# Diffraction From Powder (Polycrystalline) Samples and 

## Structure Determination

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## Neutron Scattering's Moment in the Limelight



## Lecture Outline -- References

- General Concepts
- Direct Lattice, Reciprocal Lattice, Lattice Types
- Diffraction Conditions (Bragg Law, Ewald Diagram)
- Polycrystals vs Single Crystals
- Scattering Cross-sections, amplitudes and form factors
- References:
- Neutron Diffraction, G.E. Bacon, 5th edition, Oxford Press, 1975
- Theory of Neutron Scattering From Condensed Matter, S.W. Lovesey, Oxford Press 1984
- Introduction to the Theory of Neutron Scattering, G.L. Squires, Dover, 1996.
- Solid State Physics, N.W. Ashcroft, N.D. Mermin, Holt, Rinehart \& Winston, 1976


## General Properties of the Neutron

- The kinetic energy of a 1.8 Å neutron is equivalent to $T=293 \mathrm{~K}$ (warm coffee!), so it is called a thermal neutron.
- The relationships between wavelength $(\AA)$ and the energy (meV), and the speed $(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{hr})$ of the neutron are:

$$
E=81.89 / \lambda^{2} \text { and } v=3960 / \lambda
$$

e.g. the $1.8 \AA$ neutron has $\mathrm{E}=25.3 \mathrm{meV}$ and $\mathrm{v}=2200 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}=4900$ $\mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{hr}$

- The wavelength if of the same order as the atomic separation so interference occurs between waves scattered by neighboring atoms (diffraction).
- Also, the energy is of same order as that of lattice vibrations (phonons) or magnetic excitations (magnons) and thus creation of annihilation of a lattice wave produces a measurable shift in neutron energy (inelastic scattering).


## COMPARATIVE PROPERTIES OF X-RAY AND NEUTRON SCATTERING

| Property | X-Rays | Neutrons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wavelength | Characteristic line spectra such as $\mathrm{Cu}_{\alpha}$ $\lambda=1.54 \AA$ | Continuous wavelength band, or single $\lambda=$ $1.1 \pm 0.05 \AA$ separated out from Maxwell spectrum by crystal monochromator or chopper |
| Energy for $\lambda=1 \AA$ | $10^{18} \mathrm{~h}$ | $10^{13} \mathrm{~h}$ (same order as energy of elementary excitations) |
| Nature of scattering by atoms | Electronic <br> Form factor dependence on $[\sin \theta] / \lambda$ Linear increase of scattering amplitude with atomic number, calculable from known electronic configurations | Nuclear, Isotropic, no angular dependent factor Irregular variation with atomic number. Dependent on nuclear structure and only determined empirically by experiment |
| Magnetic Scattering | Very weak additional scattering ( $\approx 10^{-5}$ ) | Additional scattering by atoms with magnetic moments (same magnitude as nuclear scattering) Amplitude of scattering falls off with increasing $[\sin \theta] / \lambda$ |
| Absorption coefficient | Very large, true absorption much larger than scattering $\mu_{\mathrm{abs}} \approx 10^{2}-10^{3}$ <br> increases with atomic number | Absorption usually very small (exceptions Gd, Cd, B ...) and less tha scattering $\mu_{\mathrm{abs}} \approx 10^{-1}$ |
| Method of Detection | Solid State Detector, Image Plate | Proportional ${ }^{3} \mathrm{He}$ counter |

## Real Space Lattice <br> Direct Space Vectors, Unit Cells

- Bravais Lattice -- Lattice of Atoms in Crystal Cell
- Basis vectors $\mathbf{a}_{1}, \mathbf{a}_{2}, \mathbf{a}_{3}$

$-\quad$ Vector to $\mathbf{P}=\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{1}}+2 \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{2}} \quad$ (2-D) Linear Comb. Of Basis Vectors
- General Vector (3-D)

$$
\mathbf{R}=\mathrm{n}_{1} \mathbf{a}_{1}+\mathrm{n}_{2} \mathbf{a}_{2}+\mathrm{n}_{3} \mathbf{a}_{3}
$$



## Types of 3-d Bravais Lattices

- 14 types of Bravais lattices in 7 classes
- Restricted Translations, Rotations, Mirror Planes, etc. are all allowed symmetry operations on lattice and generate 32 crystal classes and in turn 230 space groups


| System | Number <br> of <br> lattices | Restrictions on <br> conventional cell <br> axes and angles |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Triclinic | 1 | $a_{1} \neq a_{2} \neq a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma$ |
| Monoclinic | 2 | $a_{1} \neq a_{2} \neq a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha=\gamma=90^{\circ} \neq \beta$ <br> $a_{1} \neq a_{2} \neq a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ}$ <br> Orthorhombic <br> Tetragonal |
| Cubic | 4 | $a_{1}=a_{2} \neq a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ}$ <br> Trigonal |
| Hexagonal | 2 | $a_{1}=a_{2}=a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ}$ |
|  | 3 | $a_{1}=a_{2}=a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha=\beta=\gamma<120^{\circ}, \neq 90^{\circ}$ <br> $a_{1}=a_{2} \neq a_{3}$ <br> $\alpha=\beta=90^{\circ}$ <br> $\gamma=120^{\circ}$ |



## Golden Rule of Neutron Scattering

- We don't take pictures of atoms!

Atoms in fcc crysta

- Job preservation for neutron scatterers - we live in reciprocal space



## Reciprocal Lattice (also Bravais)

- Vector $R$ of real space lattice $\quad \mathbf{R}=n_{1} \mathbf{a}_{1}+n_{2} \mathbf{a}_{2}+\mathrm{n}_{3} \mathbf{a}_{3}$
- Incident plane wave $\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{ik} \cdot \mathbf{r}}[|\mathbf{k}|=2 \pi / \lambda]$ will have periodicity of Bravais lattice for specific $\mathbf{k}=\mathbf{K}$ :

$$
\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i} \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{( r}+\mathbf{R})}=\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i} \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \quad \text { if } \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i} \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{R}}=1 \quad \text { or } \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{R}=2 \pi \mathrm{~m}
$$

- Defines $\mathbf{K}=$ reciprocal lattice vector (in fake scattering space) $\mathbf{K}=\mathrm{k}_{1} \mathbf{b}_{1}+\mathrm{k}_{2} \mathbf{b}_{2}+\mathrm{k}_{3} \mathbf{b}_{3}$ in terms of reciprocal lattice basis vectors $\mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{i}}$ $\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{i}}=$ integer $\quad \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{i}}=$ defined as:
$\vec{b}_{1}=2 \pi \frac{\vec{a}_{2} \times \vec{a}_{3}}{V} ; \vec{b}_{2}=2 \pi \frac{\vec{a}_{3} \times \vec{a}_{1}}{V} ; \vec{b}_{3}=2 \pi \frac{\vec{a}_{1} \times \vec{a}_{2}}{V} \quad$ ex: $\vec{b}_{1} \bullet \vec{a}_{2}=2 \pi \frac{\vec{a}_{2} \times \vec{a}_{3} \bullet \vec{a}_{2}}{V} \equiv 0$
$V=\vec{a}_{1} \bullet\left(\vec{a}_{2} \times \vec{a}_{3}\right)$
Note: $\mathbf{b}_{\mathrm{i}} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{\mathrm{j}}=2 \pi \delta_{\mathrm{ij}}$ so

$$
\text { but } \vec{b}_{2} \bullet \vec{a}_{2}=2 \pi \frac{\vec{a}_{3} \times \vec{a}_{1} \bullet \vec{a}_{2}}{V} \equiv 2 \pi
$$

$\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{R}$ satisfies periodicity (if $\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{i}}$ and $\mathrm{n}_{\mathrm{i}}$ are integers)

- Reciprocal lattice of simple cubic cell is simple cubic cell of sides $2 \pi / \mathrm{a}$
- Reciprocal lattice of fcc cell is bcc cell of sides $4 \pi / \mathrm{a}$


## Diffraction from a Crystal Bragg Law, Laue formalism

- Incident x-rays or neutrons scatter from crystal planes


constructive interference


## $2 \mathrm{~d} \sin \theta=\mathrm{n} \lambda$

[Bragg Law]

- More generally
- incident wave of wavevector $\mathrm{k}=2 \pi / \lambda$
- scattered wave $\mathrm{k}^{\prime}=2 \pi / \lambda$,

- path difference:

$$
d \cos \theta+d \cos \theta^{\prime}=\mathbf{d} \cdot\left(\mathbf{n}-\mathbf{n}^{\prime}\right)=m \lambda
$$

or $\mathbf{d} \cdot\left(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}^{\mathbf{\prime}}\right)=2 \pi \mathrm{~m}$
or $\quad \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{K}=2 \pi \mathrm{~m} \quad$ [Laue diffraction]
where Scat. Vec. $\mathbf{K}($ or $\mathbf{Q})=\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}^{\prime} \quad 10$

## Crystal Diffraction, cont'd. Diffraction conditions, Miller indices

- Laue condition $\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{K}=2 \pi \mathrm{~m}$ or $\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i} \cdot \boldsymbol{R}}=1 \quad$ for m integer
- Above is exactly the same as the definition of the reciprocal lattice
- Thus Laue diffraction condition satisfied if $\mathbf{K}=$ recip. lat. vec.
- $\mathbf{K}=\mathrm{h} \mathbf{b}_{1}+\mathrm{k} \mathbf{b}_{2}+1 \mathbf{b}_{3}$-- defines Miller indices (hkl) of reflection


Note: $a^{*}, b^{*} \Leftrightarrow b_{1}, b_{2}$

- Miller indices for a reflection have an analog in direct space
- The direct space plane with Miller indices (hkl) is perpendicular to the reciprocal lattice vector

$$
\mathbf{K}=\mathrm{h} \mathbf{b}_{1}+\mathrm{k} \mathbf{b}_{2}+1 \mathbf{b}_{3}
$$


$-. h: k: l=\frac{1}{x_{1}}: \frac{1}{x_{2}}: \frac{1}{x_{3}}$

- Miller indices can have no 11 common factors (shortest $\mathbf{K}$ )


## Crystal Diffraction, cont'd.

## Ewald Diagram

- Ewald Construction
- Sphere of radius $|\mathbf{k}|$ in reciprocal space
- Draw intersection of sphere with scattering plane
- Bragg condition satisfied if scattering vector $\mathbf{K}=\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}$, is a Recip. Lat. Vector (i.e. Ewald sphere intersects recip. lat. Point)
- $\theta=$ angle of $\mathbf{k}$ wrt crystal plane. $2 \theta=$ total deviation of x-ray (neutron) beam $\equiv$ scattering angle


## Ewald Construction White Beam Diffraction, Polycrystals

- White Beam (e.g. LANSCE or IPNS) -- range of $\mathrm{k}_{0}<\mathbf{k}<$ $\mathrm{k}_{0}+\mathrm{k}_{1}$ simultaneously available

- Gray region spanned by available range of $\mathbf{k}$
- Large number of reflections accumulated simultaneously
- Previous discussion assumed scattering from ordered discrete atomic planes -- a single crystal
- Polycrystal (powder) - jumble of single crystals


All orientations of crystallites possible

Sample: 1 cc powder of $10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ crystallites - $10^{9}$ particles if $1 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ crystallites $-10^{12}$ particles

- Several crystallites generally oriented to produce reflection for all allowed $\mathbf{k}$.


## Diffraction from Polycrystals Debye-Scherrer Cones

- Crystallites in powder that are in position of reflect diffract into cones of semi-angle $2 \theta_{h k l}$ according to Bragg's Law
- Diffraction occurs only at specific angle represented by the surface of cones
(Debye-Scherrer cone)
- Ewald Construction (?)


Multiple Crystallites


## Diffraction from Polycrystals

- Polycrystal -- equivalent to spinning reciprocal space
- Previous discrete allowed directions of $\mathbf{K}$ become circles (Note: $|\mathbf{k}|=|\mathbf{k}|$ )
- Single crystal must be reoriented to bring various planes (K) into reflection -polycrystal remains fixed

- Varying $2 \theta$ brings in reflections
- Or varying $\lambda$ at pulse source (varies radius of Ewald sphere)


## How are neutrons scattered by atoms (nuclei)?

- Short-range scattering potential:

$$
V(r)=\frac{2 \pi \hbar^{2}}{m} b \delta(r)
$$



- The quantity "b" (or f) is the strength of the potential and is called the scattering length - depends on isotopic composition Thus "b" varies over N nuclei - can find average $\bar{b}$ defines coherent scattering amplitude $b_{\text {coh }}=\bar{b}$ leads to diffraction - turns on only at Bragg peaks ${ }^{\text {co }}$

- But what about deviations from average? This defines the incoherent scattering

$$
b_{\text {inc }}=\left(\bar{b}^{2}-\bar{b}^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}
$$

- Incoherent scattering doesn't depend on Bragg diffrac. condition,
 thus has no angular dependence - leads to background (e.g., H)


## Scattering of neutrons by nuclei

- A single isolated nucleus will scatter neutrons with an intensity (isotropic)
$-\mathrm{I}=\mathrm{I}_{0}\left[4 \pi \mathrm{~b}^{2}\right]$
where $\mathrm{I}_{0}=$ incident neutron intensity, $\mathrm{b}=$ scattering amplitude for nucleus
- What happens when we put nucleus (atom) in lattice?
- Scattering from N neuclei can add up because they are on a lattice
- Adding is controlled by phase relationship between waves scattered from different lattice planes
- Intensity is no longer isotropic - Bragg law gives directional dependence
- Intensity I (Q, or $\theta$ ) is given by a scattering cross-section or scattering function


## Observed coherent scattering in lattice

- Intensity of diffracted x-ray or neutron beam produces series of peaks at discrete values of $2 \theta$ [or d or K (also Q)]
Note: $\mathrm{d}=\lambda /(2 \sin \theta)$ or $\mathrm{K}=4 \pi \sin \theta / \lambda=2 \pi / \mathrm{d}$ are more fundamental since values are independent of $\lambda$ and thus characteristic only of material.

Tb2Fe12Al5 Room Temperatu



Benzine Pattern (partial)
Note: Inversion of scales $-2 \theta \propto f\left(1 / q_{8}\right.$

## Scattering Cross-section



- The measured scattered intensity in a diffraction experiment is proportional to a scattering function $S(Q)$, which is proportional to a scattering cross-section $\mathrm{I}(2 \theta, \mathrm{~d}$, or Q$) \propto \mathrm{S}(\mathrm{Q}) \propto \frac{d \sigma}{d \Omega} \quad \Omega=$ solid angle
- In turn the cross-section $\propto\left|A(Q) \cdot A^{*}(\mathrm{Q})\right|$

$$
\mathrm{A}=\text { scattering anplitude }
$$

- In second Born approximation (kinematic limit) $\mathrm{A} \propto$ Fourier transform of scattering length density $\rho(\mathrm{r})=\sum_{j} \rho_{a j}\left(\vec{r}-\vec{R}_{j}\right) \quad$ ( $\alpha$ atom) with the sum over j atoms at position $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{j}}$
then $A(Q)=\sum_{j} \int \rho_{a j}\left(r-R_{j}\right) e^{2 \pi i Q * r} d^{3} r=\sum_{j} f_{j}(Q) e^{2 \pi i Q * R}$
where the scattering factor $f_{j}(Q)=\int \rho_{a j}\left(r^{\prime}\right) e^{2 \pi i Q^{*} r^{\prime}} d^{3} r^{\prime}$
The scattering factor $f(Q)$ is the fundamental quantity describing the scattering of radiation from the material
- f takes different forms depending on the type of radiation
- f varies in magnitude depending on the scattering atom or magnetic spin


## Scattering Factors f

- The scattering factor $f(Q)=\int \rho_{a j}\left(r^{\prime}\right) e^{2 \pi i Q * r^{\prime}} d^{3} r^{\prime}$
- The Fourier transform character of the scattering factor f means that the radial extent of the scattering center density $\rho_{\mathrm{aj}}(\mathrm{r})$ will dictate its Q dependence.
- x-rays scatter from the electron cloud of dimensions comparable to $\lambda$ or $d(\propto 1 / Q)$
- Neutrons scatter from the nucleus $\approx 10^{-5}$ the dimension of $\lambda$ or d



## Scattering Factors f , cont' d

- For x-rays the magntude of $f$ is proportional to $Z$
- For neutrons nuclear factors determine f, thus no regular with Z (different isotopes can have different fs )


## RELATIVE SCATTERING FACTORS



For neutrons conventionally $\mathrm{f}=\mathrm{b}$ (Scattering length - constant for an element)

$$
x \text { rays }
$$










Shaded (negative) --> $\pi$ phase change,

## What Controls the Scattering Amplitude?

$-\mathrm{I}(\mathrm{Q}) \propto \mathrm{S}(\mathrm{Q}) \propto|\mathrm{A}(\mathrm{Q}) \cdot \mathrm{A} *(\mathrm{Q})|$

- $A(Q)=\sum_{j} f_{a j}(Q) e^{2 \pi i Q * R}$
[Measured scattered intensity, $\mathrm{S}=$ scat.func.]
where $f_{a j}=$ atomic scattering factor $\left[\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right]$
- Magnitude of $\mathrm{A}(\mathrm{Q})$ is controlled by $\left[\left|\mathrm{A}(\mathrm{Q}) \cdot \mathrm{A}^{*}(\mathrm{Q})\right|\right.$ called Structure Factor $]$
- f values for various atoms in lattice
- destructive interference of waves scattering from atoms at various lattice sites (calculation of above sum over atoms in lattice reveals this)
- fcc lattice ( $000,01 / 21 / 2,1 / 201 / 2,1 / 21 / 20$ )
$-A(Q)=4 f_{a} \quad$ for hkl all odd or hkl all even
- $\mathrm{A}(\mathrm{Q})=0 \quad$ otherwise

$A(Q)=2 f_{a} \quad$ for $h+k+1$ even
$\mathrm{A}(\mathrm{Q})=0 \quad$ otherwise


## Why don't $(\mathrm{h}+\mathrm{k}+1)$ odd integer index reflections appear for bcc cystals?

A bcc cell has an extra
plane stuck in between
lattice planes separated by a (lattice parameter)

- Phase difference (path
 difference) between nearest neighbor planes is $\pi(\lambda / 2)$ - destructive interference



## And atoms wiggle!

- Thermal vibration of atoms from their equilibrium position (normal phonon modes) affects the scattering intensity
- This is represented by the Debye-Waller factor $\mathrm{e}^{-2 \mathrm{~W}}$ modifying the scattered intensity, where for a cubic monatomic Bravais lattice

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 2 W=\left\langle(\vec{q} \bullet \vec{u})^{2}\right\rangle=q^{2}\left\langle u_{q}^{2}\right\rangle \quad u_{\mathrm{q}}^{2}=\text { comp. of velocity } \\
& \text { along } \mathbf{q} .
\end{aligned}
$$

- In a multi-site lattice each atom may have a unique D-W factor.
- If the lattice is non-cubic, the velocity components are unequal, and up to 6 components may be required to determine the $\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{W}$ correction.


## Debye-Waller factor temperature and q-dependence

- Because the D-W factor originates from phonon normal modes, the average velocity is both T - and $\mathrm{q}-$ dependent

$$
\mathrm{e}^{-2 \mathrm{~W}}=e^{-\frac{C}{\theta_{D}} f\left(\frac{\theta_{D}}{T}\right)\left(\frac{\sin \theta}{\lambda}\right)^{2}}
$$

Where $\Theta_{D}$ is the Debye
temperature from specific heat


## Other Factors Affecting

## Scattering Intensity from Powder

$\mathrm{I} \propto \mathrm{S}(\mathrm{Q})=\lambda^{3}\left[\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{o}}\right][\mathrm{SF}][\mathrm{G}][\mathrm{M}][\mathrm{TF}][\mathrm{LF}][\mathrm{AF}][\mathrm{PO}][\mathrm{EE}]\left|\mathrm{AA}^{*}\right|$

- $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{o}}=$ Incident intensity
- [SF] = Overall scale factor (det. efficiency, everything else you forgot)
$-[\mathrm{G}]=$ Geometrical factors of instrument and sample (e.g., density)
- $[\mathrm{M}]=$ Multiplicity of reflection [\# cooperating planes, e.g. 8 (111)]
$-[\mathrm{TF}]=$ Debye Thermal Vibration Factor $=\mathrm{e}^{-2 \mathrm{~W}}$
- [LF] = Lorenz geometrical factor $\mathrm{LF}=1 /\left(2 \sin ^{2} \theta \cos \theta\right)[\lambda$ fixed $]$ $\mathrm{LF}=\mathrm{d}^{4} \sin \theta[\mathrm{TOF}] ; \quad \mathrm{LF}=1 / \sin ^{2} 2 \theta$ [plate geom., $\lambda$ fixed]
$-[\mathrm{AF}]=$ Absorption factor $\mathrm{AF}=\mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{A} \lambda}$ [varies as $\left.1 / \mathrm{v}\right][\mathrm{AF}$ very large for x -rays, small for neutrons except $\mathrm{Gd}, \mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Li}, \mathrm{Cd}, \ldots$ ]
$-[\mathrm{PO}]=$ Preferred Orientation factor (compensates for non-random crystallite orientation in sample)
- [EE] = Primary extinction correction [non-uniform illumination of all reflecting planes]

