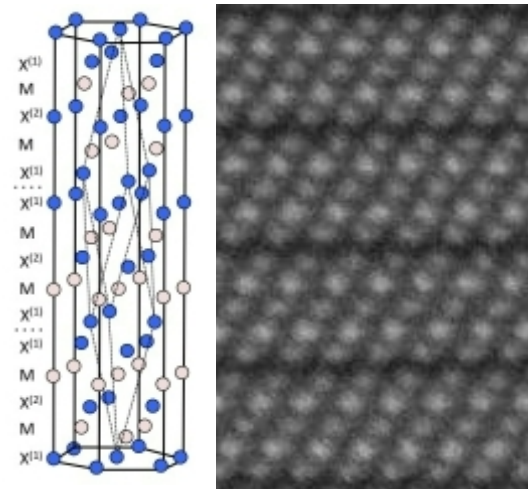


Atomic-Scale Investigations of Interfaces and Line Defects in Chalcogenide Materials

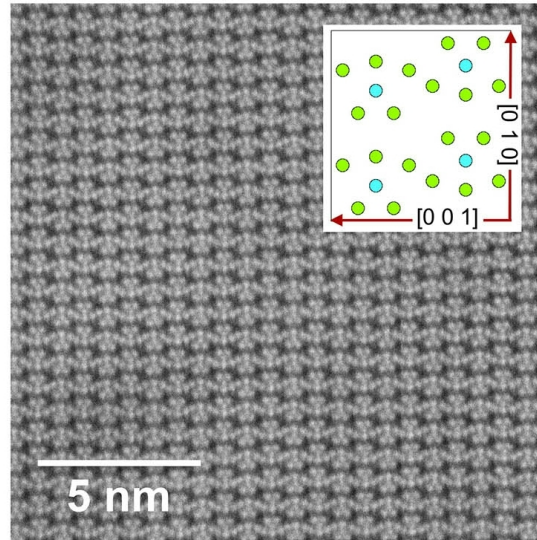
Douglas L. Medlin
Sandia National Laboratories,
Livermore, California, USA
dlmedli@sandia.gov

Layered Chalcogenides: Diversity of compositional and structural arrangements

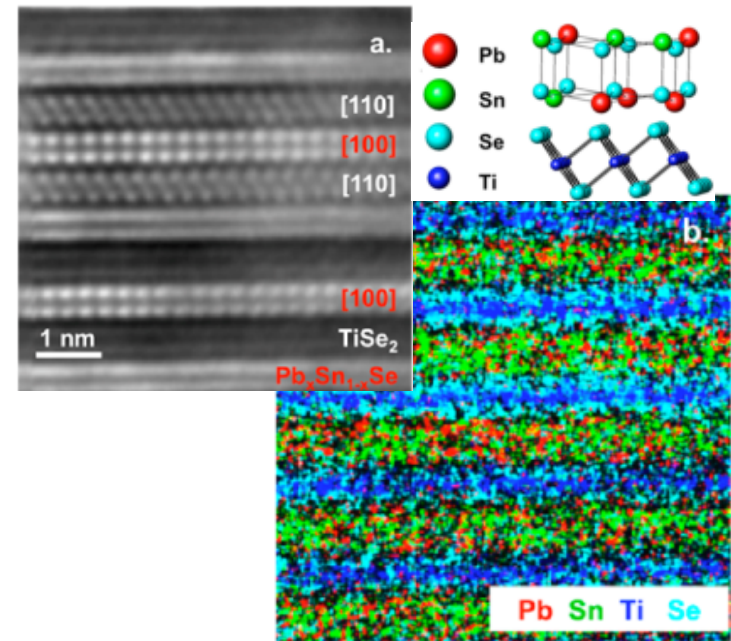
Example: Bi_2Te_3



Example: ZrTe_5



Example: $\text{PbSnSe}/\text{TiSe}_2$
van der Waals Heterostructures



Anisotropic, layered structures contribute to useful and interesting thermal, electronic, optical properties,
***Thermoelectrics, Photothermoelectric Effect,
Topological Insulators, Dirac Semimetals***

Interfaces and Dislocations are important

- **Impact on functional properties:**

- *Electron and phonon scattering*

- tradeoffs for thermoelectrics

- *Dislocations predicted to support novel quantum mechanical states.*

- **Processing:**

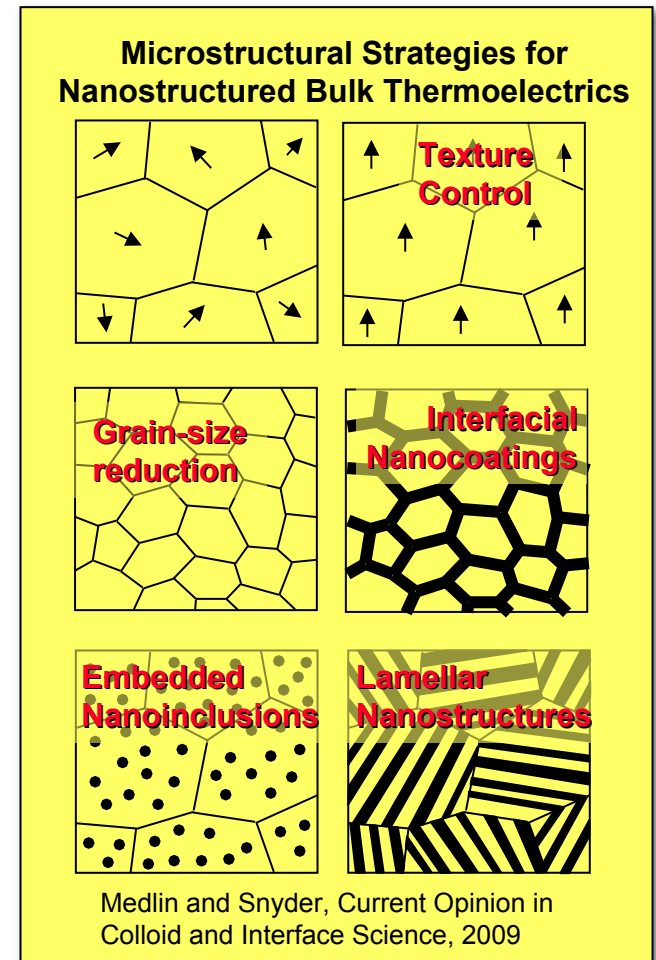
- Bulk approaches to thermoelectrics*

- Hot pressing, Extrusion, nanostructuring, phase-transformations

- Thin film nanostructure growth, epitaxy,*

- Accommodation of coherency strain

- New layer nucleation

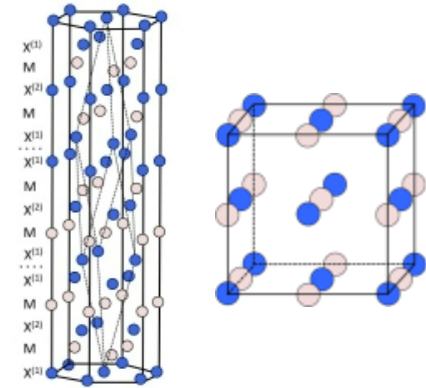


Our focus: Atomic resolution electron microscopy to clarify structure of crystal defects in the layered chalcogenides

Outline

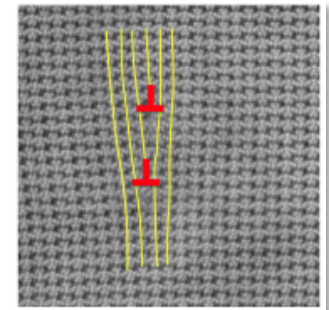
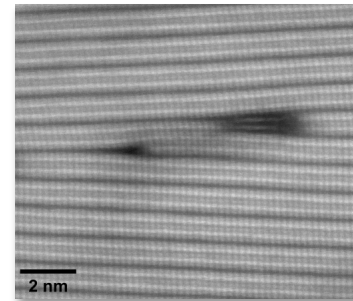
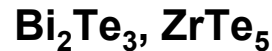
- **Crystal structure in tetradymite-type compounds**

- Layered structure gives flexibility in accommodating compositional variations
- Close structural relationship to rock-salt chalcogenides



- **Dislocation Structure:**

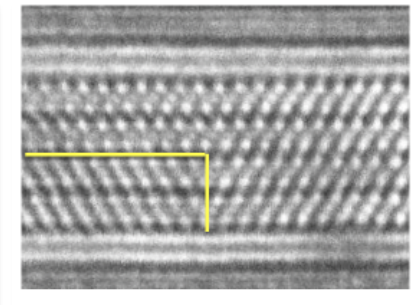
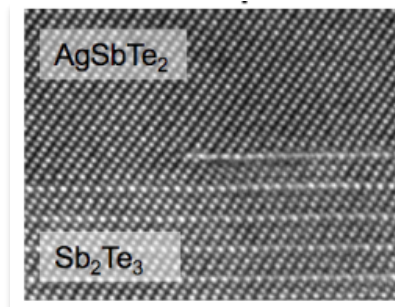
Modes of core spreading and dissociation.



- **Interfaces:**

Interfacial line-defects in phase-transformation and strain accommodation

Defects in van der Waals heterostructure thin films



Acknowledgements

Sandia

K. Erickson
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W. Pan

George Mason University

Y. Mishin

NIST

L. Hale

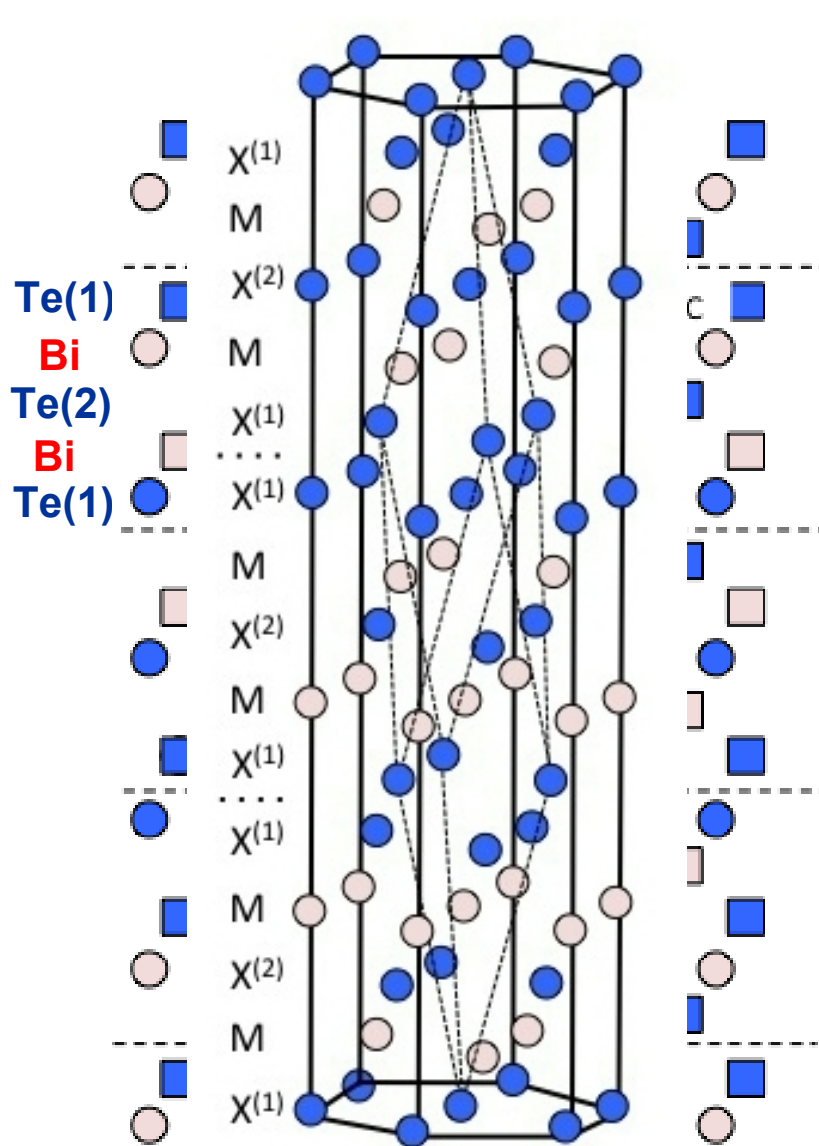
University of Oregon

R. Gannon
D.Hamann
J. Ditto
D.Johnson

California Institute of Technology

N.A. Heinz,
T. Ikeda,
G.J. Snyder
(present address Northwestern Univ)

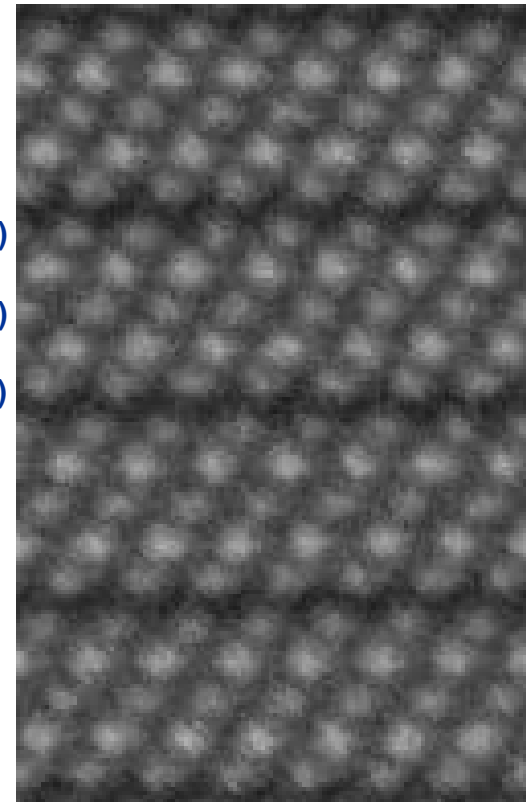
Bismuth Telluride (Bi_2Te_3): Crystal Structure



- Rhombohedral ($R\bar{3}m$) structure
- Based on tetradymite (Bi_2STe_2) prototype
- Isomorphous with Bi_2Se_3 , Sb_2Te_3
- Three crystallographically distinct atomic sites
- $\text{Te}^{(1)}\text{-Te}^{(1)}$ layers: van der Waals bonding

HAADF-STEM

Te(1)
Bi
Te(2)
Bi
Te(1)

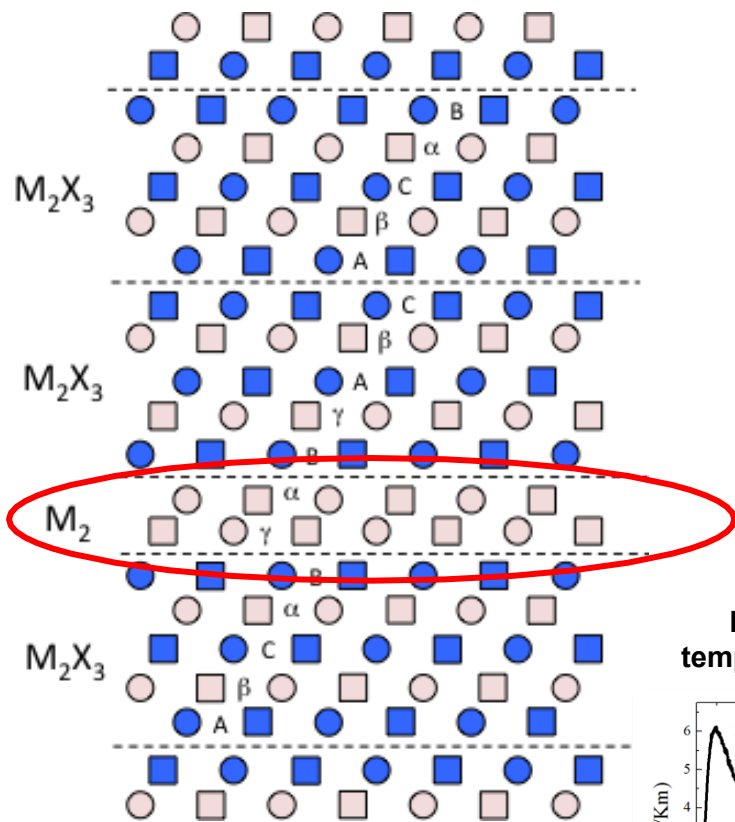


Bi: $Z=83$
Te: $Z=52$

Atomic number difference enables Bi and Te to be distinguished in HAADF-STEM

Layered structure allows flexibility in accommodating variations in composition

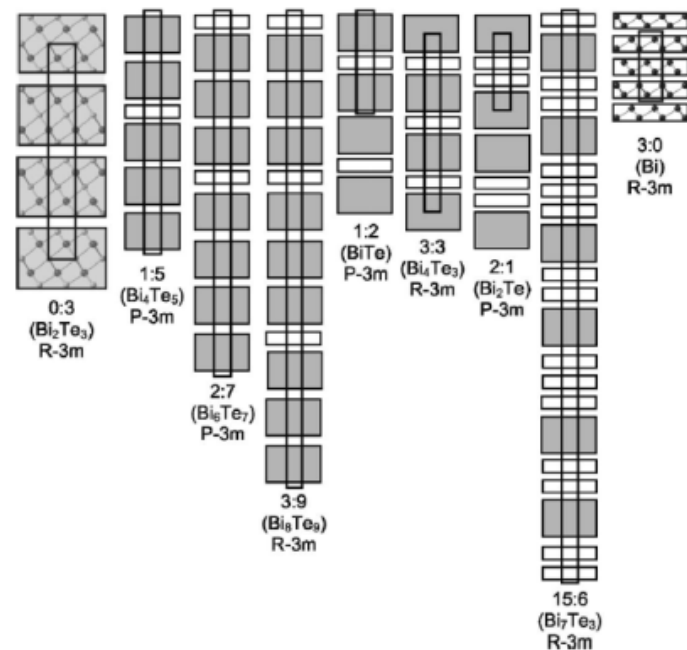
Insertion of metal bi-layers



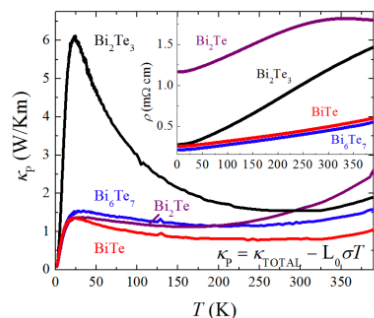
Example:
 $(Bi_2)_m(Bi_2Te_3)_n$
 homologous series

J.W.G. Bos, H.W. Zanderbergen,
 M.-H. Lee, N.P. Ong,
 R.J. Cava,
 Phys. Rev B 2007

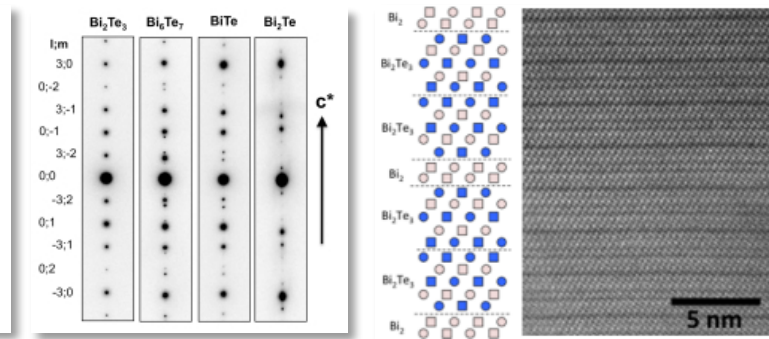
Increasing Bismuth →



Dramatic reduction in low-temperature thermal conductivity



Electron diffraction and HRSTEM show ordering in $(Bi_2)_m(Bi_2Te_3)_n$ series

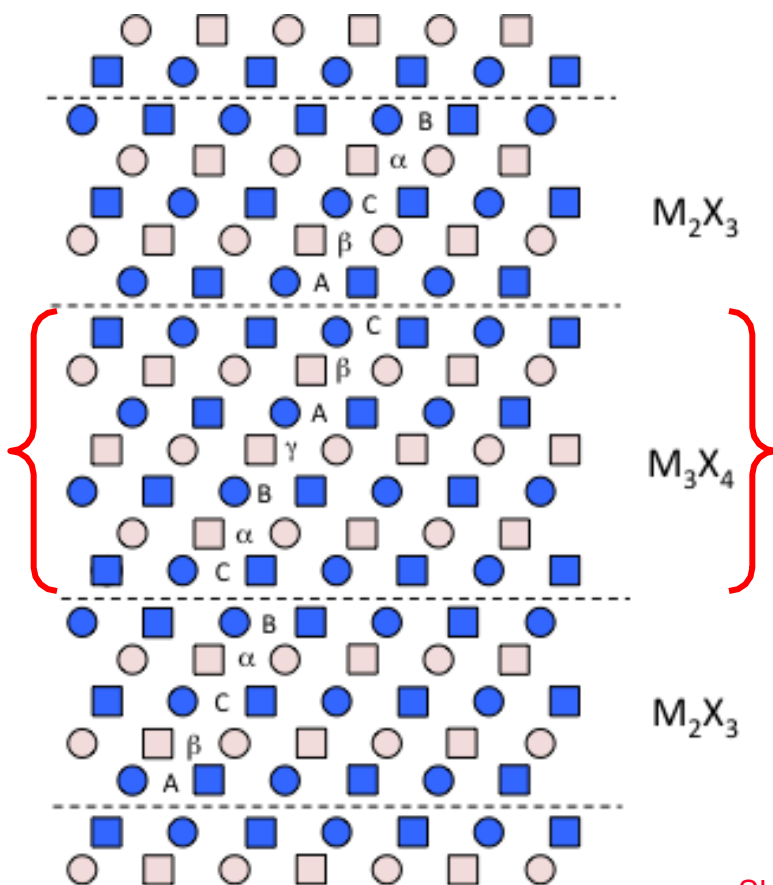


P. Sharma, D. Medlin, et al. PRB 83 (2011) 235209.

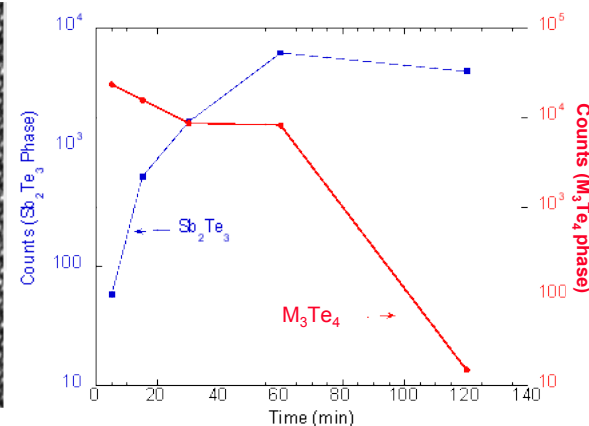
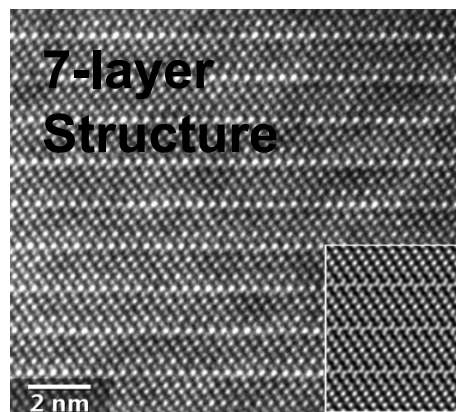
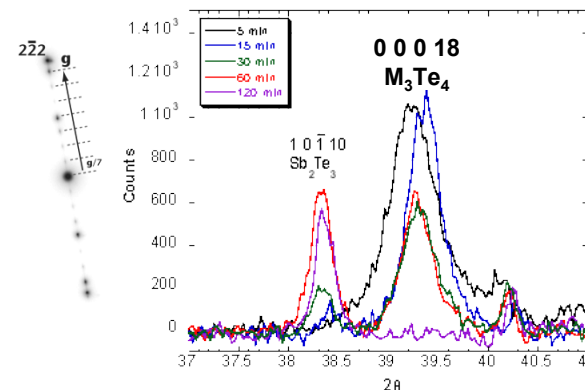
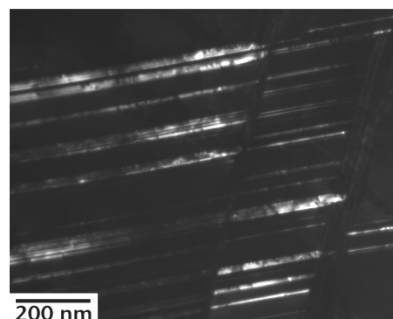
Medlin & Snyder, JOM 2013

Layered structure allows flexibility in accommodating variations in composition

Metal rich, 7-Layer M_3X_4 fault



Example: $(Ag,Sb)_3Te_4$ transition phase during nucleation of Sb_2Te_3 precipitates in $AgSbTe_2$

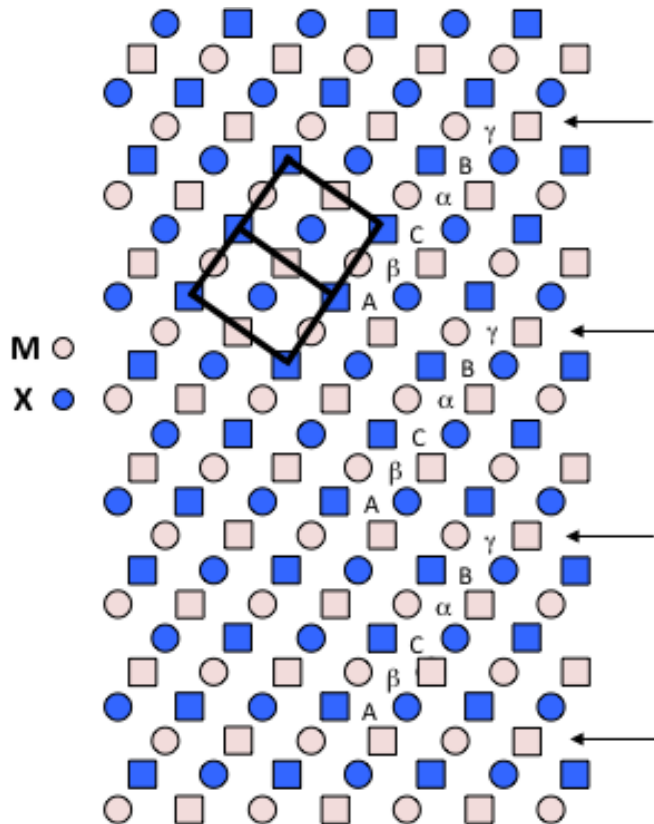


Sharma, Sugar, & Medlin, Journal of Applied Physics (2010).
Sugar and Medlin, Journal of Materials Science (2011)

Tetradymite and Rocksalt structures are closely related

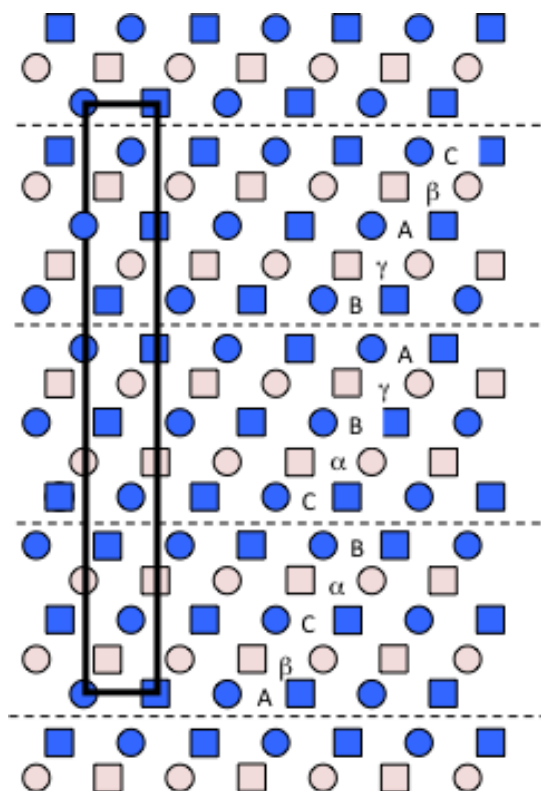
Rocksalt (MX) Structure

Fm-3m

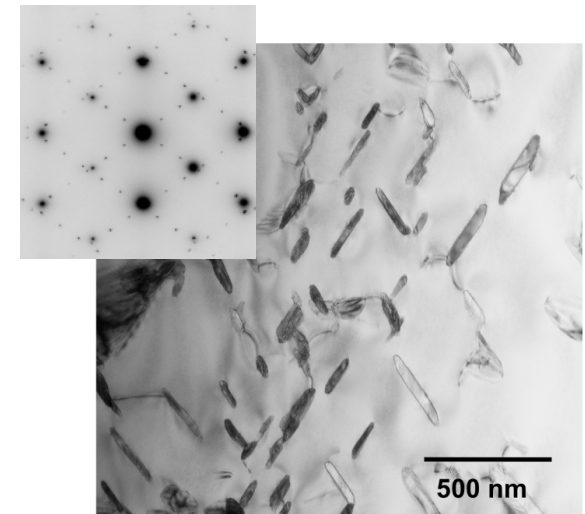


Tetradymite (M_2X_3) Structure

R-3m



Example:
Crystallographically Aligned
Sb₂Te₃ precipitates in PbTe

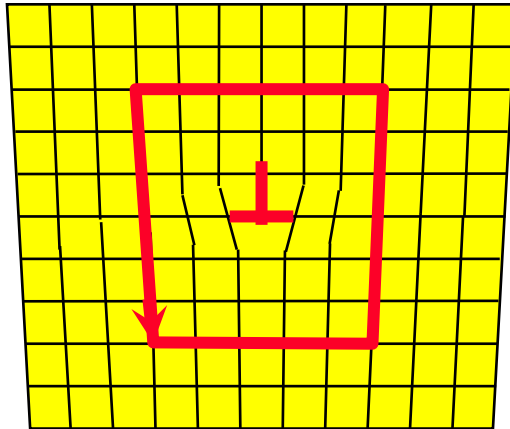


**Heinz, Snyder, Ikeda, and
Medlin, Acta Mat. 2011**

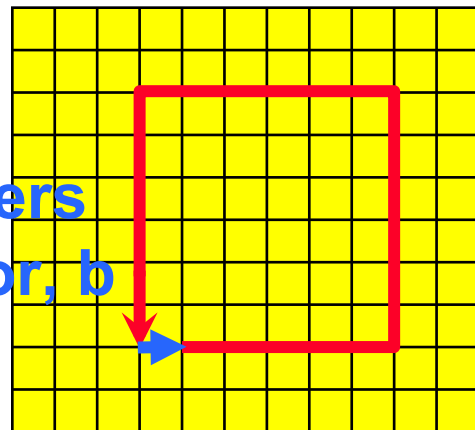
- Solid-state phase transformations in chalcogenides
- Structural interpretation of extended defects

How do these structural considerations impact Dislocations and Interfaces?

Edge Dislocation

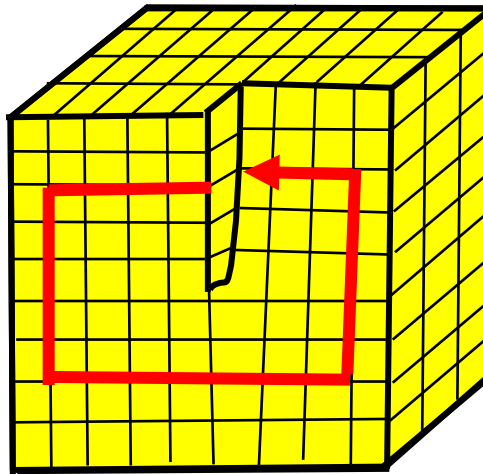


Reference Frame:
Perfect Crystal

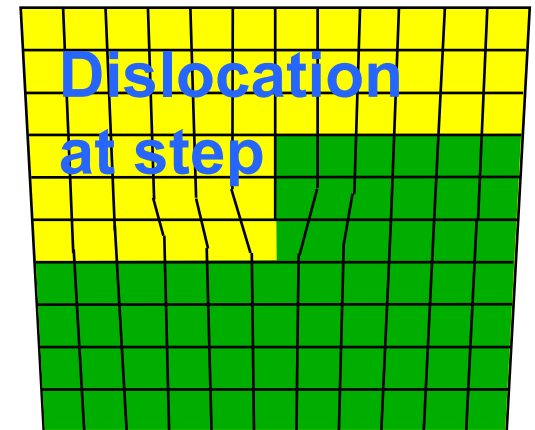
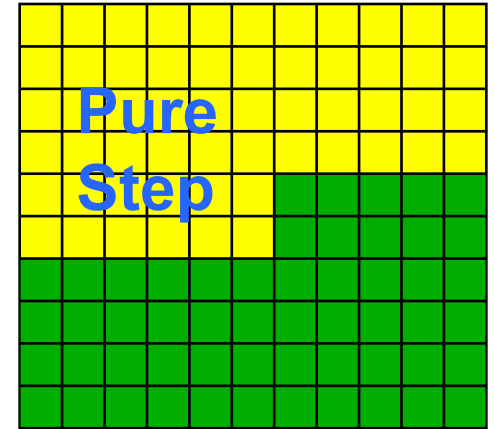


Burgers
Vector, b

Screw Dislocation



Interfacial Disconnection



How do these structural considerations impact Dislocations and Interfaces?

Dislocations in Bismuth Telluride

Burgers vectors lying in basal plane

Array of $\frac{1}{3}\langle 2-1-1\ 0 \rangle$ Dislocations in Bi_2Te_3

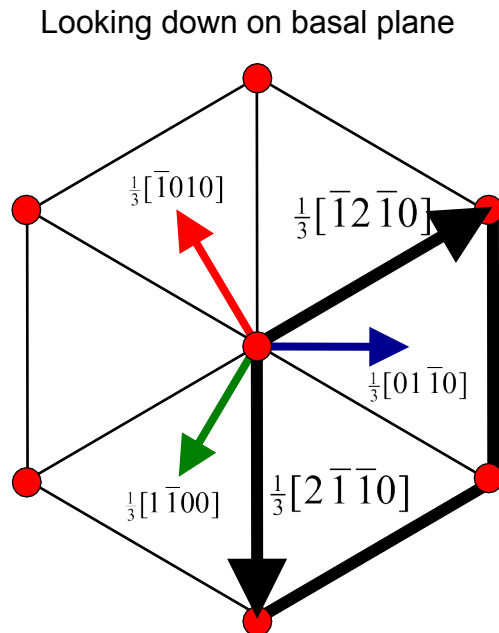
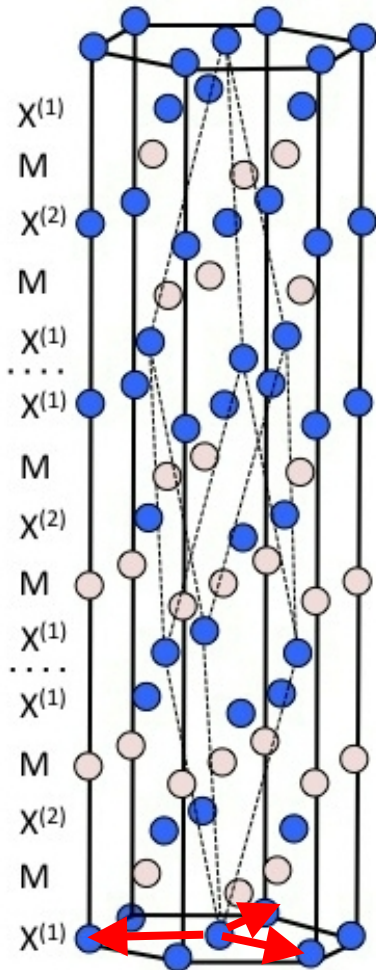
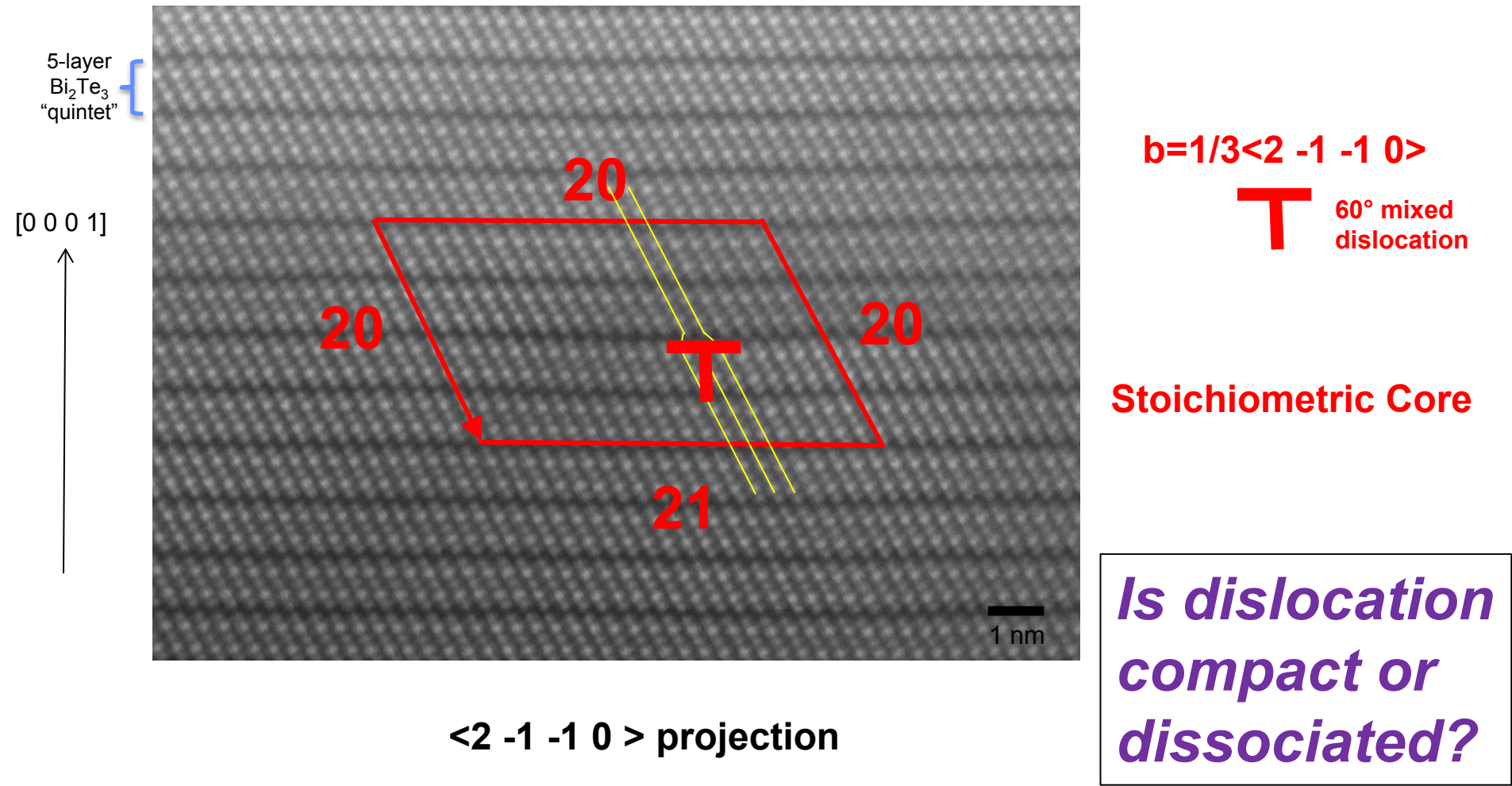


Fig. 1. Dislocation network in Bi_2Te_3 . Note that certain segments of dislocations and certain node-points have left the foil

Dislocation Core structure: Termination at $\text{Te}^{(1)}\text{-Te}^{(1)}$ layer

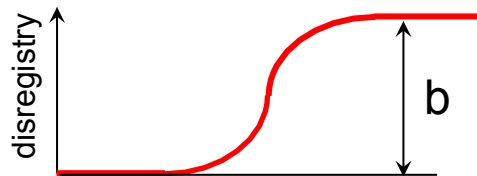
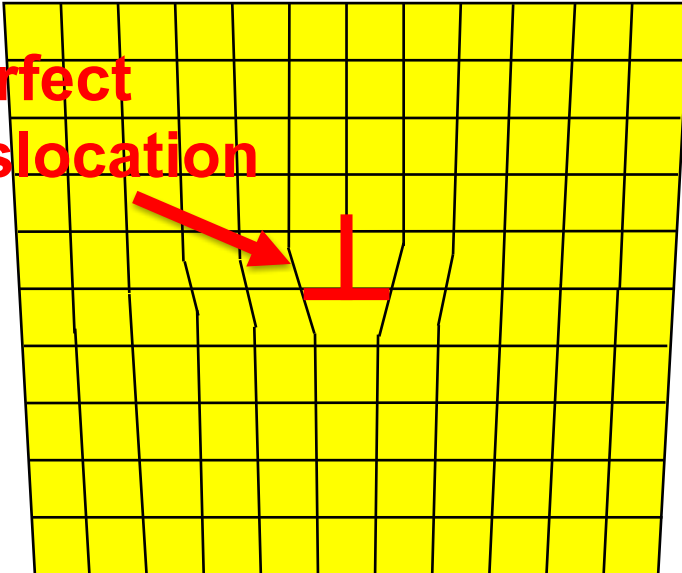


Dissociated Dislocations

Balance of strain energy and fault energy

Compact

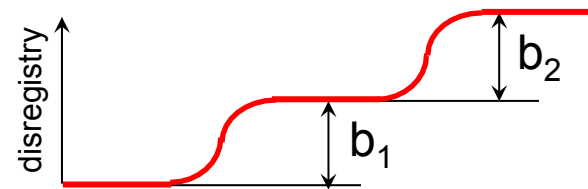
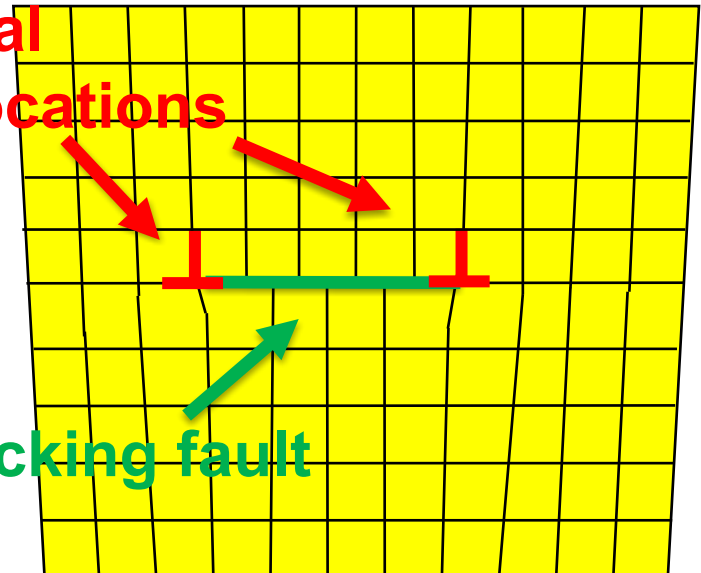
**Perfect
Dislocation**



Dissociated

**Partial
Dislocations**

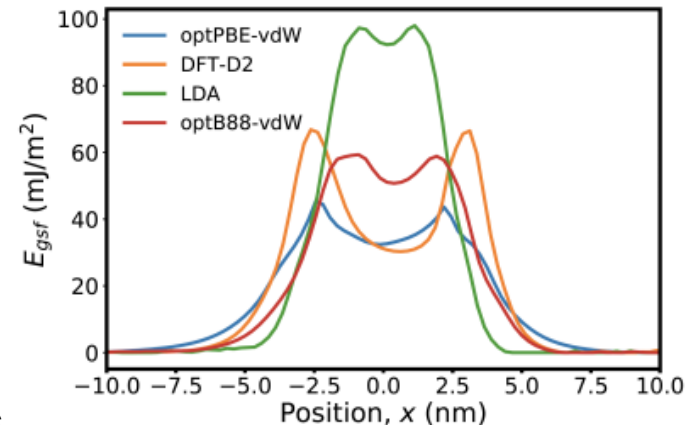
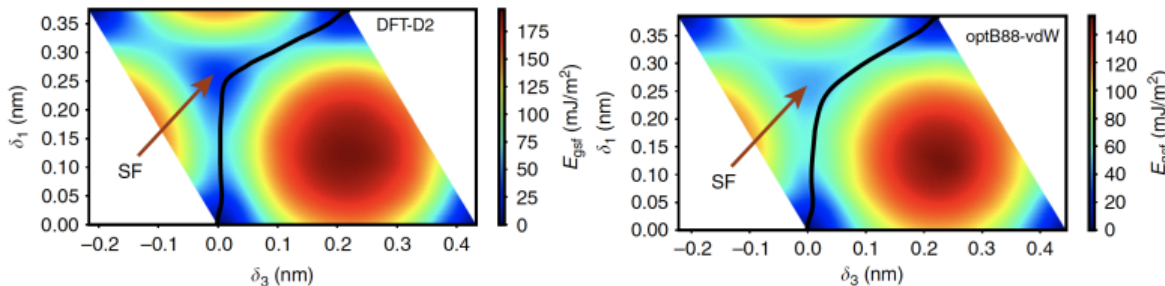
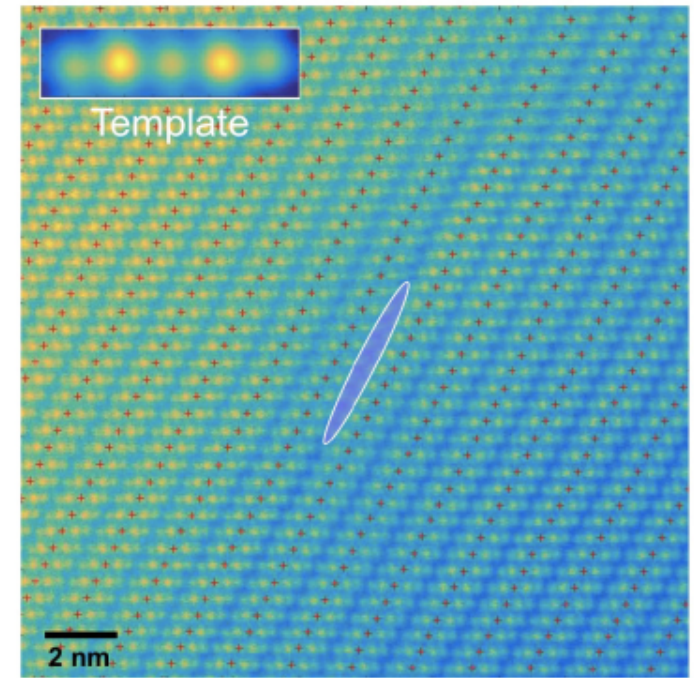
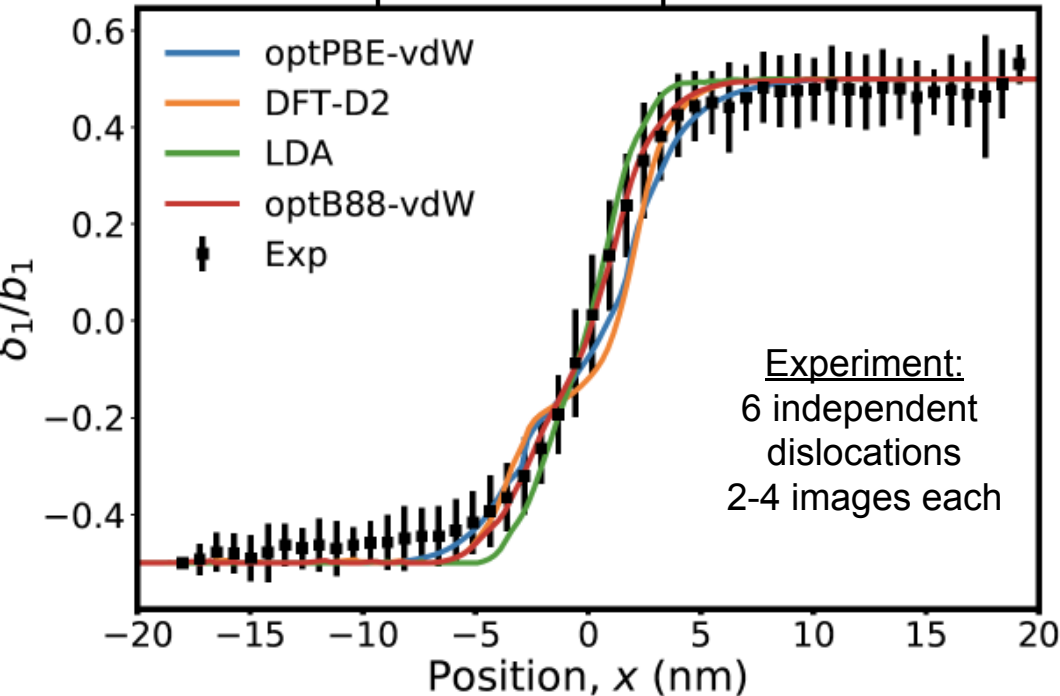
Stacking fault



What happens in bismuth telluride?

Broad core, but not dissociated into partials

Disregistry: Peierls-Nabarro Model
compared with experiment



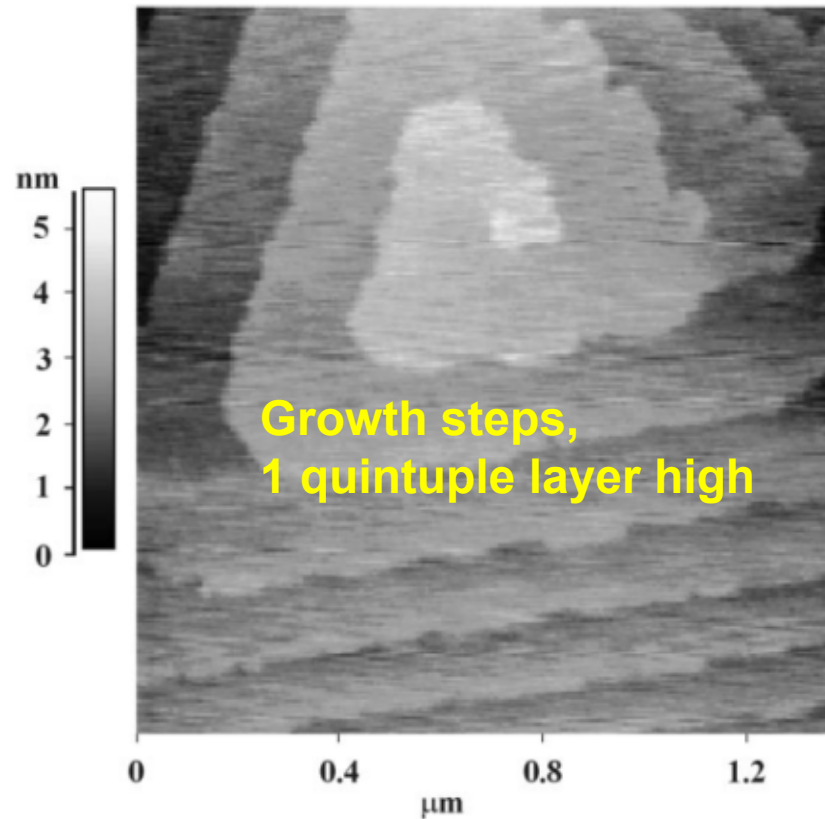
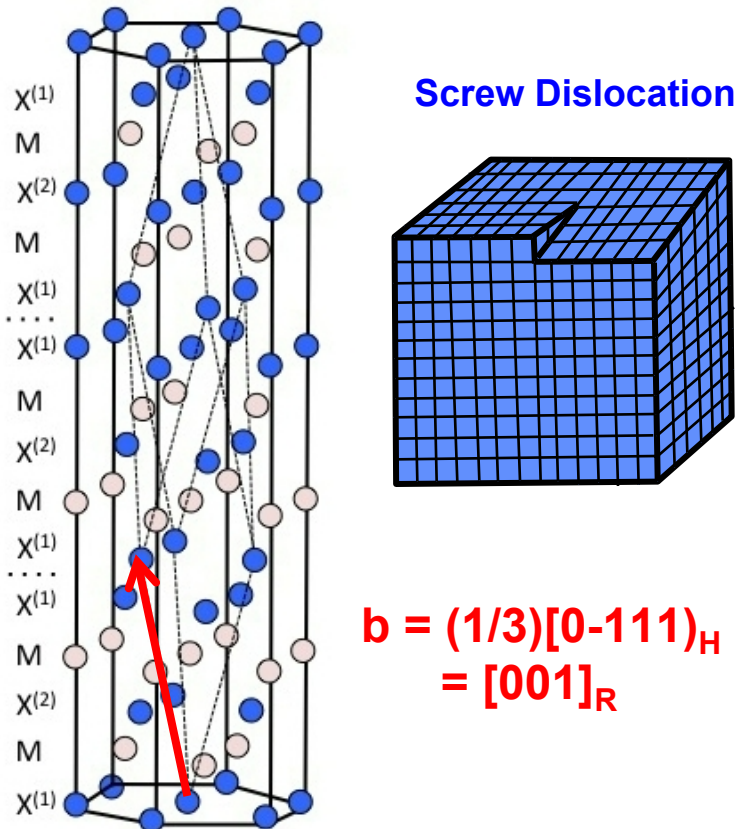
Shallow minimum relative to unstable SFE prevents localization into discrete partial dislocations

Medlin, Yang, Spataru, Hale, Mishin, Nature Communications 2019

Non-basal dislocations:

Screw dislocations important to crystal growth

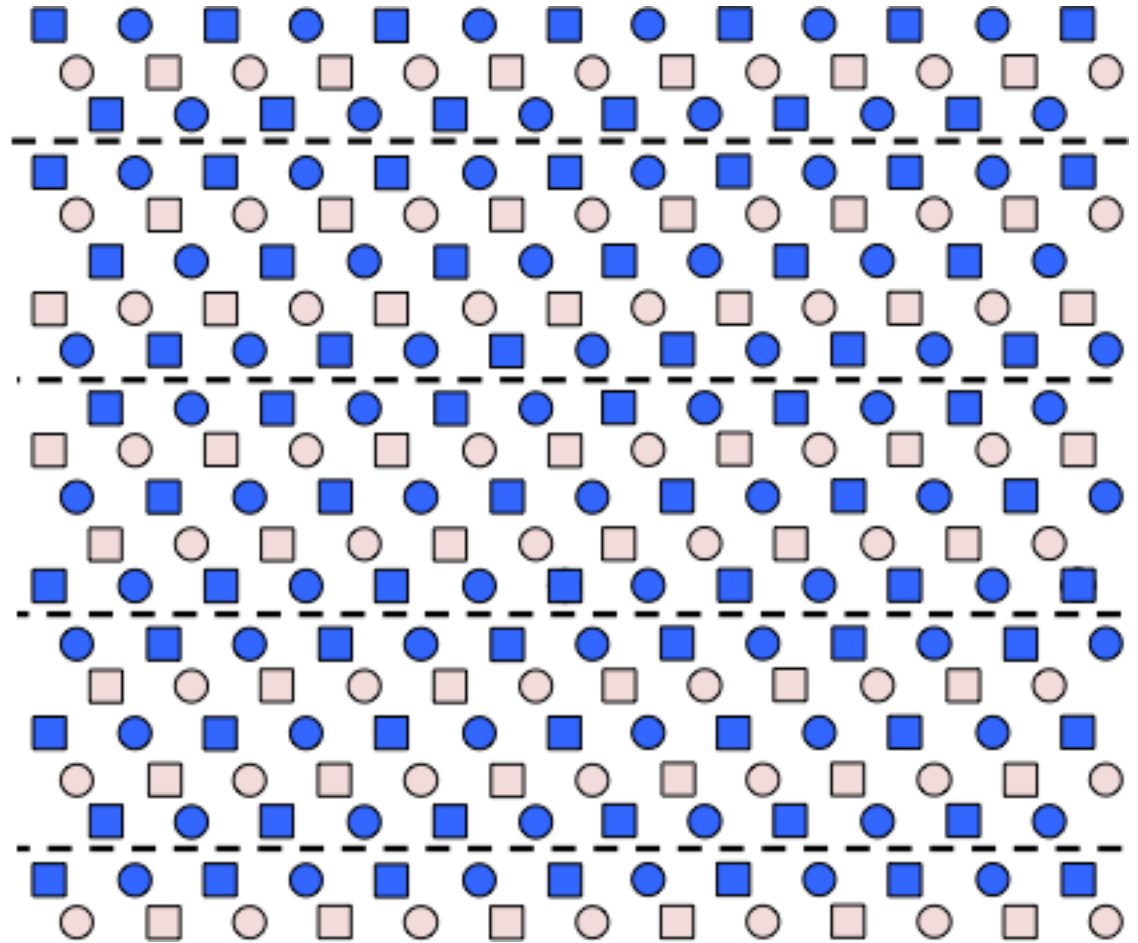
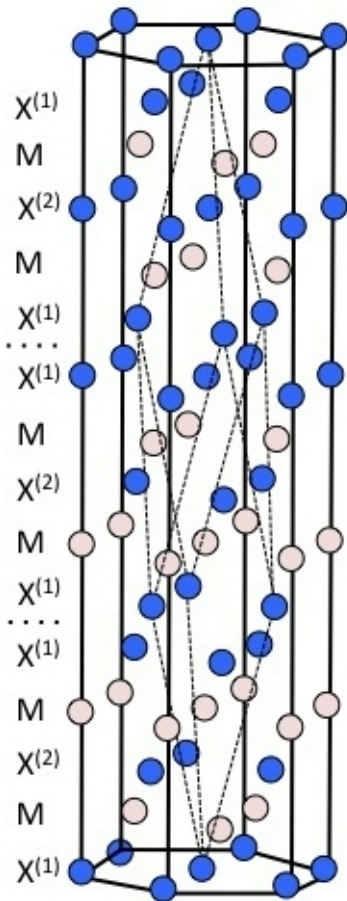
Example: spiral growth steps at screw dislocation in Bi_2Te_3 thin film



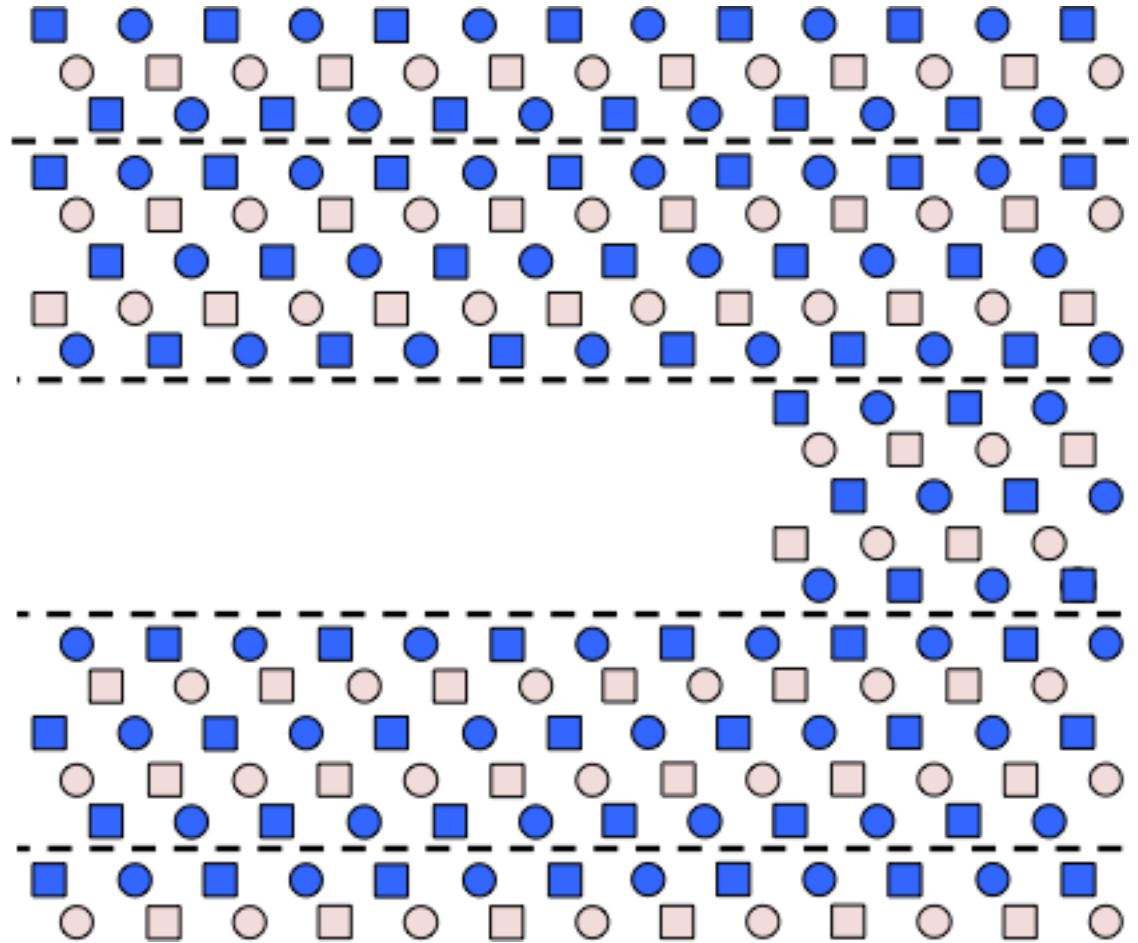
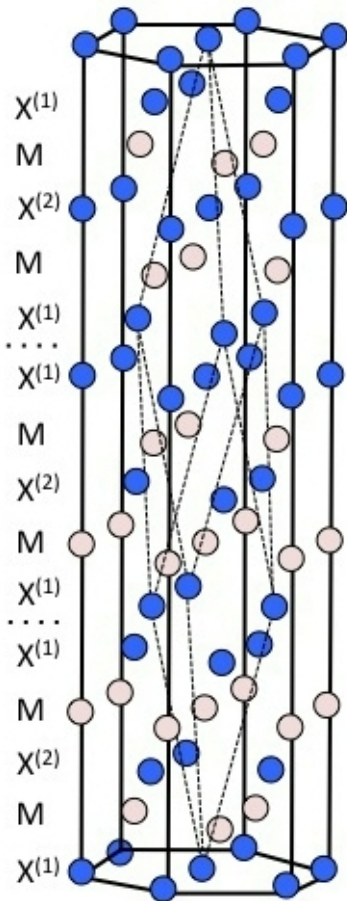
What about **edge** dislocations
with non-basal Burgers vectors?

M. Ferhat, J.C. Tedenac, J. Nagao,
J. Crystal Growth (2000)

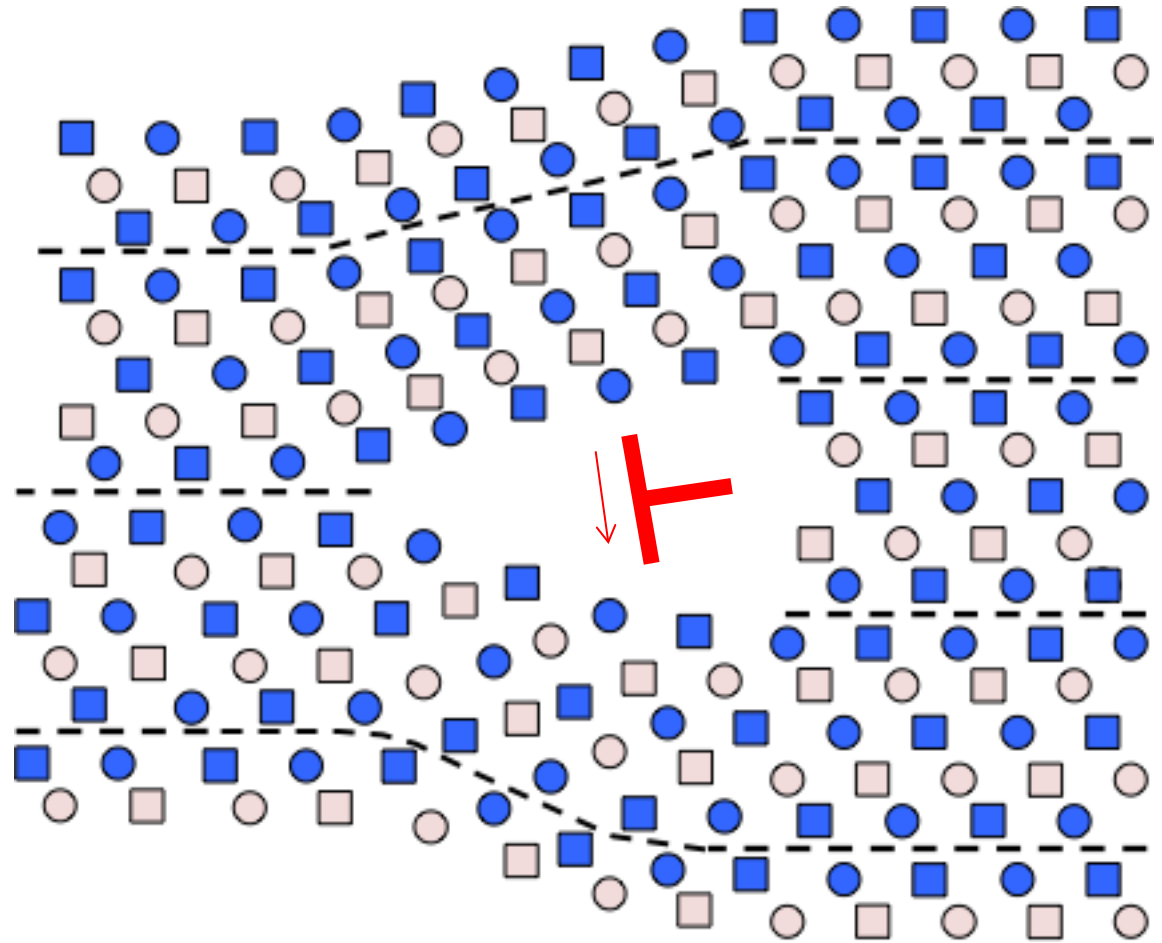
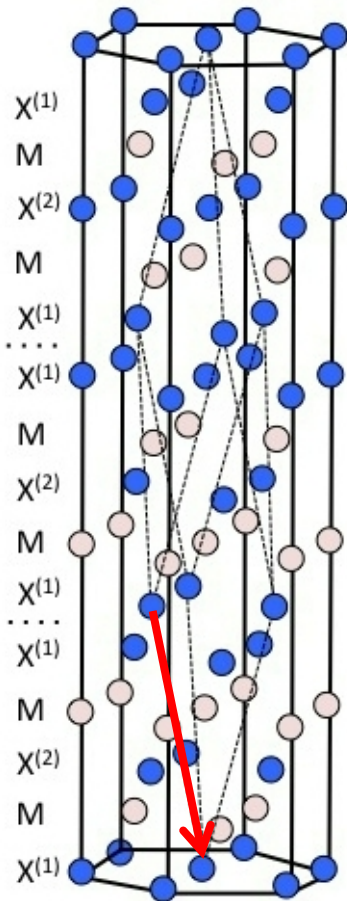
Non-basal **edge** dislocations: What happens if we pull out a quintuple unit?



Non-basal **edge** dislocations: What happens if we pull out a quintuple unit?

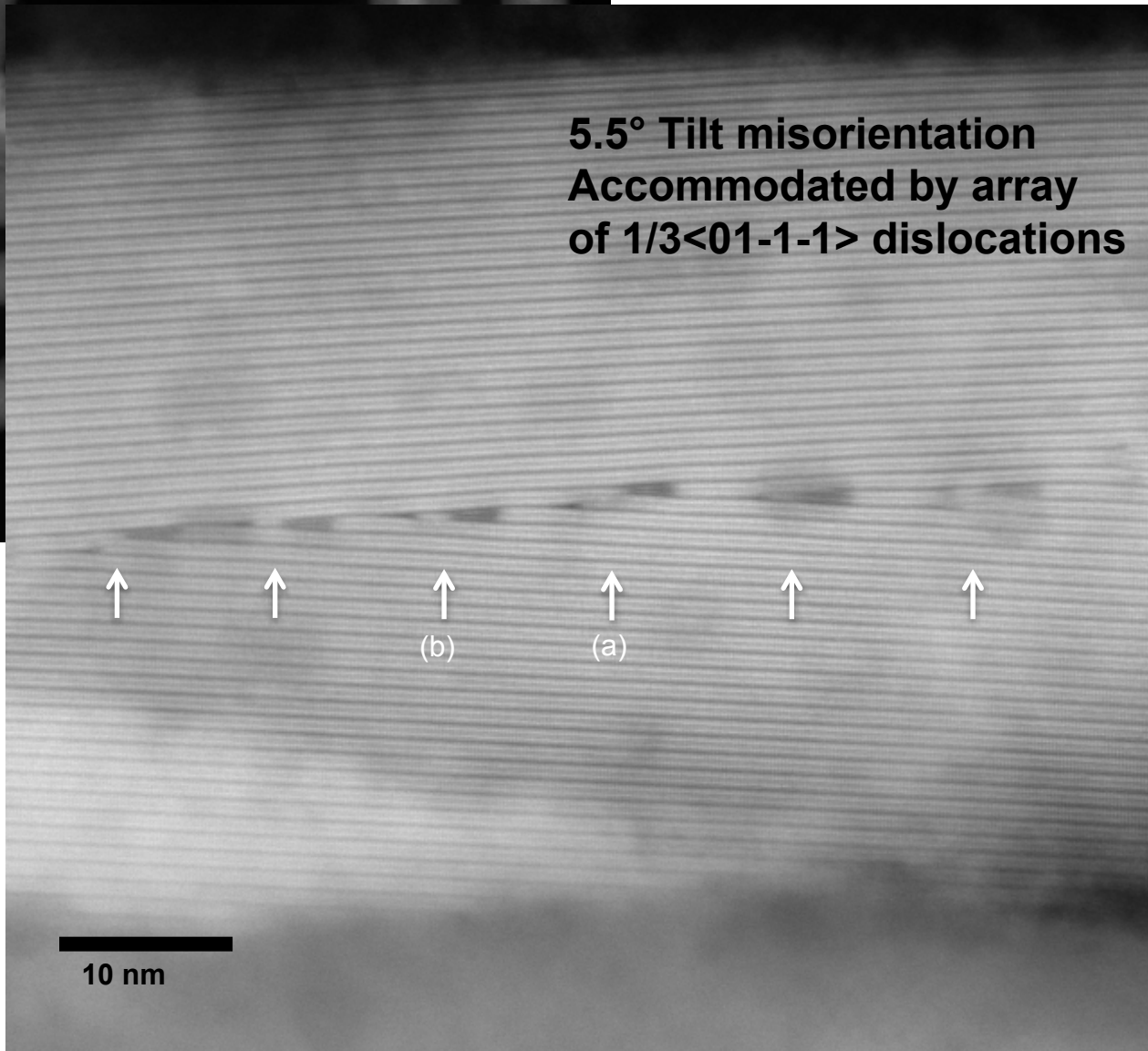
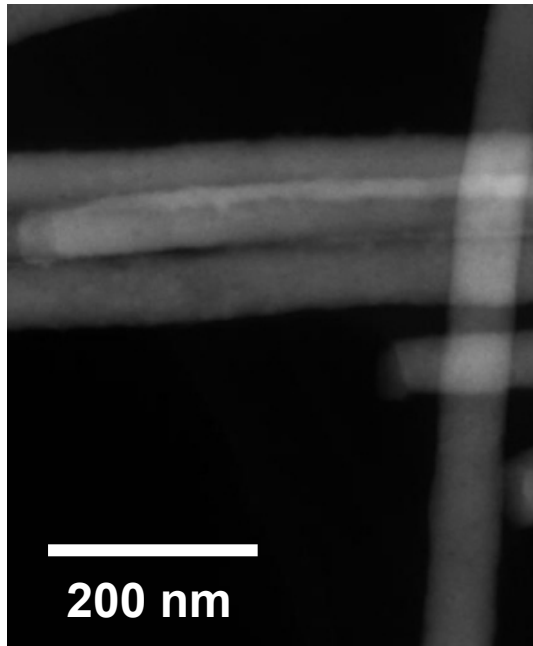


Non-basal **edge** dislocations: What happens if we pull out a quintuple unit?



$$b = (1/3)[01-1-1]_H = [00-1]_R$$

Dislocations in Bi_2Te_3 Nanowires

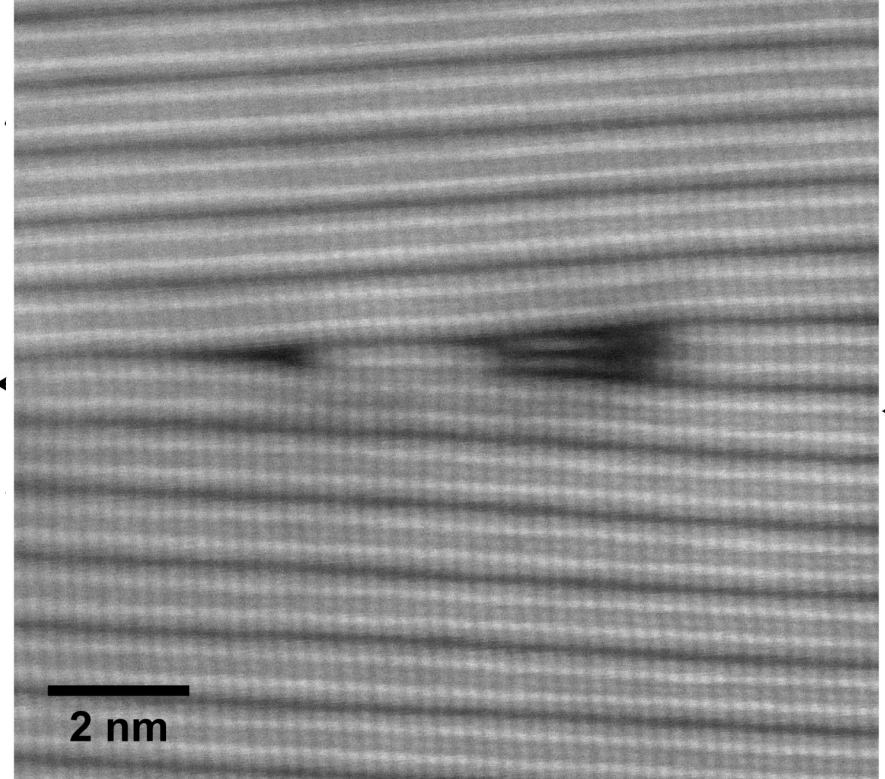
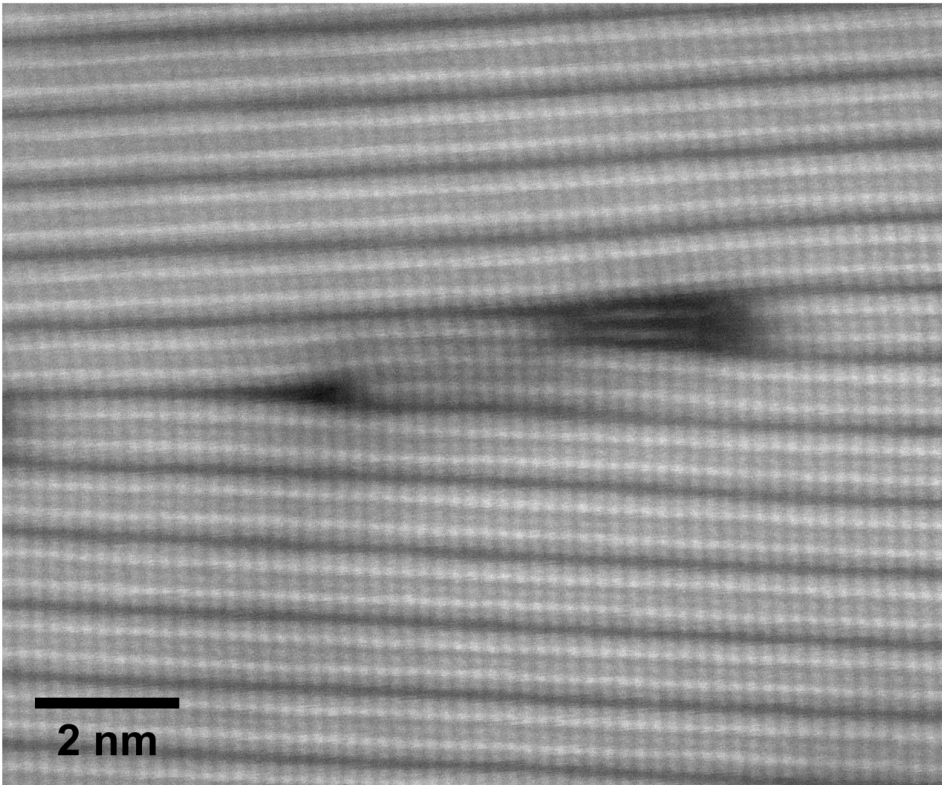


Wires formed by electrochemical deposition in nanoporous AAO templates.

Free standing wires annealed 30 minutes at 300°C in Ar-3% H_2 .

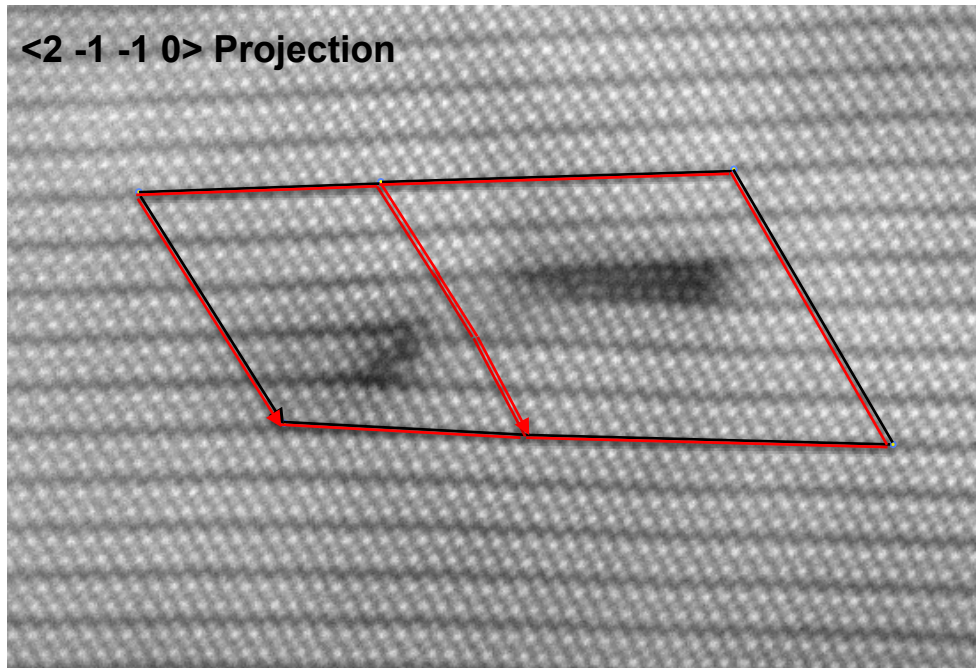
→ *Some loss of Te due to high vapor pressure*

Dislocations have dissociated core: two configurations

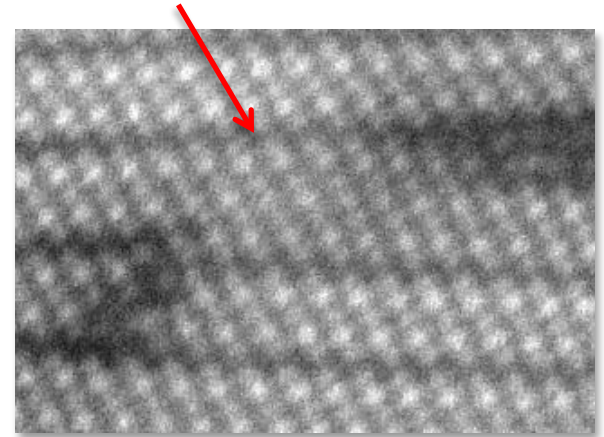


$\langle 1\ 0\ -1\ 0 \rangle$ Projection

$(1/3)[0\ 1\ -1\ -1]$ Dislocation in Bi_2Te_3 :



Core structure:
 Bi_3Te_4 7-layer fault



$$\mathbf{b} = (1/3) [0\ 1\ -1\ -1] \rightarrow (1/15) [0\ 5\ -5\ -2] + (3/15) [0\ 0\ 0\ -1]$$

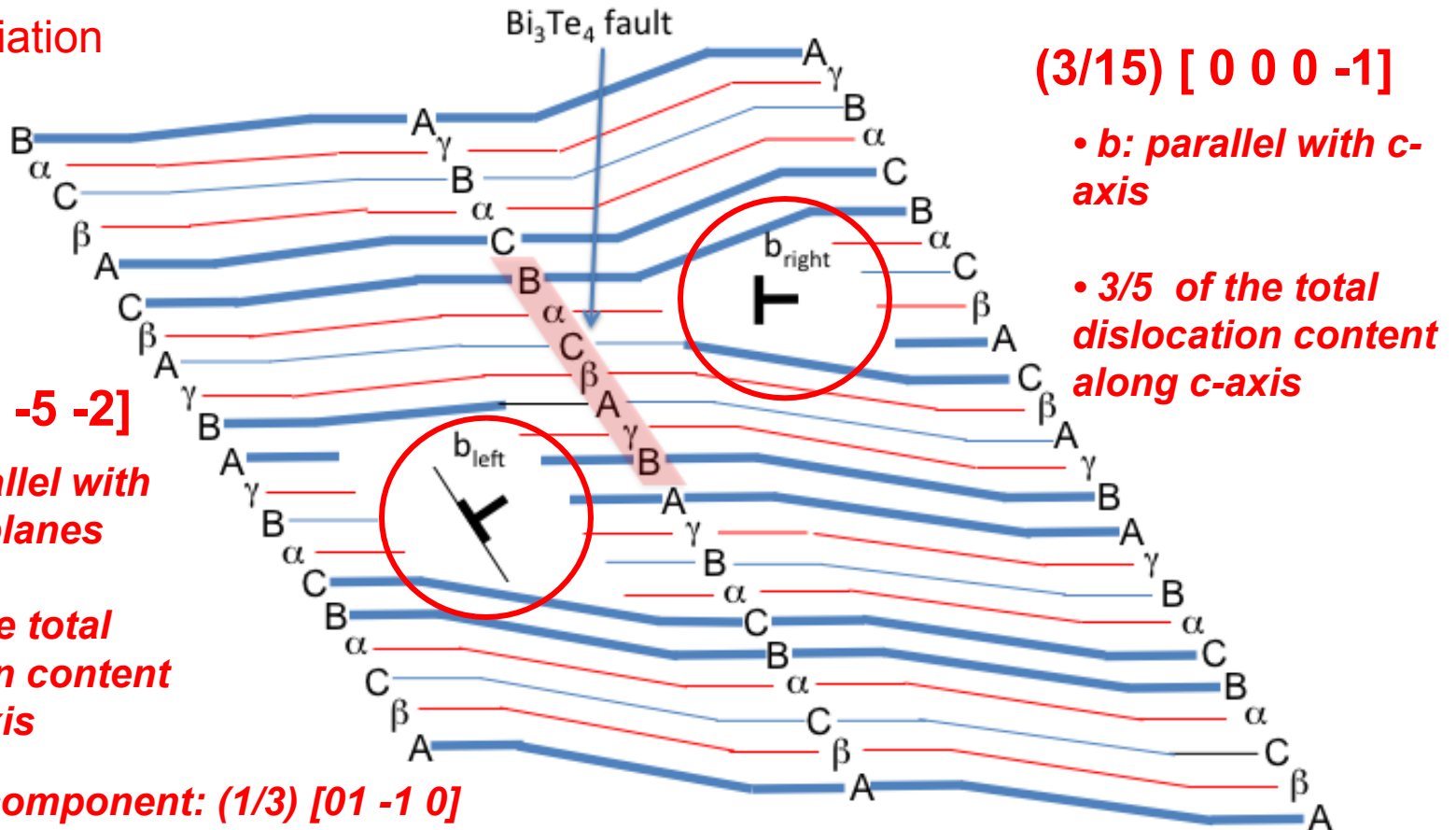
$$b^2 > b_1^2 + b_2^2$$

$$109.8\ \text{\AA}^2 > 22.9\ \text{\AA}^2 + 37.2\ \text{\AA}^2 = 60.2\ \text{\AA}^2$$

Reduced strain energy with dissociation

7-Layer Bi_3Te_4 faults: Mechanism to accommodate Te loss during annealing

Climb dissociation



Horizontal component: $(1/3) [01\ -1\ 0]$

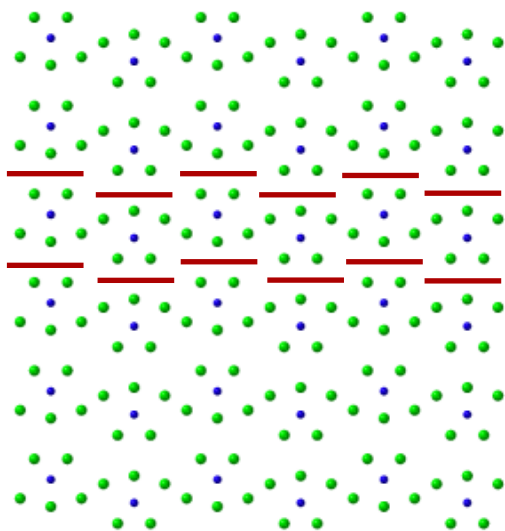
- analogous to Shockley partial.
- avoids fault in stacking resulting from additional 2 planes at Bi_3Te_4 fault

ZrTe₅: A complex, layered chalcogenide

Material of interest as a Dirac Semimetal

Corrugated layering structure

Orthorhombic, *Cmcm*

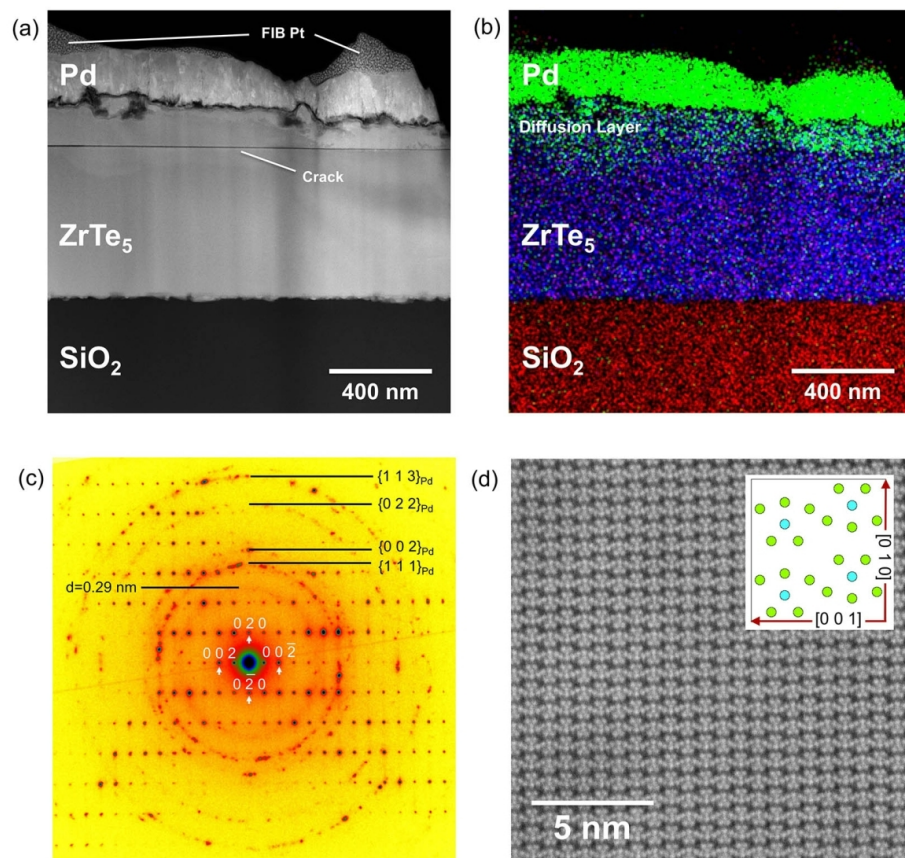


[1 0 0] projection

$a=3.9875\text{\AA}$, $b=14.530\text{\AA}$, $c=13.724\text{\AA}$

H. Fjellvåg, A. Kjekshus, Solid State Communications, 60 (2) (1986) 91-93

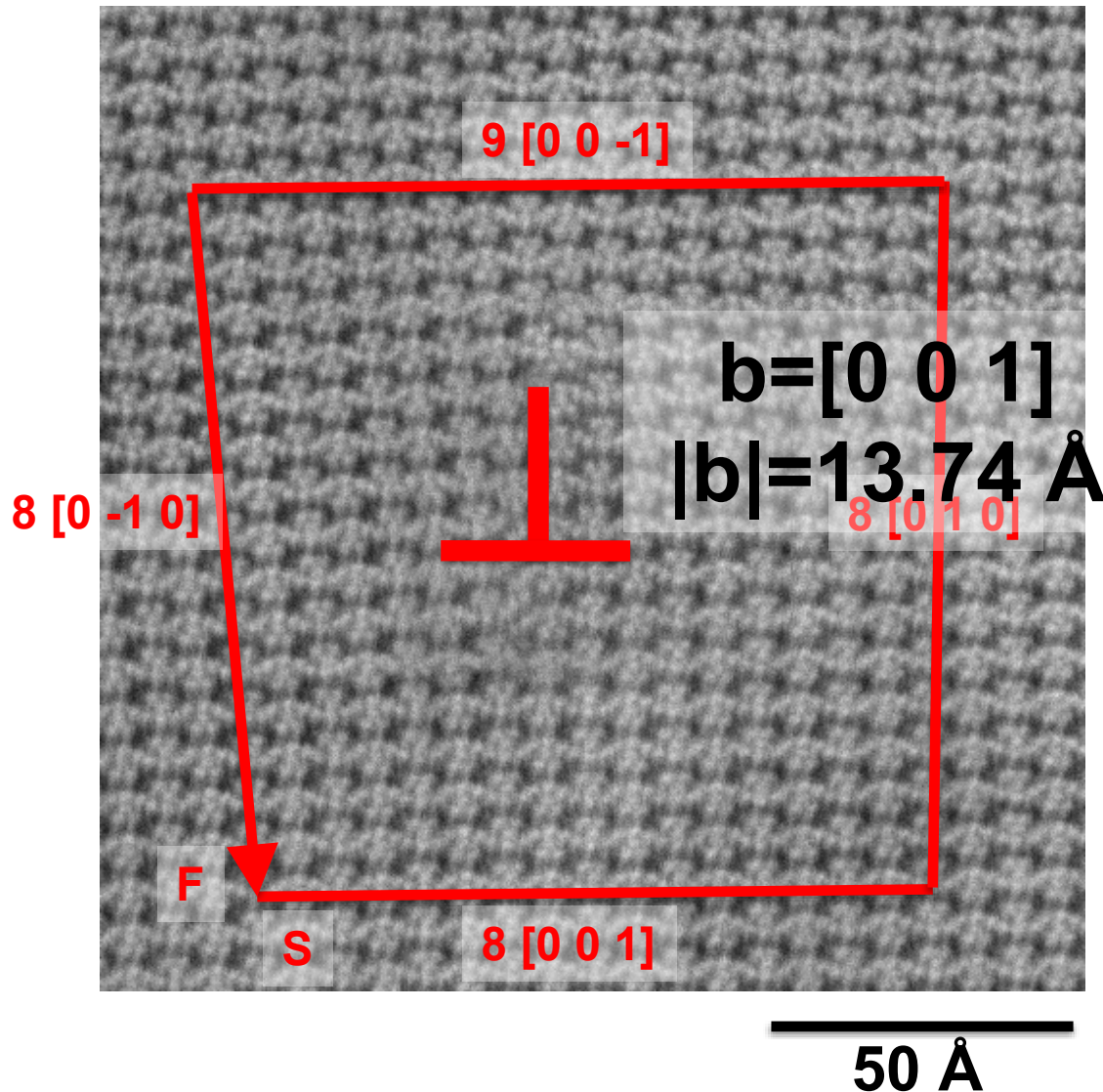
Interdiffusion of contact metallization causes large strains



F. Léonard, W.L. Yu, K.C. Collins, D.L. Medlin, J.D. Sugar, A.A. Talin, W. Pan
ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces 9 (42) (2017) 37041-37047

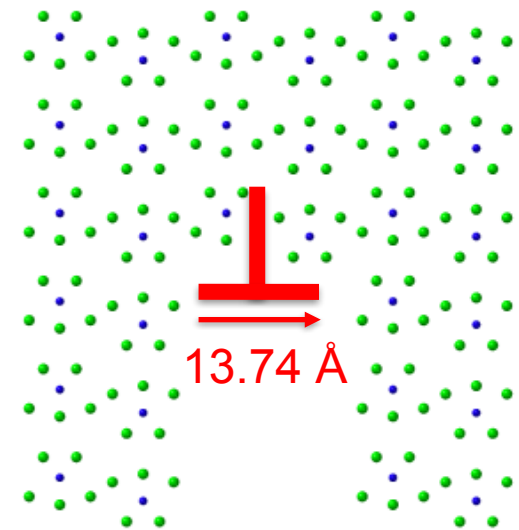
Dislocation Structure in Zirconium Telluride

HAADF-STEM



ZrTe₅ Crystal structure

Orthorhombic, *Cmcm*



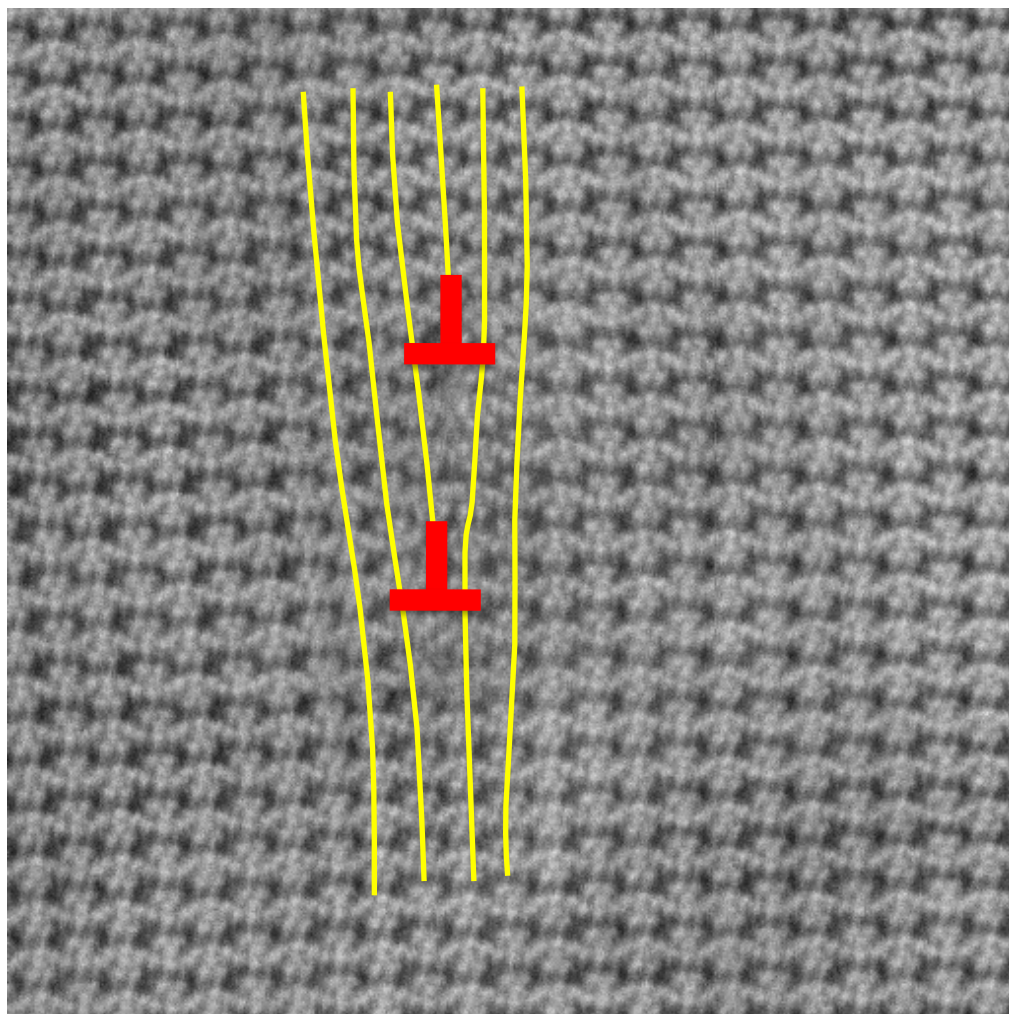
[1 0 0] projection

$$a=3.9875\text{\AA}, b=14.530\text{\AA}, c=13.724\text{\AA}$$

H. Fjellvåg, A. Kjekshus, Solid State
Communications, 60 (2) (1986) 91-93

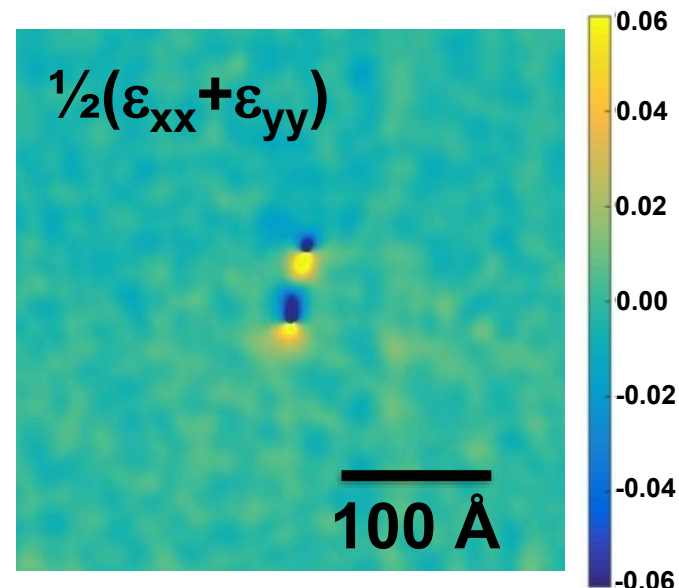
Dislocation Structure in Zirconium Telluride

HAADF-STEM



50 Å

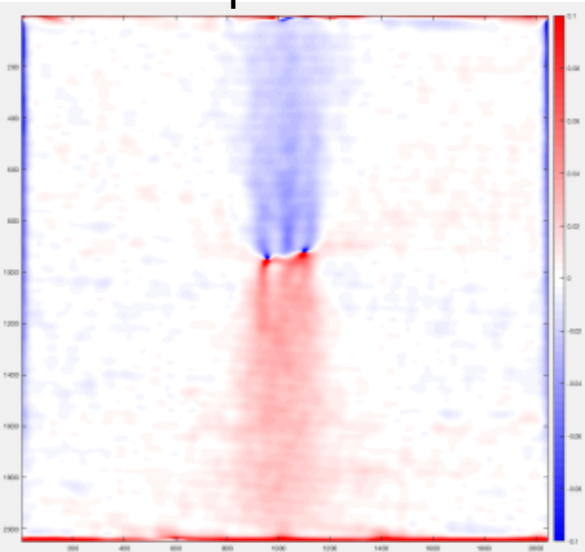
GPA Strain Map



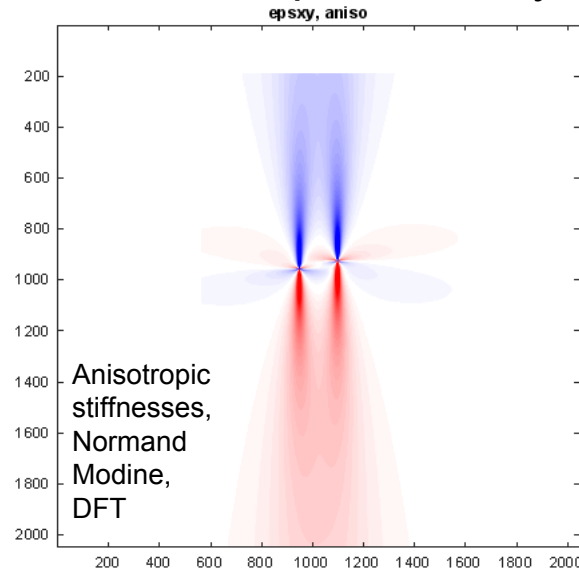
**Climb dissociation
into two $\frac{1}{2}[0\ 0\ 1]$
partial dislocations**

Shear strain, parallel with (0 1 0) planes

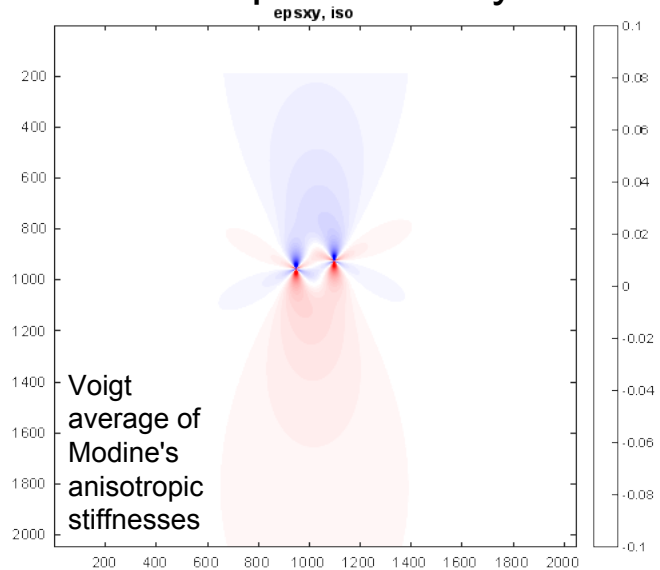
Experiment



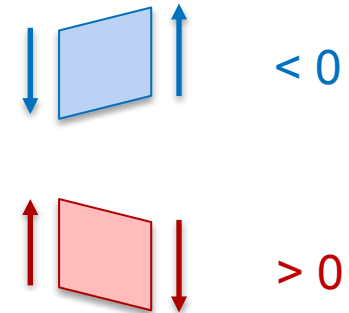
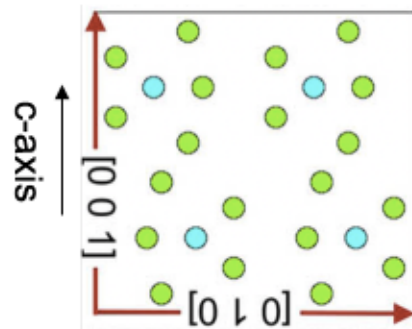
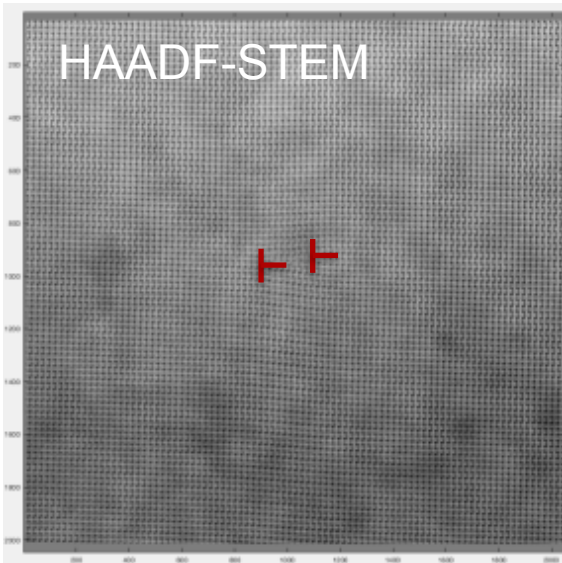
Anisotropic Elasticity



Isotropic Elasticity



HAADF-STEM



Anisotropic solution from J.W. Steeds, "Introduction to Anisotropic Elasticity Theory of Dislocations," Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1973

Solved for 2 dislocations, each with $b = 1/2(001)$.
placed at the experimentally measured core positions.

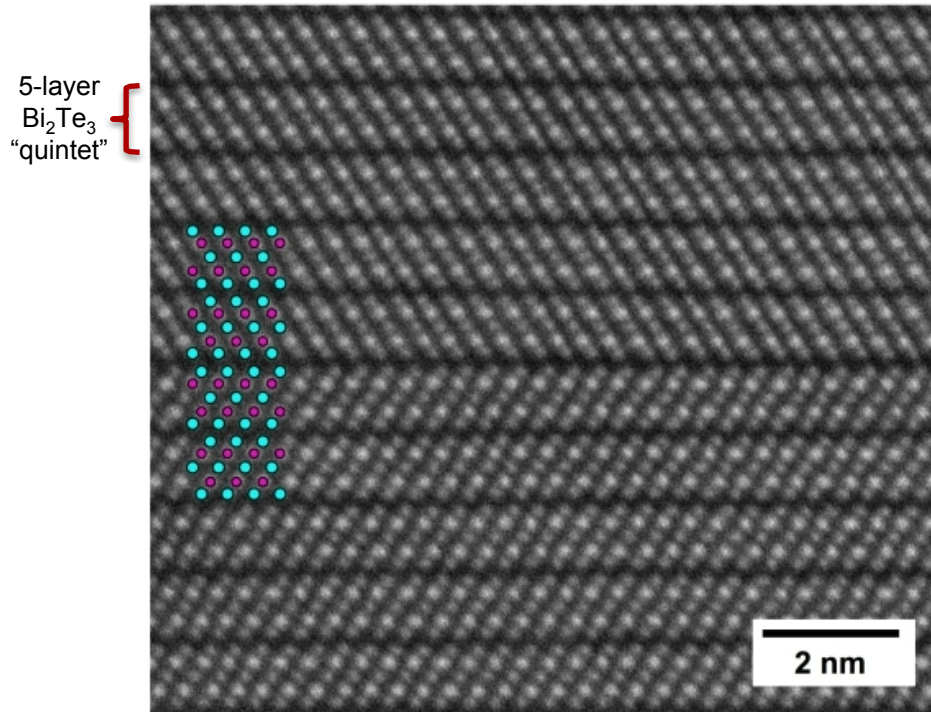
Interfaces

Atomic Structure of the Bi_2Te_3 Basal Twin:

Energetic preference for termination at $\text{Te}^{(1)}$ sites

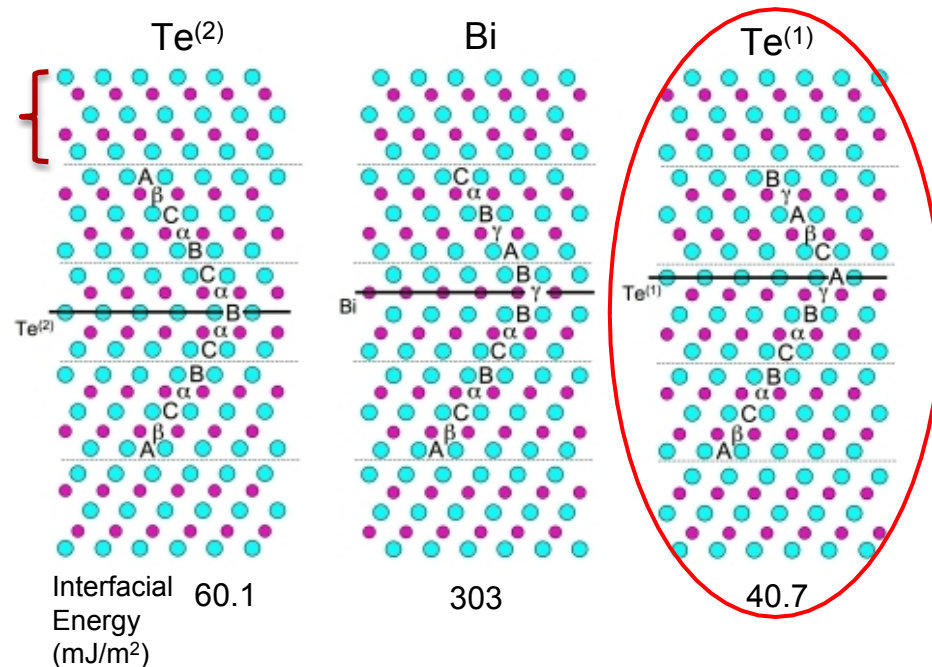
HAADF-STEM Imaging:

Twin Boundary Terminated at $\text{Te}^{(1)}$ layer



DFT Calculations:

Three Possible Compositional Terminations

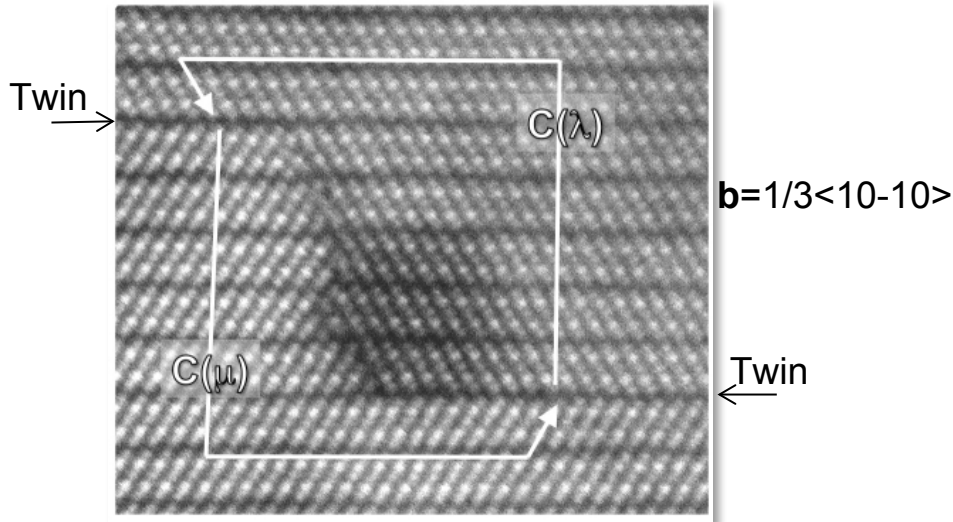


D.L. Medlin, Q.M. Ramasse, C. D. Spataru, N.C. Yang, J. Appl. Phys. (2010)

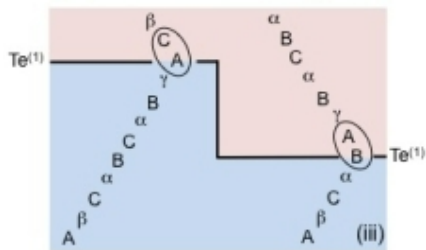
Preferential termination at $\text{Te}^{(1)}$ layers:

Impact on boundary morphology

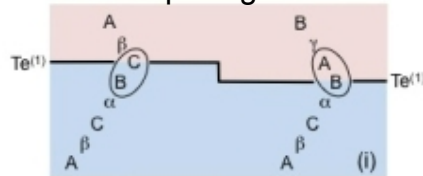
Example: step in Bi_2Te_3 Basal Twin:
25 planes high (5 quintets)



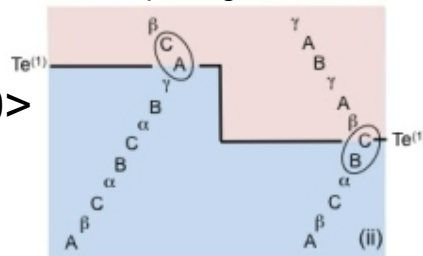
Step Height: 5



Step Height: 1



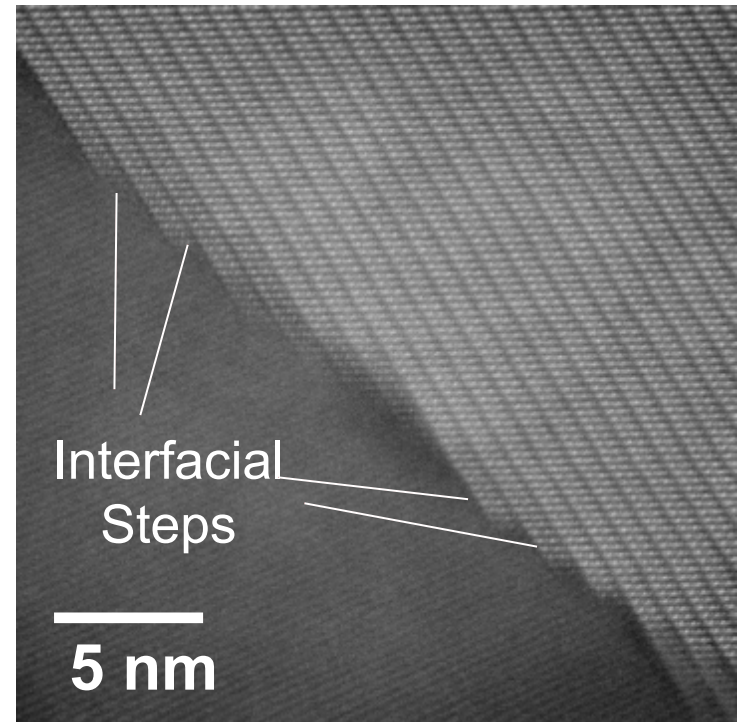
Step Height: 4



$b=1/3\langle 10-10 \rangle$

Medlin and Yang,
Journal of Electronic
Materials, (2012)

Grain boundary vicinal to (0001):
Steps of integral 5-plane Bi_2Te_3 Quintets

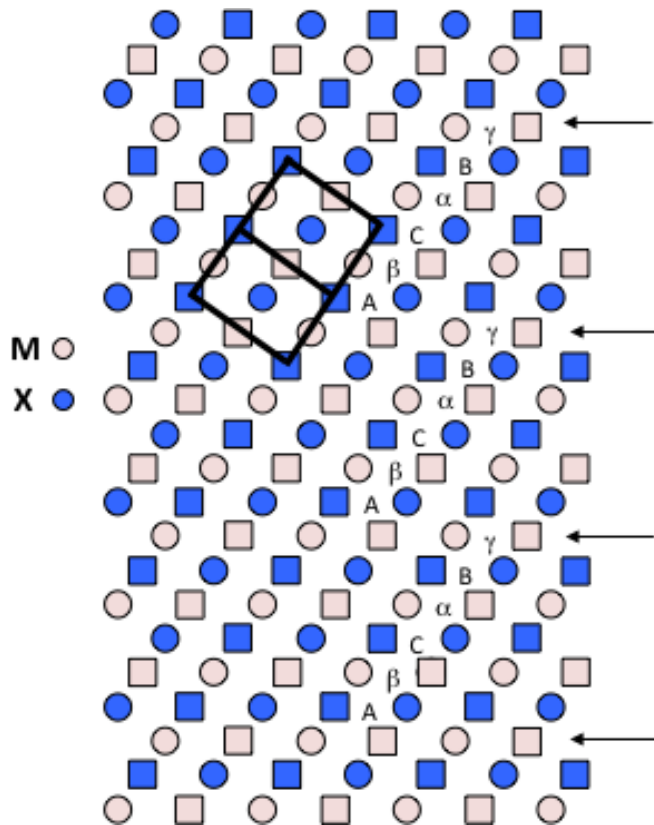


Medlin and Snyder,
JOM (2013)

Heterophase Rocksalt/Tetradymite interfaces

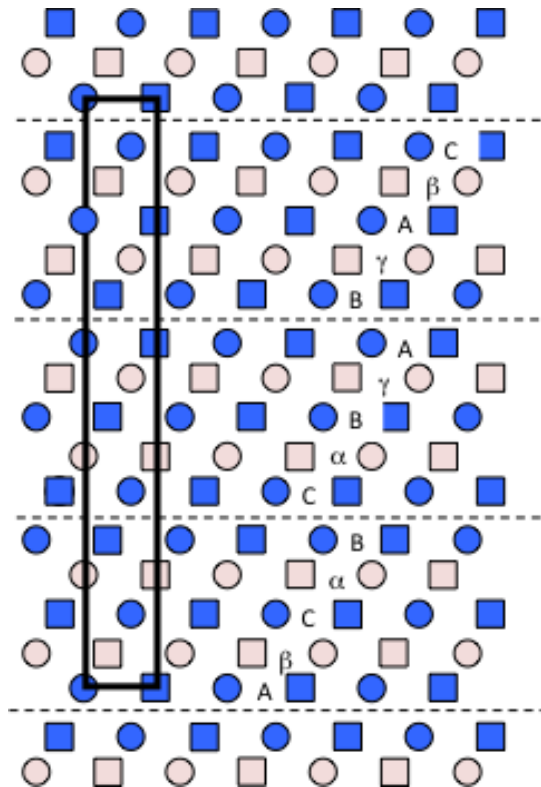
Rocksalt (MX) Structure

Fm-3m

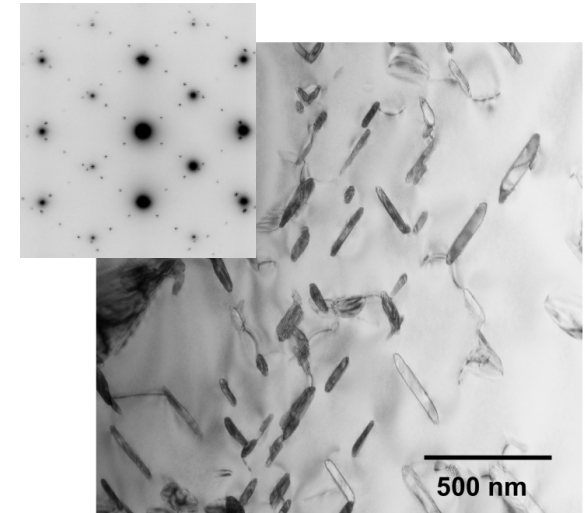


Tetradymite (M_2X_3) Structure

R-3m



Example:
Crystallographically Aligned
 Sb_2Te_3 precipitates in PbTe



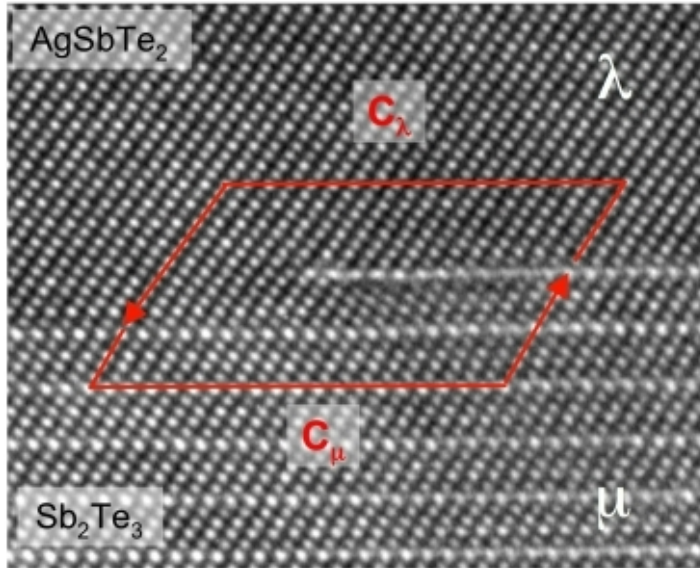
Heinz, Snyder, Ikeda, and
Medlin, Acta Mat. 2011

*Line defects help us understand atomic mechanisms for
precipitate growth and strain accommodation*

Disconnections in Phase Transformations

Example: Sb_2Te_3 precipitate in AgSbTe_2 thermoelectric

Burgers vector:



Upper crystal
circuit

Lower crystal
circuit

$$\mathbf{b} = -(\mathbf{C}_\lambda + \mathbf{P}\mathbf{C}_\mu)$$

- Coordinate Transformation from Tetradymite to Rock-salt.
- Coherently strained reference Frame (0.79% misfit)

Resolve $\mathbf{b}$ into components normal and parallel to interface

$$\mathbf{b}_n = (a_{cub} - c_{hex} / 3\sqrt{3})[111]$$

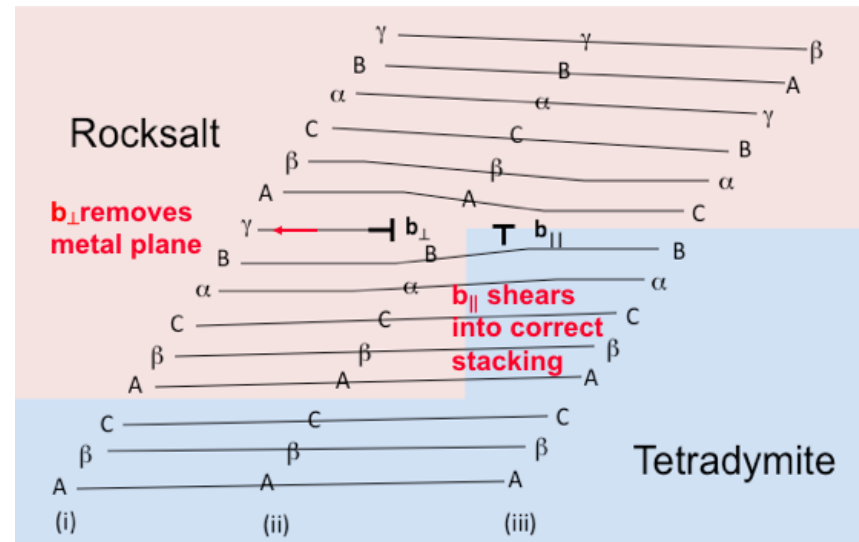
•mismatch of step heights.

$$|\mathbf{b}_n| = 0.3747 \text{ \AA}$$

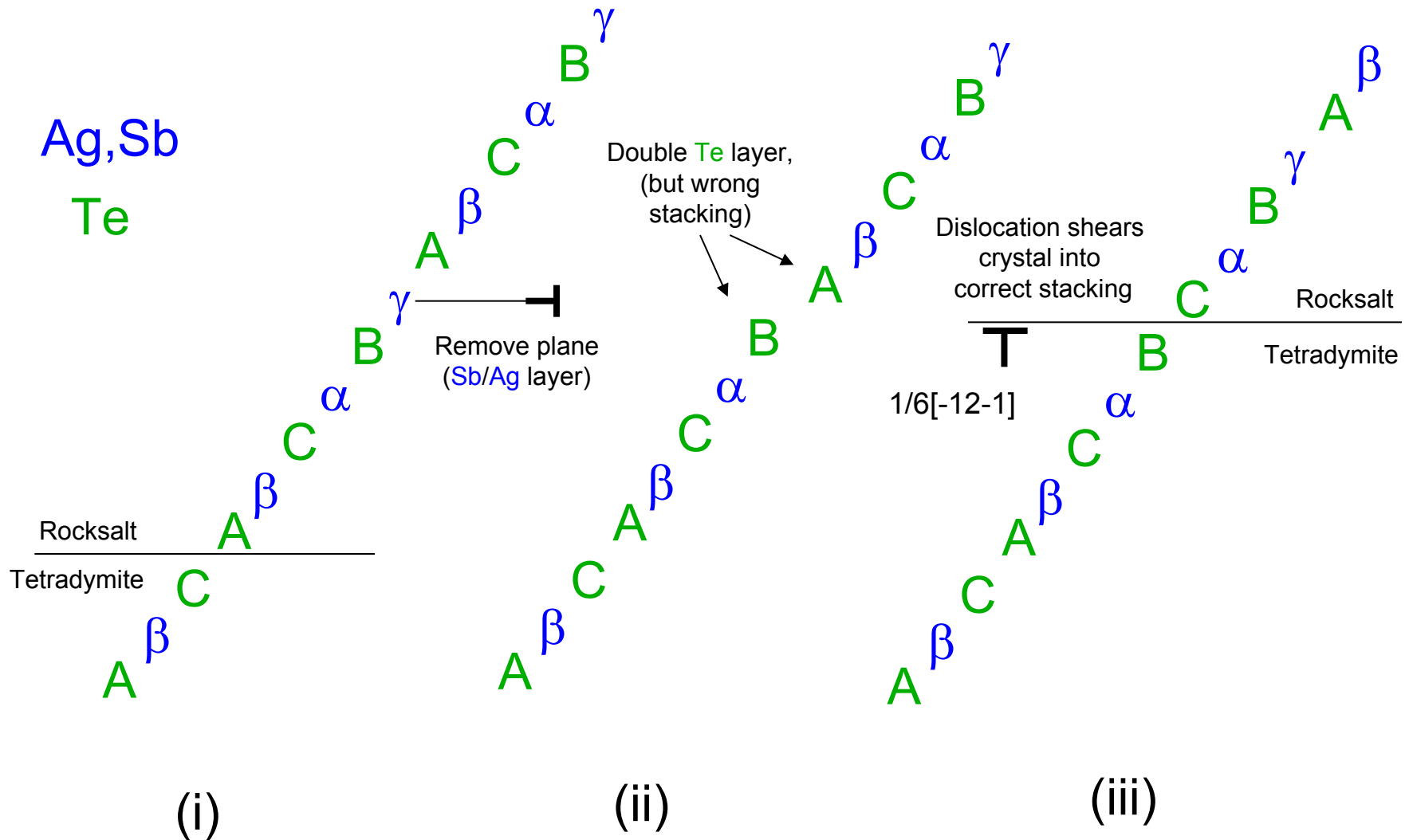
$$\mathbf{b}_\parallel = \frac{a_{cub}}{6}[\bar{1}2\bar{1}]$$

•Analogous to Shockley partial Dislocation

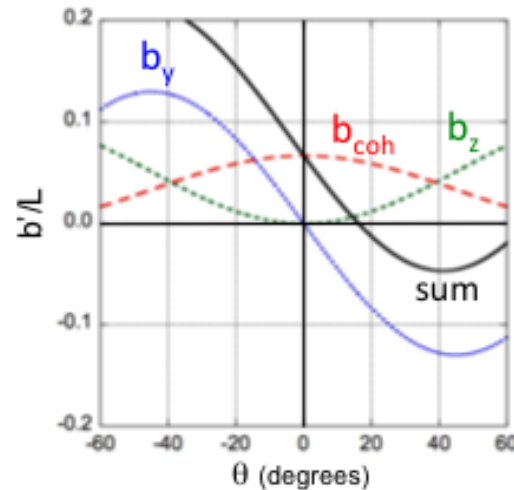
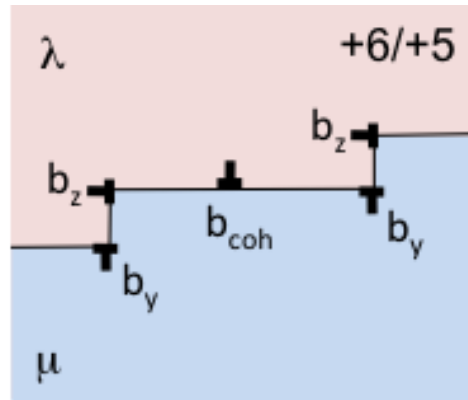
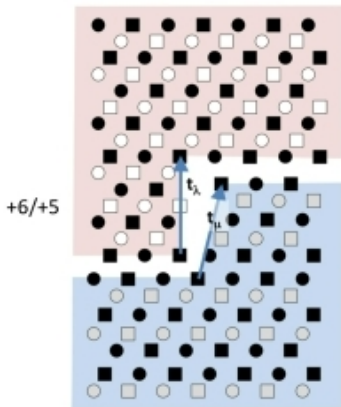
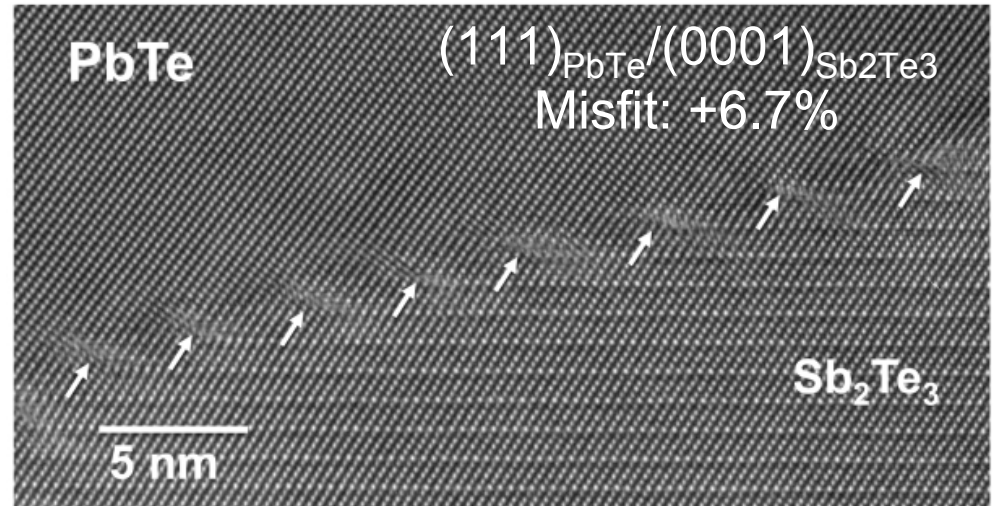
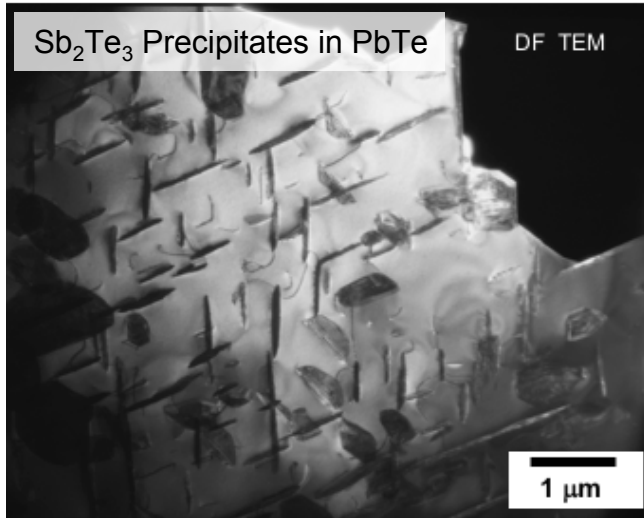
$$|\mathbf{b}_\parallel| = 2.48 \text{ \AA}$$



Schematic of Transformation Sequence



A Rocksalt/Tetradymite Interface with Large Misfit



Habit plane inclination:

Measured: 14.8°

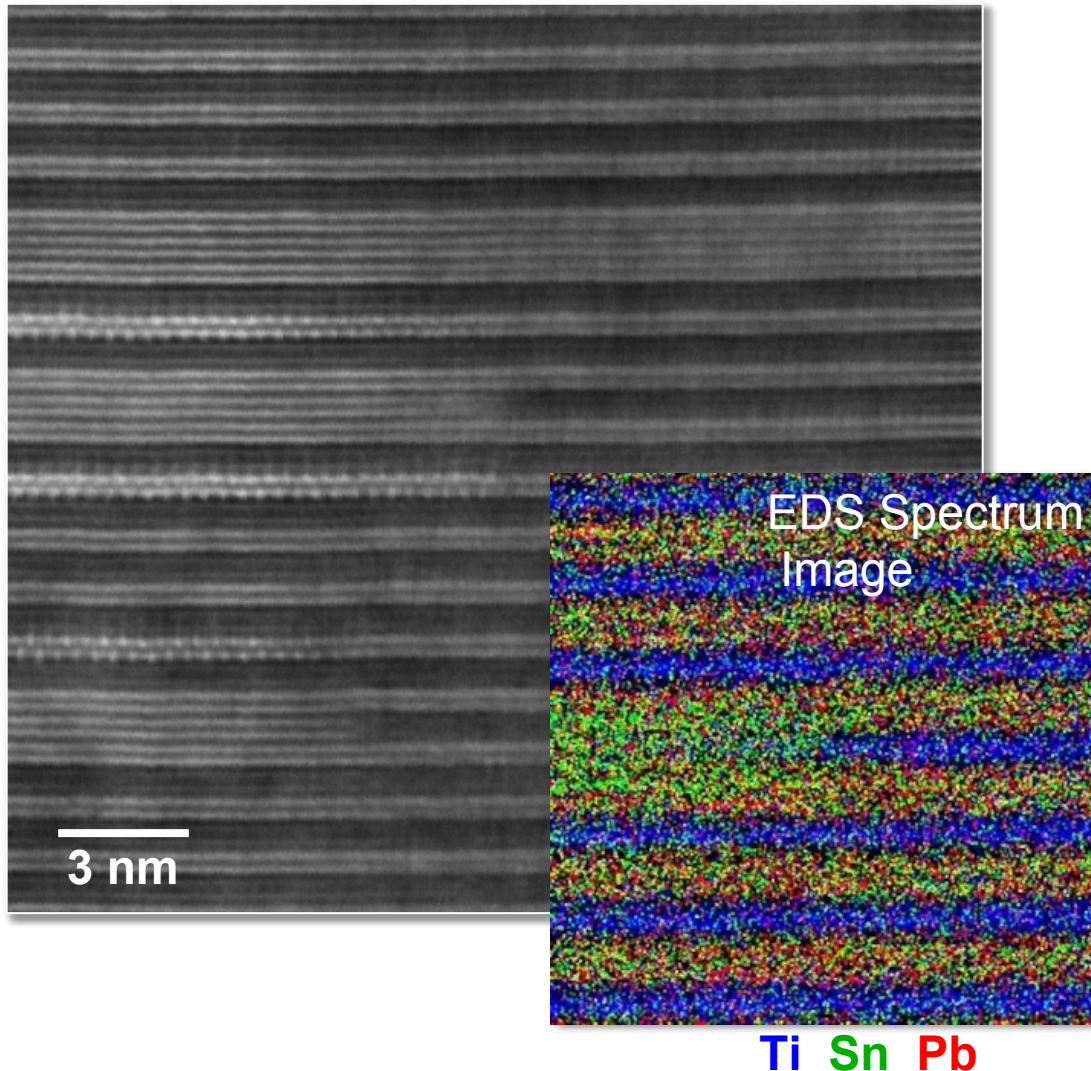
Predicted: 16.2°

Defect spacing accommodates the $(111)/(0001)$ coherency strain.

Defects in van der Waals Heterostructures

Collaboration with David Johnson. University of Oregon

Example: Compositional Defects in
(Pb_xSn_{1-x}Se)_{1+δ}TiSe₂ Multi-layer thin film

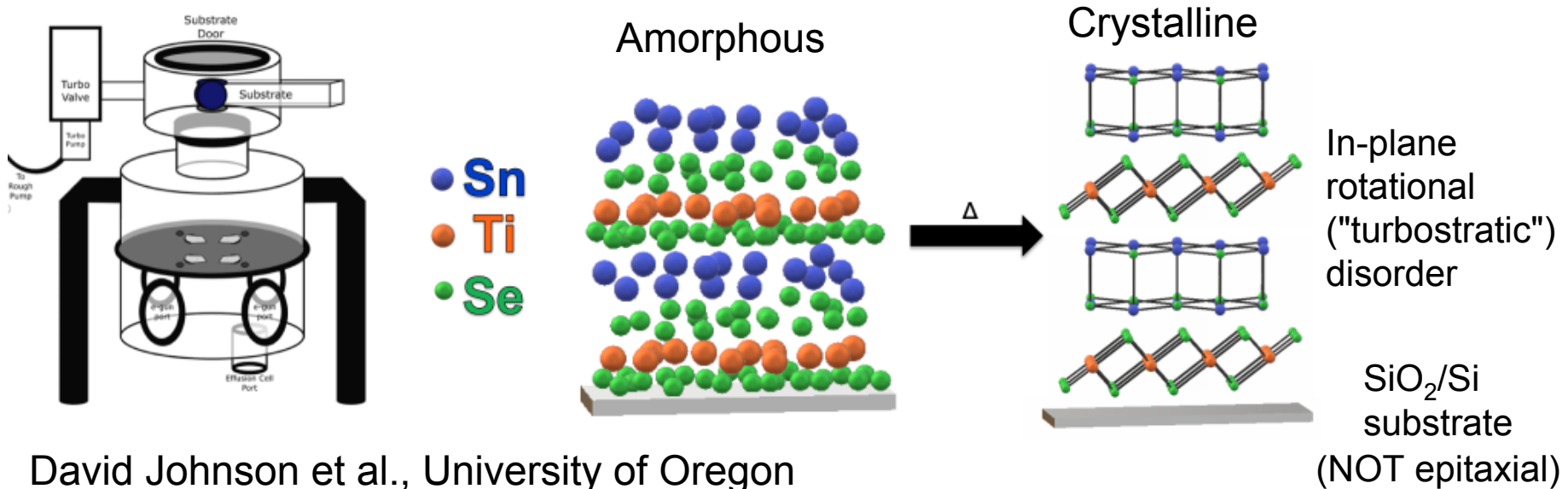


- **Linking defect structure to local composition.**
 - Connection of kinetics and thermodynamics to mechanisms underpinning growth and stability.
- **Extending defect analysis formalisms to systems with lower dimensional periodicities**
 - "turbostratic" disorder in layered systems;

The MER method: flexible approach for tailoring atomic-sequence of layered chalcogenides

Modulated Elemental Reactants (MER) method:

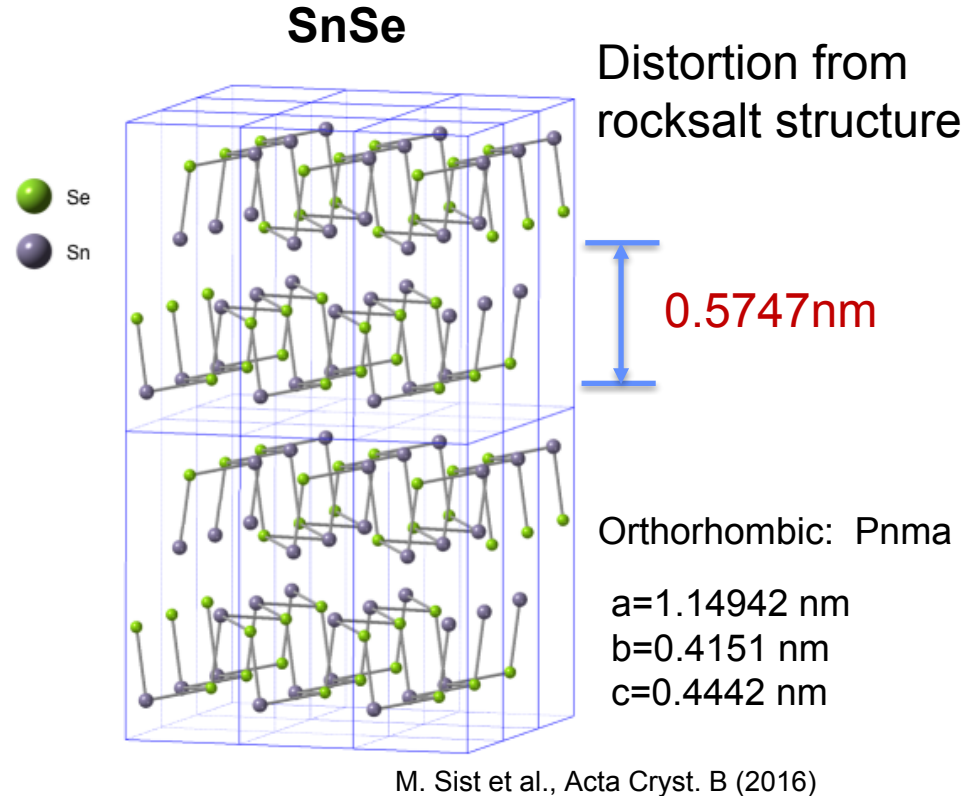
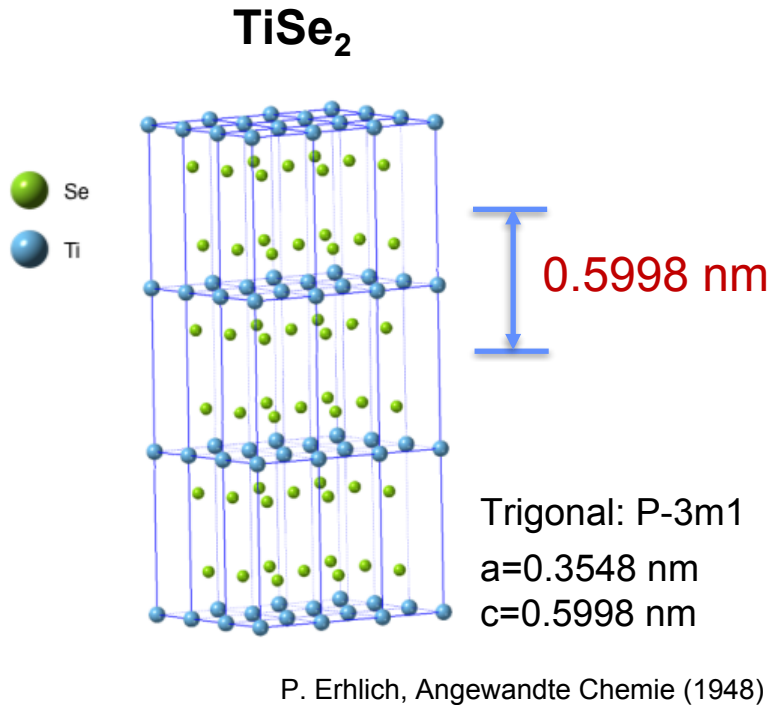
- Precursor structure designed to mimic the final product
- Deposit a target number of atoms of each element per layer
- Gentle annealing to crystallize, typically 5 - 30 minutes at 250 – 450°C



David Johnson et al., University of Oregon

What types of crystal and layer defects arise?

System: Multilayers of TiSe_2 & SnSe :

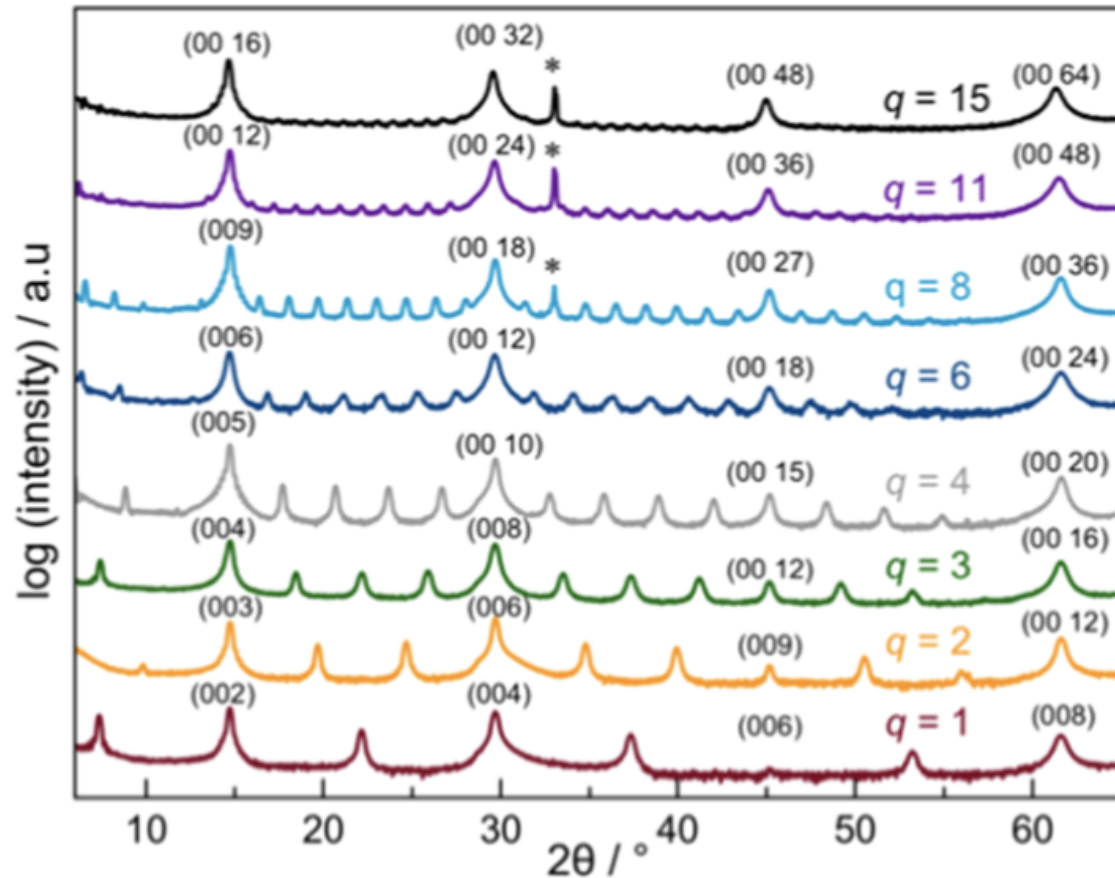


**Layer thicknesses
are closely matched**

- Bulk: Phase transition to Cmcn ~ 810 K)
- Monolayers: rectangular unit cell,
2D space group: p2gg
(Hamann et al., Inorganic Chemistry, 2017)

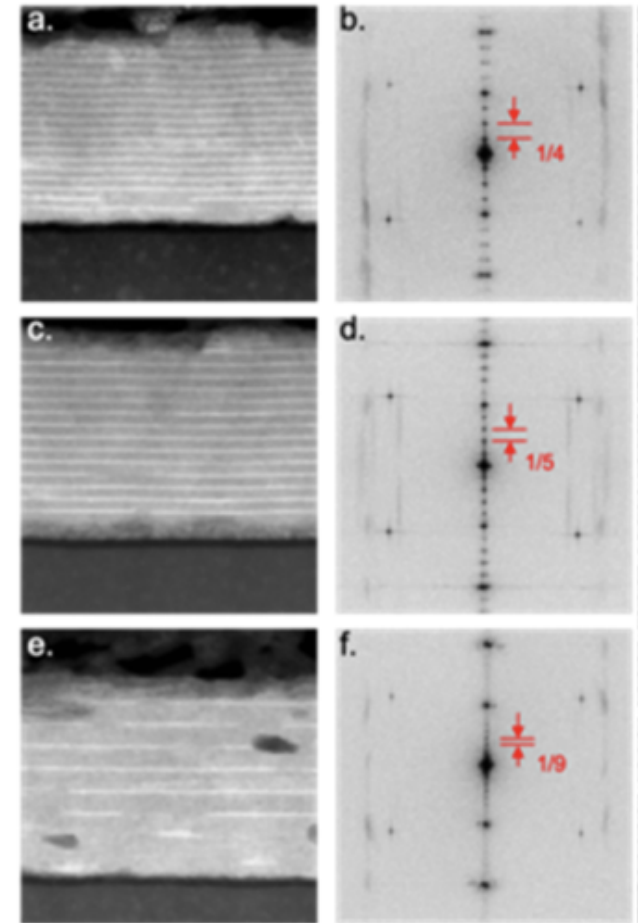
Good control of layer periodicities: TiSe₂/SnSe

X-Ray Diffraction



HRSTEM

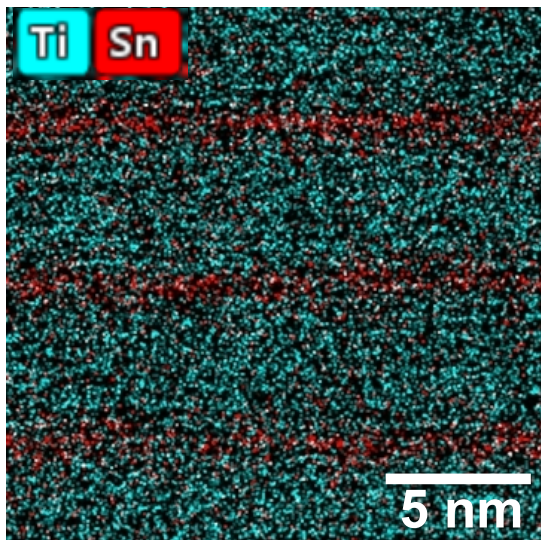
FFT



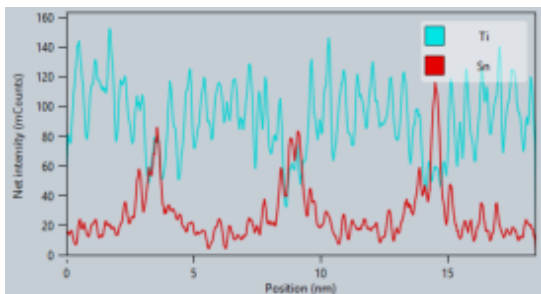
20 nm

Example layered structure: 1 SnSe /8 TiSe₂

EDS Spectrum Image

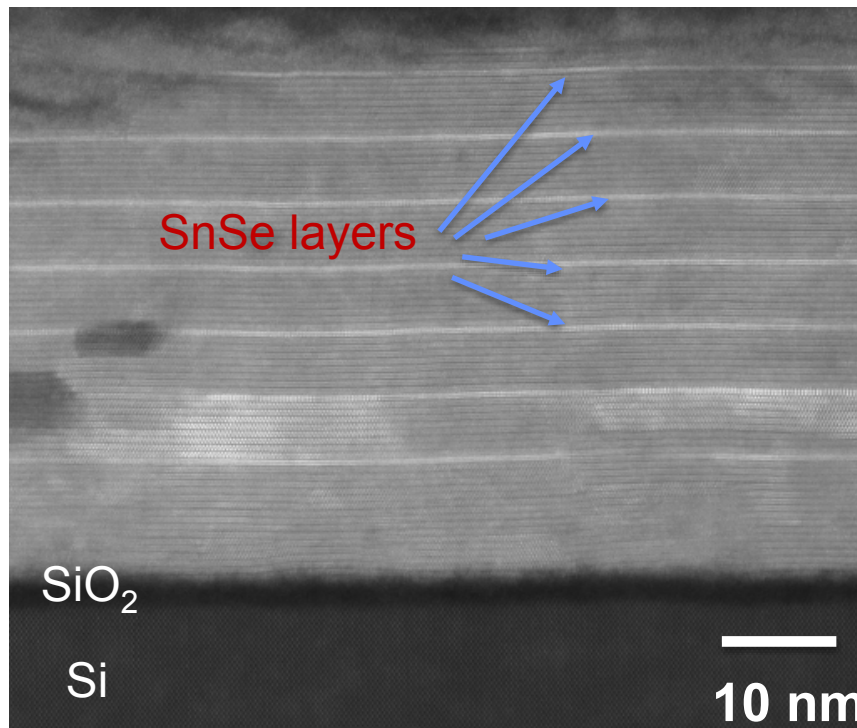


20180518_UO_Fischer/DH1-8/003)EDSmap_2p55nm/Si-EDS-HAADF 0908.emd,
net, postfilter 3 pix average

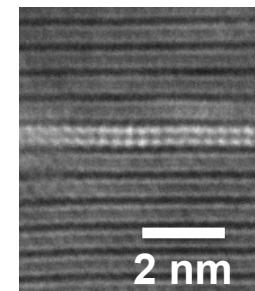


20180518_UO_Fischer/DH1-8/003)EDSmap_2p55nm/Si-EDS-HAADF 0908.emd,
net, prefiltering 3 pix average, postfilter 3 pix average

HAADF-STEM

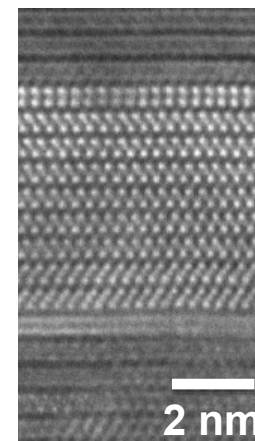


20180518_UO_Fischer/DH1-8/002_area2/08.45.20_dfstem_fov73p61nm.jpg



08.48.48_dfstem_fov18p45nm.jpg

SnSe



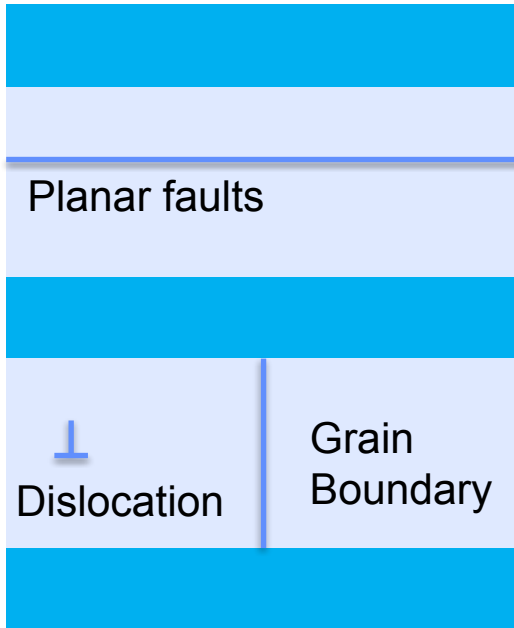
08.49.36_dfstem_fov18p45nm.jpg

TiSe₂

What about local defects?

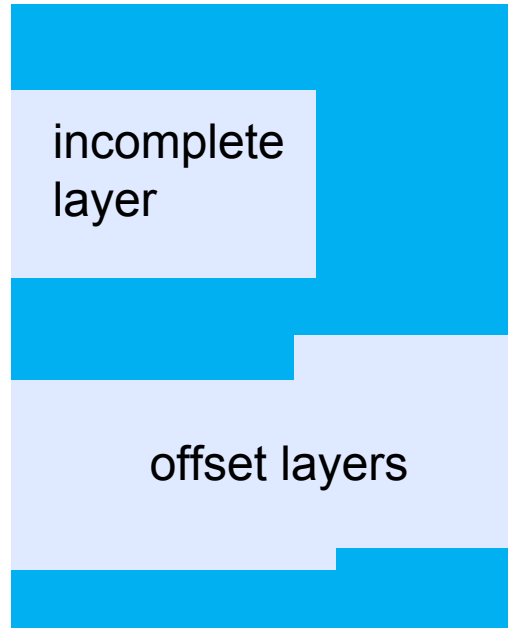
Defects: Broad Classifications

Intralayer defects



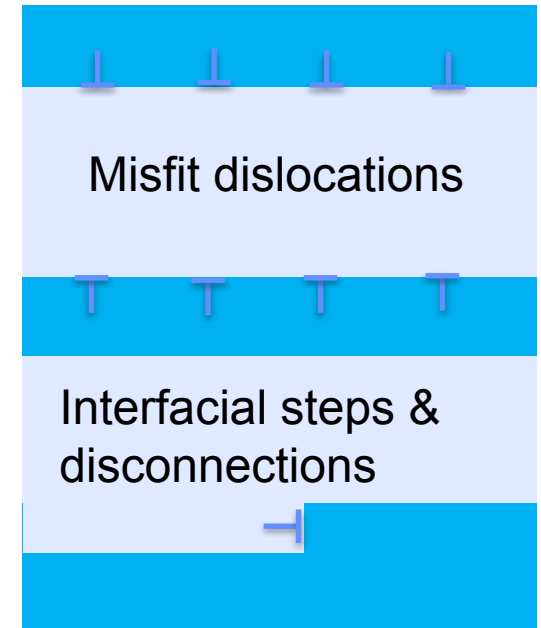
Crystalline defects within the confines of an individual layer

Interlayer defects



Morphological defects in the layer arrangements

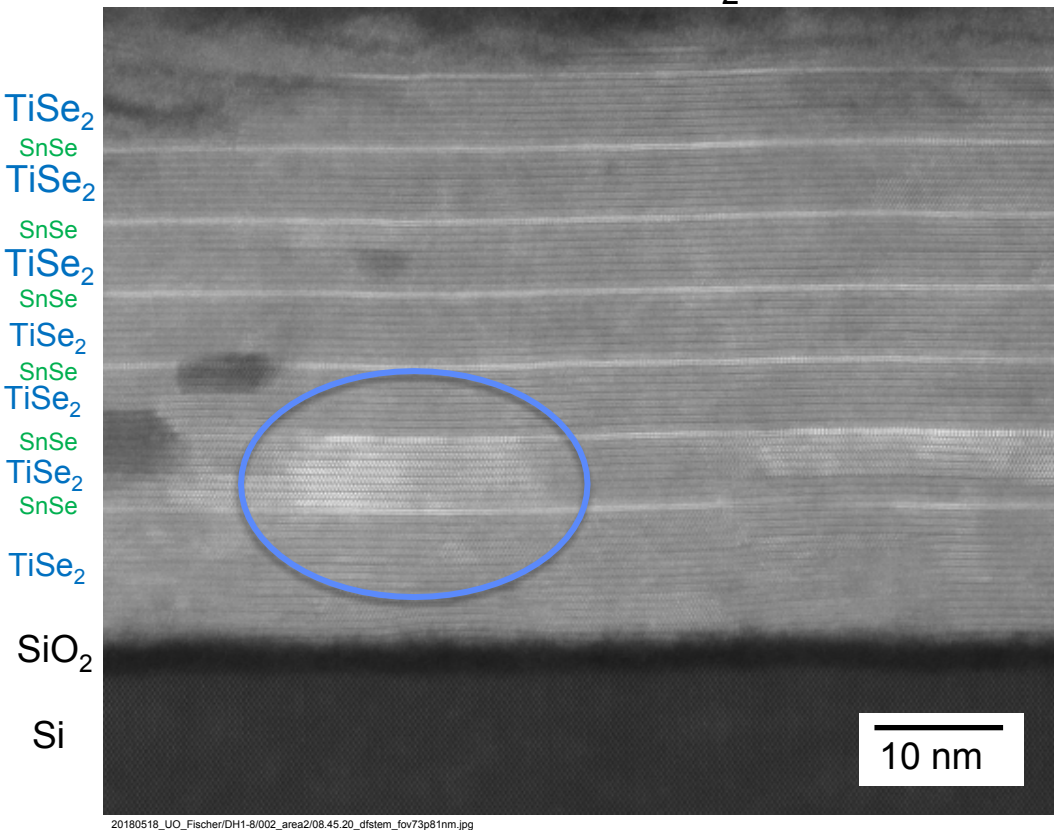
Interfacial defects



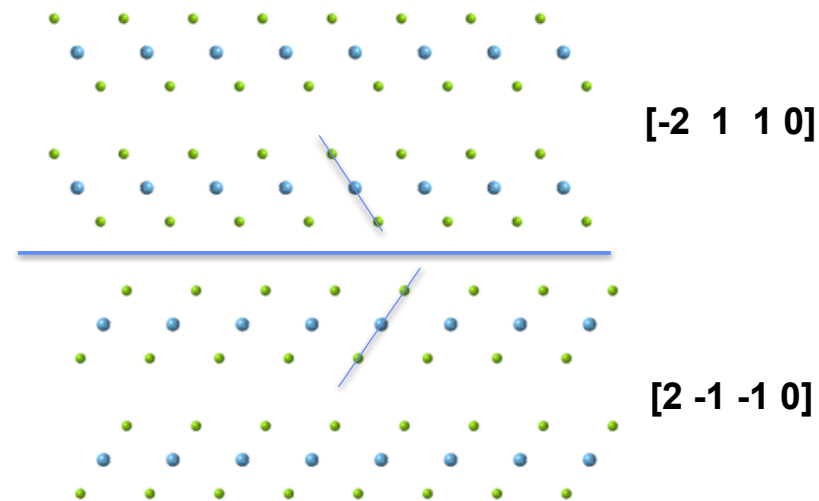
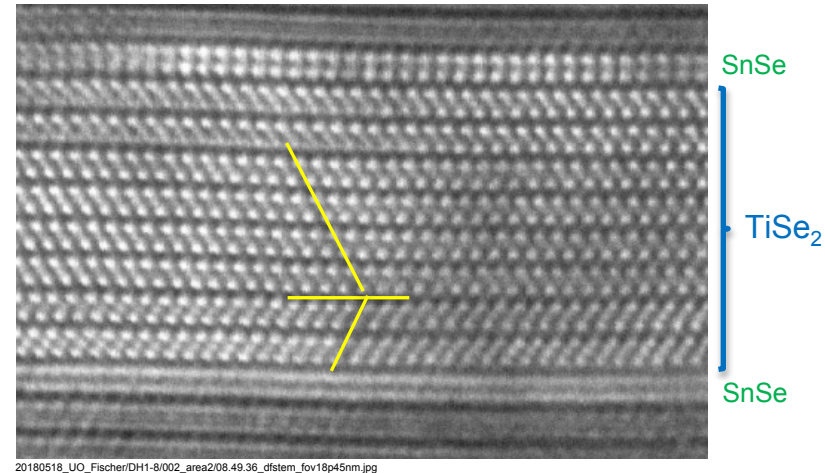
Crystalline defects at the interfaces between layers

Intralayer defects: GBs and twinning

1 SnSe : 8 TiSe₂



Twin boundary in TiSe₂ layer

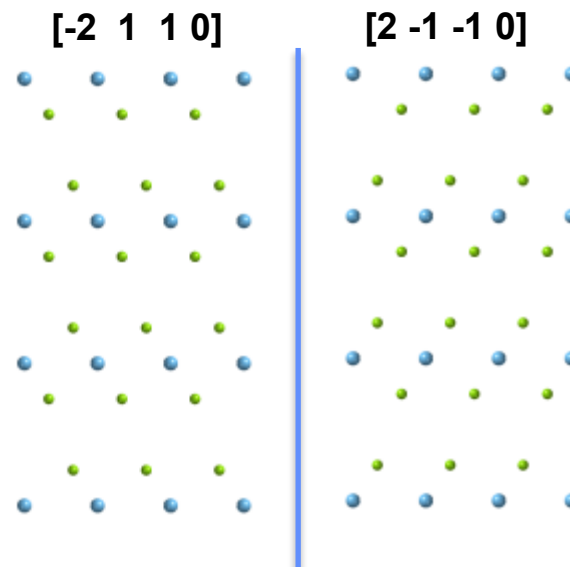
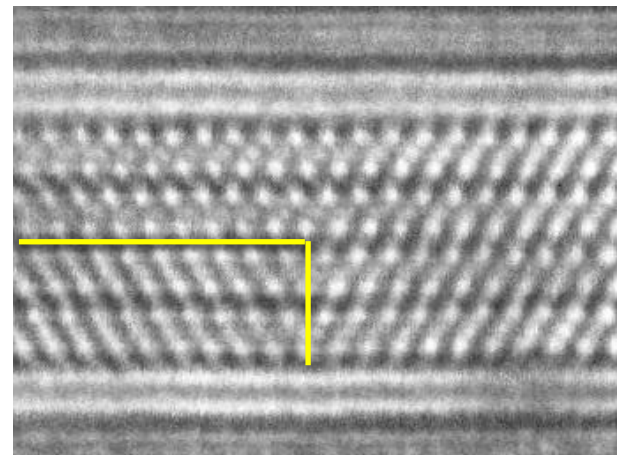
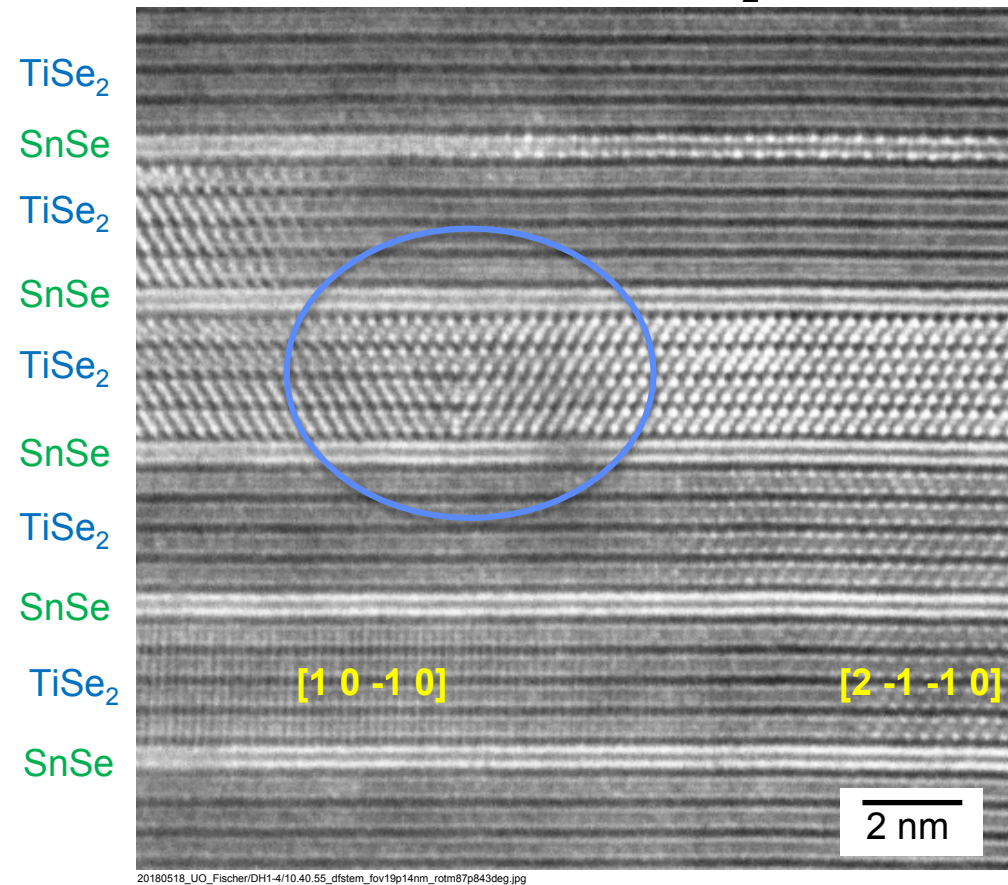


TiSe₂ has rhombohedral symmetry
180° rotation about [0001] axis gives twin

Crystal nucleation during annealing

Termination of a twin within a TiSe_2 layer

1 SnSe: 4 TiSe_2

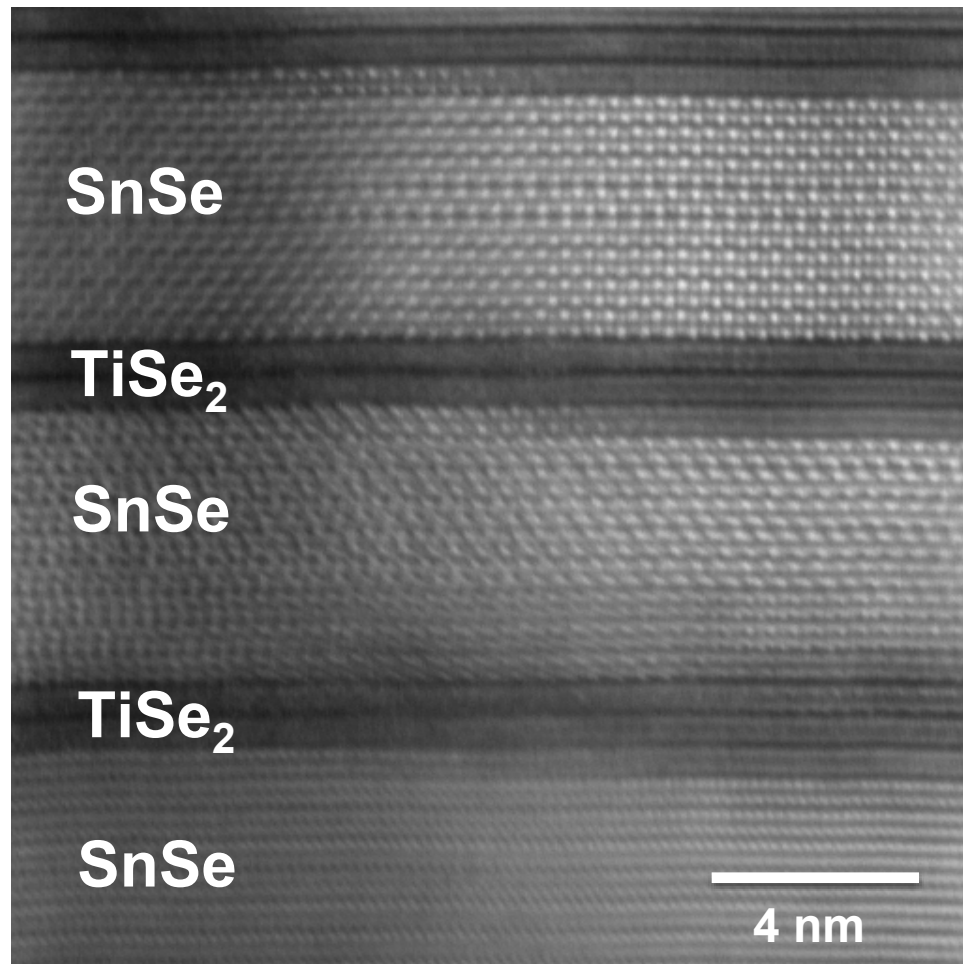


Analogous to "incoherent twin" in FCC materials

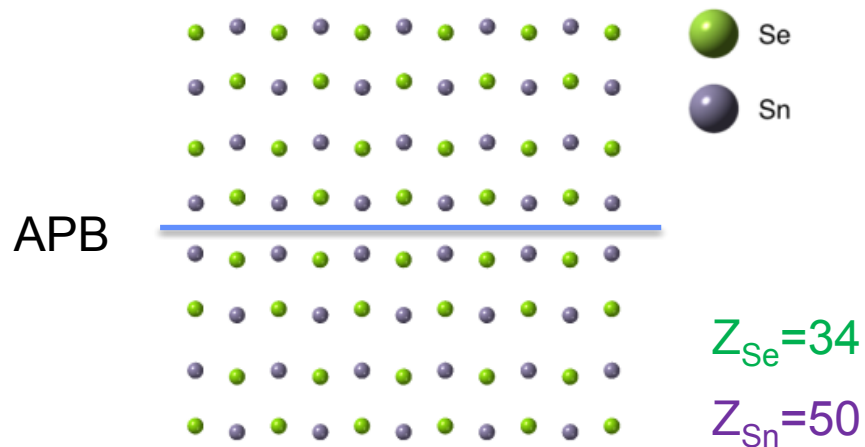
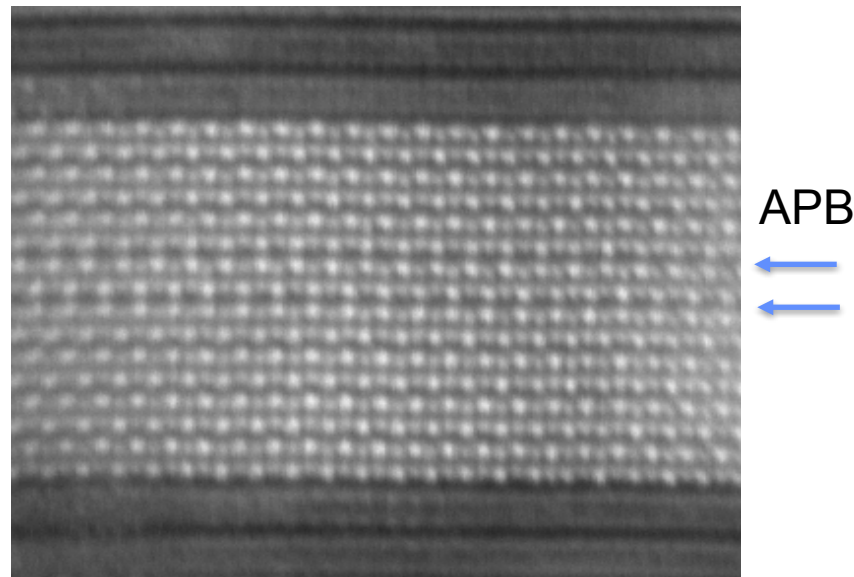
"Double-positioning" boundary

Intralayer defect: Anti-Phase Boundaries in SnSe

9 SnSe : 2 TiSe₂



20190322_UO_SnSe_TiSe2_2001_area1/14.55.58_dftstem_fov18p45nm.jpg

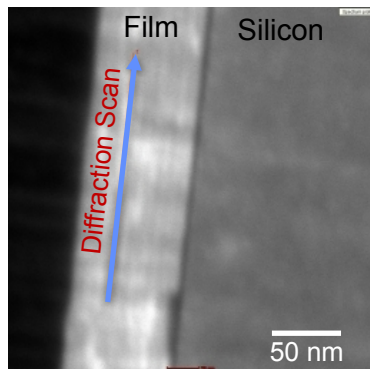


[001] direction

Orthorhombic Pnma structure

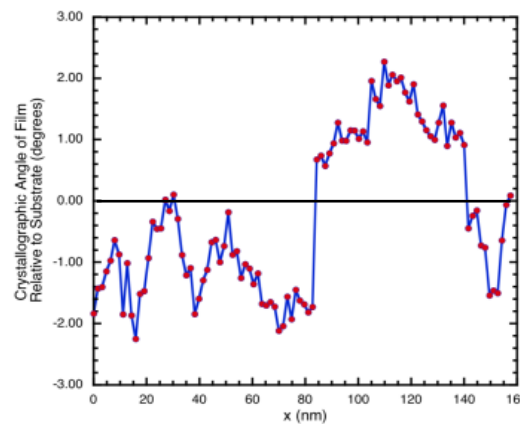
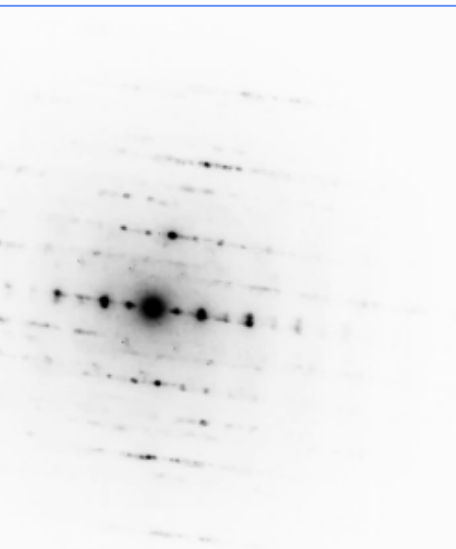


Spread in out-of-plane orientation



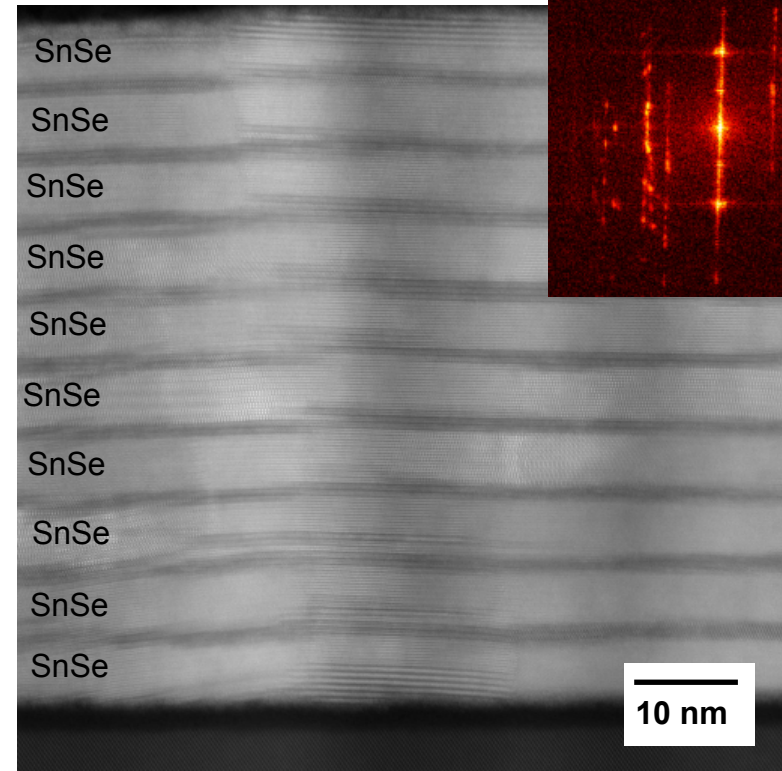
Scanning Microbeam Diffraction

Substrate Normal



9 SnSe : 2 TiSe₂

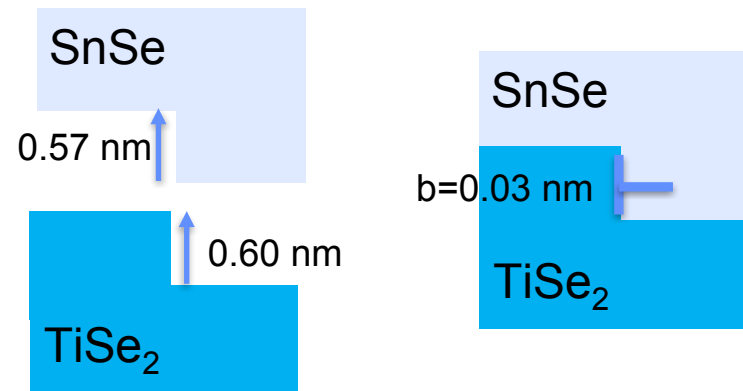
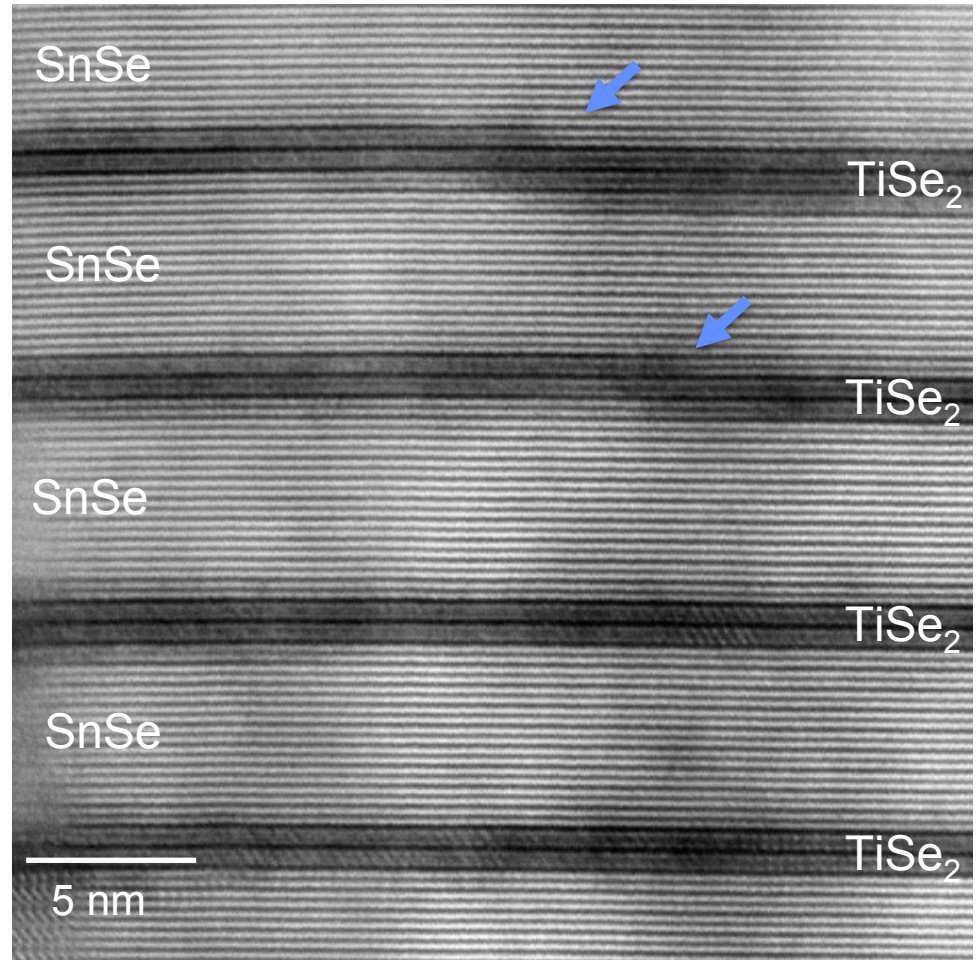
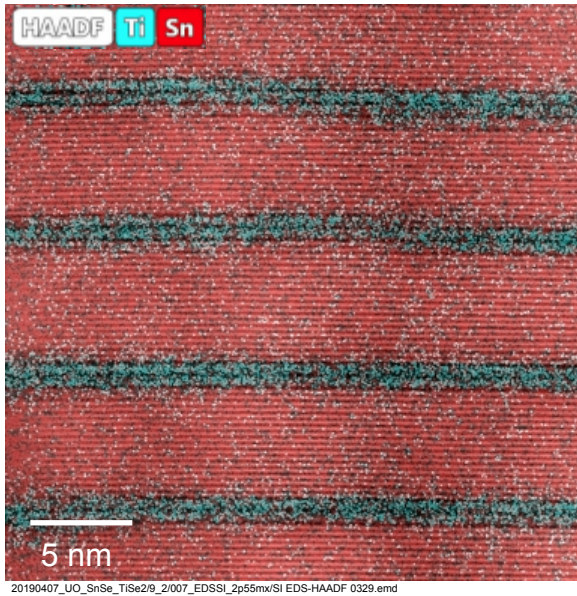
9 SnSe : 2 TiSe₂



20190322_UO_SnSe_TiSe2/9_2/001_area1/14.33.00_dftem_fov73p81.jpg

Key signature of
interlayer defects

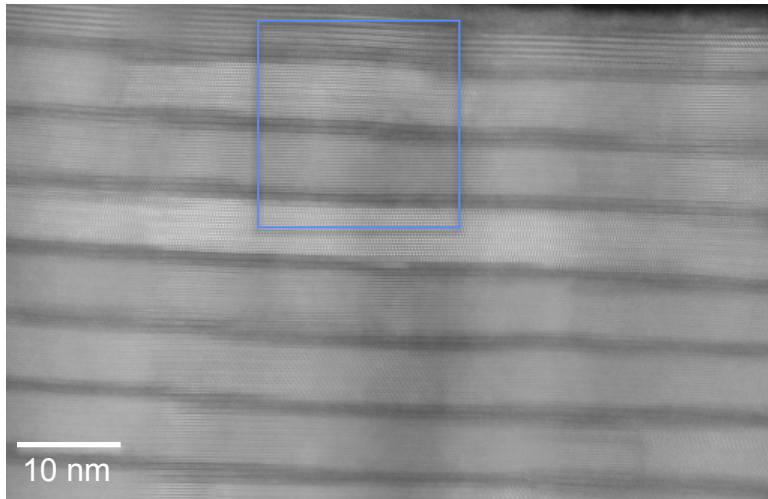
Interlayer Defects: Joining of two incomplete layers



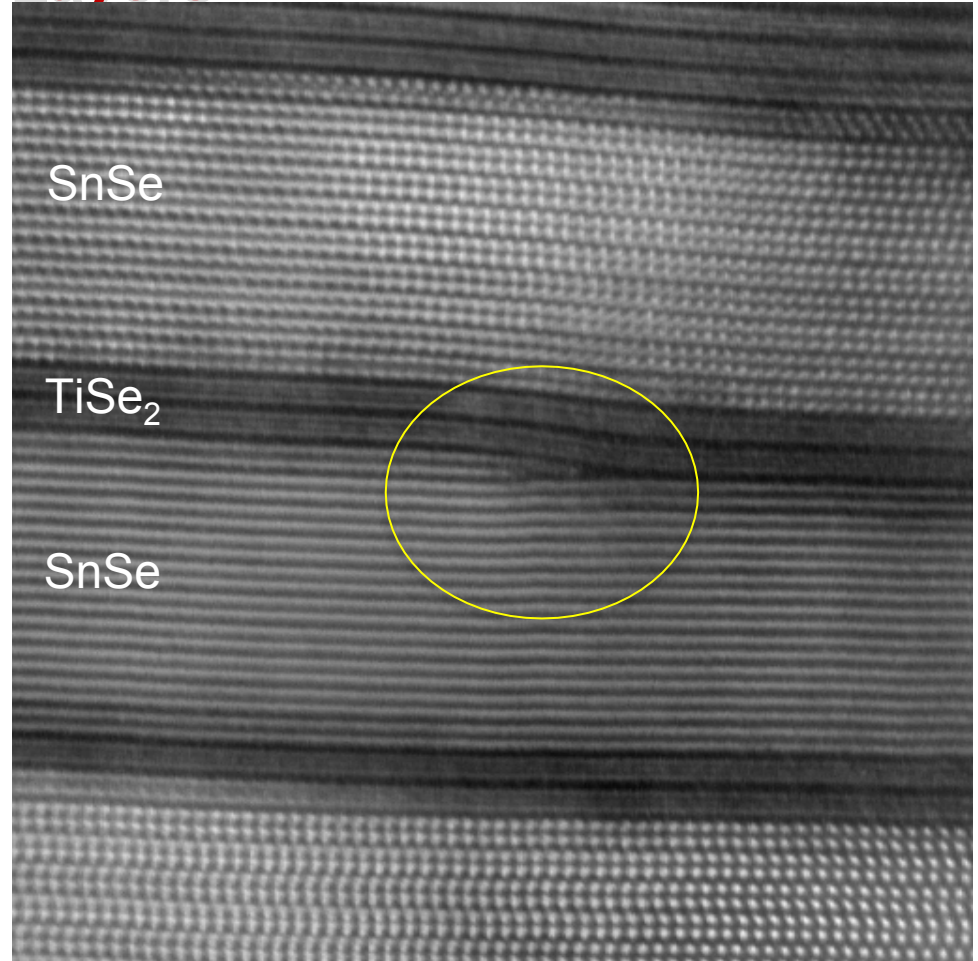
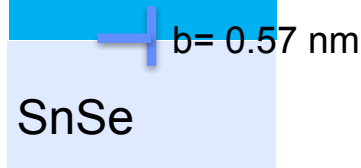
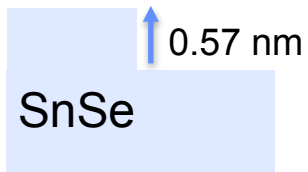
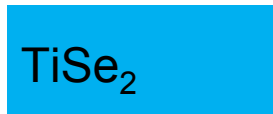
"Disconnection" == defect with both step and dislocation content

Because the step-heights are similar, the dislocation content is small

Interlayer Defects: Incomplete Layer between Full Layers



20190407_UO_SnSe_TiSe2/9_2/009_image_rotation_series7_dislocation/04.29.52_dfstem_fov73p81nm.jpg



20190407_UO_SnSe_TiSe2/9_2/009_image_rotation_series7_dislocation/04.19.45_dfstem_fov18p45nm.jpg

2 nm

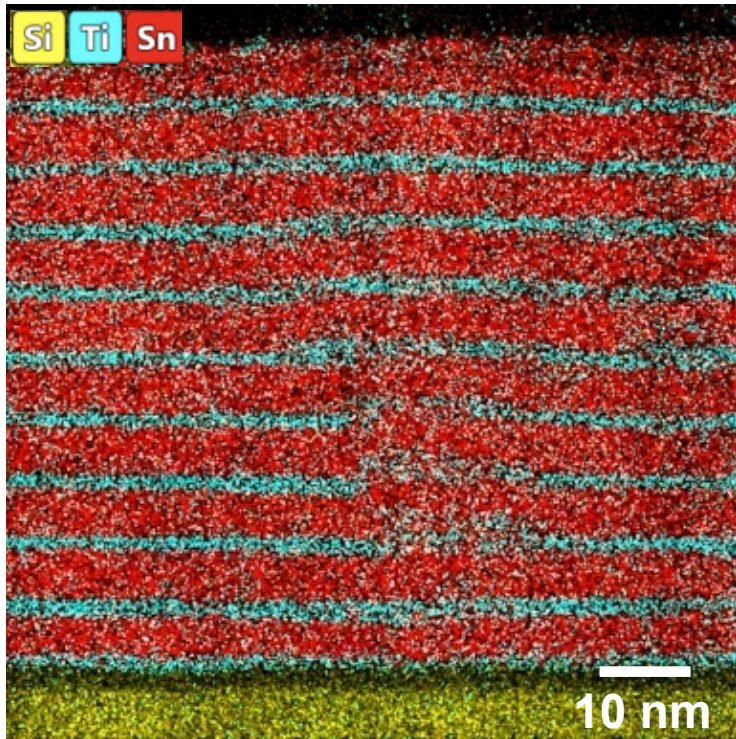
Much larger Burgers vector

Bending associated with the dislocation strain at incomplete layers is the likely origin of spread in out-of-plane orientation.

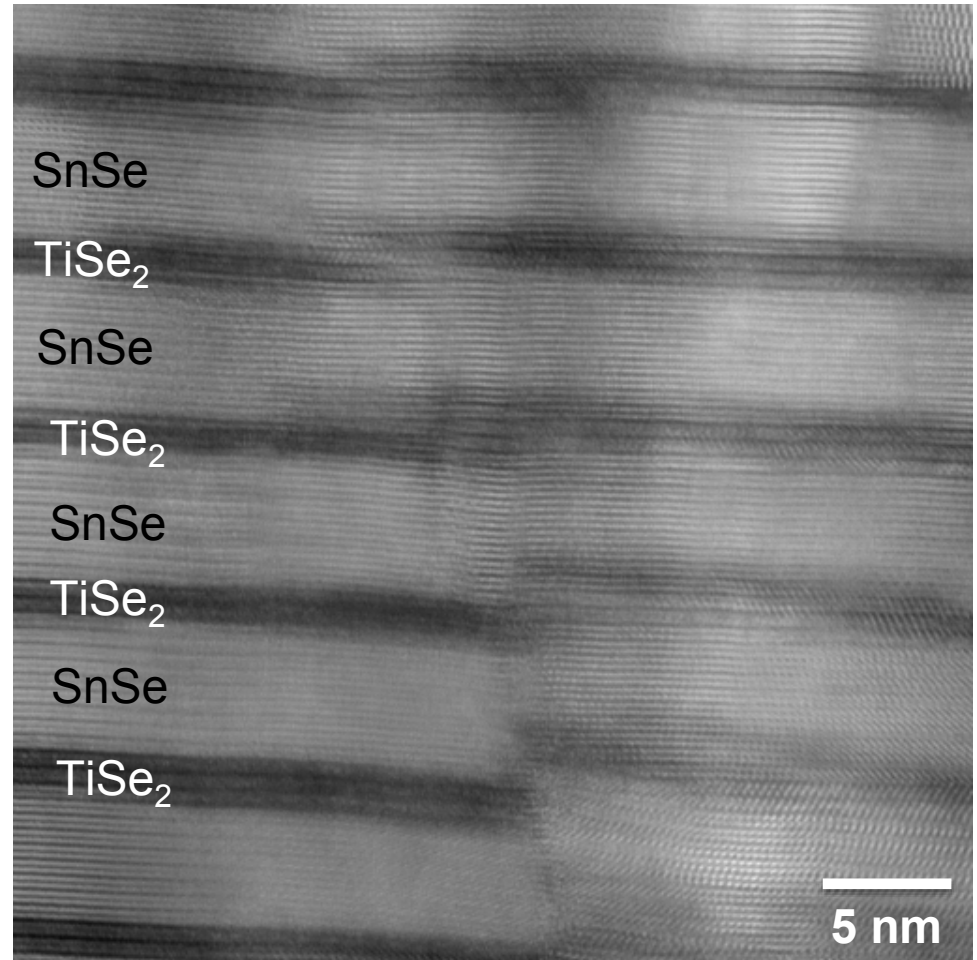
Interlayer Defects: Offset layers

HAADF-STEM

EDS Spectrum Image



20190407_UO_SnSe_TiSe2/9_2/006_EDSSI_910kx/SI EDS-HAADF 0305.emd



20190407_UO_SnSe_TiSe2/9_2/005_image_rotation_series5/02.48.38_dfstem_fov36p91nm.jpg

Synopsis

Key structural aspects layered chalcogenides are manifested in the detailed structures of extended defects in these materials.

Weak, van der Waals bonding across double chalcogenide layers

Ability to accommodate non-stoichiometry through altering the layer stacking

Close inter-relationship between the rocksalt and tetradymite structural types.

Atomic resolution microscopy is clarifying the character of dislocations, interfaces, and interfacial line defects in the chalcogenides

Complex, dissociated core structures observed in Bi_2Te_3 and ZrTe_5

Role in phase transformations and accommodating coherency strain

Insight to defect formation in novel synthesis strategies.

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NIST

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D.Johnson

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(present address Northwestern Univ)