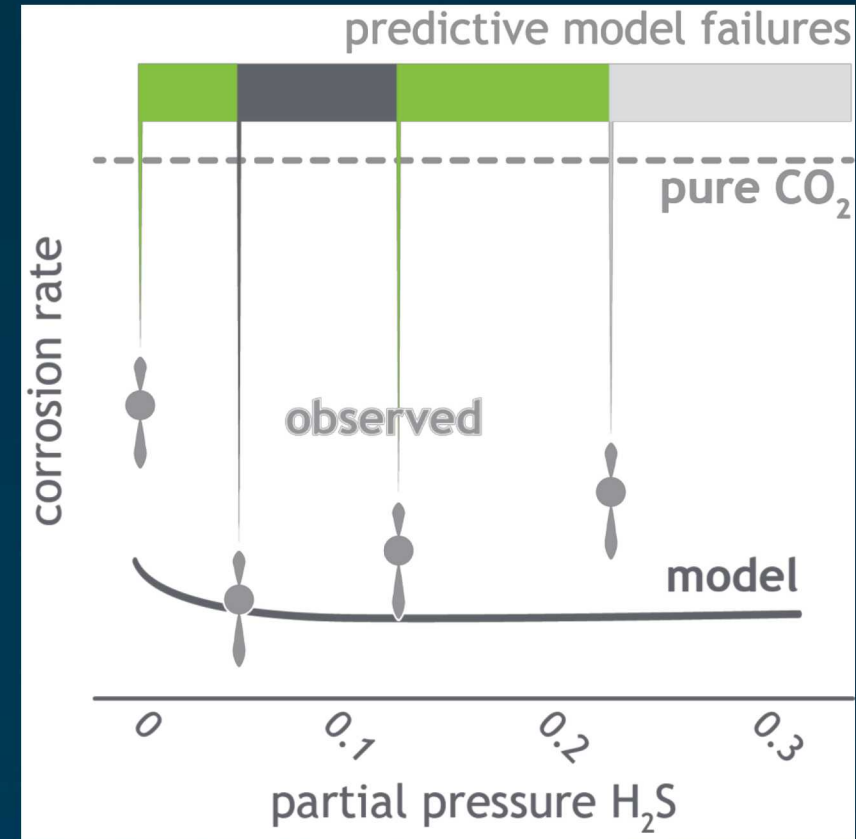
gross domestic product	\$75,467,070,000,000	\$ 75.4 T
annual corrosion costs	\$2,505,400,000,000	\$ 2.5 T



3.4% global GDP lost to corrosion
investing in controls | dealing with failures

Pipeline Corrosion: Oil and Natural Gas Transportation

- Strategic replacement programs
- Mechanisms for initiation are unclear



Carbon Steel



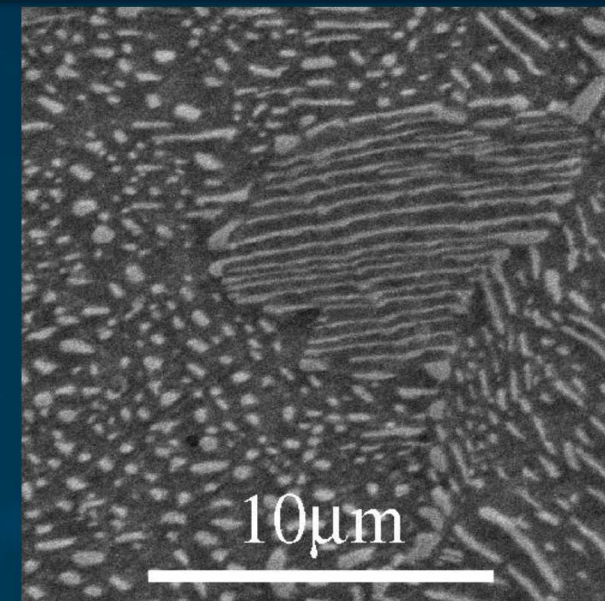
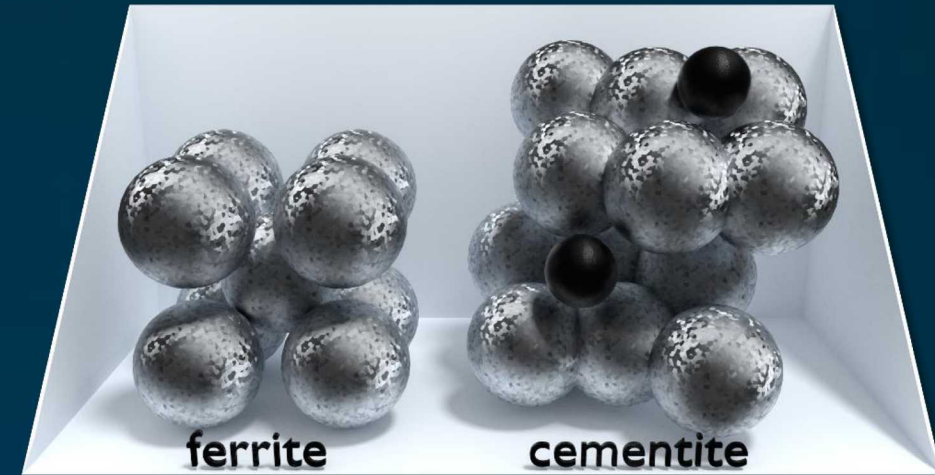
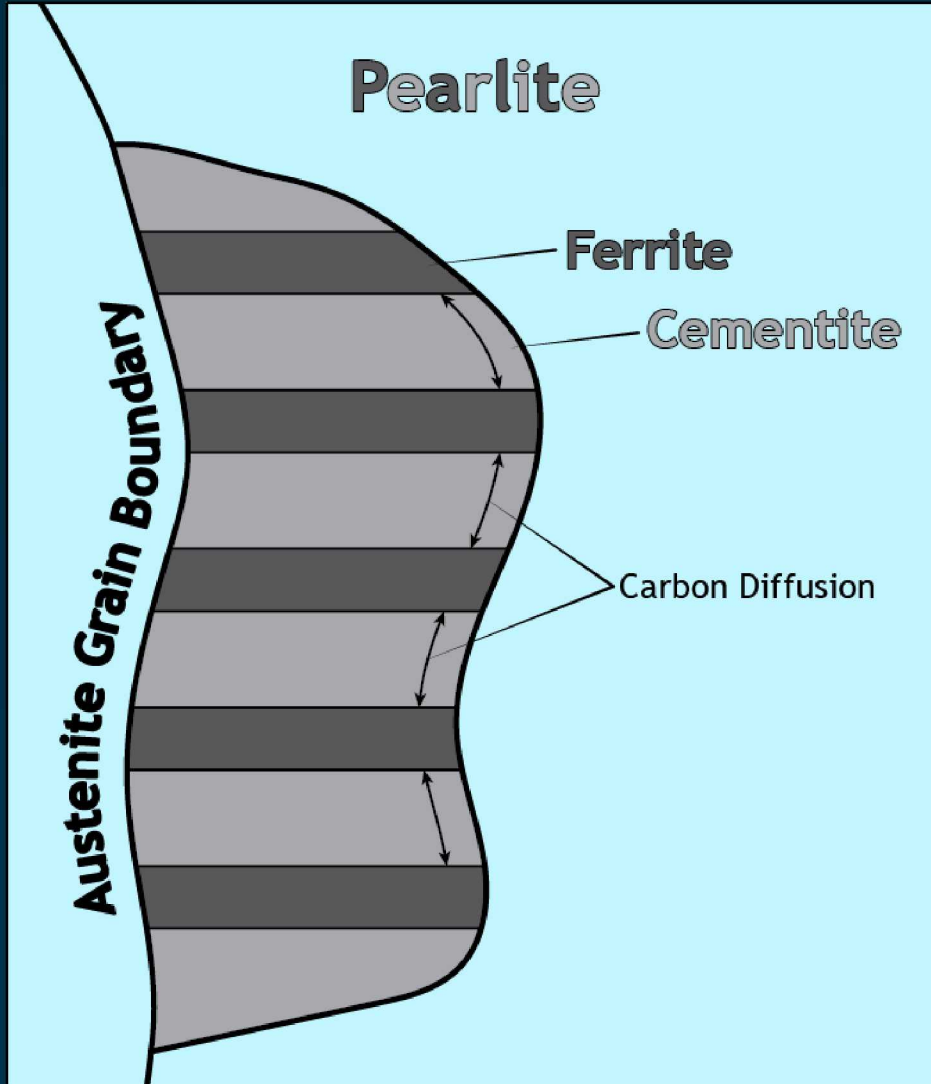
High yield strength &
maintains fracture toughness

Low Carbon Steel

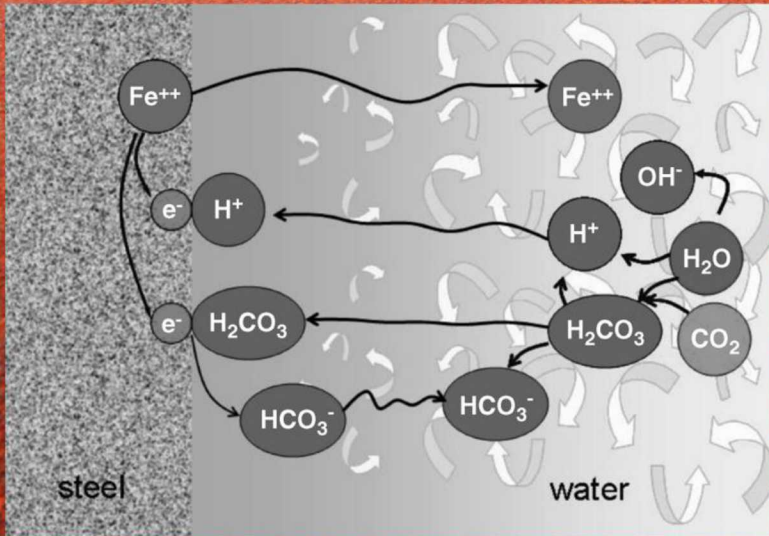
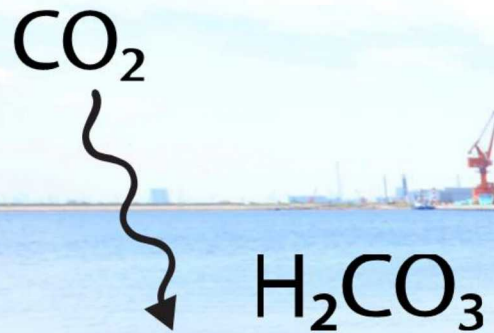
U.S. is top 4 steel producer,
85% is low-carbon



CINT: Transmission Electron Microscopy

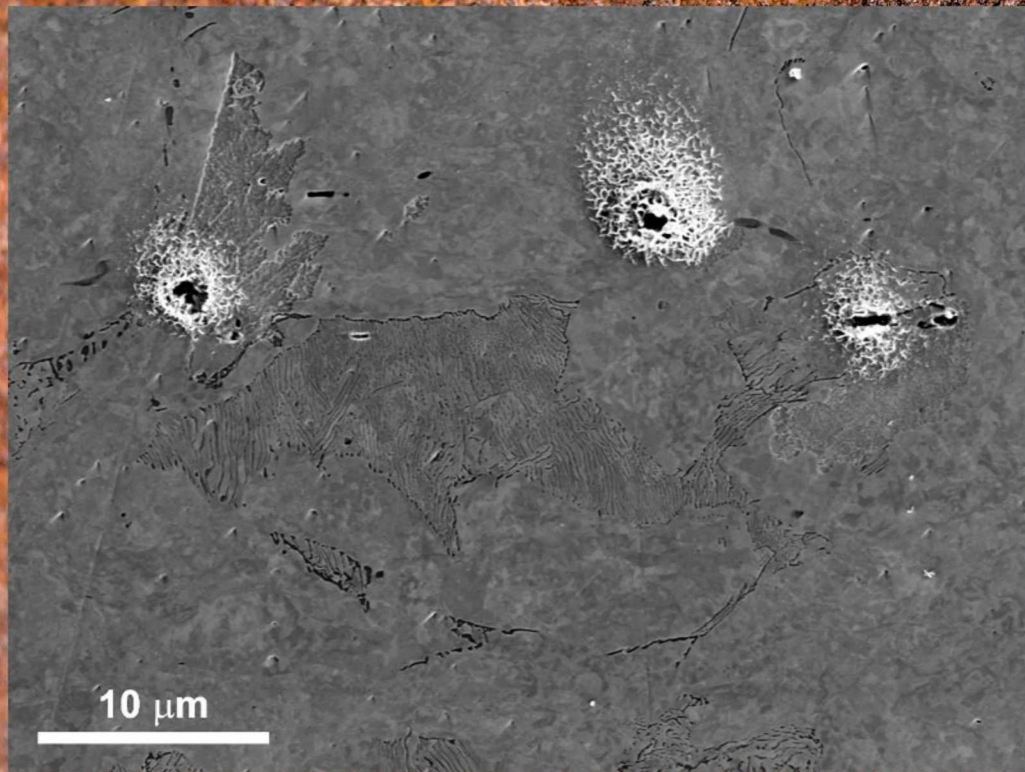


aqueous CO_2 corrosion: uniform



- non-specific
- solvation of oxidized iron
- *M/aq* contact surface
- affected by flow

aqueous CO_2 corrosion: localized

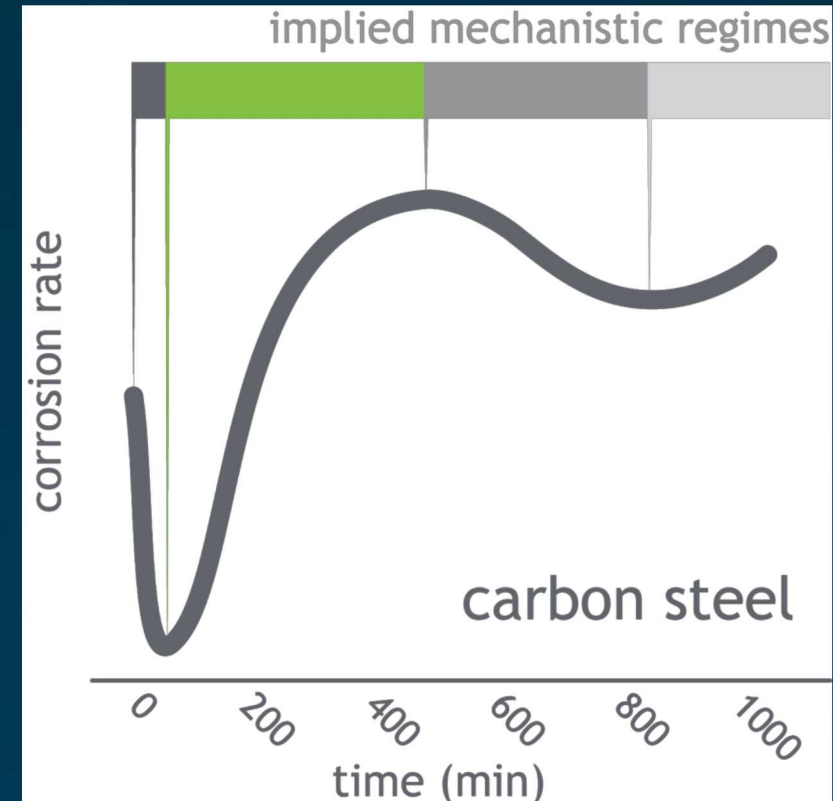


- selective attack - discrete regions
- localized corrosion hotspots
- material defects
- not affected by flow

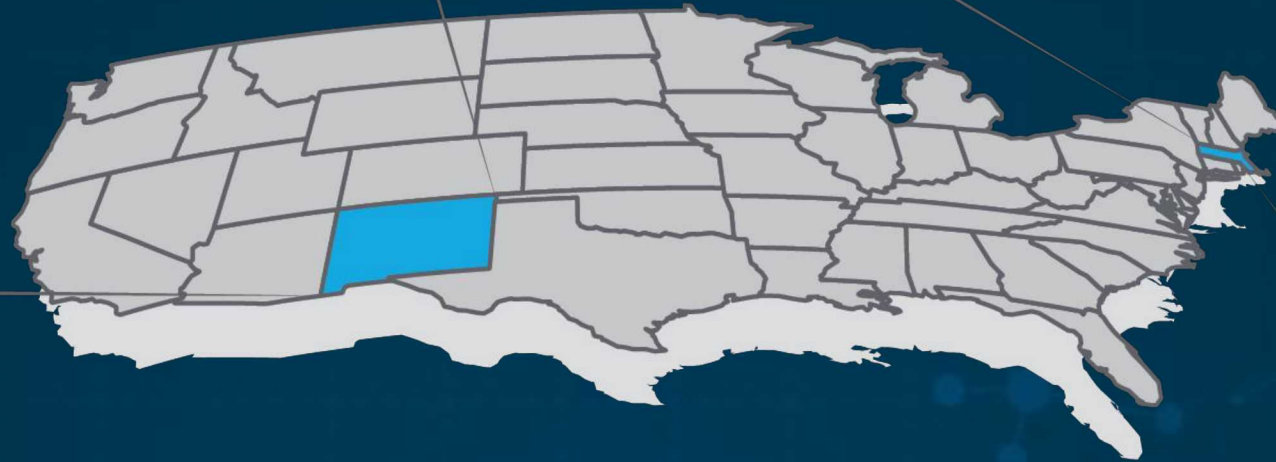
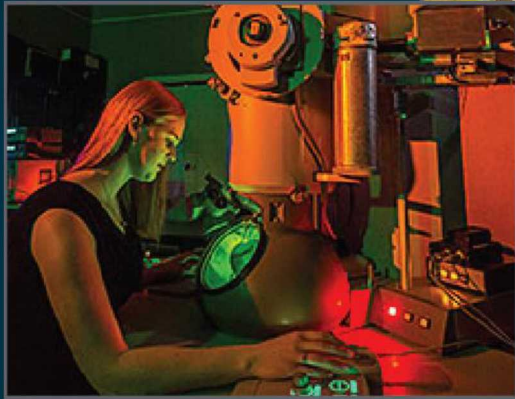
Steel Corrosion Rates Over Time

Corrosion rate over time

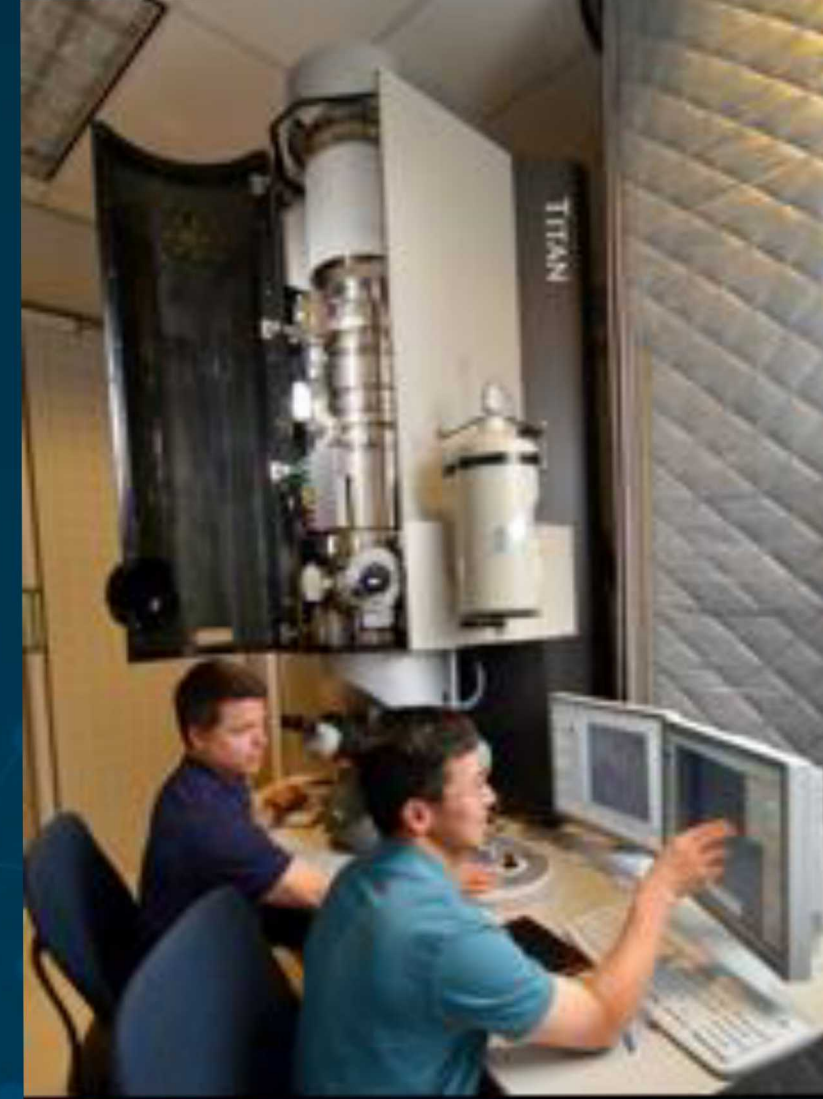
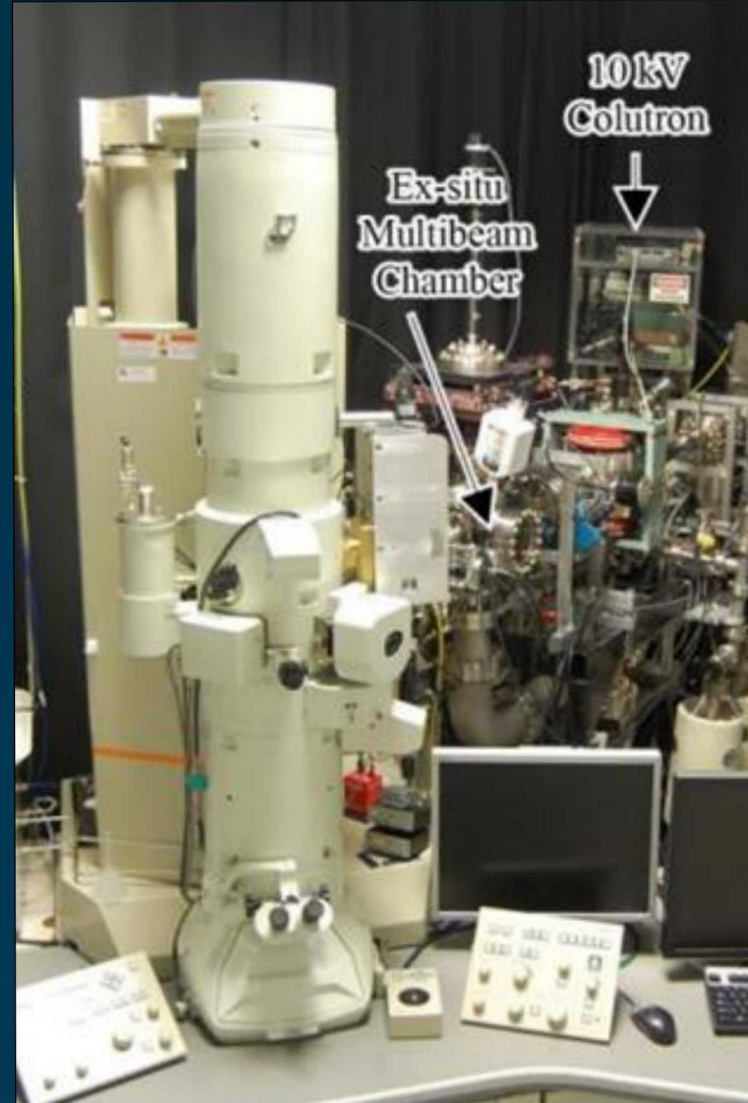
- Example curve, many inflections
- Prevalence of mechanism changes
- Can we start at the initiation site, understand that mechanism?



CINT User Project: Nanoscale Corrosion

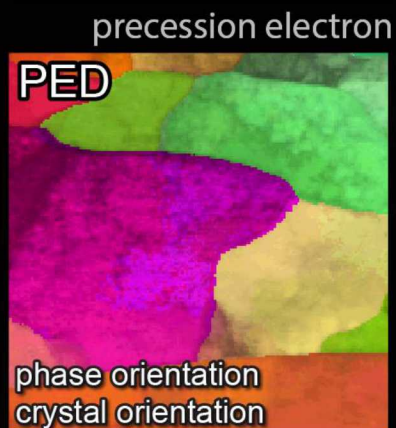


CINT: Transmission Electron Microscopy

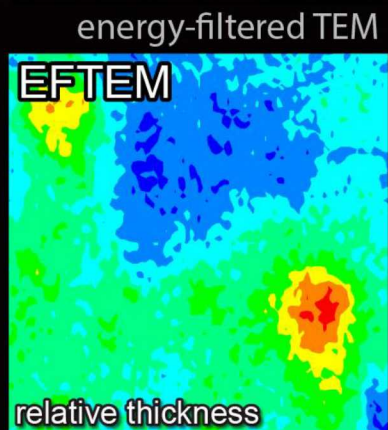




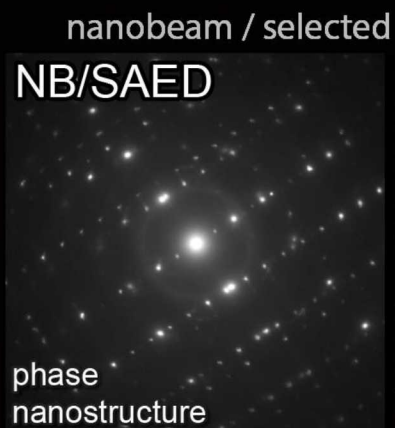
annular dark field STEM



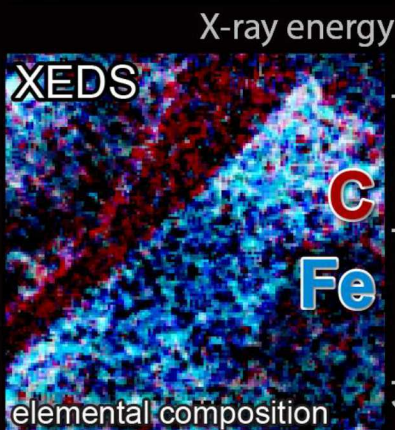
diffraction



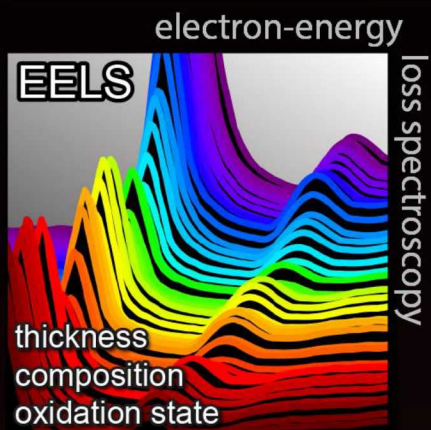
diffraction



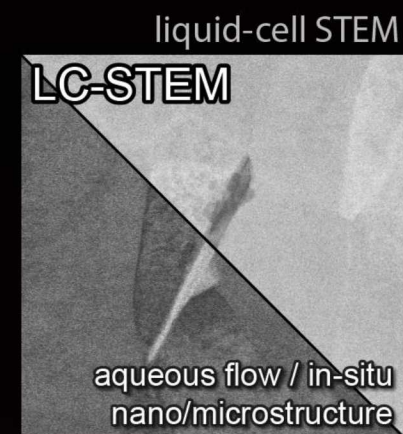
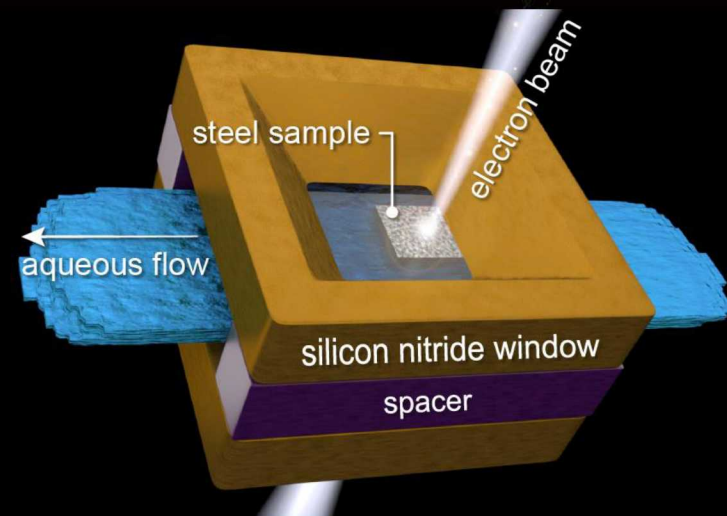
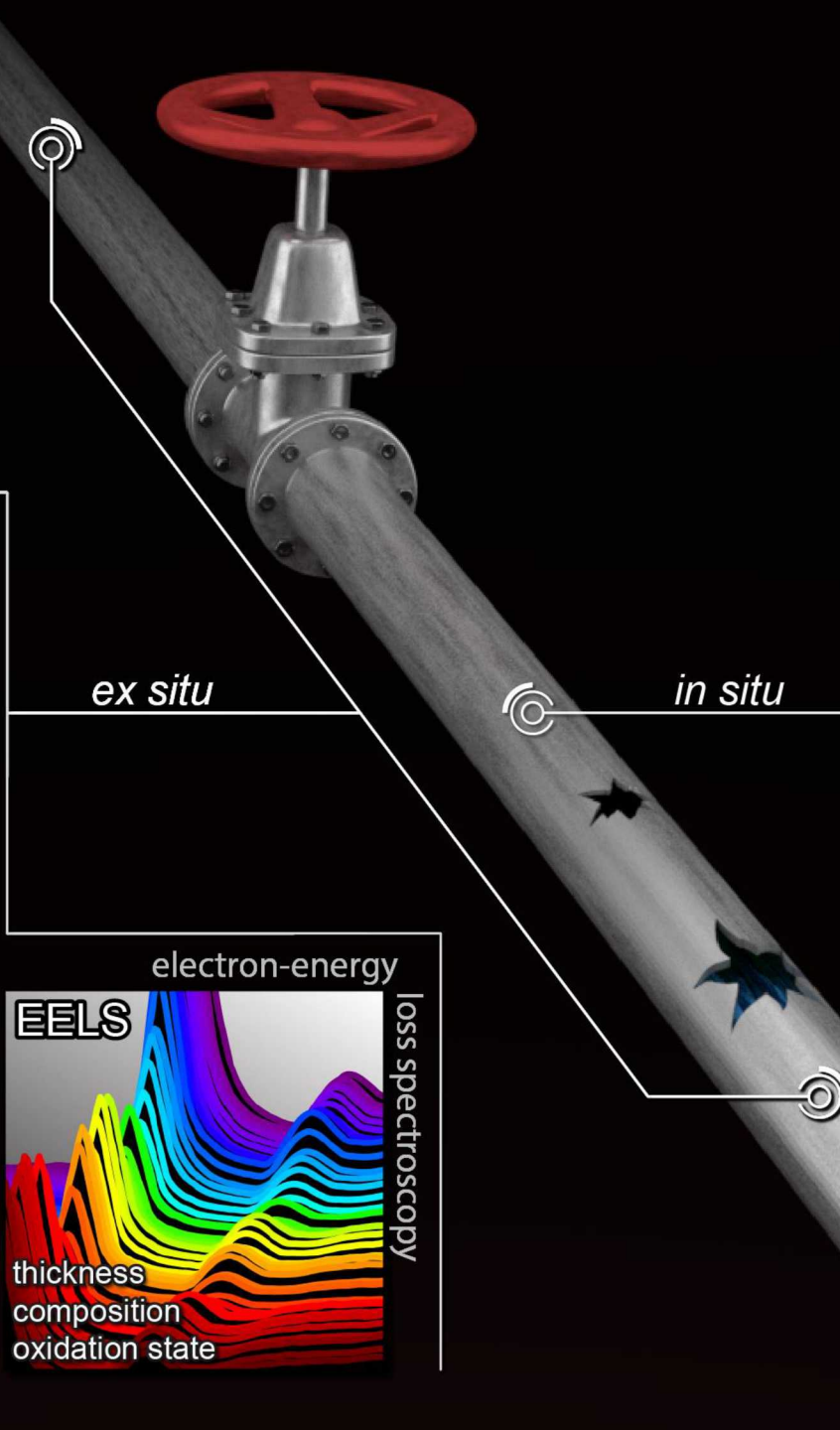
area electron diffraction



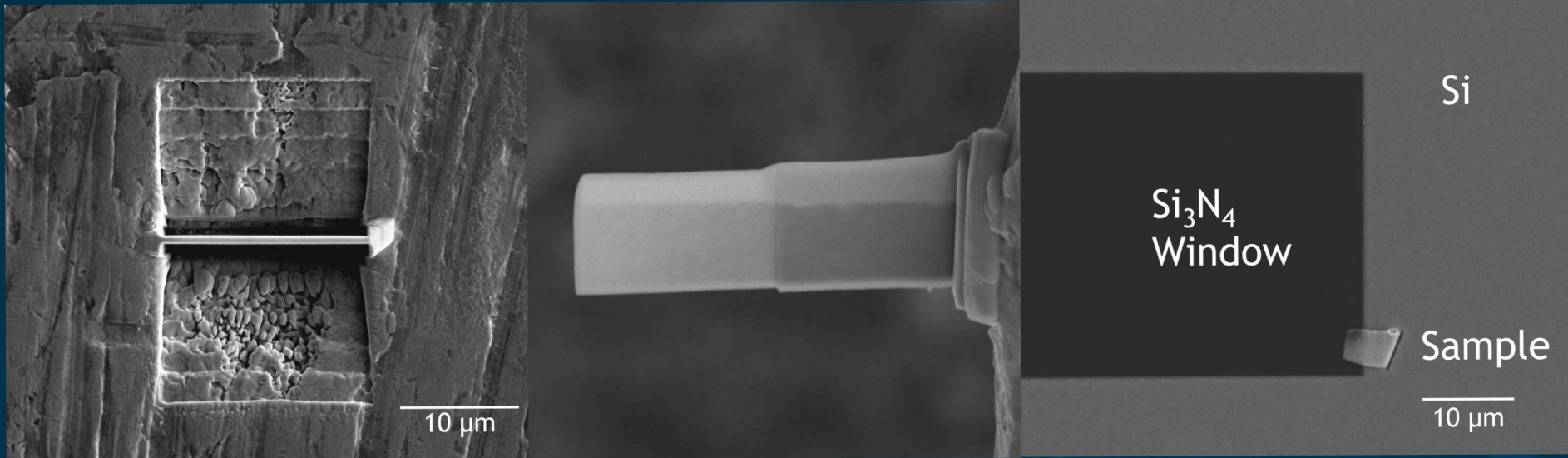
dispersive spectroscopy



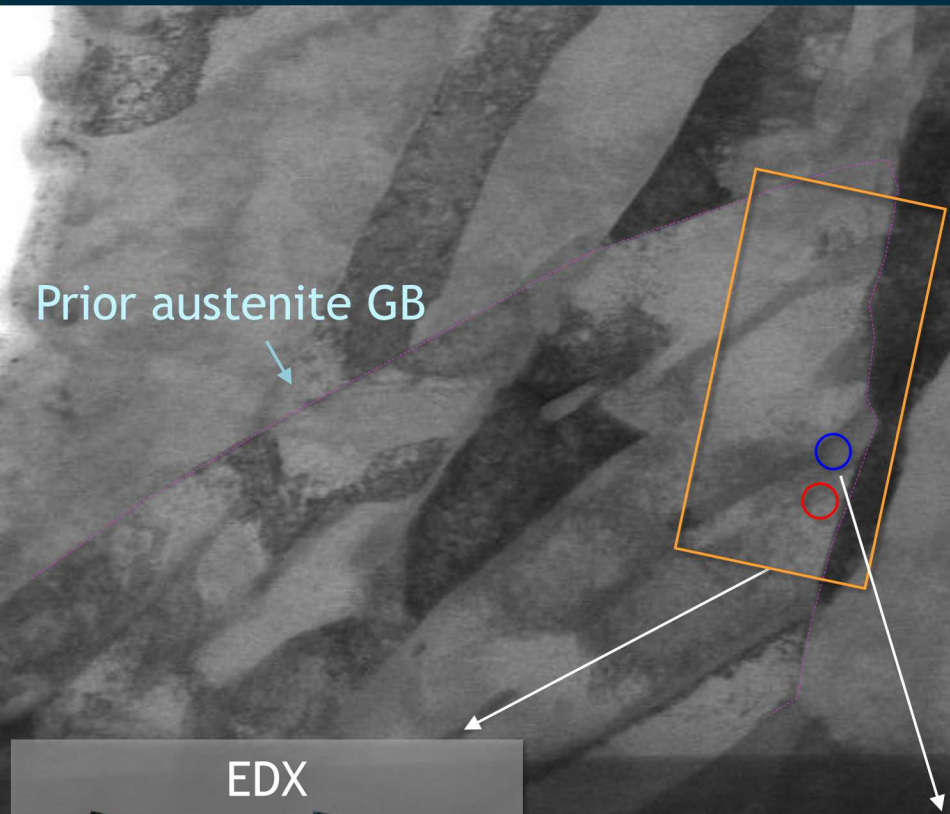
loss spectroscopy



Focused Ion Beam Extraction



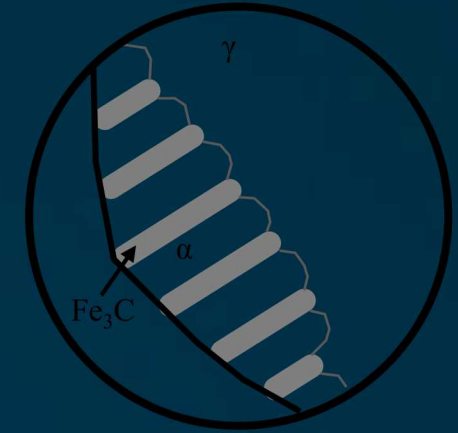
Crystalline/Chemical Mapping of Initial Steel Sample



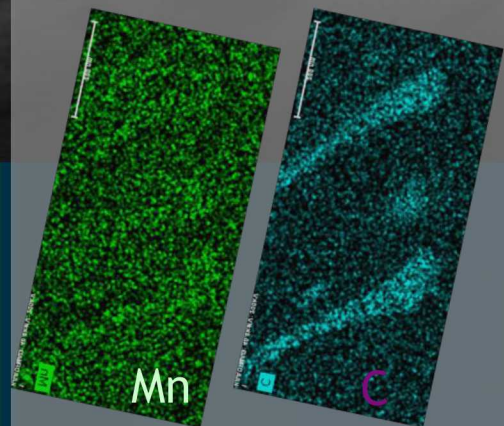
Primarily BCC α -Fe

EDX and nanobeam diffraction show presence of Mn-rich Fe_3C lamellae

As steel cools past the eutectic temperature from the FCC γ -Fe (austenite) phase, orthorhombic Fe_3C (cementite) and BCC α -Fe (ferrite) grow, starting at a prior austenite grain boundary

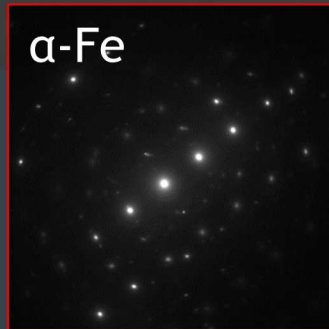


EDX

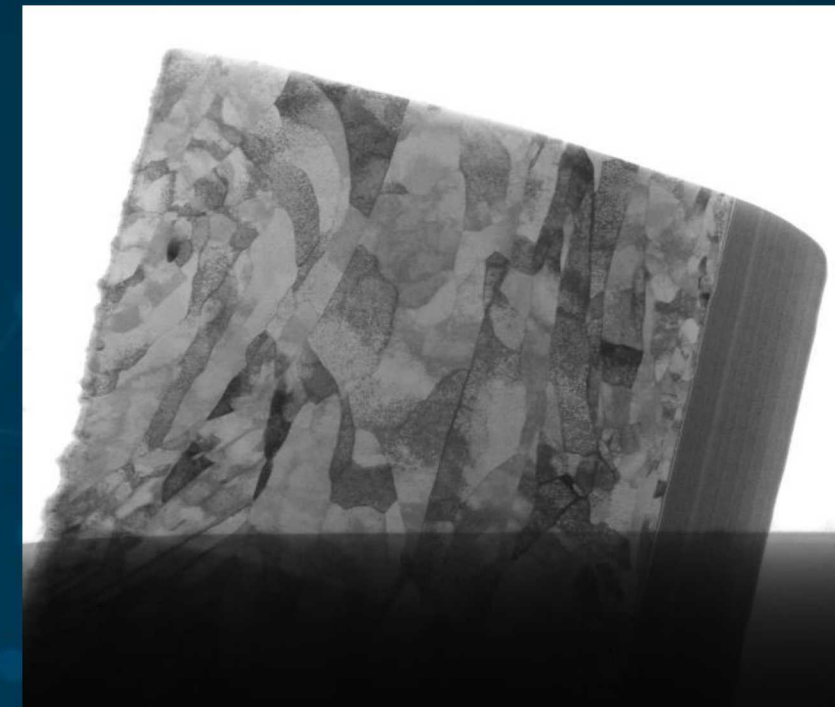
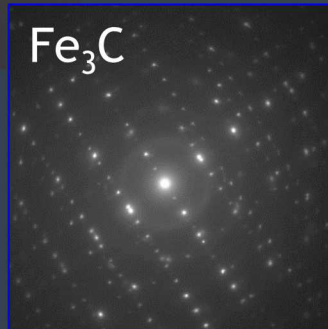


Nanobeam Diffraction

α -Fe

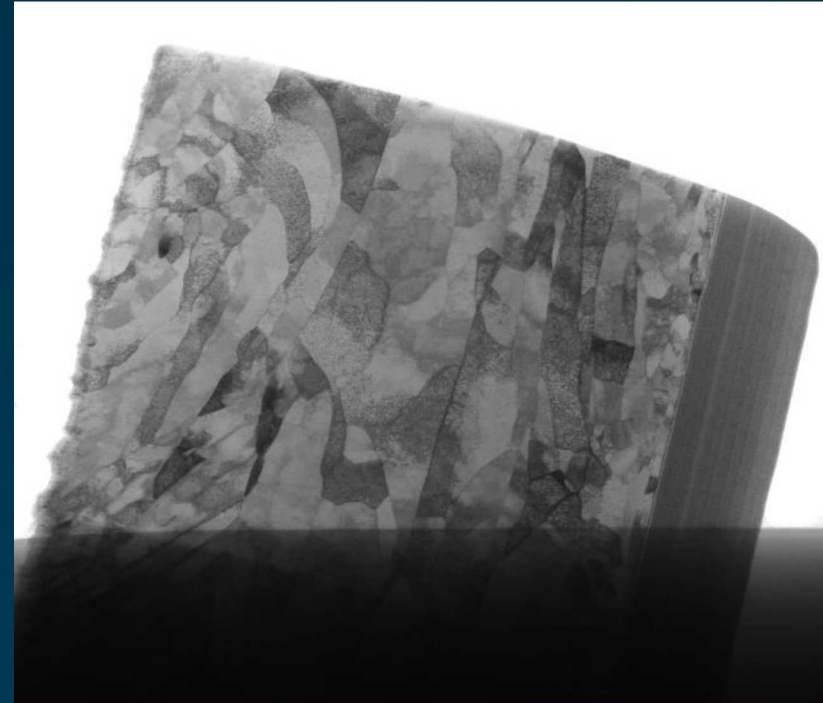


Fe_3C



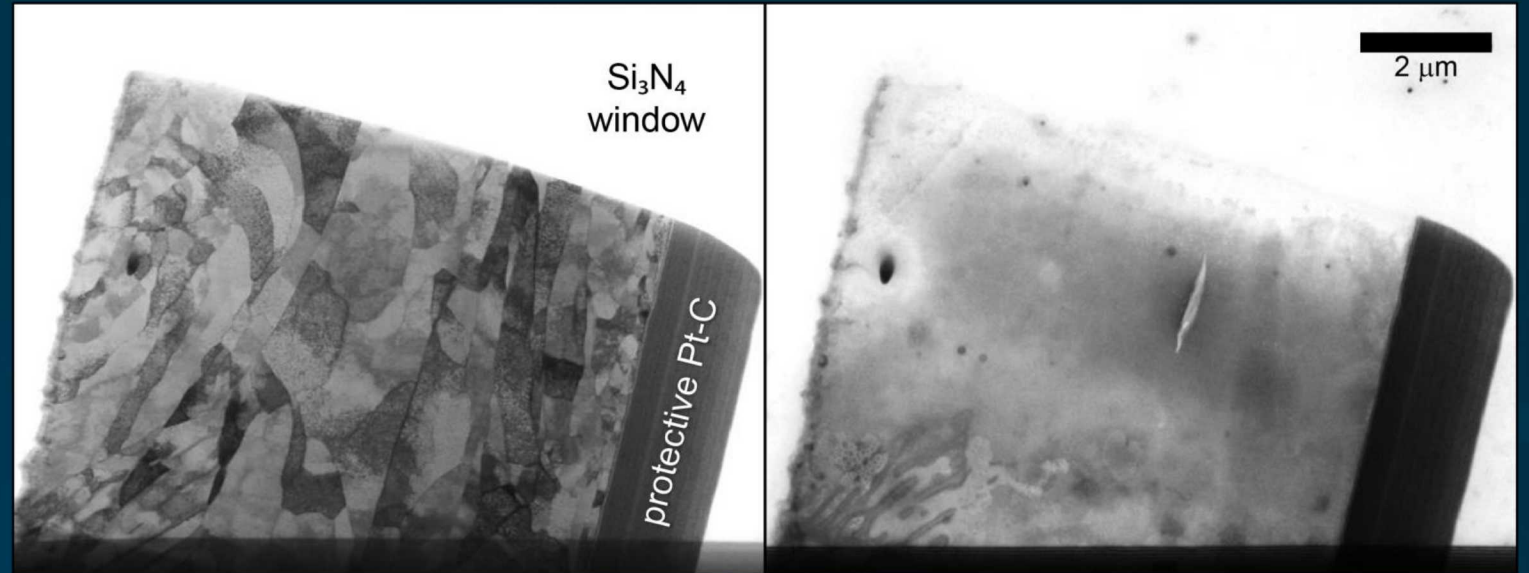
TEM Sample for In-Situ Observation

- 1018 carbon steel
 - extracted / mounted
 - LC-TEM cell
 - TEM
 - microfluidic pumping



Initial and Post-Corrosion Sample

- 1018 carbon steel
 - extracted / mounted
 - LC-TEM cell
 - TEM
 - microfluidic pumping
- Direct observation
 - STEM (BF/HAADF)
 - 102 mins
- *Ex situ* examination
- Corrosion observed
 - uniform
 - localized



Localized Corrosion in Low Carbon Steel

isolated cementite in ferrite matrix

40 min

- TJ initiation
- 11° disorientation

45 min

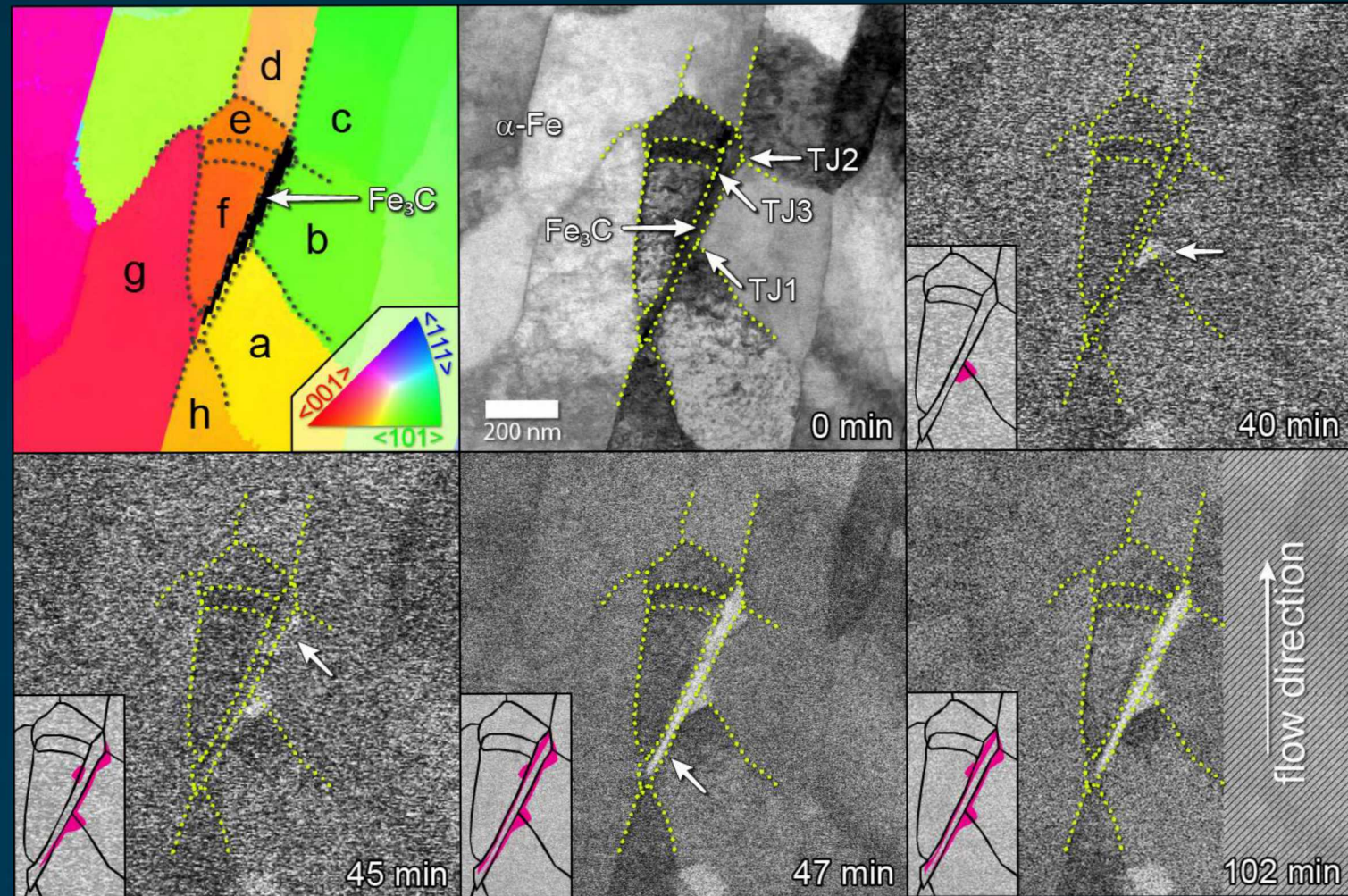
- interfacial activity
- TJ etching (2/3)
- $b/c=5^\circ$ | $e/f=4^\circ$

47 min

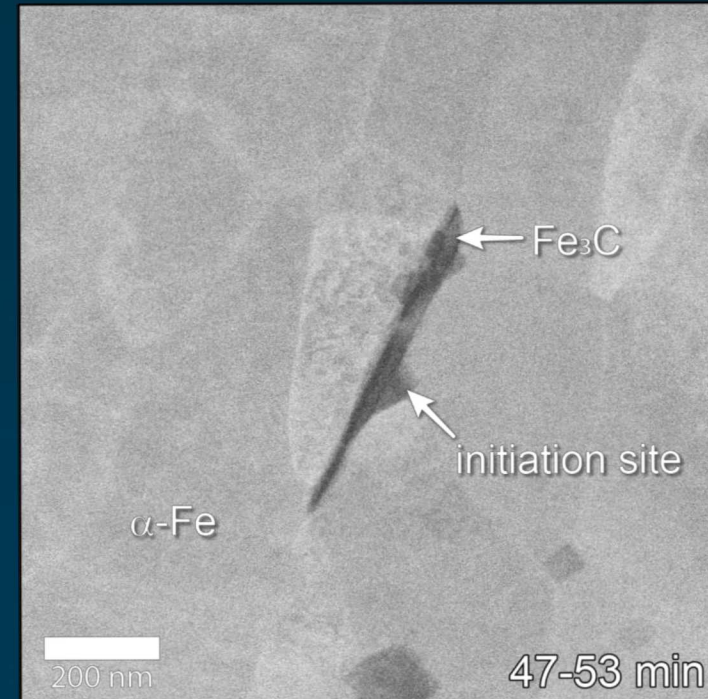
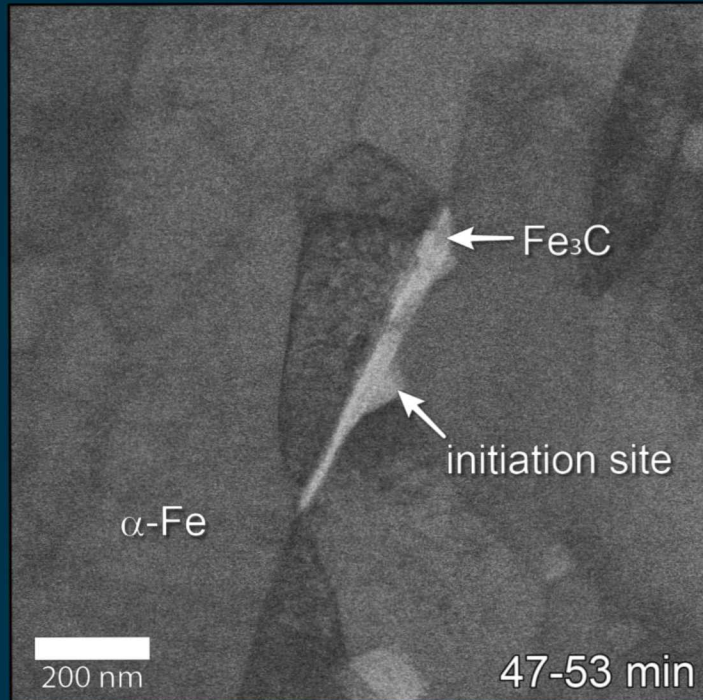
- lateral progression (ferrite)
- $\langle 111 \rangle$ direction ([110] face)

final

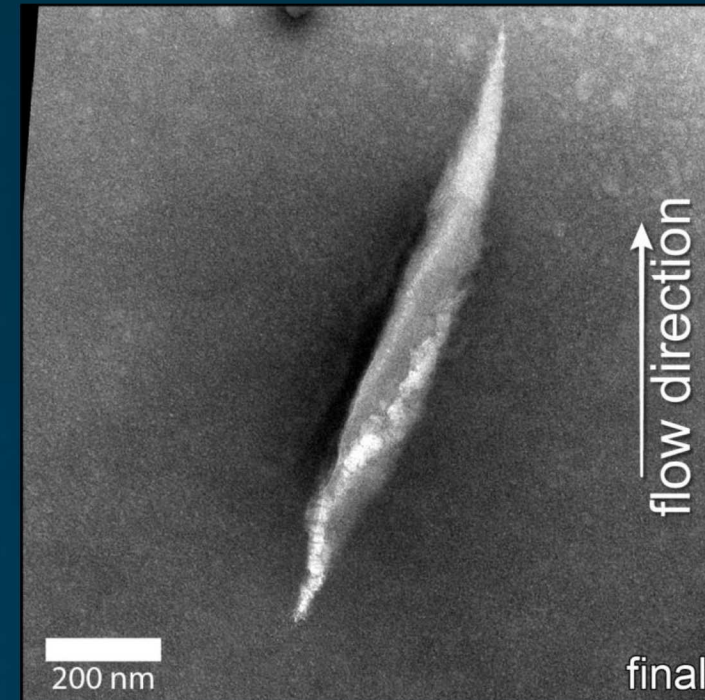
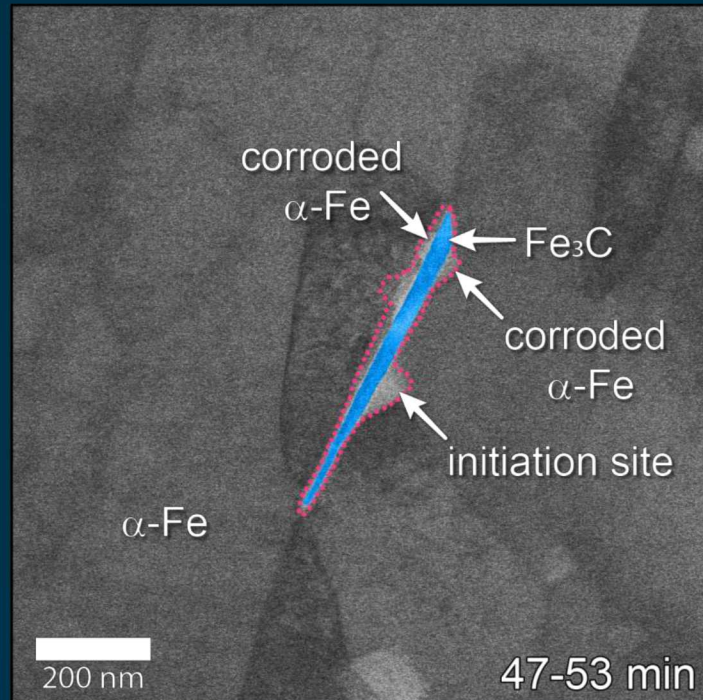
- loss of contact = arrest



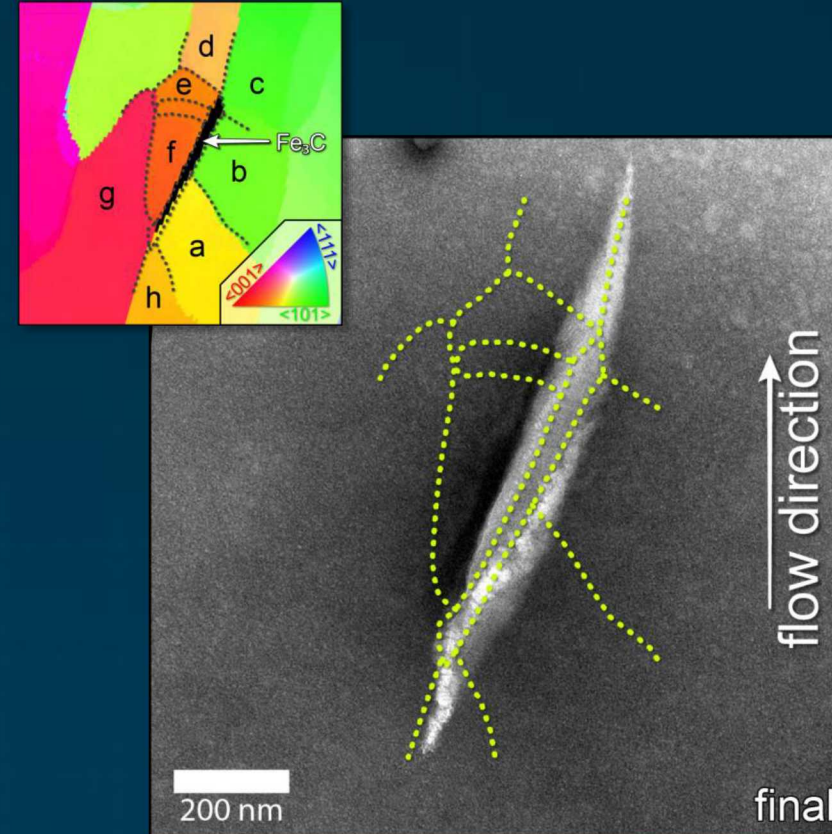
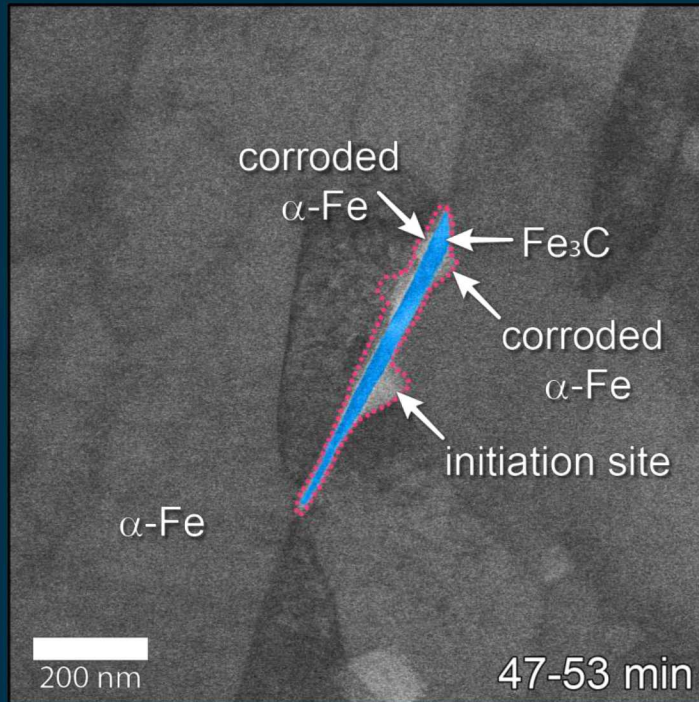
In-Situ Localized Corrosion Site Identification



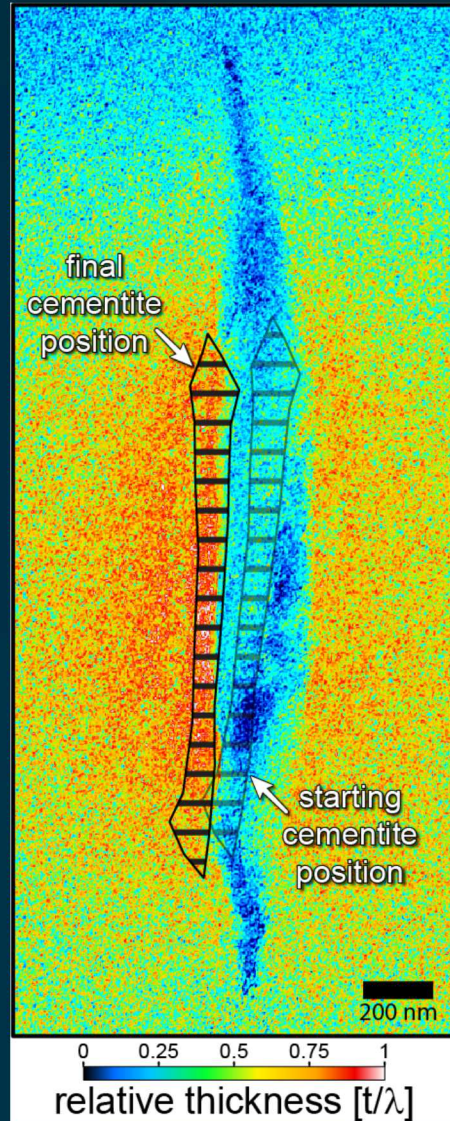
In-Situ and Ex-Situ Post Localized Corrosion



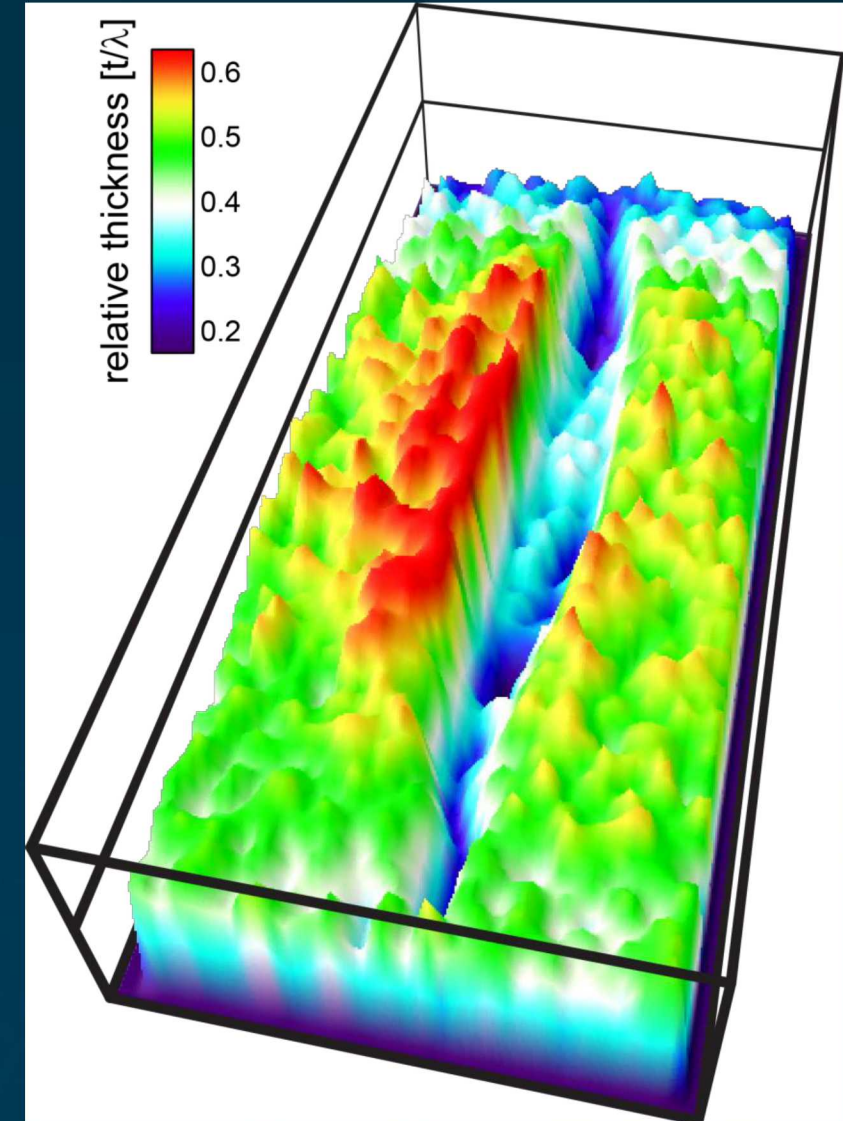
Cementite Grain Corroded Away?



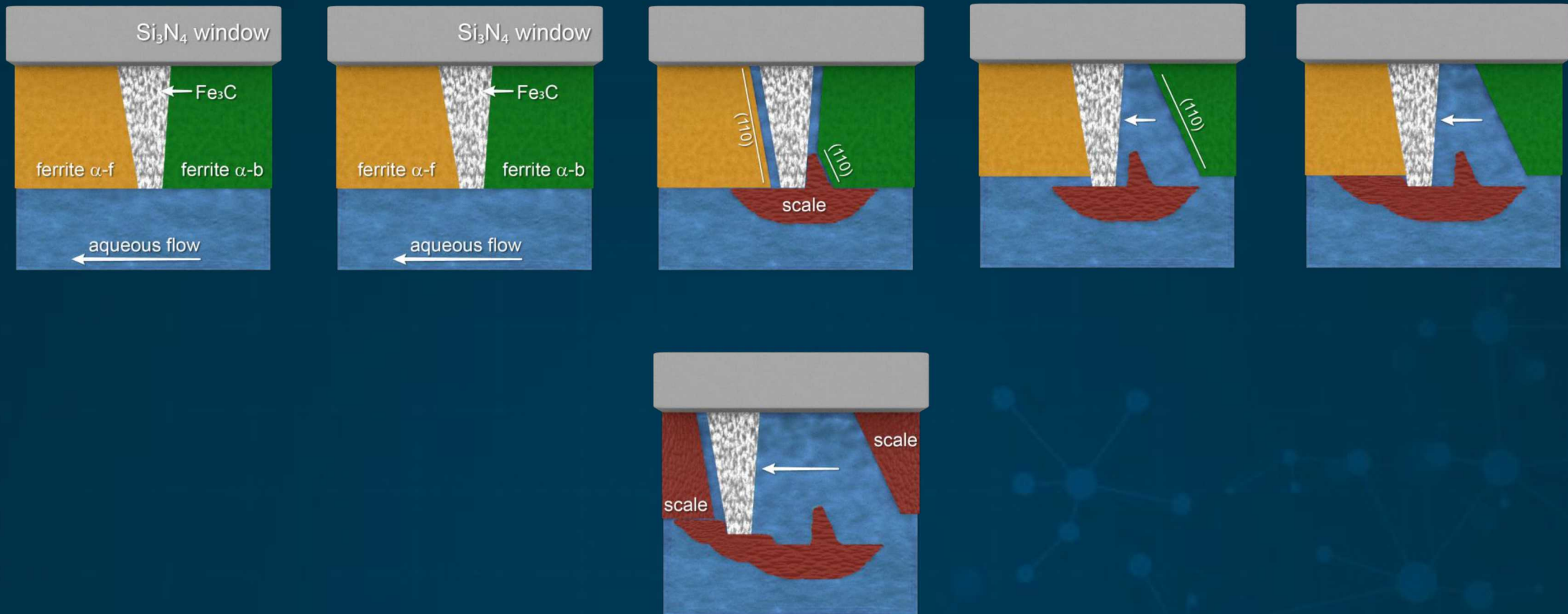
Cementite Grain Remained in Sample

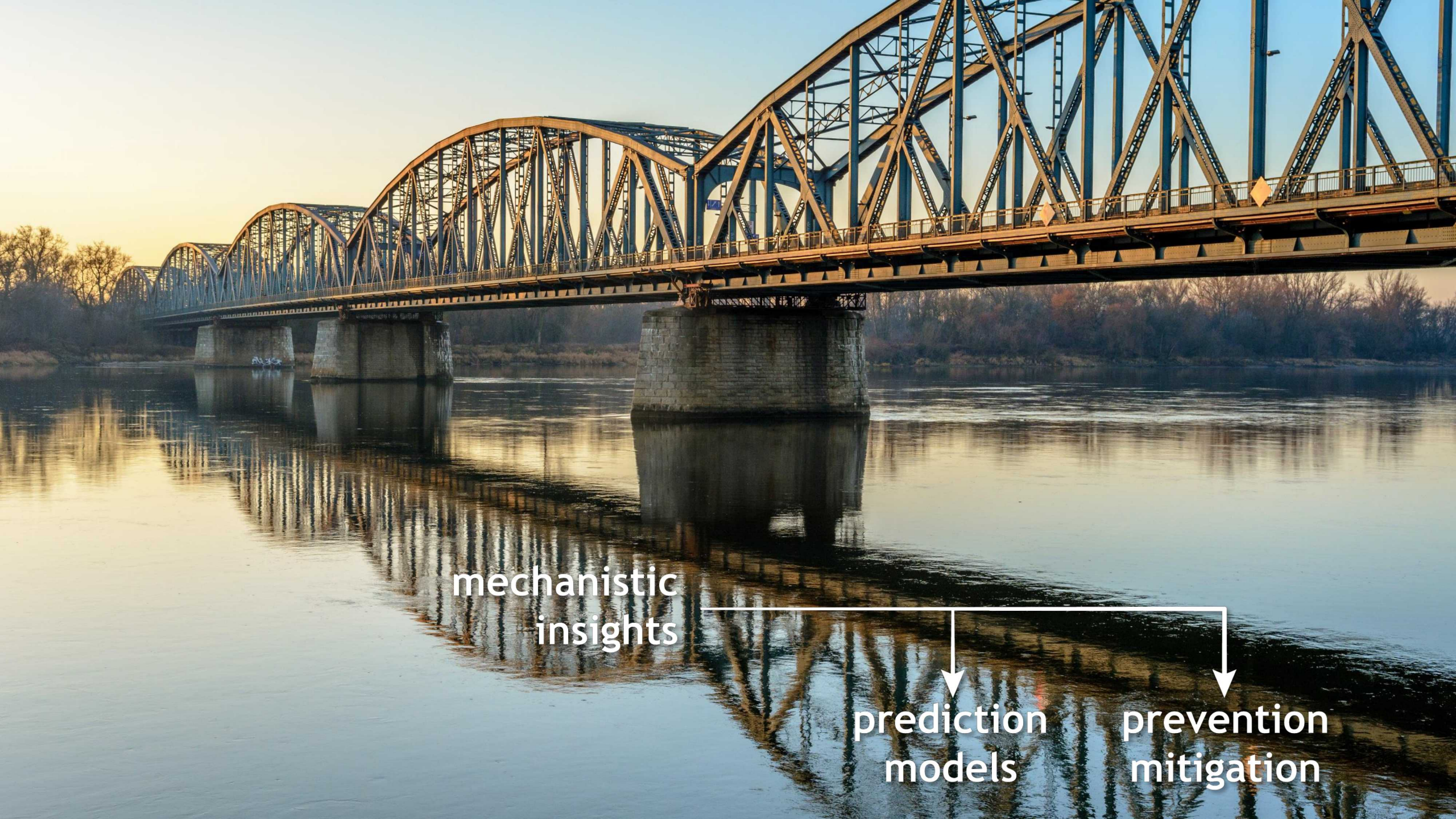


- cementite grain
 - shifted
 - 5° rotation
 - overlapping with scale



Proposed Mechanism for Localized Corrosion





mechanistic
insights

prediction
models

prevention
mitigation

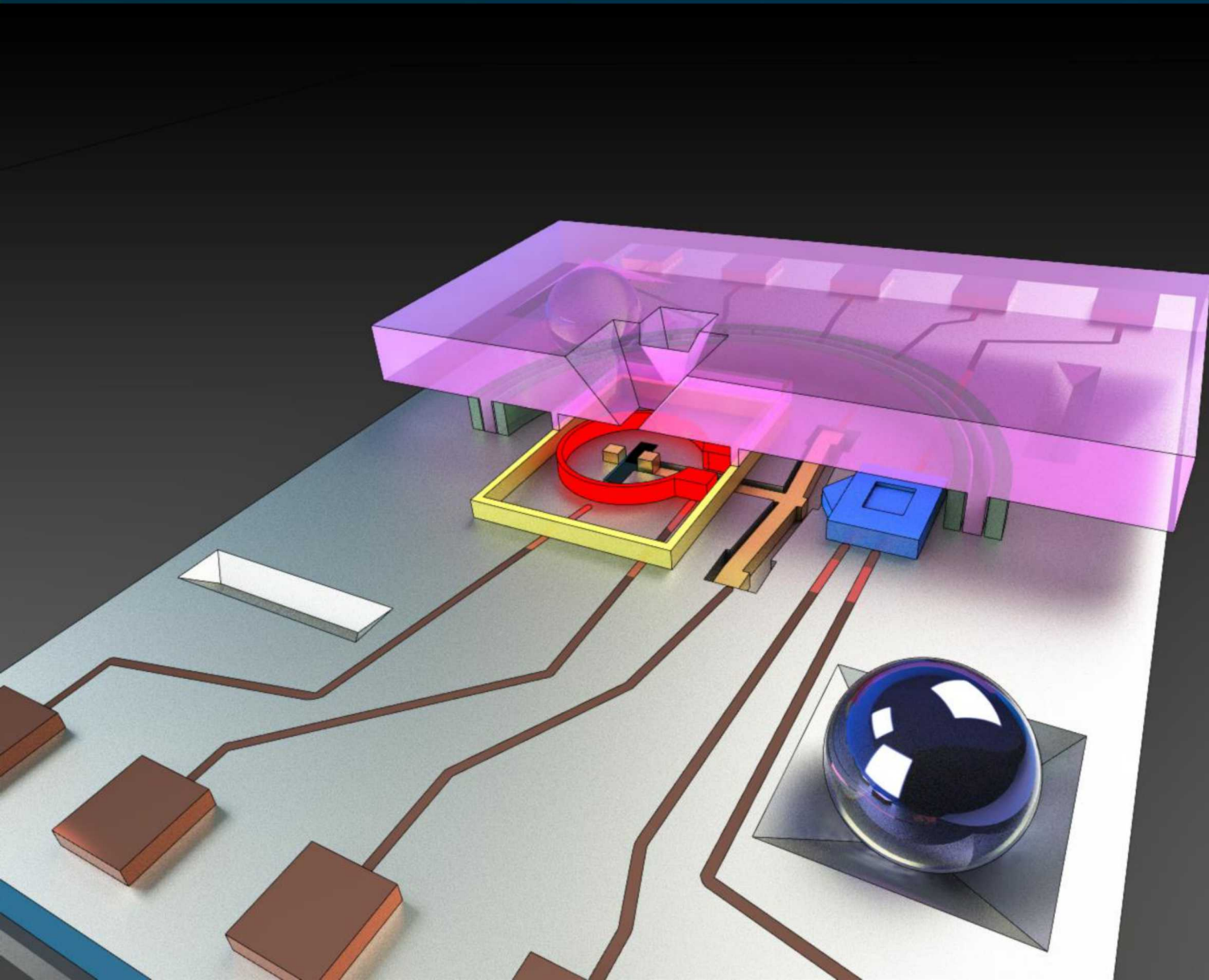
Future Platform for Stress-Corrosion-Cracking TEM Studies



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Acknowledgements



aramco



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