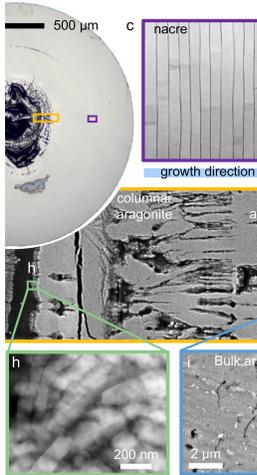


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## Captions: How pearls achieve nanoscale precision



### particle\_resolving.png:

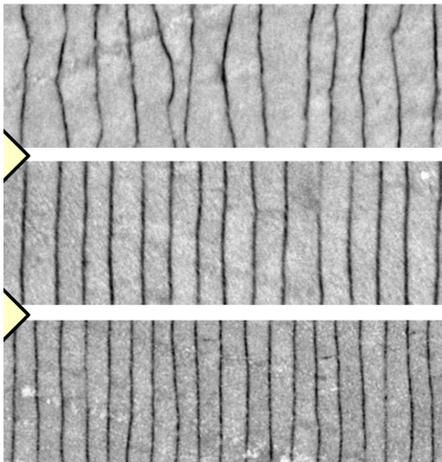
a. A Keshi pearl that has been sliced into pieces for study.

b. A magnified cross-section of the pearl shows its transition from its disorderly center to thousands of layers of finely matched nacre.

c. A magnification of the nacre layers shows their self-correction—when one layer is thicker, the next is thinner to compensate, and vice-versa.

d, e: Atomic scale images of the nacre layers.

f, g, h, i: Microscopy images detail the transitions between the pearl's layers.



nacre\_growth.png: Electron microscopy shows how a pearl's layers of nacre become more precise as they build outward from the pearl's center.