

# Neutron scattering at high pressures: opportunities in geology

J. Campo

Aragón Nanoscience and Materials Institute  
Zaragoza, (Spain)

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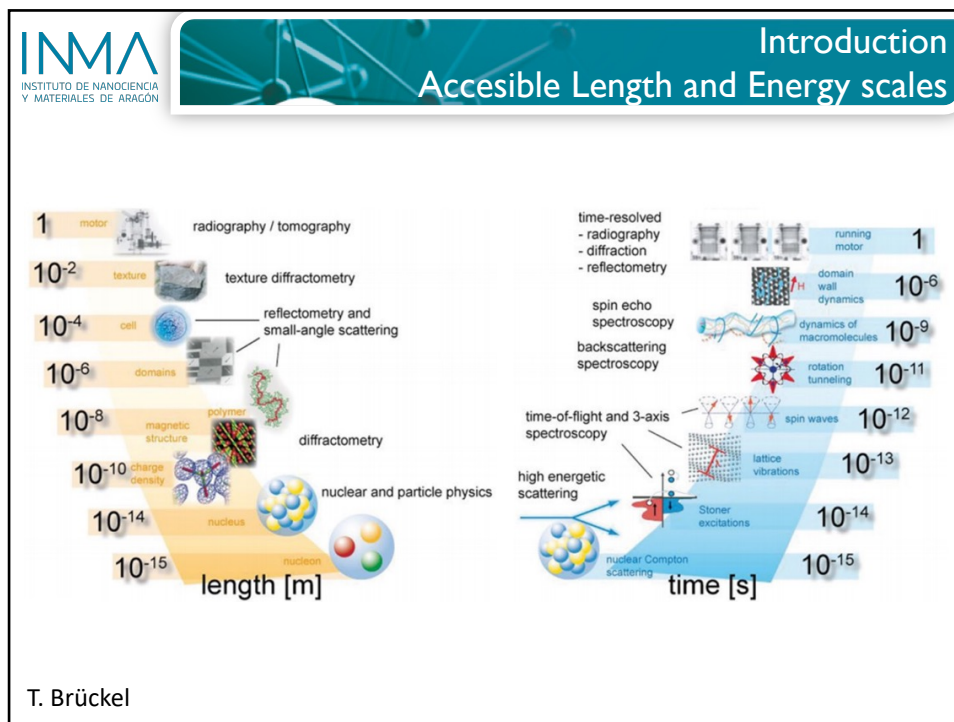
**Universidad Zaragoza**  
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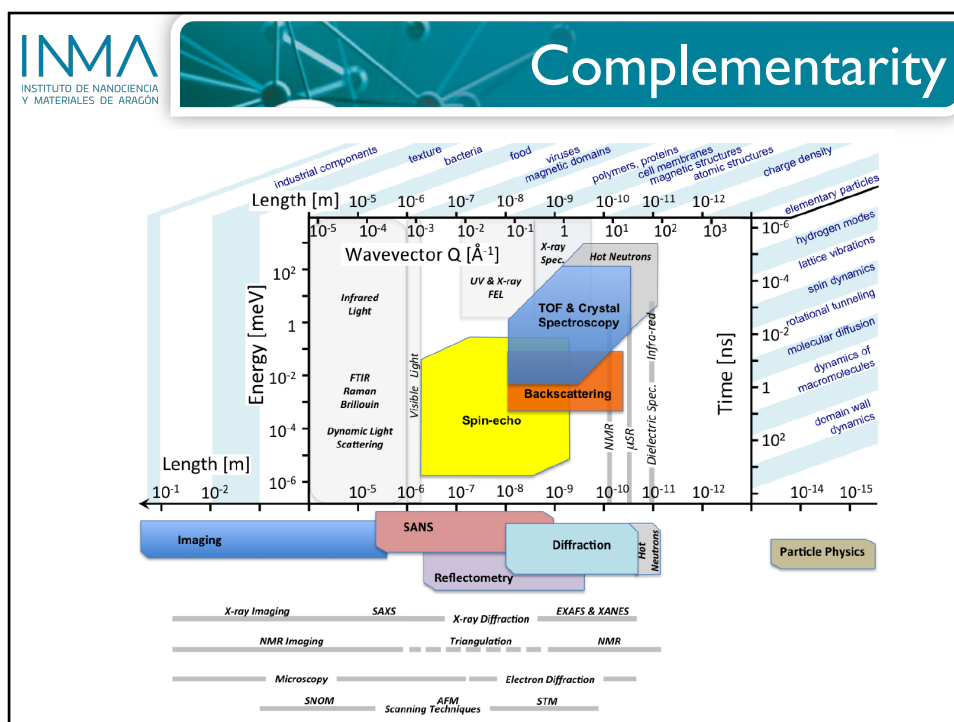
## Outline

- Introduction
- **Basic concepts**
- Instruments
- Examples
- How to apply for beam time

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## Outline

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## Probing the matter

Diagram illustrating the interaction of various probes with matter. The diagram shows a grid of atoms (Nucleus and Electron) and a Surface. The probes and their interactions are:

- Neutron** (red arrows): Nuclear Scattering, Nuclear Interaction, Magnetic Scattering, Dipole-dipole Interaction.
- X Ray** (blue arrows): Electromagnetic Interaction.
- Electron** (yellow arrows): Elastostatic Interaction.

R Pynn

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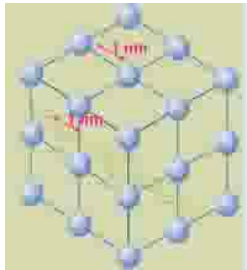
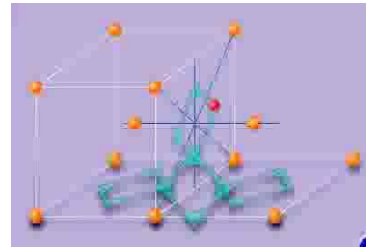


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Basic concepts
Properties

- **Neutrons have similar wavelengths** that the interatomic distances and therefore they can diffract
  - Wide range of wavelengths (0.05 to 20 Å)
  - To observe different length scales

- **Same energy range** that the atomic and electronic processes (meV a eV) with the possibility to detect changes less than  $\mu\text{eV}$ 
  - Tunneling,
  - Rotations
  - Vibrations
  - Electronic Transitions
  - Diffusion.

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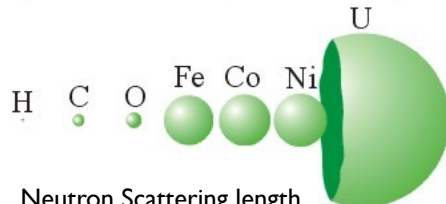


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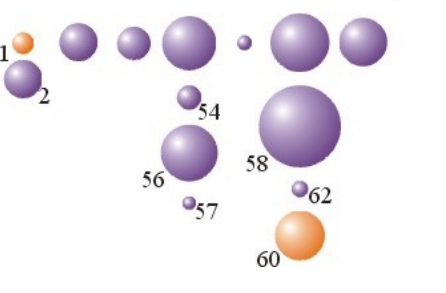
Basic concepts
Properties

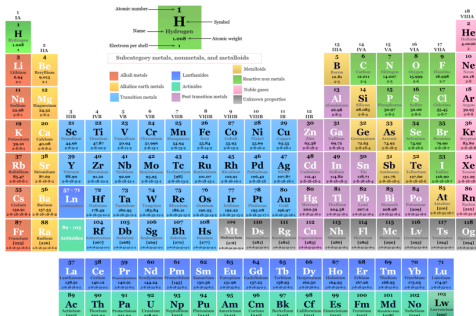
- **The interaction neutron-matter is via nucleus (*strong interaction*) and not with the electronic cloud**
  - Scattering length for atoms does not depend on the atomic number Z
    - Easy to see **light atoms** (H, Li) in presence of heavy atoms
    - Easy to distinguish **next neighbors** atoms in the periodic table

X-rays form factors



Neutron Scattering length



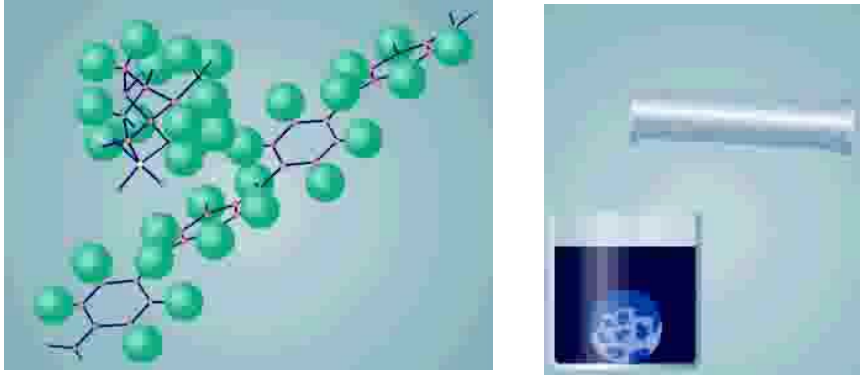


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**Basic concepts**  
Properties

The dependence of the scattering length with the nuclei do that different isotopes of the same element scatter in a very different way (**isotopic substitution and contrast experiments**)



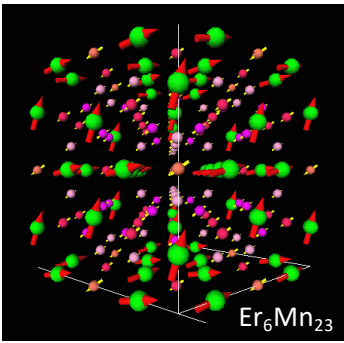
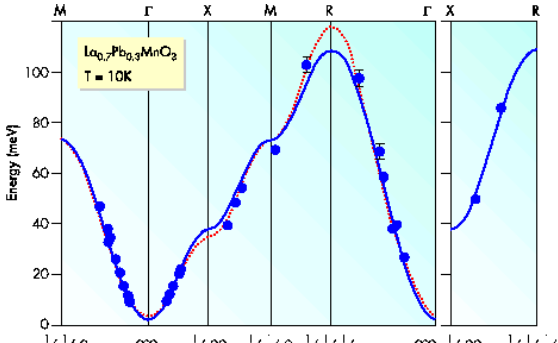
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**Basic concepts**  
Properties

Neutrons carry magnetic moment then they “see” (**via the magnetic dipolar interaction**) the magnetism present in the matter; unpaired electrons, nuclei

- To study magnetic structures
- Magnetic excitations

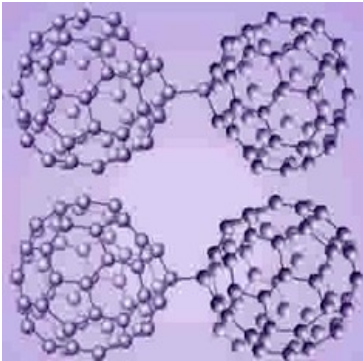
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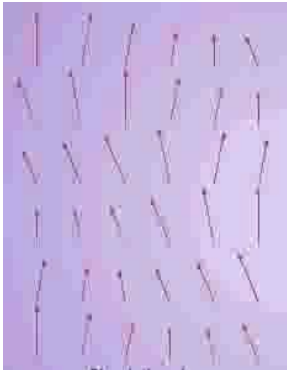
**Basic concepts**  
Properties

- **With neutrons we can measure simultaneously the **structure** and the **dynamics****

**Phonons**



**Magnons**



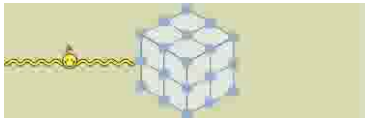
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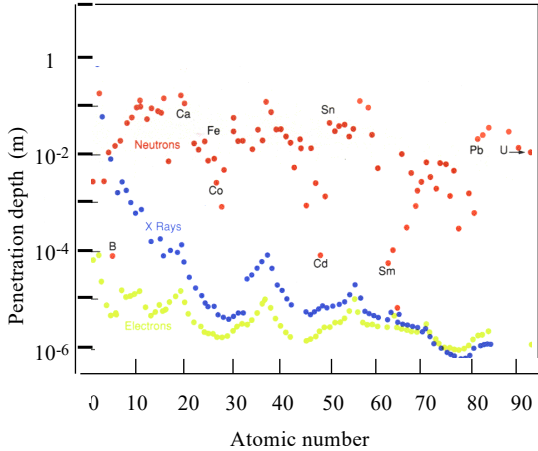
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**Basic concepts**  
Properties

**Penetration. Neutron enters into materials without problems**

- X Ray, EM , optical methods are surface probes.
- Hard exp. conditions
  - Cryostats
  - Furnaces
  - Pression clamps
  - Electrochemical cells
  - Etc...







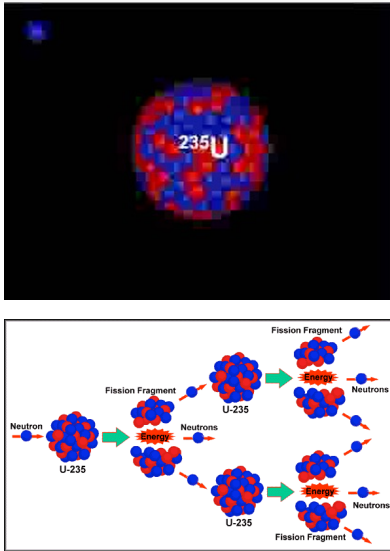
Atomic Number	Neutrons (m)	X Rays (m)	Electrons (m)
0	~0.1	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
10	~0.05	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
20	~0.02	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
30	~0.01	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
40	~0.005	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
50	~0.002	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
60	~0.001	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
70	~0.0005	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
80	~0.0002	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>
90	~0.0001	~10 <sup>-4</sup>	~10 <sup>-5</sup>

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## Basic Concepts

### Neutron production: nuclear reactors

The diagram illustrates the fission process: a neutron strikes a  $^{235}\text{U}$  nucleus, which then splits into two fission fragments, releasing energy and additional neutrons.

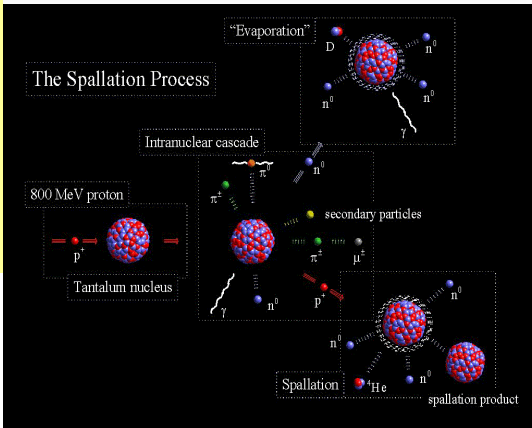
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## Basic Concepts

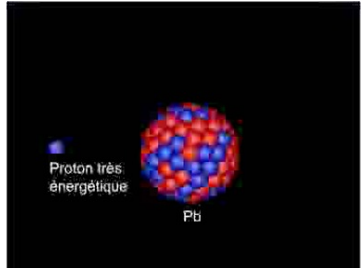
### Neutron production: spallation sources

- $\text{H}^+$  accelerated to 1~5 GeV
- Target W, Pb, Hg...
- Average 20 to 25 neutrons /  $\text{H}^+$
- 50 to 16 Hz Pulses
- Pulse time  $\sim \mu\text{s}$  to ms
- Pulsed Flux  $3.7 \cdot 10^{16} \text{ ns}^{-1}$  (ISIS)



The diagram illustrates the spallation process: an 800 MeV proton strikes a Tantalum nucleus, initiating an intranuclear cascade that produces secondary particles (pions, protons, neutrons). These particles then undergo evaporation and spallation, resulting in various spallation products including neutrons, deuterons, and alpha particles.

- SNS @ ORNL
- ISIS @ United Kingdom
- MLF @ JPARC



Proton très énergétique  
Pb

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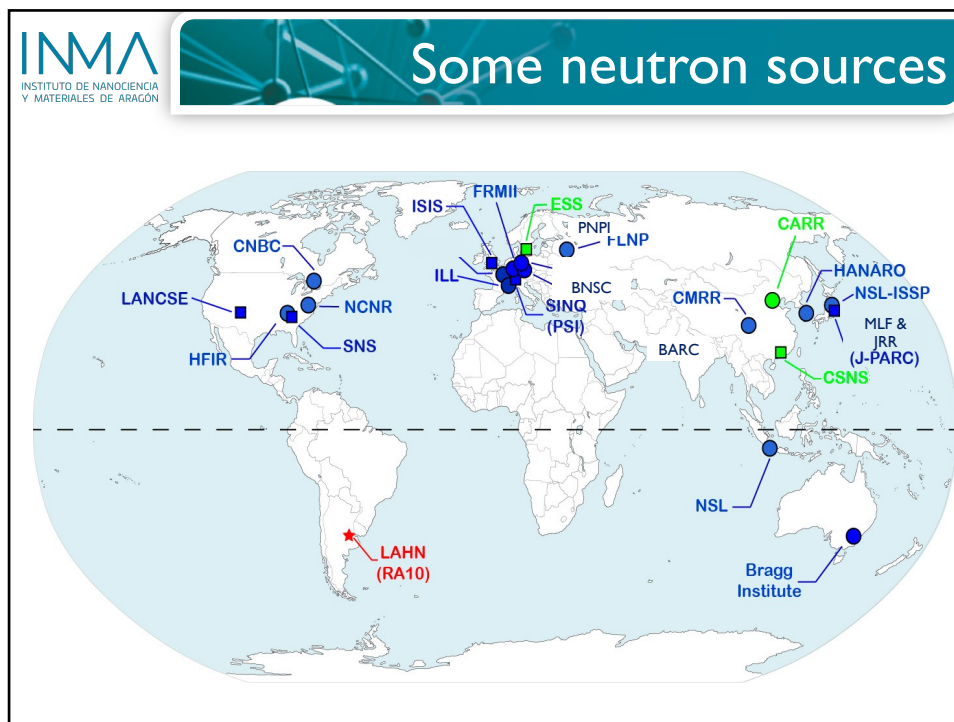




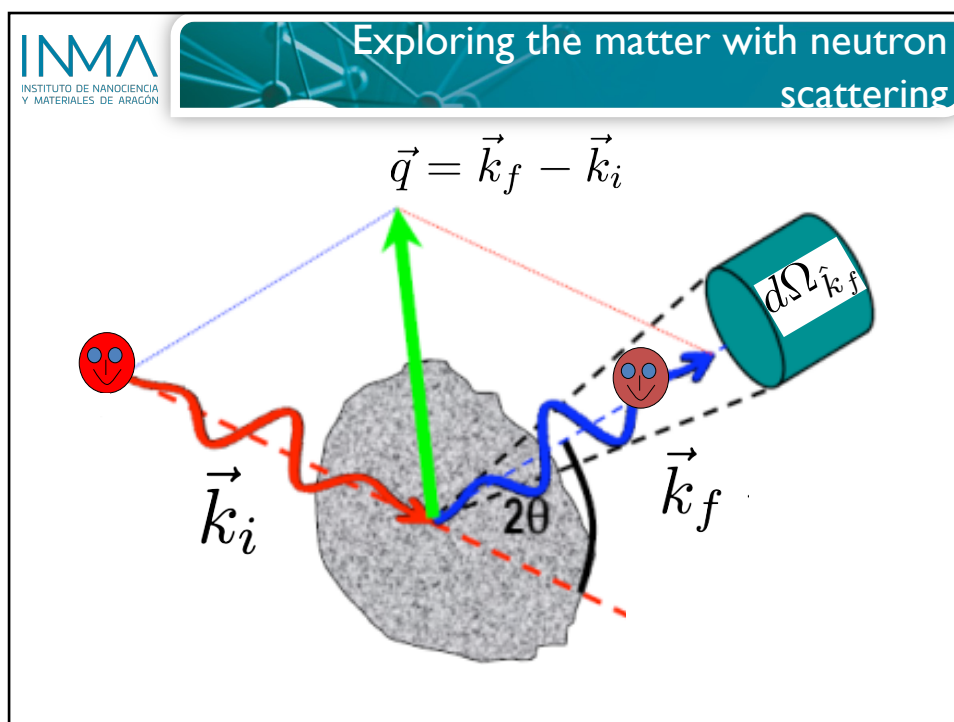
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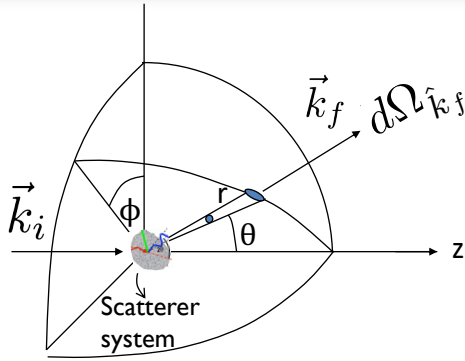


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## Scattering cross section

- **Double partial differential cross section**



Number of scattered neutrons per second in a solid angle  $d\Omega_{\hat{k}_f}$  in the direction given by  $\hat{k}_f$  with final energy between  $E_f$  and  $E_f + dE_f$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega_{\hat{k}_f} dE_f} = \frac{\varphi d\Omega_{\hat{k}_f} dE_f}{\varphi d\Omega_{\hat{k}_f} dE_f}$$

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## Neutron scattering basic theory

- Consideremos un caso en el que la aproximación dipolar es válida y hagamos uso de las expresiones siguientes.

$$\delta(E_{\lambda'} - E_{\lambda} + \hbar\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\{i(E_{\lambda'} - E_{\lambda})t/\hbar\} \exp(-i\omega t) dt$$

$$\langle \exp\{i\mathbf{H}t/\hbar\} | \lambda \rangle = \exp(iE_{\lambda} t/\hbar) | \lambda \rangle$$

- Llegamos a

$$\sum_{\lambda\lambda'} p_{\lambda} \langle \lambda | \exp(-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{l'd'}) \mathbf{J}_{l'd'}^{\alpha} | \lambda' \rangle \langle \lambda' | \exp(i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{ld}) \mathbf{J}_{ld}^{\beta} | \lambda \rangle \delta(E_{\lambda} - E_{\lambda'} + \hbar\omega)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle \exp\{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{l'd'}(t)\} \mathbf{J}_{l'd'}^{\alpha}(0) \exp\{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{ld}(t)\} \mathbf{J}_{ld}^{\beta}(t) \exp(-i\omega t) dt$$

- Y la sección eficaz

$$\left( \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} \right) = \frac{(r_0)^2 k'}{2\pi\hbar k} \sum_{\alpha\beta} (\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{k}_{\alpha} \hat{k}_{\beta}) \sum_{l'd'} \sum_{ld} \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_{l'd'} F_{d'}^*(\mathbf{k}) F_d(\mathbf{k}) \times$$

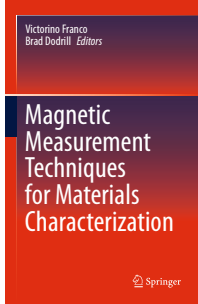
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle \exp\{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{l'd'}(0)\} \exp\{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{ld}(t)\} \rangle \langle \mathbf{J}_{l'd'}^{\alpha}(0) \mathbf{J}_{ld}^{\beta}(t) \rangle \exp(-i\omega t) dt$$

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## Bibliography

- G. L. Squires, “*Thermal neutron scattering*”, Cambridge University Press, 1978
- S.W. Lovesey, “*Theory of neutron scattering from Condensed Matter*”, Vol I y II Oxford University Press, 1986
- Javier Campo and Víctor Laliena “*Neutron Scattering in Magnetism: Fundamentals and Examples*” [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-70443-8\\_14](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-70443-8_14)



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## Diffraction


### Structure factors

$$I(\vec{q}) = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{V_0} \sum_{\vec{H}} \delta(\vec{H} - \vec{q}) |N_{\vec{q}}|^2$$

← Diffraction

$$N_{\vec{q}} = \sum_d \Psi_d e^{i2\pi\vec{q} \cdot \vec{r}_d} e^{-W_d(\vec{q})}$$

← Nuclear Structure factor



$$\Psi_d(\vec{q}) = b_d$$

← Neutrons Scattering length

$$V_d(\vec{r}_d) = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m} b_d \delta(\vec{r}_d)$$

$$\Psi_d(\vec{q}) = f_d(\vec{q})$$

← XR Form factors

$$V_d(\vec{r}_d) \propto \rho_d(\vec{r}_d)$$

← Debye-Waller factor

$$W_d(\vec{q}) = \langle \{\vec{q} \cdot \vec{u}_d(0)\}^2 \rangle$$

$$T_d(\vec{q}) = e^{-W_d(\vec{q})}$$

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## General expression for NON polarised neutrons in crystals

**Nuclear structure factor**

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{coh}}^{(n,e)}}{d\Omega_{\hat{k}_f}} = \frac{N_c}{V} \sum_{\vec{H}} \delta(\vec{q} - \vec{H}) |N_{\vec{q}}|^2. \quad N_{\vec{q}} = \sum_d^{N_{\text{uc}}} b_d T_d(\vec{q}) e^{i2\pi\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}_d}$$

**Magnetic Interaction Vector**

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{coh}}^{(m,e)}}{d\Omega_{\hat{k}_f}} = \frac{N_c}{V} \sum_{\vec{H}, \vec{K}} \delta(\vec{q} - \vec{H} - \vec{K}) |\vec{M}_{\perp\vec{q}}|^2 \quad \vec{M}_{\perp\vec{q}} = \hat{q} \times (\vec{M}_{\vec{q}\vec{K}} \times \hat{q})$$

$$I_{\vec{q}} = |N_{\vec{q}}|^2 + |\vec{M}_{\perp\vec{q}}|^2$$

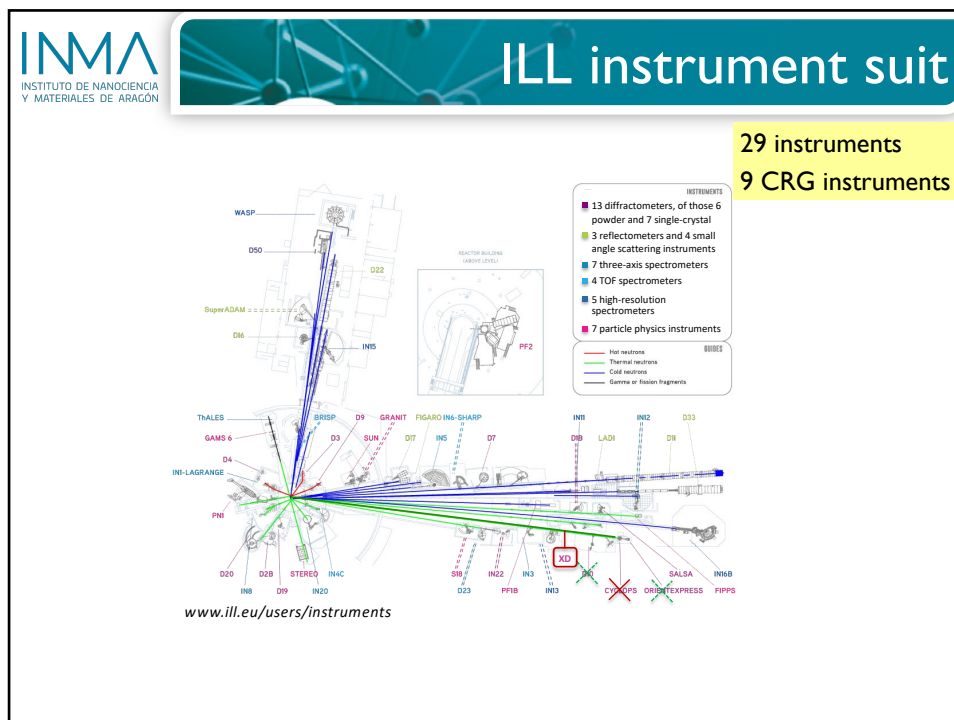
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## Spanish instruments at the ILL: XtremeD and DIB

Two Spanish instruments at the ILL (**XtremeD** and **DIB**)  
where we could perform “high pressure” experiments

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## In brief



### In brief

A **dedicated** diffractometer optimized for extreme conditions (**high P, high H**, low and high T) but with **flexibility** to accommodate a broad range of studies

Technically:  
A flexible **powder diffractometer** with **single crystal capabilities**, with a variable **focused beam** on the sample, optimized signal/background ratio, **big solid angle** position-sensitive **detector**, and dedicated sample environment

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## What is around?

### How XtremeD compares?

**In the general diffraction context:**

- Less P than X-ray but essential for **light elements**, contrast, 'high quality' crystallography and **magnetism**

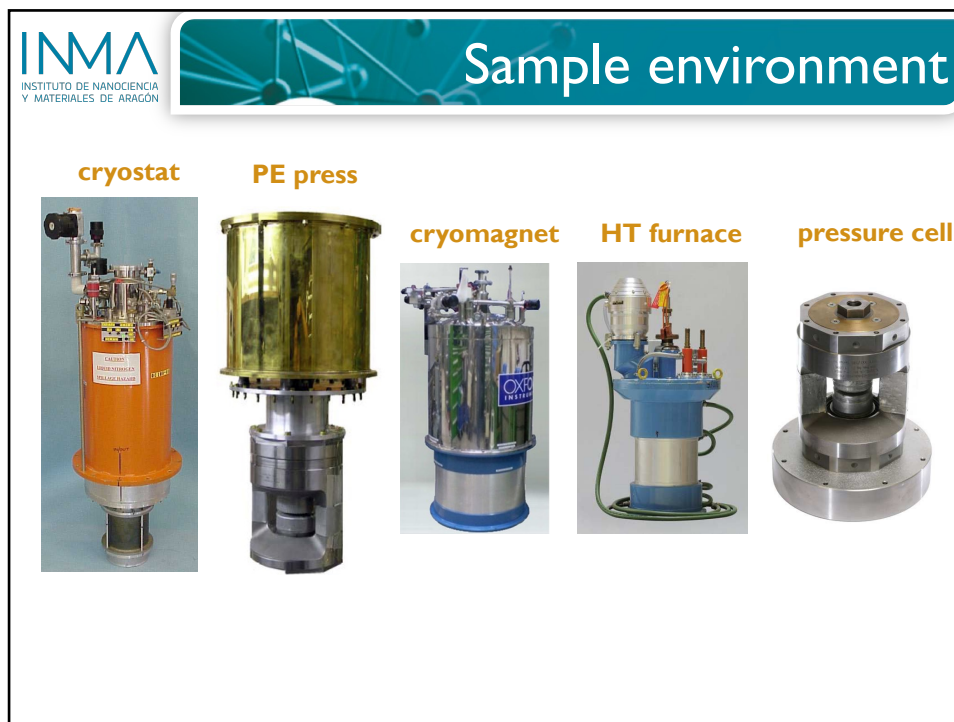
**In the neutron facilities context:**

- High intensity at low Q (w.r.t. most short pulse spallation instruments)
- Extended H & P range and **combination** of both parameters
- Both powders & single crystals
- Flexibility

**In ILL's context:**

- **Dedicated**
- Flux ~D20 but better signal to noise ratio and bigger solid angle
- Only single Xtal diffractometer at ILL with large 2D detector + high H (D19: space restrictions for high magnetic fields)

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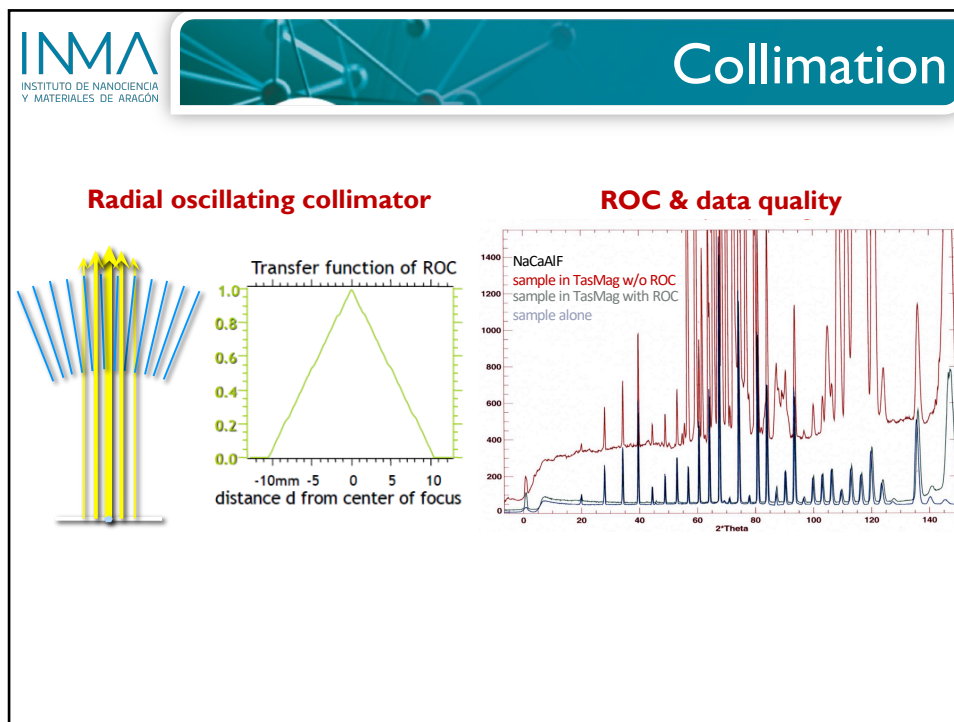


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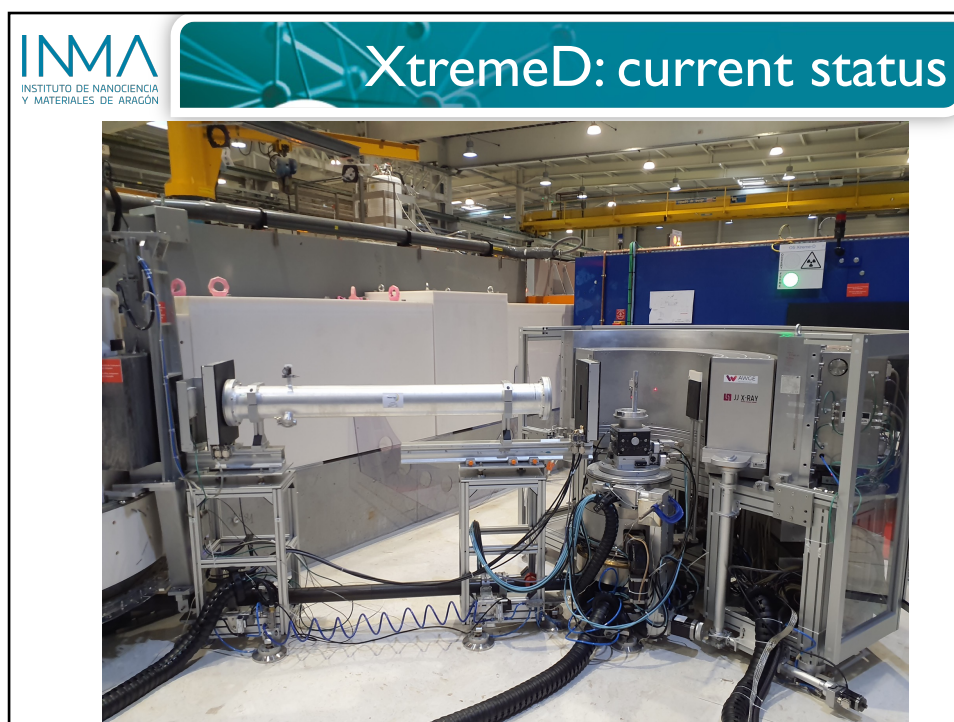


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# First neutrons

**April 17, 2023**




XtremeD Trench-MWPC detector  
NAC (NaCaAlF) powder sample - Projected 1D profile - 17/04/2023

Integrated intensity (a.u.)

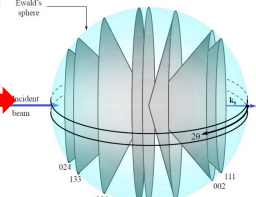
Detector channel angle (°)



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# Powder diffraction



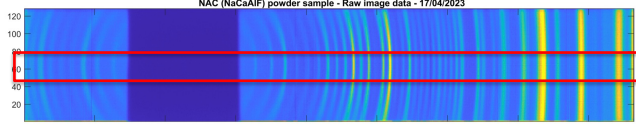
Ewald's sphere

incident beam

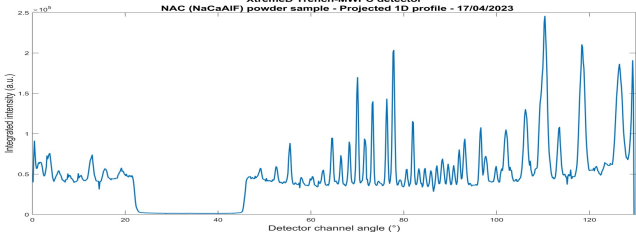
reflected beam

024, 133, 004, 222, 113, 022, 011, 002

**Powder data: 2D detector view**



XtremeD Trench-MWPC detector  
NAC (NaCaAlF) powder sample - Raw image data - 17/04/2023

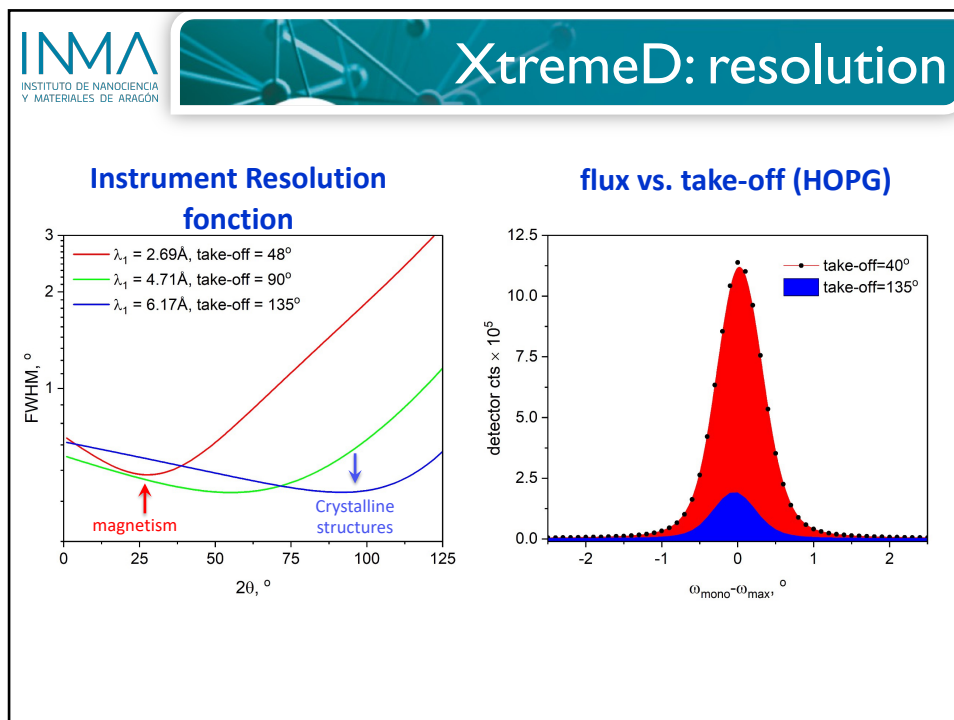


XtremeD Trench-MWPC detector  
NAC (NaCaAlF) powder sample - Projected 1D profile - 17/04/2023

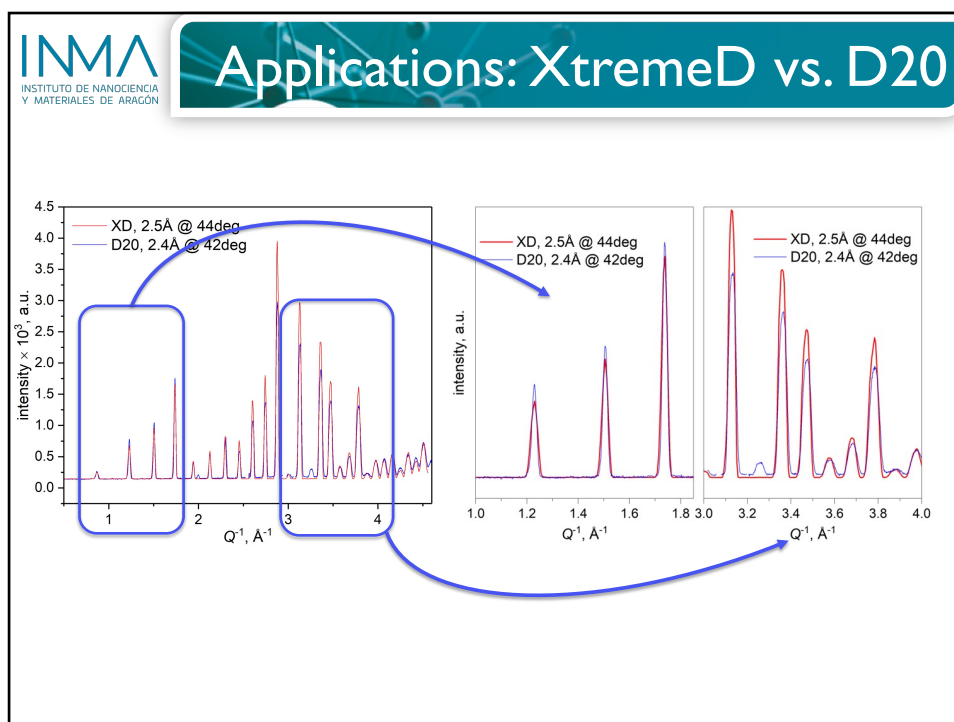
Integrated intensity (a.u.)

Detector channel angle (°)

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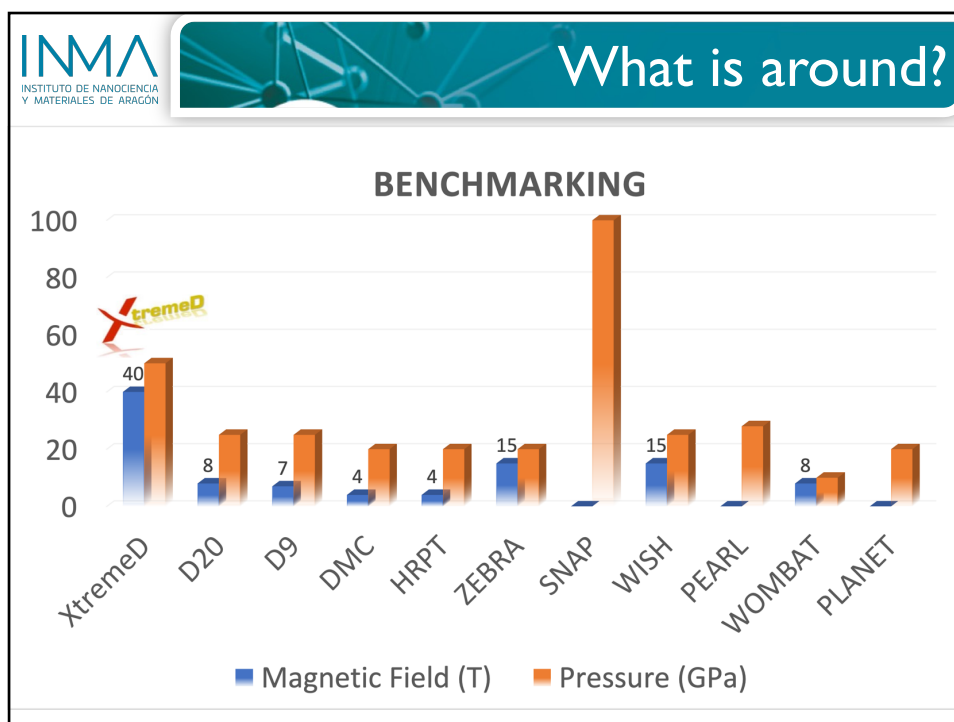
## Xtal diffraction

**2D detector frame sequence**

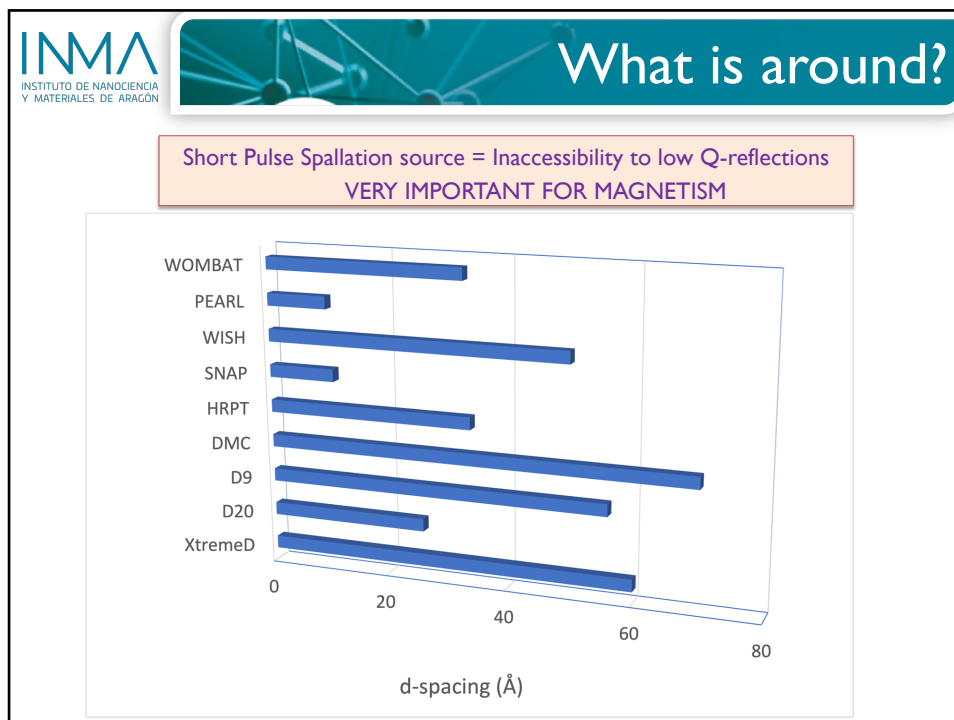
**reciprocal space**

The diagram illustrates the X-ray diffraction setup. An incident beam (red arrow) passes through a sample (red dot) and is diffracted (orange arrows). The detector (grey) is positioned at an angle  $2\theta$  from the incident beam. The beam stop (grey) is positioned to block the direct beam. The detector shows a sequence of 2D diffraction patterns (blue background with yellow spots) in reciprocal space. The detector is labeled "2D detector frame sequence". Below the detector, a 3D visualization of the reciprocal space is shown as a cluster of green dots.

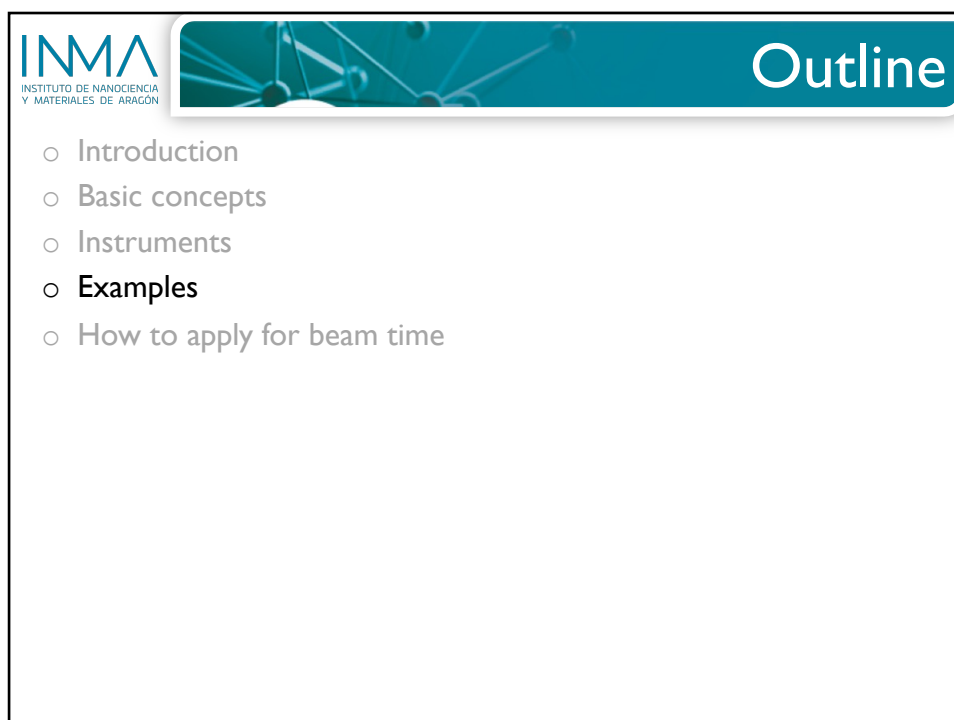
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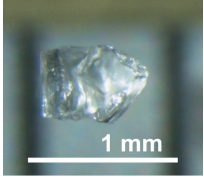
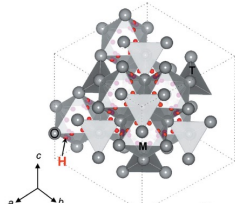
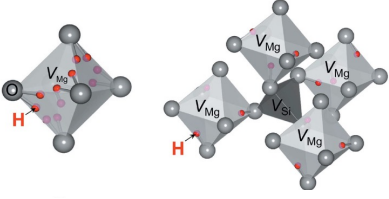
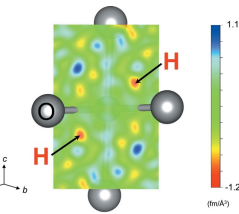
**Ringwoodite  $[(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})_2\text{SiO}_4 \text{ spinel}]$**

**research papers**

**Acta Cryst B** STRUCTURAL SCIENCE  
CRYSTAL ENGINEERING  
MATERIALS  
ISSN 2052-5206

**Determination of hydrogen site and occupancy in hydrous  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$  spinel by single-crystal neutron diffraction**

Narangoo Purevjav,<sup>a\*</sup> Takuo Okuchi,<sup>a</sup> Xiaoping Wang,<sup>b</sup> Christina Hoffmann<sup>b</sup> and Naotaka Tomioka<sup>a</sup>

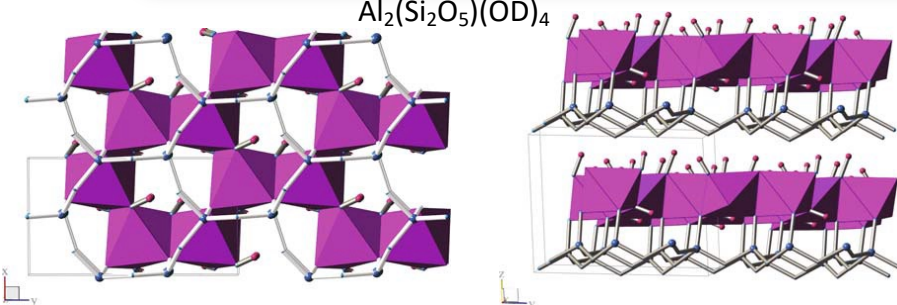
Refined crystal structure of hydrous ringwoodite along  $[111]$  and hydrogen sites in a vacant Mg site.

The most plausible model ( $3\text{H}^+$  at  $192i$  sites within an Mg-vacant octahedron)

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**Kaolinite  $[\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)(\text{OD})_4]$**



$\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)(\text{OD})_4$

Crystal structure of kaolinite as refined from neutron diffraction. Layer slab with the  $[\text{AlO}_6]$ -octahedra in dark shading showing hydroxyl terminations between layers (left) and the excess hydroxyl between tetrahedral silicate layer and those oxygens that are not charge balanced (right) are shown.

**Neutrons clearly identify the location of the protons**

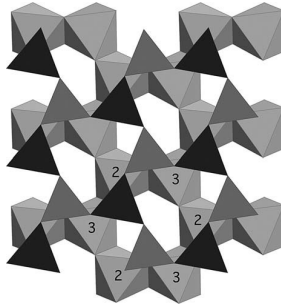
E. Akiba, et al. Clays Clay Miner. 45, 781 (1997)

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## Cation order-disorder

- **Cation order-disorder** in Olivines and Spinels at high temperature
  - Fe-Ni, Mn-Fe, Mg-Al, Ni-Mn, Ni-Mg, etc...
- **Mg/Al Ordering** in Dioctahedral Micas
  - $K_{0.9}[Mg_{0.58}Al_{1.43}][Si_{3.57}Al_{0.43}]O_{10}(OH)_2$
- **Al/Si and Mg/Al ordering** in high-temperature amphibole
  - $NaCa_2[Mg_4Al][Si_6Al_2]O_{22}(OH)_2$




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## other

- **Mechanical Behavior of Geological Materials**
  - if the deformation experiment is performed on a neutron beam line, the deformation behavior within the sample can be monitored as it is being deformed from diffraction patterns collected at different stages of the deformation
- **Texture determination**
  - neutron texture goniometry affords true volume texture measurements of relatively large (up to several  $cm^3$ ) isometric samples

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## High Pressure

# What would be the *neutrons at HP* contribution?

The study of these systems implies systematic studies of **hydrogen bonding and clustering, host-guest interactions in clathrate hydrates, the role of water in crystals and cation order disorder phase transitions.**

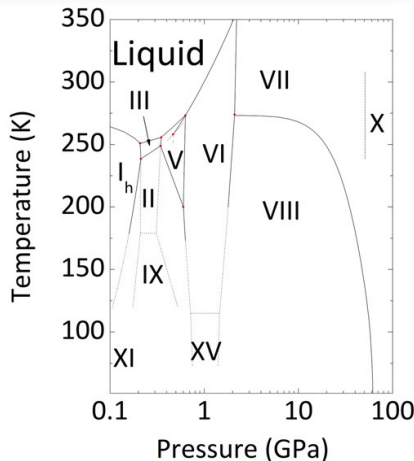
- Planetary ices (water, methane, ammonia) and clathrates
- Segregation and related phenomena in water solutions at extreme conditions
- Mineral hydration: implications for the water cycle in Earth crust and mantle
- Hydrothermal reactions
- Cation order-disorder

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## High Pressure

Simple molecules	D <sub>2</sub> O, D <sub>2</sub> , NH <sub>3</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub>
Larger molecules	KDP
Hydrides	MgH <sub>2</sub> , gamma-CoH, MgD <sub>2</sub> : TiD <sub>2</sub> mixture, Fe hydrides, LiD, NaD, AlD <sub>3</sub>
perovskite hydrides	Na <sub>1-x</sub> Li <sub>x</sub> MgH <sub>3</sub> , the ternary hydrides Mg <sub>2</sub> NiH <sub>4</sub> hydride and Mg <sub>3</sub> CuH <sub>x</sub> , Laves phase hydrides
Hydroxides	MOH family (M = Li, Na, K, ...), M(OH) <sub>2</sub> hydroxides (M = Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cd, Mg and Ca)



Currently 16 distinct crystalline phases of ice have been measured experimentally.

Pruzan P 1998 The Phase Diagram of H<sub>2</sub>O

Guthrie, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 27 (2015) 153201

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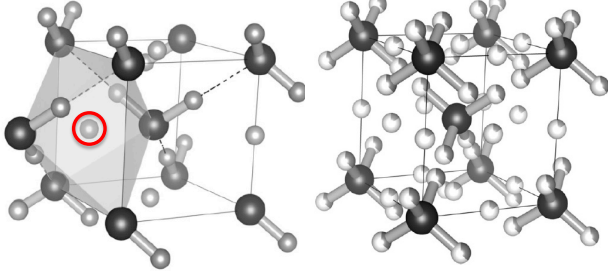
## Hydrogen atoms

**PNAS** Neutron diffraction observations of interstitial protons in dense ice

Malcolm Guthrie<sup>a,1</sup>, Reinhard Boehler<sup>a</sup>, Christopher A. Tulk<sup>b</sup>, Jamie J. Molaison<sup>b</sup>, António M. dos Santos<sup>b</sup>, Kuo Li<sup>c</sup>, and Russell J. Hemley<sup>a,1</sup>

### Location of hydrogen atoms

25-50 GPa  
RT



Dense ices:

- Starting of the destabilisation of water molecule.
- This phase, precursor of superionic behaviour (ice X)?
- Intermediate dissociation, with **H** occupying of interstitial sites

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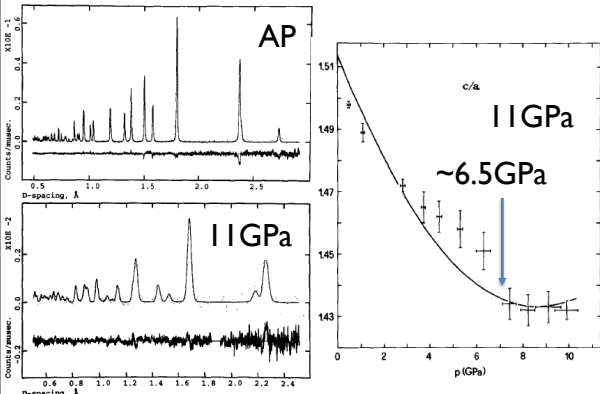
## Phase transformations

### Static Compression and H Disorder in Brucite, $Mg(OH)_2$ , to 11 GPa: a Powder Neutron Diffraction Study

M. Catti<sup>1</sup>, G. Ferraris<sup>2</sup>, S. Hull<sup>3</sup>, A. Pavese<sup>4</sup>

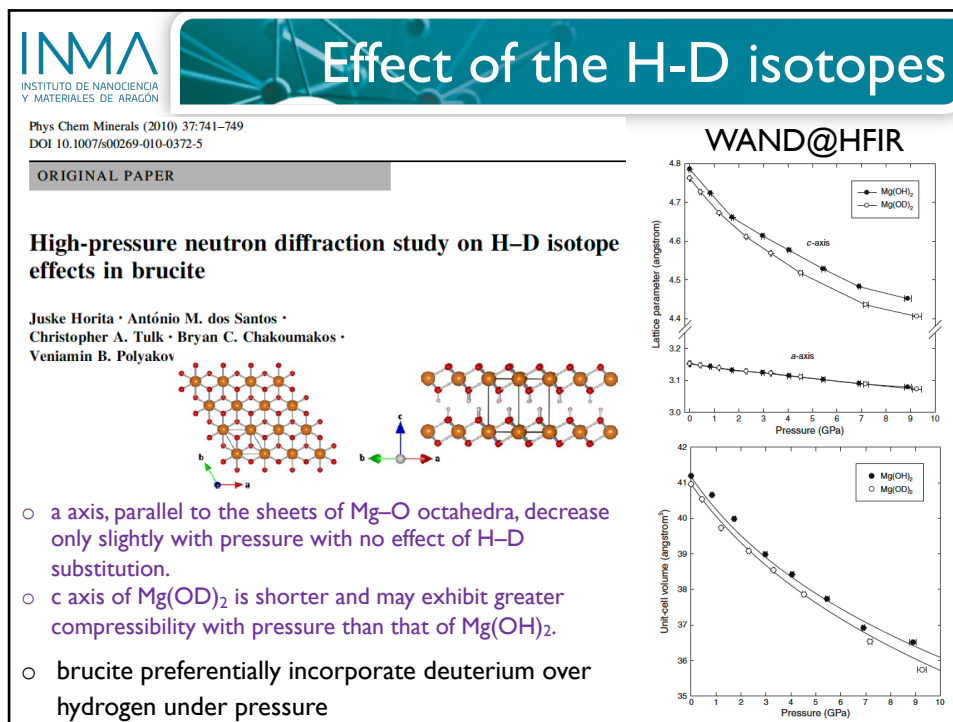
**PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY OF MINERALS**  
© Springer-Verlag 1995

Polaris @ISIS

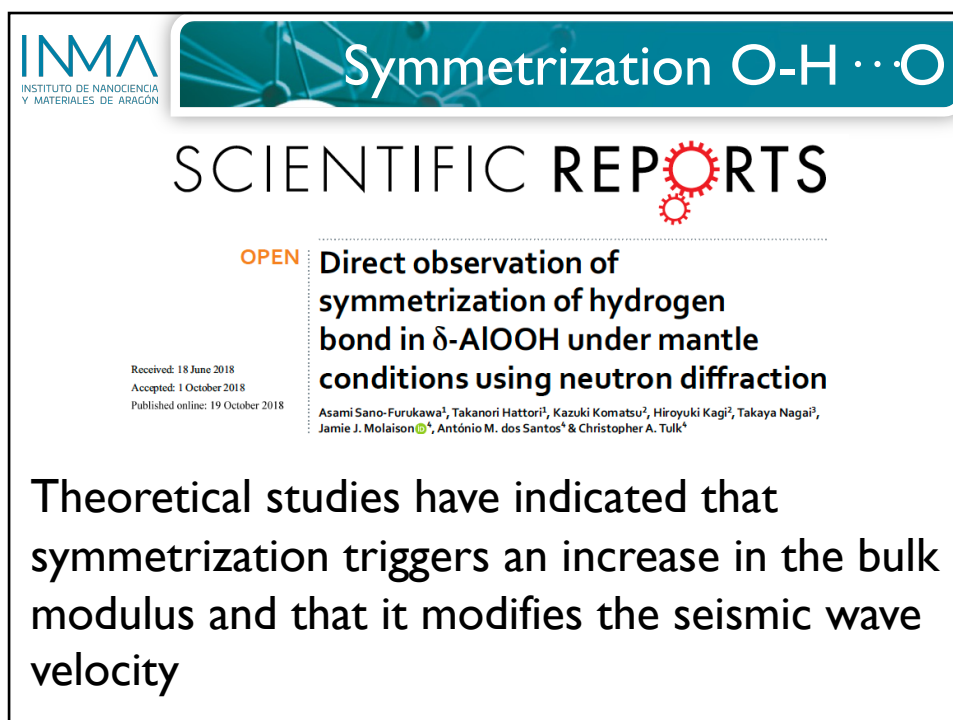


The onset of H disorder, and a jump of the  $c/a$  ratio vs. pressure at  $\sim 6.5$  GPa, may be related to a second-order phase transition consistent with Raman results.

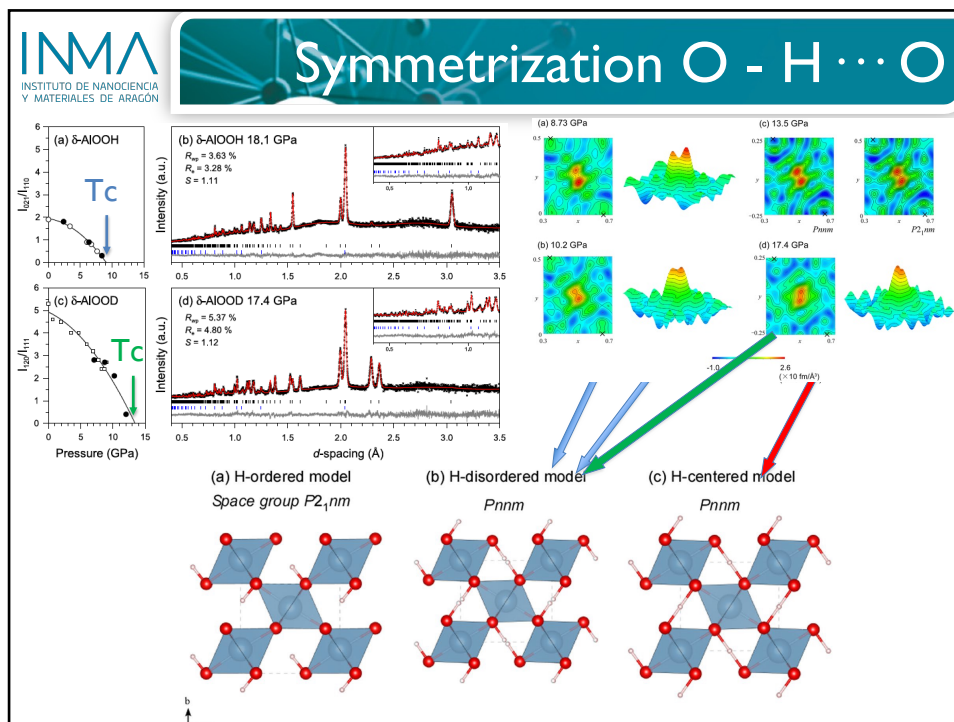
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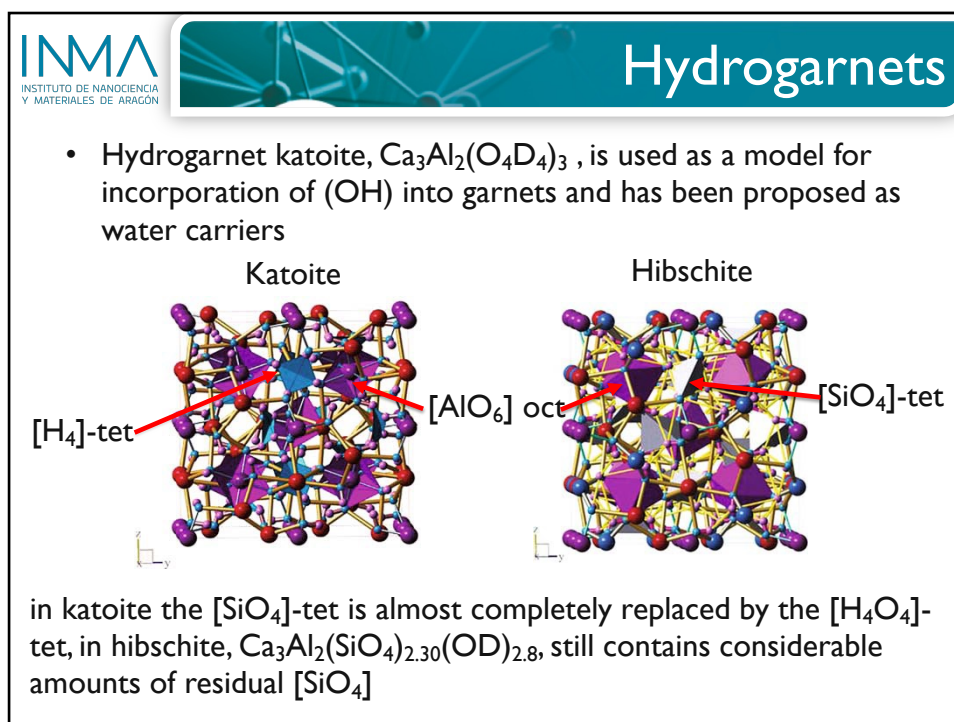
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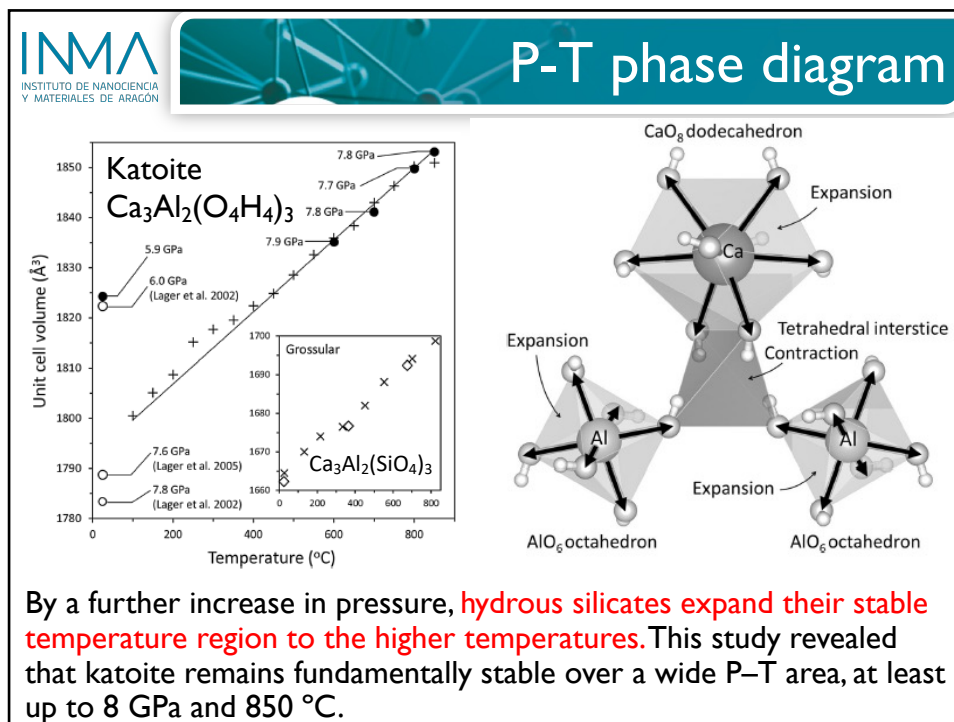


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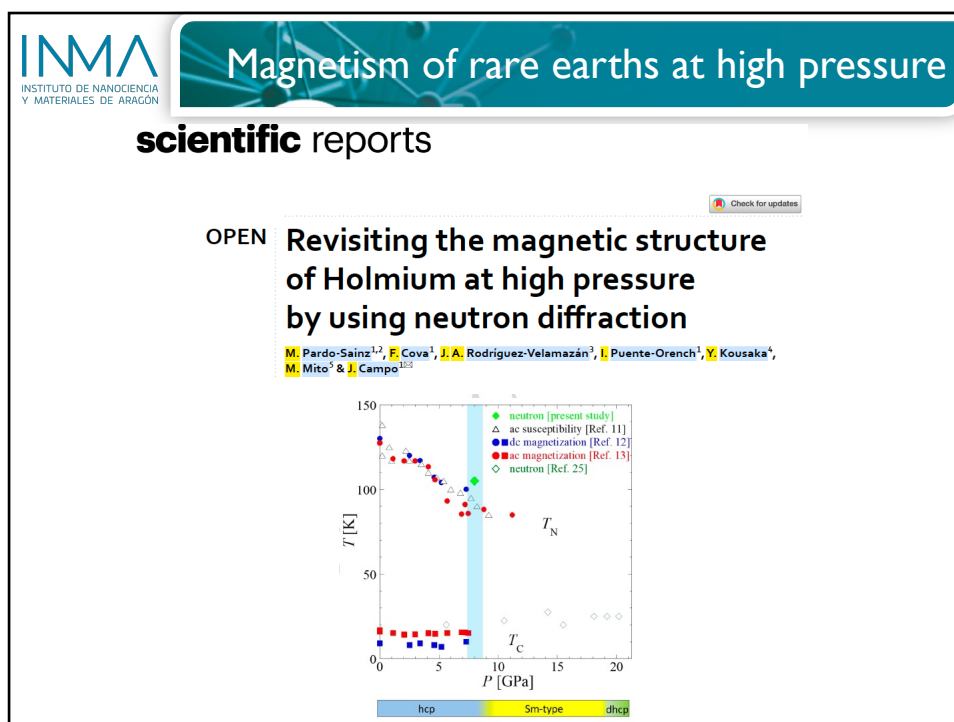


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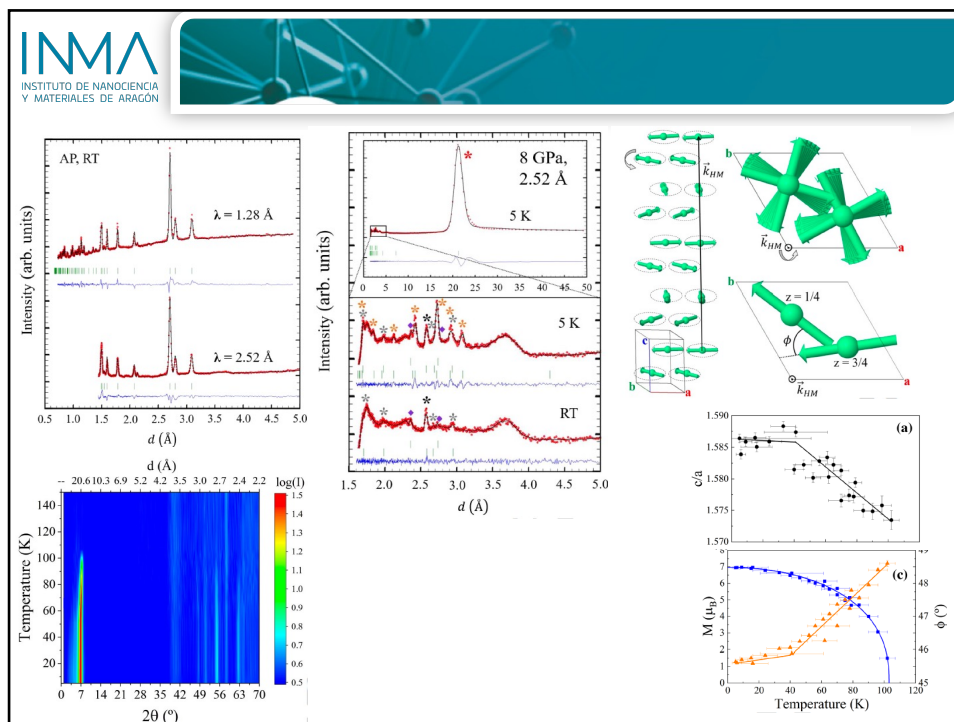




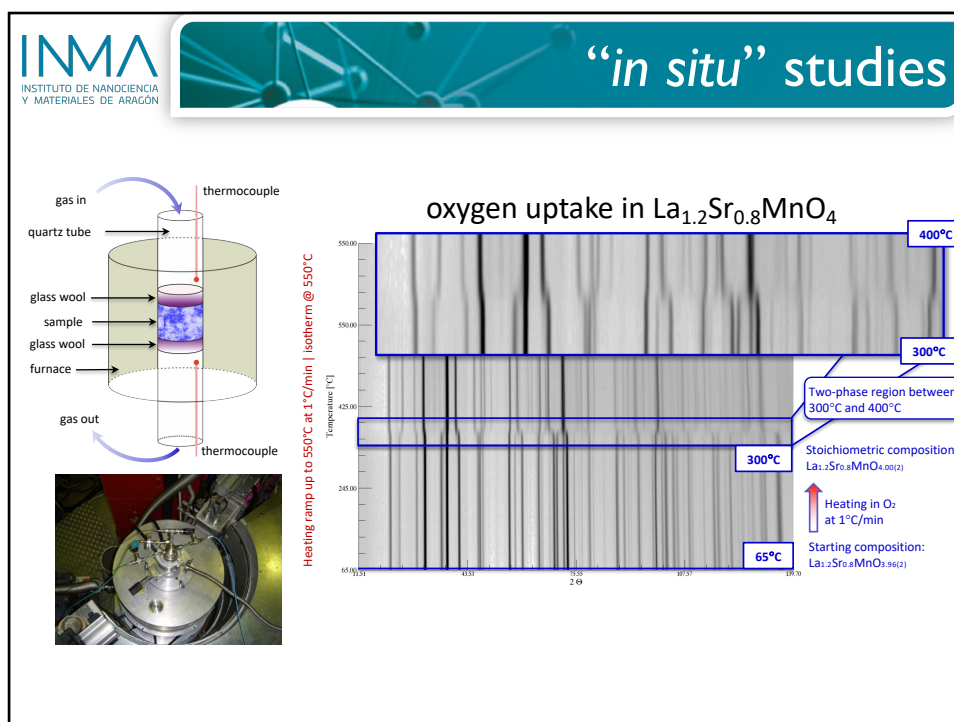
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## Outline

- Introduction
- Basic concepts
- Instruments
- Examples
- How to apply for beam time

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## How to apply for beamtime

- Do you have a good idea for neutron scattering?
- Is neutron scattering the only technique to solve the problem?
- Do you have any previous experiments relevant for the proposal?
- Did you contact any scientist specialist in NS to help you with the more technical questions? (Local Contact...)
- Did you think in the expected results of the experiment?
- How will you analyze your data?
- How did you estimate the requested beamtime?
- Which is the best instrument and neutron source?
- Etc...

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Thanks

Thank you very much for your attention !!

*Our webpage  
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