

Synchrotron Three-Dimensional X-ray Diffraction (3D-XRD)

Karim Louca

Associate Scientist at Brockhouse X-ray Diffraction & Scattering (BXDS) Sector

Canadian Powder Diffraction Workshop 18

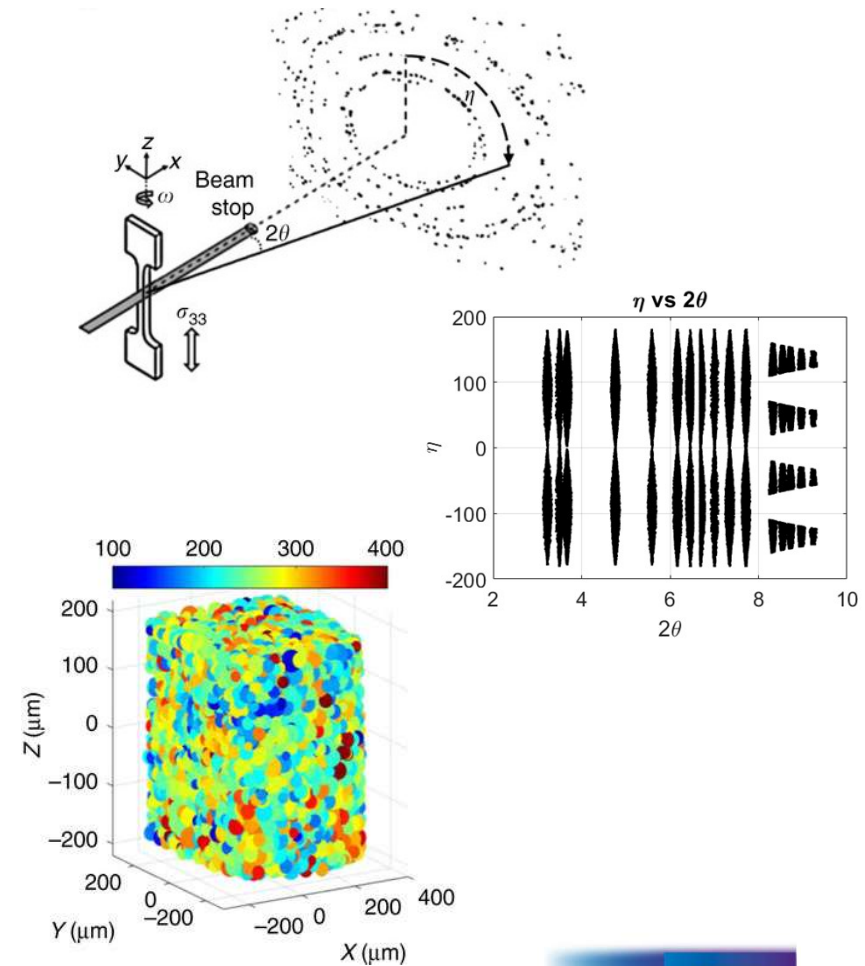
July 31st 2025

Outline

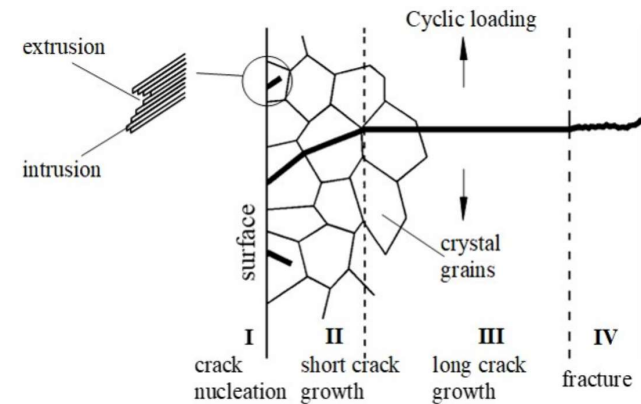
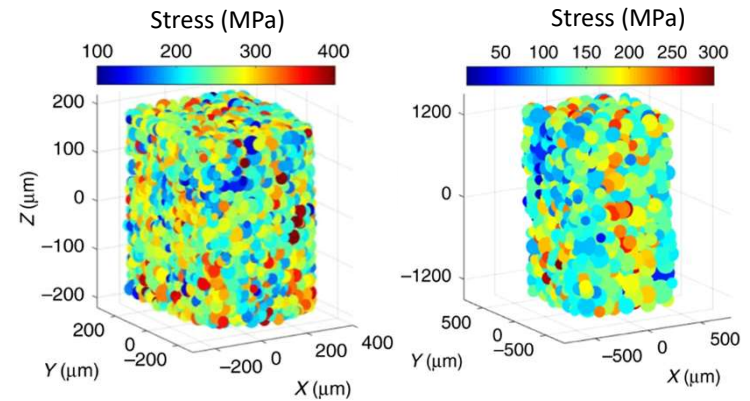
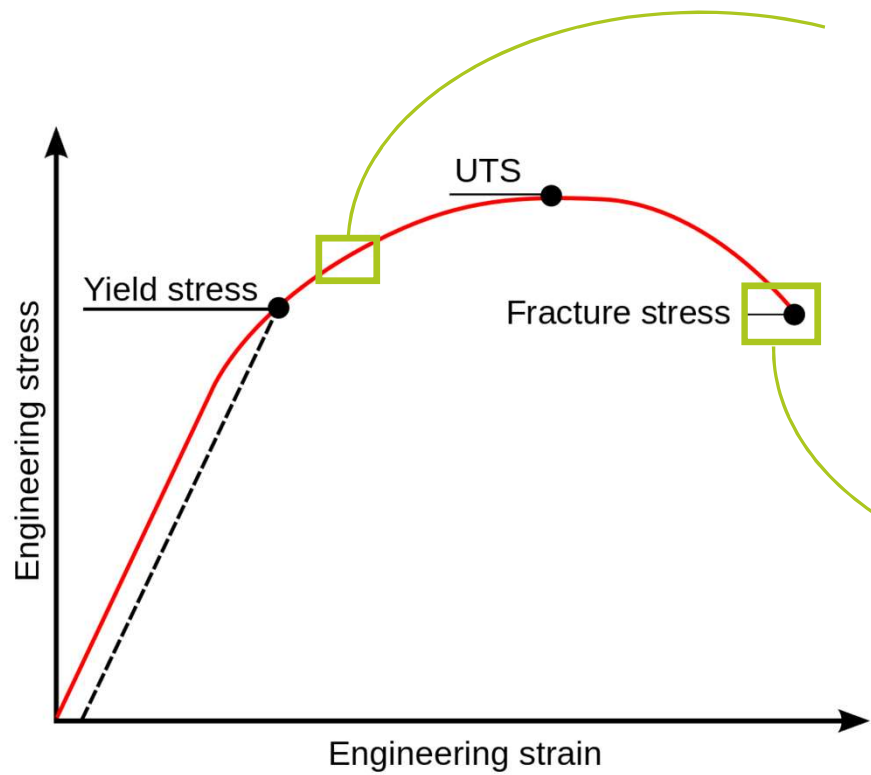
- Background
- 3D-XRD at ESRF
 - Introduction
 - Data processing
 - Results
- 3D-XRD at CHESS
 - Introduction
 - Results
- Developing 3D-XRD at CLS
 - Stress-Rig and Huber Components
 - Dataprocessing complementary tool
- Final Remarks: Where can I do 3D-XRD?

What is 3D-XRD?

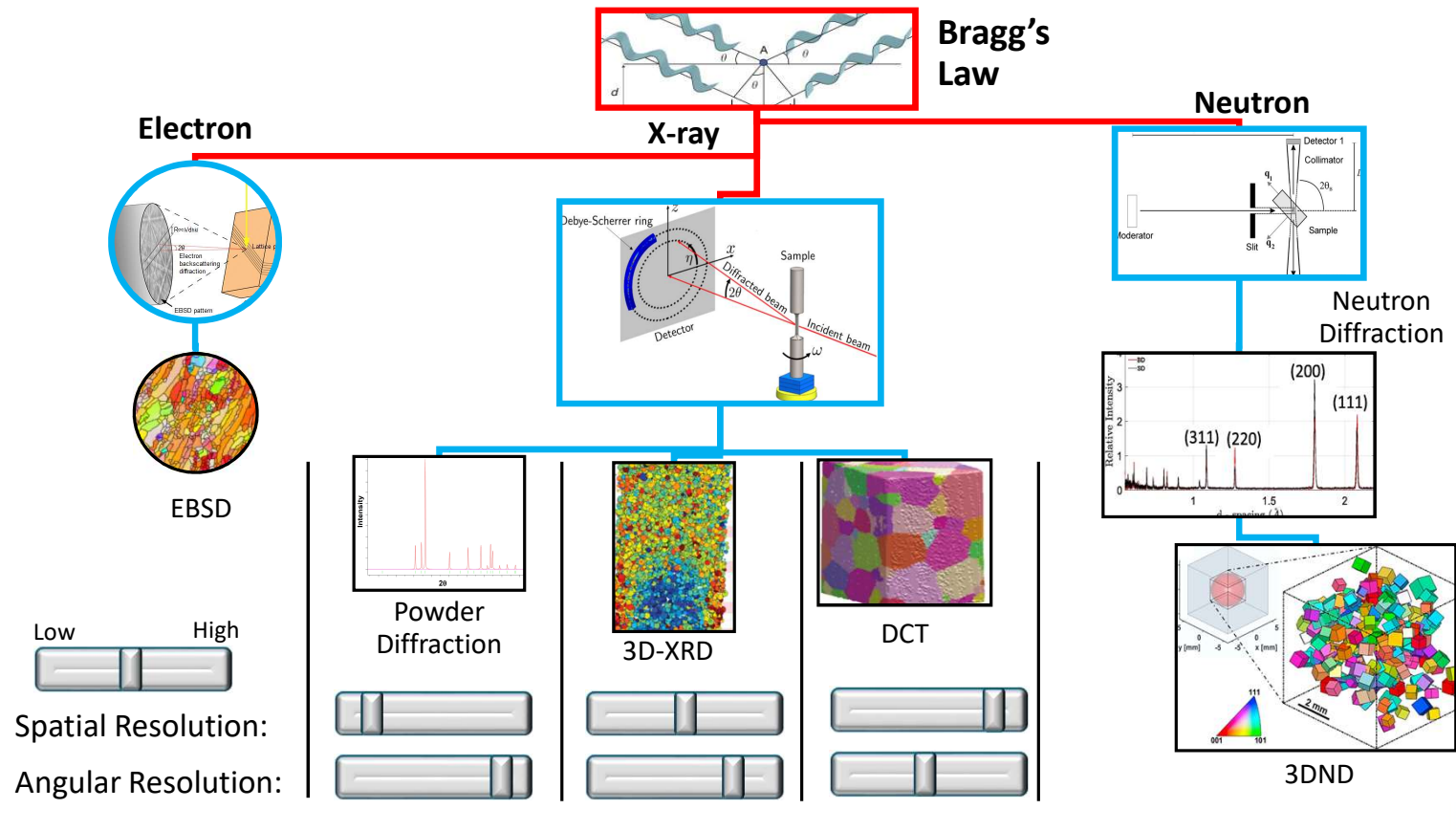
- Microscopy technique for characterizing polycrystalline materials.
- Utilizes hard X-rays (30 – 100 keV) to investigate the materials at the micro- and nano- levels
- Works through Bragg condition.
- The final outputs are grain positions, orientations and elastic strains/stresses in three dimensions



Background – Polycrystalline Materials



Background – Diffraction Techniques





Synchrotron-1: European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), Grenoble, France

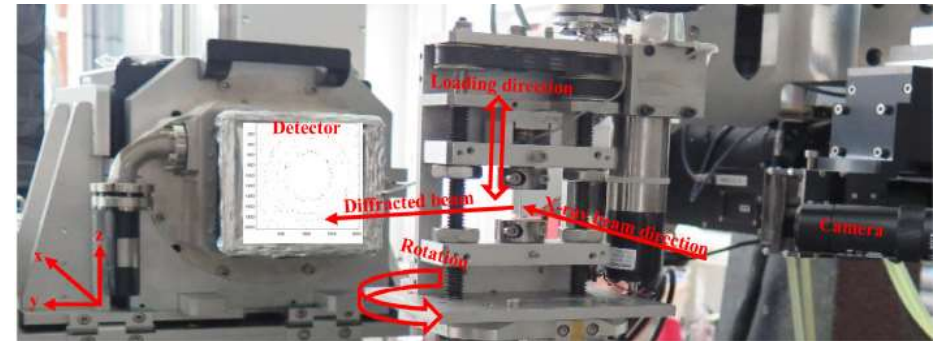
Beamline: ID11

Topic: Deformation Twinning (Masters)

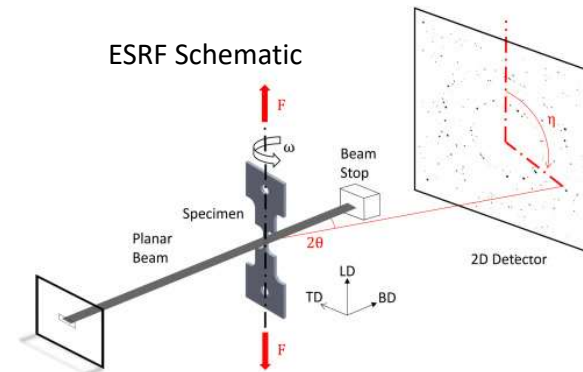
How 3D-XRD works?

- This method was developed by Henning Poulsen in 2004 [1].
- Electromagnetic radiation is generated by acceleration of charged particles (i.e. electrons)
- The x-ray beam is struck on the sample through focusing techniques
- The scattered rays are collected on a two-dimensional detector
- The sample stage is rotated to collect diffraction patterns at all angles
- Objective: Study deformation twinning in hexagonal close-packed (HCP) metals

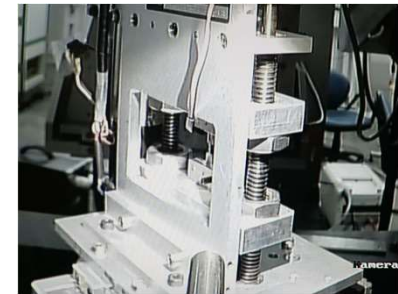
ESRF Setup



ESRF Schematic



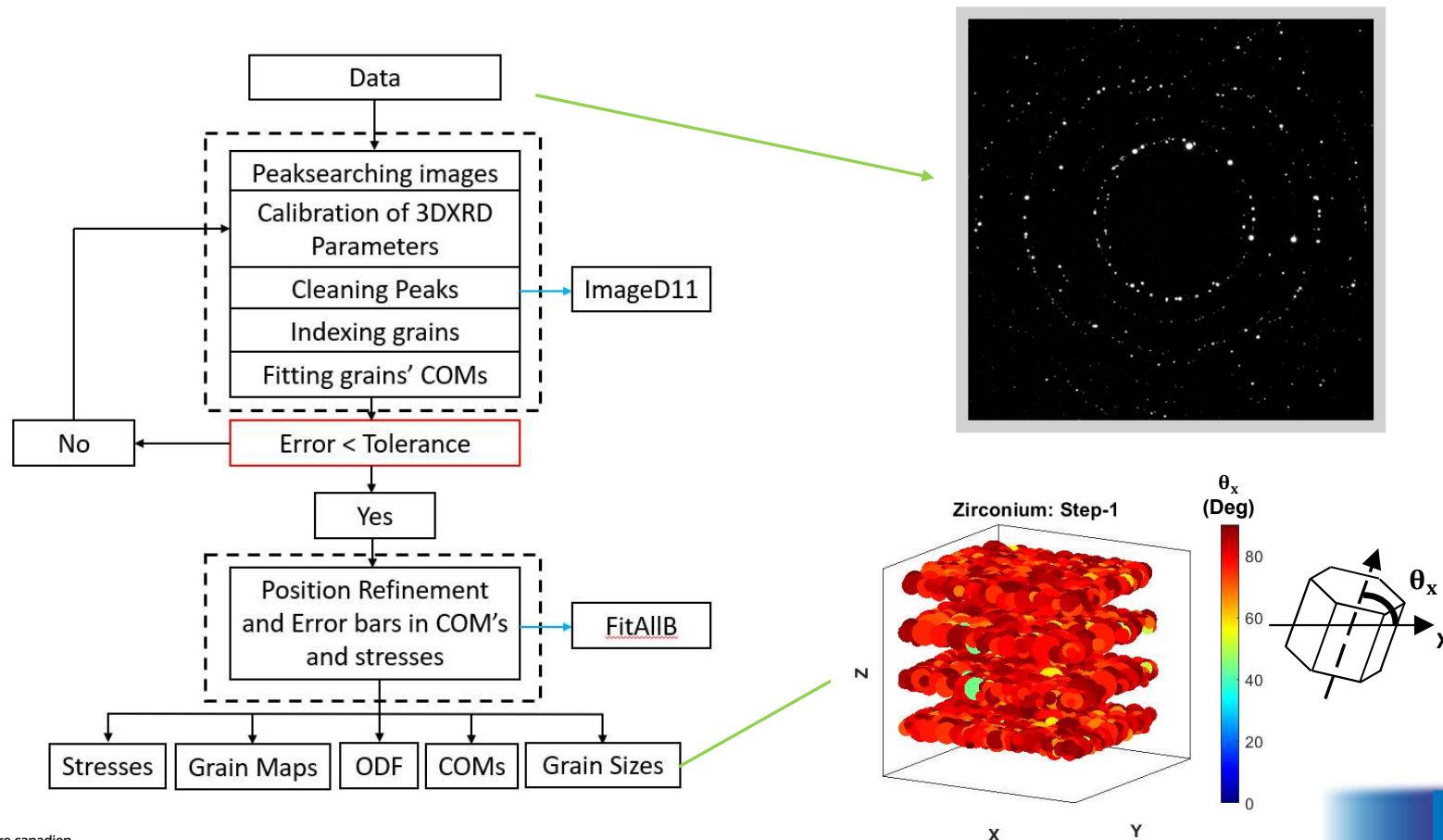
Stage Rotation



Reference

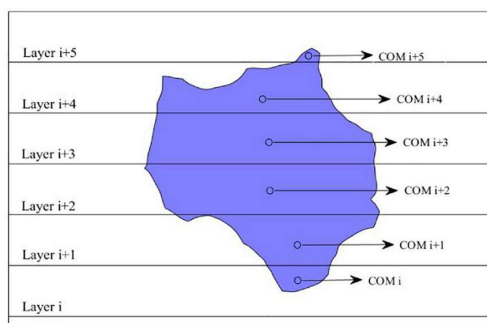
[1] H. F. Poulsen, vol. 5. Springer, 2004.

Data Processing – Indexing and Fitting

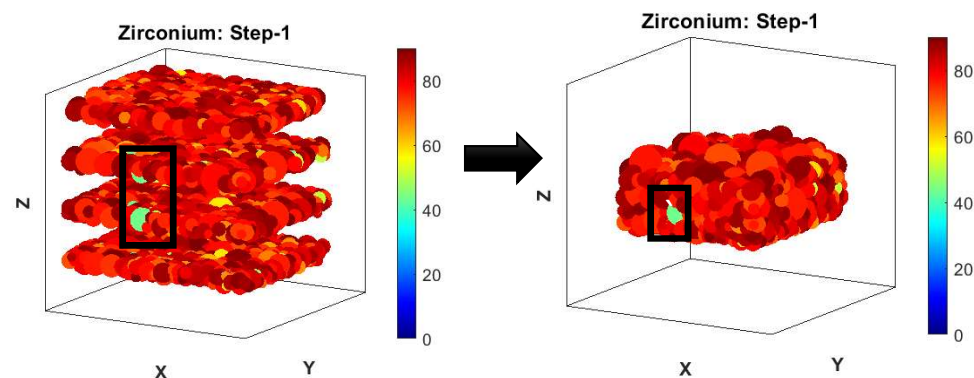


Data processing: Assembling Layers and Matching Across Loading Steps

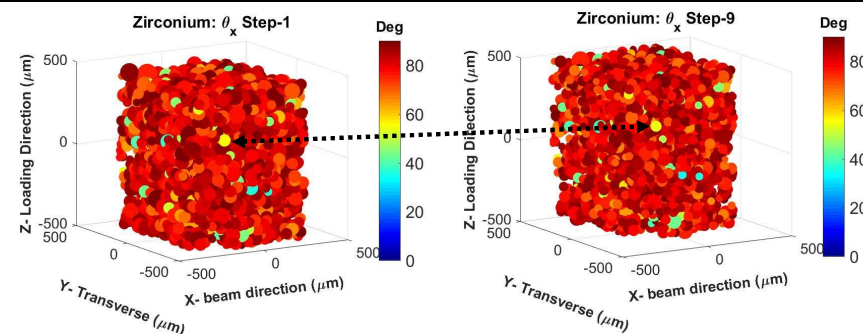
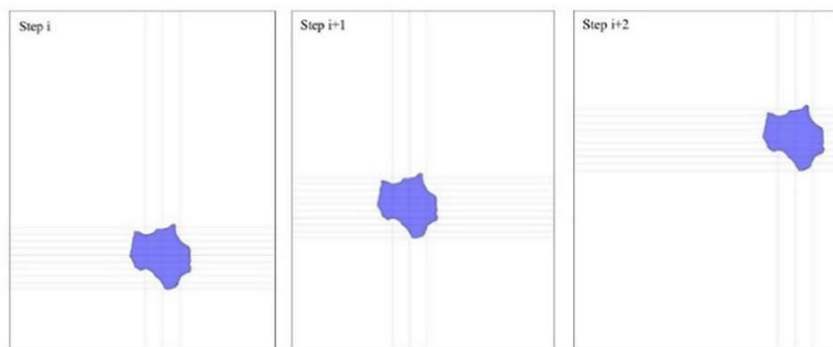
Assembling Layers



Final Maps:
Before and after
assembly (4 Layers
demo)

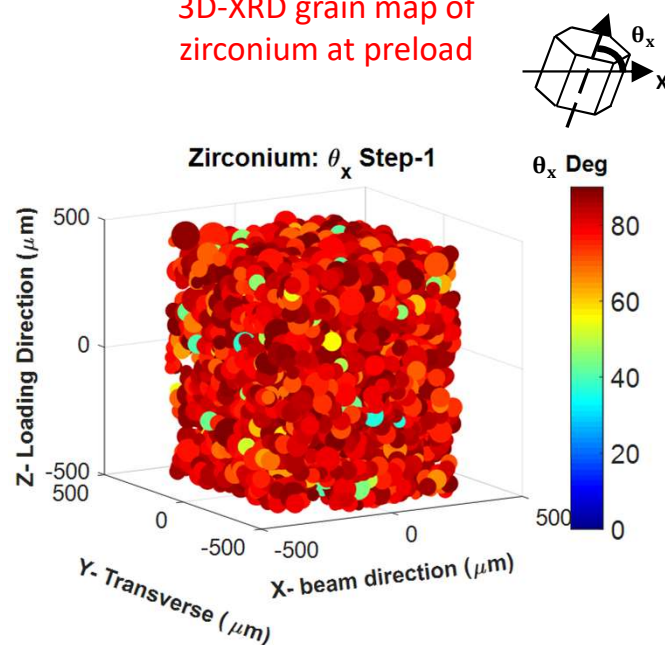


Matching Across Loading Steps

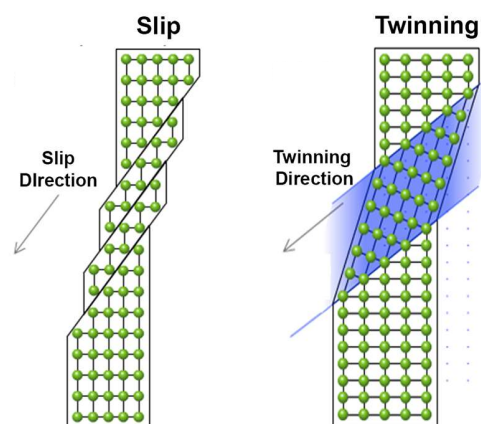


Results

3D-XRD grain map of zirconium at preload

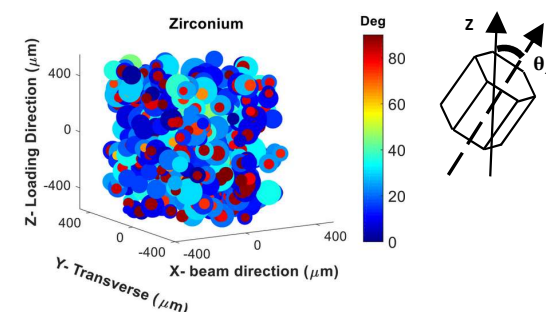


Deformation Twinning

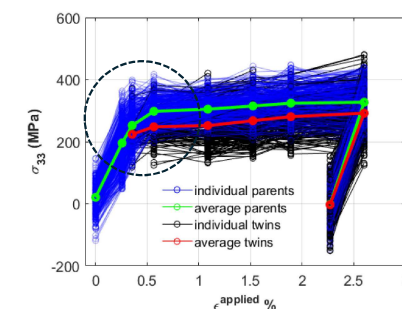


Schematic of crystal plasticity deformation mechanisms: slip and deformation twinning

Deformation Twinning in 3D-XRD



3D-XRD grain map of parent and twins



Stress-strain curves of parent and twins

Featured news
and articles:



Centre canadien
de rayonnement
synchrotron

CTV
NEWS

PHYS ORG

SPRINGER
NATURE

References

- [1] H. Abdolvand, K. Louca, C. Mareau, M. Majkut, and J. Wright, *Acta Mater.*, vol. 196, pp. 733–746, 2020
- [2] K. Louca, H. Abdolvand, C. Mareau, M. Majkut, and J. Wright, *Nature Commun. Mater.*, vol. 2, no. 1, p. 9, 2021

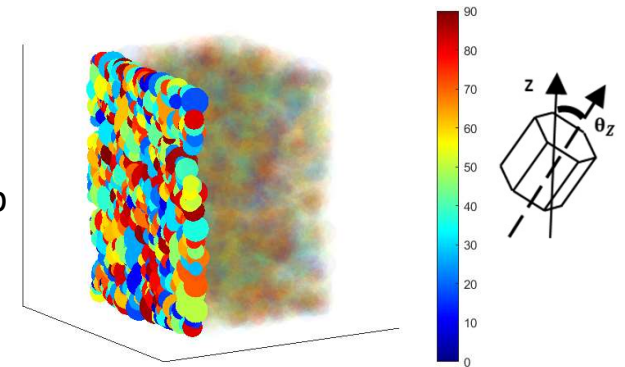
DISCOVERY
AT THE SPEED
OF LIGHT

Comparison with EBSD

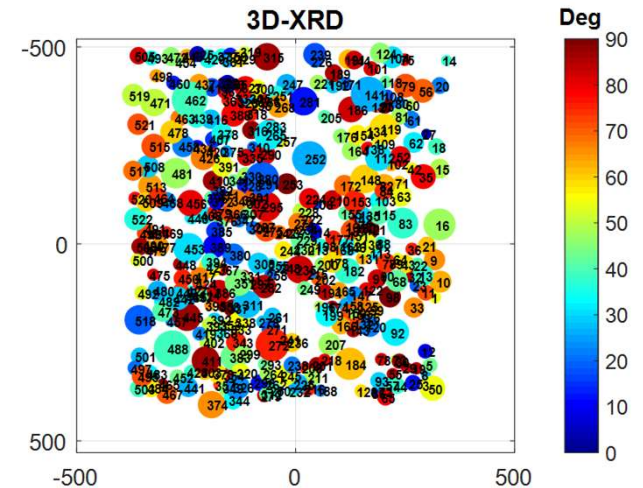
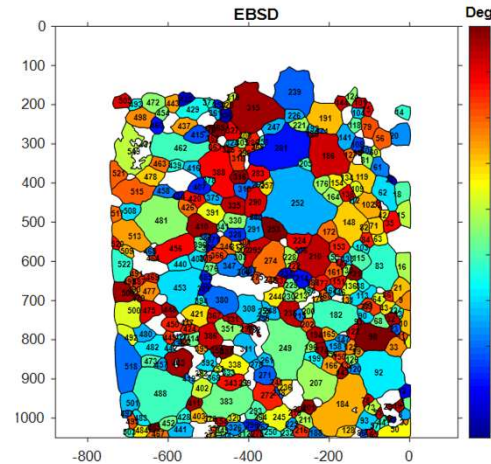
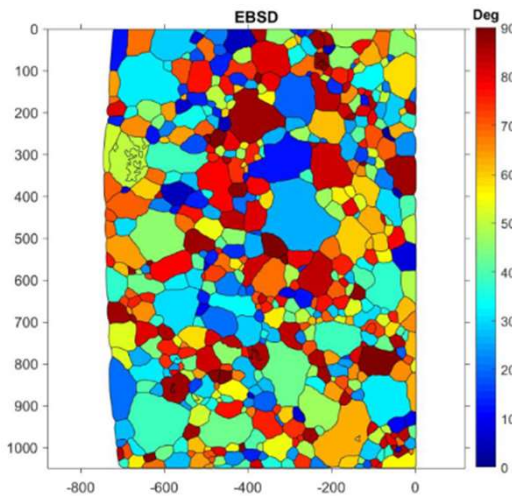
Algorithm

- Find common largest grain.
- Fix center of map.
- Apply misorientation and distance criterion.

Full 3D-
XRD Map



Full
EBSD
Map



Comparison

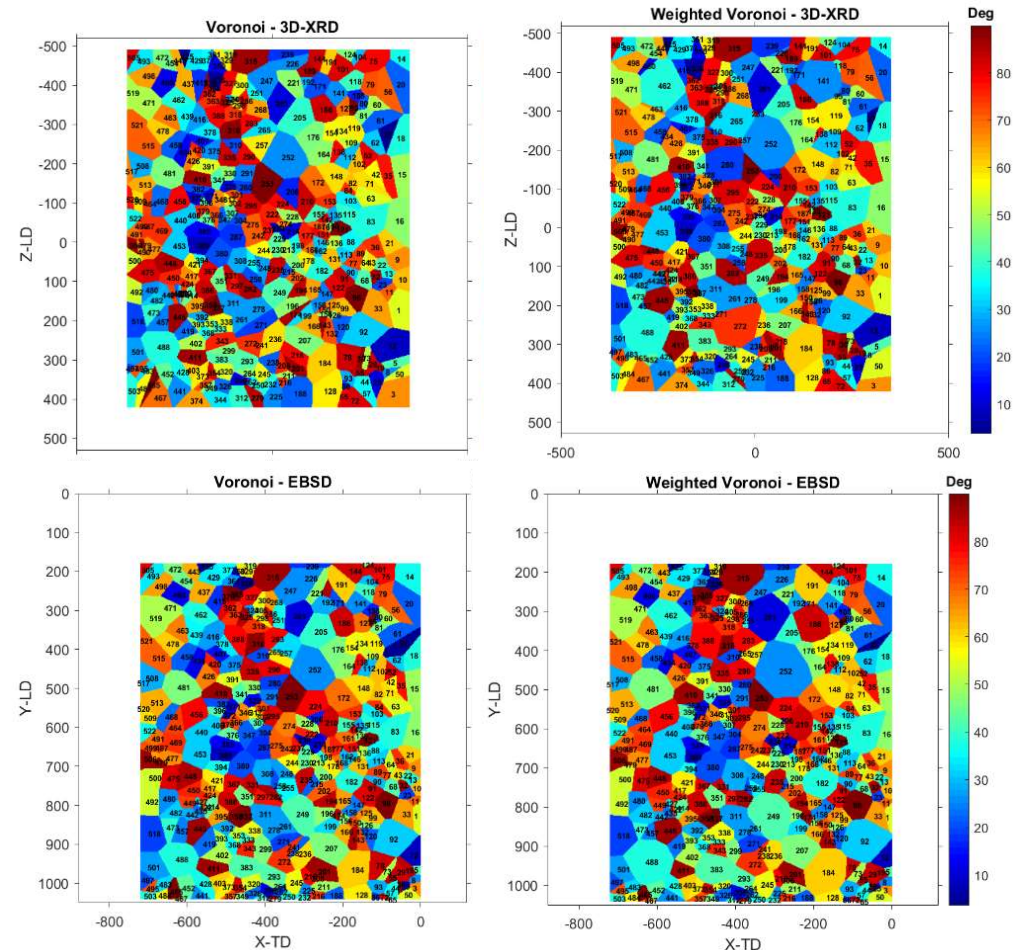
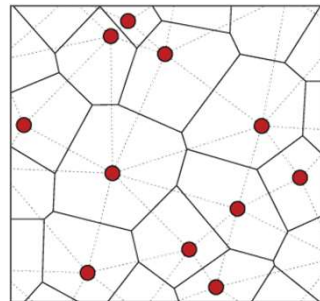
DISCOVERY
AT THE SPEED
OF LIGHT

Comparison with EBSD: Voronoi Maps

- Neighborhood population of each reconstructed map is compared to EBSD,

$$\text{MQF} = \frac{\text{Number of matched neighbors}}{\text{Total Number of neighbors measured in the EBSD grain map}} \times 100\%$$

- 94%, 90%, 81%, 80% of grain neighbors were matched for Voronoi and weighted Voronoi EBSD and 3D-XRD respectively.





Synchrotron-2: Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS), Cornell University, NY, US

Beamline: Forming and Shaping Technology (FAST)

Topic: Micromechanics of notched geometries (PhD)



DISCOVERY
AT THE SPEED
OF LIGHT

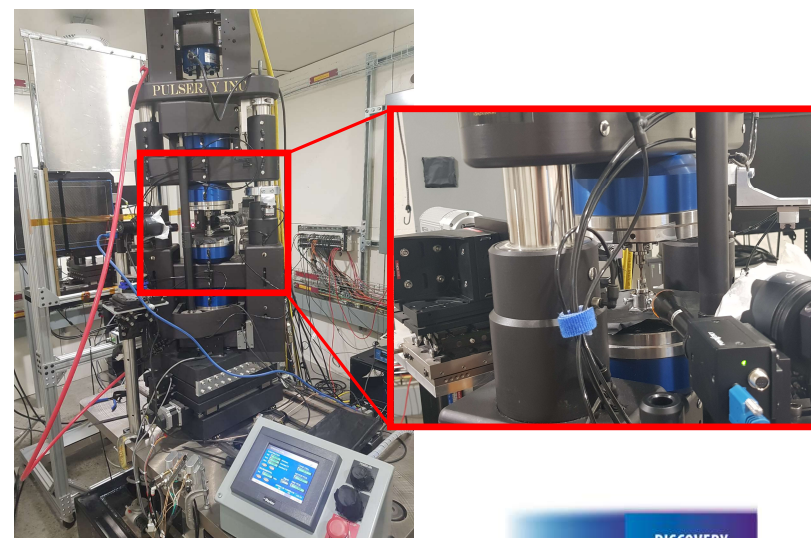
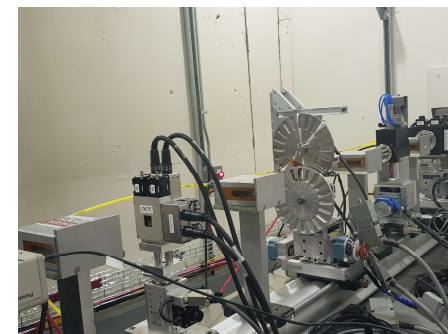
Experimental Setup

Experiments

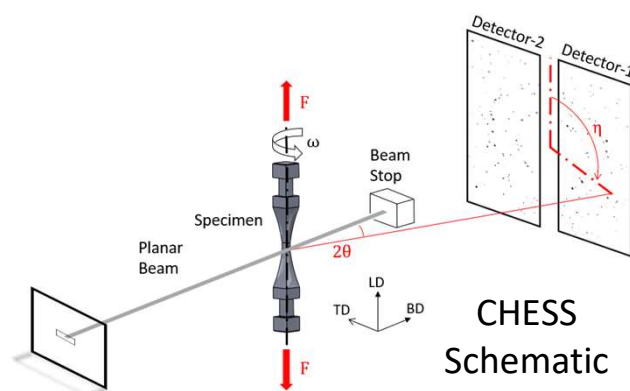
- Objective: Acquire microstress distributions in the vicinity of notches and investigate the role of microstructure.
- Study-1: 50 load-unload cycles on two pure zirconium specimens with **radial** texture with two different notch geometries.
- Study-2: 35 load-unload cycles on two pure zirconium specimens with **axial/soft** texture with two different notch geometries.

Data processing: Procedure similar to ESRF. Python library: HEXRD

Beam Source

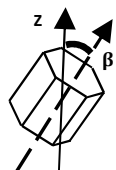


Tensile Rig



DISCOVERY
AT THE SPEED
OF LIGHT

Results (Asymmetrical Maps)

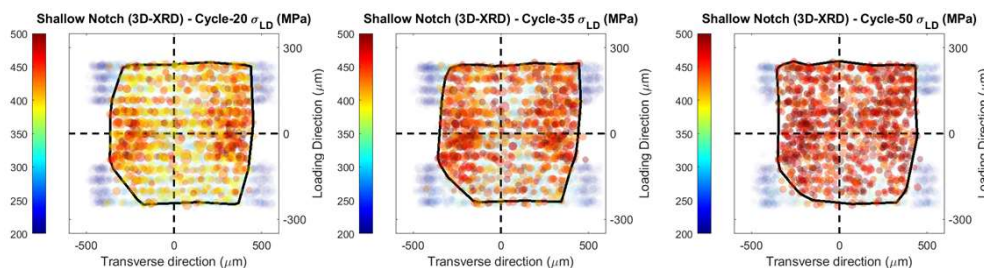
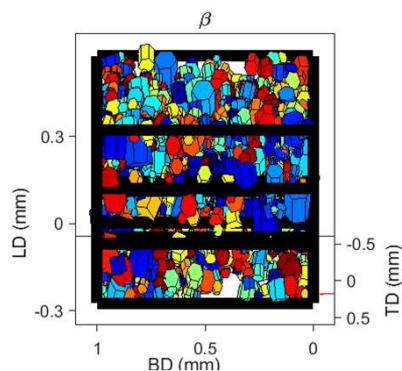


3D-XRD
grain maps

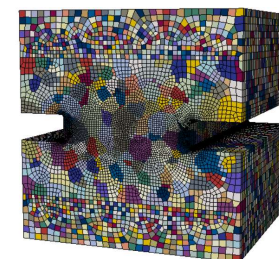
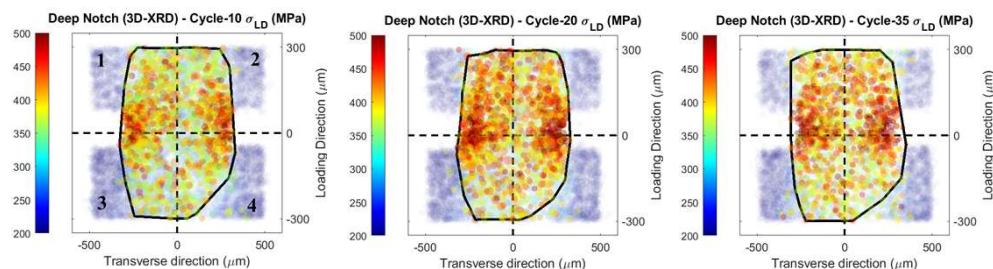
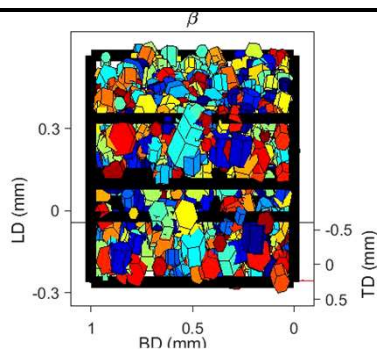
Asymmetries in stressed
deformation maps

Crystal Plasticity
Finite Element
Modelling (CPFE)

Shallow
Notch



Deep
Notch



DISCOVERY
AT THE SPEED
OF LIGHT

Reference

[1] K. Louca, K. S. Shanks, A. Das, and H. Abdolvand, *Acta Mater.*, vol. 264, p. 119567, 20240



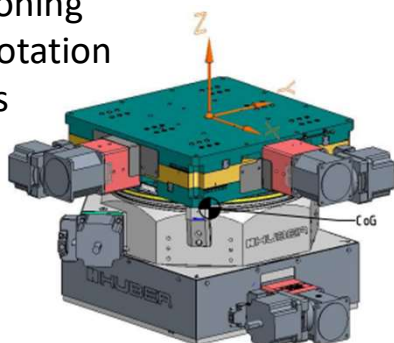
Synchrotron-3: Canadian Light Source, Saskatoon, SK, CA
Beamline: Brockhouse X-ray Diffraction Sector (BXDS)
Topic: Commissioning the 3D-XRD technique

Bringing 3D-XRD to the CLS

Establishing 3D-XRD



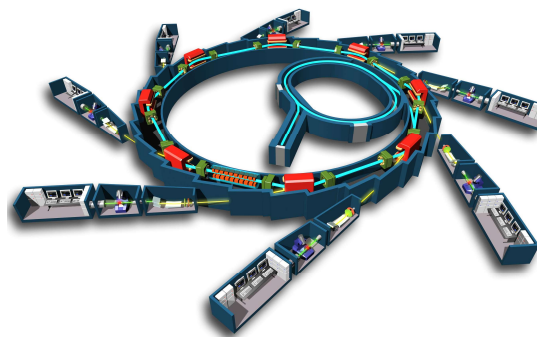
Positioning and Rotation Stages



Stress Rig



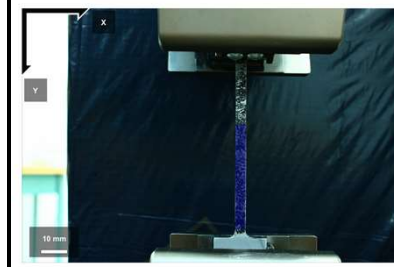
Synchrotron Beam



Add-ons: Digital Image Correlation



Tensile Strain

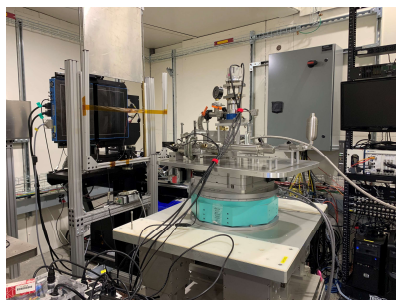


Where can I do 3D-XRD?

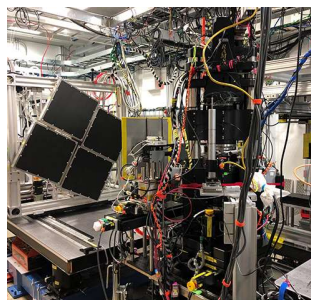
ESRF, ID11



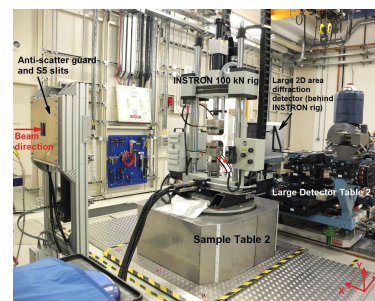
CHESS, FAST(3A)



APS, 1-ID



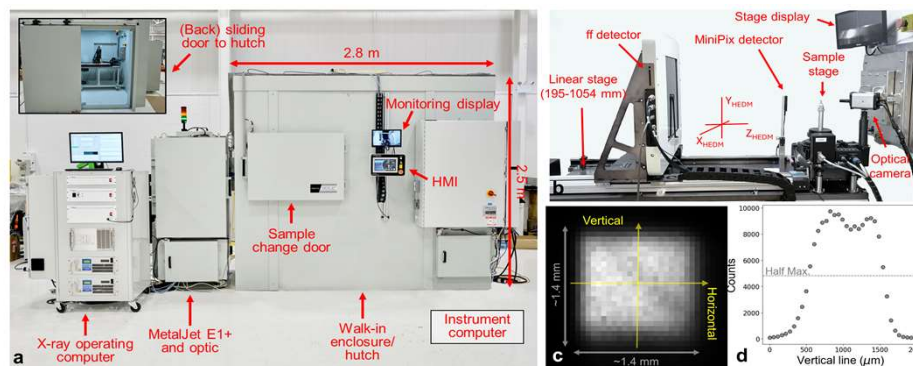
Diamond Light Source, I12 JEEP



Toyota Beamline, Spring-8



Lab at
University of
Michigan, Ann
Arbor



Thank You