

NIST Additive Manufacturing Fatigue and Fracture Project: Research Highlights

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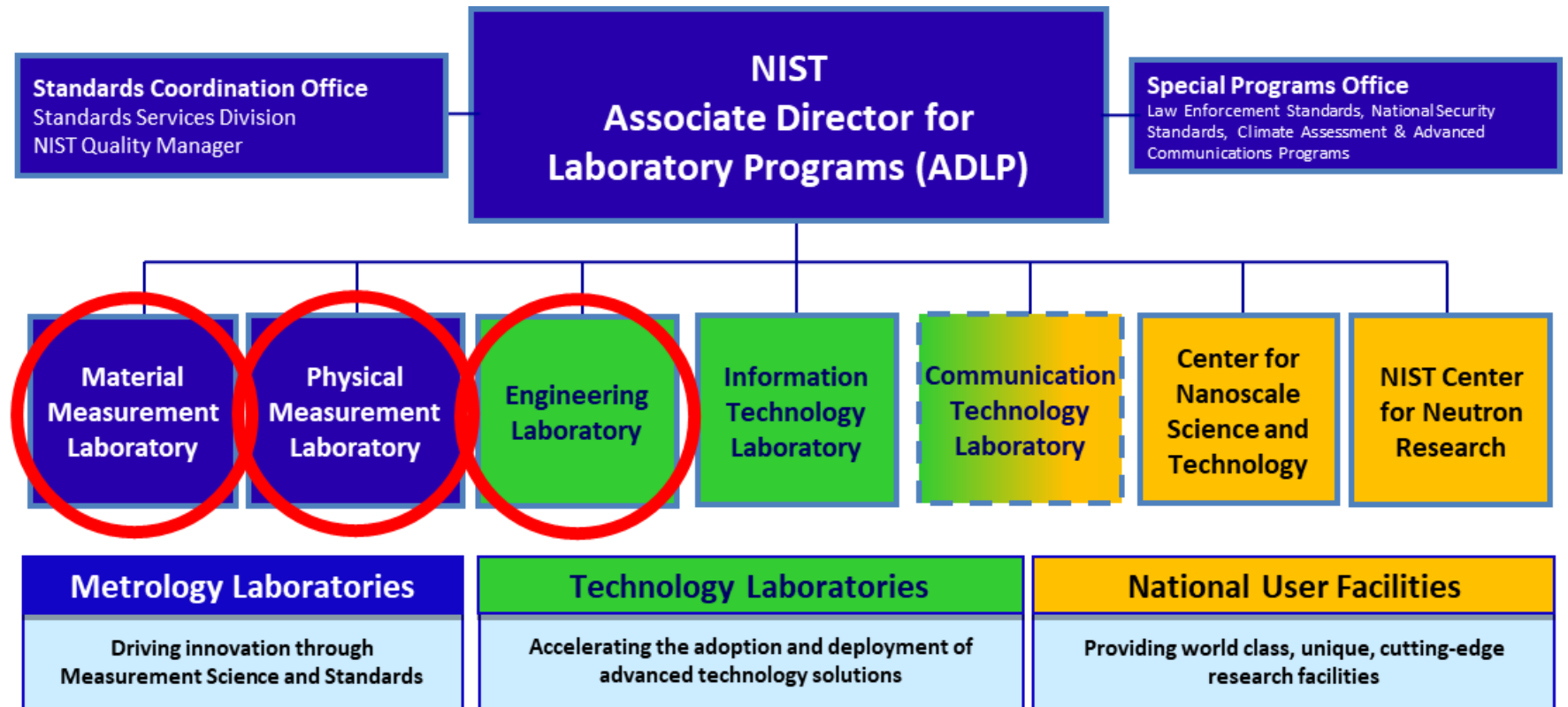


Introduction

- NIST is a national laboratory within the US Department of Commerce
- **MISSION:** To promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

**7 Laboratories
make up NIST
– ALL are
active in AM**

**3 Laboratories
with funded
projects in AM**



Additive Manufacturing Fatigue and Fracture Project Summary

Problem Statement

- Metal additive manufacturing (AM) is not used in fatigue and fracture critical applications despite industrial need

Goal

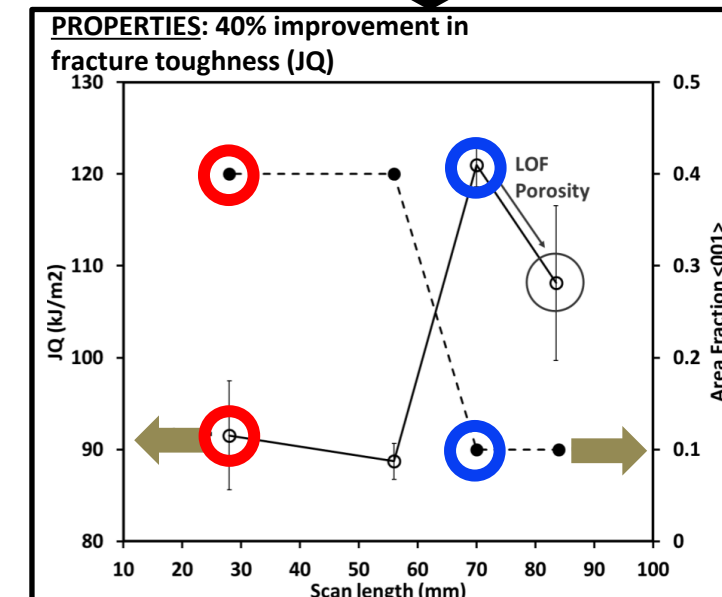
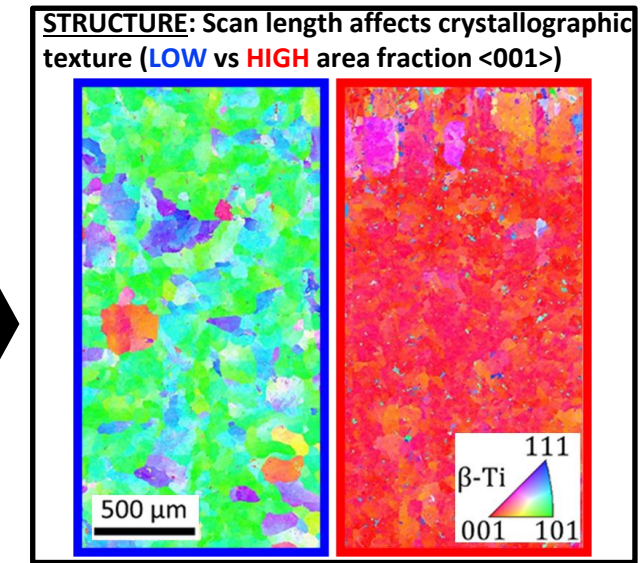
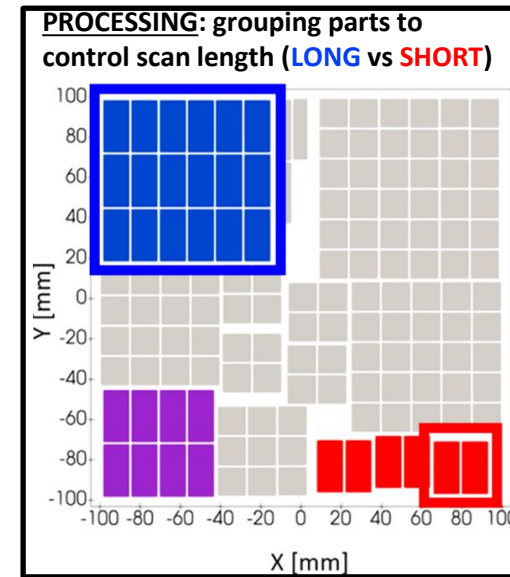
- Enable confident use of metal AM in critical applications through reducing material variability, improving performance, reducing qualification cost, developing appropriate part inspection techniques, and developing necessary standards

Methodology

- Develop/advance metrological practice for AM-specific performance metrics encompassing the full processing-structure-properties-performance spectrum and the full AM lifecycle
- Develop process and post-process control methods to reduce material variability and improve performance
- Develop new non-destructive evaluation (NDE) techniques that are fast, inexpensive, precise, and capable of inspecting larger parts with complex geometries common in AM
- Develop a rapid qualification framework based on digital twin to reduce cost and time to production
- Develop consensus AM standards with key stakeholders and various standards development organizations

Key Findings and Significance

- Organized workshop that has grown into ASTM International Conference on Advanced Manufacturing, with more than 1,000 annual attendees
- Created NIST Metal AM Powder Consortium, with 11 members as of 2024
- Developed new post-process powder recovery blasting control technique for AM titanium that led to 30x improvement in fatigue lifetime and first-time use in the most critical medical device application (Collaborator: Stryker)
- Developed new process powder reuse quarantining method for AM titanium that led to 15% lower chemistry heterogeneity and part-to-part strength variability and standard ASTM F3592 (Collaborators: UTEP, Sandia)
- **Developed new process-based technique to control crystallographic texture for AM titanium, leading to 40% improvement in fracture toughness and standard ISO/ASTM 52911-3 (Collaborator: AFRL)**
- Developed new post-process heat treatment for AM titanium leading to 100x improvement in fatigue lifetime and revision of standard AMS 7028 (Collaborators: Lynntech, Quintus, 3D Systems)
- Developed new post-process heat treatment for AM Inconel 718 leading to 65% reduction in heat treatment time and 10x improvement in fatigue lifetime (Collaborators: SLM Solutions, Quintus, Sandia)
- Developed a resonant acoustic technique for rapid, inexpensive NDE of AM aluminum, stainless steel, and cobalt-chrome-molybdenum parts (Collaborators: Elementum 3D, Colorado State)



Motivation

- Confident use of metal additive manufacturing (AM) in critical applications is still lacking [1]
- NIST/ASTM workshop [2] identified one of the greatest needs
 - Deeper understanding of processing-structure-properties relationships focusing on fatigue and fracture behavior

[2] Hrabec, N. et al. NIST Advanced Manufacturing Series 100-4. (2016)



NIST Advanced Manufacturing Series 100-4

Findings from the NIST/ASTM Workshop on Mechanical Behavior of Additive Manufacturing Components

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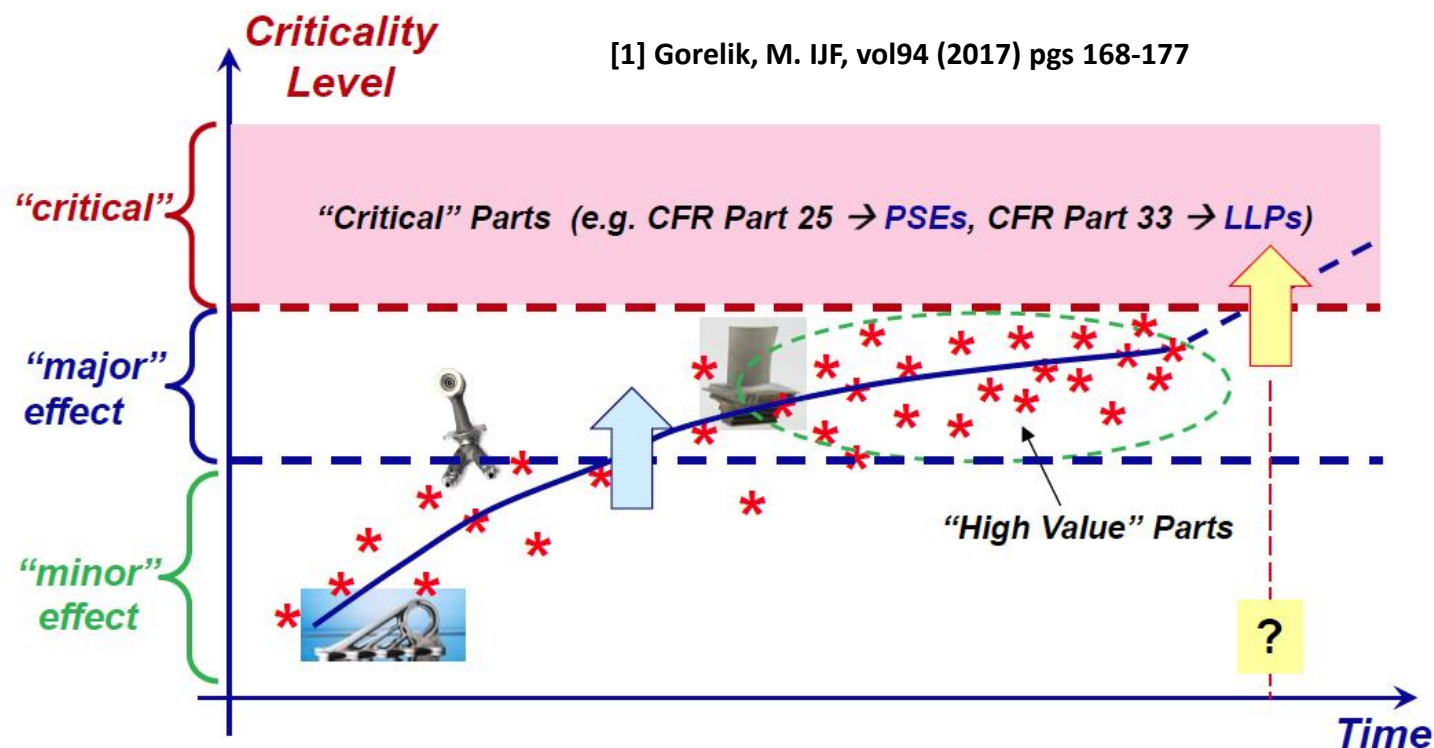
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This publication is available free of charge from:
<https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.AMS.100-4>



[1] Gorelik, M. IJF, vol94 (2017) pgs 168-177

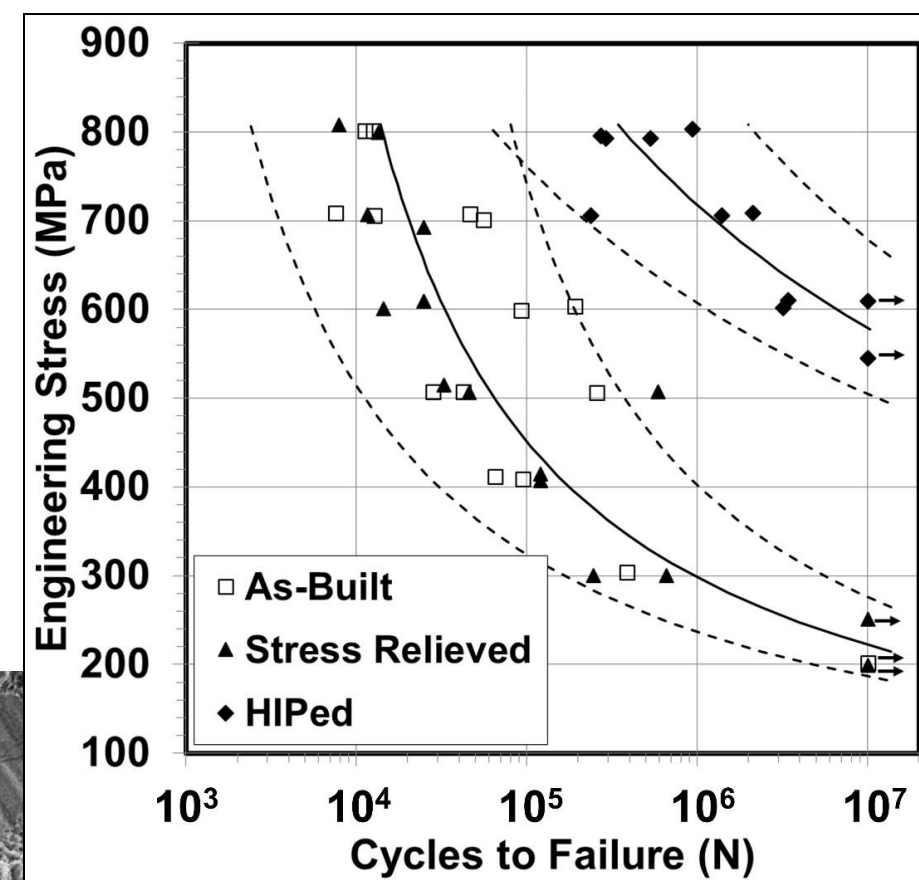
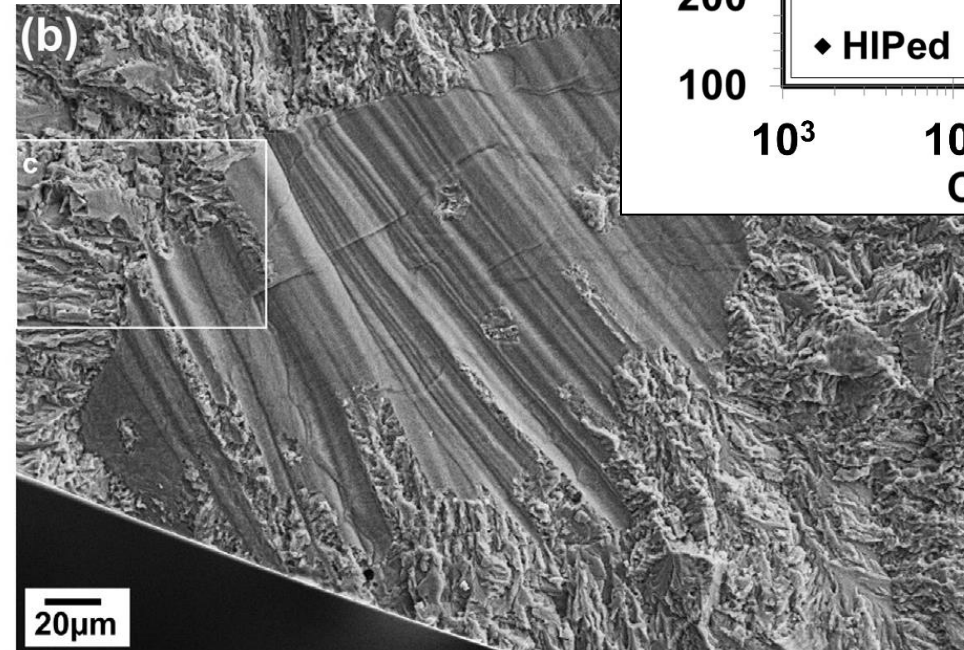
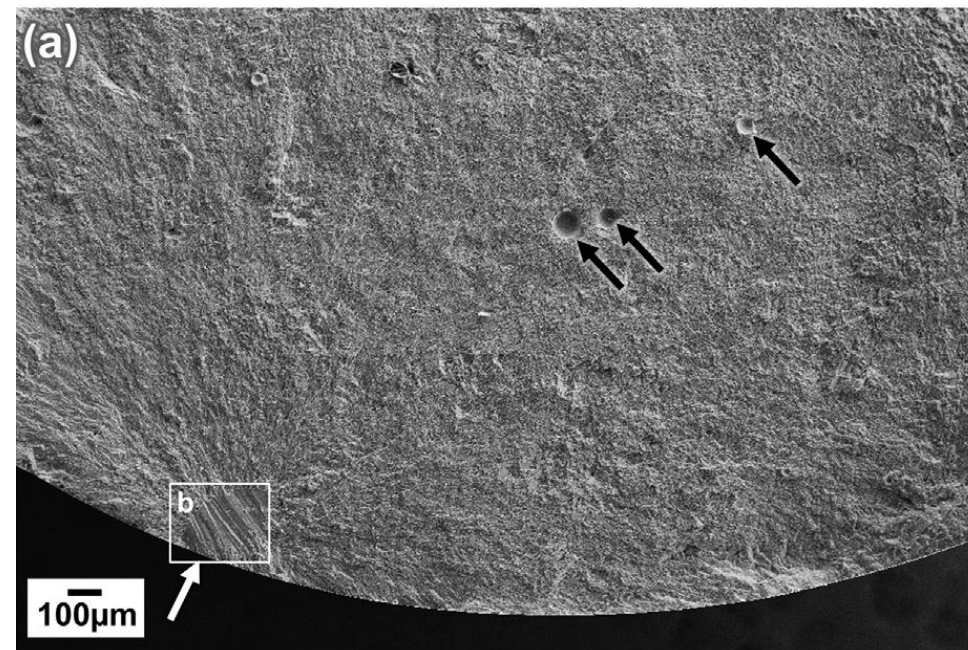


Outline

- Effect of internal defects (porosity)
- Effect of surface defects (surface roughness)
- Effect of microstructure
- Effect of chemistry
- Role of non-destructive evaluation (NDE)
- Role of qualification
- Role of standardization

Effect of internal defects (porosity)

- PBF-EB Ti-6Al-4V, axial HCF, R = 0.1
- Pores cause fatigue crack initiation and lower fatigue lifetime
- Hot isostatic pressing (HIP) closes internal pores and improves fatigue lifetime



Effect of internal defects (porosity)

- **NIST-BAM Workshop** to discuss suitability of probabilistic damage tolerance techniques (e.g. Kitagawa-Takahashi) to predict fatigue performance
- Review paper resultant from workshop

Progress in Materials Science 121 (2021) 100786

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Progress in Materials Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/pmatsci



Damage tolerant design of additively manufactured metallic components subjected to cyclic loading: State of the art and challenges

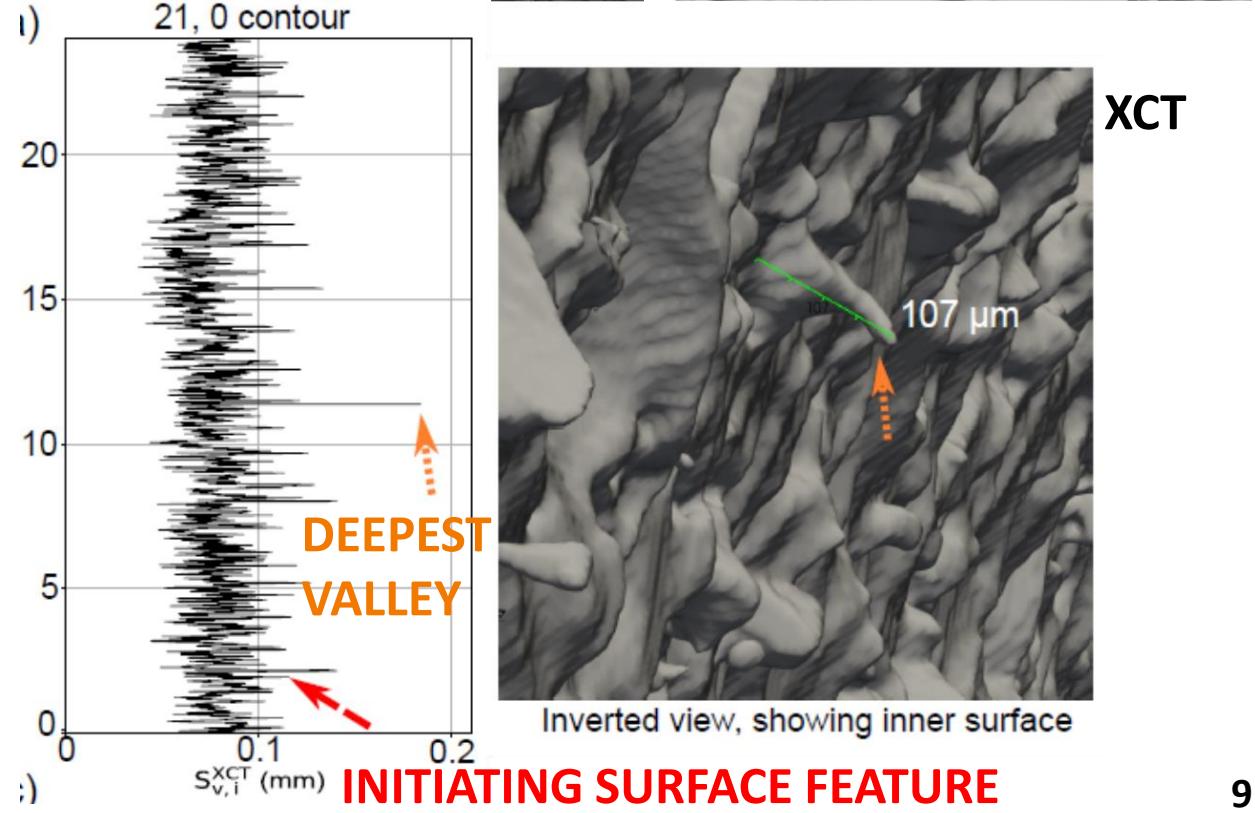
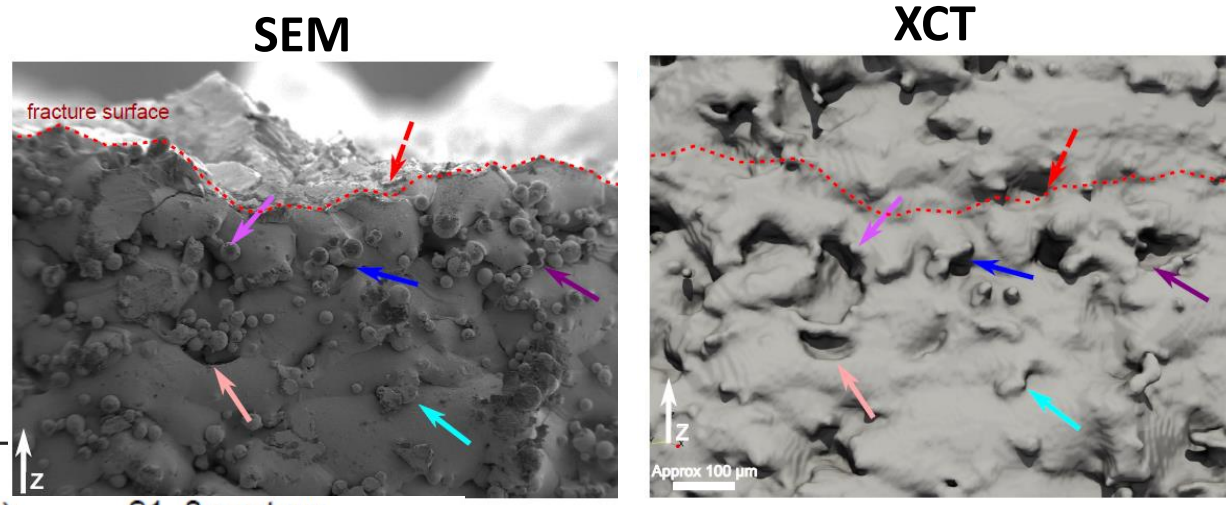
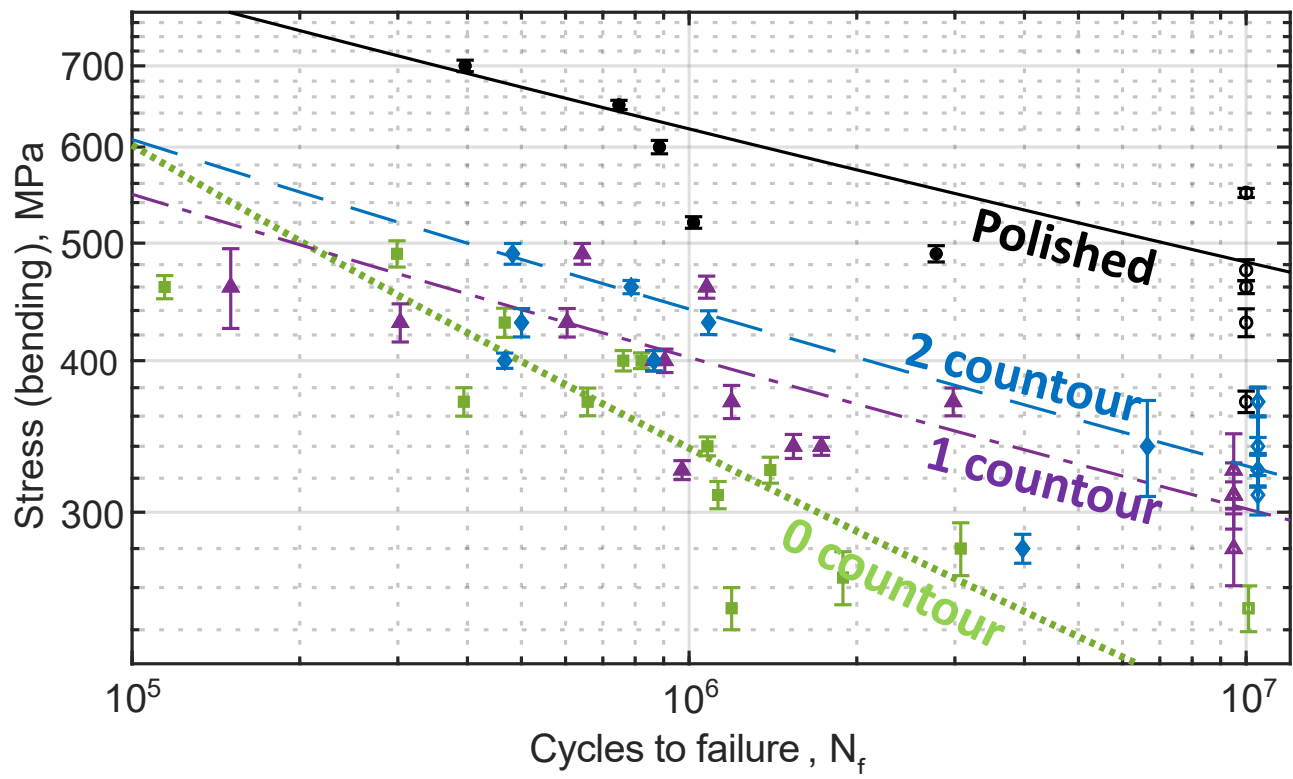
Uwe Zerbst^{a,*}, Giovanni Bruno^{a,*}, Jean-Yves Buffière^b, Thomas Wegener^c, Thomas Niendorf^c, Tao Wu^c, Xiang Zhang^d, Nikolai Kashaev^e, Giovanni Meneghetti^f, Nik Hrabe^g, Mauro Madia^a, Tiago Werner^a, Kai Hilgenberg^a, Martina Koukolíková^h, Radek Procházka^h, Jan Džugan^h, Benjamin Möllerⁱ, Stefano Beretta^j, Alexander Evans^a, Rainer Wagenerⁱ, Kai Schnabelⁱ

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Zerbst (2021) Prog. Mat. Sci., 121, 100786

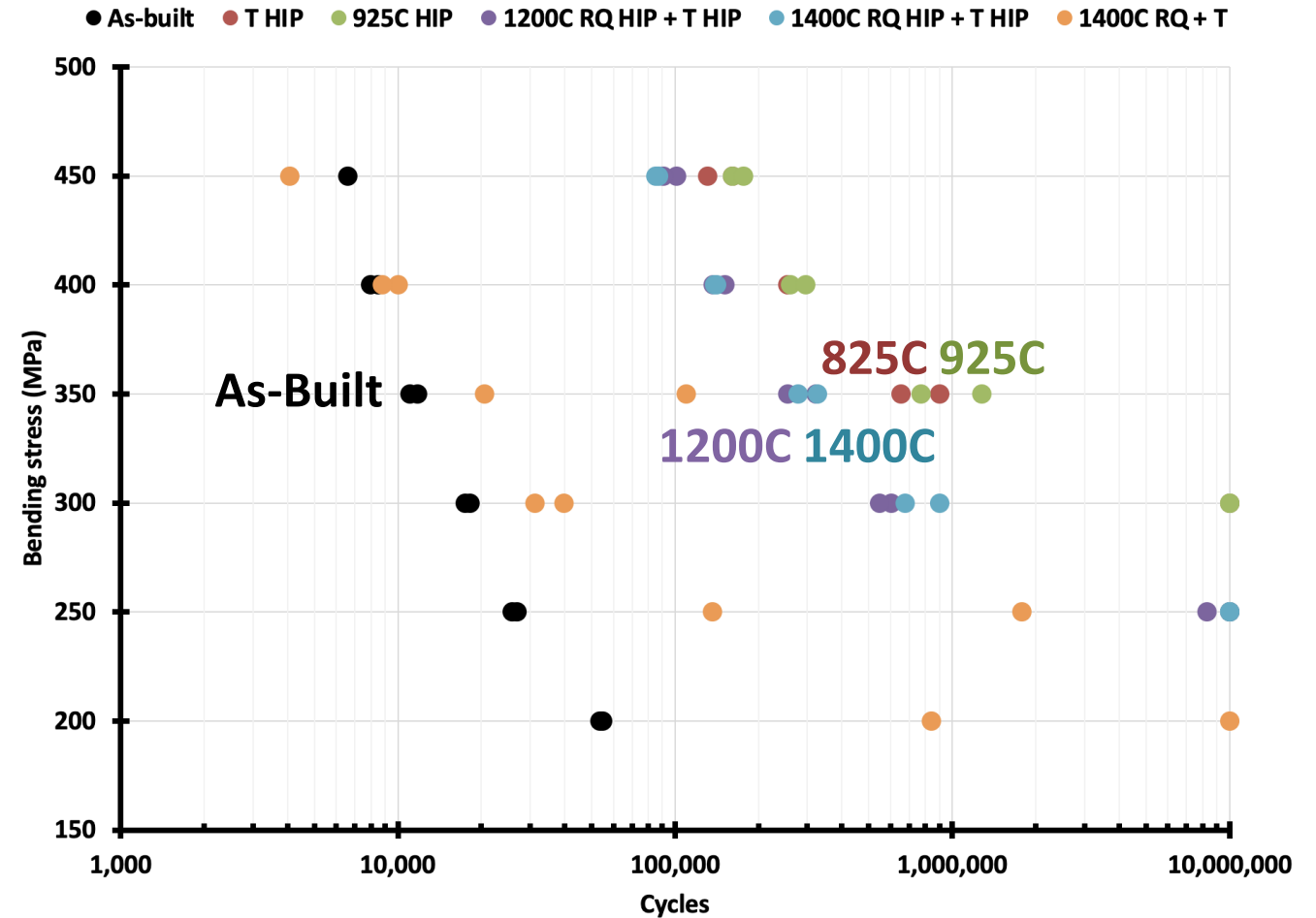
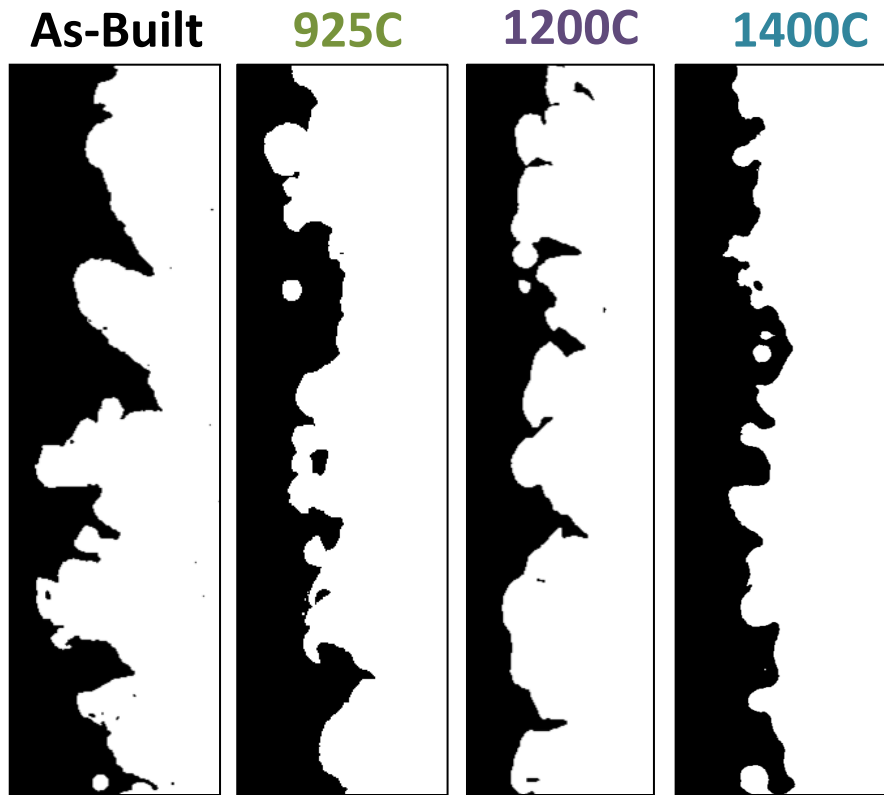
Effect of surface defects (surface roughness)

- PBF-L Inconel 718, rotating bending fatigue (RBF), $R = -1$
- In general, fatigue lifetime improves with reduced surface roughness
- Deepest valley does not always cause crack initiation (microstructure influence?)



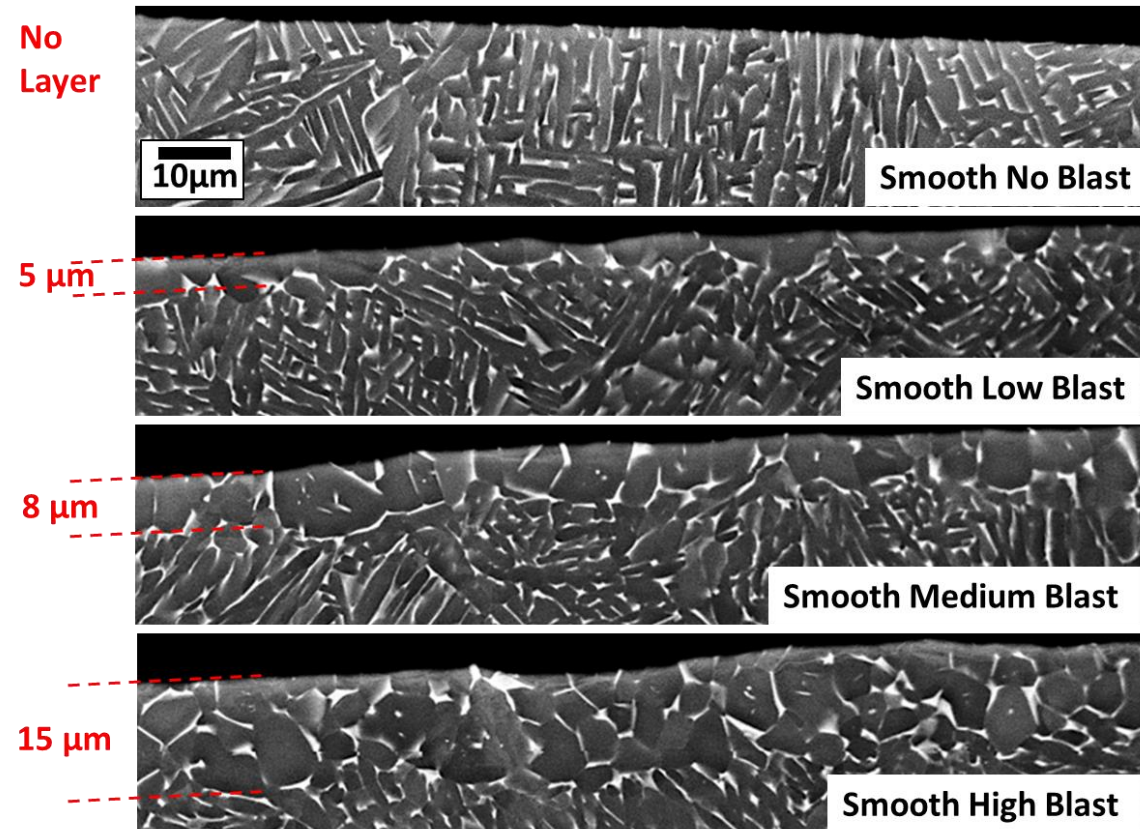
Effect of surface defects (surface roughness)

- PBF-L Ti-6Al-4V, RBF, R = -1
- Higher temperature HIP to reduce surface roughness and improve fatigue lifetime



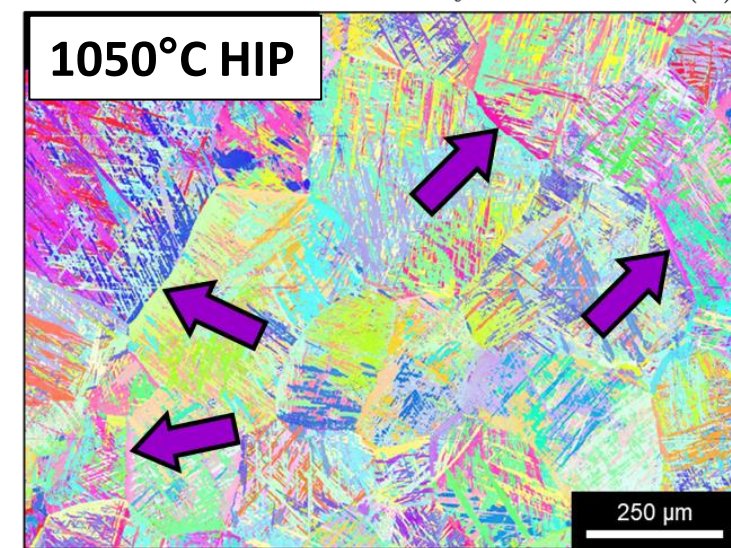
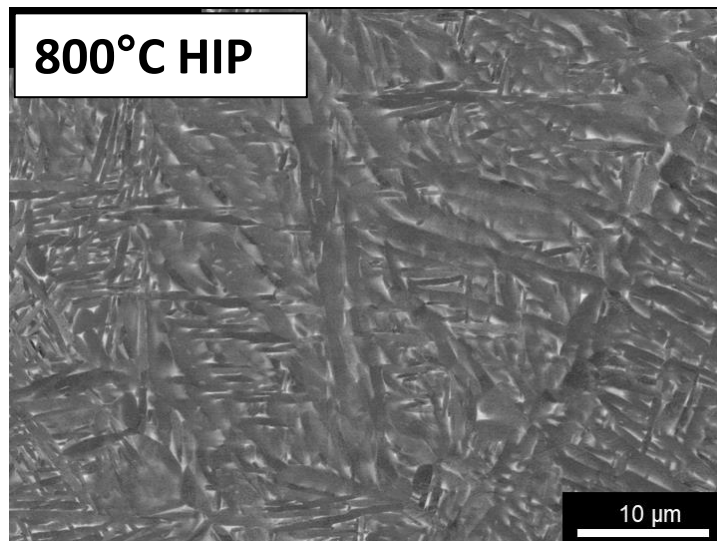
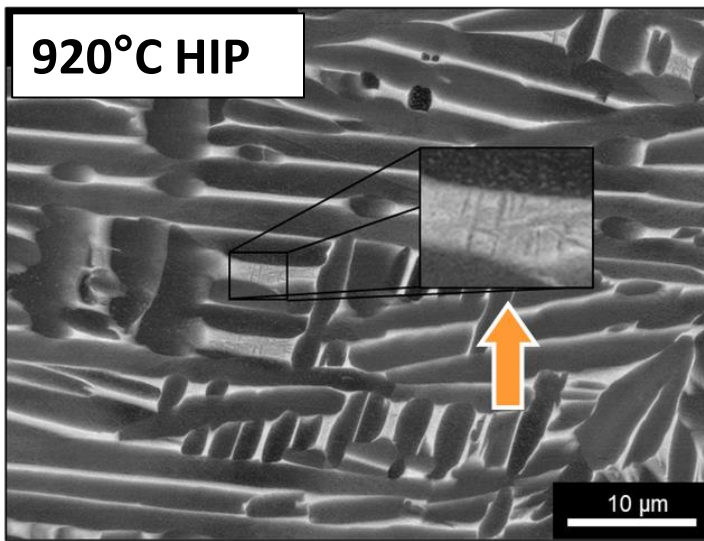
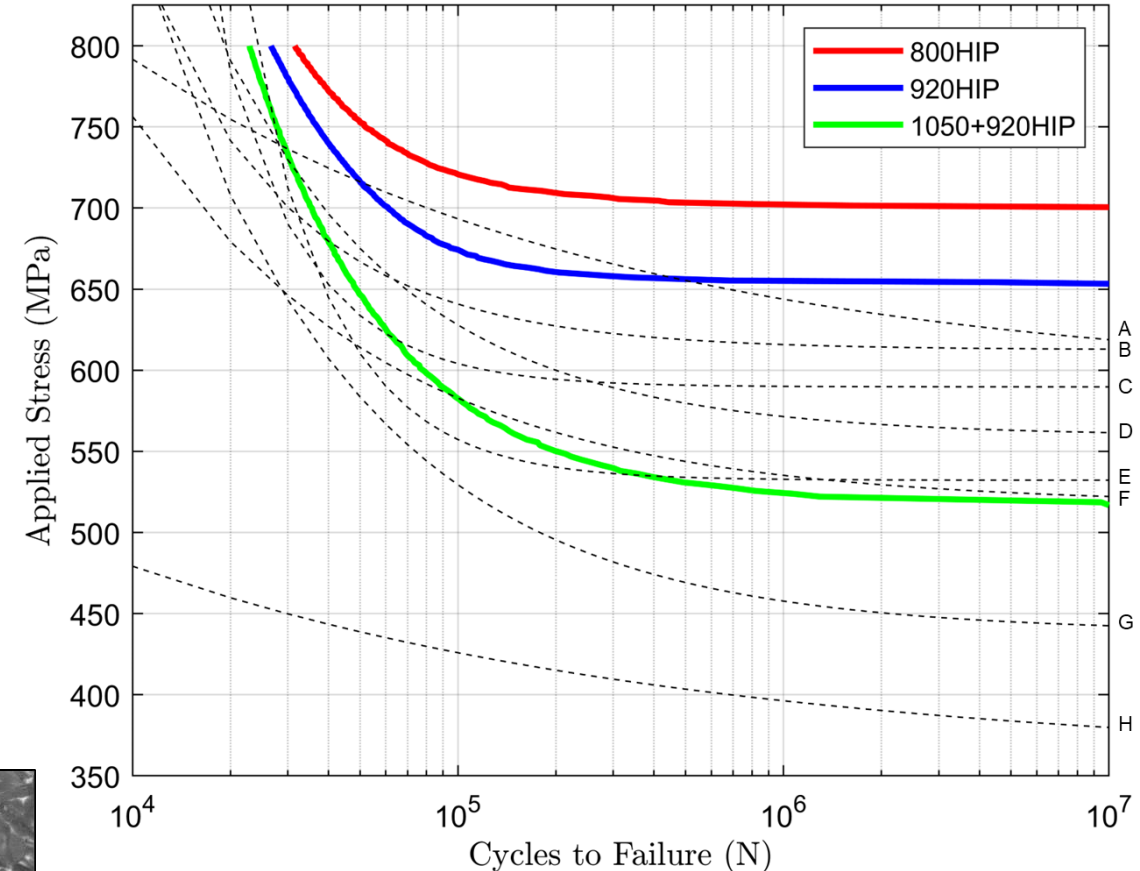
Effect of surface defects (surface roughness)

- PBF-EB Ti-6Al-4V, RBF, R = -1
- Controlled powder removal blasting intensity (working distance) to control depth of surface microstructure change (globular, equiaxed) and surface roughness, resulting in significant fatigue strength improvement (**10%**)



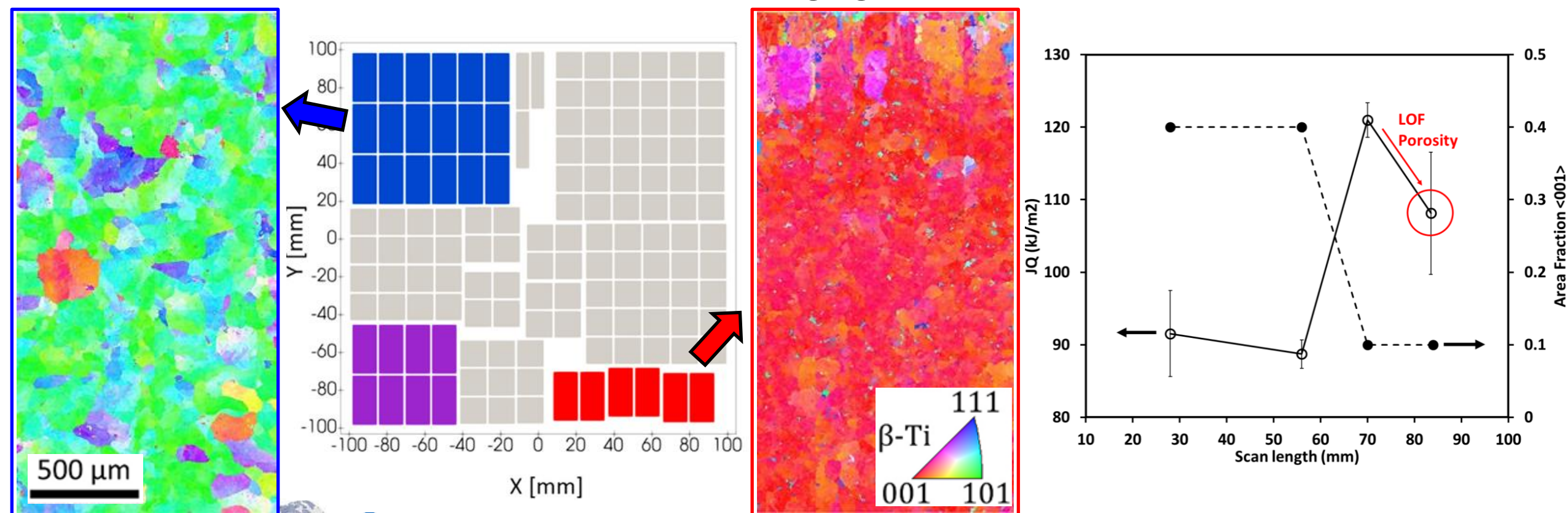
Effect of microstructure

- PBF-L Ti-6Al-4V, RBF, R = -1
- Fatigue behavior of novel HIP treatments
 - 800°C > 920°C due to finer α lath thickness
 - 920°C > literature due to **tertiary α** (100°C/min cooling rate)
 - 1050°C < 920°C due to **grain boundary α** (2000°C/min cooling rate)
- Contributed to AMS 7028 revision currently being balloted



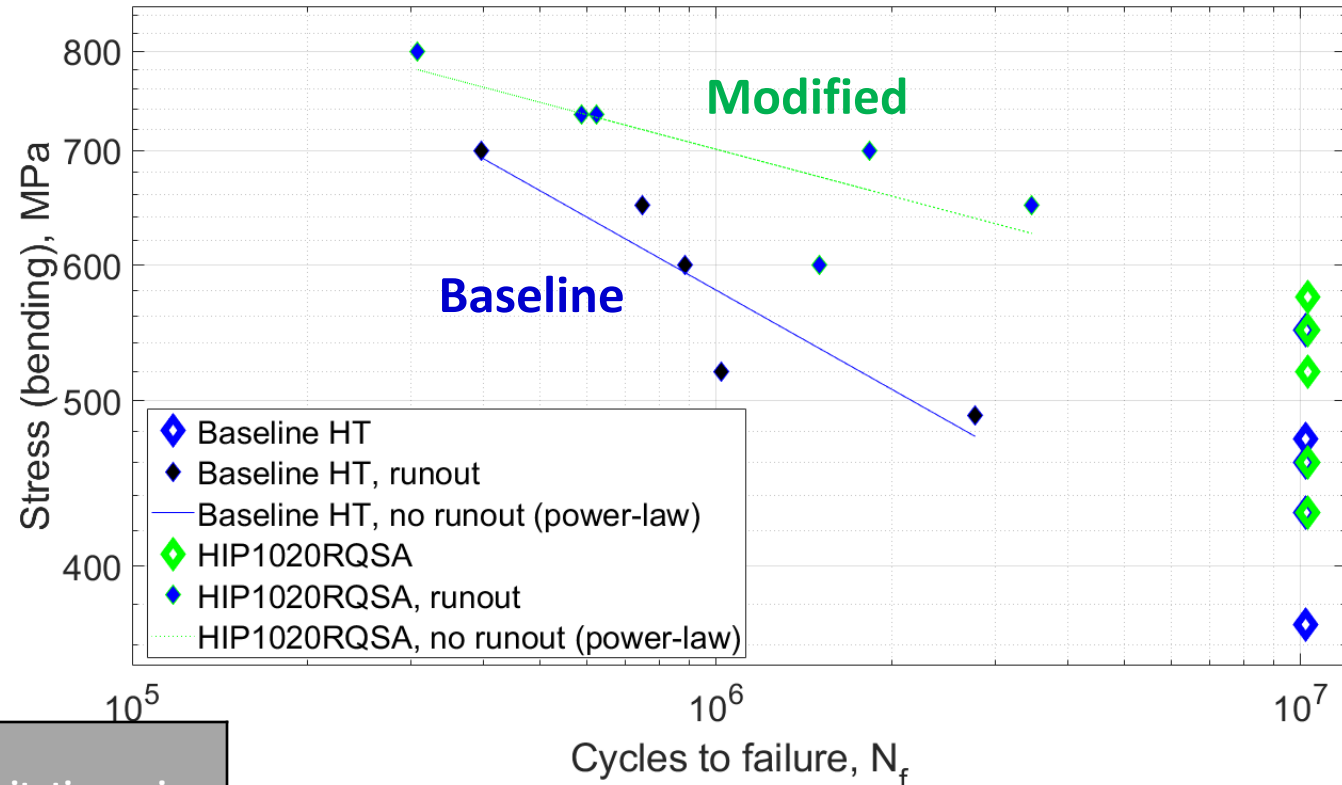
Effect of microstructure

- Discovered texture variation in PBF-EB Ti-6Al-4V due to small changes in build layout (scan length) leading to 10% change in YS and **40% change in fracture toughness**
- Developed processing (scan length control) and post-processing (super- β HIP to reset texture) mitigation strategies
- Contributed to ISO/ASTM 52911-3 PBF-EB design guide

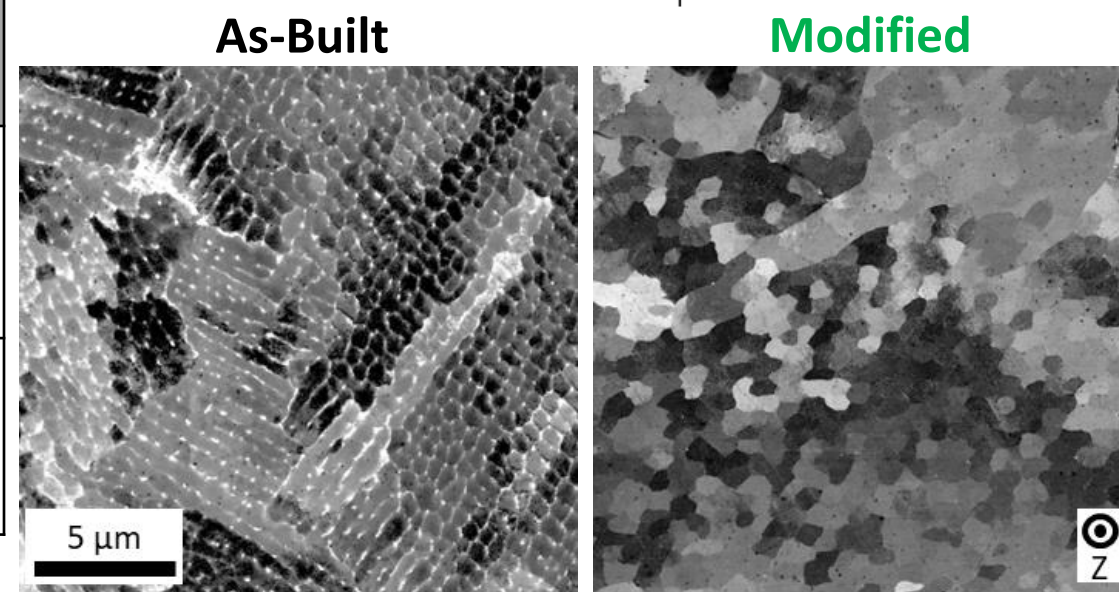


Effect of microstructure

- Modified HIP for PBF-L Inconel 718
- Reduced heat treatment time (42h→15h) and steps (5→2)
- Lower temperature HIP (1020°C) and combining 3 Baseline steps: stress relief, HIP, and solutionizing
 - Retain as-built sub-grain structure (no/partial recrystallization)
 - No δ , reduced Laves phases
 - Successful pore closure
- Single step aging still achieves desired γ' and γ'' precipitates

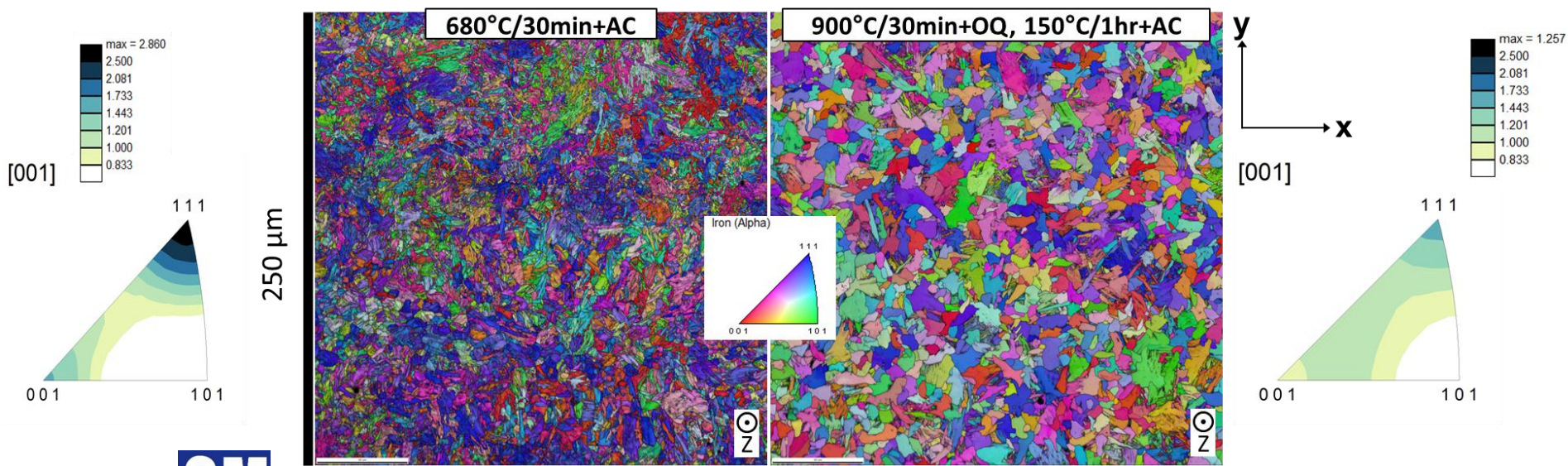
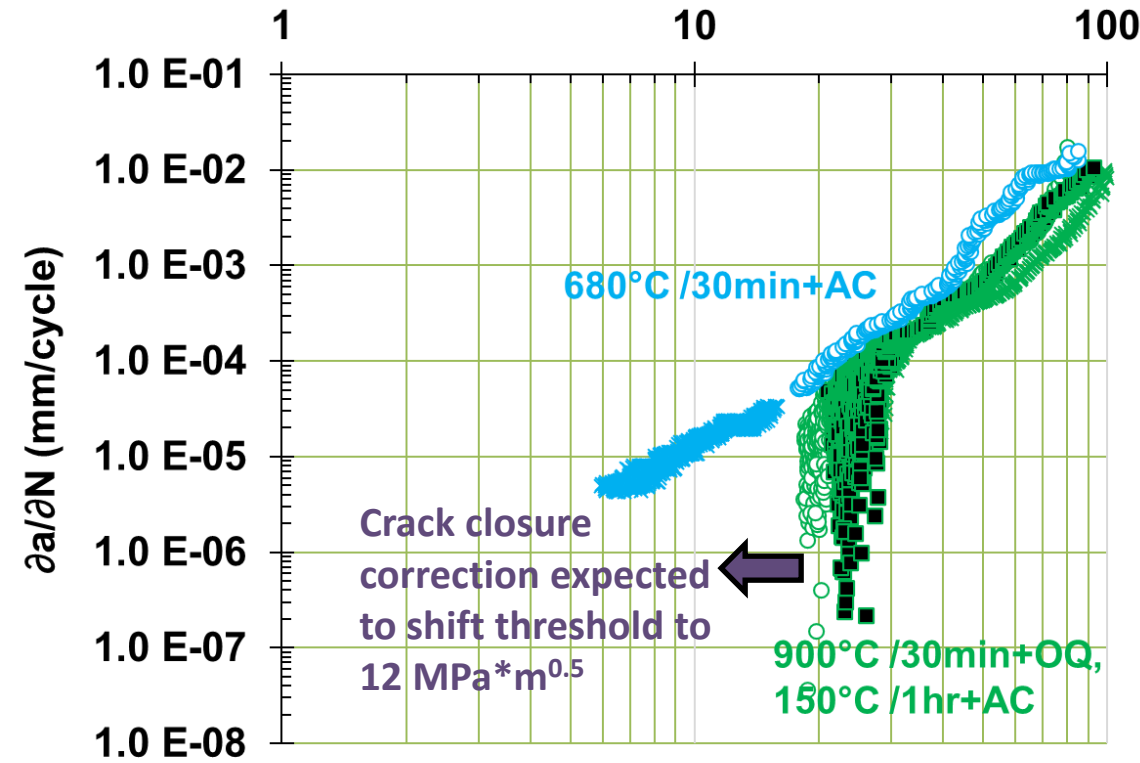


HIP-HT variant	Stress relief (furnace)	Seal porosity (HIP)	Solution (HIP or furnace)	Precipitation aging (furnace)
Baseline (AMS 2774)	1065 °C, 1.5 h, AC	1150 °C, 4 h, 100 MPa, FC	Vacuum furnace: 1066 °C, 1 h, quench to 95 °C, AC to RT	2-STEP AGING 718 °C, 8 h, FC to 621 °C, hold for additional 10 h
Modified (V4)	-	1020 °C, 0.5 h, 200 MPa, cool to RT at 2,000 °C/min	-	1-STEP AGING 700 °C, 12 h, WQ



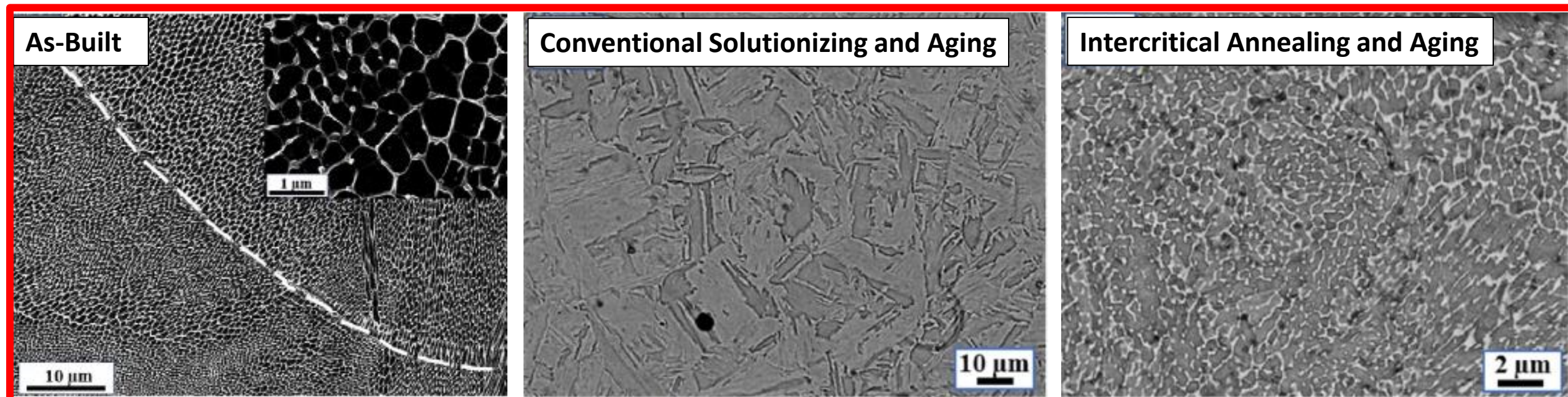
Effect of microstructure

- **Custom PBF-L automotive steel alloy**
 - Minimize alloy content (0.2C-0.8Mn-1Si wt%)
 - Quench and temper (Q&T) condition [900°C/30min+OQ, 150°C/1hr+AC]
 - Stress Relieved (SR) condition [680°C/30min+AC]
 - No HIP
 - Avoid δ -ferrite phase transformation
- **Q&T condition shows weaker texture and improved fatigue crack growth rate threshold behavior compared to SR condition**



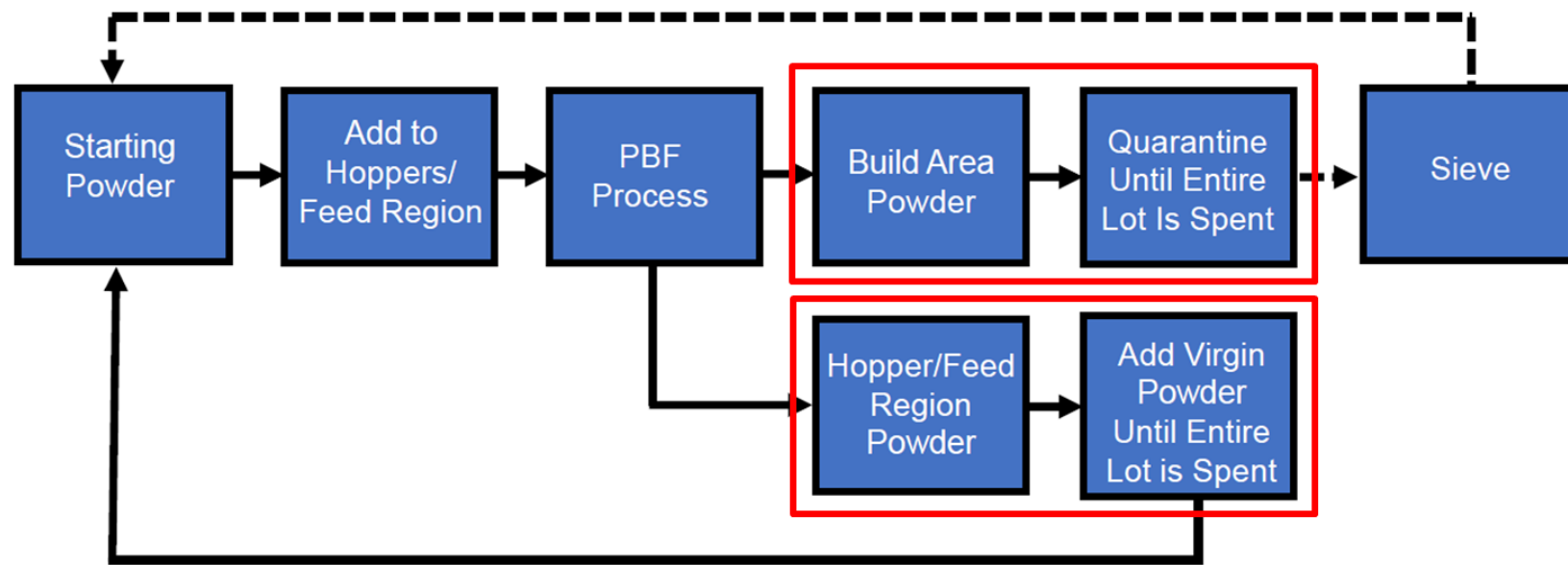
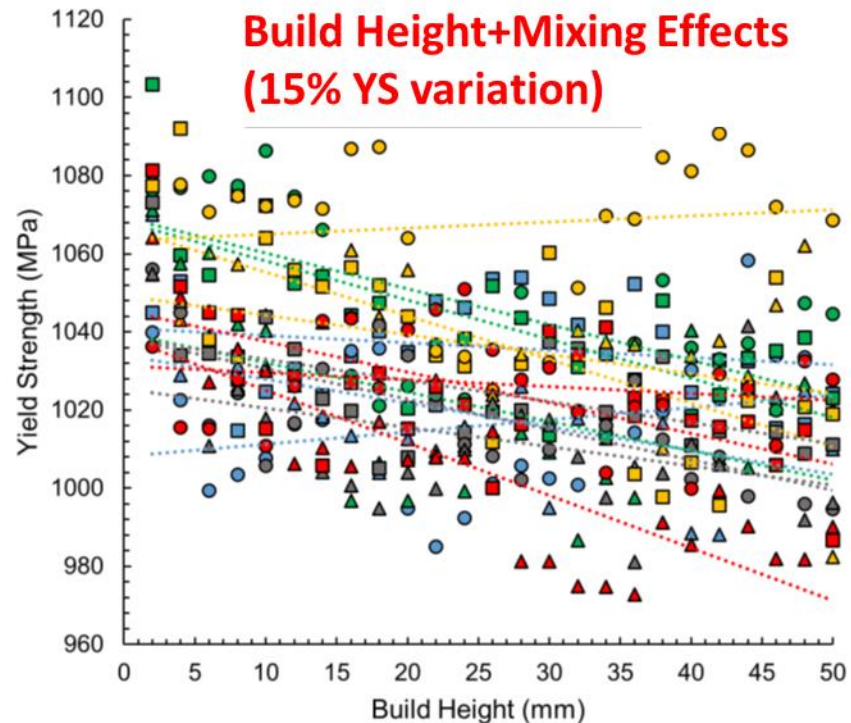
Effect of microstructure

- **M789 cobalt-free maraging steel**
 - Removal of critical mineral leads to 20% strength reduction
- AM rapid heating/cooling promotes nickel partitioning to form metastable austenite (γ) with potential for transformation induced plasticity (TRIP) and improved strength
- Optimize processing and post-process heat treatment to maximize γ
 - Previously demonstrated for **cobalt-containing 18Ni-300 AM maraging steel**
- Mechanical testing at cryogenic (4°K liquid helium) temperatures, and in pressurized hydrogen



Effect of chemistry

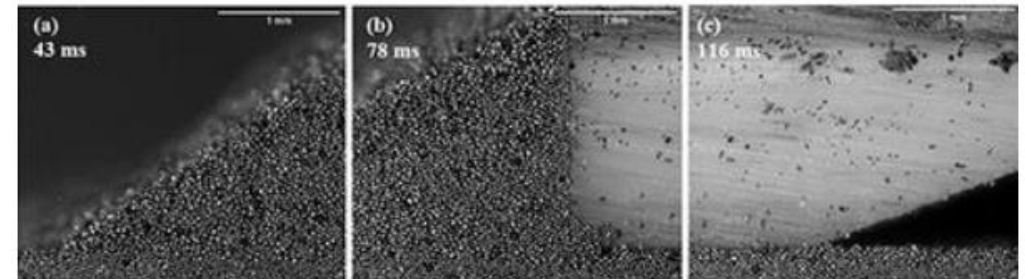
- Discovered significant chemistry and intra-build strength variation (**15% YS variation**) for PBF-EB Ti-6Al-4V due to current industrial powder reuse (i.e. mixing of powder with different oxygen content)
- Developed mitigation strategy (i.e. **powder quarantining**)
- Contributed to ASTM F3592 guide for PBF powder reuse



NIST Metal AM Powder Consortium (MAMP)

- MAMP brings together stakeholders to develop deeper understanding of AM metal powder characteristics, metrics, and measurement techniques, and how they affect various AM processes and resultant materials and components
- Current Challenges
 - Incomplete understanding of powder characteristics, metrics, measurement techniques, and their effect on process, material, and component performance
 - Lack of **prescriptive** standards for effective powder use, re-use, and measurement techniques
 - Inconsistent or undefined repeatability or reproducibility of various powder metrics
 - Lack of common protocols for powder measurement techniques across different equipment manufacturers

NIST Powder Spreading Testbed (PST)

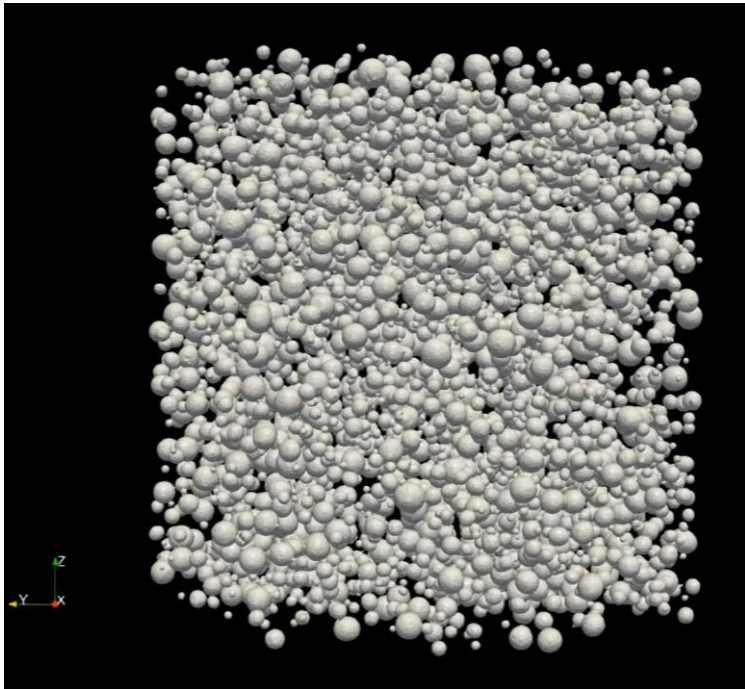


Timelapse Results from PST

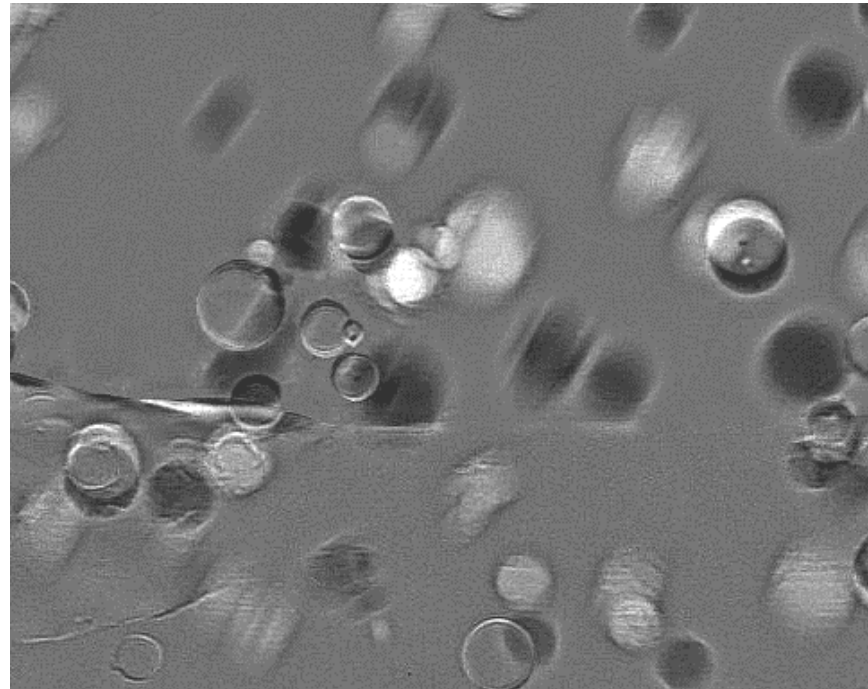


Role of non-destructive evaluation (NDE)

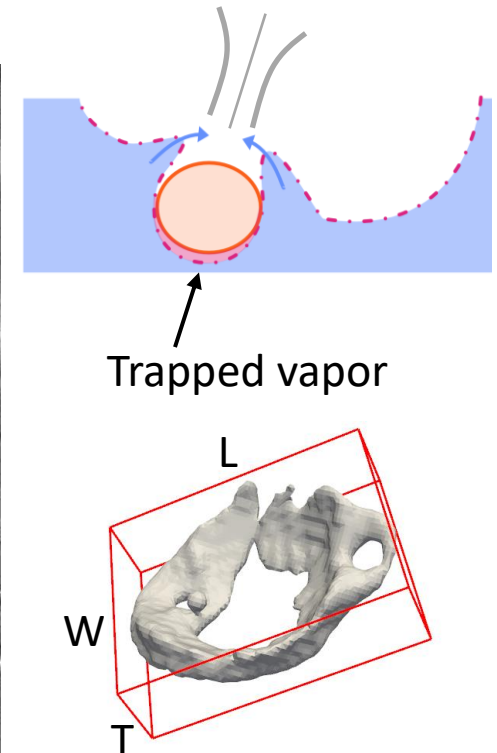
- Developed an (open source) Python library for X-ray CT data processing, called IMPPY3D
- Enables:
 - Dimensional & shape measurements of internal & external defects & features
 - 3D rendering visualization



Garboczi (2020) Add. Manuf., vol 31, 100965

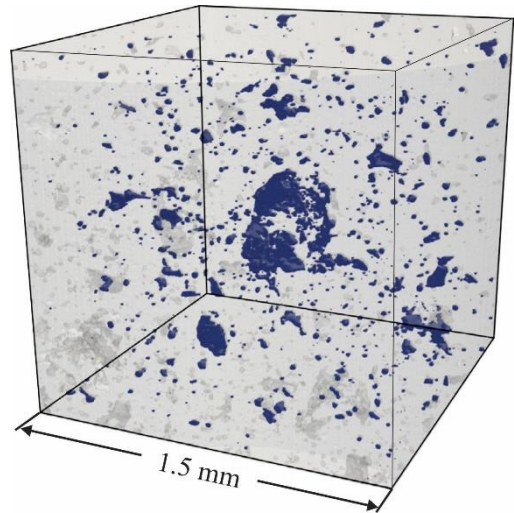


Webster (2023) PNAS Nexus, vol 2, issue 6

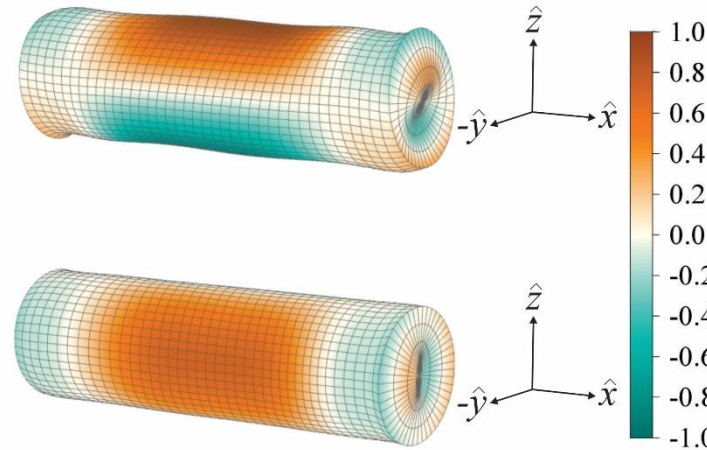


Role of non-destructive evaluation (NDE)

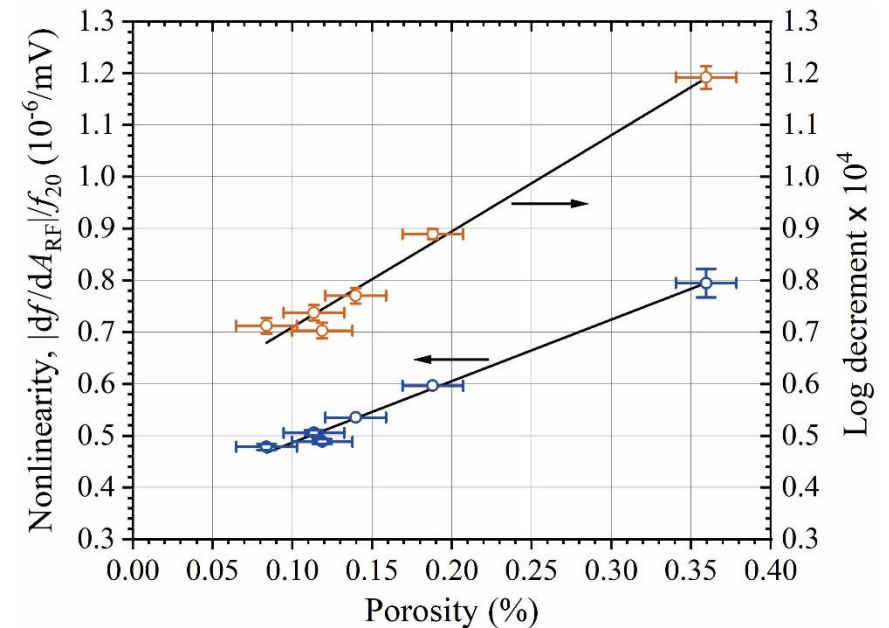
- Developed an innovative acoustic-resonance technique that is sensitive to variations in porosity in AM metals at industrially relevant levels.
- This technique offers a unique set of advantages for industrial post-process AM part inspection, including speed, high precision, low cost, and applicability to complex geometries.



Xray-CT image of pores in AM Al with non-optimal build parameters

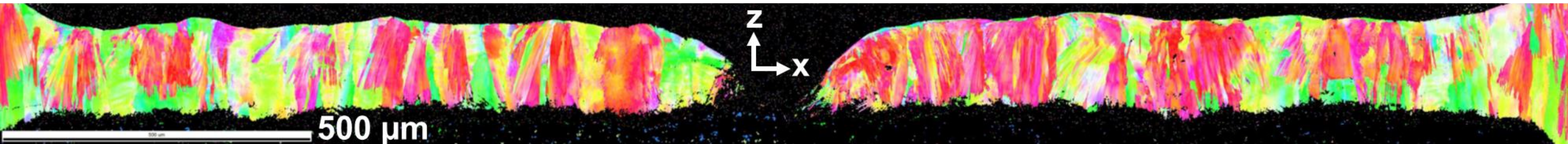
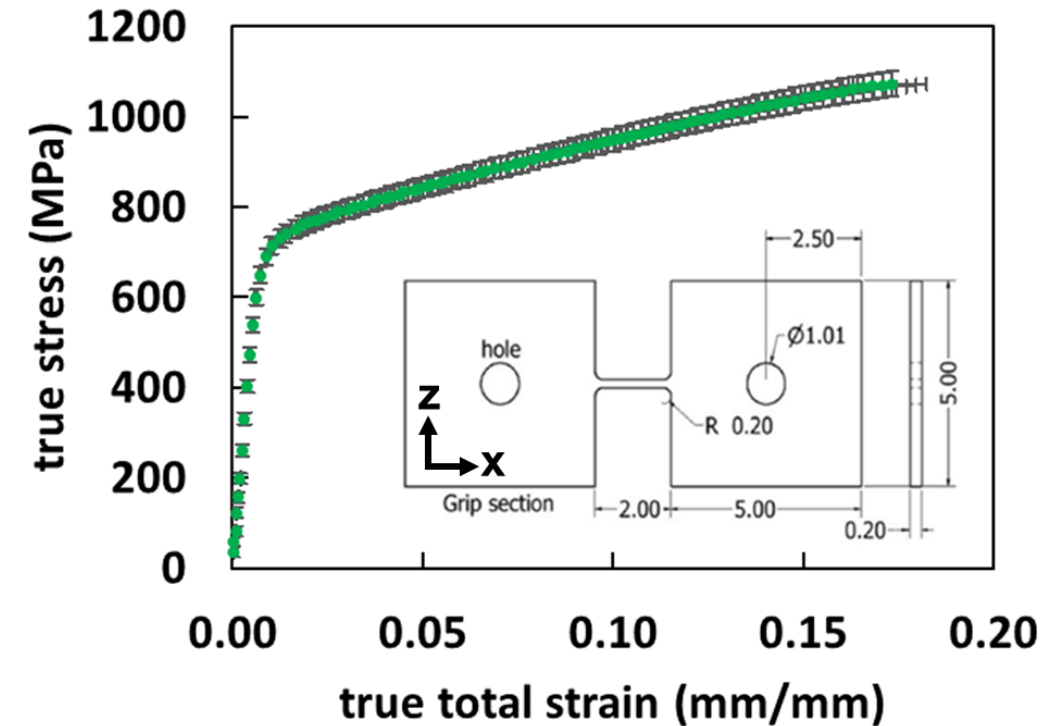


Vibrational displacement patterns of resonant modes near 670 kHz in AM Al cylinders.



Role of qualification

- **“Adoption is limited by qualification”**
 - Quote from 2024 NASEM Workshop on Statistical and Data-Driven Methods for AM
- **Can computational techniques enable rapid qualification?**
 - NASA/FAA/NIST Computational Materials for Qualification and Certification (CM4QC)
 - NIST AM Bench - experimentally supports computational technique development for AM



Role of standardization

- Documentary standards development requires volunteer experts
 - Many standards development organizations (SDOs) have AM committees/activities
 - Examples: ASTM+ISO, SAE, AWS
- America Makes and ANSI Additive Manufacturing Standardization Collaborative (AMSC)
 - Standardization Roadmap for AM



Opportunities at NIST

- **Undergraduate Students**
 - NIST Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), <https://www.nist.gov/surf>
- **Graduate Students**
 - Email me to discuss collaboration ideas
 - Guest Researcher status at NIST is possible
- **Postdoctoral**
 - NRC Research Associateship Program (RAP), <https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/RAP/index.htm>
 - 2yr postdoc with competitive pay (institutions other than NIST available)
 - 10pg proposal developed with potential advisor is main component of application
 - 2 application deadlines: Feb 1 (start date range July-December), Aug 1 (start date range January-June)

**Project Website,
FREE Publications**



**QUESTIONS:
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