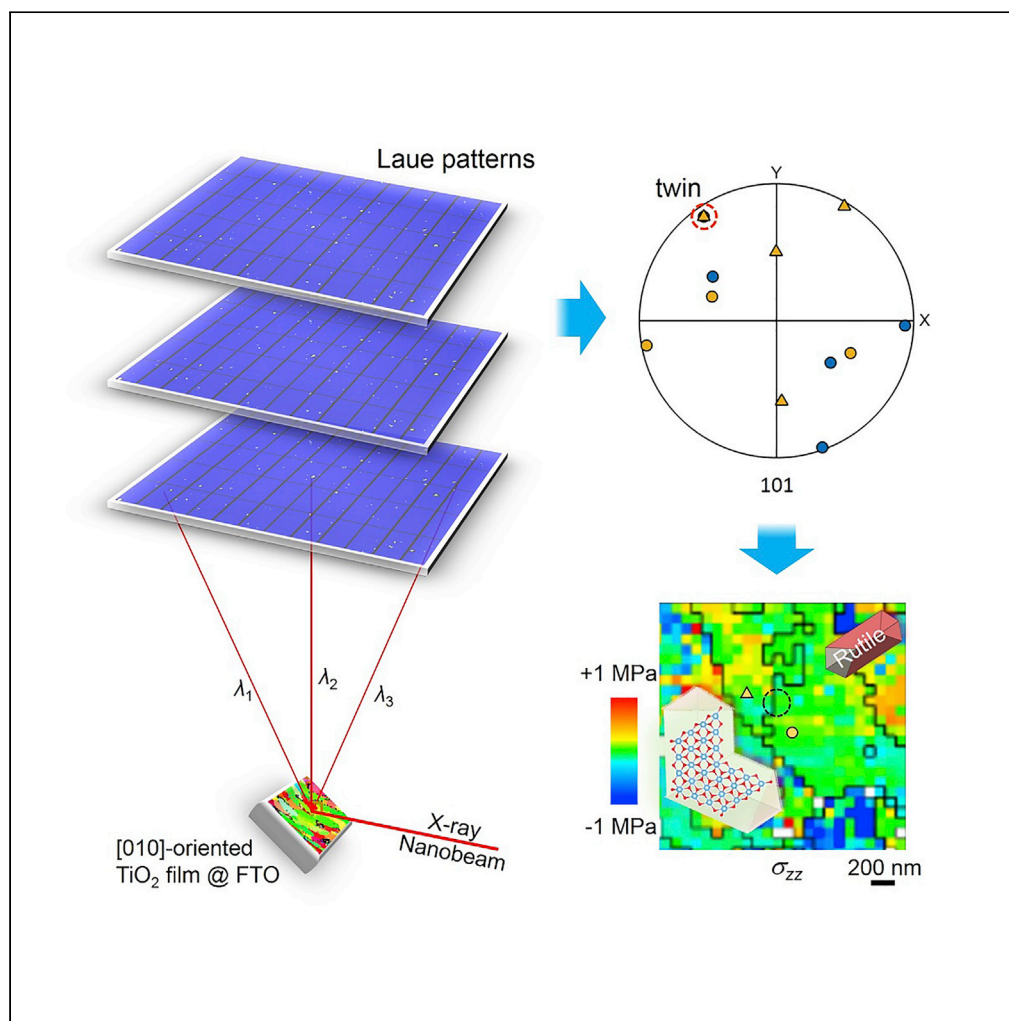


## Article

## Twinning-mediated anomalous alignment of rutile films revealed by synchrotron X-ray nanodiffraction



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**Highlights**

Nanotwinned TiO<sub>2</sub> film possesses stronger preferred orientation than its FTO substrate

State-of-the-art nanoscanned X-ray Laue diffraction is used to unveil the mechanism

Twinning-mediated heteroepitaxy mainly leads to the texture improvement

This work helps to stimulate the rational design and synthesis of nanotwin materials

## Article

## Twinning-mediated anomalous alignment of rutile films revealed by synchrotron X-ray nanodiffraction

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## SUMMARY

**Nanotwin structures in materials engender fascinating exotic properties. However, twinning usually alter the crystal orientation, resulting in random orientation and limited performances. Here, we report a well-aligned rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotwin film with superior preferential orientation than its isostructural substrate. By means of the synchrotron X-ray Laue nanodiffraction technique, the crystal orientation, twin boundaries, and deviatoric stresses of the film were quantitatively imaged at unprecedented spatial resolution to unravel the underlying mechanism of this anomalous alignment. Massive {101}-type rutile nanotwins were observed, and a crystallographic relationship of the heteroepitaxy was proposed. The rapid twinning and twin-controlled heteroepitaxy are responsible for the texture improvement. This work would open up opportunities for rational design of better twin-based functional materials, and implies the powerful capabilities of X-ray nanodiffraction technique for multidisciplinary applications.**

## INTRODUCTION

Twinned crystals, especially the ordered and dense nanotwins, have attracted considerable interest due to their unique interface or defect structures, novel properties, and promising application prospects (Lu et al., 2009; Behrens et al., 2012; Nie et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2018). Generally, a coherent twin boundary (TB) could be deemed as a stable two-dimensional (2D) high-pressure polymorph of the parent crystal due to its higher atomic density (e.g., rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> {101} twin (Hwang et al., 2000)). Similar to high-angle grain boundaries (GBs), TBs can serve as barriers against dislocation motion, that is, the hardening effect (Lu et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2004). The excess energy of coherent TBs is about one order of magnitude lower than that of the ordinary high-angle GBs, which together with the hardening effect make twinned materials possess higher hardness, higher stability, higher toughness, lower compressibility, and near zero thermal expansion (Tian et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2014; Lu et al., 2004, 2009; Zhu et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2004). In addition, the electrical conductivity of coherent TBs is higher than that of high-angle GBs, and the enhanced ionic transportation along TBs was observed in compounds such as WO<sub>3</sub> and SnO<sub>2</sub> (Lu et al., 2004; Aird and Salje, 2000; Nie et al., 2015). Moreover, the (photo)catalytic activity of a (photo)catalyst can be enhanced by nanotwin domains via twin-induced active sites or homojunctions caused by staggered band alignment (Behrens et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2018; Lu et al., 2020a, 2020b).

As an important class of multifunctional materials, rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> can be twinned on (101) and (301) planes (Hwang et al., 2000; Li et al., 1999; Lu et al., 2012a, 2020a; Jordan et al., 2018; Gao et al., 1992; Daneu et al., 2007, 2014). However, the synthetic TiO<sub>2</sub> twins generally possess lower texture because twinning trends to alter the growth direction or crystal orientation, which is detrimental to practical applications and the discovery of novel properties, whereas the natural rutile twin minerals can directionally form on their substrates (Li et al., 1999; Lu et al., 2012a; Jordan et al., 2018; Gao et al., 1991, 1992; Daneu et al., 2007, 2014; Lee et al., 2006; Sosnowchik et al., 2010). Recently, we have successfully synthesized rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotwin films on fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO) glass substrates with the rare *b*-axis preferred orientation (instead of the *c*-axis in common self-aligned rutile films) via a rapid nucleation/twinning strategy (Lu et al., 2020a). In this study, to uncover the underlying mechanism of the anomalous alignment, we applied the state-of-the-art scanning synchrotron X-ray Laue nanodiffraction technique (XND, see supplemental

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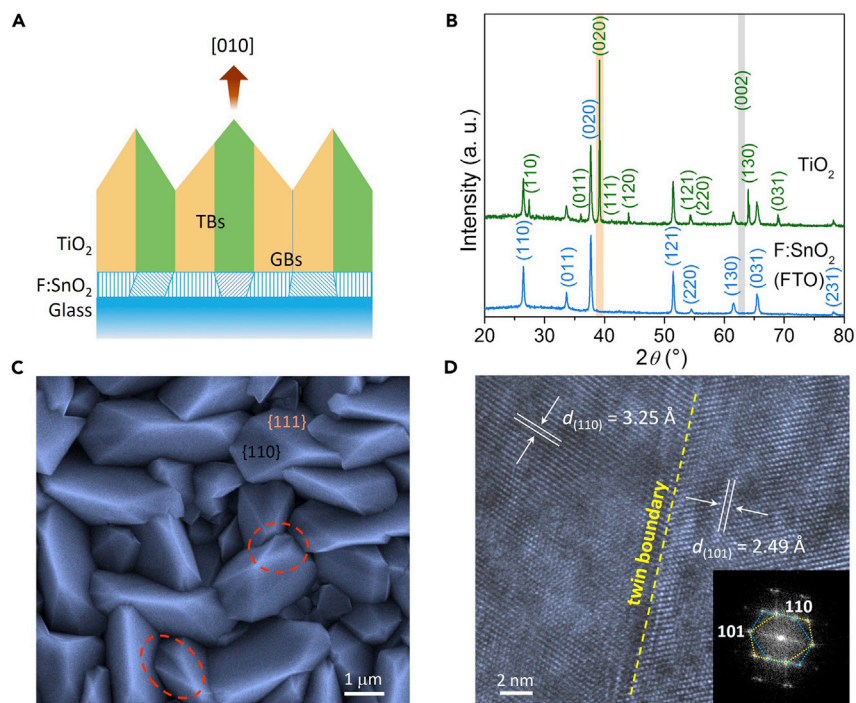
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**Figure 1. Texture-improved rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  twin film on F-doped  $\text{SnO}_2$  substrate**

(A) Schematic illustration of the rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  twin film on FTO (or F: $\text{SnO}_2$ ) substrate (side view).  
 (B) XRD patterns of the rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  twin film and the FTO conductive glass substrate.  
 (C) SEM image of the rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  twin crystals. The red dashed circles indicate the reentrant facets.  
 (D) TEM image of the twinned  $\text{TiO}_2$ . Inset is the corresponding fast Fourier transformation (FFT) pattern.

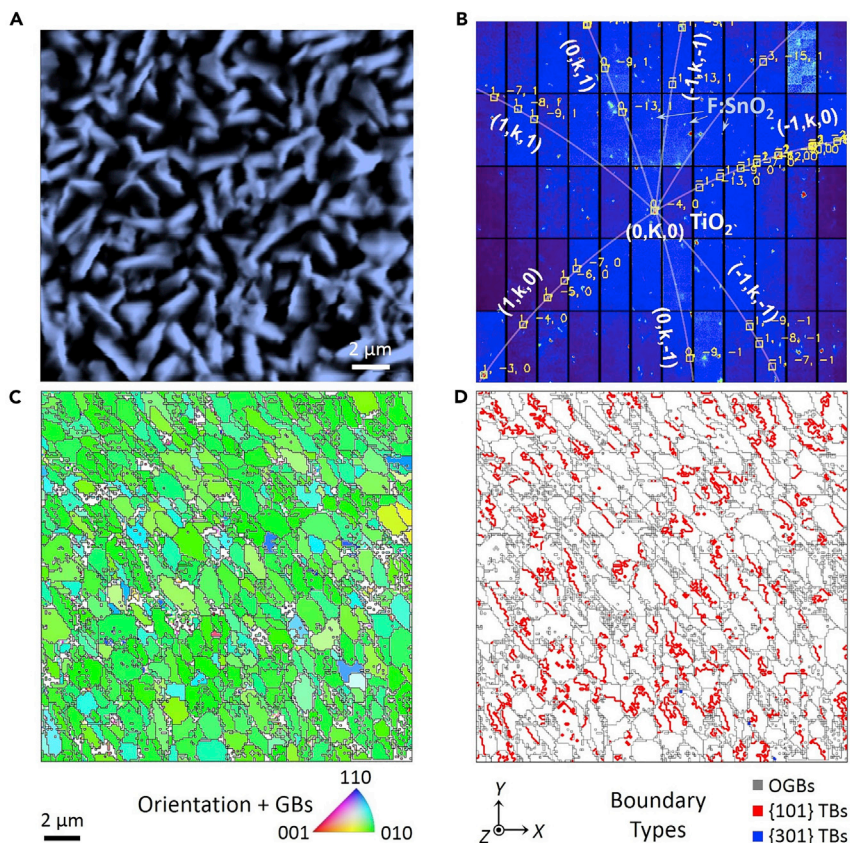
information Figure S1) and the developed data analyzing software to image the crystal orientation, twin boundaries, and stresses at  $\sim 80$  nm spatial resolution. A rutile  $\{101\}$  twin model on the substrate was proposed to illustrate the anomalous orientation. This study will facilitate the rational design and fabrication of better nanostructured materials.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Characterization of $[010]$ -oriented rutile twin films

Several methods can be adopted to determine the crystal orientation and grain boundaries in materials, including electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and electron tomography (Hsiao et al., 2012; Schwartz et al., 2009; Langille et al., 2012; Fultz and Howe, 2008; Midgley and Dunin-Borkowski, 2009). Although EBSD can image the orientation and twin boundaries of the crystals on the surface, the surface of the sample is required to be flat and the angular resolution is limited to  $1\text{--}0.1^\circ$  (Schwartz et al., 2009; Hsiao et al., 2012). TEM and electron tomography can characterize the crystal structure and twin boundaries or flat interfaces in an atomic resolution (Fultz and Howe, 2008; Midgley and Dunin-Borkowski, 2009; Langille et al., 2012), but the specimen preparation is complicated or the sample should be small/thin (generally, size/thickness  $< 100$  nm) due to the low penetration depth of electron beam. X-ray diffraction (XRD) in laboratory provides the ensemble-average crystal structure of multiple grains (size  $> 1$   $\mu\text{m}$ ). Alternatively, the high-brilliance X-ray nanobeam with strong penetration capacity enables the quantitative and nondestructive mapping of crystal orientation and buried grain boundaries of bulk/thick sample with larger strain and surface roughness by X-ray nanodiffraction (Chen et al., 2016), which makes it suitable for studying nanotwinned materials and *in situ* probing the processes of the growth and transformation of materials at extreme conditions, e.g., high/low temperature and high pressure/stress.

The  $\text{TiO}_2$  films (Figure 1A) were synthesized on the FTO glass substrates by a rapid reaction method (see transparent methods) (Lu et al., 2020a). The XRD patterns (Figures 1B and S2) show that the  $\text{TiO}_2$  film and



**Figure 2. Nanoimaging of morphology, crystal orientation, and twin boundaries of rutile film**

(A) SEM image of the TiO<sub>2</sub> film around the scanning region (~20 μm × 20 μm).

(B) Typical indexed XND image of the film (No. 14993).

(C) Crystal orientation map for TiO<sub>2</sub> grains along the normal direction of film (z axis) overlapped with grain boundaries (GBs). The white or transparent area represents the patterns failed to be indexed as rutile structure due to the complex or weak diffraction patterns from the joint area of grains.

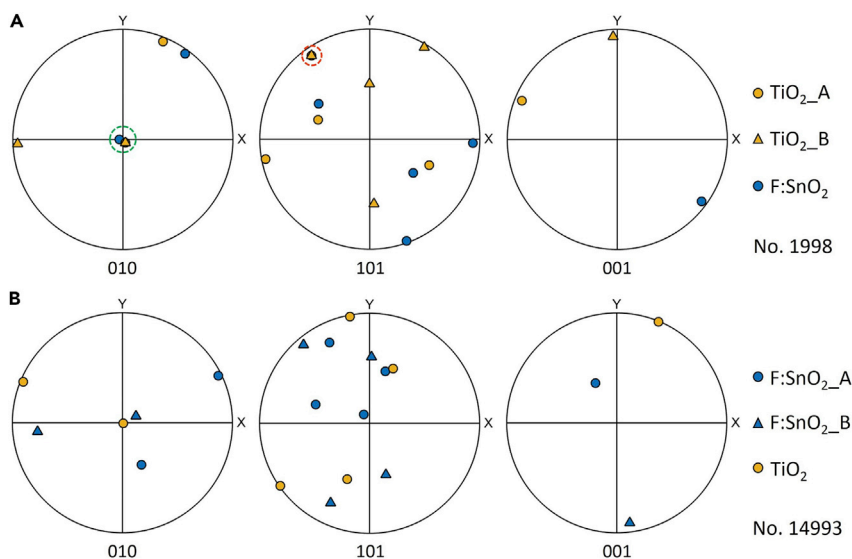
(D) Spatial distribution of ordinary grain boundaries (OGBs, gray), {101} twin boundaries (red), and {301} twin boundaries (blue). Scale bar (bottom left) for Figures 2C and 2D: 2 μm. Sample coordinate system (bottom) for Figures 2C and 2D: O-XYZ.

FTO substrate are of rutile structure and a preferred orientation of TiO<sub>2</sub> film along the [010] direction, with a degree about 16 times stronger than that of the isostructural substrate. The scanning electron microscopy (SEM) image (Figure 1C) shows the ship-like rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> crystals inverted on the substrate, with predominant exposed {111} and {110} facets (Lu et al., 2020a). Notably, there is a handful of crystals with reentrant shape, symbolizing twinned crystals. The high-resolution TEM image (Figure 1D) demonstrates that the sample possesses twin structure with a composition plane of (101). The thickness of the rutile twin film is about 2 μm (Figure S3).

### Laue nanoimaging of crystal orientation and twin boundaries

The dedicated XND setup of Taiwan Photon Source (TPS, beamline 21A) (Figure S1) can achieve an angular resolution down to 0.01°, with a nanoscale spatial resolution (~80 nm in this work), and the deviatoric strain tensors resolution of 10<sup>-4</sup> (Chung and Ice, 1999). Figure 2A shows the SEM image of the rutile twin film surrounding the XND-scanned region. A representative XND image (No. 14993) of the film was indexed as rutile phase (see Figure 2B). The (0, K, 0) spot of TiO<sub>2</sub> located near the center of the Laue image indicates that the a- or b-axis preferred orientation of the grain as inferred from the geometric relationship of the X-ray, sample, and detector (Figure S1). In the scanned region, there are 40,401 images recorded and auto-indexed. As shown in Figure 2C, the crystal orientation map (overlapped with grain boundaries) of the film along the normal direction (z axis, other directions can be found in Figures S4A and S4B) is predominantly





**Figure 3. Pole figures derived from typical XND images**

(A) XND image of No. 1998.  
(B) XND image of No. 14993.

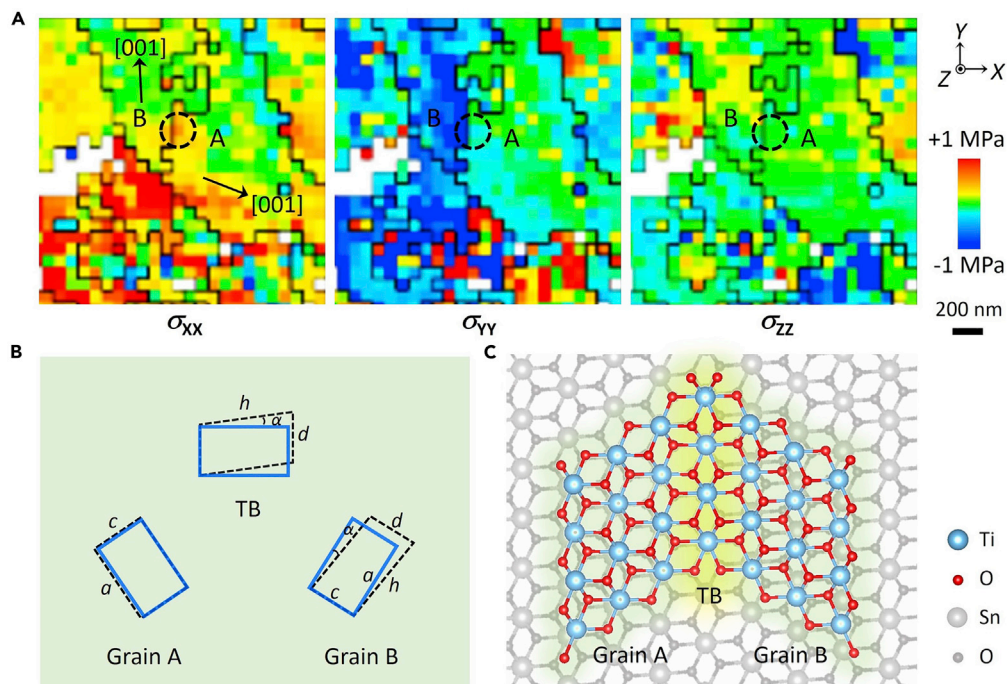
occupied by green area with only little blue and red area, revealing that the  $\text{TiO}_2$  film is preferentially oriented with the (100) or (010) crystal planes parallel to the glass substrate.

Previous studies showed that in the synthetic rutile phase  $\text{TiO}_2$  powder or natural rutile minerals, the {101} and {301} twins are usually present together, with around six times many former than the latter (Li et al., 1999; Lu et al., 2012a; Jordan et al., 2018; Gao et al., 1992; Daneu et al., 2007, 2014). In our case, the possible twin boundaries were identified from the ordinary grain boundaries by checking the rotation angle of adjacent grains and the parallelity of their rotation axis (Li et al., 2015). As shown in Figure 2D, the red dots or lines signify that the grain boundaries fit well with the {101} twin boundaries, judging from the fact that the rotation angle of the adjacent grains along the [010] axis is  $114.4^\circ$  for the rutile {101}/[010] twin. The blue dots represent that the GBs match well with the {301} TBs (the mutual rotation angle of the rutile {301}/[010] twin is  $54.7^\circ$  (Lee et al., 1993)). Obviously, massive {101}-type rutile twins were detected, whereas only a few blue dots are observed in the map, which suggests the ratio and weight of the rutile {301} twins in the film are much lower than that reported elsewhere. We note that there are lots of nanotwins with thickness less than 80 nm in the film, which have been demonstrated by TEM observation (Lu et al., 2020a).

Taking the XND image of No. 1998 as an example, the image can be indexed as two sets of Laue diffraction spots of rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  and one set of Laue diffraction spots of F-doped  $\text{SnO}_2$  (Figure S5 and Data S1). The orientation of both crystals plotted as pole figures shown in Figure 3A reveal that two {010} poles and two {101} poles overlap, respectively, i.e., {101} as composition planes and [010] as a twin axis. The misorientation between both twinned components is  $65.66^\circ/[0.0025\ 1.0000\ 0.0005]$ , agreeing well with the theoretical  $65.57^\circ/[0\ 1\ 0]$ . Moreover, the XND image of No. 14993 was indexed as one set of Laue diffraction spots of rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  and two sets of Laue diffraction spots of F-doped  $\text{SnO}_2$  (Figures 2B and S6). The corresponding pole figures (Figure 3B) indicate that the preferential [010] orientation of F: $\text{SnO}_2$  substrate is weaker than that of  $\text{TiO}_2$  overlayer, which is consistent with the XRD spectra, crystal orientation maps, and pole figures (Figures 1B, S4, and S7).

### Formation mechanism of well-aligned nanotwin film

During the process of rapid hydrothermal synthesis of our samples, there are roughly three mechanisms at play: (1) nucleation of twins in reactive solution, (2) attachment of twinned crystals or nuclei to the substrate, and (3) selective growth controlled by twin anisotropy. In growth twin, twinning is usually related to the stress partially generated by the presence of defects and impurities or the accidental attachment of crystalline grains during the initial stages of crystal growth (Penn and Banfield, 1998, 1999; Lebensohn and



**Figure 4. Strain distribution and twin-substrate model**

(A) Spatial distributions of the normalized deviatoric stresses in the typical twinned rutile grains. The position of No. 1998 is denoted by dashed circles.

(B) Lattice mismatch between rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  (blue line) and  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  (black dashed line). The angular mismatch ( $\alpha$ ) is around  $7.5^\circ$ .

(C) Scheme of the [010]-oriented rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  {101} twin on the  $\text{SnO}_2(010)$  viewed along the [010] direction.

Tomé, 1993; Guermazi et al., 1985; Bursill et al., 1969). To reveal the mechanisms of twinning and attachment, crystallographic relationships and the stress distribution in the rutile nanotwin film were further analyzed. As shown in Figures 4A and S8, the uneven distribution of deviatoric stresses in rutile twin film suggests that the formation or attachment of twinned rutile crystals on the substrate is associated with the stress. In addition, twinned particles were discovered in the reaction solution, and their shape is related to that of twins grown on the substrate (Figure S9) (Lu et al., 2020a). During the dynamic dissolution of reaction precursor (TiN) at room temperature or rapidly elevated temperature, the generation of oxygen vacancies ( $\text{Ti}^{3+}$ , see the electron paramagnetic resonance data in our previous work (Lu et al., 2020a)) or N species would induce twin nuclei to reduce the system energy at the initial reaction stage. Then, the rutile twin seeds attach and continuously grow on the  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  substrate. Hence, the  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  substrate is not the prerequisite for twinning but profoundly impact the heteroepitaxial growth and the preferred orientation of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  overlayer.

An atomic model of rutile {101} twin on  $\text{SnO}_2$  was proposed, as shown in Figure 4C, based on the pole figures such as No. 1998, strain distributions, and previous studies (Lu et al., 2012b; Lee et al., 1993). Table 1 and Figure 4B show the lattice mismatch between rutile twin and substrate. It was found that the lattice mismatch between the isostructural  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  and one twin component (Grain A and twin boundary) is lower than 8%, which could facilitate its heteroepitaxy on  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  grains and the formation of the other twin component (Grain B) with [010]-preferred orientation regardless of the large (tensile or compressive) stress in the Grain B region (Steidl et al., 2017). Similar effect can be obtained in the case of the rutile {301} twin formation (Figure S10). Rutile twin can be grown on some types of hexagonal substrates, such as sapphire ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) (Gao et al., 1992; Lee et al., 2006) and hematite ( $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) (Rečnik et al., 2015) or formed from other hexagonal precursors, e.g., ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ) (Janssen et al., 2010; Stanković et al., 2015; Daneu et al., 2014). Interestingly, the (010)-oriented  $\text{SnO}_2$  substrate possesses an approximately hexagonal atomic arrangement, showing the importance of the lattice-matching attachment in the twinning and heteroepitaxial growth. The attachment of twinned rutile nanocrystals onto  $\text{SnO}_2$  substrate may be controlled by some

**Table 1. Lattice mismatch between the rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> {101} twin and F:SnO<sub>2</sub> substrate**

	Grain A region		Twin boundary		Grain B region	
	a (Å)	c (Å)	d (Å)	h (Å)	a or h (Å)	c or d (Å)
TiO <sub>2</sub>	4.5940	2.9590	2.7322	4.9753	4.5940	2.9590
F:SnO <sub>2</sub>	4.7687	3.2036	2.8724	5.3644	5.3644	2.8724
Mismatch	3.73%	7.94%	5.00%	7.53%	15.47%	-2.97%

mode of van der Waals-force-driven self-assembly processes, as described in references (Penn and Banfield, 1998; Jordan et al., 2018). In this case, the orientation relationship between SnO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> is expected to be imperfect, as shown by XND data (Figure S4).

In previous studies, the untwinned rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> films of nanorods or nanowires that were grown on FTO substrates commonly possess the [001]-preferred orientation, although the preferential orientation of FTO substrates is [010] direction (Lu et al., 2019; Liu and Aydil, 2009; Feng et al., 2008). The erected growth of untwinned prismatic rutile on substrates could suppress the prostrate growth due to the fact that the fastest growth rate is along [001] direction, which can account for the self-aligned behavior of one-dimensional rutile arrays on [010]-oriented substrates. From the view point of surface free energy, the tips of rutile nanorods or nanowires are commonly exposed with reactive high-energy facets ({111}, {001}, or {101}), which favors the fastest growth along [001] direction and the formation of lateral low-energy {110} facets (Lu et al., 2019, 2020a). However, in our case, after twinned TiO<sub>2</sub> is formed, the [001] direction ceases to be the fastest growth direction. Instead, the twin plane becomes the fastest growth direction, pulling the rest of rutile crystal along its way. This is supported by the fact that the ship-like rutile twins mainly are predominated with {111} facets (some capping species may be formed in the rapid reaction environments). In effect, this type of geometric control actually governs crystal orientation in the TiO<sub>2</sub> film, whereas the substrate only plays a minor role. Any crystals that have unfavorable orientations (with twin plane not vertical to the substrate) will be blocked by surrounding seeds, and only those that have twin plane oriented vertically to the substrate can grow freely. It is likely that they would grow in a similar manner on any substrate other than FTO, as described for ZnO films by Podlogar et al. (Podlogar et al., 2012). Therefore, the discovered texture improvement could be ascribed to the rapid formation of twinned seeds on the preferred orientation of FTO substrate in the special reaction environments.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the twin law and crystallographic texture in the anomalously aligned TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotwin film were systematically analyzed by the synchrotron X-ray Laue nanodiffraction. The anomalous alignment was mainly ascribed to the twin-mediated heteroepitaxy with low lattice mismatch. This study also presents a state-of-the-art tool to investigate the twin structure, crystal orientation, and internal strain of functional materials at sub-100 nm resolution and would stimulate the widespread application of X-ray Laue nanodiffraction in materials science, geoscience, solar cells, and electronic and optoelectronic devices. With the rapid developments of X-ray focusing optics and advanced synchrotron light sources, we expect that the X-ray Laue nanodiffraction system will further enable the quantitative 2D/3D imaging of materials at several nanometers resolution.

## Limitations of the study

It is not clear whether rutile {301} twins are present or not in the film. The orientation maps of FTO may be distorted because the grain size is too small and the software (XMAS, 2018) cannot automatically remove the indexed points from TiO<sub>2</sub> during the auto-indexing.

## Resource availability

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**Data and code availability**

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**METHODS**

All methods can be found in the accompanying transparent methods supplemental file .

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2021.102278>.

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**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Conceptualization, Y.Lu and H.Y.; Methodology, Y.Lu, C.S.K., C.Y.C., Y.Li, and H.Y.; Investigation, C.Y.C., Y.Li, Y.Lu, and N.T.; Writing—Original Draft, Y.Lu; Writing—Review and Editing, Y.Lu, E.H., H.Y., and B.C.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The authors declare no competing interests.

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**Supplemental information**

**Twinning-mediated anomalous alignment**

**of rutile films revealed by synchrotron**

**X-ray nanodiffraction**

**Yang Lu, Ching-Yu Chiang, Yao Li, Ching-Shun Ku, Hao Yan, Eugene Huang, Bin Chen, and Nobumichi Tamura**

## Supplemental Information

### Transparent Methods, Figures S1-S10, and Data S1

#### Transparent Methods

##### *Synthesis*

The well-aligned rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> twins were grown on fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO) glass substrates by a rapid hydrothermal method (Lu et al., 2020). In a typical synthetic procedure, titanium nitride powder (40 mg, 99.5 wt%, size: 2-10 μm, aladdin), hydrochloric acid (26 mL, 5.0 M), and hydrogen peroxide (4 mL, 30 wt%) were placed in a Teflon-lined autoclave (100 mL in volume), in which two pieces of cleaned FTO conducting substrates were slantwise immersed with the conductive side facing down, then, heated quickly at 200 °C for 20 h in an electric oven (preheated to ~200 °C). After the hydrothermal procedure, the autoclave was taken out and cooled naturally to room temperature. The obtained samples were washed with deionized water and dried in ambient environment.

##### *Characterization*

The crystal structure and preferential orientation of samples were investigated by the powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) on the X-ray diffractometer with Cu-Kα radiation (PANalytical X'Pert Pro,  $\lambda_{\text{K}\alpha 1} = 1.540598 \text{ \AA}$ ). The degree of the preferential orientation ( $p$ ) of a film was estimated by the ratio ( $R$ ) of peak intensity (e.g.  $I_{(020)} / I_{(110)}$ ) as compared with the ratio ( $R^0$ ) of the reference powder without preferred orientation. That is,  $p = R / R^0 = I_{(020)} / I_{(110)} / R^0$ . We used JCPDS no. 96-900-4142 as the rutile reference ( $R^0 = 0.071$ ), and JCPDS no. 01-077-0452 as the F:SnO<sub>2</sub> reference ( $R^0 = 0.207$ ). The morphology and twin structure of samples were characterized by a field-emission scanning electron microscope (SEM, Hitachi SU8020) and a transmission electron microscope (TEM, FEI TECNAI G<sup>2</sup> S-TWIN). The cross-sectional TEM specimen (thinned TiO<sub>2</sub> ~ 80 nm) was prepared by a focused ion beam (FIB) and scanning electron microscope dual beam system (FEI Versa 3D).

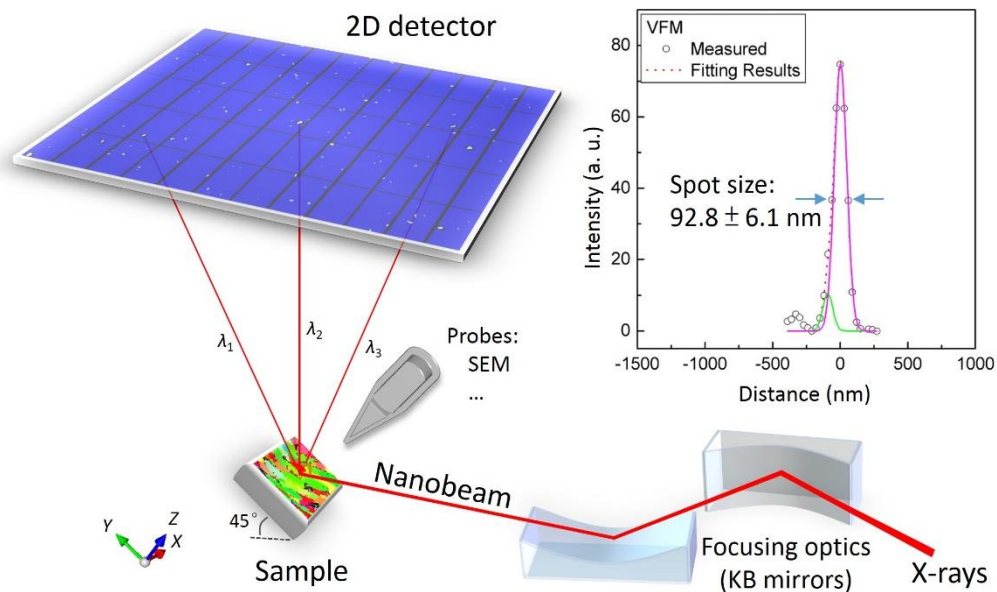
##### *X-ray Laue nanodiffraction experiments and data analysis*

The synchrotron X-ray Laue nanodiffraction of film was conducted at the beamline BL21A of Taiwan Photon Source (TPS), where the FOCUS x-Ray for Micro-Structure Analysis (FORMOSA) end-station provides an all-in-one solution including a large area hybrid pixel array detector (DECTRIS Pilatus3S 6M) on the top of the sample chamber and a built-in SEM (ORSAY PHYSICS) as an online real-time navigator (Chen et al., 2016). The TiO<sub>2</sub> film (on a holder) was mounted on an integrated hexapod scanner enabling the scanning measurements, and tilted 45° relative to the incident X-ray nanobeam. A series of scanning 2D polychromatic Laue diffraction patterns of sample were collected with an exposure time of 400 ms and the spatial resolution of ~80 nm at room temperature (Sample-CCD distance: 523.220 mm; Energy:

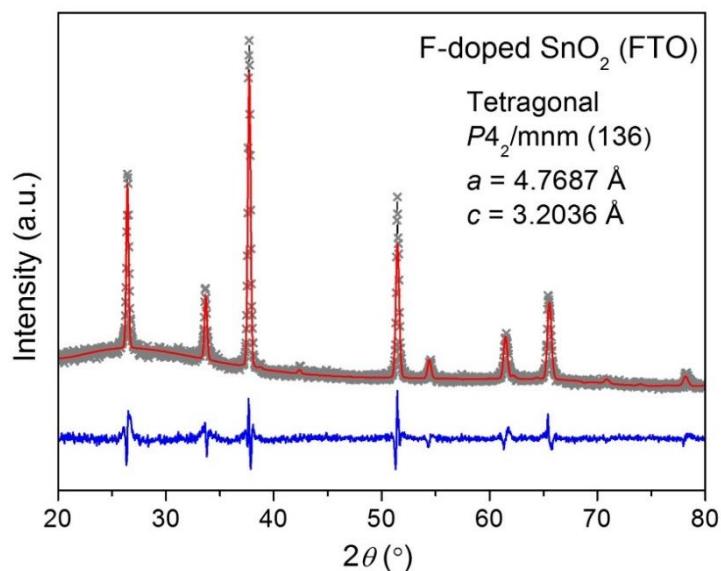
5-28 keV).

The crystal orientation and stress information were simultaneously determined from these patterns by the X-ray Microdiffraction Analysis Software (XMAS, Tamura, 2018) on personal computer and super-computer (Dell R220 computer clusters with 48 nodes, NSSRC). To map the crystal orientation, grain boundaries, and deviatoric stresses, the software automatically picked up the Laue pattern with the strongest intensity and indexed at least 6 reflections (or backscattering Laue points), i.e., only analyzed one TiO<sub>2</sub> grain per XND image. The twin law were determined by the self-developed software. The errors of both rotation angle and rotation axis of adjacent gains are less than 3° during the mapping of twin boundaries (Li et al., 2015). The used elastic stiffness tensor of rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> is

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 2.6700 & 1.6500 & 1.5200 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1.6500 & 2.6700 & 1.5200 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1.5200 & 1.5200 & 4.8300 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.2200 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.2200 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2.1200 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

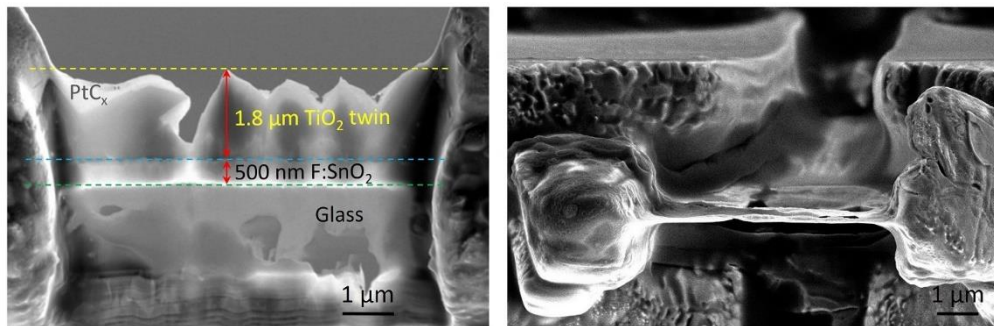


**Figure S1. Schematic layout of the scanning synchrotron X-ray Laue nanodiffraction with sub-100 nm spatial resolution, Related to Figures 2-4.** The polychromatic X-rays spot was focused to tens of nanometer (inserted diagram) by focusing K-B mirror optics. The sample was fixed on a holder from which high-resolution diffraction patterns were collected by a PILATUS 6M detector.

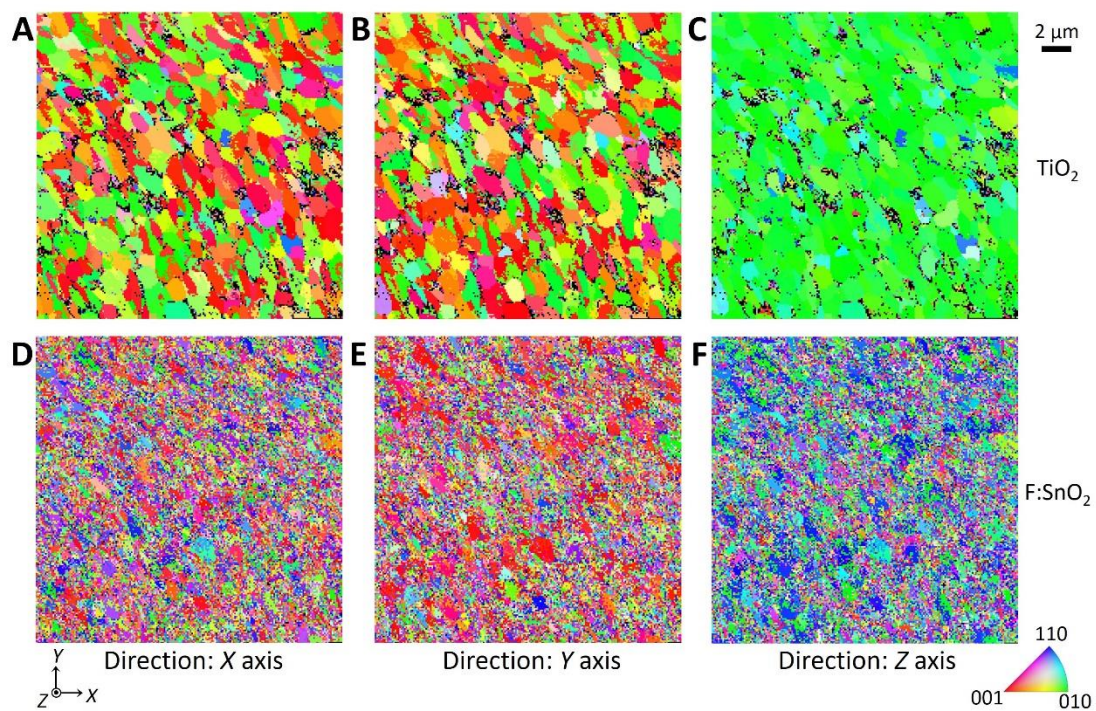


**Figure S2. Rietveld refinement of the experimental XRD data of the FTO conductive glass slice at ambient conditions, Related to Figure 1 and Table 1.** The refinement was performed using the *General Structure and Analysis System II (GSAS-II)* (Toby and Von Dreele, 2013). The blue line denotes the difference between the experiment (grey X) and refinement (red).





**Figure S3. SEM images of the FIB-prepared TEM specimen of the rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  twin film, Related to Figure 1.**



**Figure S4. Crystal orientation maps of  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  along different directions in the sample coordinate system, Related to Figures 2 and 3.**

(A-C) Crystal orientation maps of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotwin film.

(D-F) Crystal orientation maps of the  $\text{F:SnO}_2$  grains substrate. The black dots represent the patterns failed to be indexed as rutile structure.

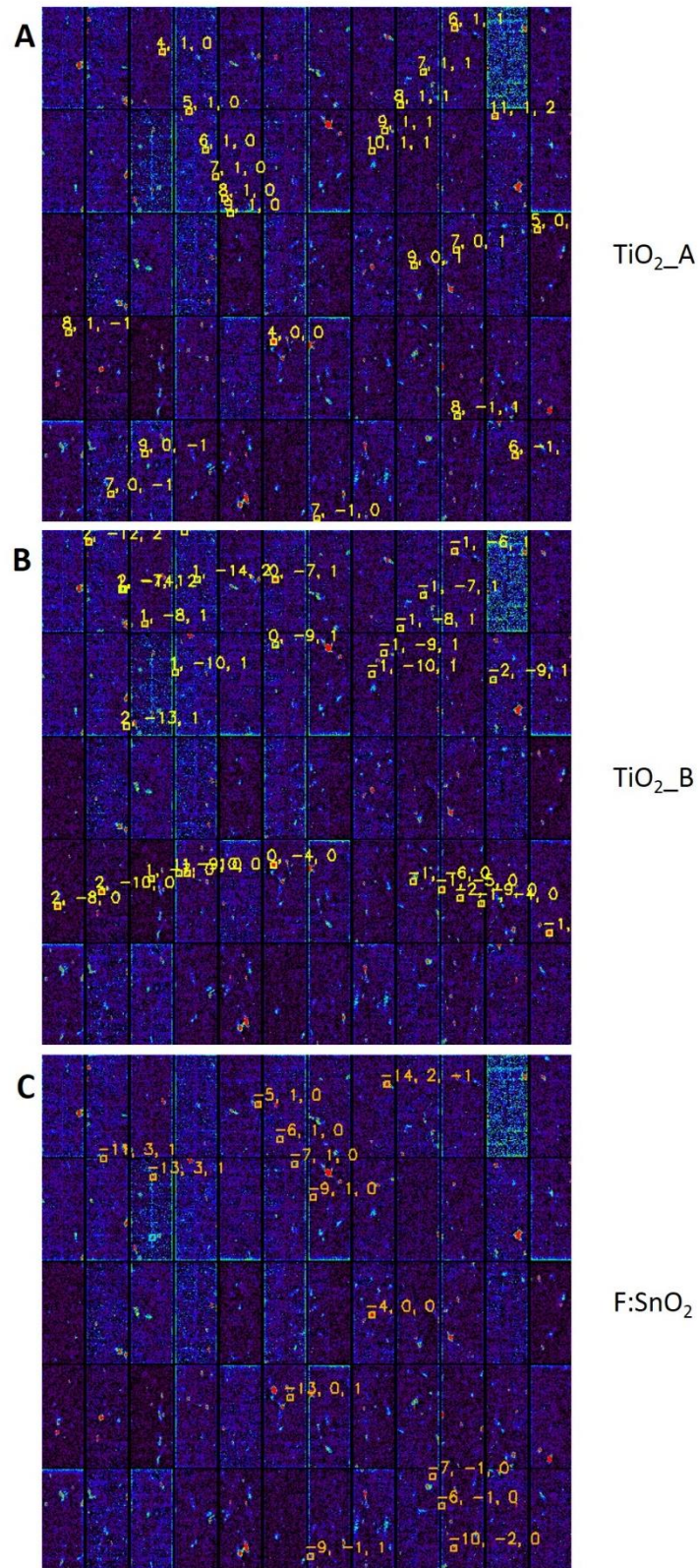


Figure S5. XND image of No. 1998 indexed to tetragonal TiO<sub>2</sub> (A & B) and SnO<sub>2</sub> (C) structure ( $a = 4.7687 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 3.2036 \text{ \AA}$ ), respectively, Related to Figure 3. Please find the indexed results in the Supplemental Data.



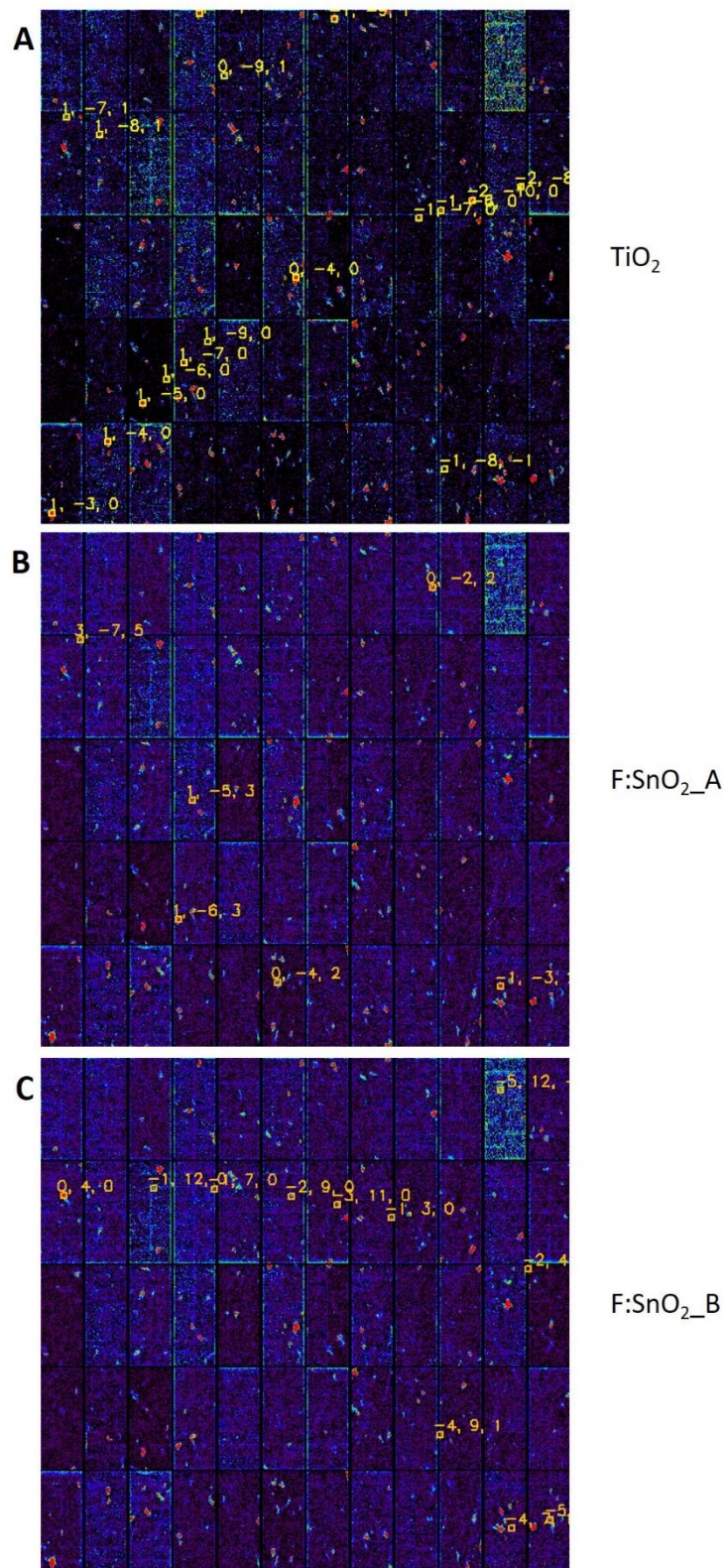


Figure S6. XND image of No. 14993 indexed to tetragonal TiO<sub>2</sub> (A) and SnO<sub>2</sub> (B & C) structure ( $a = 4.7687 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 3.2036 \text{ \AA}$ ), respectively, Related to Figure 3.

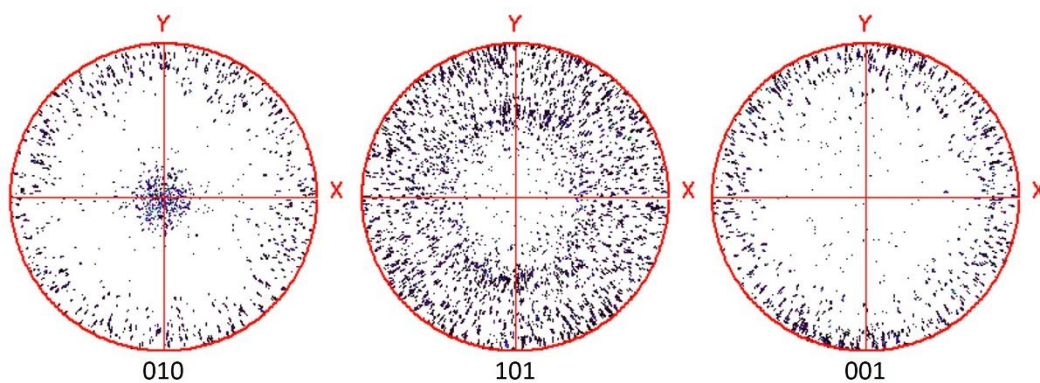


Figure S7. Pole figures of  $\text{TiO}_2$  for all indexed XND images, Related to Figure 3.

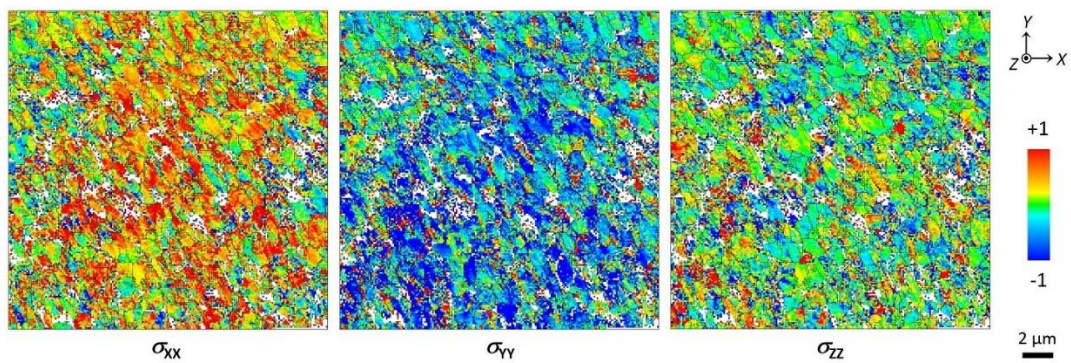


Figure S8. Spatial distribution of the normalized deviatoric stresses (overlapped with grain boundaries) in the rutile nanotwin film, Related to Figure 4.

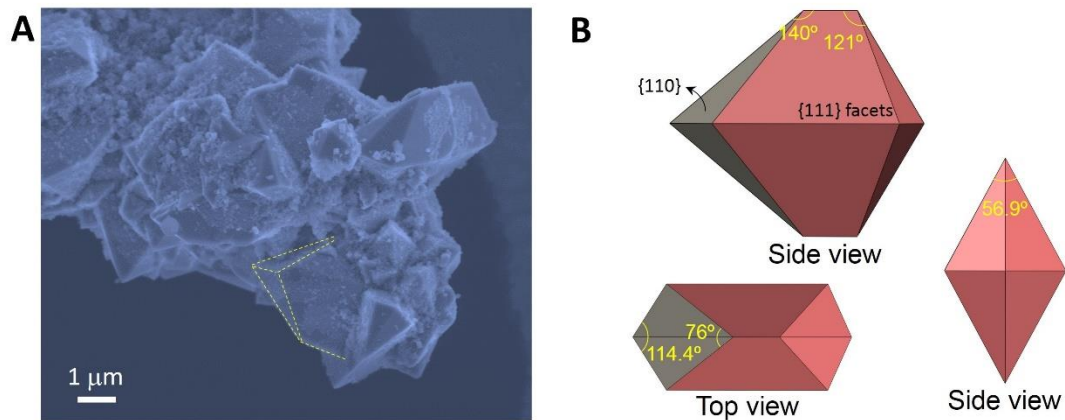


Figure S9. SEM image (A) and shape model (B) of the precipitated twinned particles in the reaction solution, Related to Figure 1 and Table 1.

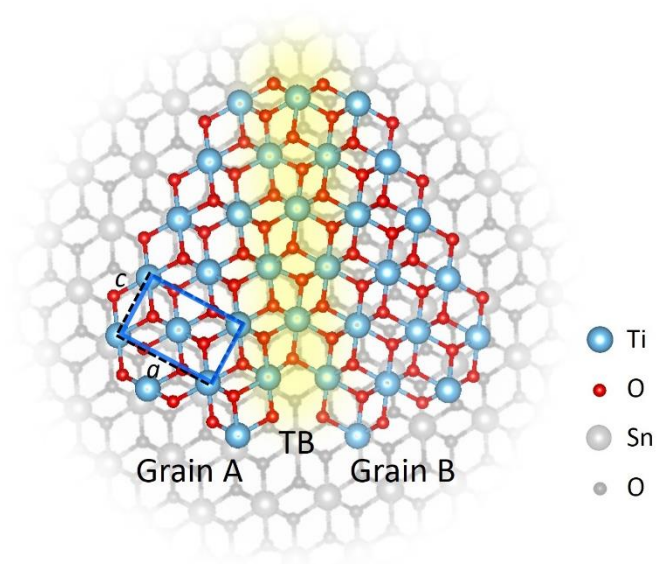


Figure S10. Scheme of the rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$  {301} twin on the  $\text{SnO}_2$ (010) viewed along the [010] direction, Related to Figure 2 and Table 1.



**Data S1. Indexed reports of the XND image No. TiO<sub>2</sub>\_scan2\_0001998 (tif) from XMAS, Related to Figure 3.**

**1. Indexed results of TiO<sub>2</sub>\_A grain**

number of grains found: 1

grain no: 0 grainlist file index: 0

number of indexed reflections: 22

x(exp)	y(exp)	h	k	l	Ener(keV)	2theta(deg)
1106.695	1602.503	4	0	0	8.16582	82.75478
329.5151	2332.707	7	0	-1	16.74797	70.58026
703.5555	501.1892	5	1	0	8.79855	102.8949
574.8782	216.6063	4	1	0	6.89485	107.5996
1982.293	1165.486	7	0	1	13.56202	91.02973
2369.085	1066.217	5	0	1	9.75535	92.80698
1973.84	100.3204	6	1	1	10.35671	109.7635
1986.335	1959.834	8	-1	1	17.86347	76.66513
2261.803	2148.651	6	-1	1	14.1077	73.80907
1313.163	2453.517	7	-1	0	17.10203	67.82719
127.3696	1559.122	8	1	-1	16.58127	83.85445
1715.04	469.8182	8	1	1	14.08803	103.7079
493.0877	2141.897	9	0	-1	20.60028	73.49051
830.6199	813.3861	7	1	0	12.70187	97.39285
1777.531	1241.373	9	0	1	17.48984	89.60318
780.1652	684.0765	6	1	0	10.73812	99.70841
900.0615	990.7714	9	1	0	16.68744	94.15342
2166.246	525.0349	11	1	2	19.86192	102.4333
1575.416	690.8137	10	1	1	17.94053	99.79426
1636.77	593.6983	9	1	1	16.00582	101.5357
1821.293	311.0002	7	1	1	12.20069	106.3962
874.009	919.6783	8	1	0	14.70234	95.45995

dev1, dev2, pixdev= 0.0338600 0.0377700 0.0253900

matrix X Y Z -> h k l  
0.02232 -0.02842 0.45798  
0.17356 0.42498 0.01791  
-0.27359 0.11088 0.02022

matrix h k l -> X Y Z  
0.10577 0.82237 -3.12475  
-0.13467 2.01364 1.26641  
2.17001 0.08488 0.23089

Number of missing reflections: 35

Rfactor: 0.82745999

Rotangle(deg): 88.79728

Rodrigues vector: 0.16442 0.94101 0.21531 88.79728  
Quaternion: 0.71449 0.11747 0.67234 0.15384  
Euler angles: 79.66722 42.75689 82.67116  
orsnr, orsirxy, orsirxz, orsiryz: 53.32627 67.78503 -51.50586 25.23834  
Rotation matrix, unit cell to sample:  
0.04859 0.37780 -0.92461  
-0.06187 0.92507 0.37473  
0.99690 0.03899 0.06832  
Rotation matrix, sample to unit cell:  
0.04859 -0.06187 0.99690  
0.37780 0.92507 0.03899  
-0.92461 0.37473 0.06832  
Sum of integrated intensities: 8933603.00000  
Average integrated intensity per peak: 446680.15625  
scale: 0.00598000  
depth: -0.175070  
Unindexed reflections: 0  
Xstage position: 43514.0  
Ystage position: 11800.0  
X map position: -22021  
Y map position: 1  
Izero: 10597.000  
Channel A: 0.00000000  
Channel B: 0.00000000  
Channel C: 0.00000000  
Channel D: 0.00000000  
Channel E: 0.00000000  
Exposure: 0.607000  
Average intensity of the image: 92.838362  
Average background of the image: 82.873988

## 2. Indexed results of TiO<sub>2</sub> B grain

number of grains found: 1

grain no: 0 grainlist file index: 0

number of indexed reflections: 27

x(exp)	y(exp)	h	k	l	Ener(keV)	2theta(deg)
1106.695	1602.503	0	-4	0	8.16582	82.75478
2424.365	1929.563	-1	-3	0	6.8009	77.72577
284.0622	1732.038	2	-10	0	21.24706	80.73582
1909.466	1721.401	-1	-5	0	10.61332	80.82959
73.95251	1803.11	2	-8	0	17.36535	79.703
2102.05	1787.395	-1	-4	0	8.67309	79.80879
1116.278	238.4037	0	-7	1	11.97984	107.735
1973.84	100.3204	-1	-6	1	10.35671	109.7635
222.8259	58.89168	2	-12	2	20.74039	109.5519
1715.04	469.8182	-1	-8	1	14.08803	103.7079
494.1708	450.5739	1	-8	1	14.10315	103.5517
522.5287	1669.975	1	-7	0	14.5915	81.67837
1776.94	1685.652	-1	-6	0	12.58823	81.39429
1115.37	549.5213	0	-9	1	15.8245	102.3036
1821.293	311.0002	-1	-7	1	12.20069	106.3962
389.9437	286.9494	2	-14	2	24.43778	106.1684
2000.909	1764.839	-2	-9	0	19.33087	80.1202
743.8867	237.2892	1	-14	2	24.05987	107.4615
695.955	1642.875	1	-10	0	20.65261	82.09056
654.776	1644.174	1	-9	0	18.61041	82.08256
2158.033	714.6269	-2	-9	1	16.57559	99.12955
1577.617	692.2443	-1	-10	1	17.944	99.76793
637.6443	679.6884	1	-10	1	17.95503	99.68447
383.8218	284.9153	1	-7	1	12.21694	106.1928
1634.819	590.6048	-1	-9	1	15.99944	101.5917
406.287	942.7387	2	-13	1	24.2765	94.81672
680.4789	8.1313	1	-12	2	20.34551	111.1356

dev1, dev2, pixdev= 0.0726400 0.0619900 0.0485500

matrix X Y Z -> h k l

0.45854 0.01915 -0.02052

-0.02169 0.02868 -0.45799

-0.01147 0.29507 0.01902

matrix h k l -> X Y Z

2.17269 -0.10279 -0.13099

0.09072 0.13590 3.36999

-0.09723 -2.17007 0.21725

Number of missing reflections: 72

Rfactor: 0.62246001  
Rotangle(deg): 86.42025  
Rodrigues vector: 0.93847 -0.00278 -0.04184 86.42094  
Quaternion: 0.72884 0.68400 -0.00203 -0.03049  
Euler angles: 86.31144 2.21962 -2.70861  
orsnr, orsirxy, orsirxz, orsiryz: 53.56714 2.39092 -0.67673 53.56610  
Rotation matrix, unit cell to sample:  
0.99813 -0.04722 -0.03876  
0.04168 0.06243 0.99718  
-0.04467 -0.99693 0.06429  
Rotation matrix, sample to unit cell:  
0.99813 0.04168 -0.04467  
-0.04722 0.06243 -0.99693  
-0.03876 0.99718 0.06429  
Sum of integrated intensities: 14591121.00000  
Average integrated intensity per peak: 583644.81250  
scale: 10.9890  
depth: -0.264670  
Unindexed reflections: 0  
Xstage position: 43514.0  
Ystage position: 11800.0  
X map position: -22021  
Y map position: 1  
Izero: 10597.000  
Channel A: 0.00000000  
Channel B: 0.00000000  
Channel C: 0.00000000  
Channel D: 0.00000000  
Channel E: 0.00000000  
Exposure: 0.607000  
Average intensity of the image: 92.838362  
Average background of the image: 82.873988

### 3. Indexed results of F:SnO<sub>2</sub> grain

The indexed reflections from TiO<sub>2</sub> were masked to reduce the interference.

```
number of grains found:      1
grain no:      0      grainlist file index:      0
number of indexed reflections:      13
x(exp)  y(exp)  h  k  l  Ener(keV)  2theta(deg)
1575.453  1244.985  -4  0  0  7.38595  89.50503
1968.467  2359.248  -10 -2  0  23.14313  69.89858
1034.028  235.7058  -5  1  0  8.20737  107.7363
1208.45  523.1463  -7  1  0  11.7619  102.8047
1868.458  2020.032  -7  -1  0  15.01524  75.49885
1298.06  682.6916  -9  1  0  15.3738  99.94311
1184.172  1639.877  -13  0  1  25.9119  82.06355
1138.206  403.6893  -6  1  0  9.97449  104.8938
1911.1  2159.014  -6  -1  0  13.2699  73.15503
1283.73  2400.521  -9  -1  1  21.14641  68.68884
1645.708  140.9373  -14  2  -1  22.65584  109.3669
294.0976  495.5388  -11  3  1  19.1628  102.5327
529.8547  583.9432  -13  3  1  22.57164  101.2806
```

```
dev1, dev2, pixdev= 0.0818400 0.0648700 0.0430400
```

```
matrix X Y Z -> h k l
0.03029 0.00120 -0.47590
0.28079 0.38497 0.01884
0.25813 -0.18906 0.01595
```

```
matrix h k l -> X Y Z
0.13320 1.23478 2.51518
0.00528 1.69292 -1.84212
-2.09279 0.08286 0.15544
```

```
Number of missing reflections: 99
```

```
Rfactor: 0.69611001
```

```
Rotangle(deg): 92.27490
```

```
Rodrigues vector: -0.32784 -0.93915 0.30527 92.27490
```

```
Quaternion: 0.69293 -0.22717 -0.65076 0.21153
```

```
Euler angles: -85.17680 -38.86055 83.84298
```

```
orsnr, orsirxy, orsirxz, orsiryz: 53.28348 53.89382 46.65455 -88.82387
```

```
Rotation matrix, unit cell to sample:
```

```
0.06352 0.58882 0.80576
0.00252 0.80730 -0.59014
-0.99798 0.03951 0.04980
```



Rotation matrix, sample to unit cell:

0.06352 0.00252 -0.99798  
0.58882 0.80730 0.03951  
0.80576 -0.59014 0.04980

Sum of integrated intensities: 2007949.12500

Average integrated intensity per peak: 182540.82813

scale: -0.00419000

depth: -0.187010

Unindexed reflections: 0

Xstage position: 43514.0

Ystage position: 11800.0

X map position: -22021

Y map position: 1

Izero: 10597.000

Channel A: 0.00000000

Channel B: 0.00000000

Channel C: 0.00000000

Channel D: 0.00000000

Channel E: 0.00000000

Exposure: 0.607000

Average intensity of the image: 92.838362

Average background of the image: 82.873988

## Supplemental References

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