

Beyond the Hype  
*Navigating the Promise and Pitfalls of  
Multi-Modal Models for Materials Science*

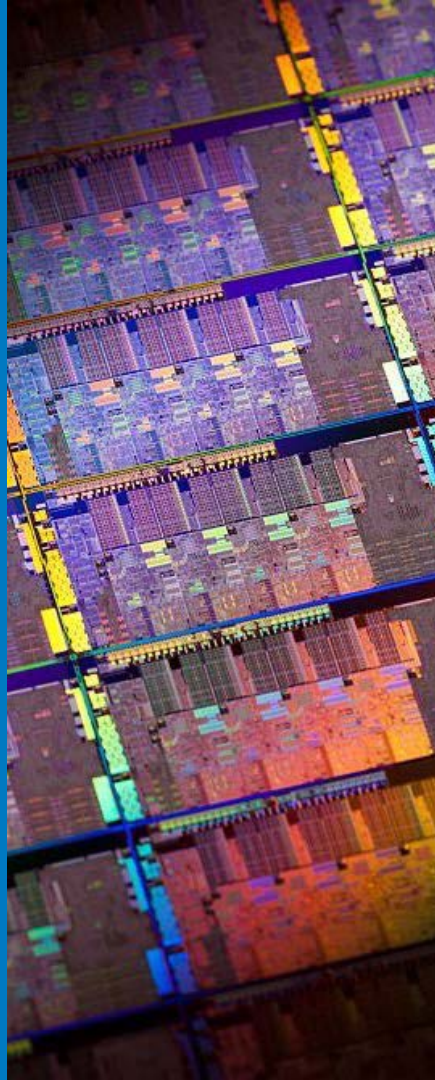
Steven R. Spurgeon  
*MRS Fall 2024  
December 2, 2024*

Everyday  
technologies are  
critically reliant on  
mastering materials  
lifecycles

*Wafer: Intel Company*

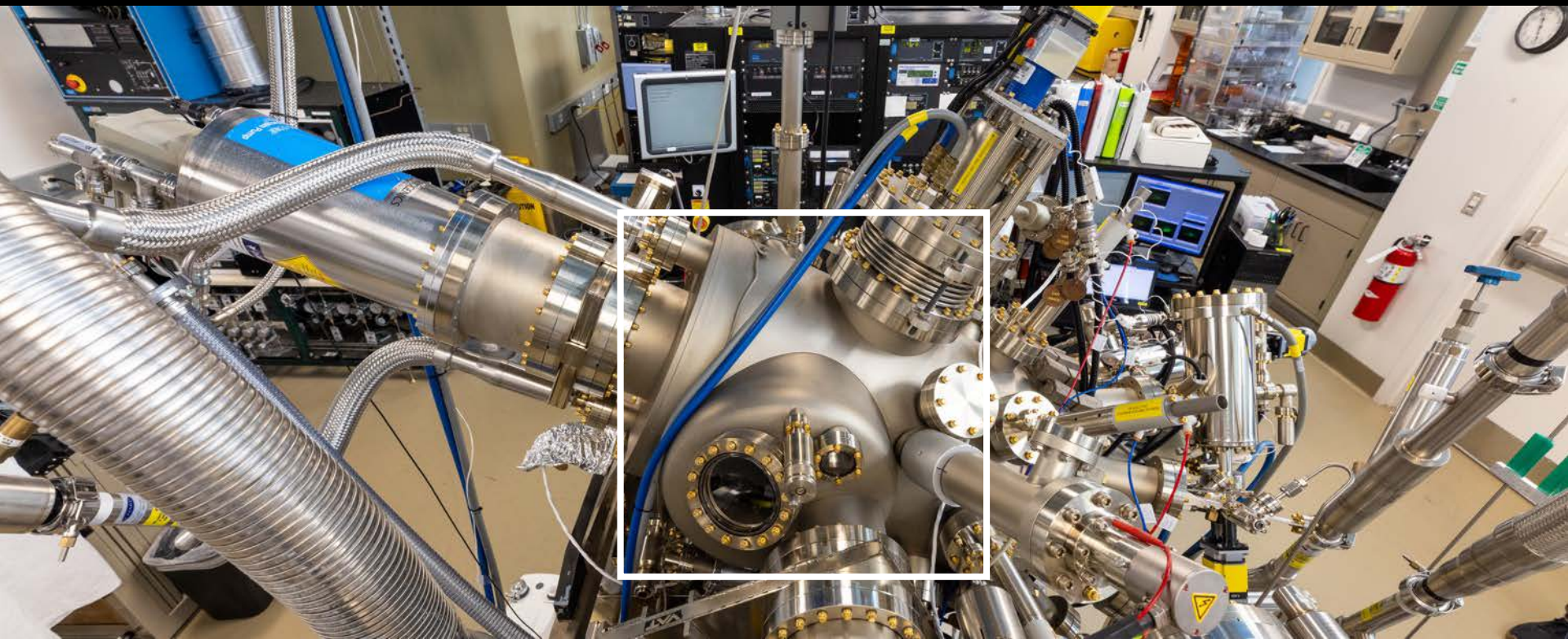
*PV: NREL*

*Battery: Battery Technology Online*





Mastery depends on understanding of complex synthesis pathways...

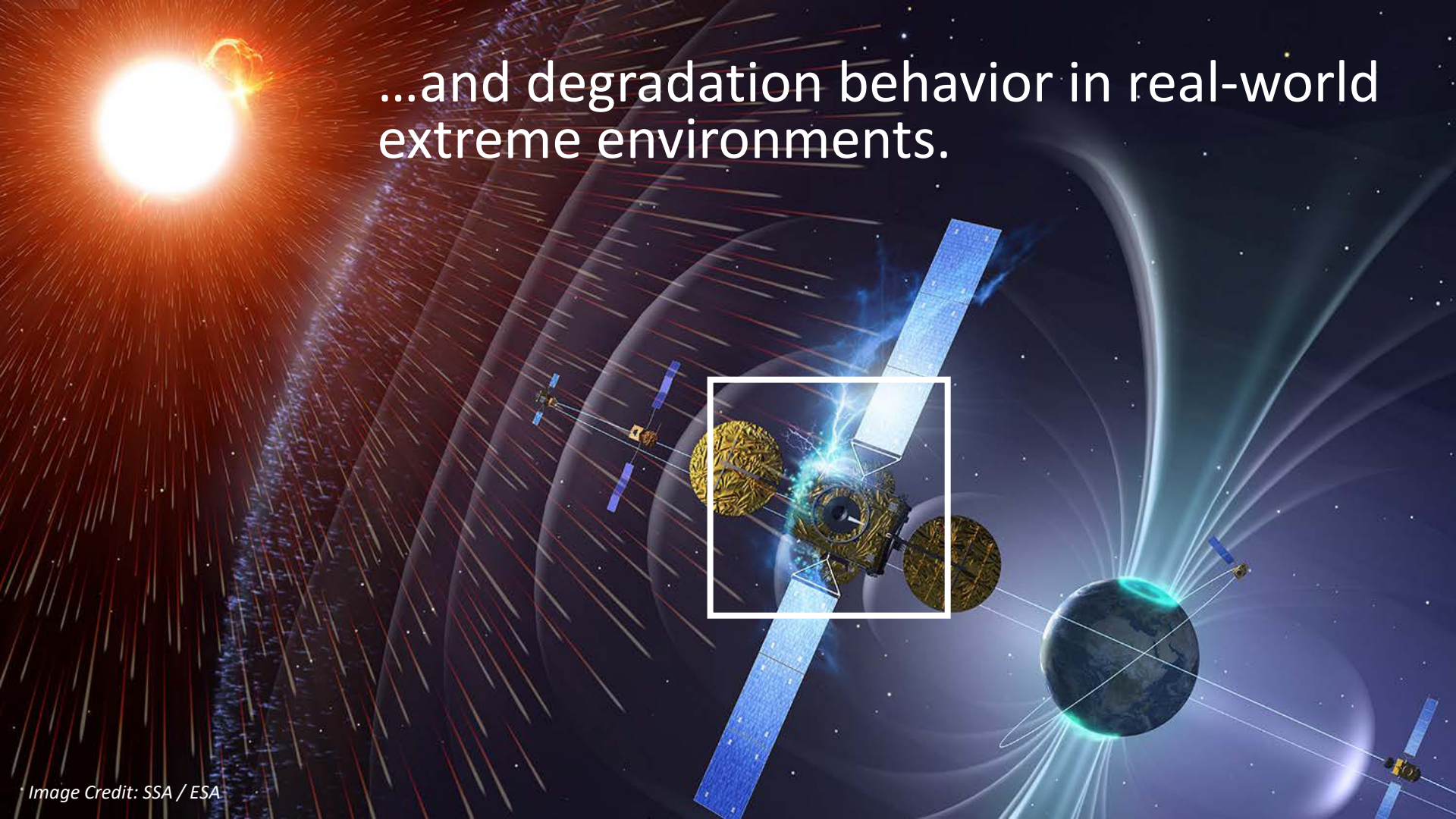




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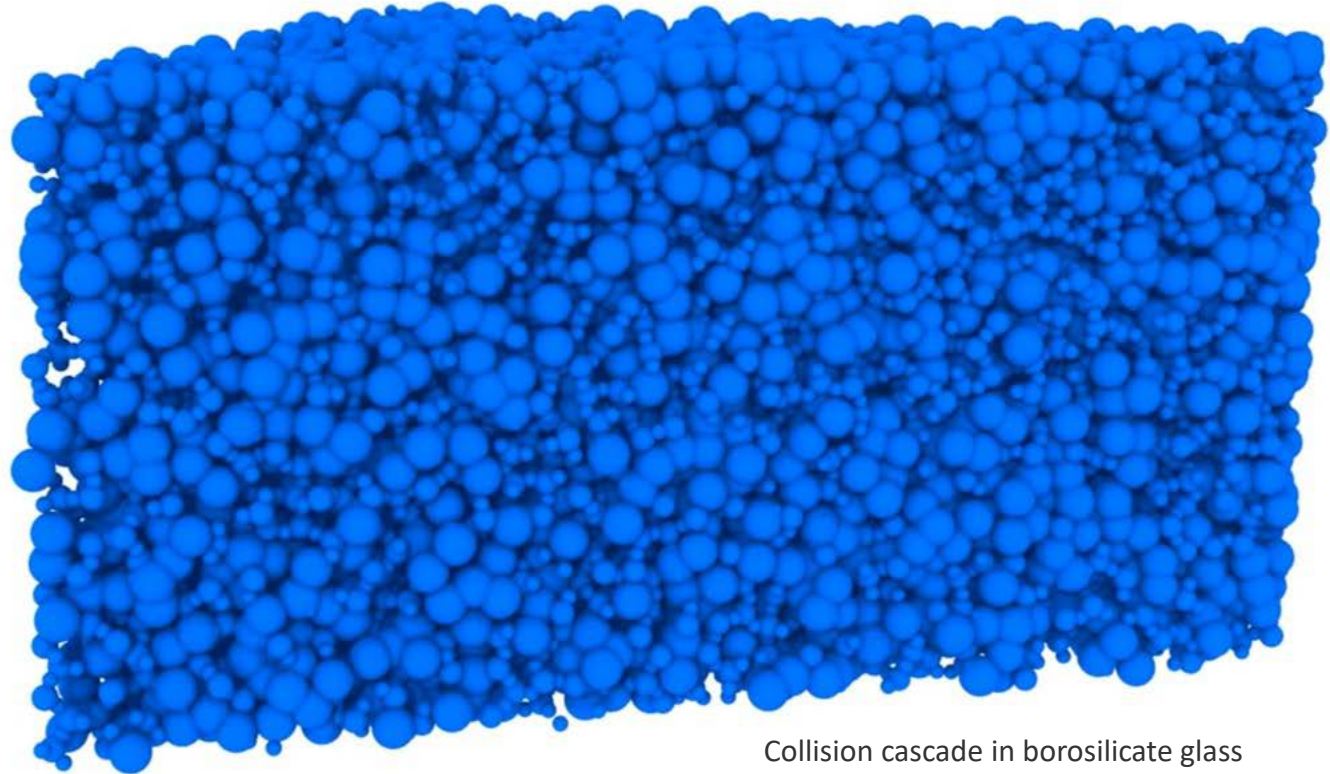


...and degradation behavior in real-world extreme environments.





# ...and degradation behavior in real-world extreme environments.

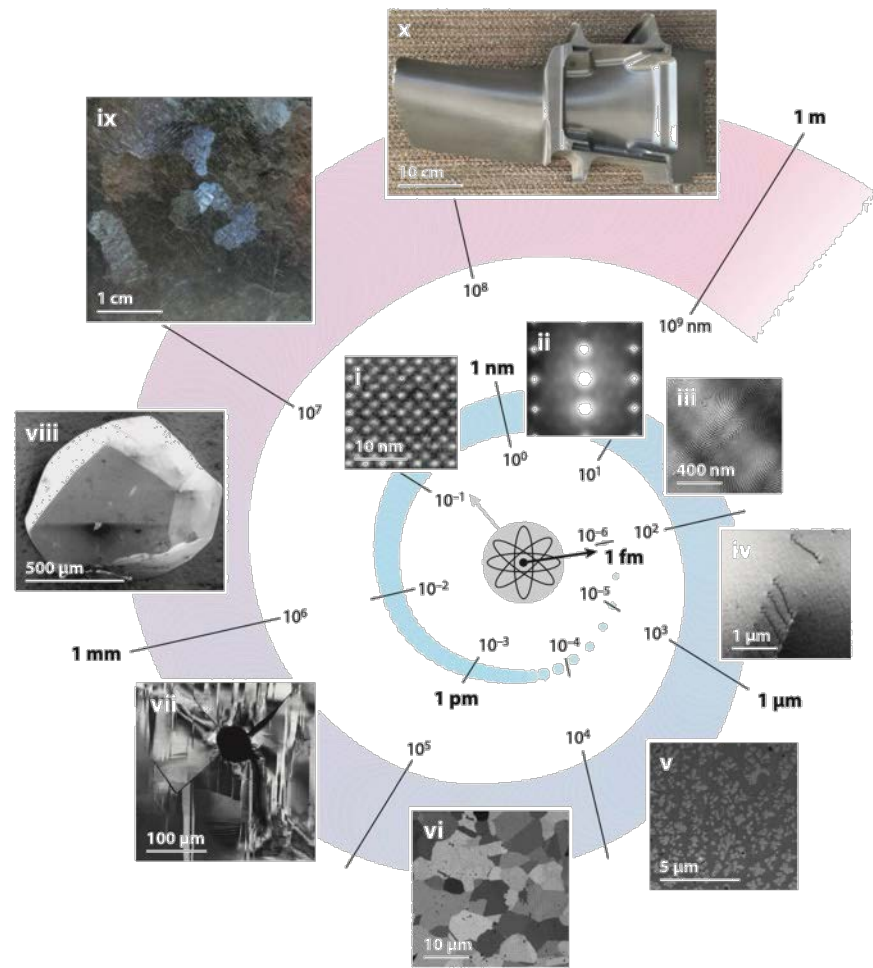


Collision cascade in borosilicate glass

My research aim is an ontology of the materials lifecycle:

*“A systematic mapping of data to meaningful semantic concepts...” across spatial and temporal scales*

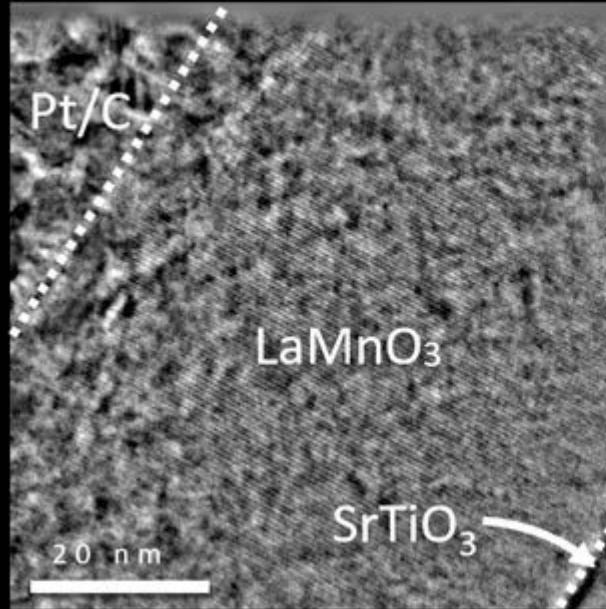
Quote adapted from:  
<https://blog.palantir.com/ontology-finding-meaning-in-data-palantir-rfx-blog-series-1-399bd1a5971b>



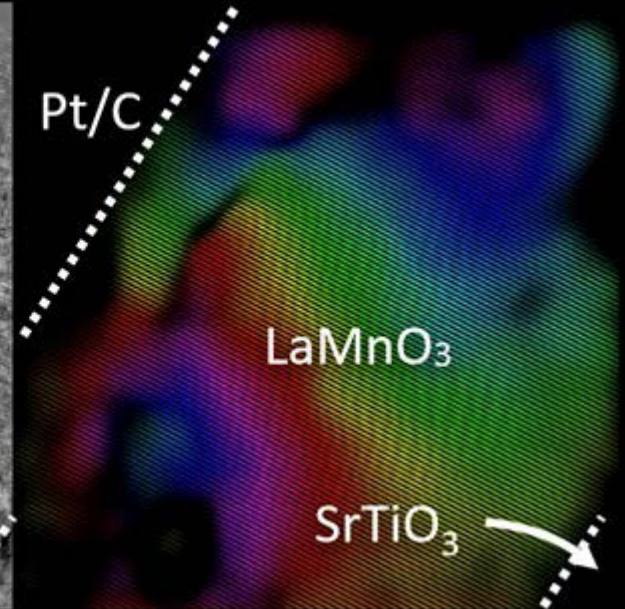
# We seek to understand how defects in functional thin films mediate disorder in extremes.



In Situ HRTEM During Irradiation



Time-Resolved Fourier Filtering

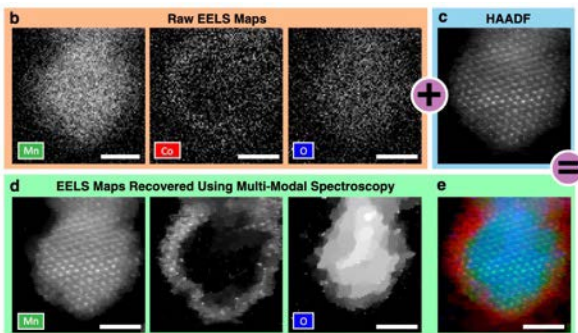


- What are the fundamental principles relating interfaces and radiation-induced defects?
- Can we derive an order parameter that describes the disordering process enabling more robust design of oxide-based devices?

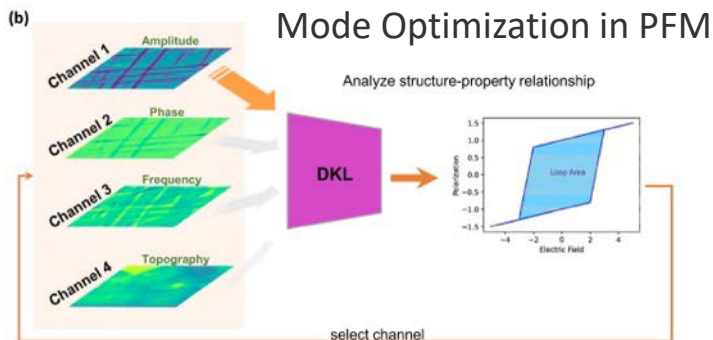


# Multi-modal models provide a potentially powerful window into the materials lifecycle.

## Fused Multi-Modal STEM



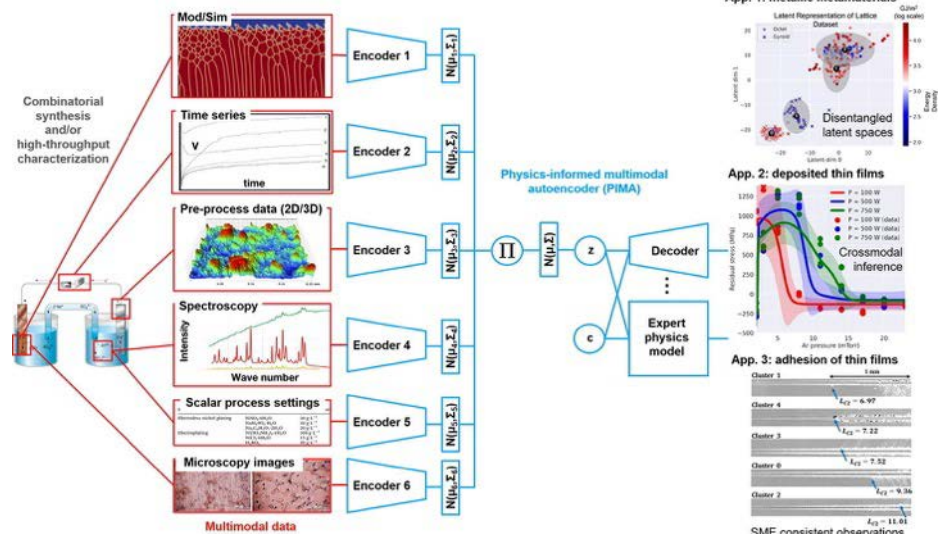
Schwartz et al. *npj Comp. Mater.* 8, 16 (2022).



Liu et al. *npj Comput. Mater.* 9, 34 (2023).

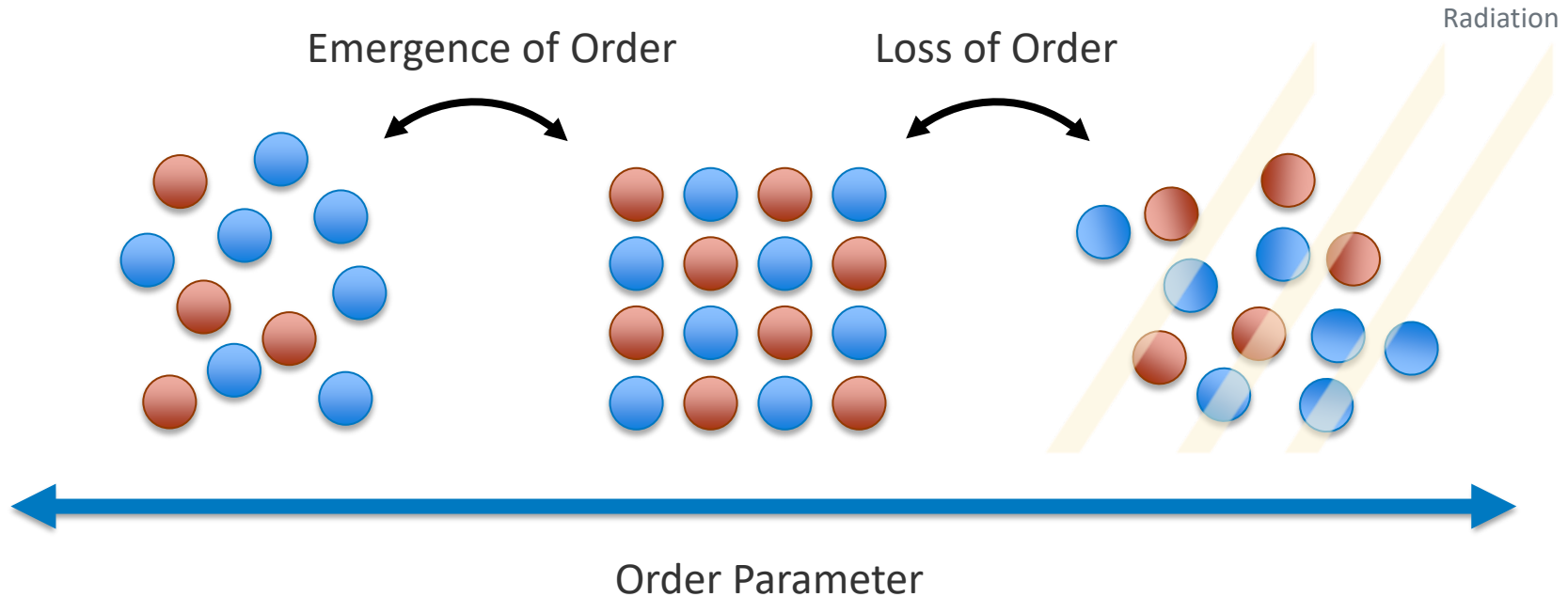
## Multi-Modal Autoencoders for Materials

Fingerprinting of material state based on a physics-informed multimodal autoencoder



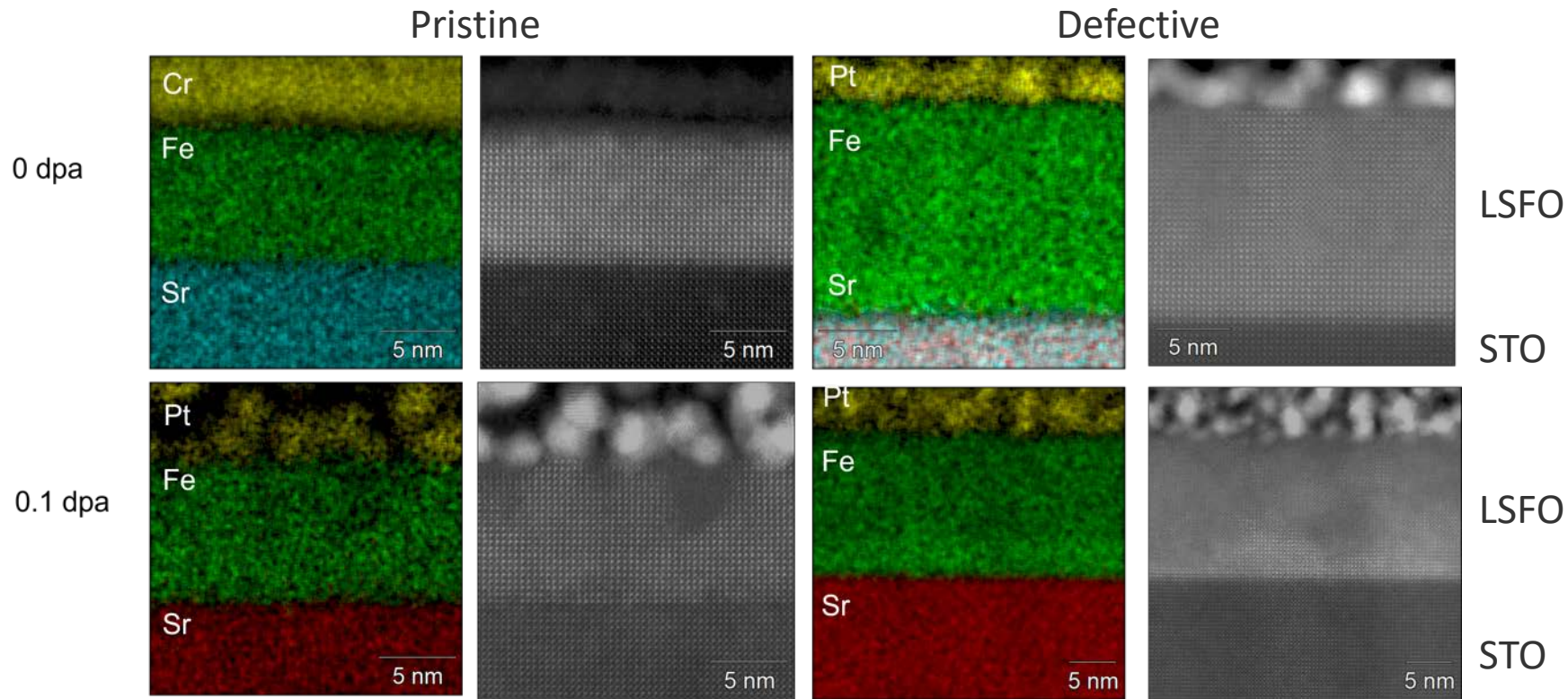
Trask et al. *Mater. Today.* 80, 286 (2024).

# Can these models inform an order parameter for the evolution of crystalline materials?



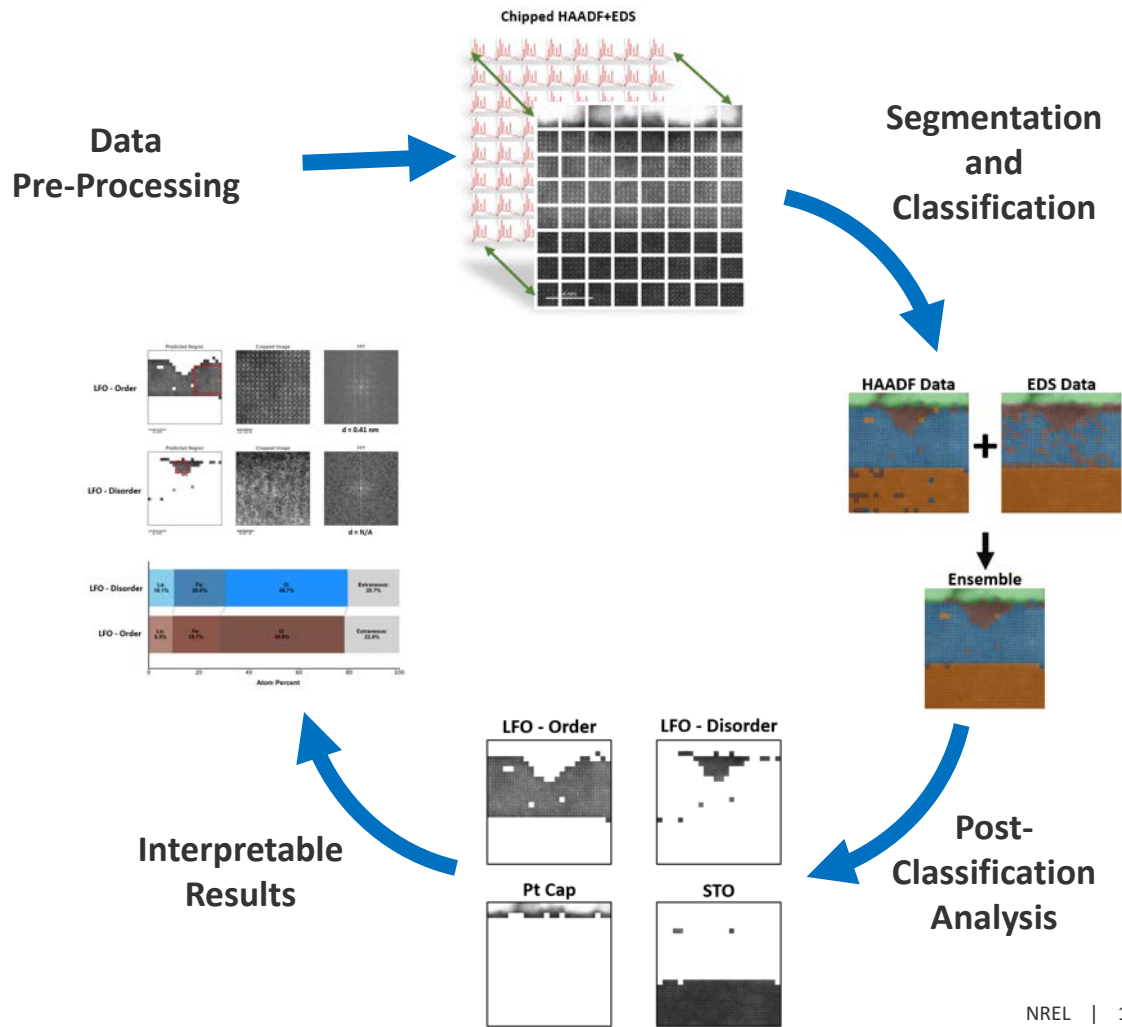


# We examine the effect of initial microstructure and vacancy content on disordering pathways in $\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{FeO}_3$ .



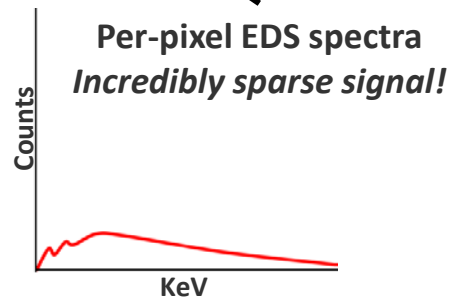
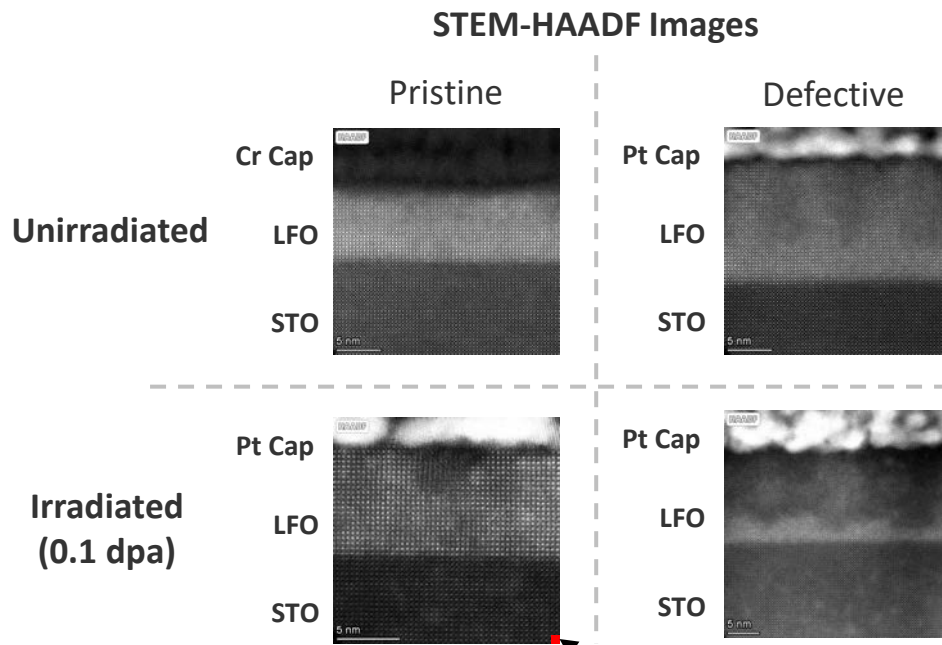
Irradiated with 2.8 MeV  $\text{Au}^{2+}$  ions

Our goal is to design a multimodal model that can incorporate both imaging and spectroscopy data.

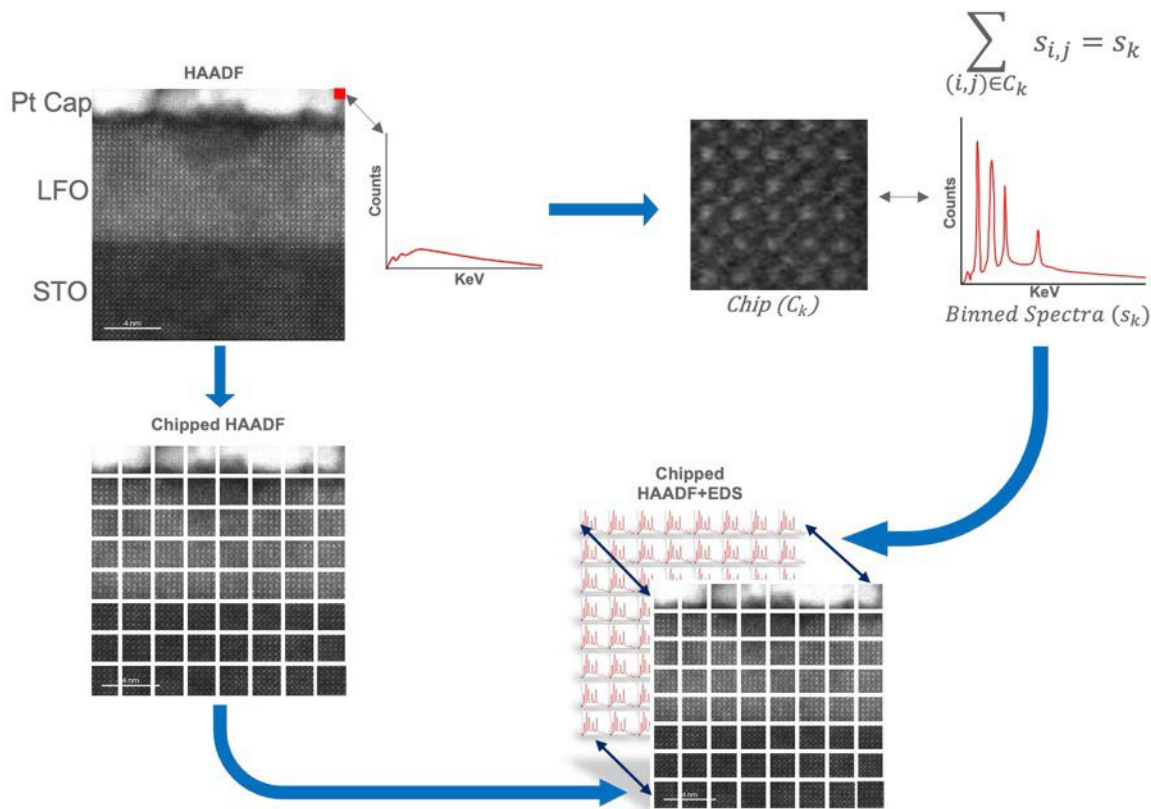




Each STEM pixel is registered to an EDS spectrum that together encode structure and composition.

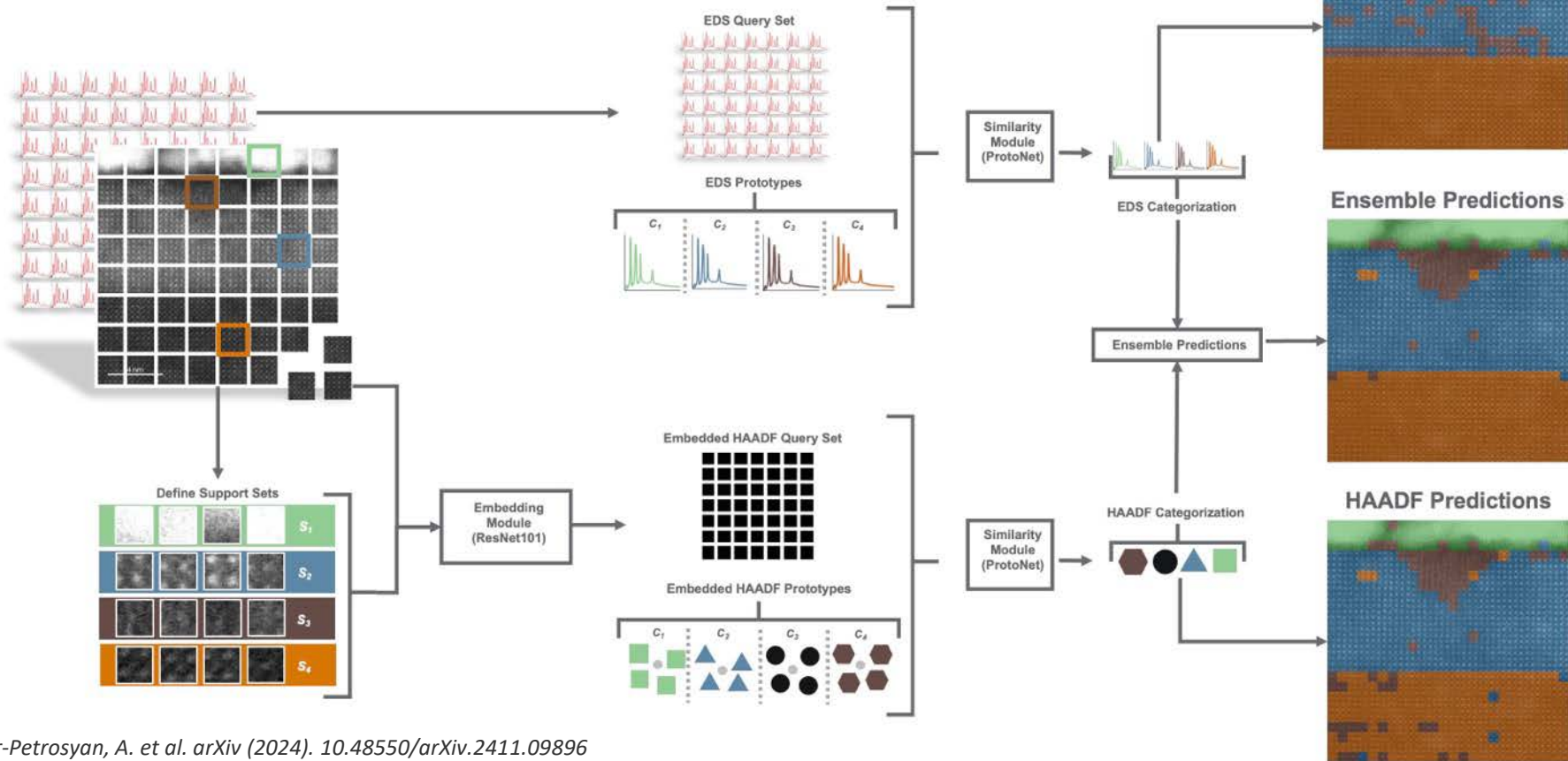


To deal with the sparsity of EDS data, we bin the spectra within a regular array.

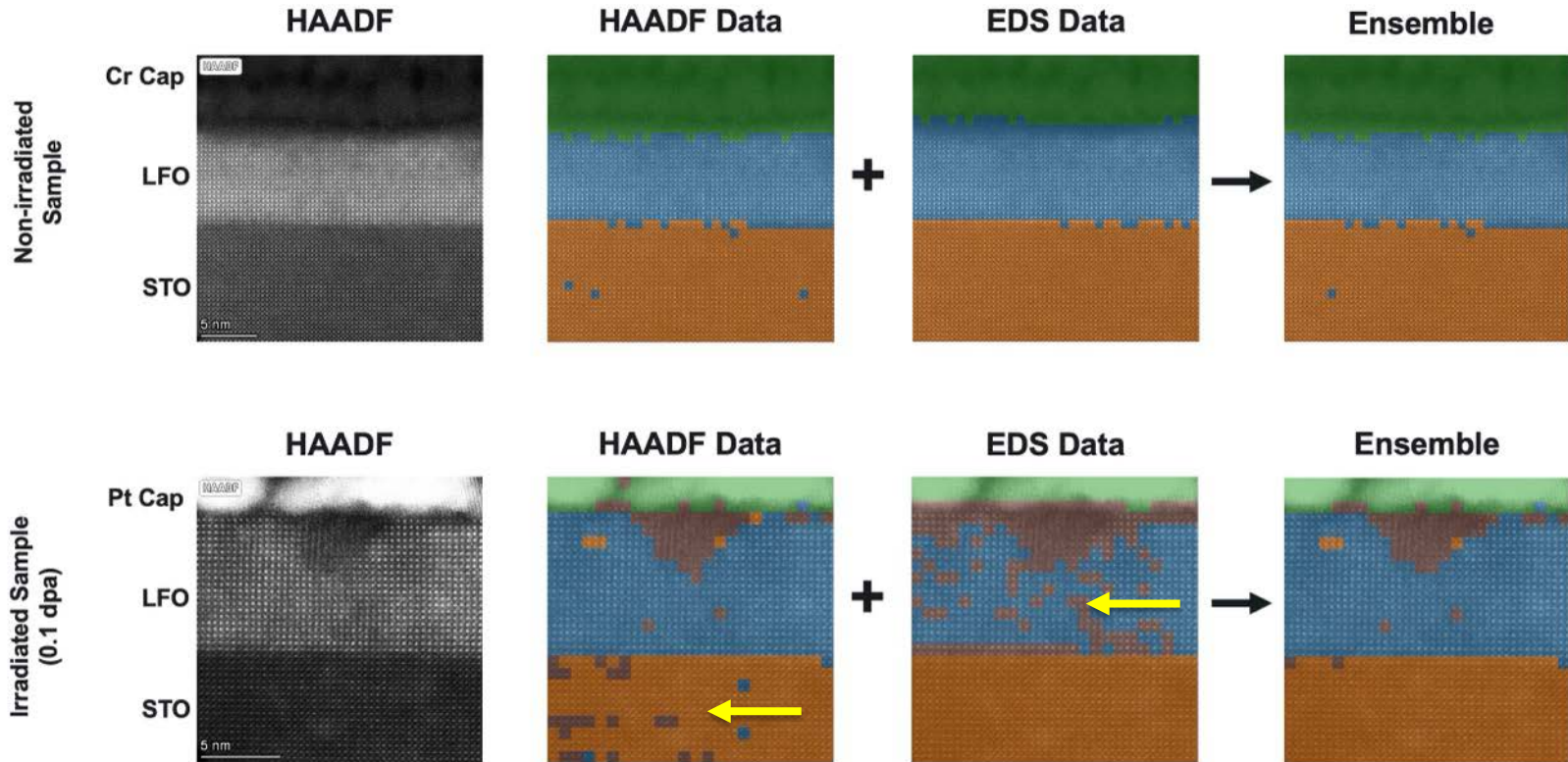




Here we will focus on a few-shot based approach to classification.

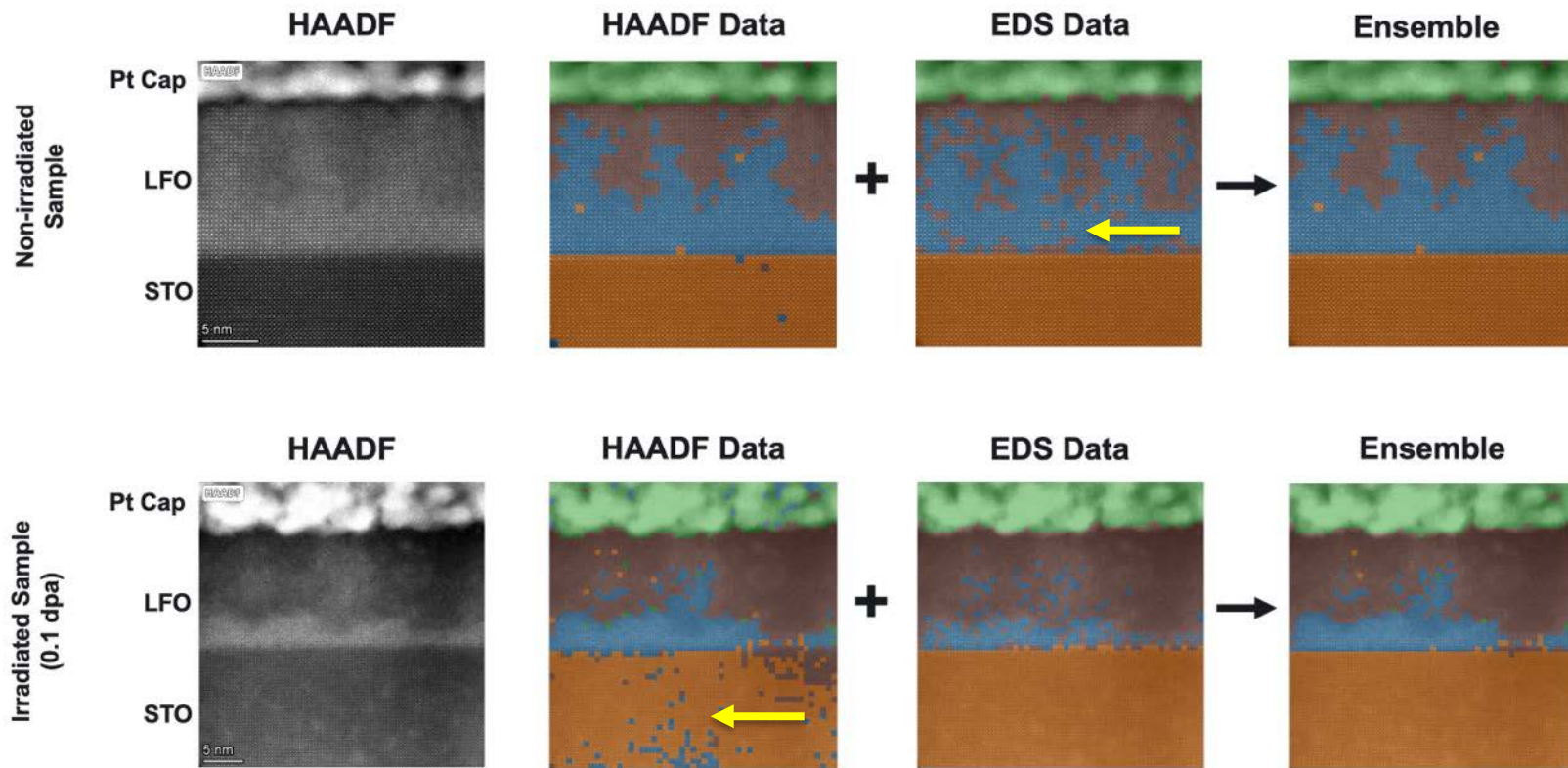


For the “pristine” sample, the ensemble model outperforms, especially in more complex microstructures.

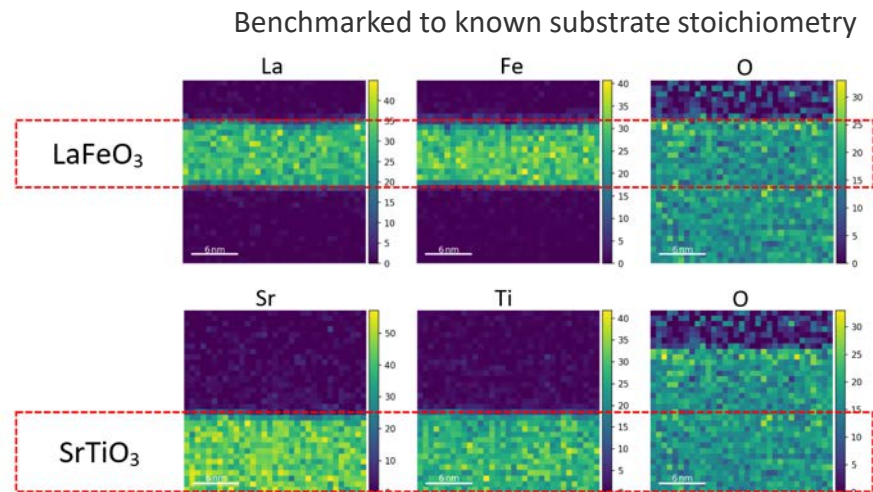
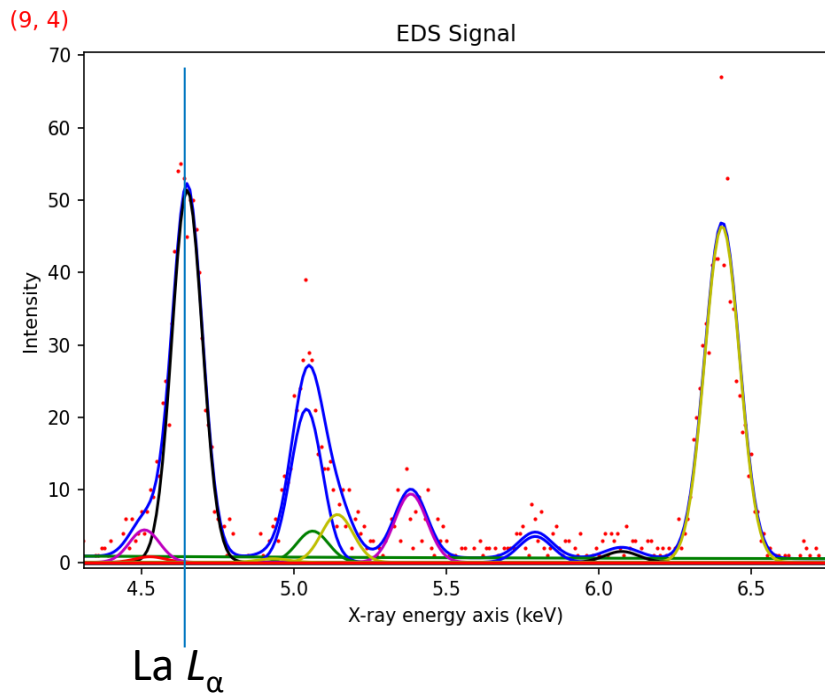




# The “defective” sample, which consists of more complex domains, shows this even more clearly.



# The resulting EDS segmentation mask can be quantified using a custom analysis routine.



HyperSpy

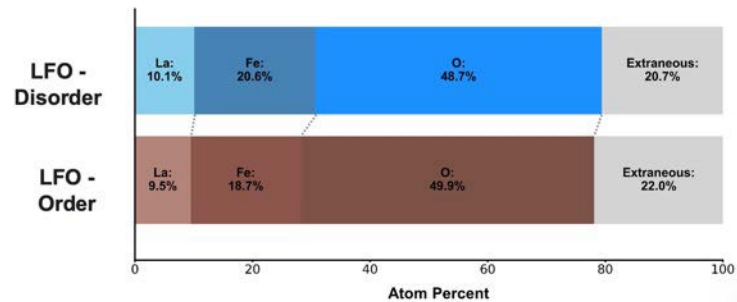
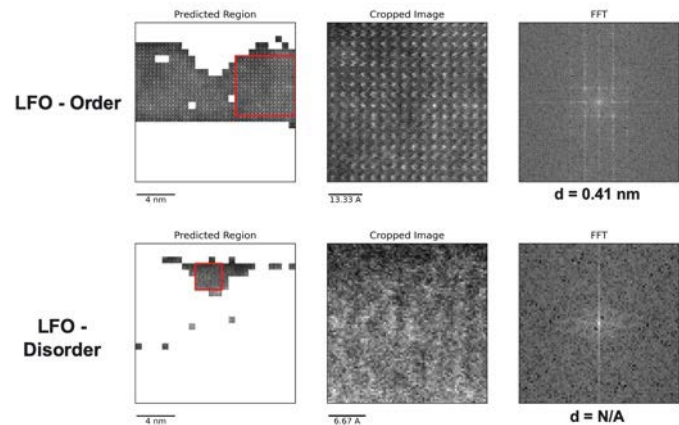
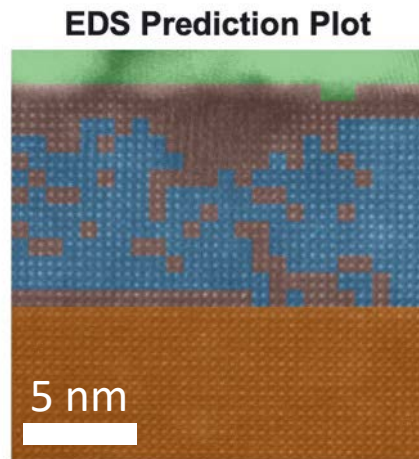


Open source Python framework for exploring, visualizing and analyzing multi-dimensional data

Get Started

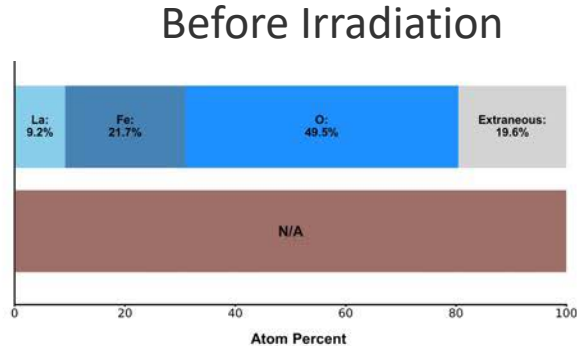
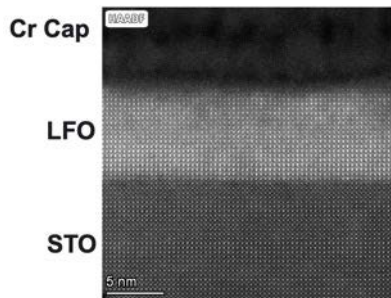


From the predicted masks, we can determine local lattice parameters and composition changes.

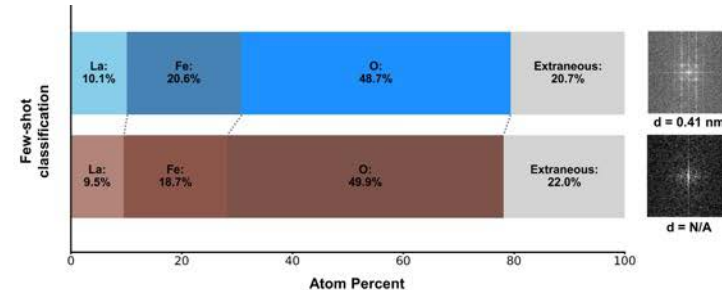


# We observe distinct trends in alloying element behavior in the disordered regions.

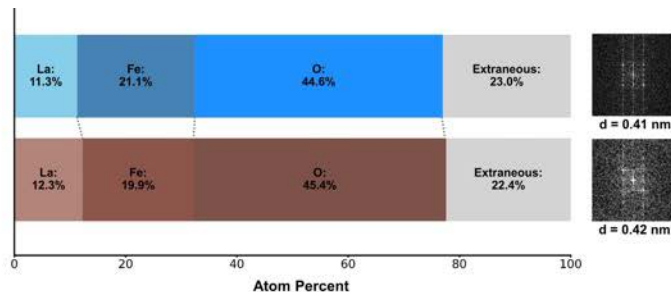
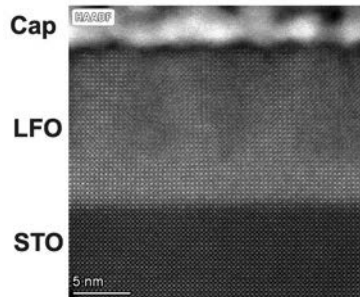
## Pristine



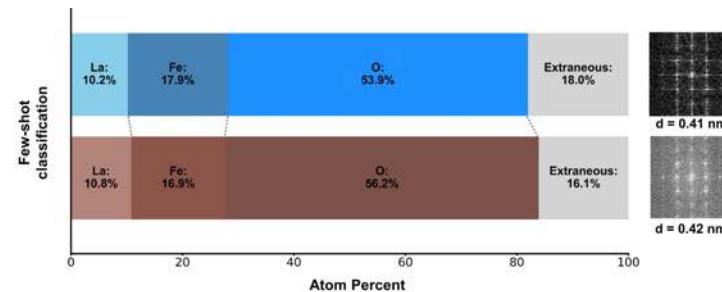
## 0.1 dpa Irradiation



## Defective

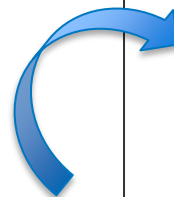


The preserved crystal regions show greater initial Fe and lower O content, pointing toward chemical drivers for disorder.



# Some key takeaways and topics for future study.

- Multimodal models can generate powerful descriptors of systems undergoing structural and chemical evolution.
- A lack of suitable encoders for various data modalities limits the adaptation of models from other domains.
- Understanding the sparsity and character of individual datasets is crucial for appropriate weighting within the model.
- Extracting mechanistic insights will require physics-based approaches to quantification and represents a critical area for future work.



## Revealing the Evolution of Order in Materials Microstructures Using Multi-Modal Computer Vision

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(Date: 26 November 2024)

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Download the preprint at:  
[doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.09896](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.09896)



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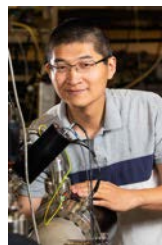
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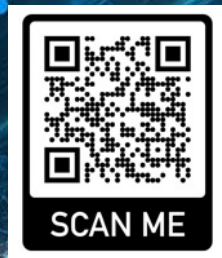


Eric Lang



**Multimodal models have the potential to reveal hidden materials lifecycles, transforming the design of clean energy systems.**

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SCAN ME

NREL/PR-5K00-92346

This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. The views expressed in the presentation do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes. The development of the multimodal model was supported by the Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). PNNL is a multiprogram national laboratory operated for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by Battelle Memorial Institute under Contract No. DE-AC05-76RL0-1830. In situ ion irradiation work was performed at the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, an Office of Science User Facility operated for the U.S. DOE. Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA- 0003525.