

# Evolution of the microstructural surface characteristics during annealing

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Recrystallization and Grain Growth - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010

# Outline

## Introduction

Electrical Steel  
Surface Annealing Treatment

## Experimental Procedure

Sample preparation

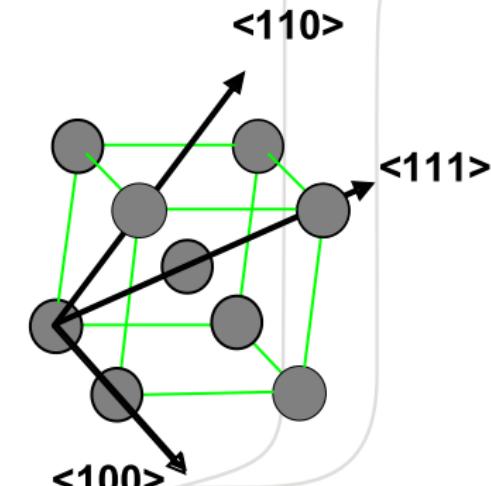
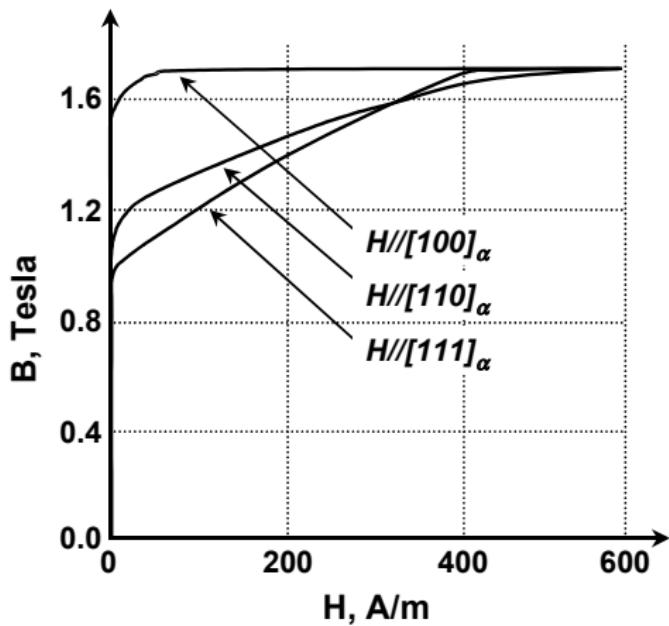
## Discussion

Texture Analysis  
Grain Morphology Analysis  
Grain Boundary Analysis  
Proposed Mechanism

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# Magnetic Anisotropy of bcc iron lattice

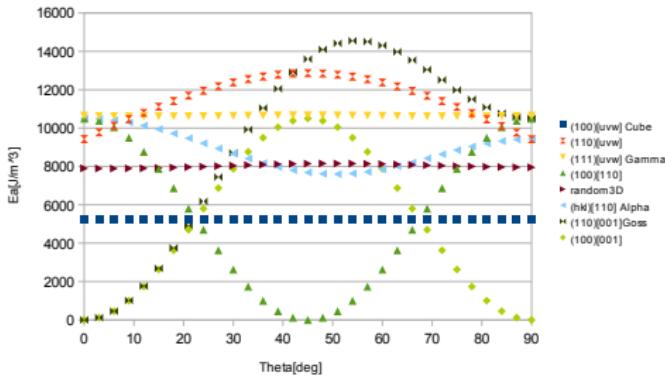


# Texture in electrical steel

Magnetic properties of electrical steels depend on crystallographic texture due the magnetic anisotropy of iron crystal.

$$E_A = K_1 (\alpha_1^2 \alpha_2^2 + \alpha_2^2 \alpha_3^2 + \alpha_1^2 \alpha_3^2)$$

for 1<sup>st</sup> order approximation



Surface Annealing Treatment

# Routes to obtain cube fibre

Still not possible to obtain the desired cube fibre in a industrial process, but several routes have been applied at lab scale:

- Cross-rolling
- Directional solidification
- Surface annealing treatment
- ...

## Surface Annealing Treatment

# Surface annealing treatment

- Hashimoto *et al.* investigated the  $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  phase transformation texture at the surface of an ultra low carbon cold rolled steel sheet and reported that a  $<100>$  // ND texture was formed rather than the usual  $<111>$  // ND texture.
- Aspeden *et al.* reported that an annealing treatment for an ultra low carbon steel in the austenitic temperature region followed by a slow cooling resulted in a stronger  $<100>/\text{ND}$  texture.
- In all of these works it was assumed that the resulting surface texture was produced due to the lowest metal/vapour interface energy in the  $\{001\}$  fibre.

# $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \alpha$ transformations

- $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \alpha$  seems to be need the in surface annealing treatment.
- Young-Kurdjumov-Sachs (YKS) is the most commonly cited orientation relationship model.
- $\{111\}_\gamma \parallel \{011\}_\alpha$  and  $[111]_\gamma \parallel [011]_\alpha \rightarrow 24 \times 90^\circ \langle 112 \rangle$
- In double transformation each component will result in 576 ( $24 \times 24$ ) product orientations.

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Sample preparation

# Chemical composition

- Ultra low carbon steel with additions of manganese and aluminium.

Sample Name	C [wt%]	Mn [wt%]	Si [wt%]	Al [wt%]
A	0.002	1.28	0.22	0.29

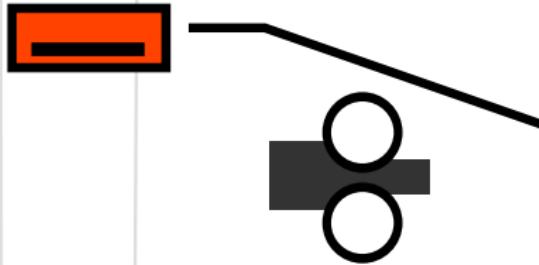
Sample preparation

# Pre-processing



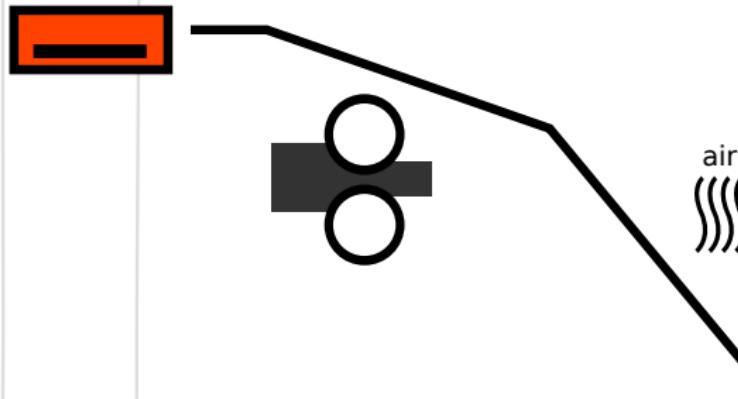
Sample preparation

# Pre-processing



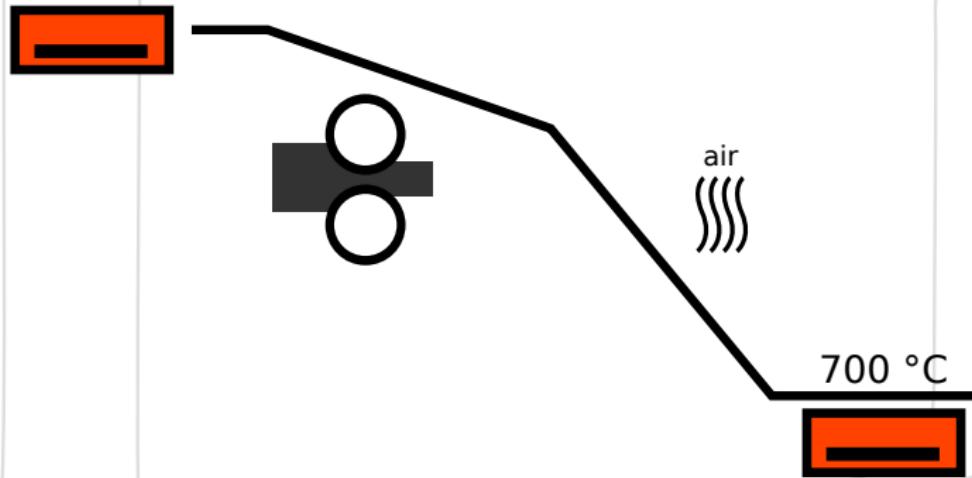
Sample preparation

# Pre-processing



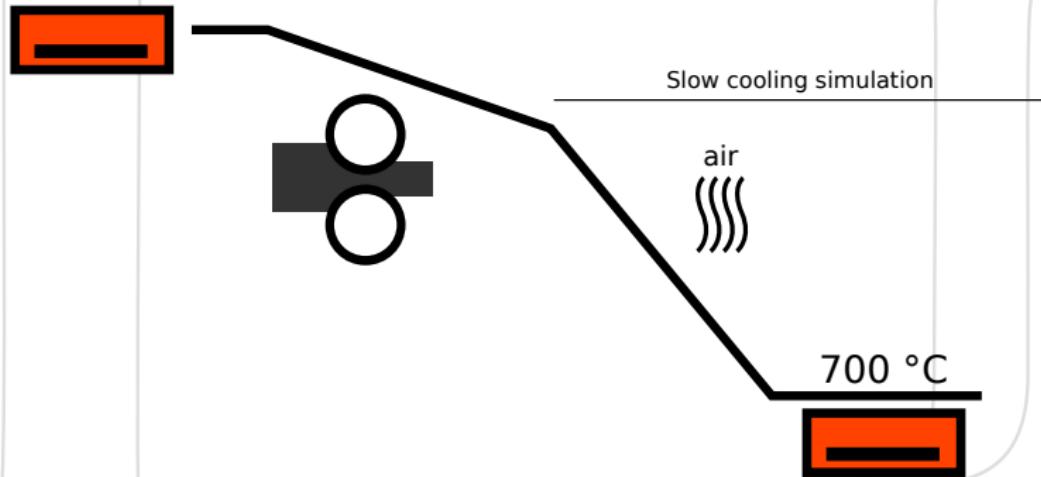
Sample preparation

# Pre-processing



Sample preparation

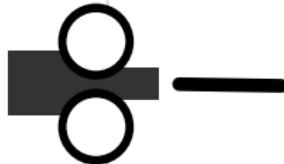
# Pre-processing



Sample preparation

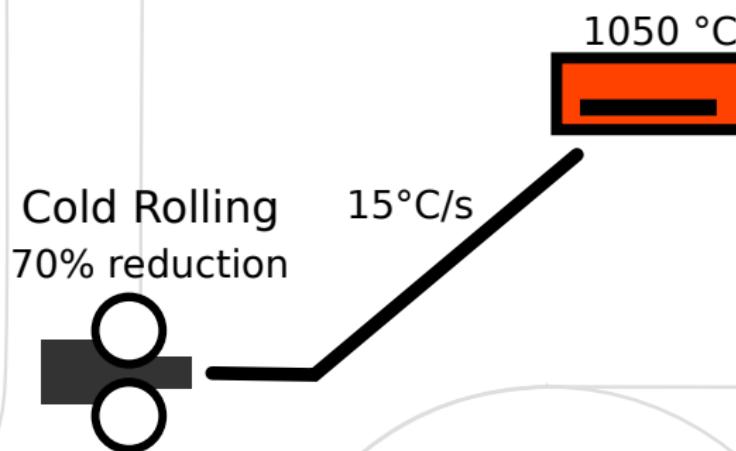
# Thermal treatment

Cold Rolling  
70% reduction



Sample preparation

# Thermal treatment



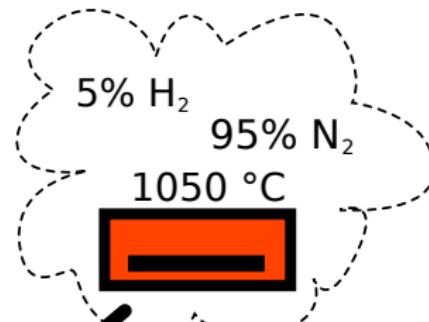
Sample preparation

# Thermal treatment

Cold Rolling  
70% reduction

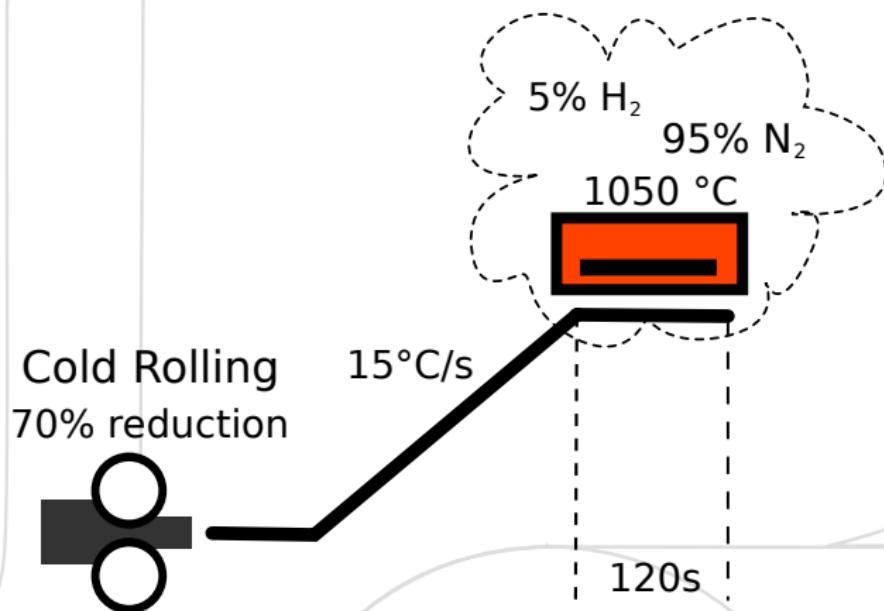


15°C/s



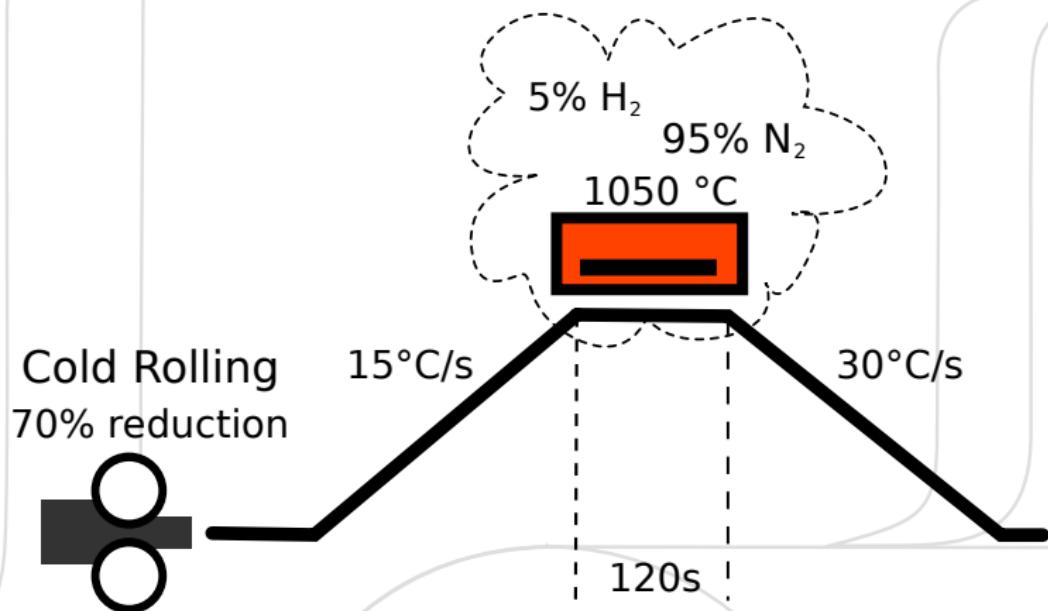
Sample preparation

# Thermal treatment



Sample preparation

# Thermal treatment



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Grain Boundary Analysis  
Proposed Mechanism

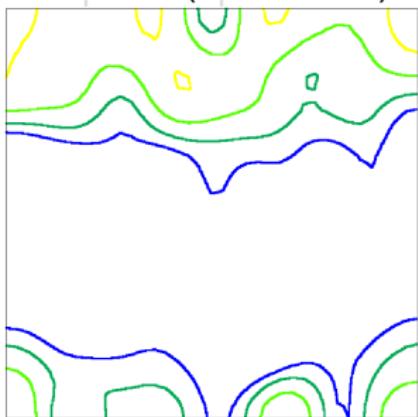
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## Texture Analysis

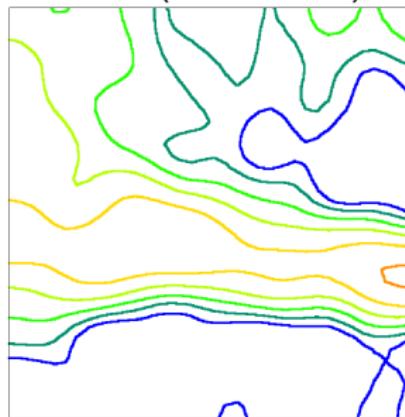
## Texture

Surface (max = 3.5)

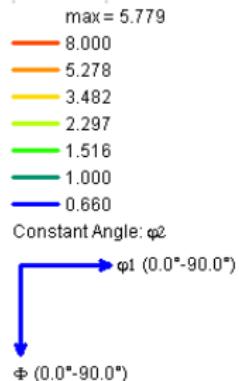


45°

Bulk (max = 5.7)

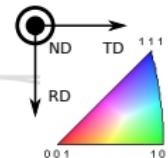
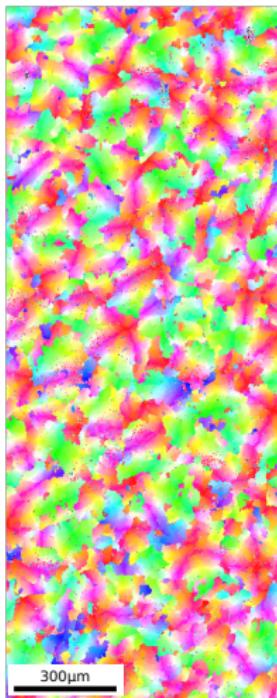


45°



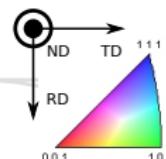
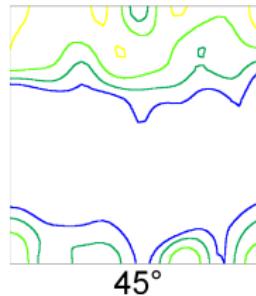
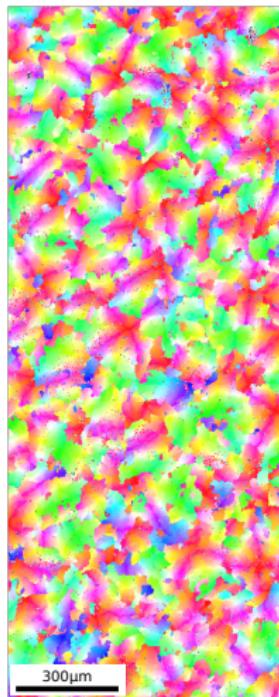
## Grain Morphology Analysis

## IPF map on ND surface section



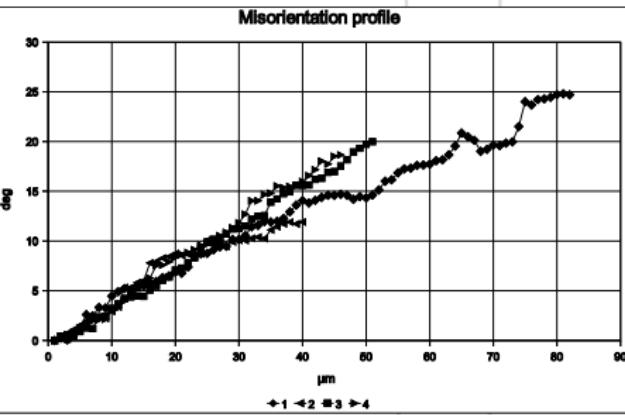
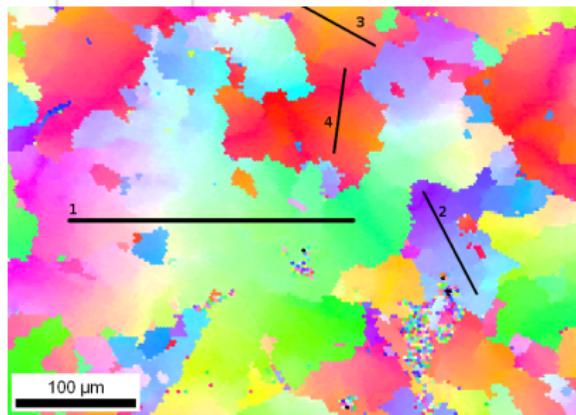
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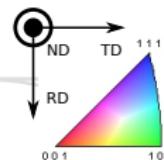
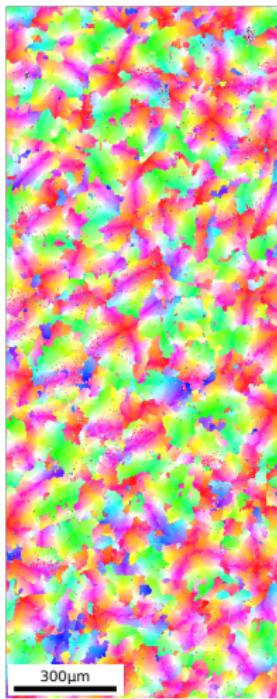
## Grain Morphology Analysis

## Gradient everywhere



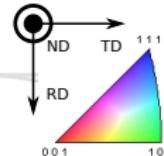
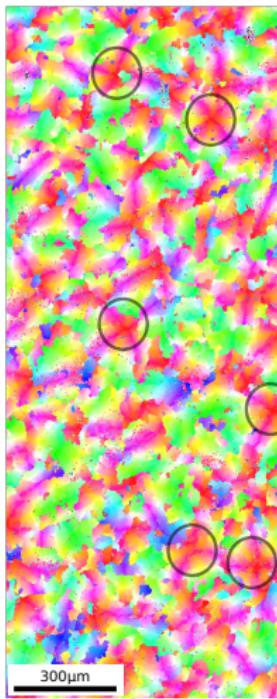
## Grain Morphology Analysis

## Flower morphology



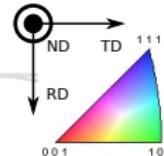
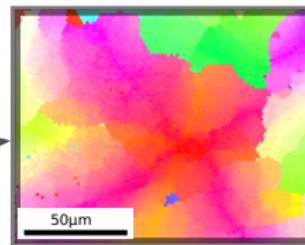
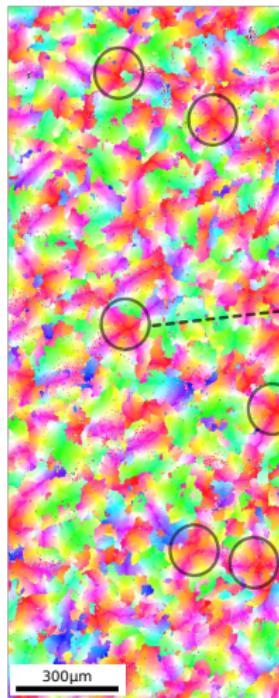
## Grain Morphology Analysis

## Flower morphology



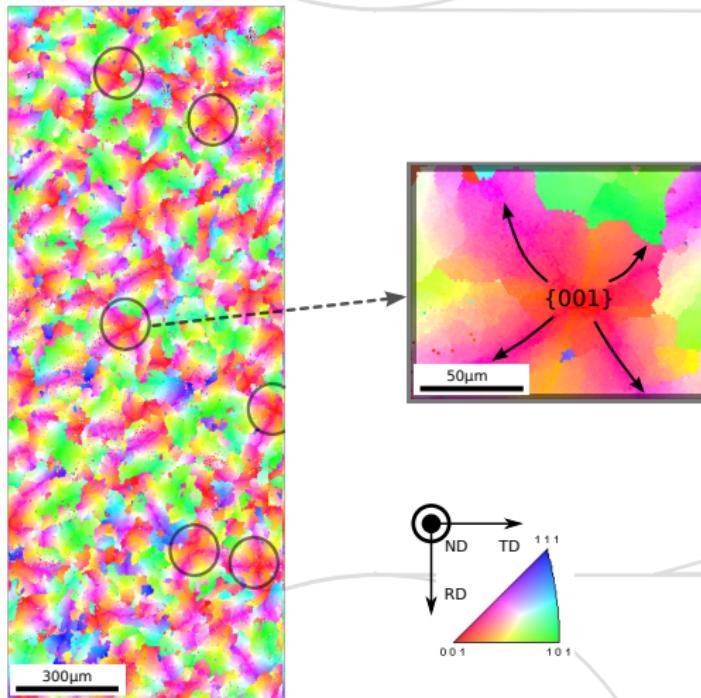
## Grain Morphology Analysis

## Flower morphology

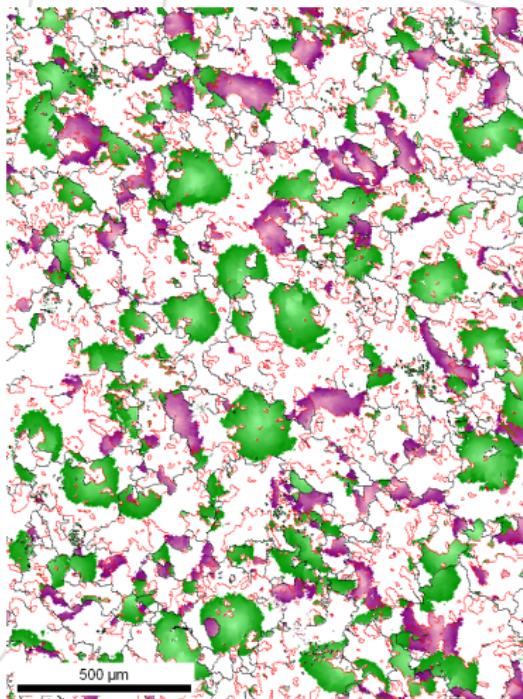


## Grain Morphology Analysis

## Flower morphology

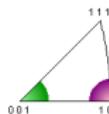


## Grain Boundary Analysis

Cube and  $\langle 110 \rangle \parallel ND$  areas

Direction	Min	Max	Total Fraction	Partition Fraction
<0 1 0>  [0 0 1]	0°	15°	0.203	0.203
<0 1 1>  [0 0 1]	0°	10°	0.094	0.094

Iron (Alpha)  
(001)

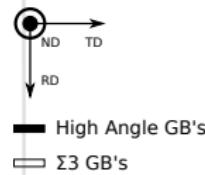
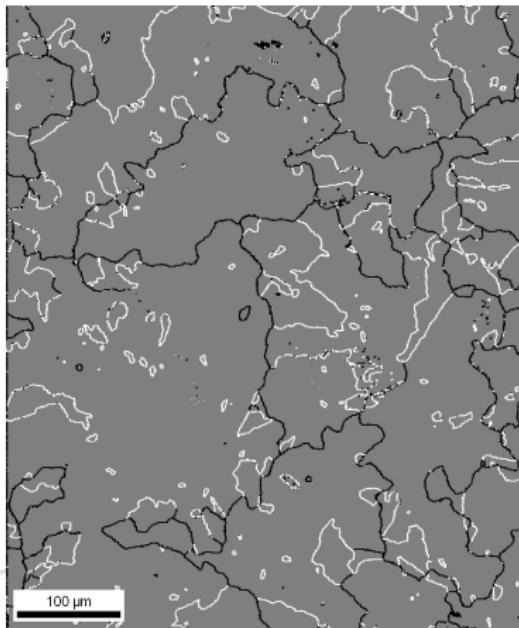
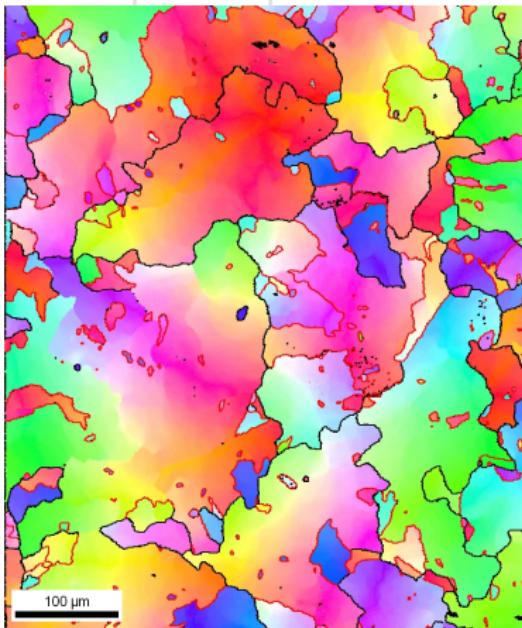


Boundaries: Rotation Angle	Min	Max	Fraction	Number	Length
	15°	180°	0.983	93638	18.92 cm

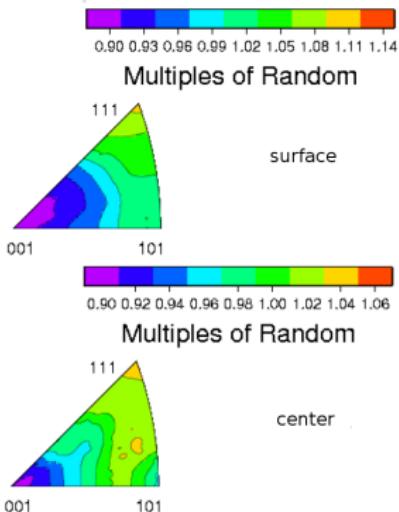
Boundaries: CSL	Sigma	Tolerance	Fraction	Volume	MDF Value	Number	Length
	3	8.66	0.387	0.0176	22.01	53305	10.7715 cm
summary	-	-	0.387	0.0176	22.01		

## Grain Boundary Analysis

# $\Sigma 3$ grain boundaries



## Grain Boundary Analysis

Grain Boundary Character Distribution (GBCD)<sup>1 2</sup>

	Surface	Bulk
$\Sigma 3$	40.5%	10.3%
Coherent $\Sigma 3$	0.89%	0.90%

<sup>1</sup> Calculated with Rohrer's software. G. Rohrer *et al*, Zeitschrift fur Metallkunde (2004)

<sup>2</sup> The input data was not achieved, as it requires at least 50,000 segments for typical cubic symmetry situations.

## Proposed Mechanism

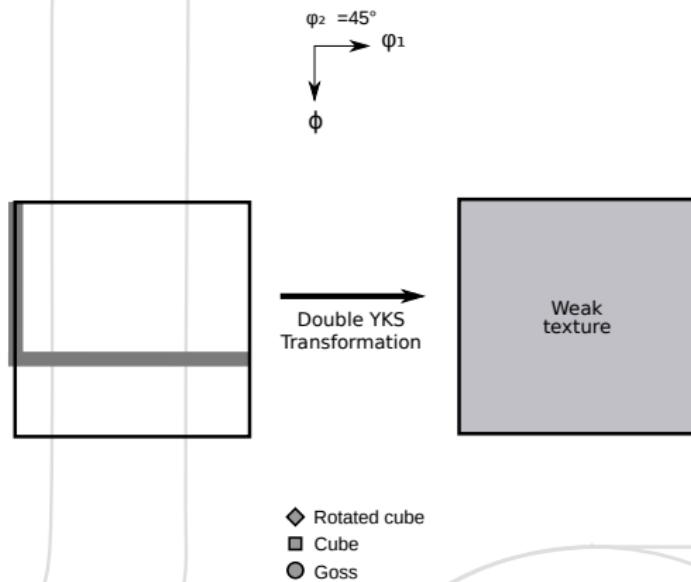
## Texture evolution



- ◆ Rotated cube
- Cube
- Goss

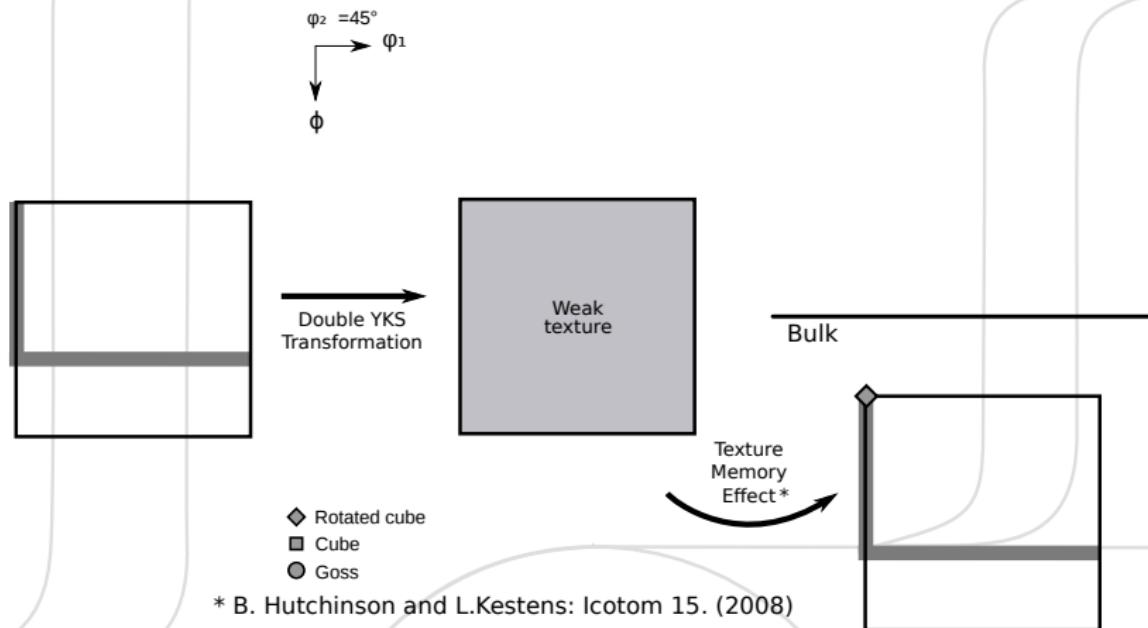
## Proposed Mechanism

## Texture evolution



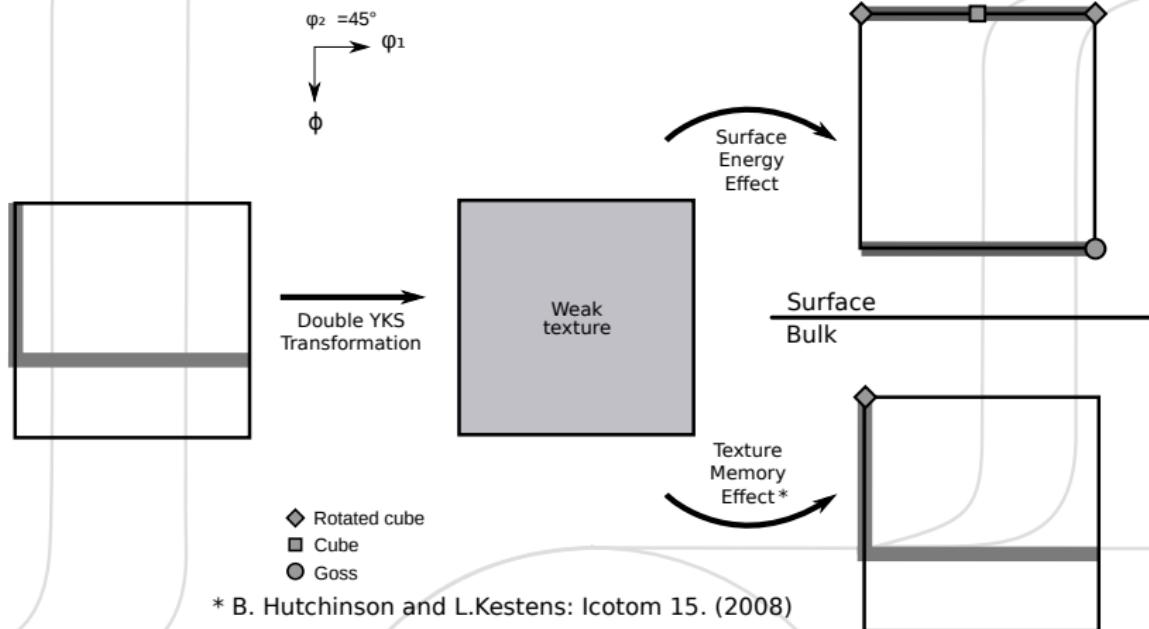
## Proposed Mechanism

## Texture evolution



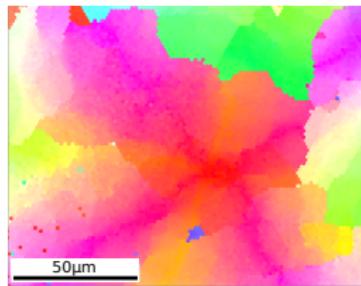
## Proposed Mechanism

## Texture evolution



Proposed Mechanism

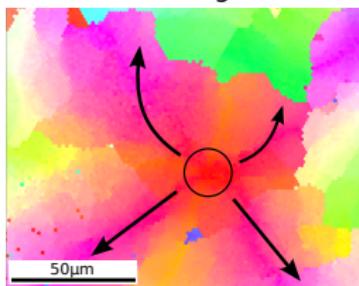
# Orientation shifting



Proposed Mechanism

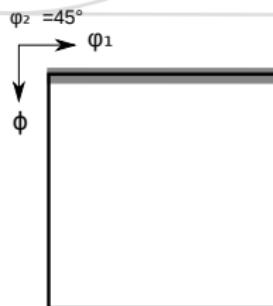
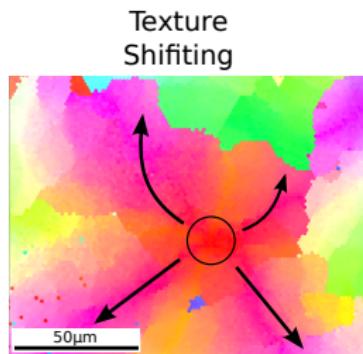
# Orientation shifting

Texture  
Shifting



## Proposed Mechanism

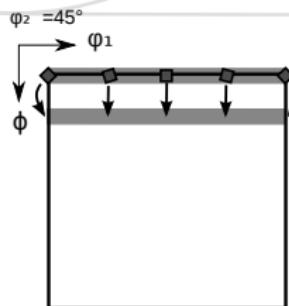
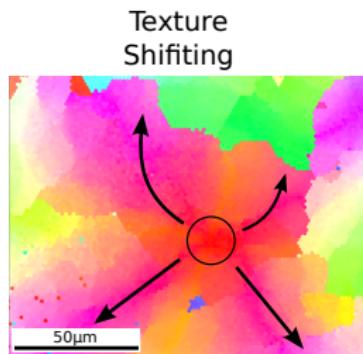
## Orientation shifting



Surface

## Proposed Mechanism

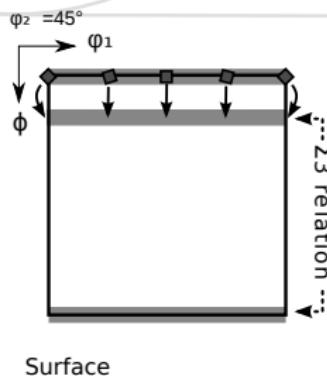
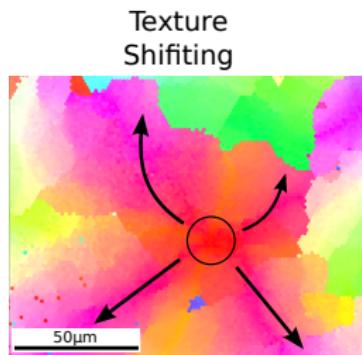
## Orientation shifting



Surface

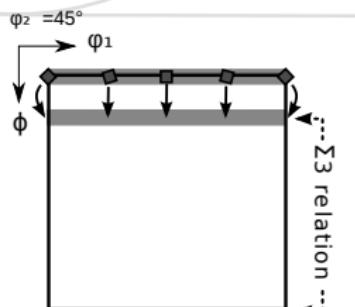
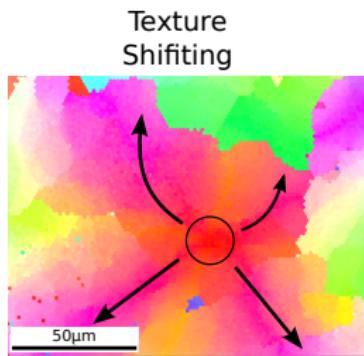
## Proposed Mechanism

## Orientation shifting



## Proposed Mechanism

## Orientation shifting



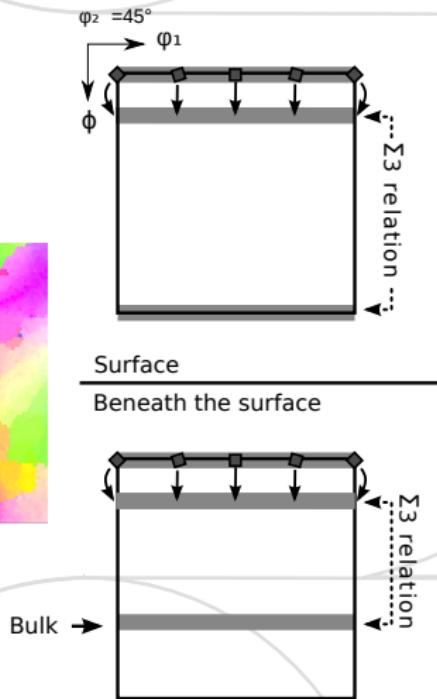
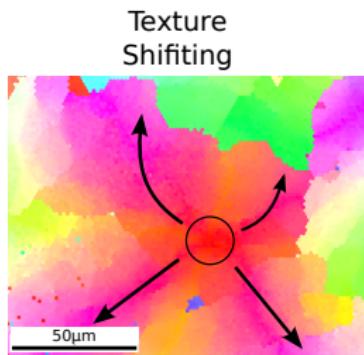
Surface  
Beneath the surface

Bulk →



## Proposed Mechanism

## Orientation shifting



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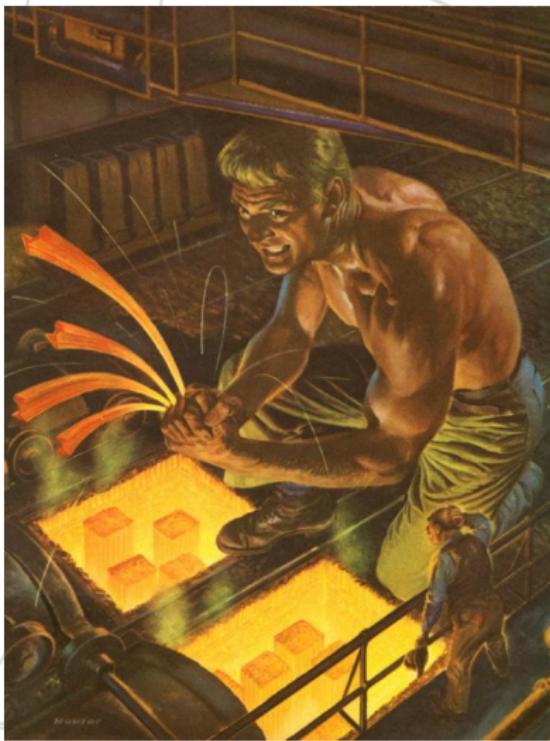


# Mystery

**How do cube grains know that  
5-10° misorientation will make  
them meet at  $\Sigma 3$  boundaries with  
 $\{110\}/\text{ND}$  grains ???**



# Thank for your attention !!!



*"Joe Magarac, was a man made of steel. He was born in an iron ore mine and raised in a furnace... He made railroad rails by squeezing molten steel between his fingers."*

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