



# some technical news

*Reini Boehler*

*Efree*                   *highlight*  
*Feb. 11, 2015*



# Outline

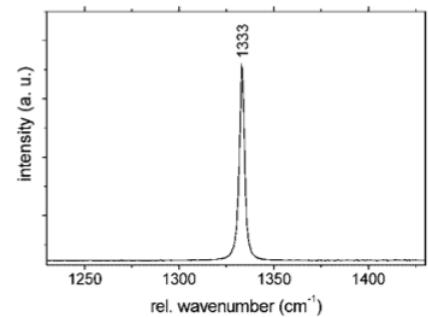
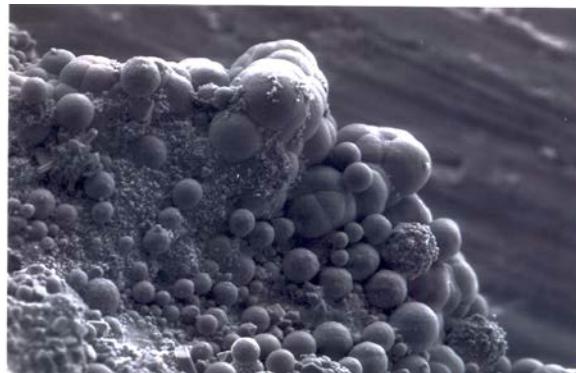
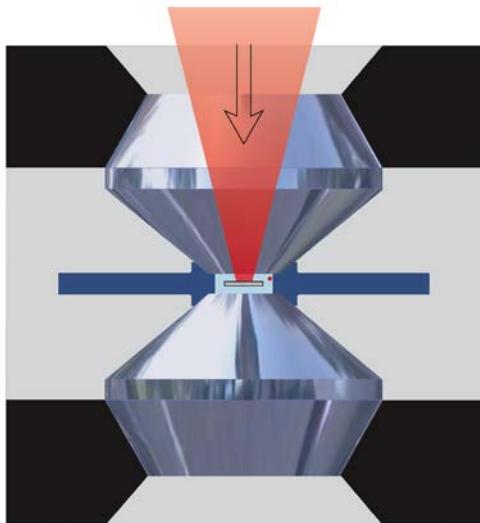
- good and bad instruments for material synthesis
- some new diamond cell techniques (flash heating, rapid compression/decompression)
- Neutron diffraction at SNAP (ORNL)
- PE cells or not

# $\text{CO}_2$ laser heating for material synthesis

$\lambda 10 \mu\text{m}$ , (oxides, organics just about anything)



# synthesis of new materials using IR lasers

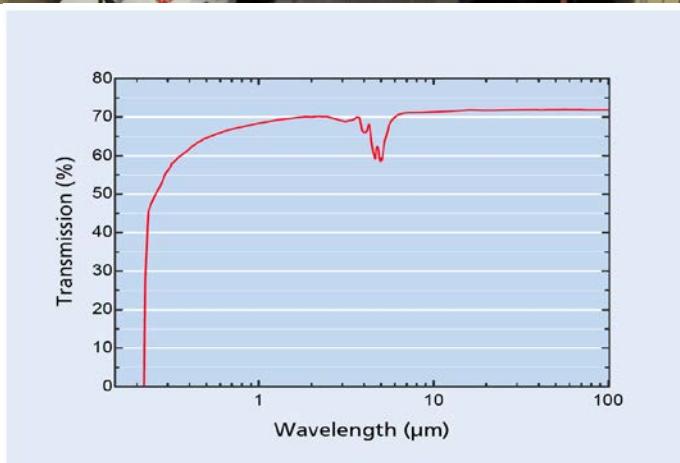
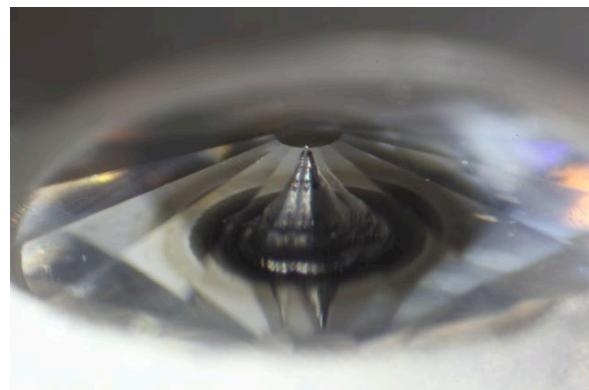
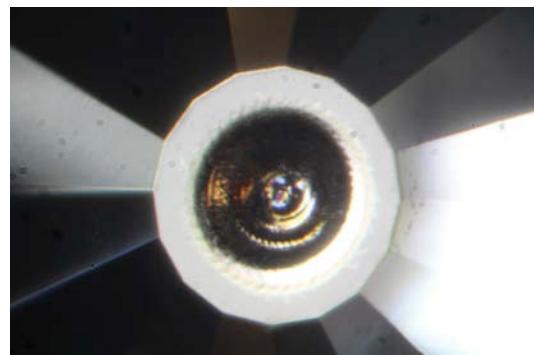


example: synthesis of micron-sized diamond sheres from methane

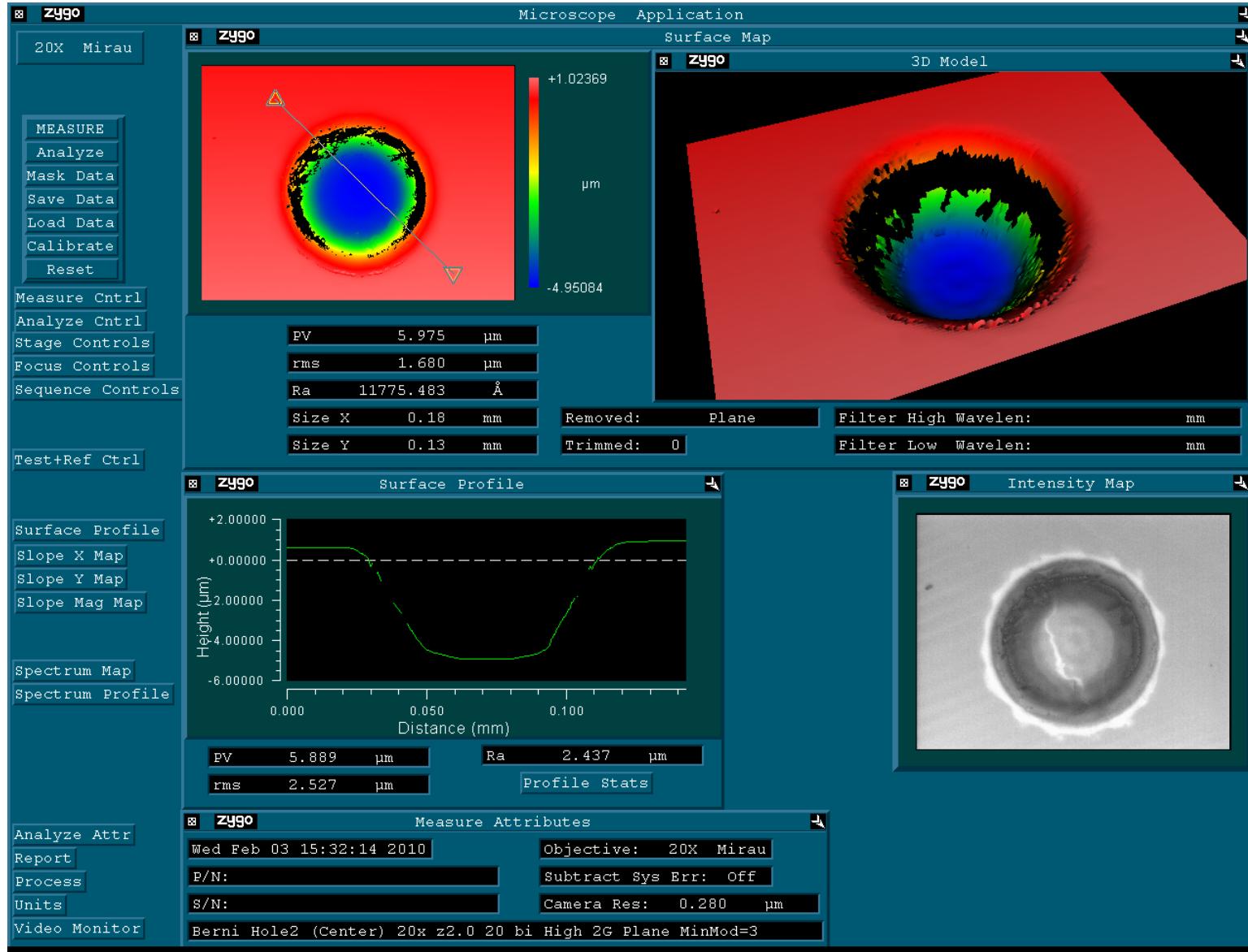
# *UV (193 nm) laser cutting system*



diamond machining

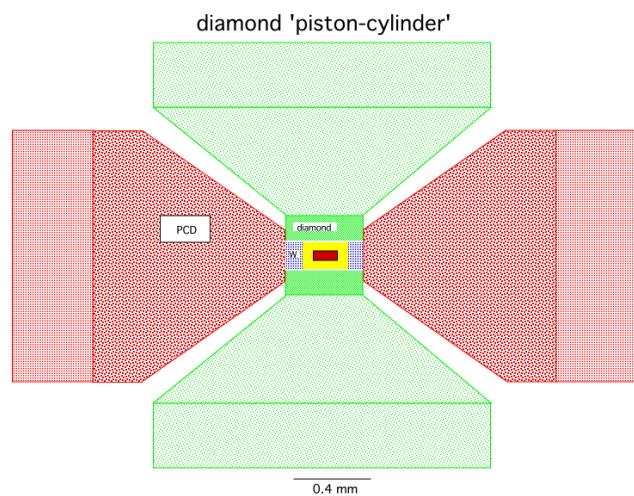
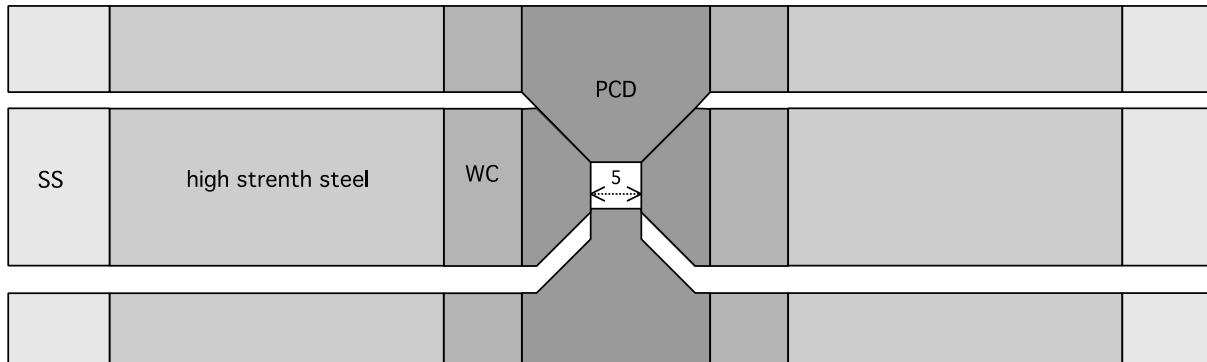


# Profilometer



# Large volume cells for synthesis

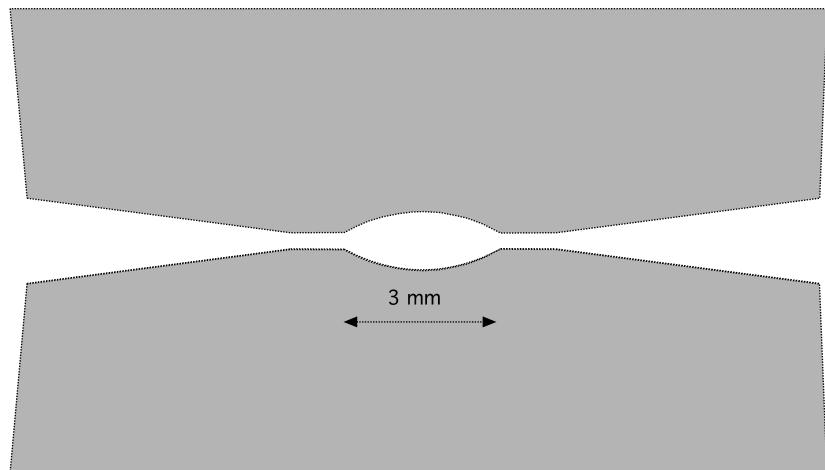
piston-cylinder    > 20 GPa    sample volume > 20 mm<sup>3</sup>



double toroid



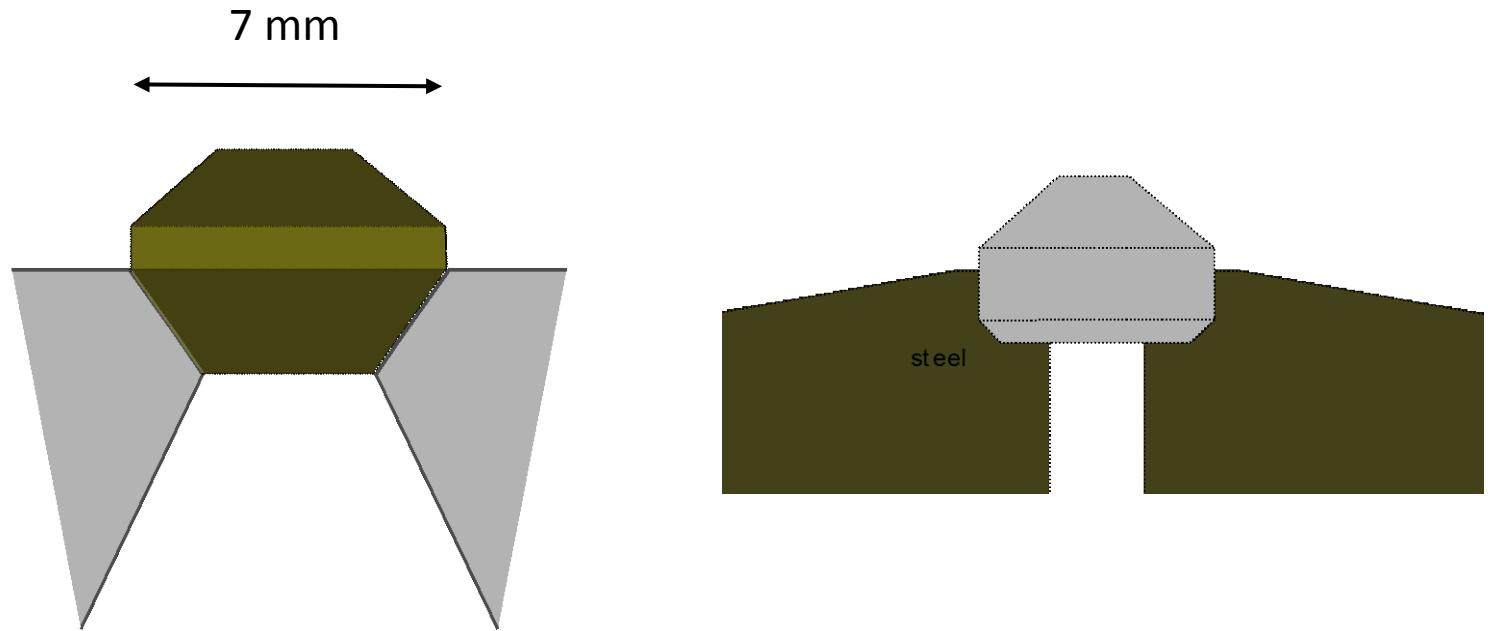
simple dish



reliable to 25 GPa



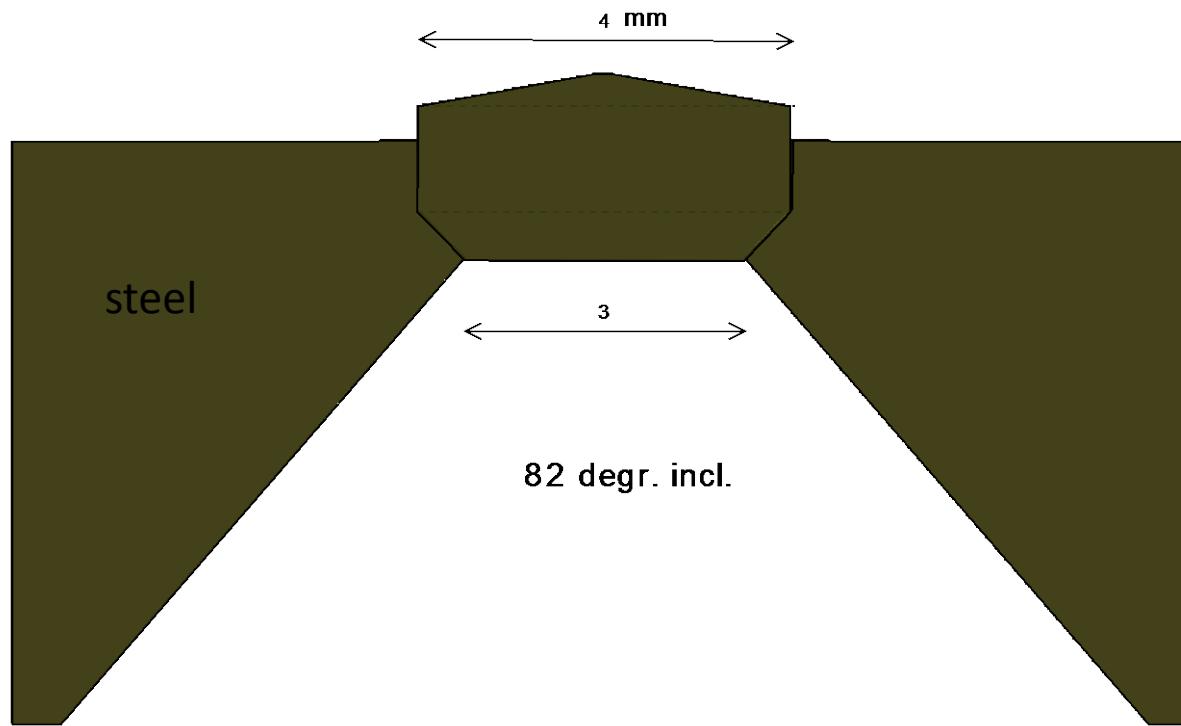
# LARGE CVD DIAMONDS !



sample volumes up to  $2 \text{ mm}^3$

other benefits of large CVD diamonds

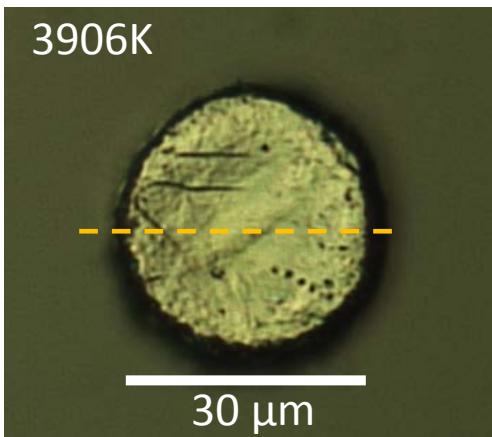
## **new cells for single crystal X-ray diffraction**



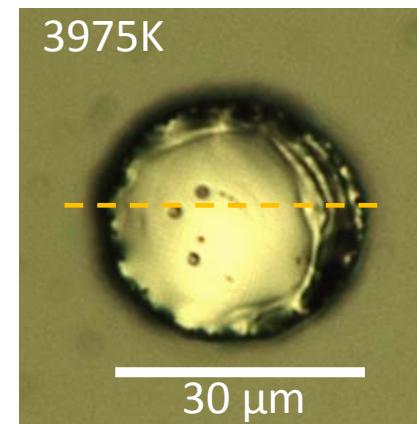
**82 deg. 200 micron culet 90 GPa**

# Some new experimental techniques

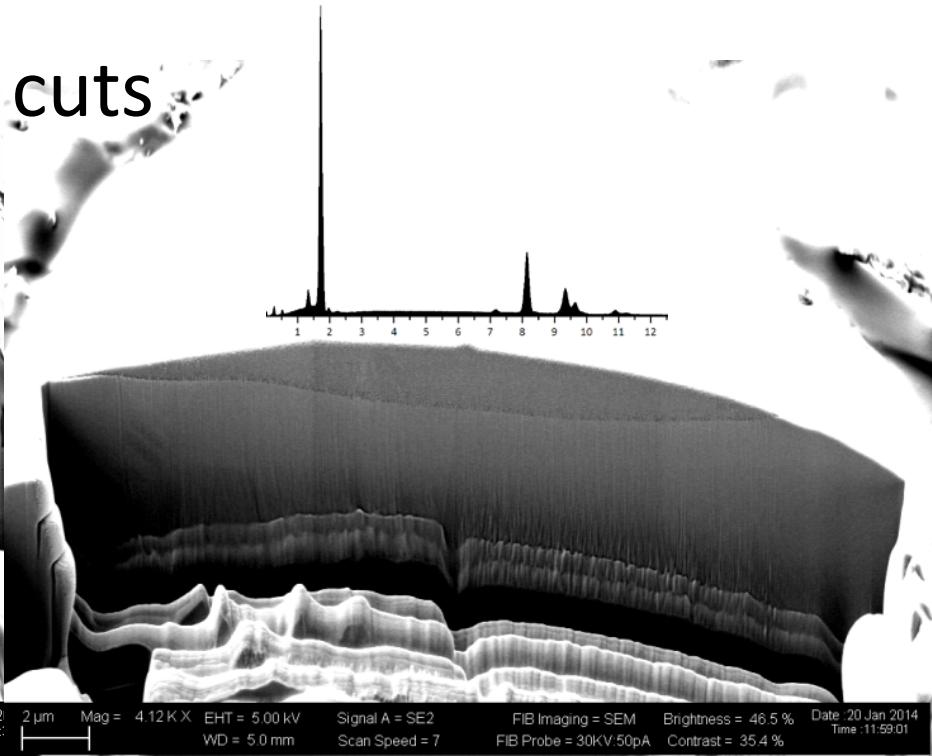
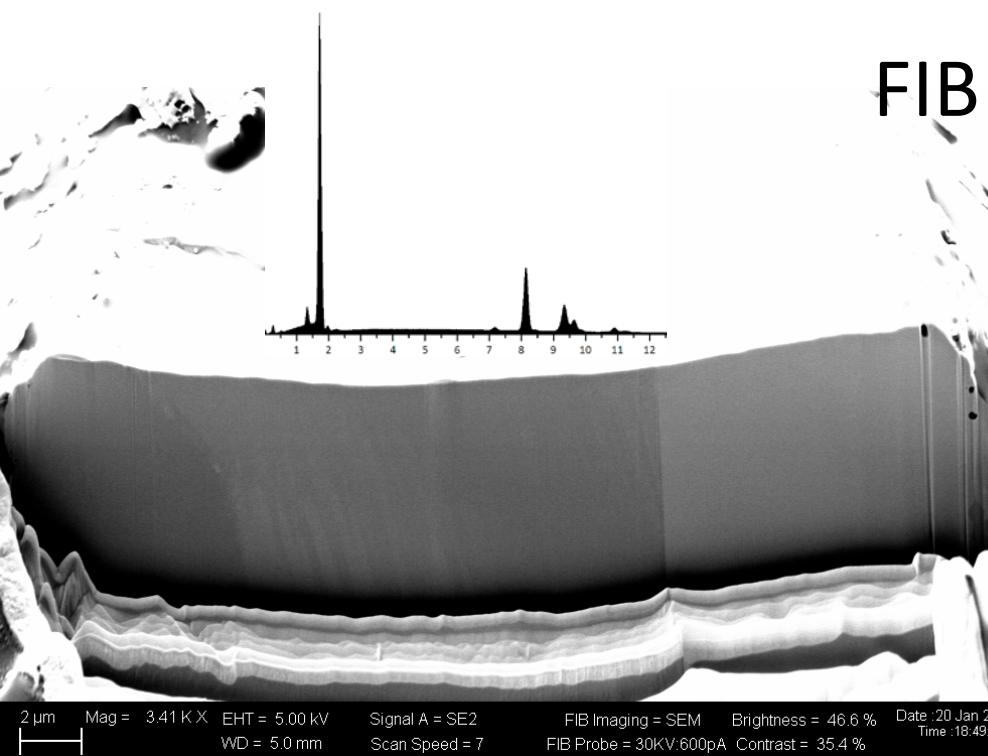
# Flash heating



Recovered samples  
(50 Gpa)



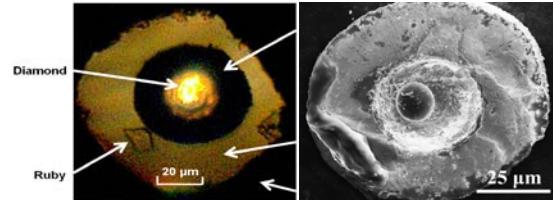
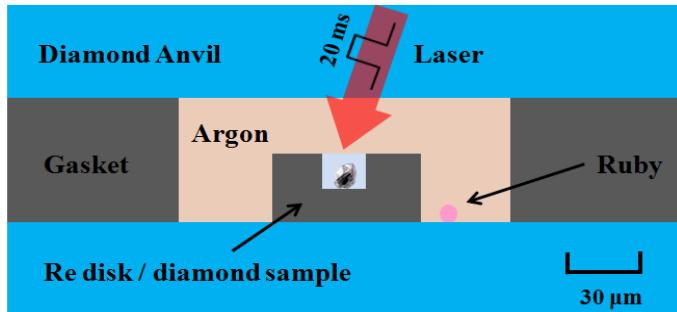
FIB cuts



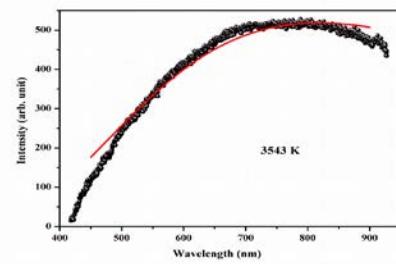


# diamond melting

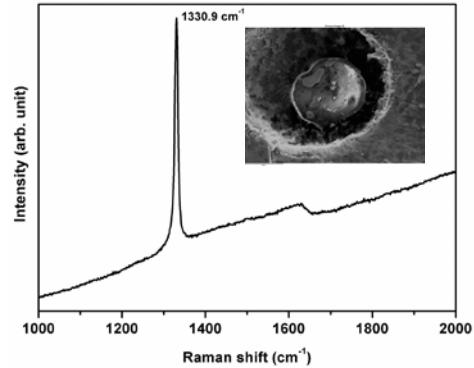
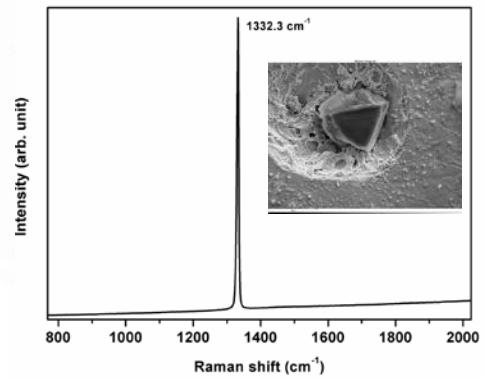
*20 ms flash-heating in Re cavity*



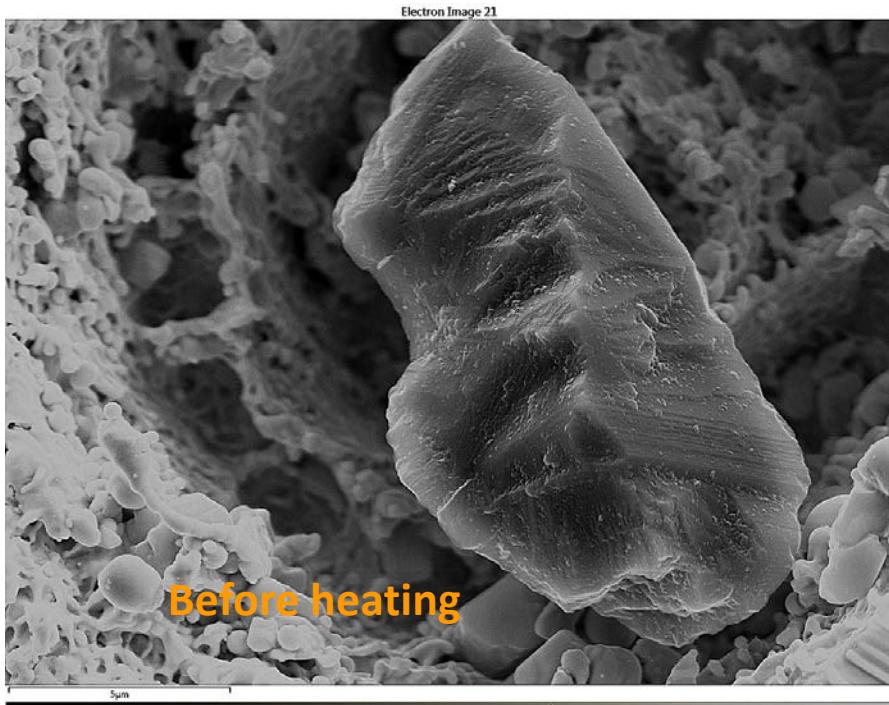
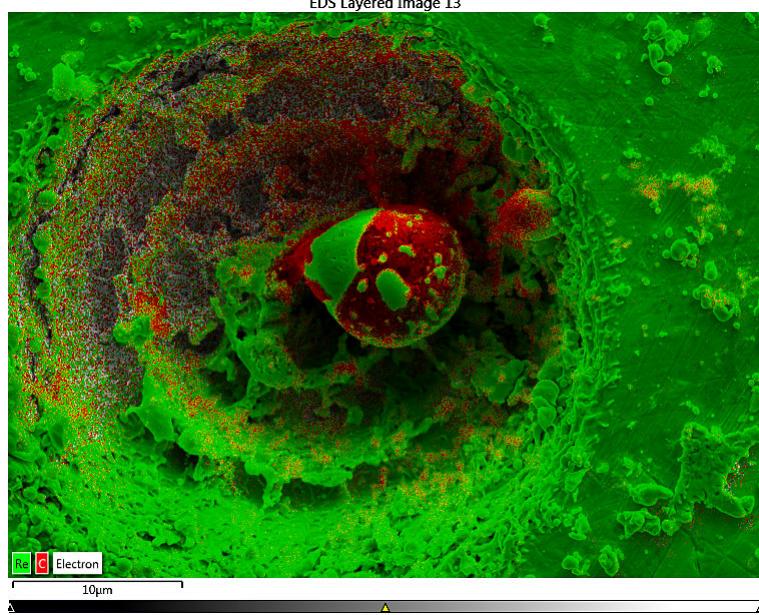
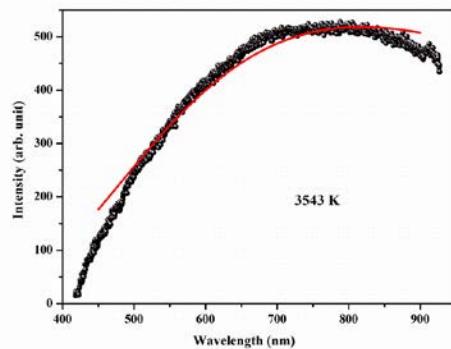
30 GPa, 3203 K



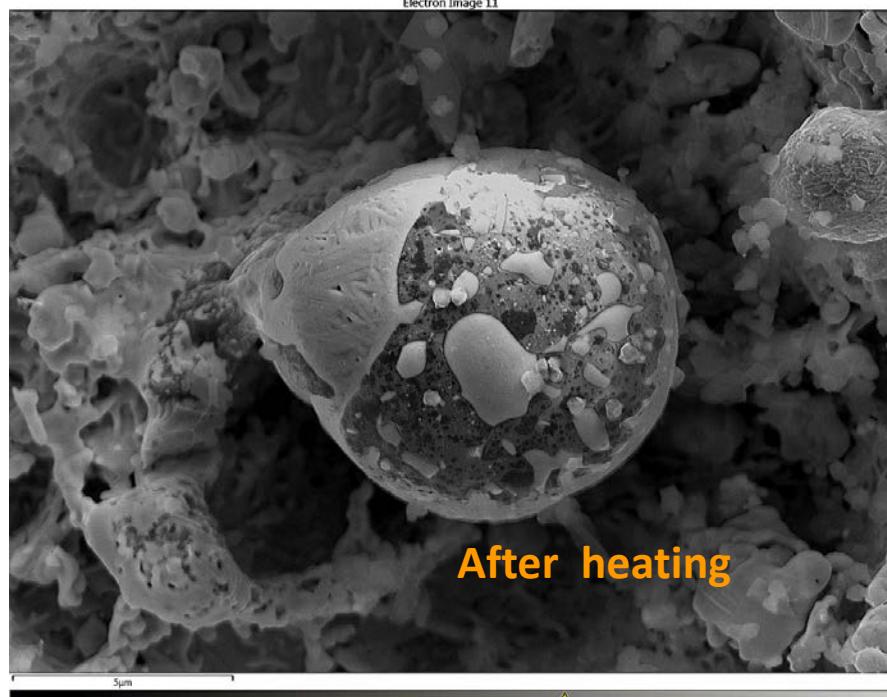
25 GPa, 3340 K



# 3543 K

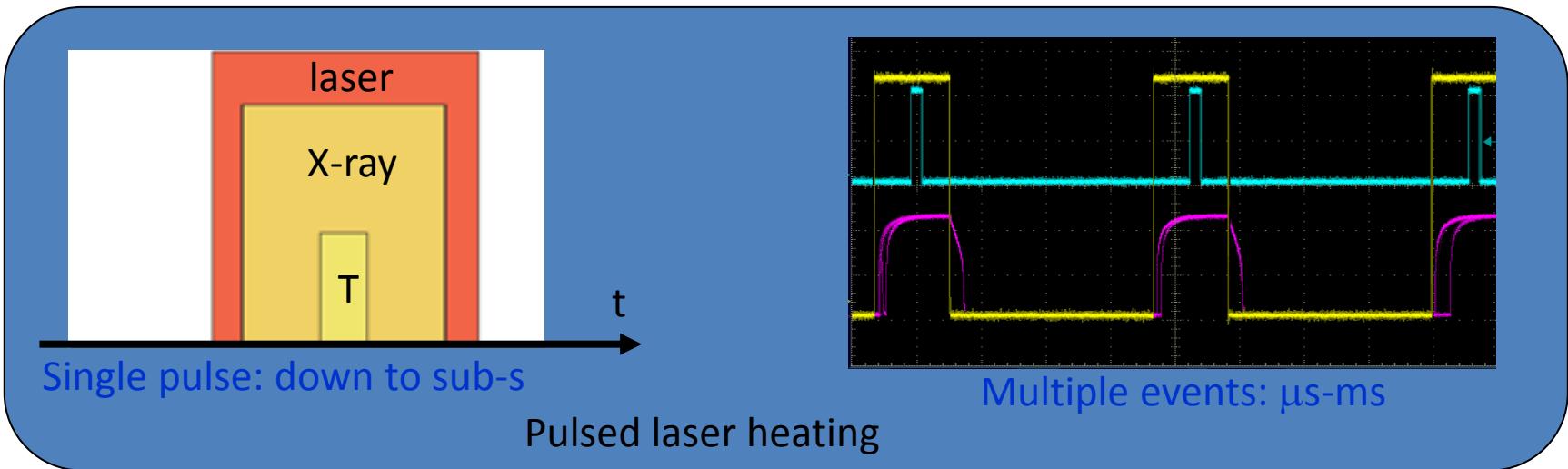


Before heating



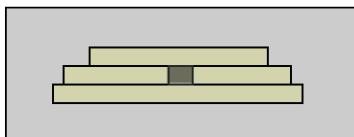
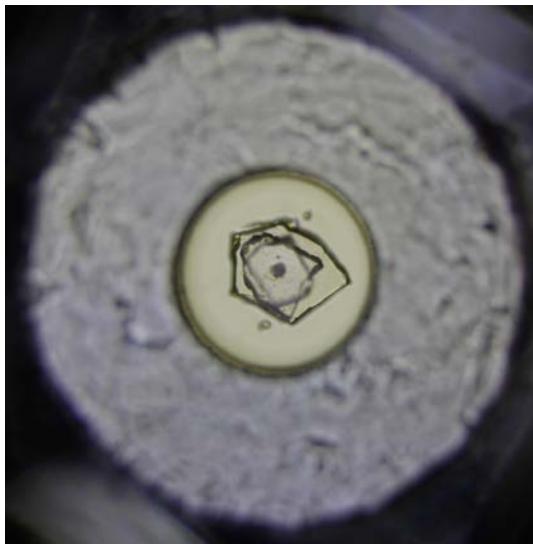
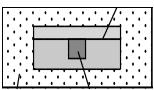
After heating

# Flash heating at HPCAT

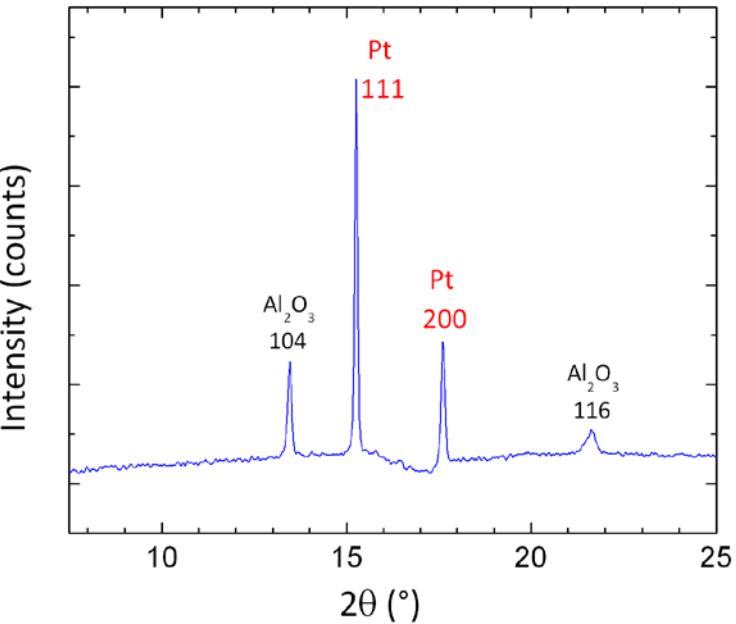


synchronizing laser, X-ray, temperature measurement

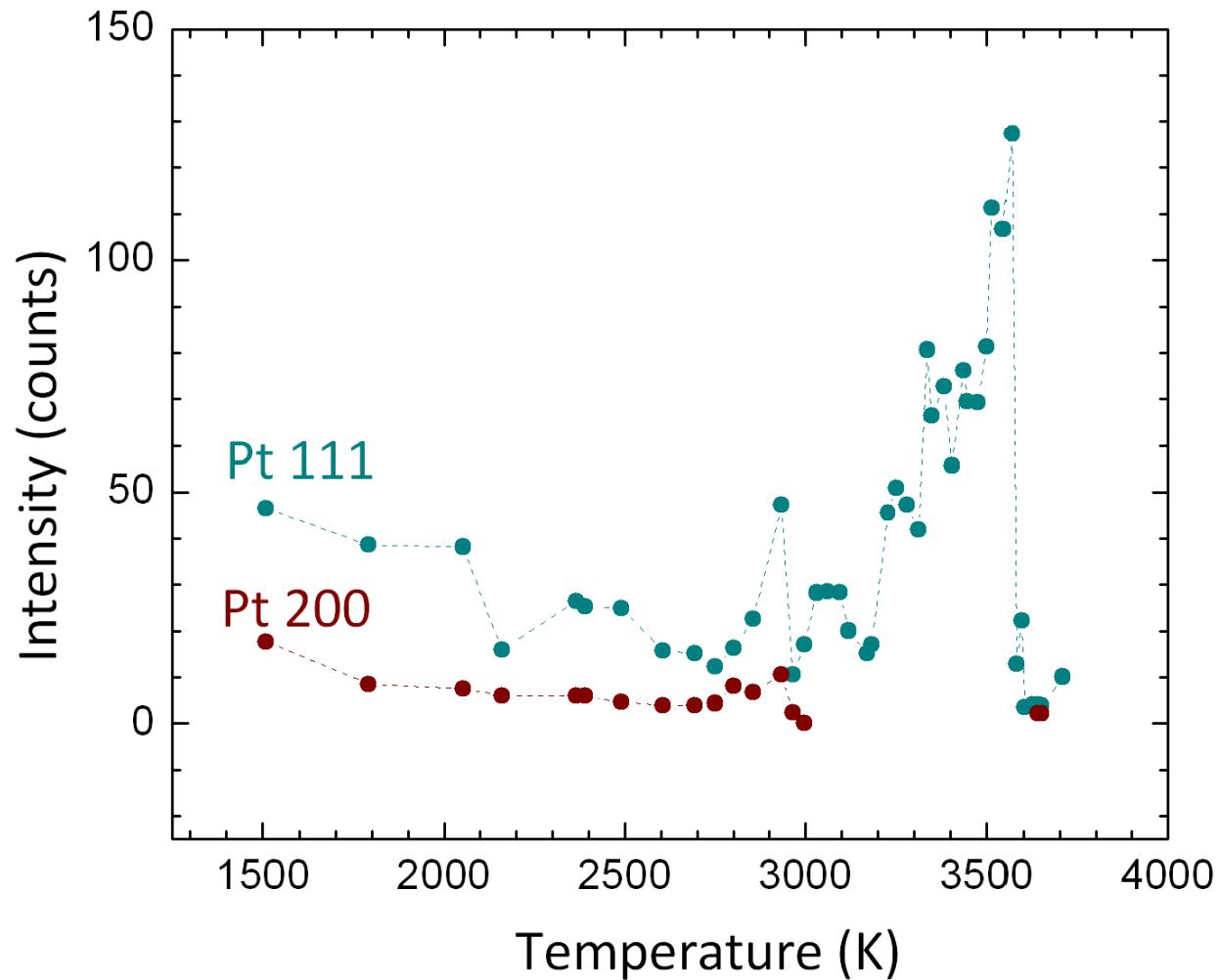
## sample encapsulation



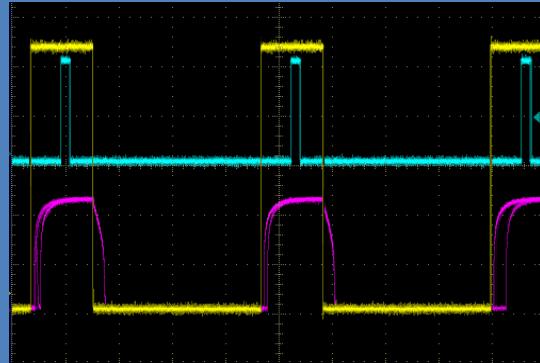
Pt 50 GPa 1 millisecond (single shot)



# melting

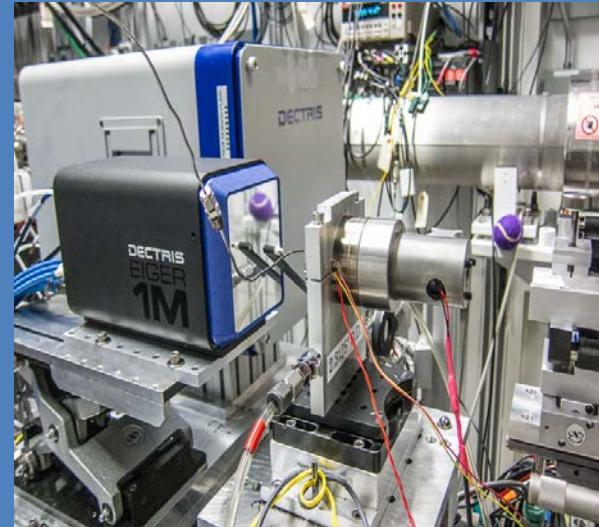


**P-T(*t*)**



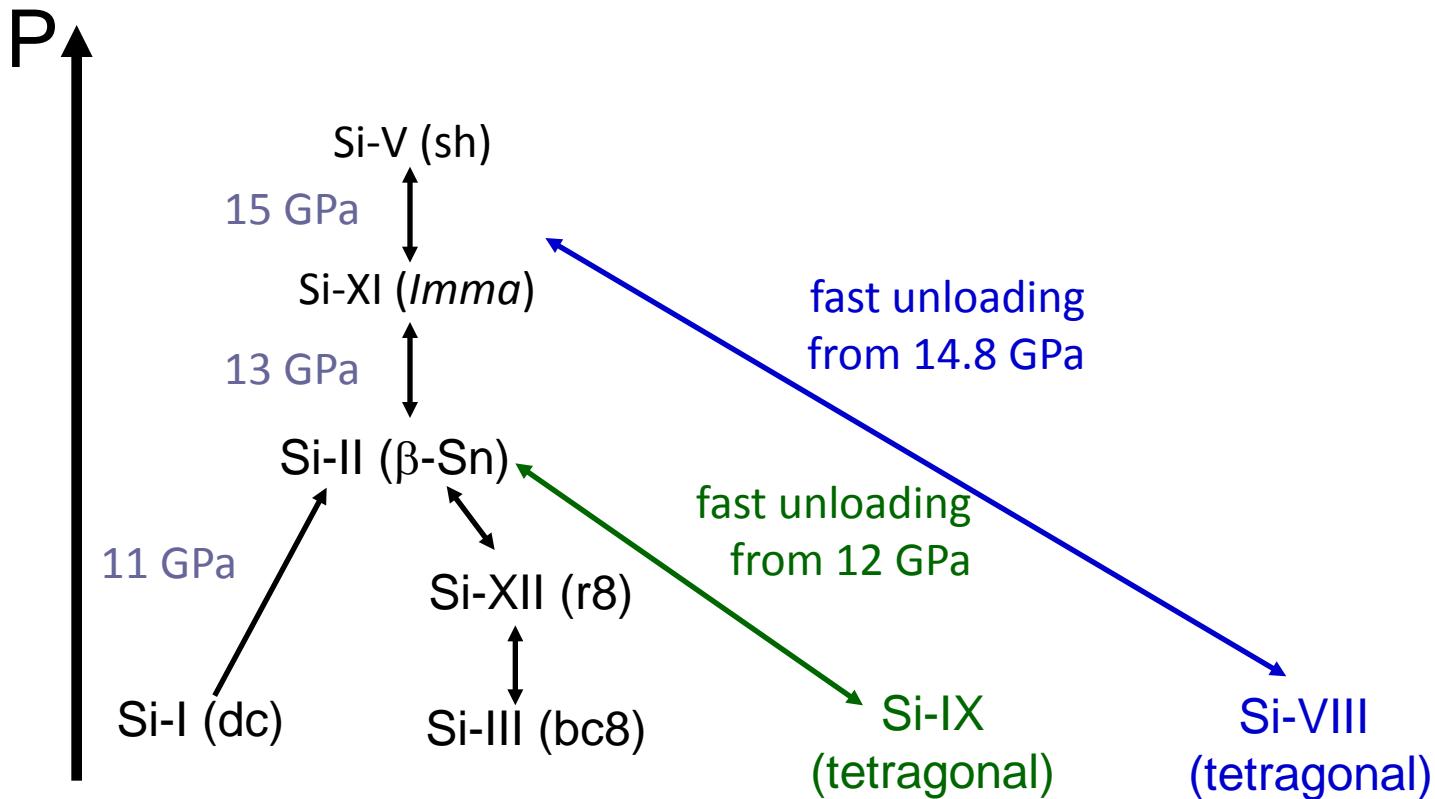
Modulated Laser Heating

**P(*t*)-T**



dDAC – Fast Detectors

# Si: Fast unloading in the DAC

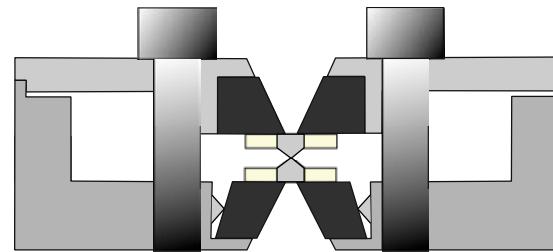


fast unloading yields different crystalline phases.

# rapid loading / unloading



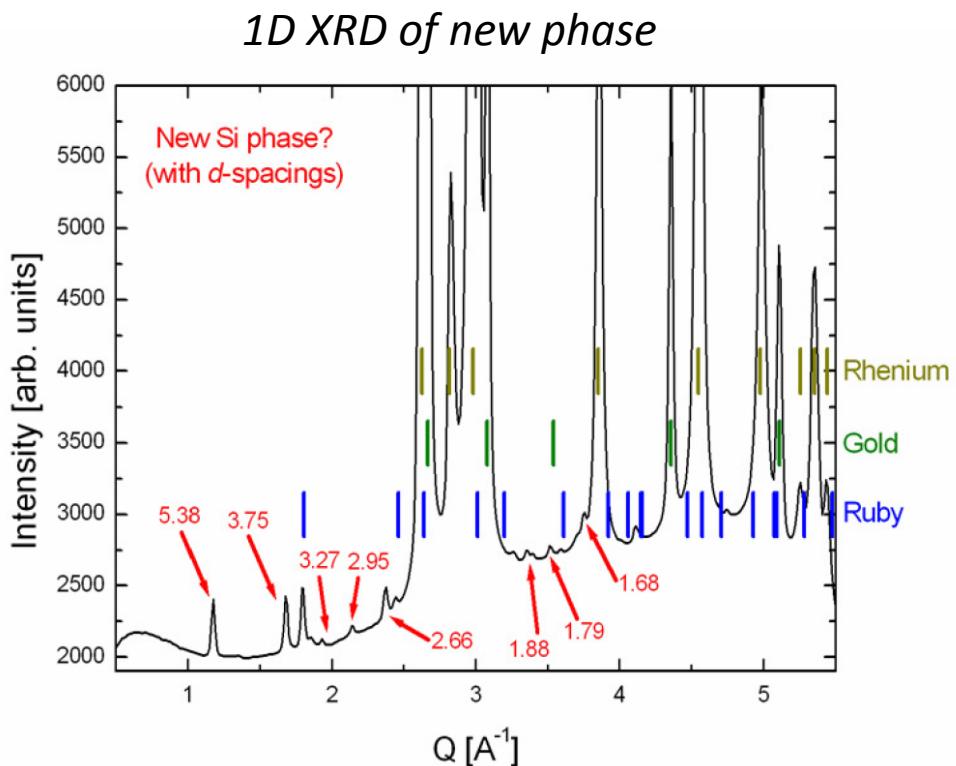
piezo cell



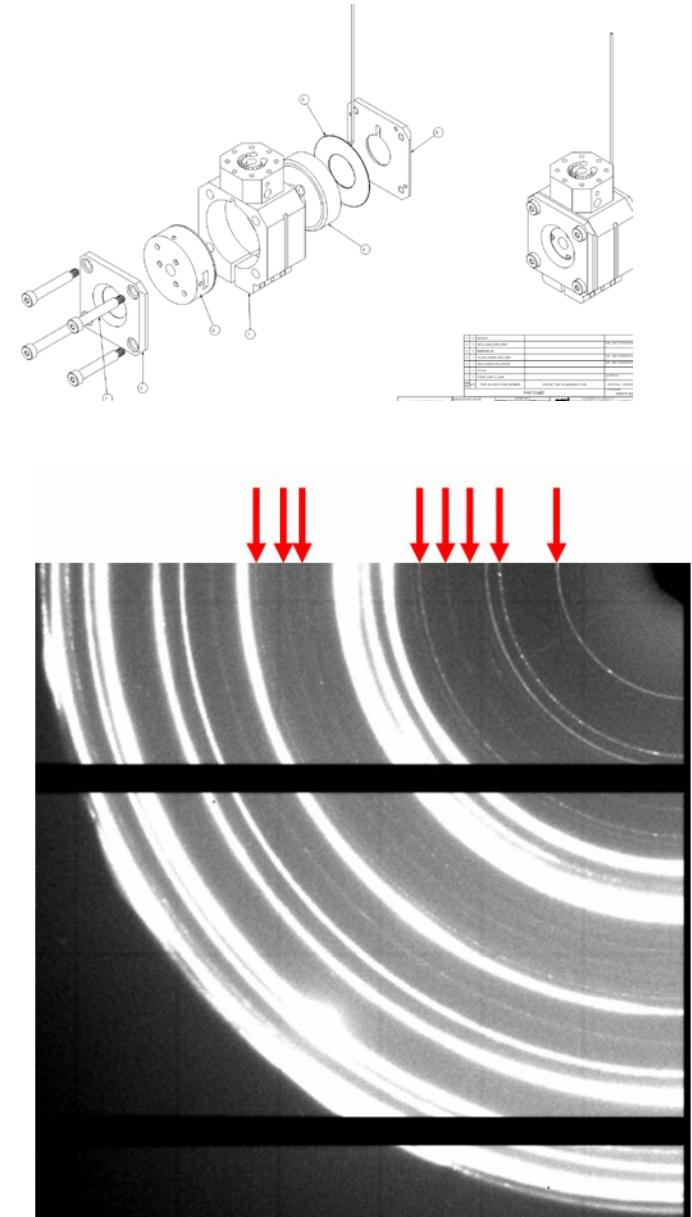
“pot-cell”

# Cryo-compression of Si

Si was metallized in a cryostat and then decompressed.  
resulting in a new metastable phase.



Haberl et al.

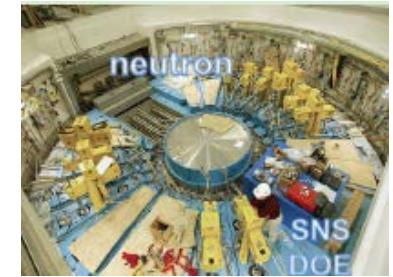


*2D XRD of new phase*

# **Neutron Diffraction**

# light atoms, liquids, magnetic order

## Neutron diffraction



**SNAP**

Spallation Neutrons  
and Pressure



since 2010

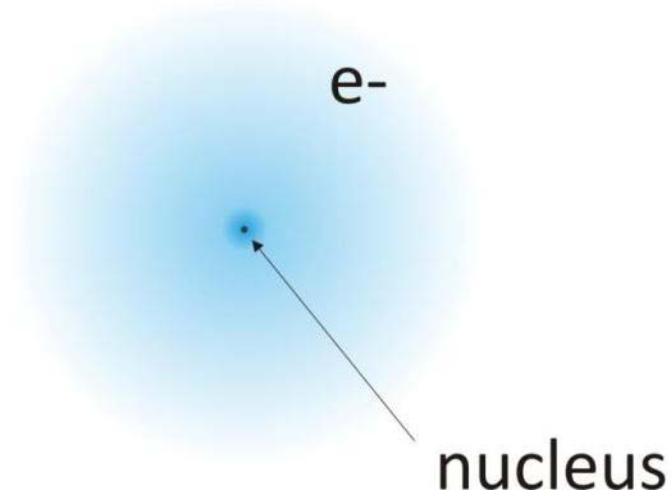
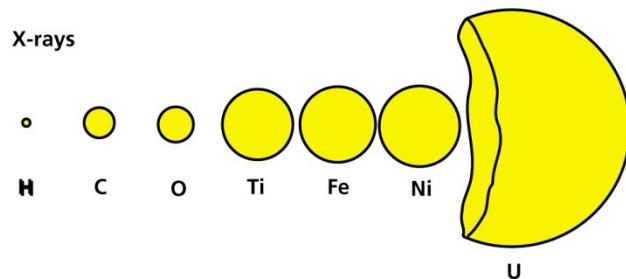
Instrument Development  
Team (IDT)

# Why Neutrons?

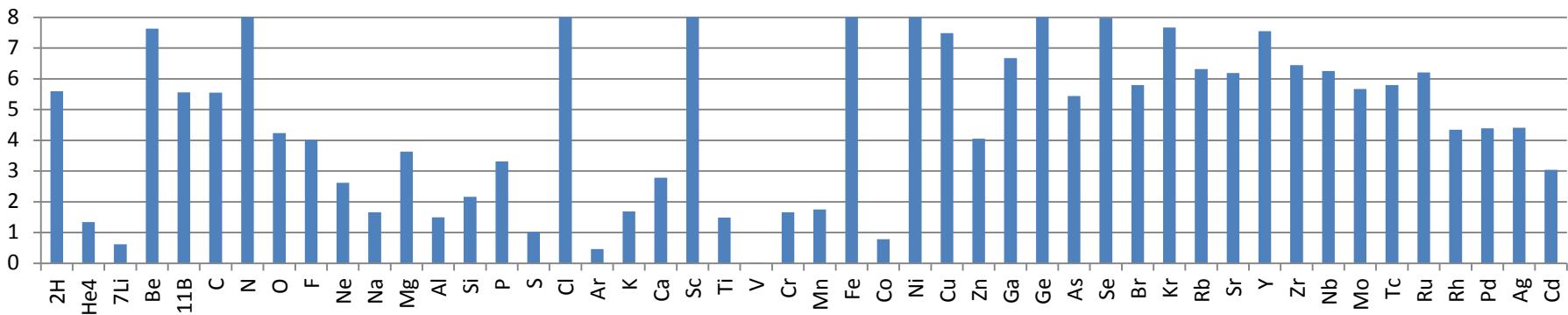
- light atoms
- magnetic order, subtle structural distortions
- non-crystalline/ amorphous structures
- neutron imaging (diffusion processes)

atom

different from X-ray diffraction

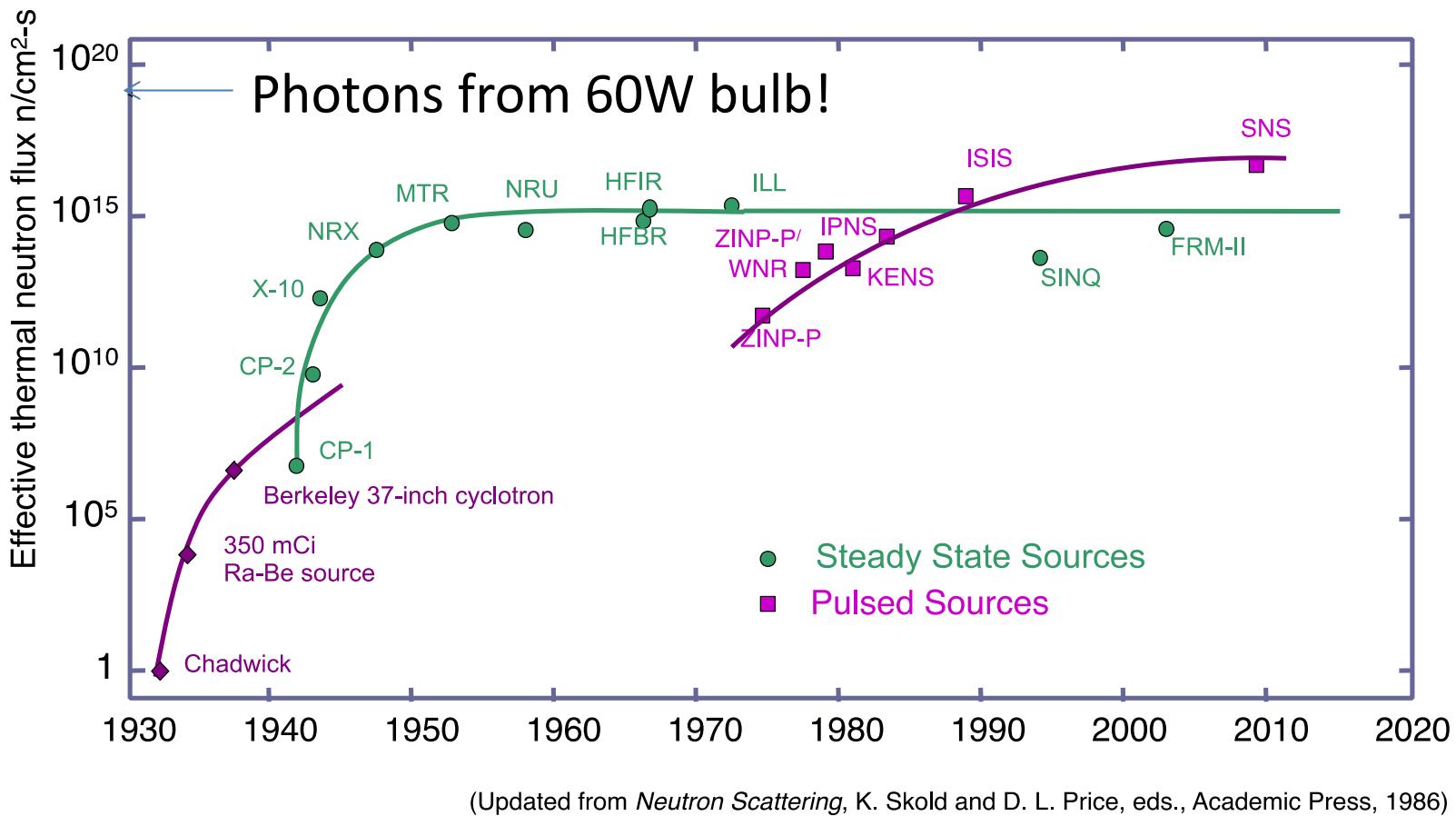


Neutron Coherent Cross-Section (Barn)



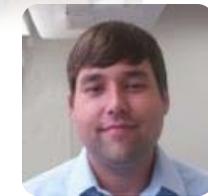
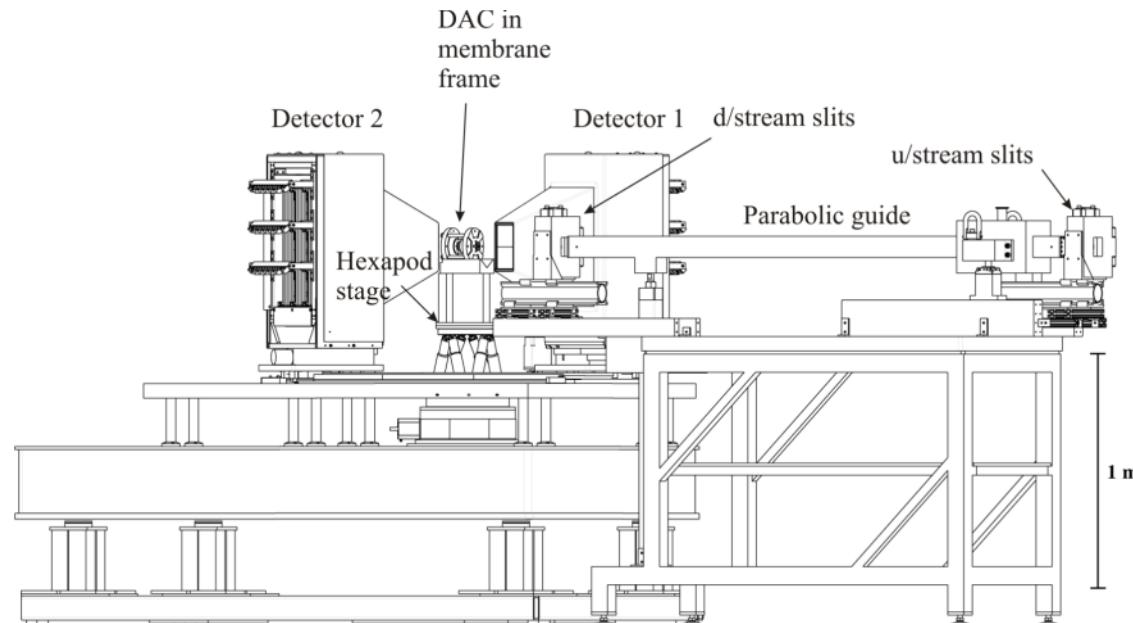
*Scattering strength is isotope dependent*

# Neutrons have a major disadvantage



# The Instrument

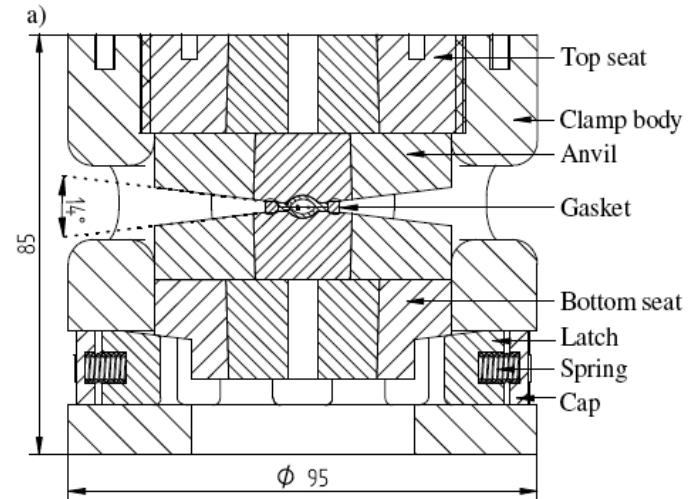
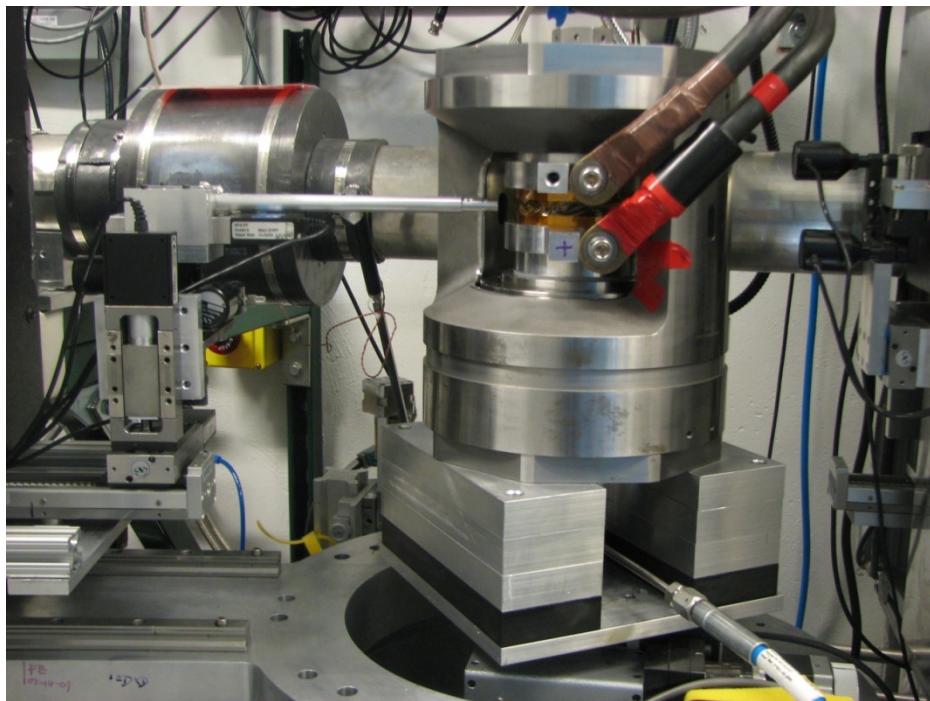
SNAP – a dedicated high pressure diffractometer, came online 2006



# Traditionally : big (expensive) equipment

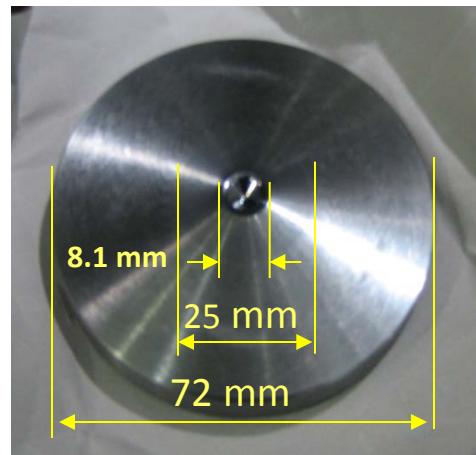


# Conventional High Pressure Neutron Diffraction



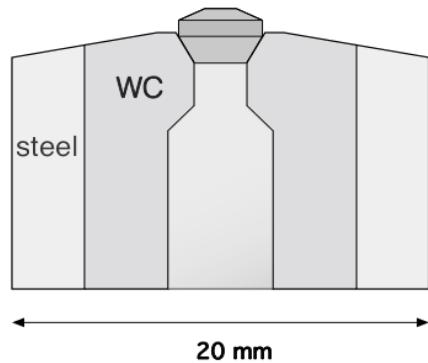
sample volumes  $\approx 25 \text{ mm}^3$

pressures up to 25 GPa

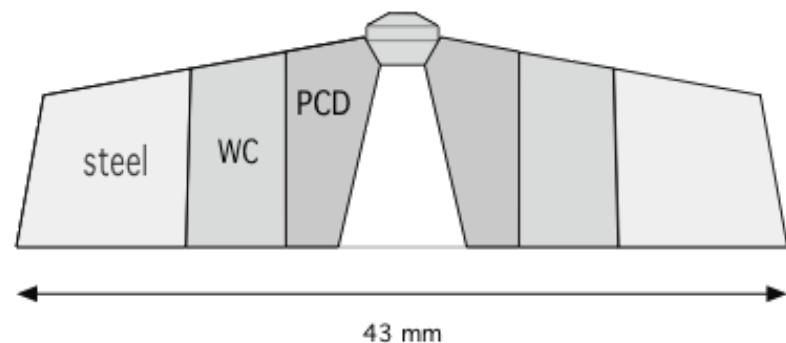


## New approach is to use diamond anvil cells

Large culets (1.0 to 1.5mm) make diamond support critical:

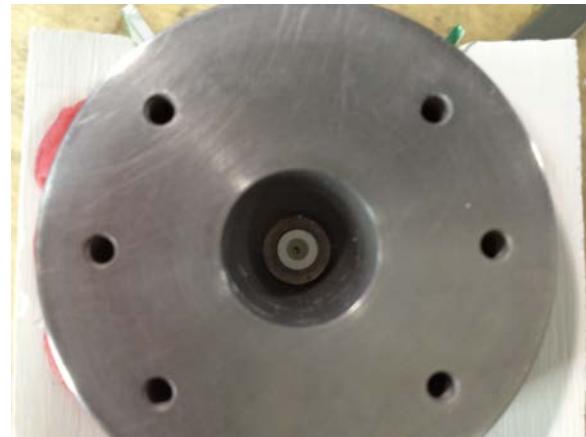


40 GPa



95 GPa

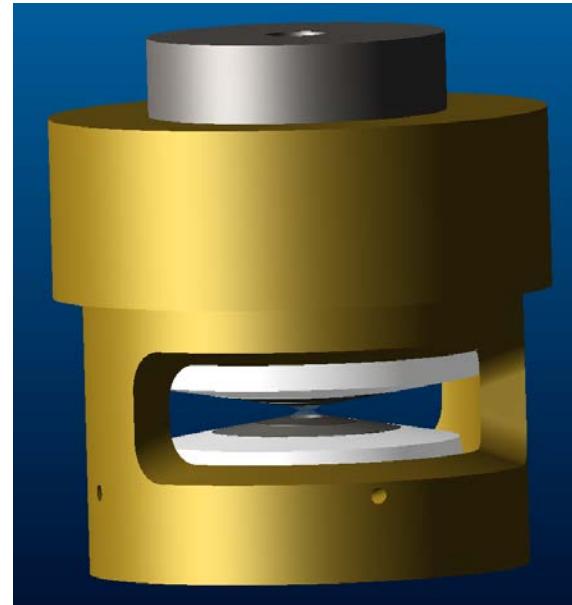
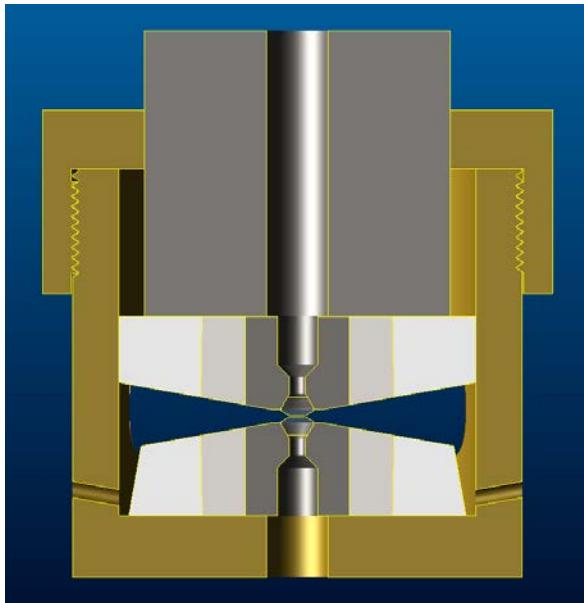
# reducing background



BN collimator

# New Large Volume Diamond Cells for Neutron Diffraction and Material Synthesis

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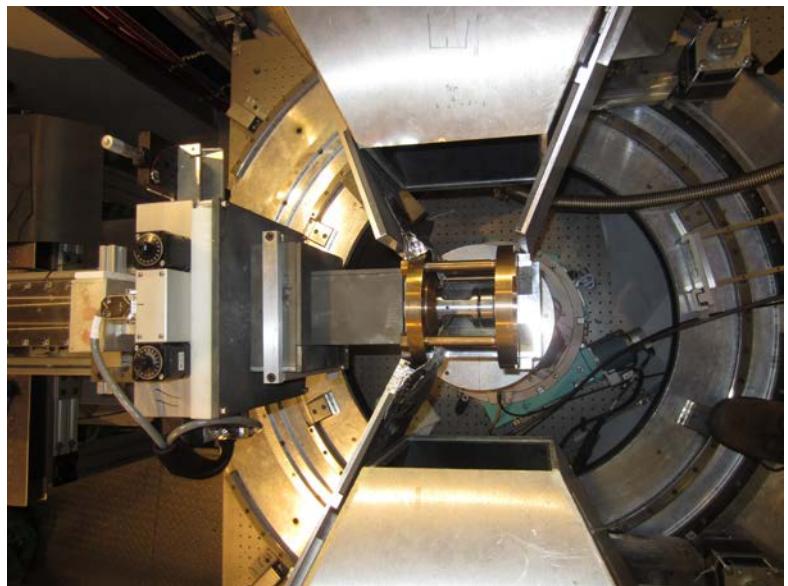
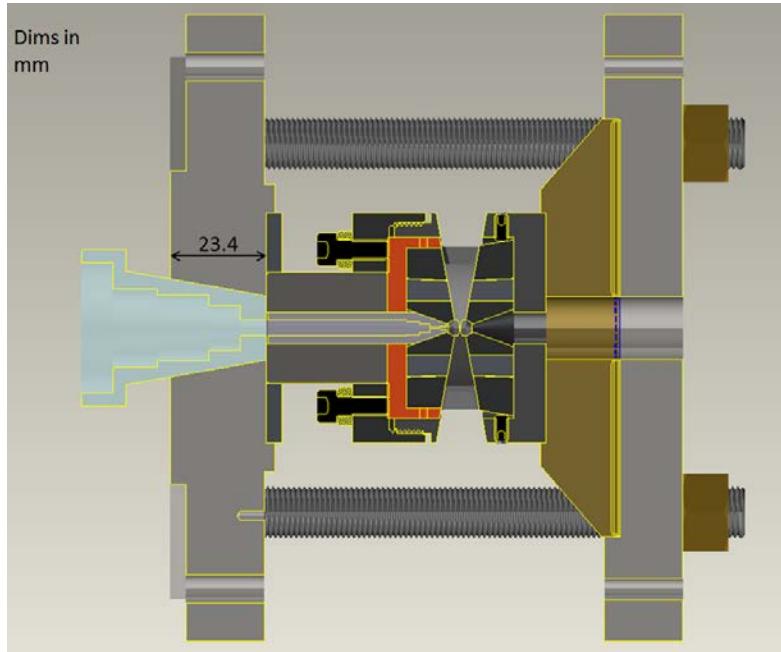
# The Cells



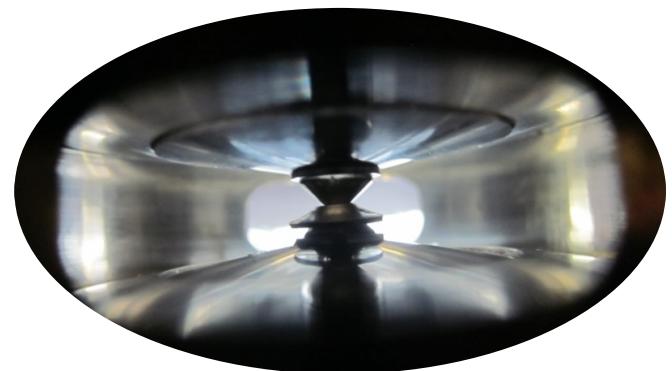
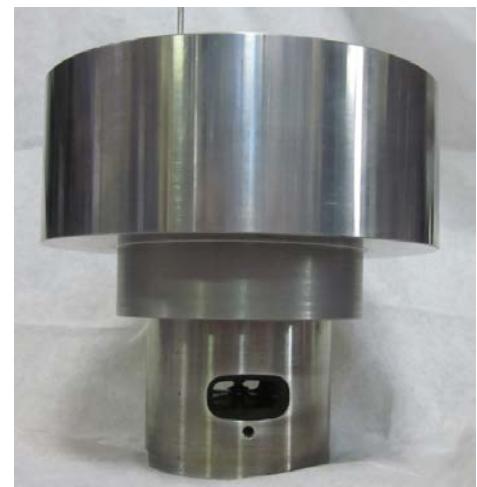
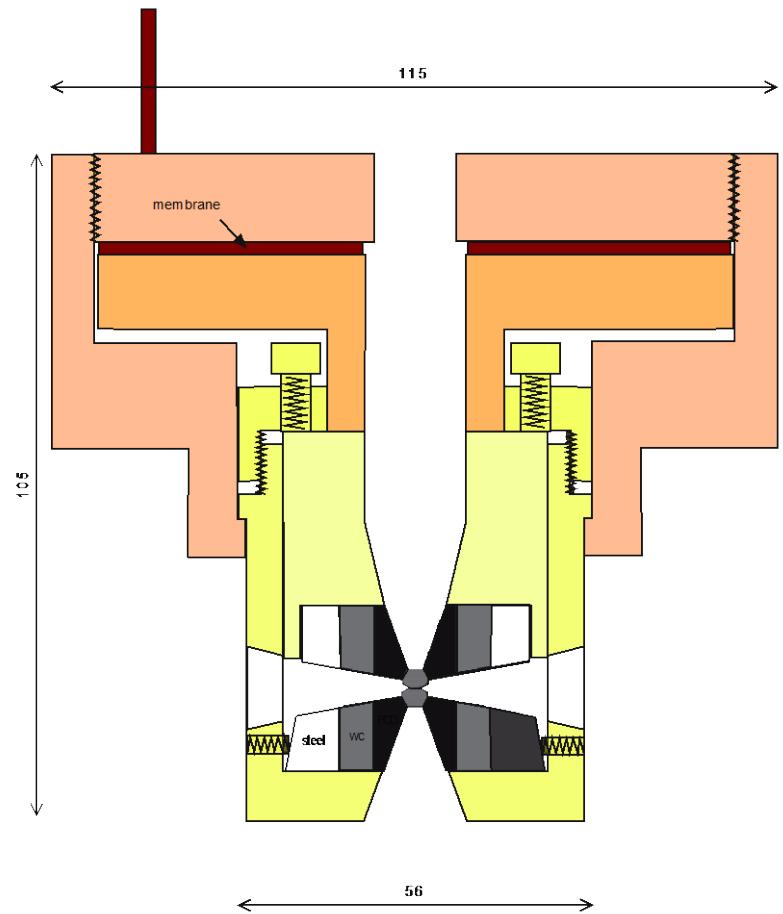
Early 2000s

2013

2014

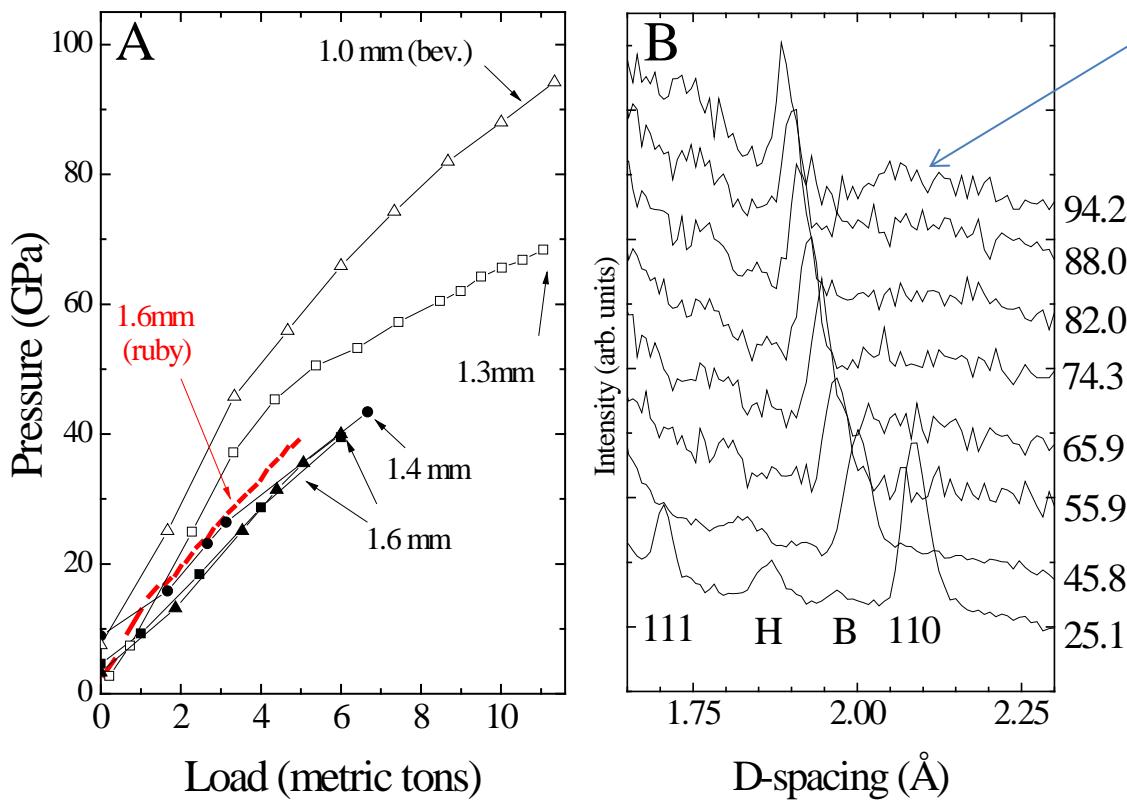


New, (two part) press designs for > 10 tons using gas membranes  
Stage 1 (yellow) allows loading of compressed gas samples



# Pressure limit

PCD seats Fails at ~12 tons  
achieved **94 GPa** with 1.0mm beveled culets.

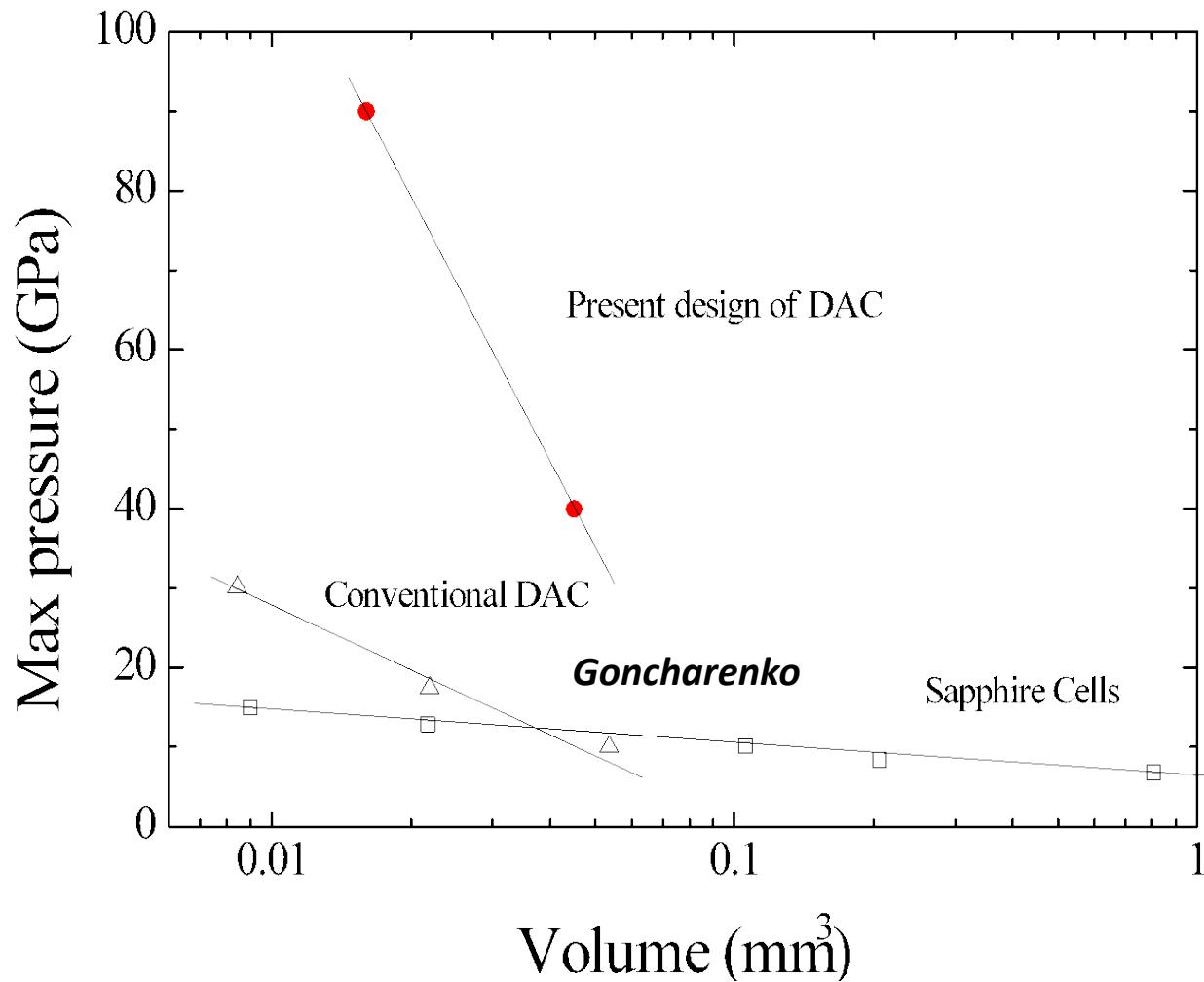


10 min data set!

A: pressure-load  
(open symbol PCD;  
closed symbol WC)

B: 110 diffraction  
peak from ice VII up  
to 94 GPa

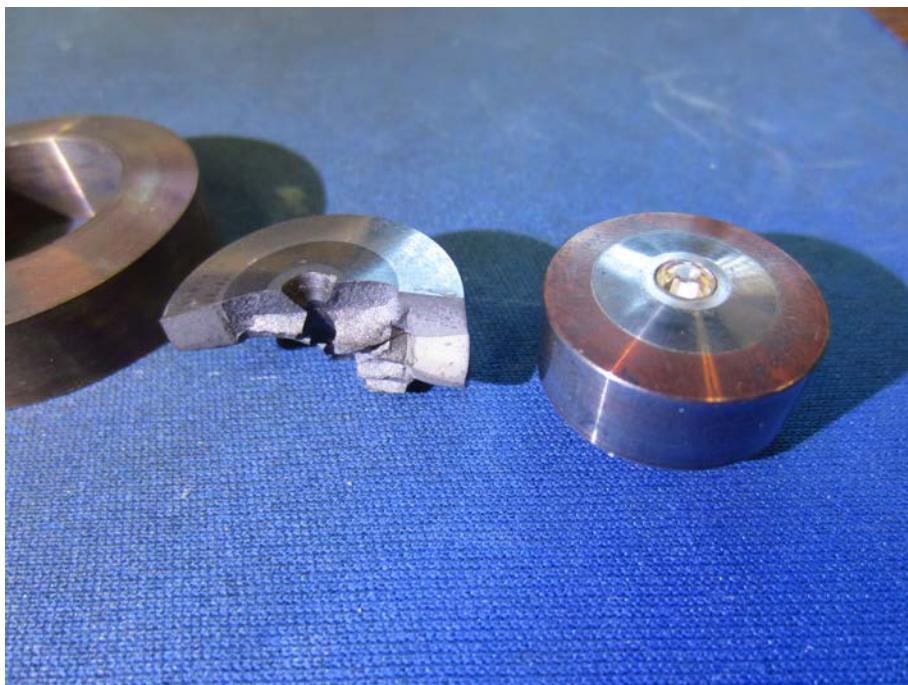
# a new dimension



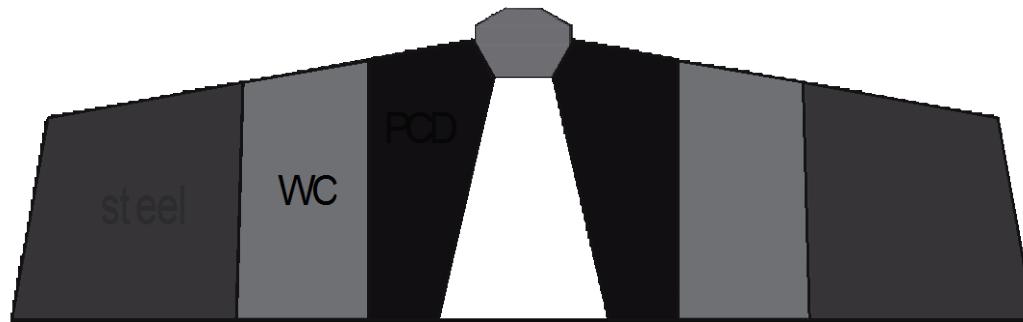
PNAS  
June 2013

HPR  
July 2013

# still problems

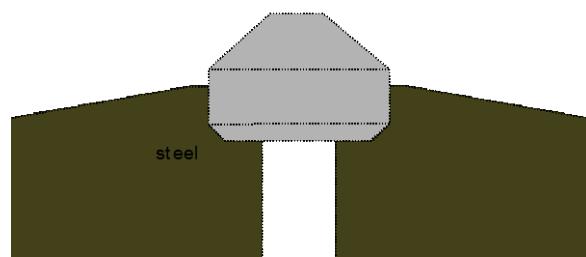


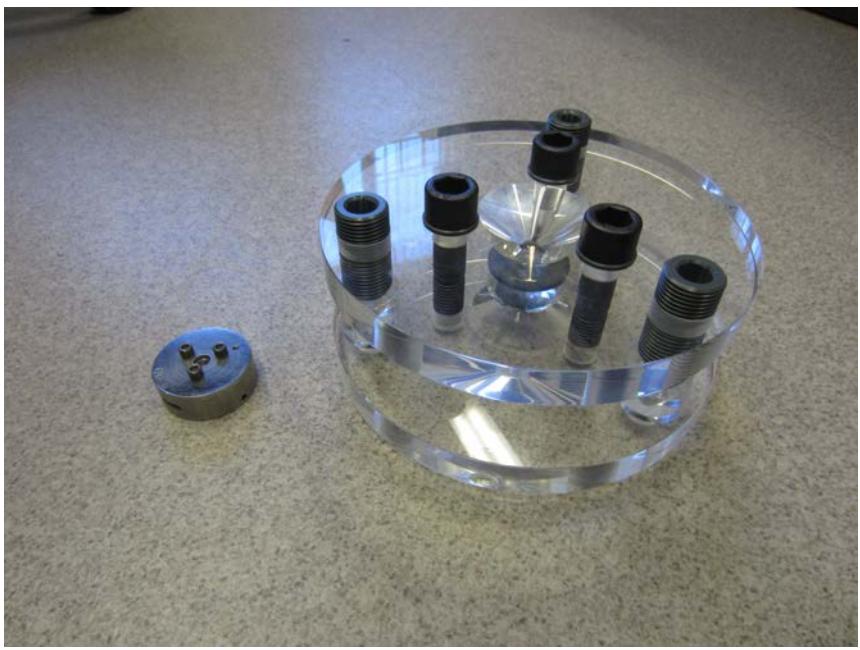
**new approach: larger, simpler anvils (CVD), simpler seats**



8 mm anvils

pending



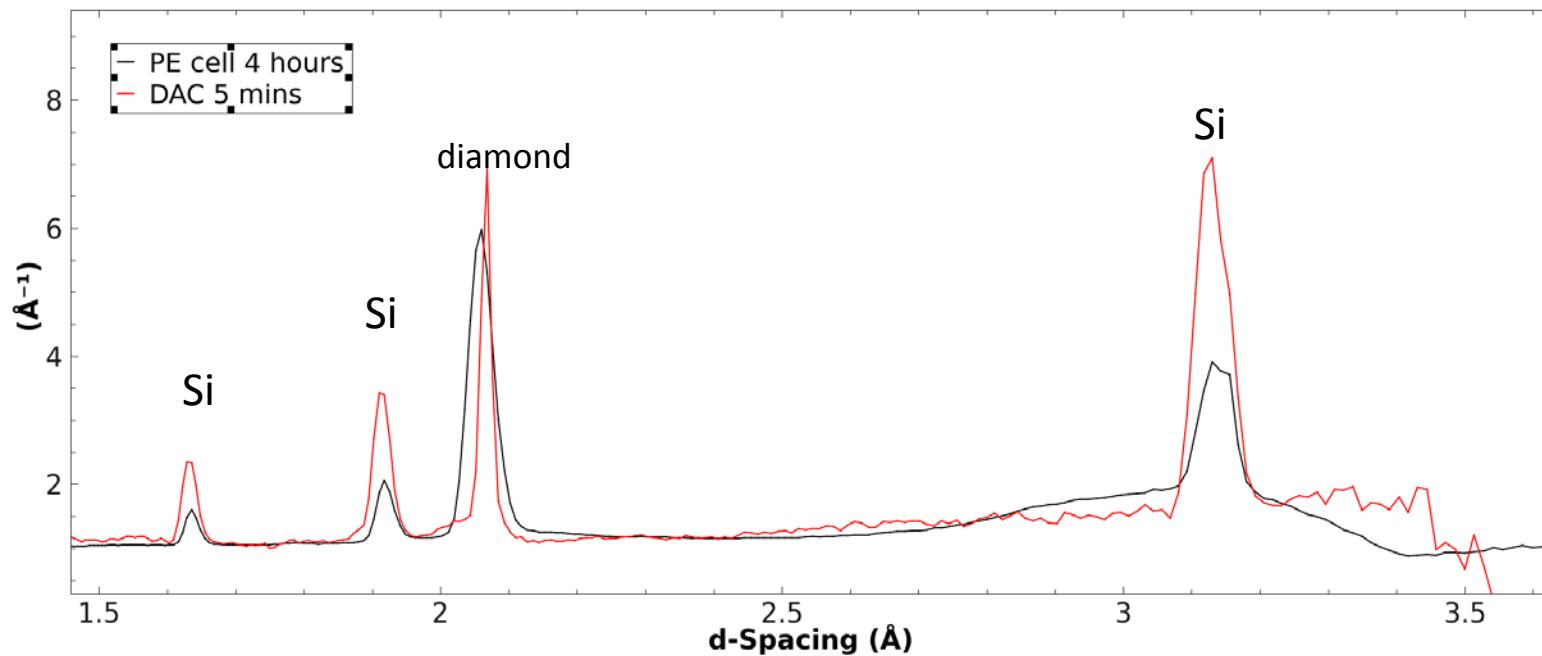


# Comparison PE cell and DAC

**PE cell double toroid:** 5.5 mm<sup>3</sup>, 4 hrs loading, 4hrs exposure, 4 hrs unloading, frequent blow-outs 15-20 Gpa

**DAC 2.5 mm culets:** 1.5 mm<sup>3</sup>, fast loading, short exposure, optical access, pressure range likely significantly higher (**1/4 cost, fraction of time**)

test: **Si** ambient pressure



**to be discussed...**