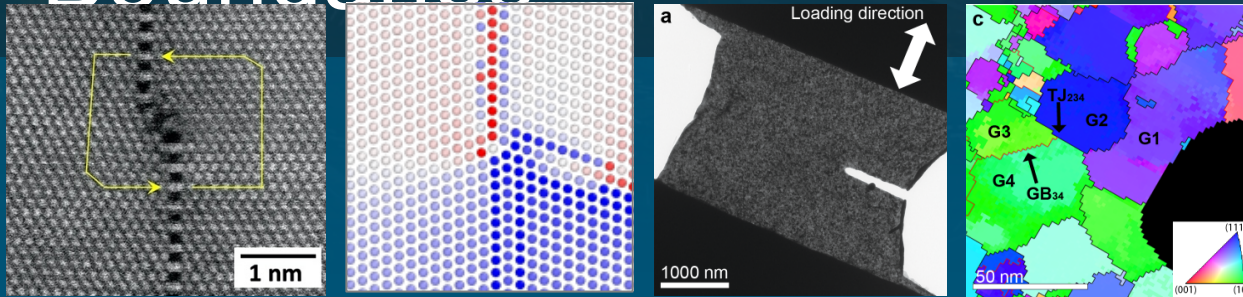




Nanomechanics and Nanometallurgy of Boundaries



Brad L. Boyce, Khalid Hattar, Doug Medlin,
Remi Dingreville

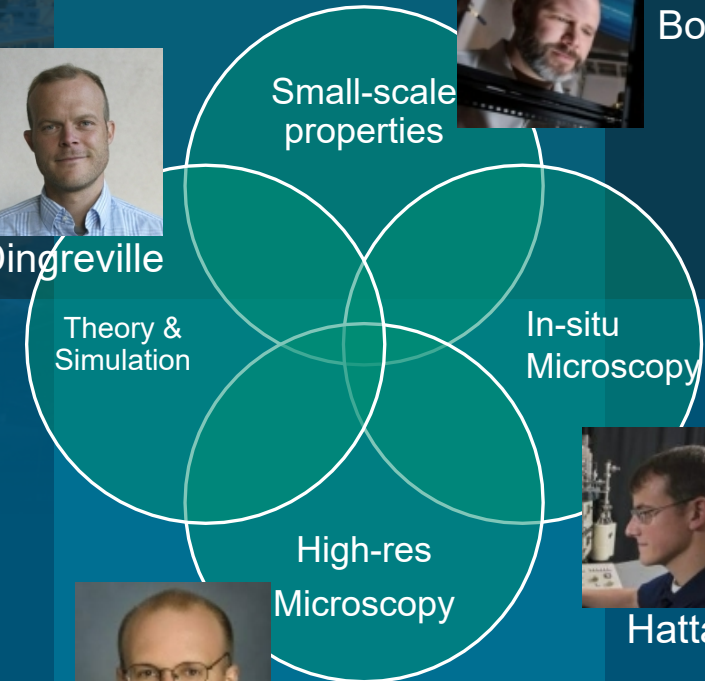
Sandia National Laboratories



Dingreville



Boyce, PI



Hattar



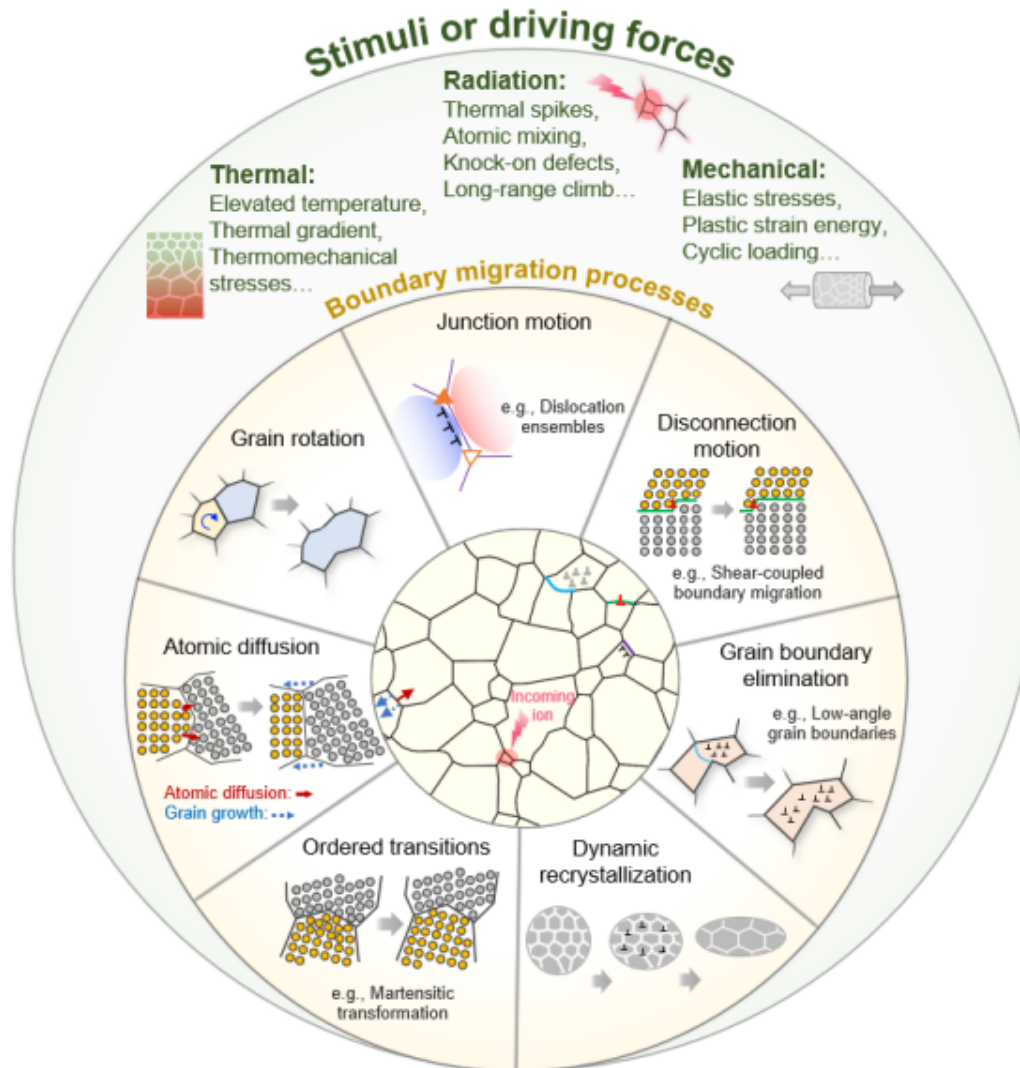
Medlin



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NA0003525.



Guiding principle: By understanding the mediating role of grain boundaries and their networks, we can harness them to control monotonic and cyclic damage processes.



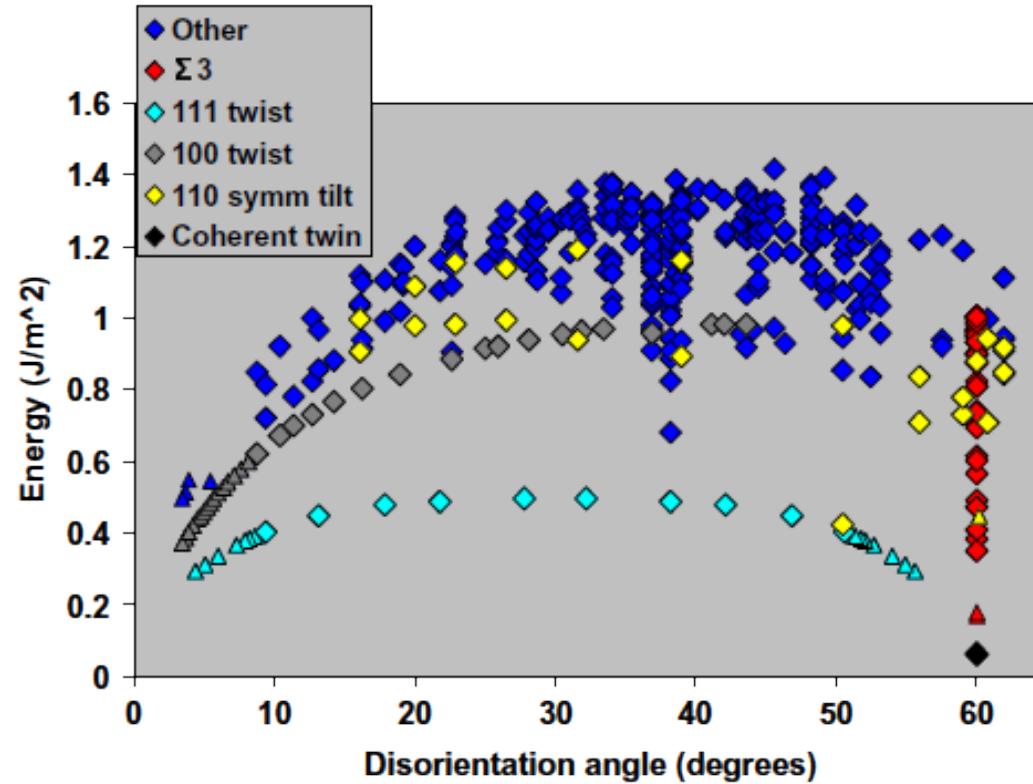
Nanocrystalline metals provides a unique **‘microstructural grain boundary laboratory’** through which we can suppress better-understood mechanisms (e.g. dislocation plasticity) and amplify the unusual contributions of grain boundaries.

Current core hypothesis: the presence and evolution of defects within grain boundaries alter the GB behavior in response to thermal, irradiation, and/or mechanical driving forces

“Way back” in 2009...

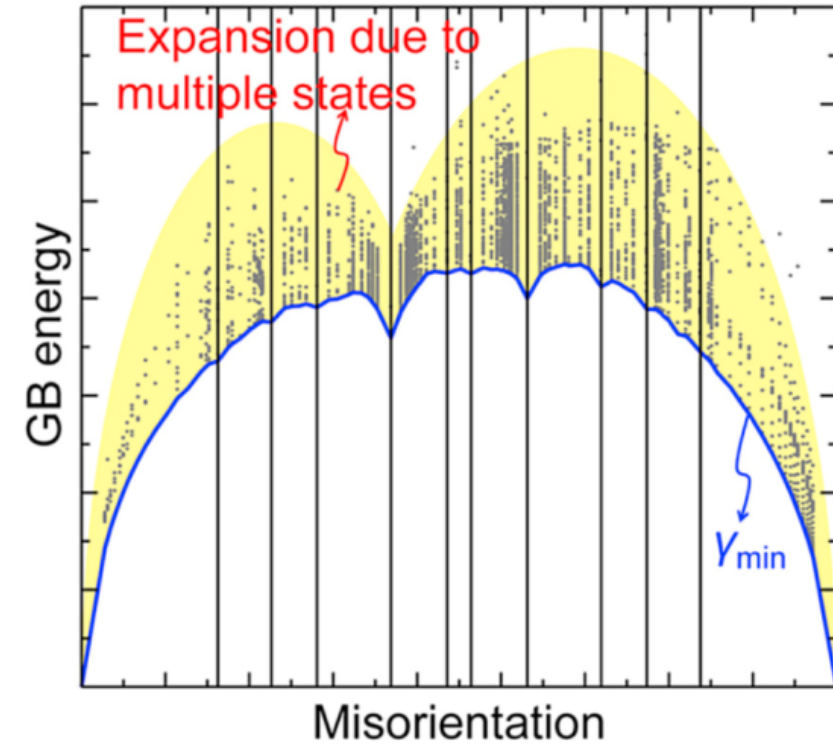


Grain boundary properties depend strongly on character



Olmsted, Foiles, Holm, *Acta Mater*, 2009

Grain boundaries can occupy a multiplicity of states

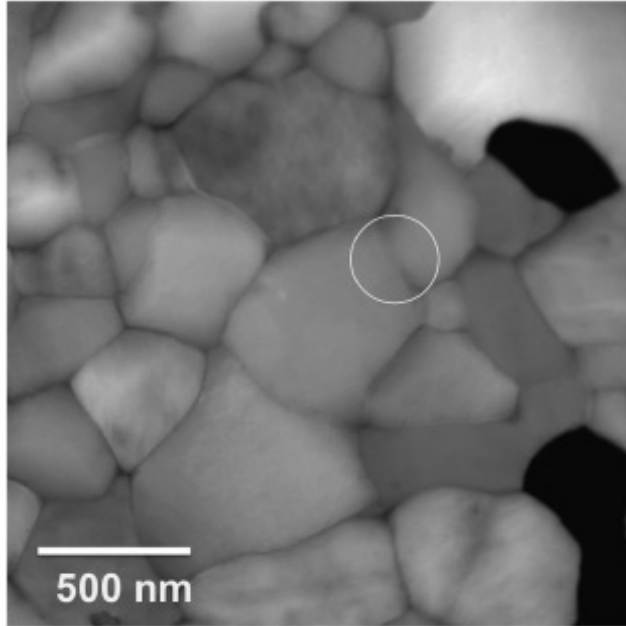


Han, Vitek, Srolovitz, *Acta Mater*, 2016

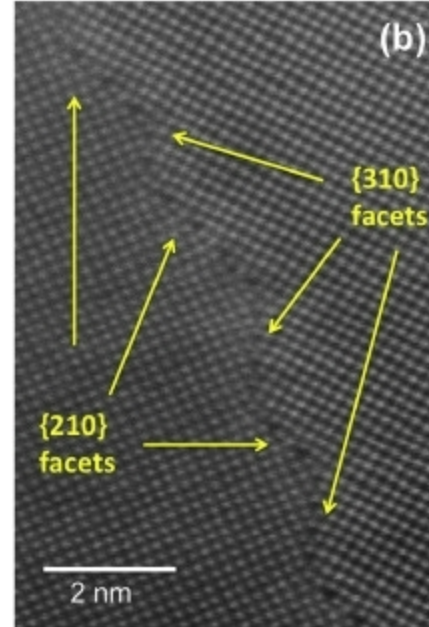
Theme of this presentation: **Defected defects...**

Grain boundaries are 2D defects that move through the evolution of 0D and 1D defects within them

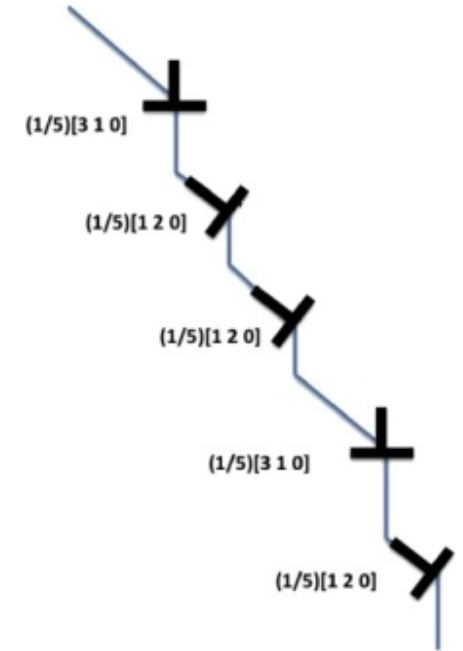
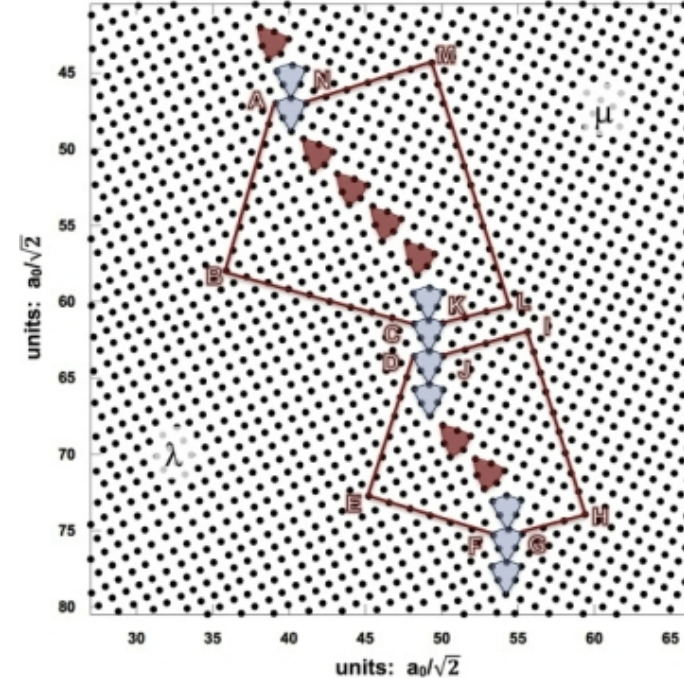
Defected Defects



An “ordinary”
 $\Sigma=5$ grain boundary



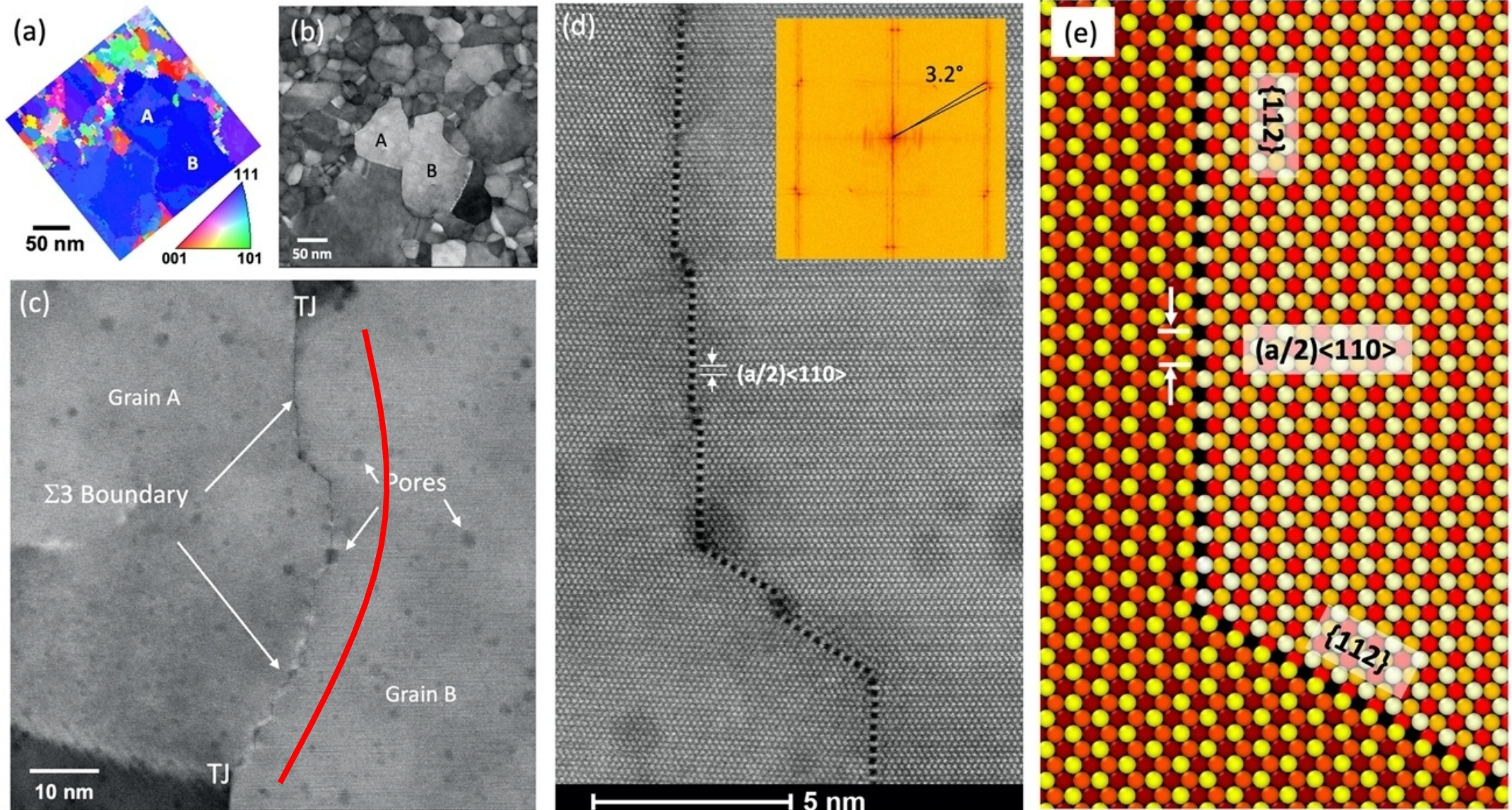
$\{310\}$ and $\{210\}$
facets



secondary grain
boundary dislocations

Facets are a common GB feature found in many vicinal low-CSL boundaries.
They are also found within many random HAGBs as the boundary locally tries to adopt a low energy structure

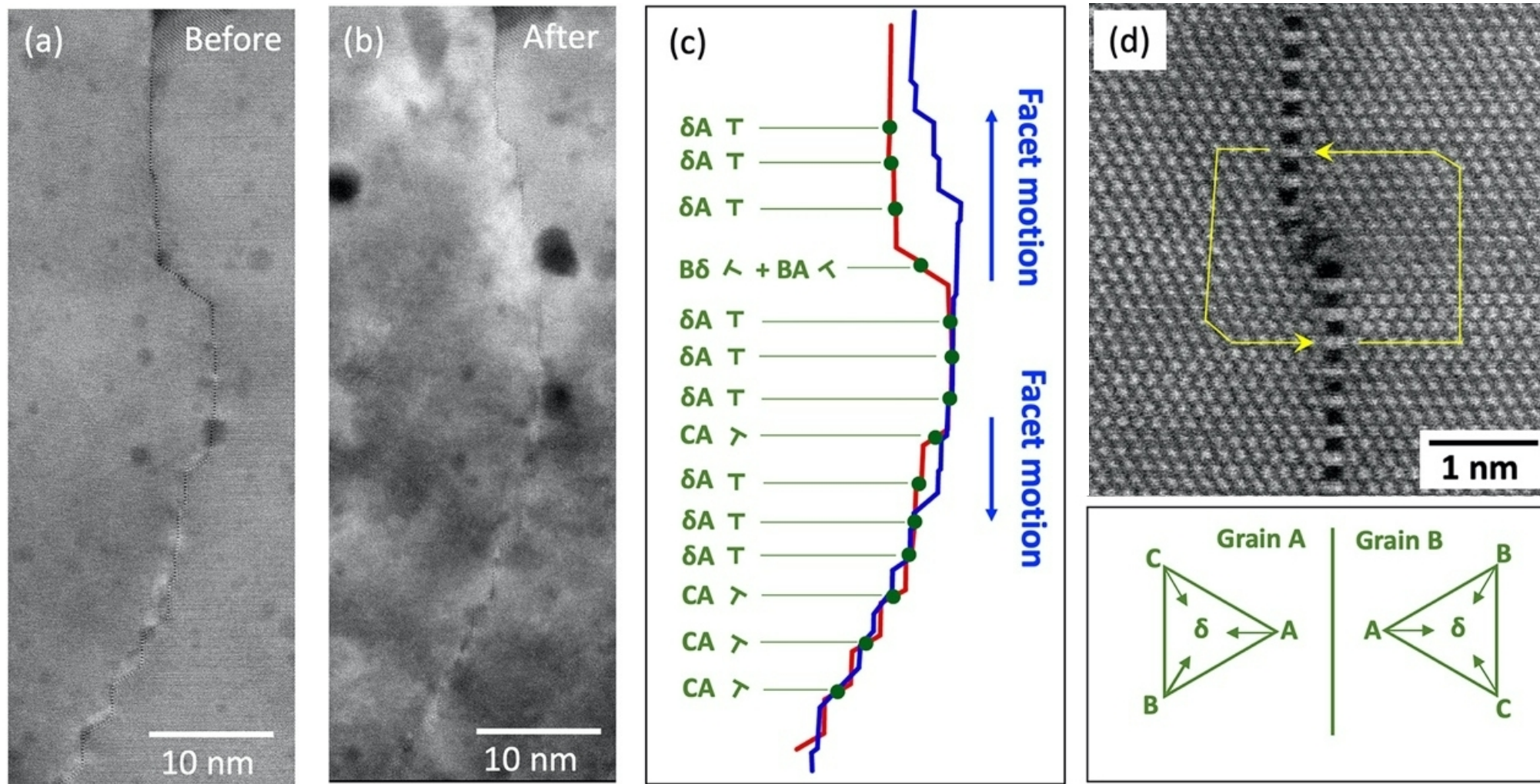
Defected Defects: Irradiation-induced migration of a $\Sigma 3$ grain boundary



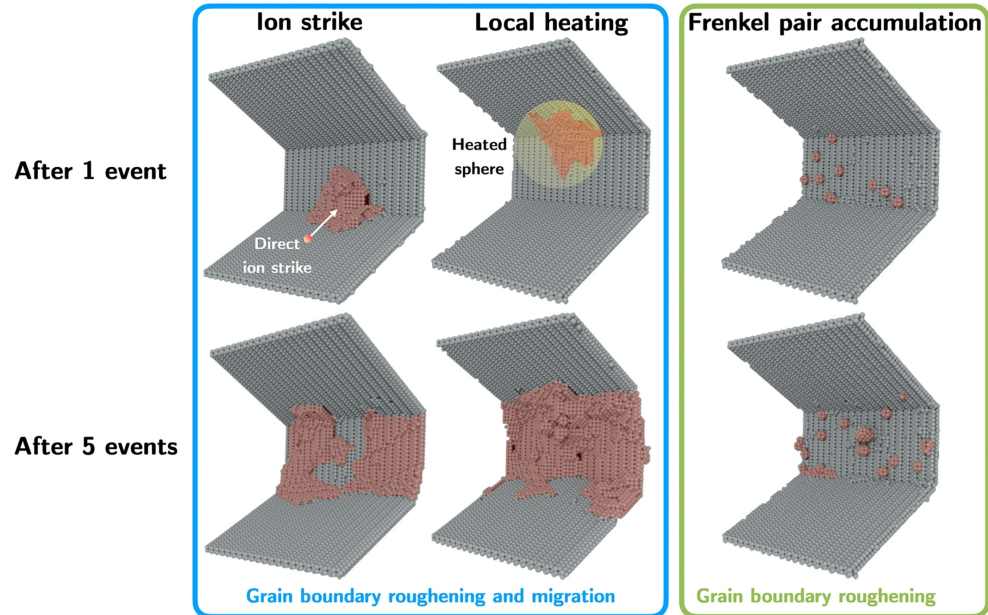
Facet migration of a $\Sigma 3$ grain boundary



Irradiated with non-depositing 2.8 MeV Au⁴⁺; Total dose during exposure: 1 dpa



What atomic process(es) drive this migration of the facet junctions?

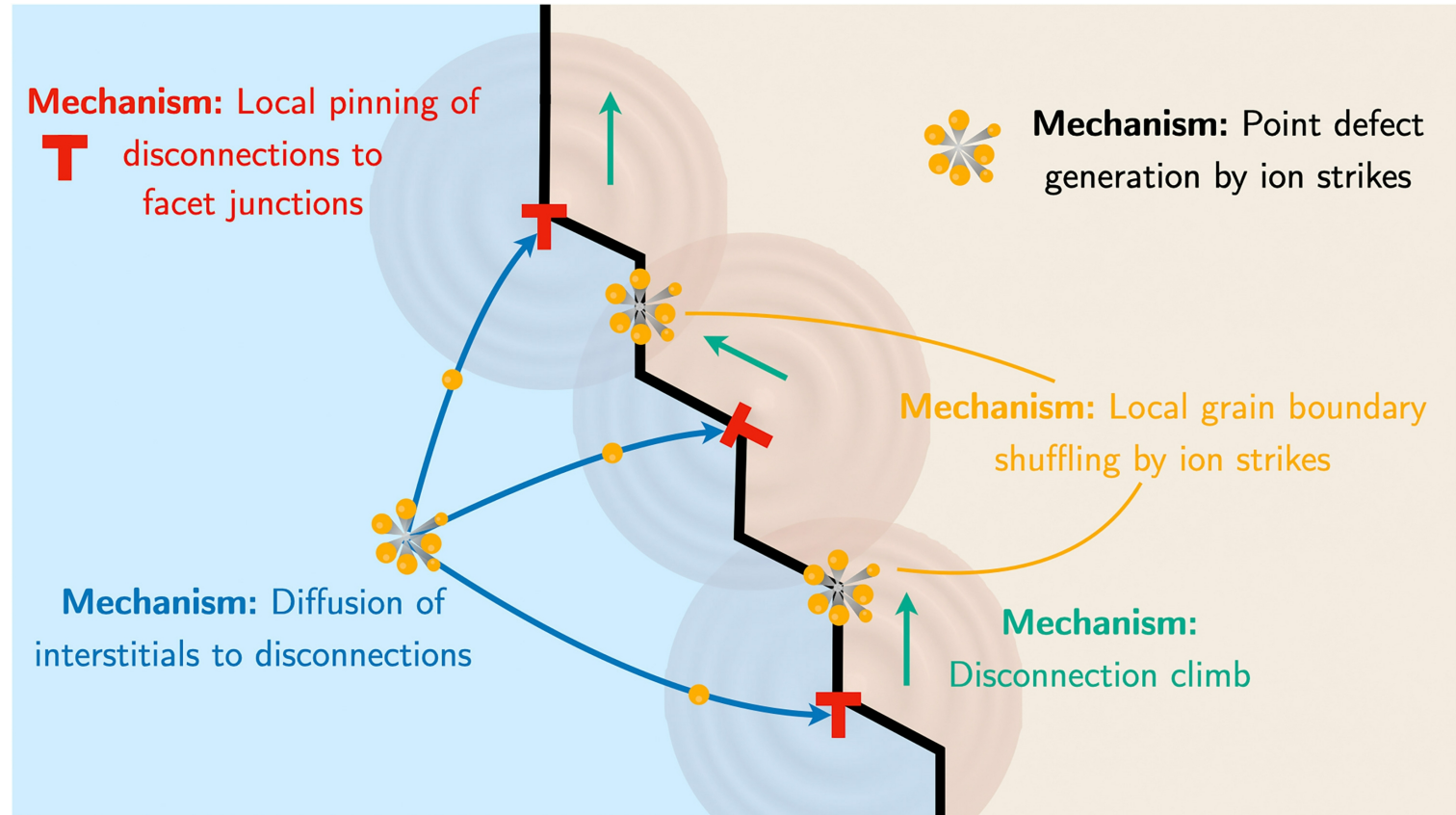


Three simulation techniques:

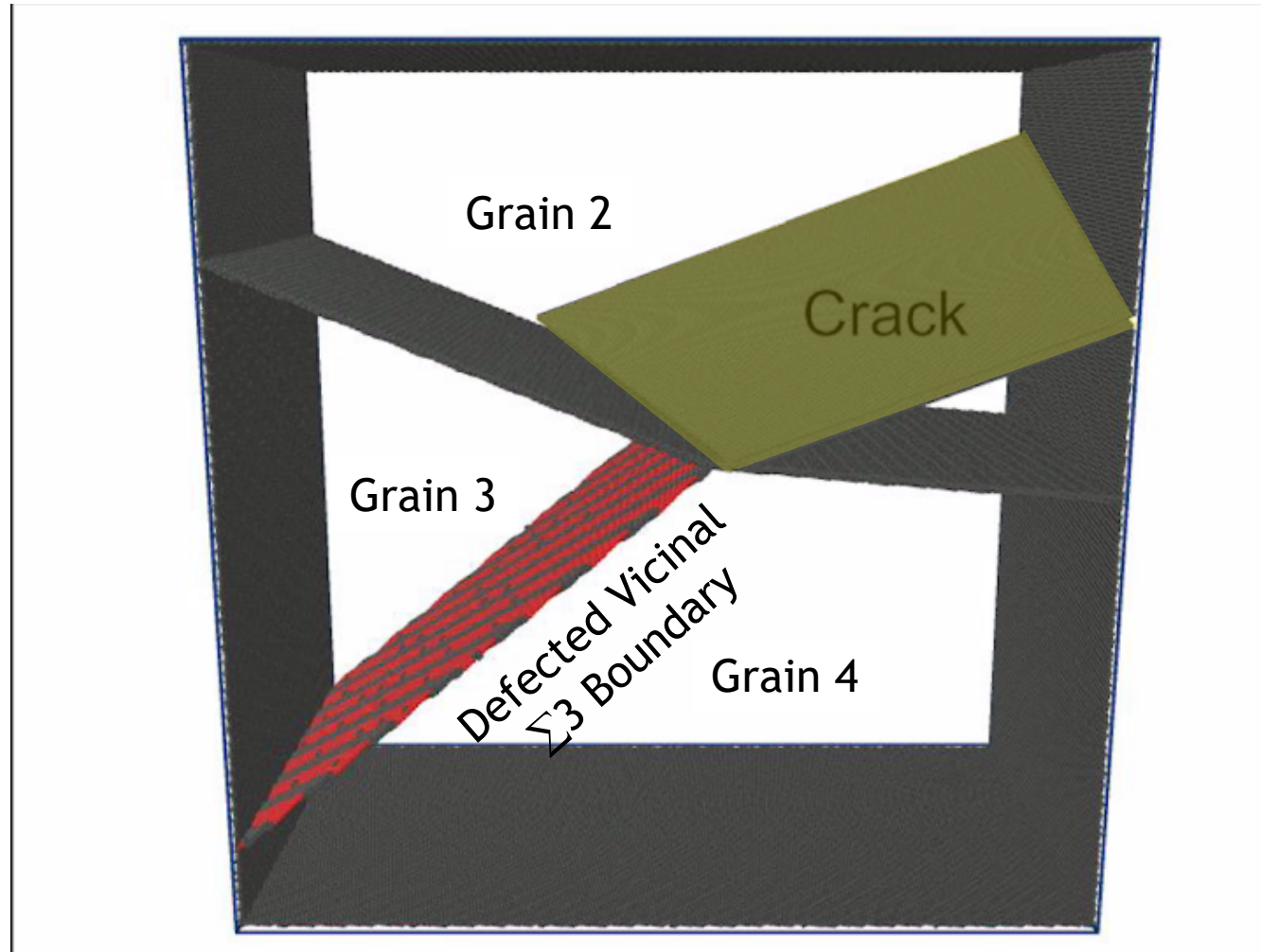
Localized heating

Ion strike (PKA)

Frenkel pair accumulation (NRT-dpa)

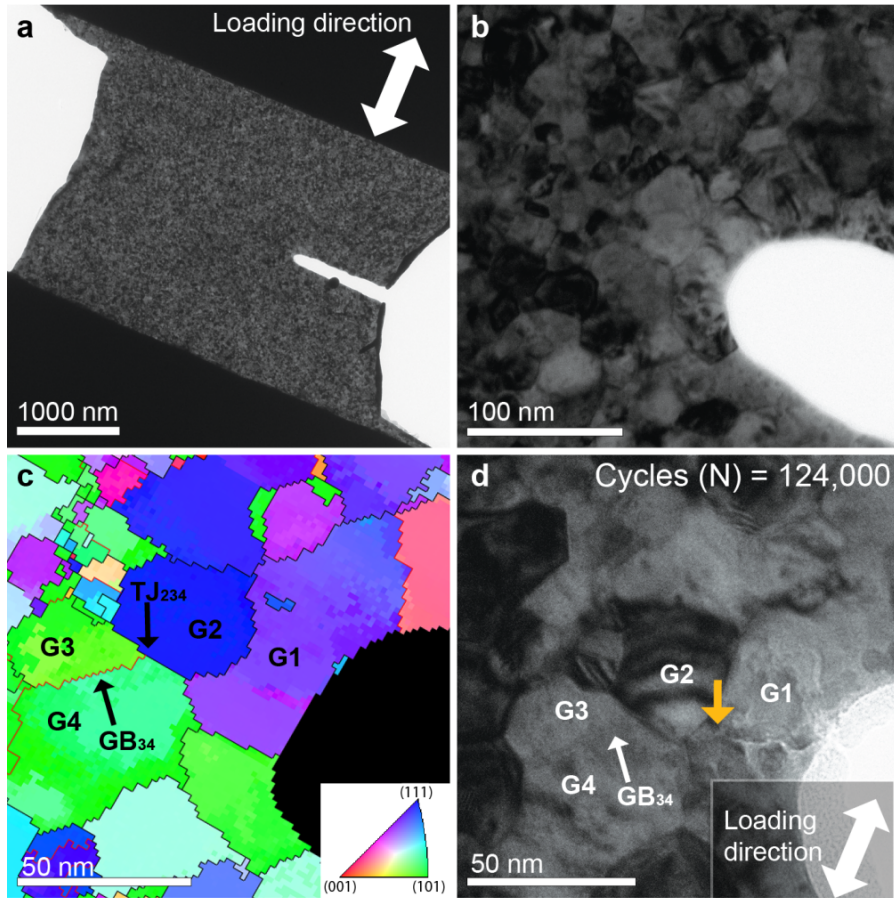


Defected Defects: Simulation of fatigue-induced gb migration

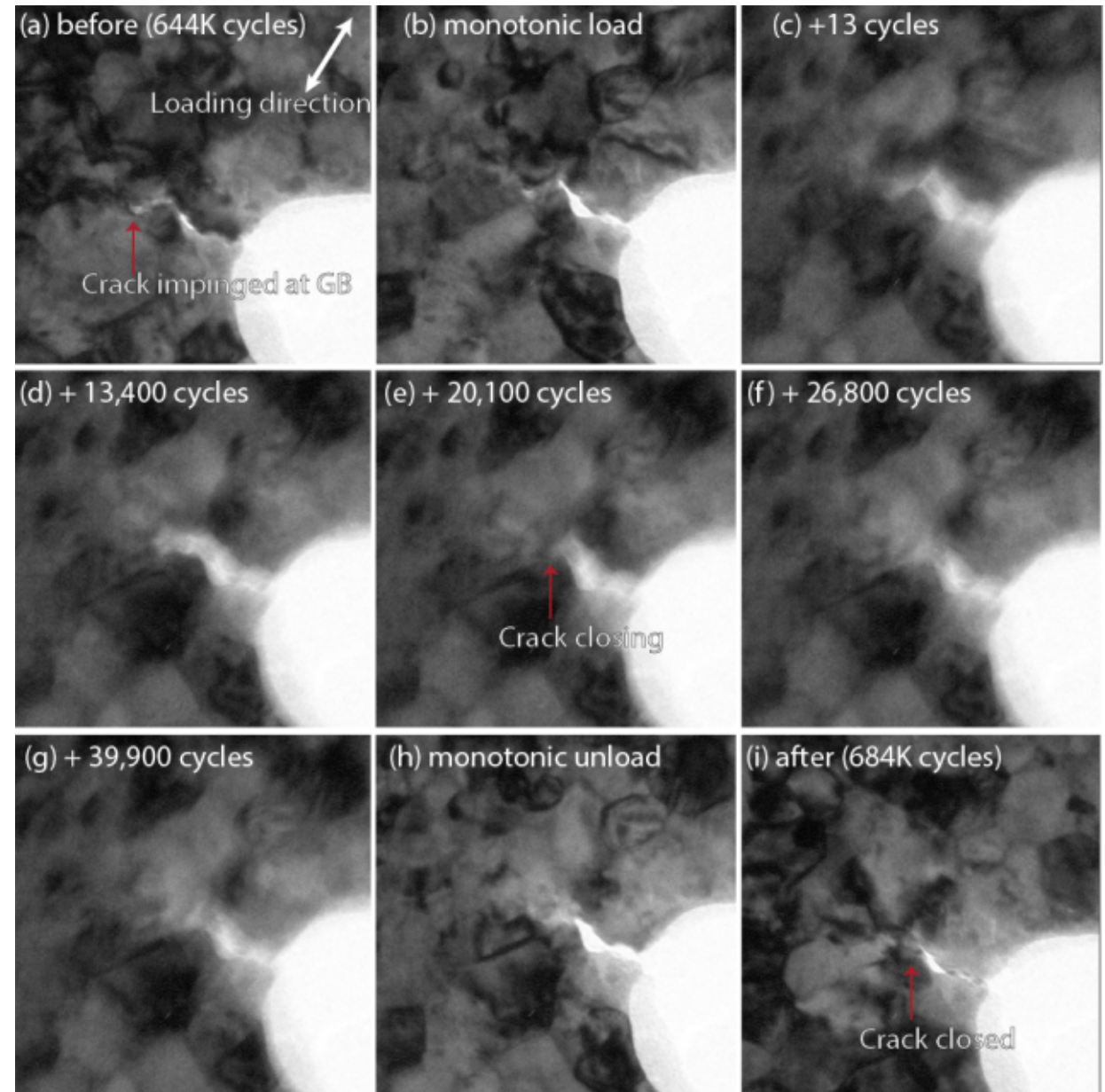


High-cycle fatigue-induced vicinal boundary migration

Polycrystalline Pt



200 times every second,
we apply 17 μN , a force equivalent
to merely 10,000 C-C bonds.



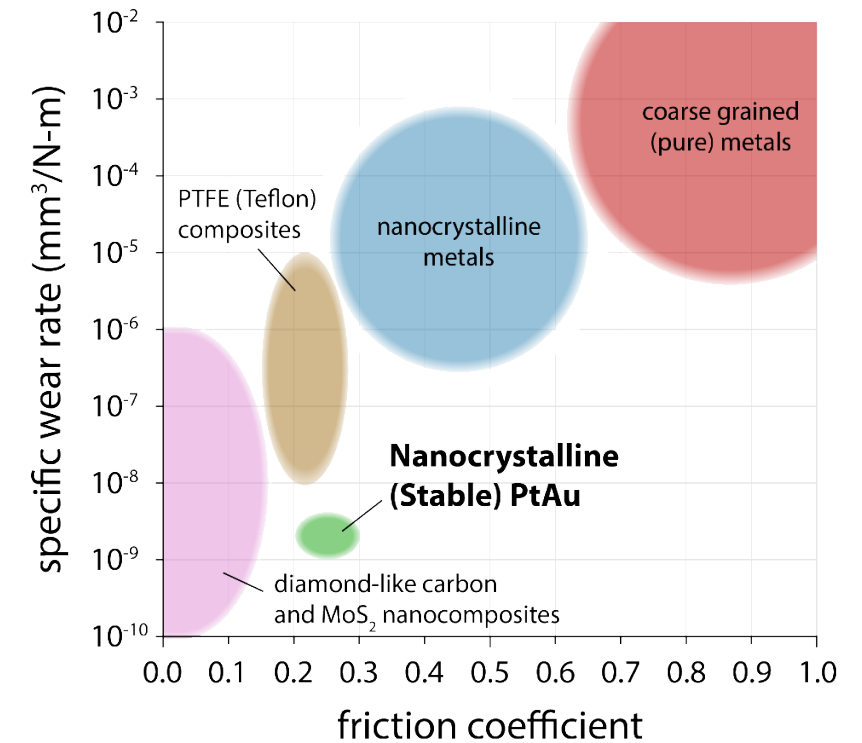
Similar observations of crack healing have been made multiple times in Pt, and also in Cu

Defected Defects:
Added complexity with alloying

How does chemistry (solute content) affect these processes?



Cover art:
Barr, et al., *Nanoscale*, 2021
(simulations from Fadi Abdeljawad)

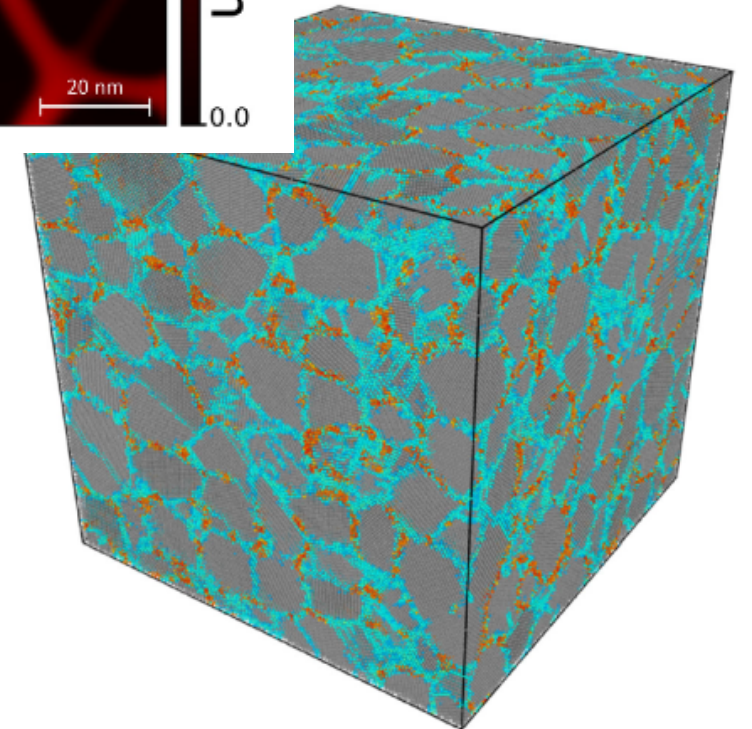
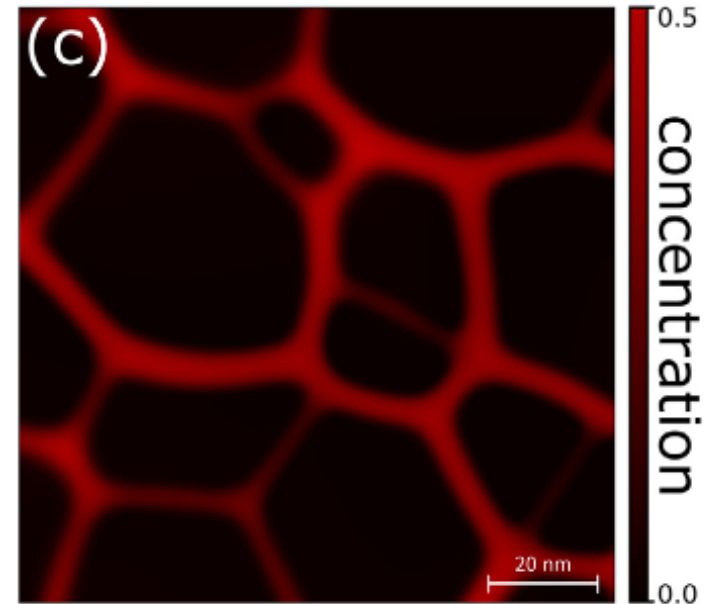
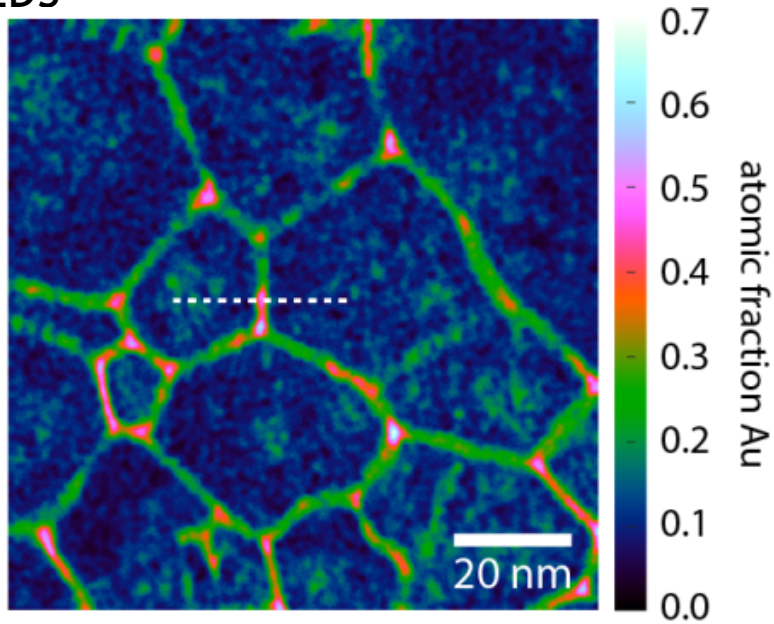


Wear Properties: Curry, et al., *Advanced Materials*, 2018
Tribocatalytic DLC formation: Argibay, et al., *Carbon*, 201

Pt-Au: the most noble binary nanocrystalline alloy



STEM-EDS



Phase Field with Heterogeneous Segregation: J. Monti et al., *Acta Mater*, 2022

GB character: C.M. Barr, et al., *Nanoscale*, 2021

GB Spinodal decomposition: X. Zhou et al., *Acta Mater.*, 2021 (collab with G. Thompson, D. Raabe)

GB phase transformations: C.J. O'Brien et al., *J. Mater. Sci.*, 2018

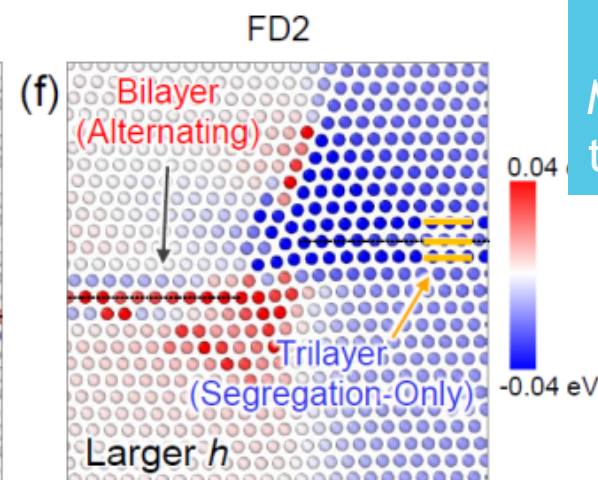
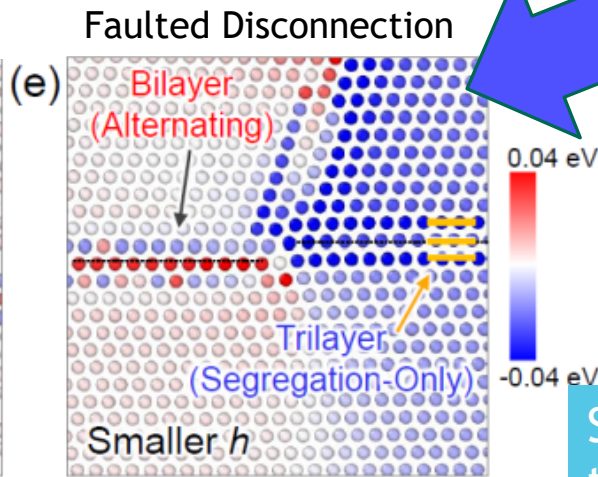
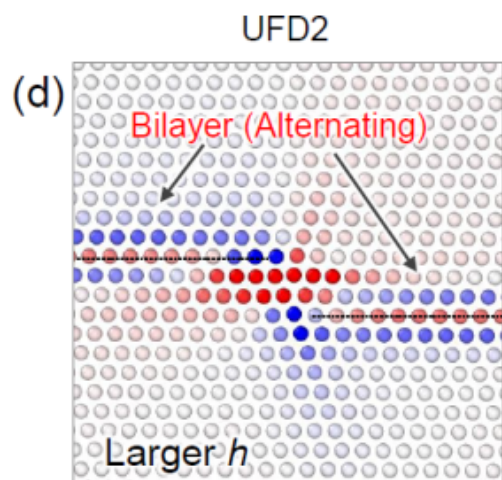
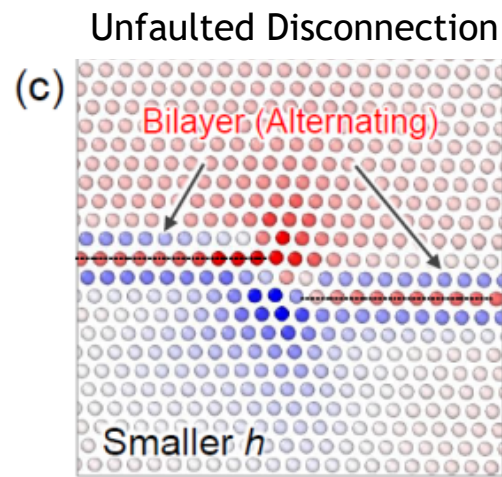
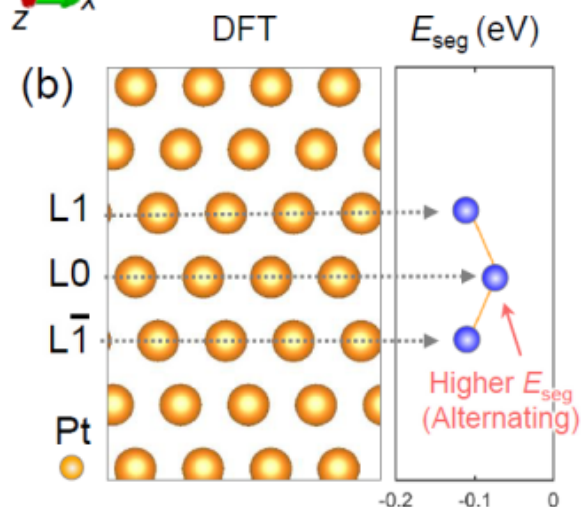
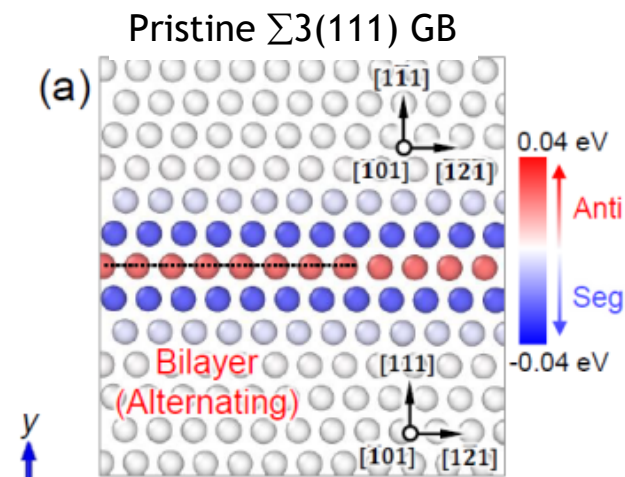
Tensile behavior: N.M. Heckman et al., *Nanoscale*, 2018

Defected defects distort compositional effects

The local segregation potential depends on the nature of the defect structure.



Extensive changes in segregation potential as a result of defect type.



Some defects may trigger phase separation,

Moreover, defects may become trapped by the excess solute

In Pt-Au alloy: Hu, Medlin, Dingreville, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, 2021

In 12 additional binary alloys: Hu, Berbenni, Medlin, Dingreville, in review

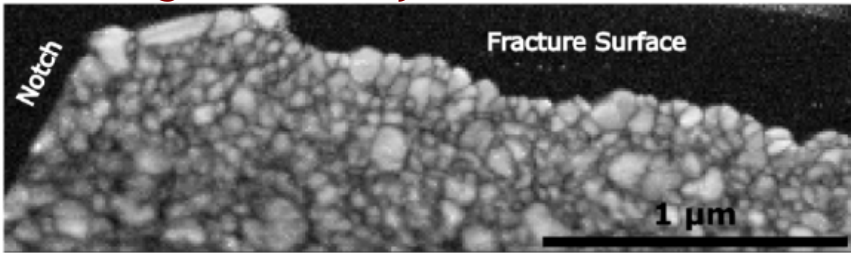


Ok, how do these chemically-stabilized GB defects alter macroscale polycrystalline behavior?

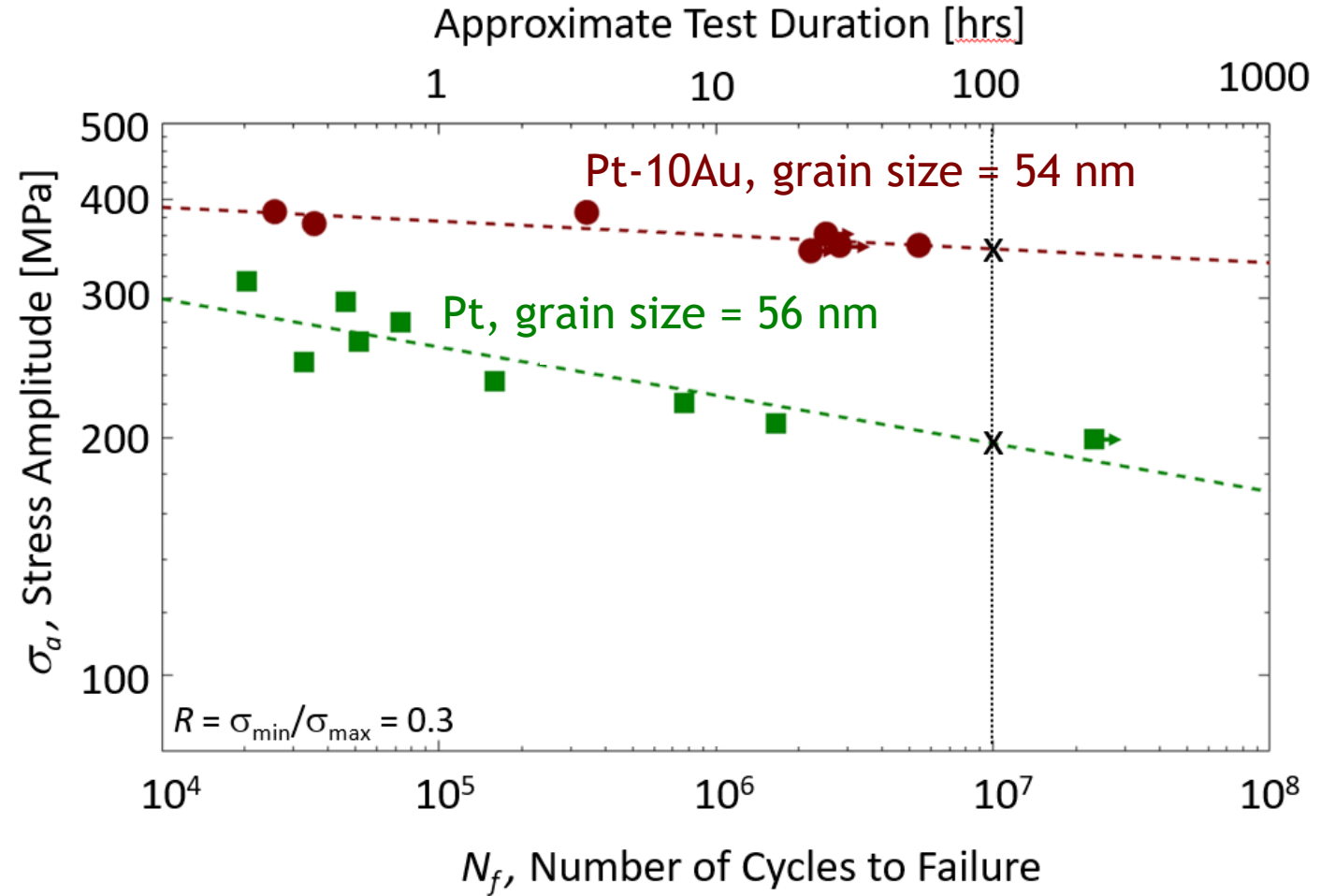
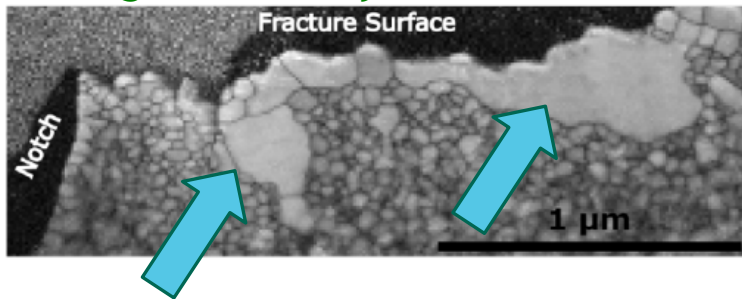
Net effects: Au in Pt stabilizes grain structure and enhances fatigue resistance



Pt-10Au, (initial grain size = 54 nm)
Fatigued ~1M cycles to failure



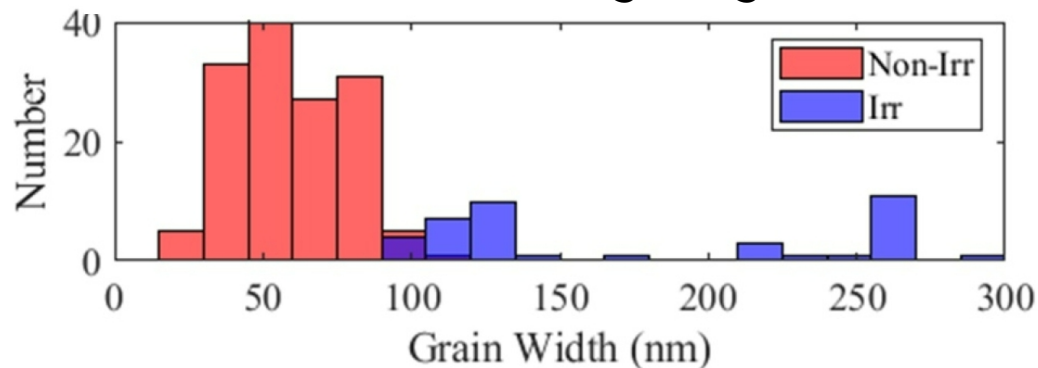
Pt, (initial grain size = 56 nm)
Fatigued ~1M cycles to failure



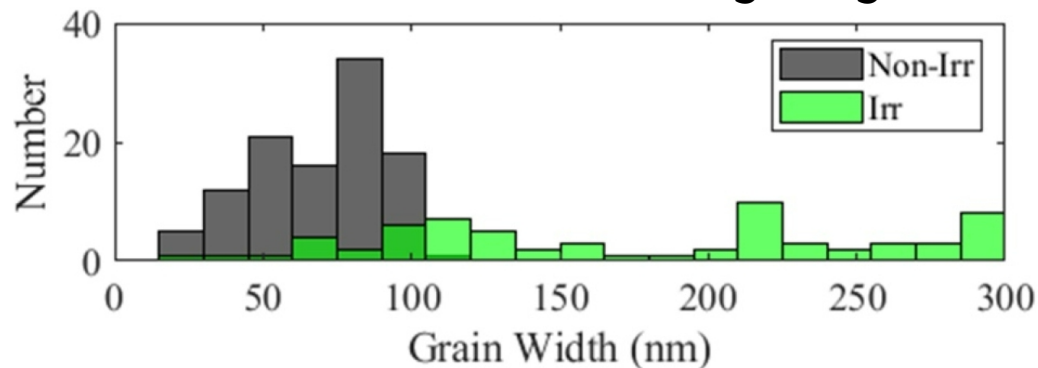
But the presence of Au at the GB does not resist irradiation-induced growth



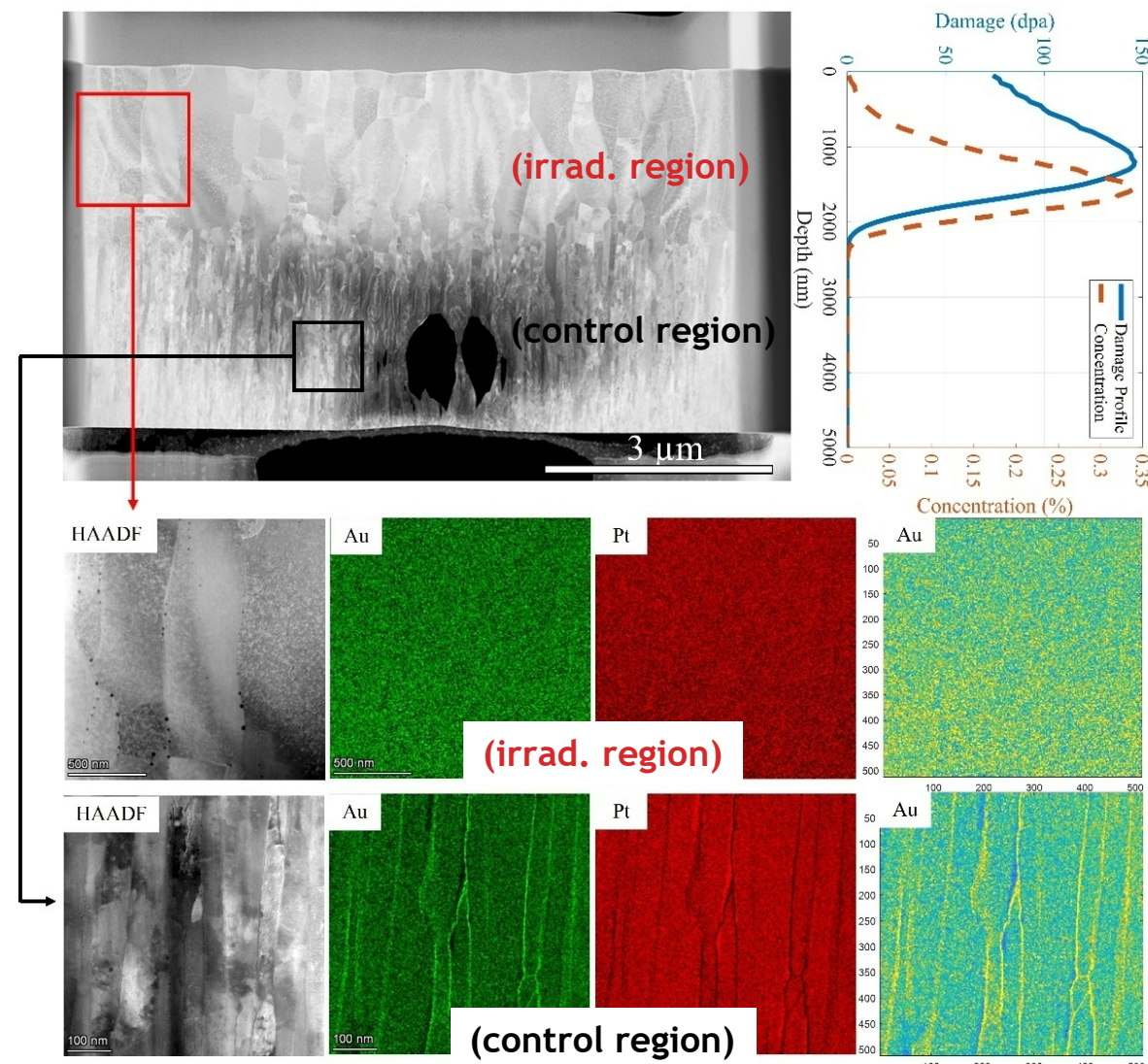
Pt irradiation-induced grain growth



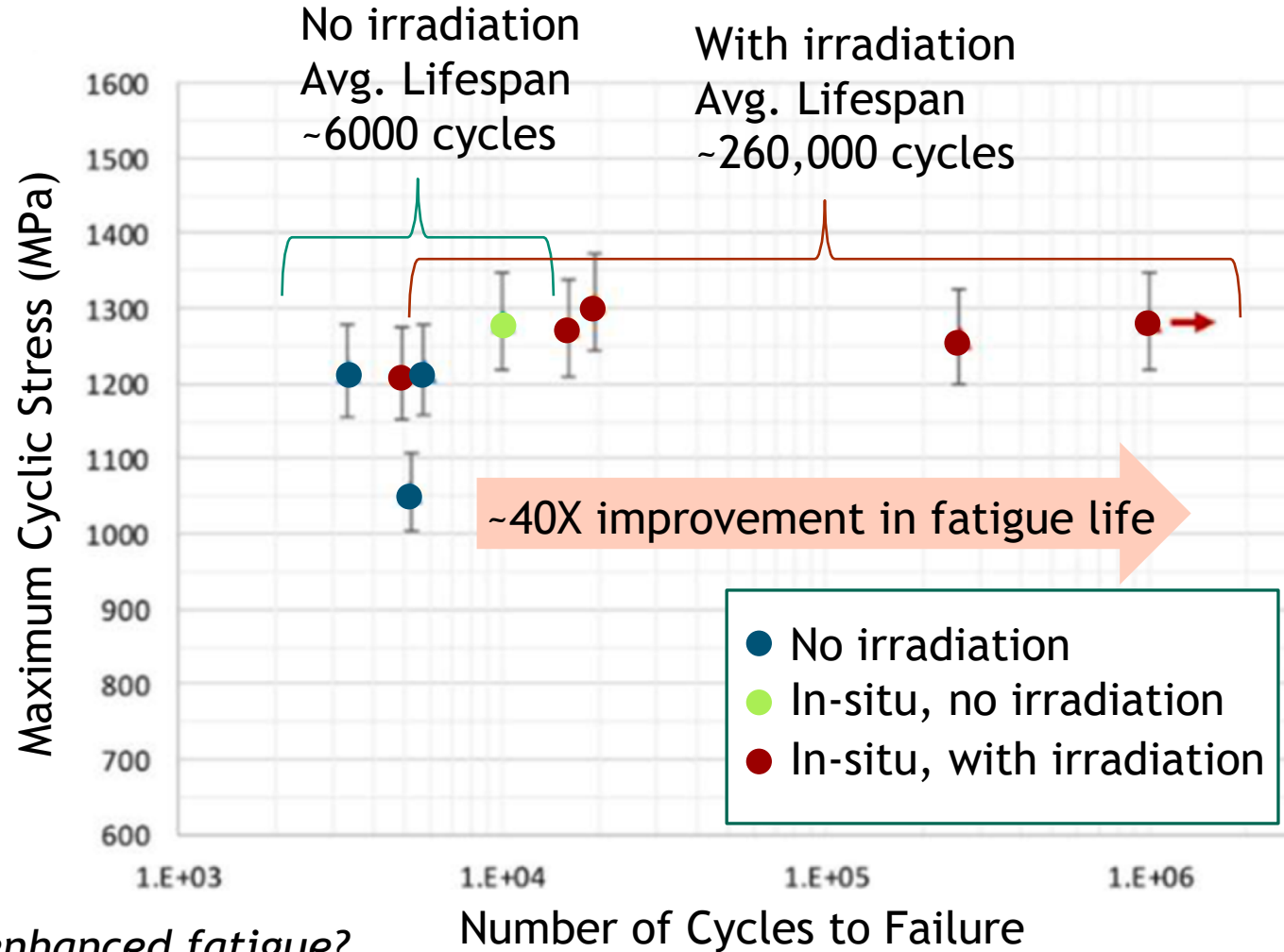
Pt-10Au irradiation-induced grain growth



20 MeV Au⁴⁺ ion irradiation
room temperature to a
fluence of 2×10^{16} ions/cm²



Simultaneous Irradiation + High-cycle Fatigue



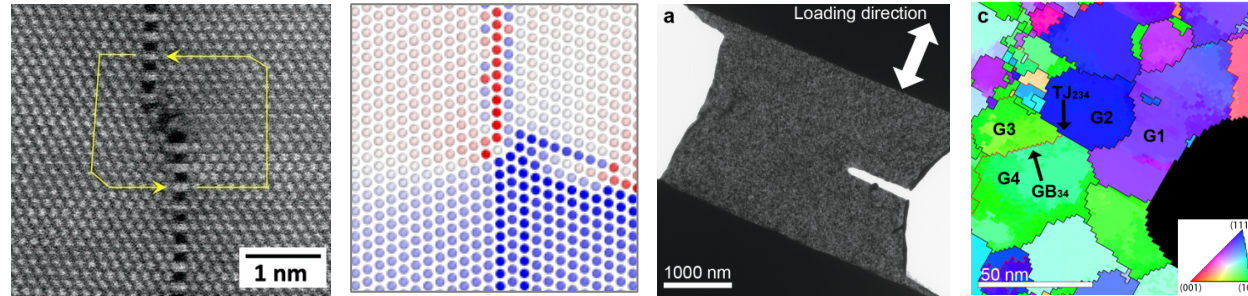
What causes radiation-enhanced fatigue?

COLLECTIVE DEFECTS:

Compressive residual stress?

Radiation-induced hardening?

Complex superimposed defect-interactions?



While there are many distinct unit processes for grain boundary migration in response to thermal, radiation, and mechanical stimuli, a unifying theme is the critical role of defects within the grain boundary.

Questions?



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ENERGY

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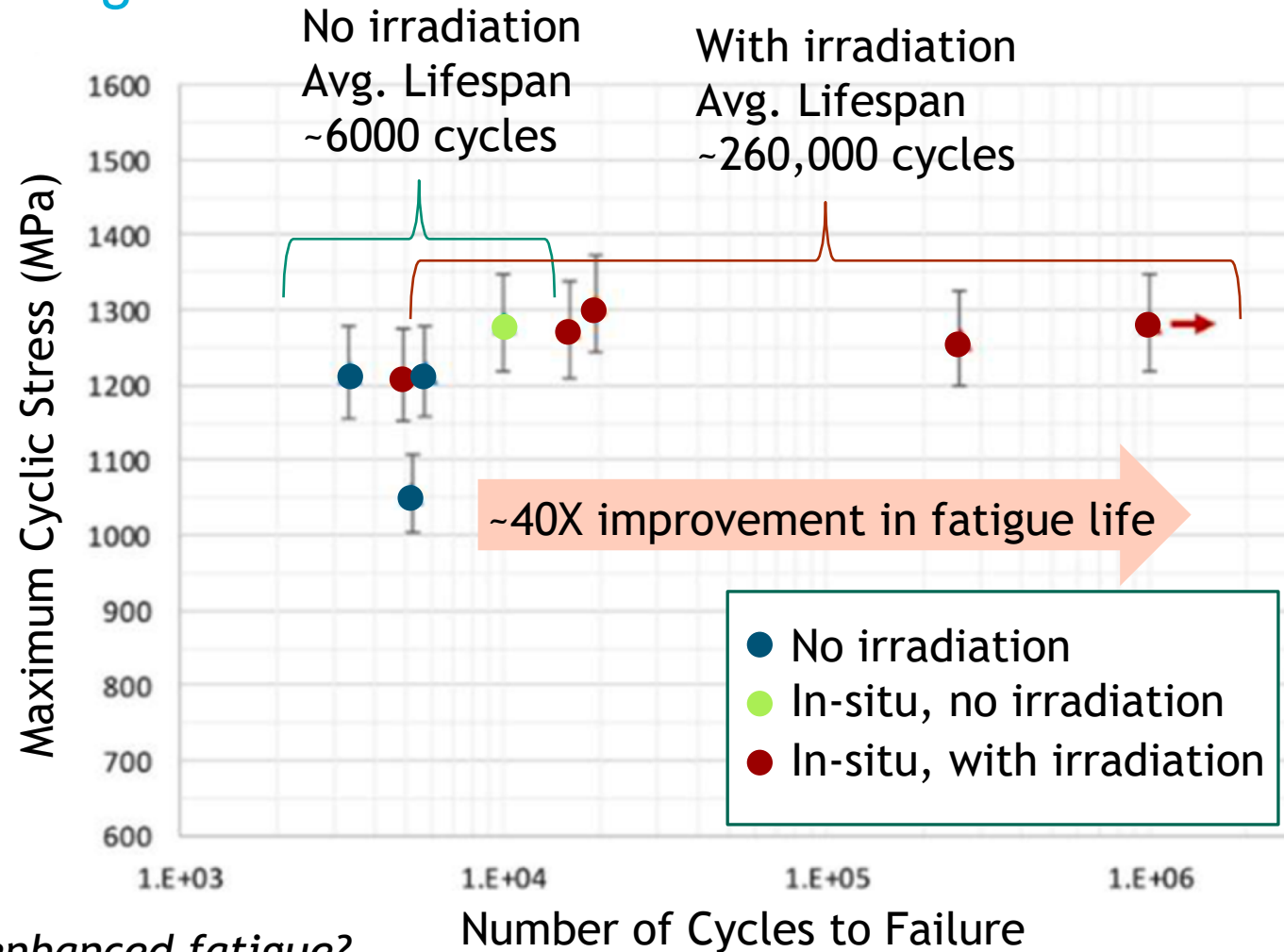
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Backu
p



What causes radiation-enhanced fatigue?

Compressive residual stress?

Radiation-induced strengthening?

Complex superimposed defect-interactions?

What else?

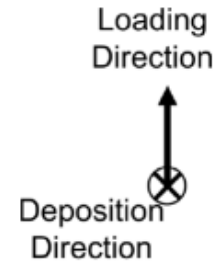
Did the Pt-Au actually resist fatigue-induced grain growth?



Pt

$N_f = 8.5 \times 10^5$ cycles

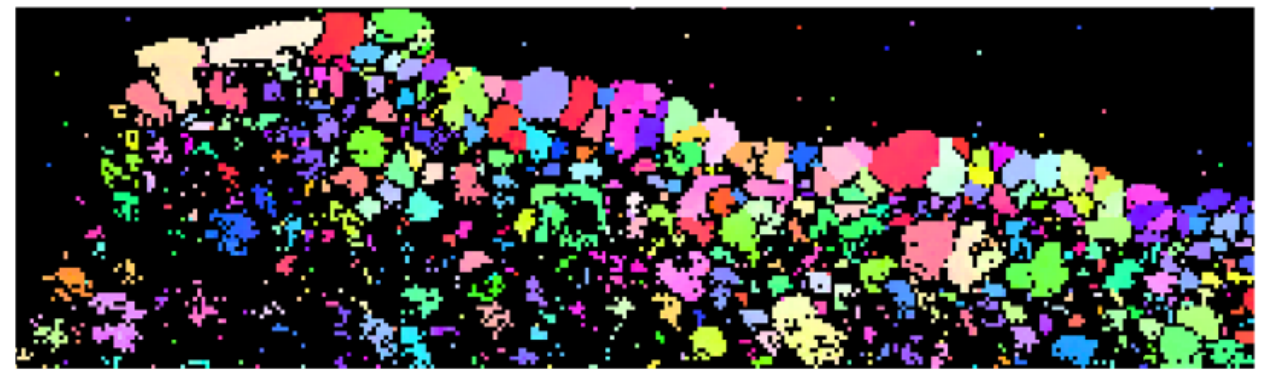
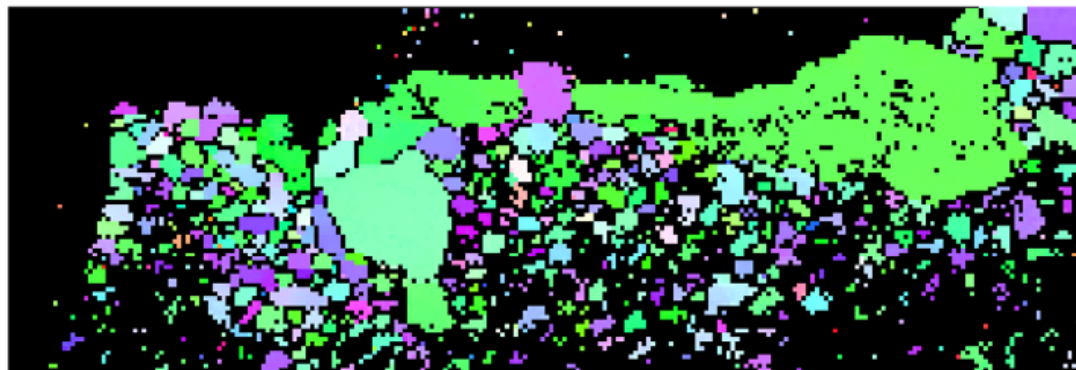
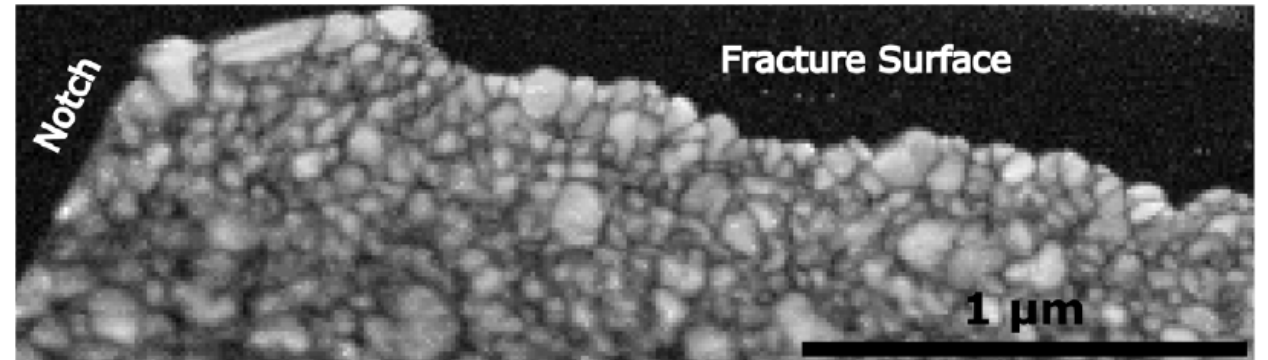
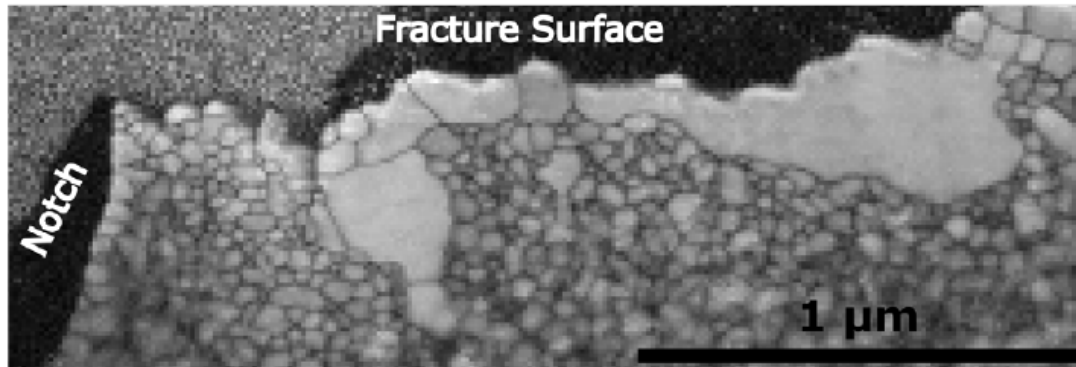
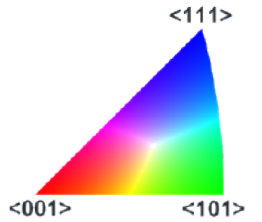
$\sigma_a = 104$ MPa

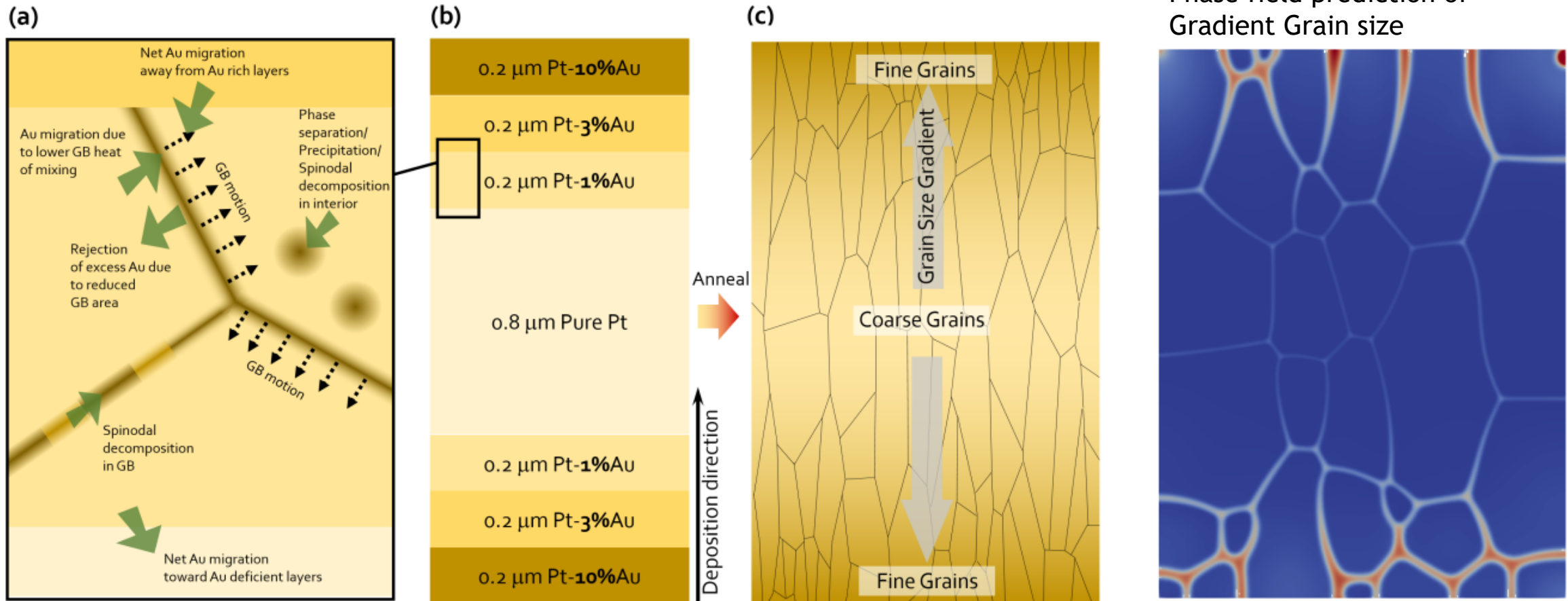


Pt-10Au

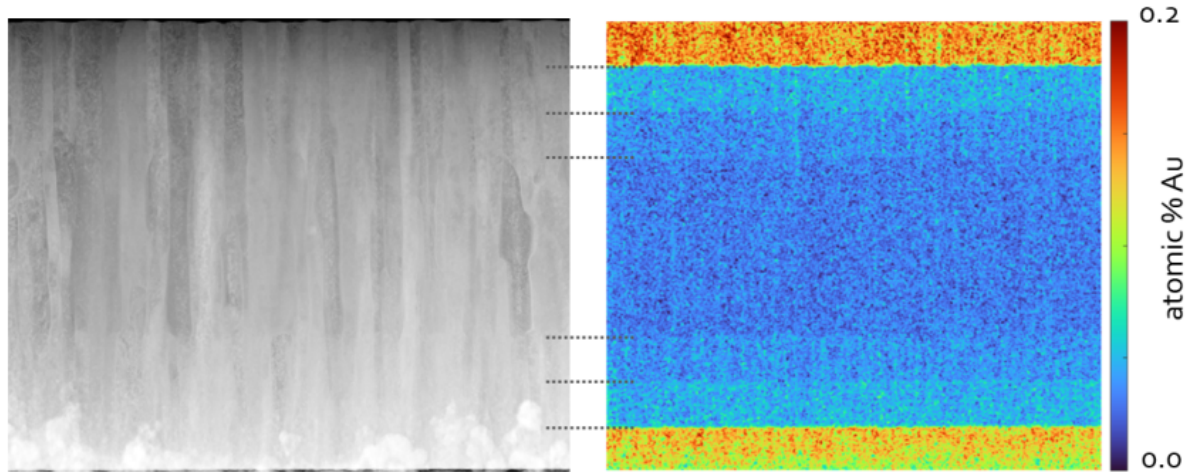
$N_f = 7.1 \times 10^5$ cycles

$\sigma_a = 126$ MPa

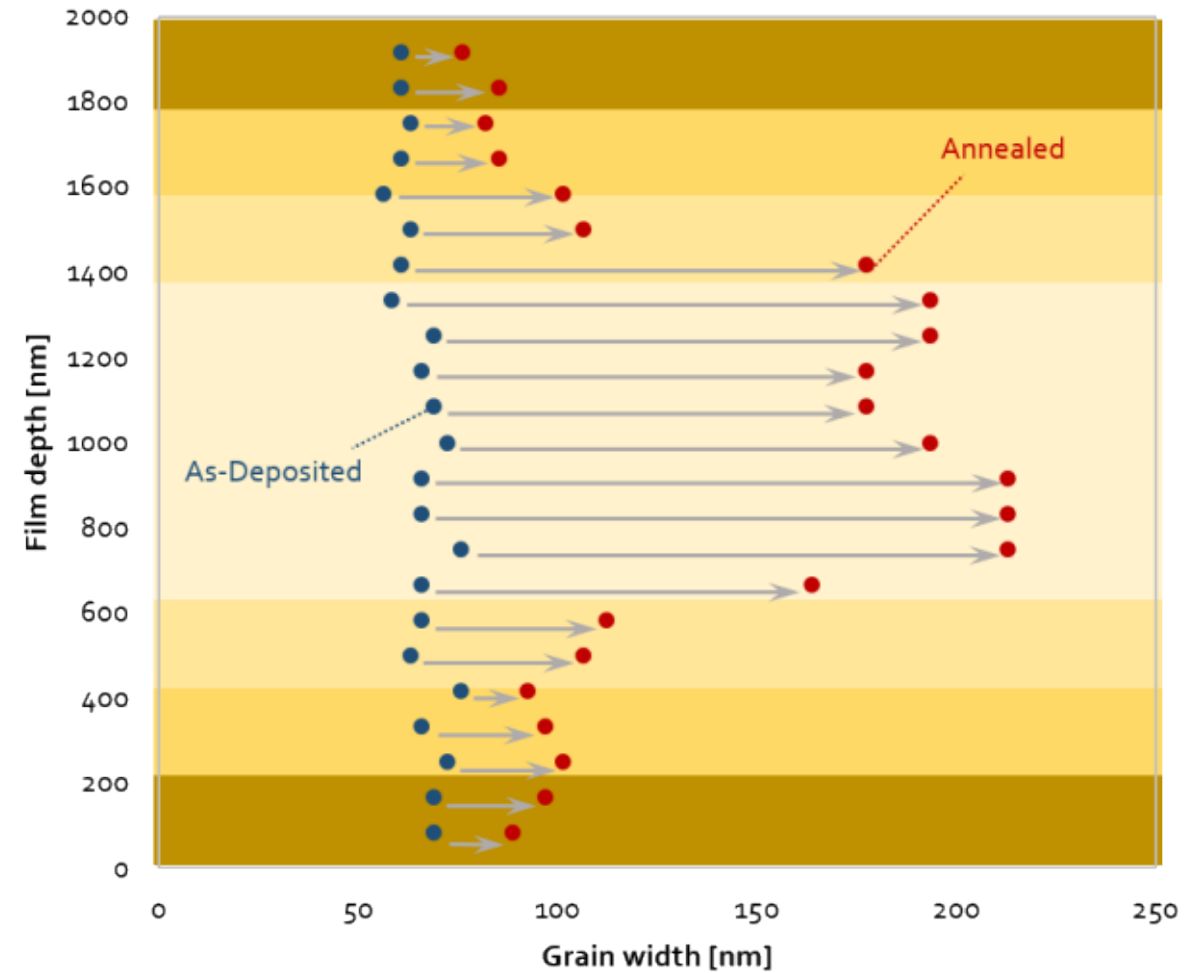
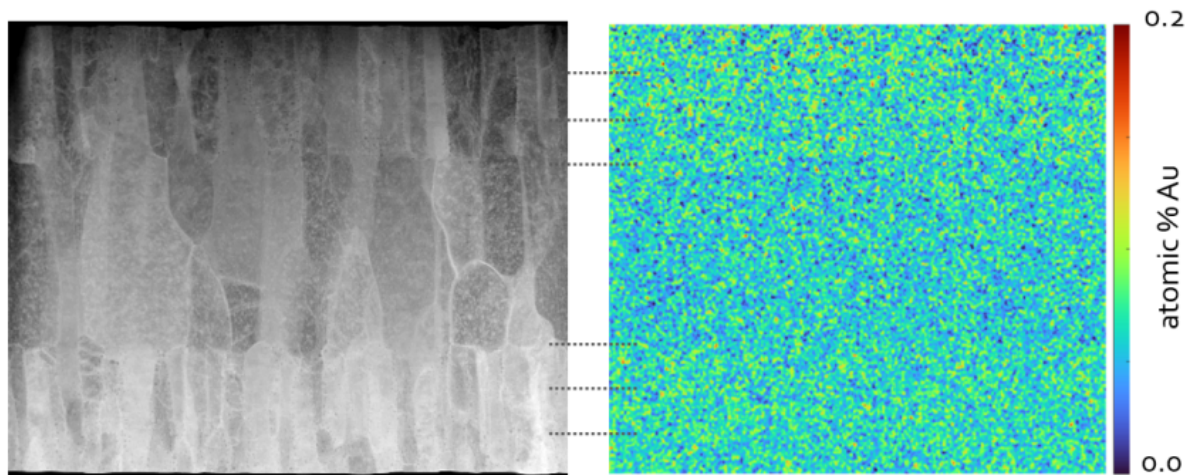




(a) As-deposited



(b) Annealed 800 °C / 60 min



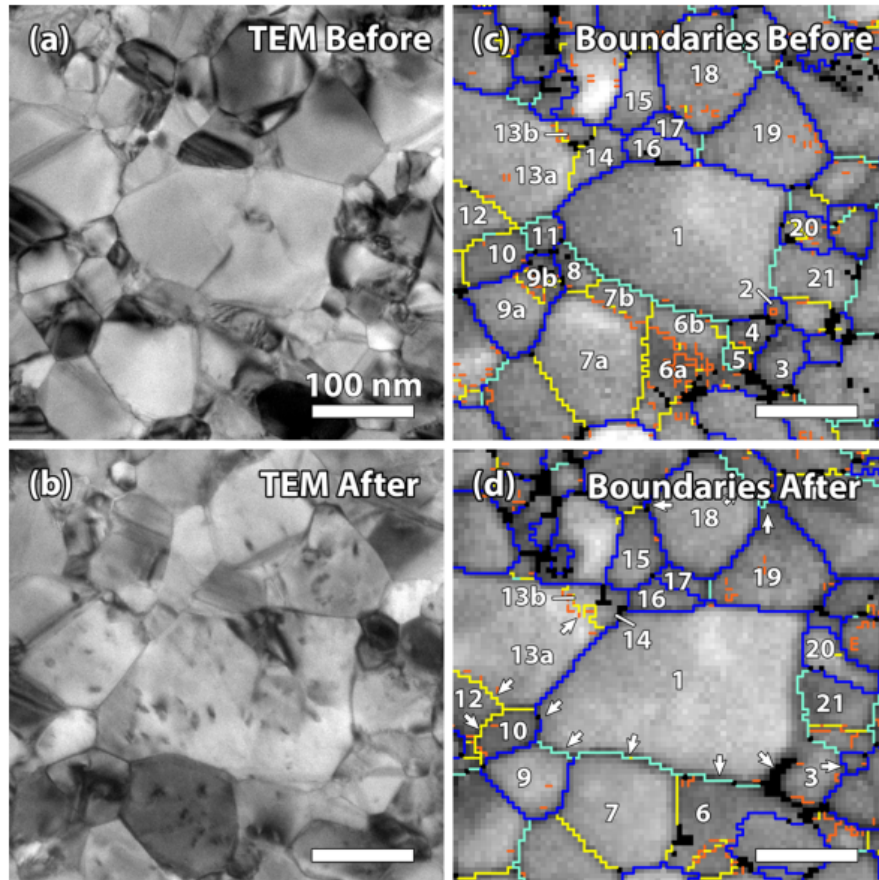
500 nm

A macroscopic view of irradiation-induced evolution

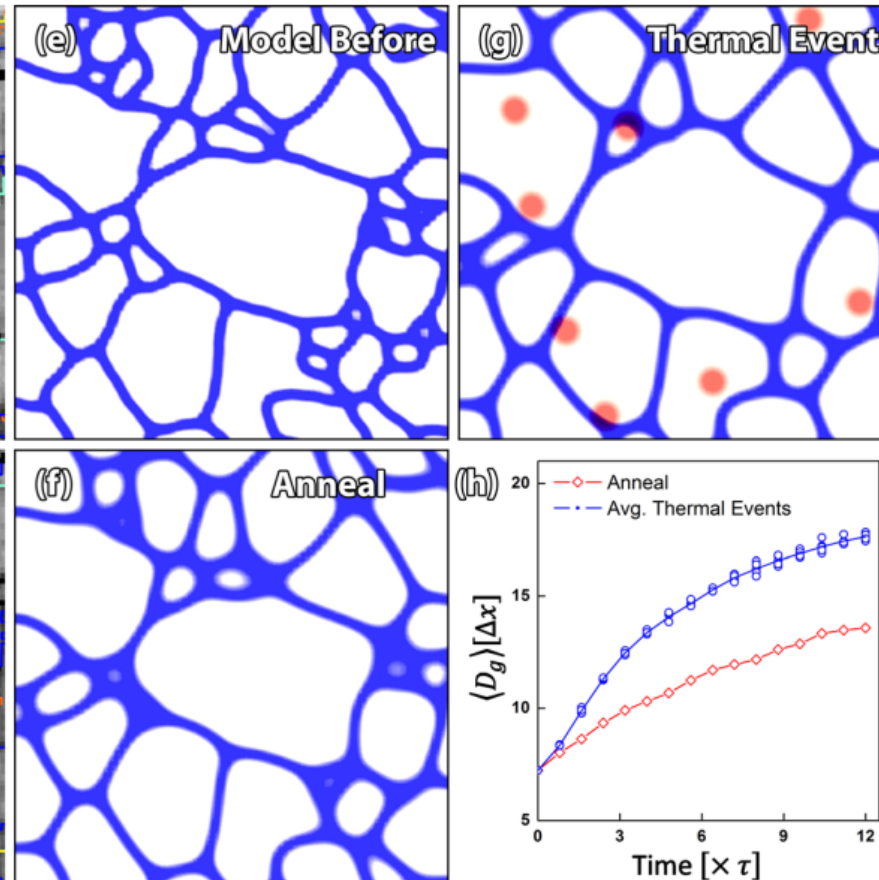


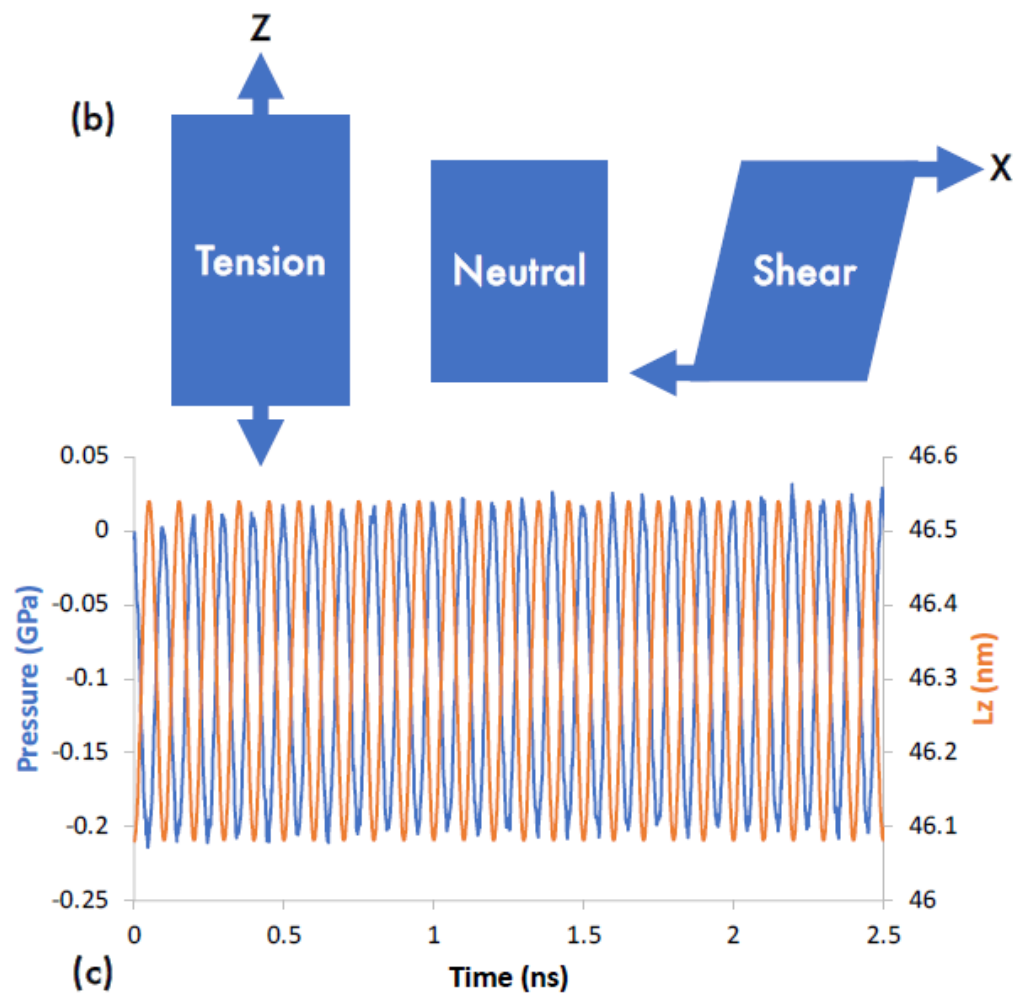
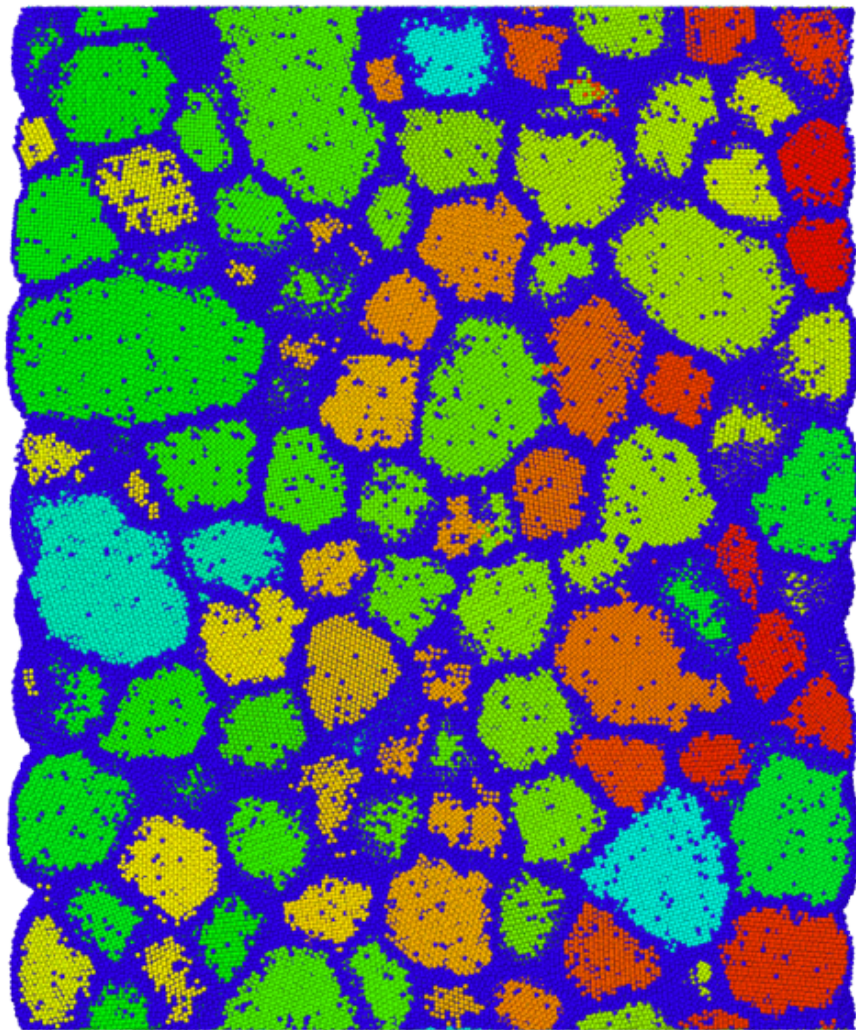
Au foil during bombardment with 10 MeV Si³⁺

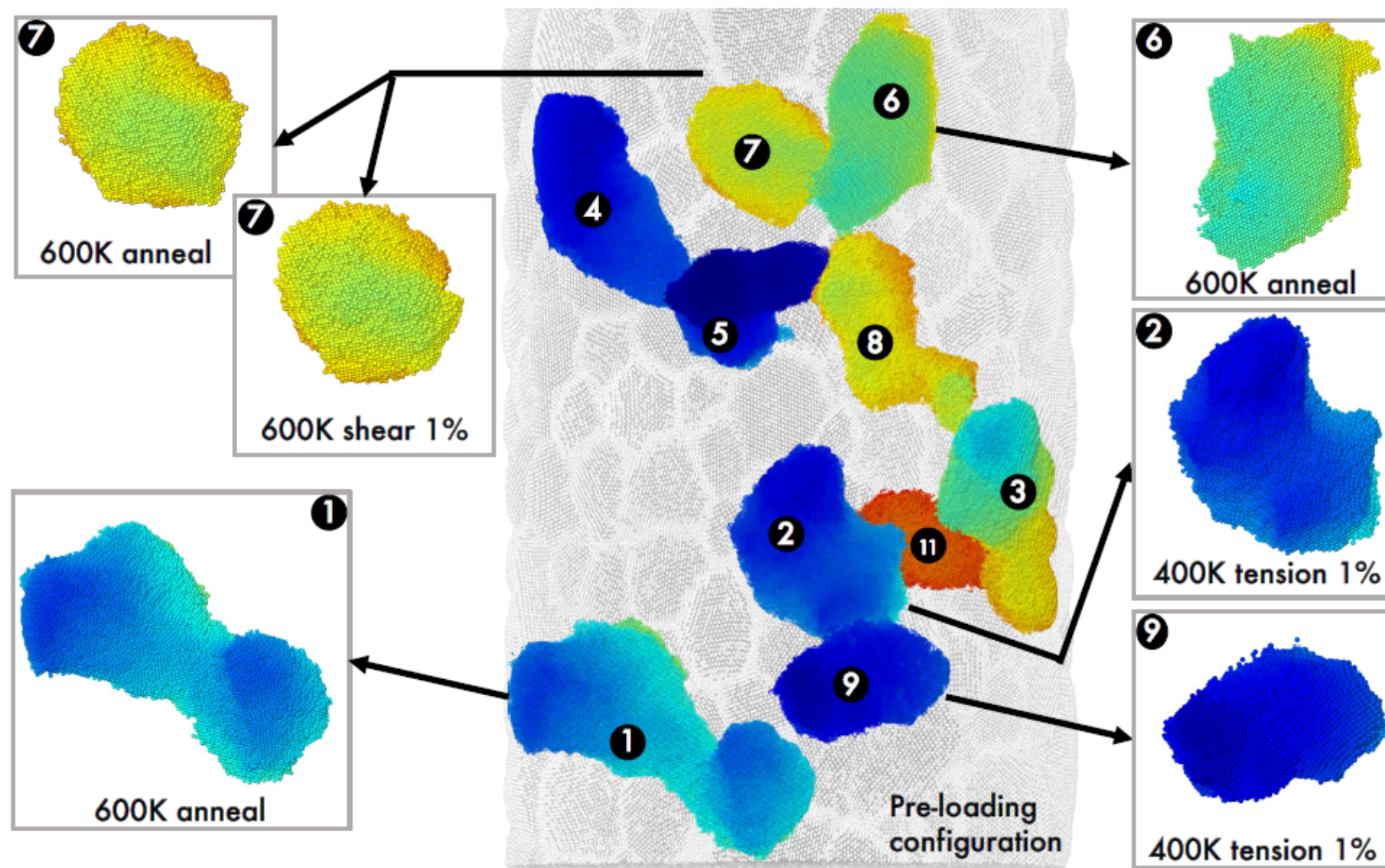
In-Situ TEM



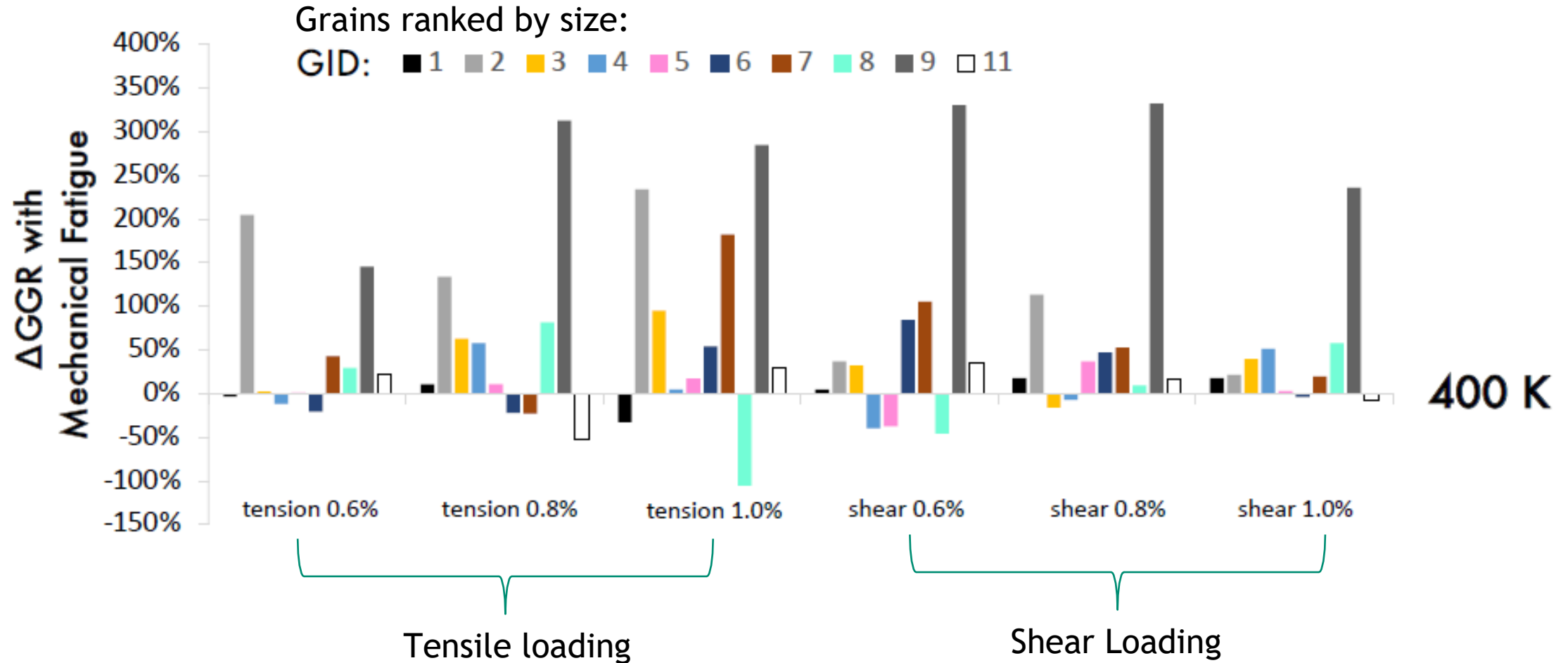
Phase-field model of thermal spikes







Defected defects: facet junctions as a network of dislocations



The complexity of grain growth...

