Introduction to Pair Distribution Functions (PDF)

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What is the PDF Technique?

The PDF method is a total scattering technique for determining local order in materials.

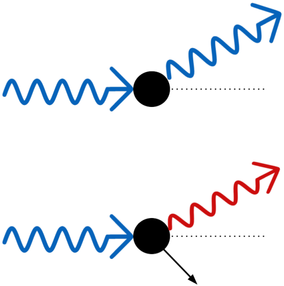
Overview

1. Brief history of x-rays
2. How x-rays scatter through matter
3. X-ray diffraction
4. Pair Distribution Function Technique
5. Real Space - Fourier Relationship
6. PDF Data Collection
7. Experimental Considerations
8. Developments in PDFs at BXDS-HEW
9. Final Remarks

A Brief History of x-ray Scattering

- x-ray diffraction laws $\rightarrow$ Lawrence & William Henry Bragg (1912)
  - Won Nobel Prize is 1914
- Powder x-ray diffraction measurements $\rightarrow$ Peter Debye & Paul Scherrer in Germany (1916) **and** Albert Hull in the United States (1917)
- Fourier Relationship between Debye scattering equation and real-space pair density derived $\rightarrow$ Zernicke & Prins (1927)
- First Pair Distribution Function (PDF) measurement $\rightarrow$ Debye & Menke (1930)
- First Synchrotron PDF measurement $\rightarrow$ Takeshi Egami (1986)
  - Datasets took ~ 12 hours to collect after days of setup
  - Energy sensitive point detector used
- PDF Measurements collected with an area detector $\rightarrow$ Peter Chupas & Xiangyun Qiu (2003)
  - PDF measurements are now done in the order of **seconds**

X-ray Scattering on Electrons



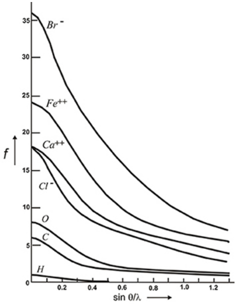
Elastic Scattering

- Coherently scattered photon has same phase and wavelength

Compton Scattering

- Photon imparts energy into the electron causing it to move
- Scattered Photon loses energy and has a larger wavelength
- Not useful for this work

X-ray Scattering on Atoms



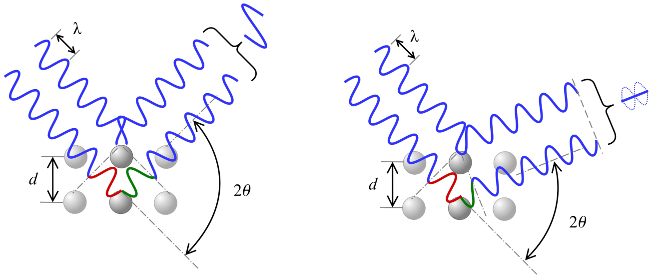
Momenum Transfer

$$Q = 4\pi \sin(\frac{2\theta}{2})/\lambda$$

Atomic Form Factor

- Photons scatter off the electron cloud
- Fewer scattering events with increasing momentum transfer
- Higher Z materials scatter x-rays more
- Distribution known as Atomic Form Factor
- The ratio of the coherent amplitude of waves scattered by an atom to that of a single electron

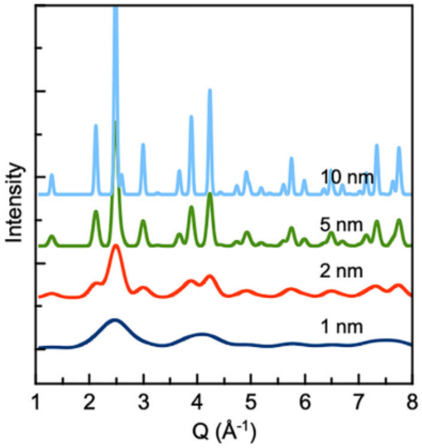
Diffraction with X-rays



$$n\lambda = 2d\sin(\theta)$$

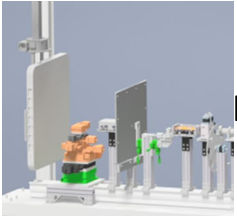
Non-crystalline scattering

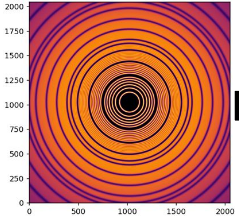
- Amorphous materials don't have repeating unit cells
- No longer have nearly infinite planes leading to sharp bragg peaks
- Diffuse scattering is the consistent short range ordering causing weak diffraction

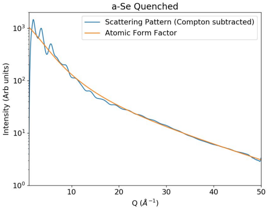


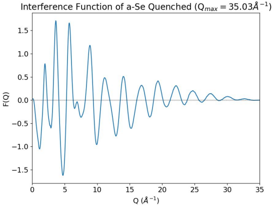
Simulated XRD of Fe_3O_4

Measurement process









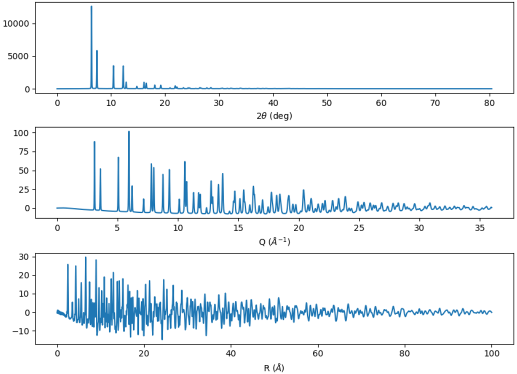
$$F(Q) = Q(S(Q) - 1)$$

$$Q = 4\pi\frac{\sin\theta}{\lambda}$$

The Pair Distribution Function

$$G(r) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int \mathrm{Q}(S(\mathrm{Q}) - 1)\sin(\mathrm{Qr})\mathrm{dQ}$$

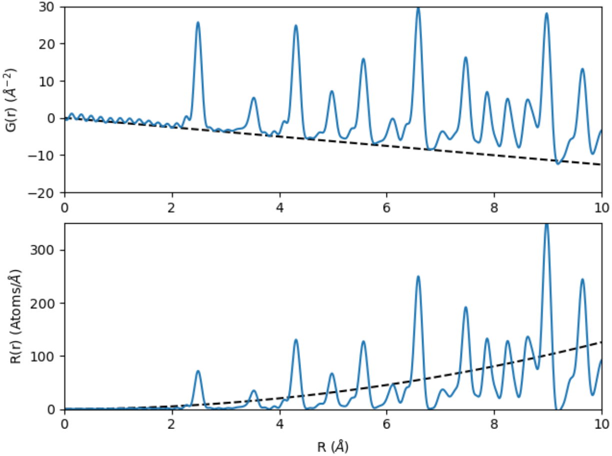
$$Q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{2\theta}{2}\right)$$



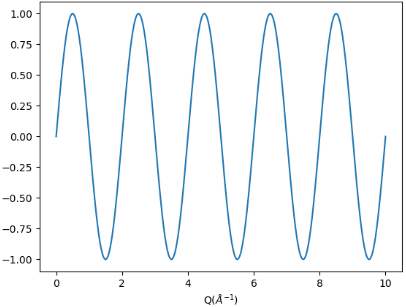
Other Forms

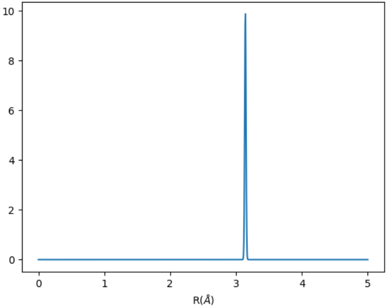
$$G(r) = 4\pi r\rho_0(g(r)-1)$$

$$R(r) = 4\pi r^2\rho_0 g(r)$$

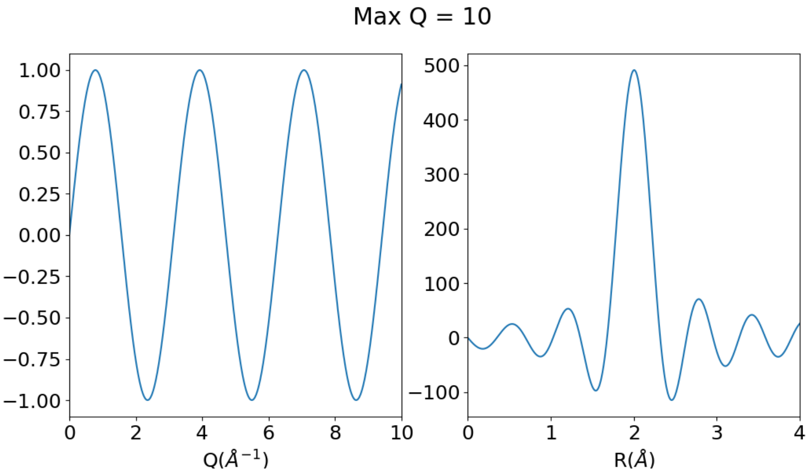


Reciprocal and Real Space

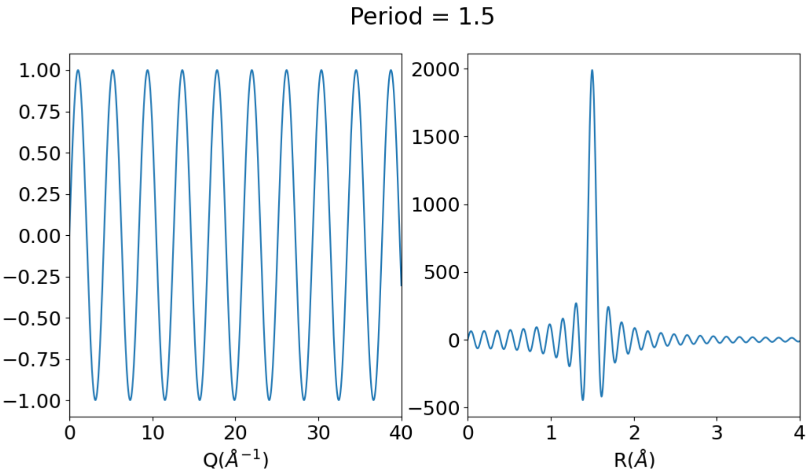




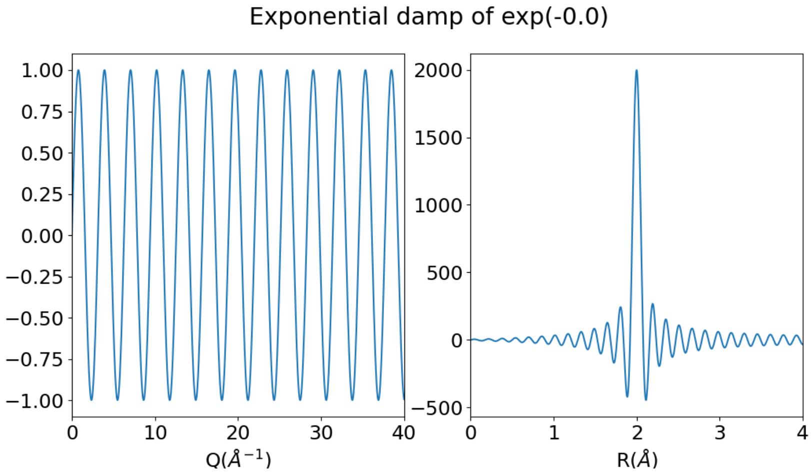
Effects of Finite limit of Reciprocal Space



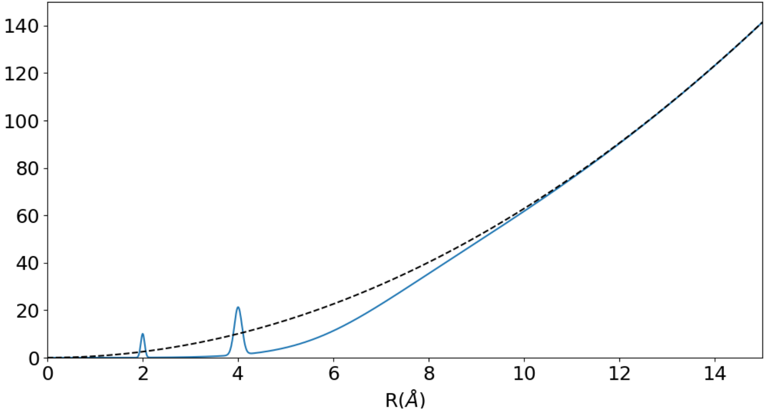
Period and Peak Position



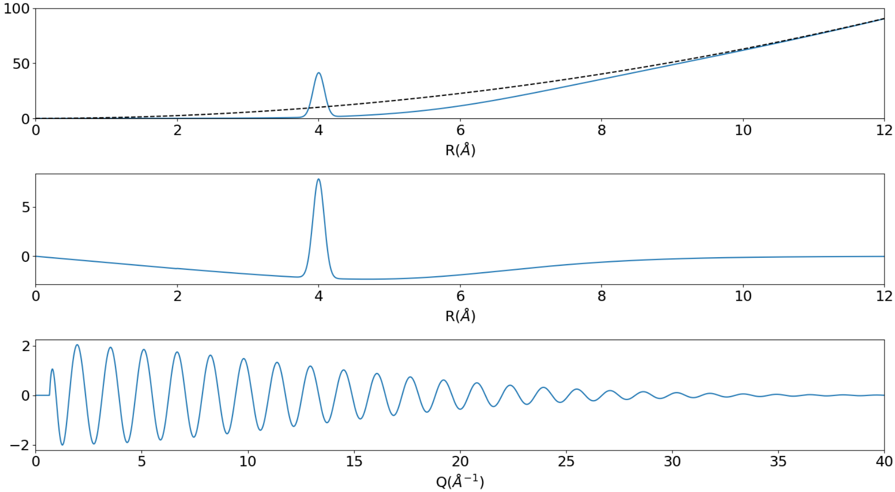
Adding a Damp



How Real Space correlates to Reciprocal Space



Single Peak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12
R(Å)
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R(Å)
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25
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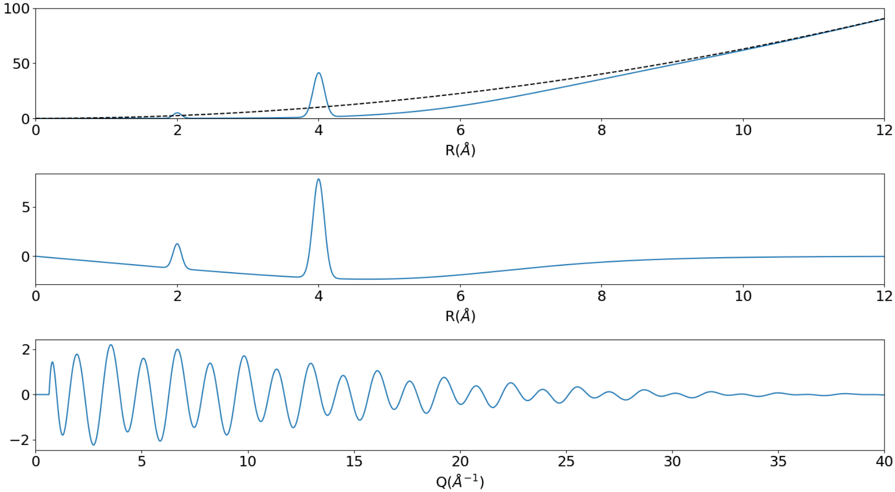
35
40
Q(Å^{-1})

Two Peaks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R(Å)
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5
10
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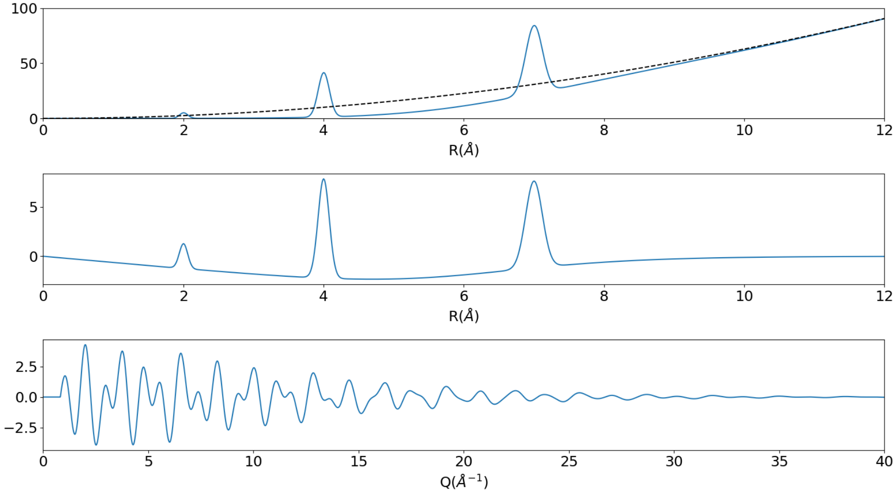
35
40
Q(Å^{-1})

Three Peaks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12
R(Å)
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−2.5
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20
25
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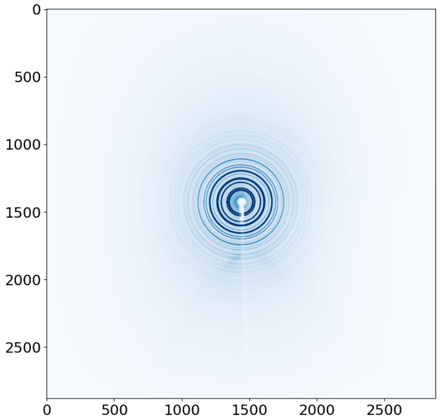
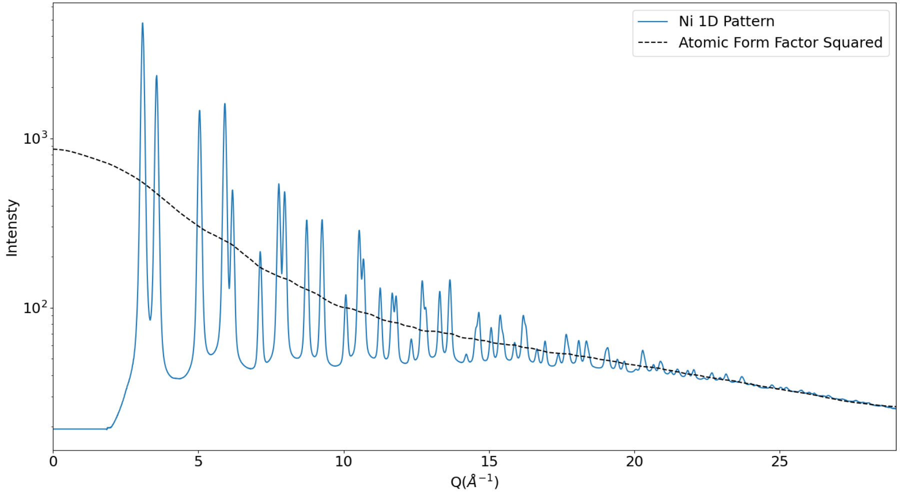
Q(Å⁻¹)

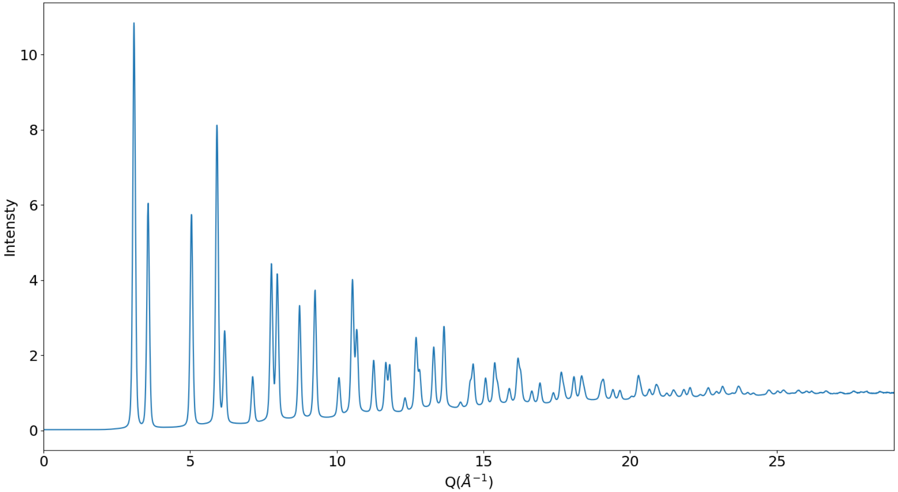
Raw Data



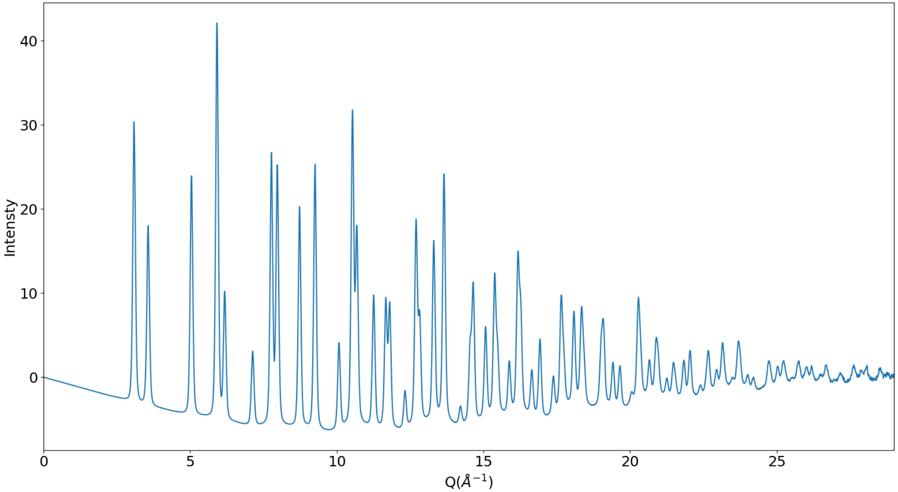
Integrated Data



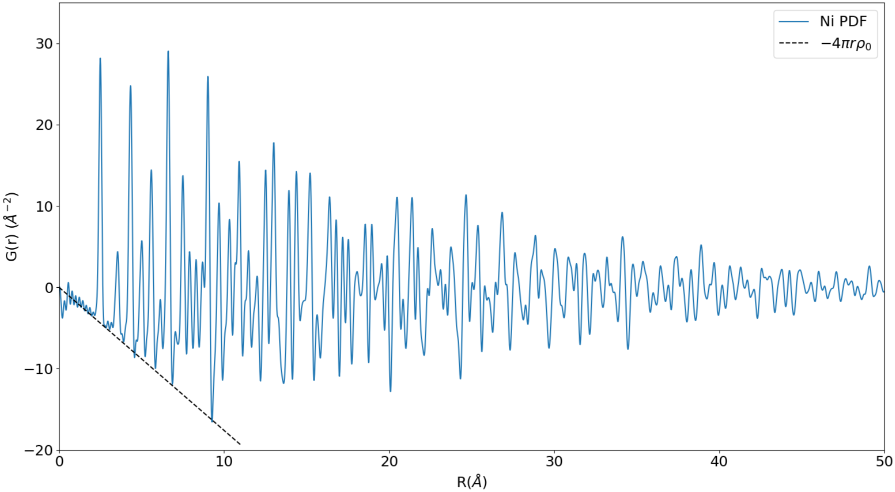
Normalizing to Atomic Form Factor



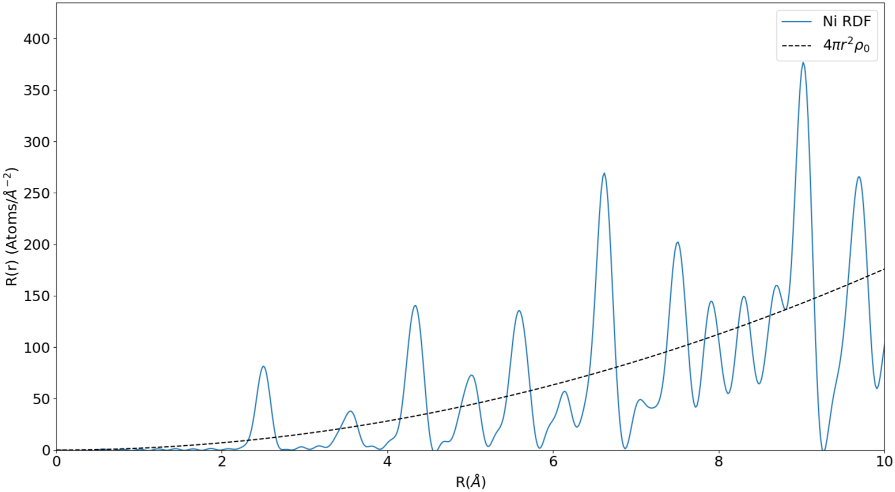
$S(Q) \rightarrow F(Q) = Q(S(Q) - 1)$



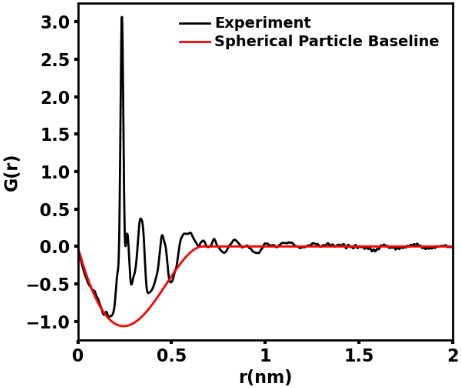
$F(Q) \rightarrow G(r) = \frac{2}{\pi}\int F(Q)\sin(Qr)dQ$



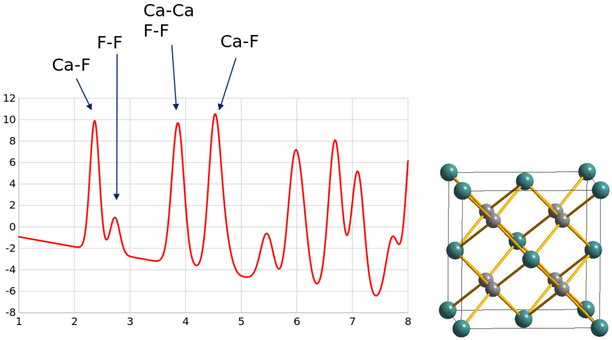
$G(r) \rightarrow R(r) = rG(r) + 4\pi\rho_0 r^2$



Nanoparticles

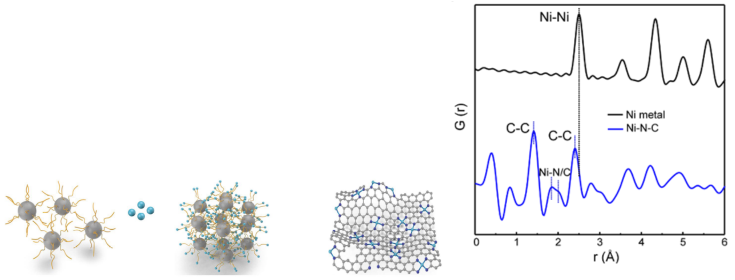


Local Ordering



CaF_2

Single Atom Catalysts



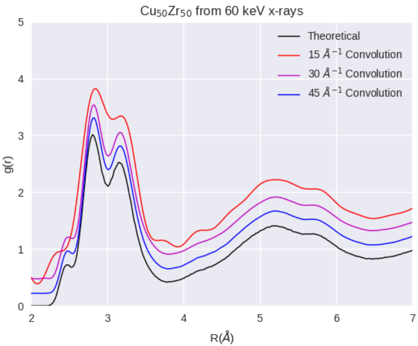
Synthesizing single atoms catalysts has been developed using cross linked graphene quantum dots as the support. Absence of Ni-Ni bonds in PDF confirm Ni dispersed atomically and not aggregates.

Xia, C. *et al.* General synthesis of single-atom catalysts with high metal loading using graphene quantum dots. Nature Chemistry (2021) 13, 887-894.

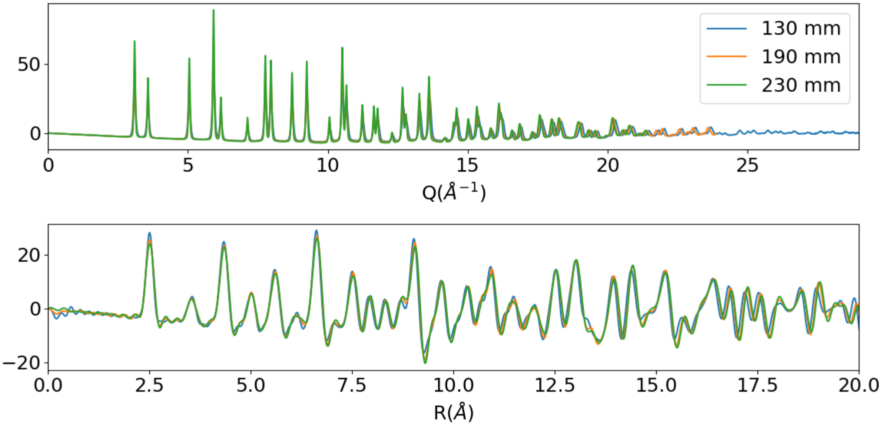
Experimental Challenges

- Q-range & Q-resolution
- Sample quality
- Compton Scattering
- Non-sample coherent scattering
- Detector noise

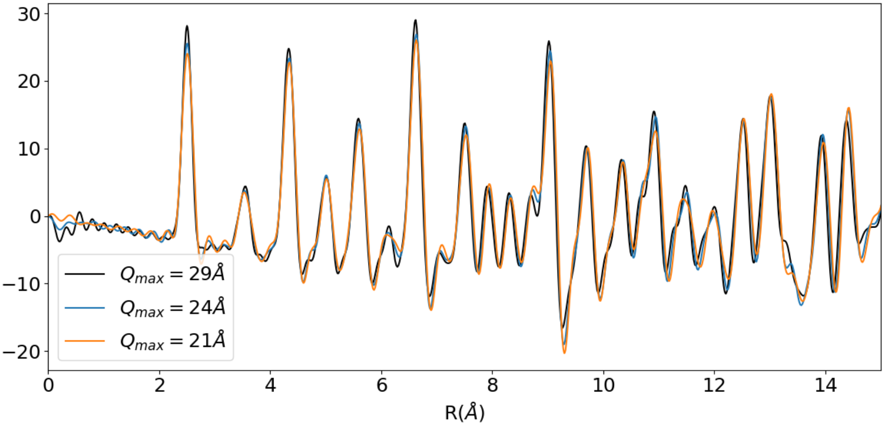
The Q Problem



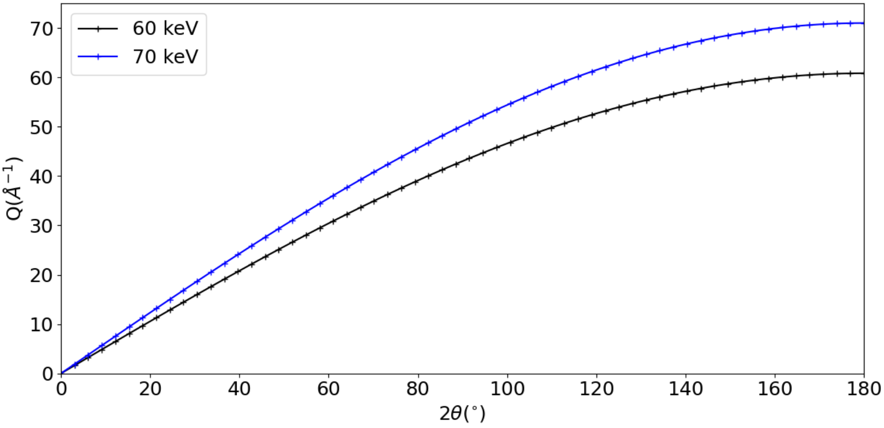
Sample-Detector Distance



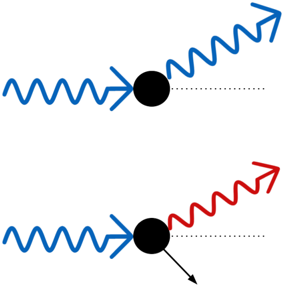
Sample-Detector Distance

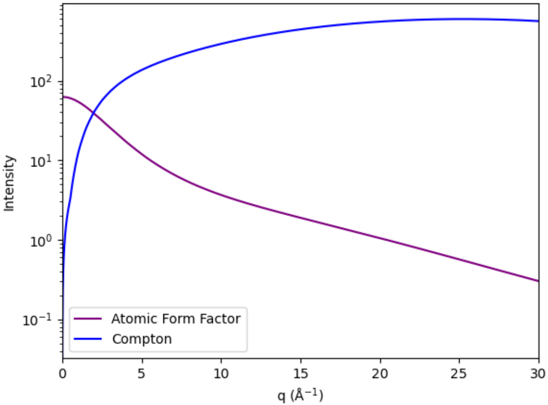


Q Related to Angle and Energy

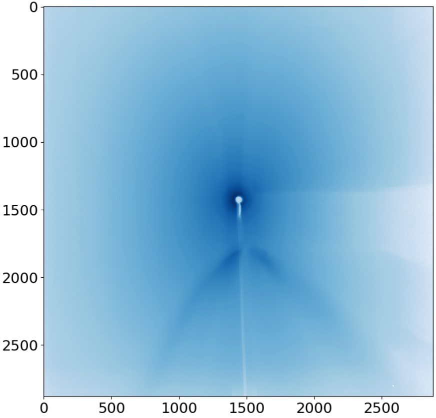


Compton Scattering

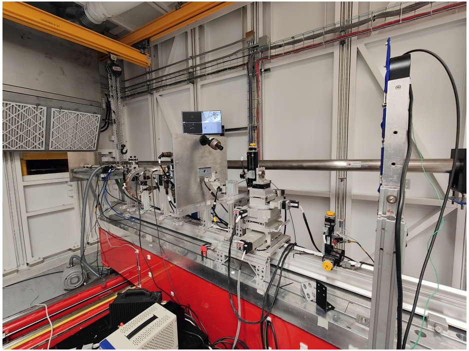




Non-Sample Signal



High Energy Wiggler Beamline (BXDS-HEW)



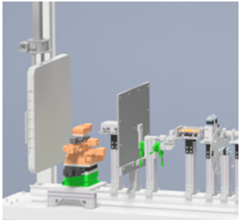
Details

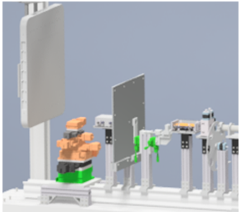
- 20-95 keV
- Rapid Powder XRD
- Pair Distribution Function Measurement
- High Pressure XRD
- Resistive furnace cells with gas flow for in-situ measurements (RT $\leq$ T $\leq$ 1000C)
- Cold air stream (80 K $\leq$ T $\leq$ 500 K)

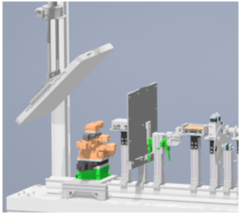
User Pro Tips

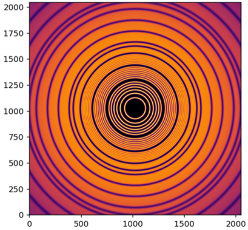
- What are you hoping to resolve?
  - Short range structure
  - Medium range ordering
  - Comparitive changes (*in situ/ in operando*)
  - Modeling
- Is there low Q or high Q signal?
- Be aware of the experimental parameters
  - Choice of energy vs flux and Q
  - Area detector being used
    - Pixel Size
    - Afterglow
    - Dark current
    - Flatfield
    - Saturation levels
  - Beam size
- Collect more subtractive images than you need!

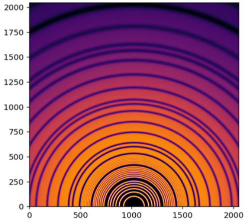
Improving PDF Collection

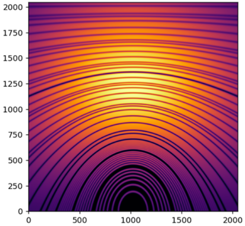




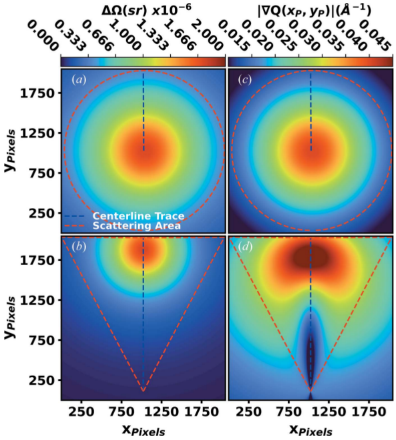








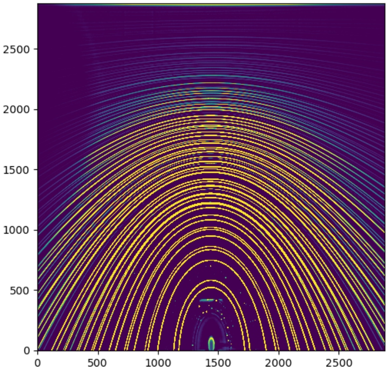
Inclined Geometry



Advantages

- Higher Q accessed
- Better Q resolution for low angle peaks & lower resolution for high angle peaks improves dynamic range
- Can use much lower x-ray energies for equivalent Q

Inclined Geometry

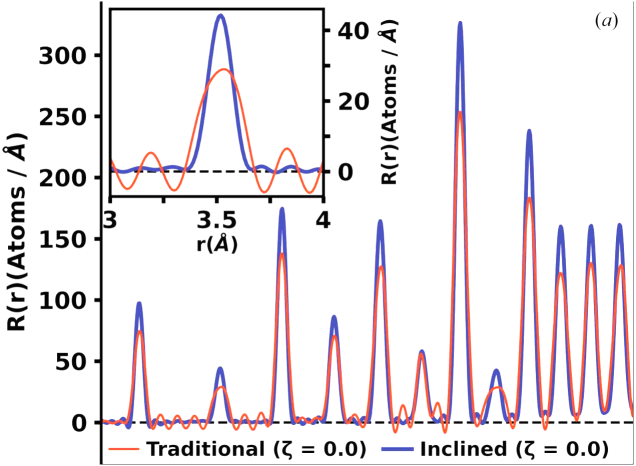


Disadvantages

- Geometry calibration much harder
- High Q signal very weak – noise can easily get convoluted
- New software needed to accurately work in these extremes
- No averaging over full rings – need good smooth samples
- Background measurements needed more frequently

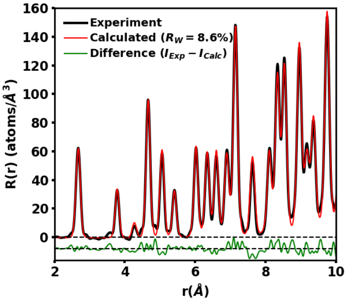
Canadian Light Source Centre canadien de rayonnement synchrotron

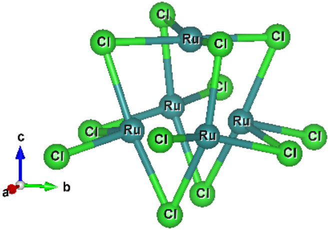
Comparison



N. Burns *et al.*, Journal of Applied Crystallography 2023, 56, 510.

Ru_5Cl_{12} Nanoparticle PDF Measurement





Canadian Light Source
Centre canadien de rayonnement synchrotron

CLS XRD School 2023

Dr. Al Rahemtulla

Summary

- PDF is a powerful tool that can probe local structure regardless of crystallinity
- With synchrotrons data collection is fast to observe structural changes as they happen
- PDF methods are improving and provide a way of seeing local structure nanoparticle structure
- GSAS-II very useful for PDF generation but it's not difficult to make your own code

Brockhouse Team

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Professor, U. Guelph
Beamteam Leader

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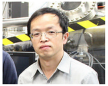
Narayan Appathurai

Beatriz Diaz Moreno
Beamline Responsible



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- Beatriz Moreno (Beamline Responsible) – `beatriz.diaz.moreno@lightsource.ca`)
- Brockhouse website – `http://www.brockhouse.lightsource.ca`

Thank You

Resources

- X-Ray Diffraction – B. E. Warren (1990)
- Elements of X-Ray Diffraction – B. D. Cullity (2001)
- The rise of the X-ray atomic pair distribution function method: a series of fortunate events – S. Billinge `https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2018.0413`
- An inclined detector geometry for improved X-ray total scattering measurements – N. Burns *et al* `https://doi.org/10.1107/S1600576723001747`
- GSAS-II – `https://subversion.xray.aps.anl.gov/trac/pyGSAS`