

# Strain localization and martensitic transformations at shear bands in a low SFE austenitic stainless steel.

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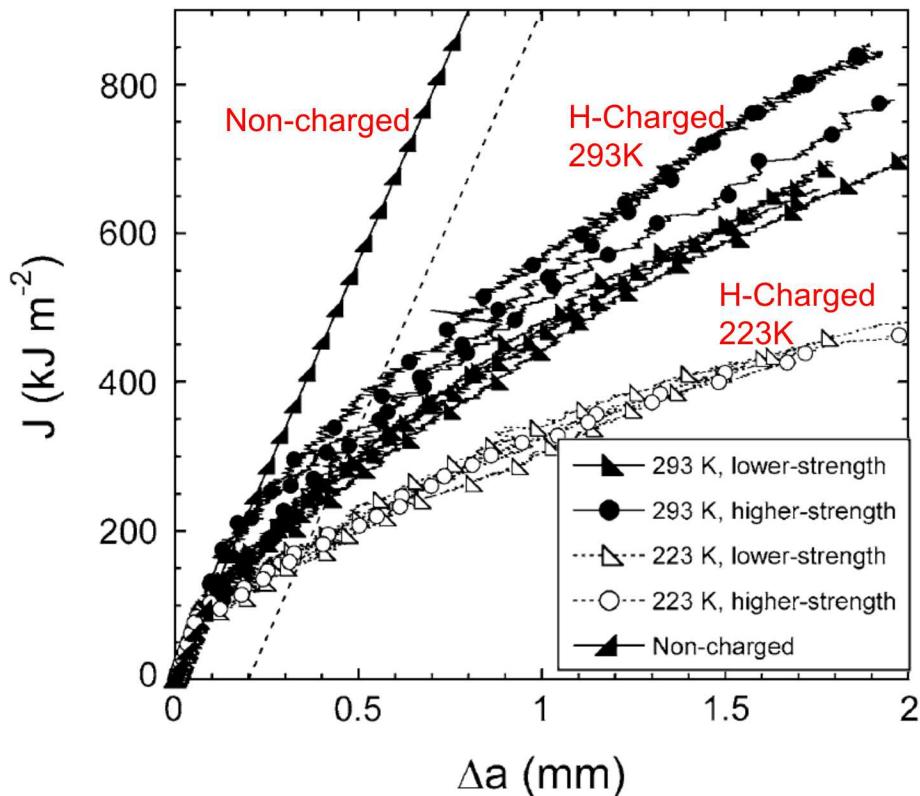


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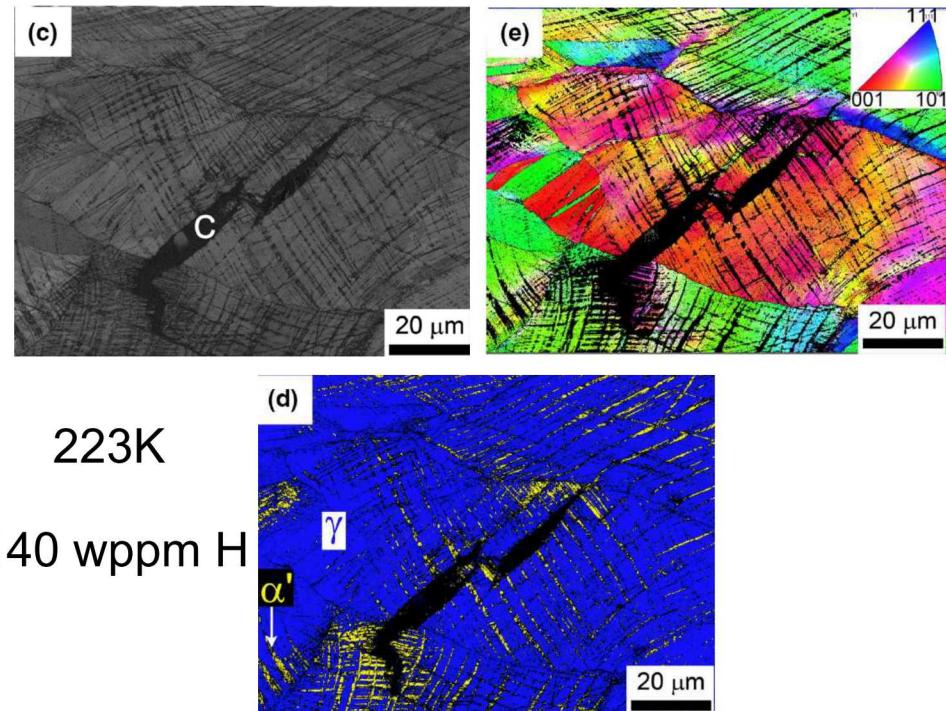
# Hydrogen degrades fracture toughness

## Crack Growth Resistance (J-R) Curve

Forged 304L Stainless Steel

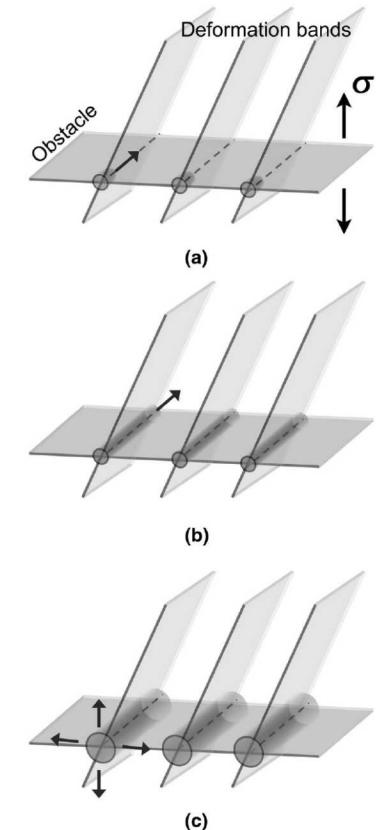
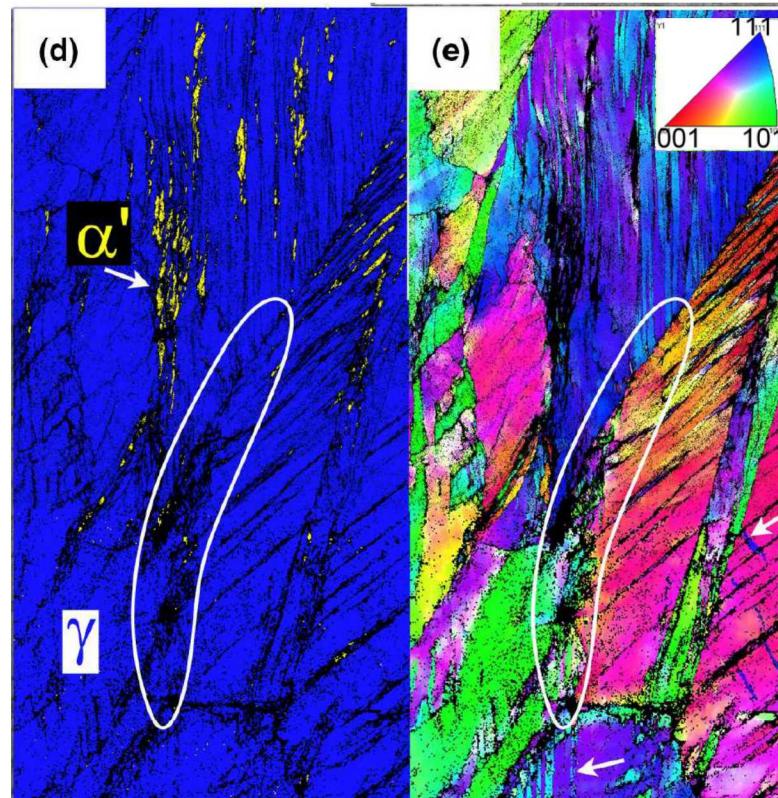
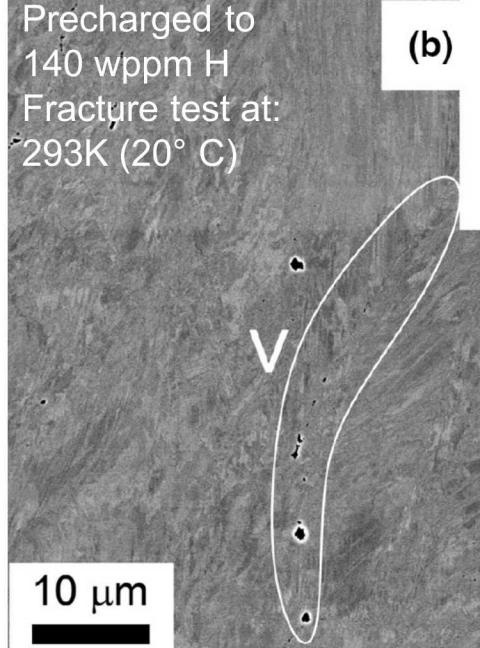


## Microvoid initiation at intersecting deformation-bands



# Microvoid nucleation at intersection of planar deformation bands with GBs

Fracture processes in H-Charged 304L associated with void nucleation



H. Jackson, C. San Marchi, D. Balch, B. Somerday, J. Michael, Metallurgical and Materials Transactions A, 2016

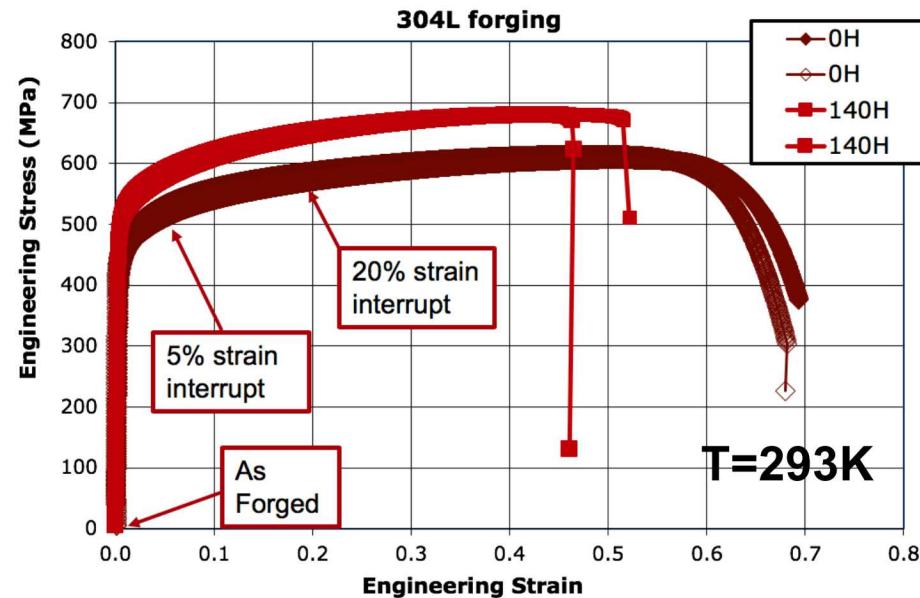
What are the deformation bands and how do they depend on hydrogen?

# Focus for this talk:

- **Structure of the planar deformation bands**

- Microstructure in specimens from interrupted Tensile Tests.

- Same forged 304L material as in Jackson 2016 study

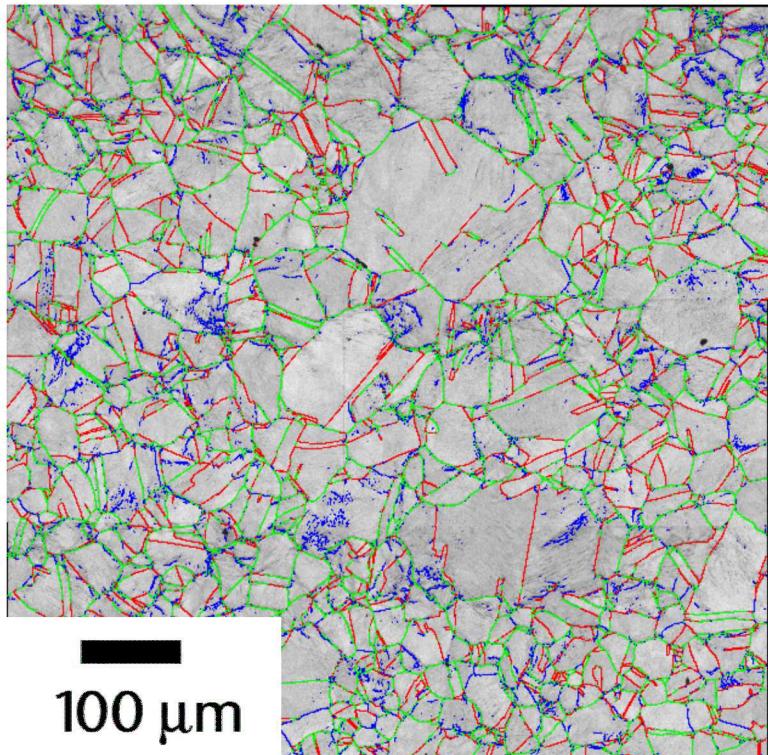


- **Relationship of the bands to  $\alpha'$  martensite nucleation**
- Influence of hydrogen on  $\varepsilon$ -martensite formation

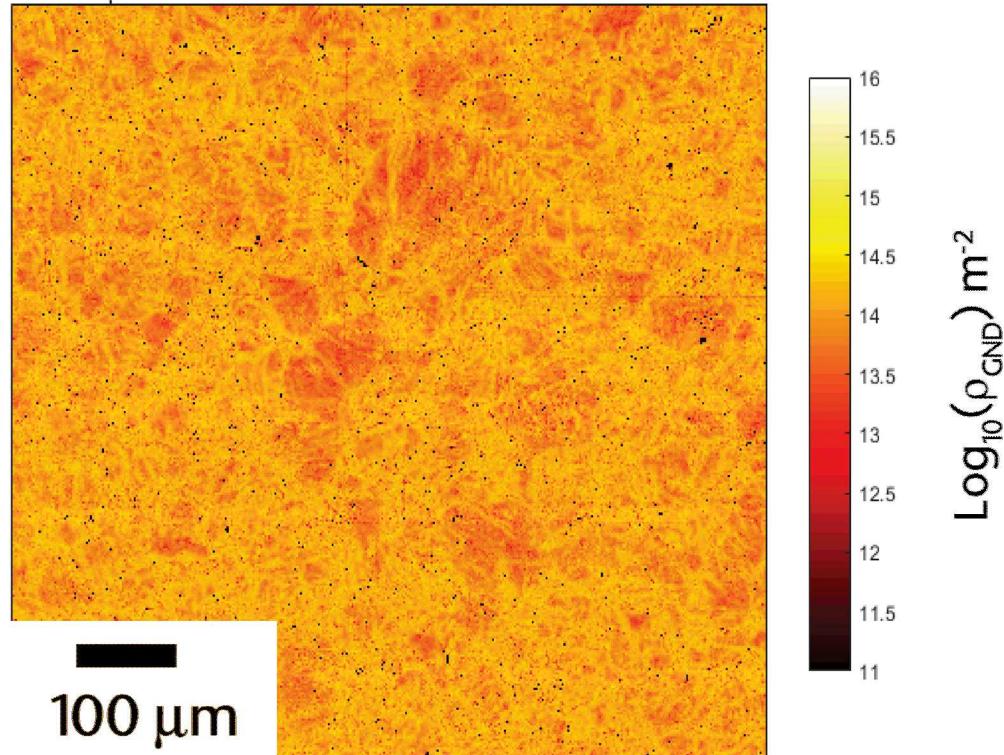
# Initial As-forged microstructure

## EBSD Measurements

GB Misorientations



Geometrically Necessary  
Dislocation (GND) Density



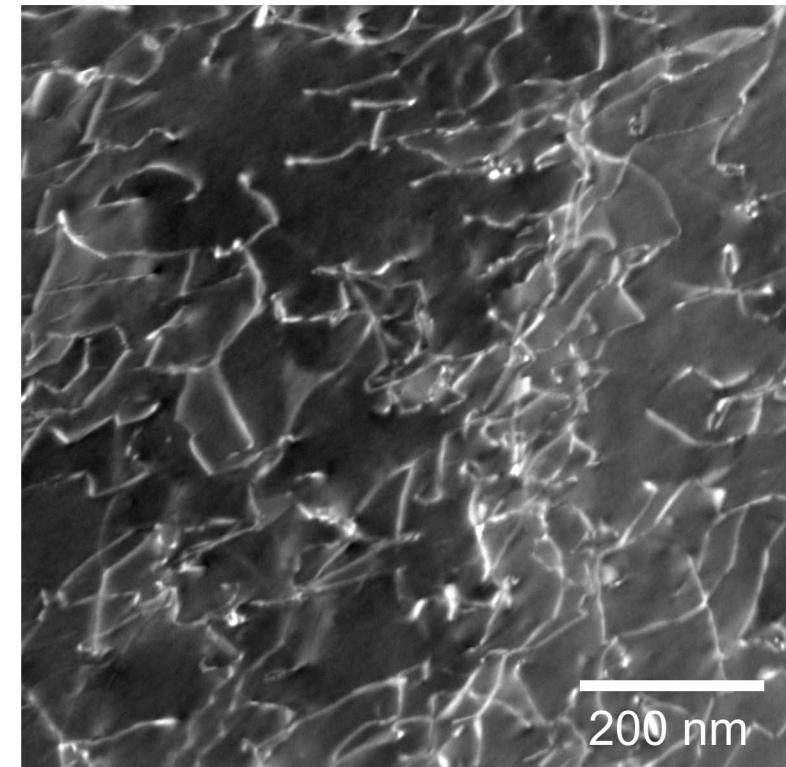
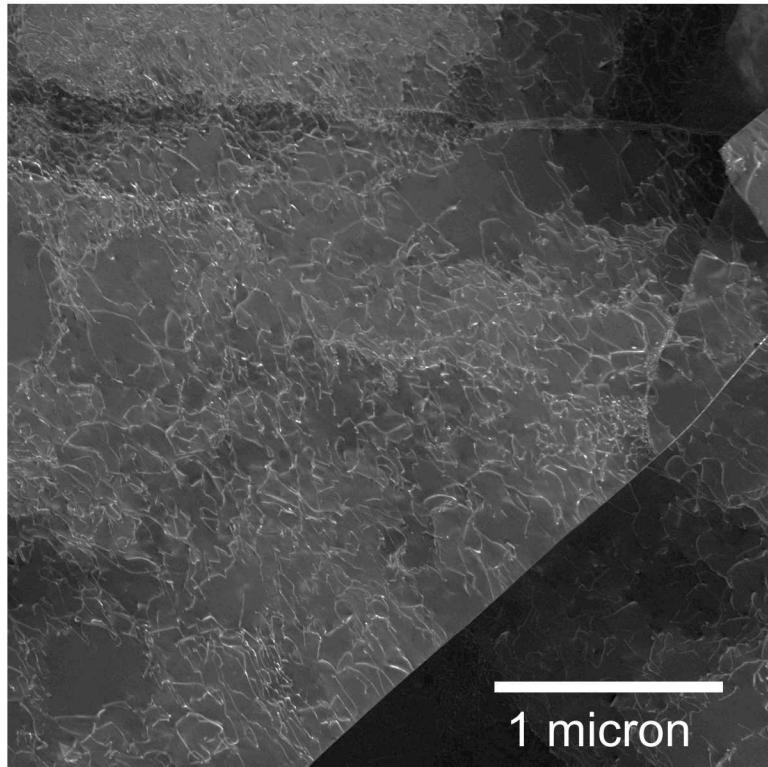
### Misorientation

- 5-20°
- 20°-55°
- 55°-60°

- Some pre-existing twins within the microstructure
- Dense distribution of geometrically necessary dislocations (GNDs)

# As-forged microstructure: dense dislocation network

Diffraction Contrast Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy  
(DC-STEM)

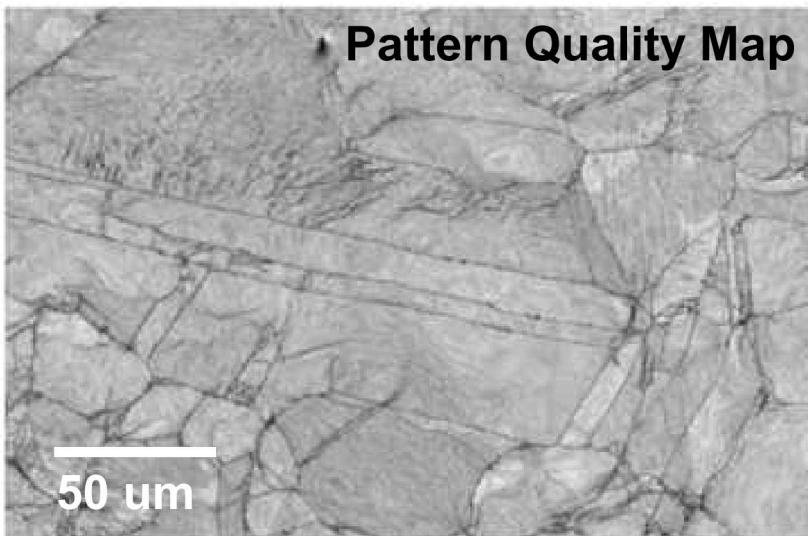


**How does this microstructure evolve with plastic strain?**

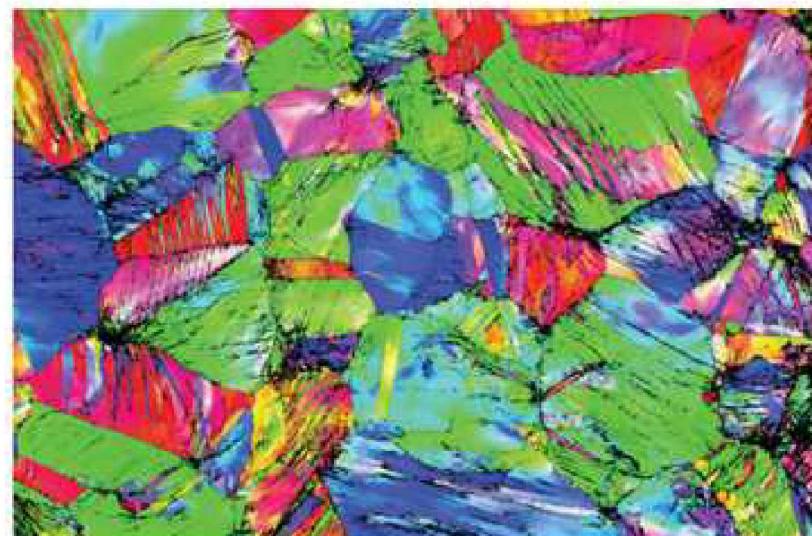
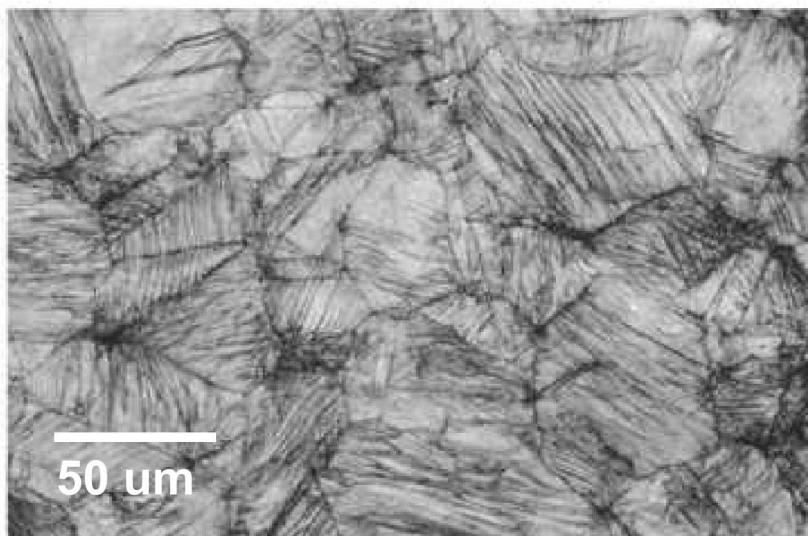
# H increases density of deformation bands

EBSD - 20% Strain

Non-  
Charged

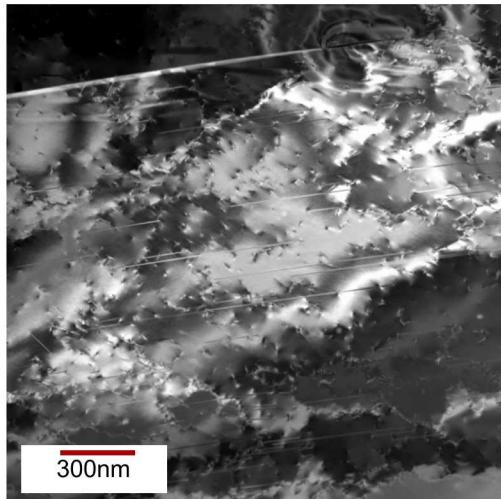


Hydrogen  
Charged



# STEM: Insight to Development of Shear Bands

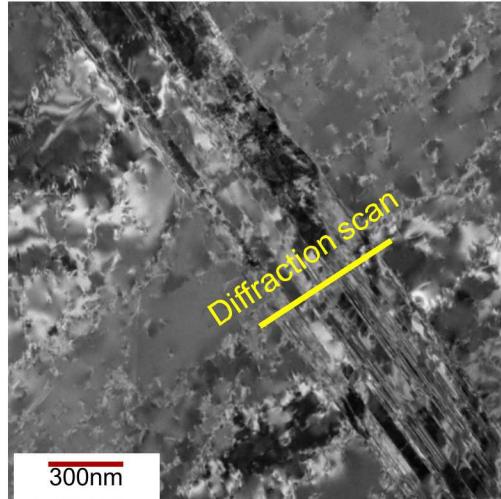
As-forged and H-charged  
(140 ppm H)



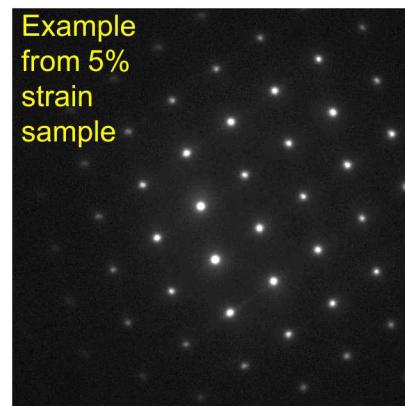
Dislocation cells and extended stacking faults

*Scanning diffraction to determine interphase crystallography at nanometer-scale resolution*

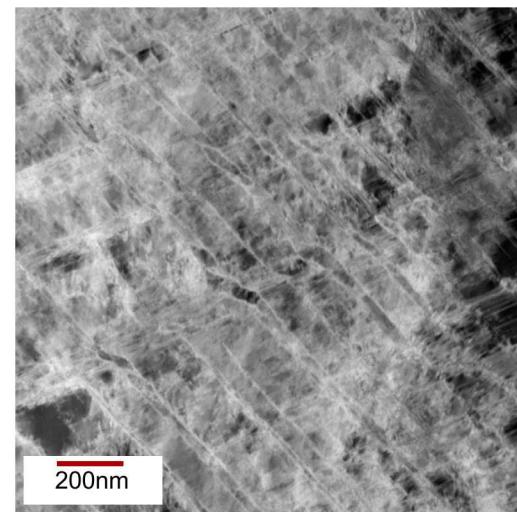
5% strain  
(140 ppm H)



Parallel bands of deformation twins and  $\epsilon$ -martensite  
(no  $\alpha'$ -martensite observed)



20% strain  
(140 ppm H)



Intersecting shear bands (twins,  $\epsilon$ -martensite)  
 $\alpha'$  – martensite at intersections

Key techniques:

- Diffraction-Contrast STEM
- Scanning nano-beam diffraction
- Atomic-resolution STEM

# Orientations and phases in shear-bands can be

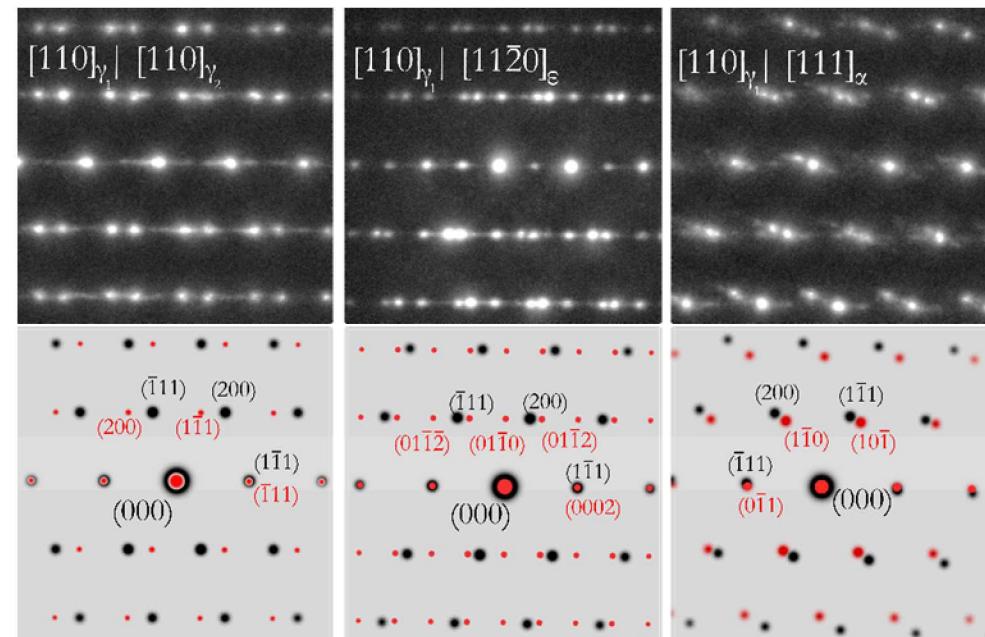
## distinguished through nanobeam diffraction

**Austenite:**  
face-centered cubic (fcc)

**$\varepsilon$ -martensite:**  
hexagonal close packed (hcp)  
structure

**$\alpha'$ -martensite:**  
body-centered cubic (bcc)  
(or bct depending on C-  
content)

Austenite:  
matrix & **twin**  
Austenite &  
 **$\varepsilon$ -martensite**  
Austenite &  
 **$\alpha'$ -martensite**



Orientations align close-packed planes and directions:

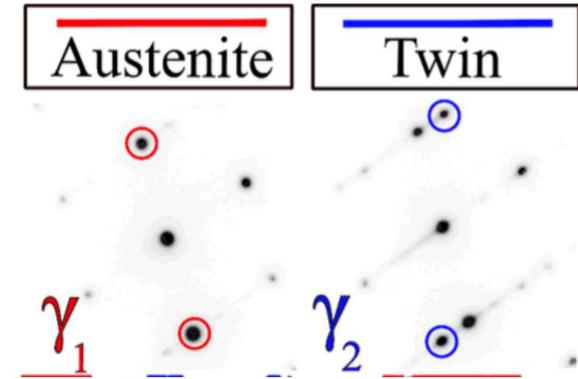
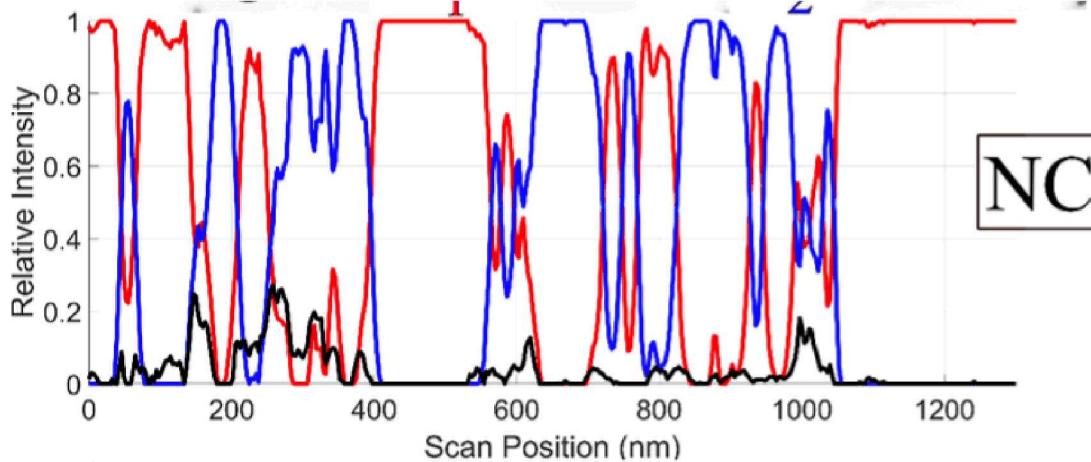
Austenite// $\varepsilon$ -martensite: Burgers relation

Austenite// $\alpha'$ -martensite: Kurdumow-Sachs relation

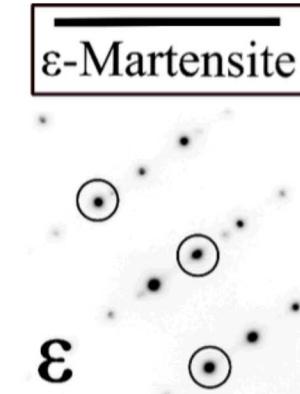
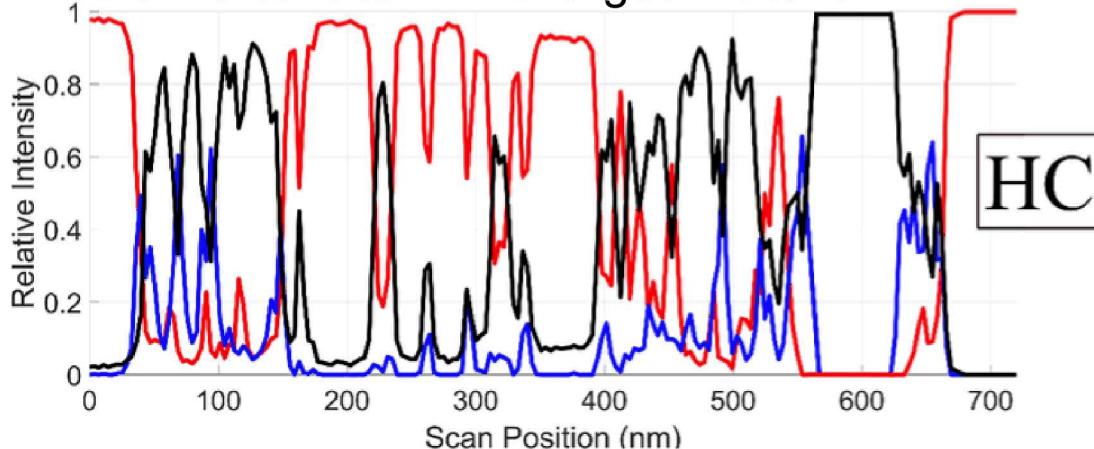
# Hydrogen charging promotes $\epsilon$ -martensite formation in shear bands

## Nanobeam diffraction line-scan analysis

Twinning in non-charged material



$\epsilon$ -martensite in H-charged material

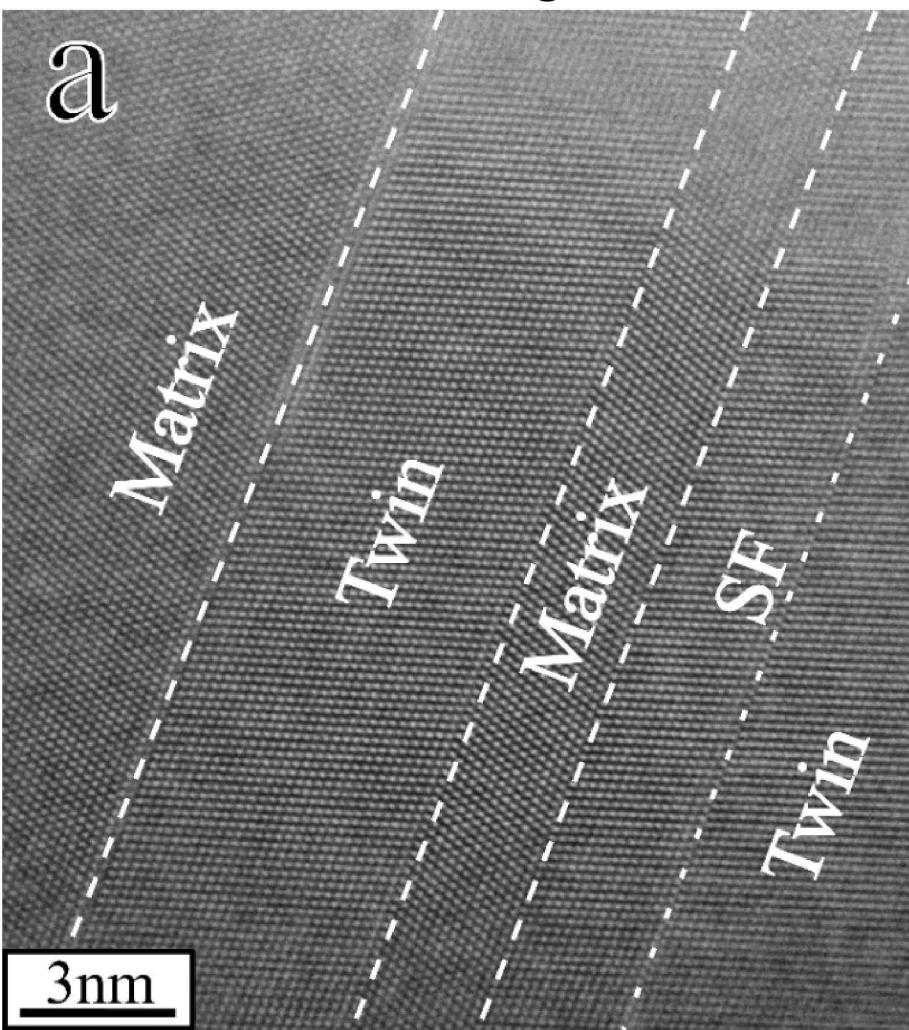


5% tensile strain

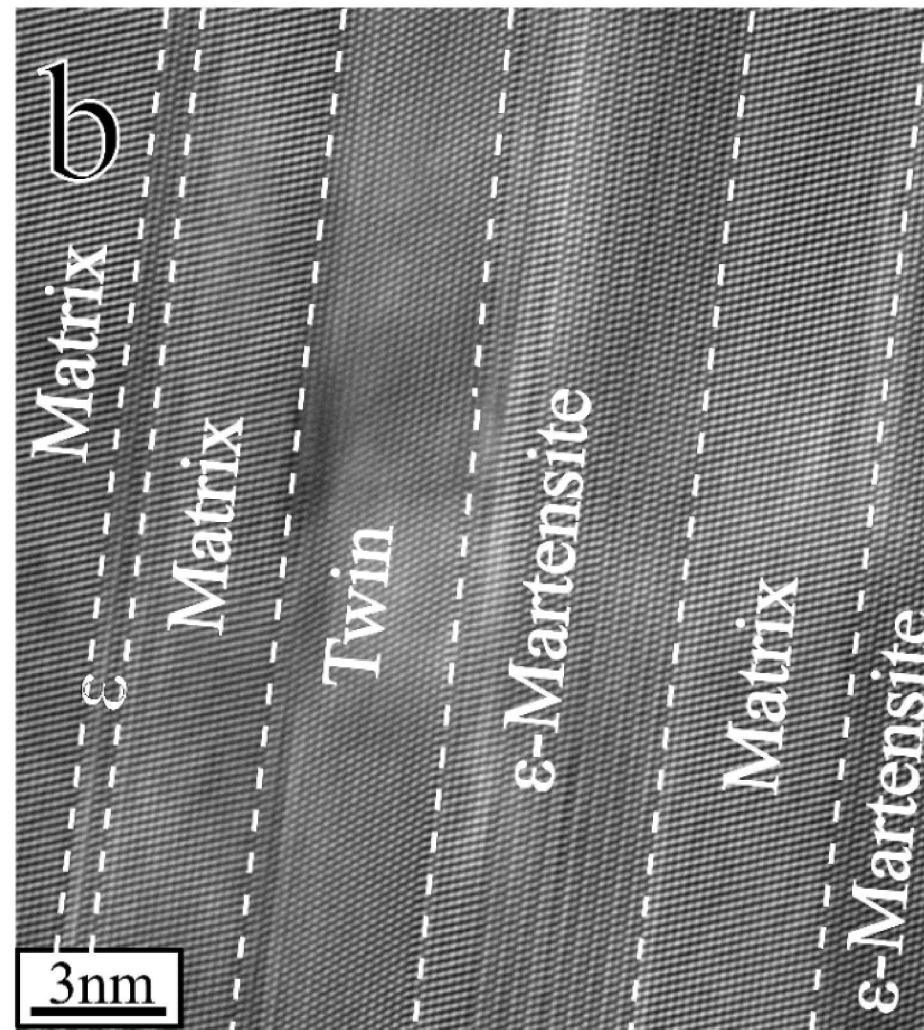
# HRSTEM: detail of deformation bands

5% strain

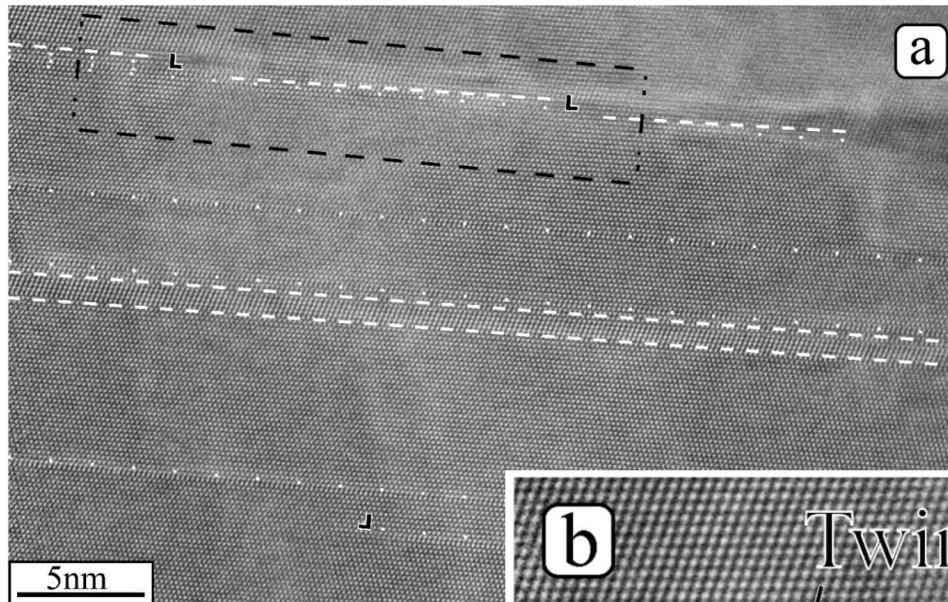
Non-Charged



Hydrogen-Charged

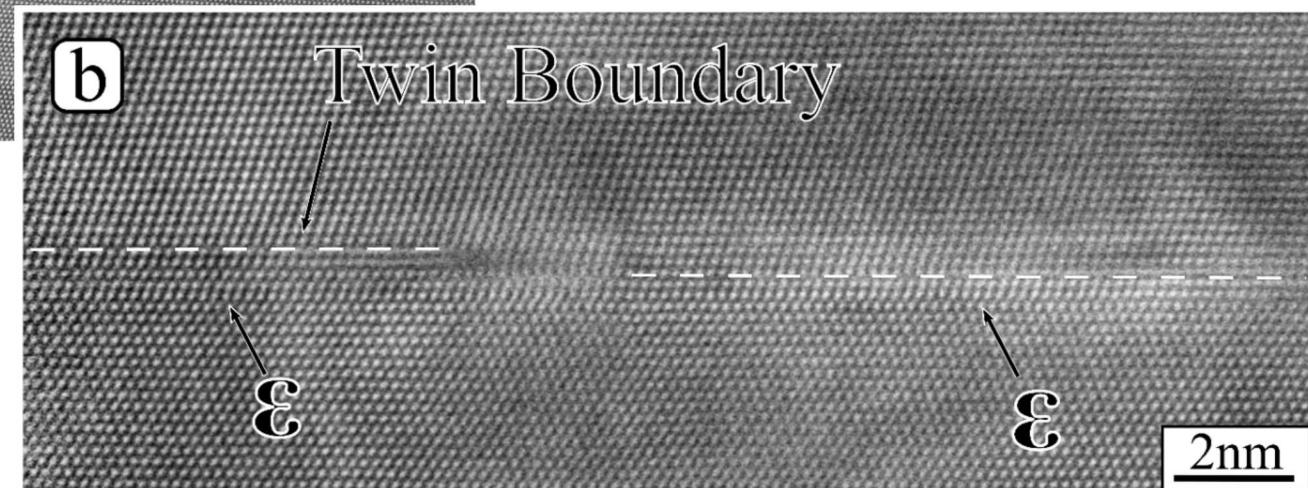


# 20% Strain: limited initiation of $\varepsilon$ -martensite in non-charged material



Faulting in vicinity of twin boundaries

1-2 layers of  $\varepsilon$ -martensite



# Promotion of $\varepsilon$ -martensite by hydrogen: an open mechanistic question

## ***Understanding relationship to stacking fault formation and partial dislocation motion is critical***

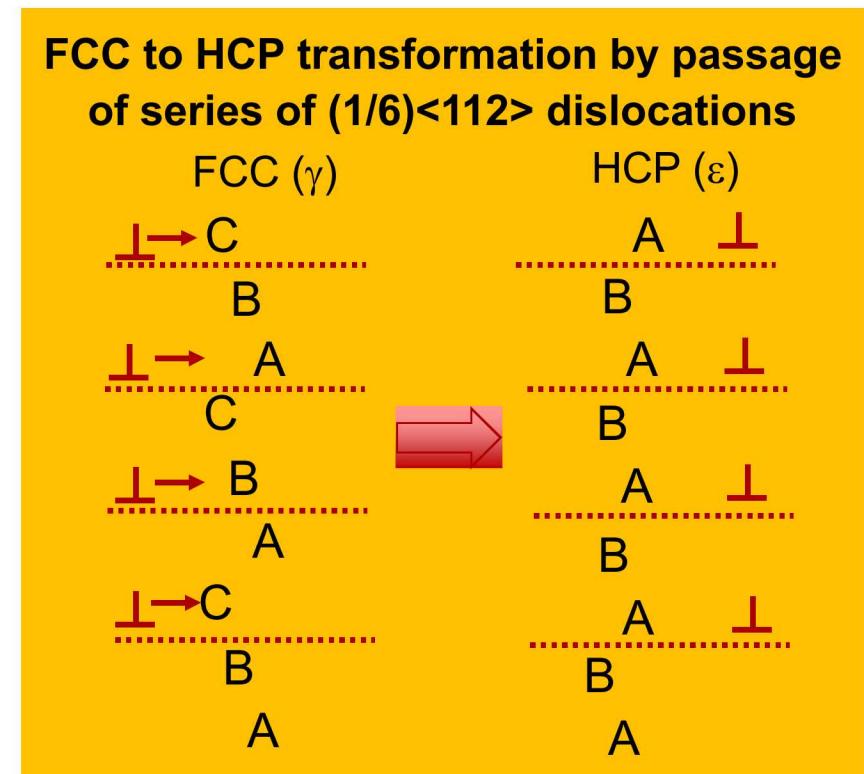
**-Reduction in SFE is often invoked as explanation H-influence on shear localization.**

Existing experimental literature shows small reductions in SFE with H.

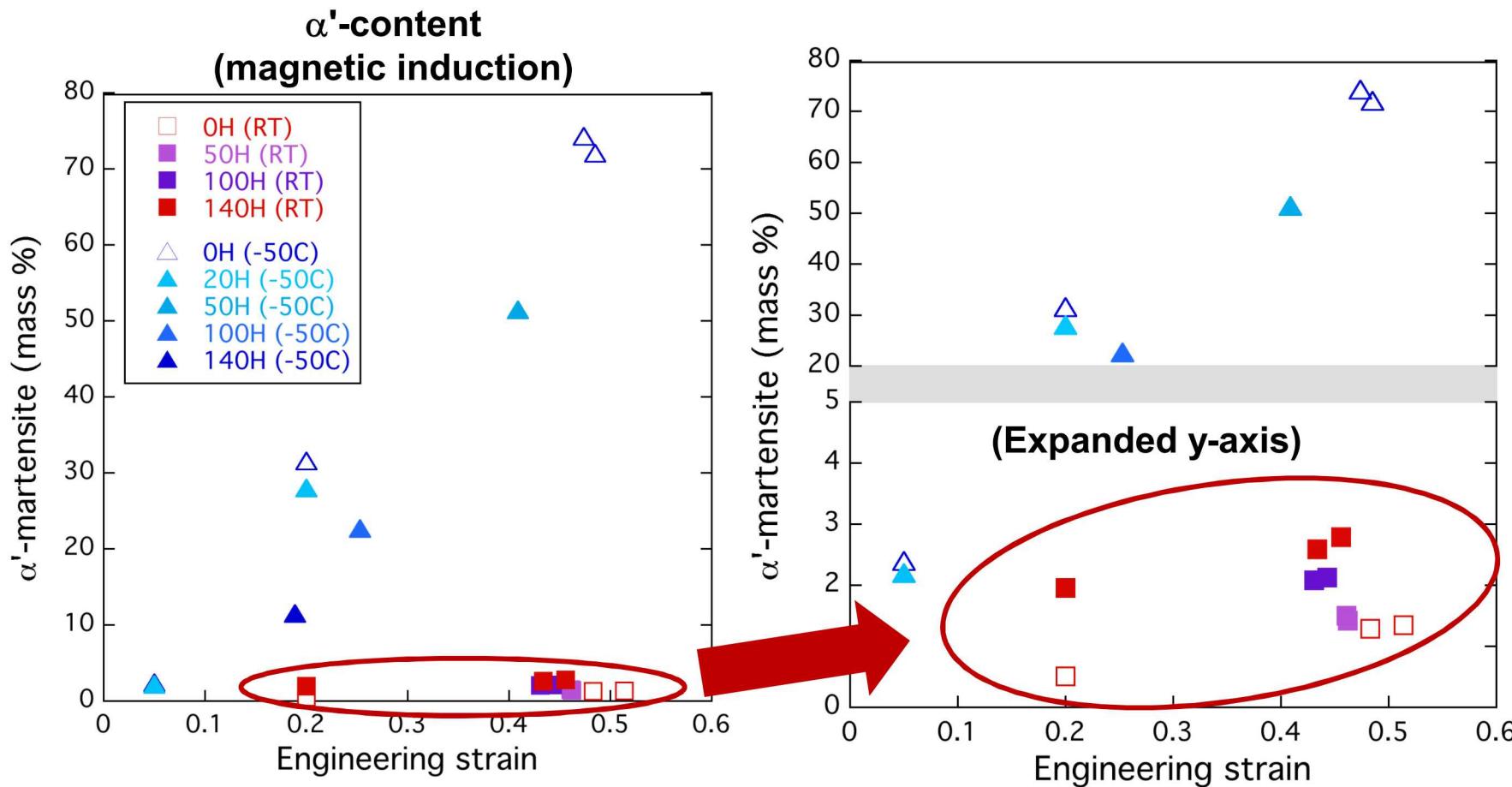
(e.g., Ferreira, Mat Sci Forum 1996;  
Pontini, Scripta Mat 1997)

**-Solute drag effects:**  
Preferential pinning of trailing partials by hydrogen gives kinetic mechanism for fault extension. (e.g., Sills et al., 2016)

-Does not explain how faults would order into required ABAB... stacking sequence

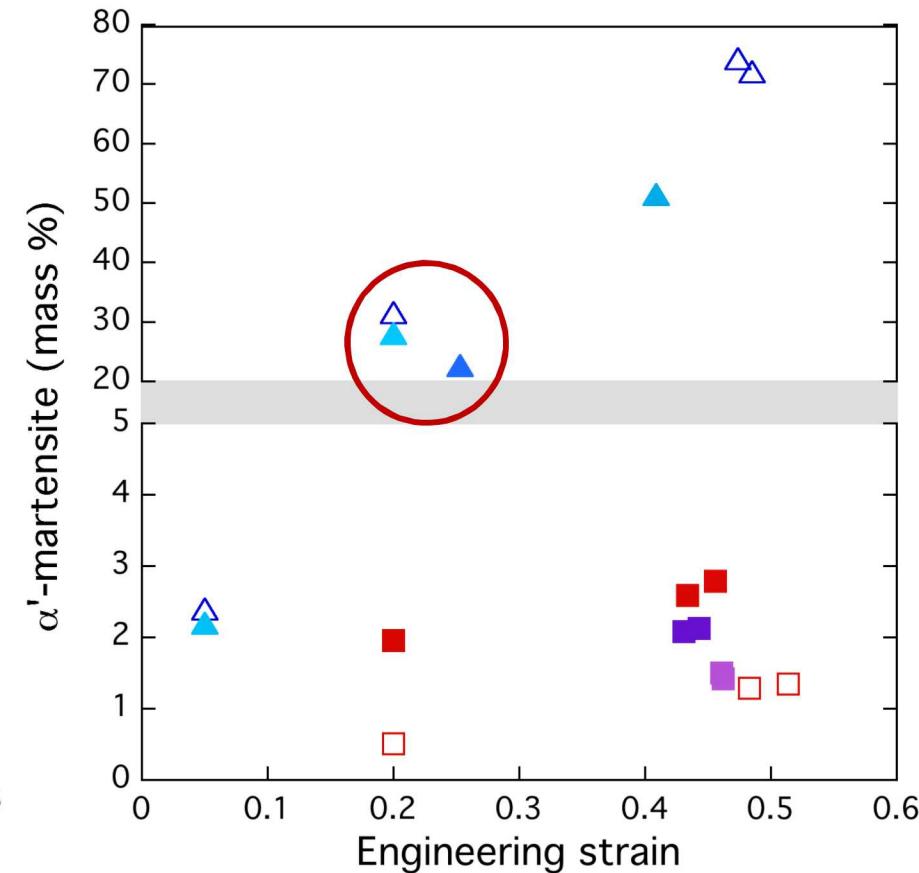
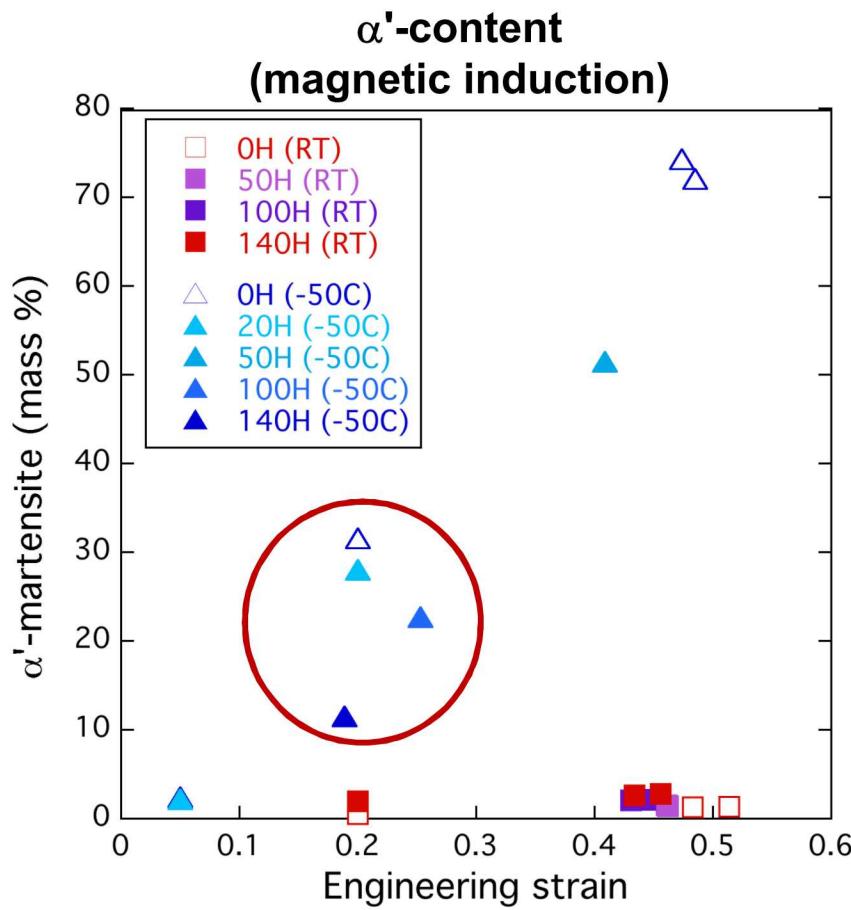


# Strain-induced $\alpha'$ -martensite transformation in 304L



At **RT** and **low** volume of transformation,  
hydrogen **promotes**  $\alpha'$ -martensite

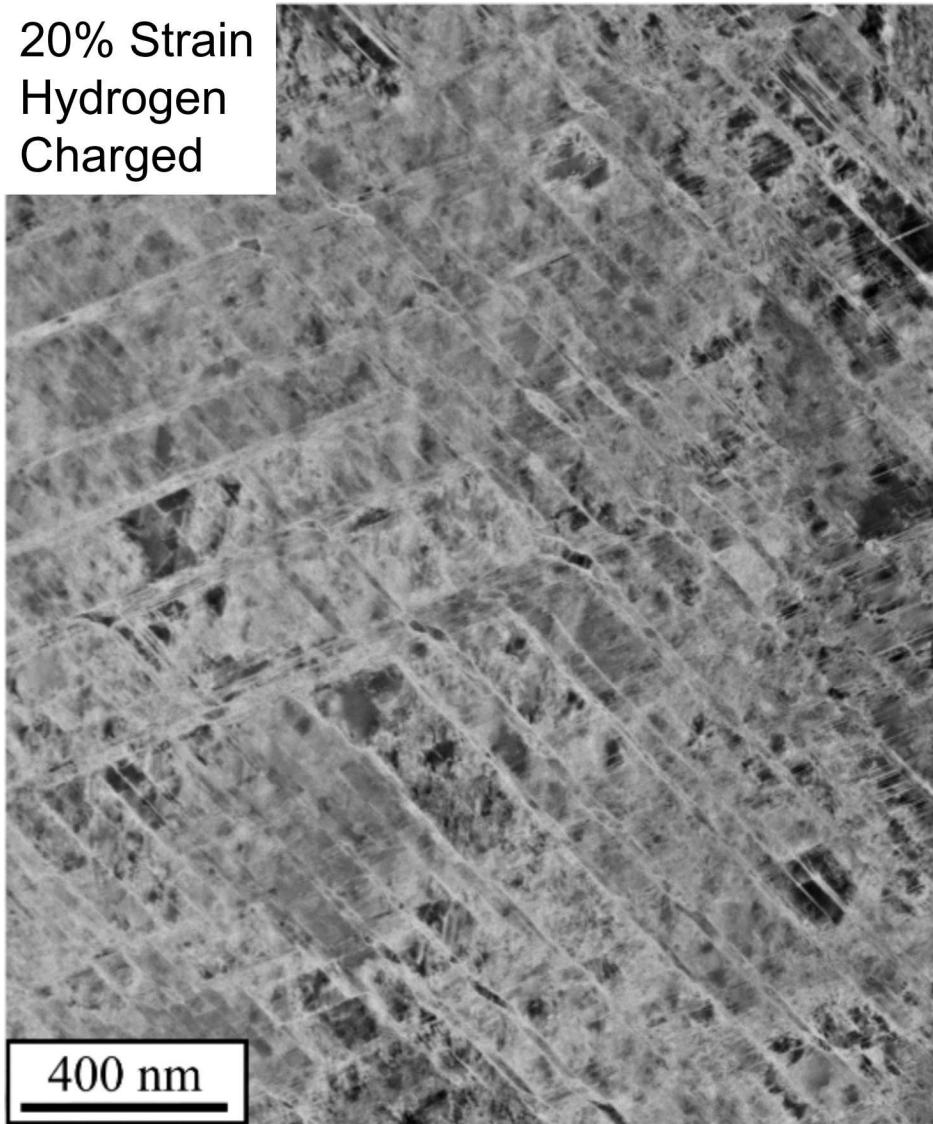
# Strain-induced $\alpha'$ -martensite transformation in 304L



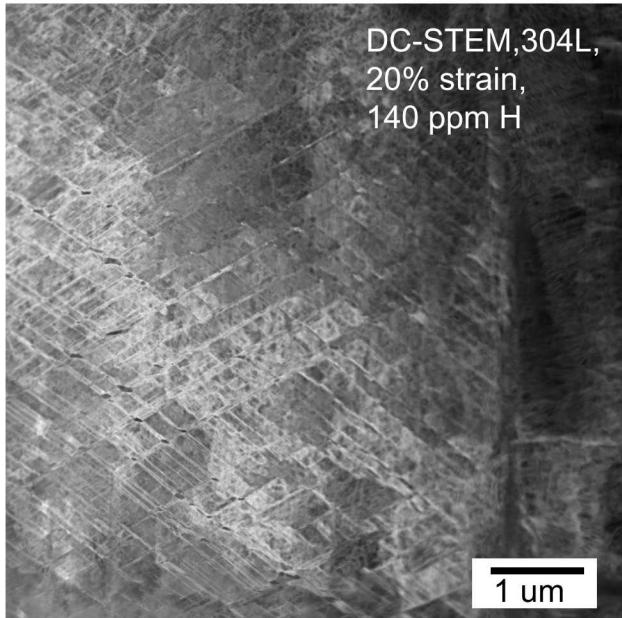
At  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  and *high* volume of transformation,  
hydrogen *suppresses*  $\alpha'$ -martensite

# Higher Strain: Activation of multiple slip gives cross-hatched microstructure

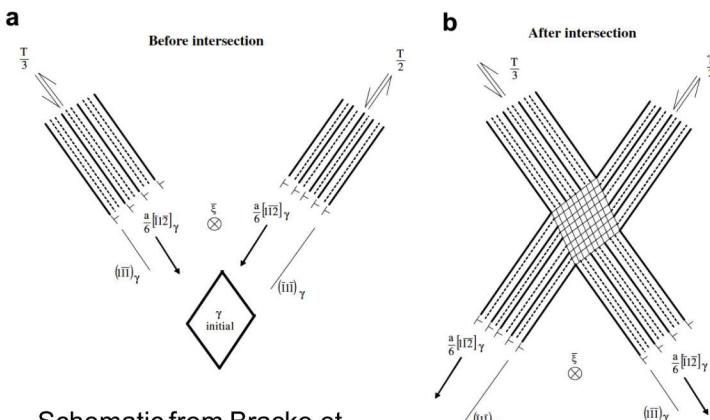
20% Strain  
Hydrogen  
Charged



# $\alpha'$ martensite at shear band intersections

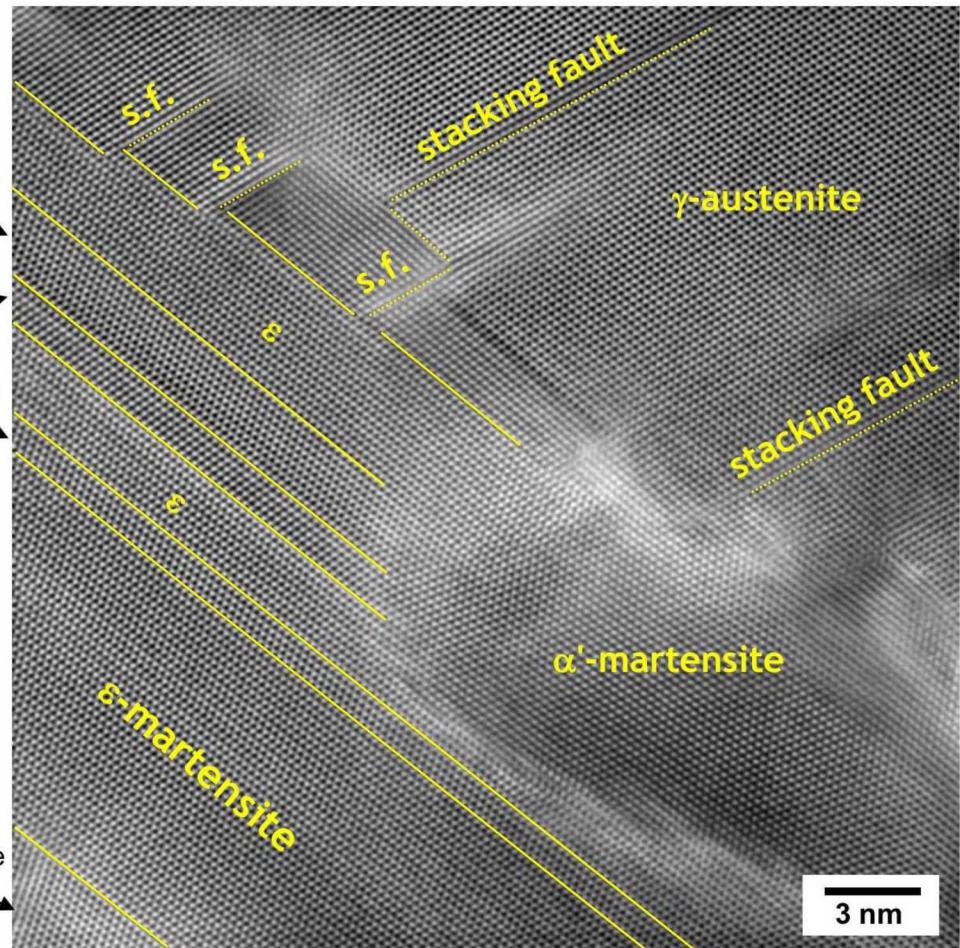


Olsen & Cohen model for  $\alpha'$ -martensite nucleation at shearbands



Schematic from Bracke et al. Scripta Materialia 2007

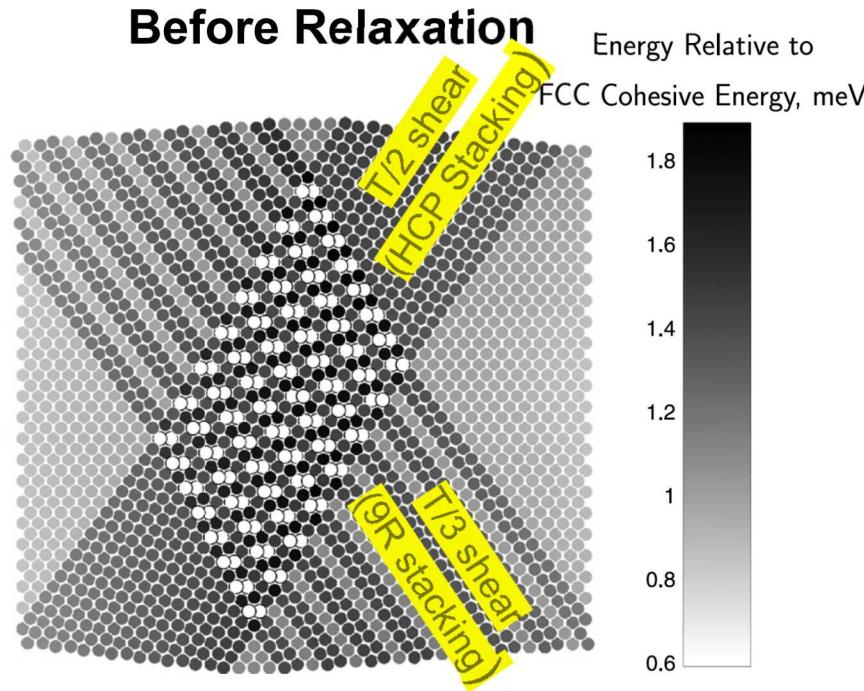
$\varepsilon$ - and  $\alpha'$ -martensite at shear bands in tensile-strained 304L stainless steel  
(20% strain, 140 ppm H)



# Atomistic calculations:

## $\alpha'$ nucleation at $\varepsilon$ -martensite intersection

C.W. Sinclair and R.G. Hoagland, Acta Materialia 2008



Increased potency for  $\alpha'$  nucleation at intersections of  $\varepsilon$ -martensite

Increase of BCC  $\alpha'$ -martensite with internal hydrogen may be a secondary effect of hydrogen increasing  $\varepsilon$ -martensite formation

# Conclusions

- Complex, multiscale evolution of microstructure under tensile strain in forged austenitic stainless steel.
- Microstructure affected by presence of internal hydrogen
  - Strain localization into planar deformation bands
    - Twinning in non-charged 304L*
    - Both twinning and martensite formation in H-charged 304L*
      - $\varepsilon$ -martensite in shear-bands
      - $\alpha'$ -martensite at intersections of shear-bands
  - $\varepsilon$  martensite provides a favorable pathway to  $\alpha'$ .
    - Likely that the initial increase in  $\alpha'$  with H is a secondary effect of hydrogen promoting  $\varepsilon$ -martensite formation, aiding  $\alpha'$  nucleation*
- Open mechanistic questions:
  - Promotion of  $\varepsilon$ -martensite formation by H?*
  - Low T reduction of  $\alpha'$  by presence of H?*

# Acknowledgements

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Mark Homer (Sandia)

Transmission Electron Microscopy  
Julian Sabisch



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