

# IJCLab and its contribution to HerHEA project

## Meeting #1, 13/06/2024

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**HerHEA** 

EUROfusion, ENR-MAT.02.VTT-T001  
2024-205

<https://indico.euro-fusion.org/event/3152/>



## - which compositions of alloys ?

To be chosen : binary -WMo, WTa, WV-, ternary -WTaV- and WTaMoNbV ?

Pre-analysis of the specimens ?

## - thin foil preparation dev. / optimization

## - ions parameters (similar as for some *ex situ* experiments ?)

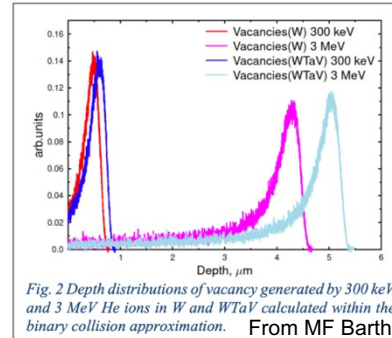
Helium, 10-20 keV

One condition: influence of a coupled few MeV irradiation ?

## - implantation temperature : RT and 500°C

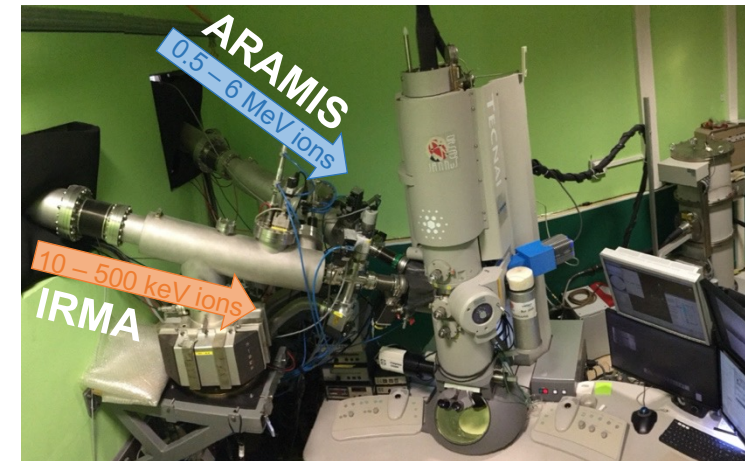
## - Observation of He bubbles nucleation and growth vs fluence

« The evolution of created defects (and, in particular, the size and density of cavities, voids and bubbles) will be monitored in different compositions vs the fluence at room temperature and 500°C), for selected parameters chosen **with the help of simulations**. »



mosaic

<https://mosaic.ijclab.in2p3.fr>



M3.1 In situ TEM experiments performed (Links to D3.1) June 2025



# A unique *in situ* dual ion beam Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM)

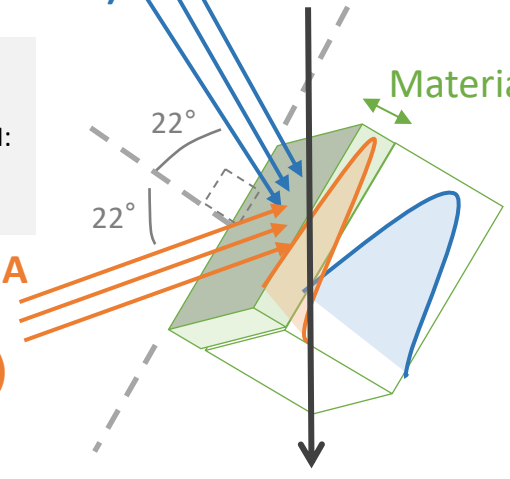


- ✓ Dynamical observation (above 100 keV N ions)
- ✓ Ion beam dosimetry inside TEM: continuous flux measurement
- ✓ Raster scanned ion beam(s)

Ions from ARAMIS  
(few MeV ions)

200 kV  
electrons

200 kV FEI Tecnai G<sup>2</sup> 20 TWIN  
 Electron source: LaB<sub>6</sub> filament  
 Spatial resolution: 0.27 nm  
 Magnification range: x 70 – 700 000



Material TEM thin foil

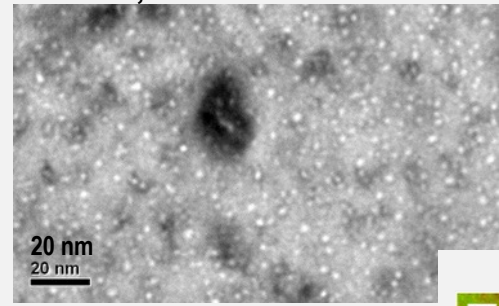
At a chosen T  
 LN<sub>2</sub> → 1000°C

**Techniques available:**  
 Conventional TEM  
 Scanning TEM  
 EDX, EELS, EFTEM, HAADF

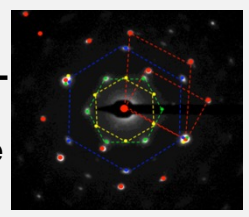
Imaging, Diffraction,  
 and Chemical Analysis

***In situ* observation of the atomic scale microstructure evolution of materials submitted to single/dual ion beams :**  
 role of defects (nature, size, density), impurities, nanoprecipitates, crystallographic structure, chemical composition....

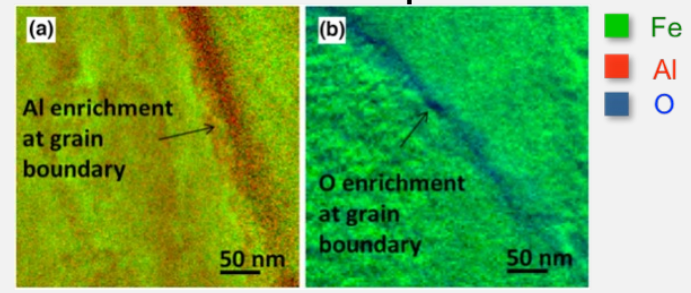
Bubbles, voids



Crystallo-  
 graphic  
 structure

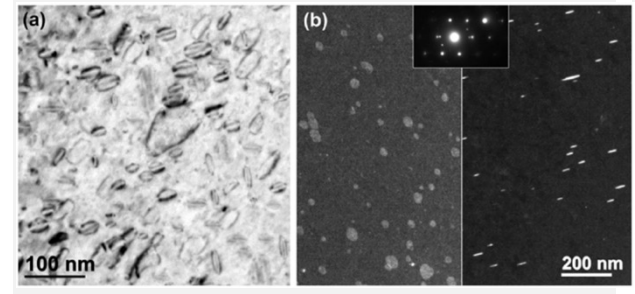


Elemental maps



C. Zheng, A. Gentils, *et al.*, NIMB 365 (2015) 319

Defects: dislocations, dislocation loops, ...



S. Jublot-Leclerc *et al.*, JNM 480 (2016) 436



# Observing gas bubbles with a TEM

Cavities = voids or gas-filled bubbles

- Conventional use of out-of-focus bright field imaging (Fresnel fringes)
- Also possible using Scanning TEM (HAADF), Z contrast
- Limitations below 0.8 nm diameter approx., depending on microscopes

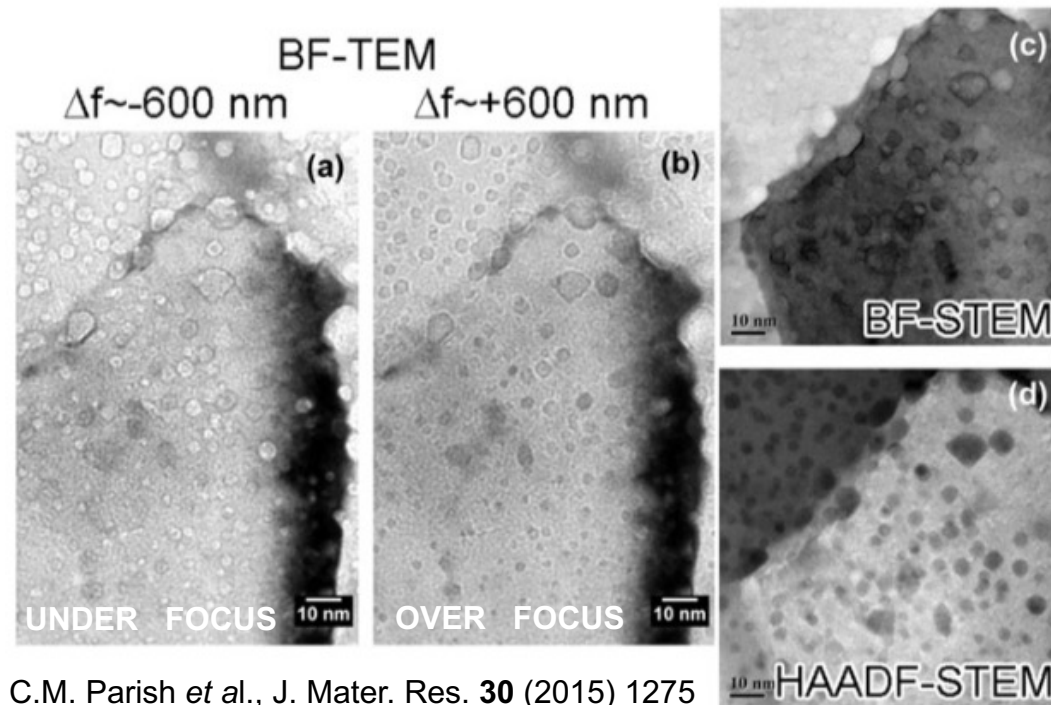
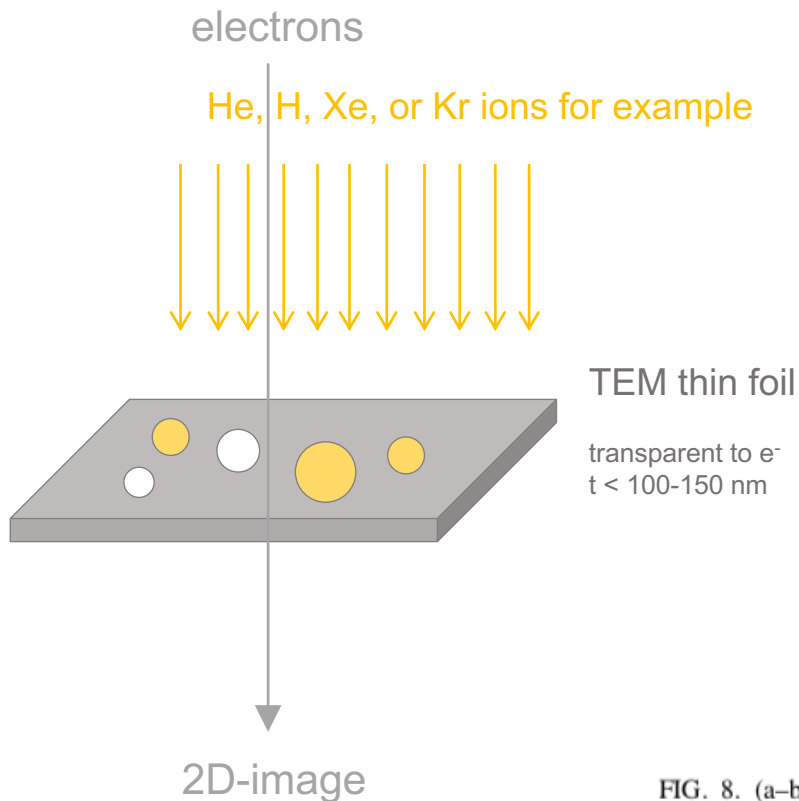


FIG. 8. (a–b) Fresnel contrast under/over focus TEM images of NFA 14YWT implanted with helium. (c–d) BF and HAADF-STEM. (a–b)  $\alpha_{\text{TEM}} < 1$  mrad,  $\beta_{\text{TEM}} \sim 5$  mrad. (c–d)  $\alpha_{\text{STEM}} \sim 15$  mrad,  $\beta_{\text{BF}} \sim 16$  mrad,  $\beta_{\text{HAADF}} \sim 55$  mrad.



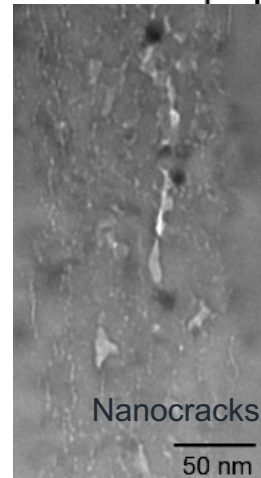
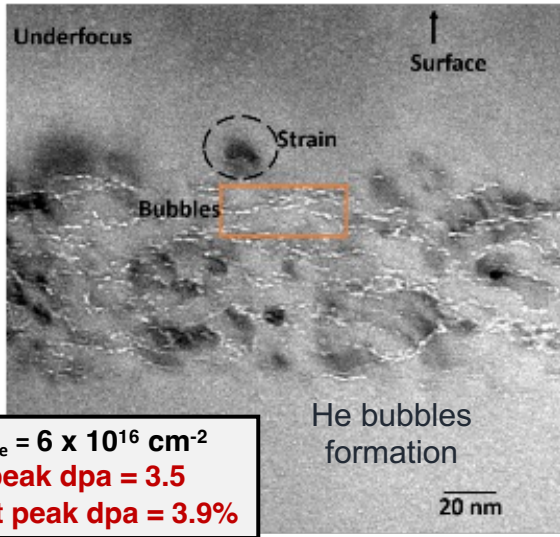
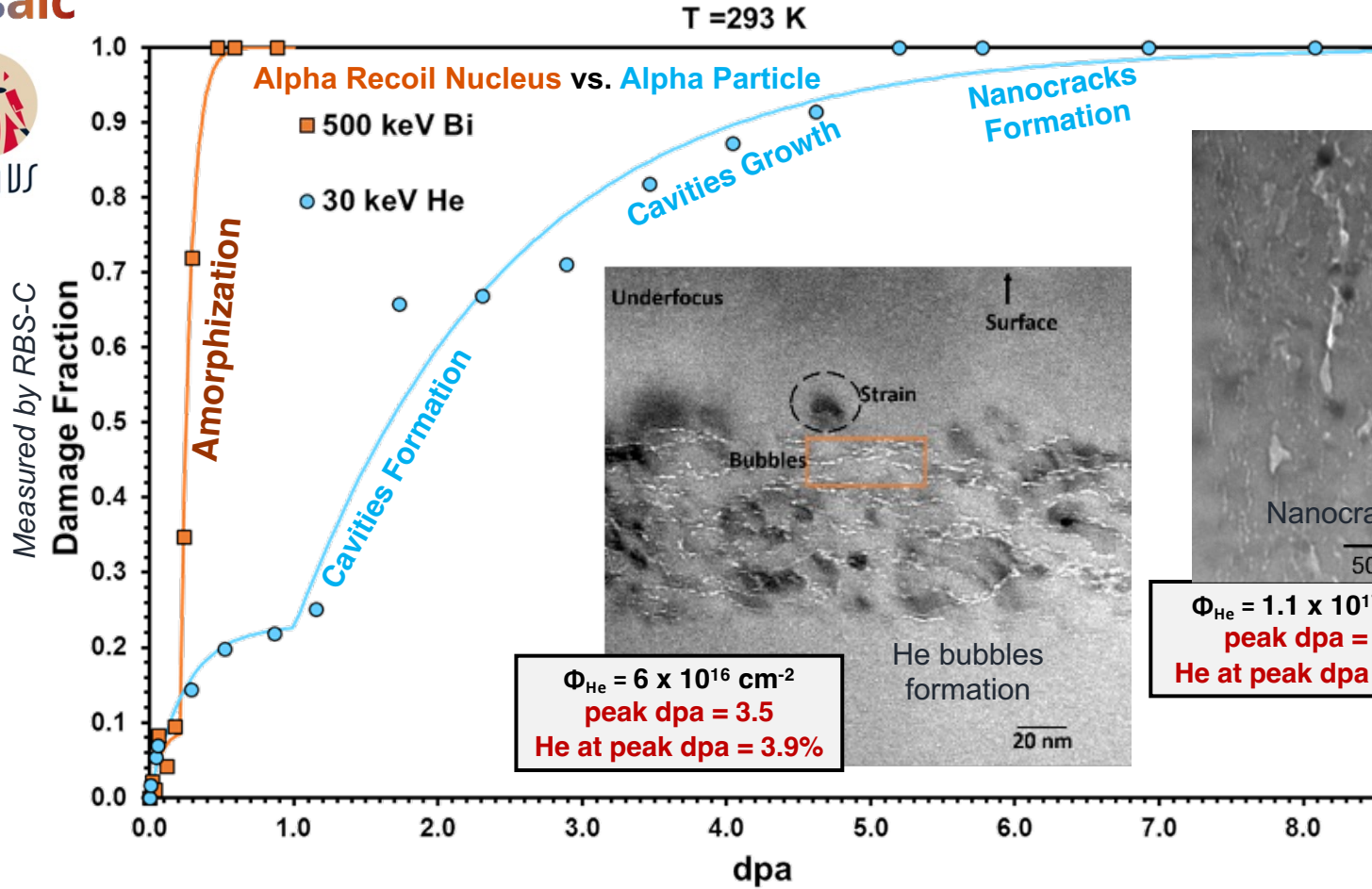
# Experimental simulation of alpha decay damage in apatite

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Energy & Environment

## He ion-implanted fluoroapatite

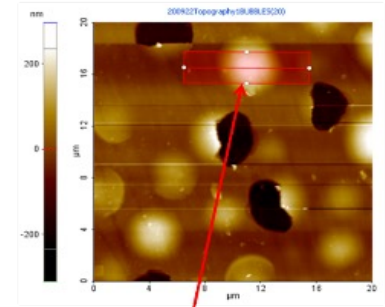
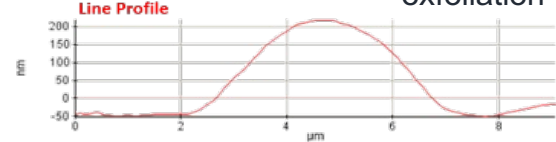
Applications : Nuclear waste management and thermochronology  
Fluorapatite,  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6\text{F}_2$  : most abundant apatite in nature

mosaic

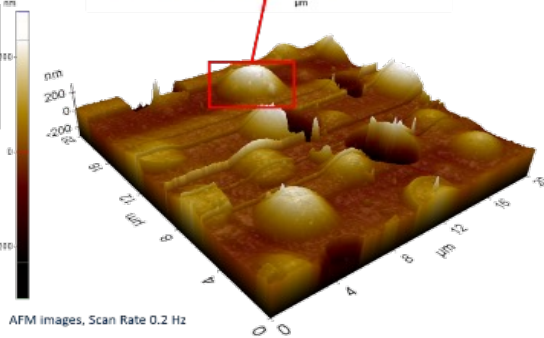


$\Phi_{\text{He}} = 1.4 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-2}$   
**peak dpa = 8.1**  
**He at peak dpa = 9.2%**

Surface exfoliation



$\Phi_{\text{He}} = 1.1 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-2}$   
**peak dpa = 6.4**  
**He at peak dpa = 7.2%**





# Experimental simulation of alpha decay damage in apatite

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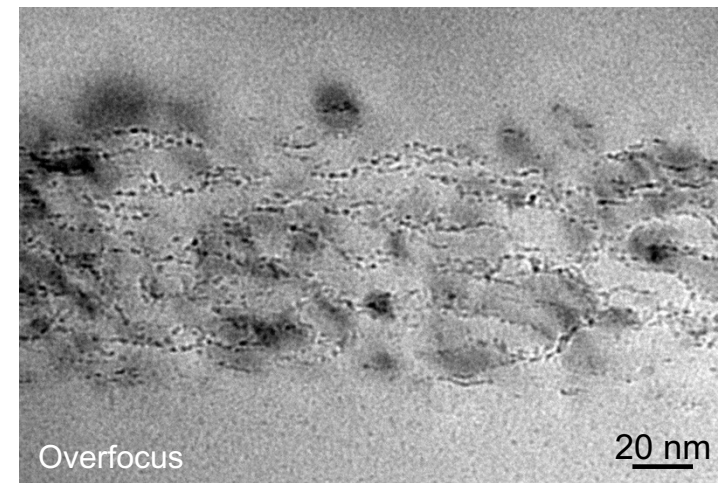
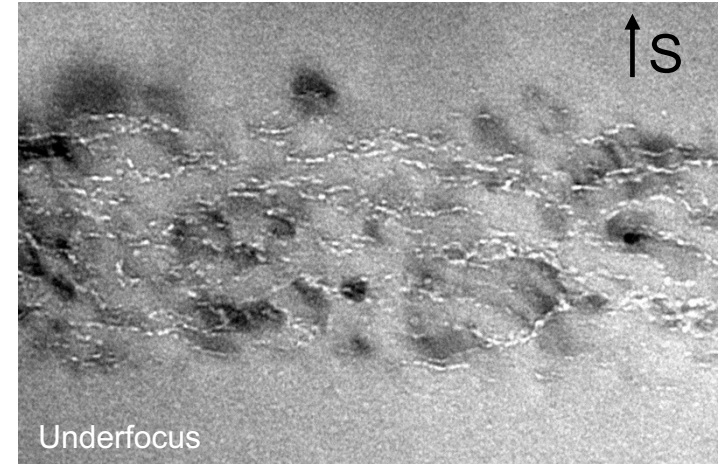
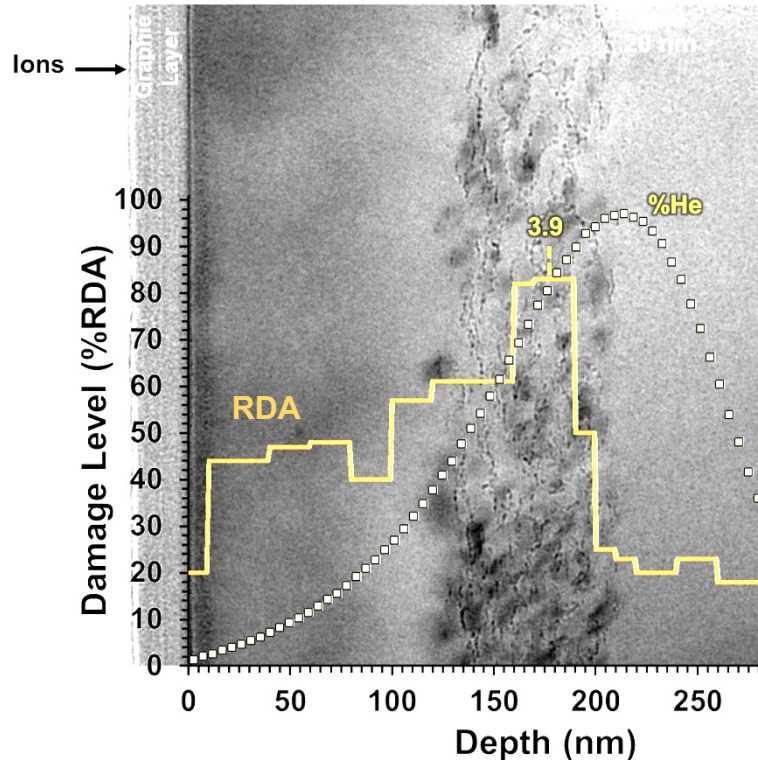
mosaic



$\Phi_{\text{He}} = 6 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-2}$   
peak dpa = 3.5  
He at peak dpa = 3.9%

Fluorapatite,  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6\text{F}_2$   
implanted with  
**30 keV He at 293 K**

He bubbles formation  
observed by TEM





# Synergetic effects with dual ion beam : example in austenitic steels

Synergetic effects with dual ion beam: concomitant helium accumulation and damage creation - Effects on bubble nucleation

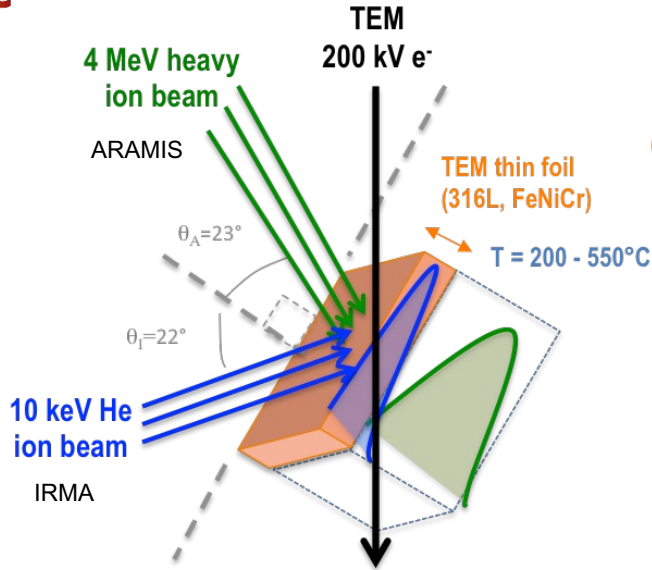
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JANNUS

Agence Nationale de la Recherche  
ANR



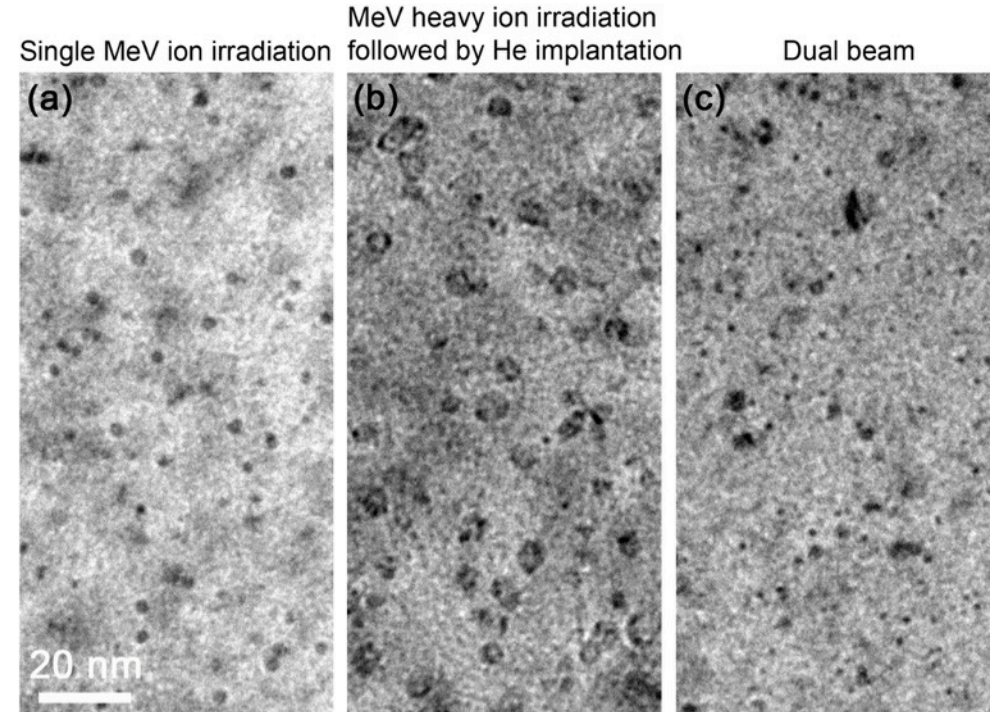
Helium + irradiation  
in austenitic steels  
(PWR vessel internal  
components)

Imaging of populations of cavities induced  
by single or dual ion beam at different T  
(200, 450 and 550°C) and fluences

He when injected in dual beam enhances the cavity  
nucleation, unlike when injected after damage

S. Jublot-Leclerc *et al.*, J. Nucl. Mater. **494** (2017) 240

## Cavities (voids, bubbles)



Industrial CW 316L steel – 550°C





# Synergetic effects with dual ion beam : example in austenitic steels

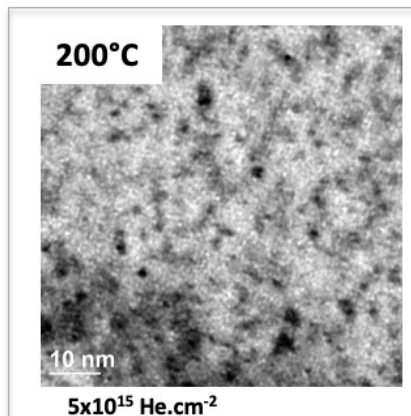
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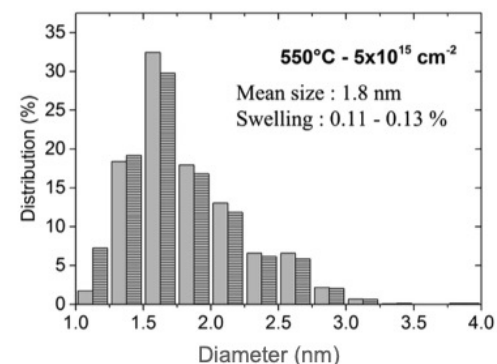
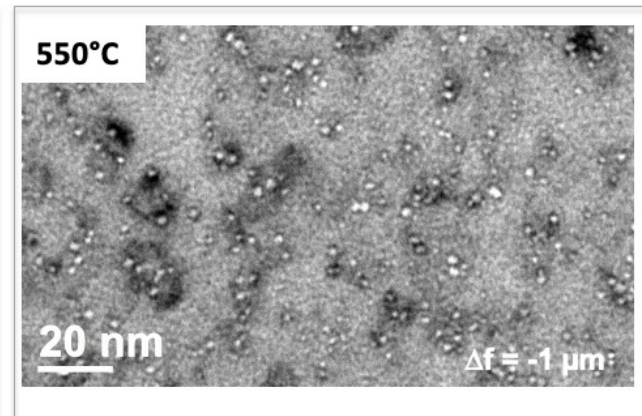
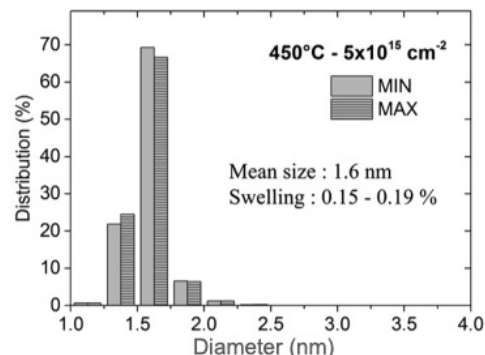
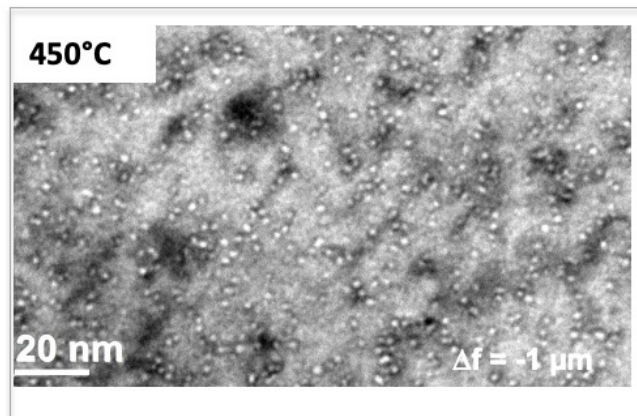
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ANR

Simulation of helium transmuted from nickel and boron (100 - 300 appm He/dpa in our study – “extreme” case)  
10 keV He<sup>+</sup> in 316L with a flux  $\phi = 5 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  @ JANNuS-Orsay



Tiny bubbles  
(maximal size = 0,8 nm)  
lost in the grainy  
contrast of an  
amorphous oxide layer  
on top of the specimen :  
**NOT COUNTABLE !**

Temperature effects  
on He bubbles



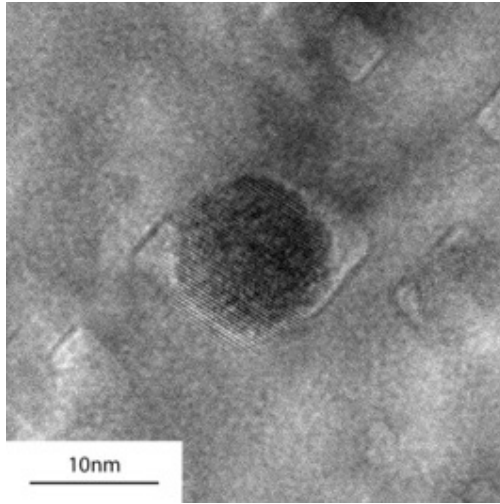
Broadening of the  
size distribution of  
bubbles with  
increasing T°C

At each T°C, strain contrasts are observed around bubbles -> **overpressurized bubbles** ( $P > 0,5 - 0,75 \text{ GPa}$  according to [1])

[1] B. Cochrane, P.J. Goodhew, Phys. Status Solidi A 77 (1983) 269



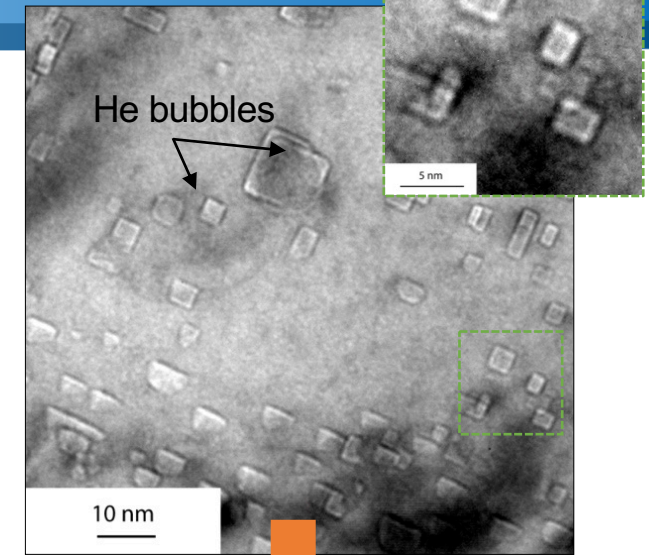
# Light gas (He,H) accumulation in ODS FeCr steels



He bubble around a nano-oxide in ODS-Eurofer  
O.V. Emelyanova *et al.*, Nucl. Mater. Energy **35** (2023) 101456  
and J. Nucl. Mater. **545** (2021) 152724

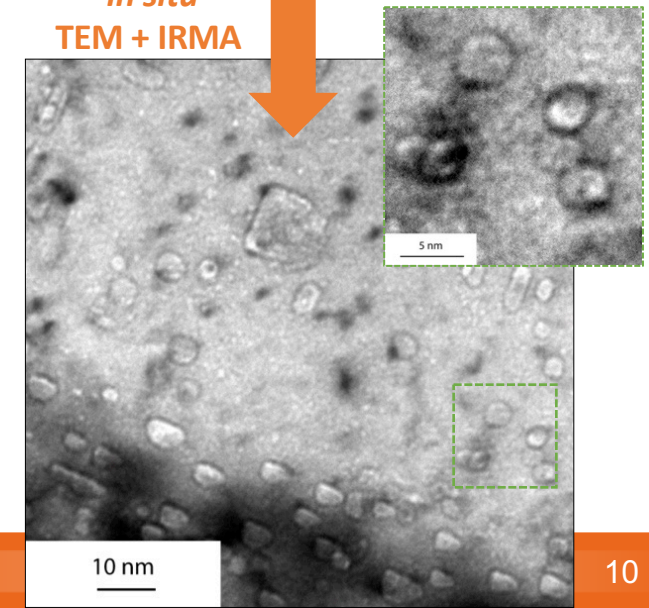
- ✓ He/H ion implantation results in pronounced evolution of the cavities shape associated with all types of the sinks
- ✓ Possible changes could be associated with H accumulation on the inner surface of the cavities

He<sup>+</sup>, 550 °C,  
1x10<sup>16</sup>cm<sup>-2</sup>



*in situ*  
TEM + IRMA

He<sup>+</sup>, 550 °C,  
1x10<sup>16</sup>cm<sup>-2</sup>  
+  
H<sup>+</sup>, RT,  
1x10<sup>17</sup>cm<sup>-2</sup>

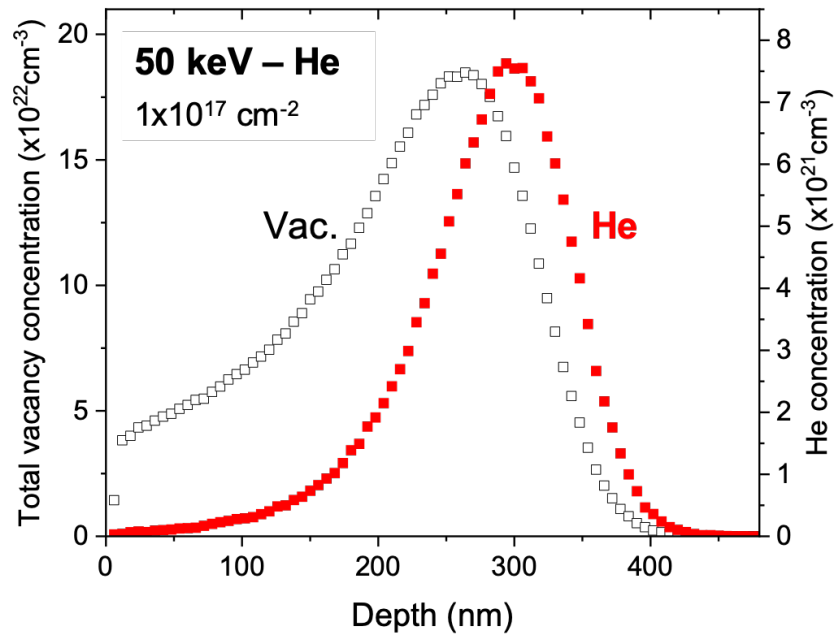
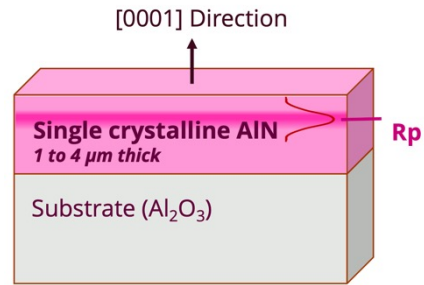




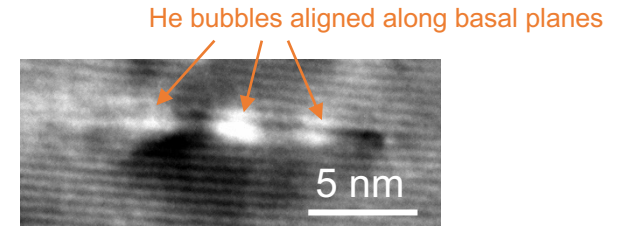
# Effect of helium injection on the microstructural evolution of AlN

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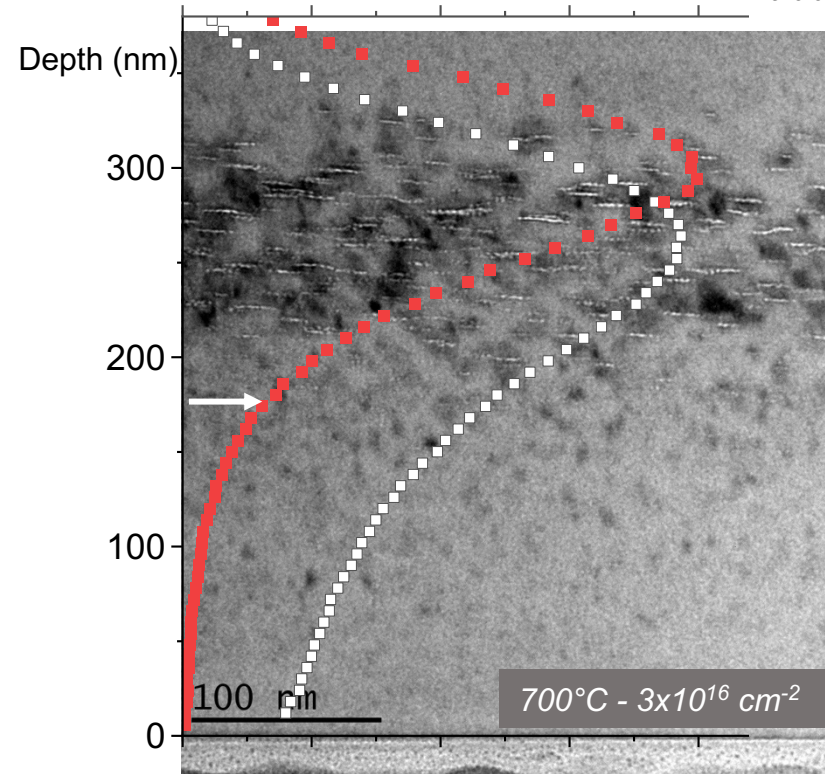
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HRTEM  
Higher magnification  
 $B = [11\bar{2}0]$



Bubbles associated with BSF



S. Jublot-Leclerc et al, submitted to Journal of the European Ceramic Society (2024)



## - which compositions of alloys ?

To be chosen : binary -WMo, WTa, WV-, ternary -WTaV- and WTaMoNbV ?

Pre-analysis of the specimens ?

## - thin foil preparation dev. / optimization

## - ions parameters (similar as for some *ex situ* experiments ?)

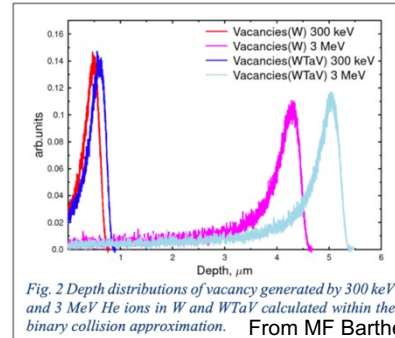
Helium, 10-20 keV

One condition: influence of a coupled few MeV irradiation ?

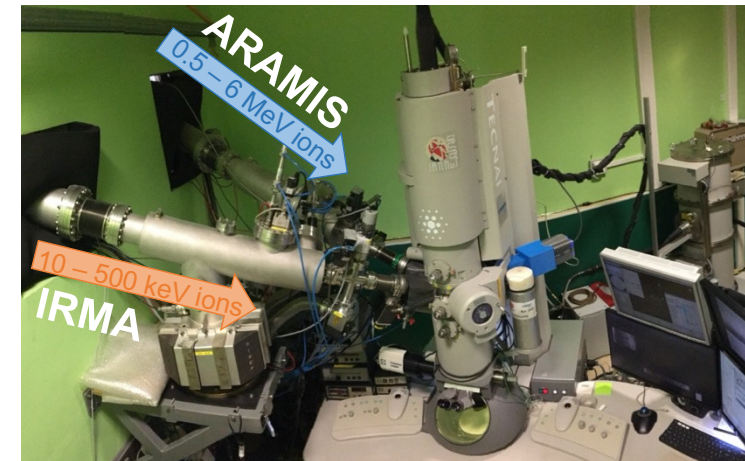
## - implantation temperature : RT and 500°C

## - Observation of He bubbles nucleation and growth vs fluence

« The evolution of created defects (and, in particular, the size and density of cavities, voids and bubbles) will be monitored in different compositions vs the fluence at room temperature and 500°C), for selected parameters chosen **with the help of simulations**. »



<https://mosaic.ijclab.in2p3.fr>



M3.1 In situ TEM experiments performed (Links to D3.1) June 2025



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Thank you !