An Introduction to Small Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS)



CLS XRD school, August 18, 2022

Adam Leontowich Associate Scientist Canadian Light Source





No dedicated CLS SAXS beamline



X-ray scattering

Atomic scattering factors



From scattering to diffraction

"Bragg" diffraction



X-ray scattering and diffraction reveals structural order within materials on the atomic to >150 nm length scale



What is small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS)?

100 X-ray ??? X-ray 10 detector source Mo (0.71073 A) 20 d (nm) Cu (1.54059 A) Sample stage λ = 1.54059 Å (Cu Kα) 0.71073 Å (Mo Kα) Atomic packing 0.1 distances, spacing between planes Reveal structural order within materials of atoms 0.01 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 $n\lambda = 2dsin\theta$ 2θ (degrees)

Starting from powder diffraction...

SAXS is generally $2\theta \le 5^{\circ}$

Measuring small X-ray scattering angles to probe relatively big things (1 - 150 nm)



Applications

Drug delivery, Pharmaceuticals



Proteins





Food science







Biomacromolecules



https://www.techexplorist.com/scientists-investigated-pork-fillet-x-ray-light/11572/

1) Packing, ordering 2) Size, size distribution 3) Shape





M. Yuan et al., Adv. Mater. 2014, 26, 3513–3519

Polymers







Nature Comm. 8, 1765 (2017)



over the beam foot print (mm²)

How is SAXS related to other X-ray diffraction techniques?

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iaht

Source

de rayonnement

synchrotron

Lindt chocolate sample

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...



How to measure small angle X-ray scattering?

Starting from powder diffraction...





nλ =2dsinθ

There are also lab-source SAXS instruments Why do it at a synchrotron?

- More flux (better SNR)
- Weakly scattering objects (organics/biology)
- Flexible setups, in-situ experiments
- Choice of many wavelengths
- SAXS mapping



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Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)



Linear strip detector 1280 strips 50 µm x 8 mm



8 detectors and a robot in 2023

Why not just move the PXRD detector to low angle?

Axial divergence – Low angle peak asymmetry



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIz6Ng6UzAw

The Finger-Cox-Jephcoat correctly models the effective shift of the peak



Axial Divergence (Low Angle Asymmetry)

Need something different...





Small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS)



λ = 0.8202 Å (15.1 keV)
D = ~0.3 m

λ = 0.8202 Å (15.1 keV) D = <mark>~2.3 m</mark> $2\theta = 1.3 - 30^{\circ}$ q = 0.17 - 4.0 Å⁻¹ d = 3.6 nm - 0.15 nm

$2\theta = 0.057 - 3.4^{\circ}$	
q = 0.008 – 0.45 Å ⁻¹	•
d = <mark>80 nm</mark> – 1.4 nm	

"SAXS/WAXS"





Fancy SAXS setups

The further back you can get the detector the better!



$$\begin{split} \lambda &= 1.1817 \text{ \AA} (10.5 \text{ keV}) \\ D &= \ ^2.3 \text{ m} \end{split} \qquad \begin{array}{l} 2\theta &= 0.057 - 3.4^{\circ} \\ q &= 0.005 - 0.32 \text{ \AA}^{-1} \\ d &= 118 \text{ nm} - 2.0 \text{ nm} \end{split}$$

λ = 1.1817 Å (10.5 keV) D = <mark>~4.0 m</mark> 2θ = 0.029 – 2.1° q = 0.0027 – 0.20 Å⁻¹ d = 230 nm – 3.1 nm

SAPUCAIA, Sirius, Brazil Dedicated SAXS beamline, June 2023





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CLS SAXS instrument





Beam defining slit (1.00 mm x 1.00 mm)

Guard slit (0.80 mm)



Sample preparation, data collection, and data work up



Sample preparation and mounting

Transmission

Capillaries: 0.3 to 1.5 mm diameter Kapton, quartz, borosilicate glass



Freestanding*,* Between Kapton tape



Grazing incidence

Thin film sample on Si wafers, or glass slides



Liquids: Solutions need to be dilute (1 - 10 mg/mL, ~10 mmol) to learn about the particle size and shape Bring a range of concentrations



Detector acquisition and calibration

Source



	Ring	q (A-1)	d (nm)
	1	0.1076	5.839
Canadian Centre canadien Light de rayonnement Source synchrotron	2	0.2152	2.920
	3	0.3228	1.946
	4	0.4304	1.460
	5	0.5380	1.168

Note during your beamtime!!! The wavelength (1.18178 Å) The approximate detector distance (2350 mm)

GSAS-II demo, "Calibration of an area detector"



Data correction, and reduction to 1D



synchrotron Source

Data analysis with examples



$I(Q) = P(Q) \times S(Q)$

P(Q) is the form factor

- Individual particle scattering
- Intraparticle interferences
- Low concentration (dilute limit)
- Size/polydispersity/shape information

S(Q) is the structure factor

- Interparticle interferences
- Correlation distances between particles
- High concentrations
- Ordering/packing of particles

Looking for and analyzing Bragg peaks An extension of PXRD









QD films deposited layer-by-layer using spin coating Top electrodes deposited using thermal evaporation

https://www.olcf.ornl.gov/2015/05/05/demystifyingquantum-dot-conundrums/

Efficient exciton generation Size-based, tune-able band gap

18.1% record efficiency in 2022

Performance improved by tuning:

- Particle size distribution or polydispersity
- How particles pack and the interparticle distance

Control the size and packing by:

- Ligand exchanges cycles, centrifuge to remove largest QDs
- Rinsing steps during buildup
- Spin speeds, solvents, additives

ν. 5 nm

M. Yuan et al., Adv. Mater. 2014, 26, 3513-3519



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Food science: Better chocolate without tempering



Alejandro Marangoni, Jarvis Stobbs University of Guelph Dept. Food Science



The nanostructure of chocolate is manipulated by chocolate makers using time and energy-intensive "tempering"

Tempering guides crystallization of cocoa butter to the desirable "polymorph V" phase

Tempering of cocoa butter and chocolate using minor lipidic components

Jay Chen[®]¹, Saeed M. Ghazani[®]¹, Jarvis A. Stobbs^{1,2} & Alejandro G. Marangoni[®][™]

NATURE COMMUNICATIONS | (2021)12:5018

Why does it work? Can SAXS help?



Snaps Doesn't easily melt	nbles s Easily	ERO COM		€	.//	M),
			Short Spac	ing	Long	Spacing
Polymorph	I	п	ш	IV	V	VI
Long Spacing (A°)	55.1	49	49	45	63.8	64.1
5 33 5 33 5 33 5 33 5 33 5 33 5	83838)	Version Sectors Sector				



Food science: Better chocolate without tempering



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Biology and Polymer science: Self-healing polymers

Mussel byssal threads



(b) preCol triple helix: preCol 6+1 bundle: Proximal 1.5 nm byssus thread 2-5 200 Collagen Distal domain Flank His Plaque ole domain

Ability to stretch and heal, but are composed almost entirely of proteins. How? Does healing depend on aspects of the thread structure?

- Orientation

- Resolve the partially crystalline structure

Symmetry	Peak position ratio
Lamellar	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Cubic	1, v2, v3, 2, v5
Hexagonal	1, v3, 2, v7, 3

Framework of highly ordered tightly folded protein domains

It can spring back on stress release, bringing sacrificial binding and crosslinking sites back into register: "Self-repair"



Cryo-SEM



S. Krauss et al., Self-Repair of a Biological Fiber Guided by an Ordered Elastic Framework. Biomacromolecules 2013, 14, 1520-1528

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Harrington group McGill, Chemistry

(e)

Environmental science: Waste water treatment

Separating solvents (THF, DMSO, DMF and acetonitrile) from waste water using amphiphiles, emulsifiers and surfactants



Self-assembly of amphiphiles into cubic reverse micelle lattice ... behaviour correlates with enhanced solvent separation



<u>| 4229 | 4229 | 4229 | 4229 | 4219 | 4519 | 4519 | 4219 | 4269 | 4259 | 4259 | 4259 | </u>

de rayonnement synchrotron





Reverse micelle squishy lattice

Pensini group U. Guelph, Engineering

LaB6, typical PXRD standard





bioRxiv: https://doi.org/10.1101/791848



L. Chen et al., PNAS 115, 7218-7223 (2018)

Origins of the SAXS signal

$I(Q) = P(Q) \times S(Q)$

P(Q) is the form factor

- Individual particle scattering
- Intraparticle interferences
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Looking for and analyzing Bragg peaks An extension of PXRD





Origins of the SAXS signal: Form factor

Consider this as the [000] peak...



Small particles = Broad [000] peak Large particle = Narrow [000] peak (particle size via Guinier)

Relationship to Scherrer equation explained in Morelhao and Kycia, Acta Cryst. A, https://doi.org/10.1107/S2053273322007215

What are the oscillations?



SAXS pattern is a Fourier transform of the sample





But there are limits!

Solutions must be dilute: No interparticle effects





M. Yuan et al., Adv. Mater. 2014, 26, 3513-3519



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Rule of thumb: ~1 – 10 mg/mL

Bring many concentrations



Rule of thumb: Form factor oscillations smear out when size polydispersity is ≥15%

Solutions must be monodisperse, and pure: No [000] peak overlap



Polydispersity



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Form factor analysis for particle size and shape



Human health: Nano drug delivery

Successful reprogramming of cellular protein

Aleksandra Dabkowska^a, Noémi Székely^d, Aurel Radulescu^d, Johan Bergenholtz^e, and Lennart Lindfors^{a,1}

Edited by David A. Weitz, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and approved March 5, 2018 (received for review November 28, 2017)

Marianna Yanez Arteta^{a,1}, Tomas Kjellman^a, Stefano Bartesaghi^b, Simonetta Wallin^b, Xiaoqiu Wu^a, Alexander J. Kvist^c,

Pharmaceutical Sciences iMed Biotech Unit, AstraZeneca R&D Gothenburg, 431 83 Mölndal, Sweden; ^bCardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases iMed

Bioscience, AstraZeneca R&D Gothenburg, 431 83 Mölndal, Sweden; 'Discovery Science iMed Bioscience, AstraZeneca R&D Gothenburg, 431 83 Mölndal, Sweden; ^dOutstation at Maier-Leibnitz Zentrum, Jülich Centre for Neutrons Science, 857 47 Garching, Germany; and ^eDepartment of Chemistry and

production through mRNA delivered by

functionalized lipid nanoparticles

Molecular Biology, University of Gothenburg, 412 96 Gothenburg, Sweden

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Bilayer: ~5 nm

Badea group U. Sask, Pharmacy

Lipid nanocapsules

D. Urimi et al., Mol. Pharmaceutics 19, 1068-1077 (2022)

Loaded

10⁰



Table 3. Structural Information about the LNCs as Determined by SAXS, SANS, and DLS Techniques

parameter	unloaded LNCs	DF003-loaded LNCs			
P(r) analysis of small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) data					
R_{g} (nm)	17.3 ± 0.09	15.8 ± 0.05			
$D_{\rm max}$ (nm)	49 ± 0.5	46 ± 0.5			
shape model analysis of small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) data					
core radius (nm)	21.7 ± 0.2	18.5 ± 0.2			
shell thickness (nm)	2.6 ± 0.1	3.6 ± 0.1			
total radius (nm)	24.3 ± 0.3	22.1 ± 0.3			
volume fraction ^a	0.092	0.092			
polydispersity	0.20	0.35			
χ^2	2.4	3.7			
small-angle neutron scattering (SANS)					
core radius (nm)	20.0 ± 0.9	20.2 ± 0.6			
shell thickness (nm)	≤1.5	$\sim 2 \pm 0.5$			
total radius (nm)	21.5 ± 0.9	22.2 ± 1.1			
shell hydration (%)	50	70			
volume fraction ^b	0.009	0.009			
polydispersity	0.20	0.25			
SLD of shell	3.3	4.5			
dynamic light scattering (DLS)					
hydrodynamic radius (nm)	30.0 ± 1.0	36.0 ± 1.0			
polydispersity	0.04 ± 0.02	0.07 ± 0.01			
zeta potential (mV)	-3.7 ± 1.6	-13.6 ± 0.8			

Diameter: 20 - 1000 nm

liposome



LNPs are the delivery vehicle in the COVID-19 messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna



core-shell model fits better than plain sphere model

Q (nm⁻¹)

Unloaded

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Figure 1. Cryogenic transmission electron micrographs of drugloaded (a) h-LNCs and (b) d-LNCs.

10

10

100

10-1

10-2

10-1

Intensity (Counts)

Human health: Proteins and biomacromolecules

SAXS can reveal a low resolution macromolecule shape

This can aid in solving the structure at a higher spatial resolution

X-Ray Beam

Sample Reservoir Peristalitic Pump

Input A

Input B

Microlab

Dispense

Very challenging sample type

- Limited amounts of material, low concentrations
- Weakly scattering
- Radiation damage

Several Bio-SAXS beamlines dedicated to proteins and biomacromolecules

Flow cell + size exclusion chromatography

We will try it soon







The CLS has a SAXS endstation available for users

Measuring small scattering angles to probe relatively big things (1 - 150 nm) with X-rays

Can learn about 1) packing, 2) particle size, and 3) particle shape, but generally not all 3 at the same time

Limited structural information

Complementary information, that should be supported with supplementary techniques such as microscopy



The Brockhouse Sector Team



Stefan Kycia Professor, U. Guelph Beamteam Leader



Al Rahemtulla



Chang-Yong Kim



Narayan Appathurai



Beatriz Diaz Moreno Beamline Responsible Beatriz.Moreno@lightsource.ca



Feizhou He Mat. Chem. Sci. Manager



Joel Reid



Graham King



Adam Leontowich Adam.Leontowich@lightsource.ca

https://Brockhouse.lightsource.ca

Call for General User Proposals closes August 24 at noon (Sask. time)

