

# **Tomography and Precession Diffraction for 3D Structural Analysis of Nanocrystals**

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**TU Darmstadt and University of Mainz**

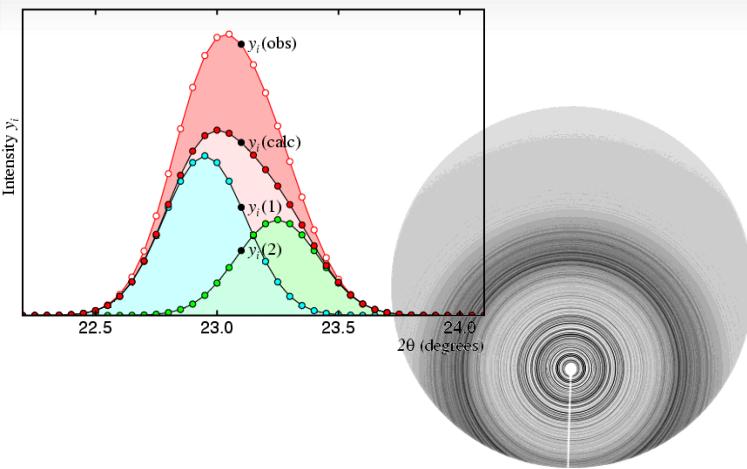
[kolb@uni-mainz.de](mailto:kolb@uni-mainz.de)



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

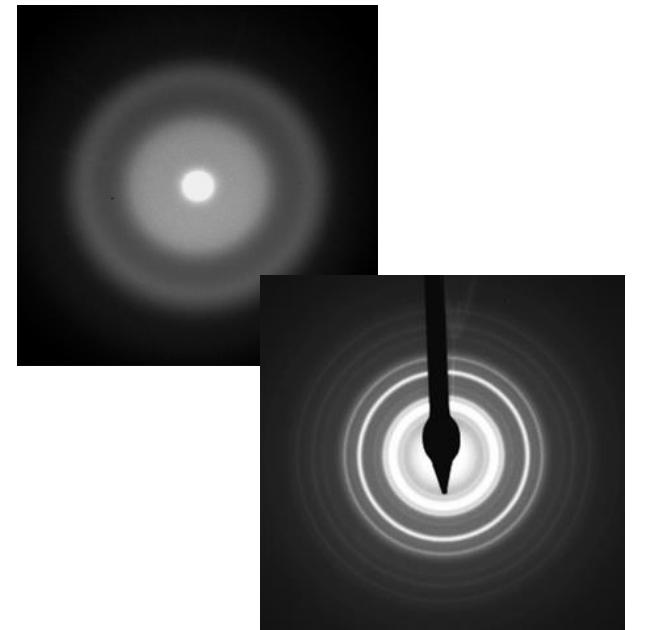
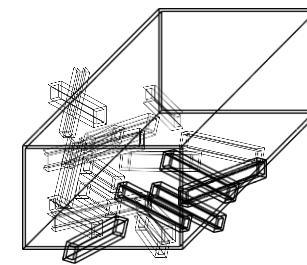
JG|U  
JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

Electrons:  $10^3$  x stronger interaction with matter compared to x-rays



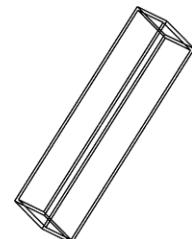
1D – data but probing the bulk

Powder  
X-ray diffraction

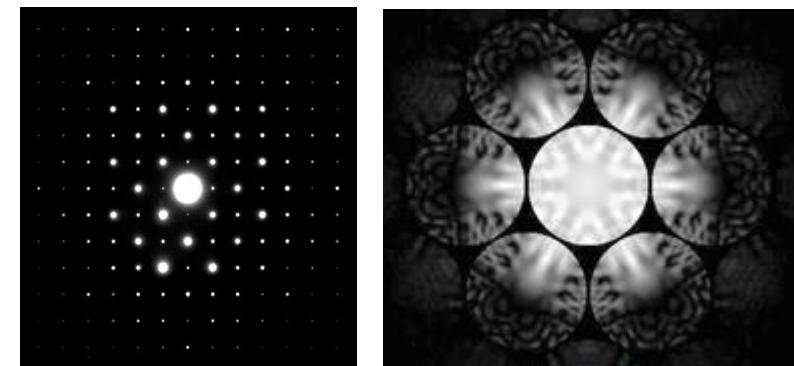


mm                           $\mu\text{m}$                           nm

Single crystal  
X-ray diffraction



Single crystal  
electron diffraction

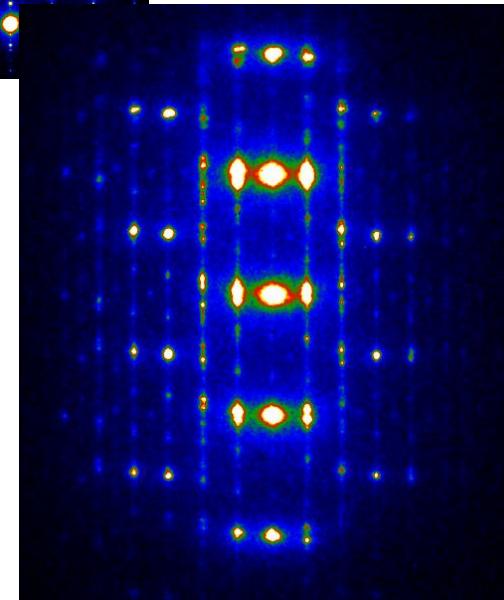
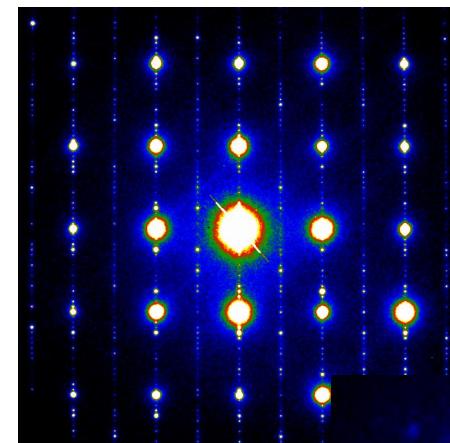


3D – data but limited to the selected crystal

# Information available from electron diffraction

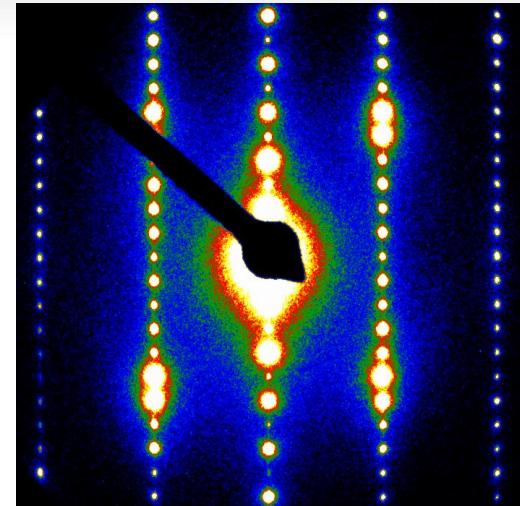
- single crystals in polyphasic samples
- phase analysis
- crystal orientation
  
- cell parameters
- possible space groups
- existence of centrosymmetry
- structure analysis
  
- superstructures
- twinning
- Stress/strain measurements
- disorder, defects, dislocations

→HRTEM



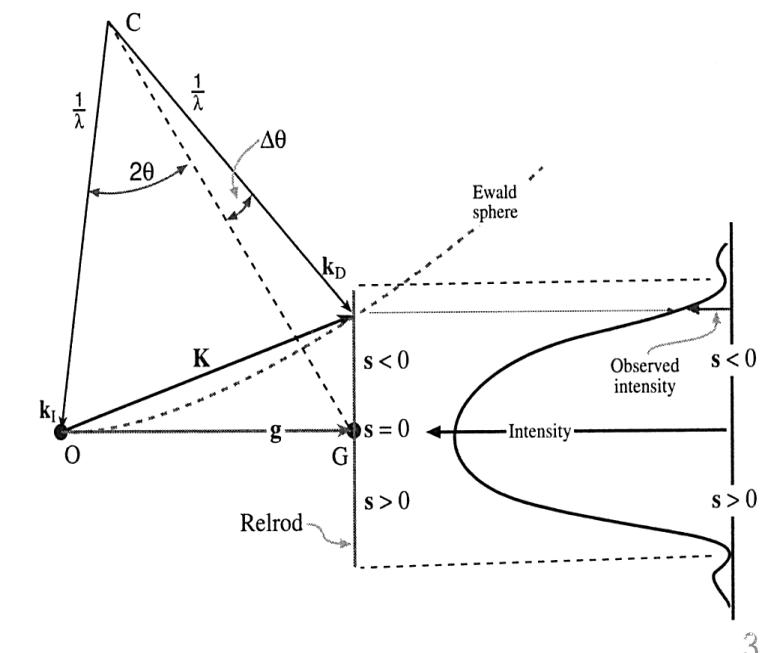
## Excitation error $s$ :

crystal cannot be oriented fully  
(precision  $\leftrightarrow$  radiation damage)

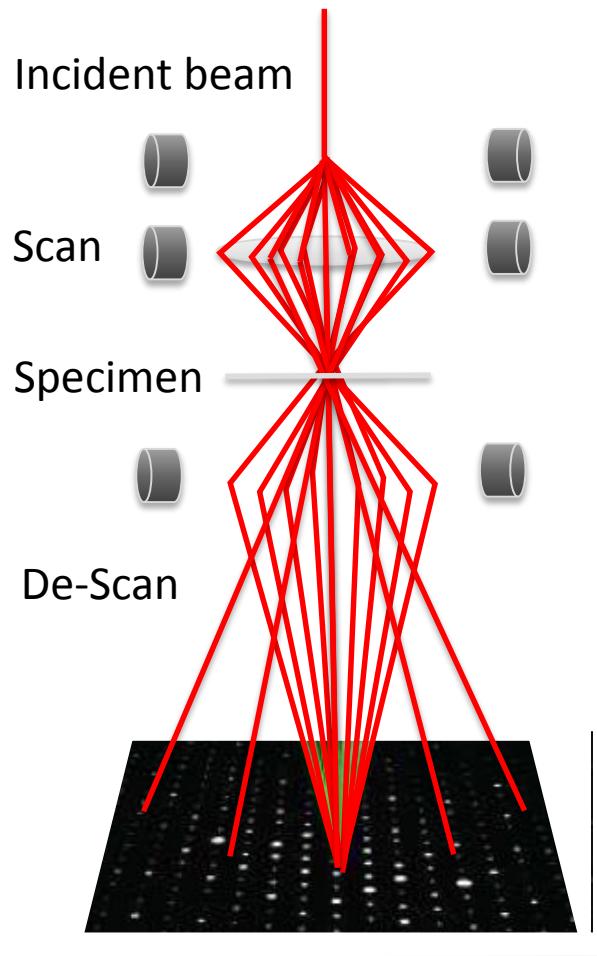


## Dynamical scattering:

Strong in oriented zones → wrong intensities, violated extinction rules  
CBED: Use of dynamical effects,  
thick specimens >200 Å

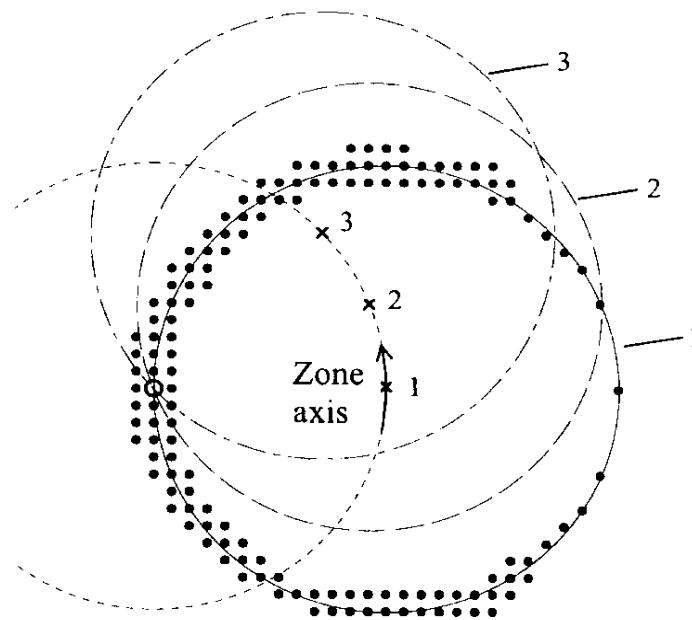


# Electron beam precession (Precession electron diffraction PED)



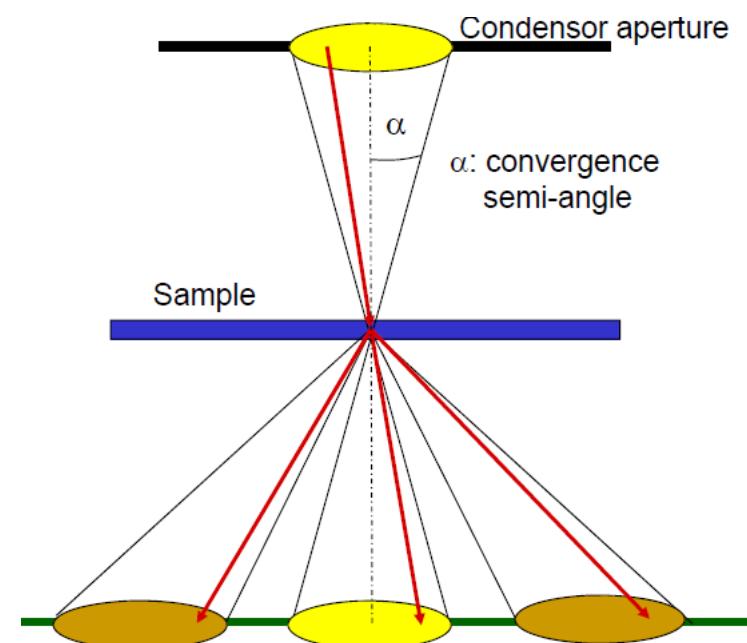
## PED:

- One incident beam angle
- Sequentially recorded



## CBED:

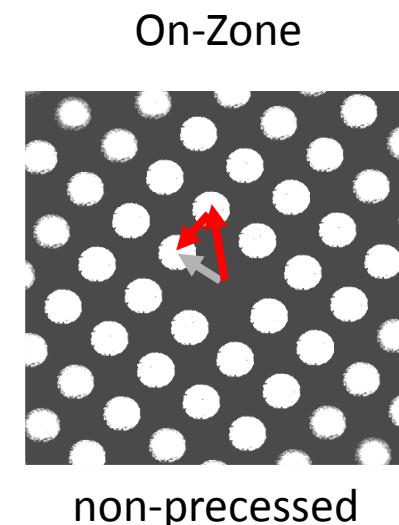
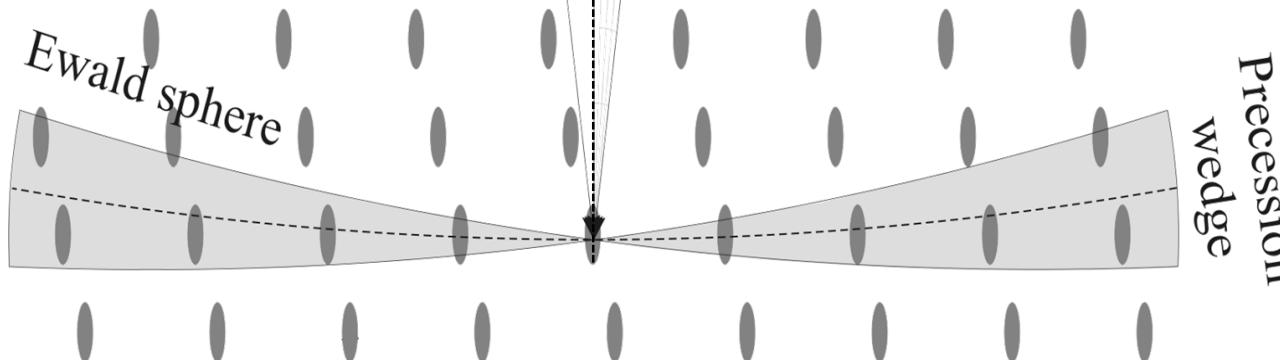
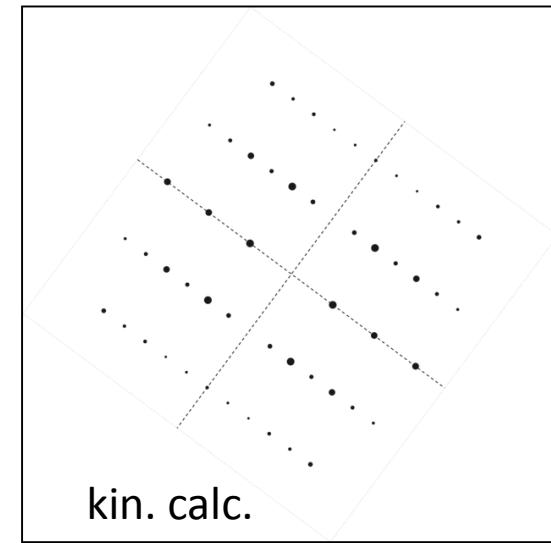
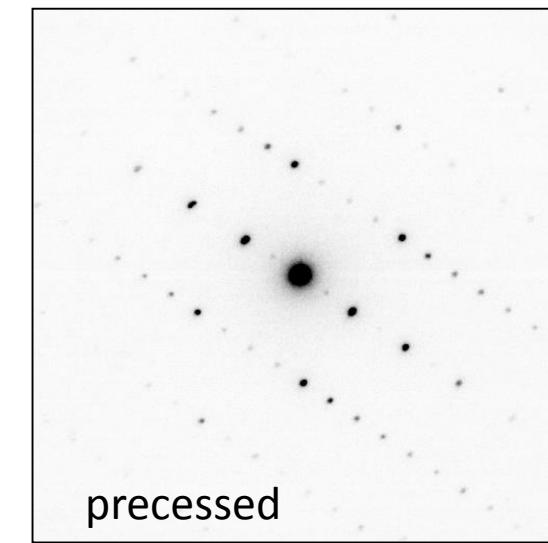
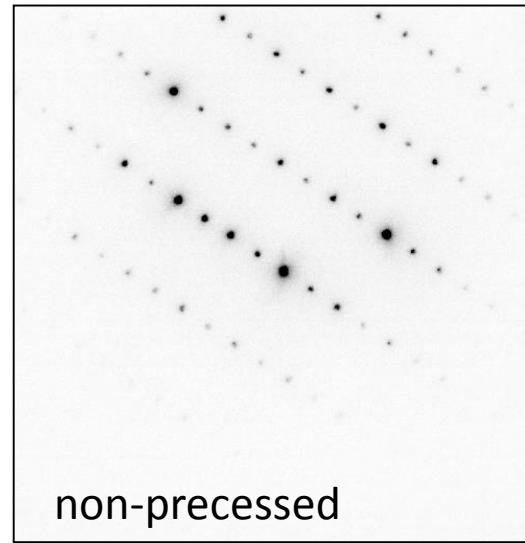
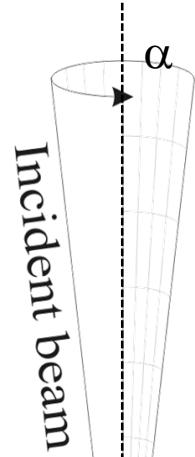
- Different incident beam angles
- Simultaneously recorded



**Double conical beam-rocking system for measurement of integrated electron diffraction intensities.** R. Vincent, P.A. Midgley, *Ultramicroscopy*, **53**, 271 (1994).

# Moving the Ewald sphere: Double diffraction reduction and reflection integration

Double diffraction along systematic row: e.g. (001) and (003) forbidden

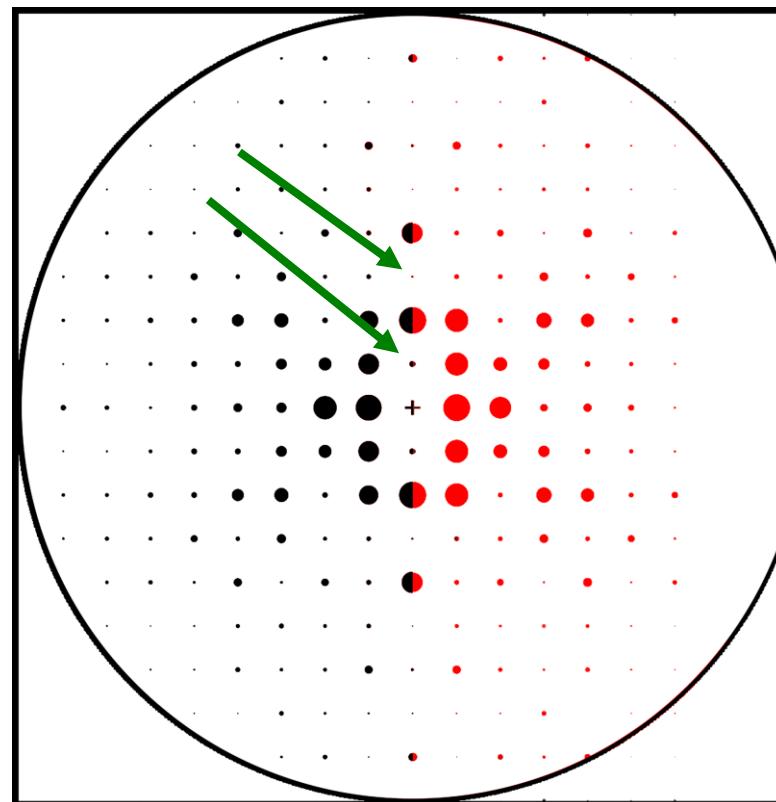
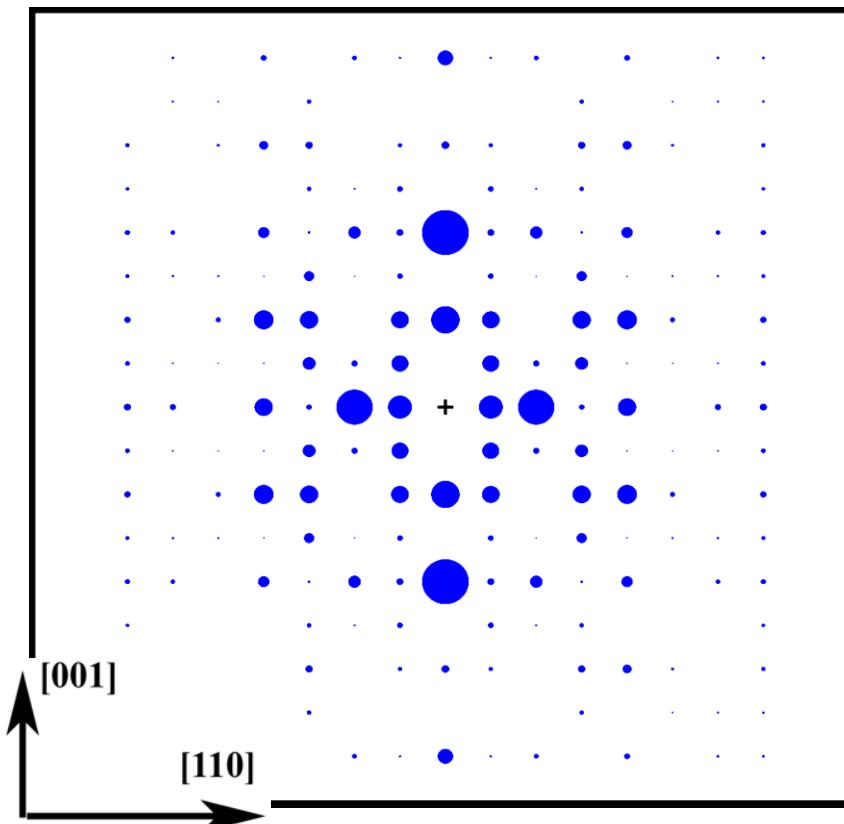


# Measured and (Multislice) simulated precession patterns

Measured and (Multislice) simulated precession patterns (L.D. Marks, Sinclair Northwestern Univ. USA)

Example: Natural Mineral  $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_5$  Orthorhombic Pnnm with 32 atoms/unit cell (Andalusite)

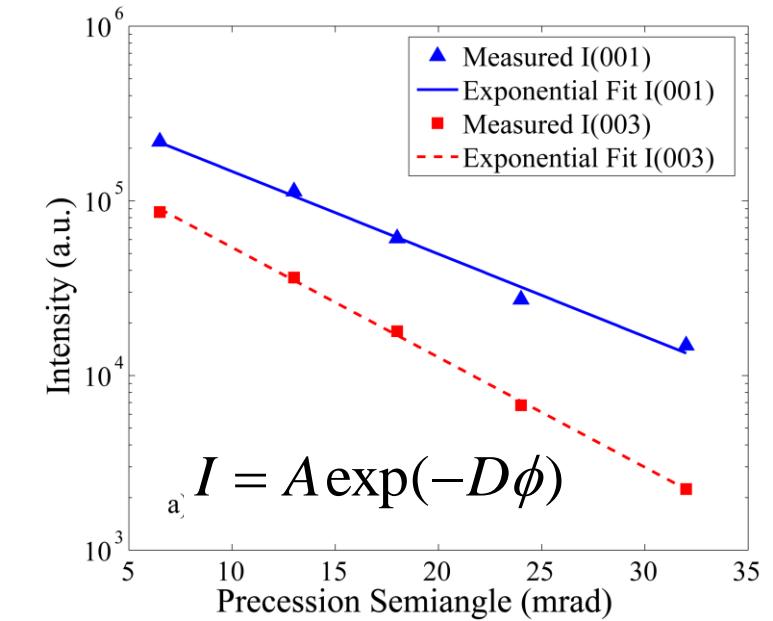
● Bragg's Law Simulation



● Experimental  
● Multislice

With increasing precession angle:  
Exponential decay of forbidden  
reflections

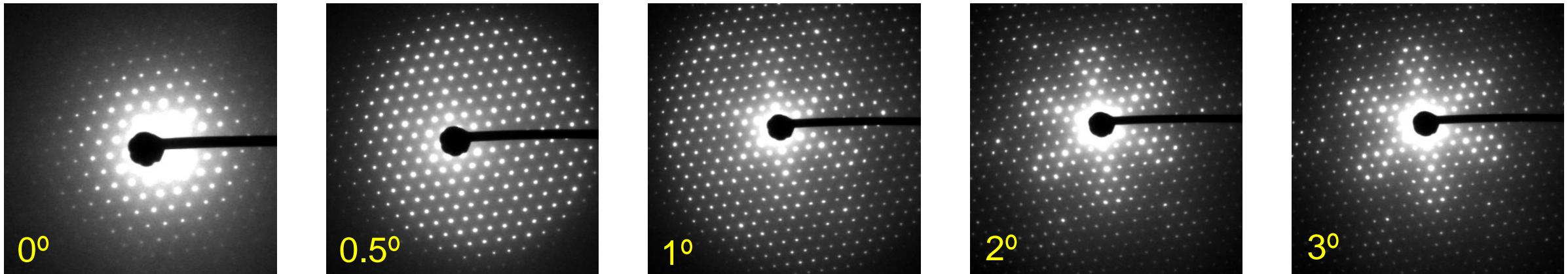
Linear decay of e.g. non-forbidden  
(002) reflection



Rate of decay is relatively  
invariant of the crystal thickness

# Precession diffraction angle

- increase of the number of diffraction spots intercepted by the Ewald sphere
- integration over the reflection intensity and reduction of the excitation error effect
- reducing the effect of slight misorientation of the sample
- reduction of the dynamical effects and the diffraction dependency on the thickness of the sample



Increasing precession angle → increasing resolution in diffraction pattern (i.e. more diffraction spots are seen).

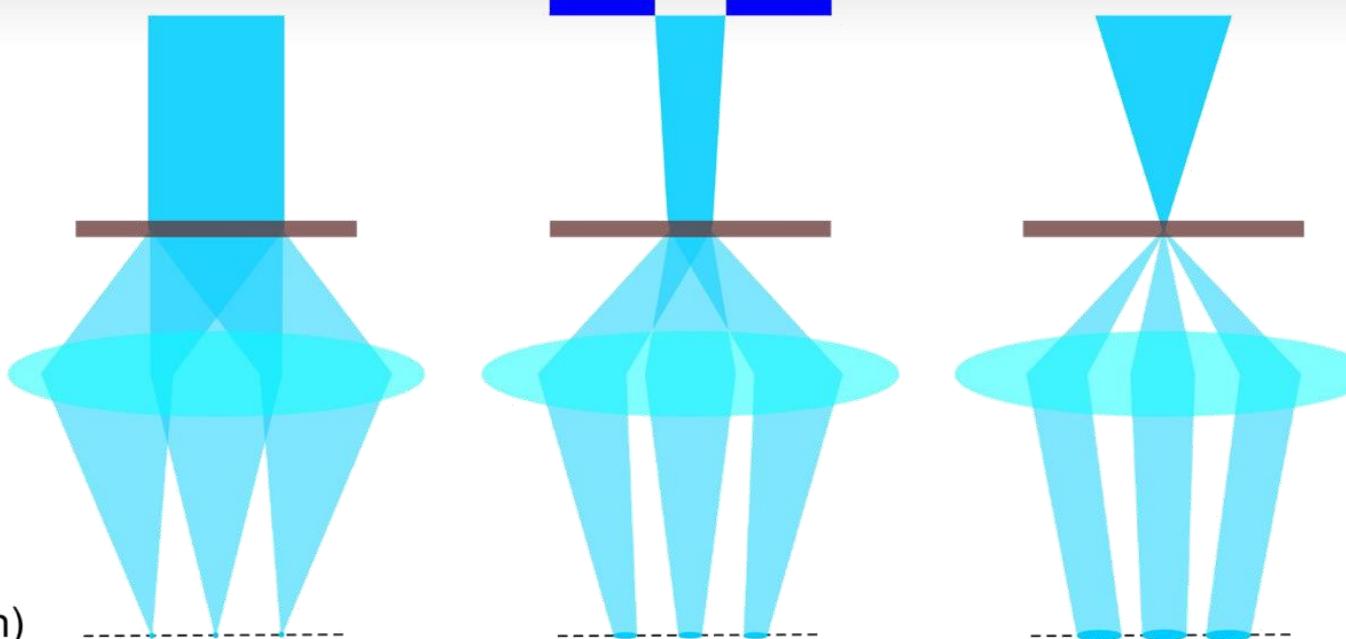
Example: Mayenite [111]  $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$  Space group:  $I43d$

# Selected Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) or Nano Electron Diffraction (NED) or (NBD)

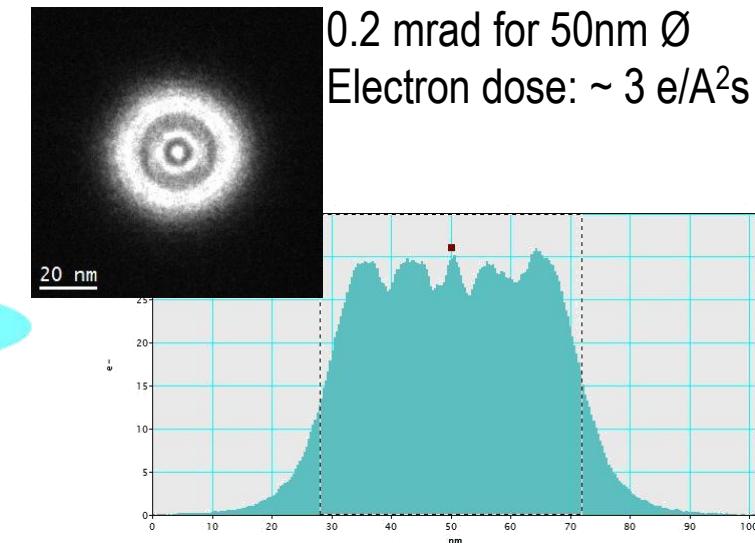
sample

objective lens

back focal plane  
of the objective lens  
(1st diffraction pattern)

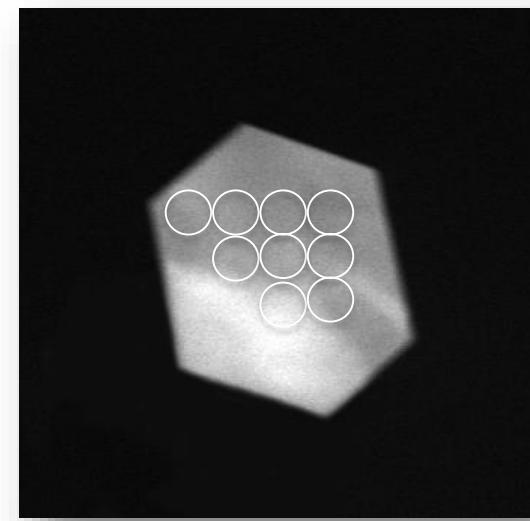


Convergence angle:  
0.2 mrad for 50nm Ø  
Electron dose: ~ 3 e/A<sup>2</sup>s



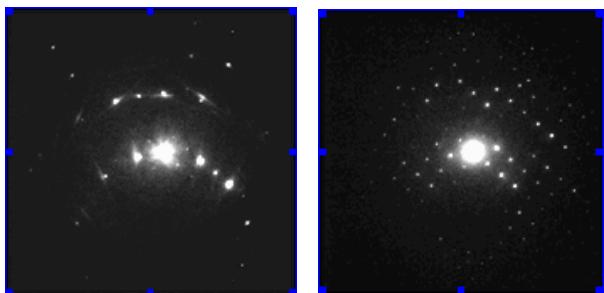
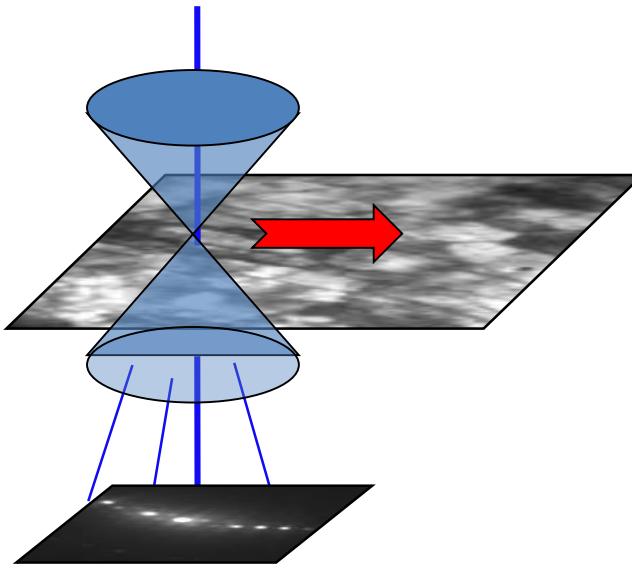
## Advantages of nanodiffraction

- free control over the beam size
- we do not unnecessarily damage the sample
- possible to move the beam over the crystal
- we are sure about the area we are collecting the information from



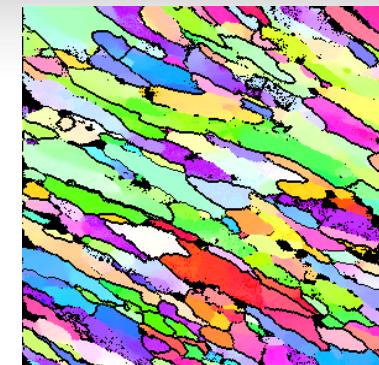
# A-Star Acquisition

## Acquisition of precession electron diffraction spot patterns

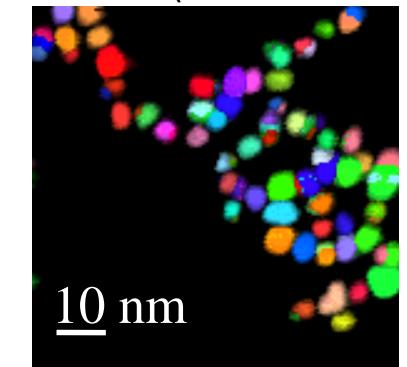


Non-precessed      precessed

Orientation map

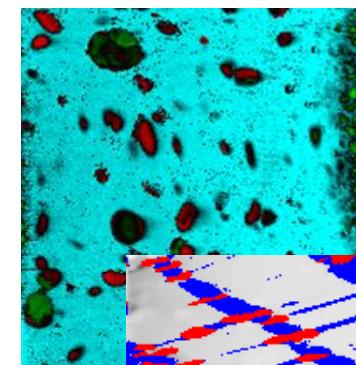


Pt particles, Prof. P. Ferreira, J. Ganesh Univ Texas at Austin USA JEOL 2010 FEG (1 nm resolution)

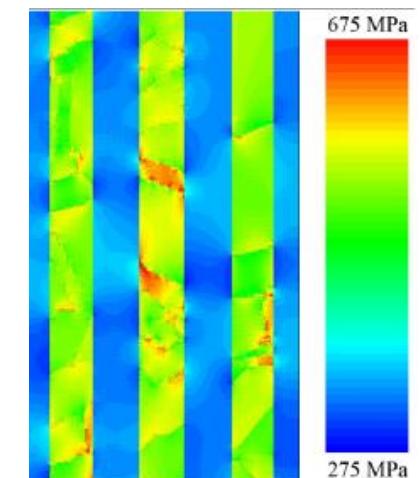


Phase map

Mg-Cu-Gd partly recrystallized metallic glass with  $Mg_2Cu$  and  $Cu_2Gd$  crystalline precipitates



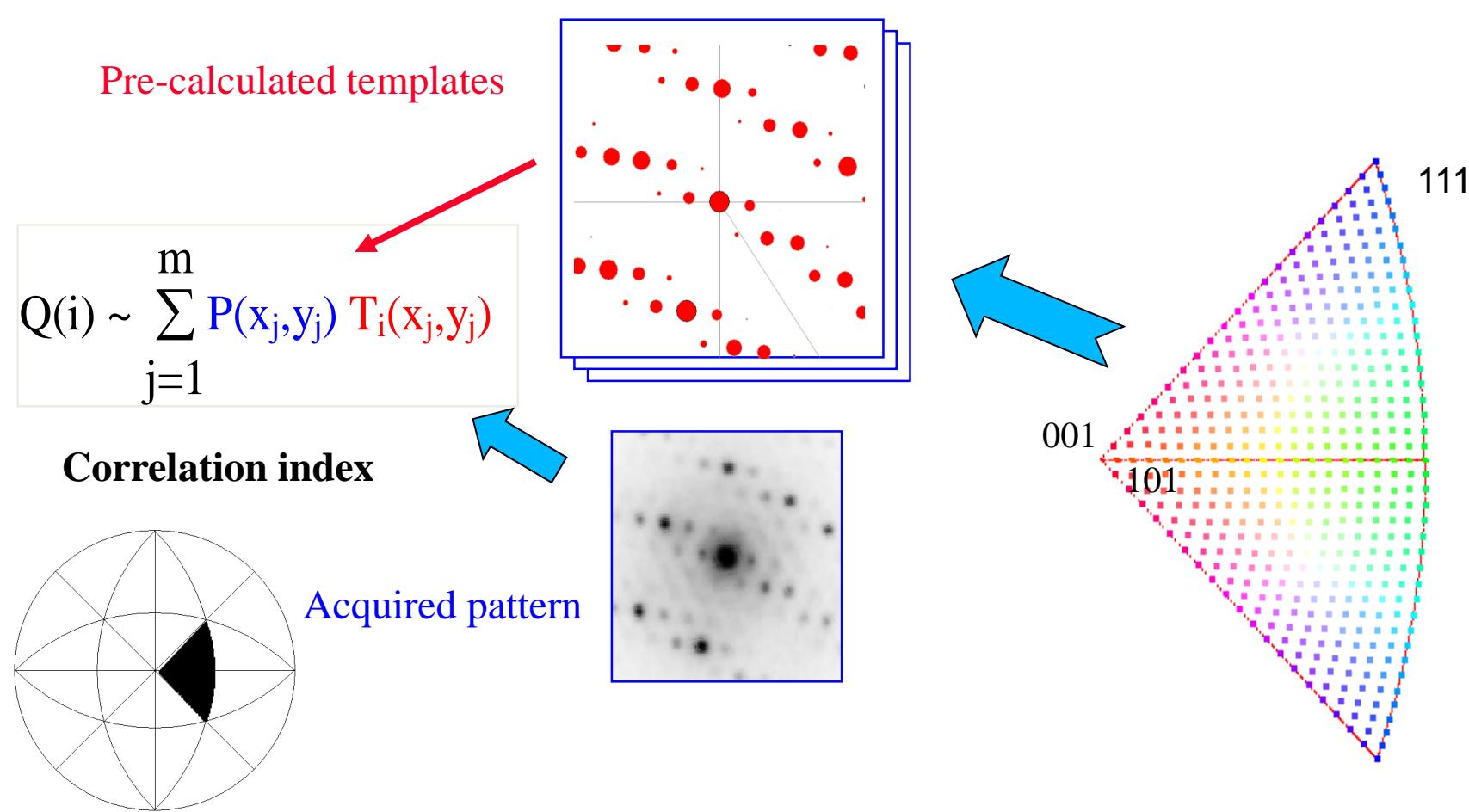
Strain map



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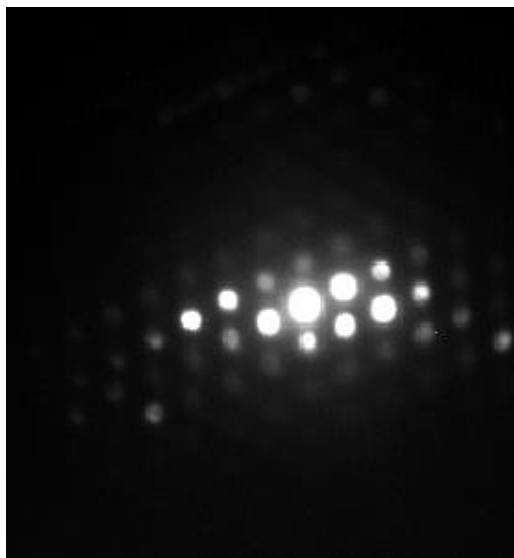
# Crystallographic Orientation and Phase Identification

Template generation using Diffgen of all possible simulated orientations (every 1°) within stereographic triangle for given crystal lattice(s) and symmetry

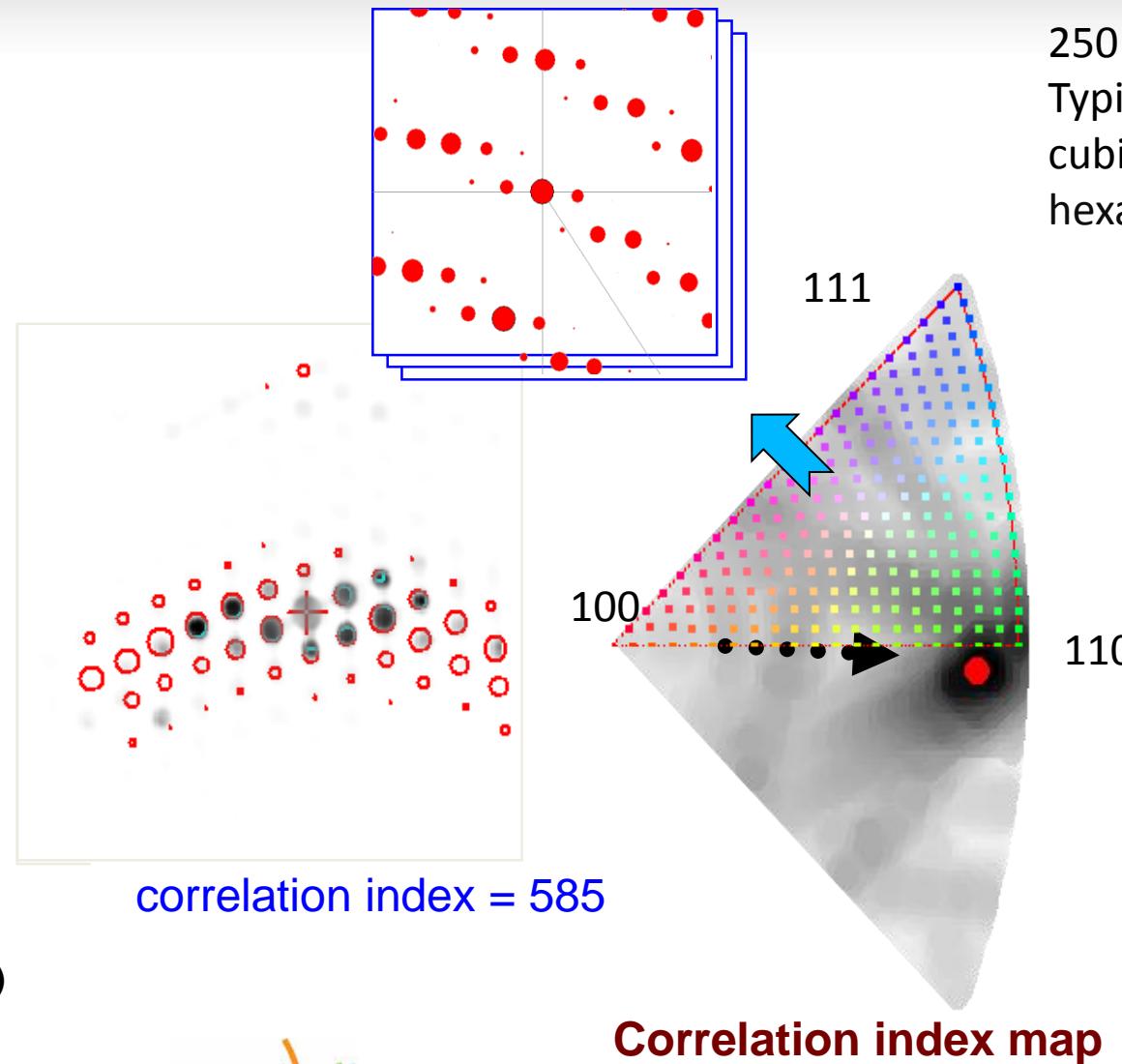


Degree of matching between experimental patterns and simulated templates is given by a correlation index ; highest value corresponds to the adequate orientation/phase

# Identification example: nanocrystalline Cu



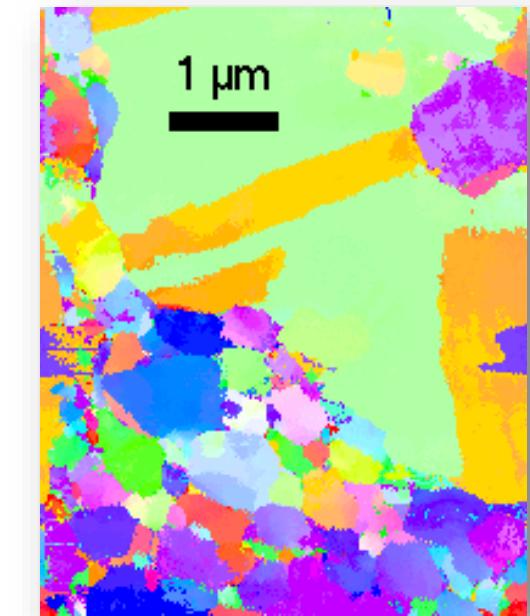
Diffraction pattern  
(nanocrystalline cubic copper)



Correlation index map

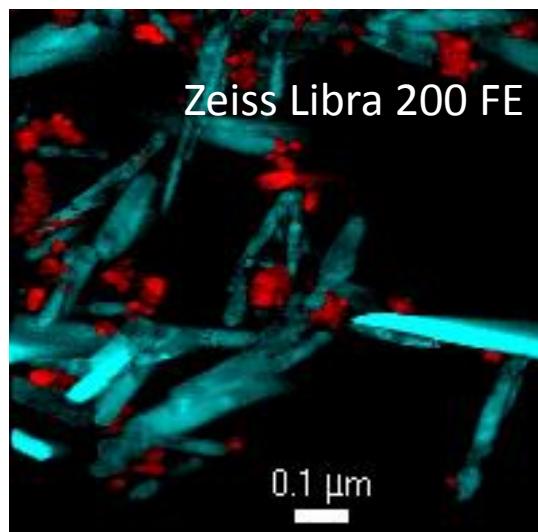
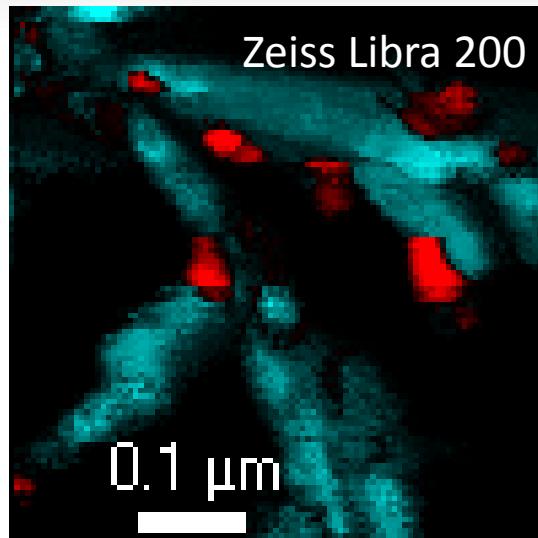
250 x 200 pixel data acquisition: ~ 5 min  
Typical software data analysis time  
cubic: 5-15 min  
hexagonal , tetragonal: x 3- 4 more time

Orientation map of severely deformed copper

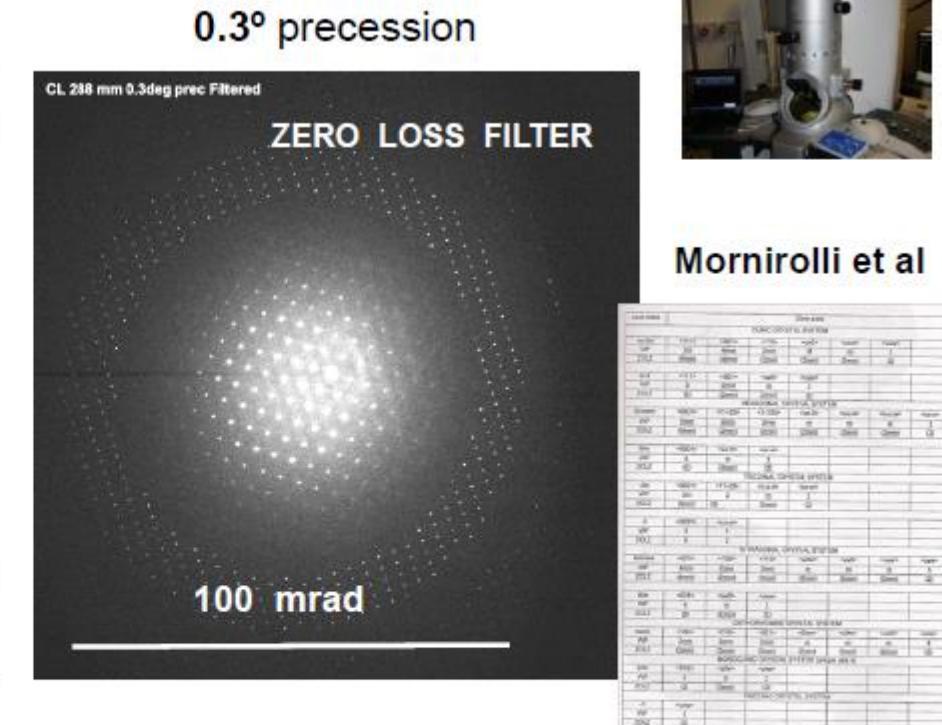
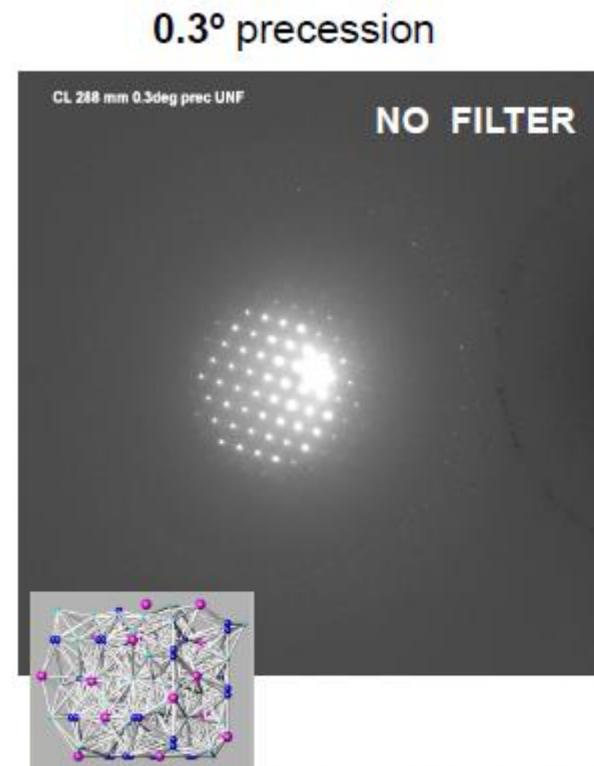


NBD step 20 nm

# Different microscopes



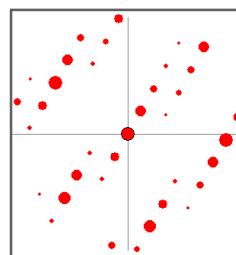
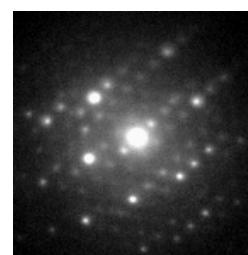
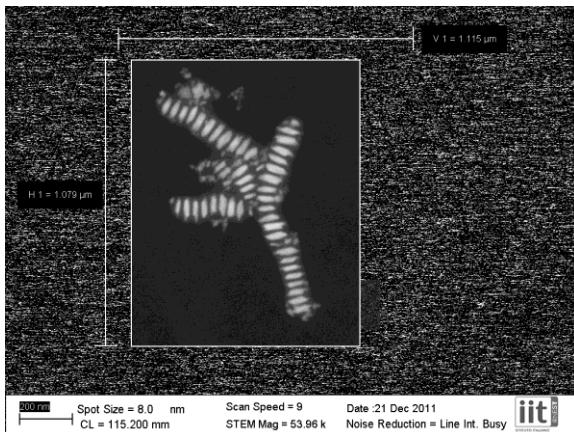
■ Bank\_[Brookite]\_100\_0.2  
■ Bank\_[ 'Goethite' Pnma]



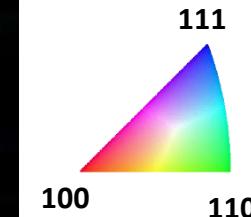
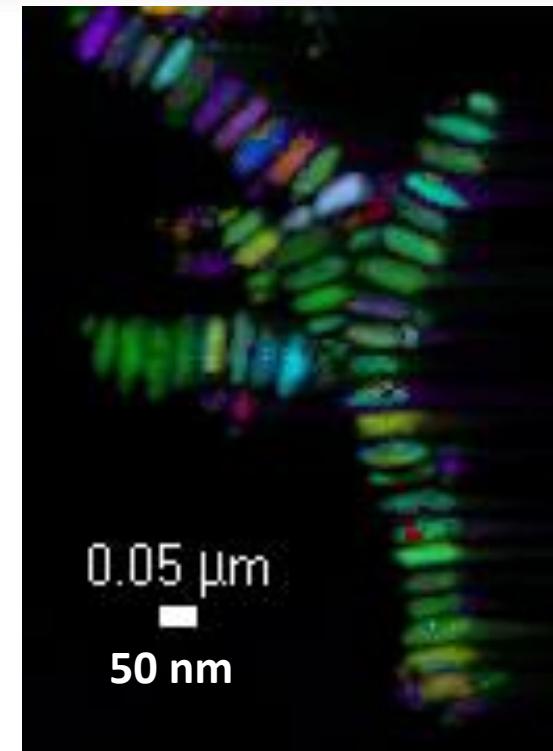
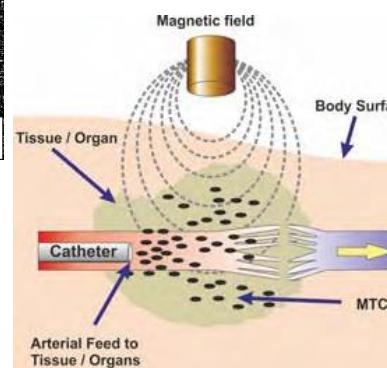
M. Gemmi, IIT Pisa

# Drug Delivery applications & Texture of nanoparticles

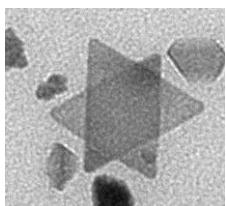
Unpublished results Courtesy of M Gemmi IIT Pisa Italy.



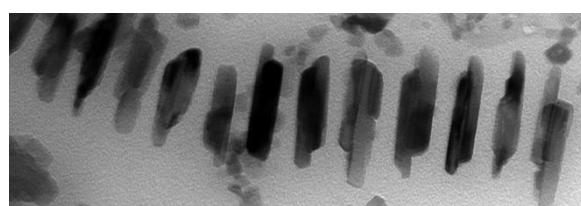
Orientation  
mapping with 10nm  
resolution



Matching of each collected pattern with a generated data bank



1 Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticle  
(vertical view)



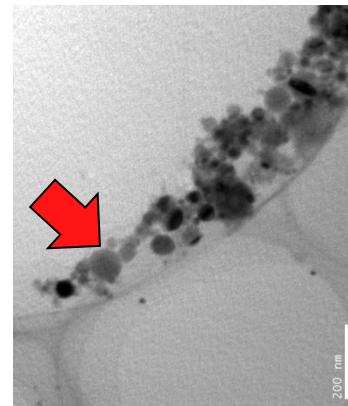
Several Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles self assembled  
(lateral view)



ISTITUTO ITALIANO  
DI TECNOLOGIA

# Nanoparticle ( 50 nm ) phase identification

## Nanoparticle ( 50 nm ) phase identification



cubic 8.32 Å

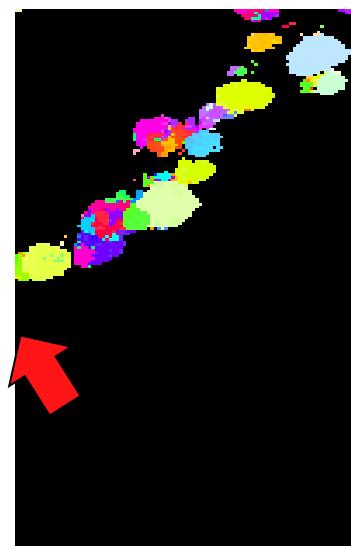
$Fd\bar{3}m$

Magnetite or maghemite ??

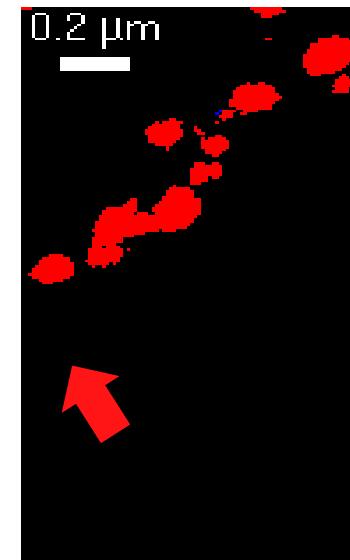
$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

$P4_132$   $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

cubic 8.32 Å



Orientation map precession 0.3°



PHASE map precession 0.3°

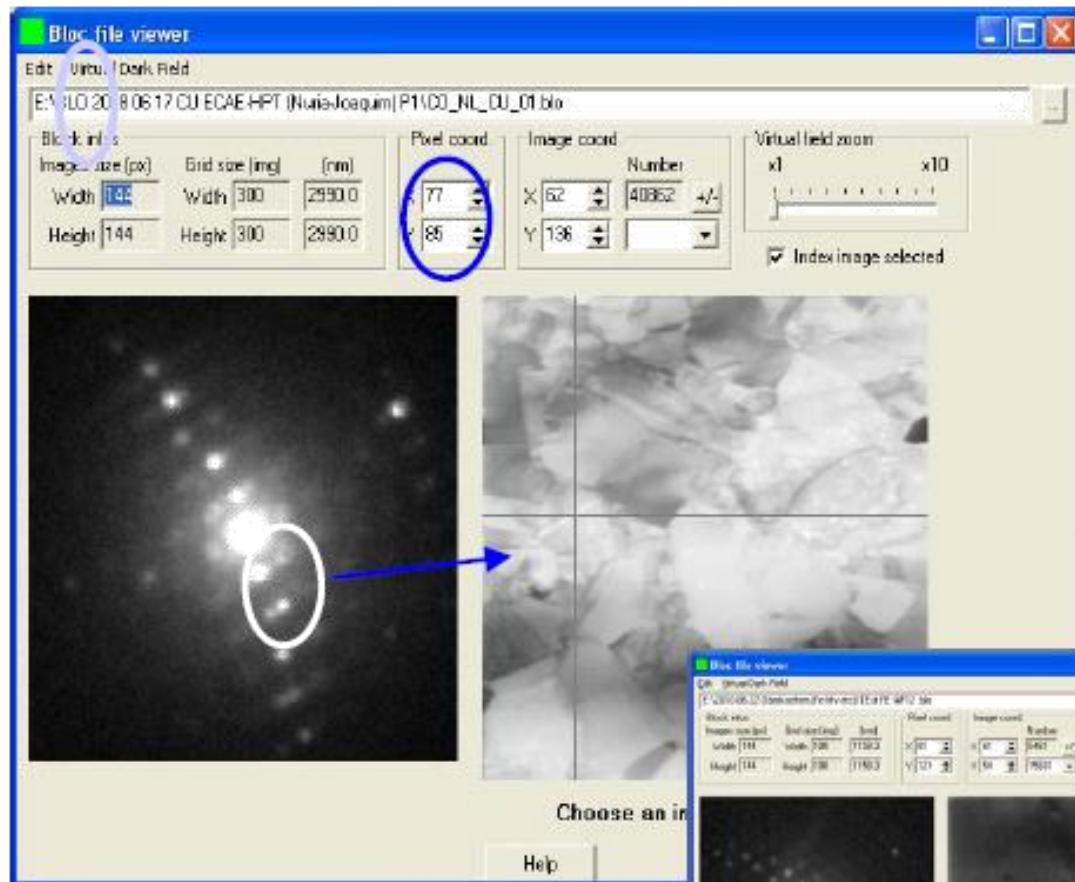
ALL Nanoparticles

REVEALED AS

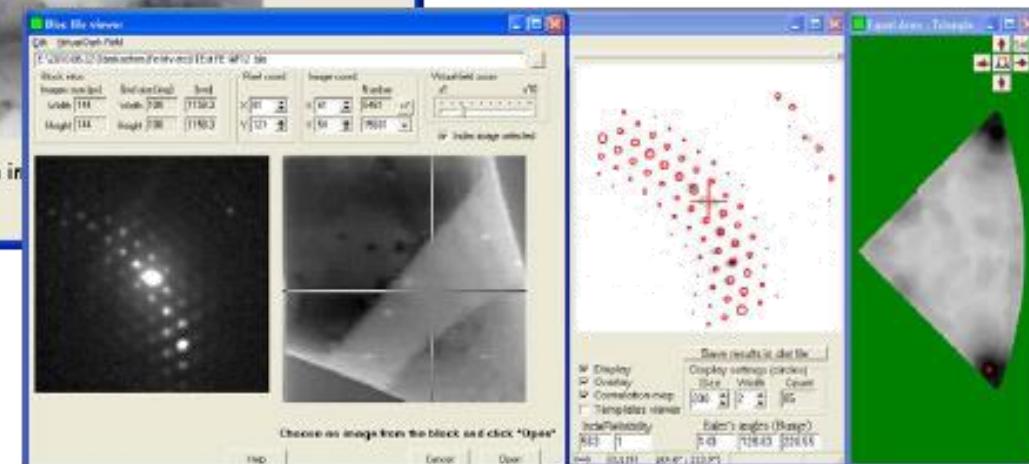
magnetite (RED )

# INDEX and create virtual dark and bright field maps

## Diffraction Pattern viewer with virtual aperature



## Virtual dark field image

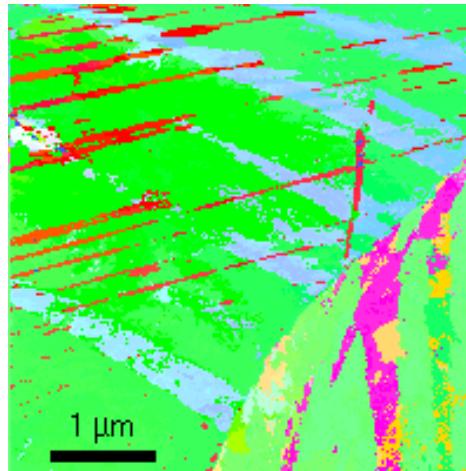


# TEM orientation imaging : Phase maps with and without precession

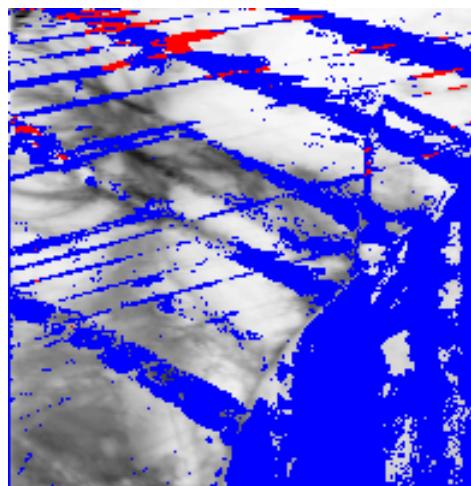


3 existing phases: only possible to distinguish by precession

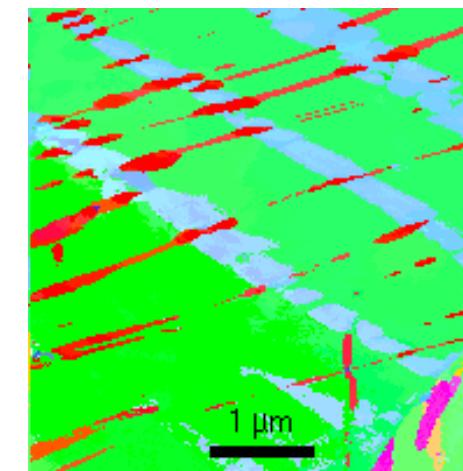
Orientation map



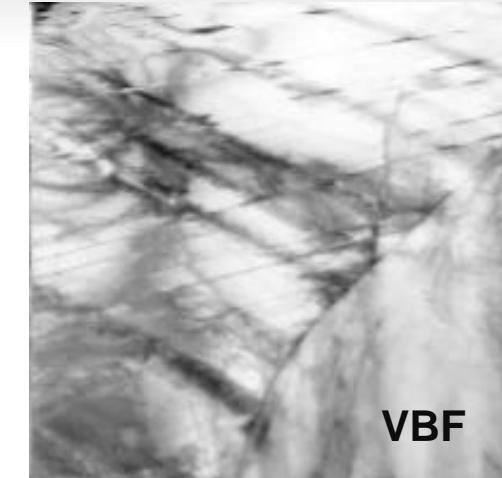
crystal phase map



non-precessed



precession 0.4°



When stacking faults cross themselves,  
they produce locally a martensite  
structure ( $a= 2.87 \text{ \AA}$ )

Austenitic matrix with fcc structure  
( $a=3.58 \text{ \AA}$ )

Stacking faults with hexagonal  
structure ( $a=2.57 \text{ c}= 4.08 \text{ \AA}$ )

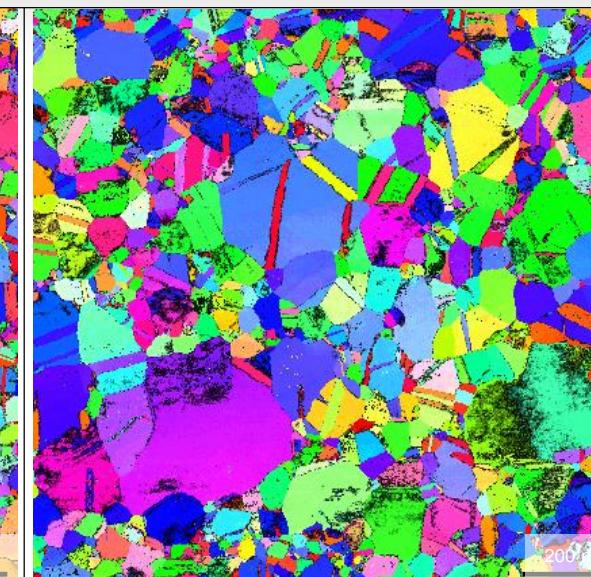
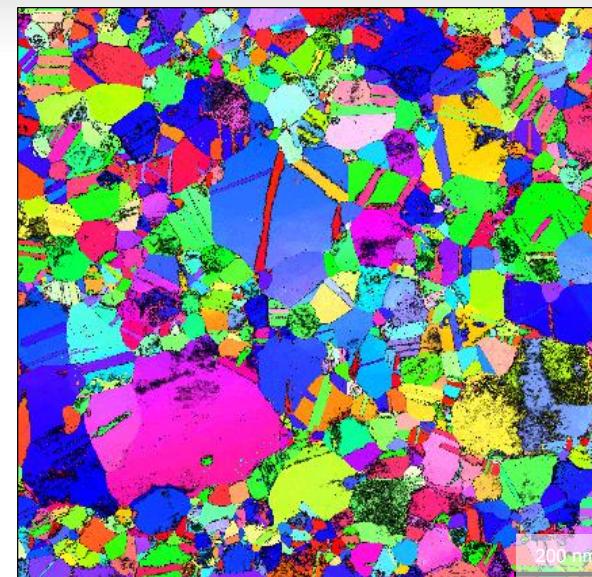


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# In-situ ASTAR STEM characterization In-situ Orientation Imaging ncAu

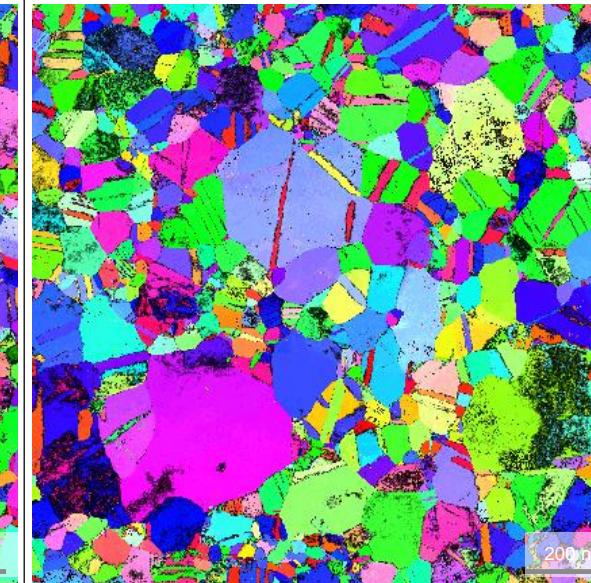
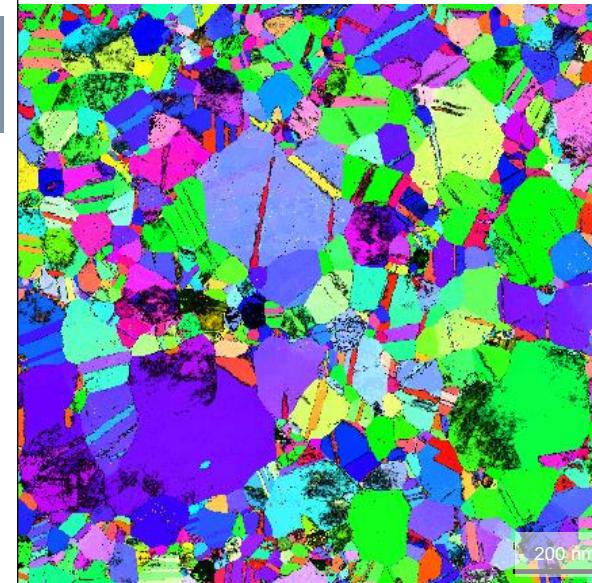
map 0: 0% strain  
initial state

↔ straining direction

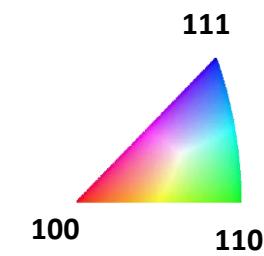


map 7: 4.6% strain  
beginning of loading

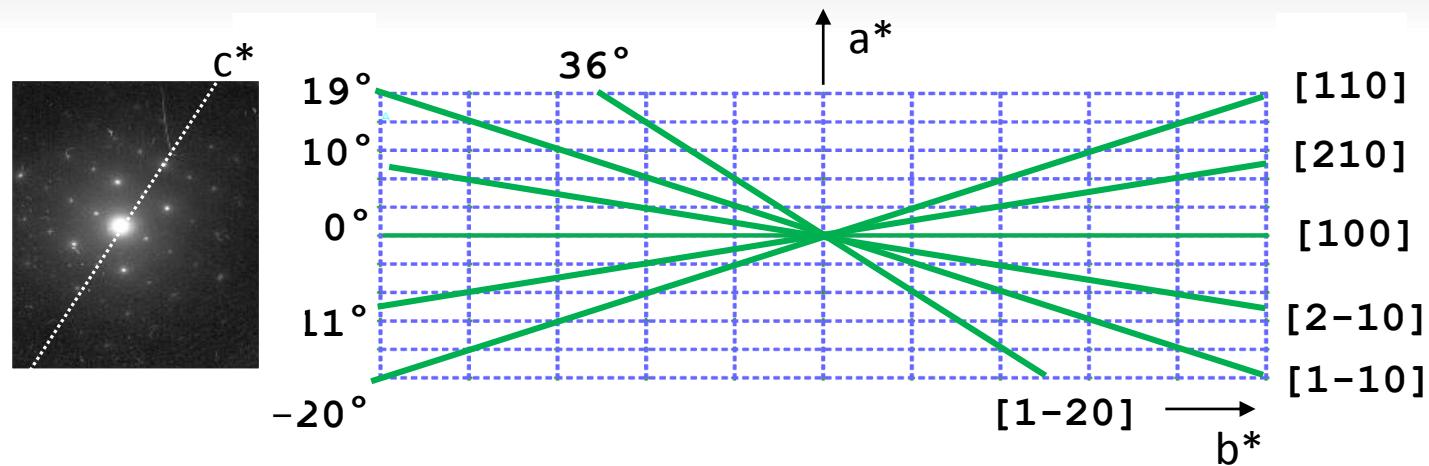
map 9: 6.5% strain  
middle of loading



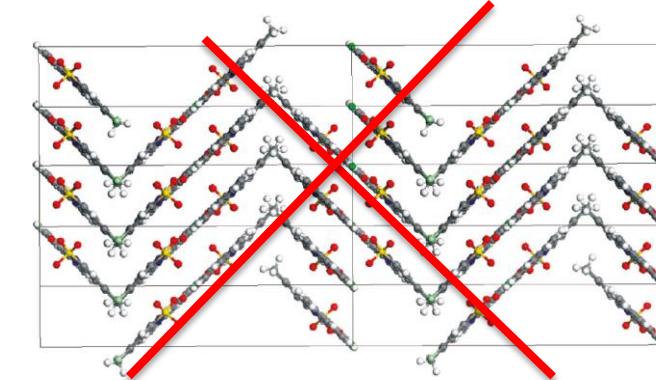
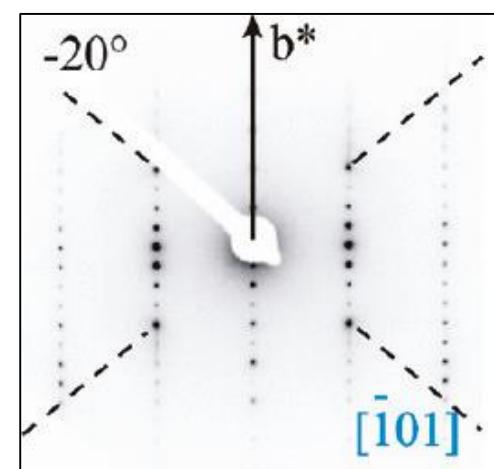
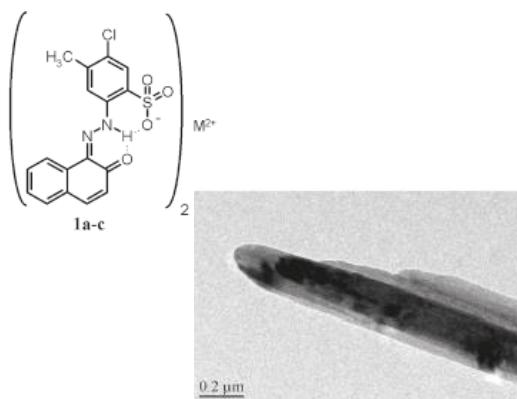
map 11: 9.7% strain  
raptured



### 3d data: Traditional approach – tilt series of oriented diffraction patterns



$\zeta$ -phase Pigment Red 53:2



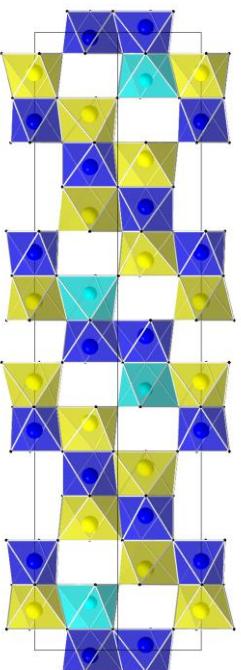
# Ab initio structure solution by direct methods from PED data

## single zone

Determination of Nb atom positions

Cell parameters:  $a = 27.15 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 21.60 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 3.95 \text{ \AA}$ , space group Pbam

**Ab initio determination of the framework structure of the heavy-metal oxide  $\text{Cs}_x\text{Nb}_{2.54}\text{W}_{2.46}\text{O}_{14}$  from 100 kV precession electron diffraction data**, Weirich et al., *Ultramicroscopy* **106** 164–175 (2006)



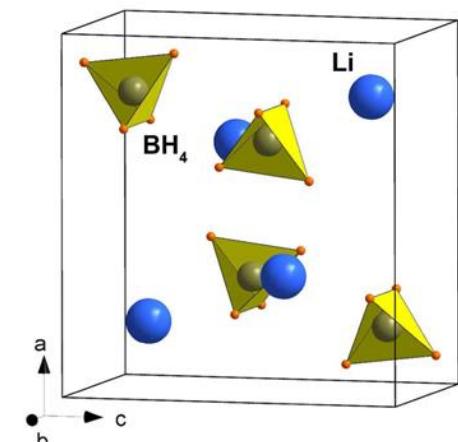
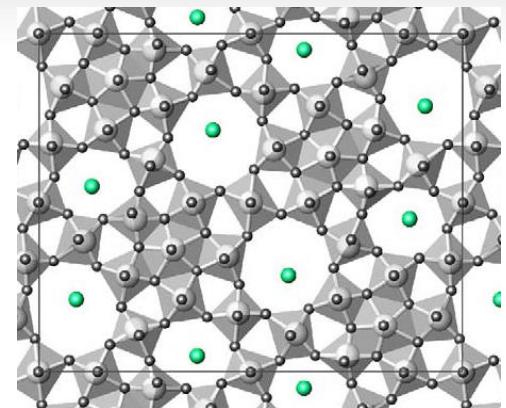
## 3D data

10 single zone patterns

Cell parameters:  $a = b = 5.06 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 32.54 \text{ \AA}$ , space group P-3c1  
refined on Synchrotron XRPD data

**Structure solution of the new titanate  $\text{Li}_4\text{Ti}_8\text{Ni}_3\text{O}_{21}$  using precession electron diffraction.** M. Gemmi, H. Klein, A. Rageau, P. Strobel, F. Le Cras, *Acta Crystallogr B* **66**, 60 (2010).

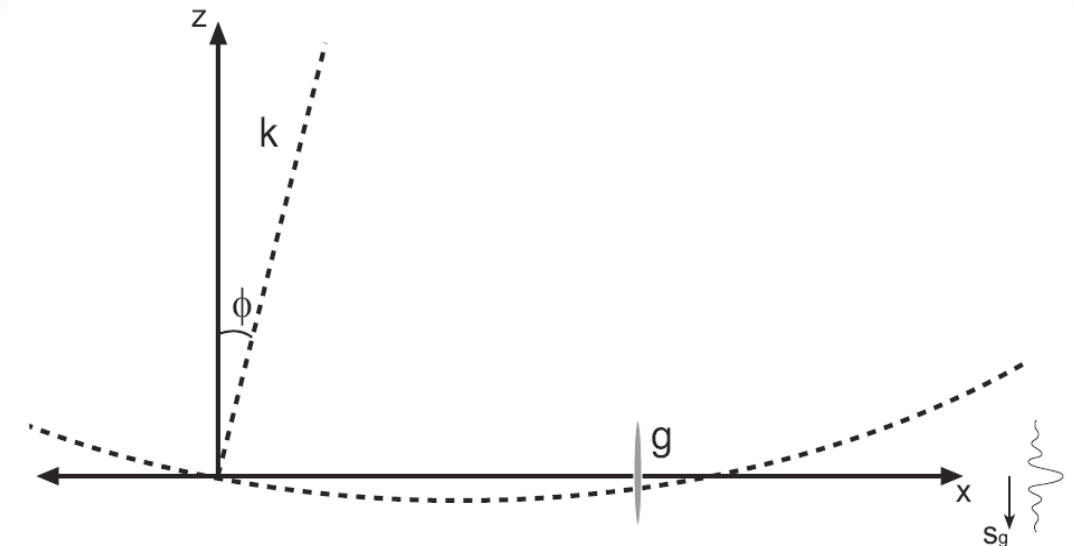
**Crystal Structure of a Lightweight Borohydride from Submicrometer Crystallites by Precession Electron Diffraction.** J. Hadermann, A. Abakumov, S. Van Rompaey, T. Perkis, Y. Filinchuk, G. Van Tendeloo, *Chem Mater* **24**, 3401 (2012).



# Reflection intensities and corrections

$$I(g) = \int |F(g) \sin(\pi t s_z) / (\pi s_z)|^2 ds_z$$

$s_z$  taken appropriately over the Precession Circuit  
 t is crystal thickness (column approximation)  
 $\phi$  is total precession angle



Lorentz Correction:  $I(g) = |F(g)|^2 L(g, t, \phi)$   
 K. Gjønnes, Ultramicroscopy, 1997.

$$L(g, t, \phi) = g \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{g}{2R_0} \right)^2}$$

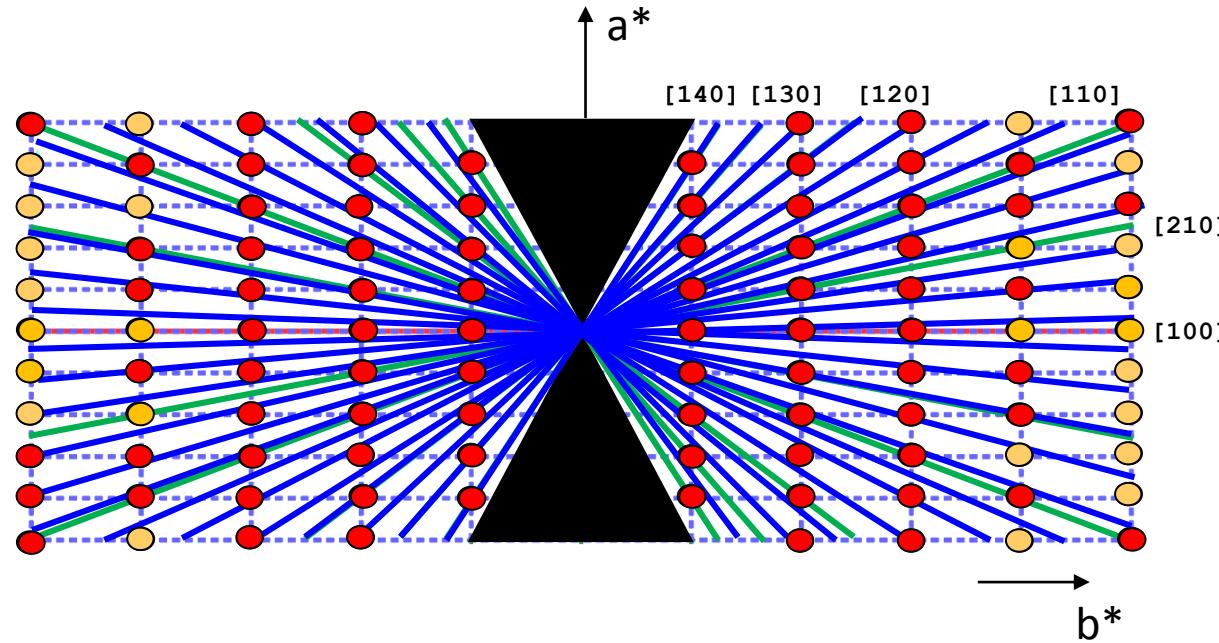
Blackman 2 Beam approximation:  $I_{Blackman}(t) = \int_0^{A_g} J_0(2x) dx; A_g(k) \propto t F(k)$

Multislice Calculation:

$$s_z^{\text{eff}} = (s_z^2 + 1/\xi_g^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\xi_g = \frac{\pi V_c \cos \theta_B}{\lambda F_g}$$

## Tilt series: Prominent zones from oriented single crystal selected

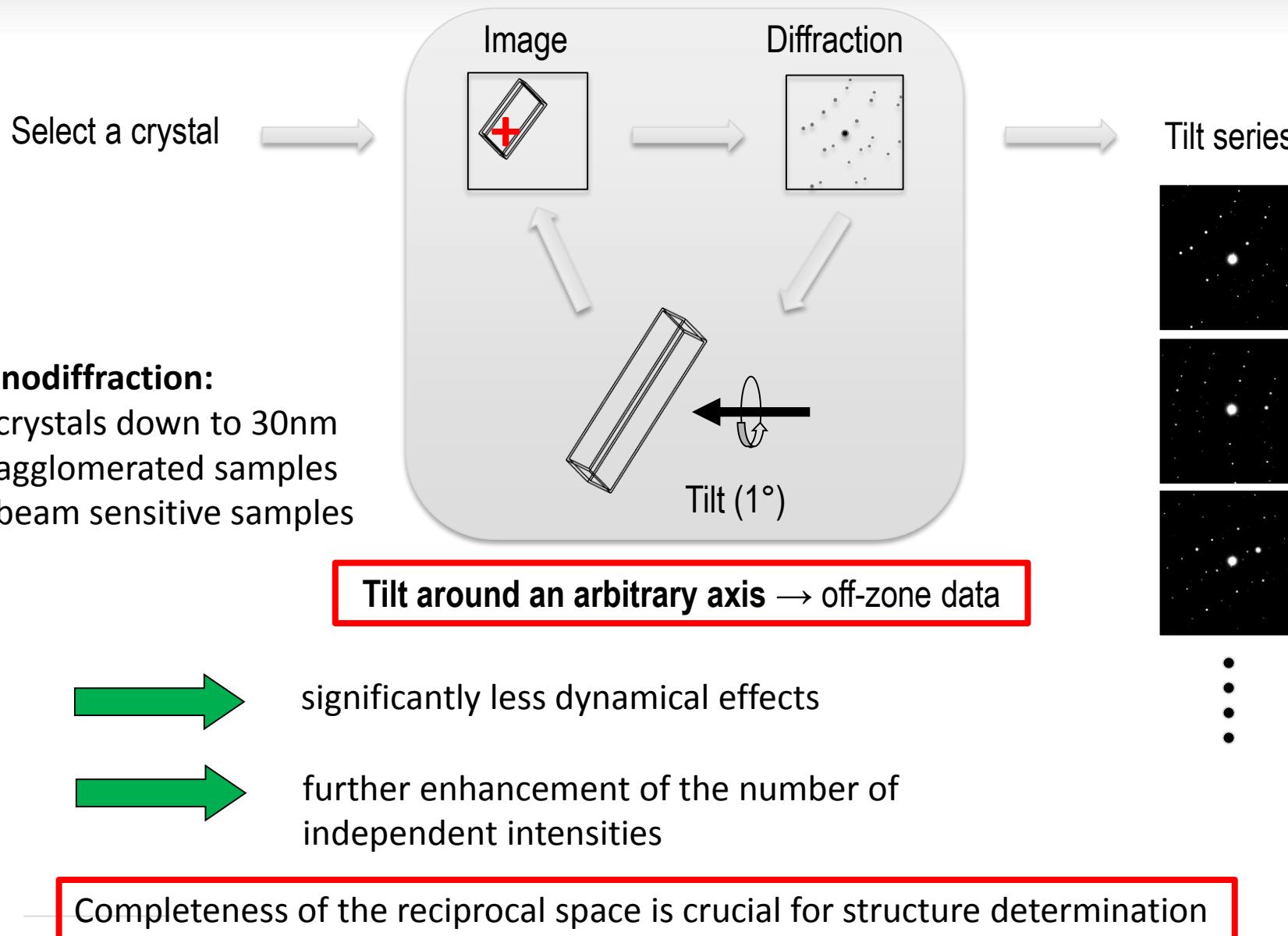


→ Unaccessible area 20°-60°

→ Quick and easy (off-zone diffraction: no crystal orientation needed)

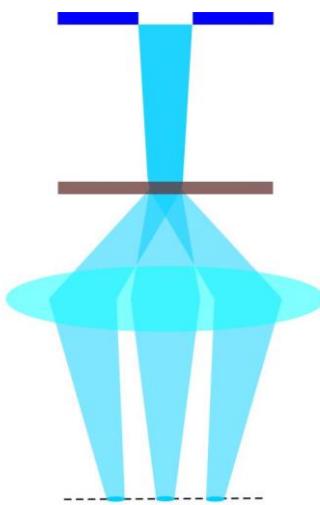
→ Enhanced number of intensities

# ADT data collection sequence – with and without precession

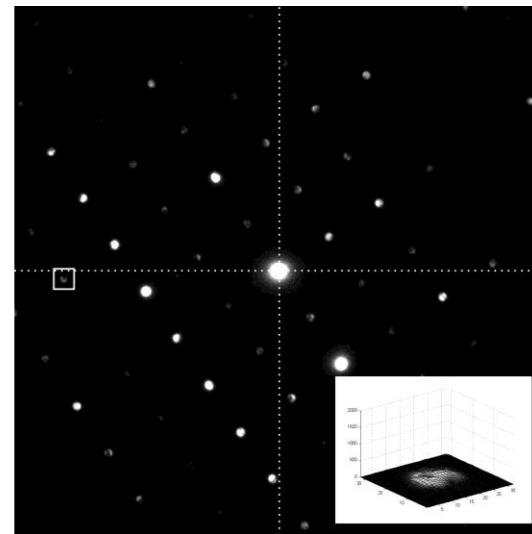


# Taking care of camera length calibration

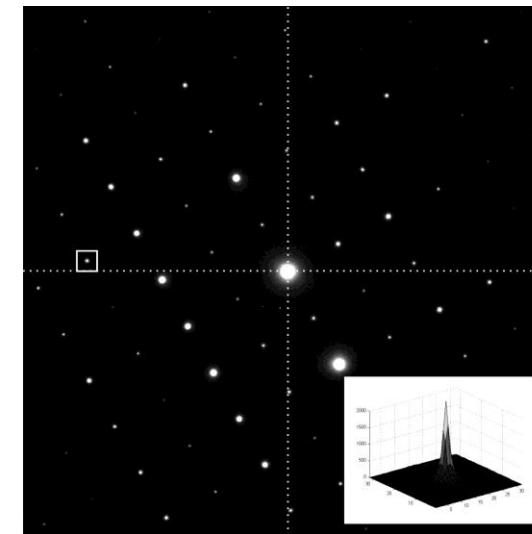
The additional focussing introduces rotation and contraction/expansion of the pattern → change of the camera length



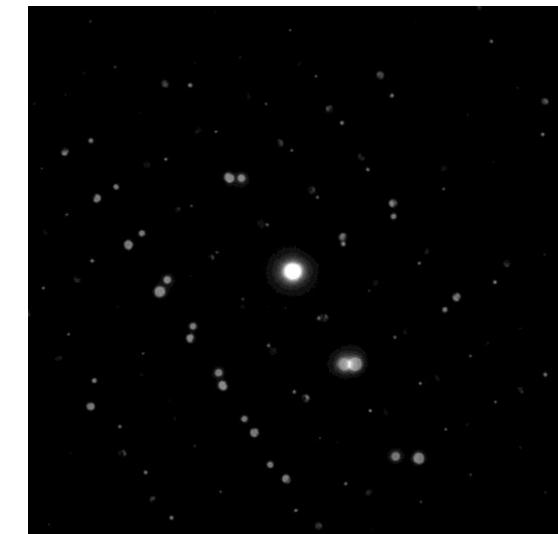
Nanodiffraction



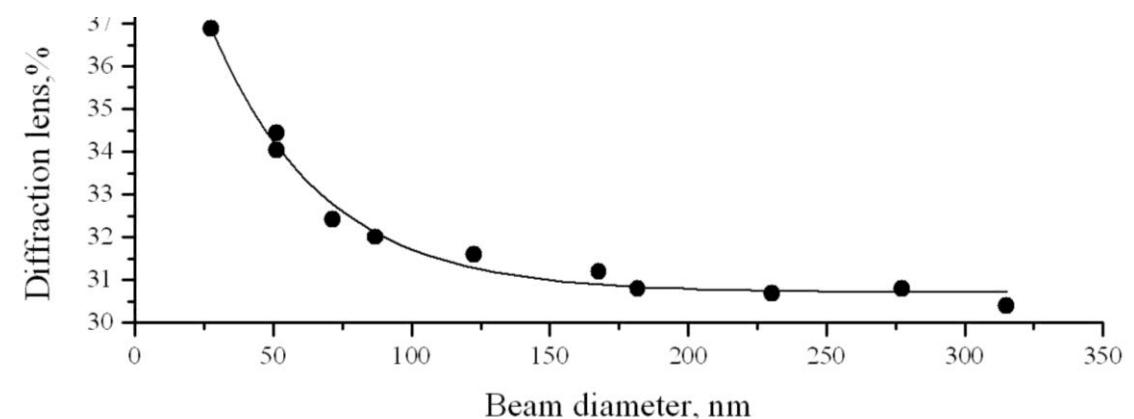
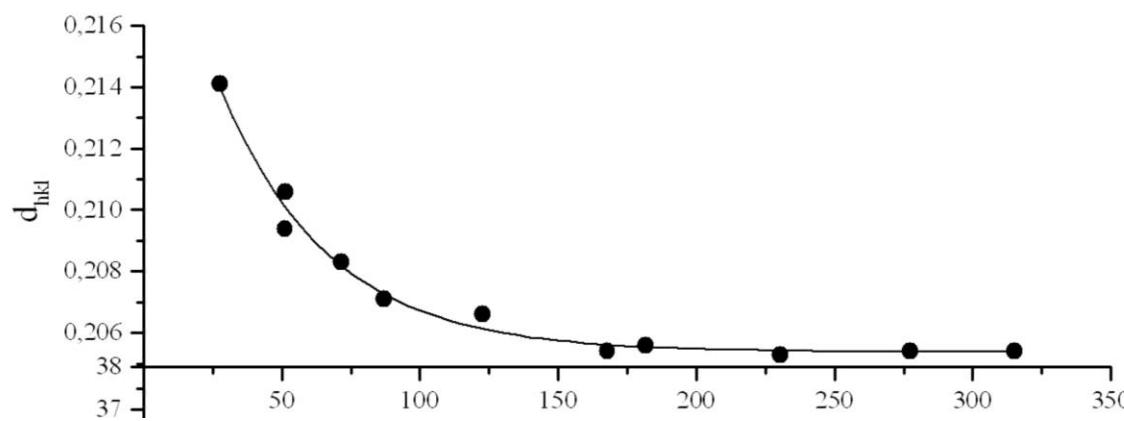
Nanodiffraction pattern



focus into spotty pattern using the diffraction lens

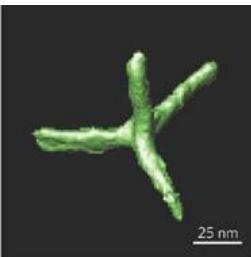
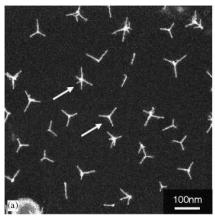


overlay



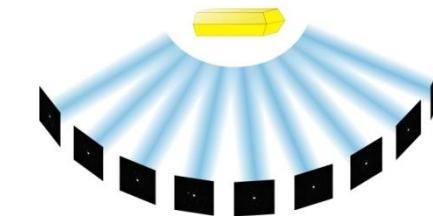
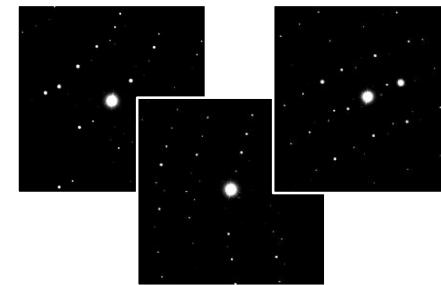
# Tomography of the reciprocal space - ADT

## Real Space Tomography

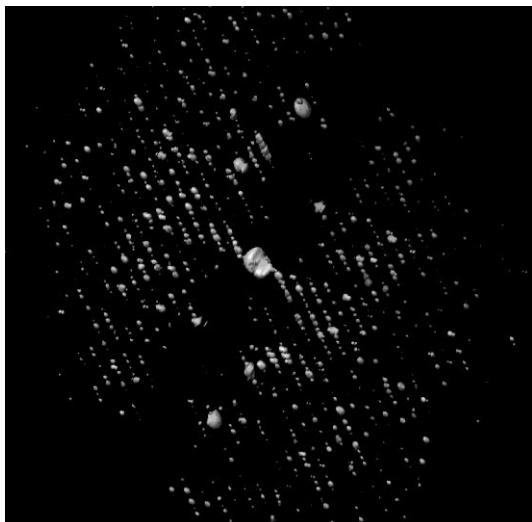


Arslan et al.,  
*Ultramicroscopy* **106**,  
994–1000 (2006)

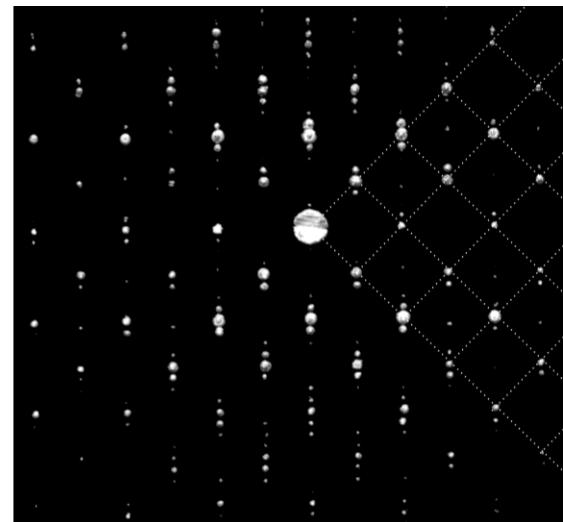
## Reciprocal Space Tomography



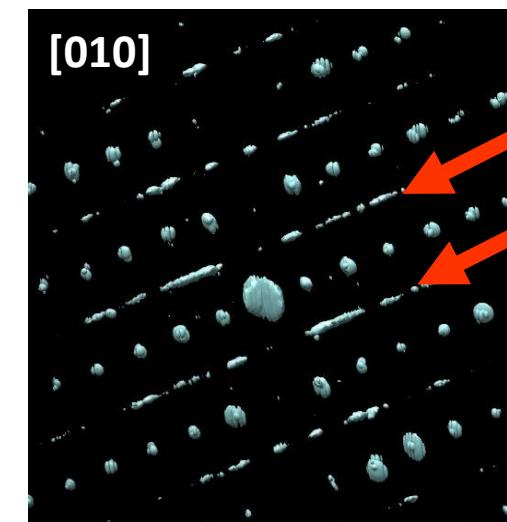
$\pm 60^\circ = 121$  diffraction patterns  
Approx. 2h data collection time



3D reconstructed reciprocal space



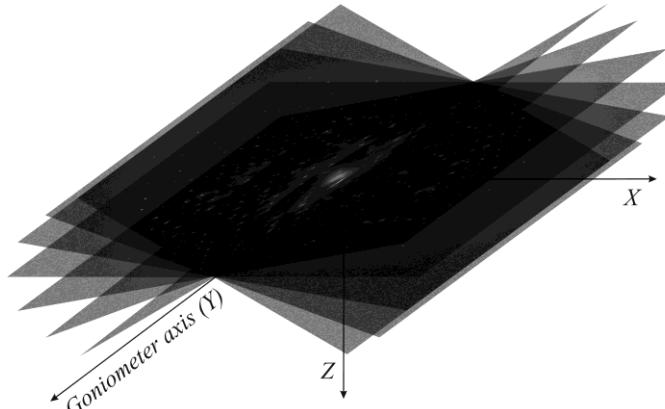
$\text{Bi}_{12}\text{O}_{17}\text{Cl}_2$ : superstructure



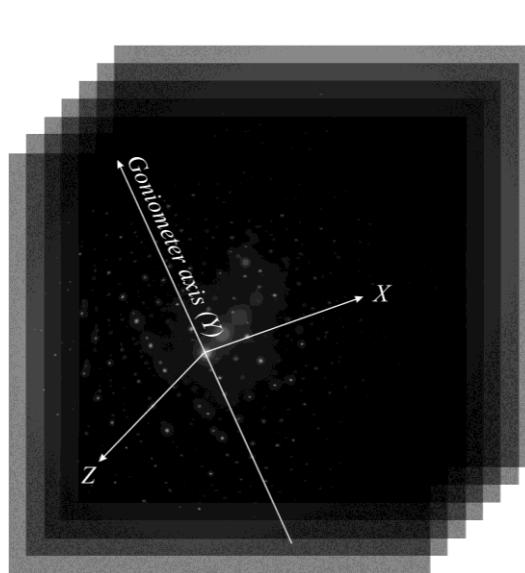
$\text{Li}_2\text{O}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{WO}_3$ : disordered

# Steps necessary to reconstruct the reciprocal space

Diffraction data acquisition



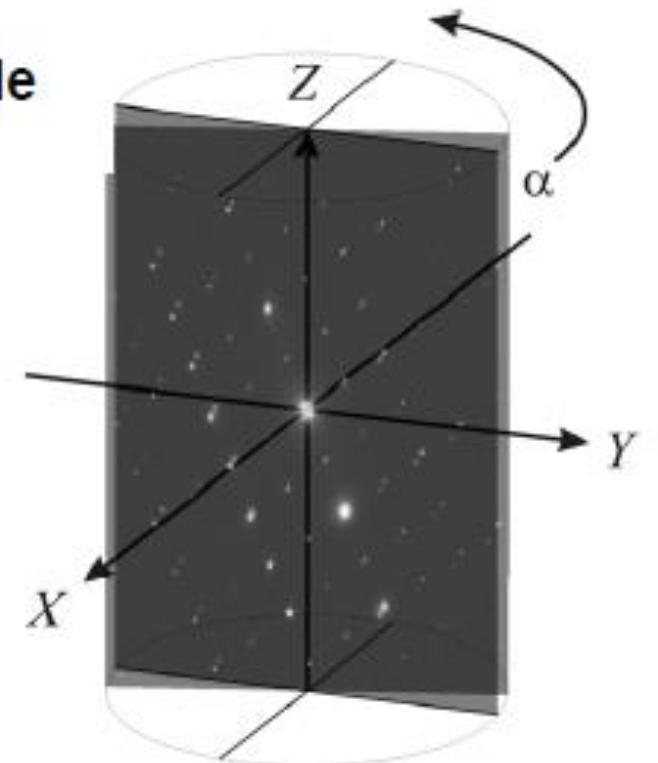
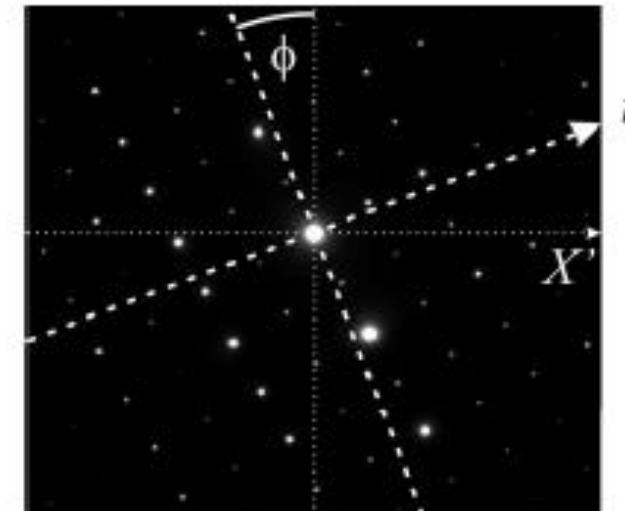
Diffraction data stack



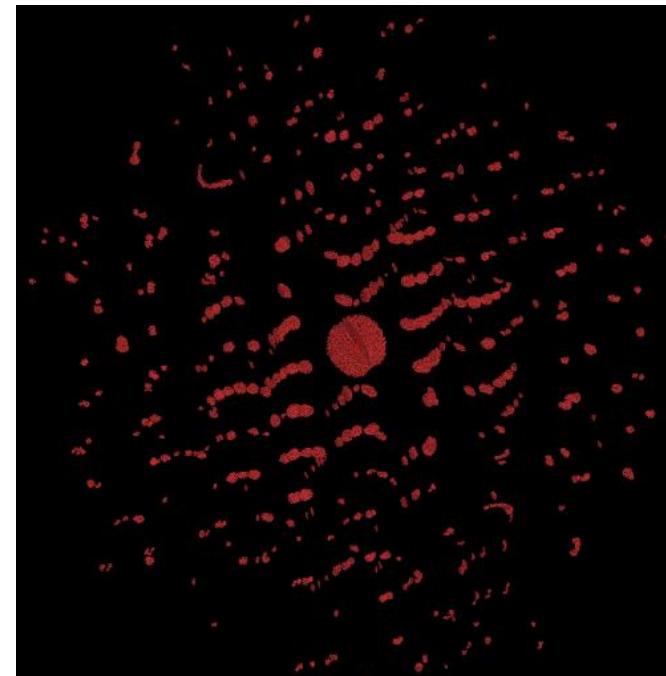
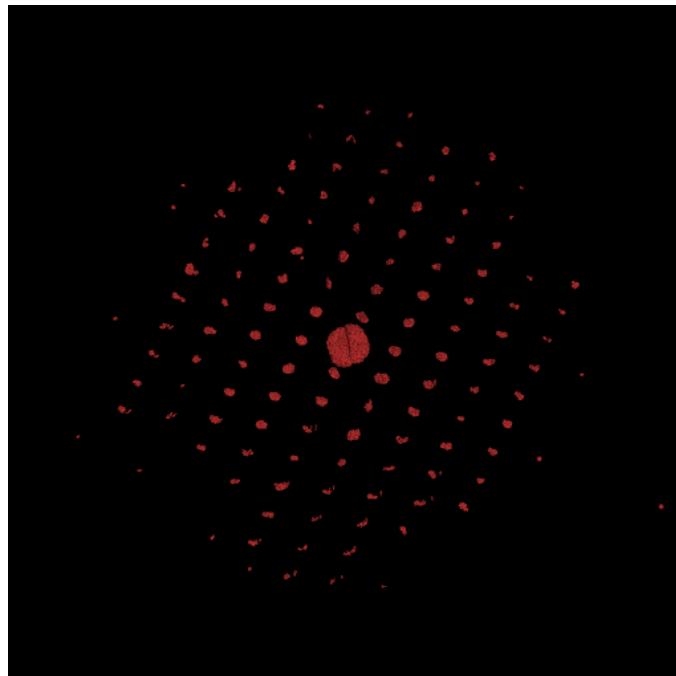
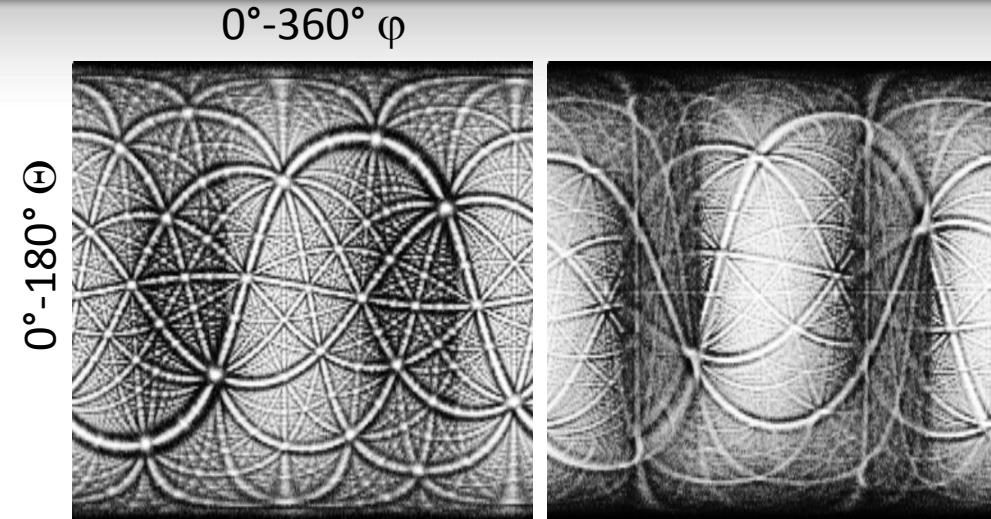
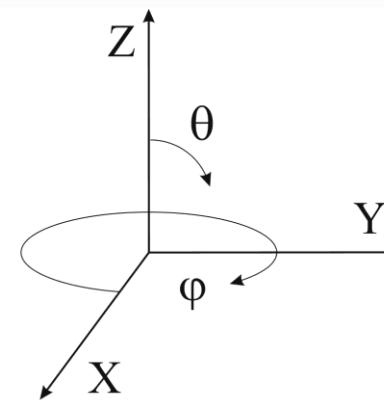
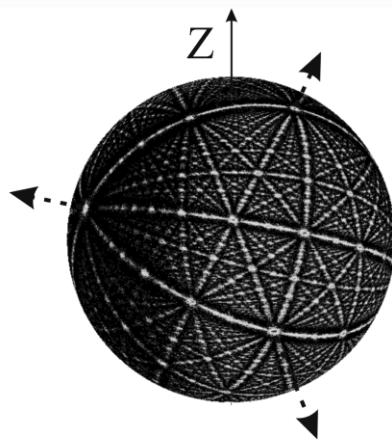
Crystal tracking by beam shift → diffraction shift  
(SAED small, NED more sensitive)

Finding the correct tilt axis

**Find tilt axis azimuthal angle**



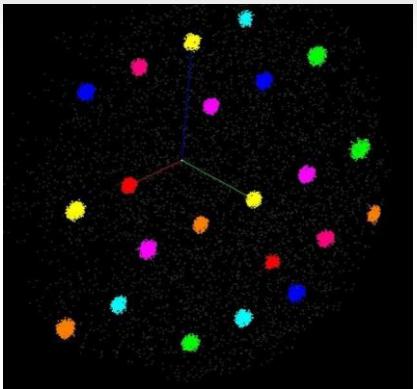
# Importance of correct tilt axis



Tilt axis 10° off

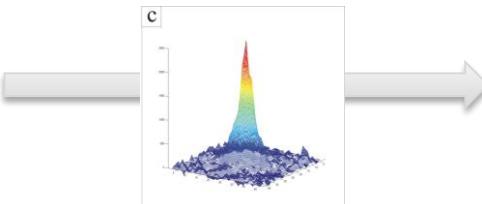
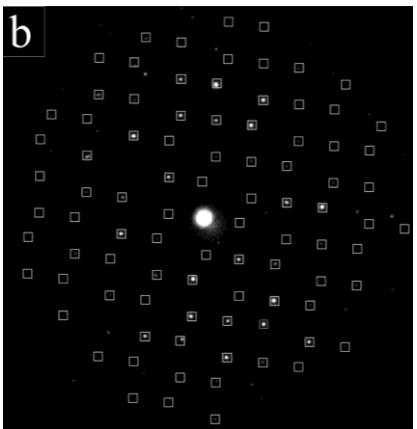


# ADT – cell parameter determination using difference vector space



Cell parameter determination  
by Clusteranalysis

Error of approx. 2%  
and triclinic cells  
directly accessible

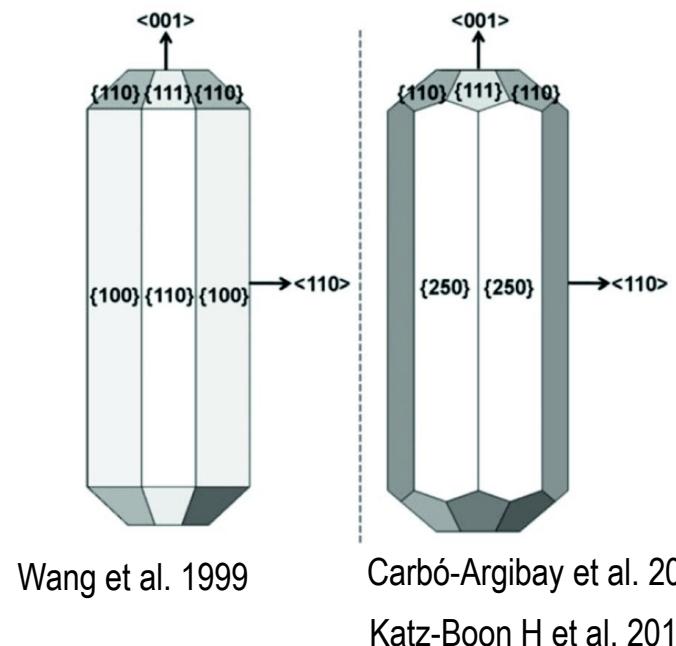
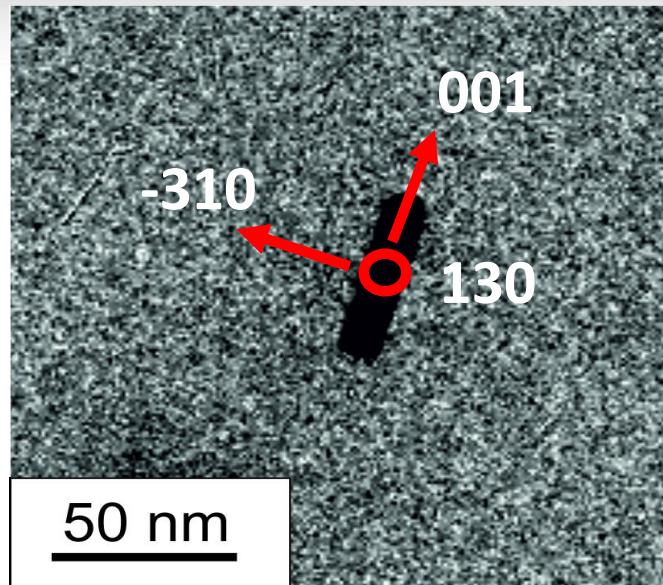
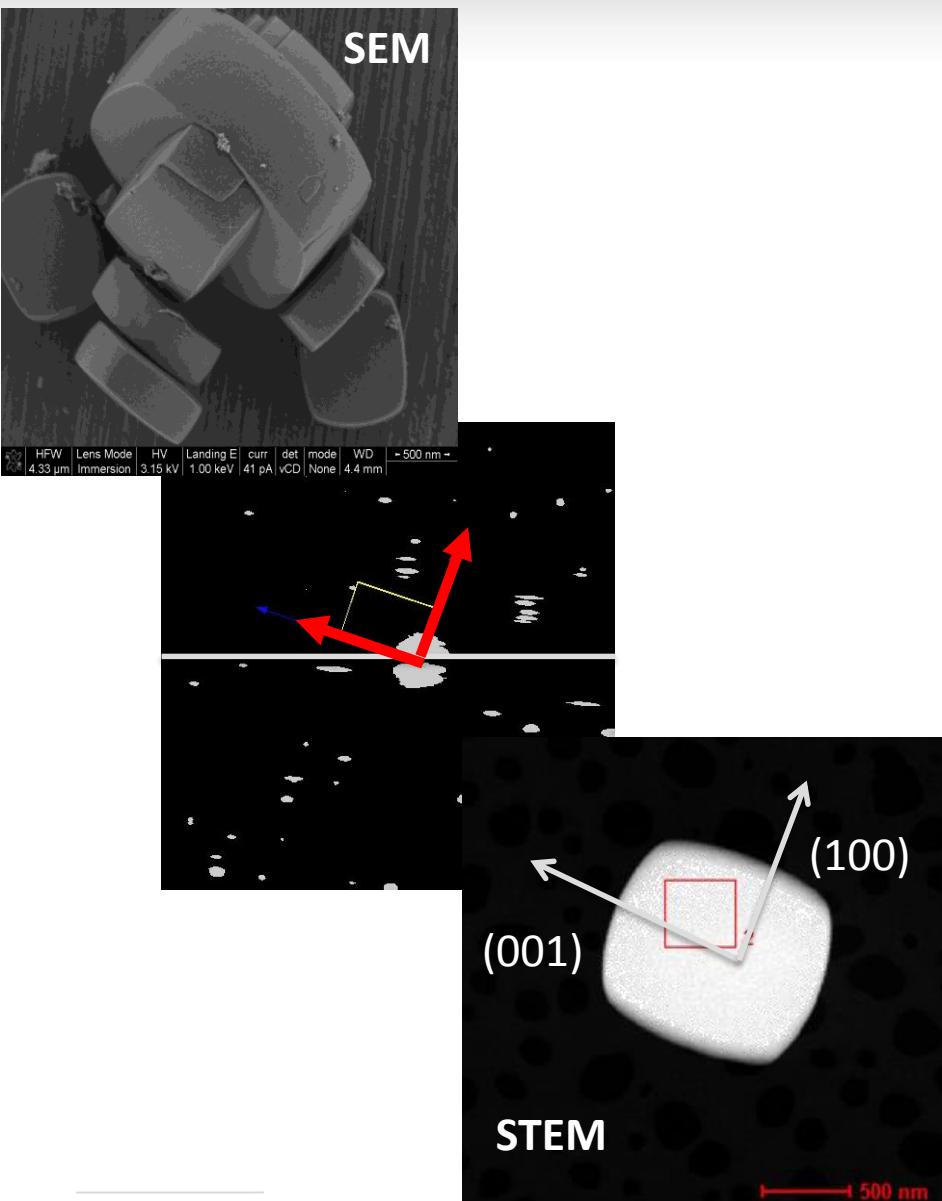


Peakintegration after fine  
background subtraction

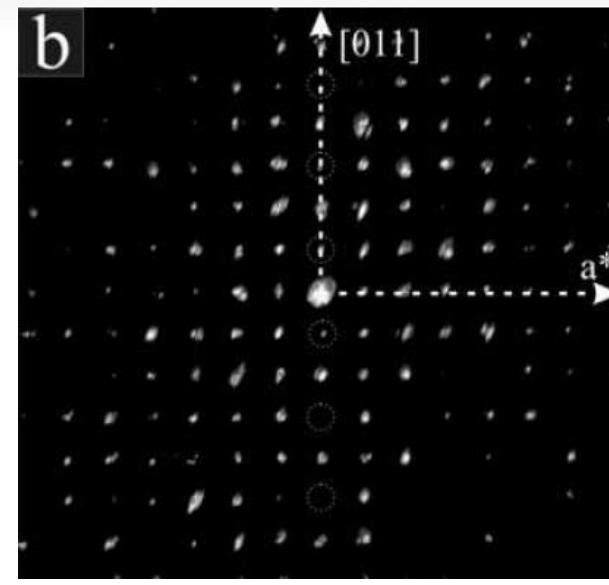
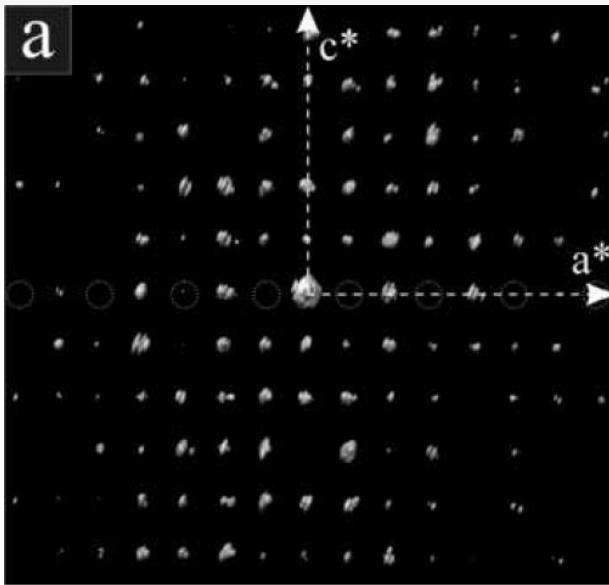
Dataset  $h,k,l$  Int for  
„ab-initio“ structure  
solution using X-ray  
programs

No further correction is performed on the extracted electron diffraction data

# Indexing the facets: Silikalit-I and 50nm Au nanorod



# ADT - Space group determination and intensity extraction

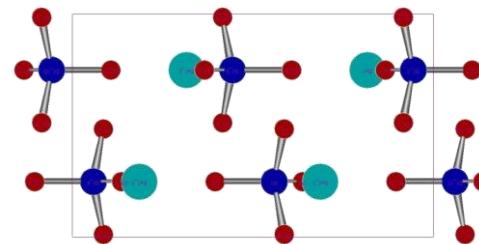


## Barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ ):

$a = 8.884 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 5.458 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 7.153 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $V = 346 \text{ \AA}^3$

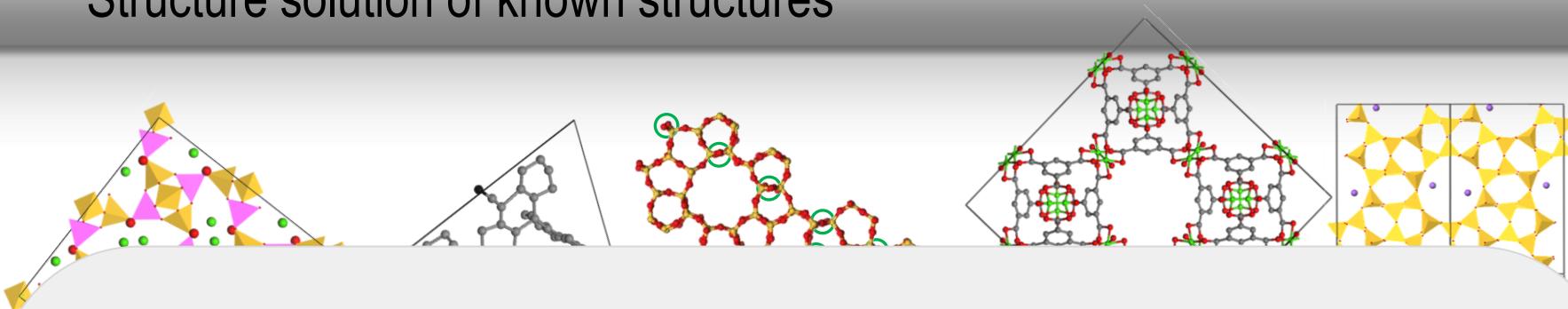
Space group **Pnma** found directly by SIR08, only minor extinction violations

355 of 375 possible reflections at  $0.7 \text{ \AA}$  resolution  
95% coverage of reciprocal space



Zonal data: Ba, S  
ADT: Ba, S, 2O  
ADT+PED: Ba, S, 3O  
Max. dev:  $0.06 \text{ \AA}$

# Structure solution of known structures



## Diffraction data quality:

Completeness of  
diffraction space

~70% triclinic

~90% monoclinic

Resolution: ~0.08 nm organics  
~0.06 nm inorganics

Average deviation of atomic positions  
(comparison ADT - X-ray):  $\leq 0.01$  nm

Good detectability of light atoms

## Sample applicability:

Smallest crystal used:

~300 nm organics

~ 30 nm inorganics

Largest analysed volume:  $33000 \text{ \AA}^3$

Largest number of  
independent atoms: 90

Agglomerated and embedded samples  
Polyphasic materials  
Highly beam sensitive material

$\text{Na}_4\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{14}$

$\text{Na}_2\text{W}_2\text{O}_7$

CmI  
Cmce

450  
454

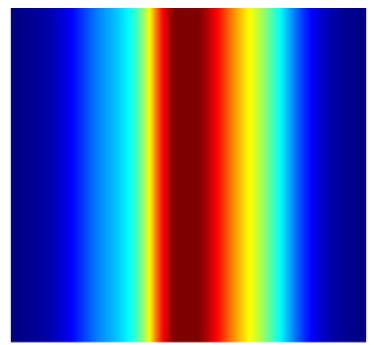
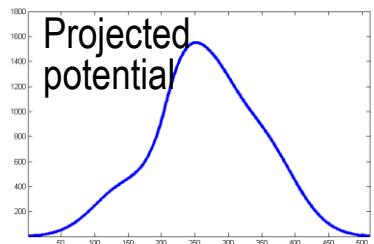
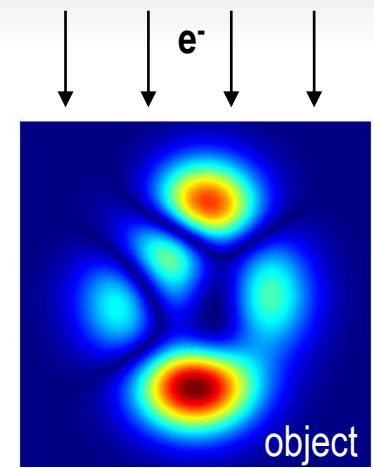
24  
9

0  
18

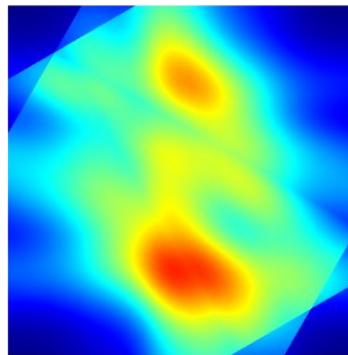
0,8  
0,9

58%  
91%

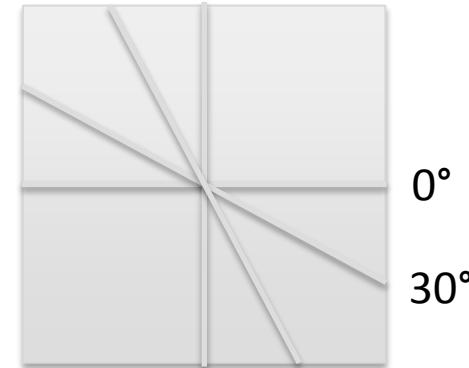
# Principle of tomography



Reconstructed image



Tomographic reconstruction



90° 60°

Real space

Image plane

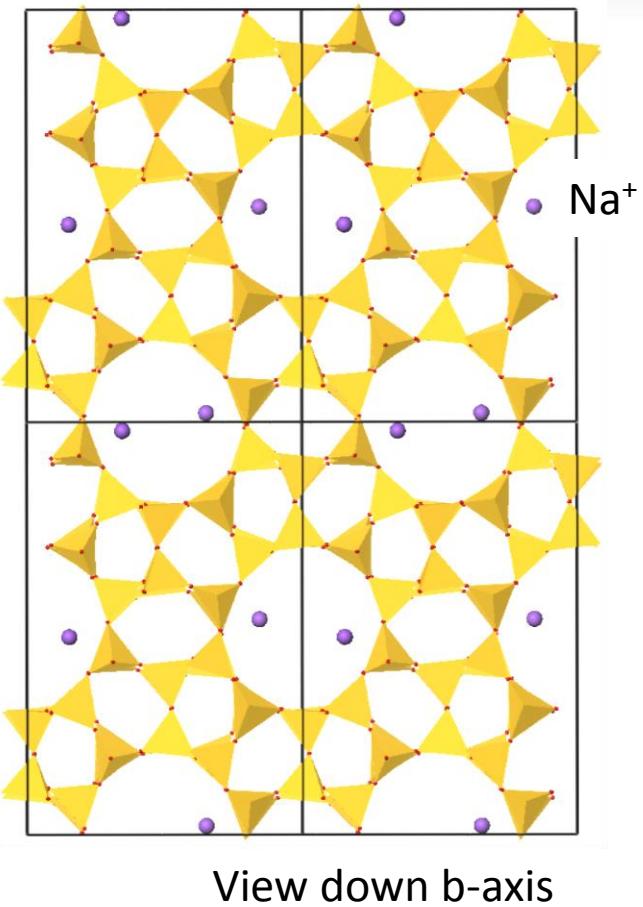
projection of potential

Reciprocal space

Backfocal plane

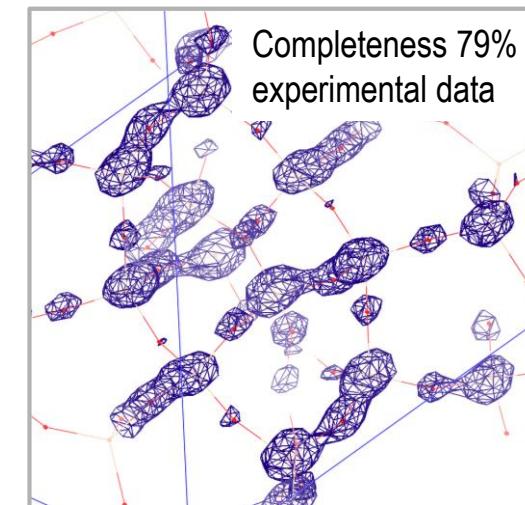
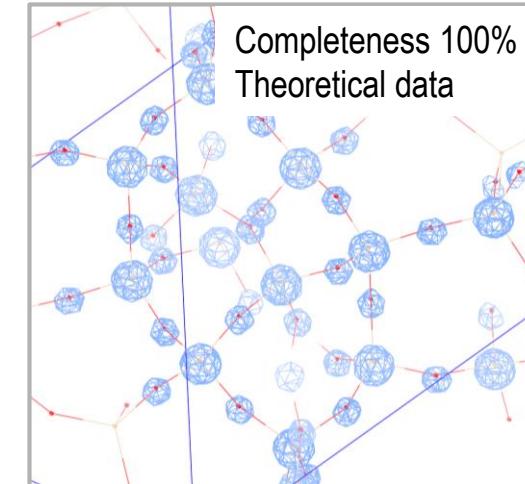
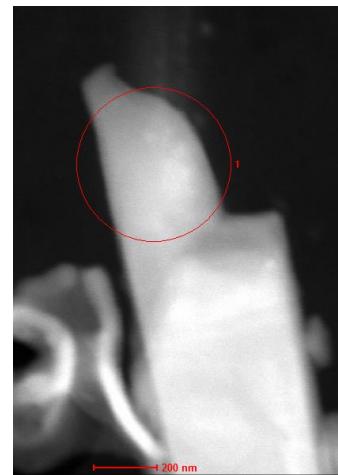
FT of potential

# Missing cone problem: ZSM-5 (twinned crystals)

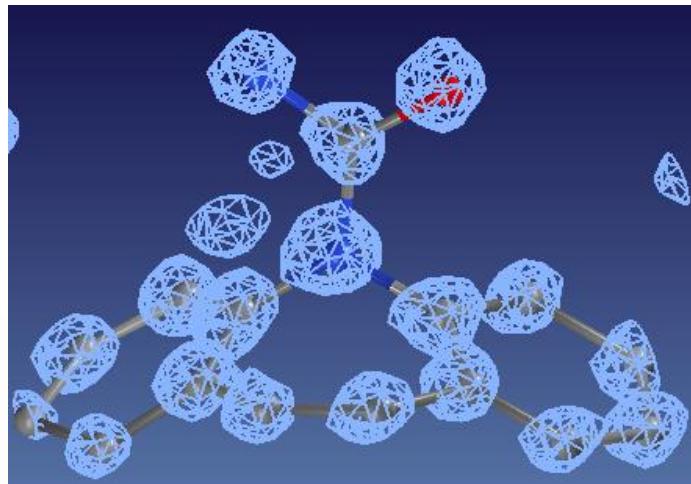
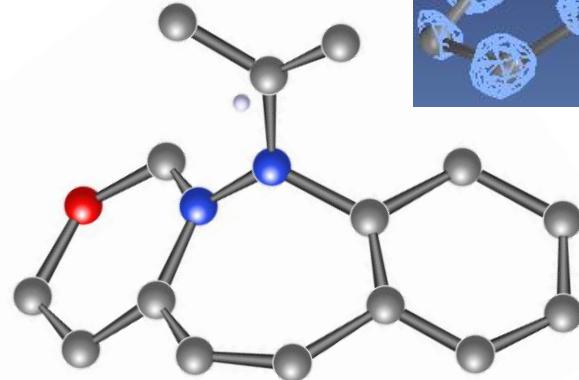
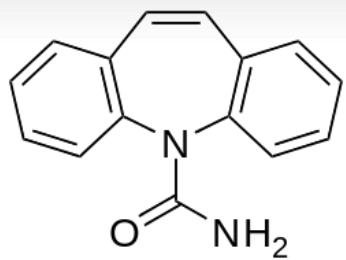


12 T sites; 10-member rings  
Si/O determined „ab initio“; Na by  
fourier map; EDX confirms small  
amount of Na

Pnma:  $a = 20.1 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 19.9 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 13.4 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $V = 5360 \text{ \AA}^3$   
2288 indep. reflections, completeness 79% mainly  
reflections in direction  $a^*$  are missing

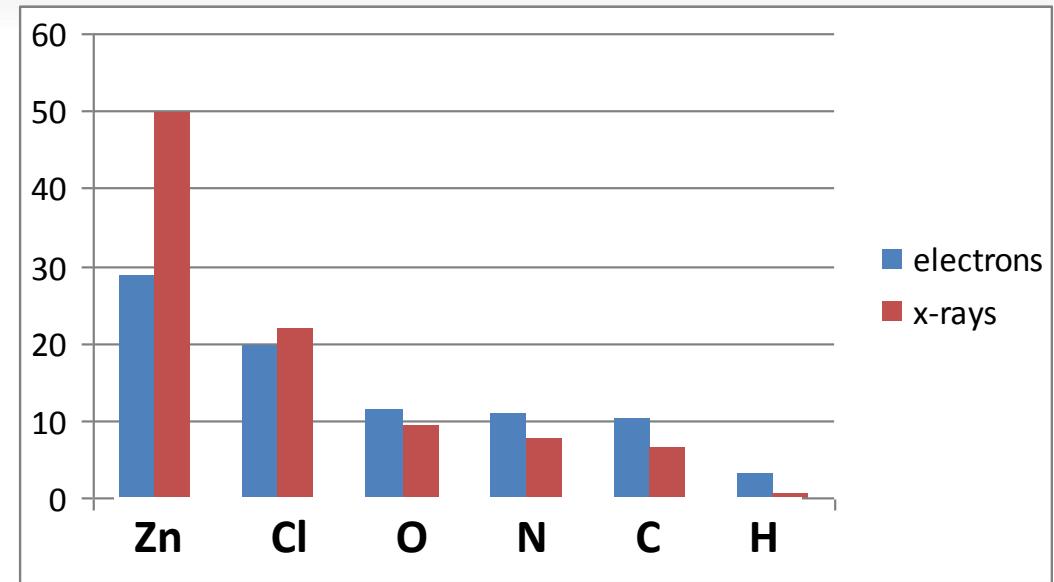


# Detectability of atoms



Carbamazepine Polymorph III: Solution  
„direkt methods“ from SIR14

SIR: M. C. Burla, R. Caliandro, M. Camalli, B. Carrozzini, G. L. Cascarano, C. Giacovazzo, M. Mallamo, A. Mazzone, G. Polidori and R. Spagna, J. Appl. Crystallogr., 2012, 45, 357–361.



Electron radiation:

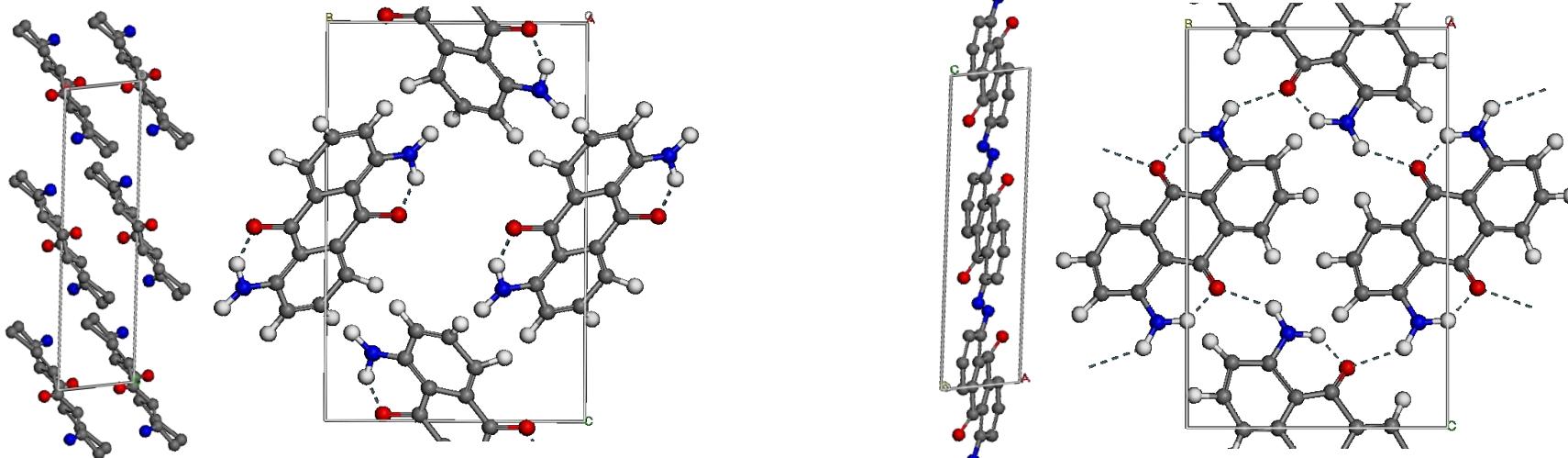
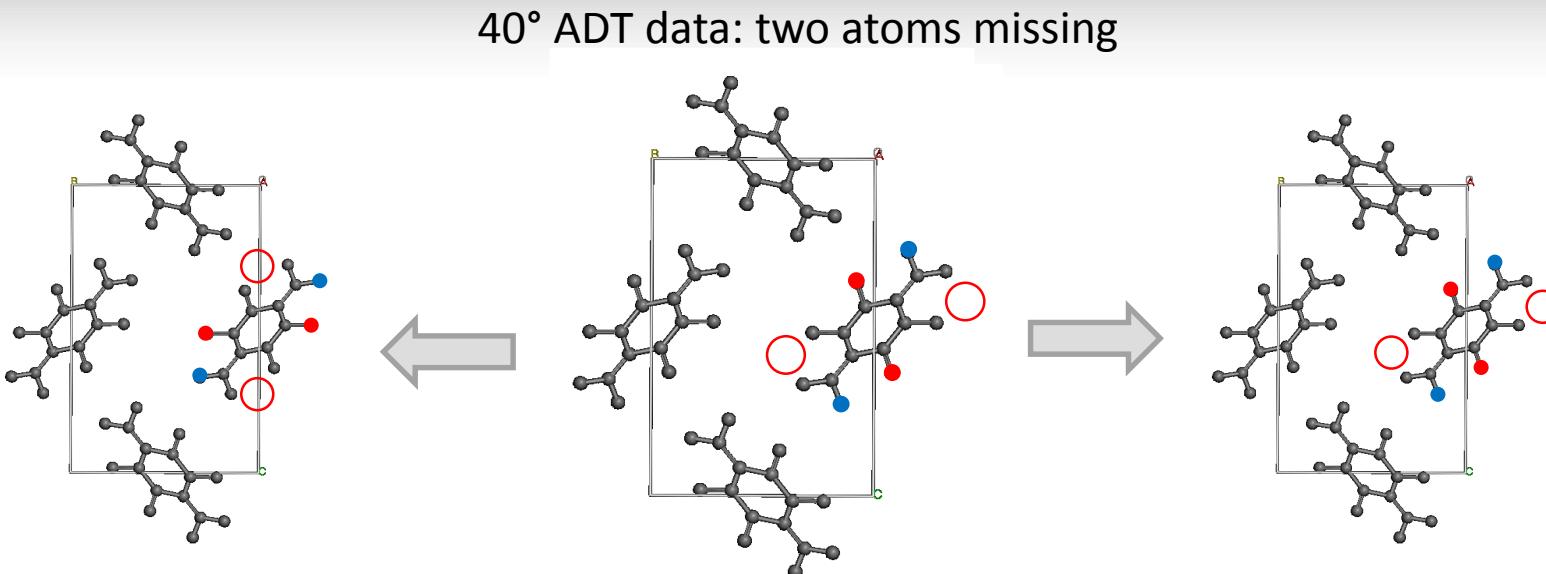
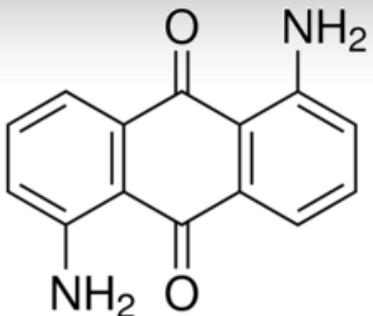
- atoms are less distinguishable
- light atoms are better visible next to heavy atoms



Elemental analysis (EDX) can deliver composition information

Si/Al: distinguishable via bond length  
Si/(Ge, Ti, ...): chance to find major

# 1,5-diaminoanthraquinone (DAAQ) - organic dye



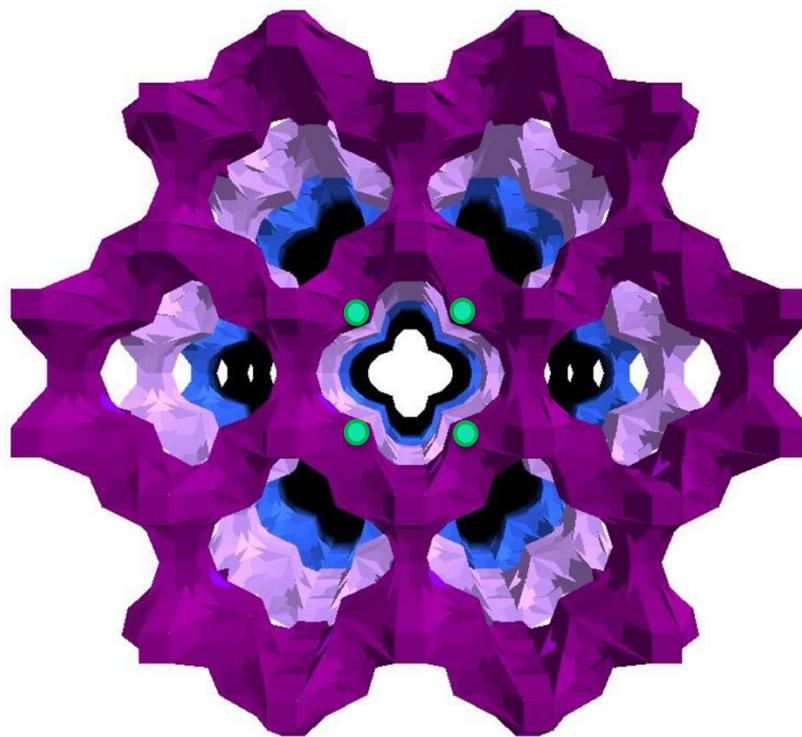
found in Literature: solved from  
zonal PED data and XRPD

120° ADT data: all atoms  
detected

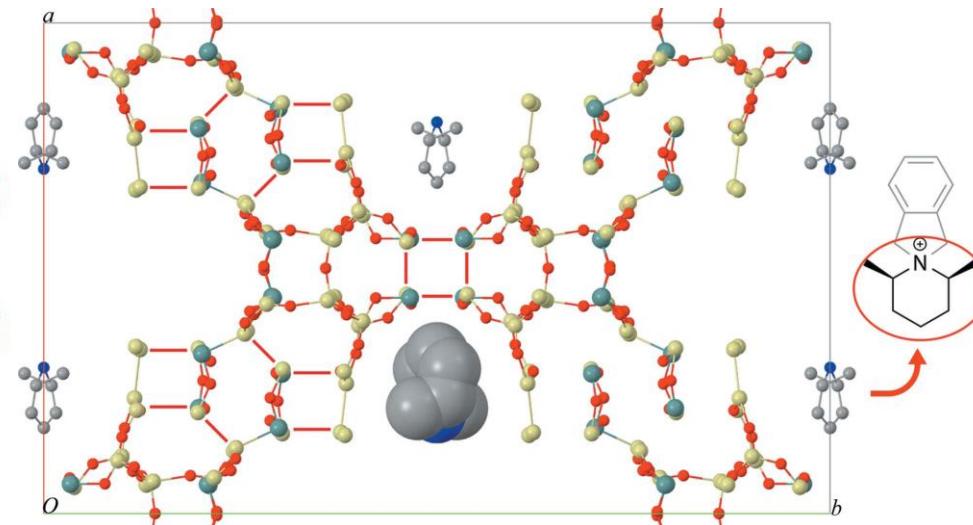
# Template: Hierarchical Mesomicroporous Zeolite ITQ-43

Si/Ge Zeolite + organic structure-directing agent, framework density 11.4 T-atoms /1000 Å<sup>3</sup>

3 sets of 12-ring channels of 6.8 Å× 6.1Å cloverleaf-like channels formed by 28-rings along c axis; pore diameters: 21.9 Å × 19.6 Å



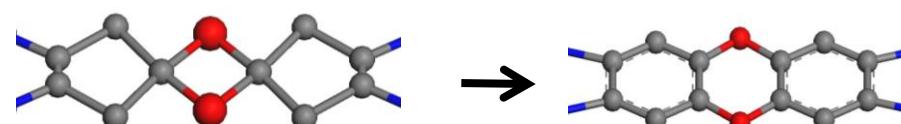
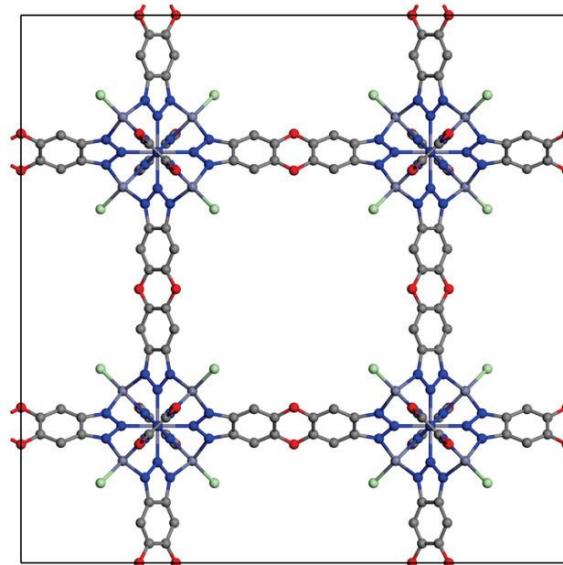
Delta-recycling: Rius, J. (2012)



J. Jiang, J. L. Jorda, J. Yu, L. A. Baumes, E. Mugnaioli, M. J. Diaz-Cabanas, U. Kolb, A. Corma, *Science*, 333(6046), 1131-1134 (2011); J. Rius, E. Mugnaioli, O. Vallcorba, U. Kolb, *Acta Cryst. A*69, 396-407 (2013)

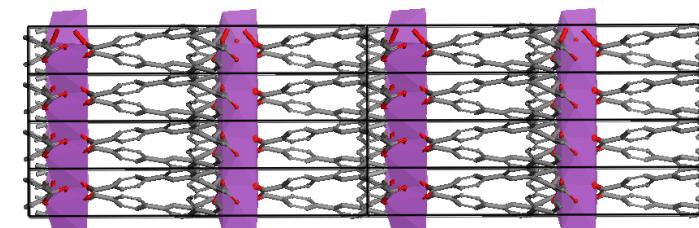
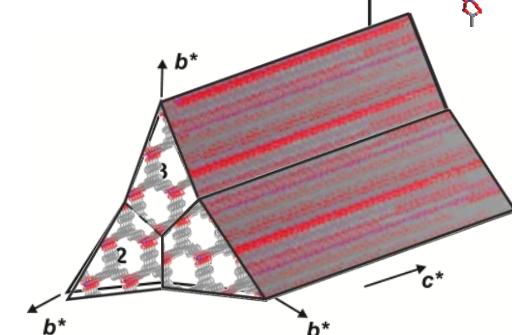
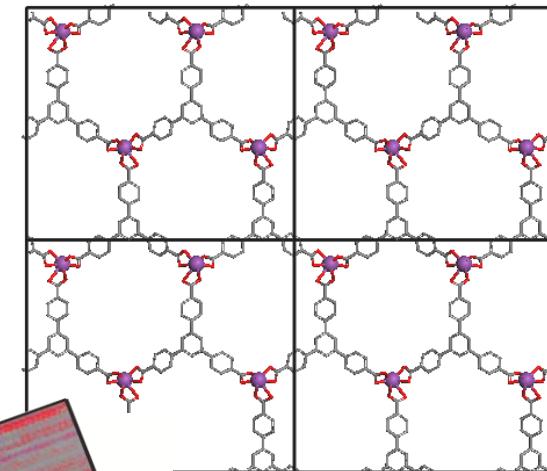
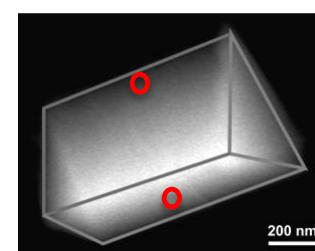
# MOFs – highly beam sensitive material

MFU-4long



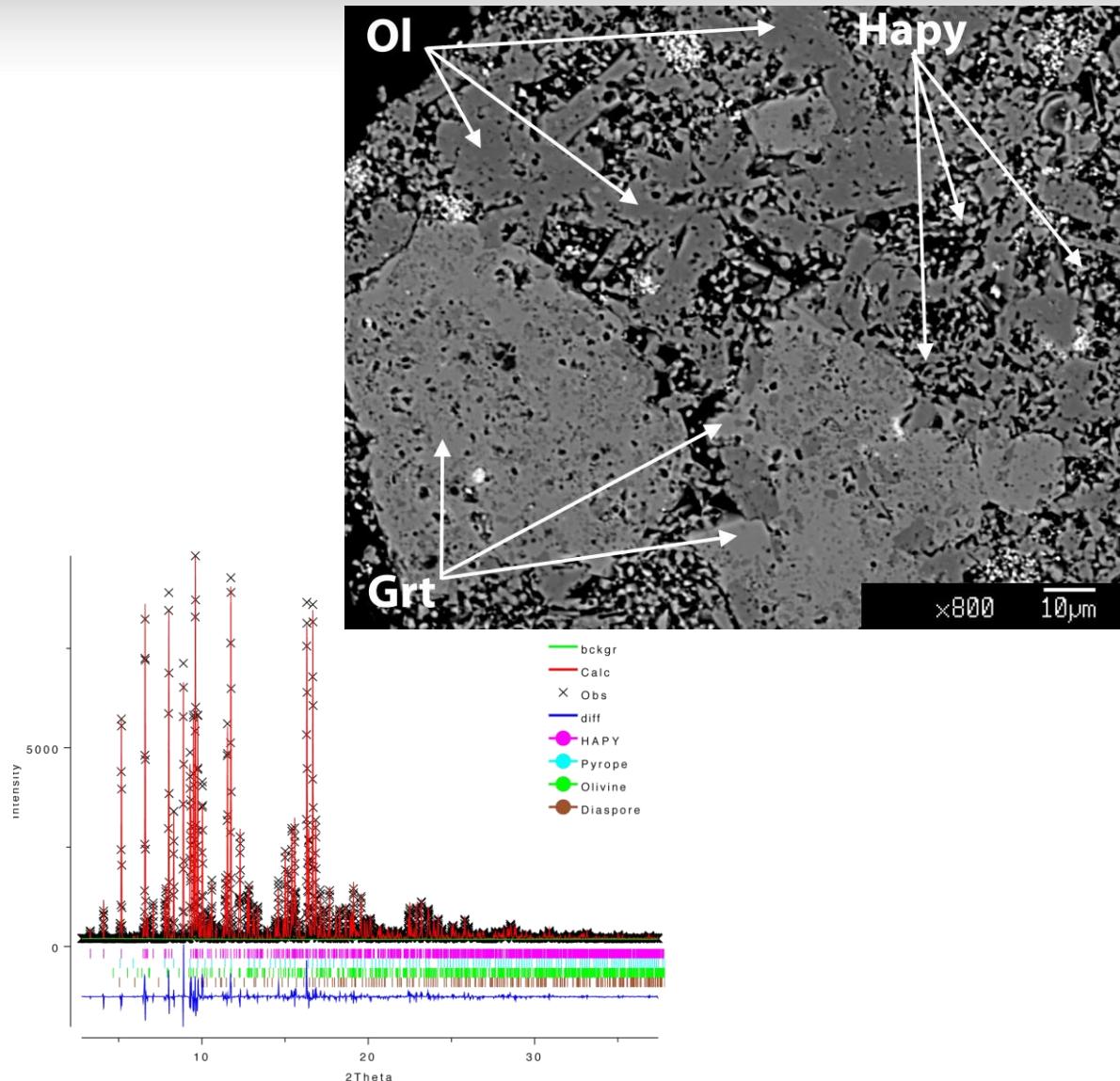
Fm-3m,  $a=32.0 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $V = 32,768 \text{ \AA}^3$ , resolution  $1.3 \text{ \AA}$ ,  
 $R(F)=32\%$ ,  
max. deviation to XRPD =  $0.21 \text{ \AA}$

# Bi(BTB): twinned crystals

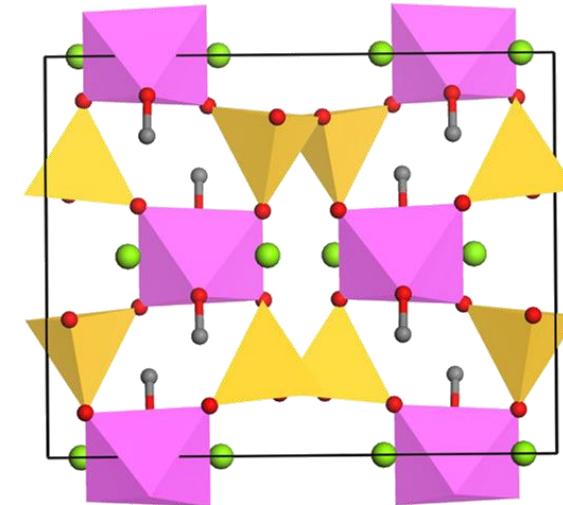


D. Denysenko, M. Grzywa, M. Tonigold, B. Schmitz, I. Krkljus, M. Hirscher, E. Mugnaioli, U. Kolb, J. Hanns and D. Volkmer *Chemistry Eur.* **17**(6), 1837-1848 (2011); M. Feyand, E. Mugnaioli, F. Vermoortele, B. Bueken, J. Dieterich, T. Reimer, U. Kolb, D. de Vos and N. Stock, *Angewandte Chemie* **124**, 10519 –10522 (2012).

# High pressure - Hapy (Hydrous Aluminum bearing Pyroxene)



Problem: olivine and garnet + small crystals of a third unknown phase

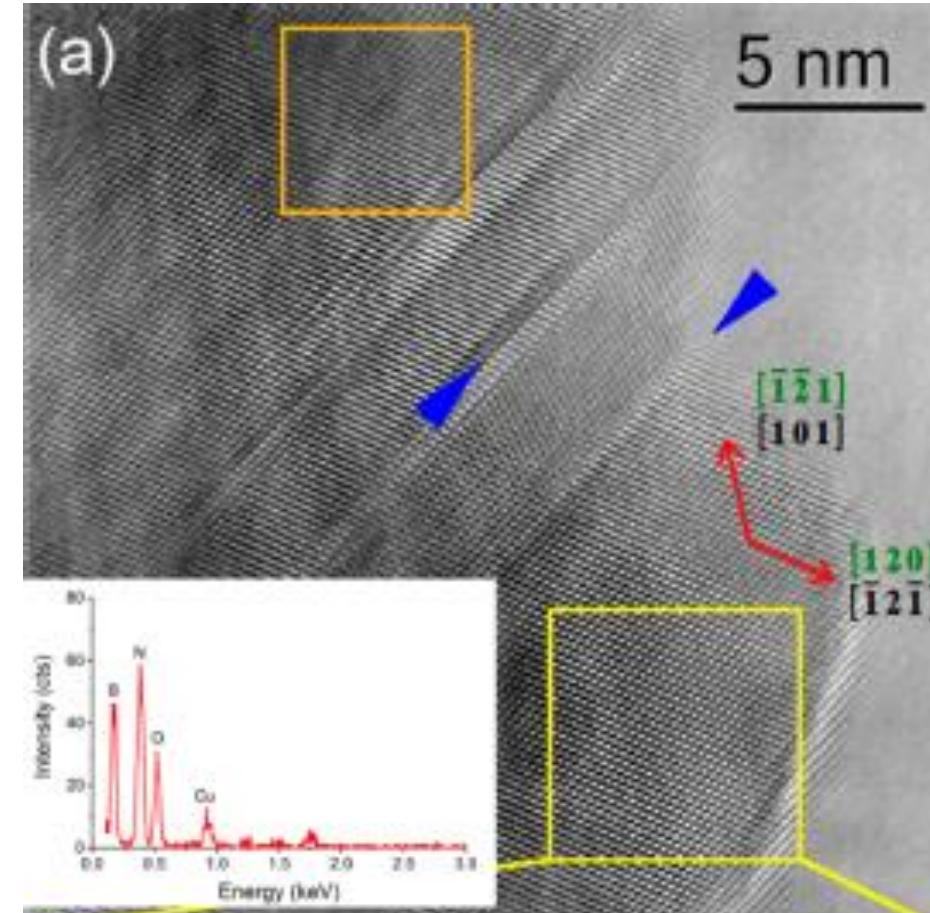
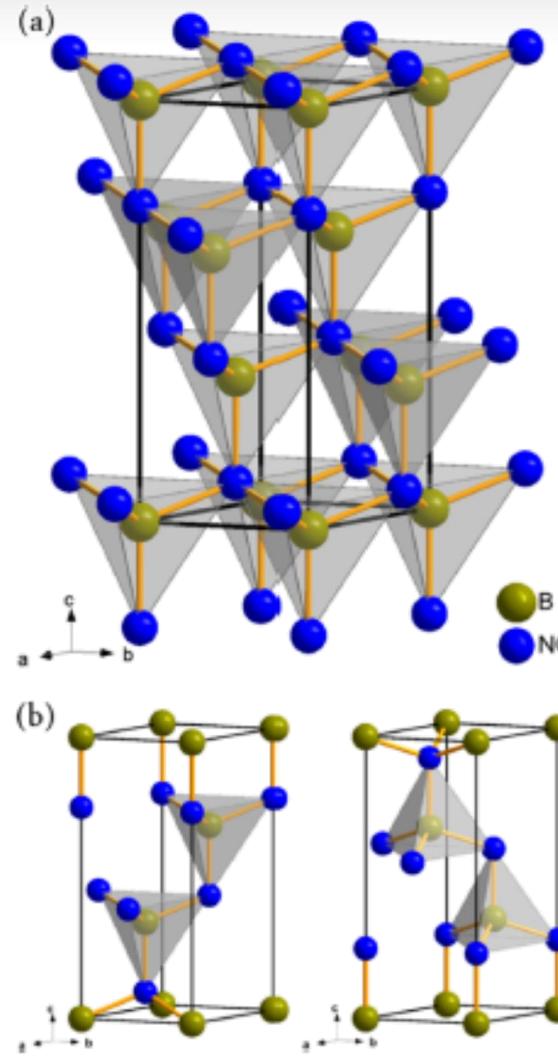


New high-pressure phase synthesized in  $\text{MgO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-\text{SiO}_2-\text{H}_2\text{O}$  system

Not detected by optical microscope and by X-ray powder diffraction.

Re-synthesized after structure solution and refined versa x-ray powder data

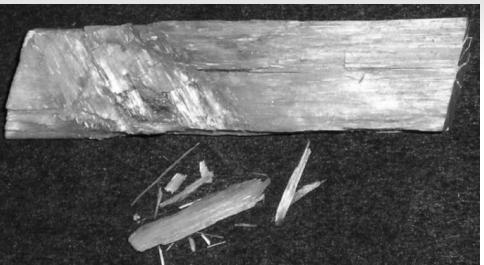
# High pressure – boron oxo nitride ( $B_6N_4O_3$ )



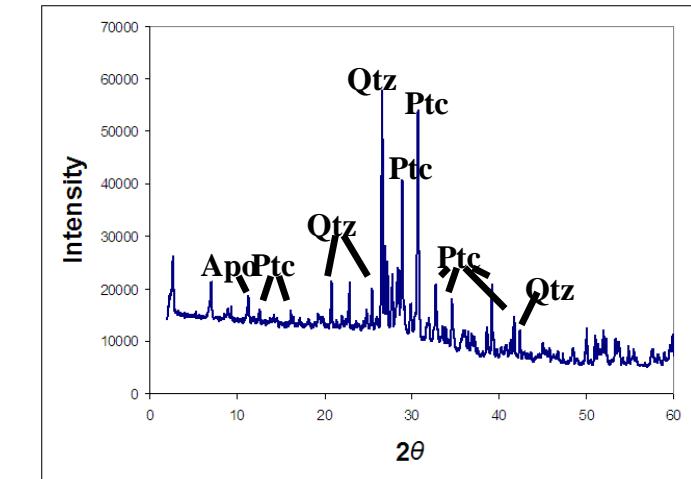
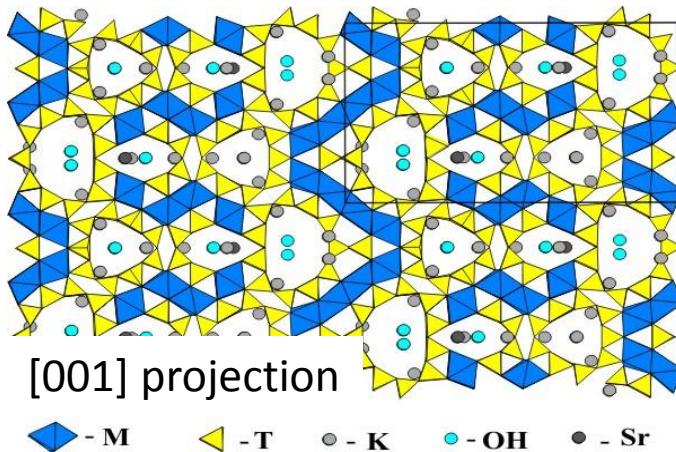
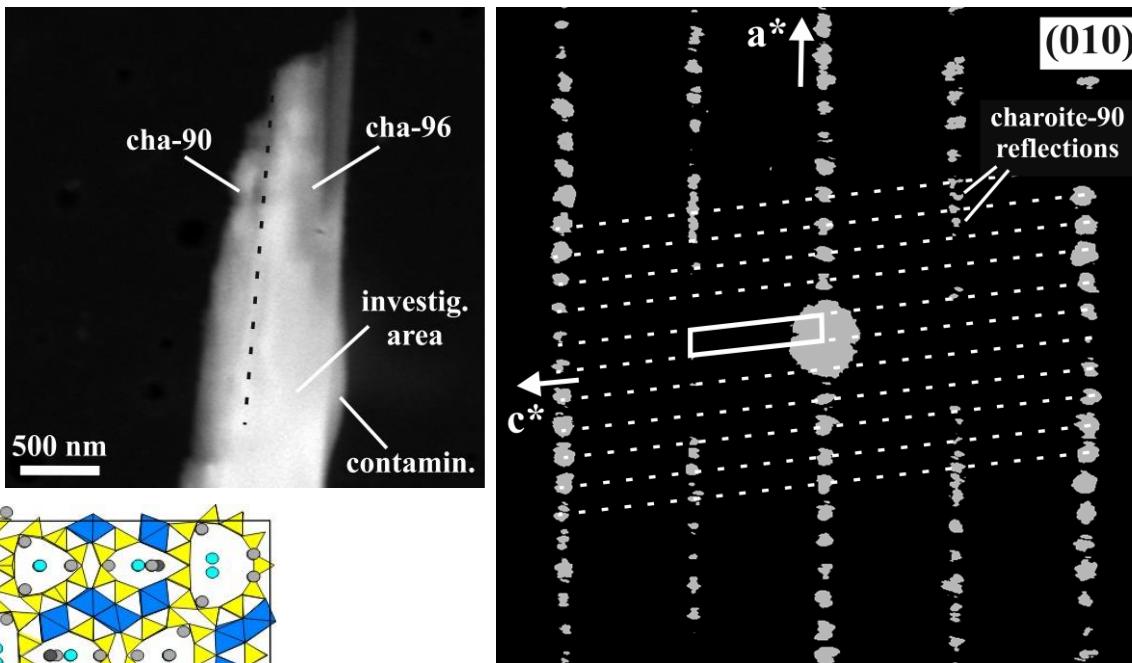
Triangular platelets <50nm (EELS: B:N:O = 6:4:3)

S. Bhat, L. Wiehl, L. Molina-Luna, E. Mugnaioli, S. Lauterbach, S. Sicolo, P. Kroll, M. Duerrschnabel, N. Nishiyama, U. Kolb, K. Albe, H.-J. Kleebe and R. Riedel, Chem. Mater. 2015 (in print)

# Charoite - Murun Massif in Yakutiya, Sakha Republic, Siberia, Russia



- asbestos-like fibres typically around 200 nm diameter
- two phases: fibre axes almost parallel, a and b differently oriented
- fibres are laterally separated by an amorphous phase

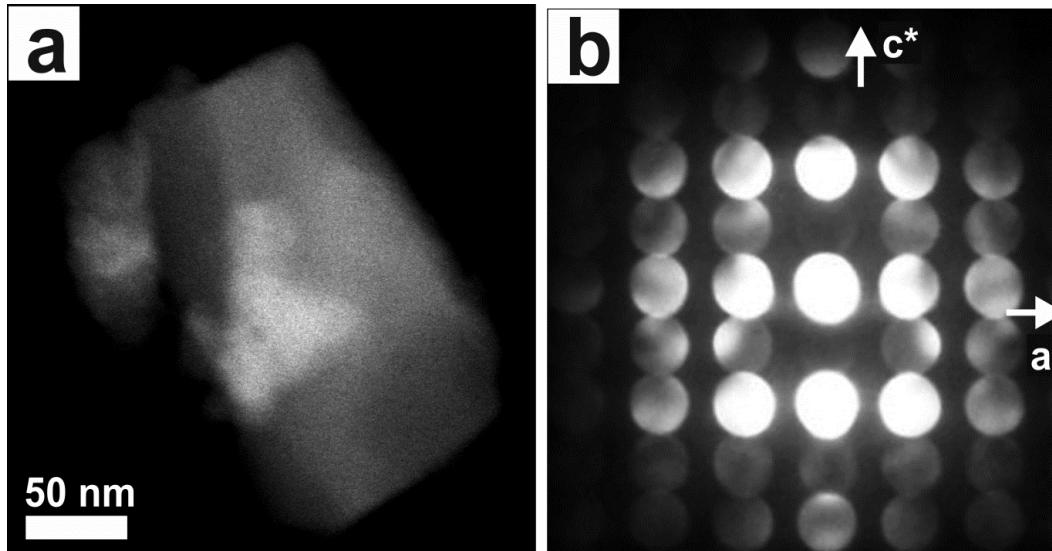
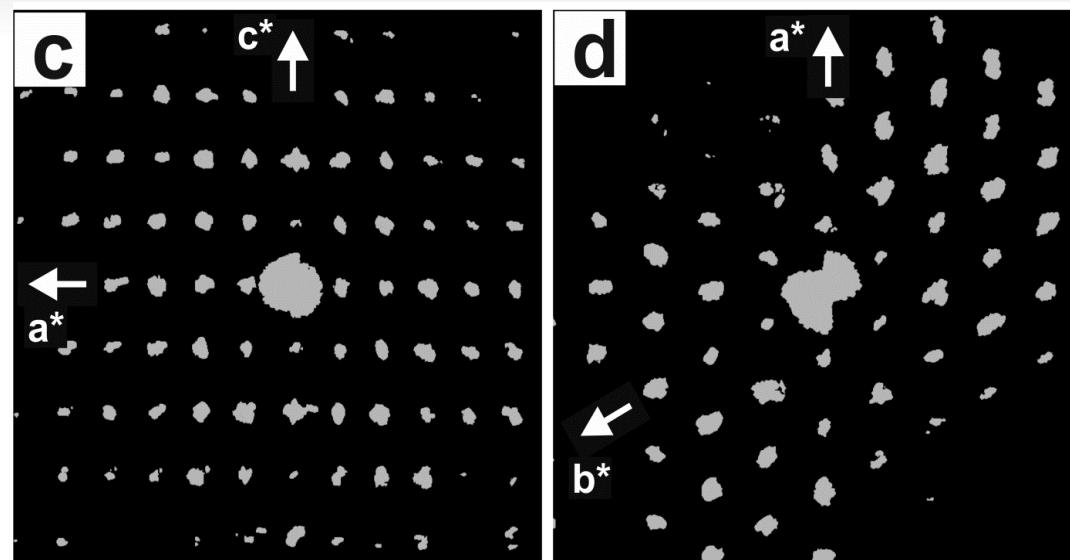
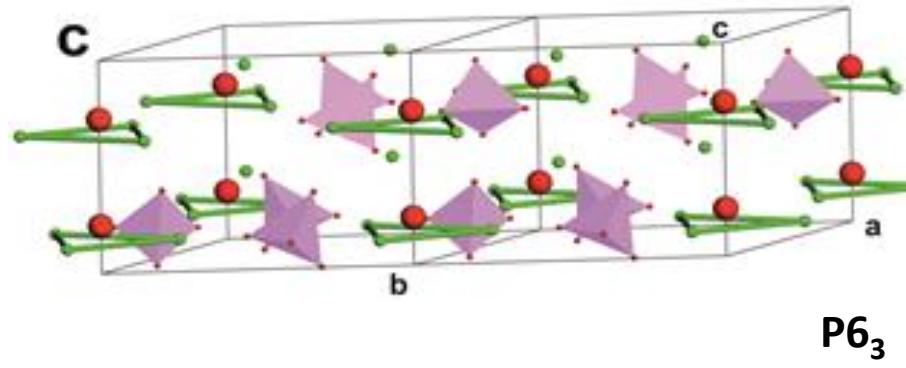


**Charoite-90:** space group  $P2_1/m$   
 $a=31.96 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b=19.64 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c=7.09 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta=90^\circ$

**Charoite-96:** space group  $P2_1/m$   
 $a=32.11 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b=19.67 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c=7.23 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta=95.9^\circ$

# Hydroxyapatite – enamel and dentine $\text{Ca}_6\text{Ca}_4(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$

ADT analysis on 3 enamel and 2 dentine crystals deliver best solutions for  $\text{P}6_3$

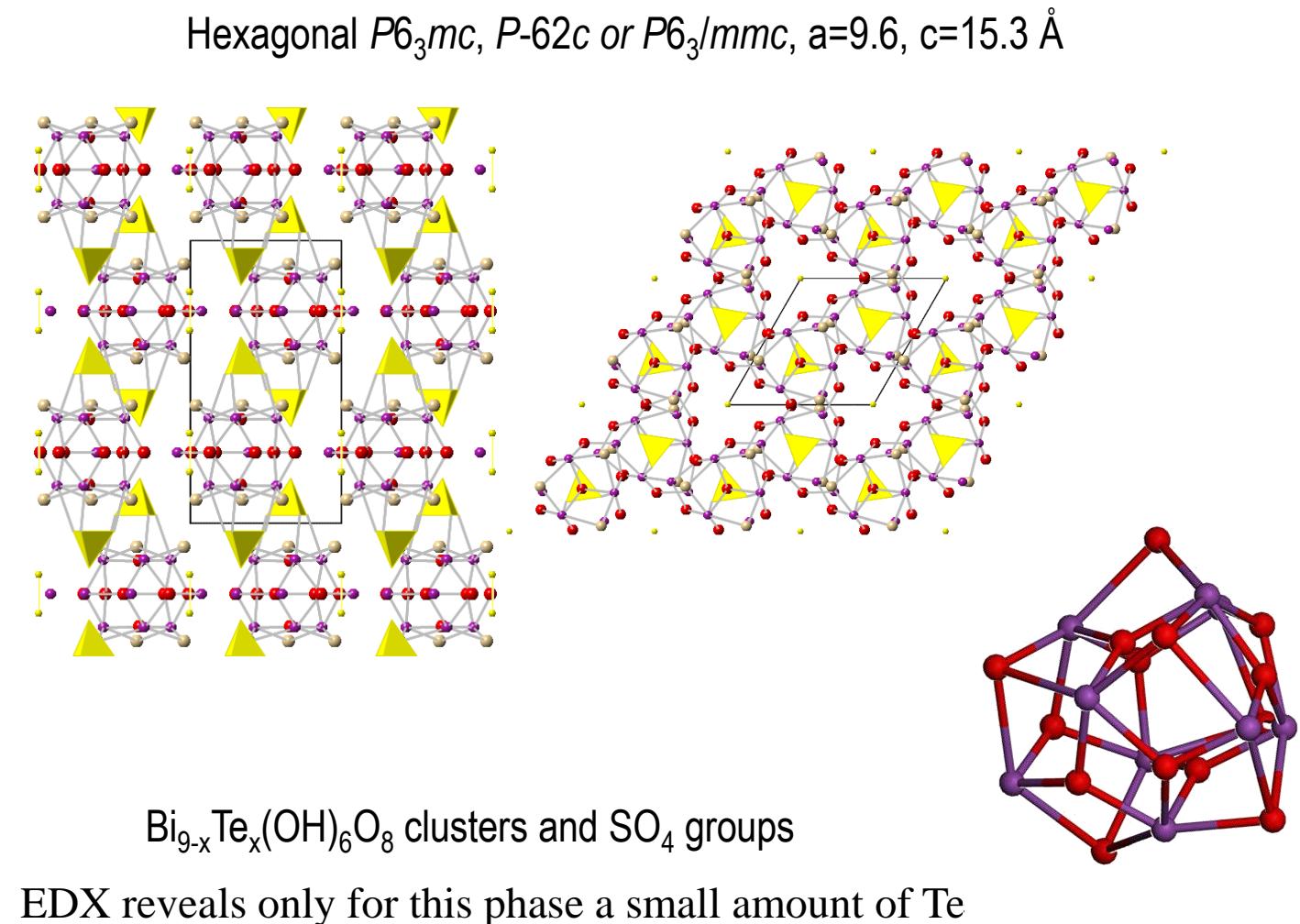
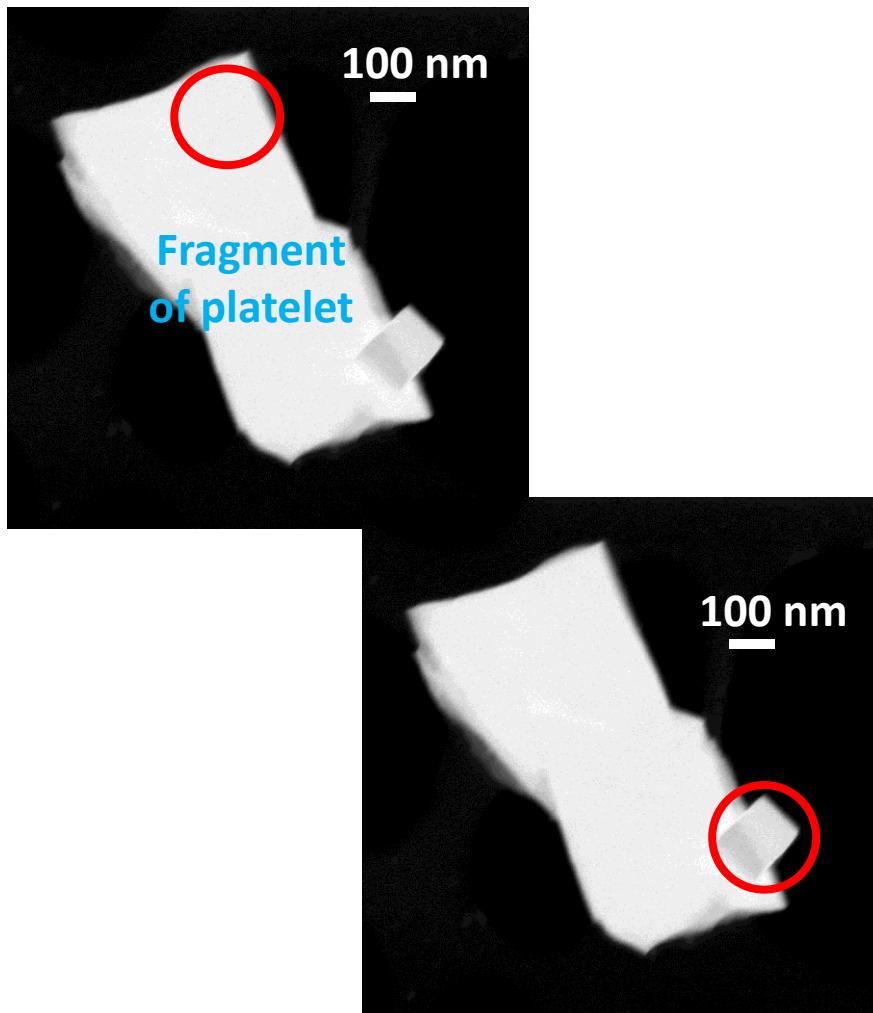


Contrast differences:  
02-21 and 02-2-1  
02-22 and 02-2-2

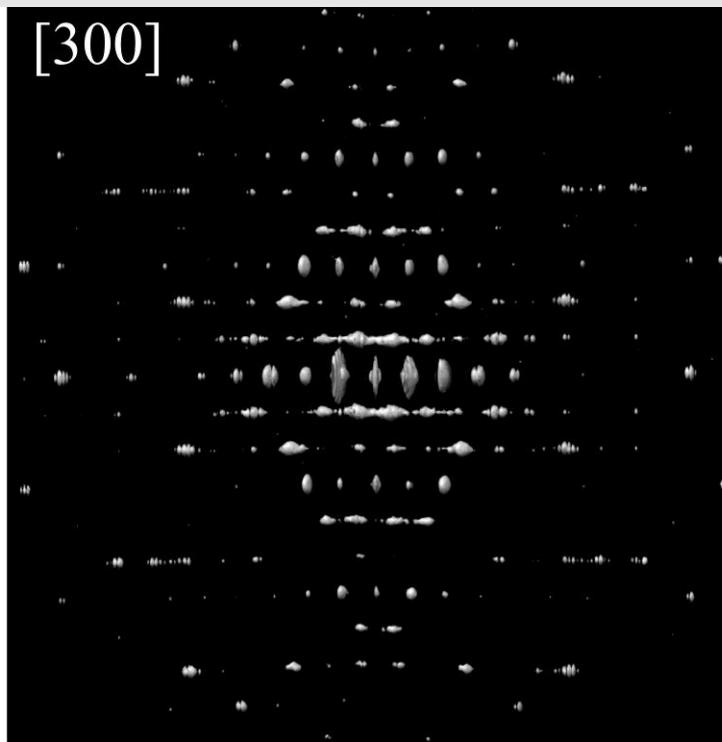
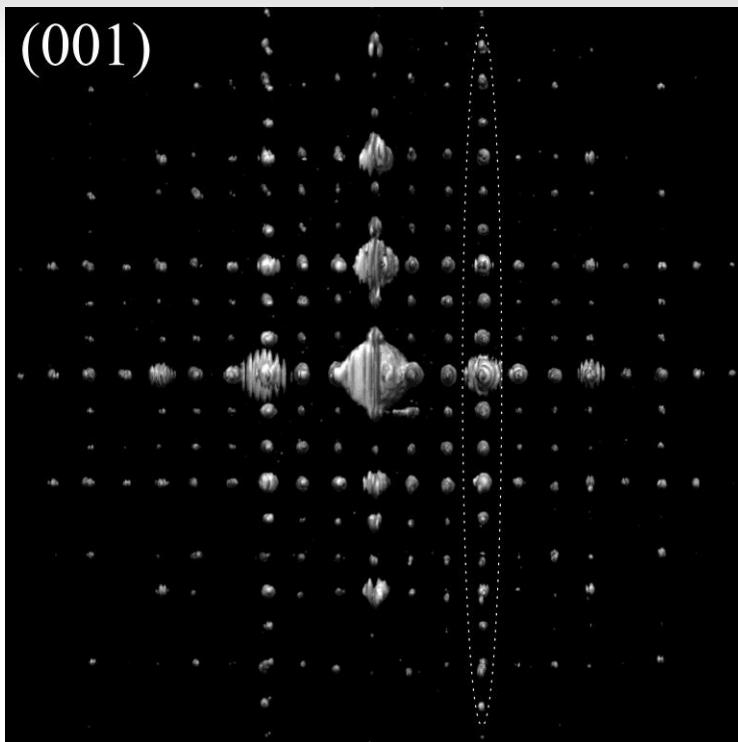
→ No mirror perpendicular to c

# Bi-sulfate incrustations, oxidation of bismuthinite ( $\text{Bi}_2\text{S}_3$ ) Alfenza mine, Italy

Monoclinic spacegroup  $Pc$  or  $P2_1/c$ ;  $a=22.0$ ,  $b=16.7$ ,  $c=15.9 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta=102.9^\circ$ , strong disorder along  $a^*$   
→ Structure could not be solved

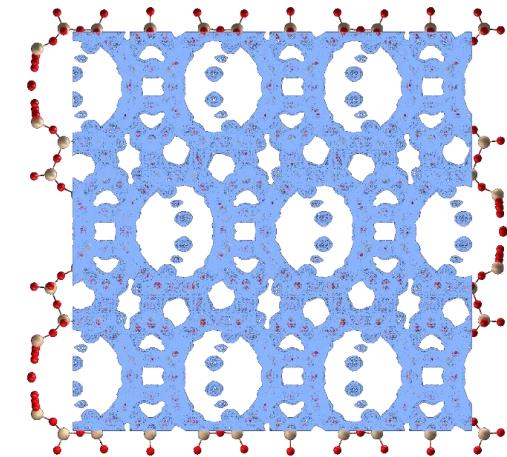


# Zeolite beta - stacking disorder visualized by ADT



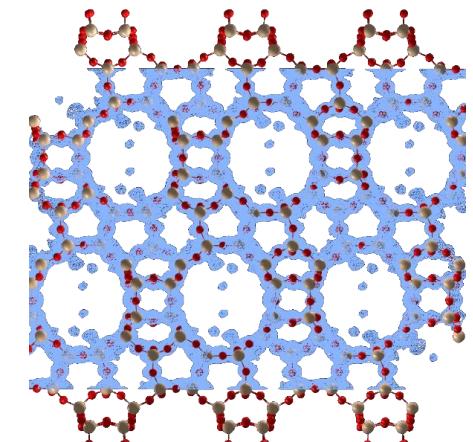
## Polytype A:

$P4_122$   
 $a = 12.66 \text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 26.41 \text{ \AA}$



## Polytype B:

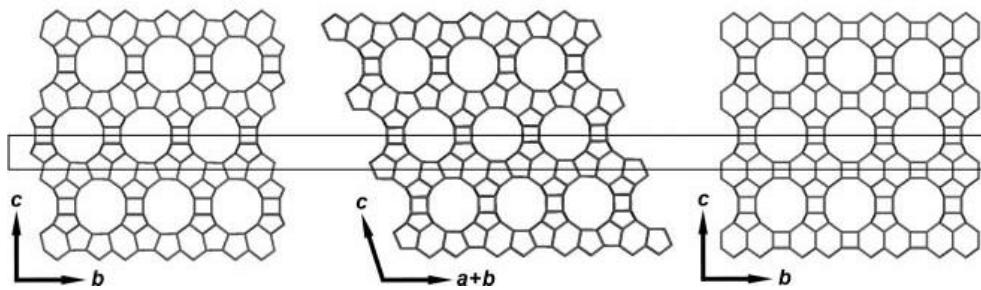
$C2/c$   
 $a = 17.90 \text{ \AA}, b = 17.92 \text{ \AA}$   
 $c = 26.41 \text{ \AA}', \beta = 114,8^\circ$



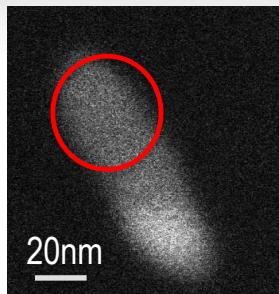
polytype A

polytype B

polytype C



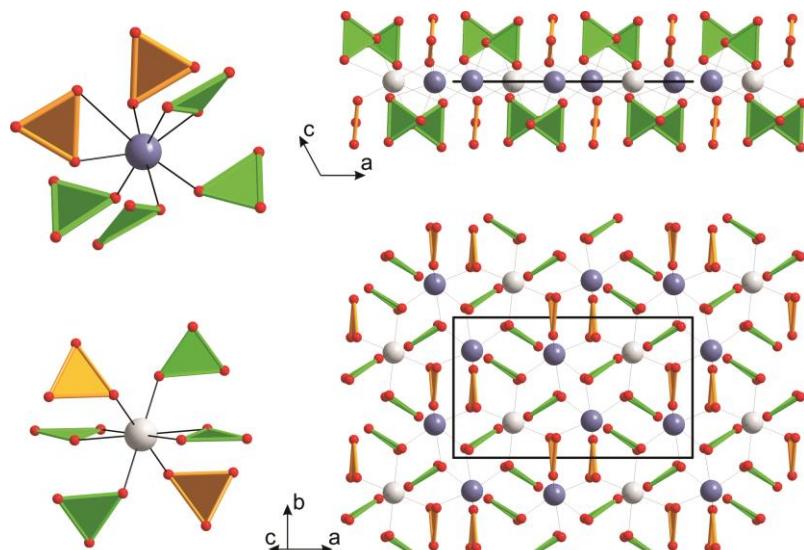
# Vaterite – superstructure solved ab-initio by direct methods



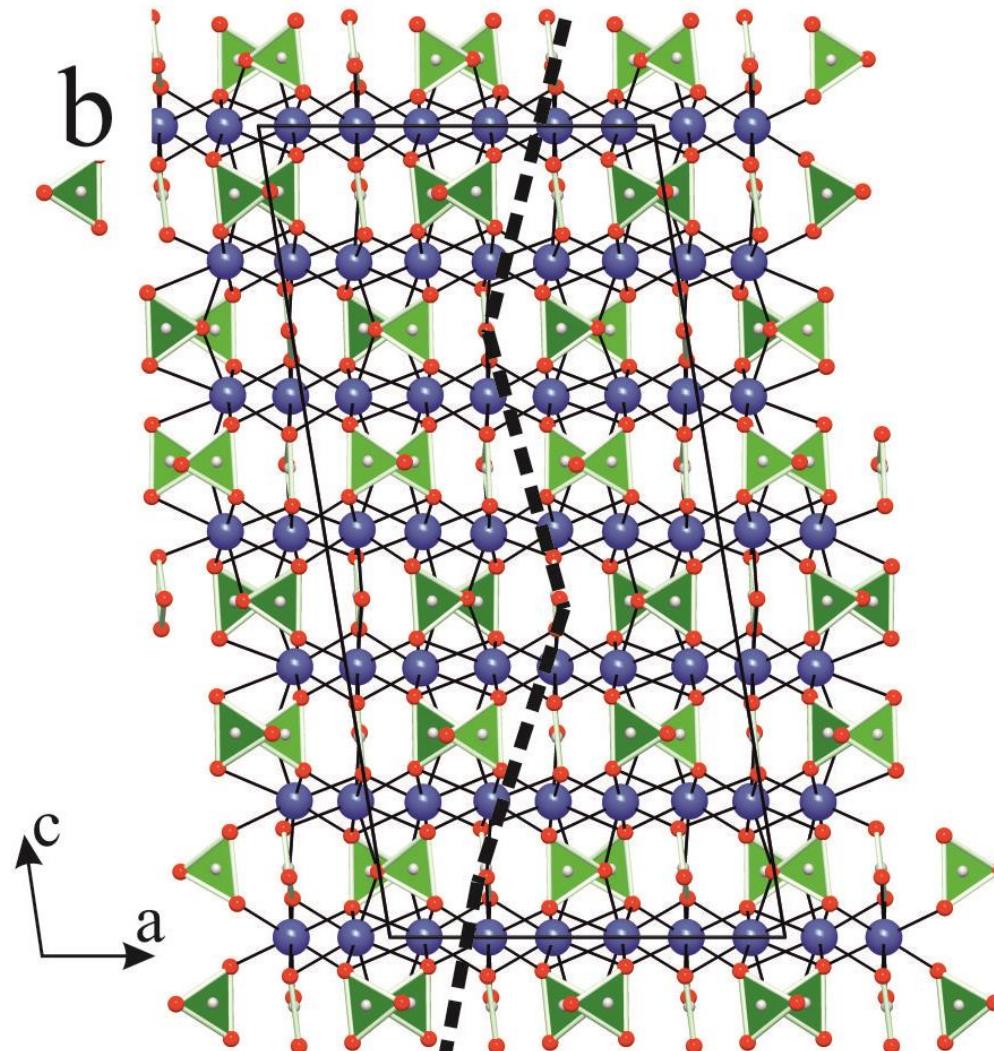
Space group C2/c

Space group C-1

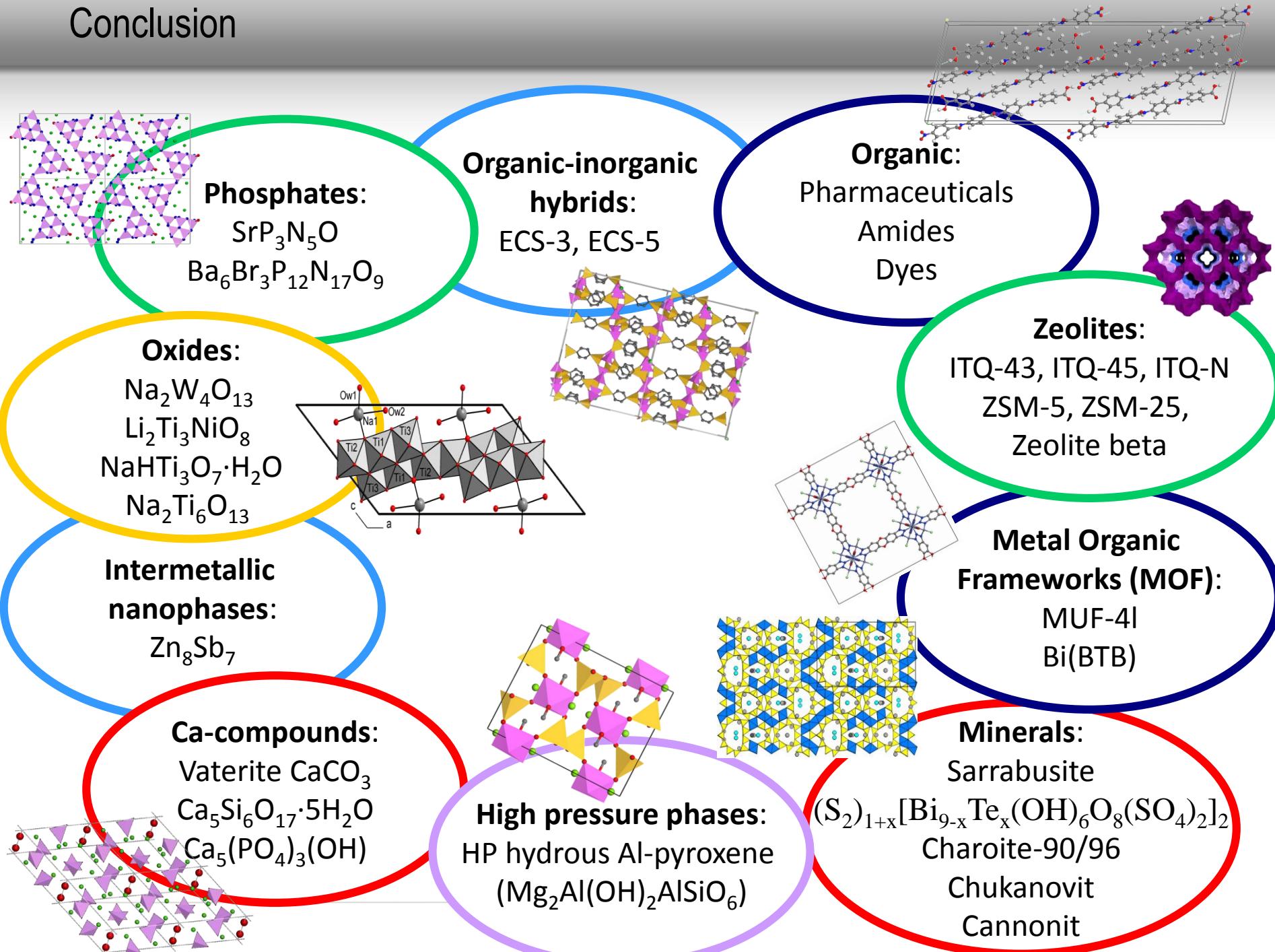
views down [010] and [103] (equivalent to [001] in the previous hexagonal structure models)



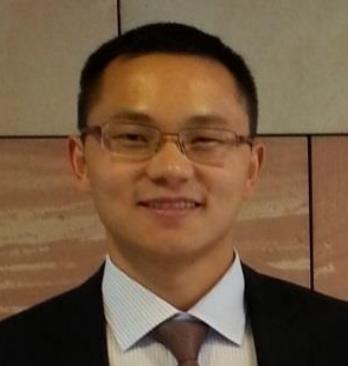
Structure explains all features observed in the Raman spectrum



# Conclusion



# The group



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Photo: Dr. Peter Müller, MIT, Cambridge, MA

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