



# Imaging with Neutrons

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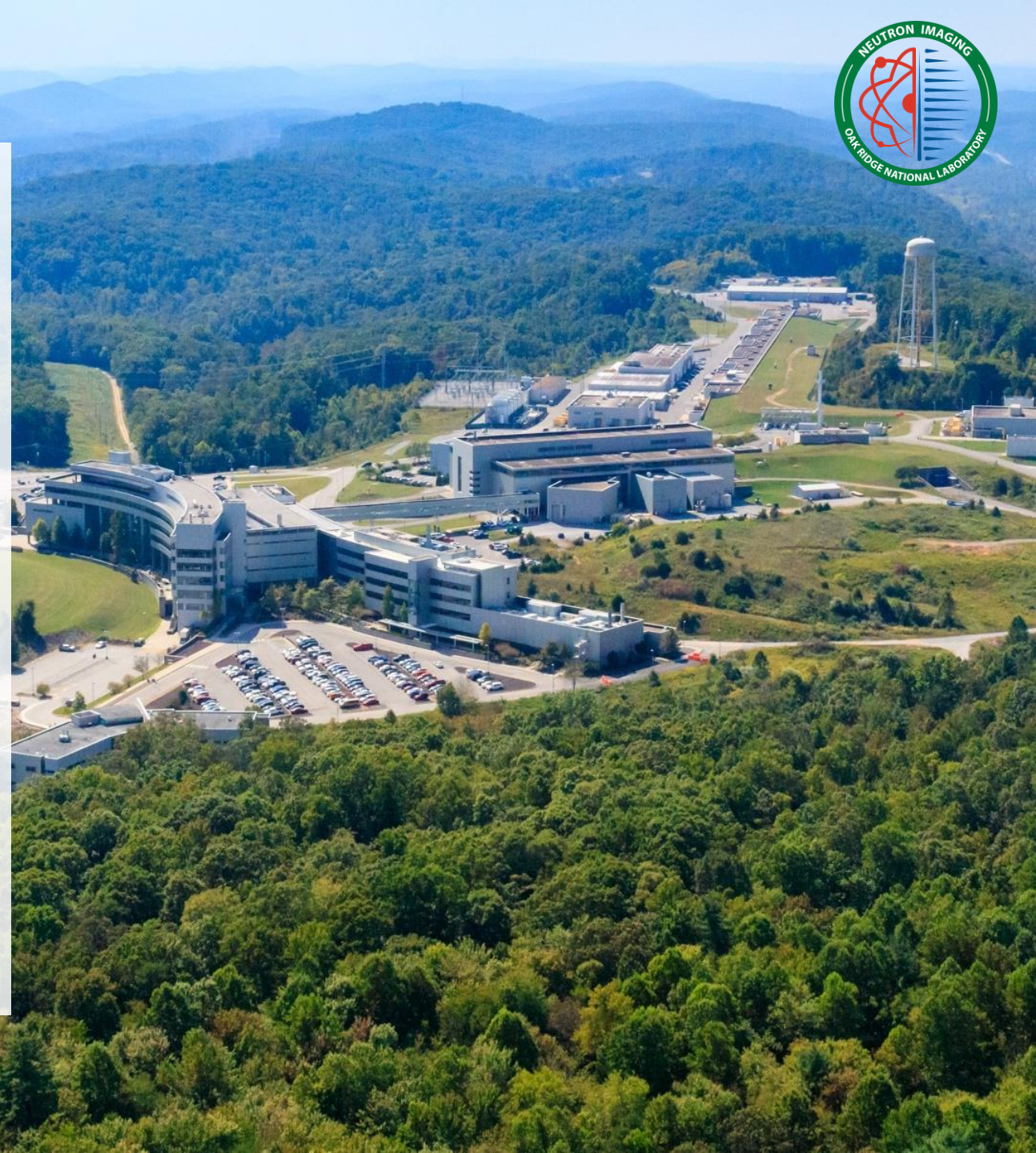
Hassina Bilheux, Senior Imaging Scientist  
Yuxuan Zhang, Imaging Scientist  
Jean Bilheux, Computational Imaging Scientist

September 7, 2025



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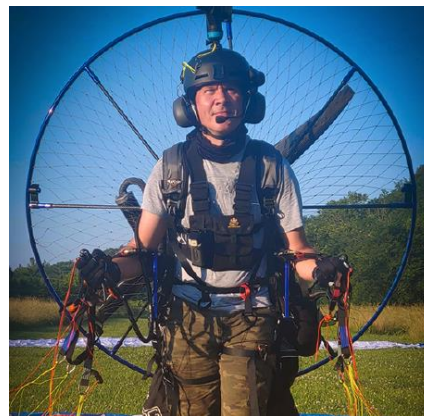
# The Neutron Imaging Core Team



Hassina Bilheux,  
VENUS IS



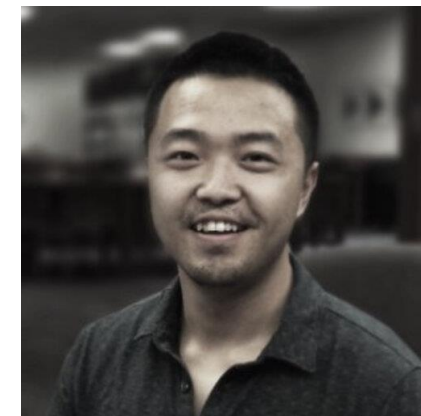
Shimin Tang,  
VENUS IS, AI expert



Jean Bilheux  
Computational Instrument  
Scientist



James Torres  
MARS IS



Yuxuan Zhang  
MARS IS



Kevin Yahne  
VENUS SA



Harley Skorpenske,  
SNS SA Group Leader



Chen Zhang  
Computational Instrument  
Scientist

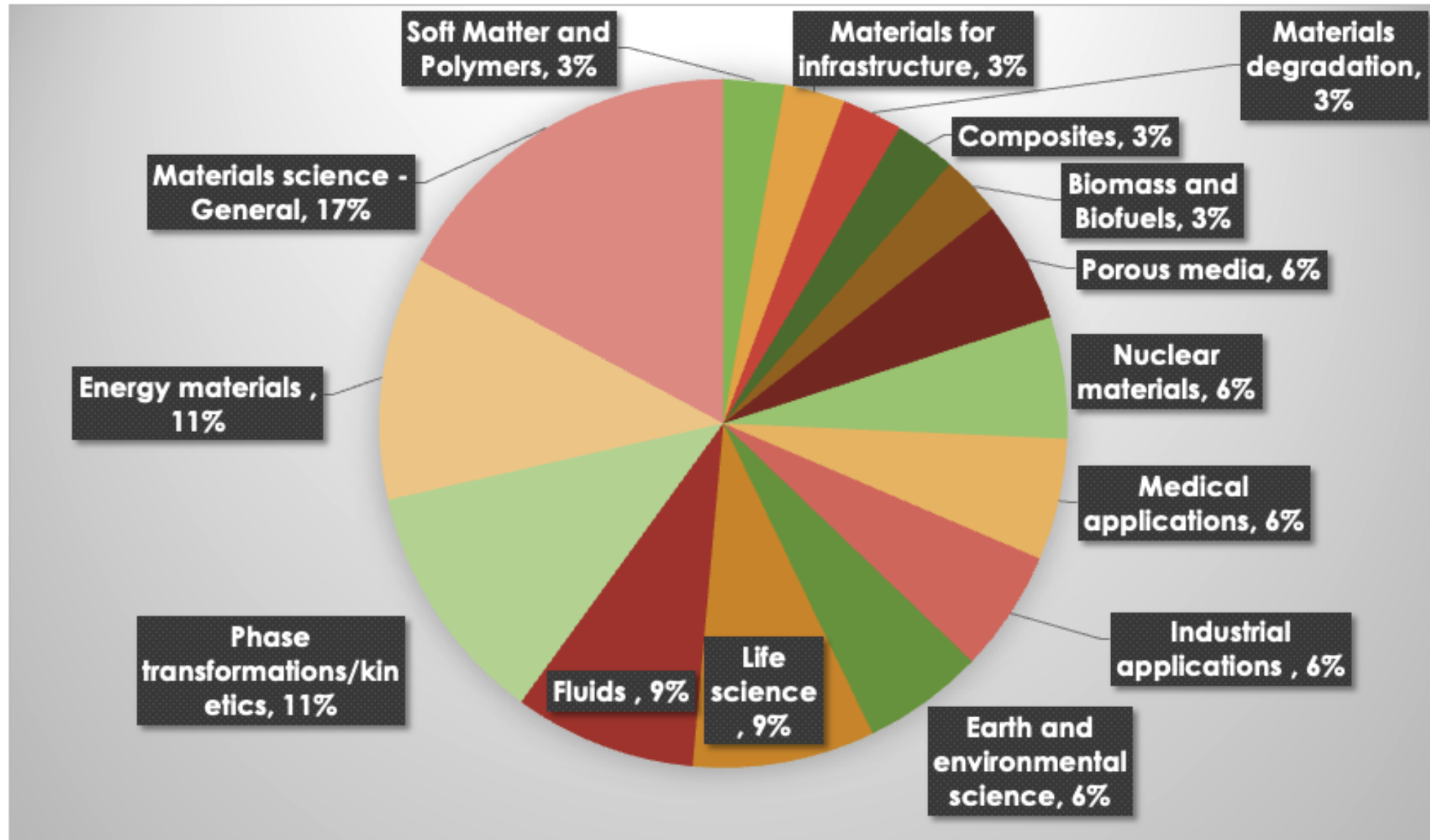


Roger Hobbs  
MARS SA



Sam McKay  
Phase contrast imaging  
postdoc

# Imaging has a very broad scientific portfolio

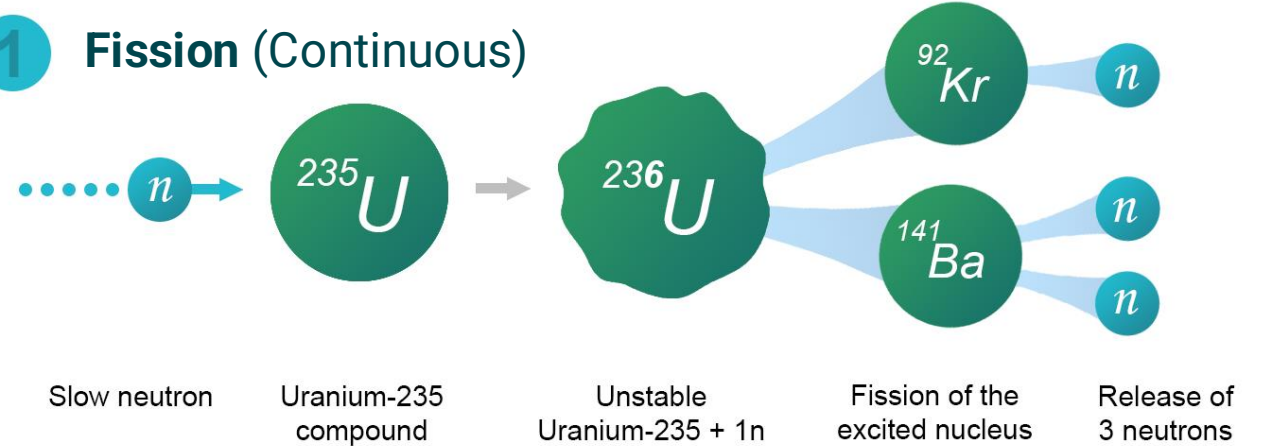




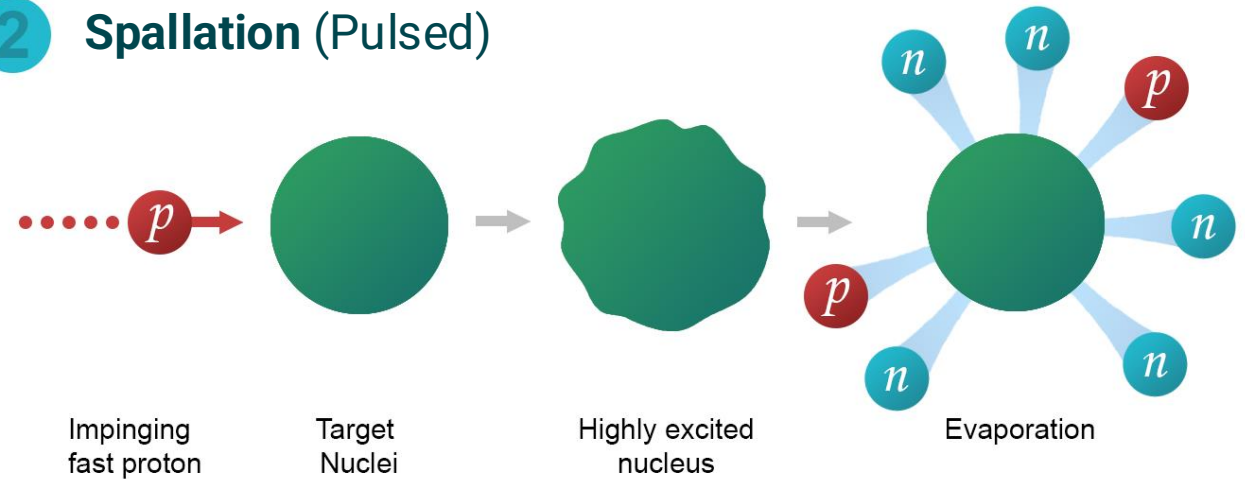
# We have two neutron sources, HFIR and SNS, at ORNL



## 1 Fission (Continuous)



## 2 Spallation (Pulsed)



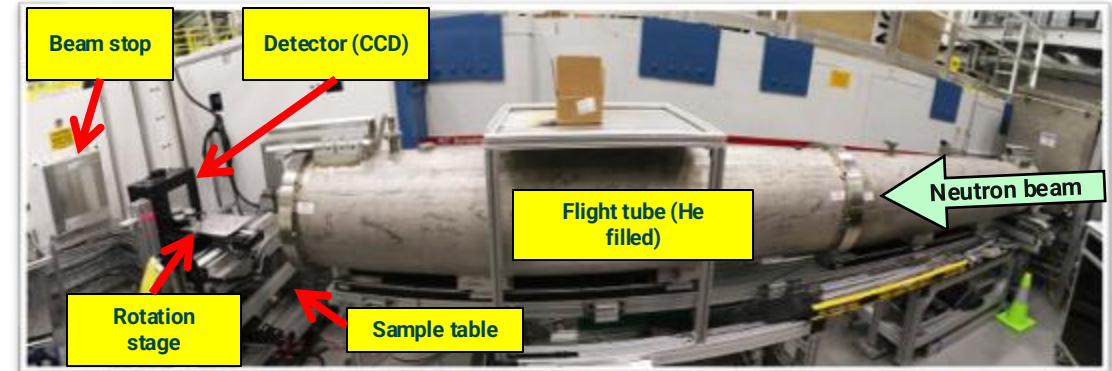
[https://pan-learning.org/wiki/index.php/Introduction\\_to\\_neutron\\_scattering](https://pan-learning.org/wiki/index.php/Introduction_to_neutron_scattering)



# At each source, there is a dedicated imaging instrument



**MARS** – **M**ultimodal **A**dvanced **R**adiography **S**tation  
(dedicated *cold neutron* imaging instrument)



<https://neutrons.ornl.gov/mars>

**VENUS** – Versatile Neutron Imaging Instrument at the SNS  
(*time-of-flight* neutron imaging instrument)



<https://neutrons.ornl.gov/venus>



# Outline



- Imaging at HFIR (Yuxuan)
  - Principle of neutron radiography and computed tomography at a continuous source
  - The MARS beamline
  - Applications and examples
- Imaging at SNS (Hassina)
  - Principle of hyperspectral imaging at a pulsed source
  - The VENUS beamline
  - Applications and examples
- Software for imaging (Jean)



# Outline

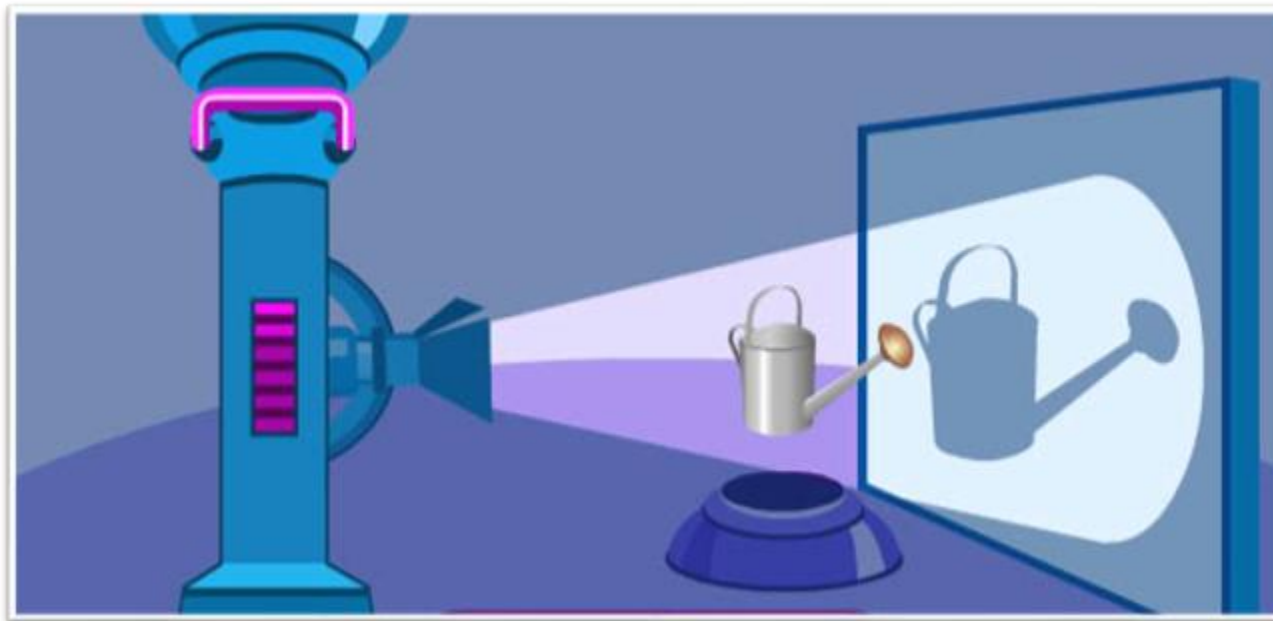


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# What is Neutron Imaging?

- Neutron Imaging is a **non-destructive** technique for **spatially resolving** the structure of a sample. The basic principle is similar to that of X-ray radiography



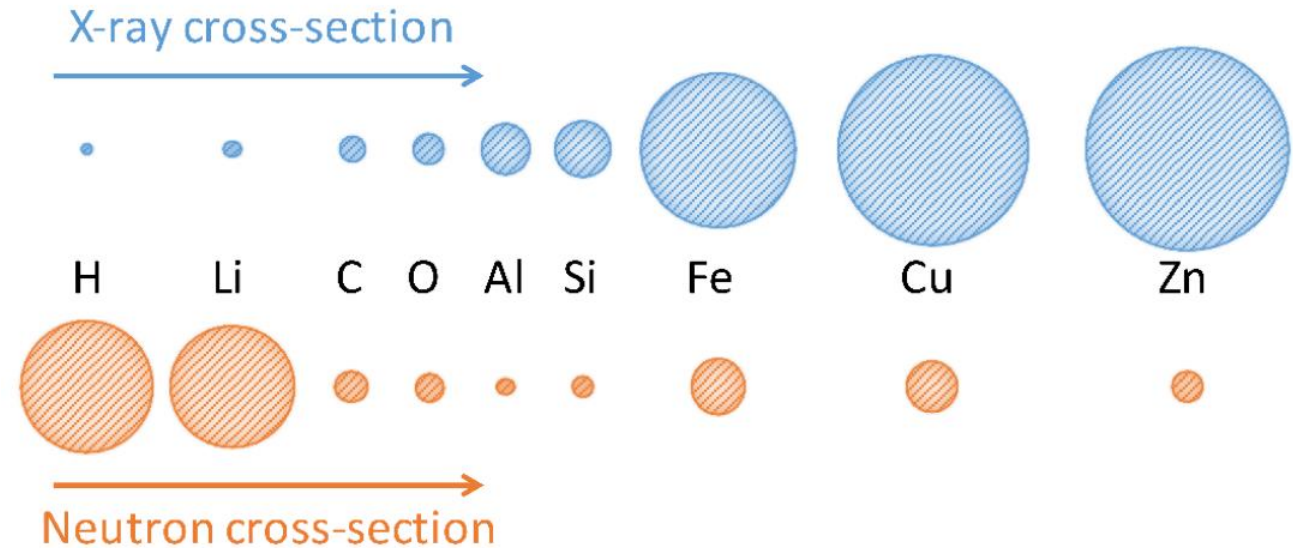
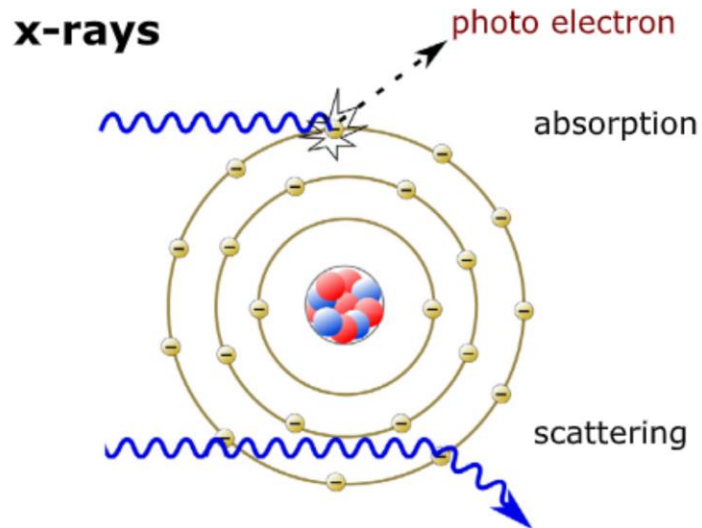
Source

Object

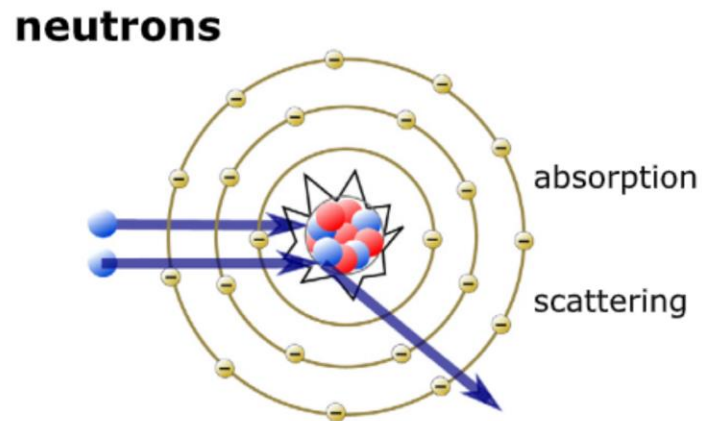
Detector



# Neutrons interact uniquely with atoms



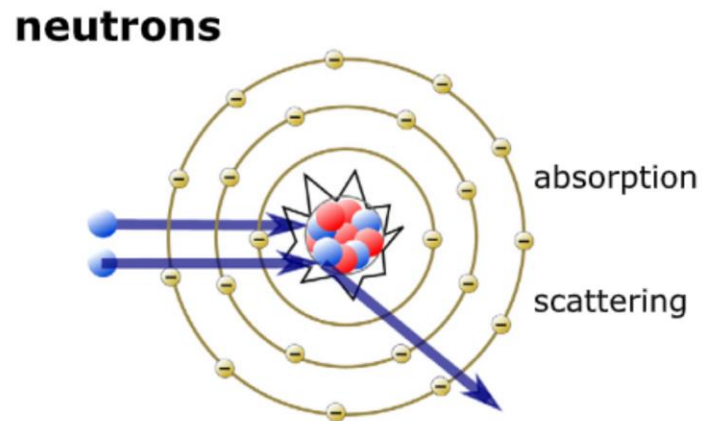
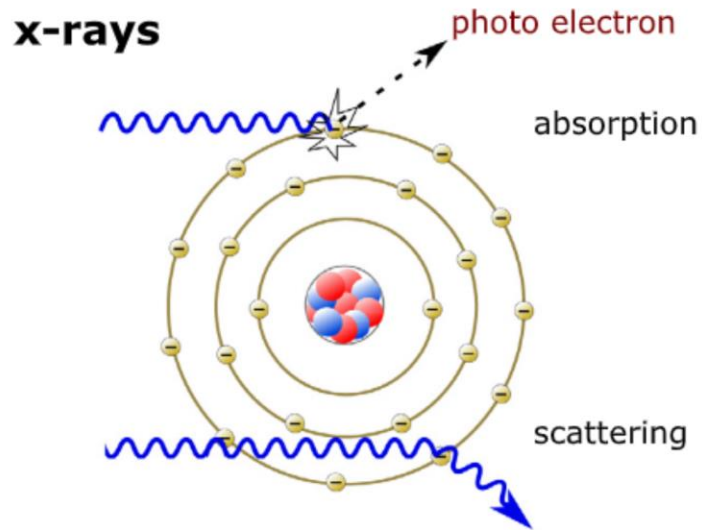
(Zhang Y. The University of Utah; 2016)



- **High penetration through metals (Al, Fe, etc.)**
  - ✓ **Complex SE (temperature, pressure, etc.)**
  - ✓ **Sample size on the order of cm**
- **Sensitive to light elements (H, Li, etc.)**
- **Isotopic contrast**



# Neutrons interact uniquely with atoms (cont'd)

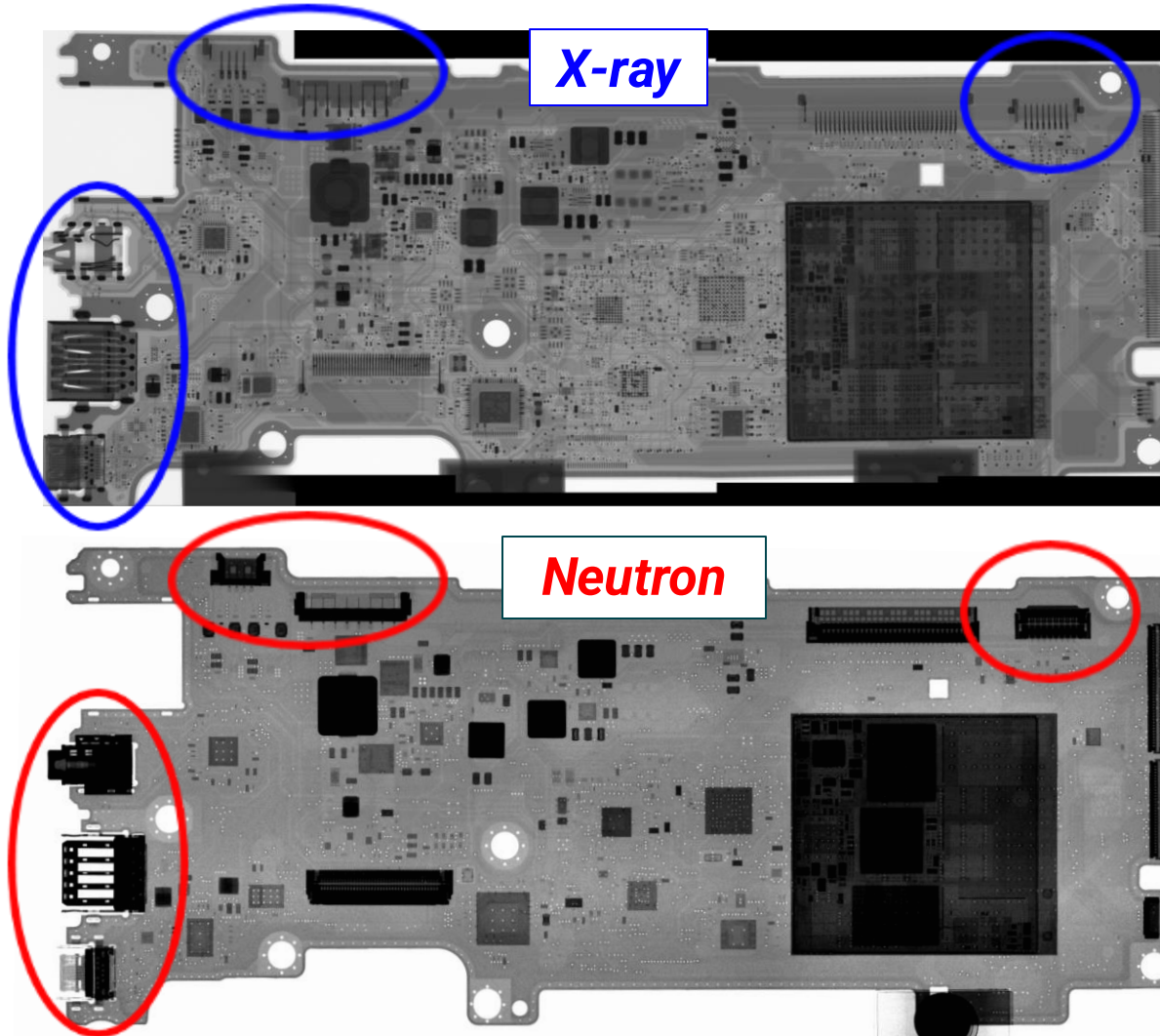


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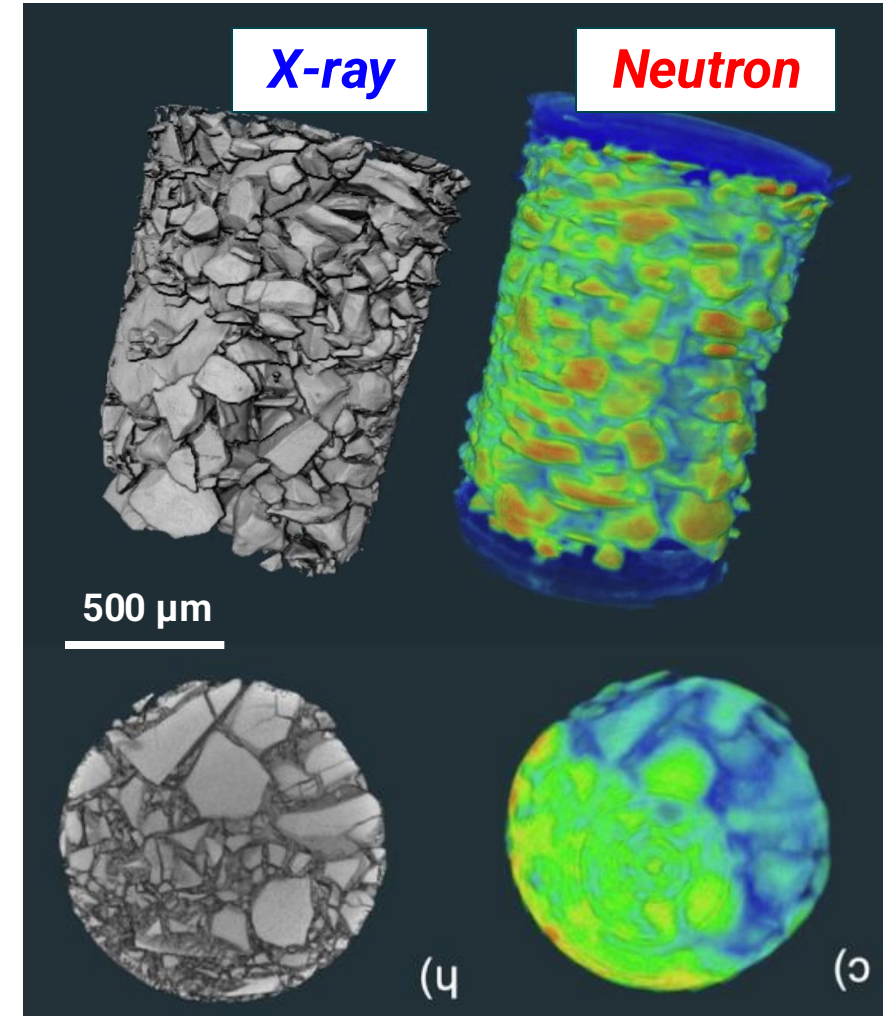


Lilies in a lead cask  
(Dr. Daniel Hussey, NIST)

# Neutrons offer unique contrast that complements X-ray contrast



Transmission radiographs of a microelectronics  
(IPTS-33592, Y. Zhang, 2024)



Gupta, D., Zhang, Y., Nie, Z., & Koenig, G. M. (2024).  
*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*

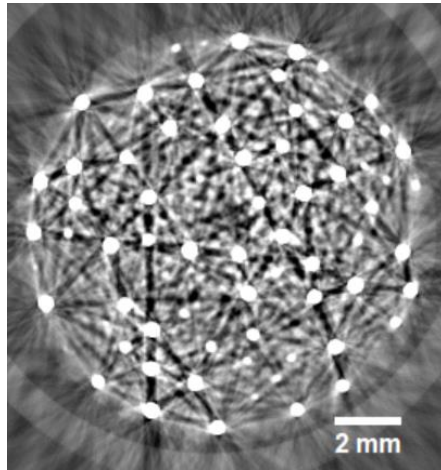


# Neutrons offer unique contrast that complements X-ray contrast

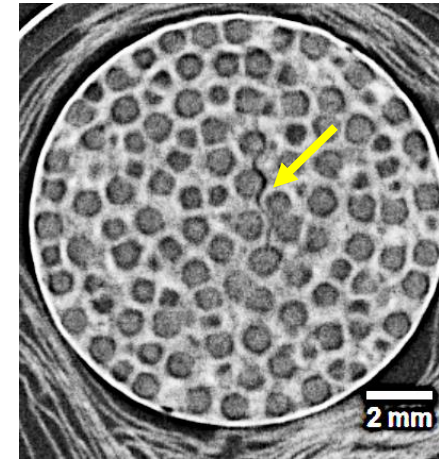
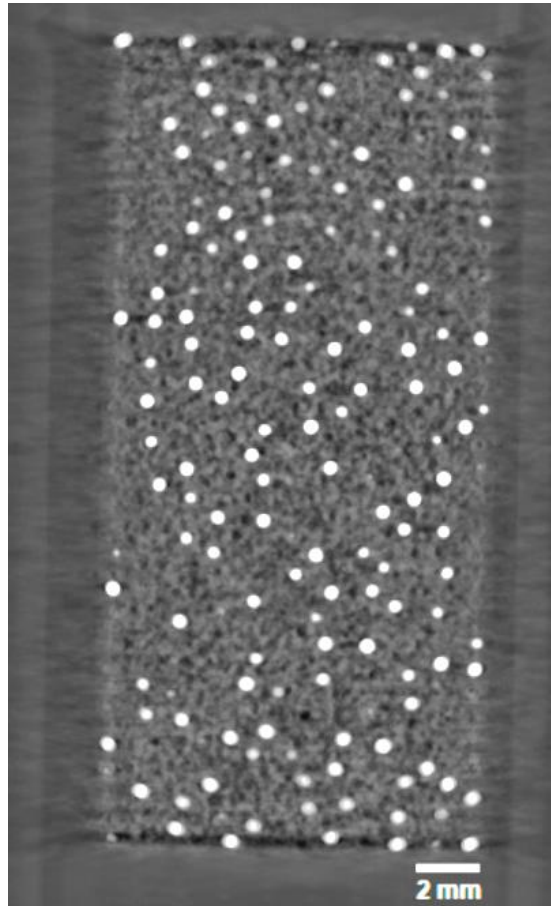
CT slices of a TRISO fuel compact  
(uranium spheres in graphite matrix)

**X-ray**

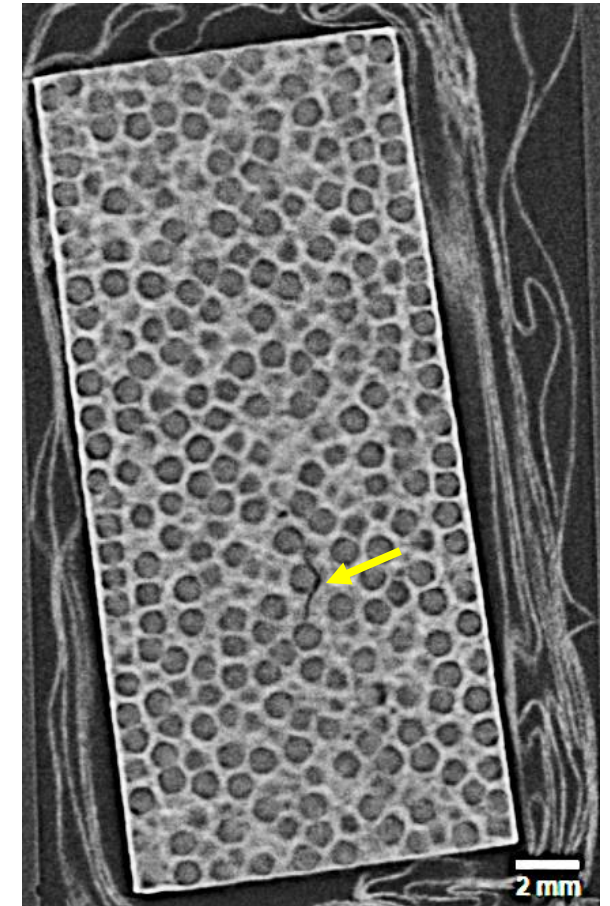
**Neutron**



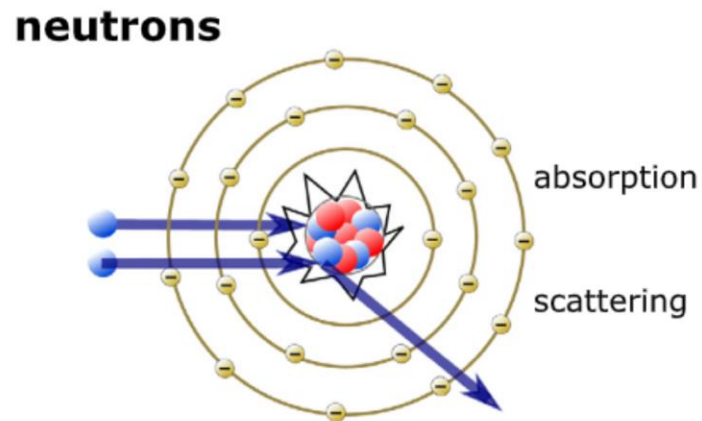
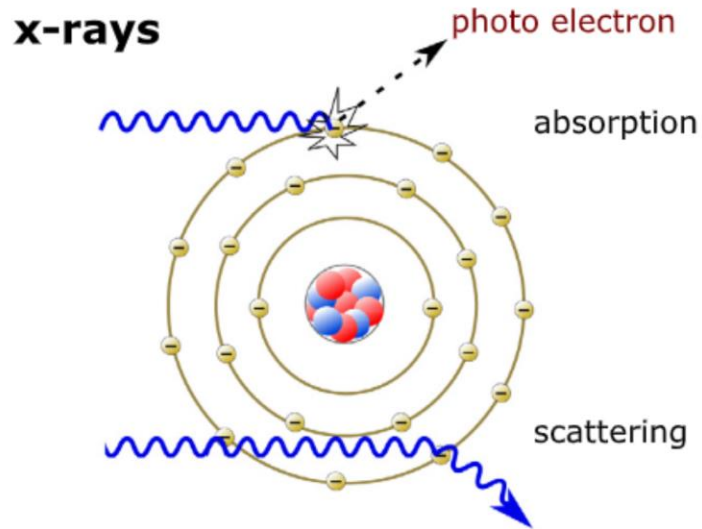
Able to resolve each uranium sphere, but radial slices have strong artifacts



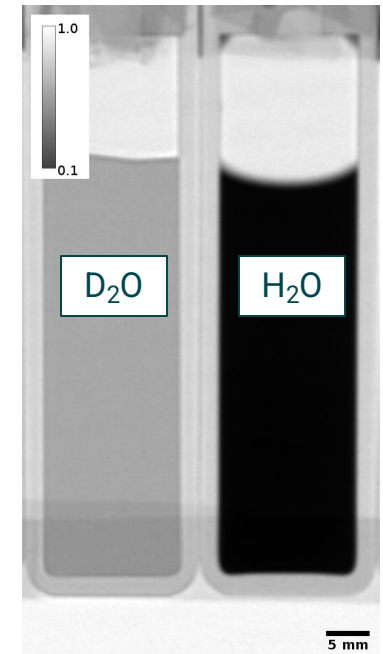
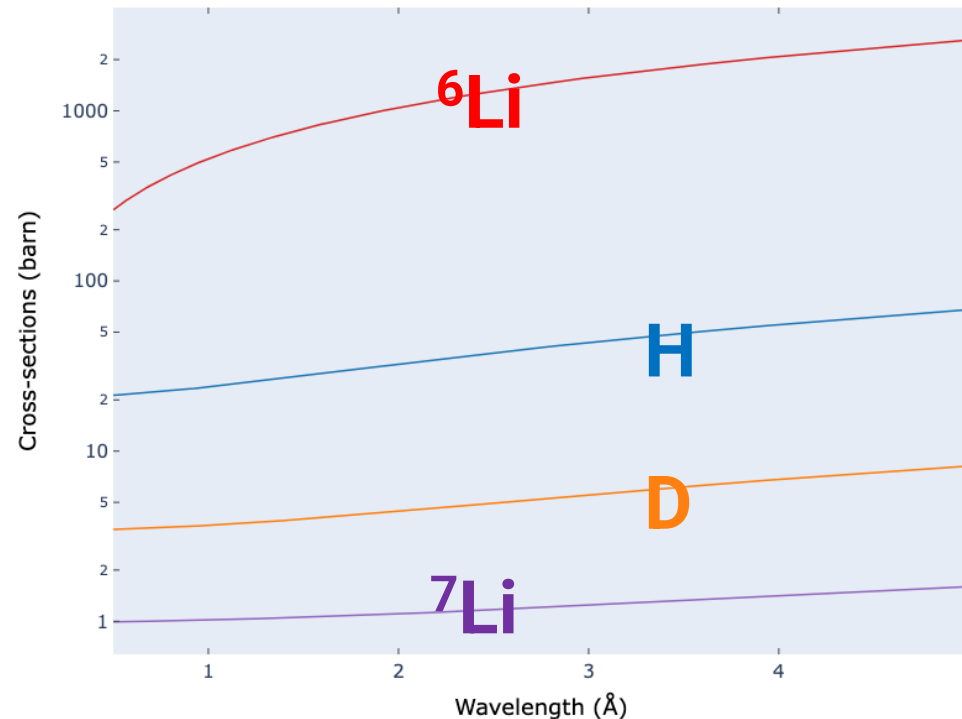
Able to reveal defects/cracks (yellow arrow) in the graphite matrix



# Neutrons interact uniquely with atoms (cont'd)

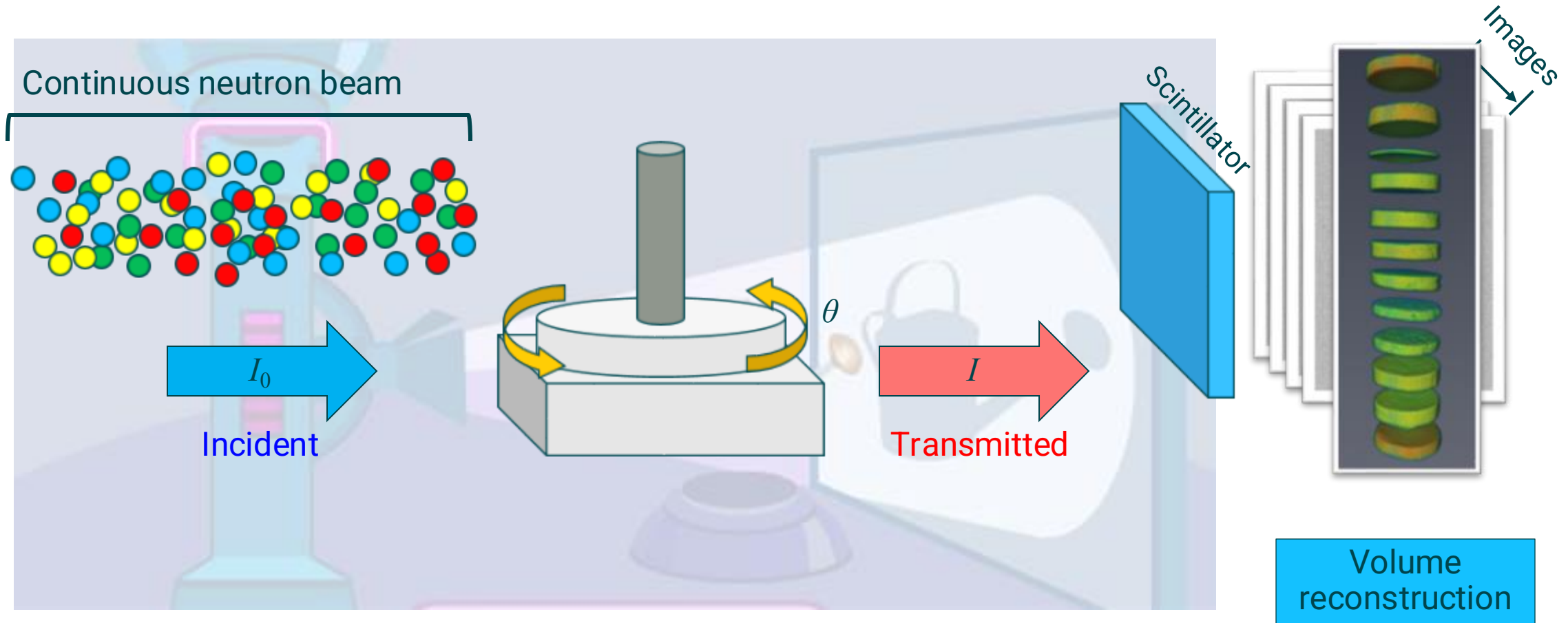


- High penetration through metals (Al, Fe, etc.)
  - ✓ Complex SE (temperature, pressure, etc.)
  - ✓ Sample size on the order of cm
- Sensitive to light elements (H, Li, etc.)
- **Isotopic contrast**

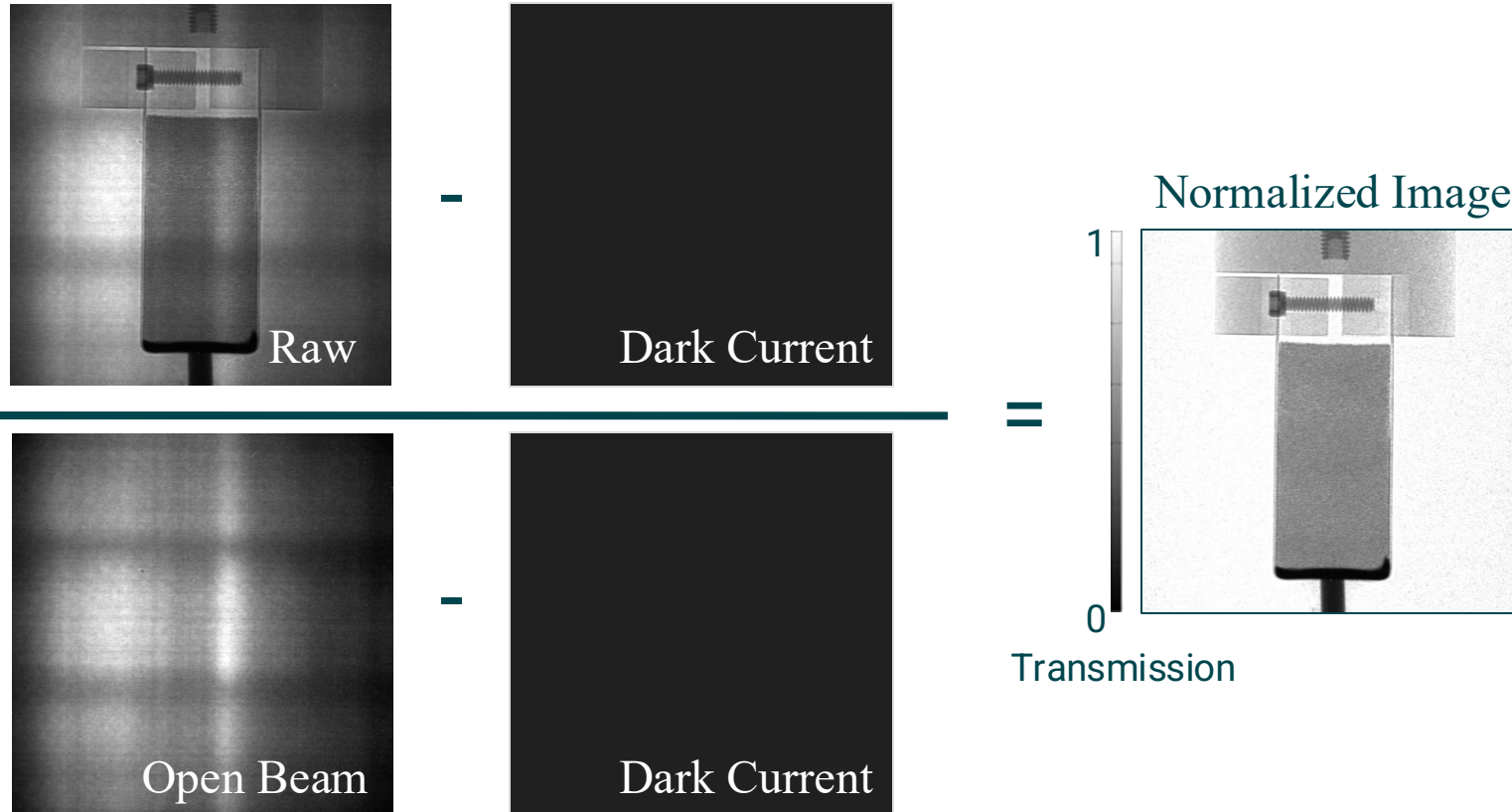




# Transmitted neutrons recorded as image



# From raw image to normalized image



$$\frac{Raw(x, y) - DC(x, y)}{OB(x, y) - DC(x, y)} = \text{Normalized Image}$$

## Lambert-Beer Law

Transmission

Sample thickness

$$T = \frac{I}{I_0} = e^{-\mu x}$$

Attenuation co.

Avogadro constant

Density

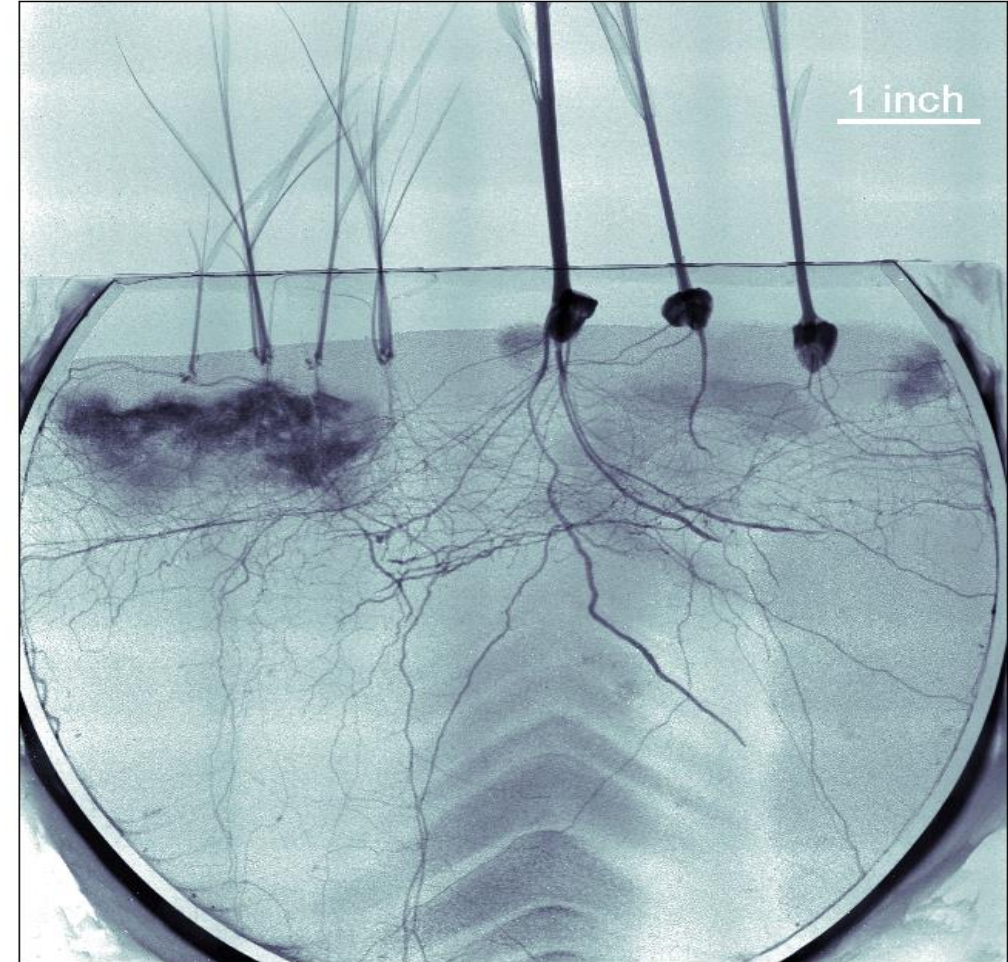
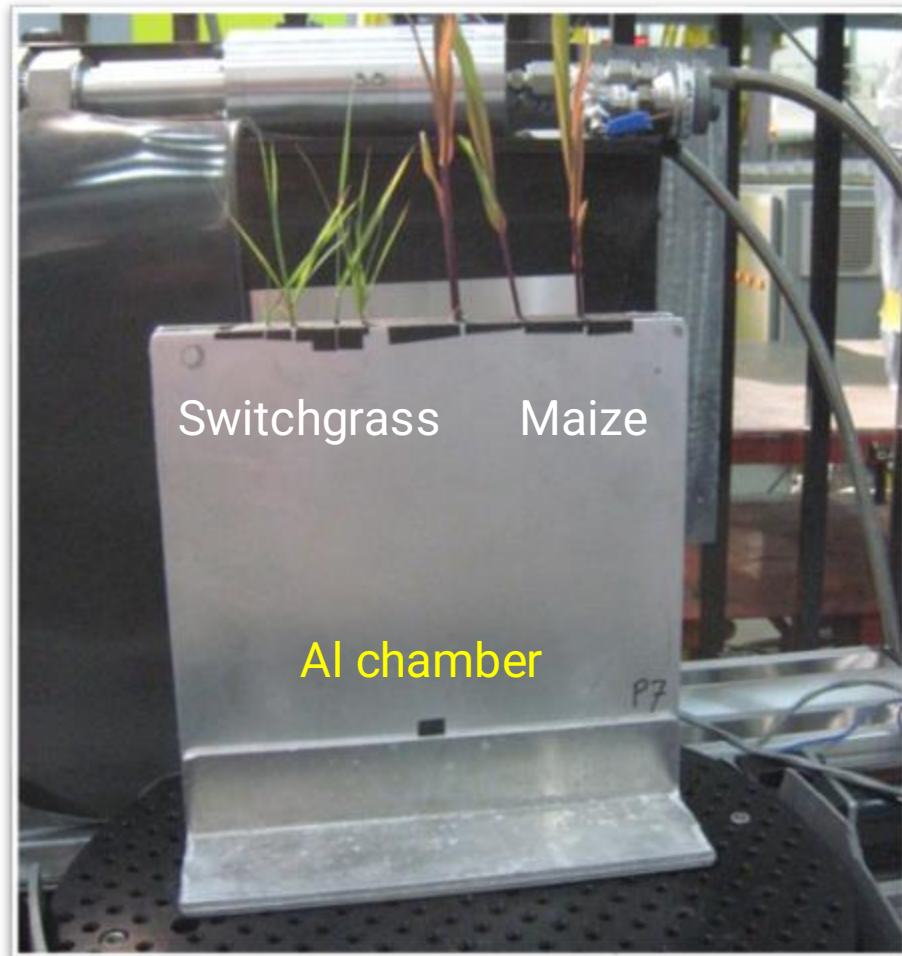
$$\mu = \sigma_{tot} \frac{\rho N_A}{M}$$

Total cross-section

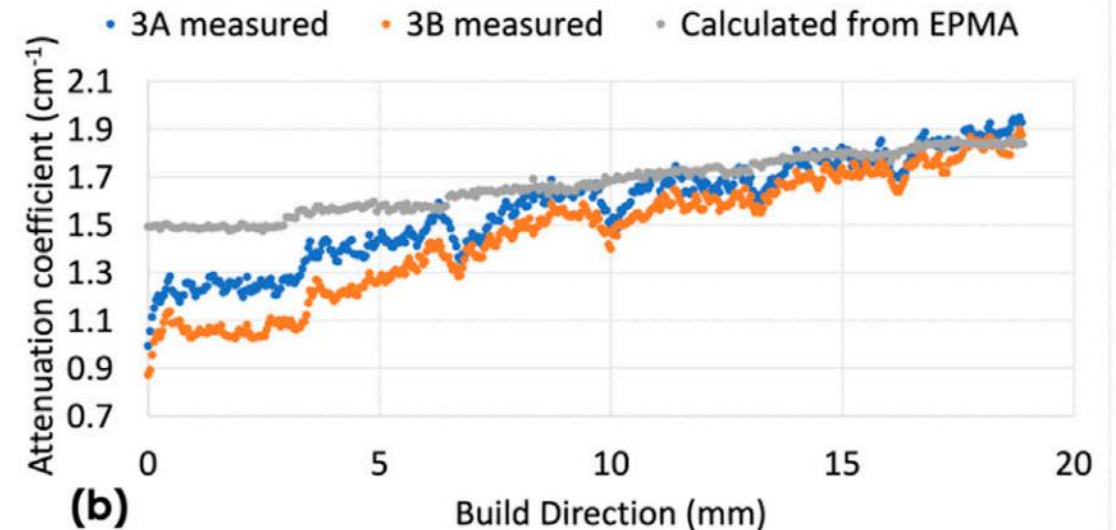
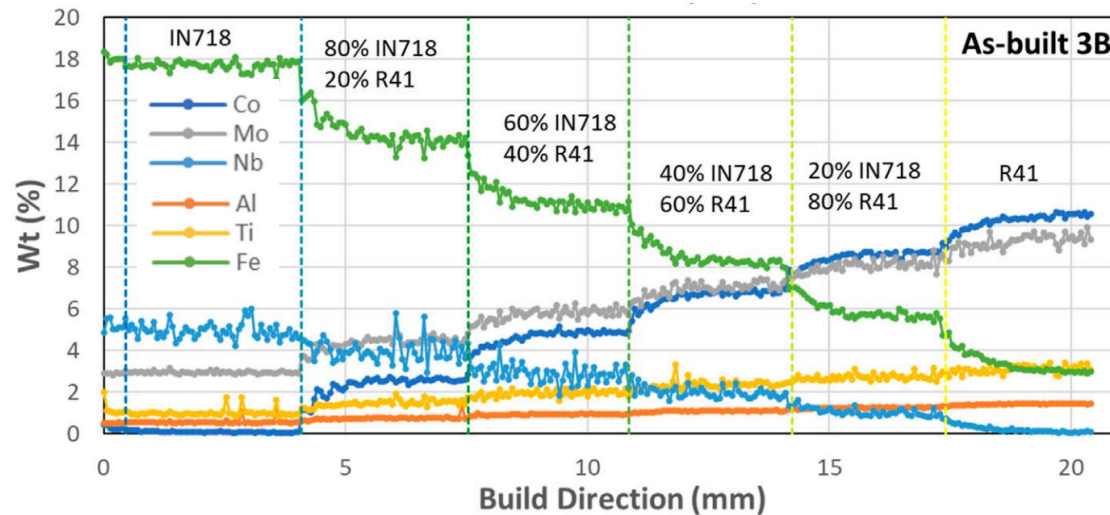
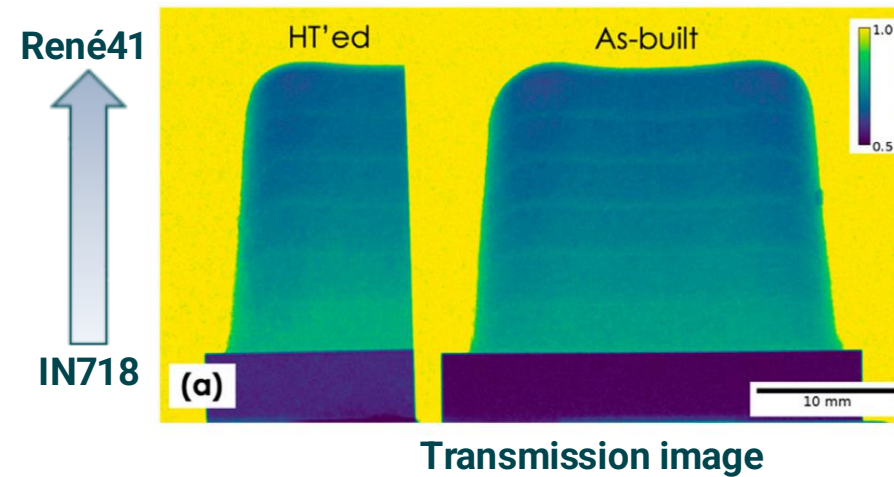
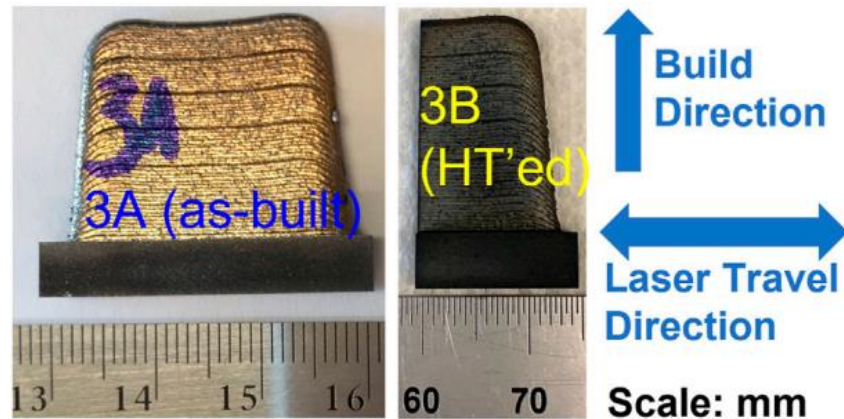
Molar mass



# Visualizing live root system



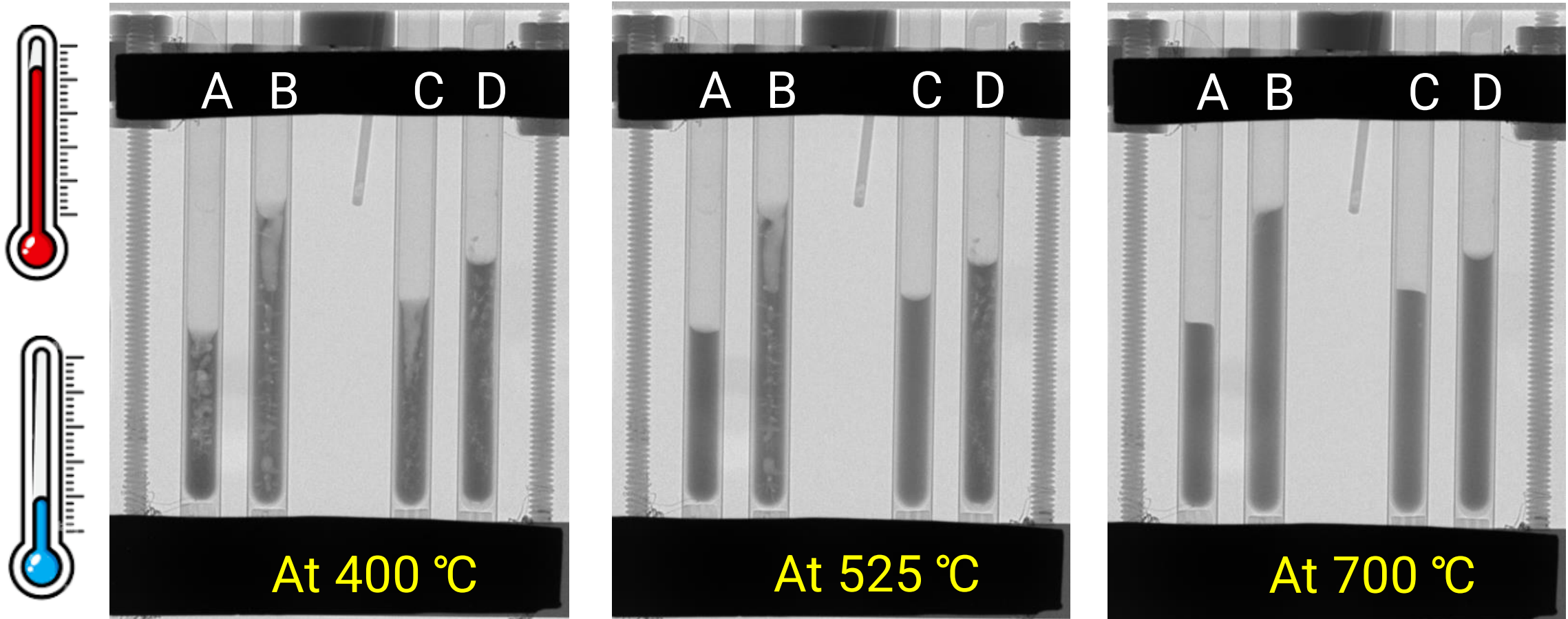
# Resolve composition gradient in graded superalloy



Huang S., Shen C., An K., Zhang Y., Spinelli I., Brennan M., Yu D., *Frontiers in Metals and Alloys*, 1, 1070562 (2022)



# Study dynamic processes – molten salt density vs. temp.

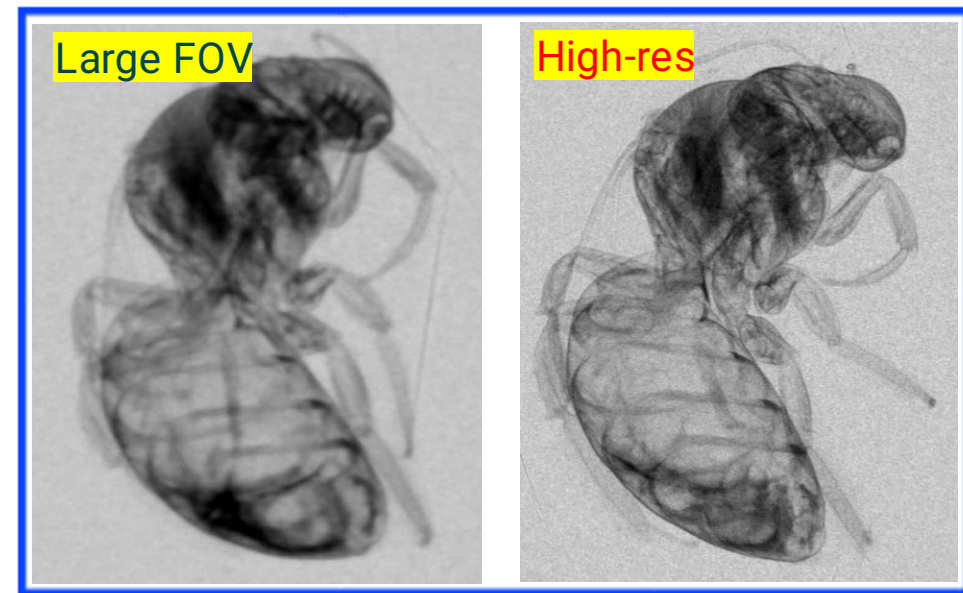
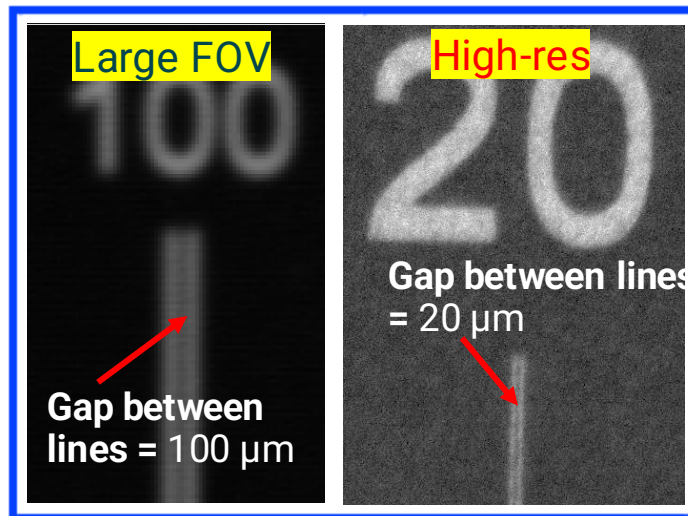


**Selected neutron images upon heating** (inside a vacuum furnace goes up to 1500 °C)

A:  $\text{KCl}(42)\text{--MgCl}_2(58)$ , B:  $\text{NaCl}(50)\text{--KCl}(50)$ , C:  $\text{KCl}(63)\text{--MgCl}_2(37)$ , and D:  $\text{ZrCl}_4(28)\text{--KCl}(72)$ .

# MARS detector specs

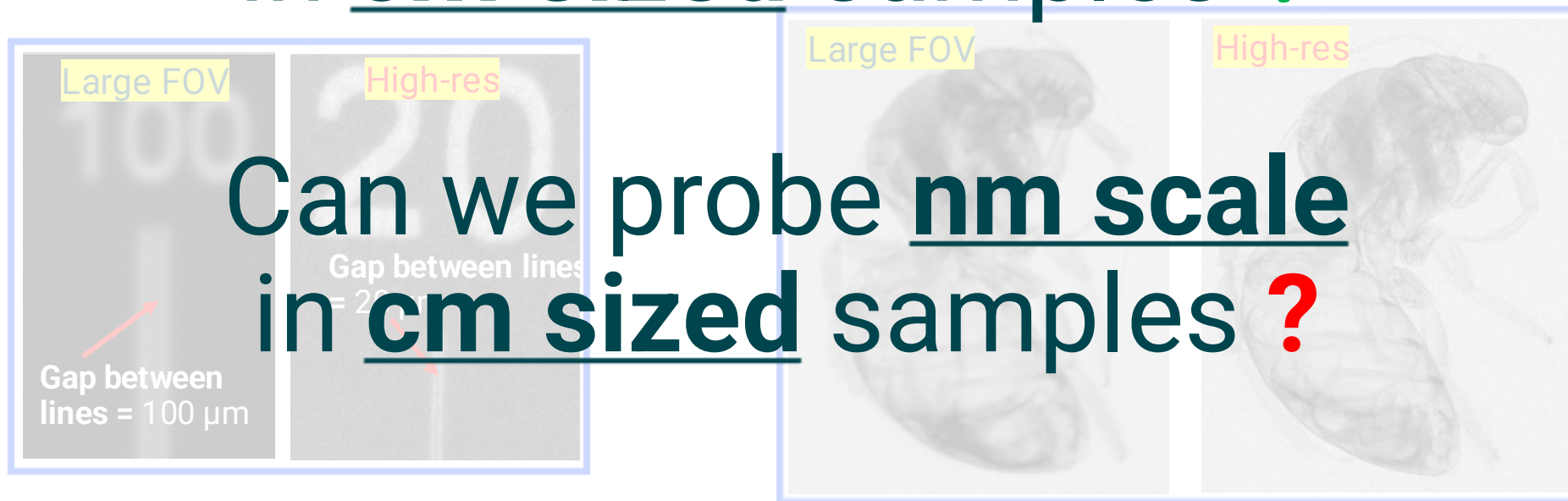
Type of detector	Field-of-view (FOV)	Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Highest spatial resolution ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Typical acquisition time of 1 radiograph	Max. speed @16 bit
High-res (1x)	36 x 24 mm <sup>2</sup>	3.8	10-15	900 s	1 image/second
High-res (.5x)	50 x 48 mm <sup>2</sup>	7.63	20-25	300 s	1 image/second
High-speed (I)	90 x 90 mm <sup>2</sup>	43	~100	< 30 s	24 image/second
High-speed (II)	56 x 56 mm <sup>2</sup>	27	~100	< 30 s	74 image/second
Balanced	90 x 90 mm <sup>2</sup>	16	~50	30-90 s	1 image/second





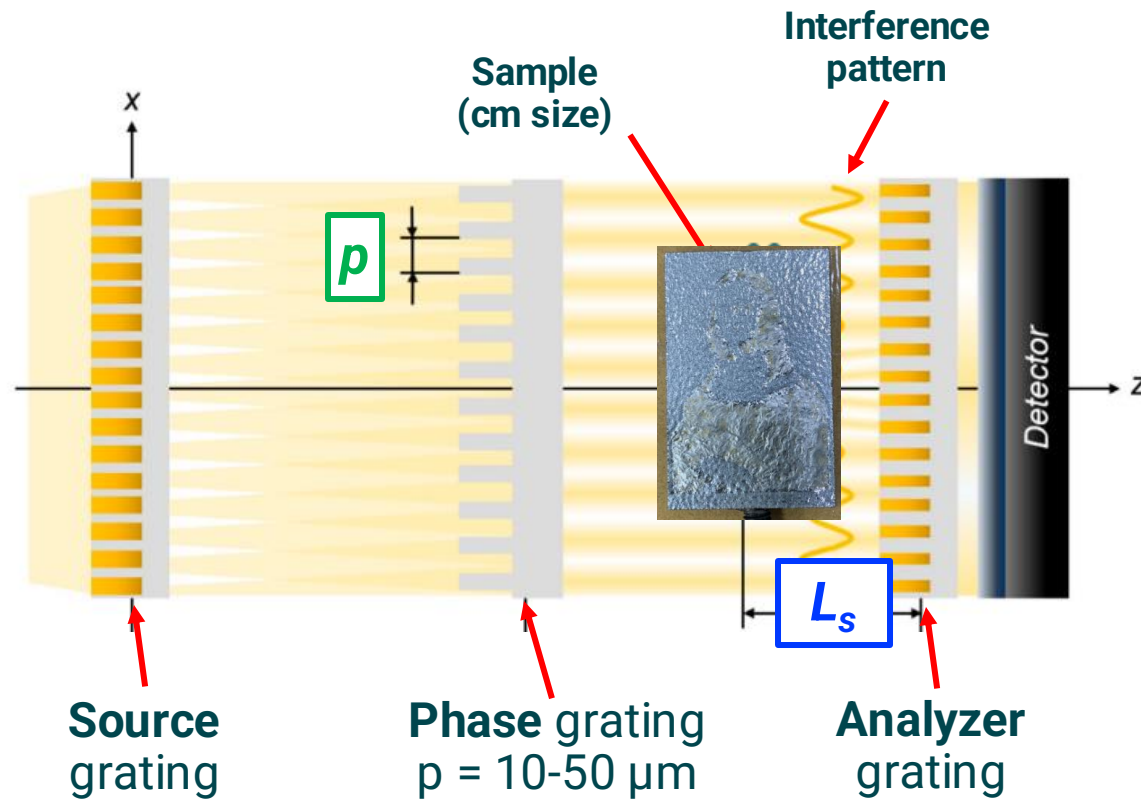
Type of detector	Field-of-view (FOV)	Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Highest spatial resolution (lines/mm)	Typical acquisition time (per frame)	Max. speed @16 bit
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**Transmission-based NI**  
**Directly resolves  $\mu\text{m}$  scale**  
**in cm sized samples ✓**

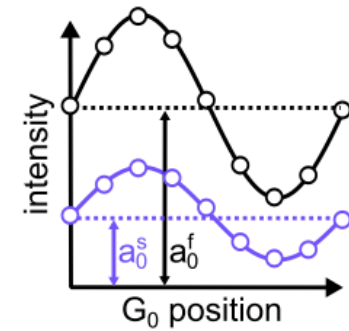


# What is neutron grating interferometry (nGI)?

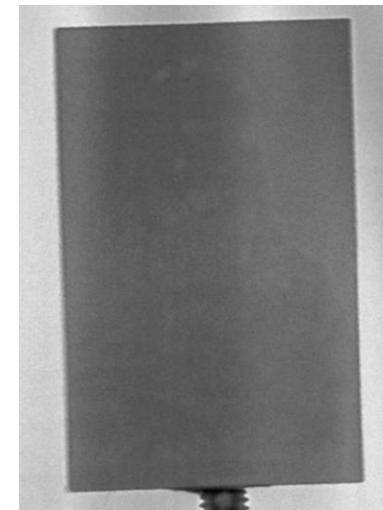
A neutron imaging instrumentation that enable the utilization the **wave properties of neutron**, to spatially resolve sub  $\mu\text{m}$  internal features



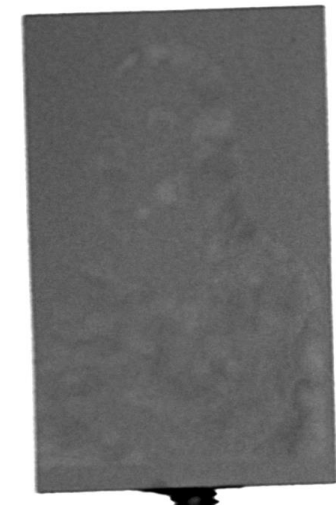
Y. Kim et al., *Applied Sciences* (2022).  
(Sample courtesy of Dr. Chris Fancher)



T. Reimann et al., *J. Applied Crystallography*. (2016)



Raw data resulted from a step-wise scan

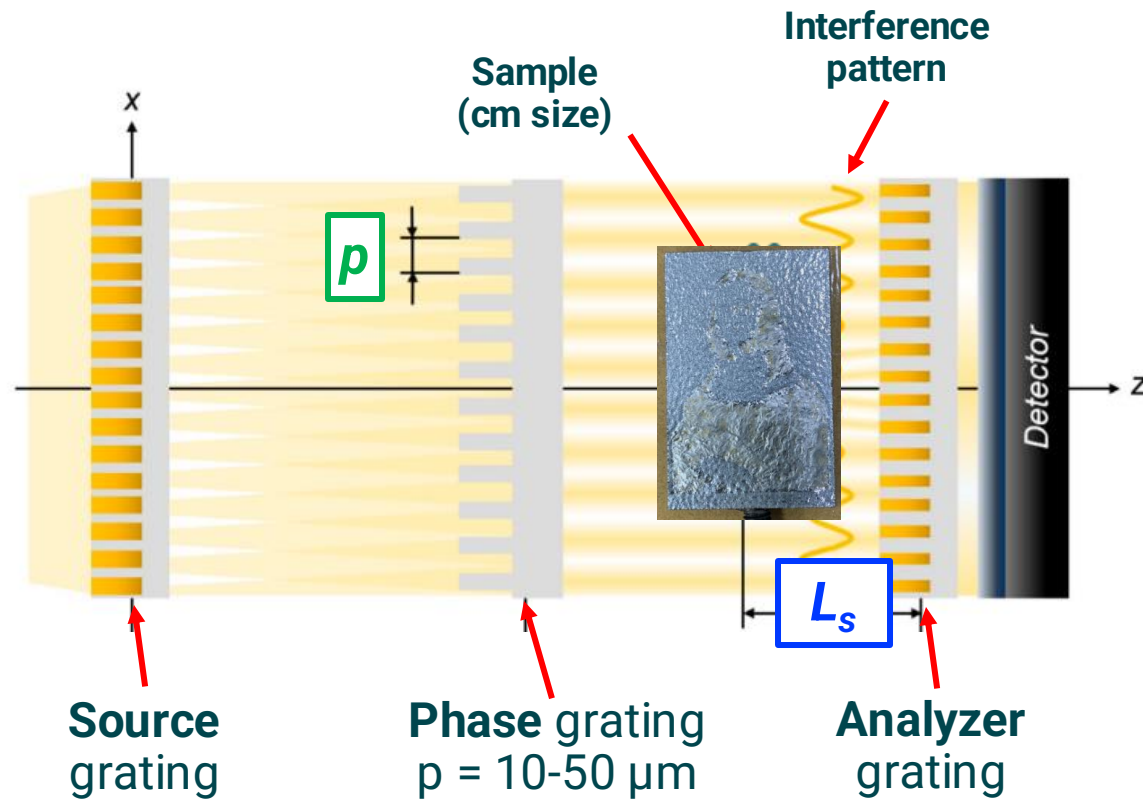


Transmission Image (TI)

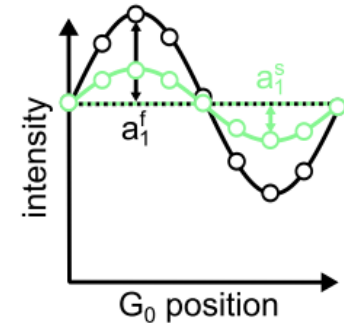


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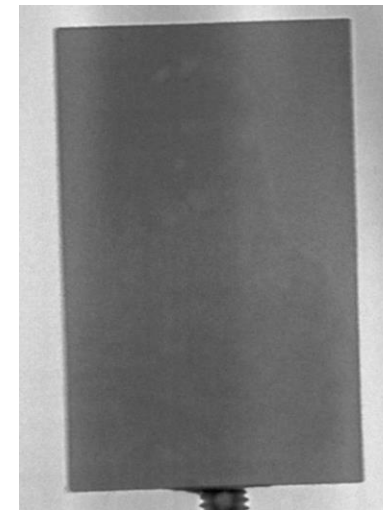
A neutron imaging instrumentation that enable the utilization the **wave properties of neutron**, to spatially resolve sub  $\mu\text{m}$  internal features



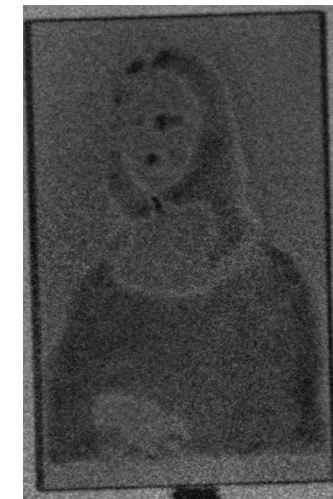
Y. Kim et al., *Applied Sciences* (2022).  
(Sample courtesy of Dr. Chris Fancher)



T. Reimann et al., *J. Applied Crystallography*. (2016)



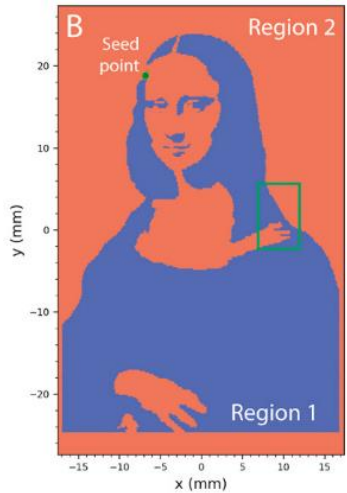
Raw data resulted from a step-wise scan



Dark Field Image (DFI)

# More about this sample along with the nGI results

Inconel



Two different cooling rate regions in an Inconel sample

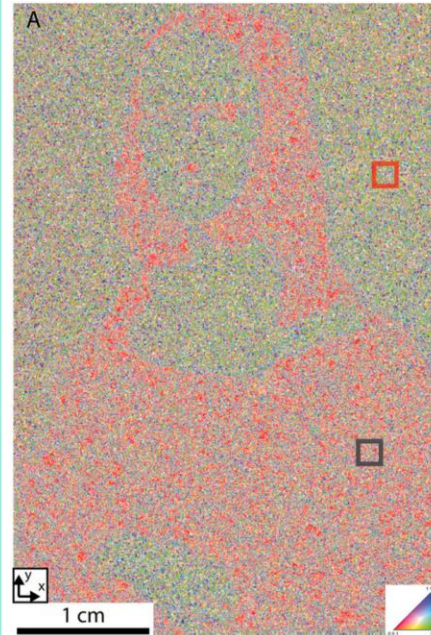
(Sample courtesy of Dr. Chris Fancher)

EBSD image is from Plotkowski et al., *Additive Manufacturing*. 46, 102092, (2021).

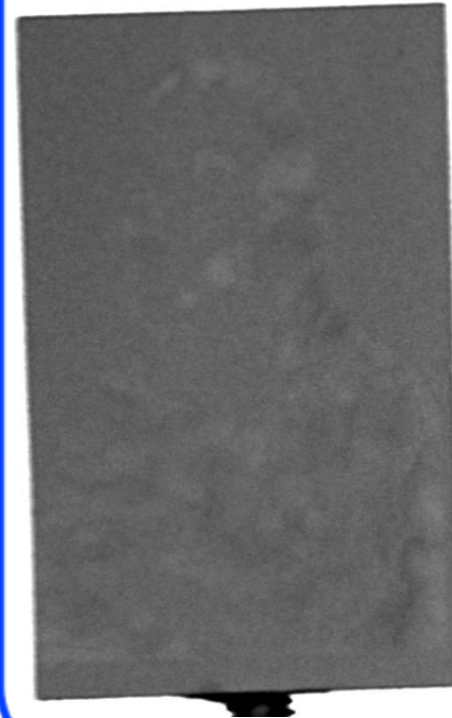
Photo



EBSD



Transmission (TI)



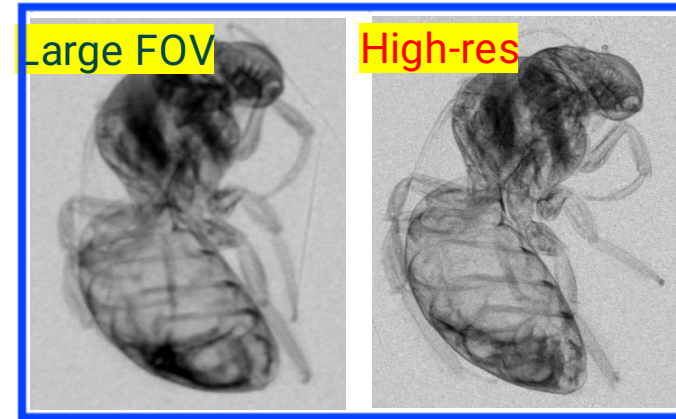
Dark Field (DFI)



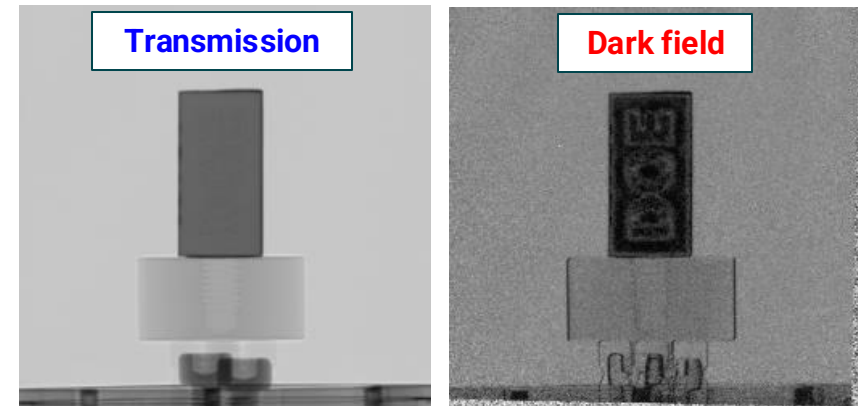
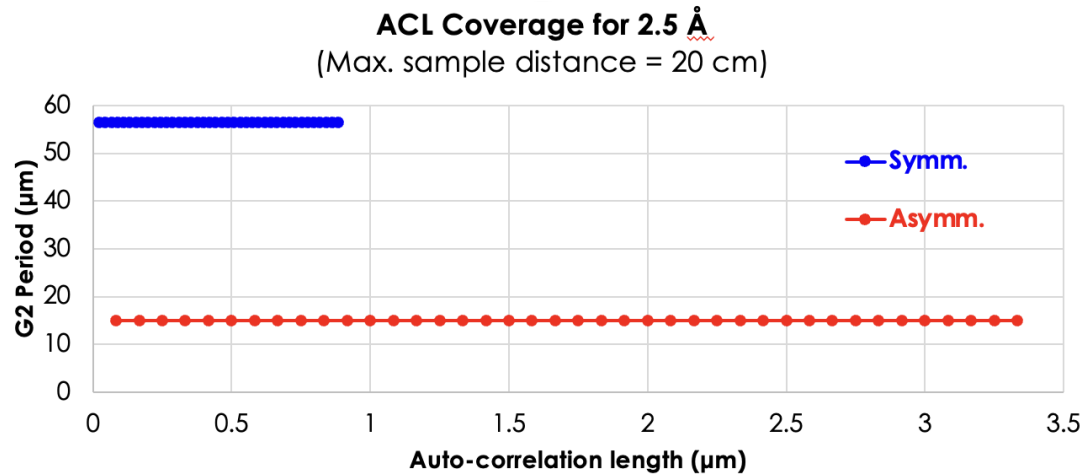
Color relates to the SANS from features in certain sizes

# Neutron Imaging Capabilities at MARS

- Radiography & Tomography (high res.)



- nGI



(Sample courtesy of R. Dehoff)

- Polarized Neutron Imaging
- Monochromatic Imaging



# Outline



- Imaging at HFIR (Yuxuan)
  - Principle of neutron radiography and computed tomography at a continuous source
  - The MARS beamline
  - Applications and examples
- Imaging at SNS (Hassina)
  - Principle of hyperspectral imaging at a pulsed source
  - The VENUS beamline
  - Applications and examples
- Software for imaging (Jean)





September 7, 2025

# Hyperspectral Neutron Imaging

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Hassina Bilheux

Neutron Scattering Division



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# Neutron Radiography and Computed Tomography at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory

## High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR)

Intense steady-state neutron flux  
and a high-brightness cold neutron source

MARS – Yuxuan Zhang (previous talk)

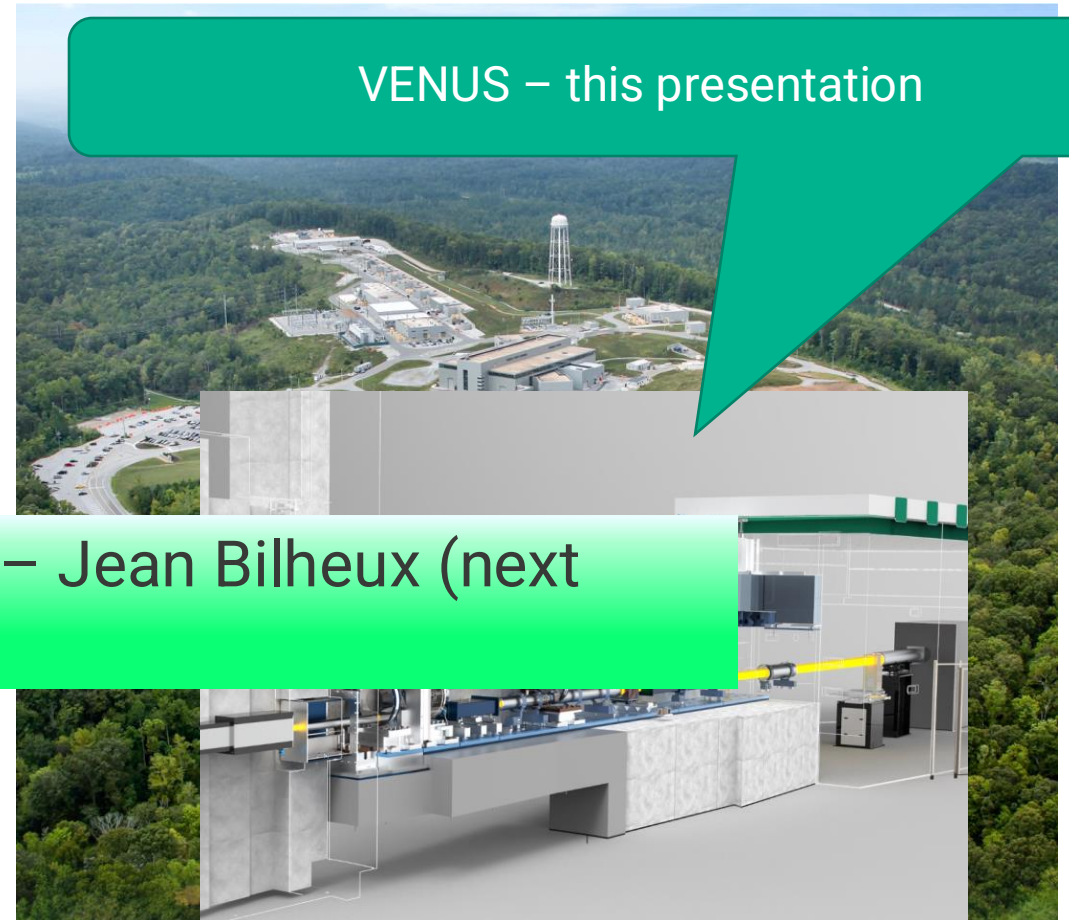


Software programming – Jean Bilheux (next talk)

## Spallation Neutron Source (SNS)

World's most powerful accelerator-based neutron source

VENUS – this presentation

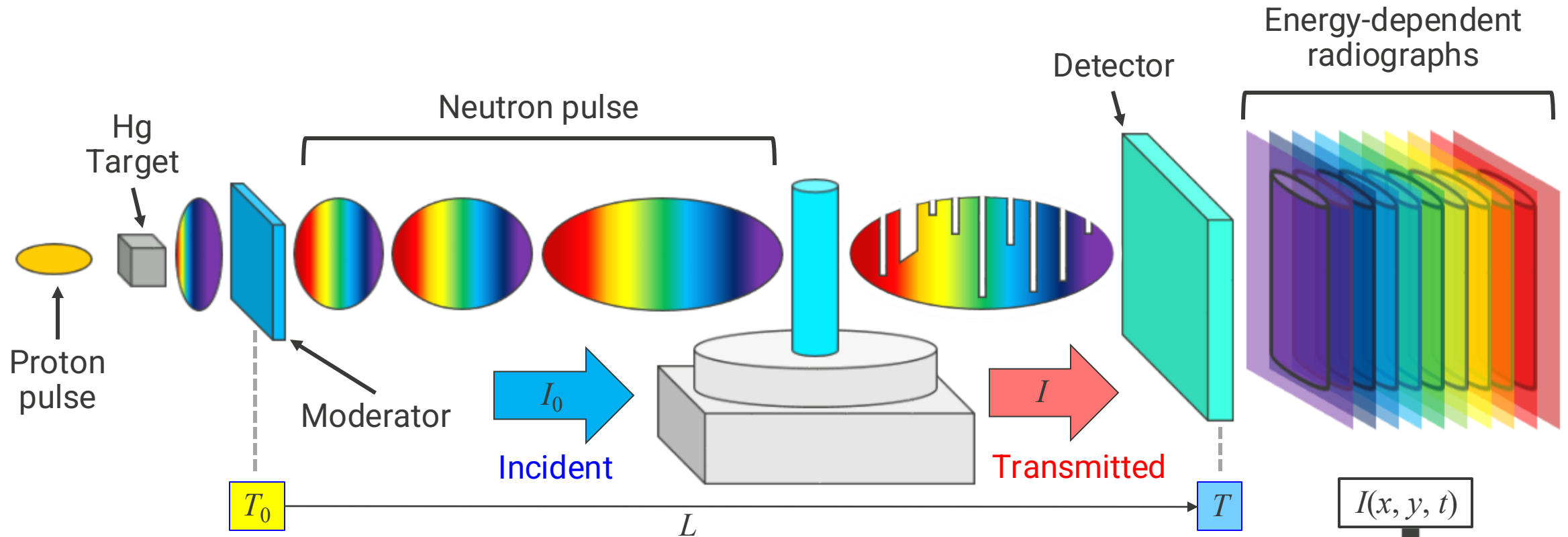




# What is hyperspectral neutron imaging?

- Collection of radiographs at different neutron wavelengths/energies
  - Data is 'histogrammed' into wavelength/energy- resolved radiographs
  - New detector technology can collect event data (histogram can be done after data collection)
- Neutron cross-sections vary as a function of wavelength/energy
- Imaging contrast can be changed using neutron cross-section properties

# Imaging at a pulsed source (Spallation Neutron Source or SNS)



Courtesy of Y. Zhang, ORNL

$$I(\lambda) = I_0(\lambda)e^{-\mu(\lambda)x} \quad \mu(\lambda) = \sigma_t(\lambda) \frac{\rho N_A}{M}$$

$$I(x, y, t) \rightarrow I(x, y, \lambda) \text{ or } I(x, y, E)$$

# Neutron wavelength/energy can be determined by time-of-flight at a pulsed source such as the SNS

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{m_n v} = \frac{h}{m_n} \frac{(t - t_e)}{L}$$

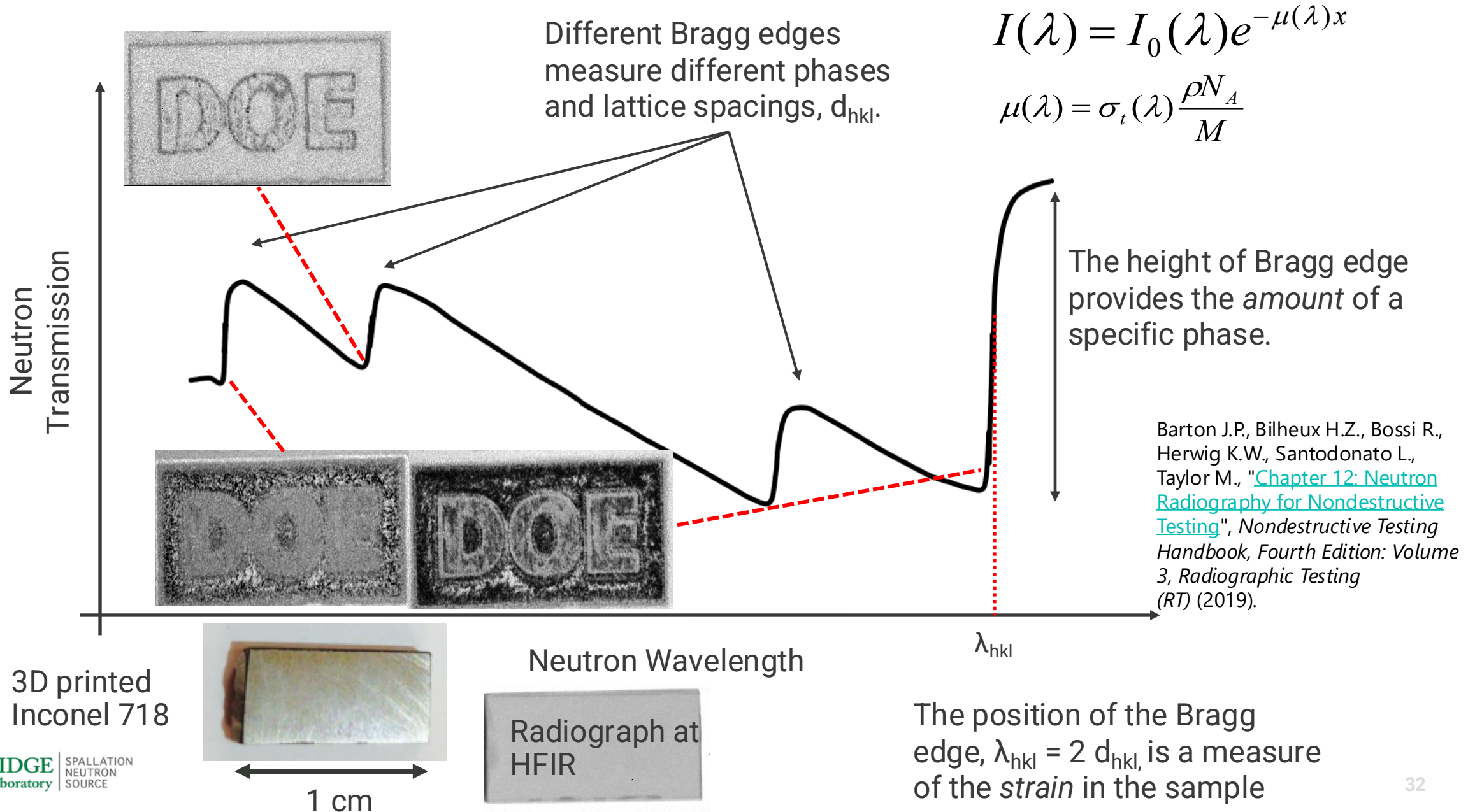
$$E = \frac{h^2}{2m_n \lambda^2}$$

Neutron classification	Energy (meV)	Velocity (m.s <sup>-1</sup> )	Wavelength (Å)
cold	1	437	9.04
thermal	25	2187	1.81
epithermal	1000	13,833	0.29

Bragg edge radiography



# Bragg edge imaging: how does it work?



# Principle of Bragg edge Transmission

- ✓ Utilizes thermal and cold neutrons (approximately between 1 and 10 Å)
- ✓ Obeys Bragg's Law  $\lambda_{hkl} = 2d_{hkl} \sin \theta_{hkl}$  simplifies:  $\lambda_{hkl} = 2d_{hkl}$

$$\lambda = 2d_{hkl}$$

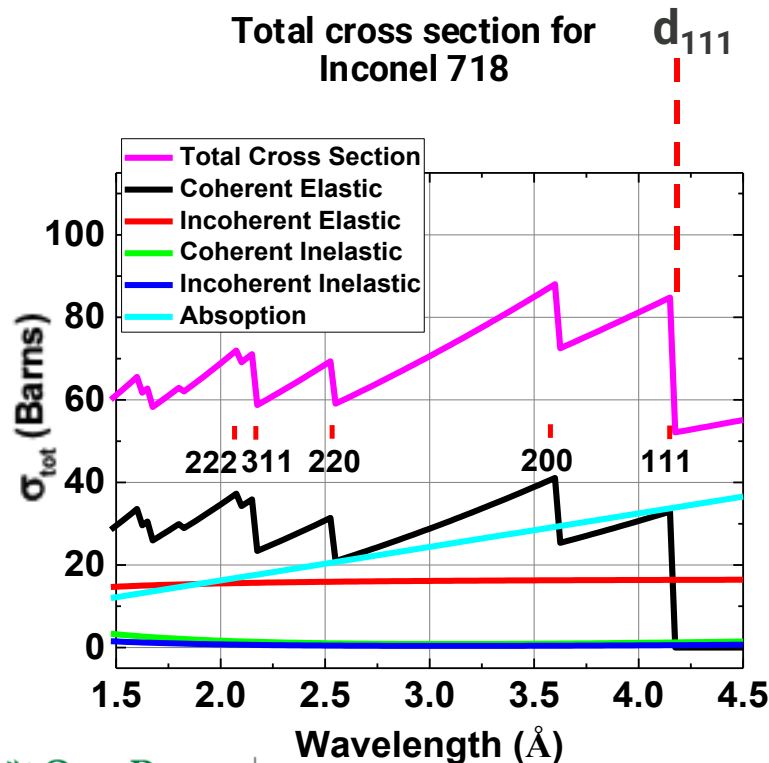
$$\varepsilon = \frac{d-d_0}{d_0}$$

$$\sigma_{Bragg}(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^2}{2V_0} \sum_{hkl}^{2d_{hkl} > \lambda} |F_{hkl}|^2 d_{hkl} \underbrace{P(\alpha_{\vec{h}}(\lambda))}_{\text{March-Dollase model}} \underbrace{E_{hkl}(\lambda, F_{hkl})}_{\text{Sabine's primary extinction model}}$$

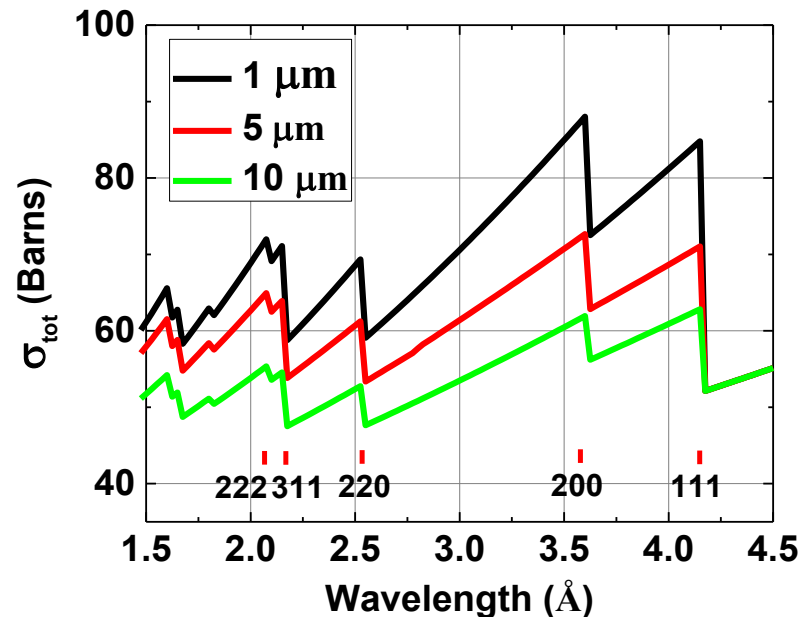
$V_0$ : volume of unit cell

$F_{hkl}$ : Structure factor including Debye-Waller factor

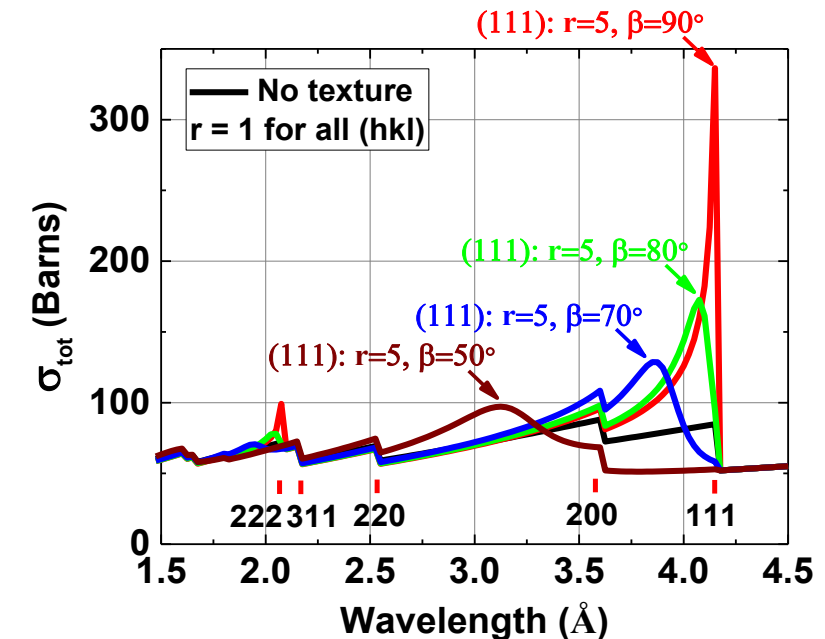
Total cross section for Inconel 718



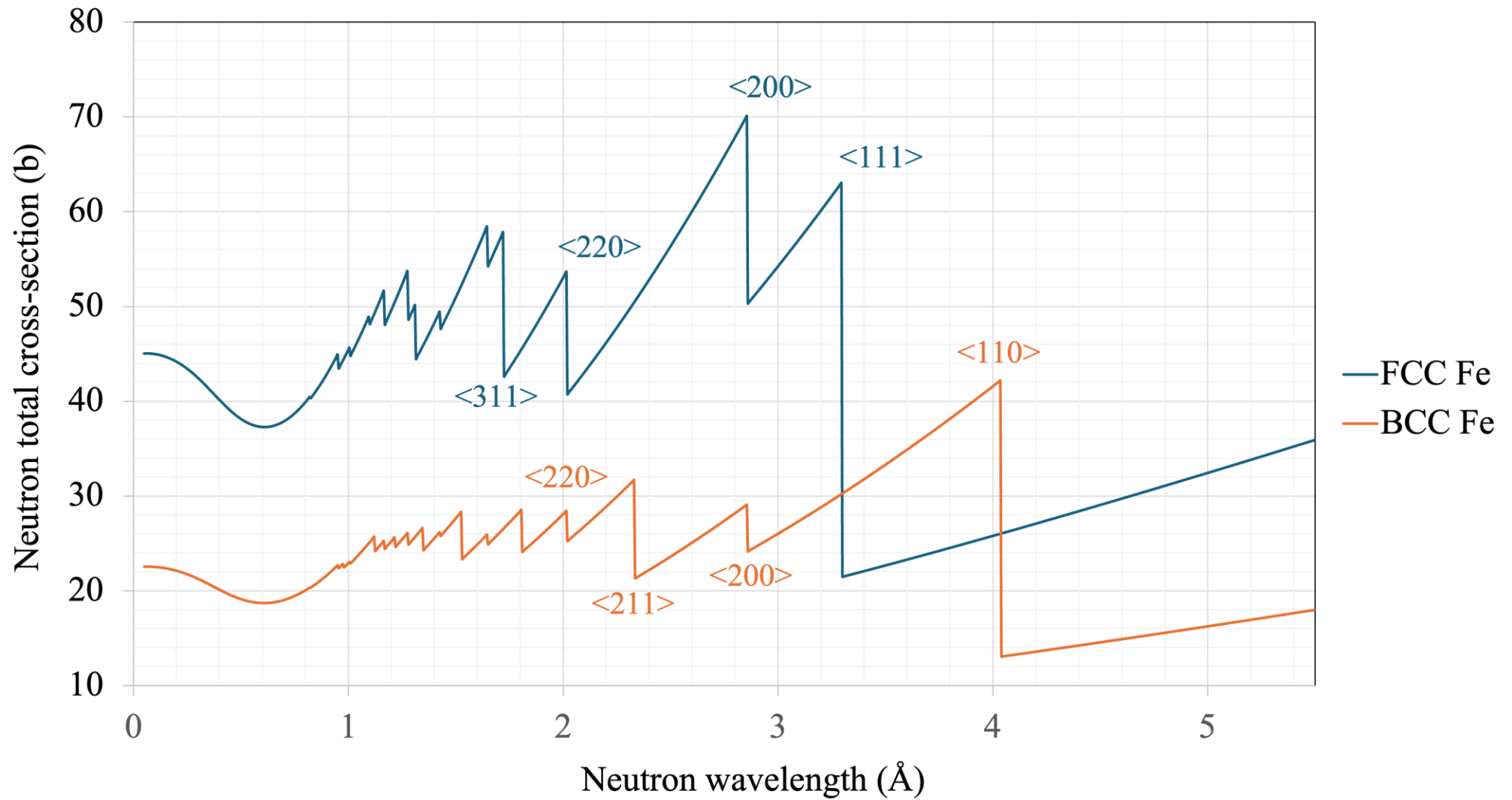
Crystallite size effect ( $E_{hkl}$ )



Crystallite orientation effect ( $P(\alpha_{\vec{h}}(\lambda))$ :  $r$  and  $\beta$ )



# Calculated Bragg edges for Iron FCC and BCC phases

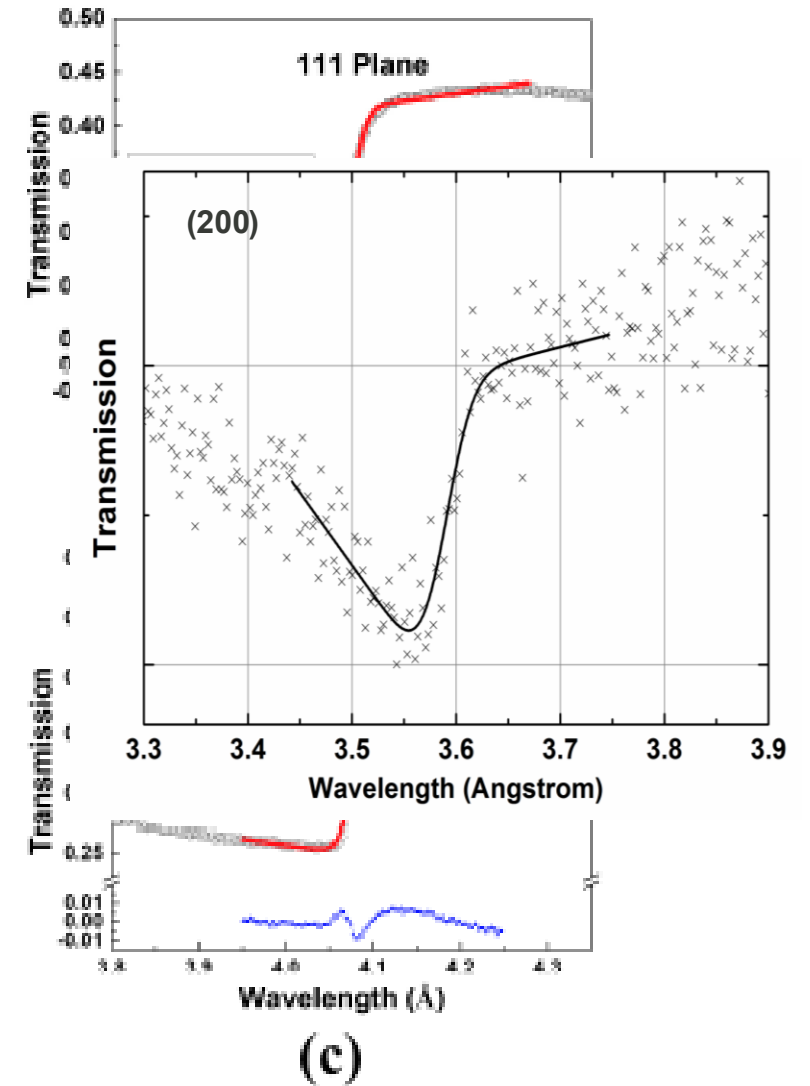
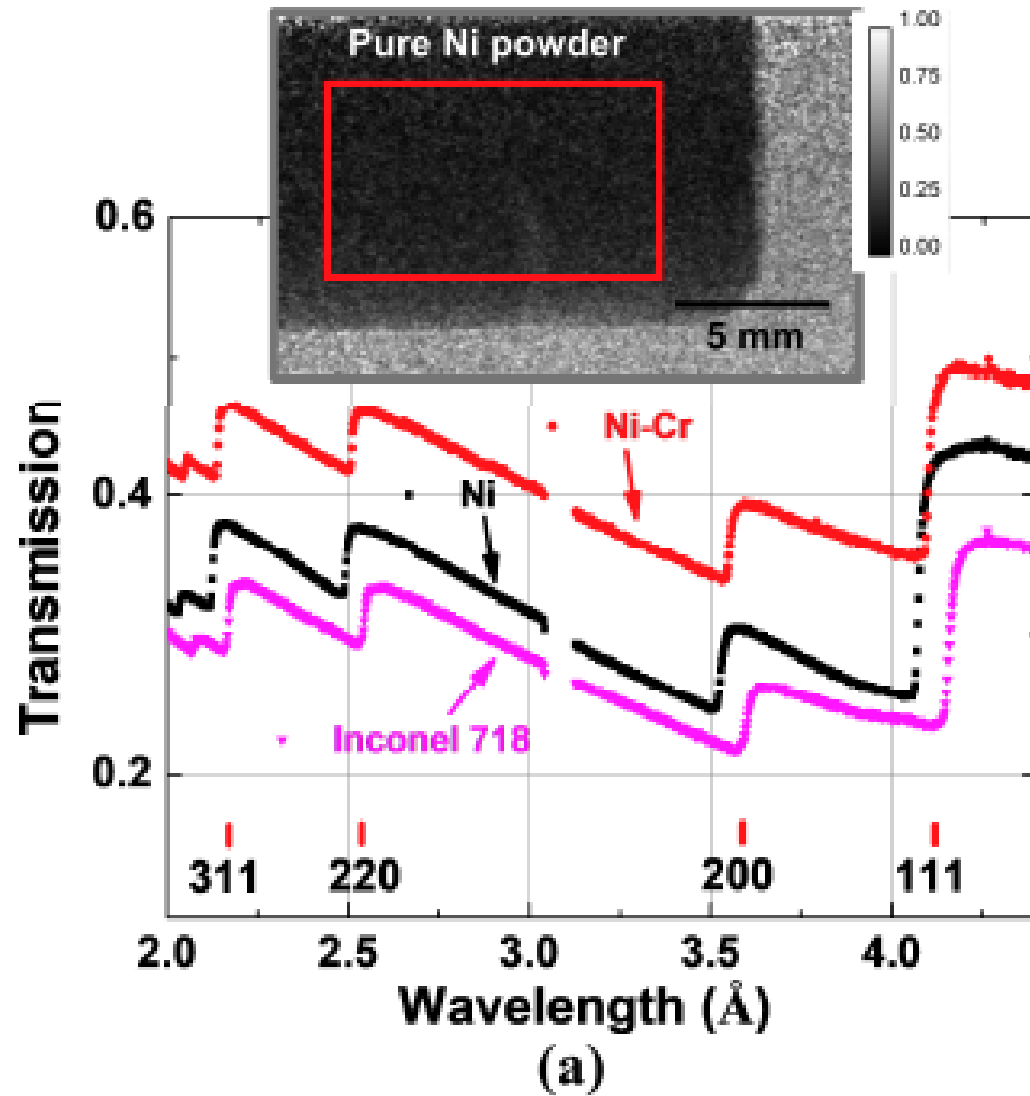


Bragg edges plotted with:

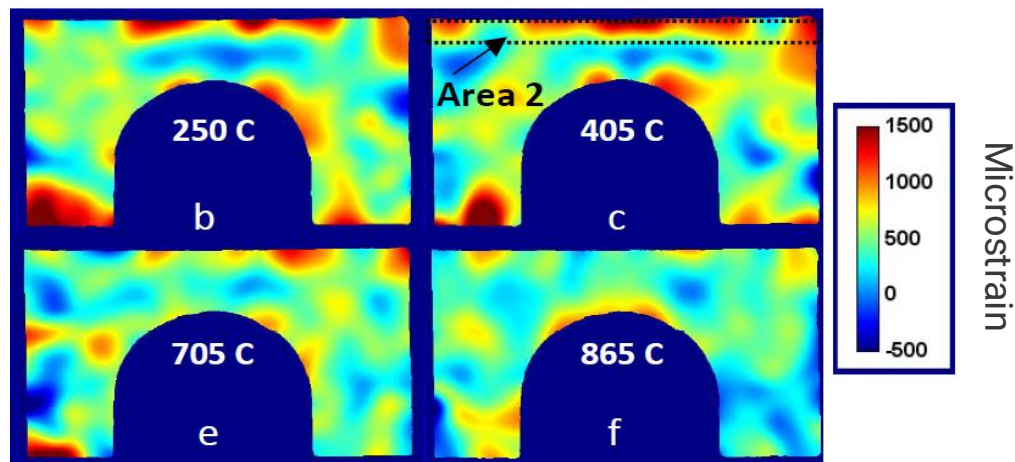
iNEUIT ("I knew it")



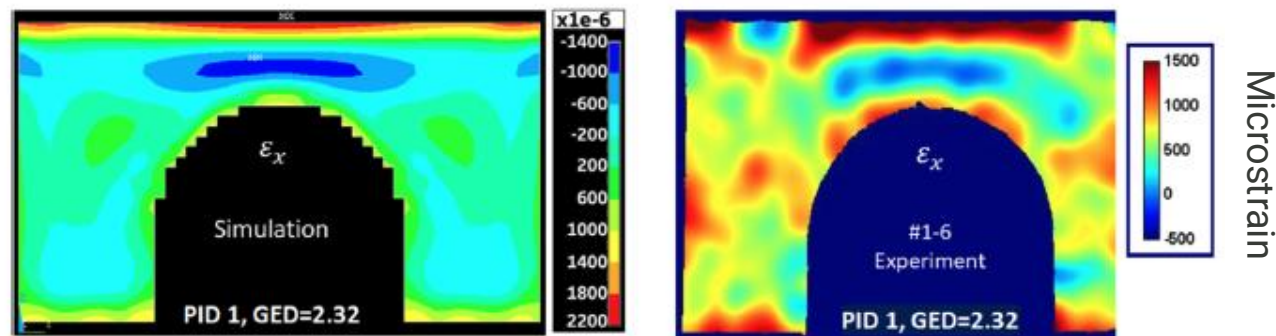
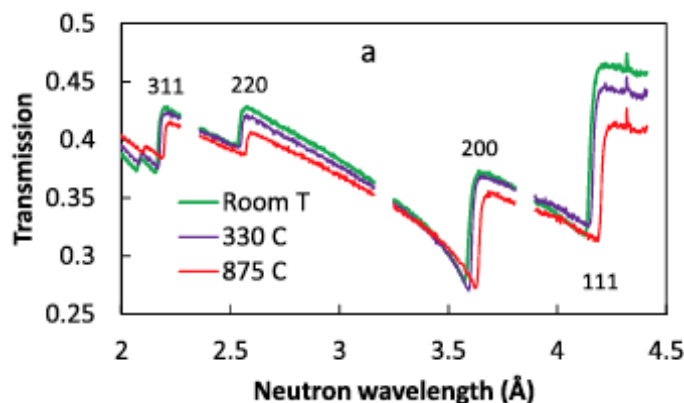
# The perfect case study: powders



# Engineered Materials: Monitoring residual strain relaxation and preferred grain orientation of additively manufactured Inconel 625 by in-situ neutron imaging (10 min measurements)



AM Inconel 625 strain evolution as a function of temperature



Modeled and experimental results.

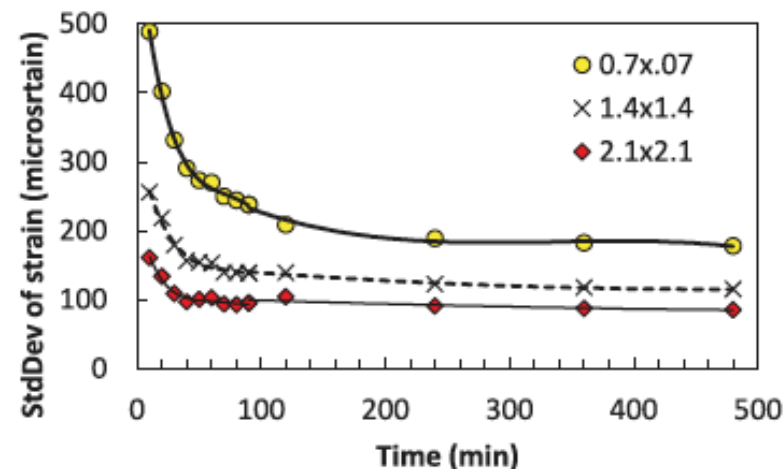


Fig. 16. Variation of the standard deviation of the reconstructed strain as a function of image integration time. Three different sizes of the area used for pixel grouping are used for strain reconstruction, as indicated by the legend (in mm²).

$$\lambda = 2d_{hkl}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{d-d_0}{d_0}$$

Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CAL

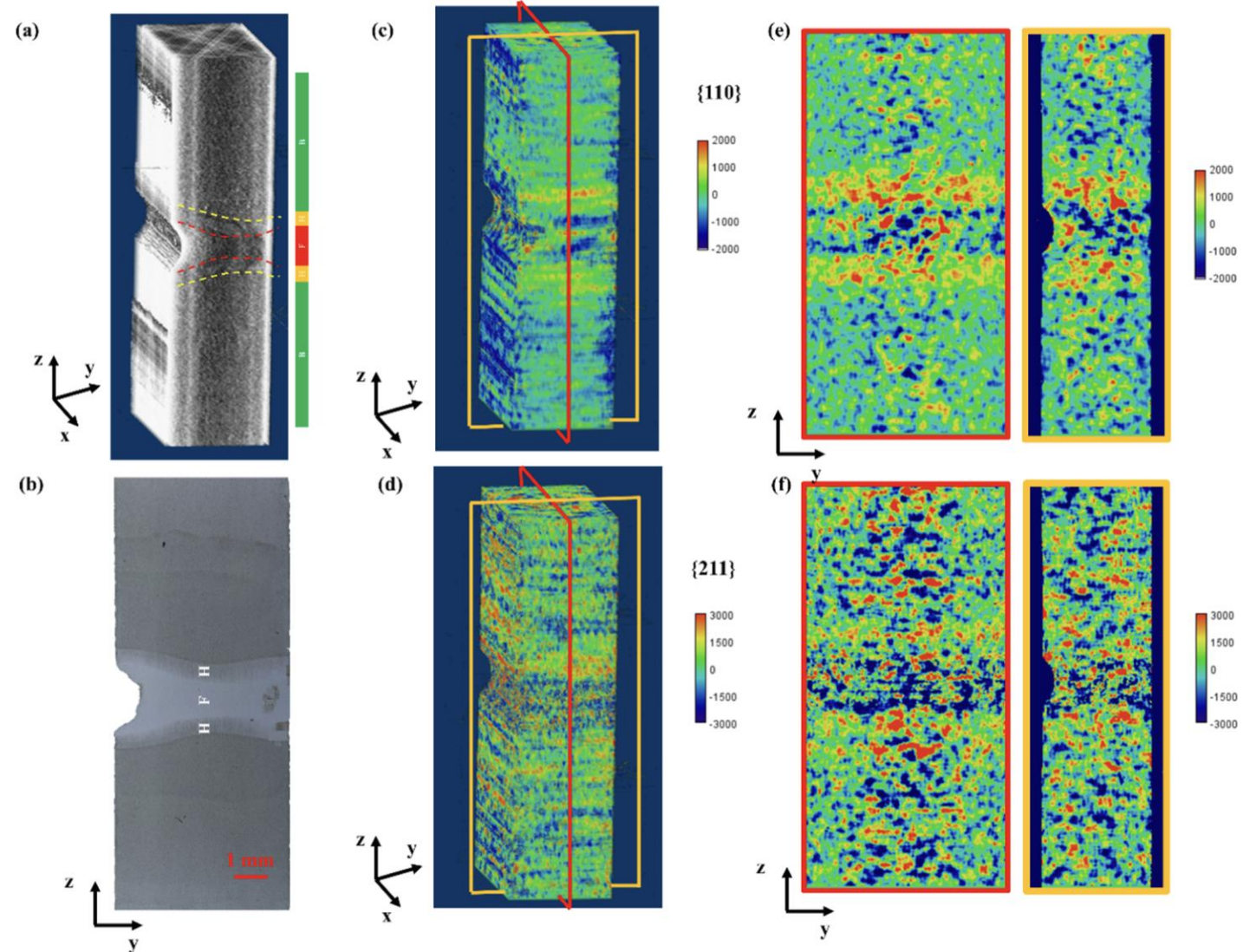


# Mapping residual stresses in welds: the example of Eurofer97

Material: Eurofer97- European Reduced Activation Ferritic-Martensitic (RAFM) steel, structural material candidate for fusion energy systems

Goal: predict longevity of engineering component by investigating the distribution of residual stress

Butt weld of two 6-mm thick Eurofer97 plates with dimensions of 150x75x6 mm<sup>3</sup>





# Neutron wavelength/energy can be determined by time-of-flight at a pulsed source such as the SNS

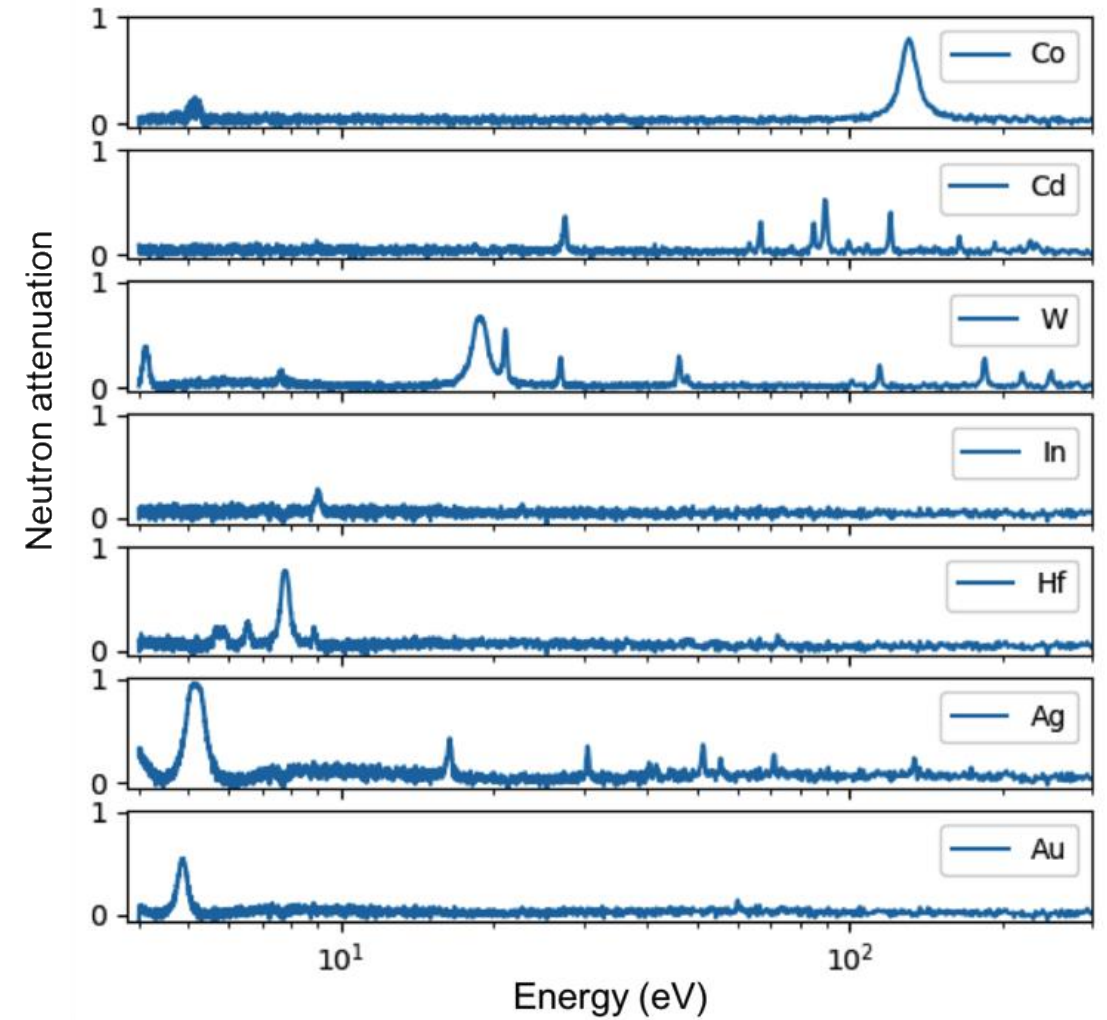
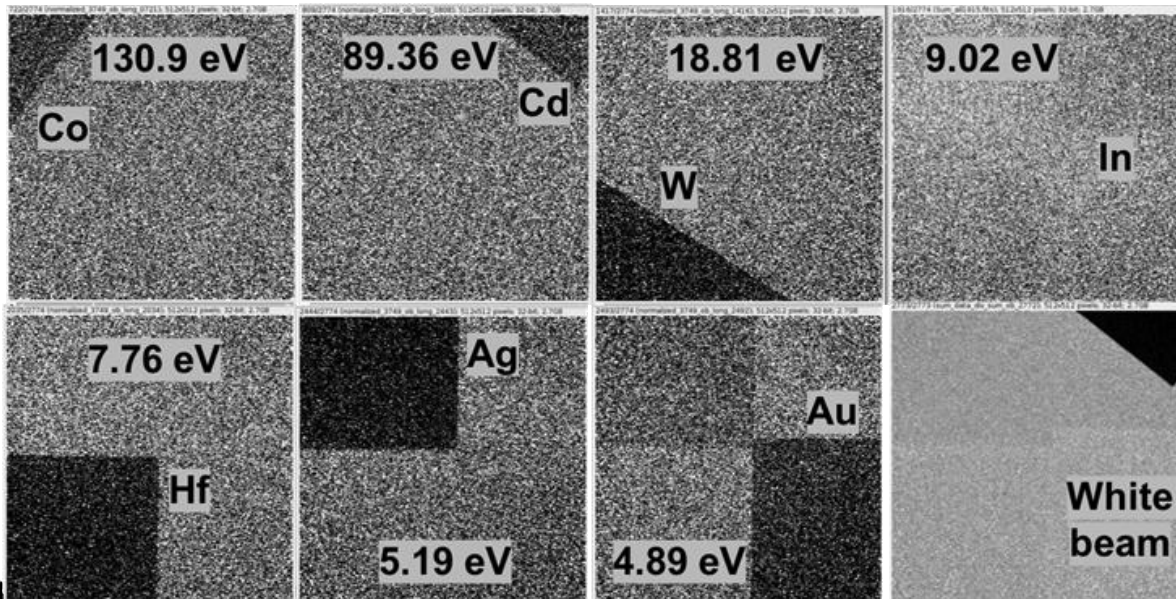
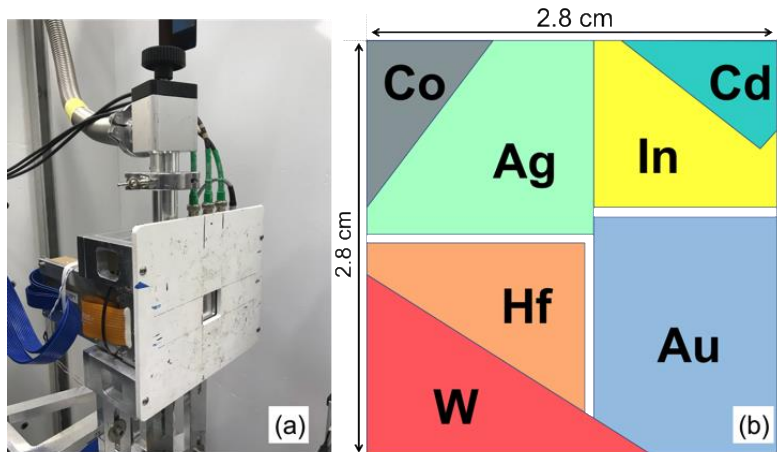
$$\lambda = \frac{h}{m_n v} = \frac{h}{m_n} \frac{(t - t_e)}{L}$$

$$E = \frac{h^2}{2m_n \lambda^2}$$

Neutron classification	Energy (meV)	Velocity (m.s <sup>-1</sup> )	Wavelength (Å)
cold	1	437	9.04
thermal	25	2187	1.81
epithermal	1000	13,833	0.29

## Resonance radiography

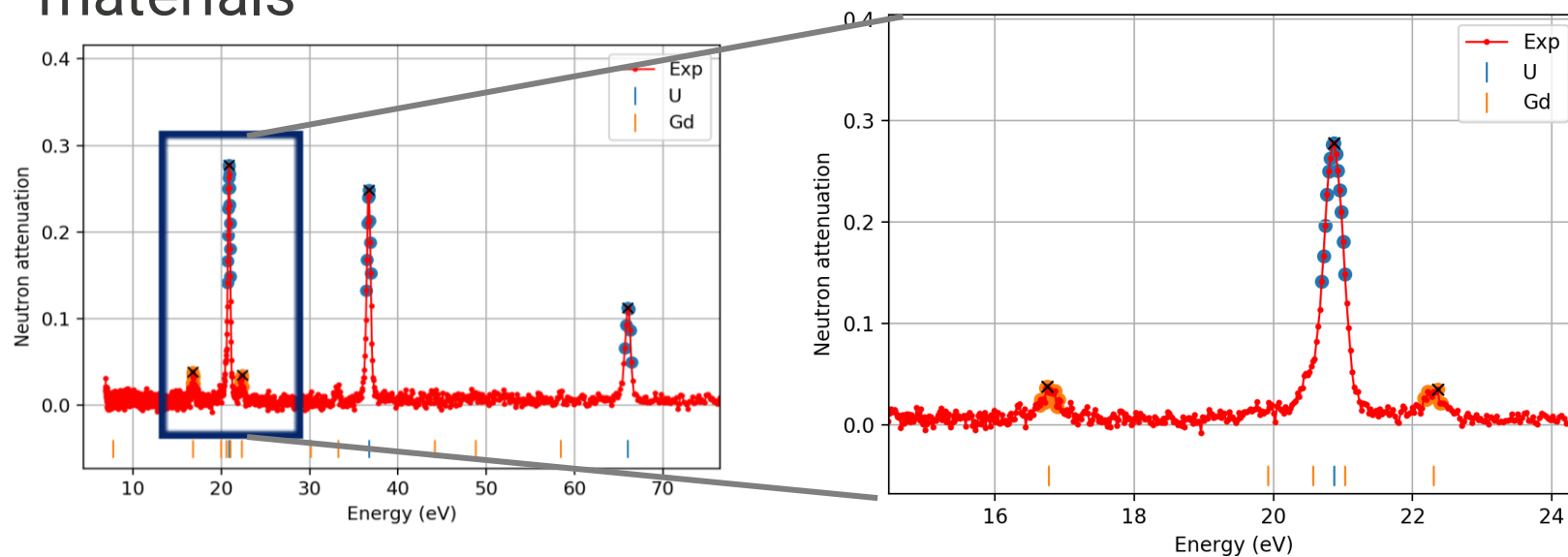
# Higher energy neutrons can also be used for imaging (neutrons of energies higher than 1 eV): Resonance Imaging



Zhang Y., Myhre K.G., Bilheux H.Z., Tremsin A.S., Johnson J.A., Bilheux J., Miskowicz A., Hunt R.D., Santodonato L., Molaison J.J., "[Neutron Resonance Radiography and Application to Nuclear Fuel Materials](#)", *Transactions of the American Nuclear Society*, (2018).

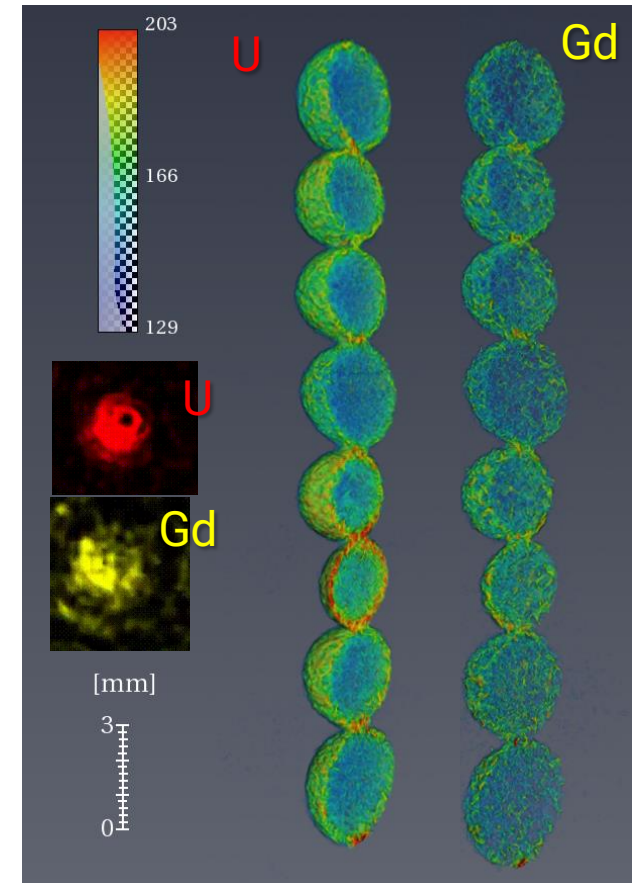
# Using epithermal neutrons (energy > 1 eV), resonance imaging can map the isotopic content in advanced nuclear fuel materials in 3D

- Distribution of elements drive the performance of the novel advanced nuclear fuel materials



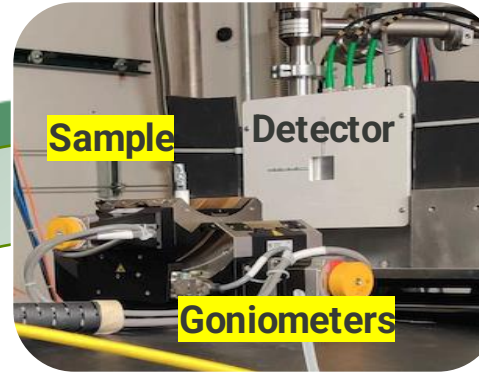
- Quantitative analysis is being developed using in-house open-source Python package (ResoFit)

Myhre K.G., Zhang Y., Bilheux H.Z., Johnson J.A., Bilheux J., Miskowiec A., Hunt R.D.,  
"[Nondestructive Tomographic Mapping of Uranium and Gadolinium Using Energy-Resolved Neutron Imaging](#)", *Transactions of the American Nuclear Society*, (2018).

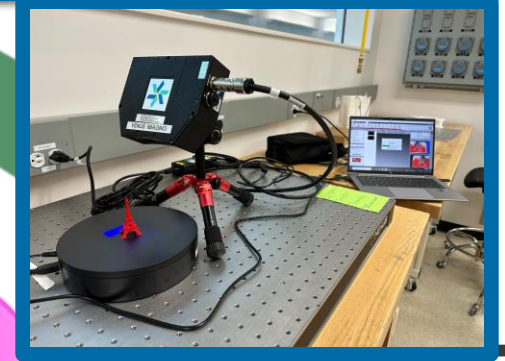




# Autonomous Hyperspectral Neutron CT Experiment at ORNL



Light scan and preselection of projection angles



Stop

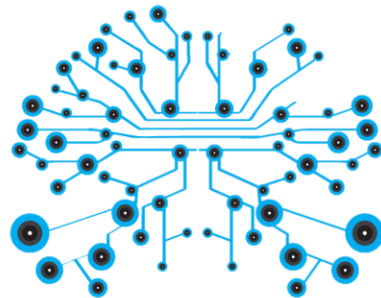
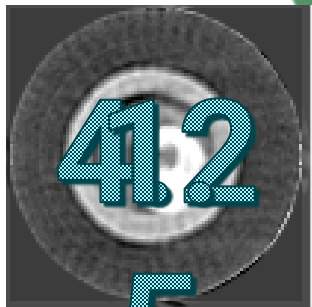
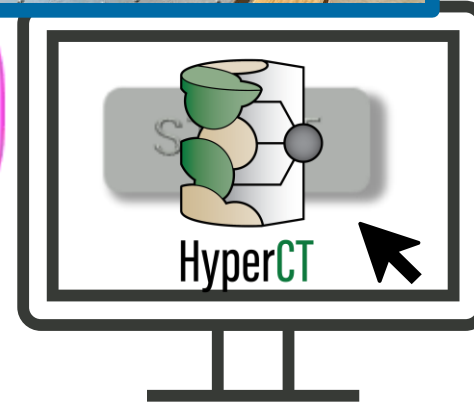


Autonomous Decision

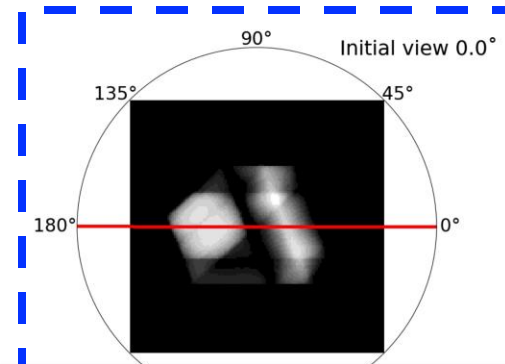
Continue

Up to factor 5 improvement in time

- ▶ Optimization of the scan based on the unique sample geometry
- ▶ Ability to provide real-time reconstructed data using advanced iterative reconstruction methods



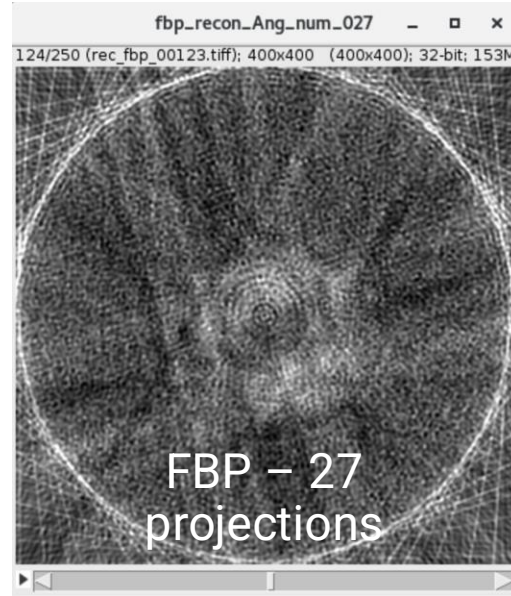
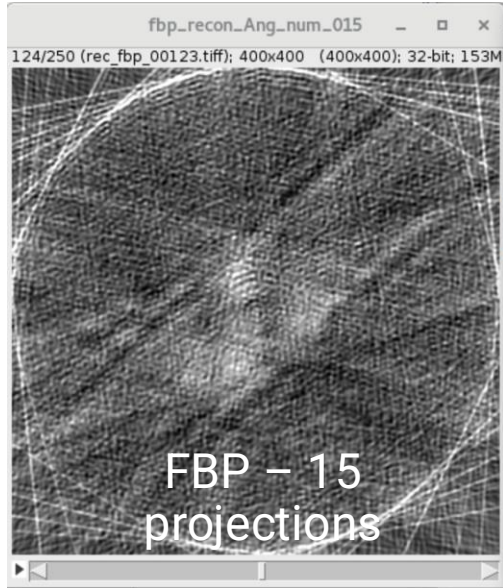
AI Quality Evaluation



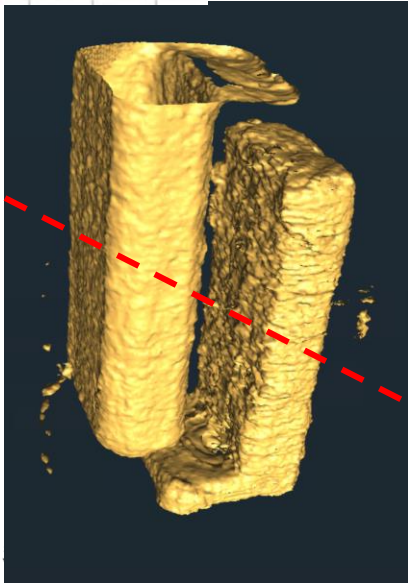
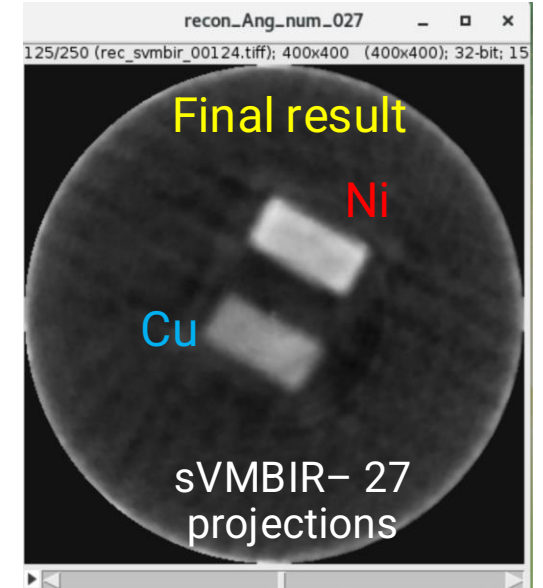
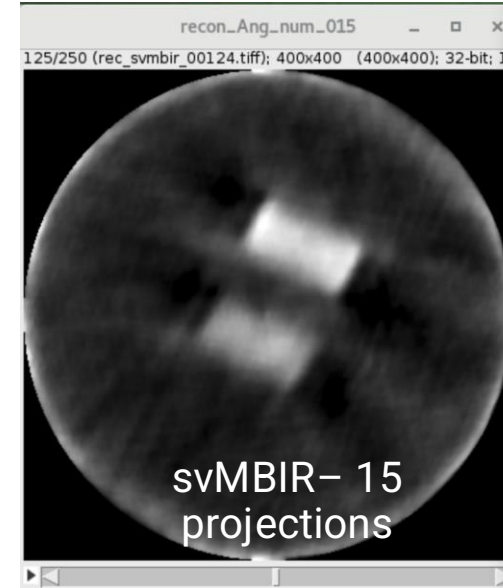
Sample Adaptive Scanning Angles (active learning)

# <311> Bragg edge reconstruction at $\sim 2.17 \text{ \AA} \pm 0.2 \text{ \AA}$

## Conventional reconstruction methods



## Our advanced algorithms/methods

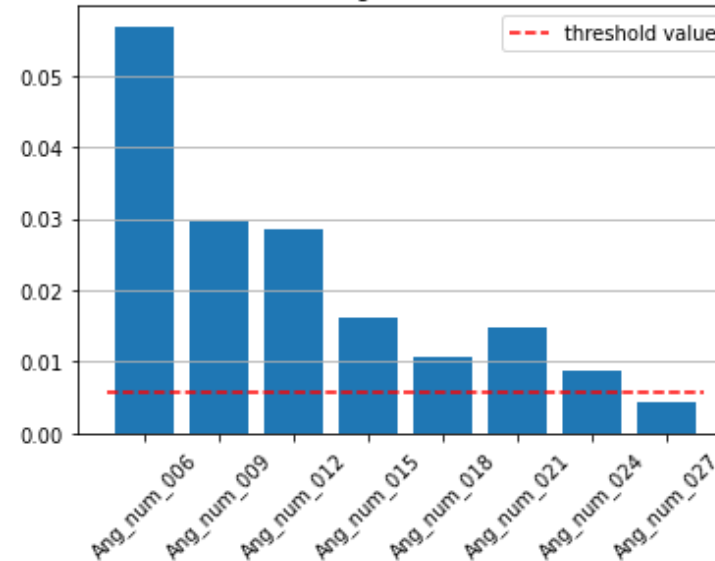


	Thresholds
MSE <sup>1</sup>	$5.689 \times 10^{-3}$
SSIM <sup>2</sup>	0.634

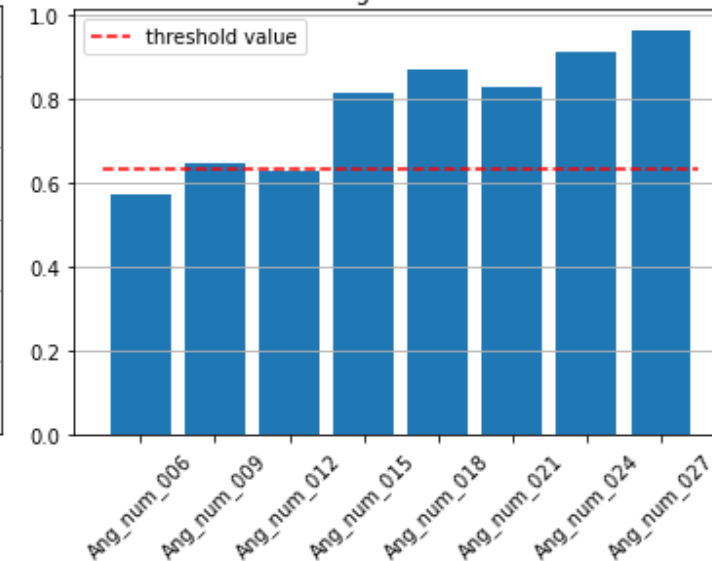
<sup>1</sup>Zhou Wang; Bovik, A.C.; "Mean squared error: Love it or leave it? A new look at Signal Fidelity Measures," Signal Processing Magazine, IEEE, vol. 26, no. 1, pp. 98-117, Jan. 2009.

<sup>2</sup>Z. Wang, A. C. Bovik, H. R. Sheikh and E. P. Simoncelli, "Image quality assessment: From error visibility to structural similarity," IEEE Transactions on Image Processing, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 600-612, Apr. 2004.

MSE along reconstructions



SSIM along reconstructions

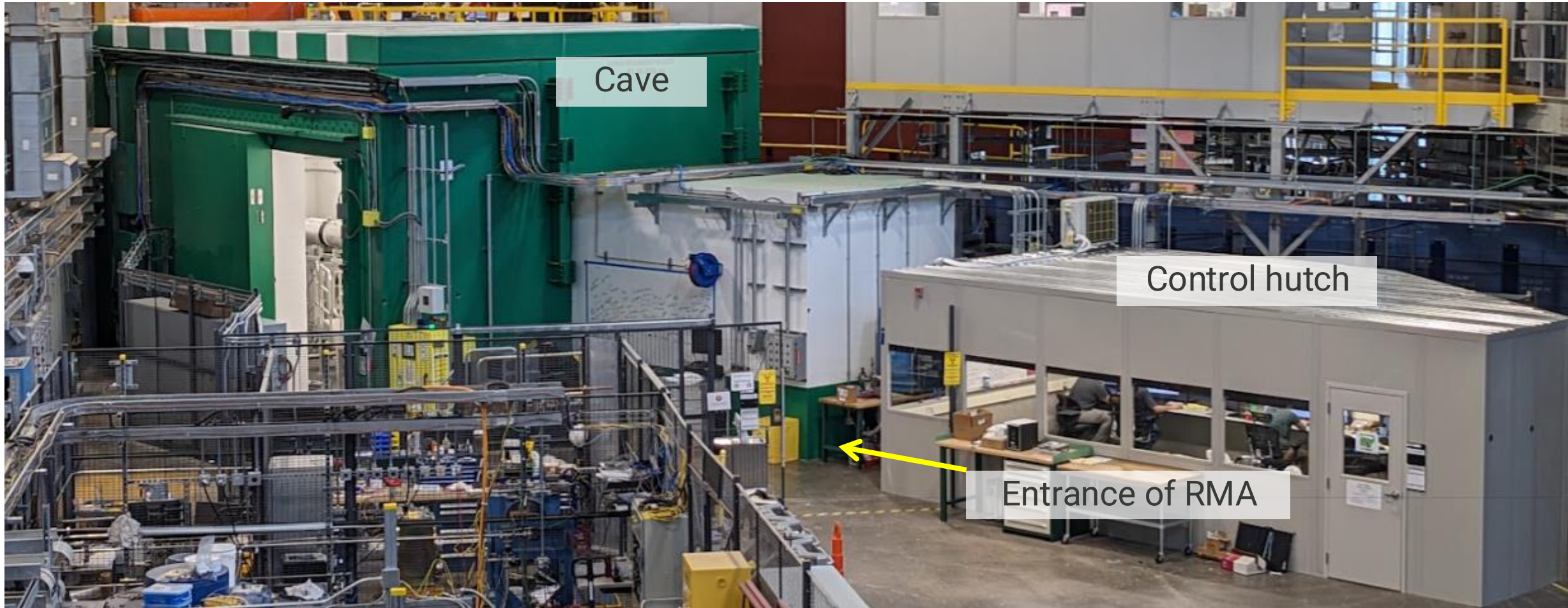


# The VENUS facility

- VENUS is a *time-of-flight* imaging beamline capable of separating neutron wavelengths to measure unique sample features/contrast such as:
  - Microstructure, phases, preferred grain orientation, strain with **Bragg edge radiography** of advanced *crystalline* materials (energy, superalloys, etc.)
  - Elemental/isotopic content with **resonance radiography/CT** but also **temperature gradients**



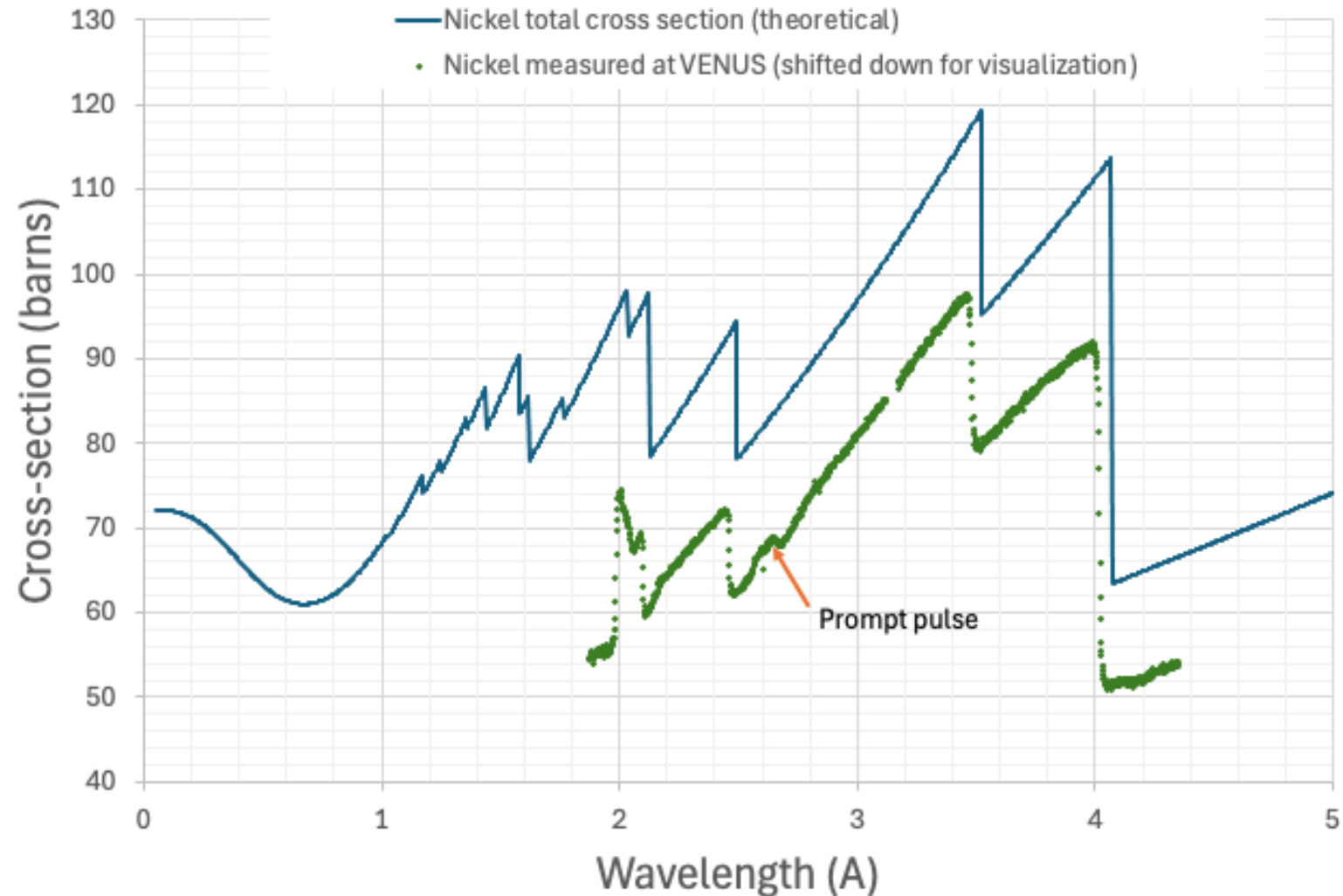
# ***Photograph of VENUS showing the VENUS cave, control hutch and Radiological Materials Area (RMA)***



# Resonance radiography demonstrated with Tantalum foil and the microchannel plate (MCP) Timepix (TPX) detector



# Bragg edge radiography demonstrated with Nickel powder and the microchannel plate (MCP) Timepix (TPX) detector





# Acknowledgments

- Our sponsor: This research used resources at the Spallation Neutron Source, a DOE Office of Science User Facility operated by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
- The ORNL Neutron Imaging Team:
  - Yuxuan Zhang, Shimin Tang, Jean Bilheux, Kevin Yahne, Chen Zhang, Harley Skorpenske, James Torres, Roger Hobbs
- The VENUS construction team
- Our university, industry, and national laboratory collaborators

# Scientific programming

## 5 things you must know

Jean Bilheux

Neutron Imaging Computer Instrument Scientist

ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC for the US Department of Energy



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

# If you can't program ...



Depend on others to implement the feature requested for you...and wait in line !





# ... but if you can program

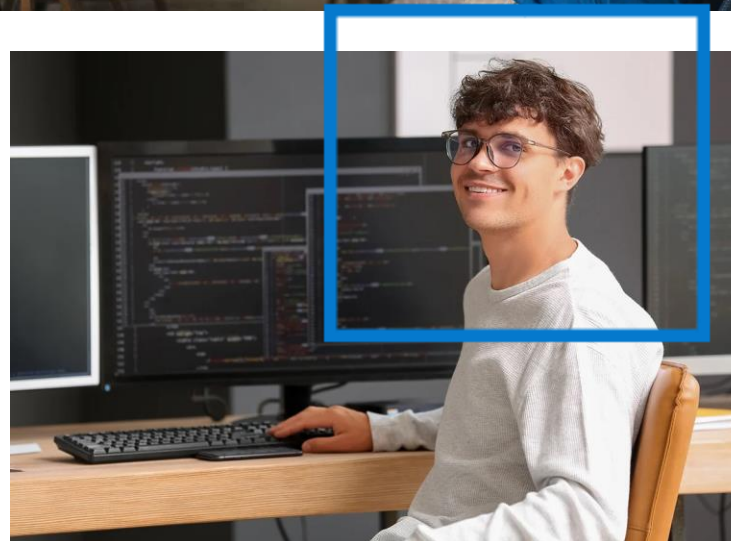
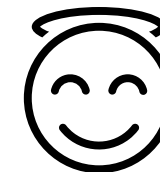


- More Independent
- Faster output
- More flexibility of things you can try and do
- Stronger argument to prove your point
- Share with community
- Good skills to have

# Proof by pictures



No programming skills



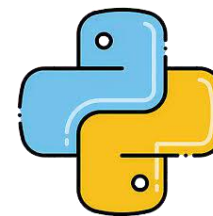
With programming skills

# The 5 things that will save your life

## 1 Pick the right language



# Which language to pick ?

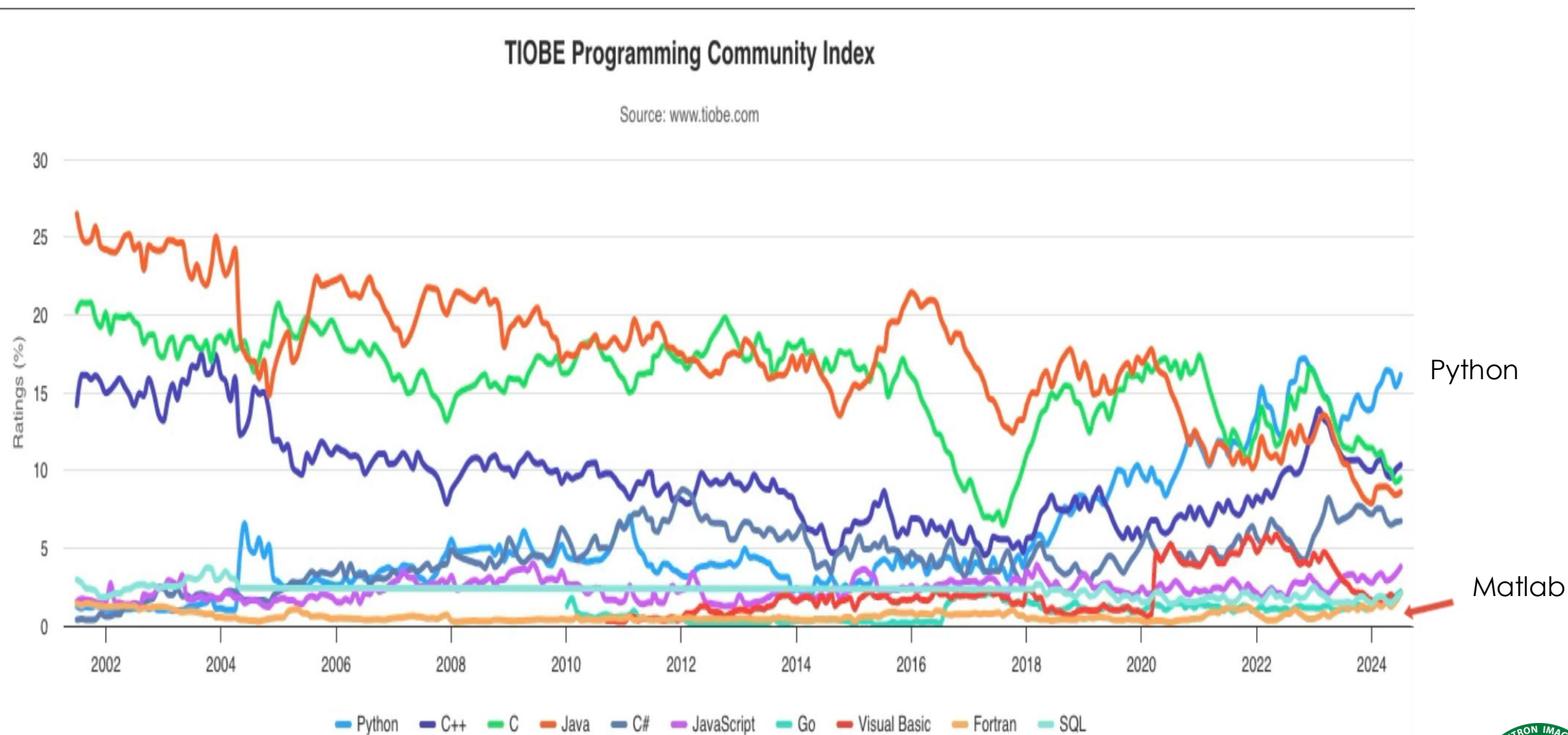


Objective - C








# Which language ?

Language popularity over the past 20+ years



# Which language ?

Jul 2024	Jul 2023	Change	Programming Language		Ratings	Change
1	1			Python	16.12%	+2.70%
2	3	▲		C++	10.34%	-0.46%
3	2	▼		C	9.48%	-2.08%
4	4			Java	8.59%	-1.91%
5	5			C#	6.72%	-0.15%
6	6			JavaScript	3.79%	+0.68%
7	13	▲▲		Go	2.19%	+1.12%
8	7	▼		Visual Basic	2.08%	-0.82%
9	11	▲		Fortran	2.05%	+0.80%
10	8	▼		SQL	2.04%	+0.57%
11	15	▲▲		Delphi/Object Pascal	1.89%	+0.91%
12	10	▼		MATLAB	1.34%	+0.08%
13	17	▲▲		Rust	1.18%	+0.29%
14	16	▲		Ruby	1.16%	+0.25%
15	12	▼		Scratch	1.15%	+0.08%
16	9	▼▼		PHP	1.15%	-0.27%
17	18	▲		Swift	1.13%	+0.25%

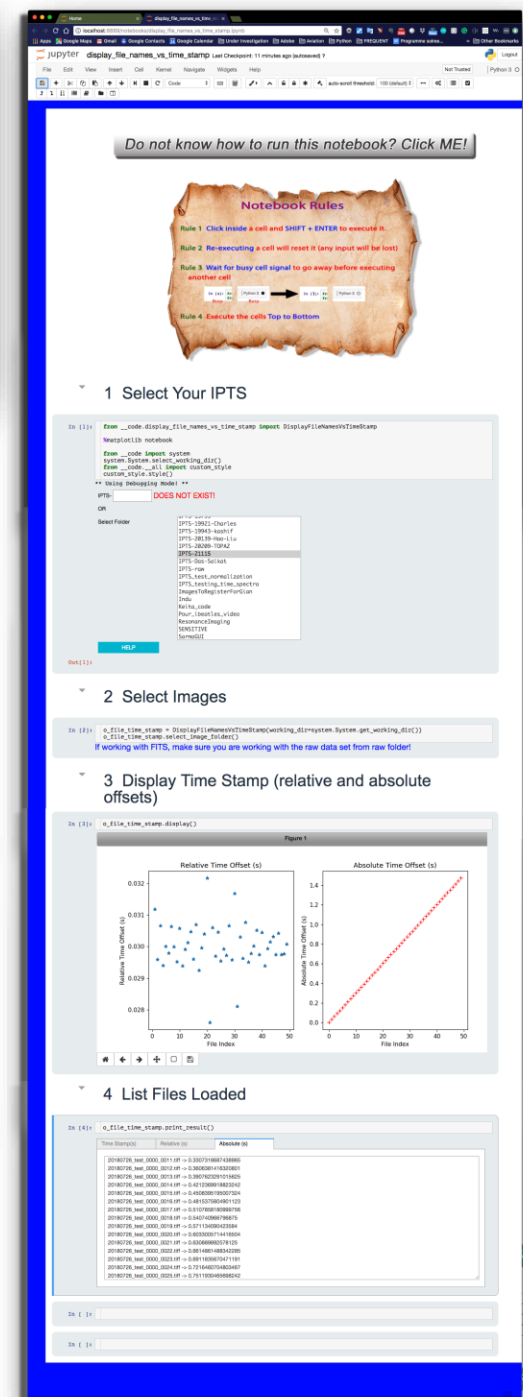
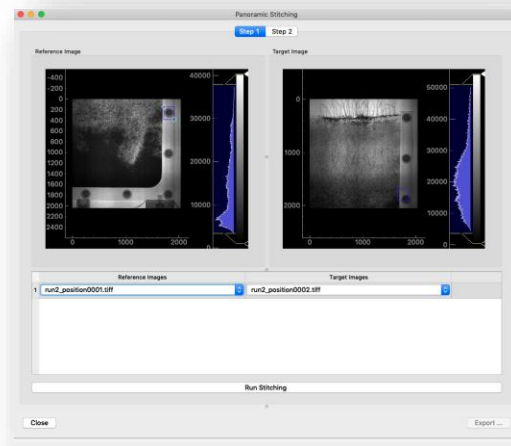
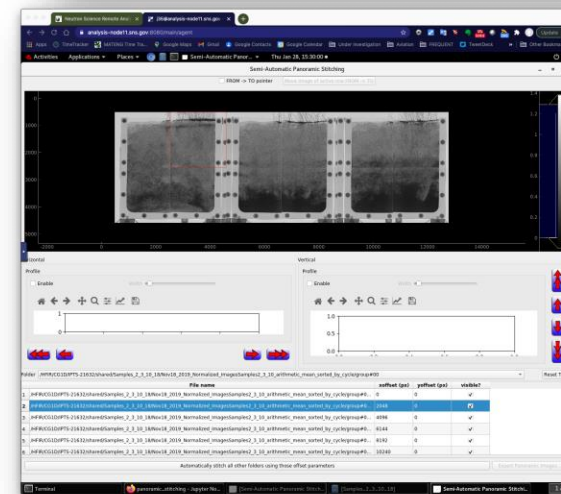
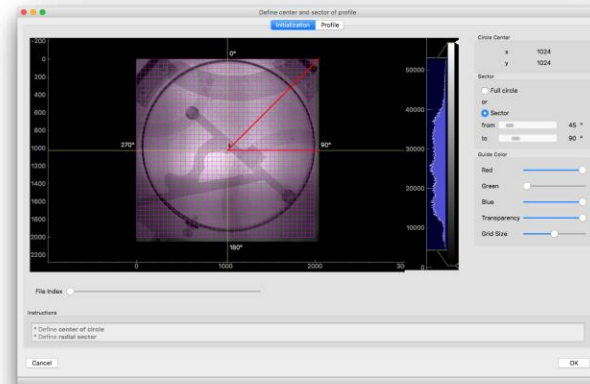
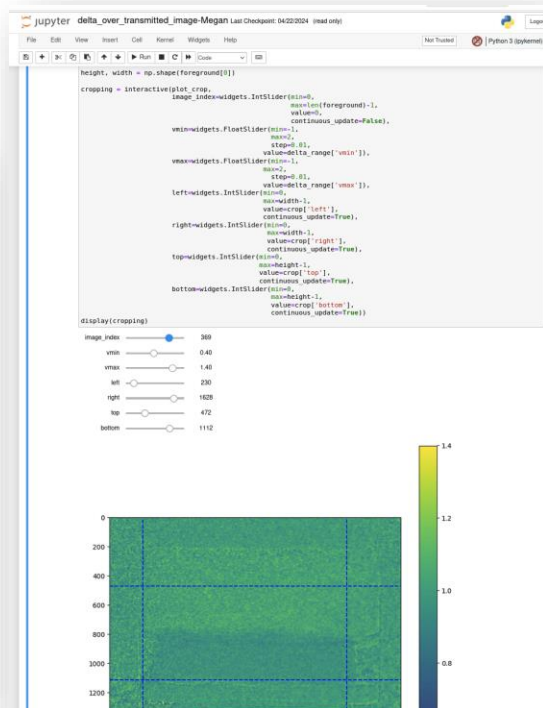
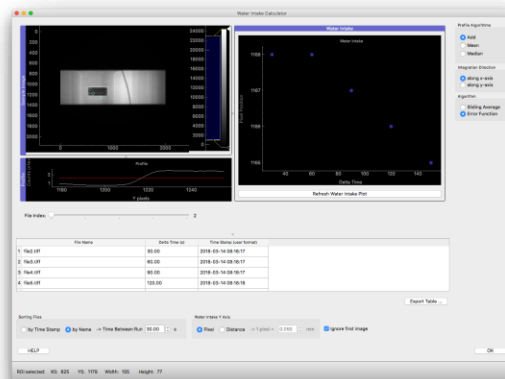
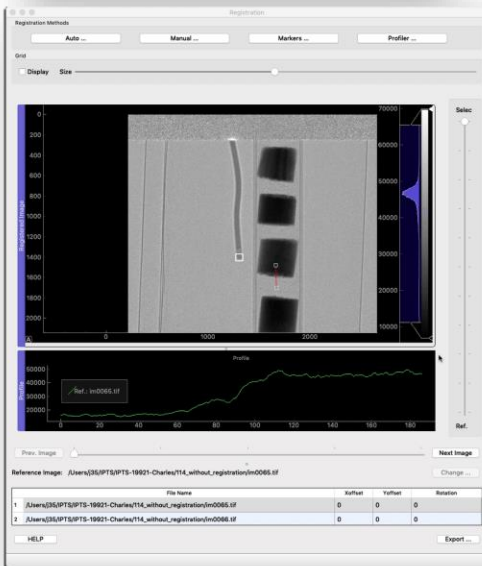


# Python



- Huge community (help, libraries, ...)
- Easy to learn (no compiler needed)
- Easy to build GUI (standalone application, Web interface)
- Run on any platform (     ...)
- Notebooks 

## 57



# The 5 things that will save your life

1 Pick the right language

2 **Stay green**



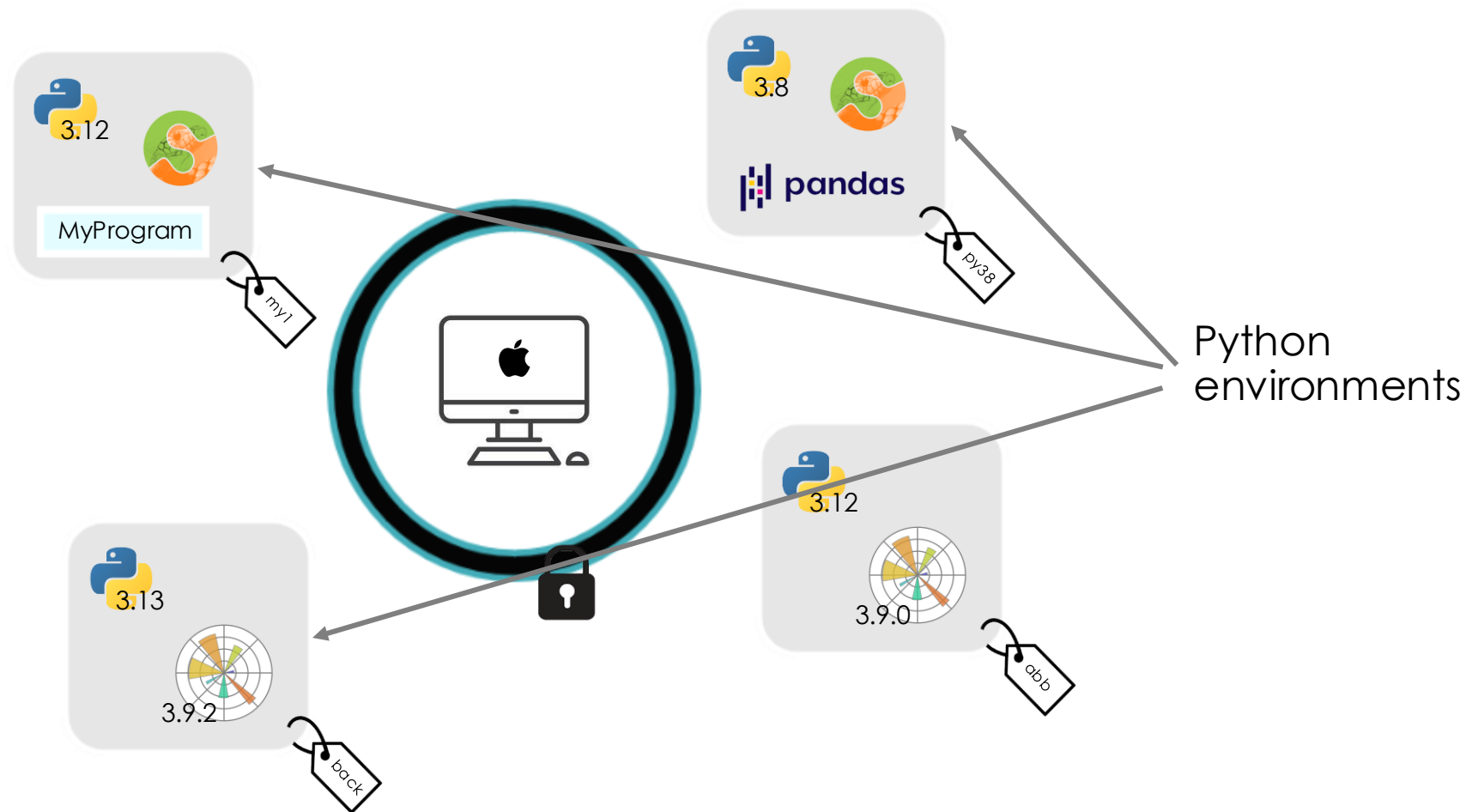
# Stay green

We need to preserve our **environment!**



Anaconda.com

Micromamba  
pixi

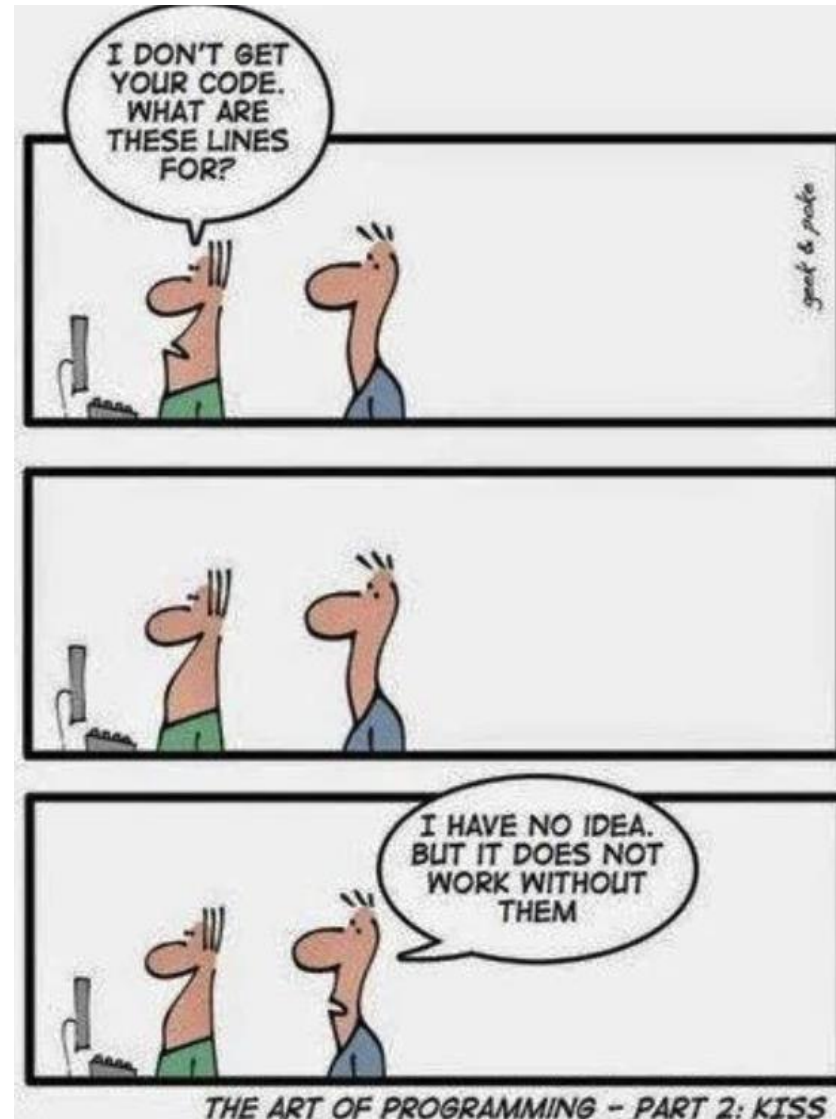


# The 5 things that will save your life

- 1 Pick the right language
- 2 Stay green
- 3 **Write good code**

# Write good code

## Naming & Documentation



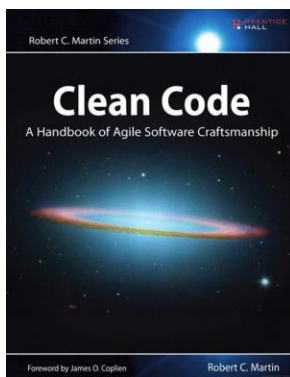
There is a good chance that later, you will be the one trying to understand your own code.



# Write good code

## Naming & Documentation

- Name of variable is what they represent
- Name of method indicates what they do
- Explain strange choices
- Add examples at top of methods/classes



```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3 """Mars3D: gamma filter module."""
4 import logging
5 import param
6 from imars3d.backend.util.functions import clamp_max_workers
7 import numpy as np
8 import tomopy
9
10 logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)
11
12
13 class gamma_filter(param.ParameterizedFunction):
14     """Gamma filter.
15
16     Replace near saturated pixels (due to gamma radiation) with median values.
17     The median filtering is carried out by tomopy.remove_outlier.
18     If selective median filtering is enabled (default), only the pixels greater than the specified threshold are replaced.
19
20     Parameters
21     -----
22     arrays: np.ndarray
23         3D array of images, the first dimension is the rotation angle omega
24     threshold: int = -1
25         threshold for saturation, default is -1, which means using the internally defined threshold (see source code)
26     median_kernel: int = 5
27         size of the median filter kernel, default is 5
28     axis: int = 0
29         axis along which to chunk the array for parallel median filtering, default is 0.
30     max_workers: int = 8
31         number of cores to use for parallel median filtering, default is 8, which means using all available cores.
32     selective_median_filter: bool = True
33         whether to use selective median filtering, default is True.
34     diff_tomopy: float = -1
35         threshold passed to tomopy for median filter based outlier detection. Negative values will use the internal default value (see source code).
36
37     Returns
38     -----
39     np.ndarray
40         corrected 3D array of images, the first dimension is the rotation angle omega
41     """
42
43     arrays = param.Array(doc="3D array of images, the first dimension is the rotation angle omega", default=None)
44     threshold = param.Integer(
45         default=-1,
46         doc="threshold for saturation, default is -1, which means using the internally defined threshold (see source code)",
47     )
48     median_kernel = param.Integer(
49         default=5,
50         bounds=(3, None),
51         doc="size of the median filter kernel, default is 5",
52     )
53     axis = param.Integer(
54         default=0,
55         bounds=(0, 2),
56         doc="axis along which to chunk the array for parallel median filtering, default is 0.",
57     )
58     max_workers = param.Integer(
59         default=8,
60         doc="number of cores to use for parallel median filtering, default is 8, which means using all available cores.",
61     )
62     selective_median_filter = param.Boolean(
63         default=True,
64         doc="whether to use selective median filtering, default is True.",
65     )
66     diff_tomopy = param.Float(
67         default=-1,
68         doc="threshold passed to tomopy for median filter based outlier detection. Negative values will use the internal default value (see source code).",
69     )
70
71     def __call__(self):
72         arrays = self.arrays
73         threshold = self.threshold
74         median_kernel = self.median_kernel
75         axis = self.axis
76         max_workers = self.max_workers
77         selective_median_filter = self.selective_median_filter
78         diff_tomopy = self.diff_tomopy
79
80         # Replace near saturated pixels (due to gamma radiation) with median values.
81         # The median filtering is carried out by tomopy.remove_outlier.
82         # If selective median filtering is enabled (default), only the pixels greater than the specified threshold are replaced.
83         arrays = tomopy.remove_outlier(
84             arrays,
85             threshold=threshold,
86             median_kernel=median_kernel,
87             axis=axis,
88             max_workers=max_workers,
89             selective_median_filter=selective_median_filter,
90             diff_tomopy=diff_tomopy,
91         )
92
93         return arrays
```

```
class imars3d.backend.corrections.gamma_filter(param.ParameterizedFunction):
    """Gamma filter.
    Replace near saturated pixels (due to gamma radiation) with median values. The median filtering
    is carried out by tomopy.remove_outlier. If selective median filtering is enabled (default), only
    the pixels greater than the specified threshold are replaced.
    Parameters
    -----
    arrays (np.ndarray) - 3D array of images, the first dimension is the rotation
    angle omega
    threshold (int = -1) - threshold for saturation, default is -1, which means
    using the internally defined threshold (see source code)
    median_kernel (int = 5) - size of the median filter kernel, default is 5
    axis (int = 0) - axis along which to chunk the array for parallel median
    filtering, default is 0
    max_workers (int = 8) - number of cores to use for parallel median
    filtering, default is 8, which means using all available cores.
    selective_median_filter (bool = True) - whether to use selective median
    filtering, default is True
    diff_tomopy (float = -1) - threshold passed to tomopy for median filter
    based outlier detection. Negative values will use the internal default value
    (see source code).
    Returns
    -----
    corrected 3D array of images, the first dimension is the rotation angle omega
    np.ndarray
    """
    arrays = param.Array(doc="3D array of images, the first dimension is the rotation angle omega", default=None)
    threshold = param.Integer(
        default=-1,
        doc="threshold for saturation, default is -1, which means using the internally defined threshold (see source code)",
    )
    median_kernel = param.Integer(
        default=5,
        bounds=(3, None),
        doc="size of the median filter kernel, default is 5",
    )
    axis = param.Integer(
        default=0,
        bounds=(0, 2),
        doc="axis along which to chunk the array for parallel median filtering, default is 0.",
    )
    max_workers = param.Integer(
        default=8,
        doc="number of cores to use for parallel median filtering, default is 8, which means using all available cores.",
    )
    selective_median_filter = param.Boolean(
        default=True,
        doc="whether to use selective median filtering, default is True.",
    )
    diff_tomopy = param.Float(
        default=-1,
        doc="threshold passed to tomopy for median filter based outlier detection. Negative values will use the internal default value (see source code).",
    )

    def __call__(self):
        arrays = self.arrays
        threshold = self.threshold
        median_kernel = self.median_kernel
        axis = self.axis
        max_workers = self.max_workers
        selective_median_filter = self.selective_median_filter
        diff_tomopy = self.diff_tomopy

        # Replace near saturated pixels (due to gamma radiation) with median values.
        # The median filtering is carried out by tomopy.remove_outlier.
        # If selective median filtering is enabled (default), only the pixels greater than the specified threshold are replaced.
        arrays = tomopy.remove_outlier(
            arrays,
            threshold=threshold,
            median_kernel=median_kernel,
            axis=axis,
            max_workers=max_workers,
            selective_median_filter=selective_median_filter,
            diff_tomopy=diff_tomopy,
        )

        return arrays

imars3d.backend.corrections.intensity_fluctuation_correction.module
imars3d's intensity fluctuation correction module.
class imars3d.backend.corrections.intensity_fluctuation_correction.intensity_fluctuation_correction(param.ParameterizedFunction):
    """Correct for intensity fluctuation in the radiograph.
    Parameters
    -----
    ct (np.ndarray) - The image/radiograph stack to correct for beam intensity
    fluctuation.
    air_pixels (int = 5) - Number of pixels at each boundary to calculate the
    scaling factor. When a negative number is given, the auto air region
    detection will be used instead of tomopy.
    sigma (int = 3) - The standard deviation of the Gaussian filter, only valid
    when using the auto air region detection via canny edge detection from
    skimage.
    max_workers (int = 8) - The number of cores to use for parallel
    processing, default is 8, which means using all available cores.
    tqdm_class (panel.widgets.Tqdm) - Class to be used for rendering tqdm
    progress.
    Return type:
    The corrected image/radiograph stack.
    """
    ct = param.Array(doc="The image/radiograph stack to correct for beam intensity fluctuation", default=None)
    air_pixels = param.Integer(
        default=5,
        doc="Number of pixels at each boundary to calculate the scaling factor. When a negative number is given, the auto air region detection will be used instead of tomopy.",
    )
    sigma = param.Integer(
        default=3,
        doc="The standard deviation of the Gaussian filter, only valid when using the auto air region detection via canny edge detection from skimage.",
    )
    max_workers = param.Integer(
        default=8,
        doc="The number of cores to use for parallel processing, default is 8, which means using all available cores.",
    )
    tqdm_class = param.ClassSelector(class_=panel.widgets.Tqdm, doc="Class to be used for rendering tqdm progress", default=panel.widgets.Tqdm)

    def __call__(self):
        ct = self.ct
        air_pixels = self.air_pixels
        sigma = self.sigma
        max_workers = self.max_workers
        tqdm_class = self.tqdm_class

        # Correct for intensity fluctuation in the radiograph using skimage to auto detect the air region
        # (adapted from IMars3dV1.filter.IFC).
        ct = ifc.ct(
            ct,
            air_pixels=air_pixels,
            sigma=sigma,
            max_workers=max_workers,
            tqdm_class=tqdm_class,
        )

        return ct

Notes
This method here is assuming the beam is decaying uniformly over time whereas the tomopy
version is assuming different region decays slightly different, hence the linear interpolation
between left and right air pixels. In most cases, a uniform decay is a good approximation as
neutron beam tends to be very stable.
"""
class imars3d.backend.corrections.intensity_fluctuation_correction.normalize_rad(param.ParameterizedFunction):
    """Normalise the radiograph by dividing by the average of a selected window on correction images.
    Parameters
    -----
    ct (np.ndarray) - The image/radiograph stack to correct for beam intensity
    fluctuation.
    air_pixels (int = 5) - Number of pixels at each boundary to calculate the
    scaling factor. When a negative number is given, the auto air region
    detection will be used instead of tomopy.
    sigma (int = 3) - The standard deviation of the Gaussian filter, only valid
    when using the auto air region detection via canny edge detection from
    skimage.
    max_workers (int = 8) - The number of cores to use for parallel
    processing, default is 8, which means using all available cores.
    tqdm_class (panel.widgets.Tqdm) - Class to be used for rendering tqdm
    progress.
    Return type:
    The corrected image/radiograph stack.
    """
    ct = param.Array(doc="The image/radiograph stack to correct for beam intensity fluctuation", default=None)
    air_pixels = param.Integer(
        default=5,
        doc="Number of pixels at each boundary to calculate the scaling factor. When a negative number is given, the auto air region detection will be used instead of tomopy.",
    )
    sigma = param.Integer(
        default=3,
        doc="The standard deviation of the Gaussian filter, only valid when using the auto air region detection via canny edge detection from skimage.",
    )
    max_workers = param.Integer(
        default=8,
        doc="The number of cores to use for parallel processing, default is 8, which means using all available cores.",
    )
    tqdm_class = param.ClassSelector(class_=panel.widgets.Tqdm, doc="Class to be used for rendering tqdm progress", default=panel.widgets.Tqdm)

    def __call__(self):
        ct = self.ct
        air_pixels = self.air_pixels
        sigma = self.sigma
        max_workers = self.max_workers
        tqdm_class = self.tqdm_class

        # Correct for intensity fluctuation in the radiograph using skimage to auto detect the air region
        # (adapted from IMars3dV1.filter.IFC).
        ct = ifc.ct(
            ct,
            air_pixels=air_pixels,
            sigma=sigma,
            max_workers=max_workers,
            tqdm_class=tqdm_class,
        )

        return ct
```

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# Write good code

## Workflow

- decide the code to write
- Write the test
- It should fail
- Write the code to pass the test
- It should pass
- Move on to the next

If a code does not have unit tests, when changes are made, you will quickly find out if it's broken !

## Advantages

- The unit tests are often used as documentation to learn how the software works
  - You write better code (simpler)
  - People will trust your code
  - You can check the unit test coverage
- if someone reports a bug, first write a unit test to reproduce the bug, then fix it!

## Disadvantages

- It seems slower to code (but overall, it's not)

copilot

# Write good code



Code

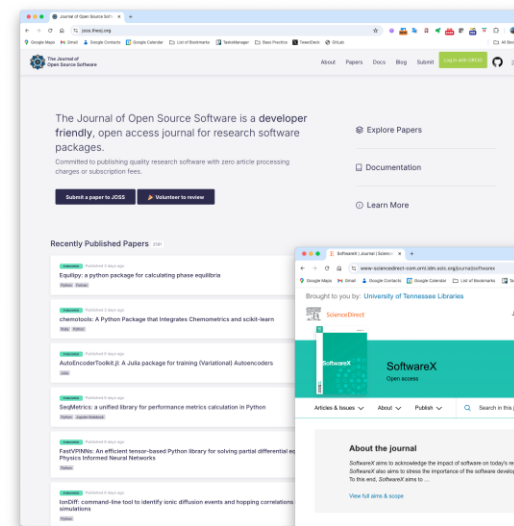
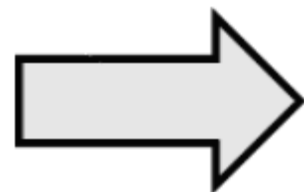
Unit tests

Documentation

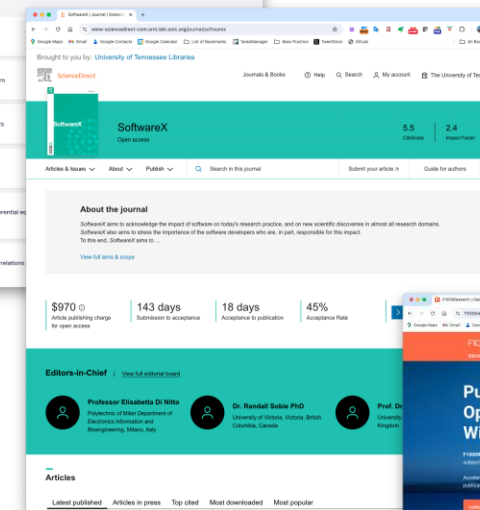
License file

Future work file

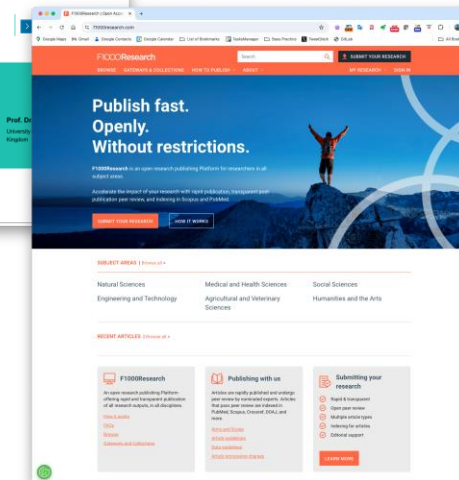
...



JOSS

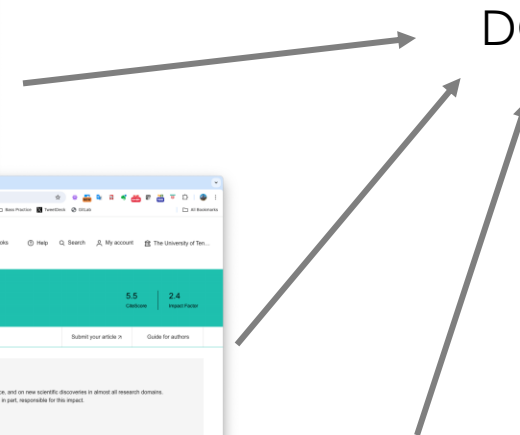


Software X



F1000Research

DOI



## Getting a publication out of your software !



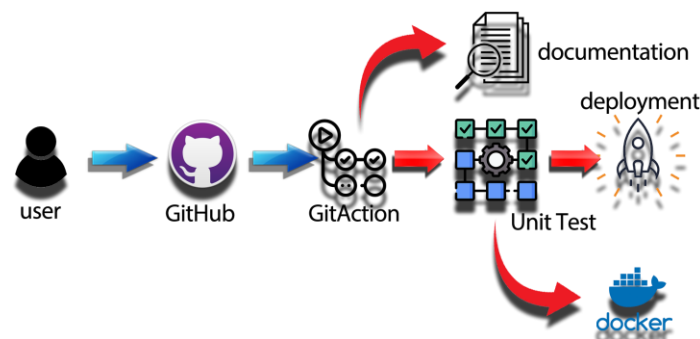
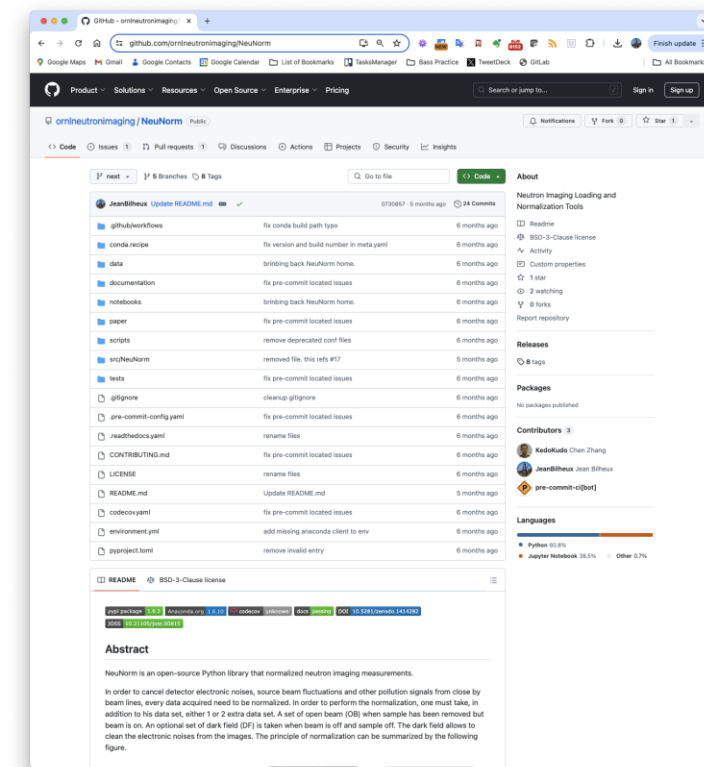
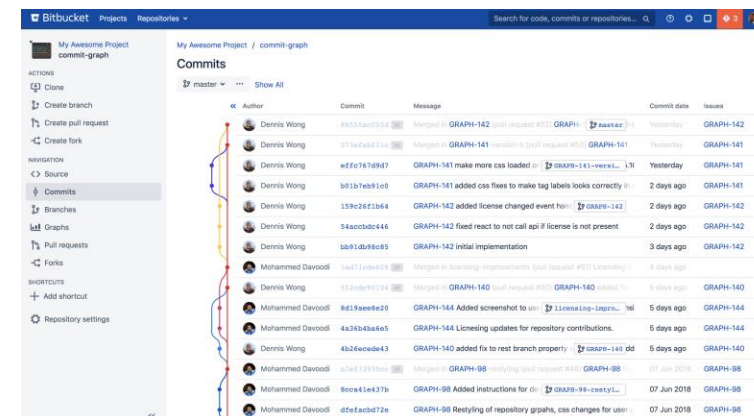
# The 5 things that will save your life

- 1 Pick the right language
- 2 Stay green
- 3 Write good code
- 4 **How to keep your job!**

# Repositories



- Backup of your project
- Provide a full history (easy to reverse changes, ...)
- Ideal for collaboration (parallel work, ...)
- Documentation
- Necessary tool for publication of the code
- Easy to share code (web interface, ...)
- GitAction (automatic test, deployment, build documentation ....)



# The 5 things that will save your life

- 1 Pick the right language
- 2 Stay green
- 3 Write good code
- 4 How to keep your job!
- 5 **Use the best debugging tool**



# Best debugging tool



- Any OS



- Any computing language
- It takes no time to learn how to use it
- It automatically works with any software version you are trying to debug.
- It has a very small carbon footprint
- 99% accurate

Each of you will  
leave today with  
that tool!



YOU'LL THANK ME LATER



# Best debugging tool



- Tell your new friend what your program does, and you will find what is wrong with it !



## The Yellow Duck

# The 5 things that will save your life

- 1 Python
- 2 use environments
- 3 Good naming & unit tests
- 4 Repository
- 5 Talk to your yellow duck



# Acknowledgements



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# References

- python
  - Jupyter notebooks
  - Micromamba
  - Pixi
- 
- Wants to know more about the Neutron Imaging Notebooks: [neutronimaging.ornl.gov](https://neutronimaging.ornl.gov)

<https://forms.office.com/g/gtdnJGM87r>

Thank you

Questions

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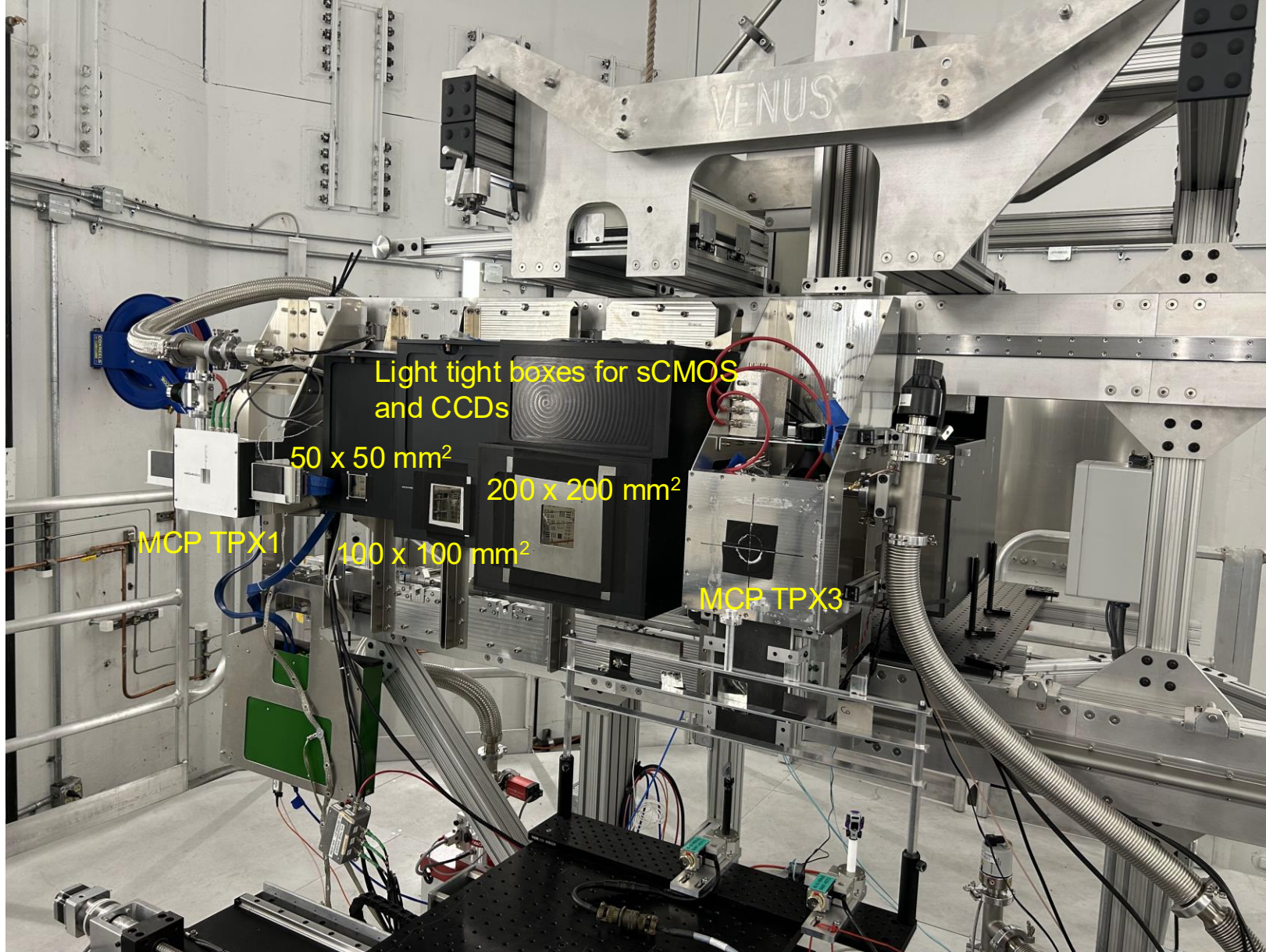
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**ENERGY**

# Large sample and sample environment area inside the VENUS cavity



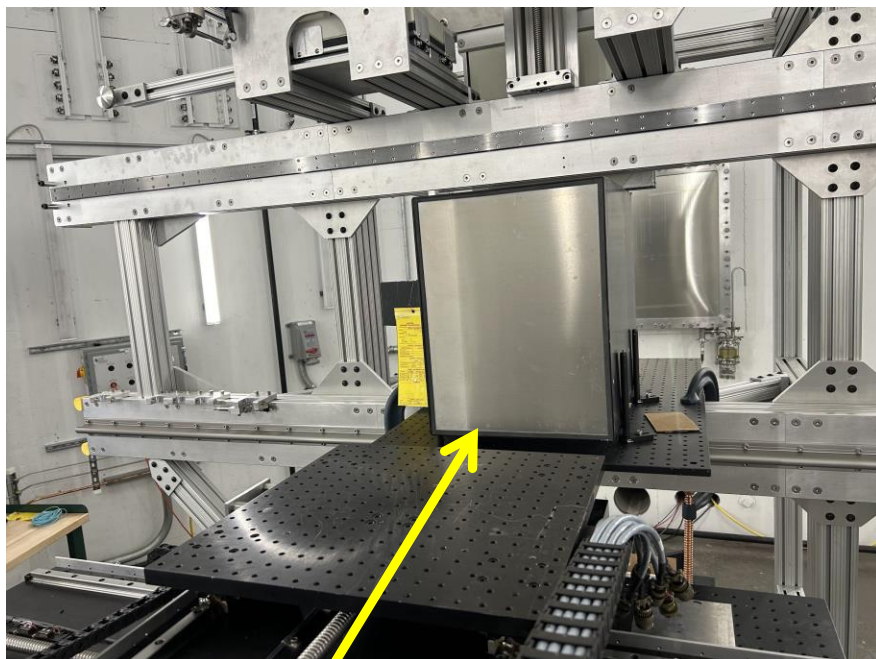


# View of all VENUS detectors

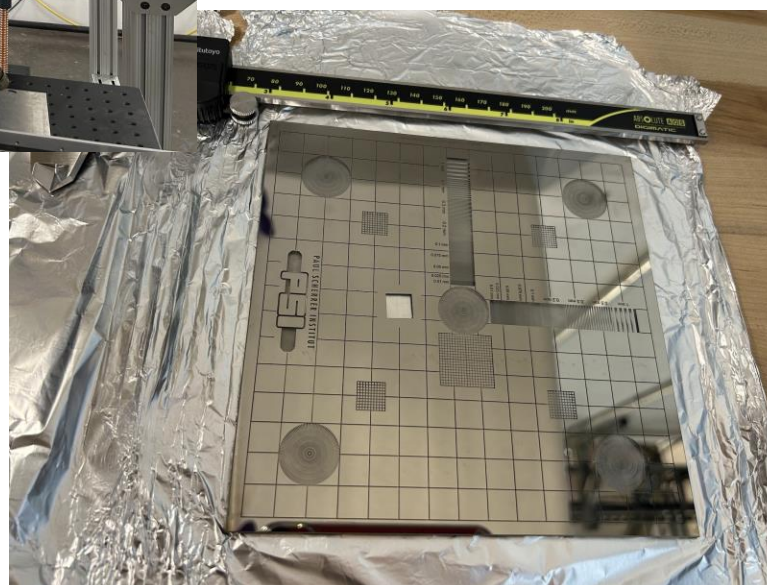




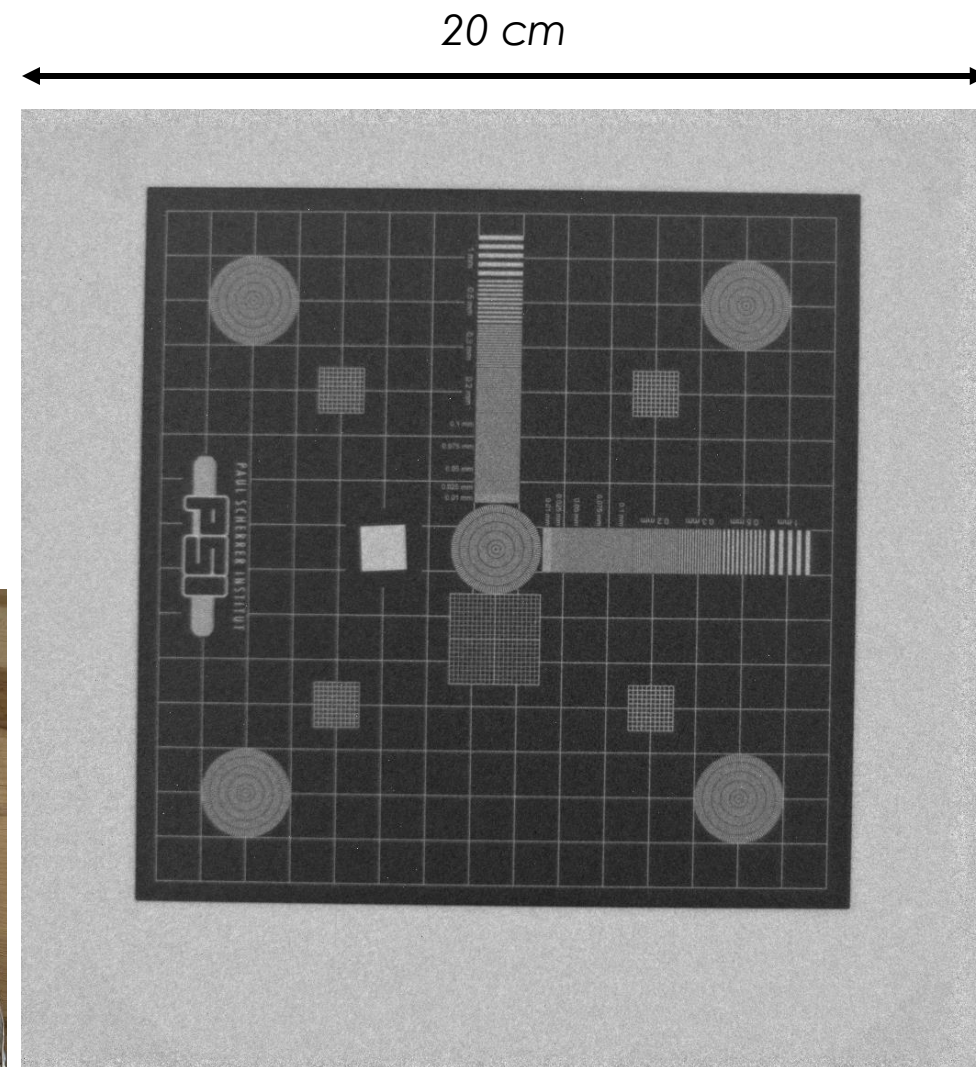
# Largest field of view: 20 x 20 cm<sup>2</sup>



Imaging detector at VENUS



Spatial resolution mask



First 20x20 cm<sup>2</sup> large field-of-view radiograph measured at VENUS (July 24, 2024)!!!

