# Understanding the role of hydrogen in phase transformations through high pressure neutron diffraction

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#### Neutron scattering facilities at ORNL



Will focus on developments at ORNL - and specifically SNAP - although similar efforts are ongoing world-wide.



#### Outline

- 1) High pressure neutron diffraction
  - 1.1 Hydrogen in materials and minerals
  - 1.2 High pressure cells
- 2) The diamond anvil cell project at SNAP
  - 2.1 Spallation Neutrons and Pressure Diffractometer
  - 2.2 Neutron diamond cells
  - 3.3 Recent science examples
- 3) Future directions at SNAP and beyond
  - 3.1 Single crystal diffraction
  - 3.2 Technical advances



#### 1.1 Neutron diffraction and hydrogen

Neutron diffraction provides unique insight into atomic or magnetic structure of a material, specifically for light elements or isotopic differences.

# Earliest neutron diffraction study on metal hydride at ORNL reported in 1948





FIG. 1. Powder diffraction patterns over the (111) and (200) peaks of NaH and NaD. The diffuse scattering for NaH is seen to be much larger than that for NaD.



#### 1.1 Materials physics: metal hydrides



#### In situ high pressure studies:



Access by C

#### 1.1 Planetary sciences: water ice

Neutron diffraction has been critical in understanding hydrogen bonds in various ices and is instrumental in identifying ice phases.

#### nature

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nature > letters > article

#### Published: 03 December 1981

#### Bond-lengths, bond angles and transition barrier in ice Ih by neutron scattering

W. F. Kuhs & M. S. Lehmann

nature Nature 294, 432-434 (1981) Cite

414 Accesses | 36 Citations | Me

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nature > letters > article

#### Published: 29 October 1987

Direct determination of the intramolecular O-D distance in ice Ih and Ic by neutron diffraction

M. Antonio Floriano, D. D. Klug, Edward Whalley, E. C. Svensson, V. F. Sears & E. D. Hallman

Nature 329, 821-823 (1987) Cite this article 170 Accesses | 23 Citations | Metrics

#### Initial reports on the hydrogen bonds in ice at ambient pressure

Phase diagram of ice including the latest findings on the new phases, ice-XV and ice-XIX, taken from [1].





#### 1.1 Mineral physics: hydrous minerals

Neutron diffraction can aid in the understanding of the pressure response of hydrogen bonds in hydrous minerals.



Diaspore: a-AlOOH [1].

Difference Fourier maps of  $\delta$ -AlOOH, a high pressure polymorph of diaspore, in sections containing H-bonds. The maps show changes in proton distribution under high pressure. Maps are based on experimental high pressure neutron diffraction data obtained at SNAP and PLANET. Taken from [2].



[1] Diaspore: <u>Wikipedia</u>

[2] A. Sano-Furukawa et al., Scientific Reports 8, 15520 (2018).



#### 1.1 Mineral physics: metal hydrides

Various metal hydrides can also play a role in earth and planetary processes. For example, the formation iron hydride may explain the low density of Earth's iron core



[1] C.A. Murphy, "Hydrogen in the Earth's Core" in "Deep Earth: Physics and Chemistry of the Lower Mantle and Core", pp. 253-264 Wiley (2016).



## 1.1 High pressure neutron diffraction

While neutron diffraction has already been invaluable for understanding hydrogen bonding in materials and minerals, future works require robust high pressure capabilities.

The neutron diamond cell is a key device:

- It allows very high pressures,
- It is portable,
- It can be coupled with other extreme conditions,
- it is compatible with liquid and gas loading.



#### 1.2 Background on diamond anvil cells

Based on work by Percy Bridgman, the first diamond anvil cell was developed at NIST.

Two intimately related scientific and technological achievements occurred in the field of high pressure research at the NBS laboratory during the second-half of the 20th century: the invention of the diamond anvil high pressure cell [1] in 1958 and the development of the optical ruby fluorescence method of pressure measurement [2] in 1972. These two developments together stimulated the profound advances in high pressure research that evolved in the latter part of the 20th century.



PLATE ANVILS BLATE CASKET

Fig. 4. A schematic diagram of the opposed diamond anvil assembly to illustrate the  $180^{\circ}$  optical transmission characteristics and the concept of Bridgman opposed anvils. A thin metal gasket containing a 250  $\mu$ m diameter hole for encapsulating a sample (liquid or solid or both) is squeezed between the two anvils.

Fig. 1. The original DAC, on display in the NIST Museum.



#### DAC development at NIST

#### 1.2 Diamond cells for X-ray scattering



The sample is loaded into the gasket together with a ruby (for pressure measurement) and a pressure transmitting medium (for hydrostatic conditions).

Pressure is then applied by bringing the anvils closer together and the gasket flowing inward.



# 1.2 Diamond cells for X-ray scattering



from Phys.org

- Large pressure range from very low pressures to ~300 GPa is accessible in a DAC.
- With double-stages, pressures up to 600 GPa have been reached.
- Large temperature range from ~5 K to ~5000 K can be additionally applied during *in situ* studies.
- Modifications allow easy adaption to more specific questions:
  - membranes for rate control on de/compression,
  - perforation for low signal samples,
  - designer anvils for transport measurements
  - additional dynamic compression etc.

#### 1.2 Diamond cells for X-ray scattering

#### Standard DAC:

For a culet radius of 200 µm, we need to apply a force of ~1200 N (equivalent to ~130 kg) to achieve 10 GPa.



- For a diamond with 200 µm culet diameter, the volume of the sample chamber is 0.0003 mm<sup>3</sup>.
- Sample volumes are sufficient for most applications at synchrotrons or for Raman spectroscopy, transport measurements etc.



### 1.2 High pressure neutron scattering

#### **BUT:**

The minimum-size on many neutron instruments is ~1 mm<sup>3</sup> on well scattering samples.



For a culet radius of 2 mm, we need to apply a force of ~120 kN to achieve 10 GPa. This is equivalent to 13 metric tons.



1.2 High pressure neutron scattering

Fundamental challenge in high pressure neutron scattering:

# Neutron scattering needs large samples, high pressure needs small samples.

- To accommodate the necessary large sample volumes, a variety pressure cells exist for neutron scattering.
- These are often optimized for specific science questions and/or neutron scattering techniques.



# 1.2 Pressure cells for neutron scattering

Various dedicated high pressure cells are used to enable a large variety of science from materials science, physics, geoscience and chemistry to soft matter science.



Gas cells for up to 0.7 GPa with gas intensifiers such as the SITEC



0.2 GPa extended McHugh cell for SANS



Clamp cells for up to 2 GPa at ultra-low temperature and high field

Paris-Edinburgh cells for up to 20 GPa





Uwatoko palm-cubic cell for up 7 GPa



The highest pressures, also for neutron scattering, are enabled by diamond anvil cells. Several projects world-wide aim to develop and optimize high pressure neutron DACs.



# DACs for single crystal neutron diffraction developed at Juelich [3]





DAC developed at J-PARC for use with nanopolycrystalline anvils [2].

I.N. Goncharenko, High Pressure Research 24, 193 (2004).
 K. Komatsu et al., High Pressure Research 40, 184 (2020).
 "High-pressure with neutrons at the MLZ": weblink

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# 2. The diamond anvil cell project at SNAP



#### 2. The diamond anvil cell project at SNAP

Neutron diffraction at megabar pressures requires:

- A neutron diffractometer optimized for high pressure applications.
- The necessary tools for analytical data analysis.
- A diamond anvil cell capable of achieving megabar pressures on sufficiently large sample volumes.



#### 2.1 High pressure neutron diffractometer

The Spallation Neutrons and Pressure (SNAP) diffractometer is the dedicated high pressure time-of-flight white beam diffractometer at ORNL's SNS [1,2].

It is a high flux, moderate resolution instrument with a (for neutrons) very small beam (hotspot of ~2 mm).



Neutron diamond anvil cell on SNAP [3]



[1] <u>https://neutrons.ornl.gov/snap</u>
[2] S. Calder et al., RSI **89**, 092701 (2018).
[3] B. Haberl et al., JAP **130**, 215901 (2021).

## 2.1 High pressure neutron diffractometer

TOF white-beam diffraction enables energy discrimination combined with an area detector. There, a full diffraction pattern can be extracted from neutrons scattered into even a small solid angle.



#### Detector characteristics at SNAP [2]

Detector column	Average 2θ (deg.)	Minimum d-spacing (Å) for Rietveld	Maximum d-spacing (Å) for Rietveld	Resolution δd/d <sup>a</sup> (%)
1	121.79	0.65	2.13	0.69
2	104.33	0.65	2.32	0.85
3	88.30	0.67	2.63	1.09
4	83.49	0.67	2.85	1.13
5	65.77	0.68	3.60	1.49
6	50.00	0.94	4.90	1.90

<sup>a</sup>Note, for TOF diffraction  $\delta d/d$  is approximately constant in d-spacing.

1 **CAK RIDGE** National Laboratory  [1] R. Boehler et al., in "Static and Dynamic High Pressure Mineral Physics", Cambridge University Press (2022).
 [2] B. Haberl et al., JAP 130, 215901 (2021).

#### 2.1 TOF white-beam neutron diffraction

The angular resolution on SNAP can be used to better assess (and eliminate) backgrounds as well as of powder quality on samples pressurized in a DAC.





[1] B. Haberl et al., JAP 130, 215901 (2021).



Corrections and angular analysis will be routinely implemented.





Panoramic diamond cell inside a membrane press. The sample volume was ~0.05 mm<sup>3</sup> [1]. First generation diamond anvil cell developed on SNAP:

- Maximum pressures of almost 100 GPa were achieved.
- Single crystal diamond anvils allow removal of diamond peaks.
- Membrane press enabled online pressure increase.
- Gasket made from stainless steel.
- Limited Q-range due to need for elaborate binding rings.







Next generation DAC designed for SNAP [1].

- Opening aperture allows
   Q = 1.3 22 Å<sup>-1</sup> on SNAP.
- Pressure can be increased online.
- Cell can be cooled to ~5 K.
- Maximum pressure of 45 GPa on ~0.15 mm<sup>3</sup>.
- Incident beam is collimated with hBN right up to anvil.

This particular design relied on two key components, large CVD anvils and pre-machined gaskets for added support [1].

Machined stainless steel gasket

1. 5



6 mm conical CVD anvils inside steel seats.



Conical anvil design.





[1] R. Boehler, J.J. Molaison, B. Haberl, Rev. Sci. Instr. 88, 83905 (2017).
[2] M. Guthrie et al., PRB 99, 184112 (2019).

#### 2.2 Megabar neutron DACs

The latest generation SNAP DACs finally broke the 'sound barrier' of the megabar (=100 GPa).

New cell design using roller bearings for ultra-high precision, flat radially supported anvils and in-seat collimation [1]



**BN** collimator

В

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<sup>[1]</sup> B. Haberl, M. Guthrie, R. Boehler, Sci. Reports 13, 4741 (2023).

# 2.3 Phase behavior of graphite

The phase behavior of graphite upon room temperature compression is complex and the nature of the high-pressure graphite polymorph is not yet fully known. High pressure neutron diffraction can yield new insights.



Room temperature compression of graphite loaded with Ar as pressure transmitting medium into a megabar DAC on SNAP [2]

# On further pressure increase to ~21 GPa the hexagonal graphite structure dissolved over time.



Graphite, <u>Wikipedia</u>
 B. Haberl, M. Guthrie, R. Boehler, Sci. Reports **13**, 4741 (2023).



#### 2.3 Phase behavior of graphite

Pressure increase to 34 GPa and above yielded the nucleation of diffuse single crystal like features.





#### 2.3 Yttrium hydride – $YD_2$

 $YD_2$  was synthesized from a Y foil and  $D_2$  at elevated temperature. It was compressed to 30 GPa under hydrostatic conditions and to 70 GPa under non-hydrostatic conditions.



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#### 2.3 Yttrium hydride – $YD_2$

Up to at least 20 GPa, all YD<sub>2</sub> data can be refined with the YD<sub>2</sub> structure (*Fm-3m*) and a D occupancy of ~1.8.



Neutron diffraction allows direct observation of deuterium related positions and stoichiometry.



#### 2.3 Megabar neutron diffraction on hydrides

Beyond improvements to beamlines and development of megabar DACs, enabling work with hydrogen is critical.



Large culets combined with hydrogen pose a particular issue and much effort is dedicated to diamond polishing and technology.



# 3. Future directions at SNAP and beyond

High pressure single crystal diffraction

Technical advances at SNAP and diffractometers beyond.



Clamped diamond anvil cell with Versimax® anvils:

- Opening aperture of 120°.
- Pressure is applied in press and clamped in via a simple spring mechanism.
- Cell can be cooled to  $\sim$ 5 K.
- Sample volume is up to 2 mm<sup>3</sup>.







Original Vascomax design [1]



Optimized CuBe design with conical anvils [2]

[1] B. Haberl *et al.*, High Pressure Research **37**, 495 (2017).
[2] B. Haberl *et al.*, Rev. Sci. Instr. **89**, 092902 (2018).



Single crystal diffraction to ~10 GPa is often used in studies focused on quantum materials. They typically focus on the observation of order parameters.

#### HB-3A

 ~0.1 mm<sup>3</sup> crystal of hexaferrite with Pb as pressure medium inside the DAC within CCR.
 Neutron wavelength λ=1.546 Å with half-lambda filter [2].





Single crystal diffraction from a ~240 µm thick single crystal of MnP loaded with KBr measured at 6 K [1].



~0.1 mm<sup>3</sup> crystal of hexaferrite with deuterated glycerin as pressure medium inside the DAC [2].

B. Haberl et al., High Pressure Research **37**, 495 (2017).
 B. Haberl et al., Rev. Sci. Instr. **89**, 092902 (2018).



Studies in geosciences are typically focused on quantitative analysis, for example of hydrogen sites and occupancy on hydrous minerals.

Framework of wadsleyite crystal structure and difference Fourier maps observed by single crystal neutron diffraction at ambient pressure performed at ORNL's TOPAZ beamline. Taken from [2].





Hydrous Wadsleyite Single Crystal (T. Kawazoe)

High-pressure polymorph of olivine: β-(Mg,Fe)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>

Hydrous Wadsleyite: <u>T. Kawazoe</u>
 N. Purevjav *et al.*, Scientific
 Reports 6, 34988 (2016).



SNAP and TOPAZ are equipped with the same type detectors, in principle quantitative single crystal diffraction can be deployed on SNAP. A proof-of-principle study [1] has explored this possibility.



"...SNAP as it is setup presents some limitations but in principle similar data quality as on TOPAZ can be achieved and as such can yield accurate structural data." [1]

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[1] B. Massani et al., HPR 40, 339 (2020).

#### 3.2 SNS Proton Power Upgrade Project

The PPU will provide up to 40% more power the SNS and will be critical for the future Second Target Station (STS).



- More power will translate into the capabilities for smaller samples and hence higher pressures.
- More power will also translate into faster acquisition with a full spectrum becoming feasible within just one pulse.



#### 3.2 New instrument concepts

New instrument concepts and new sources provide even smaller focus spots for higher flux. An example is the TITAN concept proposed for ORNL's Second Target Station.



Simplified DAC model uses illuminated sample, part of gasket and part of diamond only

> (sample vol. ~0.004 mm<sup>3</sup>, 120 GPa)

#### La hydride in DAC: 10 min. measurement



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Source: Jiao Lin, Barry Winn, Garrett Granroth, et al. (ORNL)

# 3.2 Multi-extreme conditions

Addressing future science questions requires multi-extreme conditions, which necessitates the development of new extreme environments. Such new concepts include the laser-heated DAC [1].

#### Schematic set-up for laser-heating of a neutron DAC:

The laser beam of the  $CO_2$  laser is split to facilitate double-sided heating on the sample position.



Close-up of the laser assembly at the sample position shows the use of a defocused beam that heats the entire sample volume contained between anvils and gasket.



#### Conclusions

 Neutron diffraction can make an immensely useful contribution to research on hydrogen containing materials and minerals. Continuous development aim at higher pressures, better analytical tools, shorter collection times and the coupling of extremes



#### 2022 NXS Cohort

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# Appendix – Additional slides



#### A.1 High pressure neutron diffractometer

Unlike X-rays neutrons are not easily guided by optics. Yet improved guide technology now allows for smaller focal spots.



New logarithmic guide for SNAP: An overall beam spot of 20 x 20 mm allows for a ~2 x 2 mm hotspot



Source: Thomas Huegle

#### A.2 Incident and scattered beam collimation

Custom collimation is increasingly important for DAC and other pressure experiments, an application for which 3Dprinting is explored:

- For example, powder bed and inkjet printing is used for 3Dprinting collimators made from B₄C powder and later infiltrated with superglue or aluminum.
- This allows for complex designs of hydrogen-free collimators from neutron absorbing materials.



Superglue and aluminum infiltrated B₄C collimators for PE cell on SNAP.







#### A.2 Incident beam collimation

#### 'Old' set-up with Flexi-Boron





![](_page_46_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_5.jpeg)

Collimator set-up

### A.2 Scattered beam collimation

Radial collimation uses geometric considerations to only let scatter originated from the sample arrive on the detector.

![](_page_47_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_3.jpeg)

[1] A. dos Santos et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 89, 092907 (2018).

#### A.2 Incident and scattered beam collimation

Monte Carlo Ray Tracing allows for further improved radial collimations through computer optimization[1]. Cell consists of a CuBe insert in an Al sleeve.

![](_page_48_Figure_2.jpeg)

[1] F. Islam et al., Journal of Neutron Research 22 (2020) 155–168

#### A.3 Inelastic neutron scattering in the PE press

High pressure QENS was conducted on BASIS in the VX5 PE cell equipped with single toroidal anvils [1,2]. Gaskets were modelled after Bove & Klotz [3]. This set-up was also adapted for INS on the ARCS spectrometer using the VX3 PE cell.

![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_4.jpeg)

### A.3 Quasi-elastic neutron scattering

We conducted high pressure QENS on  $BaH_2$  up to 7.1 GPa [1,2]. Pressure was determined based on a corresponding diffraction experiment on SNAP.

- Ambient pressure data yields the instrumental resolution where the hydrogen motion is essentially frozen.
- Under pressure we see quasi-elastic broadening which is directly related to faster dynamics.
- Timescales decreased from 24.4 ps (6.2 GPa) to 16.9 ps (7.1 GPa).

![](_page_50_Figure_5.jpeg)

Larger sample volumes/longer exposures will be needed for more quantitative analysis.

![](_page_50_Picture_7.jpeg)

E. Novak, B. Haberl, L. Daemen *et al.*, **APL 117**, 051902 (2020).
 E. Novak, Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Tennessee (2020)

#### A.3 High pressure inelastic neutron scattering

We conducted high pressure INS on crystalline Ge up to ~14 GPa. Pressure was determined using the equation of state of Ge and *in situ* diffraction data from ARCS.

![](_page_51_Figure_2.jpeg)

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# A.3 High pressure inelastic neutron scattering

The INS data suggest a significant change in phonons at loads above 1200 bar. This corresponds to pressures of >10 GPa and hence metallization of Ge.

![](_page_52_Figure_2.jpeg)

Detailed data analysis for conversion to phonon DOS and accompanying computation is in progress.

![](_page_52_Picture_4.jpeg)