



USPAS June 2015

Rutgers

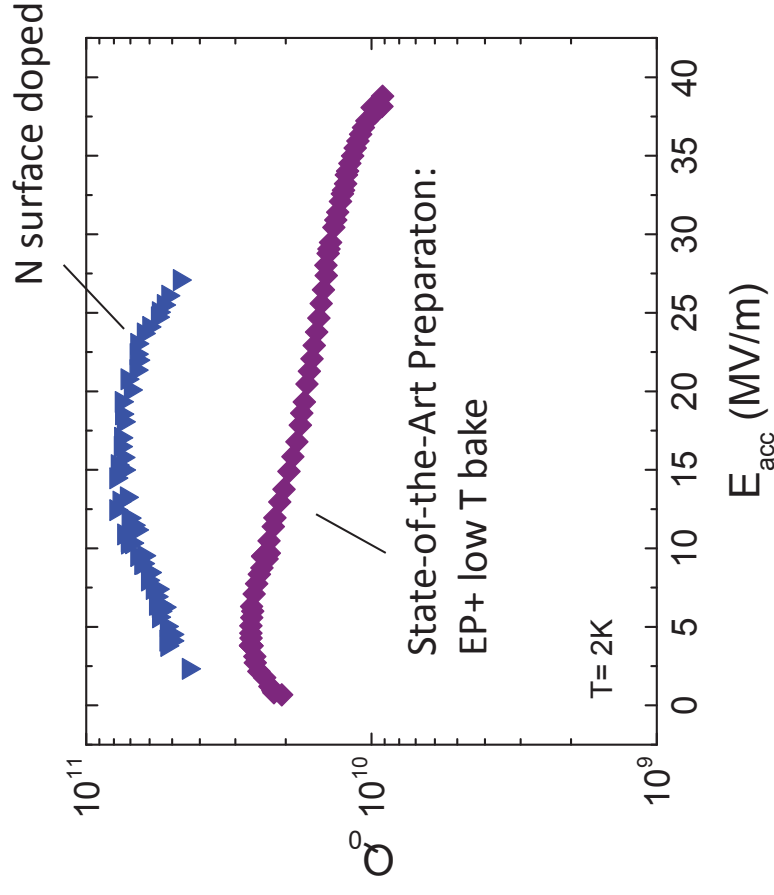
SURFACE & MATERIAL SCIENCE APPLIED TO SRF SURFACES- CASE STUDIES

Anne-Marie Valente-Feliciano

Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

CASE STUDY: N SURFACE DOPING OF BULK NB (JLAB/FNAL/CORNELL)

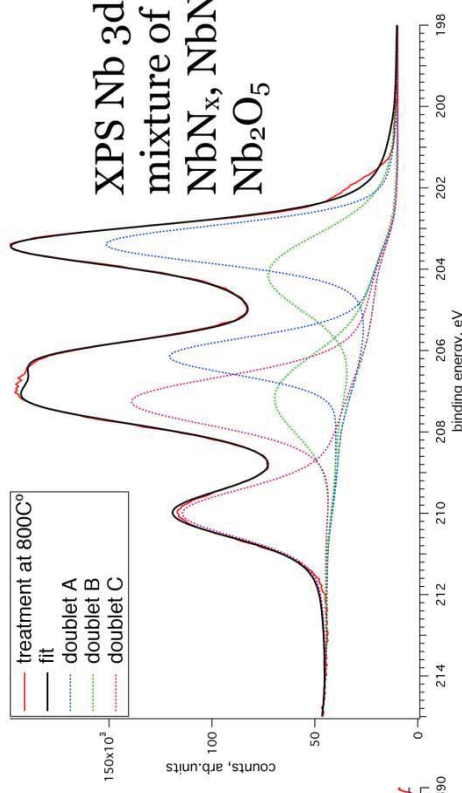
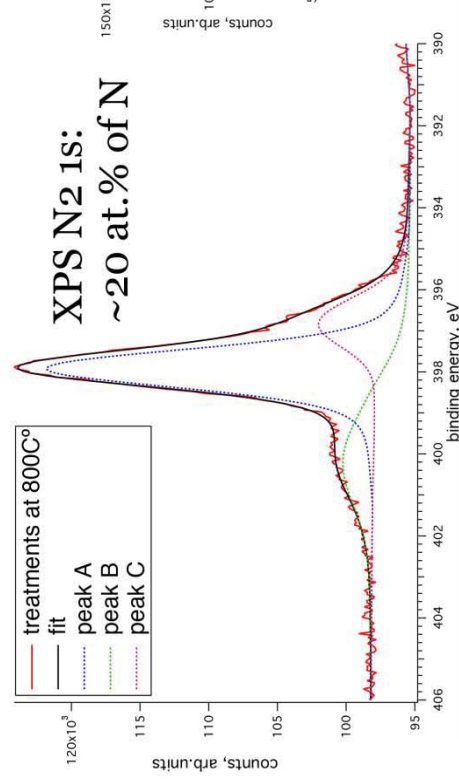
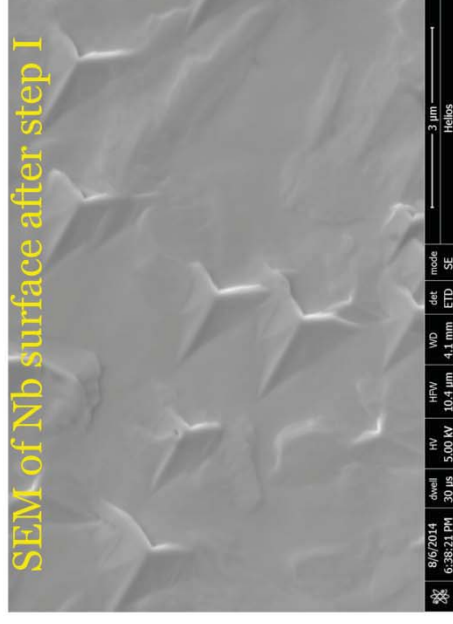
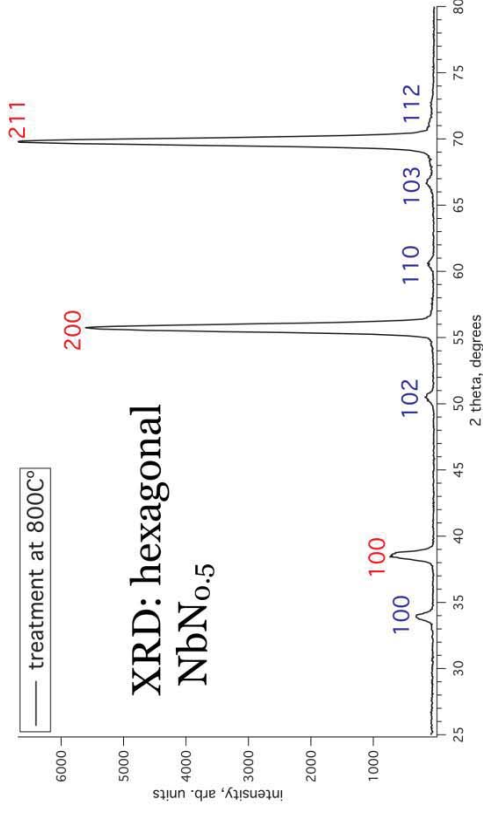
N doping



- ❑ Reacting bulk niobium cavities with N_2 gas (N_2 p.p $\sim 2 \times 10^{-2}$ Torr) at 800°C in UHV furnace for ~ 20 min followed by 30 min with no N_2 ;
- ❑ Material removal via electropolishing (EP) followed by high-pressure water rinsing (HPR).

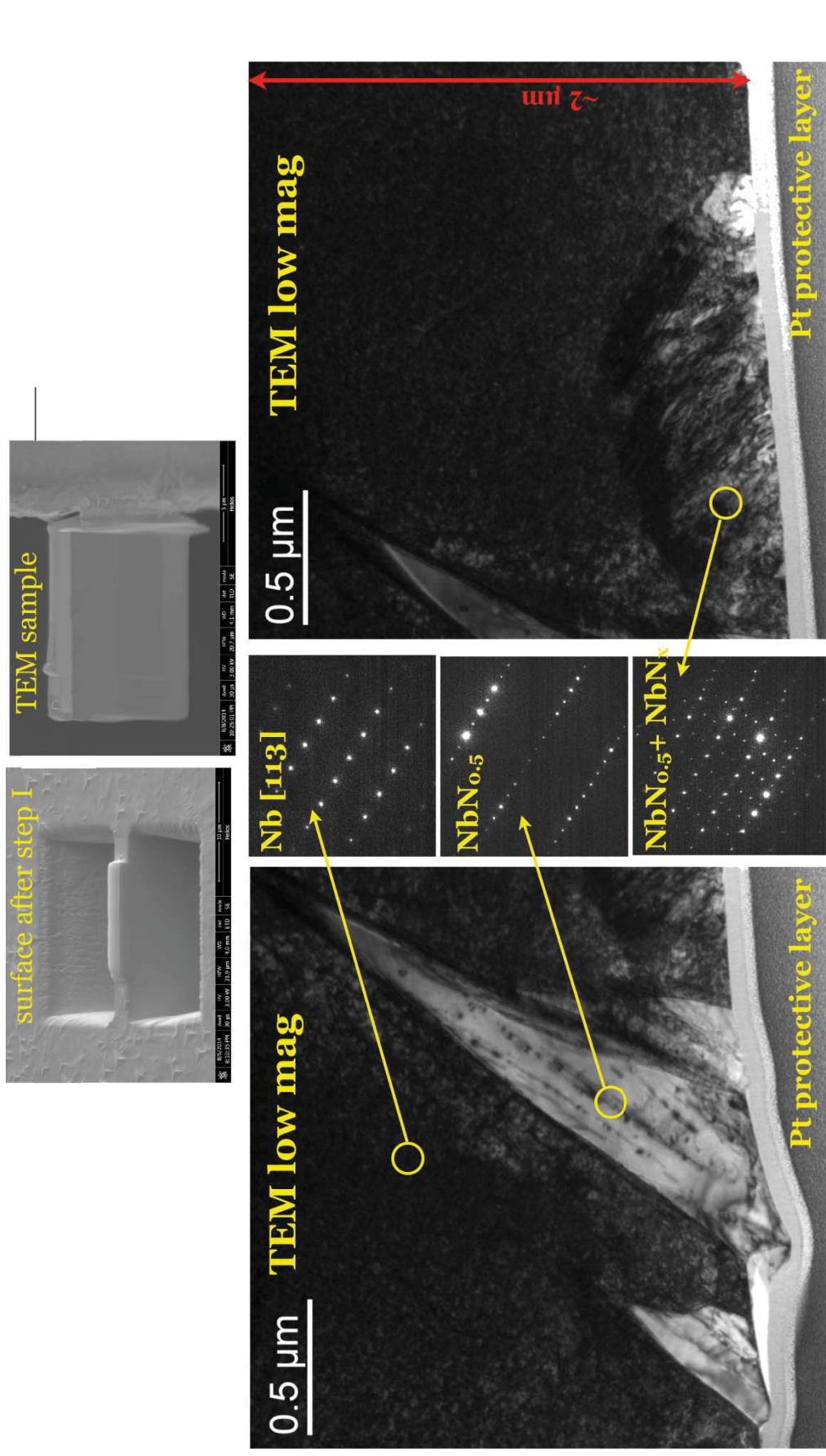
N doping: SEM, XRD & XPS

Nb samples processed parallel with cavities



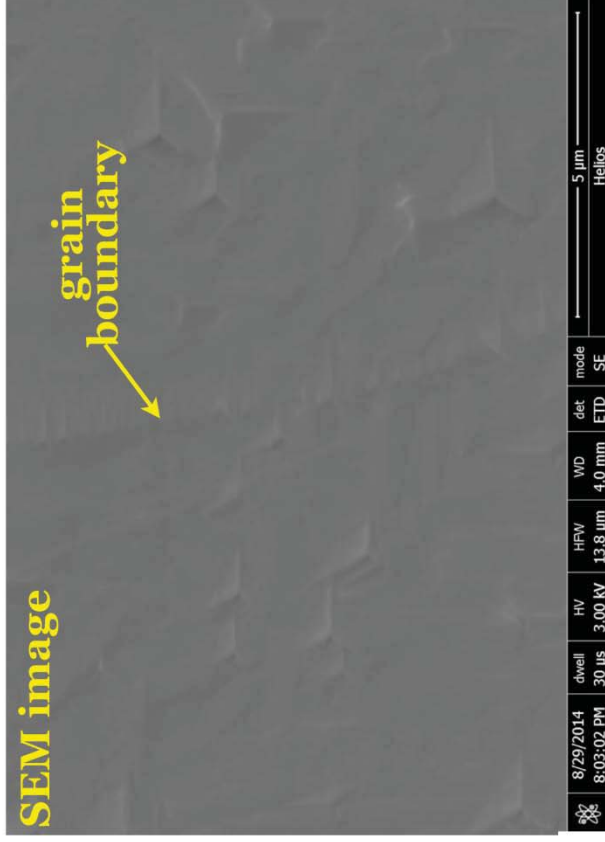
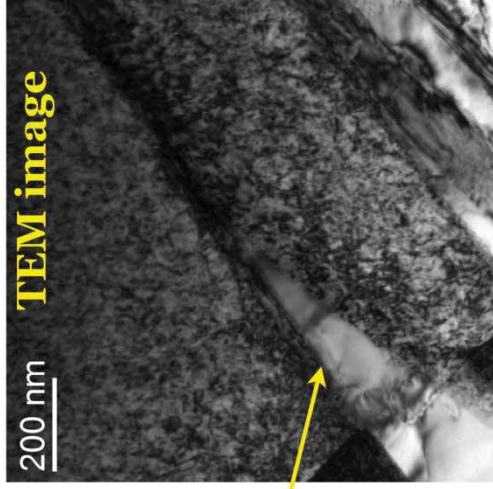
XRD, XPS, SEM: we have NbN_x (β-NbN) after the 1st step

N doping



TEM, NED: NbN_{0.5}+NbN_x within at least first 2 μm.
Poor SRF performance after step I: Q~ 10⁷

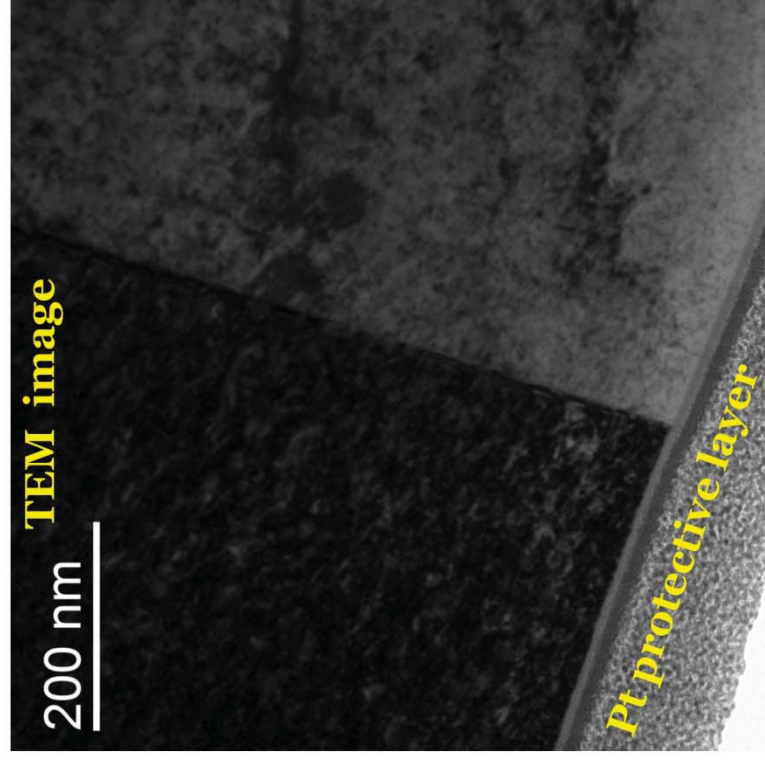
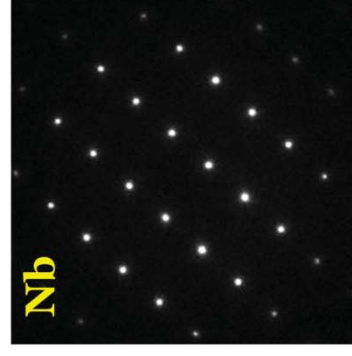
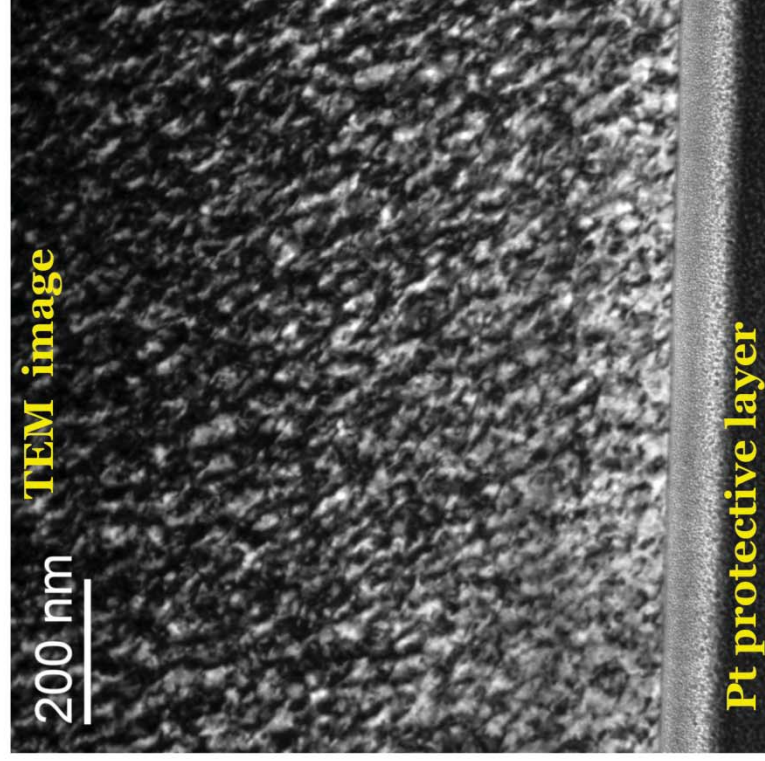
N doping



NbN_x extend $\sim 2\mu\text{m}$ along GB

N doping

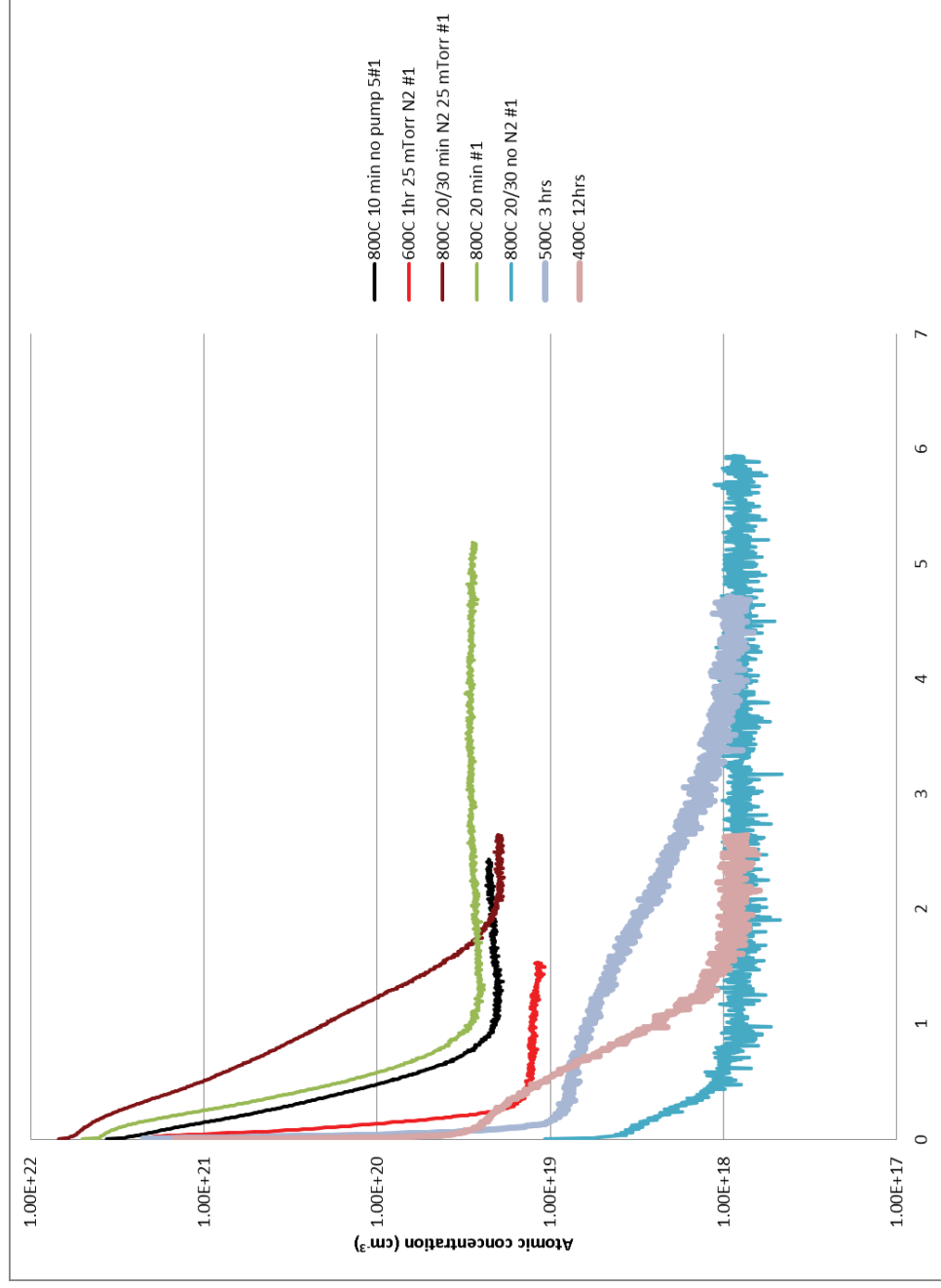
Cutout from N treated cavity



XRD, XPS, TEM: NO Nb nitrides after step II

(HPR).

N doping



) at 800°C in UHV

□ Material removal via electropolishing (EP) followed by high-pressure water rinsing (HPR).

CASE STUDY: STRAIN IN BULK

NB (R. CROOKS, BLACK LAB LLC)

Problem & Solution

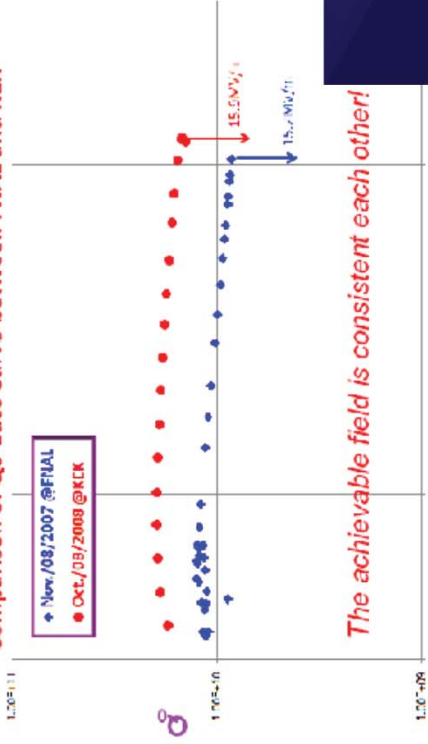
- Performance limits ($\sim 1/3 < 35 \text{ MV/m}$) for ILC cavities are related to defects
 - Hot spots
 - Thermal quenching due to pits in the heat-affected zone
- Recrystallization and grain growth occur during elevated temperature exposure of cold-worked metal (in the HAZ)
- Current production methods for SRF cavities produce high levels of stored strain energy near the equator.
 - increased interstitial content
 - unstable microstructures (to subsequent high temperatures)
- Higher performance srf cavities can be produced by using well-designed recrystallization processing

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Low field quench AES001 ILC Cavity

Comparison of $Q_0 - E_{acc}$ curve between FNAL and KEK

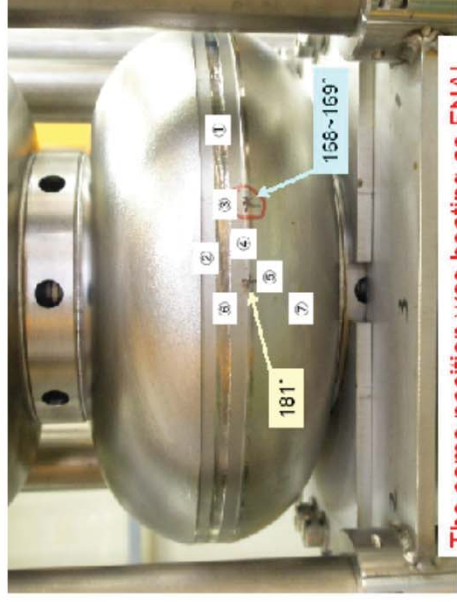
Comparison of Q_0 -Eacc Curve between FNAL and KEK



The achievable field is consistent each other!

Y. Yamamoto, H. Hayano, E. Kako, S. Noguchi, M. Sato, T. Shishido, N. K. Umemori, K. Watanabe(KEK), H. Sakai(ISSP, Univ. of Tokyo) and T. >
TTC October 21, 2008

Positions of Hot Spots on AES001 Cell #3



The same position was heating as FNAL.

TTC Meeting at India 21/Oct/2008

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Y. Yamamoto, H. Hayano, E. Kako, S. Noguchi, M. Sato, T. Shishido, N. Toge, K. Umemori, K. Watanabe(KEK), H. Sakai(ISSP, Univ. of Tokyo) and T. X. Zhao(HEP)
TTC October 21, 2008

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Stored Strain Energy in Nb Cavities

Nb RRR sheet metal processing

- Rolled to sheet thickness
- Recrystallized
- Roller-leveled, surface cleaning
- Deep drawn
- Welded
- Chemically treated (BCP or EP), HPWR
- Heat treated

Post-recrystallization
strain

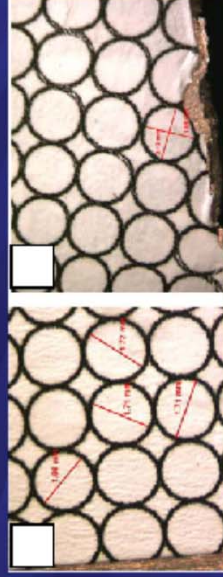
Stored Strain Energy in Nb Cavities

- Stored energy is real
 - Dislocations are unstable defects
 - Heating causes increase in equilibrium vacancy content
 - Vacancies increase dislocation mobility, rearrangement to lower energy configurations
- Stored energy drives recrystallization

Measuring Strain: macroscopic technique



Aluminum alloy samples used in limit dome tests.

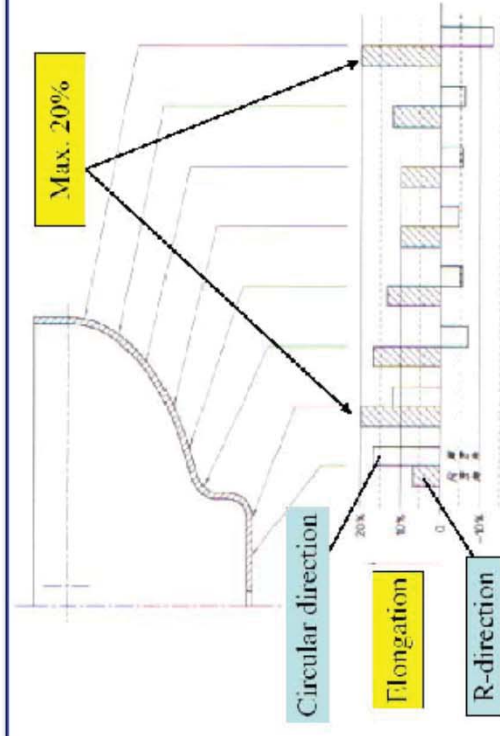


Grids on sheet metal surface viewed under a microscope: (a) before deformation, (b) after deformation (near a crack).

Prof. North

Engineering Strain in ILC Cavity – Saito 2004

Local Elongation



07/July/2004 K.Saito

名大洞窟集甲薄前ノート

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Dependence on Deformation Strain

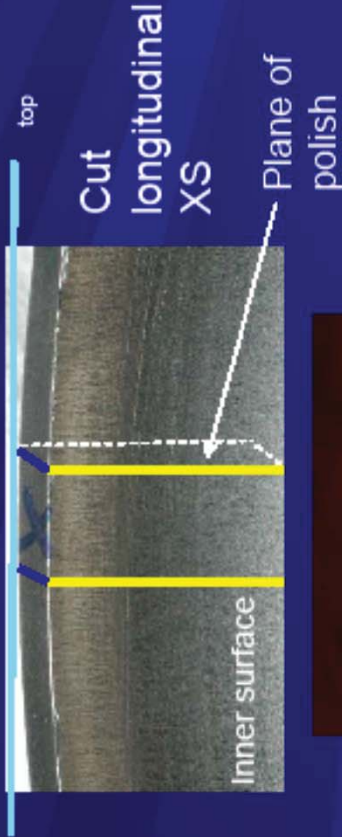
- Very low strains (< 10%): **secondary recrystallization**, driven by stored energy (surface energy effects also possible).
- Small strains (10-25%): “**strain induced boundary migration**” (SIBM), where new grains arise by fluctuations in position of existing grain boundaries.
- Medium strains (25-200%): **abnormal grain growth** of the subgrain structure (after recovery, polygonization).
- Also “**nucleation**” occurs from heterogeneities such as shear bands and coarse second phase particles.

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Measuring Strain: EBSD



Deep draw
JLab 161
Mark III
CEBAF cavity



mount



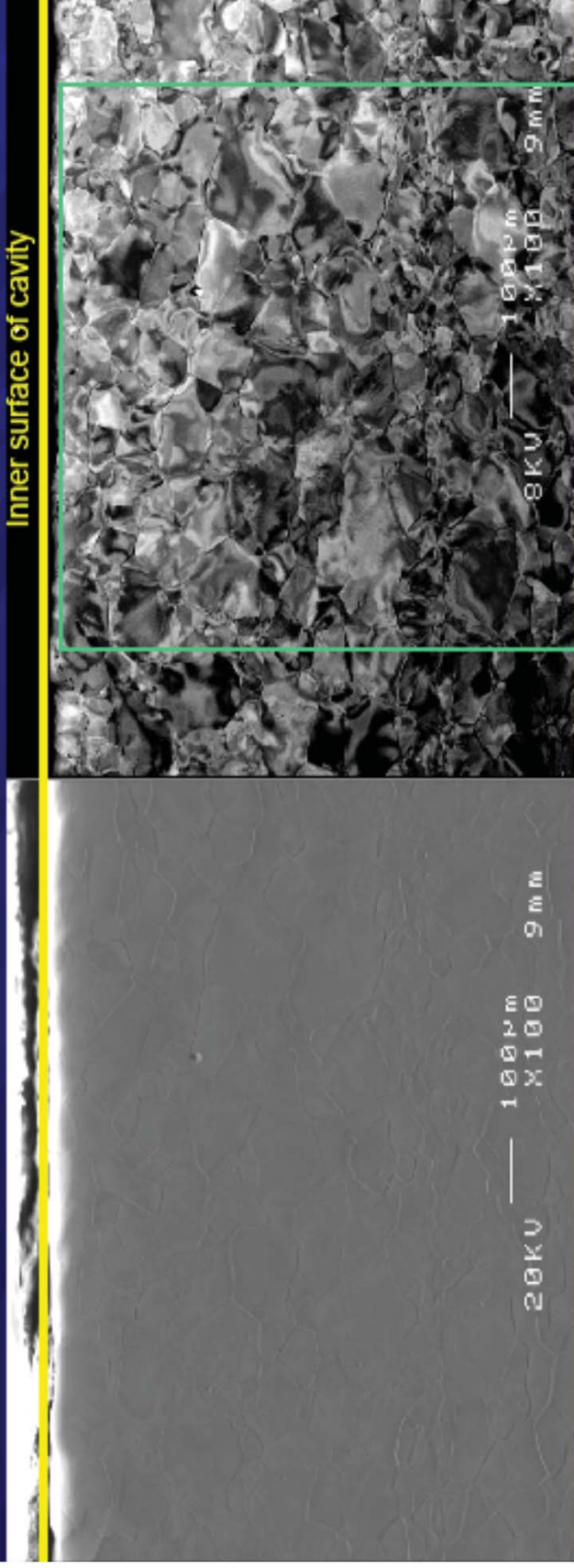
polish

Automatic polisher
to 0.05 μm colloidal silica

At NASA Langley

Longitudinal Section Etched 10s 1:1 Nitric:HF

3mm from top of cavity



Secondary electron image

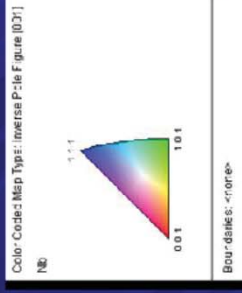
EBSD Grid

Backscattered electron image
(showing channeling contrast)

EBSD IPF Map



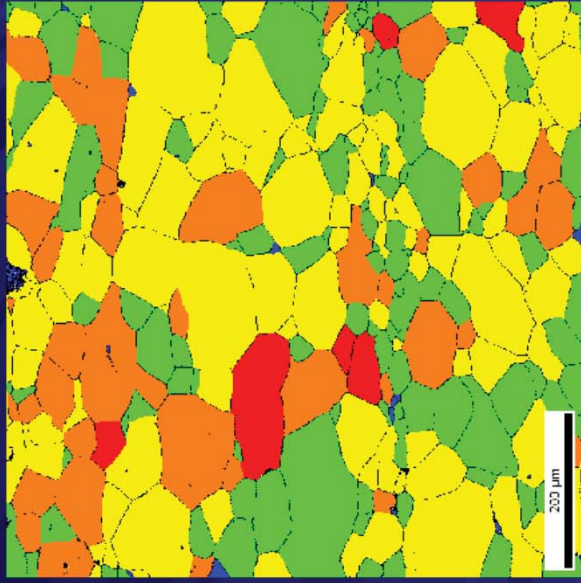
Crystal directions normal to sheet surface (interior surface)



Color changes within grain show distortion of crystal

95% hit rate, 560,200 data points, 1 μm spatial resolution

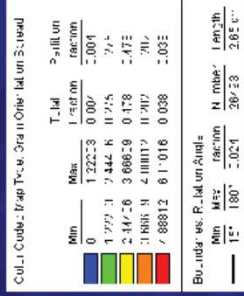
EBSD GOS Map



1 μm spatial resolution

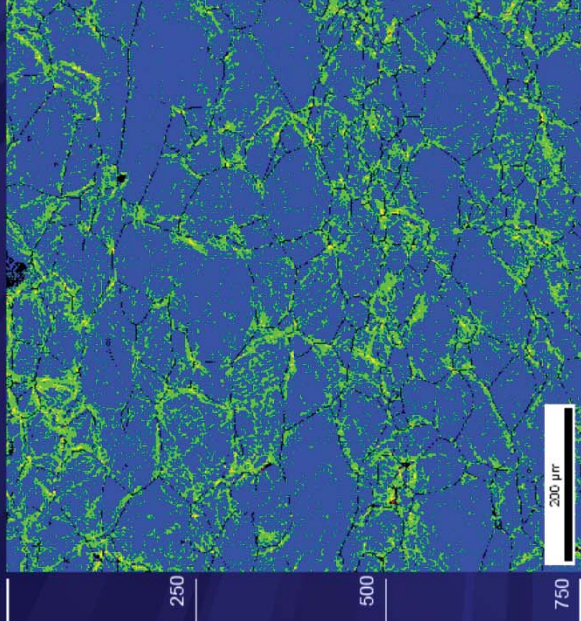
Strain in isolated grains

GOS: The average orientation is first calculated for each grain. The spread is then the average deviation between the orientation of each point in the grain and the grain average.

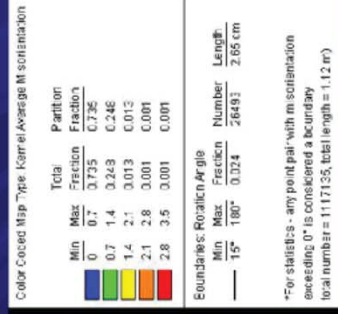


As-received sheet

EBSD KAM Map

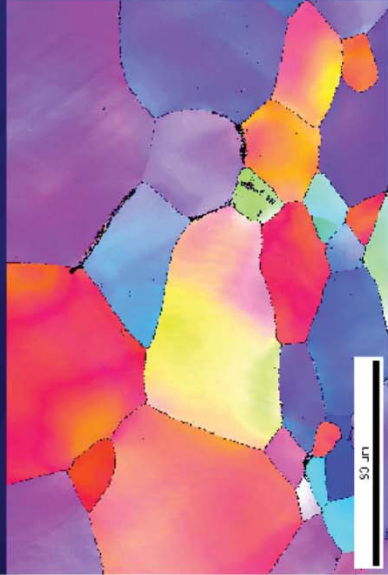


1 μm spatial resolution



Stored Strain Energy Very High at 500 μm from inner surface

EBSD IPF Map 500 μm deep



Color Coded Map Type: Inverse Pole Figure [001]

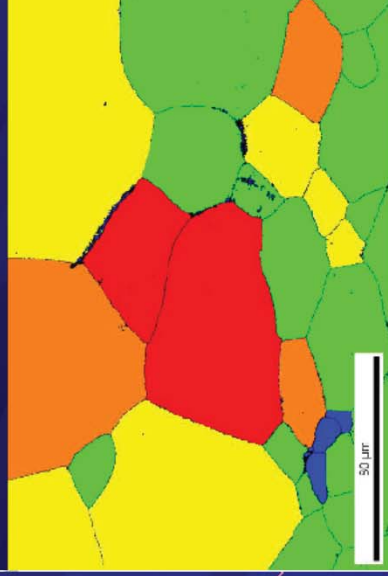
Min	Max	Fraction	Number	Length
0	0.7	0.669	8093	2.43 mm
0.7	1.4	0.311		
1.4	2.1	0.013		
2.1	2.8	0.001		
2.8	3.5	0.002		

Boundaries: Rotation Angle
 Min: 15° Max: 180° Fraction: 0.011 Number: 8093 Length: 2.43 mm

*For statistics - any point pair with misorientation exceeding 0° is considered a boundary
 total number = 743433, total length = 22.30 cm

750 x 500, 0.3 μm spatial resolution

EBSD GOS Map 500 μm deep



Color Coded Map Type: Grain Orientation Spread

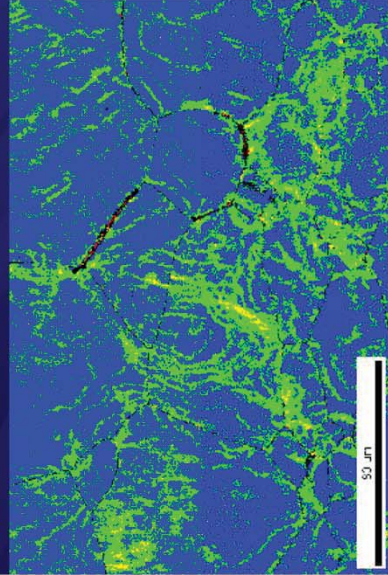
Min	Max	Total Fraction	Number	Length
0	1.14192	0.010	8093	2.43 mm
1.14192	2.28385	0.343		
2.28385	3.42577	0.341		
3.42577	4.5677	0.149		
4.5677	5.70962	0.153		

Boundaries: Rotation Angle
 Min: 15° Max: 180° Fraction: 0.011 Number: 8093 Length: 2.43 mm

*For statistics - any point pair with misorientation exceeding 0° is considered a boundary
 total number = 743433, total length = 22.30 cm

0.3 μm spatial resolution

EBSD KAM Map 500 μm deep



Color Coded Map Type: Kernel Average Misorientation

Min	Max	Total Fraction	Number	Length
0	0.7	0.669	8093	2.43 mm
0.7	1.4	0.311		
1.4	2.1	0.013		
2.1	2.8	0.001		
2.8	3.5	0.002		

Boundaries: Rotation Angle
 Min: 15° Max: 180° Fraction: 0.011 Number: 8093 Length: 2.43 mm

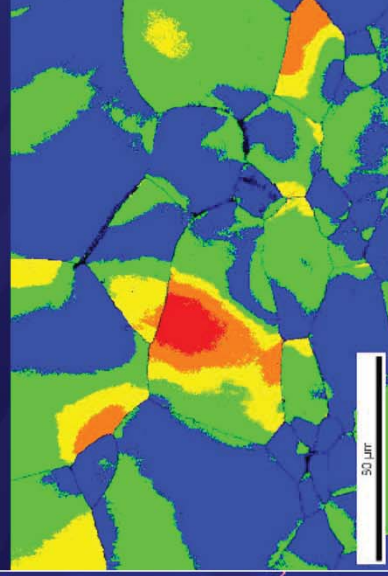
*For statistics - any point pair with misorientation exceeding 0° is considered a boundary
 total number = 743433, total length = 22.30 cm

Stored Strain Energy

KAM 3rd neighbor x 0.3 μm spatial resolution

EBSD GROD Map 500 μm deep

Severely deformed, >15° in 50 μm



Color Coded Map Type: Grain Reference Orientation Deviation

Min	Max	Total Fraction	Number	Length
0	3.87436	0.488	8093	2.43 mm
3.87436	7.74872	0.369		
7.74872	11.6231	0.088		
11.6231	15.4974	0.036		
15.4974	19.3718	0.013		

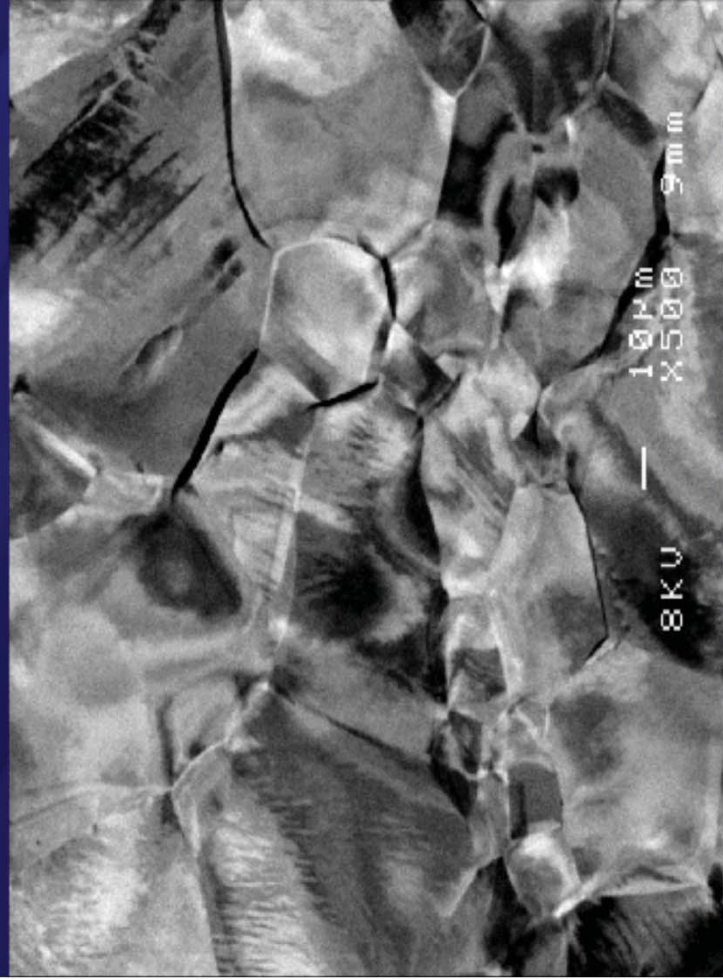
Boundaries: Rotation Angle
 Min: 15° Max: 180° Fraction: 0.011 Number: 8093 Length: 2.43 mm

*For statistics - any point pair with misorientation exceeding 0° is considered a boundary
 total number = 743433, total length = 22.30 cm

Deviation from grain minimum KAM

0.3 μm spatial resolution

Backscattered electron image



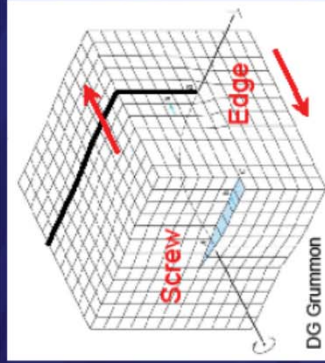
Channeling contrast of polished And etched surface resembles EBSD map

In as-deep-drawn condition, severe strain located in pockets through-thickness.

Greater strain at 300 and 500 μm than at surface.

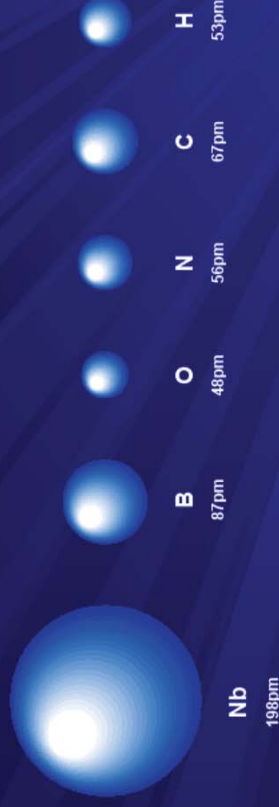
Interstitials

- Stress fields of dislocations provide low energy sites for interstitial atoms—difficult to dislodge (Cottrell atmospheres)

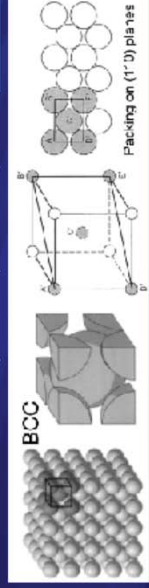


W. Singer, et al. Have suggested impurity atom contribution to pitting

Atomic Radii Size Comparison



Atomic radii for each of the elements is specified in picometers. (Source: www.webelements.com).



Callister, Materials Science and Engineering, An Introduction

Interstitials, e.g. O, lower superconductivity

Recrystallization Processing to eliminate stored strain energy

New

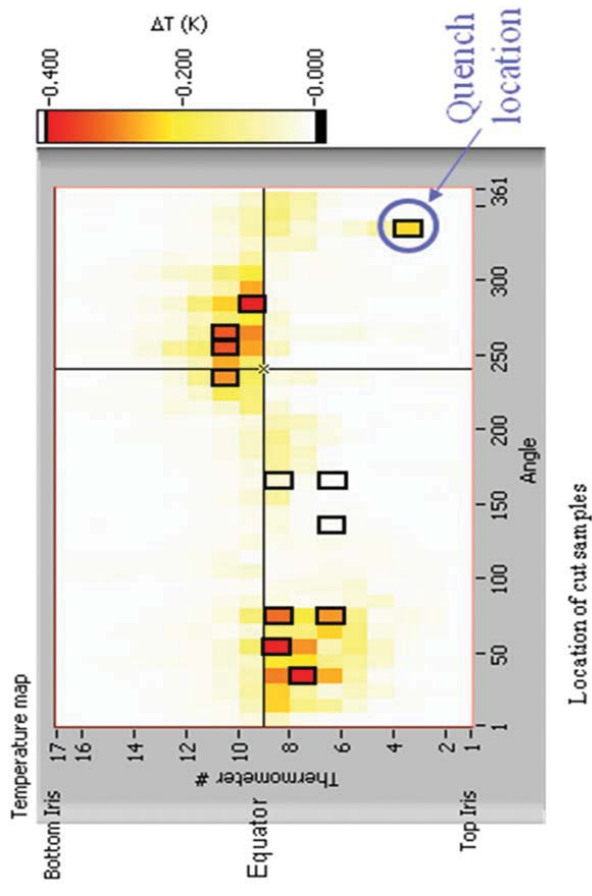
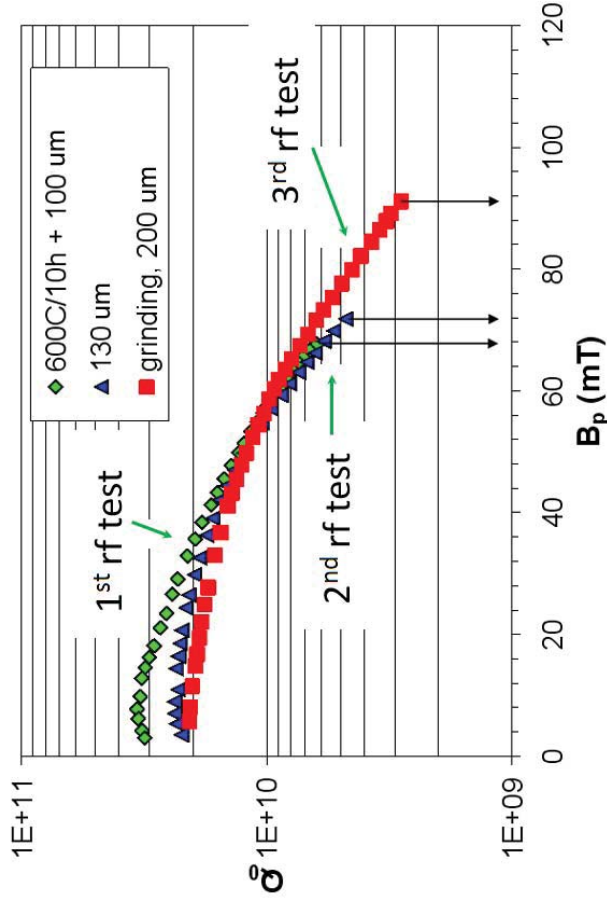
- Rolled to sheet thickness
 - Recrystallized
 - Roller-leveled
 - Deep drawn
 - Welded
 - Chemically treated (BCP or EP), HPWR
 - Heat treated
- Rolled to sheet thickness
- Recovery anneal
- Deep drawn ✦
- *Recrystallized*
- Welded
- Chemically treated (BCP or EP), HPWR
- Heat treated

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CASE STUDY: HOT SPOTS & ETCHING PITS

(X. ZHAO, JLAB/A. ROMANENKO, CORNELL)

Abnormal Q -slope of a Large Grain SRF Cavity Motivated Surface Analysis of “Hotspots”

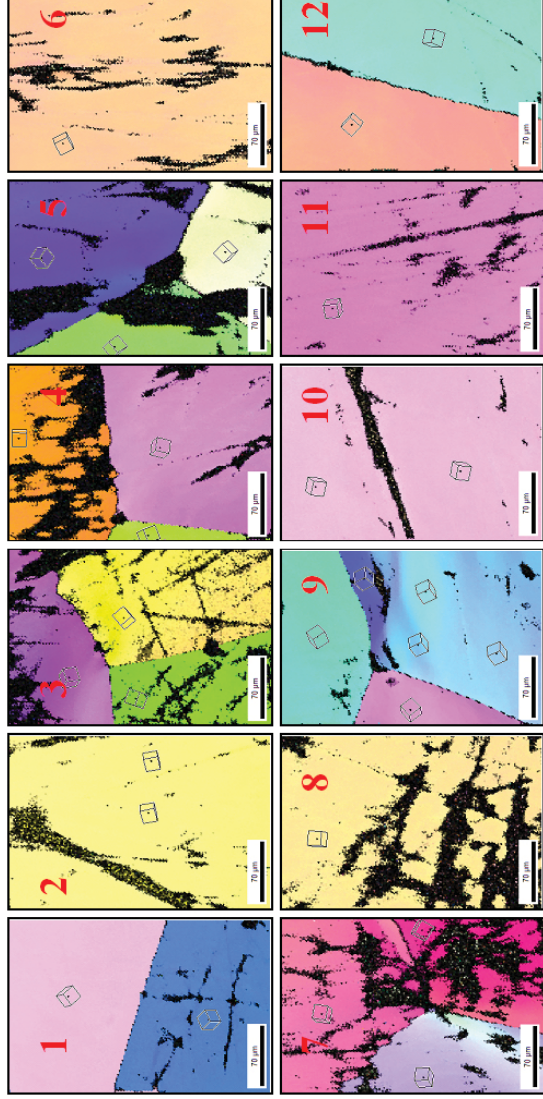


Q_o vs. B_p at 1.7 K after successive material removal showing a strong medium field Q -slope. The total material removal is indicated in the legend. (G. Ciovati, P. Kneisel)

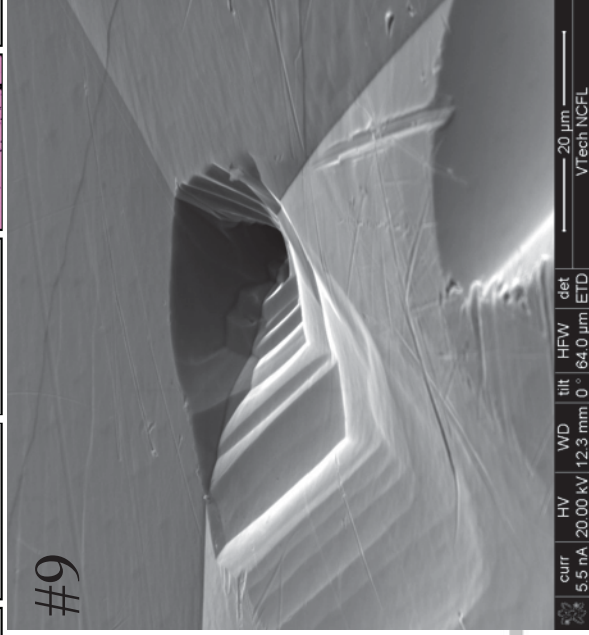
Twelve samples (nine from “hotspots” and three from “cold spots”) were cut from the cavity by milling for surface analysis.

New Approaches Applied to "Hotspots" Study

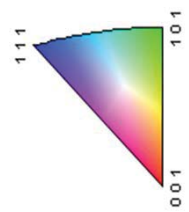
EBSD, SEM and Optical microscope



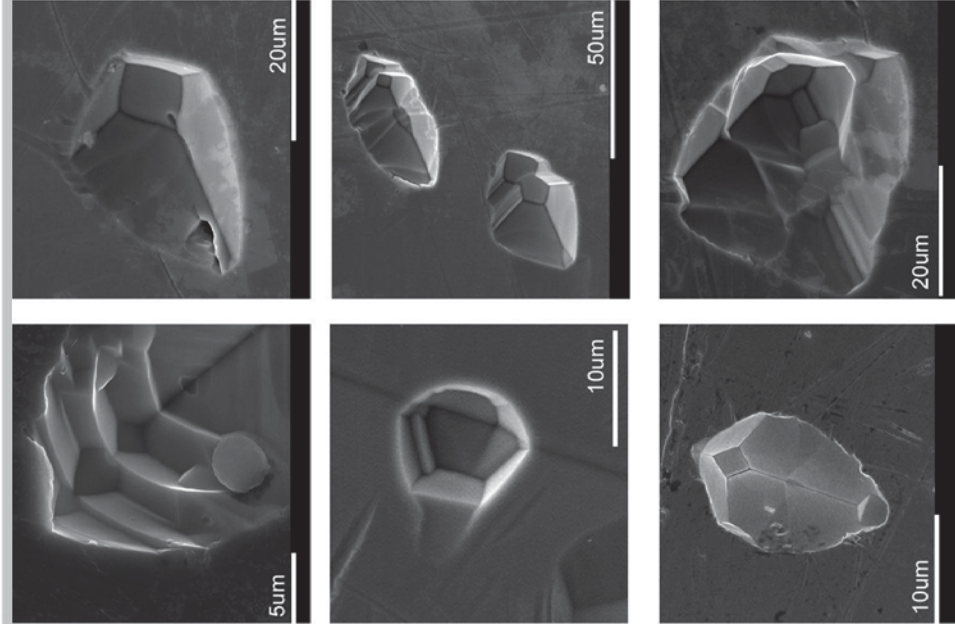
Sample No.	Grain Count	RF Character	Pit Density (No./mm ²)	Etch-pit Features
1	2	Hotspot	34.2	
2	1	Hotspot	29.1	Quench site
3	3	Hotspot		
4	3	Hotspot		
5	3	Hotspot	61.7	A very deep pit on tri-crystal junction; on {110} plane, hi den of elongated etching pits
6	1	Cold spot	6.3	
7	3	Cold spot	19.7	A shallow pit on tri-crystal junction
8	1	Cold spot	17.6	
9	3	Hotspot		A very deep pit on tri-crystal junction
10	1	Hotspot		
11	1	Hotspot		
12	2	Hotspot		



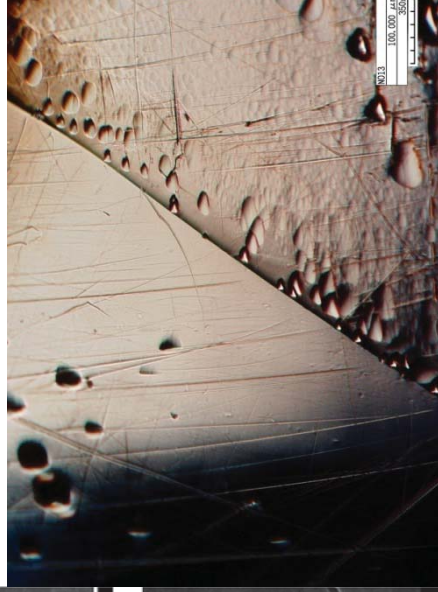
Nb IPF legend



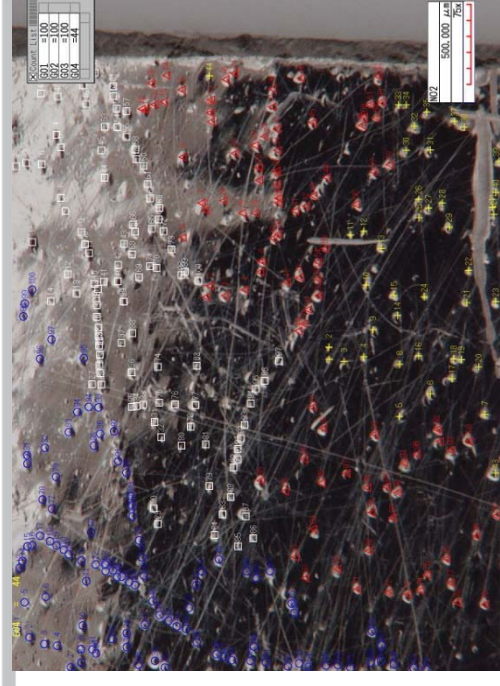
Features of Etch Pits on the LG SRF Cavity



SEM figures of atypical pits which have elaborated symmetrical geometry. Their geometry deviates from the classic tetrahedral etching pits described in Cai's study

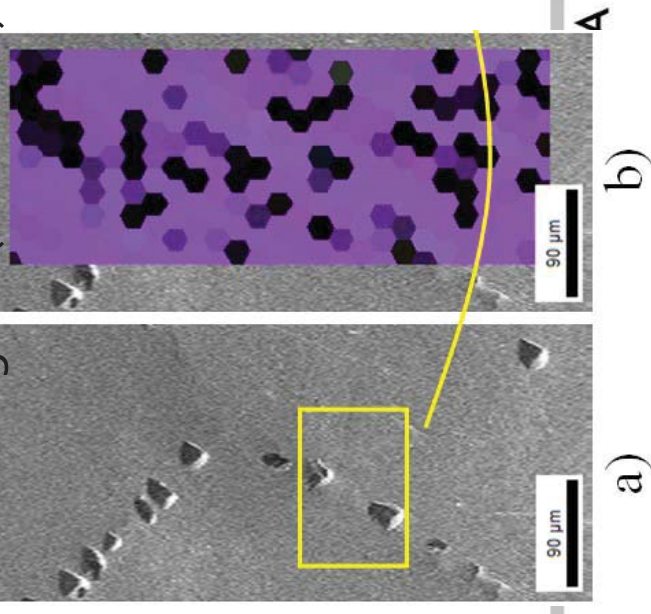


Optical microscopy images of sample #9, showing high density of etching pits (left) and non-uniform pit distribution (right) on different crystal grains.

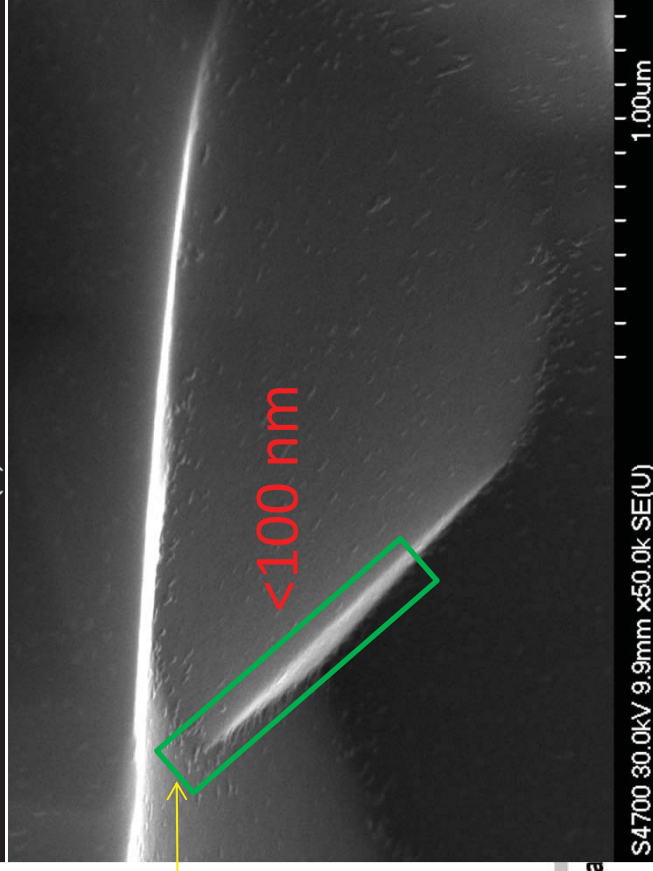
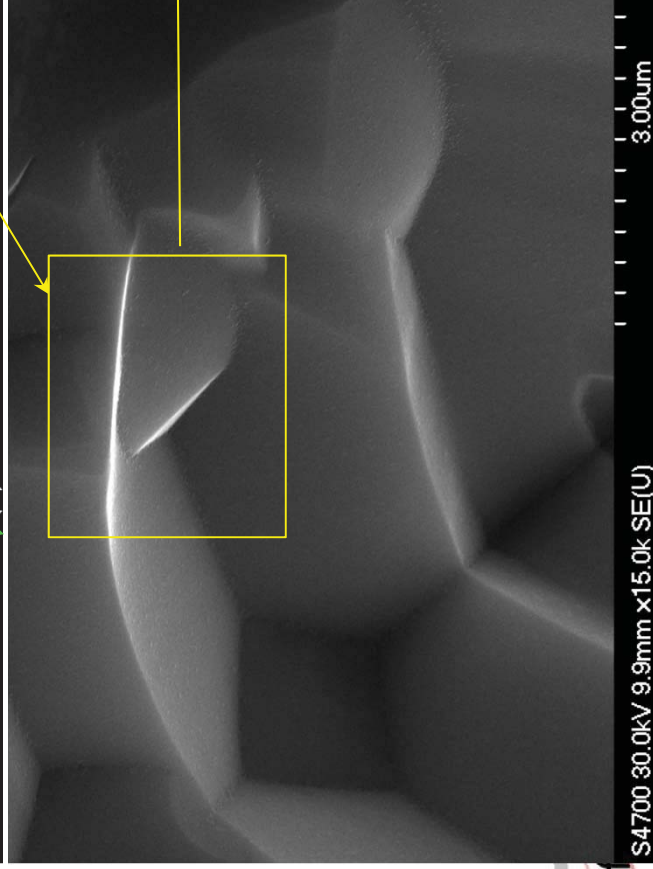
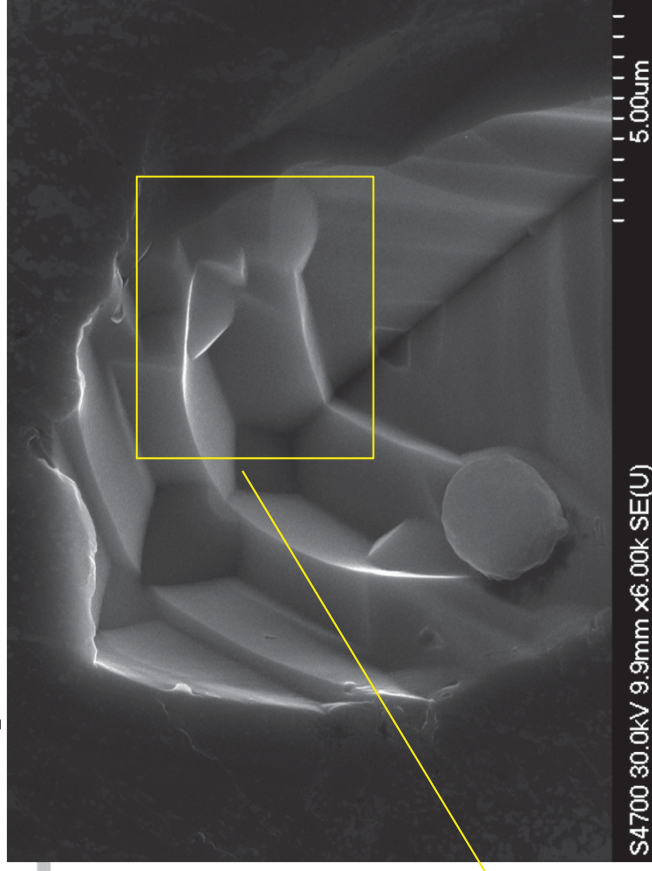
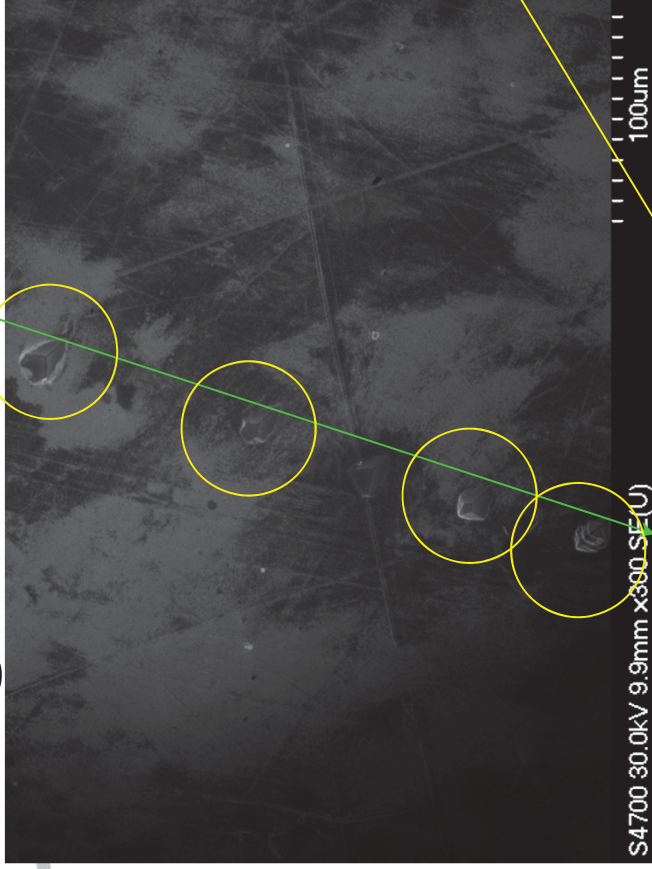


Etch pits networking on #1.

Pits are in on grain (see EBSD)

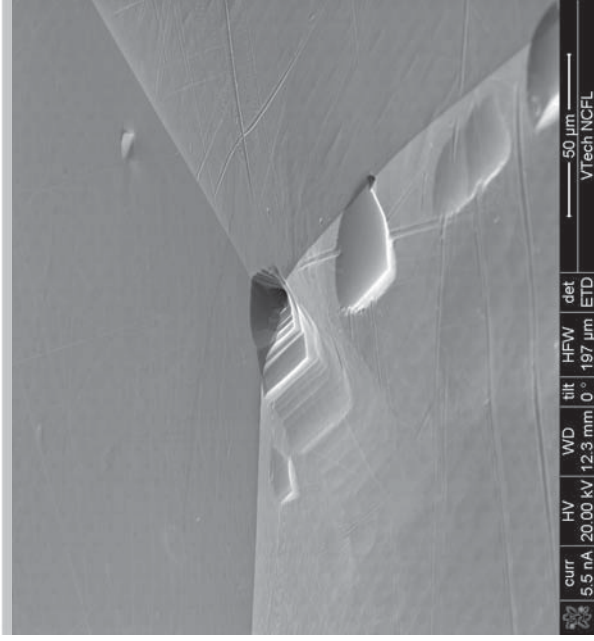


Edge or Corner Observed by SEM (CBMM-2 #2)



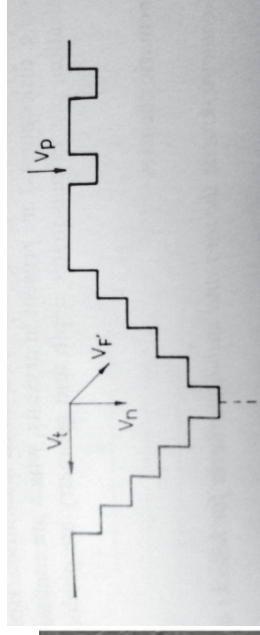
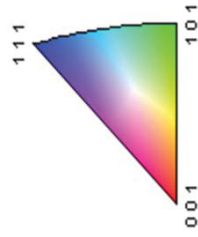
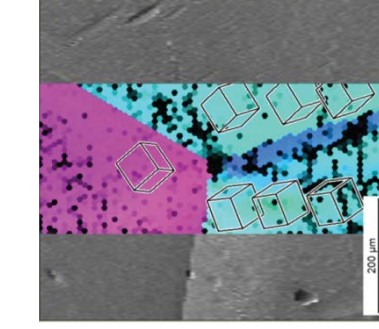
tiona

Etch Pits Formation Mechanism



Buffered-Chemical-Polishing (BCP) is **Etching**

Different Etch Rates Involved in the formation of an etch pits at **ONE** dislocation site.



The tri-crystal etching pit on sample No. 5. The pit has deep, sharp profiles. The pit diameter is $\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$ and its edge curvature radius $\sim 50 \text{ nm}$.

Lattice Defects, Vacancies, Impurities and dislocations server as sites of initial dissolution

If Dislocation-Etch Pit is **One-to-One**, Etch Pits Distances are larger than **10 μm** . Then the dislocations will **NOT** impact SRF performance. **Too far!**

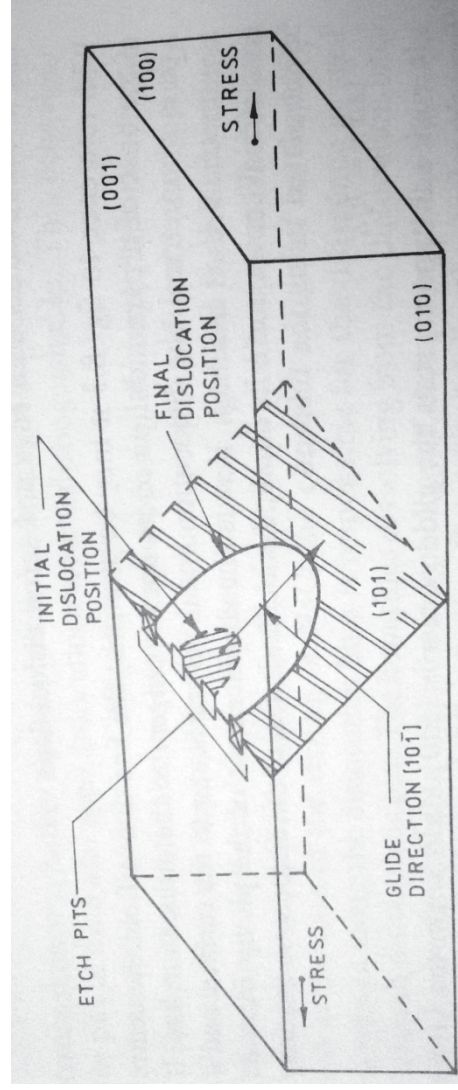
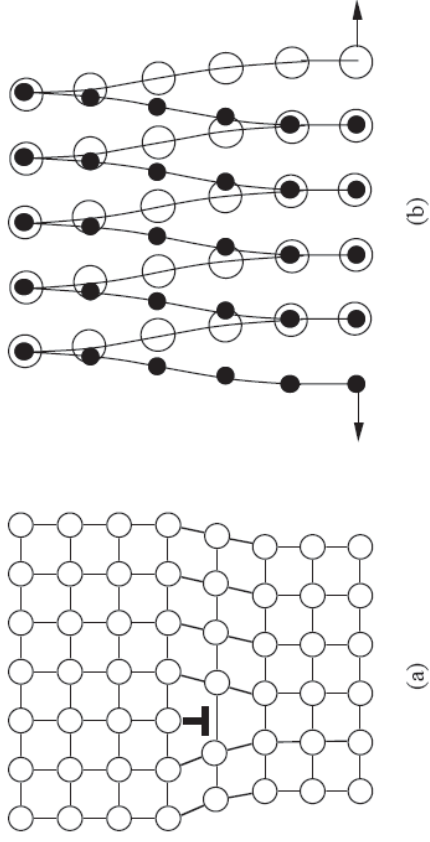
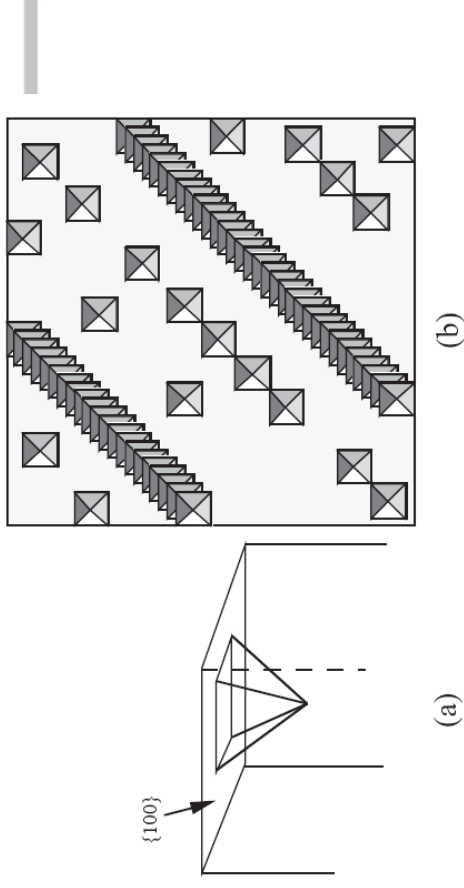


Fig. 8.4. Sketch of glide-plane orientation and movement of a dislocation half loop on the (100) face of a rock-salt-type crystal under an applied tensile stress (Gilman and Johnston 1957a).

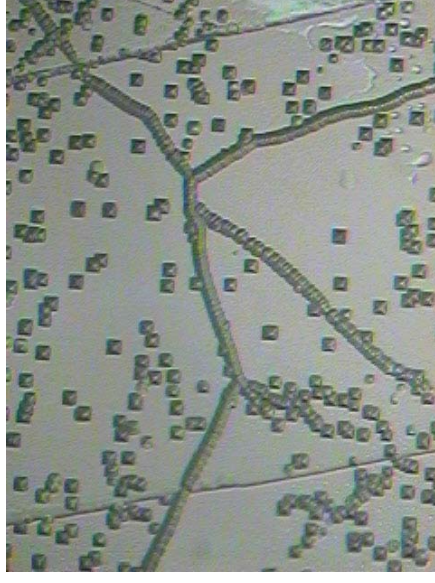
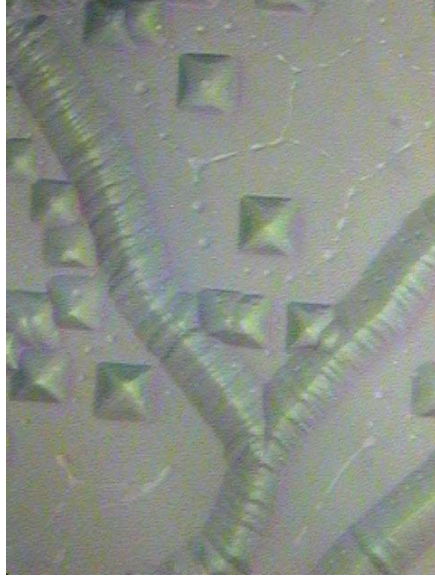
Dislocation Etching Pits



The atomic structure of the (a) edge dislocation and the (b) screw dislocation. In (b) the smaller filled circles are in the same plane (above the paper) and the larger open circles are in a different plane (below the paper).



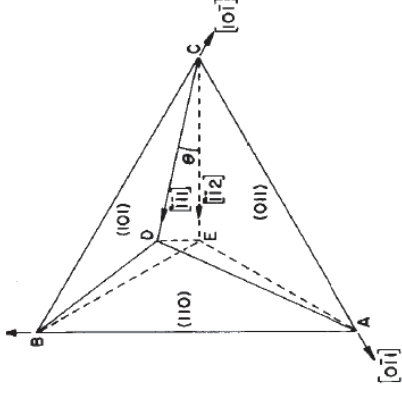
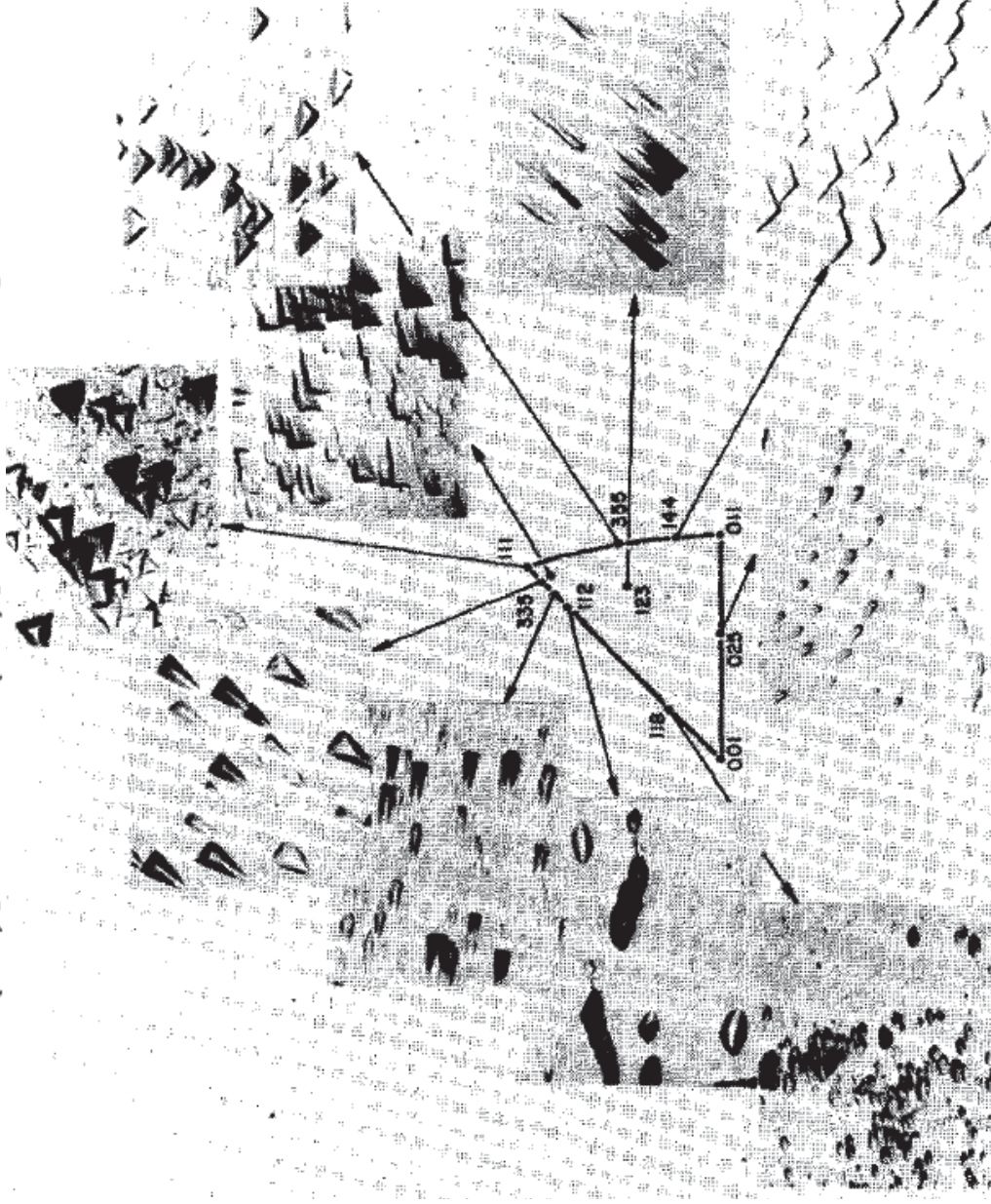
NaCl Dislocation etch pits. (a) a three dimensional view of a pit with square pyramidal facets. (b) Projection showing schematic distribution on the surface.



The top micrographs illustrate typical dislocation etch pits on cleaved rock salt (NaCl) surfaces

Orientation Dependence of Etch Pits Shapes

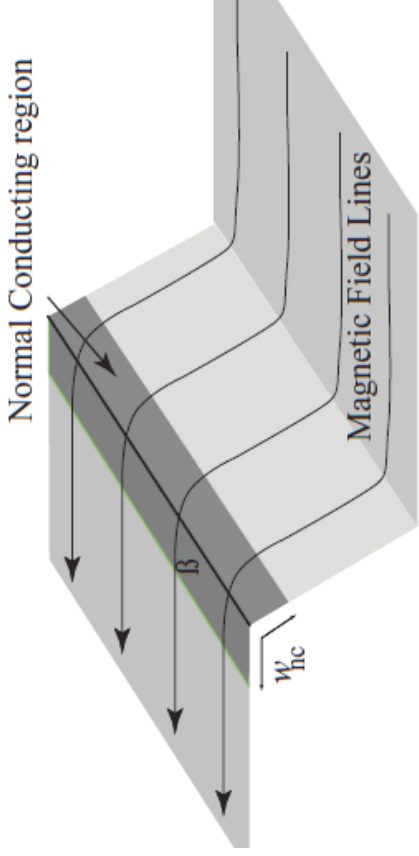
Fig. 6. Schematic representation of a three-dimensional etch pit. The tetrahedral pit is composed of three $\{110\}$ planes with a $\{111\}$ plane as the etching surface.



Schematic representation of 3-D etch pit. The tetrahedral pit is composed of 3 $\{110\}$ planes with a $\{111\}$ as etching surface

B.C. Cai, Etch Pits on Single Crystals and Bicrystals of Nb, *Journal of the Less-Common Metals*, 90 (1983) 37-47

Possible SRF Impact by Etch Pits

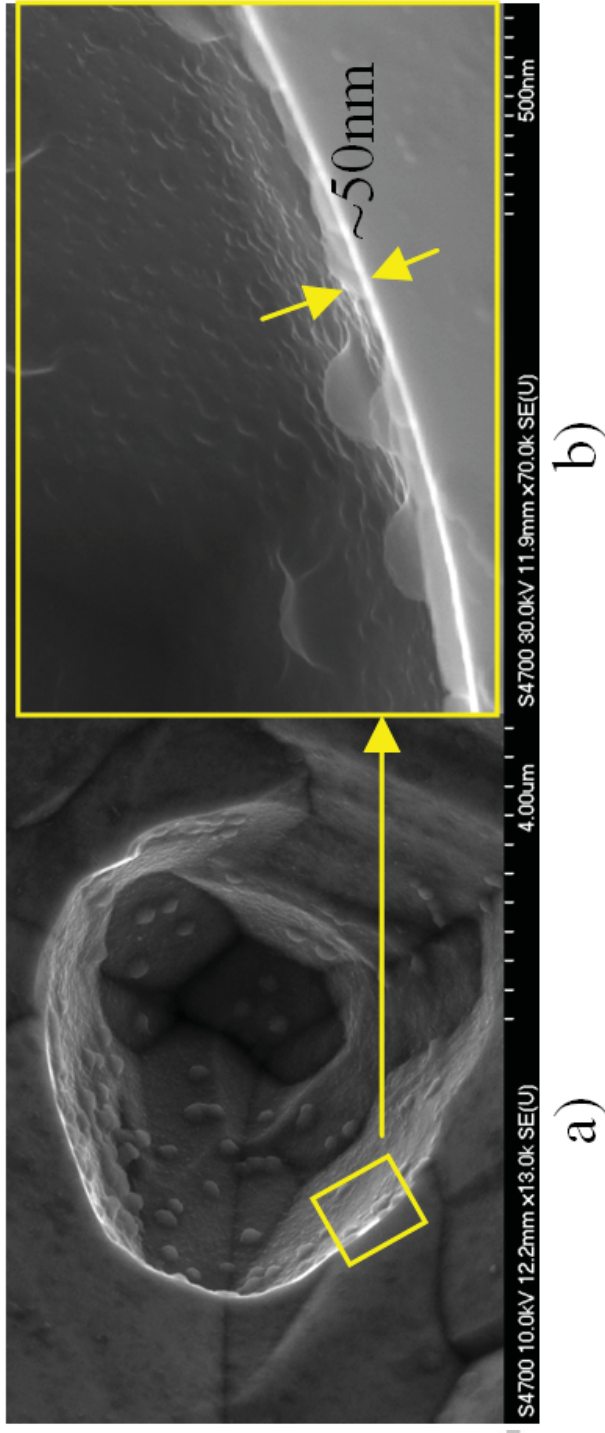


SEM showed pits with sharp edges but with aspect ratio of only about **100**. Therefore it seems that losses occurring at such low field **may not** be simply explained by local magnetic field enhancement.

Schematic of a grain boundary that has quenched due to magnetic field enhancement at the grain boundary.

- J. Knobloch, R.L. Geng

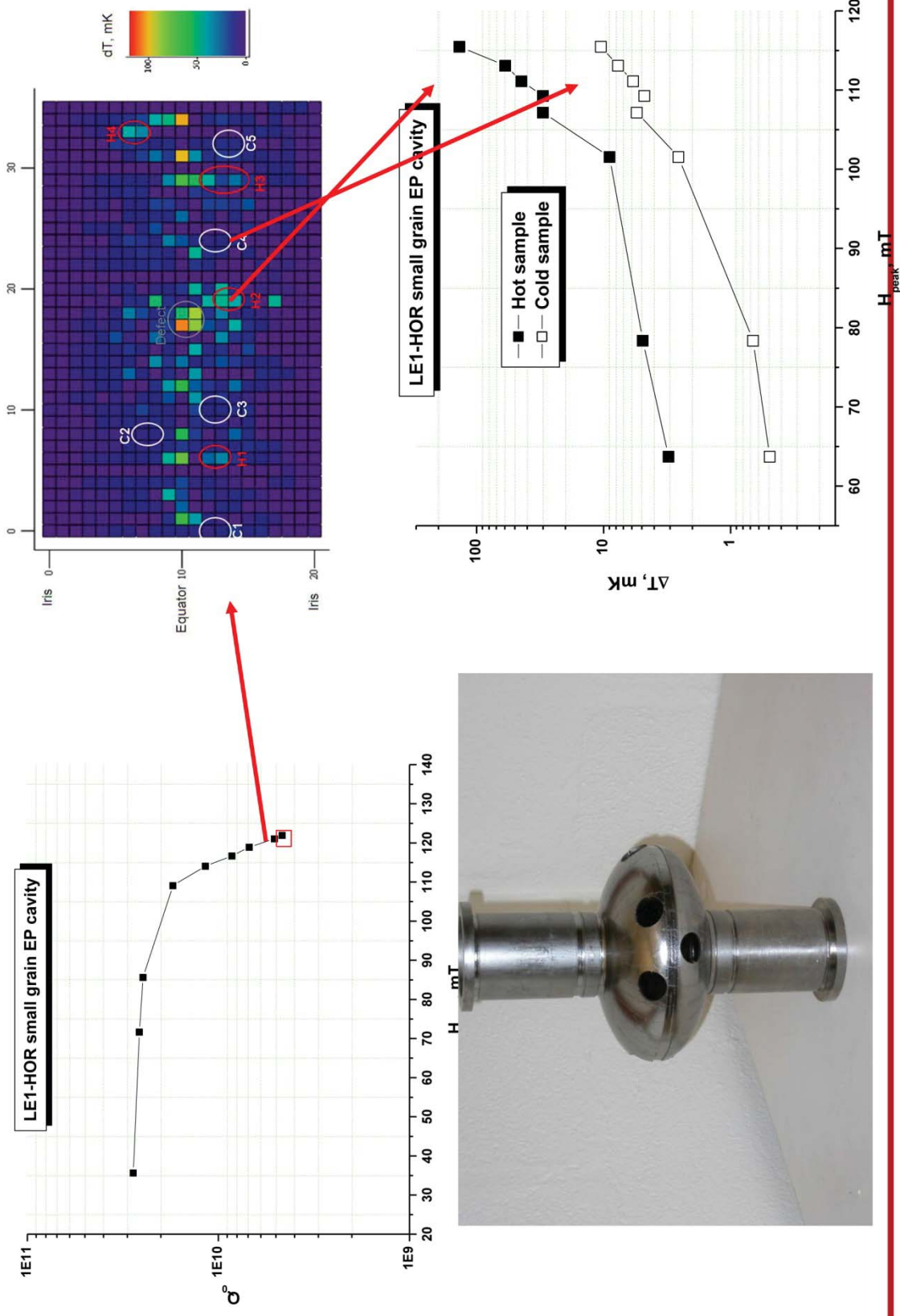
- Shemelin and Padamsee



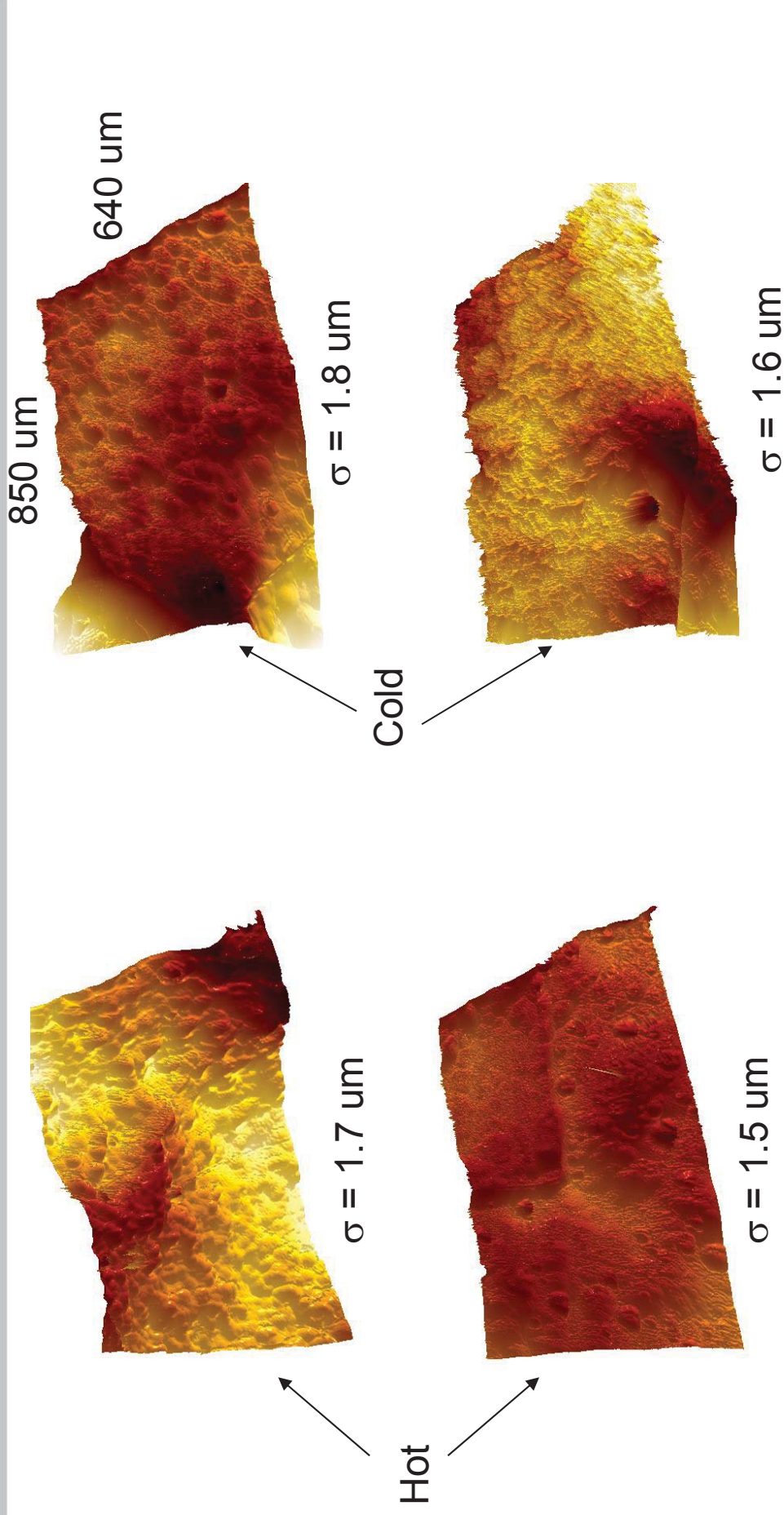


BAKING EFFECT (A. ROMANENKO)

Typical fine grain EP cavity test result



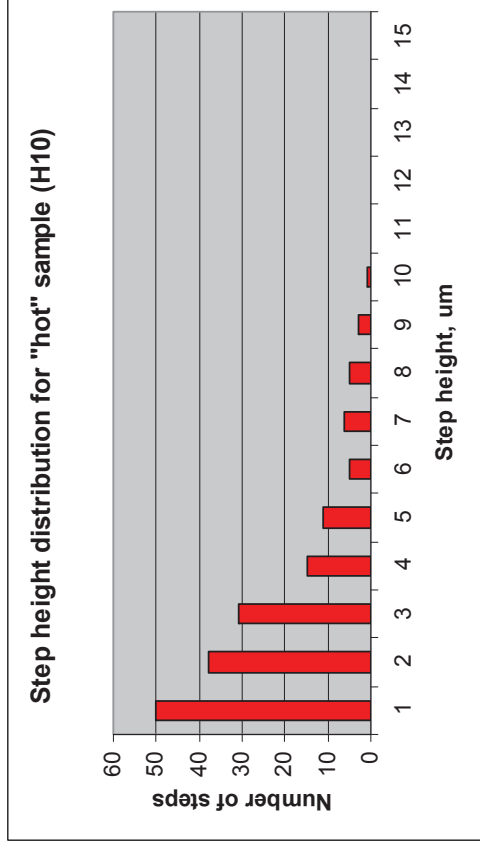
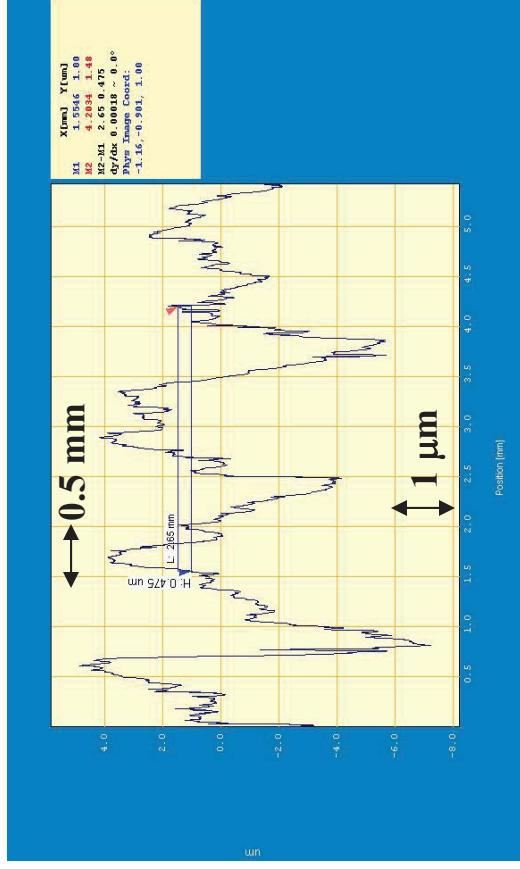
Microroughness



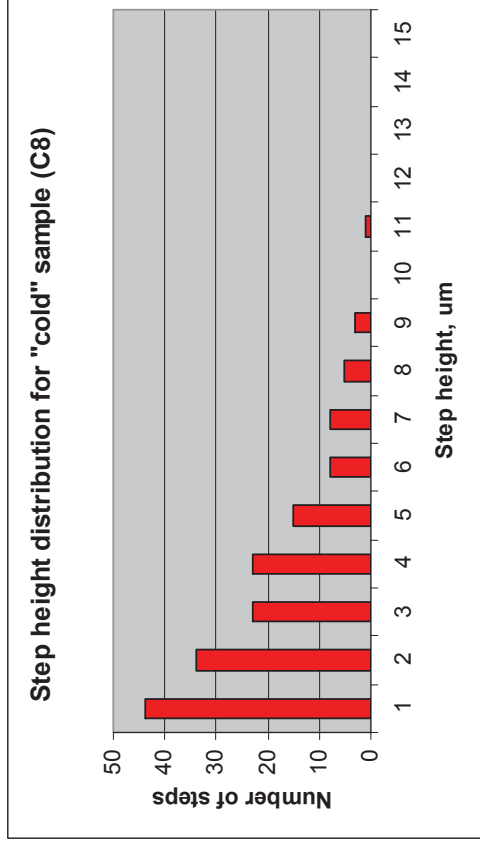
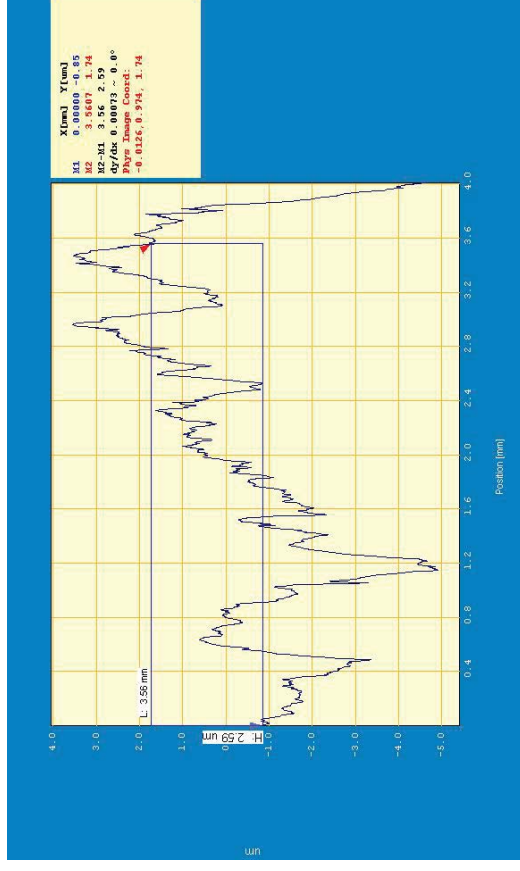
• Average roughness – $\sigma = 1.5\text{-}1.8 \mu\text{m}$ is the same

Optical Profilometry

Hot

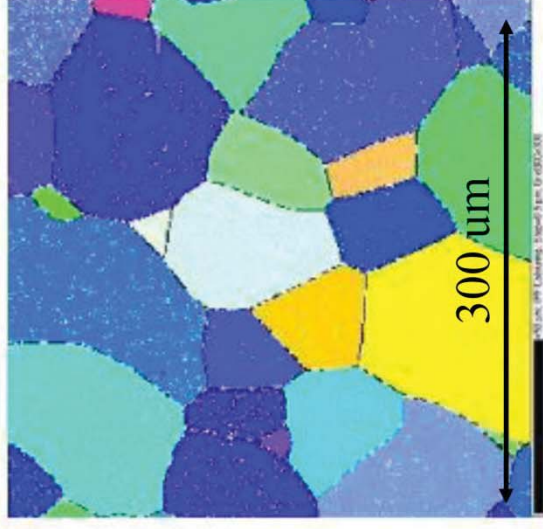


“Cold”

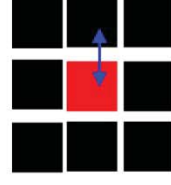
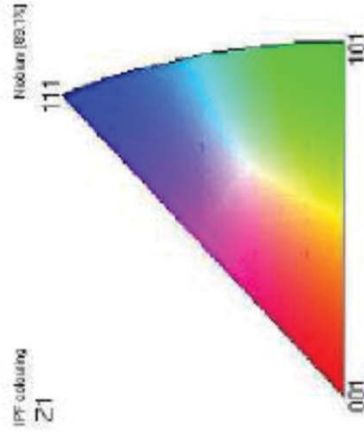
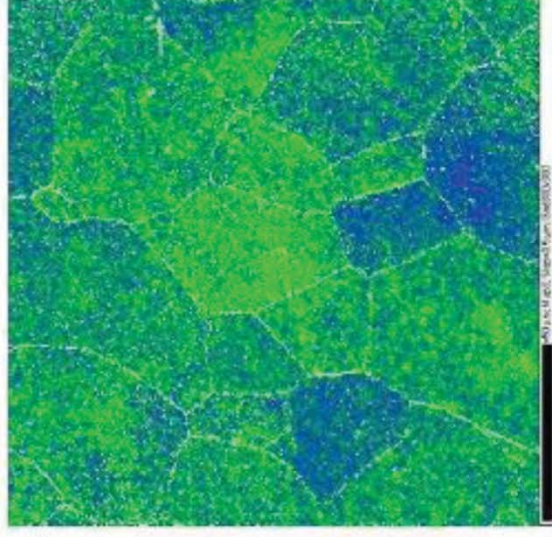


EBSD characterization

EBSD raw data:
crystalline orientation map



Local misorientation map

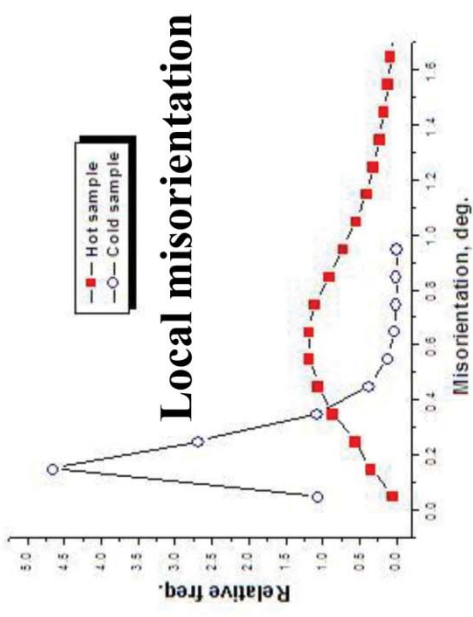
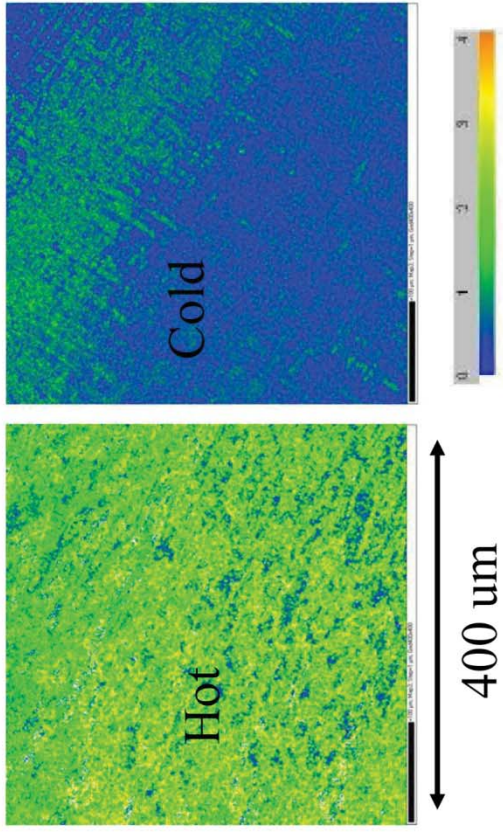


$\Delta\alpha_i$ – angle to rotate the unit cell
to make orientations equal

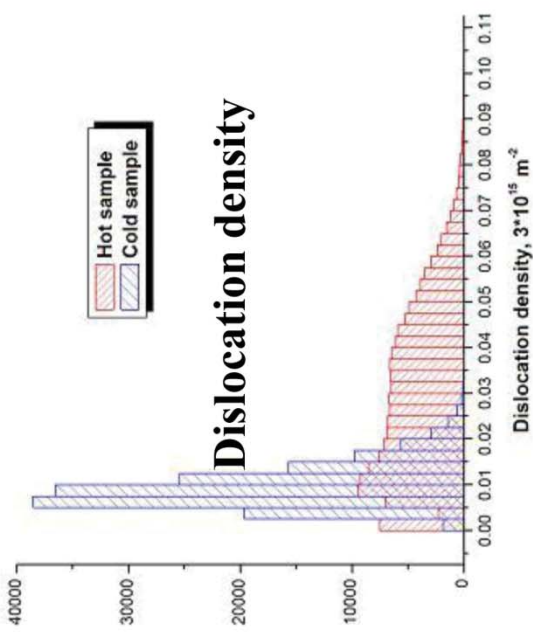
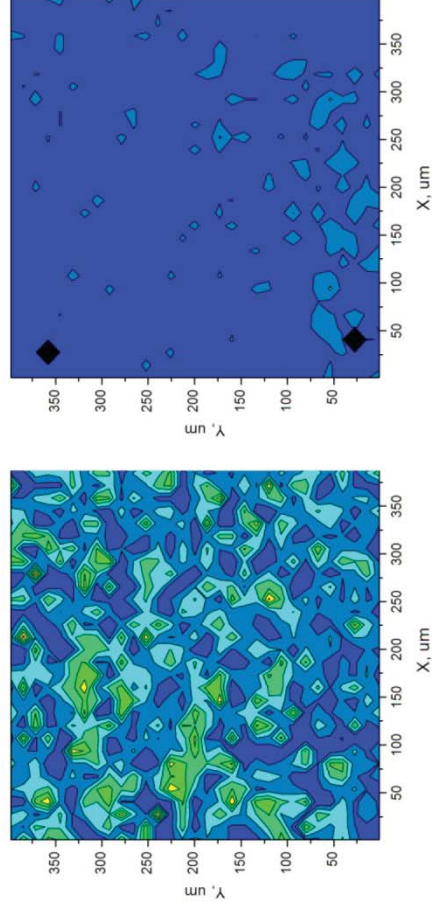
$$\text{Local misorientation} = 1/8 * \Sigma(\Delta\alpha_i)$$

Dislocation density & local misorientation – extreme case

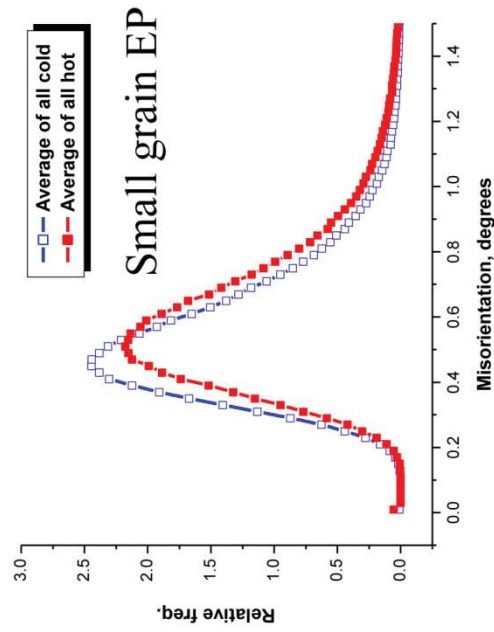
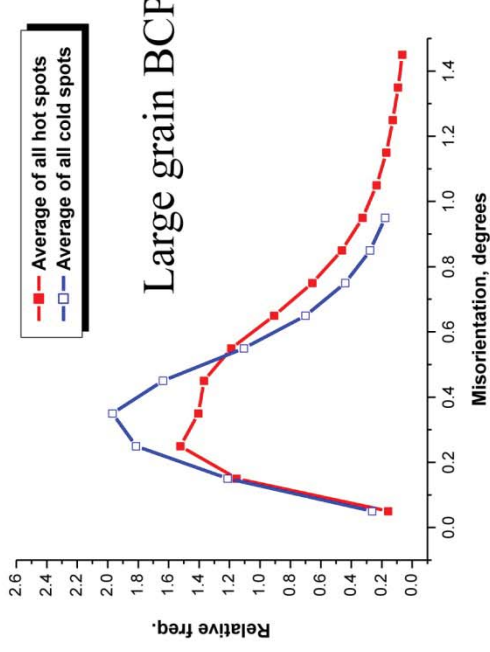
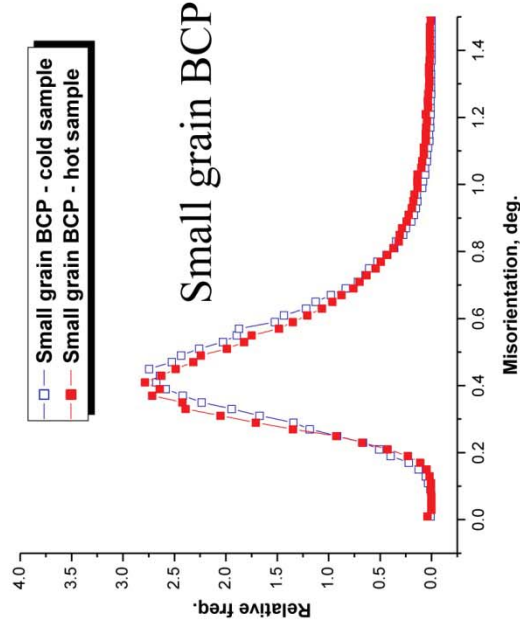
Local misorientation



Dislocation density

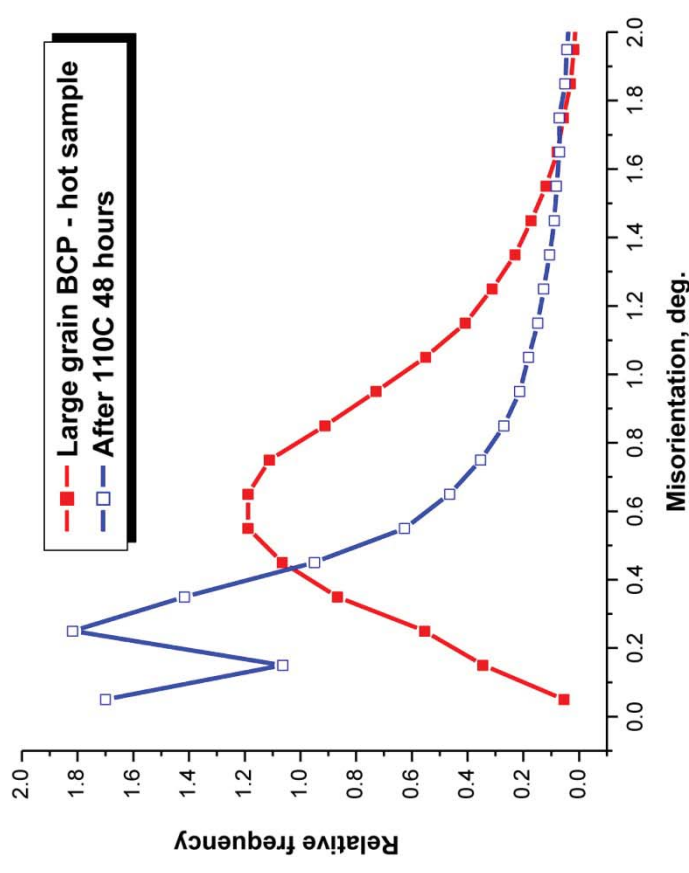
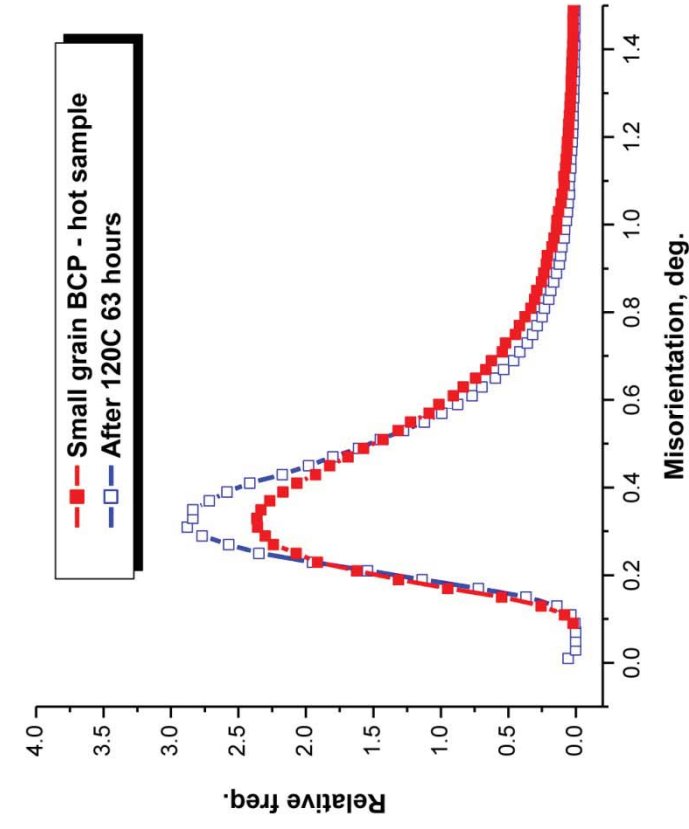


EBSD summary for hot/cold samples

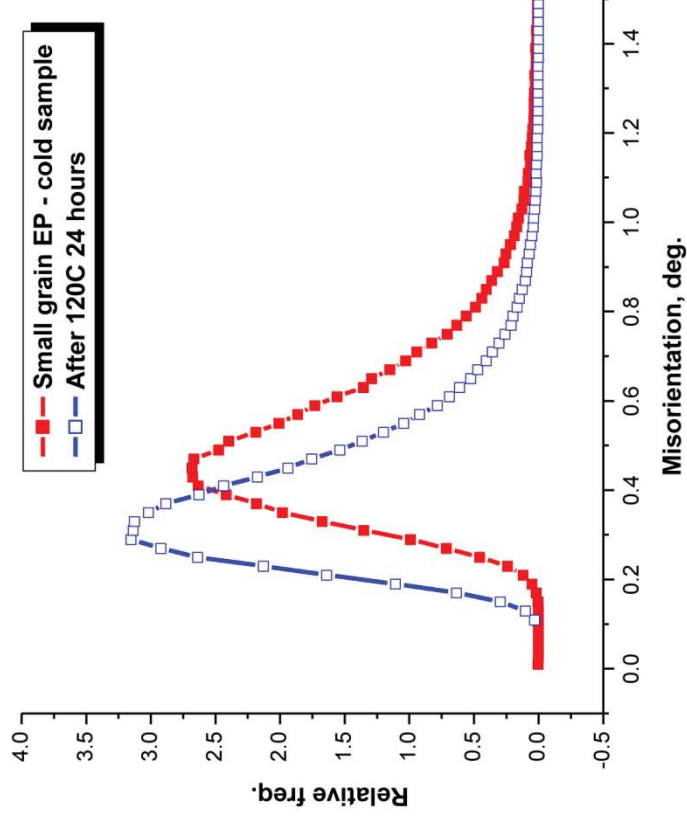
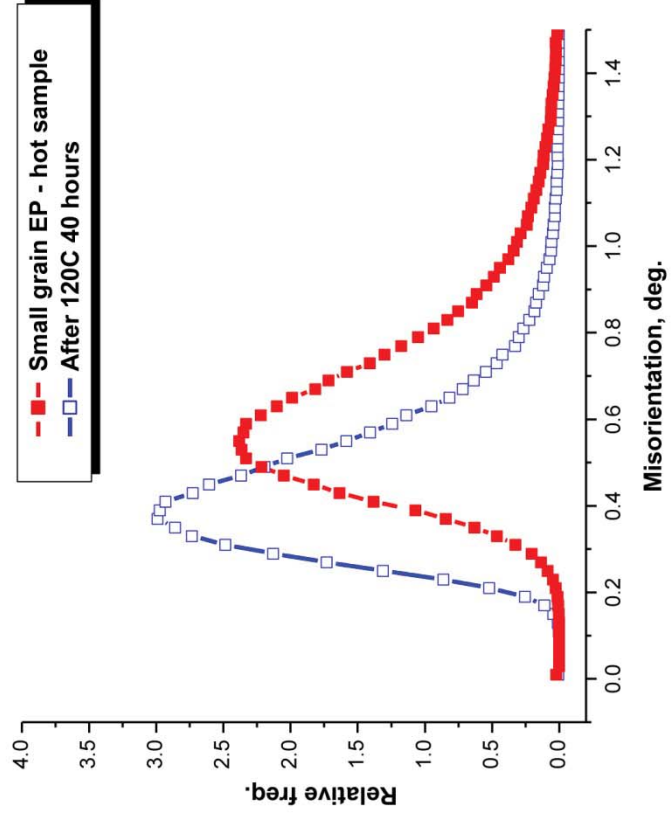


- Hot areas on average have misorientations shifted toward higher angles
- Difference hot/cold is largest in the case of large grain BCP, which is consistent with thermometry
- Motivated annealing of the samples at 100-120C and subsequent EBSD analysis

Baking of fine/large grain BCP Nb

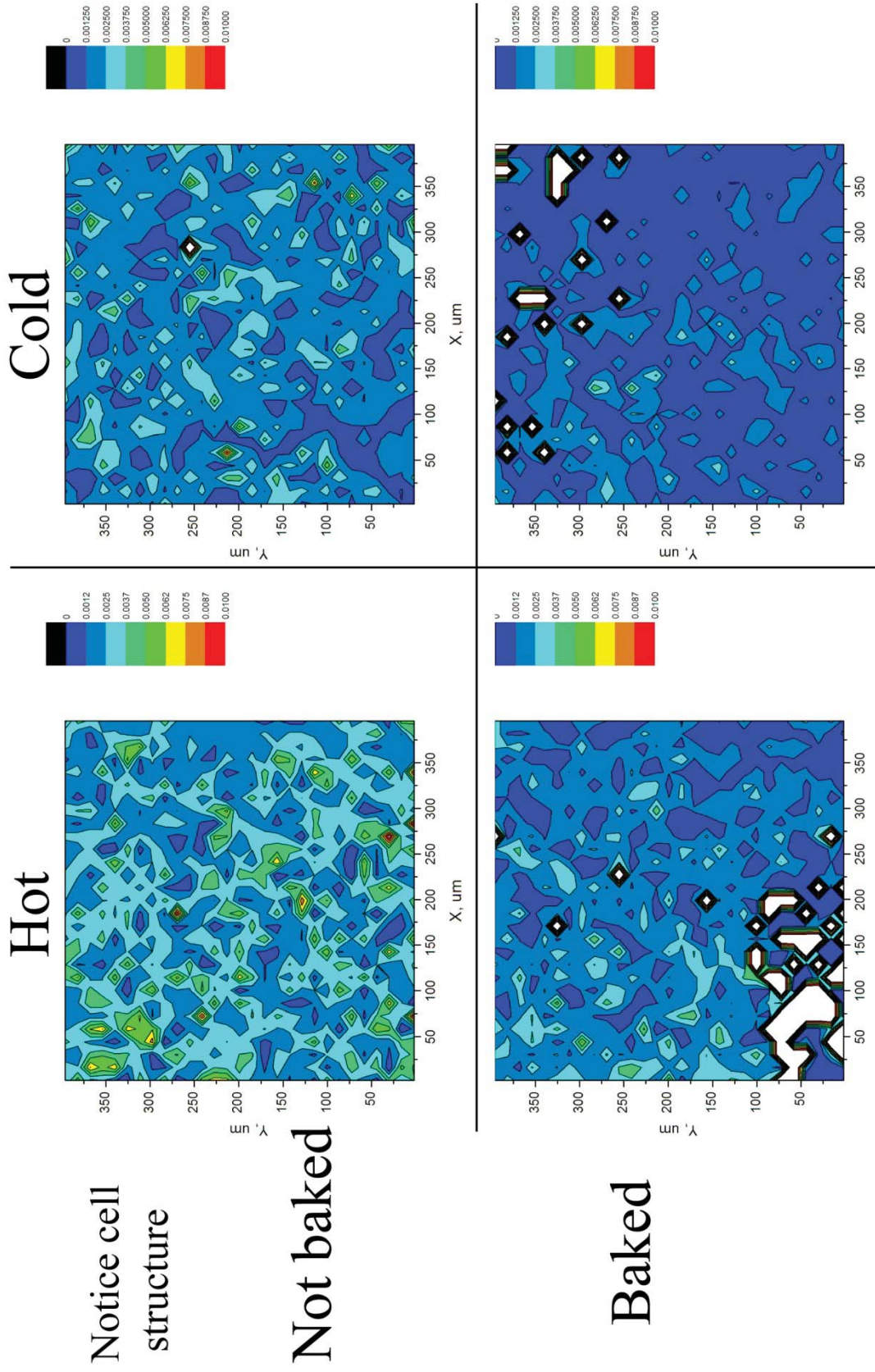


Baking of fine grain EP Nb



- Strong shift due to baking is observed in local misorientation distributions of both hot and cold samples
- Dislocation density maps were obtained to confirm and to get more info on distribution

Average screw dislocation density maps

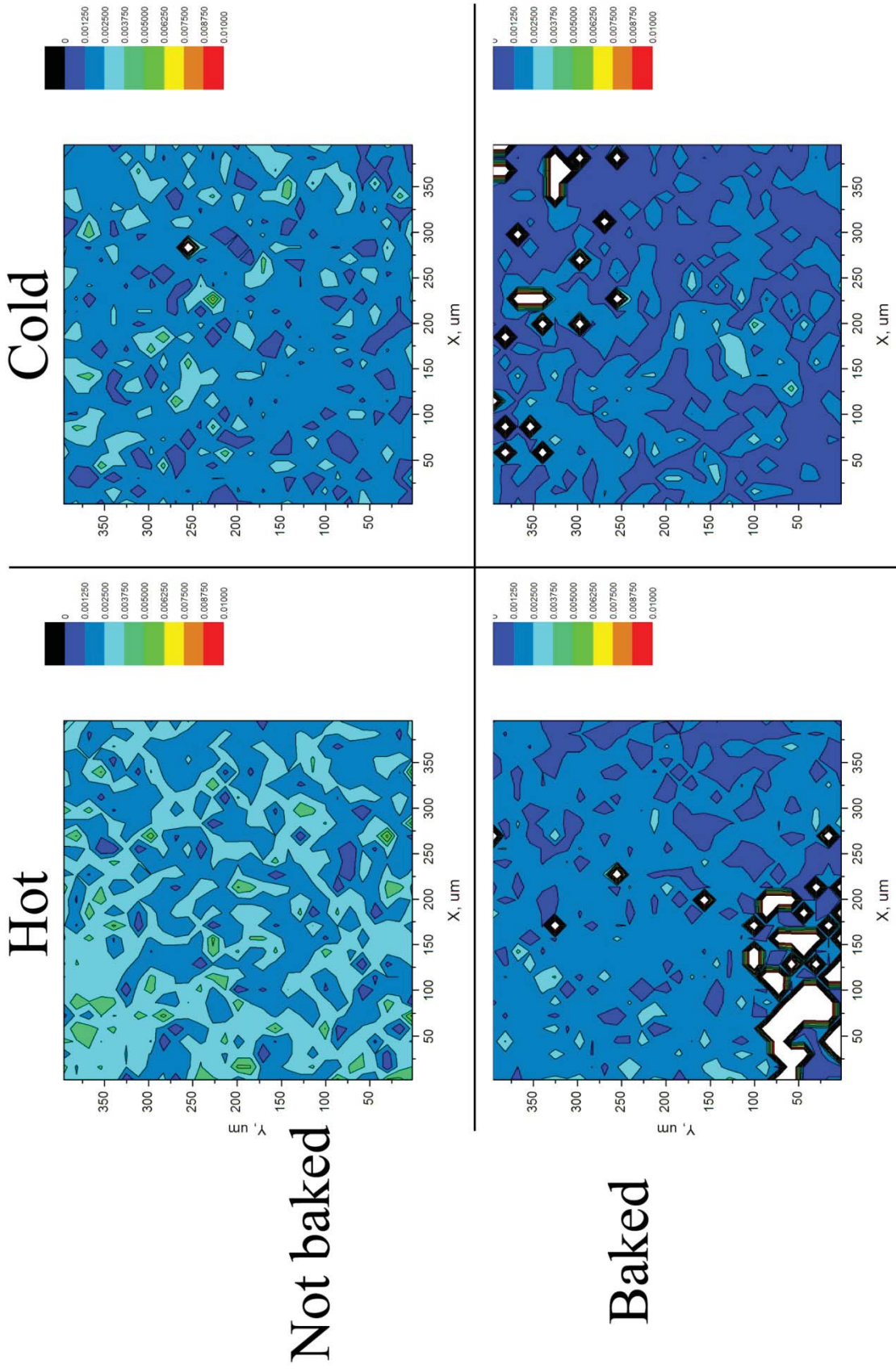


Notice cell structure

Not baked

Baked

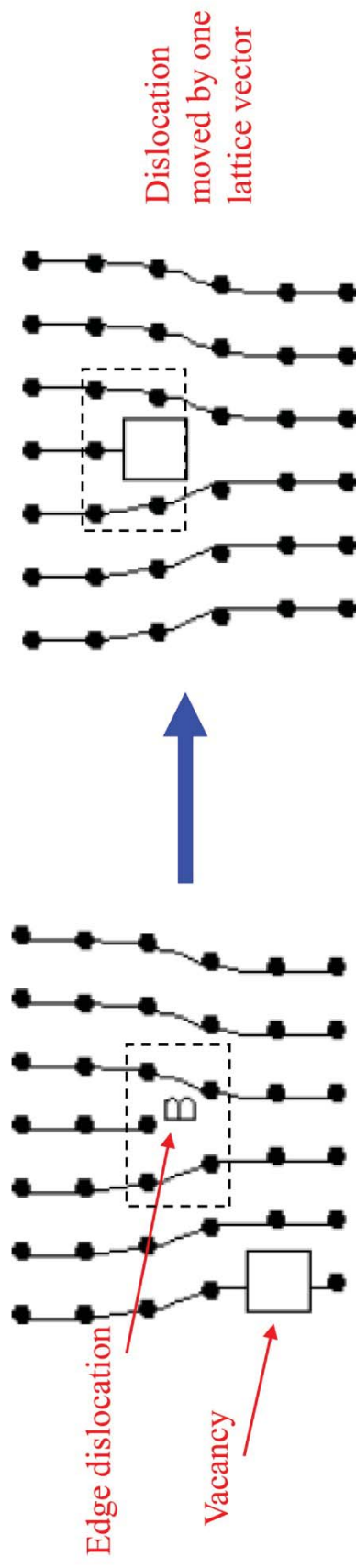
Average screw dislocation density maps



Baking summary - EBSD

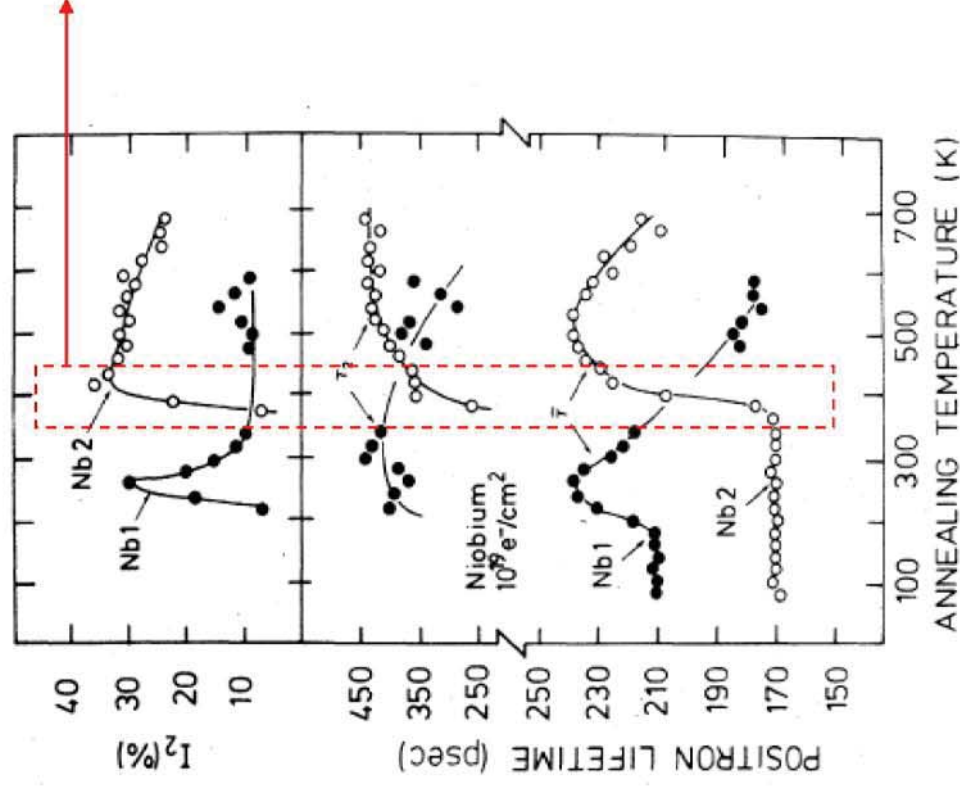
- Significantly reduced dislocation density in small grain EP and large grain BCP samples after 120C baking
 - Consistent with the strong baking benefit on EP and large grain BCP cavities
- Almost no change in the small grain BCP sample due to baking
 - Consistent with the lack of baking effect on the small grain BCP cavities

Baking mechanism – dislocation climb



- Dislocation climb
 - Vacancies are necessary for the climb to occur
 - Vacancies in Nb become mobile around 100C due to Vacancy-H complexes dissociation – see next slide for positron annihilation studies [*Phys. Rev. B*, 32(7):4326–4331, 1985]
- Possibly - reduction in the dislocation density near the surface due to climb and annihilation of dislocations

Dissociation of vacancy-H complex



- Vac-H complexes in niobium containing some H (Nb₂ in plots) dissociate at ~380K (107C) – compare to baking temperatures
- Mobile vacancies => dislocation climb becomes possible

[P. Hautajarvi et al., Phys. Rev. B., Vol.35, Num.7, 1985]

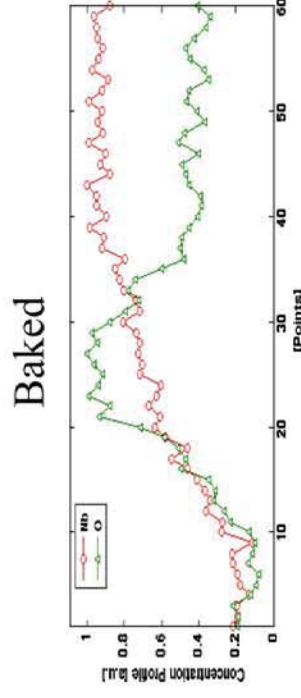
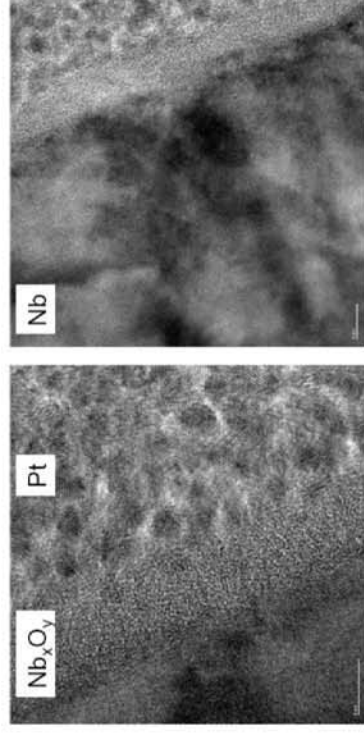
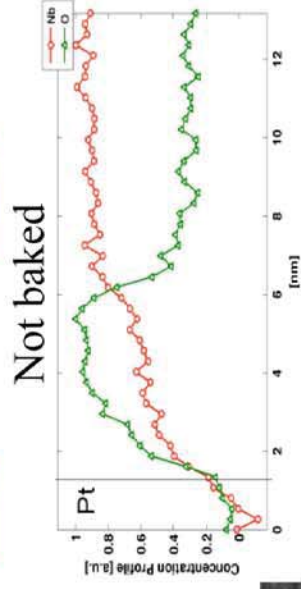
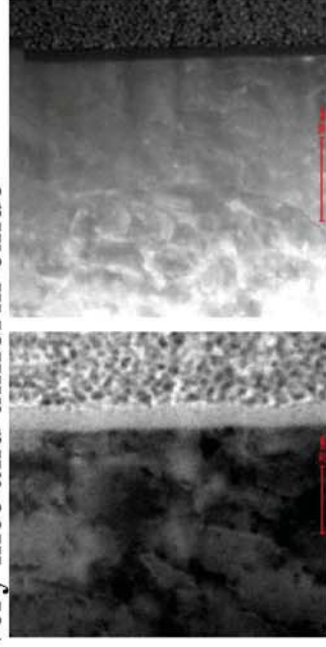
Dislocation & RF superconductivity

- Dislocation tangles, dislocation cell walls might serve as sites for magnetic flux penetration at lower fields due to
 - Lower surface barrier
 - Higher $\kappa \Rightarrow$ lower H_{c1}
- After flux penetrates – losses due to oscillatory flux motion

Baking effect – TEM/EELS

A. Romanenko, J. Mundy, P. Ercius, J. Grazul – details elsewhere

- FIB prepared samples from “hot” spot before and after 120C baking
- EELS elemental analysis with atomic scale resolution
- **No oxygen-enriched layer**
- **No oxygen diffusion**
- **No oxide modification**
- **No cracks or suboxide clusters – very nice and uniform oxide**

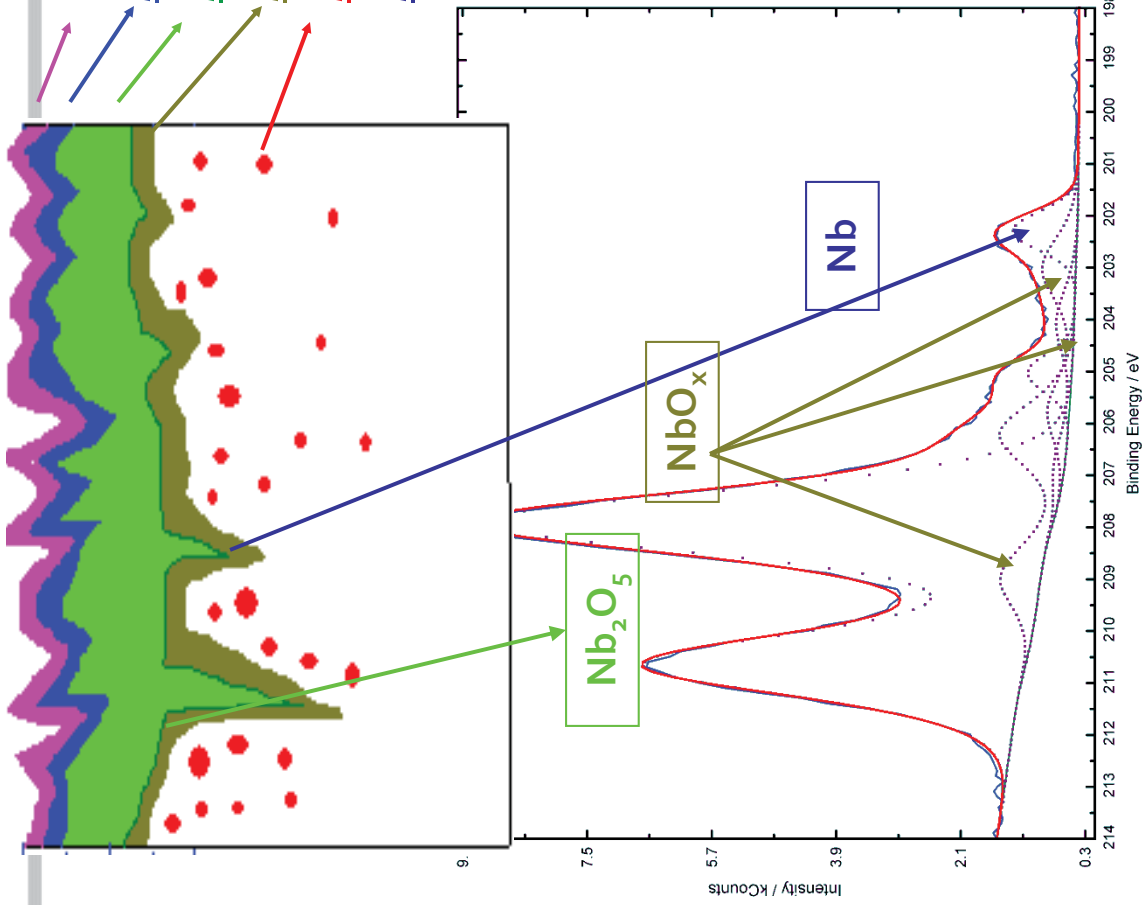


Conclusions

- Lattice defects (i.e. dislocations) may be the cause of the HFQS based on:
 - Difference between hot and cold samples
 - Change with 100-120C baking
- Dislocation climb as a possible mechanism
 - Vacations immobilized by H up to $\sim 100\text{C}$
- FIB/TEM + EELS disqualify oxygen diffusion-related and/or oxide modification baking mechanisms

CASE STUDY : HIGH RESOLUTION XPS OF Nb OXIDE LAYER ^(H.TIAN, JLAB)

Introduction



Hydrocarbons & impurities (<1nm)

Nb hydroxides (< 1 nm_r?)

Dielectric Nb₂O₅ (3~8 nm)

NbO_x-(0.2 < x < 2)-metallic(1~2 nm_r?)

NbO_x precipitates (0.02 < x < 0.2_r?)

Nb (RF penetration depth : ~ 35 nm)

The surface chemistry of Nb is dominated by the high reactivity to oxygen; the outermost oxide layers are always found to be

Nb₂O₅*

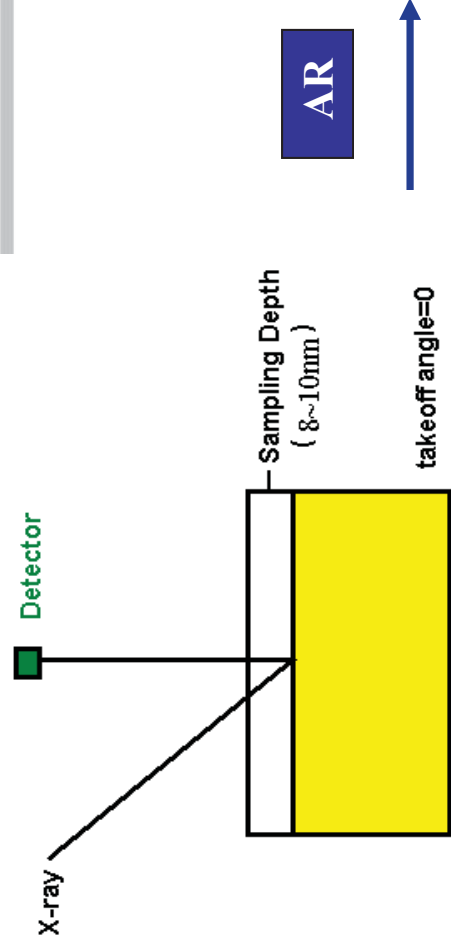
Suboxides in various

combinations and morphologies

are proposed to be between the

Nb₂O₅ and the underlying metal.

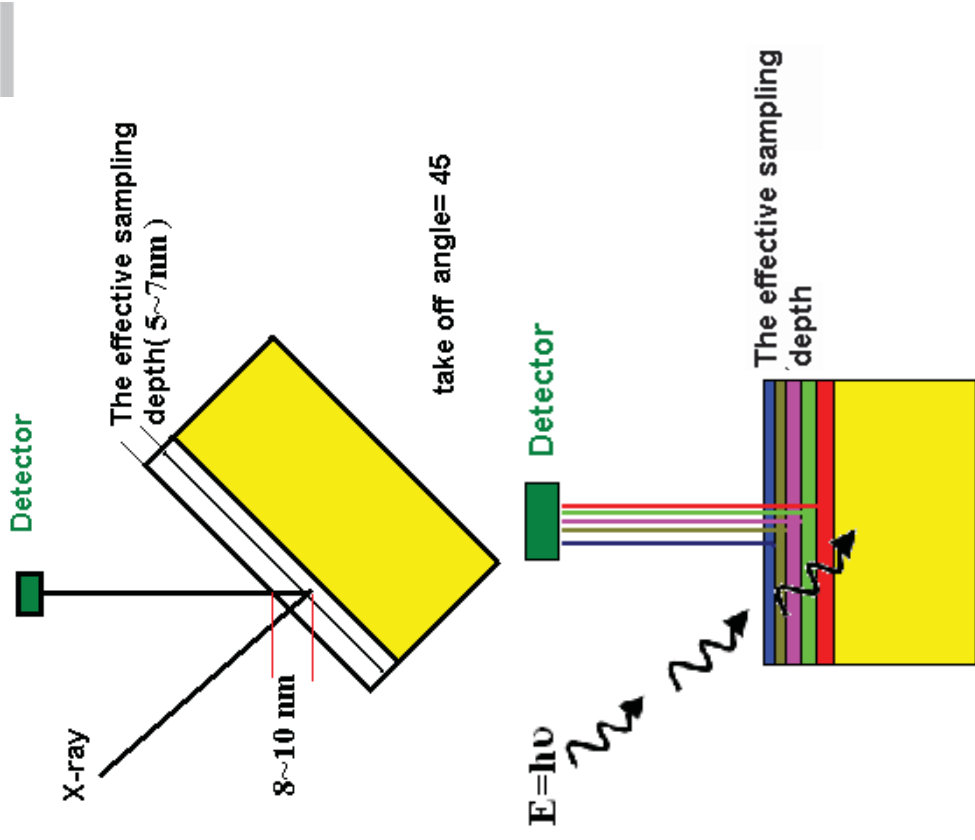
Angle Resolved (AR) vs. Energy Resolved (ER) XPS



At the normal incident angle (Nb_2O_5 : 3 ~ 8 nm+ metal)

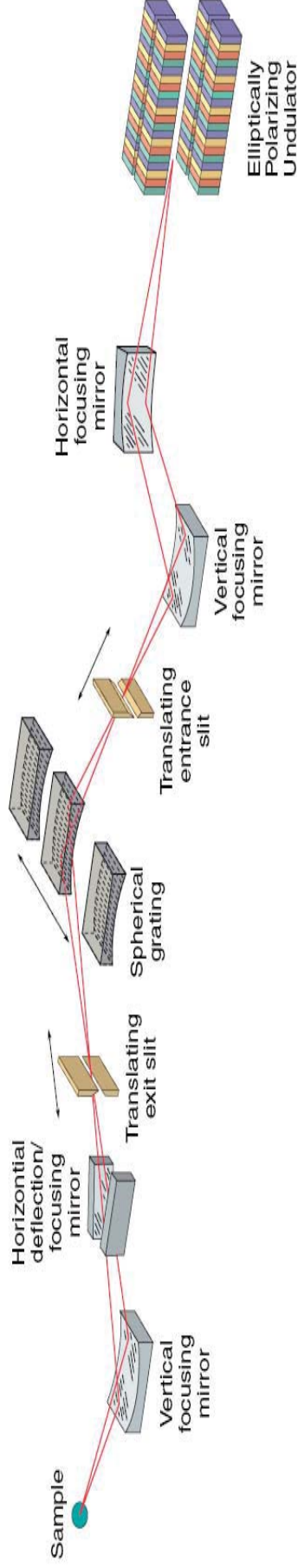
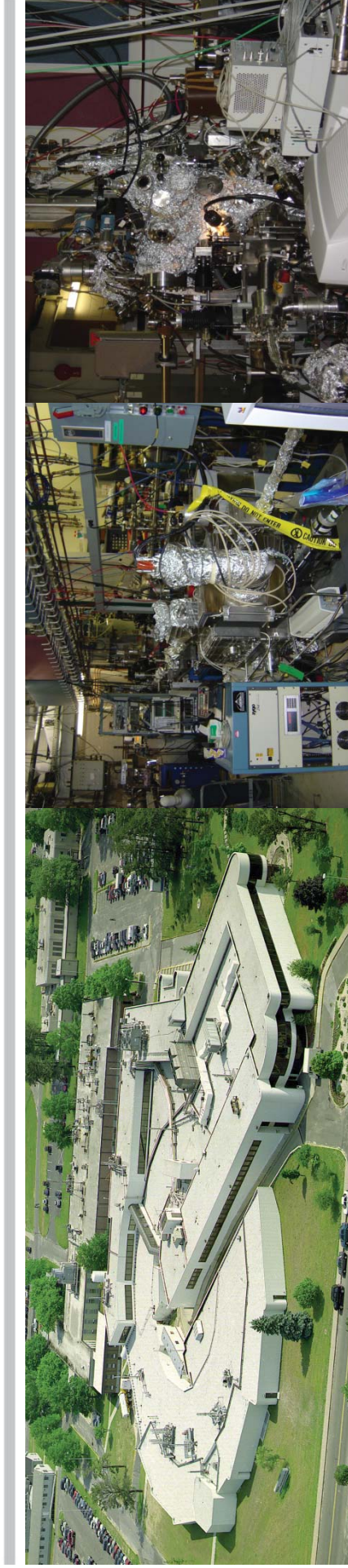
$$\lambda = \frac{E}{\{E_p^2 [\beta_m \ln(\gamma E) - C/E + D/E^2]\}}$$

E=hv(eV)	Sampling Depth (nm)	Nb_2O_5
300	2.8	
550	4.2	
750	5.3	
1254(Mg)	8.1	
1486(Al)	9	



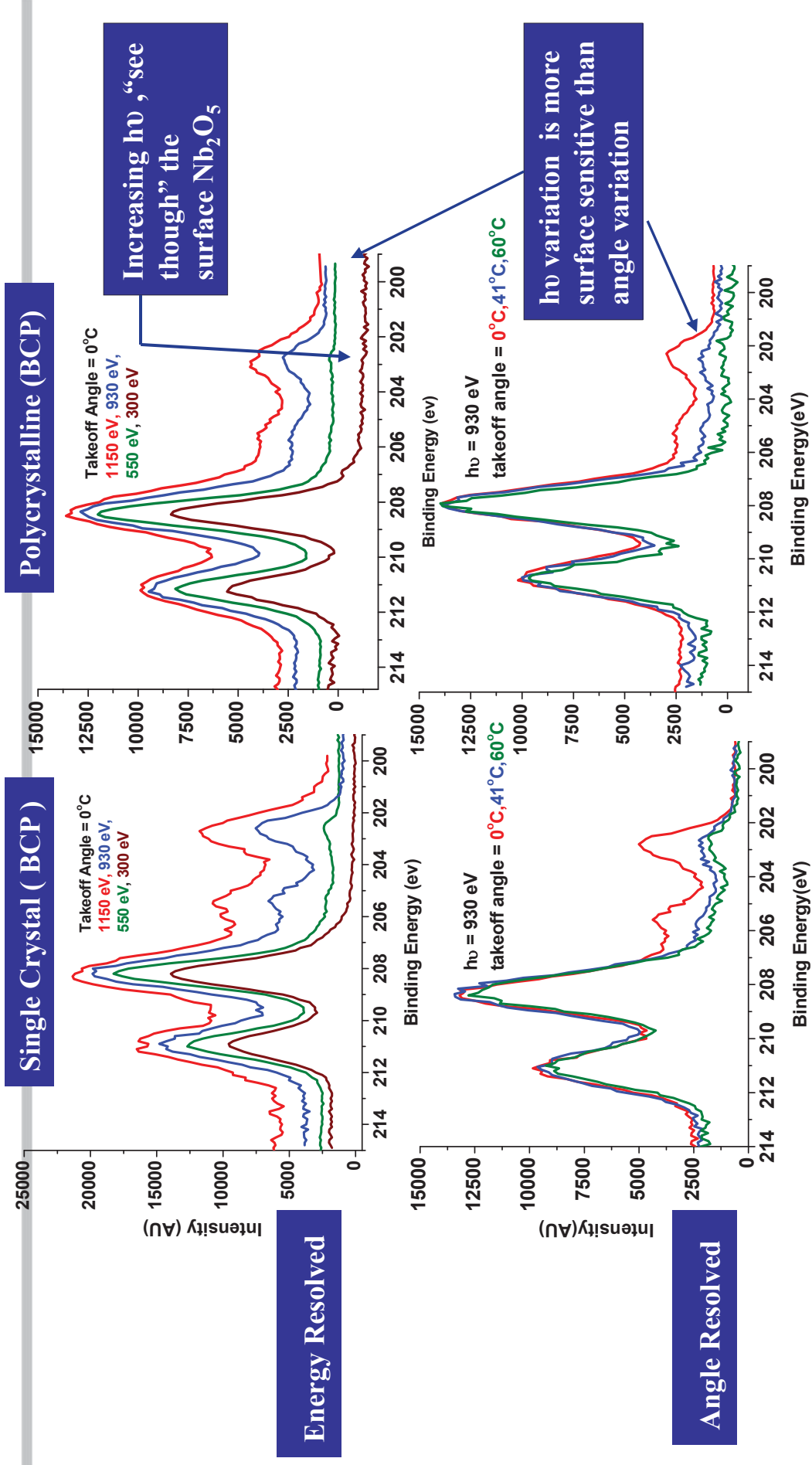
Surface topography has **less** impact on variable photon energy XPS.
AR + ER XPS provides the most surface sensitive information.

Energy Resolved XPS -BNL, NSLS, X1B



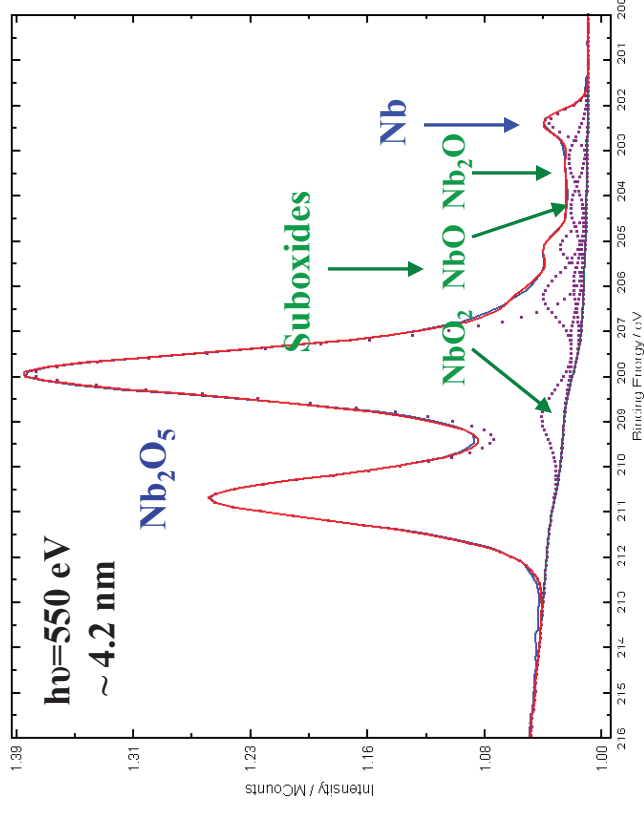
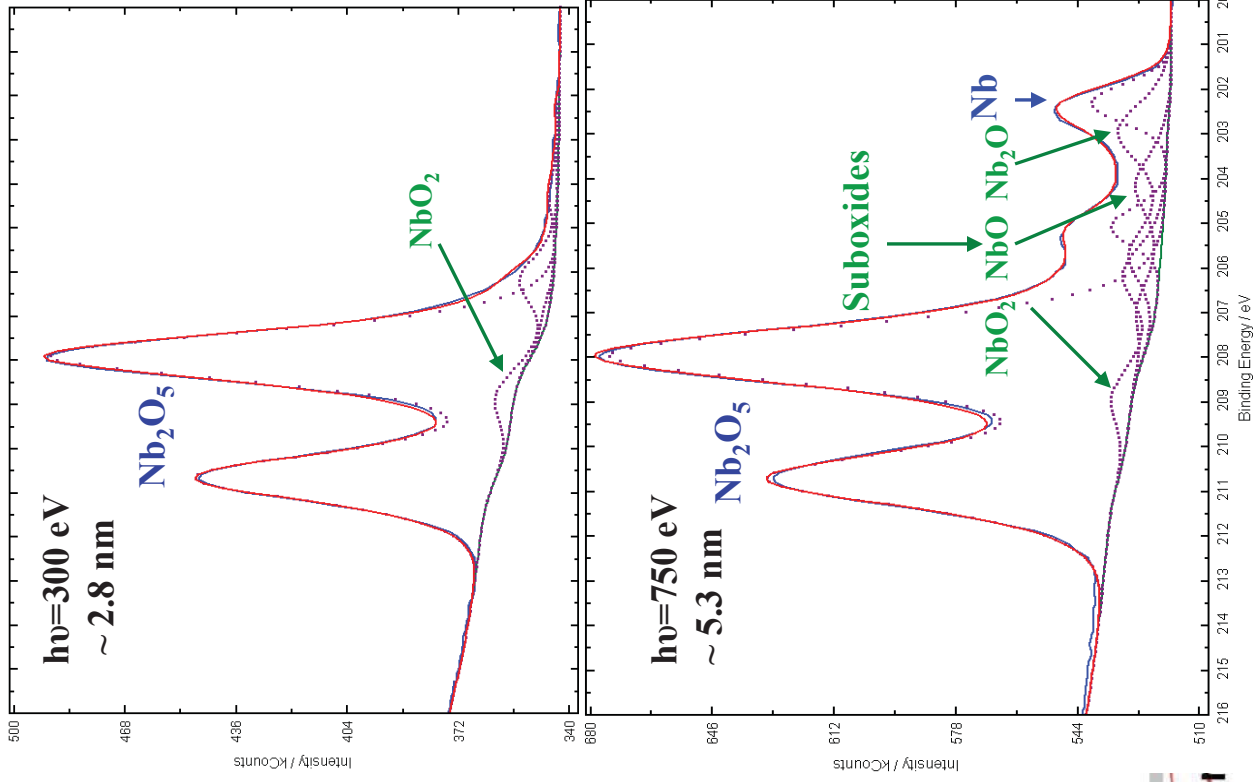
$h\nu = 300 \text{ eV}, 550 \text{ eV}, 750 \text{ eV} (100 \sim 1600 \text{ eV})$ - energy resolved XPS
Take off angle = $0^\circ, 41^\circ, 60^\circ \dots$ -angle resolved XPS.
Spot size < $250 \mu\text{m}$ with enough intensity, total energy resolution can be less than 0.1 eV .

Depth Profiling : Angle Resolved vs. Energy Resolved XPS



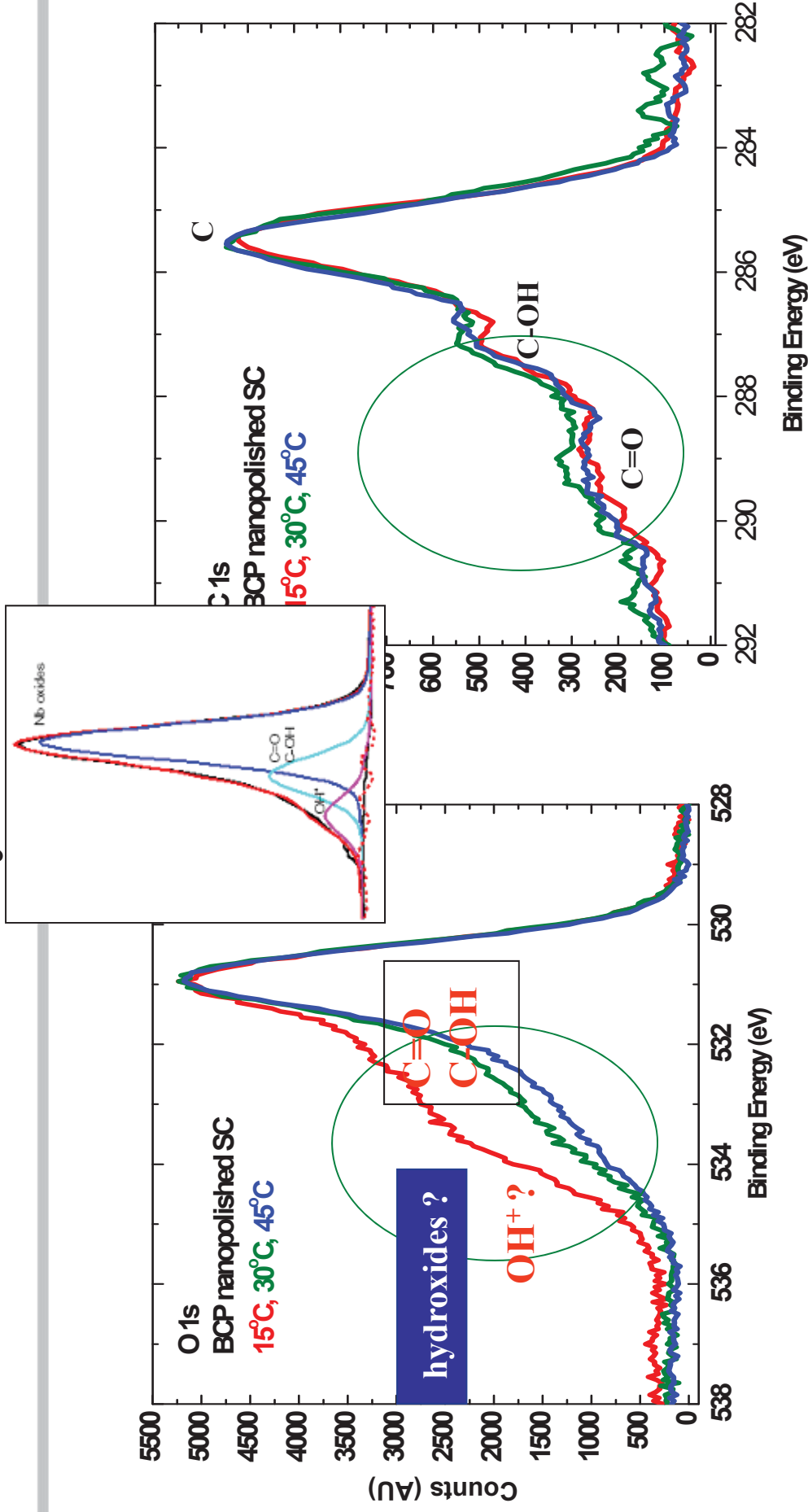
Variable photon energy XPS probes the near-surface composition more incisively and provides better depth analysis than angle-resolved XPS.

Niobium Oxide Profiling of Single Crystal Nb by Energy Resolved XPS



Energy Resolved XPS clearly reveals that between 2~3 nm Nb_2O_5 and the underlying metal is the structural transition zone of suboxides (NbO_2 , NbO and Nb_2O) with a thickness not larger than one nanometer.

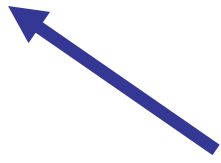
Where is the Hydroxides-ARXPS?



A less than nm hydroxide layer seems to lie below the hydrocarbons & impurities by ARXPS .

Possible Mechanisms about Q-drop & Low-T Baking

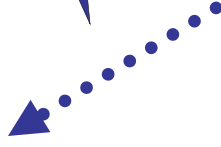
High field Q-Slope



Low T-baking



O diffusion



?

Nb_2O_5 reduction,
change of
suboxides,
interstitial oxygen.

Low temperature (100~140°C, 12~24 hrs) baking at high vacuum becomes an indispensable process to be applied to high RRR bulk niobium cavities (BCP/EP, SC/PC). The performance enhancement from baking remains even after several days of air exposure.

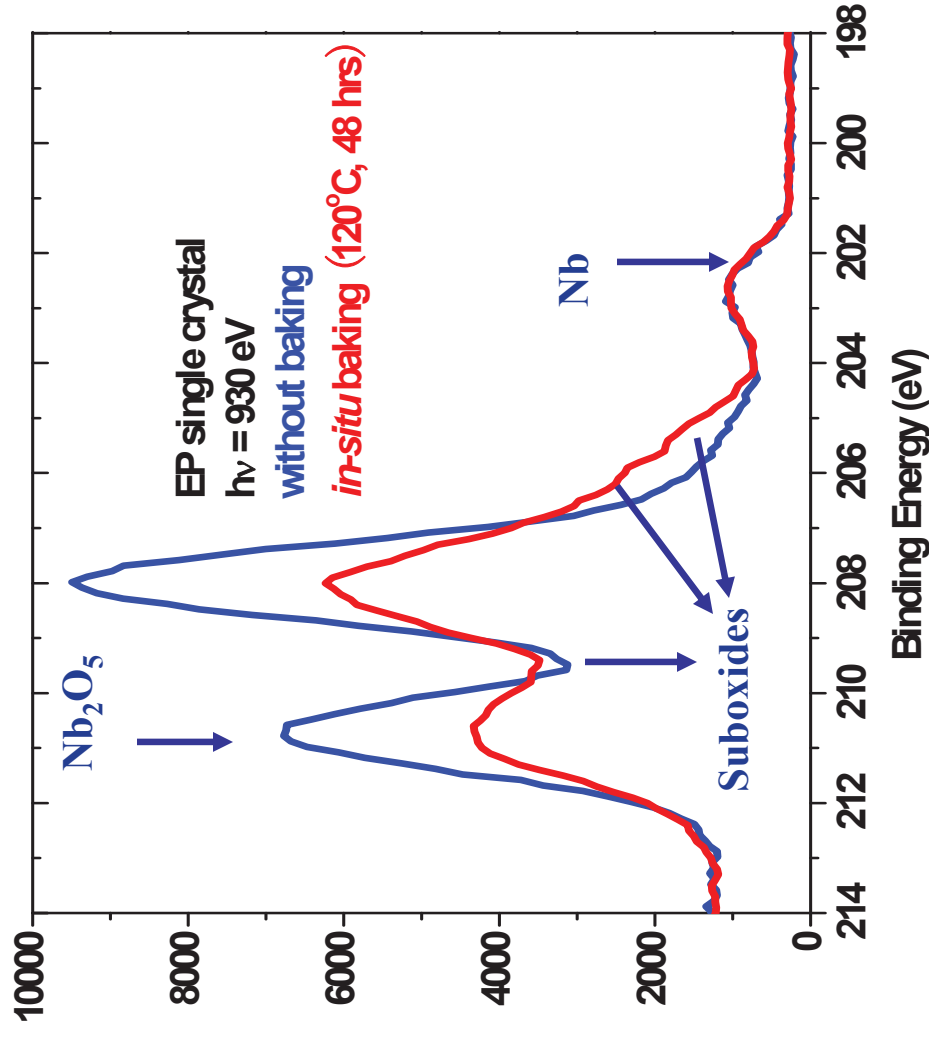
Present Baking Recipes :

Classic: 110~120°C (< 150°C), 24~48 hrs, high vacuum

B. Visentin et, Saclay: 145°C, 3~6 hrs, Air; 120°C, >24hrs, Ar.

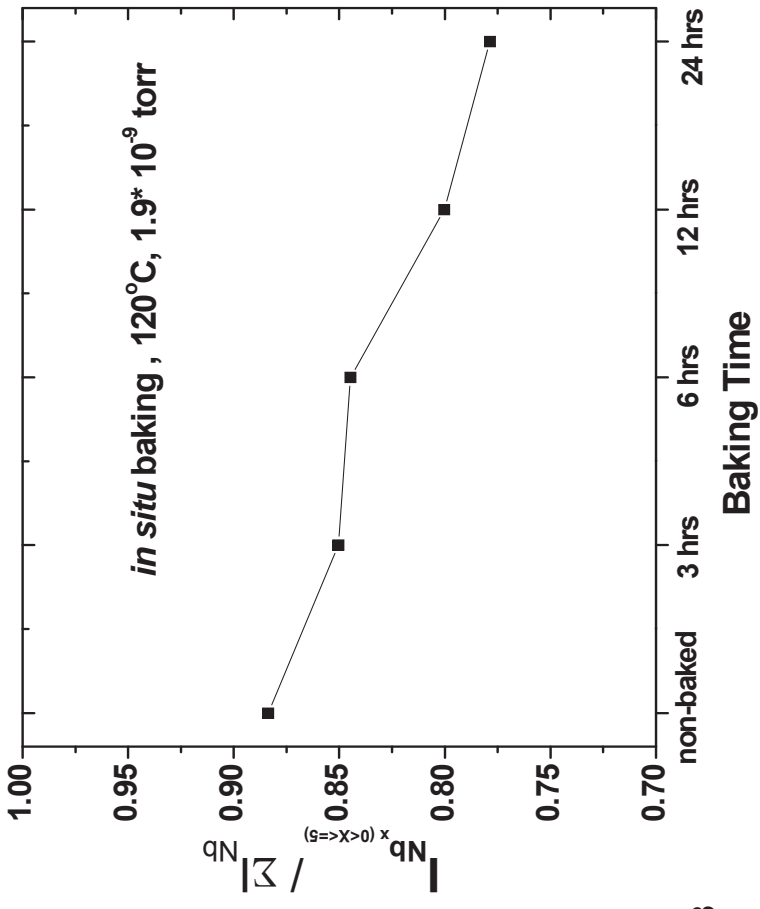
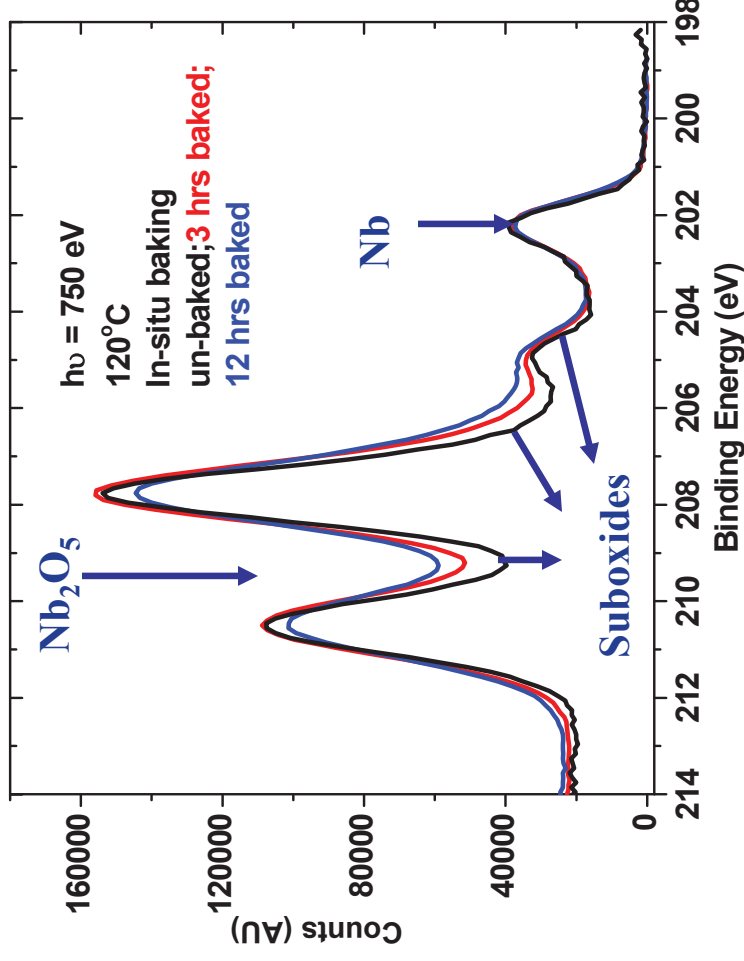
G. Ciovati et, J-lab: 120°C, 3~6 hrs, large grain, high vacuum

Niobium Surface Oxide Before/ After Low T Baking



XPS study about BCP/ EP Nb surface show that Nb_2O_5 is partly transformed into suboxide.

Nb₂O₅ Reduction Increases with the Baking Time

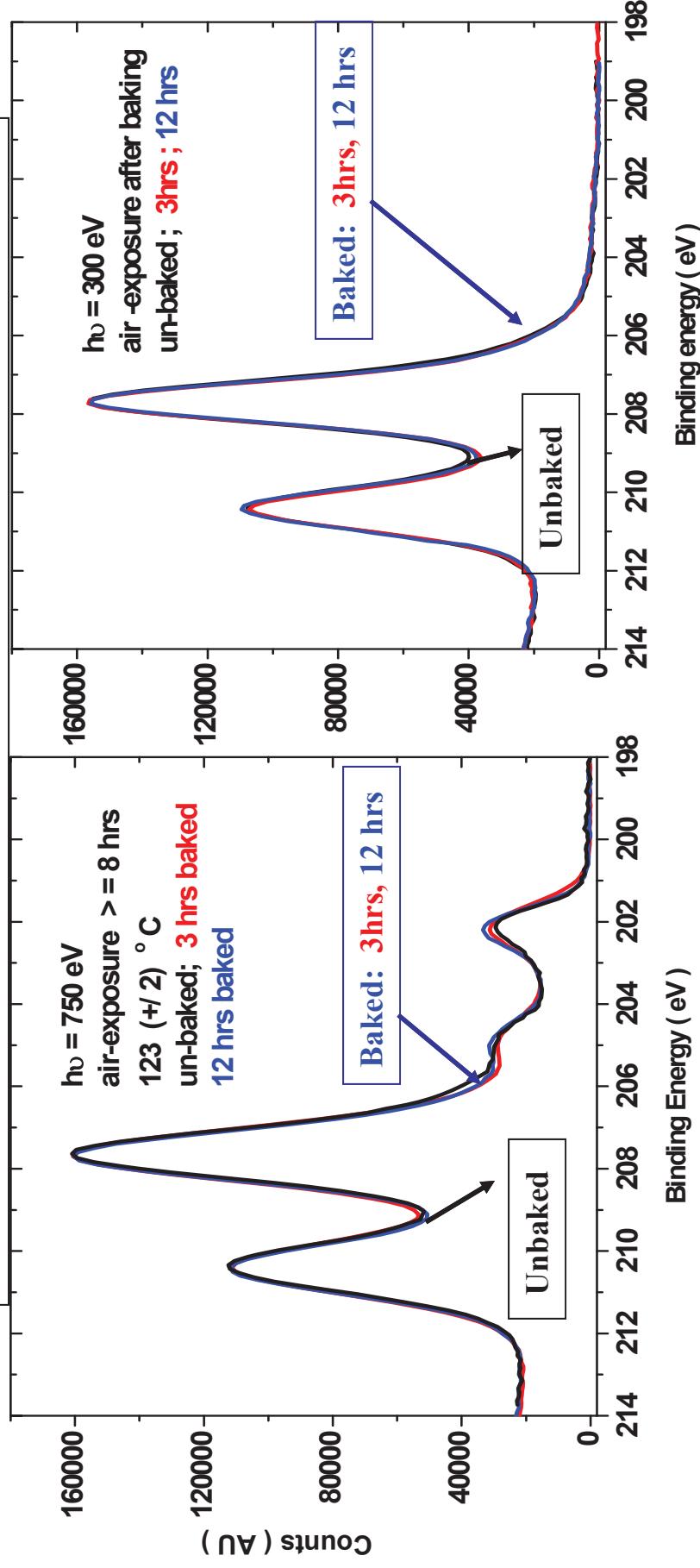


More Nb₂O₅ transforms into suboxides with the baking time

$I_{\text{total oxides}} / I_{\text{Nb}}$ decreases linearly with baking duration - surface oxide layer become thinner.

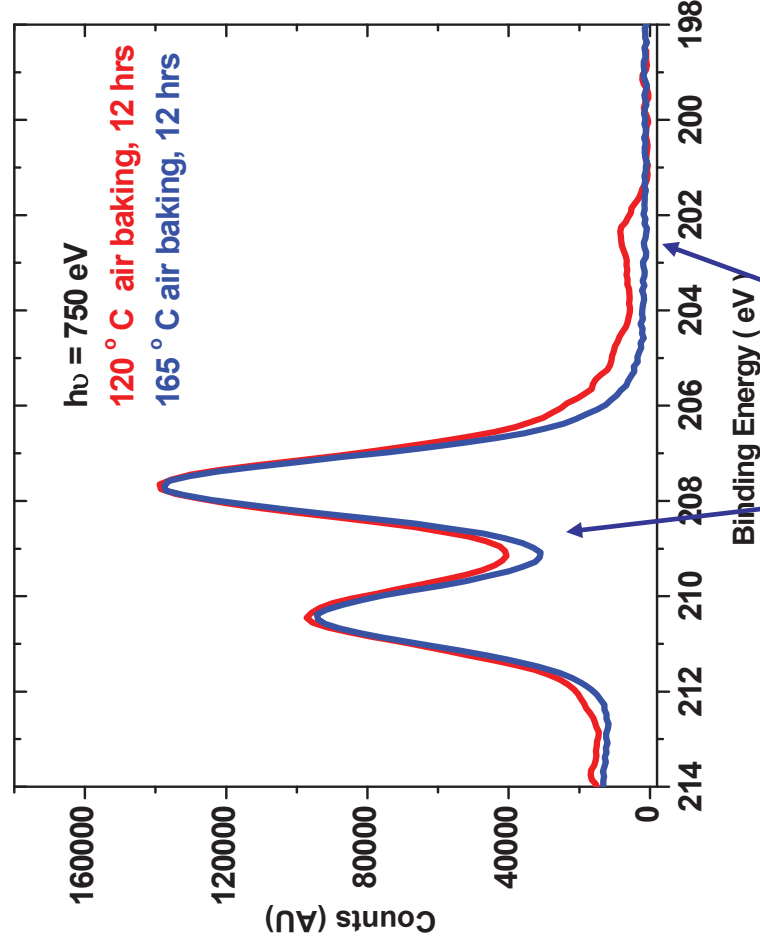
Air Exposure “Recovers” Nb Surface Oxide

The samples in this study were treated at the same condition: BCP 1:1:2, 120°C, 12hrs, air-exposure ~8hrs

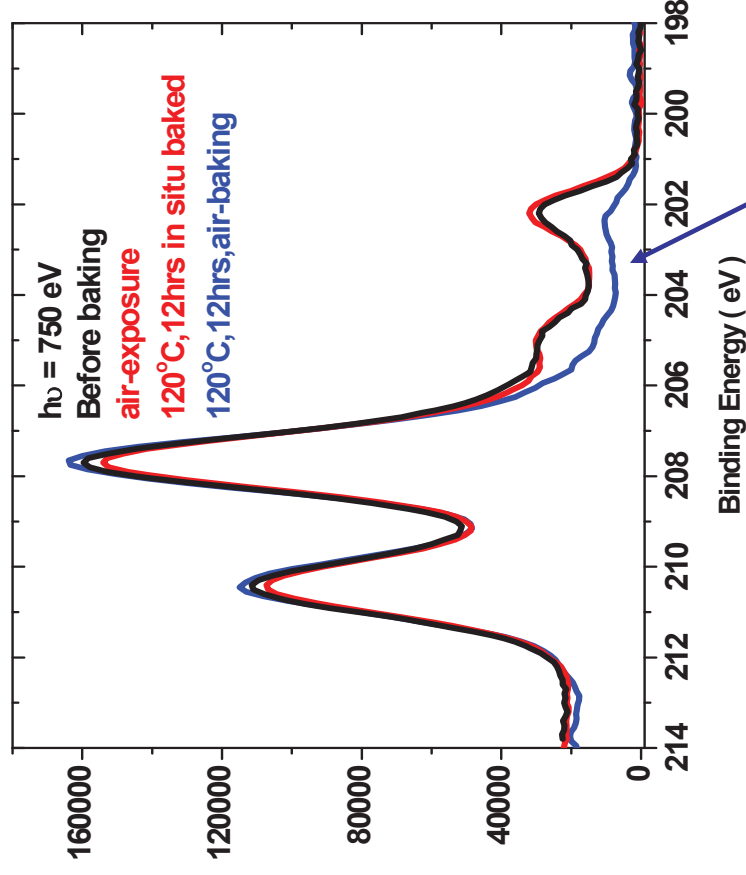


No significant change in surface oxide layer can be observed after air exposure

Air Baking Produce Thick Oxide Layer

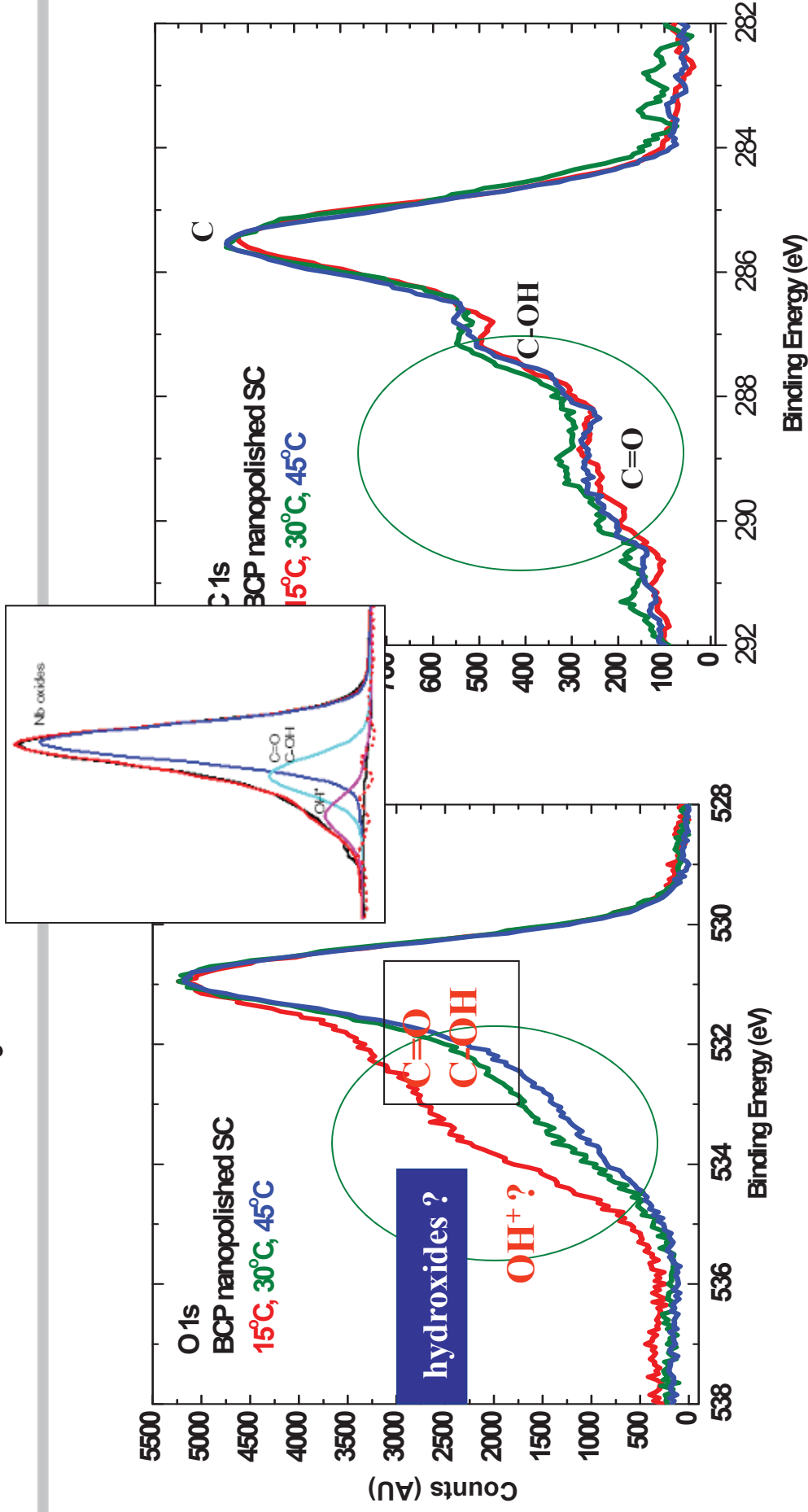


Higher temperature air baking helps make thicker oxide layer (165°C , $\sim 9 \text{ nm Nb}_2\text{O}_5$), instead of the Nb_2O_5 dissociation.



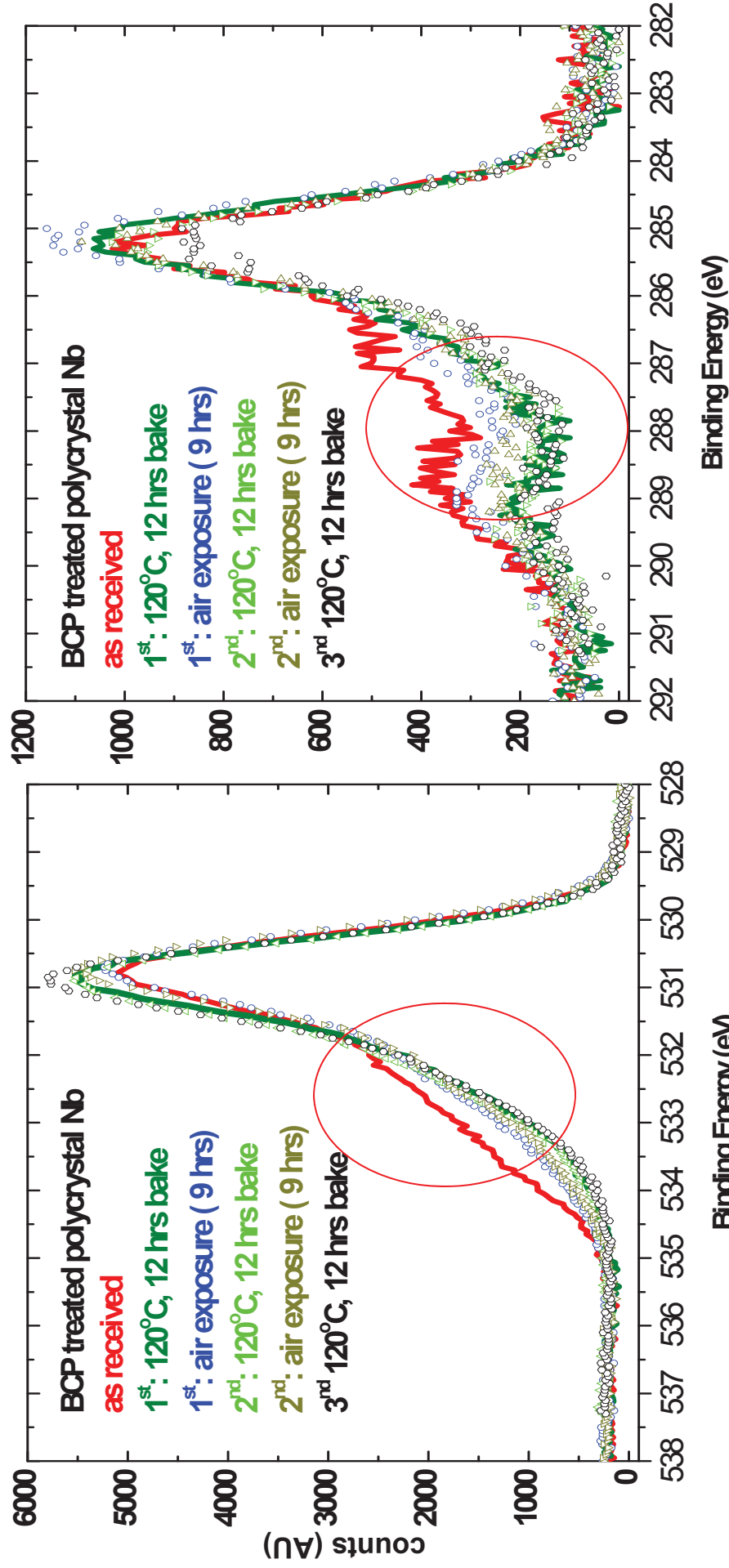
Comparing with high vacuum in-situ baked sample at the same temperatures (120°C), and durations (12 hrs), air baking makes thicker oxide layer

Where is the Hydroxides-ARXPS?



A less than nm hydroxide layer seems to lie below the hydrocarbons & impurities by ARXPS .

Where Does the Hydroxides Go After Baking & Air-exposure ?



Low-T baking helps to “remove” the top hydrocarbon layer?

Systematic Surface Oxide Study in Parallel with Practical SRF Cavities Baking Process

After baking, Nb₂O₅ is partially transformed into suboxides, the total oxide layer becomes thinner. But upon air-exposure, the change of oxide layer observed after baking disappeared . **Cavities still kept good performance, therefore the suboxides created by in situ bake is irrelevant to SRF cavity performance.**

Longer baking time at 120°C increases Nb₂O₅ reduction & transformation **Large grain cavities after 3 hrs baking shows performance improvement, the reduction of Nb₂O₅ is irrelevant to SRF cavity performance.**

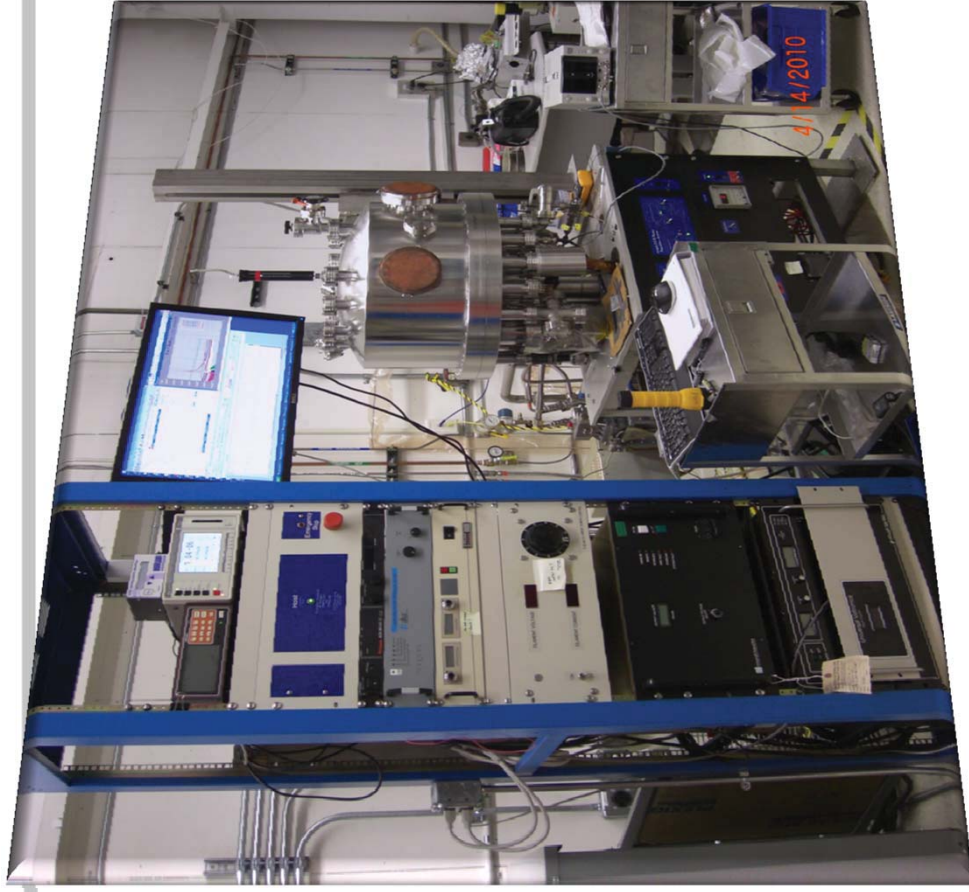
Comparing with 120°C baking, higher baking temperature (160°C) helps more oxide transformation; Air baking produce thick oxide layer.

XPS studies show that the changes in the niobium oxide layer caused by low -T baking appears to not play a big role in cavities performance.

H.Tian, C. Reece, M. Kelley, A. DeMasi, L. Pipe, K. Smith, Proceeding of 13th workshop on RF superconductivity

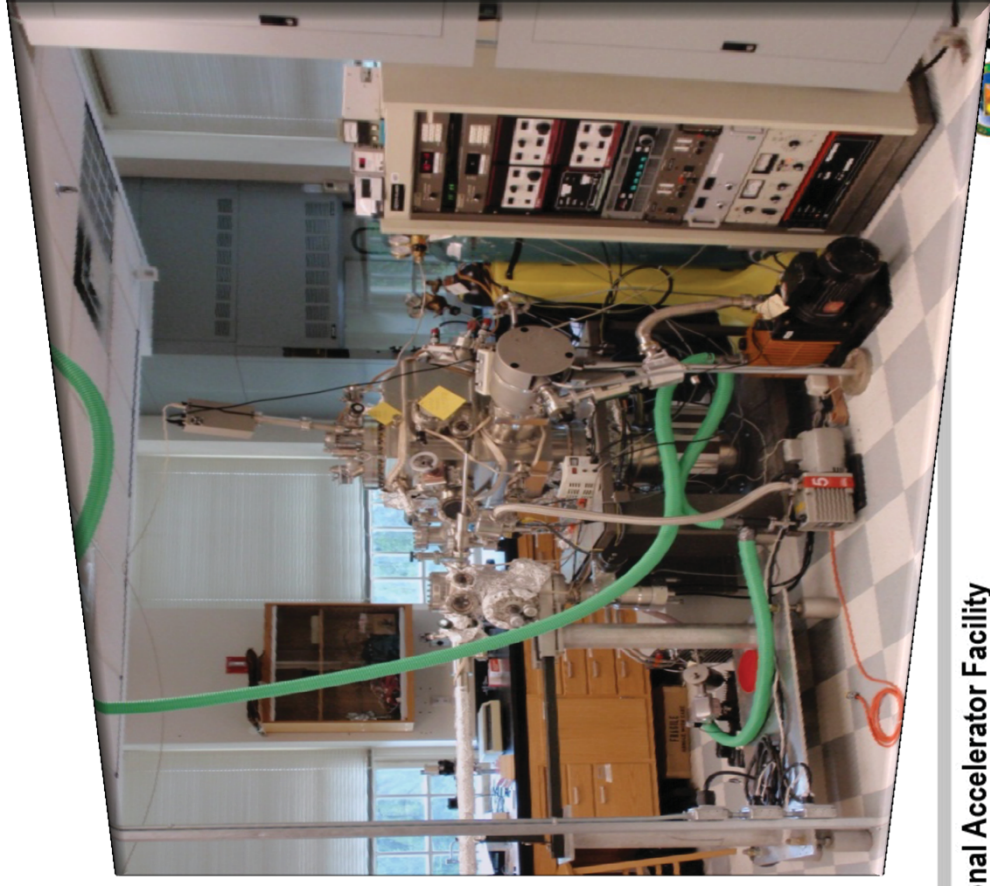
CASE STUDY: NIOBIUM THIN FILMS (JLAB/W&M)

Nb Thin Films Deposition



Deposition of Nb films with energetic
condensation via ECR under UHV
Influence of substrate nature & treatment,
coating temperature and ion energy

In-situ observation with RHEED & STM of
the nucleation and subsequent growth with
coating parameters, annealing... on single
crystal and polycrystalline substrates.



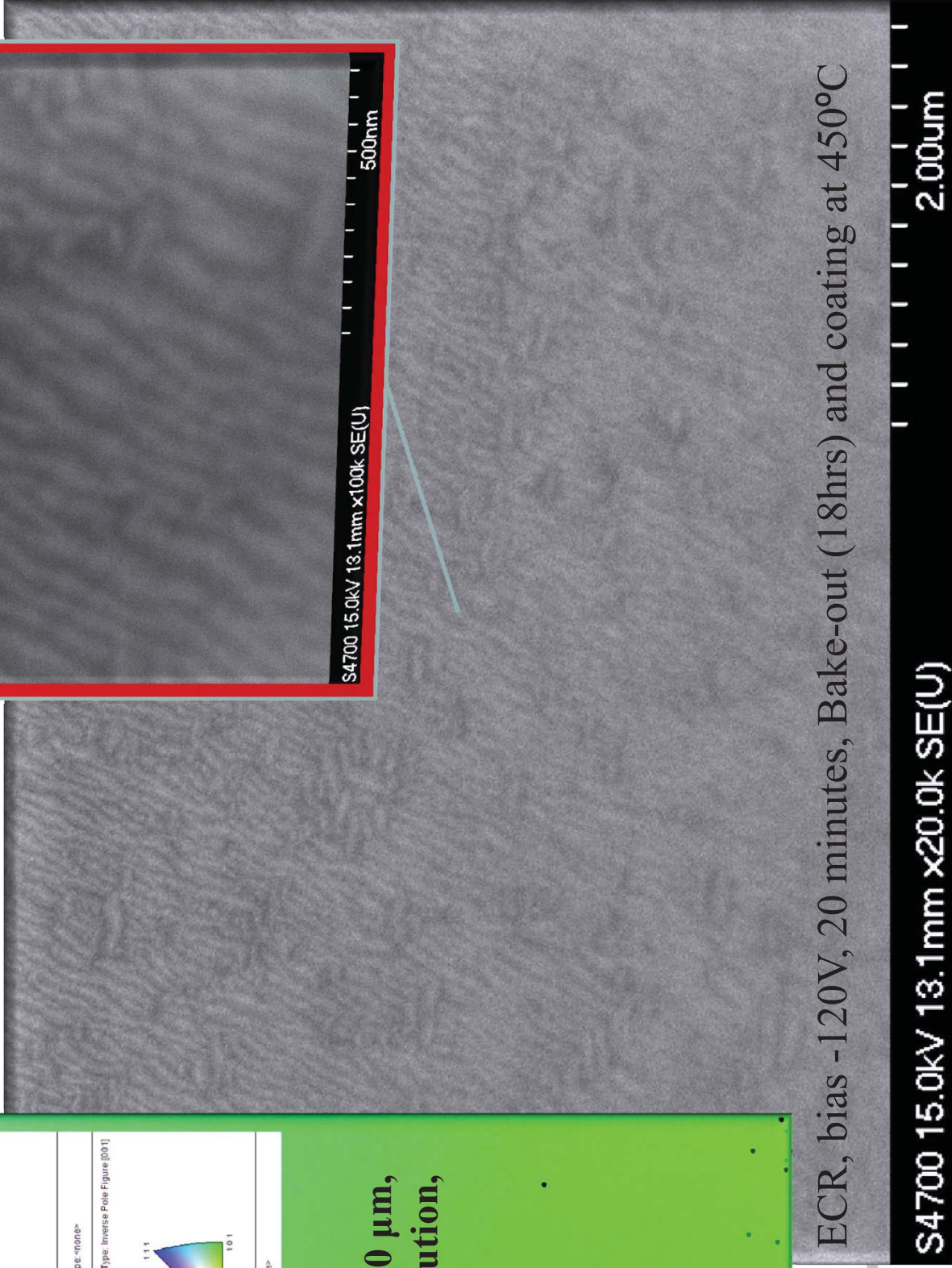
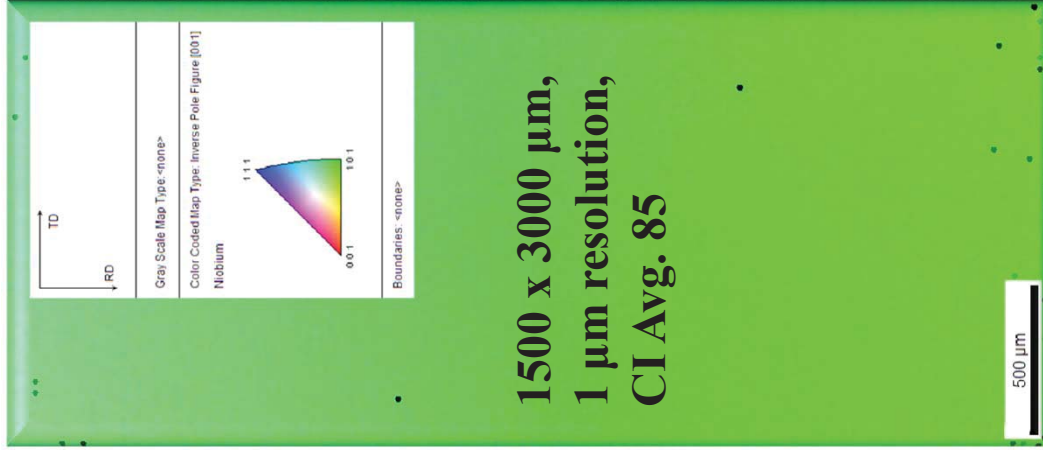
Nb Film Creation

Deposition of films in both systems
Investigation of effect of ion energy (bias), substrate nature & treatment, coating temperature

Film growth approach in 3 sequential phases:

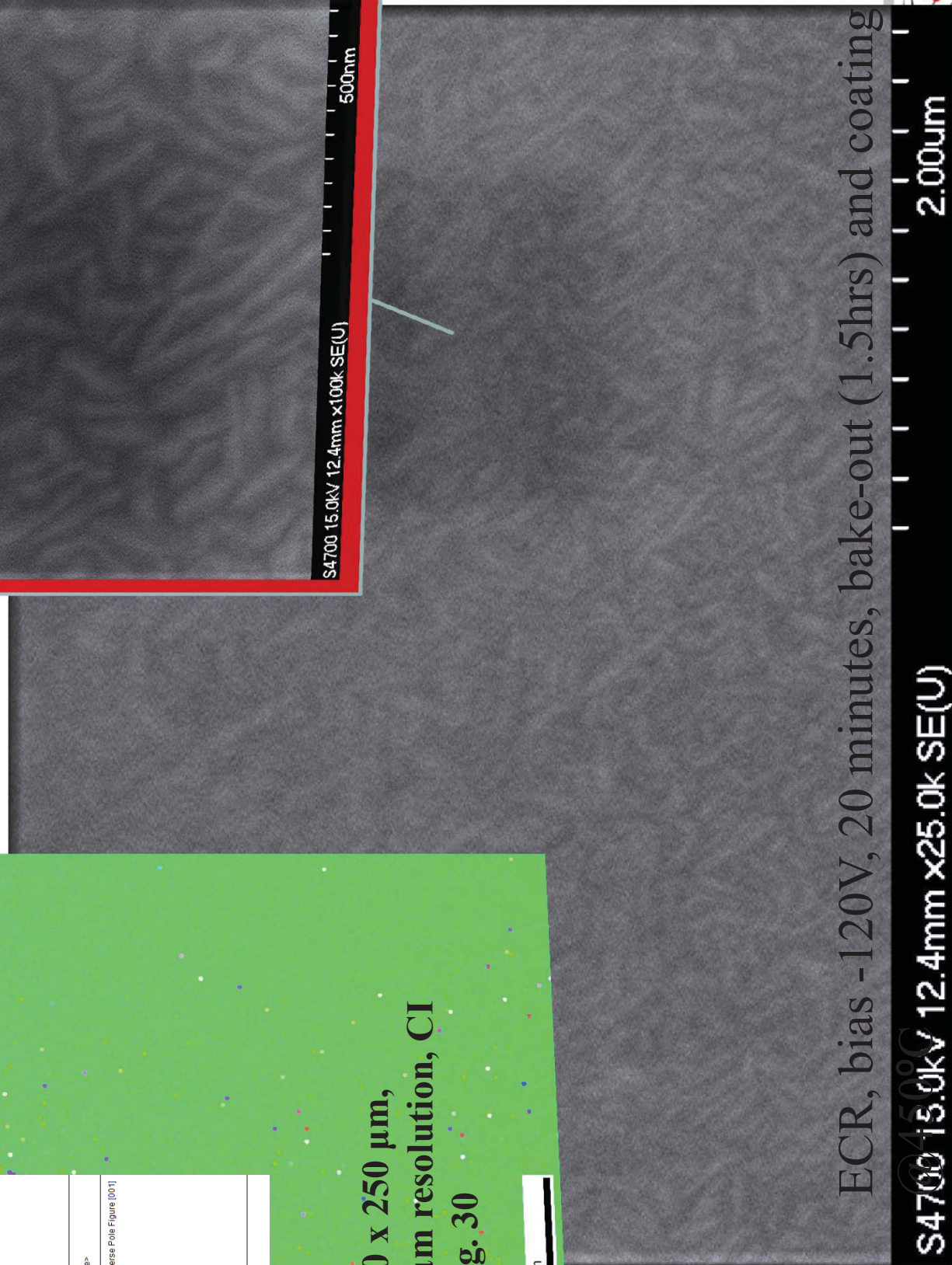
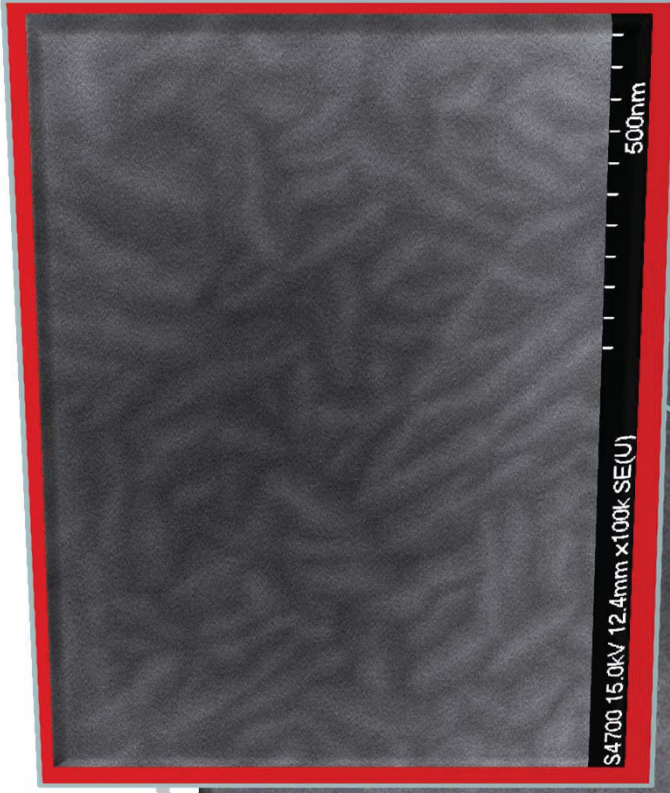
- ✓ Film nucleation on the substrate (Nb, Al₂O₃, Cu; single crystal & polycrystalline)
- ✓ Growth of an appropriate template for subsequent deposition of the final rf surface
- ✓ Deposition of the final surface optimized for minimum defect density.

Nb/a-Al₂O₃ (11-20)



ECR, bias -120V, 20 minutes, Bake-out (18hrs) and coating at 450°C

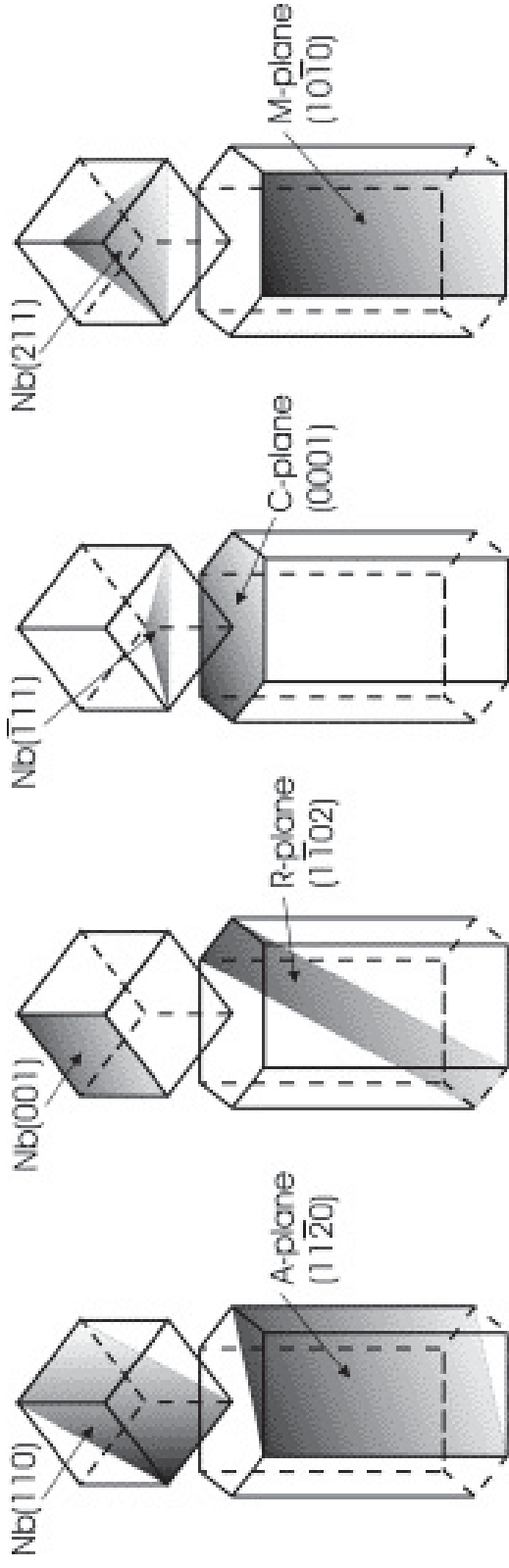
Nb/c-Al₂O₃ (0001)



ECR, bias -120V, 20 minutes, bake-out (1.5hrs) and coating

Thin Films: niobium

Anticipated epitaxial relationships between Nb (bcc) and Al_2O_3 (hcp)



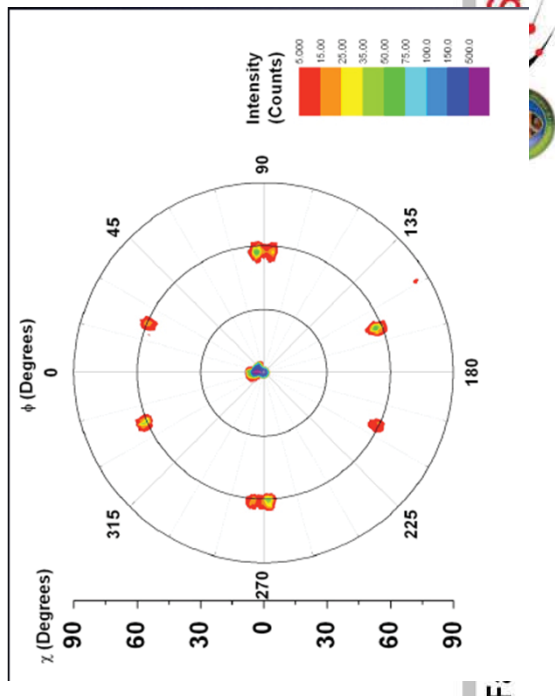
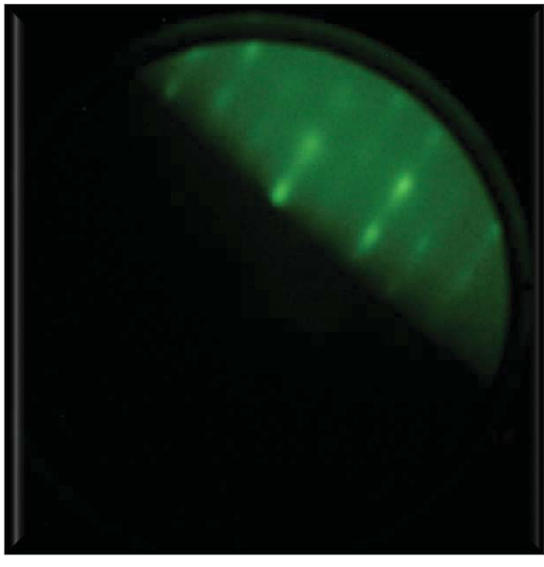
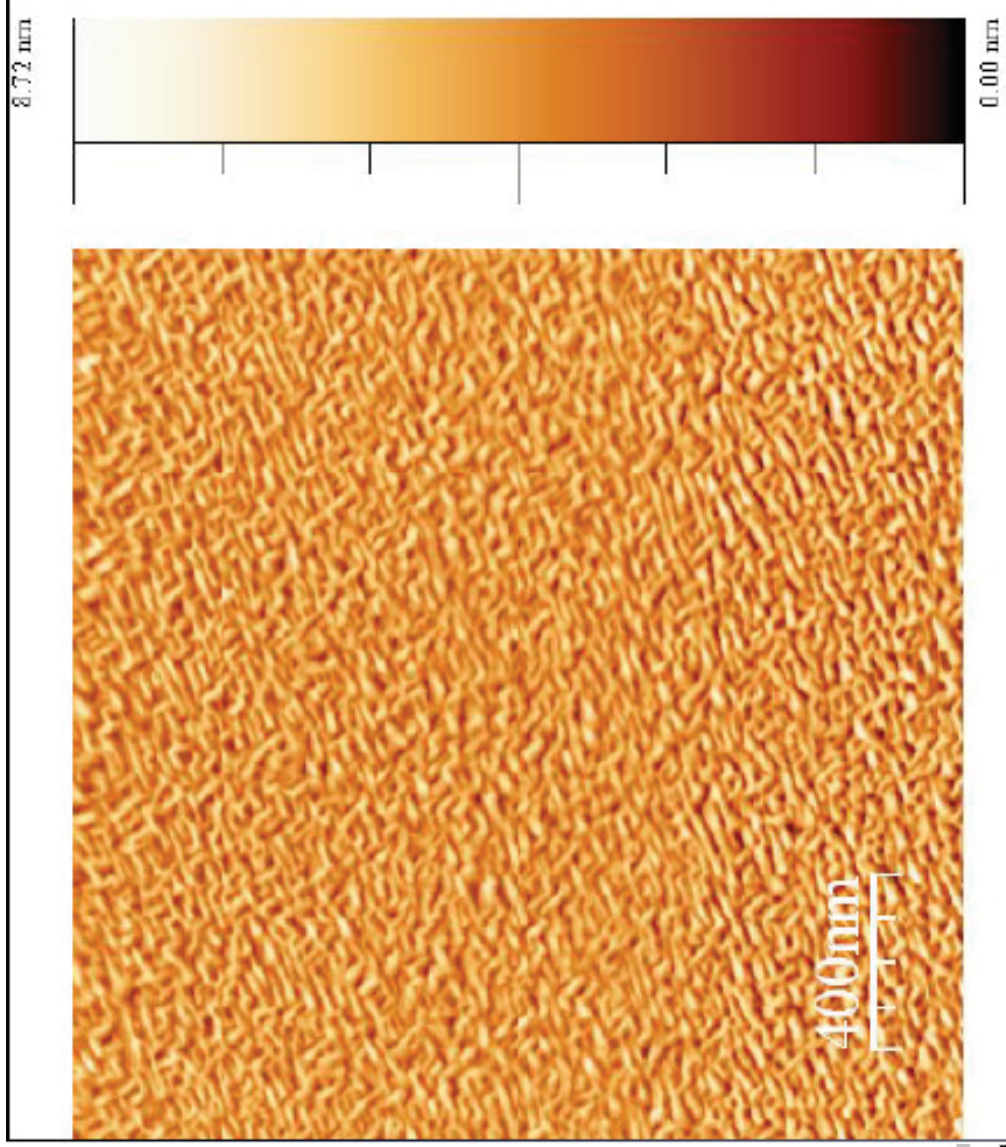
A. R. Wildes et al., Thin Solid Films, 401 7 (2001)

In all cases, Nb films grow along (110) on a-plane sapphire (11-20) for both magnetron sputtered films and ECR films with different bias voltages.

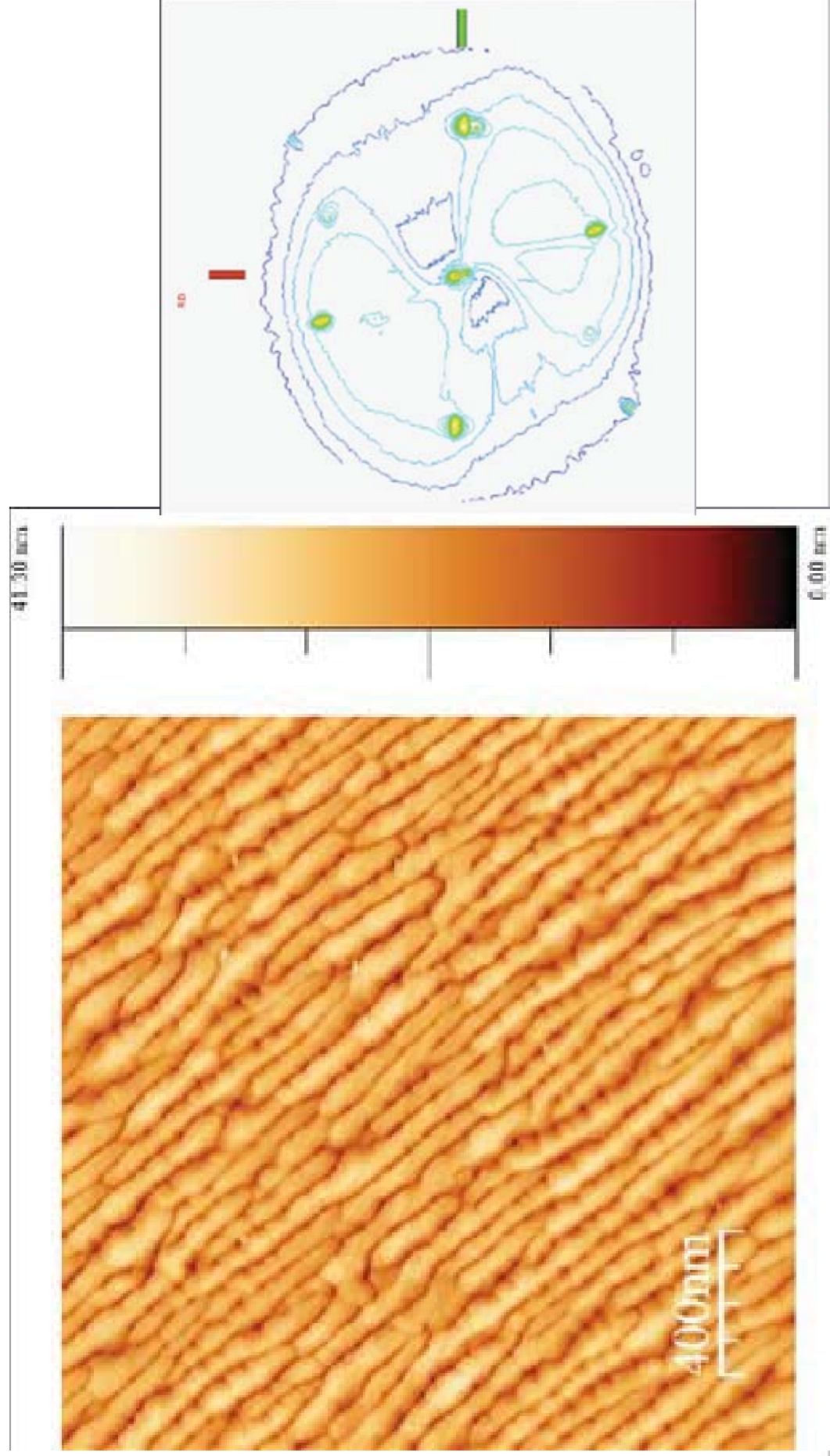
Nb films deposited by energetic condensation on c-plane sapphire (0001) grow along (110) not (111) as anticipated.

Due to higher ion incident energy? (T. Wagner et al., J. Mat. Res. Vol. 11, n°5, pp. 1255-1264 (1996), Mat. Res. Symp. Vol. 440, pp.151-156, (1997)

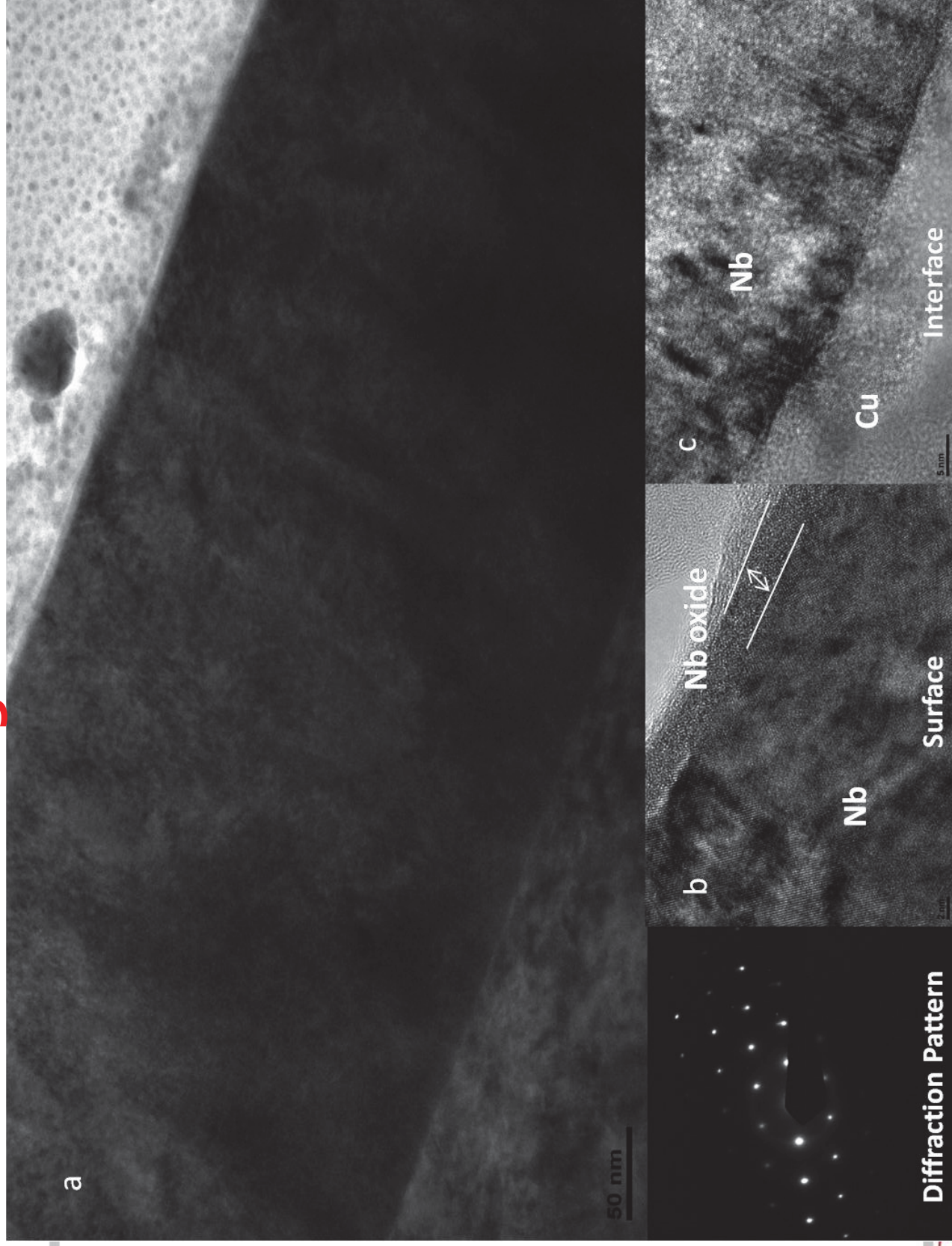
Nb/Al₂O₃ (11-20), 50nm , magnetron sputtered @ 600°C



Nb/Al₂O₃ (11-20), 600nm, magnetron sputtered @ 600°C



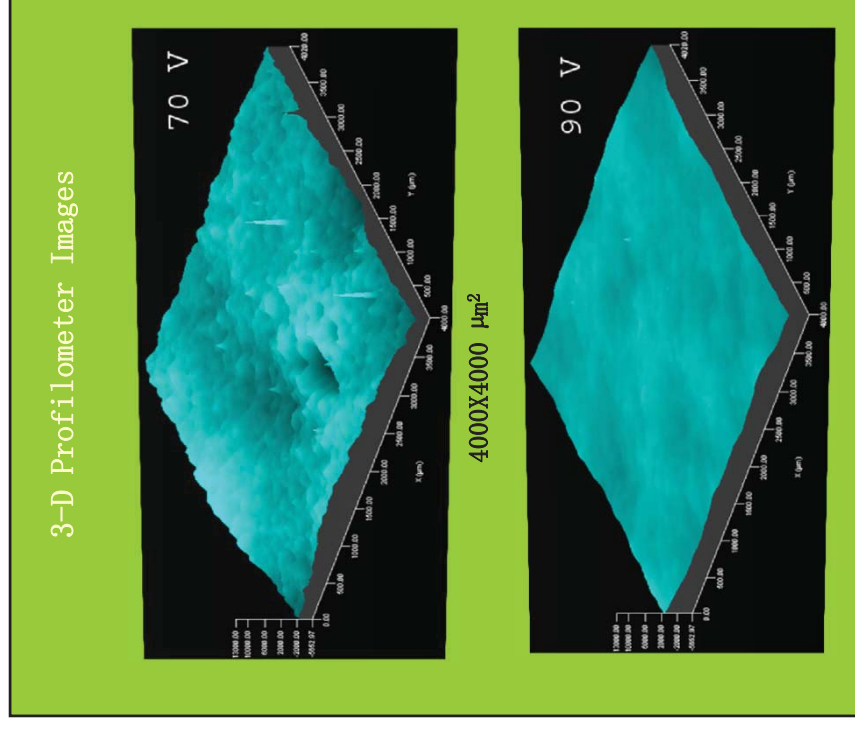
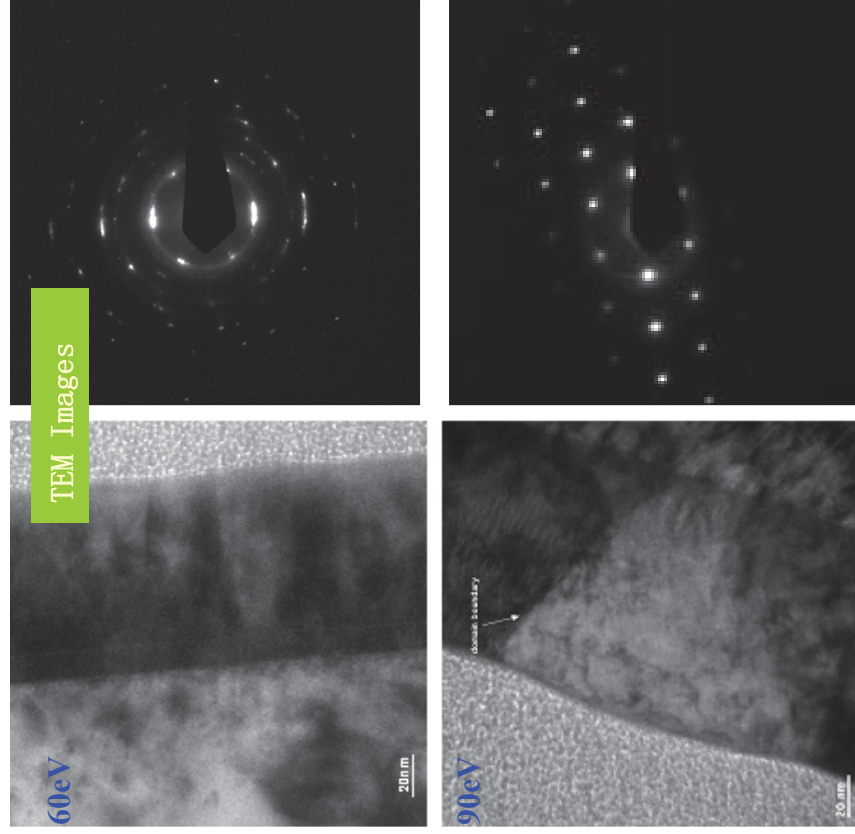
Nb/CuO – High Resolution TEM



Diffraction Pattern

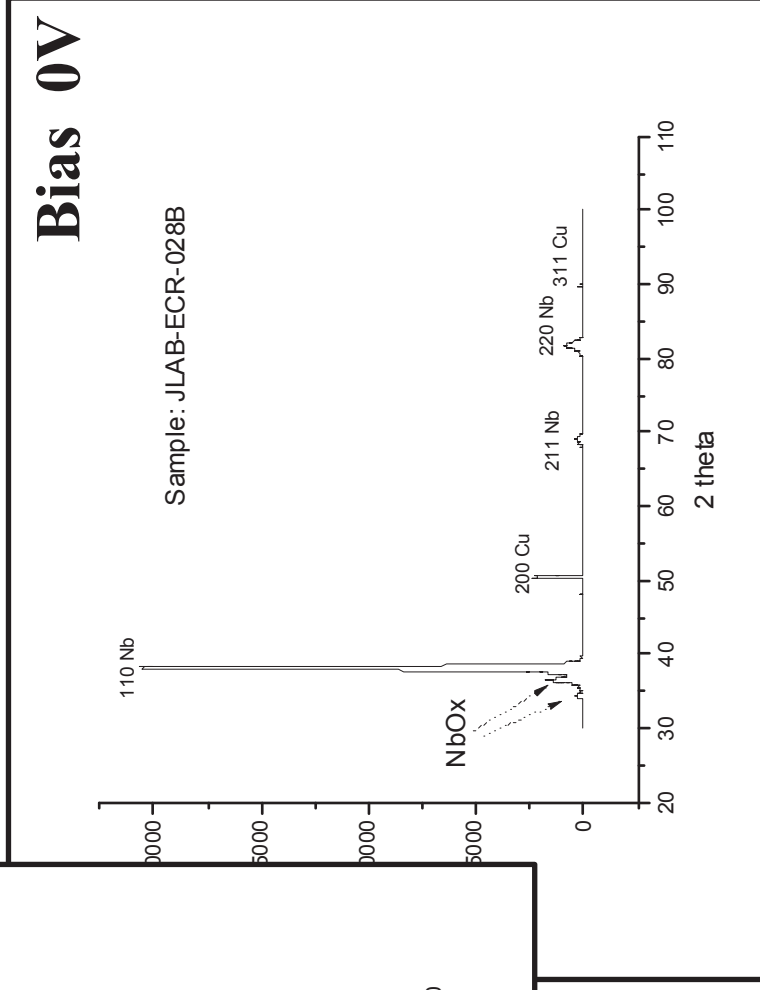
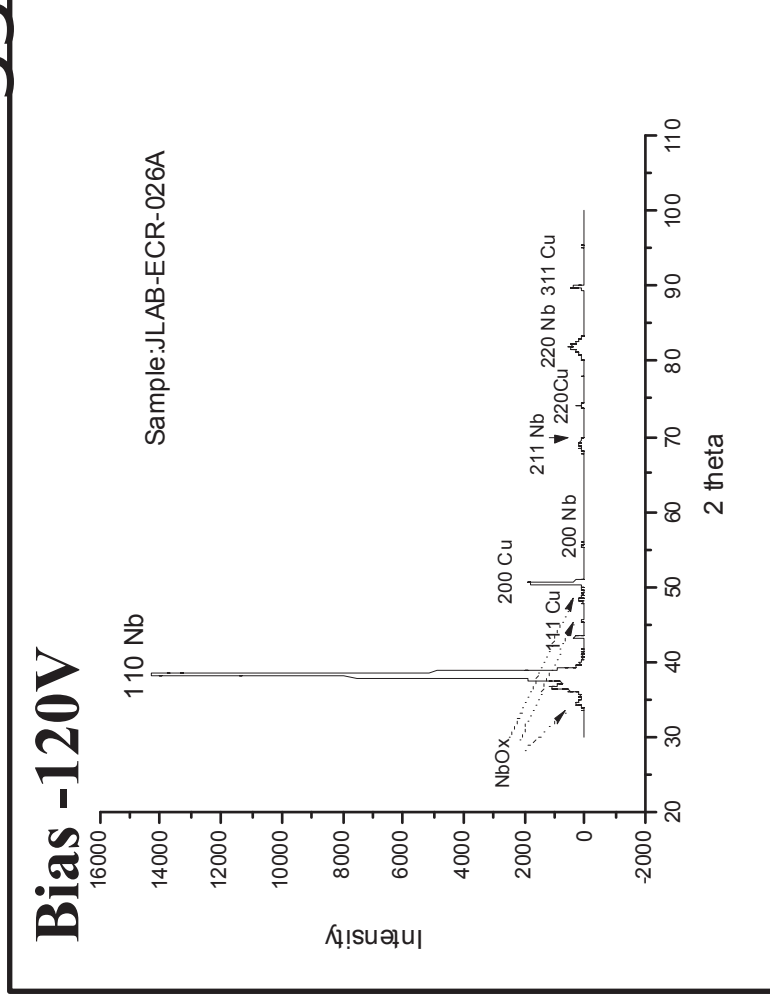
Effect of Bias Voltage for Nb/CuO

- Obvious advantage: no noble gas for plasma creation
- Sample tests: good RRR and T_c , 100-nm grain size, lower defect density and smooth surfaces

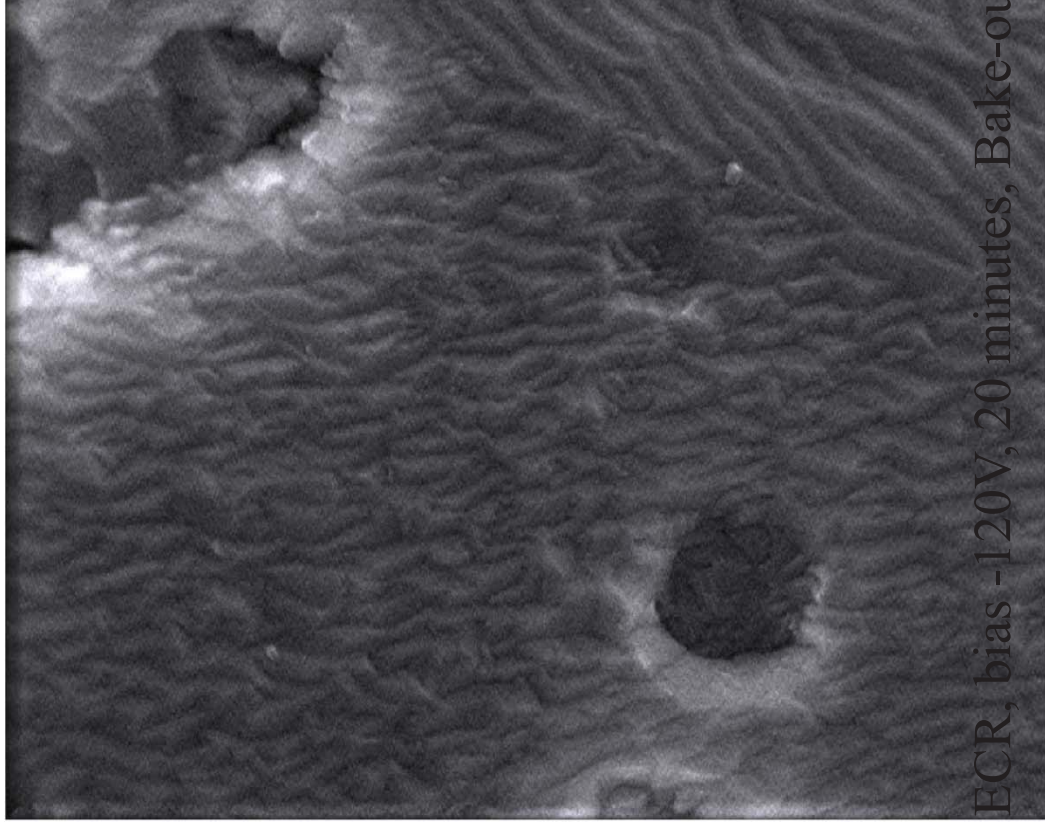


Effect of Bias Voltage for Nb/CuO

XRD – Bragg-Brentano



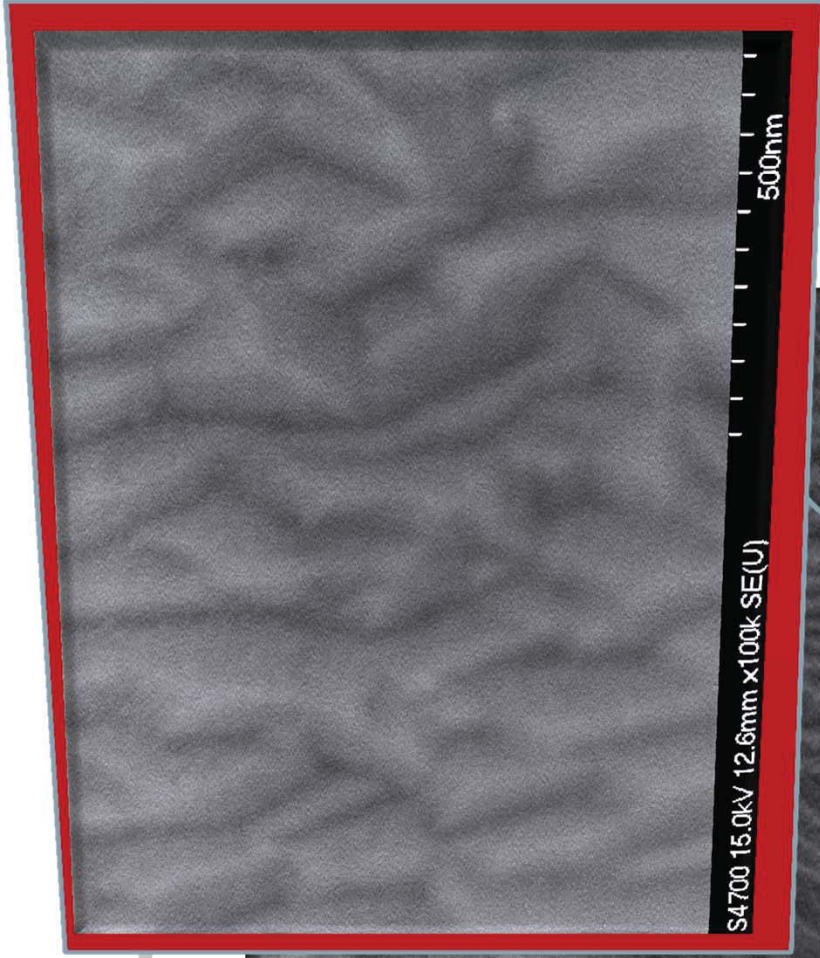
Nb/Cu



ECR, bias -120V, 20 minutes, Bake-out (18hrs) and coating at 450°C

S4700 15.0kV 12.6mm x20.0k SE(U)

Jefferson Lab



S4700 15.0kV 12.6mm x100k SE(U)

500nm

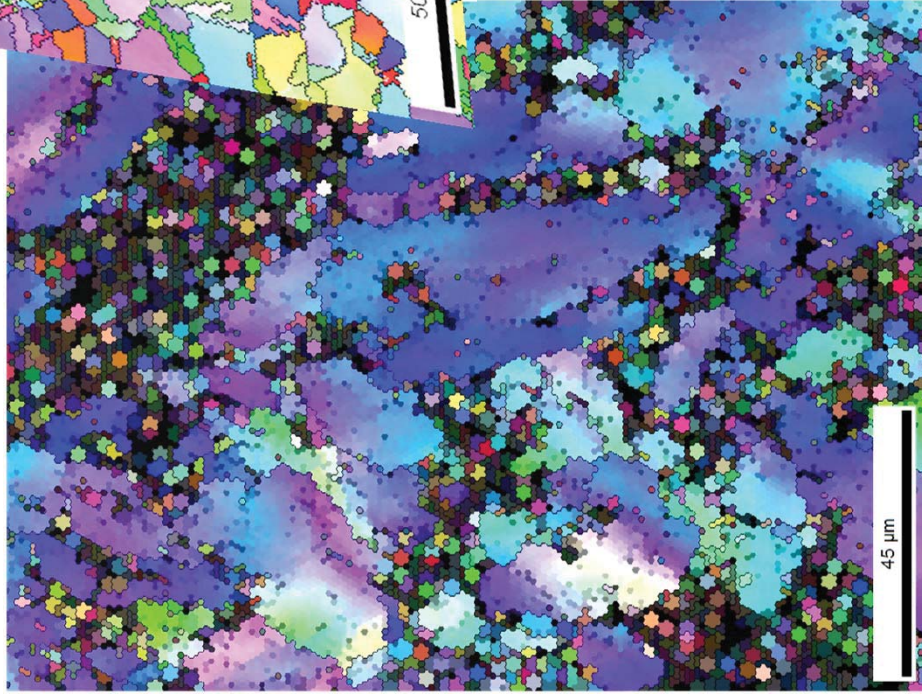
Effect of Bias Voltage for Nb/Cu

150 x 150 μm , 1 μm resolution,
CI Avg. 0.71



Nb/Cu, Bias -120V

20', Bake-out (18hrs) and coating at 450°C



120 x 150
 μm , 1 μm
resolution,
CI 0.23

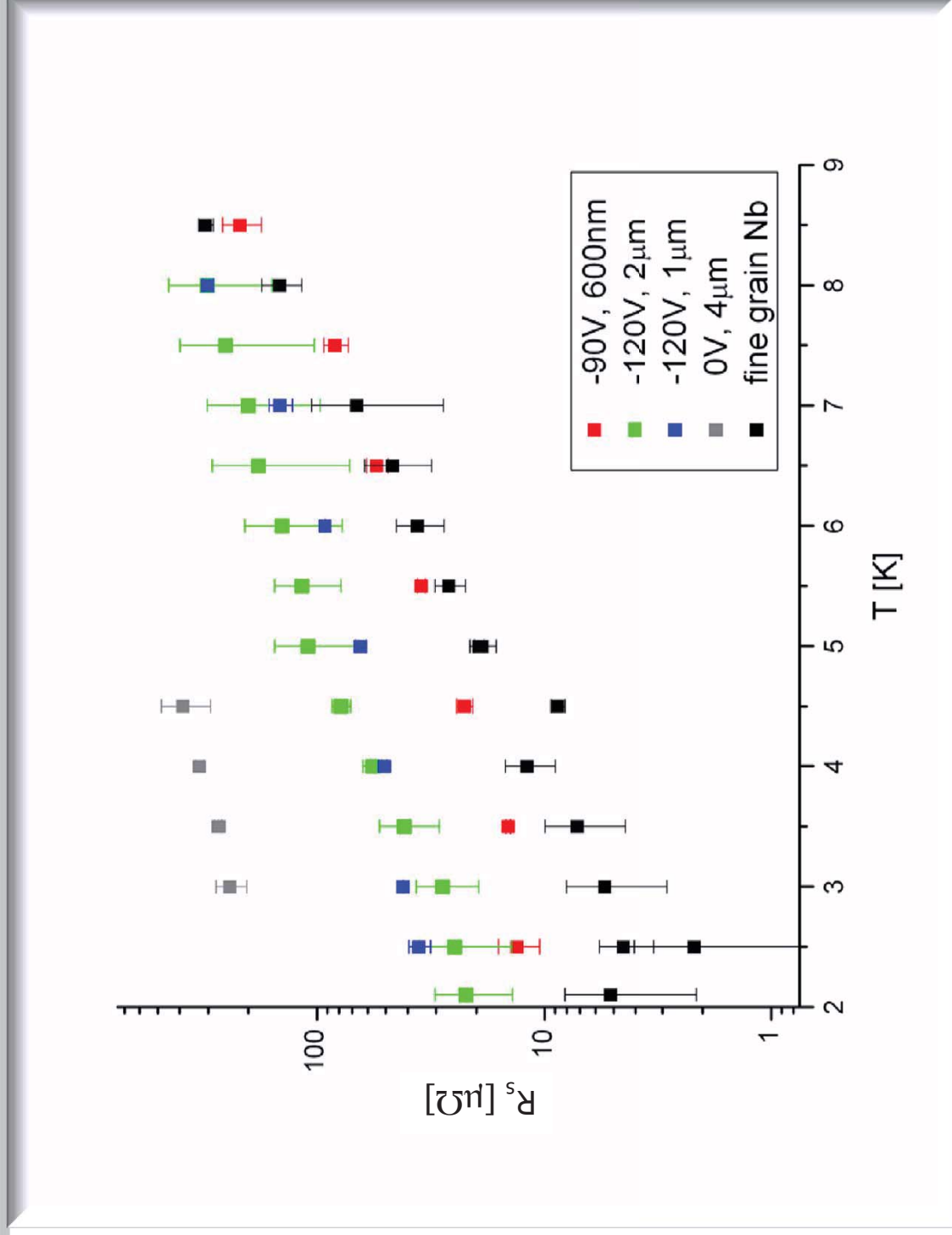
50 x 75 μm ,
1 μm
resolution,
CI 0.16

Nb/Cu, Bias 0V

45', Bake-out (18hrs) and coating at
450°C



1st SIC Measurements on Nb/CuO



High quality Nb films

Run away heater: substrates heat treated to $T > 900^\circ\text{C}$
2' coating at -120V bias & 450°C

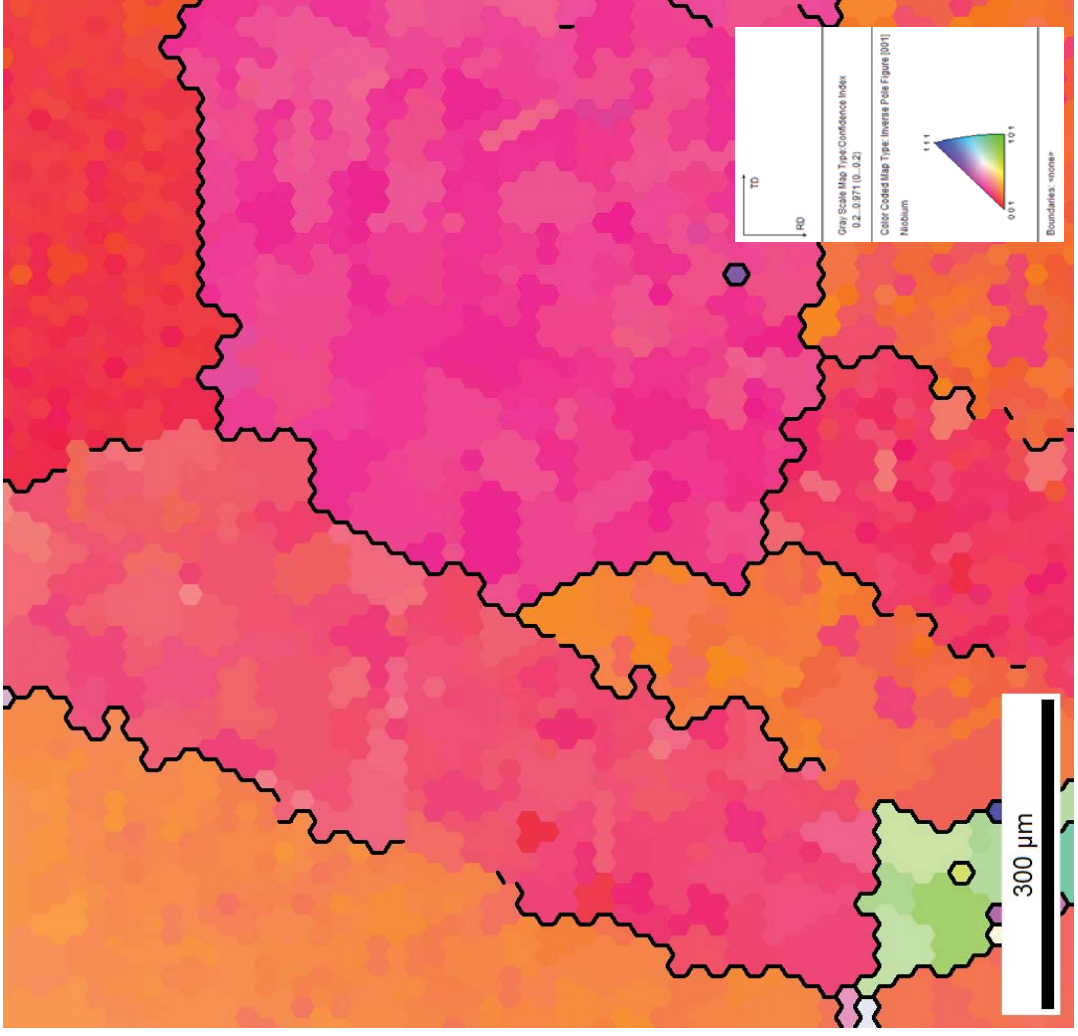
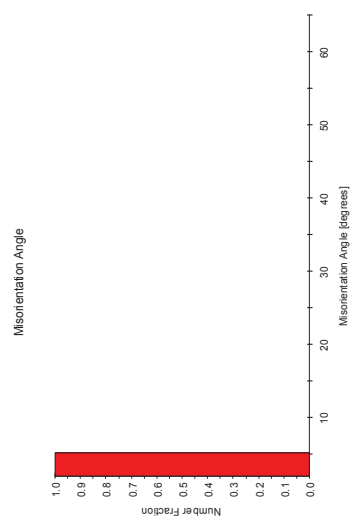
Analyses on Nb/Cu and Nb/ Al_2O_3 (11-20)

$T_c = 9.25\text{K}$, RRR = 73.5

Thickness: 234 nm for ~ 2' coating!

Nb/ Al_2O_3 (11-20) displays high quality in crystallinity, very smooth.
Due to surface defect annealing on the substrate prior to coating?

Nb/Cu exhibits very large Nb grains due to the full re-crystallization of the Cu substrate. However, additionally to the roughness of the Cu substrate, the steps between grains are very high, most likely due to the re-crystallization process.
Sharp interface



TF-JLAB-ECR-Nb-a-Al₂O₃-033

Roughness Analysis

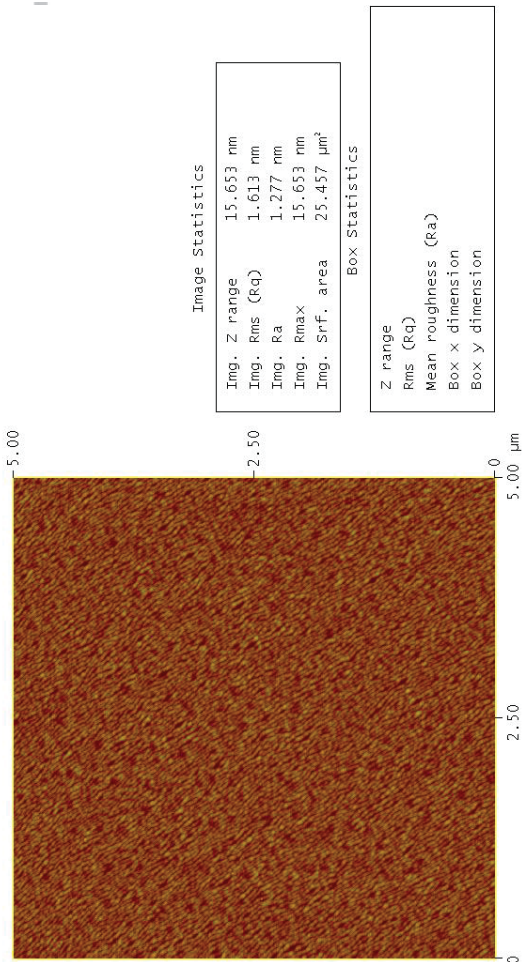
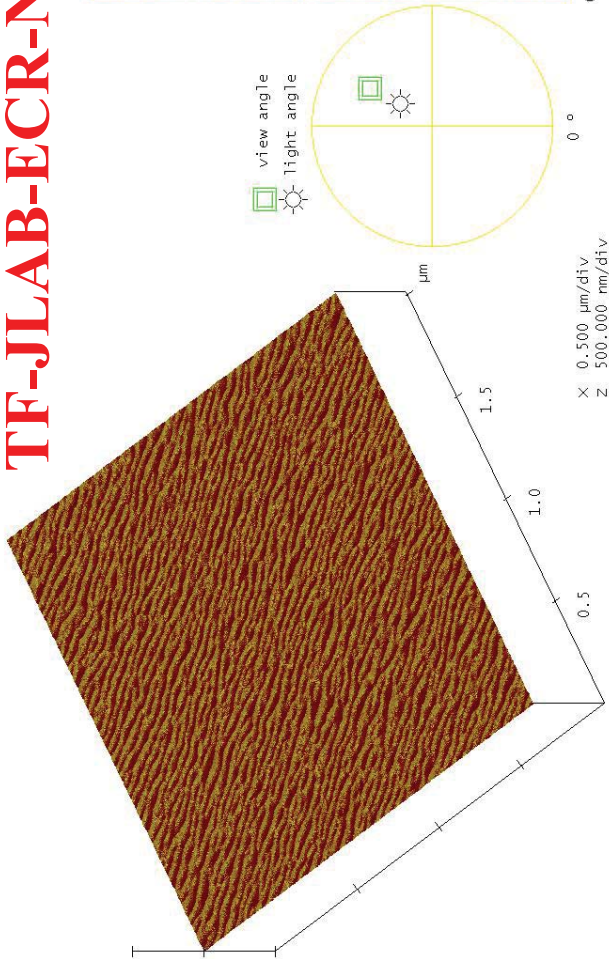


Image Statistics

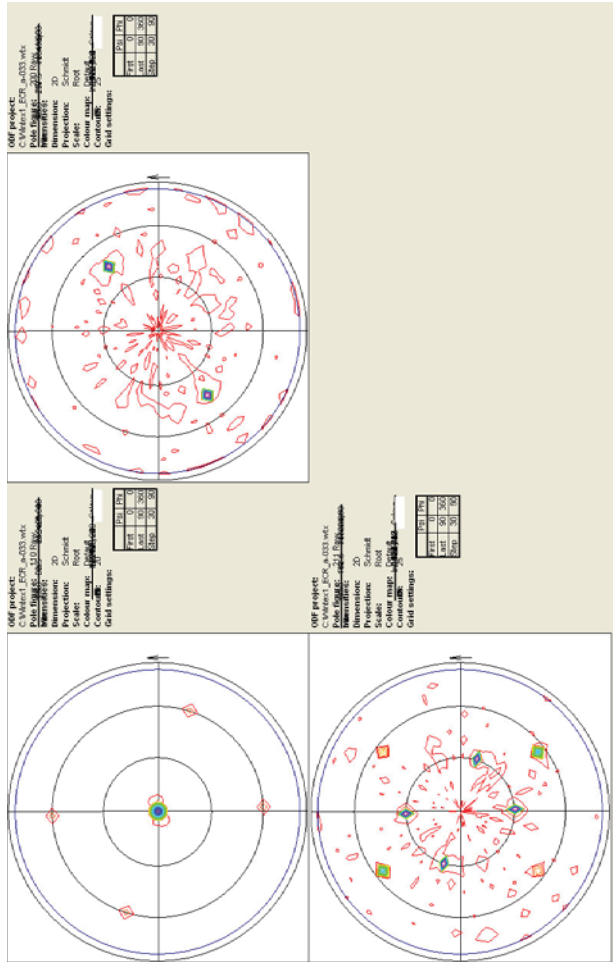
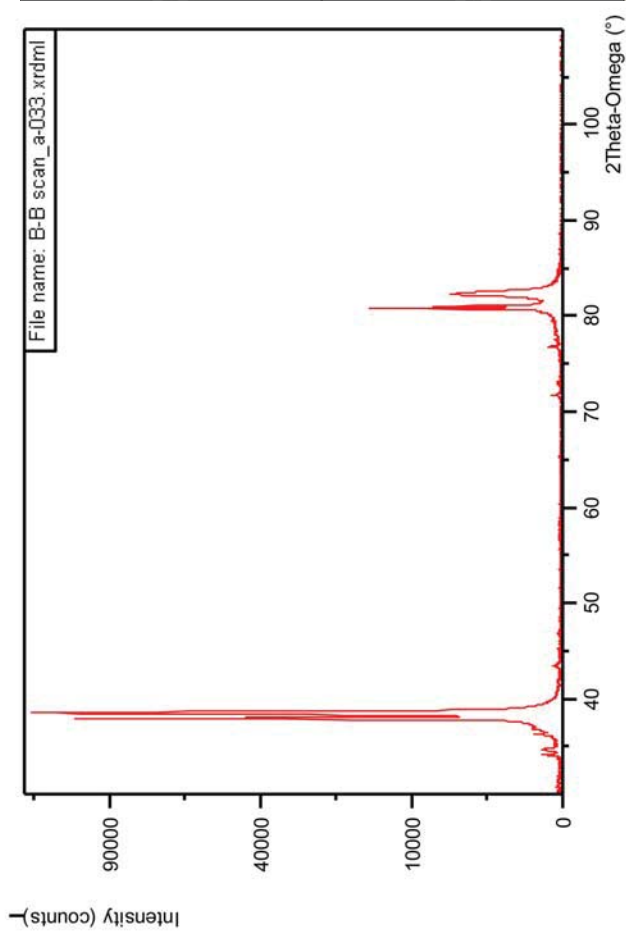
Img. Z range	15.653 nm
Img. Rms (Rq)	1.613 nm
Img. Ra	1.277 nm
Img. Rmax	15.653 nm
Img. Srf. area	25.457 µm²

Box Statistics

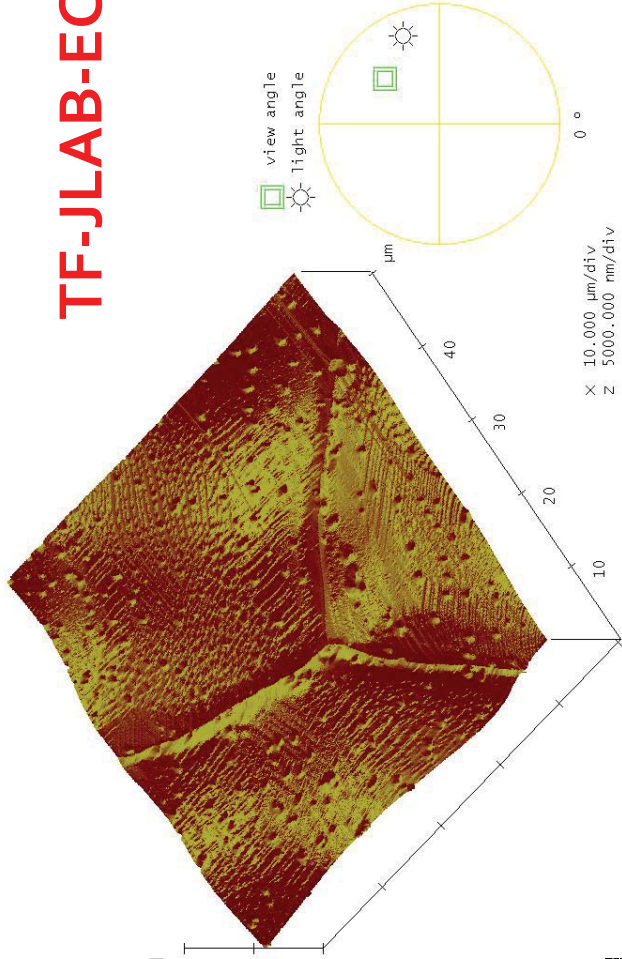
Z range	
Rms (Rq)	
Mean roughness (Ra)	
Box X dimension	
Box Y dimension	

tf-jlab-ecr-nb-a1203-a-033-5mm-2.001

Summit Off Zero Cross. Off Box Cursor



TF-JLAB-ECR-Nb-Cu-033



Stopband Execute Cursor

Peak Surface Area Summit Zero Crossing

s Analysis

Roughnes

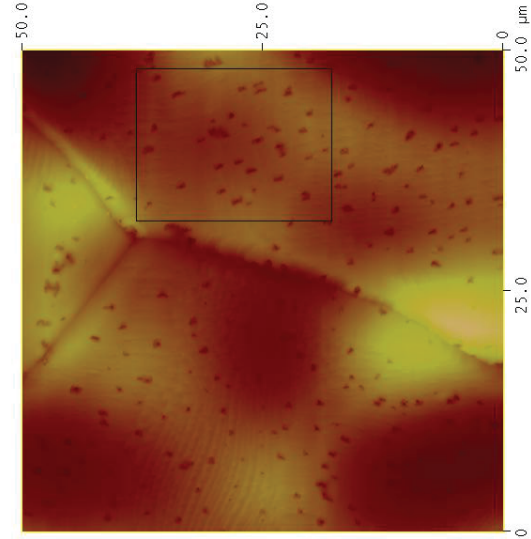


Image Statistics

Img. Z range	2.169 µm
Img. Rms (Rq)	320.36 nm
Img. Ra	242.46 nm
Img. Rmax	2.169 µm
Img. Srf. area	2554.4 µm²

Box Statistics

Z range	883.33 nm
Rms (Rq)	96.380 nm
Mean roughness (Ra)	78.000 nm
Box x dimension	15.851 µm
Box y dimension	20.352 µm

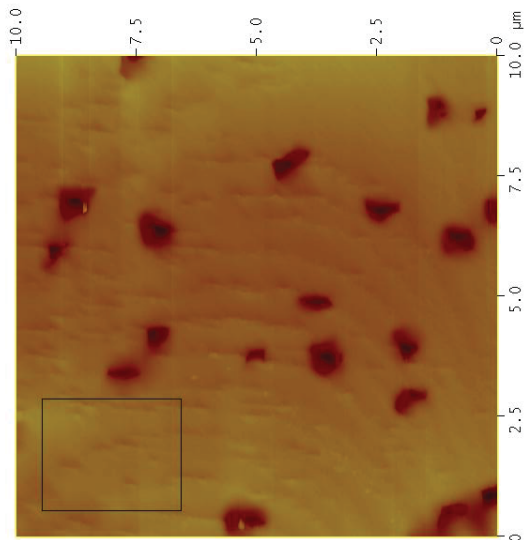


Image Statistics

Img. Z range	527.13 nm
Img. Rms (Rq)	45.359 nm
Img. Ra	27.733 nm
Img. Rmax	520.42 nm
Img. Srf. area	104.01 µm²

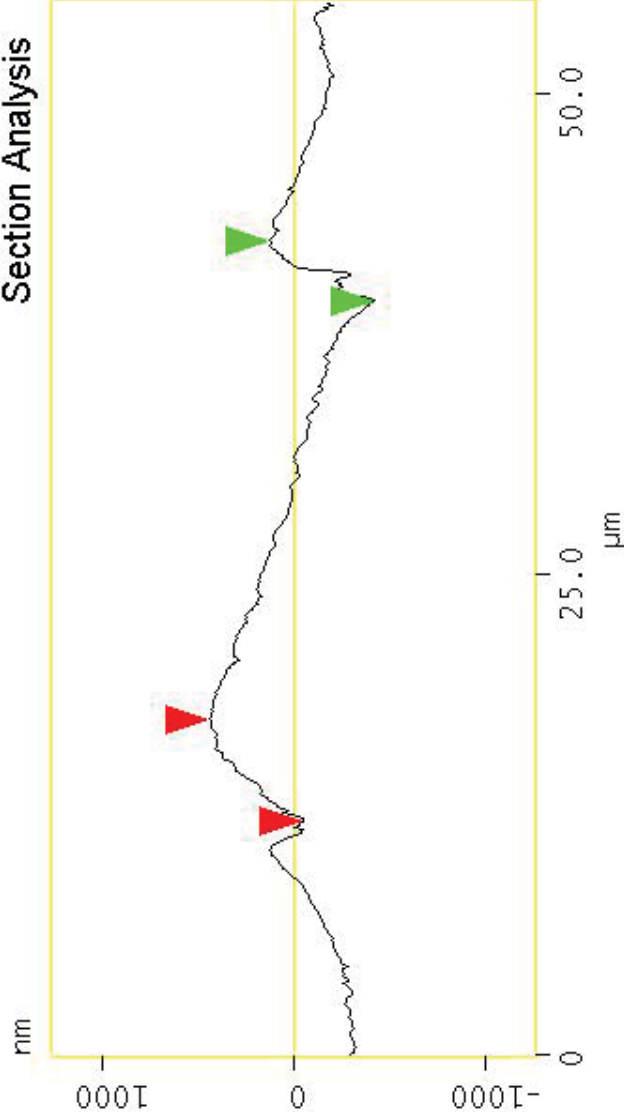
Box Statistics

Z range	69.973 nm
Rms (Rq)	11.501 nm
Mean roughness (Ra)	8.931 nm
Box x dimension	2.329 µm
Box y dimension	2.896 µm

tf-jlab-ecr-nb-cu-033b-50mm-2.000 Summit Off Zero Cross. Off Peak Off Box Cursor

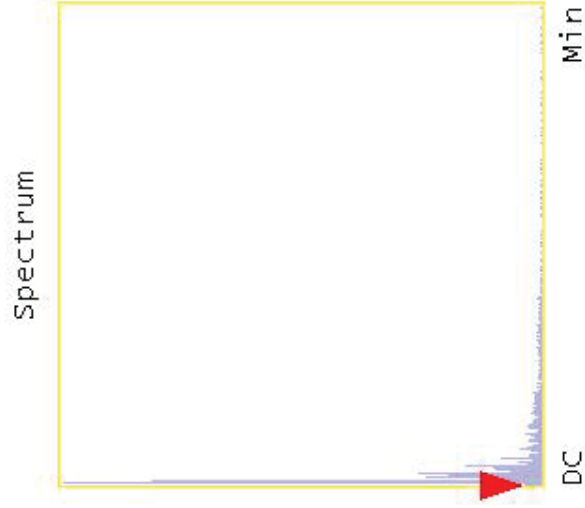
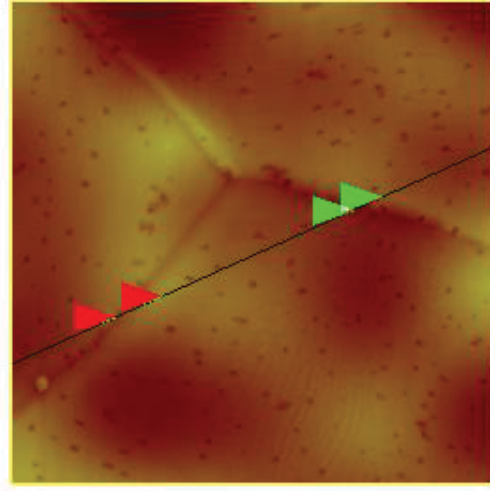
tf-jlab-ecr-nb-cu-033b-10mm-1.001 Summit Off Zero Cross. Off Peak Off Box Cursor

Section Analysis



L	3.125 μm
RMS	176.74 nm
1c	DC
Ra(1c)	46.344 nm
Rmax	247.11 nm
Rz	181.70 nm
Rz Cnt	4
Radius	975.79 nm
Sigma	439.08 nm

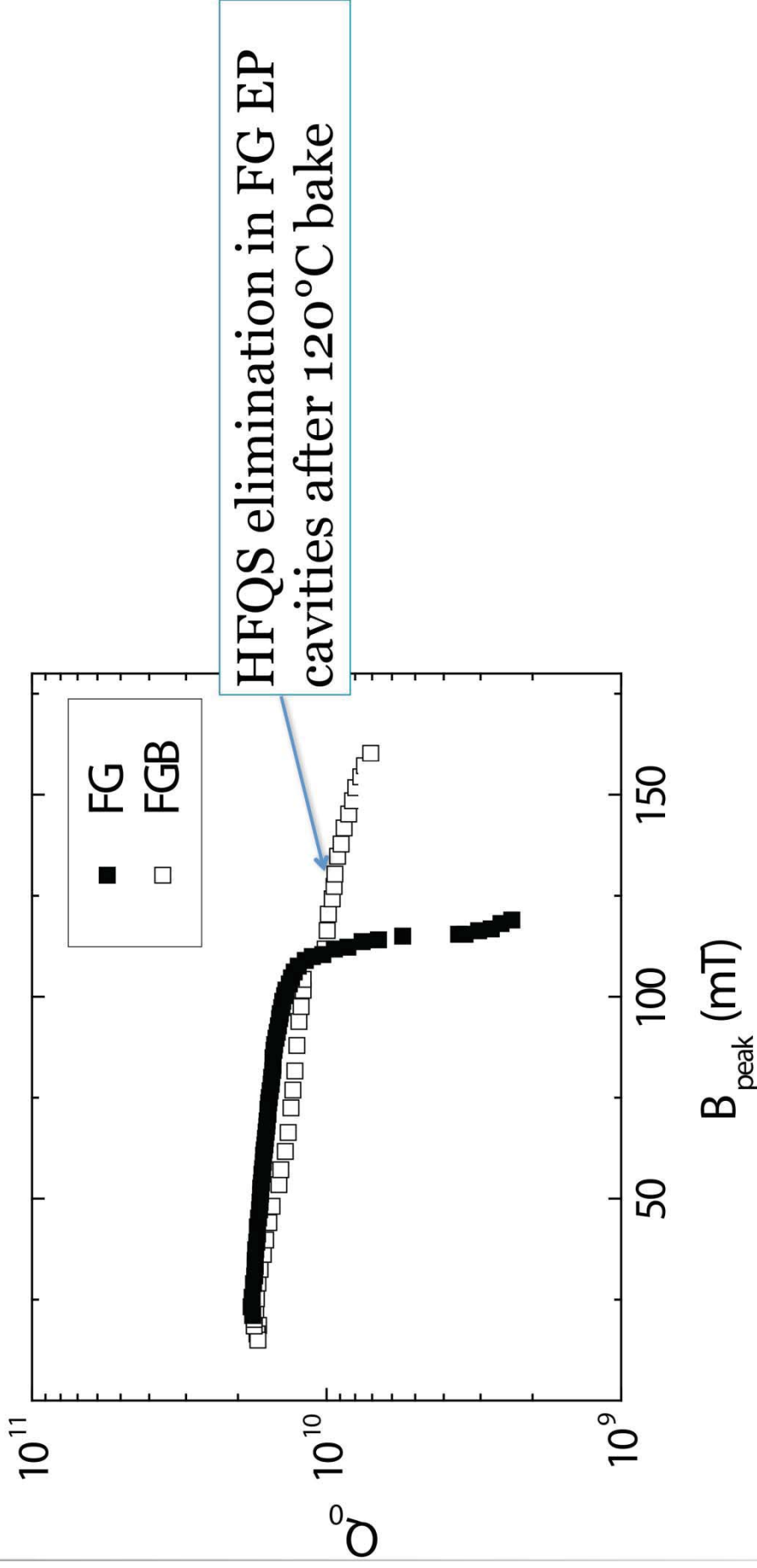
Surface distance	5.338 μm
Horiz distance(L)	5.273 μm
Vert distance	492.11 nm
Angle	5.331 °
Surface distance	3.354 μm
Horiz distance	3.125 μm
Vert distance	545.36 nm
Angle	9.899 °
Surface distance	
Horiz distance	
Vert distance	
Angle	
Spectral period	DC
Spectral freq	0 /μm
Spectral RMS amp	5.309 nm



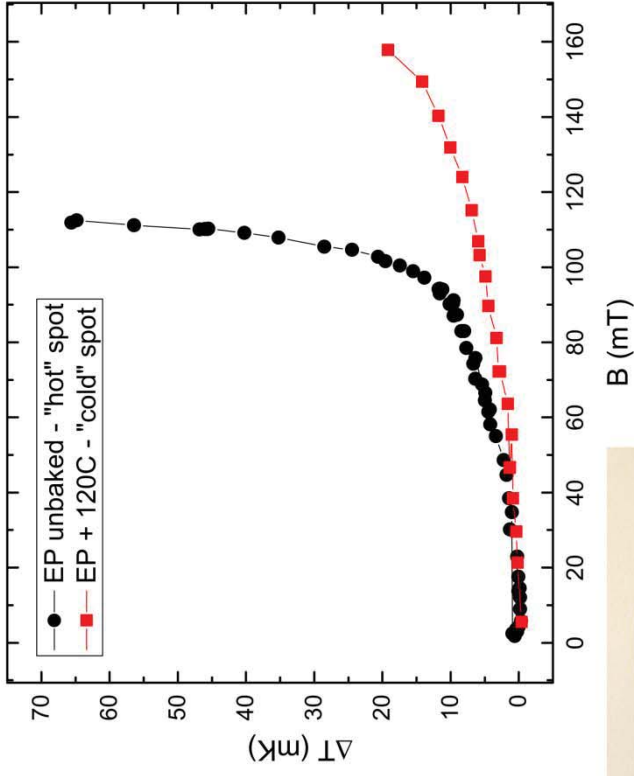
tf-j1ab-ecr-nb-cu-033b-50mn-1.000

CASE STUDY: EFFECT OF 120°C BAKE

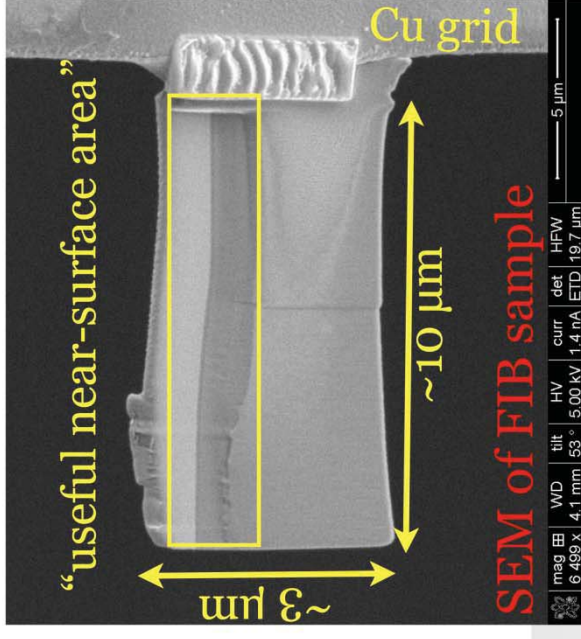
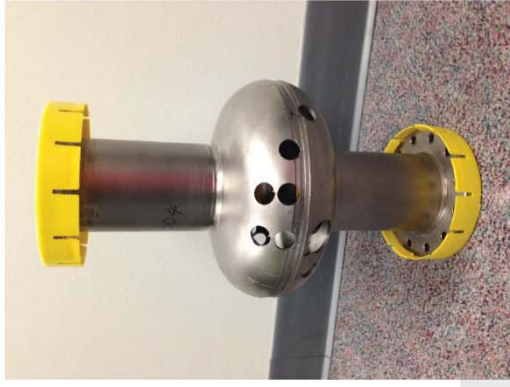
Effect of 120 °C Bake



Effect of 120 °C Bake

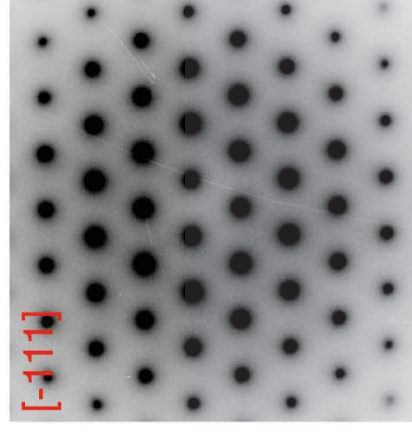
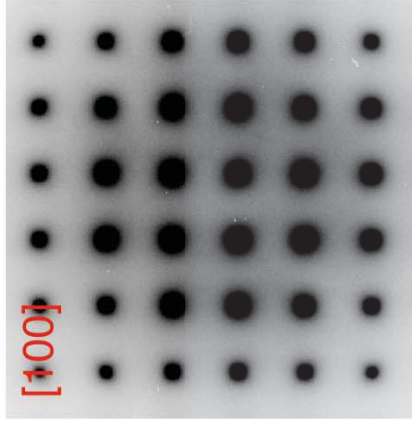
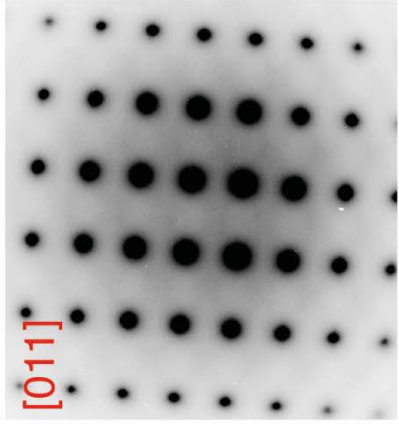
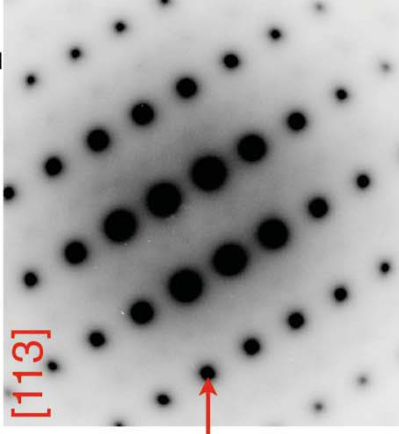
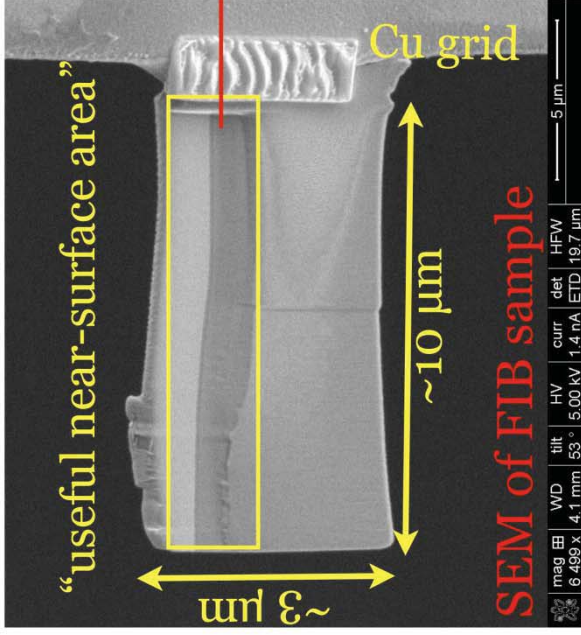


- Hot spot: from EP cavity
- Cold spot: from EP+120°C baked cavity



Effect of 120 °C Bake

NED: Hot (not baked) and Cold
(baked) spot at room T

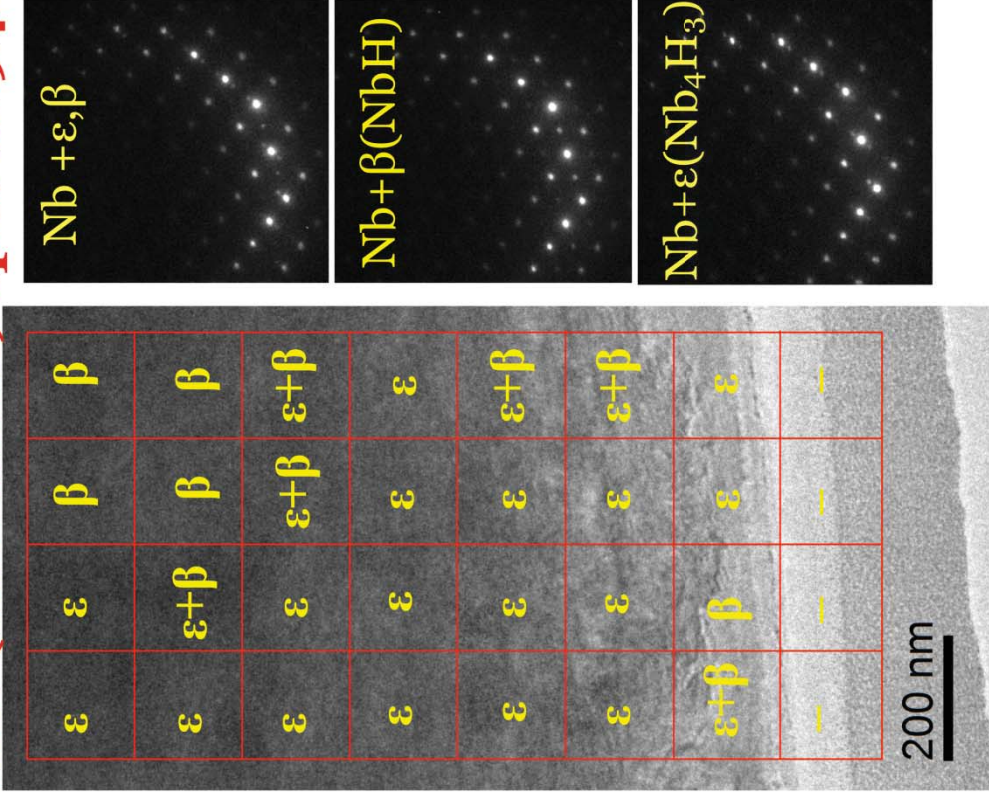


Electron diffraction: only Nb at room T
H in solid solution (α -phase)

Effect of 120 °C Bake

Diffraction mapping with low intensity beam

Hot (not baked) spot at 94K

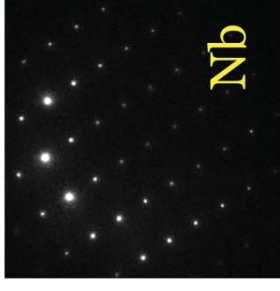
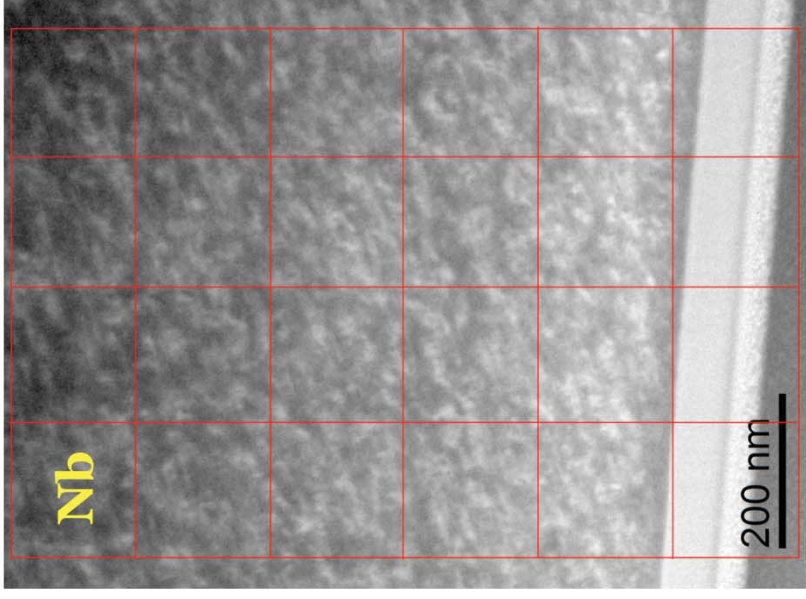


Nb + ϵ, β

Nb + β (NbH)

Nb + ϵ (Nb₄H₃)

120 °C baked stop at 94K



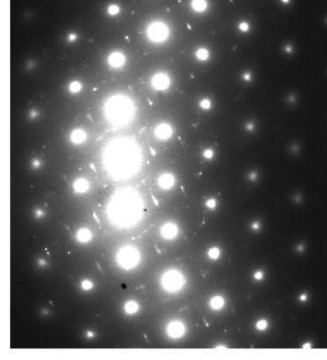
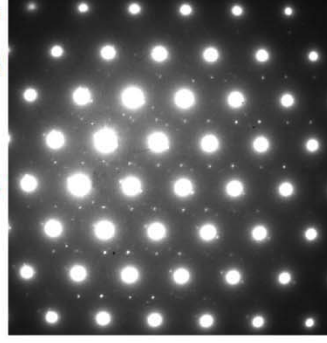
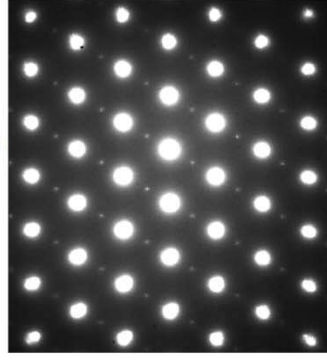
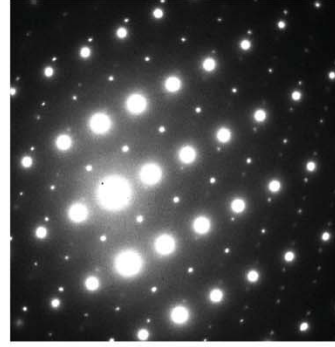
NO Nb hydrides precipitation

Nb hydrides precipitation

Effect of 120 °C Bake

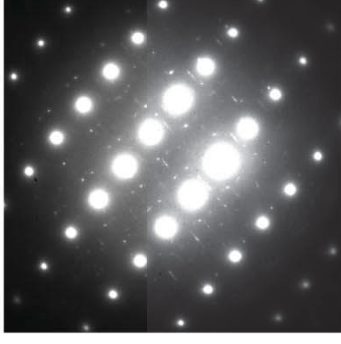
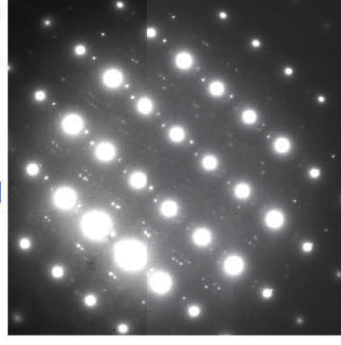
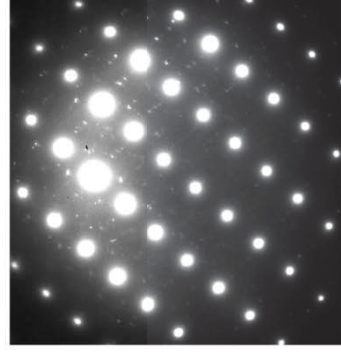
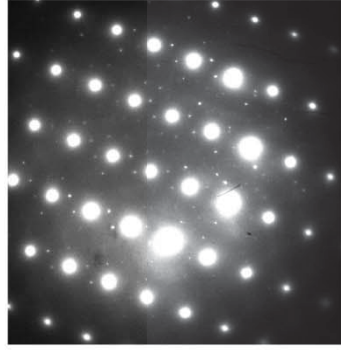
Diffraction with brighter beam, better S/N

Hot (not baked) at 94K



44%-68%
probed
spots

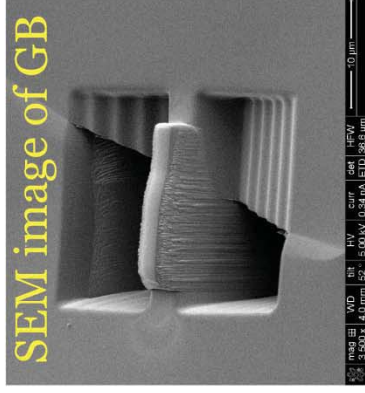
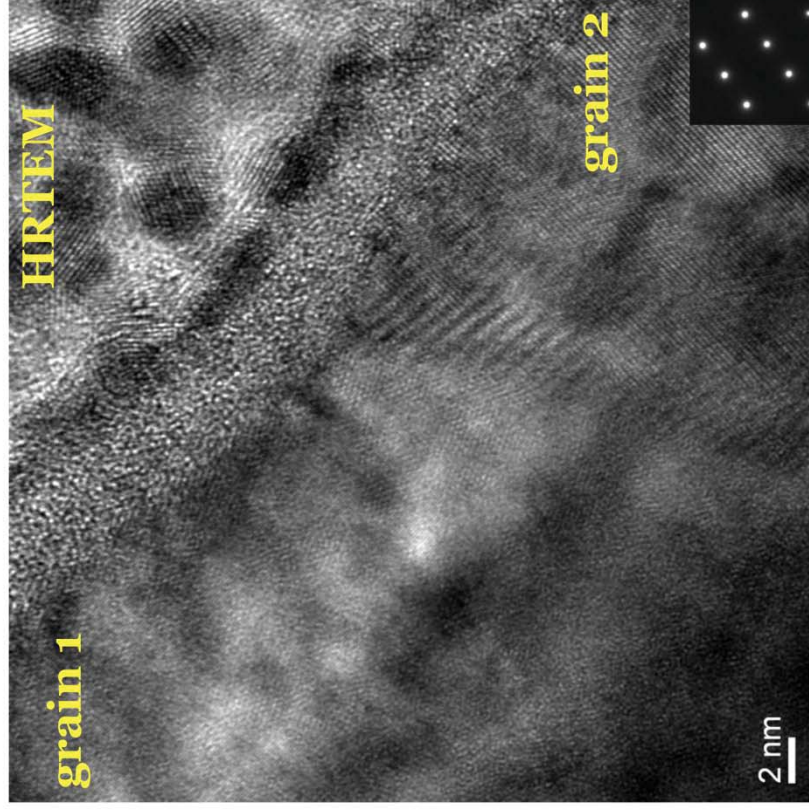
120°C baked stop at 94K



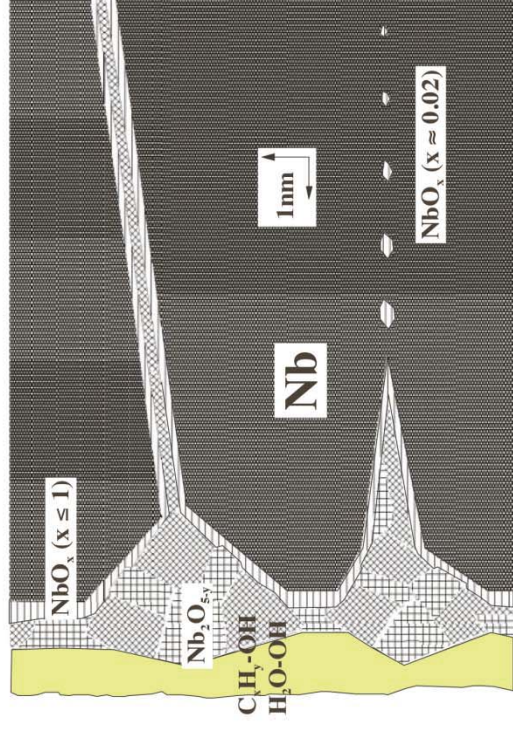
26%-29%
probed
spots

NED: Nb hydrides precipitation in **all** cutouts,
amount and/or size of NbHx is different

Grain Boundary Investigation



No evidence!



J. Halbritter, SRF 2001

HRTEM: No visible oxide layer along GB