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1 **Climb of jogs as a rate-limiting process of screw dislocation motion in olivine**  
2 **dislocation creep**

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## 11 Abstract

12 Dislocation recovery experiments were conducted on predeformed olivine single crystals at  
13 temperatures of 1,450 to 1,760 K, room pressure, and oxygen partial pressures near the Ni-NiO  
14 buffer to determine the annihilation rate constants for [001](010) edge dislocations. The obtained  
15 rate constants were found to be comparable to those of previously determined [001] screw  
16 dislocations. The activation energies for the motion of both dislocations are identical. This result  
17 suggests that the motion of screw dislocations in olivine is not controlled by cross-slip but by the  
18 same rate-limiting process of the motion of edge dislocations, i.e., climb, under low-stress, high-  
19 temperature conditions. The diffusivity derived from dislocation climb indicates that dislocation  
20 recovery is controlled by Si pipe diffusion, rather than Si lattice diffusion. Our results suggest that  
21 the conventional climb-controlled model for olivine can be applied to motions of not only edge but  
22 also screw dislocations. Therefore, the previous proposed cross-slip model cannot explain the  
23 softness of asthenosphere. ~~The diffusivity derived from dislocation climb indicates that dislocation~~  
24 ~~recovery is controlled by pipe diffusion. The conventional climb-controlled model for olivine can~~  
25 ~~be applied to the motions of not only edge but also screw dislocations. The softness of the~~  
26 ~~asthenosphere cannot be explained by cross-slip controlled olivine dislocation creep.~~

27

28 **Keywords:** dislocation recovery, dislocation creep, temperature dependence, climb controlled  
29 model, asthenosphere

30

## 31 Introduction

32 Geophysical observations regarding geoid (e.g., Hager, 1991) and postglacial rebound (e.g.,  
33 Peltier, 1998) have suggested that a soft asthenosphere underlies a rigid lithosphere. Geodynamic  
34 modeling (e.g., Becker, 2017; Craig and McKenzie, 1986) have also suggested the same conclusion.

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35 The reason for the presence of soft asthenosphere is under debate. Although the simplest  
36 explanation cites a weakening of materials due to high temperatures, the results of deformation  
37 experiments conducted on dry peridotite implied that high temperatures are insufficient to explain  
38 the softness of the asthenosphere (Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2003). ~~Although a~~ popular explanation  
39 refers to the hydrous weakening of olivine (e.g., Mackwell et al., 1985; Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2003).  
40 ~~However,~~ this has been refuted by recent Si self-diffusion experiments (Fei et al., 2016; Fei et al.,  
41 2013) based on the assumption that dislocation creep is controlled by diffusion. Another possible  
42 explanation was proposed by Poirier and Vergobbi (1978). The authors suggested that if the cross-  
43 slip of dissociated screw dislocations controls olivine dislocation creep, the estimated upper-mantle  
44 viscosity would be one order of magnitude lower than that predicted by the climb-controlled model  
45 in a stress range from 10 to 100 bar. This property may explain the softness of the asthenosphere.  
46 However, no experimental study has tested this hypothesis.

47 Neither diffusion nor deformation experiments can identify the rate-limiting process of  
48 motions of screw dislocations. Diffusion does not involve motions of dislocations. Although it is  
49 theoretically possible to determine the rate-limiting process of dislocation motions by examining the  
50 stress dependence of creep rates (e.g., Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2003), the stress ranges applied in  
51 deformation experiments are too narrow. The conventionally used stress exponent of 3.5 for  
52 dislocation creep implies a pipe diffusion-controlled mechanism (Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2003, 2015).  
53 However, such experiments have a stress range only from 100 to 224 MPa. On the other hand,  
54 Kohlstedt and Goetze (1974) found that the stress exponent increases with increasing stress. Poirier  
55 (1985, P.139) found that the stress exponent of olivine single crystal dislocation creep varies from  
56 2.6 to 3.7 in different studies.

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57 In the present study, we conducted dislocation recovery experiments on [001](010) edge  
58 dislocations and compared the results with those of [001](010) screw dislocations given by Wang et  
59 al. (2016). During recovery, dislocations move on (glide) and out of the slip plane (climb, cross-  
60 slip) successively under the influence of internal stress. Therefore, the activation energy determined  
61 by this method represents that of the rate-limiting process of dislocation motions. Although the  
62 model developed by Poirier and Vergobbi (1978) ~~was~~ based on [100] screw dislocations, the  
63 important point in their model is the dissociation, rather than Burgers vector of dislocations.  
64 Because dissociation of [001] screw dislocations have been confirmed in olivine (Vander Sande and  
65 Kohlstedt, 1976), [001] screw dislocation can be used to test this hypothesis. In addition, most of  
66 [100] dislocations ~~these~~ have an edge character at temperatures of less than 1350 °C (Bai and  
67 Kohlstedt, 1992; Wang et al., 2016). ~~On the other hand while,~~ [001] dislocations has similar density  
68 of edge and screw components (Wang et al., 2016), ~~the similar density of edge and screw~~  
69 ~~dislocations in the [001](010) slip system (Wang et al., 2016)~~ This indicates the equivalent  
70 importance of both types of dislocations in this slip system. Therefore, we focus on ~~this the~~ [001]  
71 (010) slip system in this study (hereafter called *c*-dislocations).

72

## 73 Experimental Procedure

74 The same Pakistan olivine and sample preparation procedures as those of Wang et al. (2016)  
75 were employed in this study. The composition of olivine was reported by Gose et al. (2010). The  
76 experimental setup used is similar to that used in Wang et al. (2016). The olivine single crystal was  
77 oriented by X-ray diffraction and electron backscattered diffraction (EBSD) and then placed in the

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78 cell assembly such that the [001] direction and (010) plane were parallel to the shear direction and  
79 plane, respectively.

80 Dislocations with the [001] Burgers vector on the (010) plane were produced by experimental  
81 deformation using a Kawai-type multianvil apparatus at the University of Bayreuth. The sample  
82 assembly was first pressurized to 3 GPa with a press load of 3.6 MN and then heated to a  
83 temperature of 1,600 K and held for 15 min to sinter crushable alumina. After this, the assembly  
84 was further compressed to a press load of 3.9 MN for 15 min to deform the sample. After  
85 deformation, the sample was quenched by switching off the heating power and then decompressed  
86 to room pressure for more than 16 hours. Transmission electronic microscopy (TEM) results  
87 presented by Wang et al. (2016) found the [001](010) slip system to be successfully activated and  
88 dominant using this procedure. The ratio of screw to edge dislocations was 3:2 as reported by Wang  
89 et al. (2016).

90 The deformed olivine crystals were cut into eight cubic pieces and paired into four groups, in  
91 which the two pieces in each group shared a common (100) plane. One piece from each pair was  
92 used to determine the initial dislocation density while the other was used to determine dislocation  
93 density after annealing. The annealing experiments were conducted at ambient pressure and  
94 temperatures of 1,460 to 1,760 K for 35 min to 24 hours using a gas mixing furnace. The oxygen  
95 partial pressure was controlled at  $10^{-6}$ - $10^{-8}$  MPa, which is near the Ni-NiO buffer, using a CO-CO<sub>2</sub>  
96 gas mixture. Table 1 summarizes the conditions of the annealing experiments.

97 Dislocations were observed using the oxidation decoration technique (Kohlstedt et al., 1976,  
98 Karato 1987). Corresponding areas away from subgrain boundaries on the common (100) plane in  
99 initial and annealed pieces of the same group were observed to determine the change in dislocation

density before and after annealing. Although dislocations exist mainly as loops in crystals, the high lattice friction in the [001](010) slip system makes the screw and edge components nearly straight in this slip system (Bai and Kohlstedt 1992, sample deformed in [011]<sub>c</sub> orientation, Wang et al., 2016, c-deformed sample). This enable us to distinguish the characters of dislocations by using line geometry of dislocations (Ogawa and Karato, 1989). Since [001](010) edge dislocations elongate in the [100] direction, these dislocations show dots contrasted on the (100) plane in backscattered images after decoration. The number of dots per unit area was counted as the dislocation density.

Annihilation rate constants were calculated via second-order dislocation recovery kinetics (Karato and Ogawa, 1982; Kohlstedt et al., 1980; Wang et al., 2016)

$$k = \frac{\frac{1}{\rho_f} - \frac{1}{\rho_i}}{t}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho_f$  and  $\rho_i$  are the dislocation densities after and before annealing, respectively, and  $t$  is the annealing time. Due to the thermally activated process, the dislocation annihilation rate constant is assumed to follow the Arrhenius relationship:

$$k = k_0 \exp \left( \frac{-E}{RT} \right) \quad (3)$$

where  $k_0$  is a constant,  $E$  is the activation energy of dislocation annihilation,  $T$  is temperature, and  $R$  is the gas constant.

## Results

Table 1 shows experimental results together with the annealing conditions. Dislocation density in the samples before deformation is less than  $0.0004 \mu\text{m}^{-2}$ , which is negligible in comparison to the dislocation density after deformation (Table 1). Figure 1 a and b shows back-scattered electron

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121 images of decorated dislocations in corresponding areas in the samples from the same pair before  
122 and after annealing, respectively. *c*-screw dislocations appear as lines and *c*-edge dislocations  
123 appear as dots on the (100) plane due to their geometries. A decrease in dislocation density was  
124 observed by comparing the images before and after annealing. The water content in the samples  
125 before and after annealing was below the detection limit of infrared spectroscopy. The transmission  
126 electron microscope images of the dislocation structures after deformation are given in Fig. 4 in  
127 Wang et al. (2016).

128 Figure 1c plots the logarithmic rate constants of *c*-edge dislocation annihilation against the  
129 reciprocal temperature. The results from the previous dislocation recovery experiments on *c*-screw  
130 dislocations (Wang et al., 2016) and of other studies on dislocation recovery kinetics are also plotted  
131 in this figure. The dislocation annihilation rate constants of *c*-edge and *c*-screw dislocations are  
132 comparable, but those of the *c*-screw are about half an order of magnitude higher than those of the  
133 *c*-edge. The temperature dependences for these two dislocations are identical. Their activation  
134 energies are  $E_{c\text{-edge}} = 400 \pm 20$  kJ/mol and  $E_{c\text{-screw}} = 400 \pm 30$  kJ/mol for the *c*-edge and *c*-screw,  
135 respectively.

136

## 137 Discussion

138 The identical activation energies of annihilation rate constants of the *c*-edge and *c*-screw  
139 dislocations indicate that the motions of both dislocations are controlled by the same mechanism.  
140 Although many transport properties of olivine exhibit activation energies of 300 to 500 kJ/mol (e.g.,  
141 Dohmen et al., 2002,  $529 \pm 41$  kJ/mol for silicon self-diffusion,  $338 \pm 14$  kJ/mol for oxygen self-  
142 diffusion), they are distinct from those determined in this study (see also the slope in Fig. 3 and

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143 references therein). The high accuracy of activation energies obtained in previous studies and the  
144 present one allows us to distinguish the rate-limiting mechanisms of different processes.

145 The motion of edge dislocations is controlled by climb at high temperatures and low stresses  
146 (e.g., Hull and Bacon, 2001; Kohlstedt, 2006). However, the motion of a pure screw dislocation  
147 does not involve climb because screw segments have no specific slip plane (Hull and Bacon, 2001).  
148 Since jogs in screw dislocations have an edge character, we propose that the motion of screw  
149 dislocation is controlled by the climb of jogs (Fig. 2). A screw dislocation can form a jog by cross-  
150 slips to overcome obstacles that it meets during glide (Fig. 2A and 2B). The slip plane of the jog is  
151 defined by its dislocation line ( $\mathbf{J}$ ) and the Burgers vector ( $\mathbf{b}$ ), which is indicated by the yellow plane.  
152 The parent screw dislocation glides in the  $y$  direction, and therefore the jog needs to climb in the  $y$   
153 direction to move along with its parental dislocation so that the screw dislocation can go through the  
154 obstacle (Fig. 2C). This climb of jogs should serve as the rate-limiting process of screw dislocation  
155 motions.

156 It should be noted that although the climb of edge dislocation and jog motion of screw  
157 dislocation are essentially the same, the density of climbing parts on edge dislocations and that of  
158 jogs on screw dislocations may be different, creating differences in the magnitudes of rate  
159 constants. Thus, only the slope in the Arrhenius plot can serve as a fingerprint of the essential  
160 mechanism of rate-limiting processes in dislocation recovery experiments.

161 Since climb is controlled by diffusion, the diffusivities derived from annihilation rate constant  
162  $D^R$  (based on Karato and Ogawan, 1989) were compared with those of silicon and oxygen diffusion  
163 in olivine (Fig. 3). None of these data fit  $D^R$  well. Instead,  $D^R$  falls between silicon lattice and grain  
164 boundary diffusivities. This result indicates that the dislocation climb in olivine may be controlled

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165 by pipe diffusion. Vacancies, dislocations and grain boundaries are 0-, 1-, and 2-dimensional  
166 defects, respectively, the structure distortion near these defects should increase consequently and  
167 accordingly the associated Si diffusivity should increase. In addition, the activation energy of  $D^R$   
168 obtained in this study is between those of Si lattice (540 kJ/mol, Dohmen et al., 2002) and grain  
169 boundary diffusion (~200 kJ/mol, Fei et al., 2015). This result is also consistent with the hypothesis  
170 that pipe diffusion controls dislocation climb (Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2015). Although there are no  
171 data for pipe diffusion in olivine, the fact that the diffusion coefficient and activation energy of pipe  
172 diffusion fall between those of lattice and grain boundary diffusion is well established for oxides  
173 (Frost and Ashby, 1983, Table 12.1). The low activation energy of oxygen lattice diffusion (~340 kJ/  
174 mol, Dohmen et al., 2002) rules out the possibility that oxygen diffusion controls dislocation climb.

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## 176 **Implications**

177 Our results suggested that the conventional climb model can be used to dislocation motions in  
178 olivine regardless of dislocation characters. Although only [001] dislocation is studied in this study,  
179 the conclusion can be applied to dislocations with different Burgers vectors in olivine. The cross-  
180 slip model requires the recombination of dissociated screw dislocations. If the dissociation distance  
181 between two partial dislocations is large, the recombination is difficult. In this case, the cross-slip of  
182 screw dislocations can be a rate-limiting process (Poirier, 1976). Previous study (Vander Sande and  
183 Kohlstedt, 1976) has revealed that the dissociation distances of [001] and [100] dislocation are  
184 similar (~4 nm). Therefore, cross-slip cannot be the rate-limiting process for both [100] and [001]  
185 dislocations judging from present study. Although dissociation of [010] dislocations has been

186 reported (Fujino et al., 1993), its low abundance makes its effect on olivine dislocation creep less  
187 important.

188 ~~It has been proposed that~~The observation that screw dislocation motion in olivine is controlled  
189 by climb of jogs indicates that the softness of the asthenosphere ~~can~~cannot be attributed to the  
190 cross-slip controlled dislocation creep of olivine (Poirier and Vergobbi, 1978). Other factors, such  
191 as melt and water, could explain the softness of asthenosphere (Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2003).  
192 Although this explanation is refuted by Si lattice diffusion (Fei et al., 2013), our results indicate that  
193 dislocation climb in olivine is controlled by pipe rather than lattice diffusion under dry conditions.  
194 Further study on the water effect on dislocation recovery could reconcile the discrepancy between  
195 deformation and diffusion experiments results.

196 ~~However, this hypothesis has never been tested. The present study demonstrates that the~~  
197 ~~motion of [001] screw dislocations is controlled by the climb of jogs rather than cross-slip,~~  
198 ~~suggesting that the cross-slip model is not applicable for such dislocations in olivine. Although the~~  
199 ~~cross-slip model is based on [100] dislocations, study of the [001](010) slip system is more relevant~~  
200 ~~to asthenosphere conditions. Dislocation structure analyses indicate that most [100](010)~~  
201 ~~dislocations have an edge character (Bai and Kohlstedt, 1992, Wang et al., 2016), indicating that~~  
202 ~~olivine dislocation creep cannot be controlled by motions of [100] screw dislocation. On the other~~  
203 ~~hand, the similar density (Wang et al., 2016) of edge and screw dislocations in the [001](010) slip~~  
204 ~~system indicates that both kinds of dislocations are important. Moreover, deformation experiments~~  
205 ~~(e.g., Raterron et al., 2007) suggest that this slip system dominates at high pressures. Therefore, we~~  
206 ~~conclude that the cross-slip of screw dislocations cannot control the dislocation creep of olivine and~~

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207 accordingly cannot explain the softness of asthenosphere. The climb-controlled model can be used  
208 in olivine dislocation creep regardless of dislocation characters.

209 The viscosity of the asthenosphere is extrapolated from dry olivine creep data using a climb  
210 model is orders of magnitude higher than the estimated value drawn through geophysical  
211 observation (Hirth and Kohlstedt 2003). The hydrous weakening of olivine has been proposed to  
212 explain this discrepancy (e.g., Mackwell et al., 1985; Hirth and Kohlstedt, 2003), but this has been  
213 refuted by recent Si diffusion experiments (Fei et al., 2016; Fei et al., 2013). However, this study  
214 indicates that pipe diffusion rather than lattice or grain boundary diffusion may control the  
215 dislocation motions. This conclusion may explain the discrepant results of deformation and  
216 diffusion experiments. Further studies on the effect of water on dislocation recovery or pipe  
217 diffusion in olivine are needed to identify the effect of water on olivine rheology and to better  
218 explain the softness of the asthenosphere.

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227 and plotted in Fig. 1c and have been archived at Earth and Space Science Open Archive  
228 [doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10501470.1](https://doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10501470.1).

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## 304 Figure and table captions

305 Figure 1. BEIs showing the dislocation density (a) before and (b) after annealing at 1760 K for 35  
306 min. The images were taken on the (100) plane. Screw and edge dislocations are shown as lines and  
307 dots, respectively, due to the geometries of their dislocation lines. The yellow scale bar denotes 2  
308  $\mu\text{m}$ . (c) Logarithmic dislocation annihilation rate constants of *c*-edge dislocations versus reciprocal  
309 temperature. The annihilation rate constants of *c*-screw dislocations from Wang et al. (2016) are  
310 plotted together. The activation energies for both dislocations are identical, i.e., 400 kJ/mol.  
311 Previous results on dislocation recovery are also plotted for comparison.

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314 Figure 2. A schematic diagram showing the jog-climb controlled motion of a screw dislocation. (a)  
315 The screw dislocation (blue line) is elongated in the  $x$  direction, which is parallel to its Burgers  
316 vector  $\mathbf{b}$ , and glides in the  $y$  direction. The blue dot represents the obstacle that the screw dislocation  
317 meets during glide. (b) A jog (red segment) elongated in the  $z$  direction is produced on the screw  
318 dislocation to overcome the obstacle. This jog has an edge nature with the same Burgers vector  $\mathbf{b}$  as  
319 that of the parental screw dislocation. The yellow area indicates the glide plane of the jog, which is  
320 normal to the  $y$  direction. (c) The jog has to climb out of its glide plane to move along with its  
321 parental screw dislocation.

322

323 Figure 3. Logarithmic diffusivity derived from dislocation annihilation rate constants of *c*-edge and  
324 *c*-screw dislocations versus reciprocal temperature. Si and O lattice and grain boundary diffusivities  
325 are plotted together.

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328 Table 1. Summary of the experimental conditions and results.

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330 Table 1. Summary of the experimental conditions and results\*.

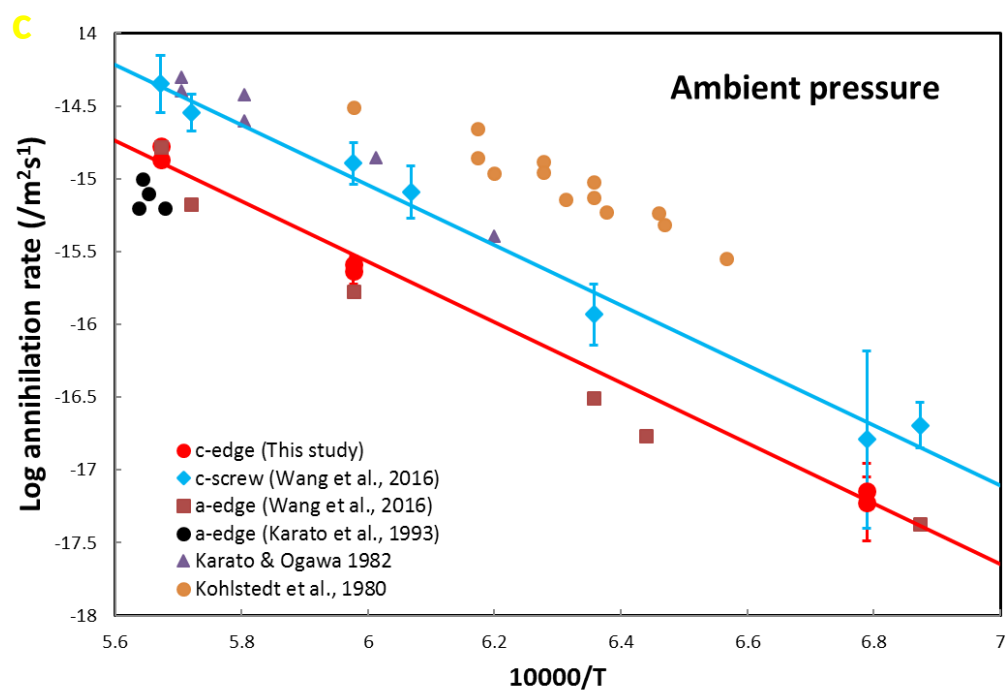
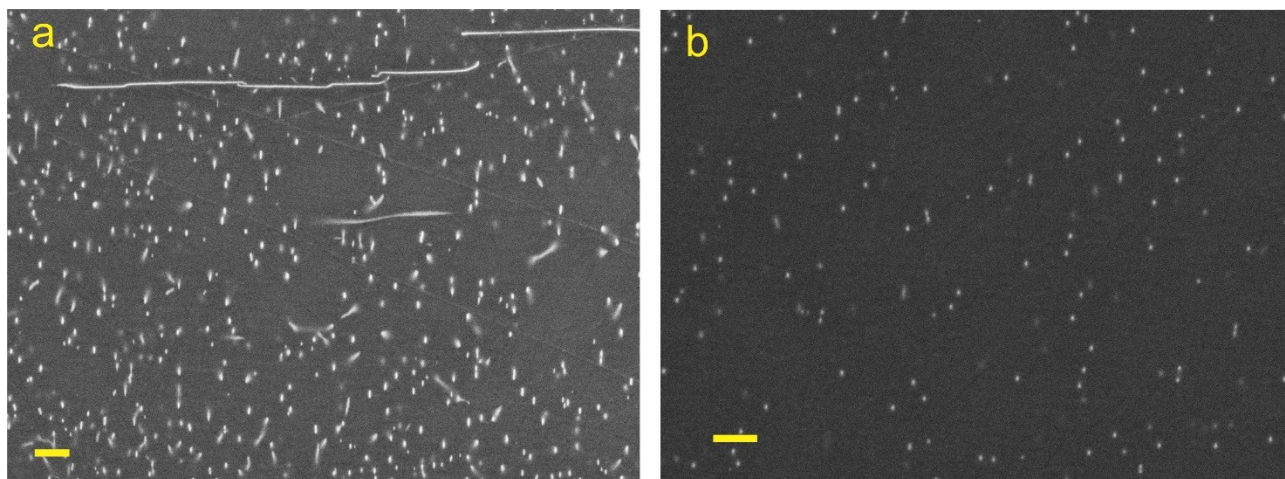
331

[001](010) edge dislocation						
Sample	$T$ (K)	Annealing time (h)	$\log(f_{O_2}, 10^5 \text{ Pa})$	$\rho_i (\mu\text{m}^{-2})$	$\rho_f (\mu\text{m}^{-2})$	$\log(k, \text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1})$
Z1643-1	1763	0.58	-4.9	1.60±0.13	0.29±0.01	-14.87±0.03
				0.97±0.13	0.22±0.01	-14.77±0.03
Z1643-2	1673	2.5	-5.7	1.49±0.04	0.36±0.06	-15.63±0.09
				1.13±0.12	0.31±0.03	-15.58±0.05
Z1643-3	1473	24	-7.7	1.33±0.15	0.73±0.05	-17.14±0.09
				0.35±0.03	0.29±0.01	-17.22±0.27

332 \* different  $\rho_i$  and  $\rho_f$  values of each sample correspond to different areas

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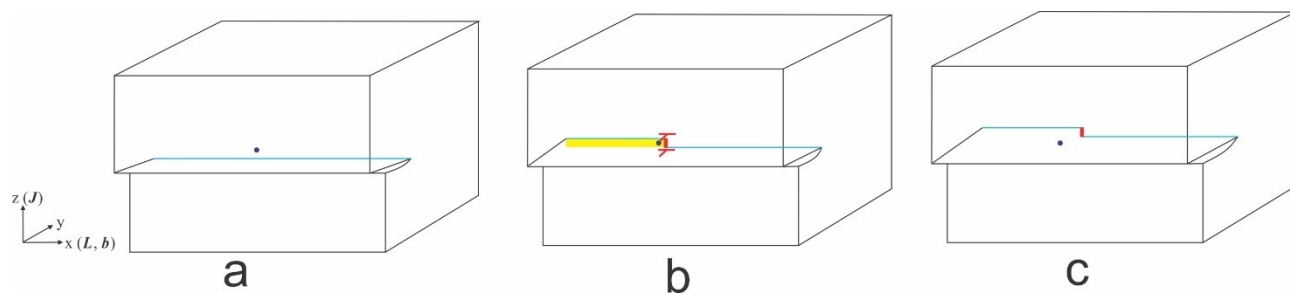


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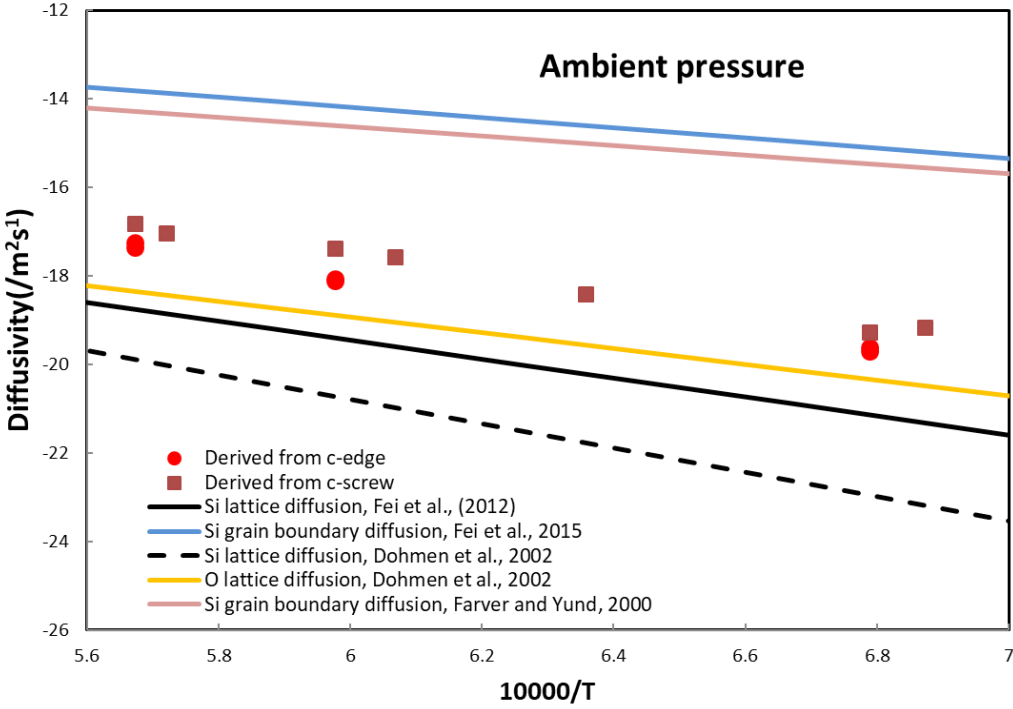
339 Figure 2.



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342 Figure 3.



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