

疲劳裂纹启裂源和晶界阻力的定量测量技术
Experimental Techniques for Measurement on Fatigue
Crack Initiation Site Density-Strength Distribution and
Grain Boundary Resistance to Crack Growth

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Acknowledgement:

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Contents

- Introduction
- An experimental method for measurement on resistance to crack growth across a grain boundary 定量测量晶界对疲劳裂纹扩展阻力的实验方法;
 - 应用实例：晶界阻力与裂纹面旋转角的关系、过时效AA7050 Al alloy 中垂直晶界和沿晶界扩展阻力;
- An experimental method for quantification of crack initiation site density and strength distribution 定量测量疲劳裂纹启裂源密度及其强度分布的实验方法
 - 应用实例：环境效应、各向异性
- Summary

Fatigue Damage Major Cause for Failure



4-28-1988 After 89,090 flight cycles on a 737-200, metal fatigue lets the top go in flight.

1988, Boeing 737, fuselage blown off in flight, fatigue in fuselage behind front door.



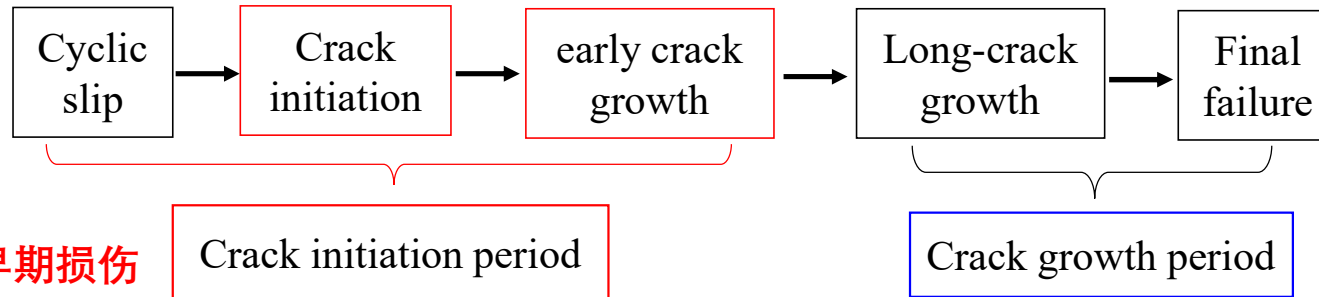
2008, F-15C broken apart in flight, fatigue in a longeron component.



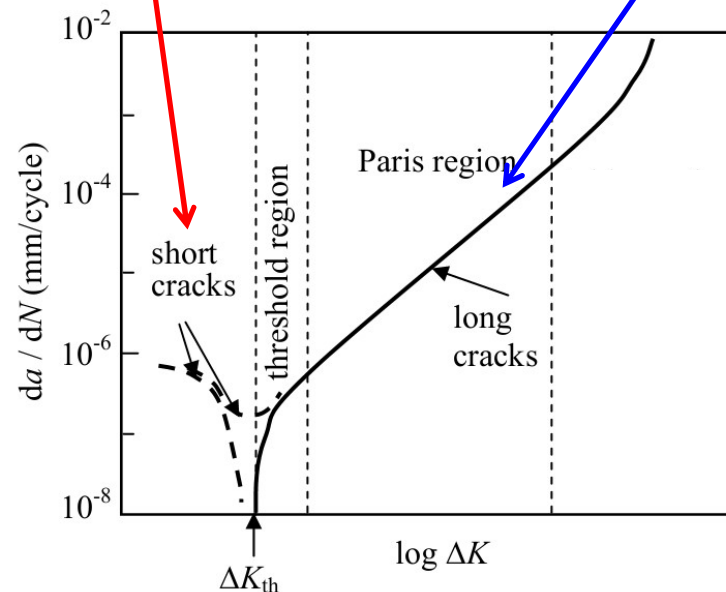
2007, I35W bridge in Minneapolis collapsed, corrosion + fatigue in structure component.

- Fatigue failures cause **capital loss** (3.1% of GDP in US in 1998; over \$1 trillion in 2012)
- **Loss of human lives**
- Many accidents can be **prevented** by accurate prediction of fatigue lives and design of new materials and components

The Process of Fatigue Damage



- Large fraction (60~90%) of total fatigue life.
- Sensitive to local microstructure; not quantitatively understood yet

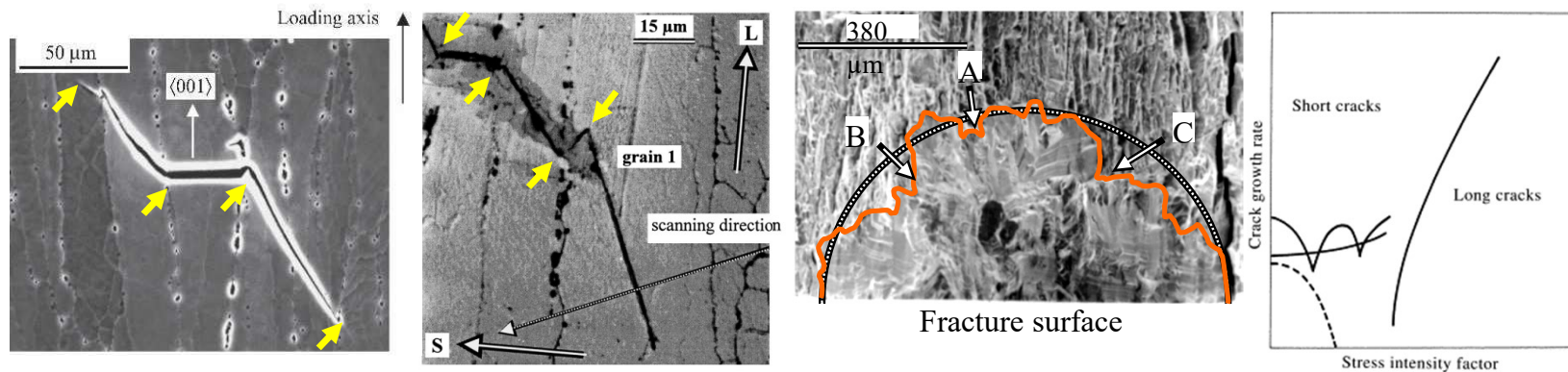


- Small fraction (10~20%) of total fatigue life.
- Quantified by Paris law and its derivatives

Motivation: scientifically significant to quantitatively understand early stage of fatigue crack growth at microstructure scale. 预防断裂：装备关键材料的早期损伤预测非常重要

Short Fatigue Cracks

- **Characteristics** of Short Fatigue Crack (SFC) growth behaviors
 - **Sensitive** to microstructure; behave “abnormally”
 - **Deflection, branching** or even **arrested** at **GBs**, or even inside grains
 - **Irregular** crack front
 - **Scattering** growth rate



T. Zhai, *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions a-Physical Metallurgy and Materials Science*, 37A (2006) 3139-3147.

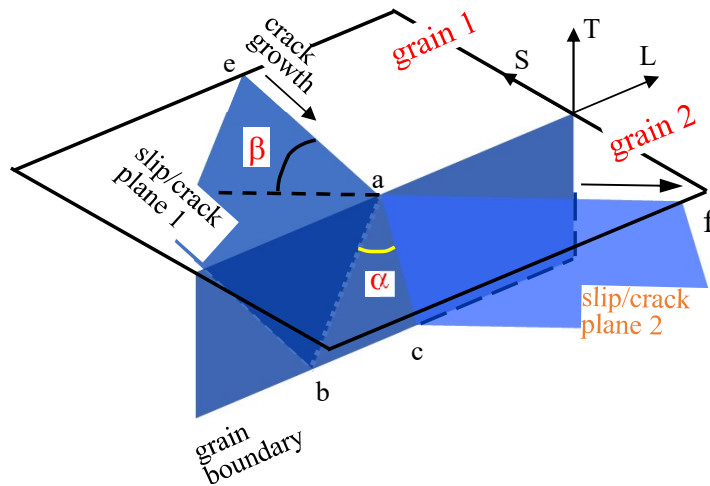
T. Zhai, A.J. Wilkinson, and J.W. Martin. *Acta Materialia*, 2000. 48(20): p. 4917-4927

K. Obrtlík, J. Polak, M. Hajek, A. Vasek, *International Journal of Fatigue*, 19 (1997) 471-475.

GBs: main barrier to SFC growth → control growth behaviors

晶界是阻碍疲劳裂纹的主要微观结构，定量计算短疲劳裂纹扩展行为，需要知道其阻力的定义与数值？

Zhai's 3-D Crystallographic Model



$$[\mathbf{N}] = [\mathbf{n}] \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

With EBSD

$$\psi = \arccos([\mathbf{N}] \times [\mathbf{S}] \cdot [\mathbf{L}])$$

$$\theta = \arccos([\mathbf{N}] \times [\mathbf{T}] \cdot [\mathbf{L}])$$

$$\alpha = |\psi_1 - \psi_2| :$$

twist angle on GB plane

$$\beta = |\theta_1 - \theta_2| :$$

tilt angle on sample surface

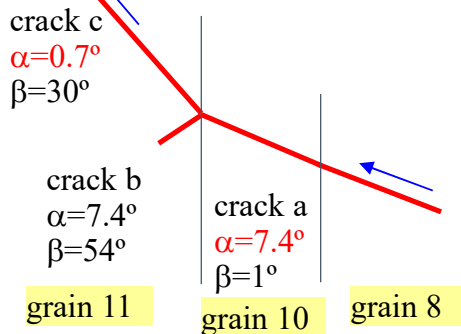
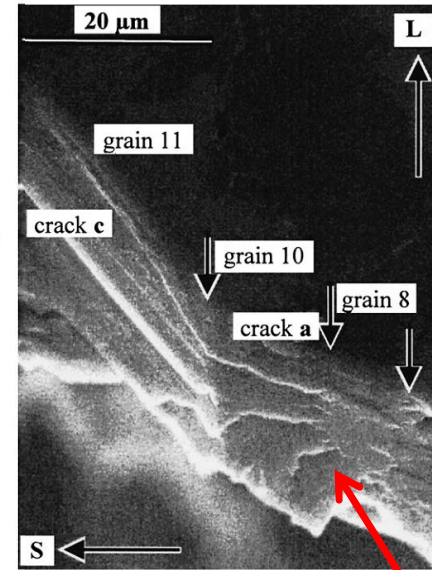
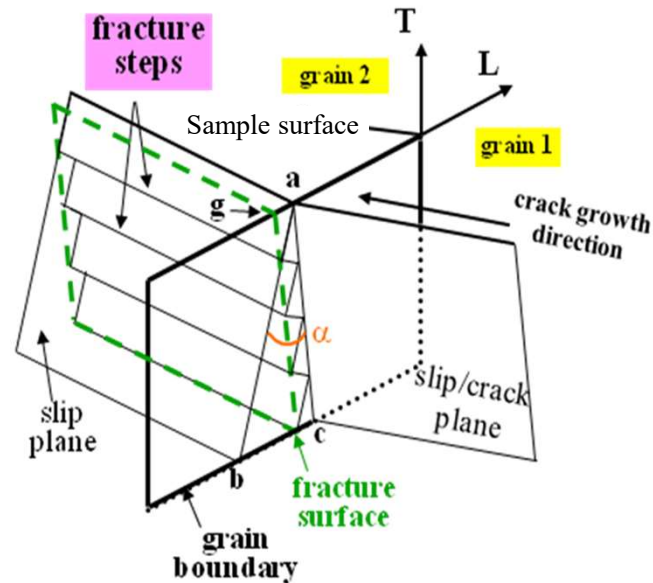
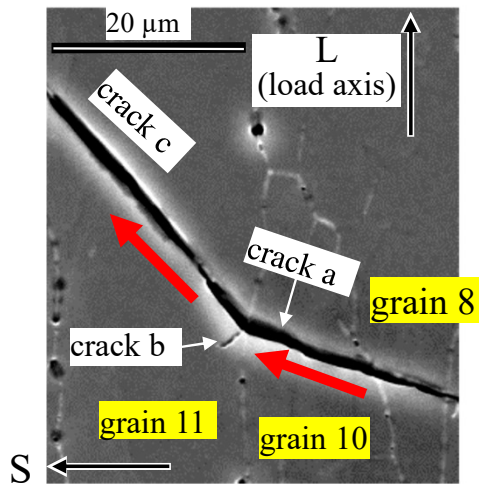
3-D crystallographic mechanism for crack growth along slip plane 1 in grain 1 onto slip plane 2 in grain 2

When passing GB, **area abc has to be fractured**, **significant resistance** to crack growth.
 → **α has to be minimised.**

Minimum-α criterion: crack twists onto the slip plane.

裂纹穿过晶界的最小旋转角原则！

Experimental Evidence



minimum α angle

fracture steps
fracture surface

formation of fracture steps due to crack twist

W. Wen T. Zhai, Philosophical Magazine, 91 (2011) 3557-3577.
T. Zhai, A.J. Wilkinson, and J.W. Martin. Acta Materialia, 2000. 48(20): p. 4917-4927
T. Zhai, X.P. Jiang, J.X. Li, M.D. Garratt, G.H. Bray, International Journal of Fatigue, 27 (2005) 1202-1209

Growth across Grain Boundaries: A Crystallographic Model

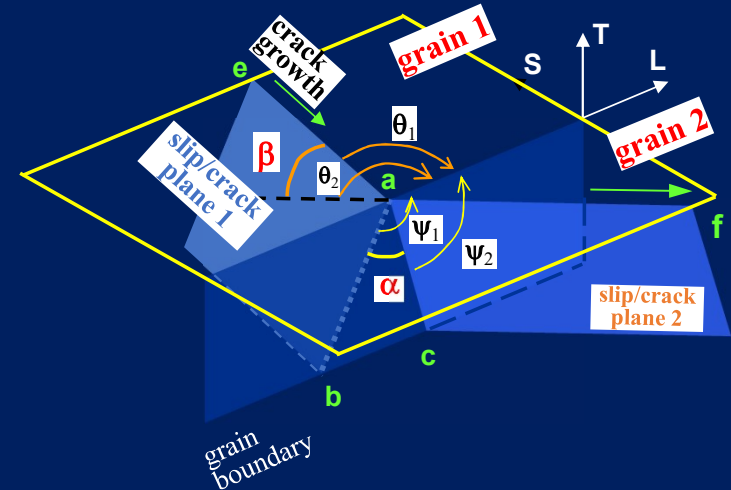
- α and β angles: the main factors controlling short fatigue crack growth across a grain boundary

$$\alpha = |\psi_1 - \psi_2|$$

twist angle of the crack plane on grain boundary plane

$$\beta = |\theta_1 - \theta_2|, 0^\circ \leq \beta, \alpha, \psi_1, \psi_2, \theta_1, \theta_2 \leq 180^\circ$$

tilt angle of crack deflection at grain boundary

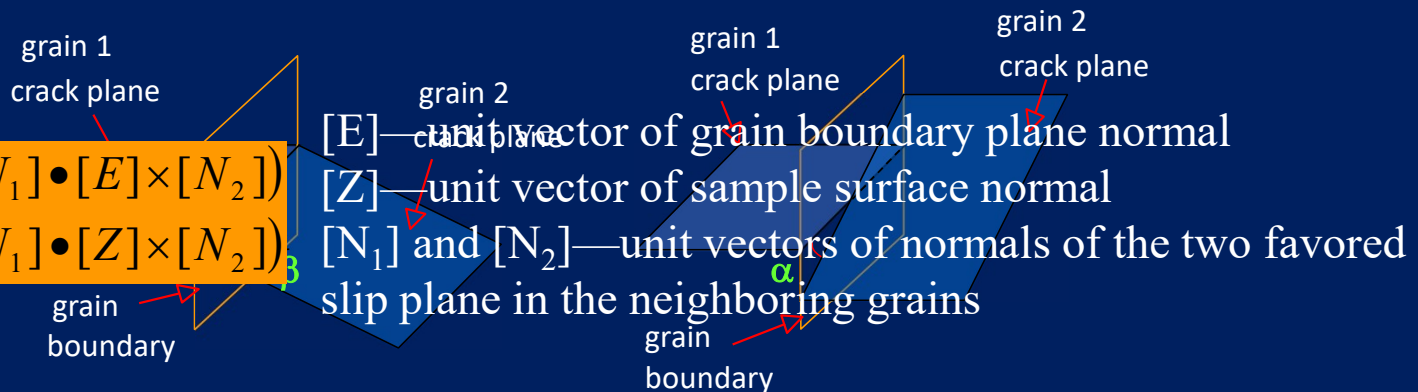


α and β have to be minimised for a crack to pass through a grain boundary

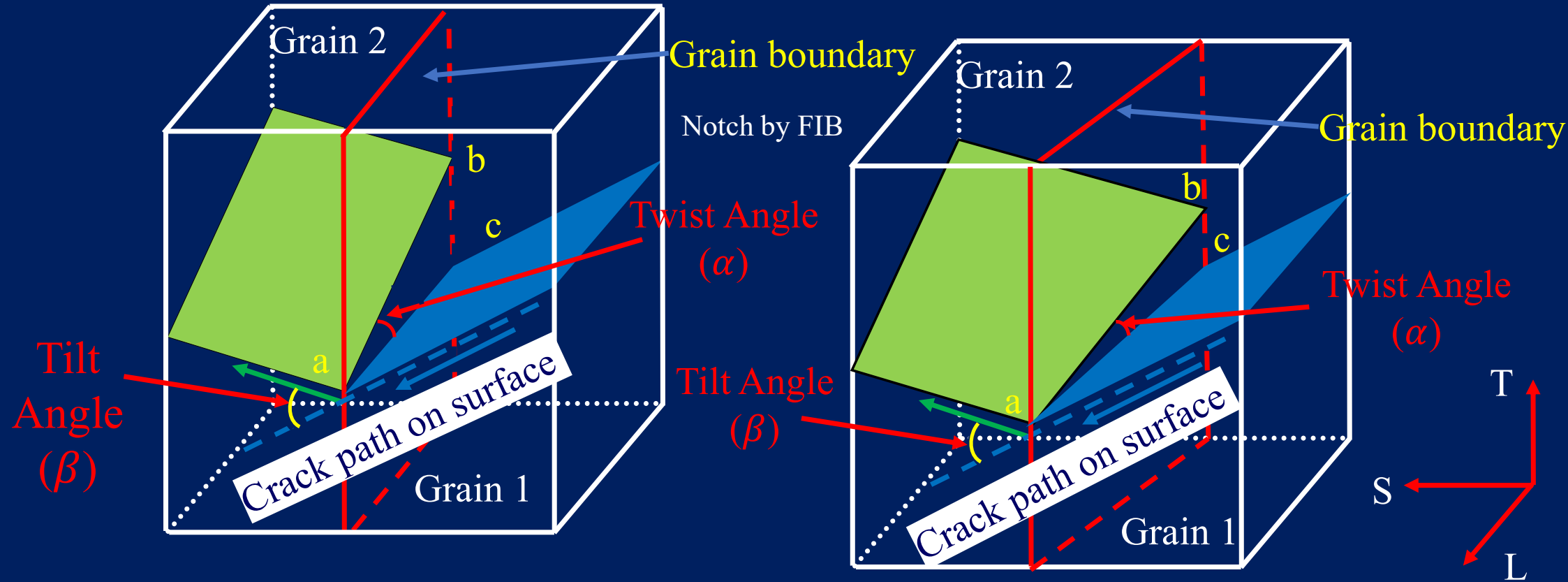
Two components of crack deflection:

$$\alpha = \arccos([E] \times [N_1] \cdot [E] \times [N_2])$$

$$\beta = \arccos([Z] \times [N_1] \cdot [Z] \times [N_2])$$



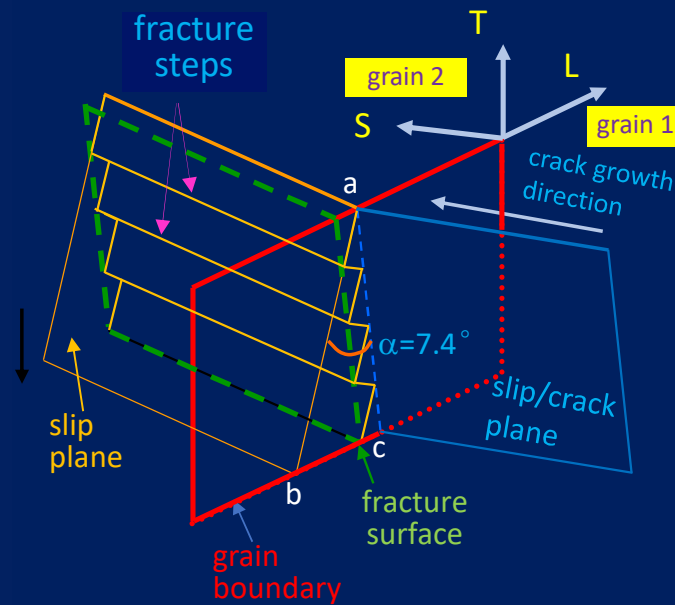
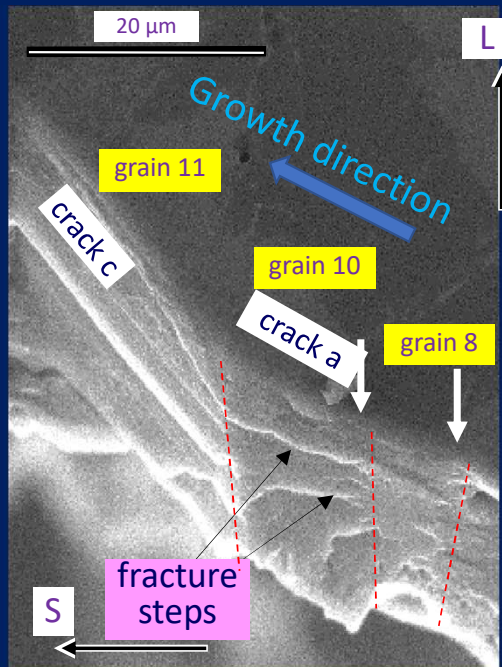
Microstructural 3-D Effect on Fatigue Crack Nucleation: Grain Boundaries



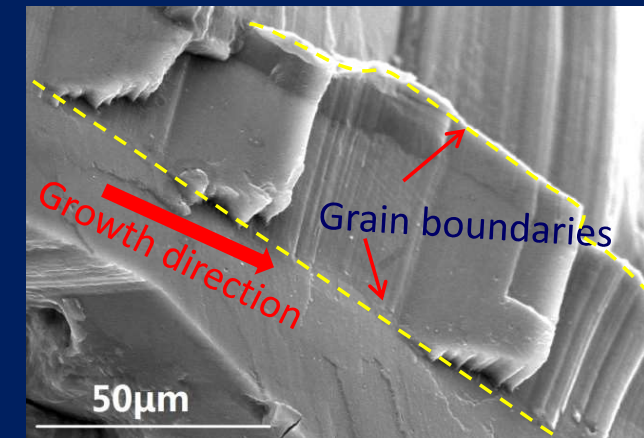
Controlling Parameter: the Minimum Twist Angle

The twist angle is affected by grain orientation and GB orientation

Resistance due to Crack Plane Twist



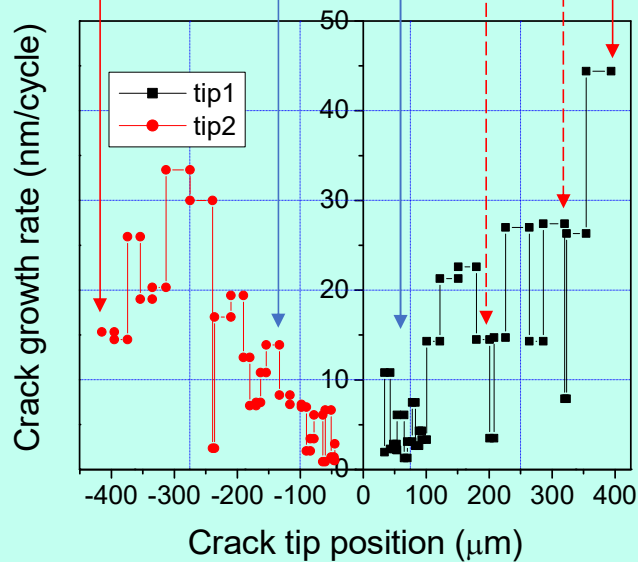
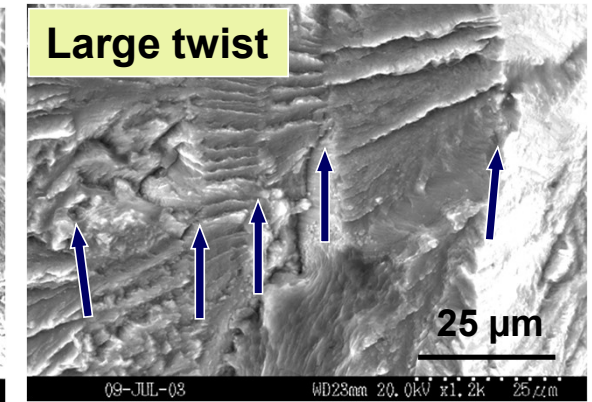
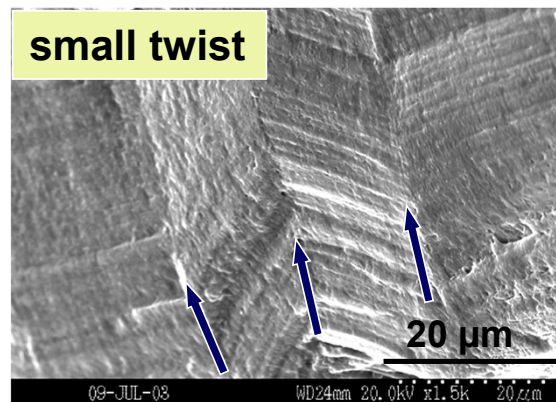
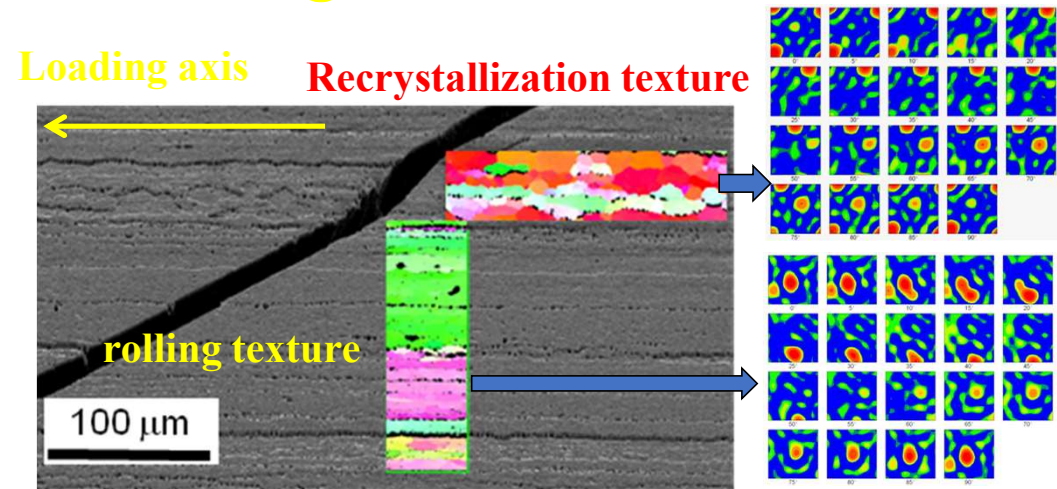
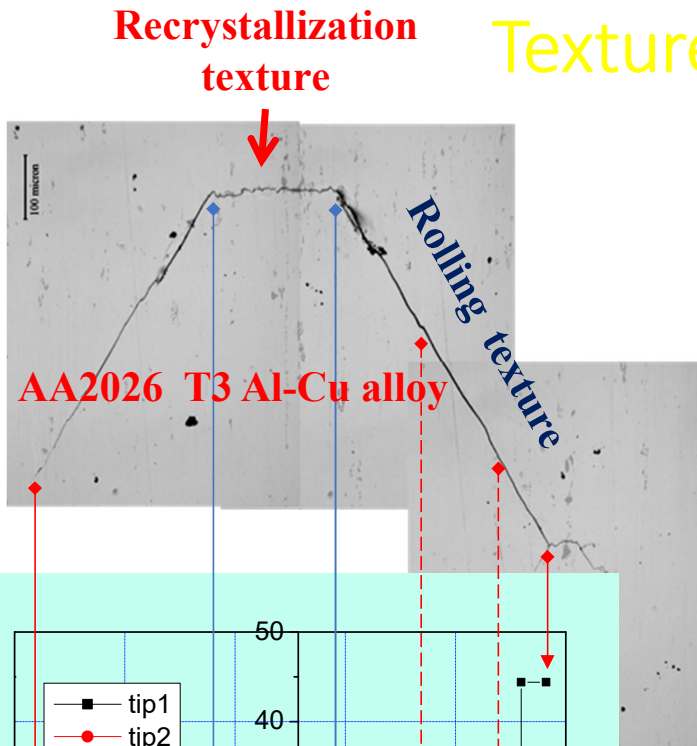
Fracture steps formed to accommodate crack plane twist



Larger twist \Rightarrow larger fracture steps \Rightarrow higher resistance

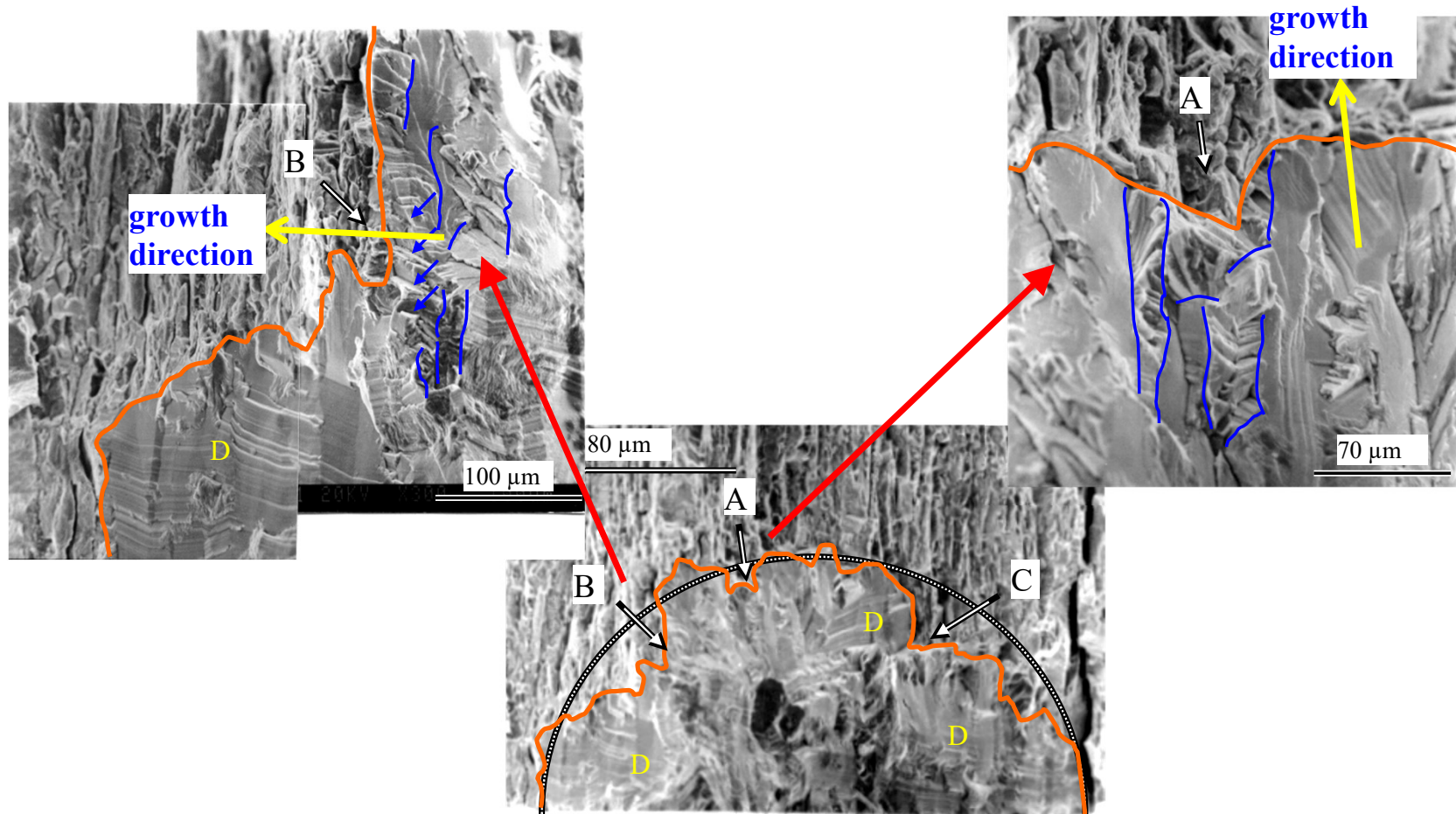
This crystallographic model can explain the observed anomalous growth behaviors of short fatigue cracks

Texture Effect on long Crack Growth Behaviors



- Crack growth faster (30°) in rolling texture region due to predominant small-twist deflection;
- Crack growth slower due to large twist deflection in recrystallized region

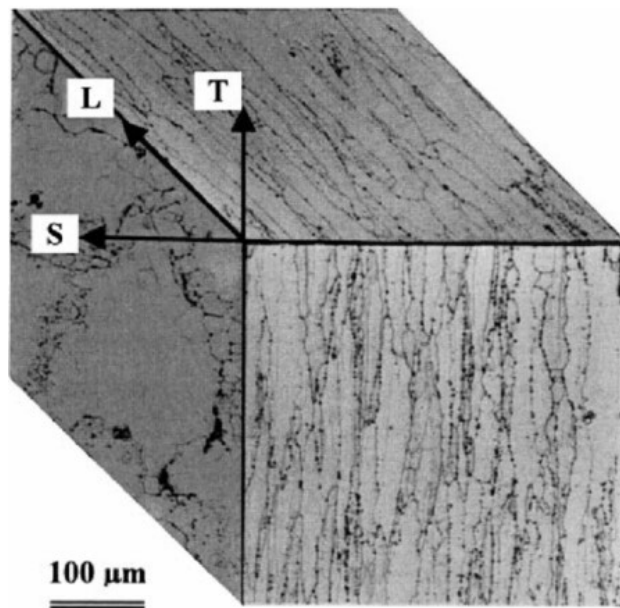
Crack Front Pinned by Large Twist



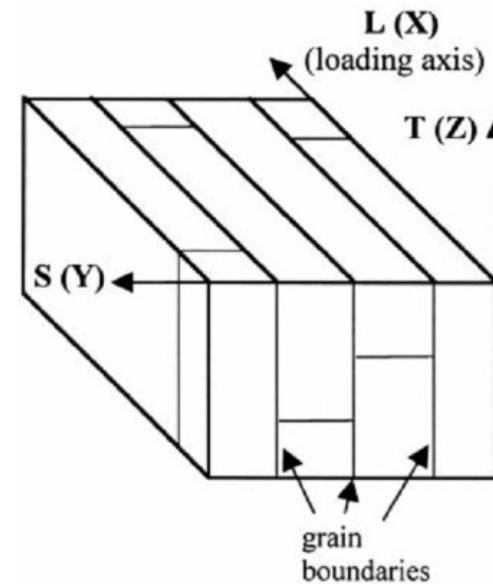
Crack front pinned by crack plane twist

SFC Growth in Rolled Al-Li Alloy 8090

- Hot cross-rolled, pancake shaped grains \rightarrow major GBs vertical to L-S and T-S surfaces



Grain size: $217 \mu\text{m} \times 176 \mu\text{m} \times 26 \mu\text{m}$

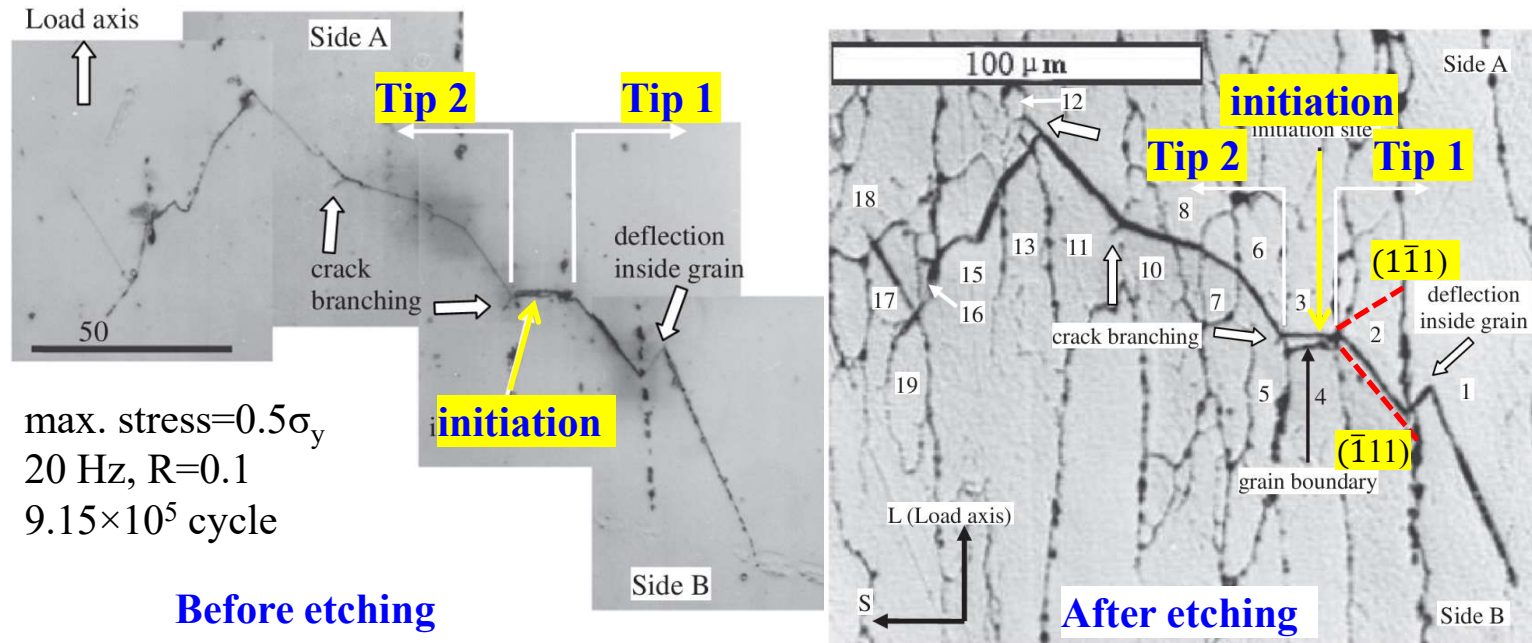


Simplified grain structure

- L-S sample, fatigued on four-point bend rig, max. stress= $0.5\sigma_y$, 20 Hz, R=0.1

Zhai, T., A.J. Wilkinson, and J.W. Martin. Acta Materialia, 2000. **48**(20): p. 4917-4927

Crack Initiation & Growth

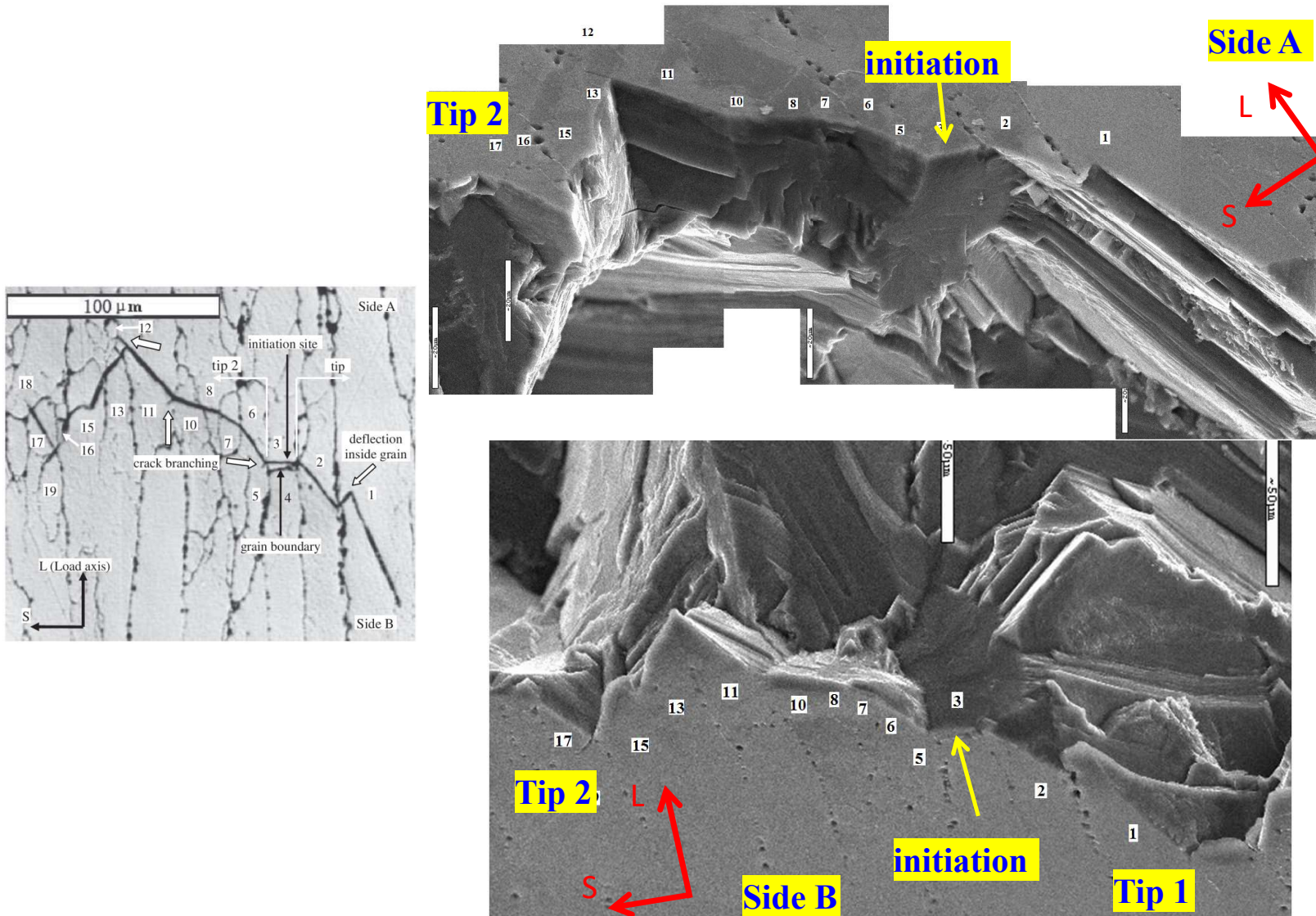


- Crack initiated // (001) plane, vertical to loading axis, due to the trace element of Na and K
- Crack propagated crystallographically through over **13 grains**
- Assume GBs \perp surface: crack twisted onto a **minimum- α** crack plane at all GBs, **except at GB3/2. why?**

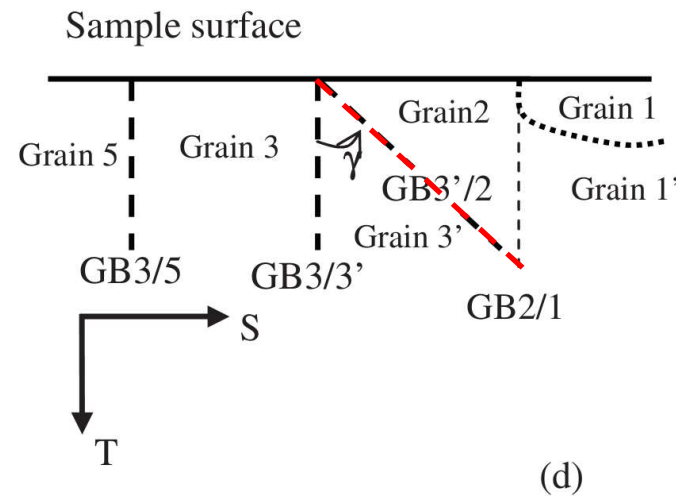
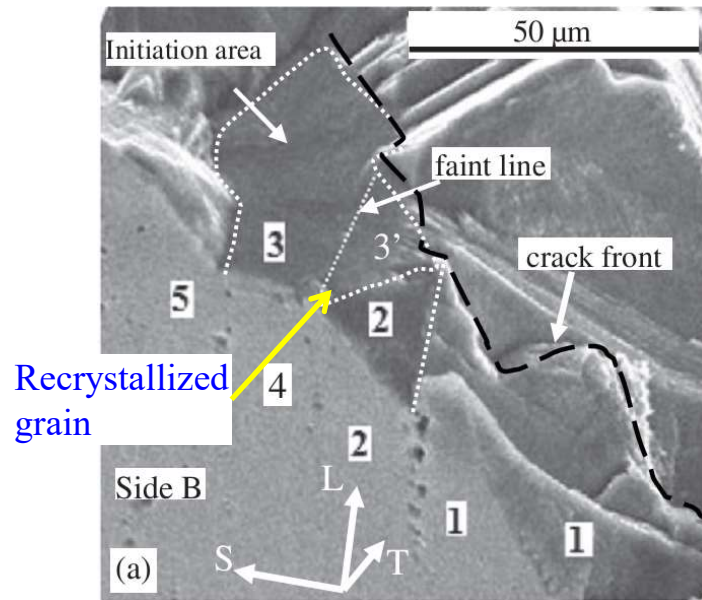
W. Wen, T. Zhai, Philosophical Magazine, 91 (2011) 3557-3577.

Zhai, T., A.J. Wilkinson, and J.W. Martin. Acta Materialia, 2000. **48**(20): p. 4917-4927

Mating Fracture Surfaces



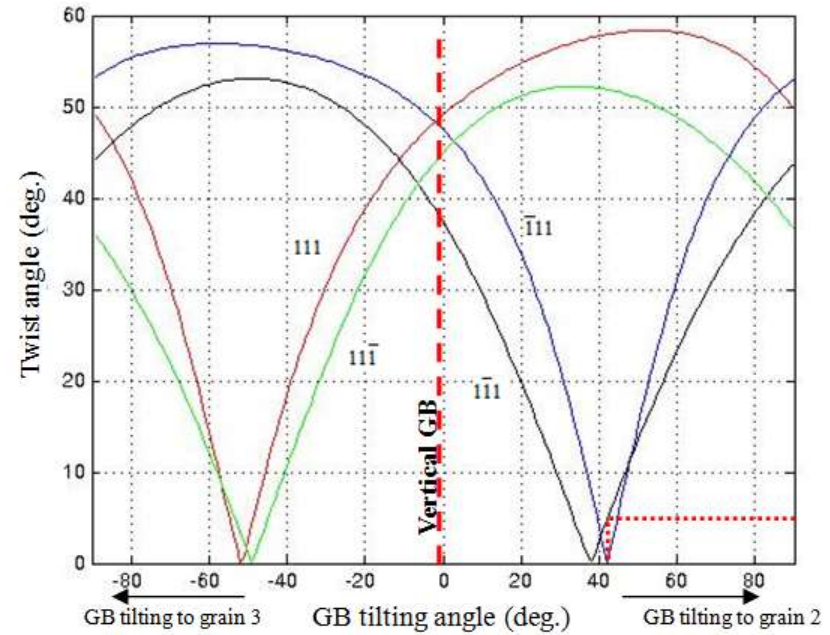
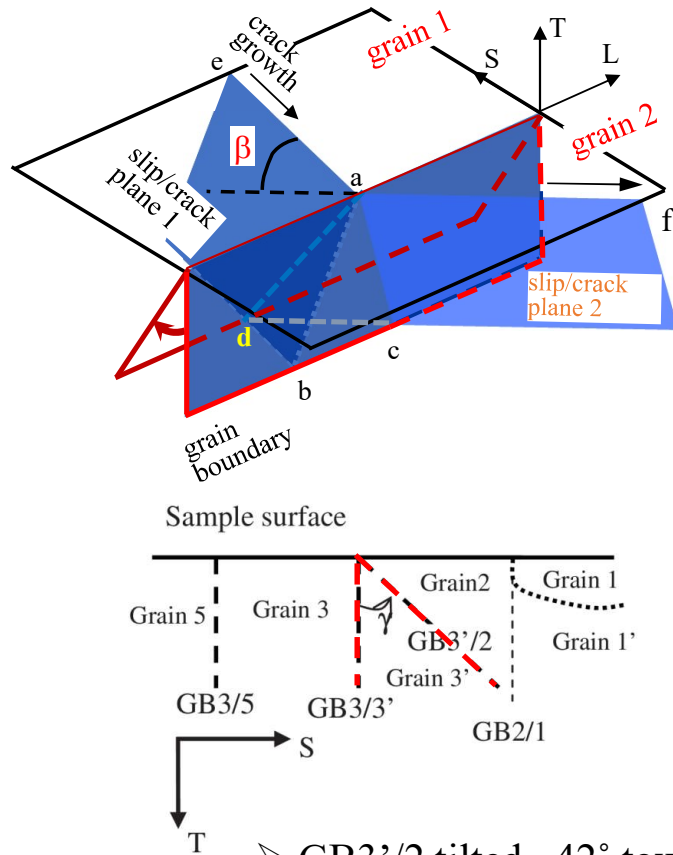
Fracture Surface & GB Tilting



- Hot rolled → 20% recrystallized small grains → cube or Goss orientation, $\{100\} \perp$ load axis, preferred sites for crack nucleation
- Minimal crack deflection at GB3/3' → grain 3' had either a $\{111\}$ or $\{001\}$ almost parallel to the crack plane
- Grain 3 & 3' together are crack initiation site, the crack plane vertical to load axis

W. Wen, T. Zhai, Philosophical Magazine, 91 (2011) 3557-3577.

Effect of GBs Plane Tilting



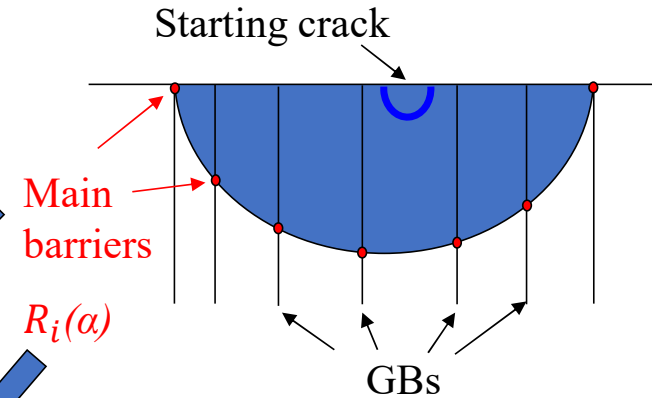
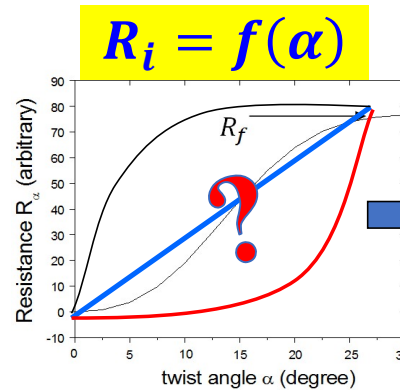
plot of twist angles of four slip planes in grain 2 vs. GB tilting angle

- GB3'/2 tilted $\sim 42^\circ$ towards to grain 2
- Reduced α of $(\bar{1}11)$ to 0, α of $(1\bar{1}1)$ is 5° . \rightarrow Grew onto $(\bar{1}11)$
- GB tilting affects α & GB resistance
- Confirmed at other GBs.

Overview of Quantitative Crack-growth Model

What we know now:

- Main resistance: GB
- $\alpha \uparrow \rightarrow$ GB-resistance \uparrow
(qualitatively)
- GB tilting effect on α
(quantitatively)



Along crack front:

Effective driving force = nominal driving force - resistance

Advancement of each point along crack front

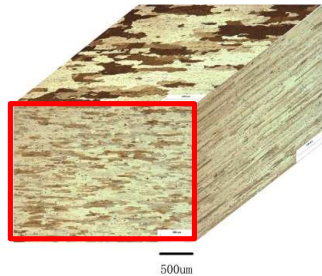
Growth rate **along the whole crack front.**

Quantify crack growth **in 3-D**, not just on surface.

Experimental Design of Quantification: R vs. α

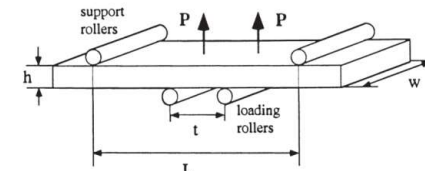
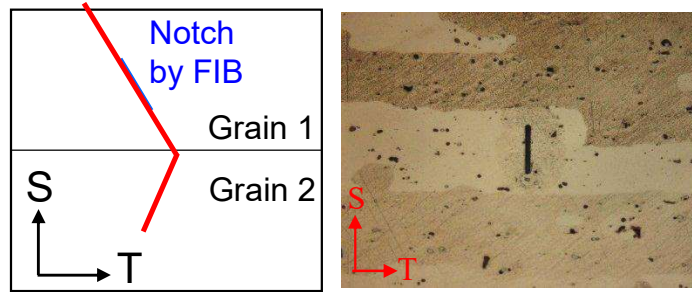
Material:

AA2024-T351 sheet
 grain size $\sim 361 \times 97 \times 37 \mu\text{m}^3$
 Test T-S plane, avoid GB tilting

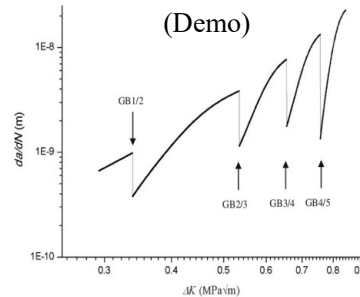


Make **micro-notches** before GBs
 in selected grains using **focus ion beam (FIB)**

- 4-point bend fatigue
- $\sigma_{max} = 0.85 \sim 1.05 \sigma_y$



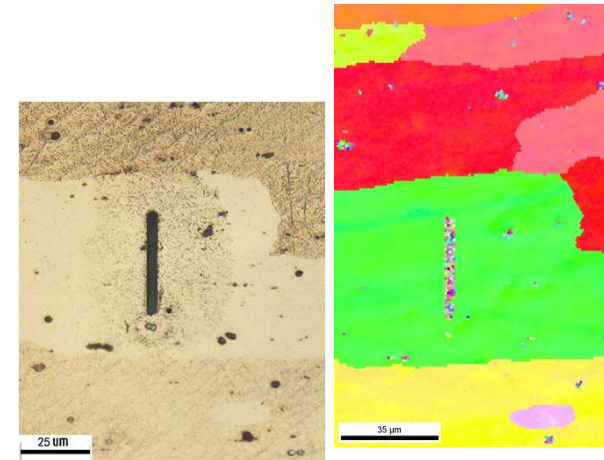
- growth rate da/dN
- **Extract R at GBs**



- Monitor crack growth
- Crystal orientation (EBSD)

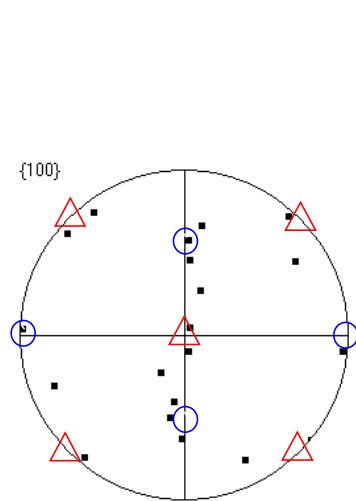
Quantify $R \sim \alpha$

- Identify crack plane
- **Calculate α at GBs (EBSD + FIB)**



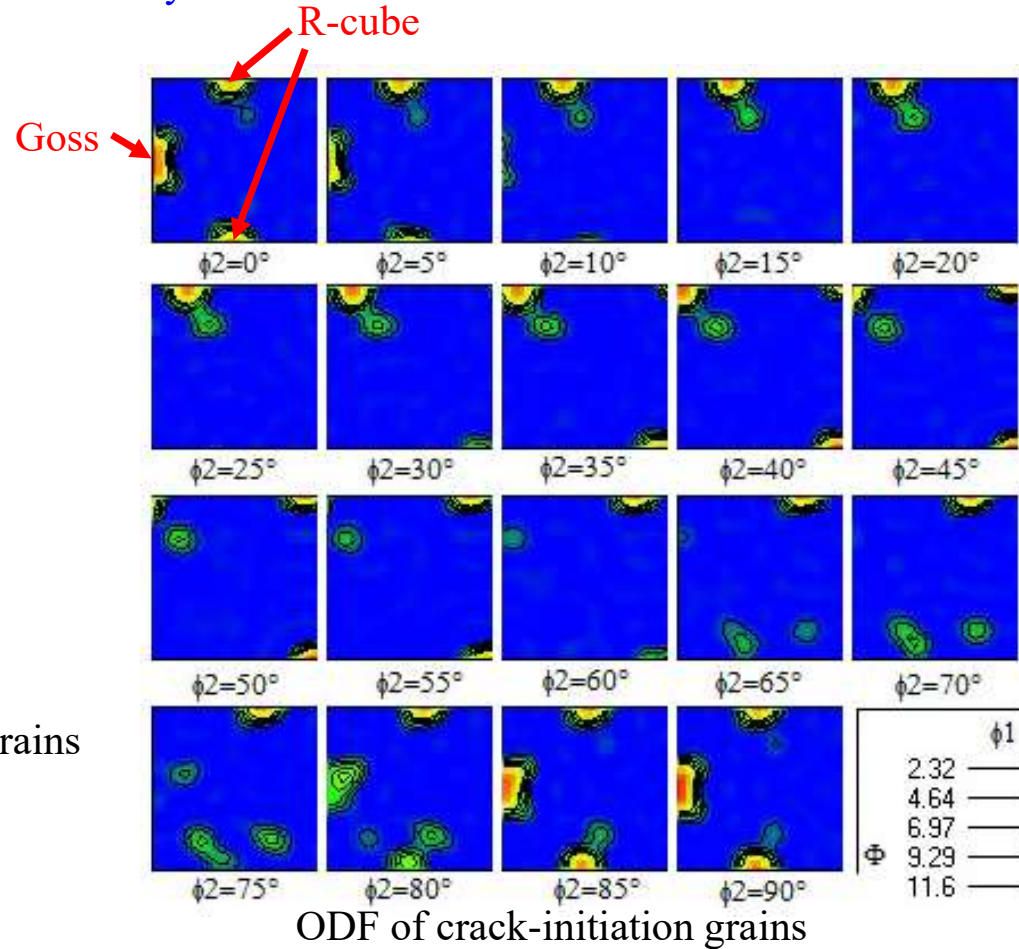
Orientation of Crack-initiation Grains

- 68 micro-notches were made. Only 7 became crack initiation sites.



- △ Ideal Goss
- Ideal R-cube

Pole figure of crack-initiation grains



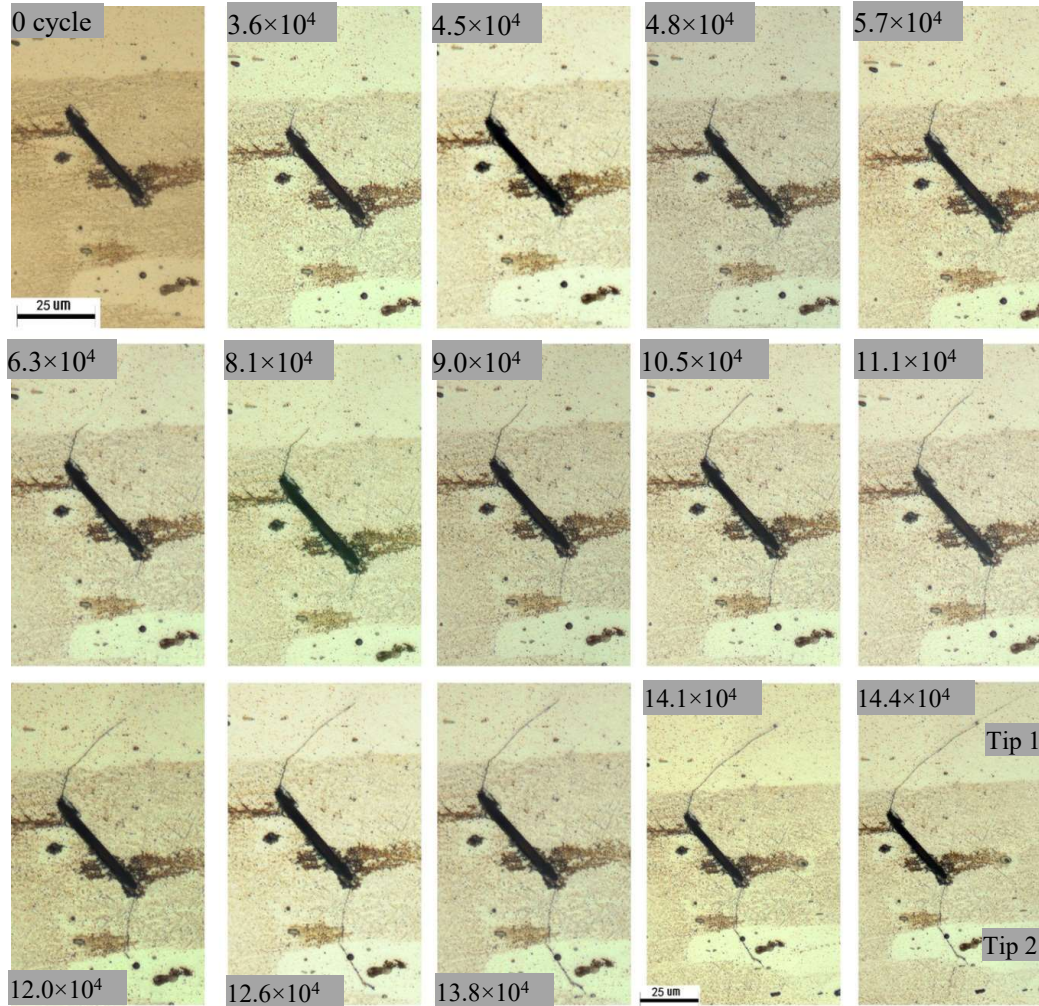
ODF of crack-initiation grains

- Crack-initiation grains were either Goss or R-cube orientated.
- Soft—high Schmid factor

W. Wen, A. Ngan, T. Zhai, Acta Mater., to be submitted.

Monitoring Short Fatigue Crack Growth

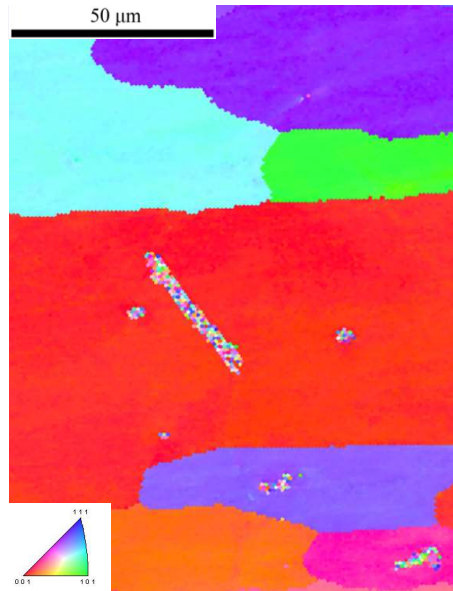
➤ Cracks propagated crystallographically through up to 5-8 GBs (150~250 μm long).



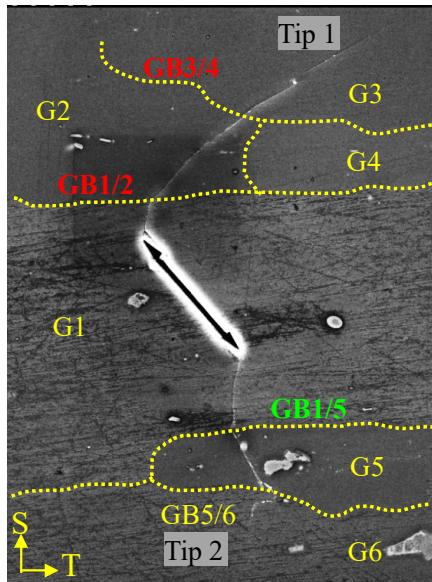
↔
loading

W. Wen, Pei Ca, A. Ngan, T. Zhai, *Materials Science and Engineering A*, 666, pp. 288-296.

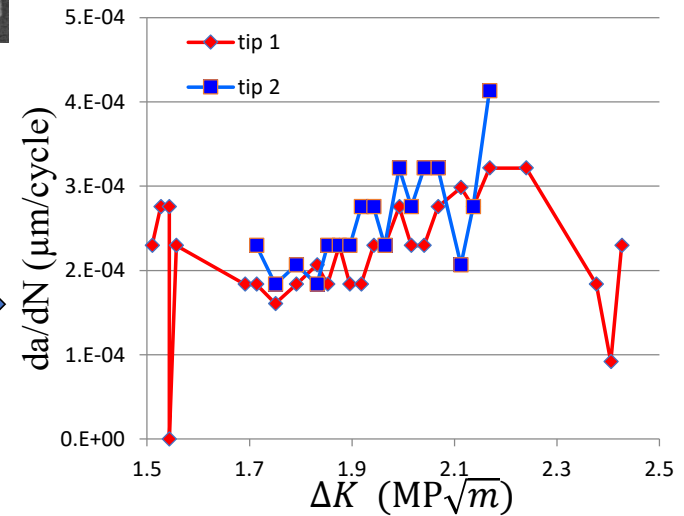
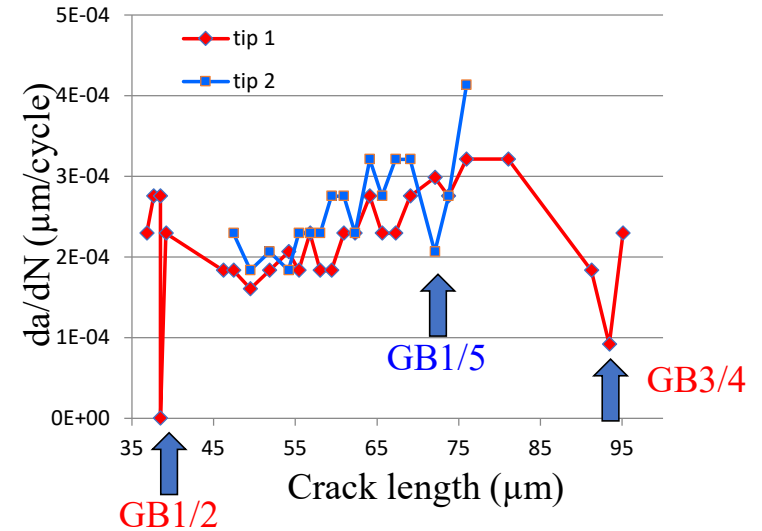
Identify GBs and Growth Rate on Surface



EBSD: IPF-L axis



SEM: GBs highlighted



Stress intensity factor range (nominal driving force)

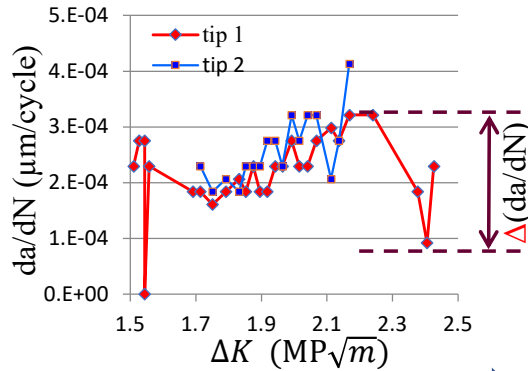
$$\Delta K = 2\Delta\sigma\sqrt{a/\pi}$$

$\Delta\sigma$: stress amplitude

a : half of the crack length

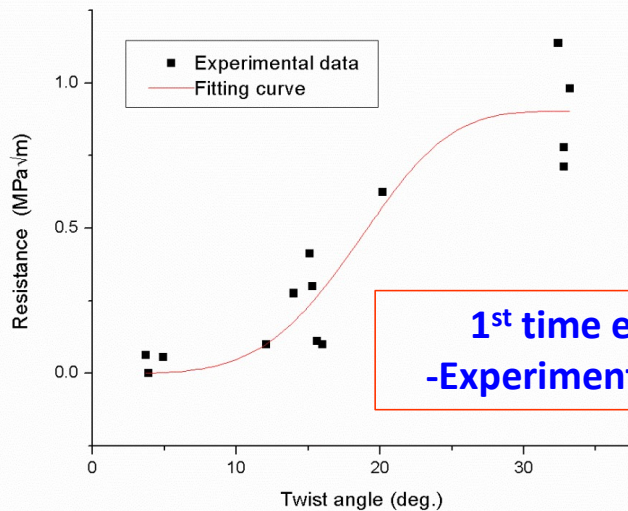


R vs. α 裂纹面旋转角



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(\frac{da}{dN}\right) = C \cdot \Delta K^m \quad (\text{not considering GB resistance}) \\ \left(\frac{da}{dN}\right)' = C \cdot (\Delta K - R)^m \quad (\text{considering GB resistance}) \\ \Delta \frac{da}{dN} = \frac{da}{dN} - \left(\frac{da}{dN}\right)' \end{array} \right.$$

$$R = \Delta K - \left(\Delta K^m - \Delta \frac{da}{dN} / C\right)^{1/m}$$



$C=1.89\text{E-}7 \text{ mm}/\text{cycle}$, $m=2.73$, obtained by fitting growth rate curve of long crack in 2024-T351
(C. Blochwitz and R. Richter: *Eng. Mater. Struct.*, 1999, vol. 267, pp. 120–29.)

**1st time ever in the world
-Experimental Quantification !**

$R \sim \alpha$ defined by a two-parameter Weibull function.

$$R(\alpha) = 0.9 \{1 - \exp[-(\alpha/20.1)^{4.2}]\}$$

W. Wen, Pei Ca, A. Ngan, T. Zhai, *Materials Science and Engineering A*, 666, pp. 288-296.

材料的疲劳裂纹源密度和强度分布

• 疲劳裂纹源密度和强度分布-有效的疲劳性能

- 高周疲劳性能（应用）：高铁、大飞机等
 - 裂纹萌生寿命90%-99%全寿命
 - 裂纹源密度越低，抗疲劳性能越好
- 材料质量控制重要参数（材料制造）

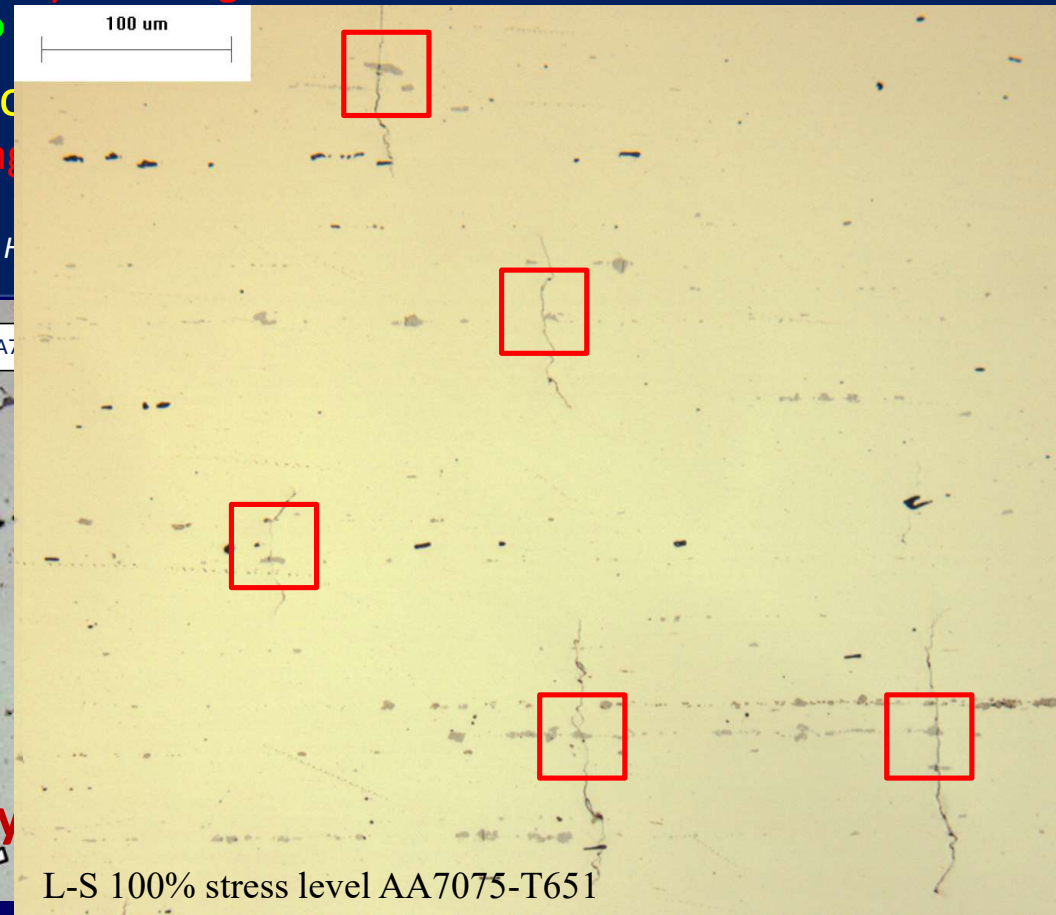
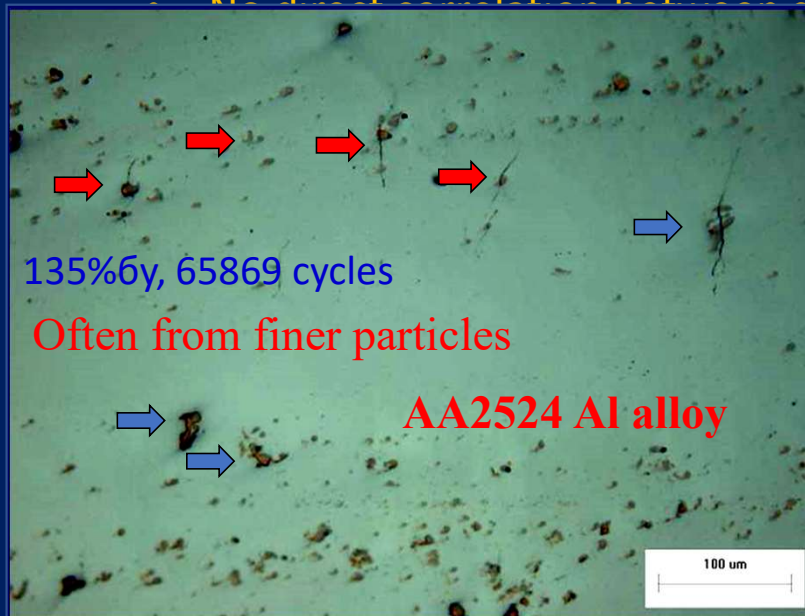
• 需要研究工作

- 实验测量？
- 定量模拟？
- 各向异性、与微观组织结构关系？

Multi-site Fatigue Crack Nucleation in Al alloys

- Microstructural heterogeneities: inclusions, pores, particles, grain/phase boundaries, etc.
- Multi-site nucleation \rightarrow Crack initiation site density & strength distribution?
- Most become non-propagating \rightarrow reason?
- Coarser particles/pores unnecessarily initiate
 - Crack initiation sites identified using FEA assuming typically elastic-plastic

J.E. Bozek, D.G. H



An Experimental Method to Characterize Fatigue Weaklinks

- **Important fatigue properties**

- Fatigue crack initiation: 60%-99% total life
- Useful in design for optimum microstructure, quality control and evaluation of materials properties

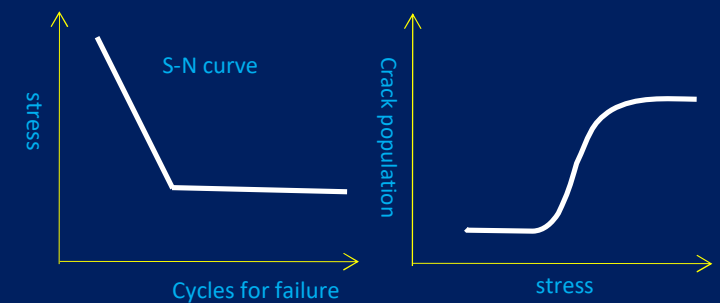
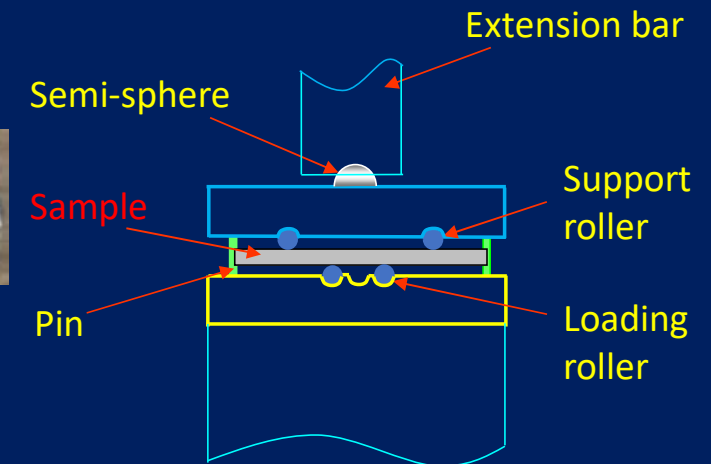
- **Desirable to quantify FWLs**

- Experimental characterization
- Theoretical modeling



- Four point bend fatigue testing, Load controlled, $R=0.1$, $f=20$ Hz, room temperature
- Maximum stress varies to measure the life
- Sample surface well polished
- Crack population measured at each stress

Self-aligning four point bend rig



T. Zhai (2006), *MMTA*, vol. 37A, pp. 3139-3148.

Y.B. Zhang, J.H. Xu, T. Zhai (2010), *Mater. Sci. Eng. A*, vol. 527, pp. 3639.

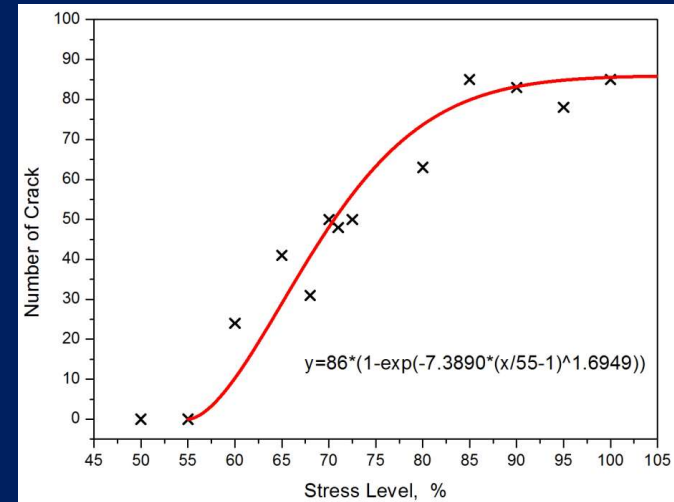
Yan Jin, Pei Cai, Qingbo Tian, C.Y. Liang, D.J. Ke, G. Wang, T. Zhai (2016), *Fatigue & Fracture of Engineering Materials & Structures*, vol. 39, pp. 696.

Weibull Function of Fatigue Weakest-links

- Crack number vs. stress curve can be described by 3-parameter Weibull function,

$$N = N_0 \left(1 - \exp \left[-k \left(\frac{\sigma - \sigma_0}{\sigma_0} \right)^m \right] \right)$$

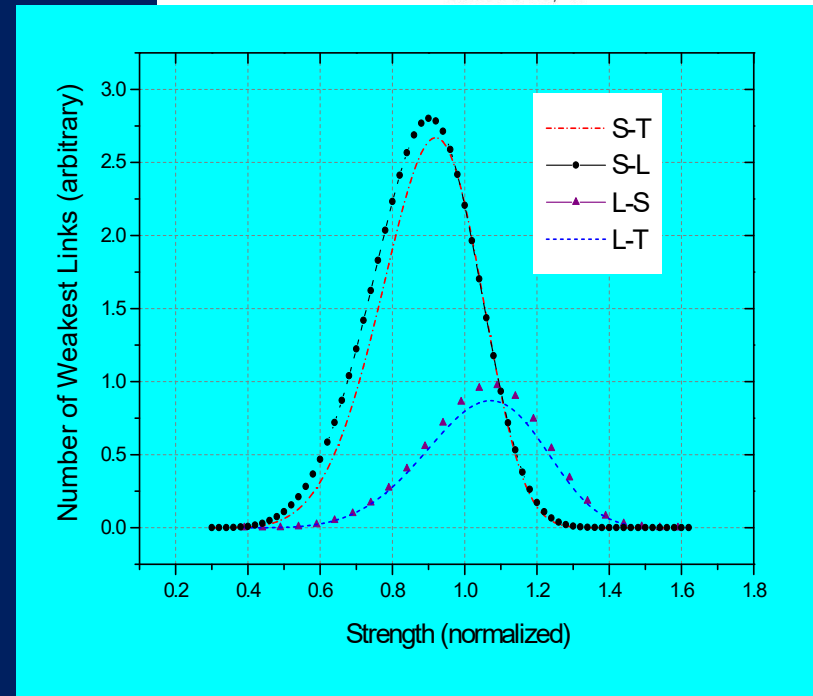
- N_0 : the number of cracks in the surface area of $10 \times 6 \mu\text{m}^2$ at the stress level close to the ultimate tensile strength (σ_s), i.e., FWL number density ($N_0 / (10 \times 6 \mu\text{m}^2)$).
- k : constant, m : Weibull modulus,
- σ_0 : fatigue limit



Strength Distribution of Fatigue Weakest-links

$$n = CN_0 \left(\frac{km}{\sigma_0} \right) \left(\frac{\sigma - \sigma_0}{\sigma_0} \right)^{m-1} \exp \left[-k \left(\frac{\sigma - \sigma_0}{\sigma_0} \right)^m \right]$$

Fatigue weakest link density and strength distribution are materials properties



Summary

- The resistance against crack growth at GBs can be quantified experimentally, which has paved a way for computing short crack growth behaviors.
- In an over-aged AA7050 Al alloy, the resistance against crack growth across grain boundaries is as high as 4-5 times as along GBs.
- The density and strength distribution of crack initiation sites can be quantified experimentally, which are important fatigue properties of a material. 裂纹源密度和其强度分布-材料的重要疲劳性能，实验方法应该制定国家标准，确定中国在关键过程材料应用的话语权!
- The effects of moisture and the anisotropy of crack site density can be quantitatively studied.