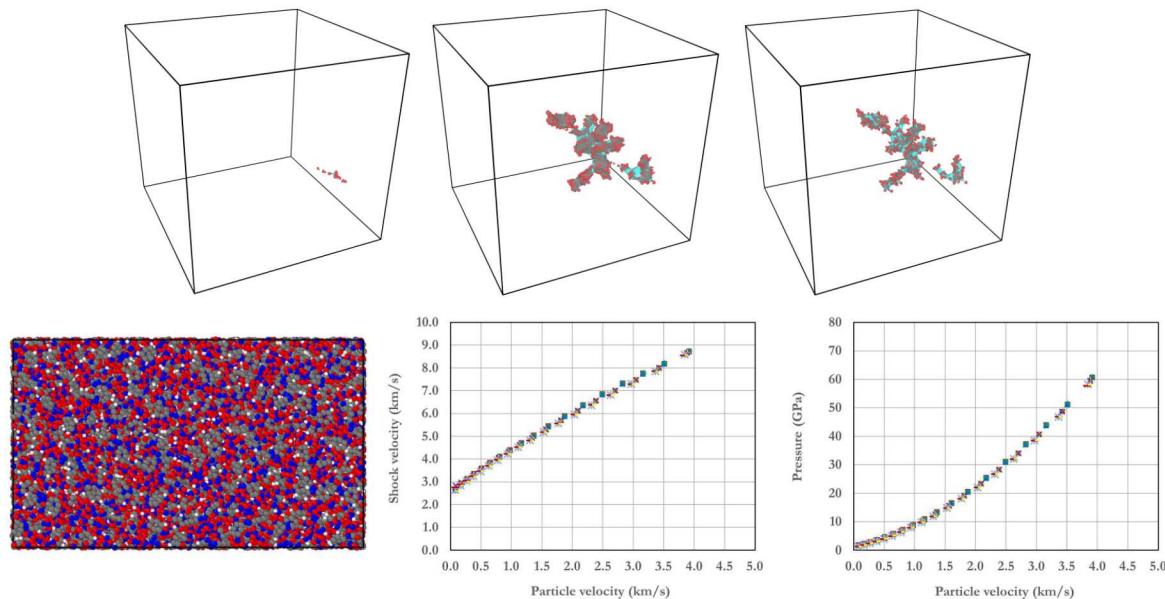


# Atomistic Insights of Materials in Extreme Environments via Virtual Characterization



## James A. Stewart

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jstewa@sandia.gov



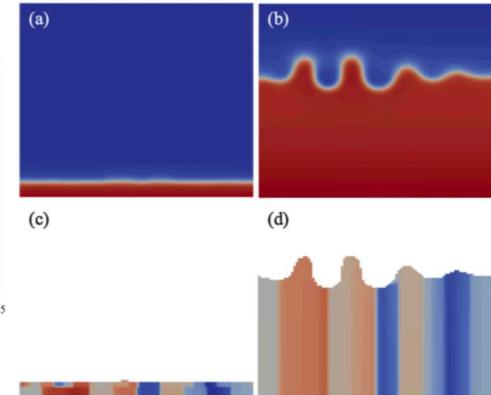
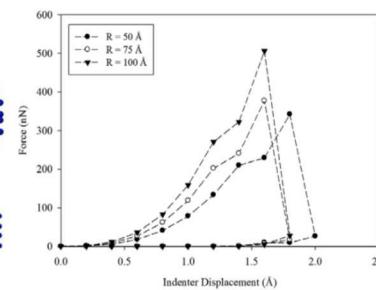
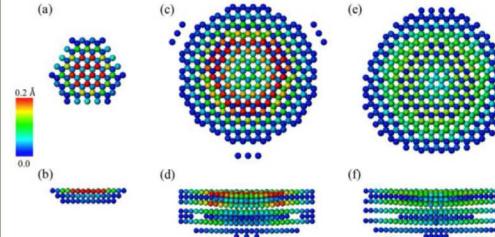
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# Summary of background



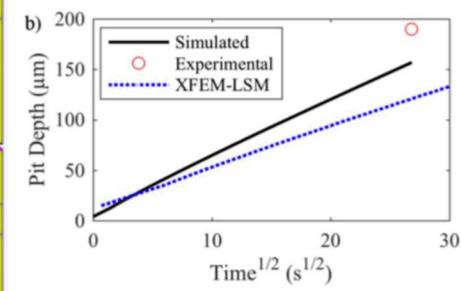
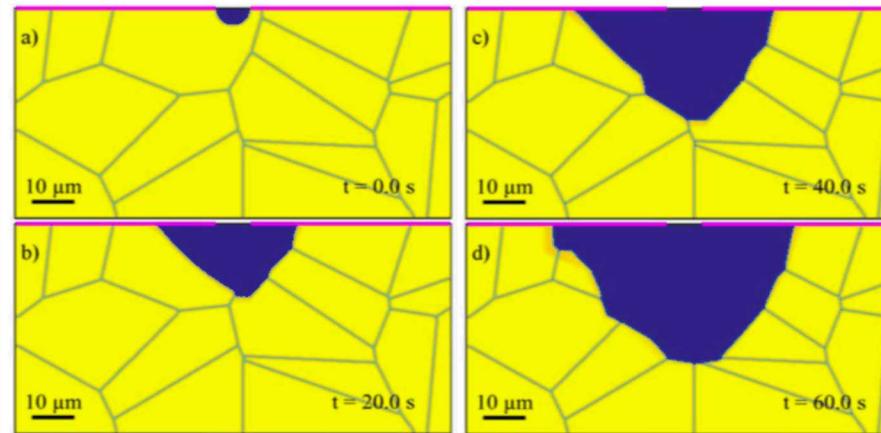
## M.S. & Ph.D., Applied Physics

- Research focus: Atomistic modeling of nanoindentation on  $\text{MoS}_2$
- Research focus: Phase-field modeling for PVD of polycrystalline materials



## Research Fellow, Department of Materials Science & Engineering

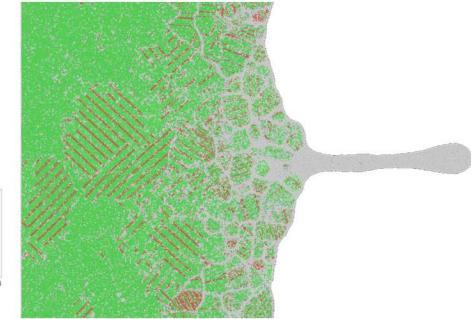
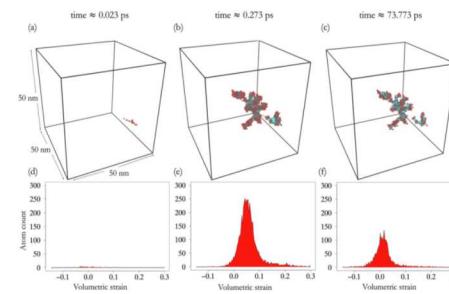
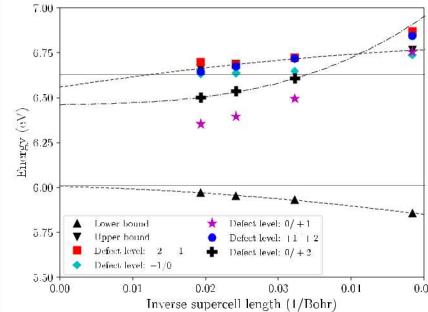
- Research focus: Microstructural influences on localized corrosion in alloys



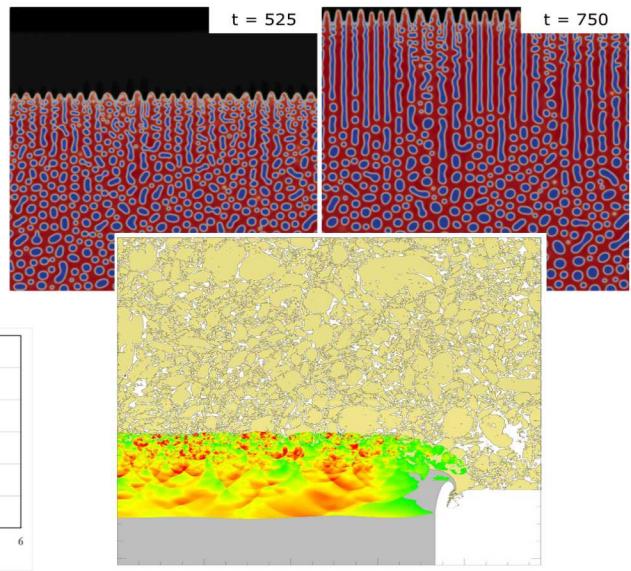
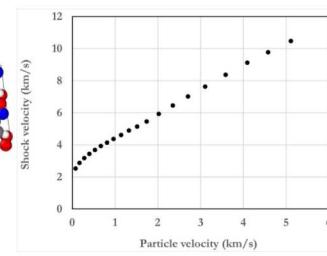
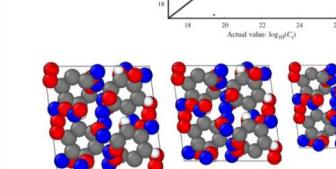
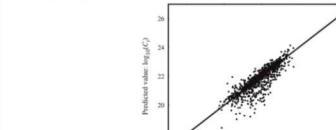
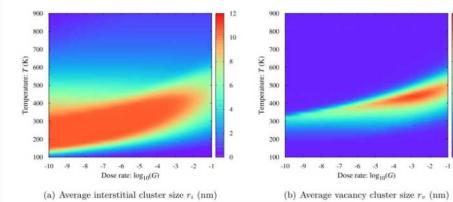
# Summary of background

## Postdoctoral Appointee, Nanostructure Physics Department

- DFT and MD modeling of radiation damage and shock loading

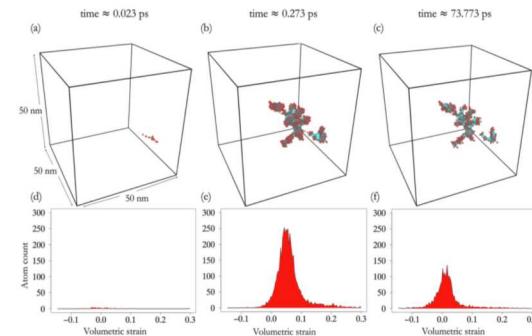


- Mesoscale modeling for radiation tolerant nanostructures and shock properties of energetic materials

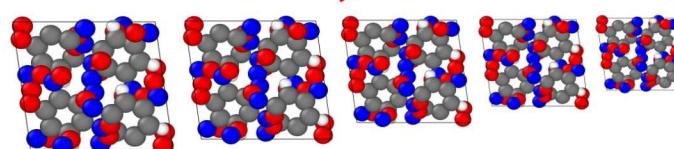
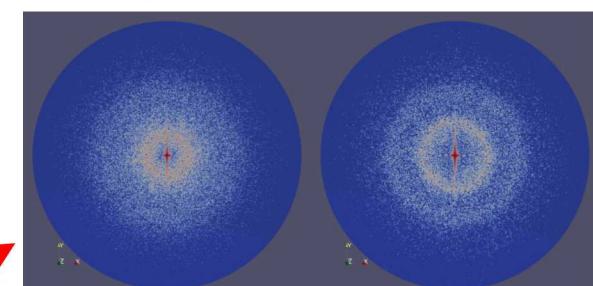


# Topics to be covered

1. **Radiation Damage:** Characterizing displacement cascade damage in bulk silicon via virtual diffraction
  - Simple picture of single ion strike
  - Experimental (dis)connection
  - MD simulation and characterization



2. **Shock Behavior:** Gaining insights on the role of crystal structure on shock Hugoniot relations for HNAB via MD
  - Current experiments and related needs
  - Unreacted Hugoniots via MD
  - Virtual characterization

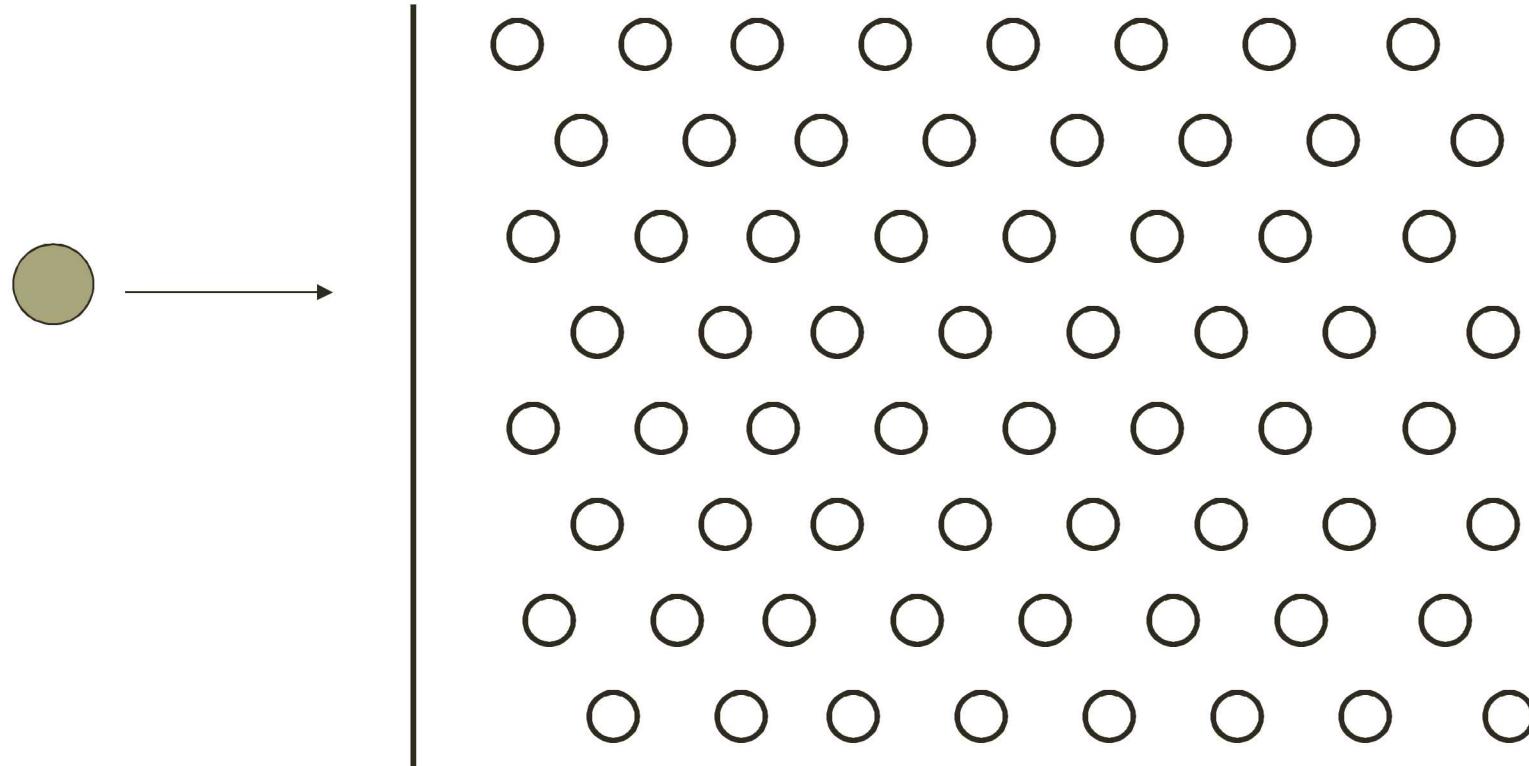


# Example 1: Radiation Damage



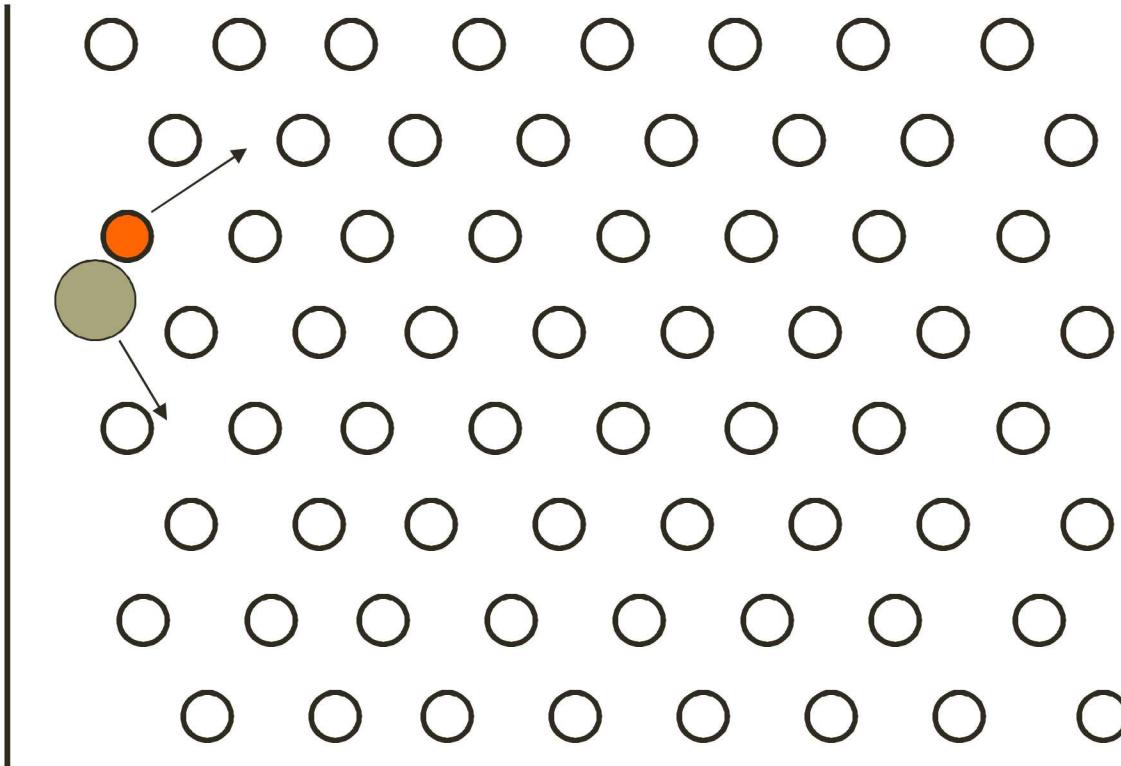
**Characterizing Displacement Cascade Damage in  
Bulk Silicon via Virtual Diffraction**

# Simple picture: Incident energetic particle



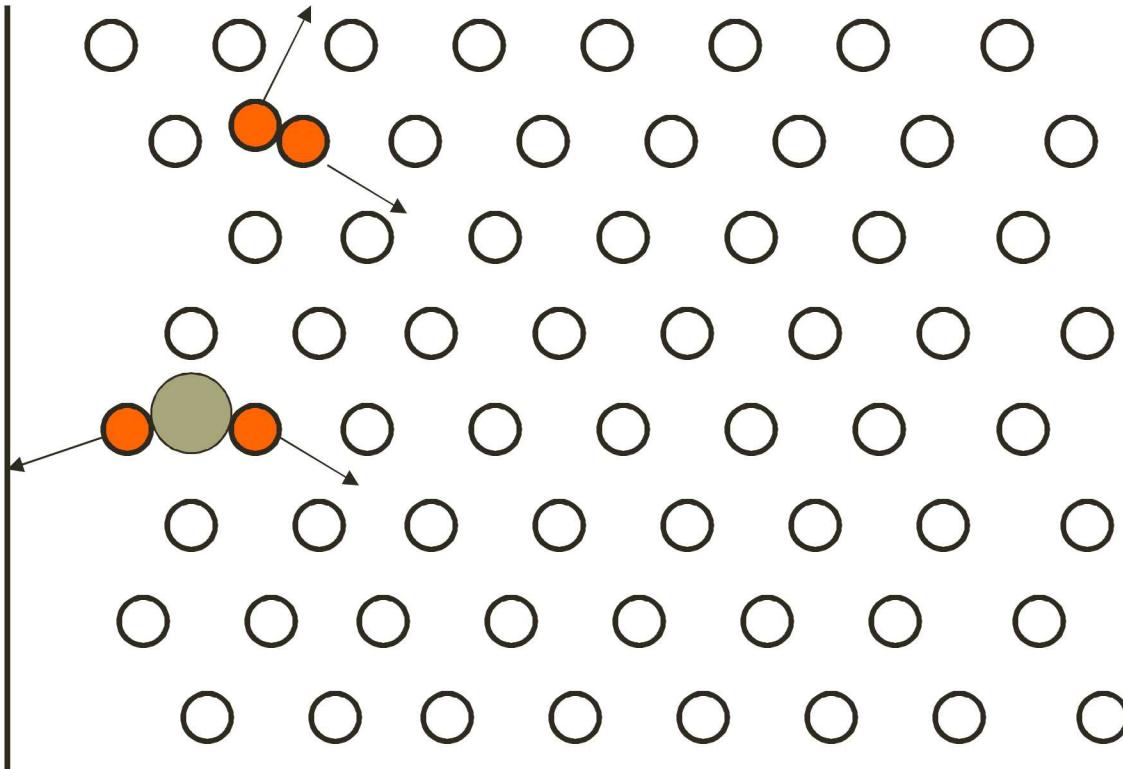
- **Energetic particle:**
  - Electron, neutron, ion (light/heavy)
  - Initial kinetic energy, incoming angle, neutral vs. charged particle

# Simple picture: Transfer of energy to lattice atom



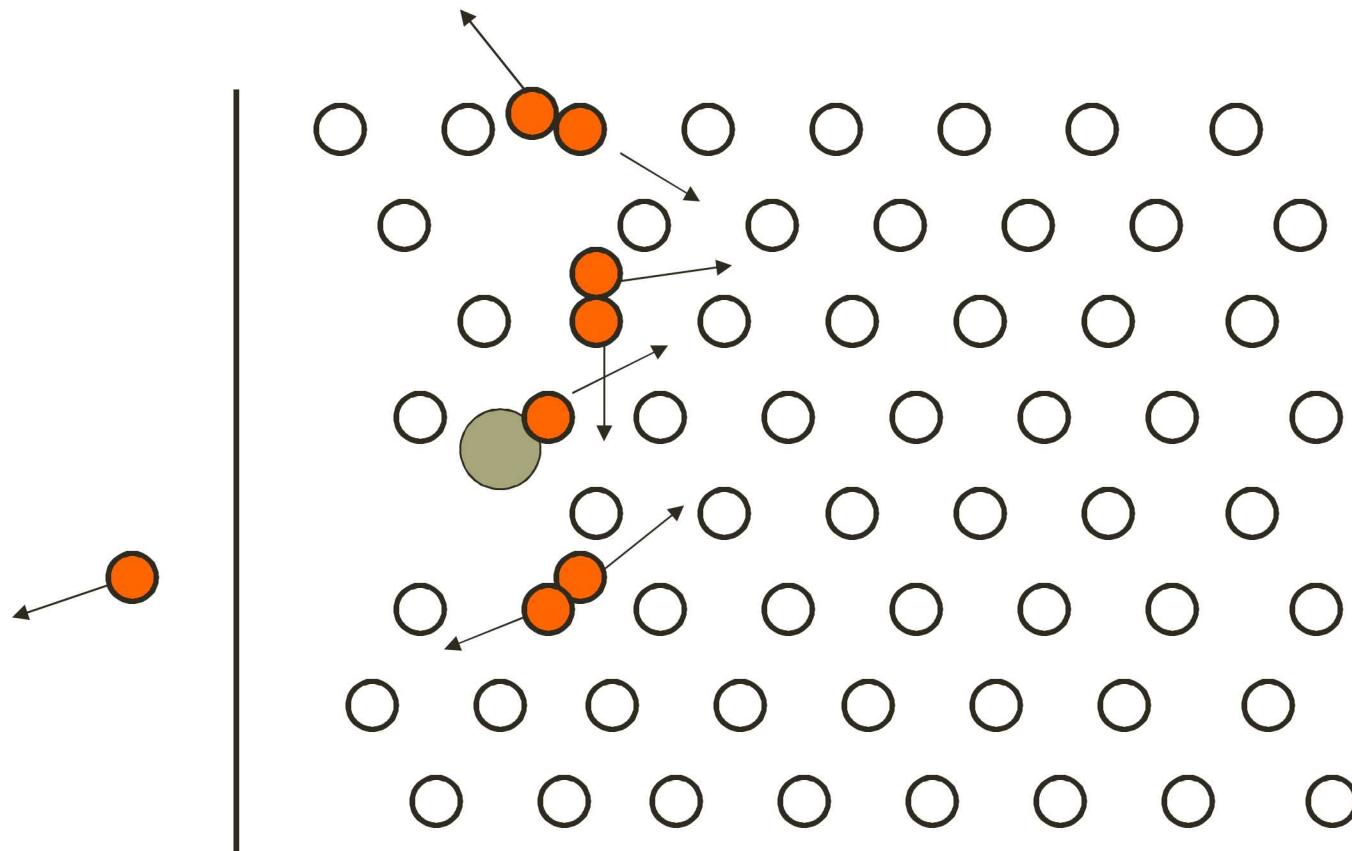
- **Primary knock-on-atom (PKA):**
  - Threshold displacement energy
  - Elastic and inelastic collisions, type of interaction, ionization

# Simple picture: PKA moves from its lattice site



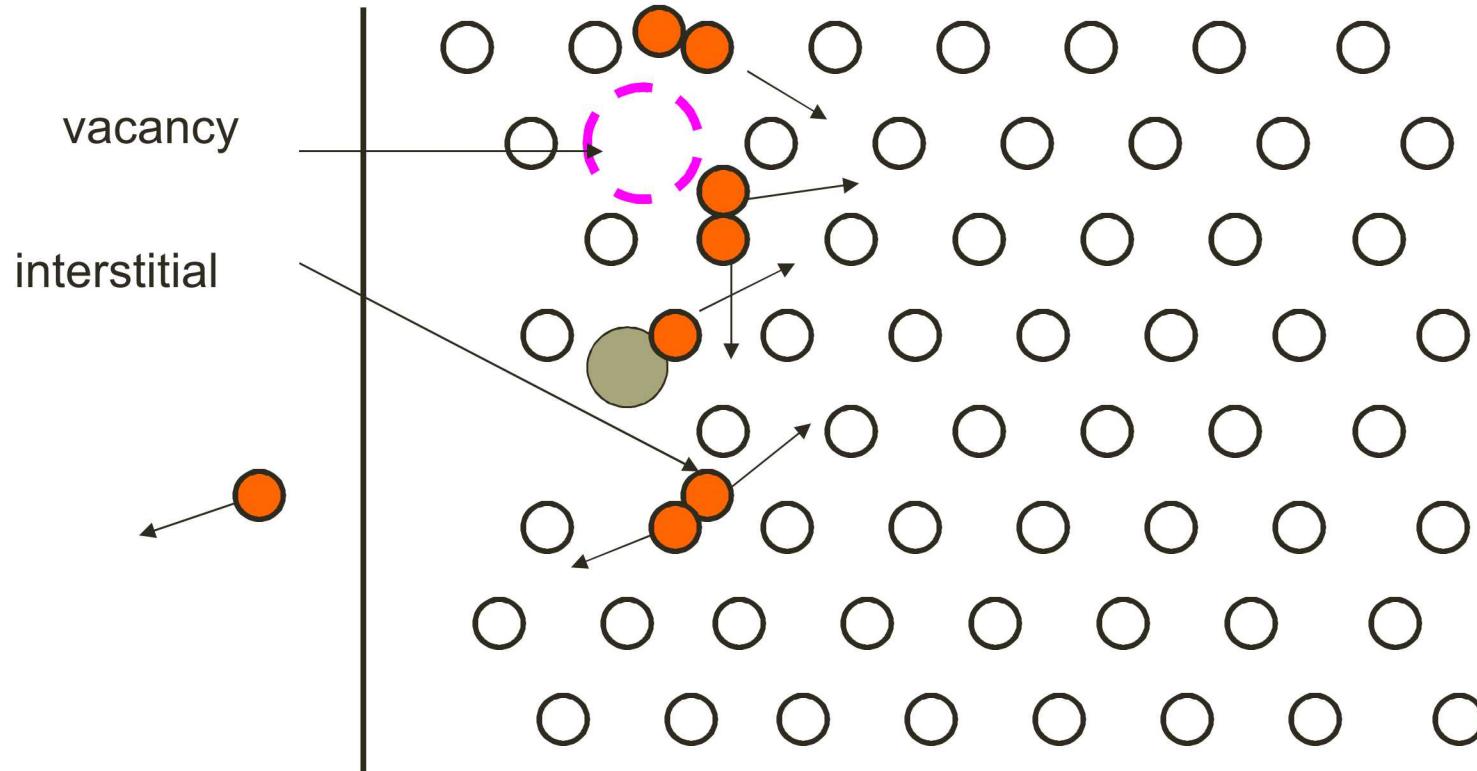
- **Secondary knock on:**
  - Lattice atom displaced by PKA
  - Slow down process: electronic stopping, nuclei collision

# Simple picture: Evolution of displacement cascade



- **Defect accumulation and evolution:**
  - Reflection, sputtering
  - Initial kinetic energy

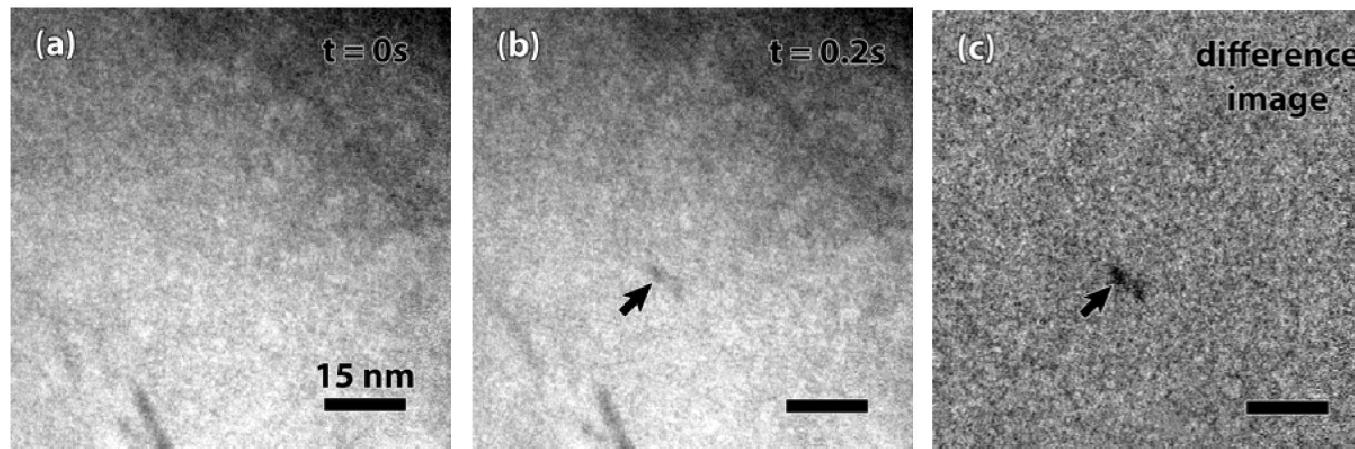
# Simple picture: Long term damage



- **Long-term damage evolution:**
  - Primary damage production vs. diffusion and migration of defects
  - Damage recovery, sinks, defect trapping

# Experimentally characterizing single ion strikes

- Experimentally identifying and characterizing complex isolated nanoscale damage events in materials is difficult:
  - Single ion/dopants implants, ion beam modification.

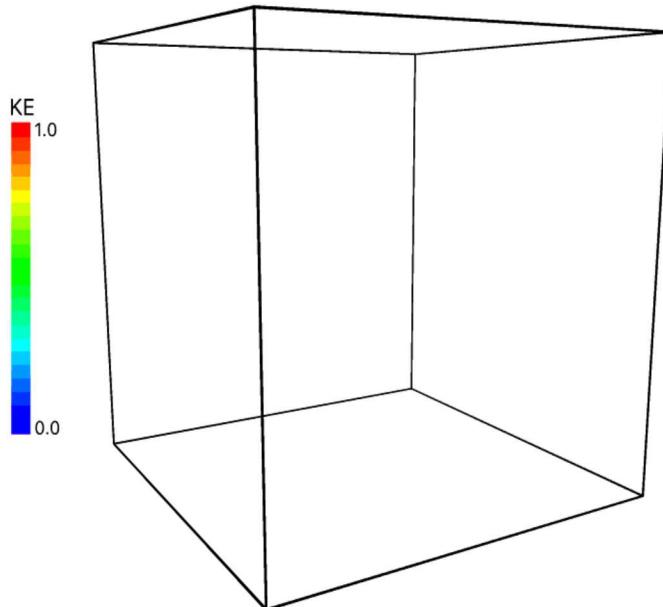


Individual frames taken from video collected in-situ in the TEM during irradiation of Si sample with 1.8 MeV Au<sup>3+</sup>. Sample in a down-zone imaging condition near [123]-type zone axis. Single ion strike highlighted in difference image.

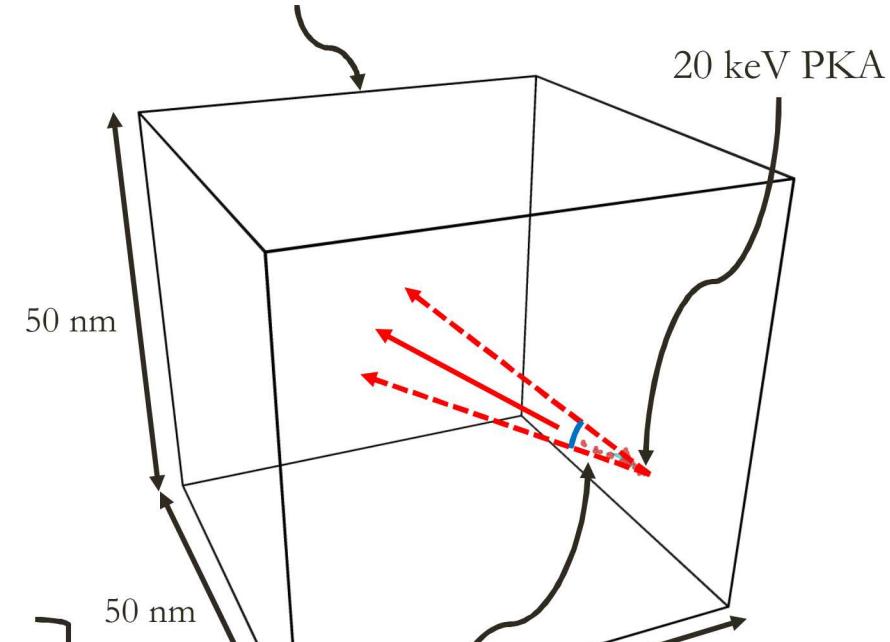
- Fundamental disconnect between simulation and experimental characterization tools – no information on defect structure or species.
- Virtual diffraction offers an opportunity to directly bridge atomistic simulations with experimental nanoscale characterization.

# Simulating ion strikes with molecular dynamics

- LAMMPS atomistic code is used to perform simulations of multiple single PKA displacement cascades with a recoil energy of 20 keV into bulk Si ( $\sim 46$  keV Au).



Simulation domain

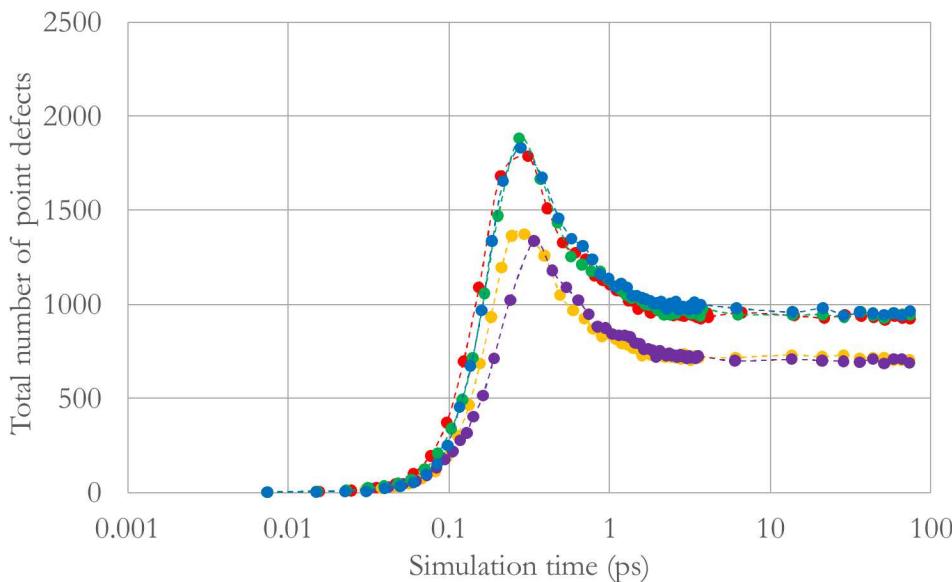


- Tersoff potential with:
  - ZBL nuclear repulsion correction
  - Electronic stopping effects (fit to SRIM results)
- Boundary thermostat to absorb shockwave

$$m_i \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_i}{\partial t} = \mathbf{F}_i(t) - \gamma_s \mathbf{v}_i$$

Cone with  $2^\circ$  solid angle defining initial recoil trajectory into bulk Si

# Cascade damage analysis: Traditional approaches



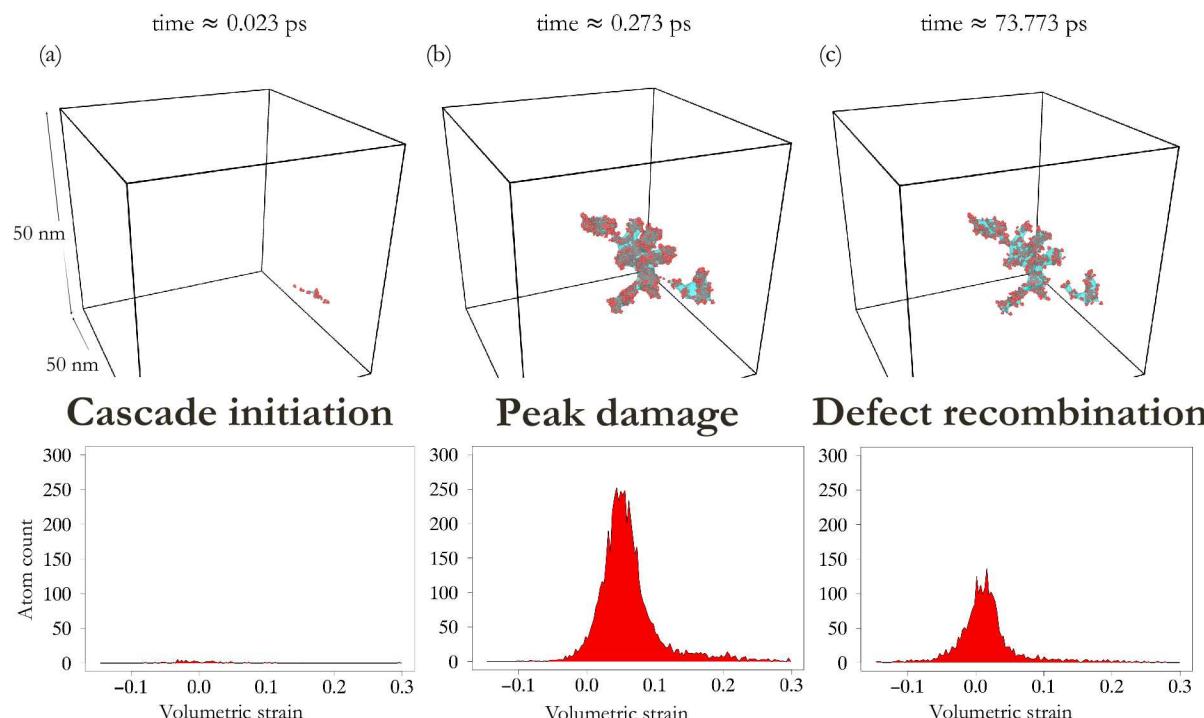
Total number of point defects  
for all final defect structures



Total number of final defects	
Cascade 1	926
Cascade 2	704
Cascade 3	690
Cascade 4	946
Cascade 5	964
Average value	846
Standard deviation	137

- Maximum and final number of defects can vary greatly with only minor differences in PKA initiation
- Three simulations have maximum damage of  $\sim 1800$  defects, other two have  $\sim 1350$ 
  - Can it lead to greatly different diffraction signals?
- With Tersoff potential,  $E_d \sim 16.9$  eV
- NRT model:  $0.8E_{\text{PKA}}/2 E_d = 473$  FPs (compared to 423 from these 5 simulations)

# Cascade damage analysis: Traditional approaches



Average volumetric strain  
for all final defect structures



	Average strain	Standard deviation
Cascade 1	0.01368	0.03379
Cascade 2	0.01853	0.03457
Cascade 3	0.01439	0.03270
Cascade 4	0.01659	0.04628
Cascade 5	0.01538	0.03752

- Atomic strain has implications for atomic mobility and defect accumulation, can “appear” in SAED patterns
- Can it provide an indication as to the strength of the response expected in the SAED patterns for given initial conditions?
- All volumetric strain distributions and final average volumetric strains are positive (skewed right)
- Net positive volumetric strain consistent with formation volume of most stable FP
- Most atoms experiencing tensile eigen-strain

# Virtual diffraction methodology

1. Create a **mesh of reciprocal space**. 3D rectilinear mesh with fine resolution without prior knowledge of the crystal structure.
2. Compute **diffraction intensities** at each point on the reciprocal space mesh using structure factor equations. Compute structure factor for all atoms within the simulation.
3. Analysis and visualization of diffraction intensities to produce **Selected Area Electron Diffraction (SAED)** and **X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)** patterns.

All atoms are sampled at each reciprocal point within  $\mathbf{K}_{\max}$  to determine the diffraction intensity,  $I$ :

$$I(\mathbf{K}) = L_p F(\mathbf{K}) F^*(\mathbf{K})$$

$$F(\mathbf{K}) = \sum_{j=1}^N f_j \exp(2\pi i \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j)$$

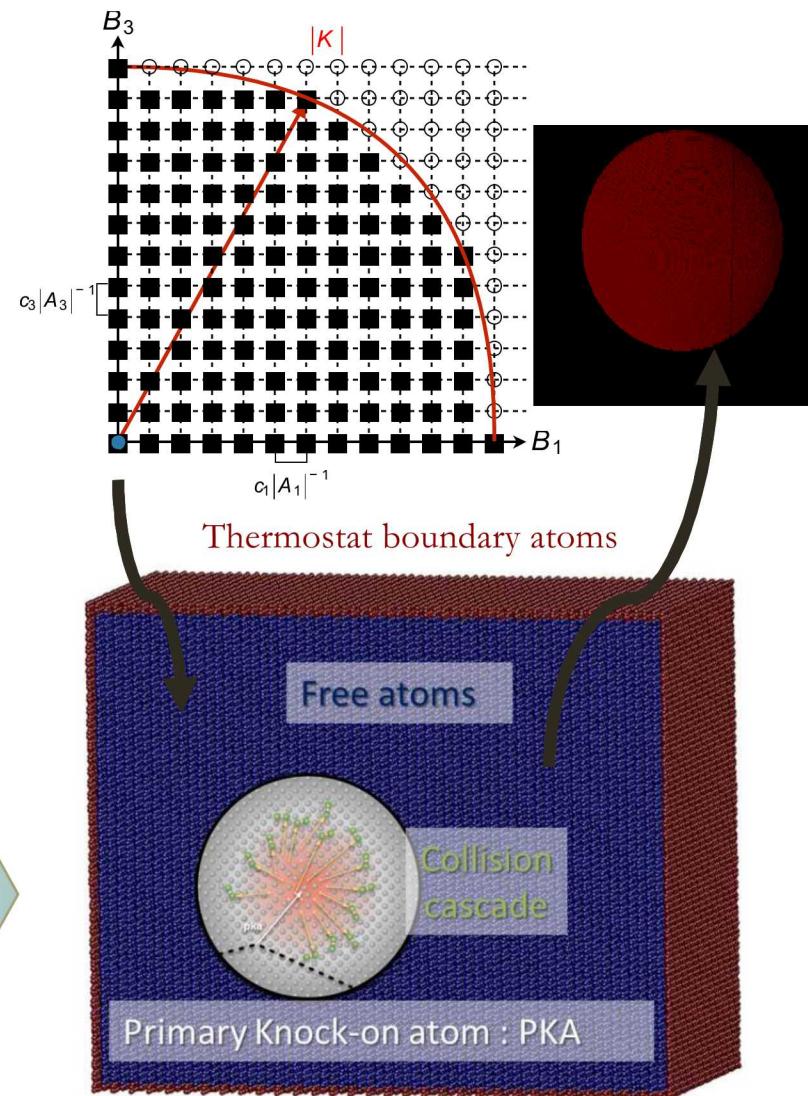
$F$  = Structure factor

$\mathbf{K}$  = Reciprocal lattice point

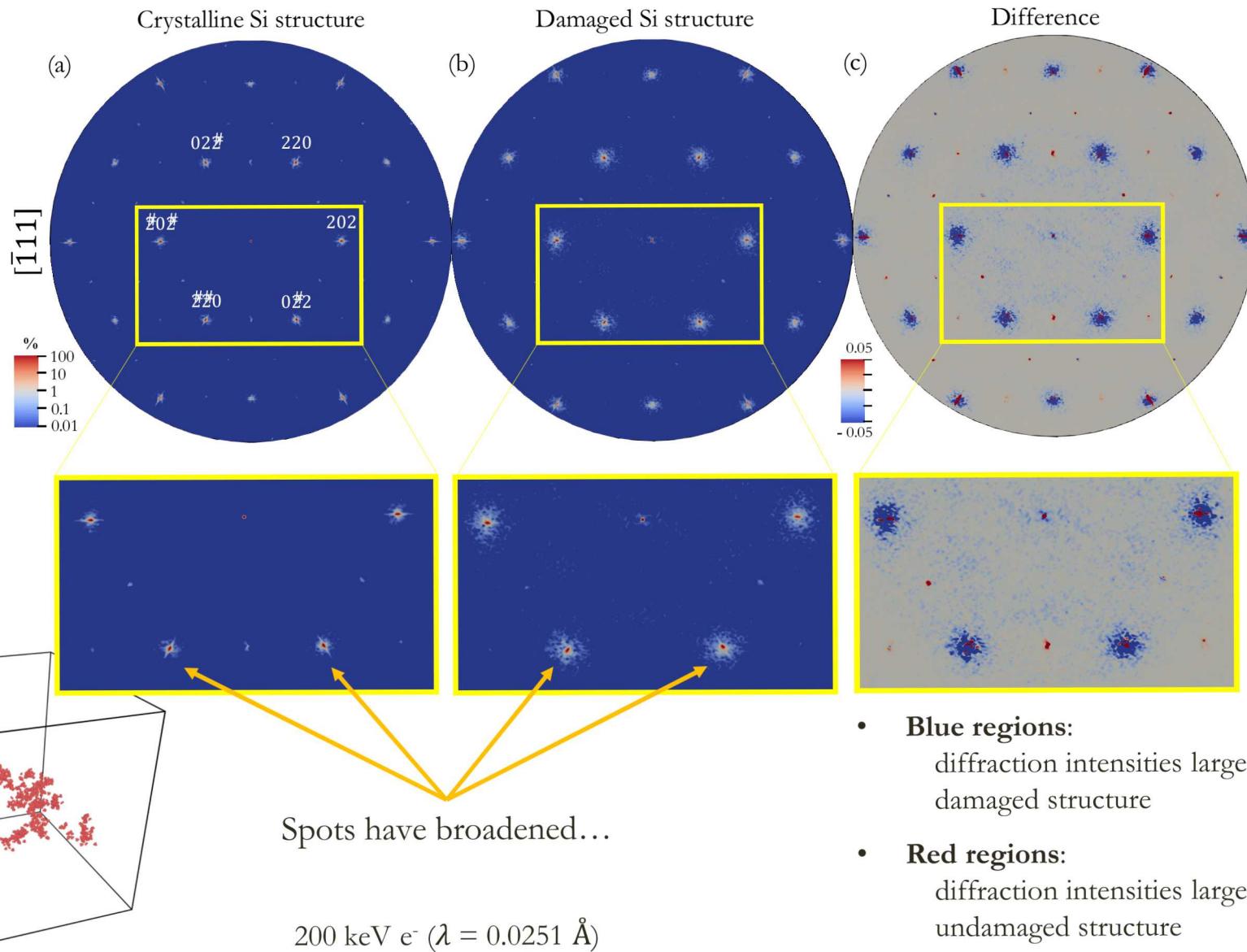
$N$  = Number of atoms

$f_j$  = Atomic scattering factor

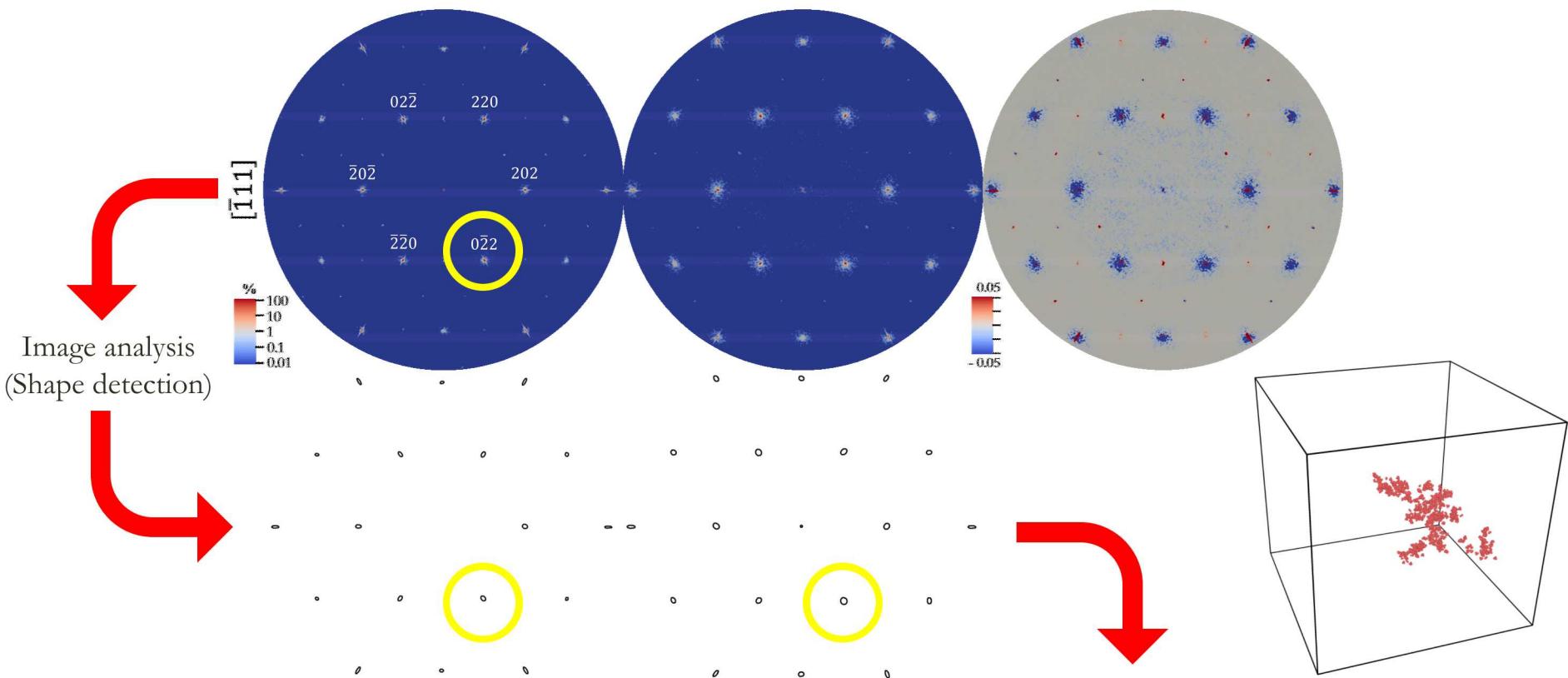
$\mathbf{r}_j$  = Atom position



# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage

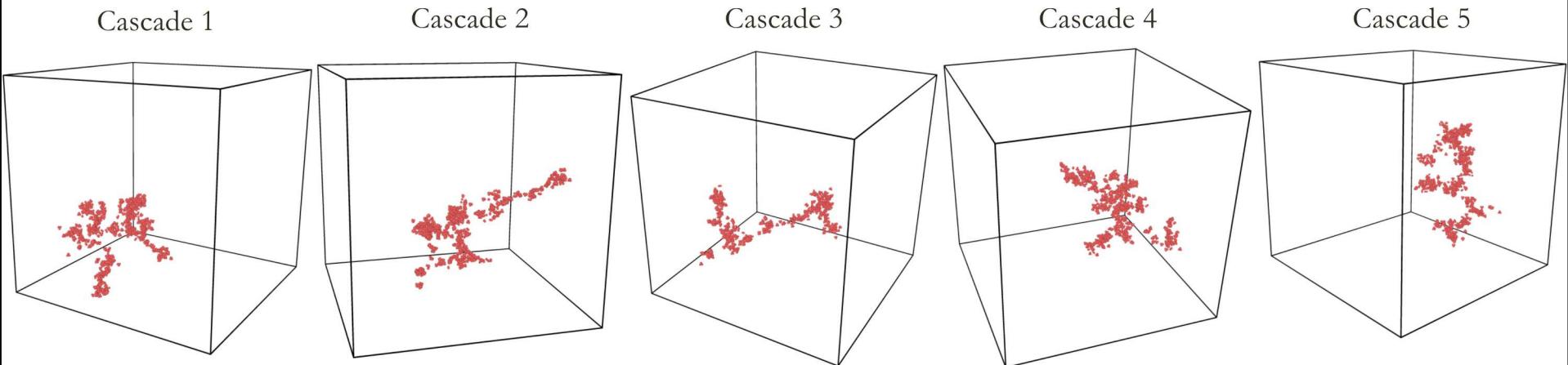
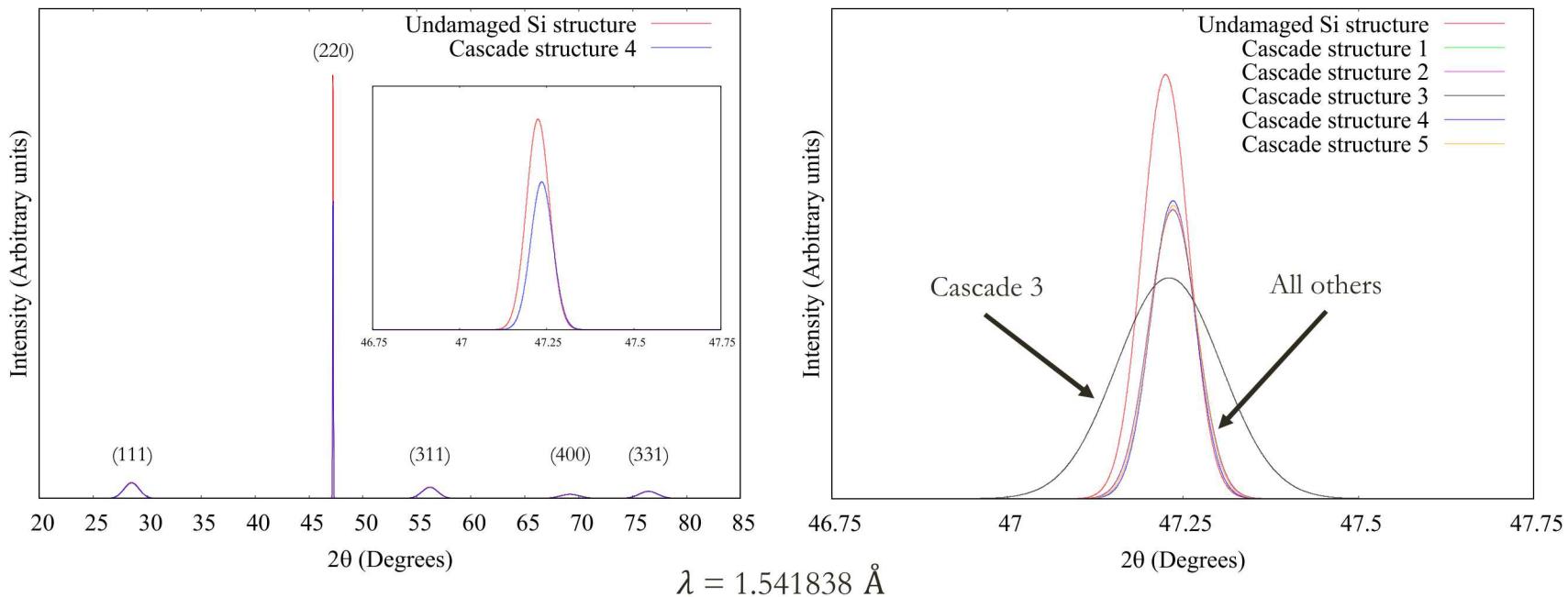


# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage

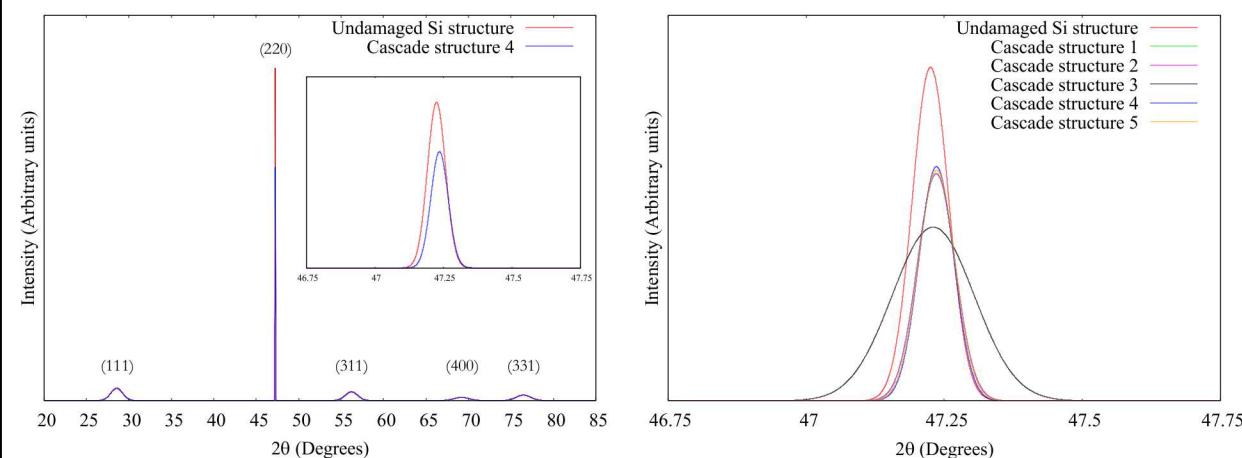


Spot: $0\bar{2}2$	Perfect	Damaged	Change
Radial distance ( $\text{\AA}^{-1}$ )	0.5198889	0.5239566	0.0040677
Area ( $\text{\AA}^{-2}$ )	0.0004956	0.0008242	0.0003286
Angle (degrees)	60.03	60.05	0.02
Ellipticity ( $\text{\AA}^{-1}, \text{\AA}^{-1}$ , degrees)	(0.03000613, 0.02102889, 128.02)	(0.03772318, 0.02781725, 135.22)	(0.00771705, 0.00678836, 7.2)

# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage



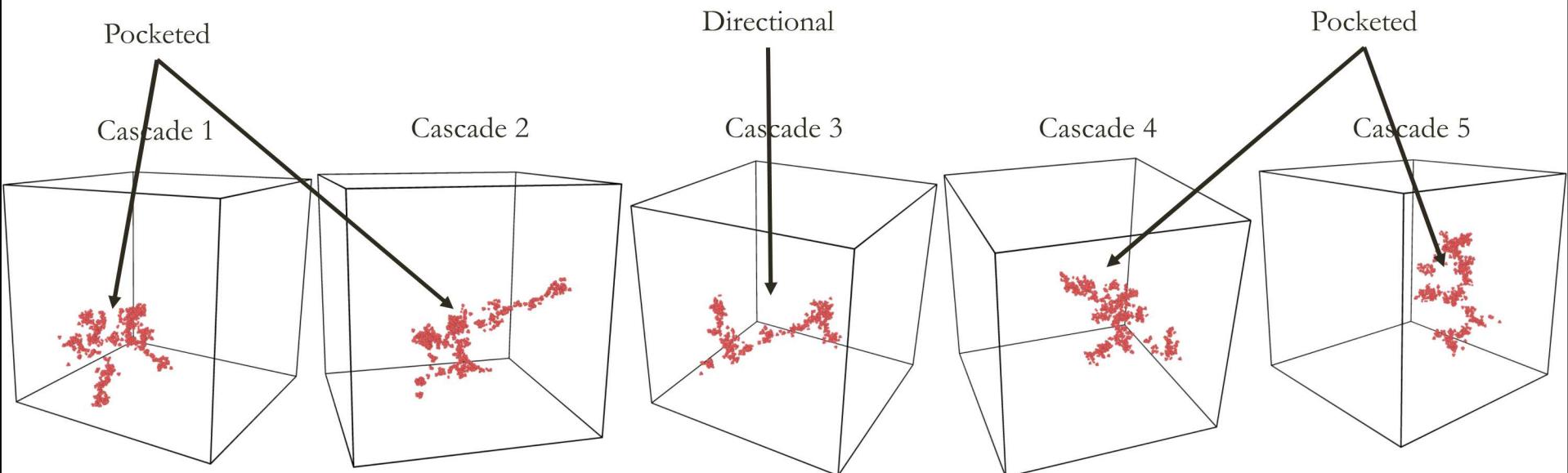
# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage



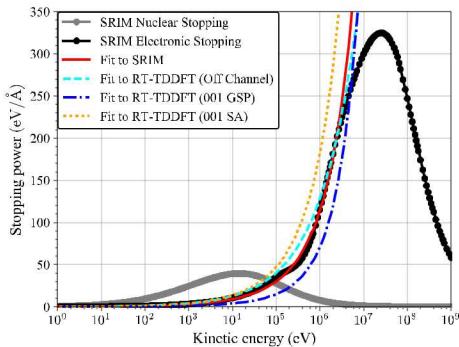
Total number of final defects	
Cascade 1	926
Cascade 2	704
Cascade 3	690
Cascade 4	946
Cascade 5	964
Average value	846
Standard deviation	137

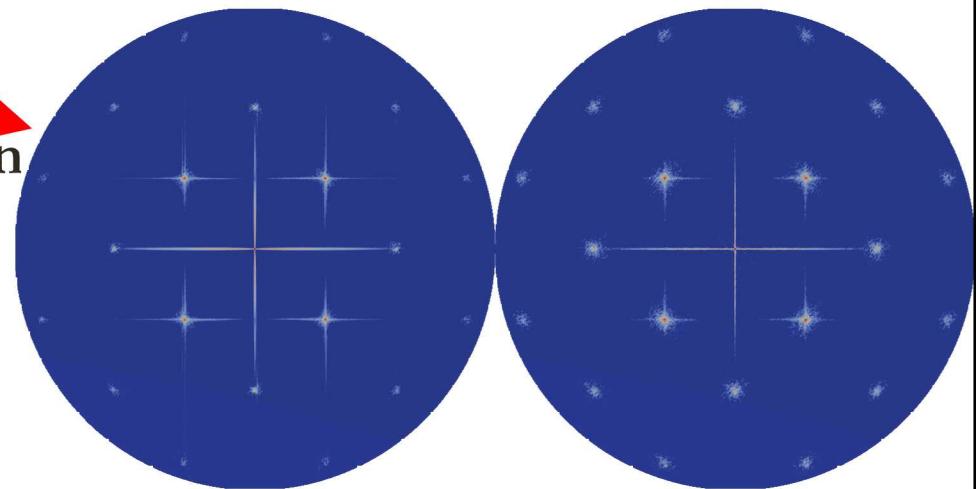
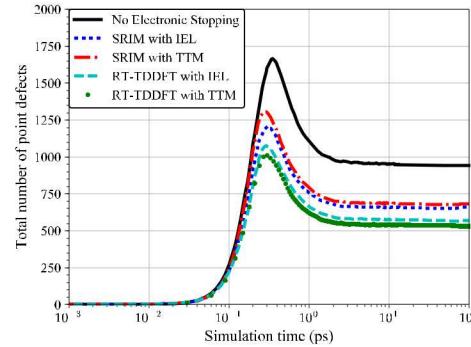
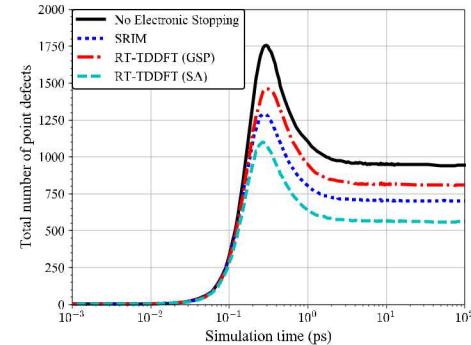
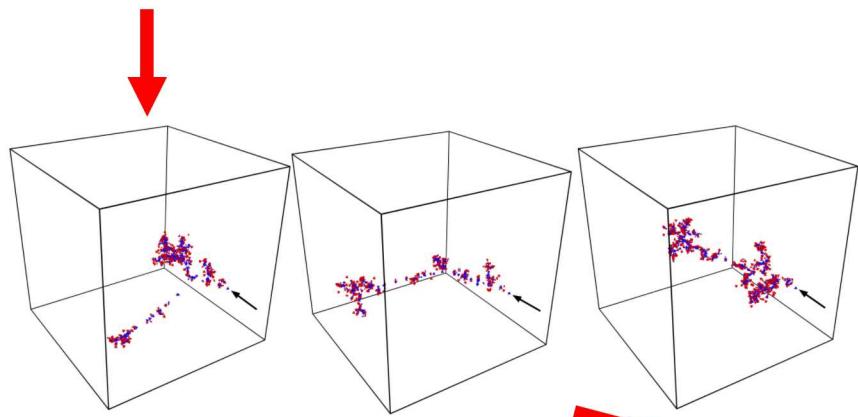
Average strain	Standard deviation
Cascade 1	0.01368
Cascade 2	0.01853
Cascade 3	0.01439
Cascade 4	0.01659
Cascade 5	0.01538



# Summary: Atomistic modeling of ion strikes



Use atomistic methods to characterize ion strikes from electronic structure through experimental signal



Assist experimental characterization efforts through virtual diffraction

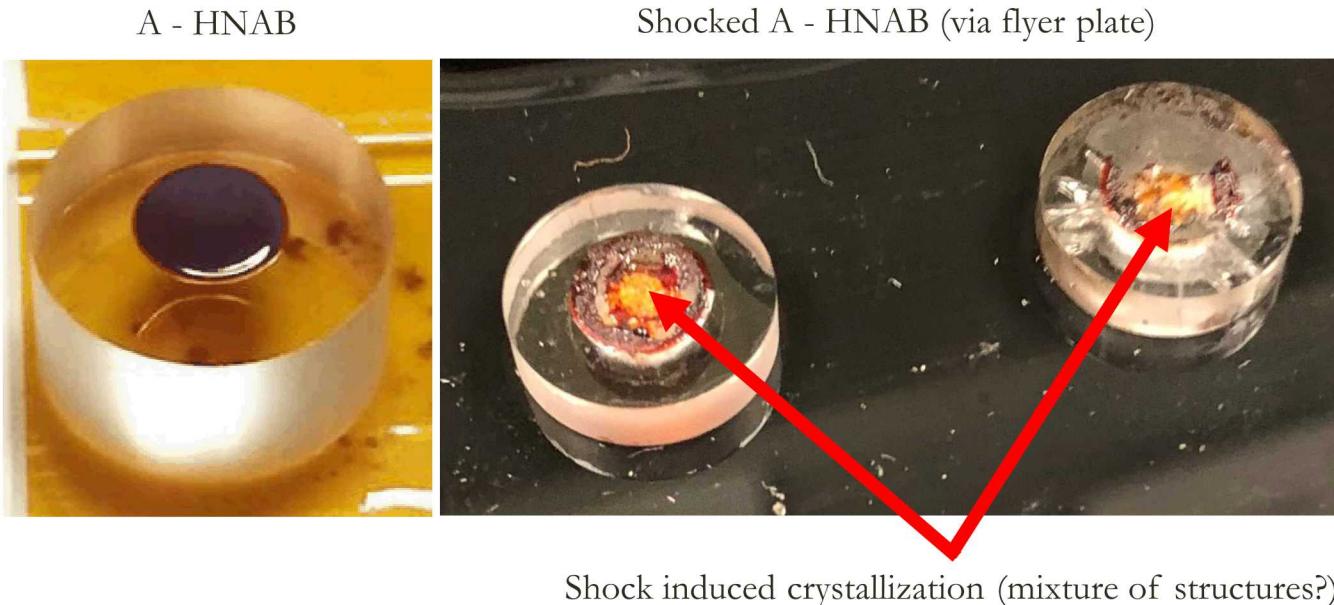
- Can we eventually extract structural information from the diffraction signal?

## Example 2: Shock Behavior

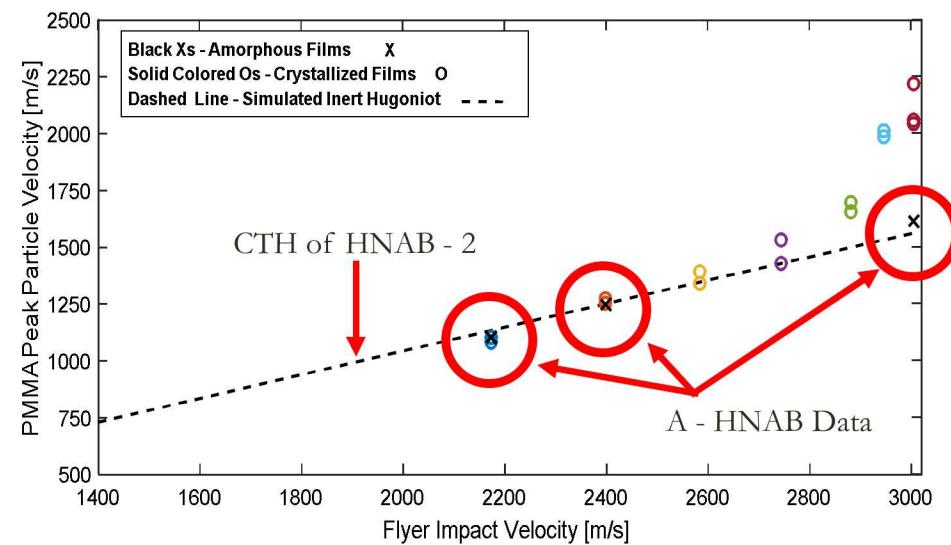


**Gaining Insights on the Role of Crystal Structure on Shock Hugoniot Relations for HNAB via MD**

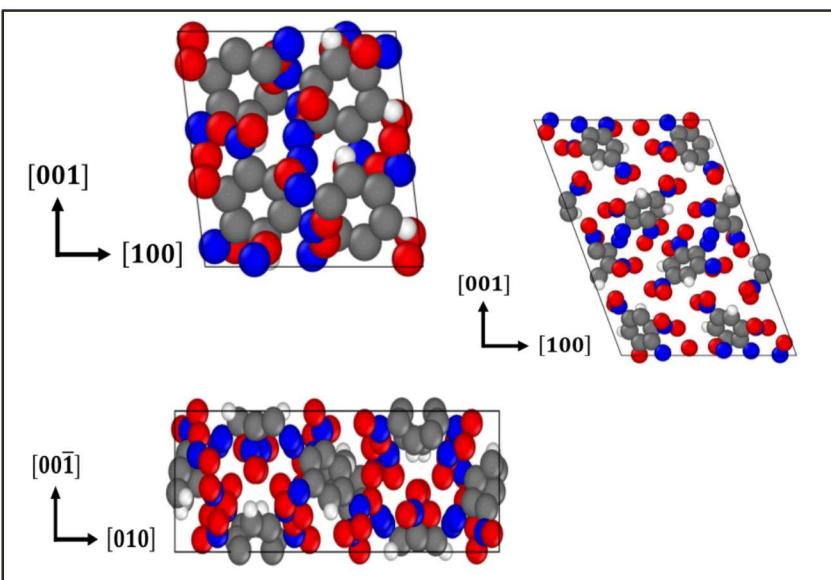
# Current experiments and related needs



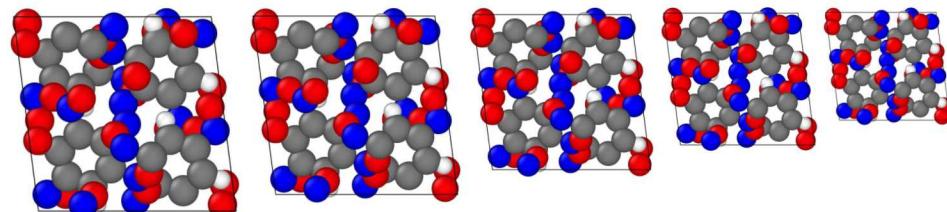
- The Hugoniot describes the relationship between the material **states on both sides of a shock wave**.
- A **calculated inert Hugoniot can provide guidance** as to where the experimental particle velocities should be for various flyer impact velocities.



# Finding the Hugoniot state (P, T, E) for any V



Series of compressed states for all polymorphs



$$V = V_0 \longrightarrow V < V_0$$

$U_S - U_P$  Hugoniot Relation

Shock velocity

$$U_S = C_0 + C_1 U_P$$

Particle velocity

Mass Conservation:

$$\rho_0 D = \rho_1 (D - u_1)$$

Momentum Conservation:

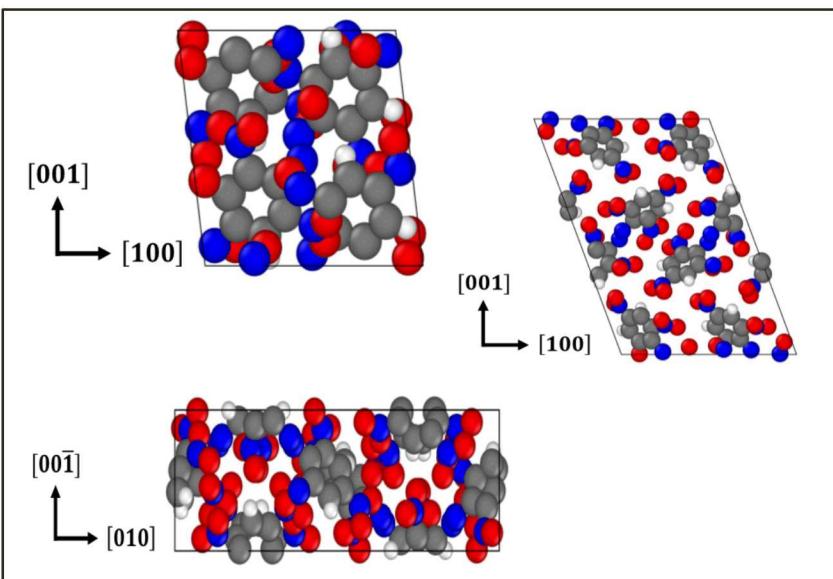
$$P_1 = \rho_0 D u_1$$

Energy Conservation:

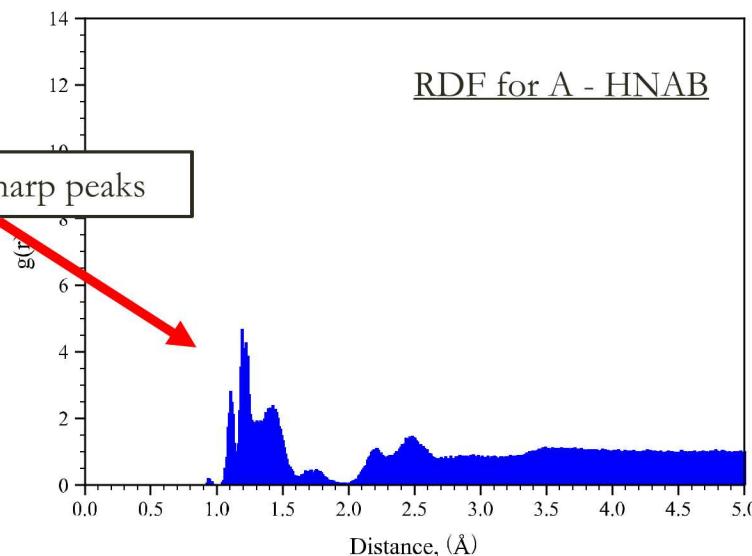
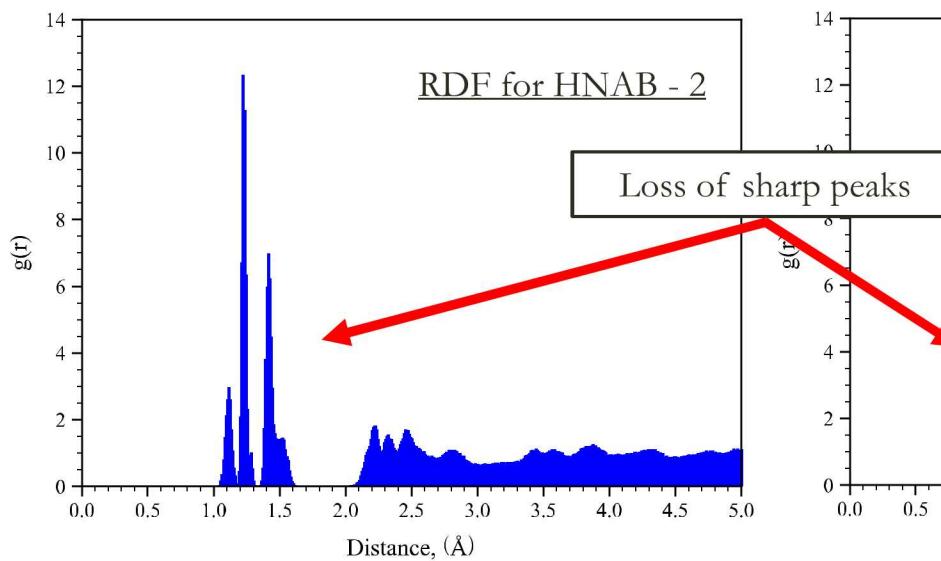
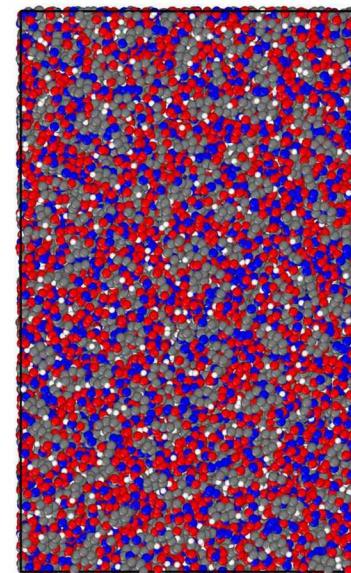
$$E - E_0 = \frac{1}{2} (P + P_0)(V_0 - V)$$

**Approach:** Set  $V < V_0$ ,  $\sim 300$  K equilibration, ramp T, solve for T where Rankine-Hugoniot condition is true.

# MD reference structures for HNAB



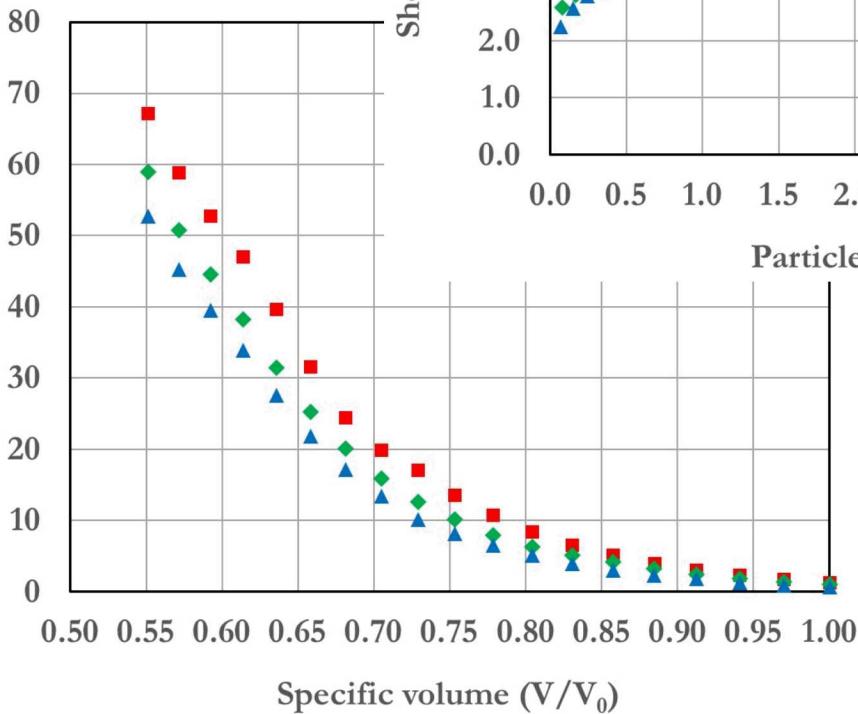
Melt the structure!



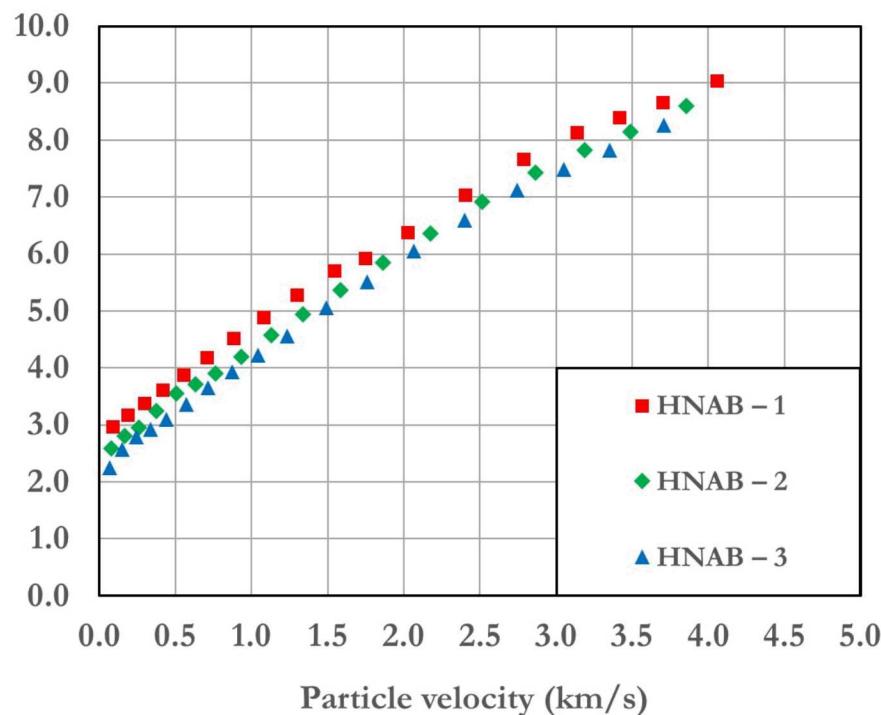
# Calculated crystalline HNAB Hugoniot

Experimental point-of-view

Pressure (GPa)



Shock velocity (km/s)

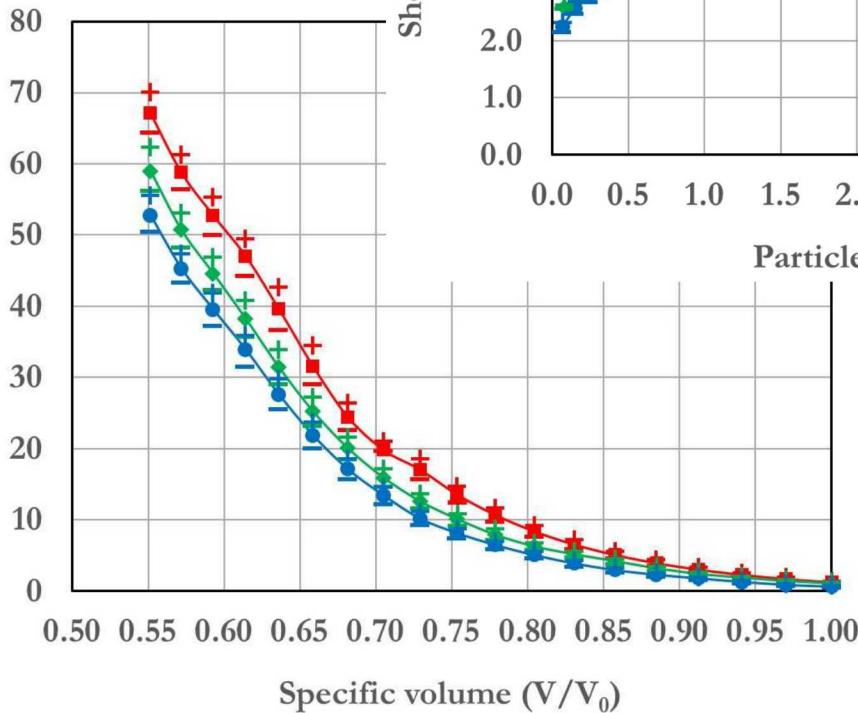


Computational point-of-view

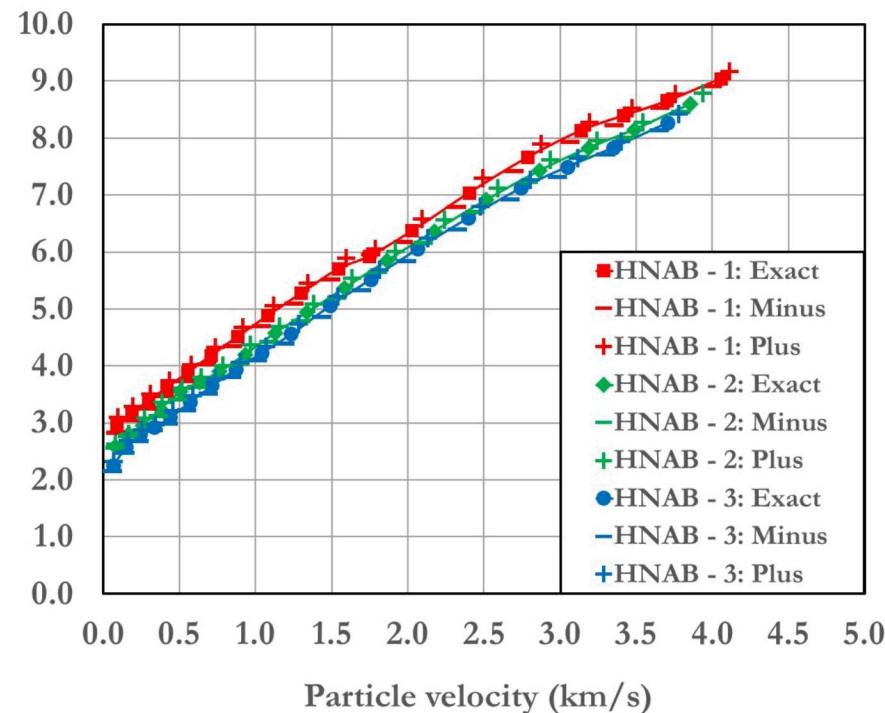
# Effect of density variations in HNAB Hugoniot

Experimental point-of-view

Pressure (GPa)



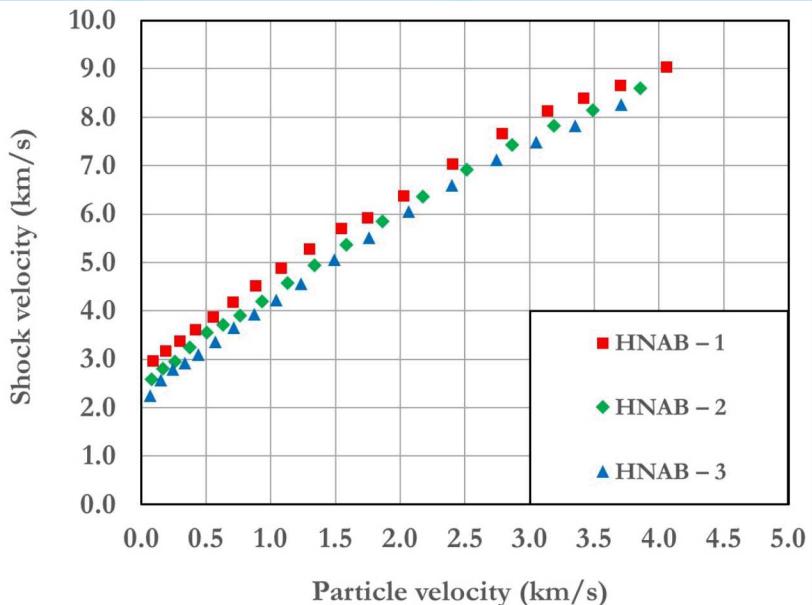
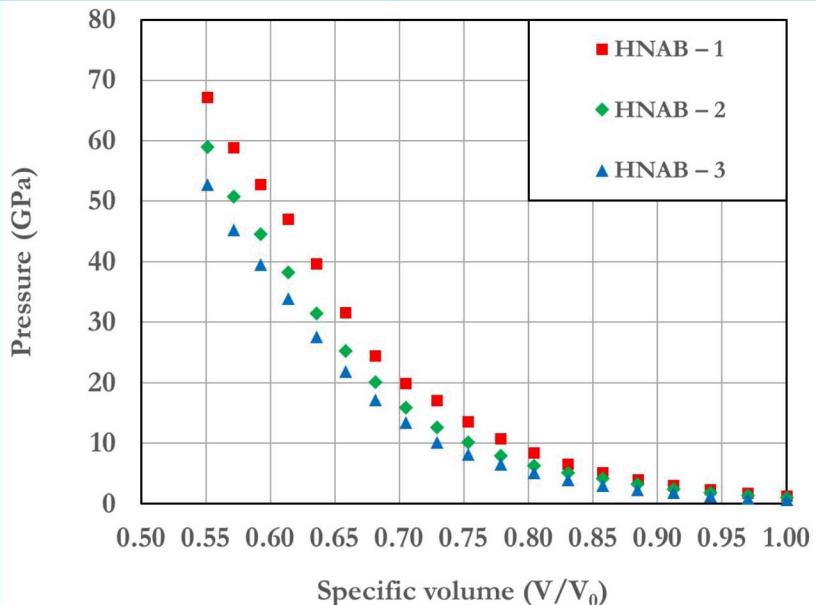
Shock velocity (km/s)



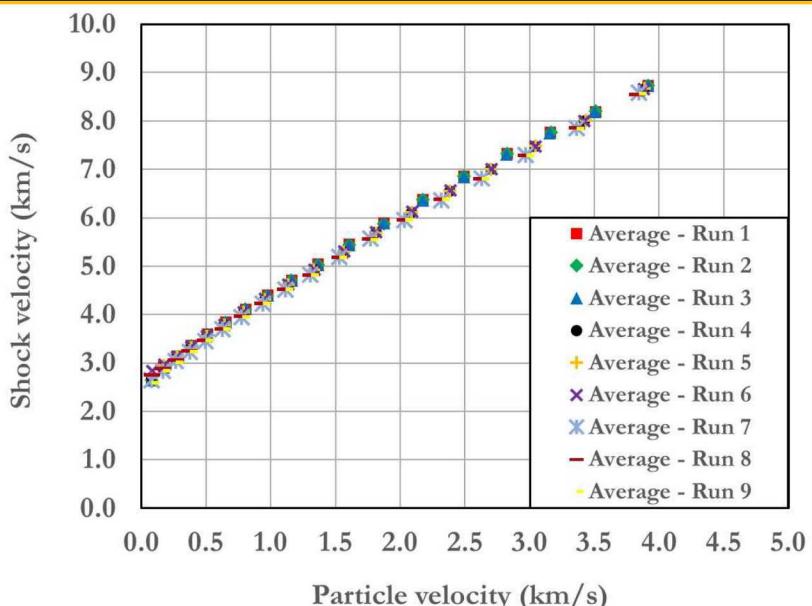
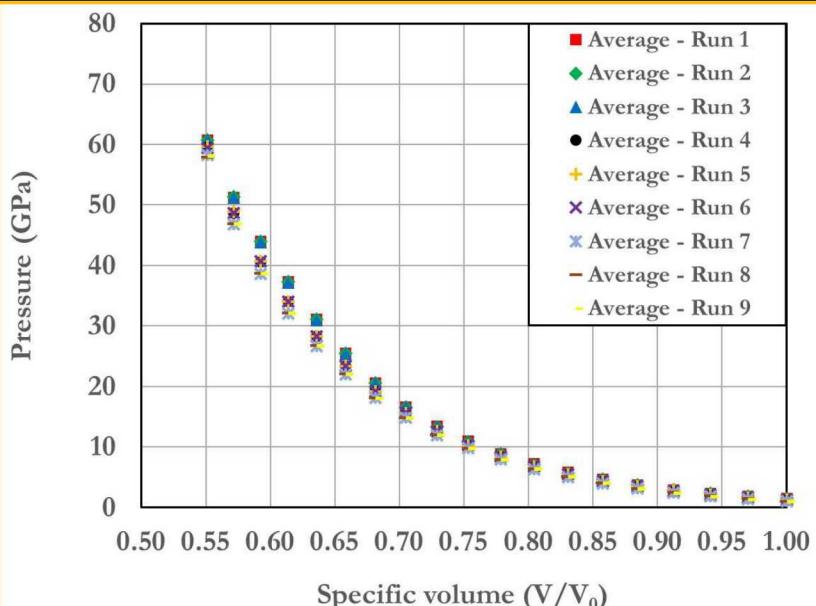
Computational point-of-view

# Calculated crystalline vs. amorphous Hugoniot

## Crystalline



## Amorphous



# Virtual diffraction methodology

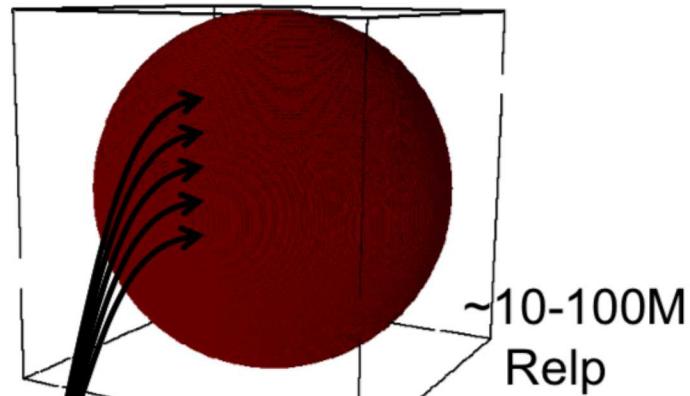
Diffraction intensity is calculated at each reciprocal lattice node using the structure factor: diffraction conditions satisfied with nodes located on Ewald sphere surface.

$$I(\mathbf{K}) = Lp F(\mathbf{K}) F^*(\mathbf{K})$$

$Lp$  = Lorentz-Polarization Factor (only XRD)

$F$  = Structure Factor

$\mathbf{K}$  = Reciprocal Lattice Point (Relp)



$\sim 1-10M$  Atoms

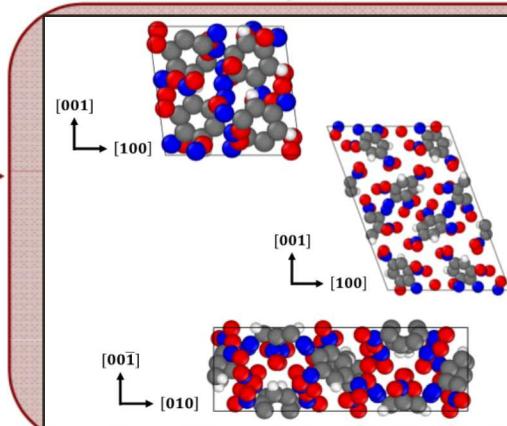
## Structure Factor:

$$F(\mathbf{K}) = \sum_{j=1}^N f_j \exp(2\pi i \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j)$$

$N$  = Number of Atoms in Simulation

$f_j$  = Atomic Scattering Factor

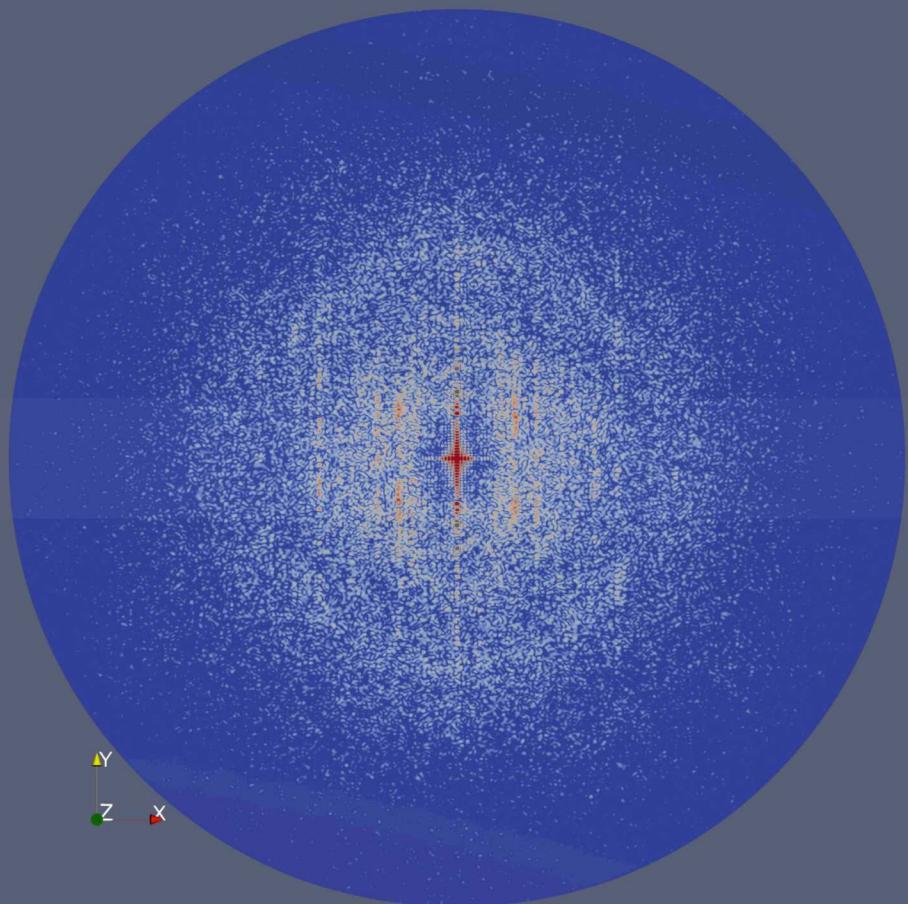
$\mathbf{r}_j$  = Atom Position



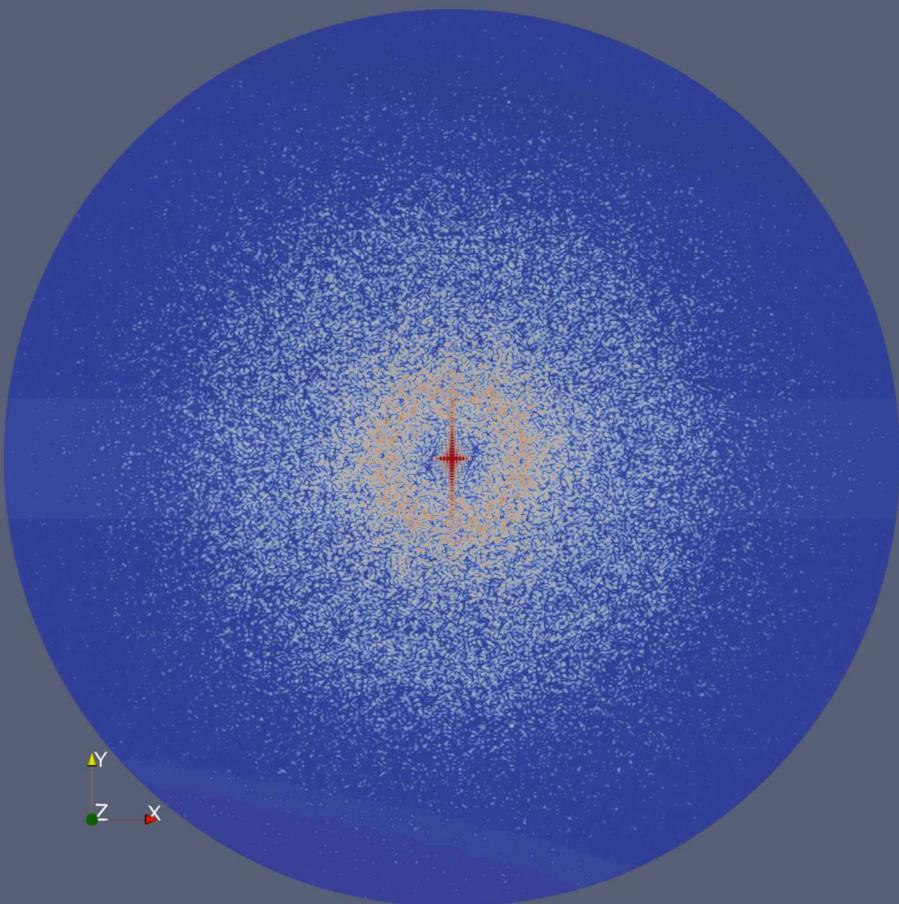
All atoms are sampled at each reciprocal point.

# SAED of compressed HNAB microstructures

HNAB - 2



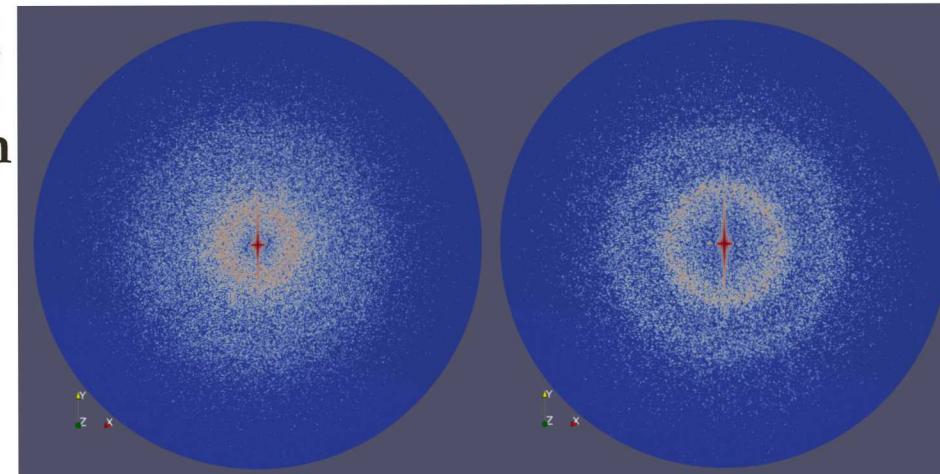
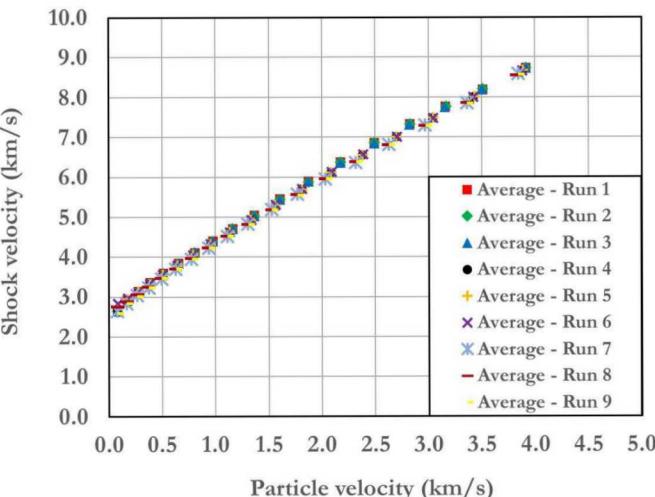
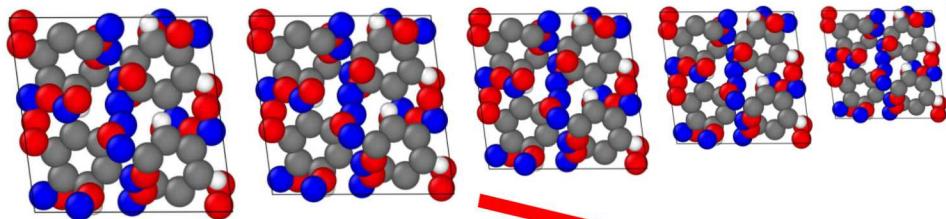
A - HNAB



# Summary: Atomistic modeling insights of Hugoniot

Using atomistic tools to characterize shock behavior in a high-throughput way ( $\sim 10k$  sims)

- General method for full EOS characterization
- Provides input and sensitivity analysis for CTH calculations and guides experimental data analysis



Assist experimental characterization

efforts through virtual diffraction

- Determination of phases present
- Phase transformation during compression