

# SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic
1.	Tue 14.09.	Lec-1: Introduction
2.	Fri 17.09.	Lec-2: Crystal Chemistry & Tolerance parameter
3.	Fri 17.09.	EXERCISE 1
4.	Tue 21.09.	Lec-3: Crystal chemistry & BVS
5.	Fri 24.09.	Lec-4: Molecular Symmetry & Point Groups
6.	Fri 24.09.	EXERCISE 2
7.	Tue 28.10.	Lec-5: Crystallography & Space Groups
8.	Fri 01.10.	Lec-6: XRD & Reciprocal Lattice
9.	Fri 01.10.	EXERCISE 3
10.	Tue 05.10.	Lec-7: ND
11.	Fri 08.10.	Lec-8: Rietveld
12.	Fri 08.10	EXERCISE 4: Rietveld
13.	Tue 12.10.	Lec-9: Synchrotron rad. & XAS & RIXS
14.	Fri 15.10.	Lec-10: EXAFS & Mössbauer
15.	Fri 15.10.	EXERCISE 5
16.	Tue 19.10.	Seminars: XPS, ED, HRTEM, SEM, AFM
17.	Fri 22.10.	Lec-11: GI-XRD & XRR
18.	Fri 22.10.	EXERCISE 6: XRR

**EXAM: Friday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

# **LECTURE 7: NEUTRON DIFFRACTION**

- **Production of neutrons: fission and spallation**
- **ND versus XRD: many similarities but several important differences!**
- **Magnetic structure determination**

# Neutron research facilities worldwide



# NEUTRON FACILITIES **WE HAVE BEEN USING**

## EUROPE

- Neutron Research Laboratory (NFL), Studsvik, SWEDEN (shut down)
- Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, RUSSIA
- Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (FLNP/JINR), Dubna, RUSSIA
- Institute for Energy Technology (IFE), Kjeller, NORWAY
- Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL), Grenoble, FRANCE
- **Pulsed Neutron Source (ISIS), Oxford, UK (todays example)**

## USA

- Argonne National Laboratory (IPNS), USA (temporarily closed)
- **Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), USA (todays example)**

## JAPAN

- Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI), Tokai, JAPAN

## AUSTRALIA

- Bragg Institute (ANSTO), Sydney, AUSTRALIA (**todays example**)

# The ESRF\* & ILL\* With Grenoble & the Beldonne Mountains



\*ESRF = European Synchrotron Radiation Facility; ILL = Institut Laue-Langevin

# Some historical steps

- 1932 Chadwick: neutrons
- 1936 Diffraction of neutrons
- 1944 Fission nuclear reactors → progress in ND methods (Brockhouse & Shull, **Nobel 1994**)

## The Neutron has Both Particle-Like and Wave-Like Properties

- Mass:  $m_n = 1.675 \times 10^{-27}$  kg
- Charge = 0; Spin =  $\frac{1}{2}$
- **Magnetic dipole moment:**  $\mu_n = -1.913 \mu_N$
- Nuclear magneton:  $\mu_N = eh/4\pi m_p = 5.051 \times 10^{-27}$  J T<sup>-1</sup>
- Velocity ( $v$ ), kinetic energy ( $E$ ), wavevector ( $k$ ), wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), temperature ( $T$ ).
- $E = m_n v^2/2 = k_B T = (hk/2\pi)^2/2m_n$ ;  $k = 2\pi/\lambda = m_n v/(h/2\pi)$

**“Thermal” neutrons have the proper energy & wavelength for crystal structure determination through diffraction** →

	<u>Energy (meV)</u>	<u>Temp (K)</u>	<u>Wavelength (nm)</u>
Cold	0.1 – 10	1 – 120	0.4 – 3
<b>Thermal</b>	<b>5 – 100</b>	<b>60 – 1000</b>	<b>0.1 – 0.4</b>
Hot	100 – 500	1000 – 6000	0.04 – 0.1

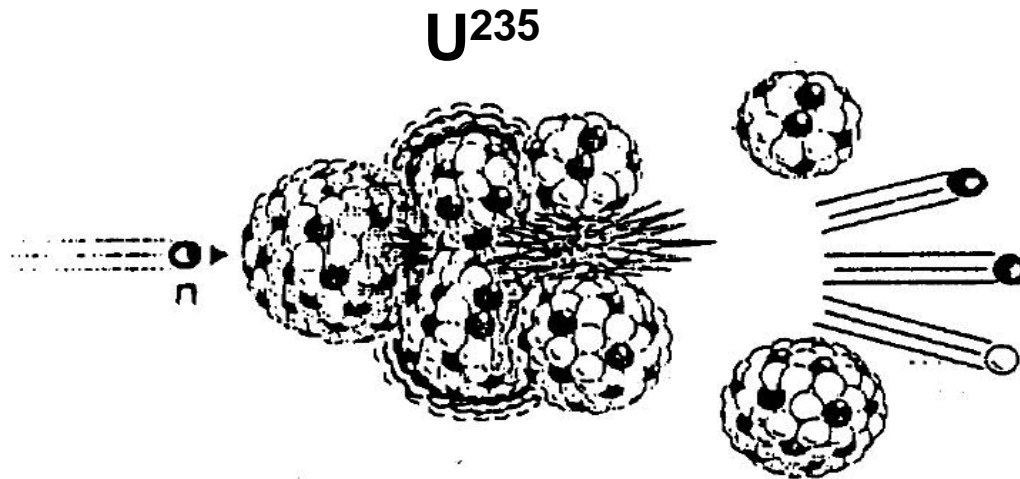
**1 – 4 Å**

$$\lambda \text{ (nm)} = 395.6 / v \text{ (m/s)}$$

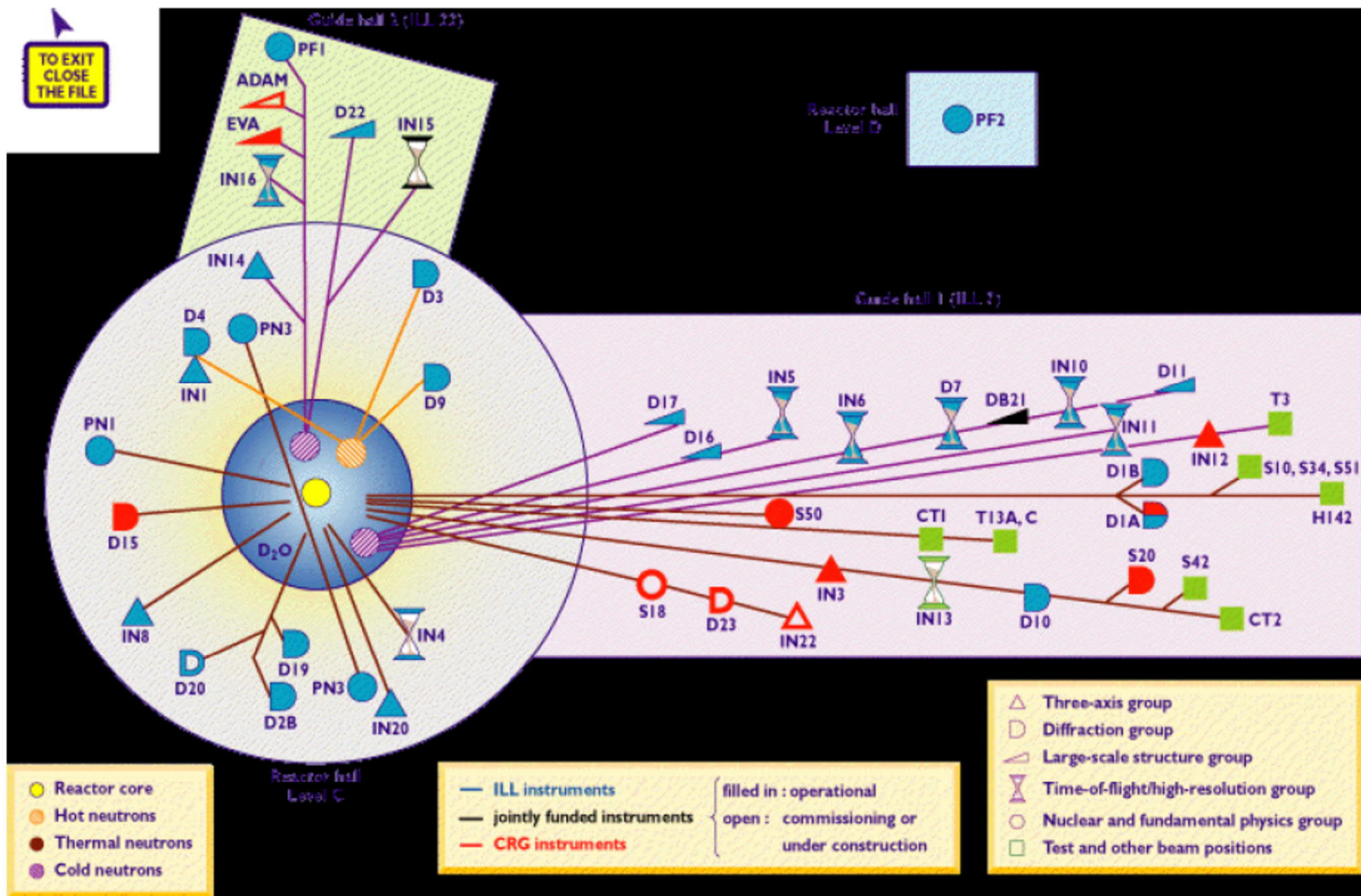
$$E \text{ (meV)} = 0.02072 k^2 \text{ (k in nm}^{-1}\text{)}$$

# PRODUCTION OF NEUTRONS: Nuclear reaction

- Typical fission reaction:  $^{235}\text{U} + n_{\text{therm}} \rightarrow A + B + 2.3 n$
- Thus produced neutrons are slowed/moderated (e.g. with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), after which they continue the fission reaction → **chain reaction**
- Typical research reactors: 10 - 100 MW (e.g. Grenoble 57 MW)
- Research reactors can not be used for energy production and *vice versa*



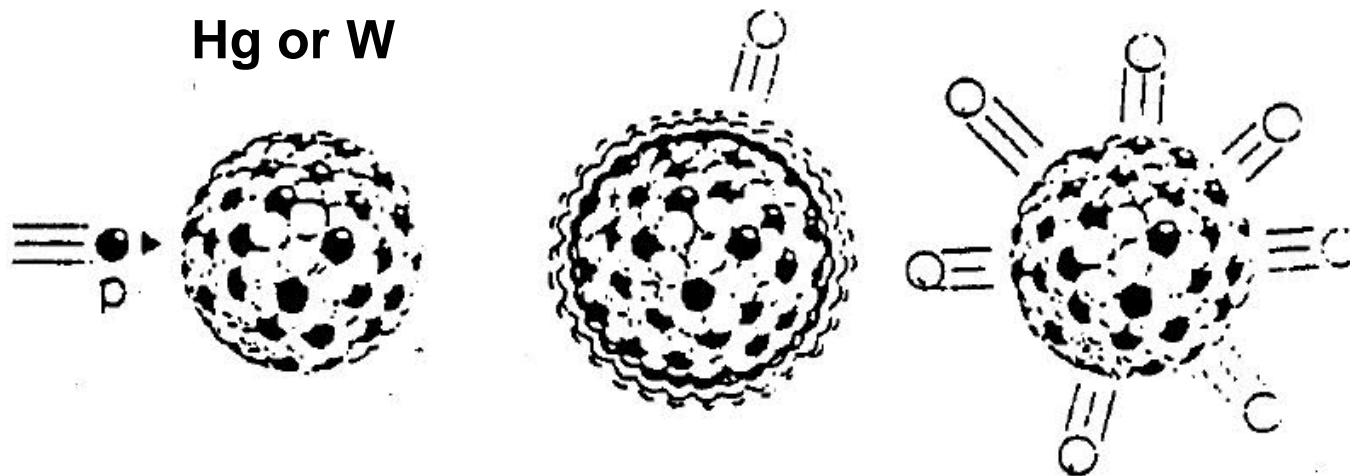
# Neutron Sources Provide Neutrons for Many Spectrometers: Schematic Plan of the ILL Facility





# PRODUCTION OF NEUTRONS: **Spallation**

- Heavy metal (e.g. Hg, W) nuclei bombarded with high-energy protons ( $E_p = 800 \text{ MeV}$ )
- Protons from particle accelerators
- Typical reaction:  $\text{Hg} + p \rightarrow \text{spallation product} + x n$
- $x$  depends on  $E_p$  and the heavy metal employed
- For example:  $^{238}\text{U}$  and  $E_p = 800 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $x = 28$
- Pulsed proton accelerator  $\rightarrow$  pulsed neutron flux  
 $\rightarrow$  **time-of-flight measurement**

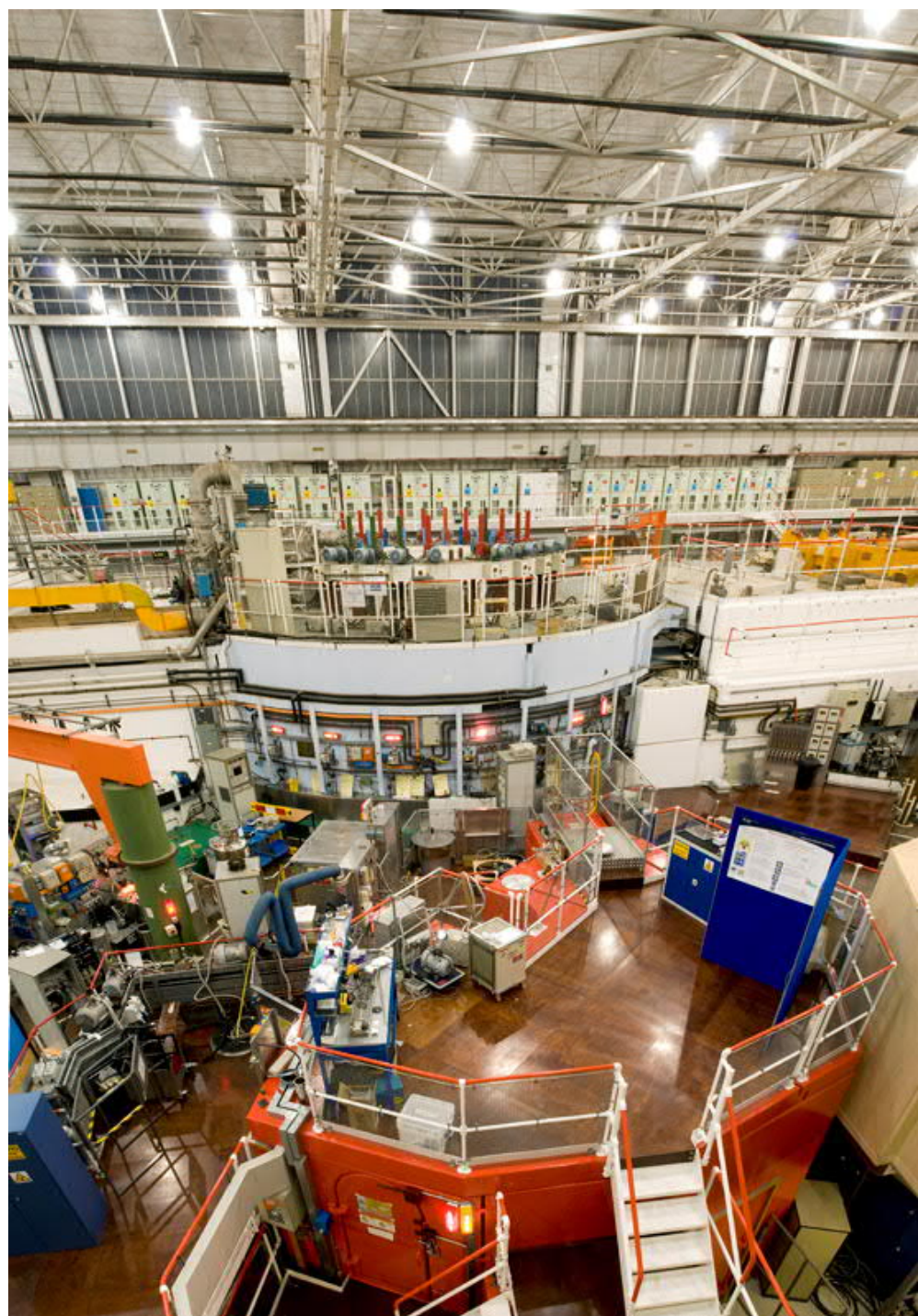




Science & Technology Facilities Council

**ISIS**

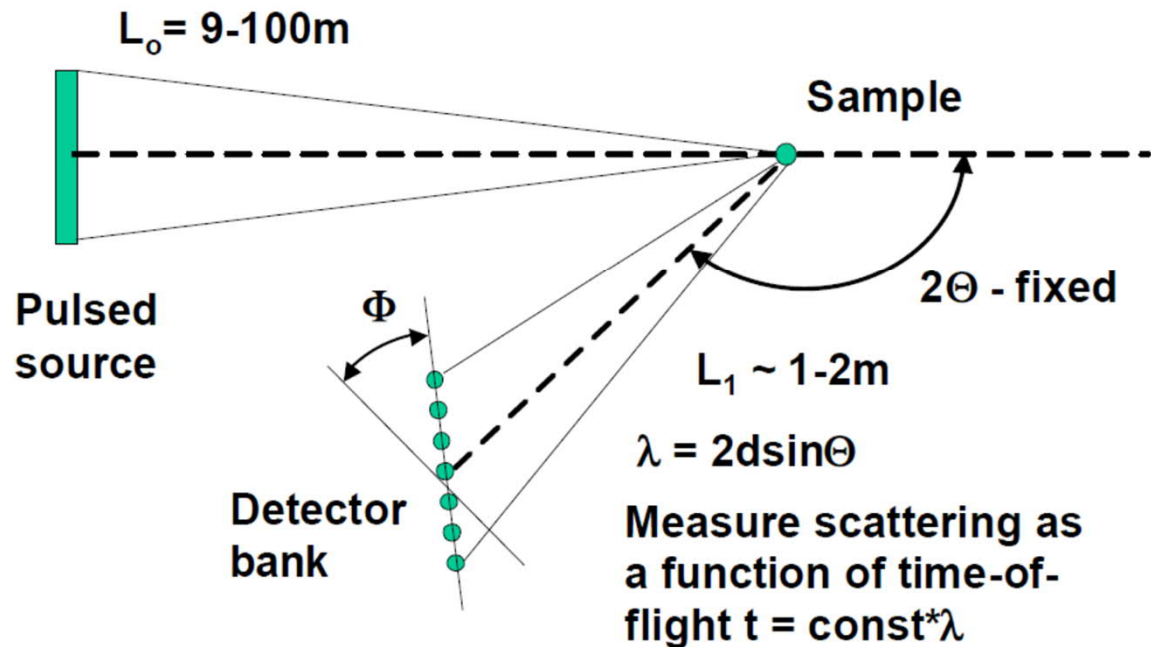
- **Spallation source**
- **Located in Oxfordshire, UK**
- **Isis is the local name for the River Thames**



# TIME-of-FLIGHT DETECTOR

- Mandatory with spallation sources
- Detector is fixed at a certain  $2\theta$  value
- De Broglie relationship + Bragg's law:
- $\lambda = h/m_n v_n = 2d_{hkl} \sin\theta$
- Time-of-flight becomes:  $t = 2d_{hkl} L(m_n/h) \sin\theta$
- Time-of-flight depends on  $d_{hkl}$  if all other parameters are fixed

## Neutron Powder Diffraction using Time-of-Flight

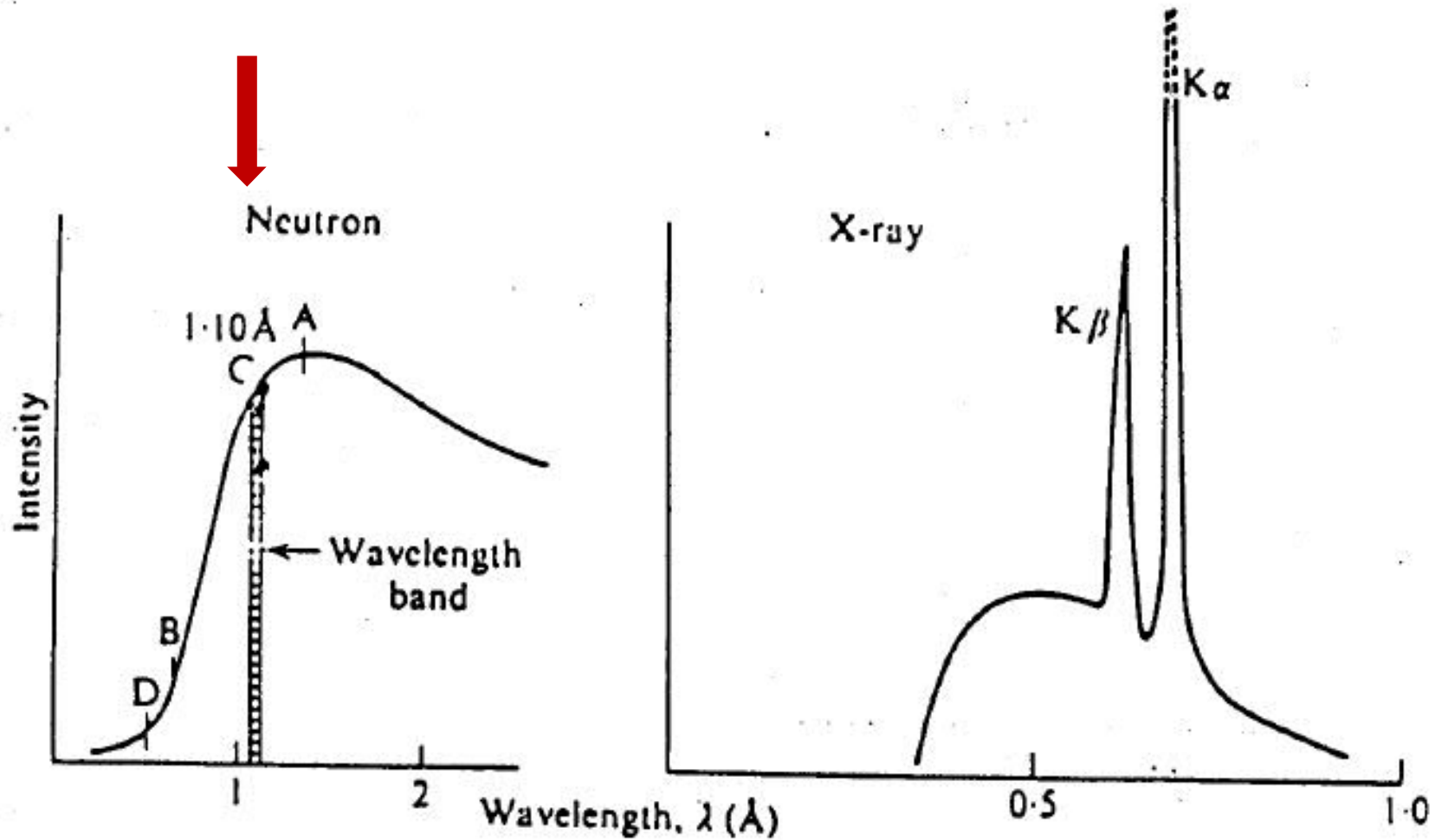


# NEUTRON (powder) DIFFRACTION (ND)

## - Elastic (= no energy lost) neutron scattering

- Production of neutrons: (i) nuclear reactor  
(ii) spallation source
- Wavelength of so-called "thermal neutrons"  $1 \sim 10 \text{ \AA}$   
→ crystal structure determination
- Wavelength of neutron flux is less accurate than that of characteristic x-ray radiation → Lattice parameters are determined less accurately from ND than from XRD
- Neutron scattering weaker than x-ray scattering  
→ Large sample amounts needed
- Neutron scattering does not depend on the reflection angle (x-ray scattering does)
- Neutron flux scatters from atomic nuclei → Scattering factor does not depend on electron density (atomic number)  
→ Light and heavy atoms may be equally visible for neutrons

**Challenge to  
separate a narrow  
wavelength range**

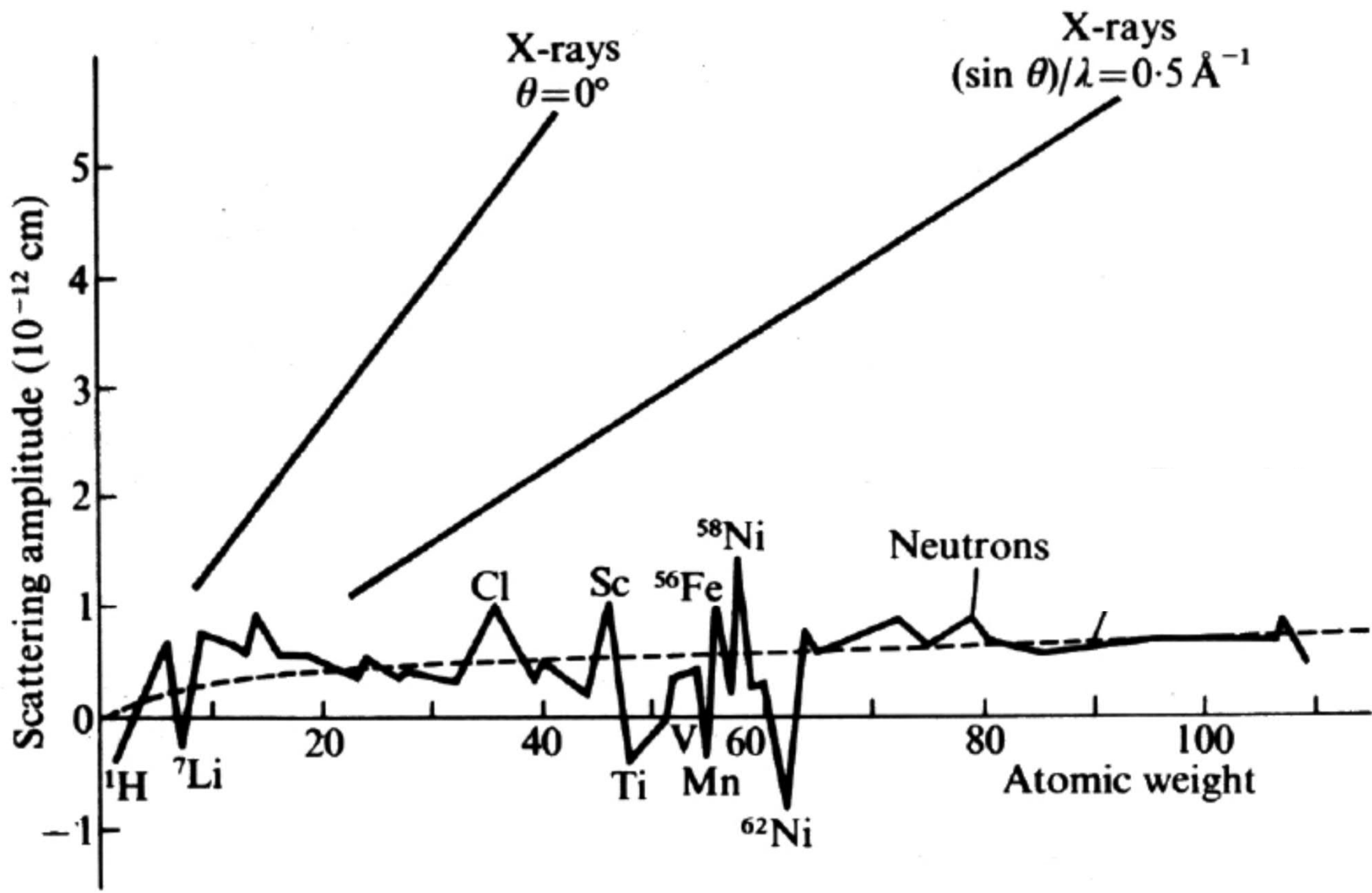


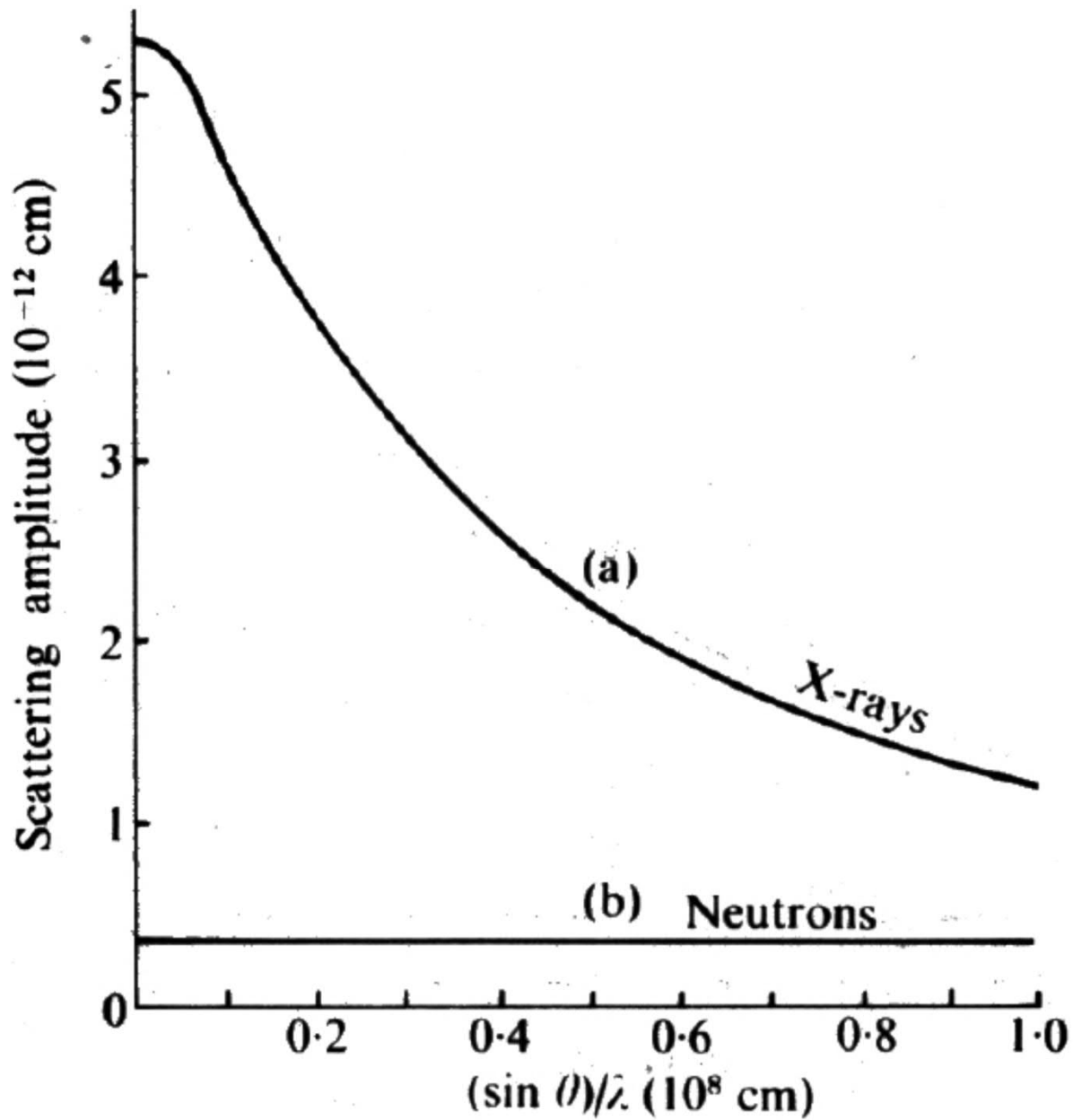
# Neutrons scatter from an atomic nuclei

- **Scattering strength does not depend on atomic number**
  - positions of light elements (e.g. H and O) can be determined with the same accuracy as those of heavy elements
  - highly useful for example in studies on perovskite oxides
  - sometimes solving an unknown structure is more difficult with ND than with XRD, since all the atoms are "seen"
- **No "bonding effects" in atomic positions**
  - important when hydrogen-bonded structures are studied (ND reveals typically  $\sim 0.2 \text{ \AA}$  longer O-H bonds than XRD)
- **Scattering strength may vary strongly among different isotopes of the same element**
  - "isotope substitution"
- **Neutron scattering factor can be also negative !**

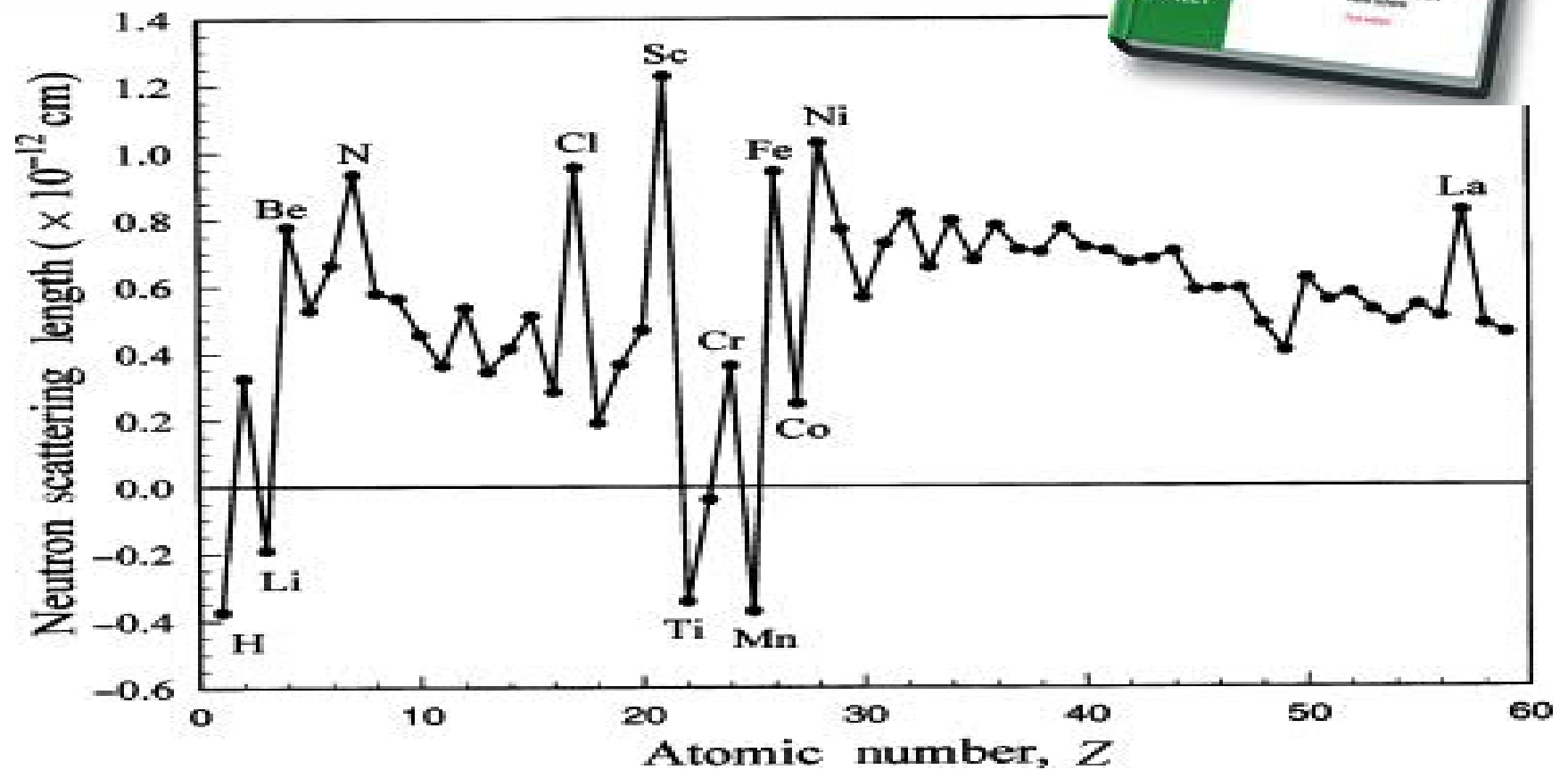
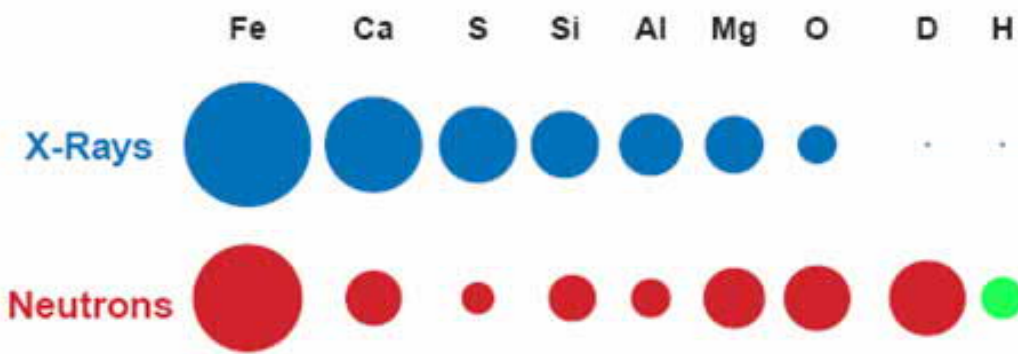
## Scattering strength

- Tells how strongly neutrons/ x-rays are scattered (= diffracted)
- OTHER TERMINOLOGIES: Scattering factor, Scattering length, Scattering amplitude, Scattering cross-section, Form factor

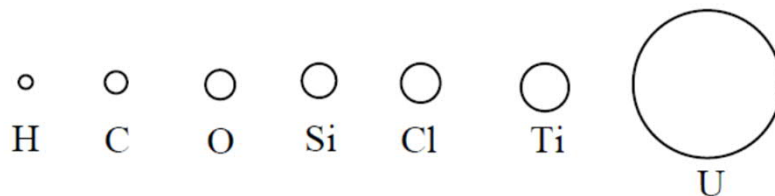






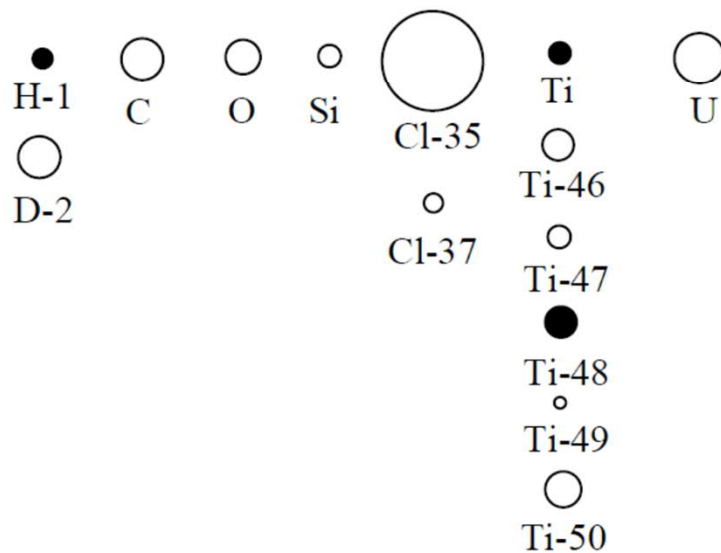


### Nuclei Seen by X-Rays



X-rays interact with the electron cloud

### Nuclei Seen by Neutrons



Neutrons interact with the nuclei

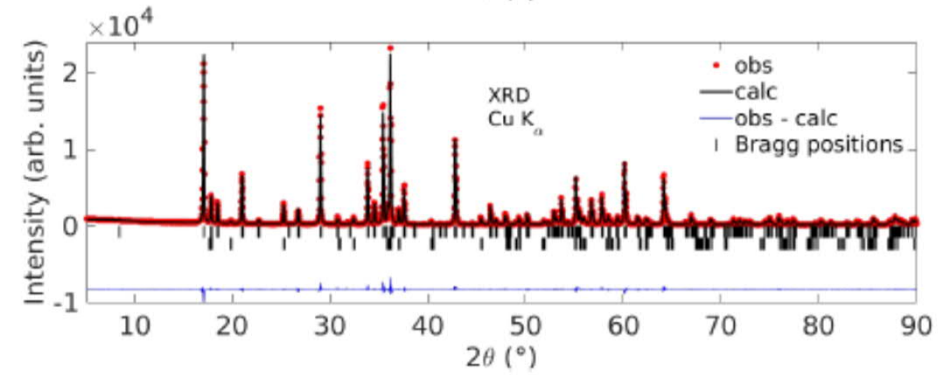
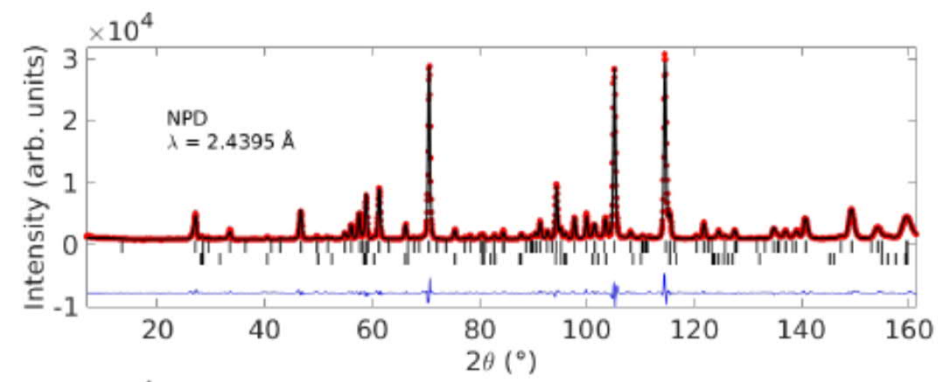
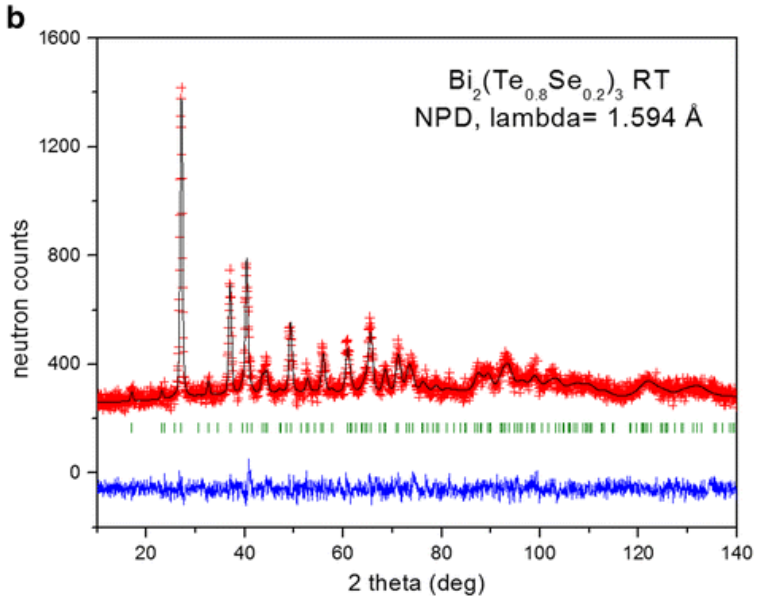
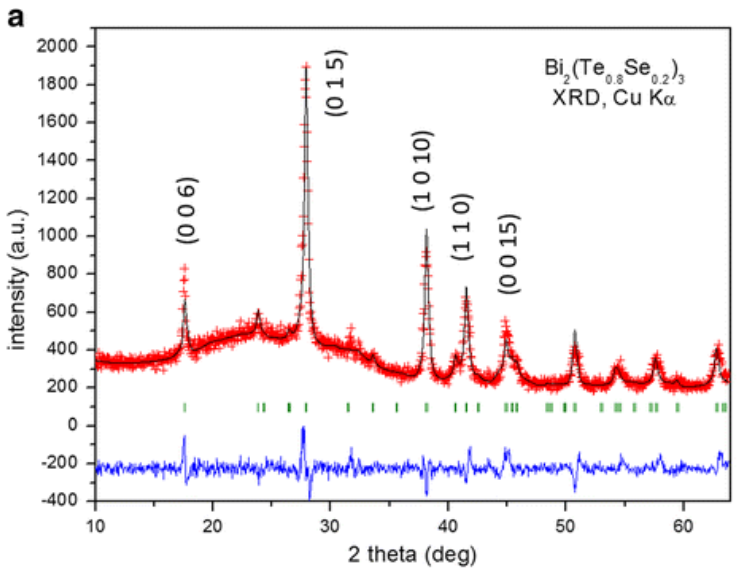
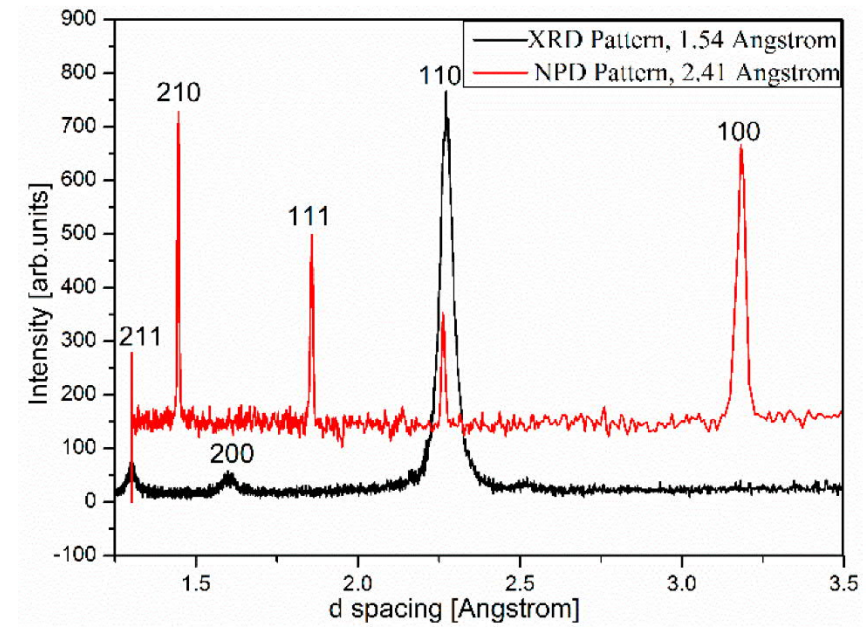
# SAMPLES

- single crystal (optimally roundish: XRD 0.1 ~ 0.3 mm, ND ~1 cm)
- **powder: XRD >10 mg , ND preferably >1 g**
- thin film: XRD, ED
- amorphous material: XRD, ND
- liquid: XRD ( $\theta$ - $\theta$  geometria)
- gas (ED); electron diffraction is a very local method

Vanadium  
SAMPLE HOLDERS  
for ND



# Why ND and XRD patterns for the same sample may look different ?

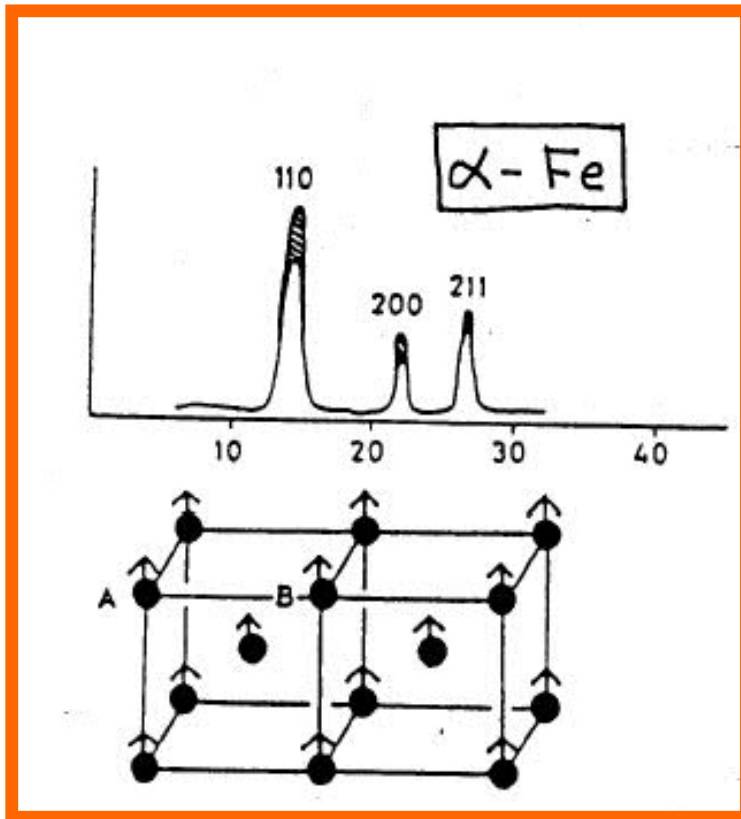


## Why ND and XRD patterns for the same sample look different ?

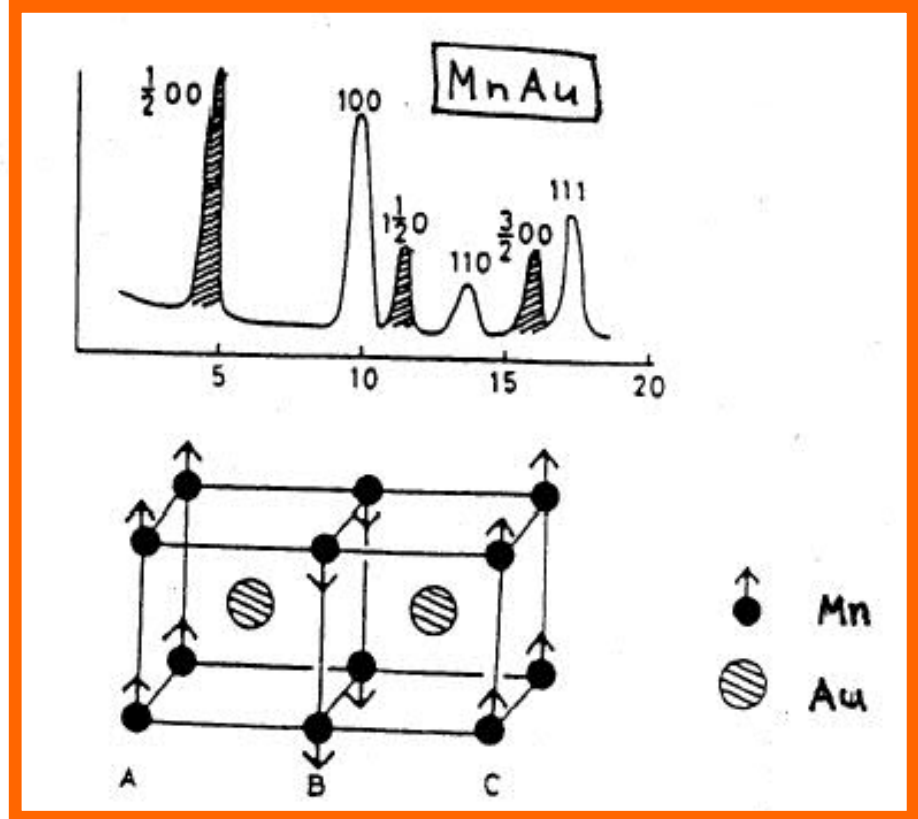
- Different  $\lambda$  → To make them similar, plot in terms of  $d$
- Wavelength range narrower for XRD (sharper peaks)
- Different sample preparation → Different orientation of crystallites
- Scattering factor depends on angle in XRD, not in ND
- Different atomic/nucleic scattering factors → Different peak intensity ratios
- ND sees magnetic ordering too, XRD not

# Neutrons possess magnetic moment

- Neutrons have magnetic moment, though no electric charge
- Stronger scattering from atoms with ordered spin → magnetic structure determination

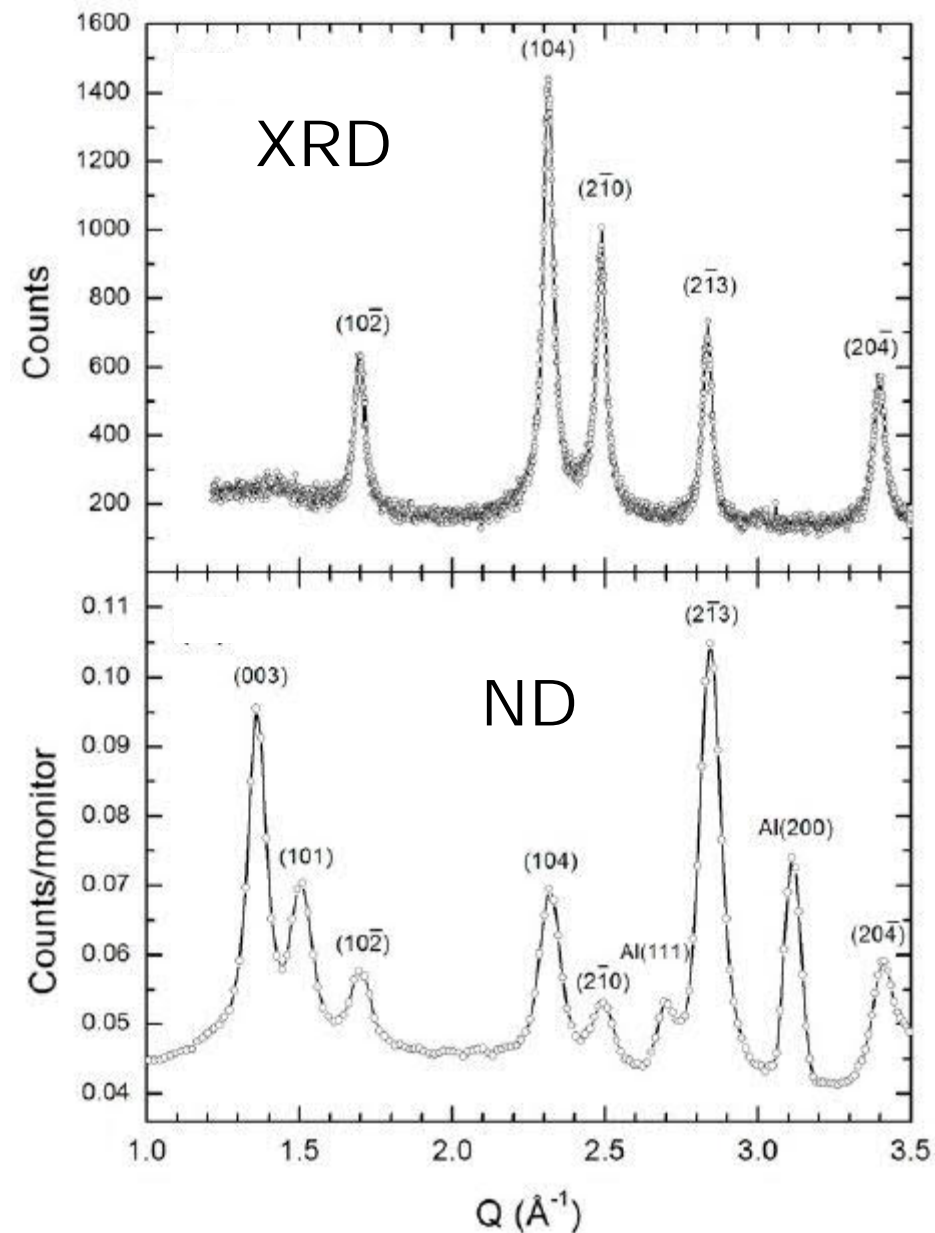


**Ferromagnetic:**  
- changes in peak intensities



**Antiferromagnetic:**  
- additional peaks

# Antiferromagnetic hematite $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$



# Antiferromagnetic MnO ( $T_N \approx 120 \text{ K}$ )

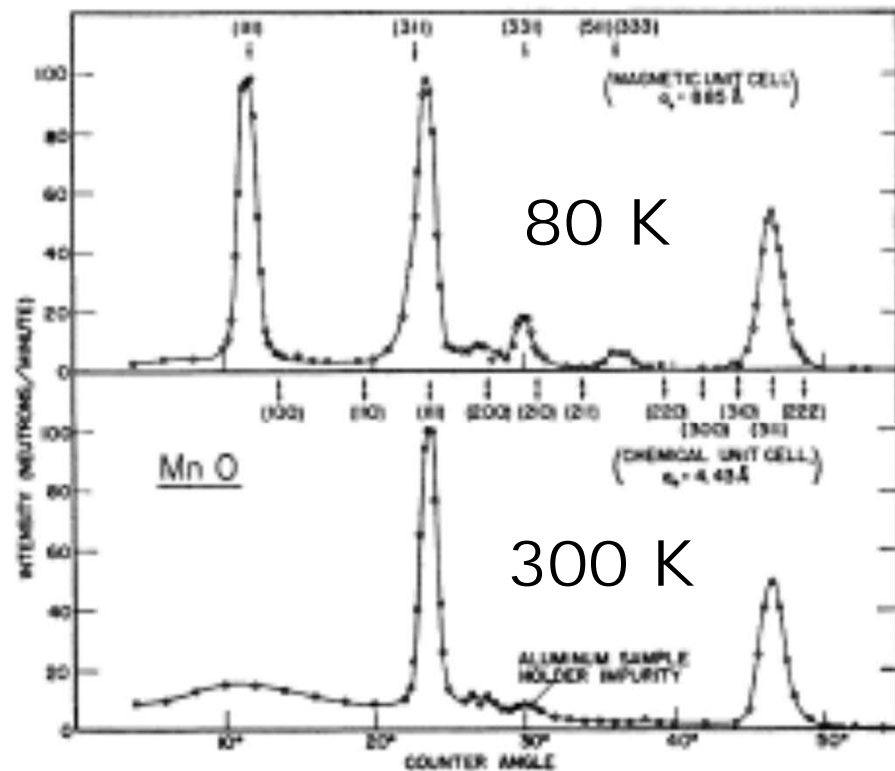
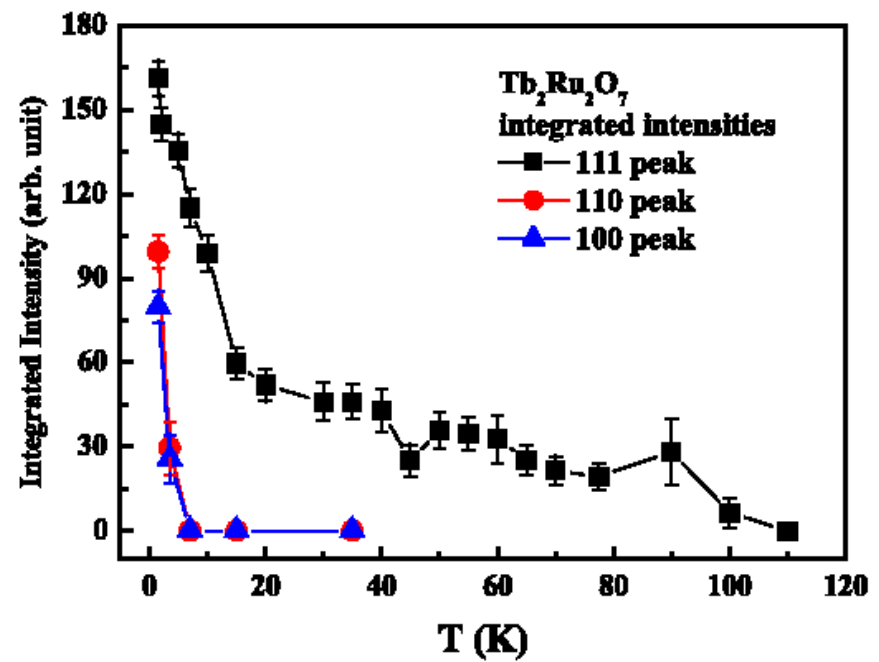
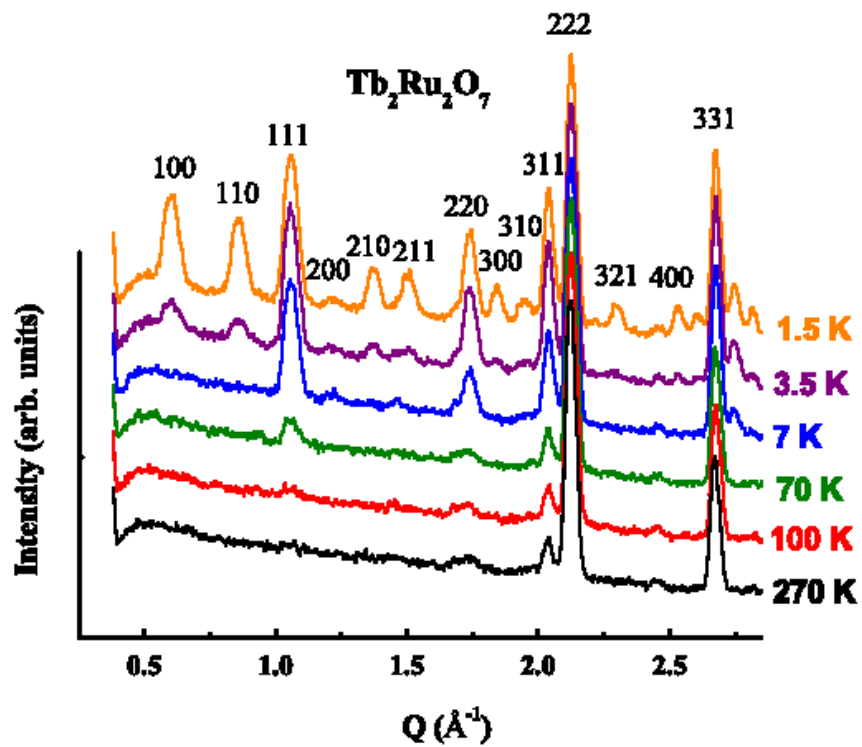


FIG. 1. Neutron diffraction patterns for MnO at room temperature and at 80°K.





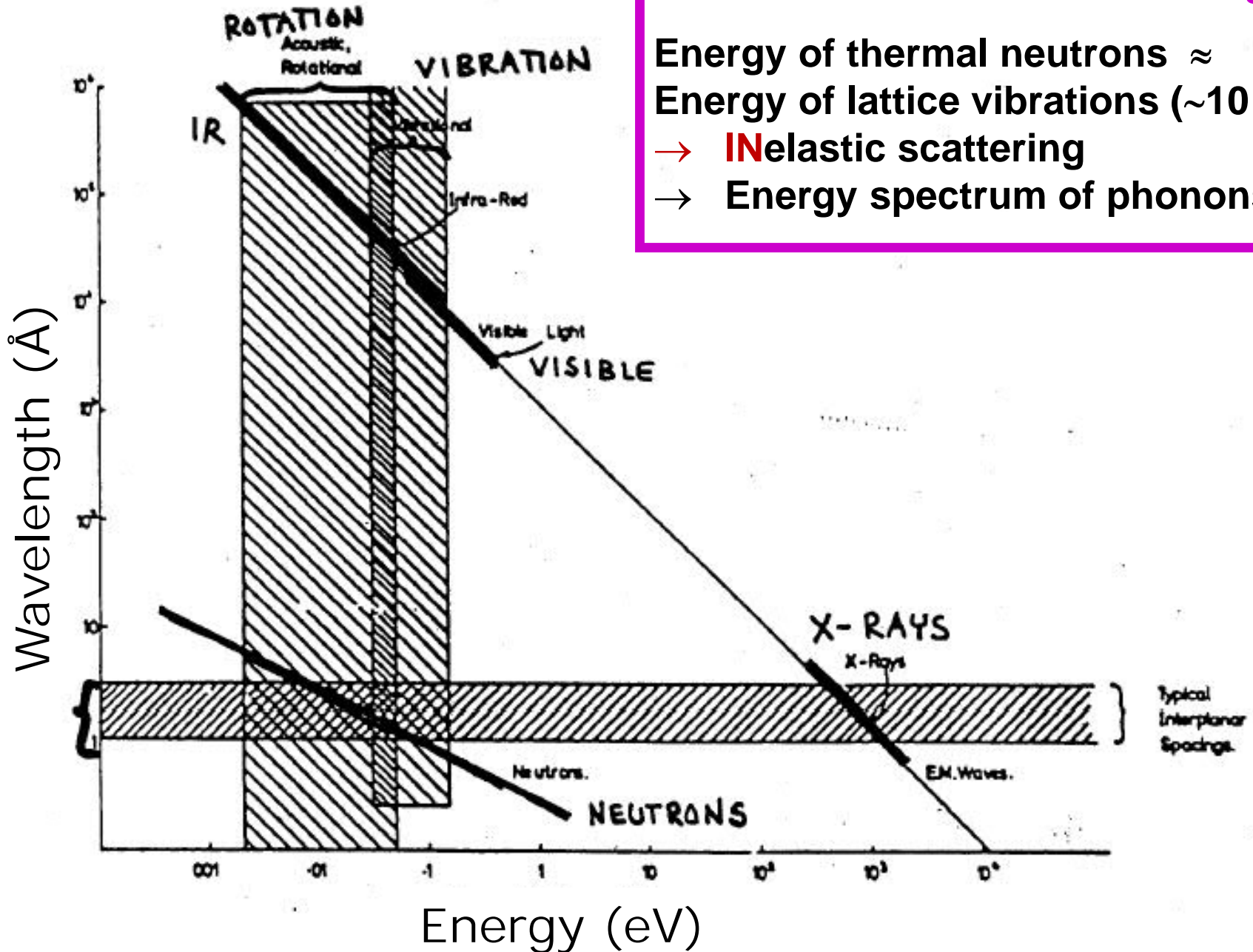
# Inelastic neutron scattering

Energy of thermal neutrons  $\approx$

Energy of lattice vibrations ( $\sim 10$  meV)

→ **I**nelastic scattering

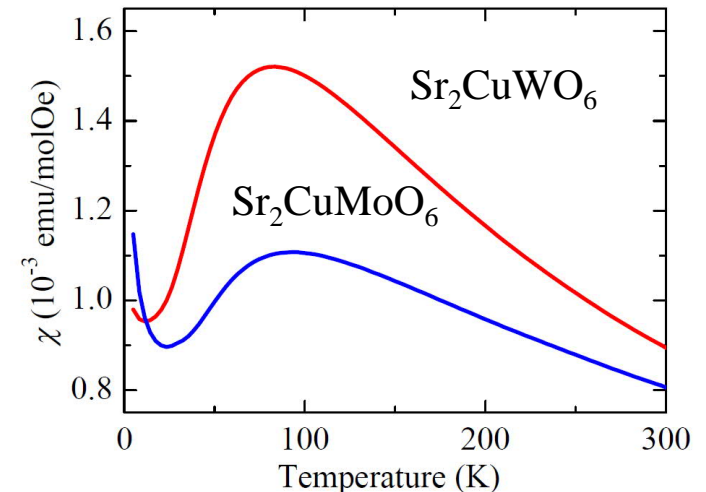
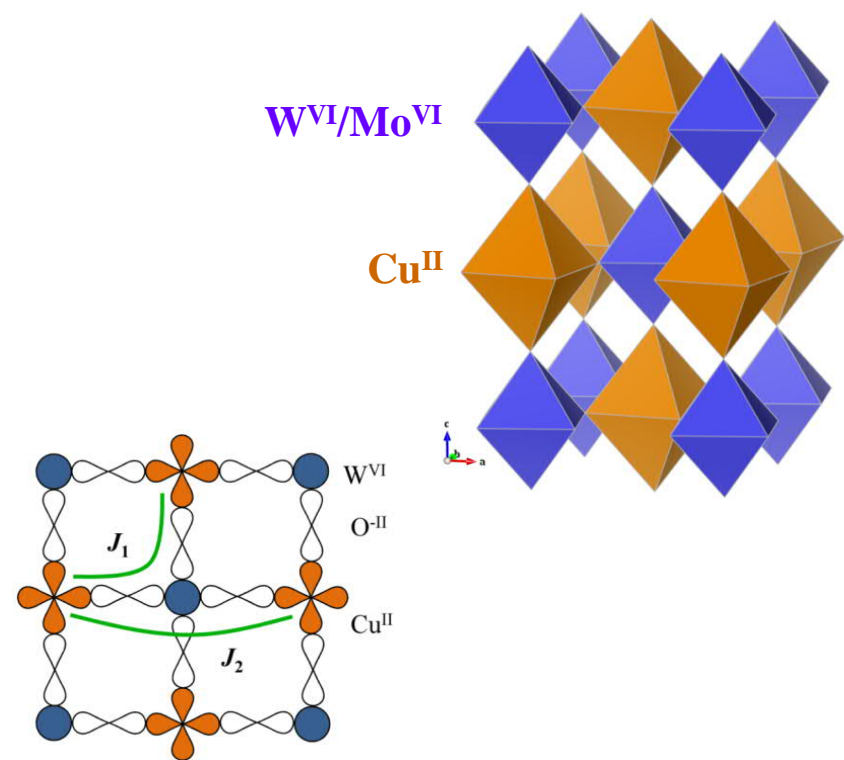
→ Energy spectrum of phonons



# RESEARCH EXAMPLE from our lab

## Double Perovskites $\text{Sr}_2\text{Cu}(\text{W},\text{Mo})\text{O}_6$

- **B-site ordered DP**
- $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuW}\text{O}_6$ : synthesis in air
- $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuMo}\text{O}_6$ : high-pressure synthesis (only very small sample amounts!)
- $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  :  $d^9$  (Jahn-Teller) & magnetic ( $S = 1/2$ )
- **WE EXPECTED:**
  - Low-dimensional (2D) magnetism
  - Interesting quantum effects
- **Magnetic measurements (SQUID):**  
some magnetic transition around 25 K
- **URGENT QUESTION:**  
is it long-range magnetism (FM or AFM ?)

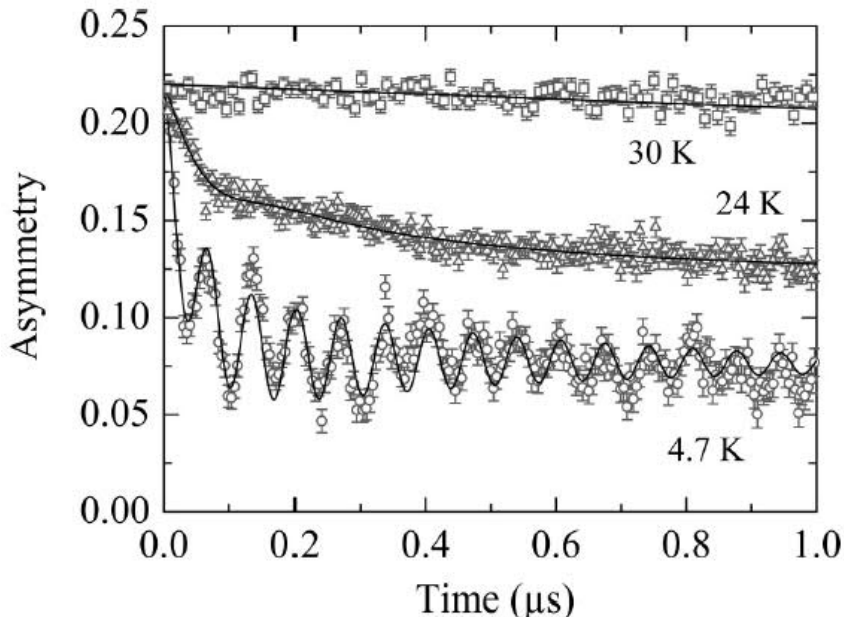


S. Vasala, J.-G. Cheng, H. Yamauchi, J.B. Goodenough & M. Karppinen,  $\text{Sr}_2\text{Cu}(\text{W}_{1-x}\text{Mo}_x)\text{O}_6$ : a quasi-two-dimensional magnetic system, *Chemistry of Materials* **24**, 2764 (2012).

# We started with: $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuWO}_6$ (normal-pressure synthesized)

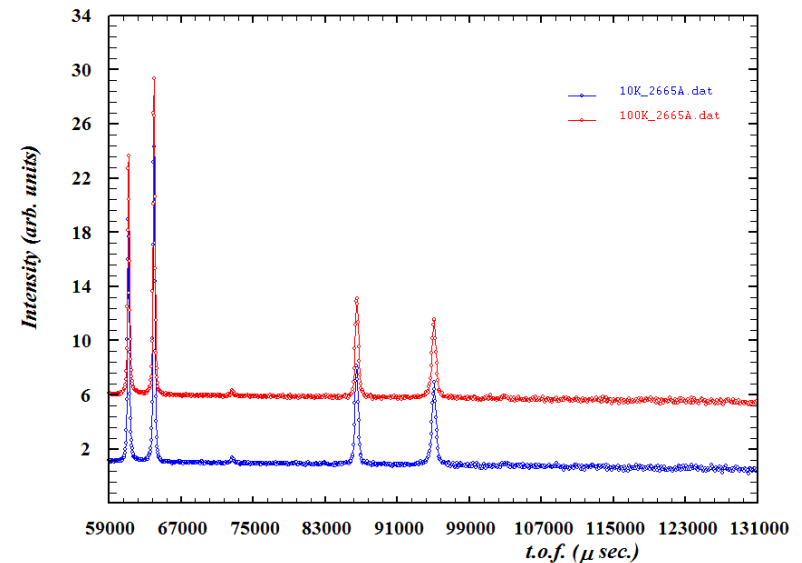
## MUON SPIN EXPERIMENTS

- Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland
- Long-range order below 24 K !
- **QUESTION:** Can we confirm this with ND, and determine the magnetic structure



## NEUTRON DIFFRACTION

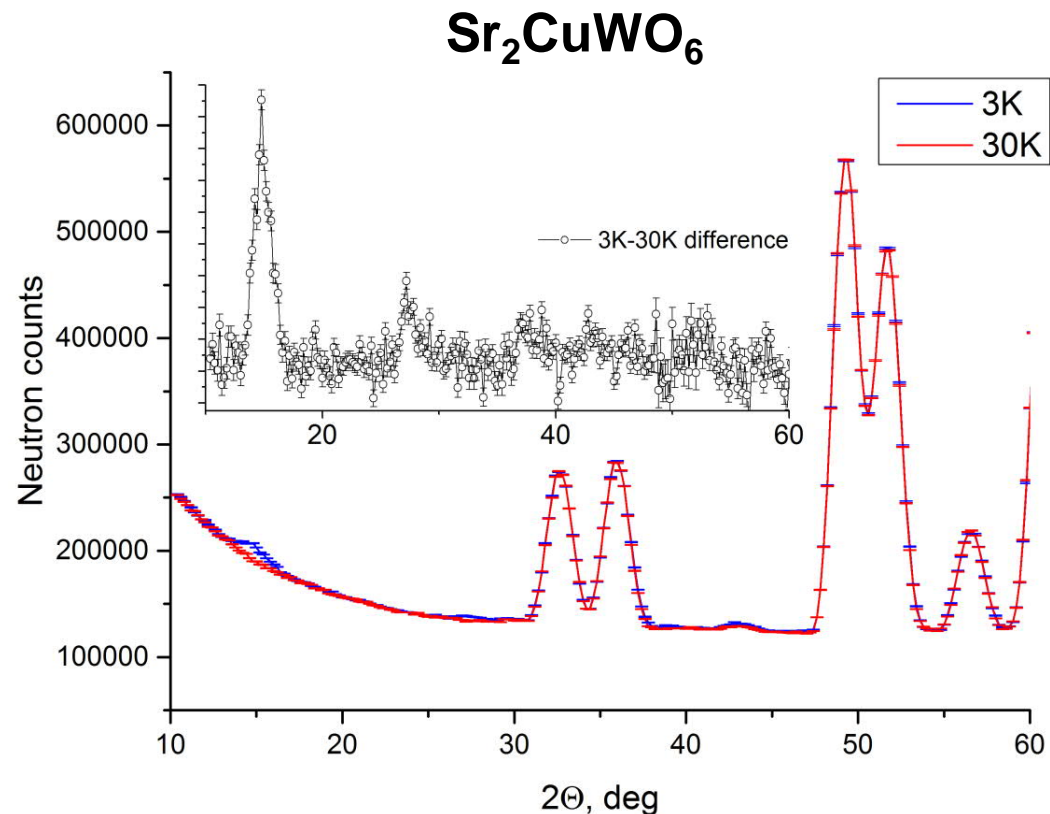
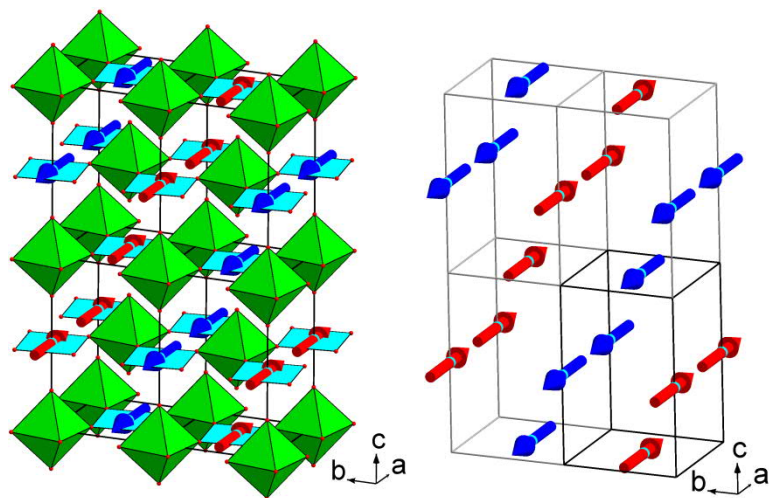
- POWGEN beamline, SPS, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA
- No additional magnetic reflections (10 K versus 100 K) seen, WHY ?
- Sample amount large ( $\sim 5$  g) but the expected magnetic moment small ( $< 0.5 \mu_B$ )



Vasala, Saadaoui, Morenzoni, Chmaissem, Chan, Chen, Hsu, Yamauchi & MKarppinen, Characterization of magnetic properties of  $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuWO}_6$  and  $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuMoO}_6$ , *Physical Review B* **89**, 134419 (2014).

# HIGH-FLUX NEUTRON DIFFRACTION

- High-flux triple-axis spectrometer Taipan, OPAL reactor, **ANSTO**, Australia
- Clear **additional magnetic reflections** (3 K versus 30 K)
- Type-II antiferromagnetic structure (in agreement with our electronic structure calculations)



# RESEARCH CONTINUES ...

- Magnetic structures of **high-pressure synt.**  $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuBO}_6$  :  $B = \text{Mo, Ir, Te}$
- **Small sample** amount of 50 ~ 200 mg !
- **High-flux** and **huge-detector-area** WISH diffractometer, **ISIS**, Oxford, UK (optimized for detecting low magnetic intensity from small sample sizes)
- Later: **discovery of rare spin-liquid-like state** in  $\text{Sr}_2\text{Cu}(\text{Te}_{0.5}\text{W}_{0.5})\text{O}_6$

S. Vasala, H. Yamauchi & M. Karppinen, Synthesis, crystal structure and magnetic properties of a new  $B$ -site ordered double perovskite  $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuIrO}_6$ , *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* **220**, 28-31 (2014).

H.C. Walker, O. Mustonen, S. Vasala, D.J. Voneshen, M.D. Le, D.T. Adroja & M. Karppinen, Spin wave excitations in the tetragonal double perovskite  $\text{Sr}_2\text{CuWO}_6$ , *Physical Review B* **94**, 064411 (2016).

O. Mustonen, S. Vasala, K.P. Schmidt, E. Sadrollahi, H. C. Walker, I. Terasaki, F.J. Litterst, E. Baggio-Saitovitch & M. Karppinen, Tuning the  $S = 1/2$  square-lattice antiferromagnet  $\text{Sr}_2\text{Cu}(\text{Te}_{1-x}\text{W}_x)\text{O}_6$  from Néel order to quantum disorder to columnar order, *Physical Review B* **98**, 064411 (2018).

O. Mustonen, S. Vasala, E. Sadrollahi, K.P. Schmidt, C. Baines, H.C. Walker, I. Terasaki, F.J. Litterst, E. Baggio-Saitovitch & M. Karppinen, Spin-liquid-like state in a spin-1/2 square-lattice antiferromagnet perovskite induced by  $d^{10}-d^0$  cation mixing, *Nature Communications* **9**, 1085 (2018).

O. Mustonen, S. Vasala, H. Mutch, C.I. Thomas, G.B.G. Stenning, E. Baggio-Saitovitch, E.J. Cussen & M. Karppinen, Magnetic interactions in the  $S = 1/2$  square-lattice antiferromagnets  $\text{Ba}_2\text{CuTeO}_6$  and  $\text{Ba}_2\text{CuWO}_6$ : parent phases of a possible spin liquid, *Chemical Communications* **55**, 1132 (2019).

	X-rays	Neutrons	Electrons
Typical E / $\lambda$	12 keV / 1.0 Å	25 meV / 1.8 Å	50 kV / 0.05 Å
Scattering from	Electron cloud	Nuclei	Electric field (nucleus & electrons)
Detects	Electron density	Atomic positions	Atomic positions
Scattering strength	Strong, depends strongly on Z	Weak, no dependence on Z or angle	Very strong, depends on Z
Penetration	Good	Good	Bad
Sample amount	10 ~ 100 mg	0.1 ~ 10 g	"Local"
Magnetic structure	NOT possible	Possible	NOT possible
Wavelength	Well monochromatic	Not perfectly monochromatic	Extremely monochromatic