

# **Athmospheric Surface Treatments of Niobium**

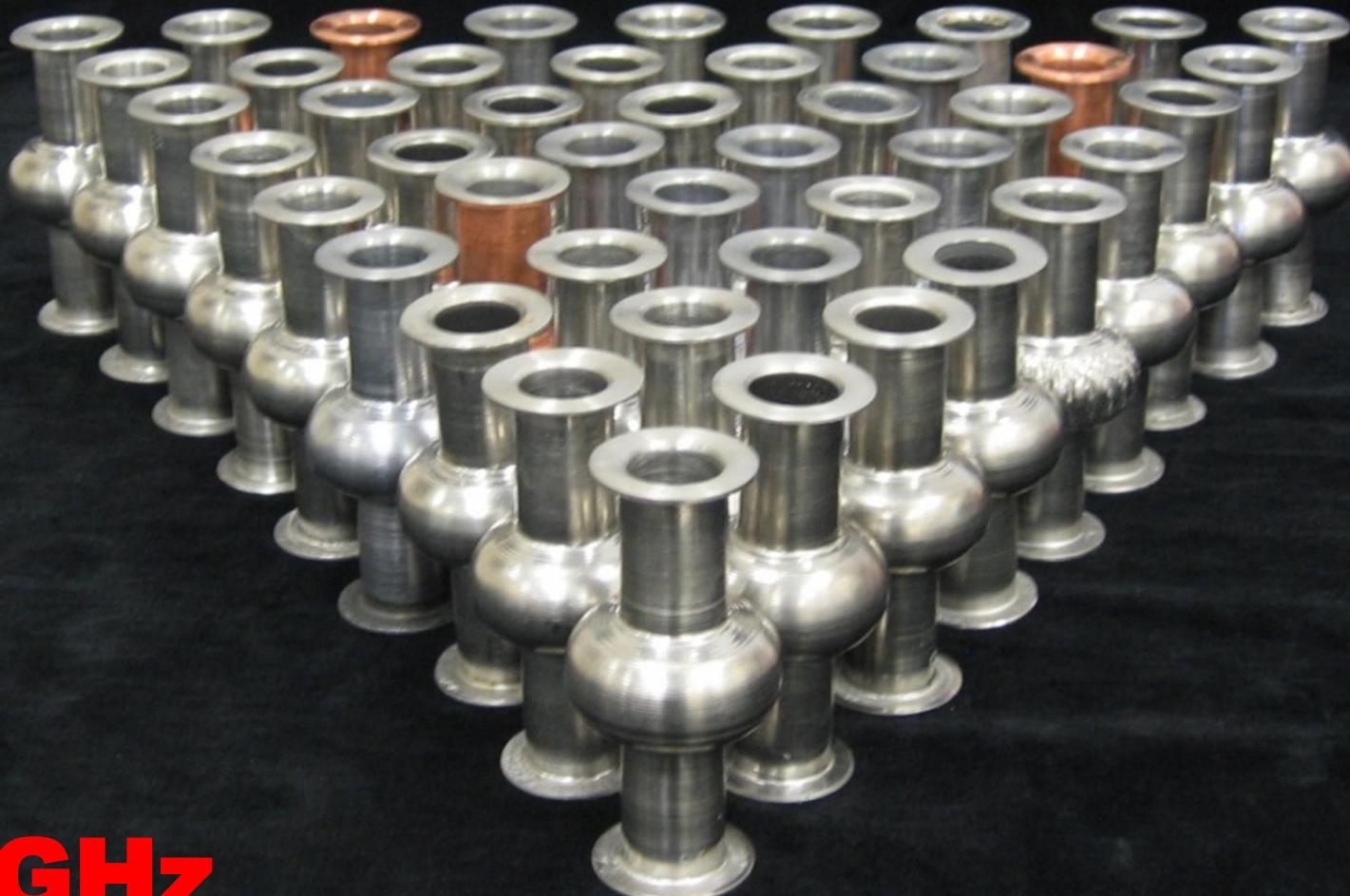
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**^ University of Padua**

**Samples or Cavities?**

**Material Study or Cavity construction?**

**Low** research budget → **Large** amount of cavities



**6 GHz**

## Samples

## Pillbox cavities, etc

## Real cavities

Resistive

Calorimetric methods

6 GHz cavities

Inductive

$R_s$  Differential  
measurements

1,5 /1,3 GHz monocells

$H_{c1}$  Measurement

Microstrip Resonators

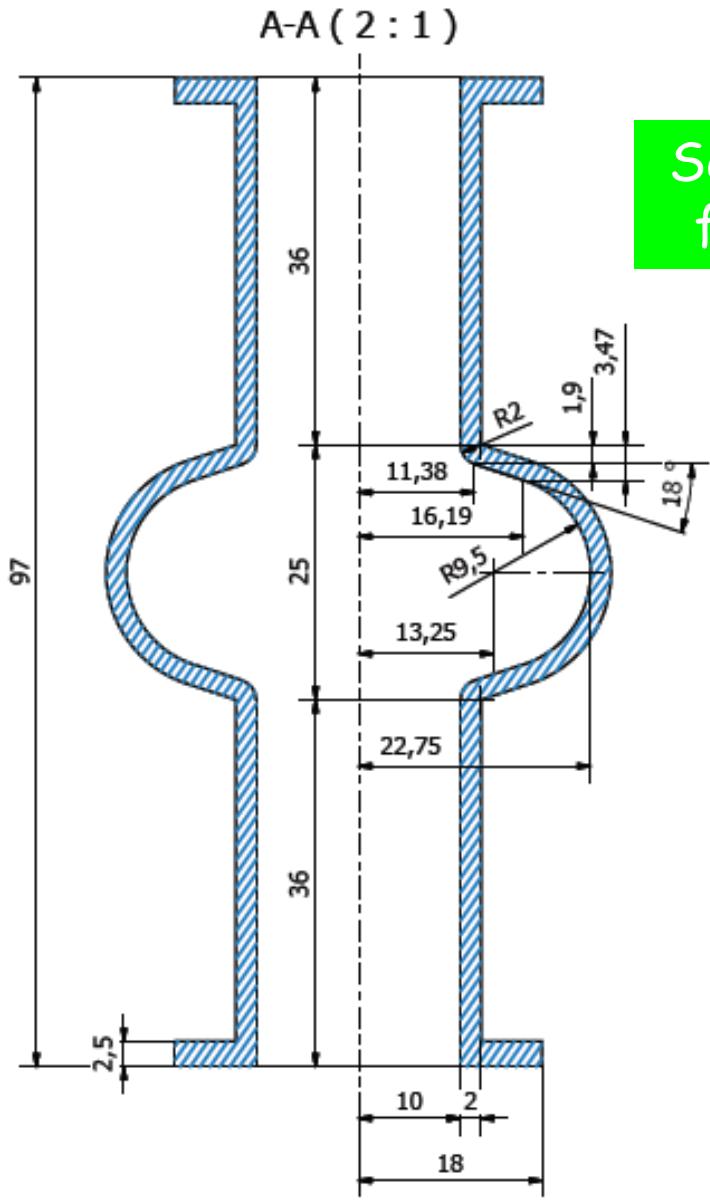
1,3 GHz 3-cell cavity

1,3 GHz 9-cell cavities

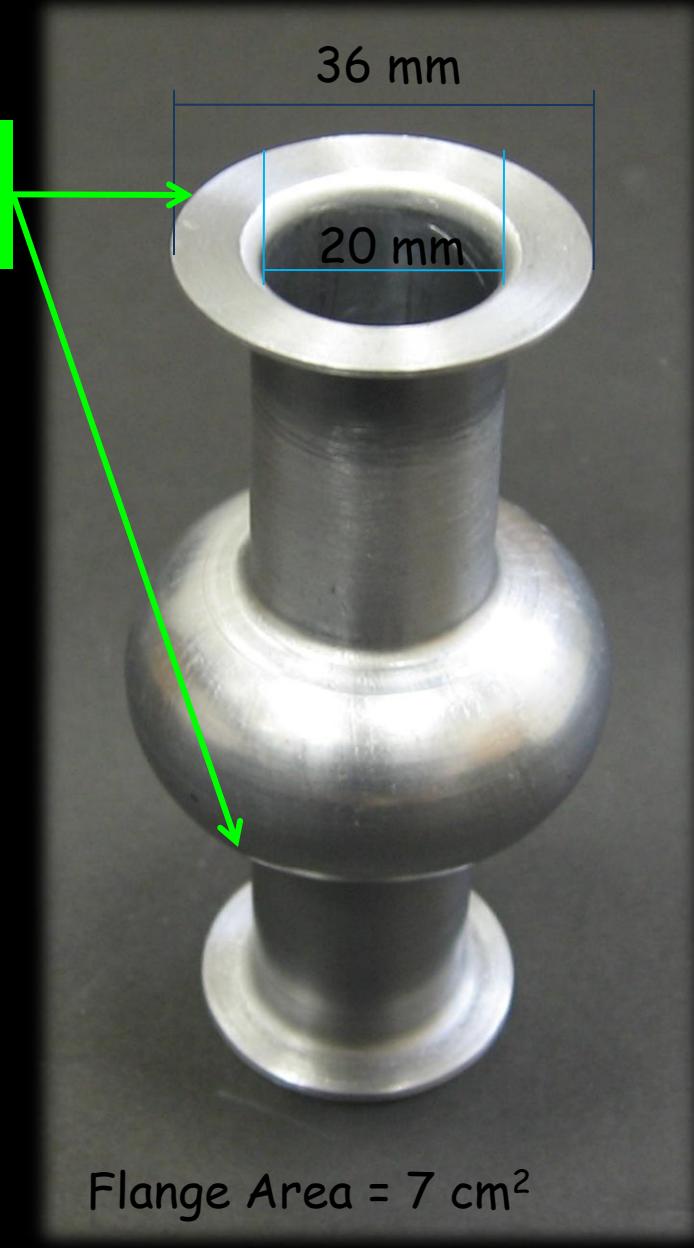
# 6 GHz CAVITY MINILAB

- No electron beam welding, neither for flanges
- Obtained by spinning from Nb scraps
  - Short fabrication time
  - Fast and low cost BCP and EP treatments
  - Inexpensive Cryogenics
- Quick RF Measurements

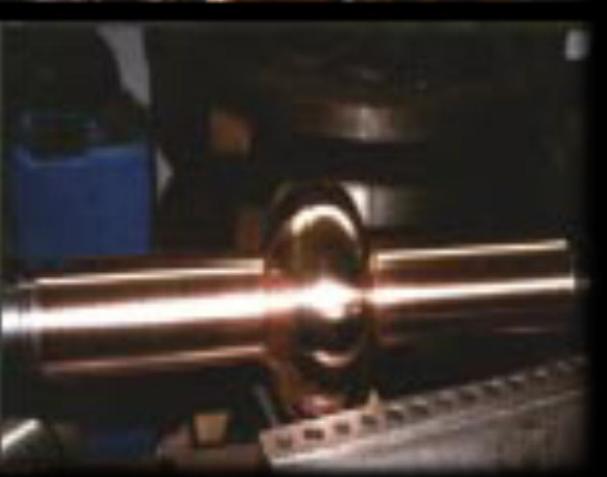
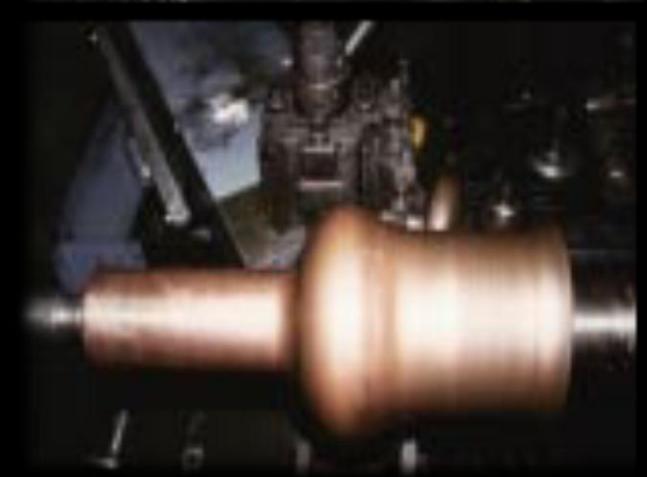
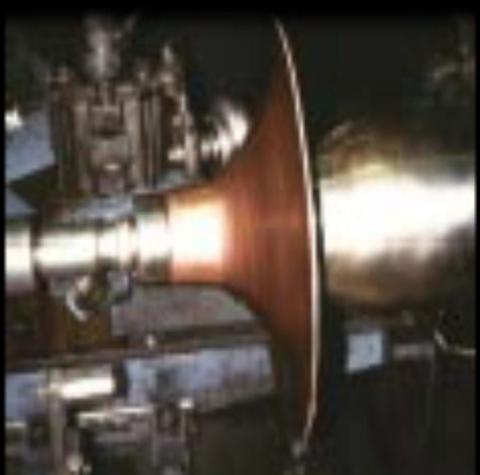
# 6 Ghz Cavity Geometry



Seamless  
flanges



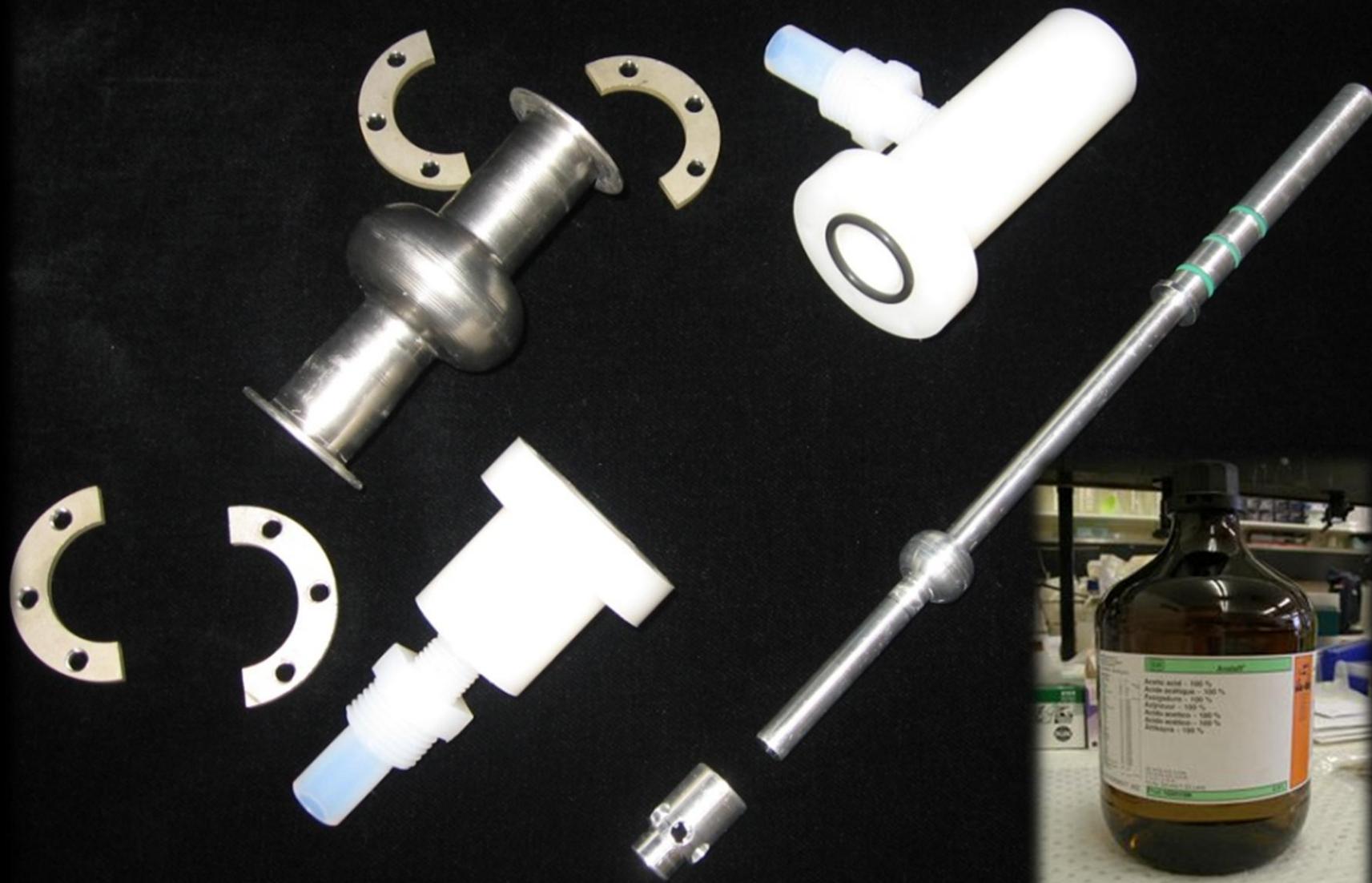
Flange Area = 7 cm<sup>2</sup>



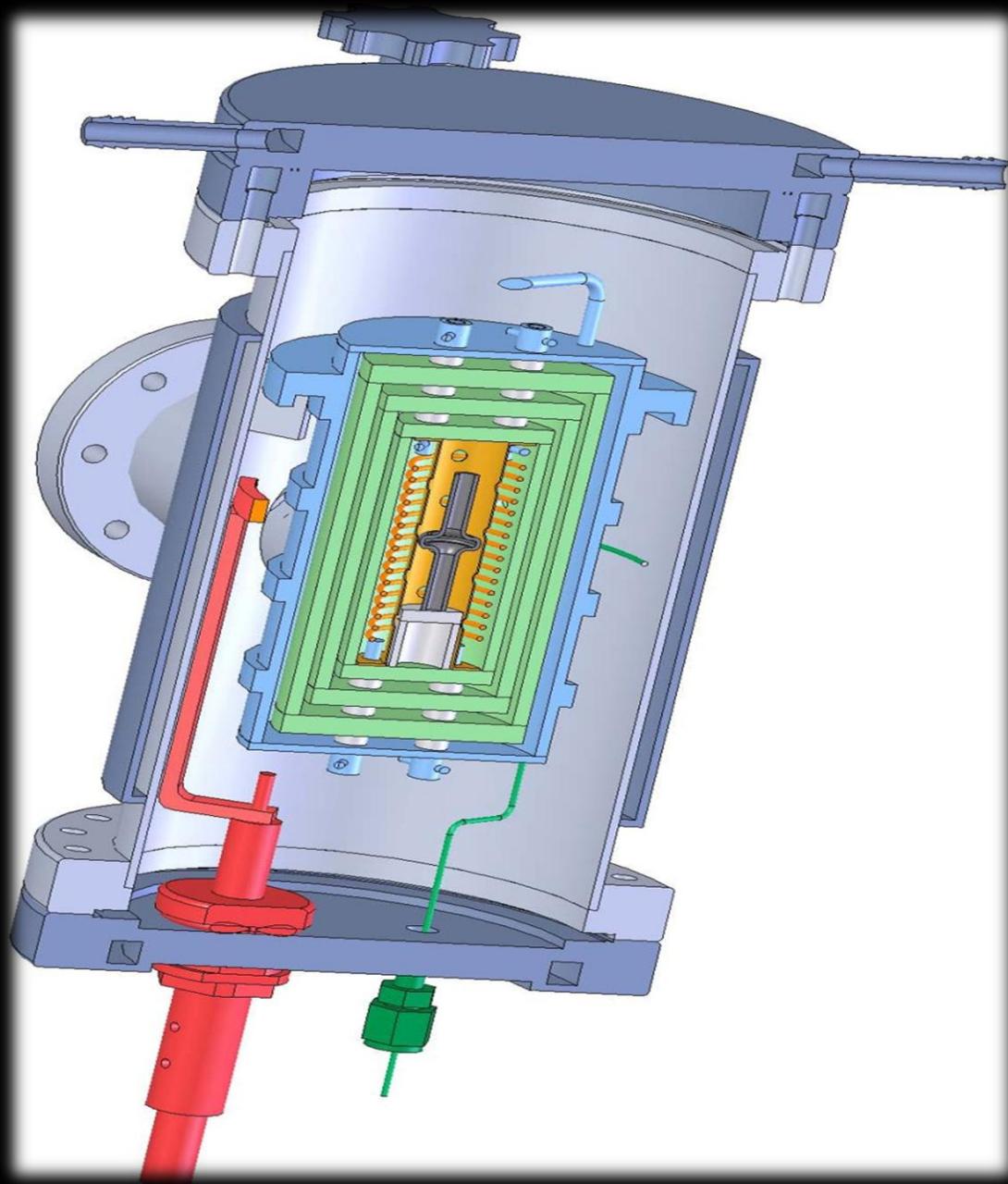
# Mini Mechanical Tumbling



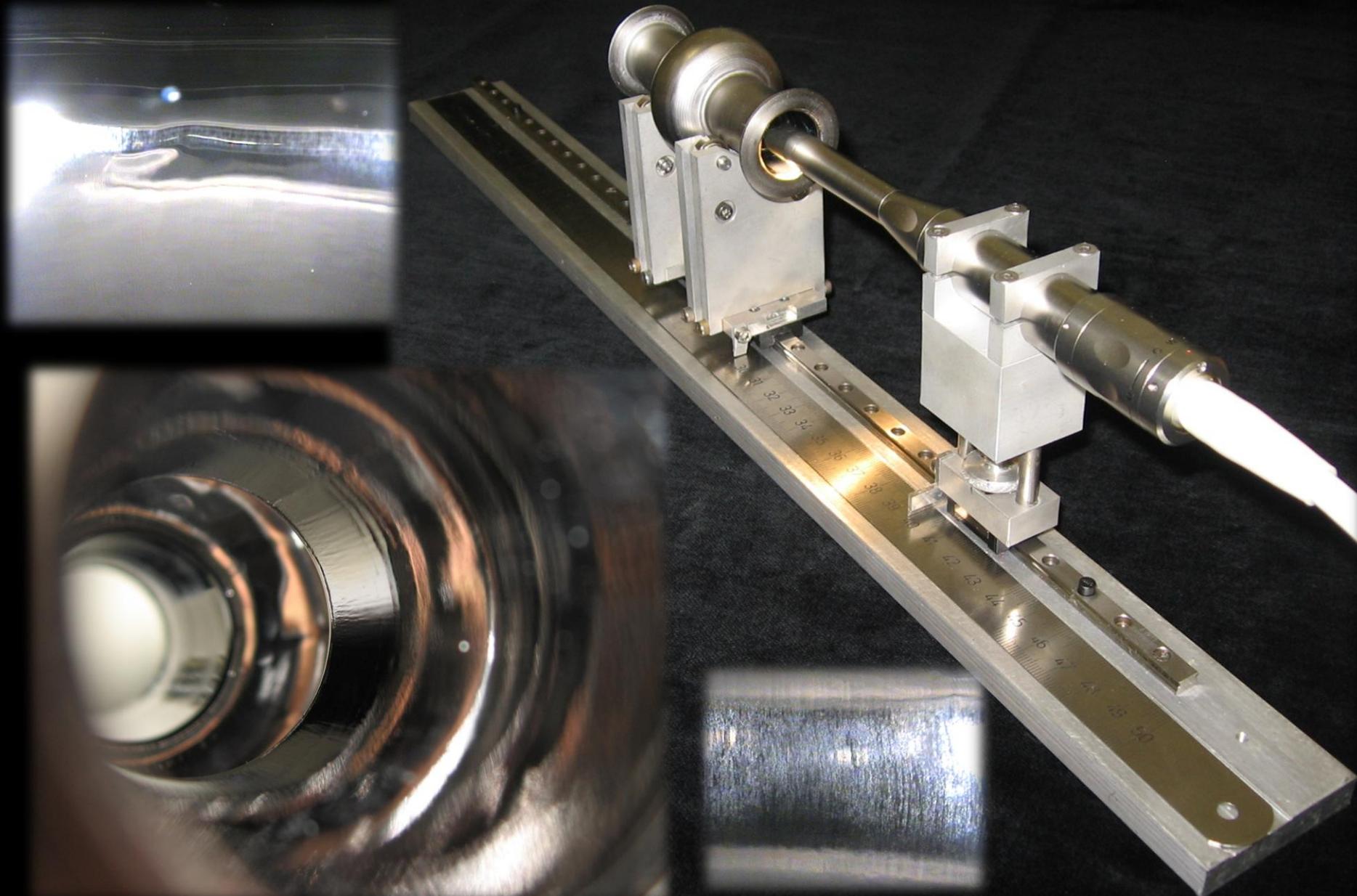
# Mini EP



# 6 GHz CAVITY MINI-furnace



# 6 GHz CAVITY MINI-Camera



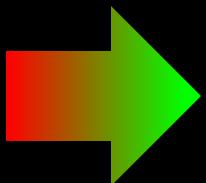
Ready for the RF  
measurement



6 GHz CAVITY: MINI-Kapton gasket

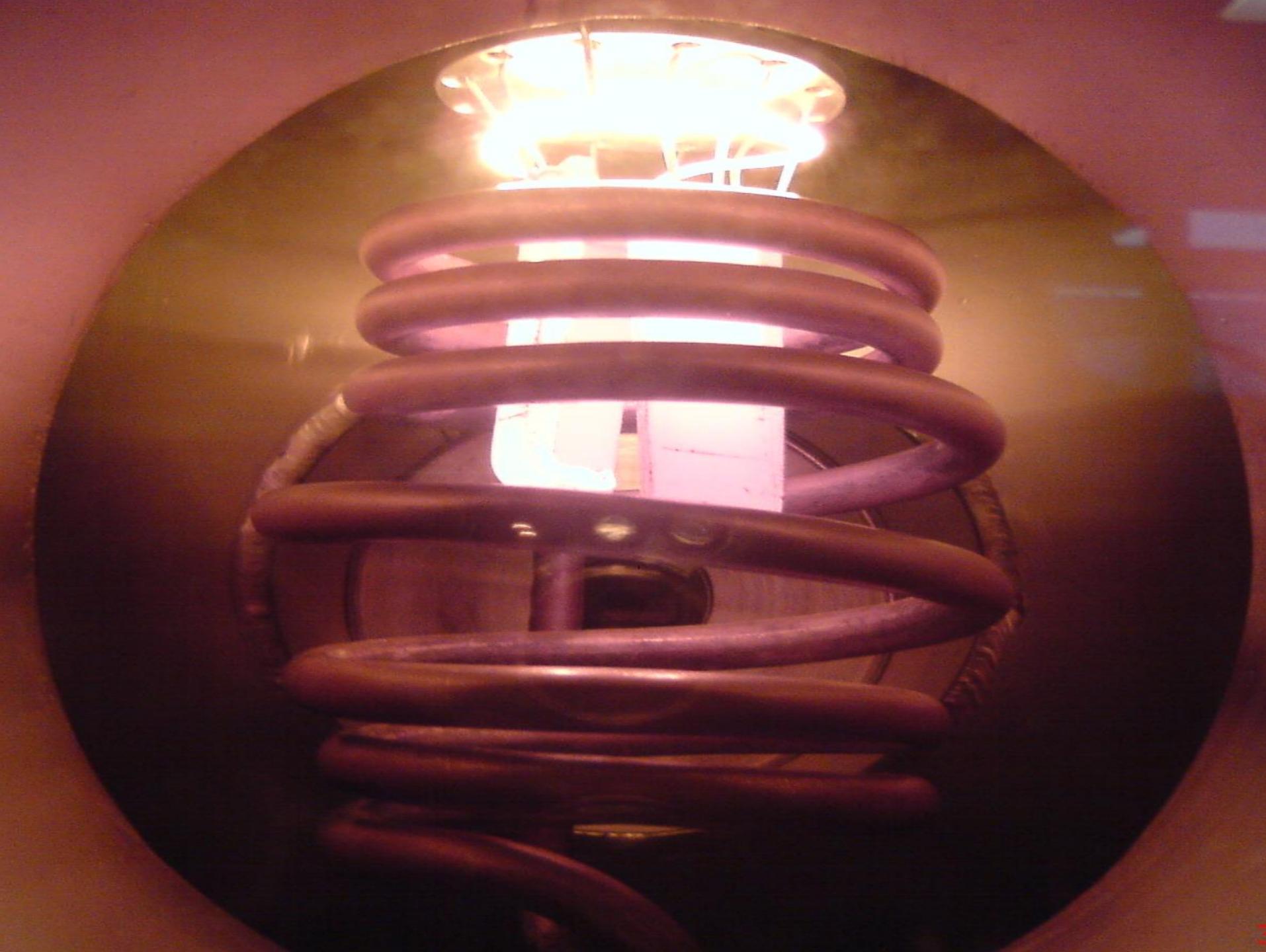


# Quick RF Measurements



# **High Temperature Rapid Metathesis**

## **(Nitriding in Mushy State)**





# The Homologous Temperature

$$\theta = \frac{T \text{ [K]}}{T_m \text{ [K]}}$$

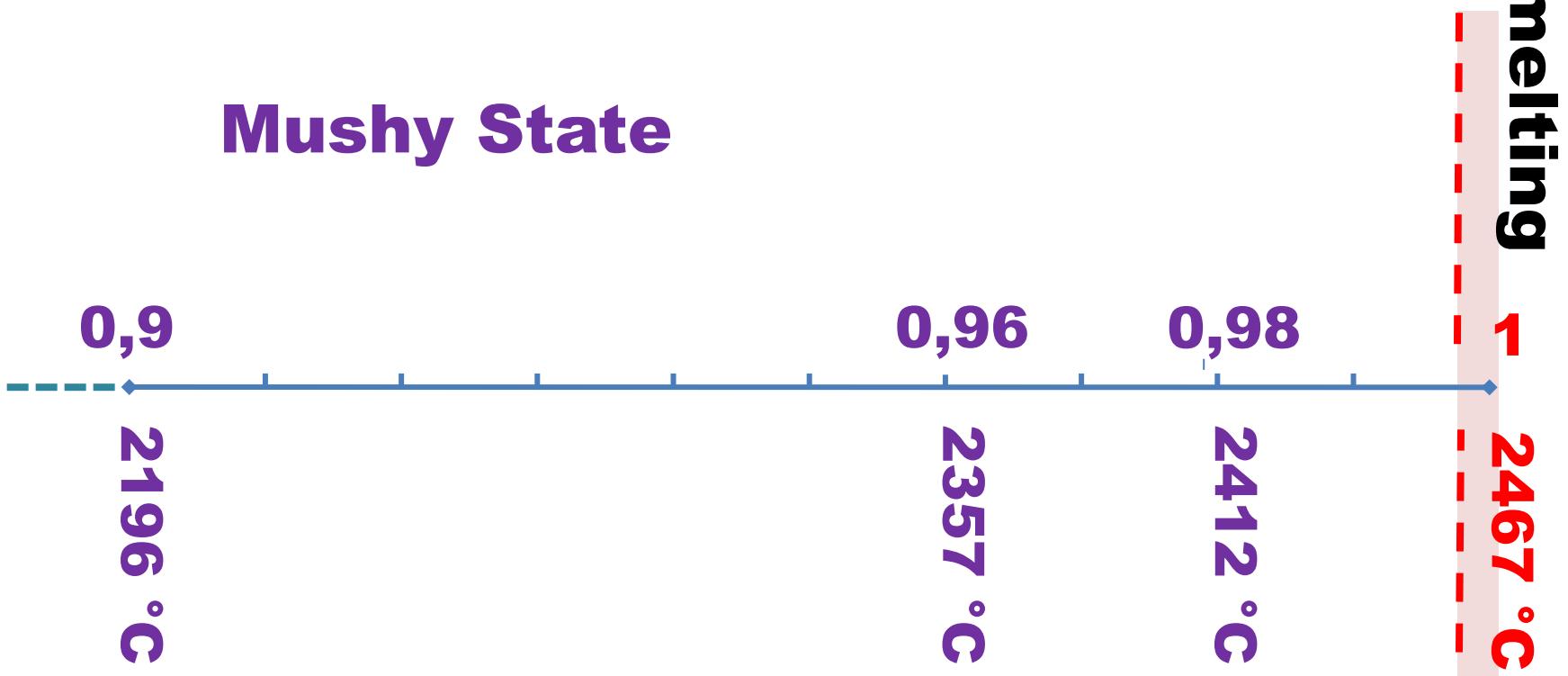
0

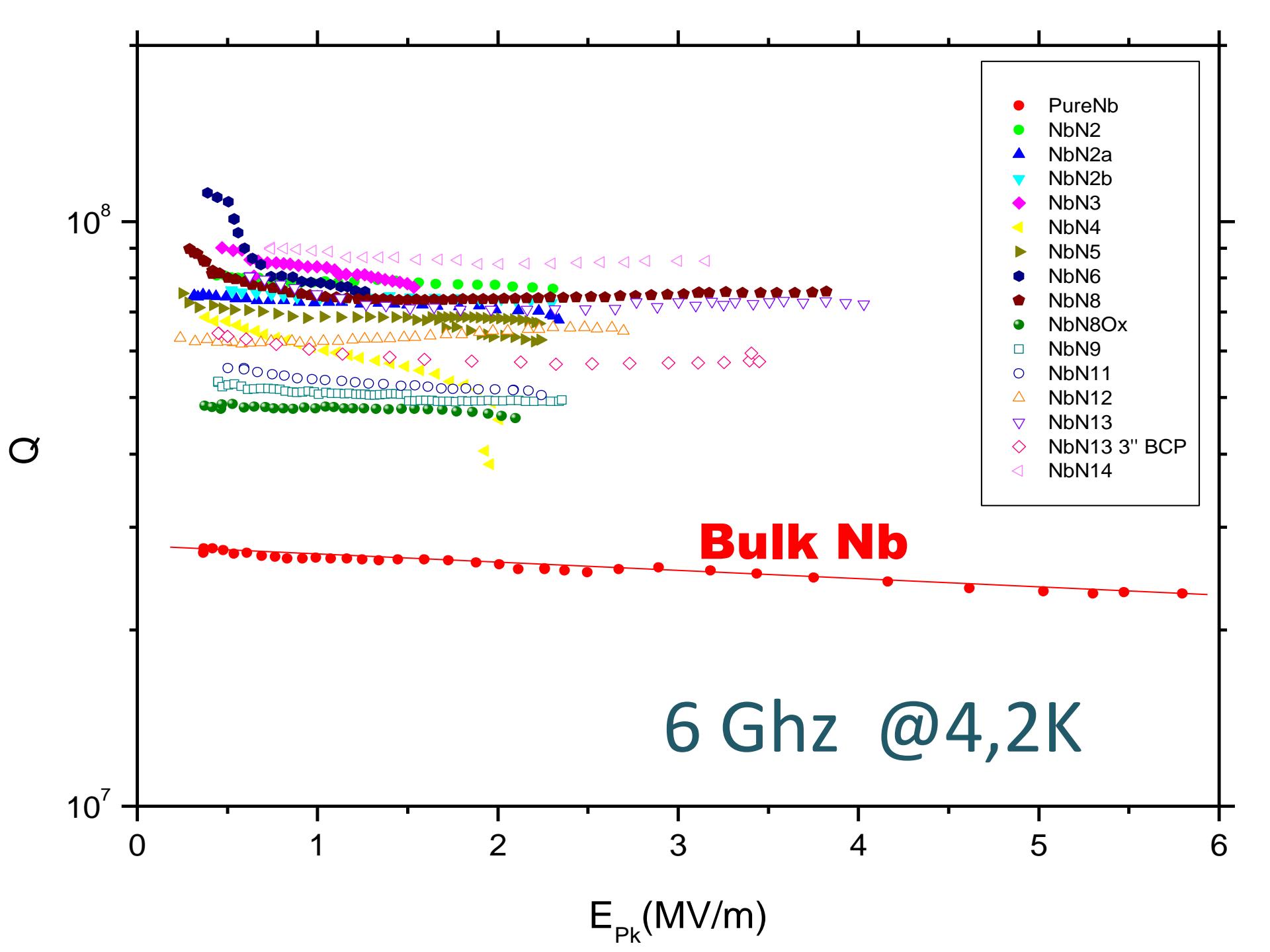
1

for Nb 2467 °C

$$\theta = \frac{T \text{ [K]}}{T_m \text{ [K]}}$$

## Mushy State





# **High Temperature Rapid Metathesis**

## **(Nitriding in Mushy State)**

**The Process is:**

- **Fast ( takes only few sec)**
- **Cheap (Vacuum Technology Free)**
- **Simple (No need of special expertise)**

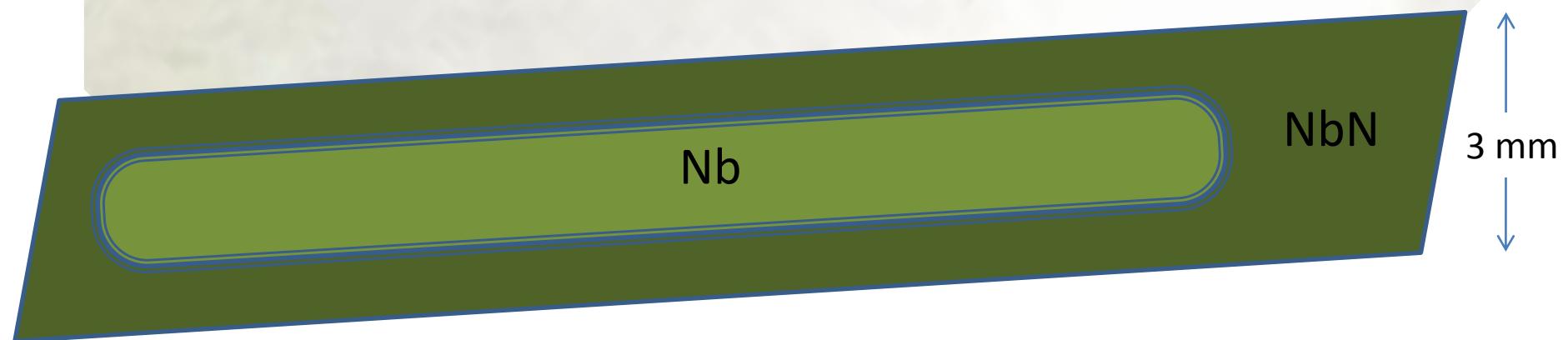
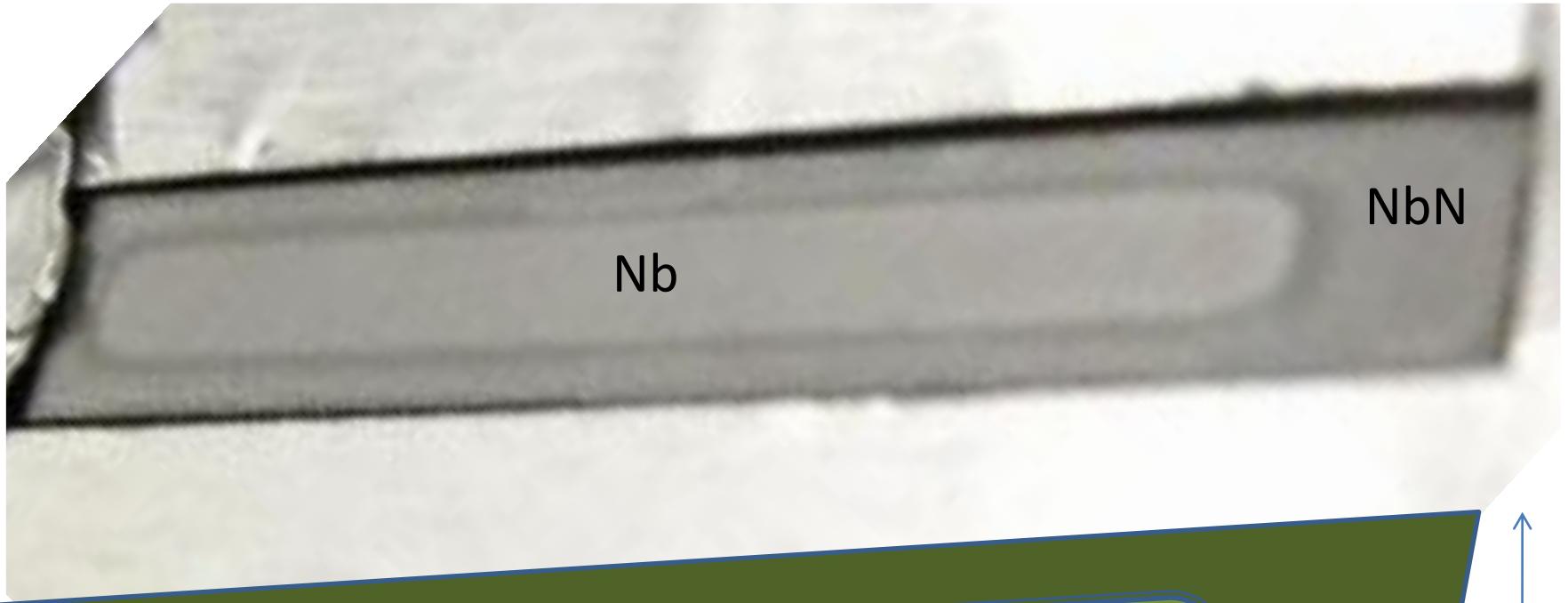
# **Premelting (also Surface melting)**

**Even below its melting point ( $T_m$ ),  
quasi-liquid films can be  
observed on crystalline surfaces**

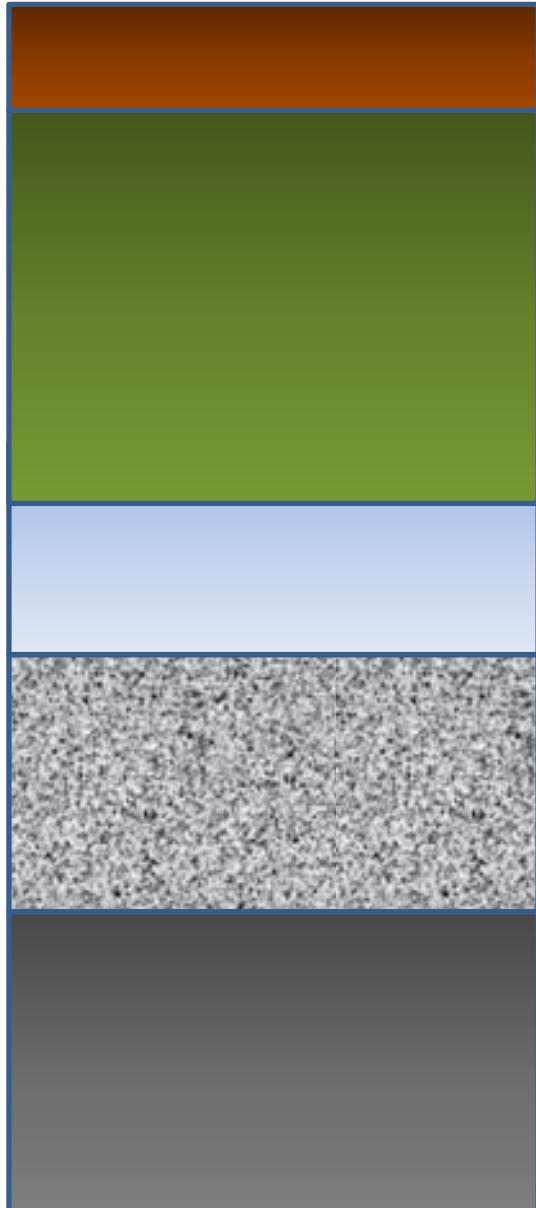
# **Premelting (also Surface melting)**

**The thickness of the quasi-liquid film is  $T$ - dependent**

**This effect is common for all crystalline materials**



- $\mathbf{Nb_5N_6; N_4N_3}$  Over-Stoichiometric
- $\delta\text{-NbN}_{1-x}$
- $\gamma\text{-Nb}_4\text{N}_{3-x}$  Under-Stoichiometric
- $\alpha\text{-Nb (N)}$  (bcc solid solution)
- **Niobium**



$\text{Nb}_5\text{N}_6$ ;  $\text{N}_4\text{N}_3$

$\delta$ - $\text{NbN}_{1-x}$ ;

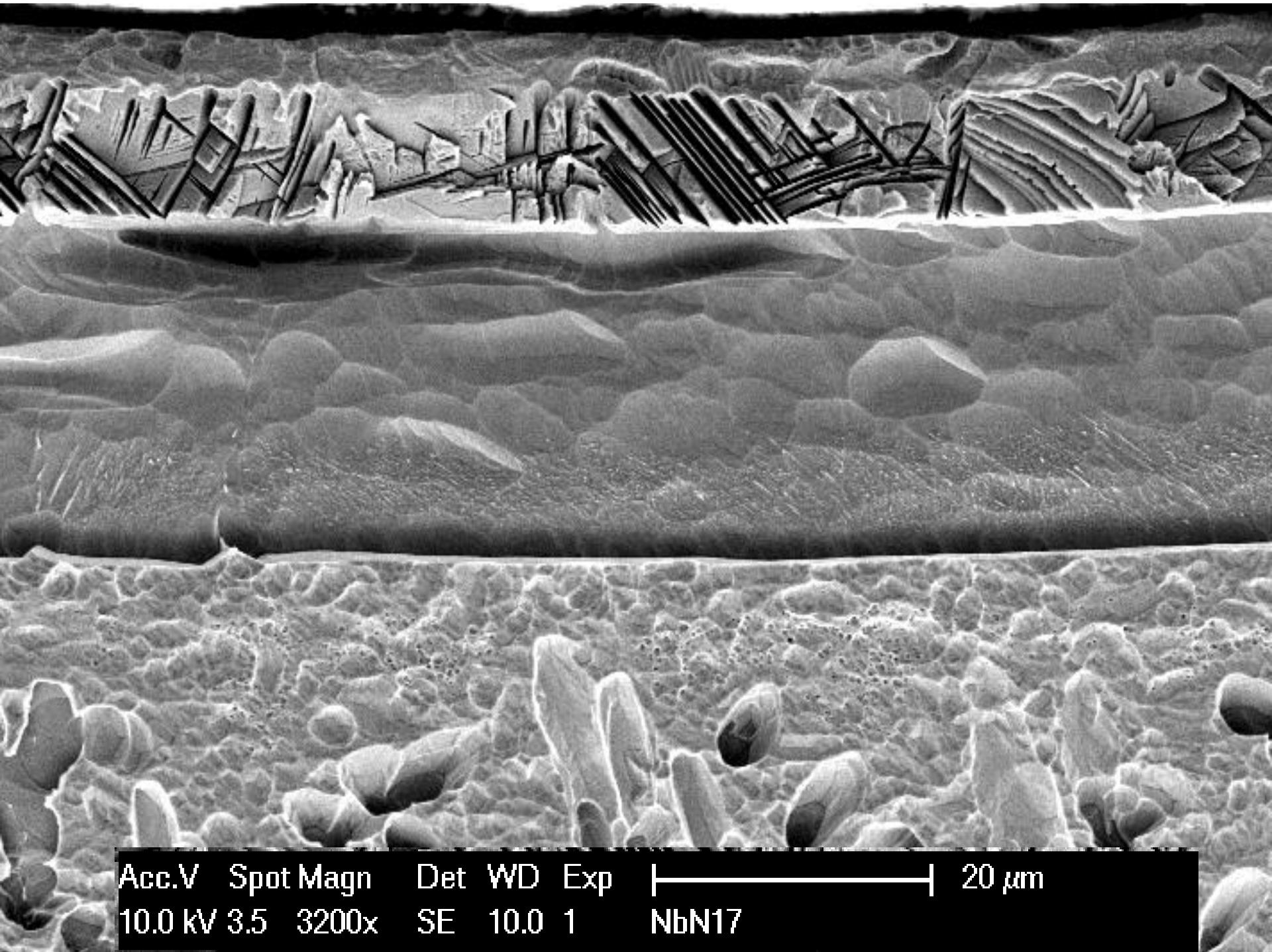
$\eta$ - $\text{NbN}$  (hexagonal);

$\delta'$ - $\text{NbN}$  (hexagonal);

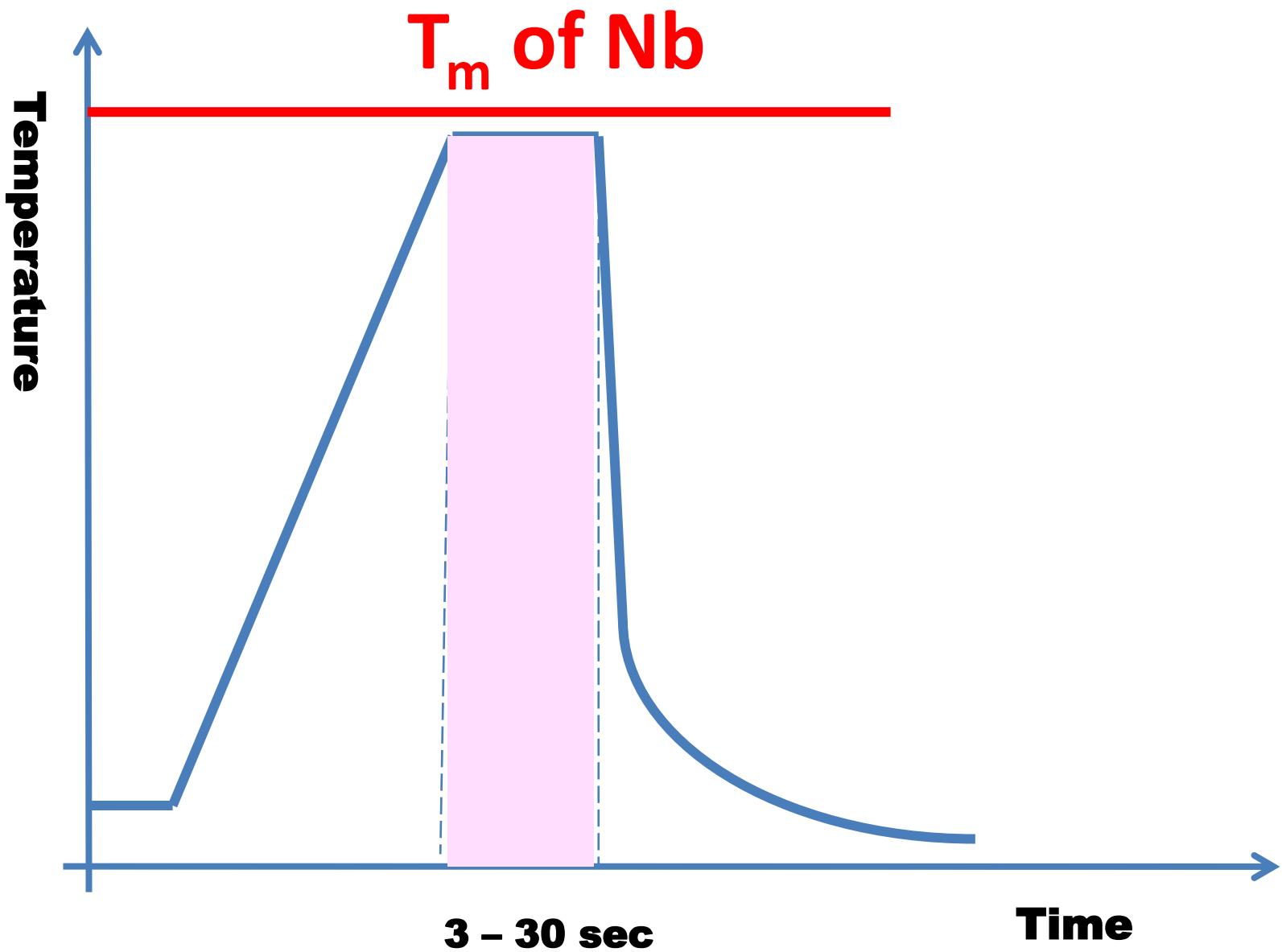
$\beta$ - $\text{Nb}_2\text{N}$  (hexagonal);  $\gamma$ - $\text{Nb}_4\text{N}_{3-x}$

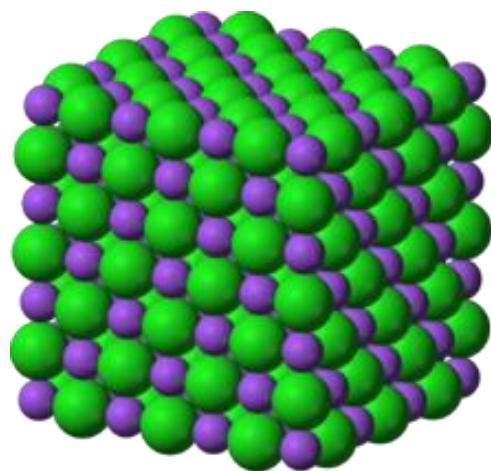
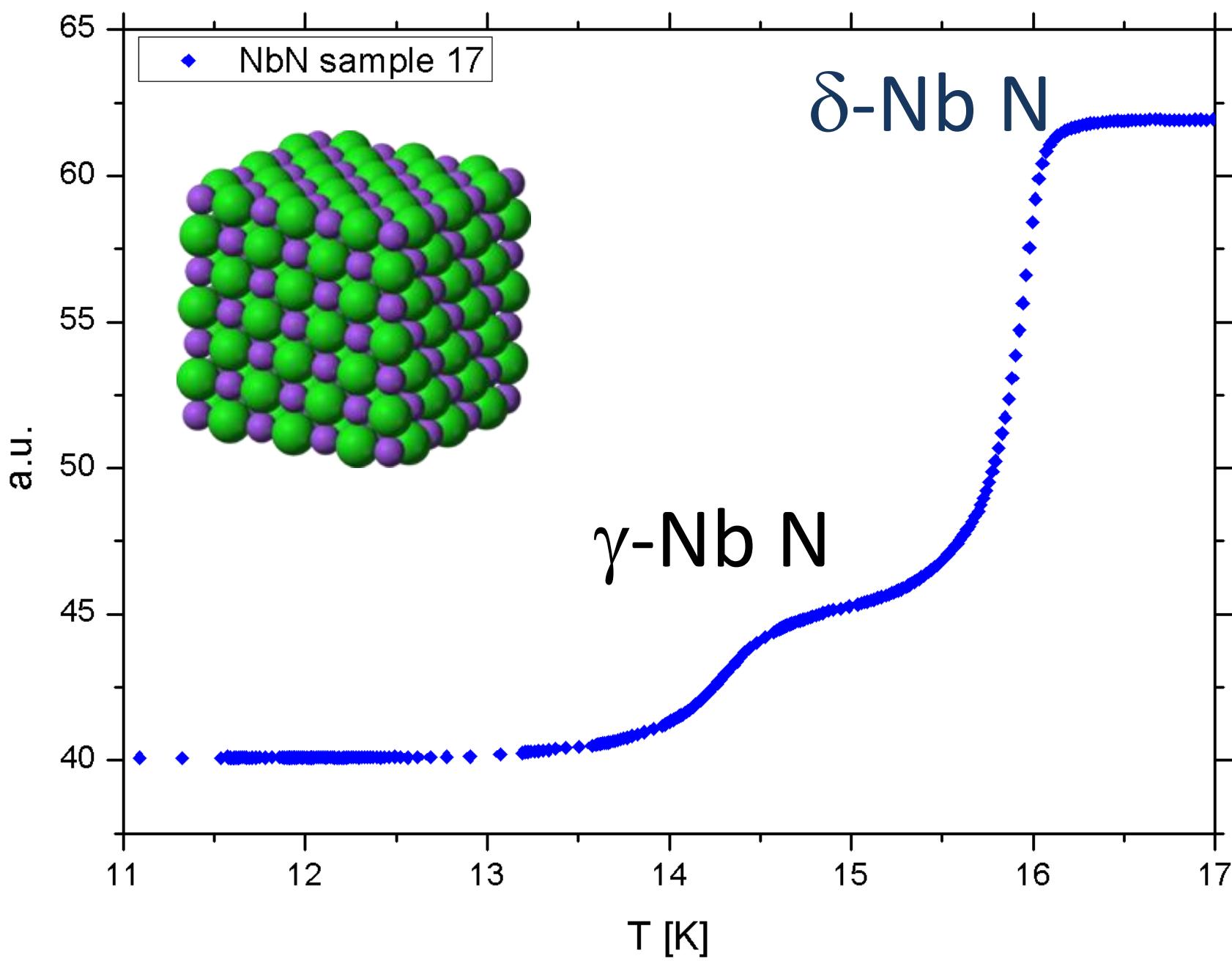
$\alpha$ - $\text{Nb}(\text{N})$  (bcc solid solution)

Niobium



Acc.V Spot Magn Det WD Exp | 20  $\mu$ m  
10.0 kV 3.5 3200x SE 10.0 1 NbN17

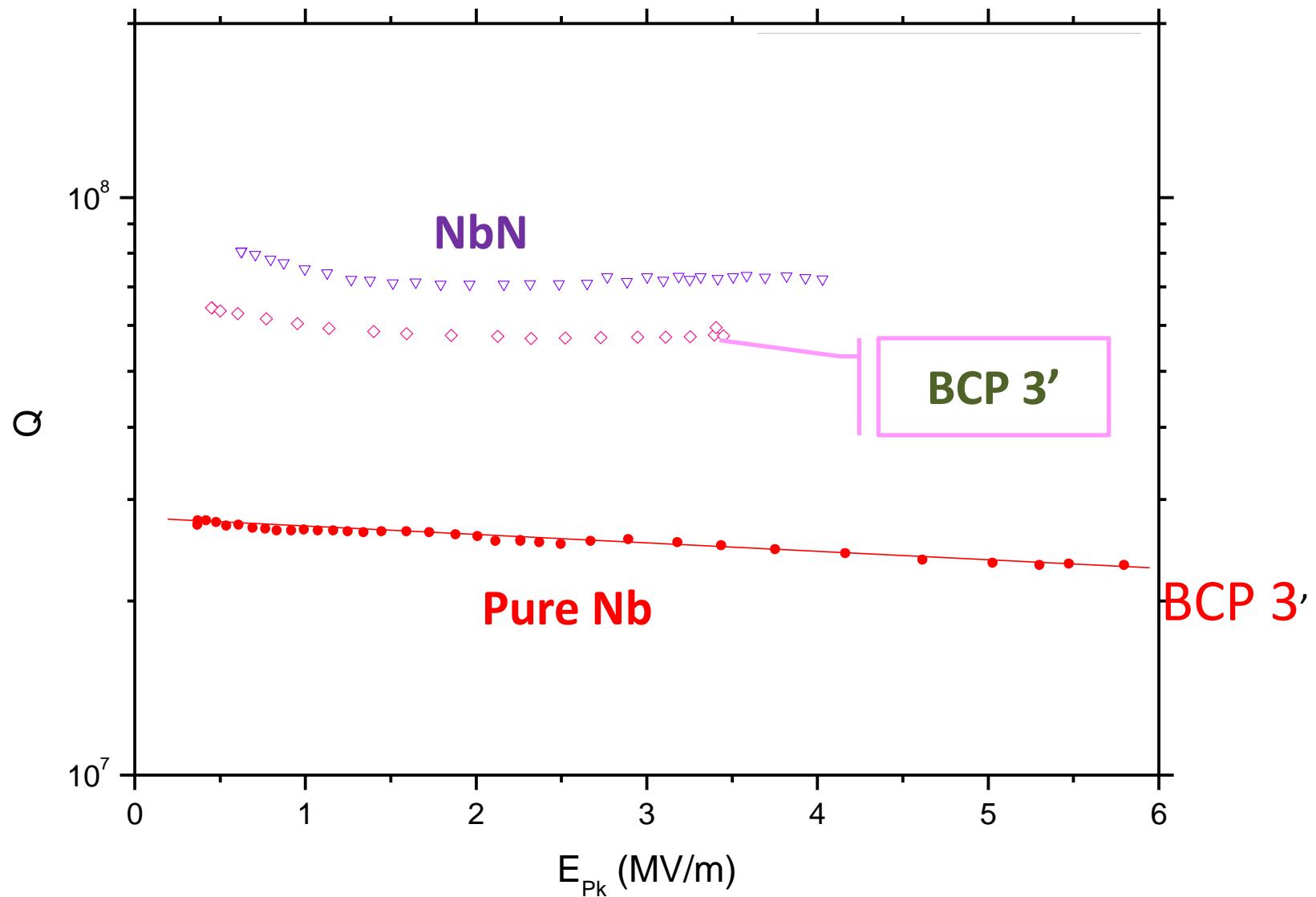


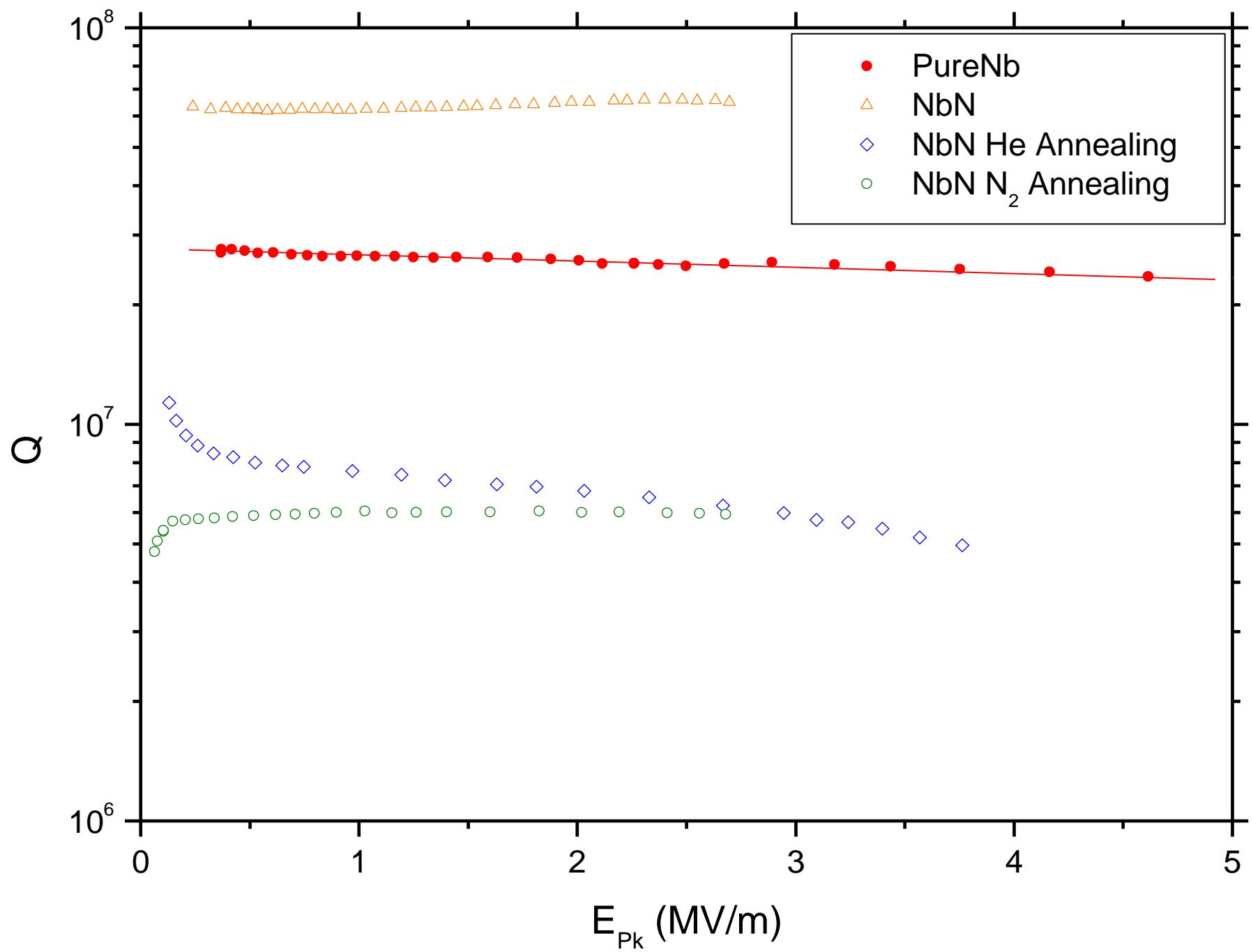


**As the  $\delta\text{-NbN} \rightarrow \gamma\text{-Nb}_4\text{N}_{3-x}$**   
**phase transformation is a**  
***very fast, quasi-continuous***  
**Transition,**

**it cannot be avoided by  
quenching**

**The good layer is  
the most  
external one**





NbN @4,2K

T = 4,2 K

Q

1E8

1E7

0,0

0,5

1,0

1,5

2,0

2,5

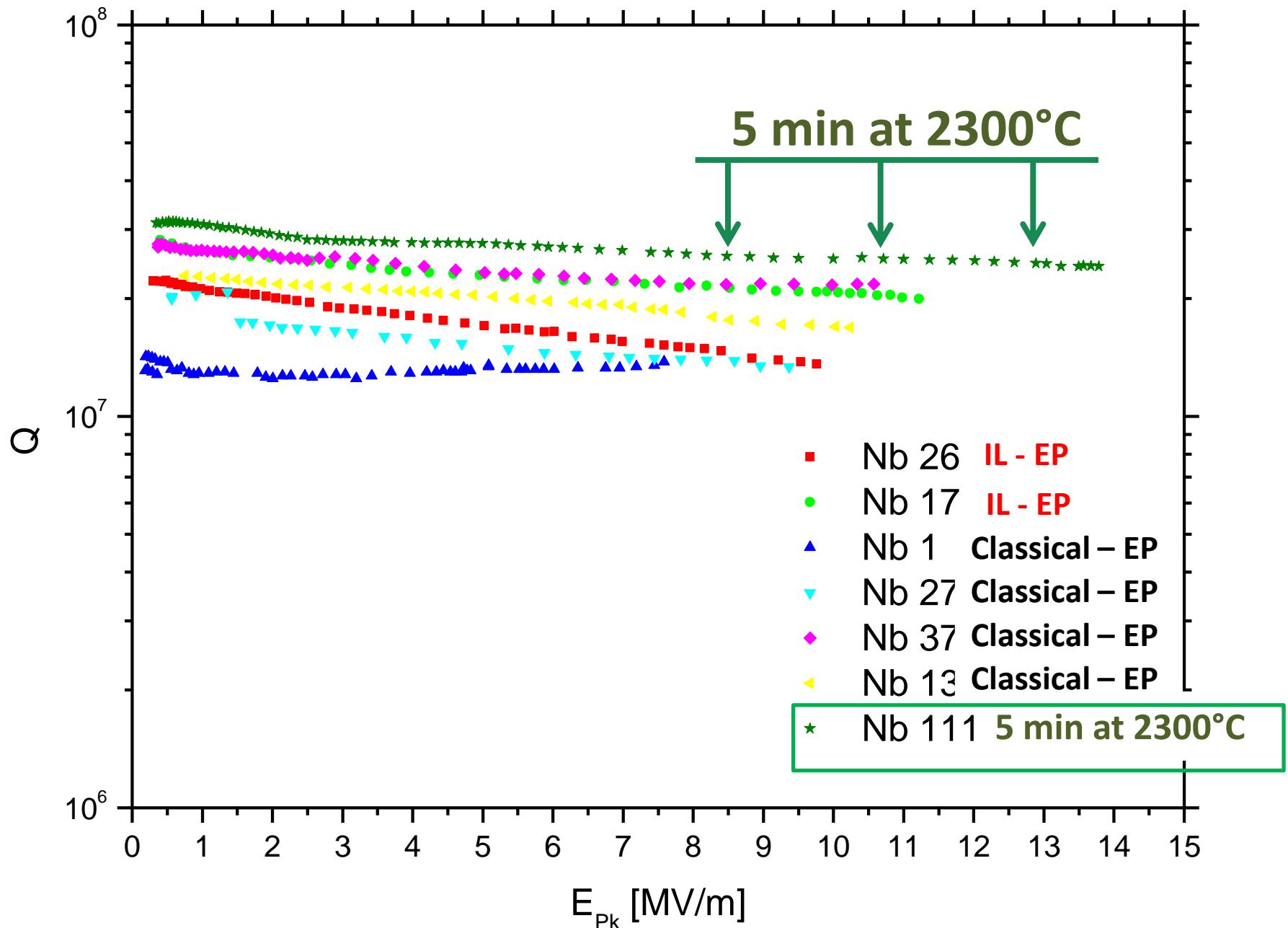
Eacc [MV/m]

- NbN 2
- NbN 2a
- NbN 2b
- NbN 3
- NbN 4
- NbN 5
- NbN 6
- NbN 8
- NbN 9

Bulk Nb

**High Temperatures for**

**Nb Purification**



# Conclusions 1

- **6 Ghz cavities allow a fast and dense statistics**

# Conclusions 2

- **No vacuum required!**
- **5min @ 2300°C seem to purify Nb**
- **Nitriding performed at Atmospheric pressure**
- **At 4,2 K the Q-value at low field increases of even a factor 5**