

# Workshop on Crystal Structure Prediction: Exploring the Mendeleev Table as a Palette to Design New Materials

## Computational search for **supermaterials** with optimal properties

Alexander Kvashnin

**Skoltech**

Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology

16.01.2019, Trieste

**USPEX** Computational  
Materials  
Discovery



# Outline

## Superhard

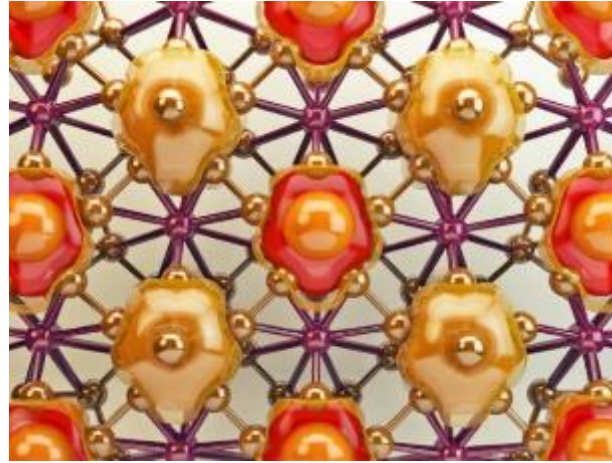
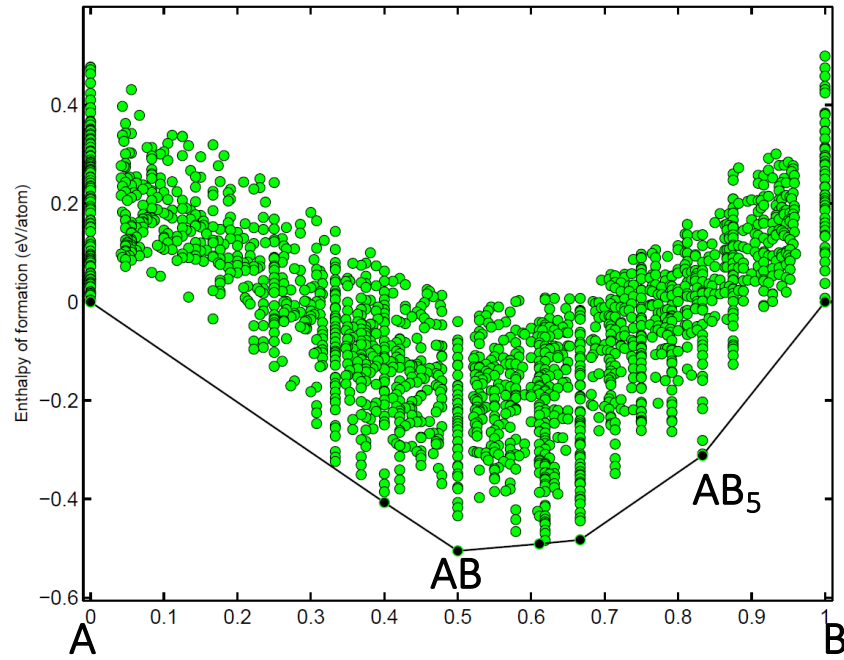
- Introduction + Motivation
- New tungsten boride theory + synthesis

## Superconducting

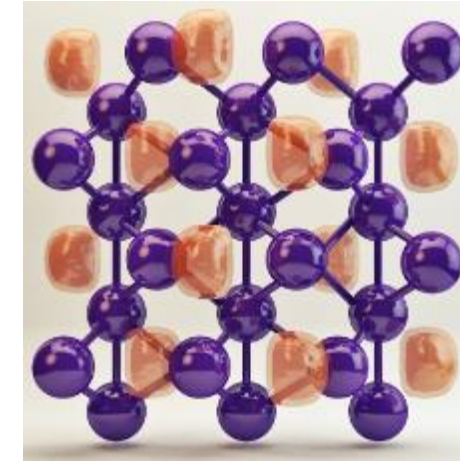
- Introduction + Motivation
- Metal hydrides
- U-H, theory + synthesis
- Ac-H
- Th-H, theory + synthesis



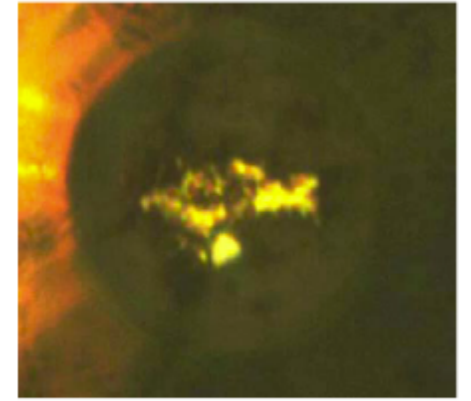
# What is USPEX?



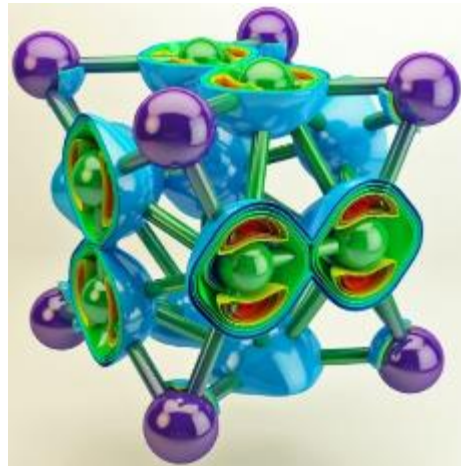
**New superhard boron phase**  
(Oganov et al., *Nature*, 2009)



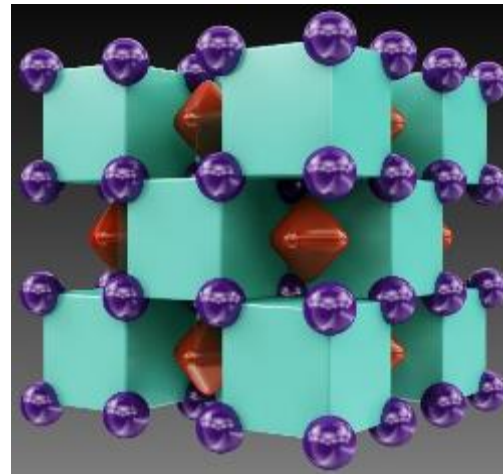
**Transparent sodium allotrope**  
(Ma, Eremets, Oganov, *Nature*, 2009)



199 GPa



**Unexpected sodium chlorides**  
(Zhang, Oganov, et al., *Science*, 2013)



**New chemistry of helium**  
(Dong, Oganov, Goncharov, *Nat. Chem.* 2017)



**New XX Material**



# Superhard materials

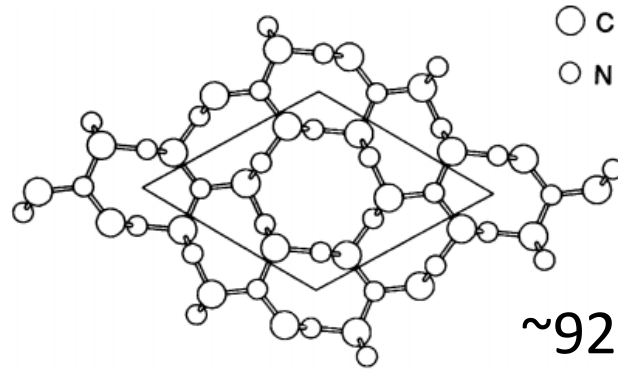


# Introduction



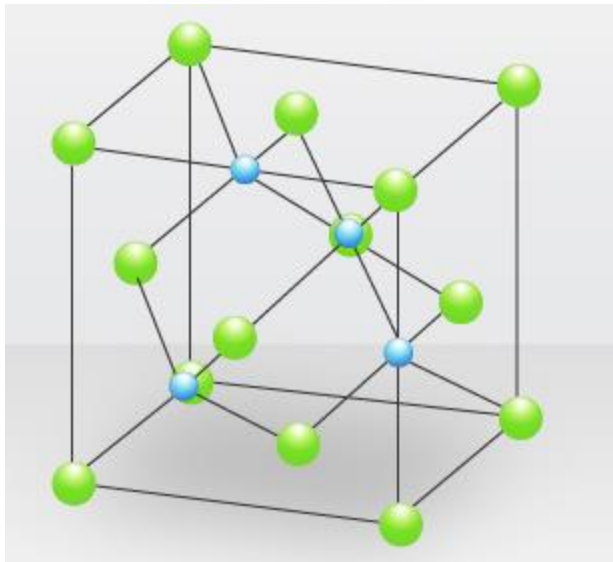
Diamond

~98 GPa

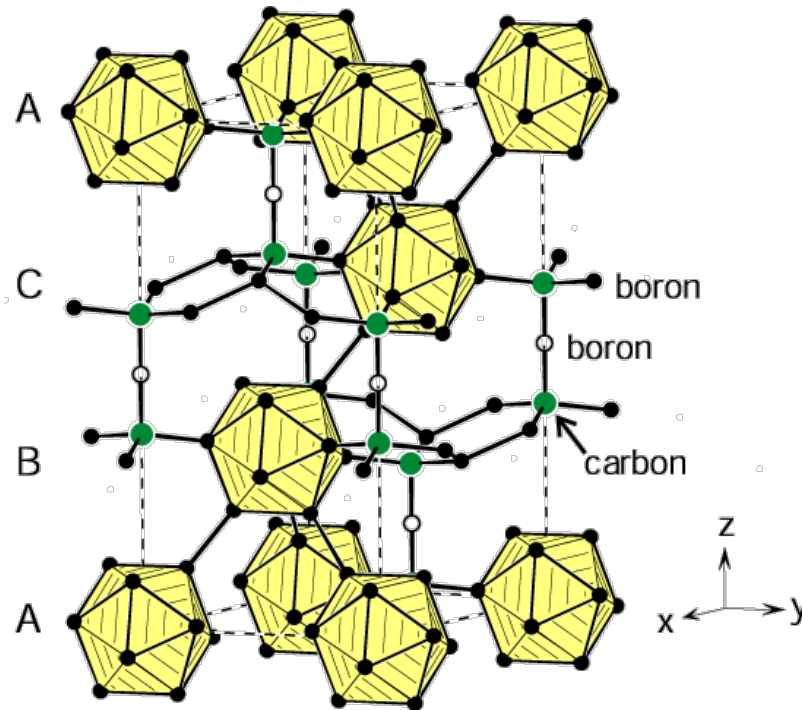


~92 GPa

Science 245, 841 (1989)



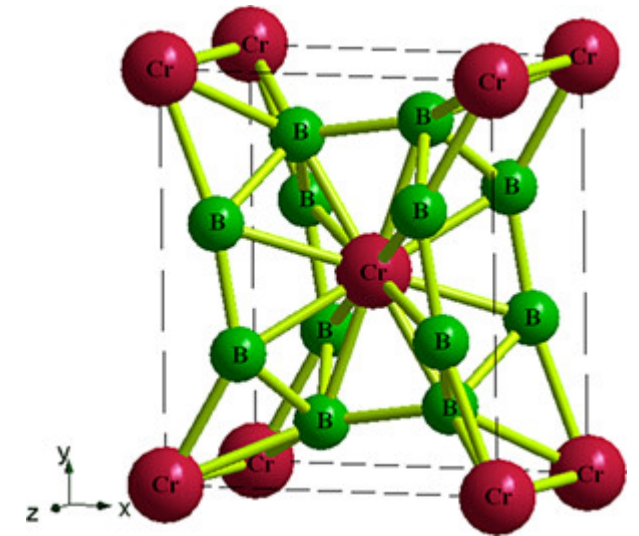
c-BN ~60 GPa



B<sub>4</sub>C

~32 GPa

## Transition metal borides and carbides



Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2016,18, 2361

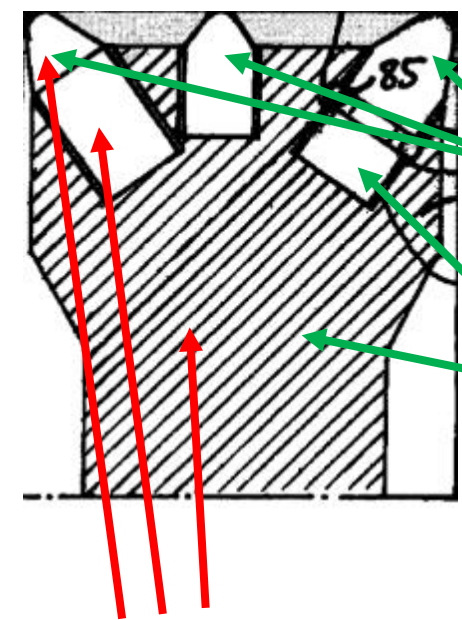
~50 GPa

# Why it is important?

- Ease in synthesis and production
- These materials have high melting temperature
- High hardness allows them to be used in many other different fields of technology

Possible applications:

- Manufacturing industry
- Mining industry



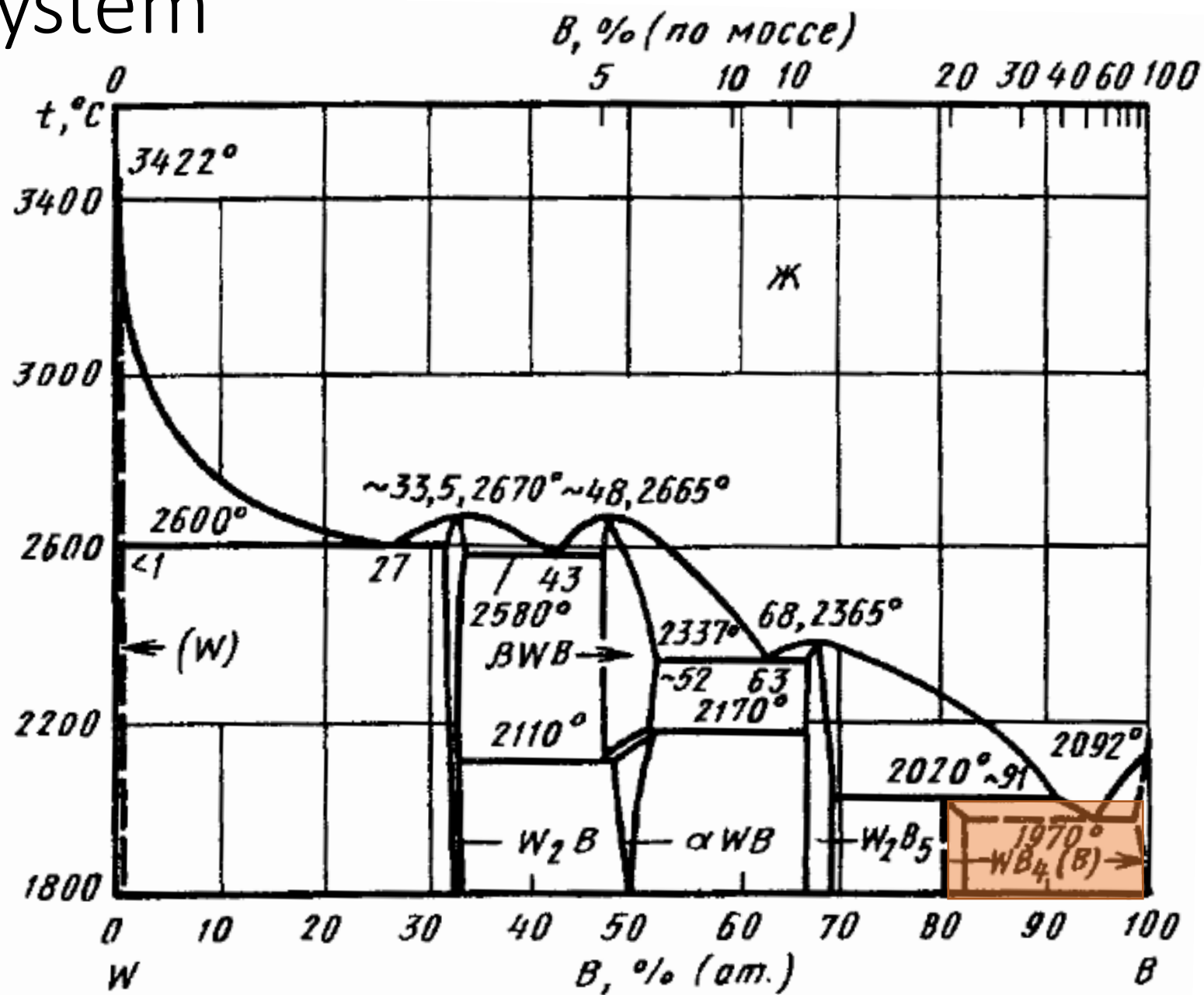
PCD, c-BN,  
Mixture PCD/BN

Hard alloys of  
WC, TiN etc.

**Substitution of traditional materials**

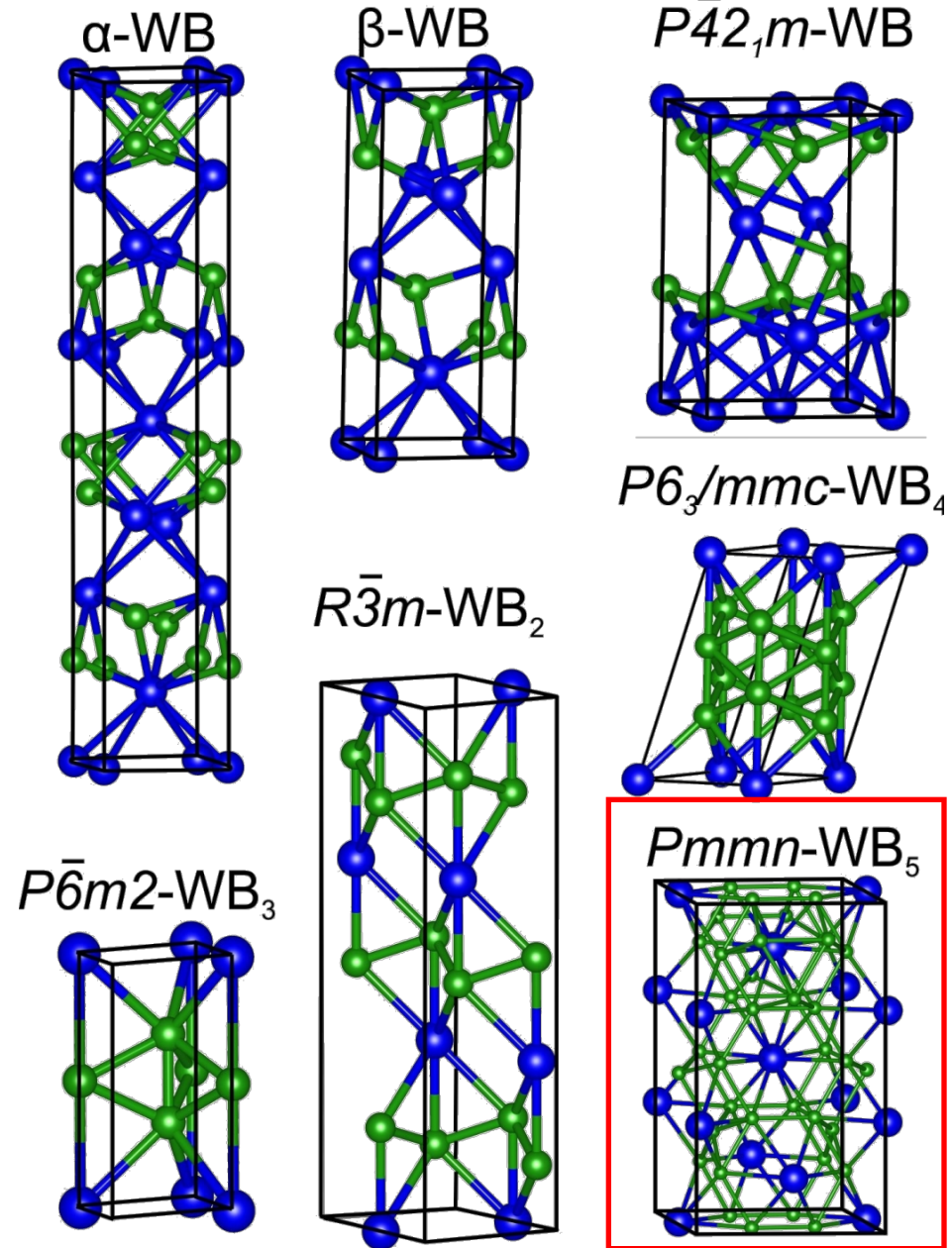
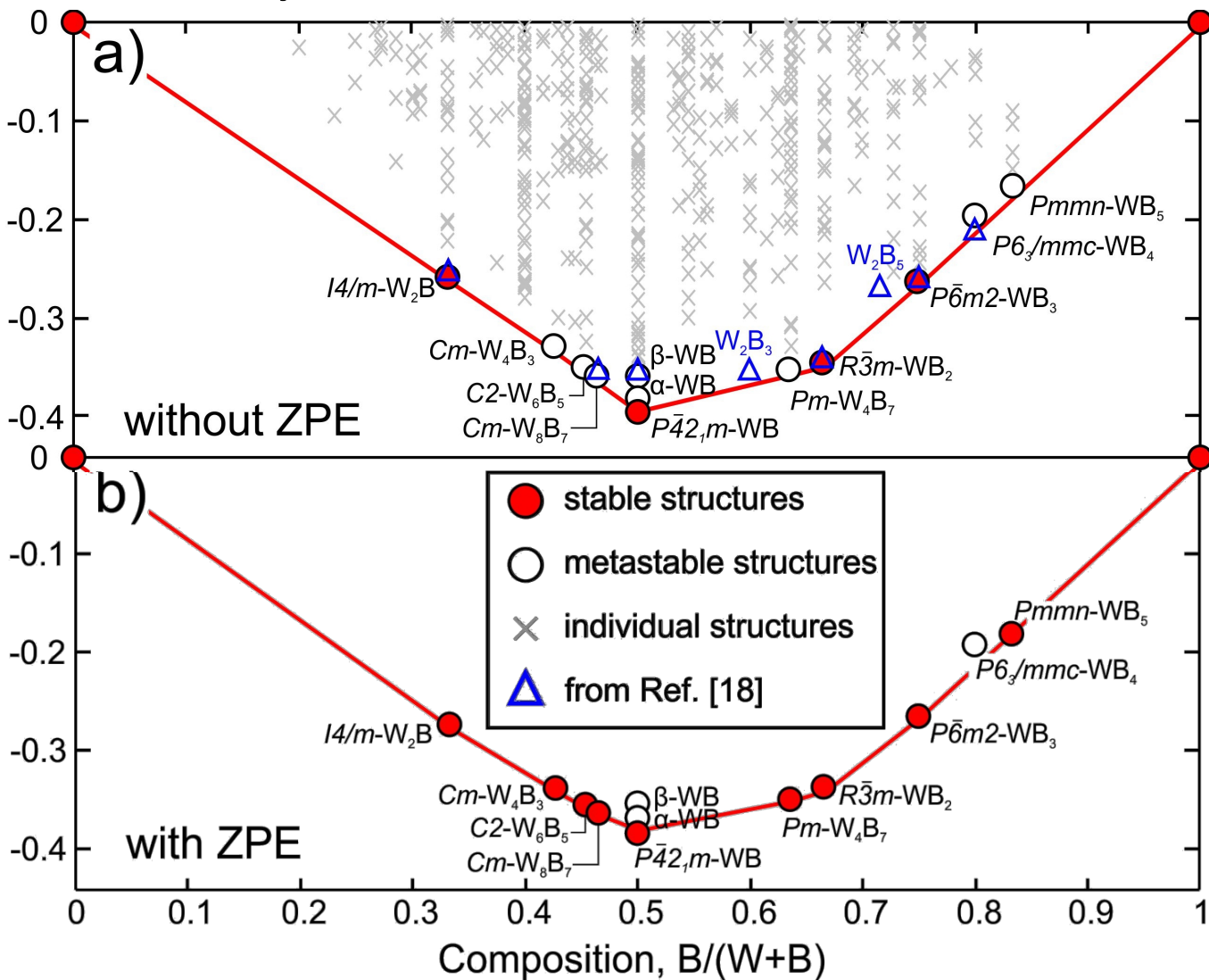


# W-B system



# W-B system

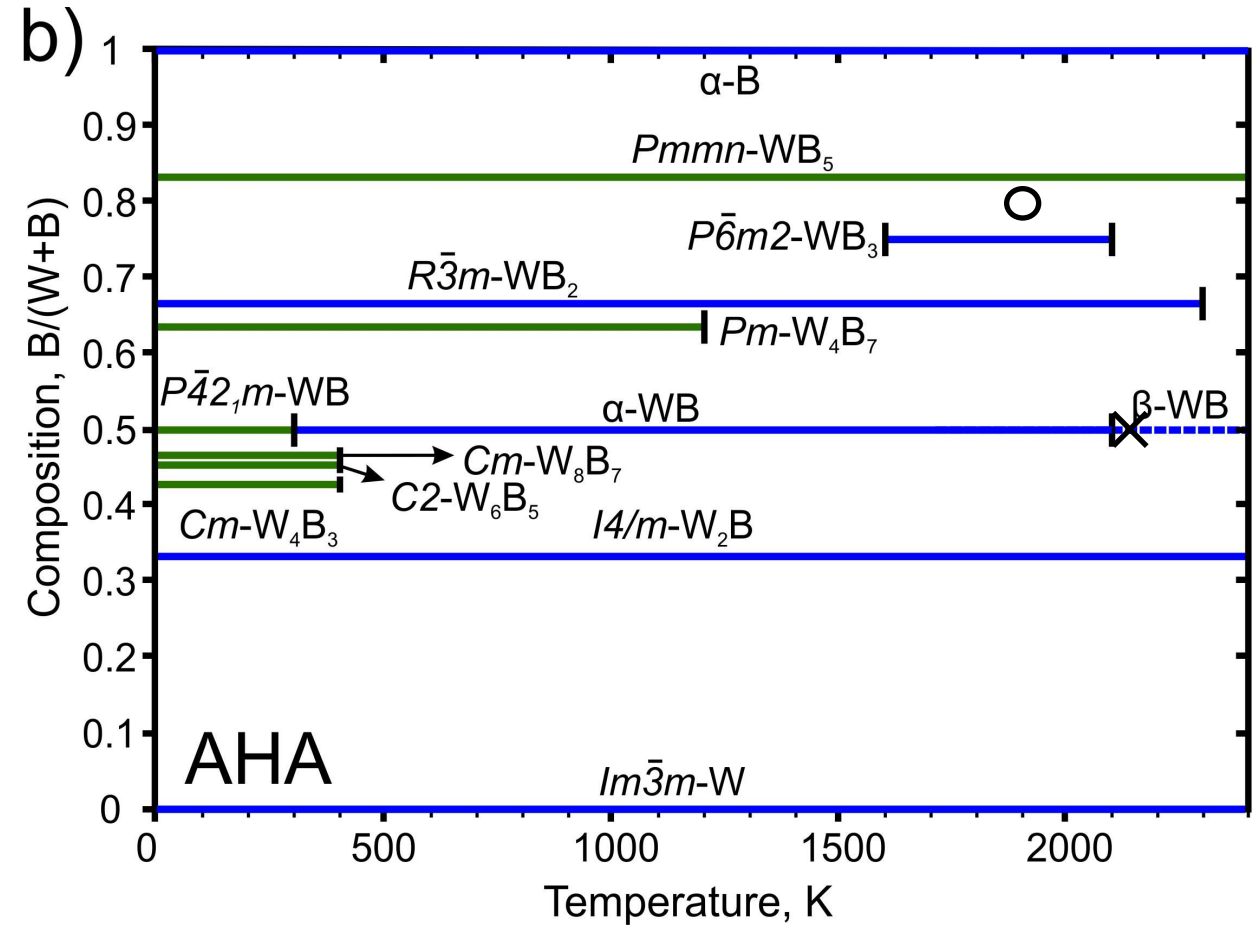
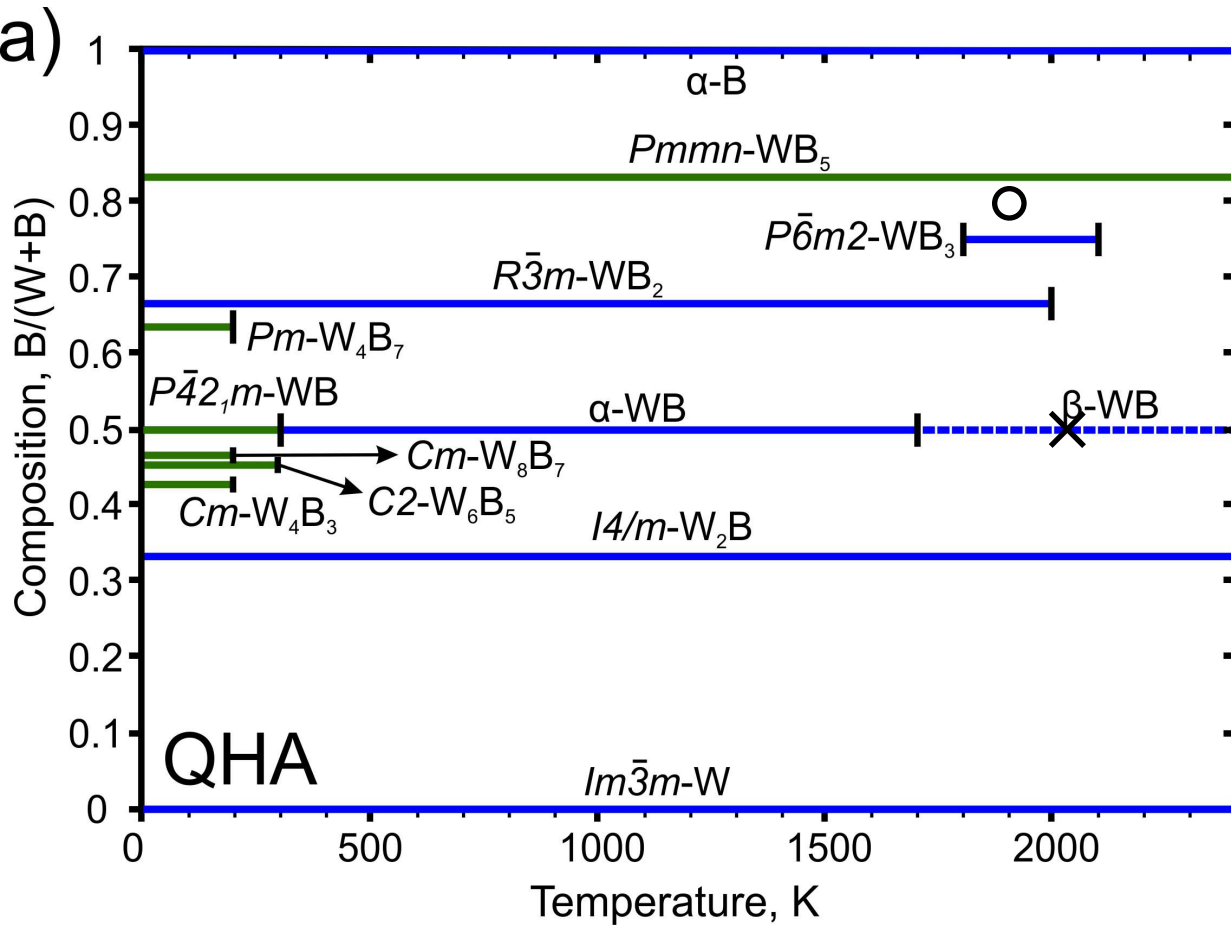
Enthalpy of formation, eV/atom



Vickers hardness of WB<sub>5</sub> is 45 GPa



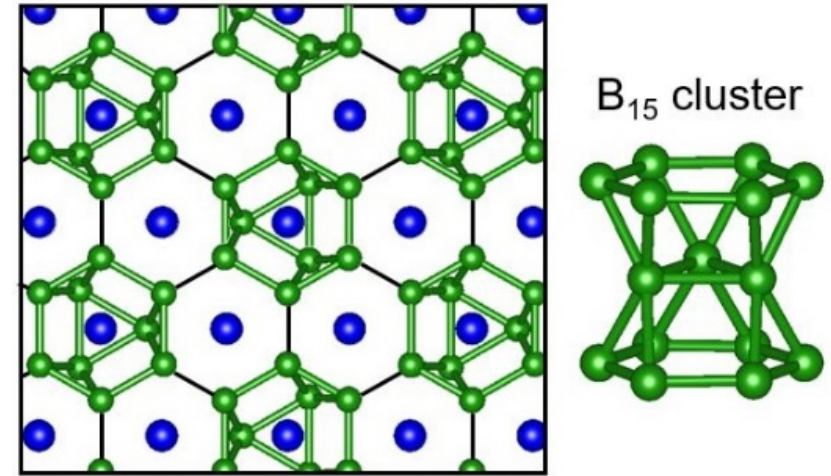
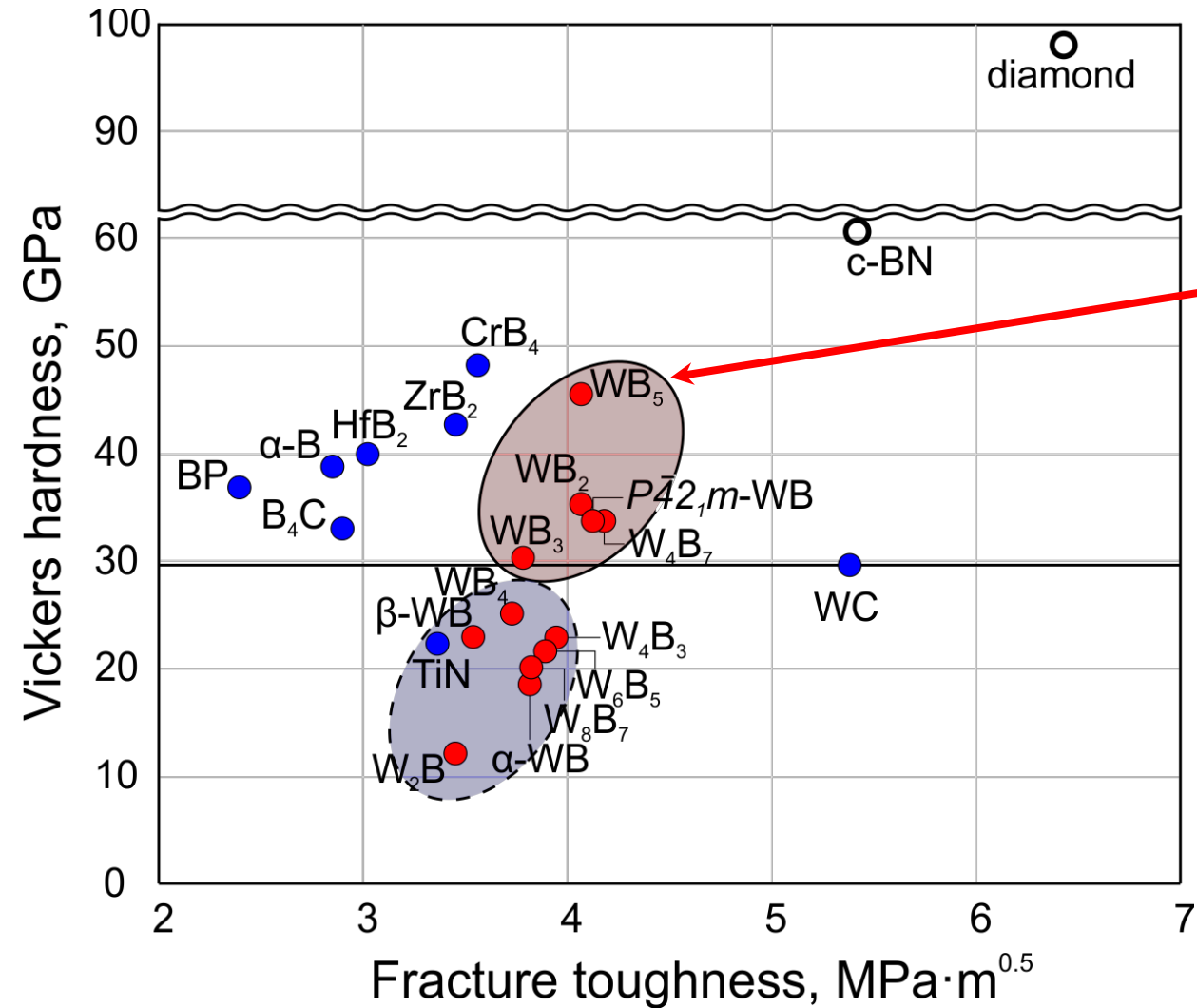
# Temperature stability



[x] J. Phase Equilibria 1995, 16 (2), 150–161

[o] Sov. Powder Metall. Met. Ceram. 1974, 13 (1), 1–3

# Hardness vs Fracture toughness



Ashby plot may show the material with optimal combination of Vickers hardness and fracture toughness.

**$\text{WB}_5$  is new optimal material**



# Hardness vs Fracture toughness



КОМПАНИЯ

ПРОДУКТЫ И УСЛУГИ

ТЕХНОЛОГИИ

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ

ПРЕСС-ЦЕНТР

ПРЕСС-ЦЕНТР / НОВОСТИ

## «ГАЗПРОМ НЕФТЬ» ПОЛУЧИЛА ПЕРВЫЕ ПЕРСПЕКТИВНЫЕ ОБРАЗЦЫ НОВЫХ СВЕРХТВЕРДЫХ МАТЕРИАЛОВ

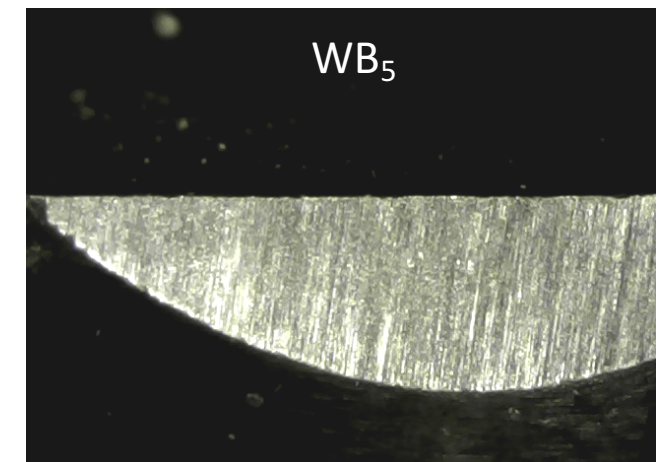
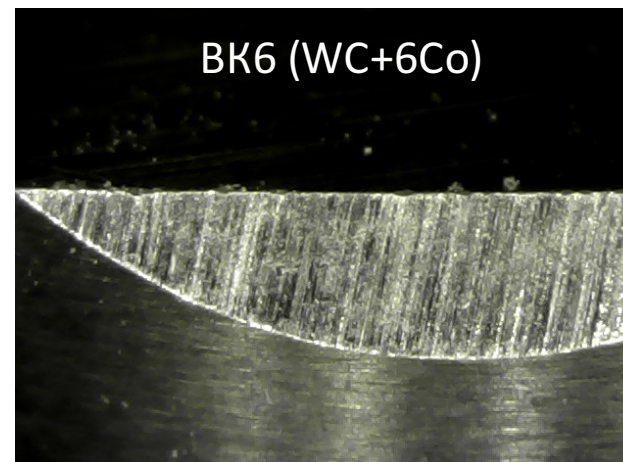
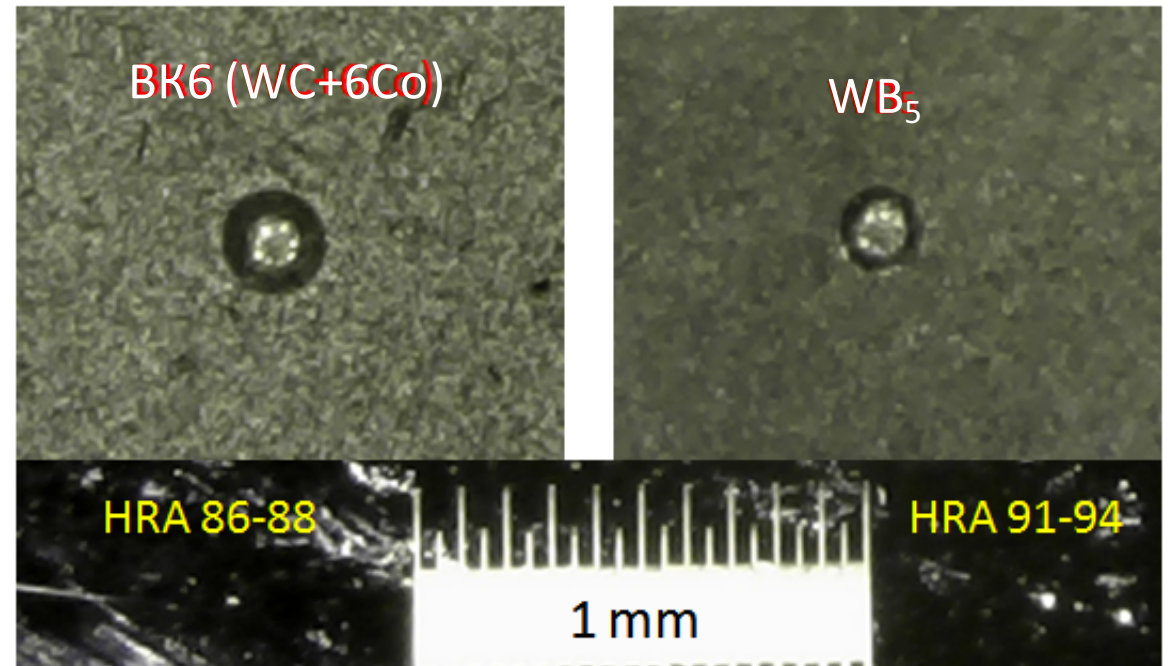
29 МАРТА 2018

Научно-технический центр «Газпром нефти» совместно со «Сколковским институтом науки и технологий» реализует проект по созданию новых сверхтвердых материалов для резцов бурового долота. Отечественная разработка сможет составить конкуренцию импортным продуктам, снизив стоимость производства буровых долот на 10-30%, а также станет прорывом для других отраслей — строительства, горной промышленности, приборостроения. Уже получены первые перспективные образцы новых сверхтвердых материалов.

## Samples of new superhard material

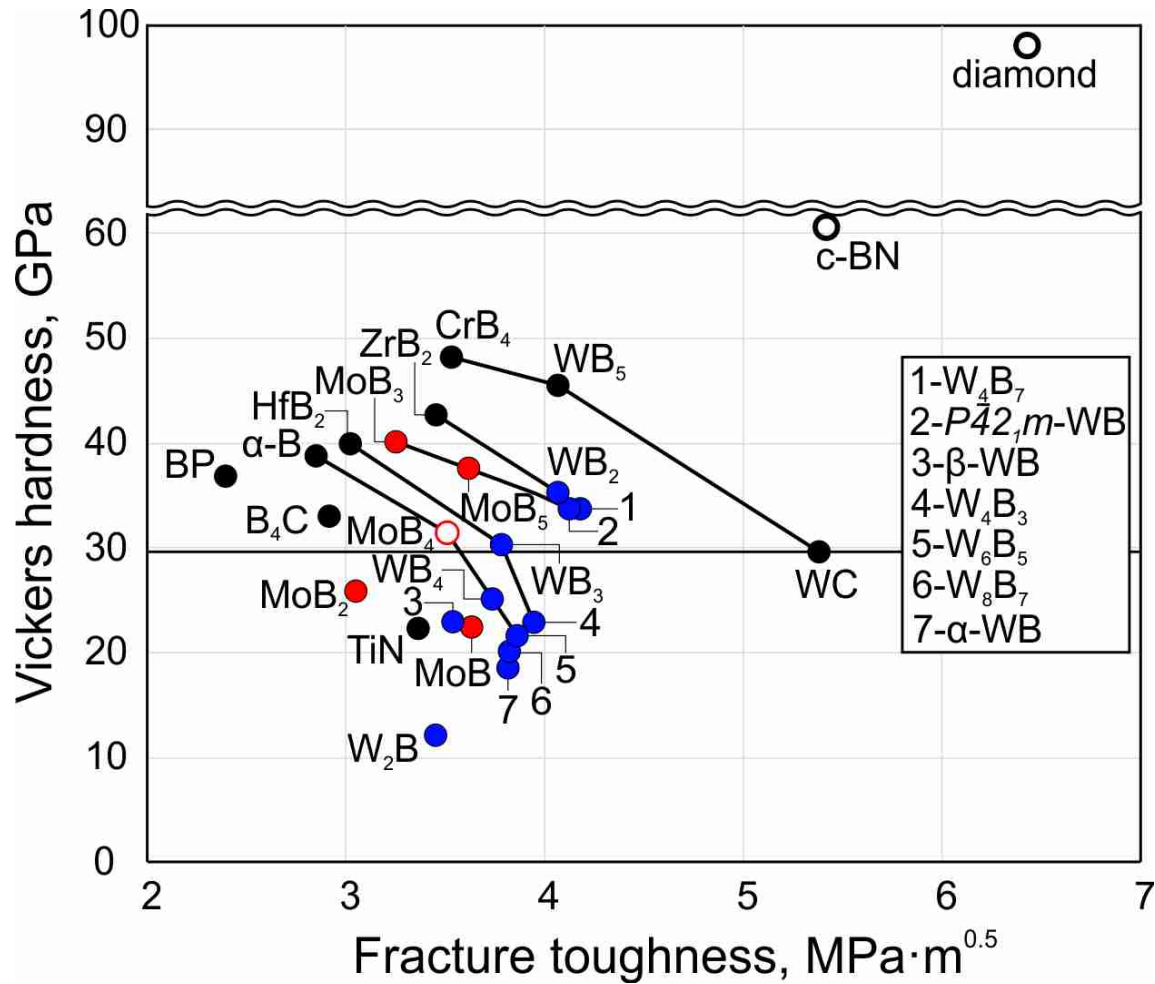
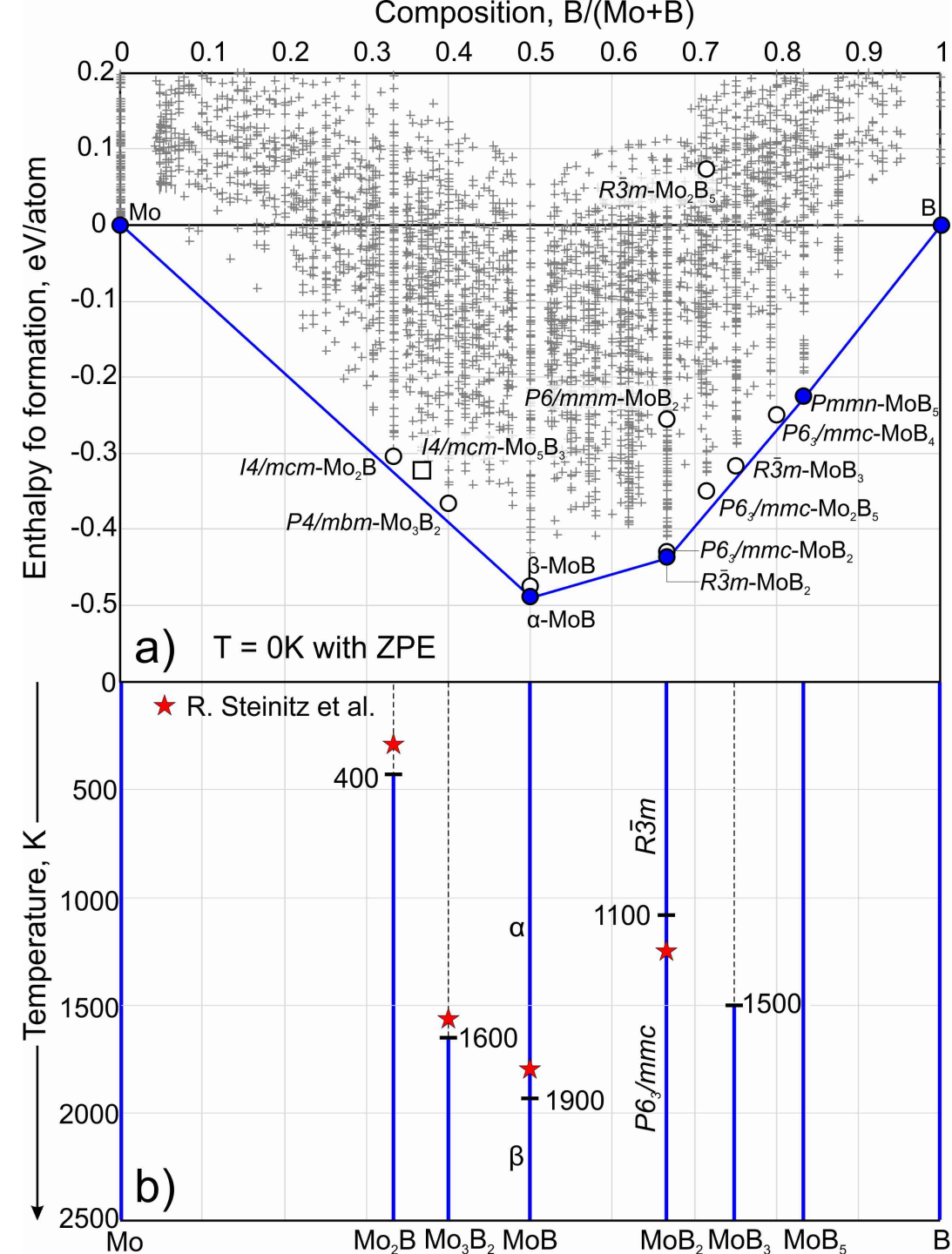


## Measurements of hardness and fracture toughness

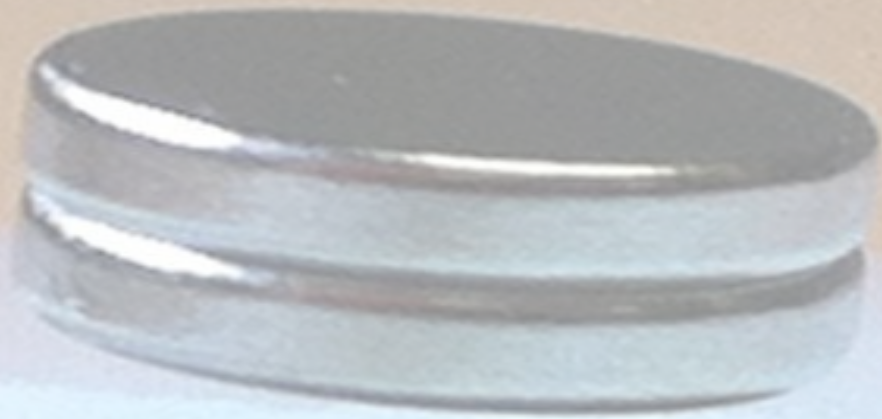


# Mo-B system

- New  $\text{MoB}_5$  is stable in the entire temperature range
- $\text{MoB}_4$  is metastable.
- $\text{MoB}_5$  has lower hardness compared to  $\text{WB}_5$



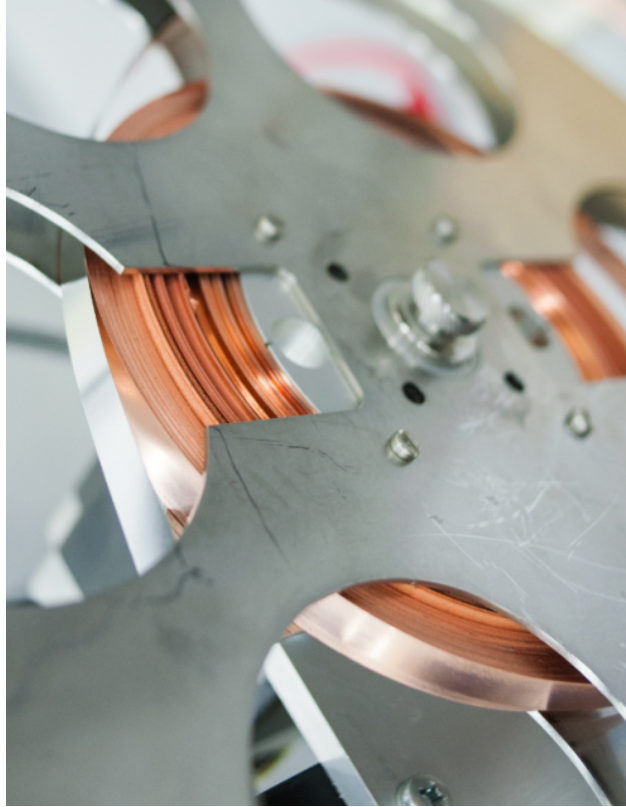
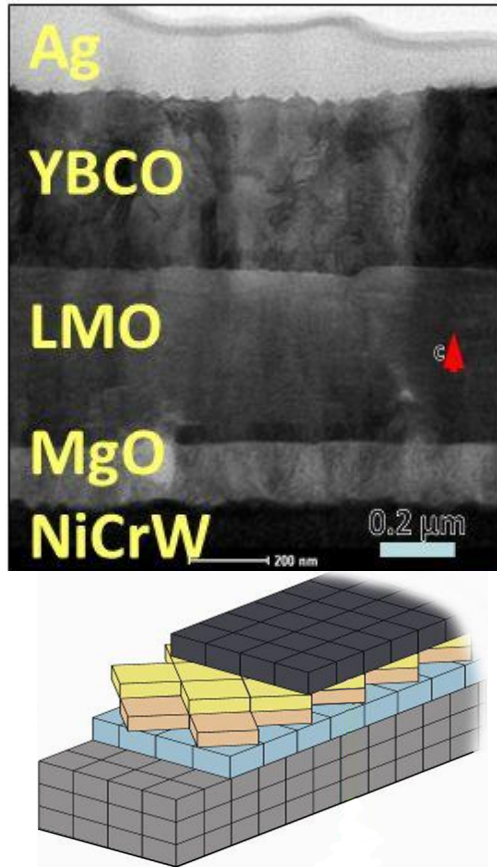




# Superconducting materials

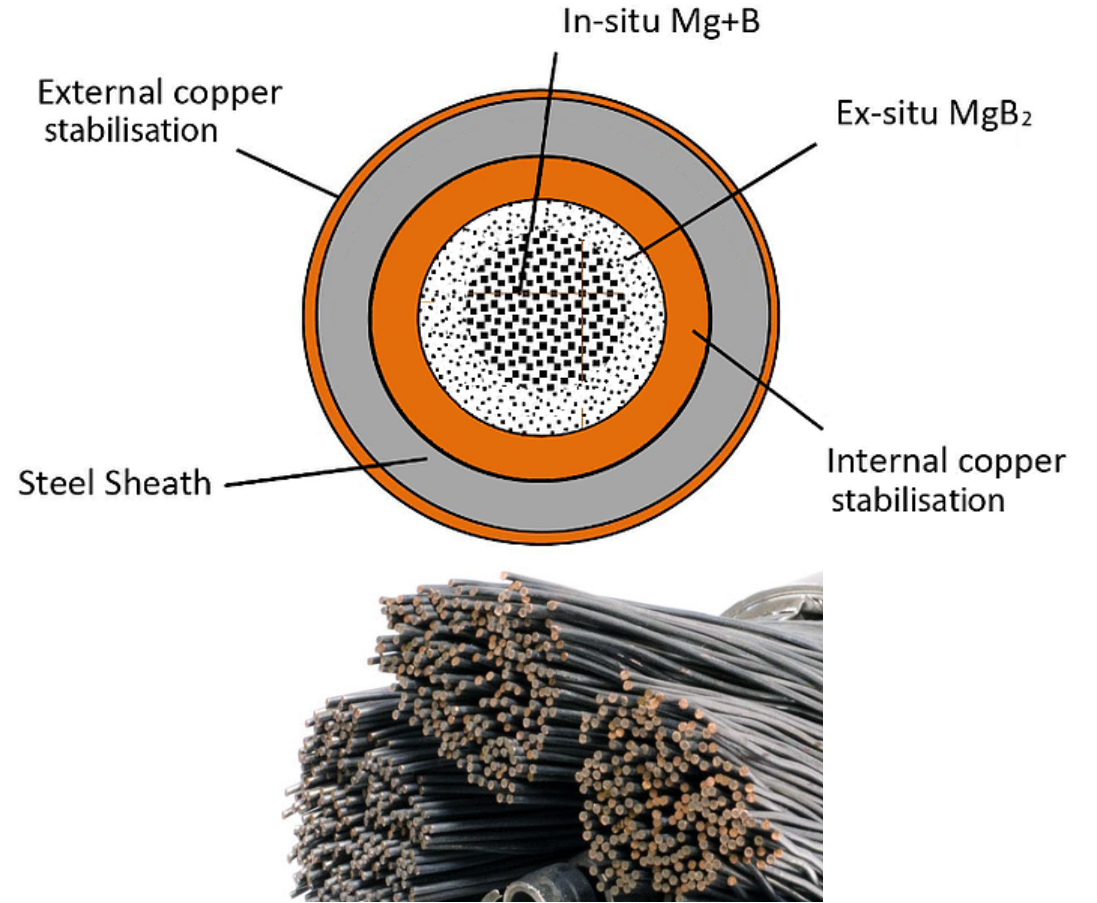


# Introduction + Motivation



HTSC-2 ribbon based on the multilayered composite YBCO or BSCCO.

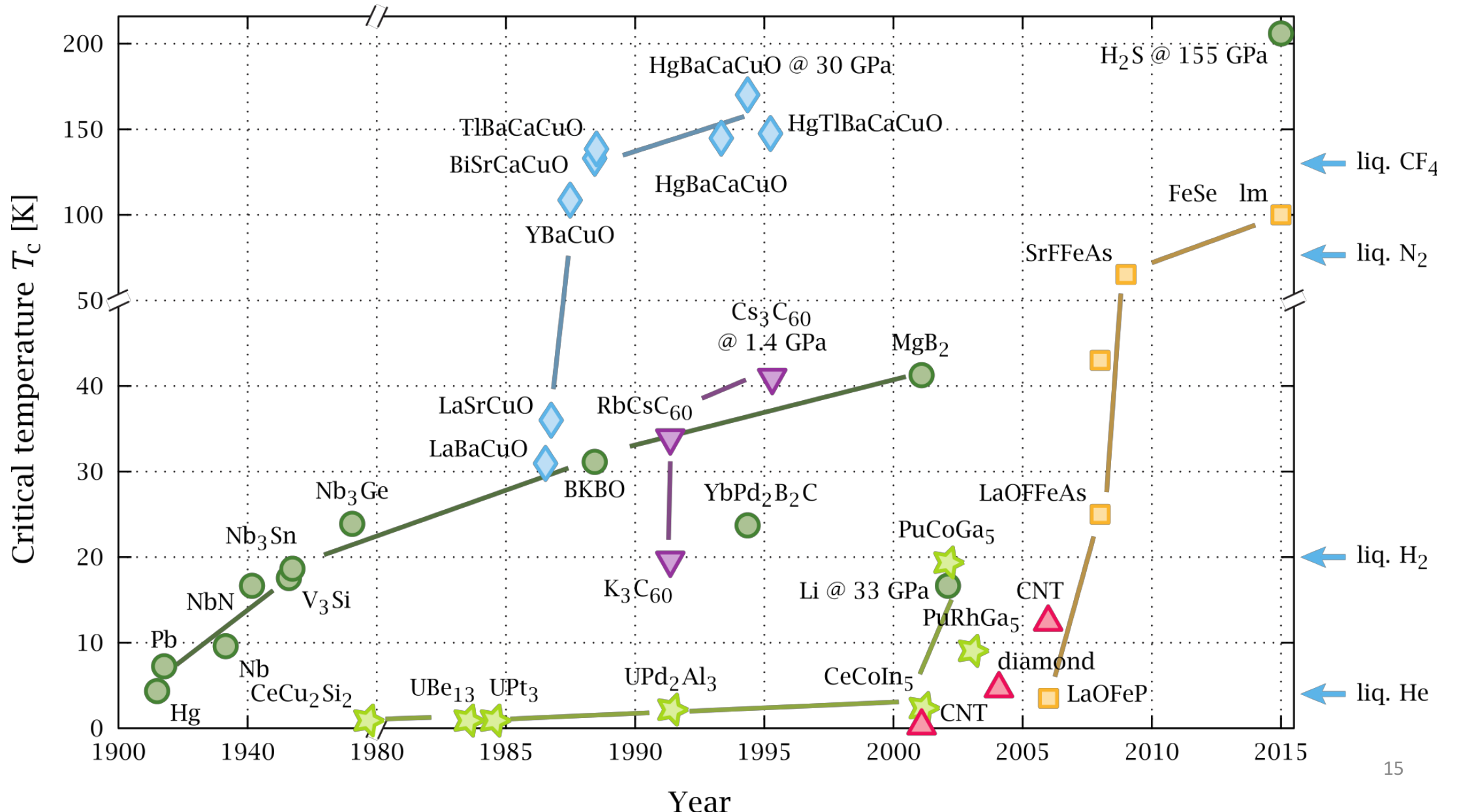
$T_c = 90-110$  K,  $j(\text{crit}) = 500$  A/mm<sup>2</sup> at 77 K,  
 $H(\text{crit}) = 20$ T at 4 K



MgB<sub>2</sub>-wire, *in situ* formed according to «powder in the tube» experimental scheme

$T_c = 20-25$  K (up to 39 K),  $j(\text{crit}) = 200$  A/mm<sup>2</sup>  
at 4K,  $H(\text{crit}) = 10$ T at 4 K

# Introduction + Motivation



OPEN

# Pressure-induced metallization of dense $(\text{H}_2\text{S})_2\text{H}_2$ with high- $T_c$ superconductivity

SUBJECT AREAS:

THEORY AND  
COMPUTATION

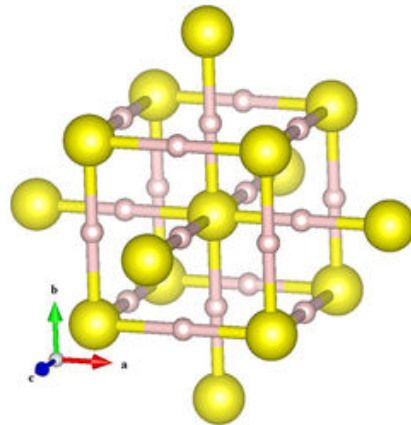
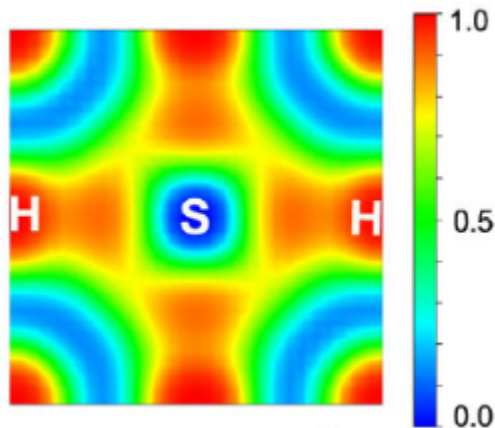
CONDENSEDMATTER PHYSICS

Defang Duan<sup>1,2</sup>, Yunxian Liu<sup>1</sup>, Fubo Tian<sup>1</sup>, Da Li<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoli Huang<sup>1</sup>, Zhonglong Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Hongyu Yu<sup>1</sup>, Bingbing Liu<sup>1</sup>, Wenjing Tian<sup>2</sup> & Tian Cui<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>State Key Laboratory of Superhard Materials, College of physics, Jilin University, Changchun, 130012, P. R. China, <sup>2</sup>State Key Laboratory of Supramolecular Structure and Materials, Jilin University, Changchun, 130012, P. R. China.Received  
7 July 2014Accepted  
29 September 2014Published  
10 November 2014Correspondence and  
requests for materials  
should be addressed to  
T.C. (tcui@jl.u.edu.  
cn)

The high pressure structures, metallization, and superconductivity of recently synthesized  $\text{H}_2$ -containing compounds  $(\text{H}_2\text{S})_2\text{H}_2$  are elucidated by *ab initio* calculations. The ordered crystal structure with  $P1$  symmetry is determined, supported by the good agreement between theoretical and experimental X-ray diffraction data, equation of states, and Raman spectra. The  $Cc$  structure is favorable with partial hydrogen bond symmetrization above 37 GPa. Upon further compression,  $\text{H}_2$  molecules disappear and two intriguing metallic structures with  $R3m$  and  $Im-3m$  symmetries are reconstructive above 111 and 180 GPa, respectively. The predicted metallization pressure is 111 GPa, which is approximately one-third of the currently suggested metallization pressure of bulk molecular hydrogen. Application of the Allen-Dynes-modified McMillan equation for the  $Im-3m$  structure yields high  $T_c$  values of 191 K to 204 K at 200 GPa, which is among the highest values reported for  $\text{H}_2$ -rich van der Waals compounds and  $\text{MH}_3$  type hydride thus far.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS | 4 : 6968 | DOI: 10.1038/srep06968

1



## Conventional superconductivity at 203 kelvin at high pressures in the sulfur hydride system

A. P. Drozdov, M. I. Eremets, I. A. Troyan, V. Ksenofontov &amp; S. I. Shylin

Nature (2015) | doi:10.1038/nature14964

Received 25 June 2015 | Accepted 22 July 2015 | Published online 17 August 2015

A superconductor is a material that can conduct electricity without resistance below a superconducting transition temperature,  $T_c$ . The highest  $T_c$  that has been achieved to date is in the copper oxide system<sup>1</sup>: 133 kelvin at ambient pressure<sup>2</sup> and 164 kelvin at high pressures<sup>3</sup>. As the nature of superconductivity in these materials is still not fully understood (they are not conventional superconductors), the prospects for achieving still higher transition temperatures by this route are not clear. In contrast, the Bardeen–Cooper–Schrieffer theory of conventional superconductivity gives a guide for achieving high  $T_c$  with no theoretical upper bound—all that is needed is a favourable combination of high-frequency phonons, strong electron–phonon coupling, and a high density of states<sup>4</sup>. These conditions can in principle be fulfilled for metallic hydrogen and covalent compounds dominated by hydrogen<sup>5, 6</sup>, as hydrogen atoms provide the necessary high-frequency phonon modes as well as the strong electron–phonon coupling. Numerous calculations support this idea and have predicted transition temperatures in the range 50–235 kelvin for many hydrides<sup>7</sup>, but only a moderate  $T_c$  of 17 kelvin has been observed experimentally<sup>8</sup>. Here we investigate sulfur hydride<sup>9</sup>, where a  $T_c$  of 80 kelvin has been predicted<sup>10</sup>. We find that this system transforms to a metal at a pressure of approximately 90 gigapascals. On cooling, we see signatures of superconductivity: a sharp drop of the resistivity to zero and a decrease of the transition temperature with magnetic field, with magnetic susceptibility measurements confirming a  $T_c$  of 203 kelvin. Moreover, a pronounced isotope shift of  $T_c$  in sulfur deuteride is suggestive of an electron–phonon mechanism of superconductivity that is consistent with the Bardeen–Cooper–Schrieffer scenario. We argue that the phase responsible for high- $T_c$  superconductivity in this system is likely to be  $\text{H}_3\text{S}$ , formed from  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  by decomposition under pressure. These findings raise hope for the prospects for achieving room-temperature superconductivity in other hydrogen-based materials.

The highest  $T_c=135$  K (Putlin, Antipov, 1993) was beaten: theoretical group (T.Cui, 2014) predicted new material  $\text{H}_3\text{S}$  with  $T_c\sim 200$  K. This was confirmed by the experiment (group of M. Eremets, 2015).

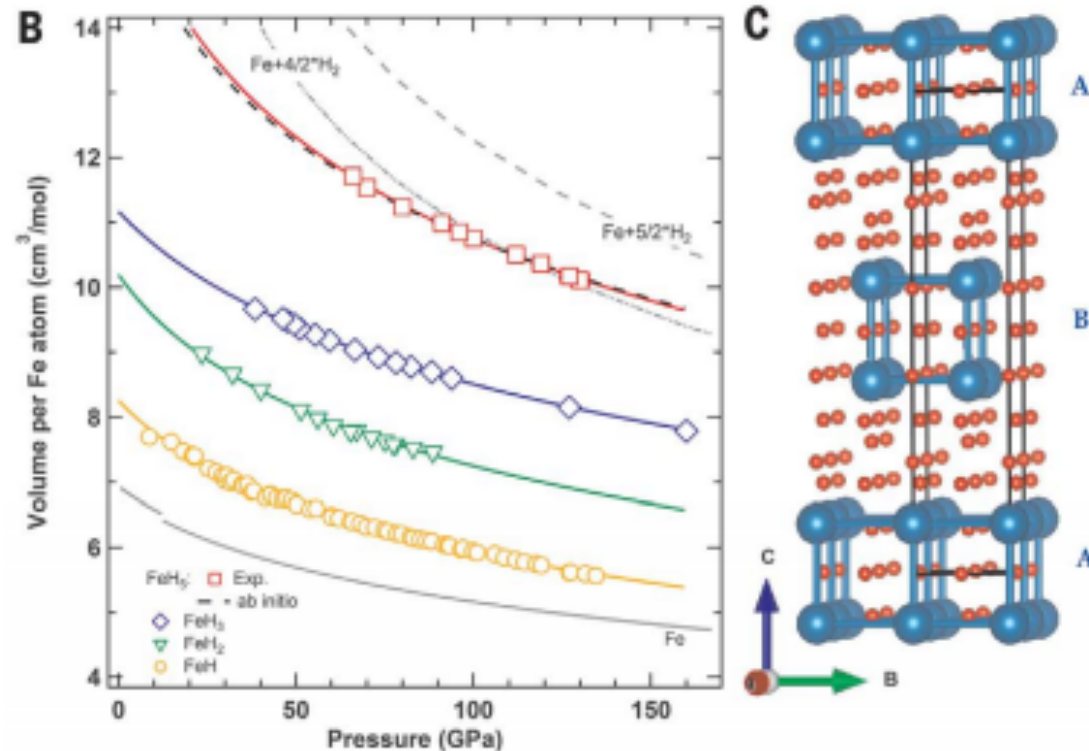
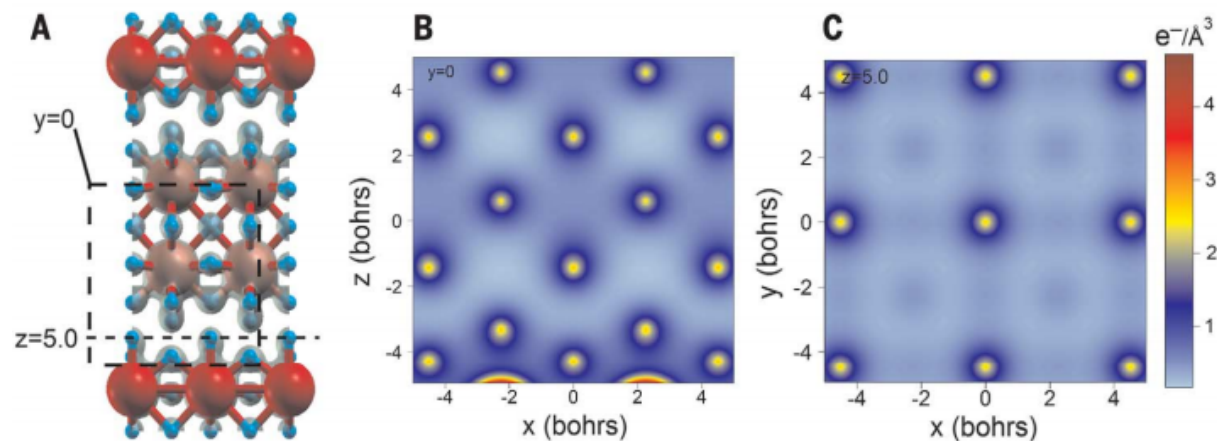
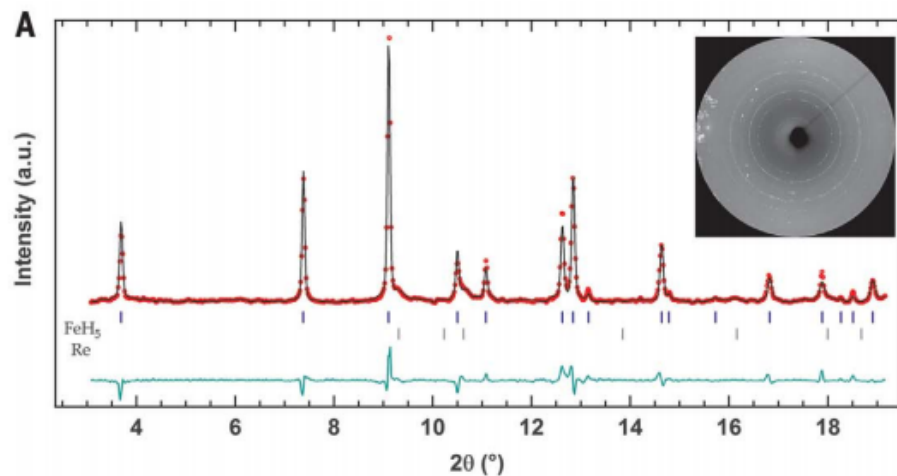


# Synthesis of FeH<sub>5</sub>: A layered structure with atomic hydrogen slabs

C. M. Pépin,<sup>1,2\*</sup> G. Geneste,<sup>1</sup> A. Dewaele,<sup>1</sup> M. Mezouar,<sup>3</sup> P. Loubeyre<sup>1\*</sup>

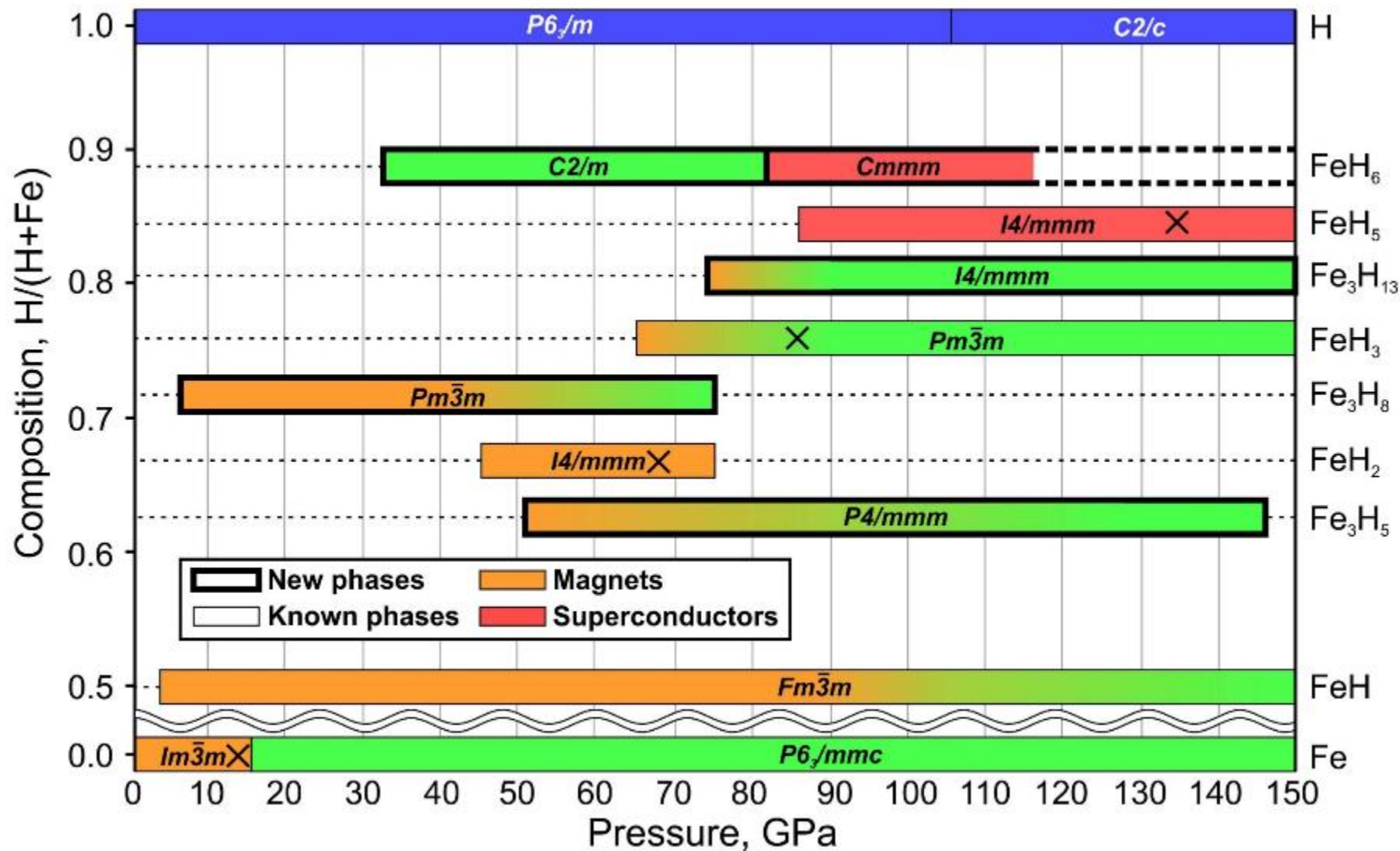
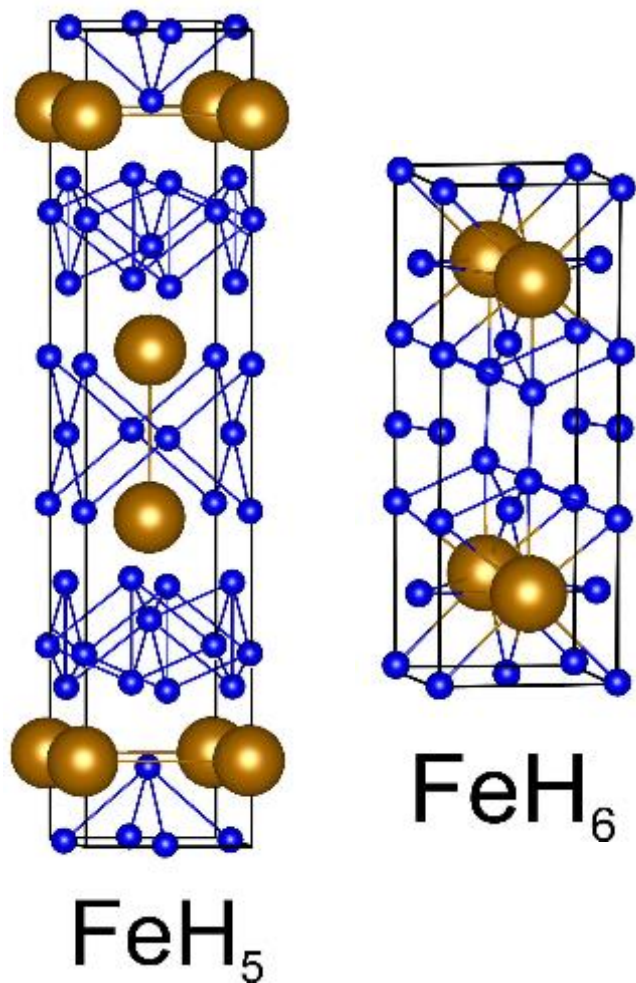
High pressure promotes the formation of polyhydrides with unusually high hydrogen-to-metal ratios. These polyhydrides have complex hydrogenic sublattices. We synthesized iron pentahydride (FeH<sub>5</sub>) by a direct reaction between iron and H<sub>2</sub> above 130 gigapascals in a laser-heated diamond anvil cell. FeH<sub>5</sub> exhibits a structure built of atomic hydrogen only. It consists of intercalated layers of quasicubic FeH<sub>3</sub> units and four-plane slabs of thin atomic hydrogen. The distribution of the valence electron density indicates a bonding between hydrogen and iron atoms but none between hydrogen atoms, presenting a two-dimensional metallic character. The discovery of FeH<sub>5</sub> suggests a low-pressure path to make materials that approach bulk dense atomic hydrogen.

Pépin *et al.*, *Science* **357**, 382–385 (2017)



New FeH<sub>5</sub> phase was synthesized at 135 GPa  
Superconductivity has not been studied

# Prediction of new Fe-H phases

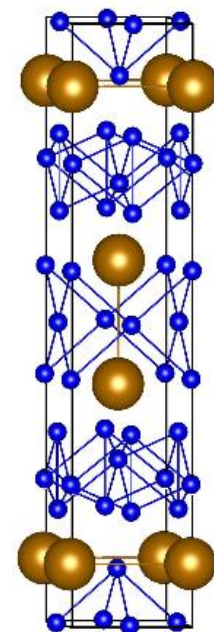
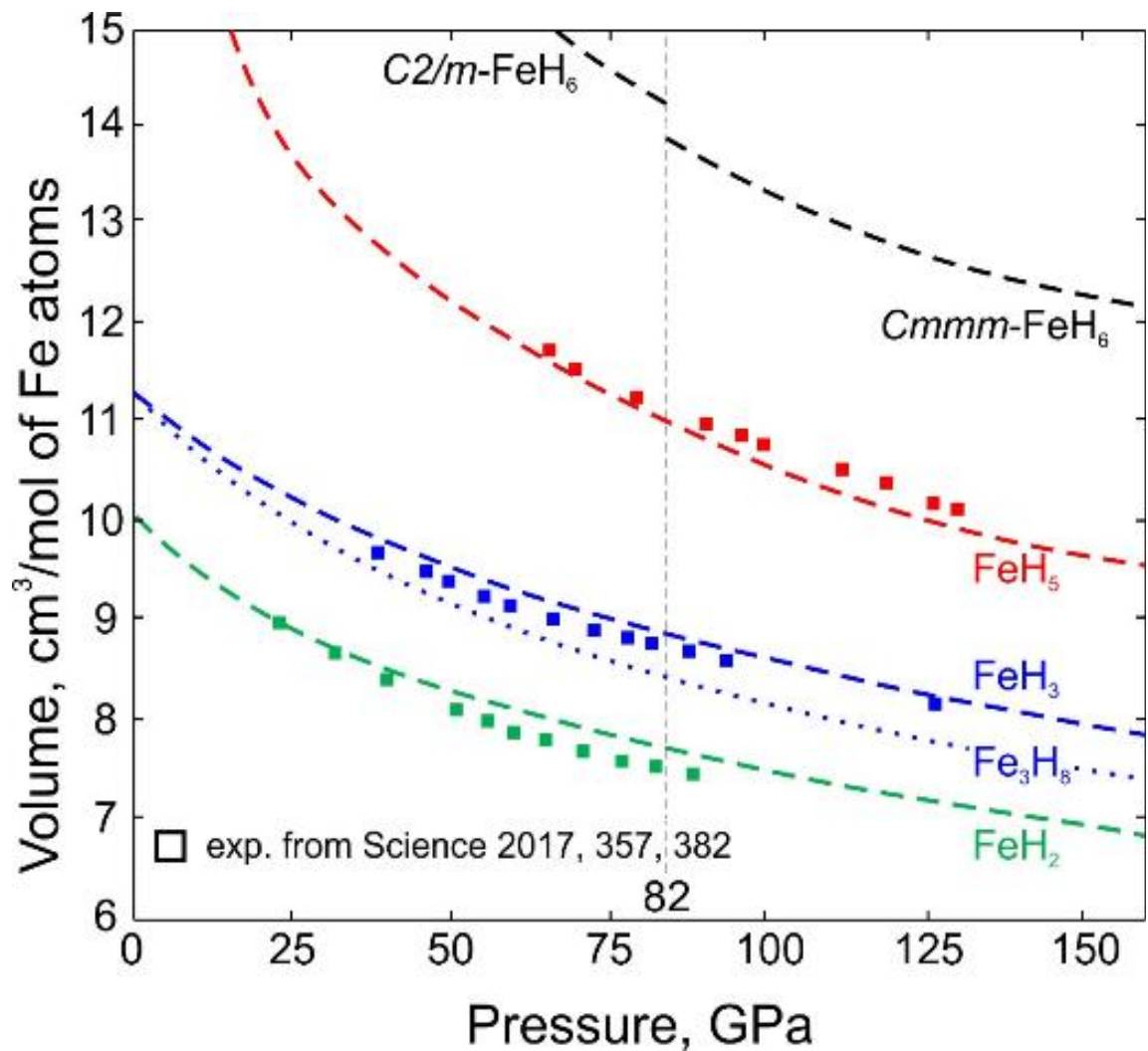


*J. Appl. Phys.* **1982**, 53 (3), 2064–2065

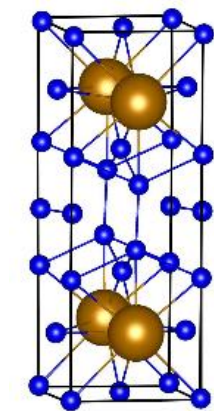
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2014**, 113 (26), 265504

*Science* **2017**, 357 (6349), 382–385

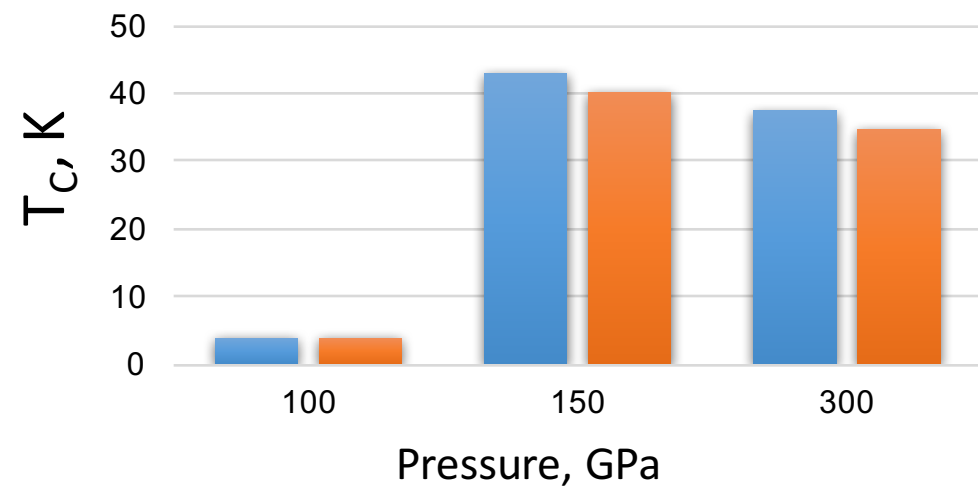
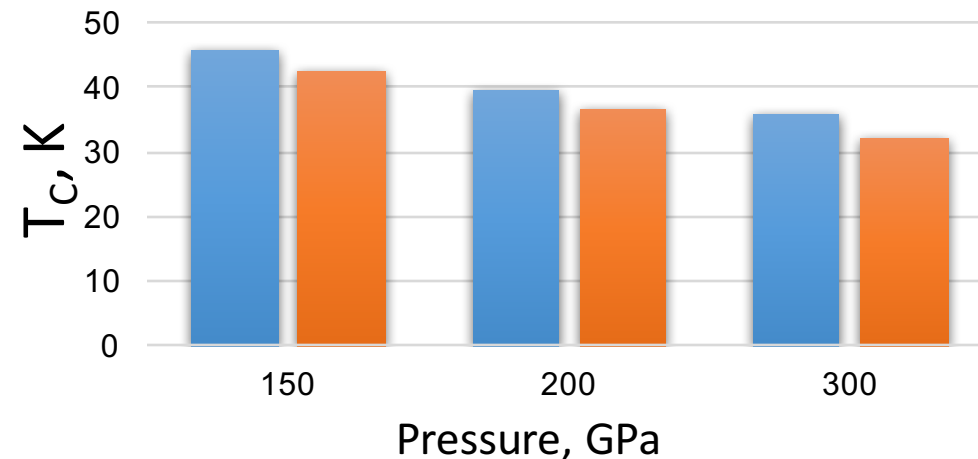
# Properties of FeH<sub>5</sub> and FeH<sub>6</sub>



FeH<sub>5</sub>



FeH<sub>6</sub>



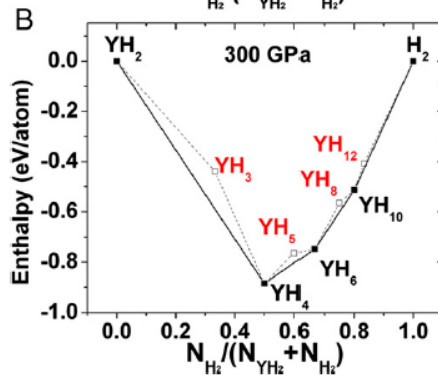
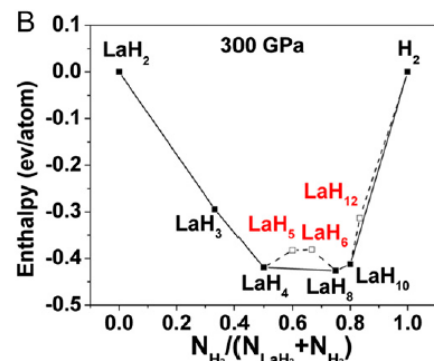
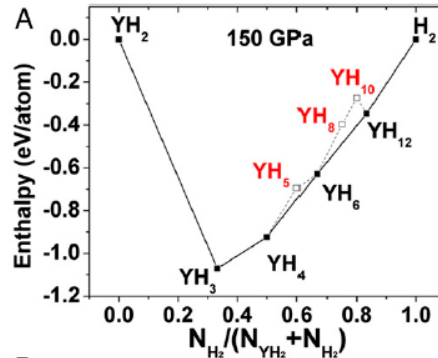
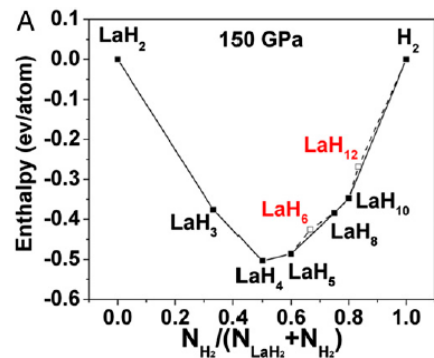


# Potential high- $T_c$ superconducting lanthanum and yttrium hydrides at high pressure

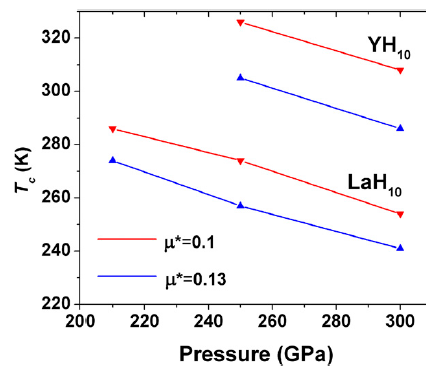
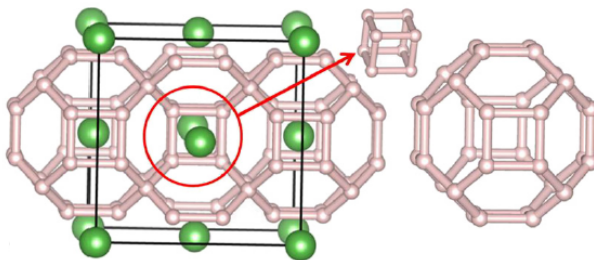
Hanyu Liu<sup>a</sup>, Ivan I. Naumov<sup>a</sup>, Roald Hoffmann<sup>b</sup>, N. W. Ashcroft<sup>c</sup>, and Russell J. Hemley<sup>d,e,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, DC 20015; <sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; <sup>c</sup>Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; <sup>d</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052; and <sup>e</sup>School of Applied and Engineering Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

Contributed by Russell J. Hemley, May 5, 2017 (sent for review March 20, 2017; reviewed by Panchapakesan Ganesh, Jeffrey M. McMahon, and Dimitrios Papaconstantopoulos)



The maximal  $T_c \sim 250-300$  K at  $\sim 250$  GPa



Cornell University  
Library

## Superconductivity at 215 K in lanthanum hydride at high pressures

A. P. Drozdov, V. S. Minkov, S. P. Besedin, P. P. Kong, M. A. Kuzovnikov, D. A. Knyazev, M. I. Erements

(Submitted on 21 Aug 2018)

## Evidence for Superconductivity above 260 K in Lanthanum Superhydride at Megabar Pressures

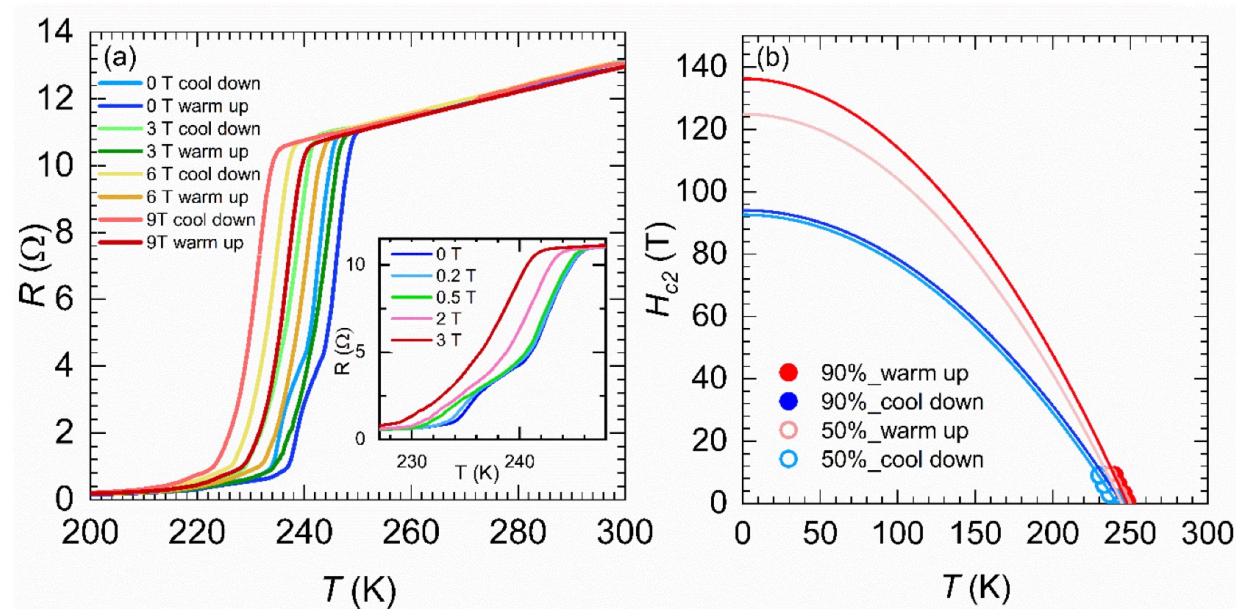
Maddury Somayazulu, Muhtar Ahart, Ajay K. Mishra, Zachary M. Geballe, Maria Baldini, Yue Meng, Viktor V. Struzhkin, and Russell J. Hemley

Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 027001 – Published 14 January 2019

## Superconductivity at 250 K in lanthanum hydride under high pressures

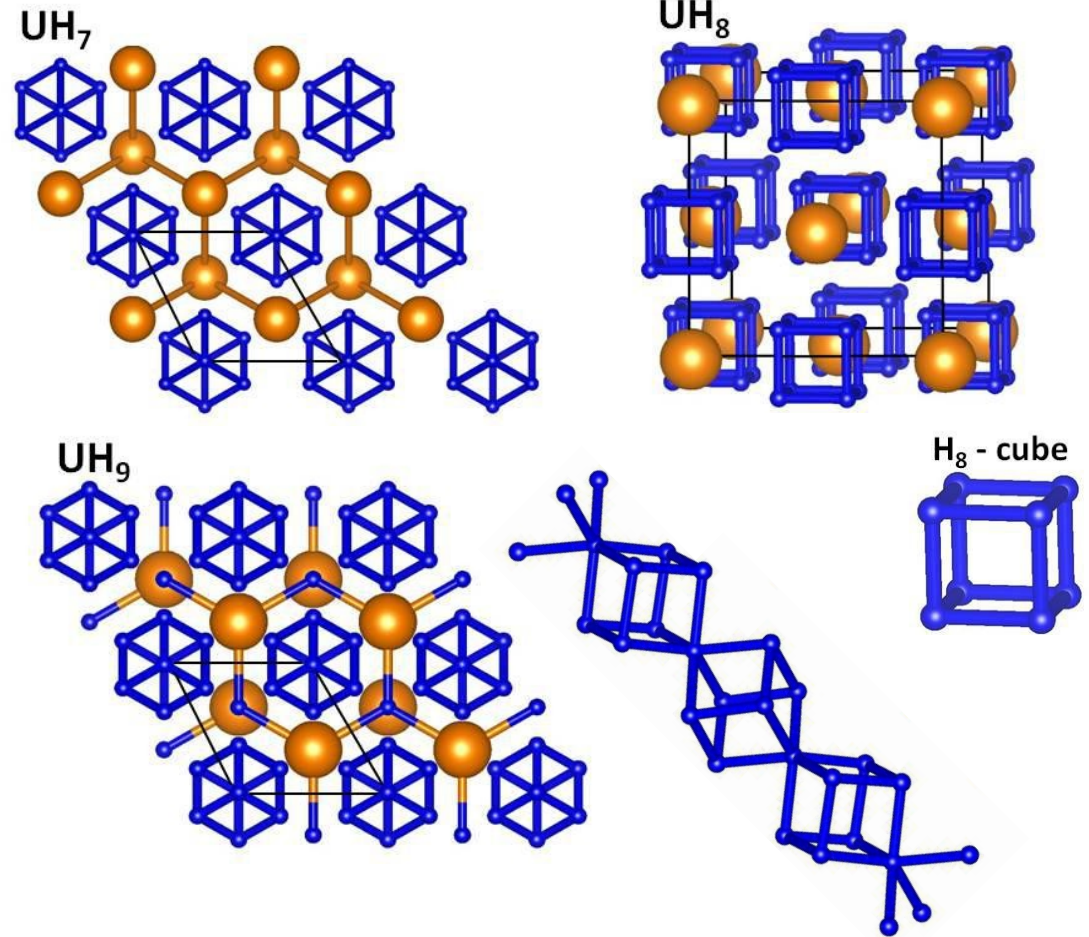
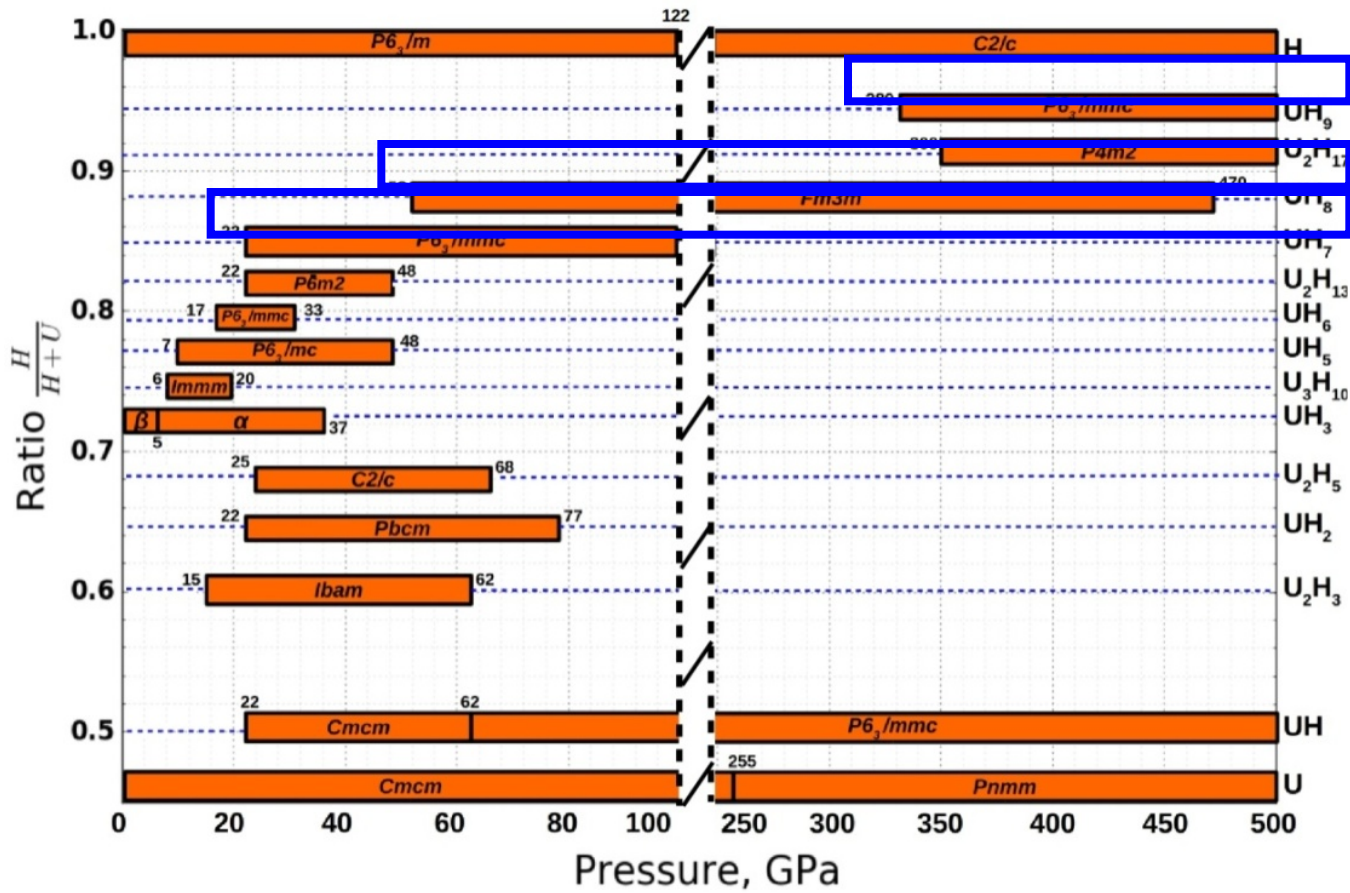
A. P. Drozdov, P. P. Kong, V. S. Minkov, S. P. Besedin, M. A. Kuzovnikov, S. Mozaffari, L. Balicas, F. Balakirev, D. Graf, V. B. Prakapenka, E. Greenberg, D. A. Knyazev, M. Tkacz, M. I. Erements

(Submitted on 4 Dec 2018)





# U-H system



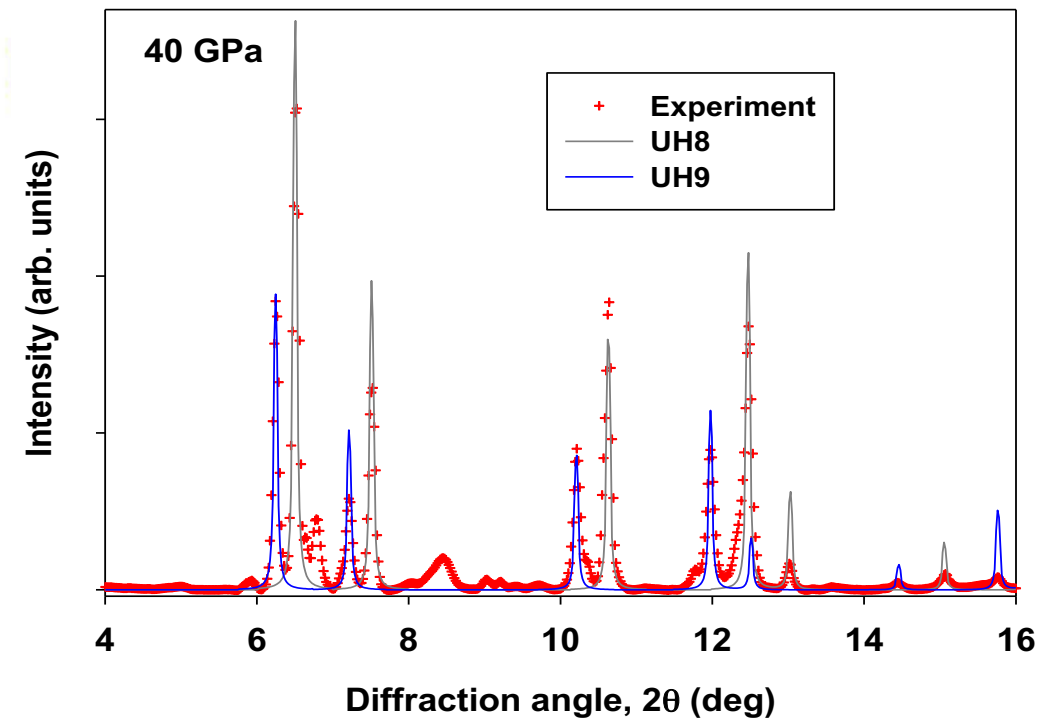
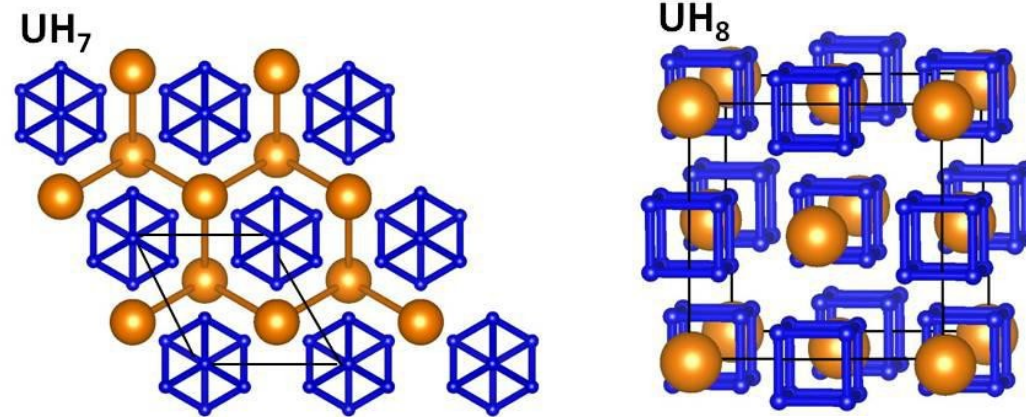
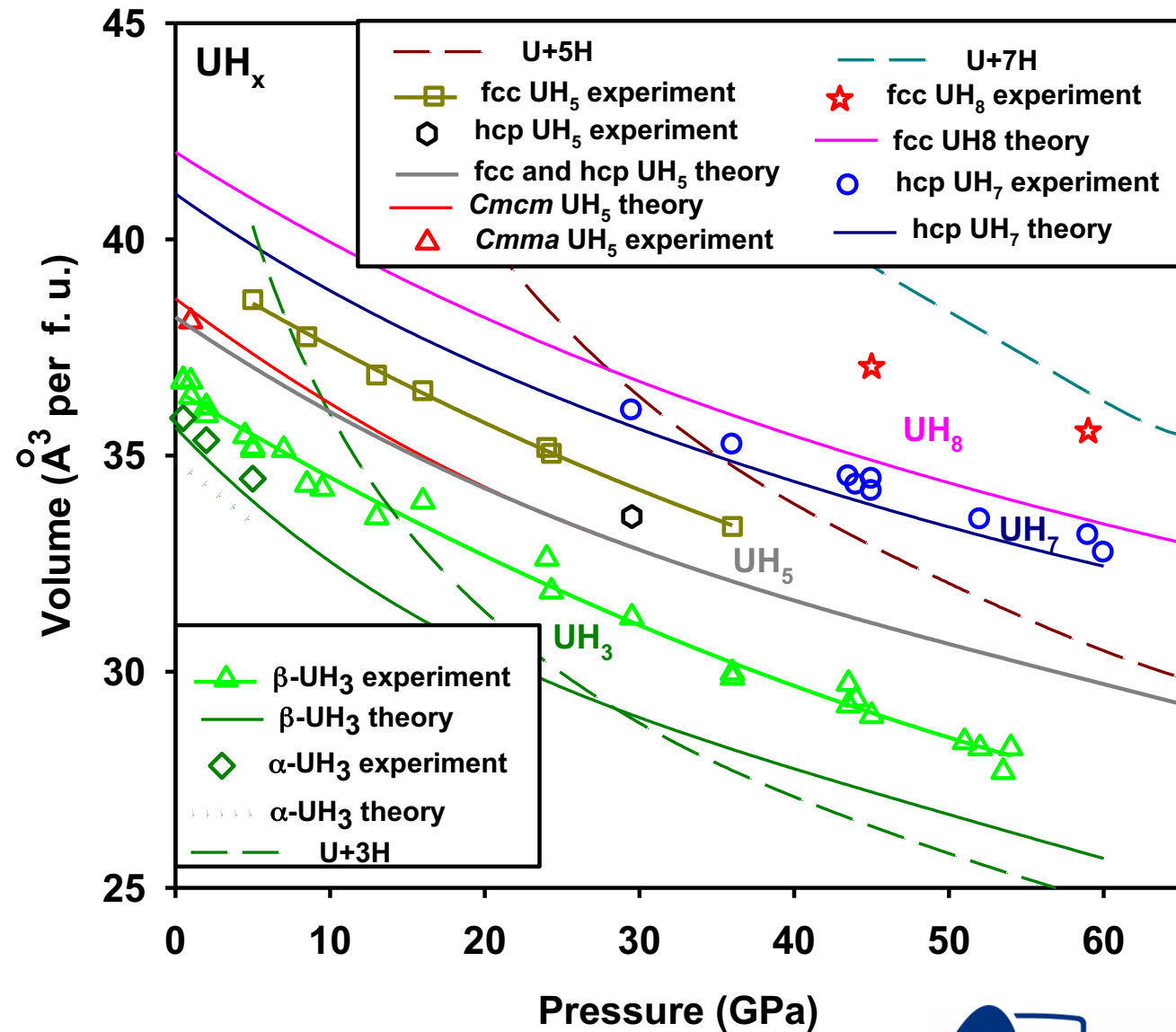
VNIIA



CARNEGIE SCIENCE

Geophysical Laboratory

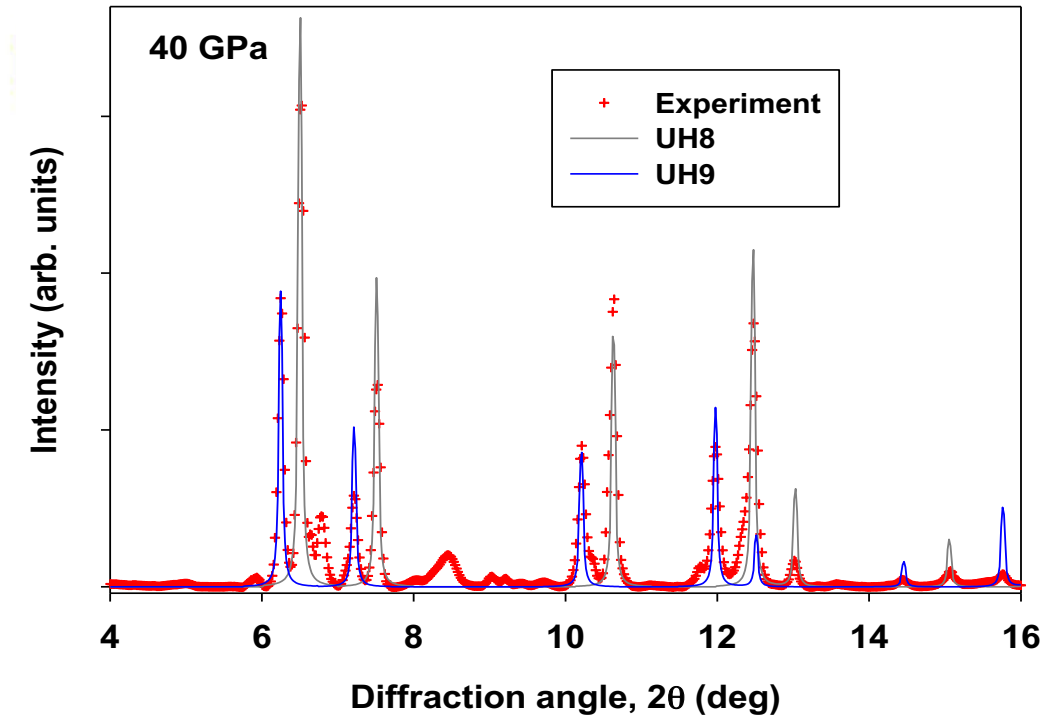
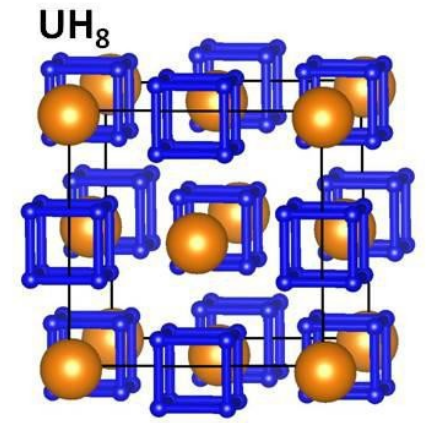
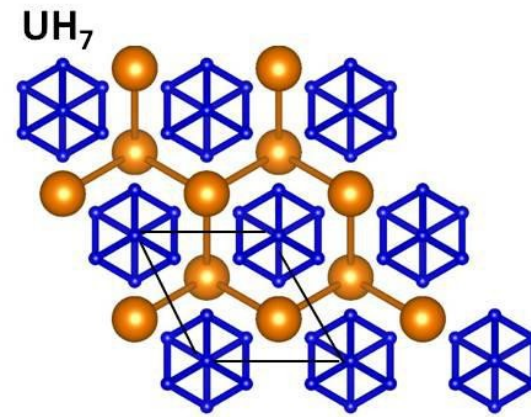
# U-H system



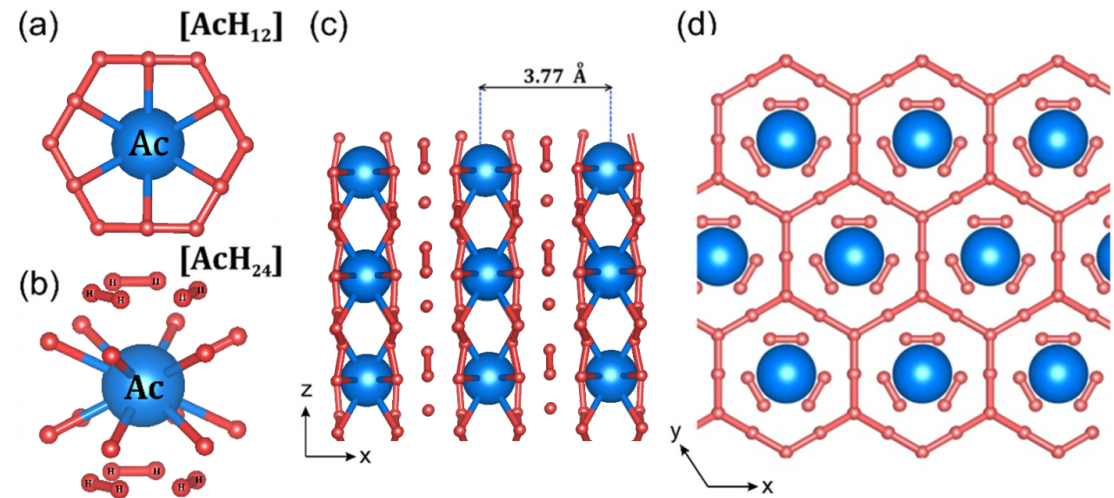
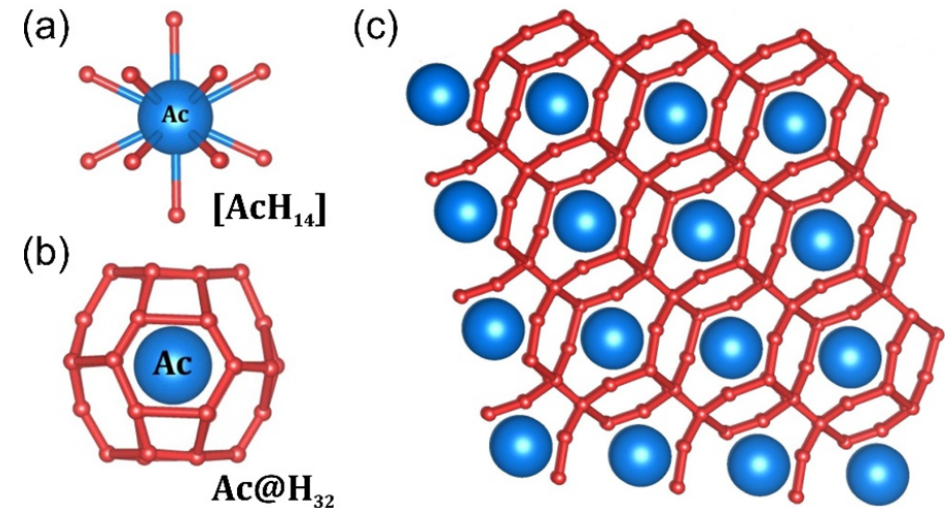
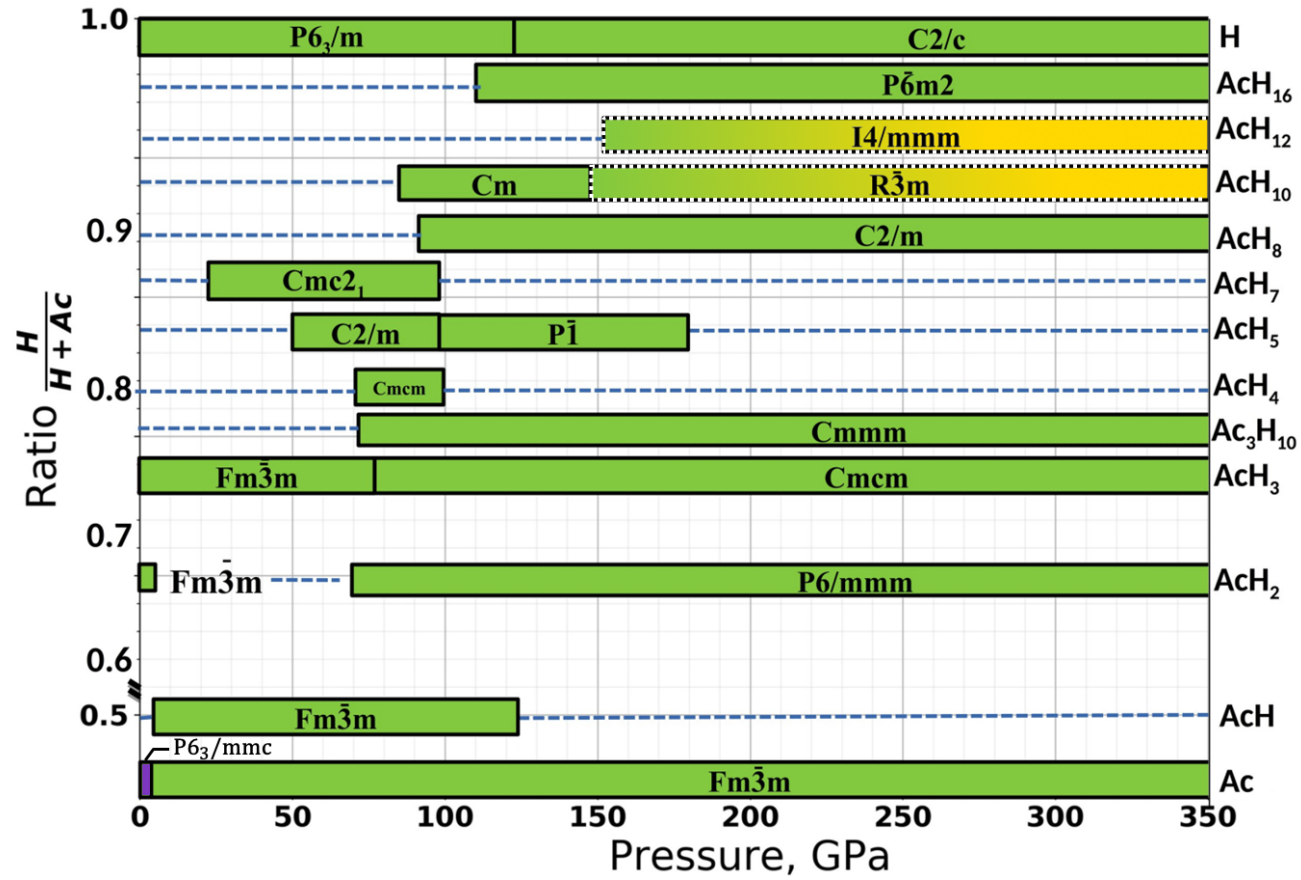


# U-H system

Phase	Space group	P, GPa	$\omega_{\log}$ , K	$\lambda$	$T_c$ , K
UH <sub>7</sub>	$P 6_3/mmc$	20	873.8	0.83	54.1 43.7
		0	764.9	0.95	65.8 56.7
UH <sub>8</sub>	$Fm\bar{3}m$	50	873.7	0.73	33.3 23.4
		0	450.3	1.13	55.2 46.2
UH <sub>9</sub>	$P 6_3/mmc$	300	933.4	0.67	31.2 19.9

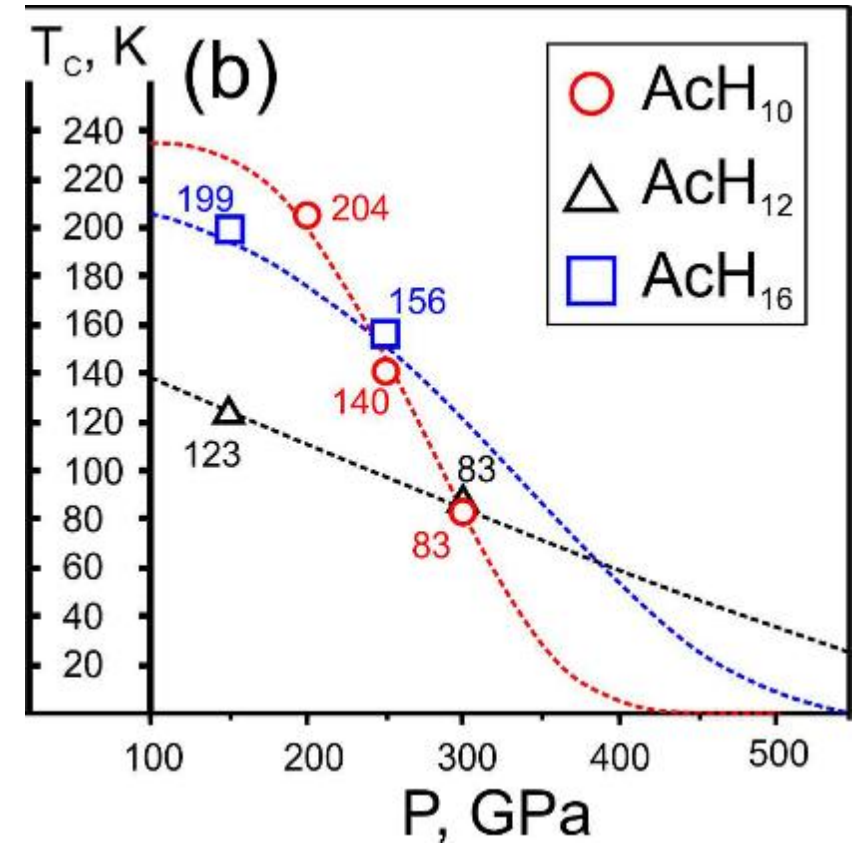
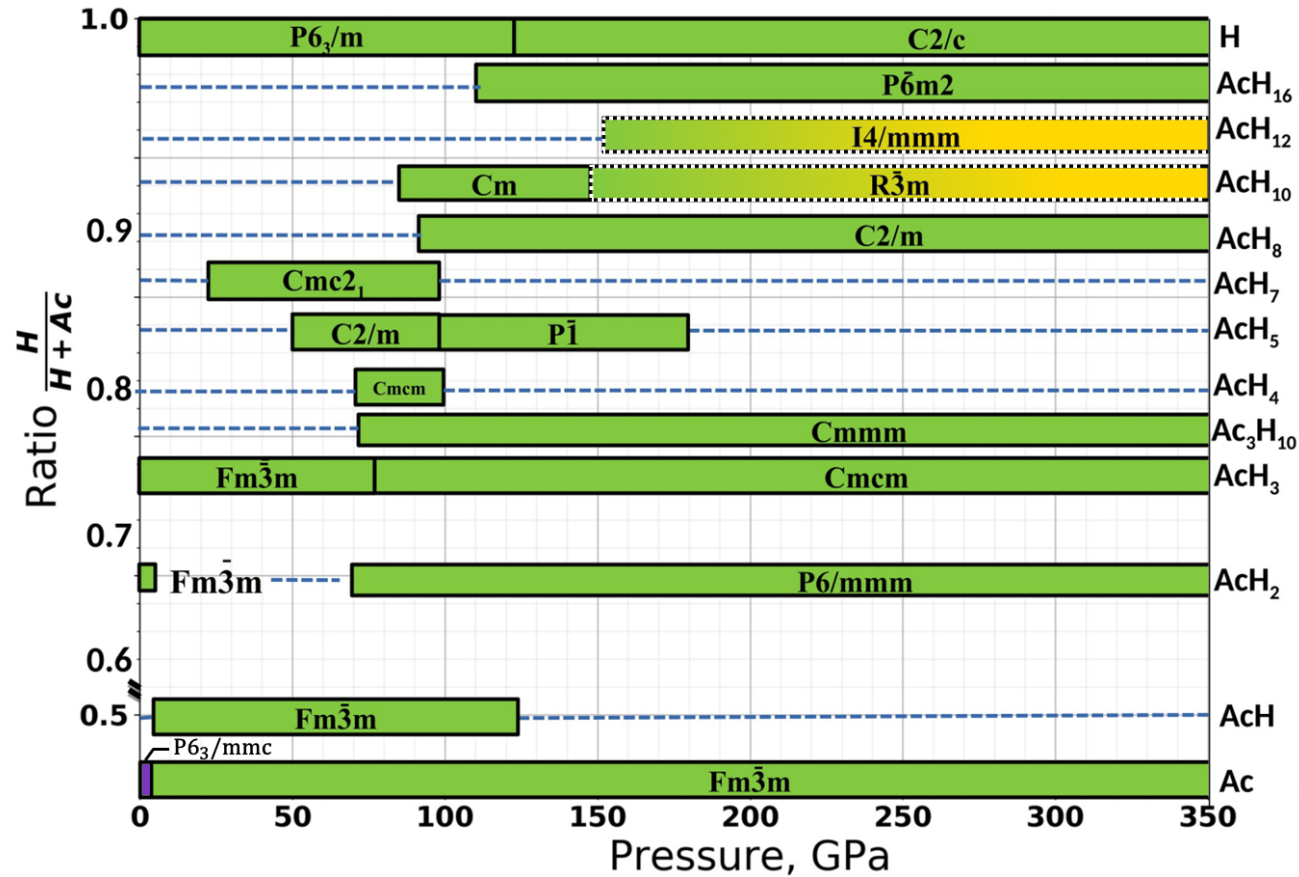


# Ac-H system

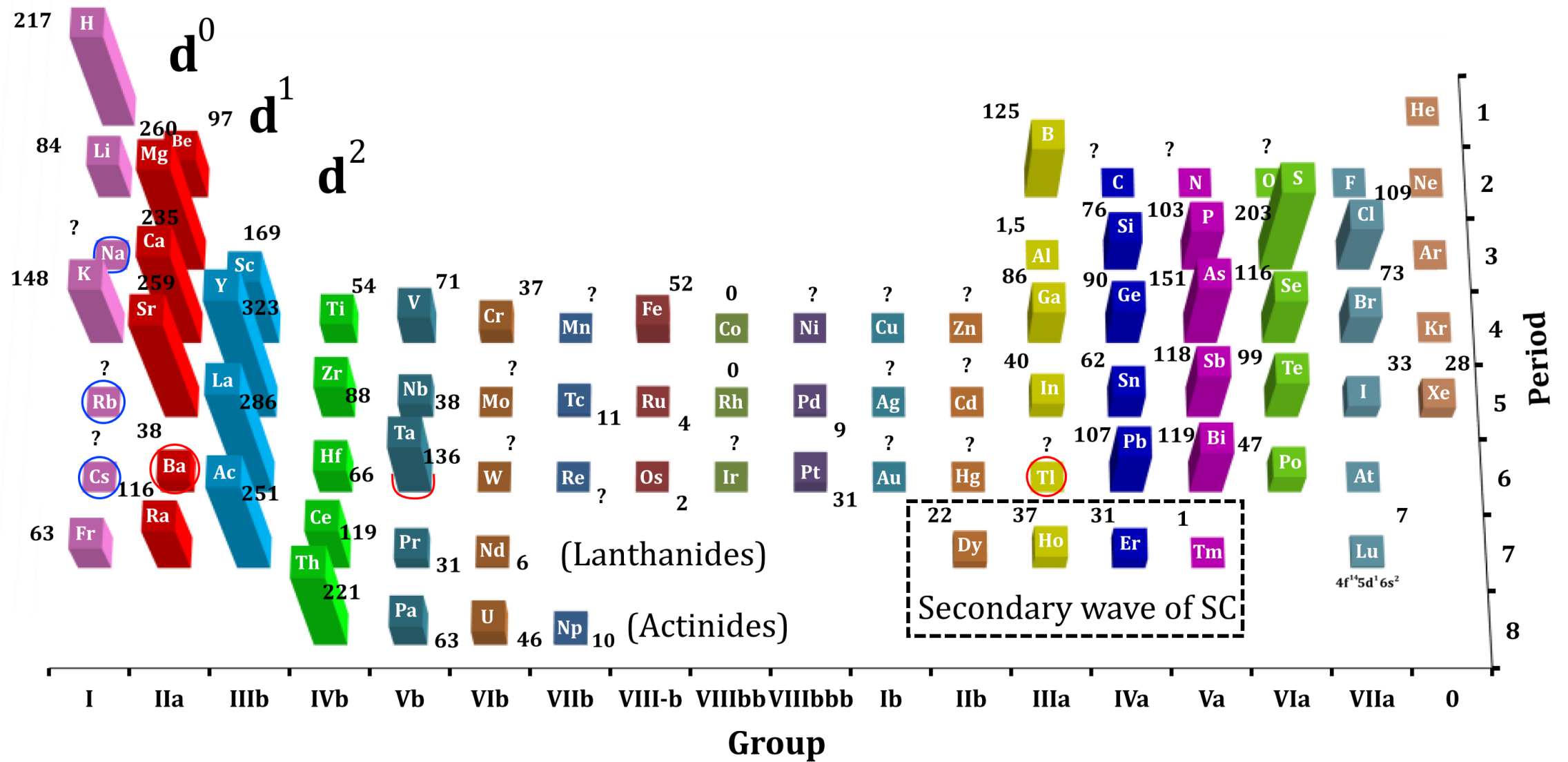




# Ac-H system

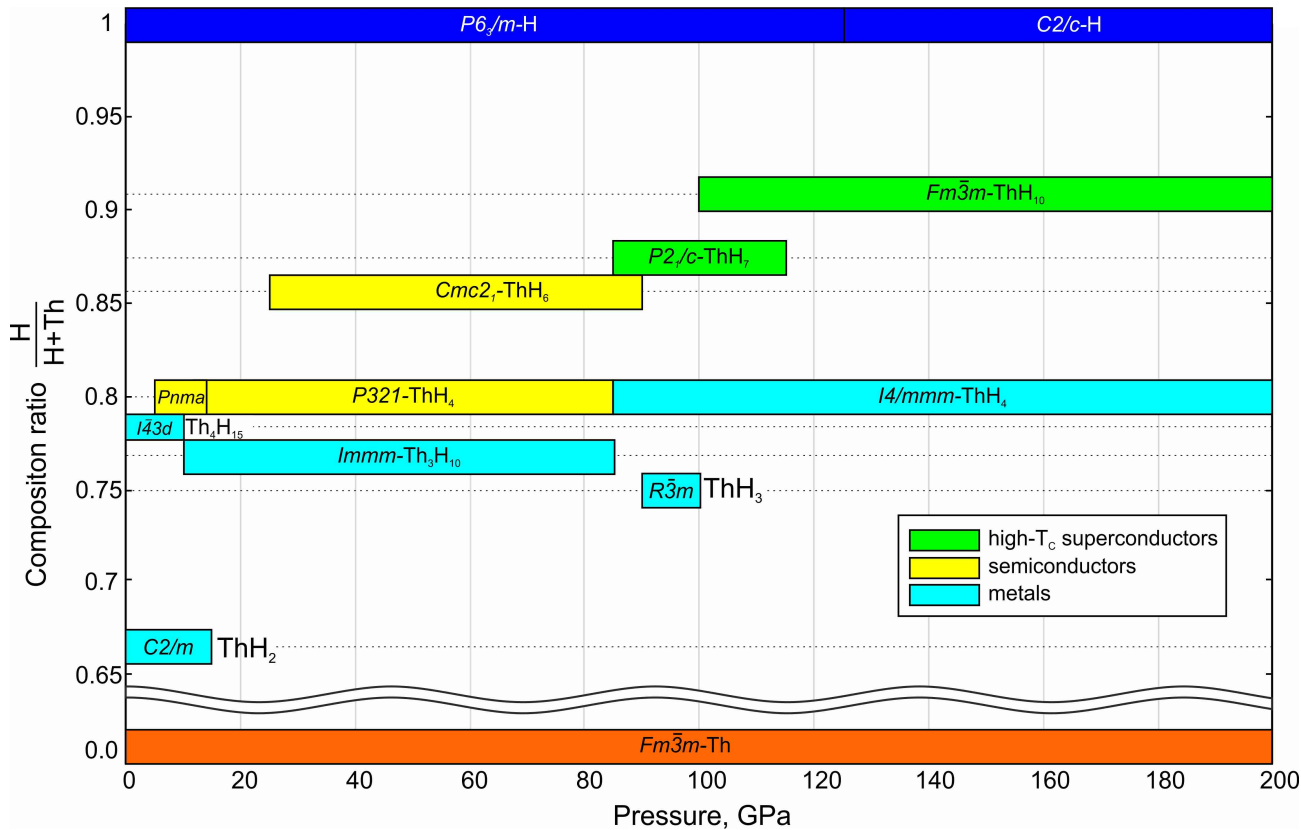
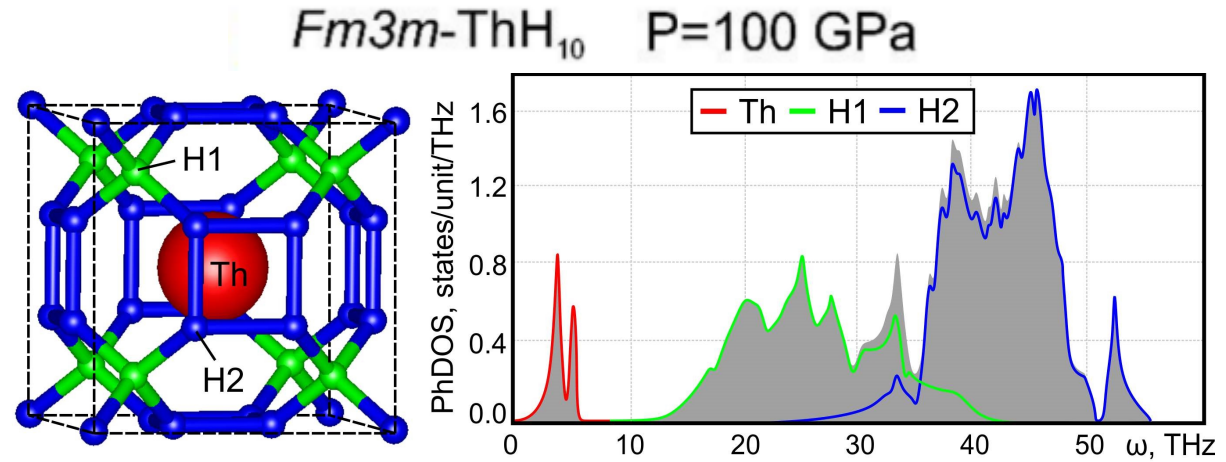
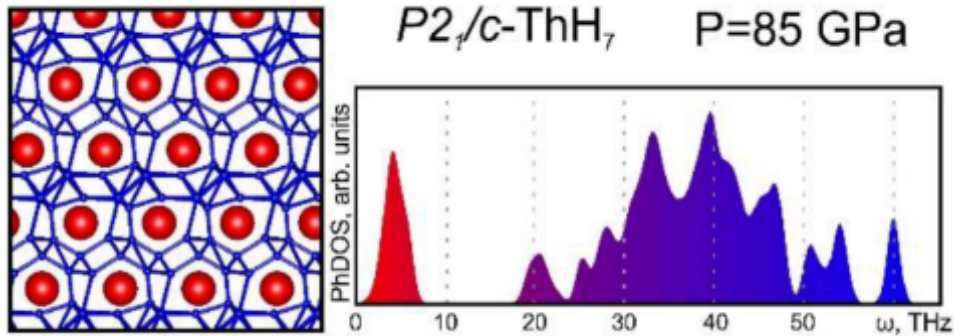


# General rule

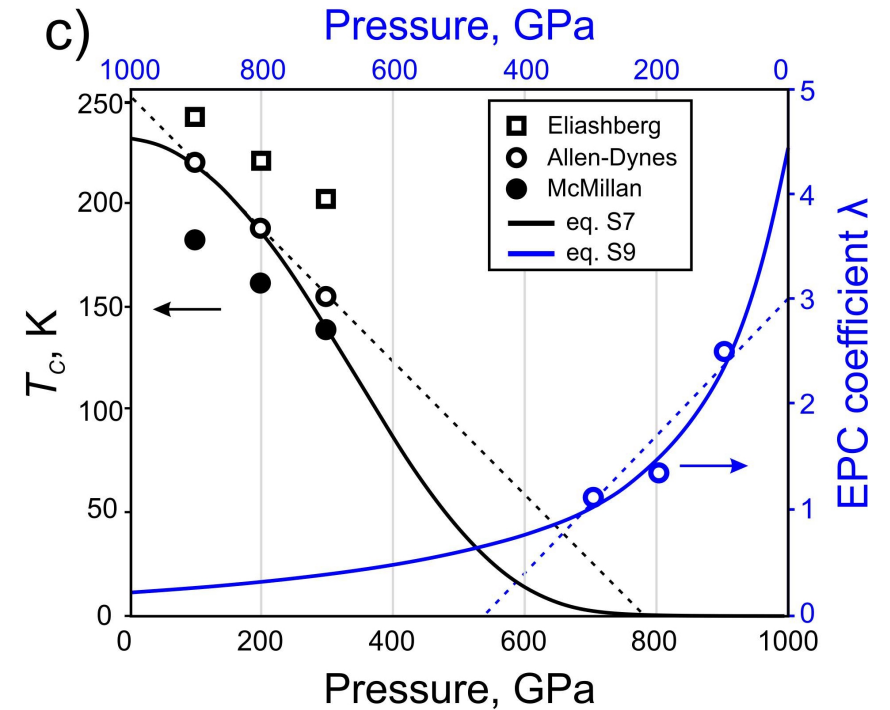




# Th-H system



Stability field of thorium hydrides

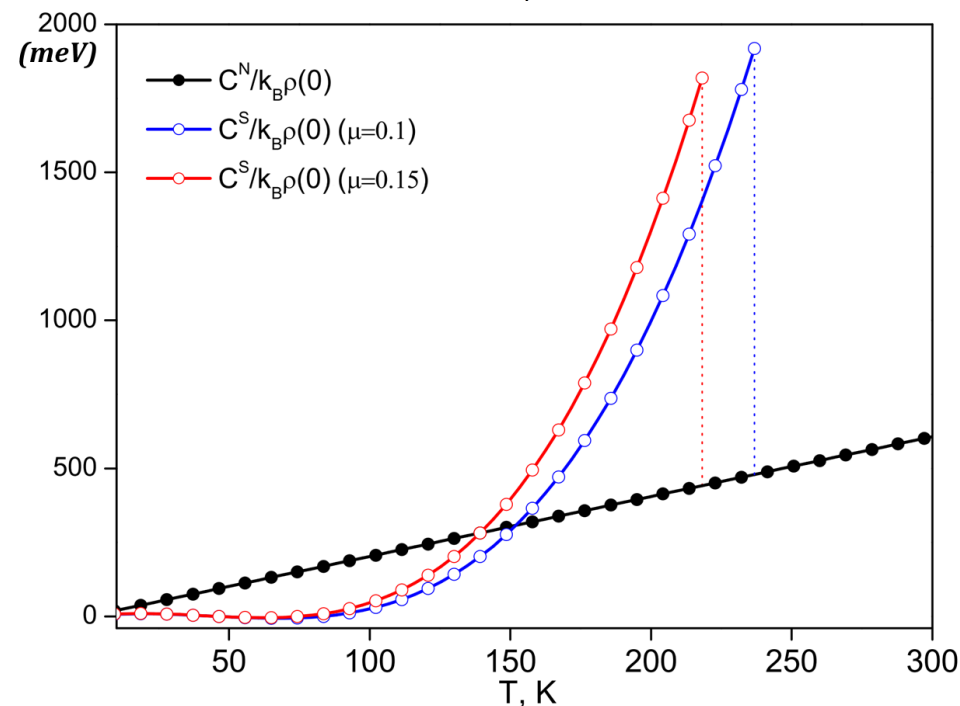
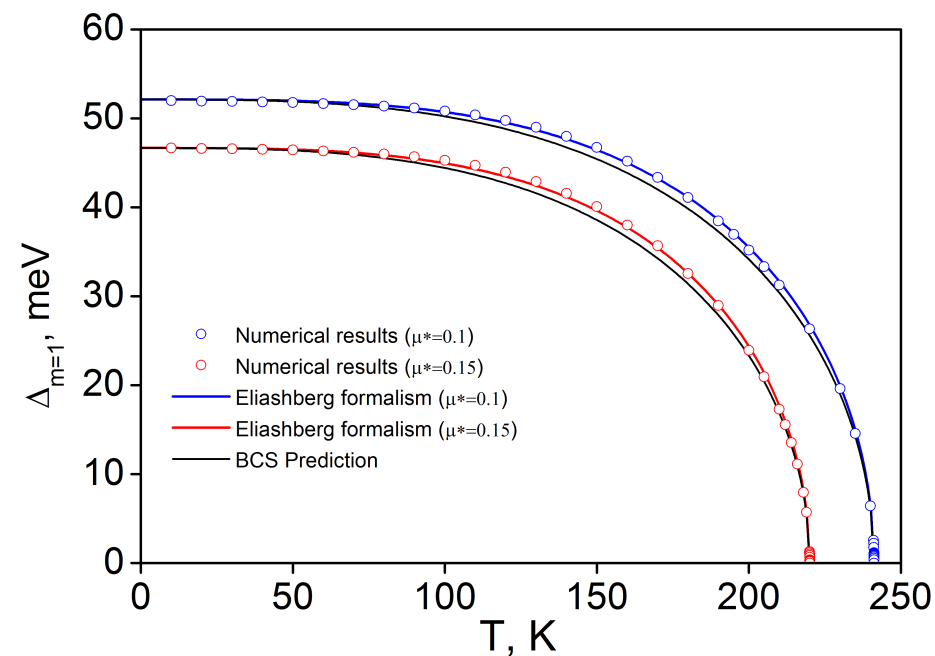


Max  $T_c$  is 241 K at 100 GPa for ThH<sub>10</sub>

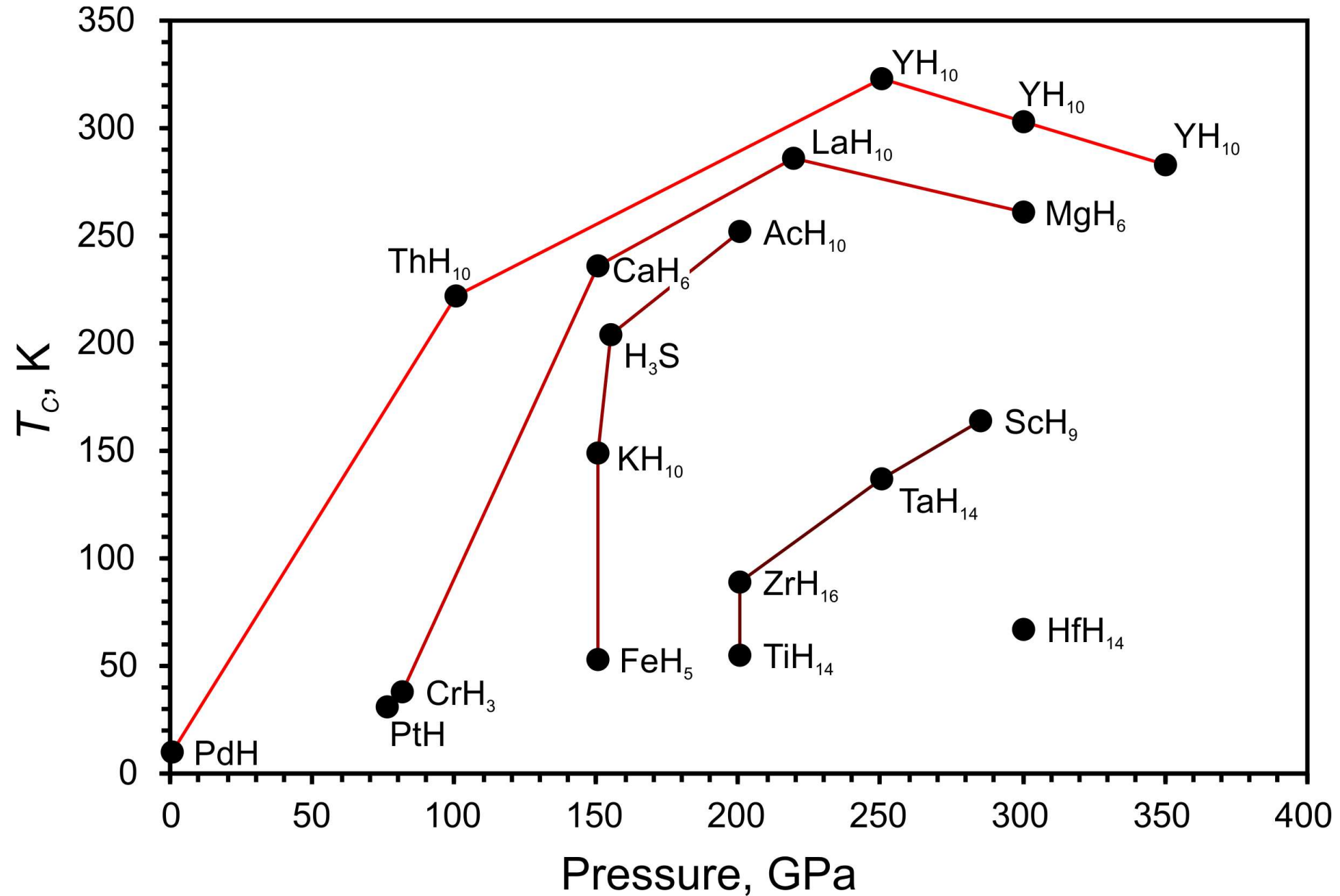
# Th-H system

Compound	SC gap, meV	T <sub>C</sub> , K
ThH <sub>10</sub>	52	241
LaH <sub>10</sub> [1]	68	286
YH <sub>10</sub> [1]	77	326
H <sub>3</sub> S [2]	42.7	203
BiH <sub>6</sub> [3]	18.1	100
PH <sub>3</sub> [4]	14.5	81
YH <sub>3</sub> [5]	8.4	45.9
H <sub>3</sub> Se [6]	28.4	131
MgH <sub>6</sub> [7]	106.6	420
YBa <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7-y</sub> [8]	34	92
NdBa <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub> [9]	30	95
Bi <sub>2</sub> Sr <sub>2</sub> Ca <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> O <sub>10+y</sub> [10]	45	111
SmFeAsO <sub>0.9</sub> F <sub>0.1</sub> [11]	15	44
Ba <sub>0.6</sub> K <sub>0.4</sub> Fe <sub>2</sub> As <sub>2</sub> [12]	12	37

- [1] H. Liu et al. PNAS **114**, 6990 (2017).  
 [2] A. P. Durajski et al. Annalen Der Physik **528**, 358 (2016).  
 [3] M. W. Jarosik et al. Solid State Communications **279**, 27 (2018).  
 [4] A. P. Durajski Scientific Reports **6**, 38570 (2016).  
 [5] M. W. Jarosik et al. Solid State Communications **250**, 5 (2017).  
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 [11] T. Kondo et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 147003 (2008).  
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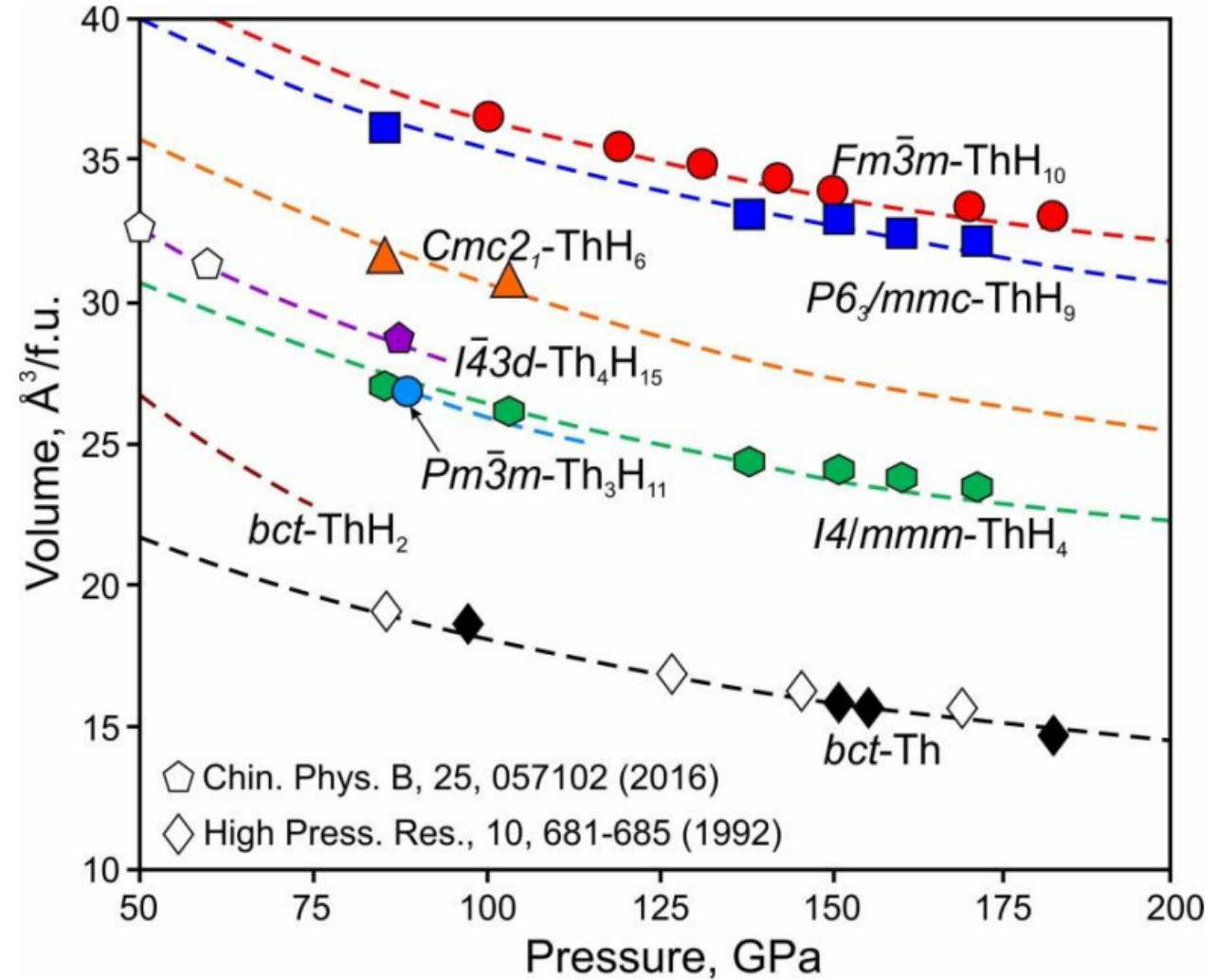
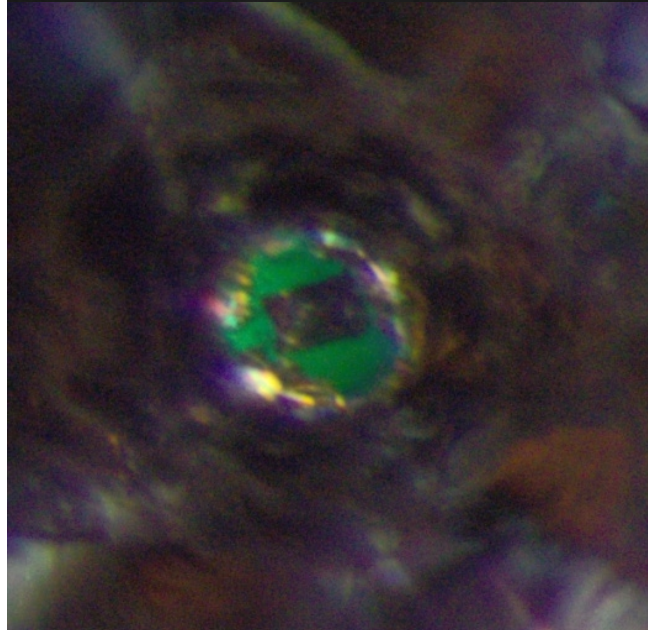
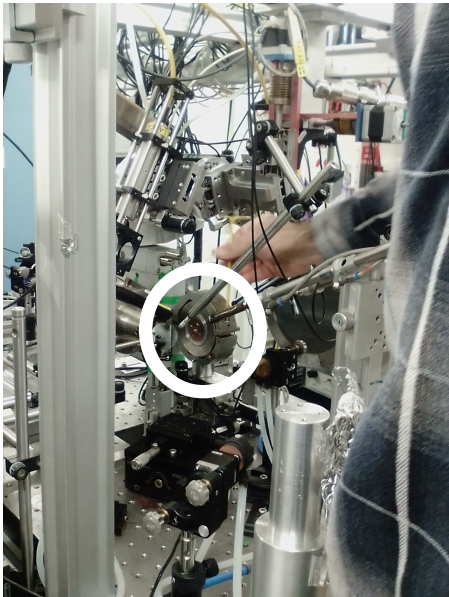
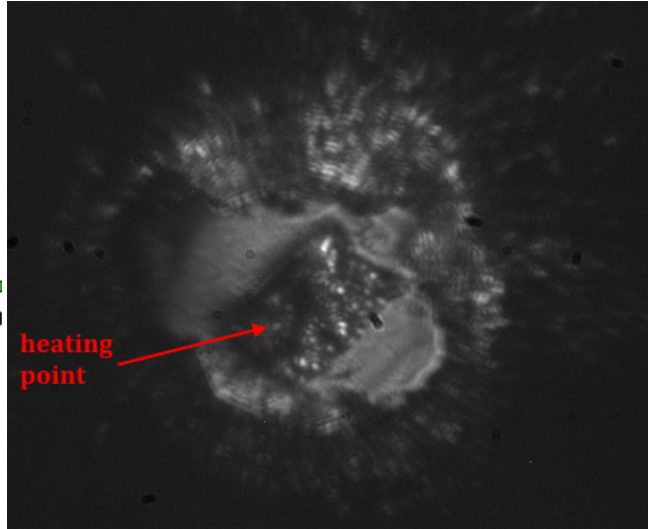
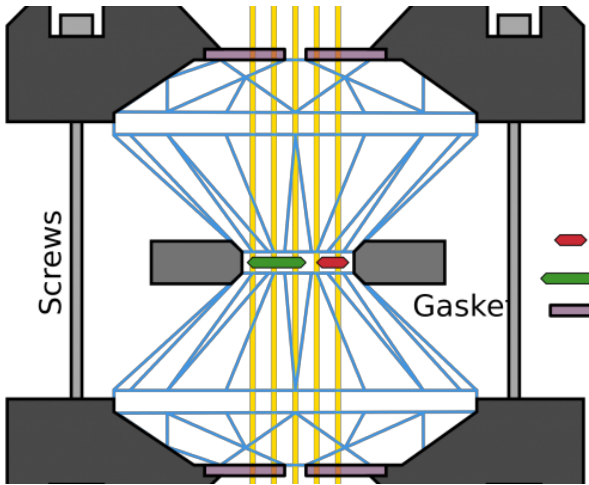
# Ashby plot





# Synthesis

Optical images after heating





# Synthesis of ThH<sub>4</sub>

***P321***

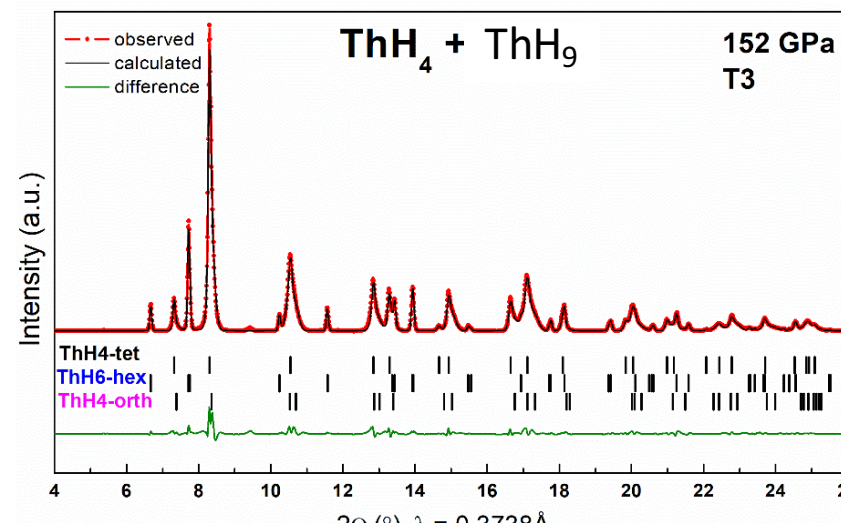
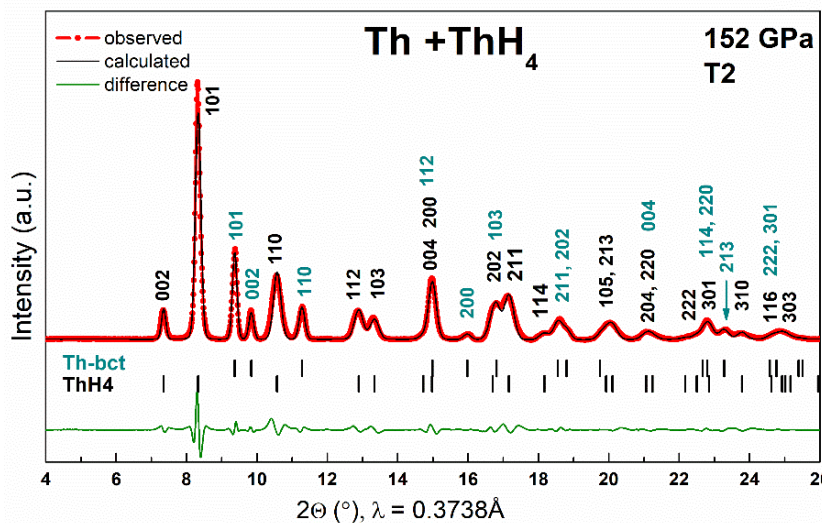
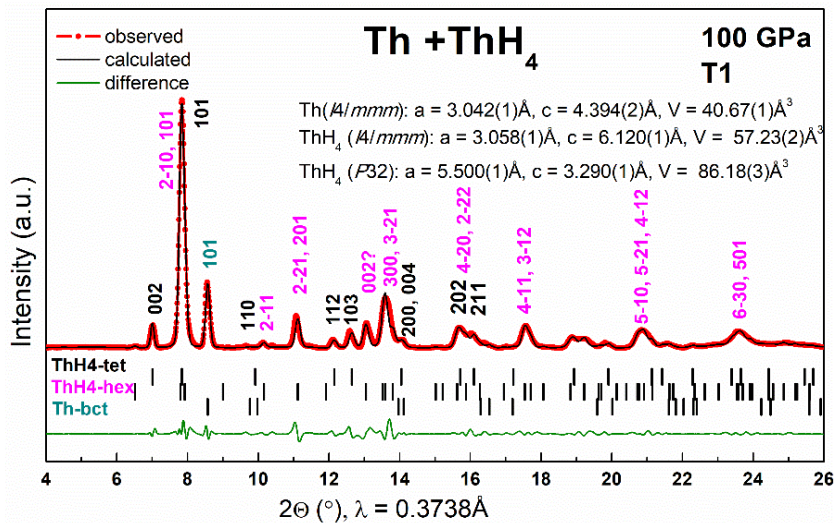
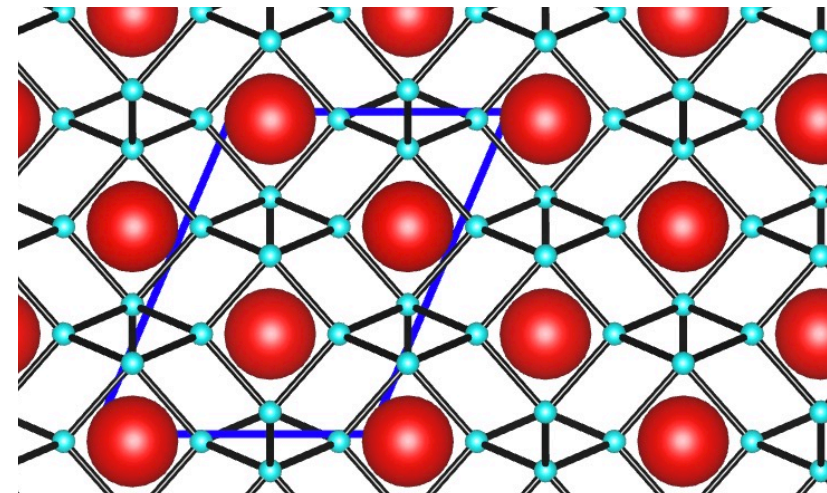
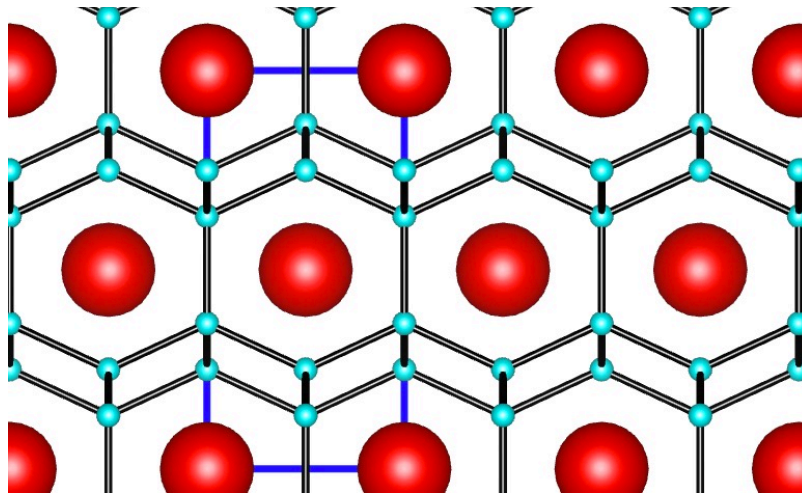
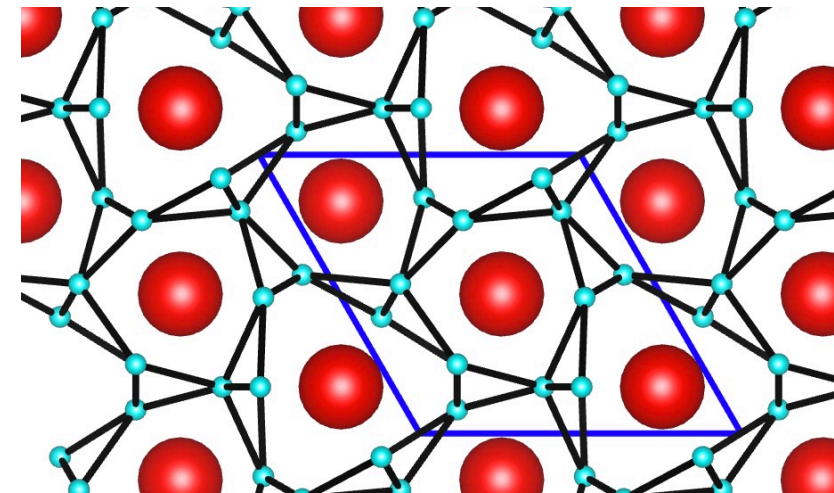
1800 K, 100 GPa

→ ***I4/mmm***

1400 K, 152 GPa

→ ***Fmmm***

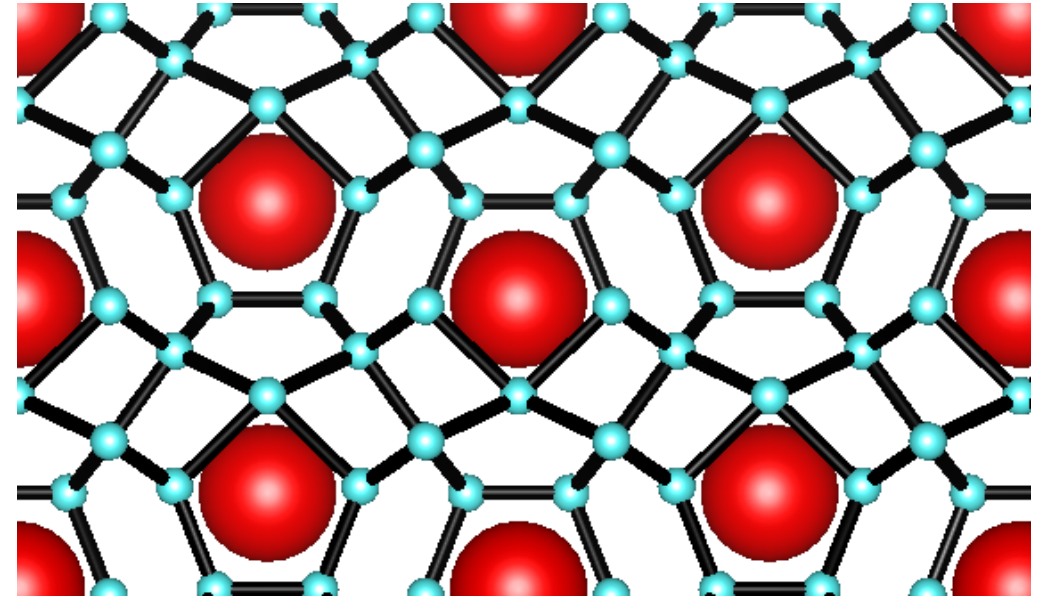
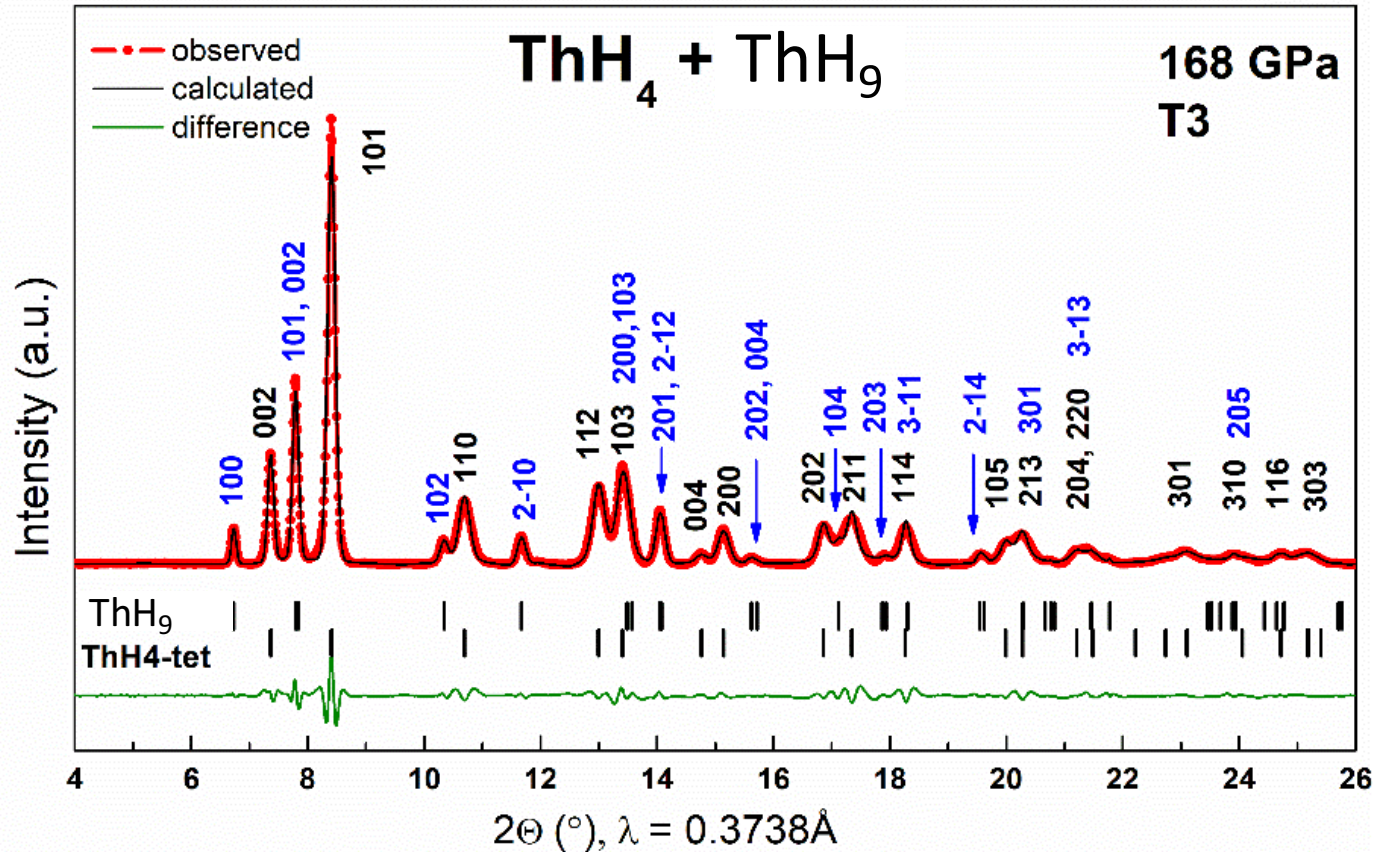
2000 K, 152 GPa





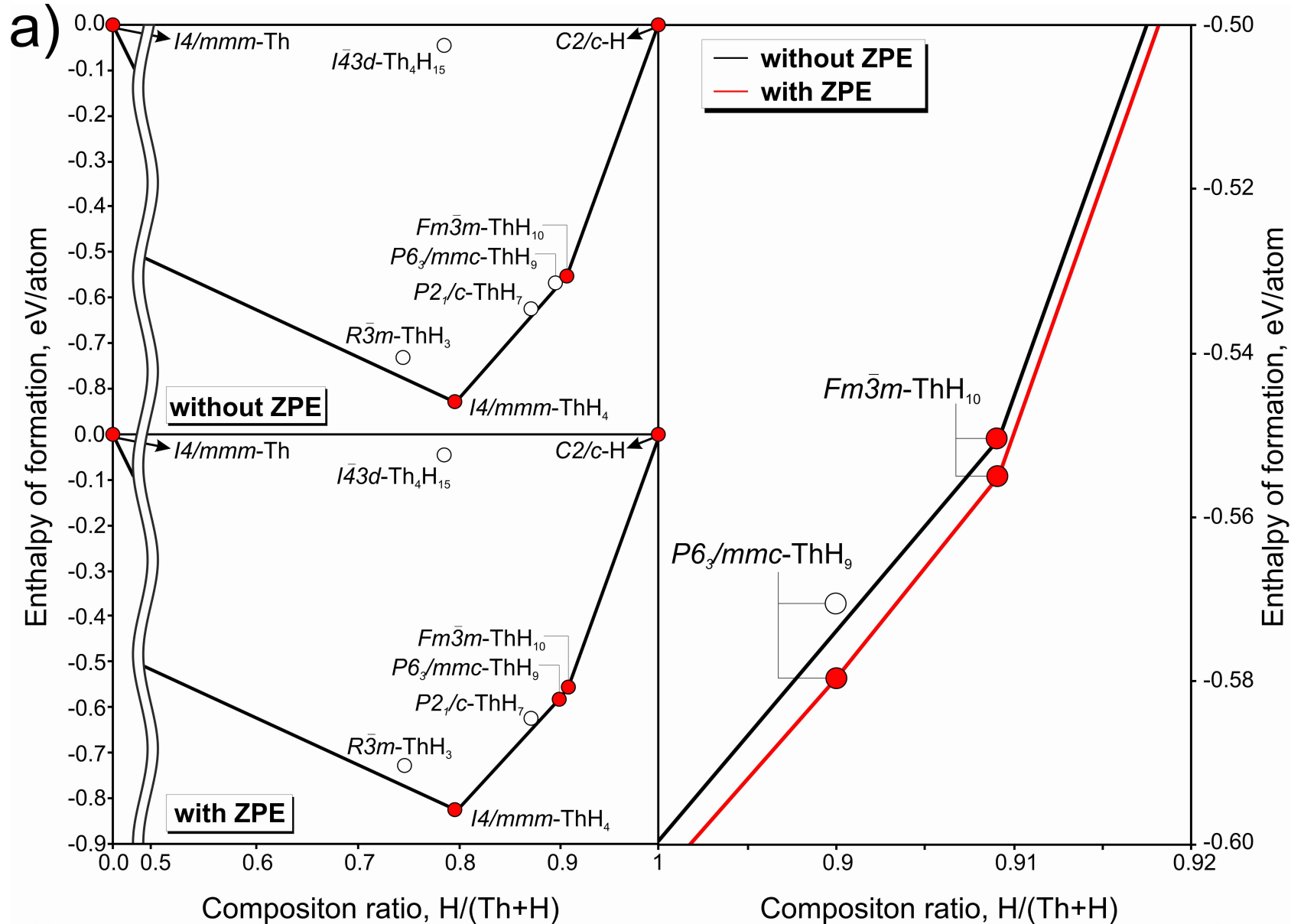
# Synthesis of ThH<sub>9</sub>

Further heating: 2100 K, 168 GPa, 2 laser impulses



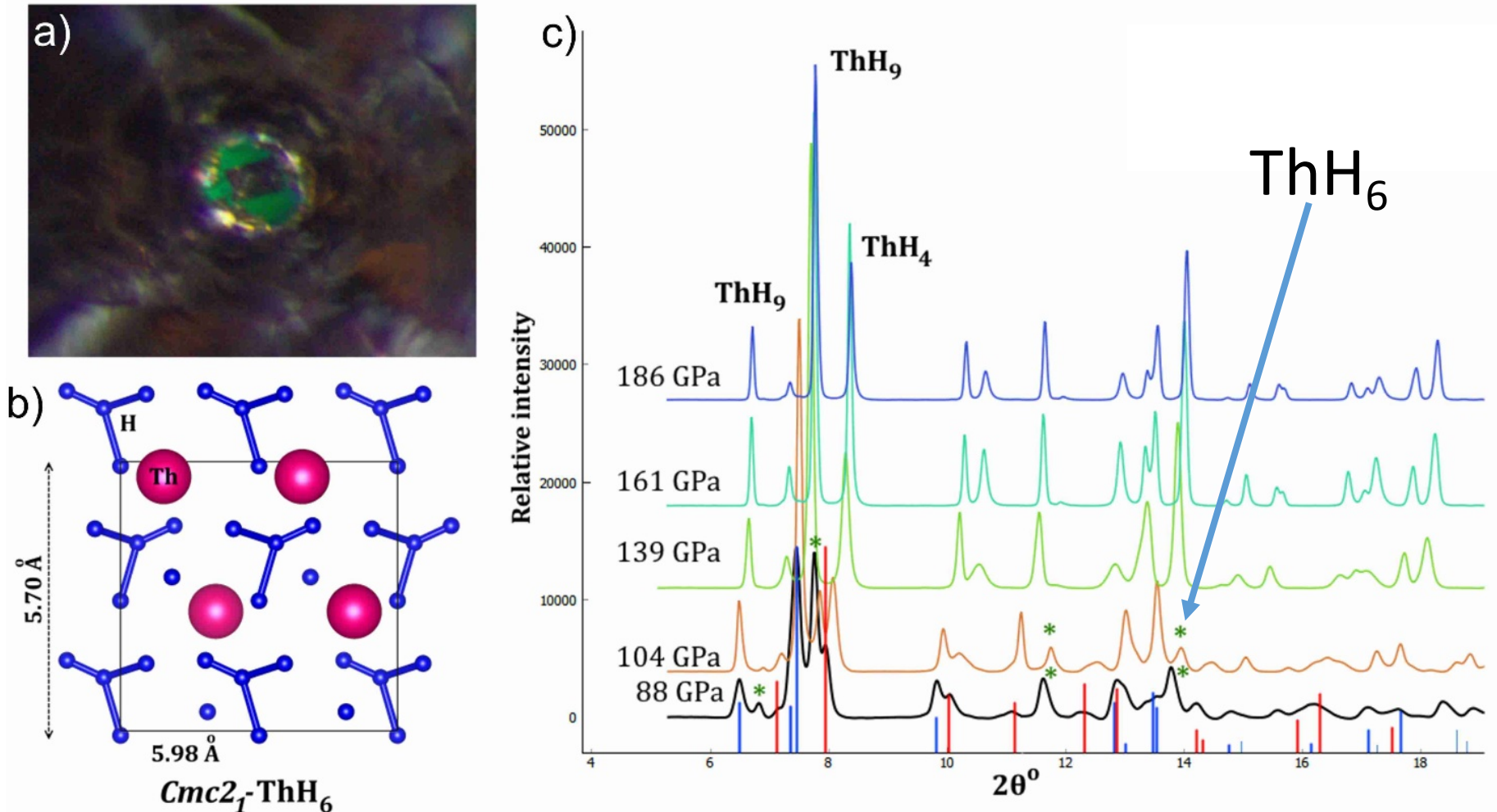


# Stability of ThH<sub>9</sub>. Effect of ZPE



# Synthesis of ThH<sub>6</sub>

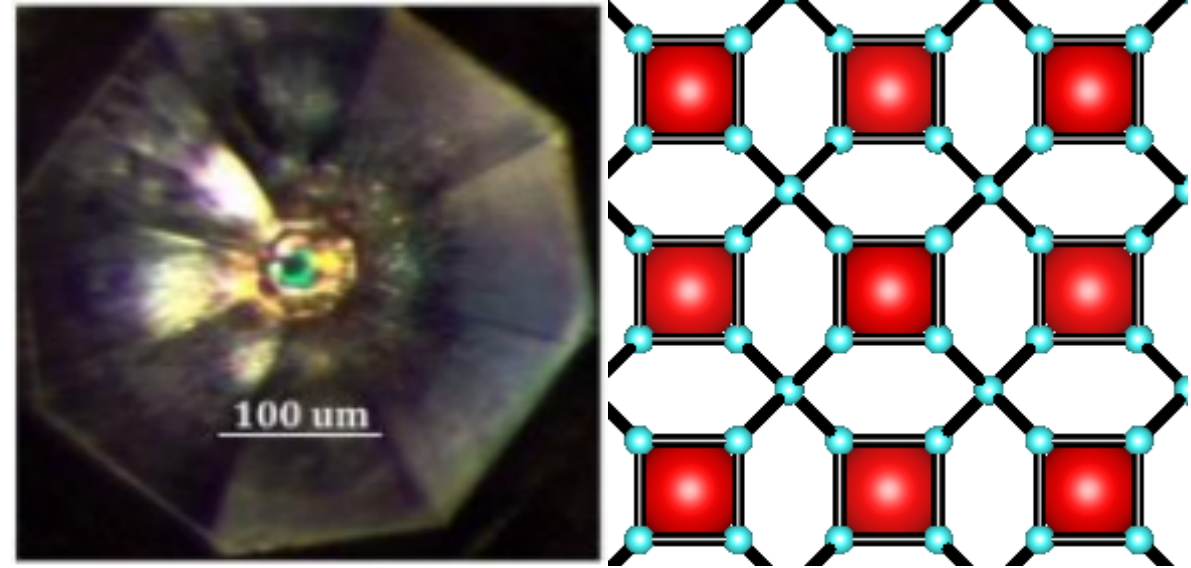
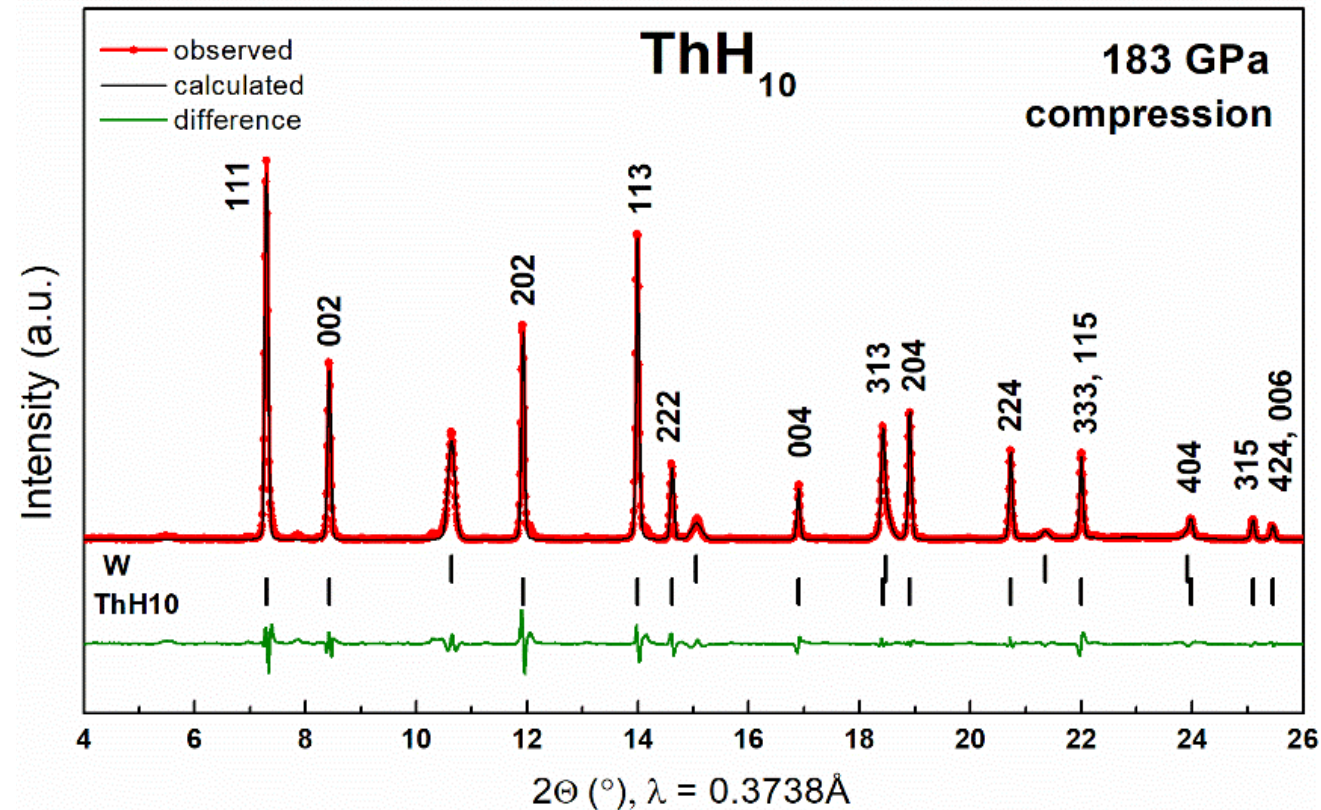
Reduction of pressure from 168 to 68 GPa



# Synthesis of ThH<sub>10</sub>

The formation of cubic ThH<sub>10</sub> is observed

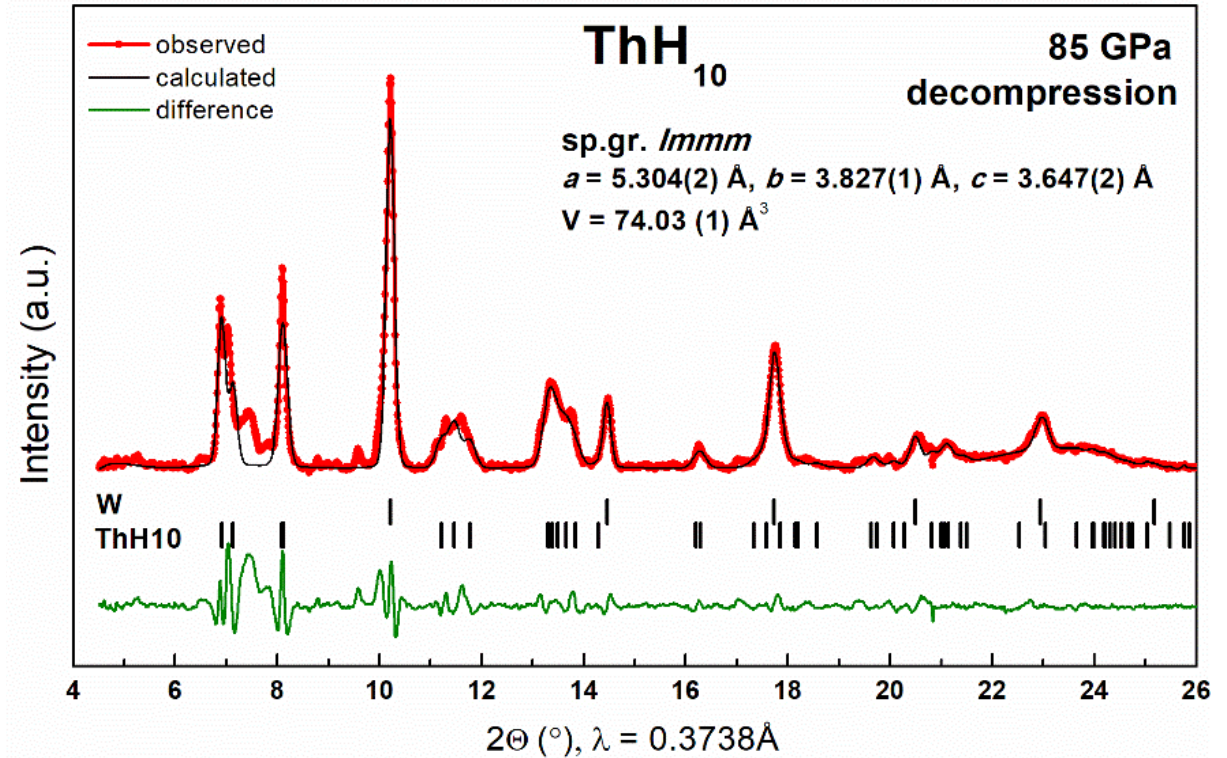
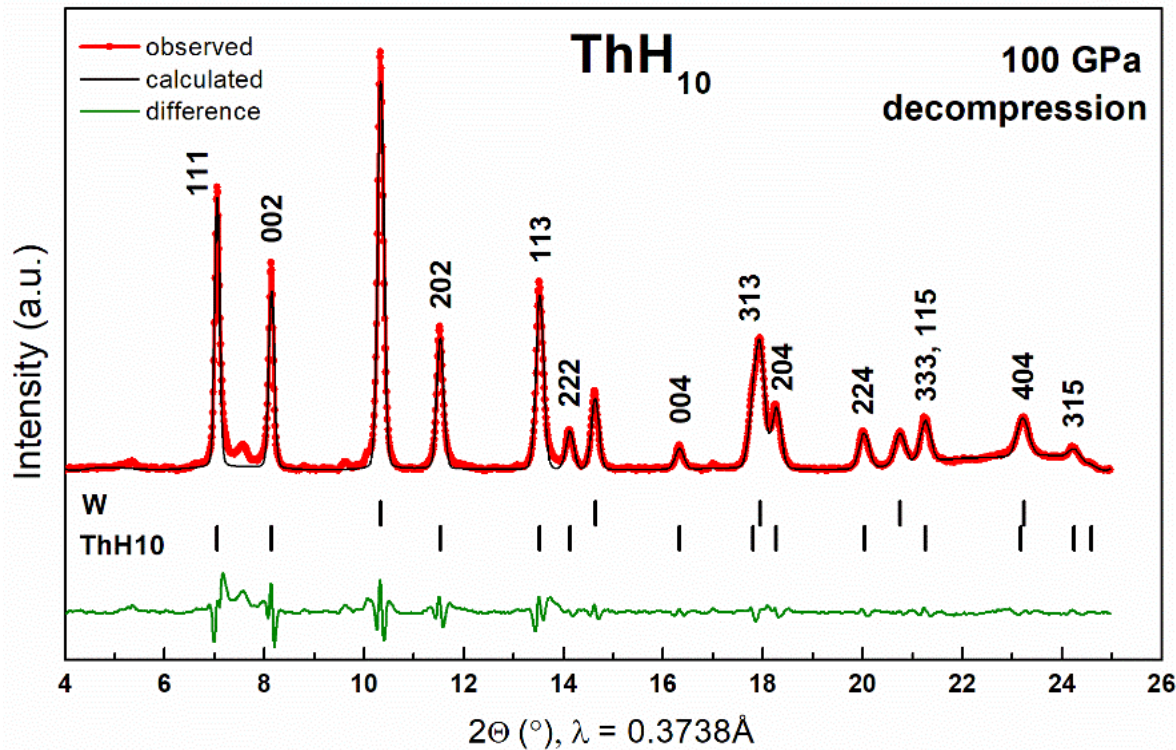
183 GPa, 1800 K



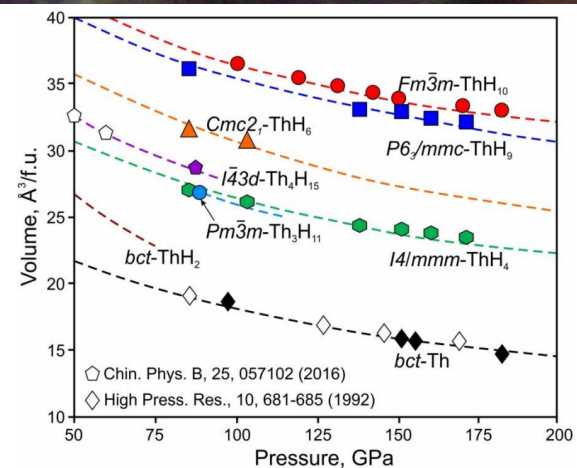
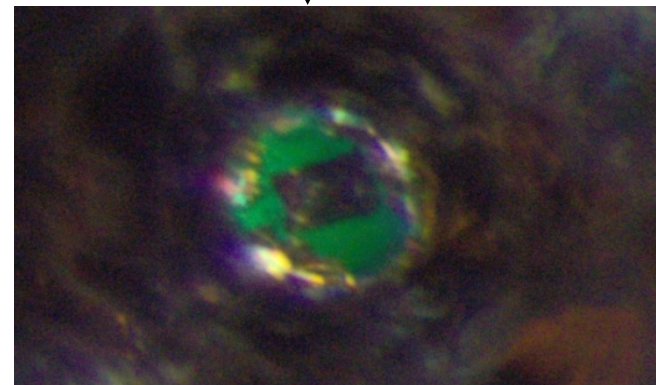
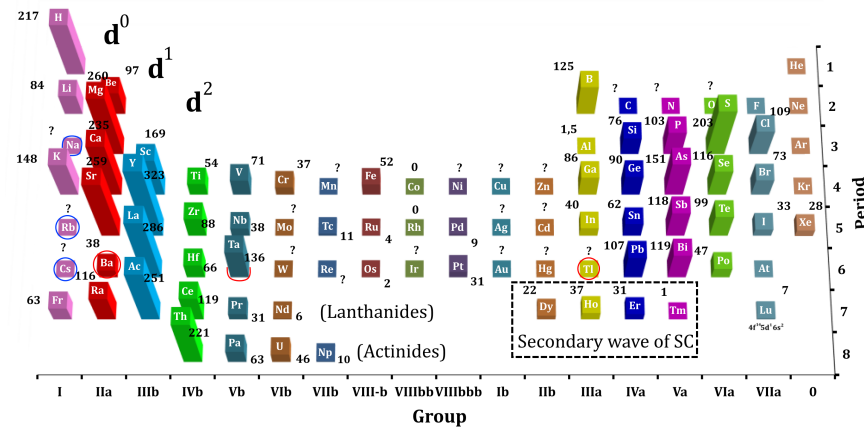
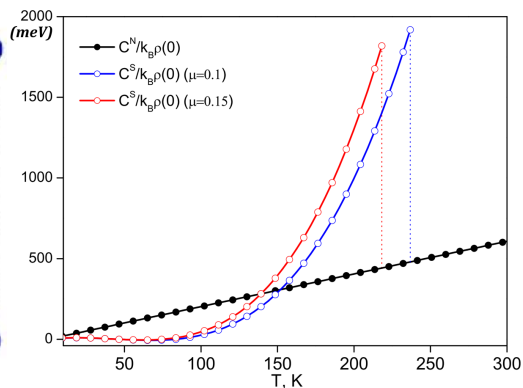
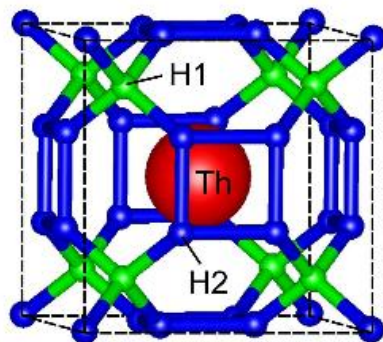
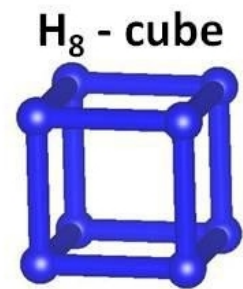
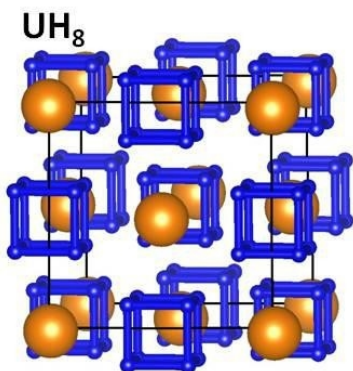
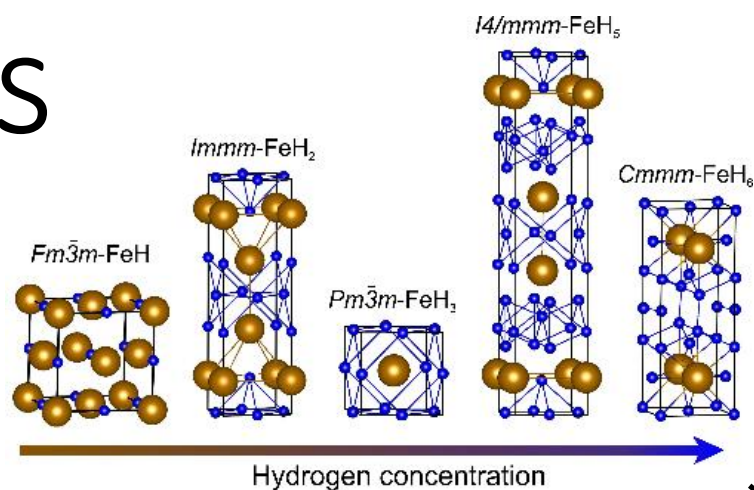
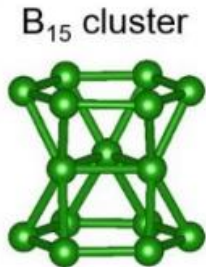
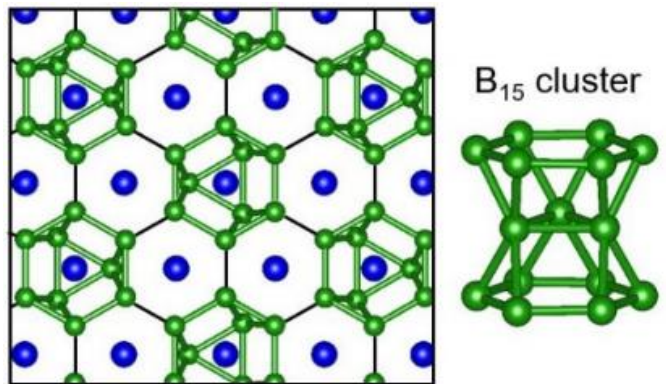


# Synthesis of ThH<sub>10</sub>

Decompression of ThH<sub>10</sub> down to 80 GPa leads to orthorhombic distortion



# Conclusions





# Acknowledgements

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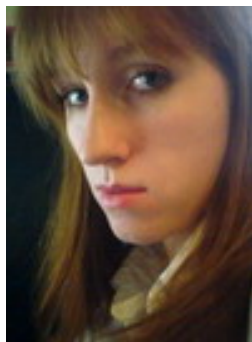
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