

Transmission electron microscopy: fundamentals and application for battery materials

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Outline

1. The tool

- lenses
- holders
- sample preparation

2. TEM modes:

- Electron Diffraction
- Imaging (conventional TEM, STEM)
- Spectroscopy (elemental analysis)

Why electrons?



TEM



Ruska and Knoll 1930s

Resolution limit of an optical system (Rayleigh criterion): $\delta \approx 0.61\lambda/\text{NA} \approx \lambda/2$

Visible light: $\lambda \approx 500 \text{ nm} \rightarrow \delta [500\text{nm}] \approx 250\text{nm}$

Electrons:

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2em_0U}} = \frac{12.26}{\sqrt{U}}$$

$$\lambda = 0.034\text{\AA} \text{ (120kV)}; 0.020\text{\AA} \text{ (300kV)}$$

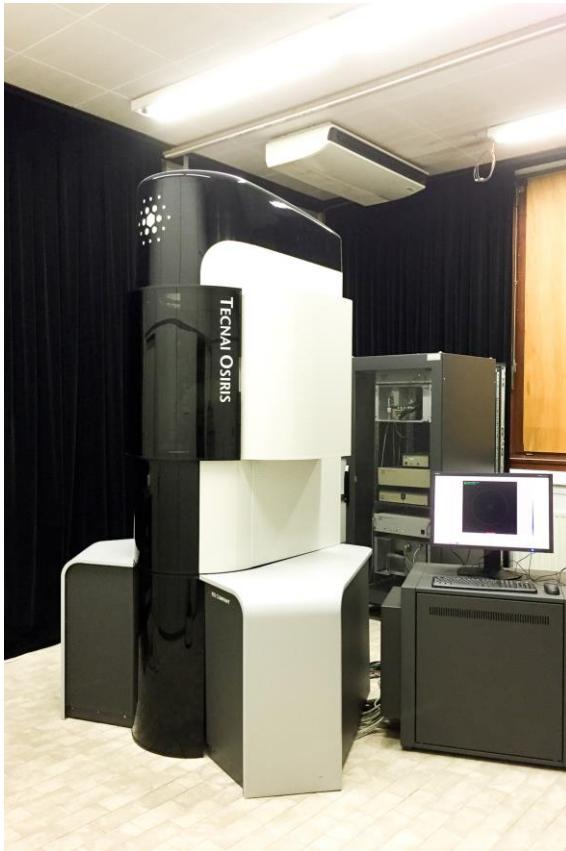
$$\delta^{\text{theor}} [300\text{kV}] \approx 0.02\text{\AA}$$

$$\delta^{\text{real}} [300\text{kV}] \approx 0.5\text{\AA}$$

Typical TEM tools (@EMAT, University of Antwerp)



FEI Tecnai G2

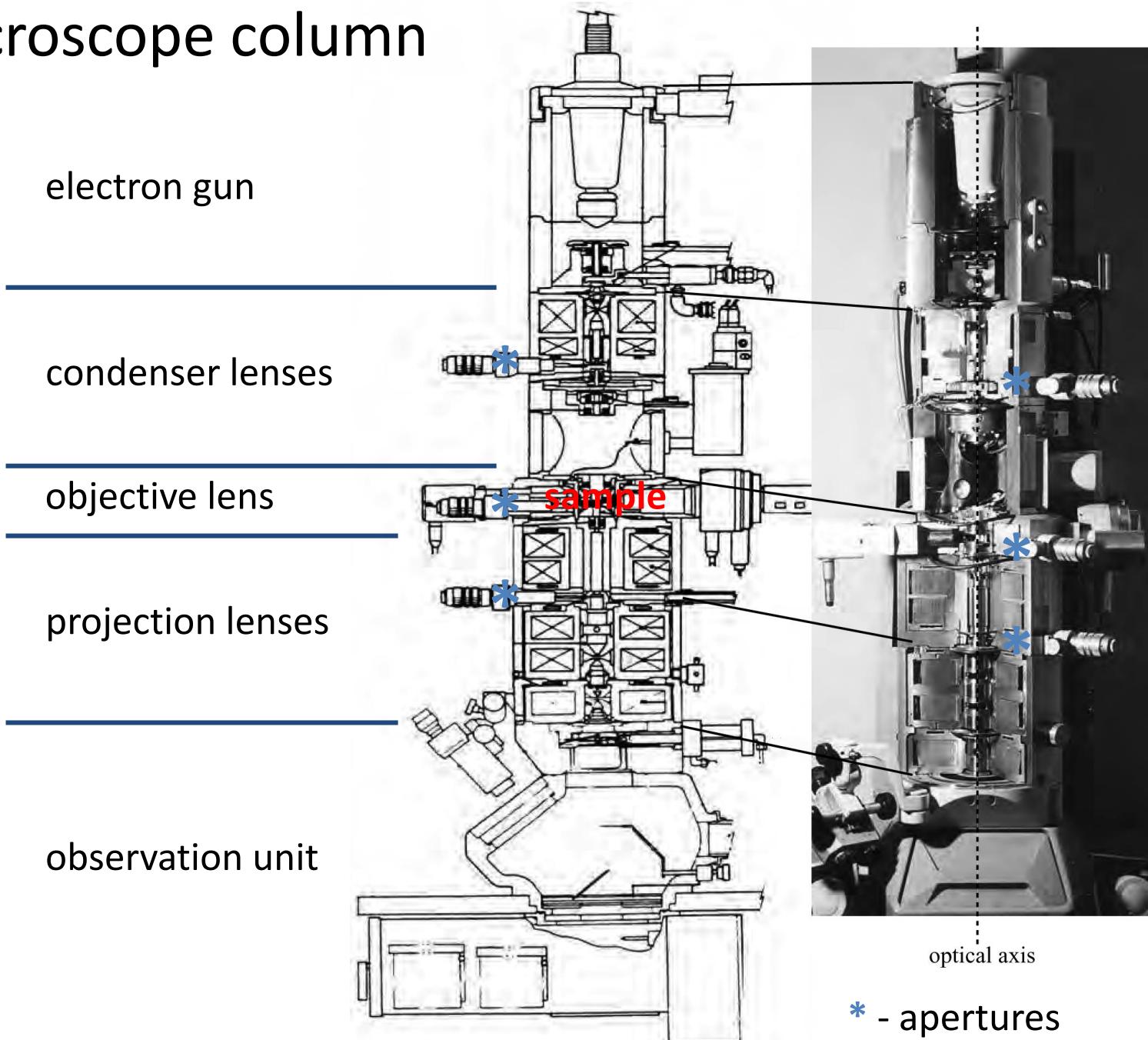


FEI Tecnai Osiris



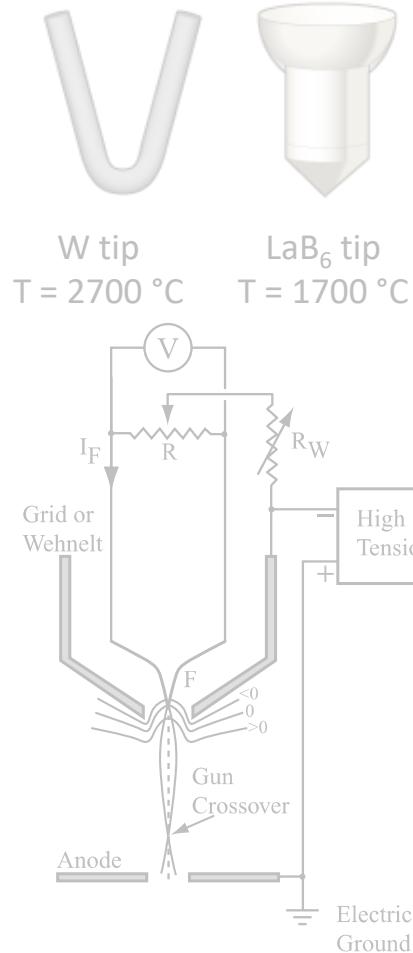
FEI Titan

Microscope column



Electron source

(1) Thermionic Gun

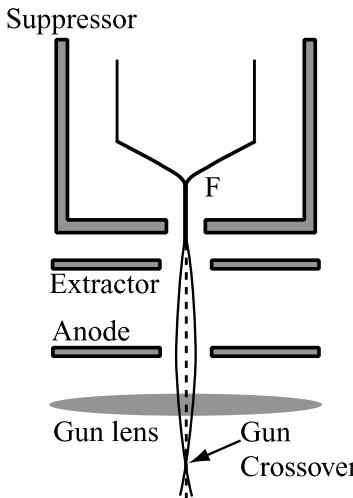


Typical HT: 60-300 kV

Field Emission Guns (FEGs)

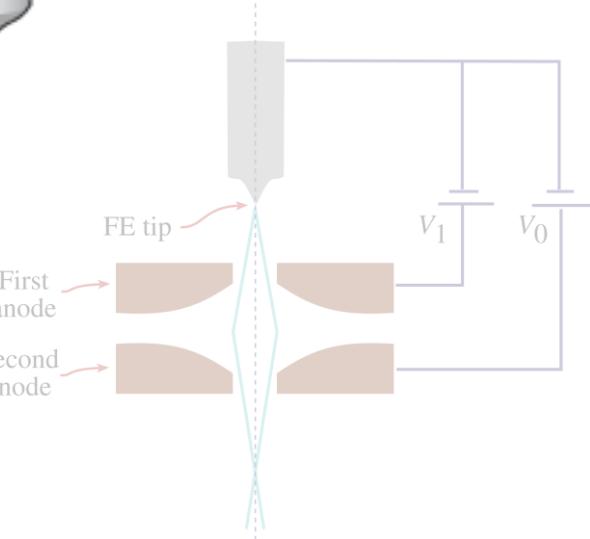
(2) Schottky FEG

W tip, T = 1800 °C



(3) cold FEG

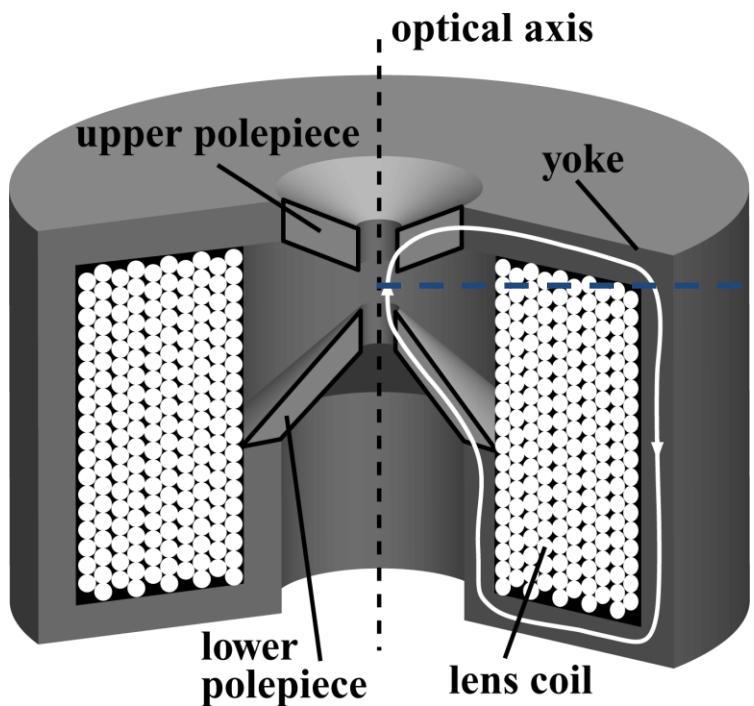
W tip, RT



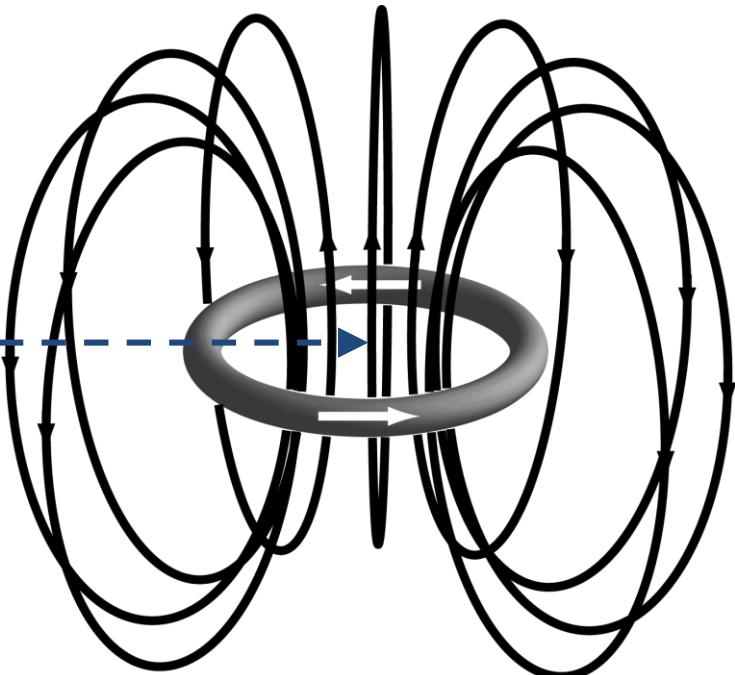
Advantages:

- ✓ high brightness
- ✓ high coherency
- ✓ small source size
- ✓ better stability

Electromagnetic lenses



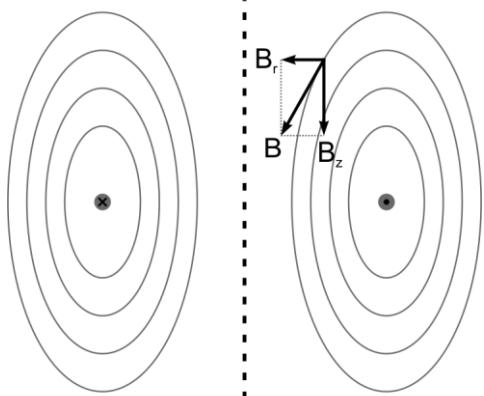
lens



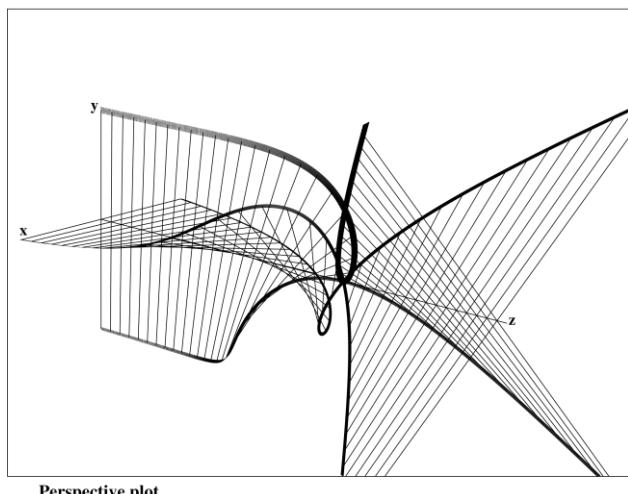
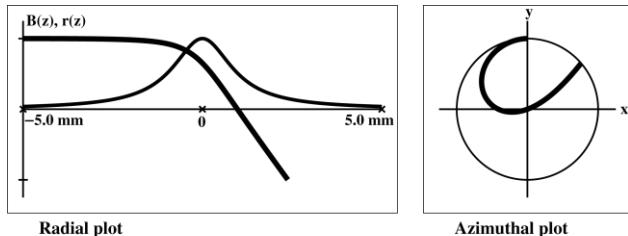
magnetic field

Electromagnetic lenses

field



trajectory



Field: $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_z + \mathbf{B}_r$

Lorentz force: $\mathbf{F} = -e(\mathbf{v} \wedge \mathbf{B})$

$$\mathbf{v}_z \parallel \mathbf{B}_z, \mathbf{v}_z \wedge \mathbf{B}_r \pitchfork \mathbf{F}_q = -e(\mathbf{v}_z \wedge \mathbf{B}_r)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_q \wedge \mathbf{B}_z \pitchfork \mathbf{F}_r = -e(\mathbf{v}_q \wedge \mathbf{B}_z)$$

\mathbf{F}_θ – rotates about the optical axis

\mathbf{F}_r – moves towards the optical axis

- spherical lens
- rotates the electron beam around the optical axis
- only focusing lenses
- variable focal length (strength) depending on the current

Functions of the lenses

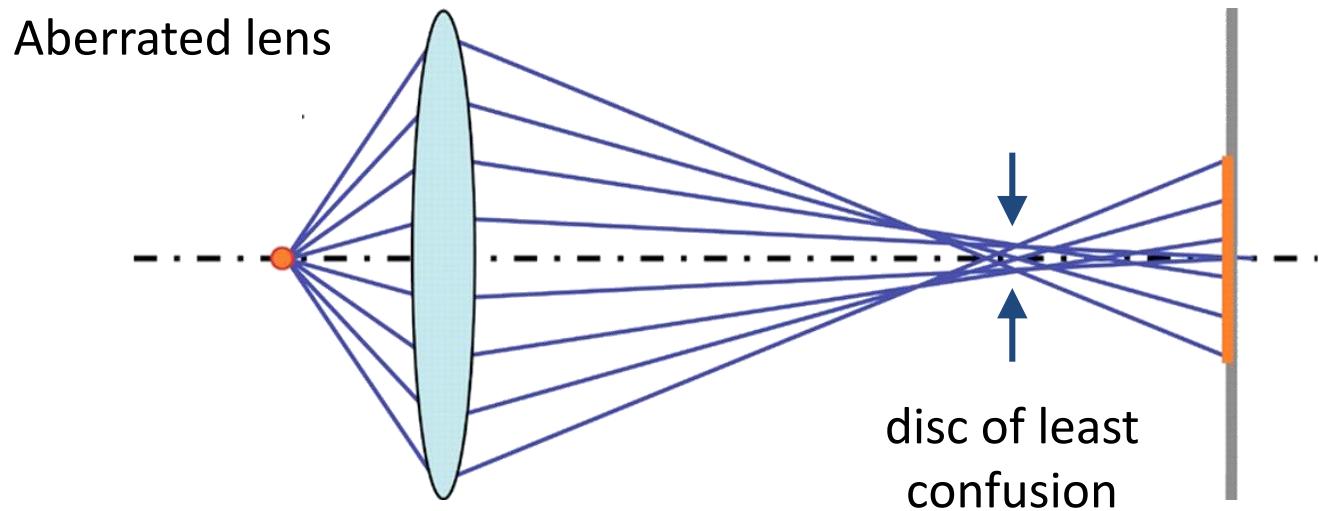
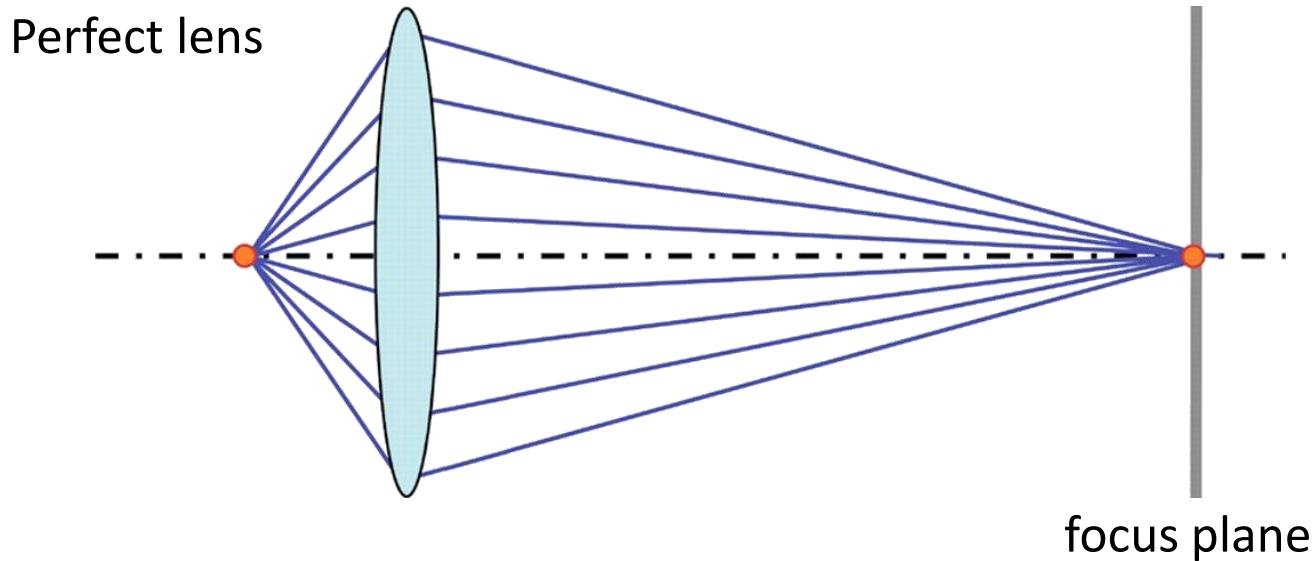
condenser system: ✓ controls beam intensity
✓ controls convergence of the electron beam:

- parallel-beam illumination
- convergent-beam illumination

objective system: ✓ focusing of the electron beam on the sample

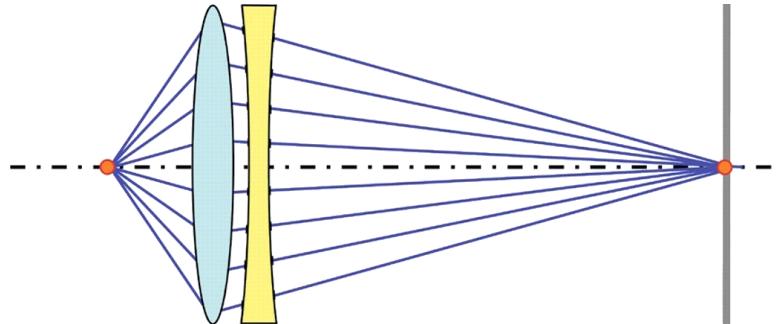
projection system: ✓ magnification
✓ switching between real space (imaging)
and reciprocal space (diffraction)

Spherical aberrations

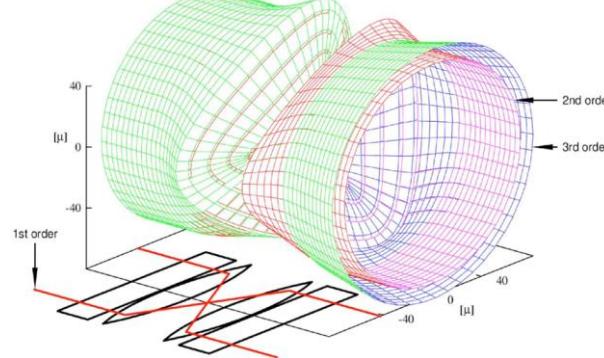


Spherical aberrations correction

Light optics: stacks of focusing and defocusing lenses

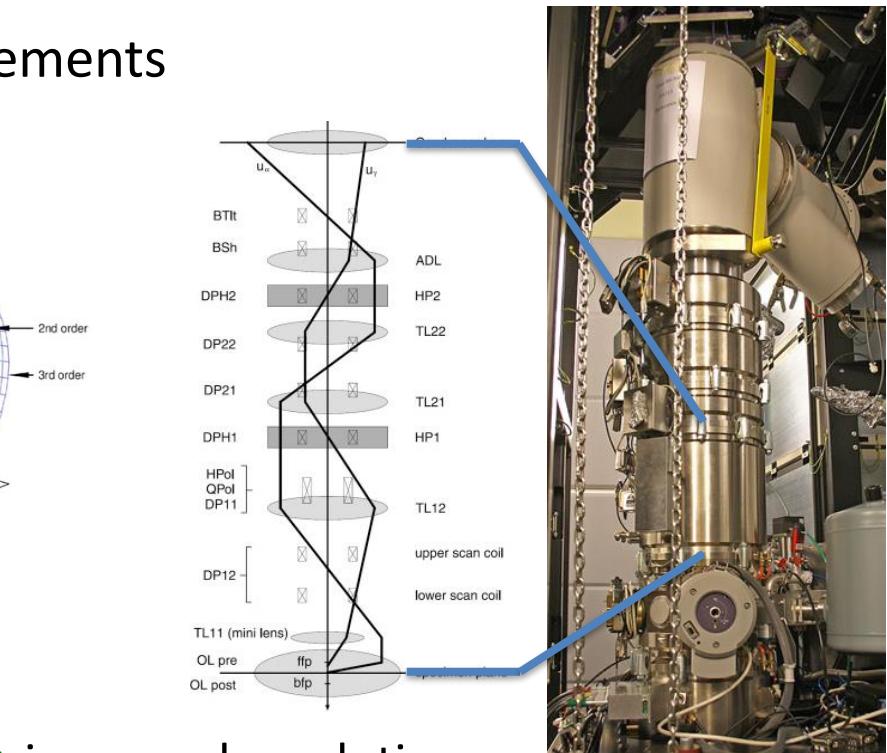


Electron optics: use of non-spherical elements



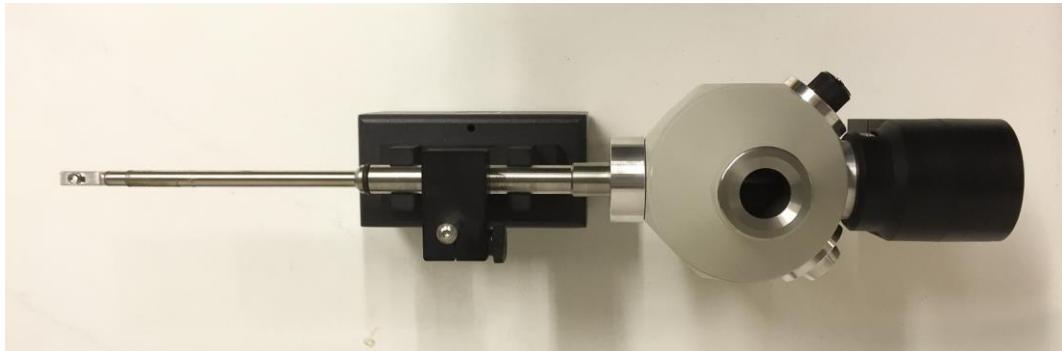
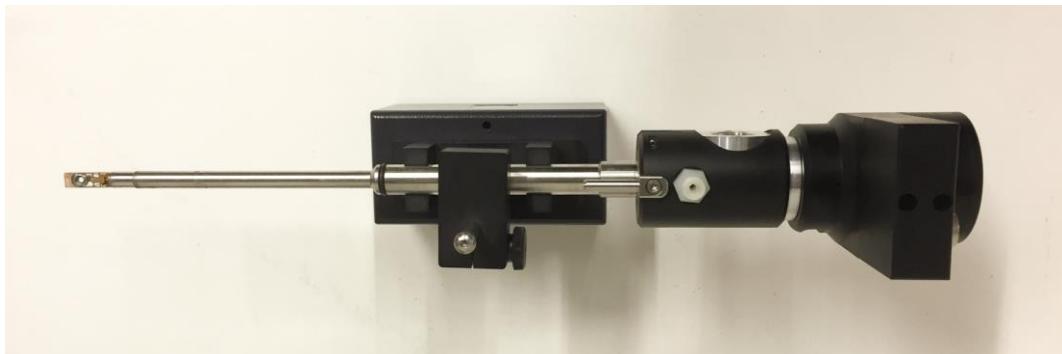
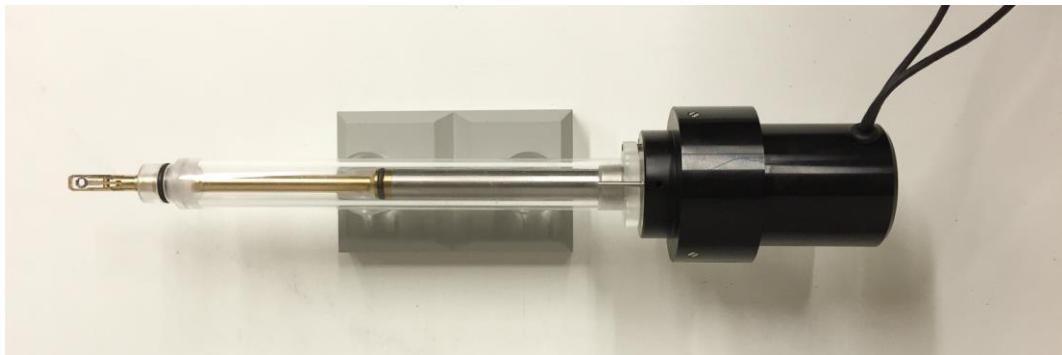
condensed system – probe corrector
objective system – image corrector

- + improved resolution
- high cost
- complex alignment

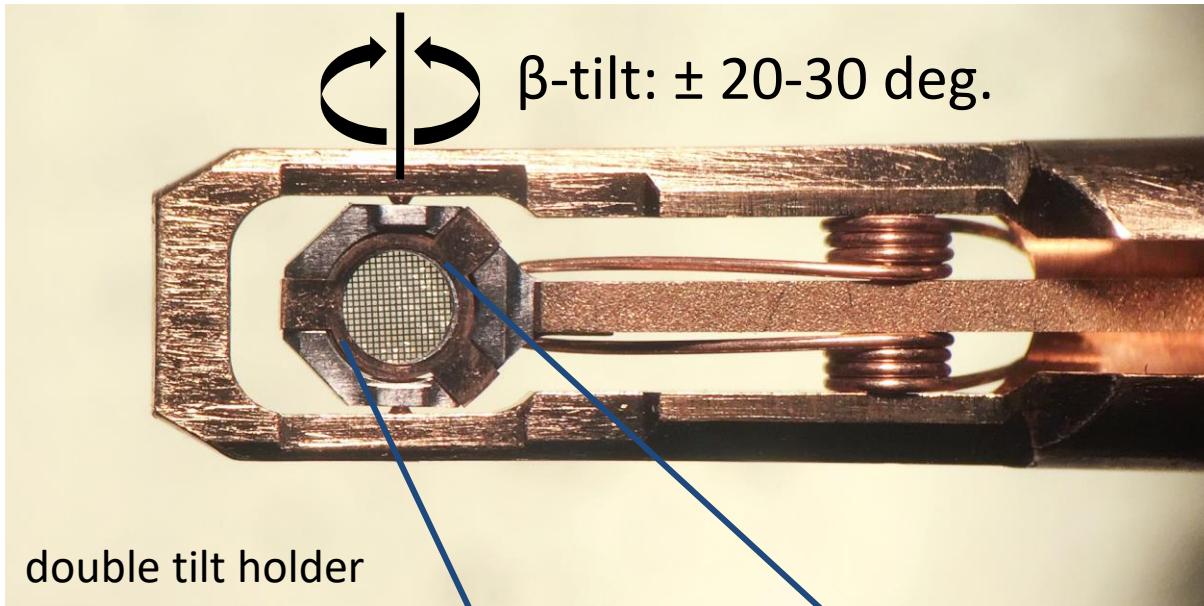


TEM sample holders

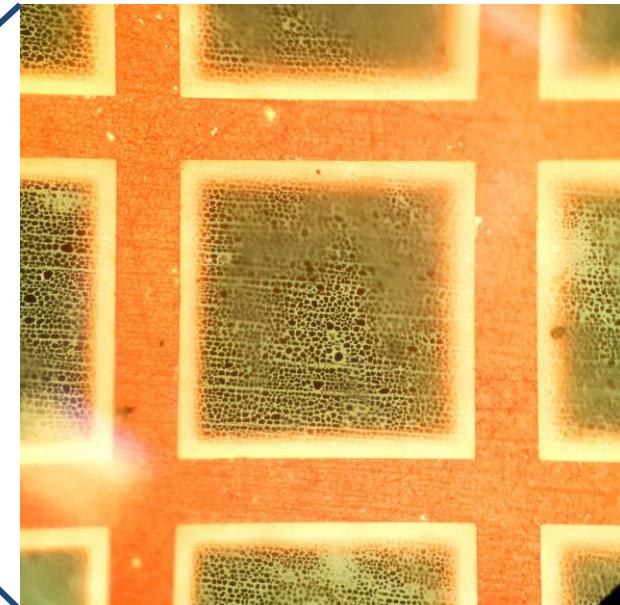
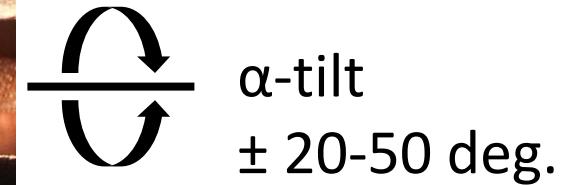
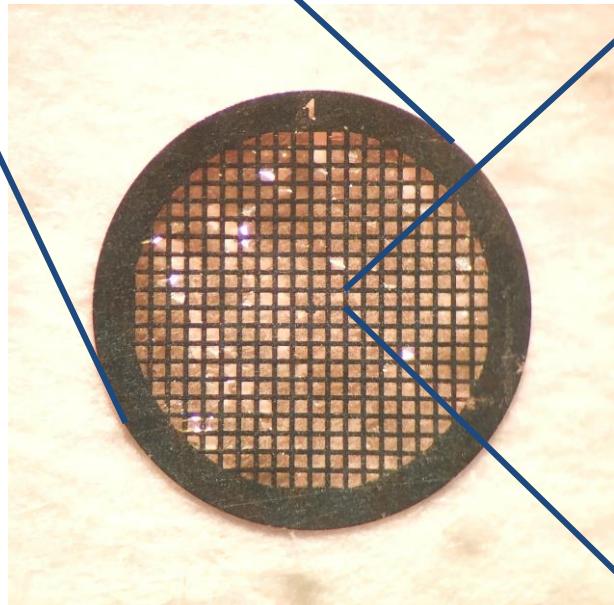
- single tilt
- tomography
- double tilt
- tilt-rotation
- cooling
- heating
- vacuum transfer
- *in situ* electrochemical testing
- mechanical testing
- ...



Tilts and TEM grids



grids:
Cu (Ti, Ni, Mo) mesh
+
holey carbon foil



Sample preparation - powders



Method 1:

1. grinding under solvent (DMC, EtOH, hexane)
2. putting a few drops of dispersion on grids

Method 2:

1. no solvent
2. pressing TEM grid against dry powder

Air sensitive samples

Sample preparation in an Ar-filled glove box



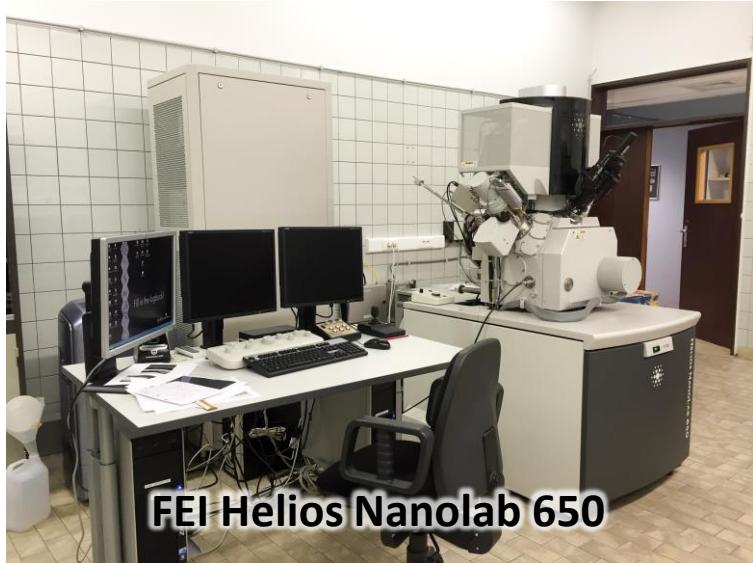
Air-tight
double tilt holder



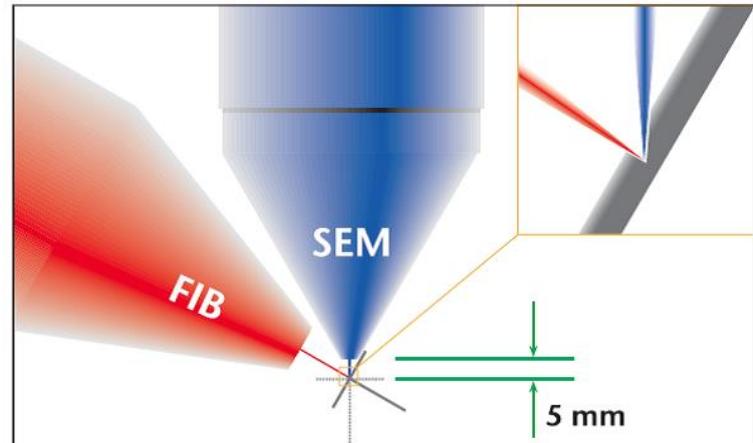
Transfer to the microscope under Ar



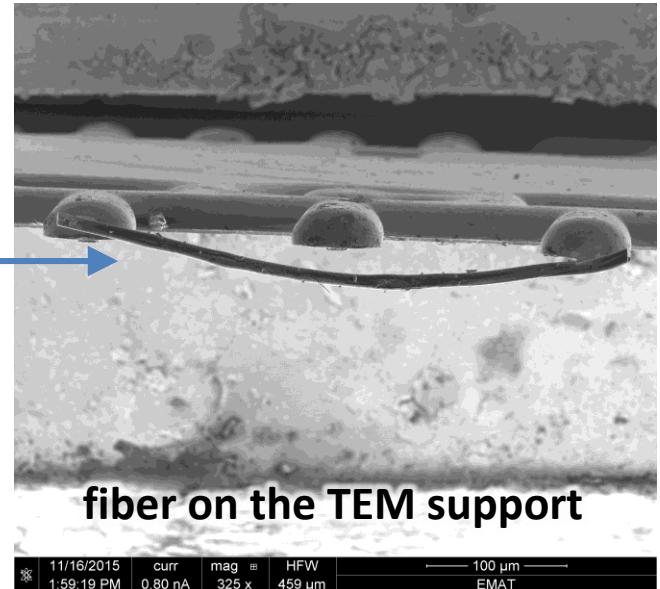
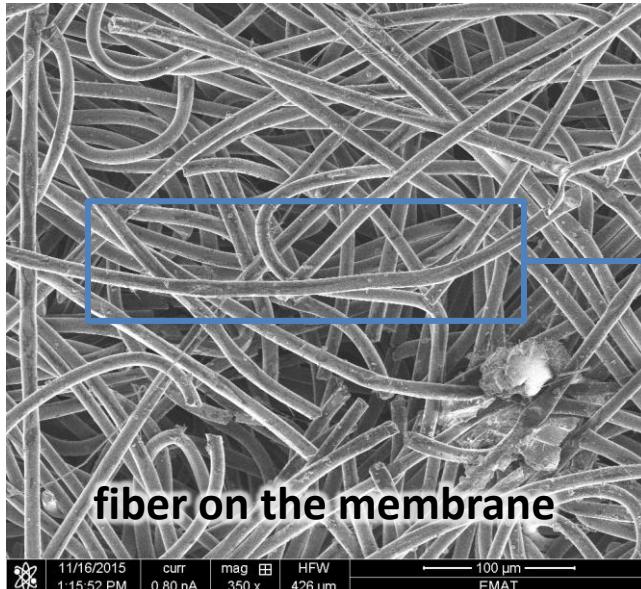
Focused Ion Beam (FIB)



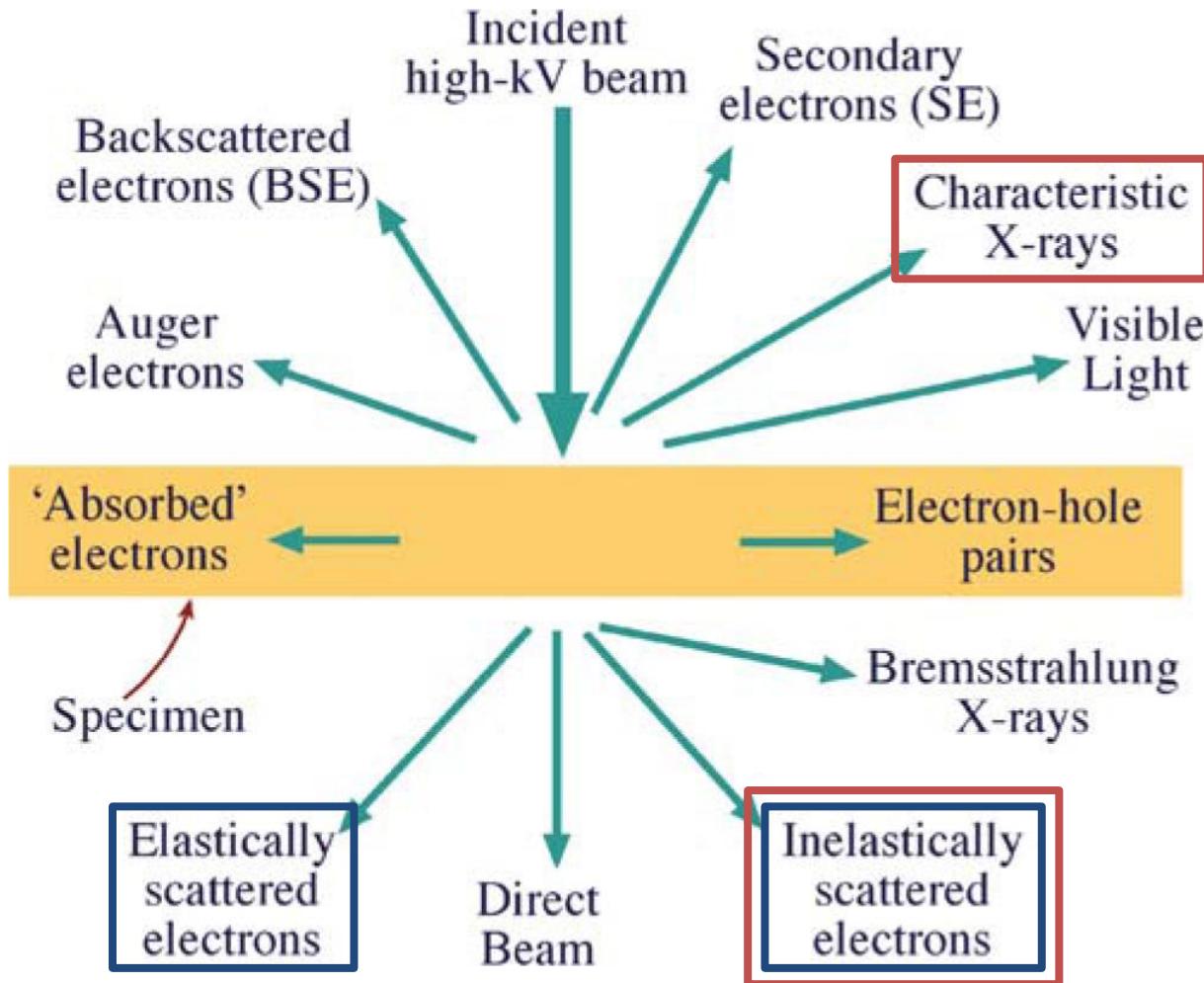
dual beam tool



NaO₂ particles
on carbon fibers



Electron interaction with the material



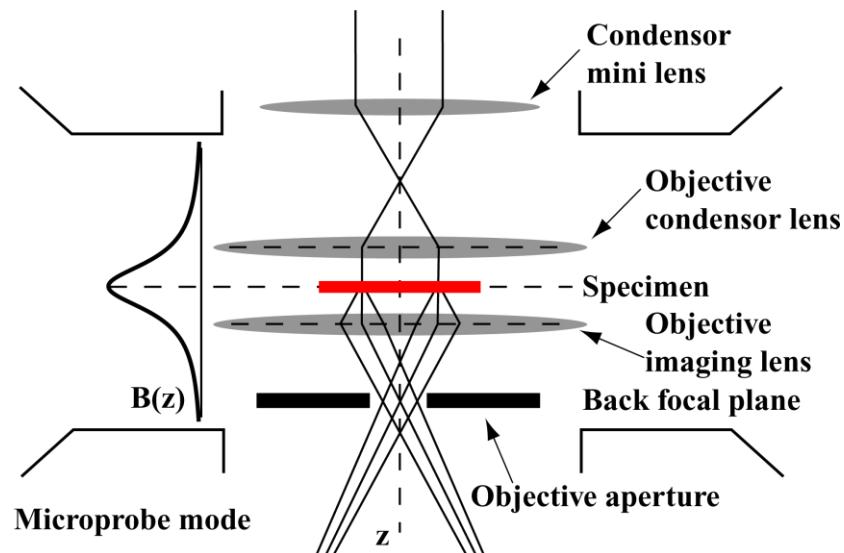
structural information



chemical information

Illumination modes

parallel-beam illumination

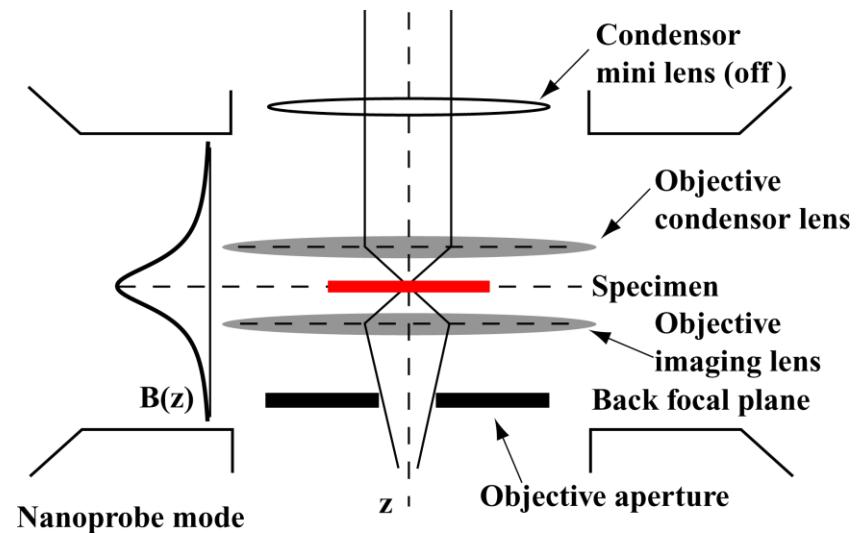


Electron Diffraction (ED)

low magnification TEM

High Resolution TEM (HRTEM)

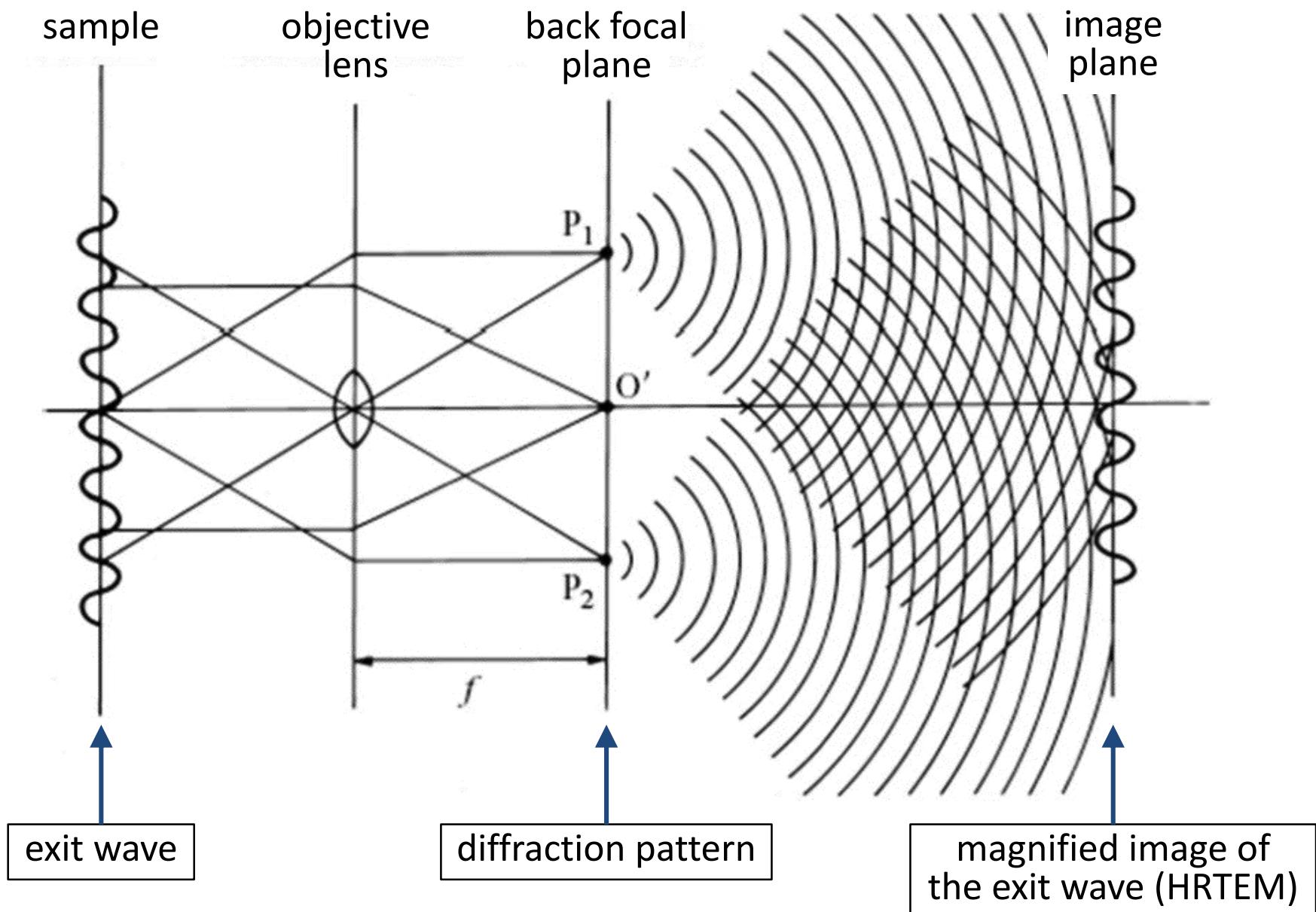
focused-beam illumination



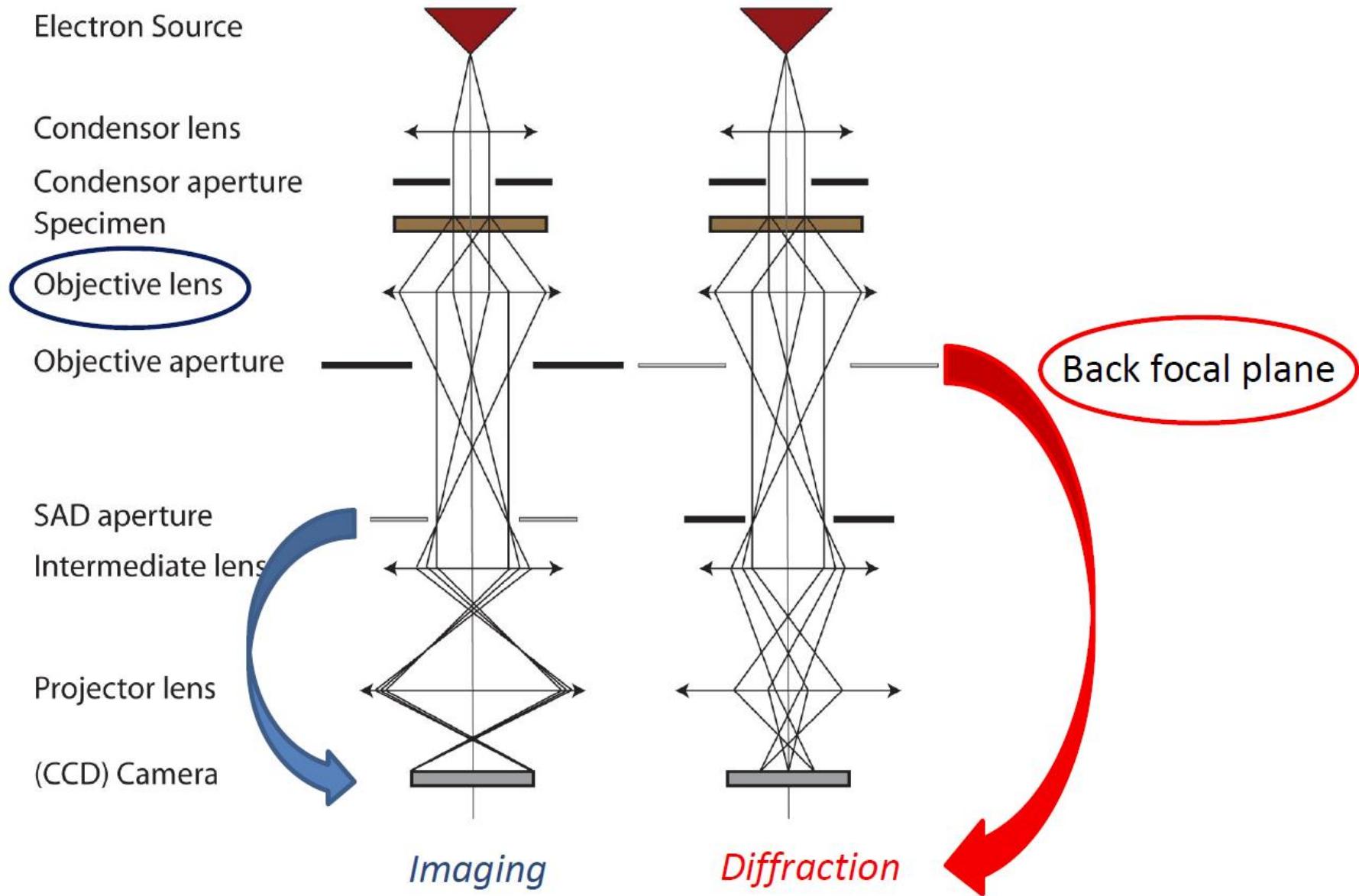
Scanning TEM (STEM)

HAADF-STEM and ABF-STEM

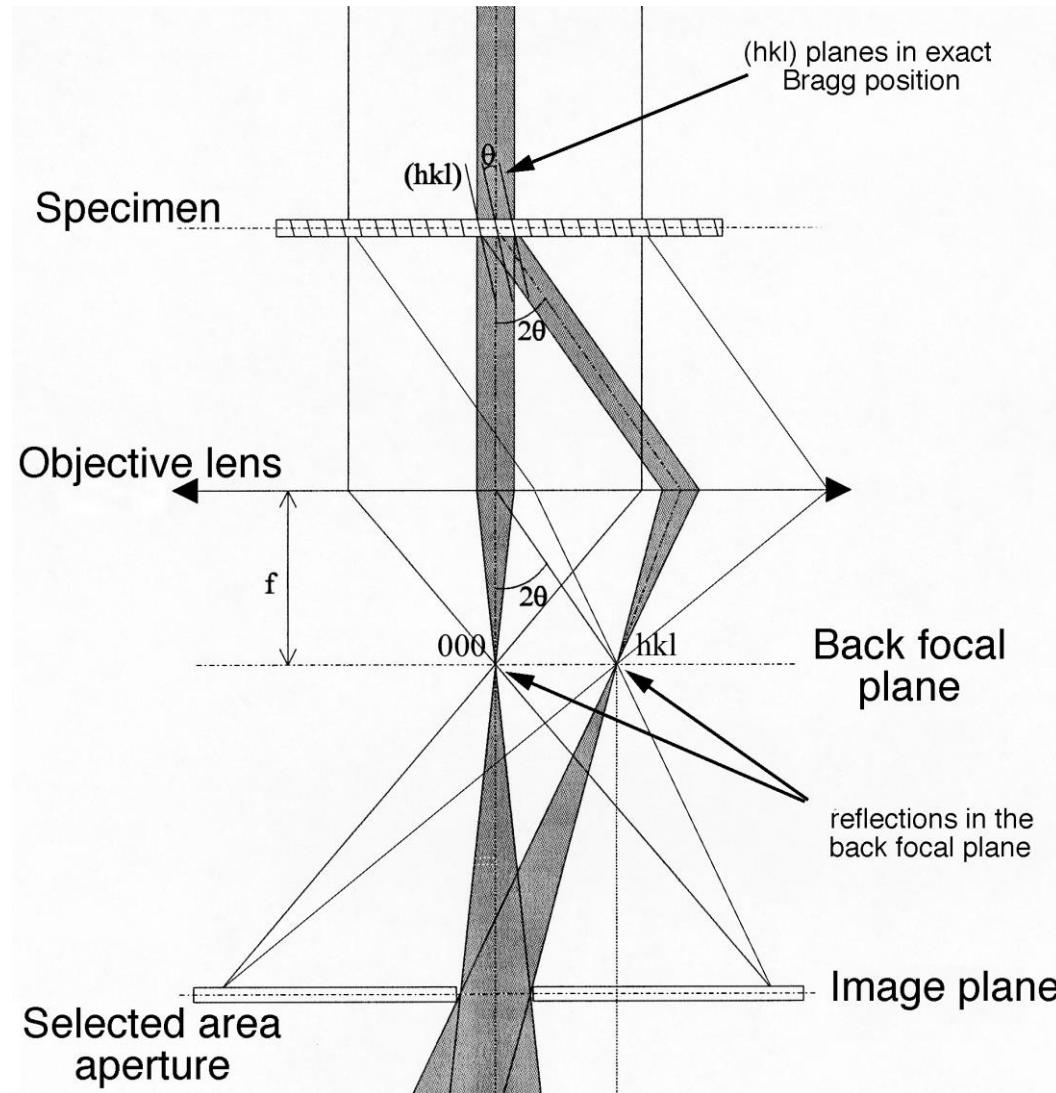
Parallel Illumination



Real and reciprocal space in TEM

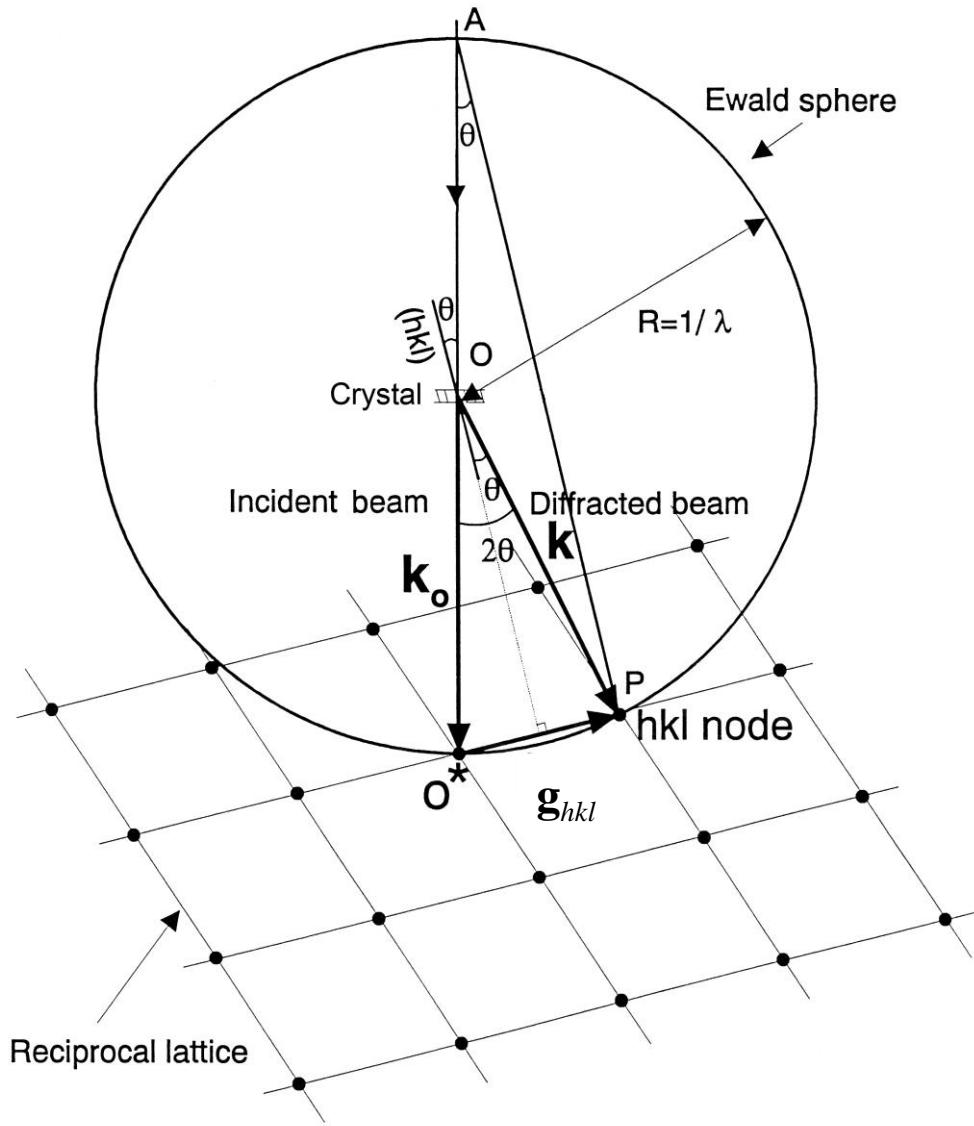


Selected Area Electron Diffraction (SAED)



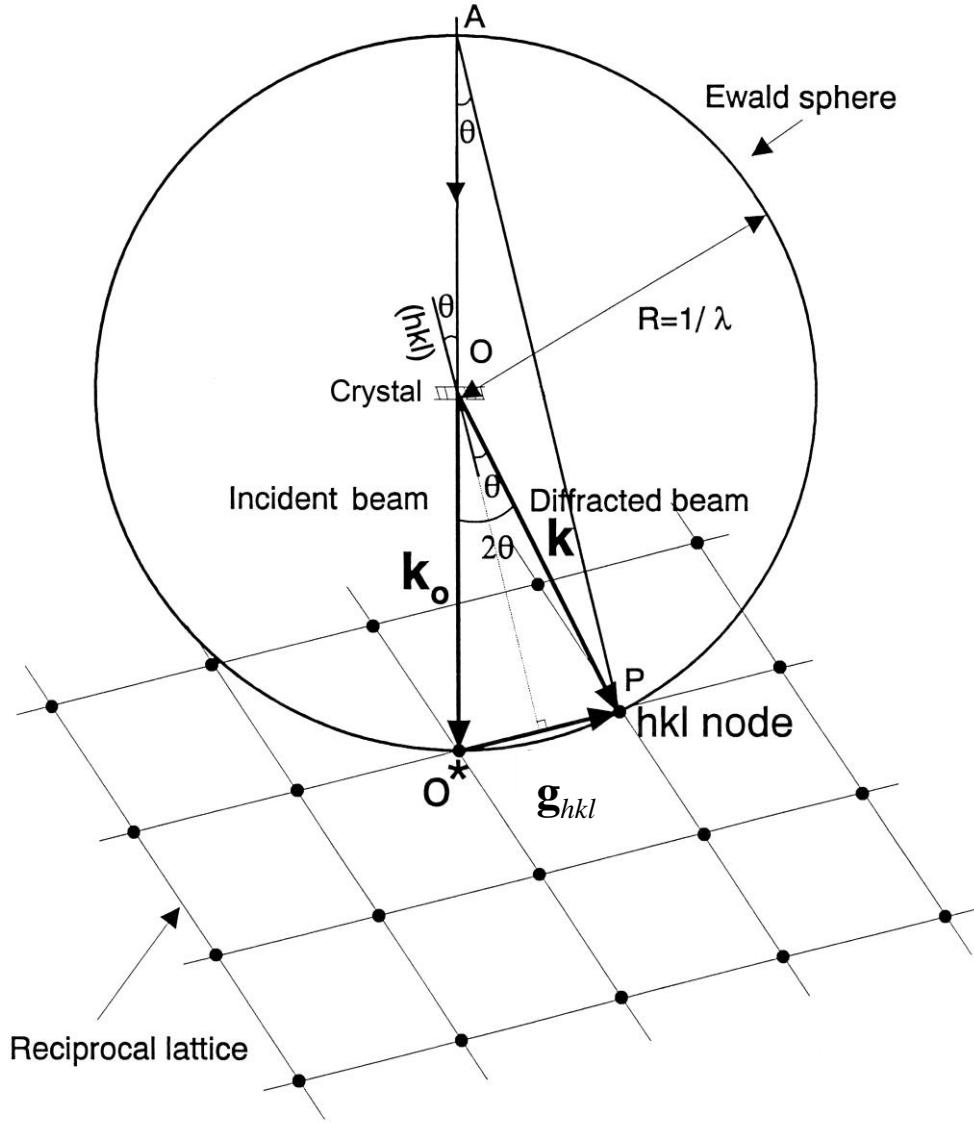
Tecna G2: SAED aperture 10 μm → ~100nm circle on the sample

Diffraction conditions – Ewald sphere



1. Radius: $1/\lambda$
2. Crystal (i.e. scattering center) at the center of the sphere
3. Incident beam - wave vector \mathbf{k}_0
4. Origin of the reciprocal lattice O^* at the end of \mathbf{k}_0
1. Diffraction condition: when hkl node lies on the Ewald sphere (vector \mathbf{k})

Diffraction conditions – Ewald sphere



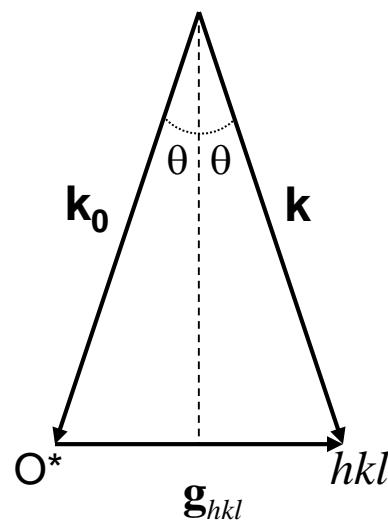
$$\angle \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_0 = 2\theta$$

$$|\mathbf{k}| = |\mathbf{k}_0| = 1/\lambda$$

$$|\mathbf{g}_{hkl}| = 1/d_{hkl}$$

$$|\mathbf{g}_{hkl}| = 2|\mathbf{k}_0| \sin \theta$$

$$1/d_{hkl} = 2/\lambda \sin \theta$$



Electron Diffraction

X-rays:

$$\lambda = 1.5406\text{\AA} (\text{CuK}_{\alpha 1})$$

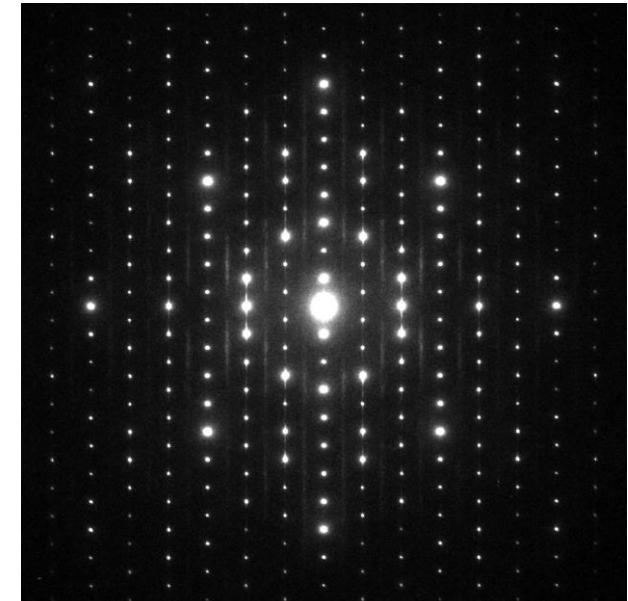
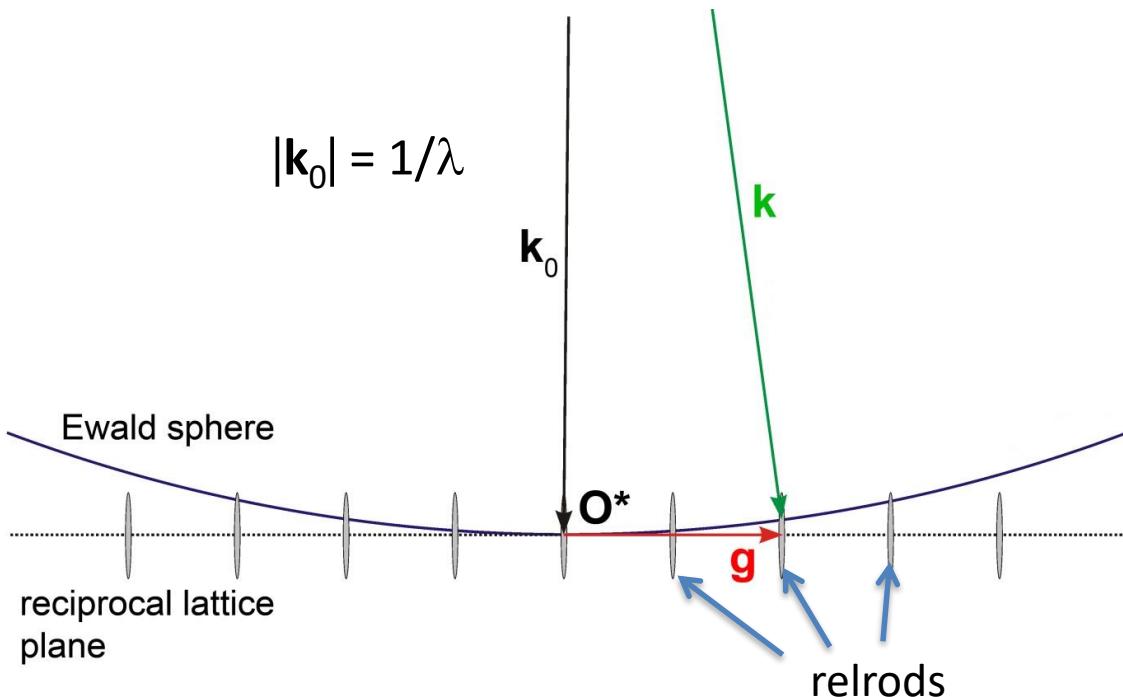
Electrons:

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2em_0U}} = \frac{12.26}{\sqrt{U}}$$

$$\lambda = 0.034\text{\AA} (120\text{kV})$$

$$\lambda = 0.025\text{\AA} (200\text{kV})$$

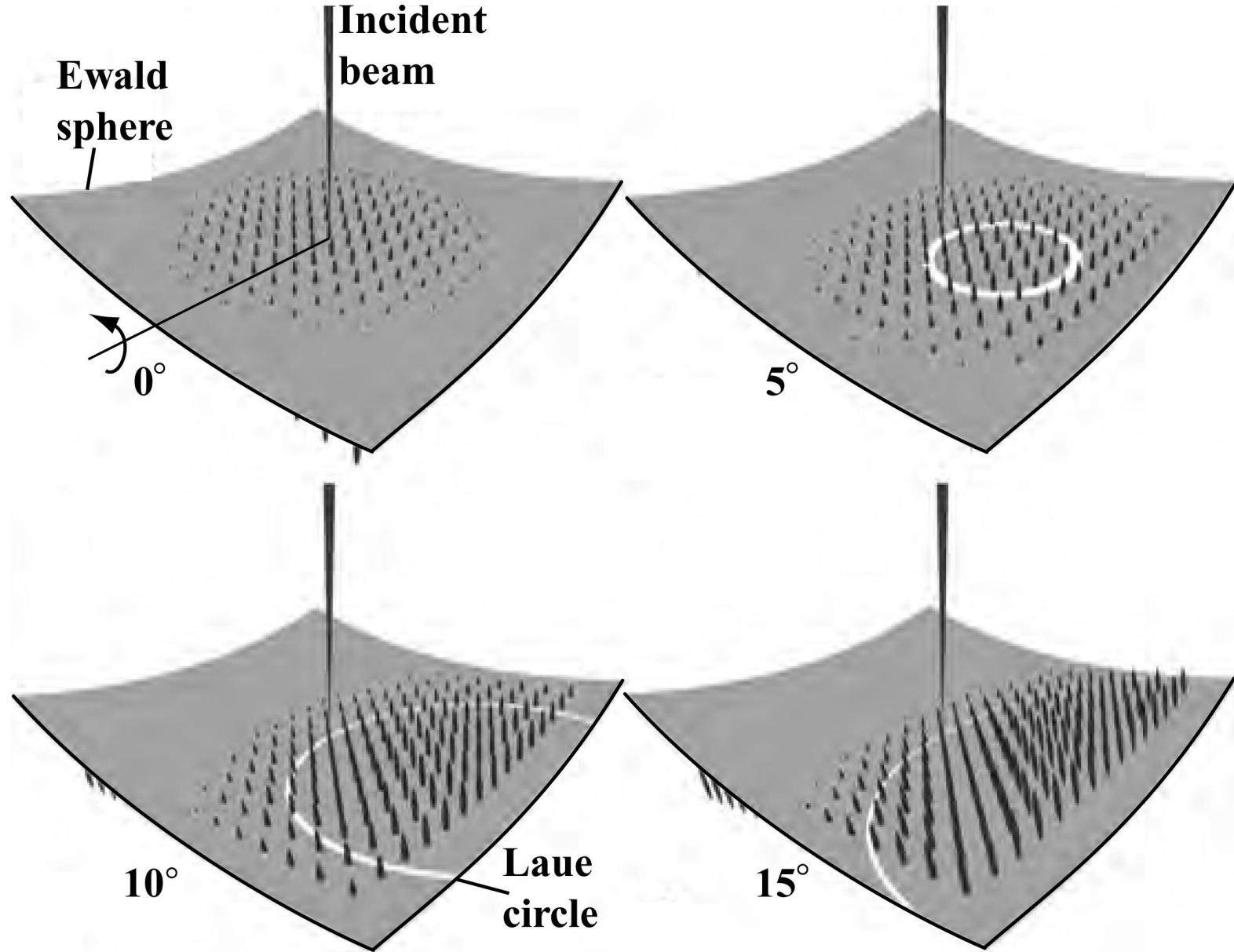
$$\lambda = 0.020\text{\AA} (300\text{kV})$$



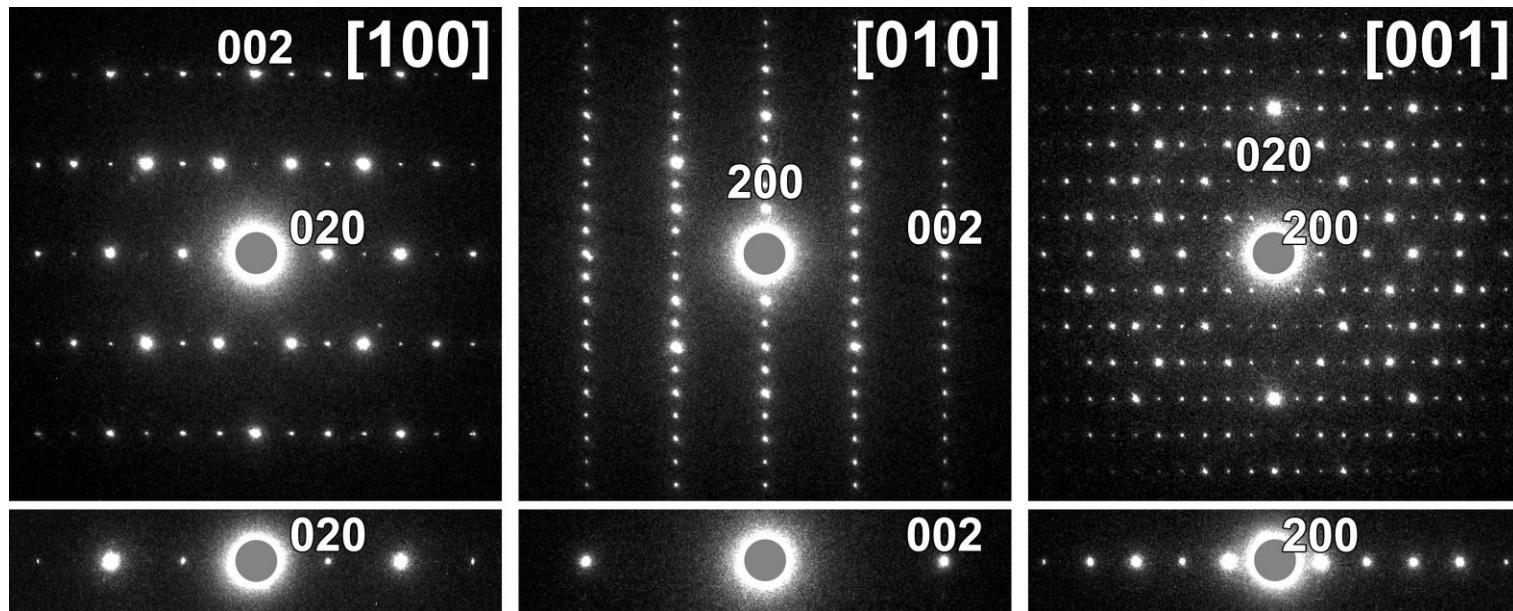
in-zone ED pattern

ED pattern is a **section** of the reciprocal lattice!

Orientation of the crystal



ED for Space Group determination $K_2Cu_2(SO_4)_3$



Reflection
conditions

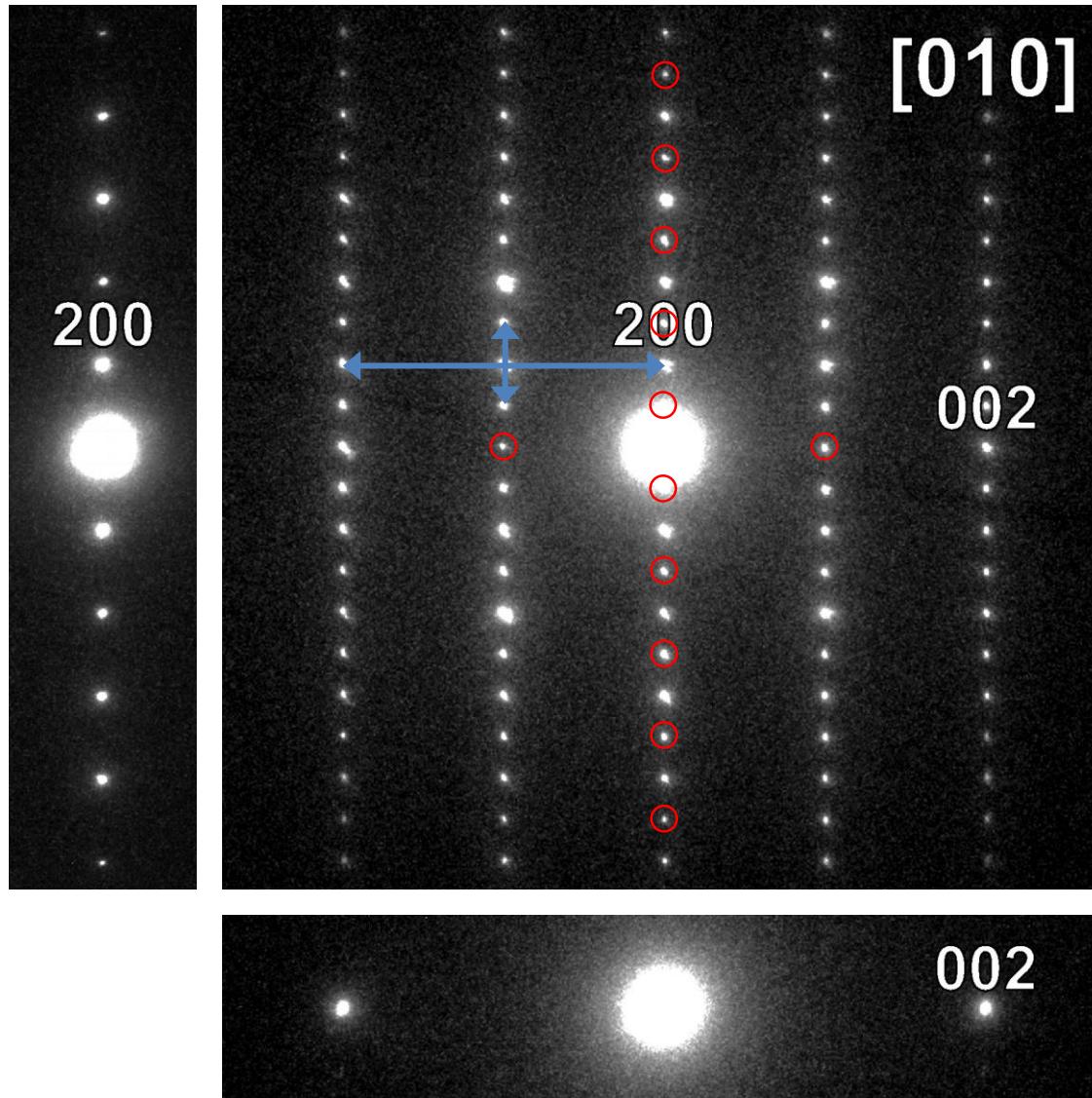
$$\begin{aligned} h00: h &= 2n \\ 0k0: k &= 2n \\ 00l: l &= 2n \end{aligned}$$



S.G. $P2_12_12_1$

Cell parameters (ED):
 $a \approx 18.2 \text{ \AA}$, $b \approx 11.5 \text{ \AA}$, $c \approx 4.8 \text{ \AA}$

Multiple scattering



S.G. $P2_12_12_1$

$h00: h = 2n$

$0k0: k = 2n$

$00l: l = 2n$

ED for Space Group determination KVPO₄F

Reflection
conditions

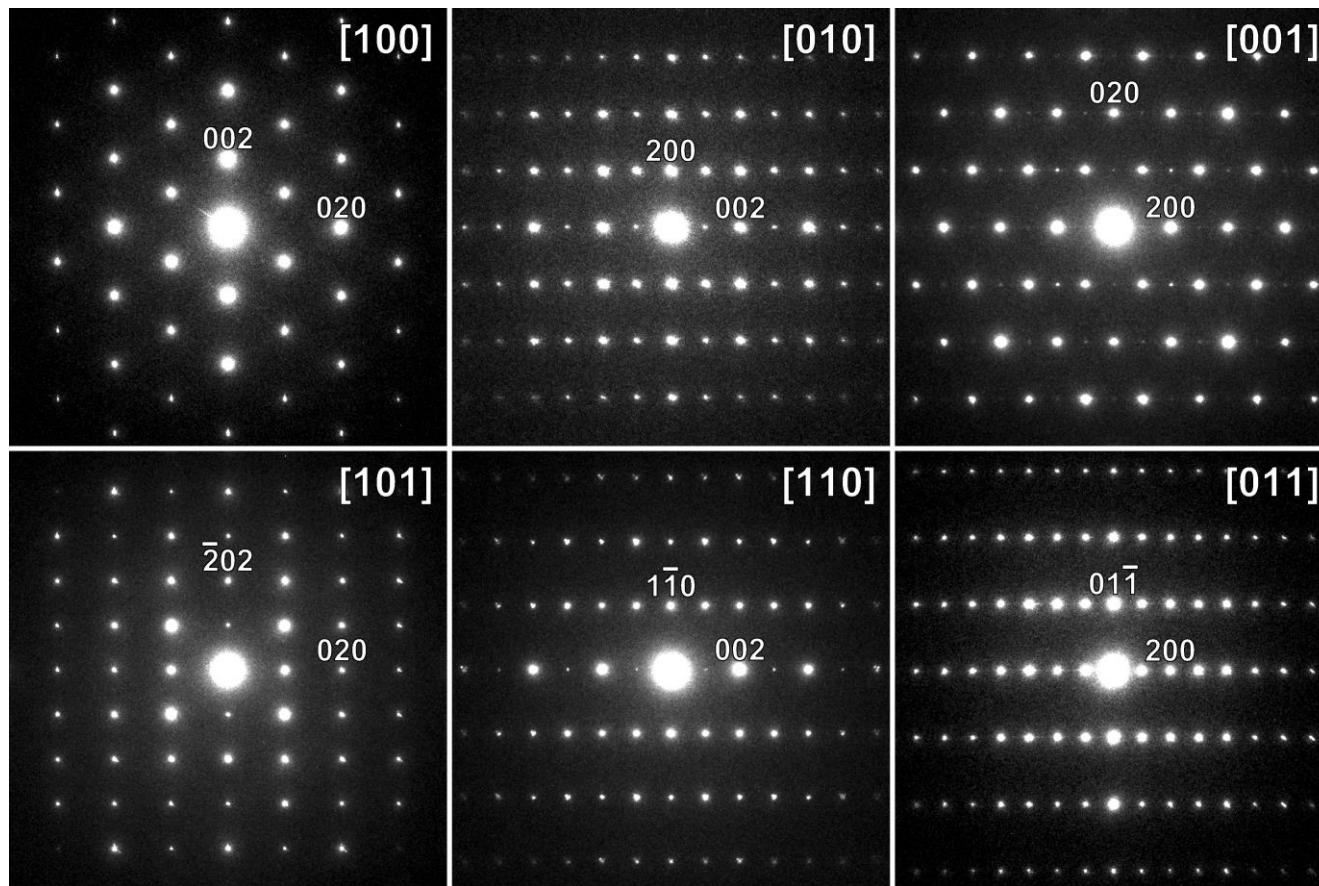
$$0kl: k + h = 2n$$

$$h0l: h = 2n$$

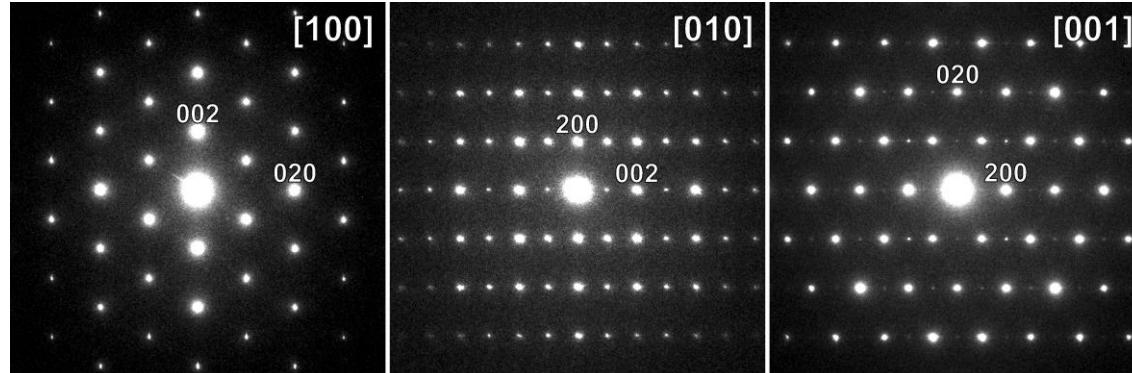
$$hk0: -$$



S.G. *Pnam* or *Pna2*₁



ED for Space Group determination KVPO₄F



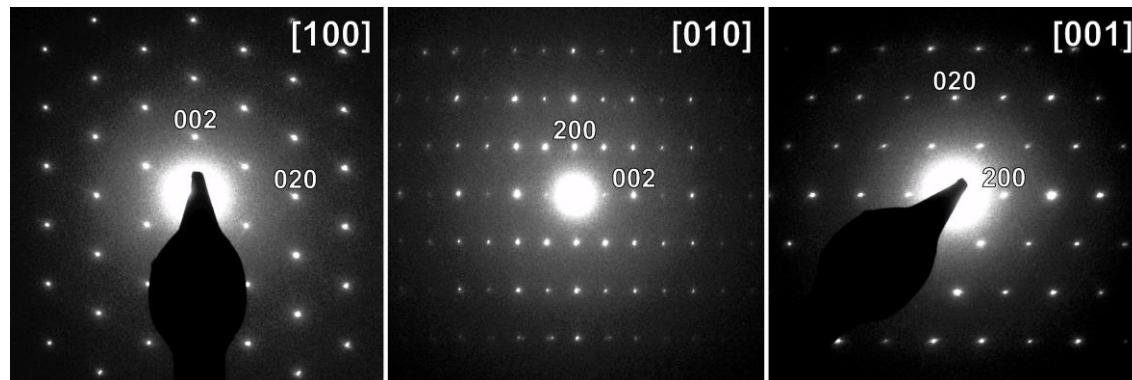
Pristine: KV_{0.17}VO₄F

$0kl: k + h = 2n$

$h0l: h = 2n$

$hk0: -$

S.G. *Pnam/Pna2*₁



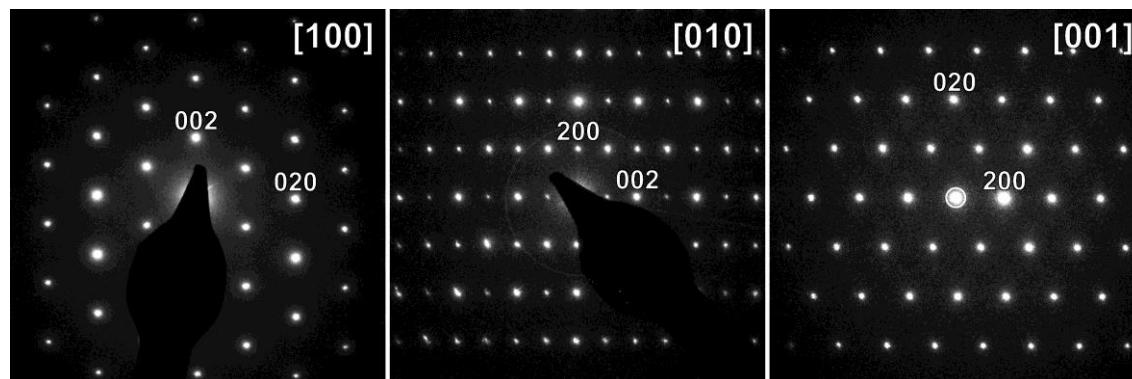
Charged: KV_{0.17}VO₄F

$0kl: k + h = 2n$

$h0l: h = 2n$

$hk0: h + k = 2n$

S.G. *Pnan*



Discharged: Li_{0.7}K_{0.12}VO₄F

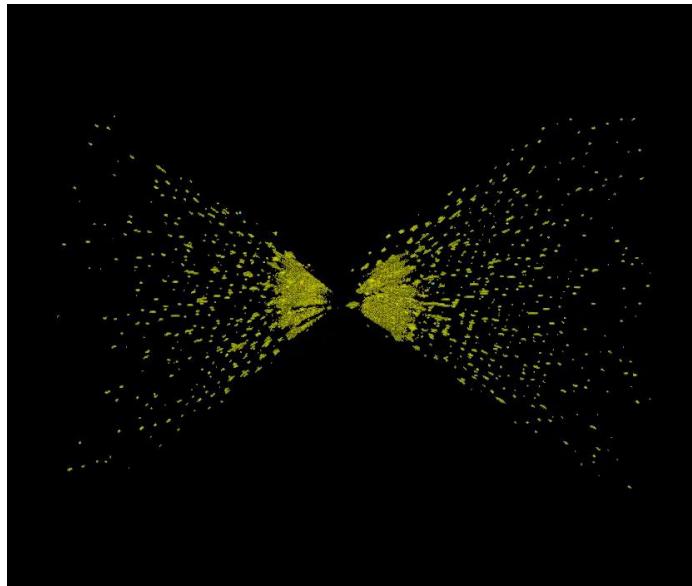
$0kl: k + h = 2n$

$h0l: h = 2n$

$hk0: h + k = 2n$

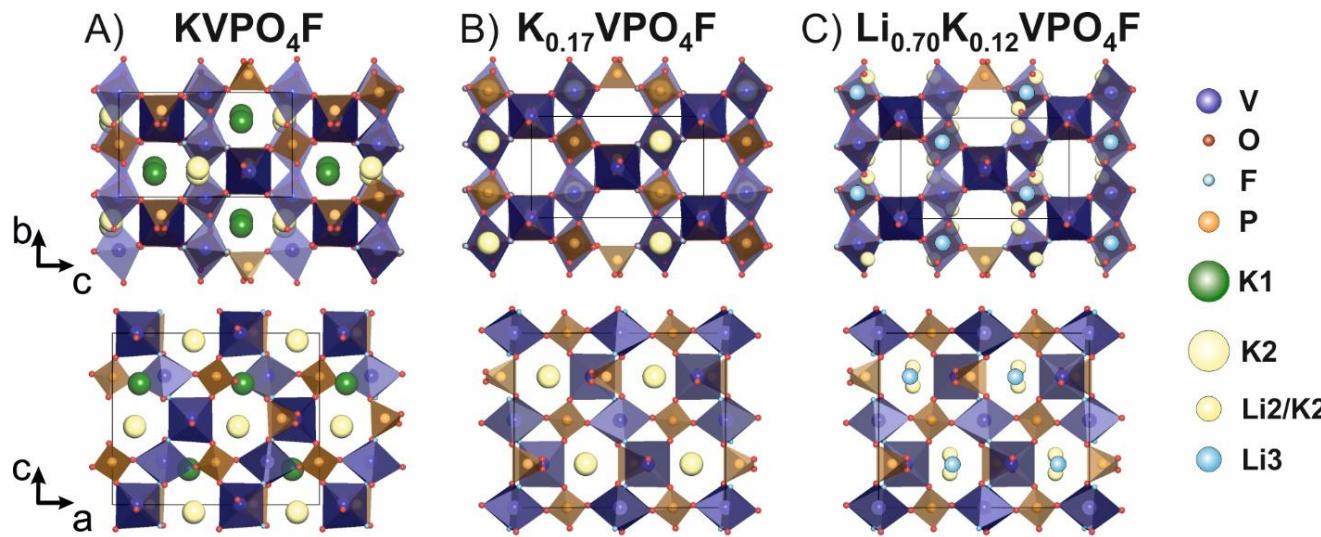
S.G. *Pnan*

ED tomography (EDT) for structure solution

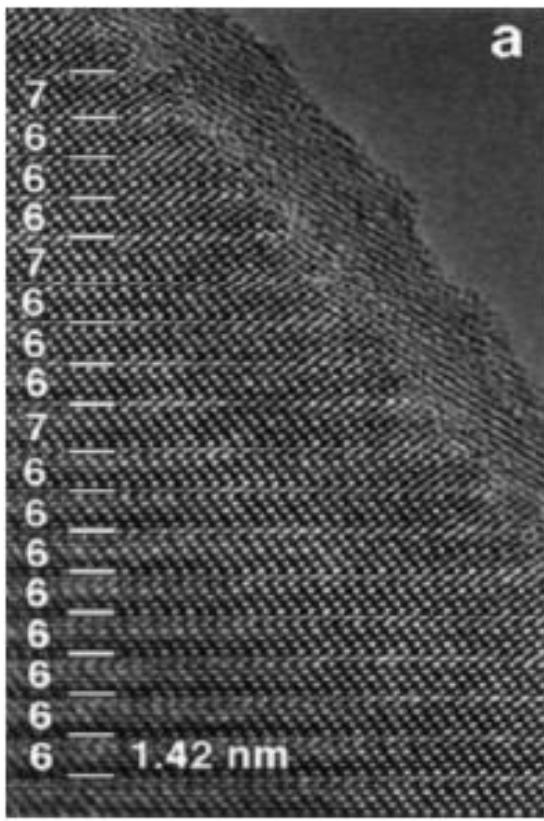


EDT workflow:

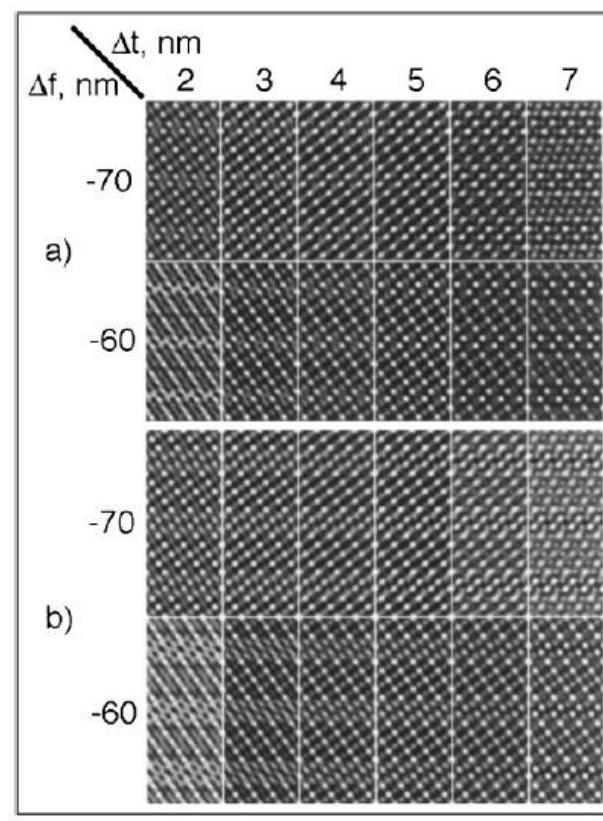
1. Data collection
 - ED pattern every 1°
 - avoiding main zone axes
2. 3D reciprocal space reconstruction
→ quasi-kinematical intensities
3. Structure solution



High Resolution TEM (HRTEM)



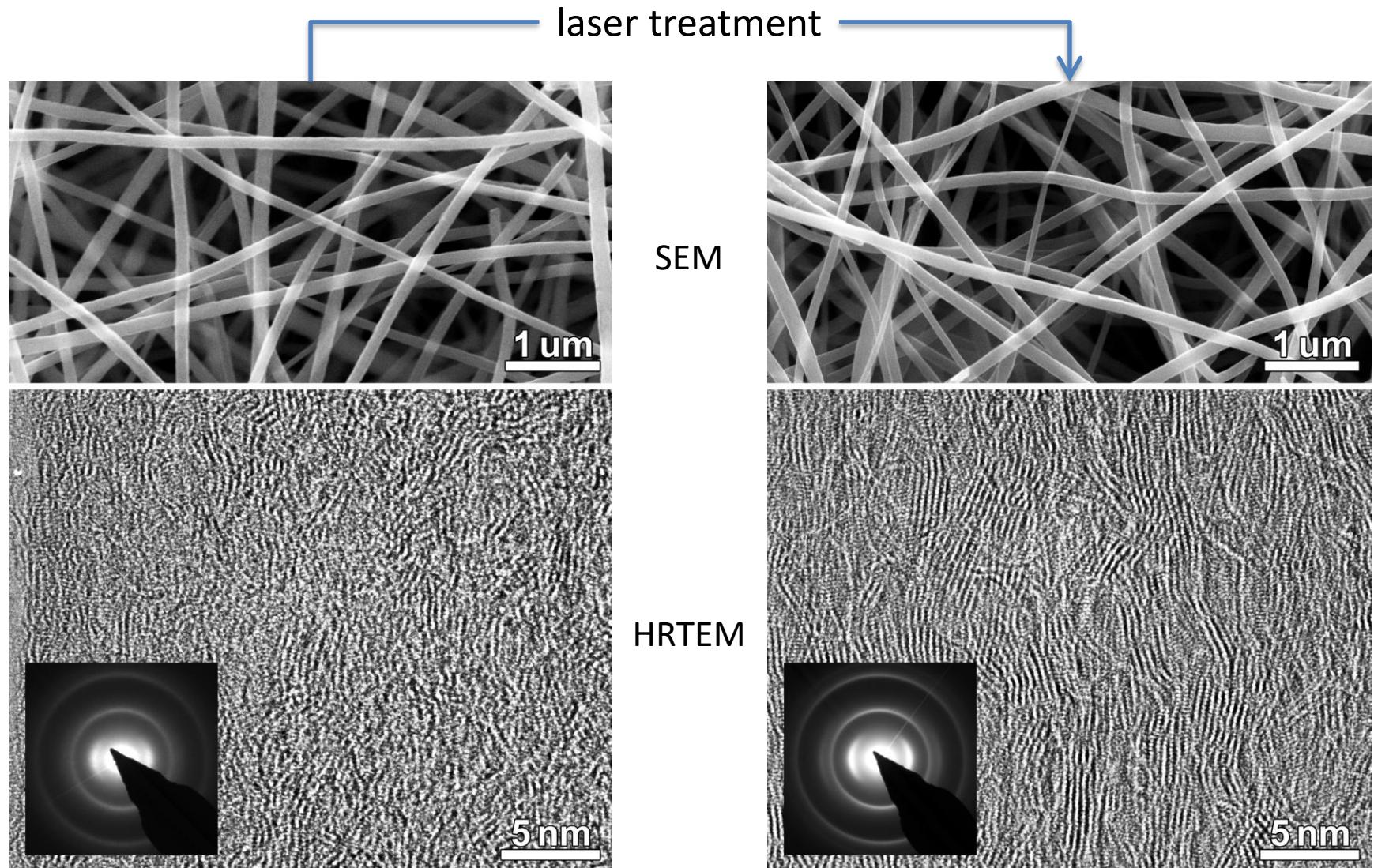
experimental image



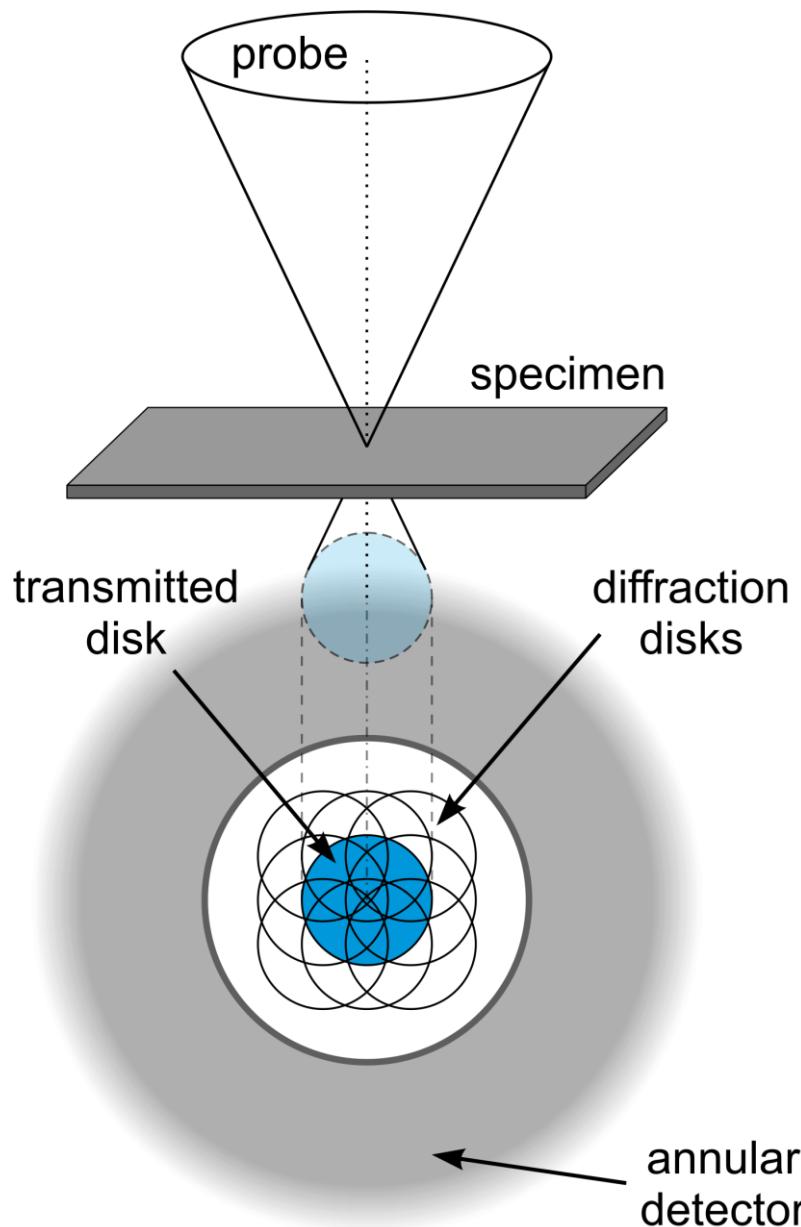
simulation

- high dose rate -> bad for beam sensitive materials
 - extremely sensitive to misorientaions
 - contrast depends on the thickness and defocus

High Resolution TEM (HRTEM)



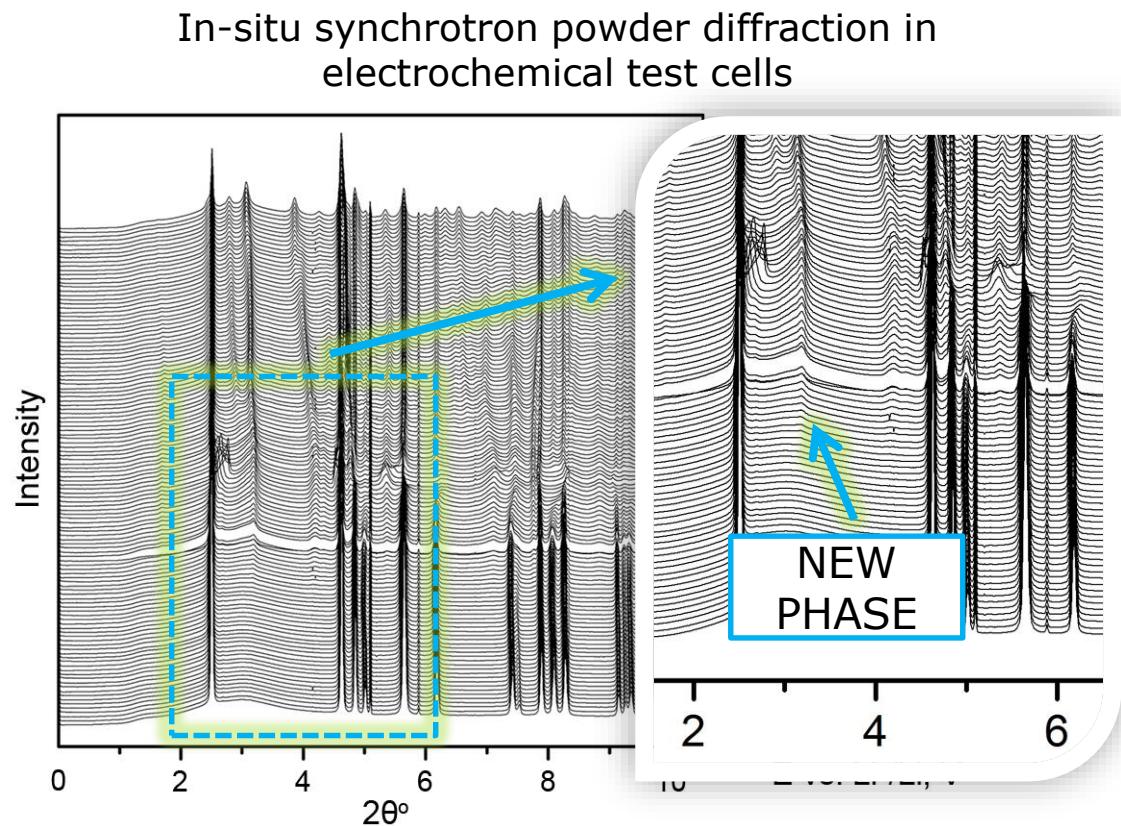
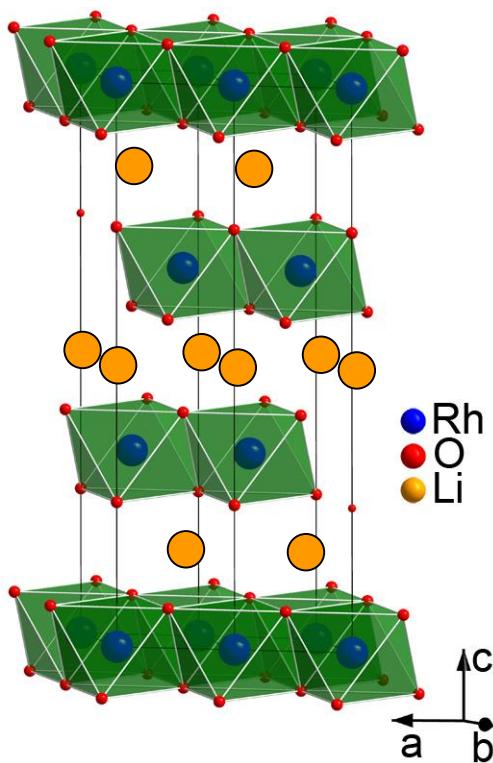
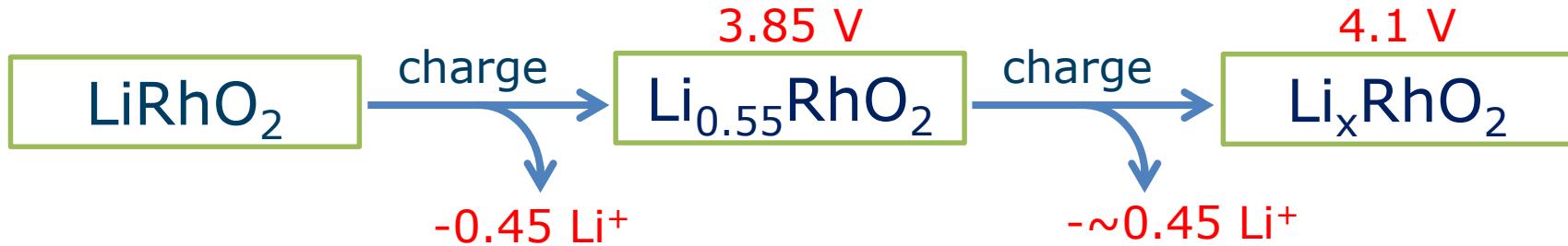
Focused beam illumination, HAADF-STEM



- Focused probe $\sim 1\text{\AA}$
- Detector in the diffraction plane
- Image: Intensity vs. position of the probe
- Annular-shape detector

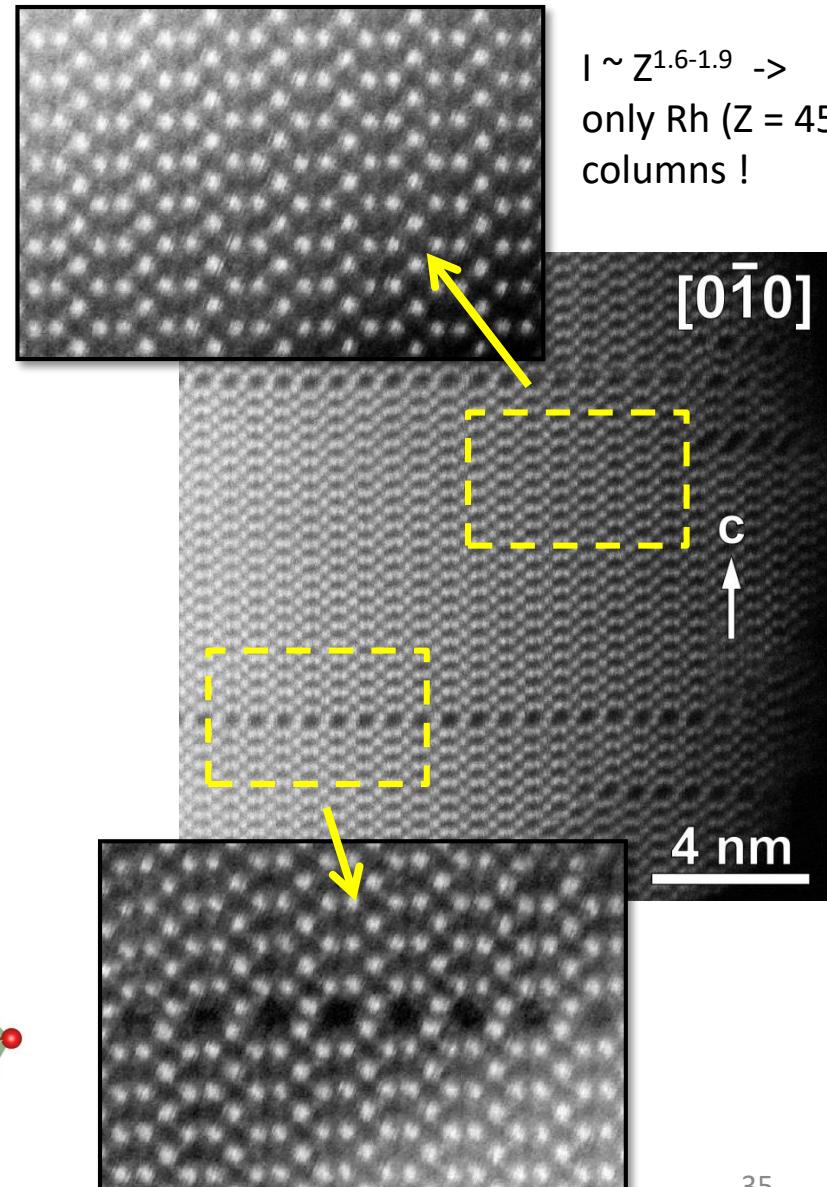
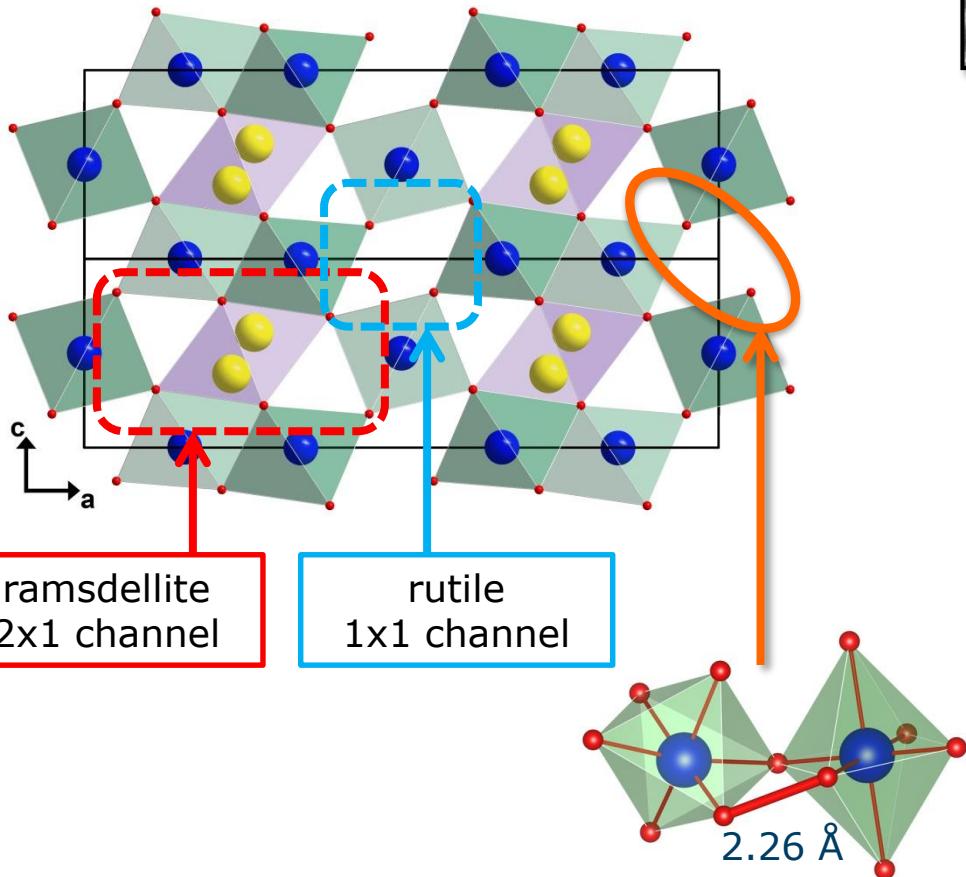
High Angle Annular Dark Field
Scanning Transmission Electron
Microscopy (HAADF-STEM)

$$I \sim Z^{1.6-1.9} \quad (Z - \text{average at. number})$$

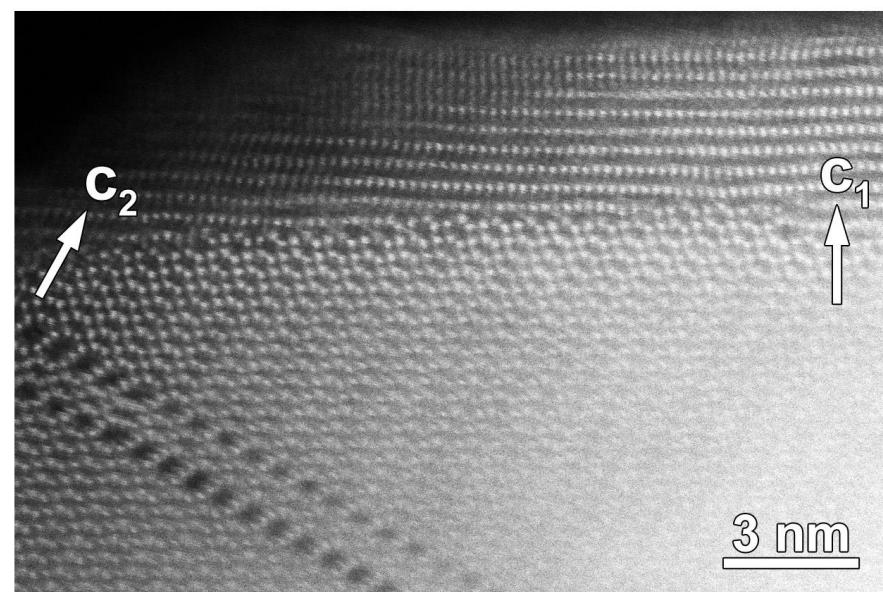
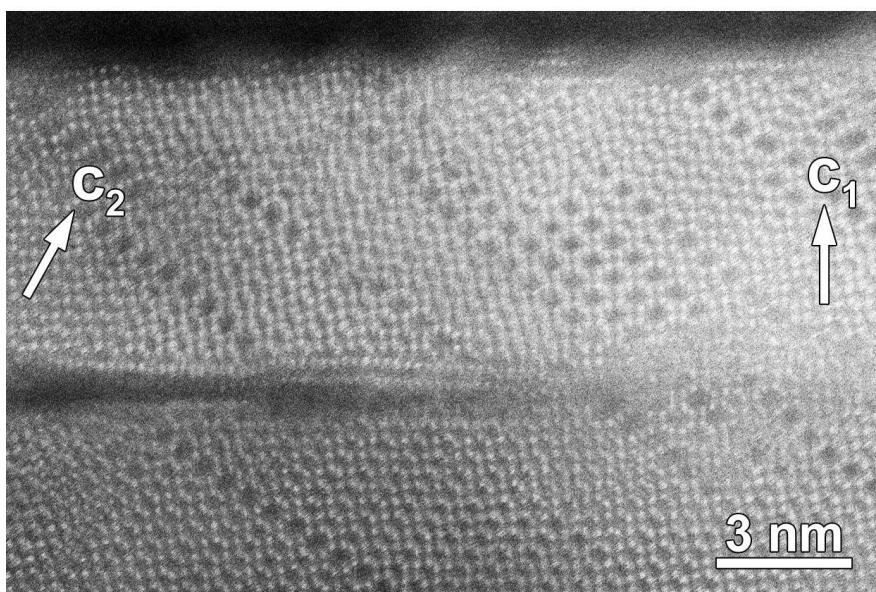
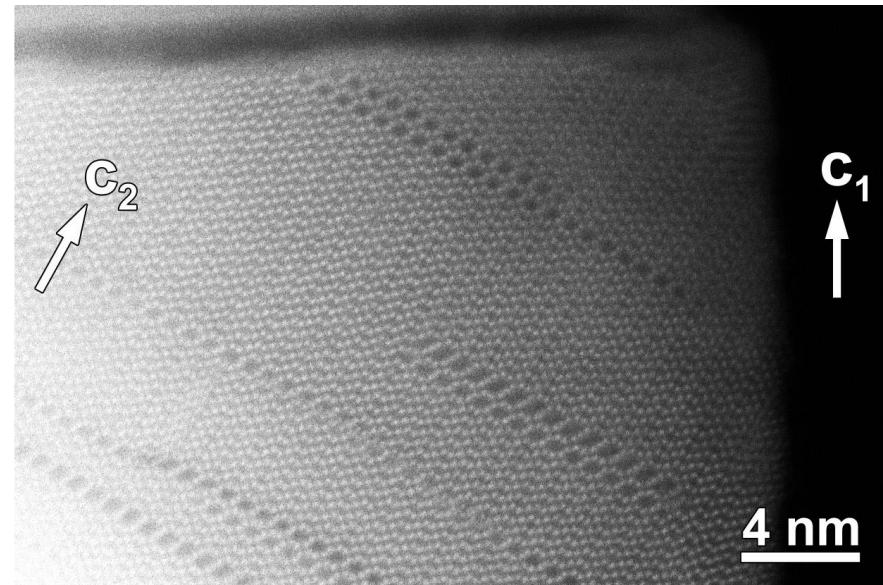
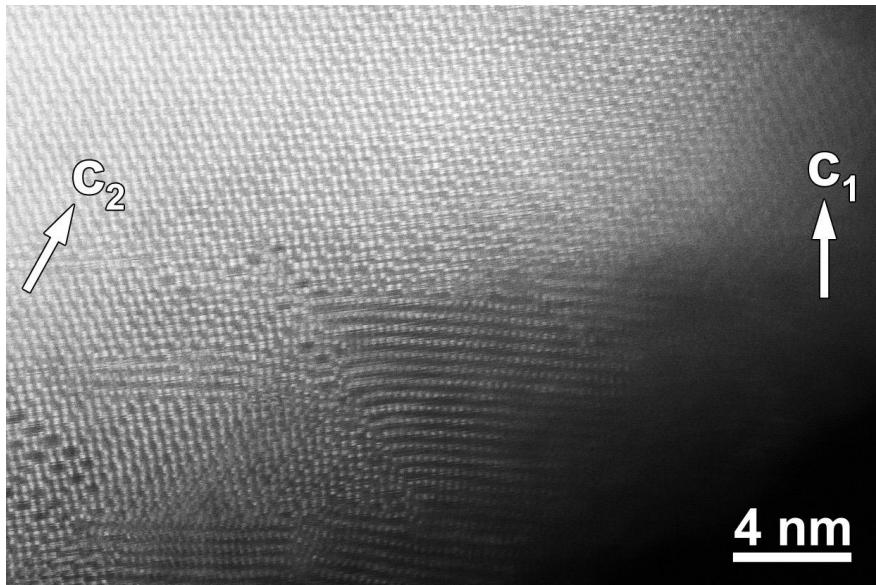


Structure solution:

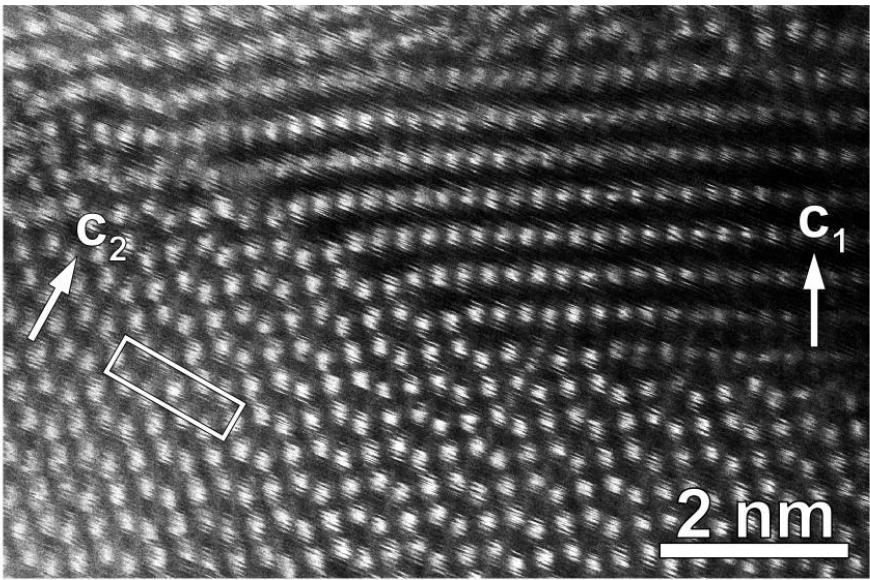
1. SAED \rightarrow symmetry
2. EDT \rightarrow Rh and O positions
3. Monte Carlo simulations to optimize Li



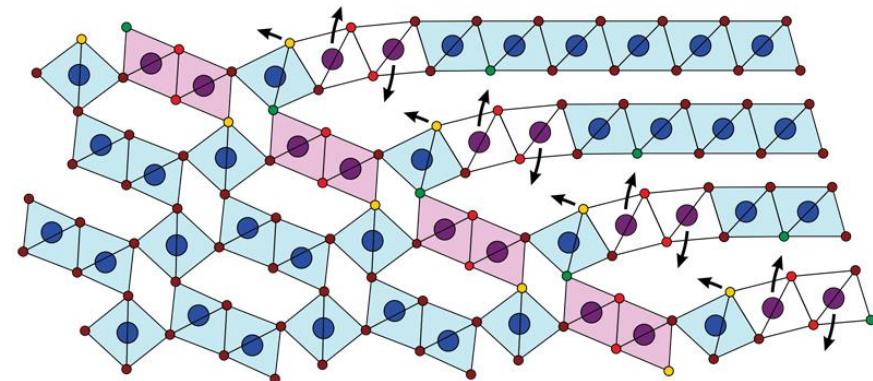
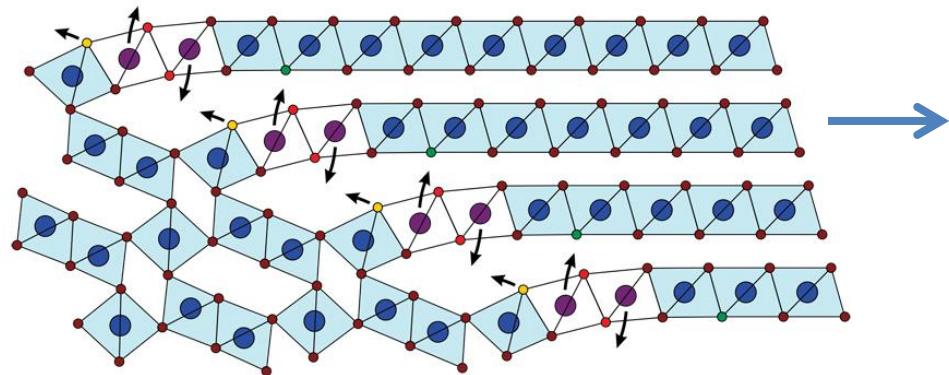
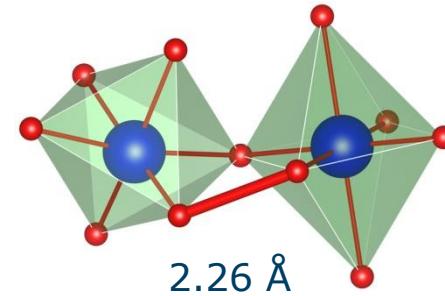
Li_xRhO_2 transformation mechanism



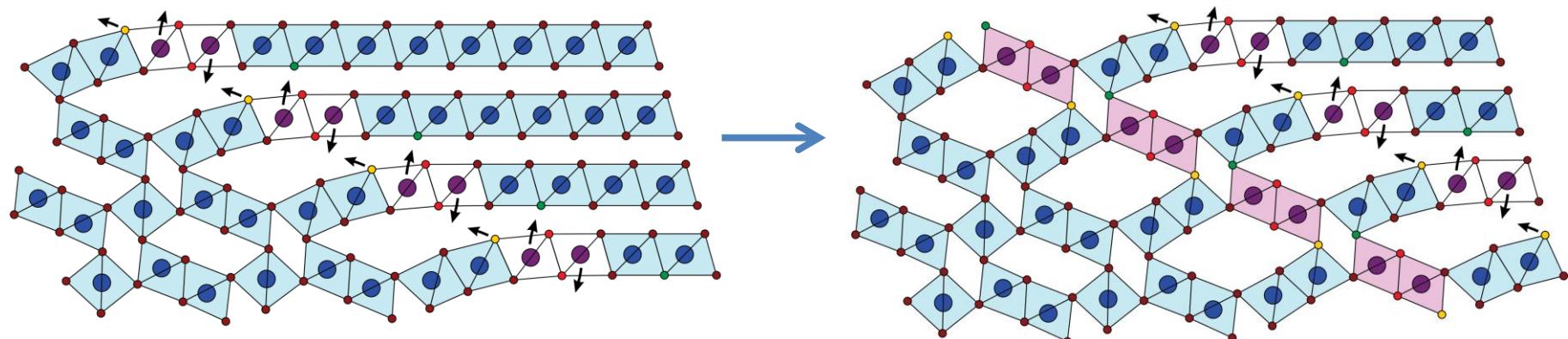
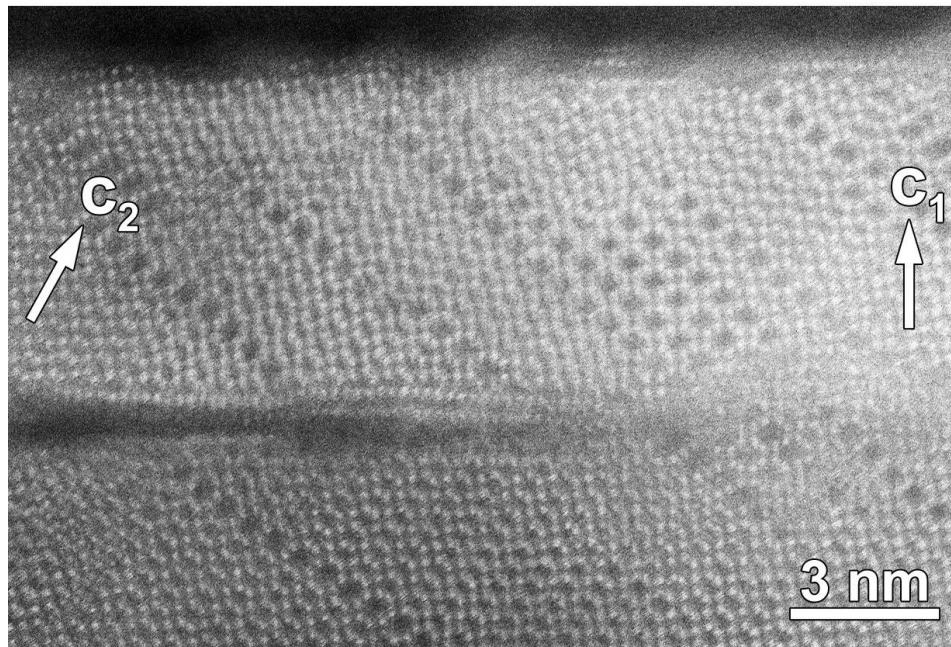
Li_xRhO_2 transformation mechanism



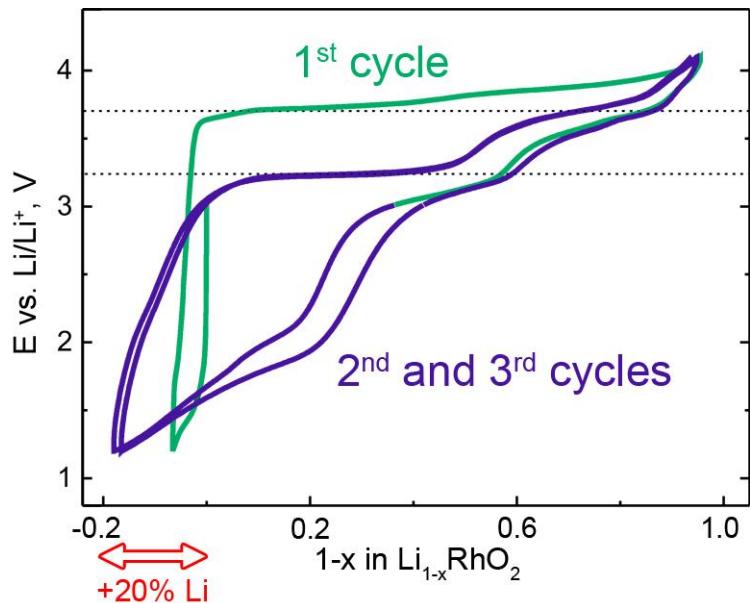
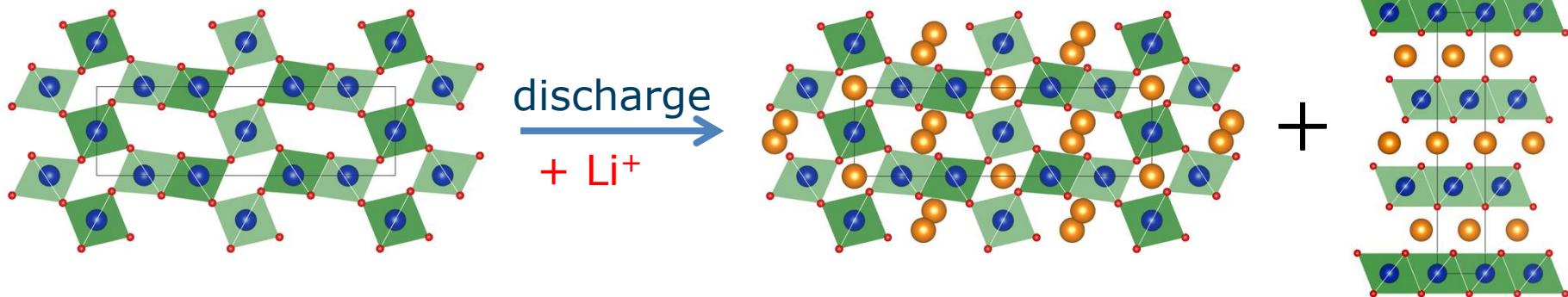
Partial O oxidation triggers corrugation of the RuO_2 layers



Li_xRhO_2 transformation mechanism



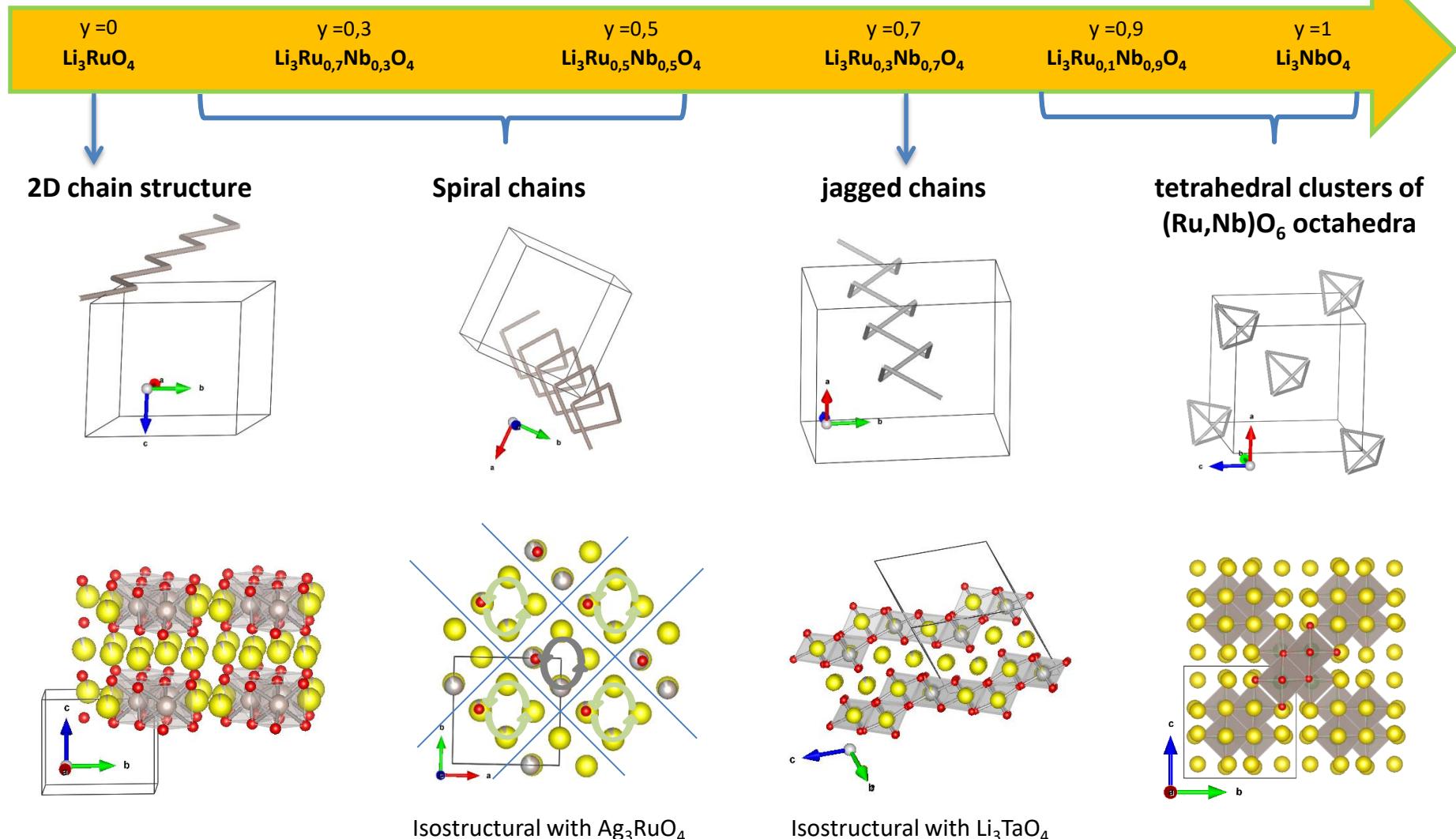
Li_xRhO_2 lithiation of the 3D structure



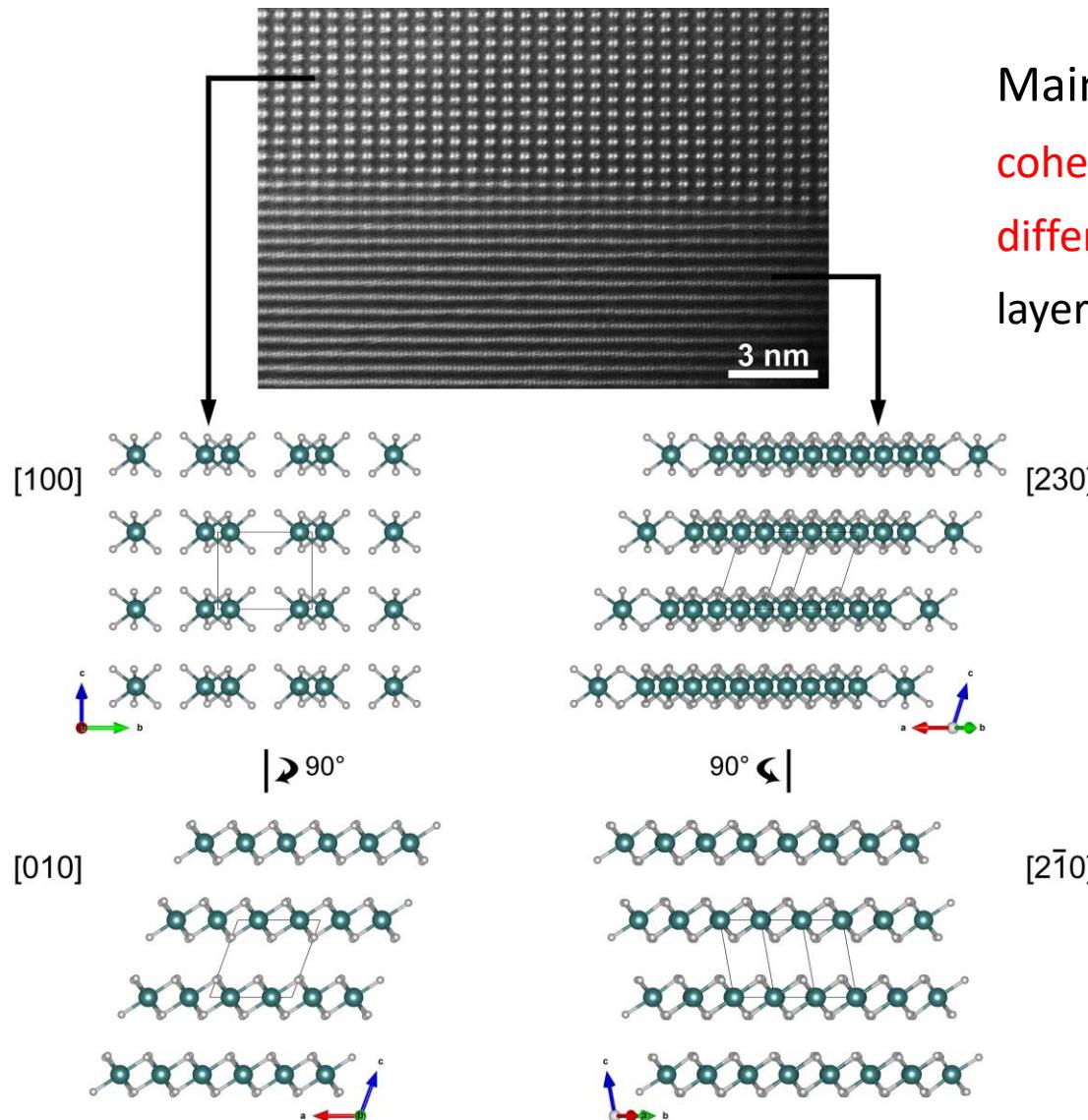
1. Partially reversible transformation
 $3\text{D} \rightarrow 2\text{D}$
2. 3D structure hosts extra 20% Li in rutile channels

$\text{Li}_3\text{Ru}_{1-y}\text{Nb}_y\text{O}_4$: Li-rich structures

Rock-salt structures, but the topology of (Ru,Nb) distribution is different



Li_3RuO_4



Main type of defects:

coherent intergrowths of domains with different orientation of the Li and (LiRu) layer stacking

O sublattice uninterrupted

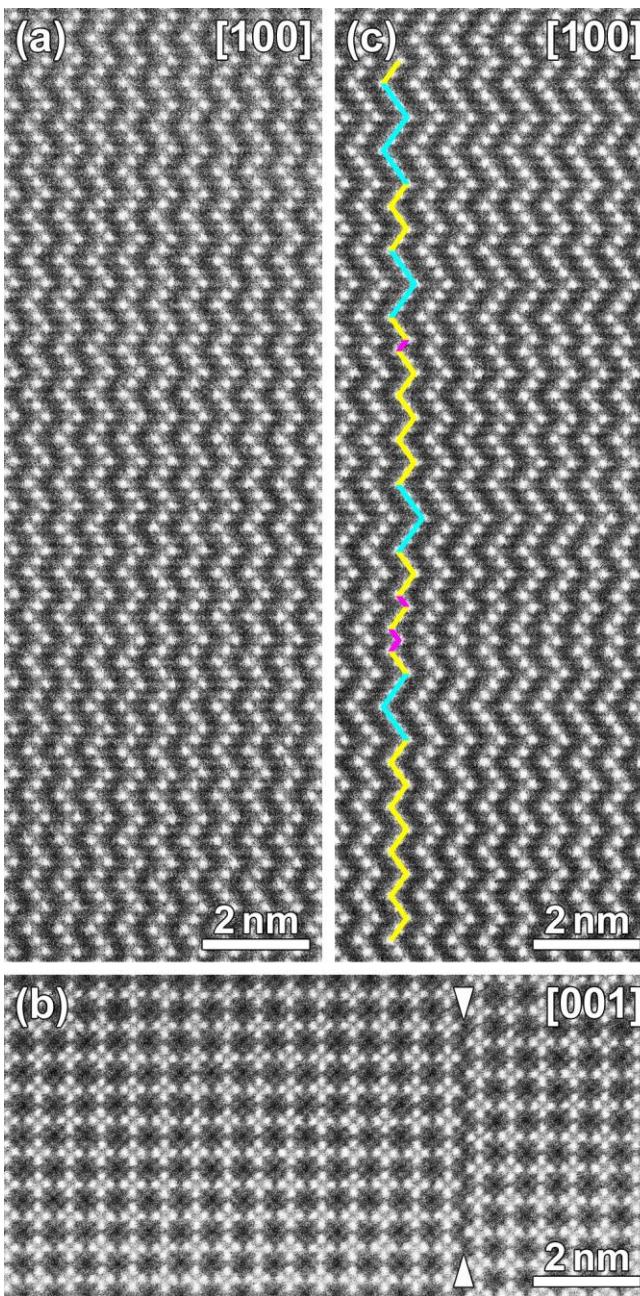
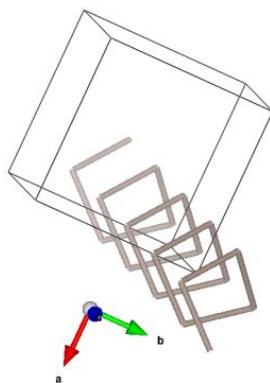
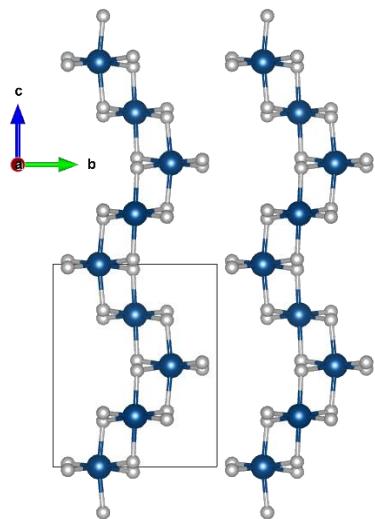
No local antisite disorder !

Fairly large coherent domains

smooth structure refinement with XRD + NPD

$\text{Li}_3\text{Ru}_{0.5}\text{Nb}_{0.5}\text{O}_4$

Spiral $(\text{Ru},\text{Nb})\text{O}_6$ chains
each segment 2 octahedra



Defects:

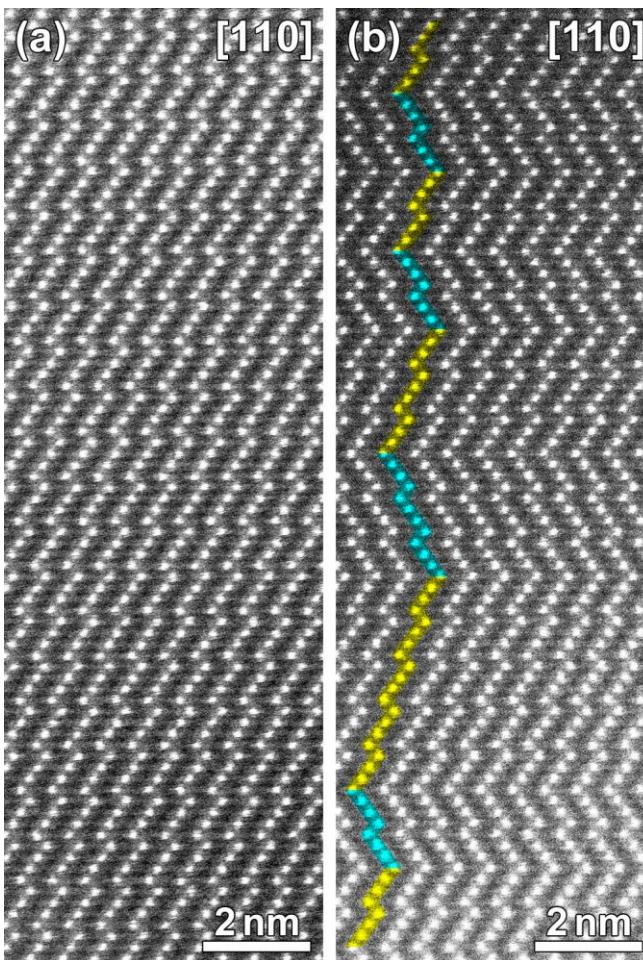
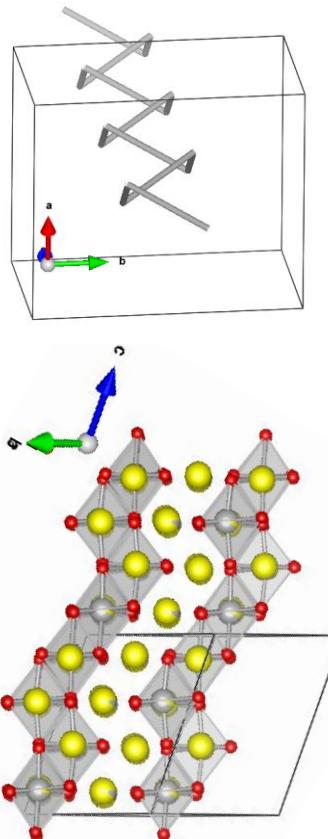
1. (100) APBs that shift the spirals over $a/2$
2. cooperative variations in the $\text{Li}/(\text{Ru},\text{Nb})$ ordering pattern



XRD + NPD refinement:
partial $\text{Li}/(\text{Ru},\text{Nb})$ mixing

$\text{Li}_3\text{Ru}_{0.3}\text{Nb}_{0.7}\text{O}_4$

Jagged $(\text{Ru},\text{Nb})\text{O}_6$ chains
each segment 2 octahedra

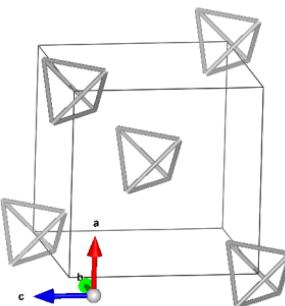
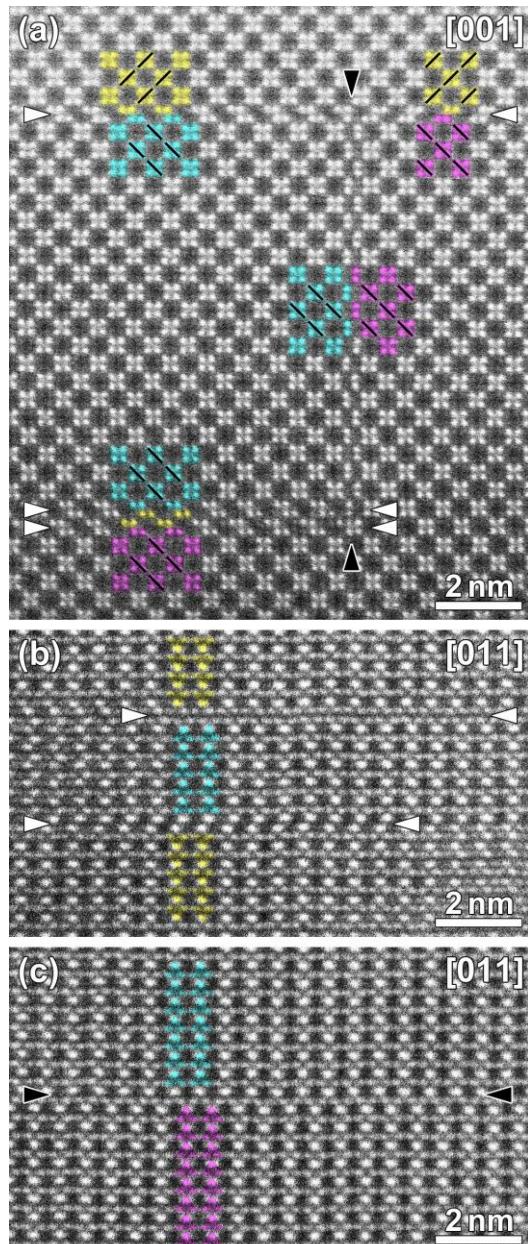


Defects:

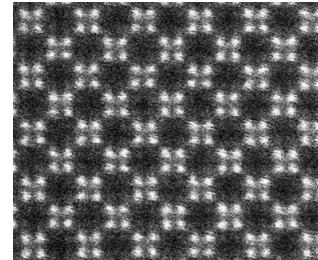
cooperative variations in
the $\text{Li}/(\text{Ru},\text{Nb})$ ordering
pattern



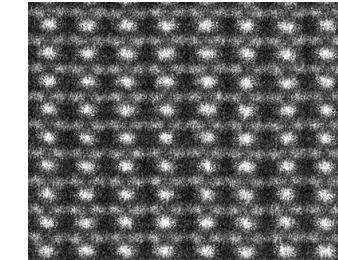
XRD + NPD refinement:
partial $\text{Li}/(\text{Ru},\text{Nb})$ mixing



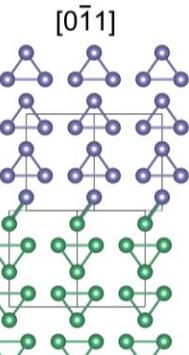
[001]



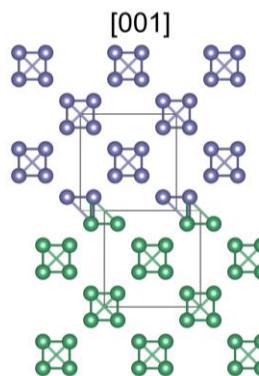
[011]



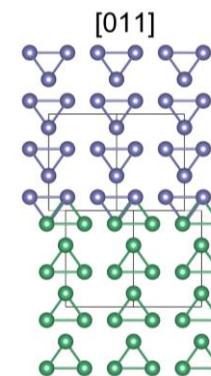
APB type 1 ($\triangleright \triangleleft$): shift over $a/4$ + 90° rotation



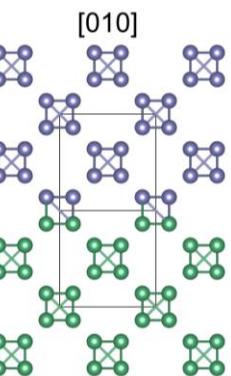
45° ↗



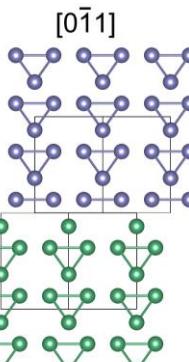
45° ↙



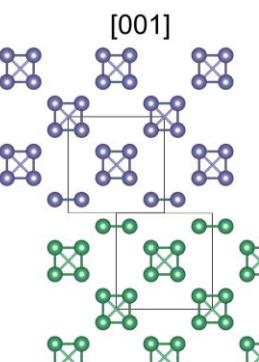
45° ↙



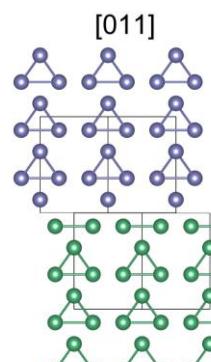
APB type 2 ($\triangleright \triangleleft$): shift over $a/2$



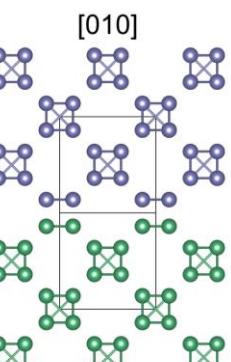
45° ↗



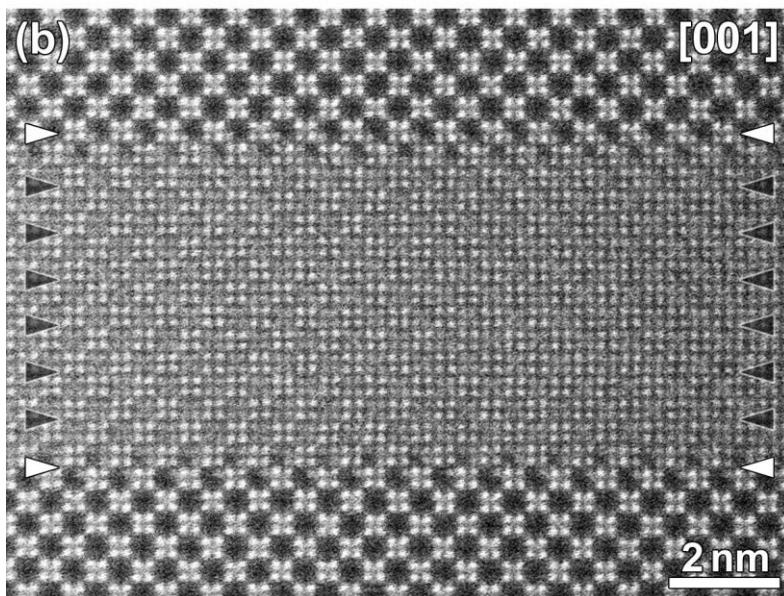
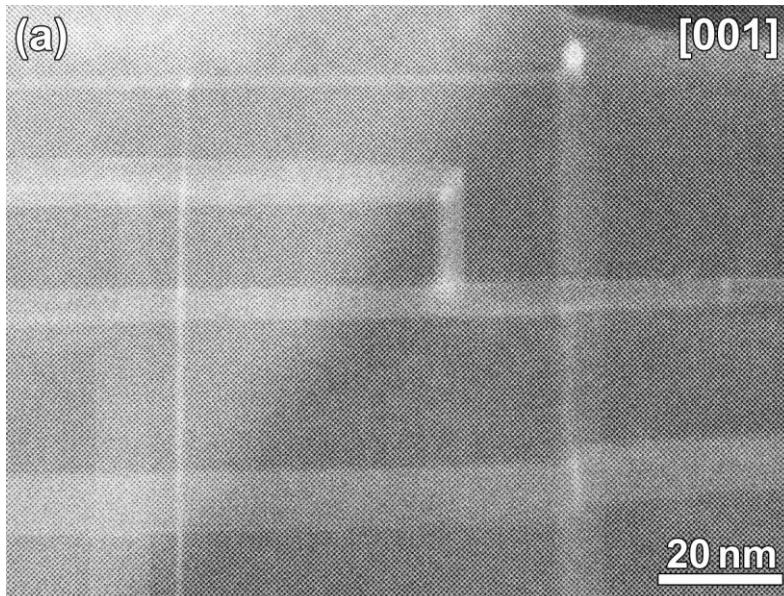
45° ↙



45° ↙



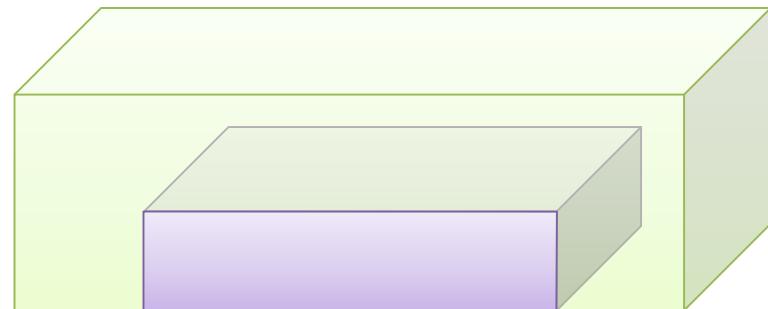
$\text{Li}_3\text{Ru}_{0.1}\text{Nb}_{0.9}\text{O}_4$



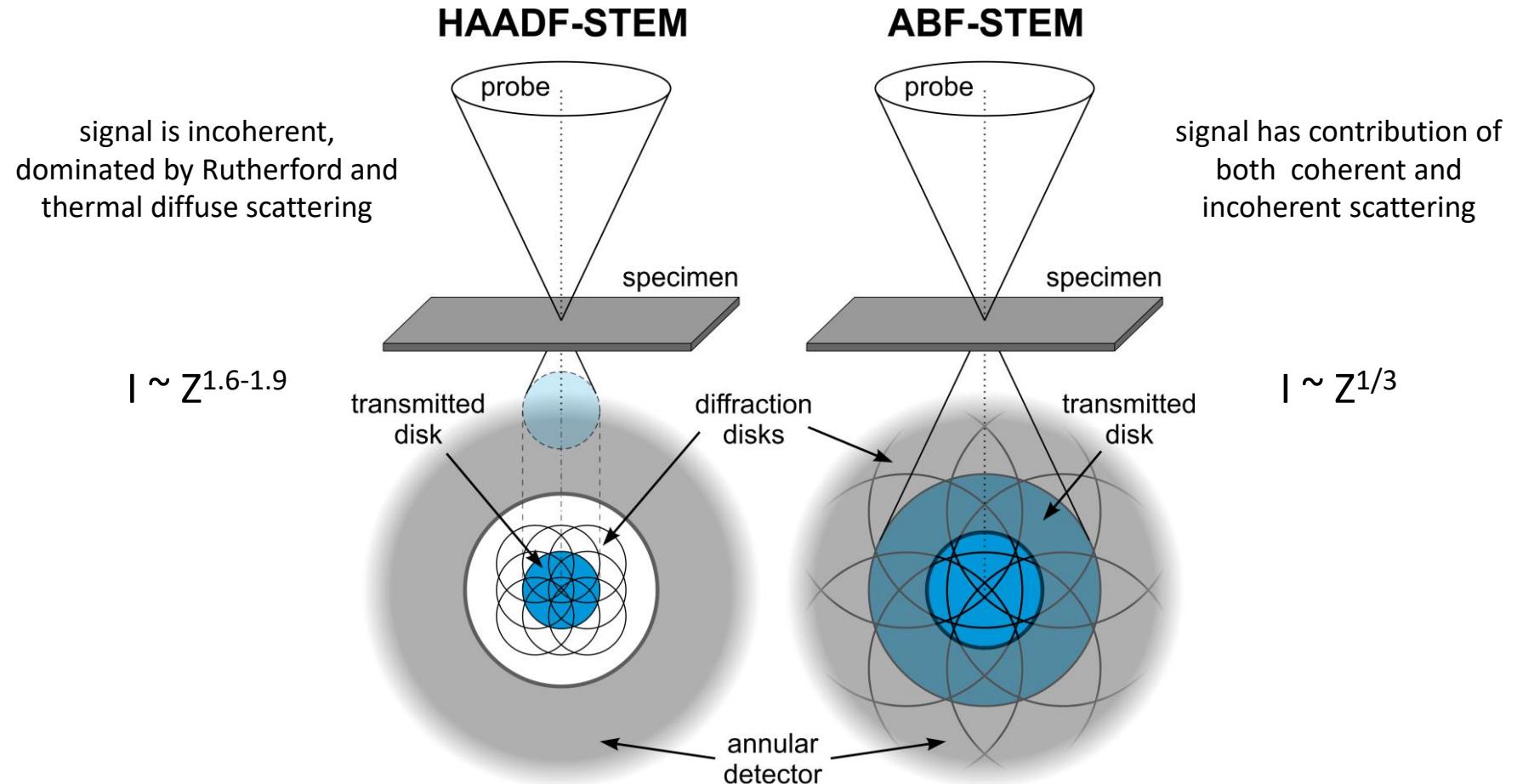
O sublattice uninterrupted

Small size of the coherent domains

anisotropic reflection
broadening in the
XRD + NPD refinement

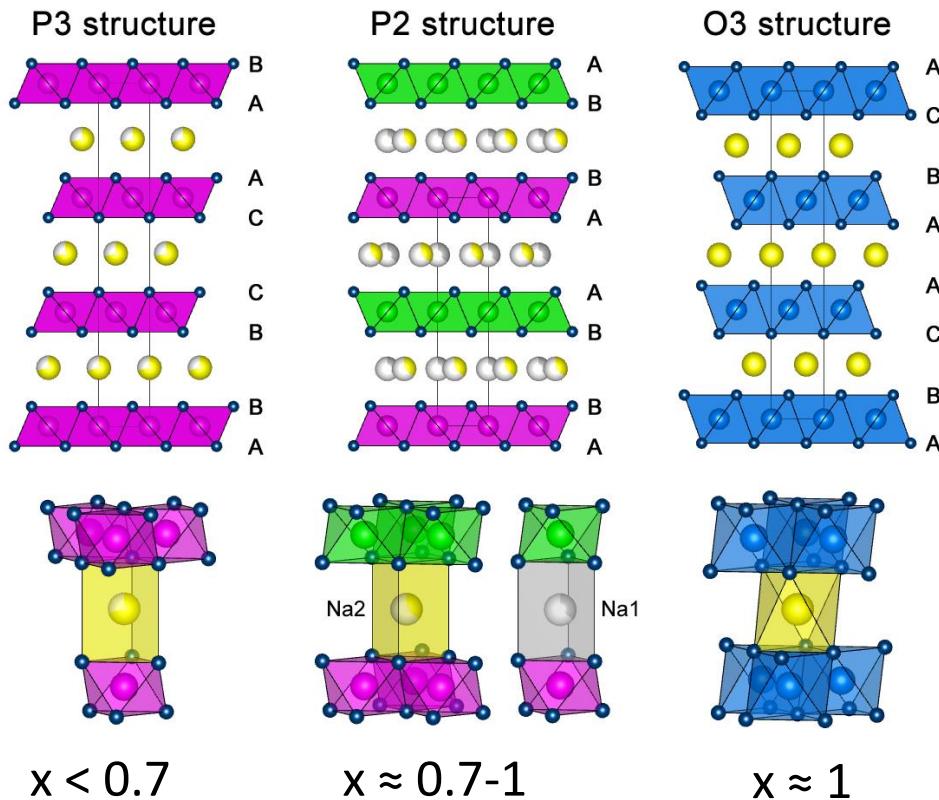


ABF-STEM vs. HAADF-STEM



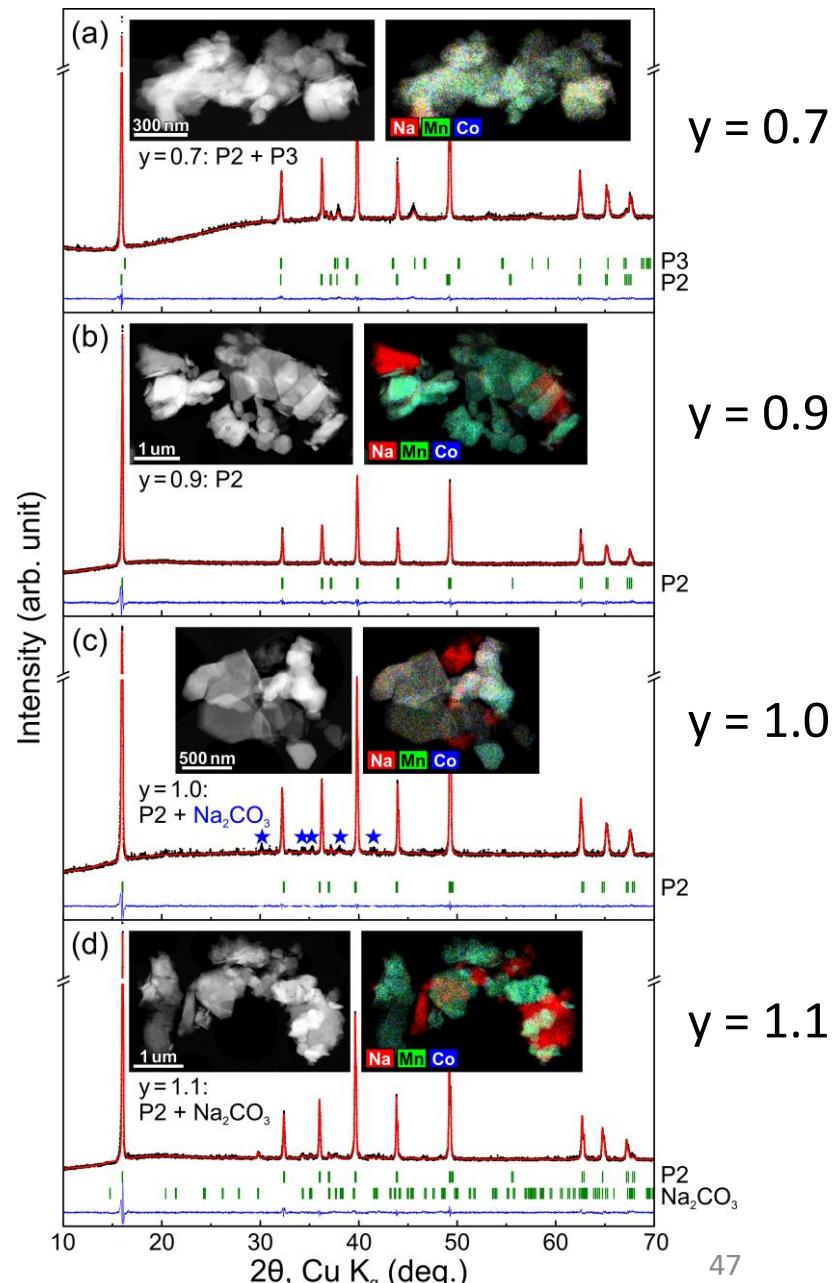
- ✓ straightforward interpretation of STEM images
- ✓ contrast robust to thickness variations
- ✗ sensitive to the design of the microscope
(i.e. type of gun, probe-corrector)

$\text{Na}_x(\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2})\text{O}_2$

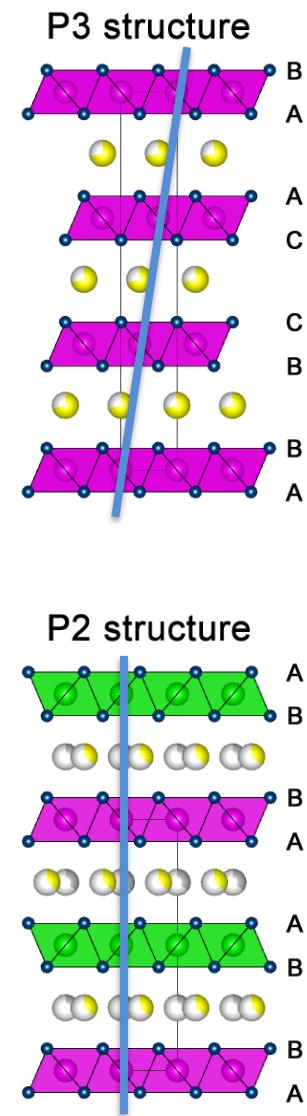
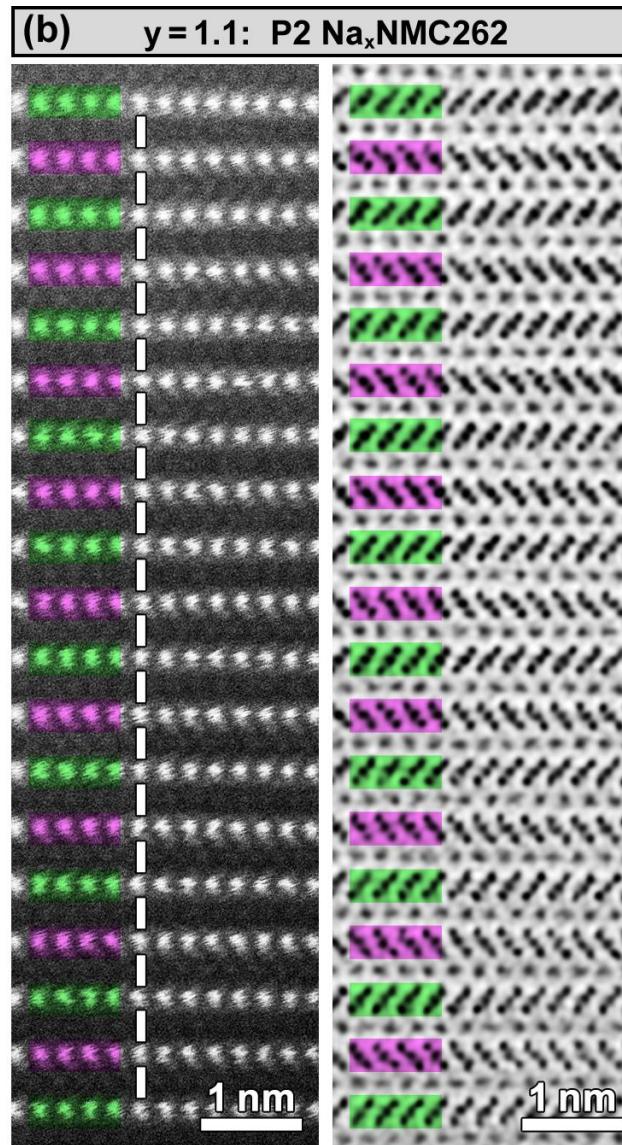
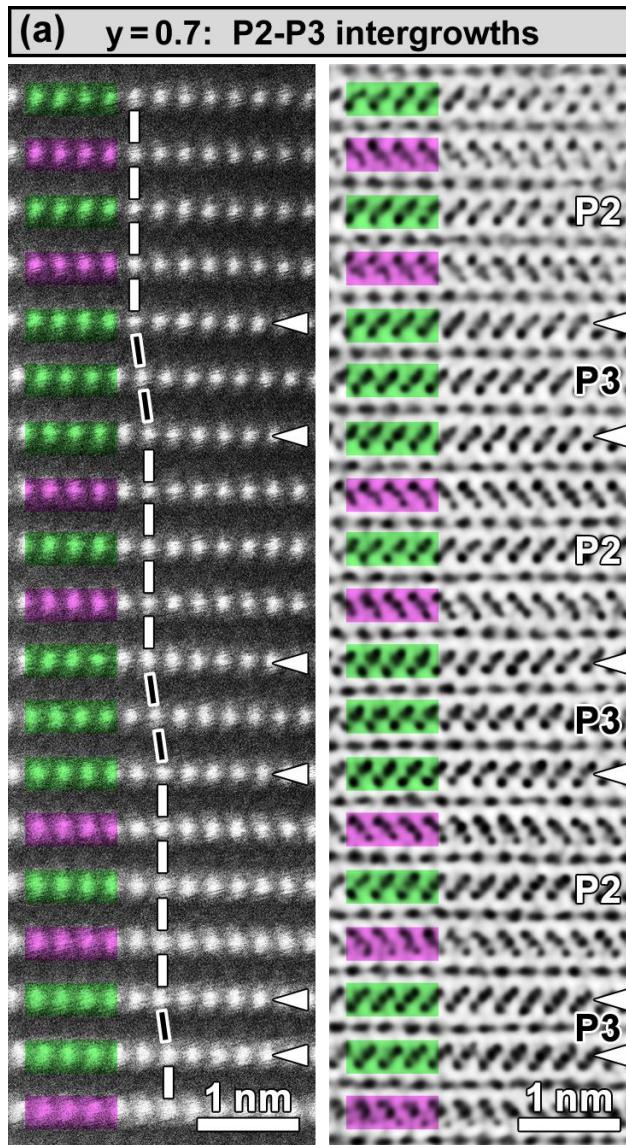


Stabilization of the P2 phase using
 Na_2CO_3 excess

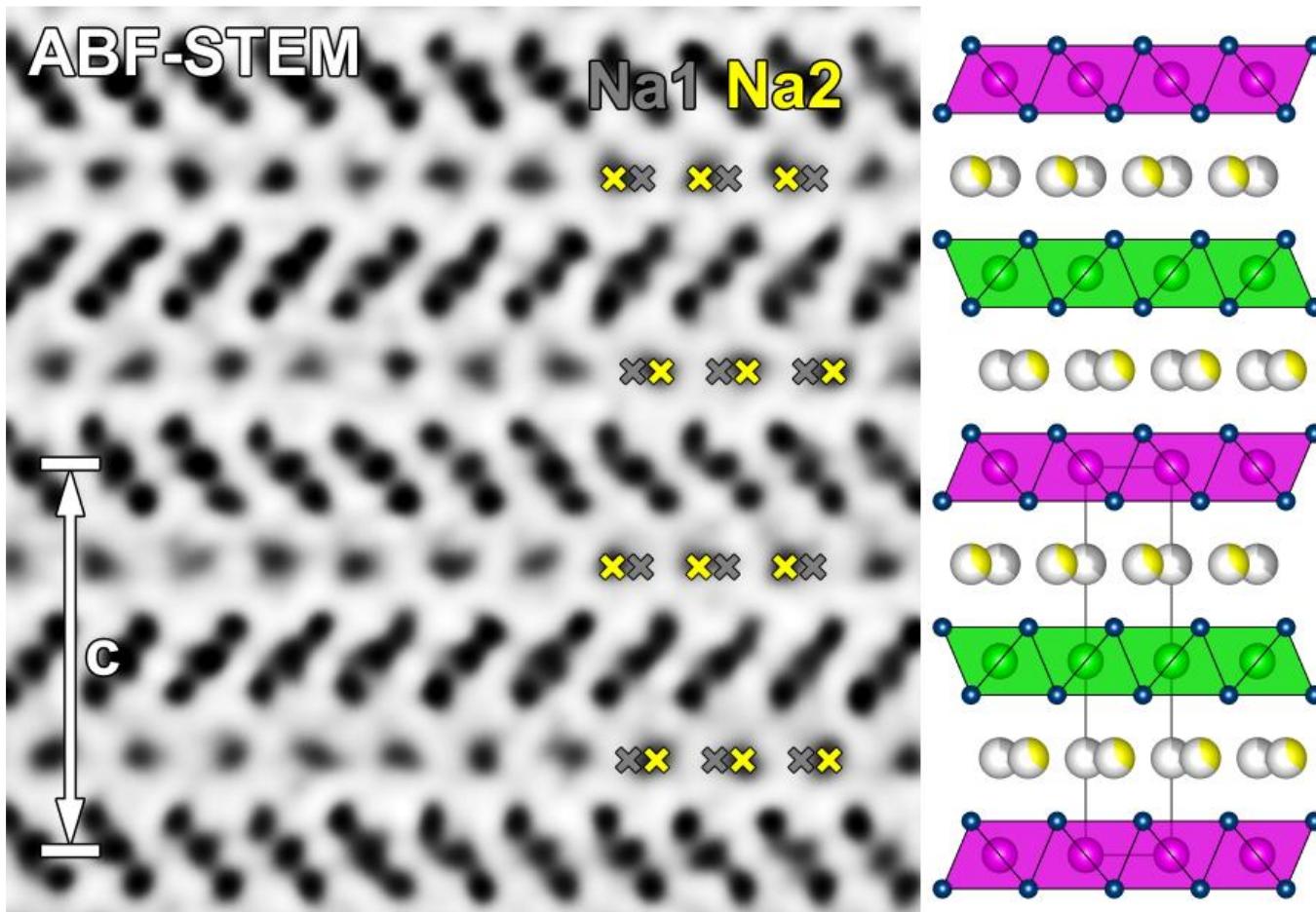
y – total Na/M ratio



$\text{Na}_x(\text{Ni}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.2})\text{O}_2$ stacking of metal layers

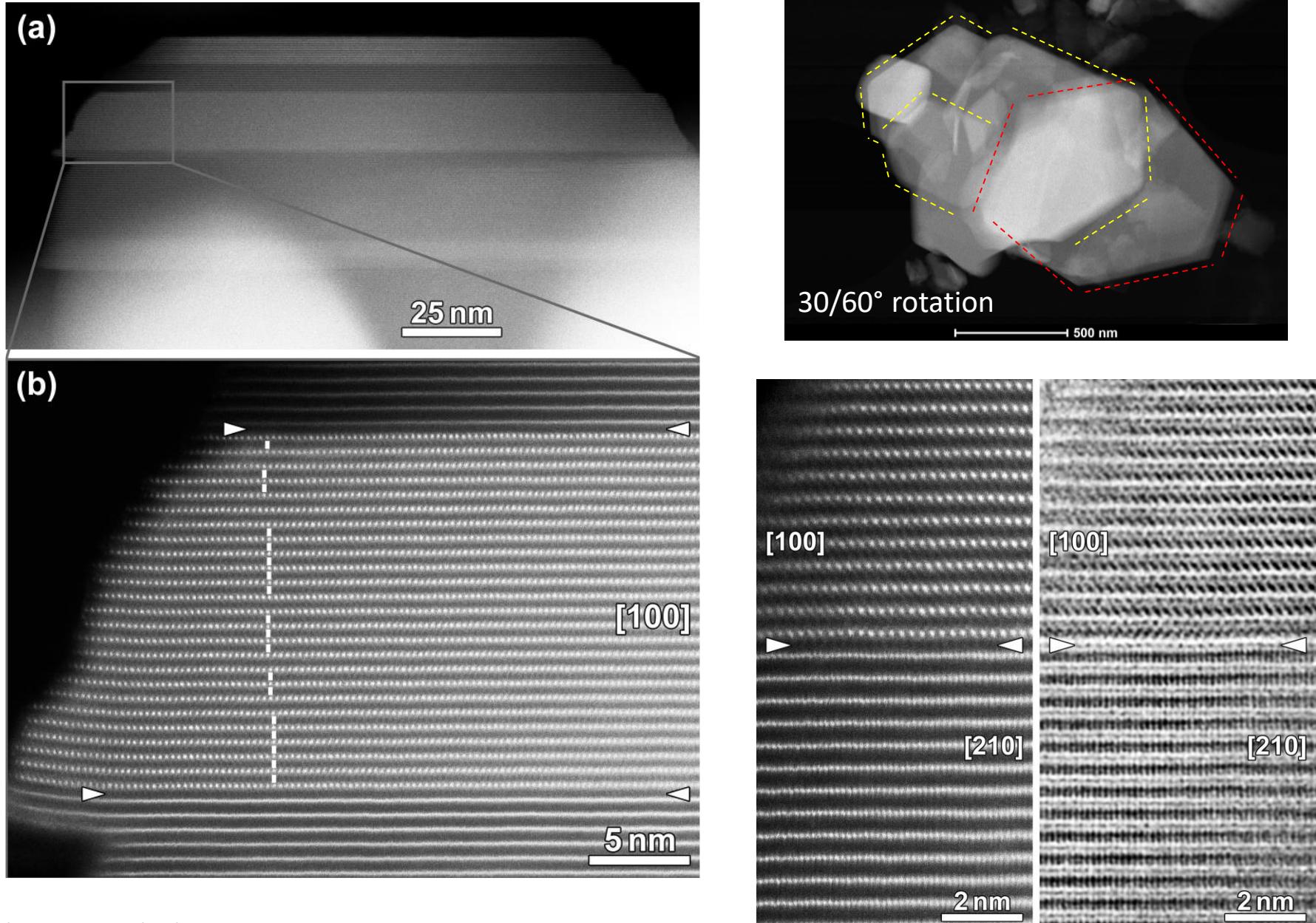


Na positions in P2 structure

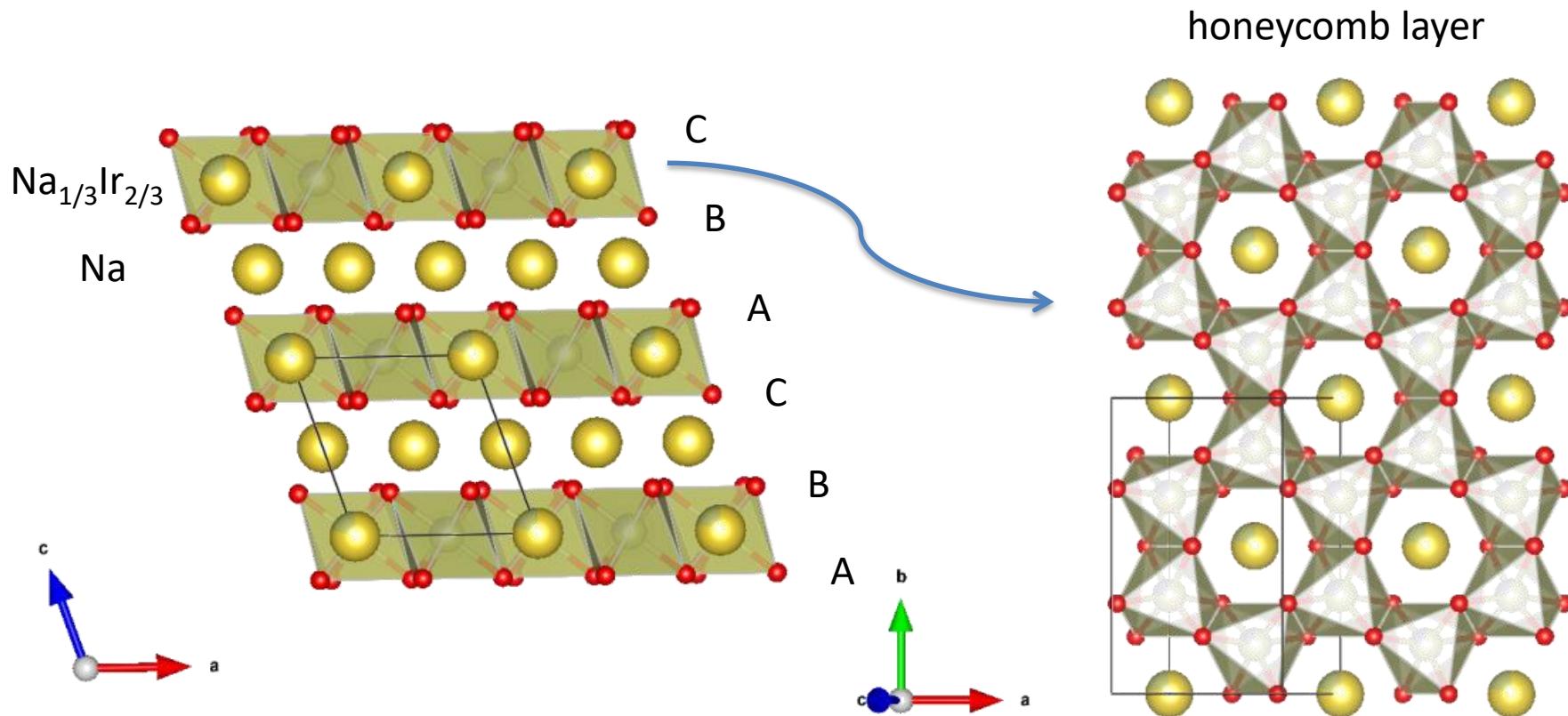


Na2 positions are preferentially occupied in the structure

Turbostratic defects in P2 structure, $\gamma = 0.7$



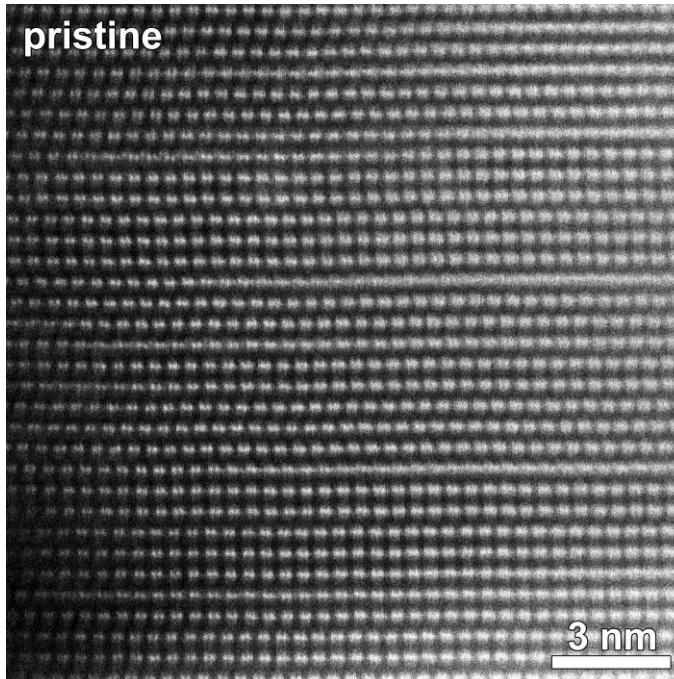
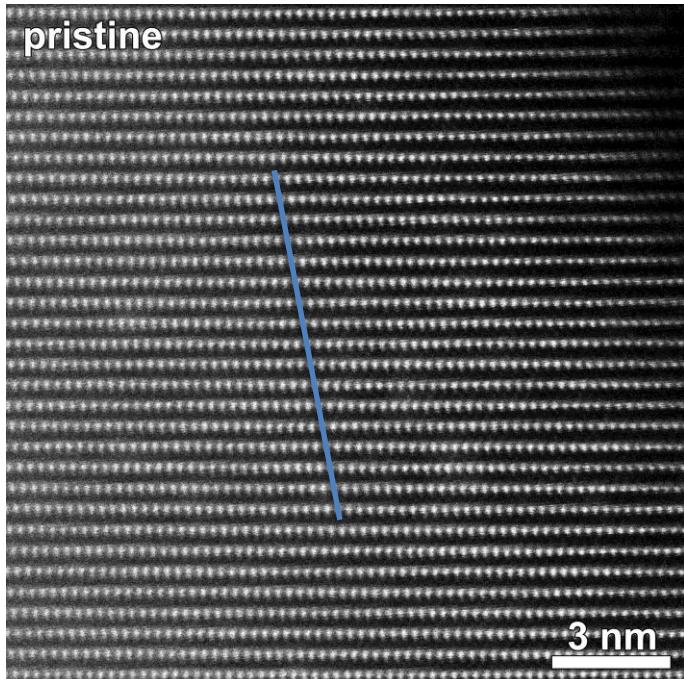
Na_2IrO_3 structure of the pristine material



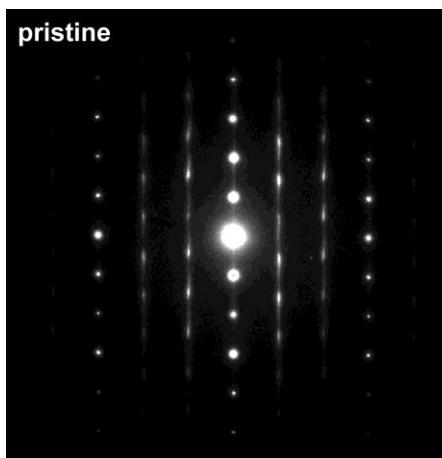
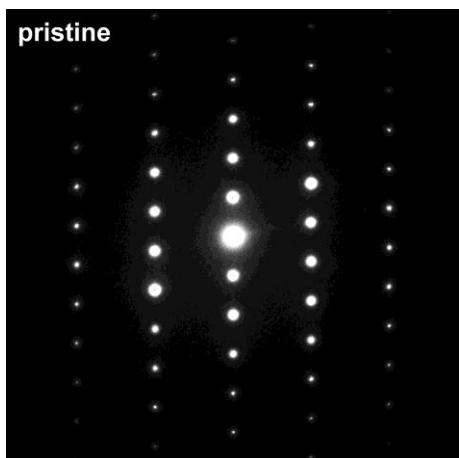
1. cubic close packing of O atoms
2. Every second octahedral layer is occupied by Ir, which alternate with Na layers
3. 1/3 of the Ir atoms is replaced with Na forming a honeycomb arrangement of Ir atoms

$\text{Na}_{2-x}\text{IrO}_3$ pristine

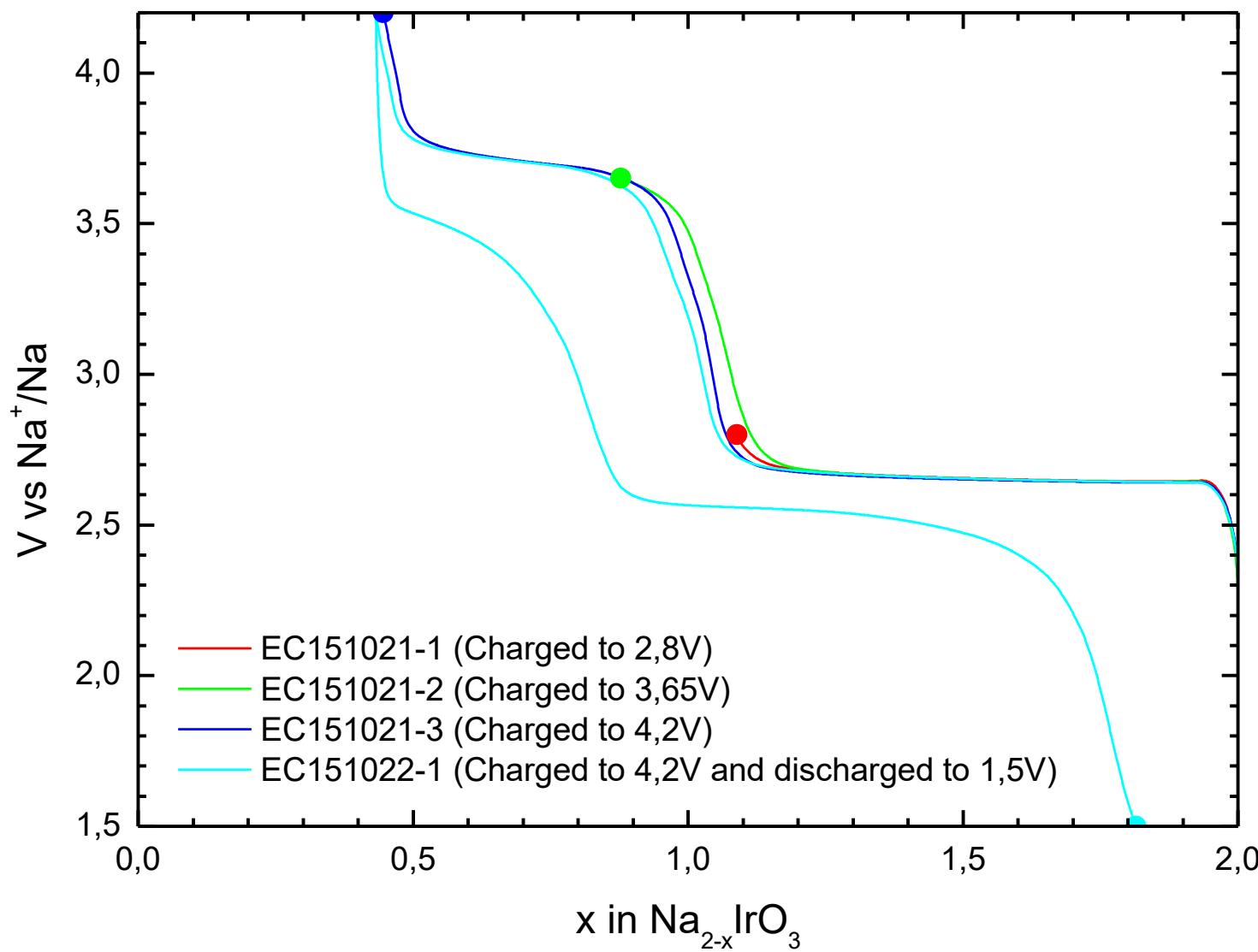
Measured Na:Ir = 1.61(17) → normalised to Na:Ir = 2



O3 structure:
1) ccp O packing
2) systematic
shifts of the
honeycomb
layers

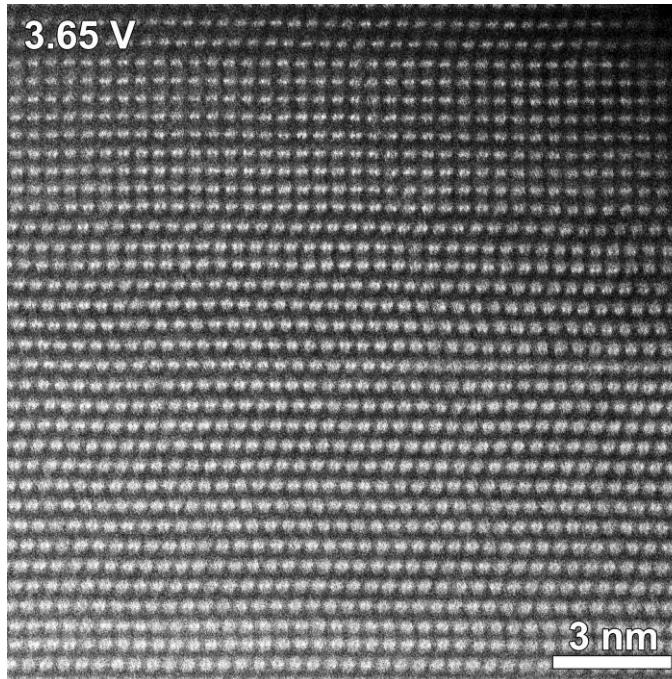
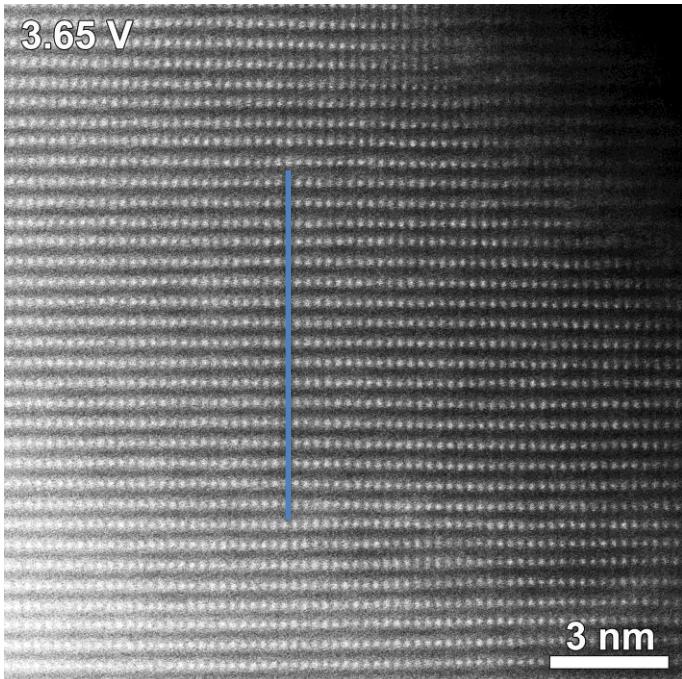


Electrochemical oxidation

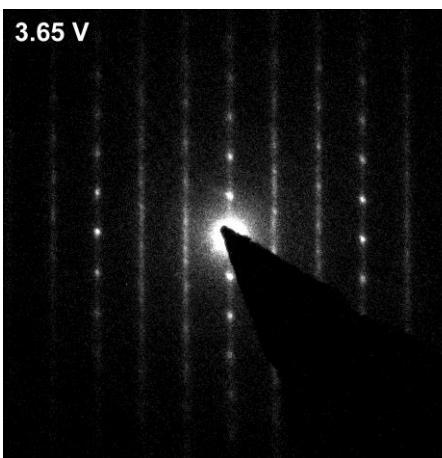
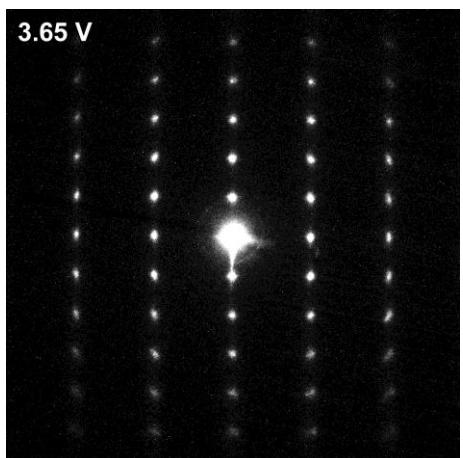


$\text{Na}_{2-x}\text{IrO}_3$ charged to 3.65 V

Measured Na:Ir = 0.62(6) → normalised to Na:Ir = 0.77(11)

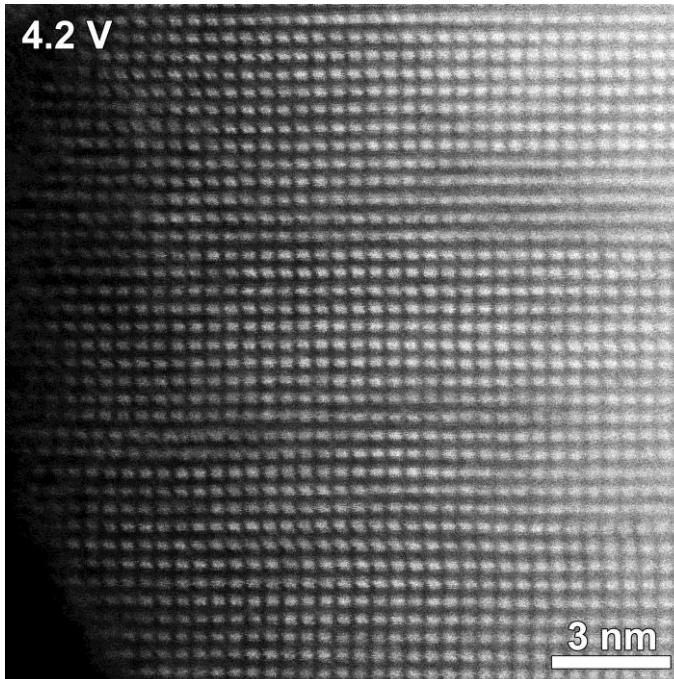
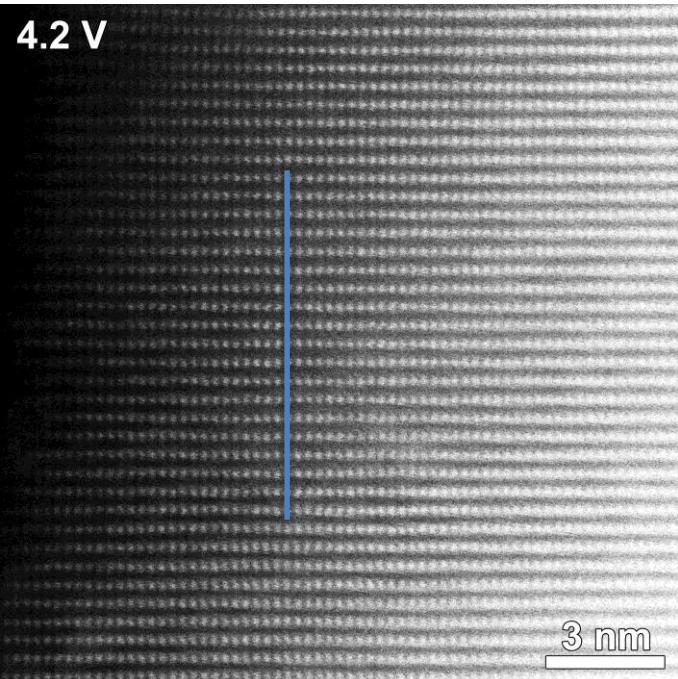


- 1) *hcp* O packing
- 2) systematic shifts of the honeycomb layers



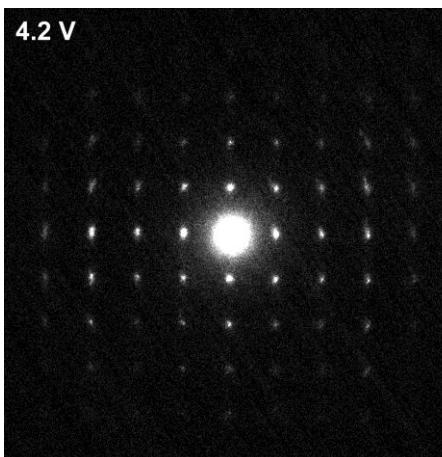
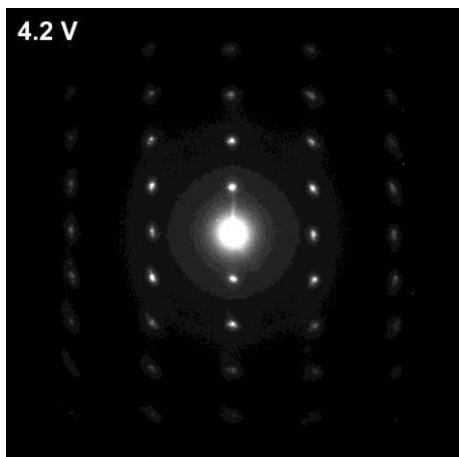
$\text{Na}_{2-x}\text{IrO}_3$ charged to 4.2 V

Measured Na:Ir = 0.62(6) → normalised to Na:Ir = 0.77(11)

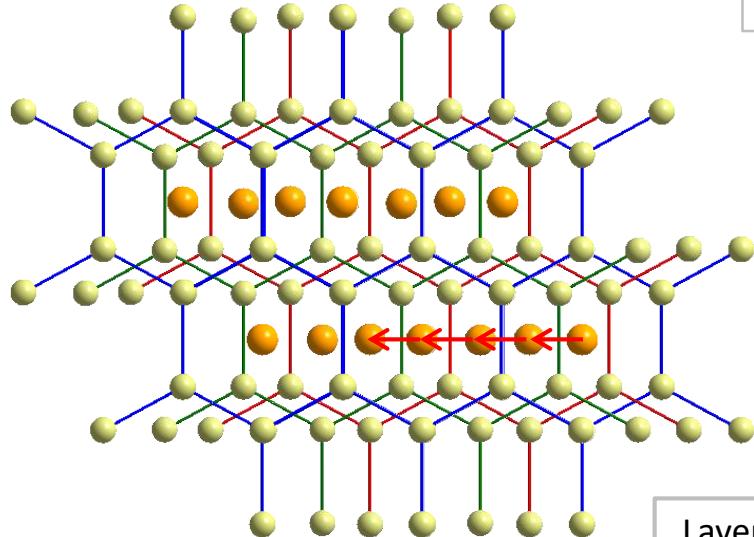


O1 structure:

- 1) *hcp* O packing
- 2) honeycomb layers on top of each other

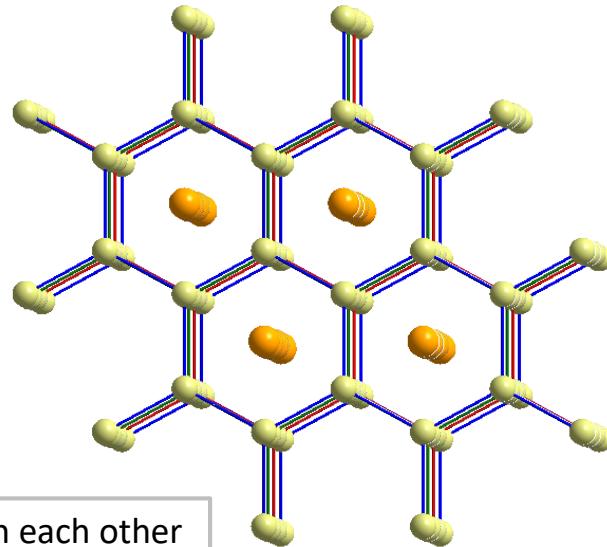


O₃-Na₂IrO₃ (ideal pristine)

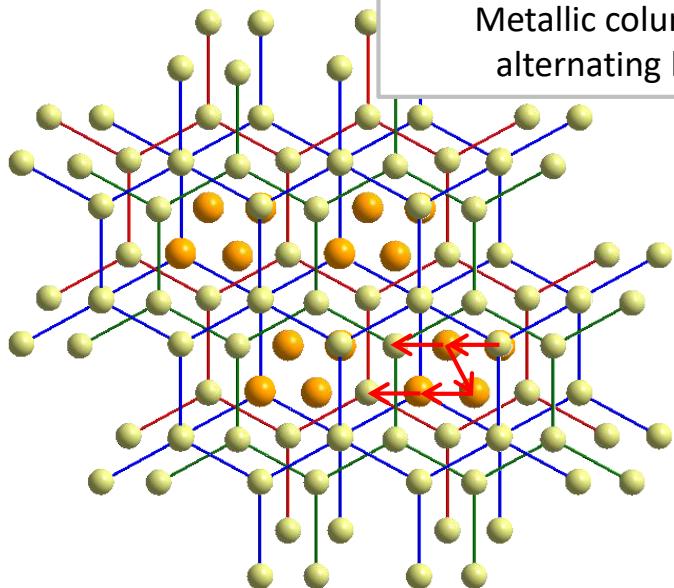


Iridium
Sodium

O₁-Na_{0.5}IrO₃ (charged sample)



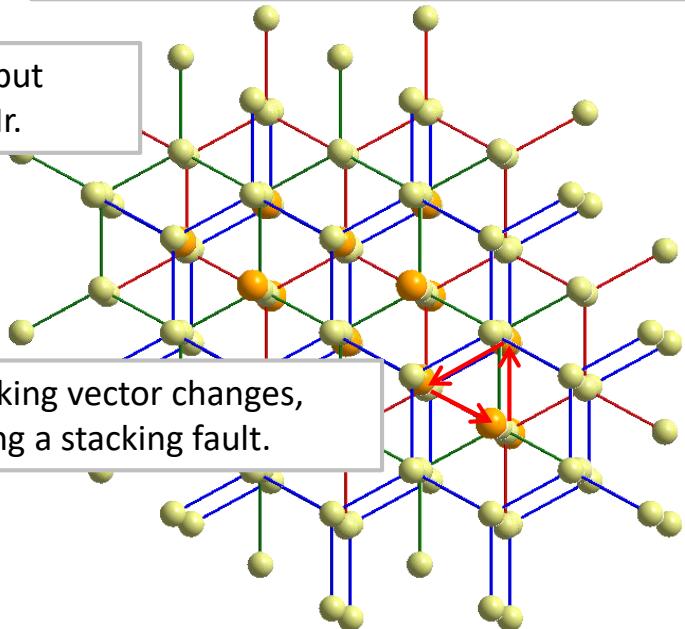
O₃-Na₂IrO₃ (real pristine with stacking faults)



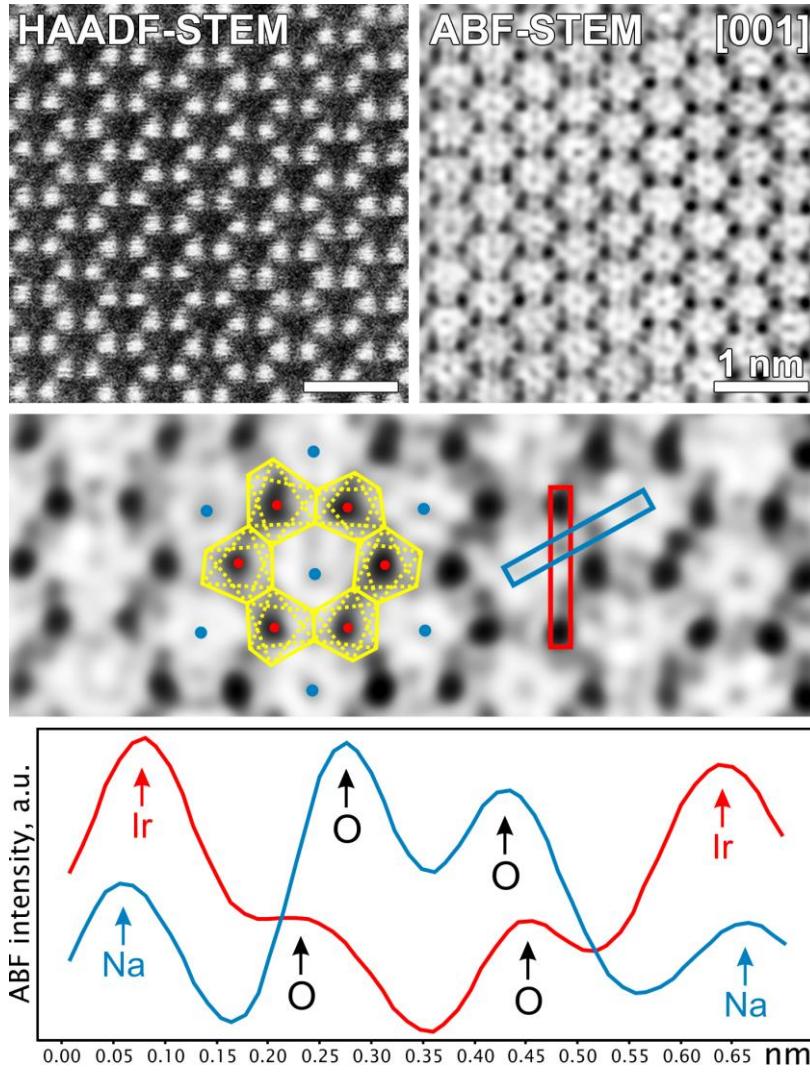
Layers are stacked upon each other with the same

Layers are perfectly stacked on top each other, with Na columns and Ir columns.

The stacking vector changes, creating a stacking fault.

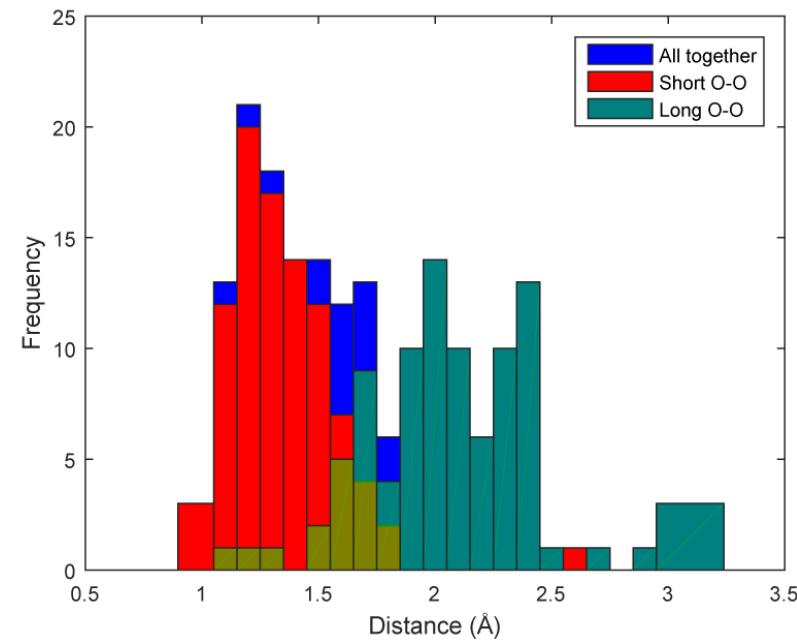


Na_xIrO_3 : anion redox



Fully charged Na_xIrO_3 (4.3 V)

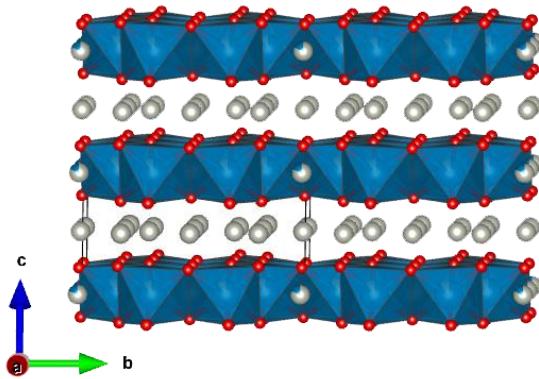
shortening of 3 out of 6
O-O (projected) distances:
formation **peroxy-like dimers**



Data consistent with the NPD refinement!

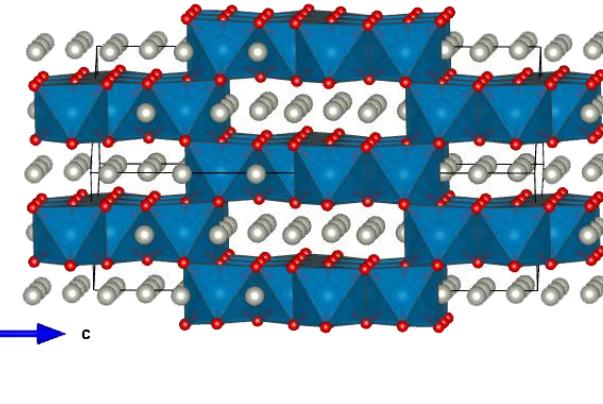
Li_2IrO_3 polymorphs

$\alpha\text{-Li}_2\text{IrO}_3$



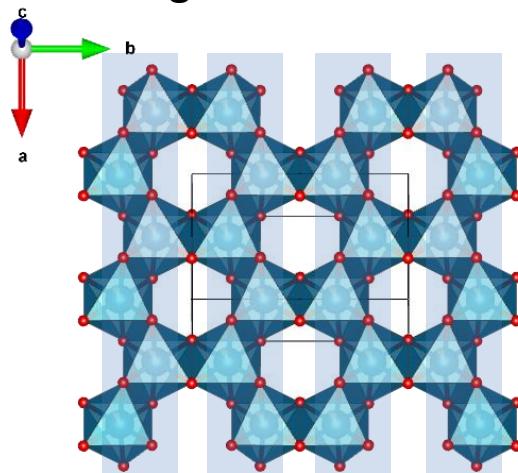
$\beta\text{-Li}_2\text{IrO}_3$

$[111]_{\text{NaCl}}$



1. Both are based on the cubic close packing of the O atoms
2. In the pristine state Ir and Li occupy octahedral sites

“honeycomb”
arrangement of Ir atoms

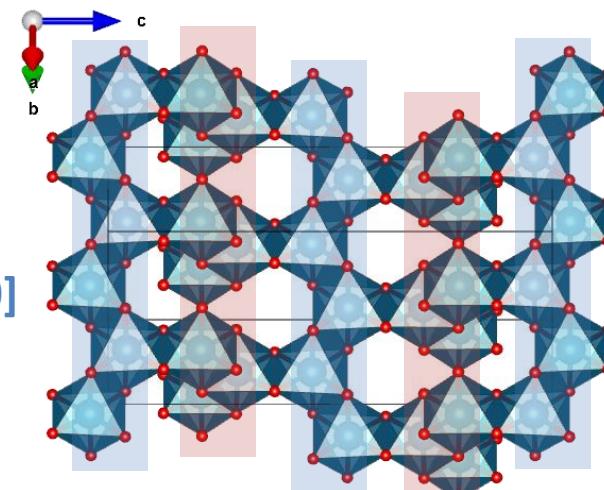


interpenetrating zig-zag chains
of IrO_6 octahedra

$[111]_{\text{NaCl}}$

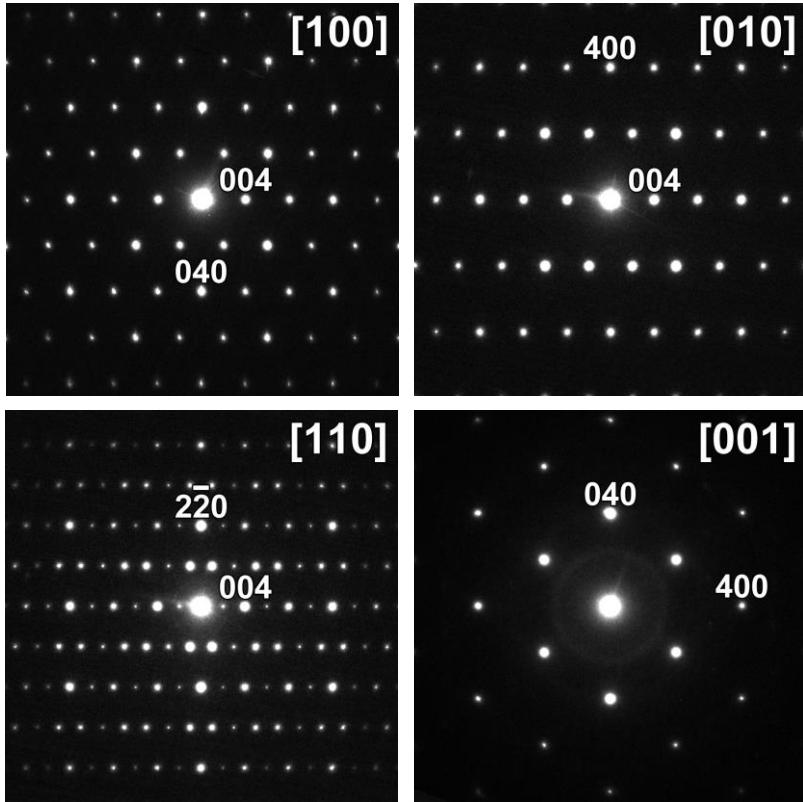
$[110]$

$[\bar{1}\bar{1}0]$



β -Li₂IrO₃

Electron diffraction

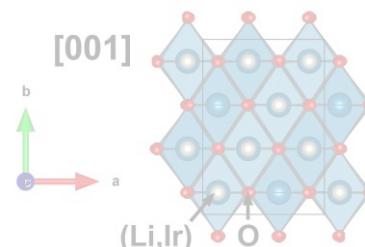
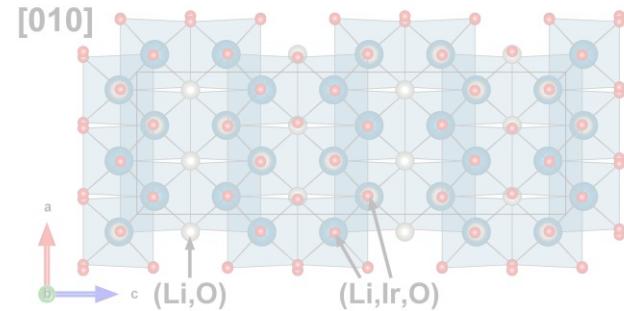
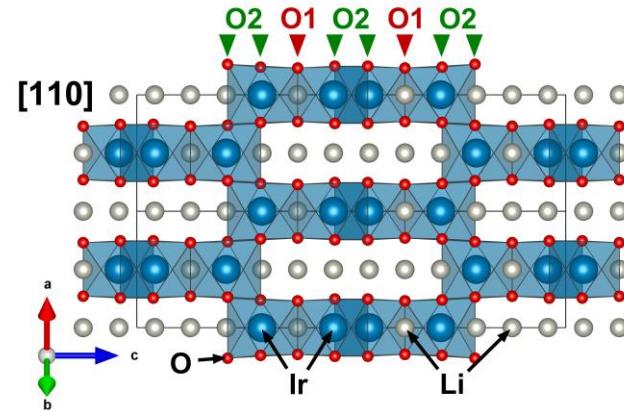
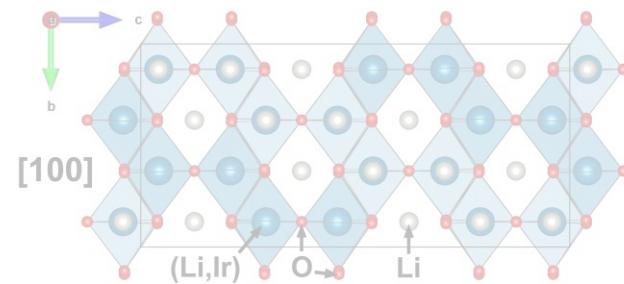


S.G. *Fddd*

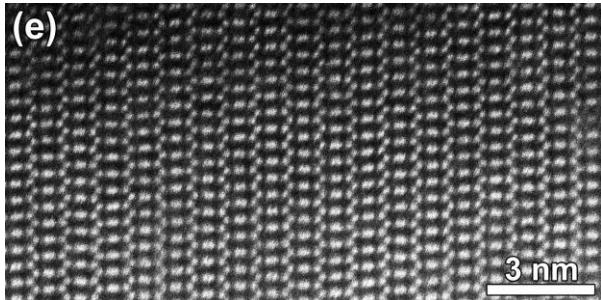
$$a \approx 5.9 \text{ \AA}$$

$$b \approx 8.4 \text{ \AA}$$

$$c \approx 17.8 \text{ \AA}$$

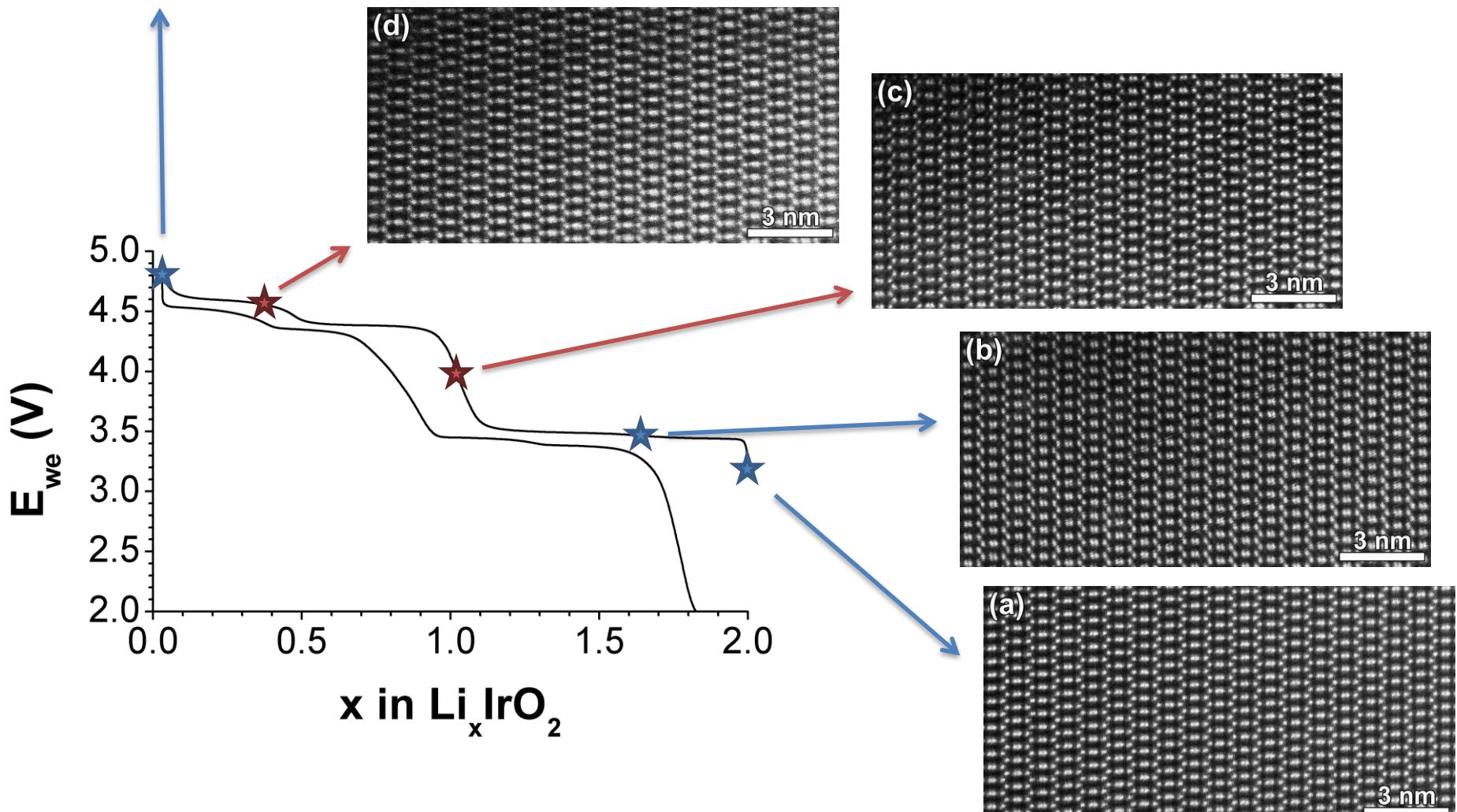


(e)

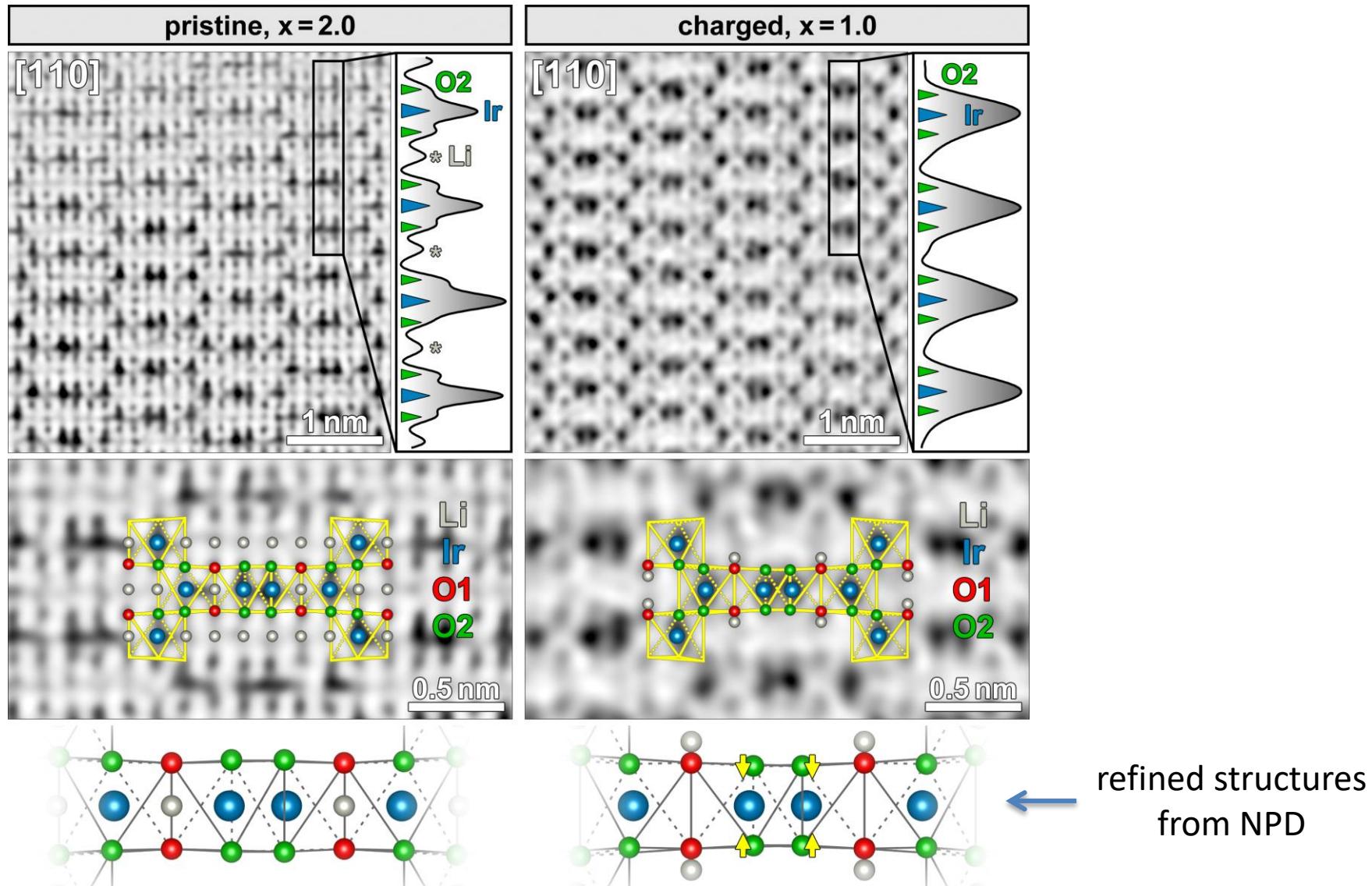


Structure evolution of $\beta\text{-Li}_x\text{IrO}_3$ upon the electrochemical oxidation

Ir arrangement does not change!

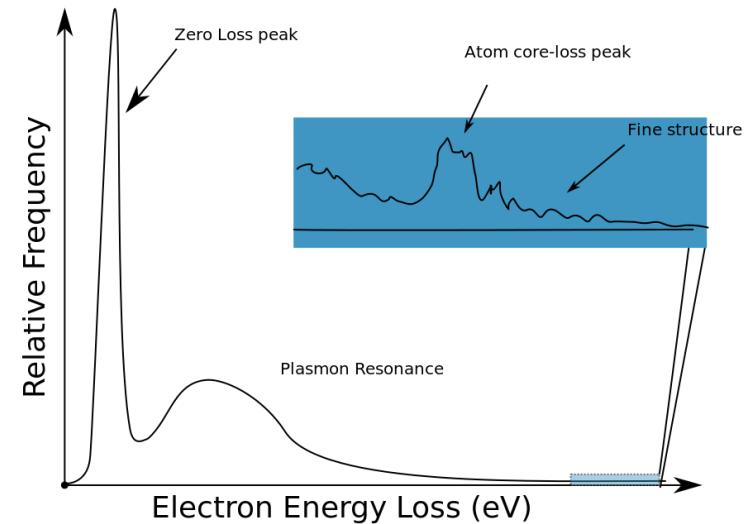
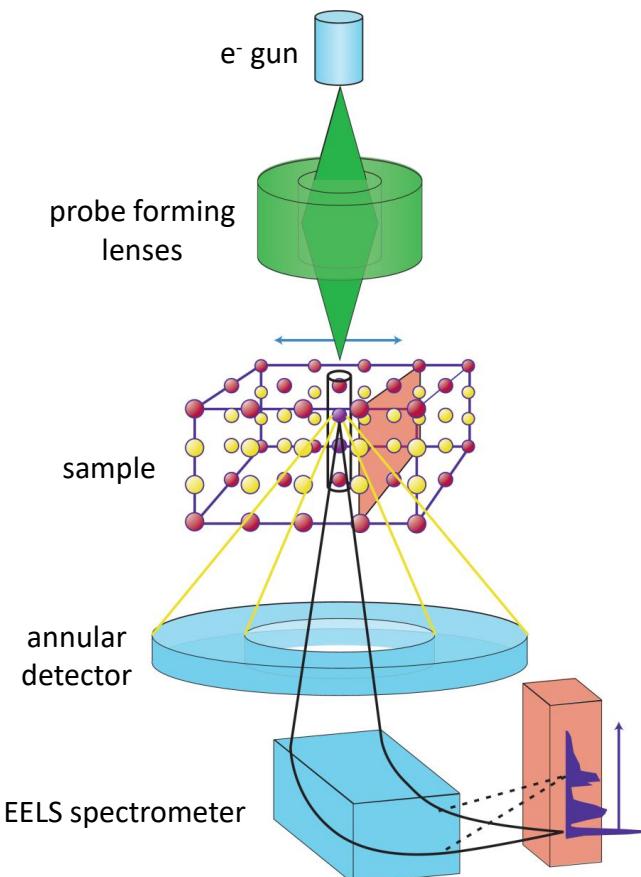


β -Li₂IrO₃: anion redox



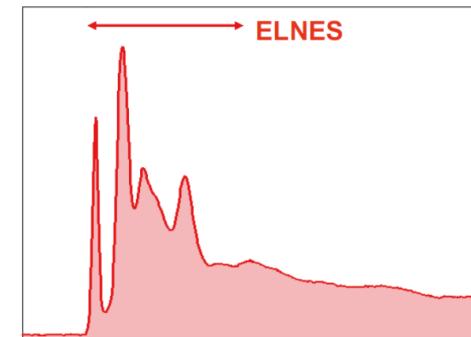
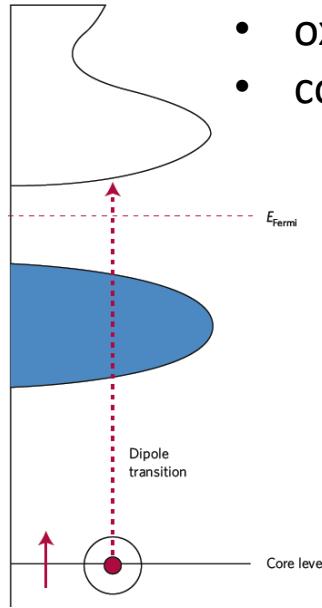
Electron Energy Loss Spectroscopy (EELS)

STEM-EELS



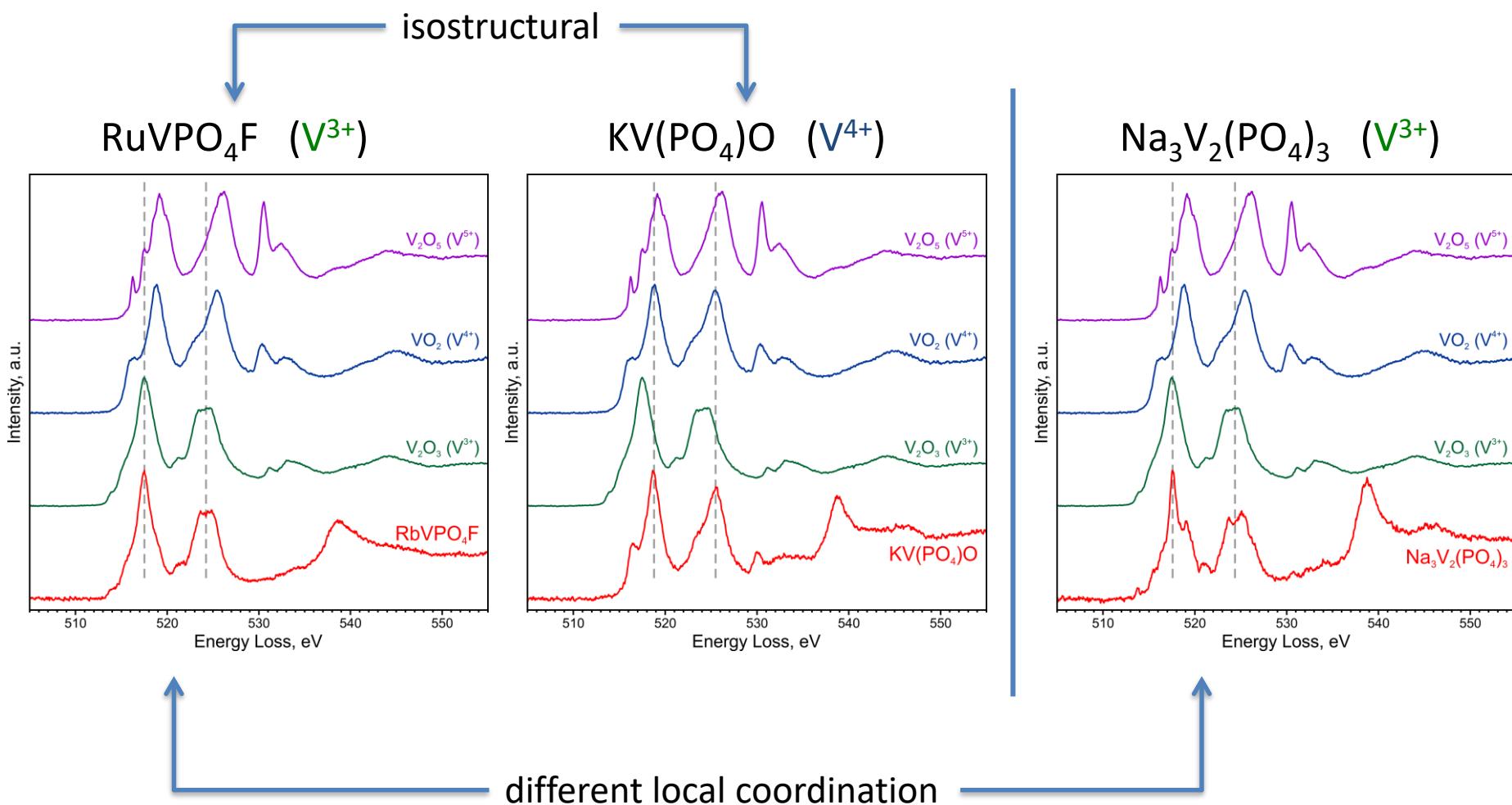
Fine structure of the absorption edge:

- oxidation state
- coordination environment

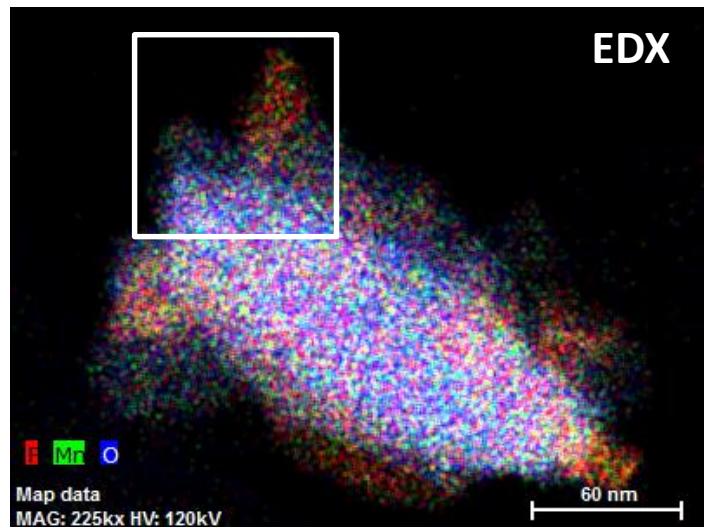
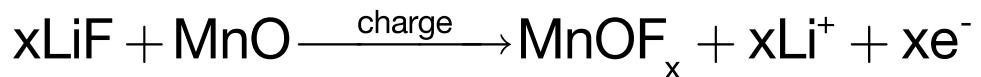


Electron Energy Loss
Near Edge Structure

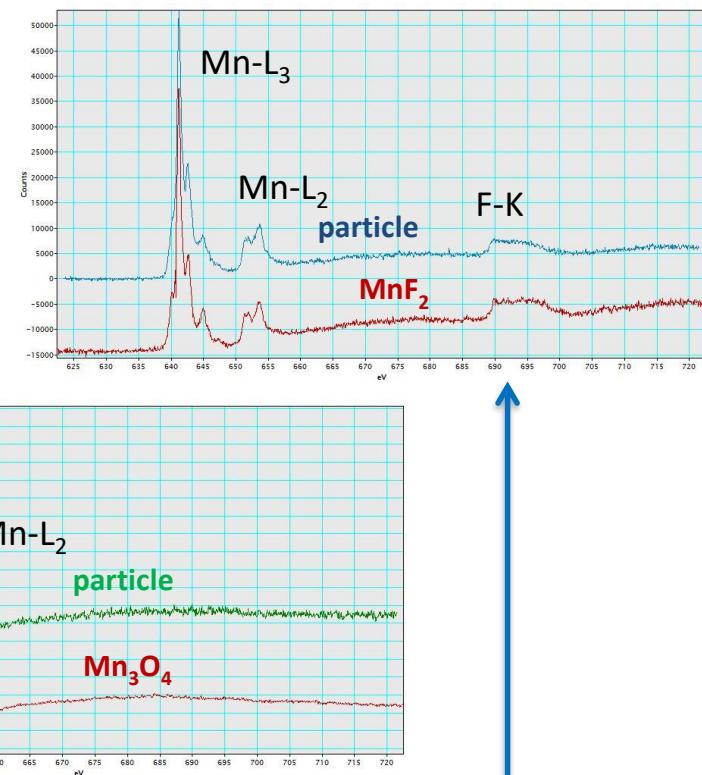
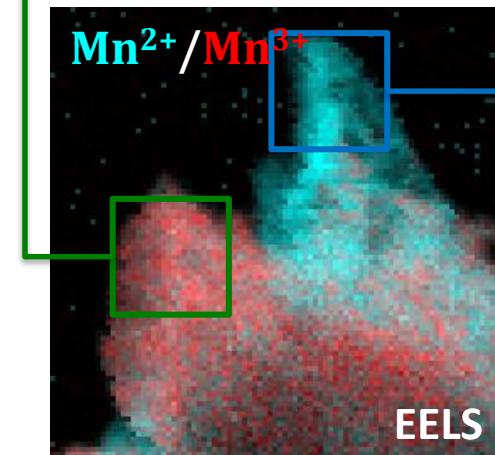
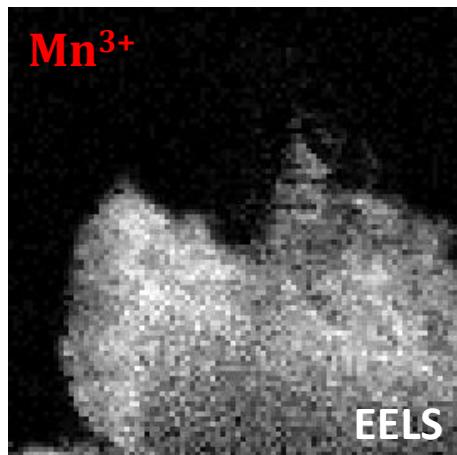
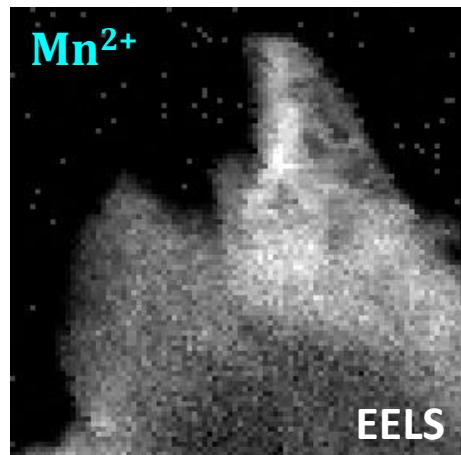
EELS for determining oxidation state



MnO + LiF composites

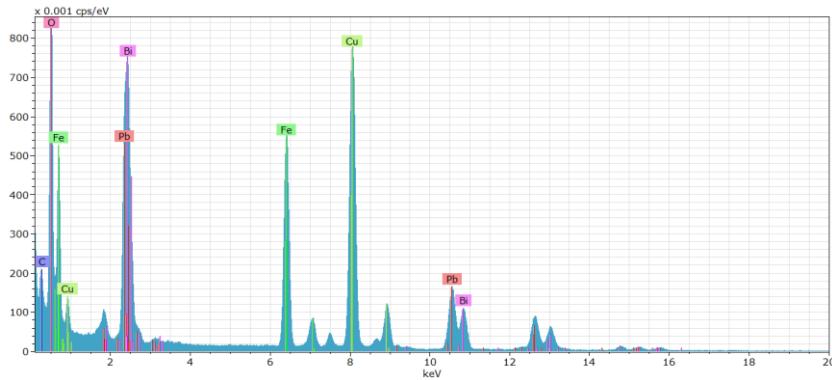
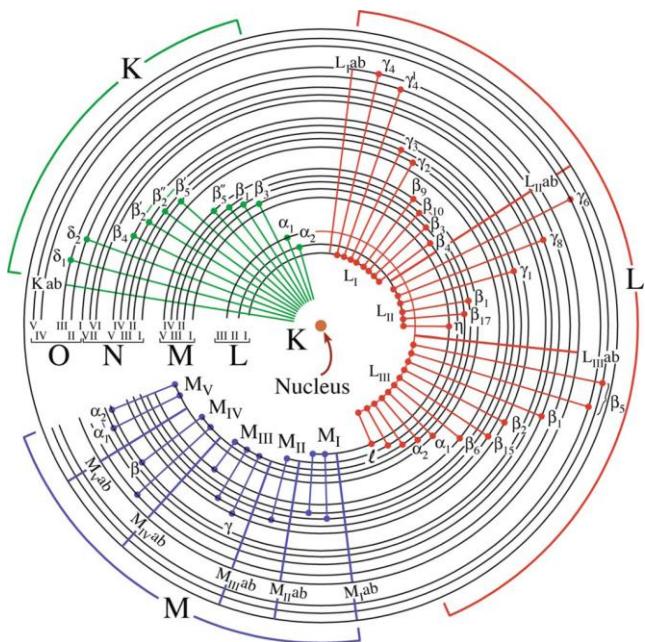


F-rich – MnF_2 // O-rich – Mn_3O_4



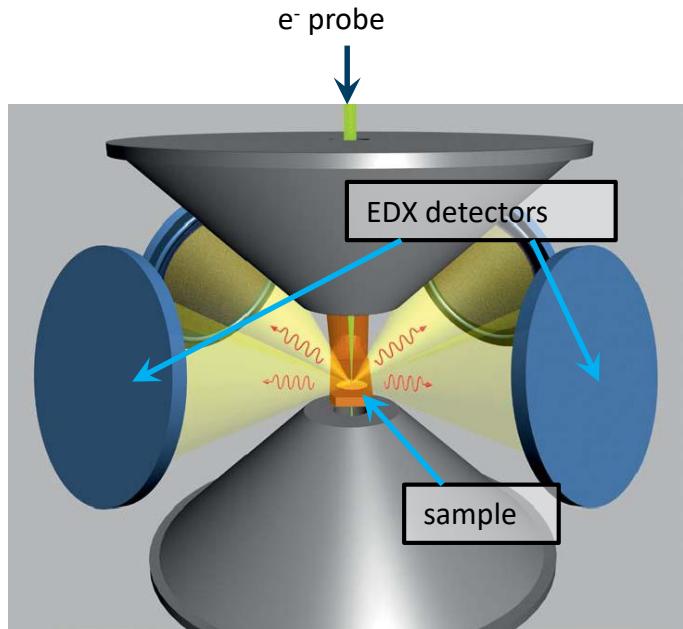
Energy Dispersive X-ray analysis

electron transitions in the atoms



EDX spectrum – set of emission lines

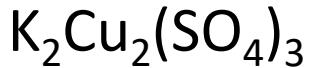
STEM-EDX



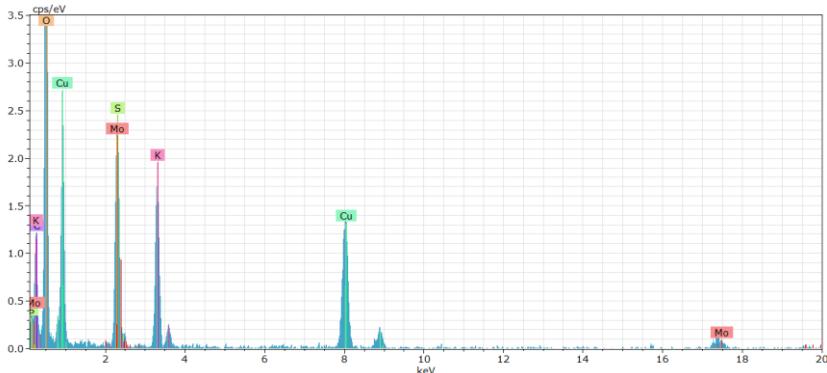
4 detector configuration:

- high count rate
 - higher reliability

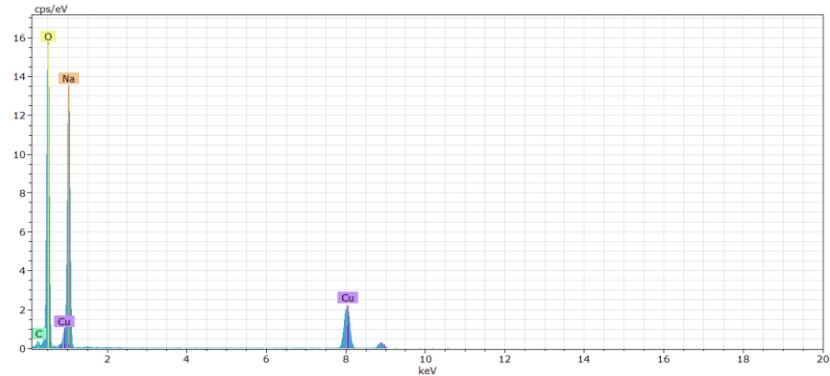
Quantitative EDX



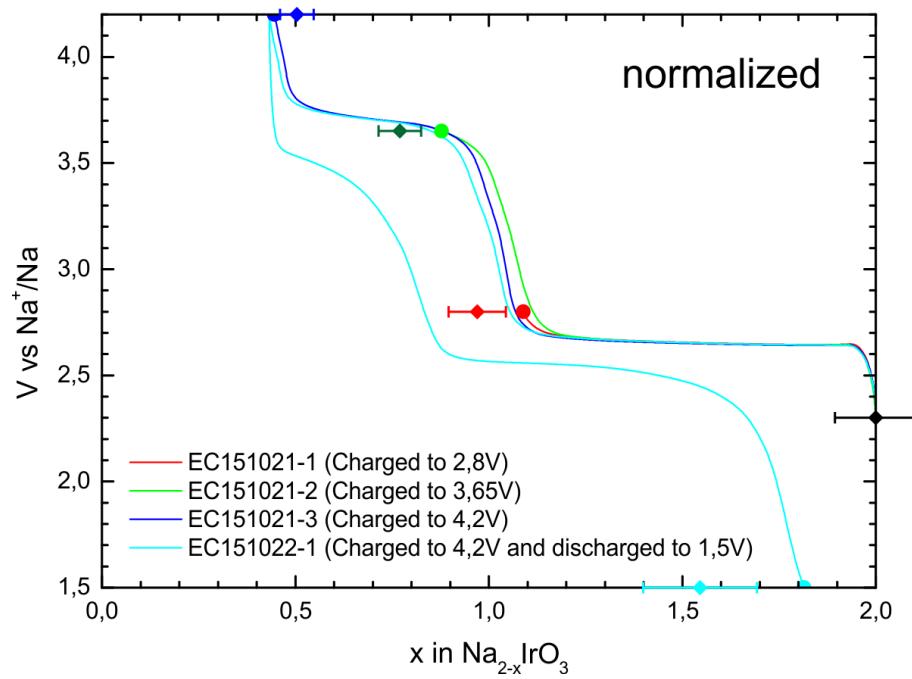
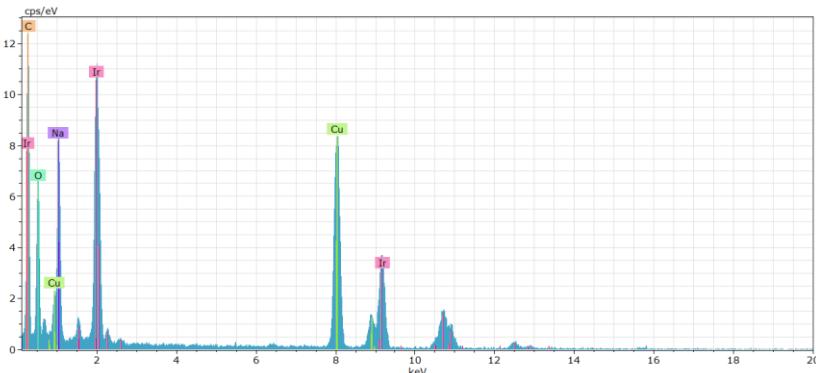
$$\text{K} : \text{Cu} : \text{S} = 1.97(7) : 1.95(14) : 3.07(14)$$



$$\text{Na} : \text{O} = 0.33(3) : 0.66(3)$$



One should be careful !



EDX elemental mapping

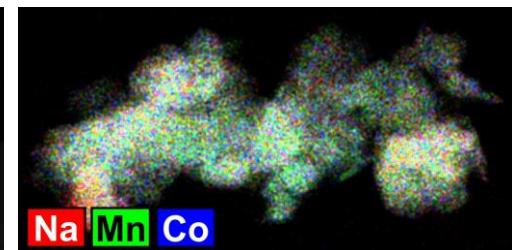
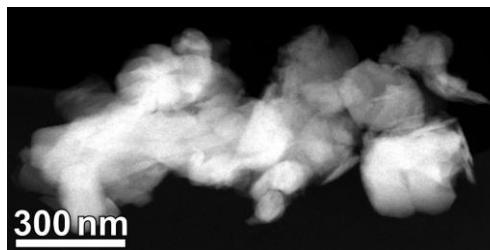


+

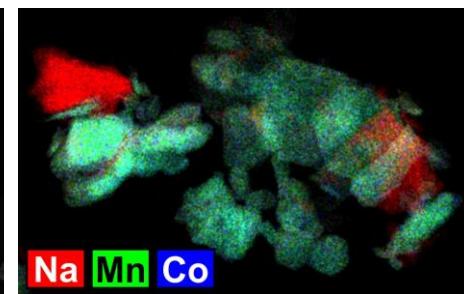
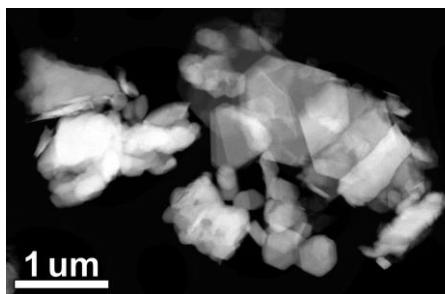


$$y = \text{Na}^{\text{tot}}/\text{M}$$

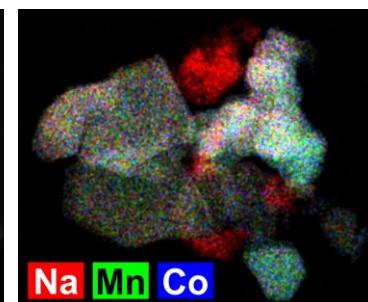
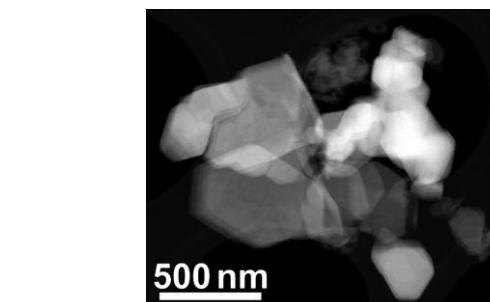
$$y = 0.7$$



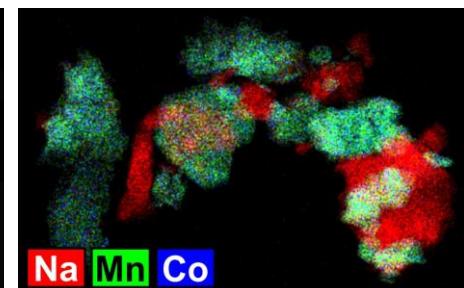
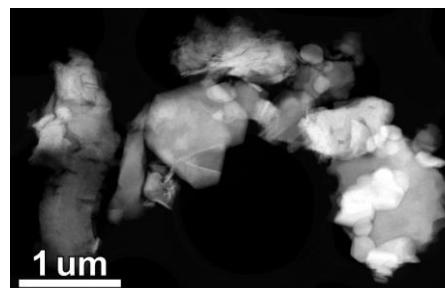
$$y = 0.9$$



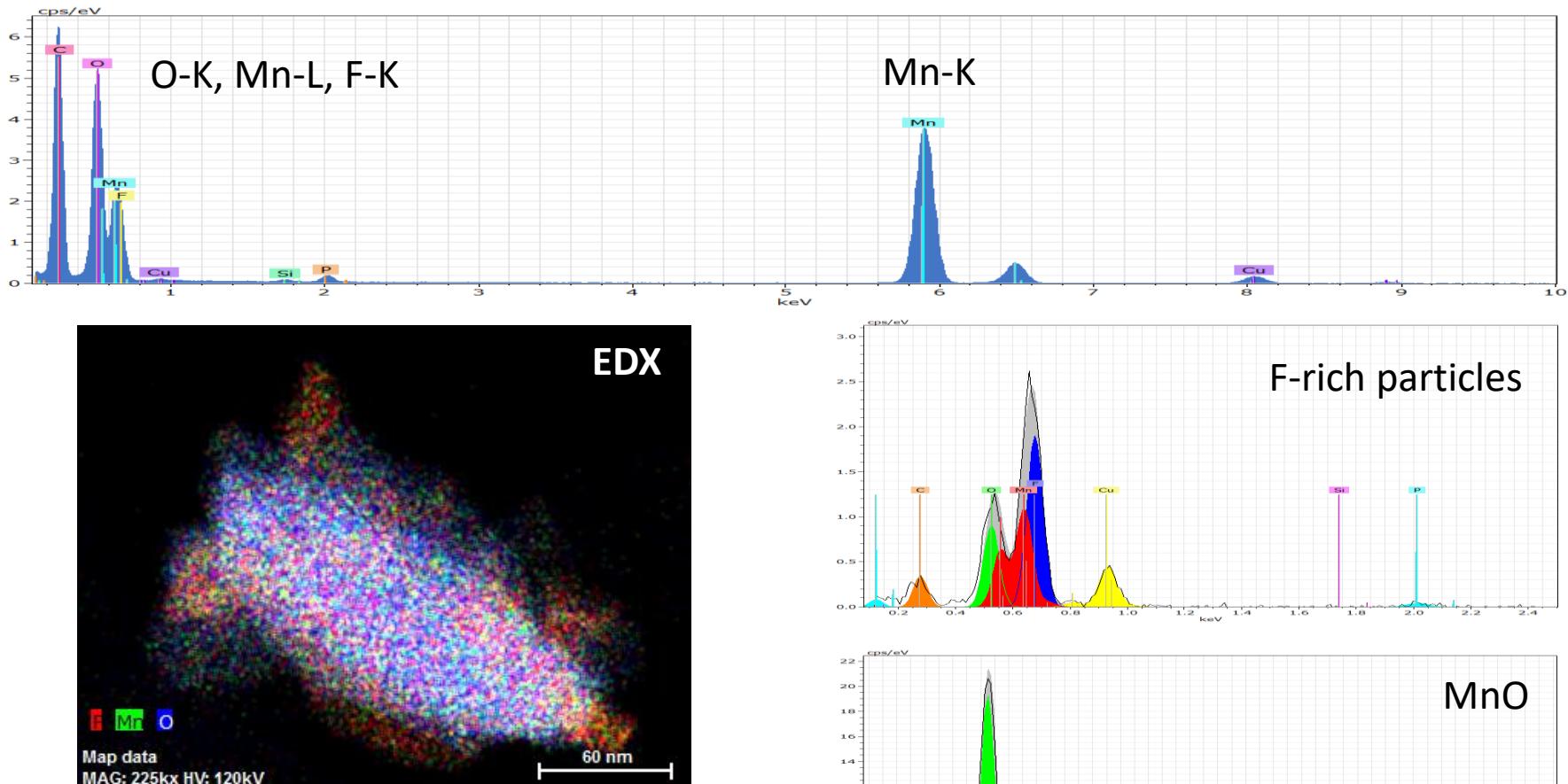
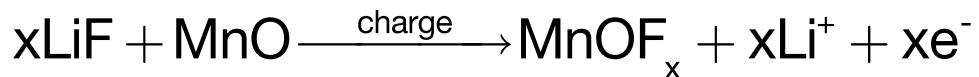
$$y = 1.0$$



$$y = 1.1$$



EDX elemental mapping



Mn-O-F: quantification unreliable

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{MnO, O:Mn} = 1.05(6); & \text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3, \text{O:Mn} = 1.53(14); \\ \text{MnO}_2, \text{O:Mn} = 2.09(15); & \text{MnF}_2, \text{F:Mn} = 1.76(33) \end{array}$$

Concluding remarks

- TEM is a versatile tool providing structural and chemical information on a very local scale
- Different TEM techniques provide complementary information, which can also be combined with other experimental method (i.e. XRD/NPD, XPS, bulk chemical analysis...)
- Often application of advanced TEM is challenged the material, i.e. poor crystallinity, beam sensitivity, contamination issues, etc.

Thank you for your attention!

Acknowledgement

Promoters: Prof. Joke Hadermann
Dr. Artem Abakumov

HAADF-STEM imaging: Dr. Dmitry Batuk

Collaborators: V. Sumanov
Dr. O. Drozhzhin
Dr. N. Khasanova
Dr. E. Antipov

Dr. D. Mikhailova

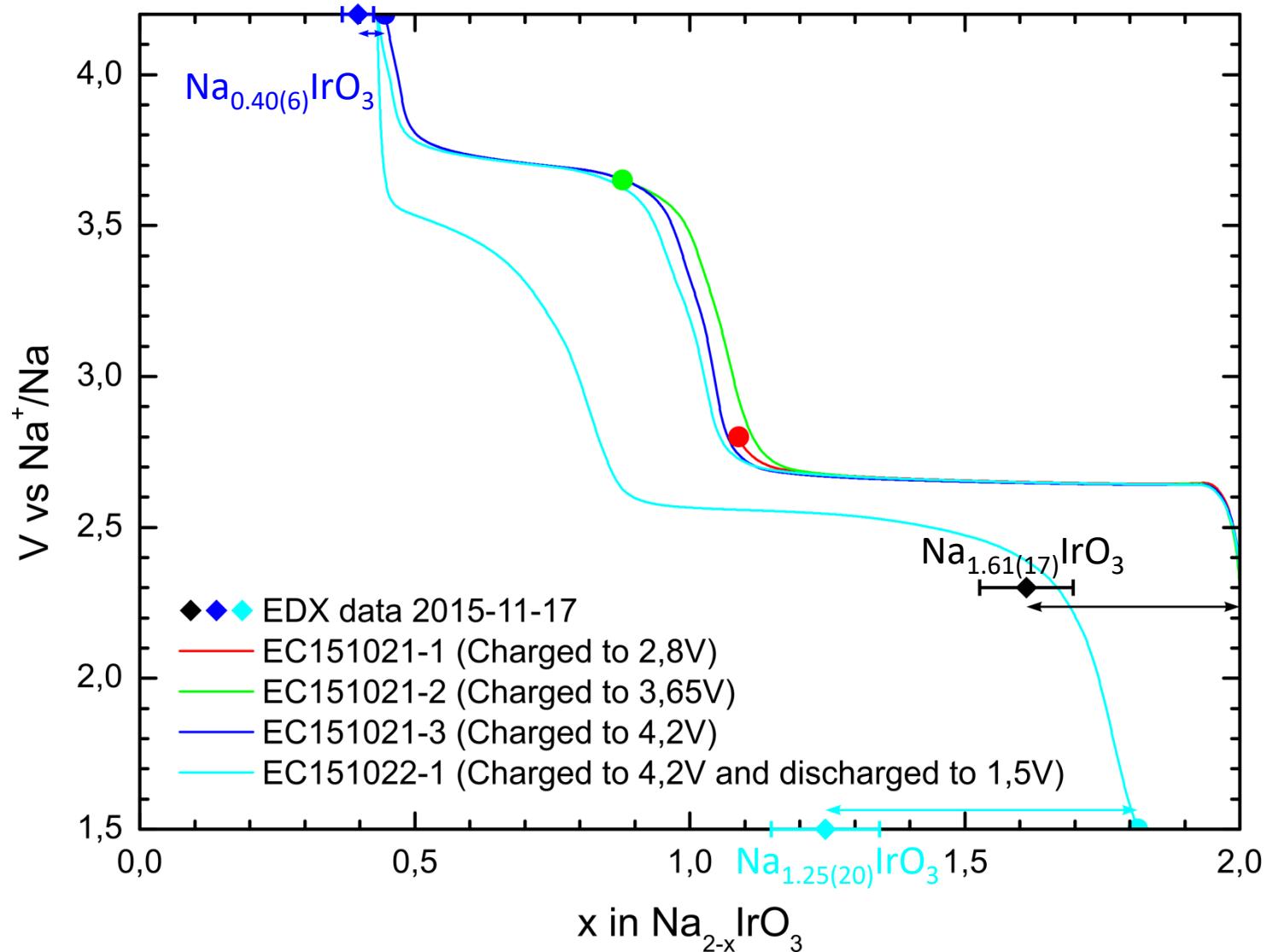


Moscow State University,
Moscow, Russia



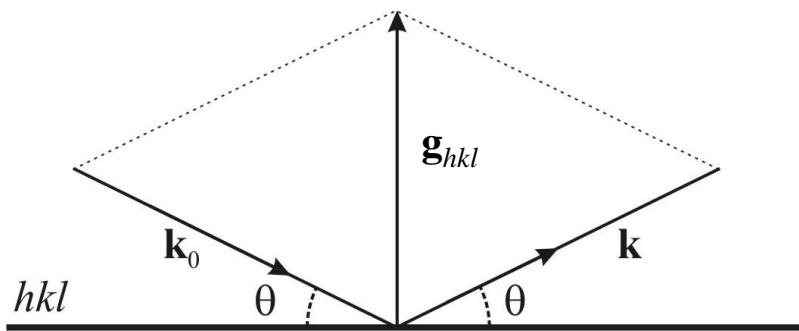
Max Planck Institute for
Chemical Physics of Solids,
Dresden, Germany

Bulk EDX data



The composition is calculated for 30-60 crystals using the Na-K and Ir-L lines

Reciprocal lattice



\mathbf{k}_0 – wave vector of the incident beam, $|\mathbf{k}_0| = 1/\lambda$

\mathbf{k} – wave vector of the diffracted beam, $|\mathbf{k}| = 1/\lambda$

$\mathbf{g}_{hkl} \perp hkl$ plane, $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0$

Bragg's condition is satisfied if $|\mathbf{g}| = 2\sin\theta/\lambda = 1/d_{hkl}$

Set of the \mathbf{g}_{hkl} vectors form a reciprocal lattice of crystal

$$\mathbf{a}^* \perp \mathbf{bc} \text{ plane} \quad \mathbf{b}^* \perp \mathbf{ac} \text{ plane} \quad \mathbf{c}^* \perp \mathbf{ab} \text{ plane}$$

$$\mathbf{aa}^* = \mathbf{bb}^* = \mathbf{cc}^* = 1$$

$$\mathbf{ab}^* = \mathbf{ba}^* = \dots = \mathbf{ac}^* = 0$$

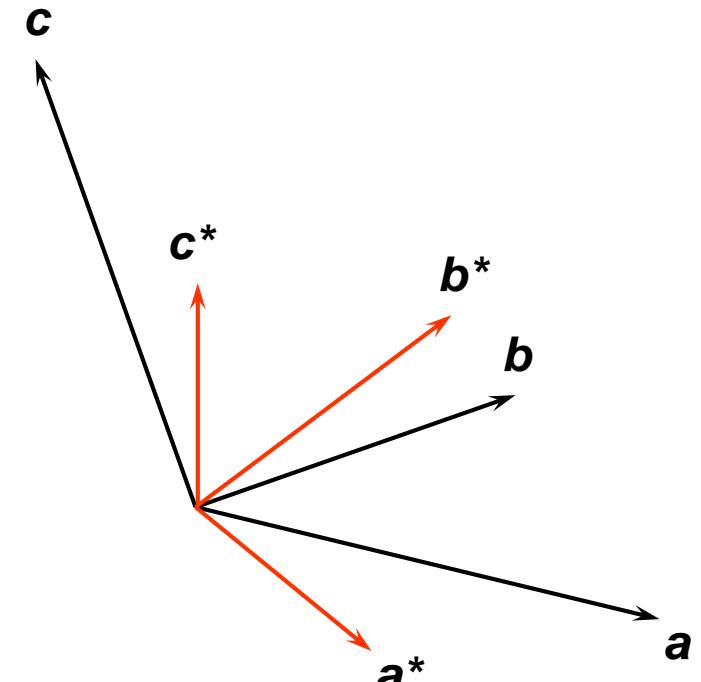
$$\mathbf{a}^* = p (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) \quad \mathbf{b}^* = p (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c}) \quad \mathbf{c}^* = p (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})$$

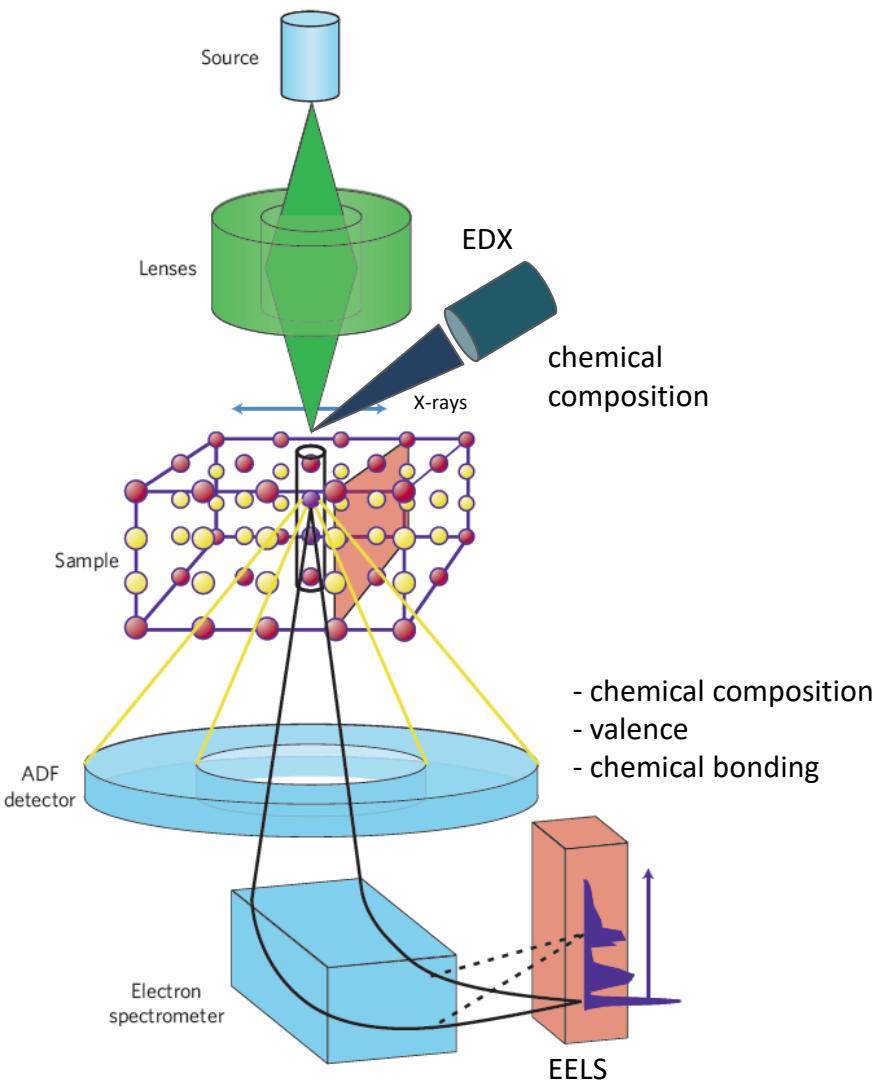
$$\mathbf{aa}^* = p [(\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) \cdot \mathbf{a}] = pV = 1$$

$$p = 1/V, V - \text{unit cell volume}$$

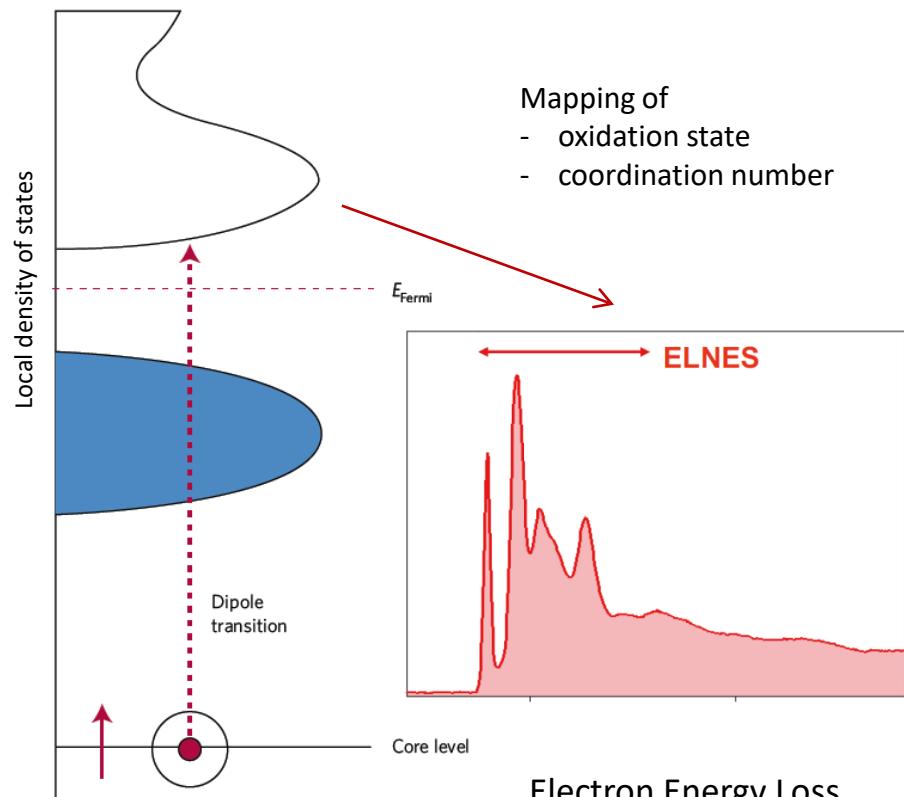
$$\mathbf{a}^* = (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})/V \quad \mathbf{b}^* = (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c})/V \quad \mathbf{c}^* = (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})/V$$

$$\mathbf{g}_{hkl} = ha^* + kb^* + lc^*$$





EELS – electron energy loss spectroscopy



Electron Energy Loss
Near Edge Structure