



Metallic Materials Group

Chemistry Department

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http://www.chimica.unito.it/do/gruppi.pl/Show?_id=cpcf

Additive manufacturing

Nanoporous metals

Thermophysical properties of advanced metallic materials

Energy storage and energy harvesting

**Energy storage from renewable
sources**

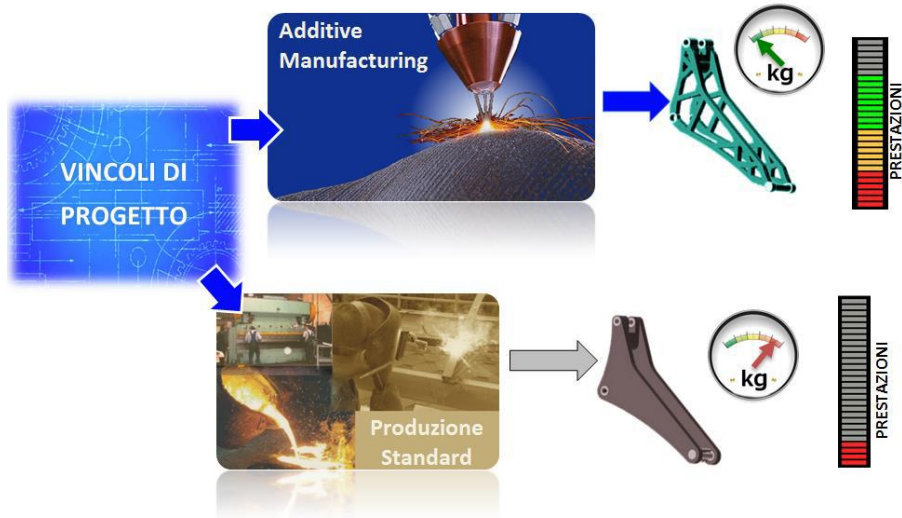
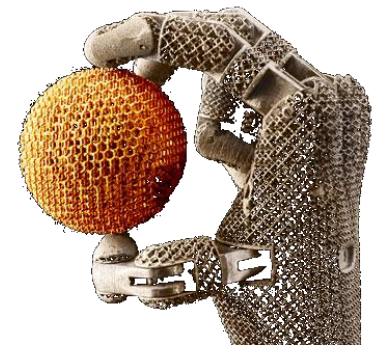
**Thermal energy harvesting:
thermoelectric materials**



Additive manufacturing

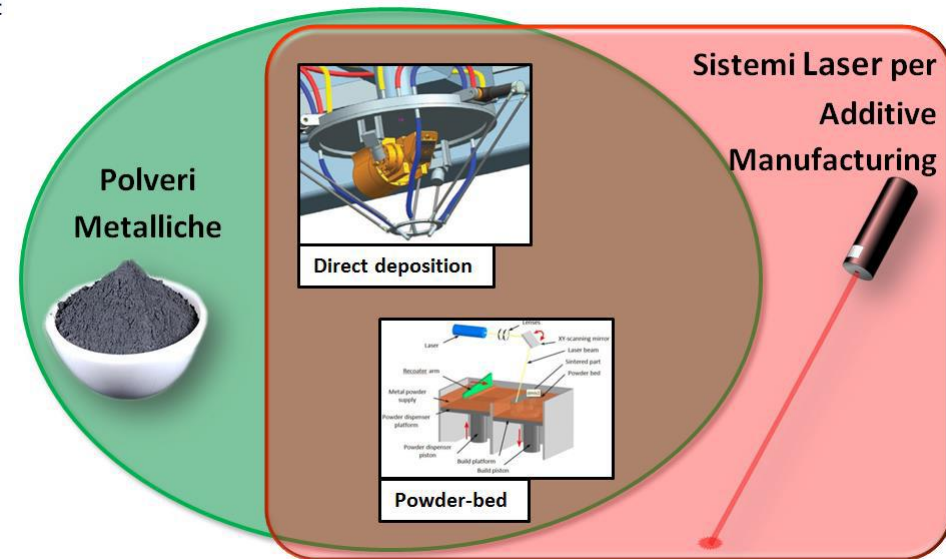
Industry 4.0: new production methods

STAMP project financed by *Regione Piemonte*



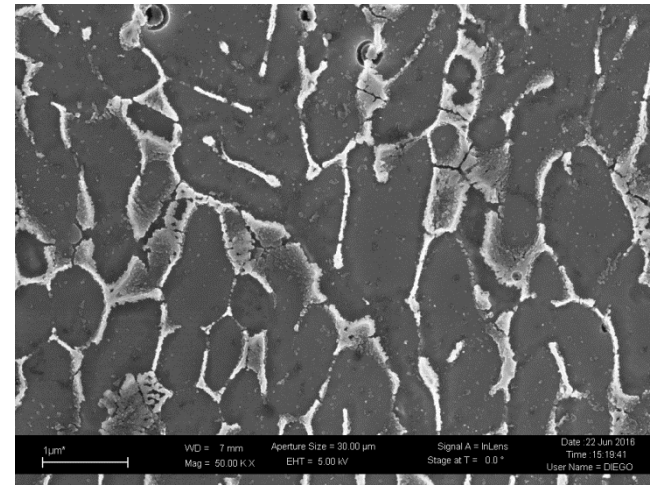
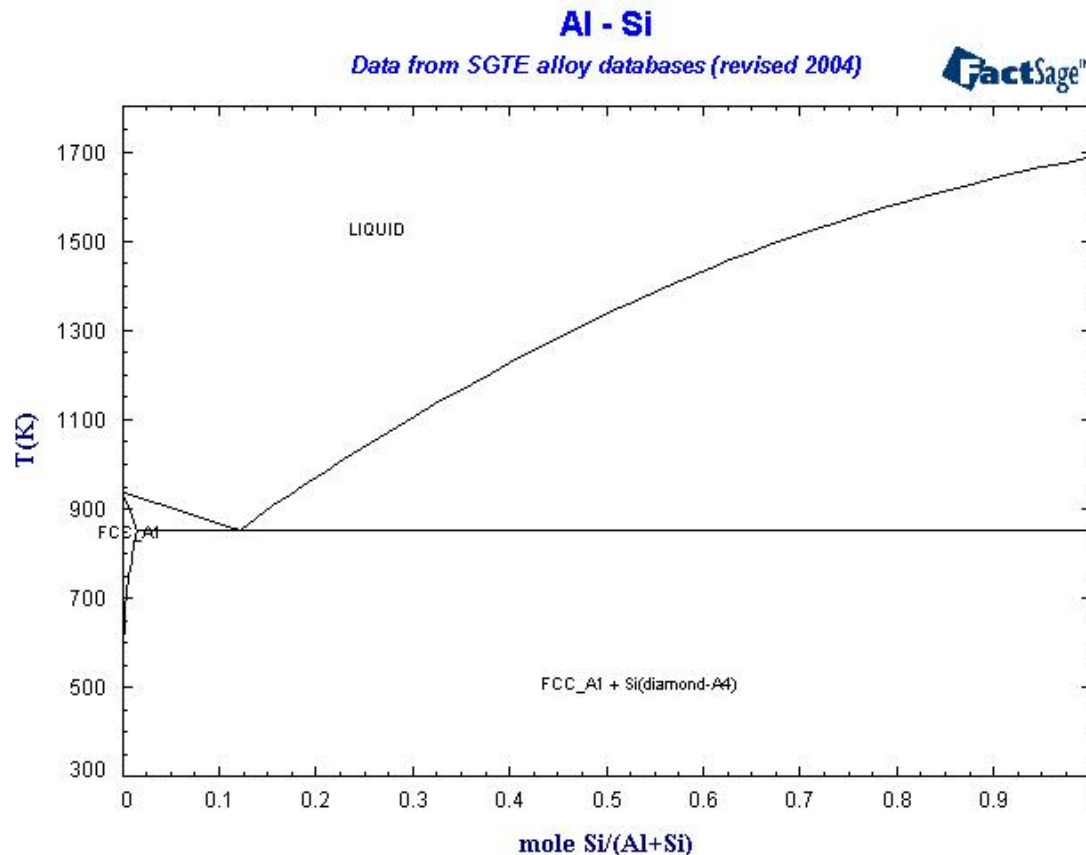
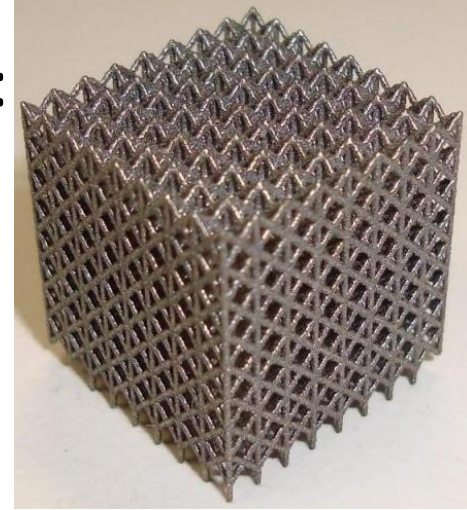
- highly customized production
- minimizing stock
- components weight reduction

Laser melting of metal powders using a CAD design



Studies on the influence of process conditions:

- Phase selection (non-equilibrium phase diagram calculations)
- Microstructures
- Mechanical properties



Advanced sensors and catalysts: nanoporous Au

VitriMetTech project , *FP7-PEOPLE-2013-ITN – Marie-Curie Action*

BINGO project financed by Compagnia di San Paolo

De-alloying of Au based alloys:

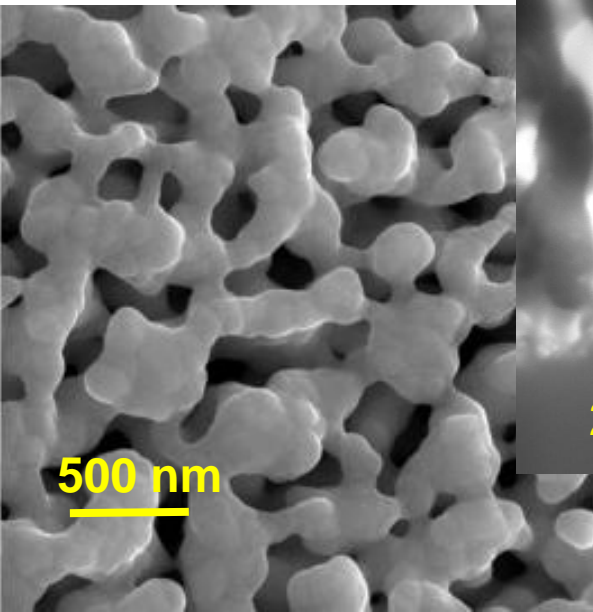
- a) Crystallines
- b) Amorphous



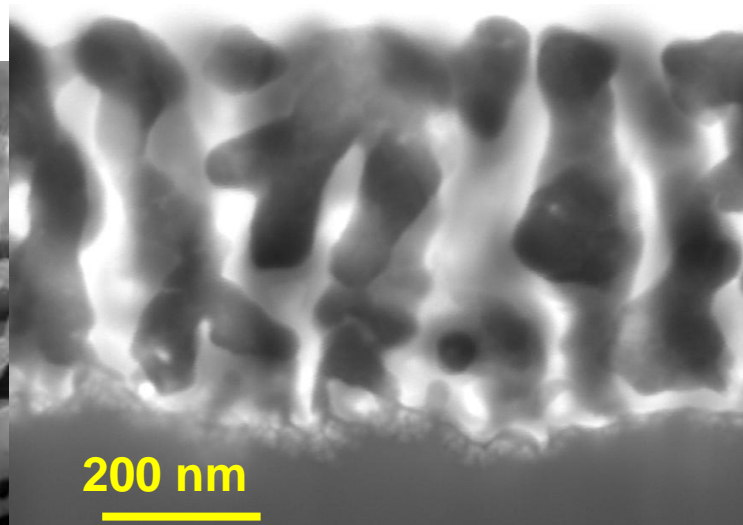
nanoporous Au (NPG)

Study of: mechanism and kinetics of de-alloying, ligament morphology

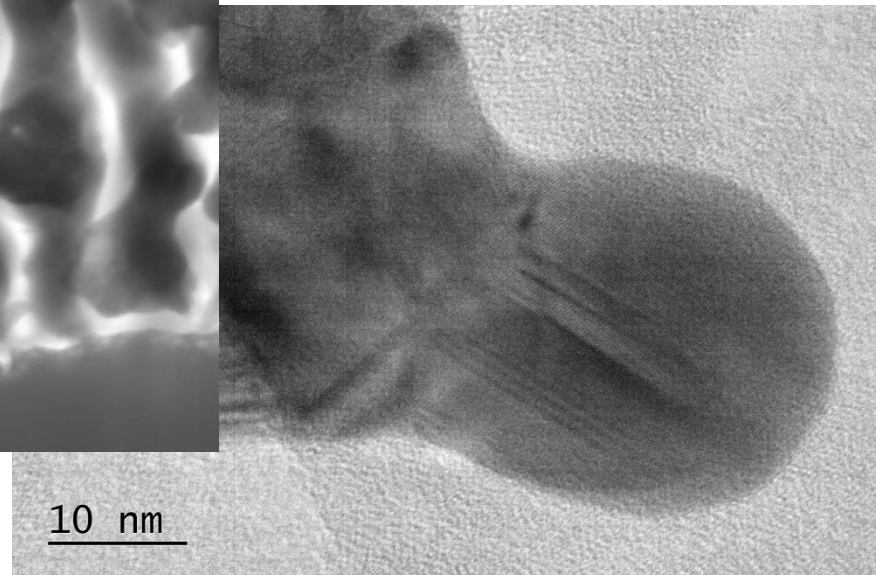
FESEM



STEM



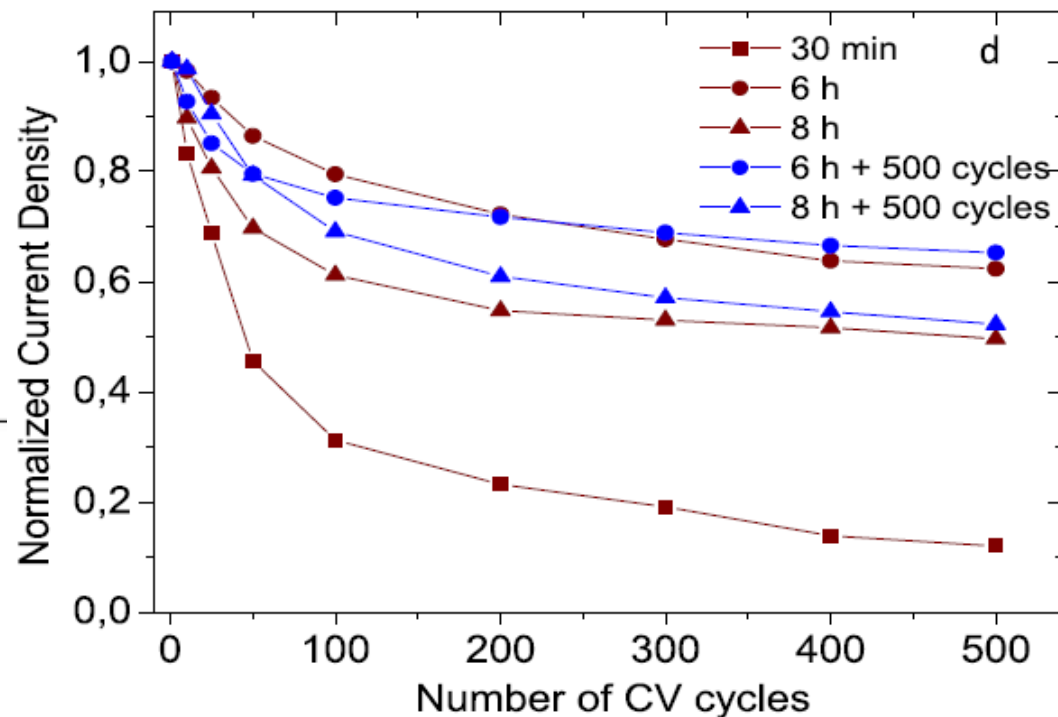
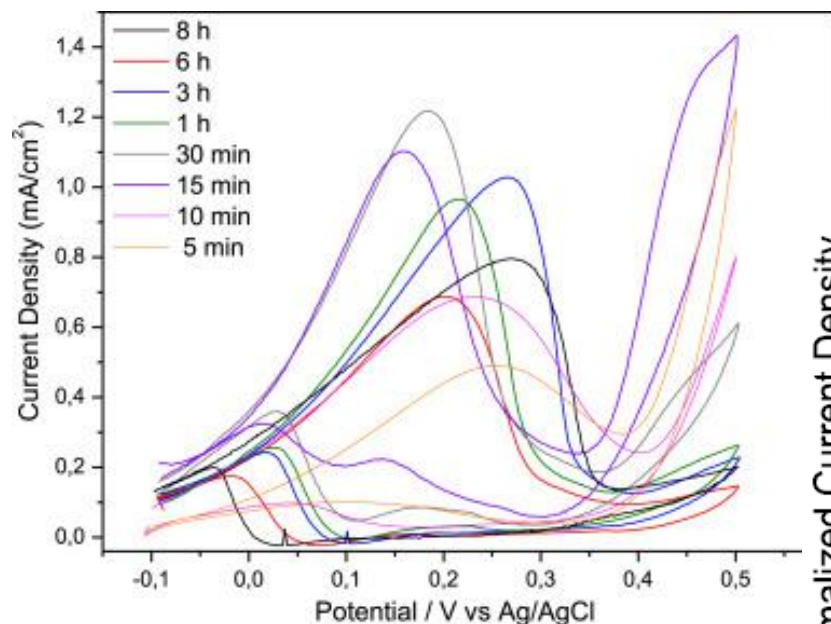
HRTEM



Electrocatalysis: methanol oxidation

Methanol Fuel Cell for energy production

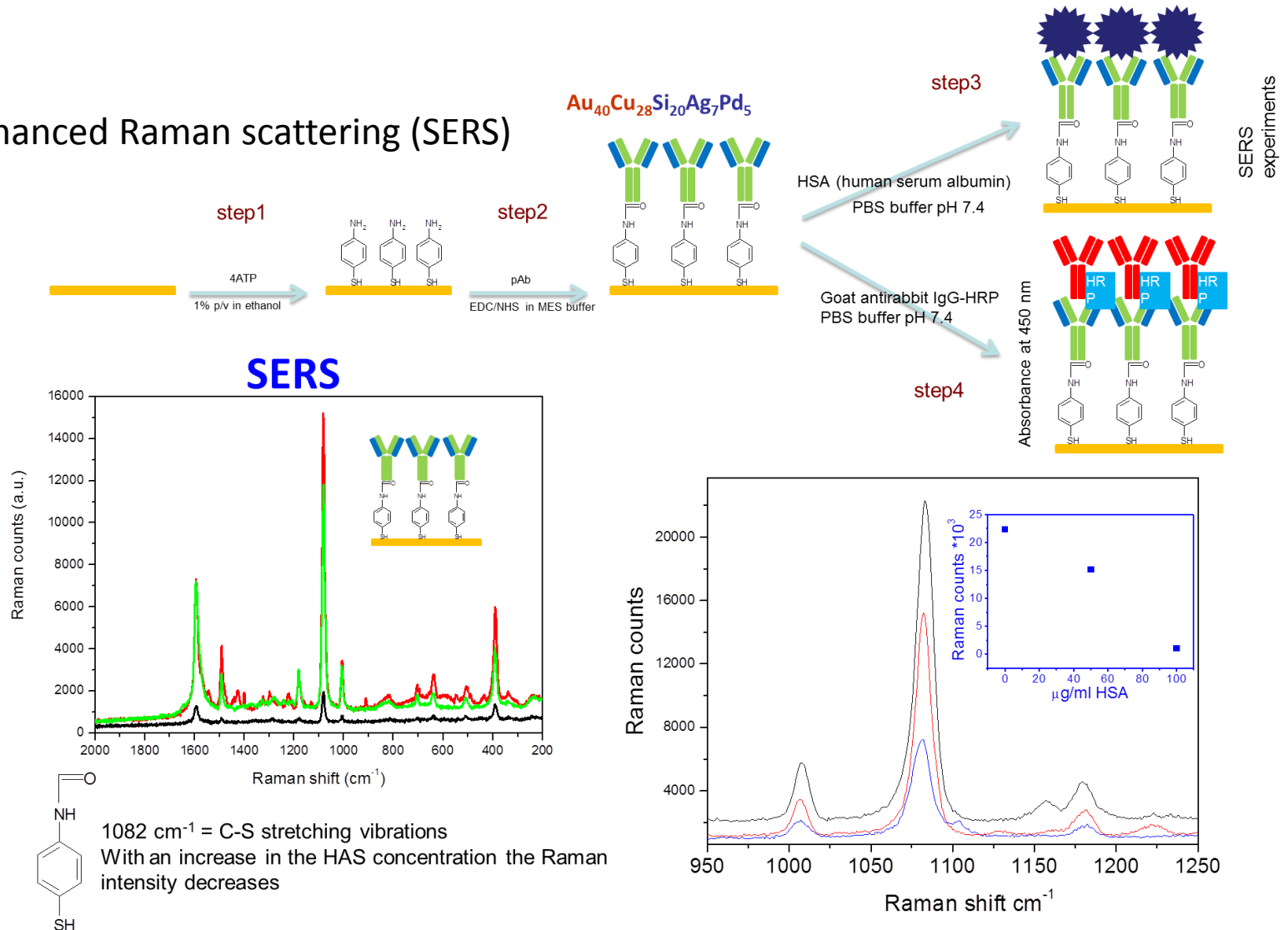
- Effect of de-alloying time on current density
- Effect of number of cycles on current density



NPG functionalization

Sensors for the detection of proteins/molecules in low concentration
for: Point of care, airports (detection of explosives), wearable
sensors

Surface enhanced Raman scattering (SERS)



Thermophysical properties of advanced metallic materials

Project financed by *European Space Agency*

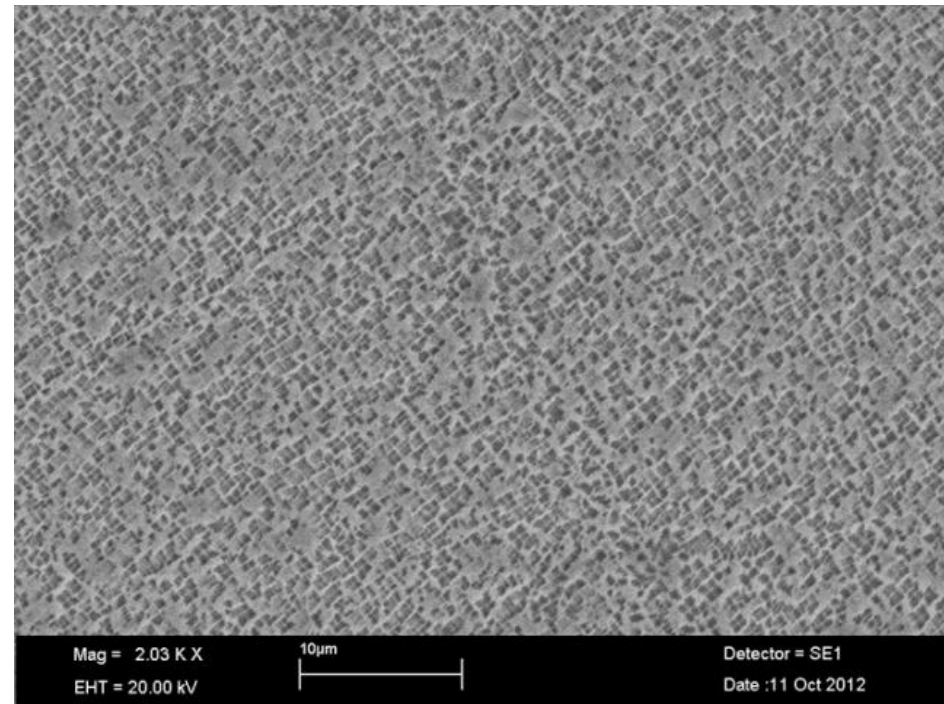


Studies of advanced
metallic materials

Superalloys

High Entropy Alloys (HEA)

Metallic glasses



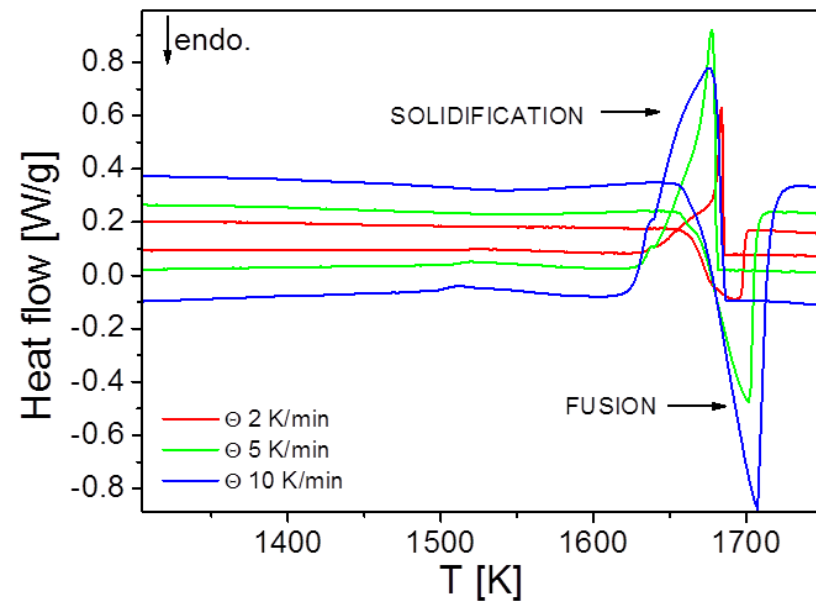
Goals

Measurement of:

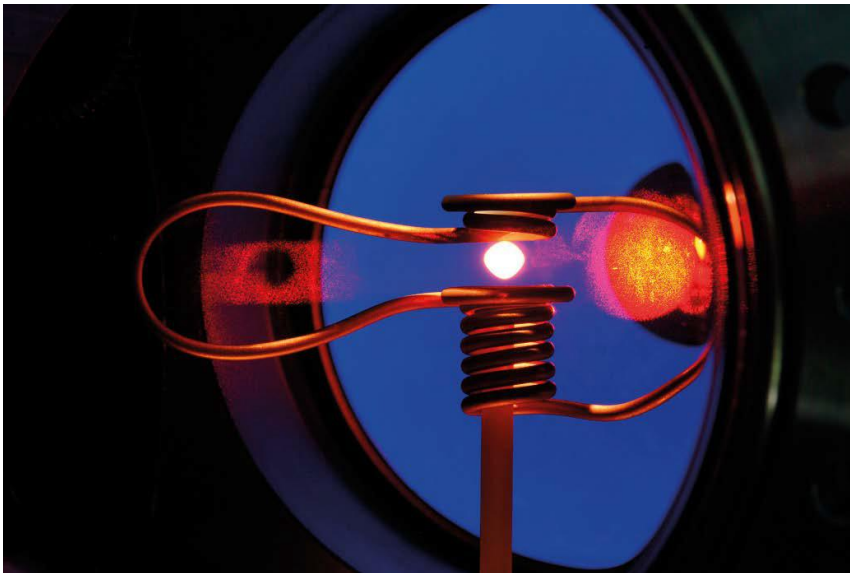
- Specific heat
- Melting enthalpies
- Range of melting and solidification

Study of:

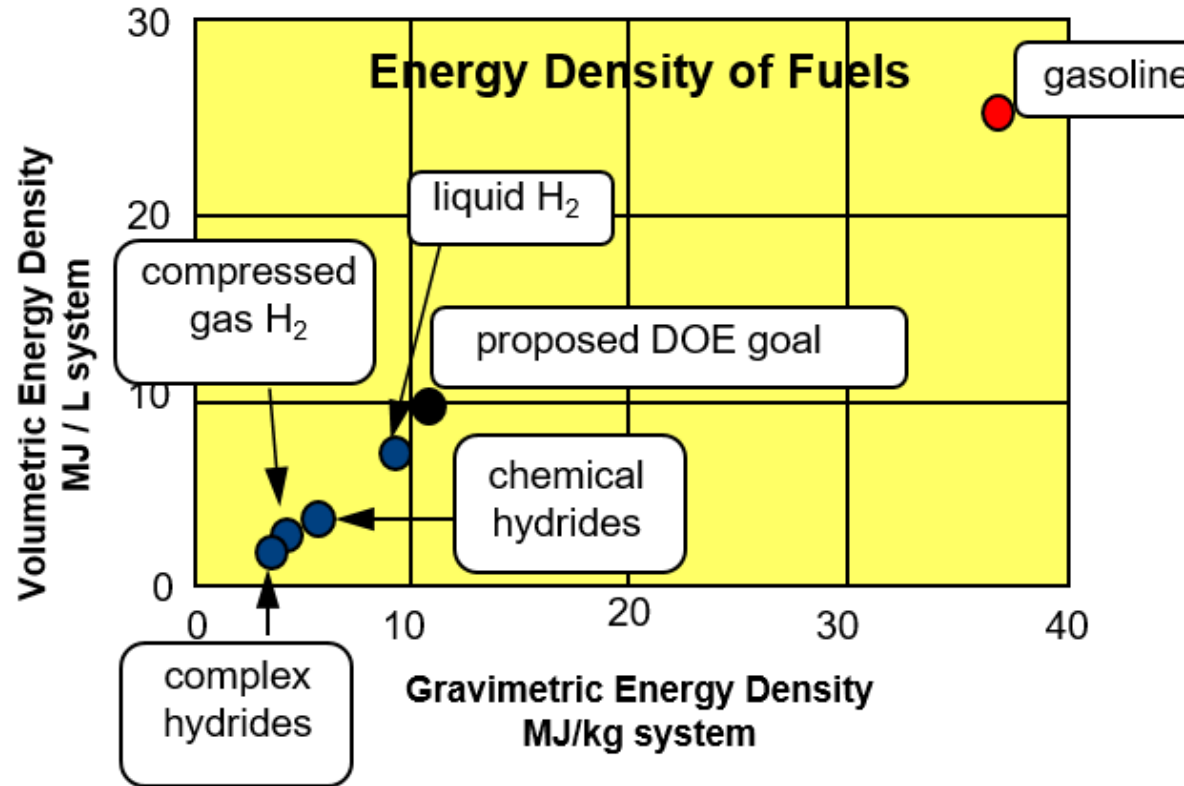
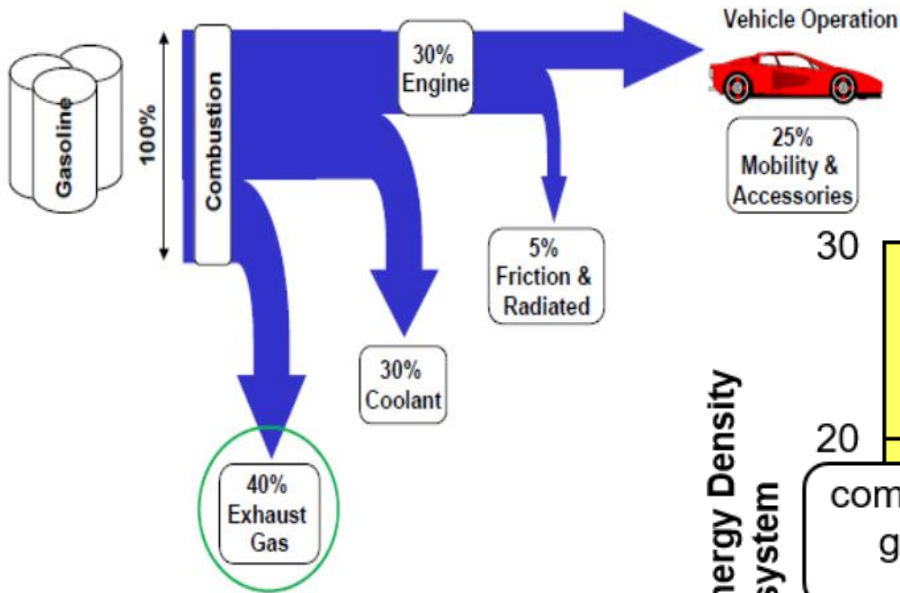
- Containerless solidification
- Liquid undercooling



Comparison of data obtained with experiments made on space station



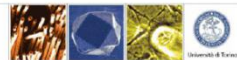
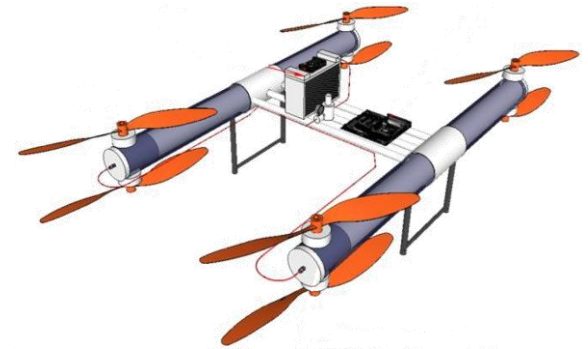
Energy storage and energy harvesting



- hydrogen technologies
- thermal energy harvesting
- development of new materials and processes
- energy storage from renewable sources

Energy storage from renewable sources

Need to optimize the storage of hydrogen as an energy carrier for stationary and mobile applications



APU installed on IVECO Daily

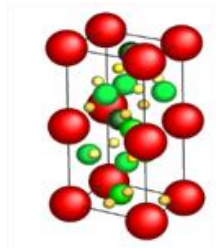


Mobile applications: hydrogen storage

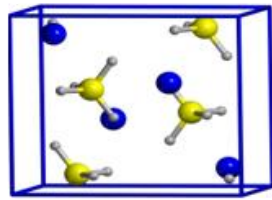
Scientific goals:

Solid state hydrogen storage

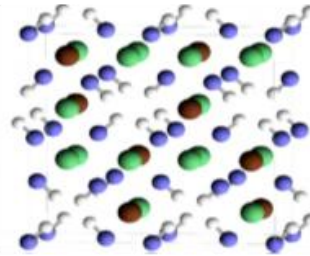
Integration with hydrogen fuel cells



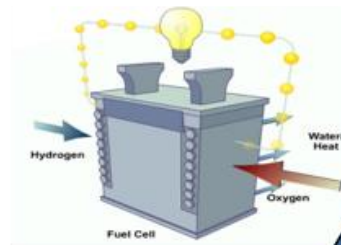
LaNi_5H_7



LiBH_4



$\text{Li}_2\text{Mg}(\text{NH})_2$

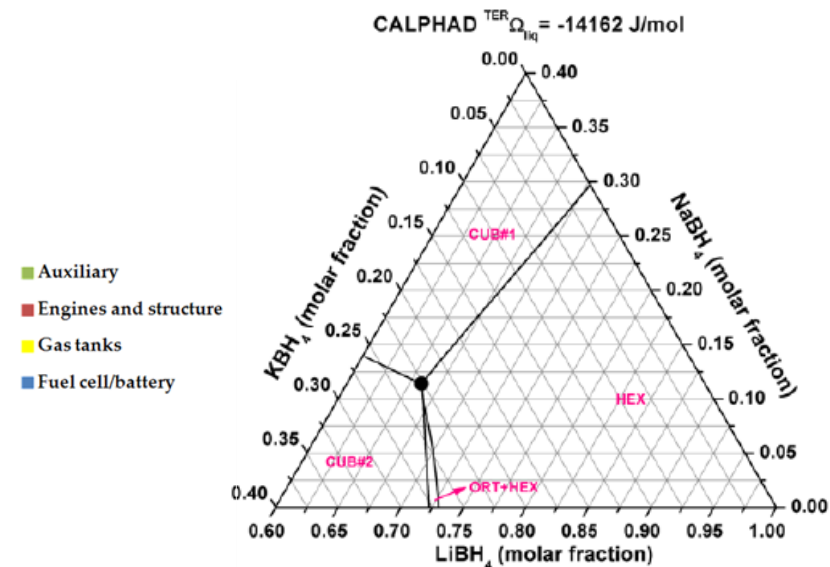
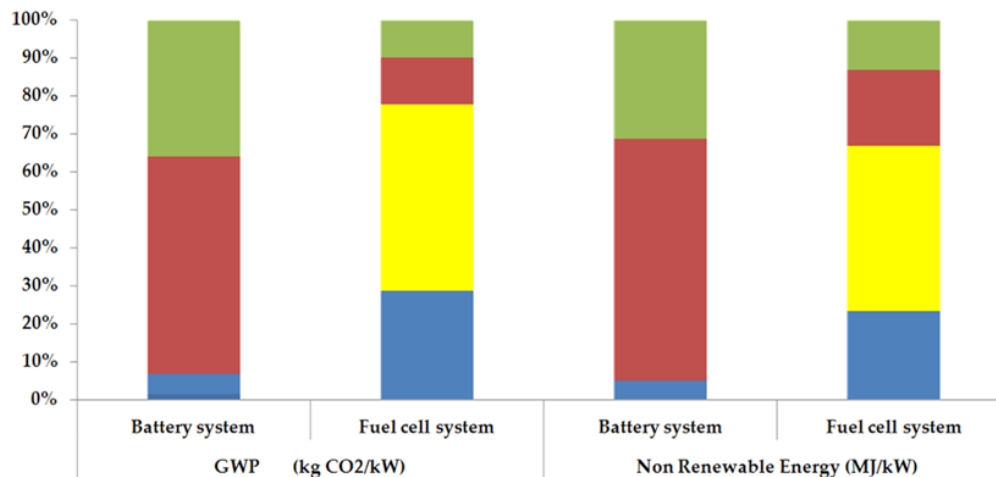


Project financed by :
Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint
Undertaking; Regione Piemonte

Development of advanced materials

Complex hydrides and intermetallics with high H₂ gravimetric density:

- Phase transformation
- non-equilibrium phase diagram calculations
- Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)



Thermal energy harvesting: thermoelectric materials

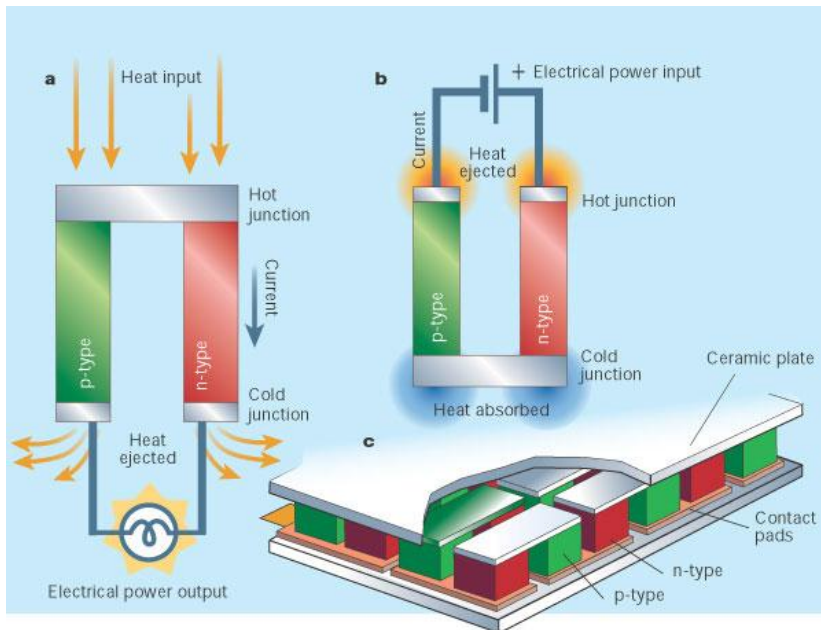
Project financed by *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino*

Conversion of thermal energy in electric energy

✓ Seebeck effect (thermic → electric)

$$\Delta V = \alpha \Delta T$$

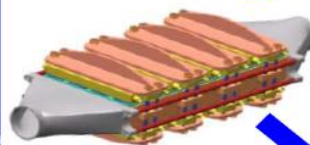
✓ Peltier effect



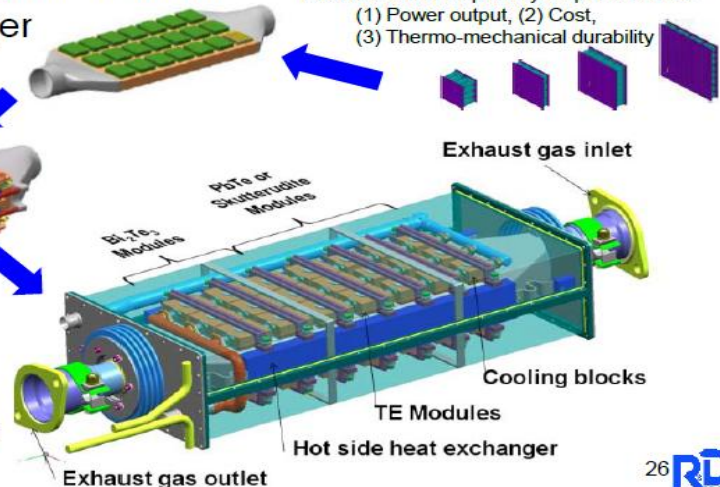
Subsystems Modeling and Design

(With General Electric)

Heat Exchanger Design:



TEG Design:
Program metric: \$/Watt

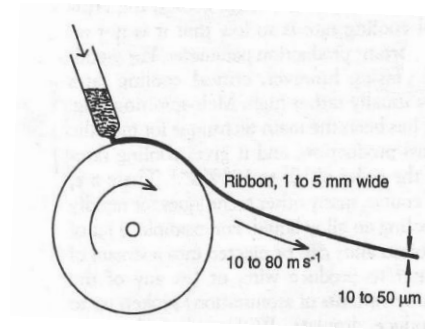
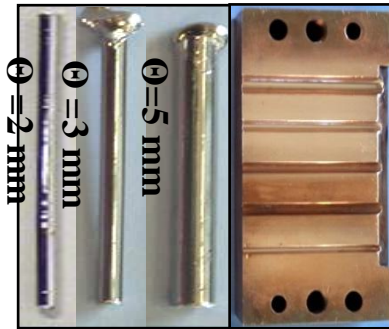


TE Module Design:

Identify primary module design variables
Examine effect on primary output variables:
(1) Power output, (2) Cost,
(3) Thermo-mechanical durability

Synthesis of materials

Melting techniques



Solidification rate

Thermod. equilibrium

Metastable Conditions

Powder sintering

Electro Sinter Forging (ESF)

Open Die Pressing (ODP)

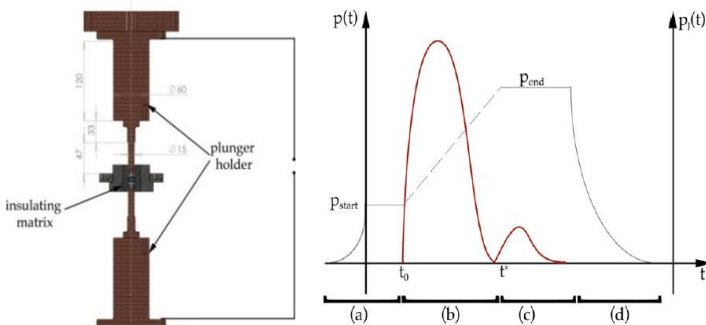
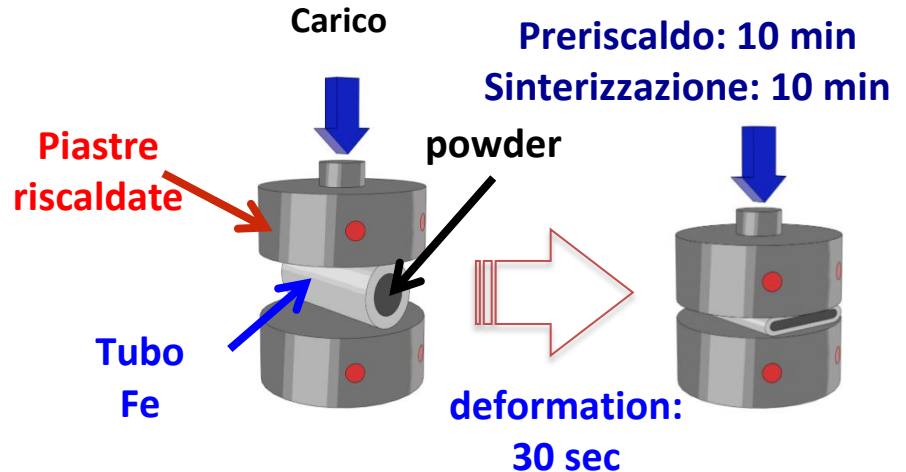
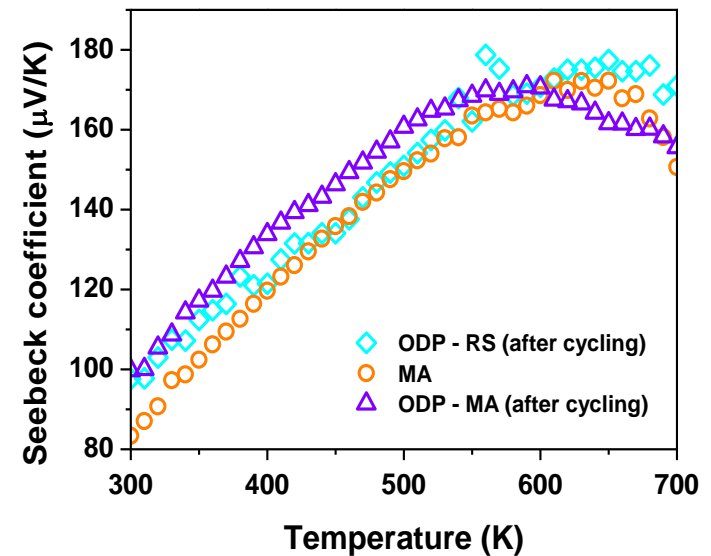
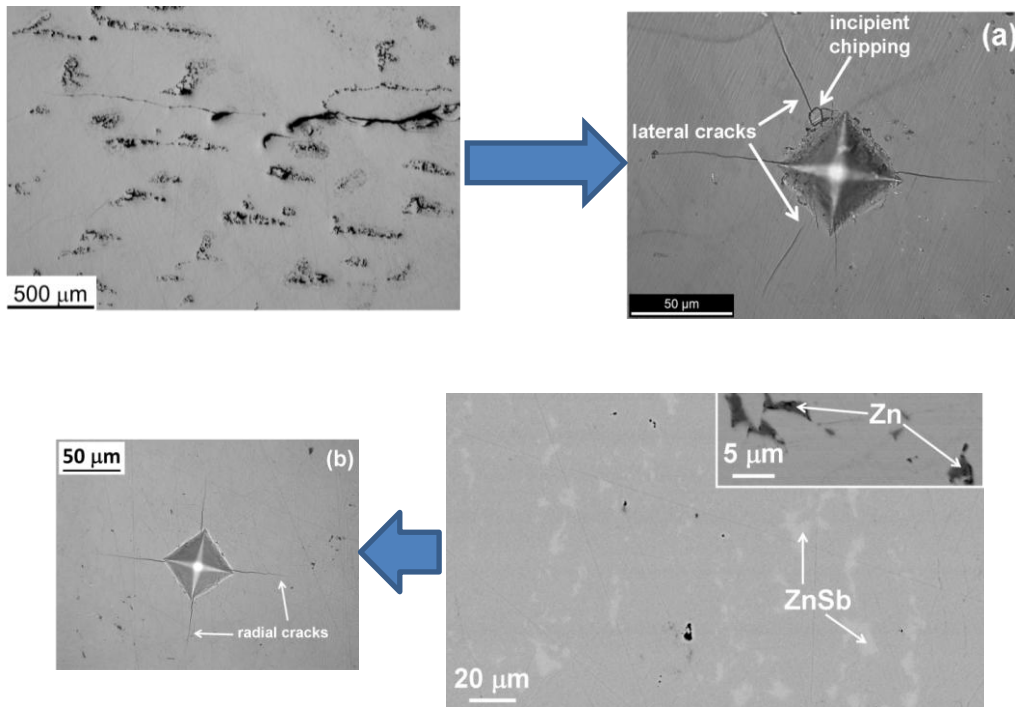


Fig. 1. Schematics of the processing conditions. Pressure is shown in gray while electric power dissipated as joule heat in red. The stages are: (a) pre-compaction, (b) superposition of two pulses, (c) hold and (d) release.

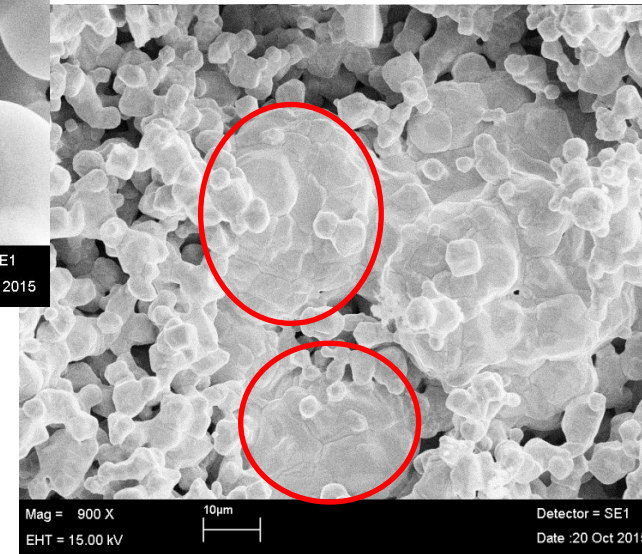
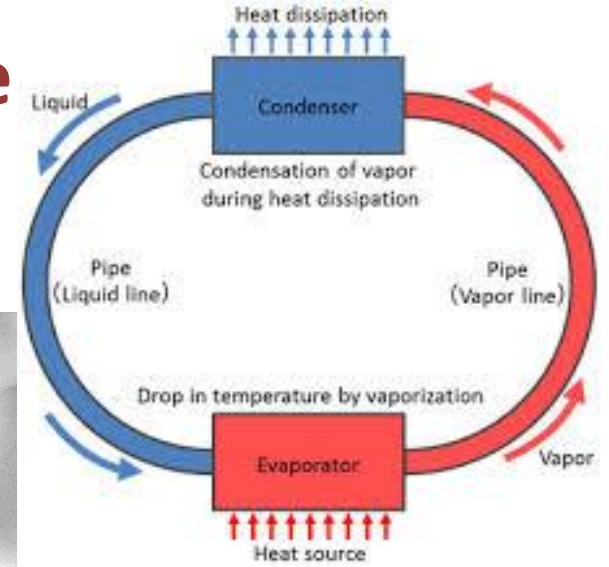
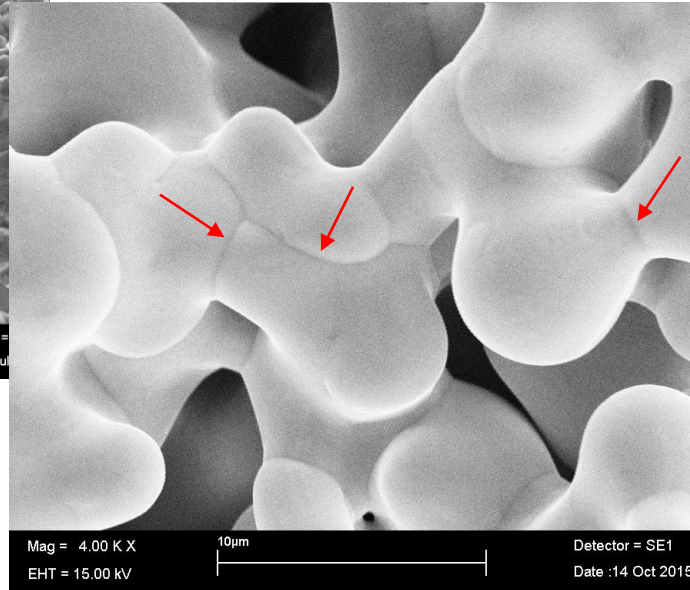
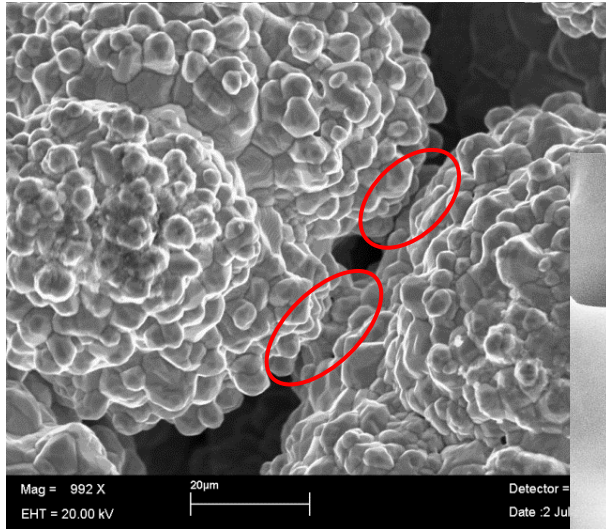
Process time 0.1 s



Effect of sintering on mechanical and thermoelectric properties of Zn_4Sb_3



Possible thesis: wick for heat pipe



The wick is one of the principal components in a heat exchanger (loop heat pipe), that allows the heat transfer from a warm area (evaporator) to a cold area (condenser)

Powder sintering in collaboration with Argotec

Regional project to be financed