

**Apport des techniques  
De caractérisation 3D  
Pour l'étude de la propagation des  
fissures de fatigue.**

J-Y Buffiere ... *et beaucoup d'autres!*

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# Co-authors

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H. Proudhon

**ENSMP/CdM**

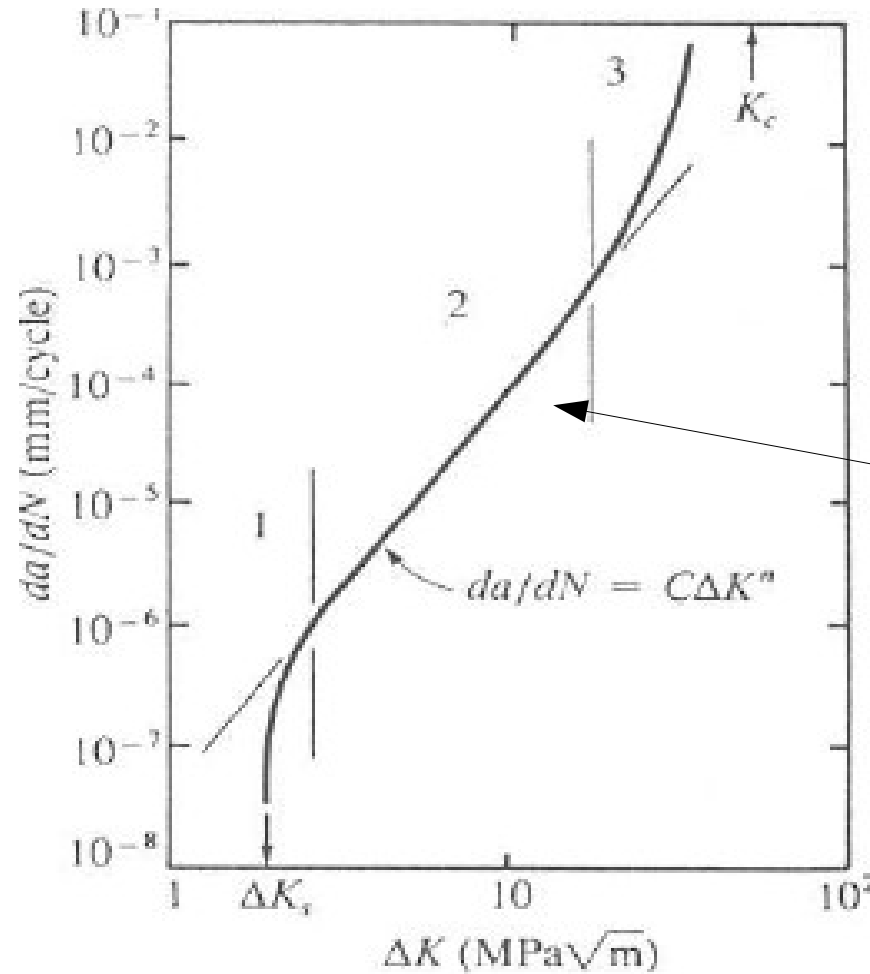
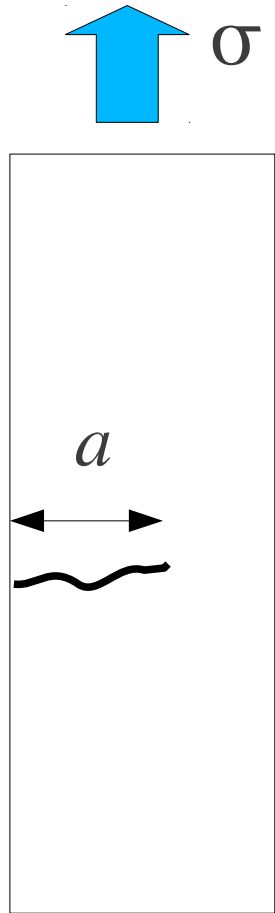
S. Roux, F. Hild

**E.N.S. Cachan/LMT**

P. Cloetens, E. Boller, J. Baruchel

**ESRF ID 19**

# Why 3D imaging of fatigue cracks?

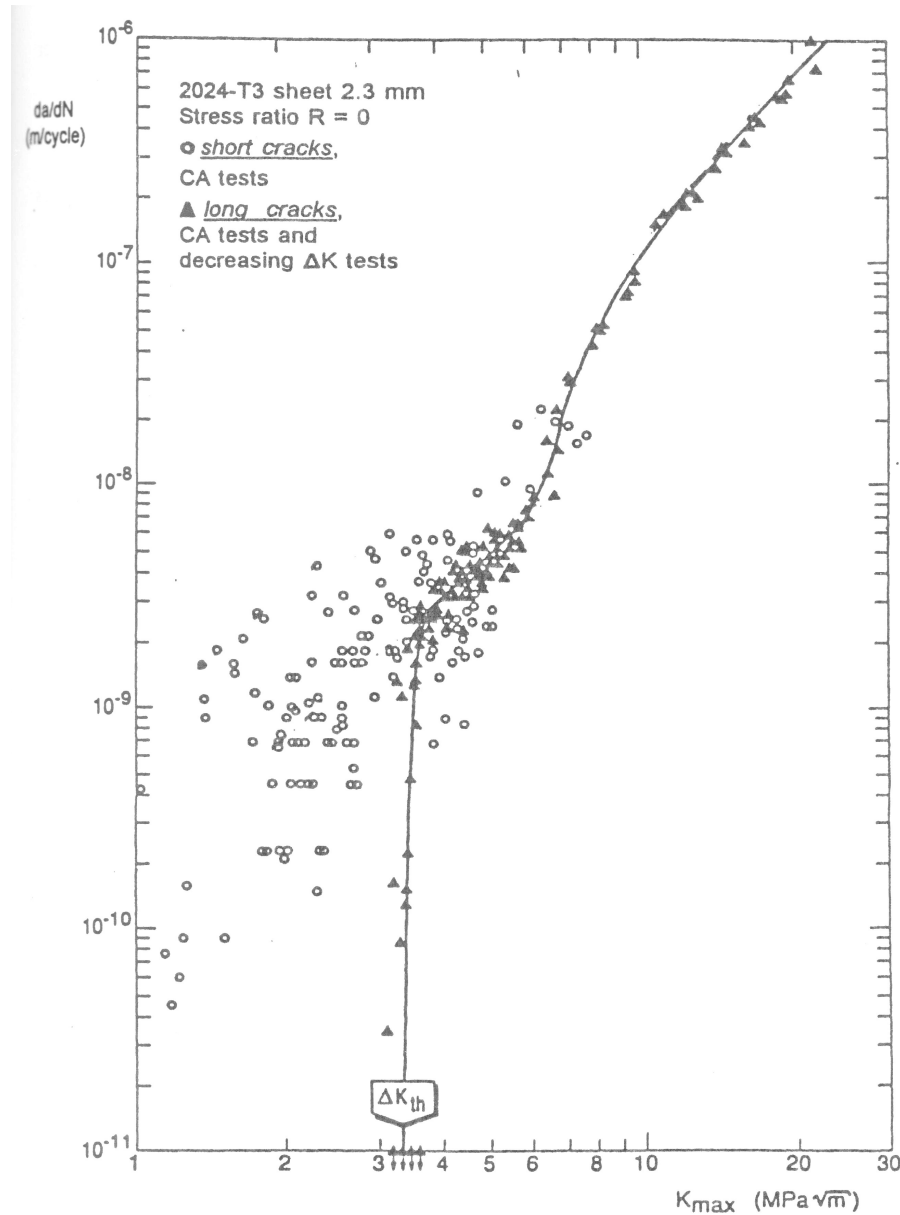


Long cracks  
*Paris law*  
 $da/dN = C\Delta K^m$

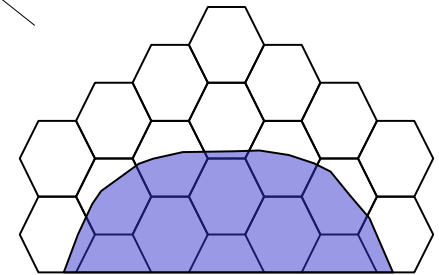
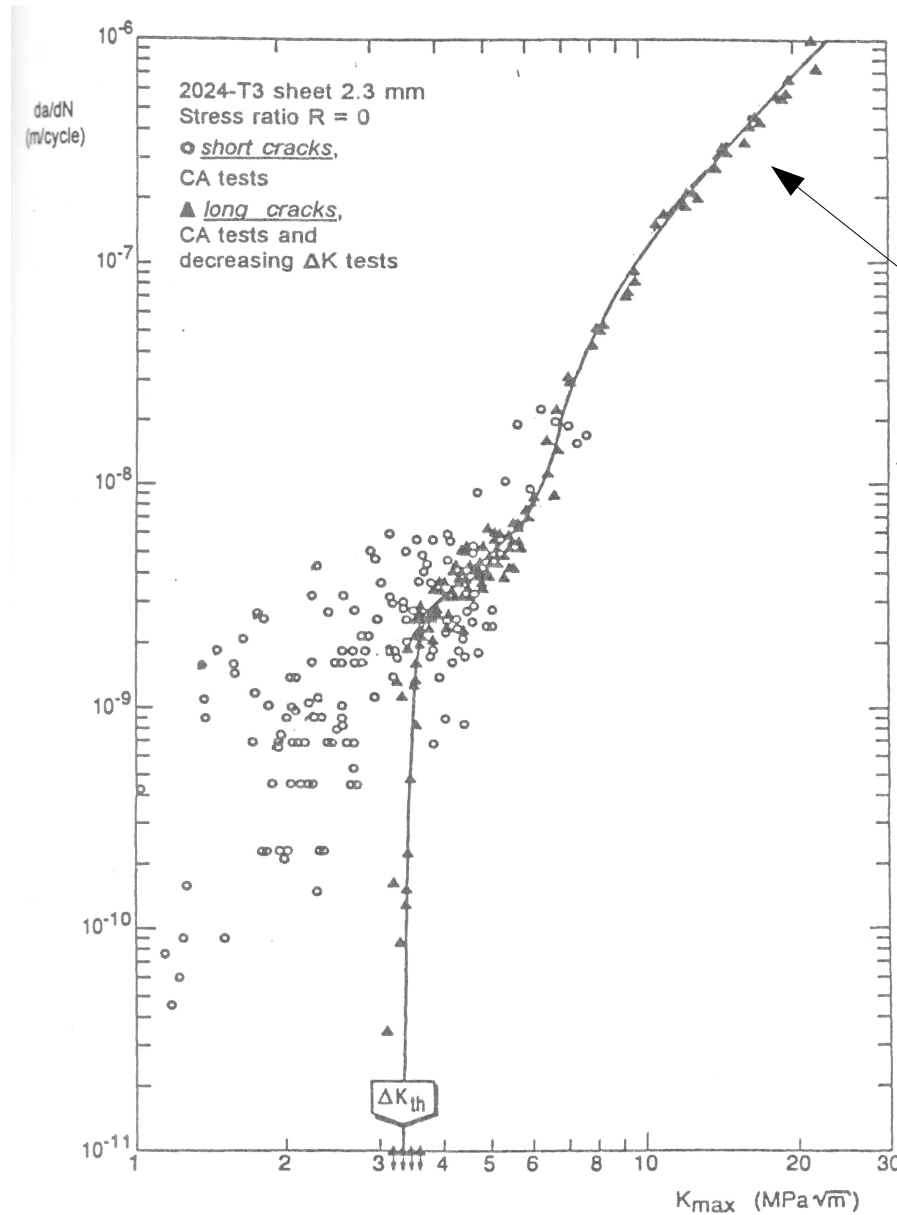
$$K \sim \sigma\sqrt{a}$$

$\Delta K_{th}$

# Why 3D imaging of fatigue cracks?

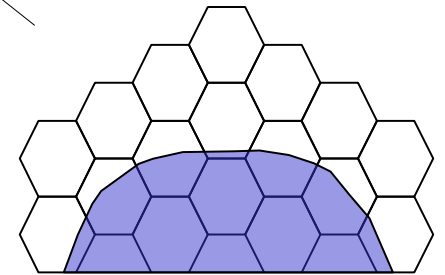
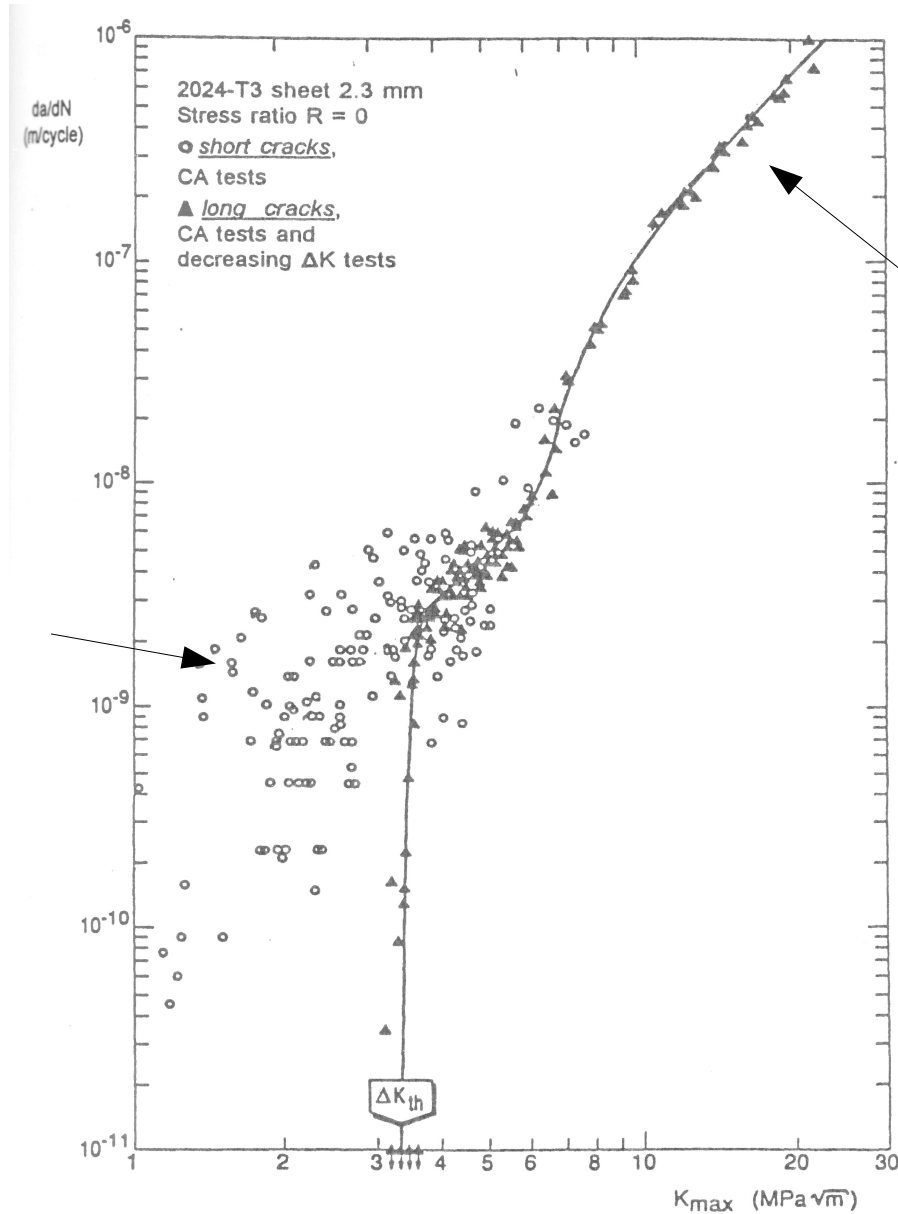
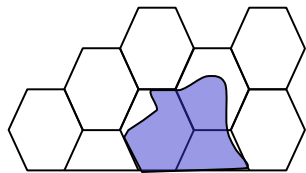


# Why 3D imaging of fatigue cracks?



# Why 3D imaging of fatigue cracks?

Short cracks



# Looking at cracks in 3D: the different techniques

- Stiffness

*(Ravichandran and Larsen 1992)*

- Potential drop

*(Enmark et al. J. Nucl. Mater 1992)*

- Beach marking (environment, overloads...)

*(Nadot et al. 1997)*

- Serial polishing (mechanical, FIB ...)

*(Clément et al. 1984, Schaefer 2011)*

- 3D imaging

*(Ludwig et al. 2003)*

# Looking at cracks in 3D: the different techniques

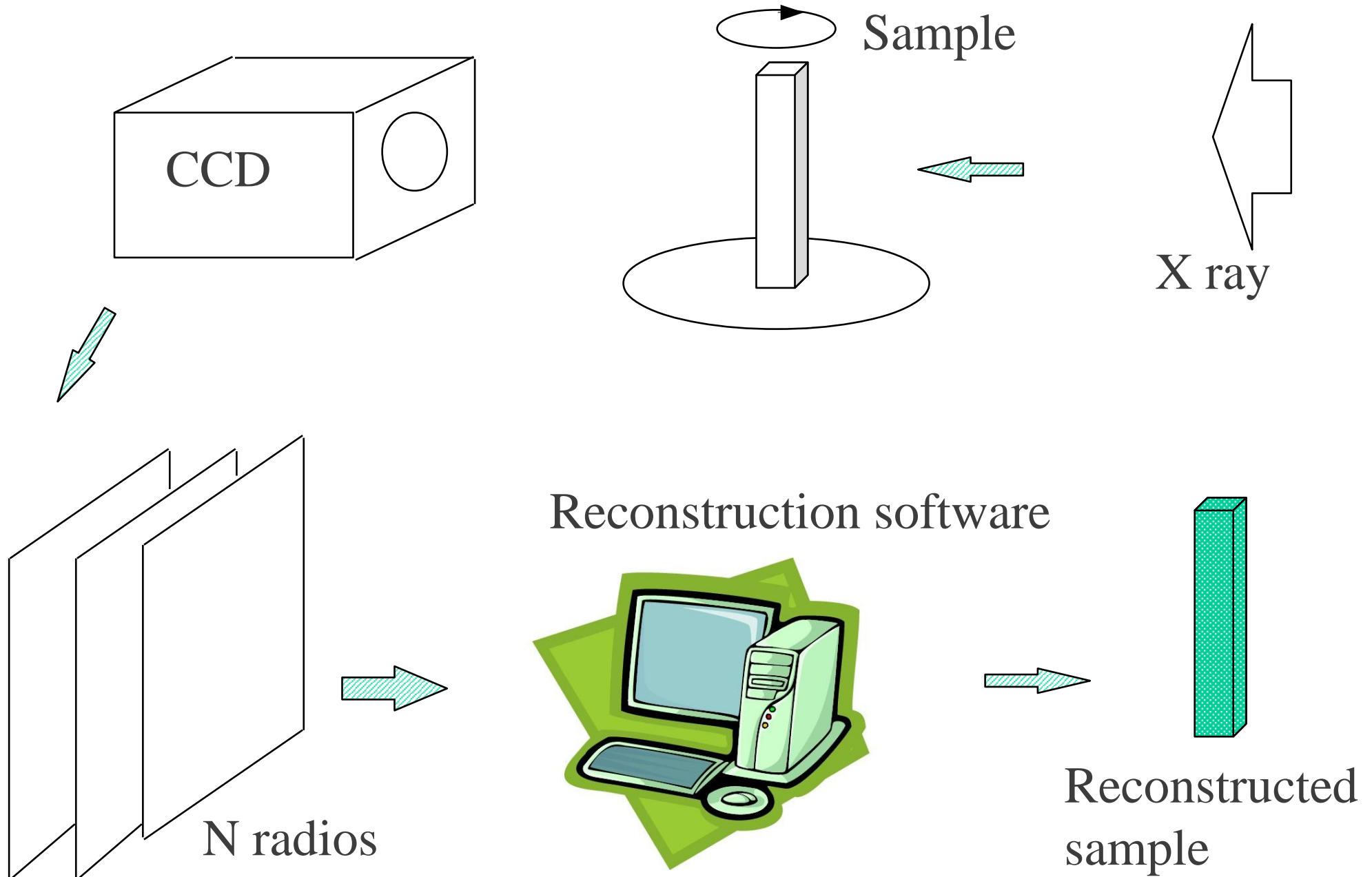
- Stiffness
  - 3D shape assumption, not accurate for short cracks
- Potential drop
  - not accurate for short cracks, no info on 3D shape
- Beach marking (environnement, overloads...)
  - influence on growth rate
- Serial polishing (mechanical, FIB ...)
  - destructive, limited area
- 3D imaging (X ray tomography)
  - accuracy, availability



# Outline

- ✗ Experimental set ups for tomography
- ✗ The resolution *v.s.* size dilemma
- ✗ Short cracks and the local crystallography
  - ✗ Ti results
  - ✗ Mg results
- ✗ Limits - What's next?

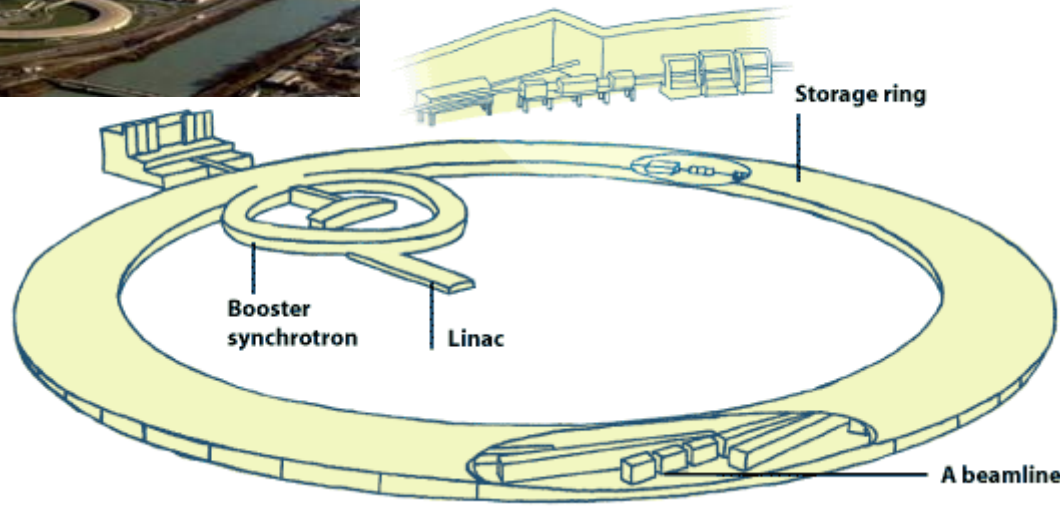
# Principle of X ray tomography



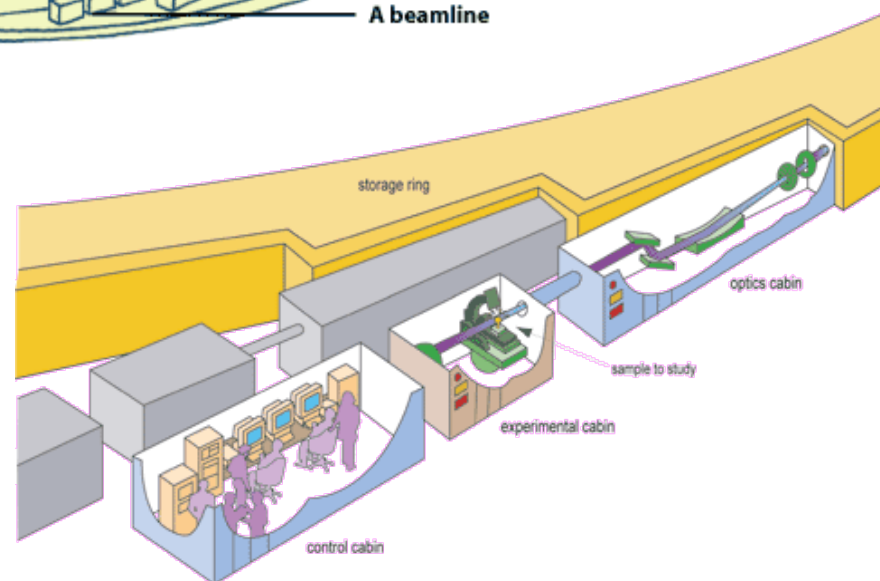


# Synchrotron radiation

ESRF  
Grenoble France

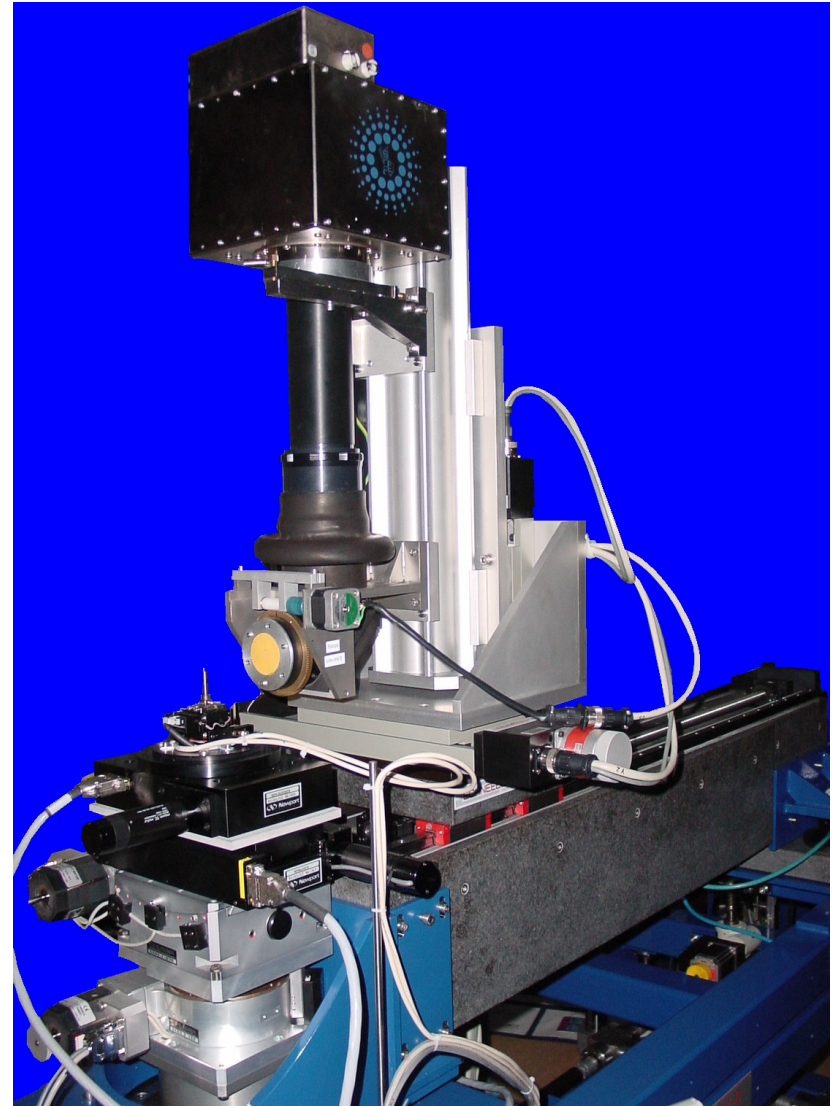


Beamlines:  
ID19, ID15, BM05, ID22



# Experimental Setup at ID19

- Long distance (145 m)  
→ coherence (phase contrast)
- Multilayer monochromator:  
 $\Delta\lambda / \lambda \sim 10^{-2}$
- High resolution detector system  
14 bit,  $1024^2$  and  $2048^2$  CCD,  
60 ms readout,  $1 \mu\text{m}$ .
- Dedicated  $\mu$ -tomography set-up
- Sample environment: fatigue  
machine, cold cell, furnace, ...



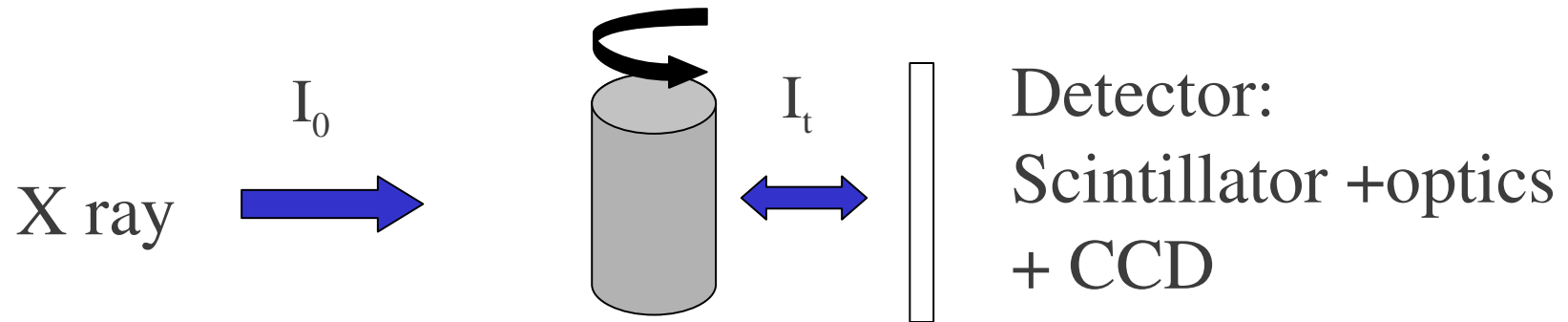
# *In situ fatigue*

- Enables in situ cycling between scans
- Polymer tube
- Maximum load 2000 N
- Tension/Tension
- Cyclic frequency 25 Hz

5 cm



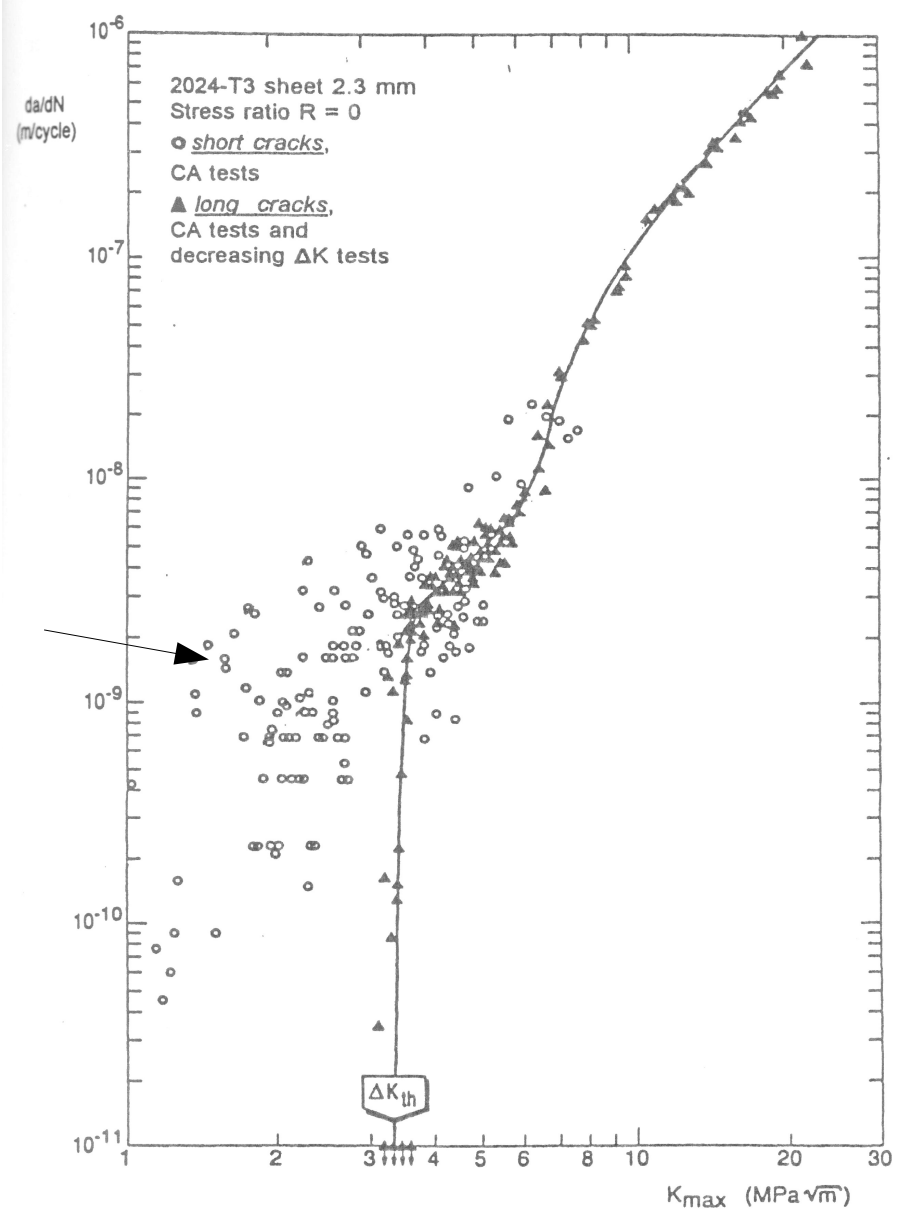
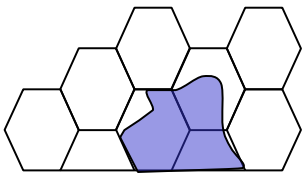
# Resolution vs Sample size



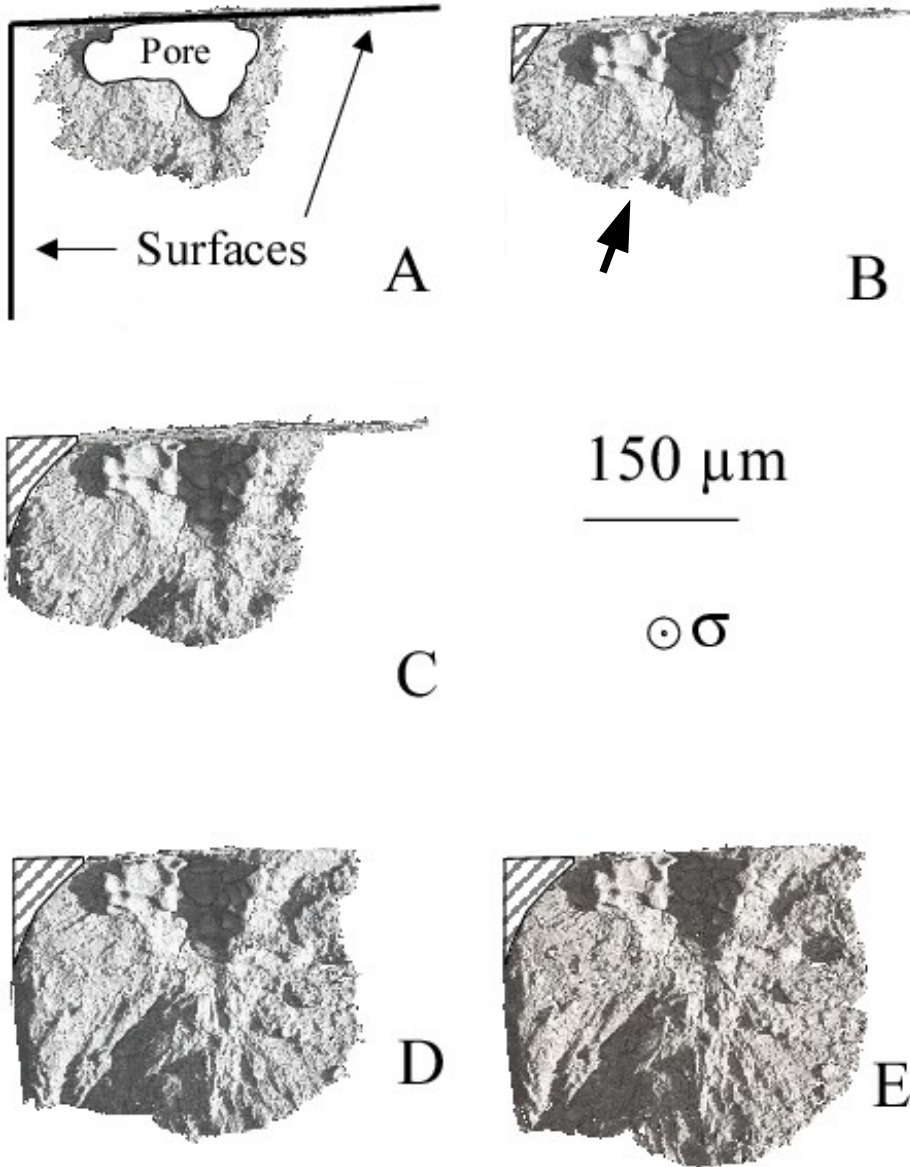
- Parallel beam  $\rightarrow$  no enlargement
- Resolution  $\sim 2 * \text{voxel size}$
- Crack tip  $\rightarrow$  voxel size  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$
- Sample size  $<$  CCD size  $\rightarrow$  **section  $< 1 \text{ mm}^2$**

# 3D microstructural effects

Short cracks



# Short cracks v.s. microstructure



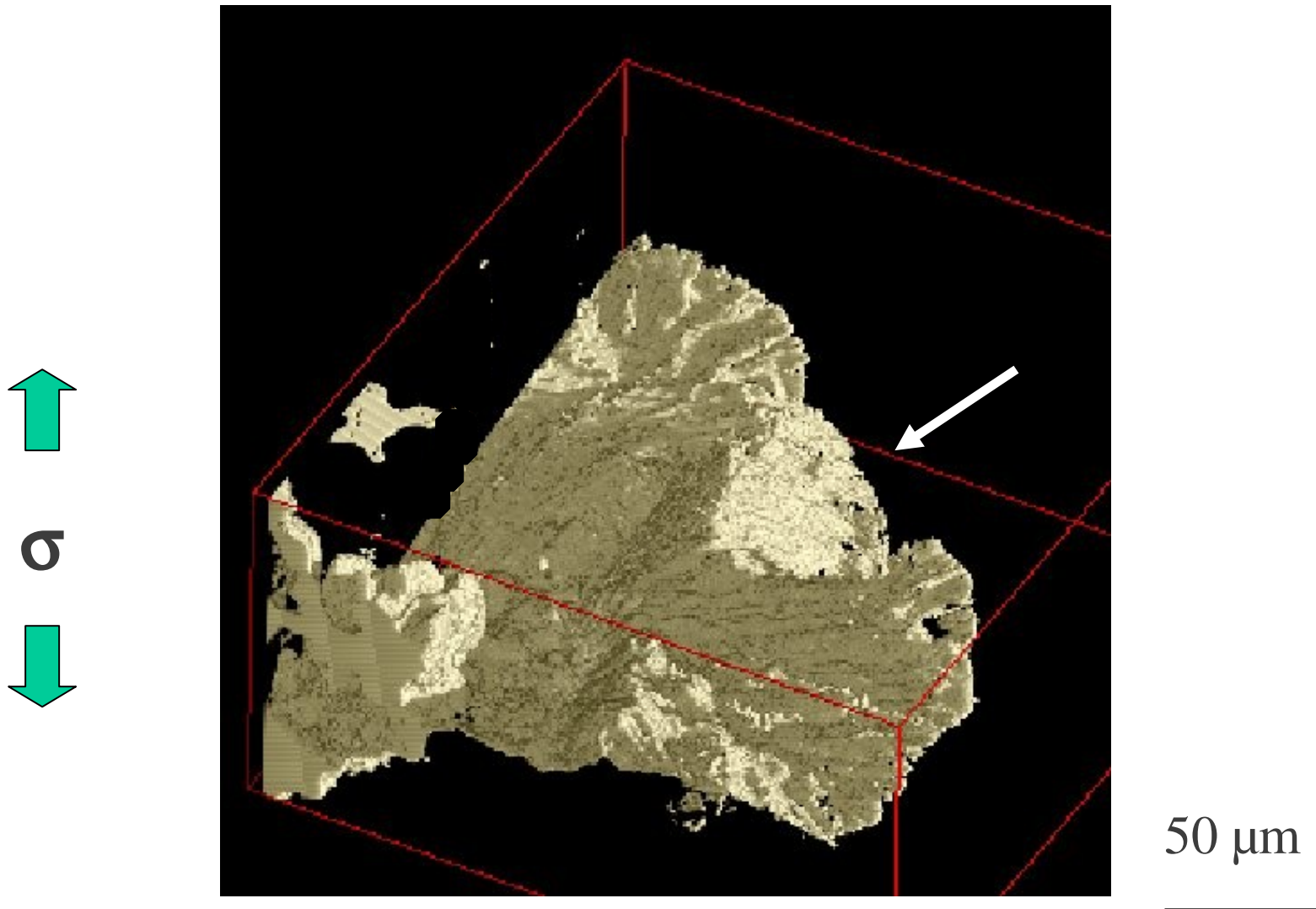
- Cracks initiate at the pore/surface intersection

- Local deviations of the crack front → grain boundaries?

Cast Al alloy grain size  $\sim 300 \mu\text{m}$

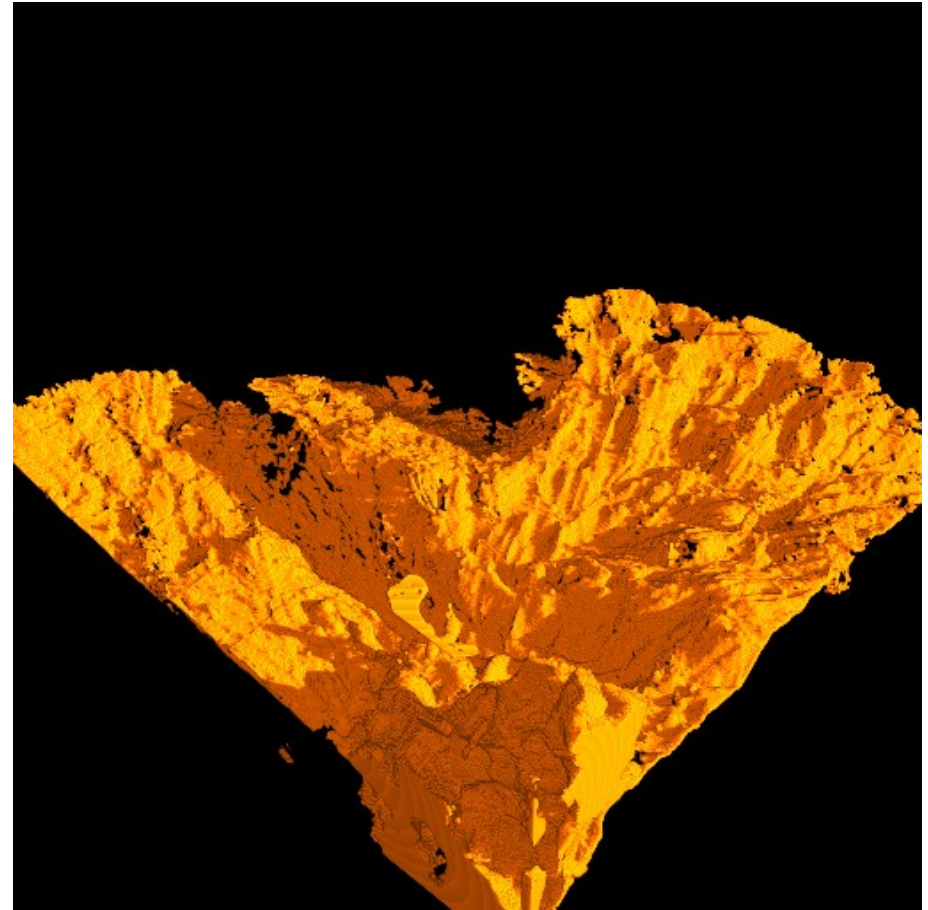
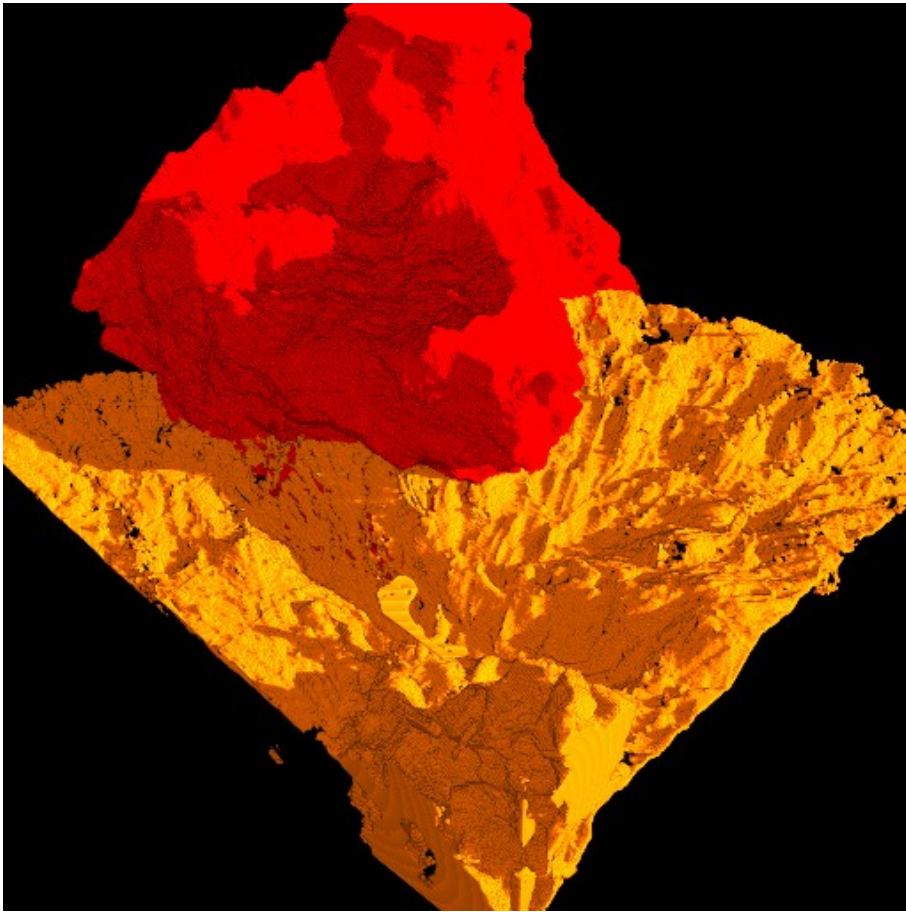


# Fatigue cracks v.s. grain boundaries



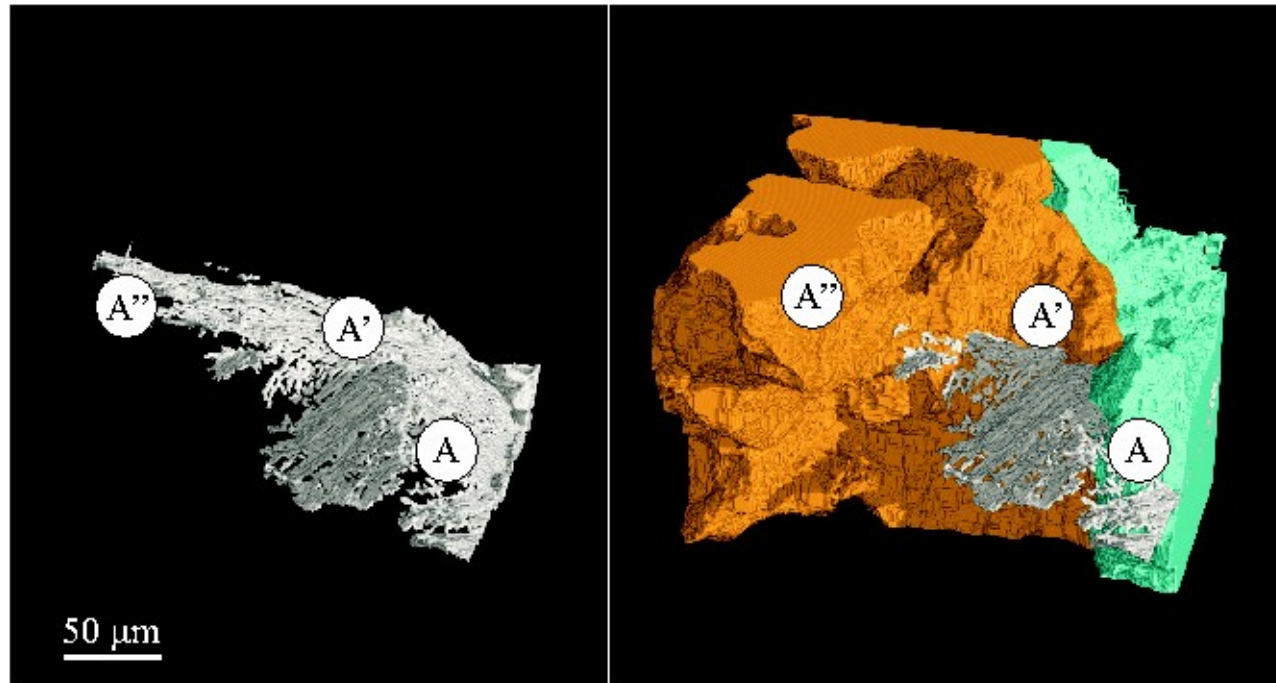
Cast Al alloy grain size  $\sim 300 \mu\text{m}$

# Fatigue cracks v.s. grain boundaries



100  $\mu\text{m}$

# Fatigue cracks v.s. grain boundaries



Local crystallography: key factor

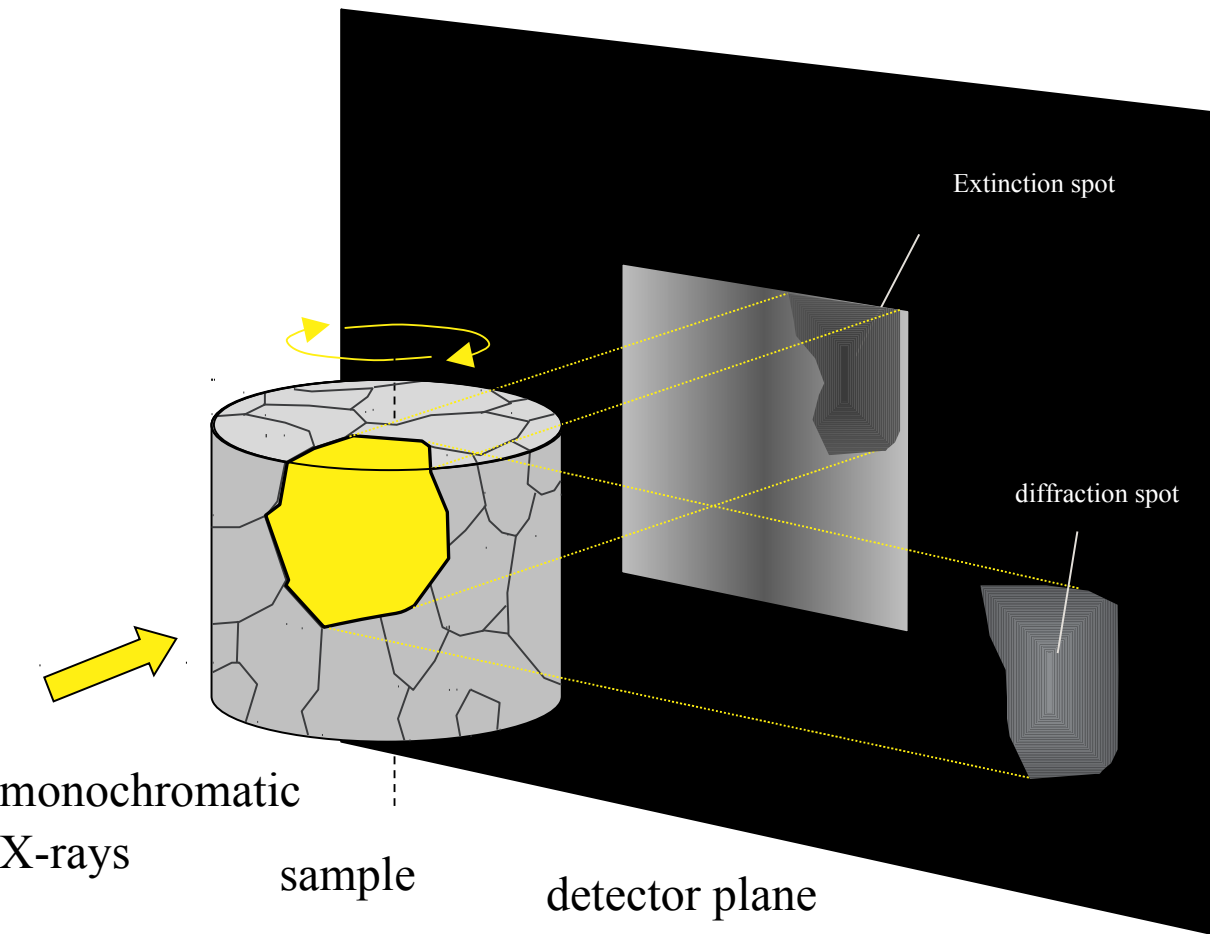


# Limitations

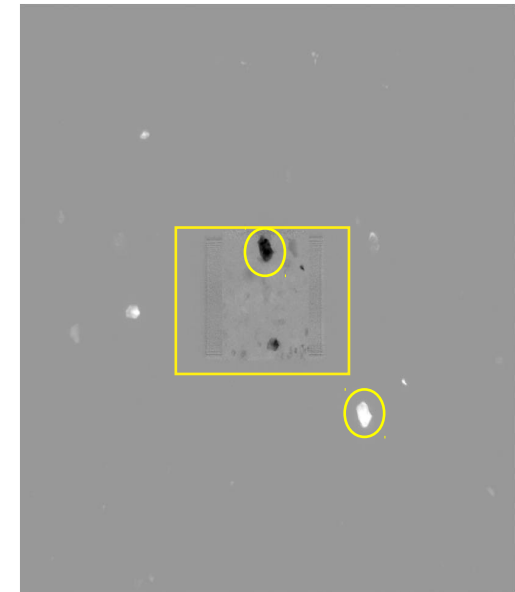
- Ga works only for Al alloys
- Destructive and only provides grain shape
- Modelling requires the knowledge of local crystallography

→ Diffraction Contrast Tomography

# DCT: the method



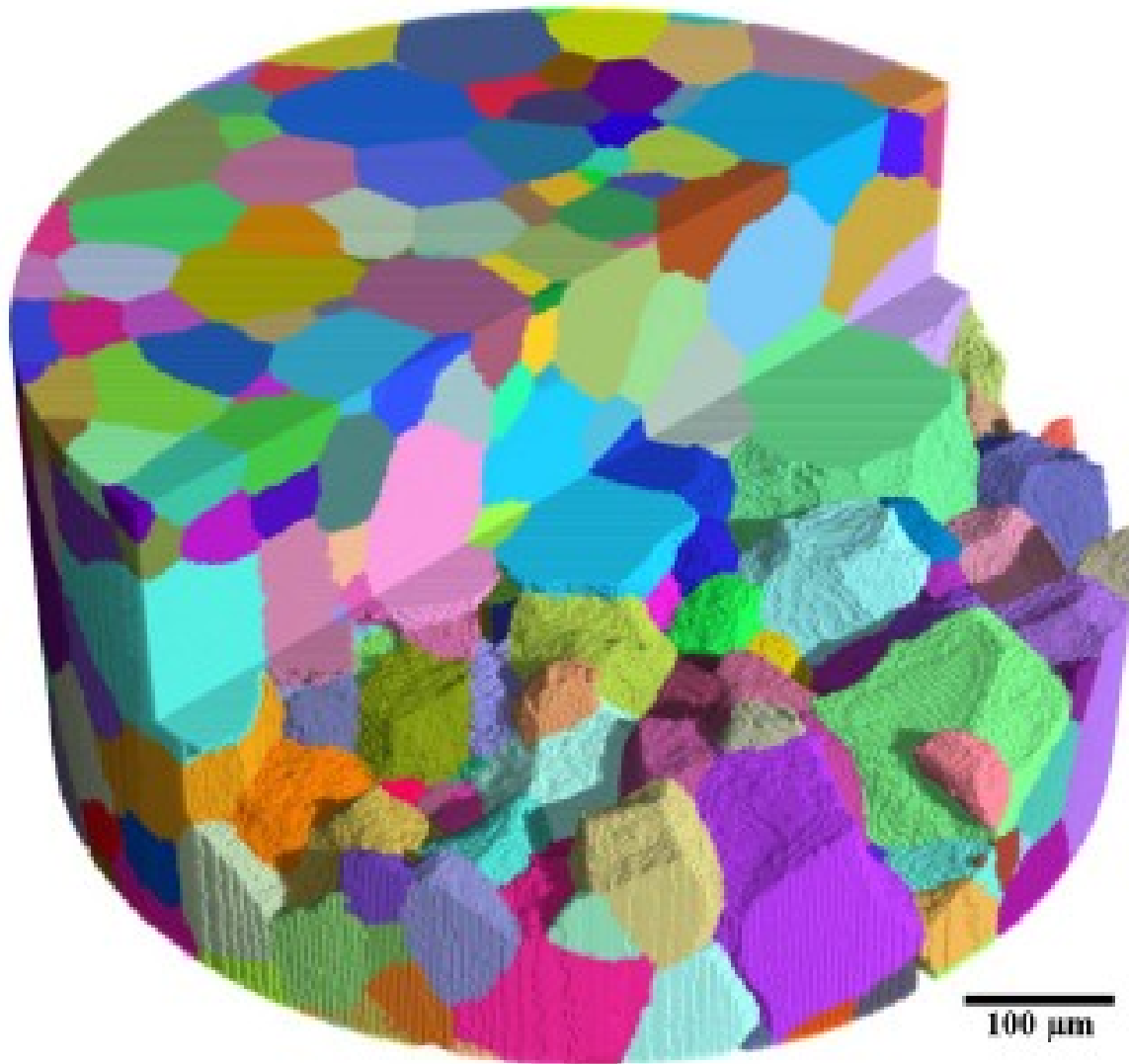
DCT raw data



Pixel size  $2.4 \mu\text{m}$ , ID11 (high flux)  
Sample with 1000 grains  
→ *ca.* 80 000 diffraction spots  
on 7200 images

# DCT on Ti alloy

\*



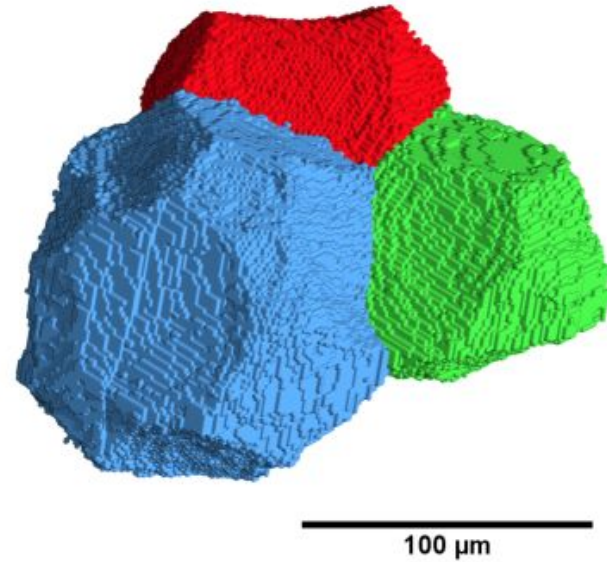
Metastable  $\beta$ -titanium  
alloy

‘Timet®21S’

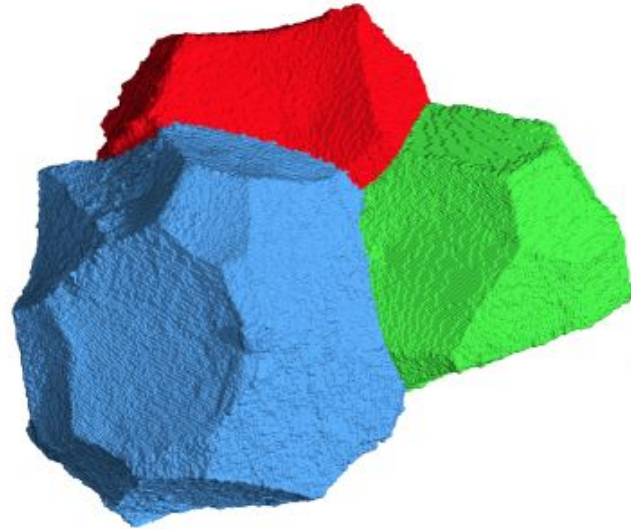
Chemical composition:  
15 wt% Mo, 3 wt% Nb

1008 grains

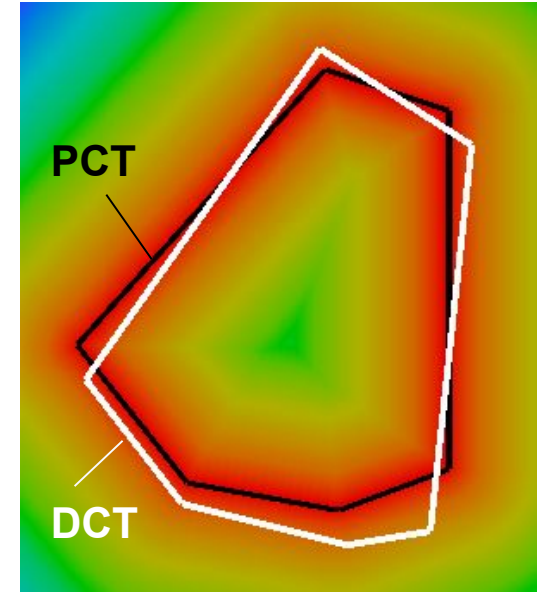
# Evaluation of DCT



DCT grain cluster

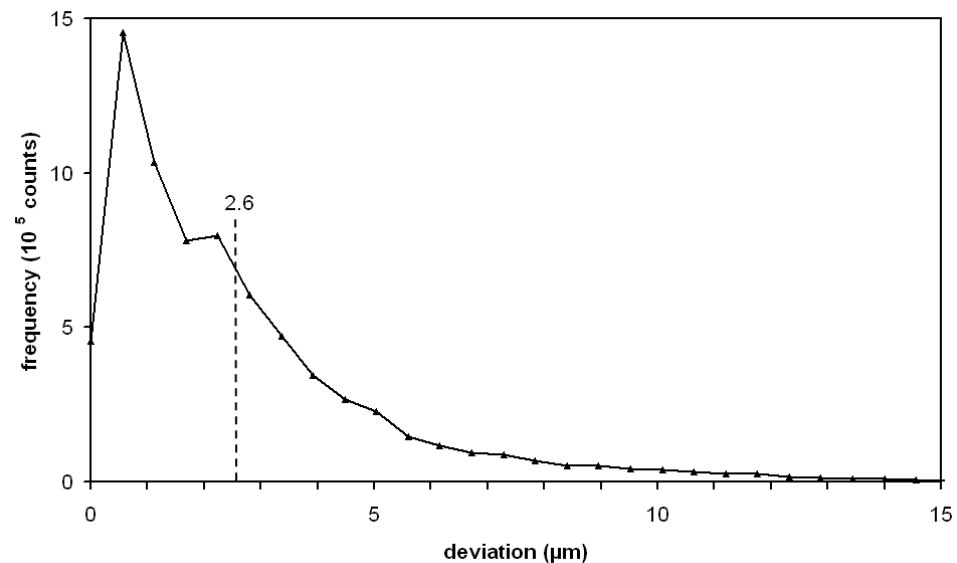


PCT grain cluster



Principle of error calculation

Comparison of grain boundaries as reconstructed from DCT with real grain boundaries  
→ 2.6  $\mu\text{m}$  average error for 55  $\mu\text{m}$  grains  
→ DCT accurate enough to be trusted

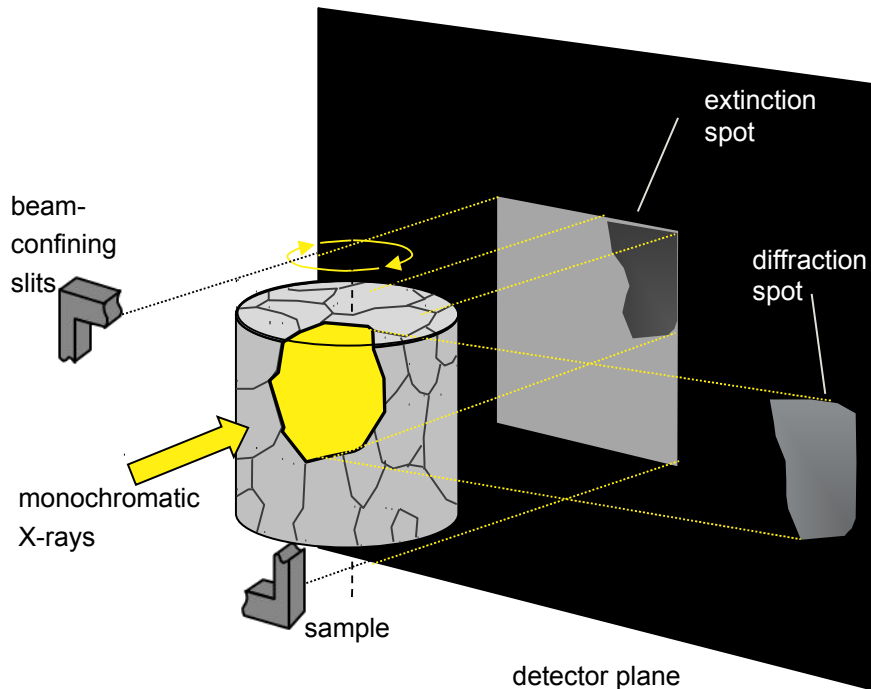




# 3DXTSM – Data Acquisition

## Diffraction Contrast Tomography :

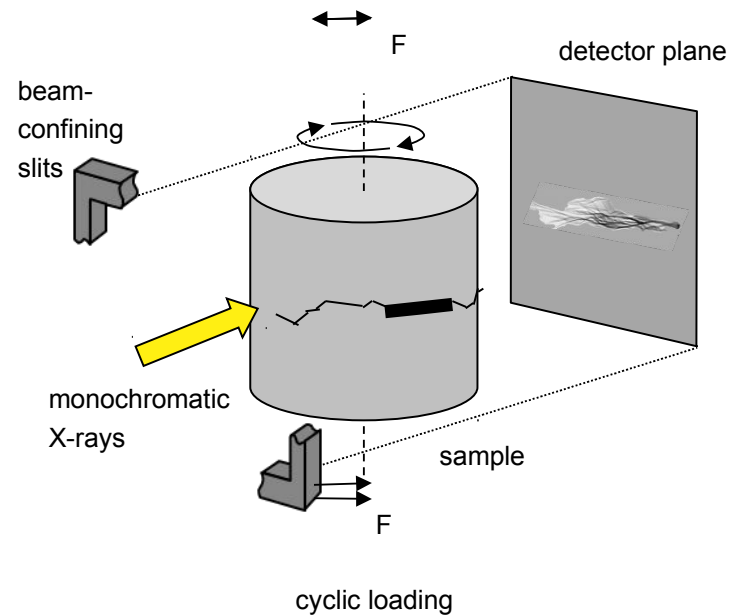
Non-destructive characterization of grain orientation and grain shape



- pixel size 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$

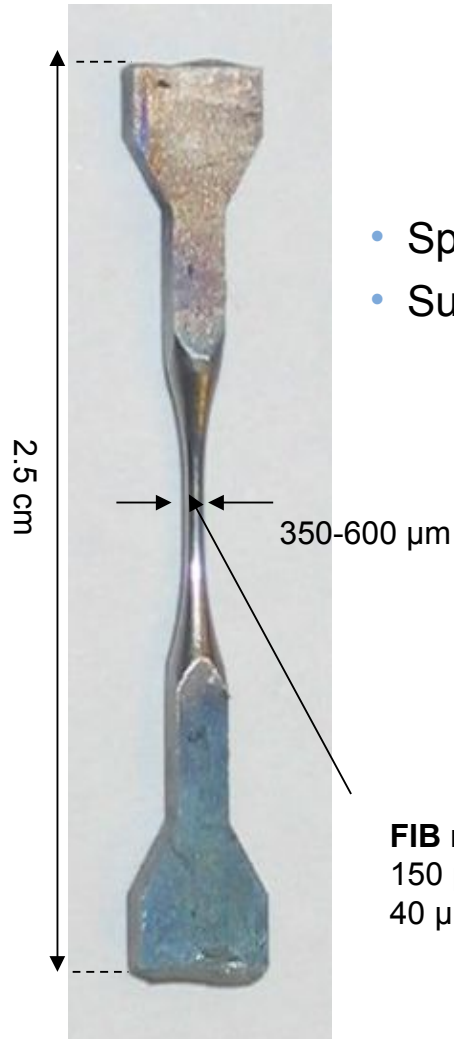
## Phase Contrast Tomography :

Phase contrast makes fine crack parts visible



- pixel size 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- interrupted *in-situ* measurement

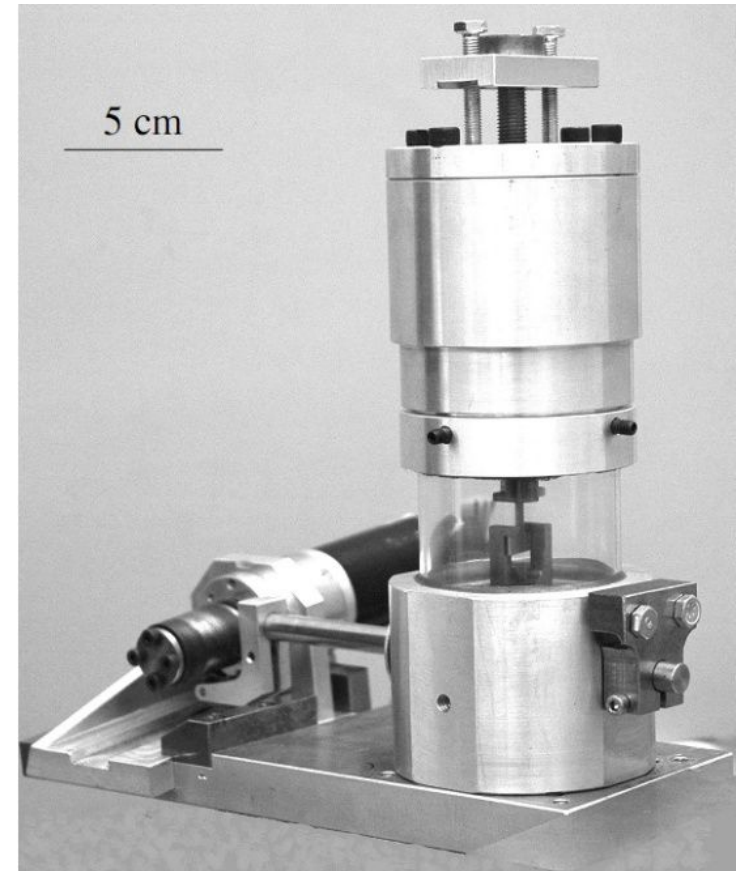
# 3DXTSM – Experimental Details



- Spark erosion cut
- Surface polished

- Load: 10.6-318 MPa
- Cyclic frequency 25 Hz

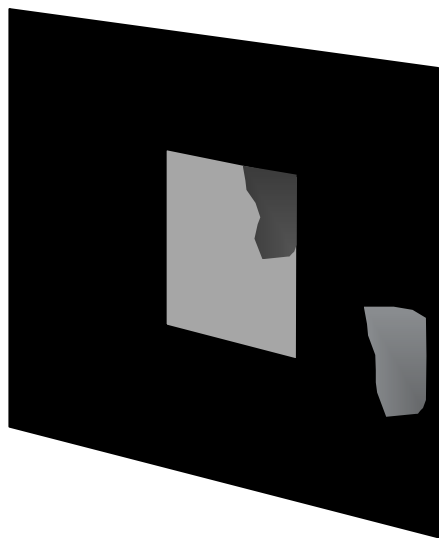
**FIB notch:**  
150 μm length,  
40 μm depth



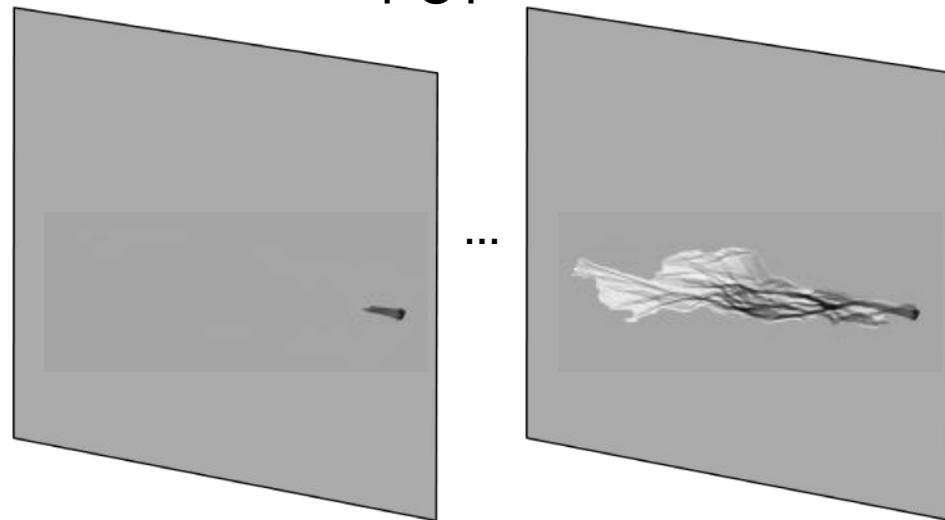
[Buffière et al. Mat.Sc. Tech. 2006]

# 3DXTSM – Volume Registration

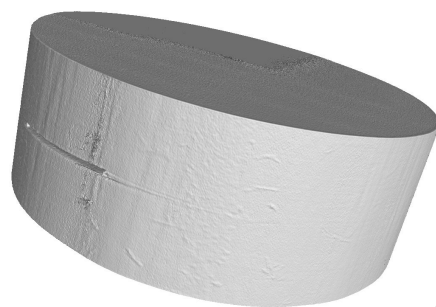
DCT



PCT

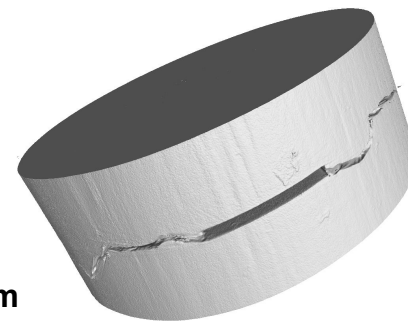


Grain map



Before fatigue

...

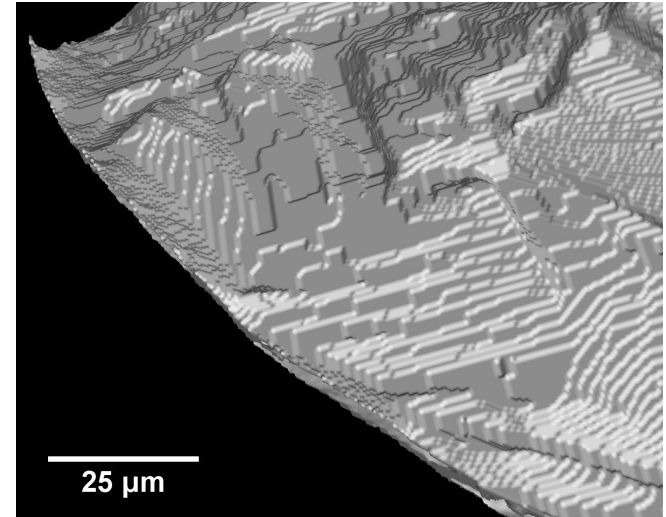
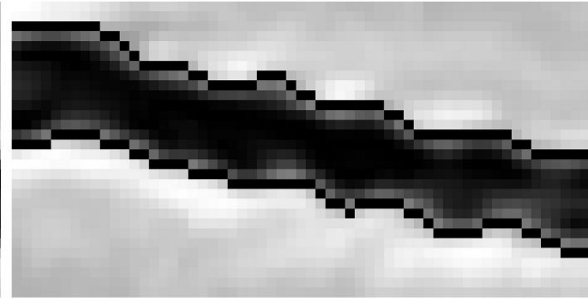
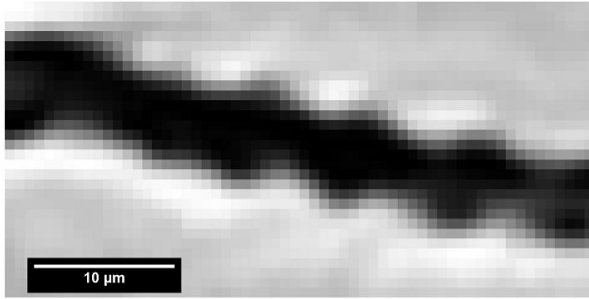


After n cycles

Volumes not congruent

# 3DXTSM – Oversampling

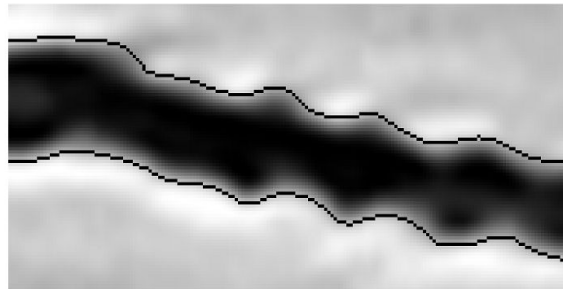
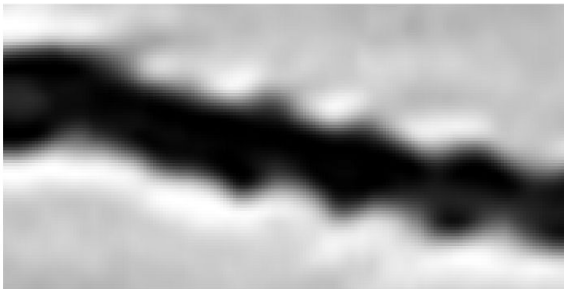
Original



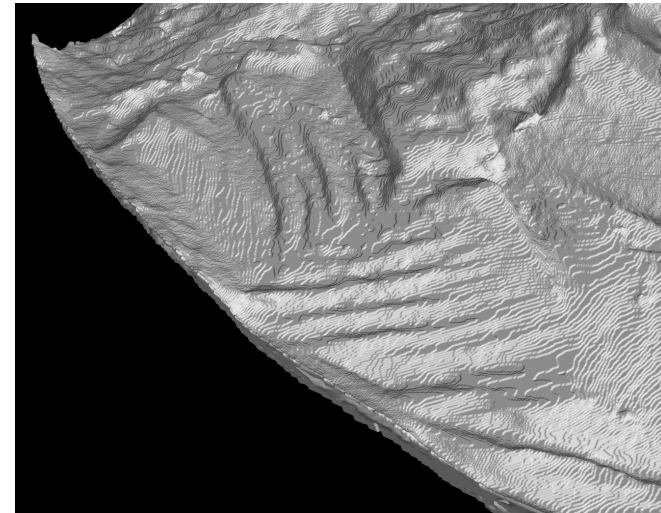
Cross-section through reconstructed volume

Cross-section with outline of segmented crack

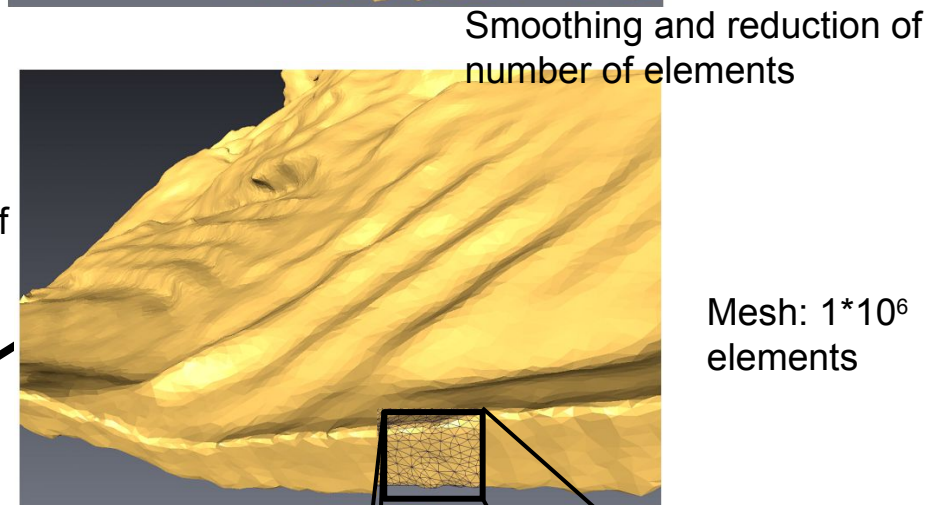
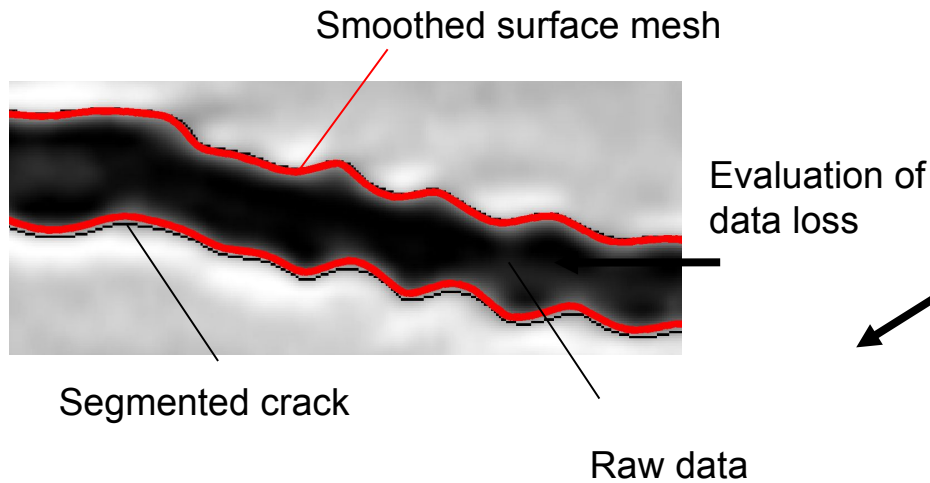
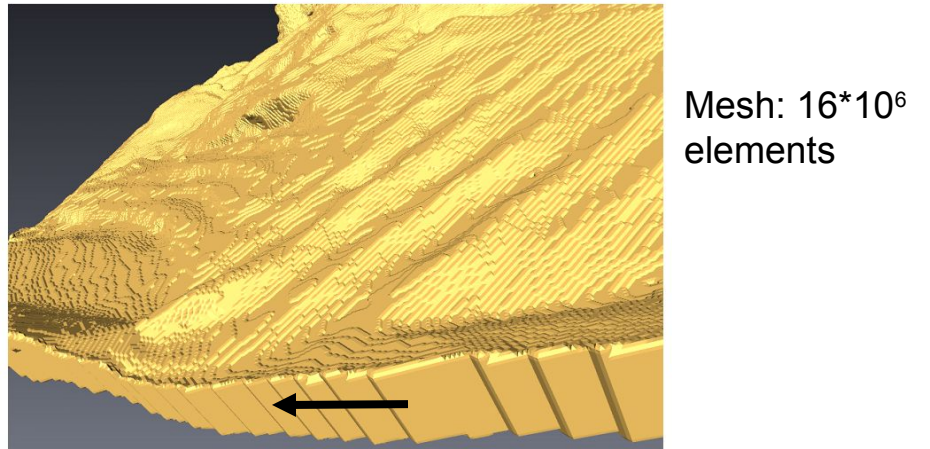
3D rendering of segmented crack



Oversampled



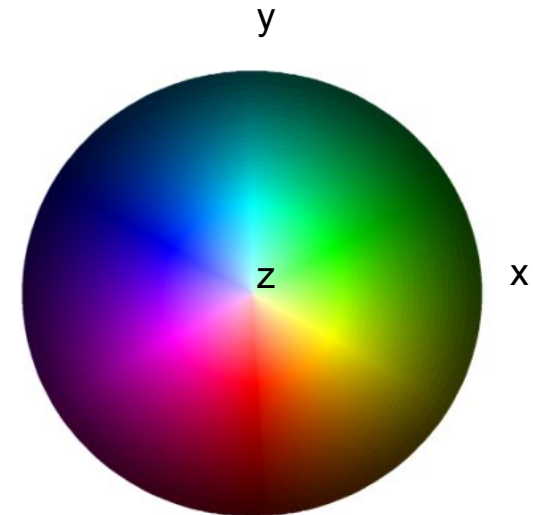
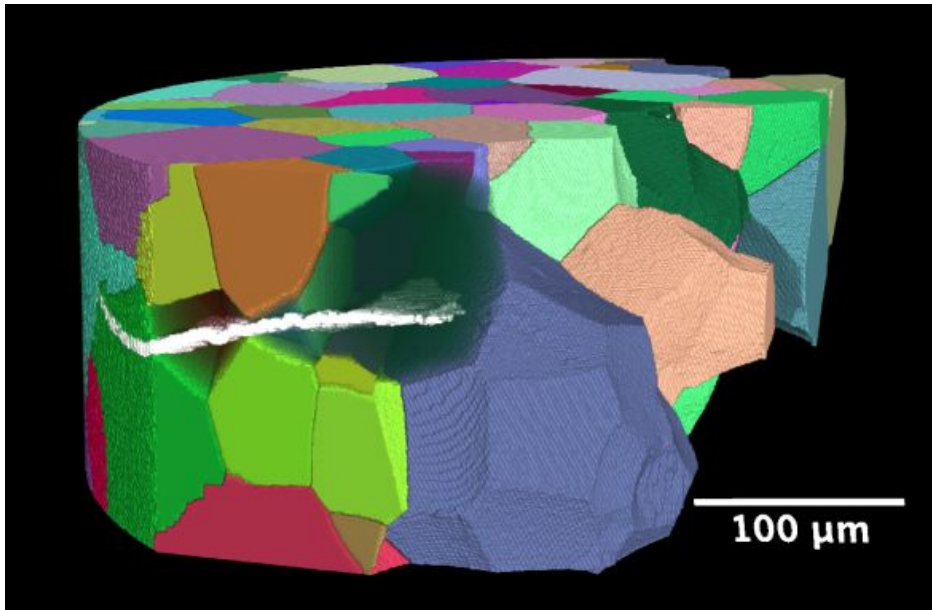
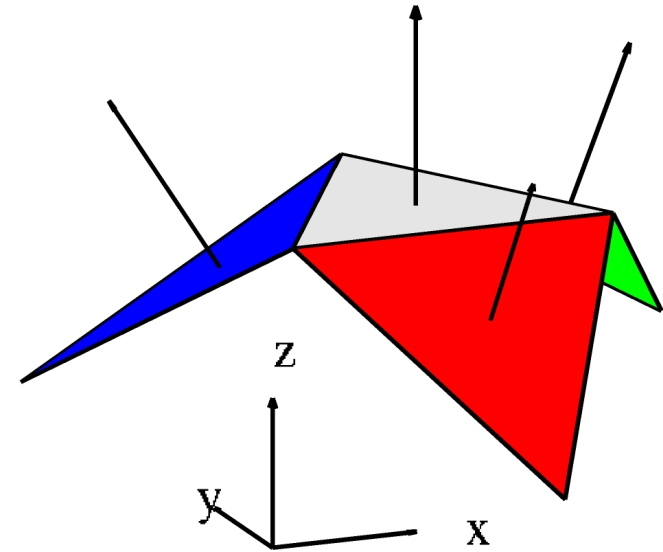
# 3DXTSM – Voxels → Mesh



➔ Negligible loss of information during data processing

# 3DXTSM - Data Structure

- Physical orientation
- Grain affiliation
- Crystallographic orientation
- Propagation stage
- Local crack growth rate



# Studied samples

sample “VST”:

- Near  $\beta$ -titanium (bcc) alloy ‘VST55531’
- Ti-5Al-5V-5Mo-3Cr-1Zr
- 2 h / 843 °C, air cooled
- Grain size ~ 65  $\mu\text{m}$
- Single growth stage analyzed at 110 k cycles

sample “21S”:

- Metastable  $\beta$ -titanium (bcc) alloy ‘Timet®21S’
- Ti-15Mo-3Nb-3Al-.2Si
- 2 h / 850 °C, quenched in water
- Grain size ~ 55  $\mu\text{m}$
- 26 stages between 45 k and 75.5 k cycles

# Studied samples

sample “VST”:

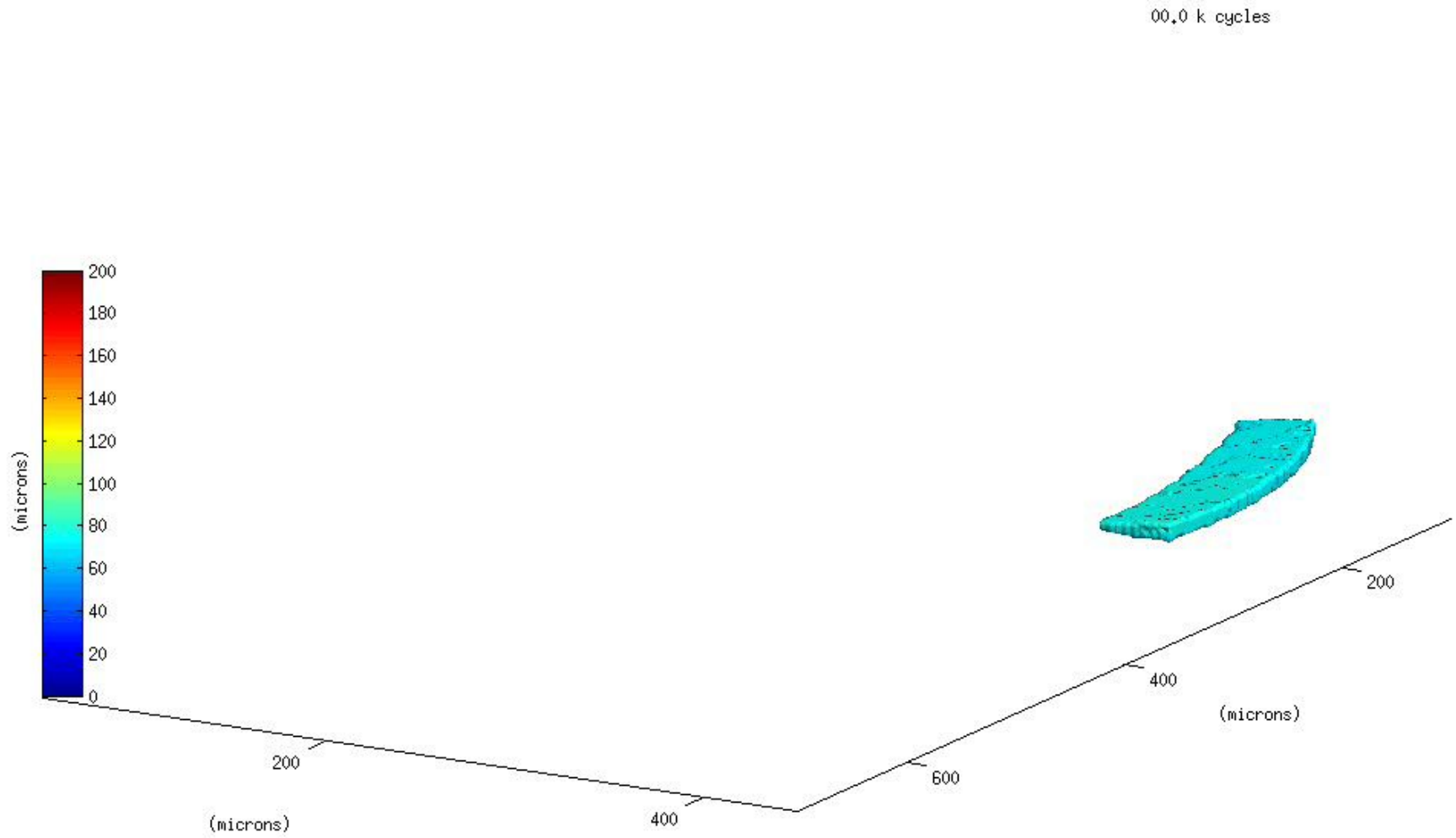
- Near  $\beta$ -titanium (bcc) alloy ‘VST55531’
- Ti-5Al-5V-5Mo-3Cr-1Zr
- 2 h / 843 °C, air cooled
- Grain size ~ 65  $\mu\text{m}$
- Single growth stage analyzed at 110 k cycles

sample “21S”:

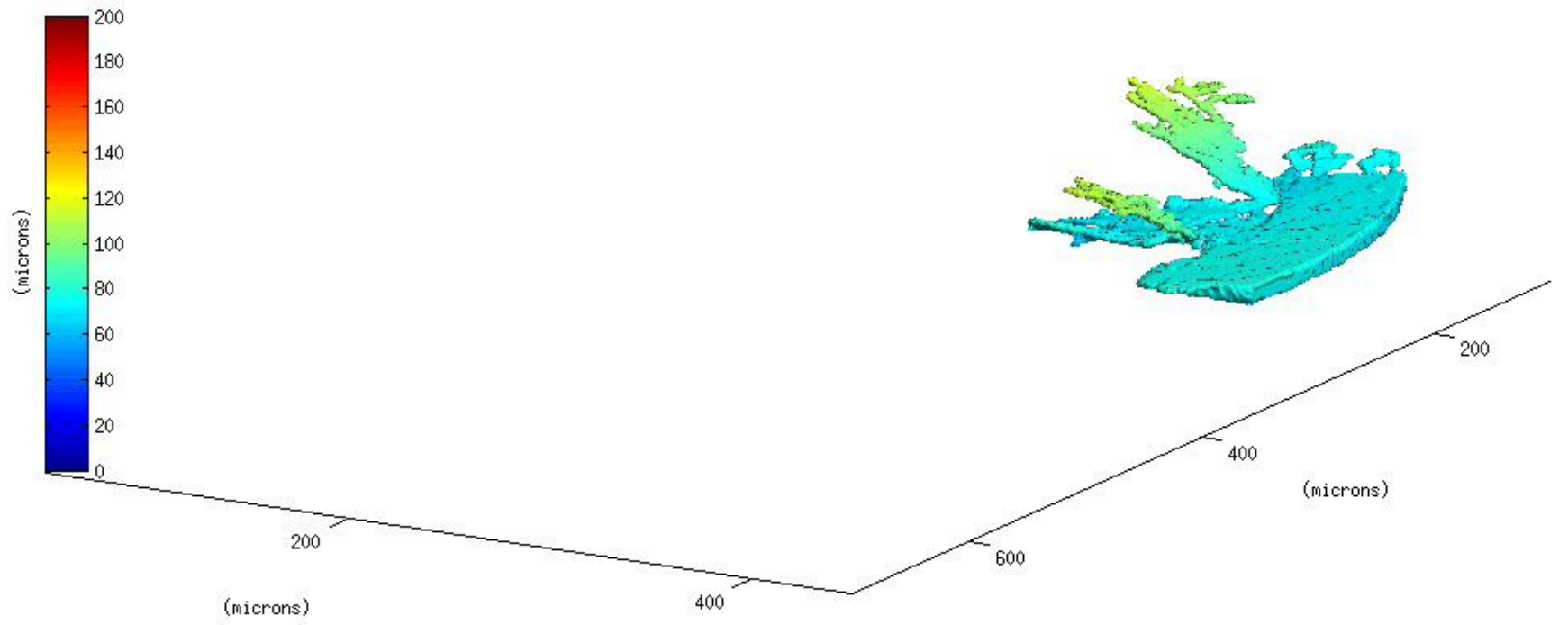
- Metastable  $\beta$ -titanium (bcc) alloy ‘Timet®21S’
- Ti-15Mo-3Nb-3Al-.2Si
- 2 h / 850 °C, quenched in water
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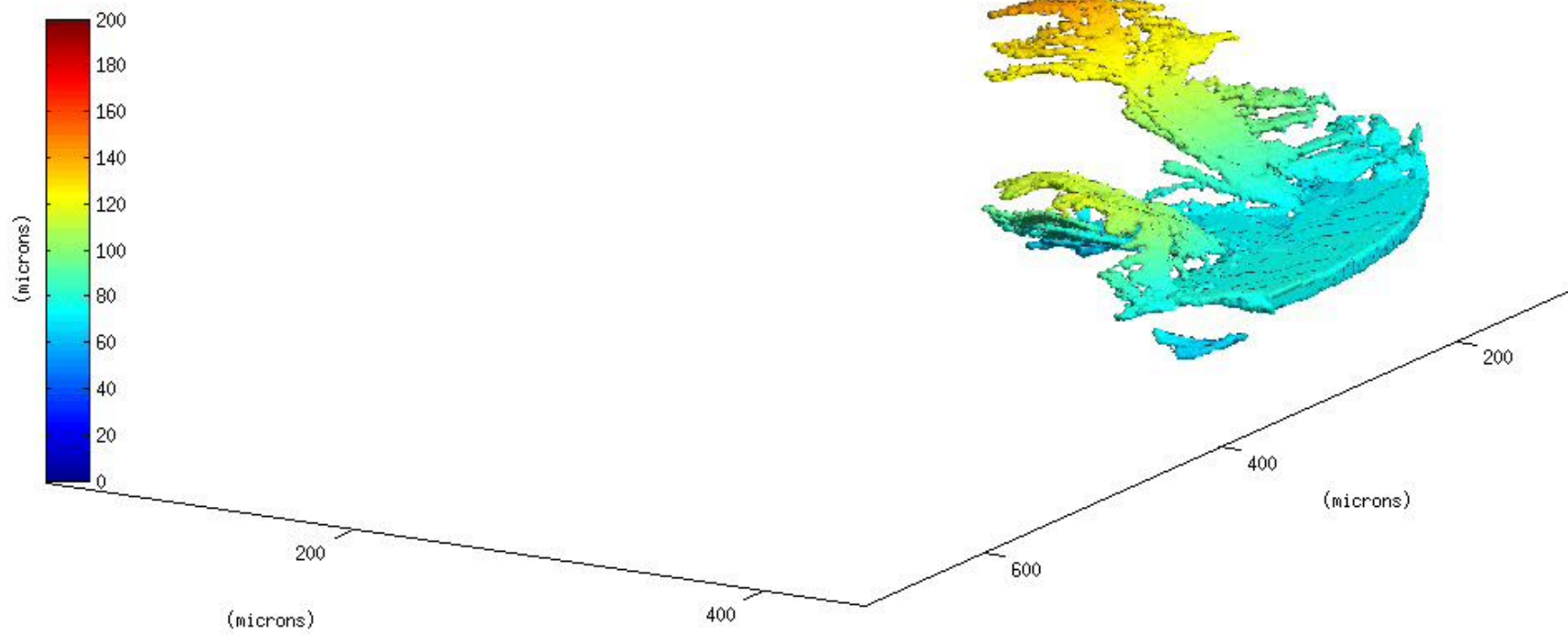
# *In situ* fatigue



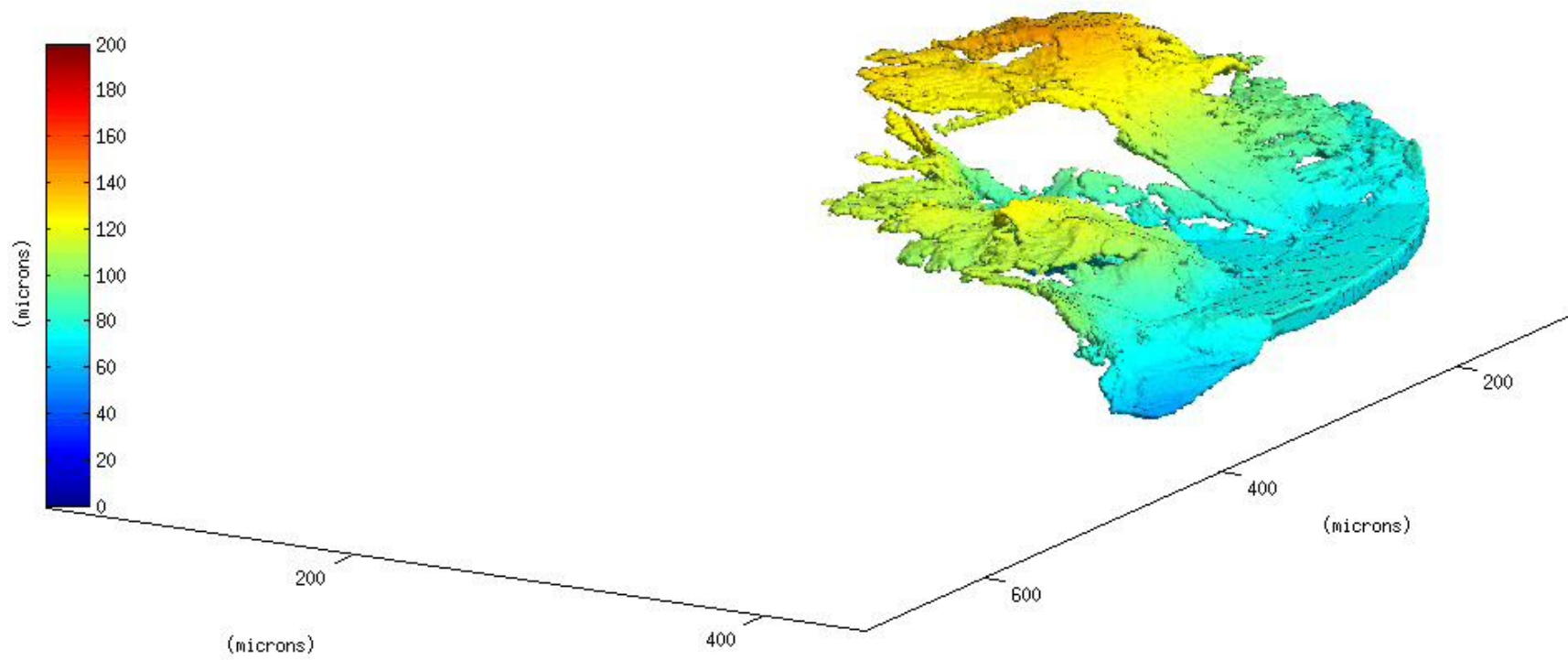
47.0 k cycles



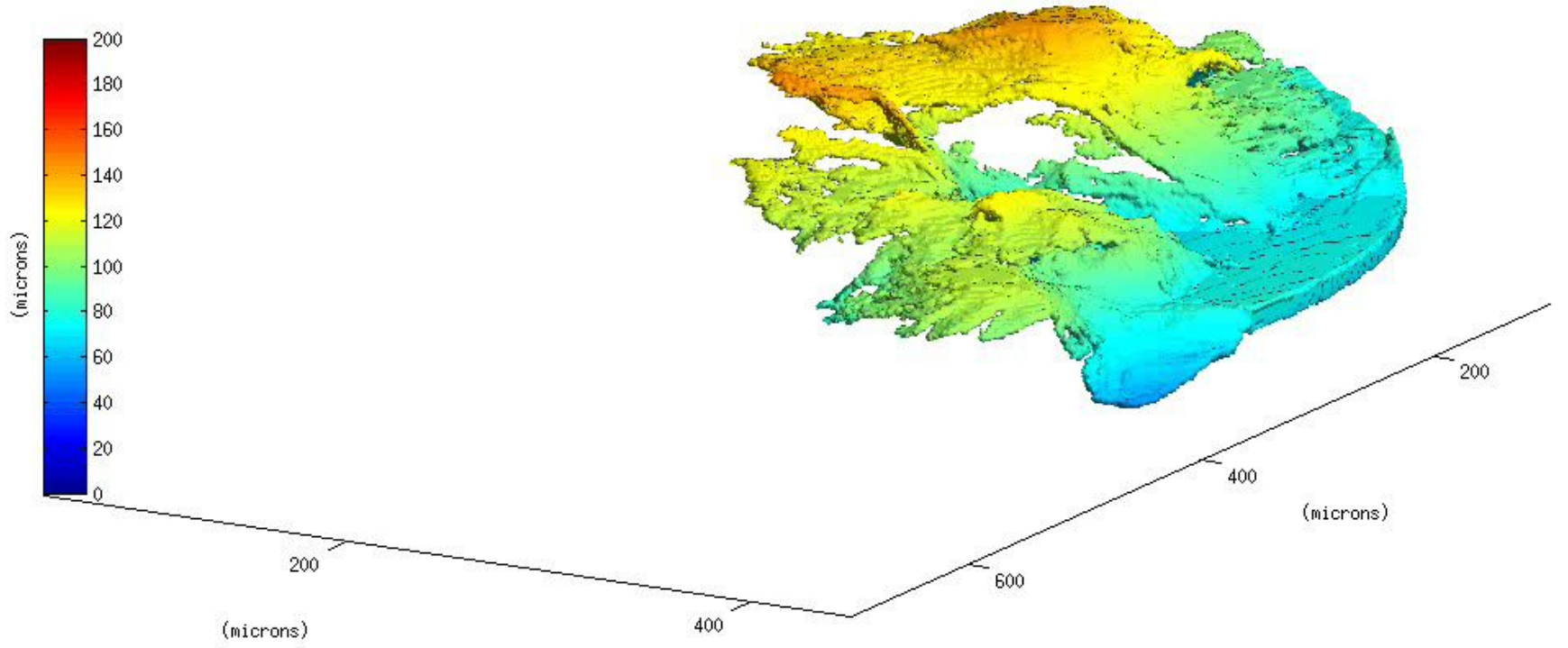
57,0 k cycles



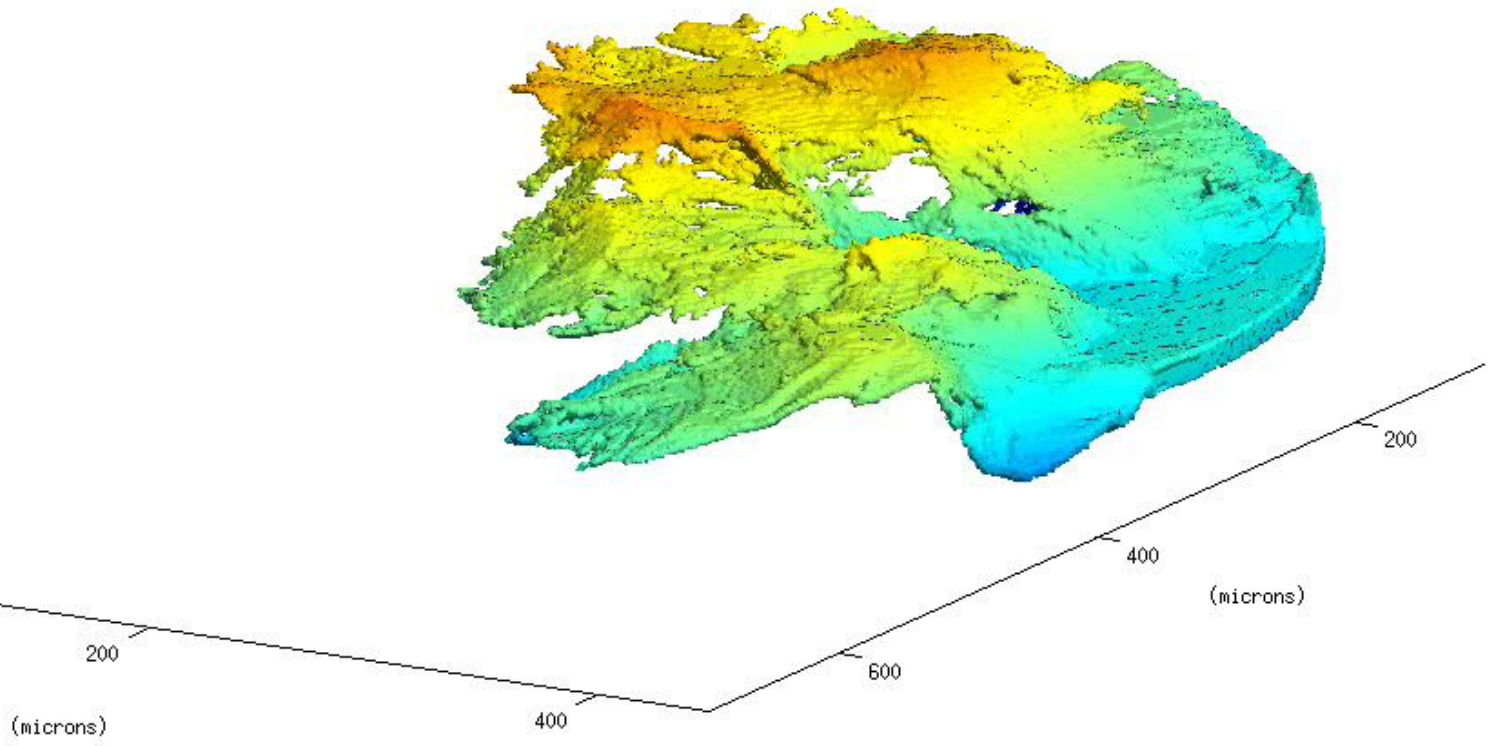
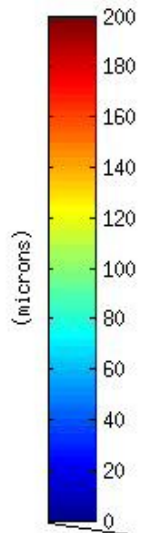
64,0 k cycles



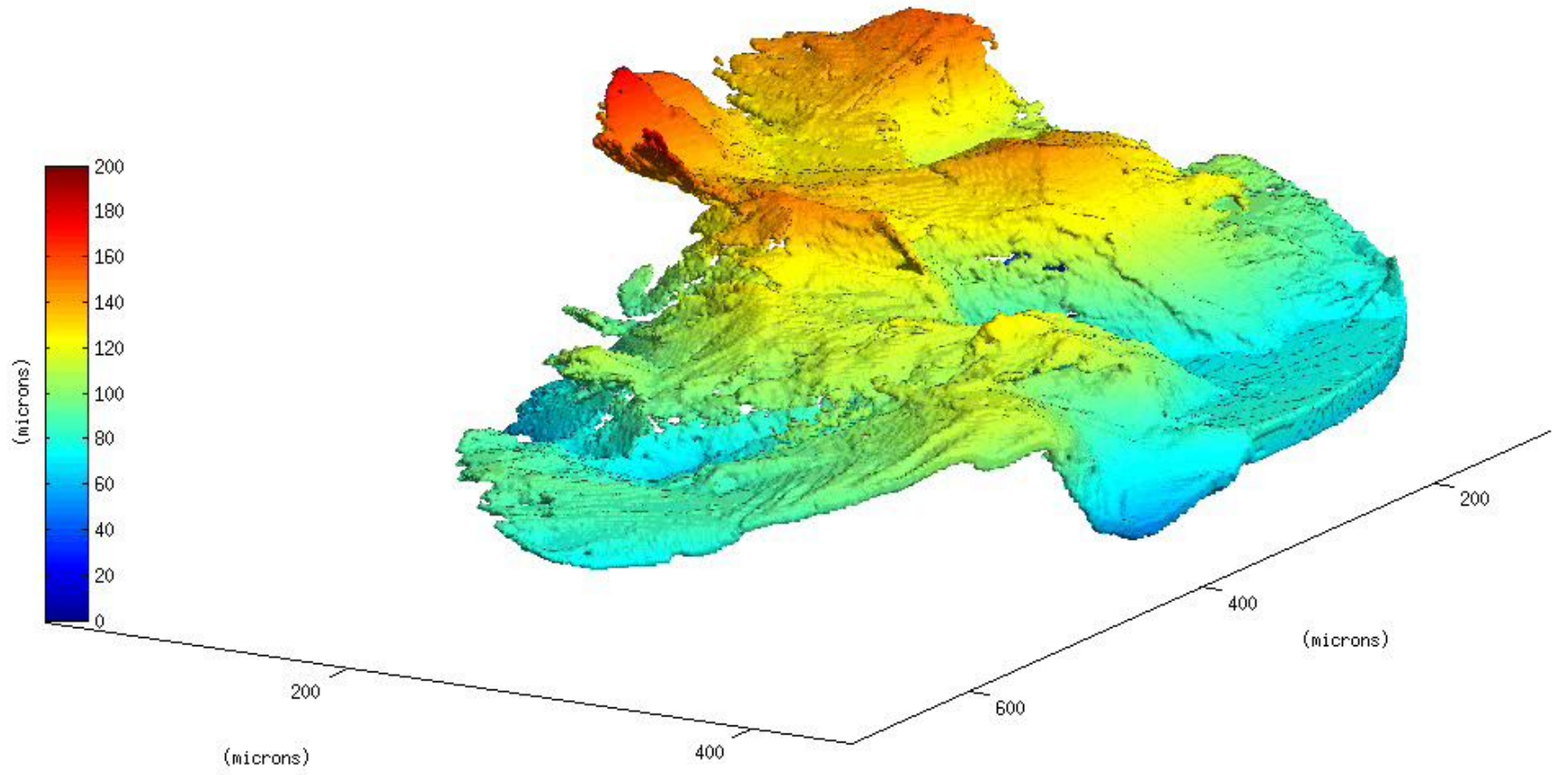
68,0 k cycles



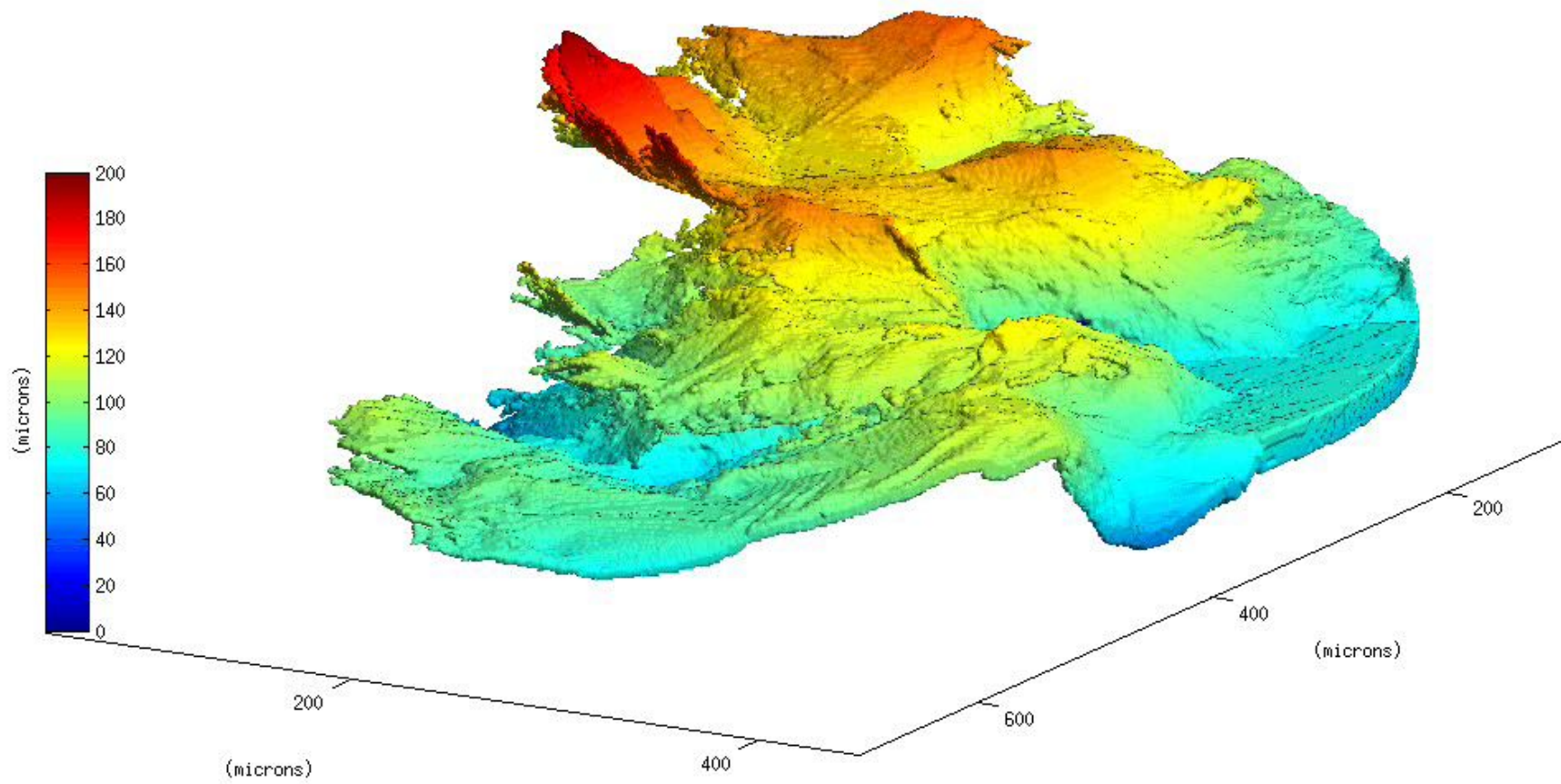
71.0 k cycles



74,0 k cycles

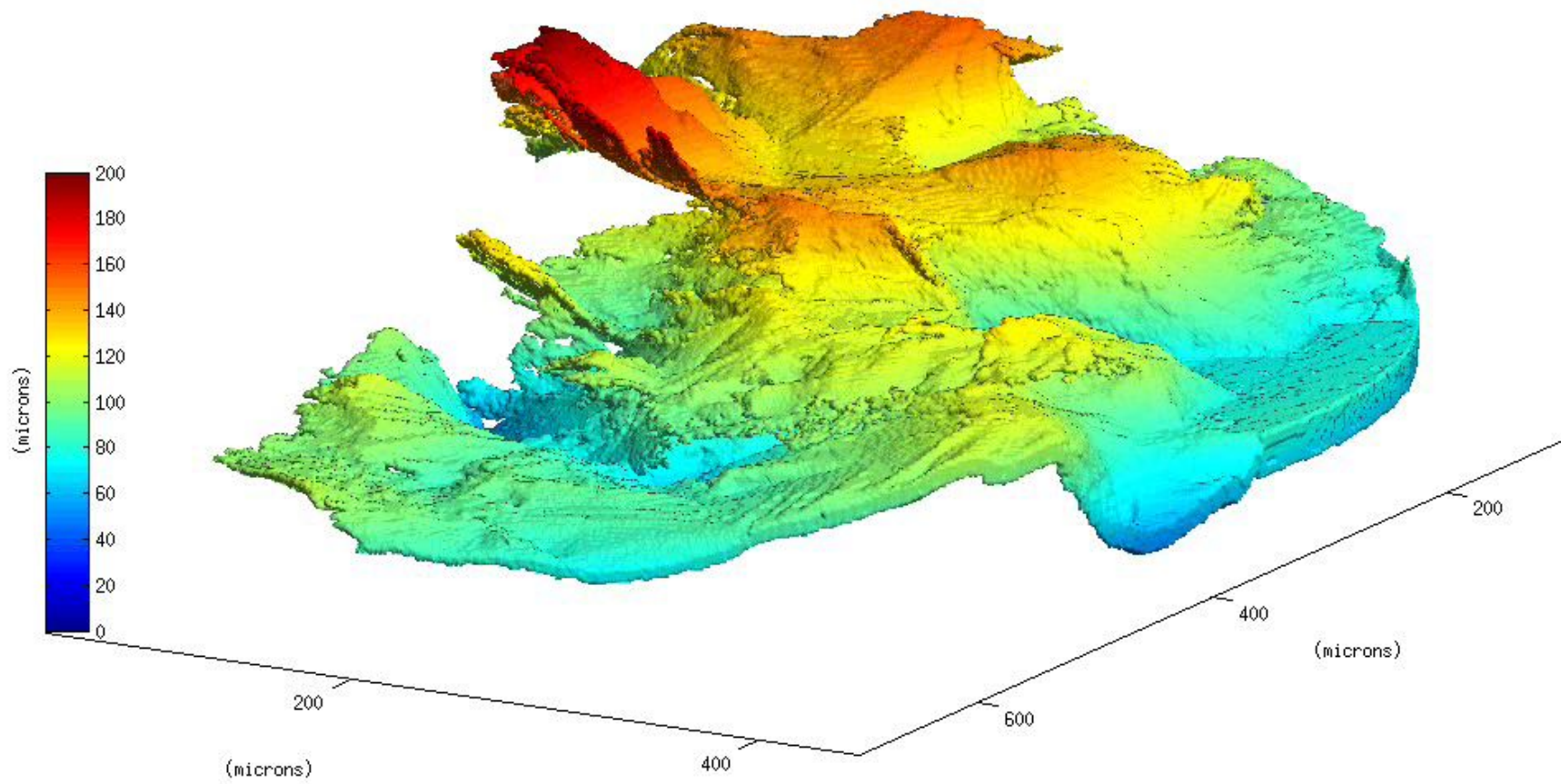


75,0 k cycles

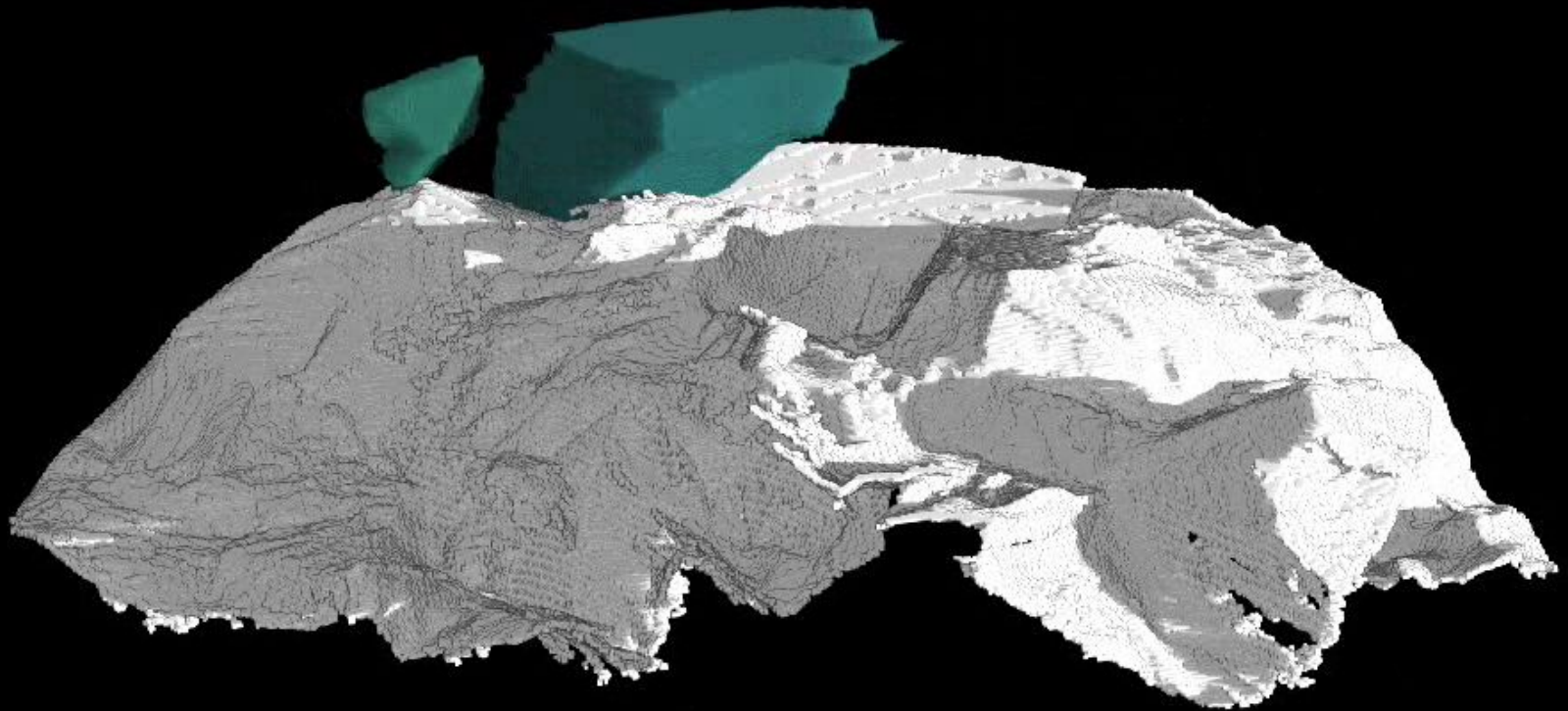


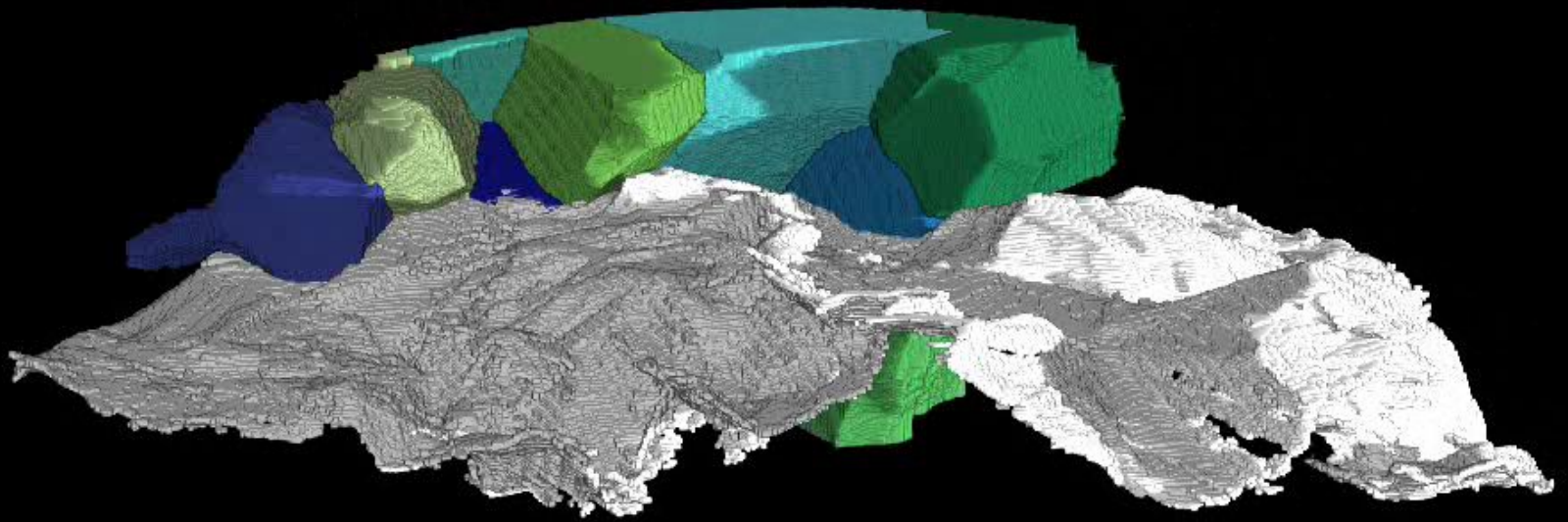


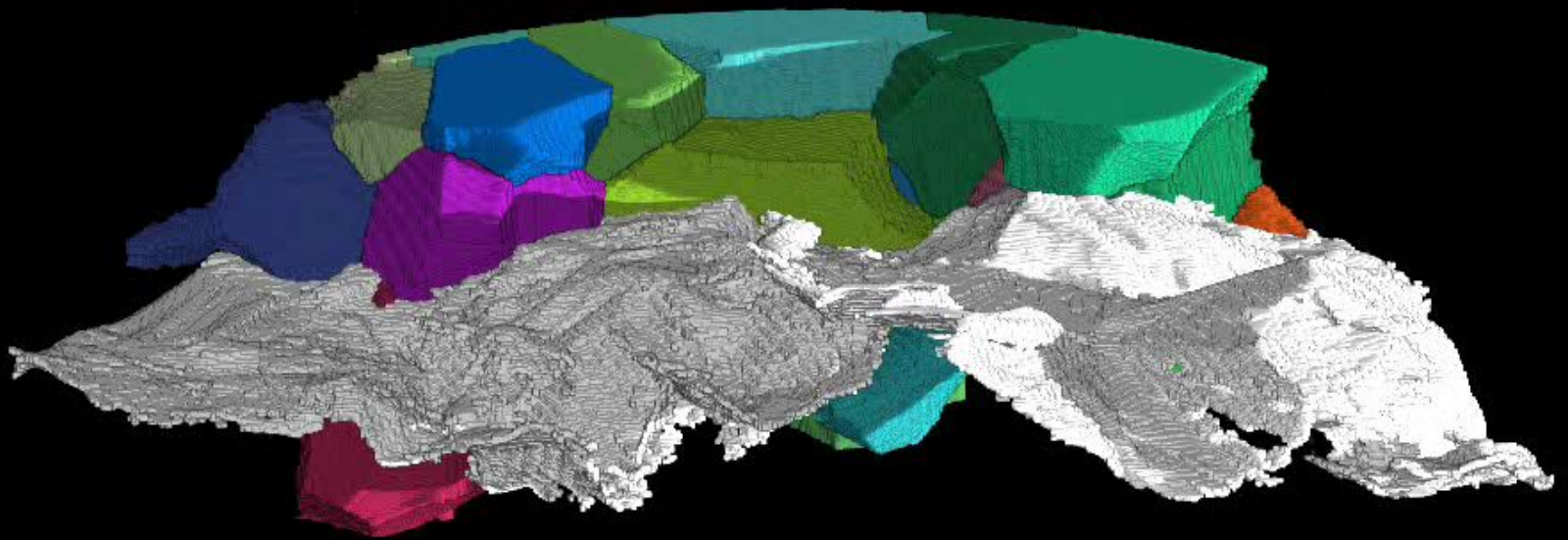
75,5 k cycles

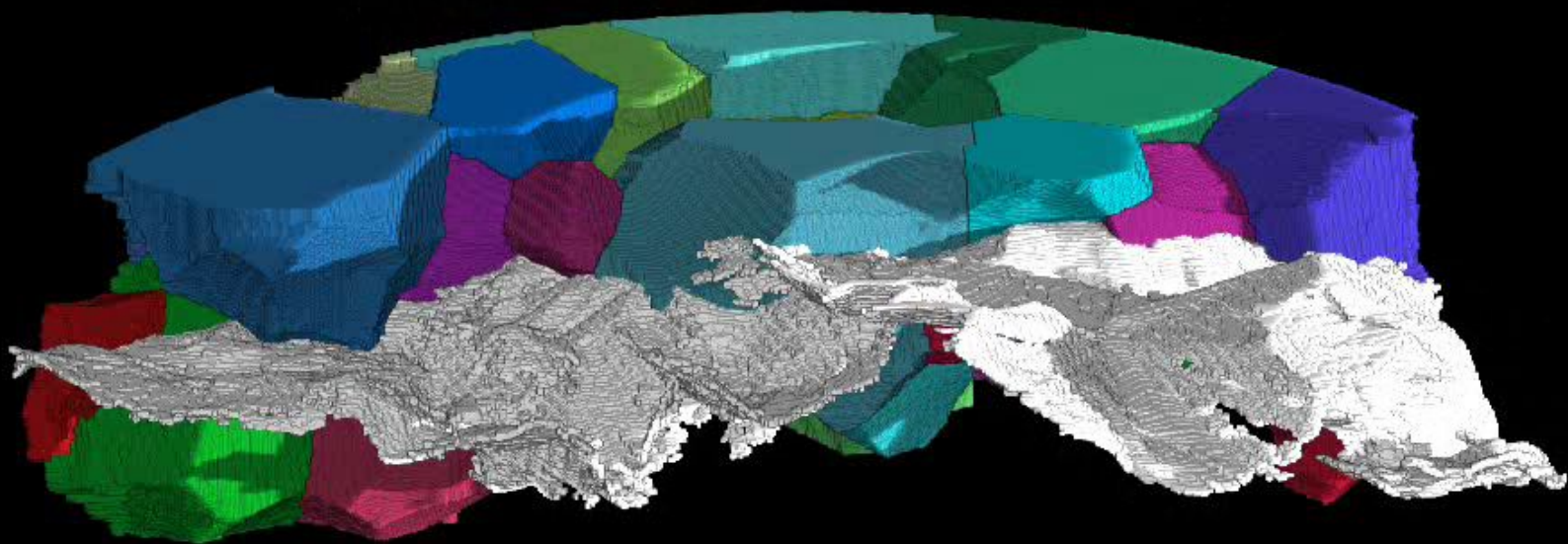


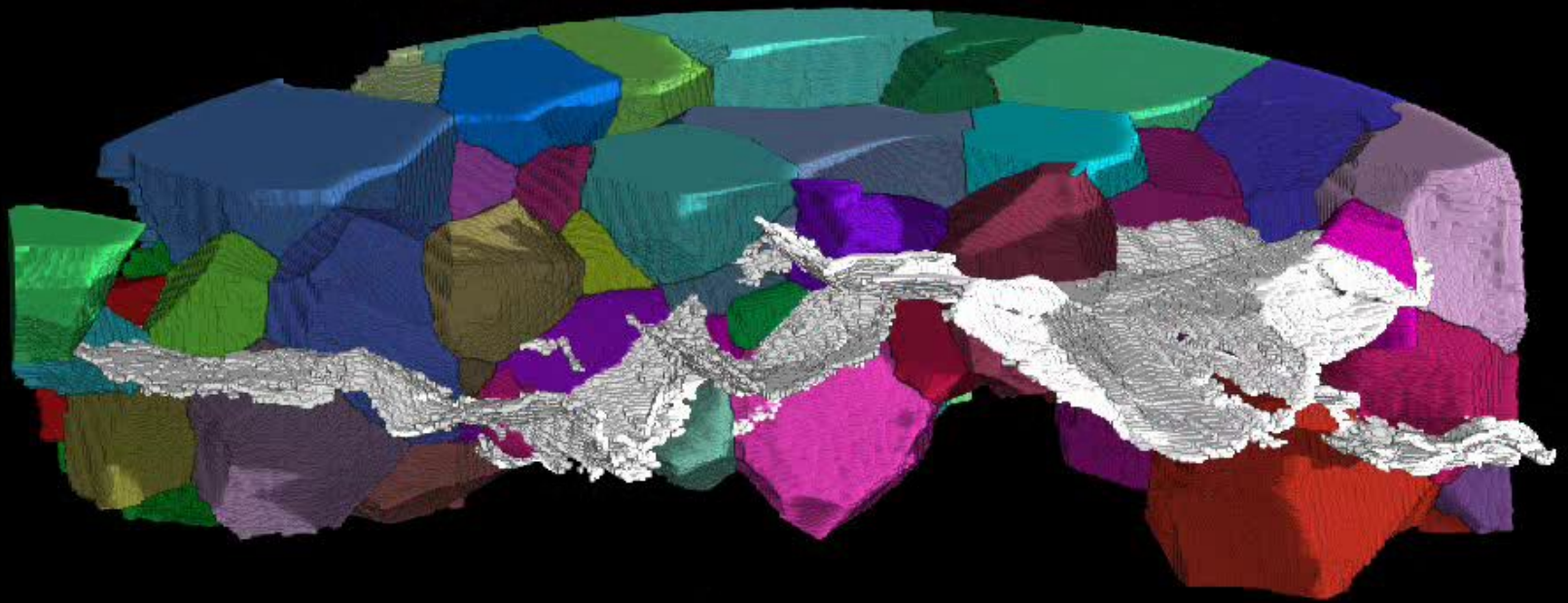
# *In situ fatigue*

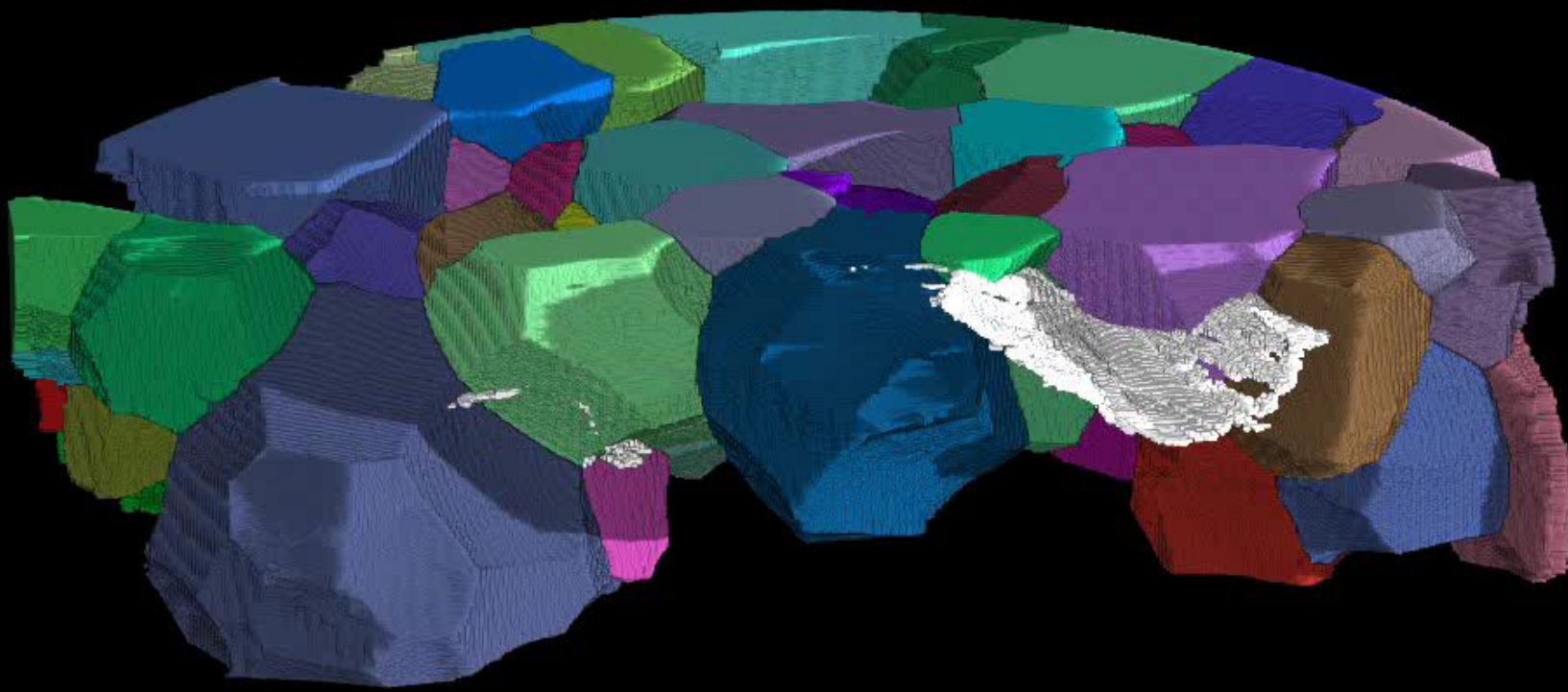


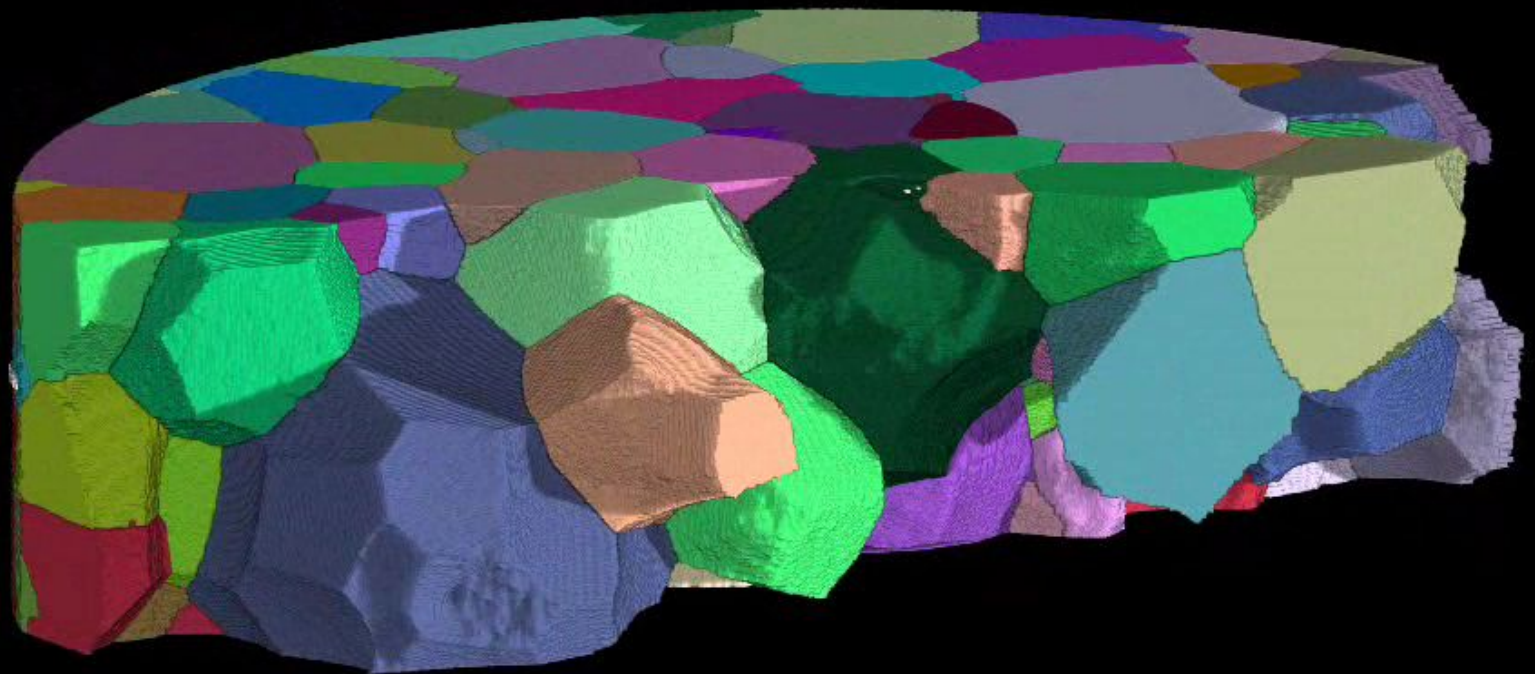




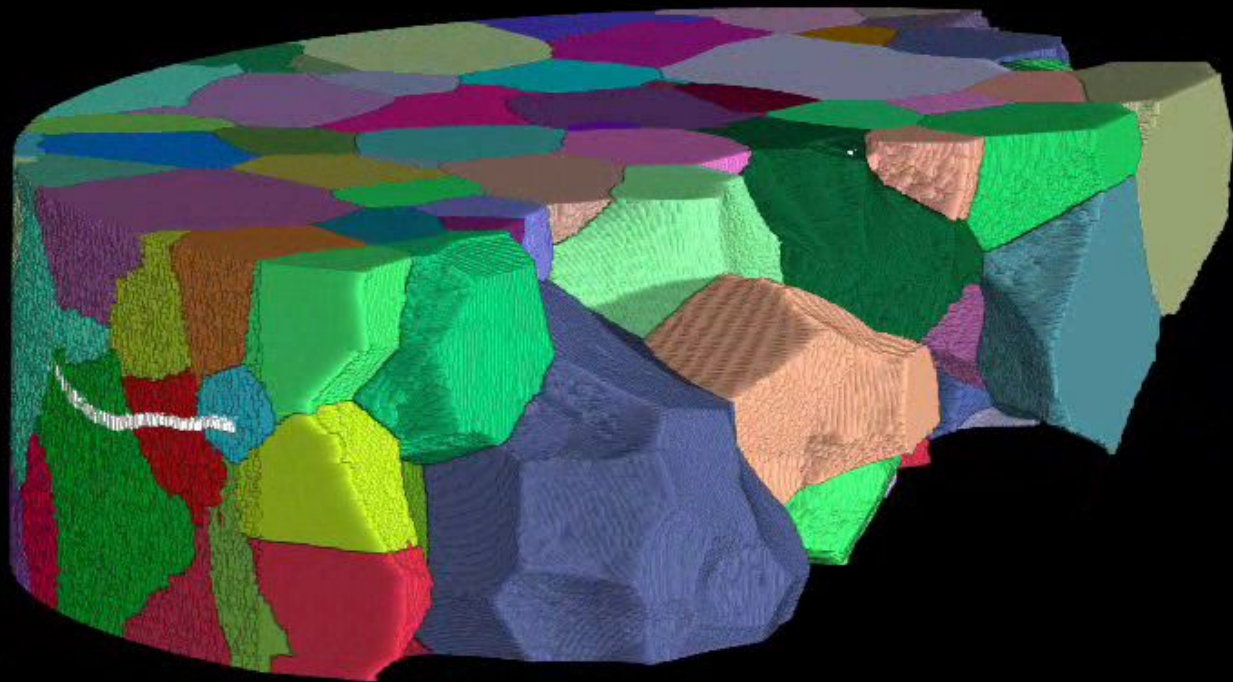


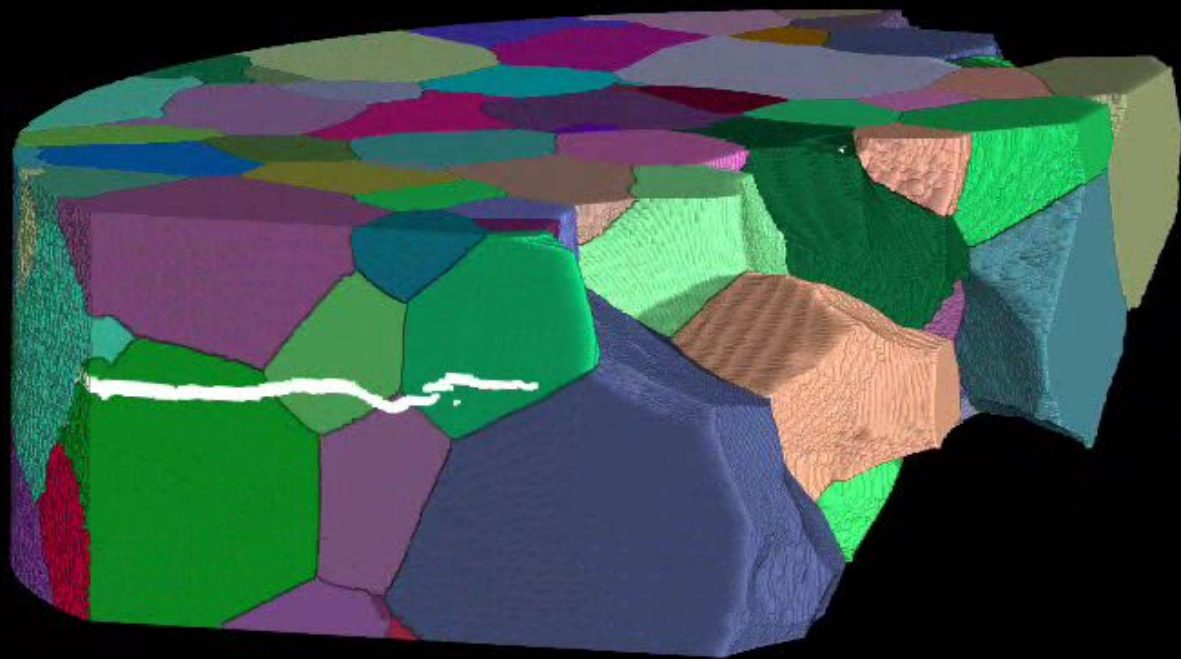


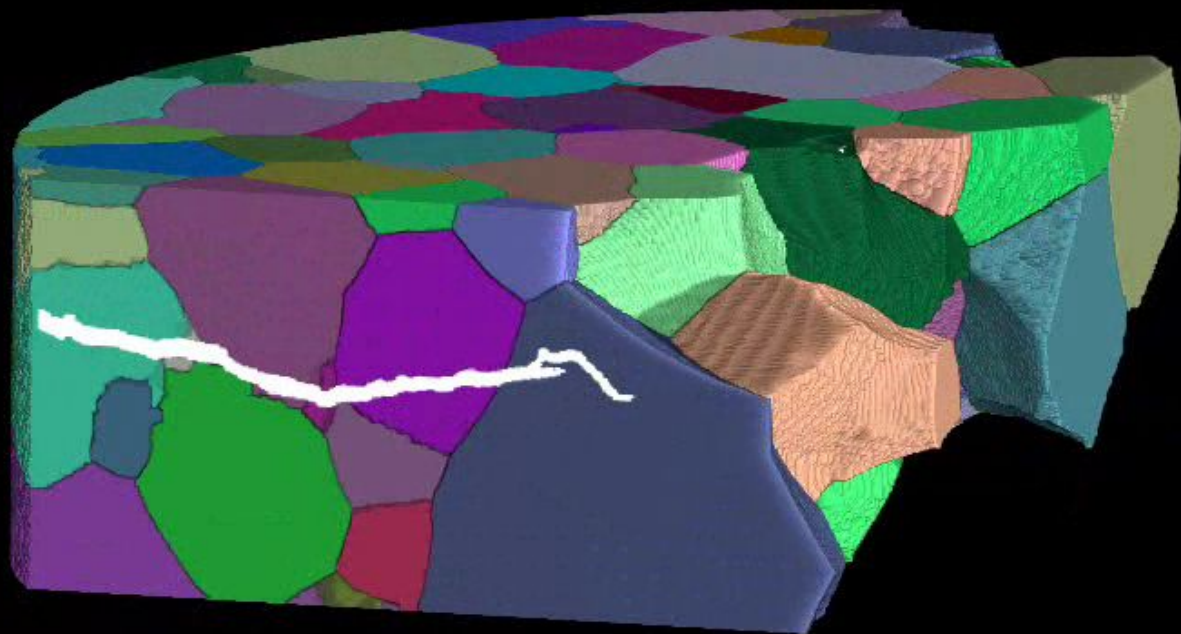


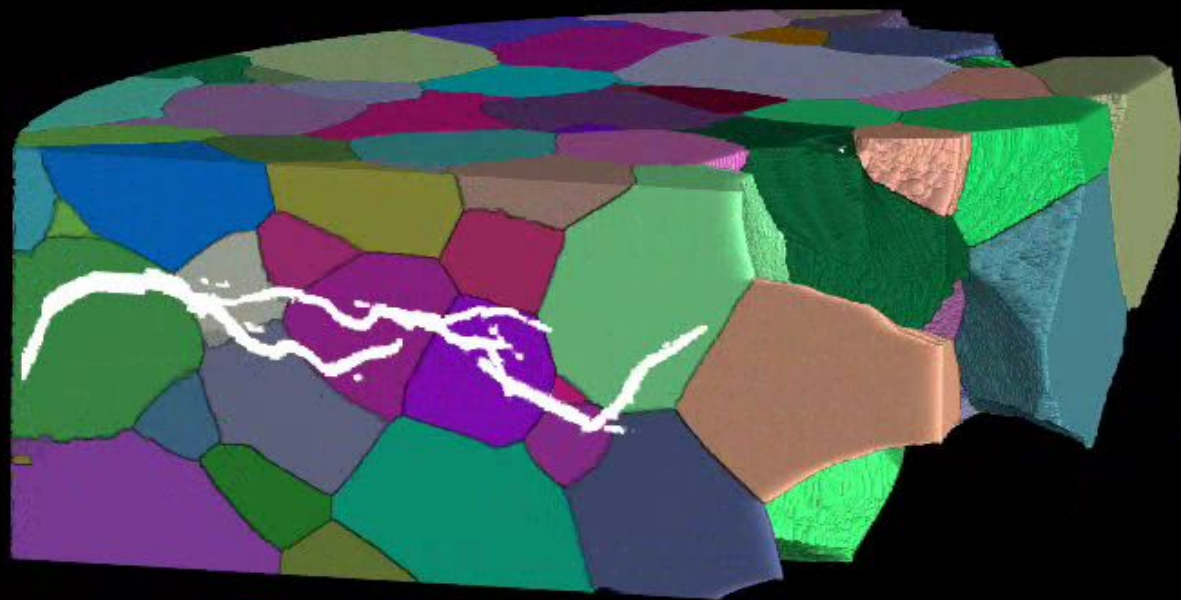


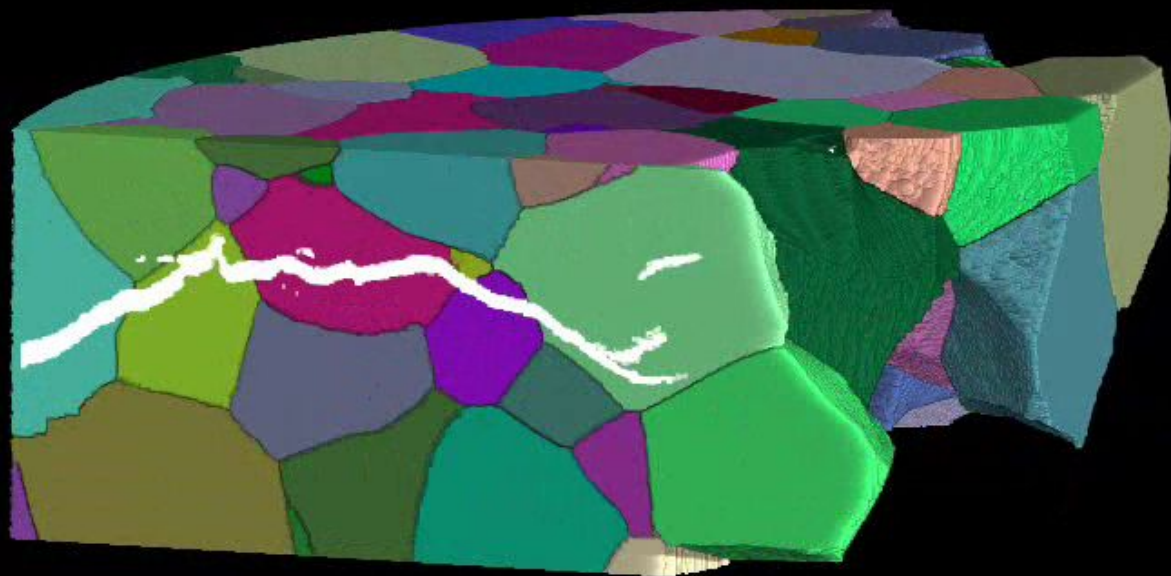


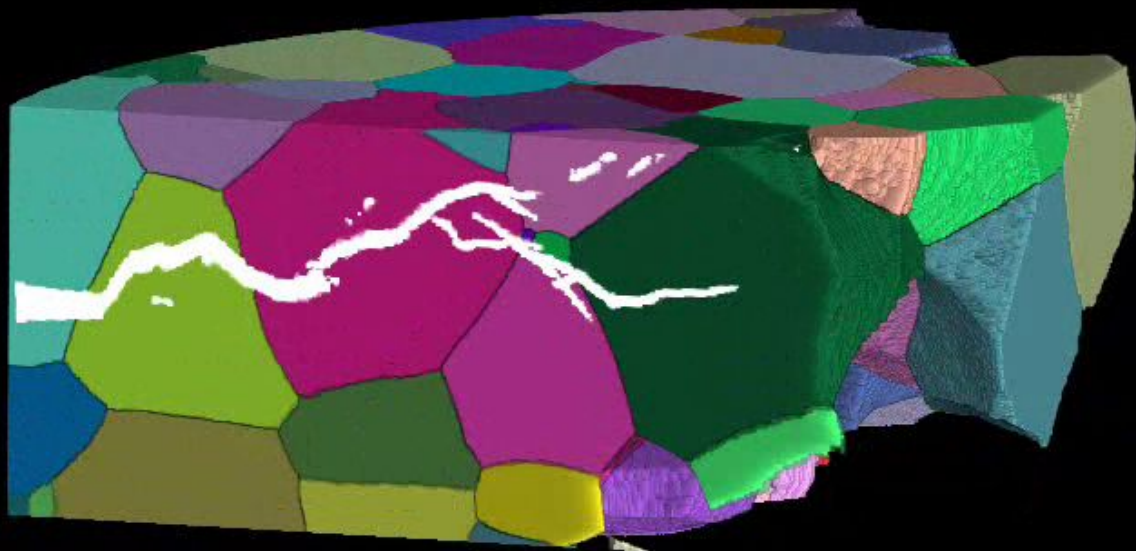


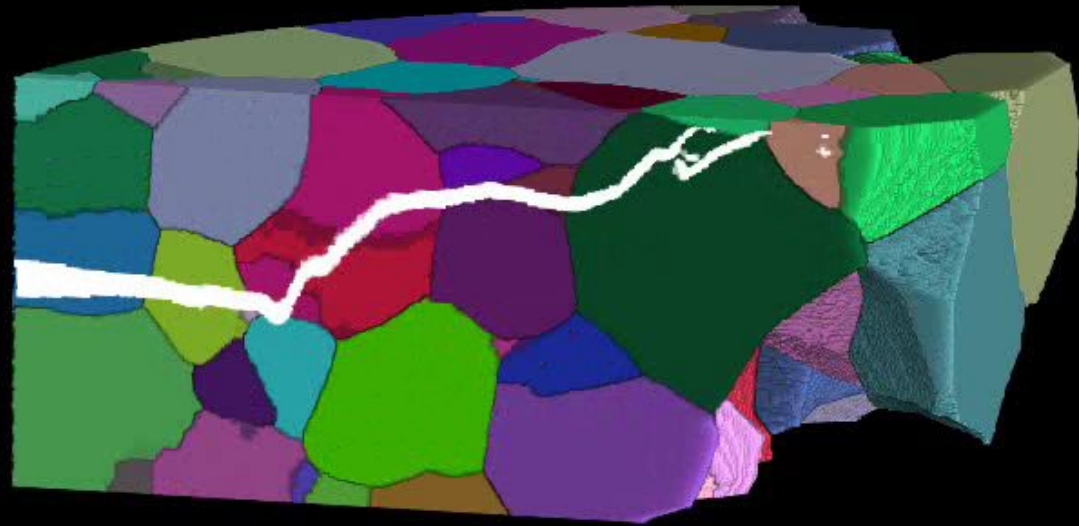


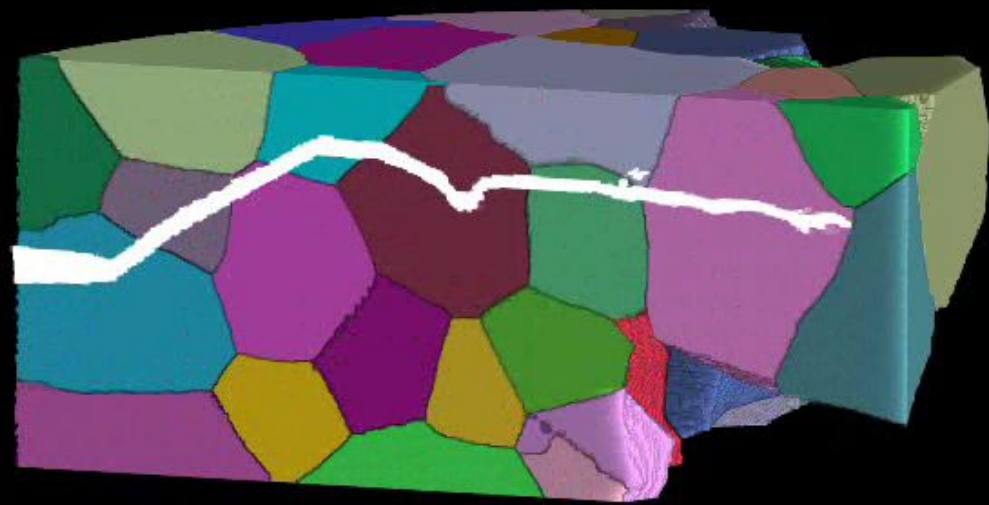








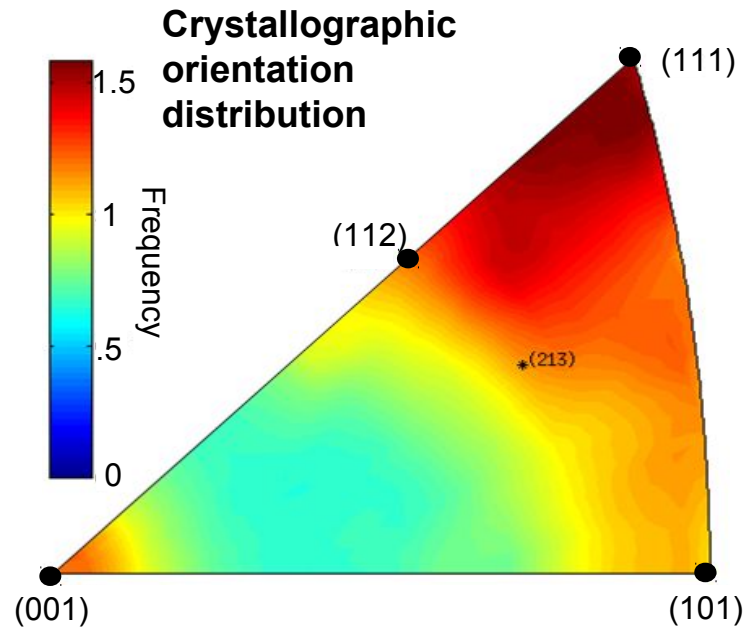




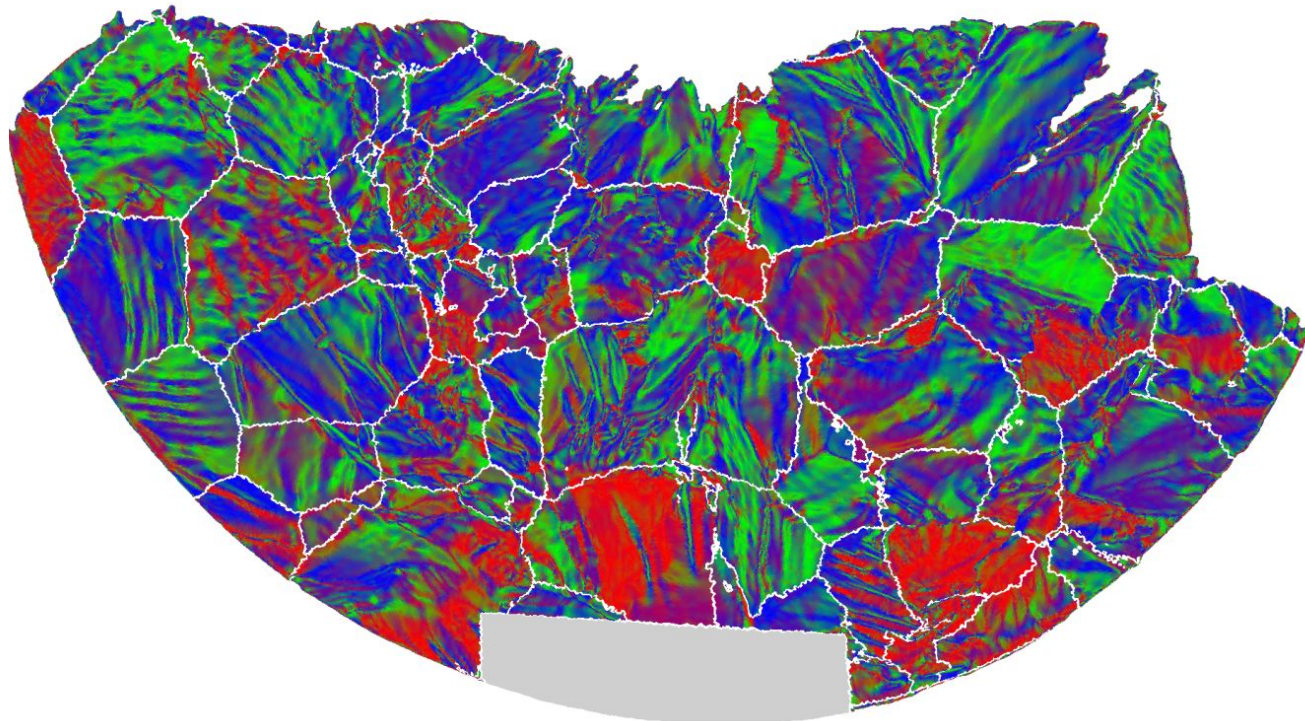
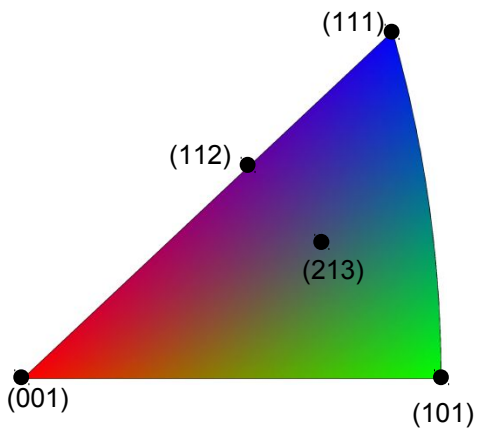




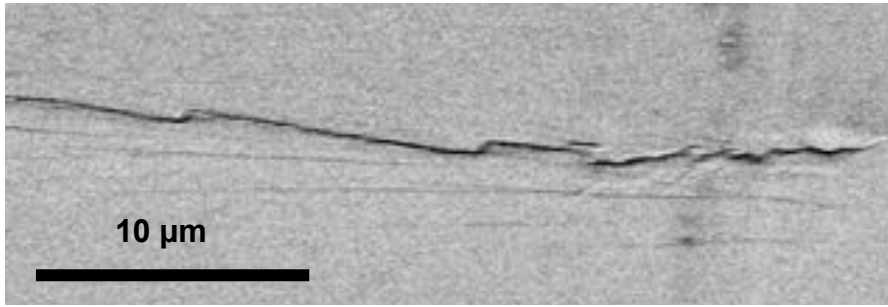
# Visualisation of Fracture Surface in "21S"



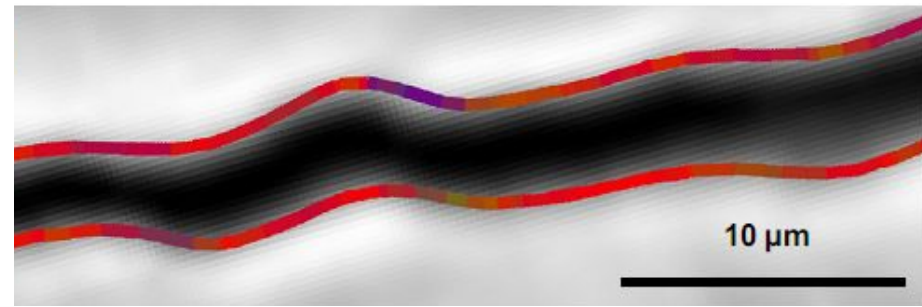
Crystallographic orientation



# Real v.s. Measured Fracture Surface

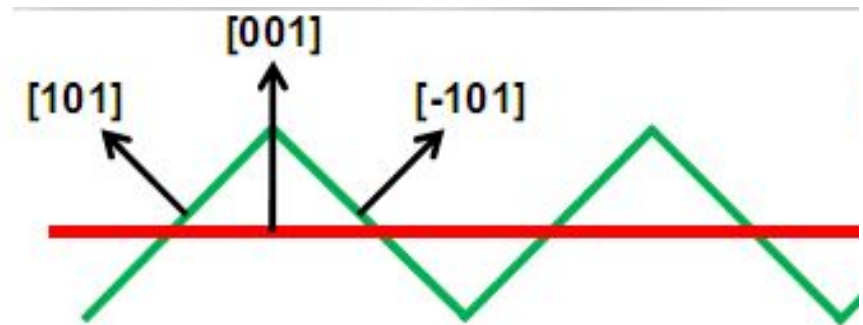


SEM micrograph: Real crack morphology



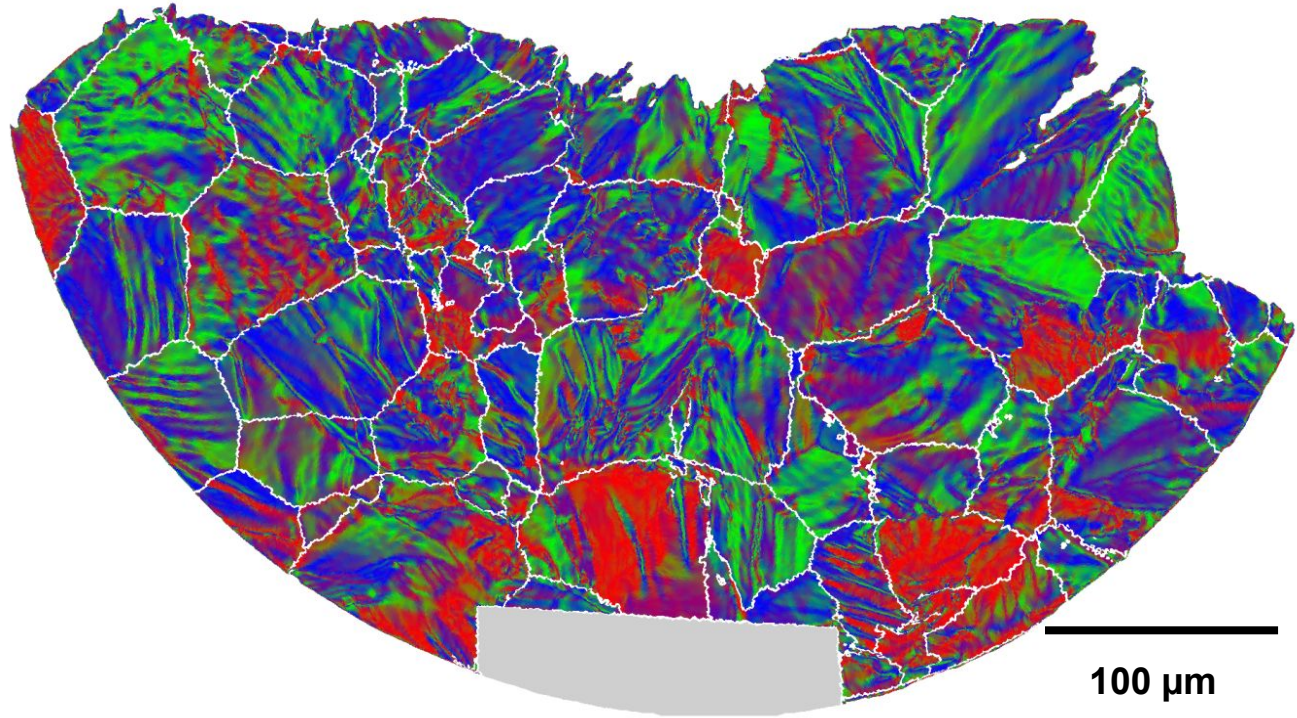
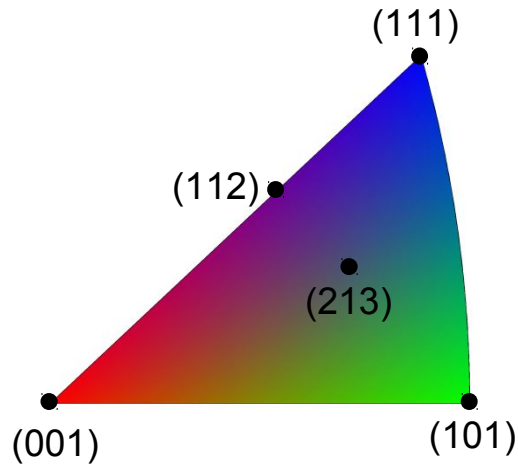
Tomographic reconstruction: Measured crack morphology

➔ Relation between real and measured fracture surface orientation depends on ratio between frequency of plane changes and resolution



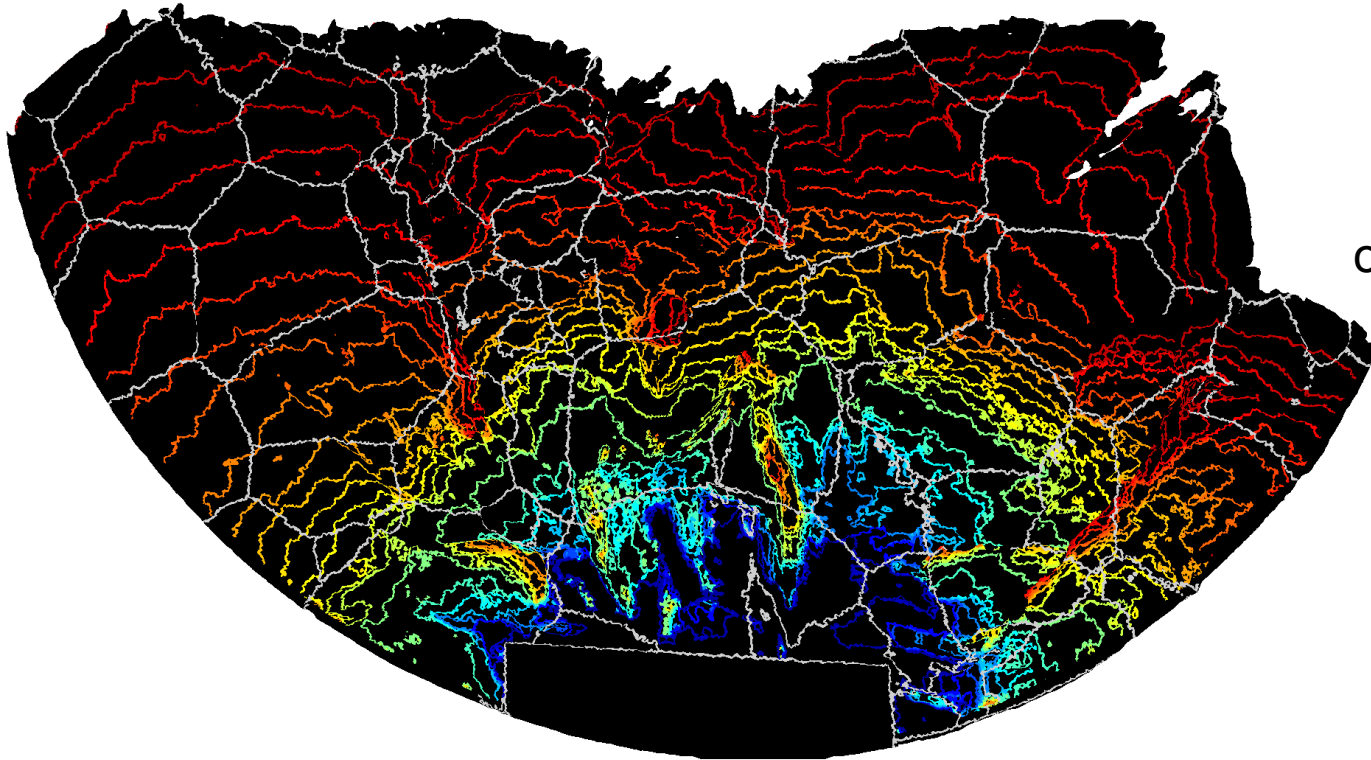
A measured  $\{001\}$  fracture surface might in reality be comprised of alternating  $\{110\}$  planes

# Interpretation of Fracture Surface in “21S”



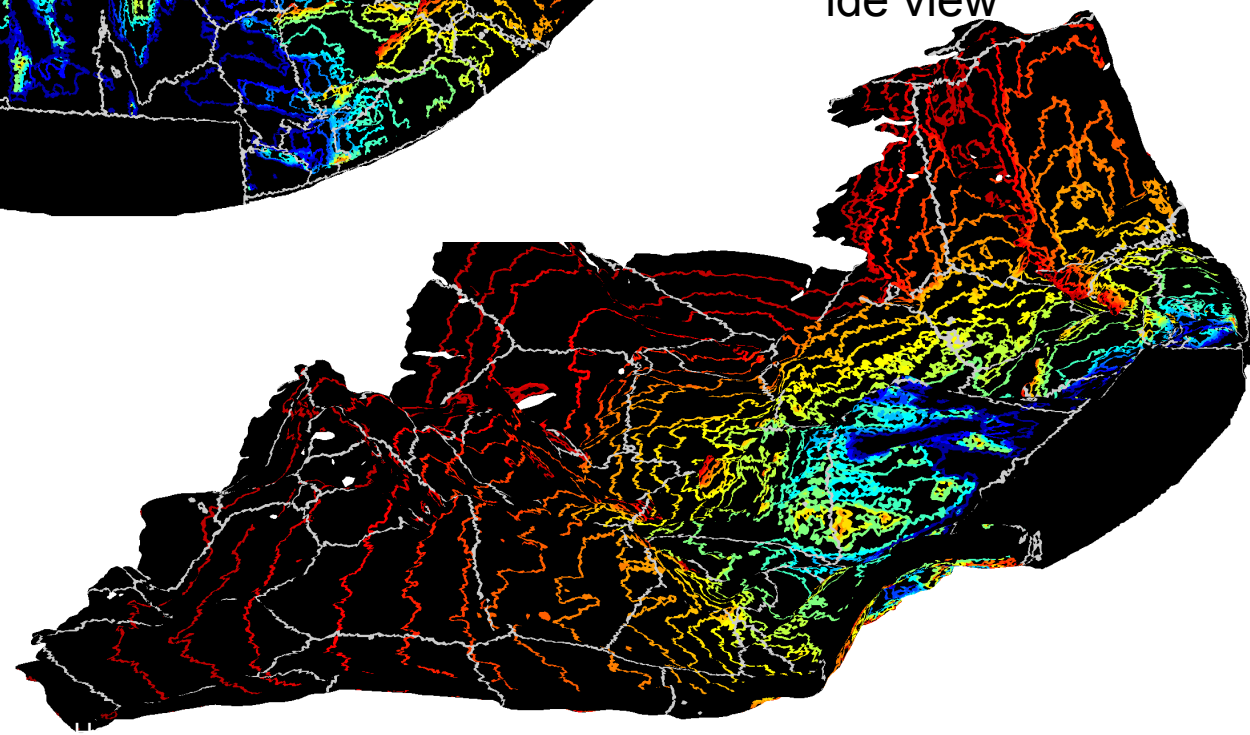
Frequency of plane changes	Measured surface orientation	Fracture surface color	Crack propagation
low	= real orientation	green, purple	“single slip”
intermediate	≠ real orientation	striped pattern	“double slip”
high	≠ real orientation	red, blue	“double slip”

# Crack Fronts



op view

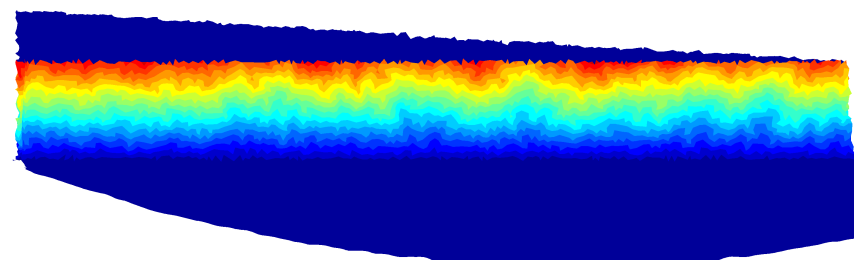
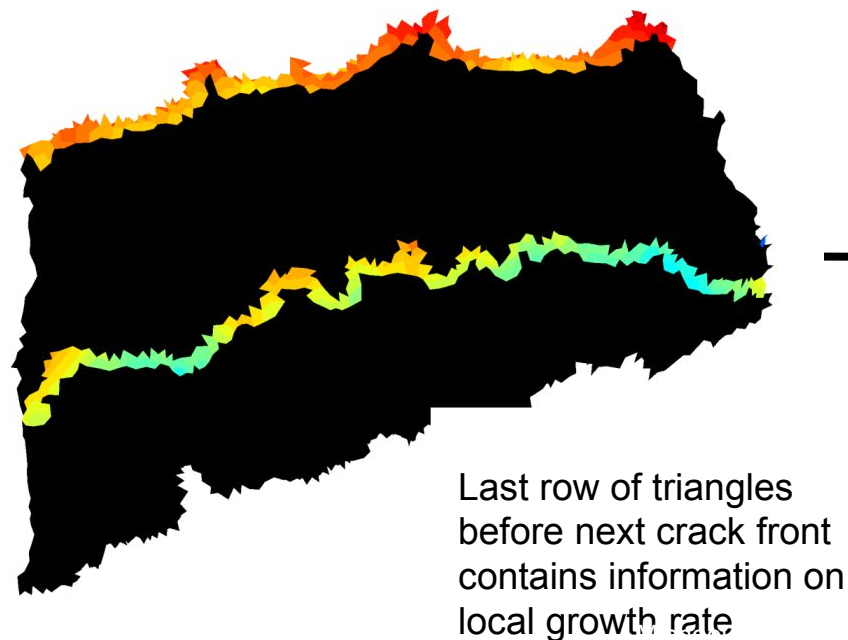
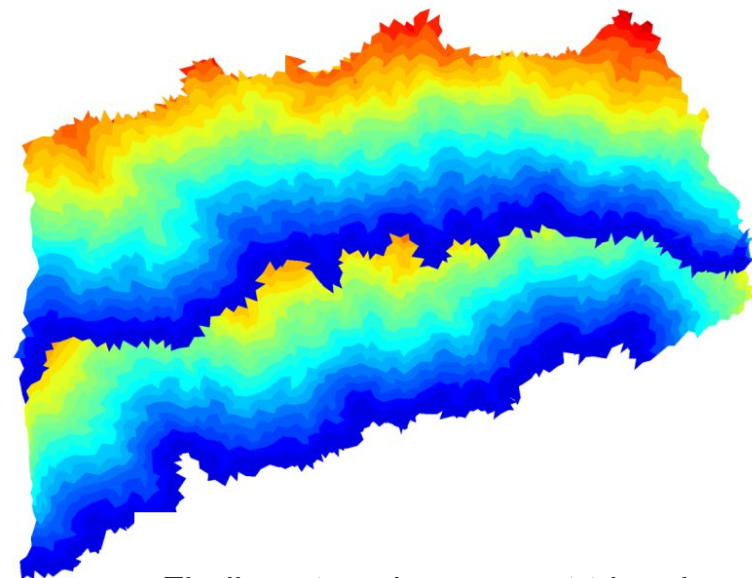
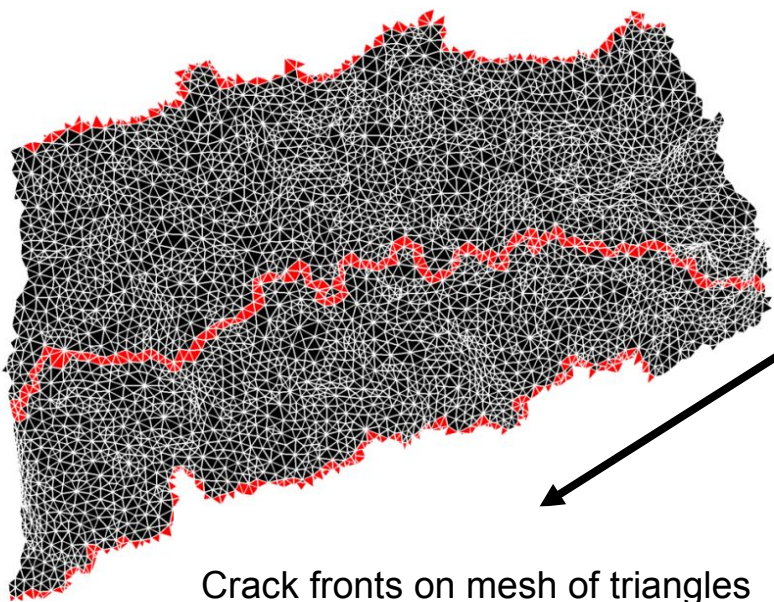
side view



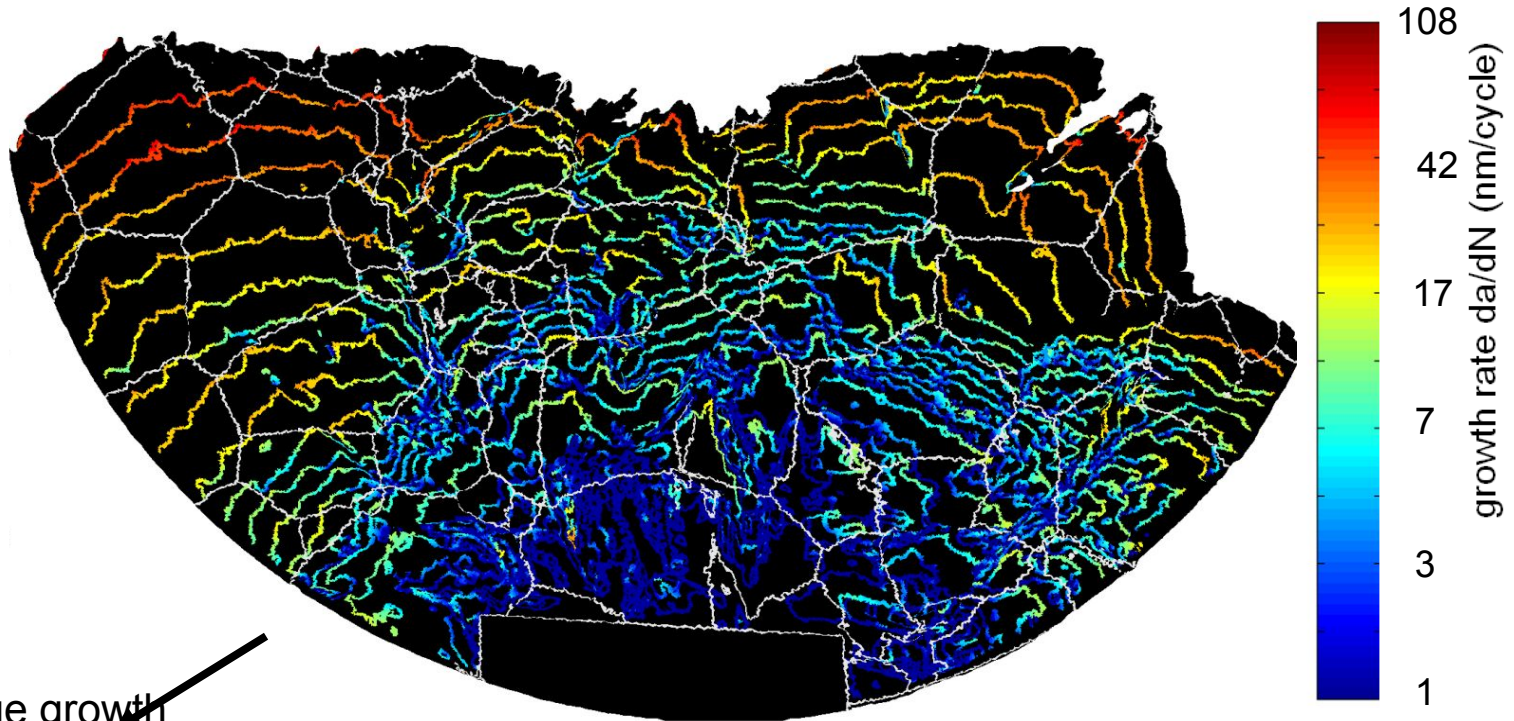
Plot of crack fronts.

Blue: 46 k cycles,  
red: 75,5 k cycles

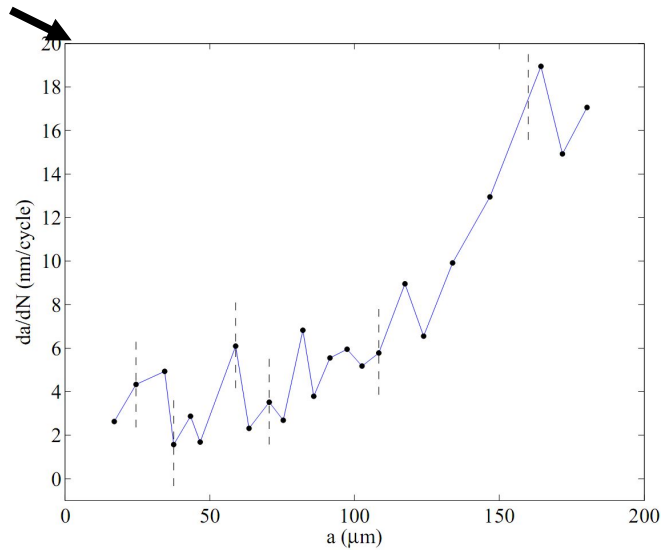
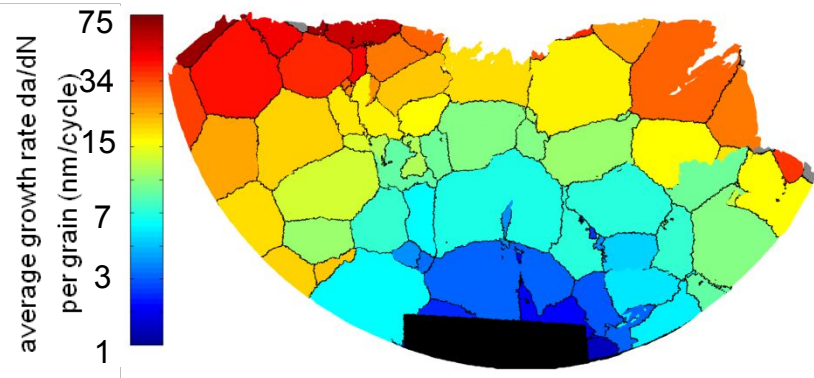
# Extraction of Local Growth Rate



# 3D Local Growth Rate

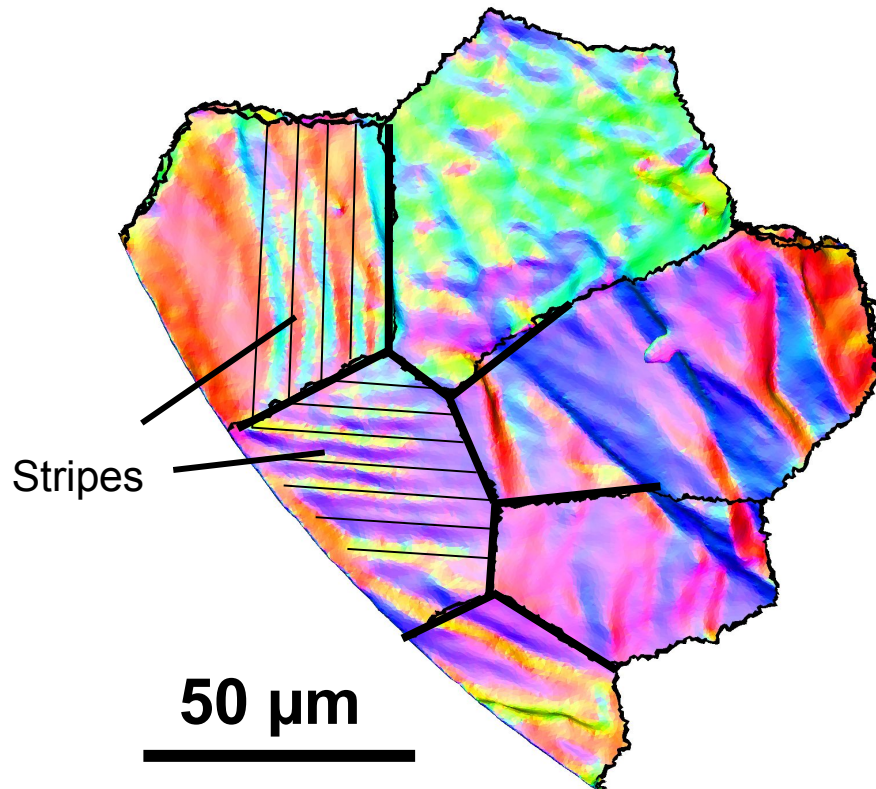


Average growth rate per grain

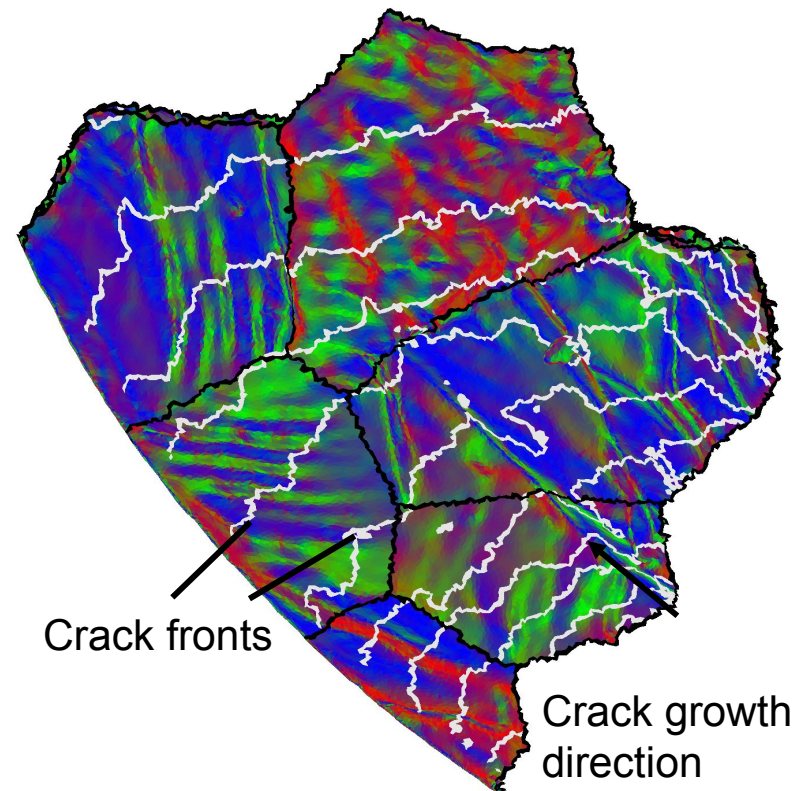


Local growth rate along 2D section

# Stripes $\leftrightarrow$ Crack Growth Direction



Physical orientation

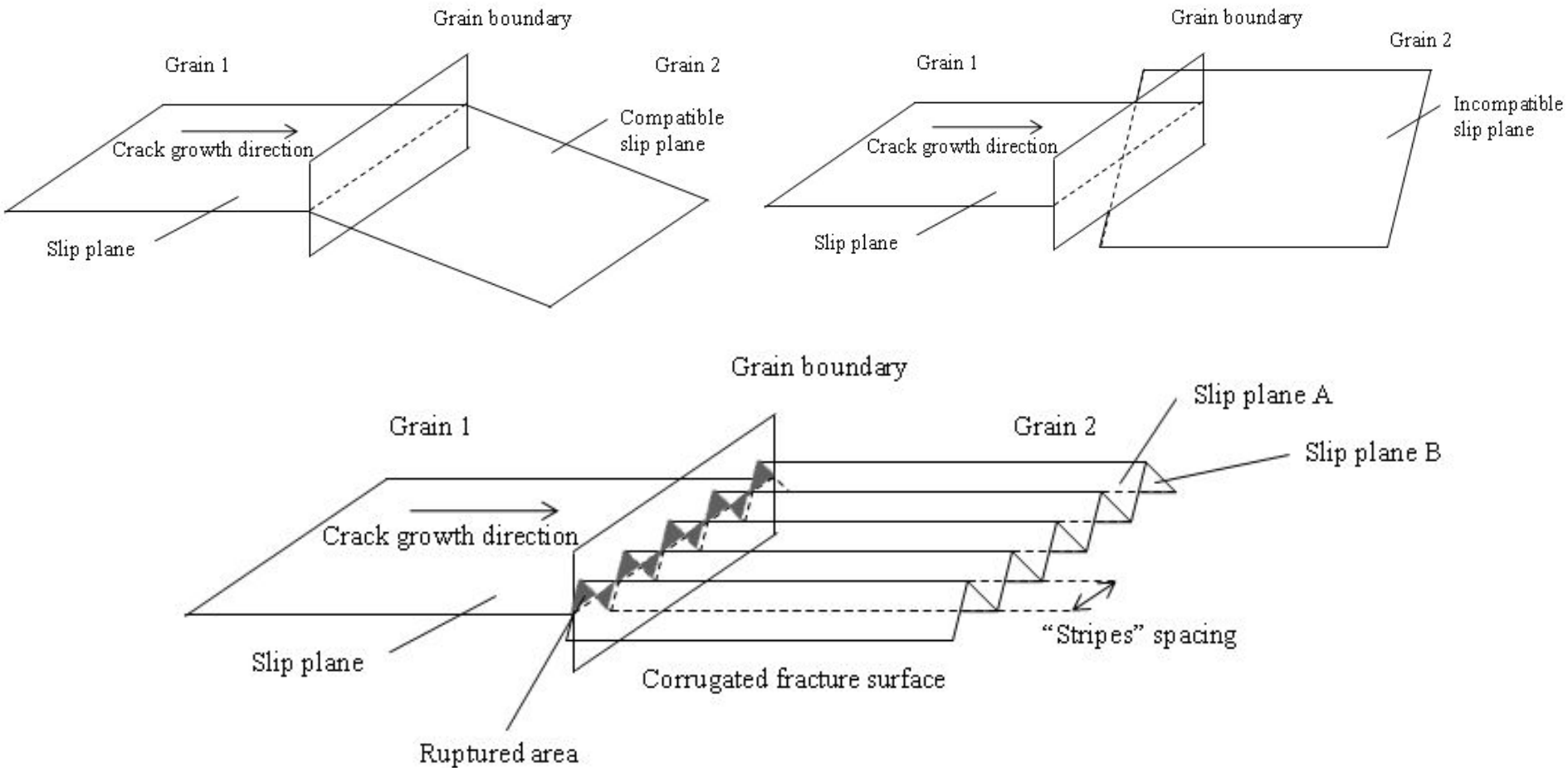


Crystallographic orientation

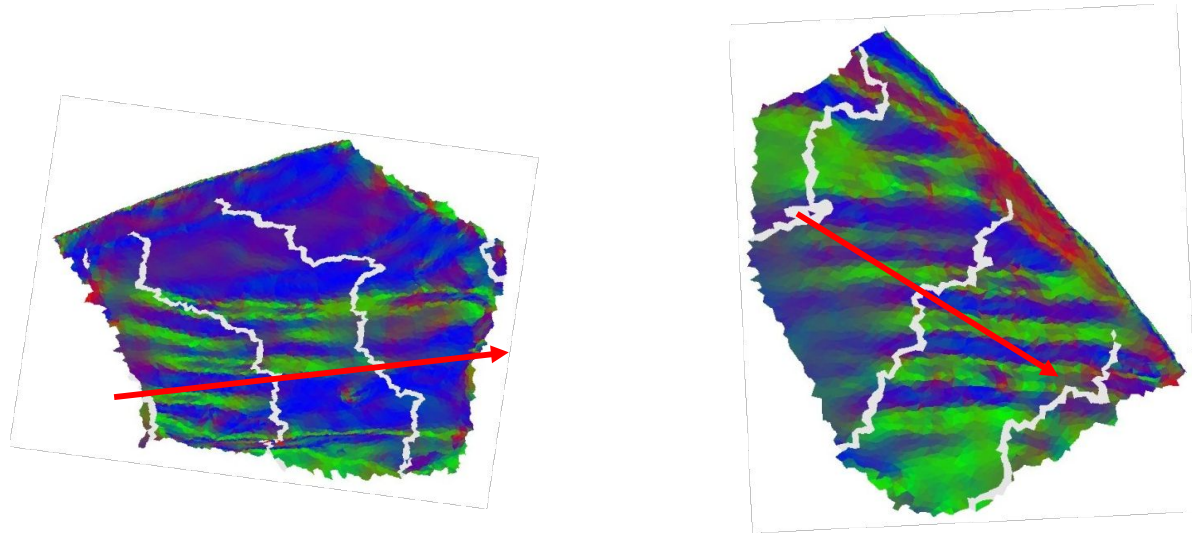


# Fatigue Mechanisms

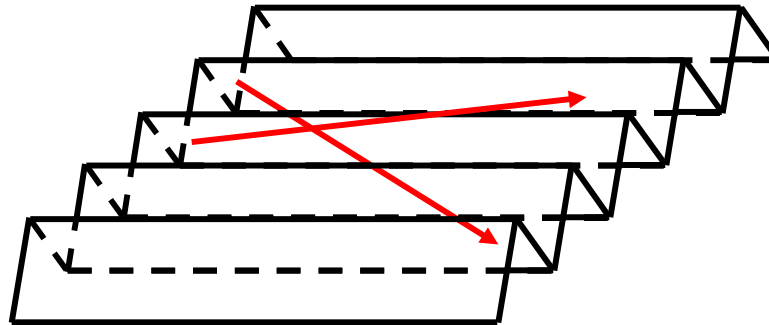
## Crack propagation through grain boundaries



# Stripes $\leftrightarrow$ Crack Growth Direction



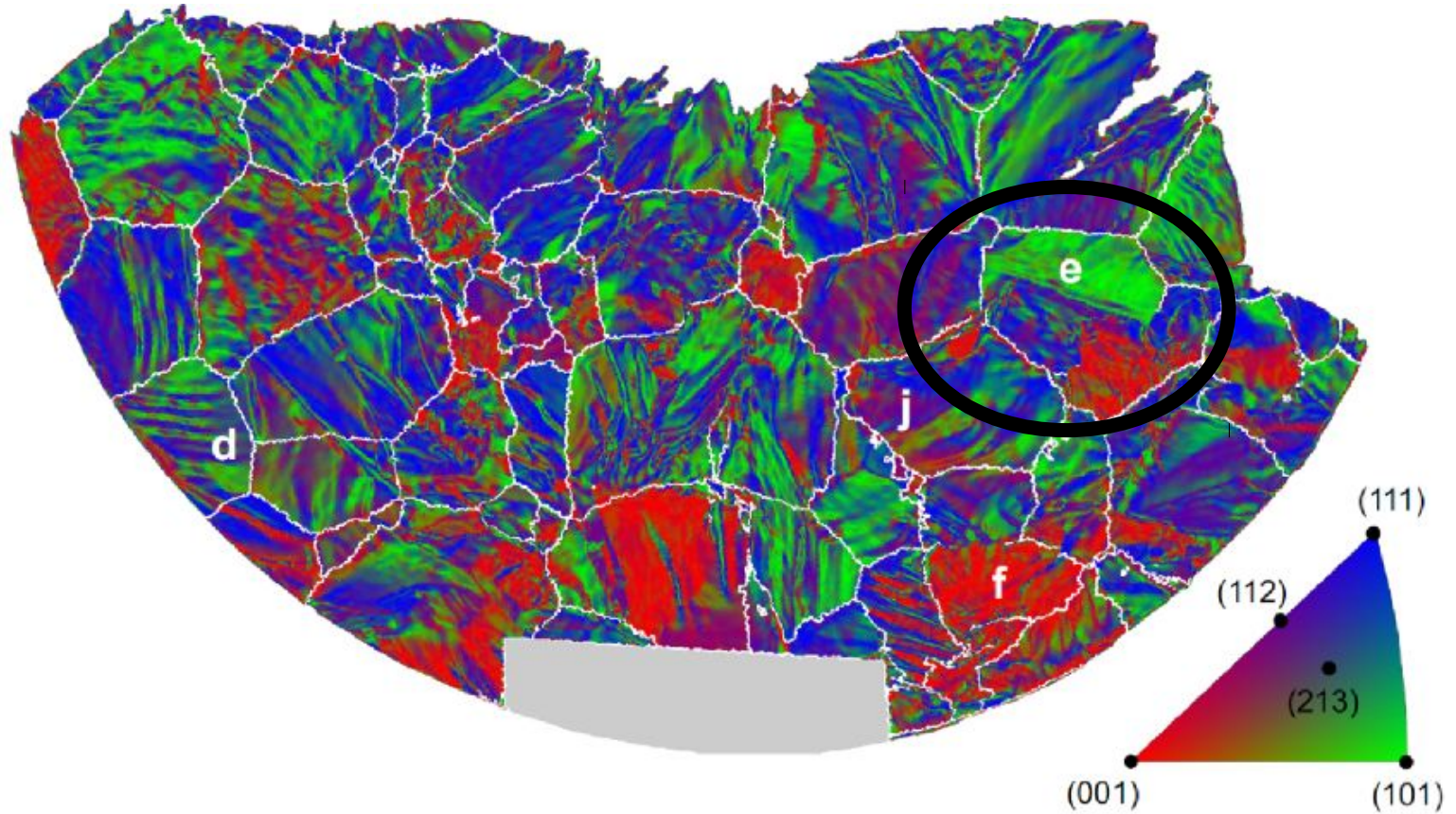
20  $\mu\text{m}$



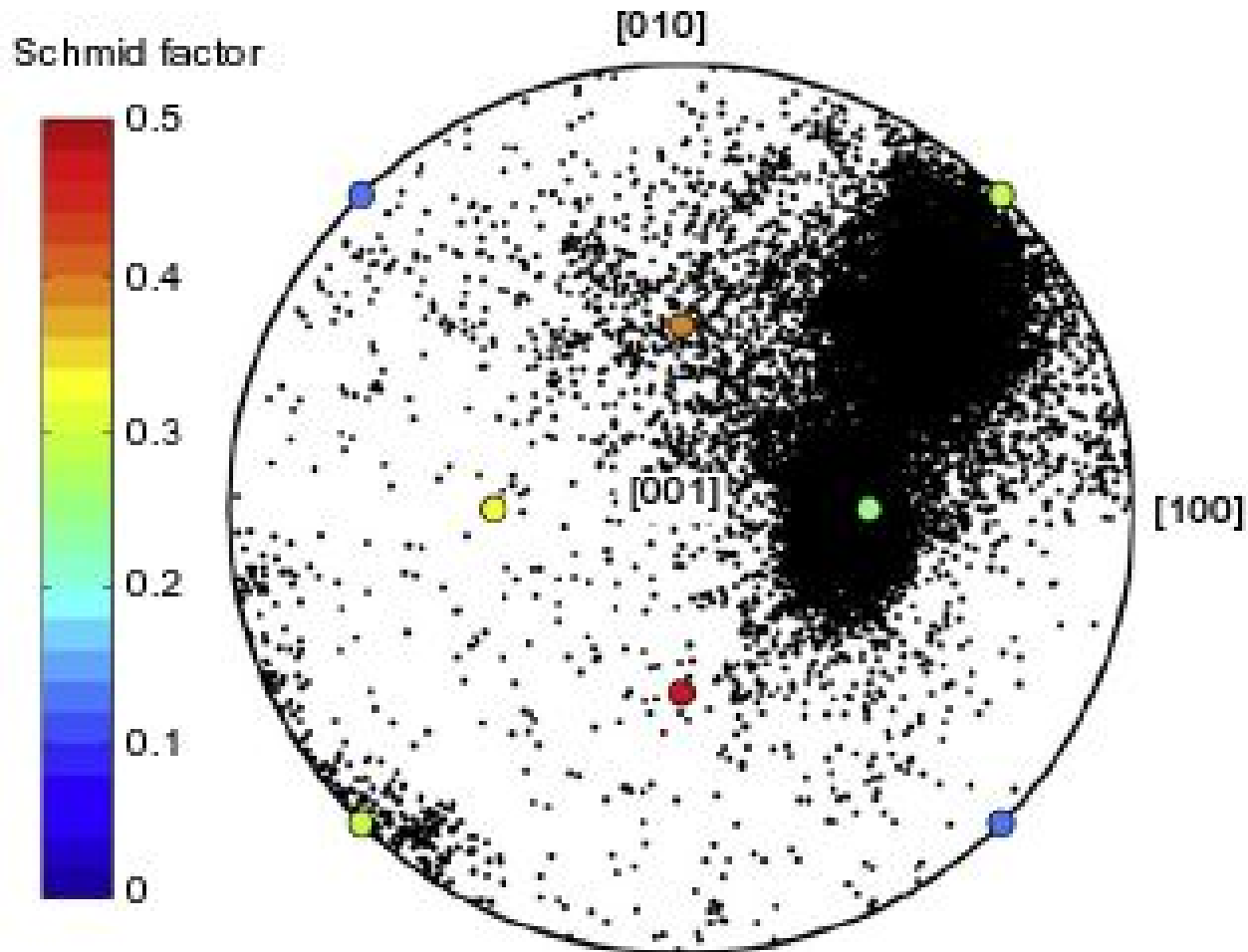
Measured crack growth directions

Crack fronts and stripe directions don't necessarily match

# Crack plane v.s. Schmid factor

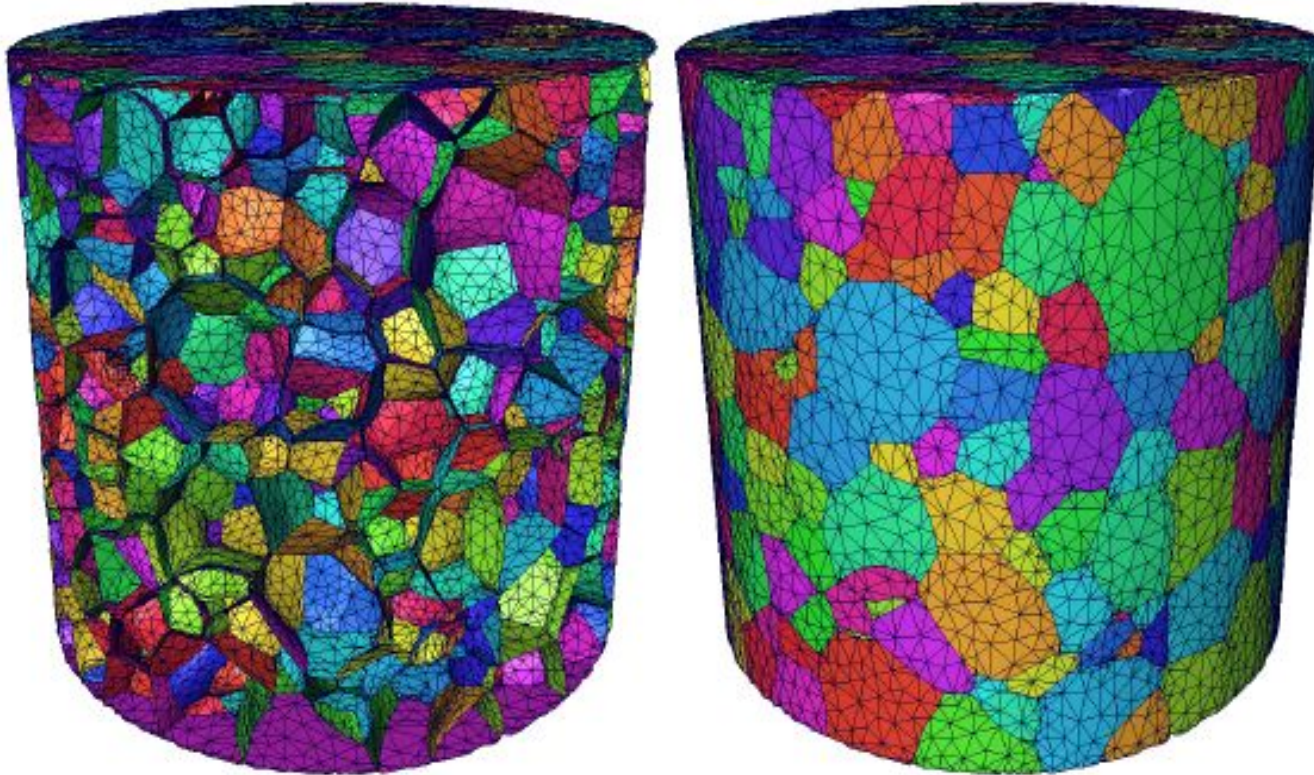


# Crack plane v.s. Schmid factor



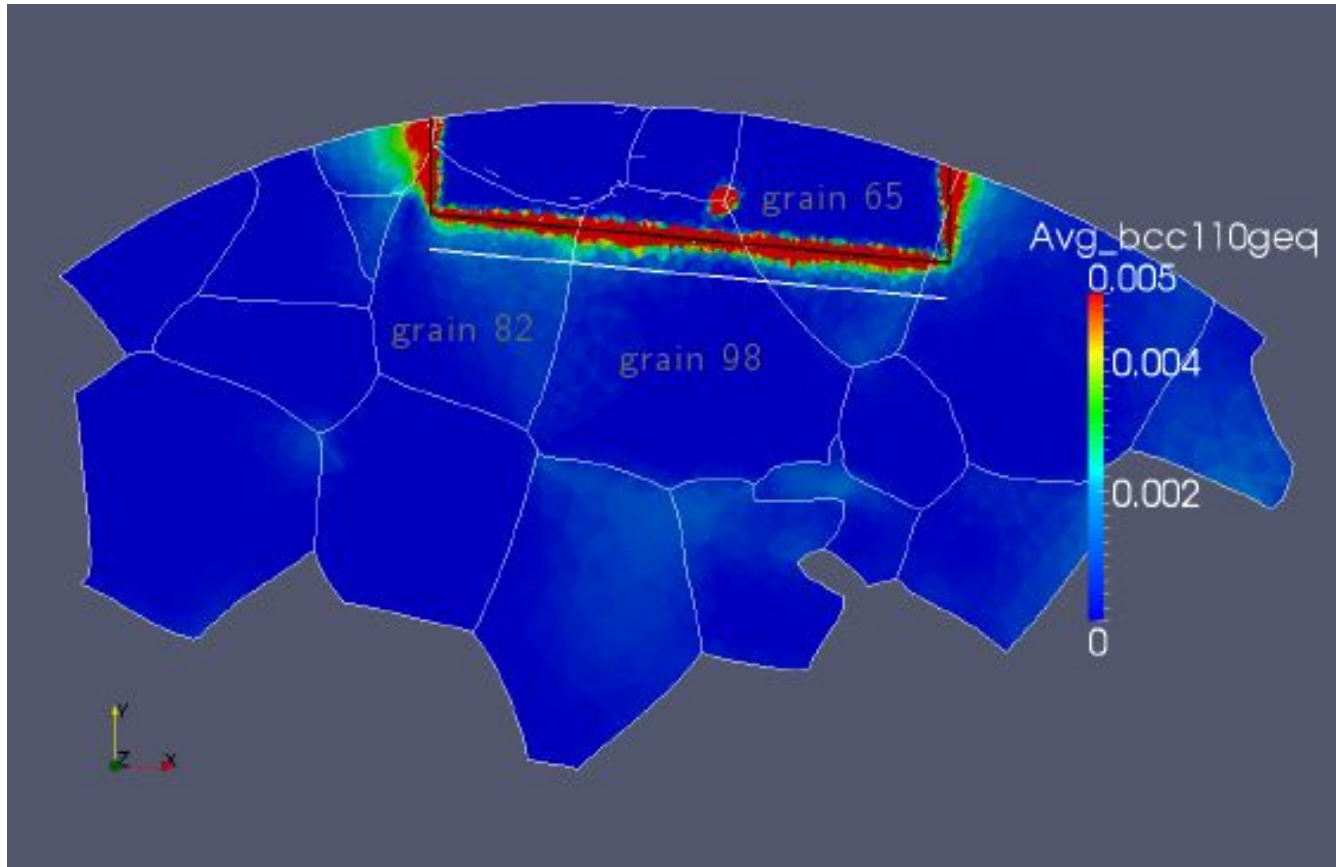
Schmid factors + uniaxial tensile test → much too simple

# Crack plane v.s. Schmid factor



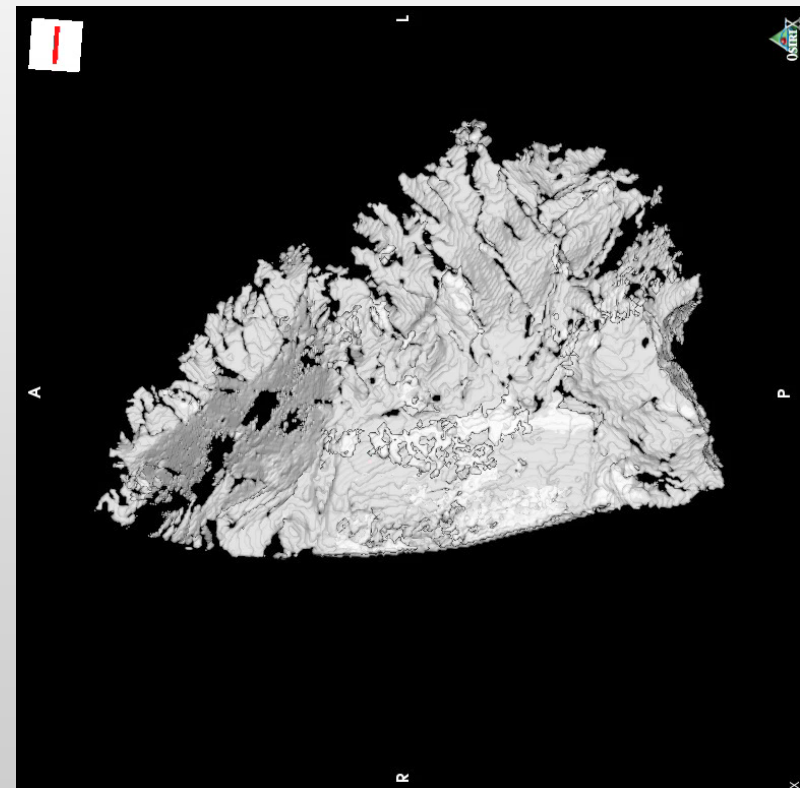
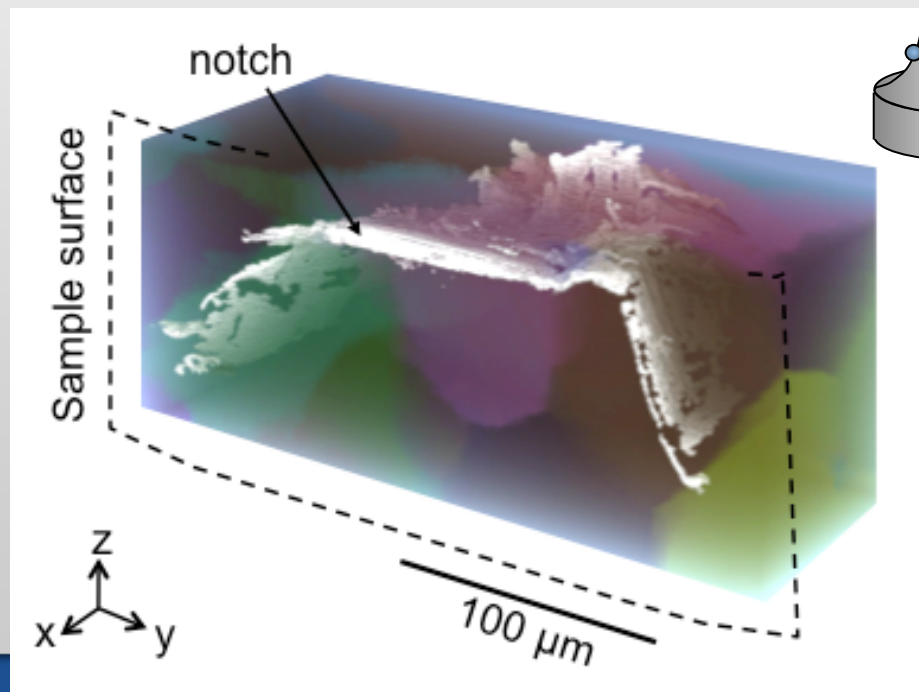
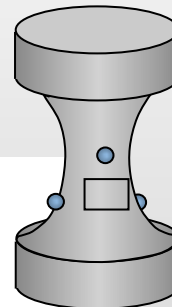
Courtesy. Henry PROUDHON ENSMP Paris

# Crack plane v.s. Schmid factor



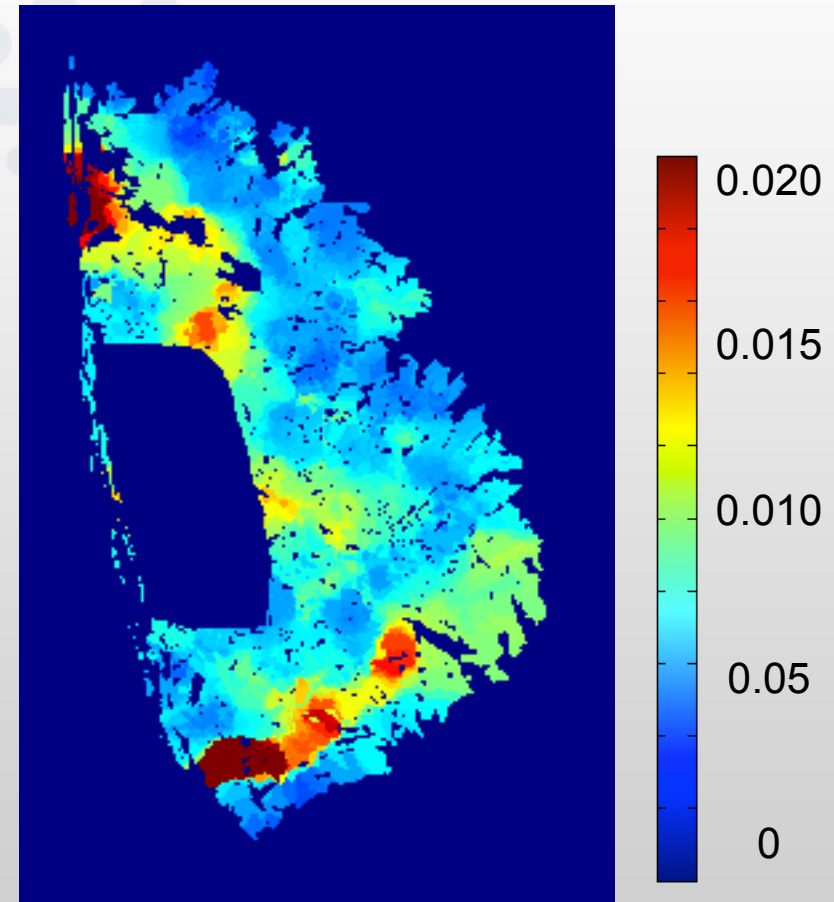
Accumulated plastic strain

- Microtomography to observe short fatigue crack growth in-situ in a grain mapped sample.
  - FIB notches placed in specific grains
  - In-situ fatigue using machine from INSA de Lyon
  - Use radiographs to monitor crack
  - Use tomograms to record crack evolution in 3D



A. King *et al.*, *Acta Mater.* **59** (2011) 6761–6771

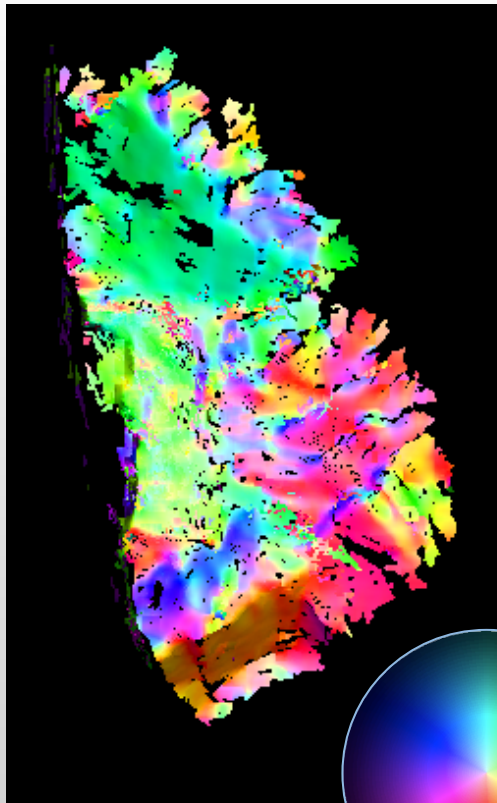
- Derive local crack growth rate from series of tomograms
  - Use projection of crack on x-y plane for ease of viewing



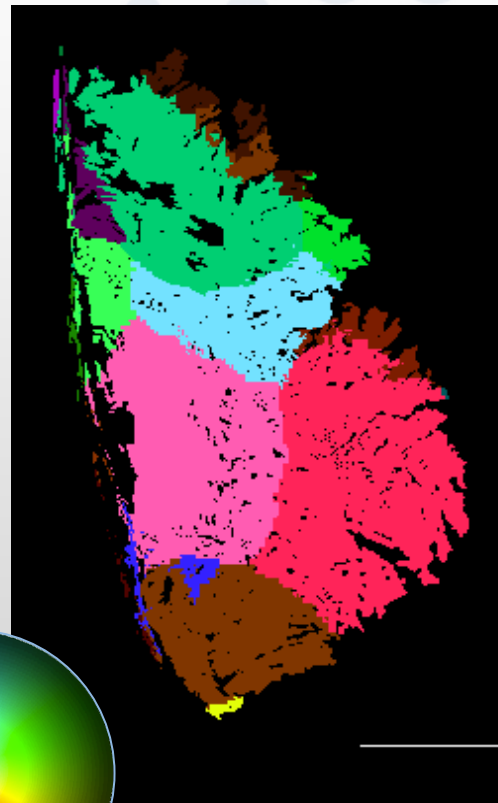
Crack growth rate ( $\mu/\text{cycle}$ )



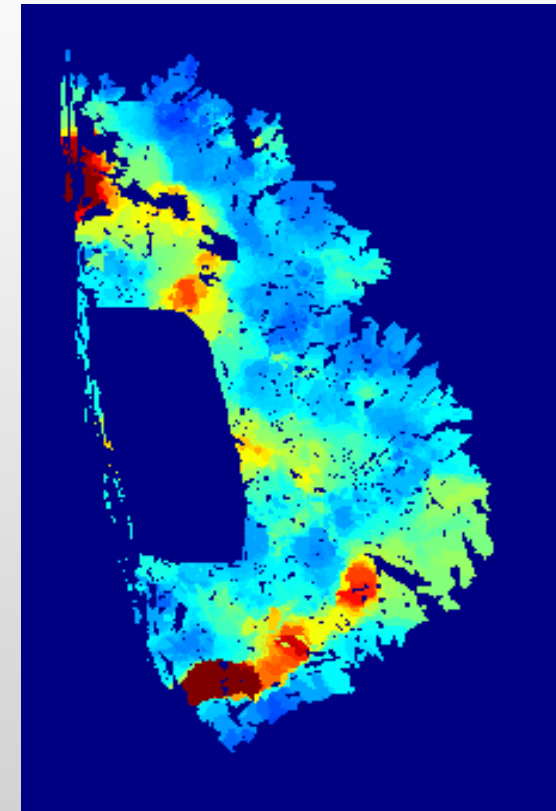
- Look at final crack shape compared to microstructure



Crack plane

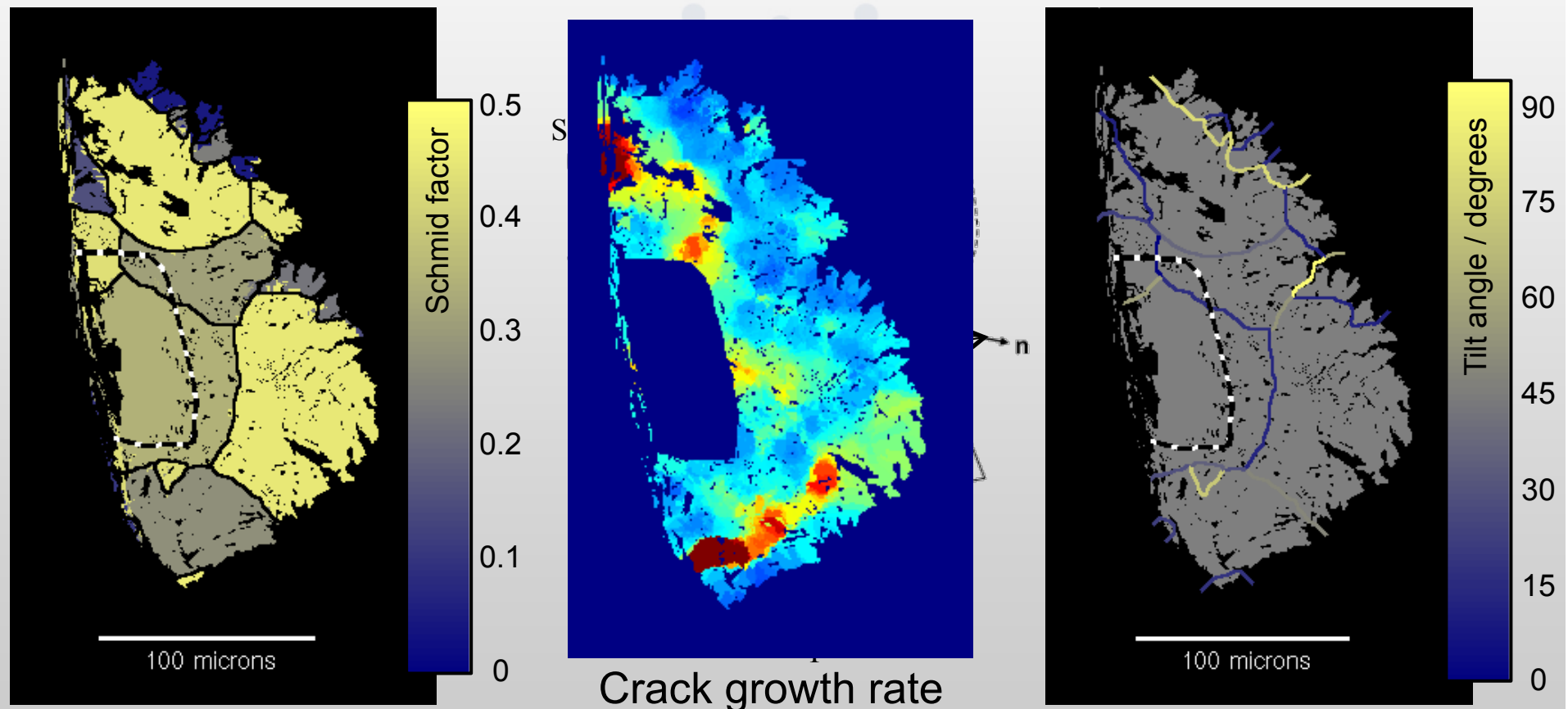


Basal plane

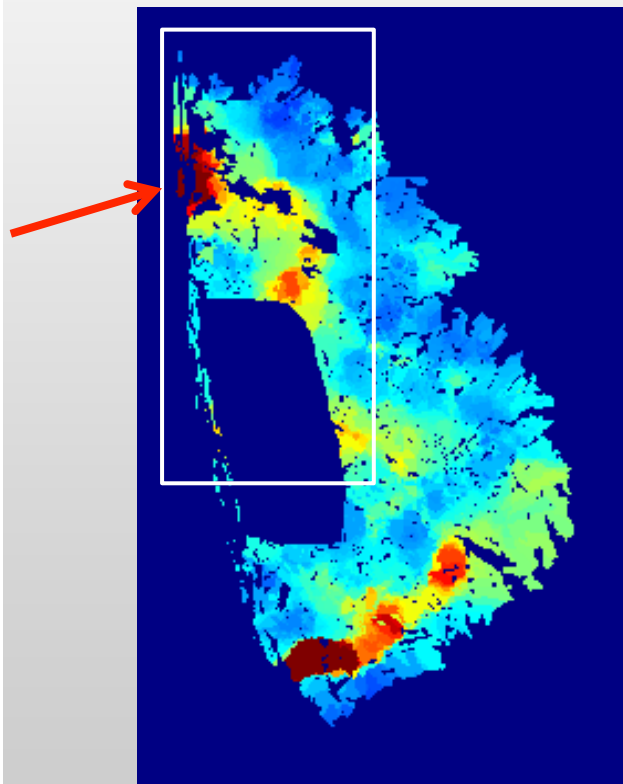


Crack growth rate

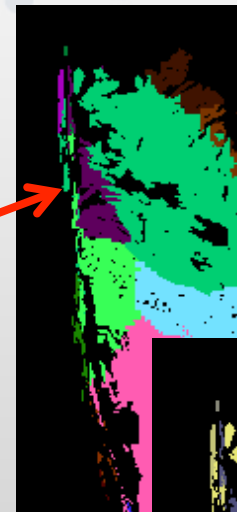
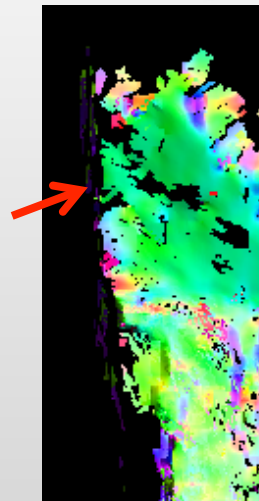
- Schmid factor – assuming uniaxial tensile stress, calculate the shear stress resolved onto slip systems - ~driving force
- Tilt/Twist description of boundaries – how easily can a crystallographic crack reinitiate when crossing a boundary



- Fast, non-crystallographic crack growth in a grain with low driving force
  - Need 3D neighbourhood and chronology to understand
  - Crack advances subsurface, leaving a ligament which then fails rapidly
  - Surface observations would be misleading



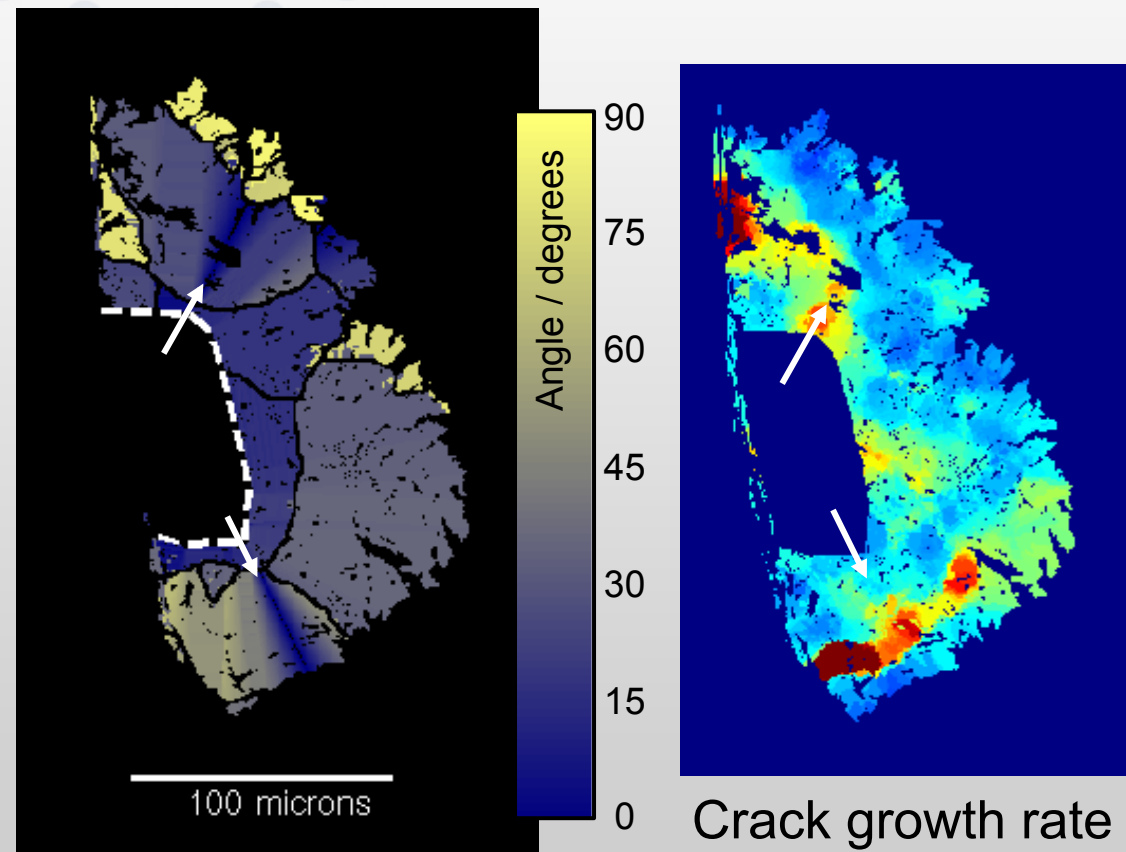
Crack growth rate



- One more factor
  - The crack grows from the plane of the notch onto the slip planes
  - Somewhat like grain boundary twist, the compatibility of these planes is important

- Finally, seems that all the factors discussed influence behaviour

- Challenging modelling problem
- More data would be interesting
- How does crack get past obstacles?



# Limitations

- Spatial resolution too low for imaging fine crack details
- DCT only works for undeformed material
- Time sampling (GB crossing)
- Microstructure influence → Low stress levels  
→ Long experiments
- SR experiments → low availability
- Artificial defects
- Modelling!!

# What's next?

- Crystal plasticity analysis of short cracks
- Crack closure measurement + in situ cycling
- Fatigue test at (relatively) high temperature
- Fatigue test under vacuum
- Combine imaging with strain measurements

...

