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Nucleation in Condensed Matter *Applications in Materials and Biology*

By **K. F. Kelton** and **A. L. Greer**
Washington University in St. Louis, USA and University of Cambridge, UK

KEY FEATURES:

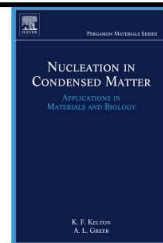
- Unified treatment of key theories, experimental evaluations and case studies
- Complete derivation of key models
- Detailed discussion of experimental measurements
- Examples of nucleation in diverse systems

DESCRIPTION

In *Nucleation in Condensed Matter*, key theoretical models for nucleation are developed and experimental data are used to discuss their range of validity. A central aim of this book is to enable the reader, when faced with a phenomenon in which nucleation appears to play a role, to determine whether nucleation is indeed important and to develop a quantitative and predictive description of the nucleation behavior. The third section of the book examines nucleation processes in practical situations, ranging from solid state precipitation to nucleation in biological systems to nucleation in food and drink. *Nucleation in Condensed Matter* is a key reference for an advanced materials course in phase transformations. It is also an essential reference for researchers in the field.

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AUDIENCE: Scientists in condensed matter physics and anyone interested in phase transformations.

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Nucleation in Metallic Liquids and Glasses

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Center for Materials Innovation
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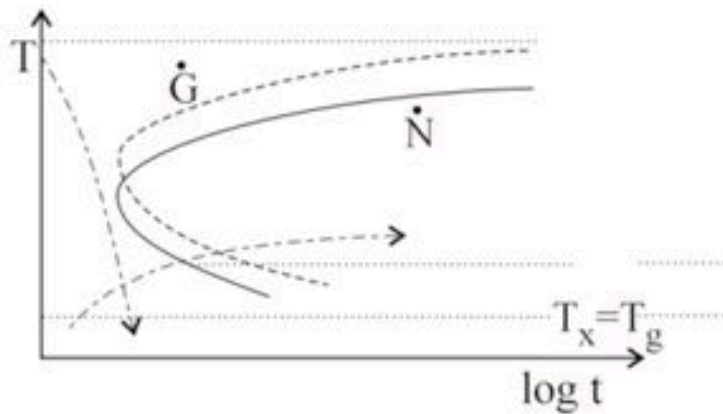
National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



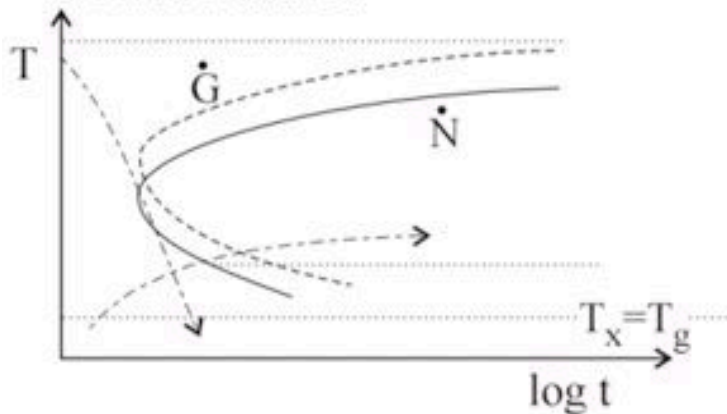
Metallic Glasses

Formation

Nucleation Control:



Growth Control:

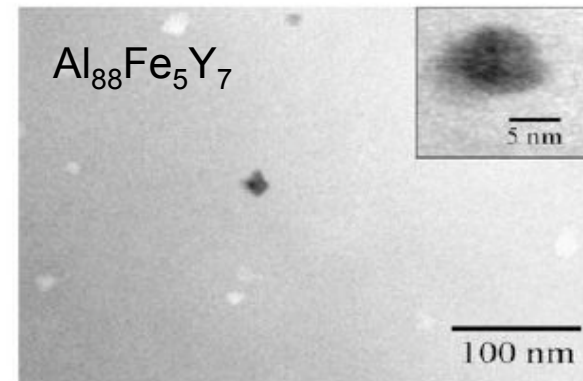


J. H. Perepezko and R. J. Hebert,
JOM (2002)

Crystallization



K. F. Kelton and F. Spaepen, *Acta Metall.*,
33, 455-464 (1985).



J. H. Perepezko, *Prog. Mater. Sci.* **49** 263 (2004)

Common Nucleation Rate Measurement Techniques in Liquids and Glasses

- Liquids – maximum undercooling
- Metallic glasses
 - JMAK transformation kinetics (volume fraction transformed)

$$x = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{4\pi}{3} \rho_0 \tau^{-3} \phi^\alpha\right) \quad (1)$$

34

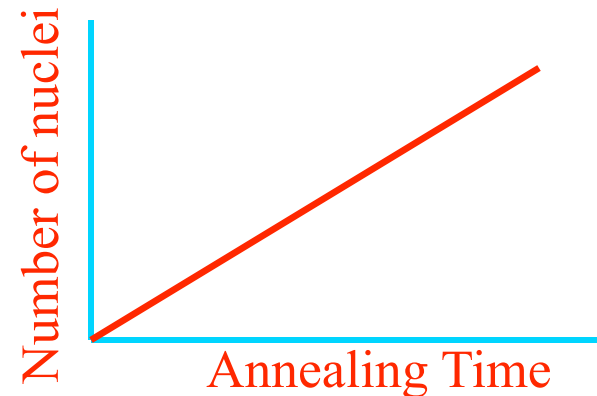
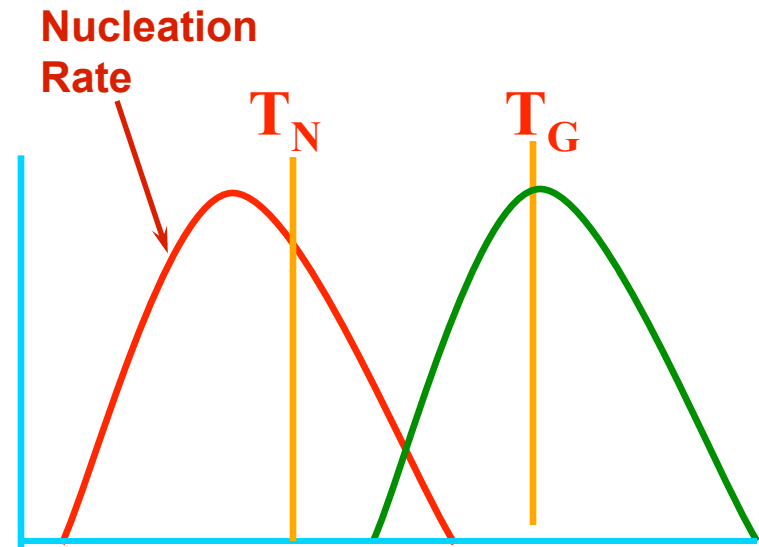
- Single Temperature Annealing
 - Nucleation and growth convoluted in both
- Two-temperature annealing treatment – common in silicate glasses, recently applied to metallic glasses

- Two-step annealing treatments

— Nucleation Rate
— Growth Velocity

- Count nuclei directly
 - Optical microscopy
 - SEM or TEM

- $$N = \int_0^t \mathbf{Z}(t) dt = ISt$$



The Classical Theory Of Nucleation

Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686 – 1736) In 1721 – discovered supercooling of water, i.e. **water is liquid below 32°F**

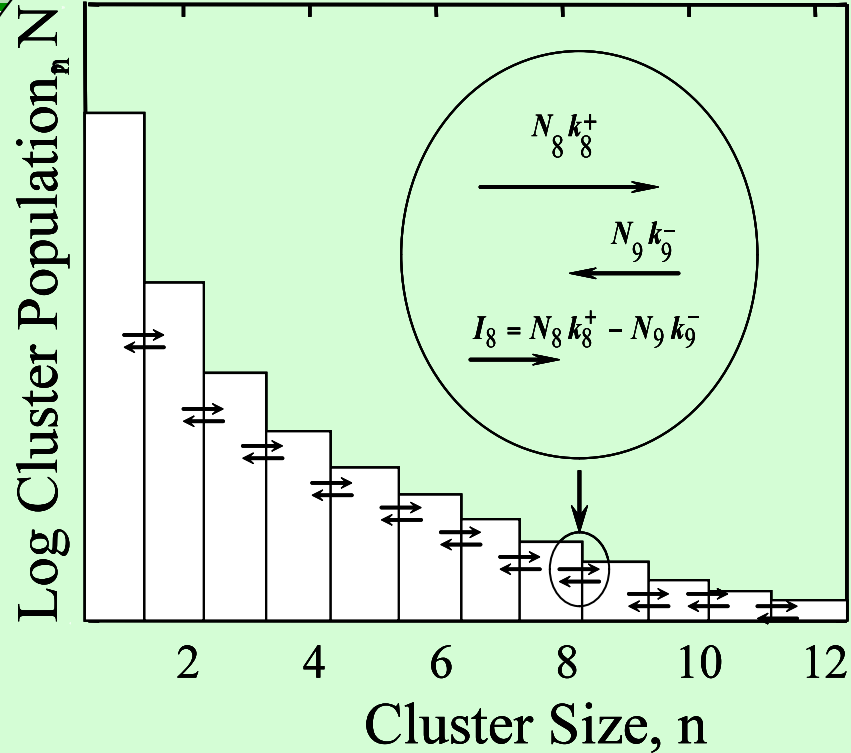
D.G. Fahrenheit, Proc. Roy. Soc. London 33, 78 (1724)

VIII. *Experimenta & Observationes de Congelatione aquae in vacuo factae a D. G. Fahrenheito R. S. S.*

Inter plurima admiranda Naturae Phœnomena aëris congelationem non minoris momenti esse mihi per judicavi; hinc sæpe experiendi cupidus fui, quodnam effectus frigoris futuri essent, si aqua in spatio aëre vacuo clauderetur. Et quoniam dies secundus tertius & quartus Martii, (Styli V.) Anni 1721 ejusmodi experimentis favebat, hinc sequentes observationes & experimenta a me sunt facta.

Barrier to Crystallization

Volmer and Weber



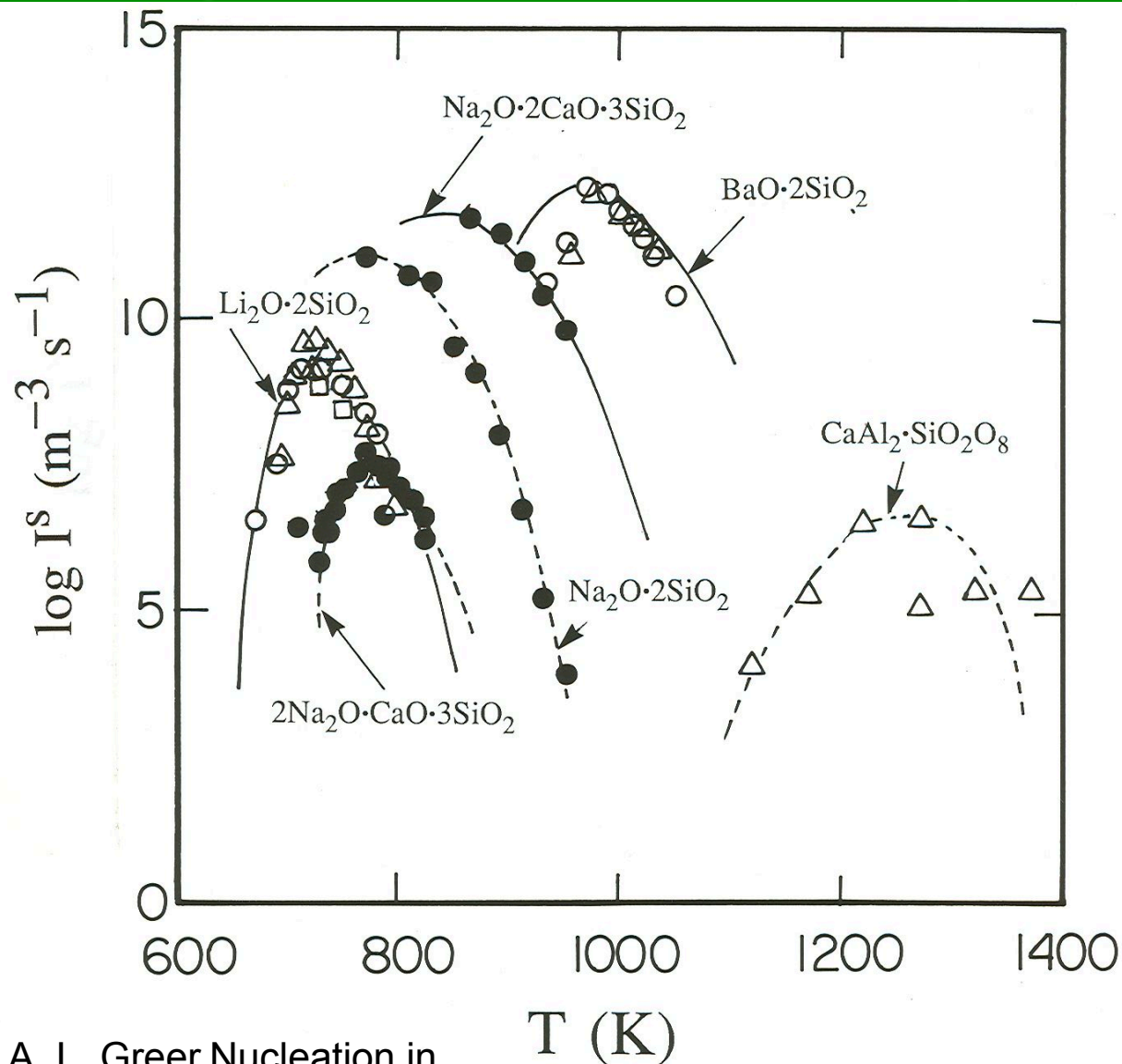
$$\kappa n^{2/3} \sigma$$

Energy Barrier

$$I_k = N_k k_{k+} - N_{k+1} k_{k+1-}$$

$$n n^*$$

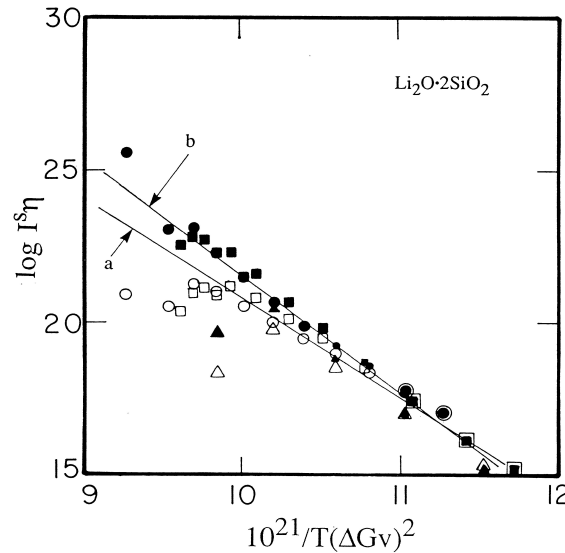
Good fit to nucleation in silicate glasses that form crystals of the same composition



K. F. Kelton and A. L. Greer, Nucleation in Condensed Matter, Elsevier, 2010.

Fits to Glass Crystallization Data

$$I_{exp} \frac{A}{hD} \frac{e^{-U}}{e^{-U}} \frac{1 - \phi_s}{3k_B T_G} \frac{\phi_s^3}{2} \Rightarrow \ln(I\Gamma) = 2 A \frac{16MD^3}{3k_B T_G \infty^2 v}$$



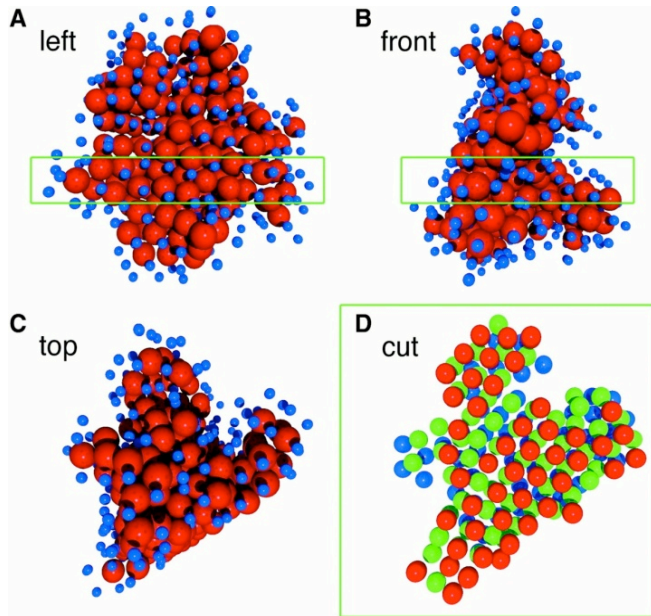
K. F. Kelton
Solid State Physics **45** (1991)

THEORETICAL	CALCULATED						
	σ	σ	σ	$\sigma = \sigma_0 + \sigma_1 T$		$\sigma(T_{max})$ (J/m ² K)	
Glass	(Pa/m ³)	(Pa/m ³)	σ (J/m ²)	σ_0 (J/m ²)	σ_1 (J/m ²)	Kelton	James
Li ₂ O·2SiO ₂	10 ^{33.0}	10 ^{53.2}	0.139	0.138	2.1x10 ⁻⁵	0.153	0.143
		10 ^{60.1}	0.147	0.125	3.7x10 ⁻⁵	0.152	0.147
Na ₂ O·2CaO·3SiO ₂	10 ^{32.6}	10 ^{60.8}	0.131	0.103	3.1x10 ⁻⁵	0.130	0.108
BaO·2SiO ₂	10 ^{32.9}	10 ^{55.3}	0.100	0.077	2.8x10 ⁻⁵	0.104	0.101

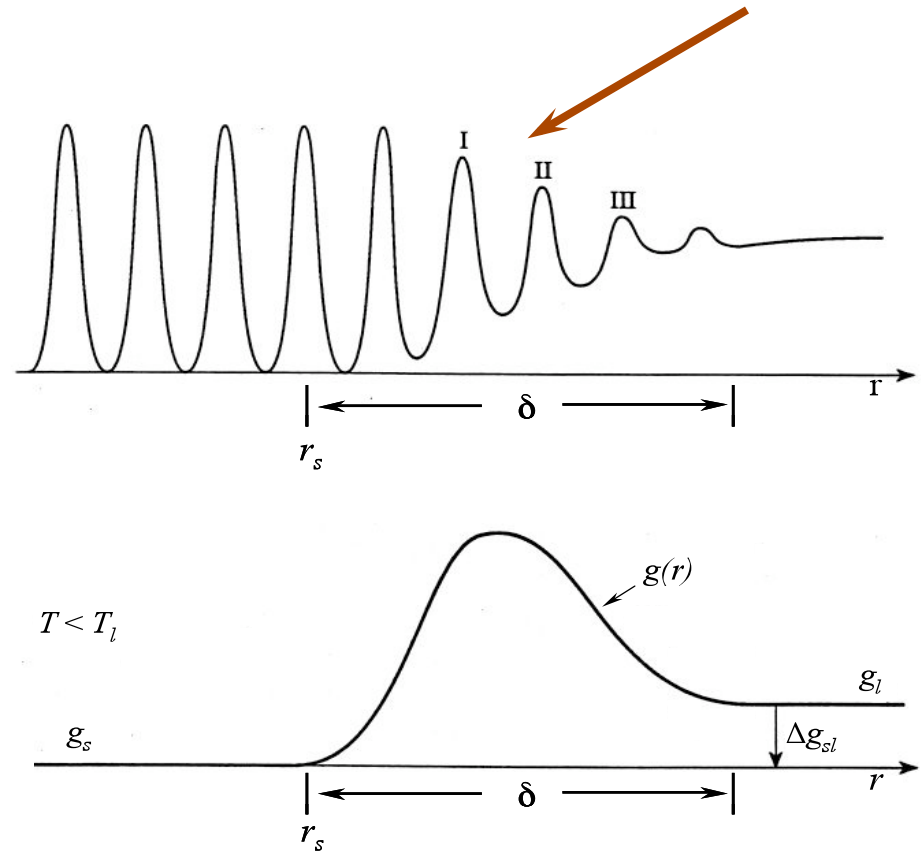
Diffuse Interface

Ordered near interface

Crystallization in Colloidal Suspensions Diffuse Interface – Not Compact



U. Gasser et al. *Science*, **292**, 258–262 (2001).



$$W(r) = \int_0^L g(r) g(r) dr = \left(\int_0^L g(r) dr \right)^2$$

$$\left. \frac{dW(r)}{dr_s} \right|_{r_{ss}^*}$$

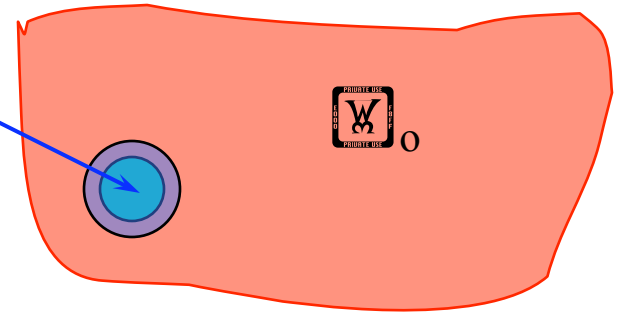
L. Granasy, *J. Non-Cryst. Solids*, **162**, 301 (1993)

F. Spaepen, *Solid State Physics*, Academic Press (1994), pp. 1-32

Density Functional Theory (DFT)

$$G[\rho] = \int_V d\mathbf{r} \left(\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 \psi^2 + \psi^2 \epsilon(\mathbf{r}) \right)$$

Fluctuation to new phase



Work of cluster formation

$$W_g[\rho] = \int_V d\mathbf{r} \left(\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 \psi^2 + \psi^2 \epsilon(\mathbf{r}) \right)$$

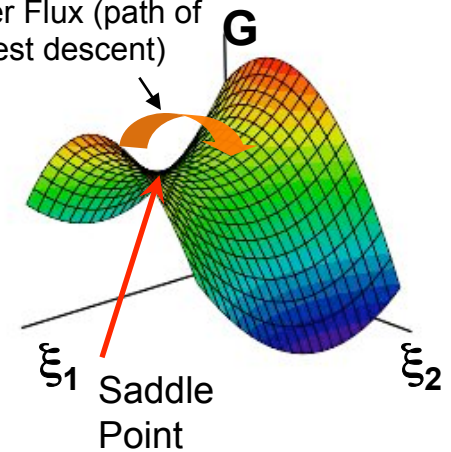
- Does not rely on any assumed dividing surface
- Does not require introduction of interfacial energy
- Determine critical size

$$\left(\frac{dW_g}{dr} \right)_{r=r^*} = 0$$

- Analogous to $dG/dr = 0$ for $r=r^*$
- Solve for density profile $\psi^*(\mathbf{r})$ using Euler's equation.
- Determine W^* from

$$W_g^{**} = \int_V d\mathbf{r} \left(\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 \psi^{*2} + \psi^{*2} \epsilon(\mathbf{r}) \right)$$

Cluster Flux (path of steepest descent)



Fits of Data to Non-Classical Theories

$$I^* = 2A^* \exp\left(\frac{\phi \alpha}{\phi \epsilon} U\right) \frac{W_{CNT}^*}{kT} \Rightarrow \ln\left(\frac{I^*}{A^* kT}\right) = 2 U T \frac{16 M O_{CNT}^3}{3 f I}$$

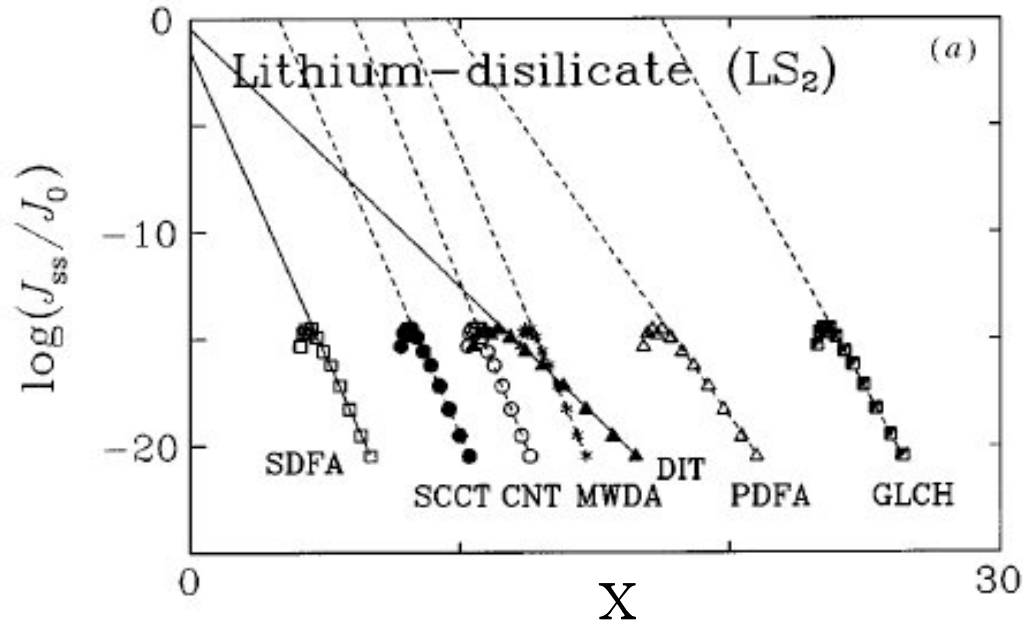
where $U = TW \left(\frac{**}{NCCNT} \right)^{1/3}$

Fitting Procedure

- **Assume** expected value for I^*
- Plot $\ln(I^*/A^*)$, where I^* are the measured values for the steady-state nucleation rate, as a function of $X = \left(\frac{W}{\epsilon}\right)^3 (T)$
- Expect
 - straight line with slope proportional to α^3
 - intercept at origin

Model	Acronym
Self-consistent CNT	SCCT
Phenomenological diffuse interface theory	DIT
Perturbative DF	PDFA
Semi-empirical DF	SDF A
Modified-weighted DF	MWDA
Ginzburg-Landau free energy used in Cahn-Hilliard model	GLCH

Fits to Glass Crystallization Data



L. Granasy, P.F. James,
Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. A
454 (1998) 1745–1766.

Intercept Values and Errors Obtained by Fitting Experimental Nucleation Data*

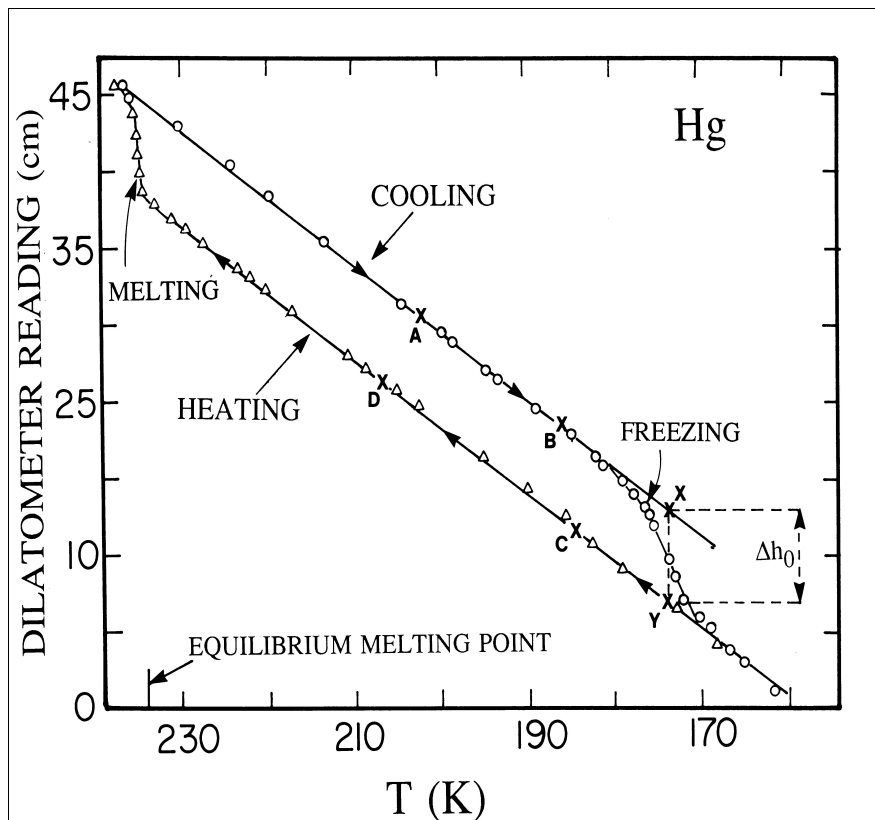
Glass	CNT	SCCT	DIF	SDFA	PDFA	MWDA	GLCH	$\log x_c$
LS_2	19 ± 4	10 ± 4	-0.5 ± 2.0	-1.5 ± 1.9	15 ± 4	24 ± 5	40 ± 8	
BS_2	24 ± 5	28 ± 5	-0.7 ± 2.3	-4.9 ± 1.9	22 ± 5	30 ± 7	49 ± 10	-12.2
N_2CS_3	125 ± 66	92 ± 52	-0.5 ± 3.1	0.8 ± 2.6	71 ± 27	180 ± 92	-410 ± 328	
NC_2S_3	56 ± 18	40 ± 19	-2.9 ± 5.5	-9.2 ± 1.8	49 ± 15	72 ± 25	156 ± 94	-12.5
CS	178 ± 64	157 ± 59	-3.6 ± 4.8	-13 ± 2	165 ± 57	263 ± 123	1837	-17.2
NS	257	194 ± 165	-10 ± 3	-13 ± 2	92 ± 67	138 ± 104	-108 ± 65	
LB_2	581	472	-13 ± 3	-17 ± 2	-336	202	-96 ± 81	-16.6
CAS_2	-15 ± 4	-18 ± 3	-17 ± 2	-17 ± 2	15 ± 4	-14 ± 4	-13 ± 6	

*From [Granasy, 1998 #1430]. Glasses: $Li_2O \cdot 2SiO_2$ (LS_2), $BaO \cdot 2SiO_2$ (BS_2), $2Na_2O \cdot CaO \cdot 3SiO_2$ (N_2CS_3), $Na_2O \cdot 2CaO \cdot 3SiO_2$ (NC_2S_3), $CaO \cdot SiO_2$ (CS), $Na_2O \cdot SiO_2$ (NS), $Li_2O \cdot 2B_2O_3$ (LB_2) and $CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2$ (CAS_2).

Metallic Liquids and Glasses

Supercooling of Liquid Metals (1952)

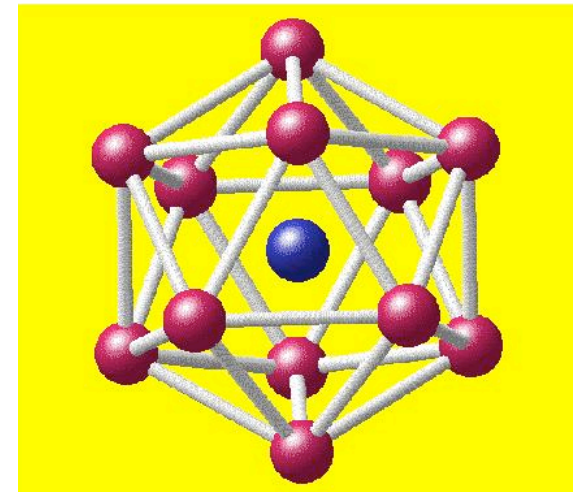
Turnbull Experiment



- All metals supercool to $\approx 80\%$ of T_m
- Surprising since it was thought that liquid/crystal structures are similar

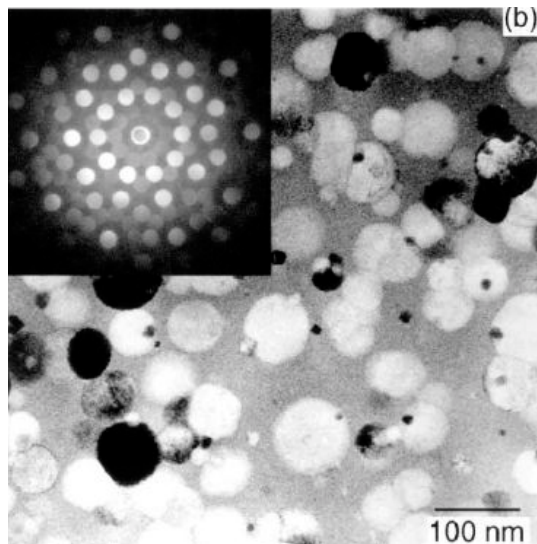
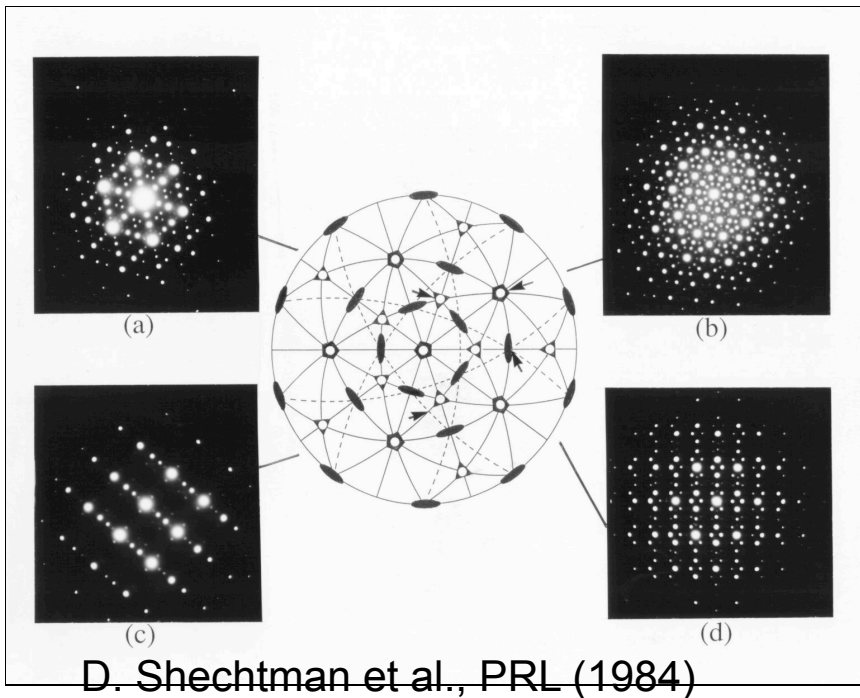
Frank's hypothesis

The atoms in a metallic liquid are arranged in the form of an icosahedron



Nucleation of an ordered crystal requires that the icosahedral order be destroyed

Nucleation of the icosahedral quasicrystal in metallic glasses



B. S. Murty & K. Hono, Mat. Sci. Eng.,
A312, 253 (2001)

- **Common in Ti/Zr/Hf based glasses**

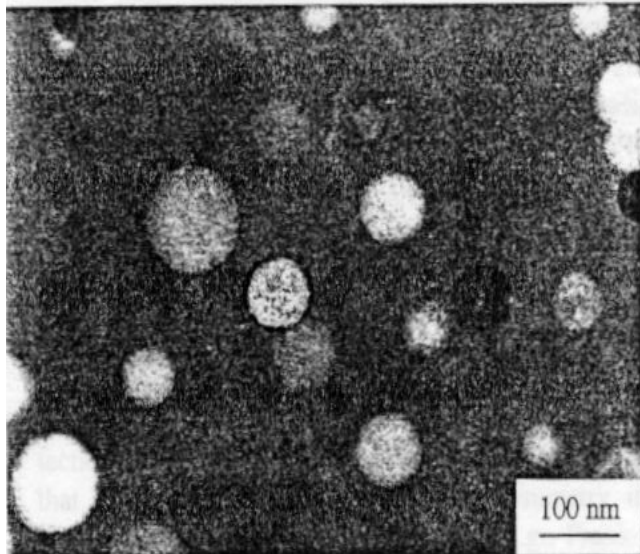
- $\text{Zr}_{65}\text{Al}_{7.5}\text{Ni}_{10}\text{Cu}_{12.5}\text{Ag}_5$
- $\text{Zr}_{70}\text{Fe}_{20}\text{Ni}_{10}$
- $\text{Zr}_{62-x}\text{Ti}_x\text{Cu}_{20}\text{Ni}_8\text{Al}_{10}$ ($3 \leq x \leq 5$)
- $\text{Zr}_{80}\text{Pt}_{20}$
- $\text{Hf}_{59}\text{Ni}_8\text{Cu}_{20}\text{Al}_{10}\text{Ti}_3$
- $\text{Zr}_{55}\text{Cu}_{35}\text{Al}_{10}$
- ...

- **Also observed in other glasses**

- $\text{Pd}_{60}\text{U}_{20}\text{Si}_{20}$
- $\text{Al}_{95}\text{Cr}_3\text{Co}_2$
- $\text{Al}_{75}\text{Cu}_{15}\text{V}_{10}$

- **Often nanocrystals ☒ high nucleation rate (low barrier) & slow growth (often diffusion-controlled)**

Nucleation of the icosahedral phase (i-phase) from AlCuV Metallic Glass



- Fit to classical theory of nucleation
- Very small interfacial free energy

$$\sigma_{i/g} < 0.1 \sigma_{xtl/l}(Al)$$

- Local structures of i-phase and glass are very similar

J. C. Holzer & K. F. Kelton, Acta. Metall., **39**, 1883-43 (1991)

Nucleation of i-phase in Undercooled Liquid

D. Holland-Moritz, Int. J. Non-Eq. Processing, **11**, 169-199 (1998).

- rf-levitation studies of i-phase and related phases (crystal approximants)

Icosahedral Phase

- ✎ $Al_{60}Cu_{34}Fe_6$
 $\Delta T^i \approx 100K \Rightarrow \Delta T^i/T_L \approx 0.1$
- ✎ $Al_{58}Cu_{34}Fe_8$
- ✎ Al- Pd - Mn
 $\Delta T^i \approx 125K \Rightarrow \Delta T^i/T_L \approx 0.11$

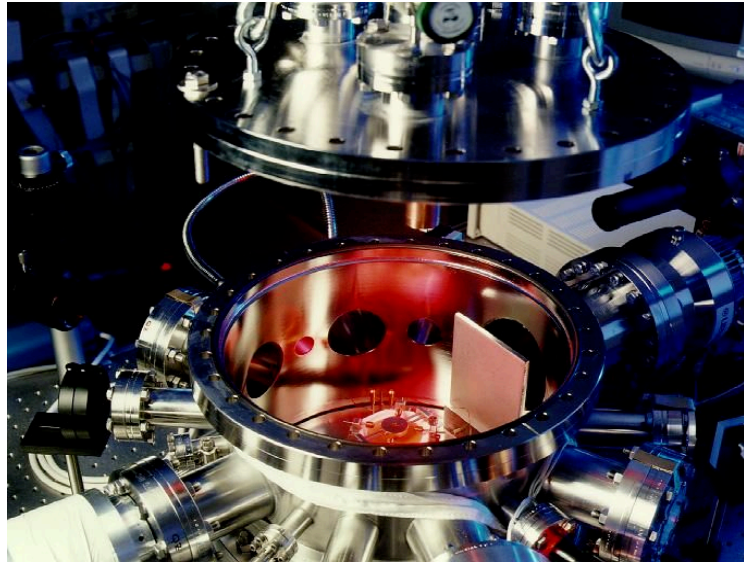
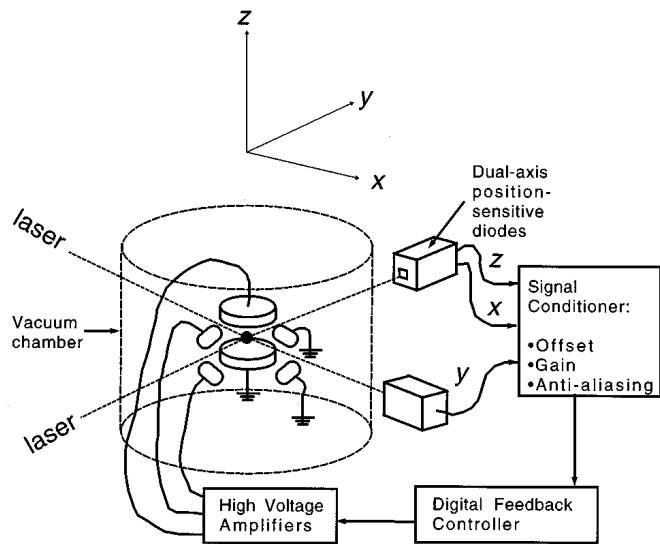
Crystal Approximants

- ✎ \square - $Al_{13}Fe_4 \Rightarrow \Delta T^{\square}/T_L \approx 0.12$
- ✎ \square - $Al_5Fe_2 \Rightarrow \Delta T^{\square}/T_L \approx 0.15$

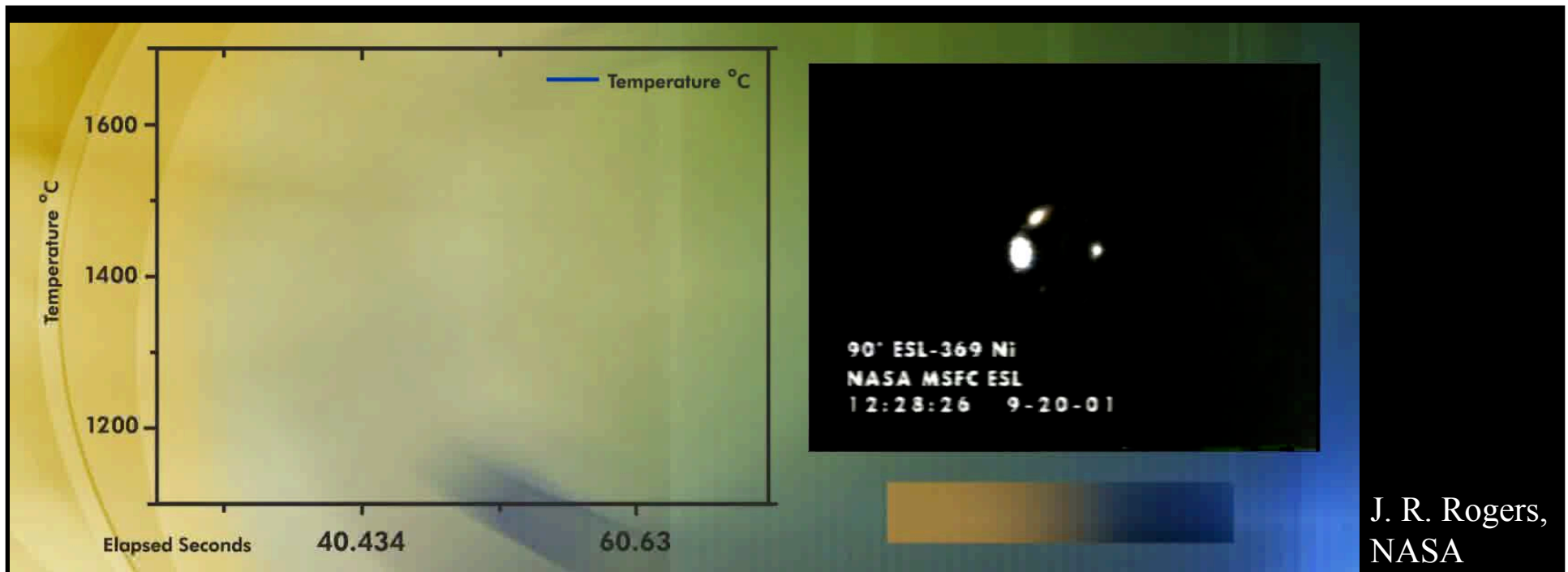
Crystal Phases

- ✎ $\beta(AlCuCo)$ - (CsCl Structure)
 $\Rightarrow \Delta T^{\beta}/T_L \approx 0.25$

Electrostatic levitation (ESL)

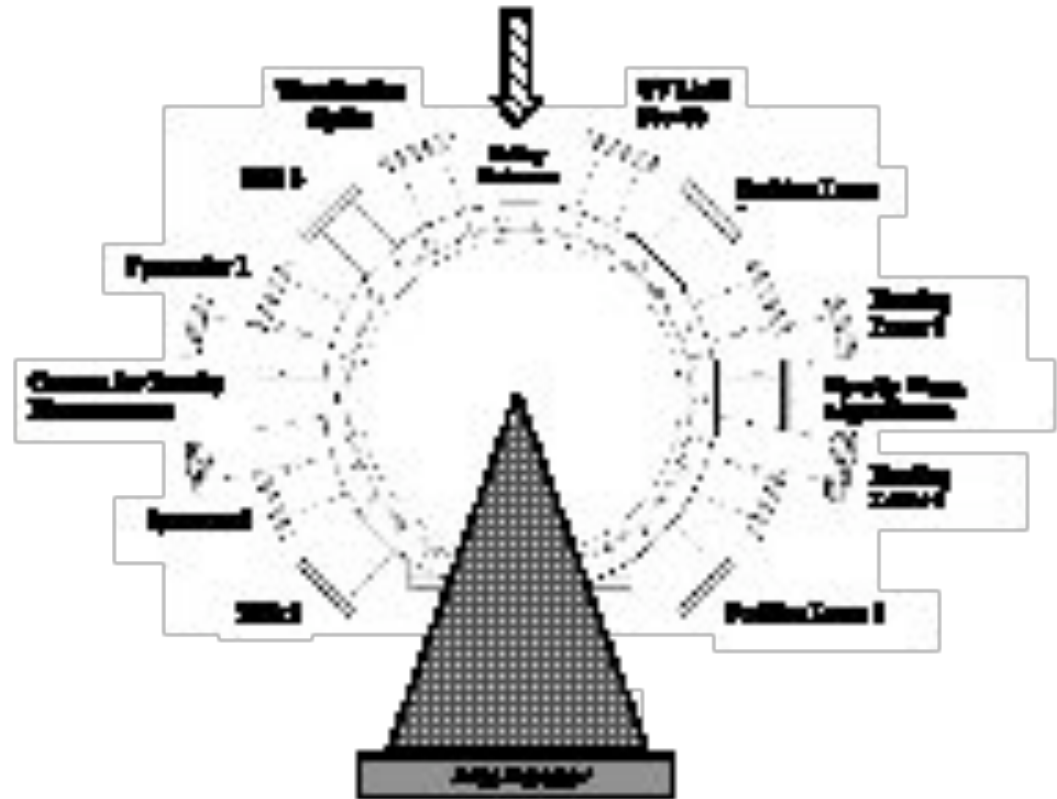
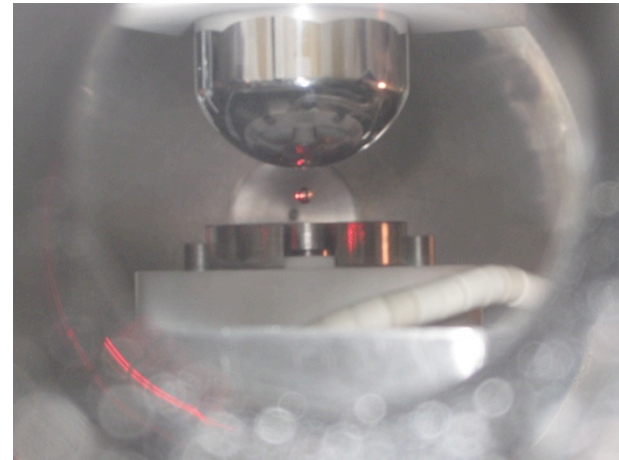
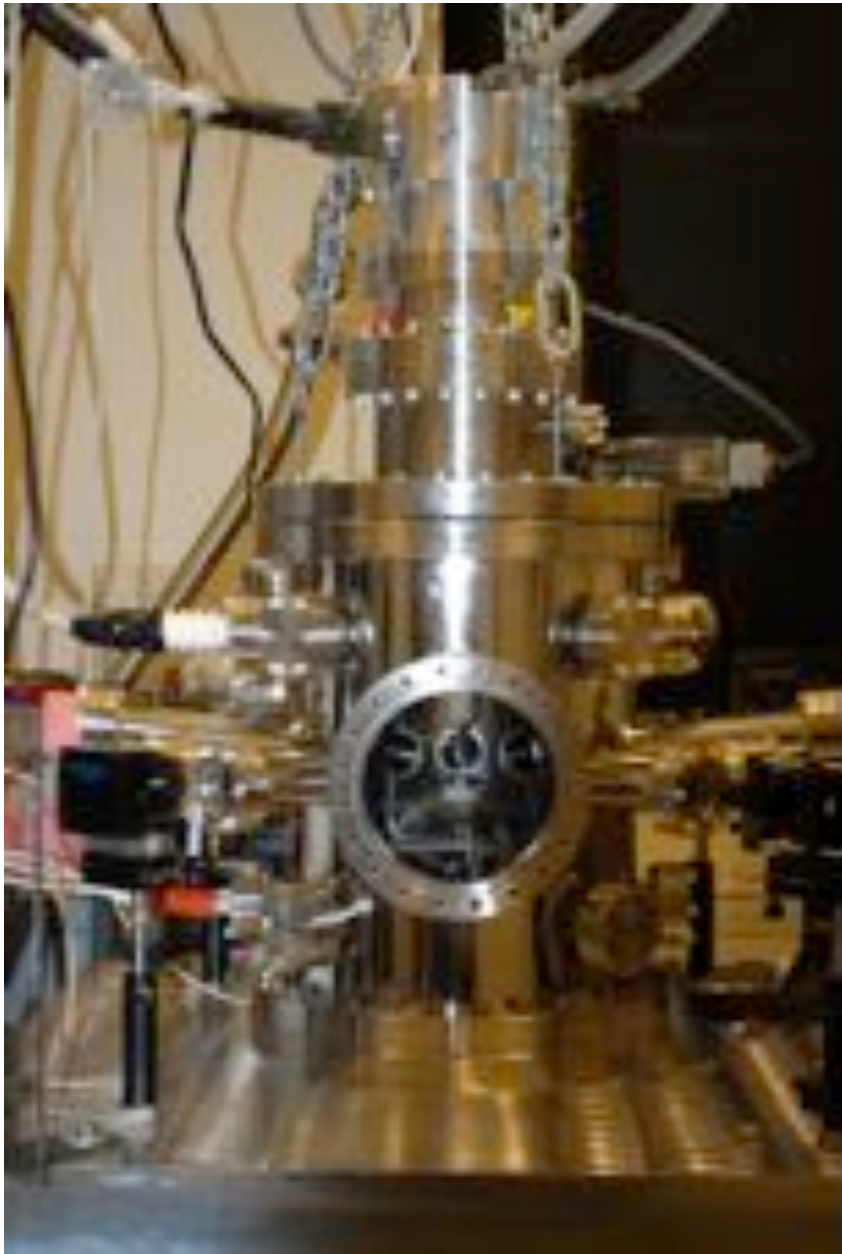


- $\sim 10^{-8}$ torr
- Heating & positioning decoupled
- Stable within 50-100 μm



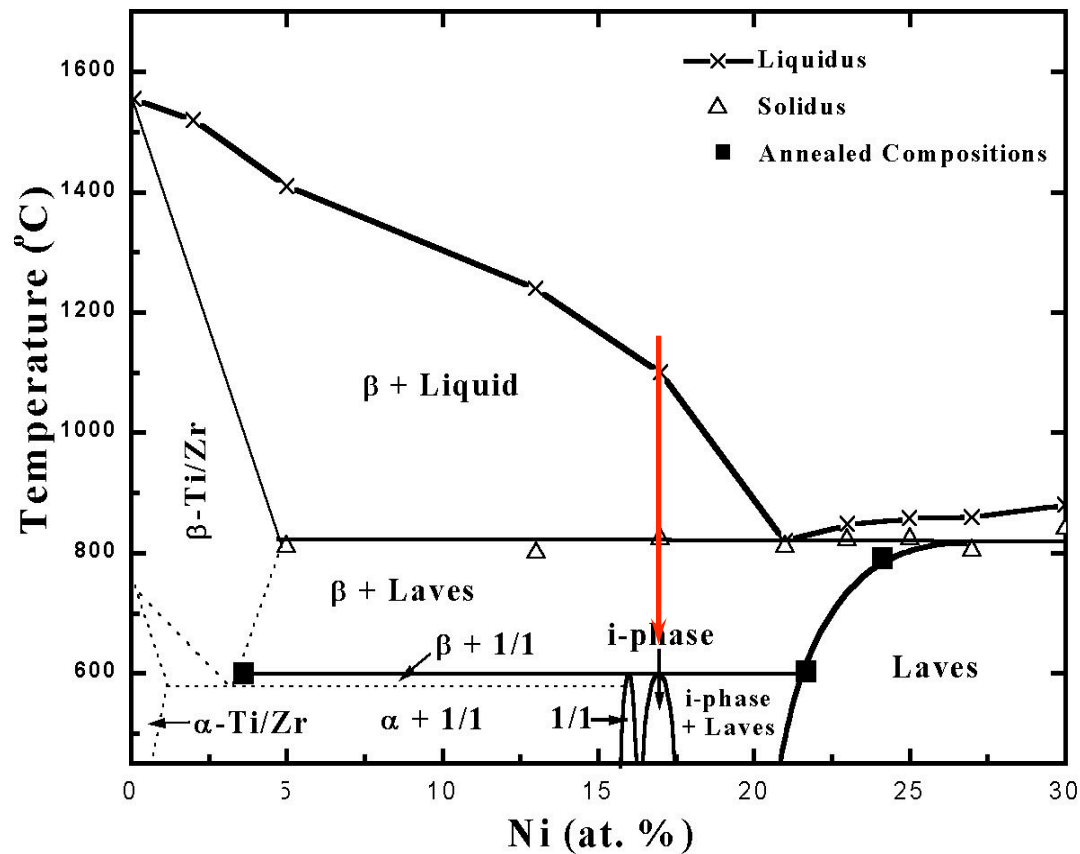
J. R. Rogers,
NASA

WU-BESL (Washington University Beamline ESL)



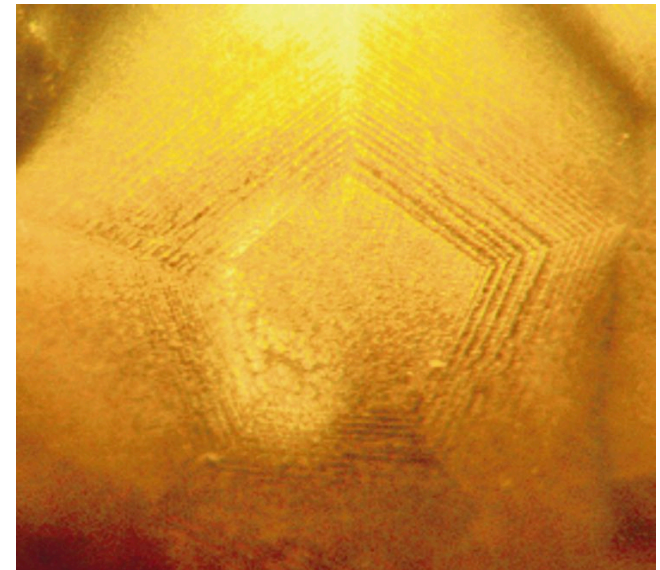
Ti-Zr-Ni Quasicrystals

Pseudo-binary Phase Diagram for [Ti]/[Zr] = 1



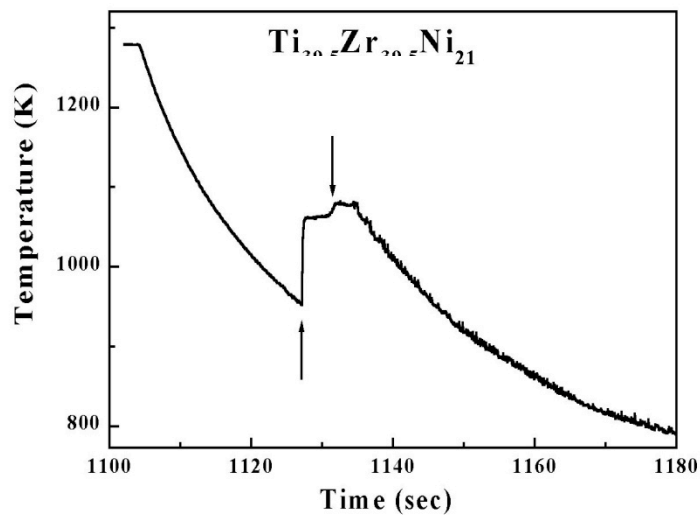
I-phase forms by solid-solid phase transformation

But small as-cast droplets sometimes contain the i-phase

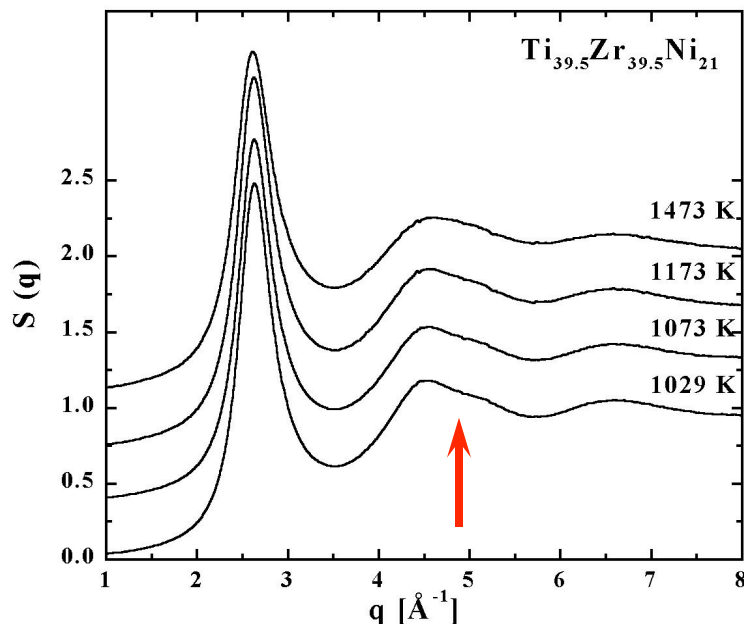
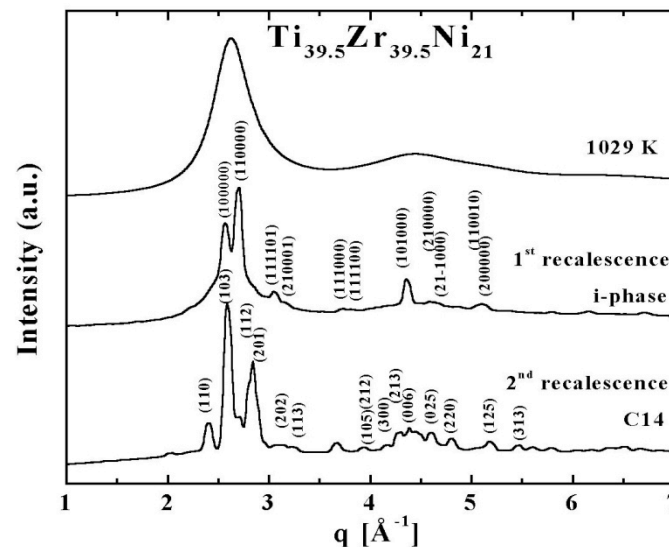


The growth rings indicated that it grew from the liquid

Icosahedral Ordering in a $Ti_{39.5}Zr_{39.5}Ni_{21}$ Liquid and Nucleation



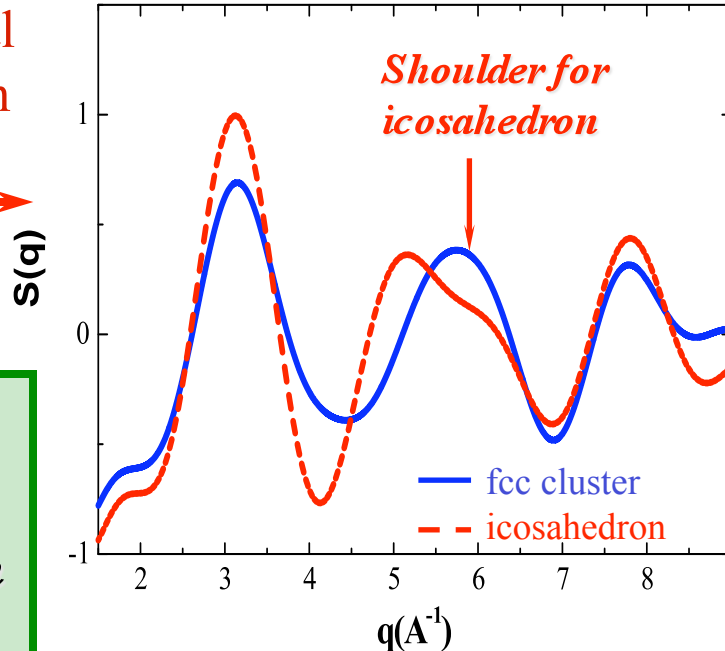
Recalescence to metastable quasicrystal



Icosahedral ordering in liquid



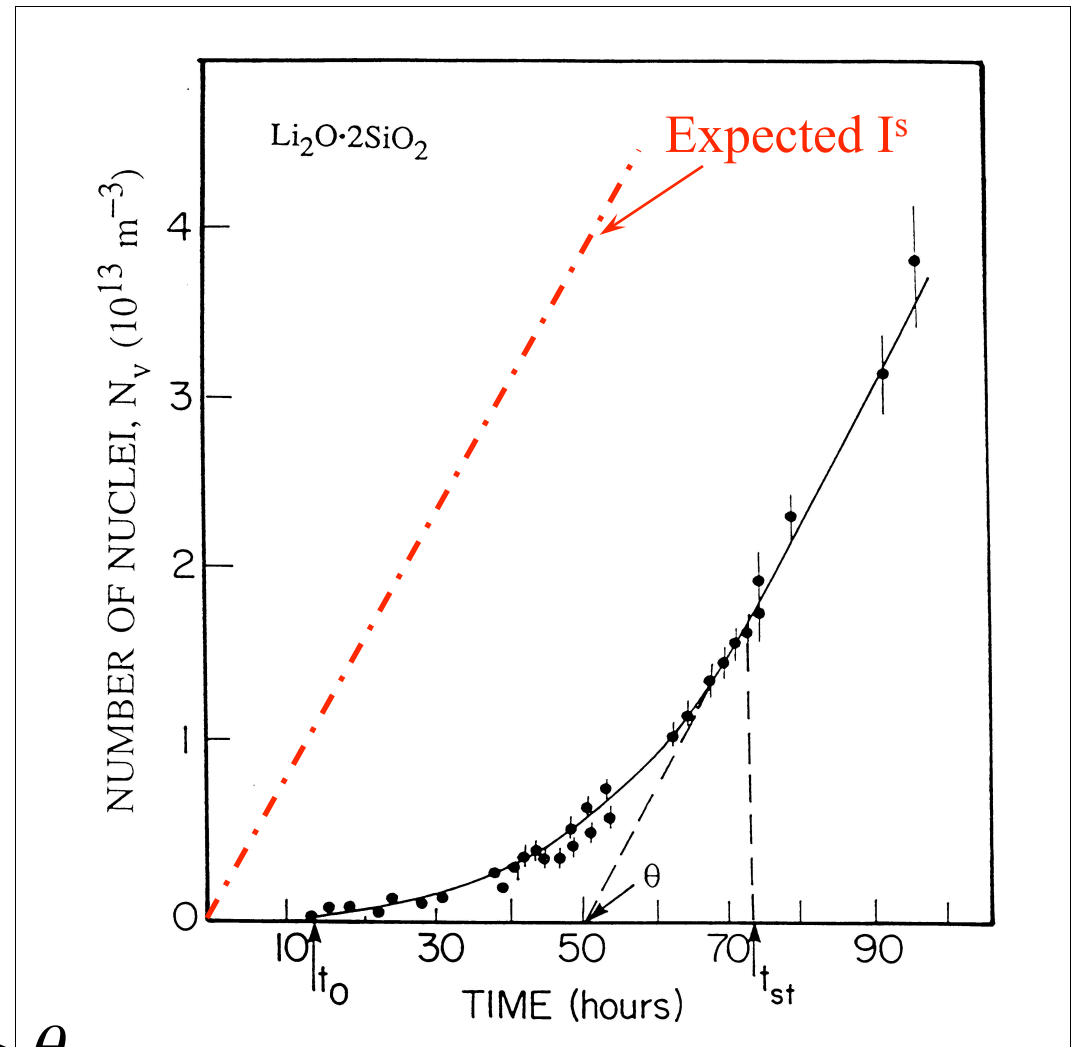
Ordering lowers nucleation barrier



*Time-Dependent
Nucleation*

Time-dependent nucleation

- In the quenched cluster distribution, the cluster population at the critical size is too small (can't maintain steady-state distribution during the quench)
- The quenched distribution evolves toward the steady-state distribution with annealing



$$N_v = I^s (t - \theta), \quad \text{for } t \gg \theta$$

Fits to Transient Data

Zeldovich-Frenkel equation

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \frac{N_0}{\tau} \exp\left(-\frac{E_a}{kT}\right)$$

Diffusion equation in size space

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = -D \frac{d^2N}{dx^2} \quad \text{Fick's law}$$

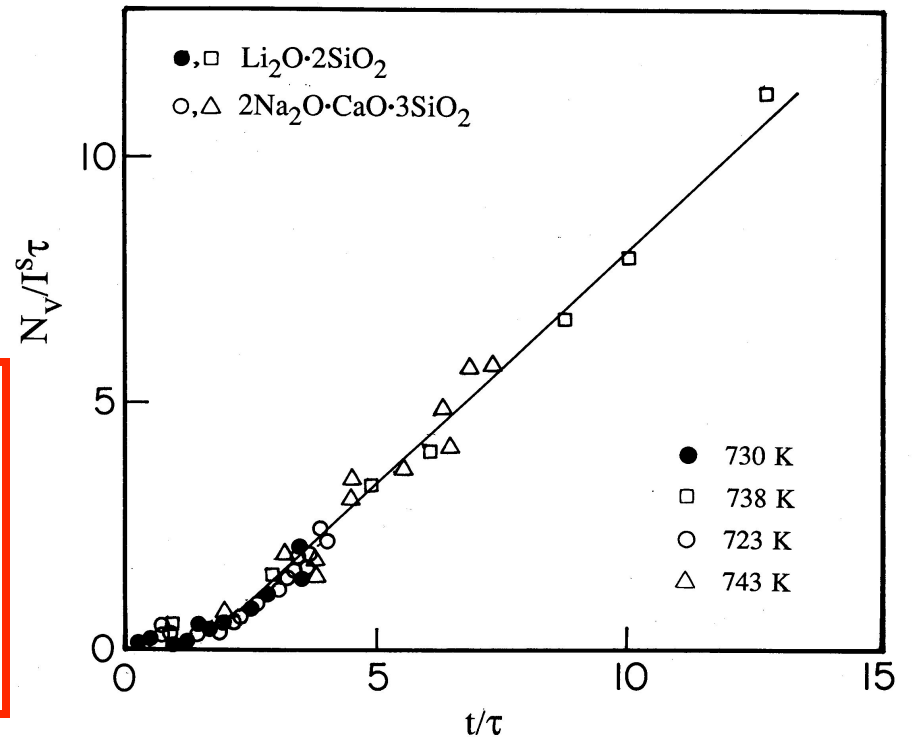
Kashchiev's solution - I(t)

$$1. k_{in}^+ \cdot N$$

$$2. W(N) \left(\frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{N^*} \right)$$

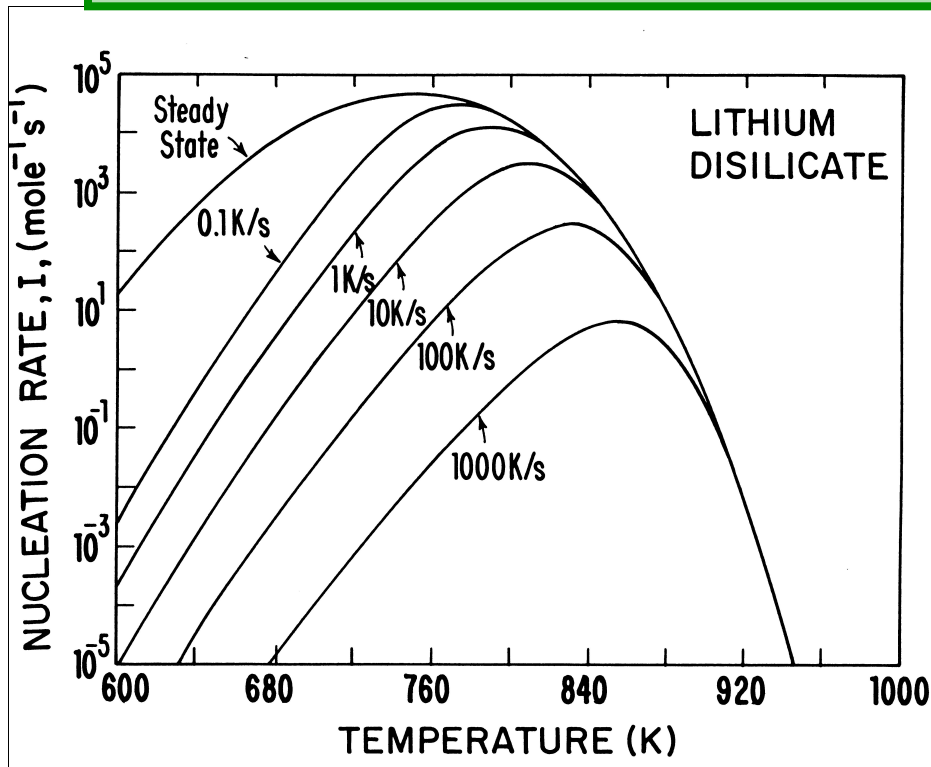
$$I_{n^*,t} = \frac{v^+}{\chi} \left(\frac{l}{\tau} - \frac{1}{N} \right)^m \exp\left(-\frac{E_a}{kT}\right)$$

$$I_k = \frac{24k_B^* 4}{M M_k^* n} \frac{1}{Z^2} \quad N = \frac{M I}{6}$$

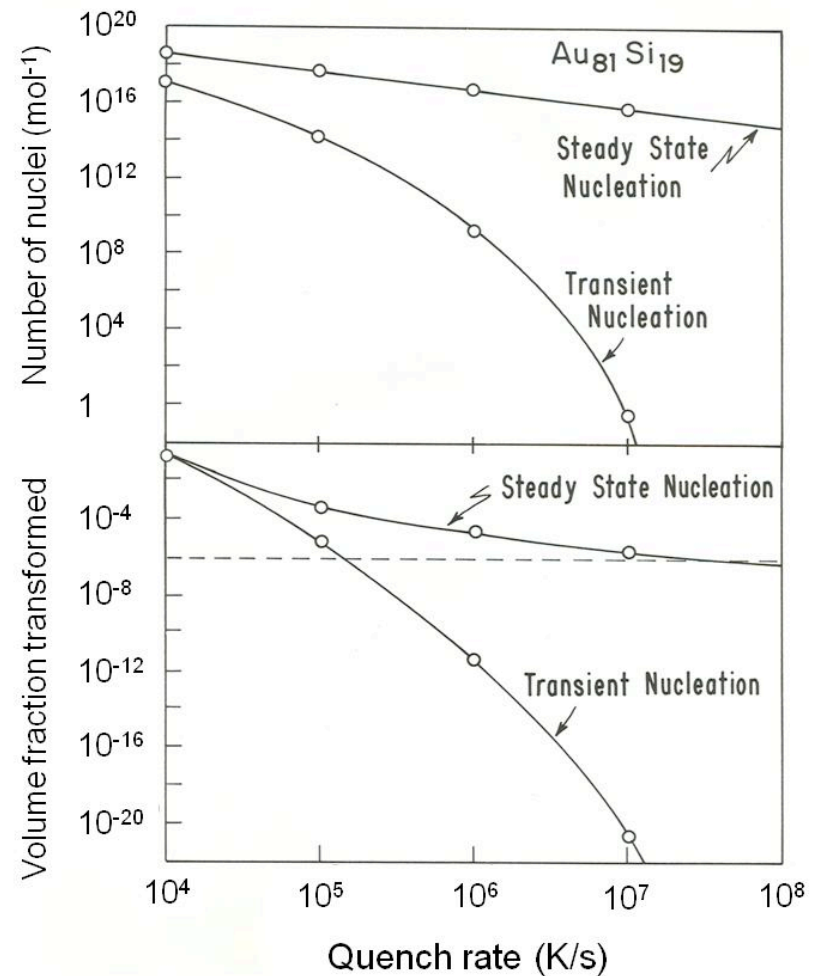


Scaling

Nucleation rate during a rapid quench

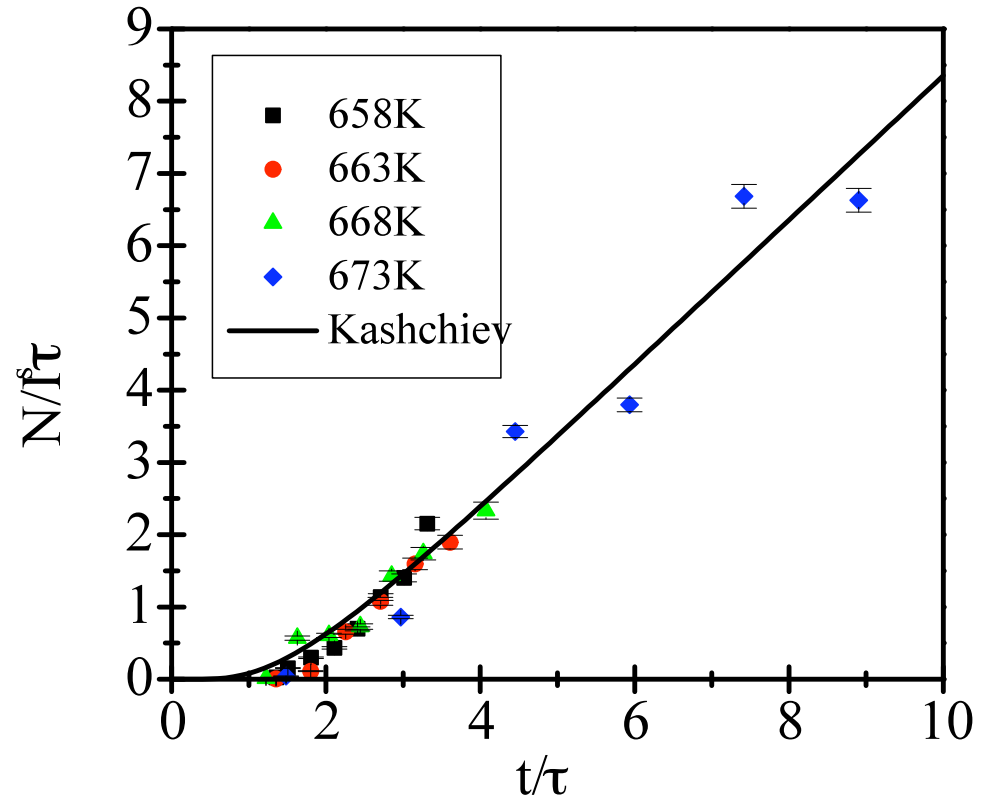
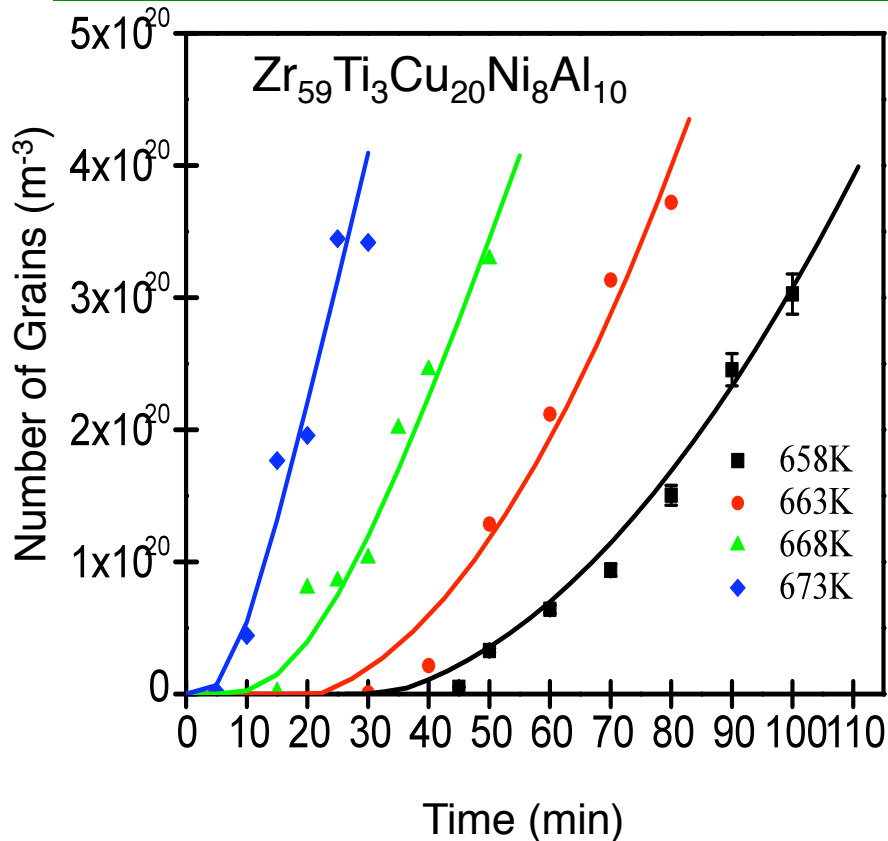


- Nucleation rate decreases far below the steady-state rate
- Temperature of departure from steady state rate increases with quench rate
- Due to inability for cluster distribution to relax during quench (frozen distribution - more typical of high-temperature distribution)



Can dramatically influence glass formation in marginal glasses

Two Step – Quasicrystal Nucleation in Metallic Glasse



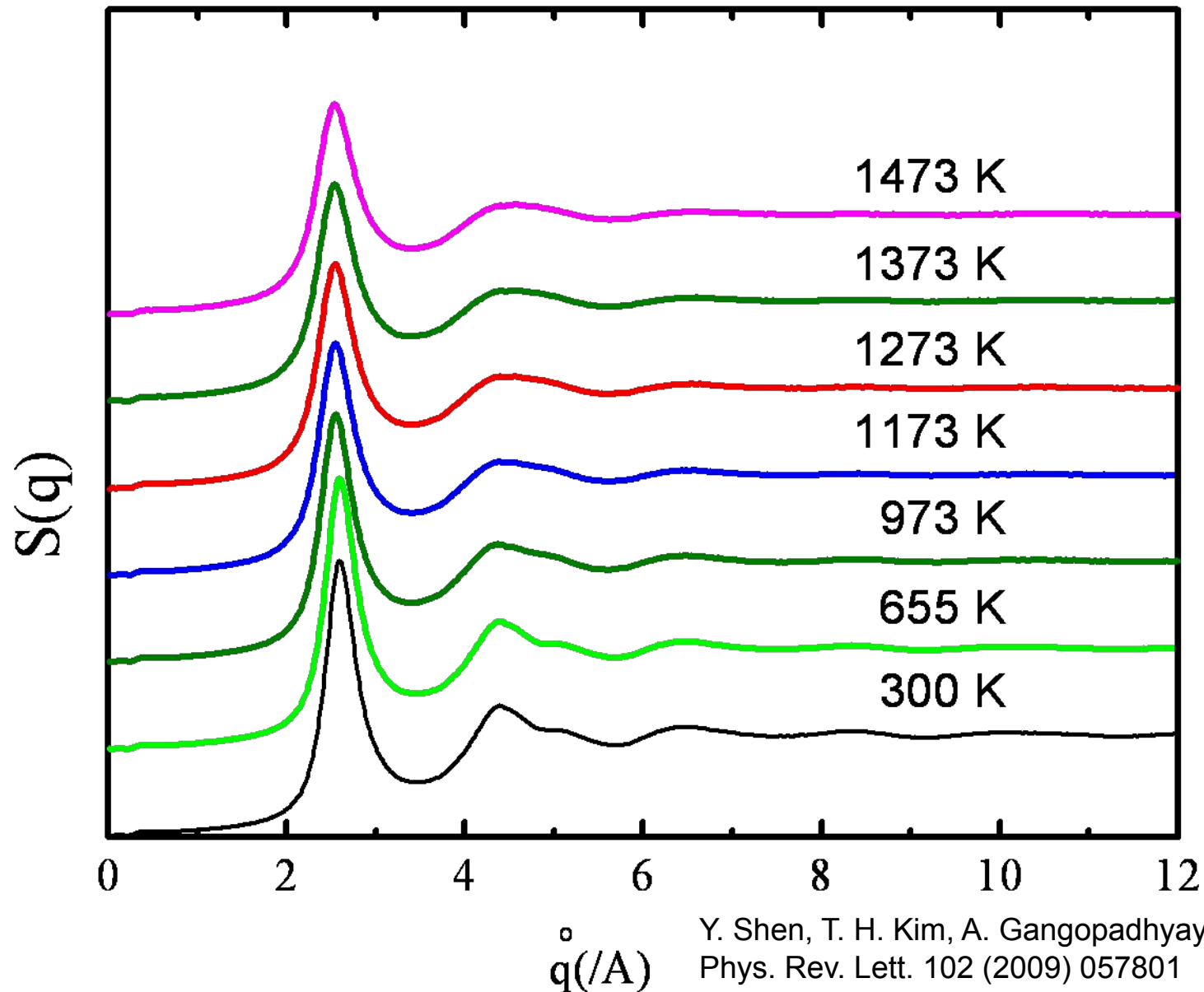
Fit to time-dependent nucleation data using

- measured viscosity
- calculated driving free energy from enthalpy
- and measured specific heats

$$\sigma = 0.01 \pm 0.004 \text{ J/m}^2$$

Evidence for significant short-range icosahedral order in glass

Synchrotron High Energy X-Ray Diffraction Studies

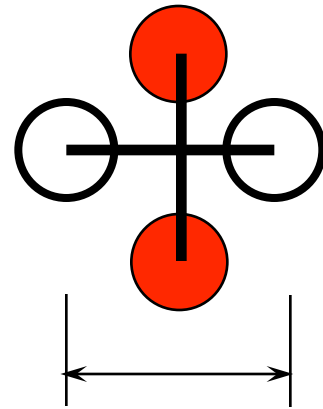


Reverse Monte Carlo (McGreevy)

Statistical fit to $S(q)$ or $g(r)$
data to obtain atomic
structure

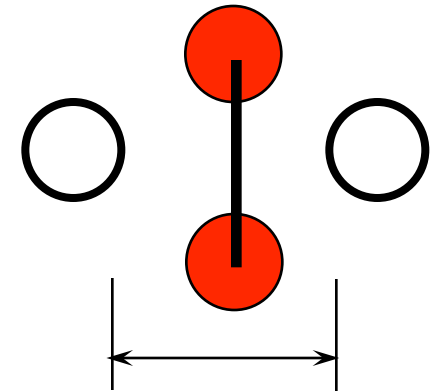
No energies involved –
worry about uniqueness of
structure

HA index analysis



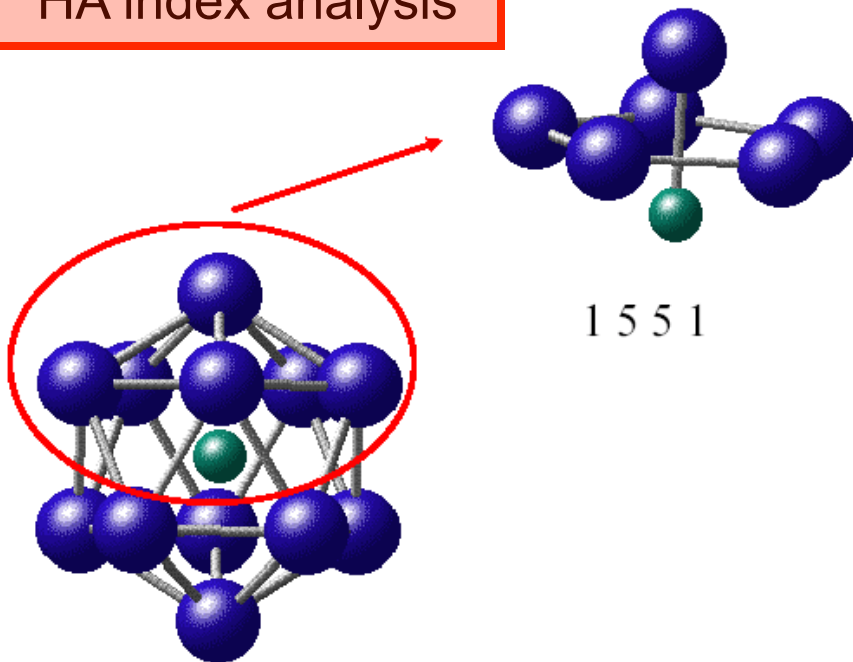
cutoff distance

(1 2 1 1)

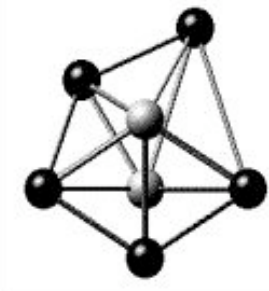
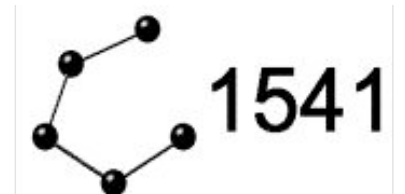
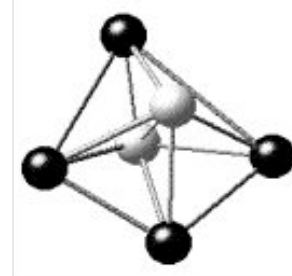
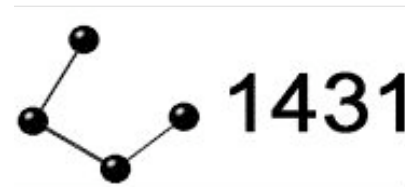


cutoff distance

(1 2 0 1)



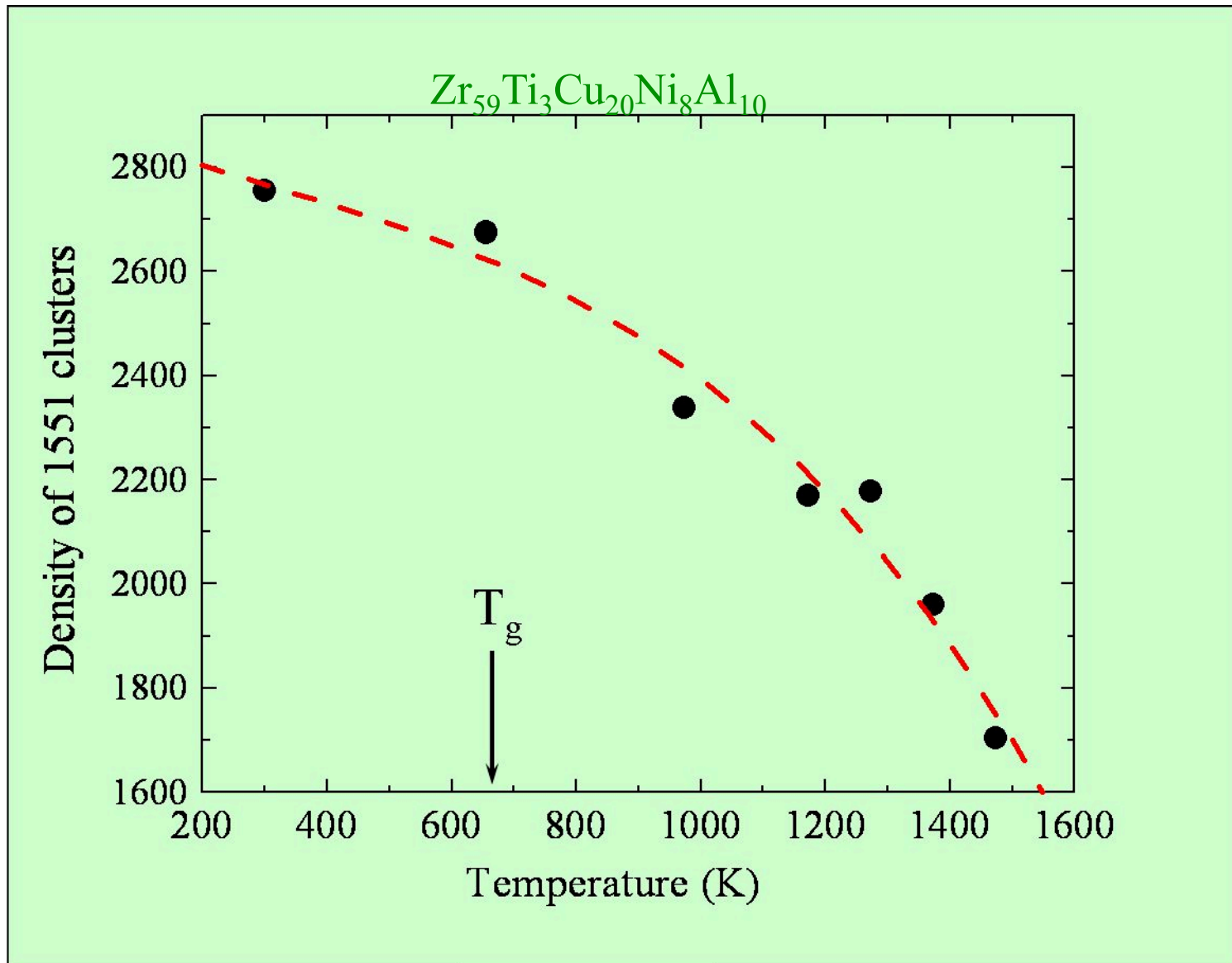
1 5 5 1



Icosahedral Cluster

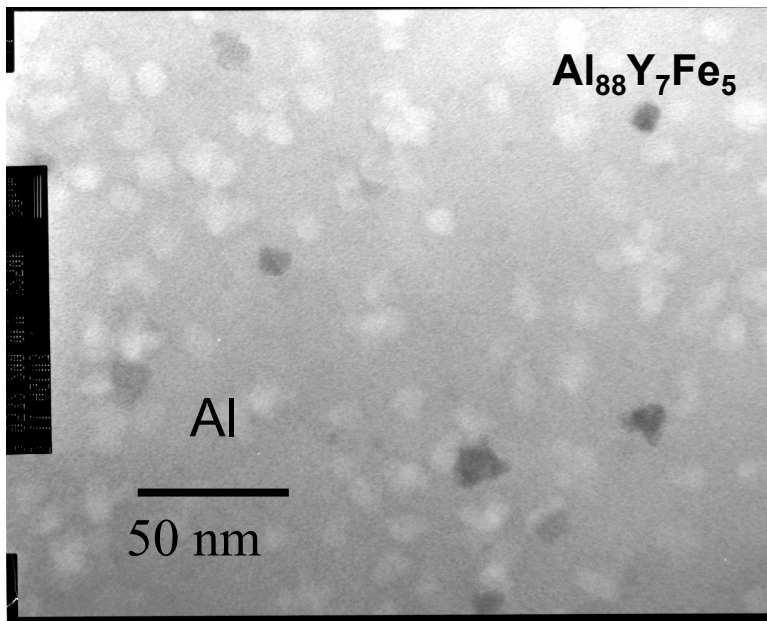
Distorted Icosahedral Cluster

Significant Growth of Icosahedral Order

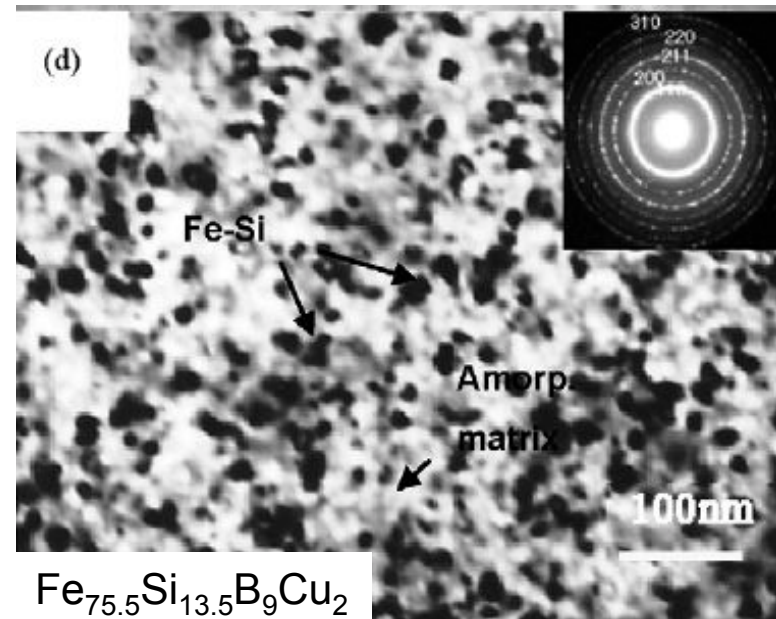


Y. Shen, T. H. Kim, A. Gangopadhyay, K. F. Kelton
Phys. Rev. Lett. 102 (2009) 057801

But High Nucleation Rates are also Found in Glasses That Don't Have Strong Icosahedral Order



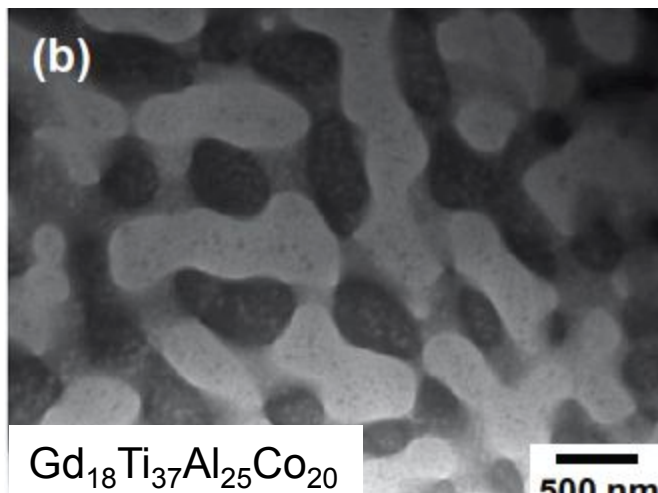
- Perepezko et. al.
- Kelton et. al.



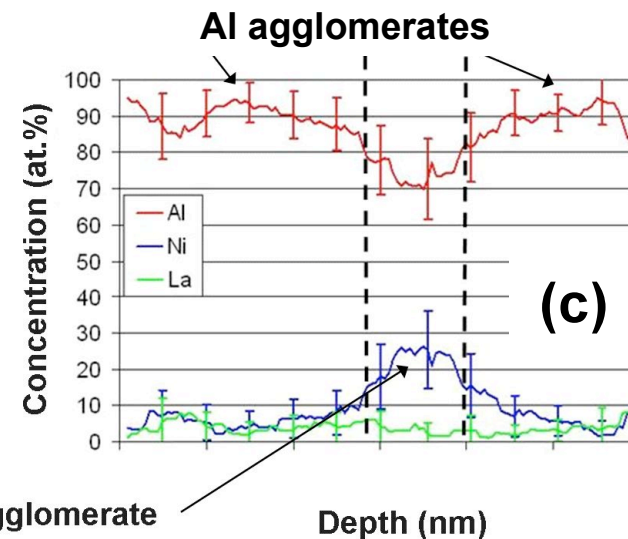
H. T. Zhou, J. Alloy. Comp., **475**, 706, 2009

Coupling between first order phase transitions

Phase Separation

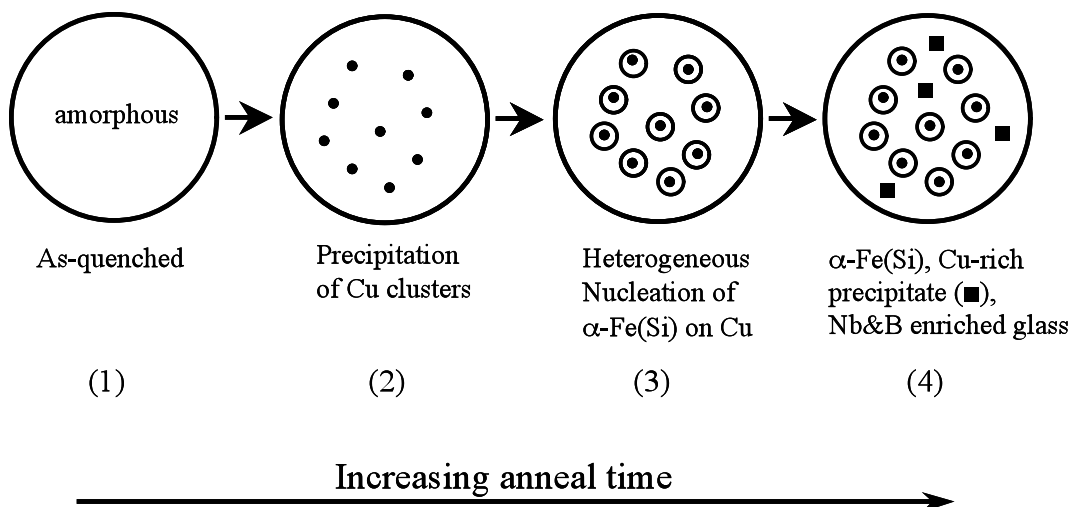


H. J. Chang et al., *Acta Mater.*, **58**, 2483 (2010)



B. Radiguet, *APL*, **92**, 103126 (2008)

Precipitation



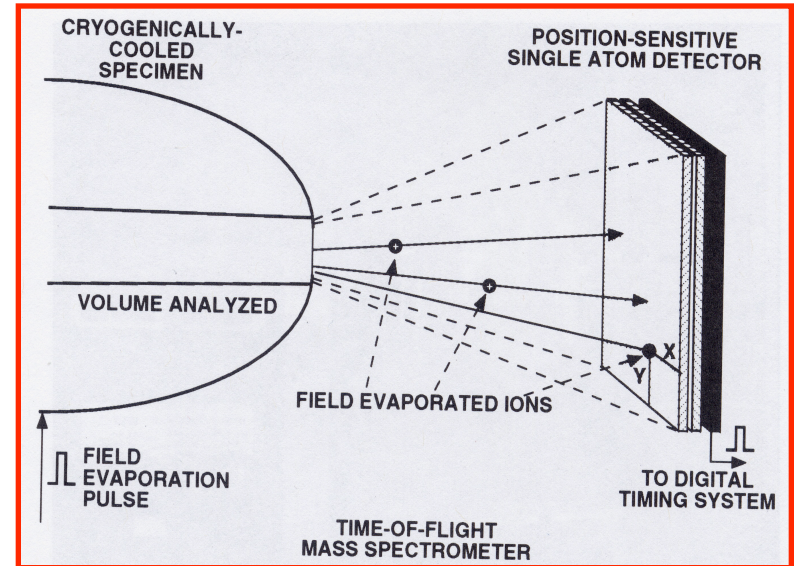
**FINEMET
Metallic
Glasses**

Y. Q. Wu, T. Bitoh, K. Hono, A. Makino, A. Inoue, *Acta Mater.* **49** (2001) 4069

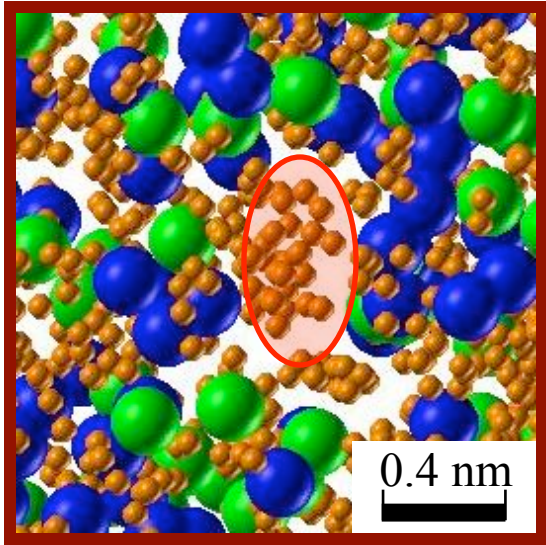
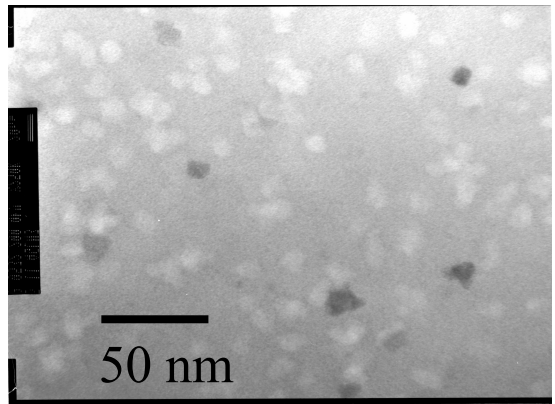
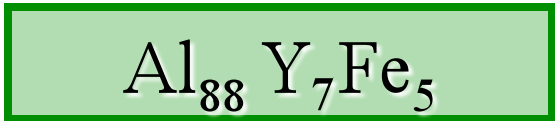
Atom Probe Tomography



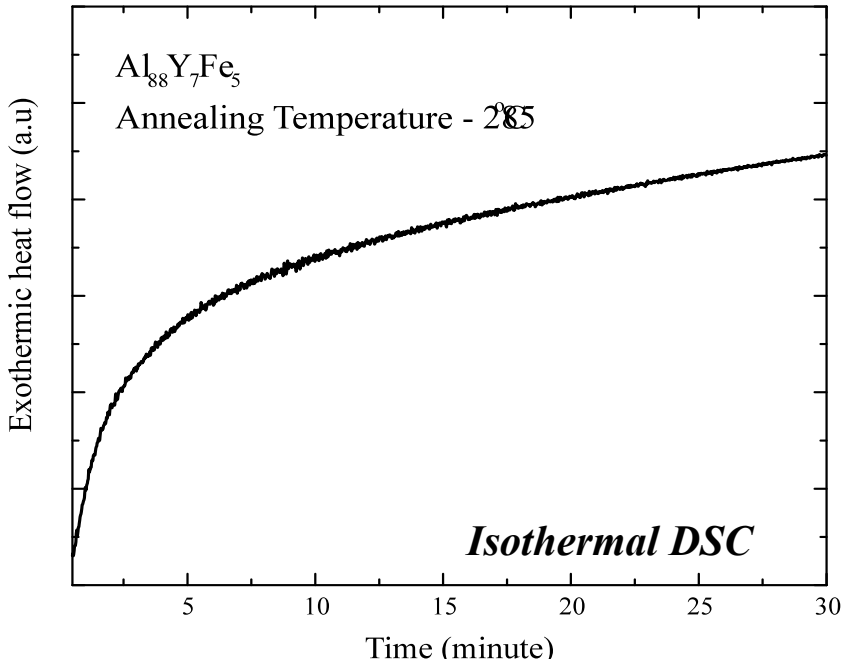
LEAP Si™ Metrology System
Imago Scientific Instruments



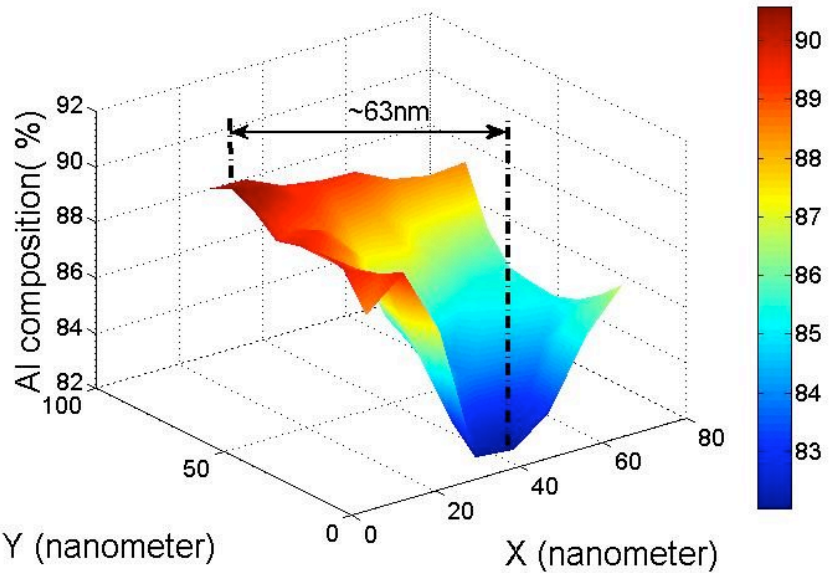
- **Ideally**
 - Remove atoms one at time from sample
 - Record atom type and original position



- Al
- Y
- Fe



Nanoscale Phase Separation

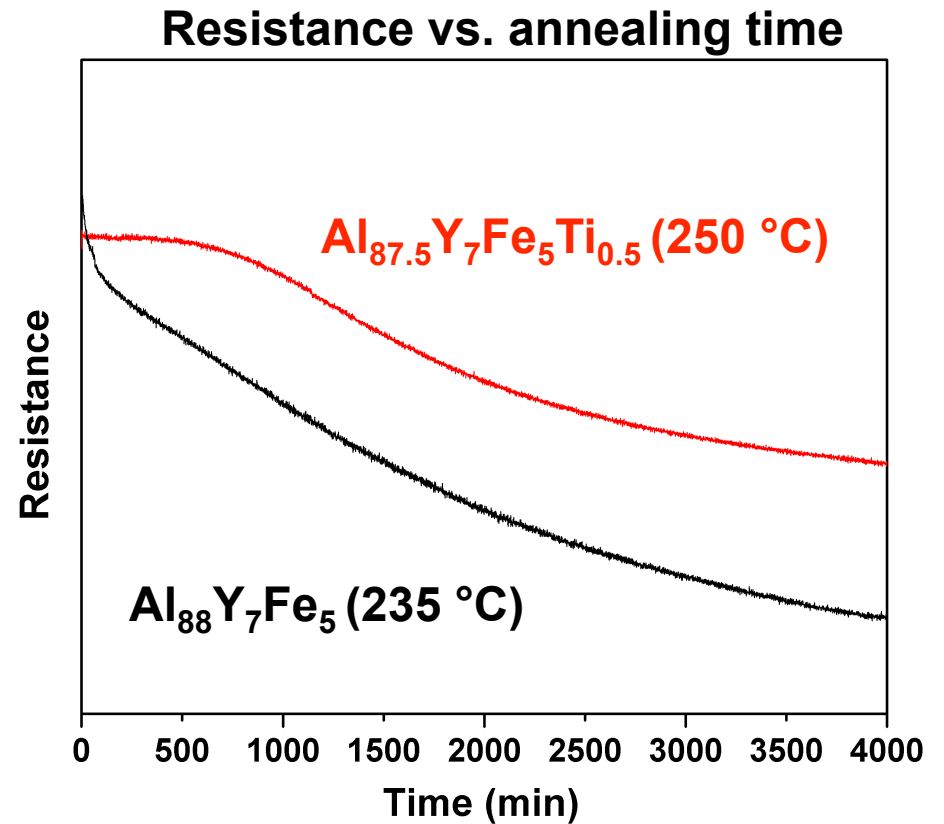
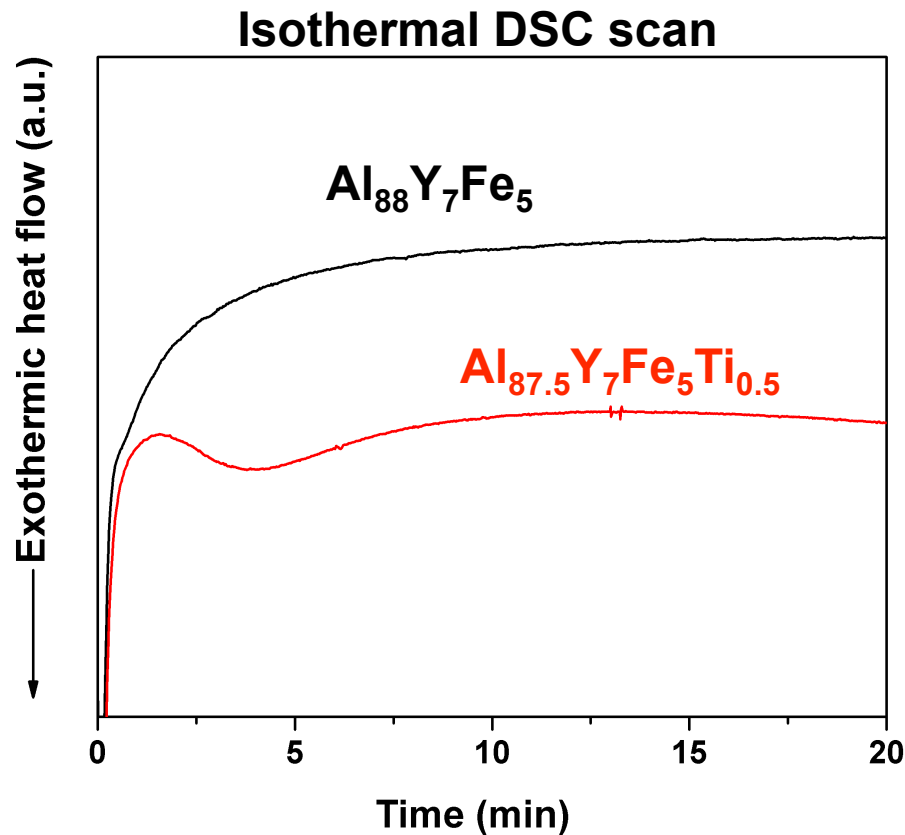


Extremely high nucleation rate
Diffusion-limited growth

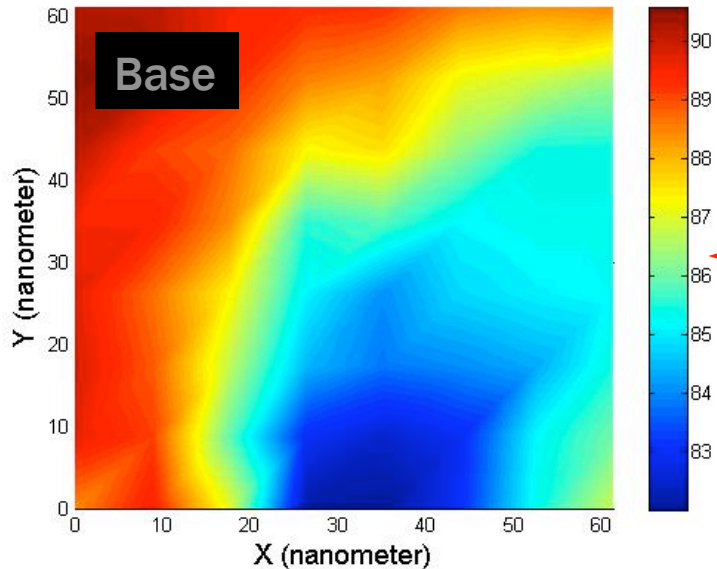
K. Sahu et al, Acta Mater. (2010).

Microalloying

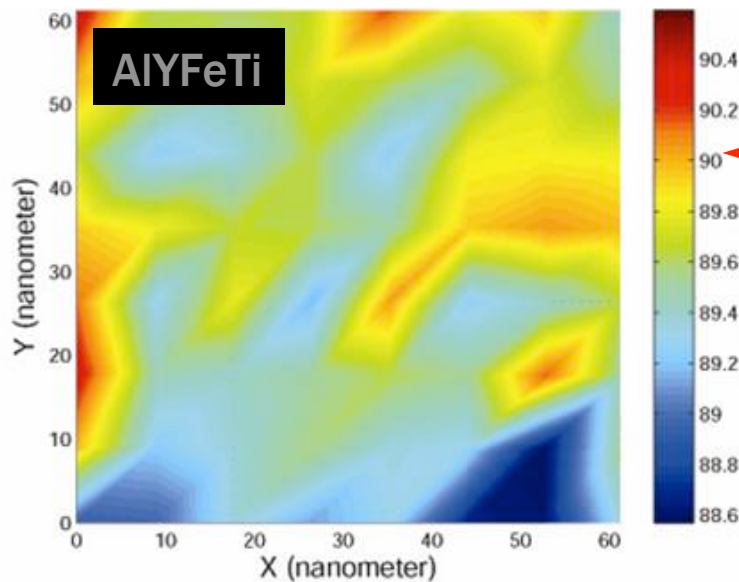
Ti, Zr, V microadditions improve glass formation in $\text{Al}_{88}\text{Y}_7\text{Fe}_5$



Microalloying – Atom Probe Tomography Results



- Phase separation in base glass ($\text{Al}_{88}\text{Y}_7\text{Fe}_5$)
 - Al concentration varies by $\sim 7\%$
 - Regions separated by $\sim 65\text{ nm}$



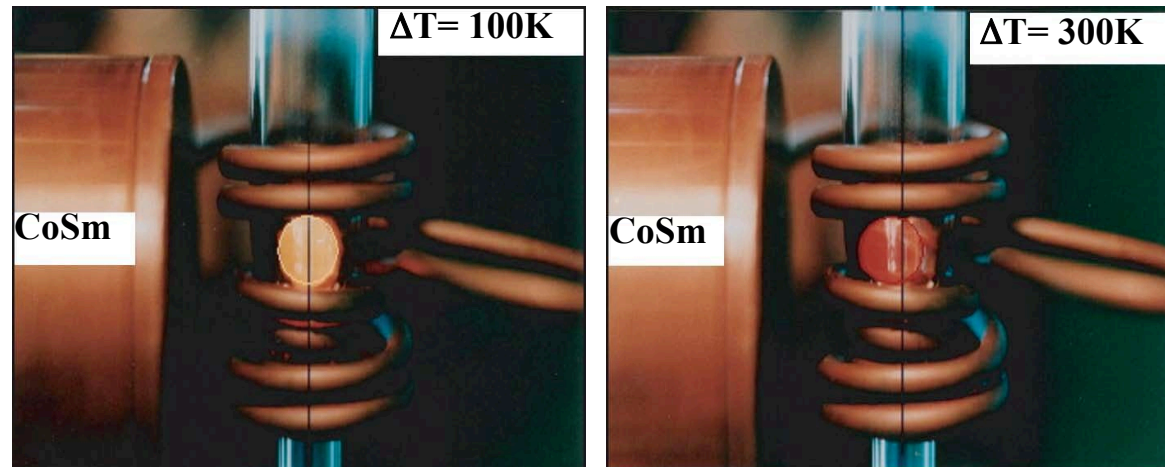
- No evidence for phase separation in microalloy

⇒ Improved glass formation and stability due to suppression of phase separation

*Coupling with Higher Order
Phase Transitions*

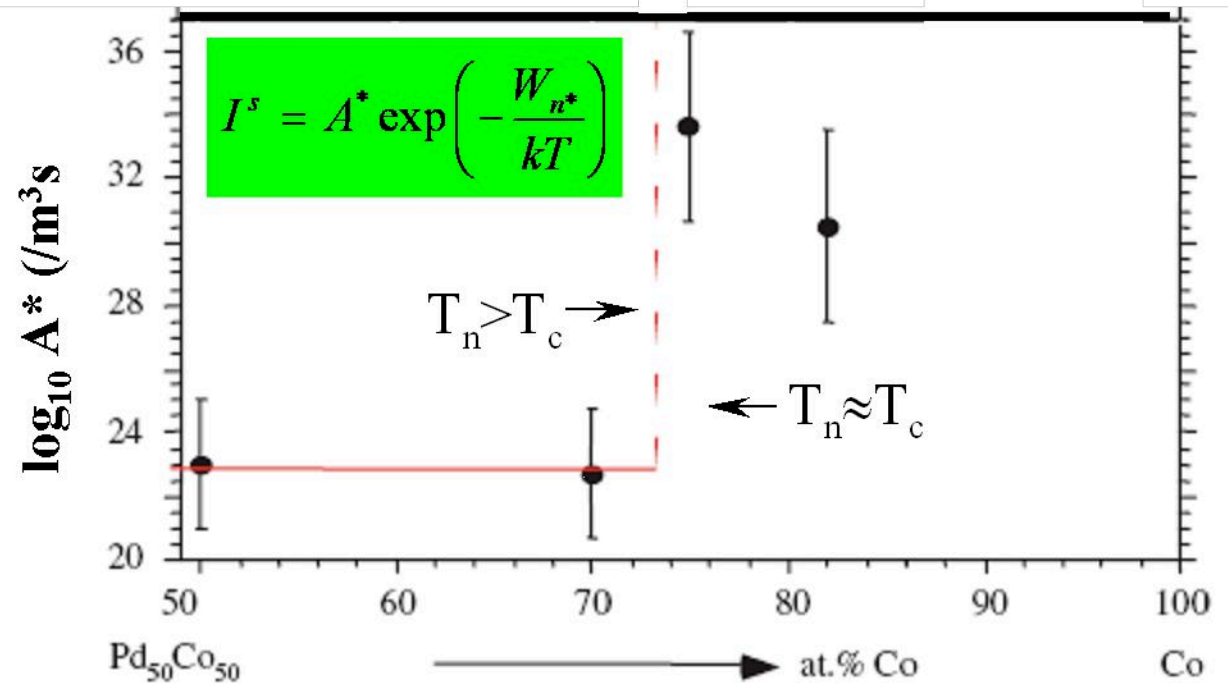
Coupling with Magnetic Ordering

D. Herlach *et al.* - Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. **361**, 497 (2003)



Undercooling is limited by onset of magnetic ordering, just above T_c in undercooled Co-based liquids

Magnetic contribution to driving free energy
(Holland-Moritz, Spaepen, Phil. Mag. **84**, 957 (2004))



Summary and Conclusions

- Classical Theory of Nucleation
 - Fits temperature dependent data in terms of effective Interfacial - provides some measure of the structural and chemical differences in initial and new phases
 - capillarity assumption questionable for small clusters
 - Incorrect pre-term predicted (sometimes by orders of magnitude)
 - Quantitatively explains time-dependent nucleation behavior
- Correction to Thermodynamics
 - Phenomenological diffuse interface theory
 - Density Functional Theories
- Coupling is important
 - With amorphous structure
 - With other phase transitions
- Correction for kinetics when interfacial and diffusion processes are similar
 - K. Russell, Acta Met., **16**, 761 (1968).
 - K. F. Kelton, Acta Mater. **48**, 1967 (2000)
 - H. Diao, R. Salazar, K. F. Kelton, L. Gelb, Acta. Mater., **56**, 2585 (2008).