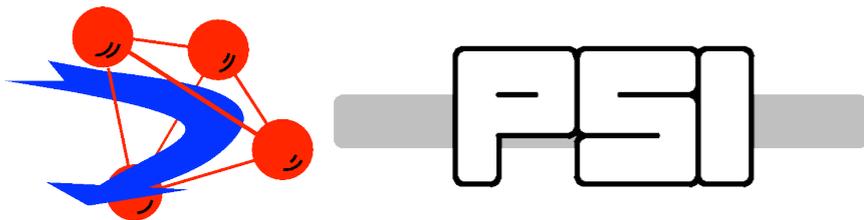


Experimental powder diffraction using HRPT as an example High Resolution Powder Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons

<http://sinq.web.psi.ch/hrpt>

Vladimir Pomjakushin
Laboratory for Neutron Scattering, PSI



Plan

- Introduction to neutron scattering/diffraction 2-16
- Powder neutron diffraction (ND) @ PSI/SINQ 17-24
- Experimental powder diffraction using HRPT (High Resolution Powder Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons) as an example 25-54
- Examples of results 55-66

1994 Nobel Prize in Physics

Clifford G. Shull
1915 – 2001, USA

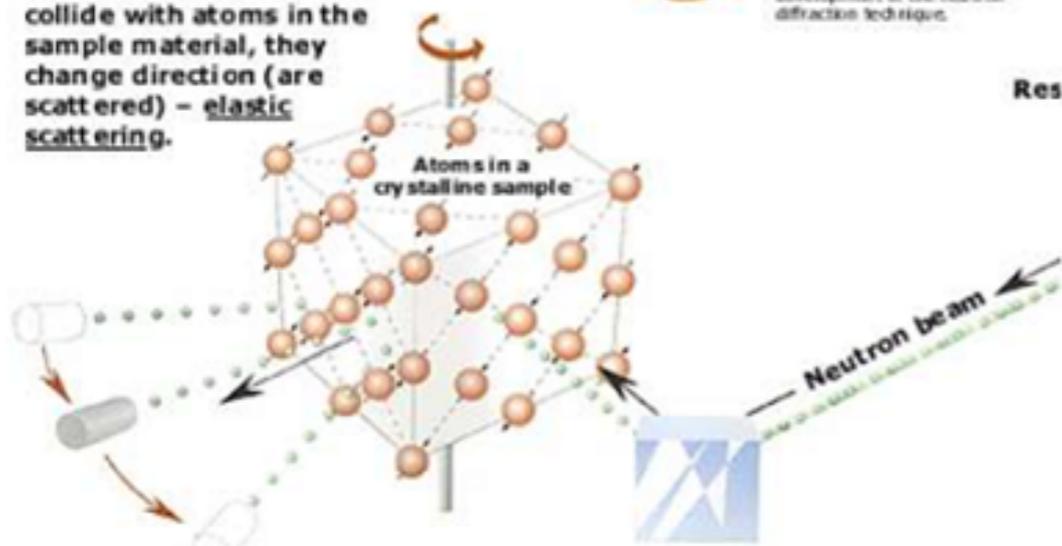


Clifford G. Shull, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, receives one half of the 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics for development of the neutron diffraction technique.

Neutrons show where atoms are

When the neutrons collide with atoms in the sample material, they change direction (are scattered) – elastic scattering.

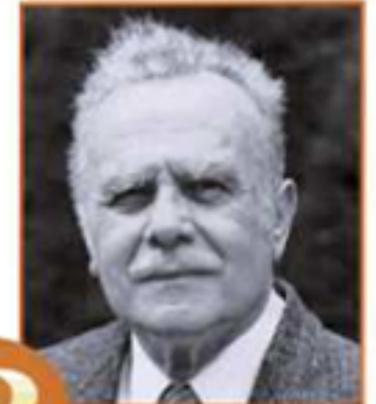
Res



Detectors record the directions of the neutrons and a diffraction pattern is obtained. The pattern shows the positions of the atoms relative to one another.

Crystal that sorts and forwards neutrons of a certain wavelength (energy) – monochromatized neutrons

Bertram N. Brockhouse
1918 – 2003, Canada

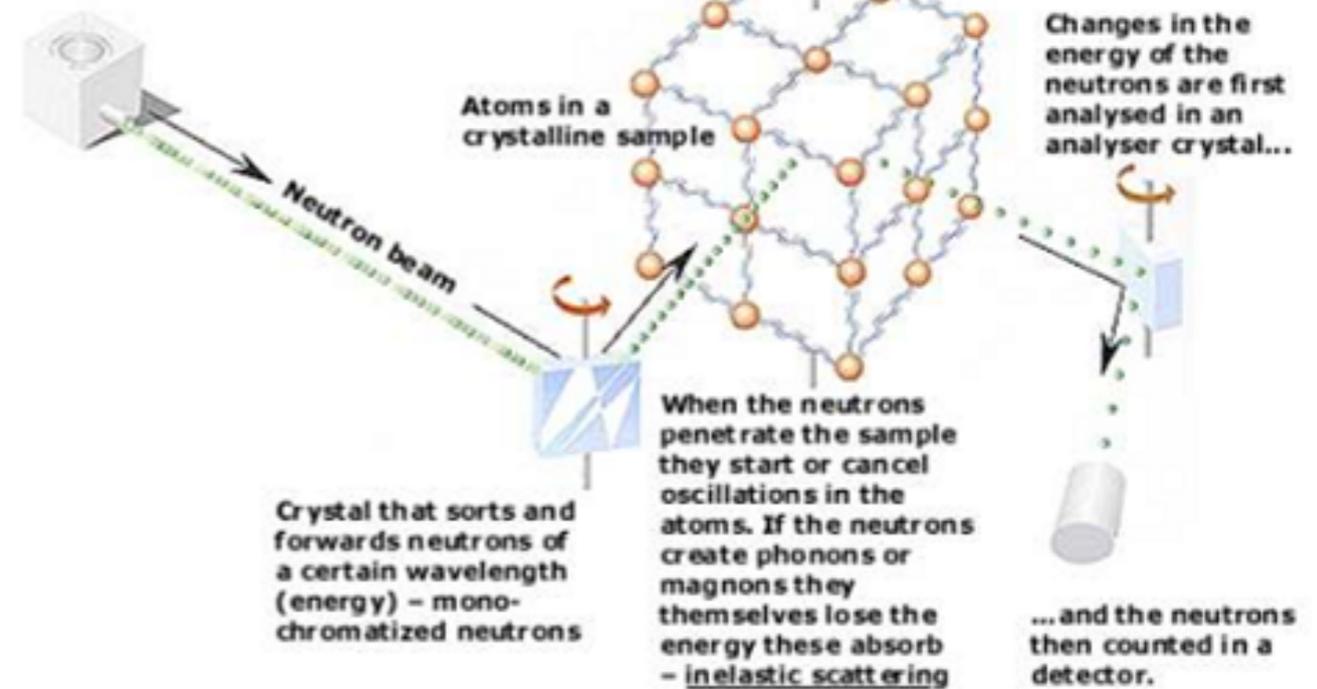


Bertram N. Brockhouse, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, receives one half of the 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics for the development of neutron spectroscopy.

Neutrons show what atoms do

3-axis spectrometer with rotatable crystals and rotatable sample

Changes in the energy of the neutrons are first analysed in an analyser crystal...



Crystal that sorts and forwards neutrons of a certain wavelength (energy) – monochromatized neutrons

When the neutrons penetrate the sample they start or cancel oscillations in the atoms. If the neutrons create phonons or magnons they themselves lose the energy they absorb – inelastic scattering

... and the neutrons then counted in a detector.

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1994/illpres/neutrons.html

Neutron sources for condensed matter studies

I. Continuous neutron sources

$W = 10 - 100$ MW
Const in time

SINQ, Switzerland
ILL, France
LLB, France
VVR-M, Russia
IR-8, Russia,
BENSC, Germany
FRM II, Germany
BNC, Hungary
NPI, Czechia
NIST, USA
ORNL, USA
...

II. Pulsed neutron sources

Short pulse

Long pulse

II-a. SPS

$W = 0.01 - 1$ MW
Pulsed in time
 $\Delta t_0 \approx (15 - 100)$ μ s

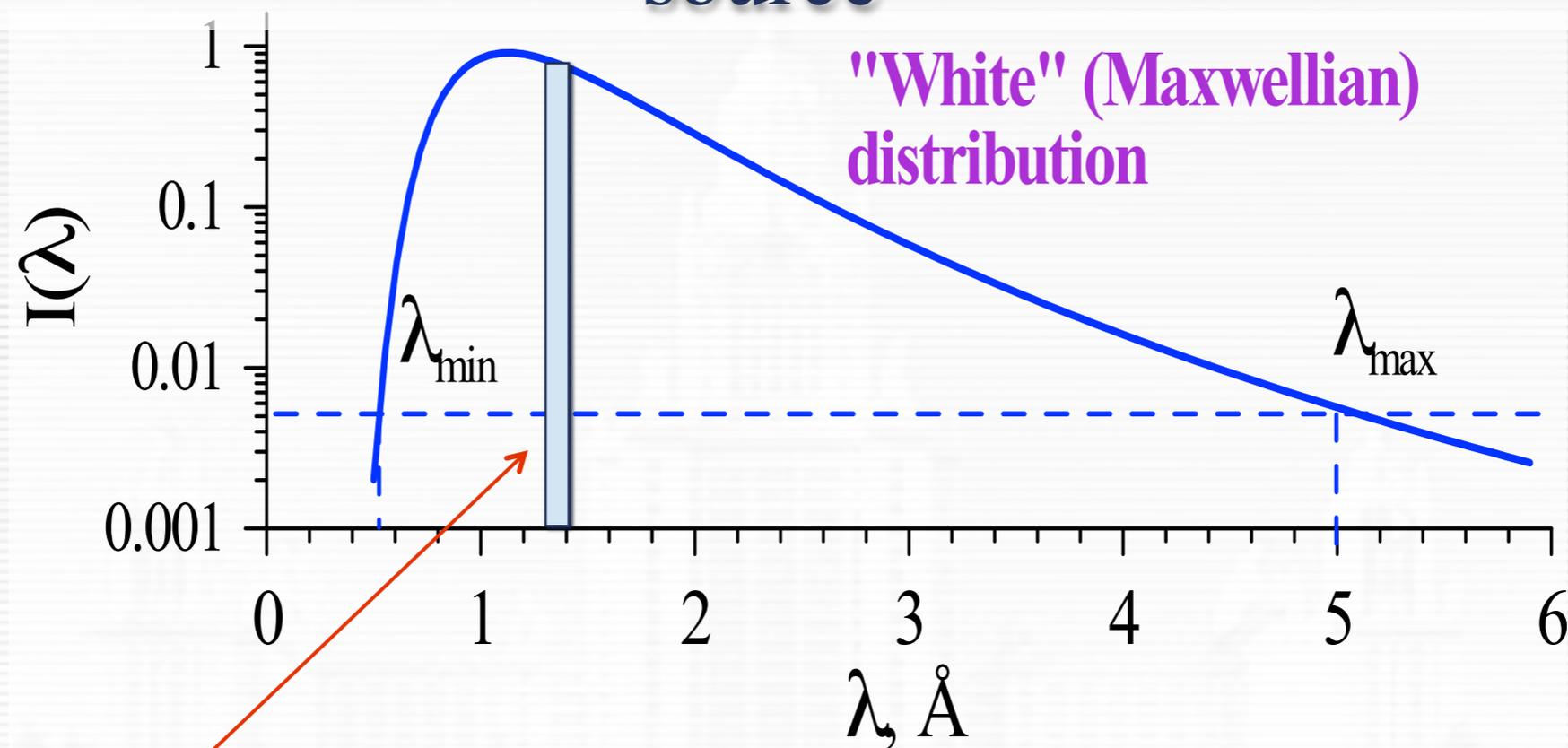
ISIS, UK
LANSCE, USA
SNS, USA
KENS, Japan
J-SNS, Japan

II-b. LPS

$W = 2 - 5$ MW
Pulsed in time
 $\Delta t_0 \approx (300 - 1000)$ μ s

IBR-2M, Russia
ESS, Europe
LANSCE (new)
???

Steady state reactor or spallation source / Pulsed neutron source



Monochromatic incident beam:

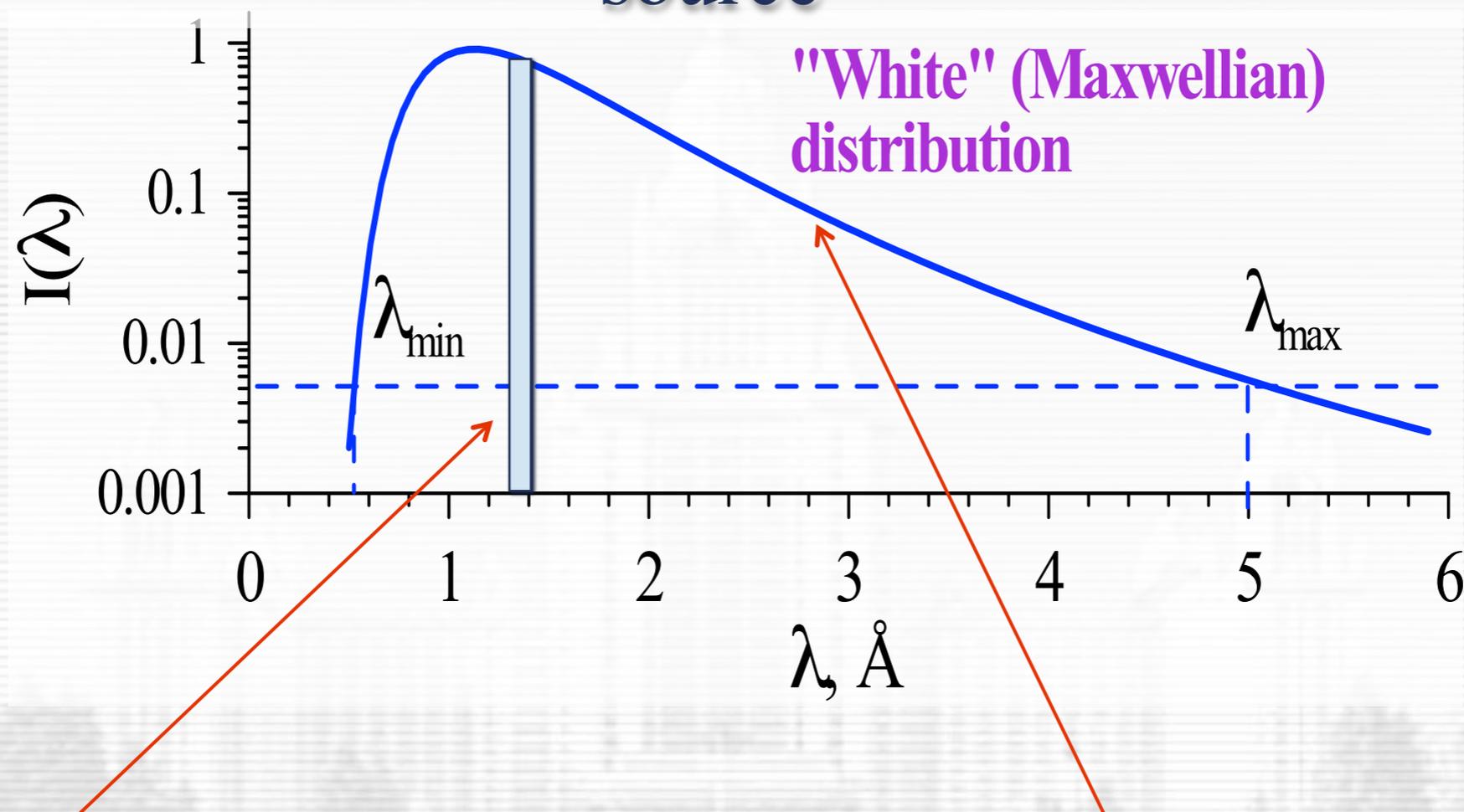
$\lambda = \text{const} \approx 1.4 \text{ \AA}$, $\Delta\lambda/\lambda \approx 0.01$,

Source: $W = (10 - 100) \text{ MW} = \text{const}$,

Scan over scattering angle,

Wide angle range is needed.

Steady state reactor or spallation source / Pulsed neutron source



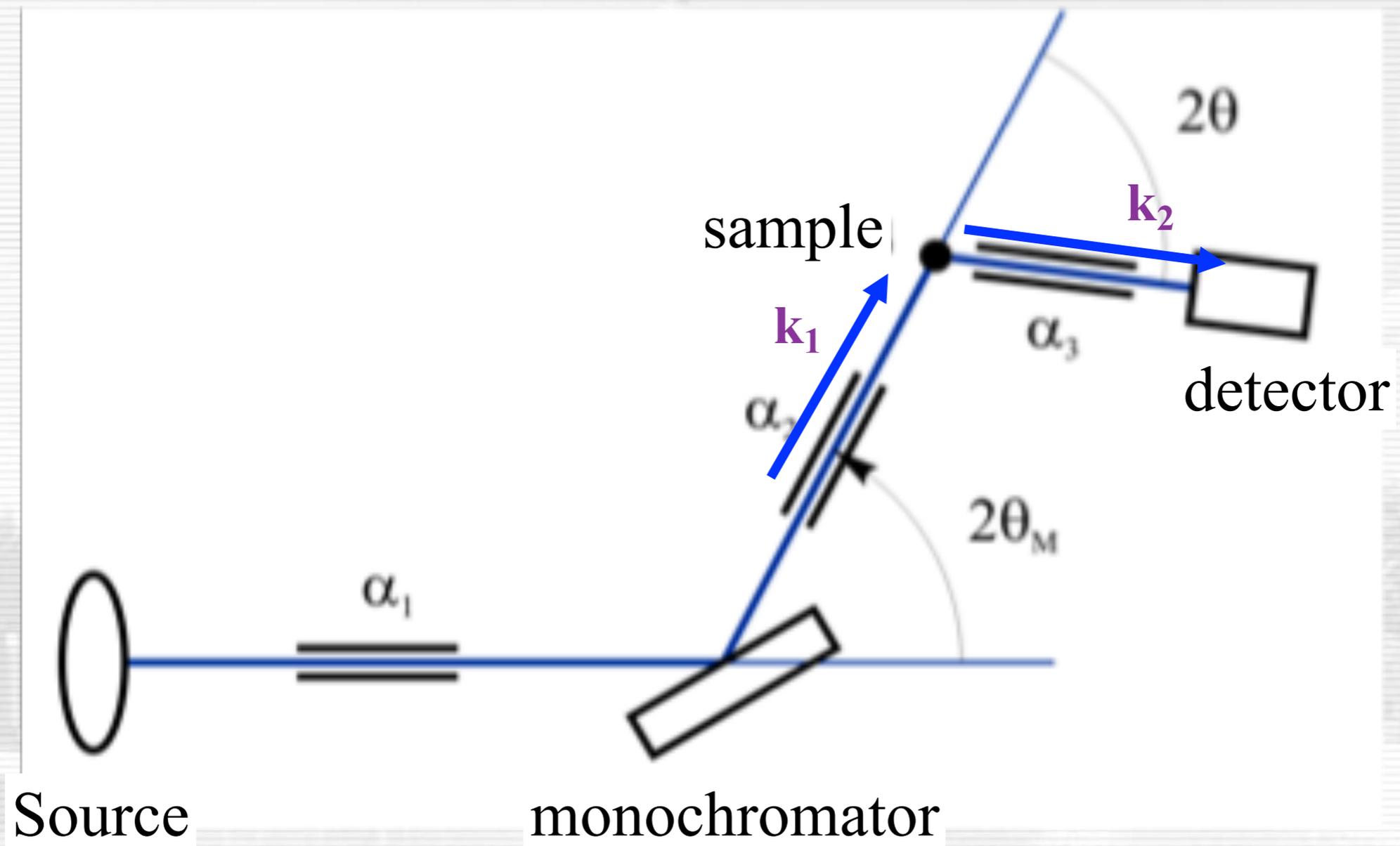
Monochromatic incident beam:

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Source: $W = (10 - 100) \text{ MW} = \text{const}$,
Scan over scattering angle,
Wide angle range is needed.

Polychromatic incident beam:

$\lambda_{\min} \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_{\max}$, $\Delta\lambda \approx 5 \text{ \AA}$,
Source: $W = (0.01 - 2) \text{ MW}$, pulsed,
Scan over time of flight (TOF),
Fixed angle geometry.

Geometry of diffractometer with $\lambda = \text{const}$



Elastic and inelastic neutron scattering

Momentum transfer
 $q = k_2 - k_1$



Always takes place

Energy transfer ($E_0 \approx 0.025$ eV)

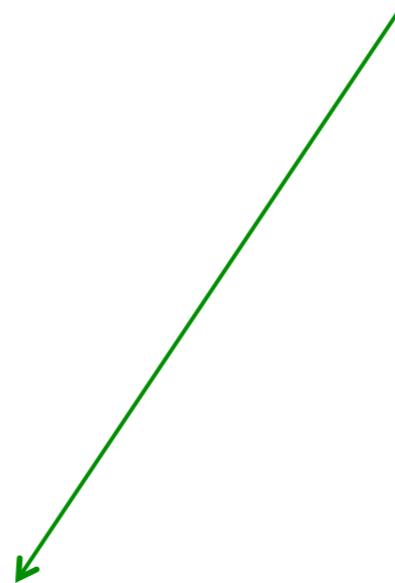
Elastic and inelastic neutron scattering

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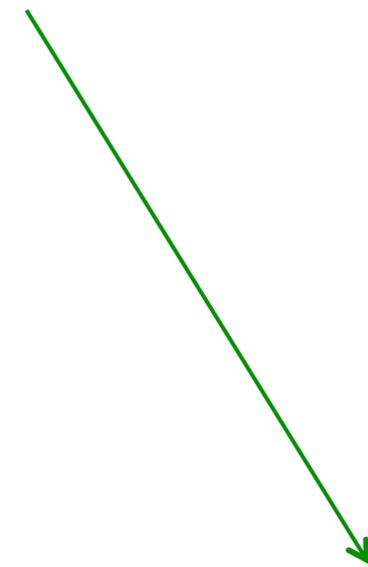


Always takes place

Energy transfer ($E_0 \approx 0.025$ eV)



to atom,
 $\Delta E/E_0 \sim 1$, “inelastic”



to collective mode,
 $\Delta E/E_0 \sim 1$, “inelastic”

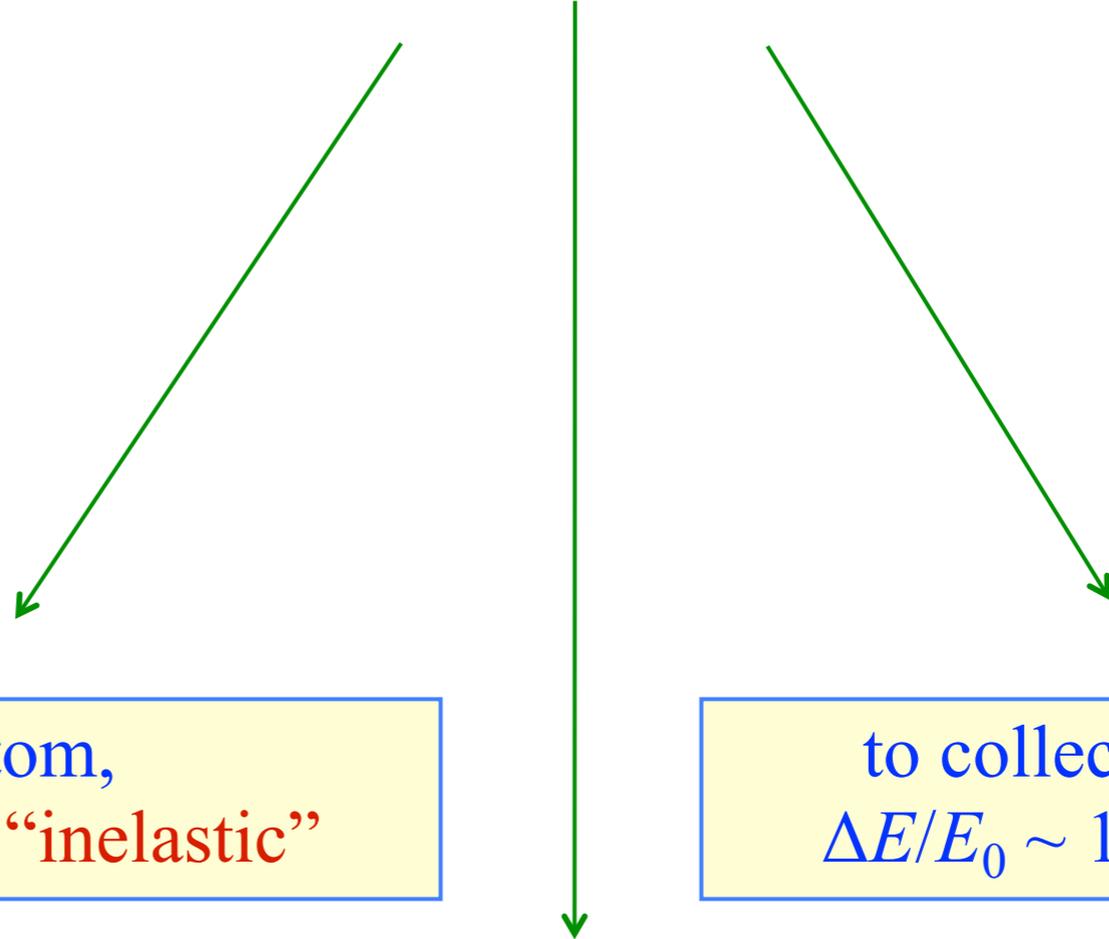
Elastic and inelastic neutron scattering

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Always takes place

Energy transfer ($E_0 \approx 0.025$ eV)



to atom,
 $\Delta E/E_0 \sim 1$, “inelastic”

to collective mode,
 $\Delta E/E_0 \sim 1$, “inelastic”

to crystal,
 $\Delta E/E_0 \sim 10^{-24}$ ($\Delta E = 0$)
“elastic scattering”

$$E_i = E_f$$
$$|k_i| = |k_f|$$

courtesy of A. Balagurov 7



Specifics of thermal neutron interaction with matter

Scattering amplitude or length

courtesy of A. Balagurov

Specifics of thermal neutron interaction with matter

Scattering amplitude or length

- b nuclear coherent scattering length does not depend on q (thermal factors)

courtesy of A. Balagurov

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light atoms in presence of heavy atoms: H-O, Mn-O, U-H, ...

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 - neighbours discrimination: O-N, Co-Fe, ...)

courtesy of A. Balagurov

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 $b_{\text{D}} = 0.67$ $b_{\text{Fe-57}} = 0.23$

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- b can be < 0 (“zero” matrix without coherent scattering from container)

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- b can be < 0 (“zero” matrix without coherent scattering from container)
- large magnetic scattering amplitude (magnetic structure)

courtesy of A. Balagurov

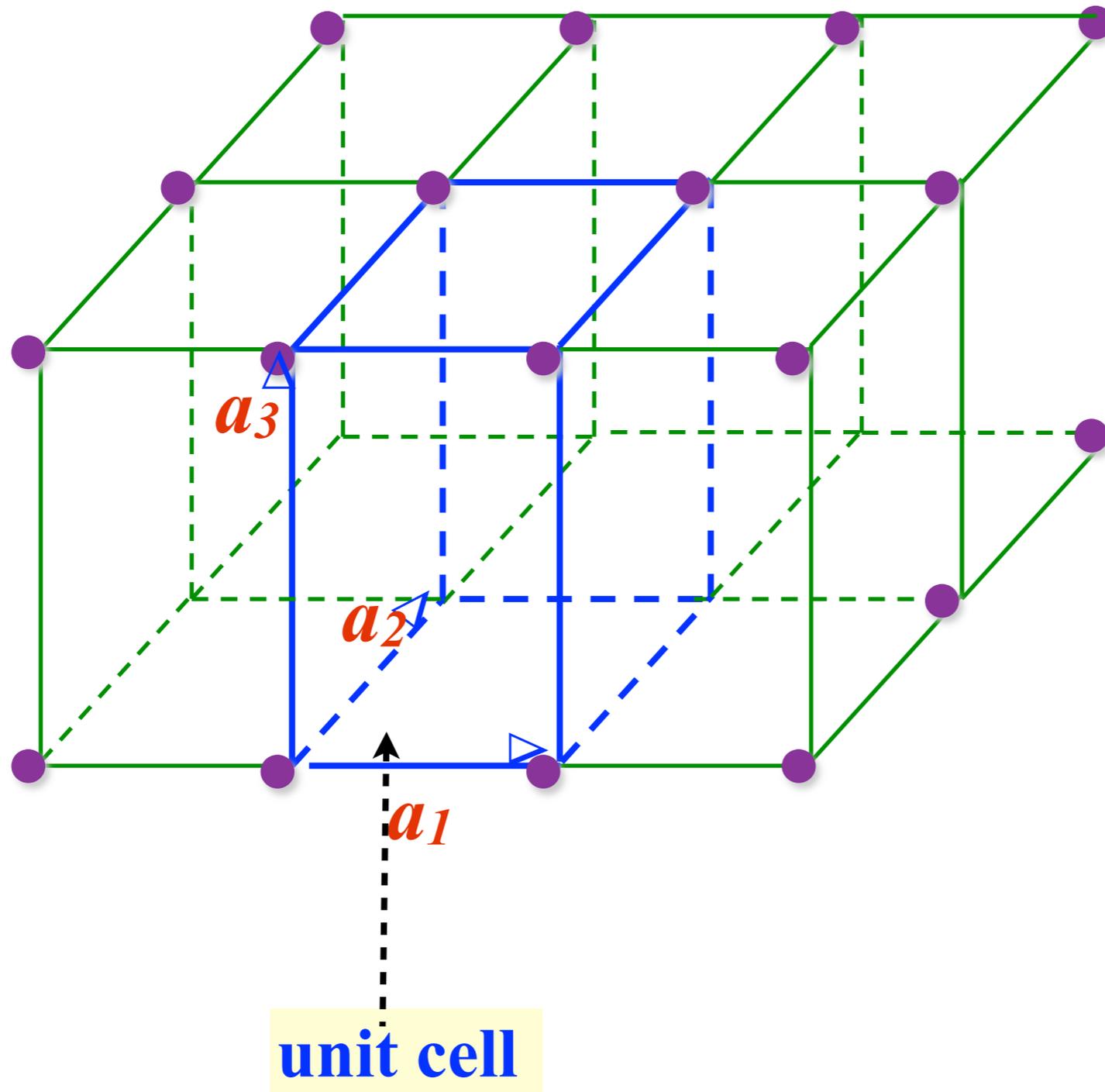
Specifics of thermal neutron interaction with matter

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 $b_{\text{D}} = 0.67$ $b_{\text{Fe-57}} = 0.23$
- b can be < 0 (“zero” matrix without coherent scattering from container)
- large magnetic scattering amplitude (magnetic structure)
- small absorption (high penetration)

courtesy of A. Balagurov

Real space/lattice. Translational symmetry



Reciprocal space/lattice

$\{a_i\}$ – basis in the real crystal space

$\{b_i\}$ – basis in the reciprocal space

Reciprocal space/lattice

$\{a_i\}$ – basis in the real crystal space

$\{b_i\}$ – basis in the reciprocal space

$$b_1 = [a_2 a_3] / V_c, \quad b_2 = [a_3 a_1] / V_c, \quad b_3 = [a_1 a_2] / V_c,$$

$$V_c = a_1 [a_2 a_3]$$

$$a_i \cdot b_j = \delta_{ij} = 1 \text{ for } i=j, \quad 0 \text{ for } i \neq j$$

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$$V_c = a_1 [a_2 a_3]$$

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$\mathbf{T} = n_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + n_3 \mathbf{a}_3$ – crystal lattice if n_i is integer

$\mathbf{H} = h_1 \mathbf{b}_1 + h_2 \mathbf{b}_2 + h_3 \mathbf{b}_3$ – reciprocal lattice h_i is integer

$\mathbf{T}_n \cdot \mathbf{H}_h = n_1 h_1 + n_2 h_2 + n_3 h_3 = m$ – integer

(h, k, l) – Miller indexes

$\mathbf{H} \perp \{h_1 h_2 h_3\}, d_{hkl} = 1/|\mathbf{H}_{hkl}|$

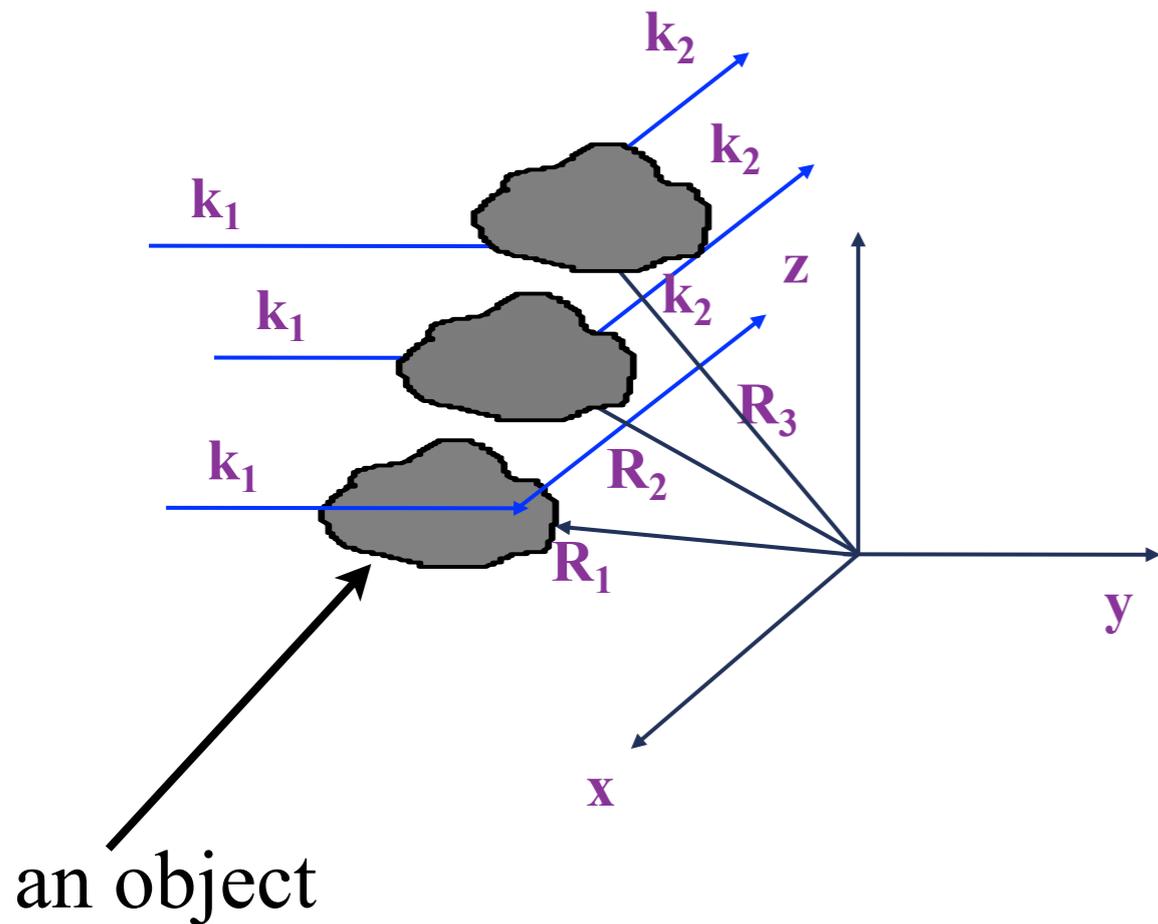
$|\mathbf{H}_{hkl}| = (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{H})^{1/2}$

Neutron scattering on periodic structure

Position of the scatterer

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}_m + \mathbf{r}_j$$

Position of object origin Position of scatterer in object



Neutron scattering on periodic structure

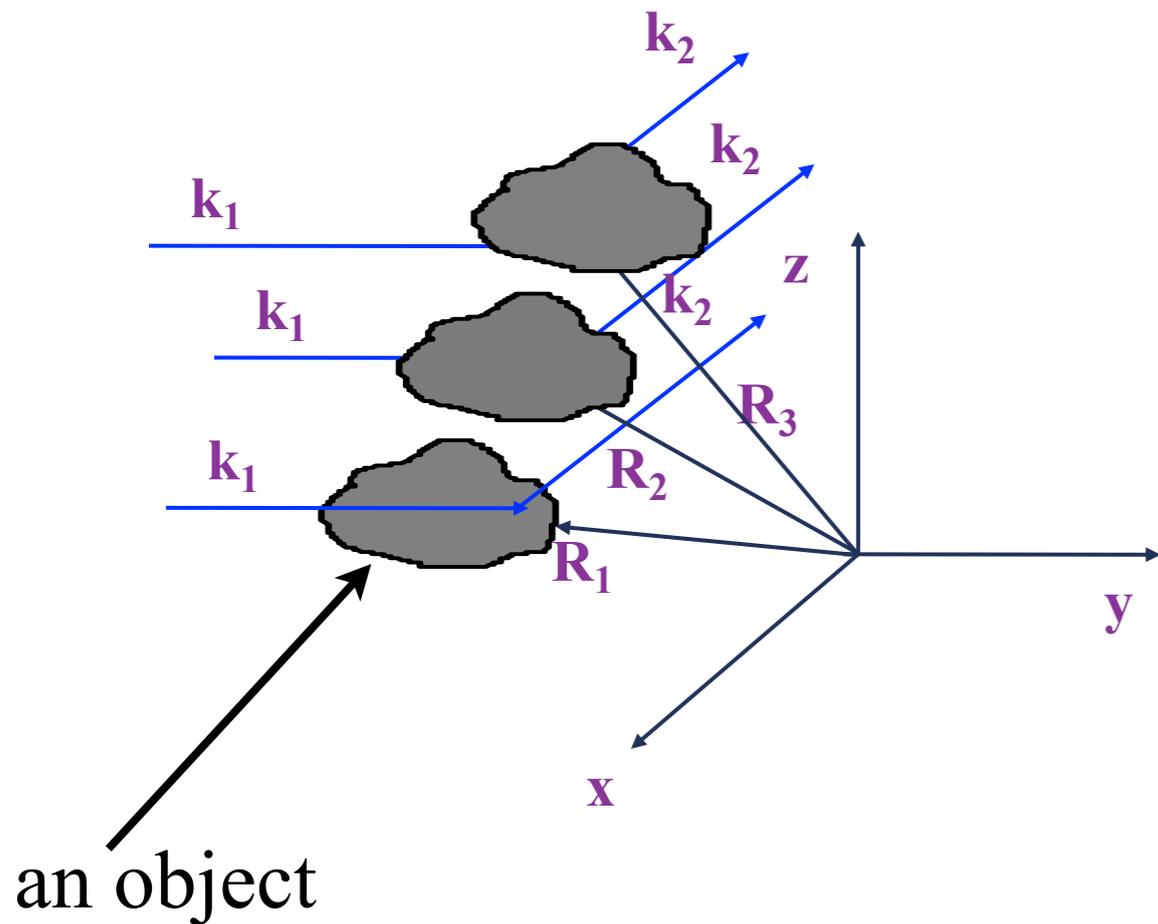
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scattering wave amplitude

$$\langle \mathbf{k}_1 | V | \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle = b(\mathbf{R}) \exp(i\mathbf{R}\mathbf{q}), \quad \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_1$$



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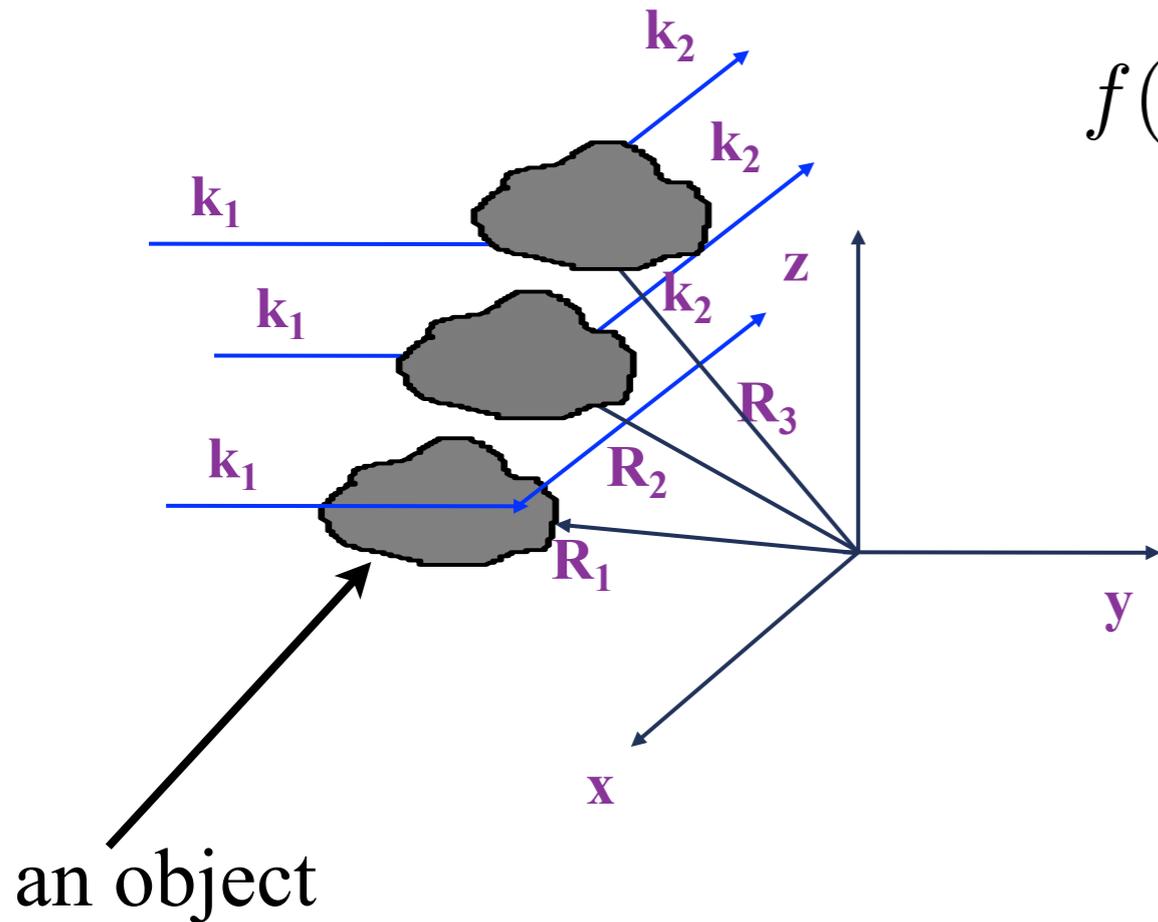
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Sum of wave amplitude from all objects

$$f(\mathbf{q}) \propto \sum_m \exp(i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{R}_m) \cdot \sum_j b(\mathbf{r}_j) \exp(i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{r}_j)$$



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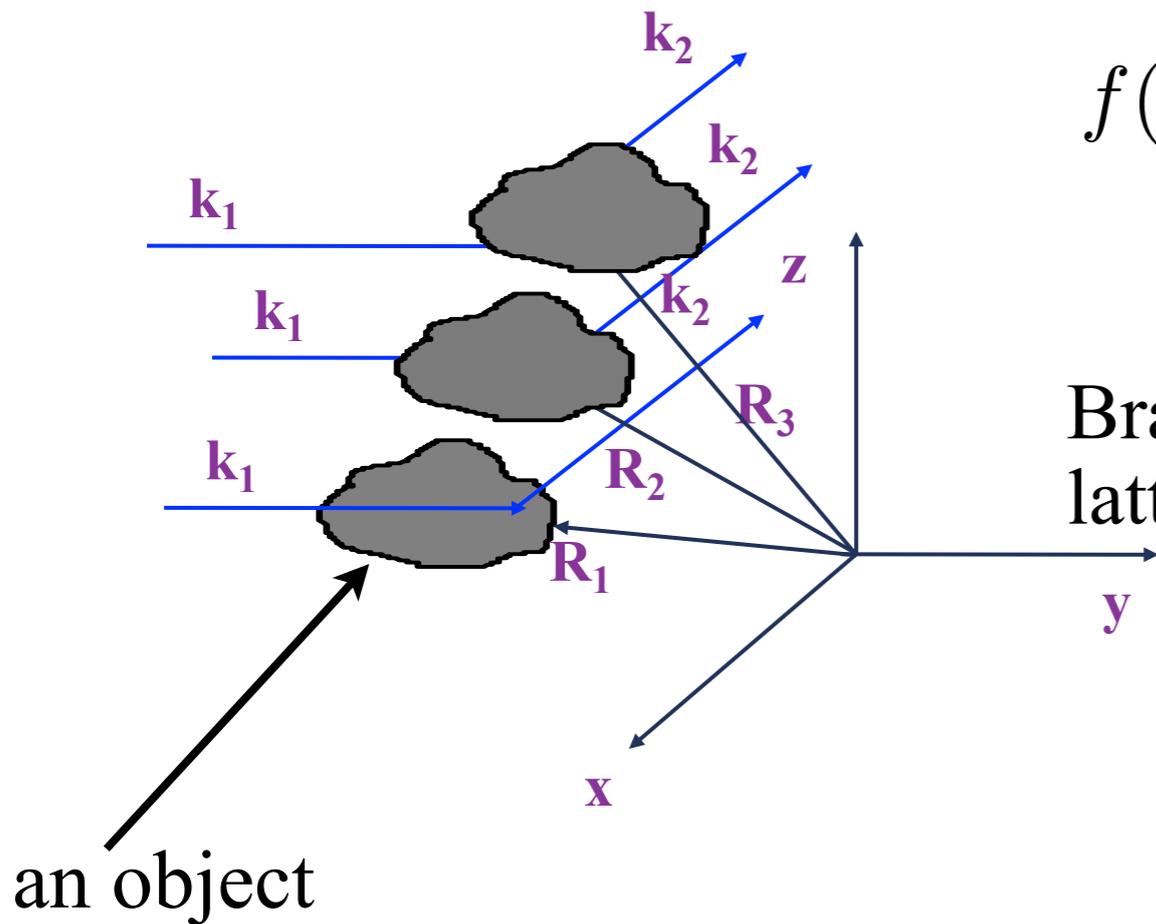
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$$\delta(\mathbf{q} - 2\pi\mathbf{H})$$

Bragg peak at reciprocal lattice nodes

same value for any \mathbf{R}_m



Structure factor: unique property of the object

$$F(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_j b(\mathbf{r}_j) \exp(i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{r}_j)$$

Neutron scattering on periodic structure

Position of the scatterer

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}_m + \mathbf{r}_j$$

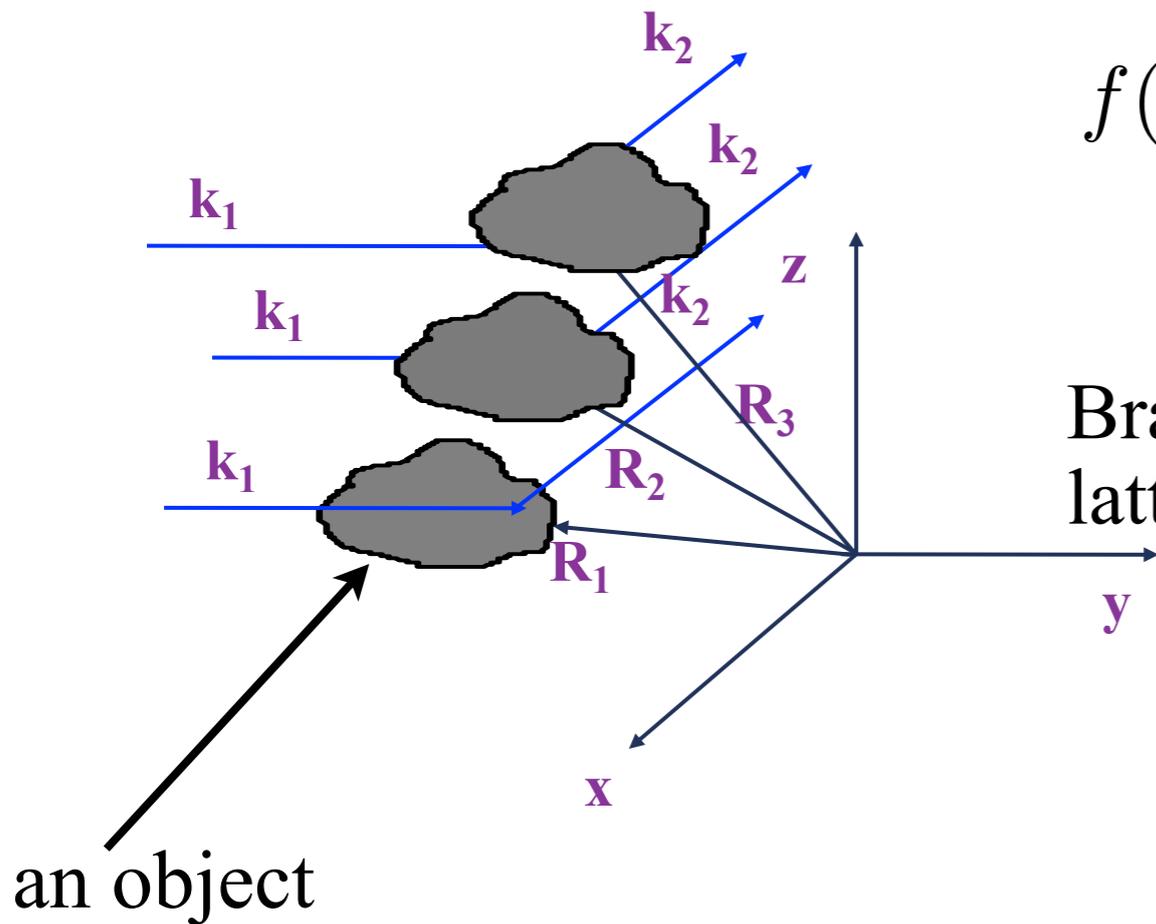
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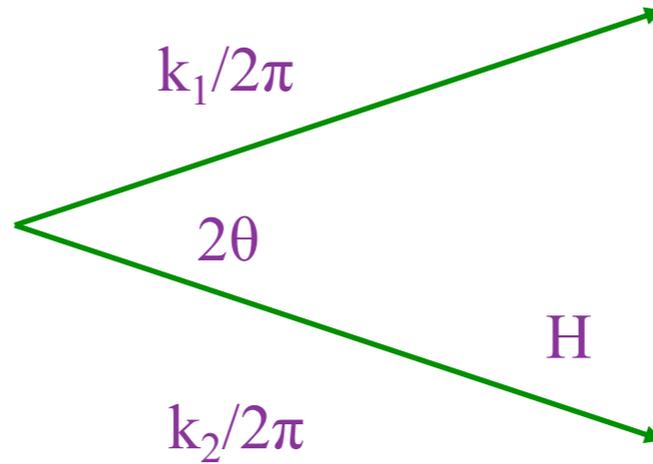
Intensity in the detector

$$I = \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \propto |f(\mathbf{q})|^2 \propto |F(\mathbf{q})|^2 \delta(\mathbf{q} - 2\pi\mathbf{H})$$

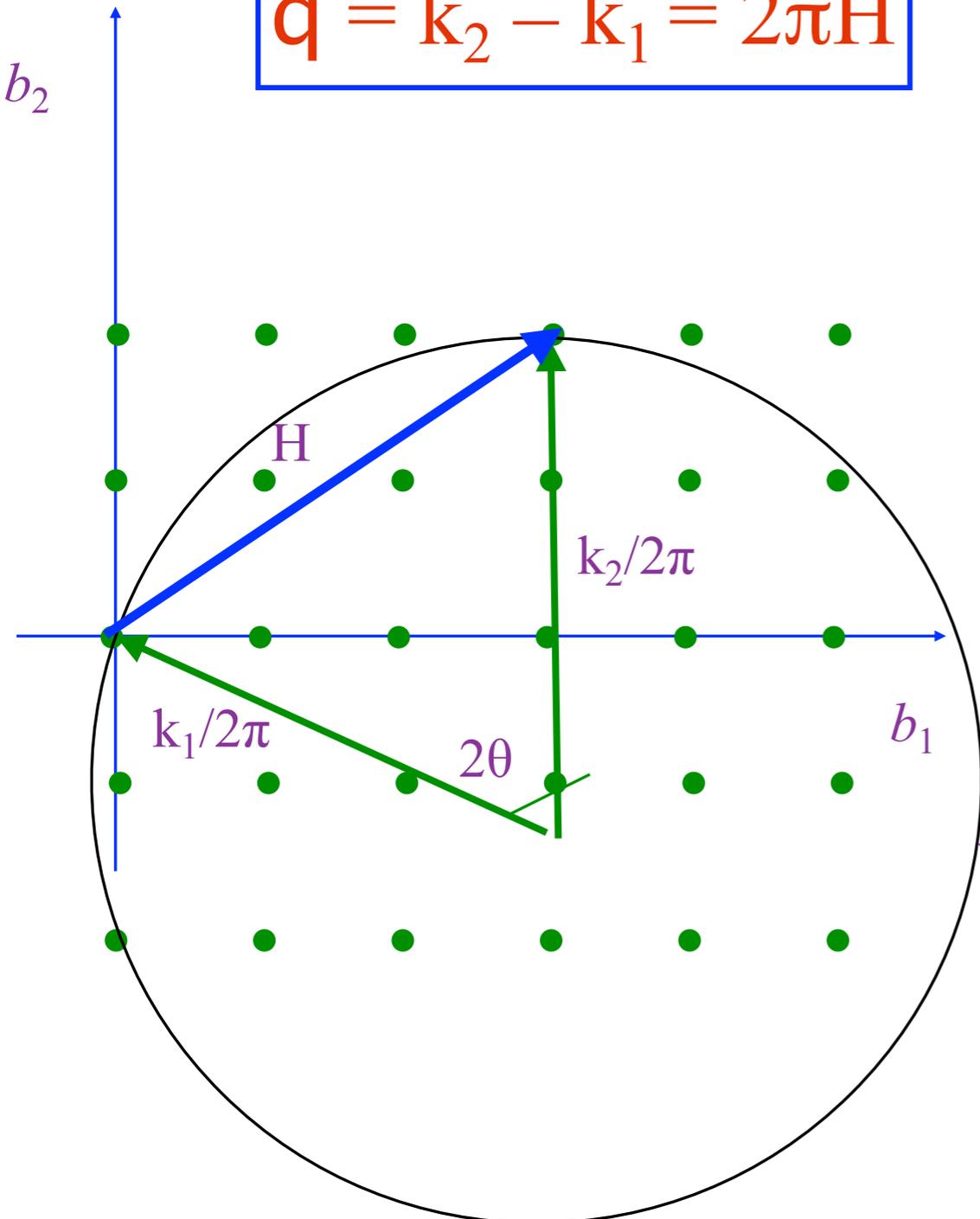
Ewald sphere construction for $\lambda = \text{const}$

$$f \sim F \cdot \delta(\mathbf{q} - 2\pi\mathbf{H})$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_1 = 2\pi\mathbf{H}$$



$\mathbf{H} = h_1\mathbf{b}_1 + h_2\mathbf{b}_2 + h_3\mathbf{b}_3$ –
reciprocal lattice vector



Ewald reflection
sphere

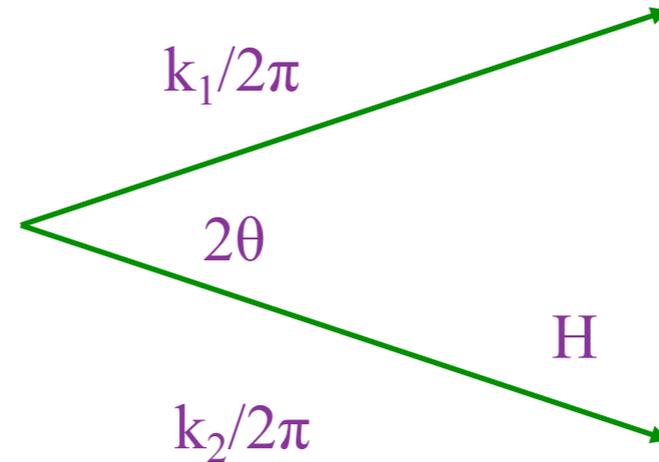


Paul Peter Ewald
23.01.1888, Germany
22.08.1985, USA

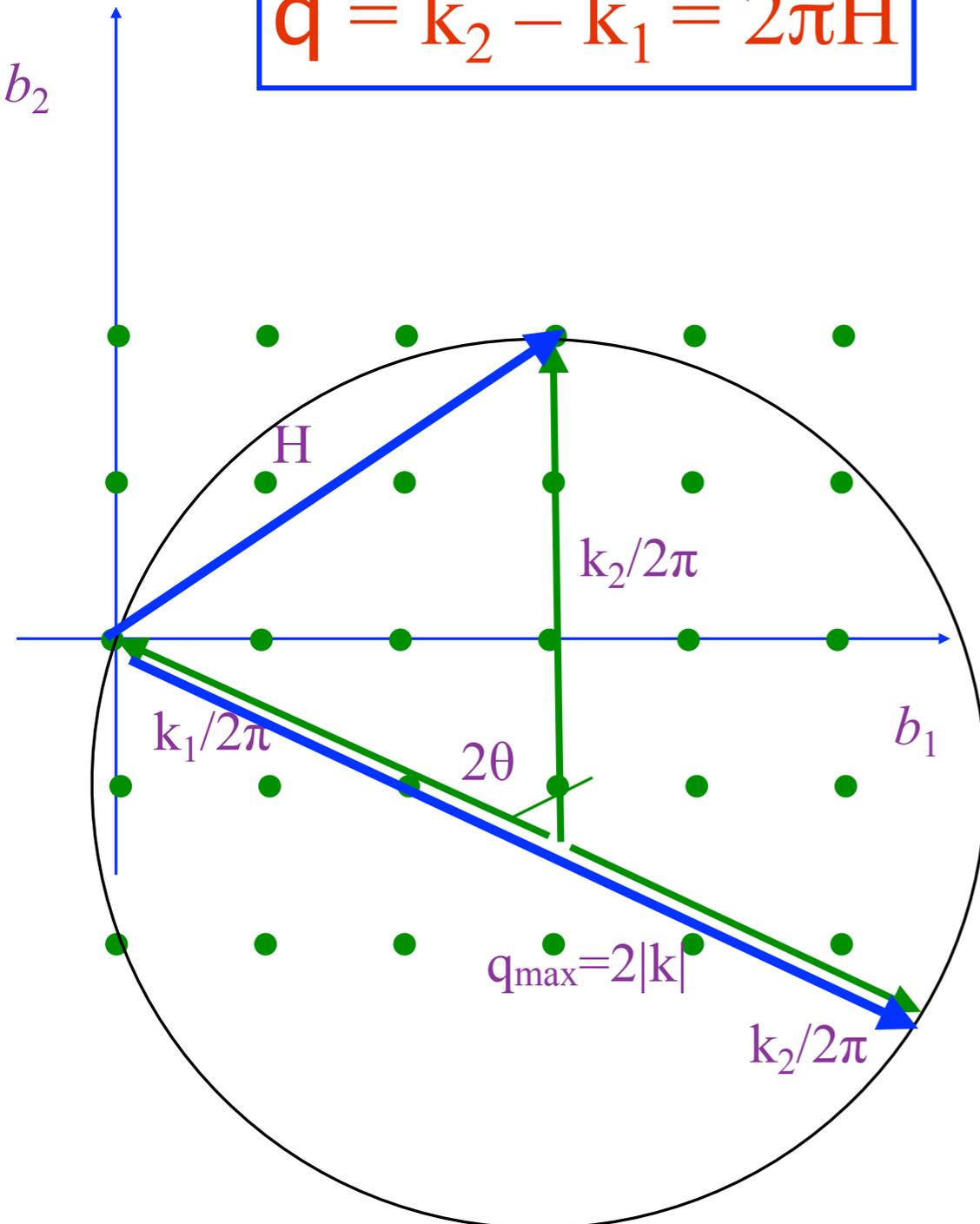
Ewald sphere construction for $\lambda = \text{const}$

$$f \sim F \cdot \delta(q - 2\pi H)$$

$$q = k_2 - k_1 = 2\pi H$$



$H = h_1 b_1 + h_2 b_2 + h_3 b_3$ –
reciprocal lattice vector

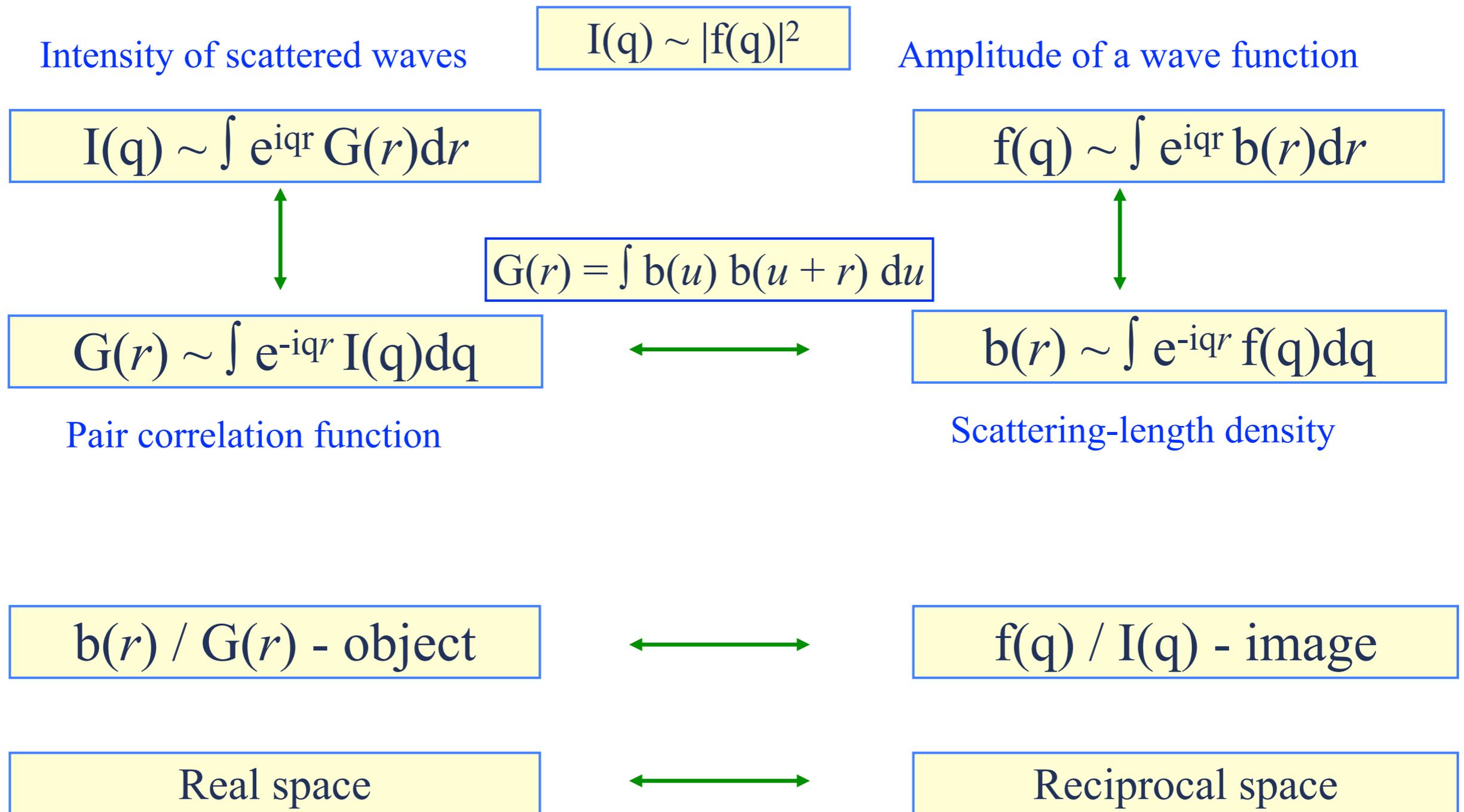


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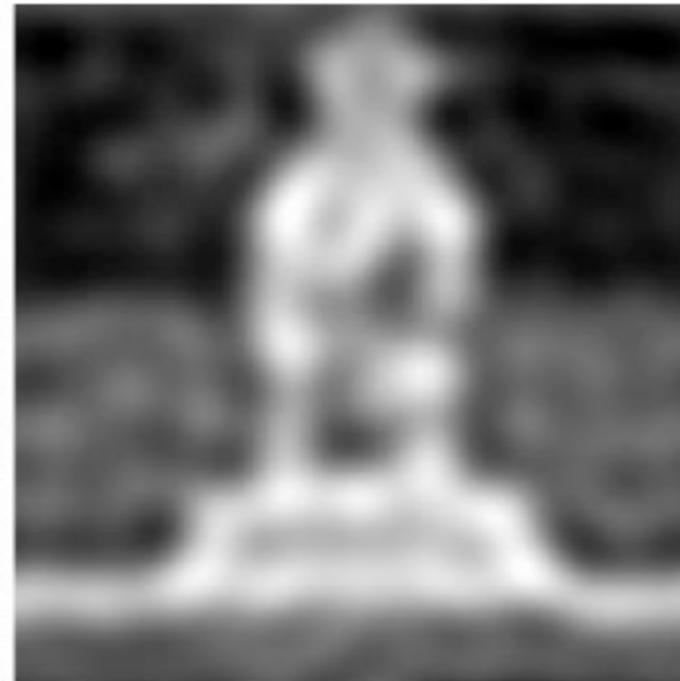
Elastic scattering as Fourier transform of a structure



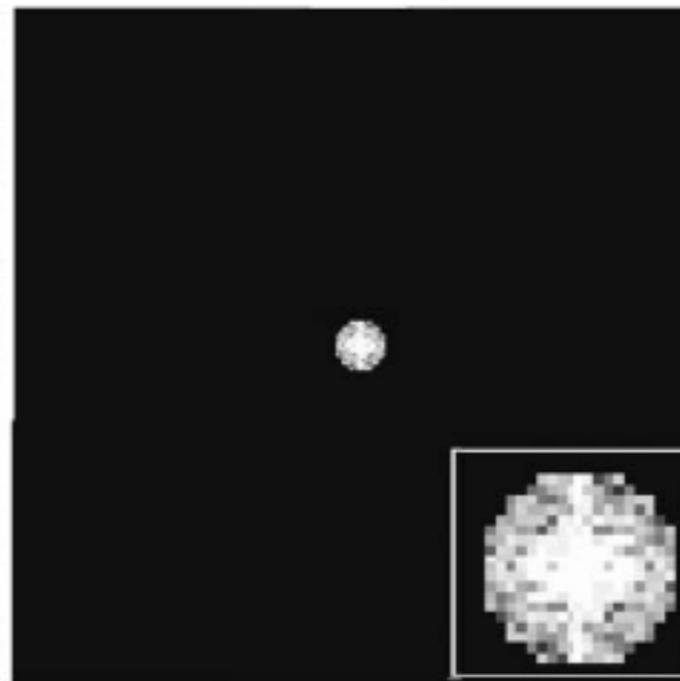
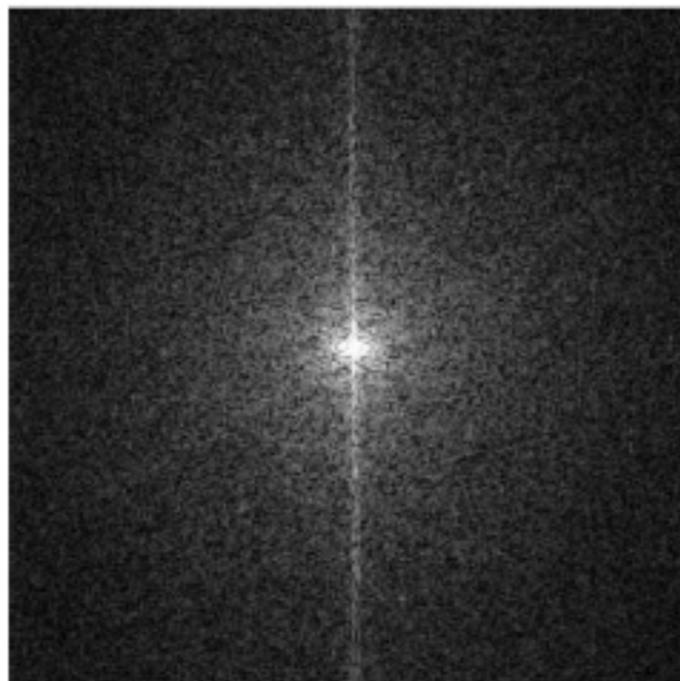
Diffraction limit and image quality

Object

$$b(r) \sim \int_0^{\infty} e^{-iqr} f(q) dq$$



$$b(r) \sim \int_0^Q e^{-iqr} f(q) dq$$



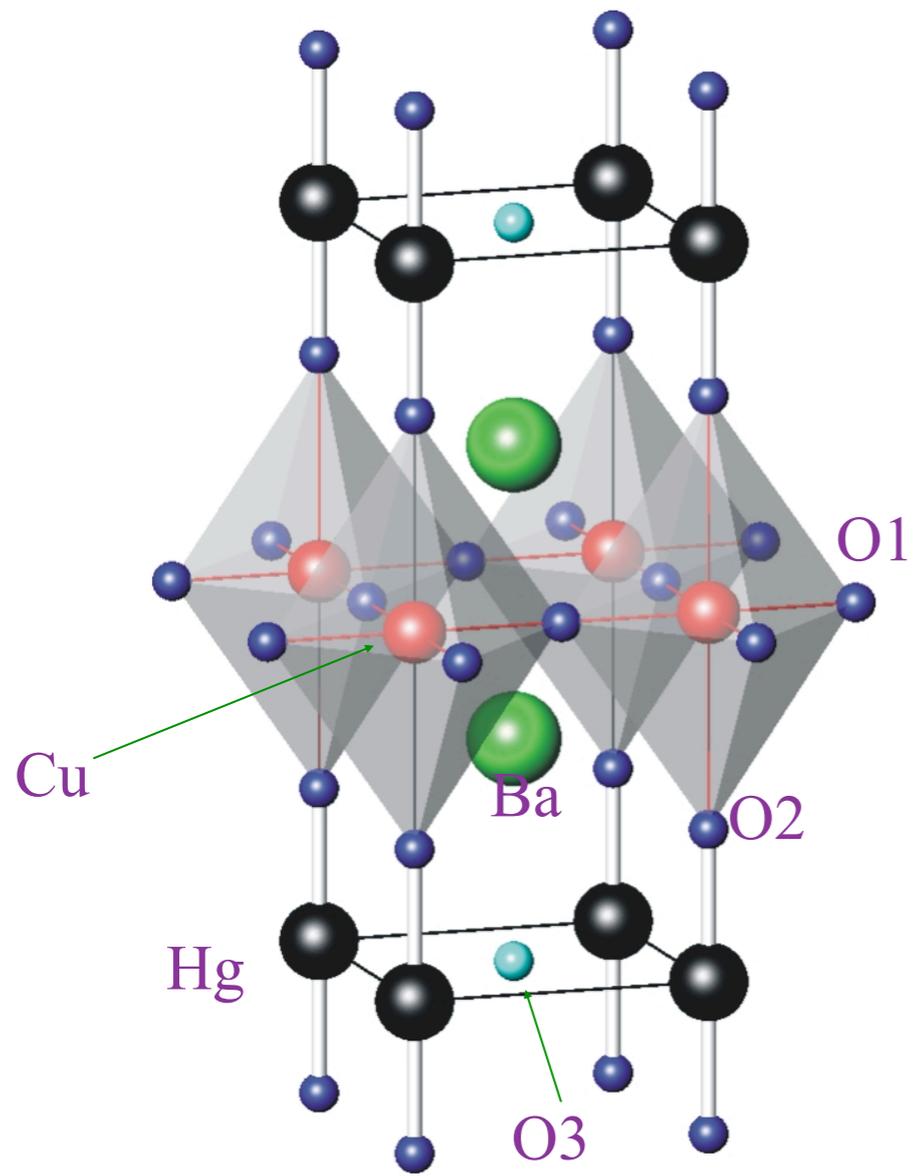
Fourier image

$$f(q) \sim \int e^{iqr} b(r) dr$$

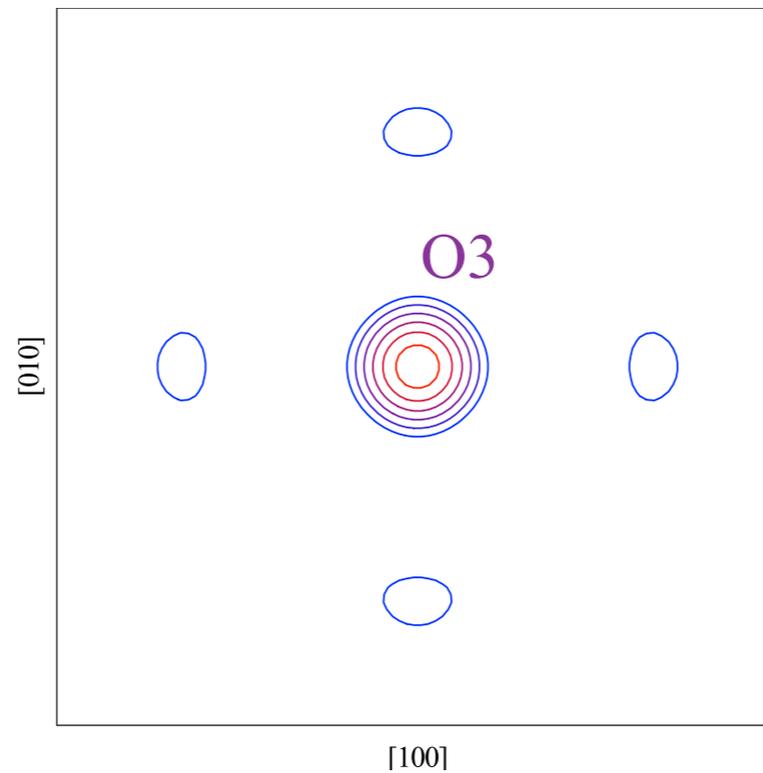
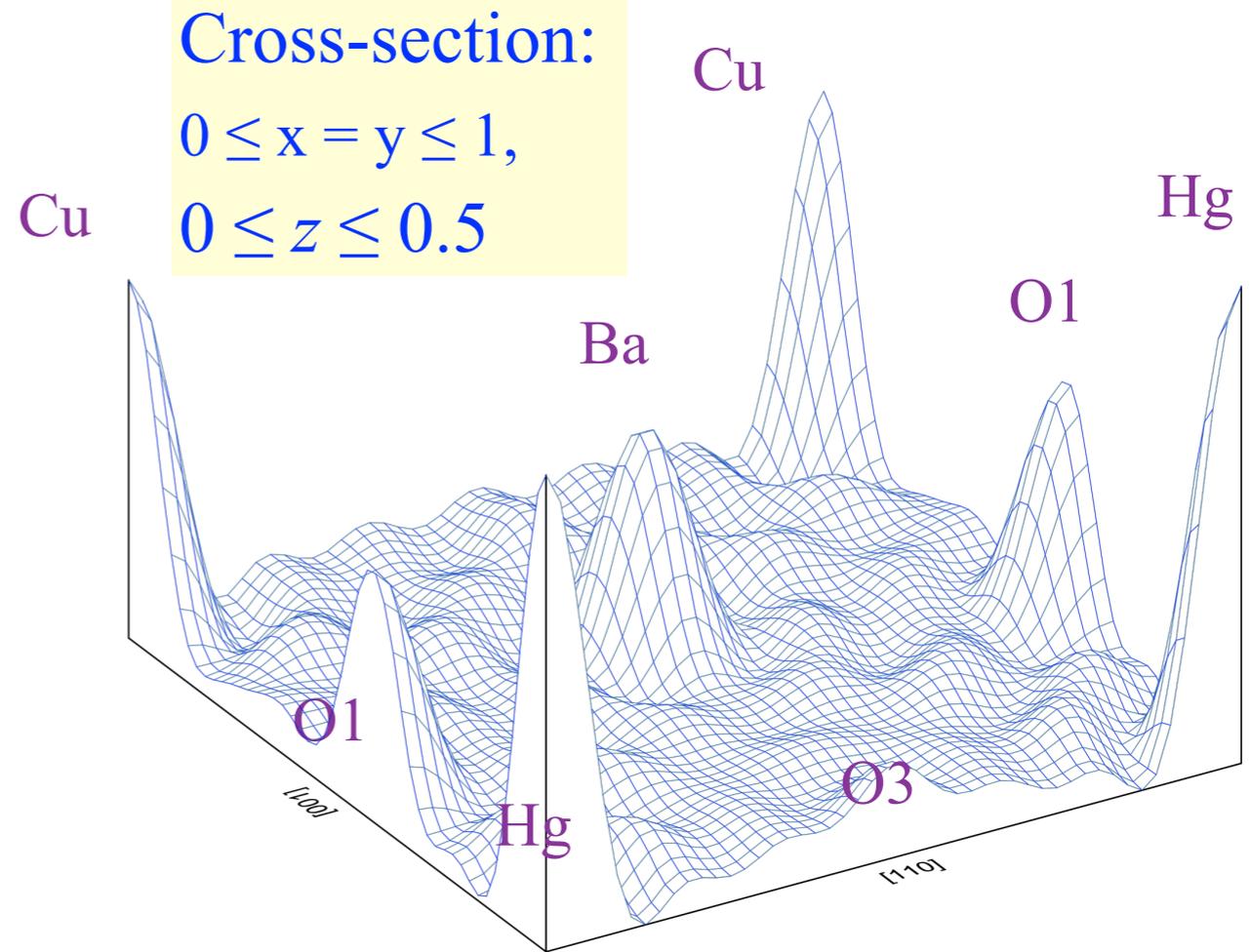
Fourier image without high Q

courtesy of A. Balagurov

Fourier synthesis of $\text{HgBa}_2\text{CuO}_{4+\delta}$ structure



$\text{HgBa}_2\text{CuO}_{4+\delta}$ structure:
the O3 position is partially
filled, $n(\text{O3}) = \delta = 0.12$.



Difference synthesis.

Cross-section:

$$0 \leq x \leq 1,$$

$$0 \leq y \leq 1,$$

$$z = 0$$

courtesy of A. Balagurov 15

Diffraction limit

$$b(r) \sim \int_0^{\infty} e^{-iqr} f(q) dq \quad \longrightarrow \quad b(r) \sim \int_0^Q e^{-iqr} f(q) dq, \quad Q = q_{\max}$$

$$l_c \approx 2\pi/Q \geq \lambda_{\min}/2 \quad - \text{diffraction limit}$$

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$$l_c \approx 2\pi/Q \geq \lambda_{\min}/2 \quad - \text{diffraction limit}$$

As a rule:

for diffraction

$$\lambda_{\min} \approx 1 \text{ \AA}, \text{ i.e. } l_c \approx 0.5 \text{ \AA},$$

for SANS

$$Q \approx 0.5 \text{ \AA}^{-1}, \text{ i.e. } l_c \approx 20 \text{ \AA}.$$

In practice: for interatomic distances
for lattice parameters

$$\sigma \sim 0.002 \text{ \AA},$$

$$\sigma < 0.0001 \text{ \AA},$$

Diffraction limit

$$b(r) \sim \int_0^{\infty} e^{-iqr} f(q) dq \longrightarrow b(r) \sim \int_0^Q e^{-iqr} f(q) dq, \quad Q = q_{\max}$$

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In practice: for interatomic distances

$$\sigma \sim 0.002 \text{ \AA},$$

for lattice parameters

$$\sigma < 0.0001 \text{ \AA},$$

Diffraction limit is overcome owing to:

- periodicity of a structure,
- parametric description of an object.

Powder neutron diffractometers

European Portal for Neutron Scattering

<http://pathfinder.neutron-eu.net>

<http://www.neutrons-ensa.eu/>

Text

Powder neutron diffractometers

European Portal for Neutron Scattering

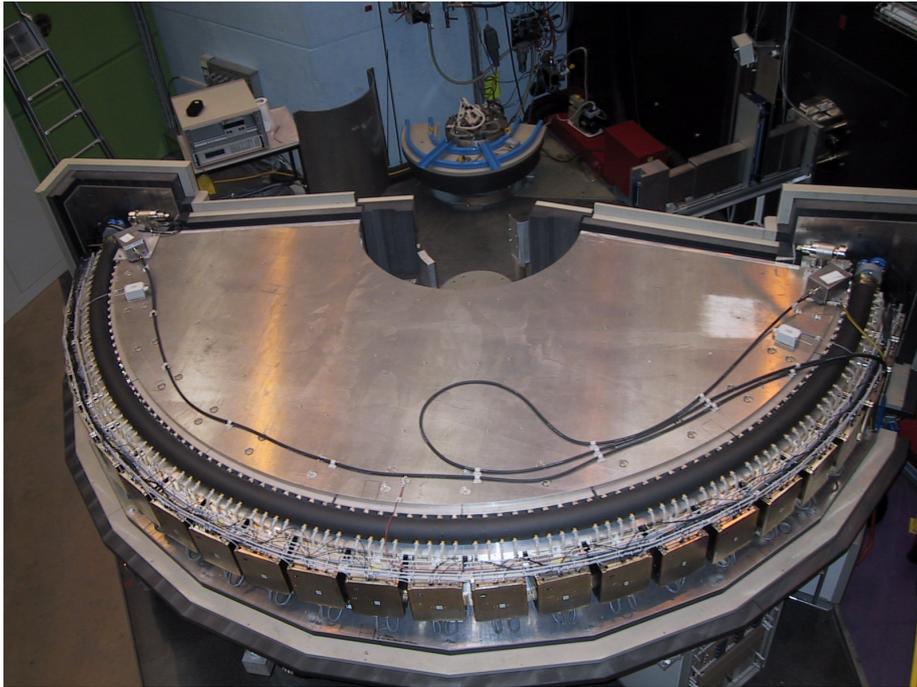
<http://pathfinder.neutron-eu.net>

<http://www.neutrons-ensa.eu/>

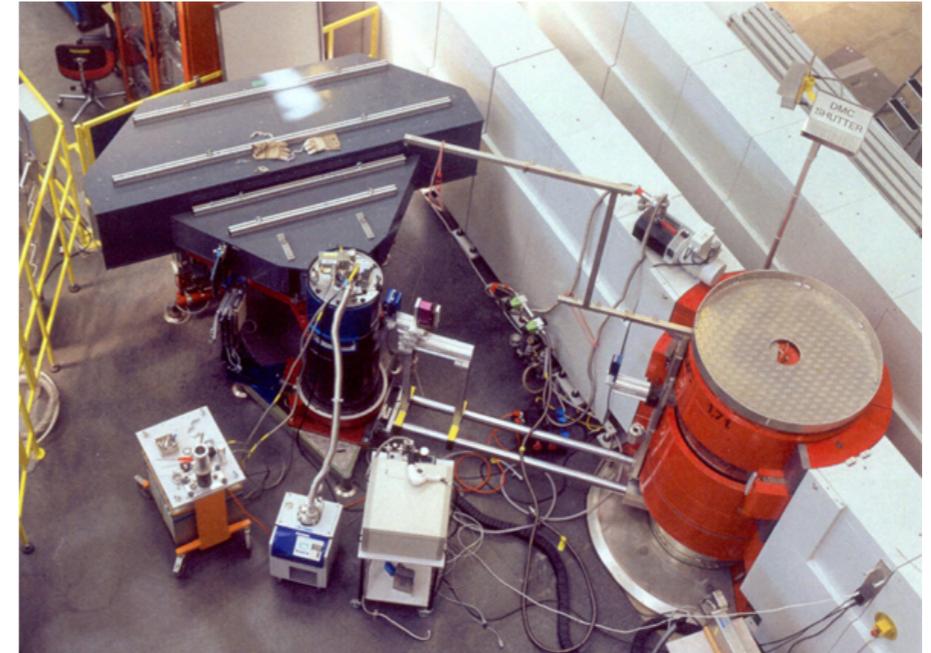
SINQ/PSI, CH	<u>Structure: DMC, HRPT,</u> Strain scanner: POLDI
ILL, FR	D20, D2B, ... Text
LLB, FR	G41, G42
ISIS, UK	GEM, HRPD, PEARL
FRM-II, GE	SPODI
FLNP/Dubna, RU	HRFD, DN2, DNI2

Powder ND at SINQ/PSI

HRPT - High Resolution Powder
Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons at SINQ

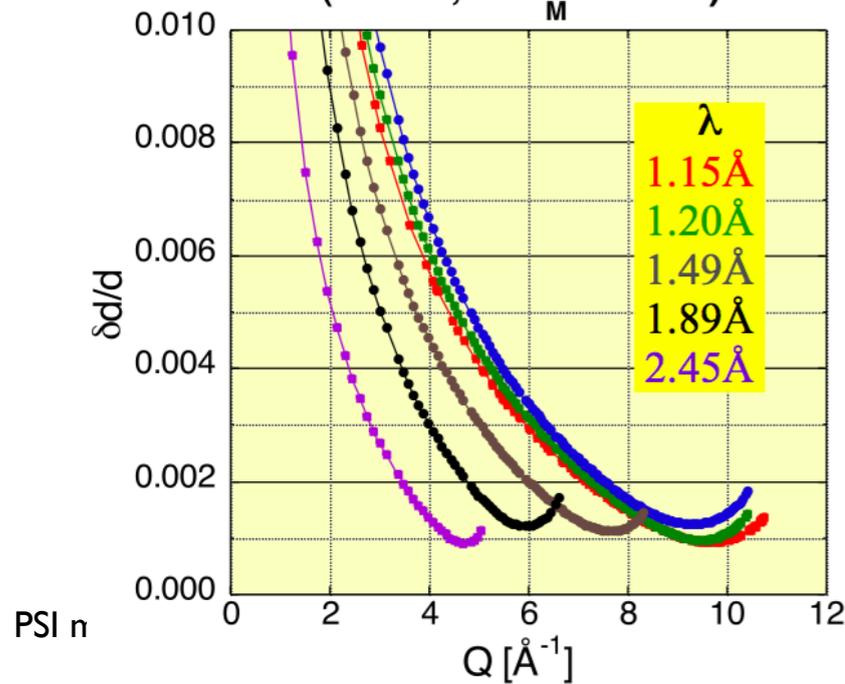


DMC - cold neutron powder diffractometer

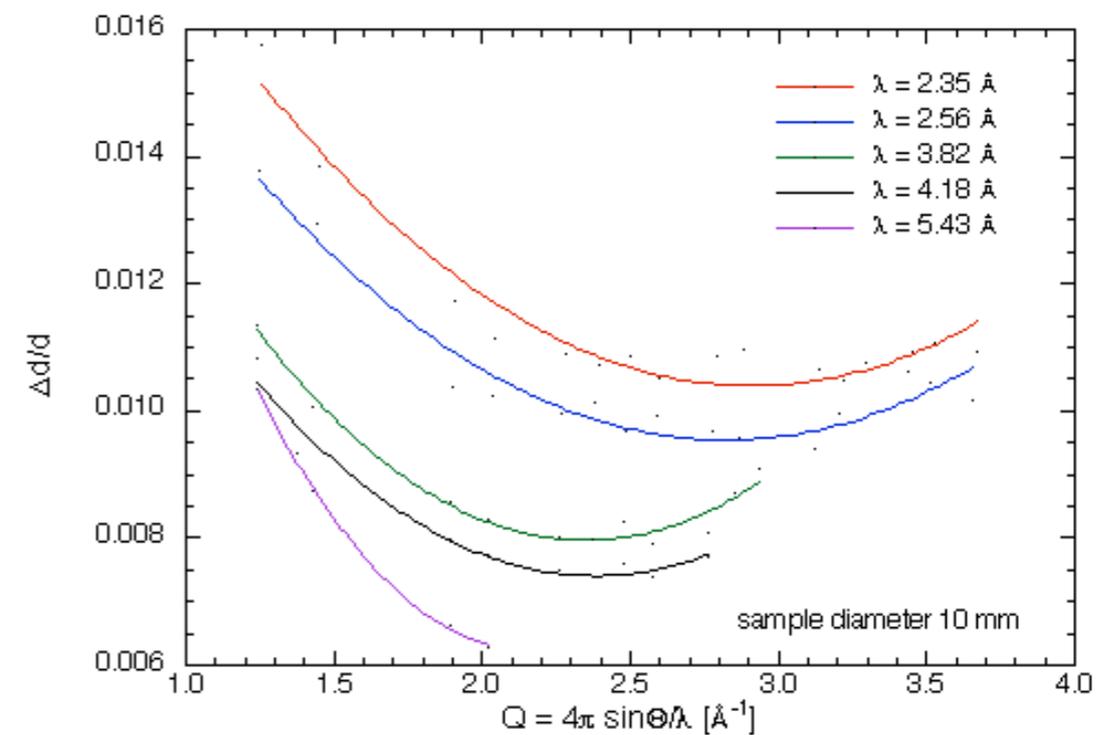


HRPT RESOLUTION FUNCTIONS

(FWHM, $2\theta_M = 120^\circ$)

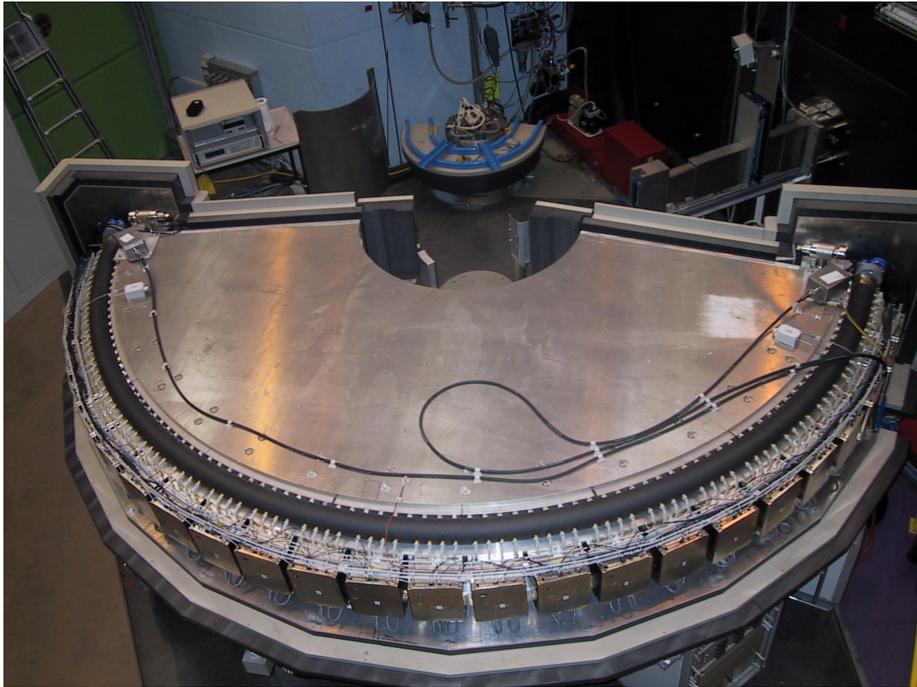


DMC: experimental resolution functions $\Delta d/d(Q, \lambda)$

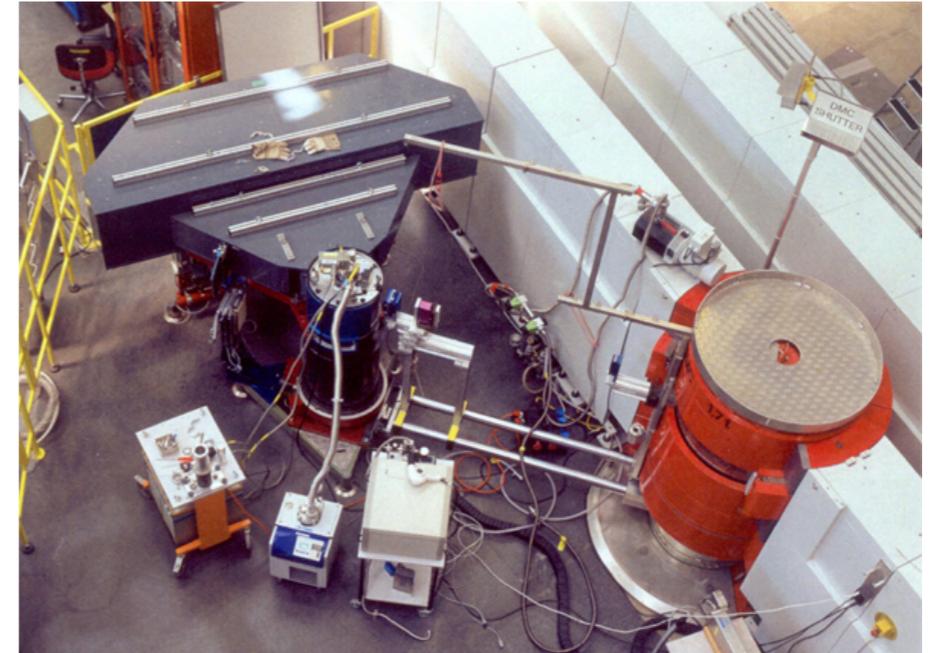


Powder ND at SINQ/PSI

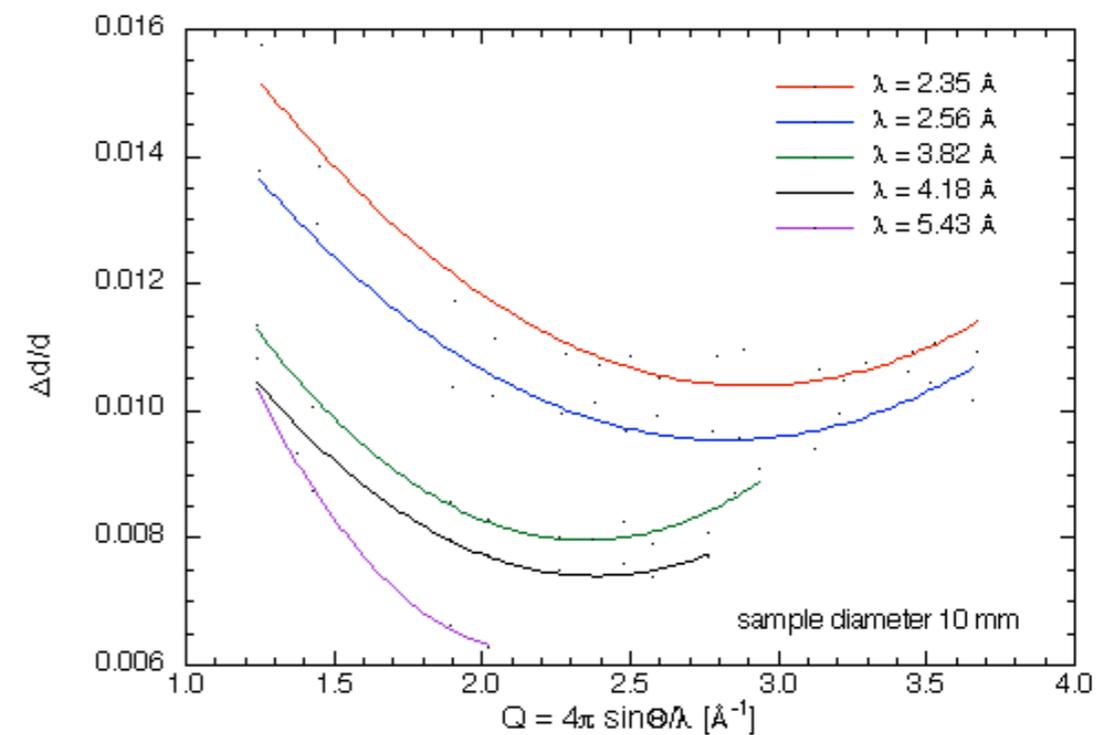
HRPT - High Resolution Powder
Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons at SINQ



DMC - cold neutron powder diffractometer

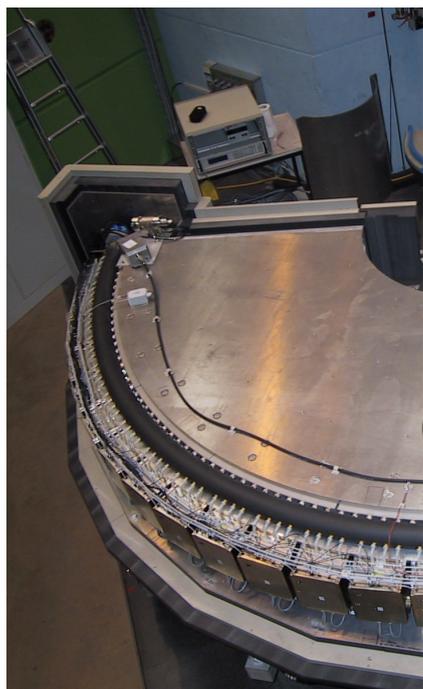


DMC: experimental resolution functions $\Delta d/d(Q, \lambda)$



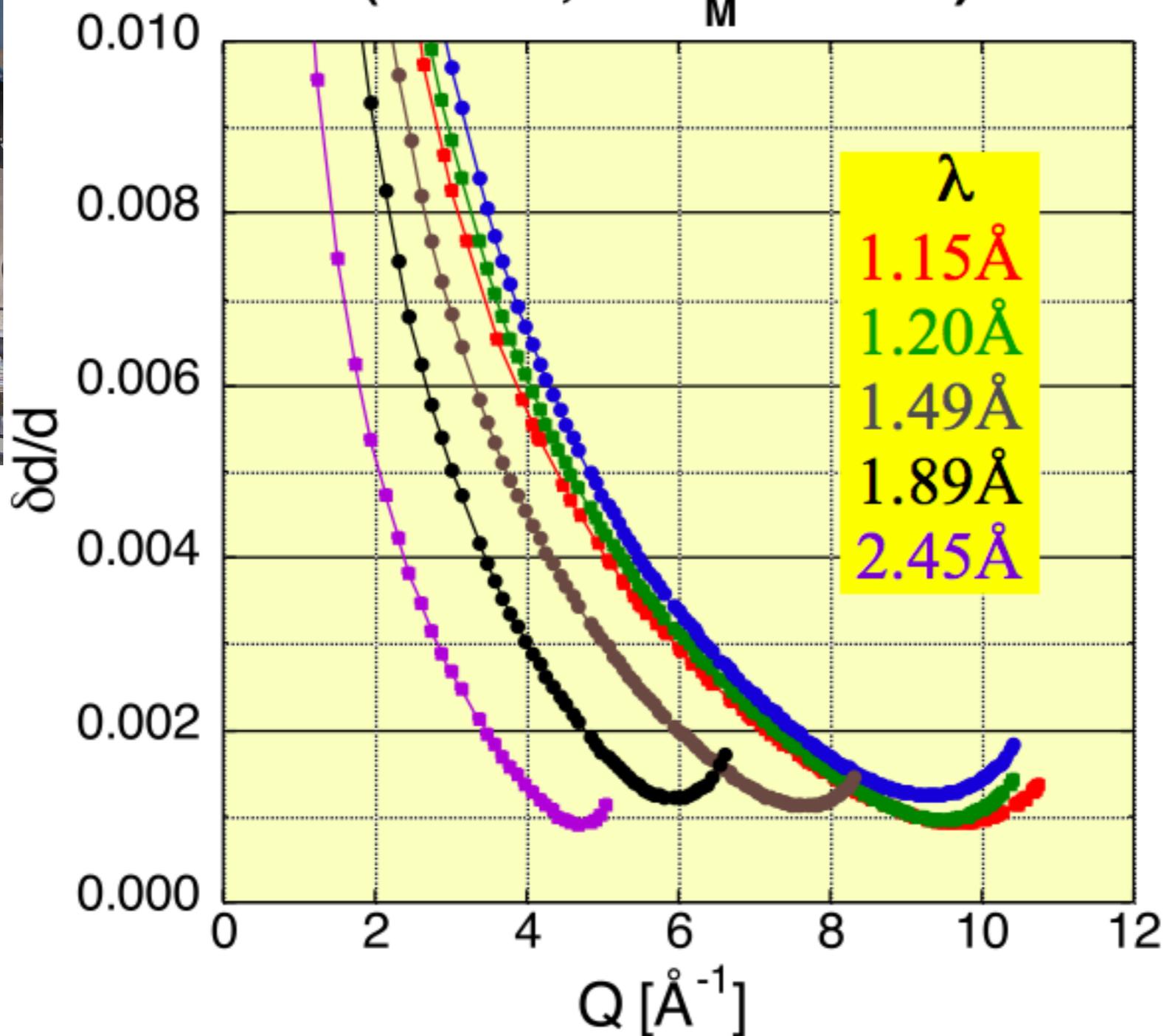
Powder ND at SINQ/PSI

HRPT - High
Diffractometer for



HRPT RESOLUTION FUNCTIONS

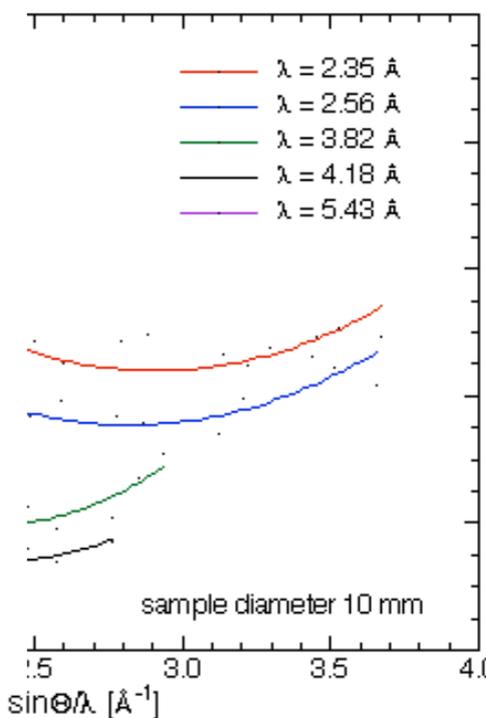
(FWHM, $2\theta_M = 120^\circ$)



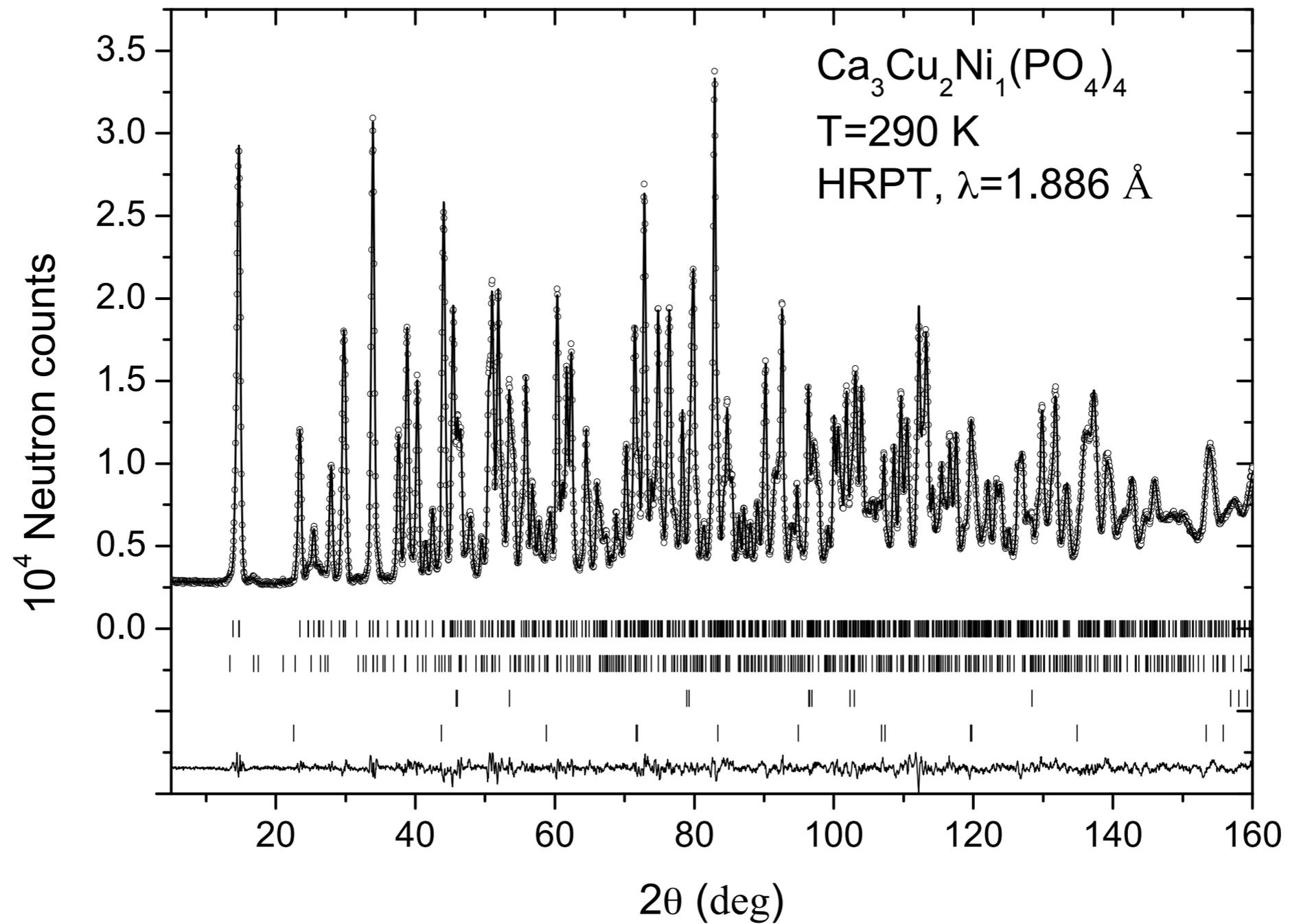
powder diffractometer



Resolution functions $\Delta d/d(Q, \lambda)$

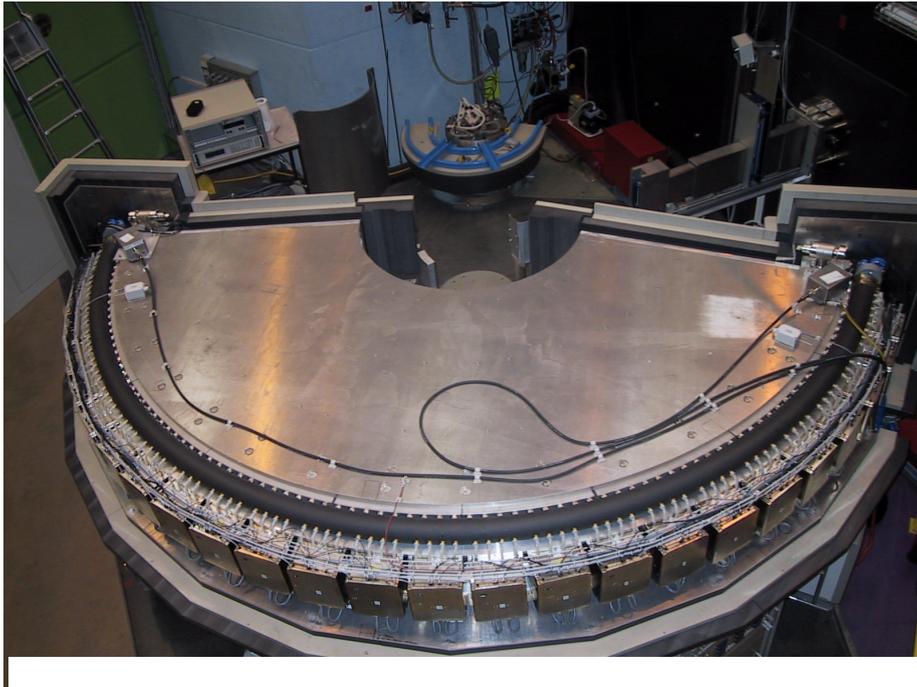


Example of HRPT diffraction pattern

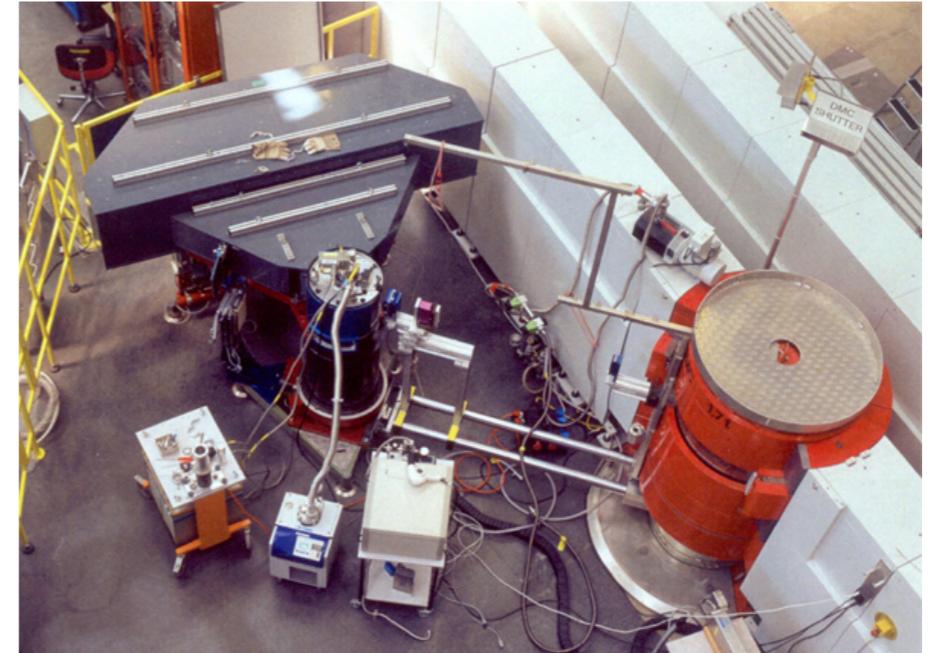


Powder ND at SINQ/PSI

HRPT - High Resolution Powder
Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons at SINQ

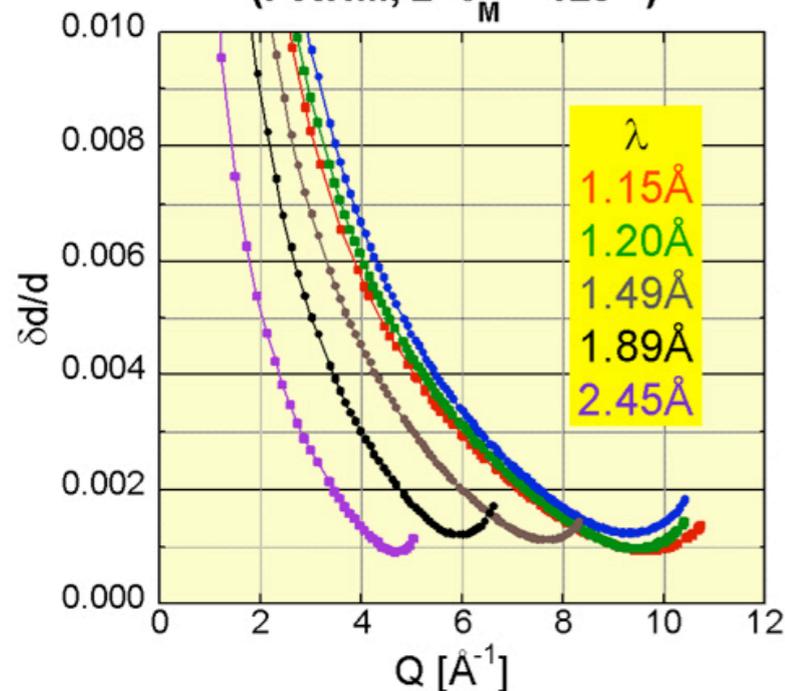


DMC - cold neutron powder diffractometer

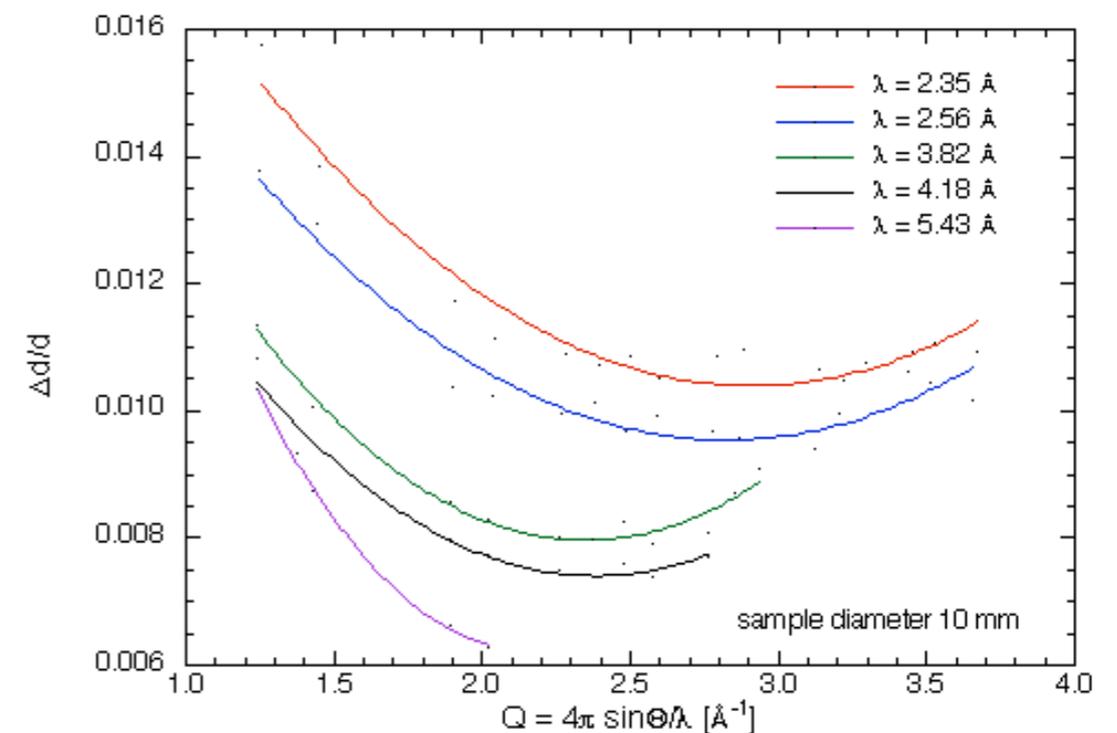


HRPT RESOLUTION FUNCTIONS

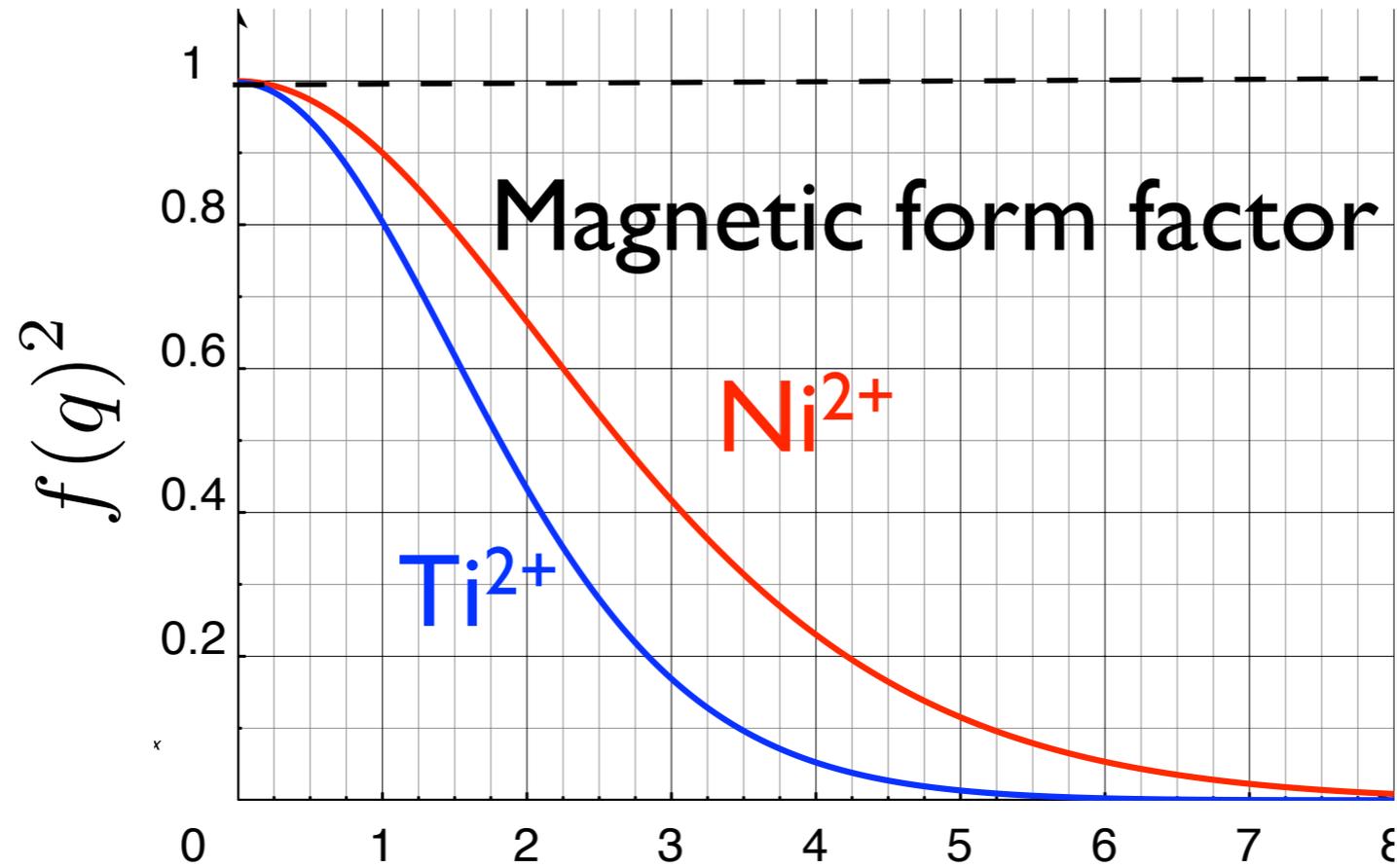
(FWHM, $2\theta_M = 120^\circ$)



DMC: experimental resolution functions $\Delta d/d(Q, \lambda)$

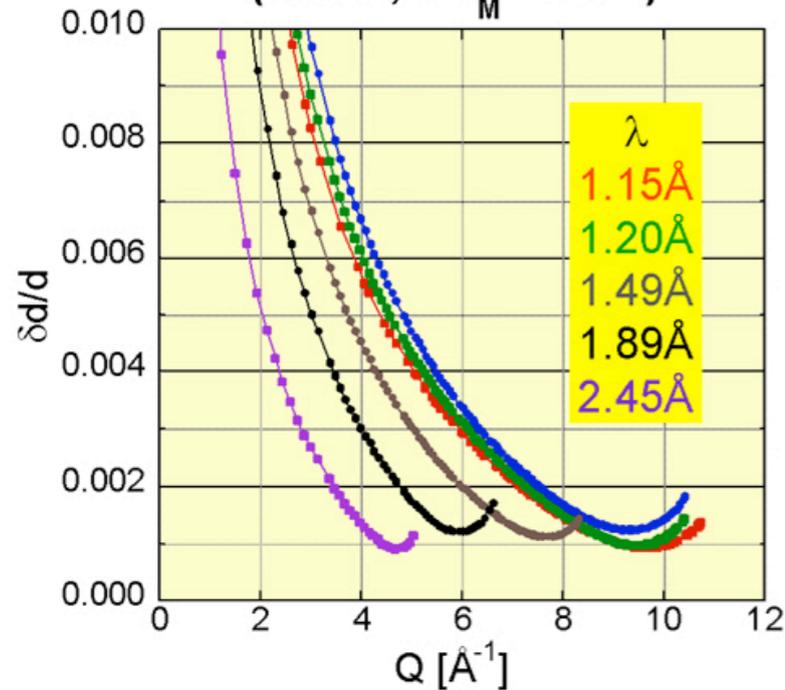


Powder ND at SINQ/PSI

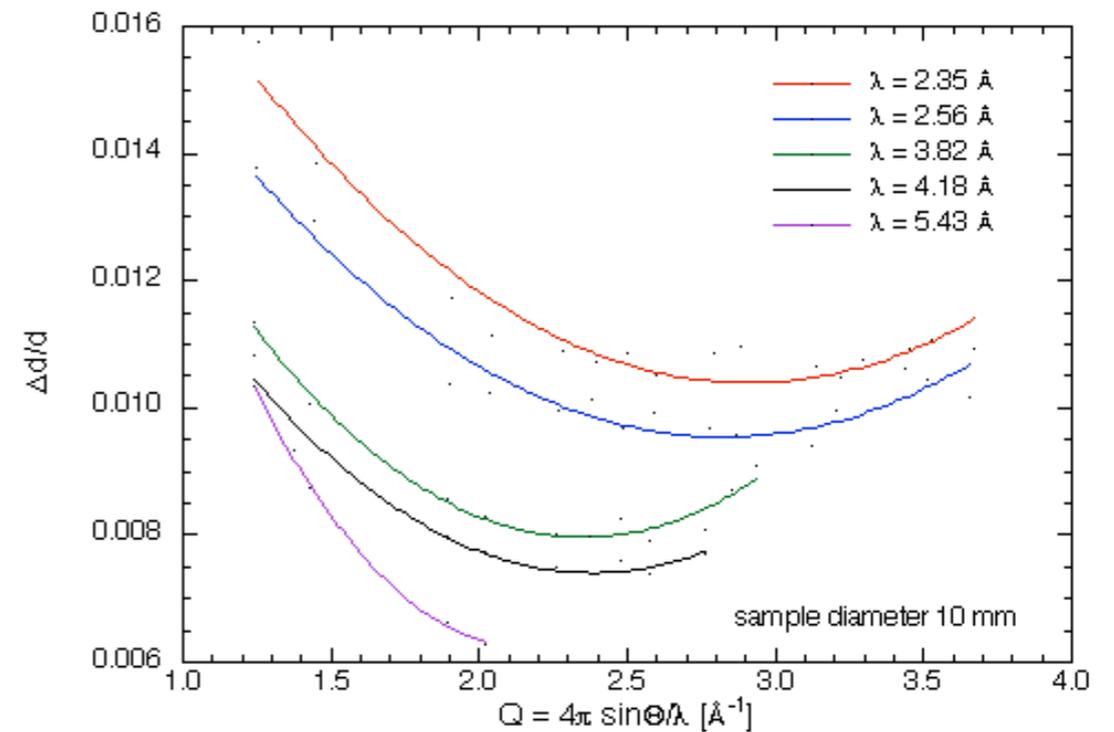


HRPT RESOLUTION FUNCTIONS

(FWHM, $2\theta_M = 120^\circ$)

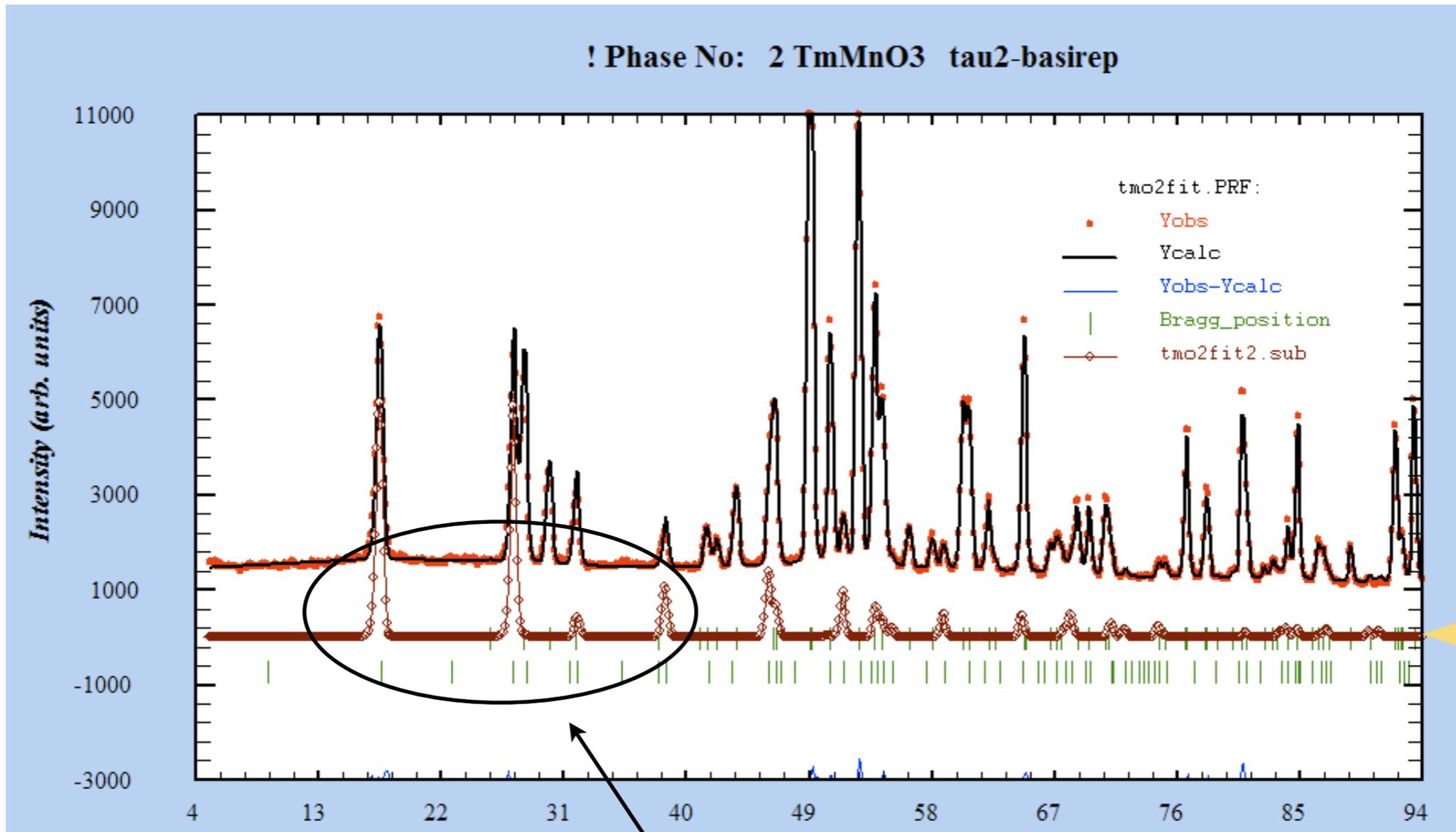


DMC: experimental resolution functions $\Delta d/d(Q, \lambda)$

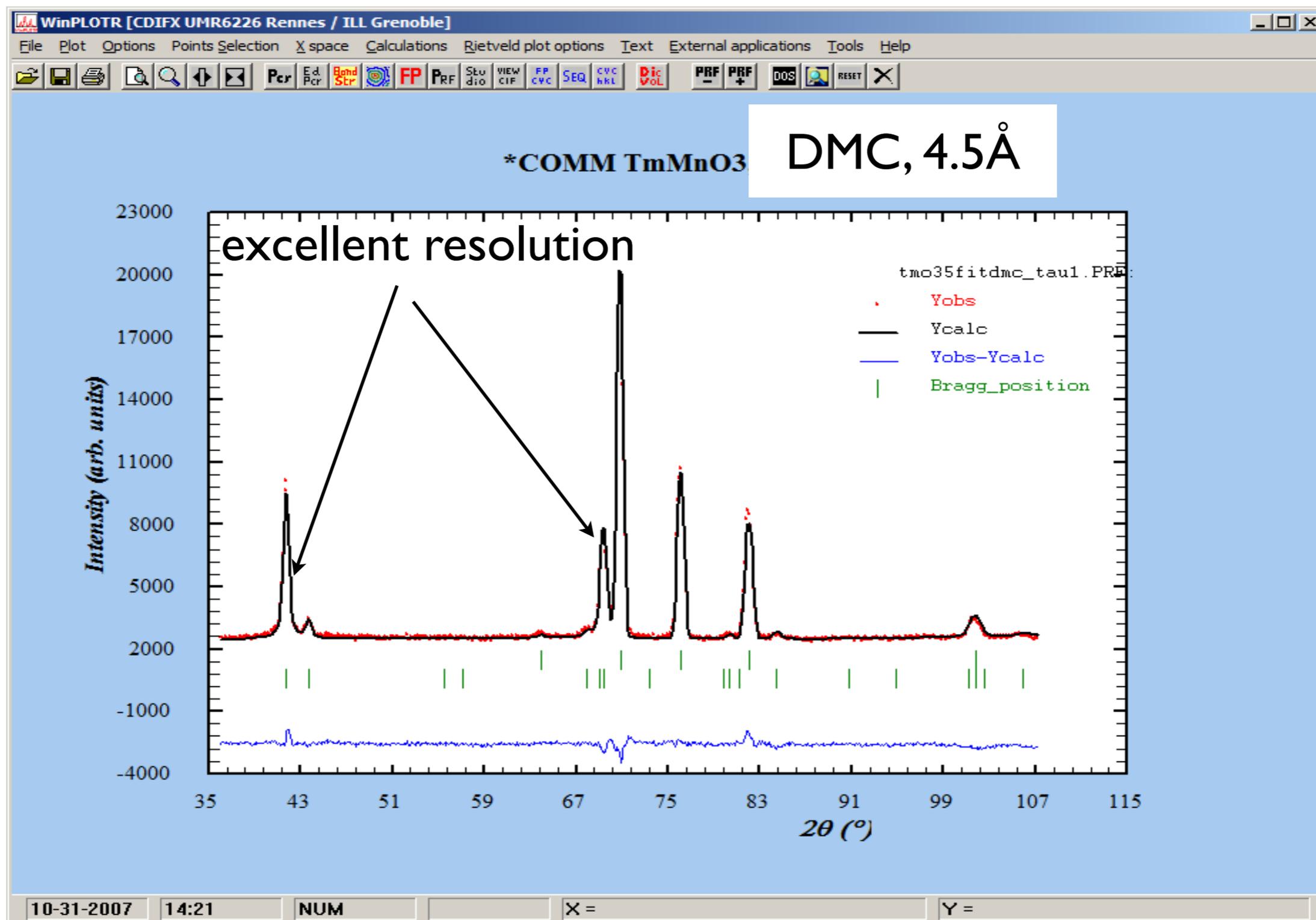


cf. resolution/q-range

HRPT 1.9Å

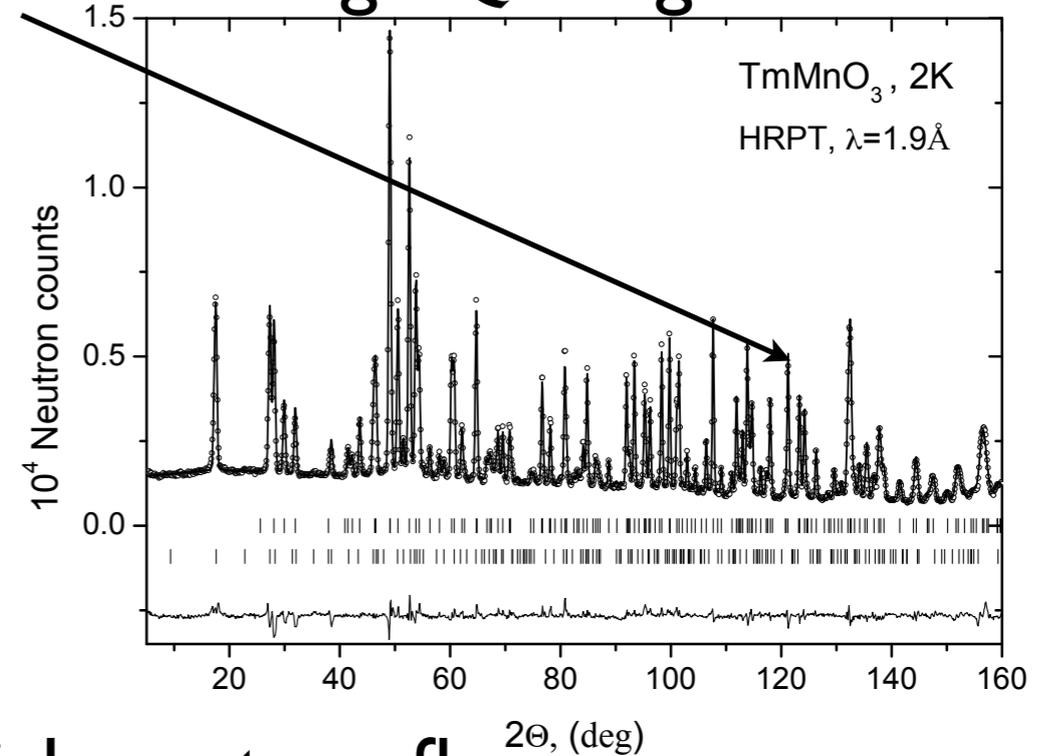
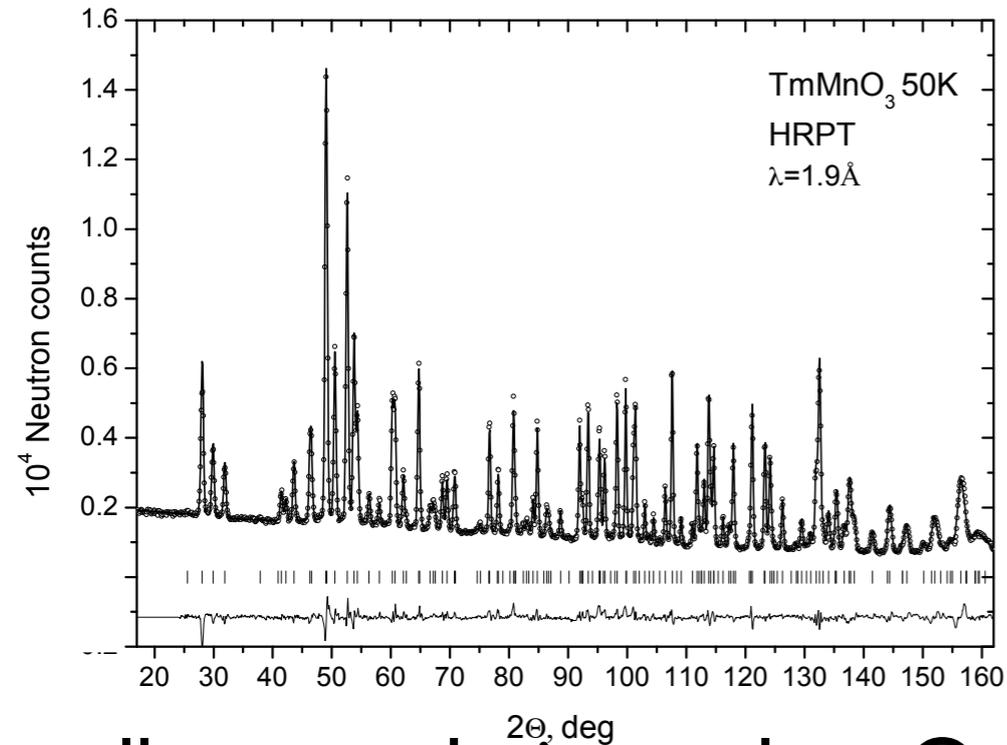


Cf. resolution/q-range

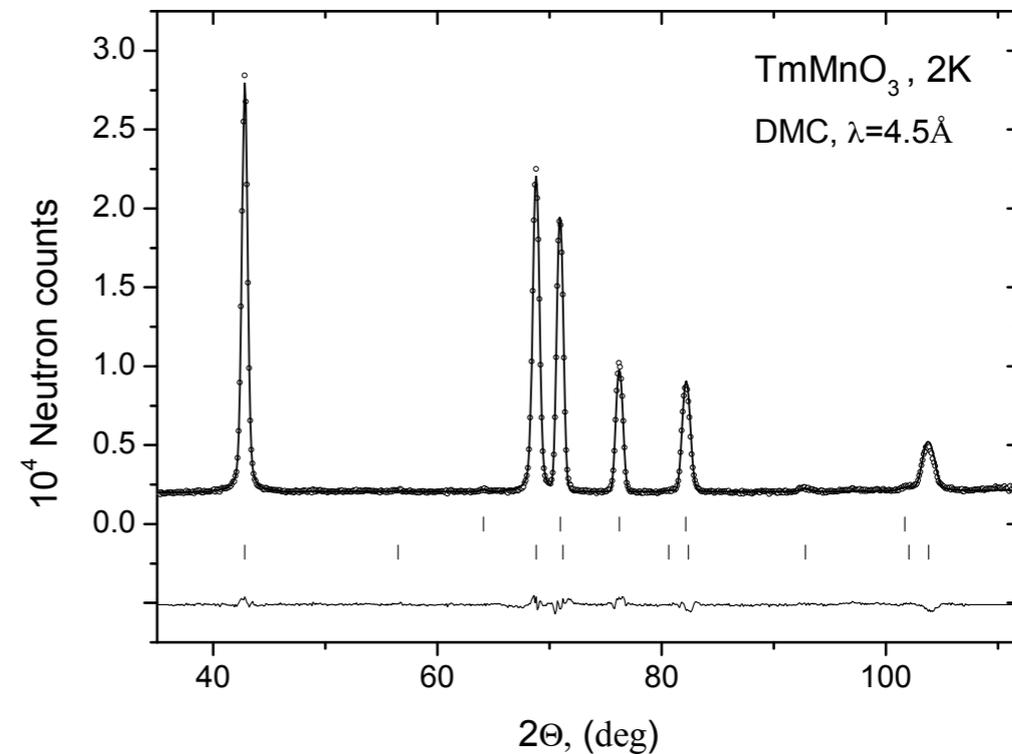
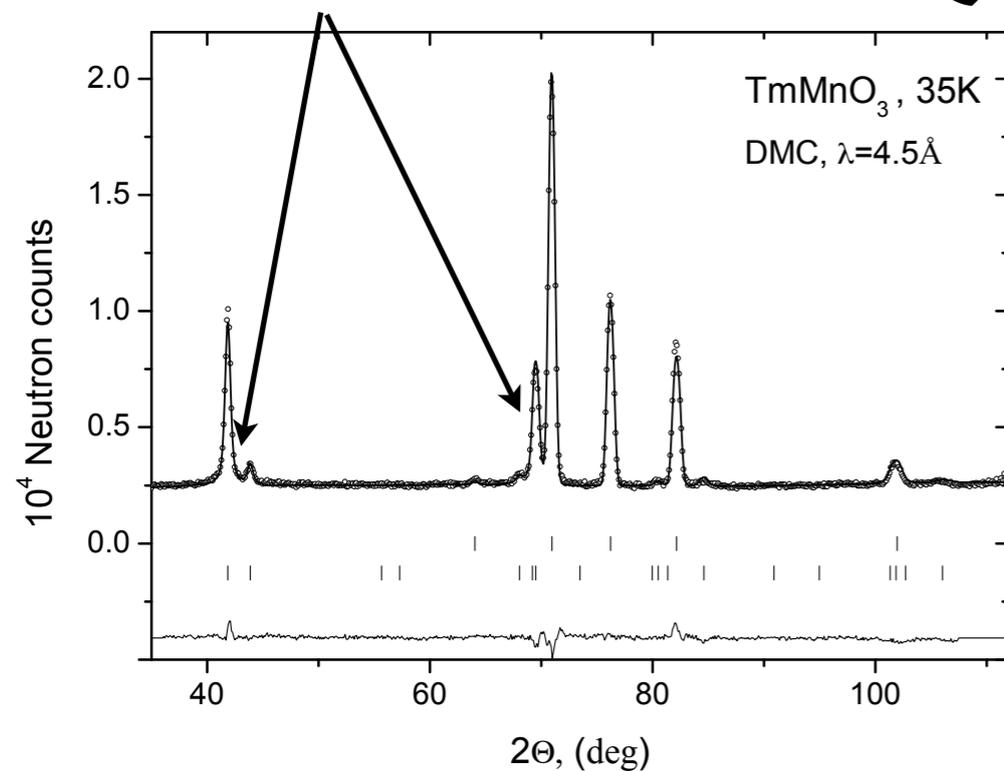


Complementarity 1.9Å HRPT and 4.5Å DMC

excellent resolution and high Q-range



excellent resolution at low Q and high neutron flux



High Resolution Powder Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons at PSI. Applications of HRPT

- 1) Precise structure refinement complementary to x-rays
- 2) Magnetic ordering phenomena. For small moments and/or very long-periodic structure DMC is much better.
- 3) Direct structure solution. Phase analysis of (new) materials

More information about HRPT



More information about HRPT



HRPT neutron

More information about HRPT



HRPT neutron



HRPT

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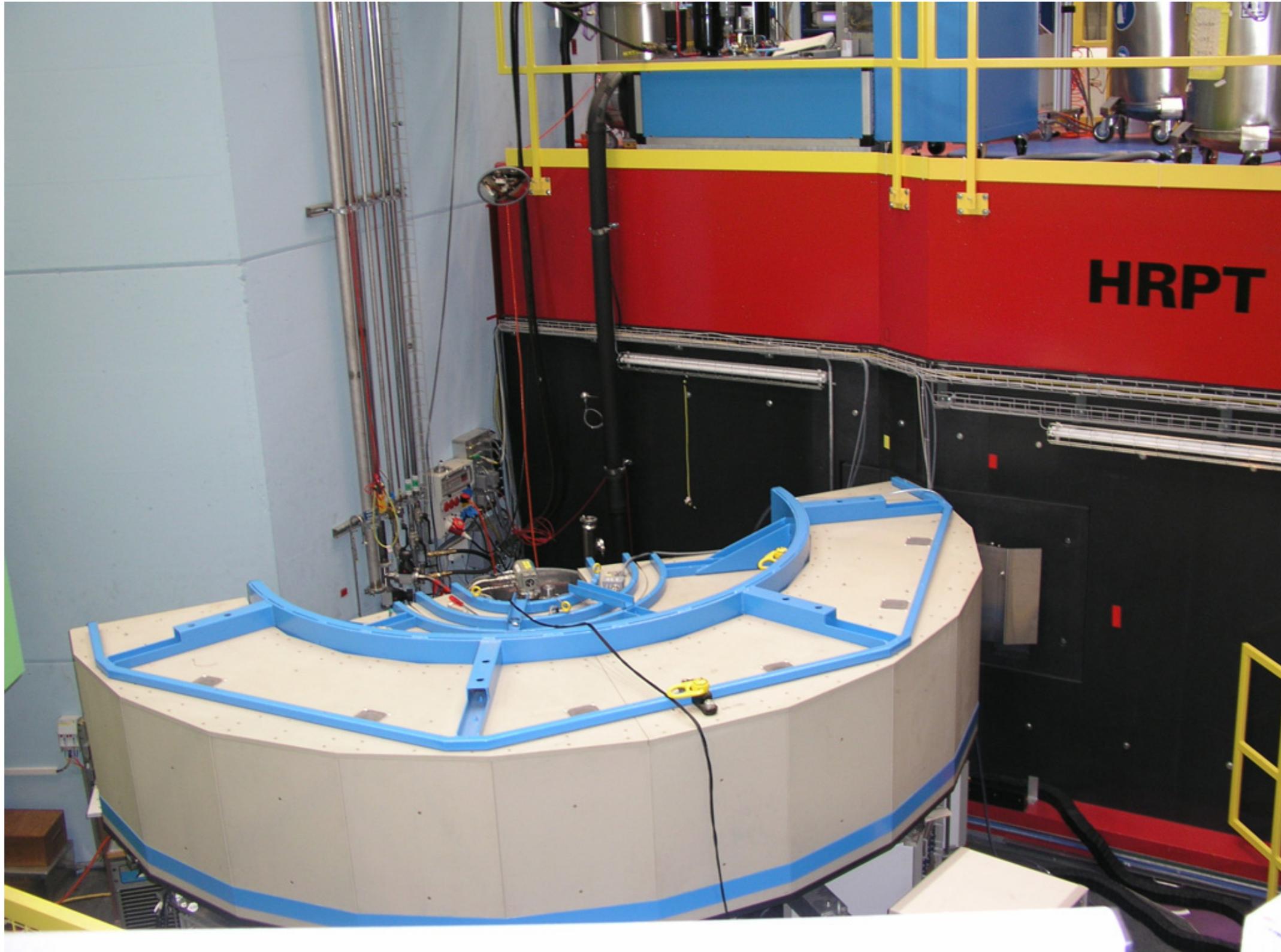
[HRPT: High-Resolution Powder Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons](#) - 3 visits - 4:50pm

6 Jun 2007 ... Complementary to DMC, the multidetector diffractometer HRPT is designed as flexible instrument for efficient neutron powder diffraction ...

sinq.web.psi.ch/sinq/instr/hrpt.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -



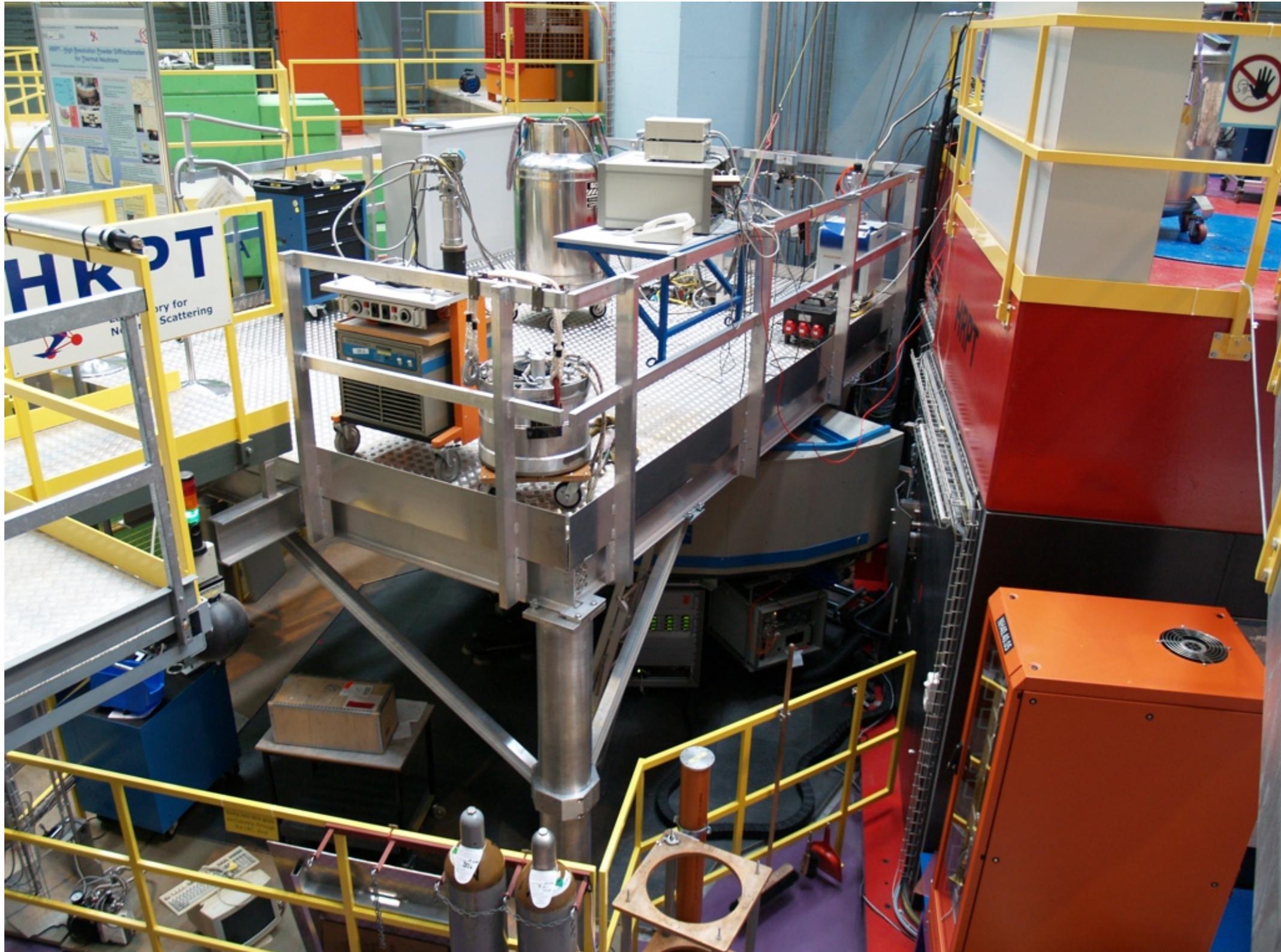
Instrument view at SINQ target station



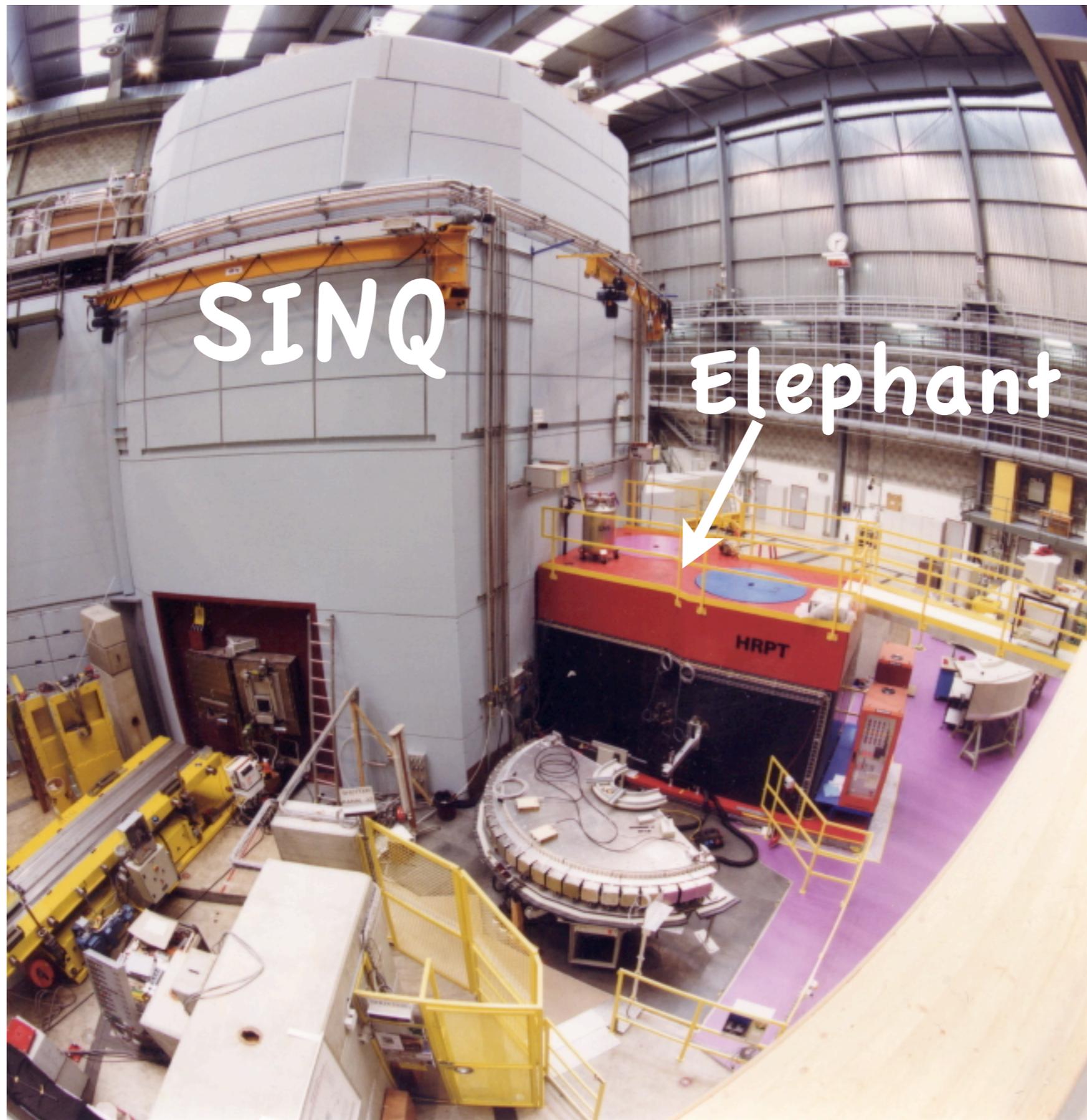
Instrument view at SINQ target station



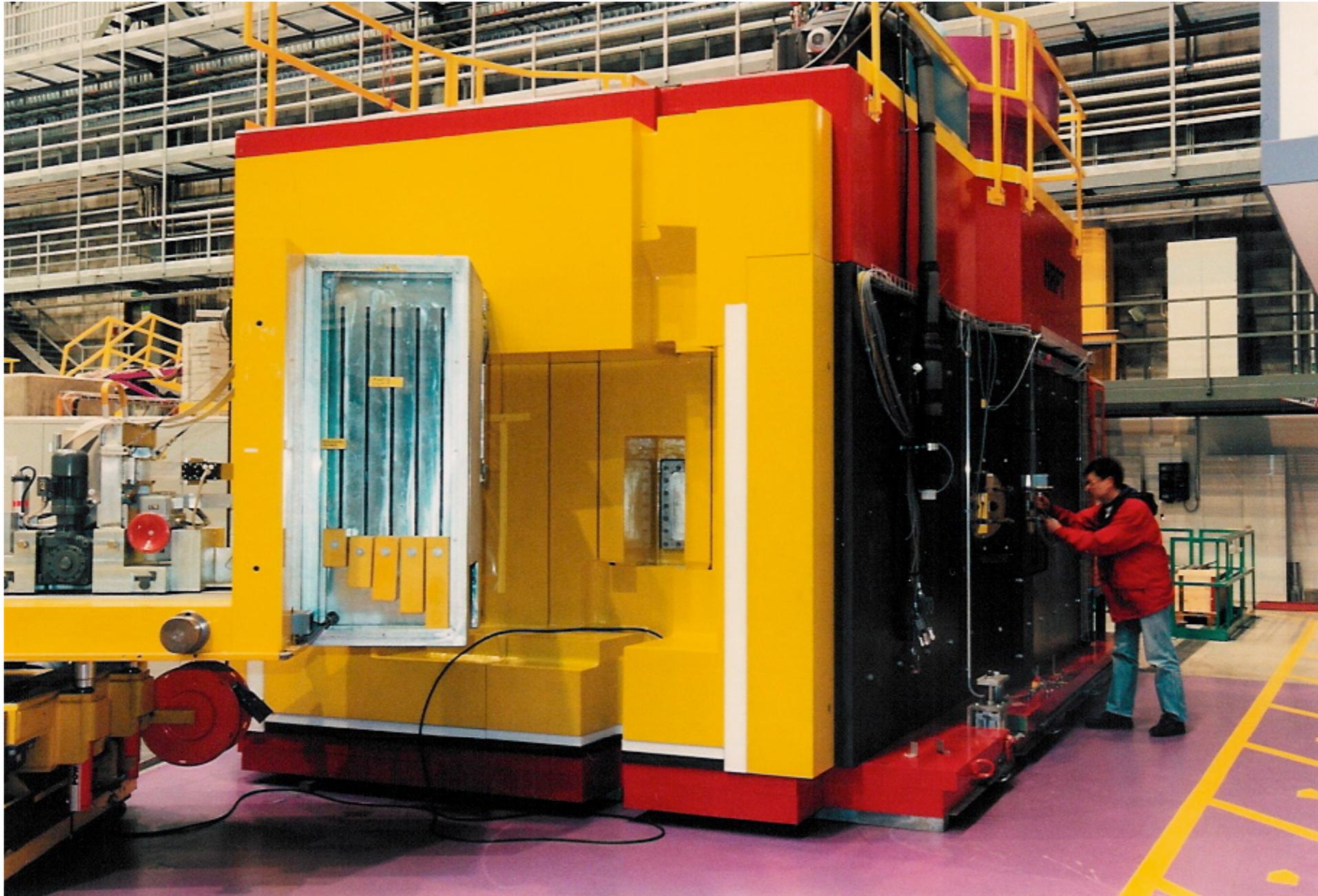
Instrument view at SINQ target station

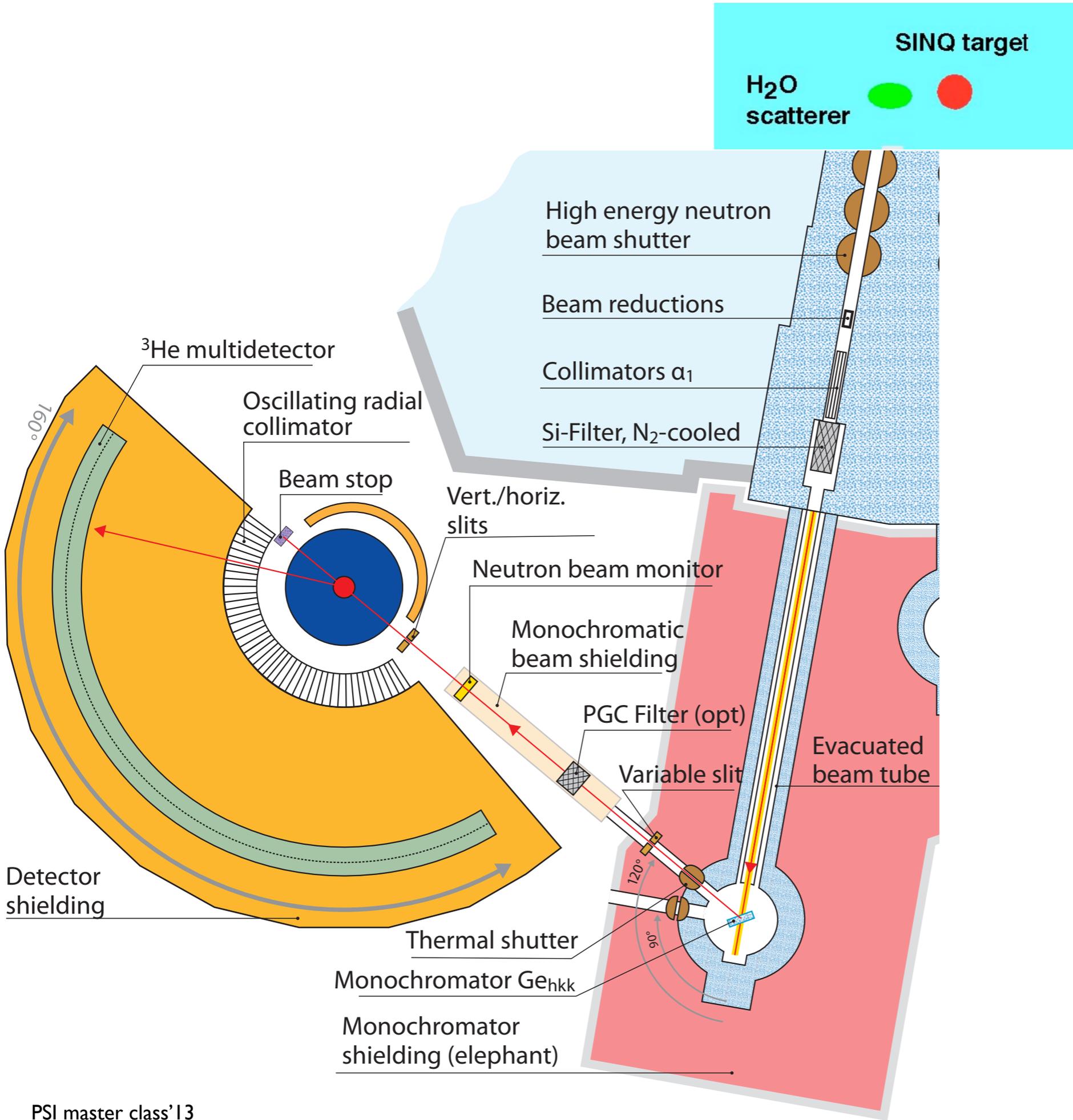


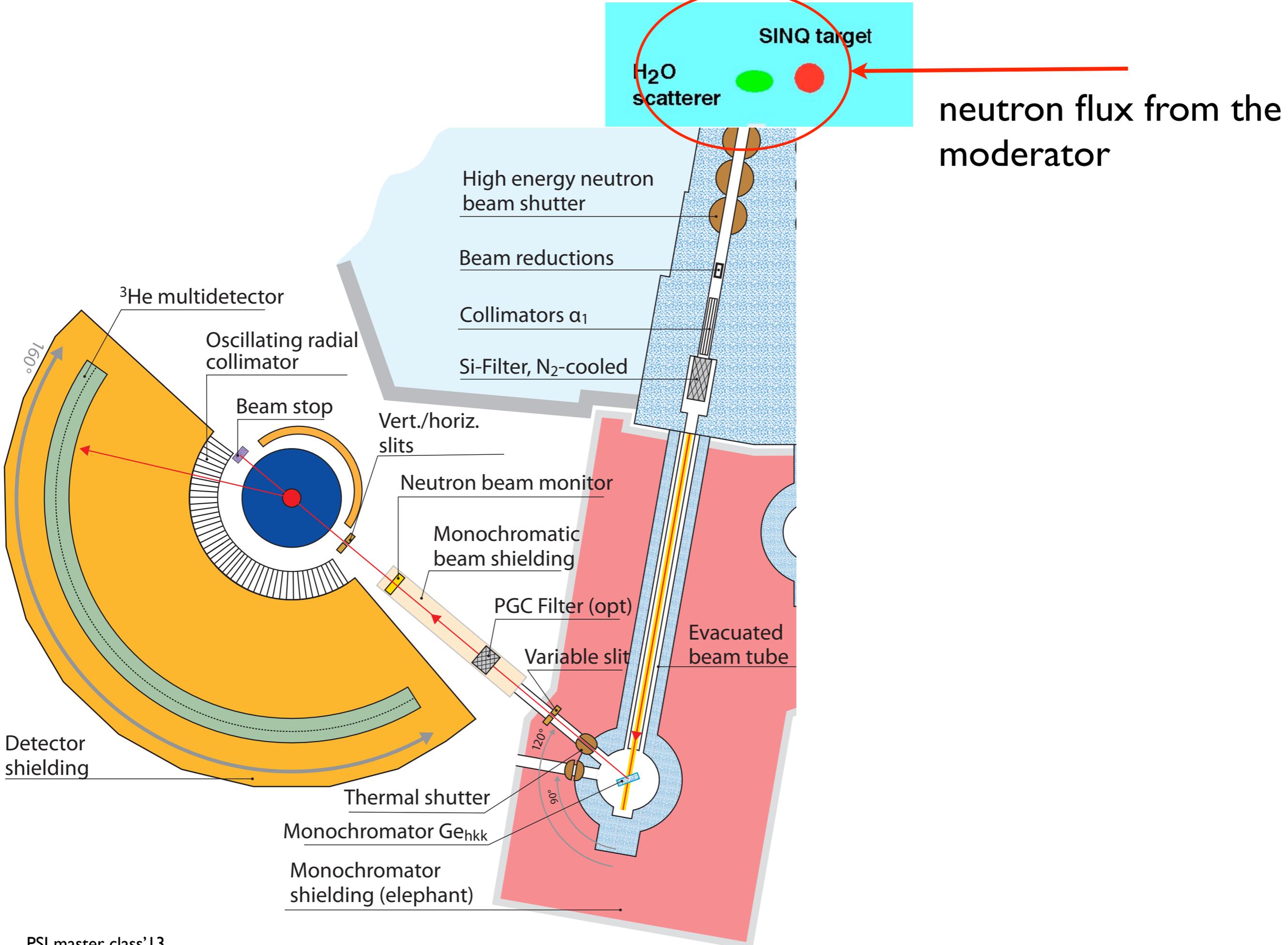
SINQ hall



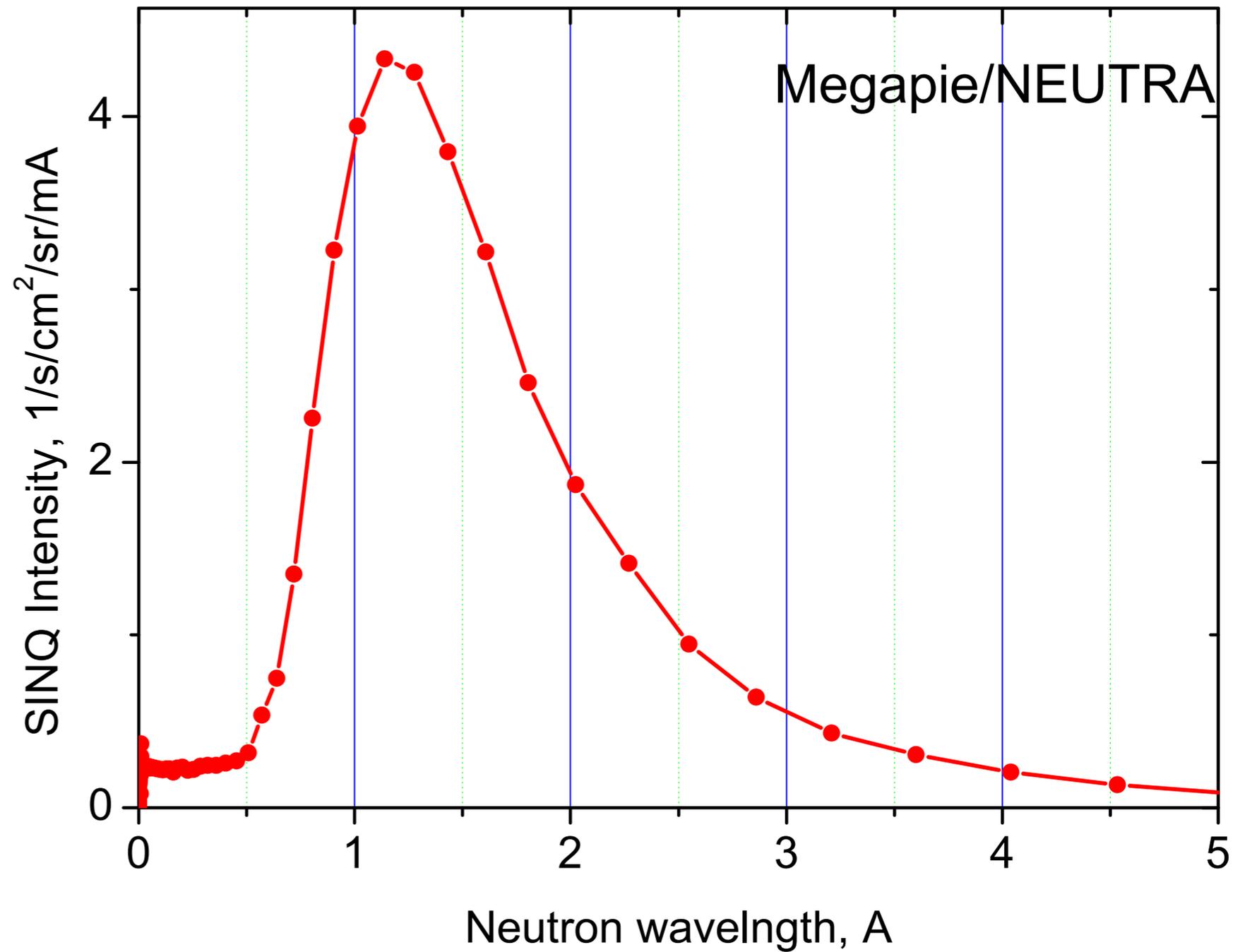
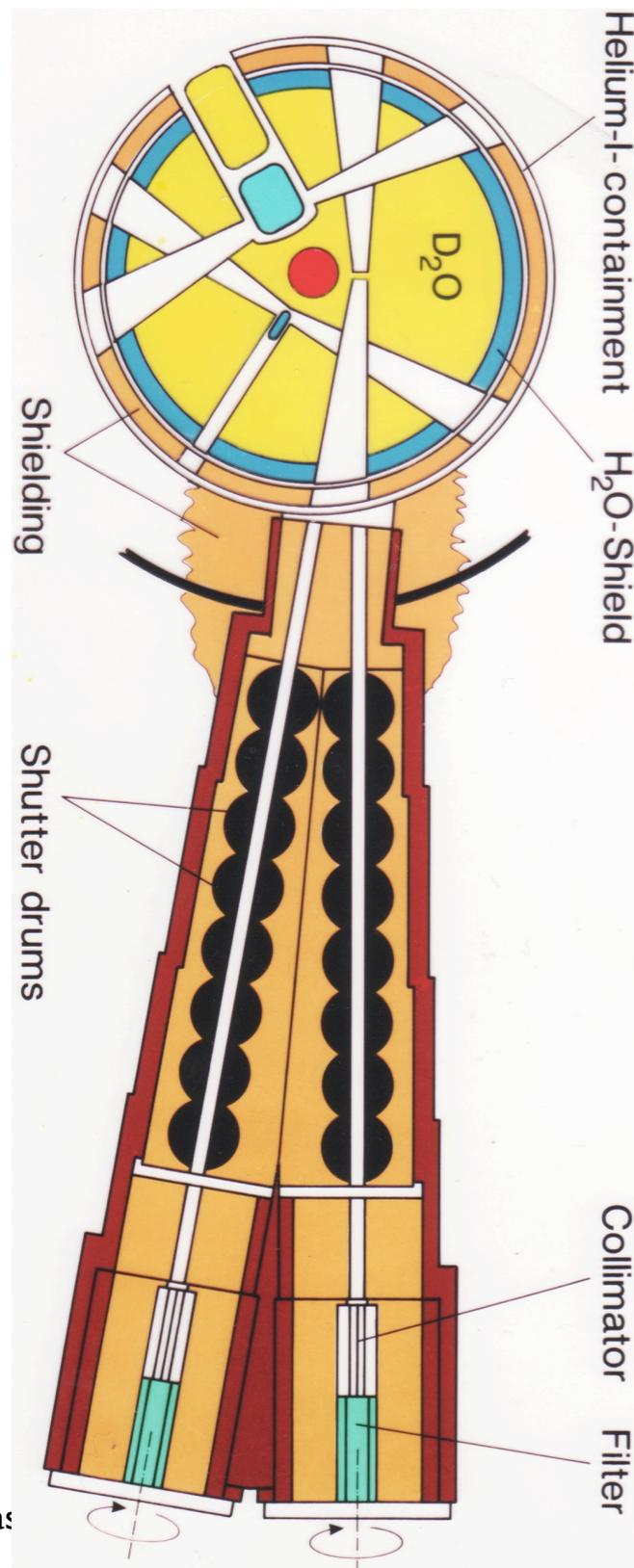
“Elephant” - shielding of primary beam (200 tons)



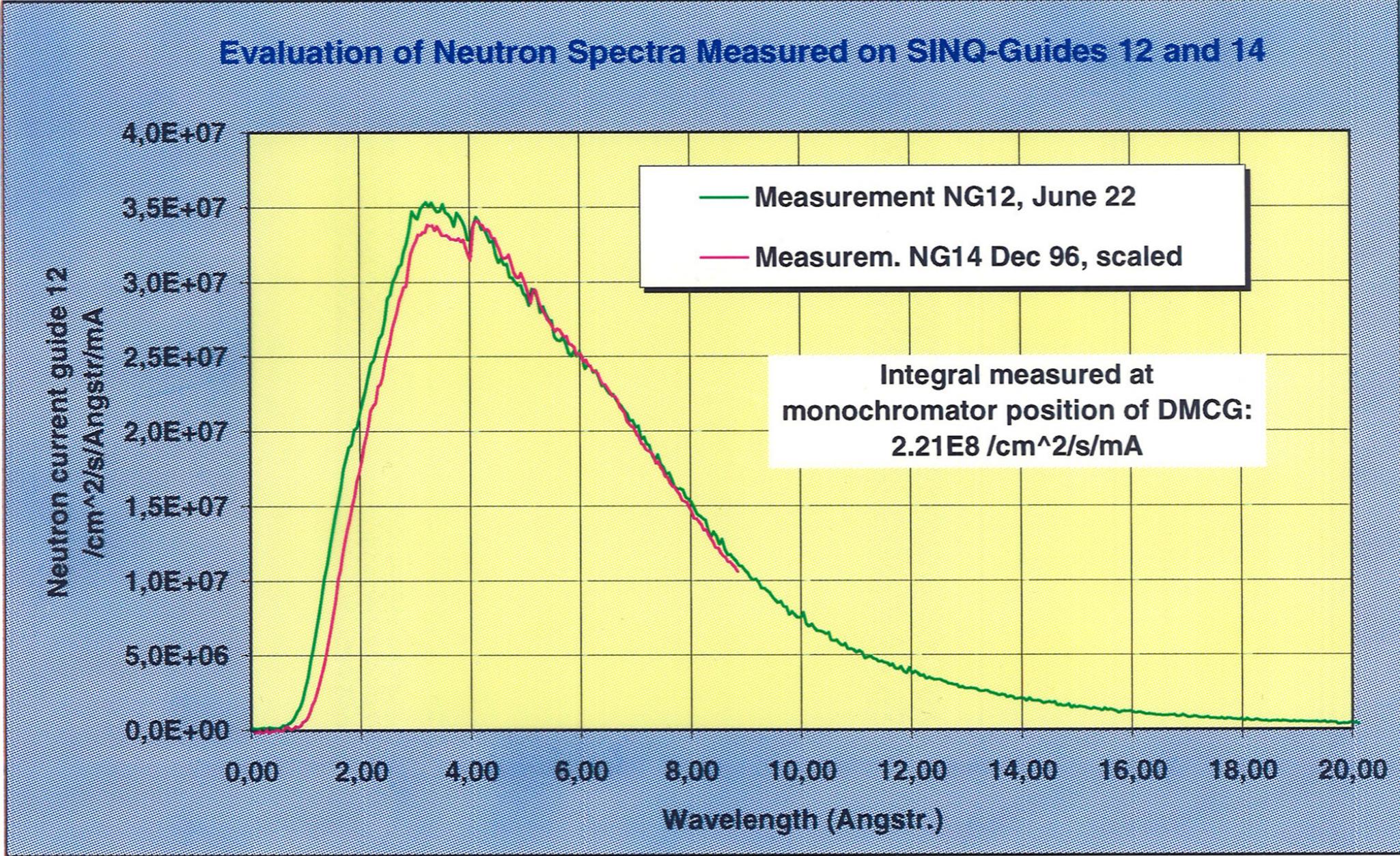


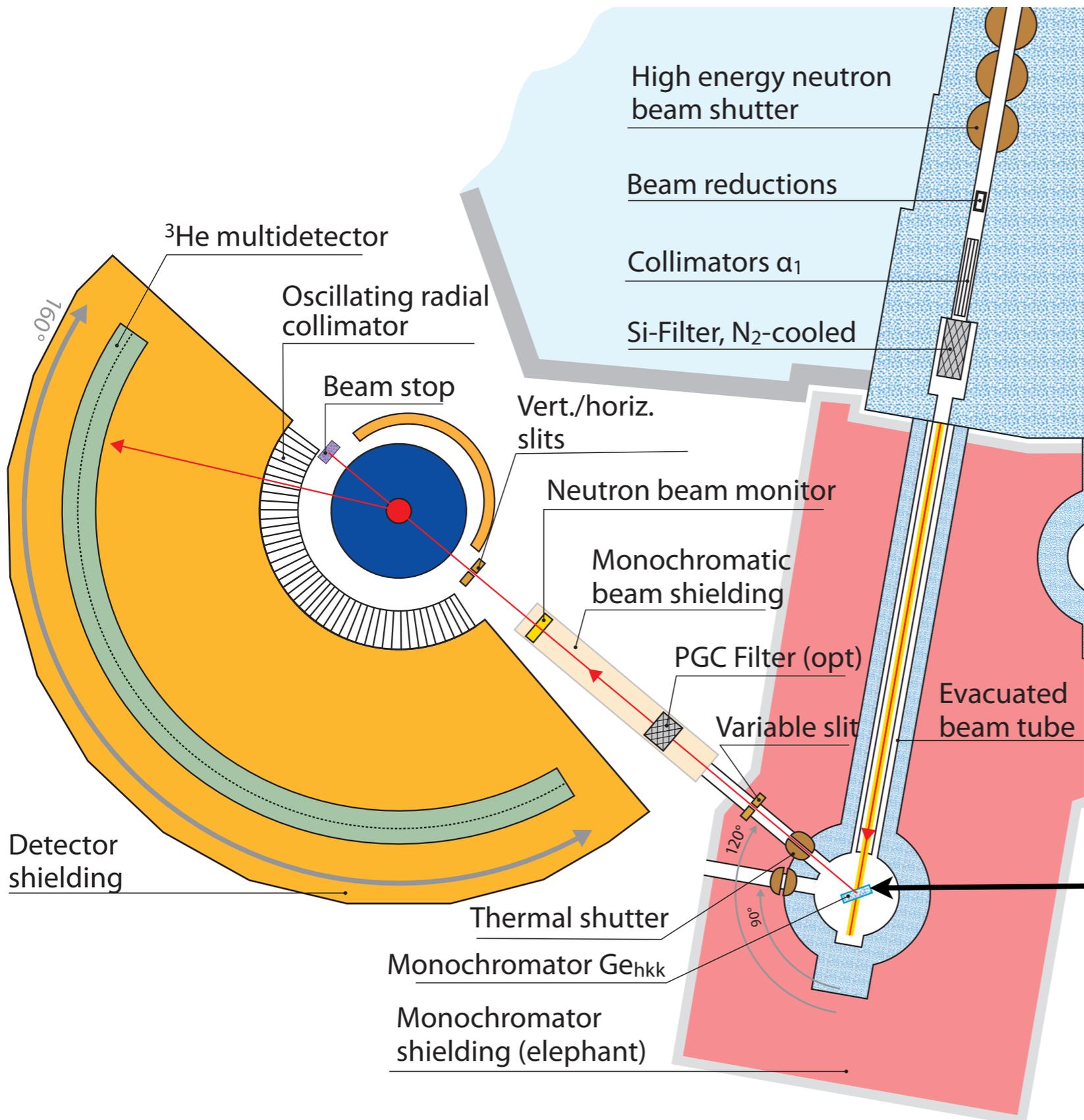


Neutron flux from the D₂O moderator at HRPT/NEUTRA (white beam)

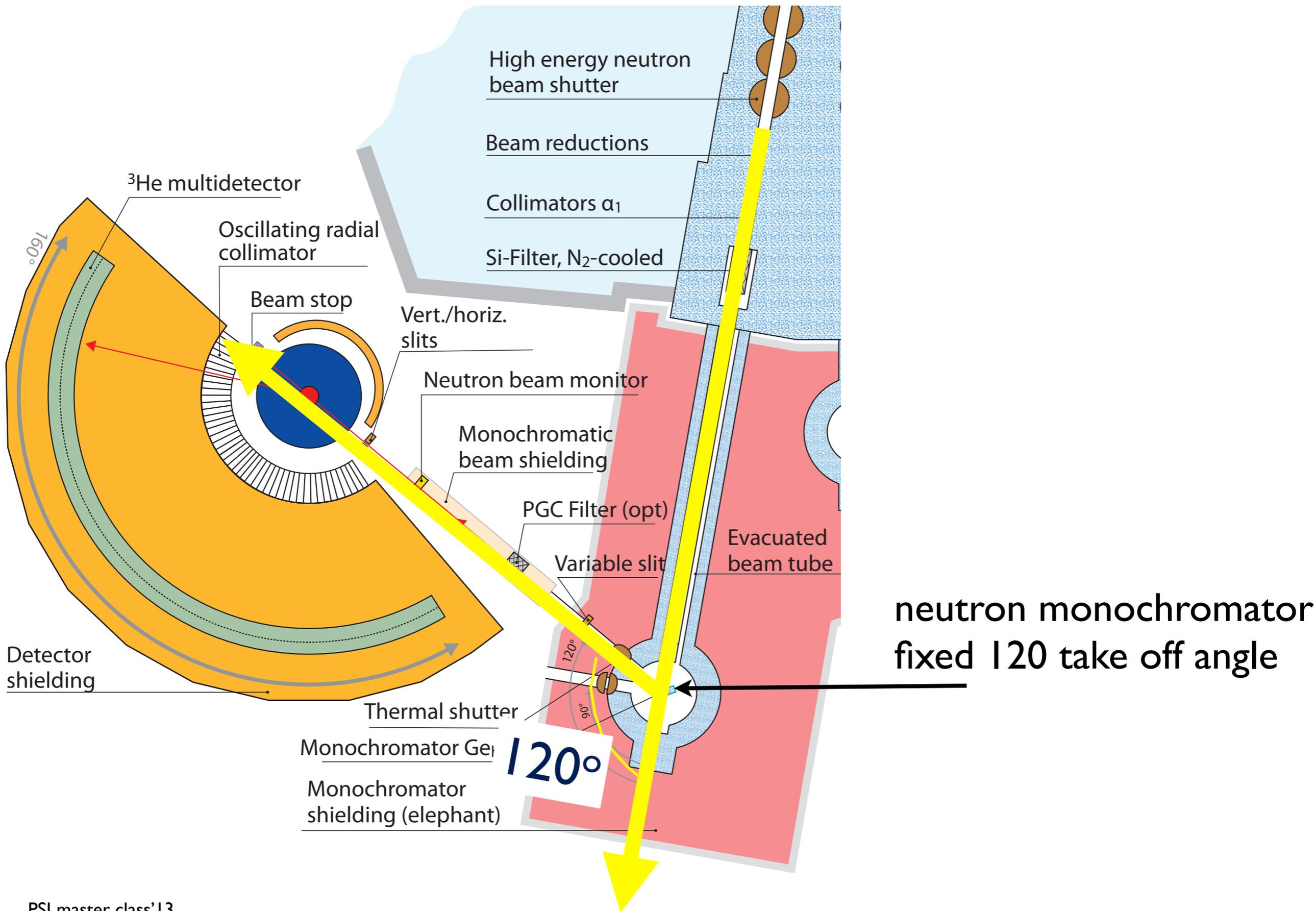


DMC flux



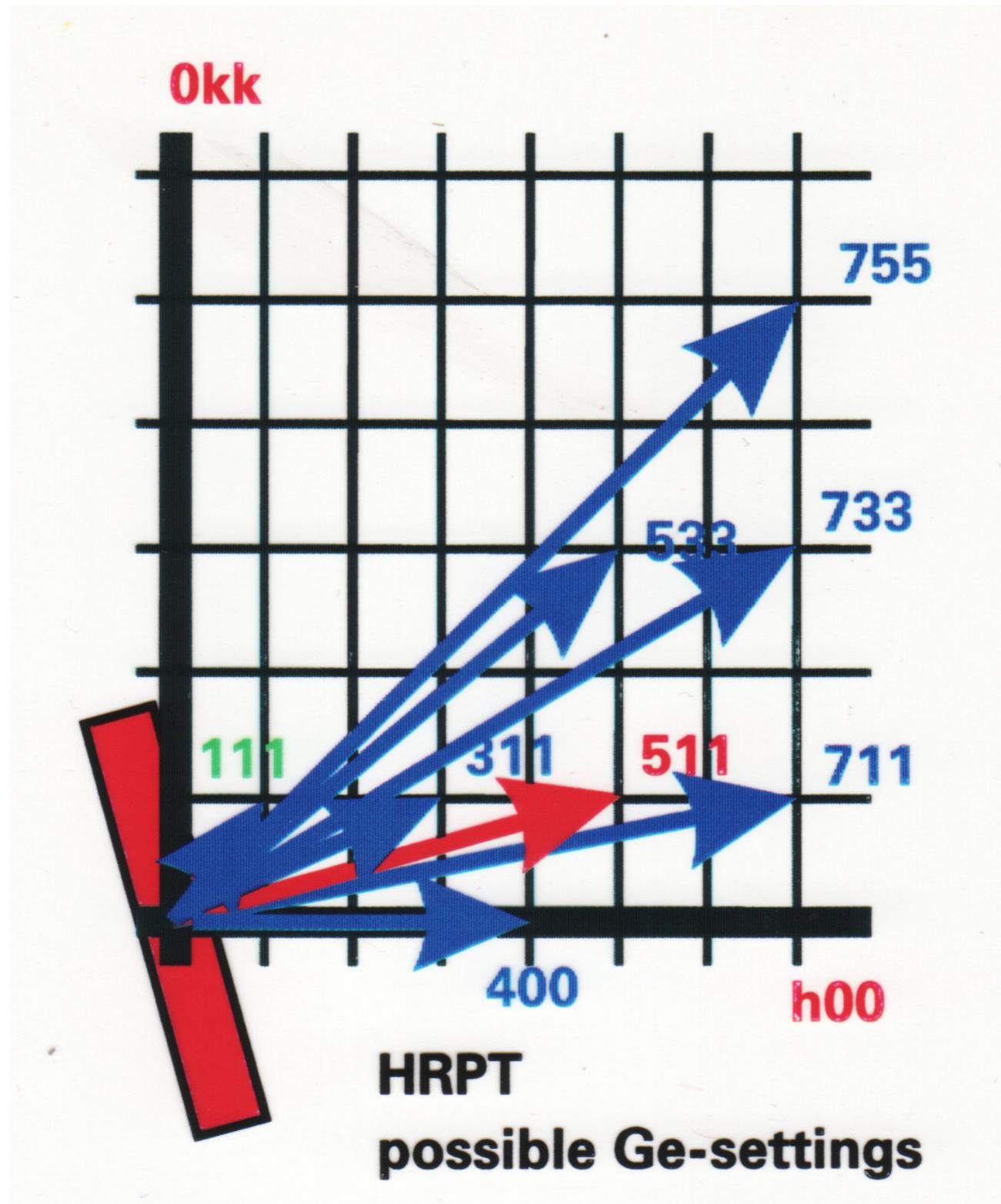


neutron monochromator
fixed 120 take off angle



neutron monochromator
fixed 120 take off angle

Ge hkk focusing monochromator



Ge hkk focusing monochromator

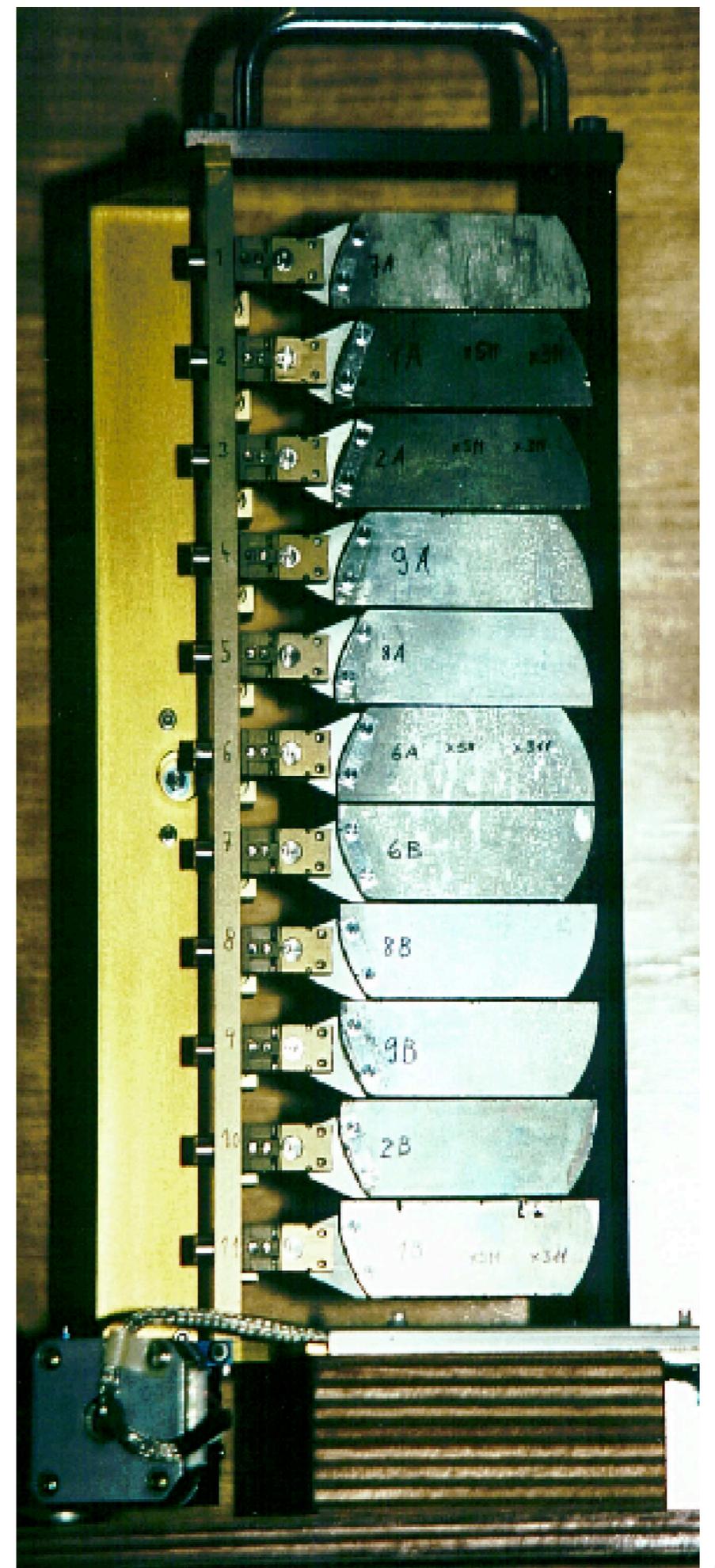
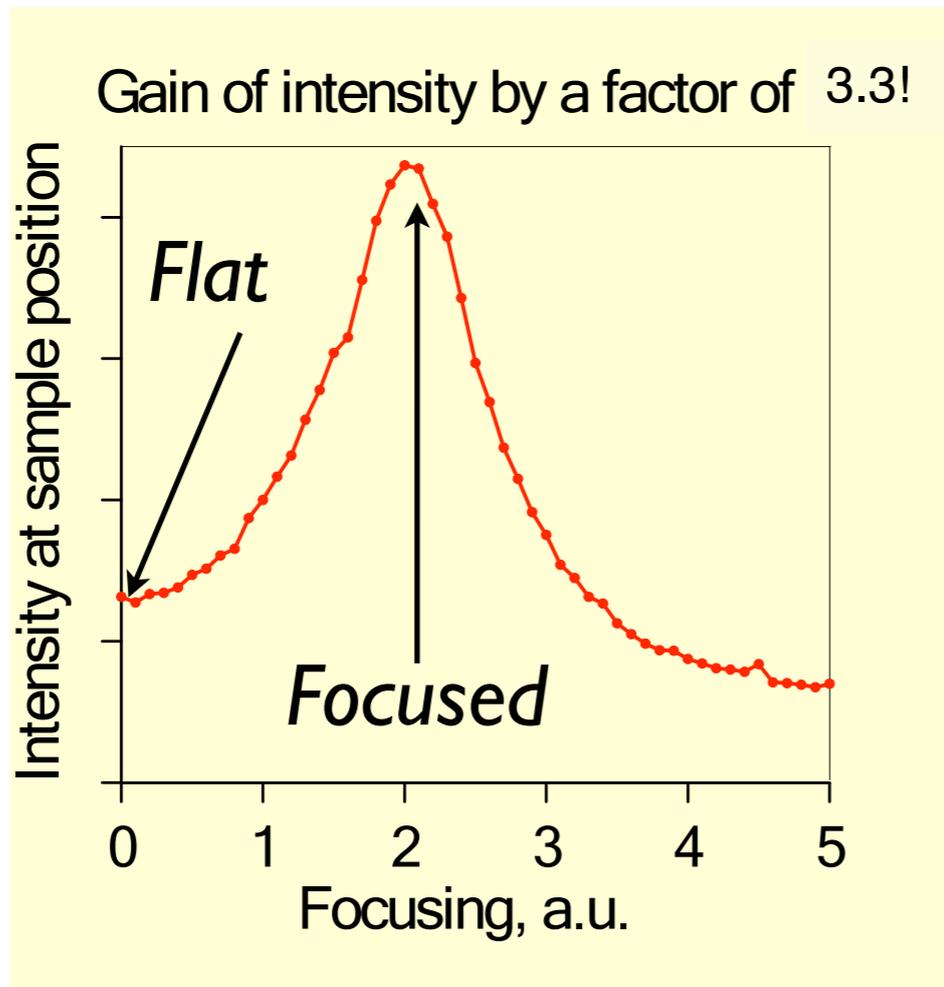
Monochromator height: 11 slabs*25=255mm

Beam spot height at sample position

is smaller due to vertical focusing: 60mm

Wavelength is chosen by rotation along (hkk)

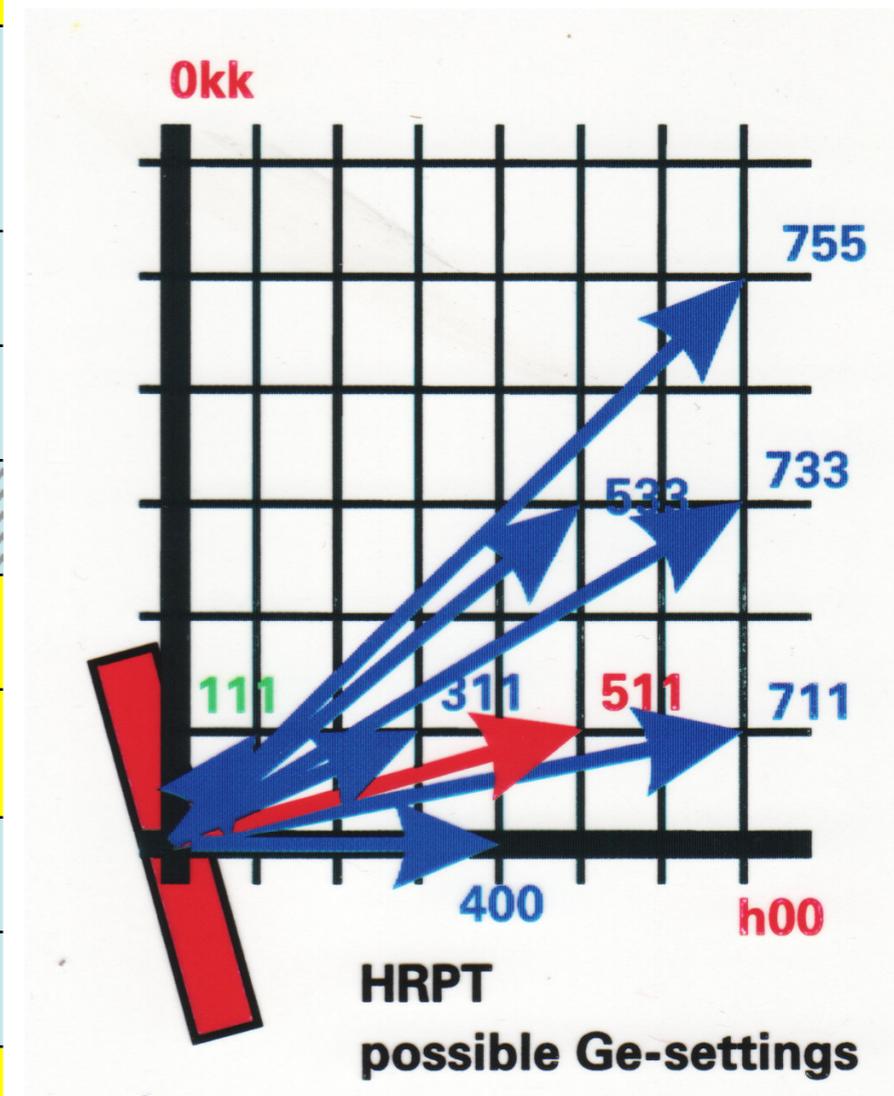
Mosaic 15'



Flexible choice of wavelength, resolution/intensity

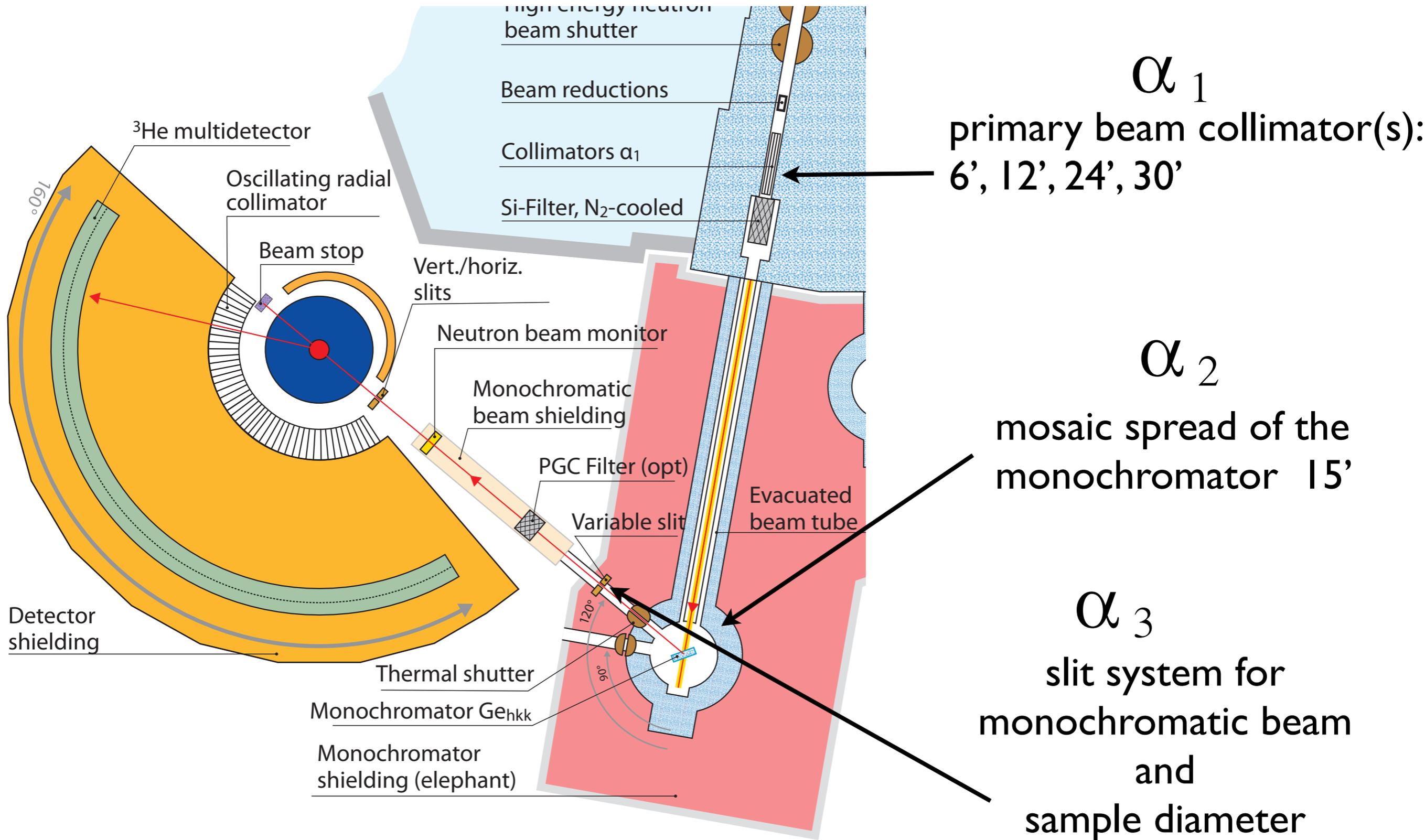
- Wavelength is selected by (hkk) plane of Ge-monochromator
- Resolution and intensity are controlled by appropriate primary/secondary collimations and take-off-angle of the monochromator (120° or 90°)

	$2\theta_M = 90^\circ$		$2\theta_M = 120^\circ$	
(hkk) Ge	$\lambda, \text{\AA}$	Effective intensity	$\lambda, \text{\AA}$	Effective intensity
311	2.40971	0.64	2.9536	~0.16
400	1.9984 ^{4,5}		2.449 ^{1,3}	0.19
133	1.8324	1.00	2.246 ^{1,2}	
511	1.5384	1.55	1.886	1.0
533	1.2183	0.83	1.494	0.90
711	1.1194	0.60	1.372	0.71
733	0.9763	0.34	1.197	0.63
822	0.9419	0.48	1.154	0.79
466			1.044	0.27

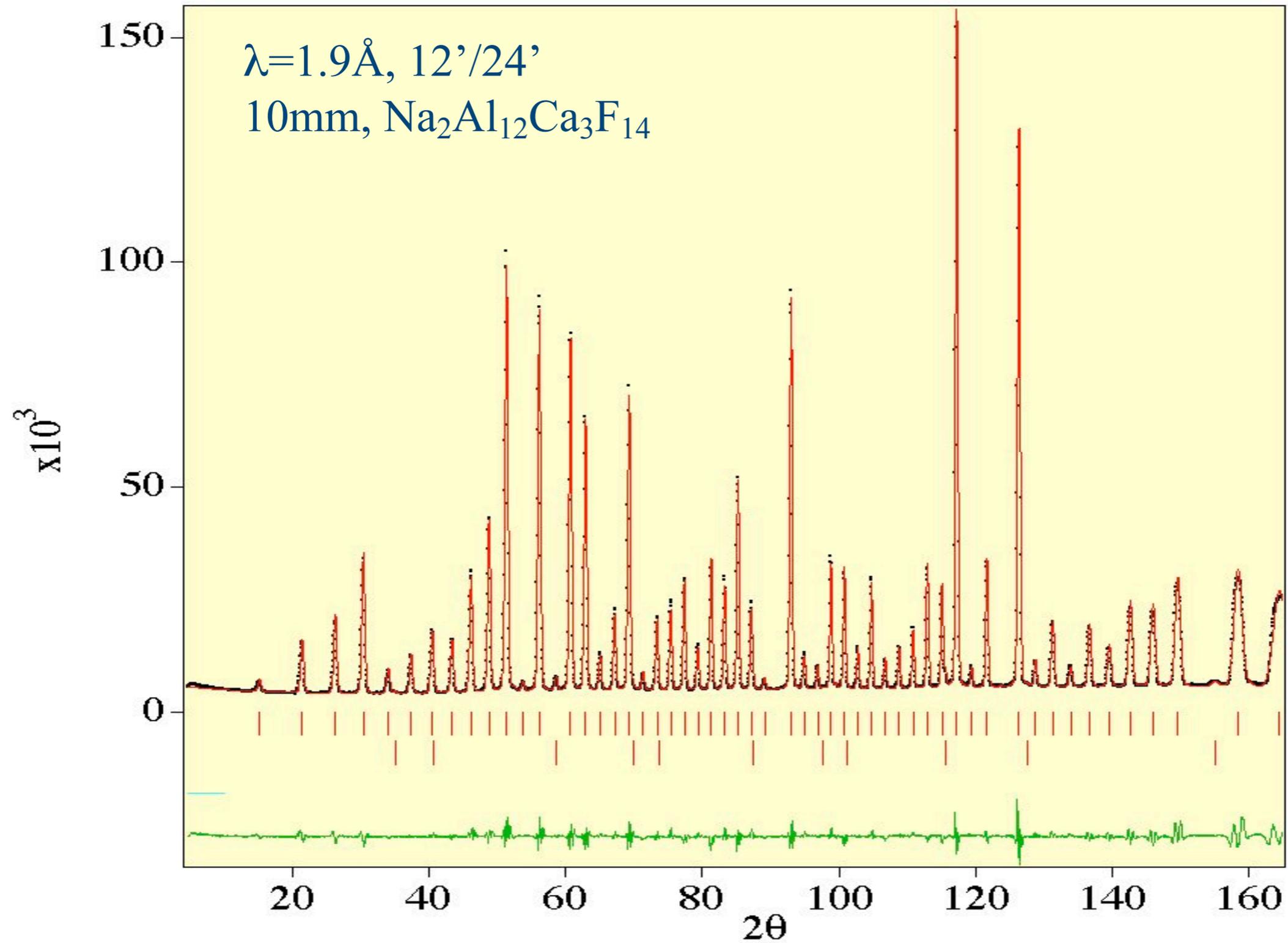


HRPT resolution

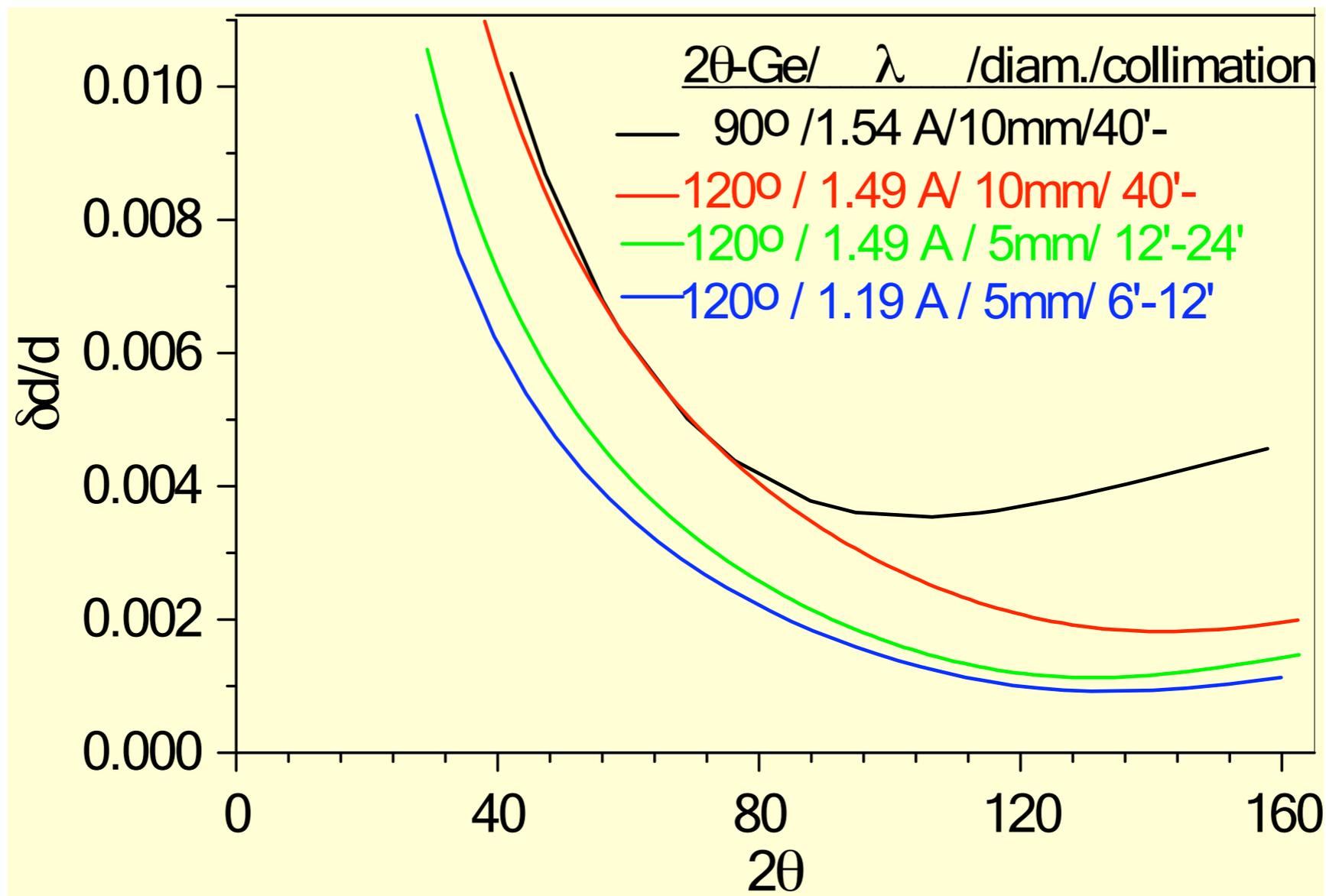
horizontal angular divergence control



Resolution calibration



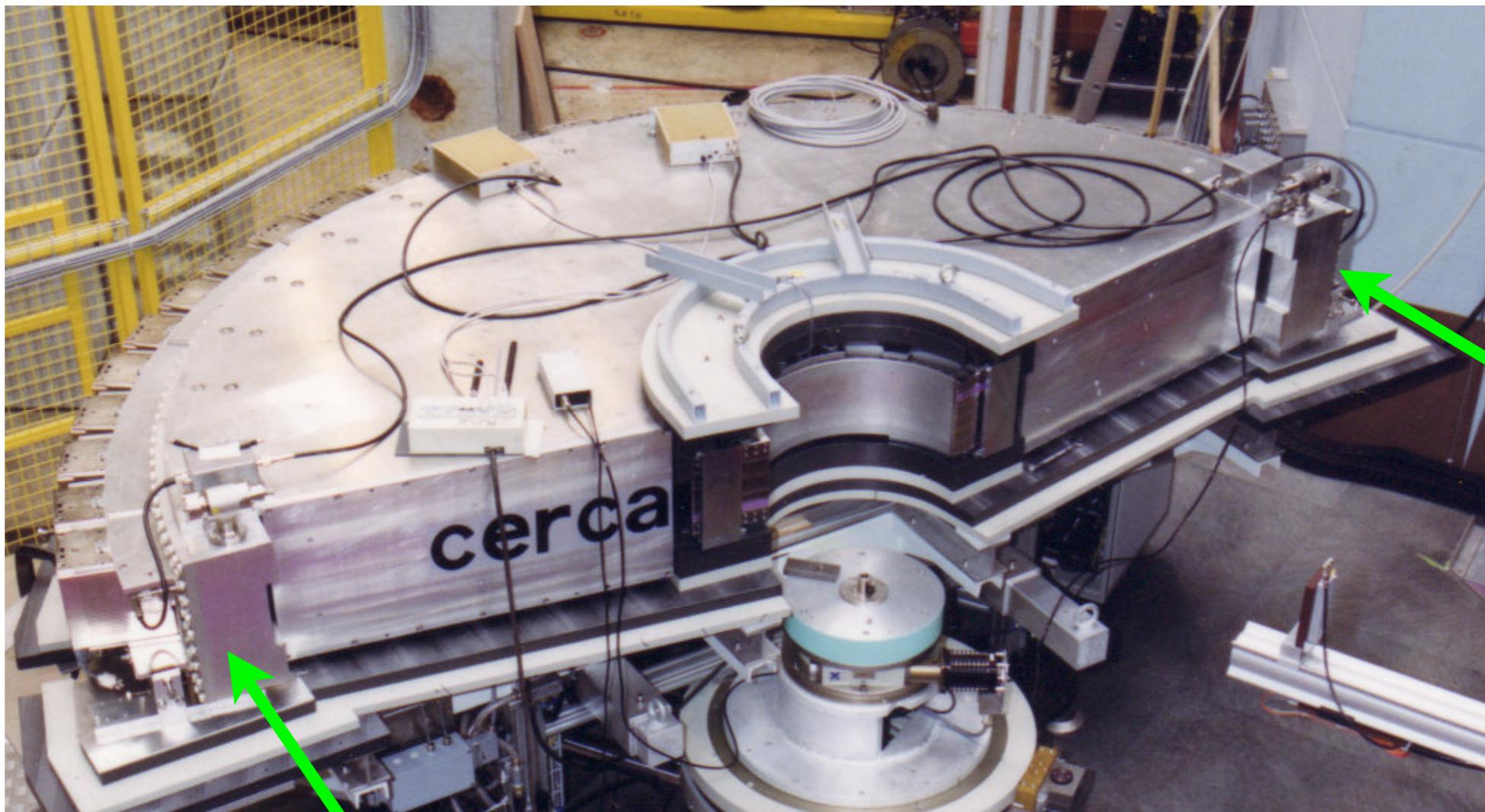
Resolution and intensity (2)



Comparison of resolution functions for different primary-secondary collimations. Typical modes are HI:40'-, MR:12'-24', HR:6'-12'. Counting rates are decreased by a factor of ~ 3 and $\sim (8-10)$ for MR and HR, respectively.

Detector

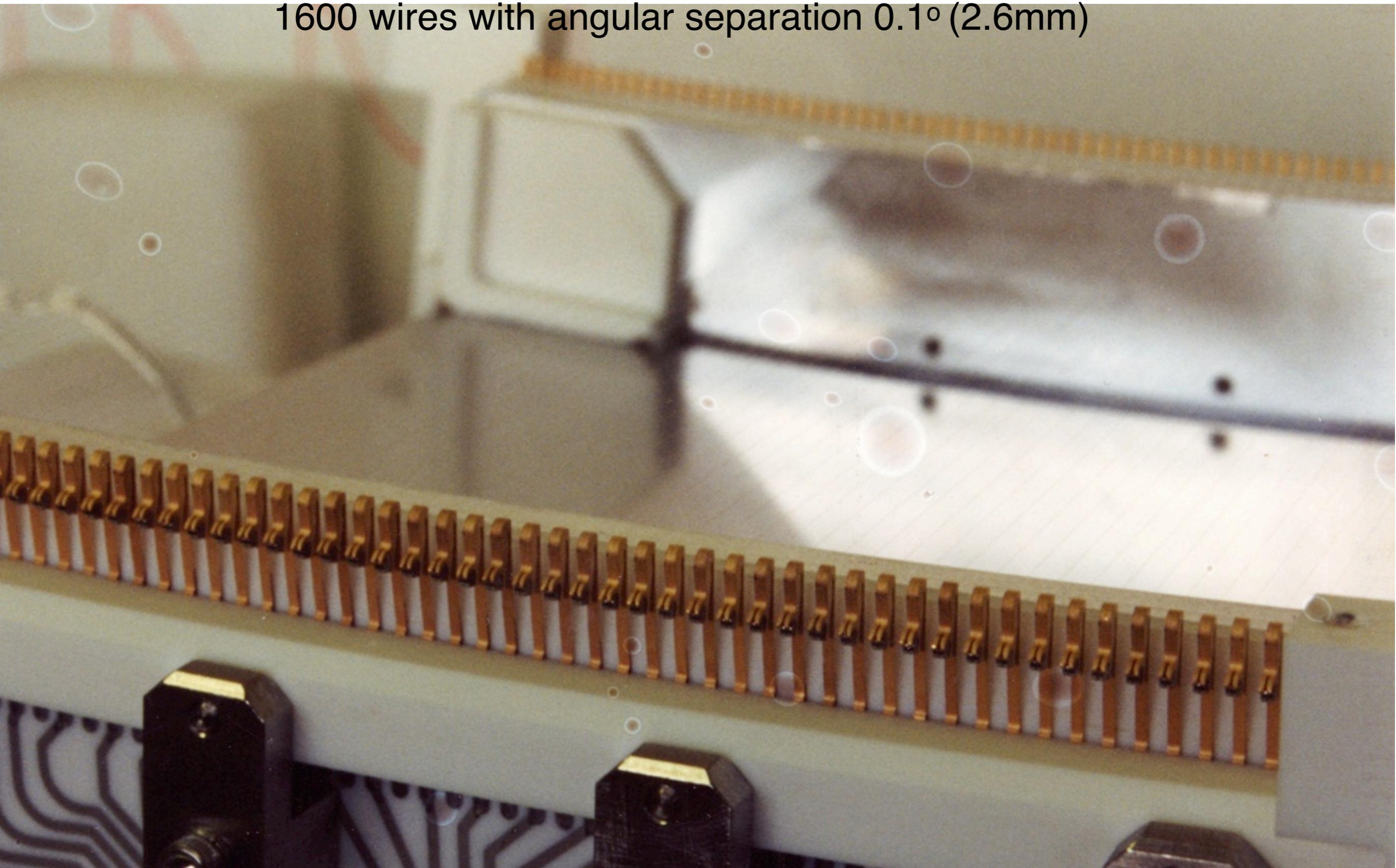
- ^3He (3.6 bar) + CF_4 (1.1 bar), effective detection length 3.5 cm, 15 cm high
- Volume 100L, Voltage -6.7kV
- Efficiency 80% @ 1.5 Å
- 1600 wires with angular separation 0.1° (2.6 mm), 1500 mm to sample



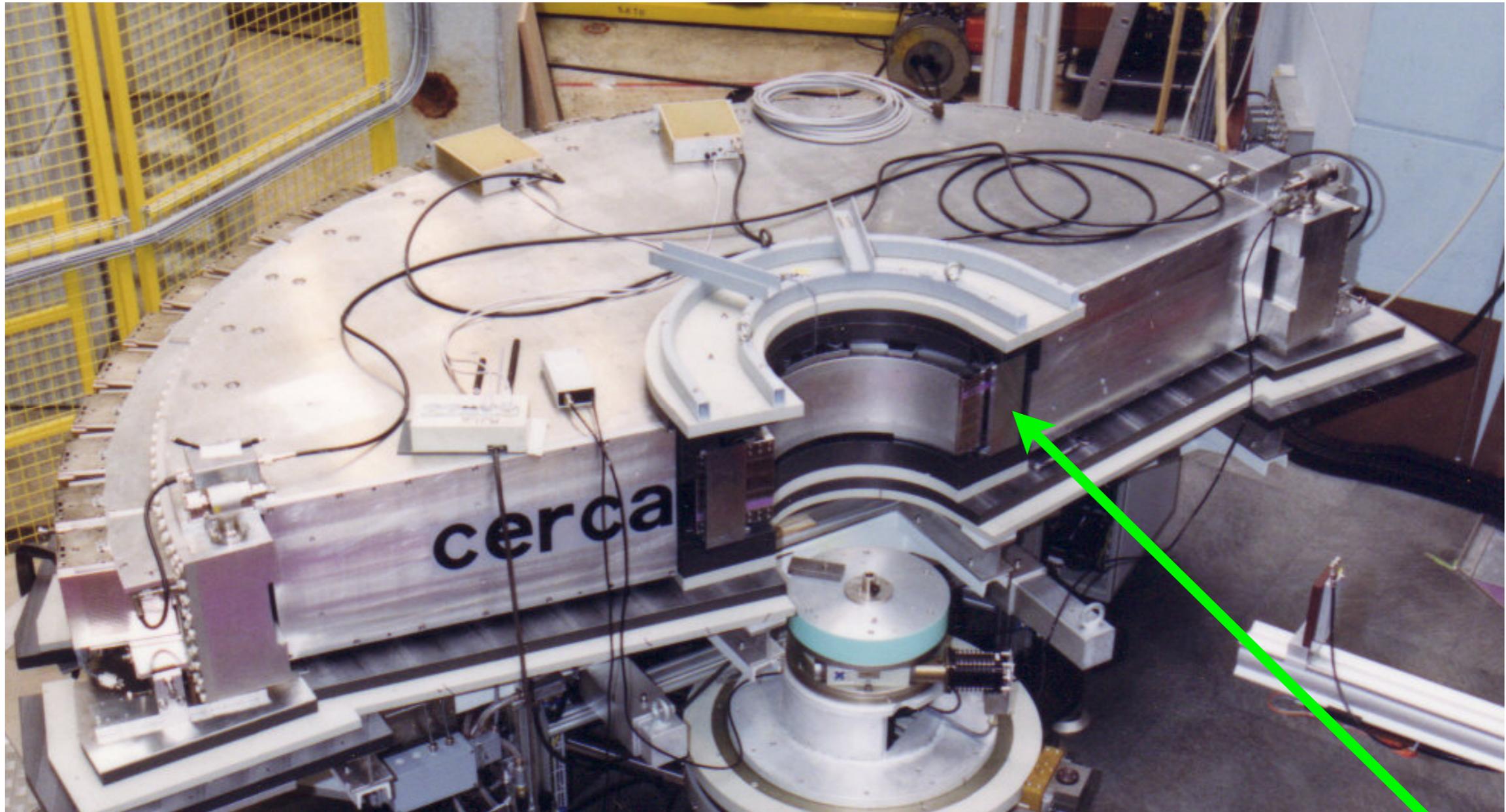
detector

Detector chamber. 1600 wires

1600 wires with angular separation 0.1° (2.6mm)

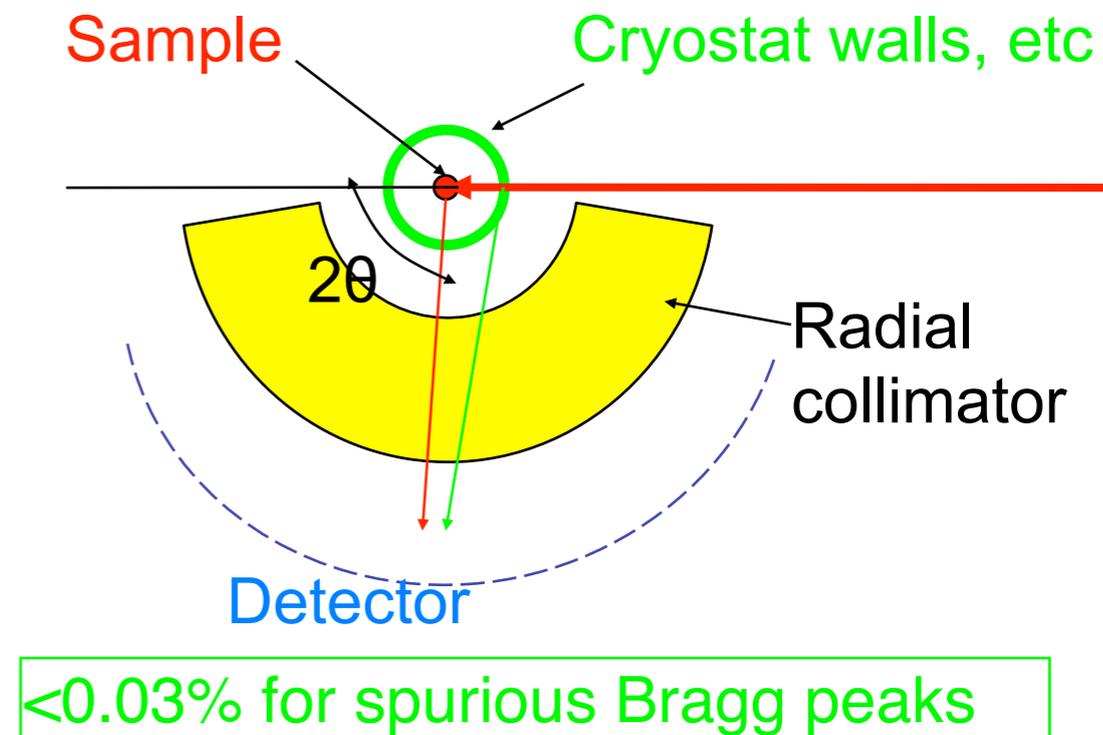
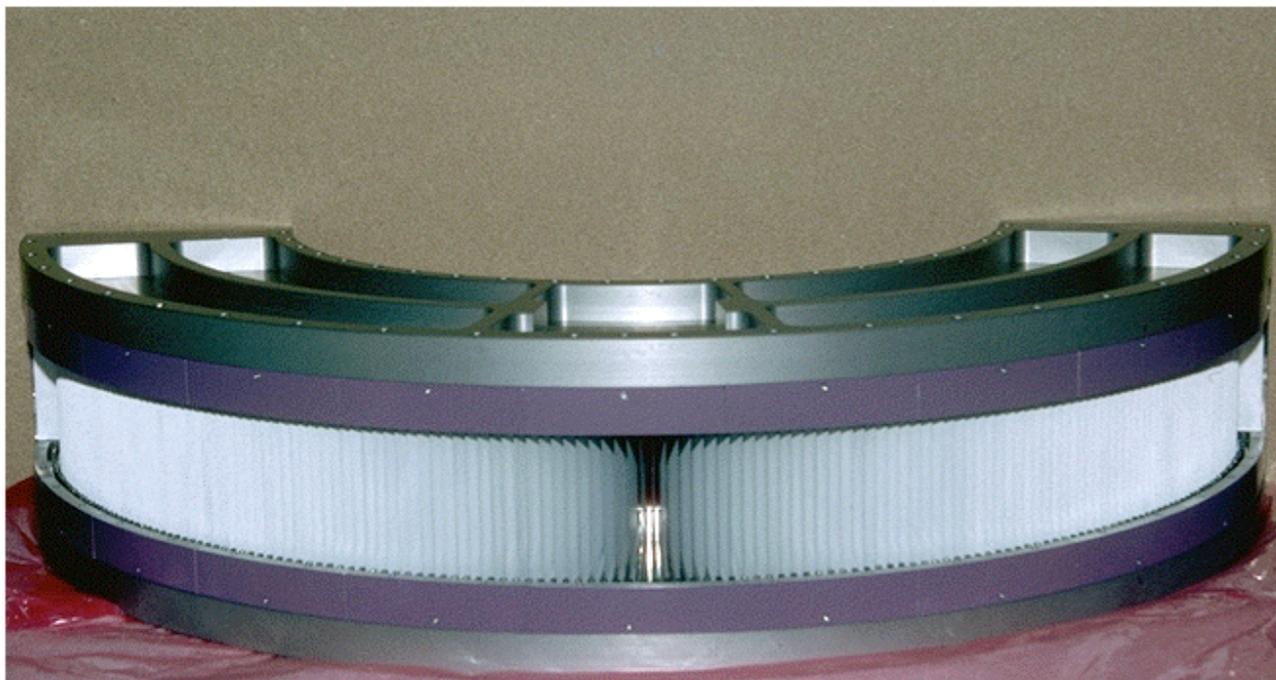


Oscillating radial collimator to avoid scattering from sample environment.



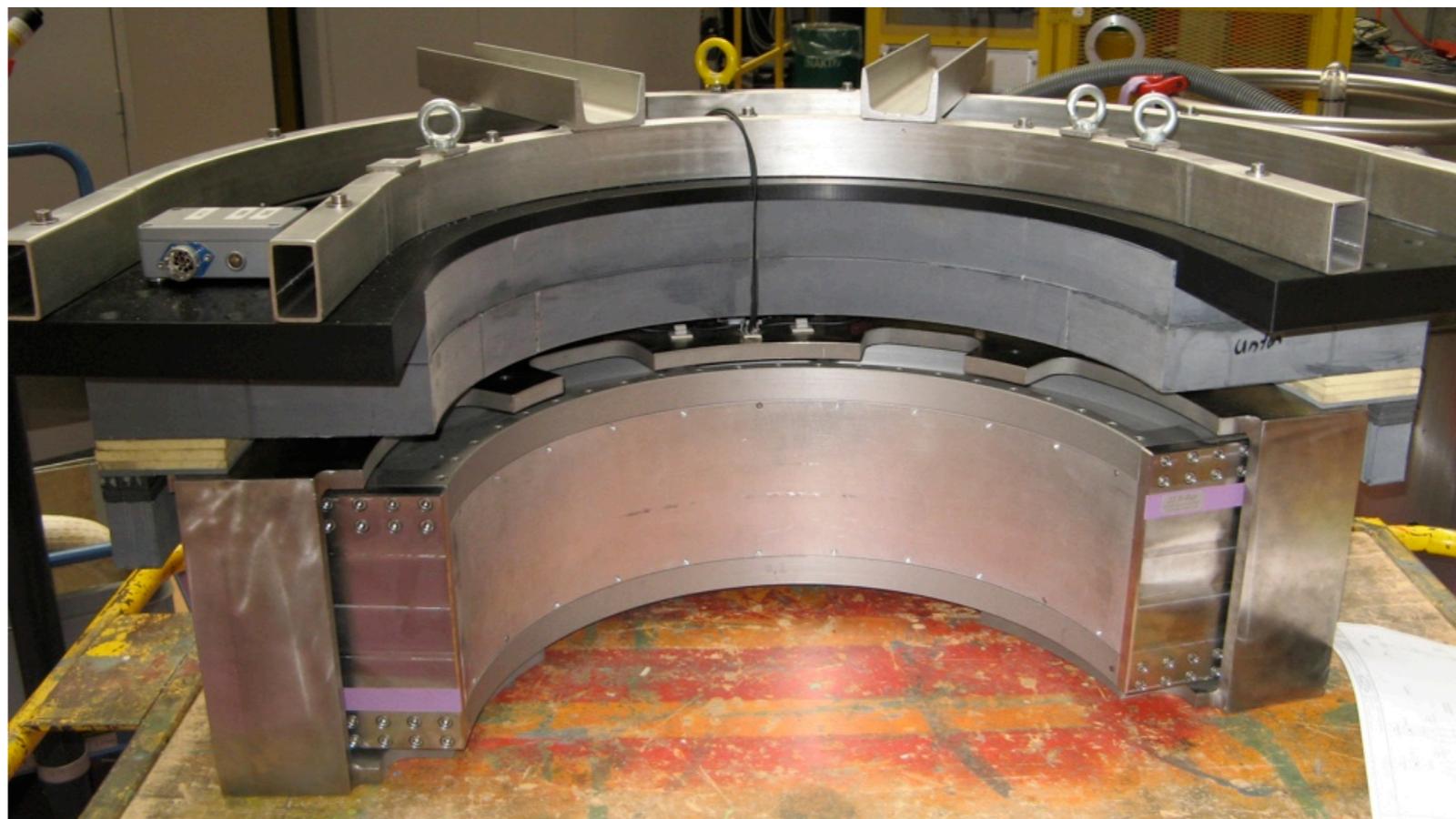
radial
collimator

HRPT radial collimators



Radial collimator with the shielding.

There are two radial collimators with 14mm and 28mm full width full maximum triangular transmission function.



Samples, T, P, H and other equipment

- **standard sample container: 6-10 mm dia x 50 mm (4cm^3)**
- due to low background small samples can be measured (30 mm^3)
- zero matrix high pressure cells:
 - clamp cells for 9 and 15 kbar
 - Paris Edinbrough cell 100 kbar
- standard LNS sample environment:
 - Temperature = 50 mK—1800K,
 - Magnetic field $H = 4\text{ T}$ (vertical)
- Sample changers 4-8 samples, $T=1.5\text{-}300\text{ K}$

standard sample containers: 6-10 mm
dia x 50 mm (4cm^3)



Samples, T, P, H and other equipment

- standard sample container: 6-10 mm dia x 50 mm (4cm^3)
- **due to low background small samples can be measured (30 mm^3)**
- zero matrix high pressure cells:
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 - Paris Edinburgh cell 100 kbar
- standard LNS sample environment:
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 - Magnetic field $H = 4\text{ T}$ (vertical)
- Sample changers 4-8 samples, $T=1.5\text{-}300\text{ K}$

Samples, T, P, H and other equipment

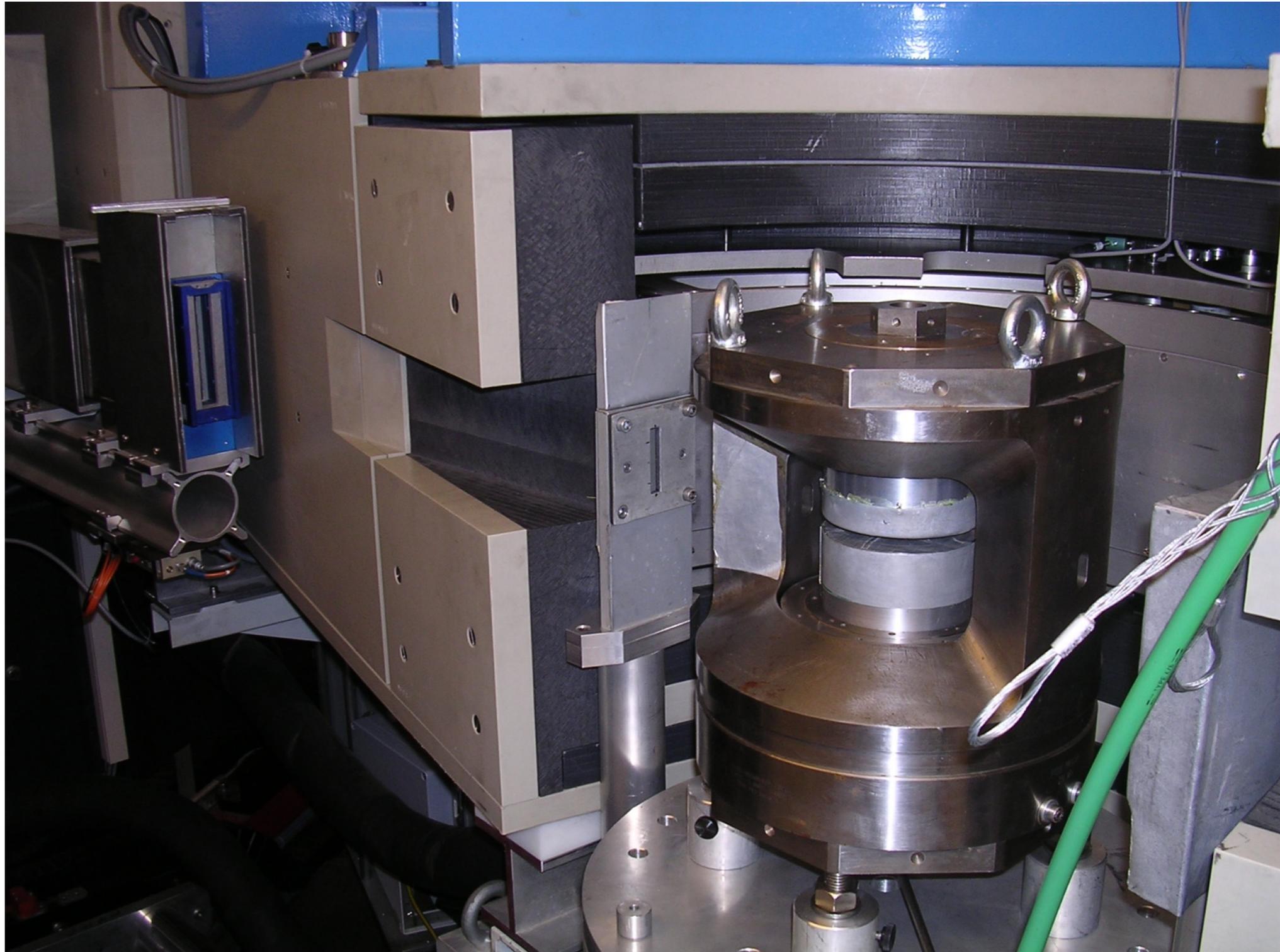
- standard sample container: 6-10 mm dia x 50 mm ($<4\text{cm}^3$)
- due to low background small samples can be measured (30 mm^3)
- **zero matrix high pressure cells:**
 - **clamp cells for 9 and 15 kbar**
 - **Paris Edinbrough cell 100 kbar**
- standard LNS sample environment:
 - Temperature = 50 mK—1800K,
 - Magnetic field $H = 4\text{ T}$ (vertical)
- Sample changers 4-8 samples, $T=1.5\text{-}300\text{ K}$

clamp cells for 9 and 14 kbar



Paris Edinbrough cell 100 kbar

[Th. Straessle et al]



Samples, T, P, H and other equipment

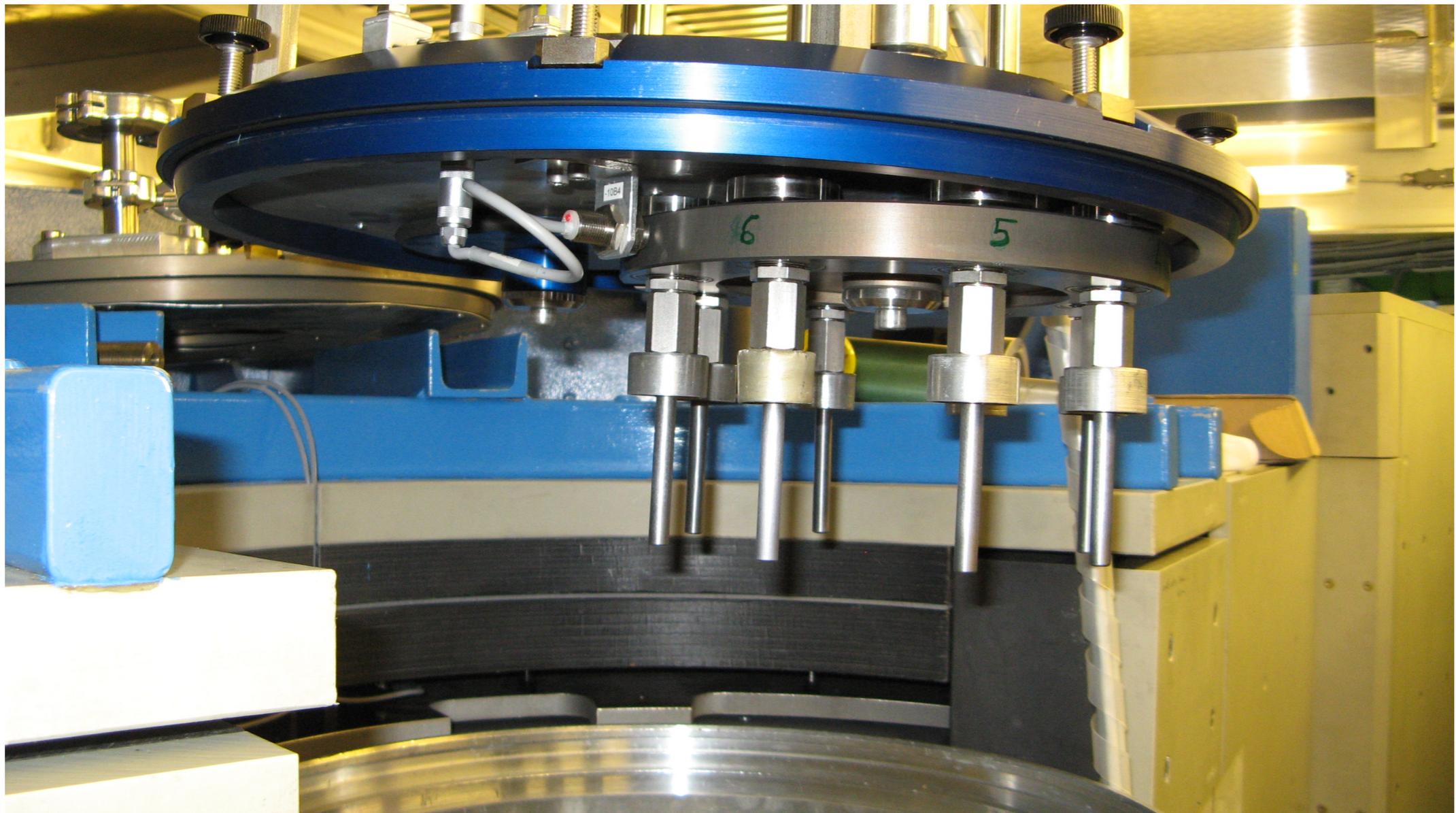
- standard sample container: 6-10 mm dia x 50 mm (4cm^3)
- due to low background small samples can be measured (30mm^3)
- zero matrix high pressure cells:
 - clamp cells for 9 and 15 kbar
 - Paris Edinbrough cell 100 kbar
- **standard LNS sample environment:**
 - **Temperature = 50 mK—1800K,**
 - **Magnetic field $H = 6\text{ T}$ (vertical)**
 - **Automatic He, N₂ refilling systems**
- Sample changers 4-8 samples, $T=1.5\text{-}300\text{ K}$

Samples, T, P, H and other equipment

- standard sample container: 6-10 mm dia x 50 mm (4cm^3)
- due to low background small samples can be measured (30mm^3)
- zero matrix high pressure cells:
 - clamp cells for 9 and 15 kbar
 - Paris Edinbrough cell 100 kbar
- standard LNS sample environment:
 - Temperature = 50 mK—1800K,
 - Magnetic field $H = 4\text{ T}$ (vertical)
 - Automatic He, N_2 refilling systems
- **Sample changers 4-8 samples, $T=1.5\text{-}300\text{ K}$**

HRPT room temperature 8-sample changer

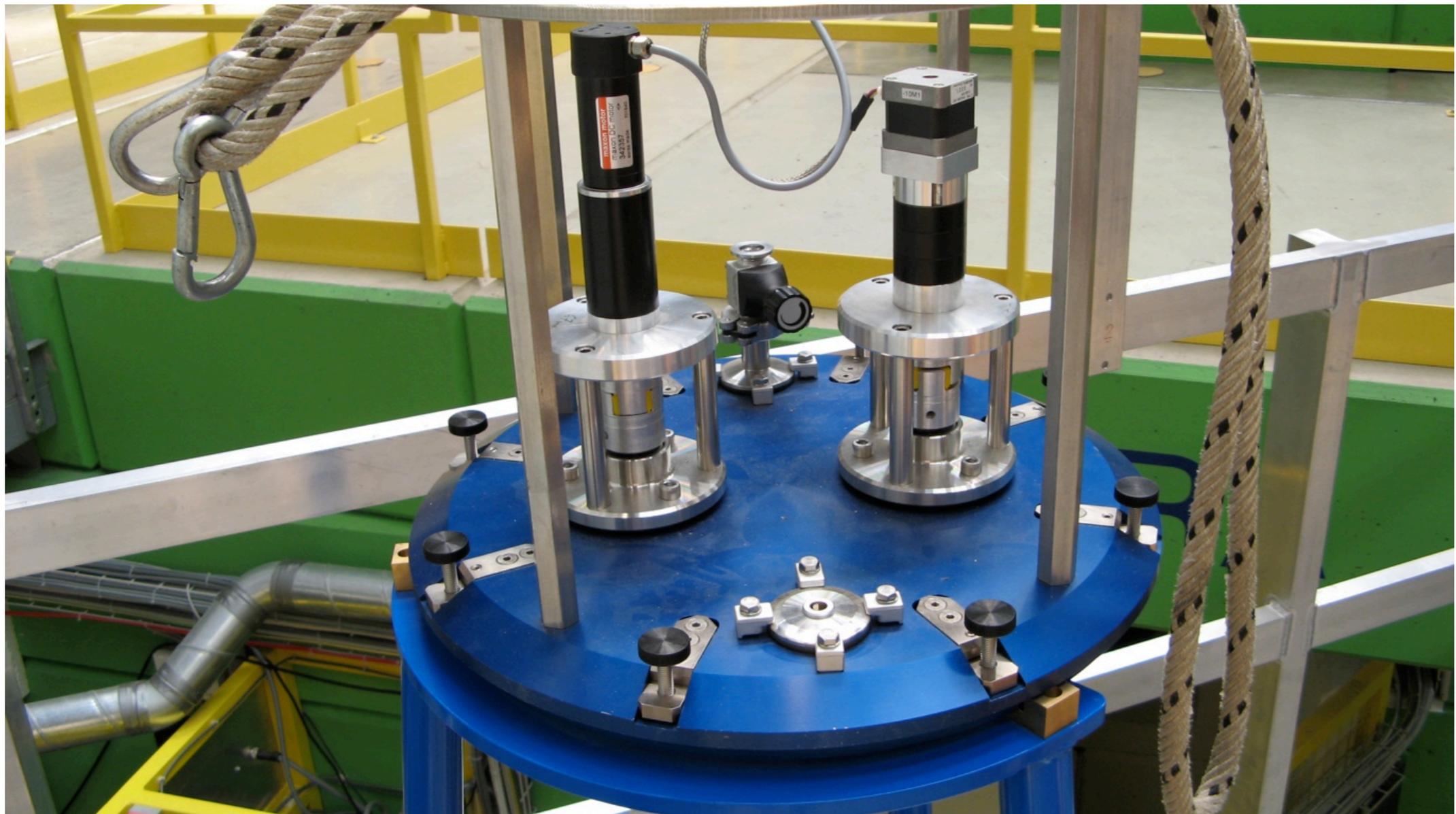
- Eight samples mounted on a carousel-type changer, few seconds to bring the next one into the measurement position;
- Independent sample rotation mechanism – for reducing the preferred orientation aberrations.



Fully loaded with 8 samples, the sample changer is ready to be installed in-place on the HRPT sample table.

HRPT room temperature 8-sample changer

- Eight samples mounted on a carousel-type changer, few seconds to bring the next one into the measurement position;
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HRPT room temperature 8-sample changer

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- Independent preferred ori

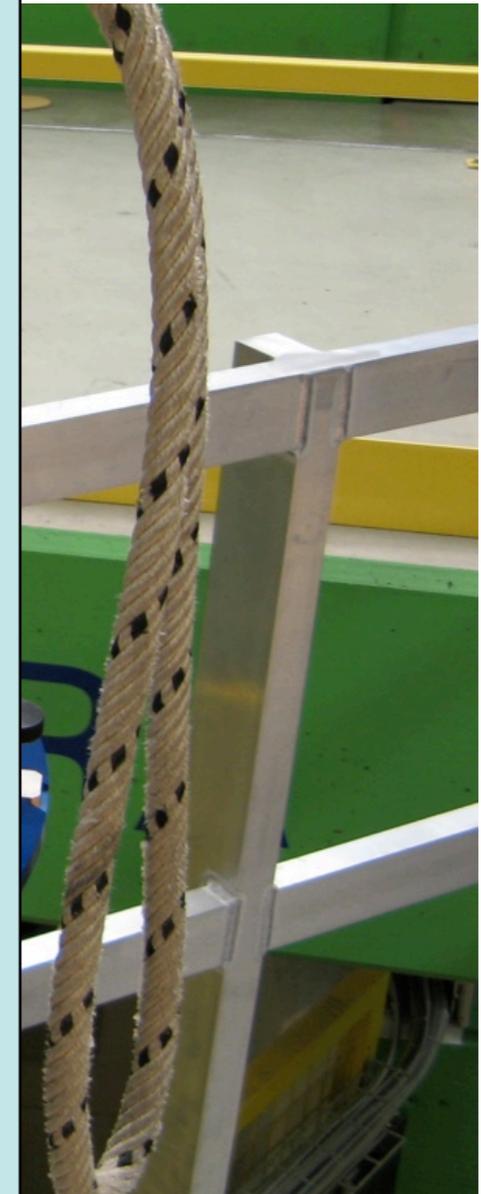
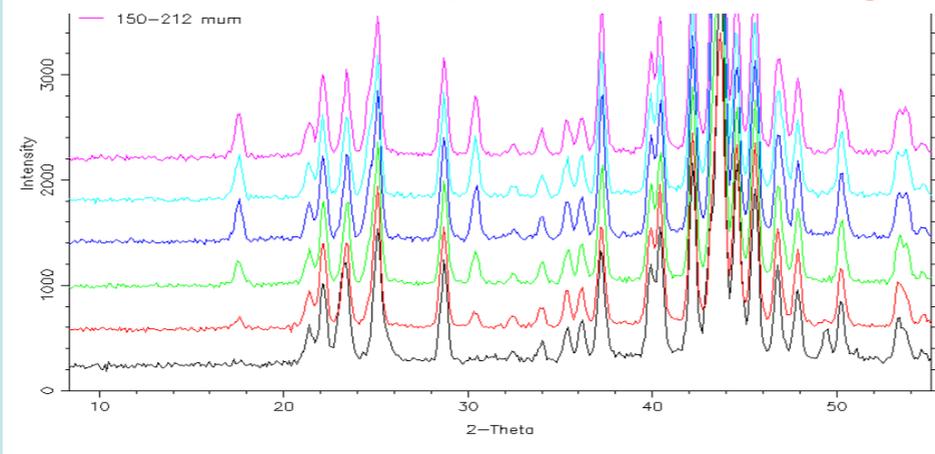


Fully loaded with 8 samples

User Experiment 20061119
"Structure of leached Raney
Ni alloys" (Nov. 2007):
~80 samples measured in
4 beam days:



20 samples/day!

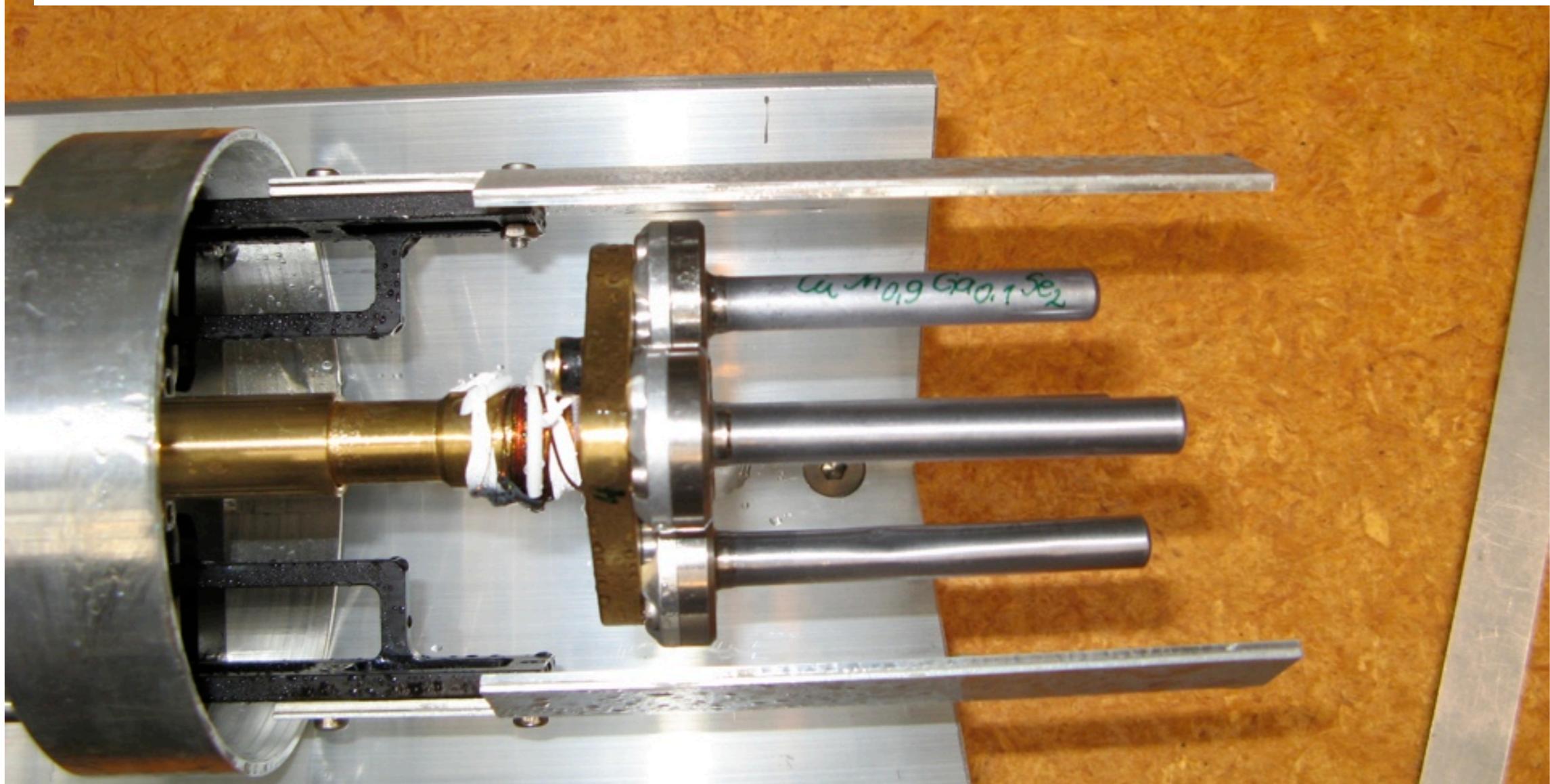


HRPT sample table.

HRPT low temperature 4-sample changer

A device for routine powder diffraction measurements at temperatures between 1.5K -300K.

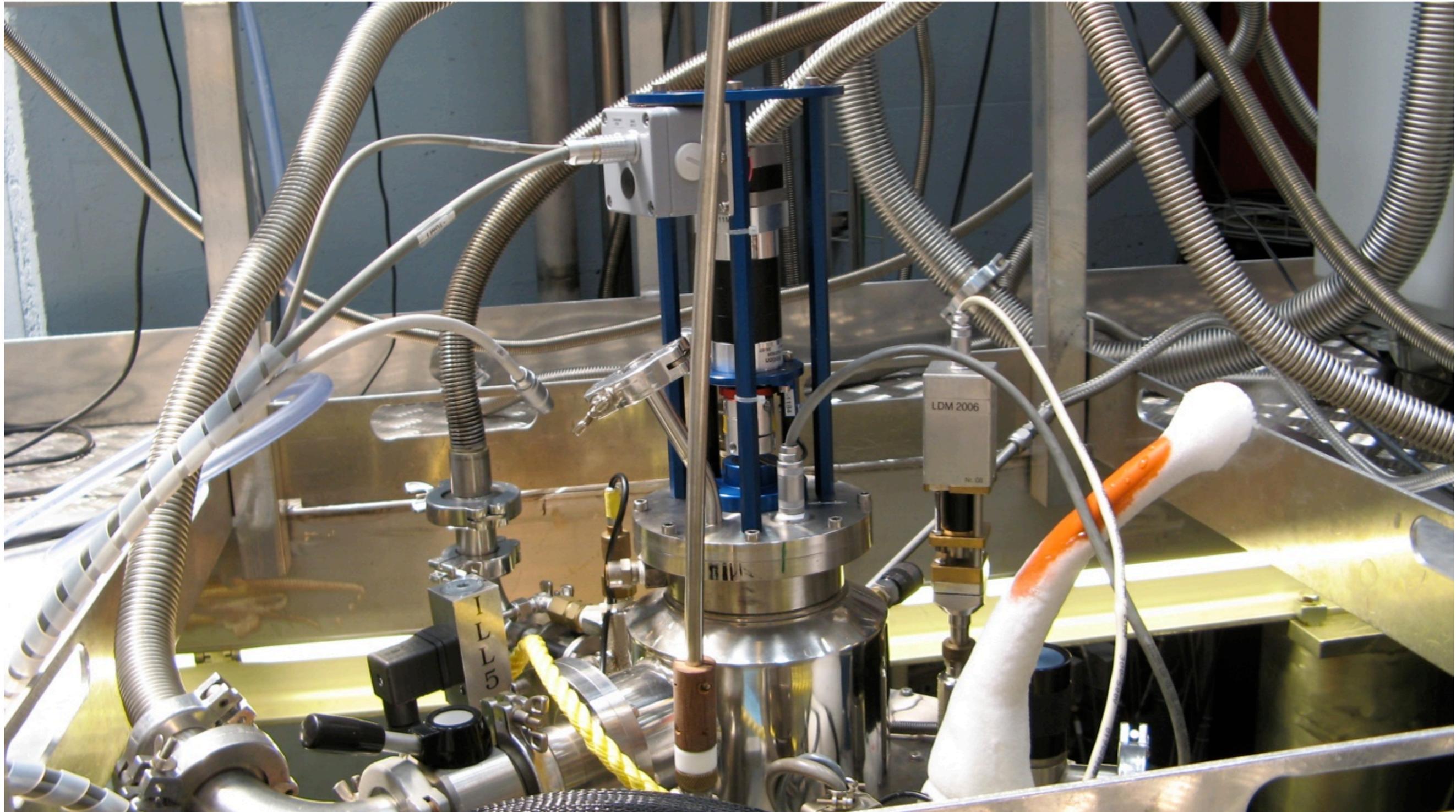
- All samples have the same temperature, i.e. time for temperature change is saved;
- Four samples mounted on a carousel-type changer, that is a special inset for an orange cryostat



HRPT low temperature 4-sample changer

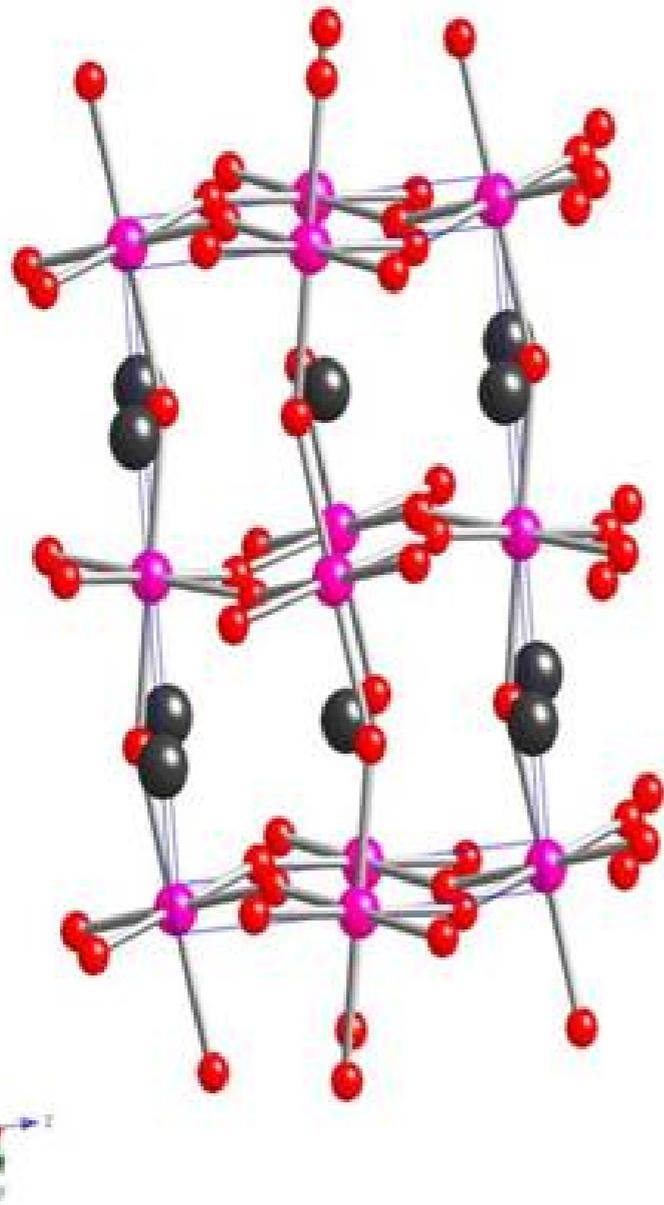


HRPT low temperature 4-sample changer

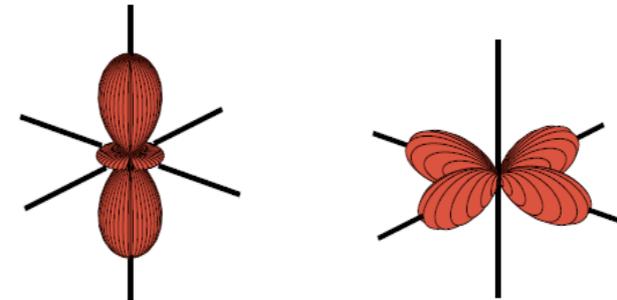


Examples of HRPT applications

Mn-O bond lengths



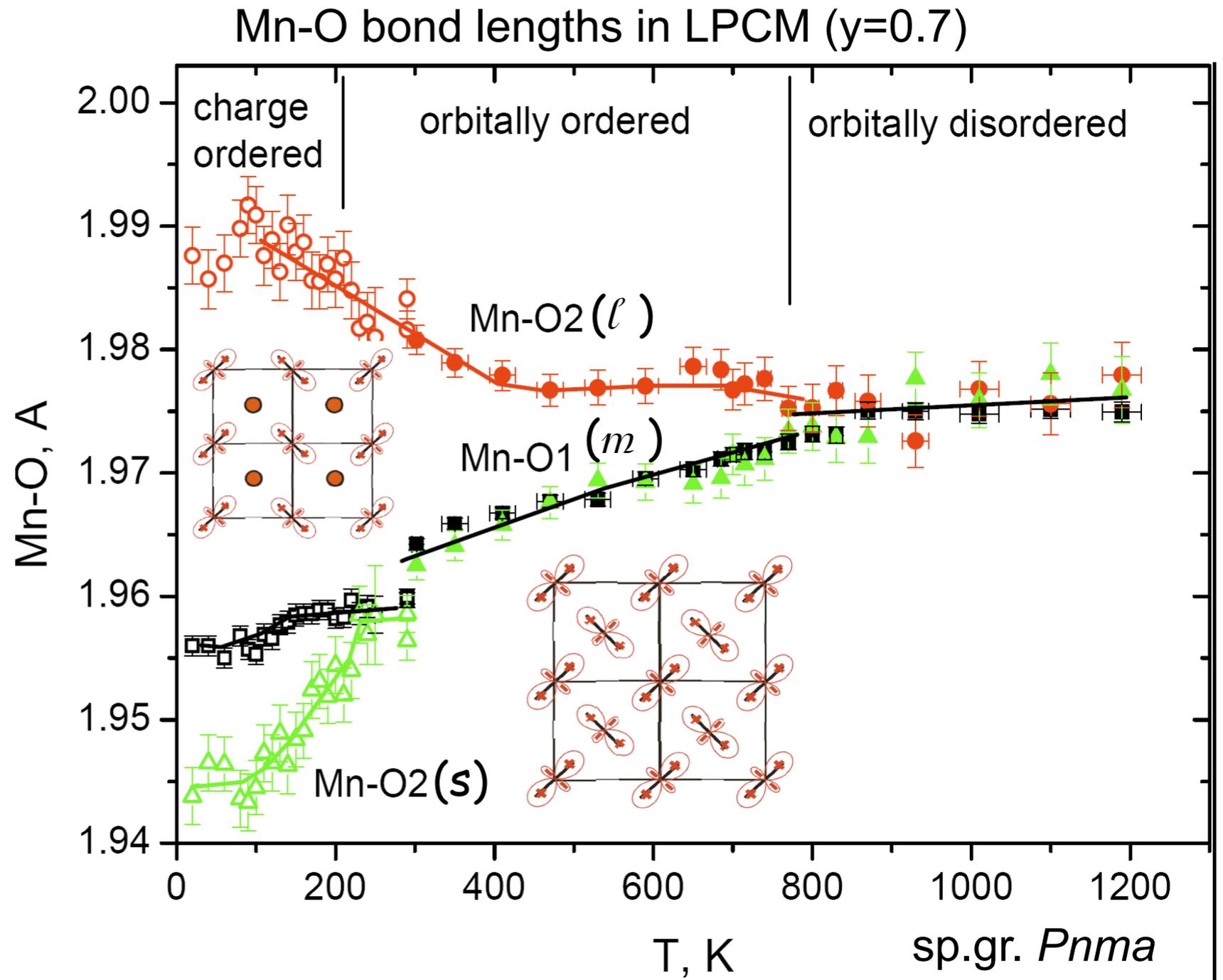
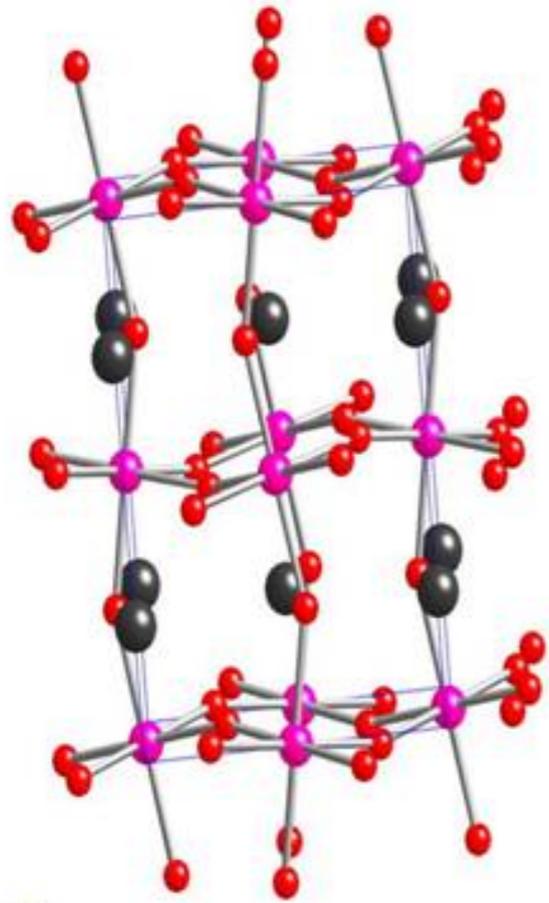
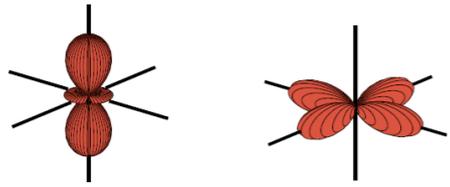
$$|\theta\rangle = \cos \frac{\theta}{2} |3z^2 - r^2\rangle + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |x^2 - y^2\rangle$$



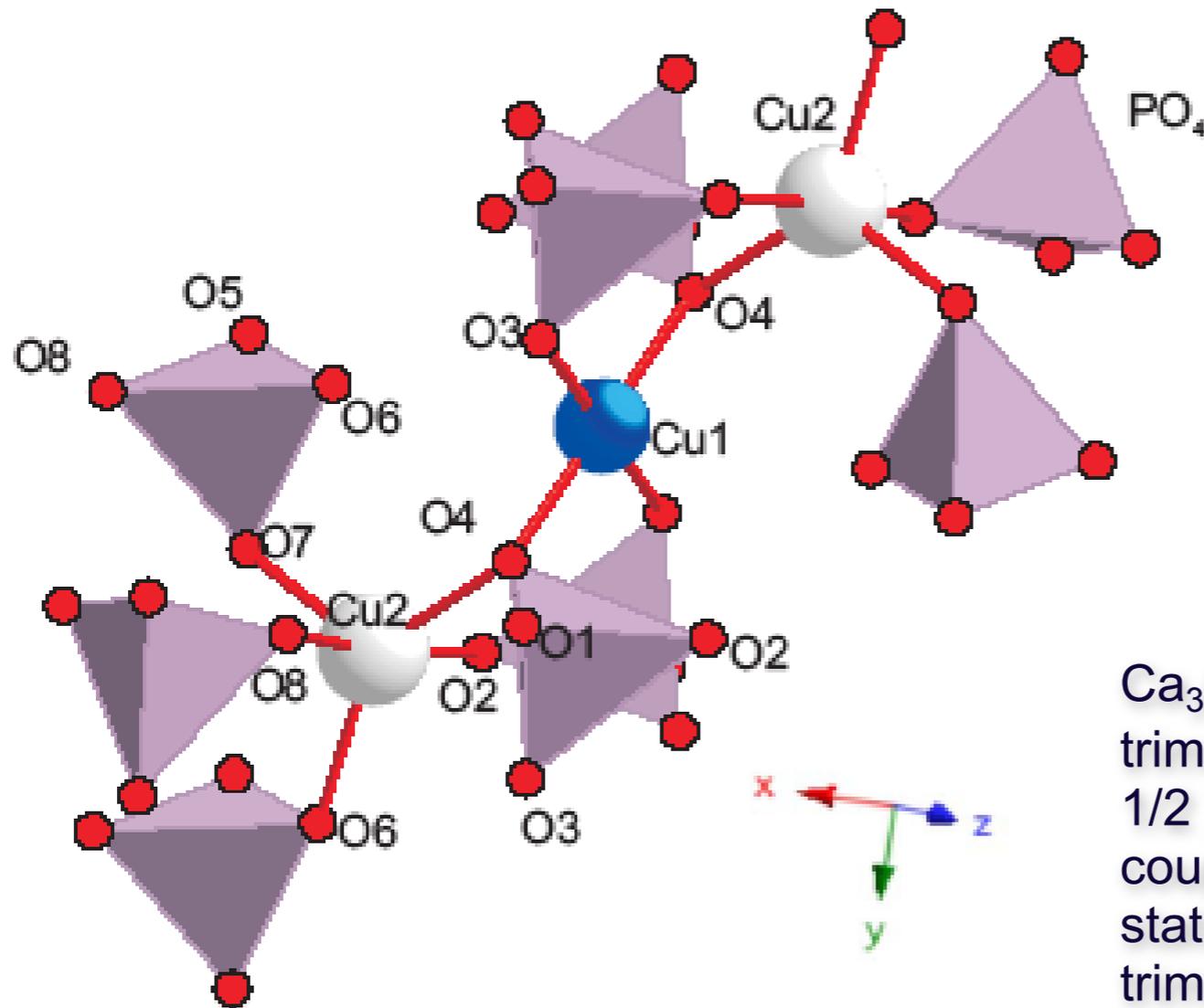
Orbital and charge ordering OO/CO



$$|\theta\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta}{2}|3z^2 - r^2\rangle + \sin\frac{\theta}{2}|x^2 - y^2\rangle$$



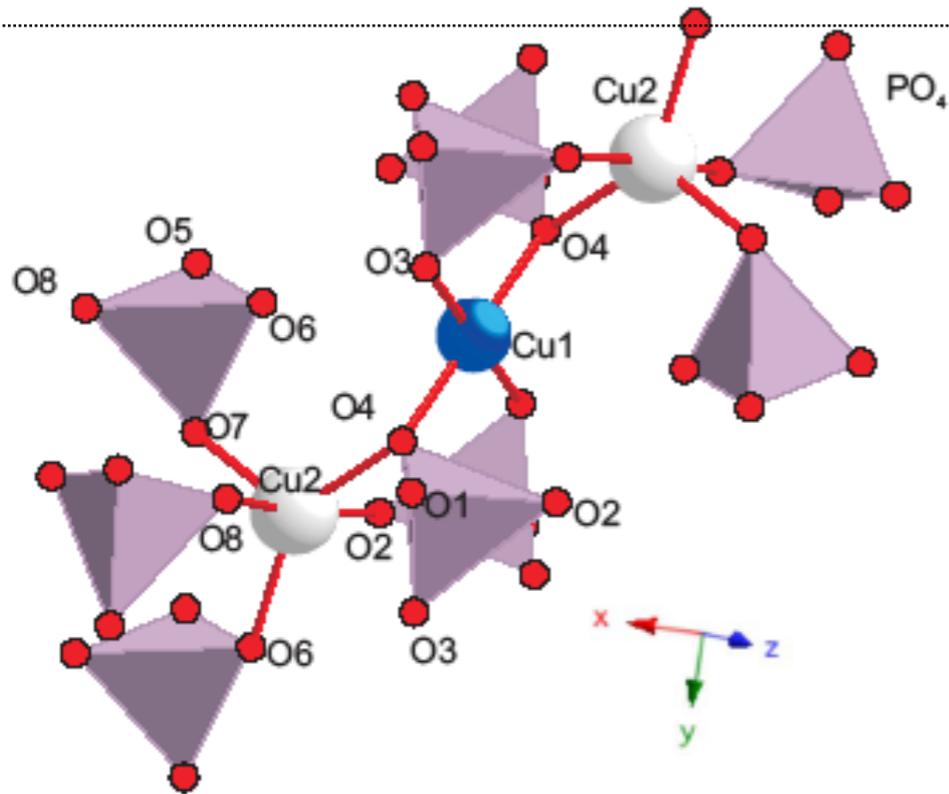
Where are Ni ions in the trimer?



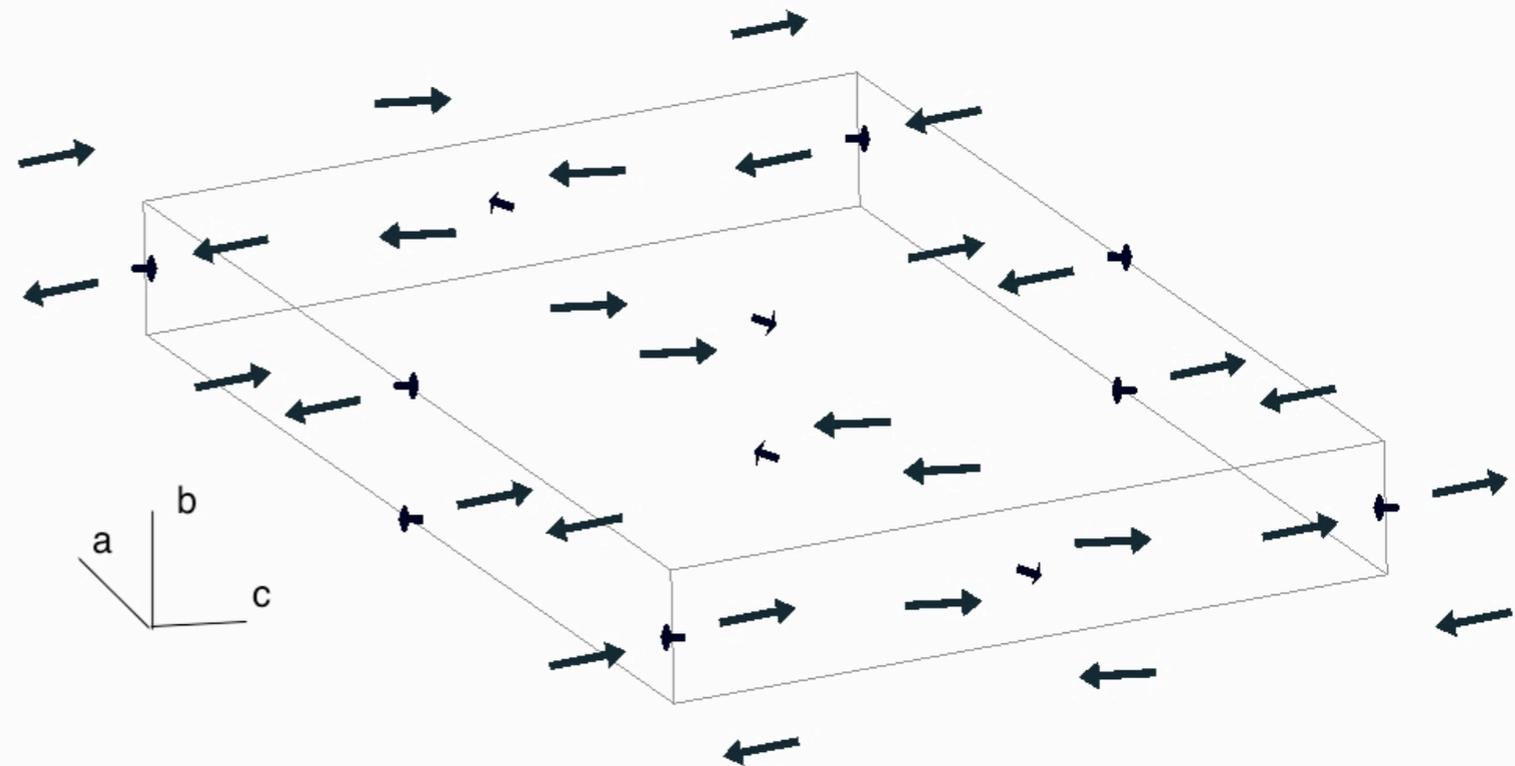
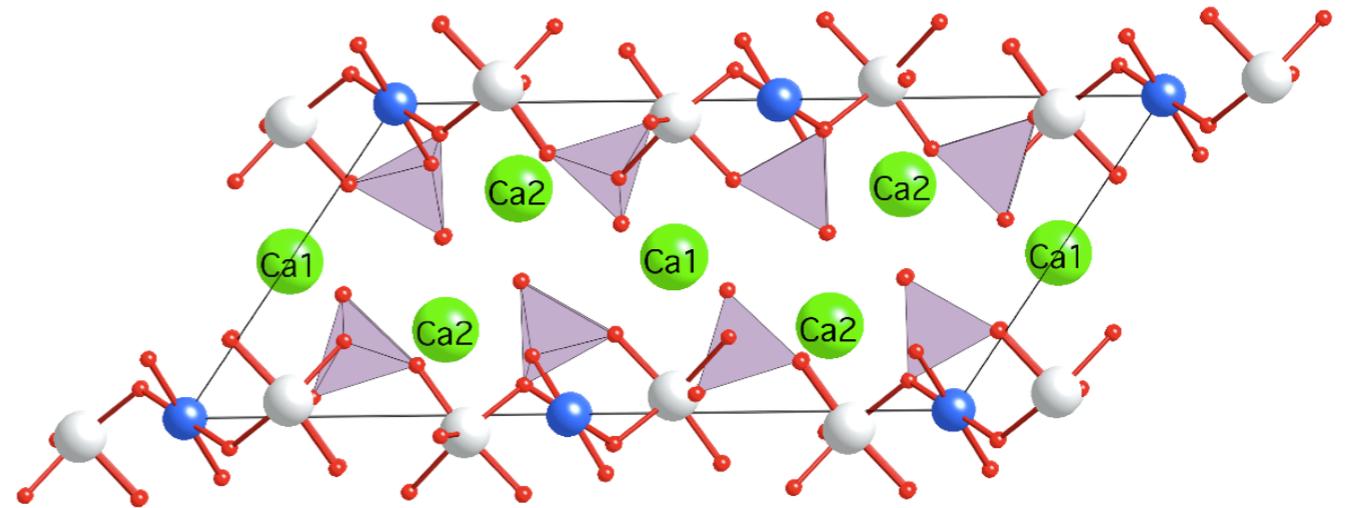
$\text{Ca}_3\text{Cu}_3(\text{PO}_4)_4$ is a novel quantum spin trimer system in which the three Cu^{2+} ($S = 1/2$) spins are antiferromagnetically coupled giving rise to a doublet ground state. By substituting a Cu^{2+} spin in the trimer by Ni^{2+} ($S = 1$) a singlet ground state could be in principle realized offering the observation of the Bose-Einstein condensation in a quantum spin trimer system.

Crystal and magnetic structures and magnetic excitations spin-trimer system $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cu}_{3-x}\text{Ni}_x(\text{PO}_4)_4$ ($x=0,1,2$)

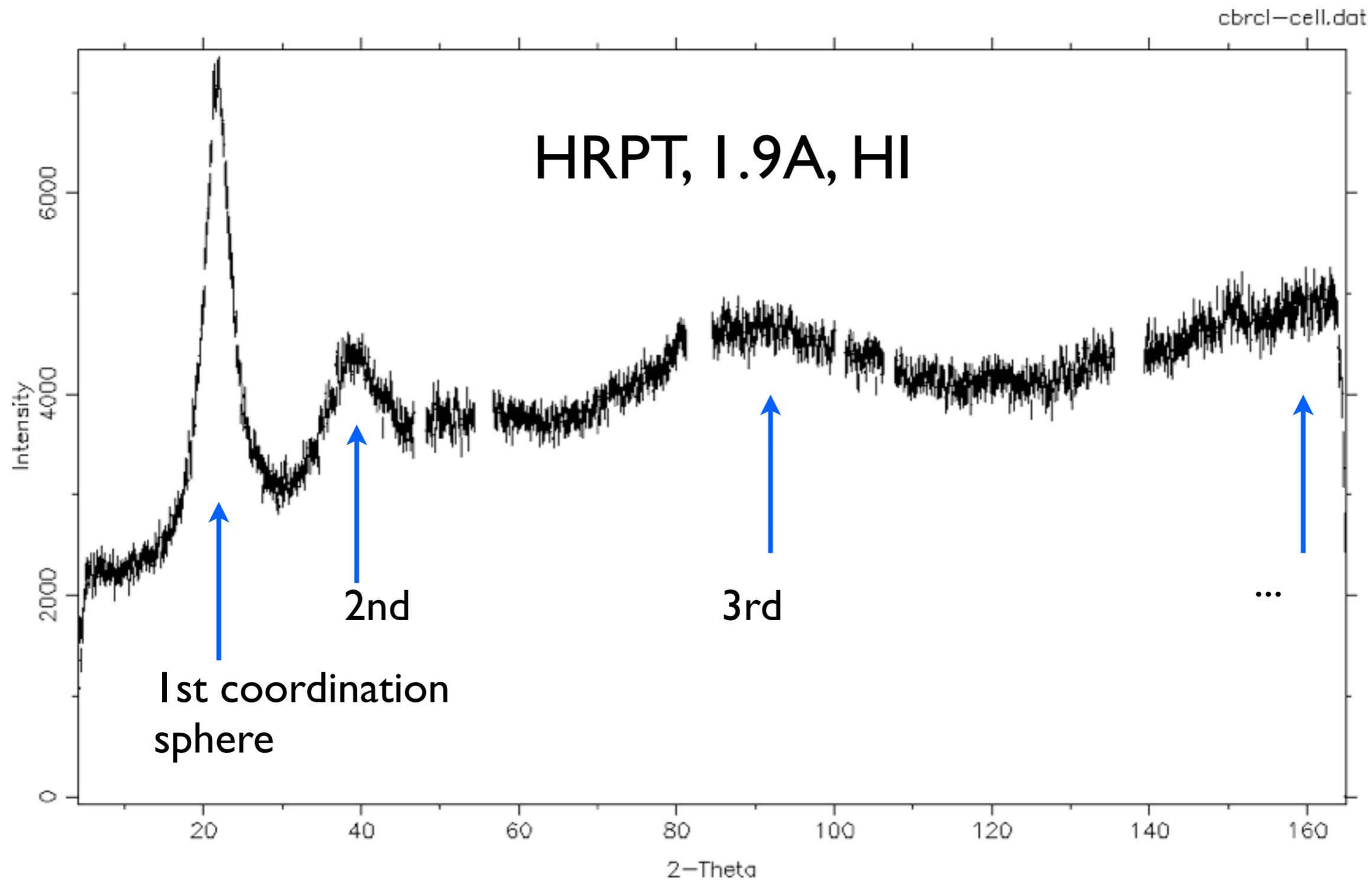
Where are Ni ions in the trimer?



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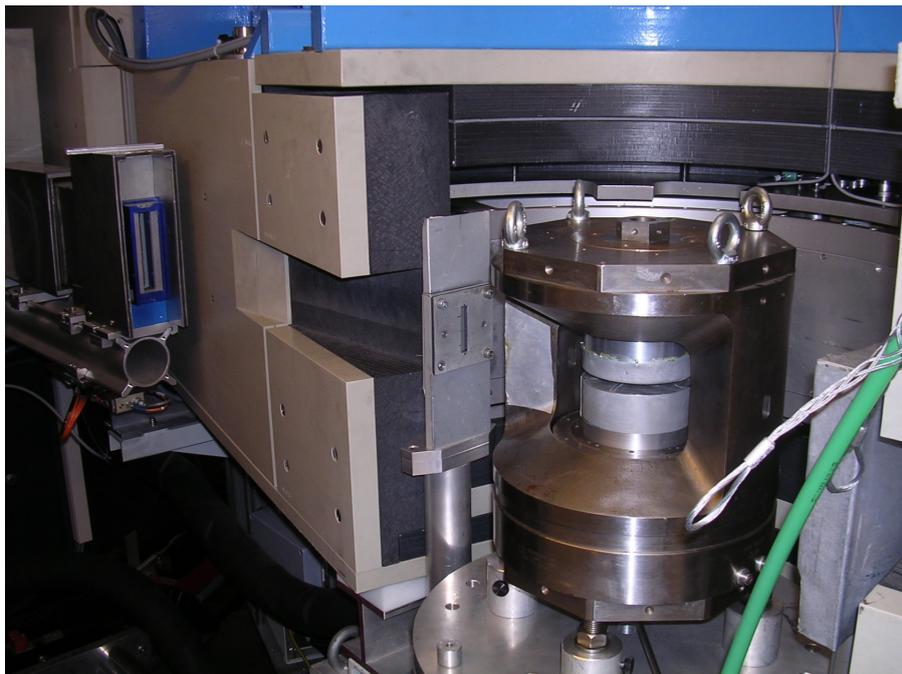
$C(CrBr)_4$ -liquid in gas pressure cell. T-P phase diagram



M.Barrio, et al (2009)

High pressure structure transition in quantum dimer system $\text{SrCu}_2(\text{BO}_3)_2$

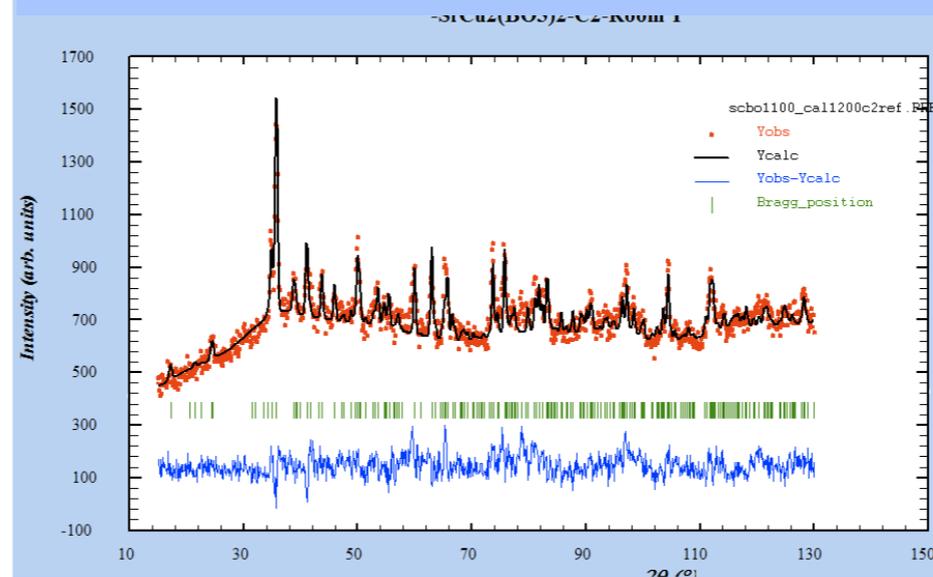
Anvil pressure cell installed at HRPT diffractometer



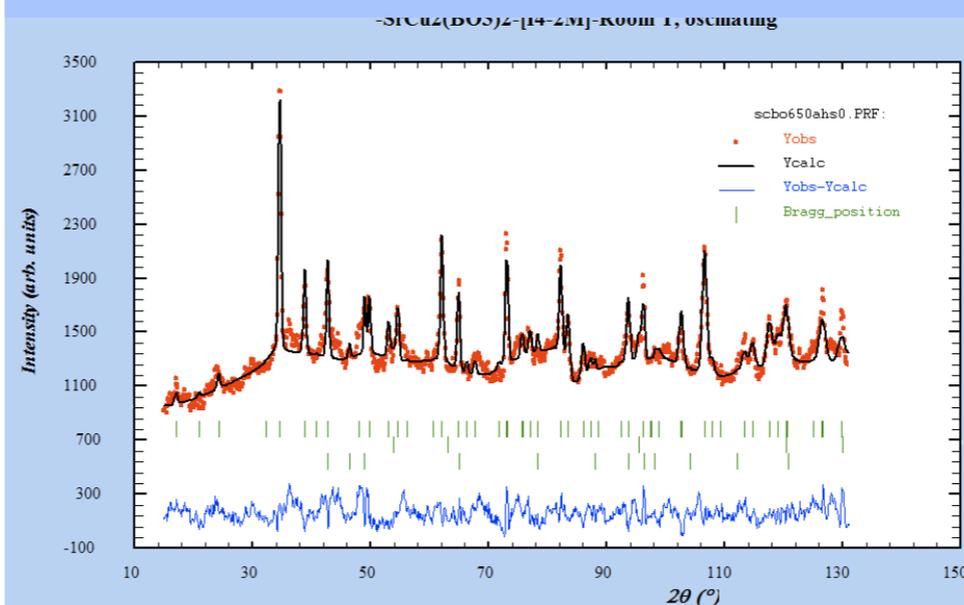
detector shielding + radial collimator + BN anvils + low noise electronics = excellent peak to background ratio

LNS, PSI: V. Pomjakushin, Th. Strassle,
K. Conder, E. Pomjakushina
EPFL: M. Zayed, H. Ronnow

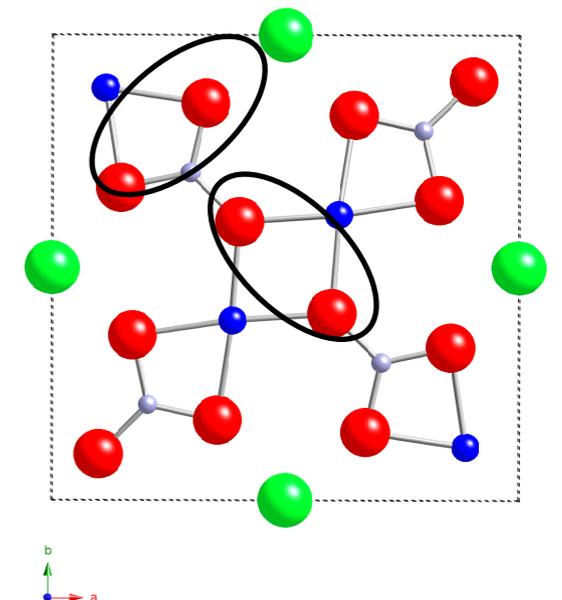
$p=8\text{GPa}$: monoclinic $C2$: the new structure solved from the HRPT data!



$p=3.7\text{GPa}$, known tetragonal $I-42m$ structure



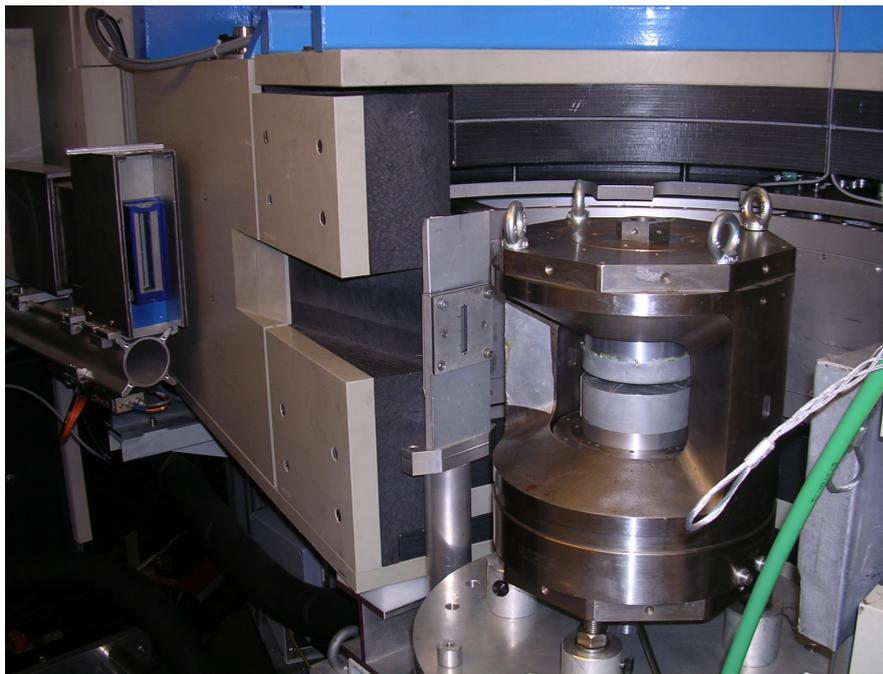
The $S=1/2$ moments of the Cu^{2+} ions are arranged in a 2D lattice of strongly coupled dimers ($J=85\text{K}$).



- The material is predicted to undergo a quantum phase transition by application of hydrostatic pressure.
- To fully understand the magnetic properties of the material the knowledge of the exchange paths as a function of pressure is mandatory.

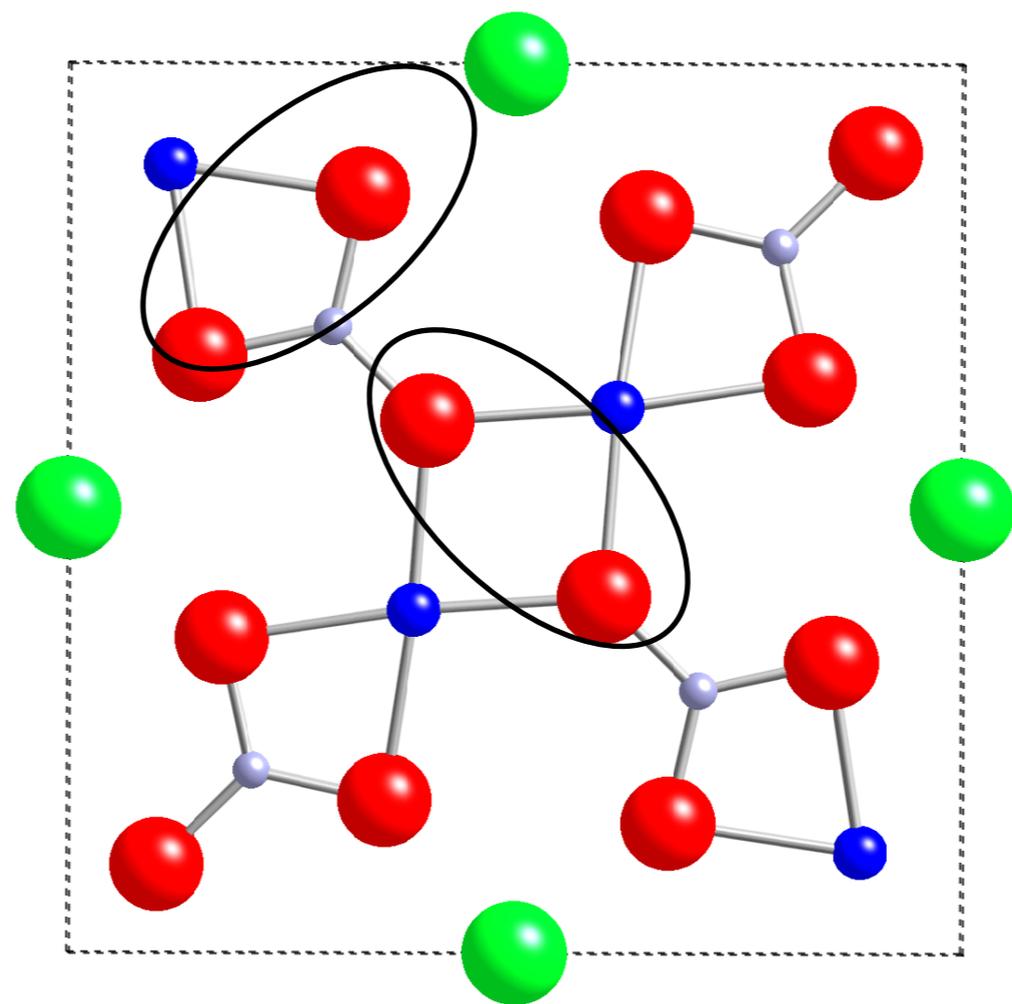
High pressure structure transition in quantum dimer system $\text{SrCu}_2(\text{BO}_3)_2$

Anvil pressure cell installed
HRPT diffractometer



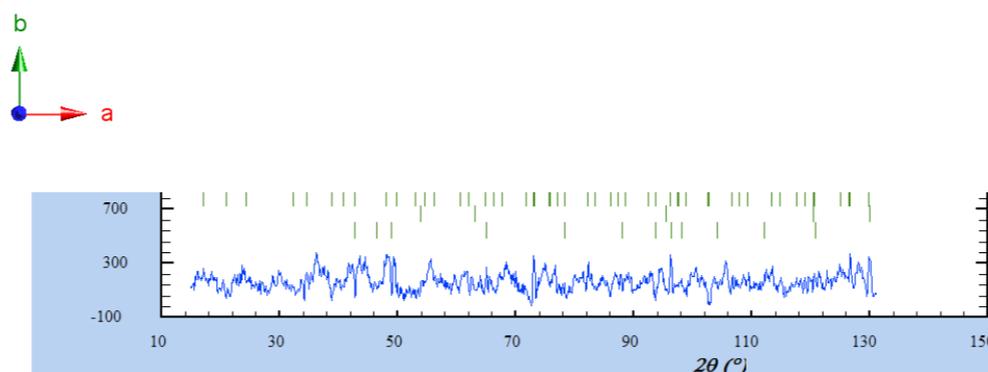
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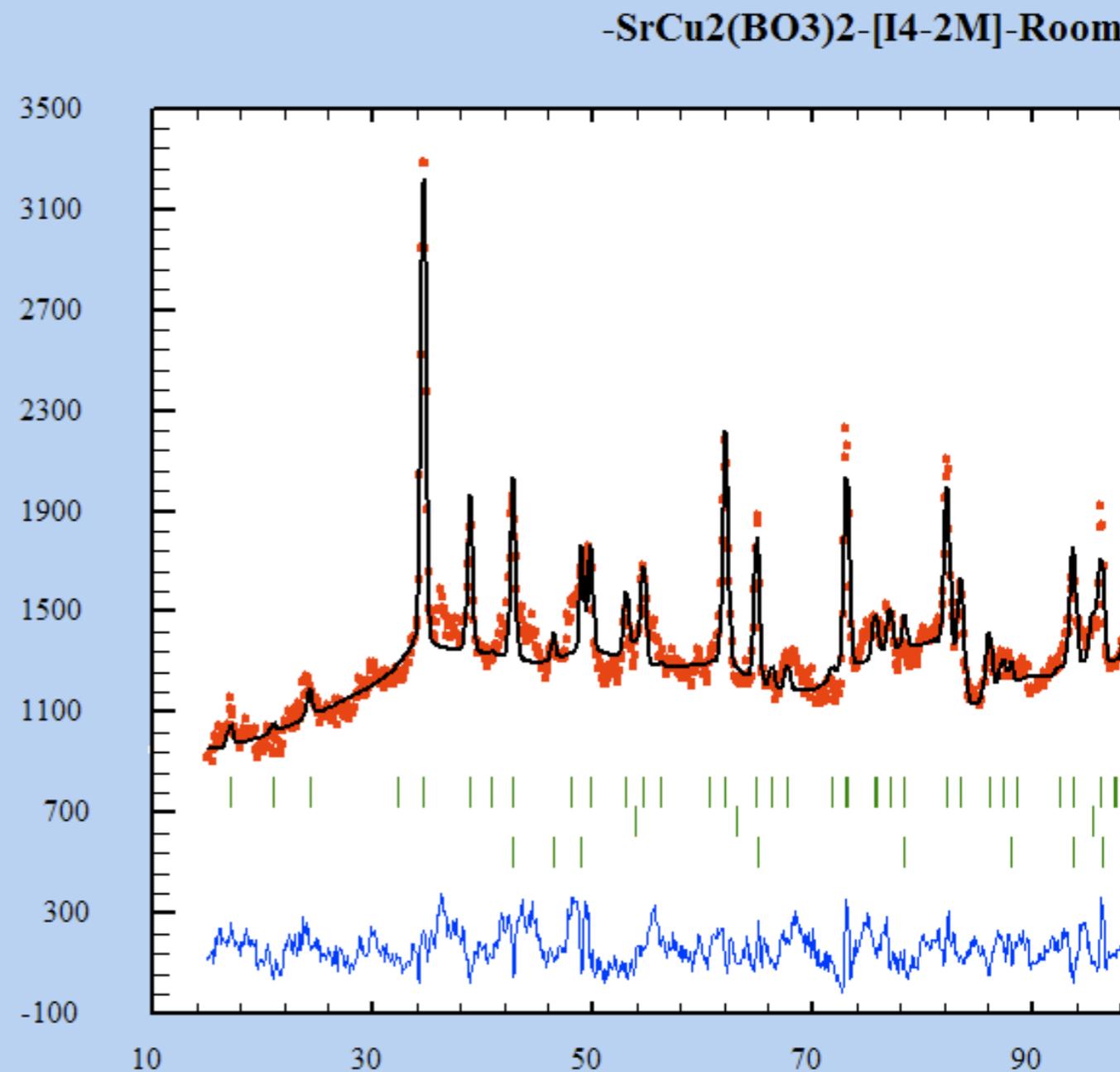
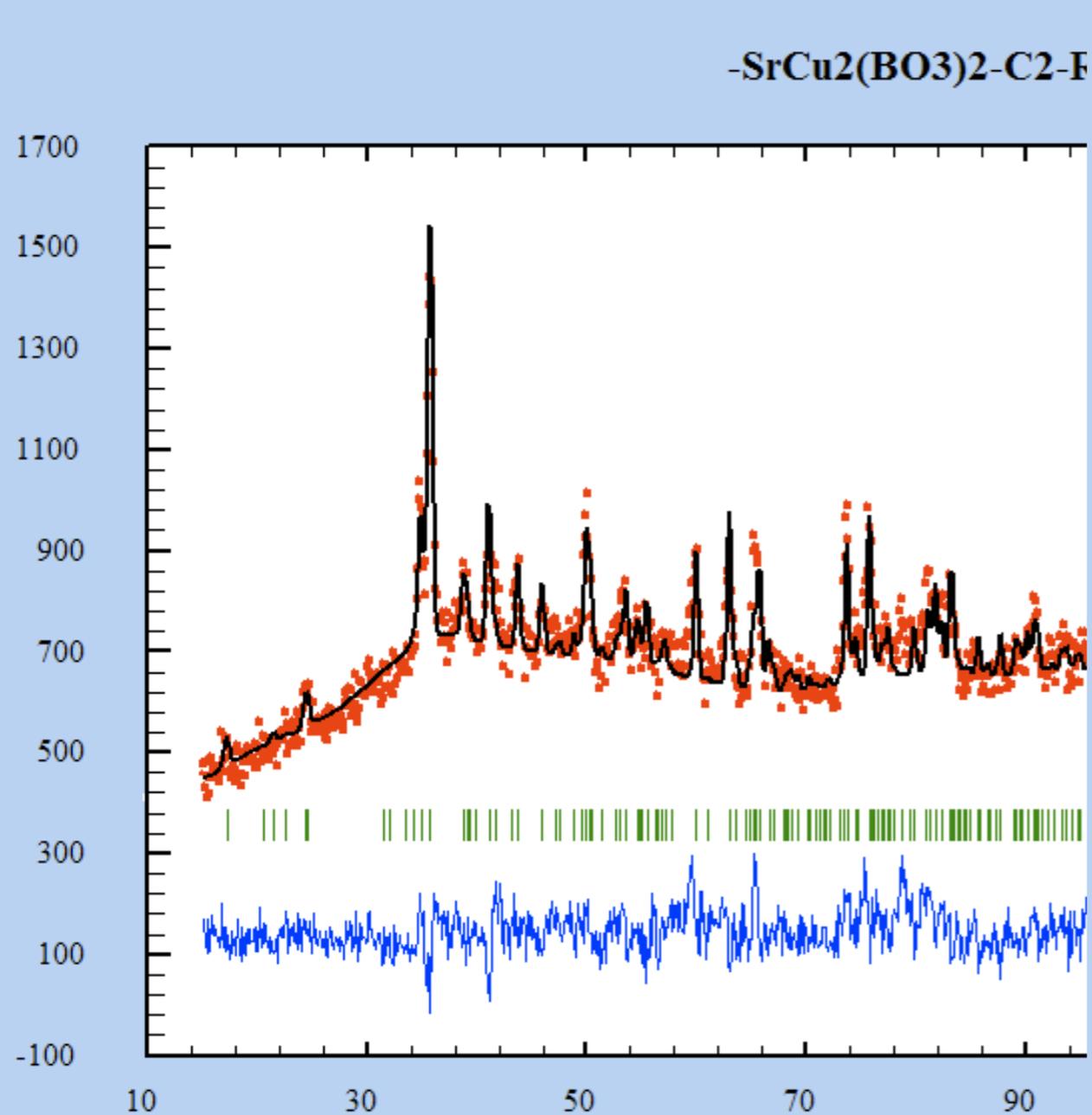
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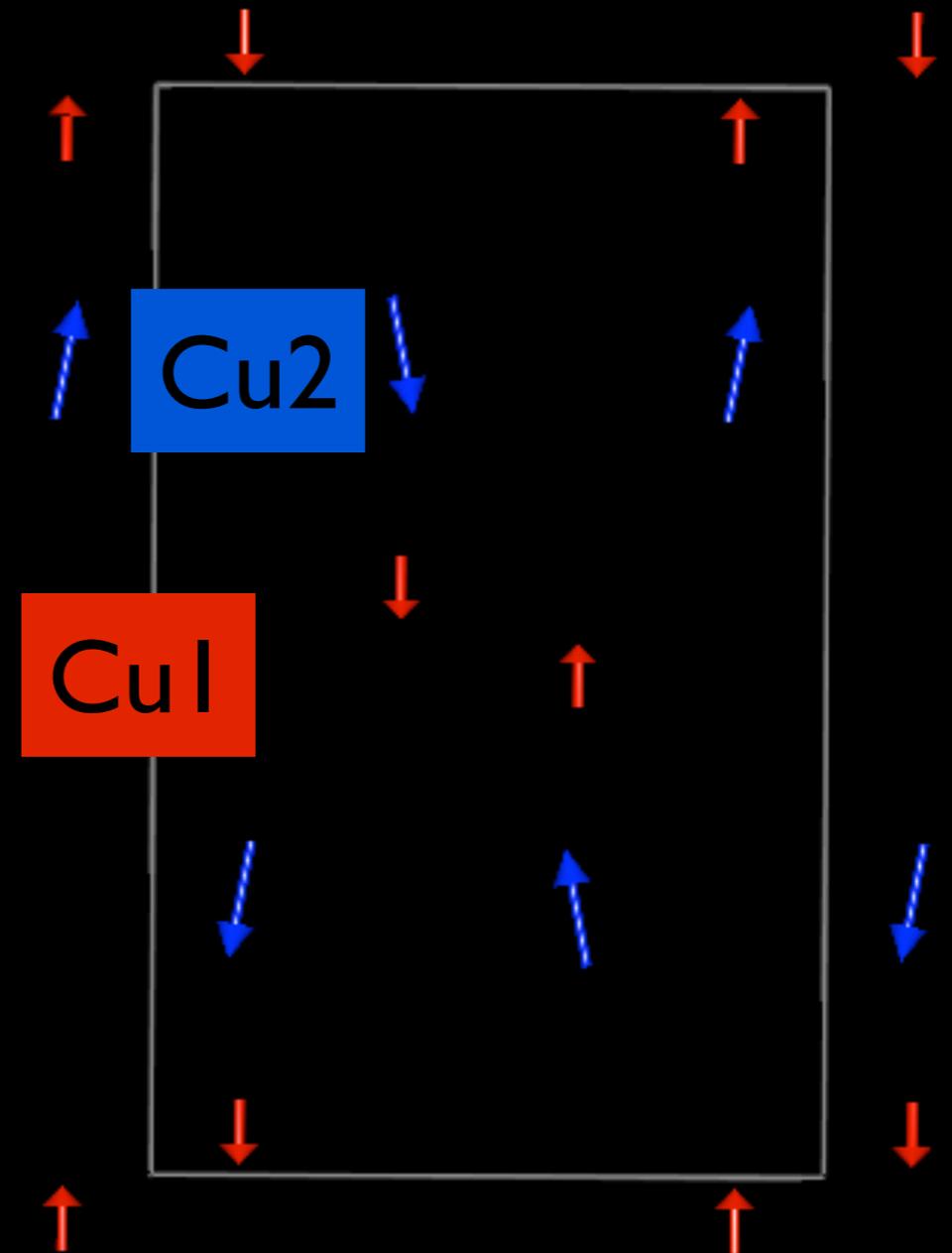
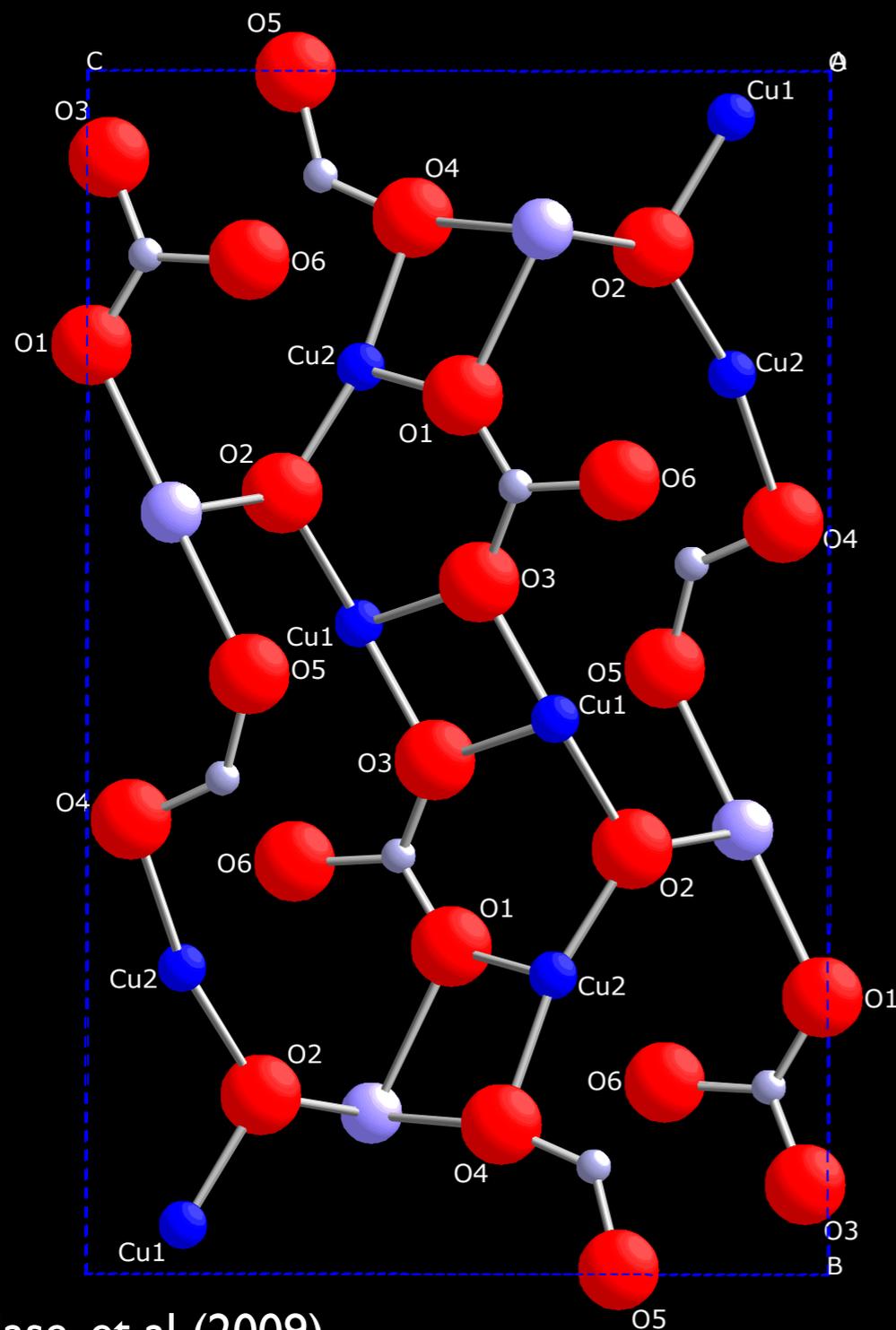
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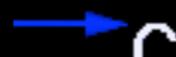


Magnetic structure of $\text{Cu}_2\text{CdB}_2\text{O}_6$ exhibiting a quantum-mechanical magnetization plateau and classical antiferromagnetic long-range order



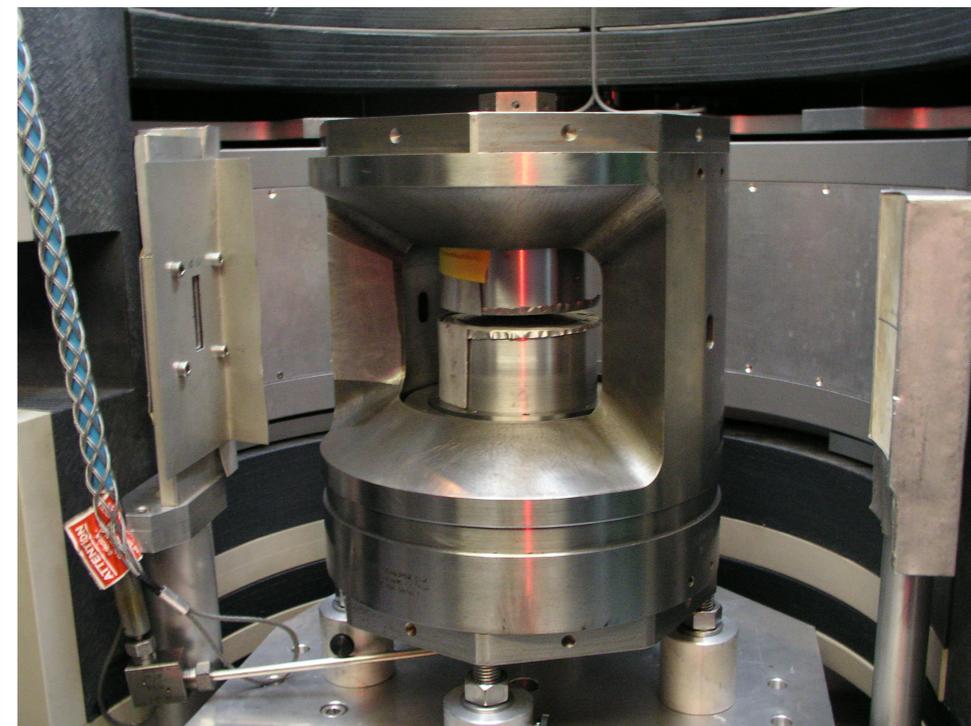
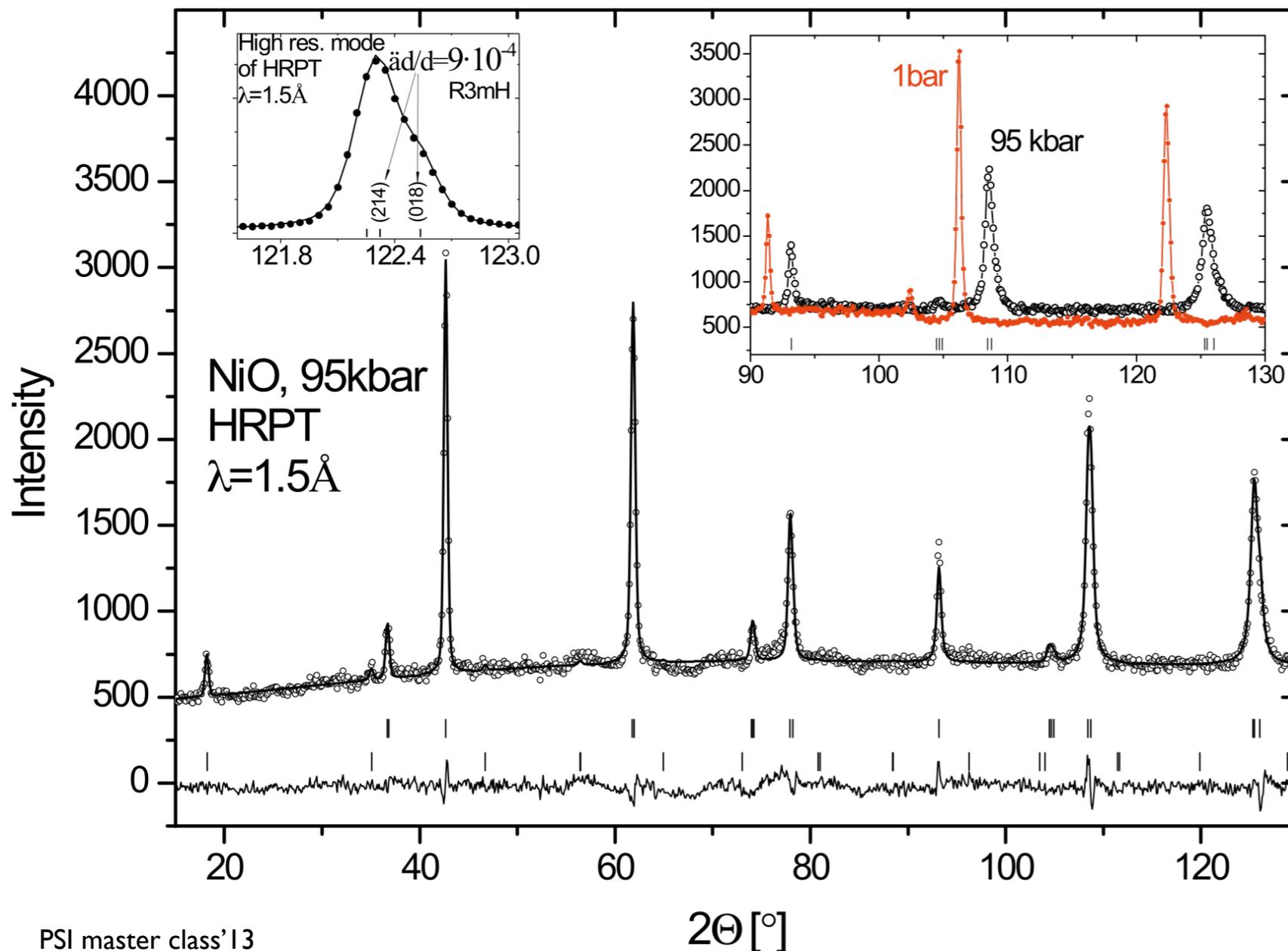
$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{H}) \propto \mathbf{M}_{\perp \text{Cu}} \exp(2\pi i \mathbf{R}_{\text{Cu}} \mathbf{H})$$

M.Hase, et al (2009)



Lattice distortion (0.1%) and magnetic structure in NiO under high pressures (up to 130kbar) at HRPT

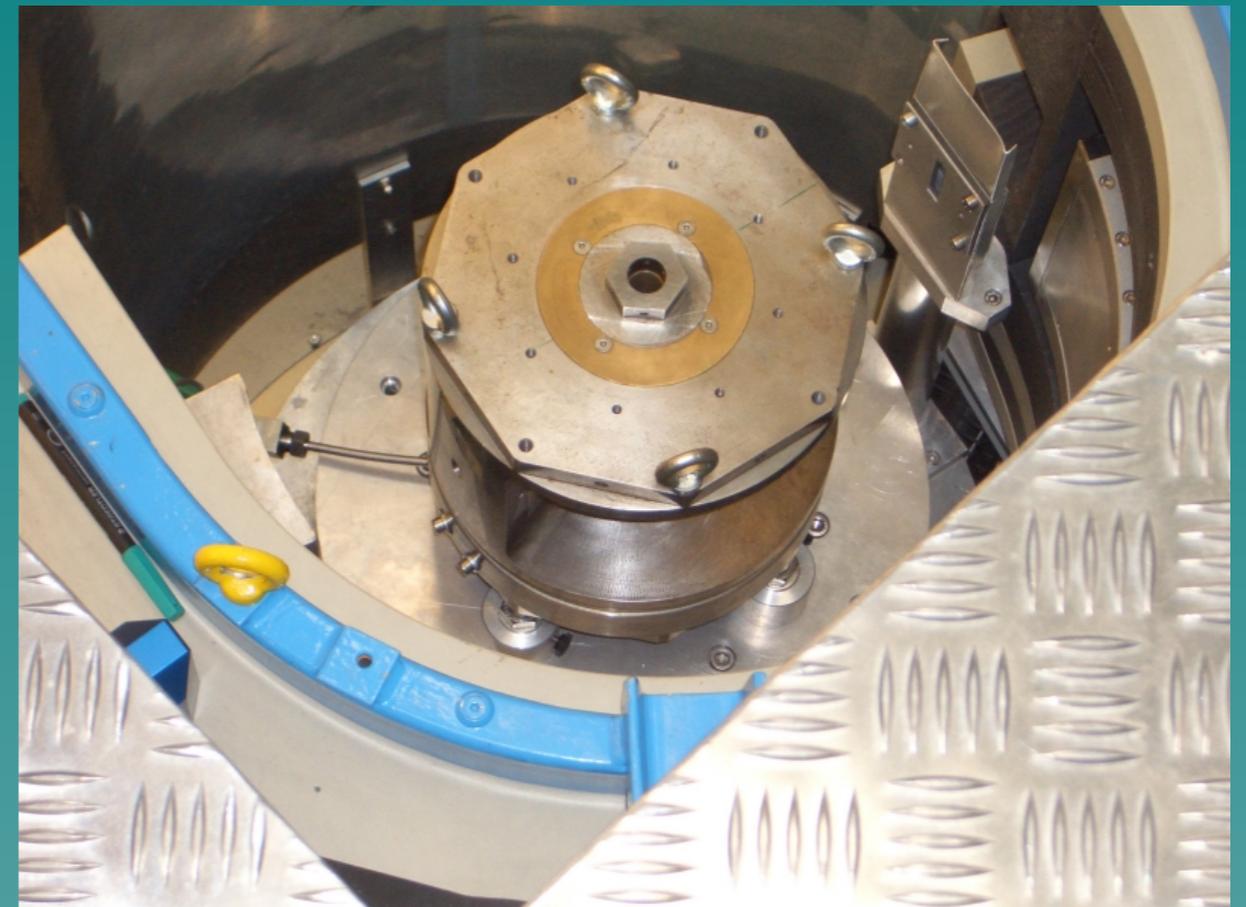
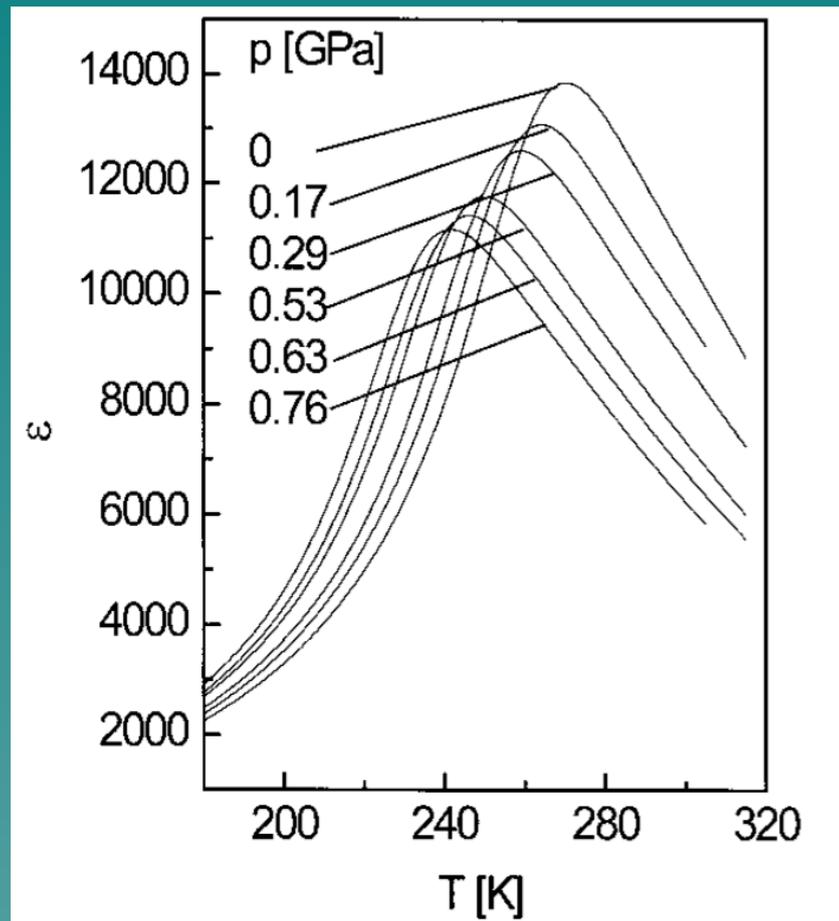
@ p=1bar: $\mu_{\text{Ni}}=1.73(9) \mu_{\text{B}}$, $k = [\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}]$ in $Fm3m$
R3-m: $a=2.9534(2)\text{\AA}$, $\alpha=60.061(2)^\circ$



S. Klotz, Th. Strässle, G. Rousse, G. Hamel, V. Pomjakushin, *APL* 2005.

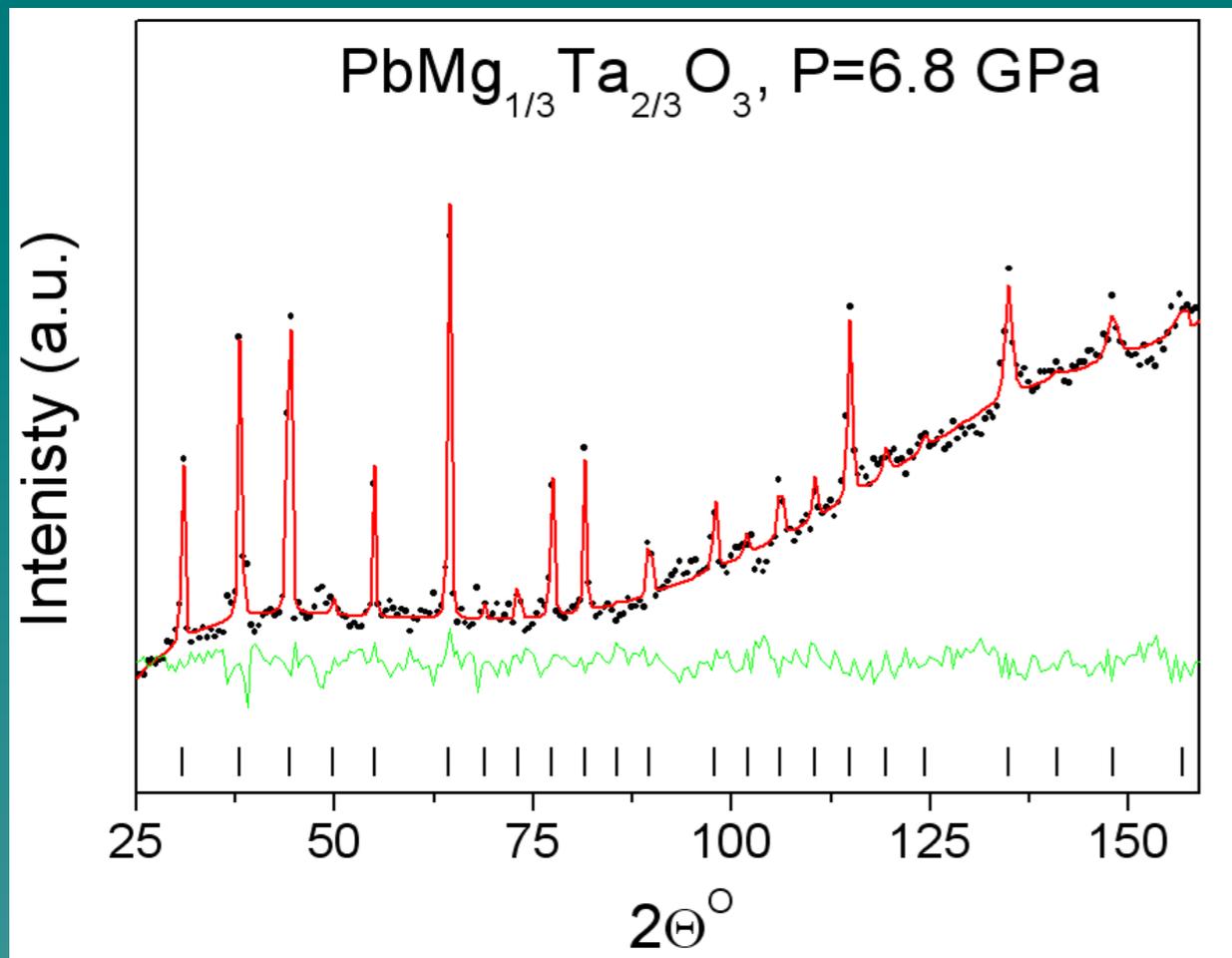
High-pressure studies of $\text{PbMg}_{1/3}\text{Ta}_{2/3}\text{O}_3$ relaxor ferroelectric

S. Gvasaliya, V. Pomjakushin, B. Roessli, Th. Strässle, S. Klotz, S. Lushnikov

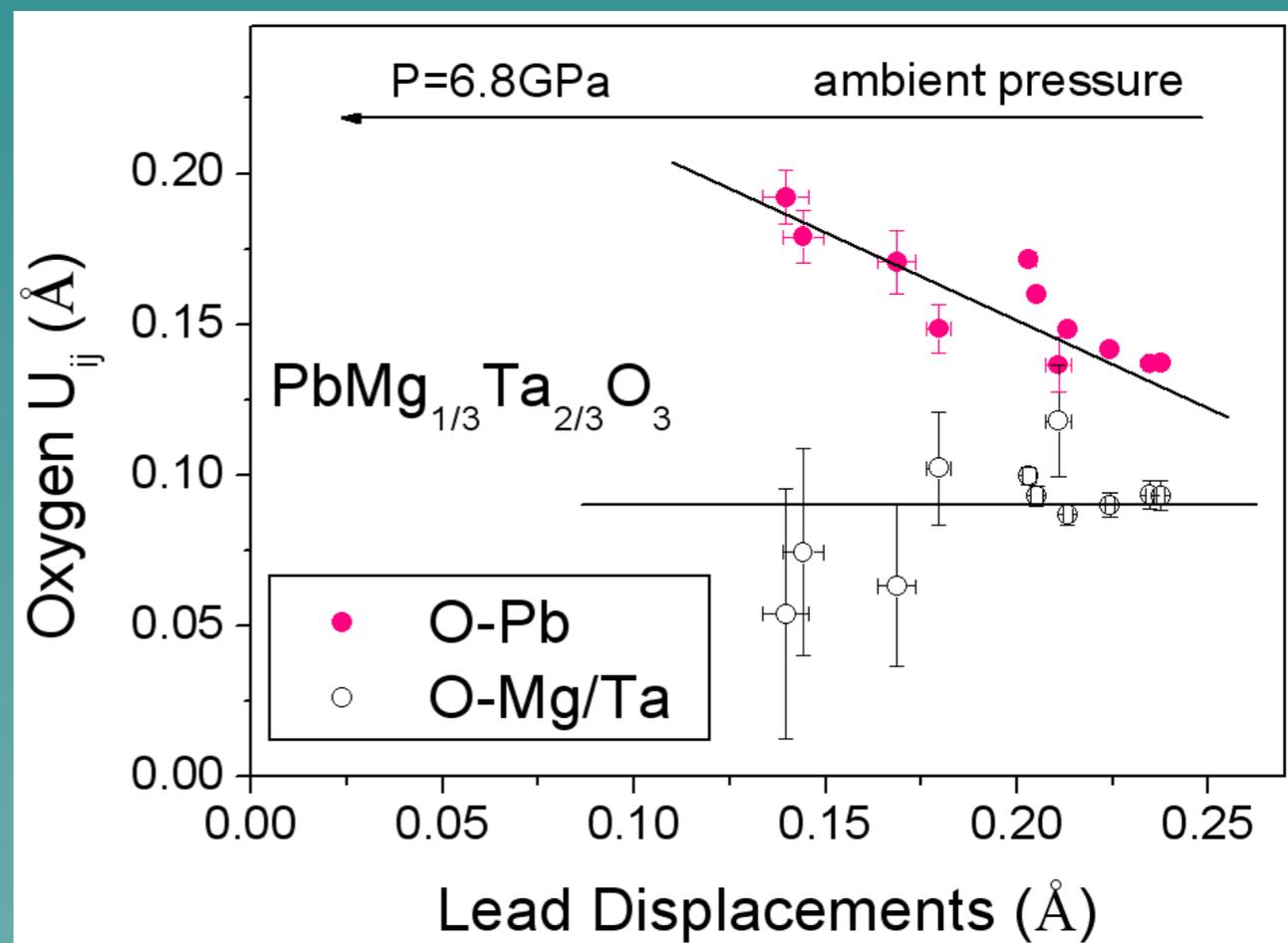
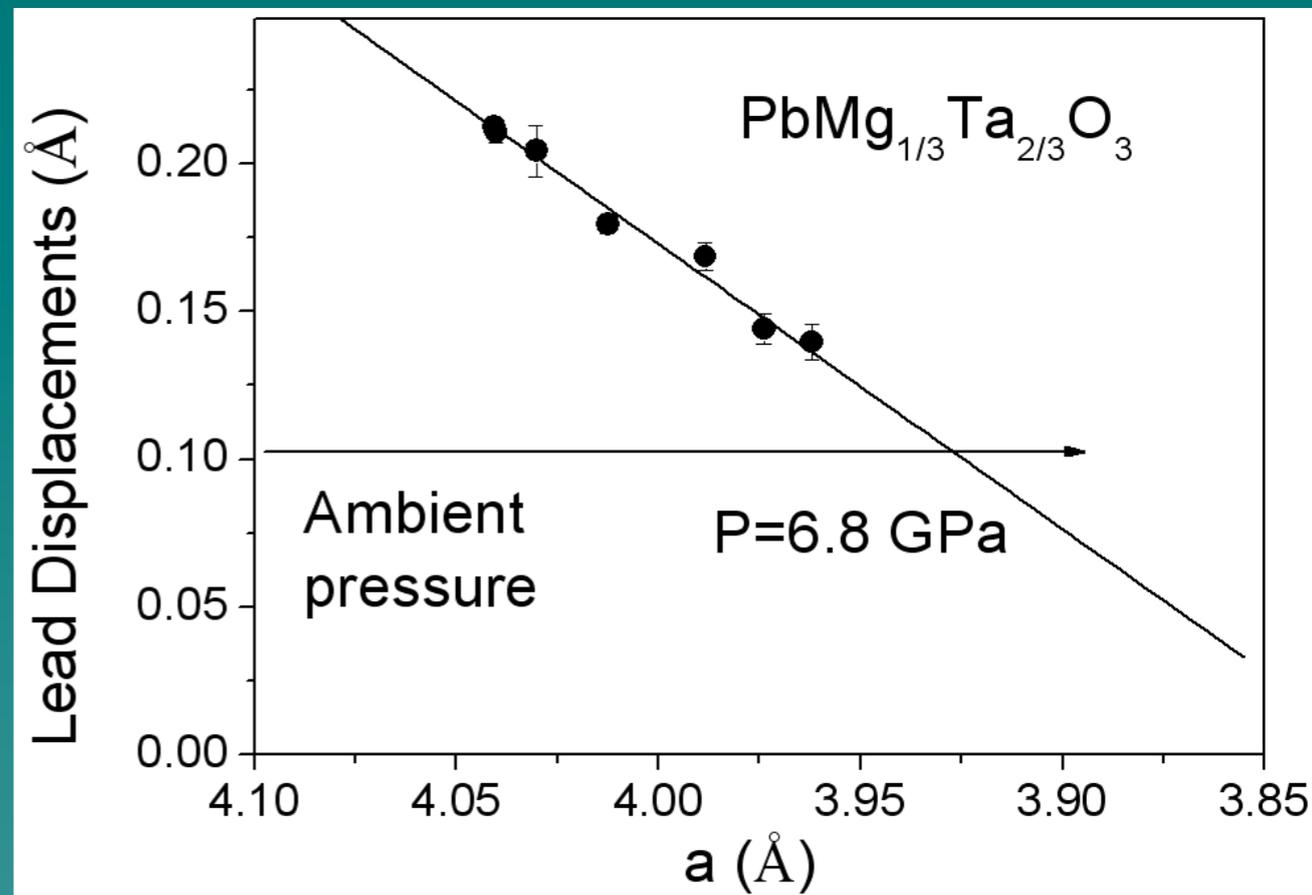


Relaxor ferroelectrics are peculiar crystals where the giant dielectric permittivity appears without structural phase transition. There is no theory which describe their properties. Among other anomalies, there is a suppression of the peak in the dielectric permittivity and of the intensity of diffuse scattering under hydrostatic pressure. In order to understand underlying physics the structure of a model relaxor was studied up to hydrostatic pressure $P \sim 7$ GPa

Photo of a high pressure setup using Paris-Edinburgh pressure cell at HRPT diffractometer. The sample volume is less than 100 mm^3 , approximately two orders of magnitude smaller than in a standard setup.



Observed and calculated diffraction spectrum from $\text{PbMg}_{1/3}\text{Ta}_{2/3}\text{O}_3$. Increased background is probably due to the unmasked part of the steel leg of the pressure cell. The crystal structure remains cubic at all pressures. The important changes are: (i) Reduction of the Lead displacements at increased pressures (ii) Appearance of the anisotropy in the Oxygen thermal motion – its ellipsoid becomes significantly elongated toward the Lead ions. Thus these change are responsible for the suppression of the peak in dielectric permittivity and of the diffuse scattering. Similar behaviors were never reported earlier.



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