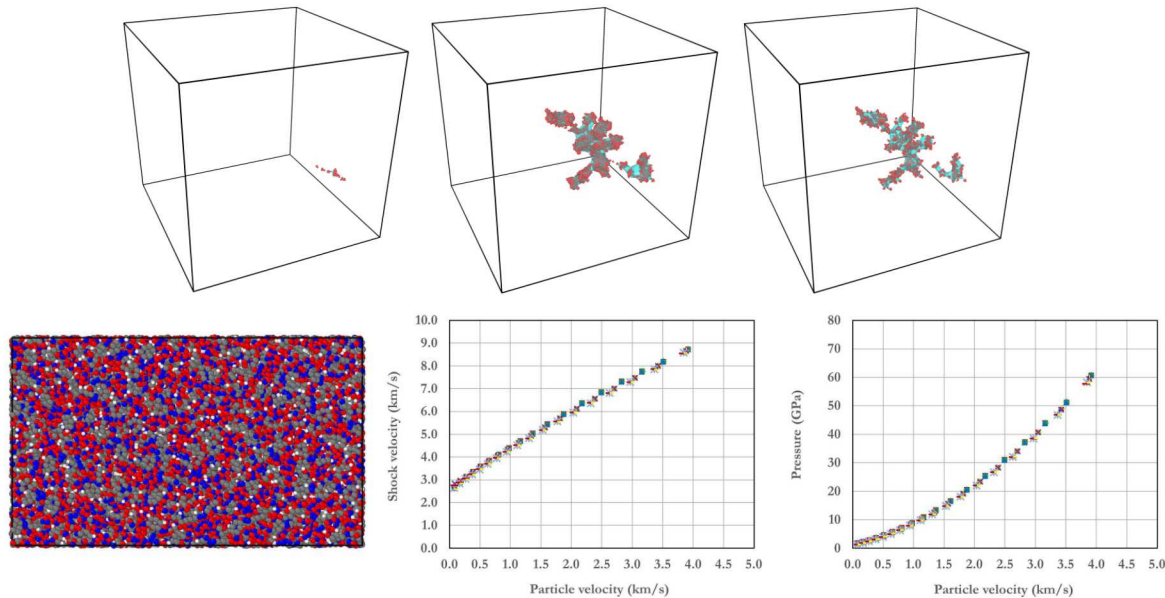


# Atomistic Insights of Materials in Extreme Environments via Virtual Characterization



**James A. Stewart**

Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM 87185, USA

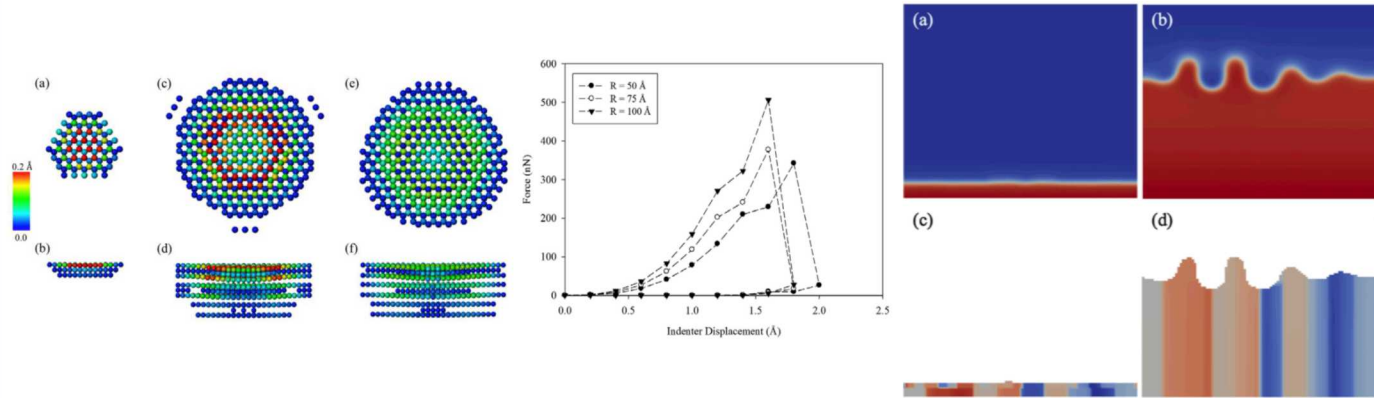
[jstewa@sandia.gov](mailto:jstewa@sandia.gov)

# Summary of background



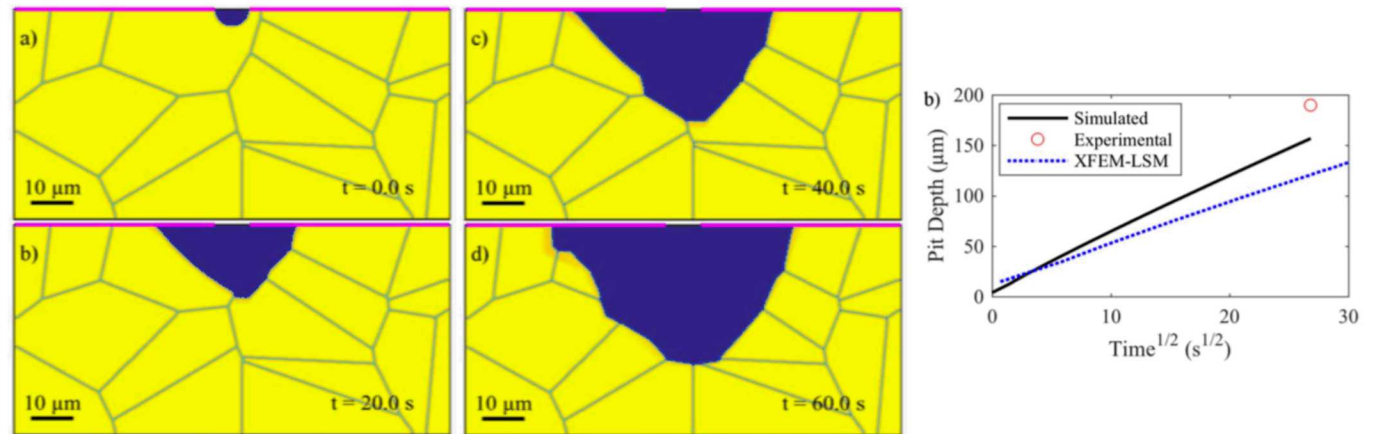
## M.S. & Ph.D., Applied Physics

- 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

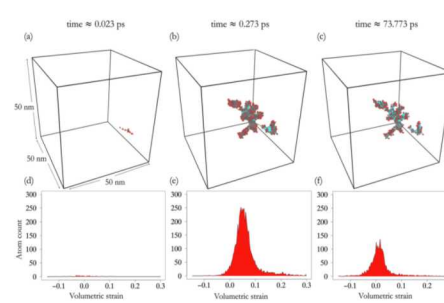
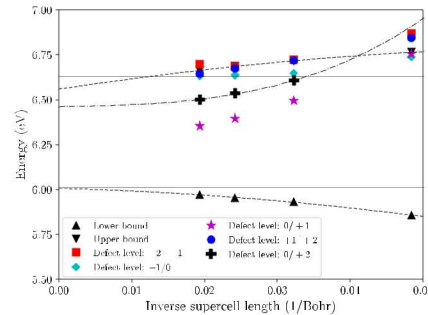
- Research focus: Microstructural influences on localized corrosion in alloys



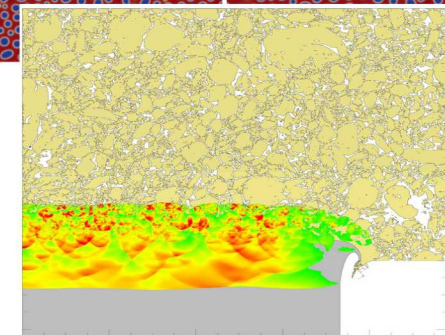
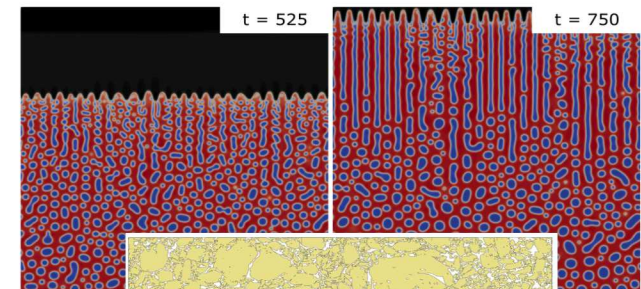
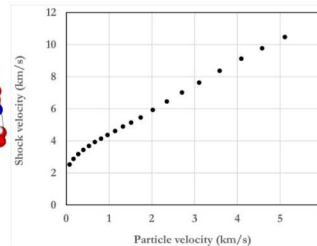
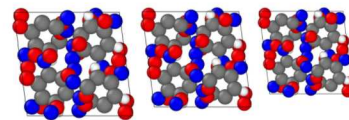
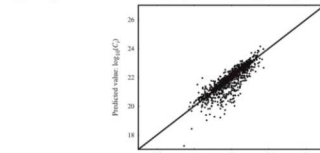
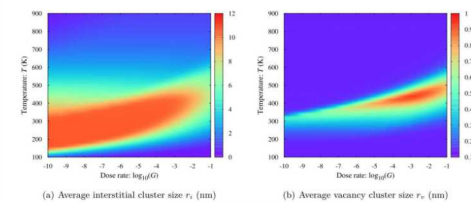
# Summary of background

## 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

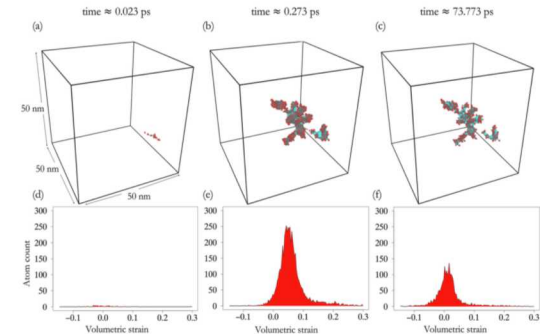




# Topics to be covered

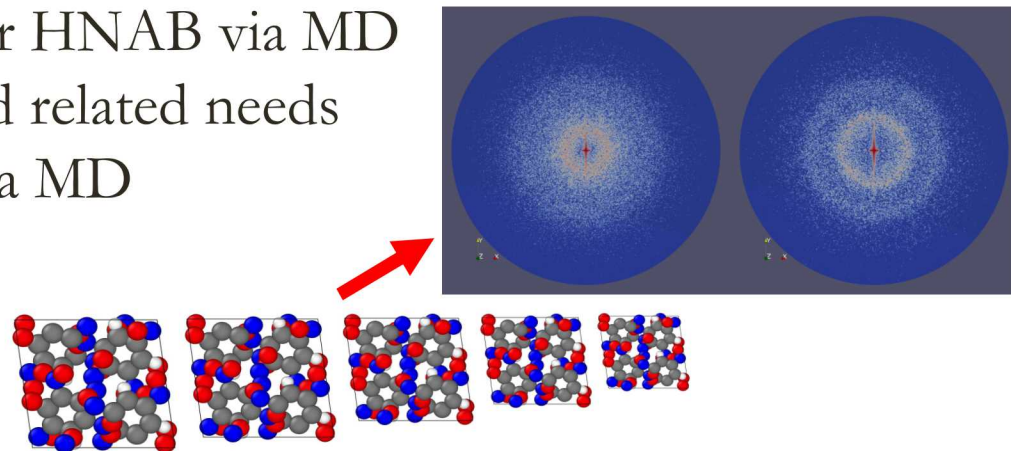
## 1. **Radiation Damage:** Characterizing displacement cascade damage in bulk silicon via virtual diffraction

- 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

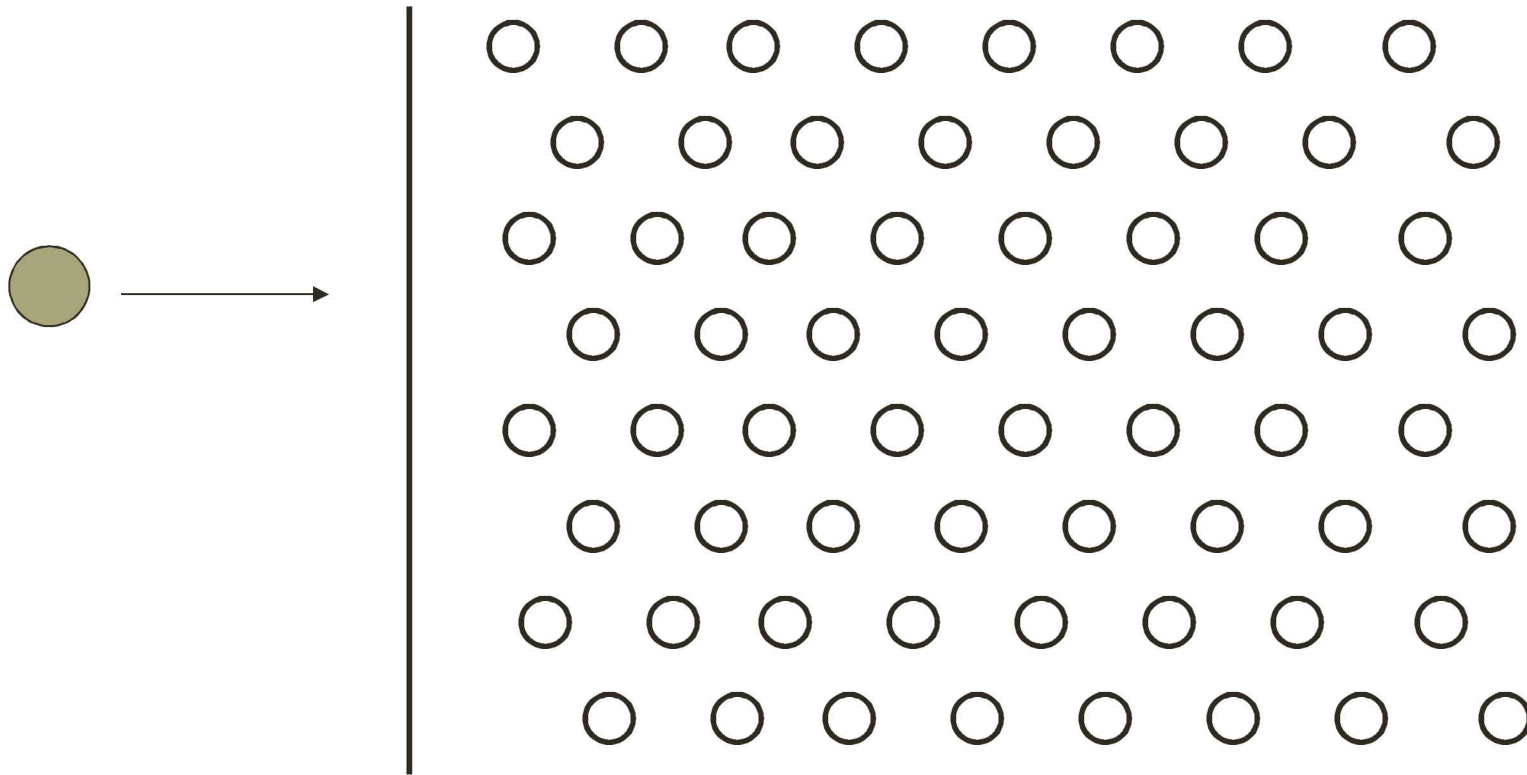
- Current experiments and related needs
- Unreacted Hugoniots via MD
- Virtual characterization



# Example 1: Radiation Damage

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

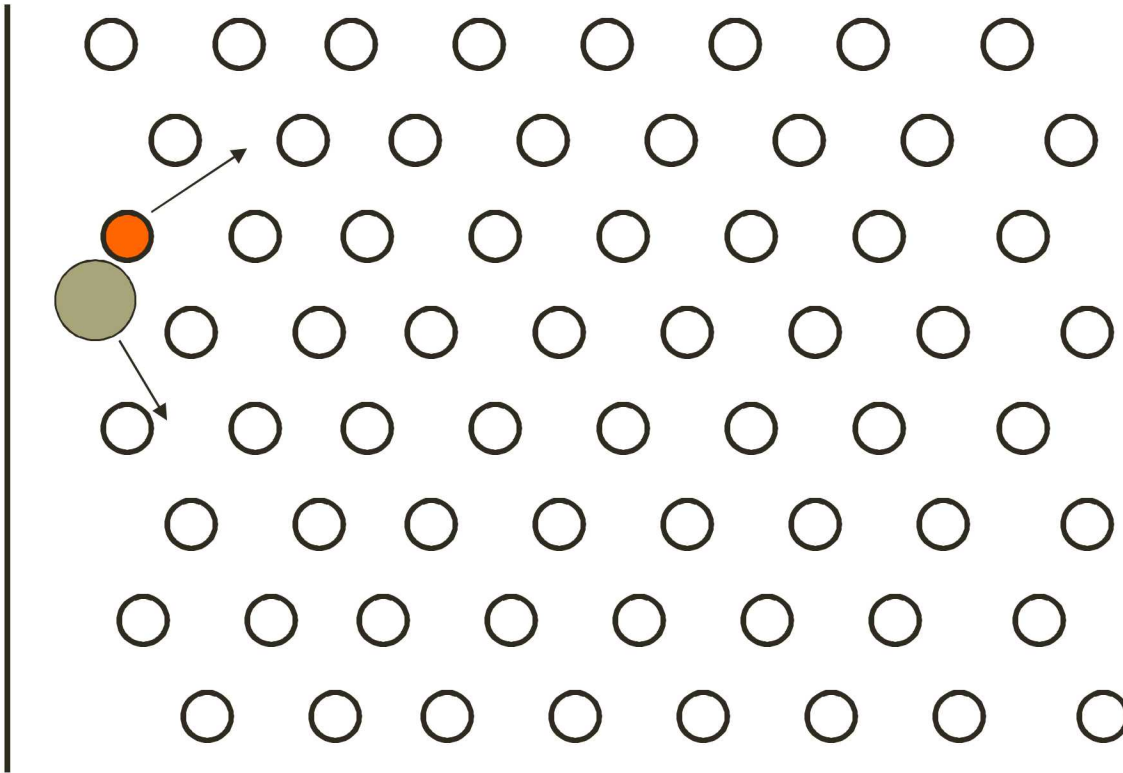
# Simple picture: Incident energetic particle



- **Energetic particle:**

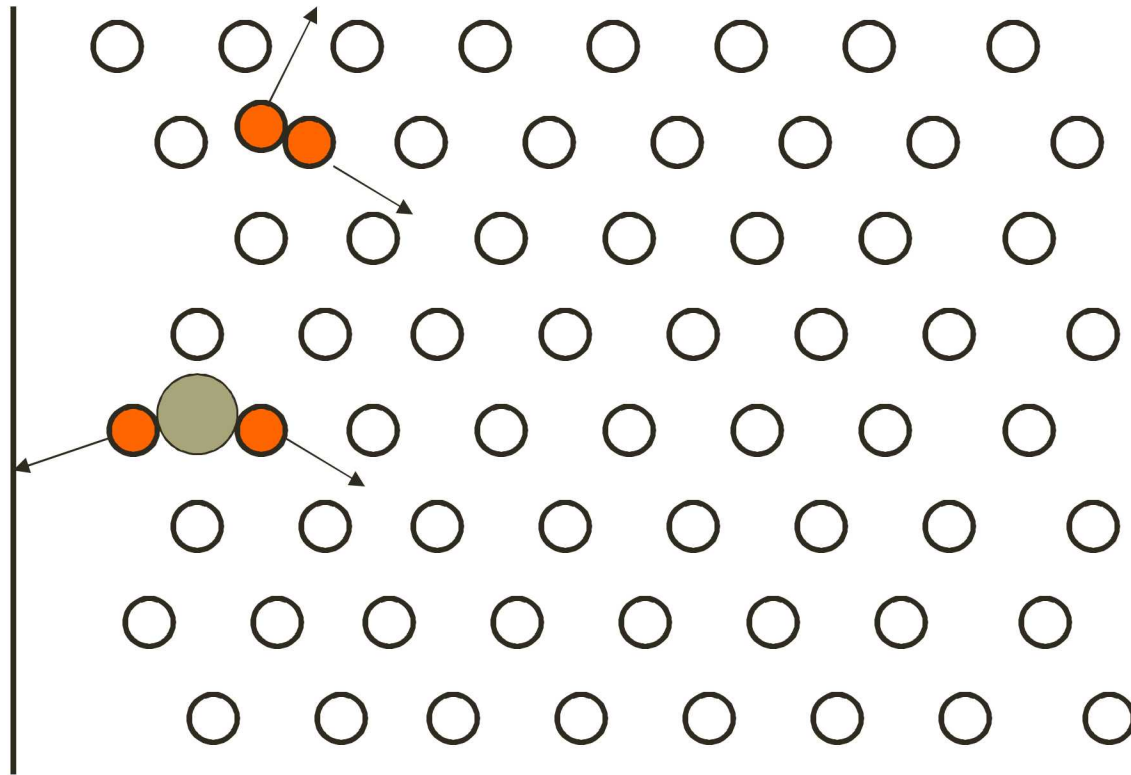
- Electron, neutron, ion (light/heavy)
- Initial kinetic energy, incoming angle, neutral vs. charged particle

# 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

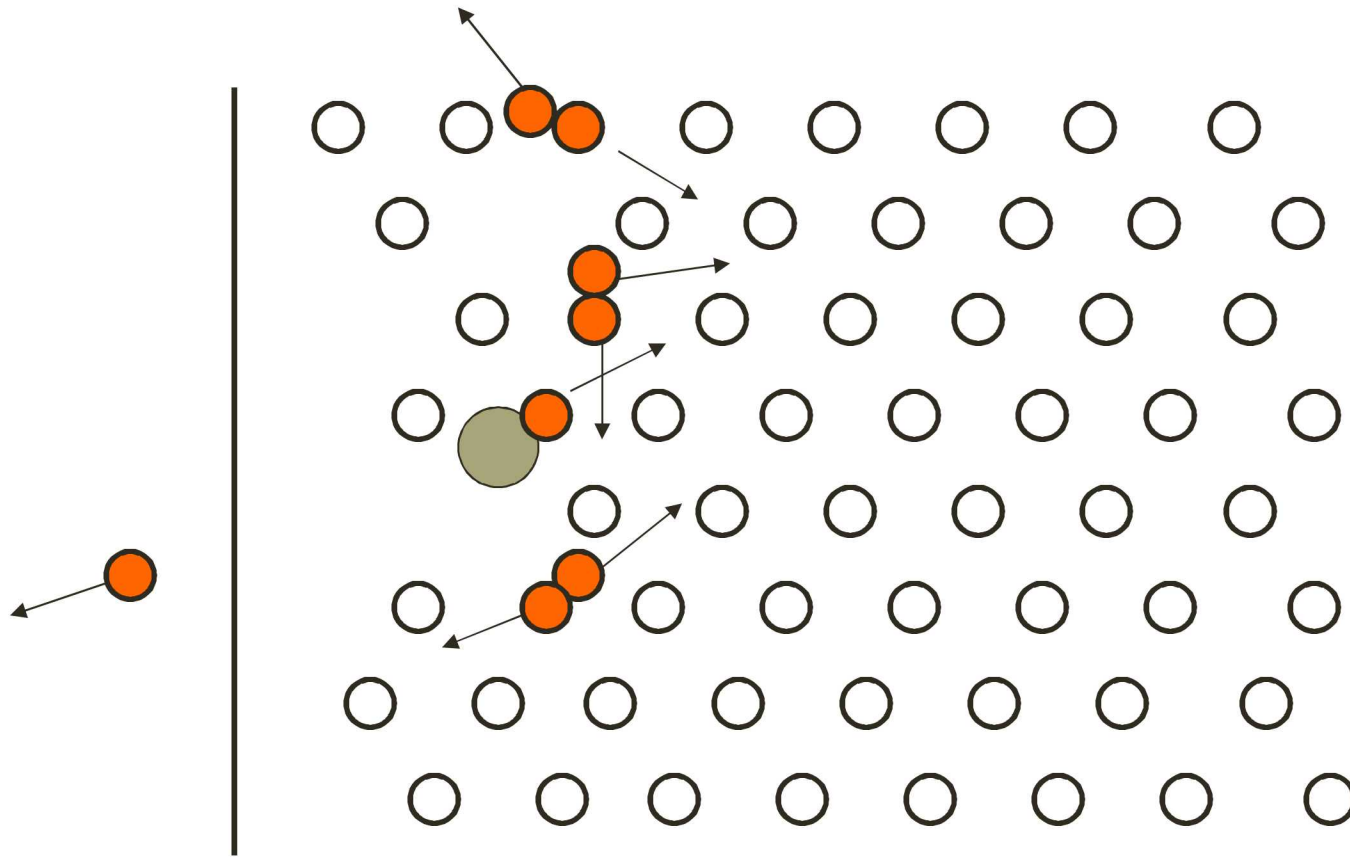


## ■ Secondary knock on:

- Lattice atom displaced by PKA
- Slow down process: electronic stopping, nuclei collision



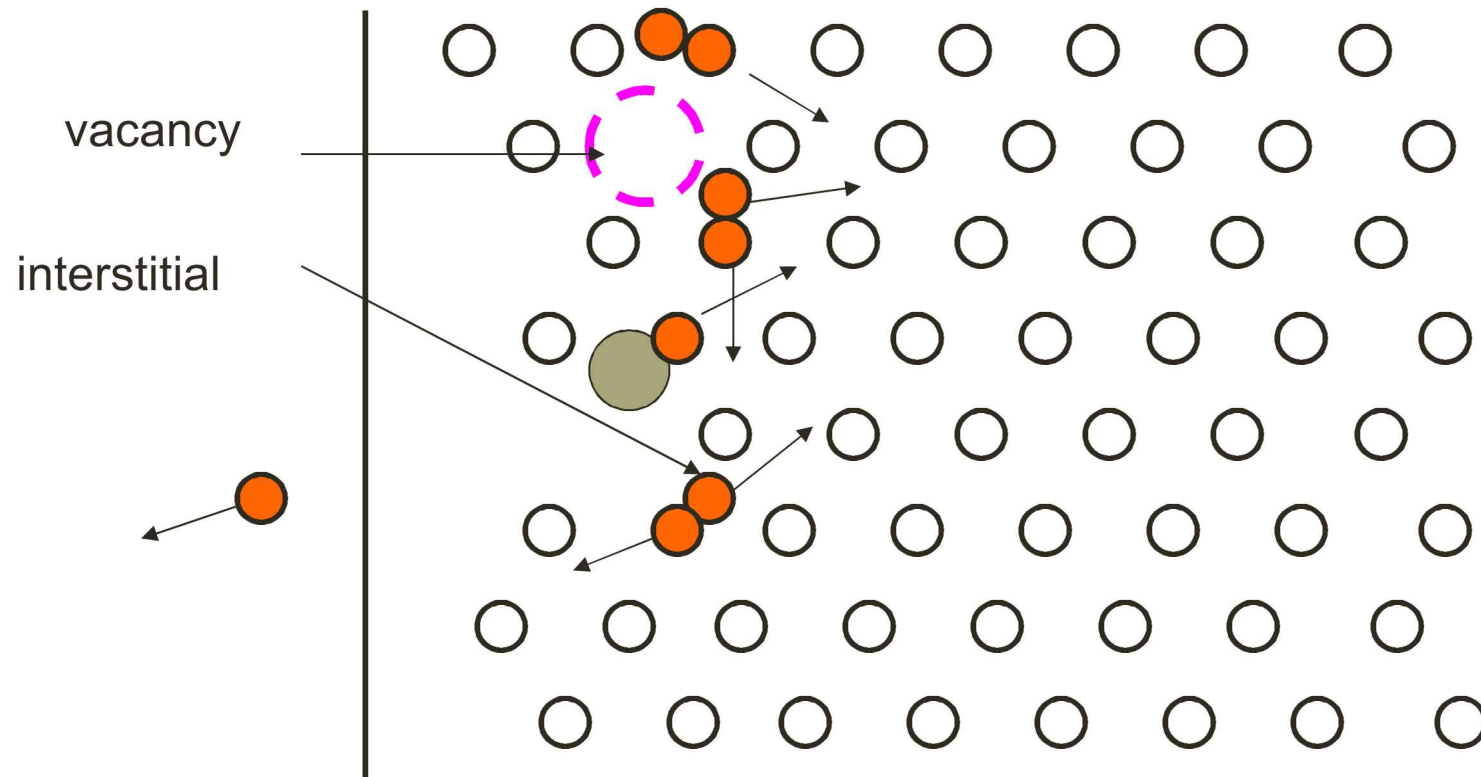
# Simple picture: Evolution of displacement cascade



## ■ Defect accumulation and evolution:

- Reflection, sputtering
- Initial kinetic energy

# Simple picture: Long term damage

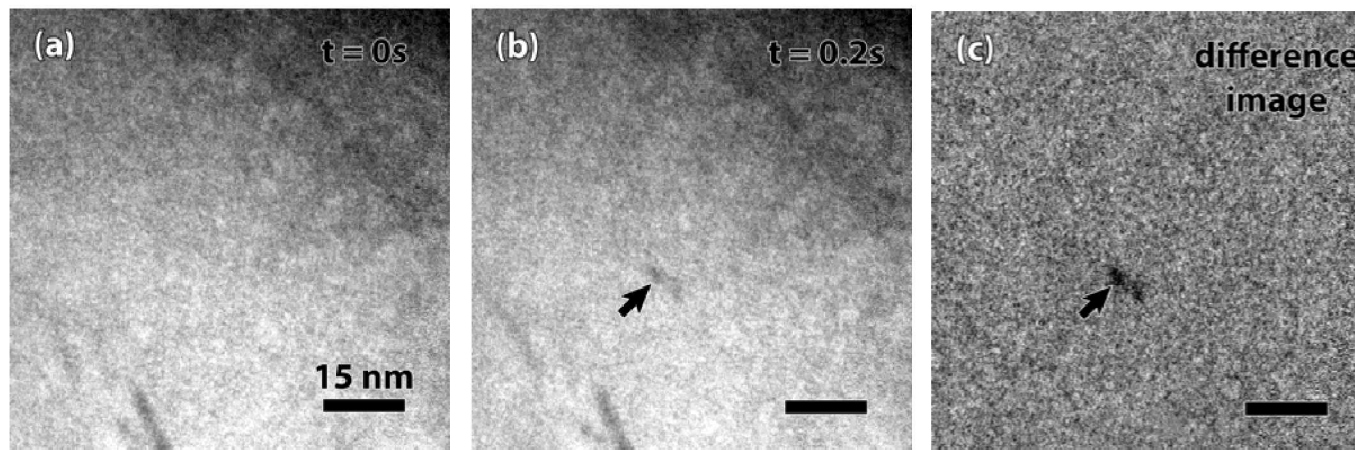


## ■ Long-term damage evolution:

- 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.

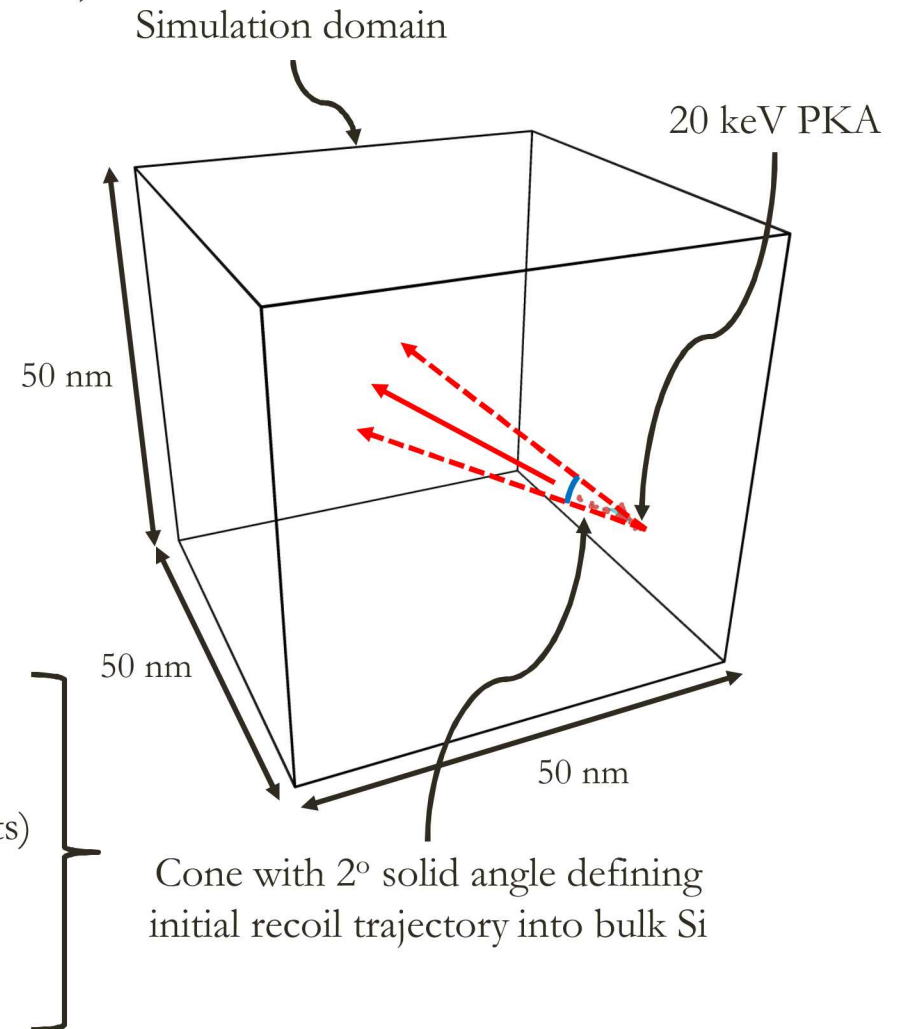
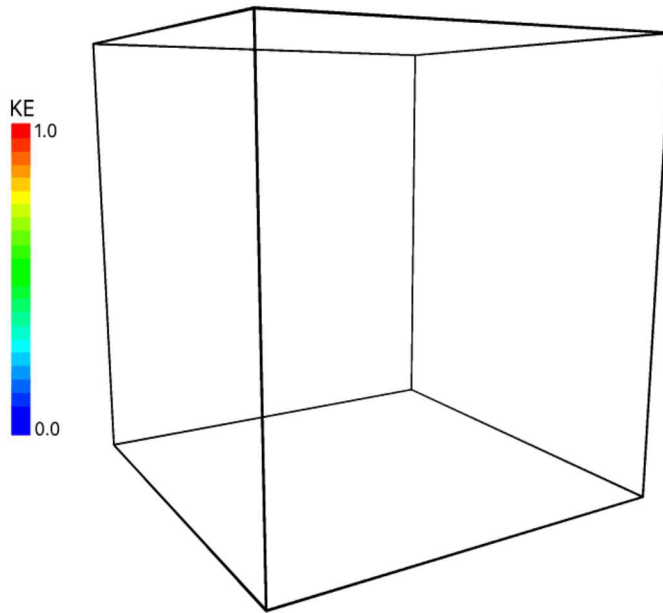


Individual frames taken from video collected in-situ in the TEM during irradiation of Si sample with 1.8 MeV  $\text{Au}^{3+}$ . Sample in a down-zone imaging condition near [123]-type zone axis. Single ion strike highlighted in difference image.

- 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 (~46 keV Au).



- Tersoff potential with:

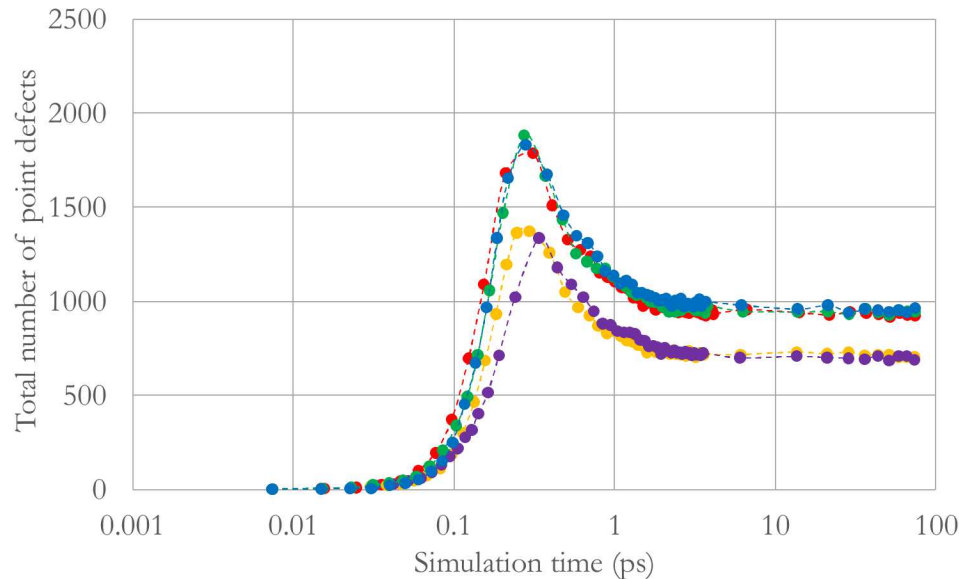
- ZBL nuclear repulsion correction
- Electronic stopping effects (fit to SRIM results)

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

- Boundary thermostat to absorb shockwave



# Cascade damage analysis: Traditional approaches



Total number of point defects  
for all final defect structures

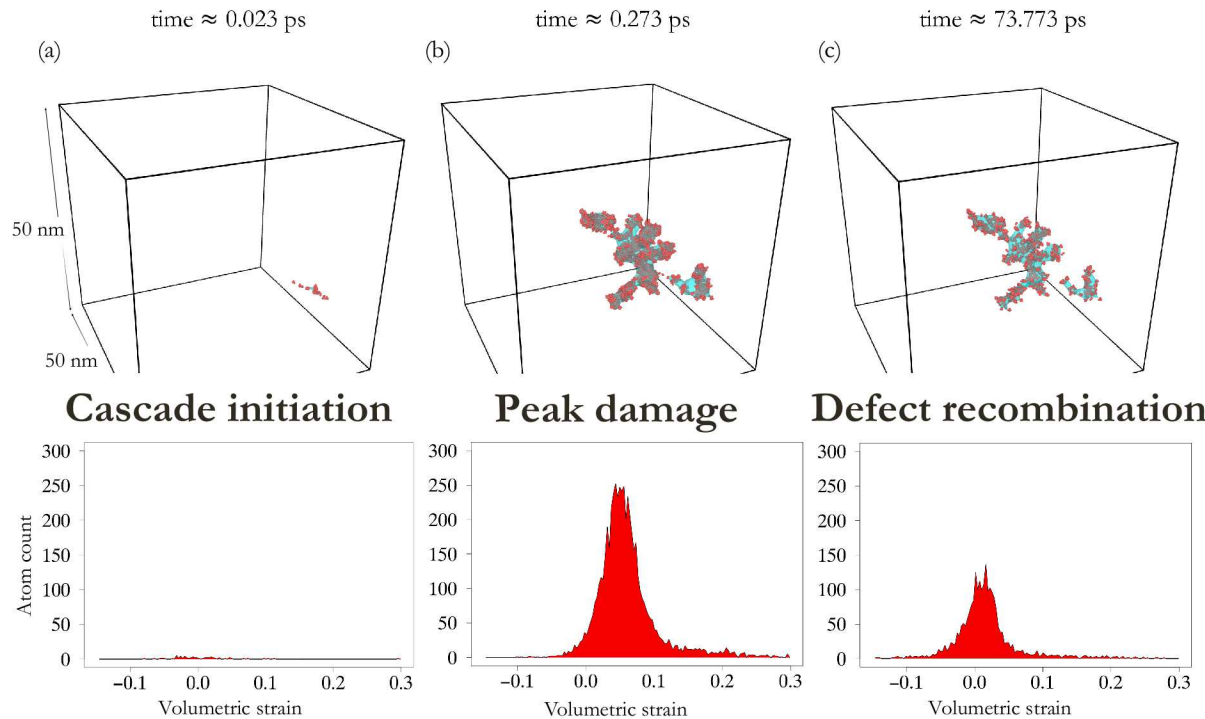
Total number of final defects

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 ~1800 defects, other two have ~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,  $I$ :

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

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

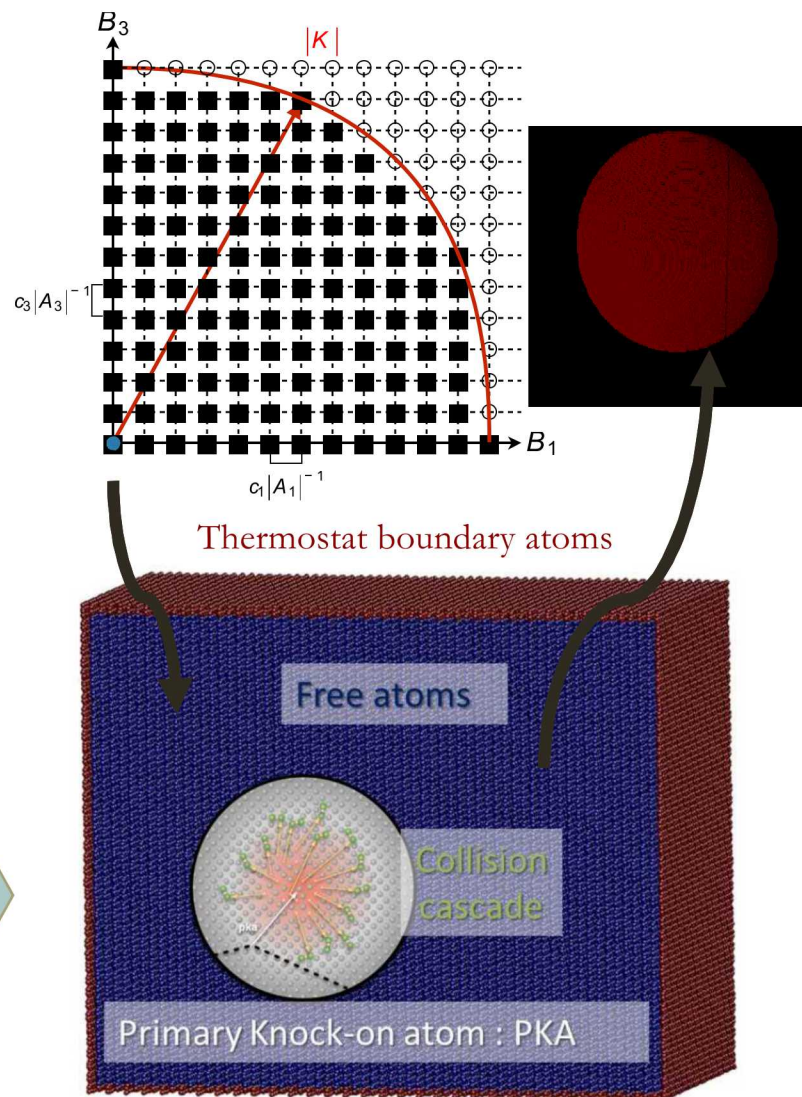
$F$  = Structure factor

$\mathbf{K}$  = Reciprocal lattice point

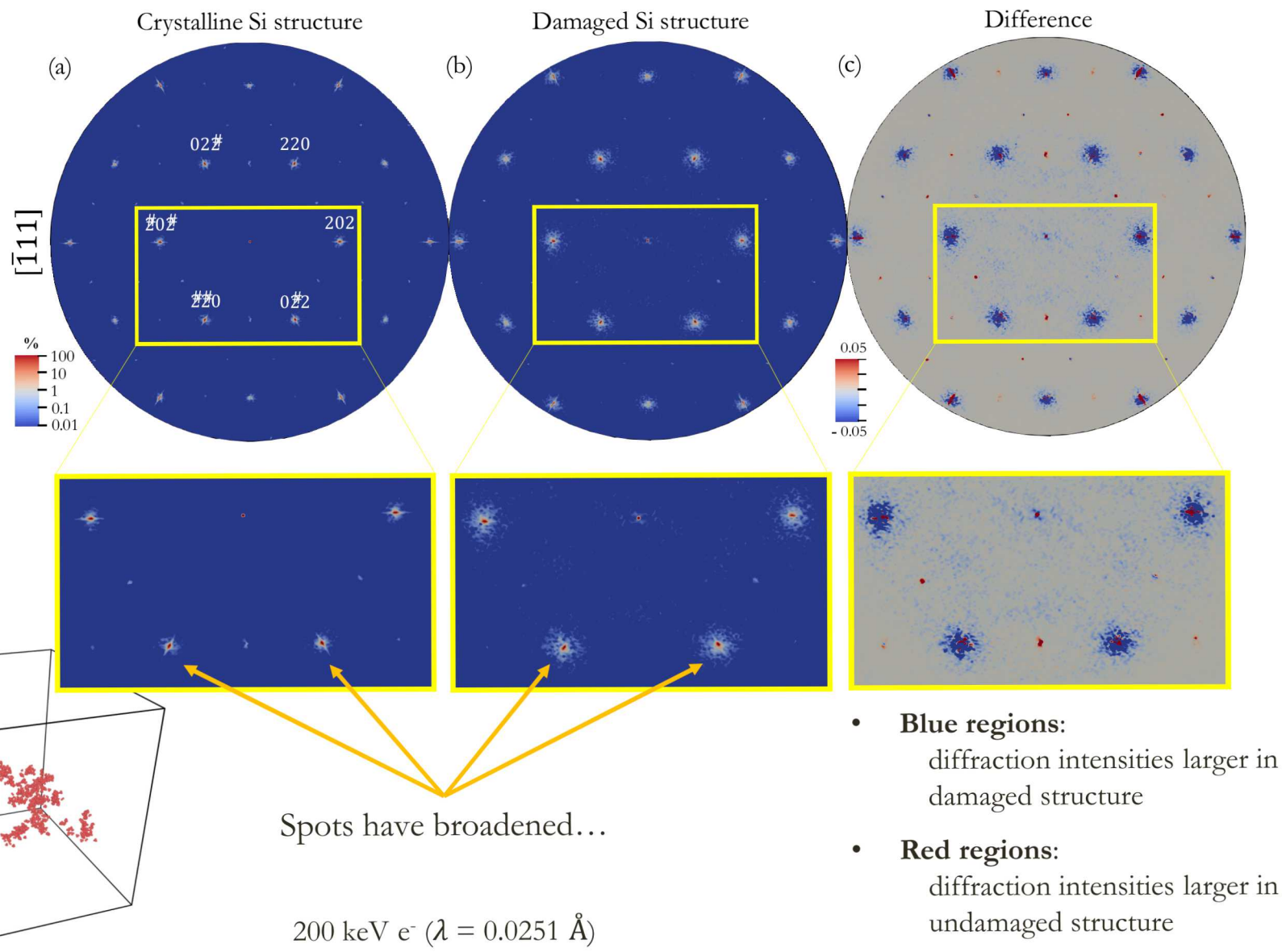
$N$  = Number of atoms

$f_j$  = Atomic scattering factor

$\mathbf{r}_j$  = Atom position

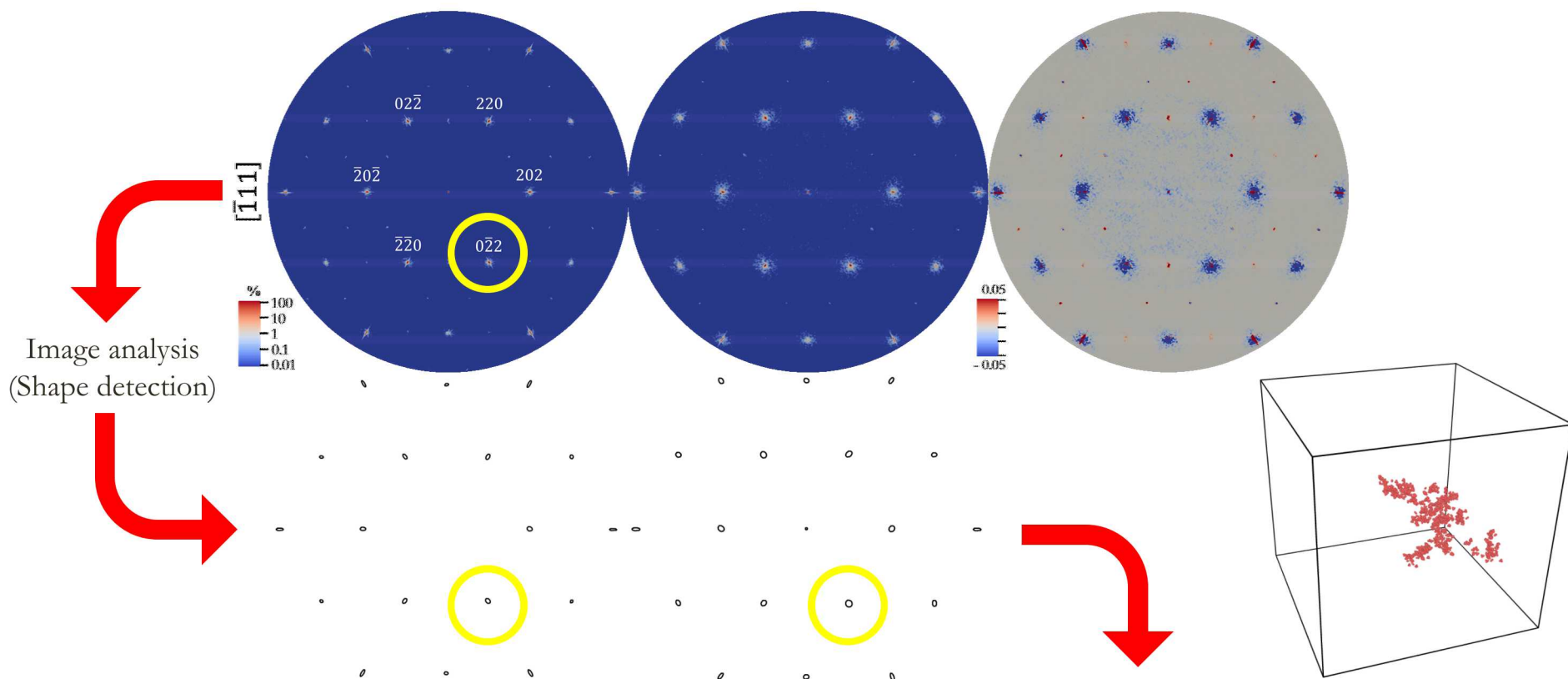


# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage



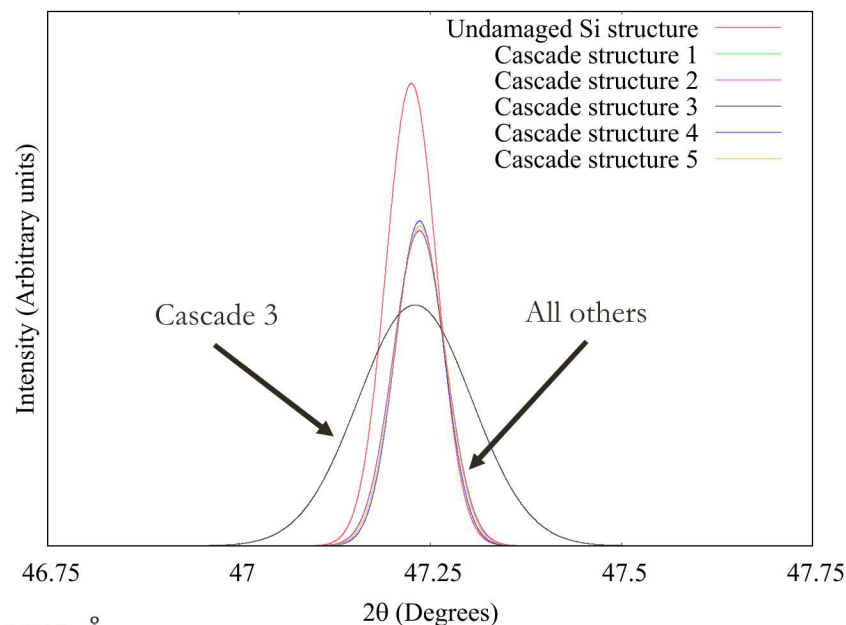
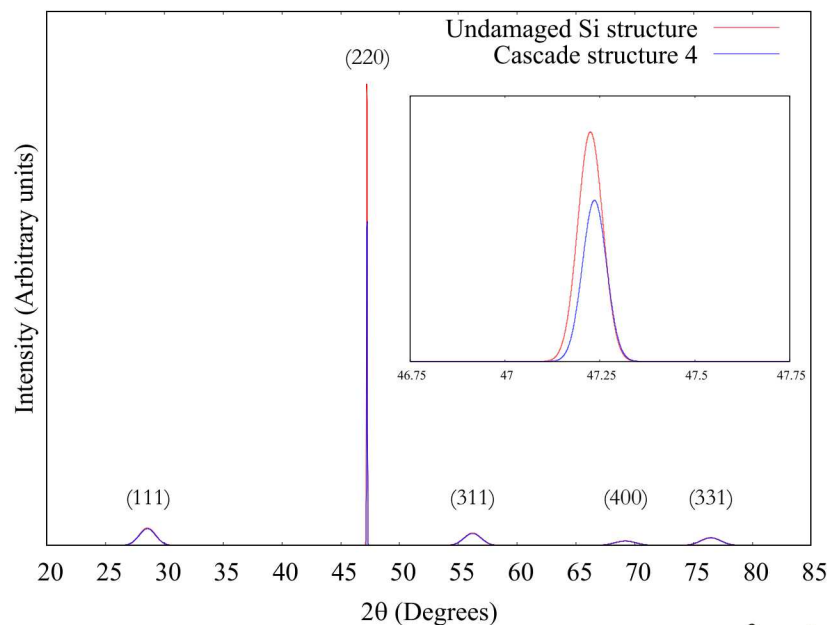


# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage



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



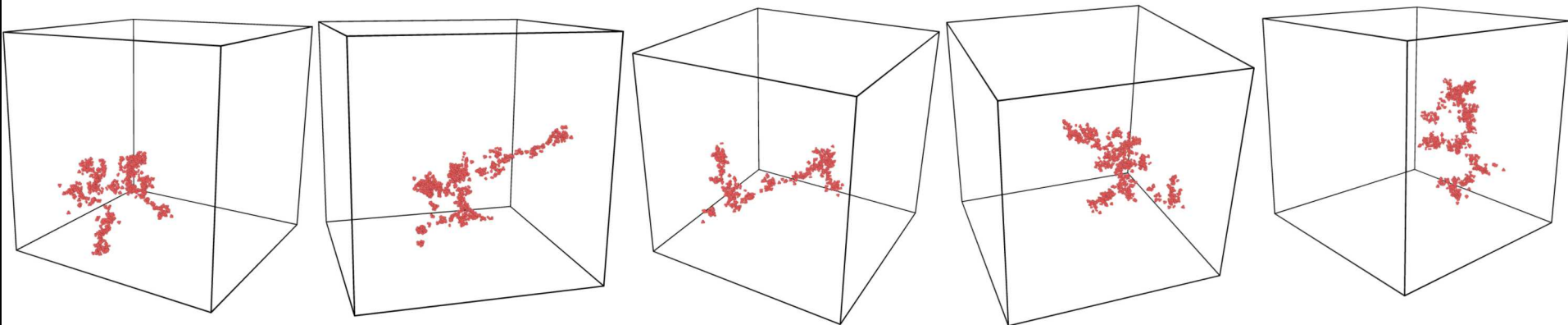
Cascade 1

Cascade 2

Cascade 3

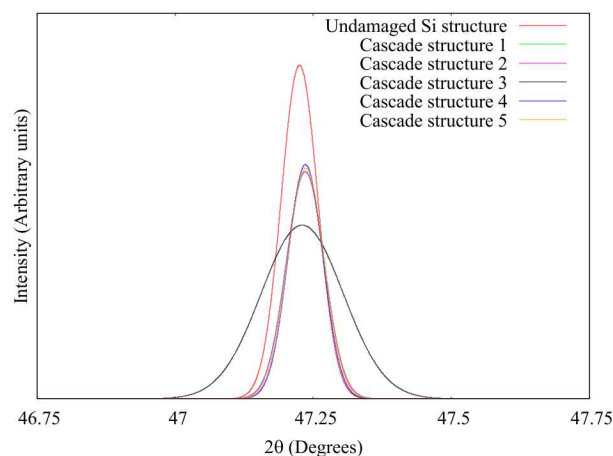
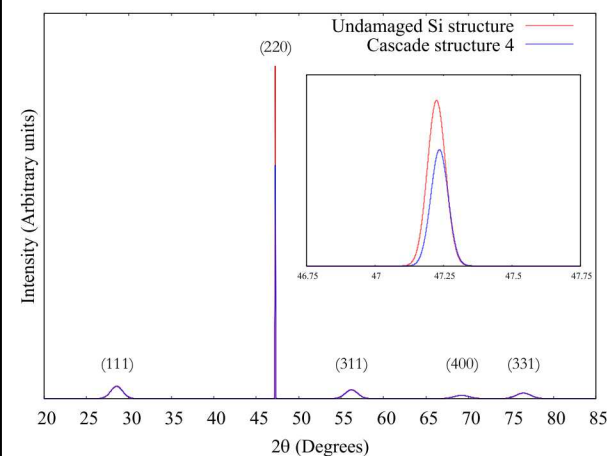
Cascade 4

Cascade 5



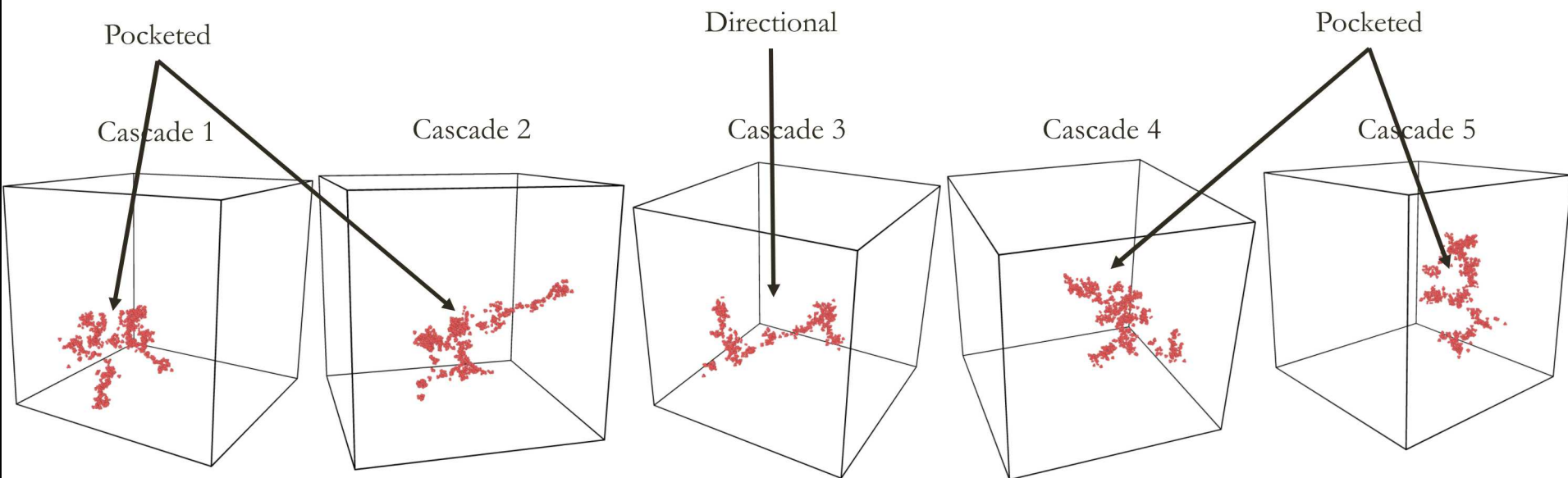


# Virtual diffraction of simulated cascade damage

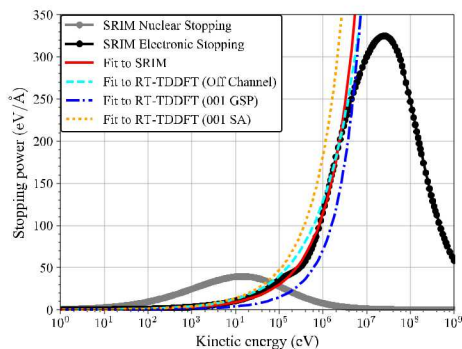


Total number of final defects	
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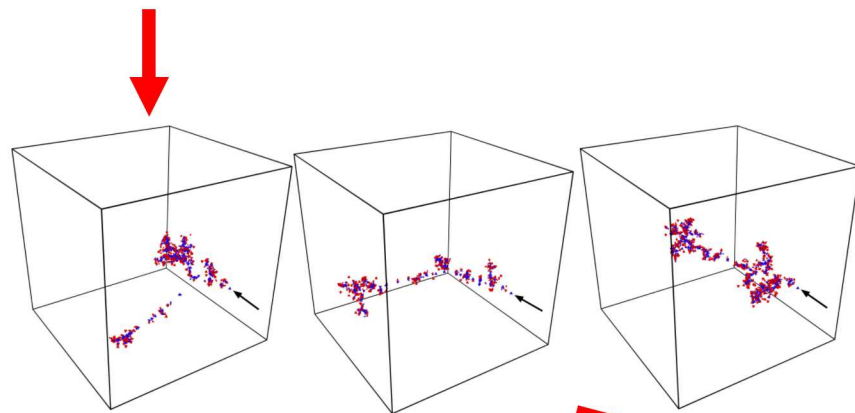
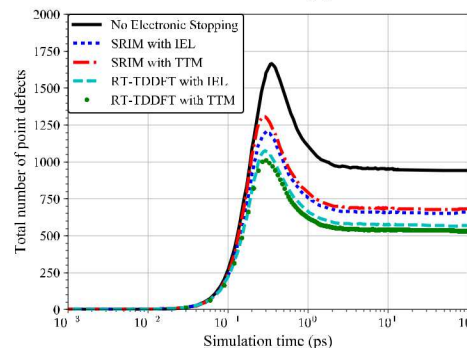
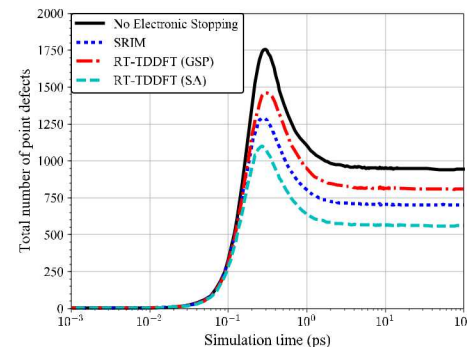
	Average strain	Standard deviation
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Cascade 3	0.01439	0.03270
Cascade 4	0.01659	0.04628
Cascade 5	0.01538	0.03752



# Summary: Atomistic modeling of ion strikes

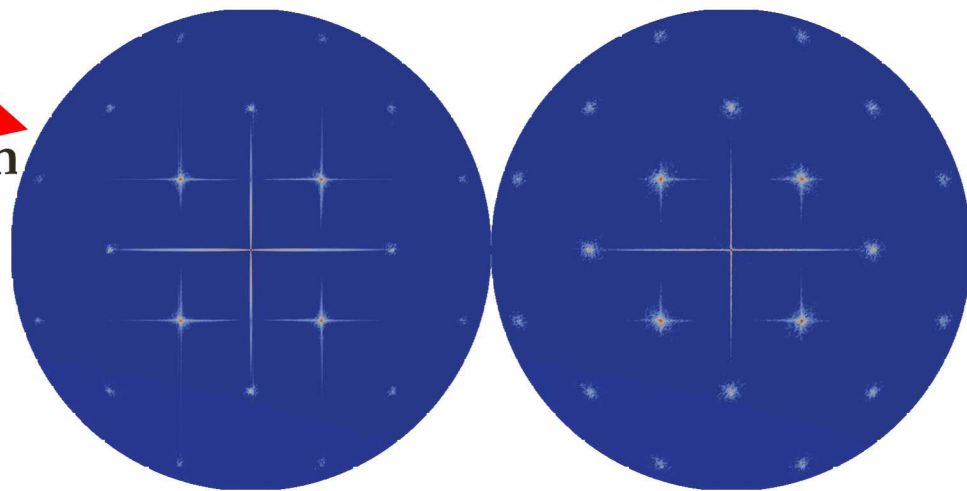


Use atomistic methods to characterize ion strikes from electronic structure through experimental signal



Assist experimental characterization efforts through virtual diffraction

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



## Example 2: Shock Behavior

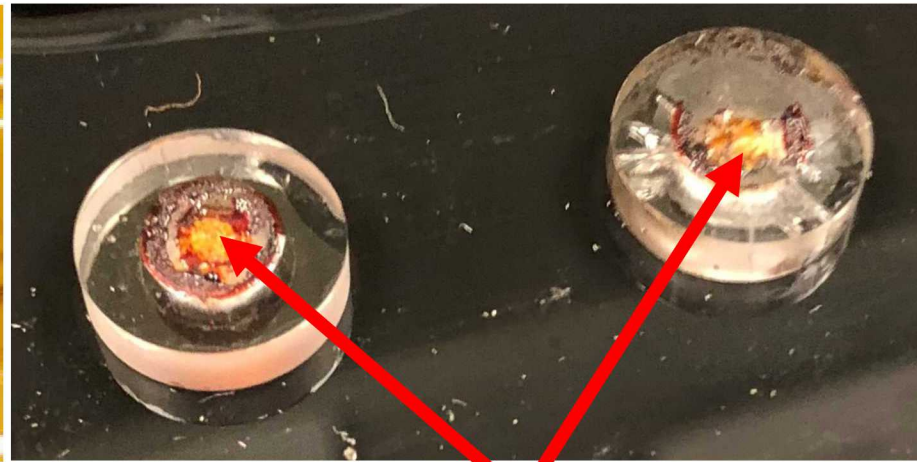
**Gaining Insights on the Role of Crystal Structure on Shock  
Hugoniot Relations for HNAB via MD**

# Current experiments and related needs

A - HNAB

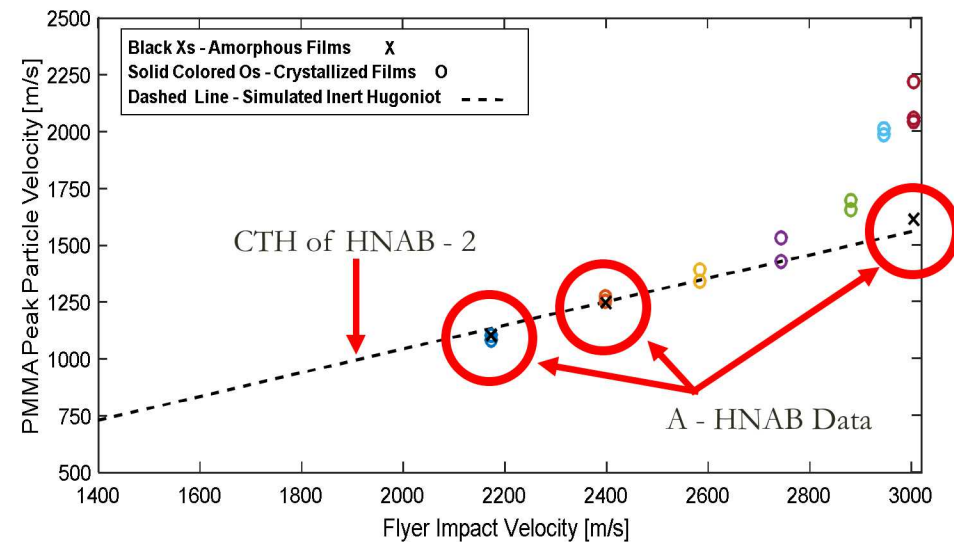


Shocked A - HNAB (via flyer plate)



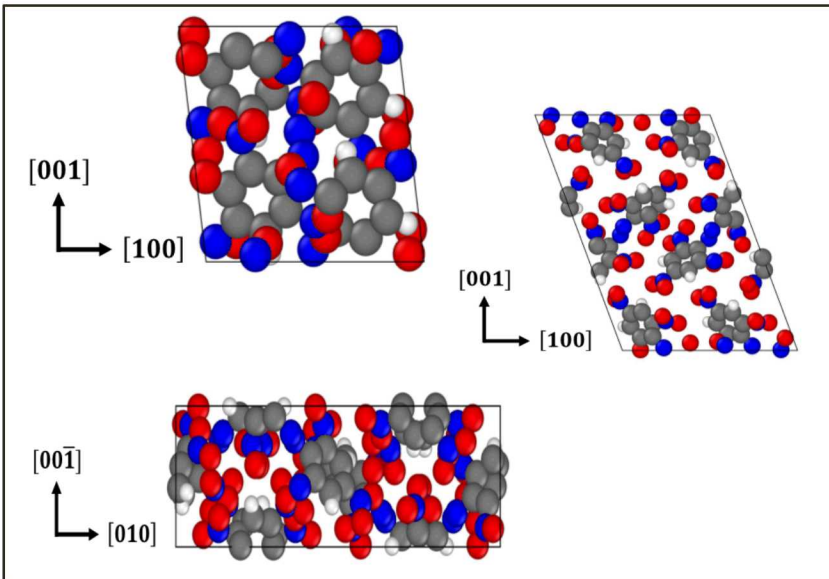
Shock induced crystallization (mixture of structures?)

- 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.

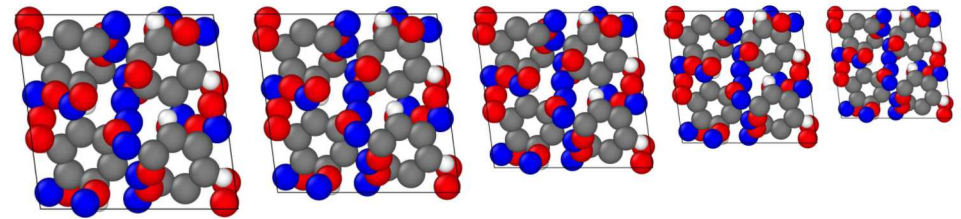




# Finding the Hugoniot state (P, T, E) for any V



Series of compressed states for all polymorphs



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

Mass Conservation:

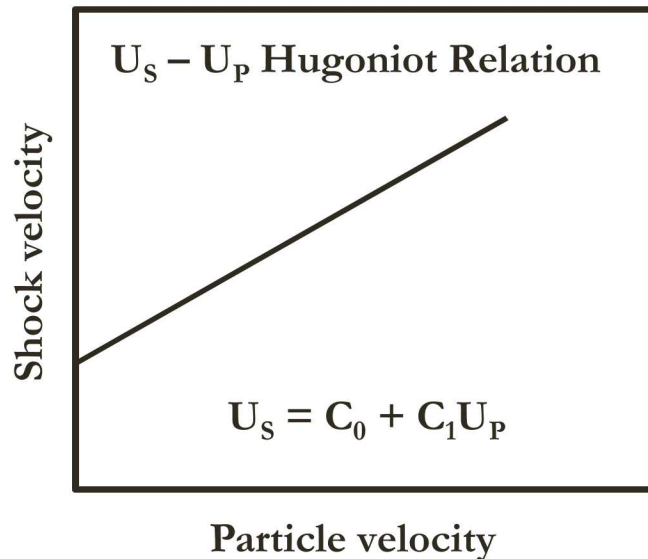
$$\rho_0 D = \rho_1 (D - u_1)$$

Momentum Conservation:

$$P_1 = \rho_0 D u_1$$

Energy Conservation:

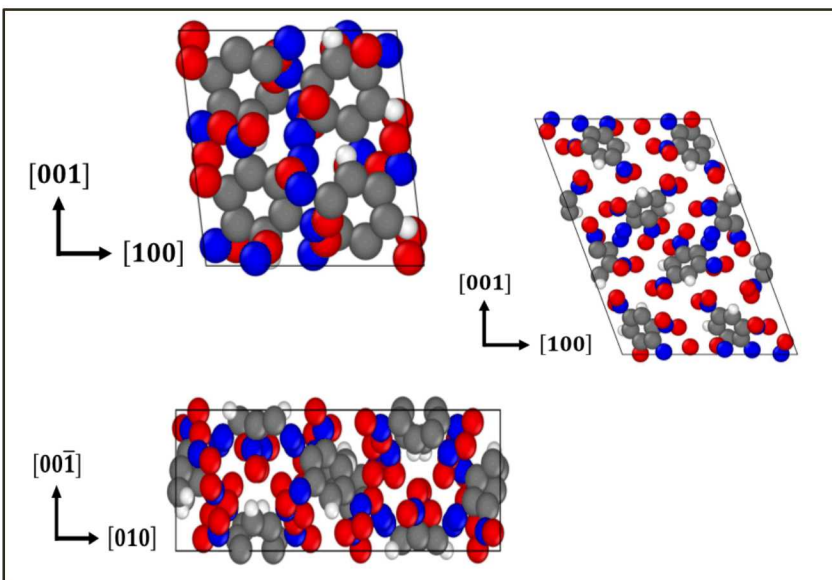
$$E - E_0 = \frac{1}{2} (P + P_0) (V_0 - V)$$



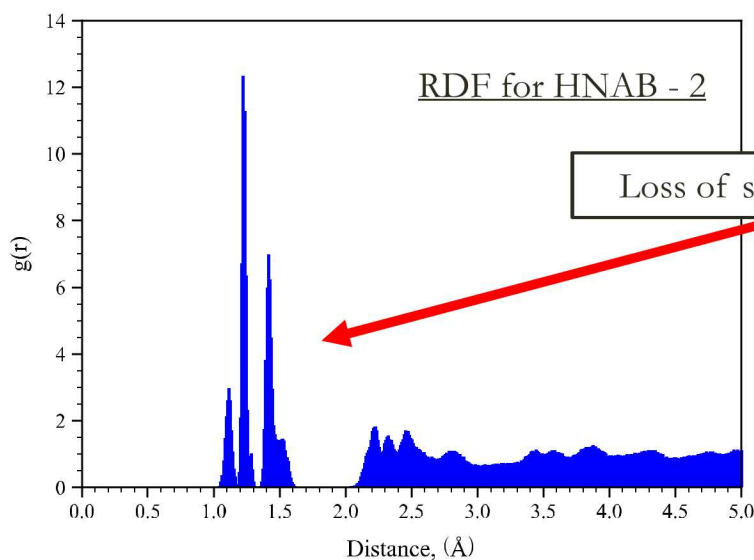
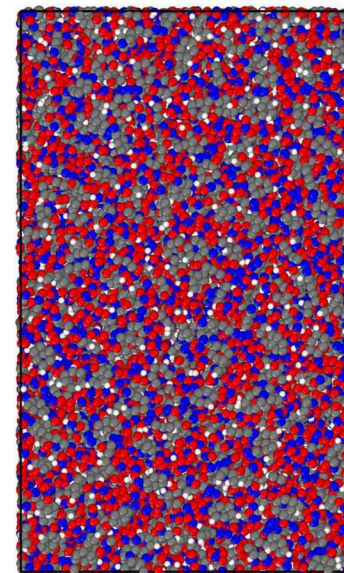
**Approach:** Set  $V < V_0$ ,  $\sim 300$  K equilibration, ramp T, solve for T where Rankine-Hugoniot condition is true.



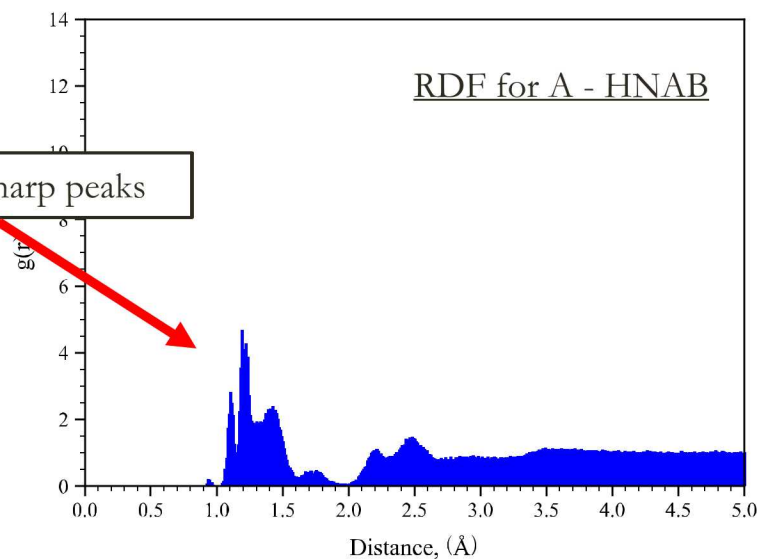
# MD reference structures for HNAB



Melt the structure!

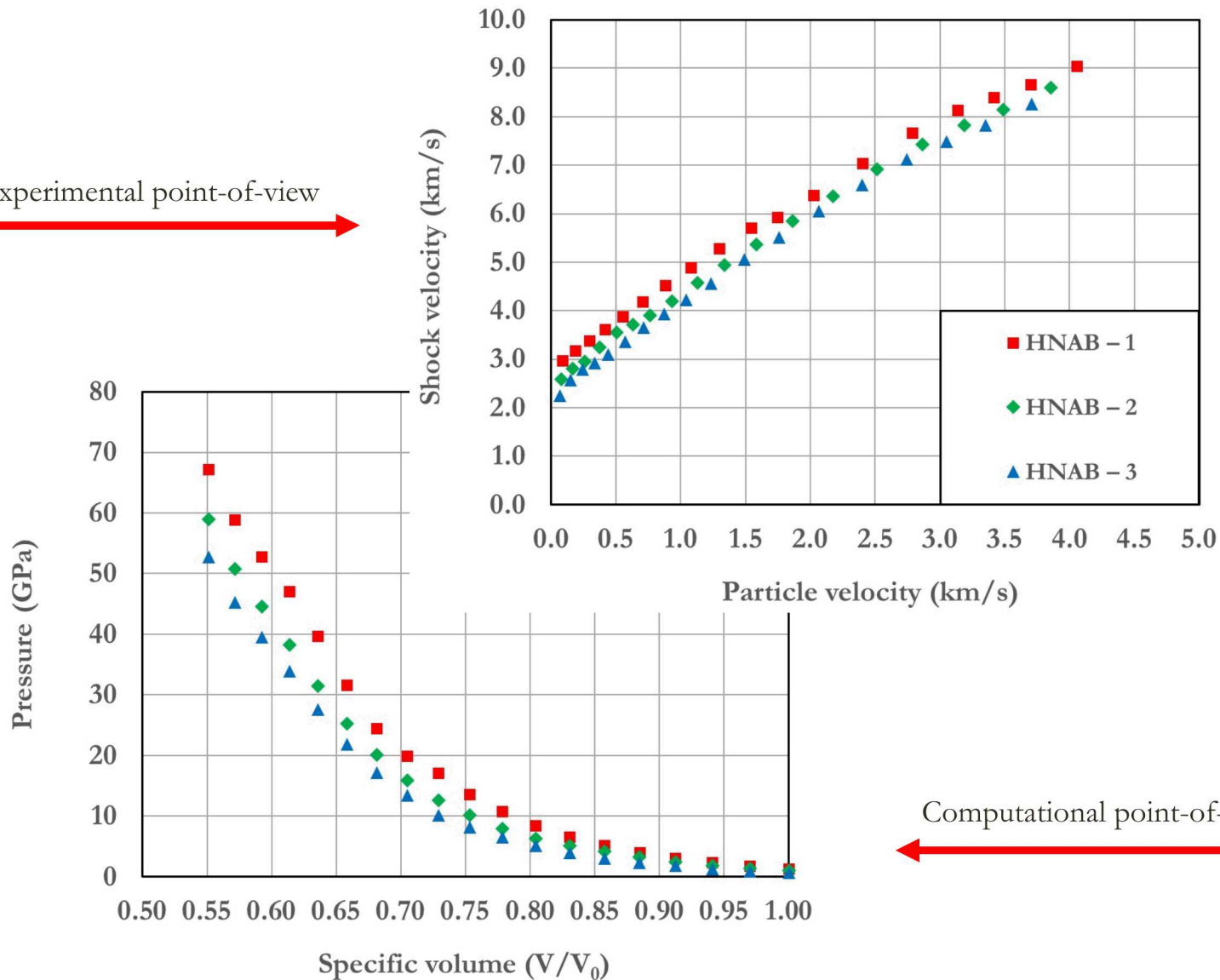


Loss of sharp peaks



# Calculated crystalline HNAB Hugoniot

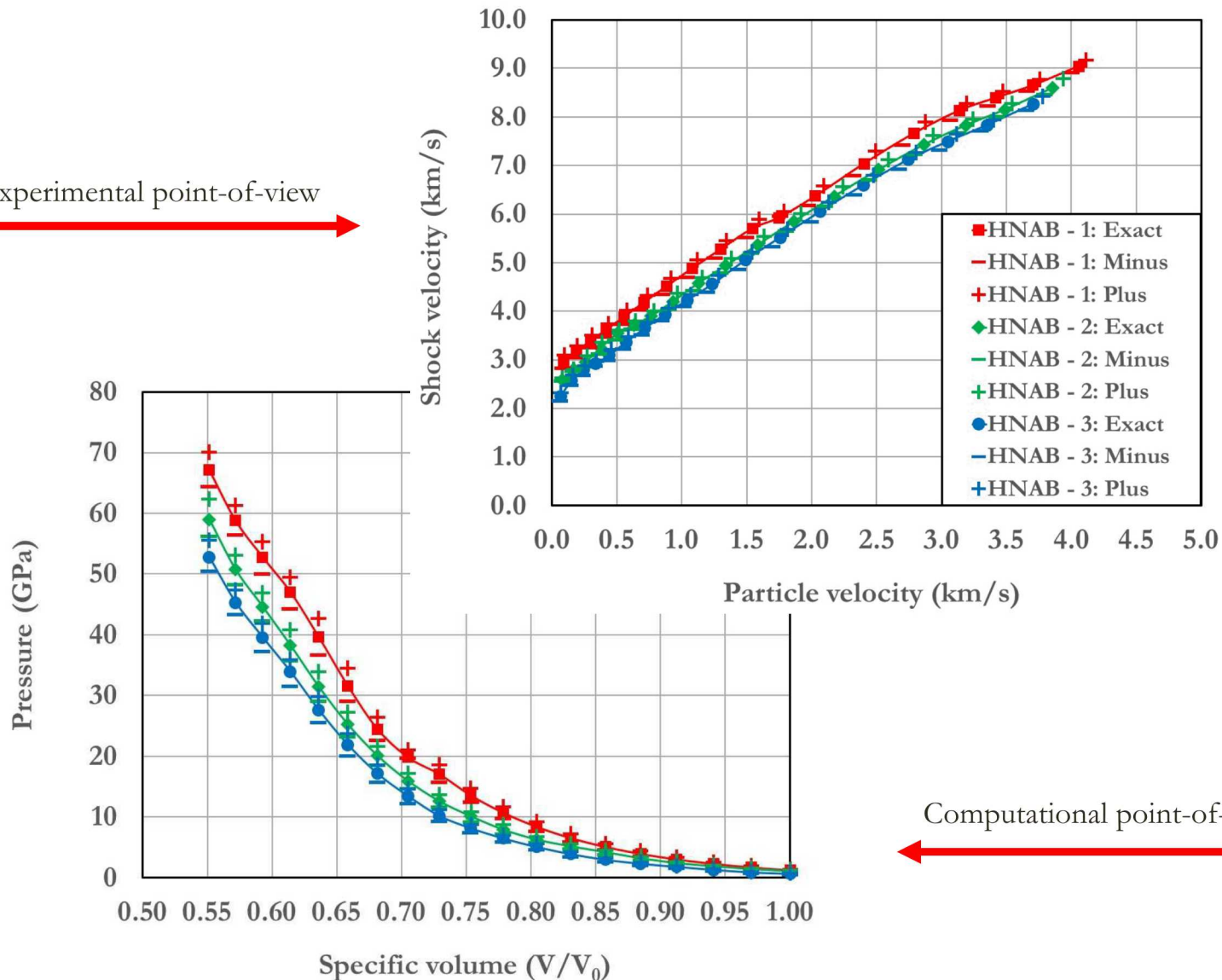
Experimental point-of-view



Computational point-of-view

# Effect of density variations in HNAB Hugoniot

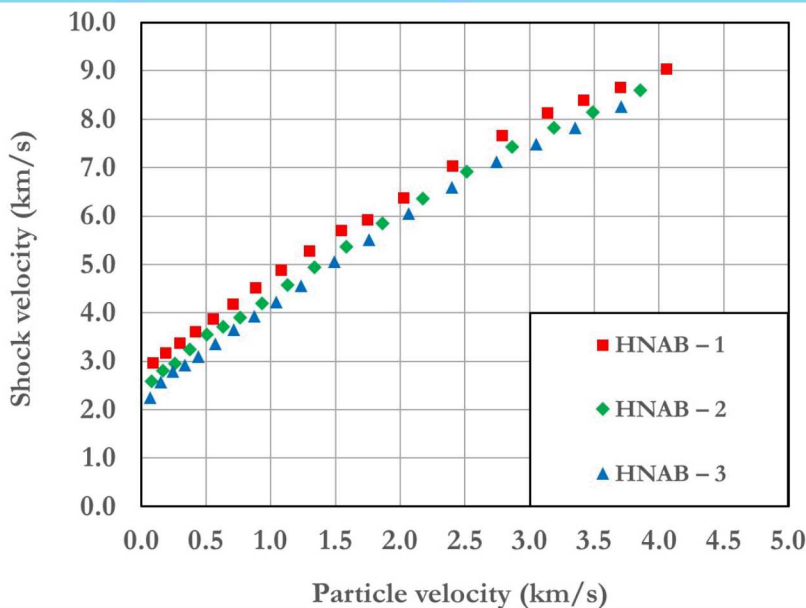
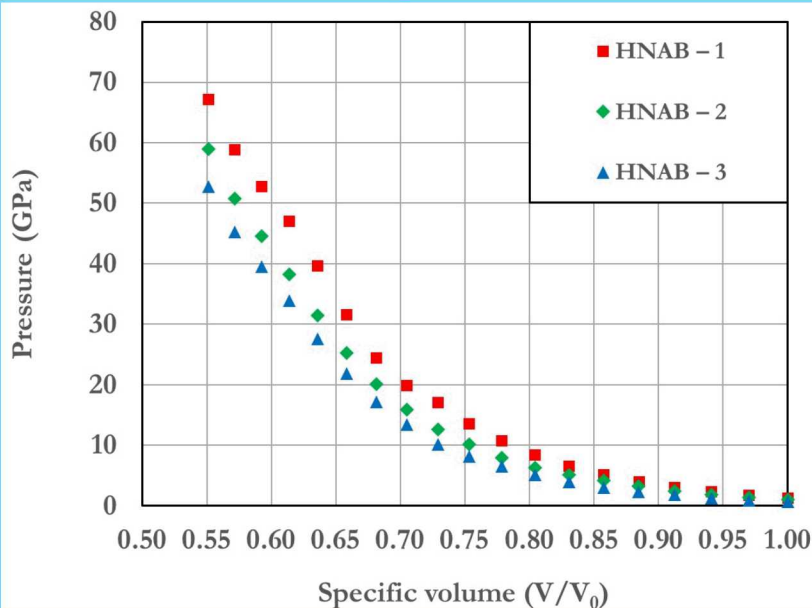
Experimental point-of-view



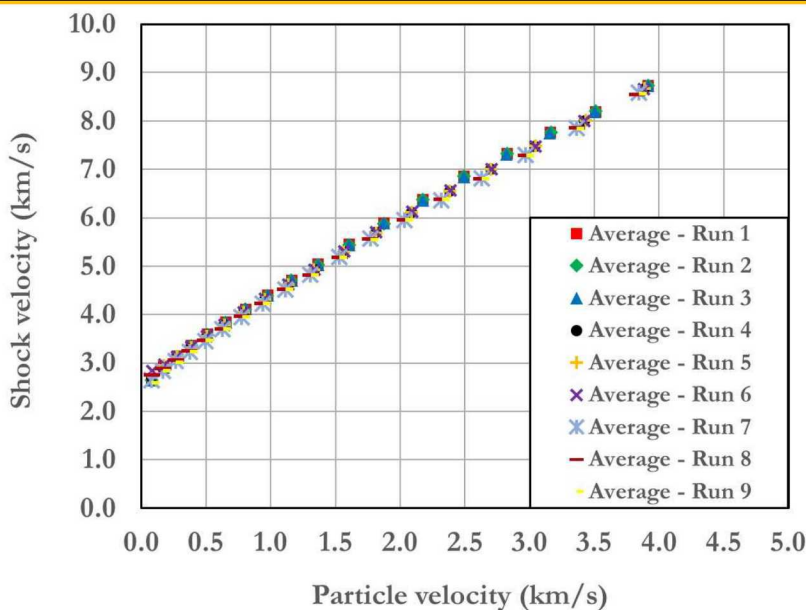
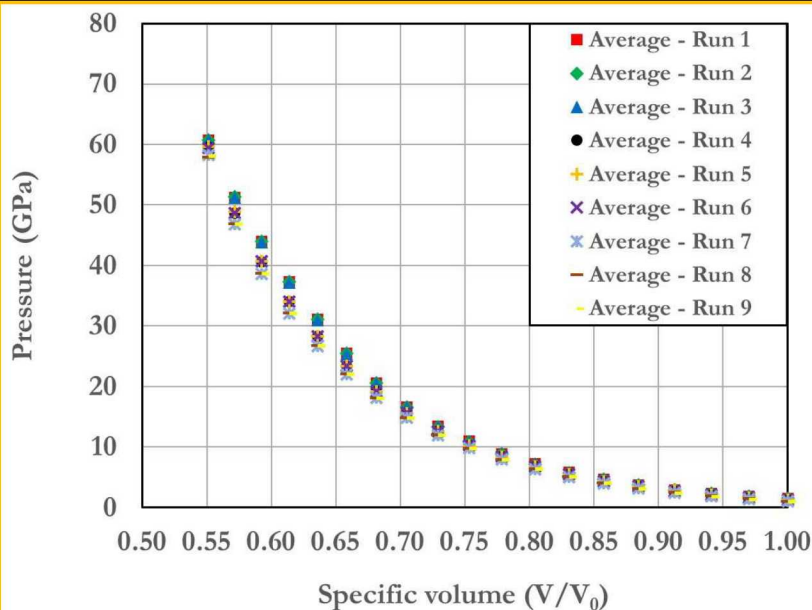
Computational point-of-view

# 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.

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

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

$F$  = Structure Factor

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

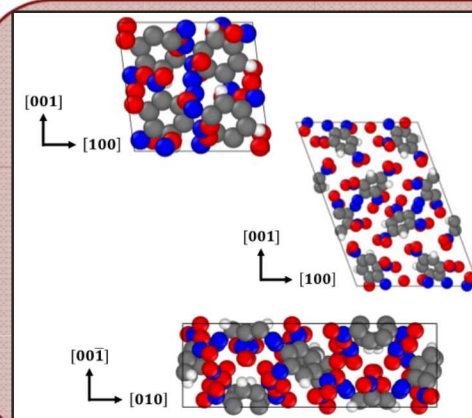
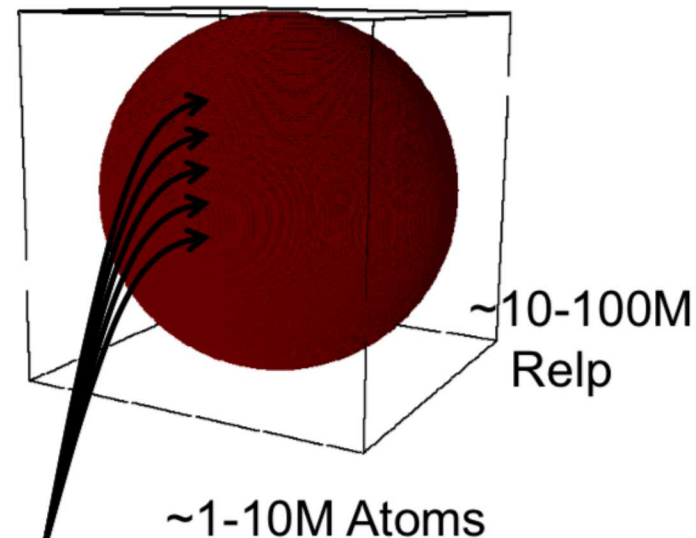
**Structure Factor:**

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

$N$  = Number of Atoms in Simulation

$f_j$  = Atomic Scattering Factor

$\mathbf{r}_j$  = Atom Position



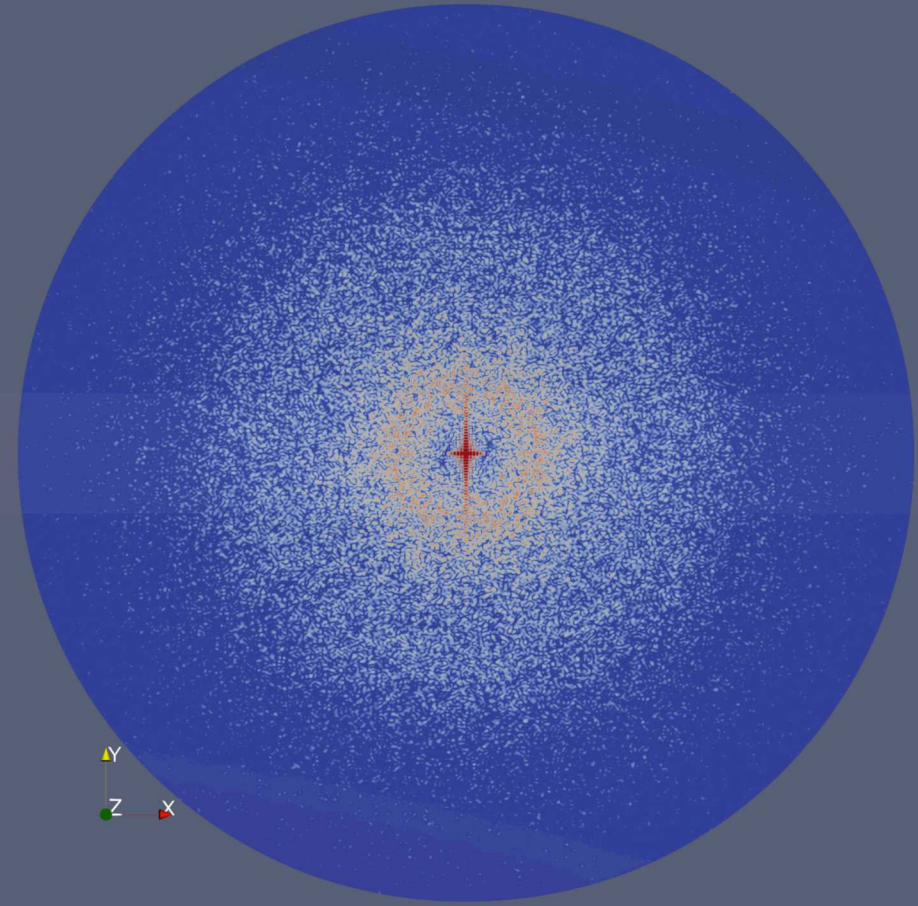
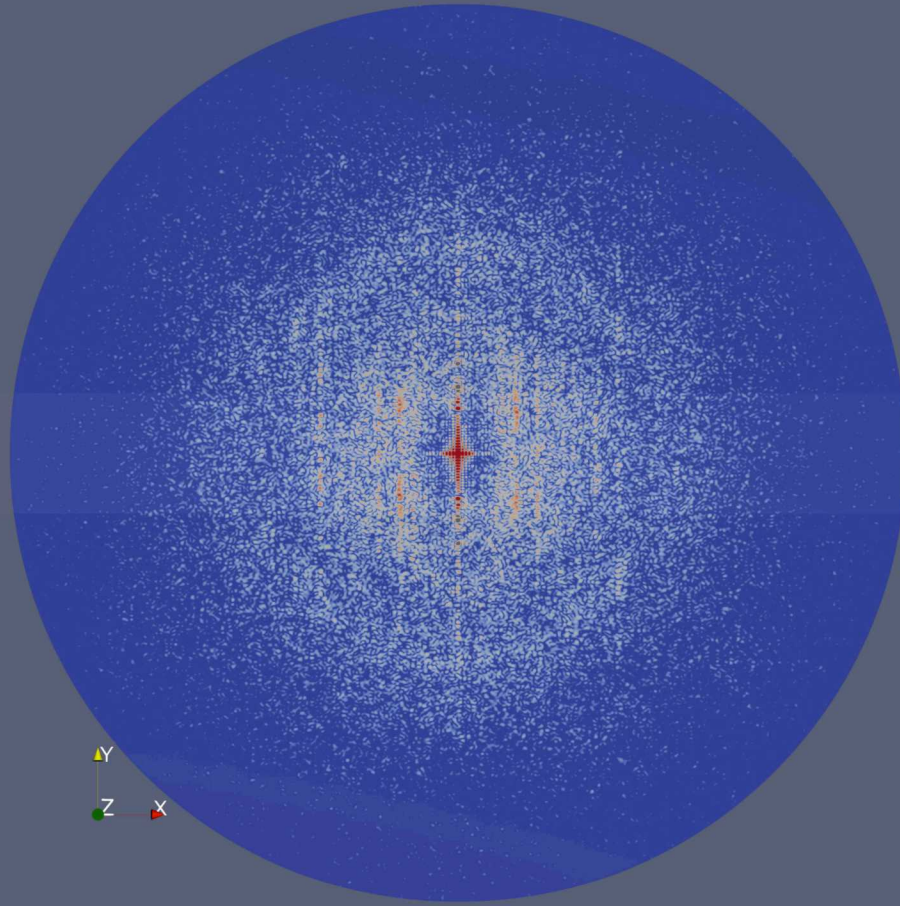
All atoms are sampled at each reciprocal point.



# SAED of compressed HNAB microstructures

HNAB - 2

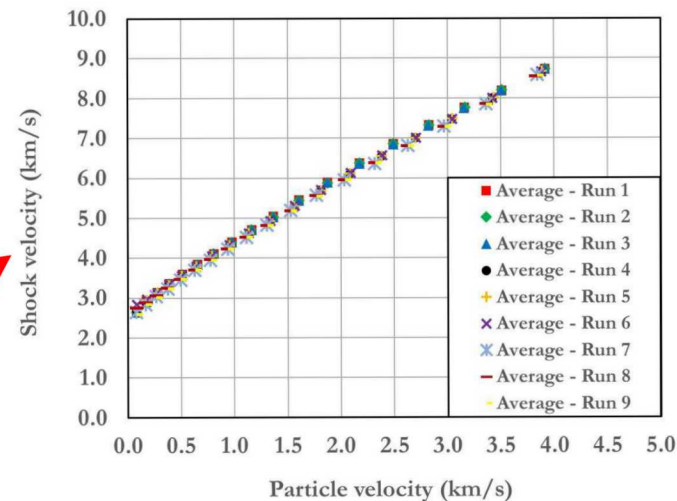
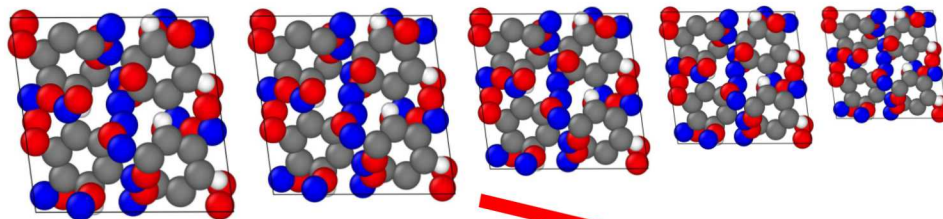
A - HNAB



# 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

