



High-Throughput Exploration of Refractory Superalloys with Experimental Verification

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Thermo-Calc Webinar

05/02/2024

Design and Physics of Complex Alloys

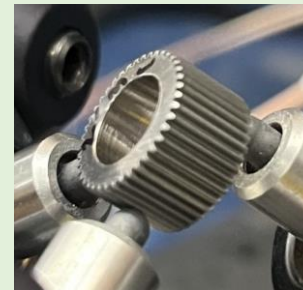
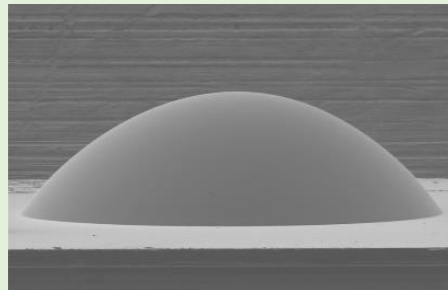
Pushing the Throughput Limit

- Accelerated synthesis and testing
- Combinatorial sputtering
- Rapid bulk synthesis



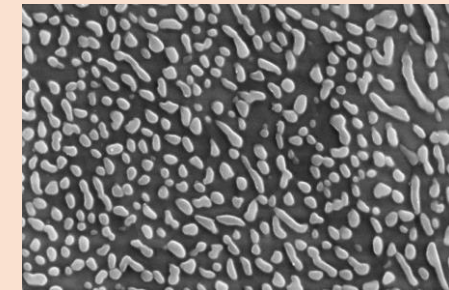
Pushing the Characterization Limit

- Metallic liquids: Structure and Viscosity
- Glass forming ability and glass transition
- Plasticity, strength, toughness...



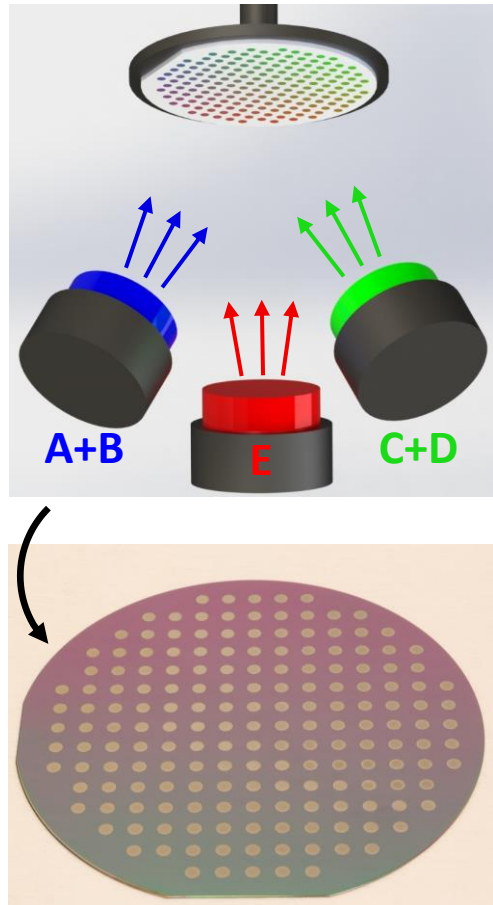
Pushing the Performance Limit

- Refractory Alloys: High T , Irradiation
- Designing new practical BMGs
- Thermal processing, Rapid solidification



1. Pushing the Throughput Limit: Combinatorial sputtering for rapid phase mapping

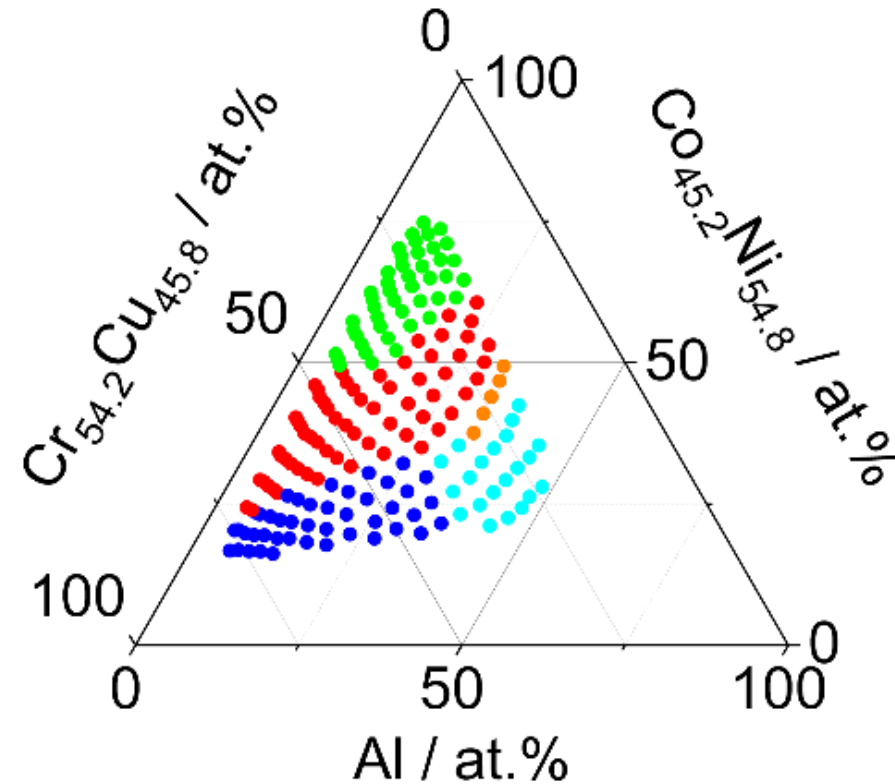
Co-Sputtering: 10^{10} K/sec



Automatic
EDX and XRD

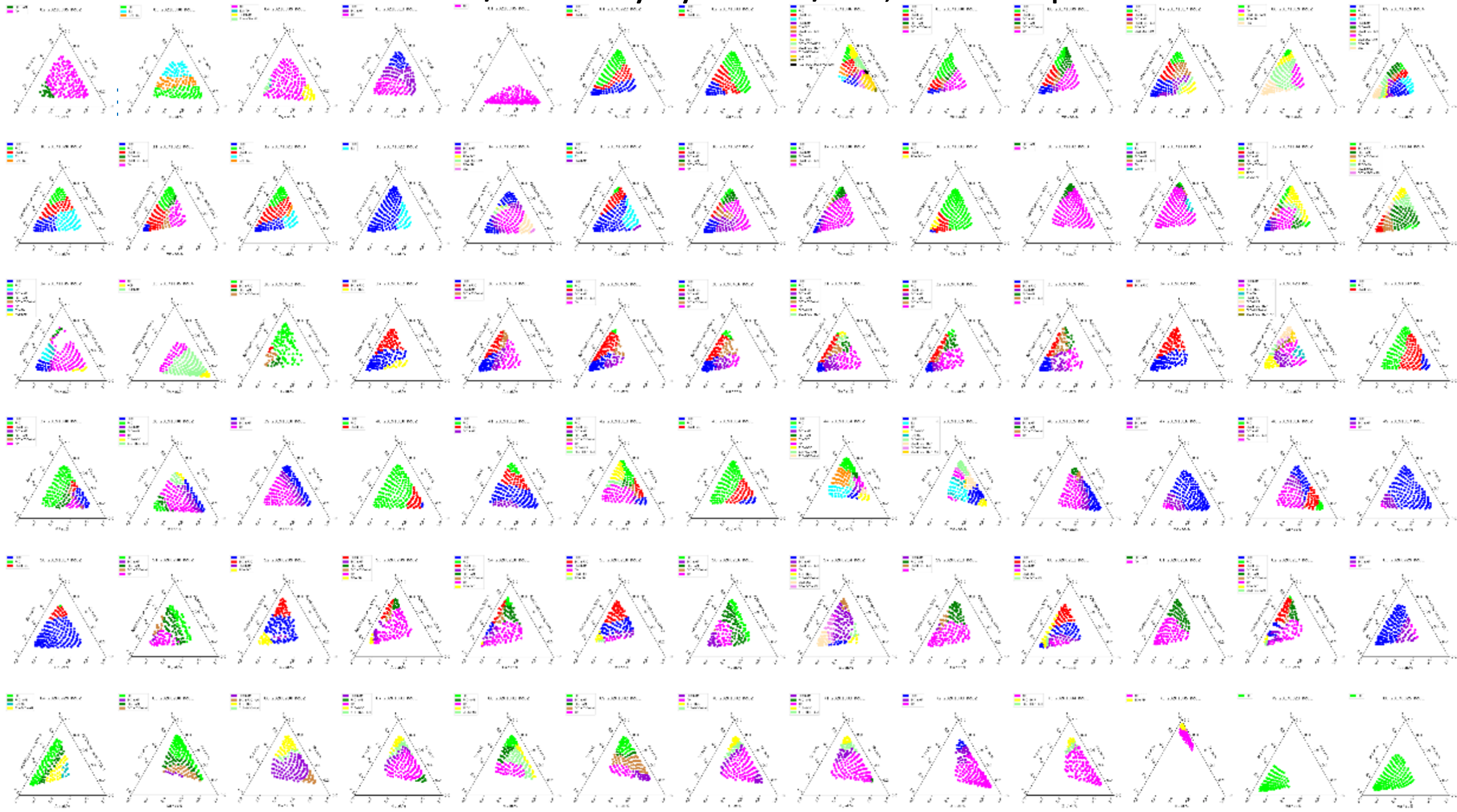


Metastable phase map:



FCC
FCC+BCC
BCC
B2

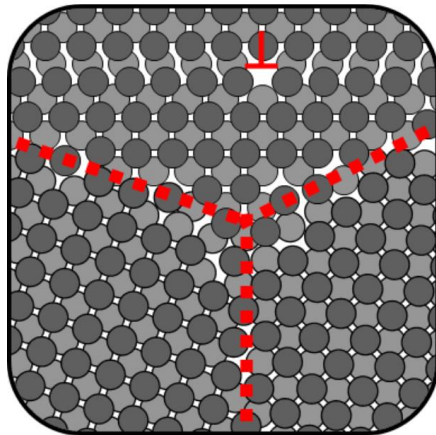
20 elements / 78 alloy systems / 13,500 compositions



2. Pushing the Characterization Limit: What governs Metallic Glass forming ability?

Slow cooling
from melt:

Polycrystal

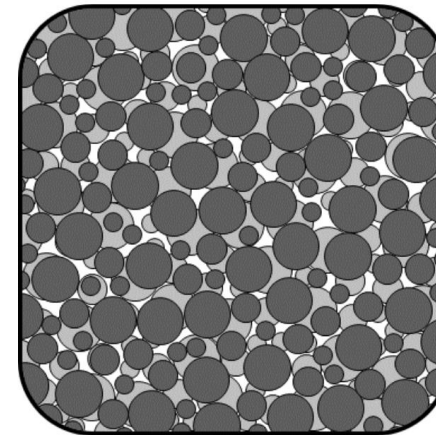


ordered lattice,
grain boundaries,
dislocations



Fast cooling
from melt:

Glass



disordered,
continuous phase

2. Pushing the Characterization Limit: What governs Metallic Glass forming ability?

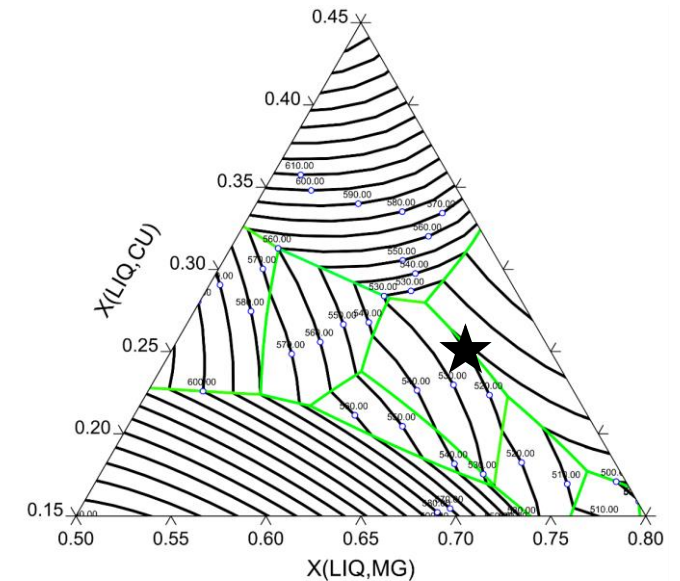
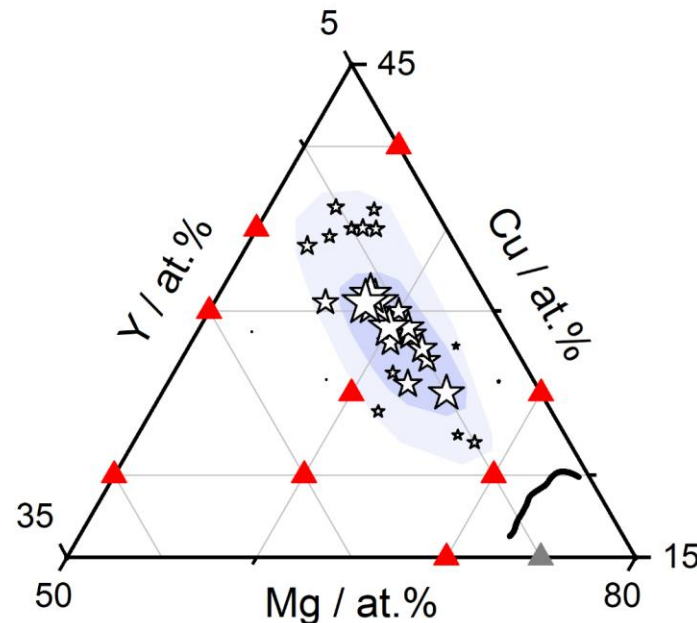
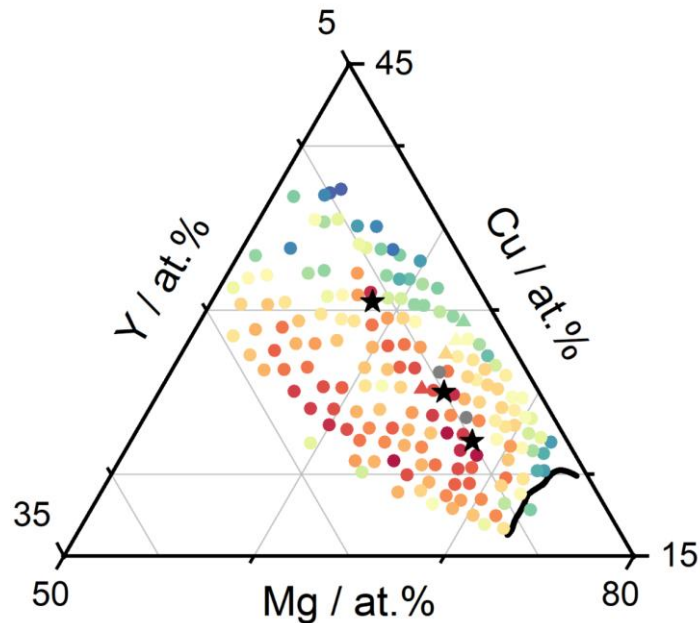
Kinetics?
E.g. Viscosity(T)



Glass Forming Ability



Thermodynamics?
E.g. Liquidus projection



New “Film Inflation Method” (FIM)



3. Pushing the Performance Limit: High-Throughput Exploration of Refractory Superalloys



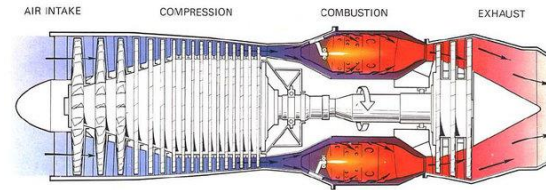
Alloys for high temperatures and beyond

energy & sustainability, aerospace & defense



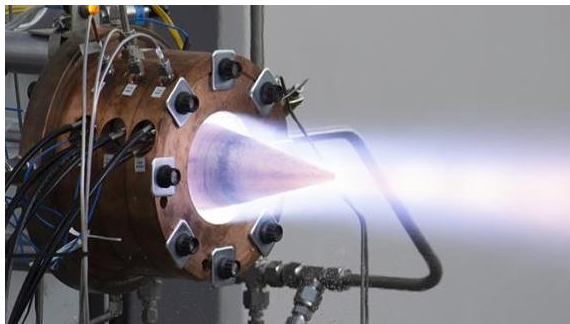
jet engines

'Super' superalloys: hotter, stronger, for even longer
University of Cambridge (2008)



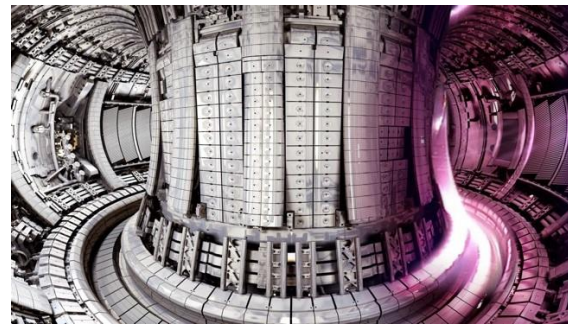
gas turbines

The Jet Engine, The Technical Publications
Department, Rolls-Royce (1996)



rotating detonation engines

Rocket ShopSM Defense Advanced Programs
Aerojet Rocketdyne (2023)



nuclear fusion

AJ Knowles, *Materials for fusion reactors*,
Open Access Government (2023), credit UKAEA

Ni-superalloys: $\leq 1100^{\circ}\text{C}$
turbine operation $> 1500^{\circ}\text{C}$

Now need: $\geq 1300^{\circ}\text{C}$
phase stability
thermal processability

also...

ductility, strength
creep, fatigue resistance
density, cost, manufacturability
oxidation resistance
irradiation tolerance

Refractory elements: High melting temperatures

$T_m / ^\circ\text{C}$

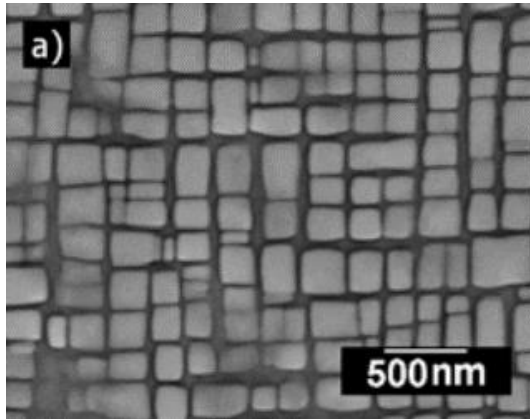
1600
2000
2400
2800
3200

H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn

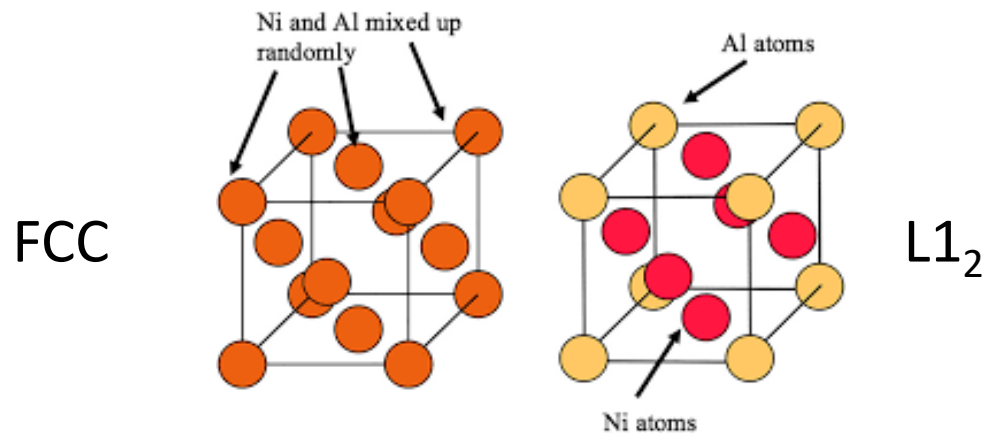
“Refractory Superalloys”

Ni Superalloys

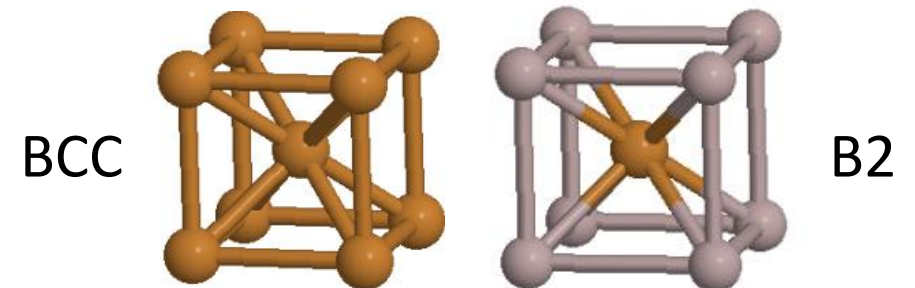
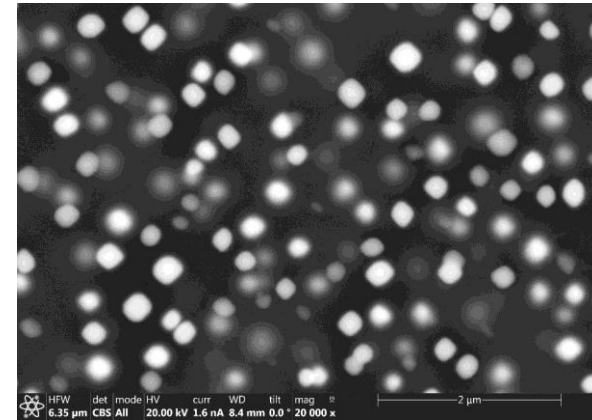
γ -FCC matrix, γ' -L1₂ precipitates



A. Bauer et al. *Superalloys 2012*:
12th Intl symp on Superalloys.



“BCC-B2 microstructure”
BCC matrix, B2 precipitates

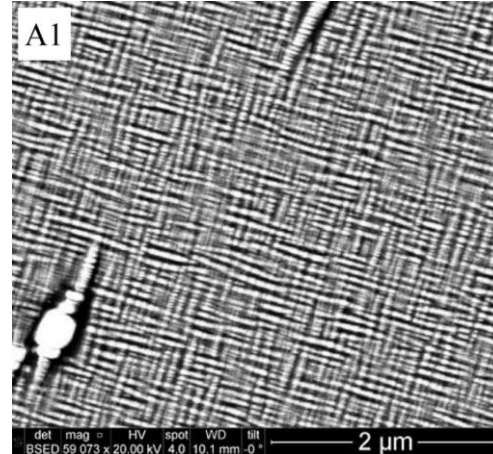


Example 1: BCC + (Al,Ti,Zr) B2

$\text{AlMo}_{0.5}\text{NbTa}_{0.5}\text{TiZr}$
(24h at 1400°C,
Cooled 10 K/min here)

BCC (Nb rich)
B2 (Zr rich)

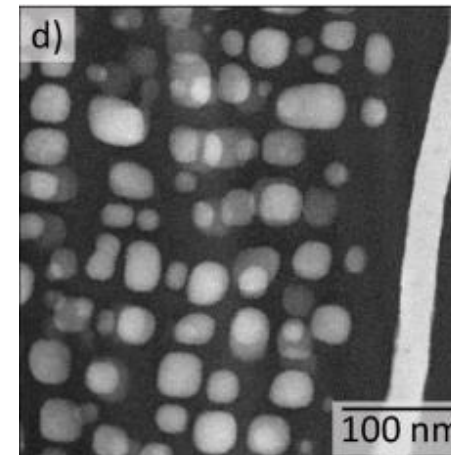
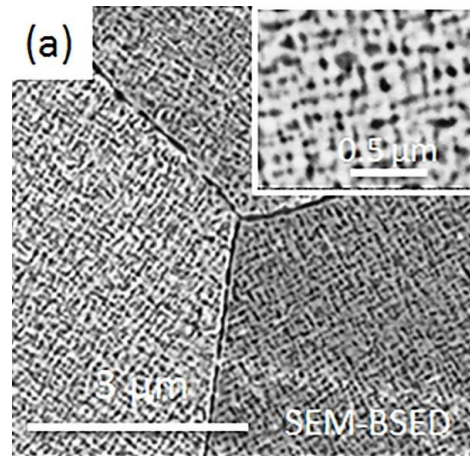
O. Senkov O, *et al.*
JOM 66, 2030–2042 (2014).



$\text{Al}_{0.5}\text{NbTa}_{0.8}\text{Ti}_{1.5}\text{V}_{0.2}\text{Zr}$
(120 h at 600°C here)

Matrix: BCC (Ti,NbTa,V)
Precipitates: B2 (Zr,Al,Ti)

V. Soni, R. Banerjee, *et al.*
Sci. Rep. 8, 1–10 (2018).



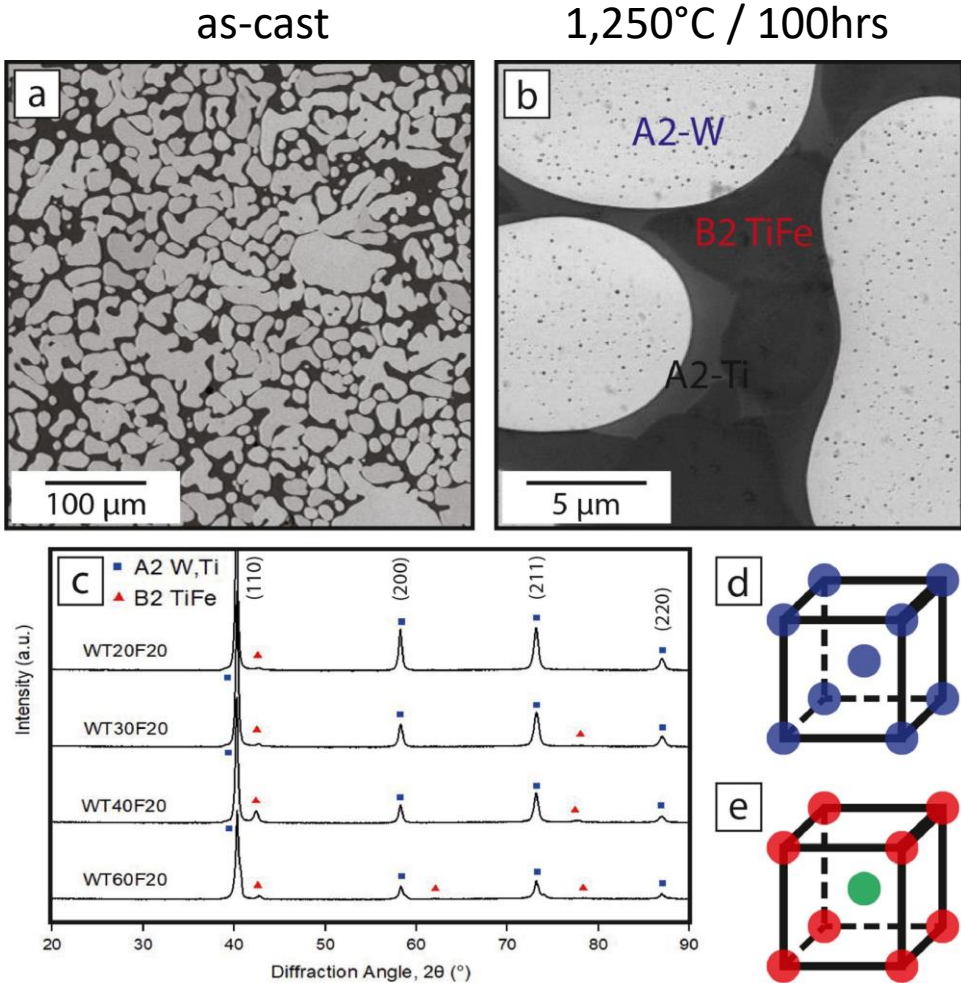
$\text{Al}_{0.5}\text{MoTaTi}$
(100 h at 1000°C here)

Matrix: B2 (Al,Ti)
Precipitates: BCC (Mo,Ta)

D. Schliephake, *et al.*
Scr. Mater. 173, 16–20 (2019).

Often inverted: B2 matrix, BCC precipitates
(Al,Ti,Zr) B2 not stable > 1200°C

Example 2: $Ti_{30}Fe_{20} - W_{50}$



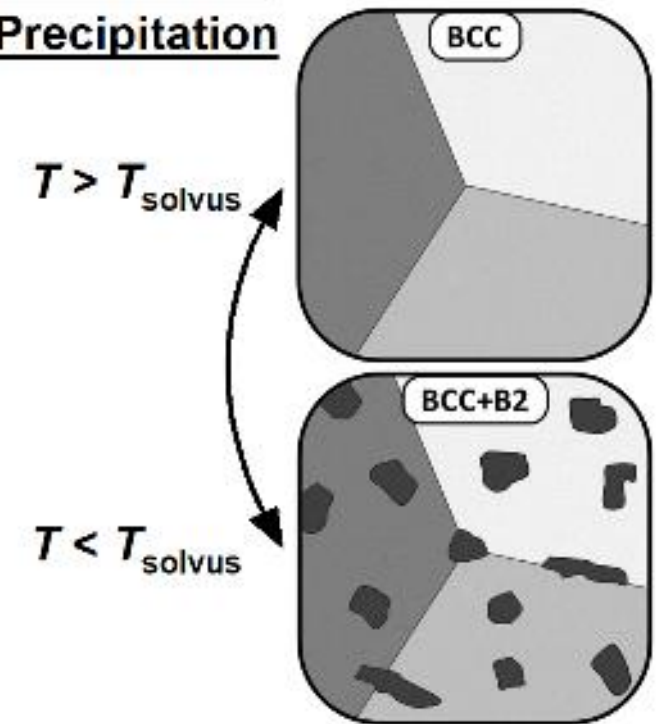
W BCC dendrites
TiFe interdendritic B2 phase

- TiFe B2 melts at $\sim 1340^{\circ}C$
- Homogenize W dendrites difficult
- Coherence difficult

Our design goals

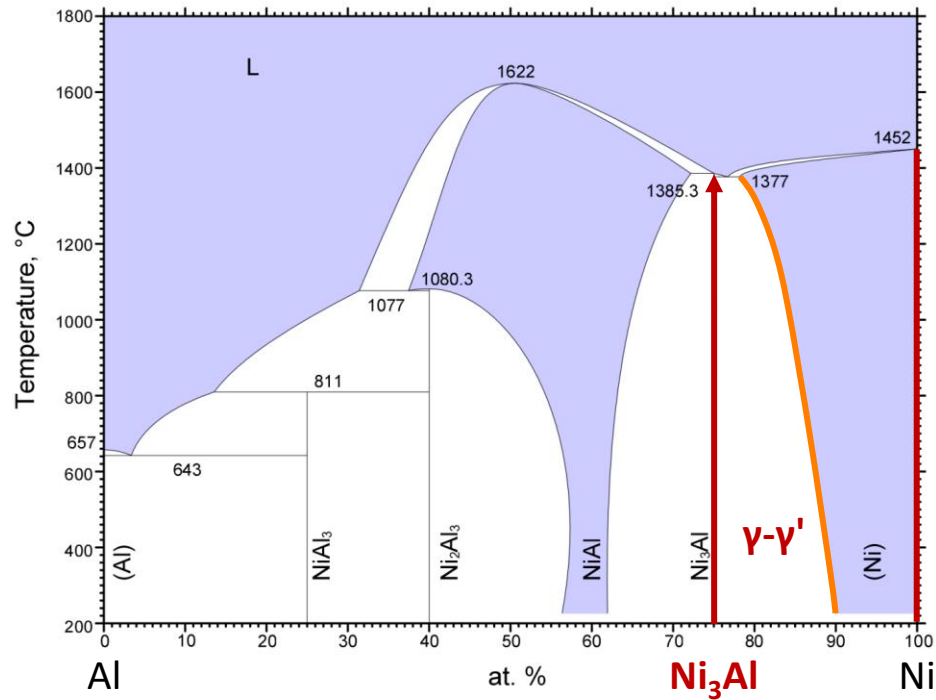
1. Phase stability:
BCC matrix, B2 precipitates, stable $\geq 1300^{\circ}\text{C}$
2. Thermal processability:
Dissolution-precipitation pathway
3. Morphology:
coherent, cuboidal, sub-micron particles

Dissolution- Precipitation



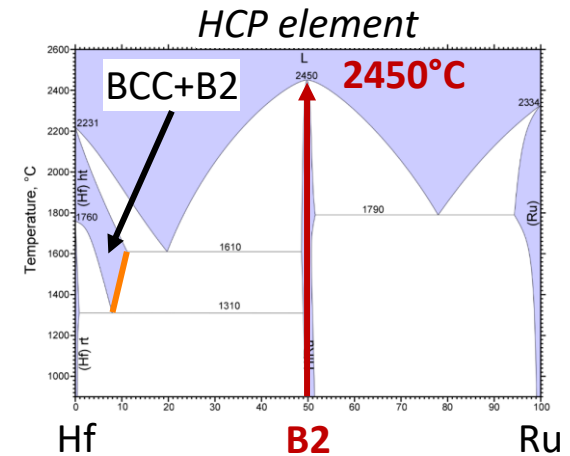
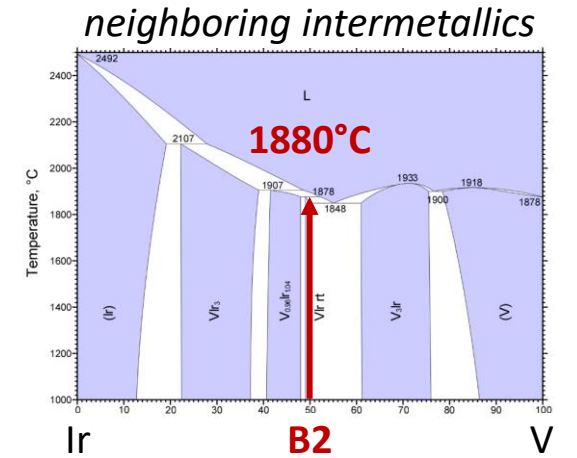
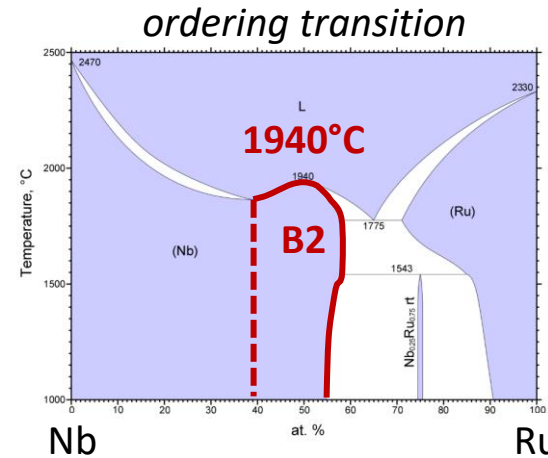
Binary BCC-B2 system?

Superalloys:
Ni-Al binary



Refractory alloys:

10 known binaries with refractory element and stable B2 formation: none suitable



Design strategy: Pseudobinary systems

a) 24 practical B2s: stability limit in °C

≥ 1750°C	≥ 1300°C	< 1300°C
Ru - Hf 2450	Co - Hf 1740	Cu - Zr 940
Ru - Zr 2131	Co - Al 1640	Cu - Y 935
Ru - Ti 2120	Ni - Al 1639	Co - Fe 730
Ru - Al 2069	Co - Zr 1400	Re - Ti ?
Ru - Ta 2050	Co - Ti 1382	Re - Al ?
Ru - Nb 1942	Fe - Ti 1340	Fe - V ?
Ru - V 1800	Fe - Al 1310	Cu - Ti ?
	Ni - Ti 1307	Al - Ti ?
		Al - Y ?

b) Refractory BCC elements

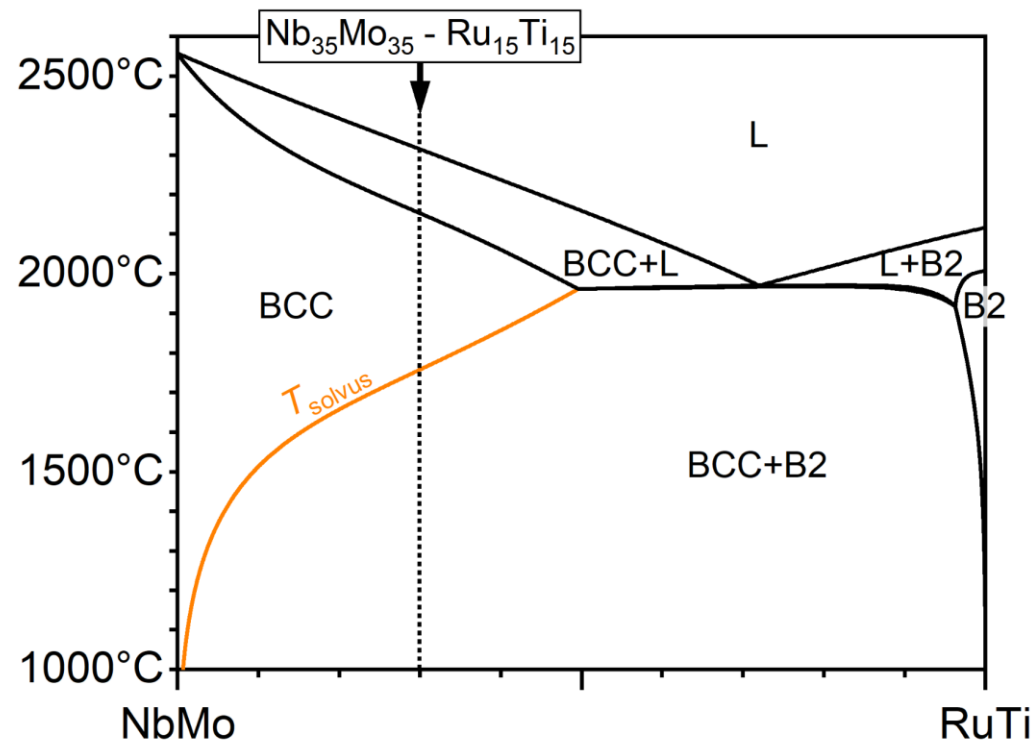
H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn

(Total of 279 B2 pairs in ICSD, mostly impractical elements.)

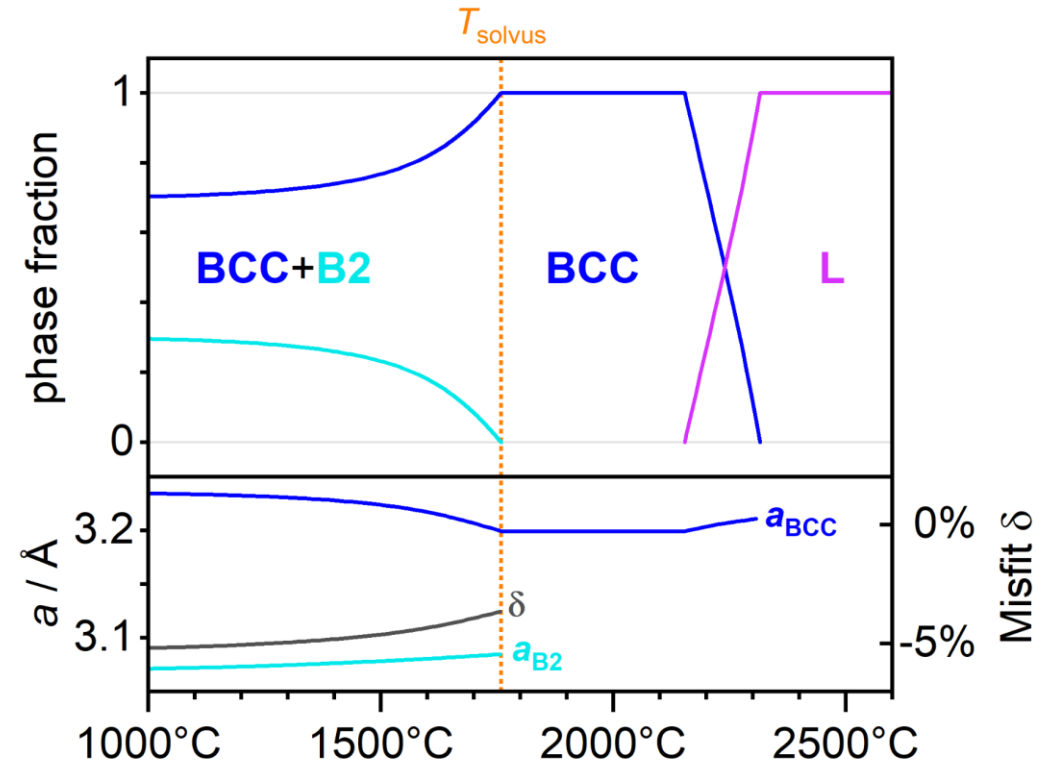


Example: RuTi B2 + NbMo BCC

a) Pseudobinary BCC-B2 phasediagram:



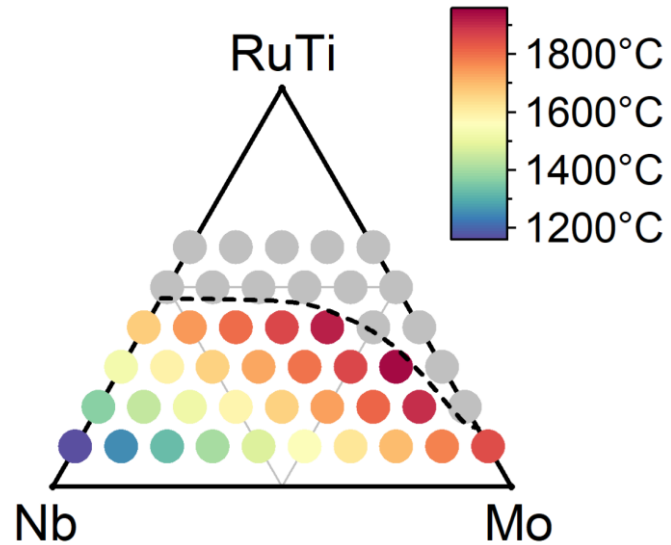
b) T -axis for $\text{Nb}_{35}\text{Mo}_{35} - \text{Ru}_{15}\text{Ti}_{15}$:



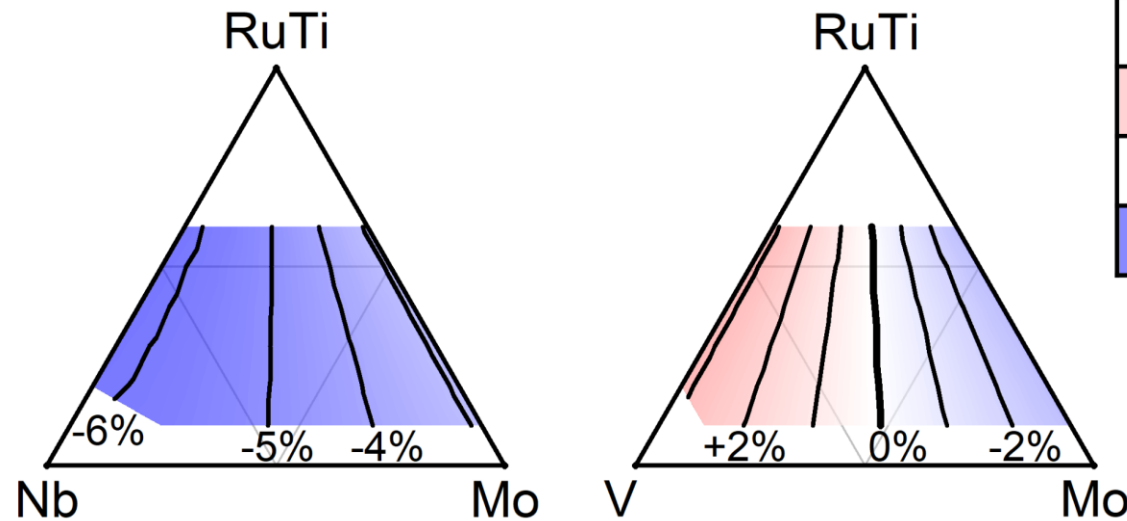
(calculated using TCHEA5 database)

Microstructure optimization by composition

c) Solvus temperature:



d) Misfit at 1300°C, and lattice constants:



$a_{B2} / \text{\AA}$		$a_{BCC} / \text{\AA}$	
Ru-Al	3.01	V	2.97
Ru-Ti	3.07		
Ru-Hf	3.24	Mo	3.16
		W	3.18
		Nb	3.32
		Ta	3.32

(calculated using ThermoCalc / TCHEA5)

Numerous potential combinations

a) 24 practical B2s: stability limit in °C

≥ 1750°C	≥ 1300°C	< 1300°C
Ru - Hf 2450	Co - Hf 1740	Cu - Zr 940
Ru - Zr 2131	Co - Al 1640	Cu - Y 935
Ru - Ti 2120	Ni - Al 1639	Co - Fe 730
Ru - Al 2069	Co - Zr 1400	Re - Ti ?
Ru - Ta 2050	Co - Ti 1382	Re - Al ?
Ru - Nb 1942	Fe - Ti 1340	Fe - V ?
Ru - V 1800	Fe - Al 1310	Cu - Ti ?
	Ni - Ti 1307	Al - Ti ?
		Al - Y ?

b) Potential matrix elements:

H																				He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne			
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar			
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr			
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe			
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn			

24 B2s x 153 matrix combinations ≈ 3500 potential systems
(one or two elements)

Thermo-Calc – Python: High-throughput search

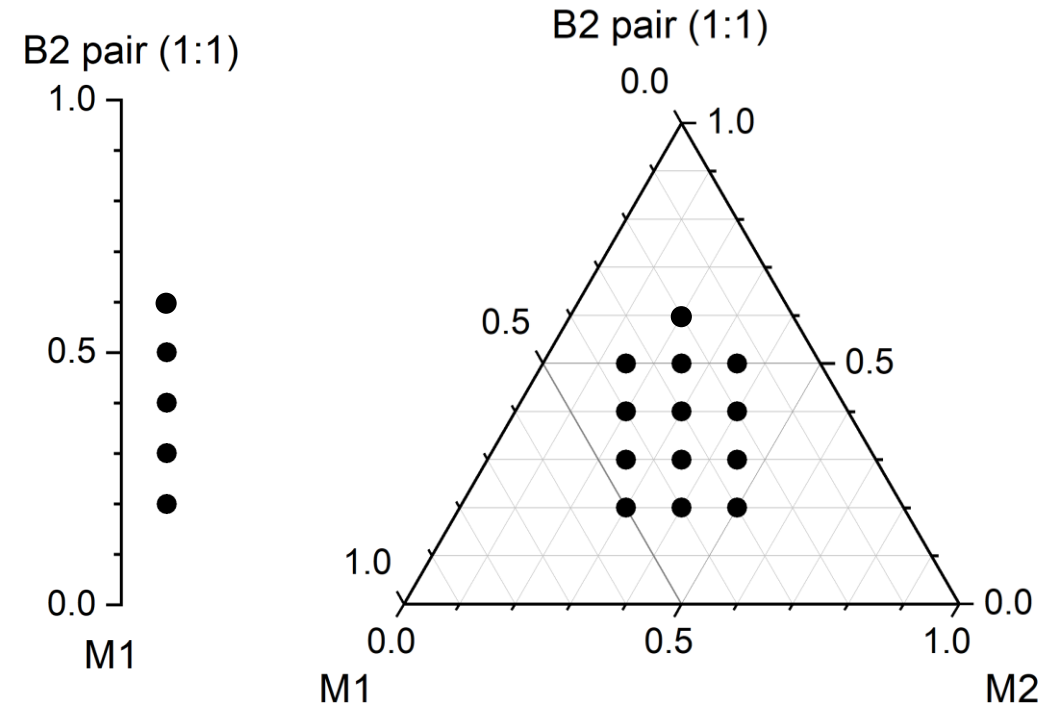
1) Generate ternaries and quaternaries:

$B_1 B_2 - M_1$ and $B_1 B_2 - M_1 M_2$

	Arity	B2_1	B2_2	Mat_1	Mat_2
0	3	Al	Ru	Nb	
1	3	Al	Ru	Ta	
2	3	Nb	Ru	Ta	
3	3	Ru	Ta	Nb	
			...		
58	4	Al	Ru	Nb	Ta
59	4	Al	Ru	Ti	Nb
60	4	Al	Ru	Ti	Ta
61	4	Ti	Ru	Nb	Ta
			...		

Σ 3500 systems

2) Test multiple compositions in each system:

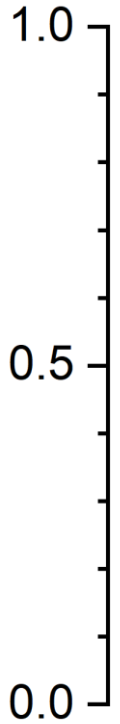


Ternary

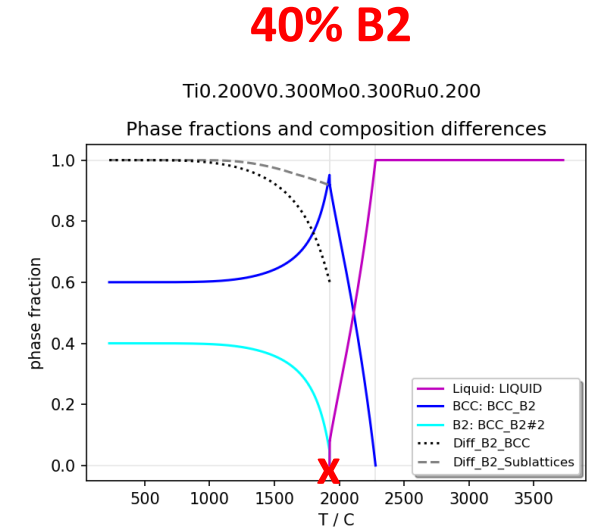
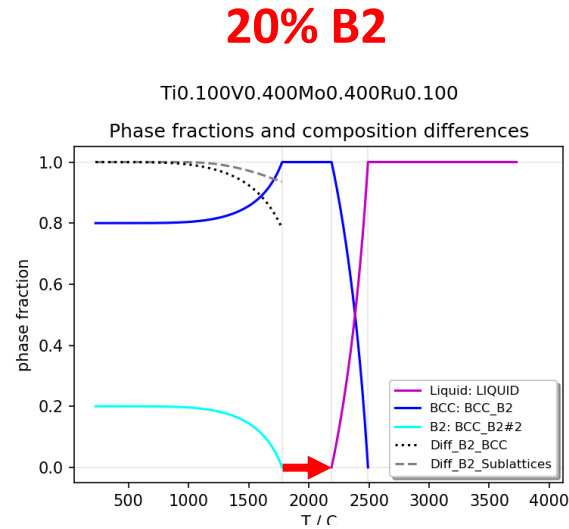
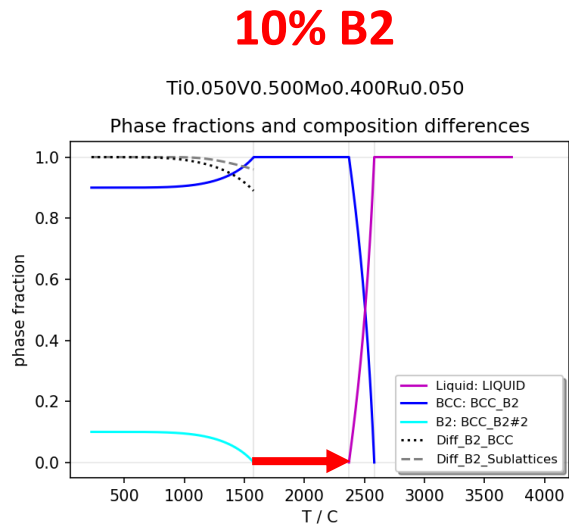
Quaternary

Thermo-Calc – Python: High-throughput search

B2 pair (1:1)



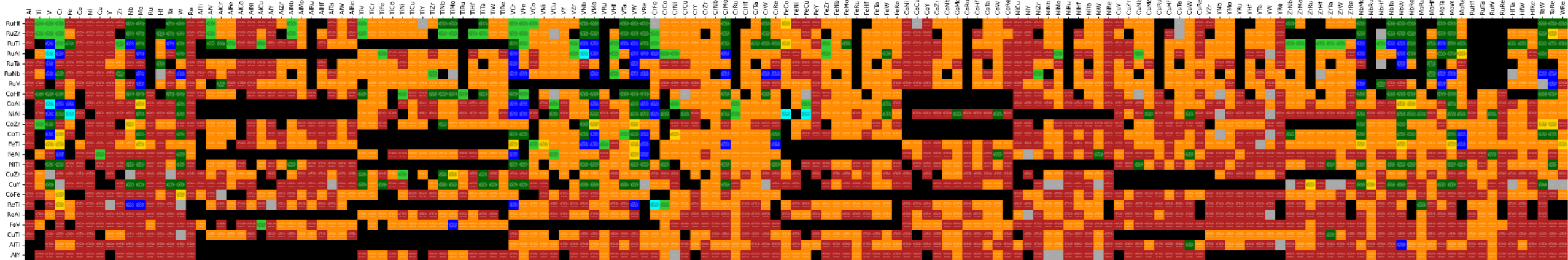
M1



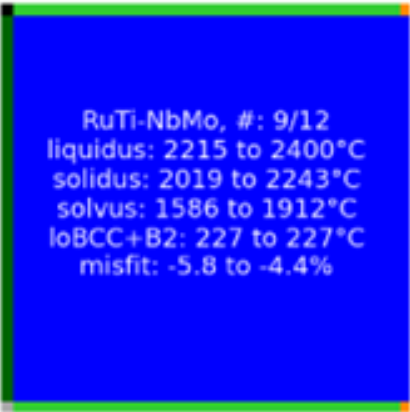
Ru Ti – V Mo

Map of BCC-B2 alloy systems

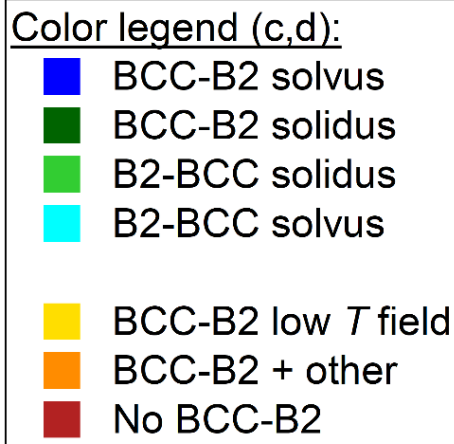
24 B2s x 153 matrix element combinations



field close-up:



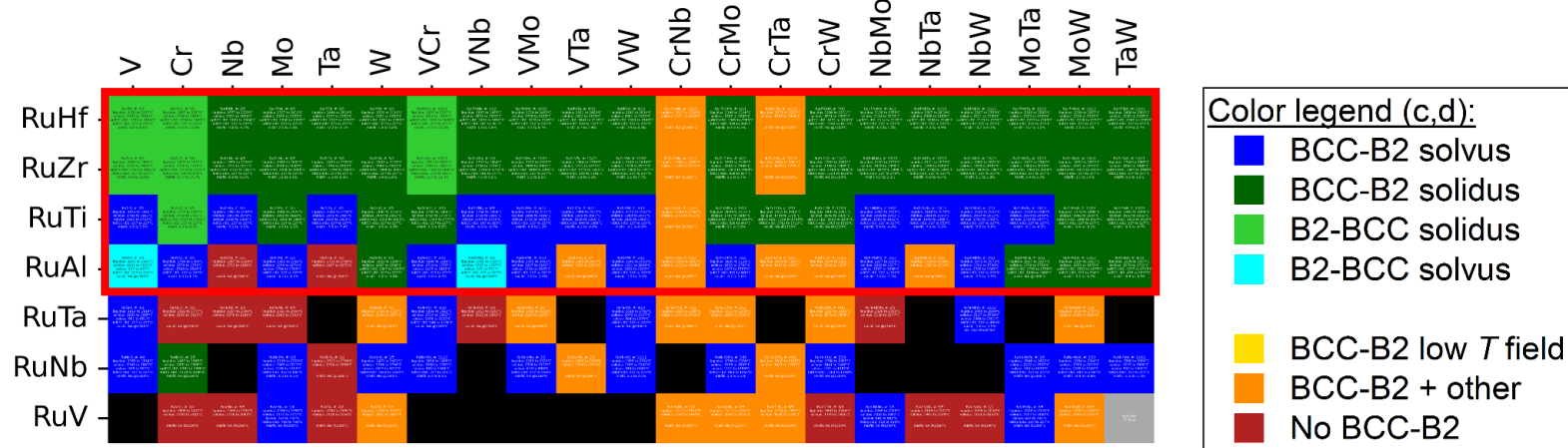
* high-res map in our SI here:
[“Navigating the BCC-B2 refractory alloy space”](#)



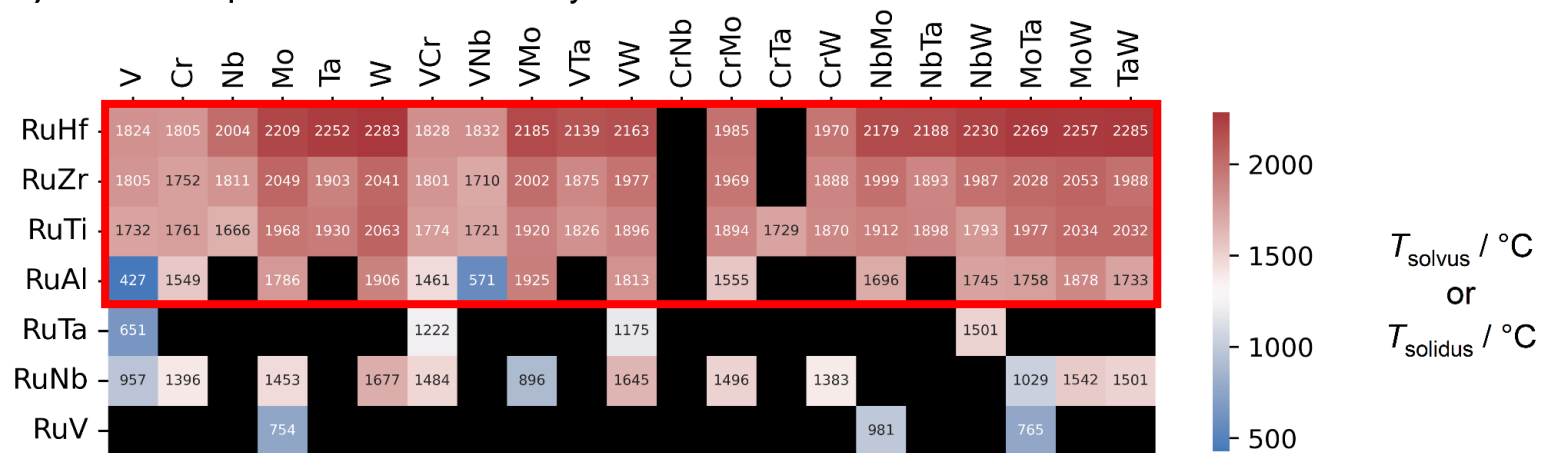
(calculated using ThermoCalc-Python / TCHEA5)

Ru-B2 RMPEA space

d) Reduced space: Ru-B2s x Refractory BCC elements



e) Reduced space: BCC-B2 stability limit in °C



- RuHf, RuZr:**
High stability, no solvus
- RuTi:**
High stability, with solvus
- RuAl:**
High stability, with solvus, but prone to intermetallics

CALPHAD:
Predict likely competing phases.
→ Good filter for negatives!

But:
What about predicted BCC-B2?
→ Experimental verification!

Experimental survey

Select composition grid:

B2: Select RuHf, RuTi, RuAl

BCC: Select V, Nb, Mo, Ta

Comp: $B1_{15} B2_{15} - M1_{70}$ or
 $B1_{15} B2_{15} - M1_{35} M2_{35}$

Experimental procedure:

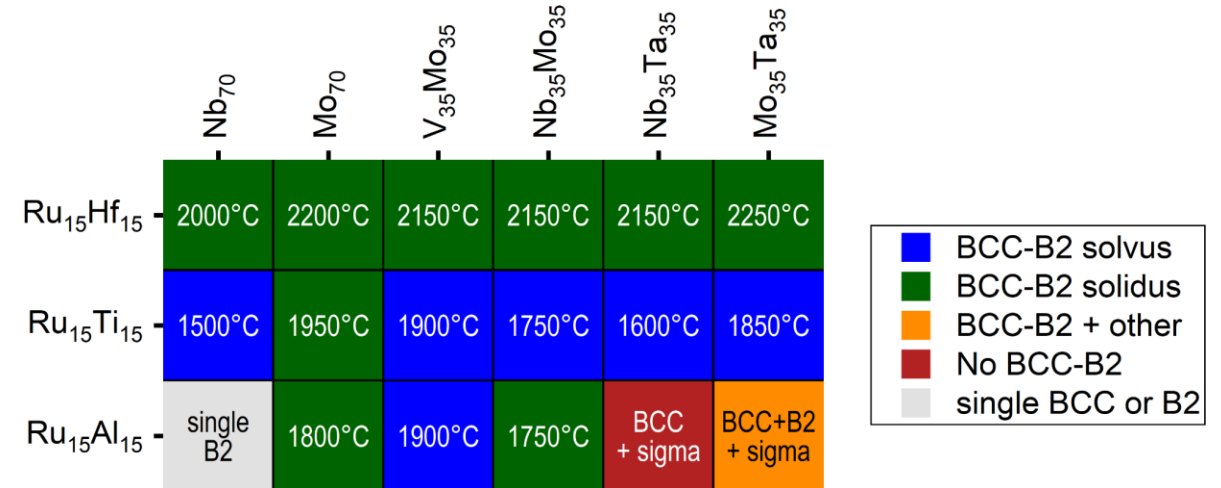
Arc melt: • 18 compositions x 20g buttons

Anneal 1: • 1750°C/10hrs
 (solutionize) • 1900°C/10hrs

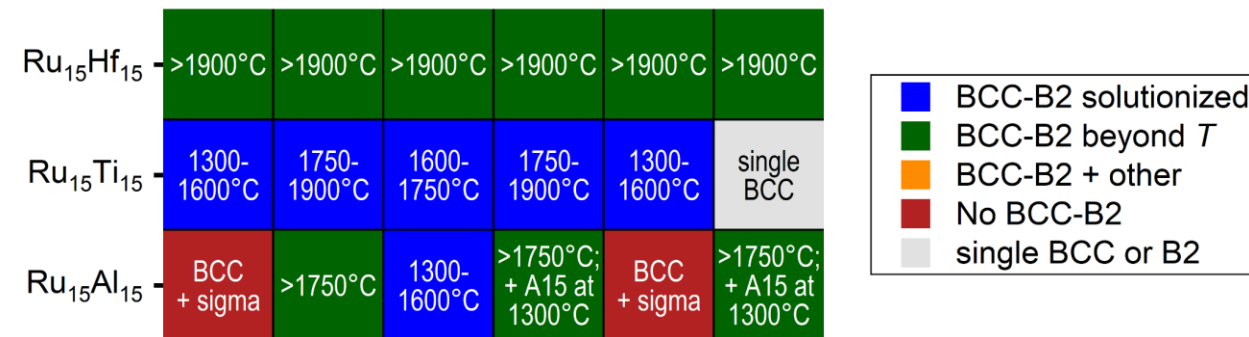
Anneal 2: • 1600°C/40hrs
 (precipitate) • 1300°C/200hrs

Characterize: • XRD, SEM
 • (microhardness, compression, TEM)

a) CALPHAD-predicted BCC-B2 stability



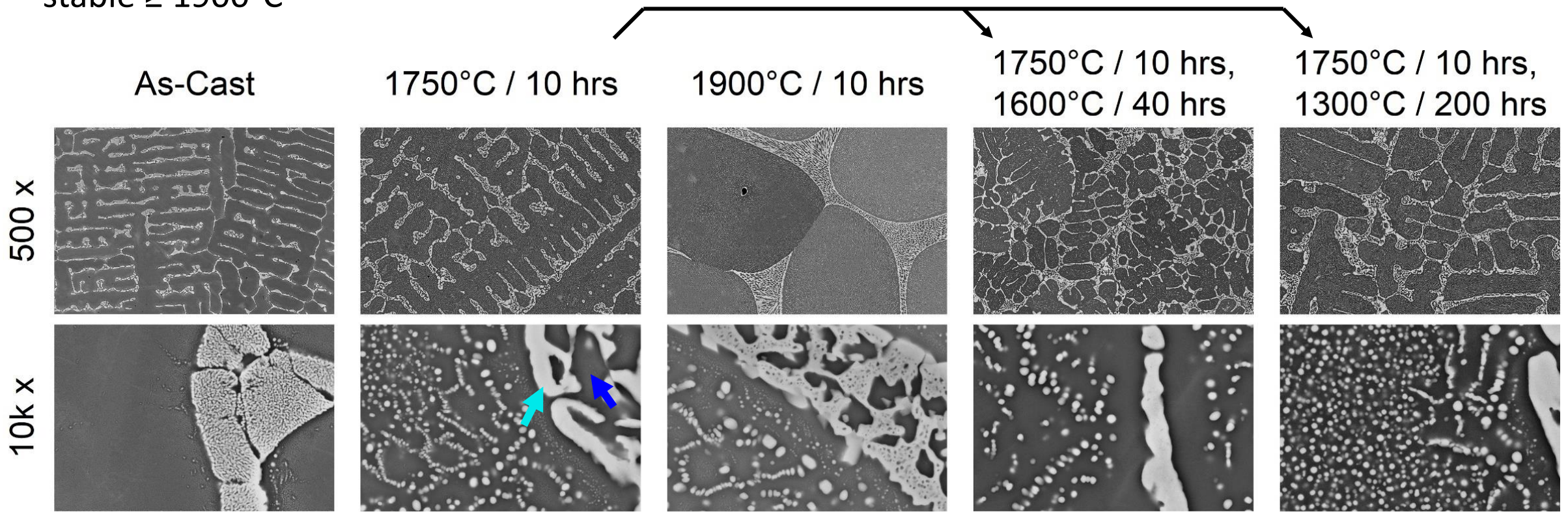
b) Experimental BCC-B2 stability




Example 1: Ru₁₅ Hf₁₅ – Nb₇₀

Nb BCC dendrites
 RuHf B2 interdendritic
 stable ≥ 1900°C

	Nb ₇₀	Mo ₇₀	V ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Ta ₃₅	Mo ₃₅ Ta ₃₅
Ru ₁₅ Hf ₁₅	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C
Ru ₁₅ Ti ₁₅	1300-1600°C	1750-1900°C	1600-1750°C	1750-1900°C	1300-1600°C	single BCC
Ru ₁₅ Al ₁₅	BCC + sigma	>1750°C	1300-1600°C	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C	BCC + sigma	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C



Scalebar:  corresponds to 500x: 100µm | 5k x: 10µm | 10k x: 5µm

Example 2: Ru₁₅Ti₁₅ – Nb₇₀

Nb BCC + RuTi B2

B2 dissolves between 1300 and 1600°C.

	Nb ₇₀	Mo ₇₀	V ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Ta ₃₅	Mo ₃₅ Ta ₃₅
Ru ₁₅ Hf ₁₅	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C
Ru ₁₅ Ti ₁₅	1300-1600°C	1750-1900°C	1600-1750°C	1750-1900°C	1300-1600°C	single BCC
Ru ₁₅ Al ₁₅	BCC + sigma	>1750°C	1300-1600°C	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C	BCC + sigma	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C

As-Cast

Homogenize & Solutionize

Precipitate & Age

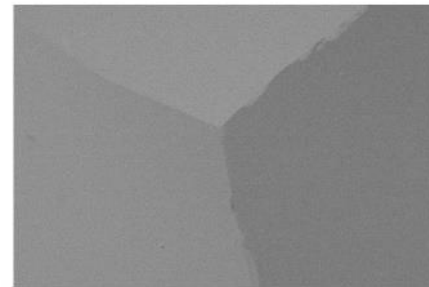
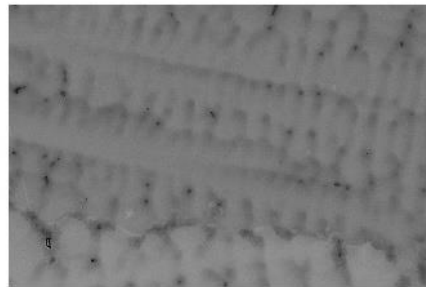
1750°C / 10 hrs

1900°C / 10 hrs

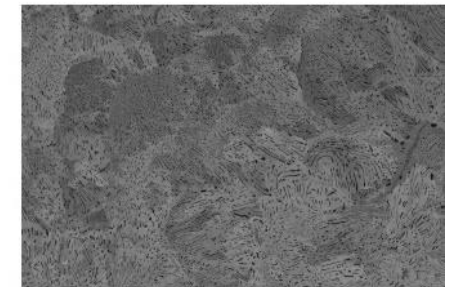
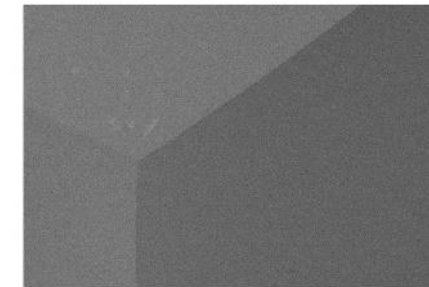
1600°C / 40 hrs

1300°C / 200 hrs

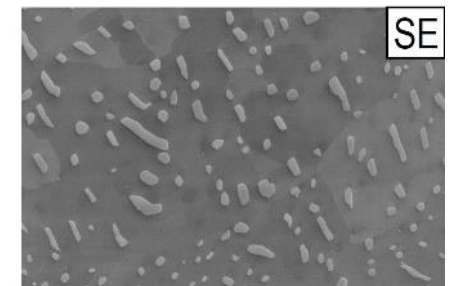
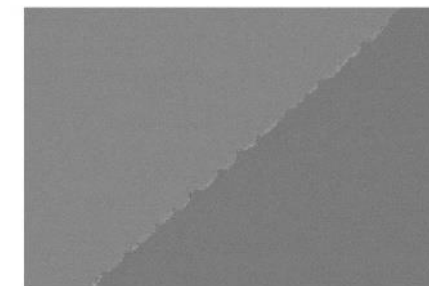
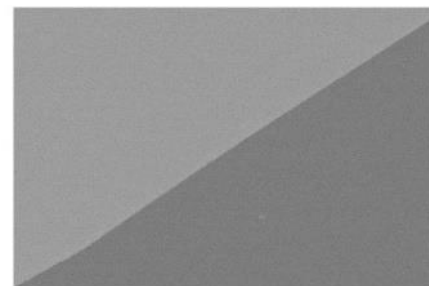
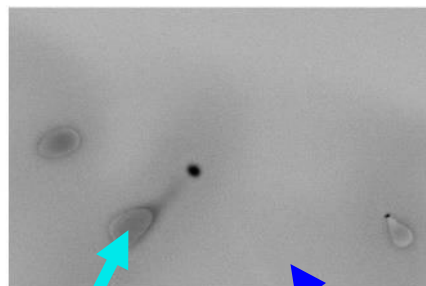
500 x



melting at
~ 1900°C



5k x



11%, 0.5µm

Scalebar:  corresponds to 500x: 100µm | 5k x: 10µm | 10k x: 5µm | 20k x: 2.5µm | 50k x: 1µm

Example 3: Ru₁₅Ti₁₅ – Nb₃₅Mo₃₅

NbMo BCC + RuTi B2

B2 dissolves between 1750 and 1900°C.

Misfit = -3.5%

	Nb ₇₀	Mo ₇₀	V ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Ta ₃₅	Mo ₃₅ Ta ₃₅
Ru ₁₅ Hf ₁₅	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C
Ru ₁₅ Ti ₁₅	1300-1600°C	1750-1900°C	1600-1750°C	1750-1900°C	1300-1600°C	single BCC
Ru ₁₅ Al ₁₅	BCC + sigma	>1750°C	1300-1600°C	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C	BCC + sigma	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C

As-Cast

Homogenize & Solutionize

Precipitate & Age

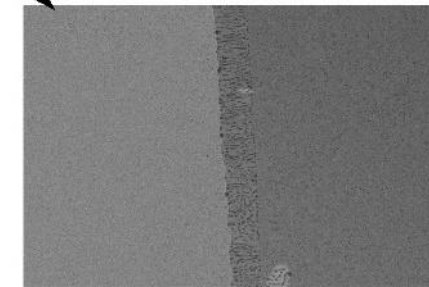
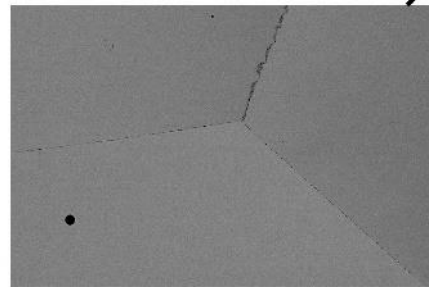
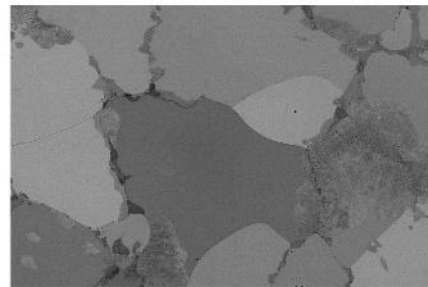
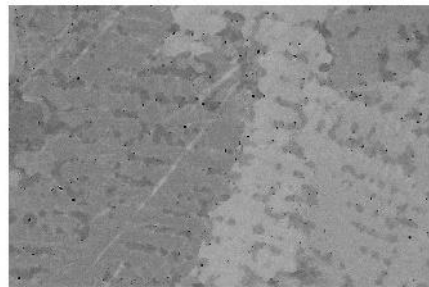
1750°C / 10 hrs

1900°C / 10 hrs

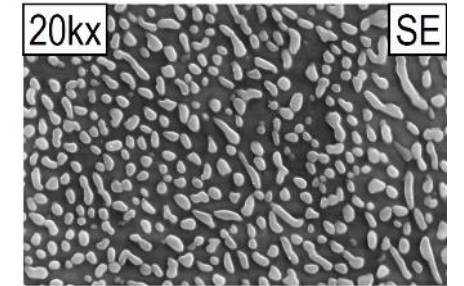
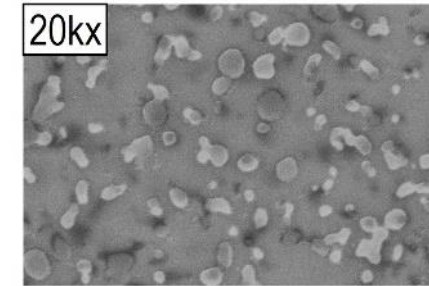
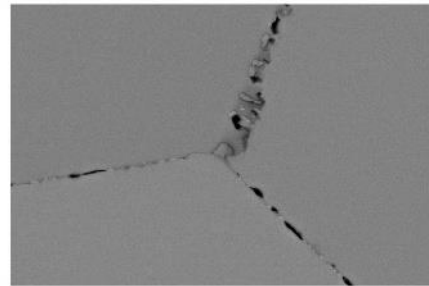
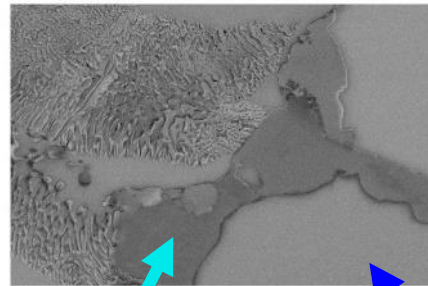
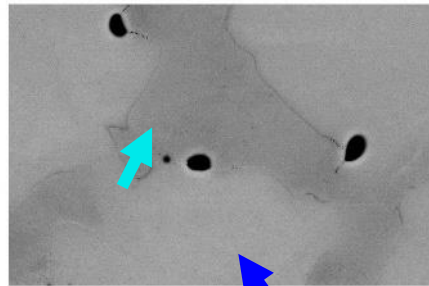
1600°C / 40 hrs

1300°C / 200 hrs

500 x



5k x



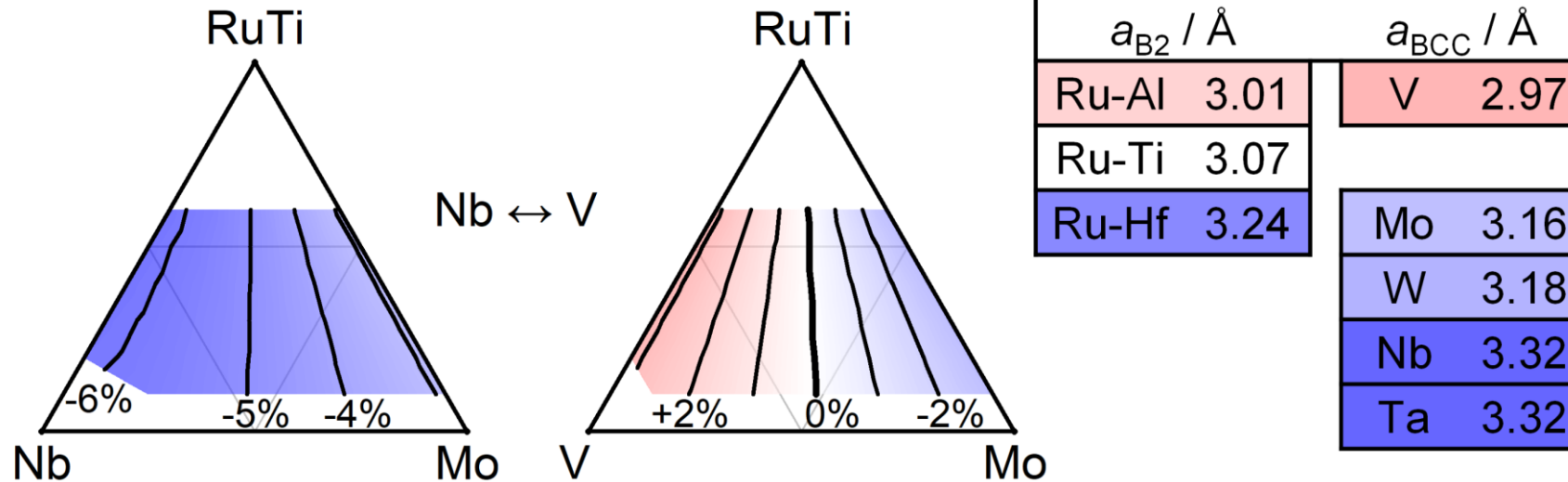
17%, 300 nm

24%, 125 nm

Scalebar:  corresponds to 500x: 100µm | 5k x: 10µm | 10k x: 5µm | 20k x: 2.5µm | 50k x: 1µm

Reduce misfit by substitution

d) Misfit at 1300°C, and lattice constants:

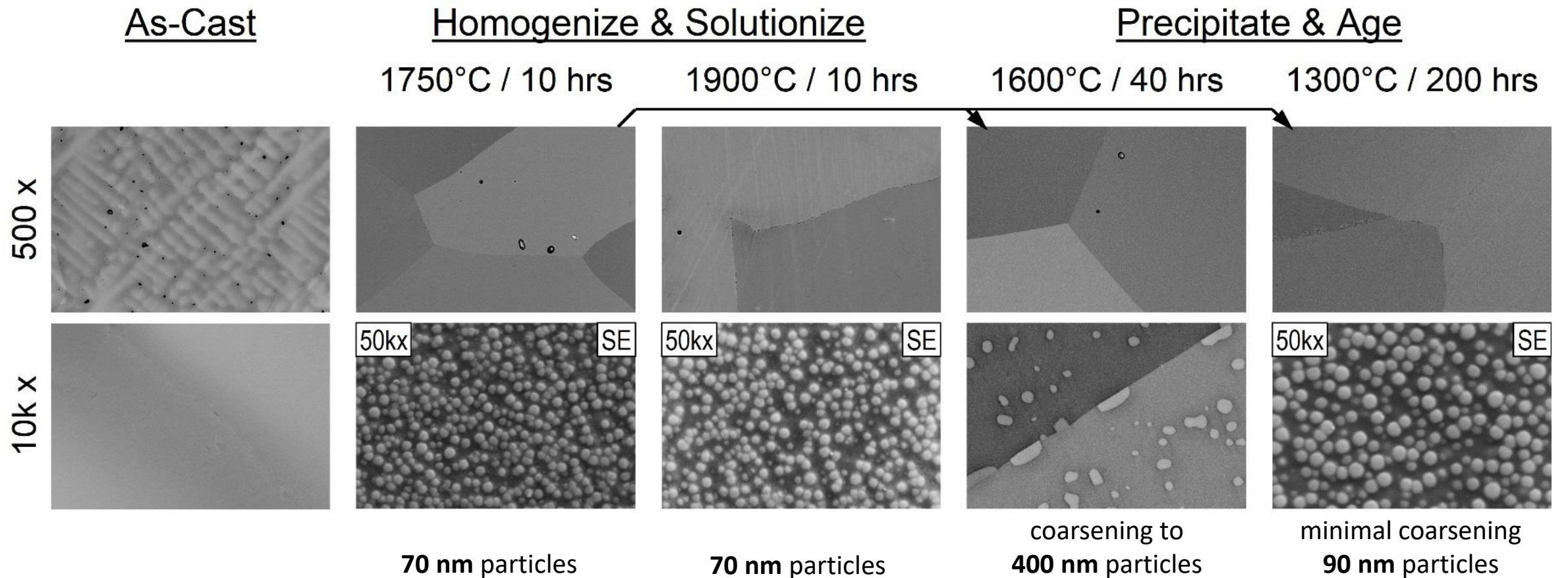


Example 4: $\text{Ru}_{15}\text{Ti}_{15} - \text{V}_{35}\text{Mo}_{35}$

VMo BCC + RuTi B2, stable $\geq 1600^\circ\text{C}$

B2 dissolves at 1750 and 1900°C, but precipitates on cooling.

	Nb ₇₀	Mo ₇₀	V ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Ta ₃₅	Mo ₃₅ Ta ₃₅
Ru ₁₅ Hf ₁₅	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C
Ru ₁₅ Ti ₁₅	1300-1600°C	1750-1900°C	1600-1750°C	1750-1900°C	1300-1600°C	single BCC
Ru ₁₅ Al ₁₅	BCC + sigma	>1750°C	1300-1600°C	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C	BCC + sigma	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C



Scalebar:  corresponds to 500x: 100 μm | 5k x: 10 μm | 10k x: 5 μm | 20k x: 2.5 μm | 50k x: 1 μm

Example 5: $\text{Ru}_{15}\text{Al}_{15} - \text{V}_{35}\text{Mo}_{35}$

VMo BCC + RuAl B2

B2 dissolves between 1300 and 1600°C.

	Nb ₇₀	Mo ₇₀	V ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	Nb ₃₅ Ta ₃₅	Mo ₃₅ Ta ₃₅
Ru ₁₅ Hf ₁₅	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C
Ru ₁₅ Ti ₁₅	1300-1600°C	1750-1900°C	1600-1750°C	1750-1900°C	1300-1600°C	single BCC
Ru ₁₅ Al ₁₅	BCC + sigma	>1750°C	1300-1600°C	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C	BCC + sigma	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C

As-Cast

Homogenize & Solutionize

Precipitate & Age

1750°C / 10 hrs

1900°C / 10 hrs

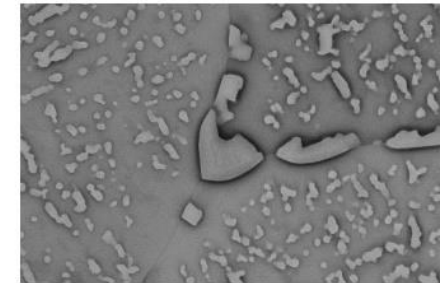
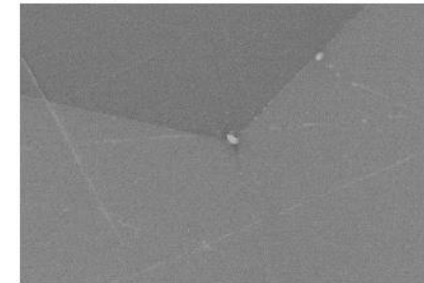
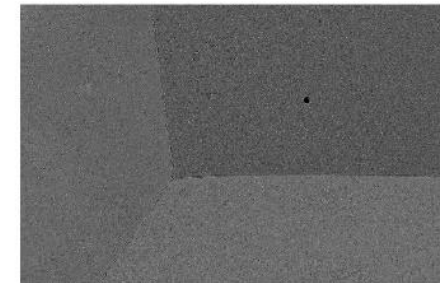
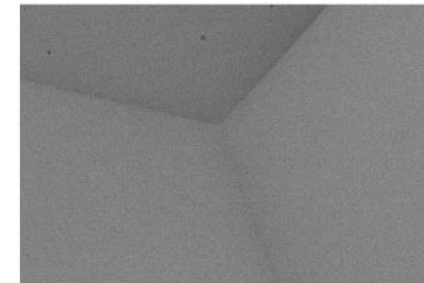
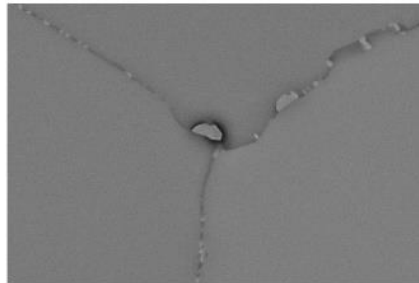
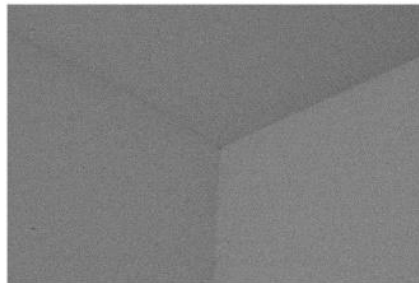
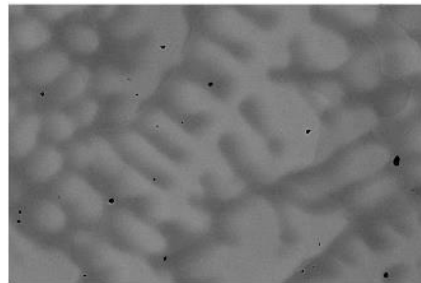
1600°C / 40 hrs

1300°C / 200 hrs

melting at
~ 1900°C

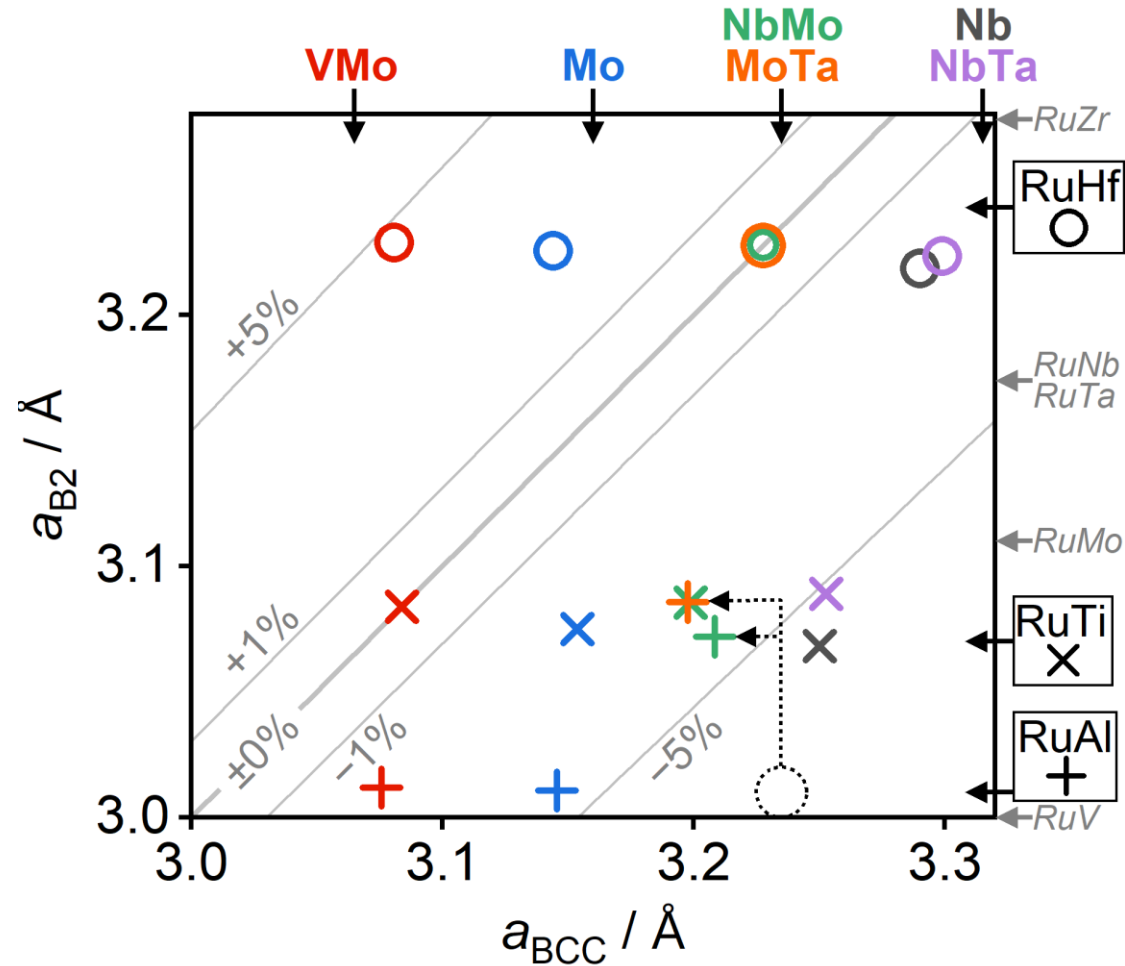
500 x

10k x



Scalebar:  corresponds to 500x: 100μm | 5k x: 10μm | 10k x: 5μm | 20k x: 2.5μm | 50k x: 1μm

Minimize misfit for coherence: Experimental from XRD



⊕ Best fit with Nb, Mo, Ta.
 ⊖ Limited processability.

⊖ Too small for Nb, Mo, Ta.
 ⊕ Best processability.

Conclusions

1. RuHf B2:

exceptionally stable beyond 1900°C, no dissolution.

2. RuTi B2:

stable up to 1900°C, dissolution between 1300 and 1900°C

3. RuAl B2:

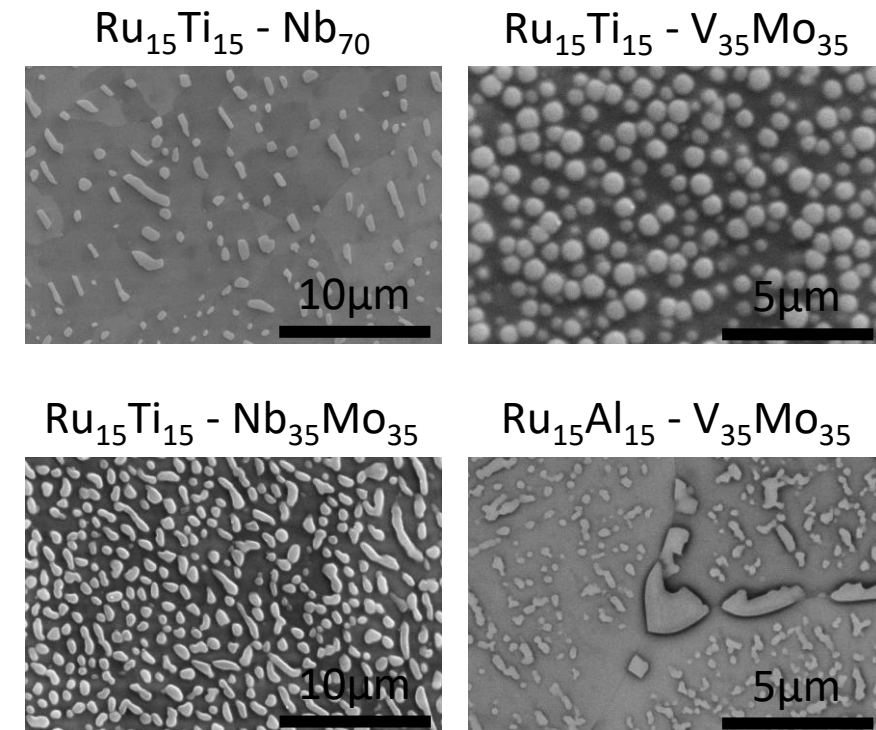
stable up to 1750°C, dissolution between 1300 and 1600°C
prone to intermetallics with Nb and Ta

→ ThermoCalc – Python rapid screening of vast design space

Also:

- Mechanical properties
- Solidification under laser melting

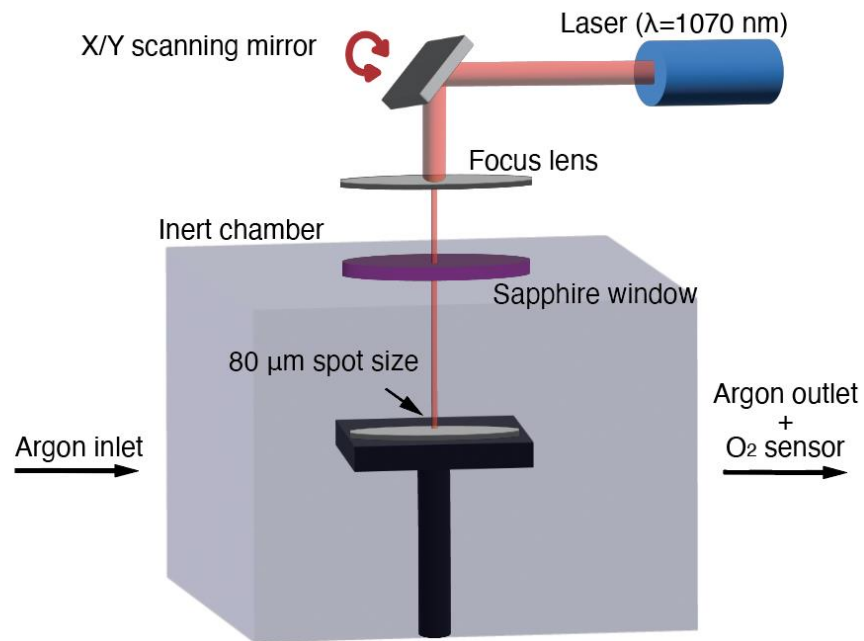
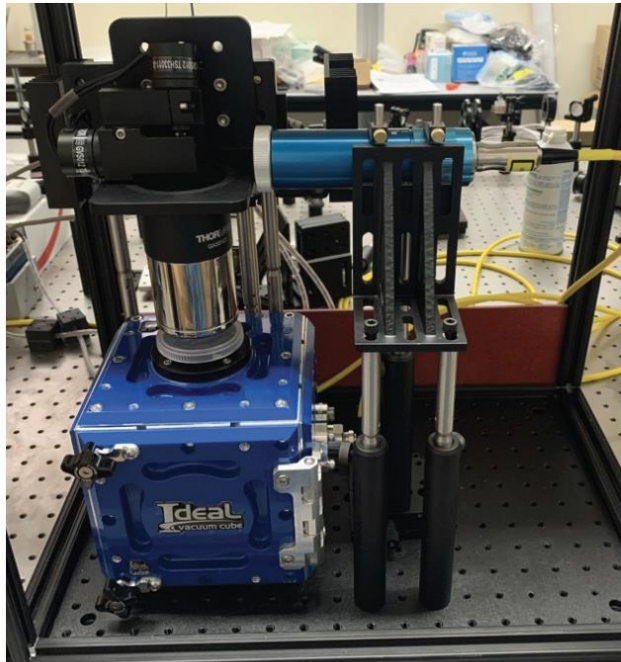
	- Nb ₇₀	- Mo ₇₀	- V ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	- Nb ₃₅ Mo ₃₅	- Nb ₃₅ Ta ₃₅	- Mo ₃₅ Ta ₃₅
Ru ₁₅ Hf ₁₅	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C	>1900°C
Ru ₁₅ Ti ₁₅	1300-1600°C	1750-1900°C	1600-1750°C	1750-1900°C	1300-1600°C	single BCC
Ru ₁₅ Al ₁₅	BCC + sigma	>1750°C	1300-1600°C	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C	BCC + sigma	>1750°C; + A15 at 1300°C



TC-Python used to predict solidification characteristics

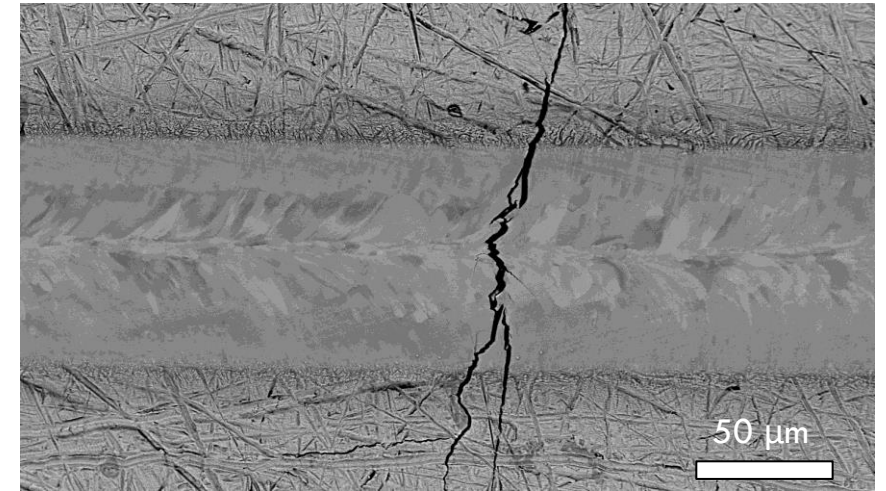
Lead: Kaitlyn Mullin, UCSB

What is the influence of composition on crack susceptibility during printing?

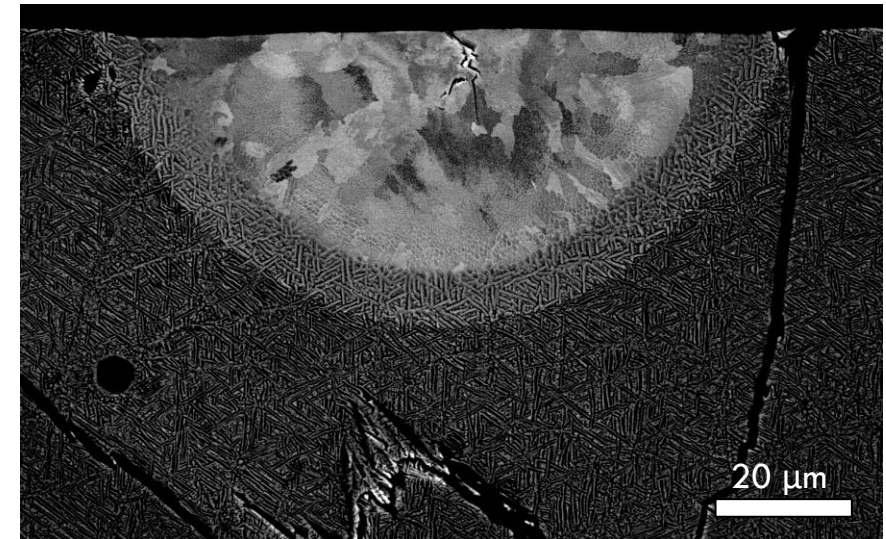


Example: 230 W, 200 mm/s laser melt of $\text{Mo}_{70}\text{Al}_{15}\text{Ru}_{15}$

Laser melted surface



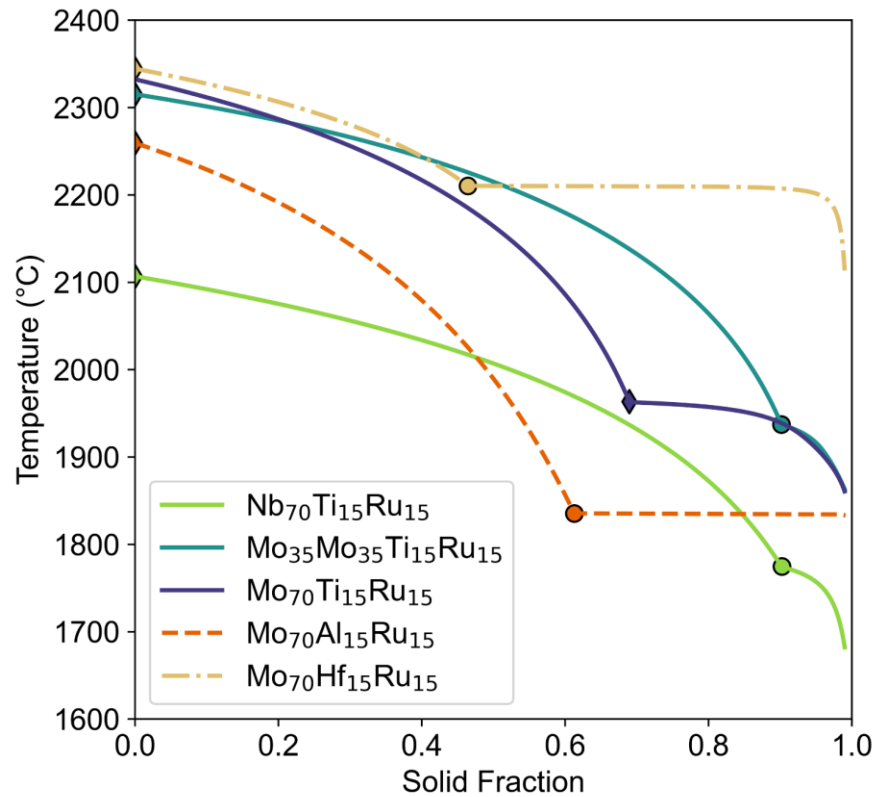
Melt pool cross section



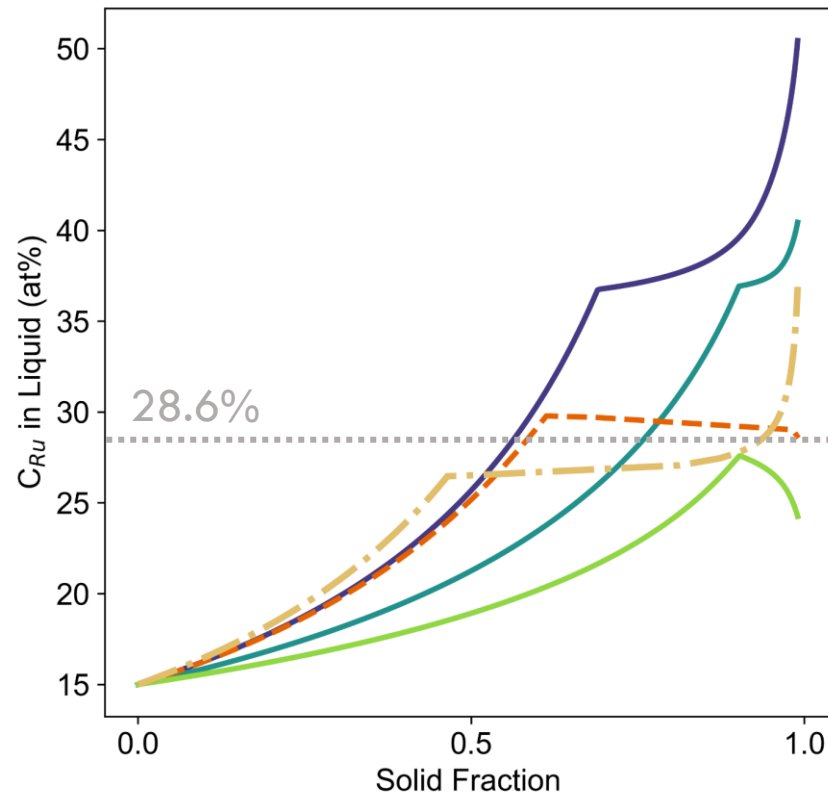
TC-Python used to predict solidification characteristics

“Scheil Calculations”

Solidification freezing range



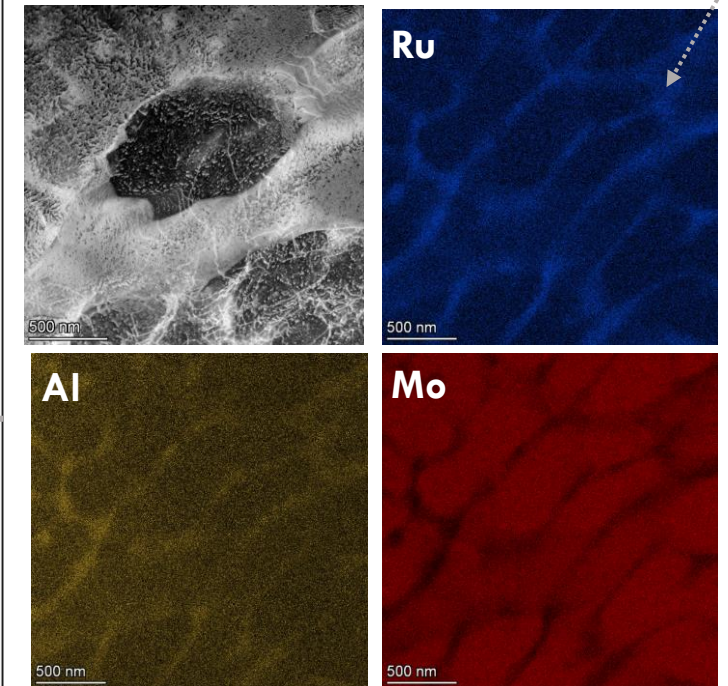
Partitioning behavior



STEM-EDS of laser melted

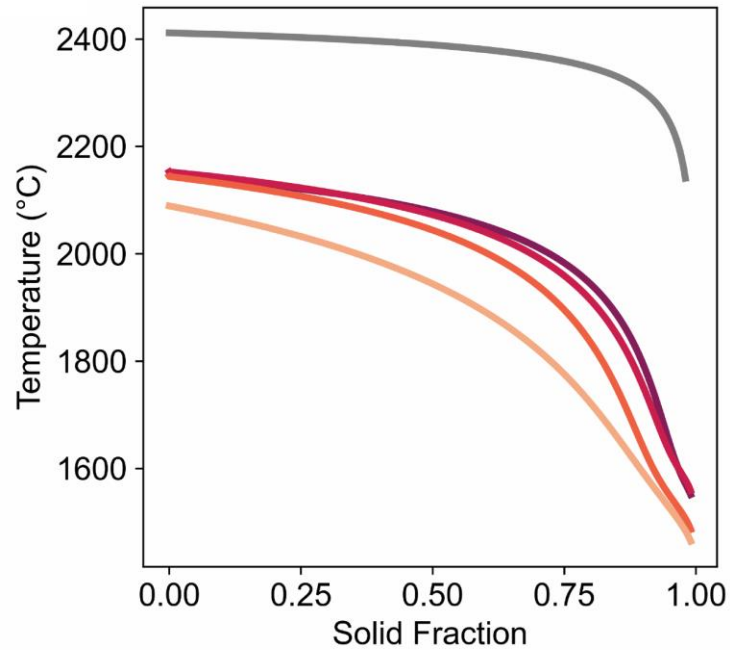
Mo₇₀Al₁₅Ru₁₅

29.4at.%

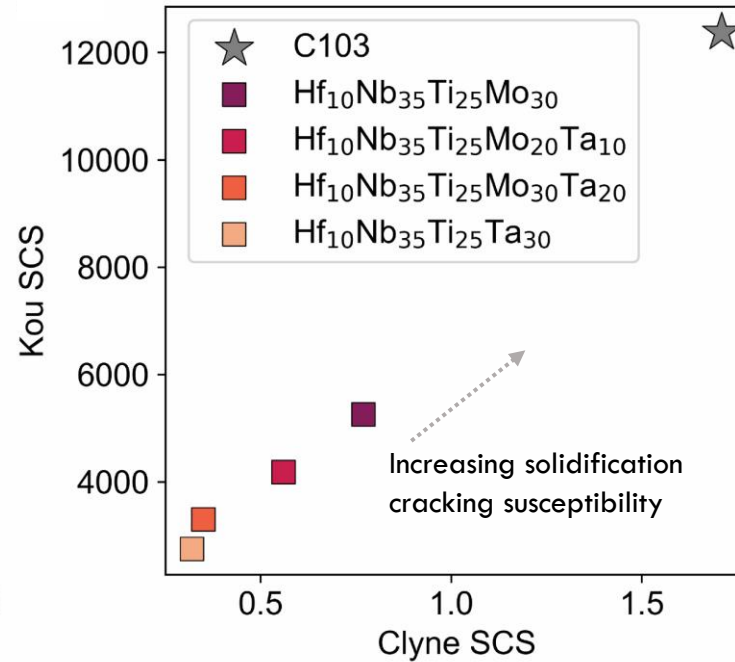


TC-Python used to predict solidification characteristics

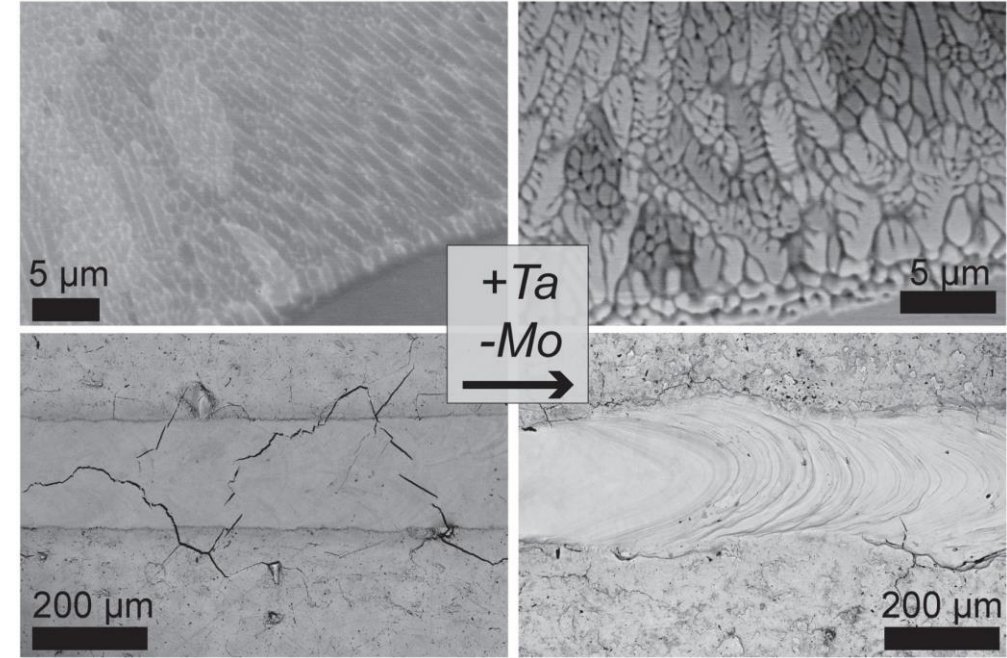
ThermoCalc Scheil curve
compositional sweep



Predictive criteria from Scheil
curves

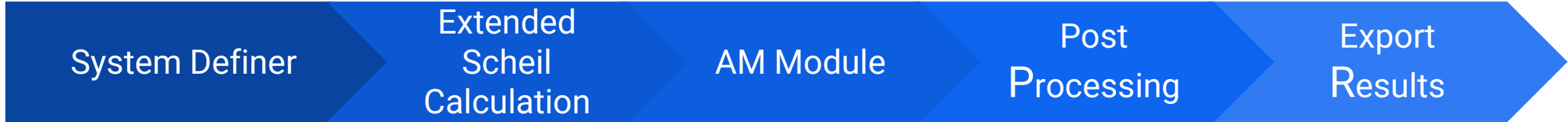
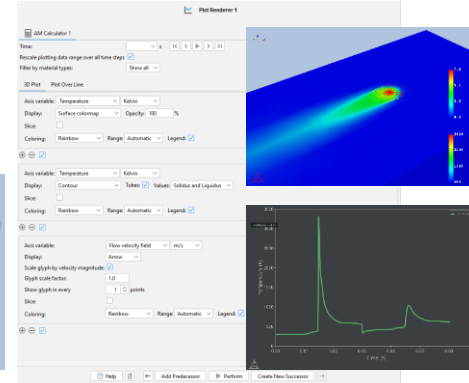
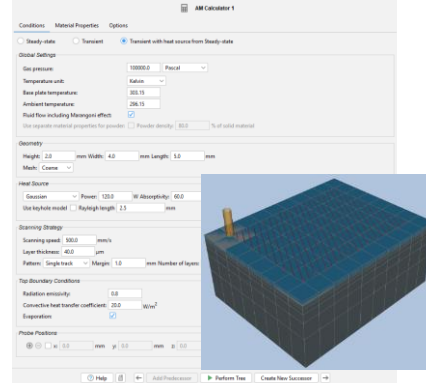
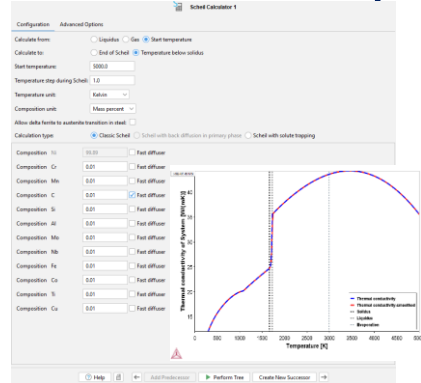
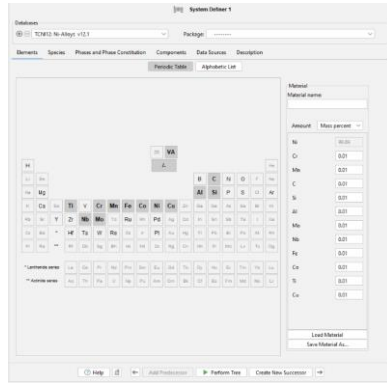


Rapid laser screening experiments



Additive Manufacturing (AM) Module

Unified Treatment of Material Properties and Process Parameters



Define alloy system, retrieve Thermodynamic and Thermophysical data

Extraction of materials properties from evaporation down to RT including solidification segregation.

Obtain enthalpy, heat capacity, density, thermal conductivity, viscosity, surface tension, volume, molar mass of gas and driving force for evaporation

Simulate AM with parameters such as: Laser power, Scanning speed and Strategy Layer thickness, Base plate temperature.

Takes into account: Thermal conduction and Fluid flow, Powder density, and heat losses due to radiation and convection and evaporation

Visualize in 3D, over a selected line or at a chosen point over time.

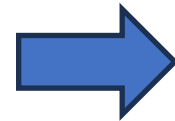
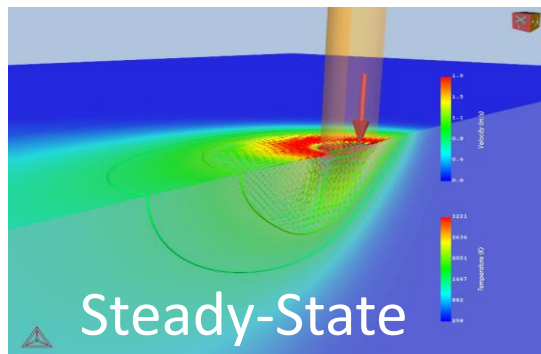
Plottable quantities: Temperature, Flow velocity, Surface tension, Thermal conductivity, Dynamic viscosity and Melt Pool dimension.

Export time-temperature profile, melt pool dimension and/or temperature distribution in space to other Thermo-Calc add-on Modules like DICTRA or TC-PRISMA, or to other external computational softwares.

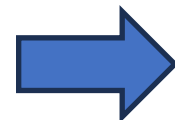
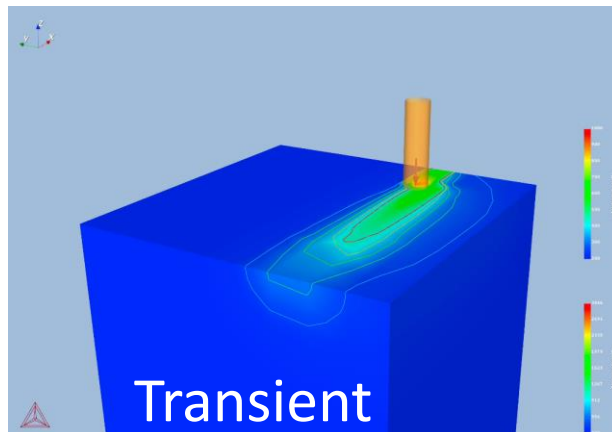
Additive Manufacturing (AM) Module

Unified Treatment of Material Properties and Process Parameters

- ✓ Fe-alloys
 - ✓ Ni-base Superalloys
- ✓ HEAs
 - ✓ Ti-alloys
 - ✓ Al-alloys
- ✓ Mg-alloys
 - ✓ Cu-alloys
 - ✓ Noble-alloys



- ✓ Size of melt pool
 - ✓ Fluid flow
 - ✓ Peak temperature
- ✓ Property variation through melt pool
 - ✓ More...



- ✓ All above vs time
 - ✓ T vs time in build
- ✓ Connect with Diffusion and/or Precipitation Module

Q&A

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Full length article

Navigating the BCC-B2 refractory alloy space: Stability and thermal processing with Ru-B2 precipitates

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B2 phase
Calphad
Combinatorial

ABSTRACT

Refractory multi-principal element alloys (RMPEAs) could provide next-generation high temperature alloys, but their ductility and high temperature strength need significant improvement. Emulating superalloy γ - γ' microstructures, RMPEAs combining a ductile BCC matrix with embedded B2 precipitates for strengthening could meet this goal. Two-phase BCC-B2 RMPEAs have recently been demonstrated, but the B2 phase typically exhibits insufficient thermodynamic stability for operating temperatures ≥ 1300 °C.

Using high-throughput CALPHAD predictions, we screen across 3,500 potential BCC-B2 systems. Promising compositions are predicted for alloys combining Ru-based B2s with refractory BCC elements. A total of 20 such