



# Understanding functional properties of nanostructured magnetic materials



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First-principles methods meanwhile allow the determination of intrinsic and extrinsic properties of functional materials (magnetism, phase stability, twin boundary formation) on the nanoscale level.

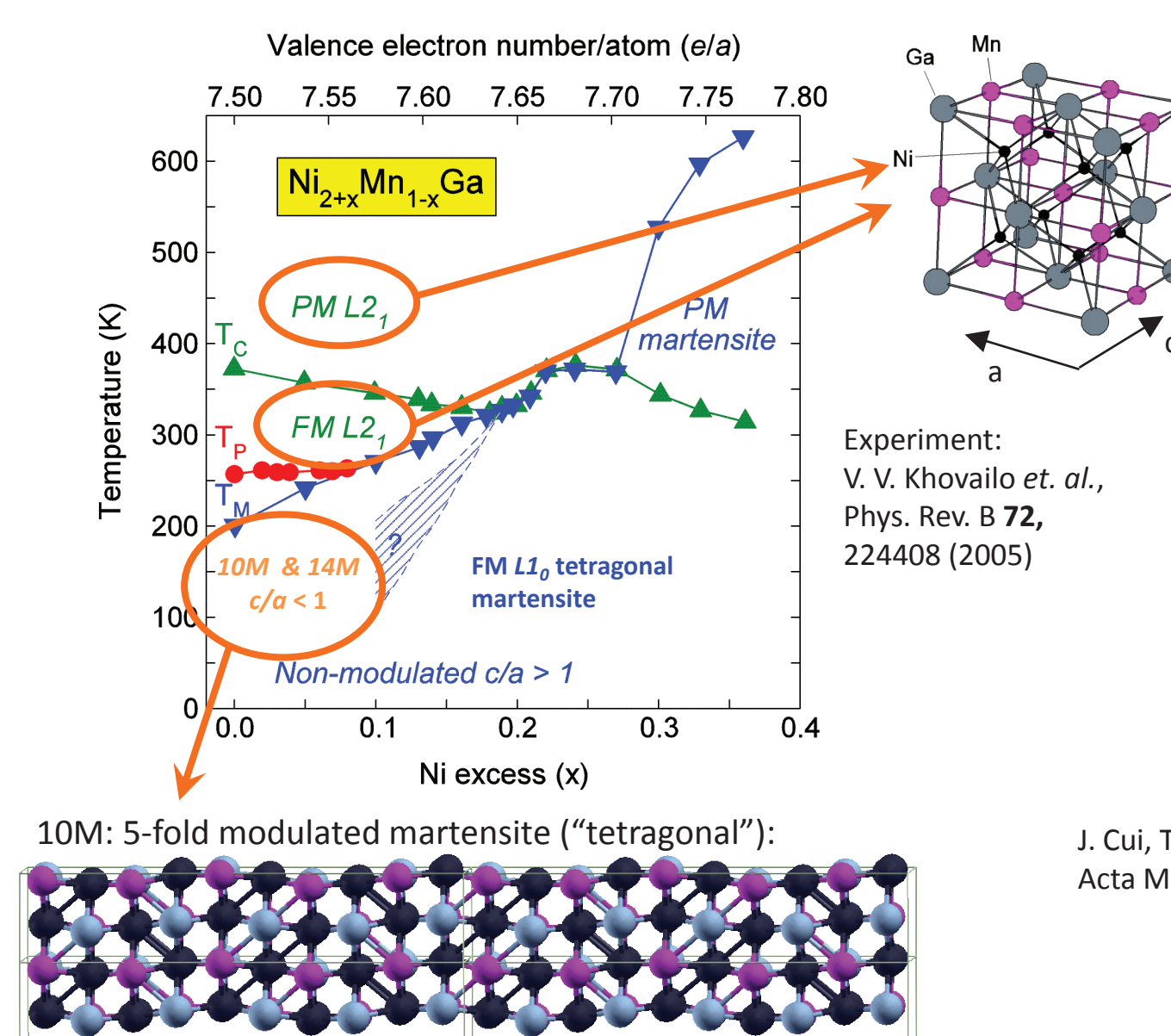
Of particular interest are the stability of single crystalline hard-magnetic structures for data recording applications or the origin of the martensitic phase sequence  $fcc \rightarrow fct \rightarrow bct$  observed in ordered  $Fe_3Pt$  and disordered  $Fe_{70}Pd_{30}$ .

Our density functional theory calculations are carried out with large (self-averaged) supercells using the VASP code.

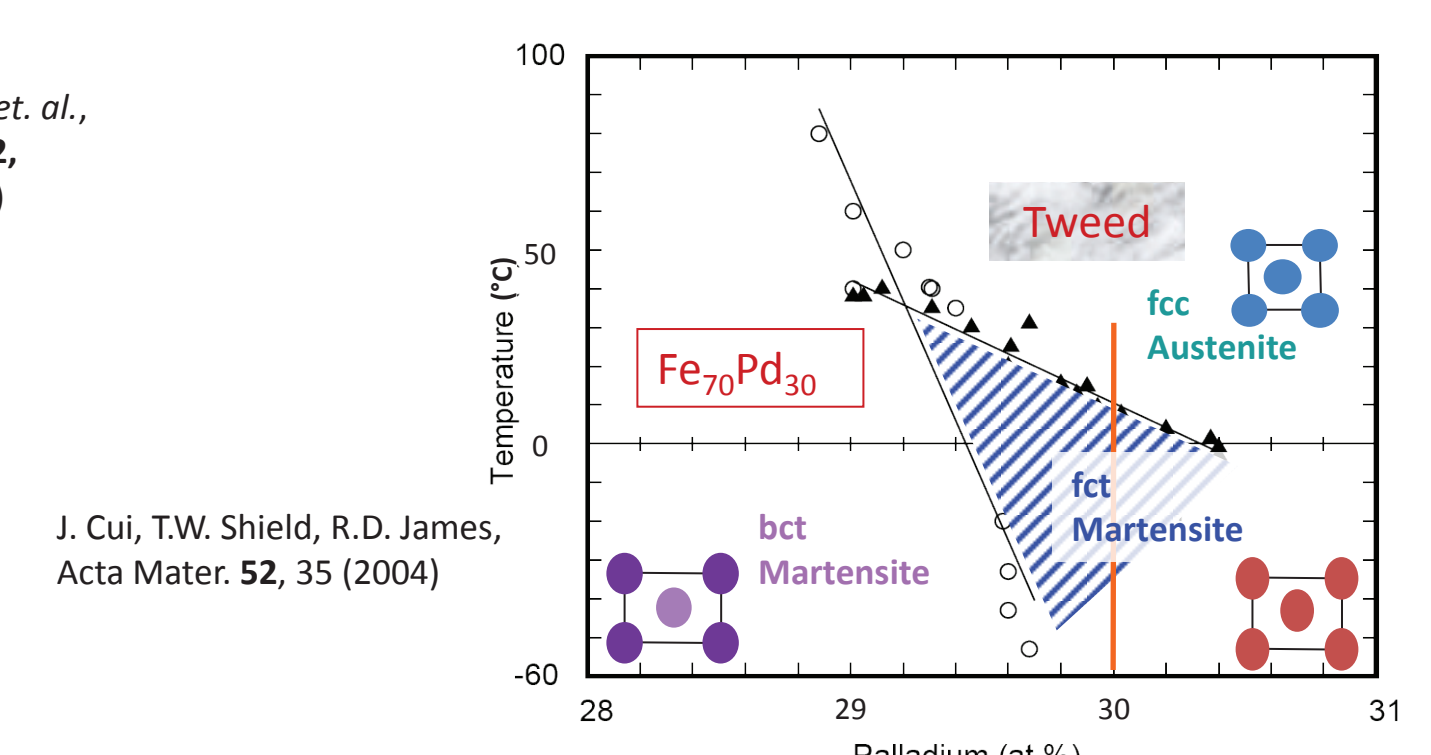
Simulating 1415 atoms or more *ab initio* requires a world-leading parallel computing environment as the Blue Gene @ FZ-Jülich or the Cray XT6/m @ CCSS Duisburg-Essen.



## Microstructure of magnetic shape memory (MSM) alloys

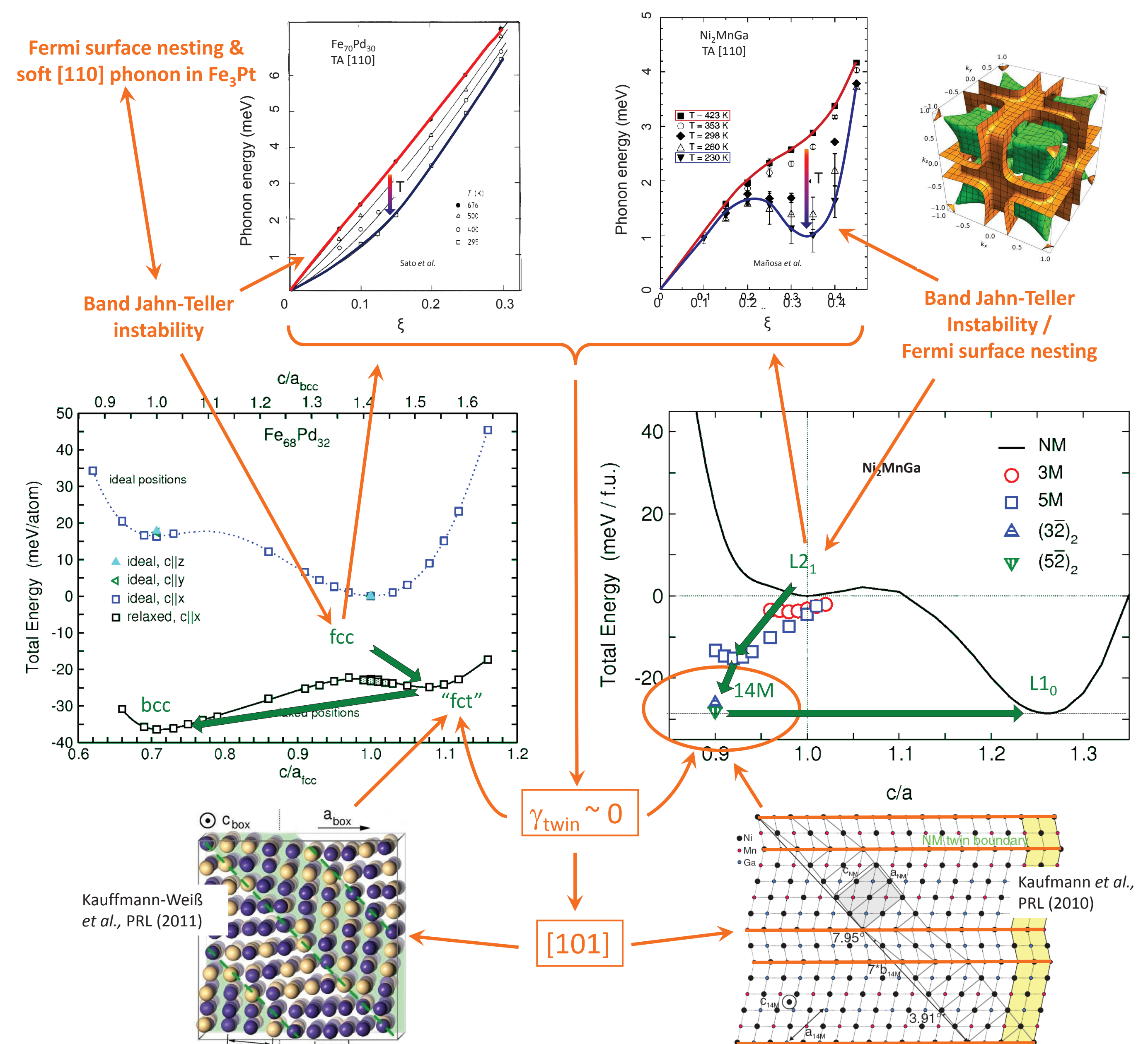


Macroscopic magnetic field-induced strains of 10% are found in intermediate modulated phases of the prototype material  $Ni_2MnGa$ . Strains of 3% are also observed in the intermediate fct phase of disordered  $Fe_{70}Pd_{30}$ .



Why are the intermediate phases so important for the MSM effect? How can we improve their stability?

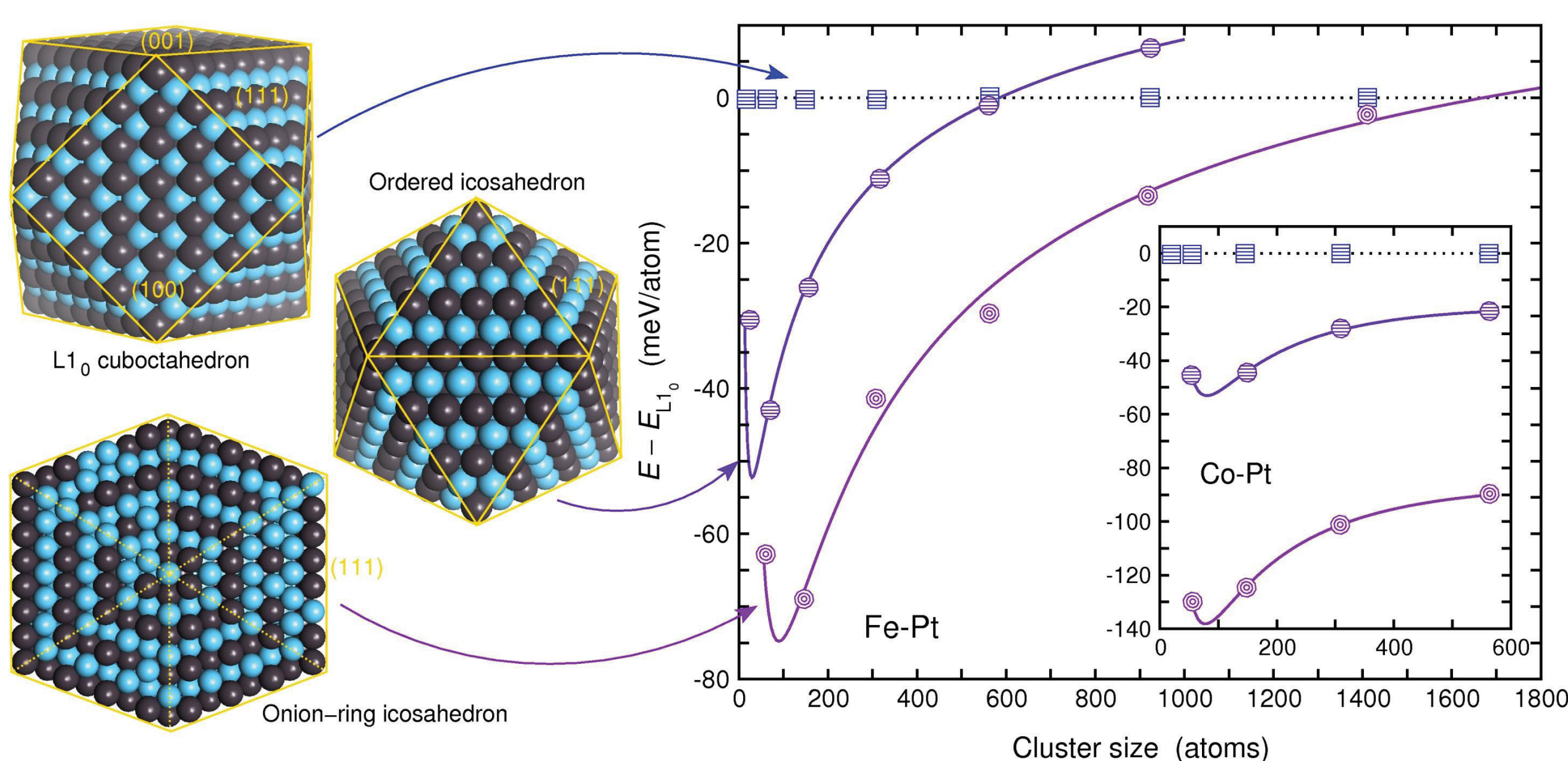
## Unraveling the analogy between $Ni_2MnGa$ and Fe-Pd: Collecting ingredients for a MSM cooking recipe...



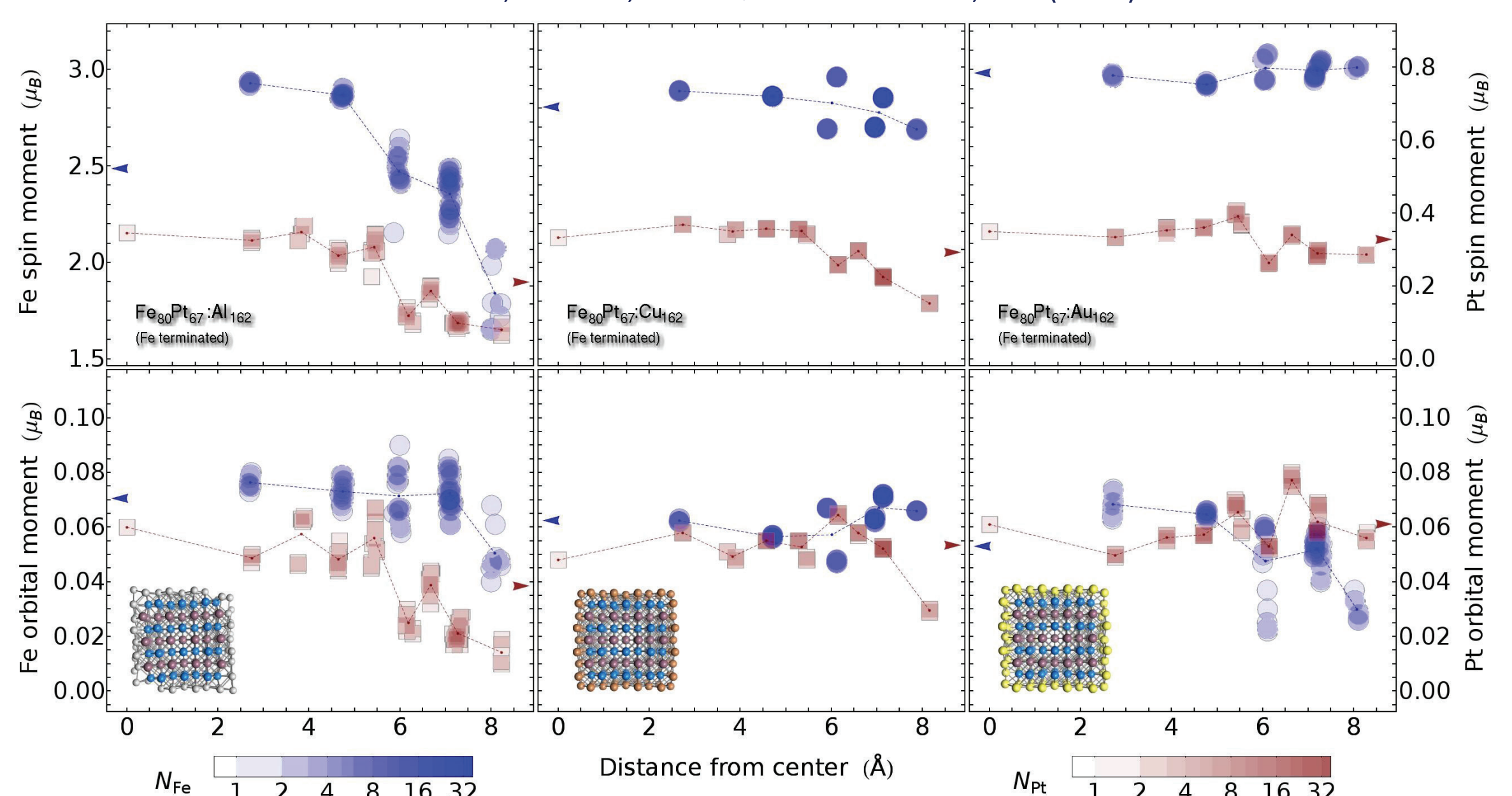
Flat energy profile + electronic (band Jahn-Teller) instability in austenite  $\rightarrow$  soft [110] phonon  $\rightarrow$  shear motion supporting formation of [101] fct twins in  $Fe_{70}Pd_{30}$  or 14M martensite in  $Ni_2MnGa$ . These [101] interfaces are sharp and immobile, higher order interfaces diffuse and mobile

S. Kauffmann-Weiß, M. E. Gruner, A. Backen, L. Schultz, P. Entel, S. Fähler, *Phys. Rev. Lett* **107**, 206105 (2011)  
M. E. Gruner, P. Entel, J. Minar, S. Polesya, S. Mankovsky, H. Ebert, *J. Magn. Magn. Mater.* **324**, 3524 (2012)  
S. Kauffmann-Weiß, S. Hamann, M. E. Gruner, L. Schultz, A. Ludwig, S. Fähler, *Acta Mater.* **60**, 6920 (2012)  
R. Niemann, U. K. Röbber, M. E. Gruner, O. Hezcko, L. Schultz, S. Fähler, *Adv. Eng. Mater.* **14**, 562 (2012)

## Tuning FePt nanoparticles for data recording applications

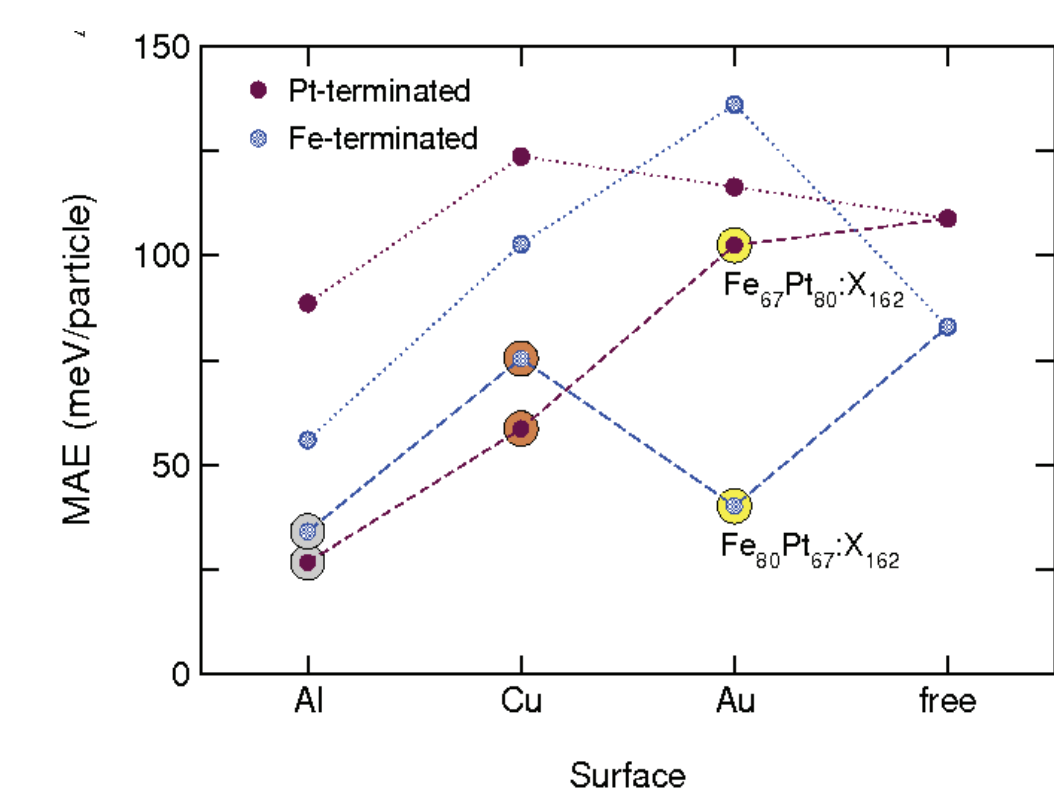


Fe-Pt: Multiply twinned onion-type ordering lowest in energy up to 1415 atoms ( $\varnothing \sim 4$  nm)  
M.E. Gruner, P. Entel, *Int. J. Quant. Chem.* **112**, 277 (2012)



Trends for spin and orbital magnetism in good agreement with XMCD measurements

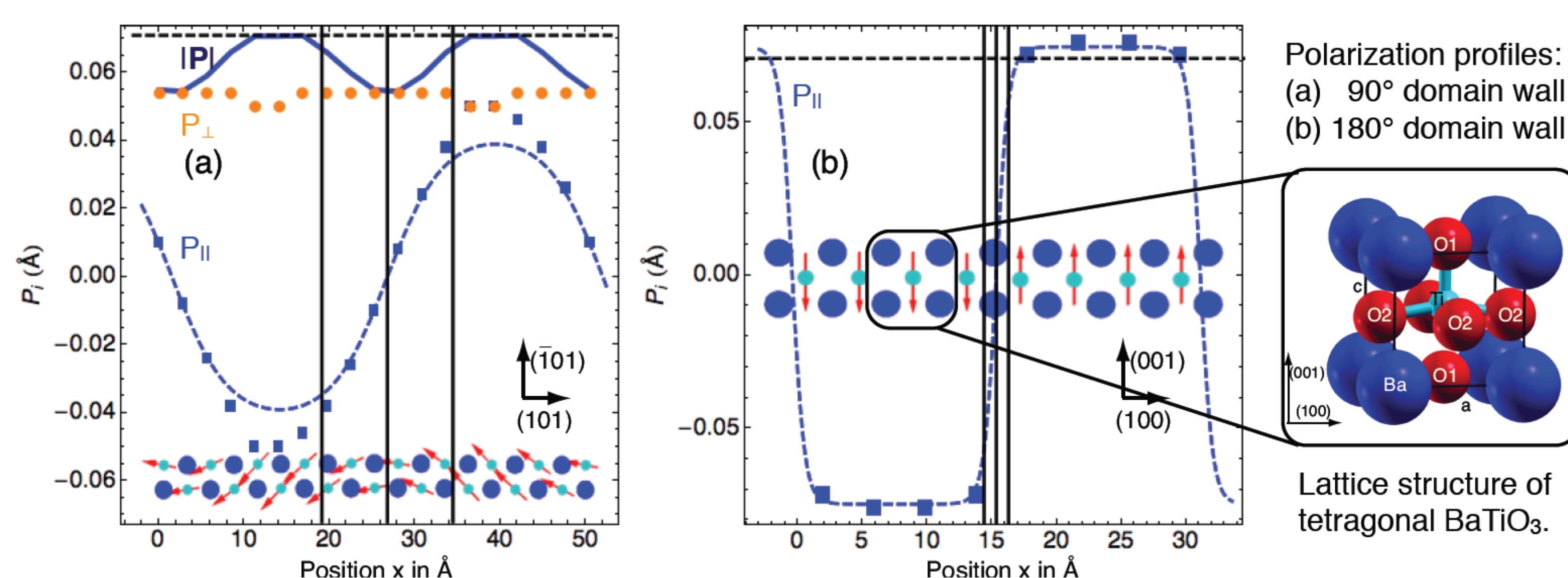
- Preferable Coverings:
• Cu for Fe-termination,
• Au for Pt-termination, of (001) surfaces



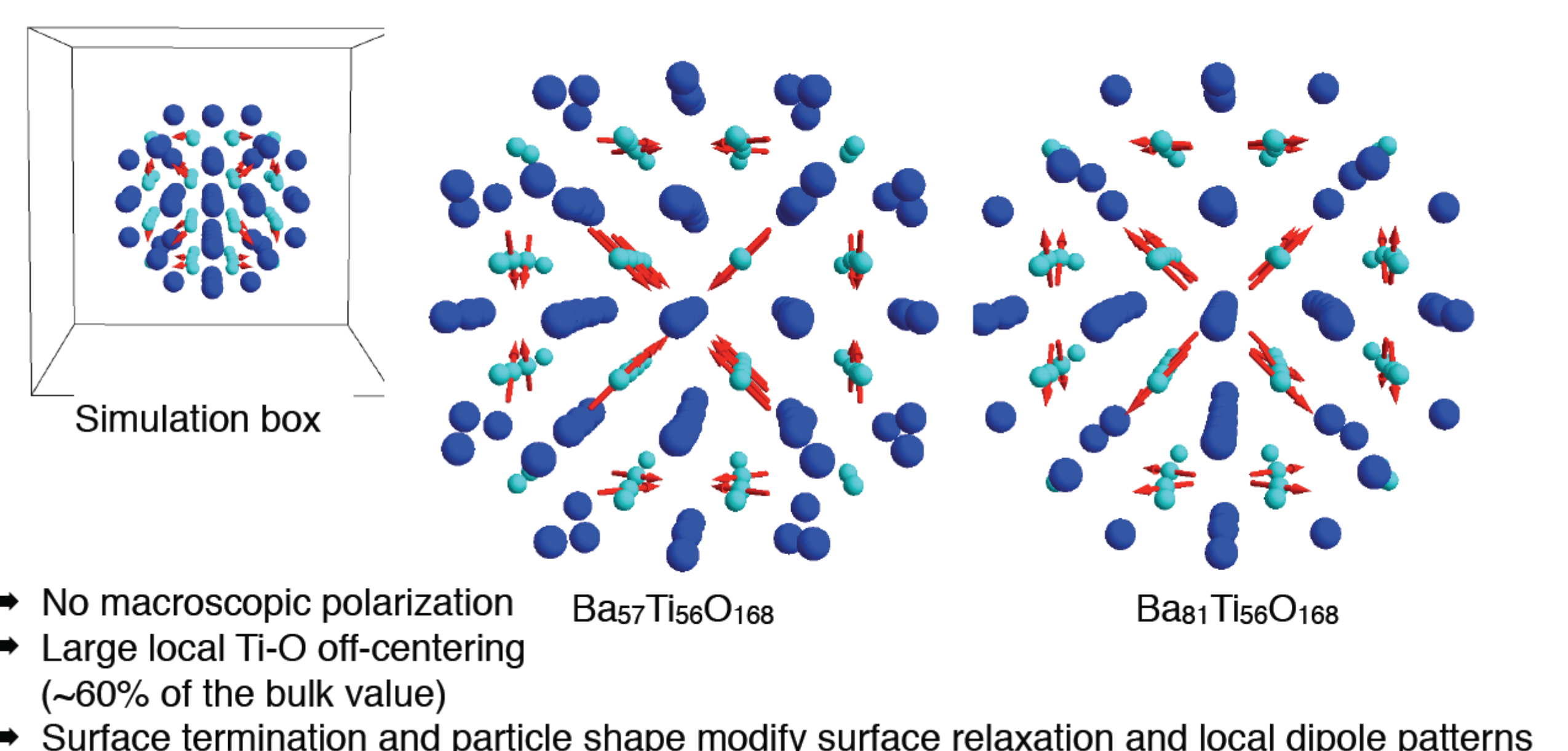
C. Antoniak, M. E. Gruner, M. Spasova, A. V. Trunova, F. M. Römer, A. Warland, B. Krumme, K. Fauth, S. Sun, P. Entel, M. Farle, H. Wende, *Nature Communications* **2**, 528 (2011)  
M. E. Gruner, *phys. stat. sol.* (a), in print

## Domain structure in $BaTiO_3$ - from bulk to nanoparticles

Motivation: Stabilization of ferroelectricity down to the nano-scale for the tetragonal phase of  $BaTiO_3$ . At surfaces/interfaces depolarization fields appear which can be compensated by domain formation



Atomic structures and local dipole configurations of free  $BaTiO_3$  particles ( $d=15.8$  Å)



- No macroscopic polarization
• Large local Ti-O off-centering (~60% of the bulk value)
• Surface termination and particle shape modify surface relaxation and local dipole patterns