

Explorer la physique aux interfaces d'oxydes fortement corrélées: résultats récents et perspectives en microscopie électronique.

Alexandre Gloter et Odile Stephan (LPS, Université Paris-Sud, 91405 Orsay)

1. STEM imaging & EELS principles

1.1 A few generalities about transmission microscopy

1.2 Image formation principles in STEM and examples

1.3 EELS principles and examples

2. Application to oxide thin films

2.1. Strain relaxation in LAO/STO bilayers

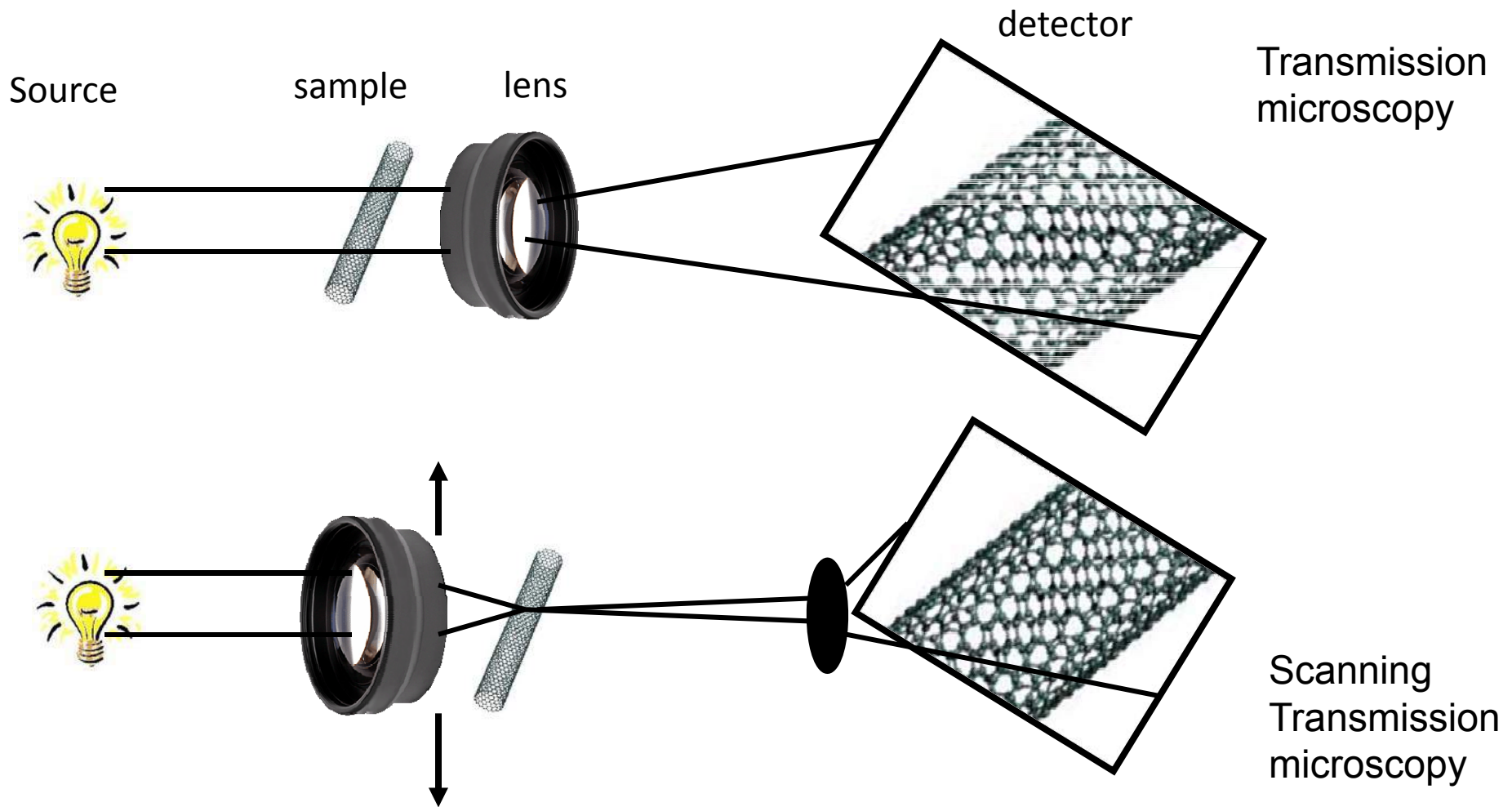
2.2. Oxygen octahedra rotation in LSMO

2.3. Textured VO₂ thin film on sapphire

3. Few perspectives on STEM-EELS for oxides / interfaces studies

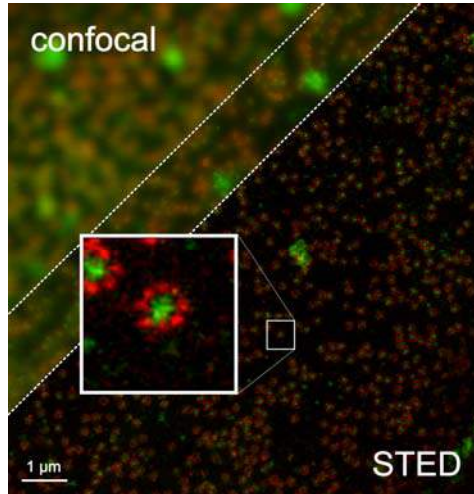
Transmission Microscopy

Microscope = Source + Lenses + detector



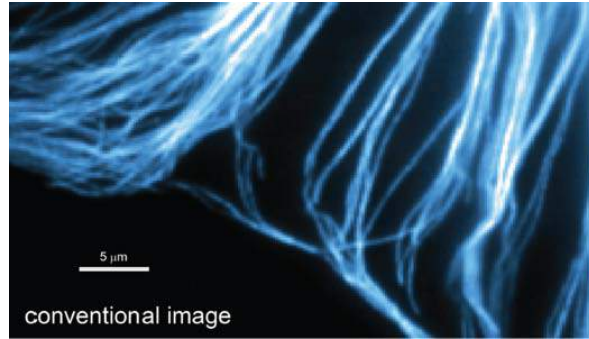
Overcoming diffraction the limit in optical transmission optical / X-ray microscopy

Optical microscope
Wavelength ca. 400-700 nm



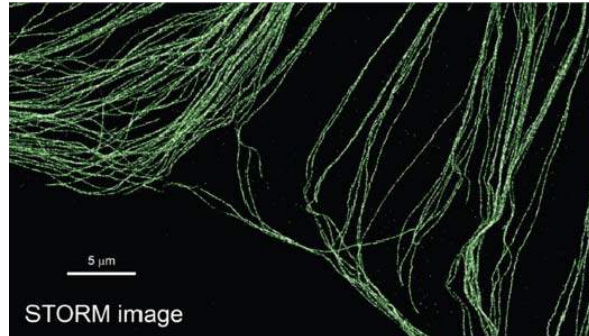
Nobel Prize in
Chemistry 2014

X-ray microscope
Wavelength ca. 1-5 nm



Images of microtubules in a cell.
Microtubules are immunolabeled
with photoswitchable dyes.

Conventional fluorescence images
(resolution 500 nm)



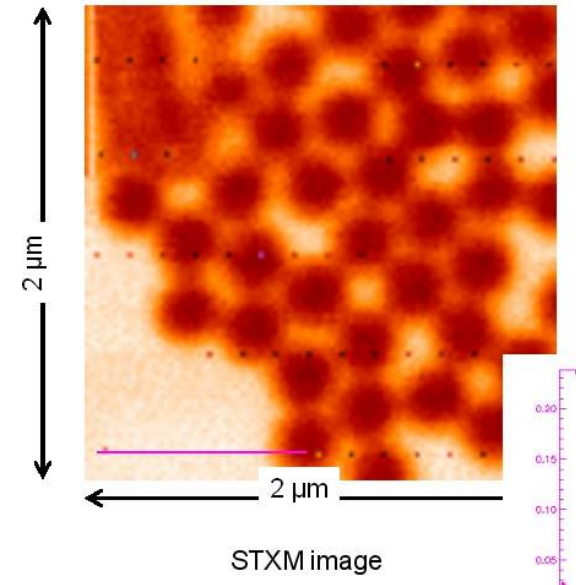
STORM images

<http://zhuang.harvard.edu/storm.html>

STXM image of latex sphere
Resolution around 50nm

From
<http://sls.web.psi.ch/view.php/beamlines/pollux/status.html>

Latex spheres



Why use electrons ?

Electrons are charged particles:
their trajectories can be efficiently changed with E.M. lenses

Electrons are waves:

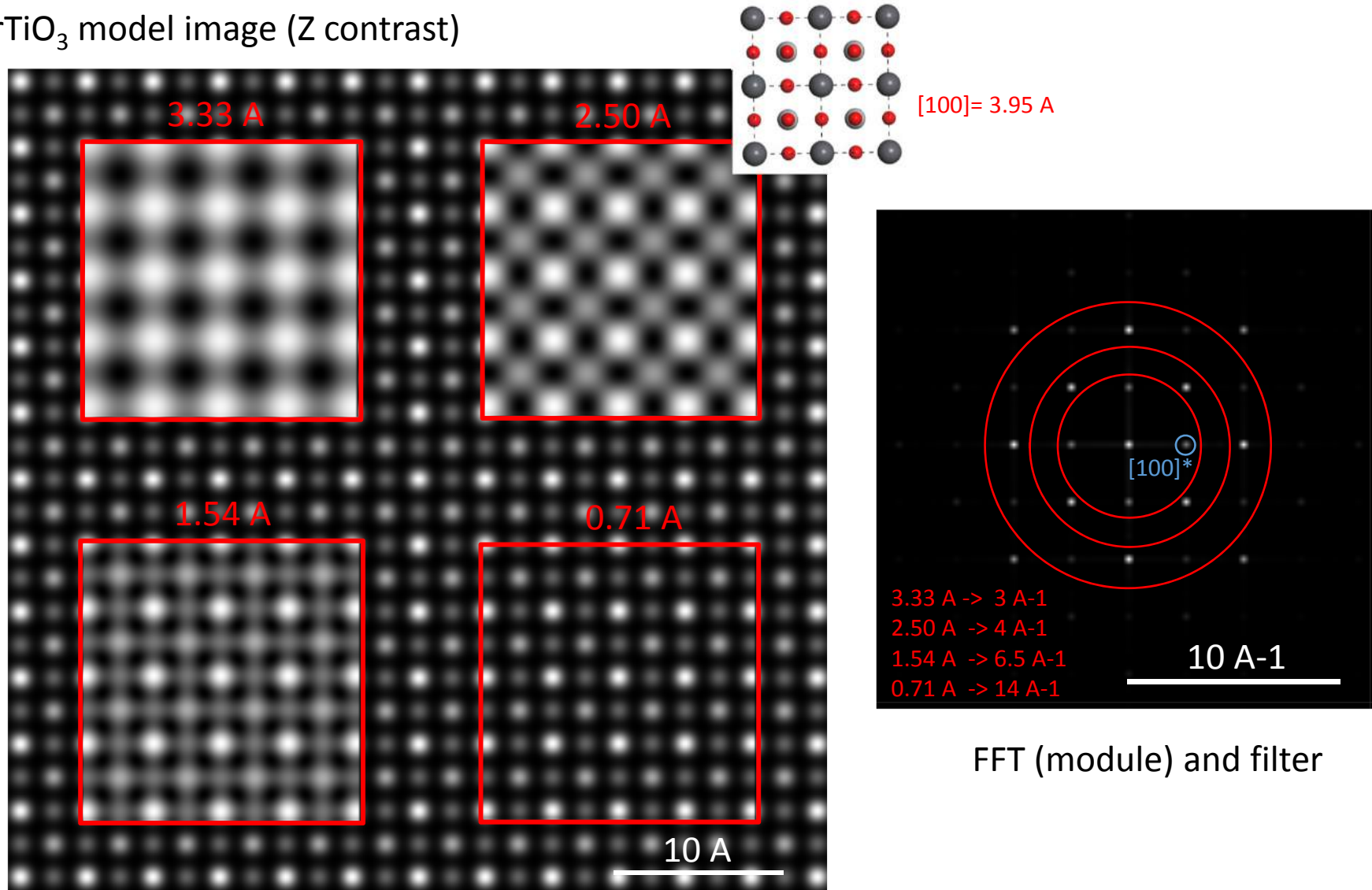
- wave optics should apply to image formation principles
- their wavelength can be reduced much below 1 Å when accelerated

100 keV = 3 pm.

The (diffraction limited) resolution
in TEM should be a few pm

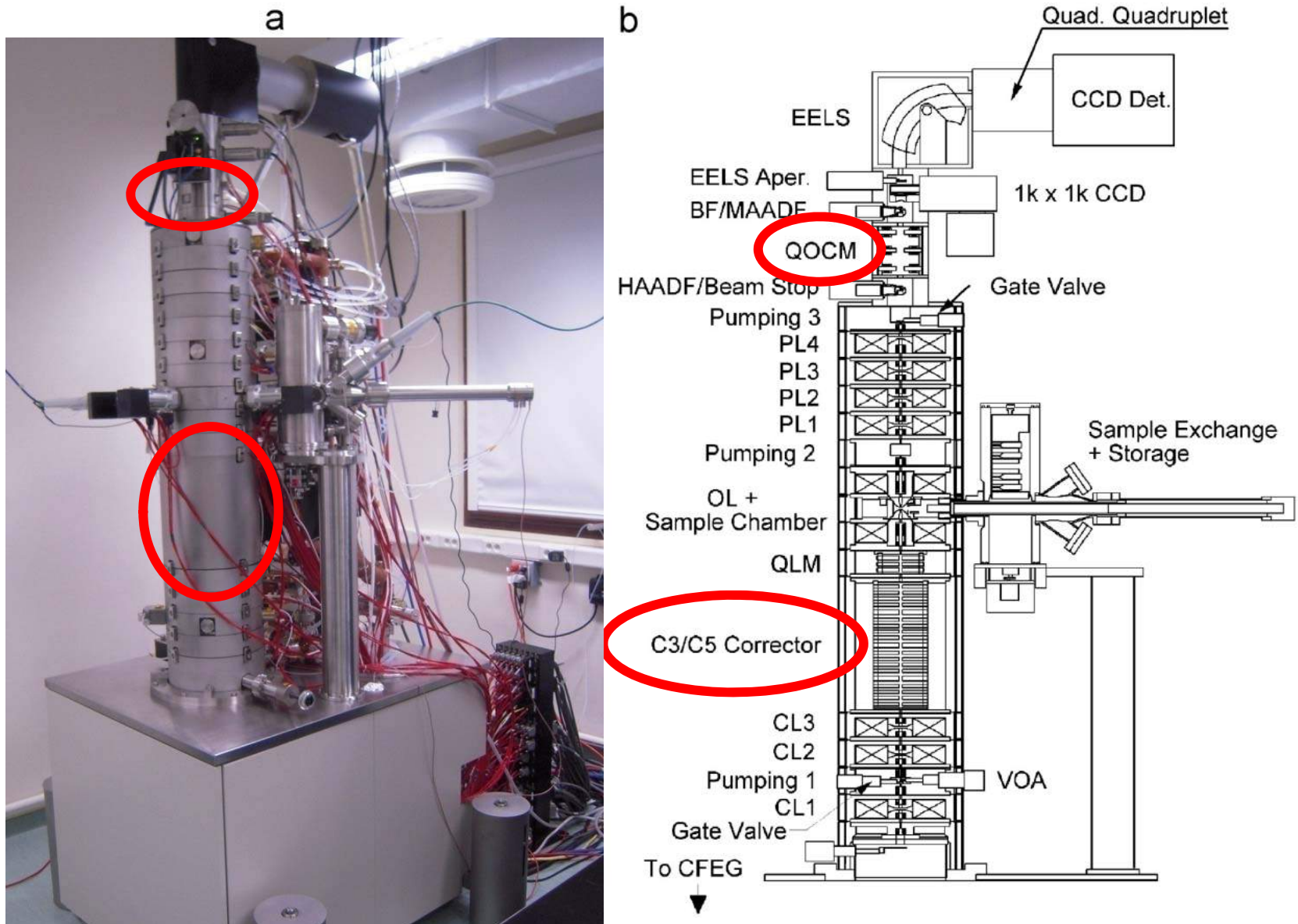
Resolution and spatial frequency (the transfer function of the instrument)

SrTiO₃ model image (Z contrast)



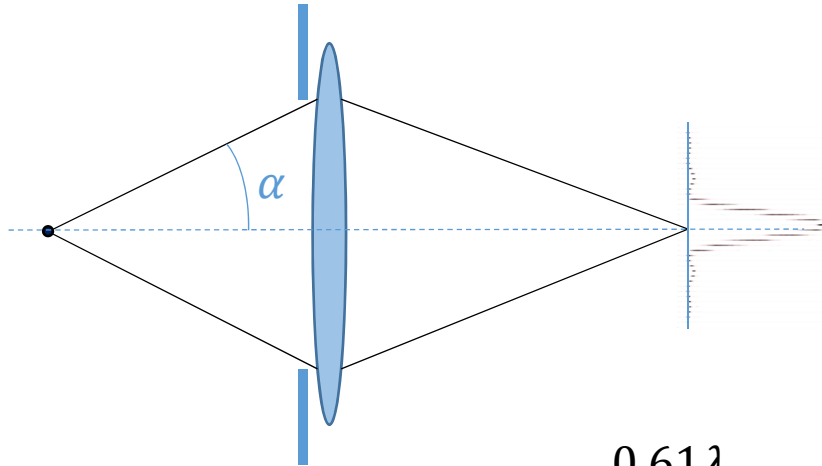
A few generalities about transmission microscopy

In practice, an electron microscope is a set of E.M. lenses and multipoles



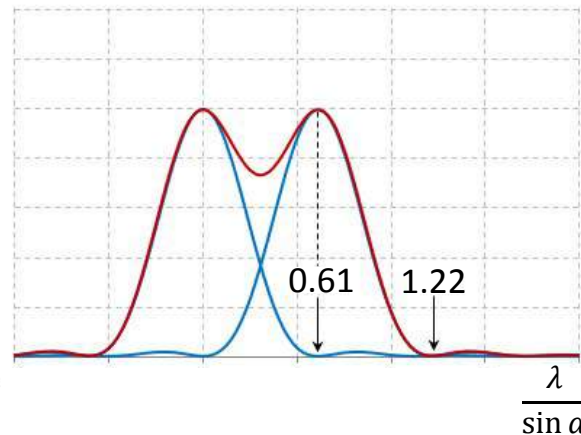
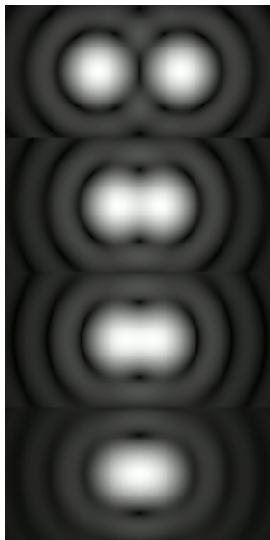
Nion 60-100 keV prototype 1 (CNRS-Orsay), CFEG, UHV columns
Resolution 0.1 nm (100keV) Energy resolution < 0.4 eV

An optical system is diffraction limited



$$d = \frac{0.61\lambda}{\eta \sin \alpha}$$

Rayleigh criterion



Light microscope

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &\sim 0.5 \mu m \\ \eta &= 1.5 \text{ (glass)} \\ \alpha &\sim 70^\circ \\ d &\sim 0.21 \mu m \end{aligned}$$

Electron microscope

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &\sim \frac{h}{\sqrt{2m_0 eV_0}} = 3.4 \text{ pm (100 keV)} \\ \eta &= 1 \text{ (vacuum)} \\ &\text{for } \alpha \sim 30^\circ \\ d &\sim 3.4 \text{ pm} \text{ !!!!!} \end{aligned}$$

In practice

$$\alpha \sim 1 - 3.10 \text{ mrad}$$

Because lenses have...

Aberrations.....

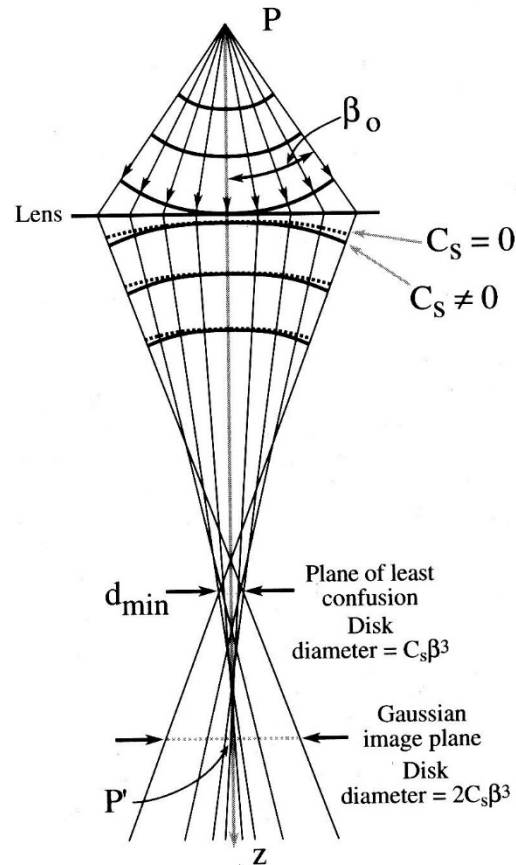


Figure 6.11. Spherical aberration in the lens causes wavefronts from a point object P to be spherically distorted. The point is thus imaged as a disk with a minimum radius in the plane of least confusion and a larger disk at P' in the Gaussian image plane.

From D.B Carter and C.B. Barry

- Spherical aberration

SA disk, $r_{\text{sph}} = C_s \beta^3$

- Chromatic aberration

CA disk, $r_{\text{chr}} = C_c (\Delta E / E_0) \beta$

- Resolution

$C_s = 1.1 \text{ mm}$; $C_c = 1.5 \text{ mm}$

$E_0 = 300 \text{ keV}$ (deBroglie wavelength 2.51 pm), $\Delta E = 1 \text{ eV}$

HREM point to point resolution is around 0.2 nm

Optimized convergence angle

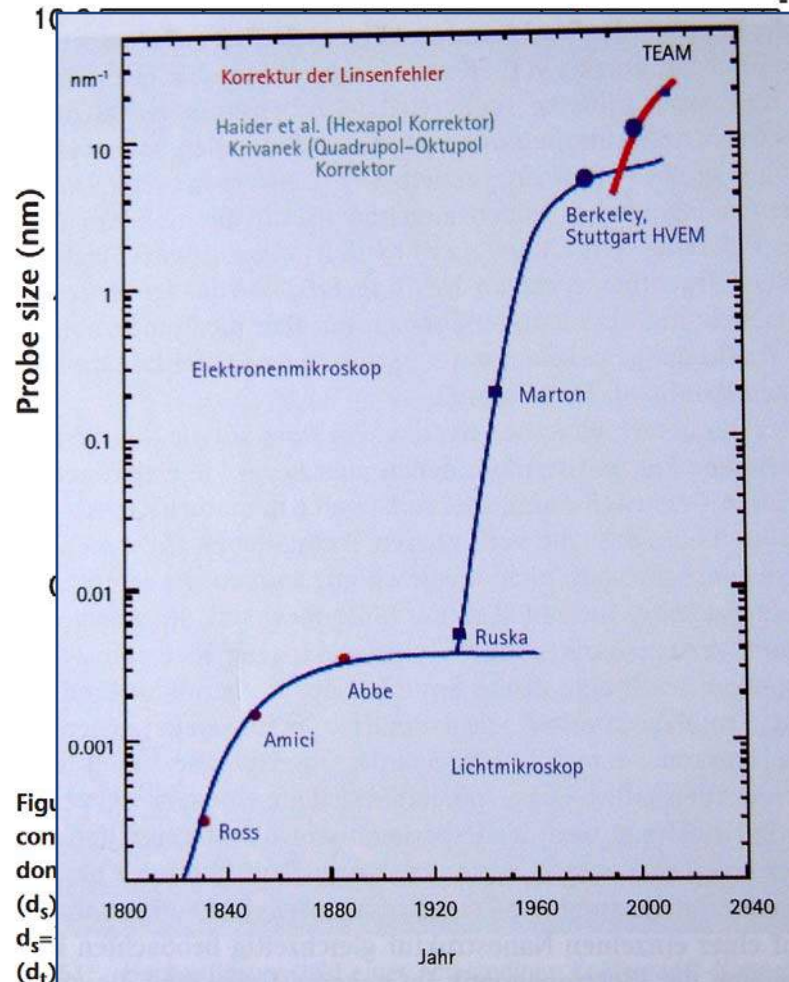


Figure 1. The probe size of $\sim 2.8\text{\AA}$, which is a more pessimistic estimate than the wave optical treatment.

$$d_S = 0.5 C_S \alpha^3$$

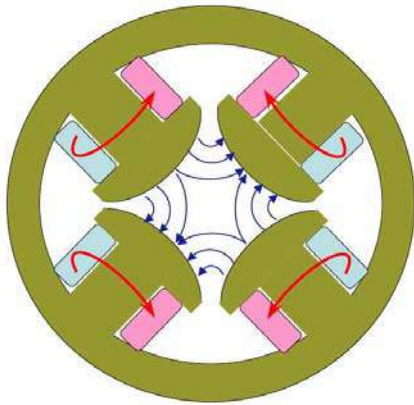
$$d_S = 0.61 \frac{\lambda}{\alpha}$$

+ other effects:

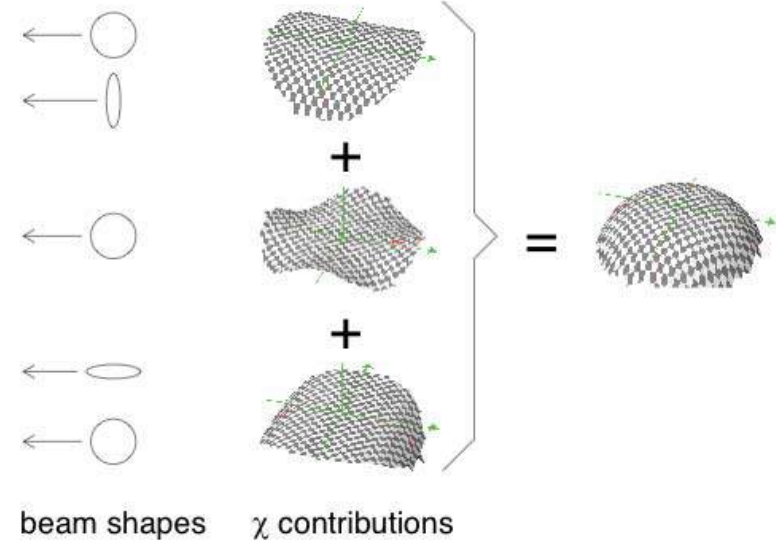
- higher order geometrical aberrations
- chromatic aberrations
- extended source size
- instabilities

Cs corrected microscopy

The correction of the round lens spherical aberration ($C_s > 0$) is obtained by a combination of lower symmetry electron optic elements such as quadrupole, hexapole, octupole (whose C_s can be made < 0 along some directions)

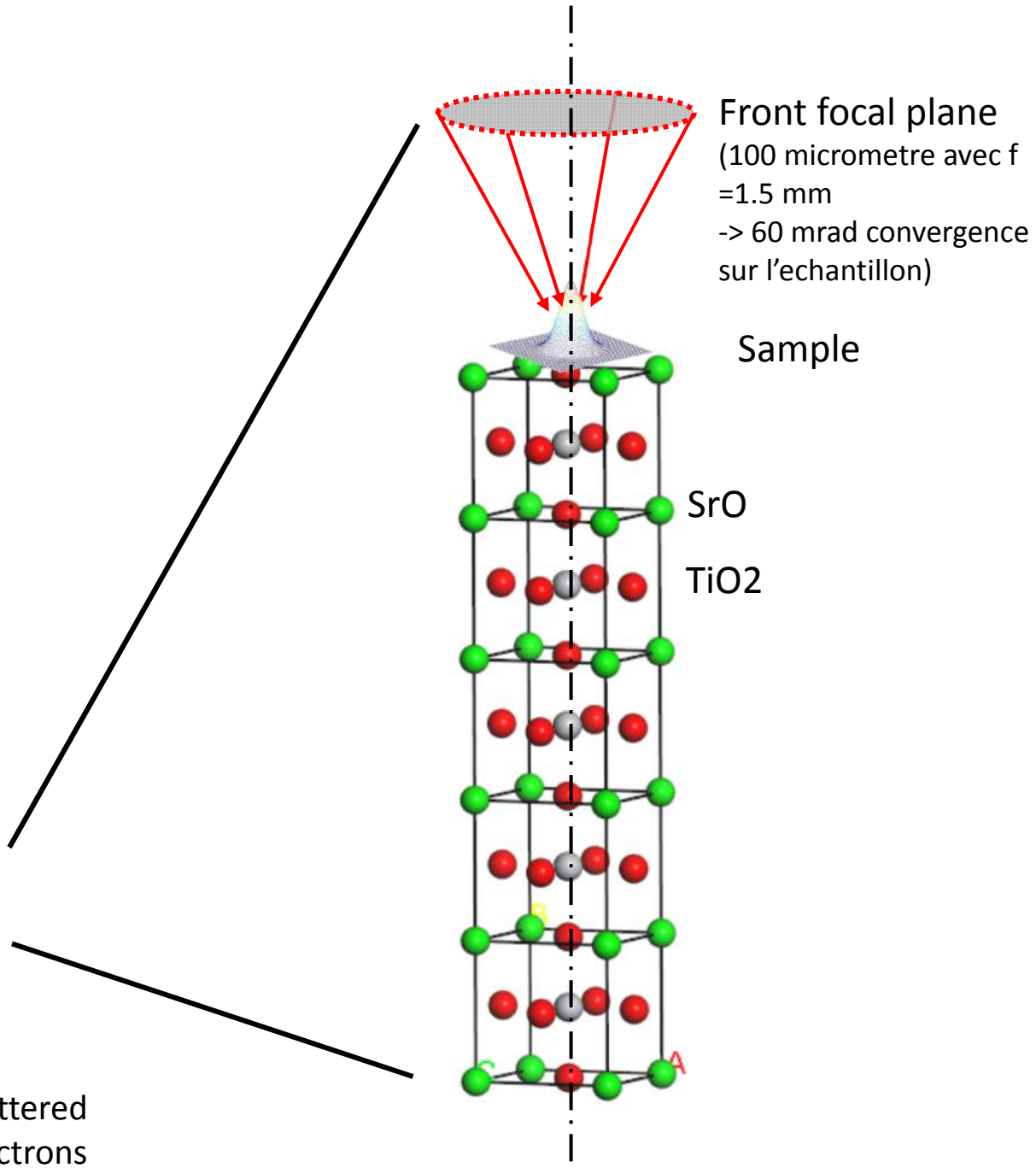
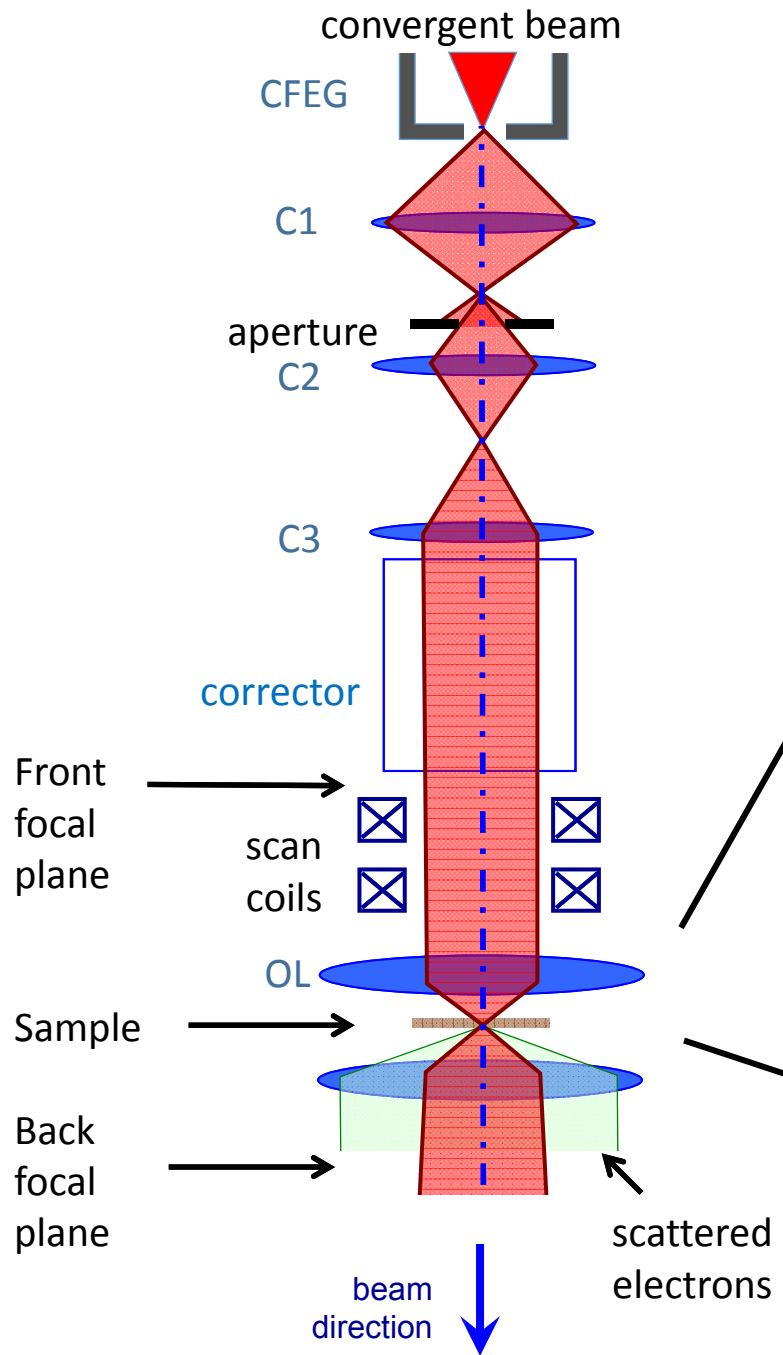


If the quadrupole poles are of the perfect shape (hyperbolic), it generates constant magnetic field gradient B' , which acts as a focusing lens in x and defocusing in y , or vice versa



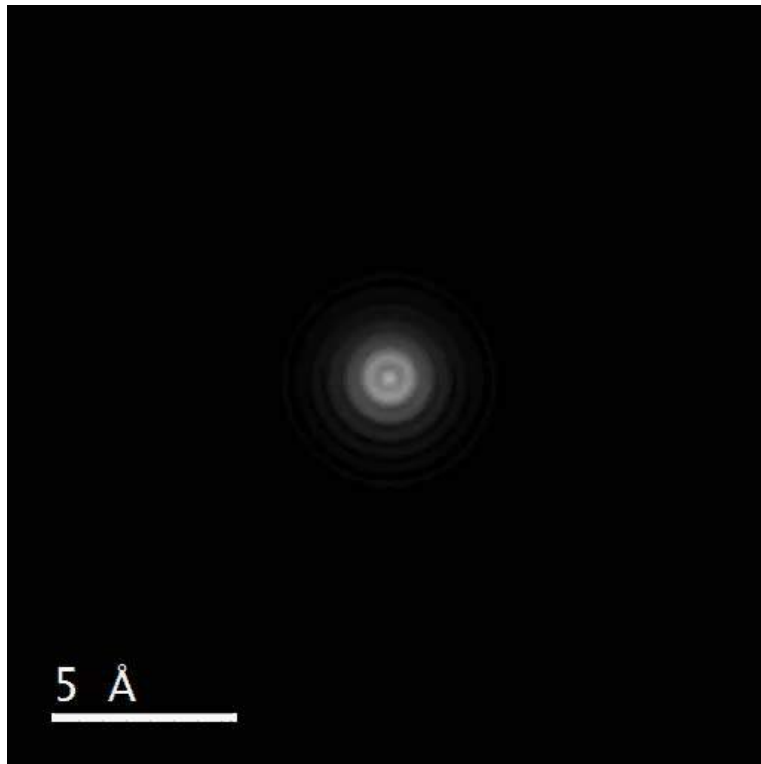
Krivanek et al. Ultramicroscopy 108 (2008) 179–195.
www.nion.com

Image formation principles in STEM



Wave function propagation along a Ti-O Column

Wave function (modulus)



Diffraction

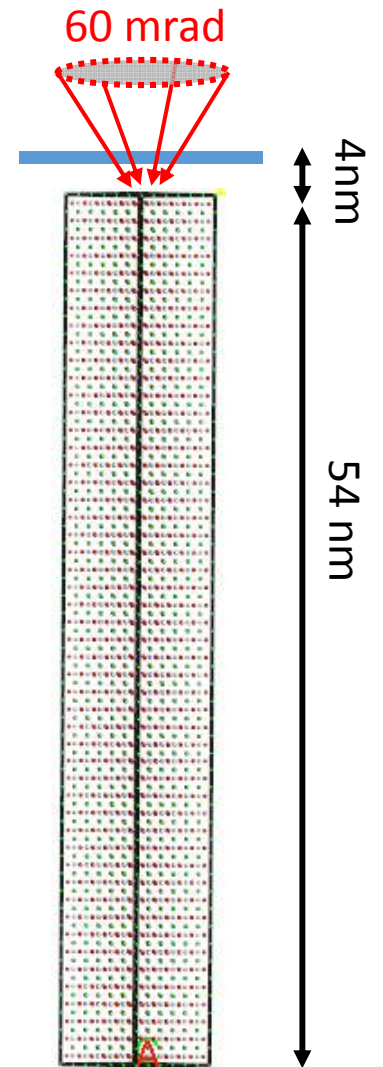
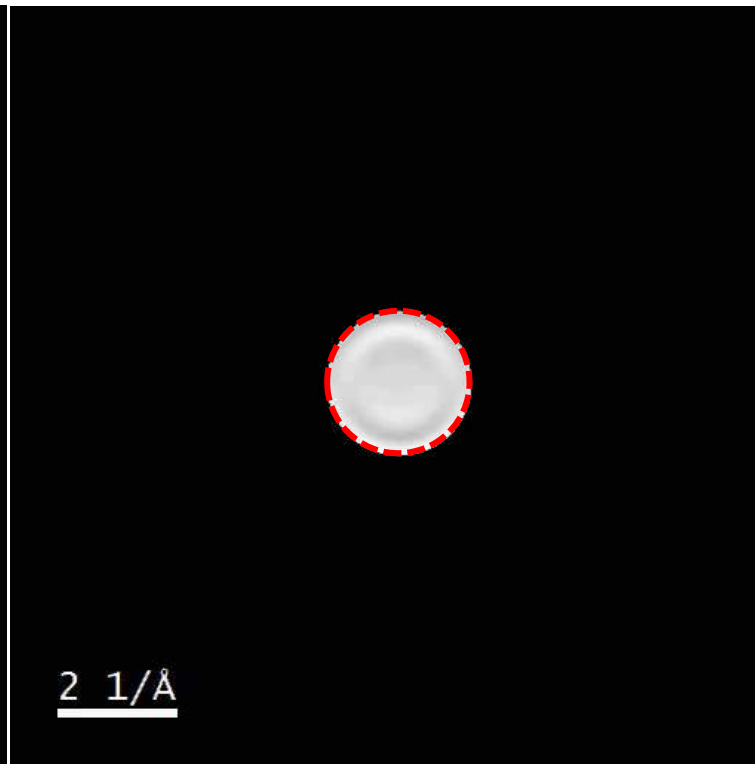
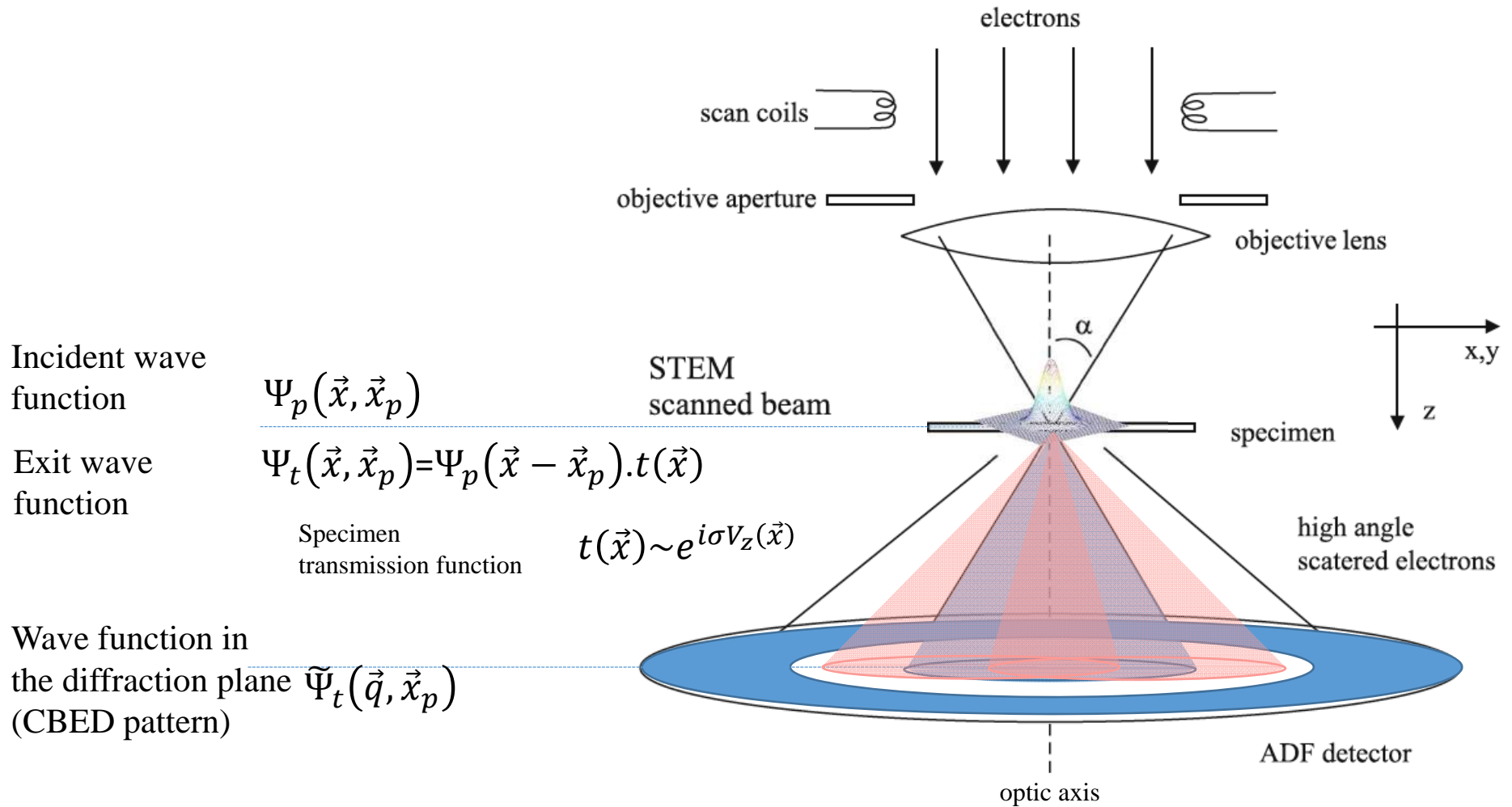
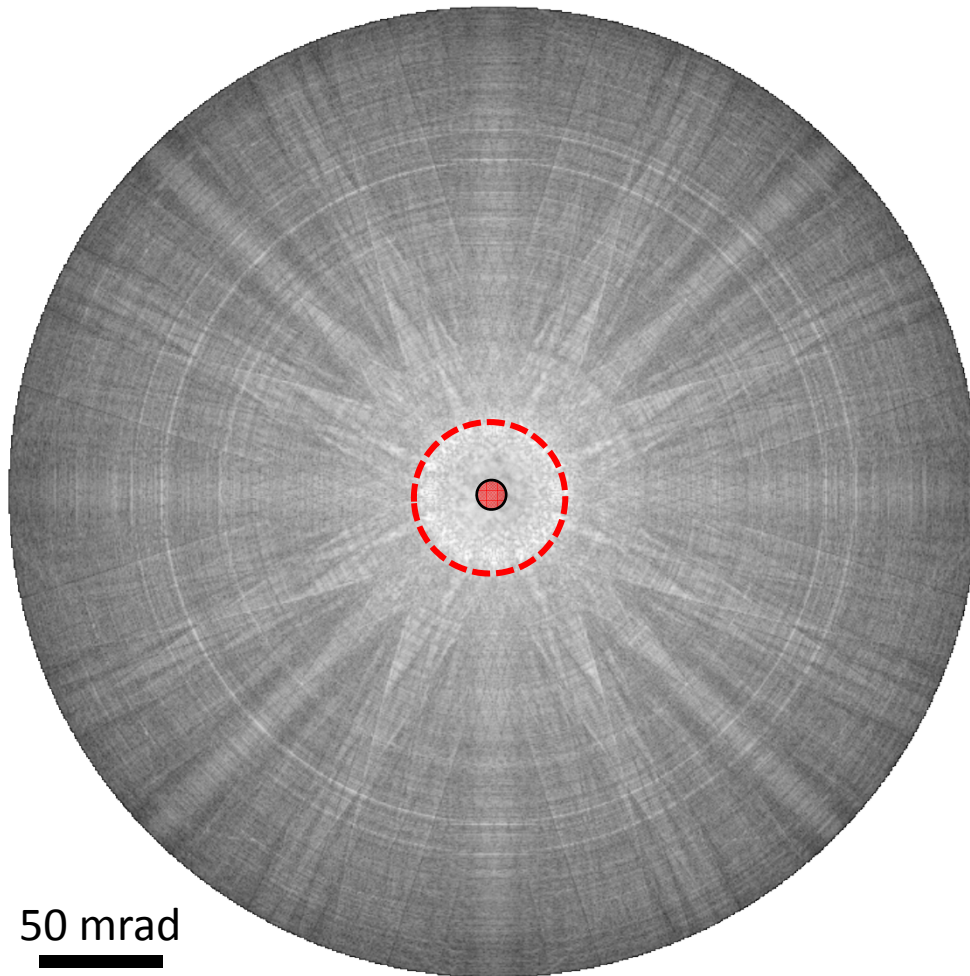


Image formation in a STEM/ geometry of the detectors



Simplified model of a STEM (the condenser and projector lenses are ignored)

Selecting the geometry of the detector to tune the nature of the contrast in the image



Diffraction pattern (CBED, log scale)
1 Å electron probe on a single Ti atomic column

Intensity in the image for one probe position \vec{x}_p
: incoherent integration of the diffraction
pattern over the geometry of the detector:

$$I(\vec{x}_p) = \int_{q_{Dmin}}^{q_{Dmax}} |\tilde{\Psi}_t(\vec{q}, \vec{x}_p)|^2 D(\vec{q}) d\vec{q}$$

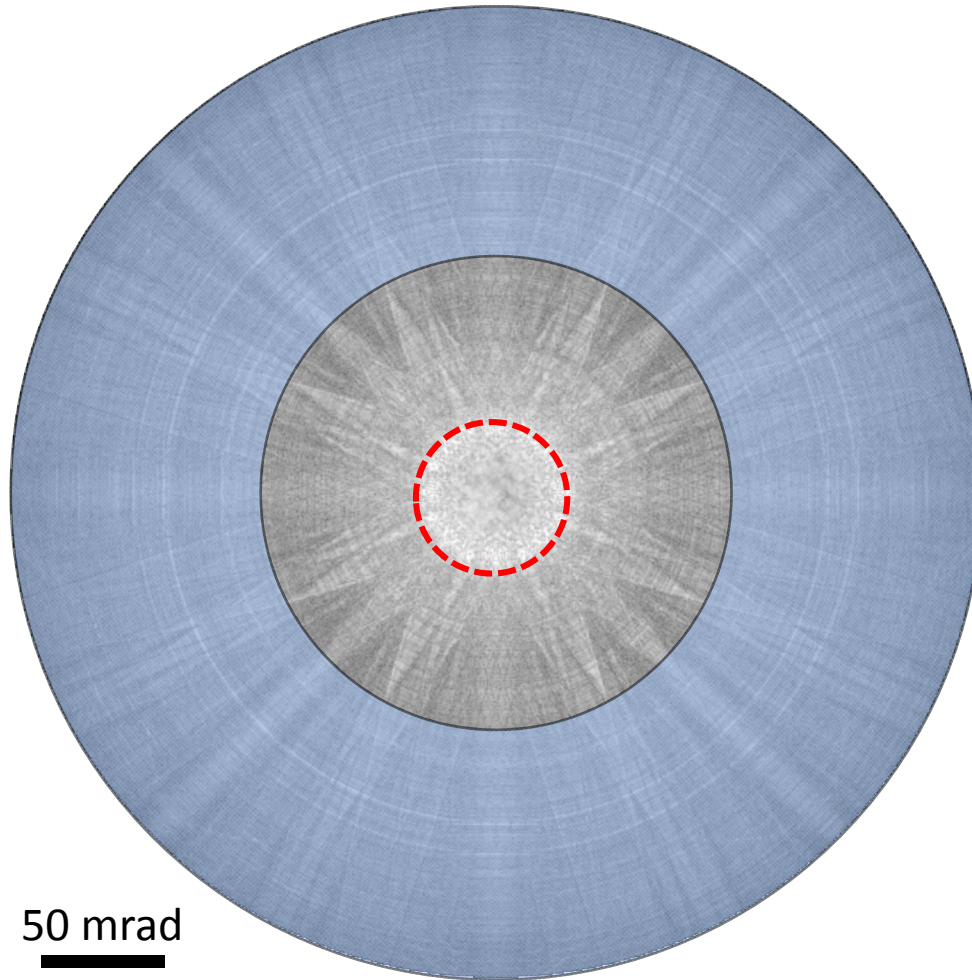
$$D(\vec{q}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } q_{Dmin} < q < q_{Dmin} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Coherent contrast (Bright Field image):

$$D(\vec{q}) \sim \delta(\vec{q})$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_{axial}^{BF}(\vec{x}_p) &= |\tilde{\Psi}_t(0, \vec{x}_p)|^2 \\ &= |\Psi_p(\vec{x}_p) * t(\vec{x}_p)|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Selecting the geometry of the detector to tune the nature of the contrast in the image



Diffraction pattern (CBED, log scale)
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$$D(\vec{q}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } q_{Dmin} < q < q_{Dmax} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Incoherent contrast (High Angle Annular Dark
Field image)

$$D(\vec{q}) = 1 - H(\vec{q})$$

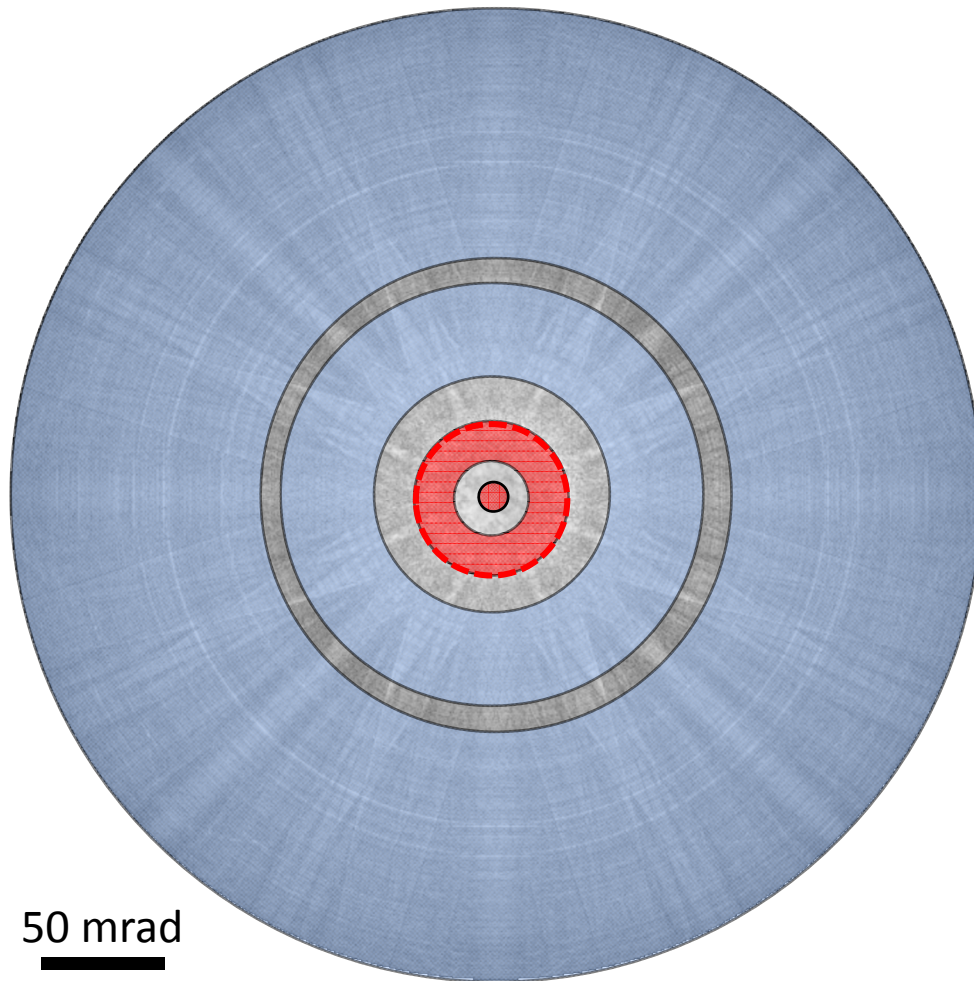
$$I^{HAADF}(\vec{x}_p) = |\Psi_p(\vec{x}_p)|^2 * |A(\vec{x}_p)|^2$$

$$|A(\vec{x})|^2 \sim \int_{q_{Dmin}}^{q_{Dmax}} \frac{\partial \sigma(\vec{x})}{\partial q} d\vec{q}$$

Square of scattering
factor at large angles

$$\sim Z^{1,5} - Z^{1,7}$$

Detector geometry/image contrast/information



50 mrad

Diffraction pattern (CBED, log scale)
1 Å electron probe on a single Ti atomic column

BF : « true » phase contrast. Very sensitive to structural defects, weakly interpretable (phase)

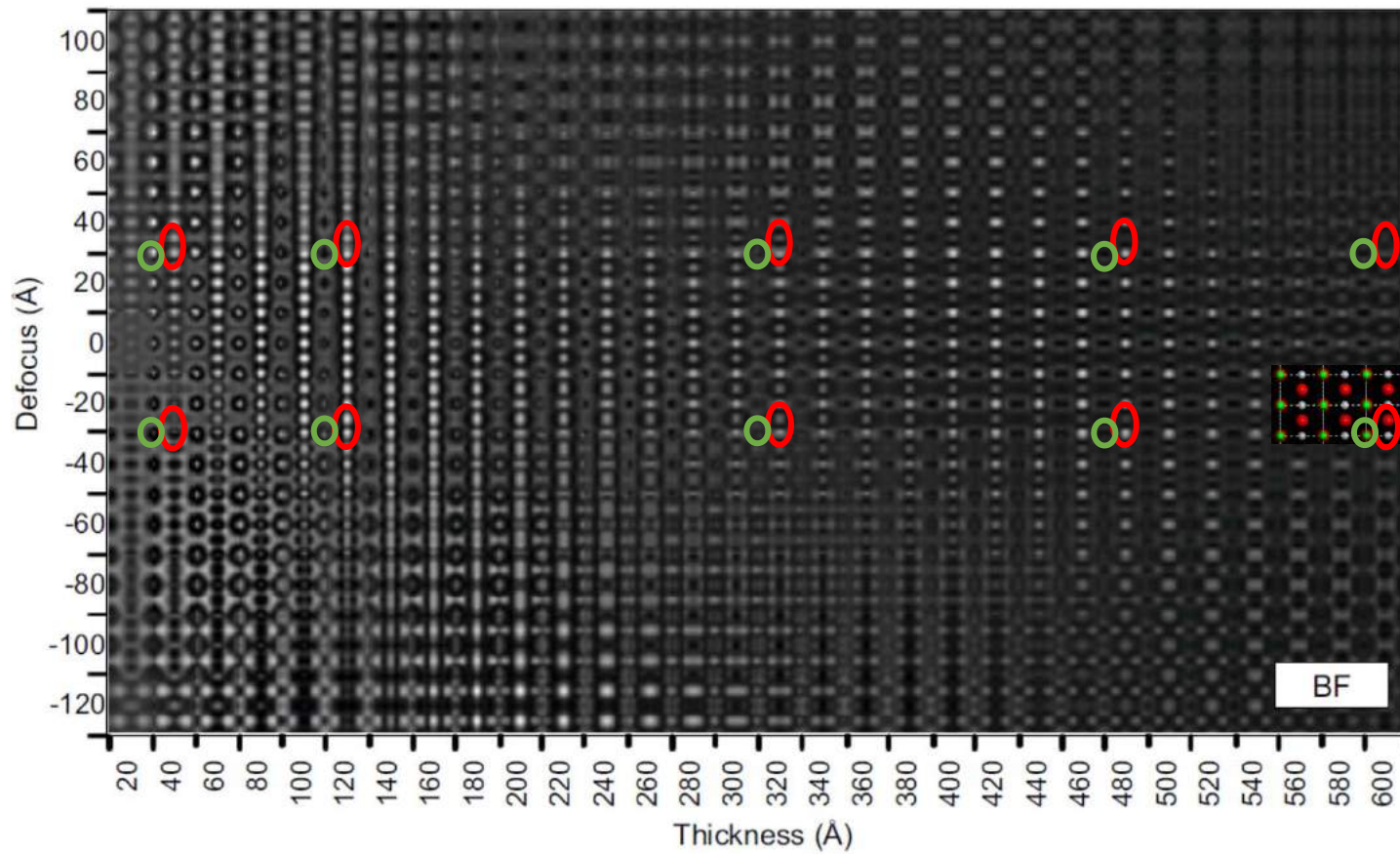
ABF : phase contrast. Phase weakly modified by the sample. Light element imaging. Needs for a perfect correction of the lens aberrations (abberation (abberation = additional parasitic dephasing)

MAADF : semi-coherent contrast. Sensitive to strain and disorder

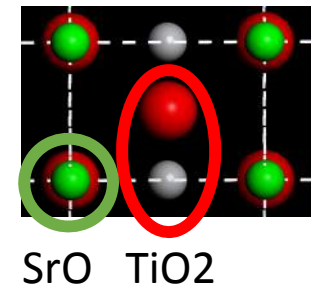
HAADF : « true » incoherent contrast.

Heavy element imaging. Precision of a few picometres (atomic displacements).

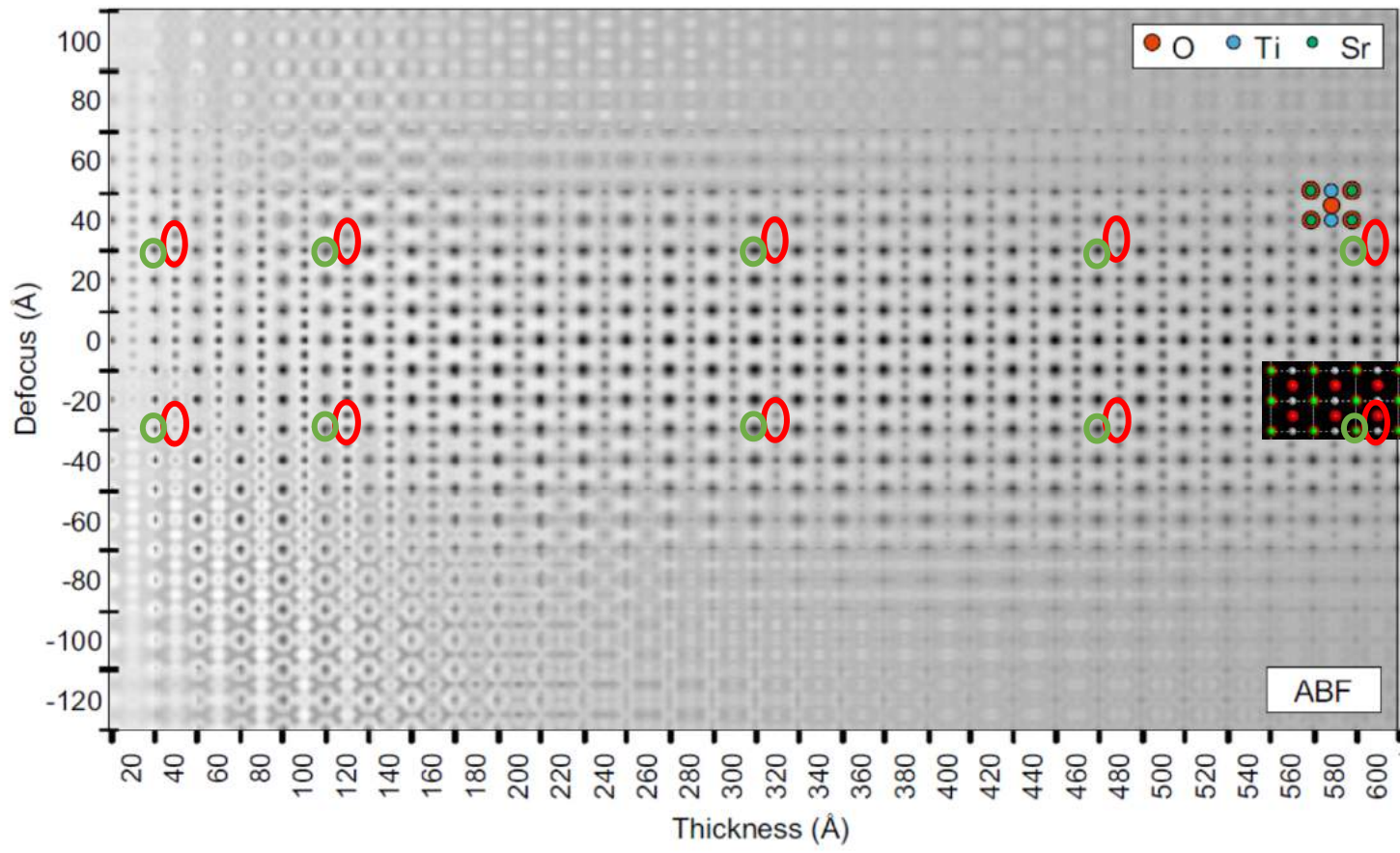
Quantitative BF / ABF



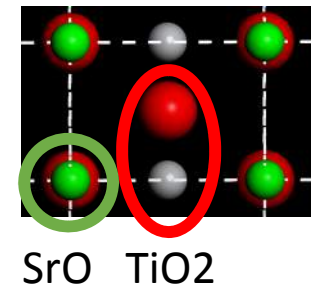
[110] SrTiO₃



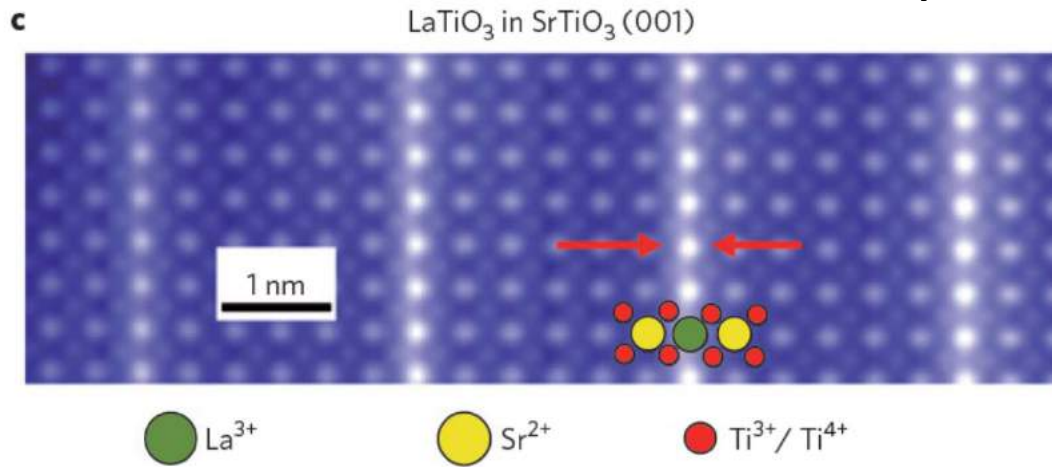
Quantitative BF / **ABF**



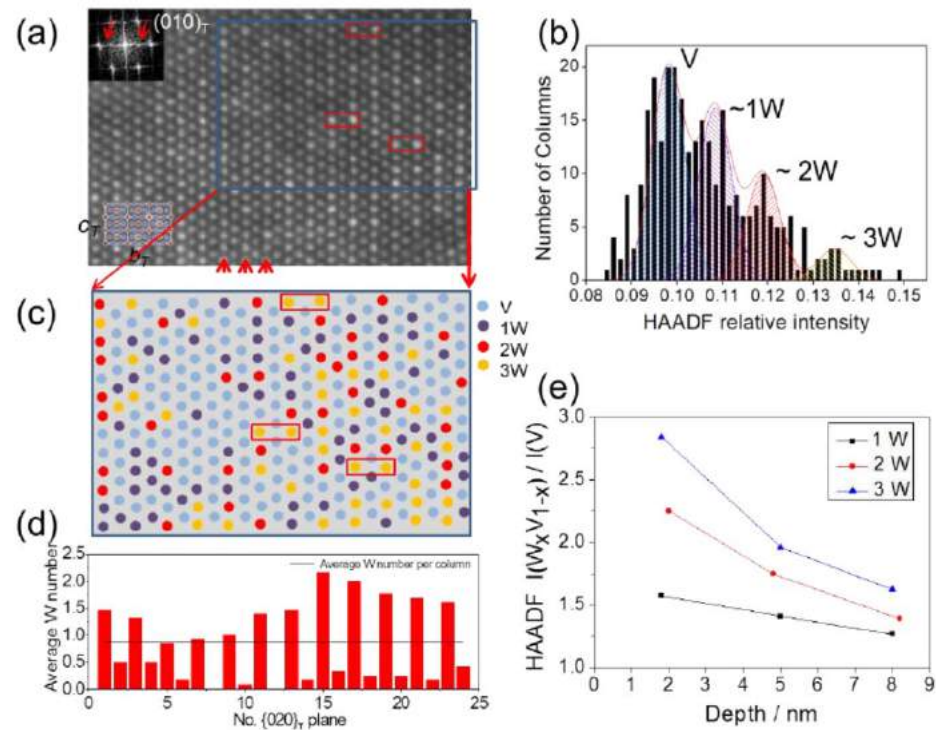
[110] SrTiO₃



HAADF imaging (Z sensitive) superlattices and dopants

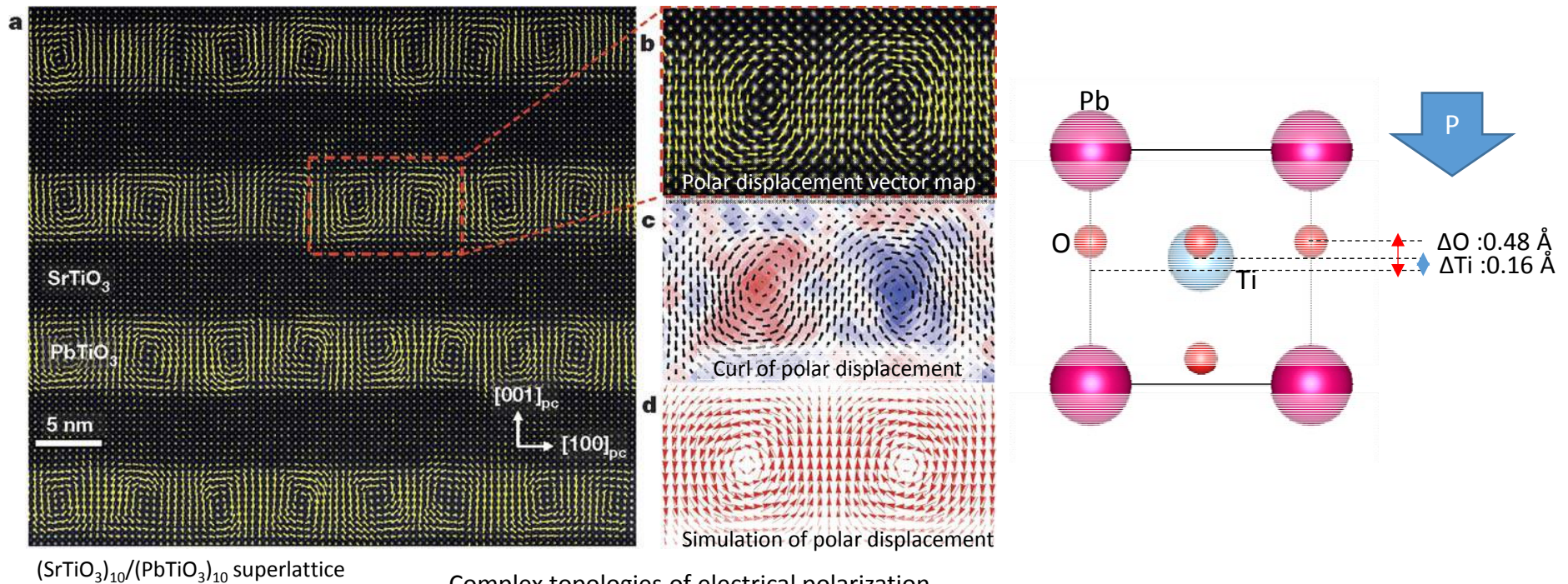


Single LTO layer for 5 STO
Hwang et al. Nat. Mat. 11 (2012)



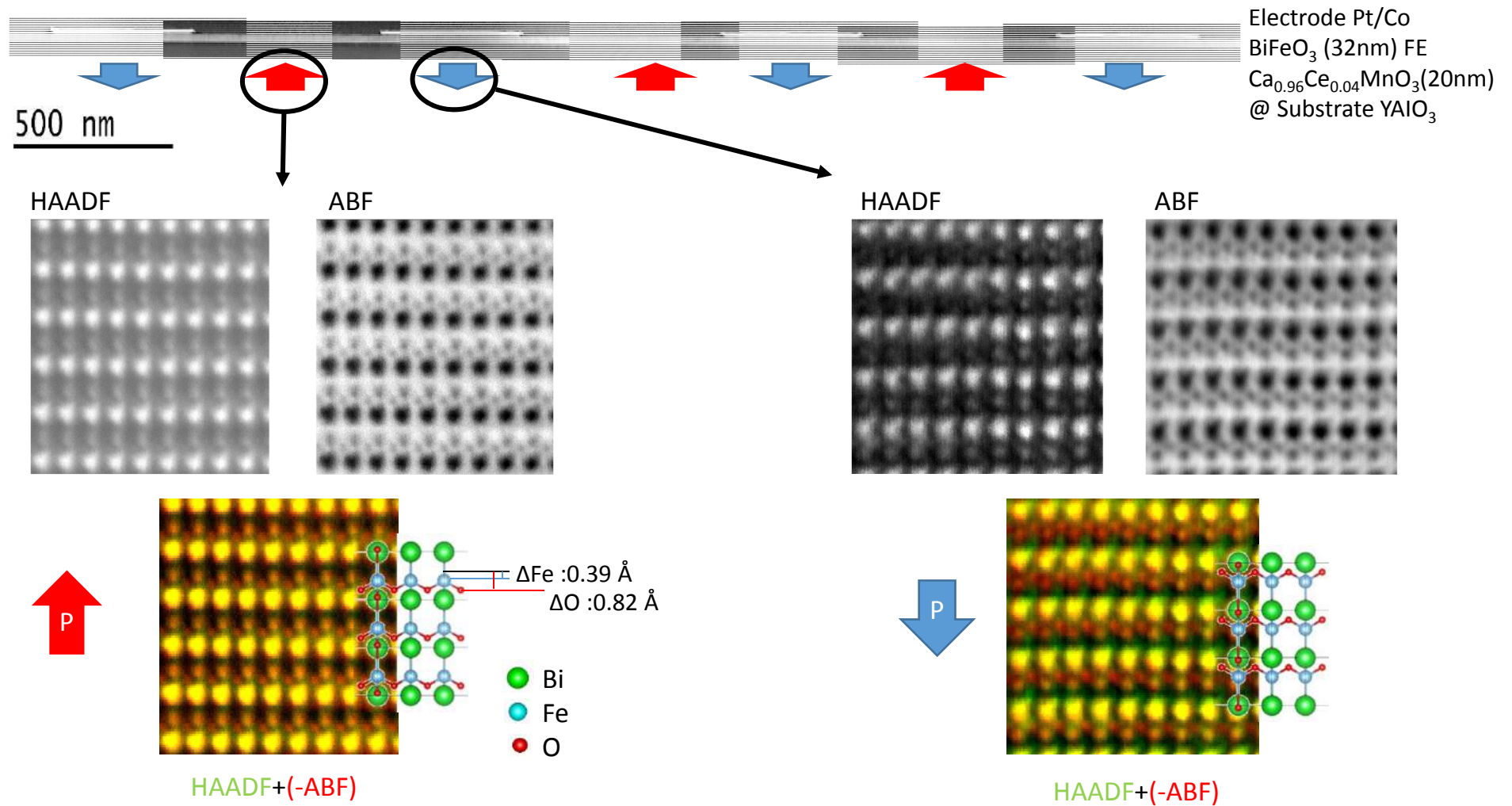
W doped VO₂
Li et al. Acta Materialia 80, (2014)

Observation of Vortex-antivortex structures in PbTiO_3 by STEM-HAADF imaging (pm displacements)

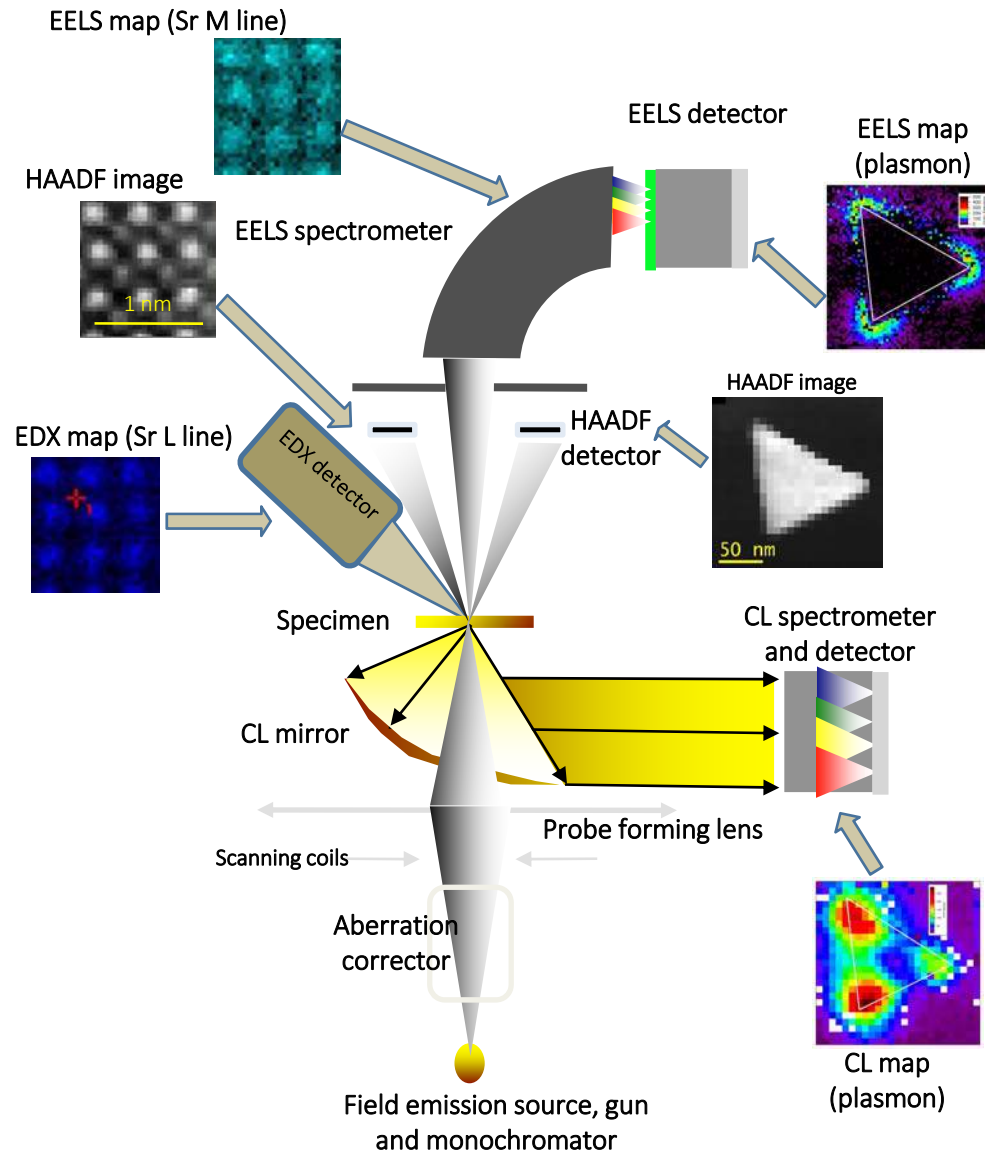


- For a range of superlattice periods, such vortex array can counterbalance the electrostatic energy rise of polar discontinuities at the PTO/STO interface, epitaxial constraints and domain formation.
- Inspiration for future physic: macro-scale charge ordering, electrically controllable chirality, new states of matter (dipolar skyrmions, hedgehog states),

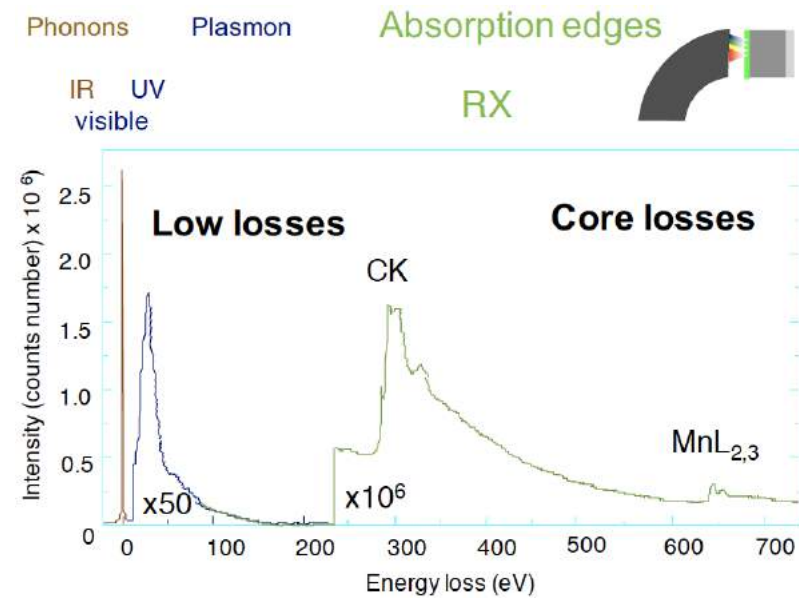
Observation of polarization in BiFeO₃ combining ABF and HAADF imaging



Spectromicroscopy in a STEM

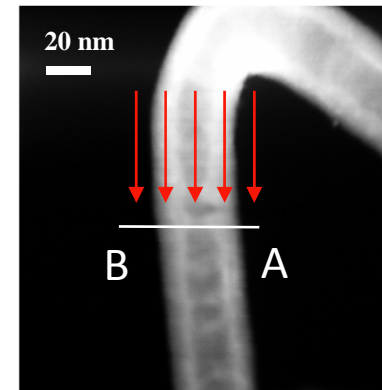
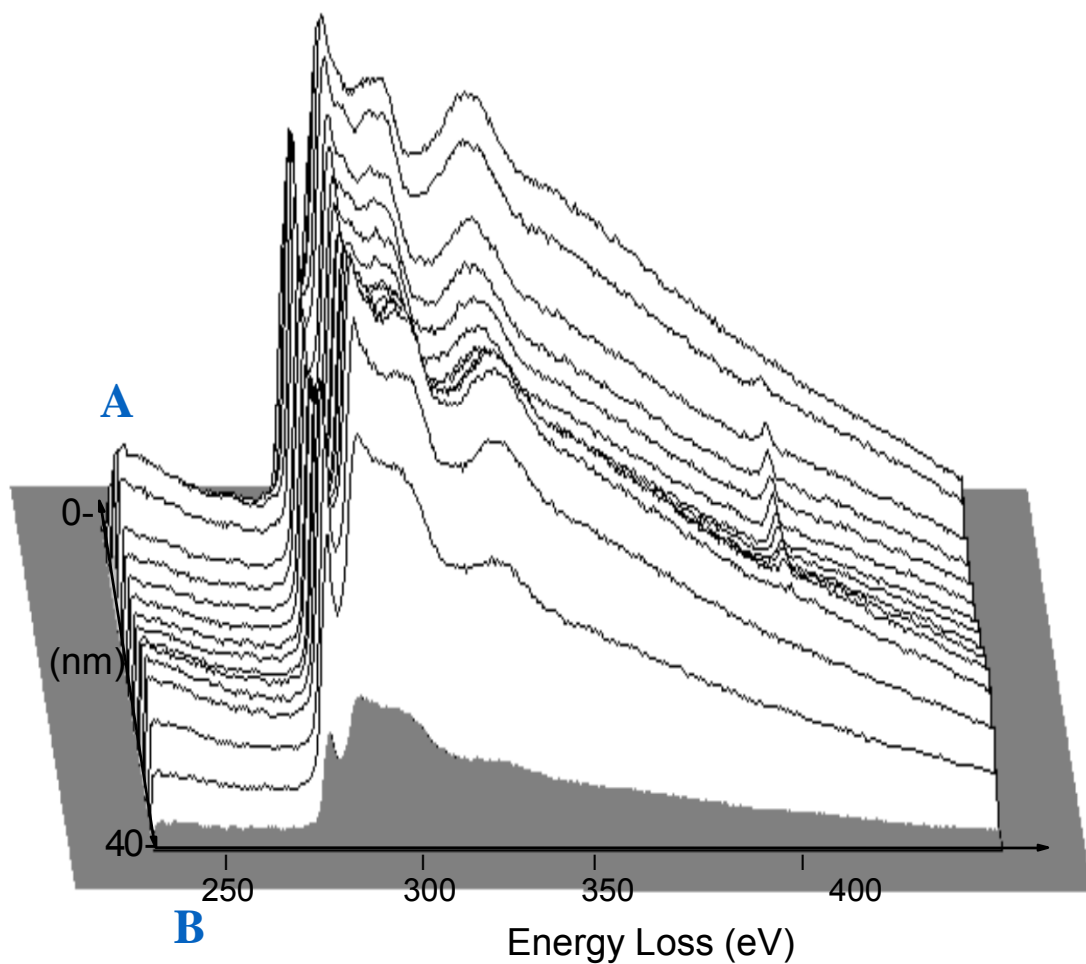


EELS spectroscopy : spectral domains

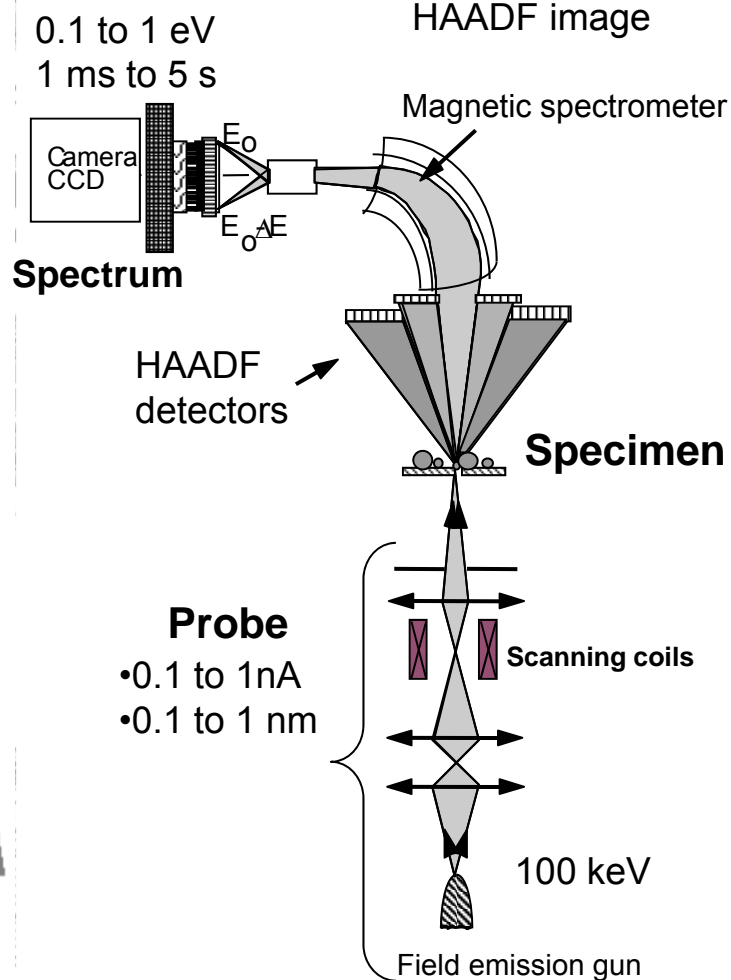


The multisignal approach

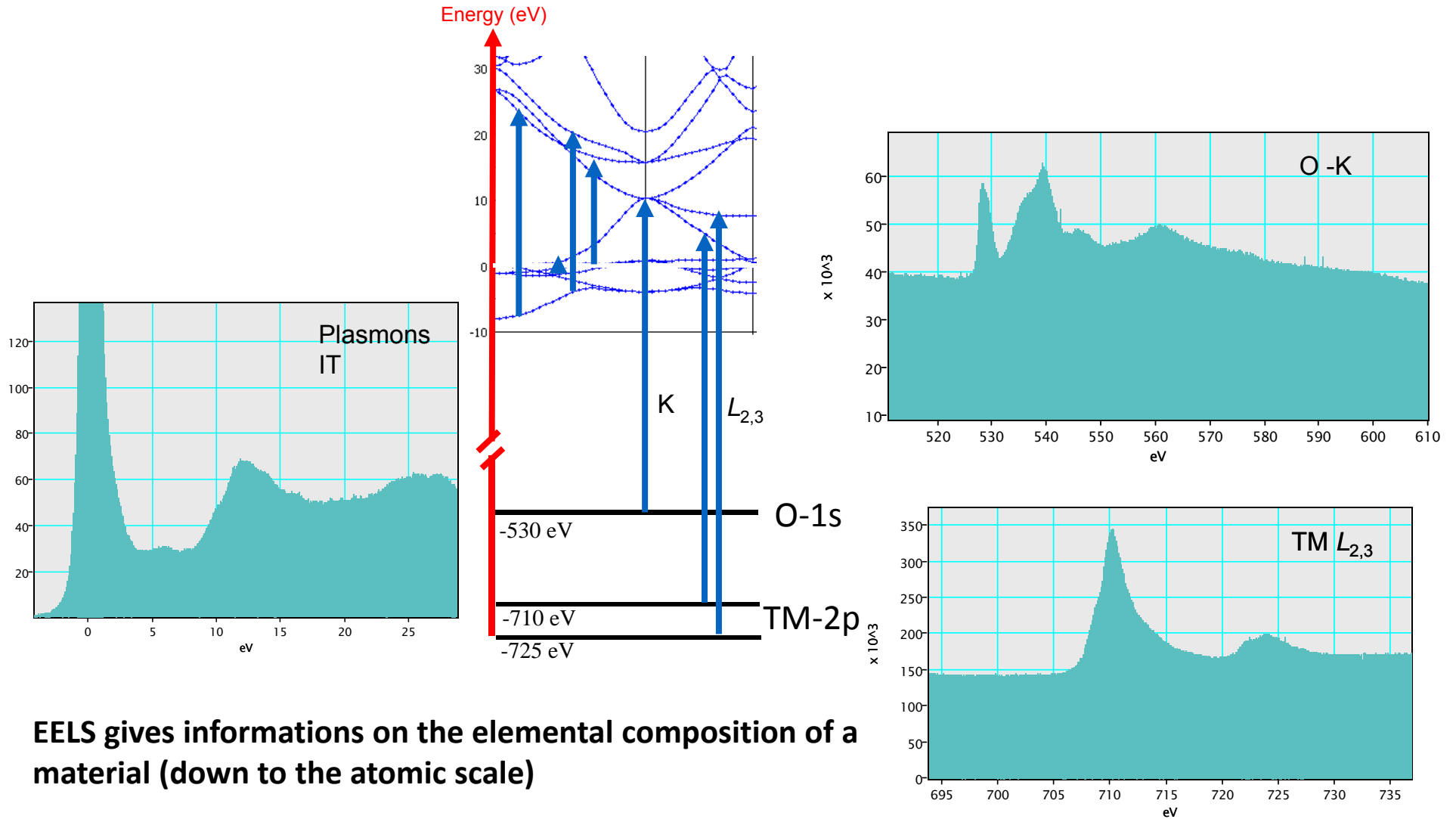
The spectrum image (hyperspectral) approach



HAADF image



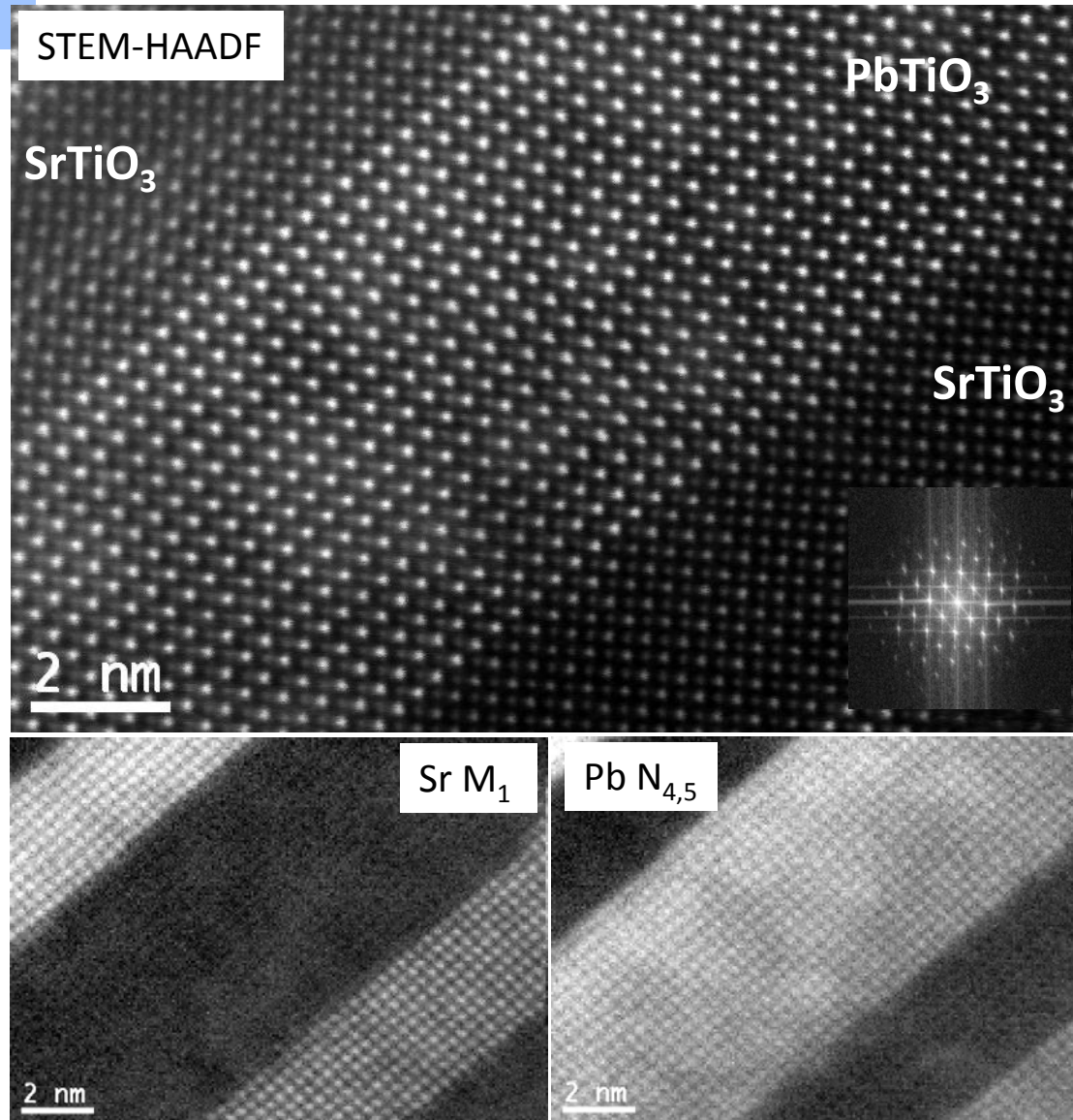
EELS: involved electron populations and associated transitions



EELS gives informations on the elemental composition of a material (down to the atomic scale)

EELS gives informations on the electronic structure but it is usually not a direct probe of the Ground State

Core-loss EELS
Elemental
analysis of
PTO/STO
superlattices



Negligible Sr-Pb interdiffusion in SrTiO₃-PbTiO₃ superlattices as evidenced by the EELS Sr M₁ (346-370 eV) and Pb N_{4,5} (403-440 eV) signals.

STEM-HAADF, pixels size 9pm, 200 keV, 60pA, spots at 0.86 angstrom are seen in FFT.

STEM-EELS, pixel size 64pm, 5 ms per spectrum, 625 meV/ch, 200 keV, 60pA.

Courtesy K. March, A. Gloter, M. Kociak, M. Tence, A. Torres-Pardo (CNRS-Orsay-France); sample JM. Triscone (U. Geneva).

TM 2p edges (TiL2,3) : Origin of the peaks

Classic scheme for 3d orbitals crystal field splitting and 2p / L2,3 excitation

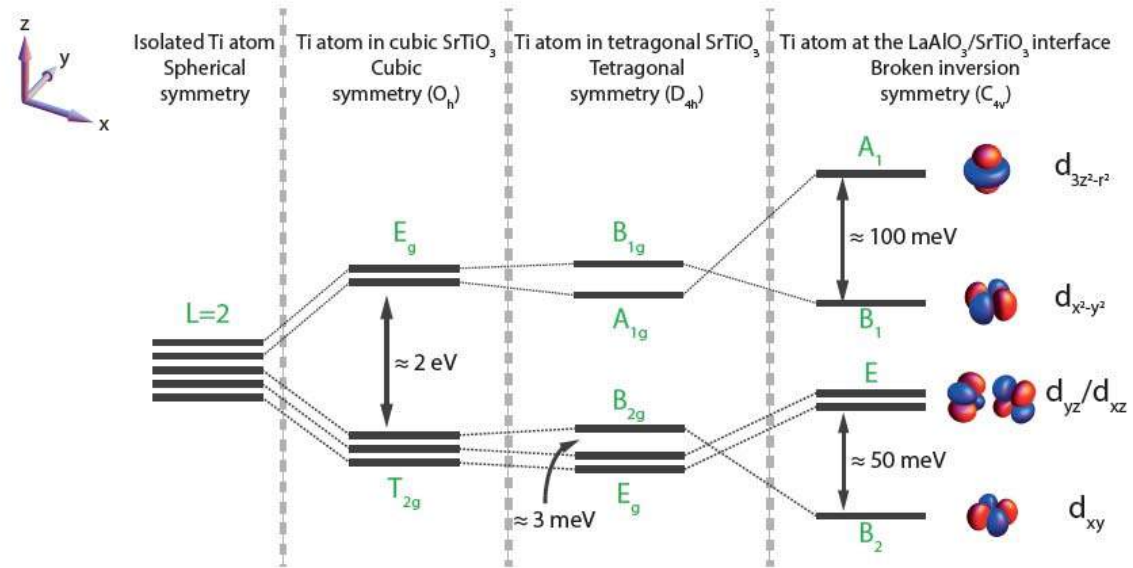
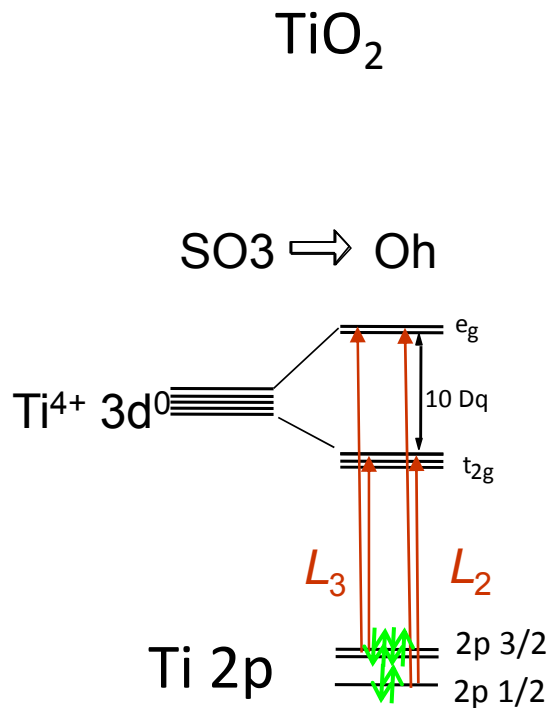
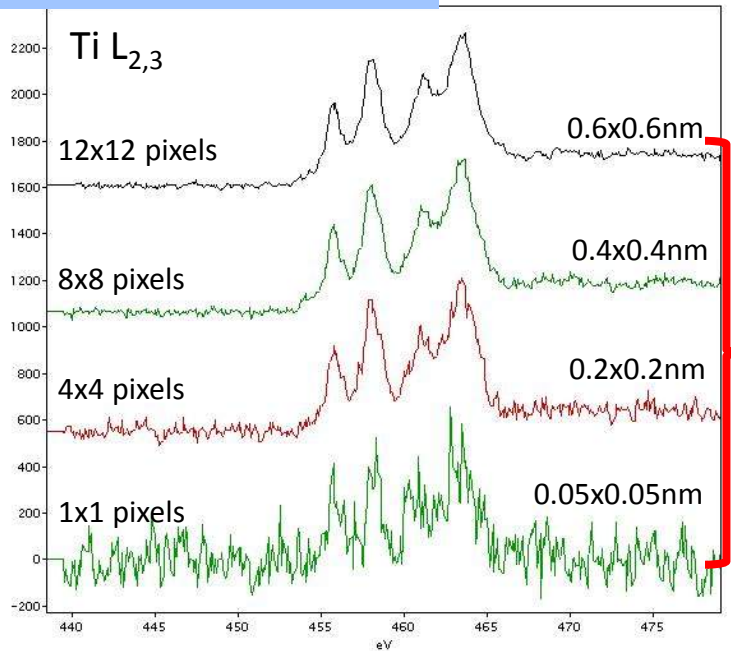


Figure 2.5: Energy of the Ti 3d orbitals in the presence of crystal field. Energy levels of the Ti 3d orbitals in a spherical, cubic, tetragonal and non inversion-symmetric tetragonal environment. The splittings were determined from experimental and theoretical studies [50–55]. The green labels refer to the irreducible representation to which the orbital(s) belong(s).

EELS principles and examples



Measuring the crystal, field splitting across a SrTiO_3 - PbTiO_3 interface by the EELS $\text{Ti } L_{2,3}$ edges fine structures evolution.

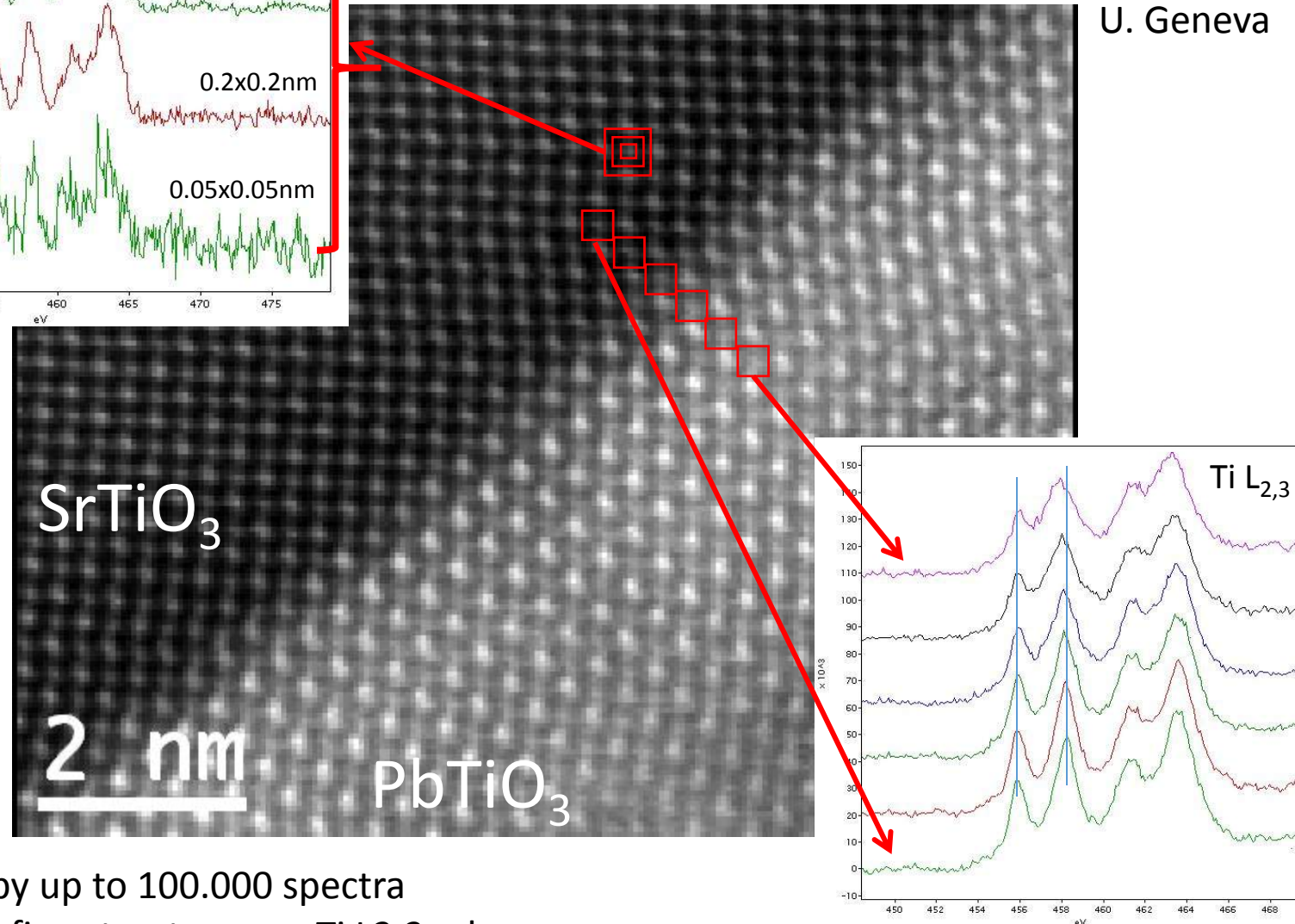
206x161 spim images, 50pm pixel size, 10 ms per spectrum, 90 meV/ch, 200 keV, 60pA, raw EELS data. Courtesy A. Gloter, M. Kociak, M. Tence, A. Torres-Pardo (CNRS-Orsay-France), sample JM. Triscone (U. Geneva).

A. Torres-Pardo et al., Phys. Rev. B 84, 220102 (2011).

P. Zubko et al. Nano Letters 12(6), 2846 (2012).

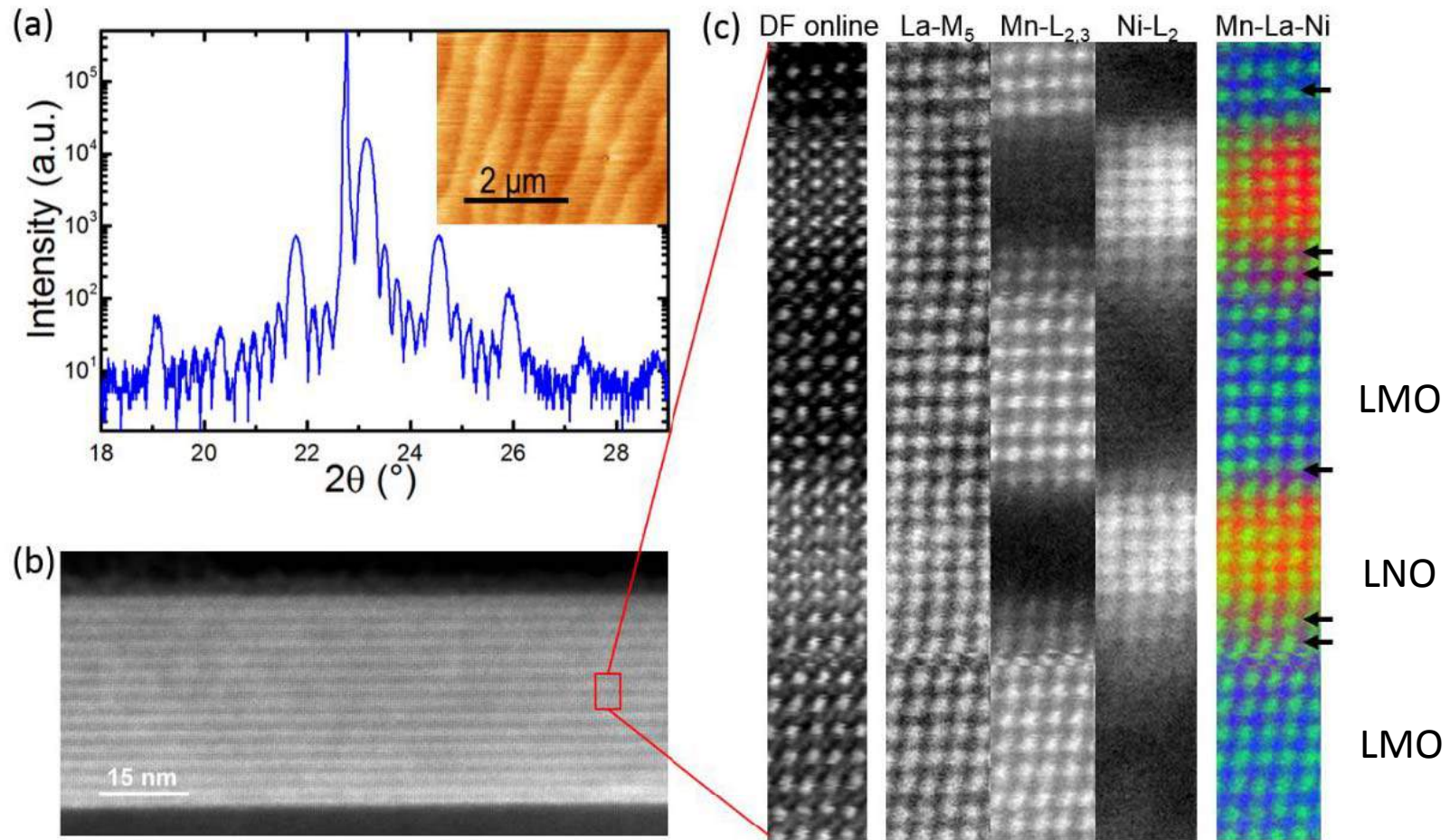
Coll. J.M. Triscone

U. Geneva



Spectromicroscopy up to 100.000 spectra
Unit cell resolved fine structures on Ti $L_{2,3}$ edges

Structure and electronic structure of LaNiO₃/LaMnO₃ interfaces in superlattices



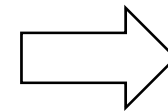
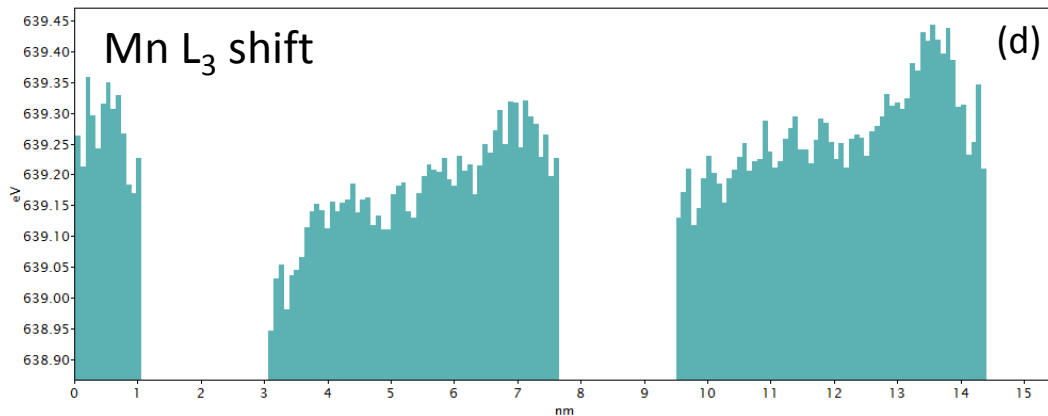
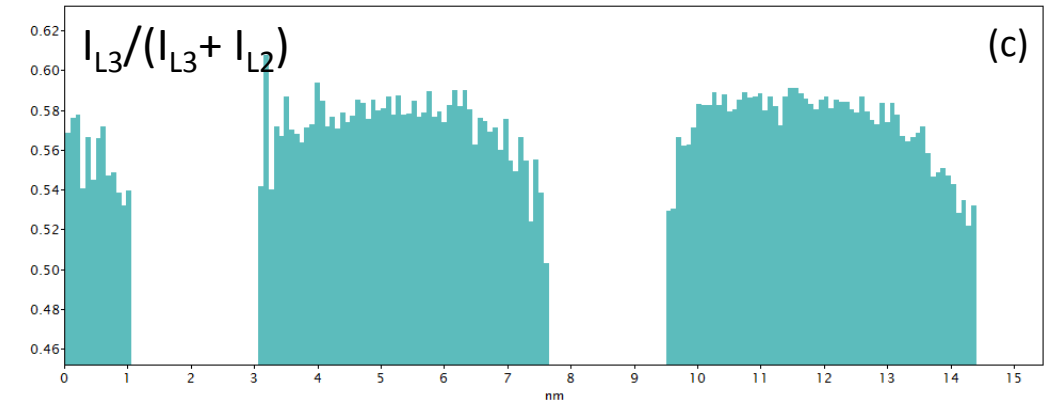
(a) XRD scans for a (8LNO/8LMO) 6 superlattice grown on (001)STO. Inset: corresponding atomic force microscopy image. (b) Low magnification TEM image. (c) EELS measurements showing the interfacial structural asymmetry (indicated by arrows).

Marta Guibert et al. Nanoletters (2015)

LMO/LNO interface is rougher compared to the LNO/LMO interface

Probing valence changes at LaNiO₃/LaMnO₃ interfaces

Growth direction



Interfacial charge transfer
Mn³⁺-Ni³⁺ towards
Mn⁴⁺-Ni²⁺

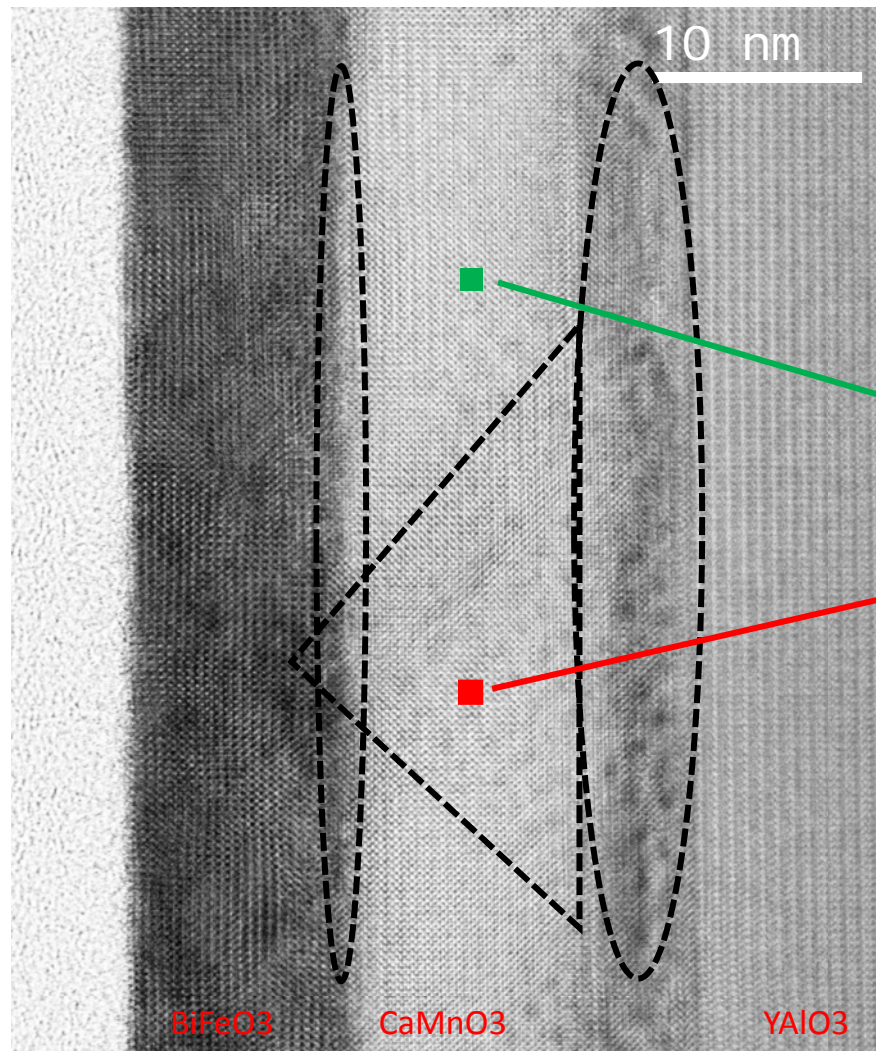
Coll. J.M. Triscone U. Genève

Marta Guibert et al. Nano Letters
15, 7355 (2015)

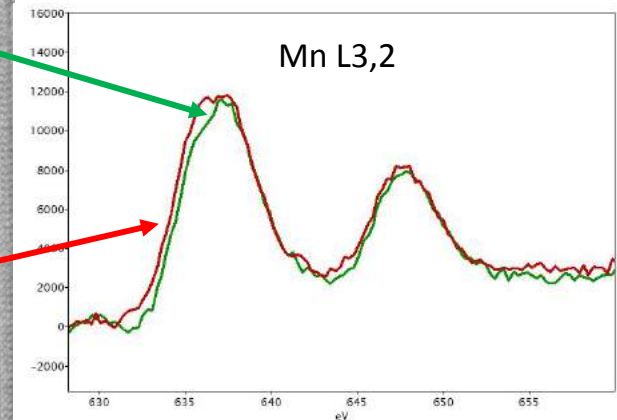
Both energy shifts and branching ratio indicated introduction of more holes (Mn⁴⁺) in the rougher LMO/LNO interface compared to the LNO/LMO interface

Charge quantification at interfaces, which sensitivity?

More Mn^{3+} at both interfaces and also in some part of the $CaMnO_3$ thin film, in link with superstructure due to oxygen vacancies ordering.

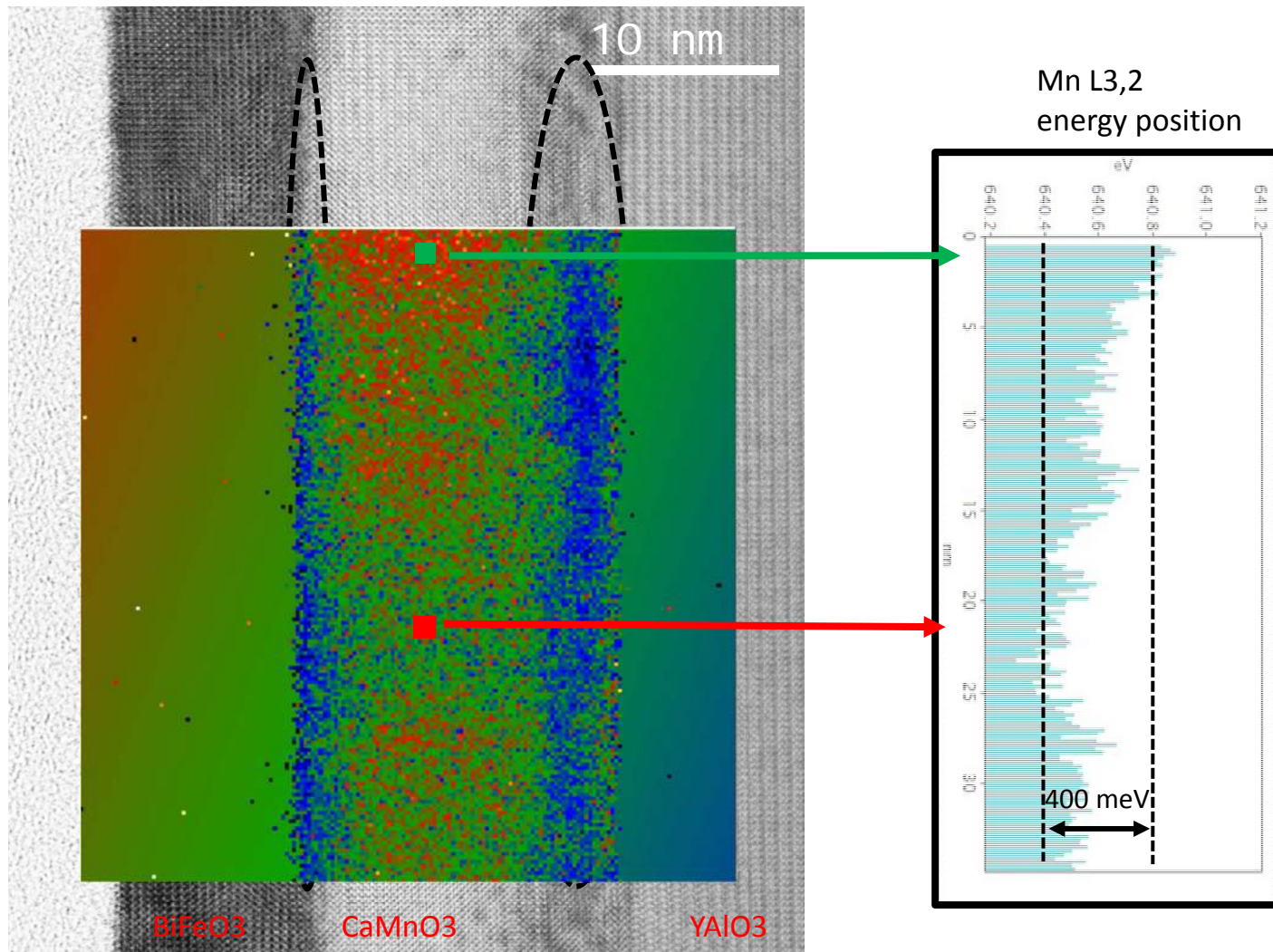


2 spectra from the central area of CMO with and without superstructure. Square surface is $1\text{nm} \times 1\text{nm}$ id est integration of 25 spectra



Charge quantification at interfaces, which sensitivity?

More Mn^{3+} at both interfaces and also in some part of the $CaMnO_3$ thin film, in link with superstructure due to oxygen vacancies ordering.



Coll. M. Bibes, V. Garcia, S. Fusil, A. Barthelemy (UmPhy Thales)

Charge quantification at interfaces, sensitivity down to a few 1/100 e-

Explorer la physique aux interfaces d'oxydes fortement corrélées: résultats récents et perspectives en microscopie électronique.

Alexandre Gloter et Odile Stephan (LPS, Université Paris-Sud, 91405 Orsay)

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1.1 A few generalities about transmission microscopy

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1.3 EELS principles and examples

2. Application to oxide thin films

2.1. Strain relaxation in LAO/STO bi-interface

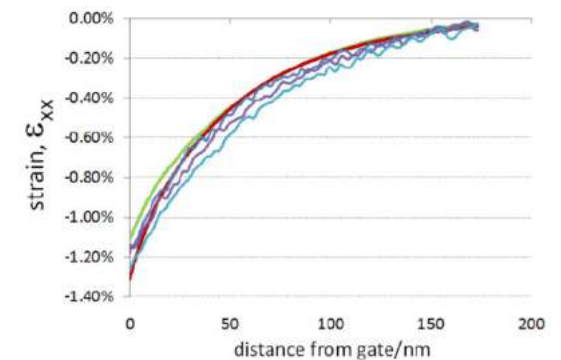
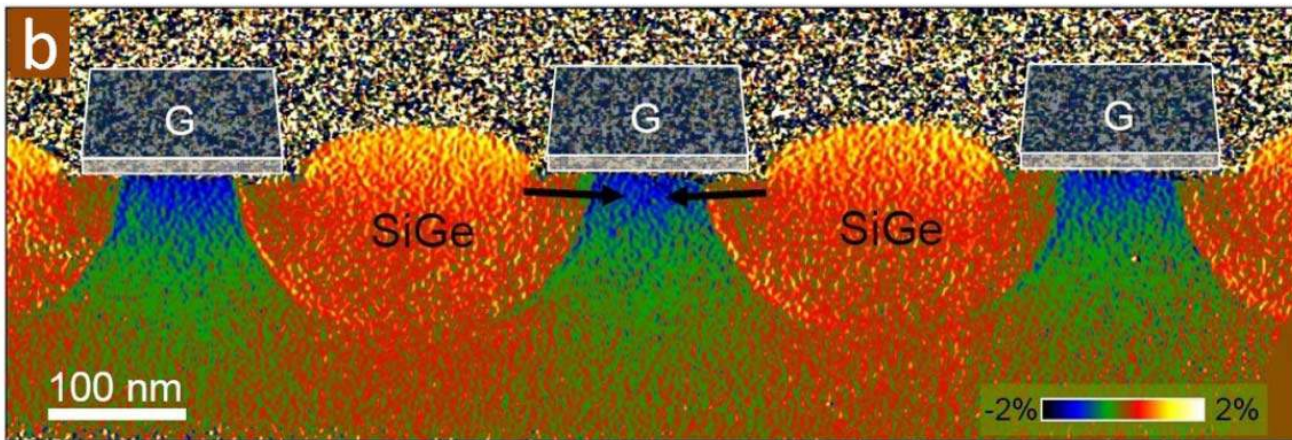
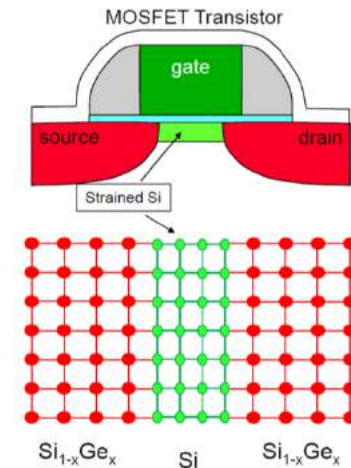
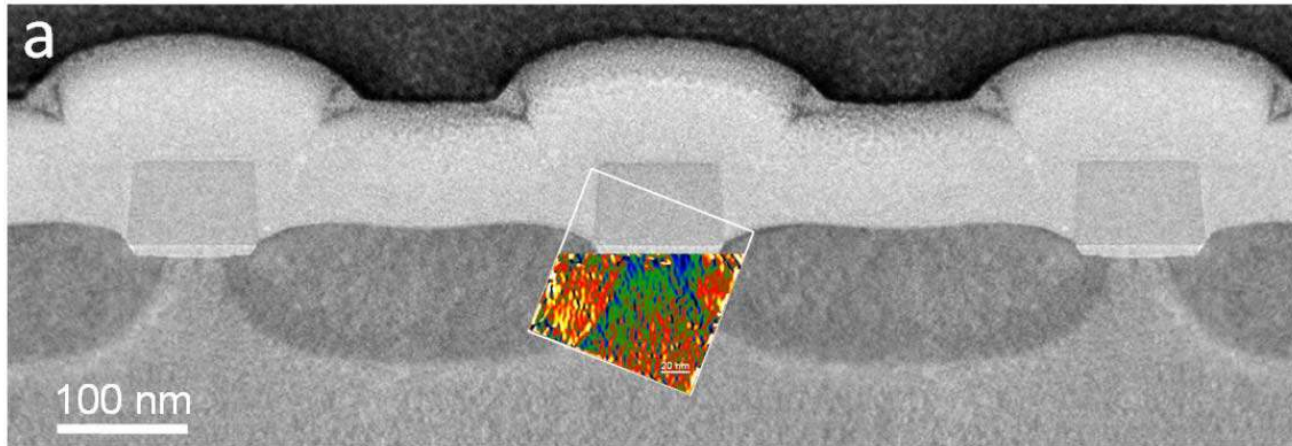
2.2. Oxygen octahedra rotation in LSMO

2.3. Textured VO₂ thin film on sapphire

3. Few perspectives on STEM-EELS for oxides / interfaces studies

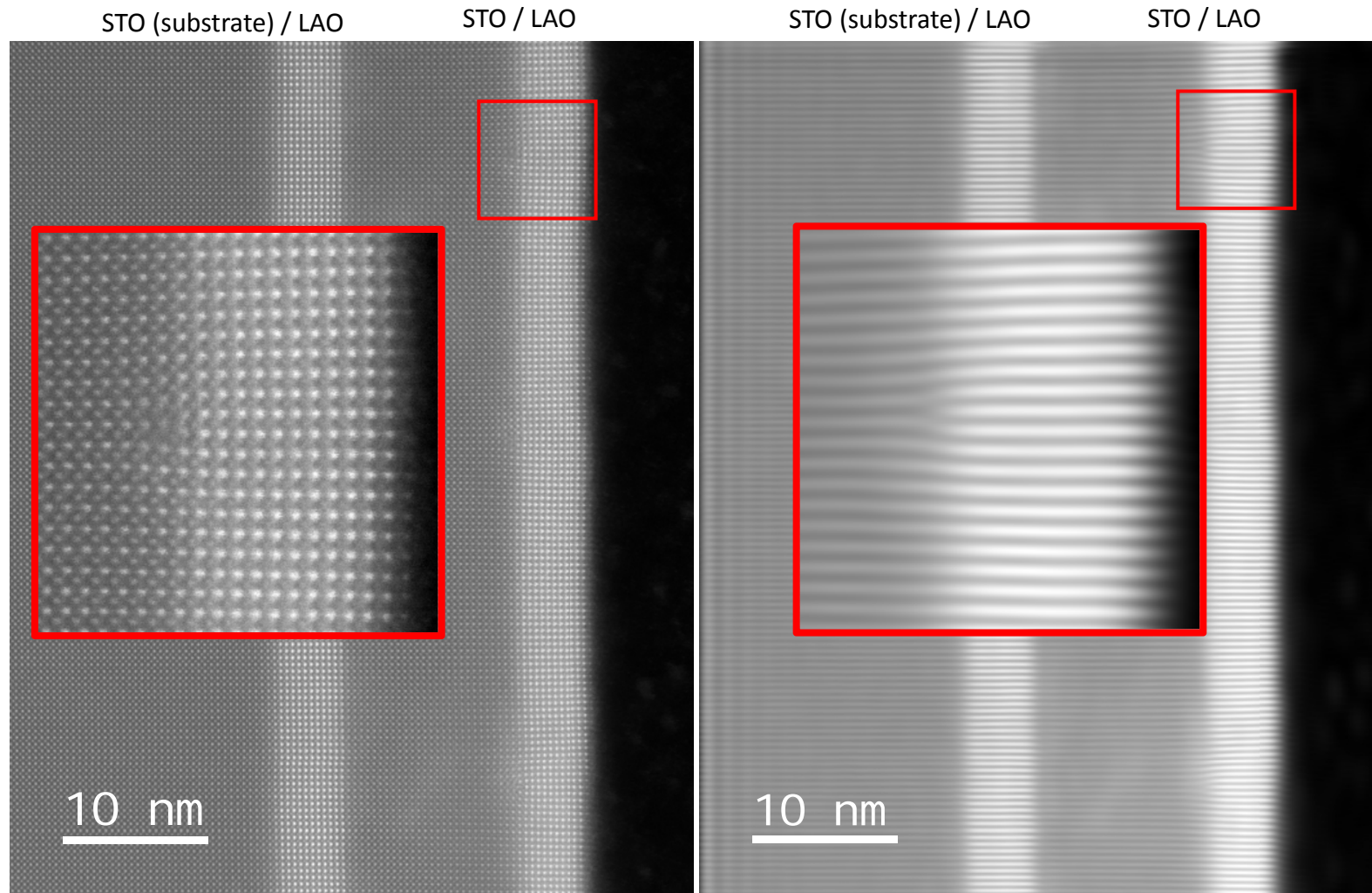
Strain engineering

refers to a general strategy employed in semiconductor manufacturing to enhance device performance. Performance benefits are achieved by modulating strain in the transistor channel, which enhances electron mobility (or hole mobility) and thereby conductivity through the channel.



- Direct mapping of strain in a strained silicon transistor by high-resolution electron microscopy Hue, F; Hytch, M; Bender, H, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 156602 (2008)
- Nanoscale holographic interferometry for strain measurements in electronic devices, Hytch M, Houdellier F, Hue F, et al. Nature 453, 1086 (2008)

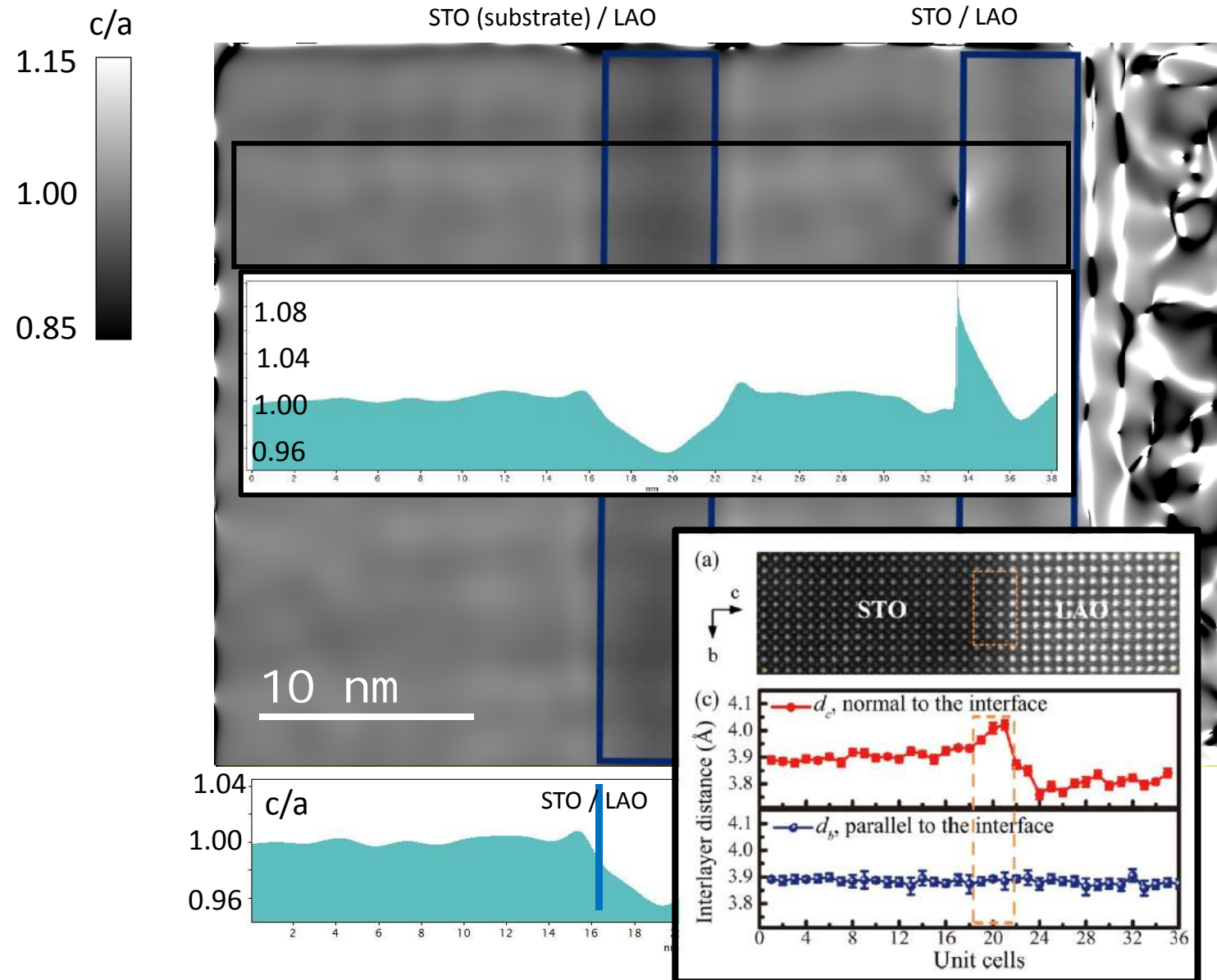
SrTiO₃/LaAlO₃ bilayers : structure and dislocations



Collaboration (JM Triscone, U. Genève ; G. Tieri thesis)

SrTiO₃ unit cell ($\sim 3.90 \text{ \AA}$) and LaAlO₃ pseudo cubic unit cell ($\sim 3.79 \text{ \AA}$)
LAO should be 2.9 % tensile strained

Local tetragonality : c/a ratio mapping



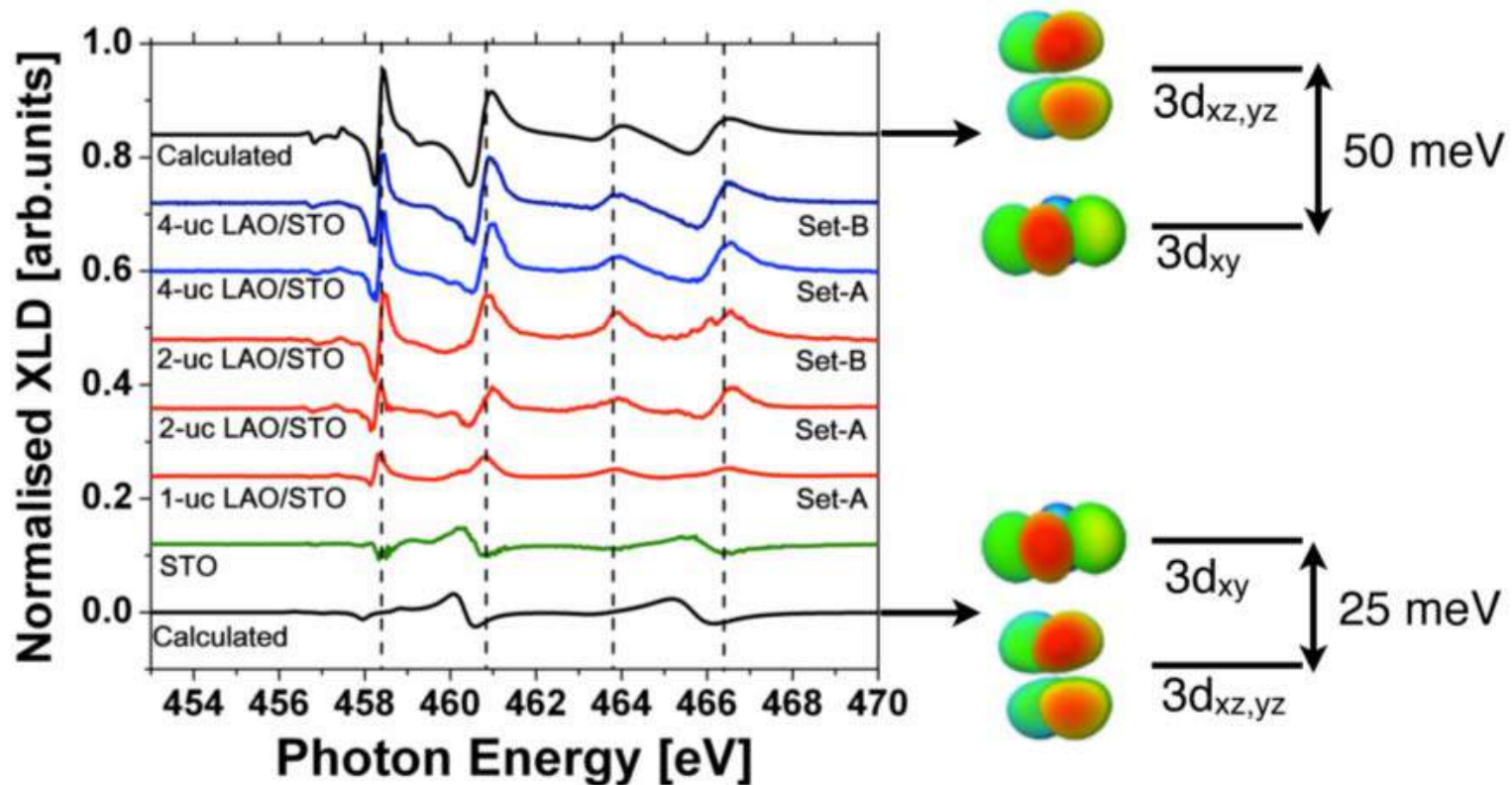
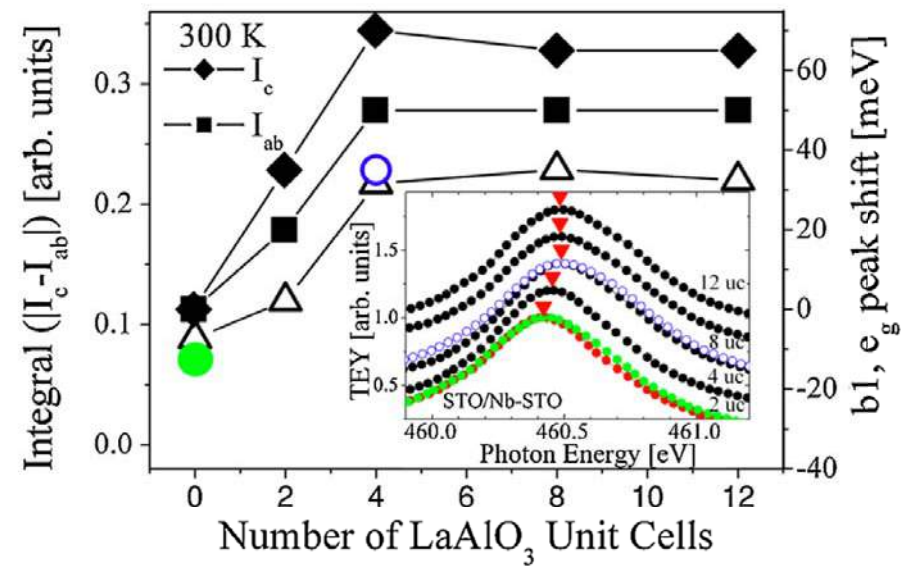
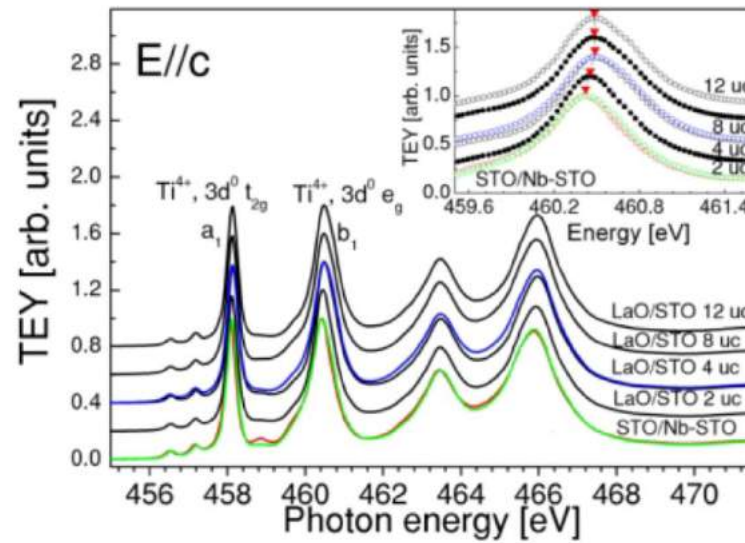
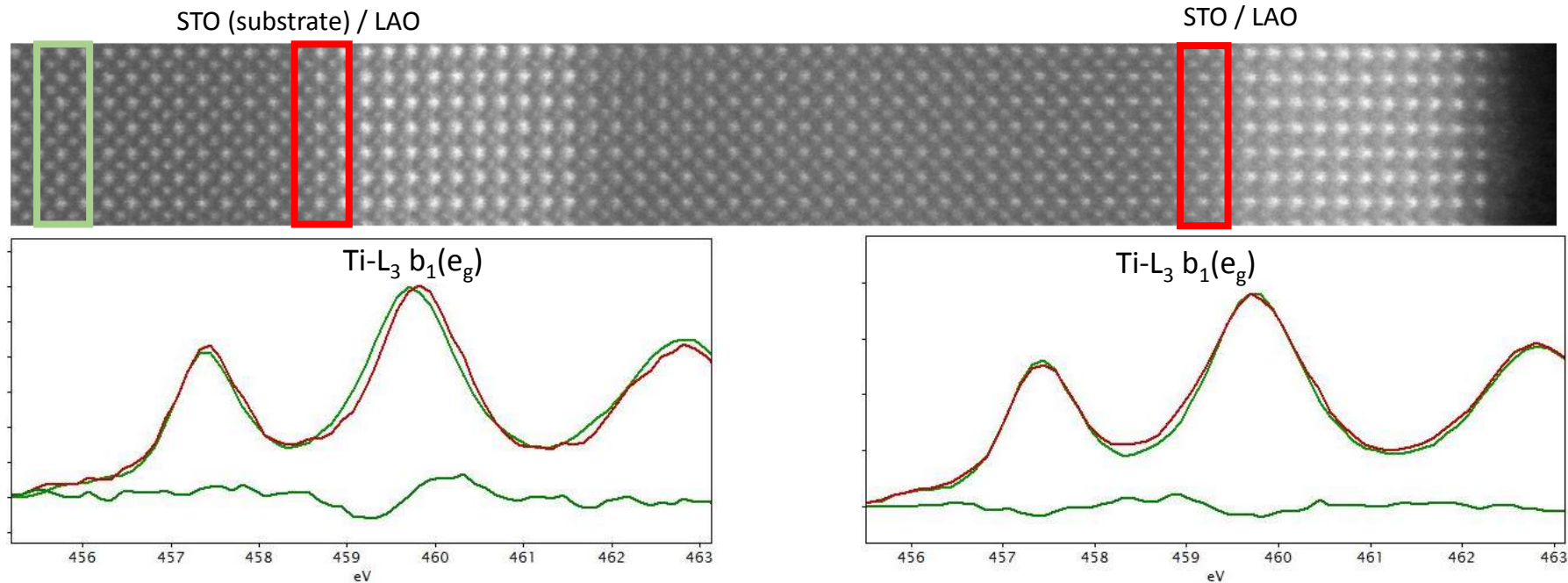
Orbitals hierarchy at the $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$ interface

Figure 1. X-ray linear dichroism (XLD) spectra around the titanium $L_{2,3}$ absorption edge of SrTiO_3 (green line) and $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$ bilayers characterised by a LaAlO_3 thickness below (red lines) and above (blue lines) the critical thickness of four unit cells. Data from two sample sets are shown. Black lines are calculations which reproduce the data on STO (bottom) and LAO/STO (top) using multiplet atomic model calculations with point charge crystal field. On the right a schematic of the orbital splitting needed to reproduce the data is depicted, showing the inversion of hierarchy between in-plane and out-of-plane t_{2g} orbitals at the $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$ interface.

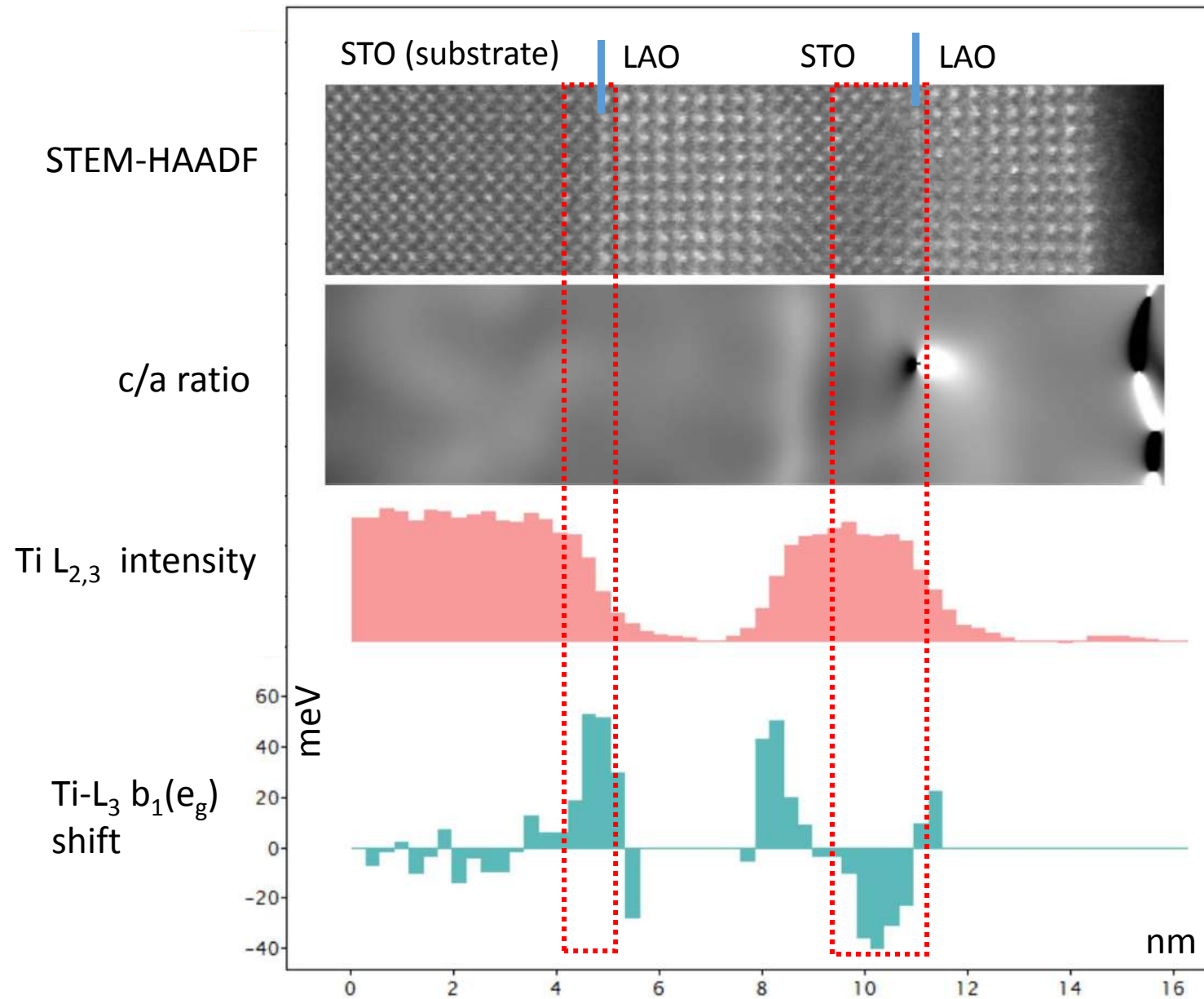
XAS isotropic and EELS comparison



Salluzzo et al. PRL 102, 166804 (2009)



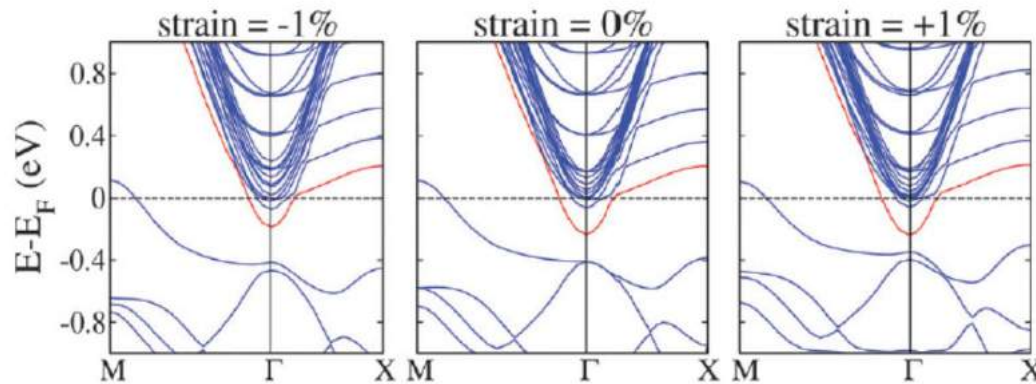
Ti-L₃ b₁(e_g) shift, tetragonality and dislocation on STO-LAO bi-interface



Strain relaxation in LAO/STO bi-interface

Degeneracy lifting of the t_{2g} and e_g at the interface have been attributed and related to distortion, spin-orbit, quantum well confinement, hopping term changes, numbers of electrons in the well,

Here we report possible role of dislocation (via distortion evolution) into orbital reordering. Degeneracy lift might be smaller and inhomogeneous at the STO(film)-LAO(film) interface.



A major drawback of STEM-EELS is to be mostly isotropic (equivalent of XLD is difficult to achieve at nanometer resolution). So no formal evidence that shift is related to a symmetry breaking.

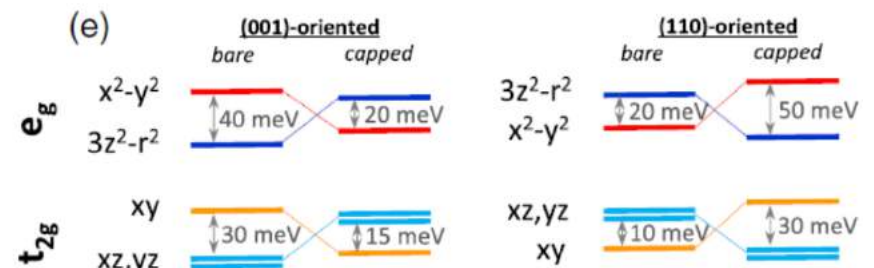
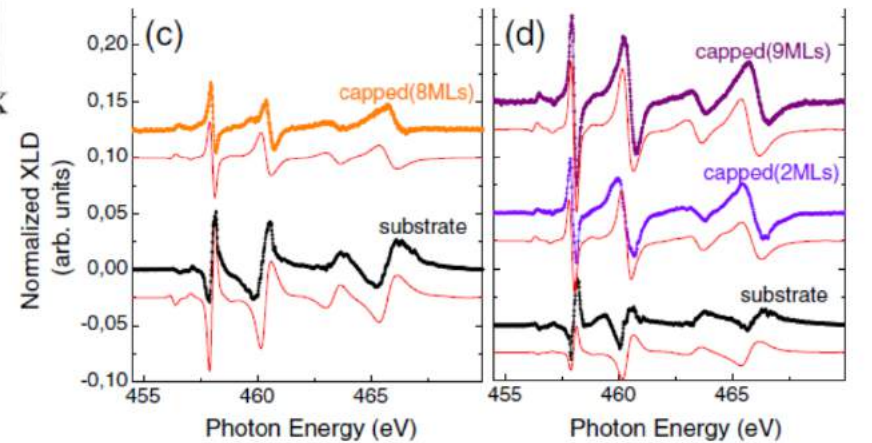
Work in progress....

Hierarchy inversion have been reported for LAO(110)/STO(110) by XLD

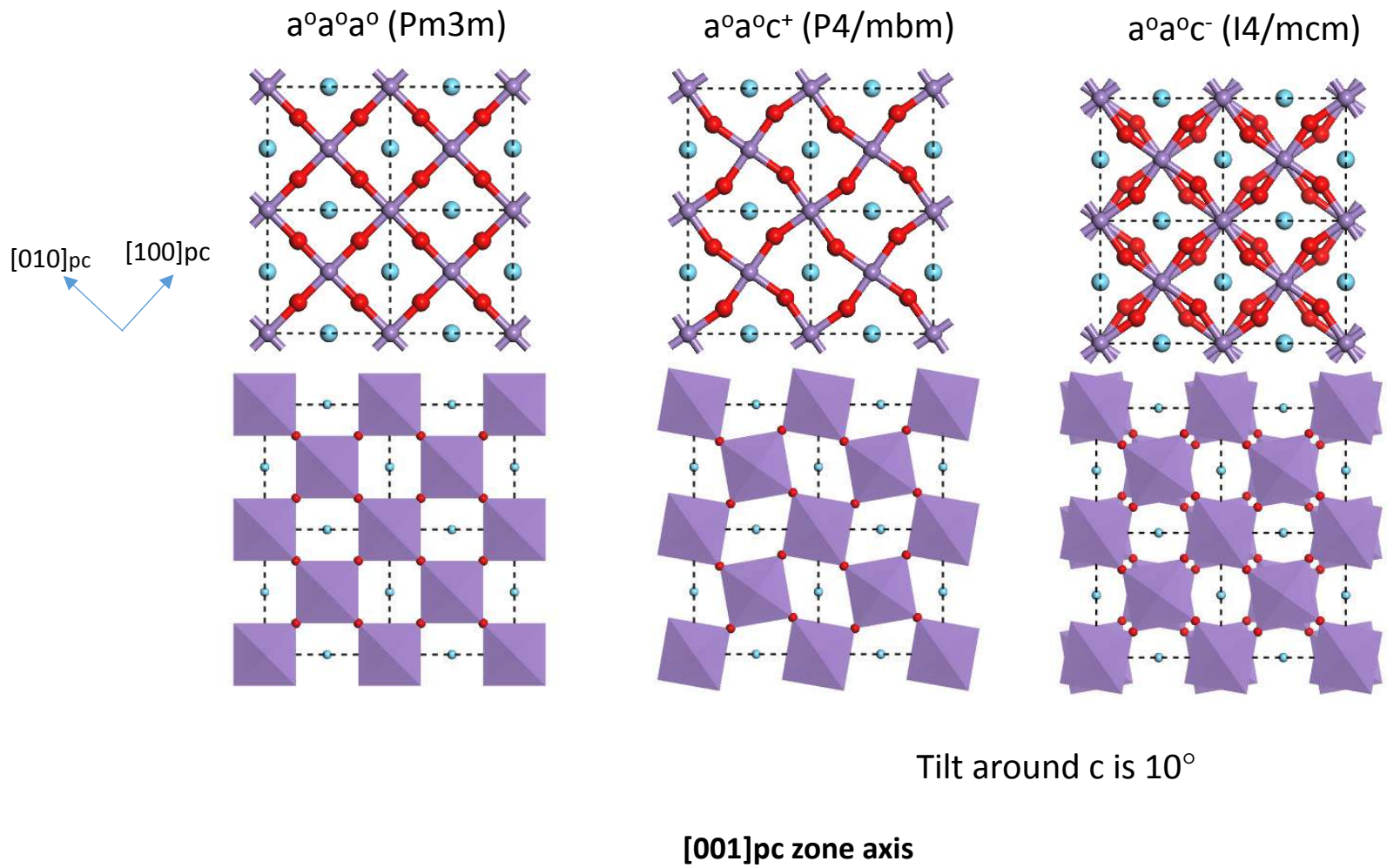
Pesquera et al. PRL 113, 156802 (2014)

Role of strain or interface reconstruction on degeneracy lifting of the t_{2g} have been reported by DFT.

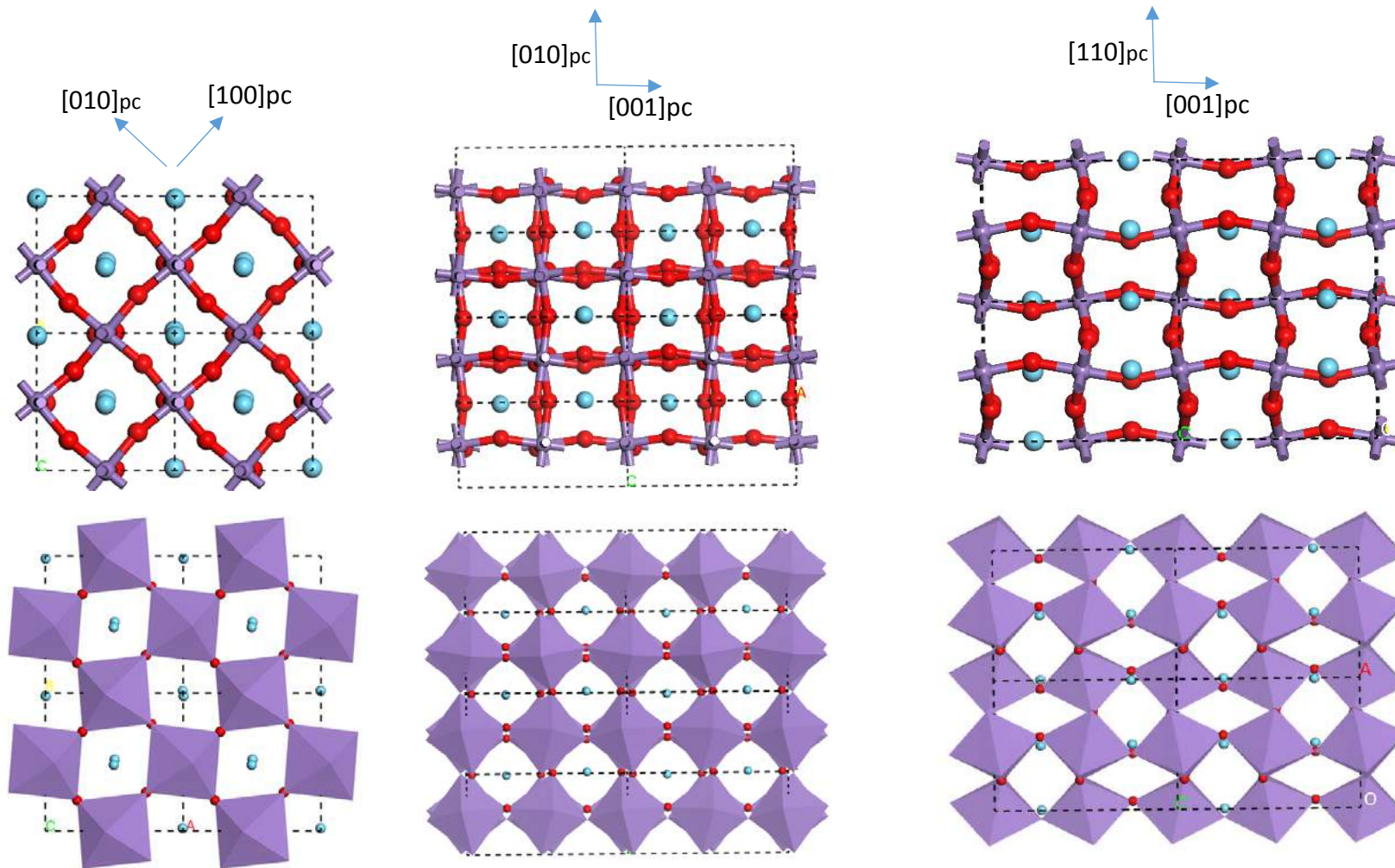
Betash et al. PCCP 18, 6831 (2016)



Perovskite oxygen octahedra tilt and Glazer notation



$(\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x)\text{MnO}_3$ has octahedra tilt over several axis
 $a^-a^-c^+$ (Pnma)



It is in phase rotation around c

[001]pc zone axis

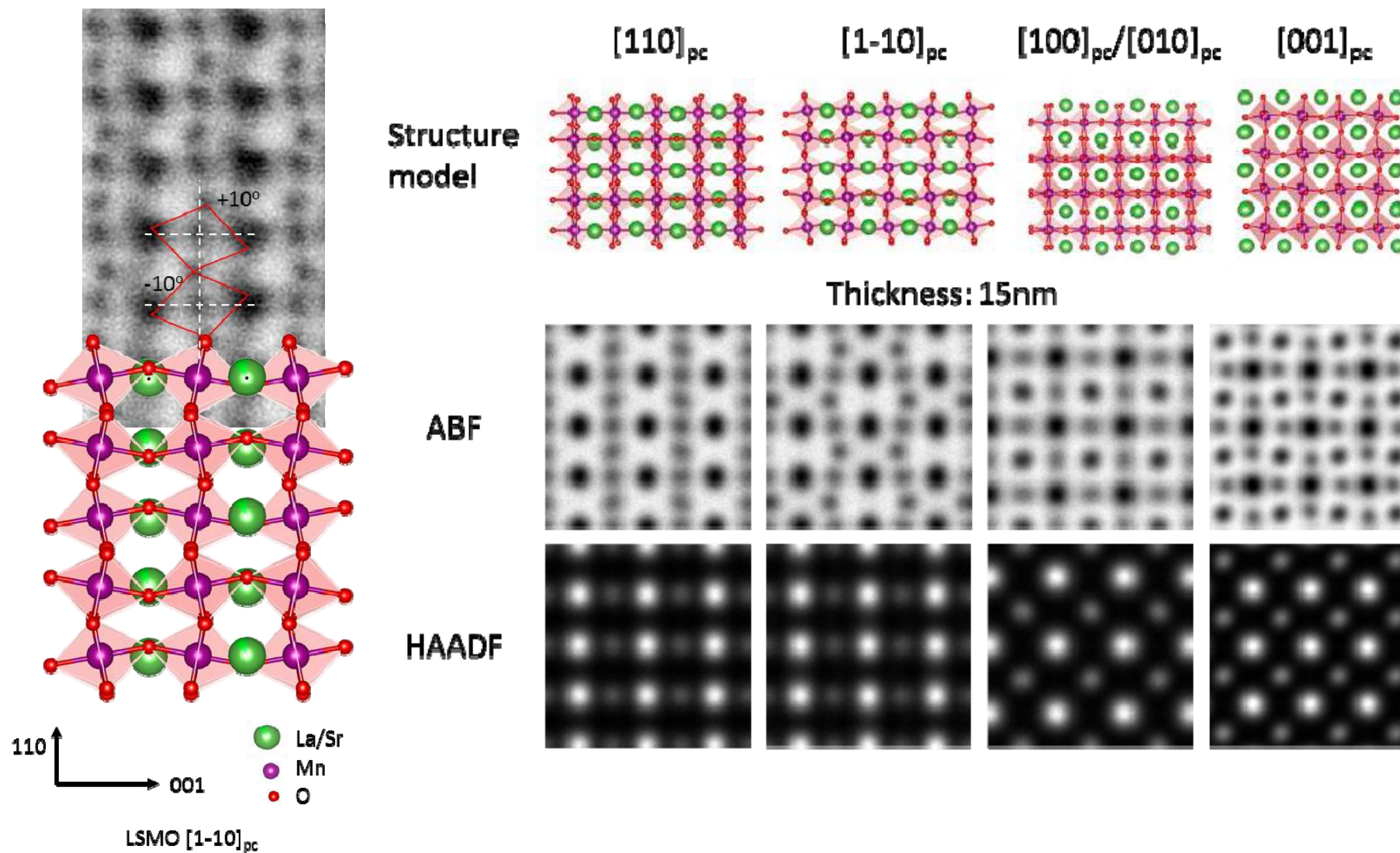
It is out of phase rotation around a (and b)

[100]pc zone axis

Octahedra rotations induce zig-zag chain visible along

[1-10]pc zone axis

STEM-ABF imaging of $(\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x)\text{MnO}_3$



Towards 3D Mapping of BO₆ Octahedron Rotations at Perovskite Heterointerfaces, Unit Cell by Unit Cell

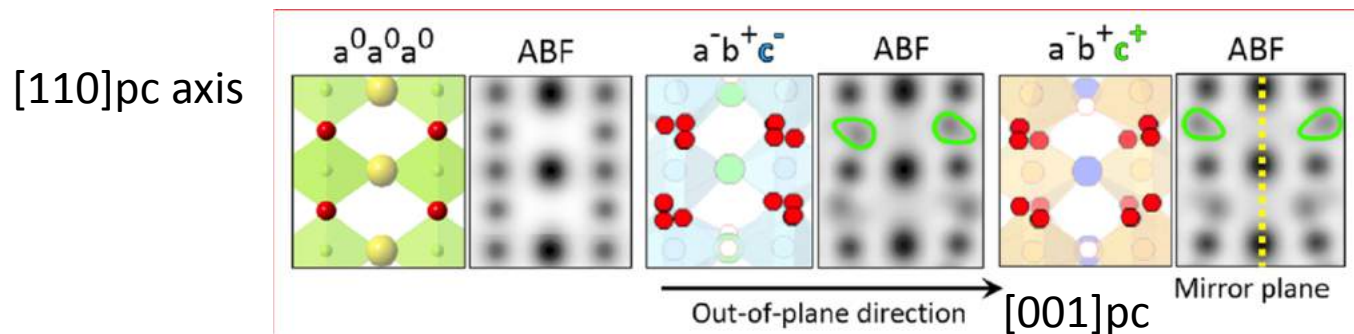
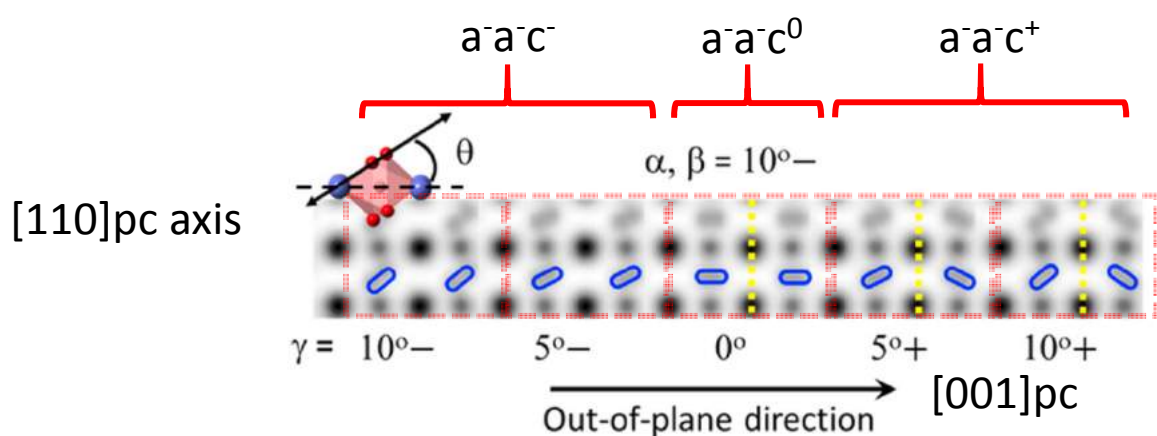


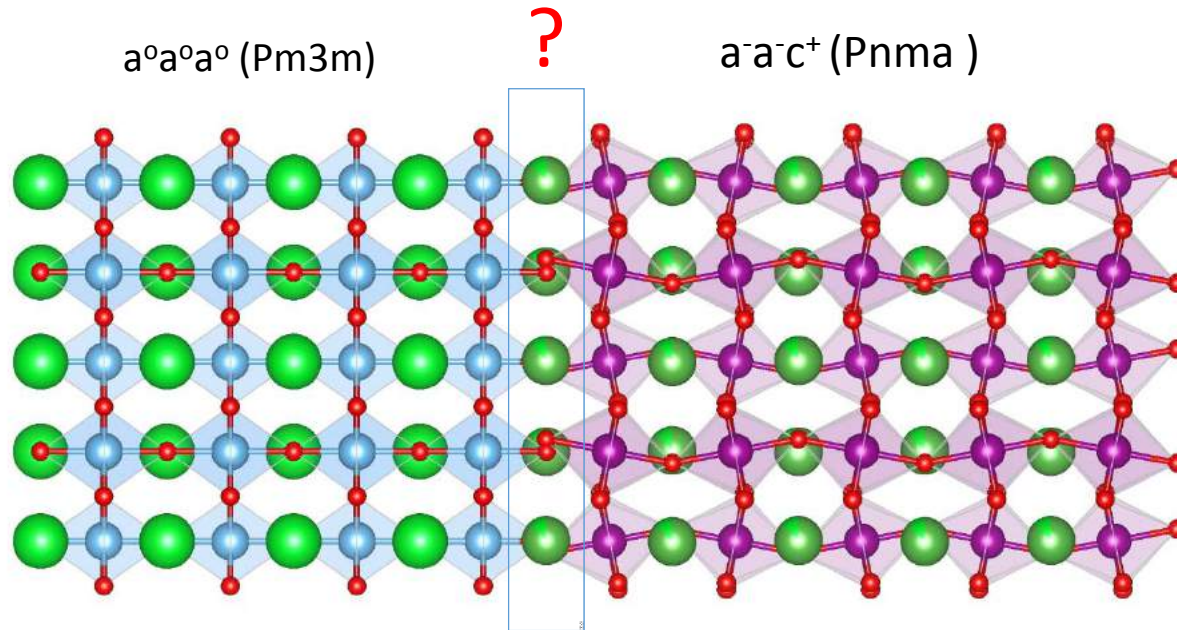
Figure 2. Qualitative 3D determination of BO₆ rotation. Atomic models and corresponding ABF images (multislice simulation using Kirkland's code³⁷) of model ABO₃ perovskite structures (modeled using POTATO³⁸) with (a) $a^0a^0a^0$, (b) $a^-b^+c^-$, and (c) $a^-b^+c^+$ BO₆ rotation patterns, viewed from a $[110]_{pc}$ direction. The $[001]_{pc}$ is set to be the out-of-plane direction, shown as the black arrow. The alignment of oxygen atoms in this projection depends on the BO₆ rotation pattern of the structure. Oxygen columns in the corresponding simulated ABF images are therefore no longer round but have a teardrop-like shape (outlined in green in (b) and (c)), providing 3D information about the BO₆ rotation. For example, the presence of a "+" rotation in the out-of-plane direction can be seen as a mirror plane (yellow dashed line in (c)) emerging between two adjacent oxygen columns.



He et al. ACS 8 2015

Figure 3. Quantitative 3D determination on BO₆ rotation. Simulated ABF image chart of model perovskite structures with BO₆ rotations of constant α and β but different γ . The $[001]_{pc}$ is set to be the out-of-plane direction. The overlapped polyhedral model highlights the position of oxygen columns (red) in the simulated images. The resultant oxygen column image can be considered as an ellipse (outlined in blue), due to α and β rotations both being "-". We can define an inclination angle θ between the major axis of the ellipse with respect to a reference (e.g., A-A or B-B). In this case, the magnitude of θ has a correlation with the magnitude of the γ rotation, and therefore quantitative information can be obtained by measuring θ . Yellow dashed lines indicate the mirror planes along the out-of-plane direction when γ rotation is either "+" or "0". A more detailed summary of shape analysis can be found in the Supporting Information.

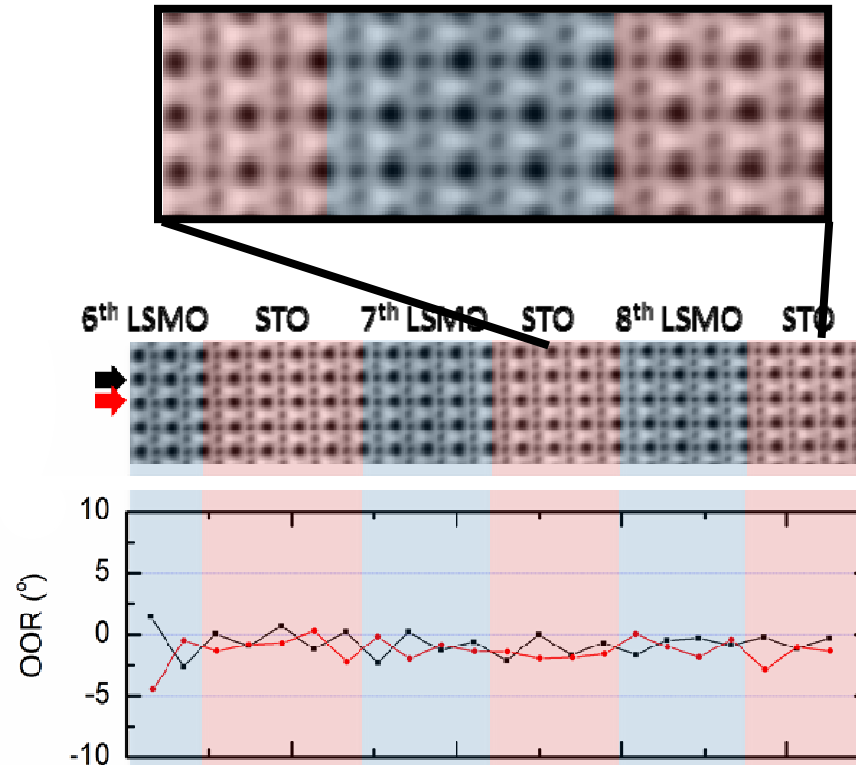
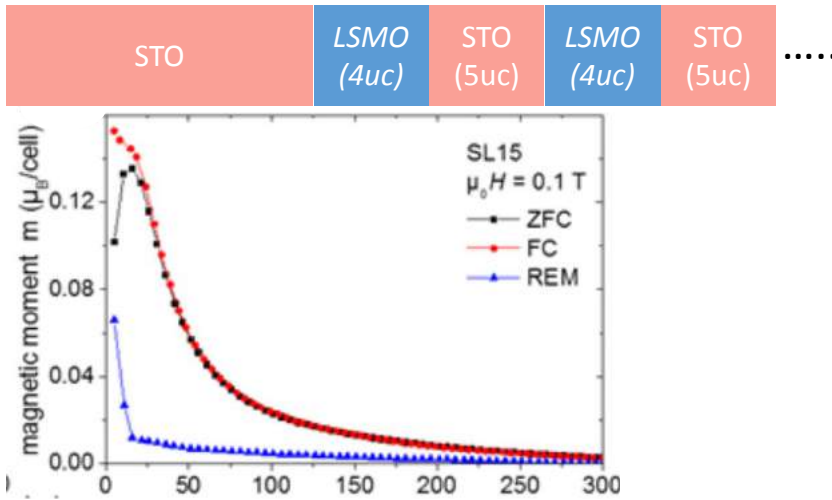
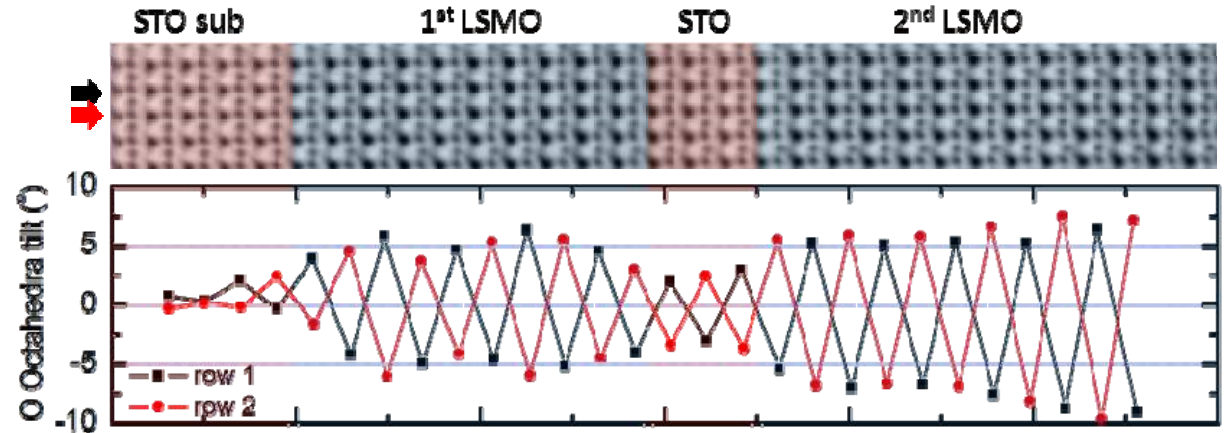
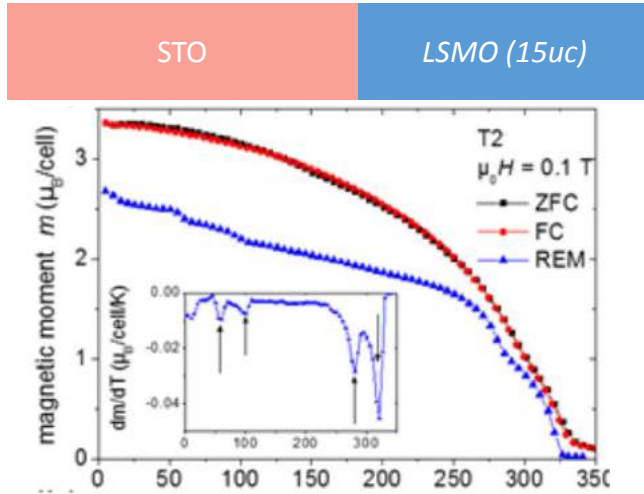
How interface deals with different rotation ?



(LSMO-STO)/STO Mismatch of lattice= $(3.875-3.905)/3.905=-0.77\%$

Mismatch of oxygen octahedra rotation= $(170-180)/180=5.6\%$???

LSMO / STO superlattices



Tuning magnetic anisotropy by interfacially engineering the oxygen coordination environment in a transition metal oxide

Daisuke Kan^{1*}, Ryotaro Aso¹, Riko Sato¹, Mitsutaka Haruta¹, Hiroki Kurata¹ and Yuichi Shimakawa^{1,2}

Impact of interfacial coupling of oxygen octahedra on ferromagnetic order in $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$ heterostructures

Xiaoyan Li^{1,2}, Ionela Lindfors-Vrejoiu³, Michael Ziese⁴, Alexandre Gloter² & Peter A. van Aken¹

Controlled lateral anisotropy in correlated manganite heterostructures by interface-engineered oxygen octahedral coupling

Z. Liao¹, M. Huijben^{1*}, Z. Zhong², N. Gauquelin³, S. Macke^{4,5}, R. J. Green^{4,6}, S. Van Aert³, J. Verbeeck³, G. Van Tendeloo³, K. Held², G. A. Sawatzky⁴, G. Koster¹ and G. Rijnders¹

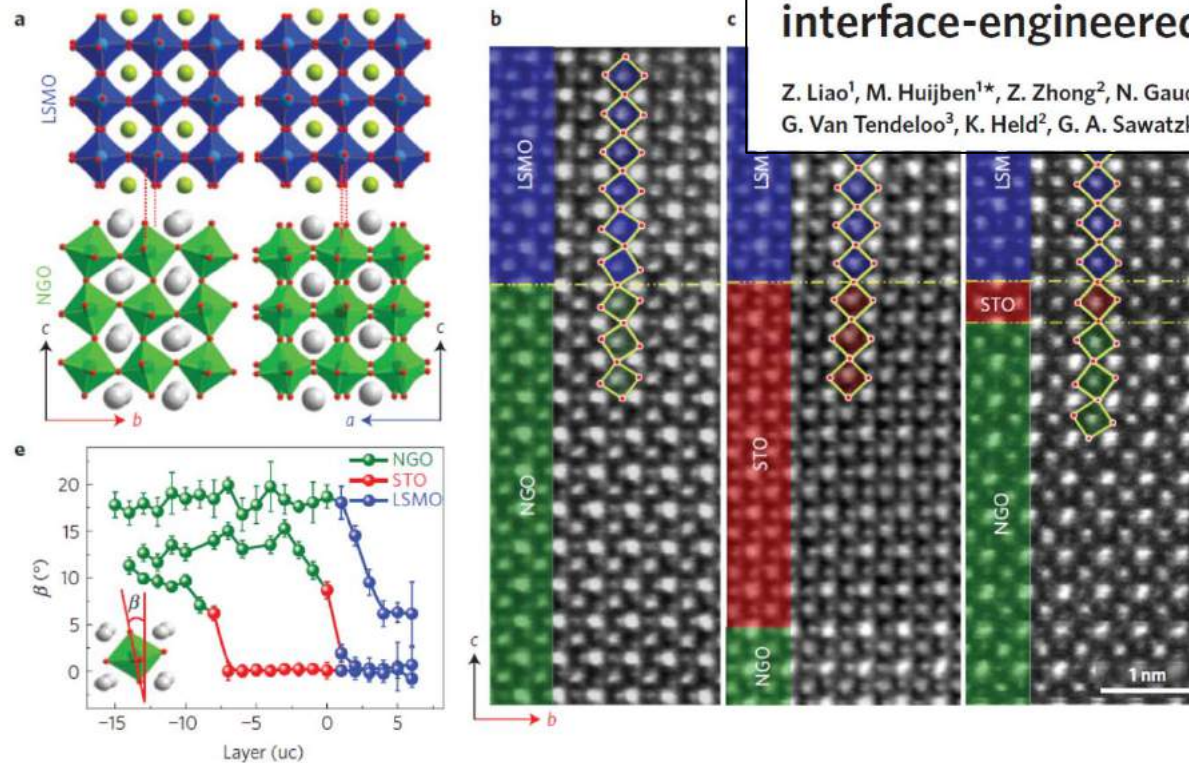
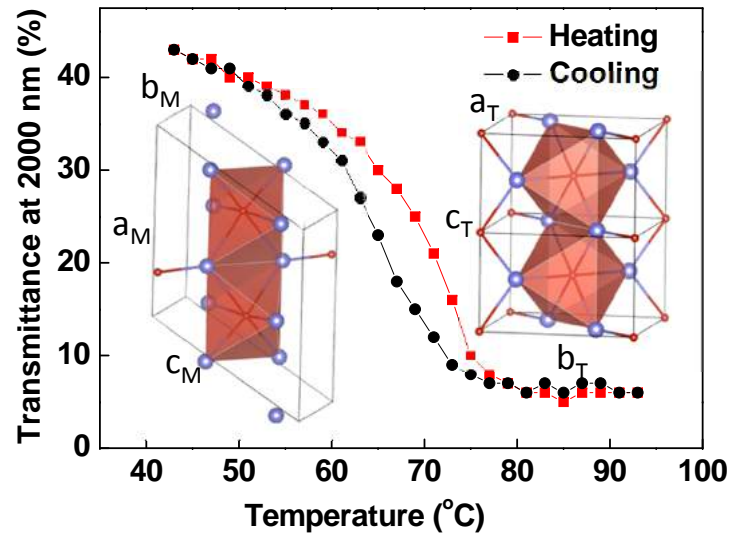
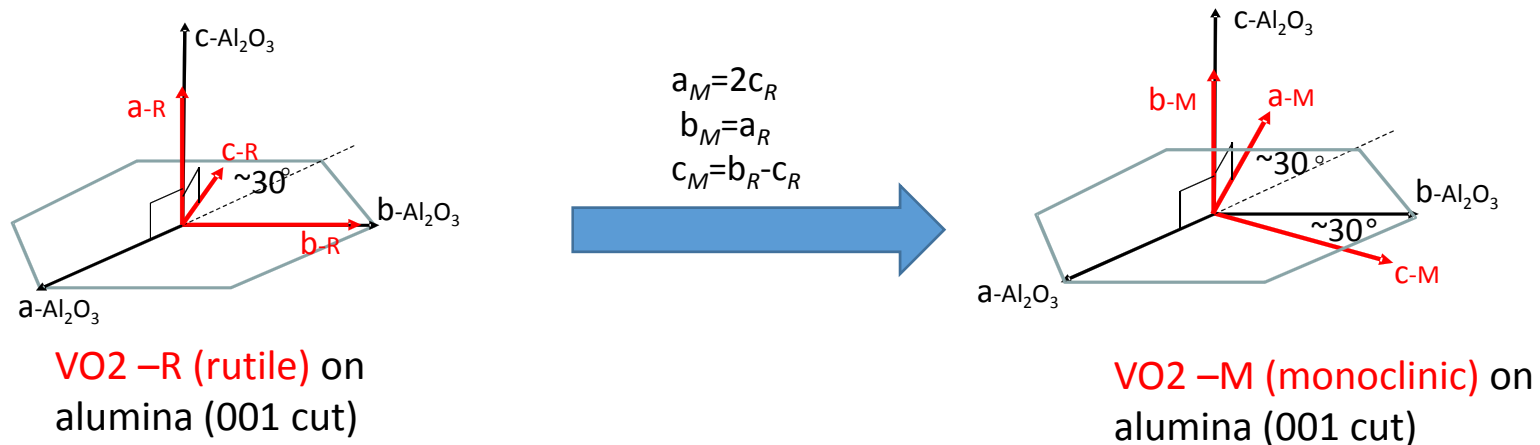


Figure 1 | Oxygen octahedral coupling at interfaces in manganite heterostructures. **a**, Schematic models of atomic ordering in LSMO and NGO crystal structures. **b-d**, Inversed annular bright-field STEM images of LSMO/NGO (**b**), LSMO/STO (9 uc)/NGO (**c**) and LSMO/STO (1 uc)/NGO (**d**) heterostructures. The oxygen atoms are clearly visible, and the connectivity of oxygen octahedra across the interfaces is indicated. All the LSMO films are 6 uc thick. **e**, Layer-position-dependent mean octahedral tilt angle (β) together with its standard deviation in LSMO/NGO heterostructures with and without a STO buffer layer. The data for the non-buffered sample are shifted upwards by 6° for clarity.

VO₂ thin film on Al₂O₃ substrate

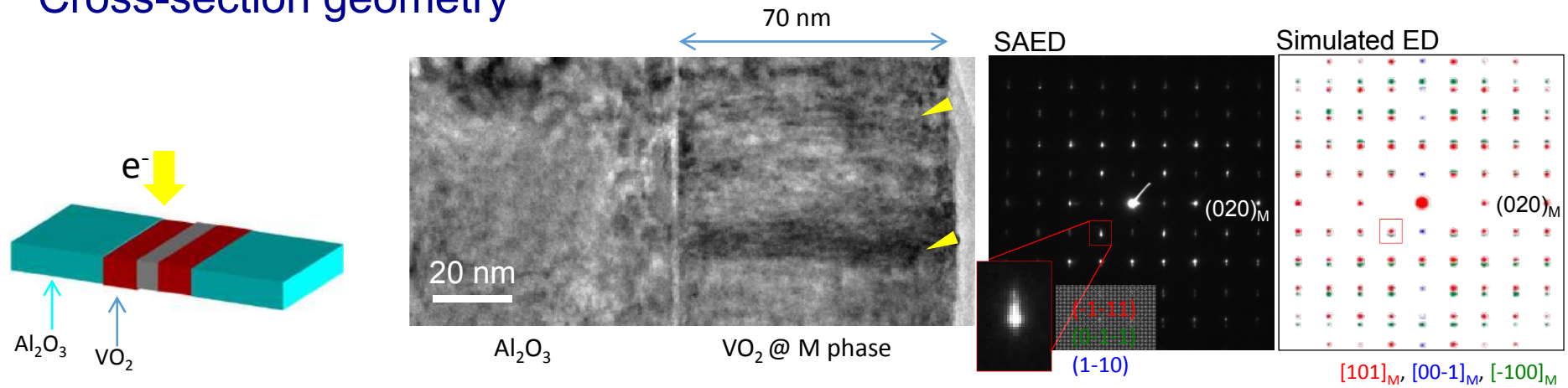


	Space group	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	α	β	γ
VO ₂ -M (T<66°C)	P2 ₁ /c (14)	5.75	4.526	5.38	90°	122.6°	90°
VO ₂ -R (T>66°C)	P4 ₂ /mm (136)	4.55	4.55	2.88	90°	90°	90°
α -Al ₂ O ₃	R-3c (167)	4.754	4.754	12.99	90°	90°	120°

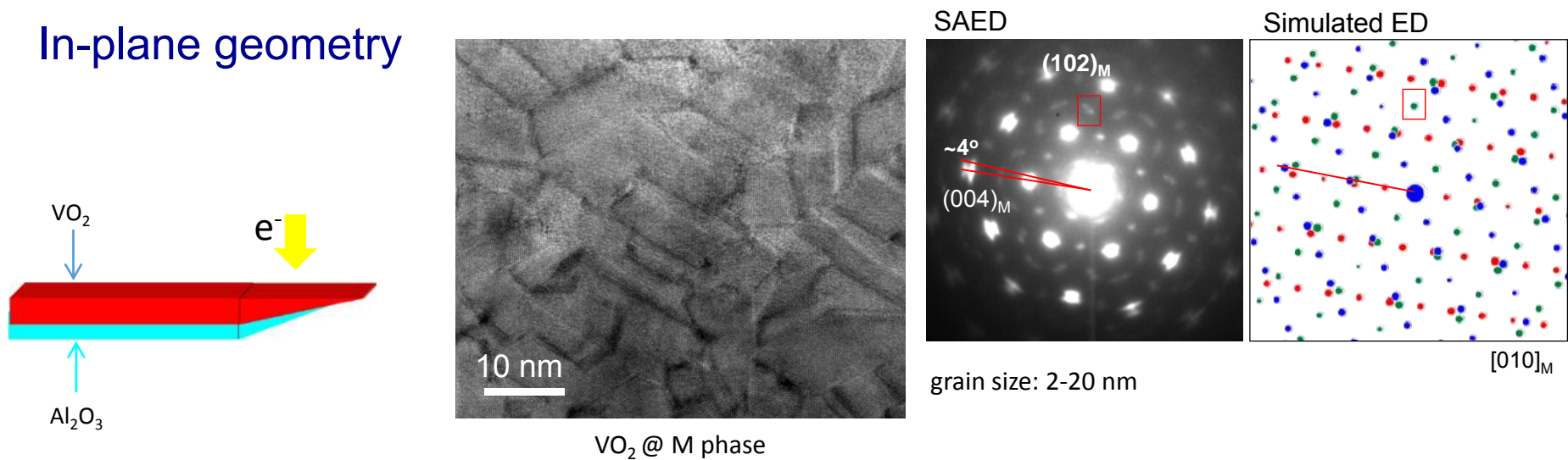


Microstructures of the undoped VO₂(M) thin films

Cross-section geometry

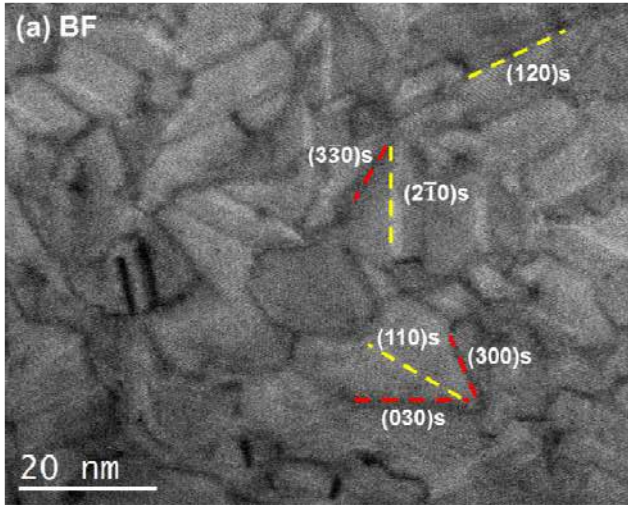
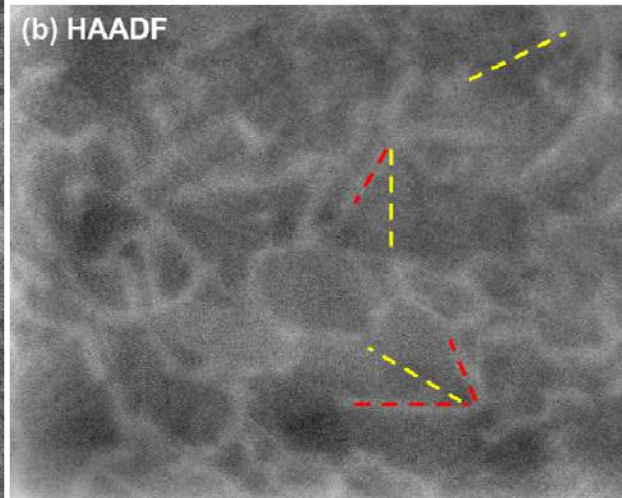
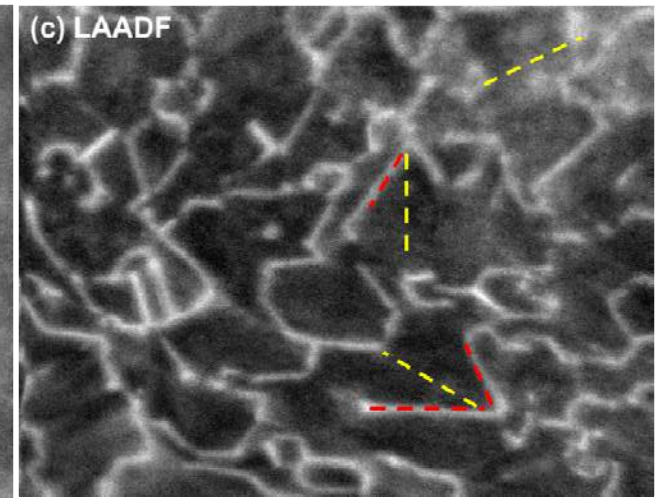


In-plane geometry



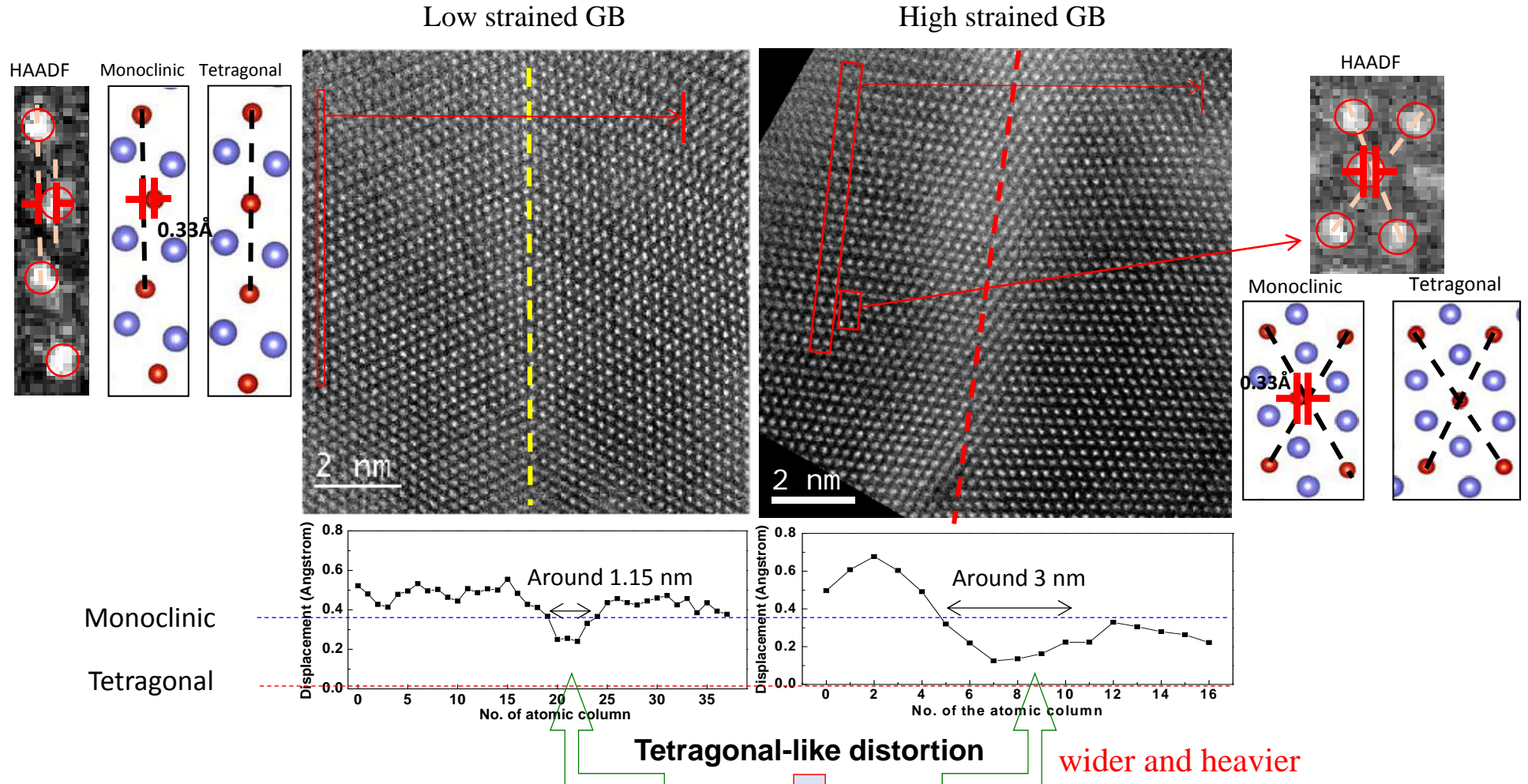
Growth orientation: VO₂[010]_M//Al₂O₃[001] + 3-fold in-plane twinning symmetry+ 2-fold out of plane symmetry + Distorted crystal structure

Imaging the grain boundaries and strains

BF ($\beta < 5\text{mrad}$)**Crystallographic-contrast**HAADF ($100\text{ mrad} < \beta < 200\text{mrad}$)**Z-contrast**
(mostly)LAADF ($50\text{ mrad} < \beta < 80\text{ mrad}$)**Strain-contrast**
disorder, thermal diffuse
scattering

- Highly symmetric GB:
 - ONLY 6 different orientations
- Classified into two families:
 - {110}s and {300}s according to the substrate symmetry and contrast
- Enhanced contrasts in STEM-LAADF imaging,

Atomic displacements quantification / monoclinic distortion at GBs



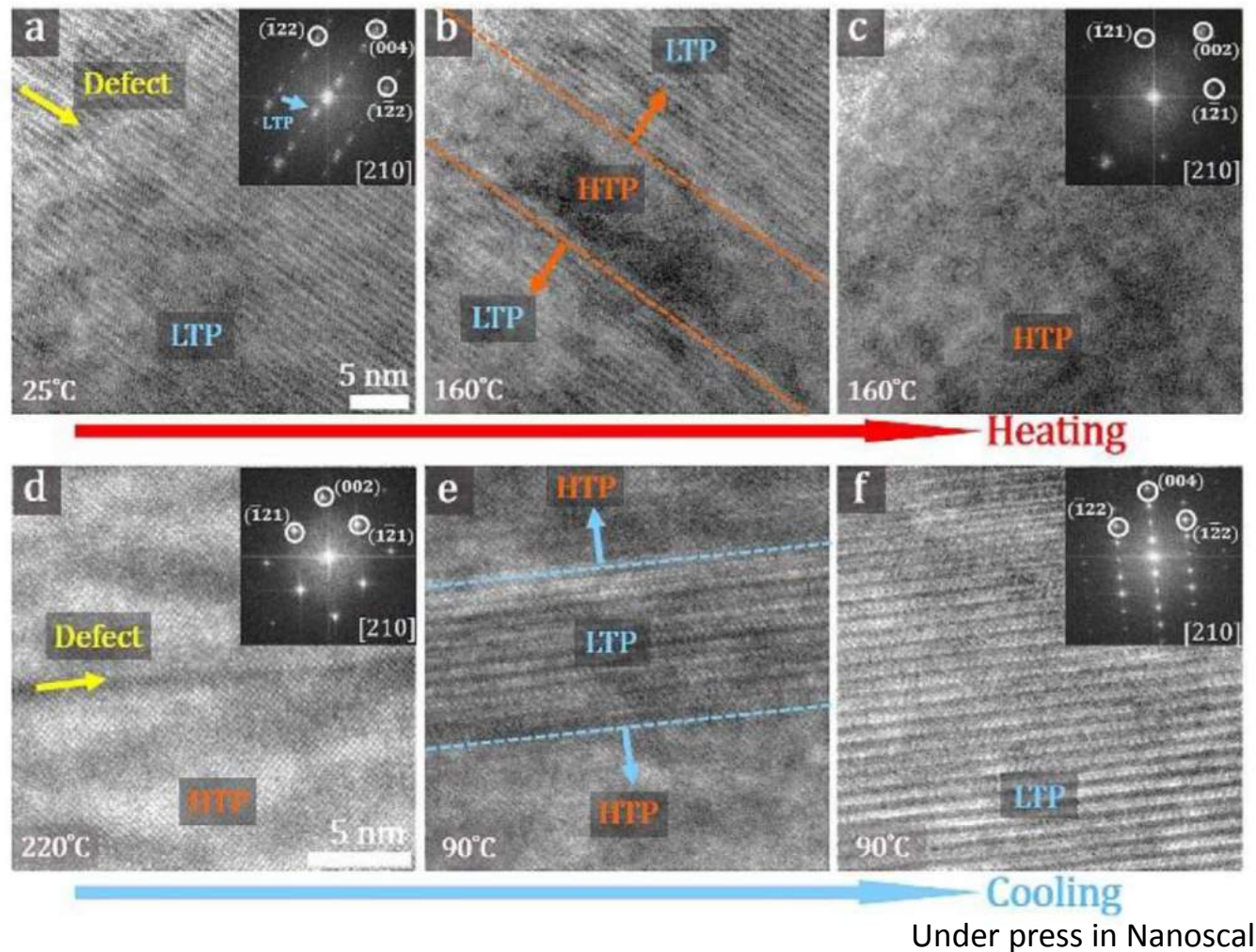
X.Li, et.al, Acta Materialia 61(2013), 6443

act as nucleation center

Inhomogeneous strain geometry influence the MIT dynamic process

Atomic scale observation of defect-mediated first-order phase transition in VO₂(A)

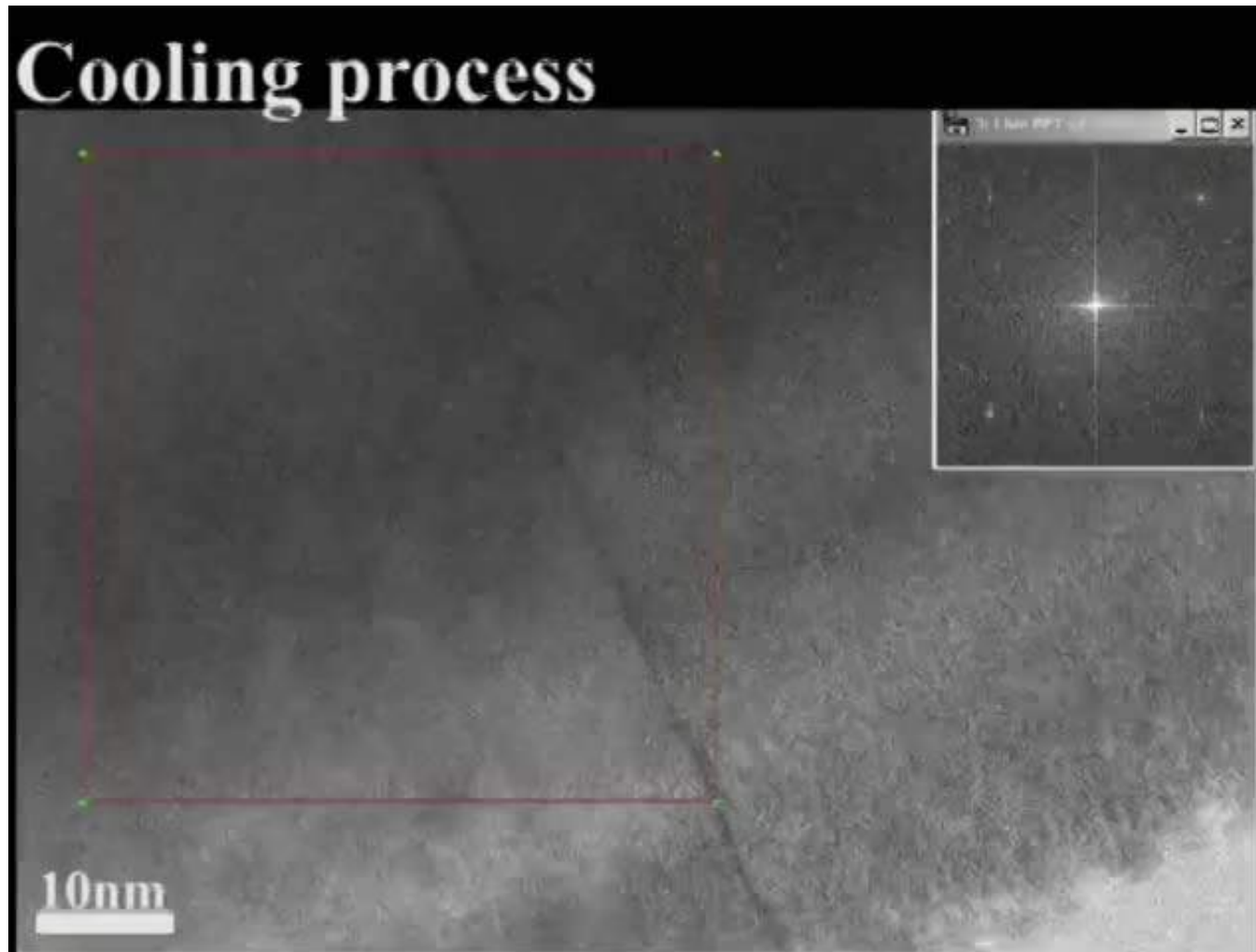
Chao Jiang, Lu Chen, Shidong Ji, Jun Liu, Zhengfei Zhang, Ping Jin, Yong Wang, and Ze Zhang



In-situ HRTEM images of phase transition originating from defects.

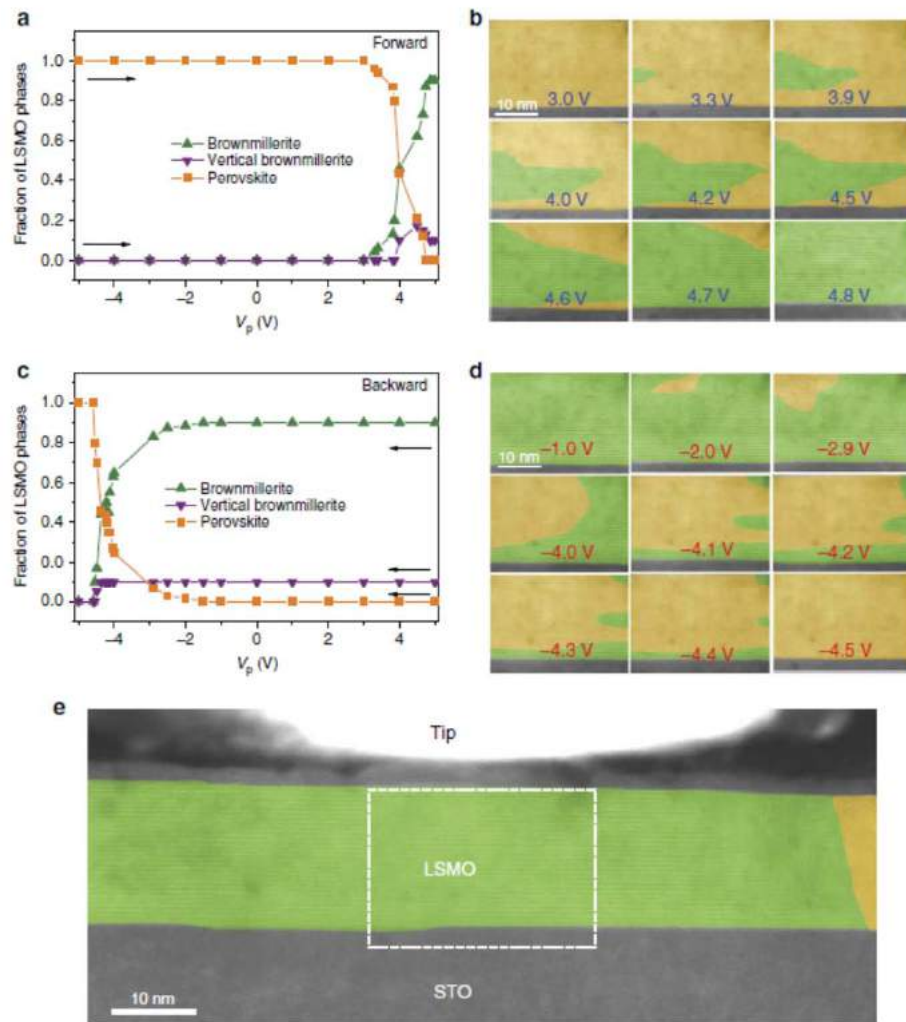
(a-c) *In-situ* HRTEM image series of phase transition from LTP to HTP along [210] zone axis starting at defect in LTP when heating the sample. The defect is highlighted by yellow arrow in (a). The insets are the corresponding fast Fourier transformation (FFT) images. (d-f) *In-situ* HRTEM image series of phase transition from HTP to LTP along [210] zone axis originating from defect in HTP when the sample was cooled. The defect is highlighted by yellow arrow in (d). The insets are the corresponding FFT images.

Atomic scale observation of defect-mediated first-order phase transition in VO₂(A)
Chao Jiang, Lu Chen, Shidong Ji, Jun Liu, Zhengfei Zhang, Ping Jin, Yong Wang, and Ze Zhang

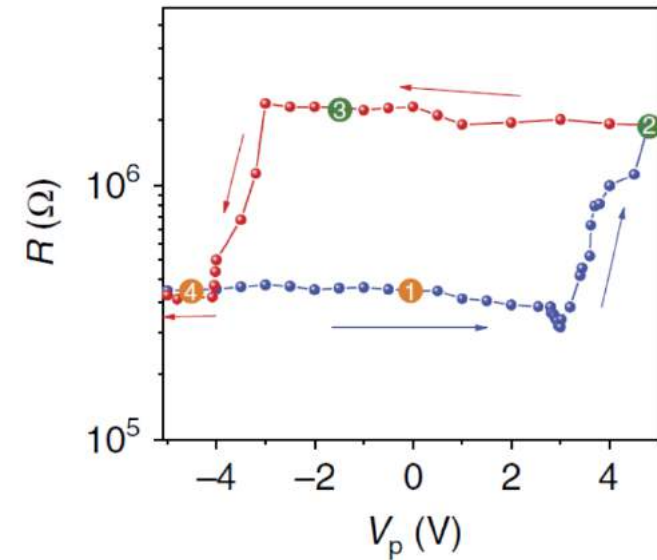


In-situ (temperature, applied voltage) combined with high resolution STEM

Direct observation of oxygen vacancy-driven structural and resistive phase transitions in La_{2/3}Sr_{1/3}MnO₃



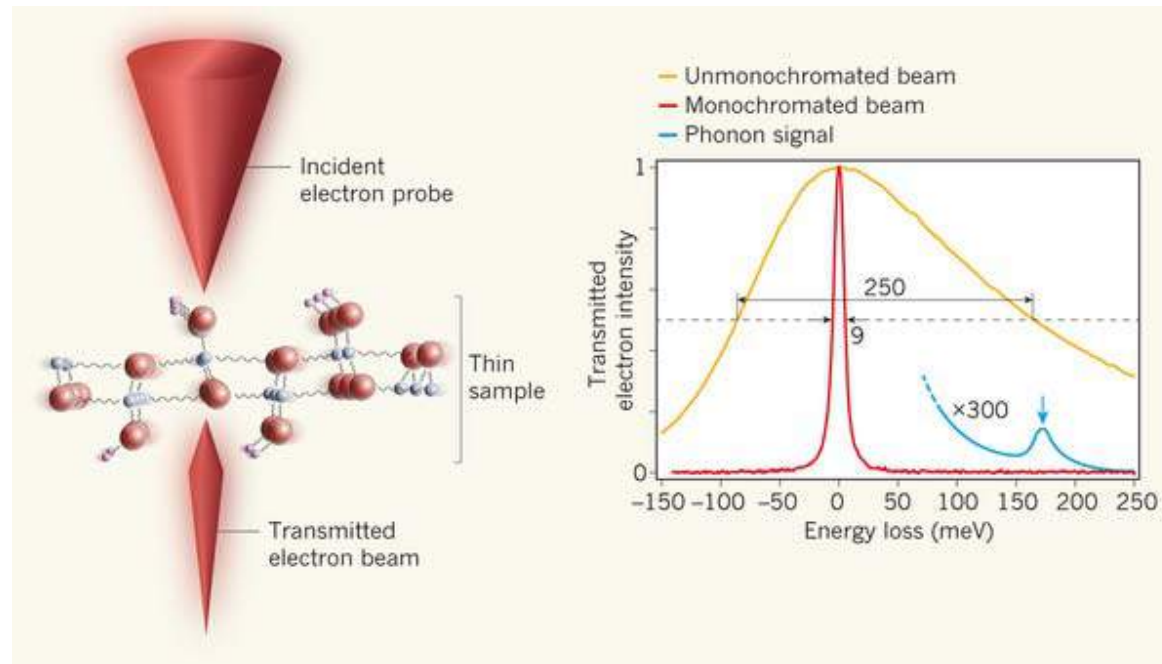
L. Yao et al., Nature Com. 2017



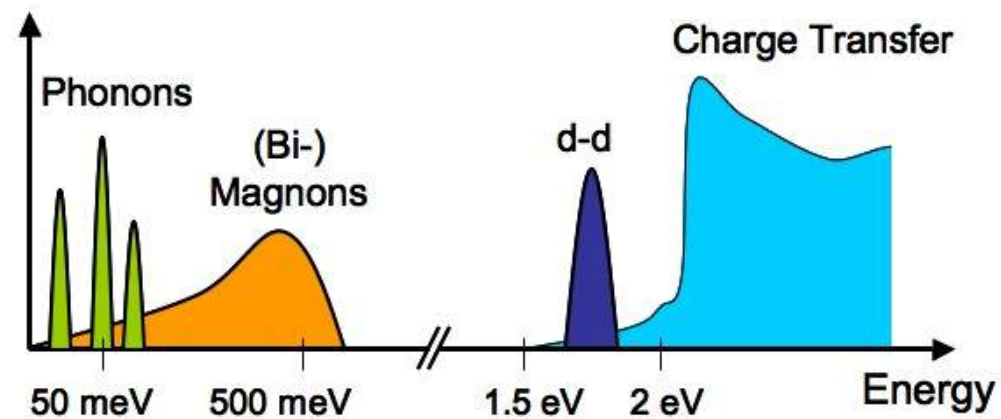
Higher resistivity when Vo get ordered
(Brownmillerite ABO_{2.5} vs Perovskite ABO₃)

Figure 3 | Evolution of structural phases during resistive switching. (a,c) Areal fraction of various LSMO phases during the resistive switching experiments of Fig. 1. The forward and backward branches of the switching curves are plotted separately for clarity. Data were collected from a 50 nm-wide LSMO area underneath the metal tip after several switching cycles. (b,d) STEM images illustrating the growth of brownmillerite (green) and perovskite (yellow) structural phases in the forward (b) and backward (d) branches of the resistive switching curve. The images have been coloured to more clearly visualize the structural transition. (e) Lower resolution STEM image of the saturated high-resistance state. The electrically induced brownmillerite structure (green) forms uniformly over a width of about 100 nm. The dashed line indicates the image area of the results shown in b,d.

Higher spectral resolution STEM-EELS (keeping sub-nanometer spatial resolution)



LO phonon in h-BN, with a peak energy of 173meV
 Krivanek et al. Nature **514**, 209 (2014).



Acknowledgements

STEM group @ LPS-Orsay
<https://www.stem.lps.u-psud.fr/>



Main collaborators are

- S. catalano, J. Fowlie, A. Torres, D. Li, P. Zubko, M. Gibert, S. Gariglio, J.-M- Triscone, Department of Quantum Matter Physics at the University of Geneva.
- V. Garcia, S. Fusil, M. Bibes, A. Barthélémy, Thales Research and Technology, Campus de l'Ecole Polytechnique, 91767 Palaiseau, France.
- O. Popova, Y. Dumont, N. Keller, Groupe d'Études de la Matière Condensée (GEMaC), Université de Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines - CNRS, France
- P. Van Aken, Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart, Germany
- H. Gu, P. Jin, Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Few reviews :

C. Colliex et al. Ultramicroscopy 123 p80-89 (2012)

M. Kociak et al. Ultramicroscopy, doi:j.ultramic.2017.02.008 (2017)

A. Gloter et al. Materials Science in Semiconductor Processing, doi:j.mssp.2016.07.006(2016)

I. McLaren and Q. Ramasse, International Materials Reviews 59 pp. 115—131 (2012)

G. Botton et al., Acta Crystallographica Section A 70 1452 (2014)