

# Elastic scattering from atomic aggregates

## Part 1



- Atomic aggregates
- X-ray scattering from molecules, Debye formula
- X-ray scattering from non-crystalline materials
- X-ray scattering from crystals
- Synchrotron Radiation and diffraction
- Neutron scattering

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April 2017



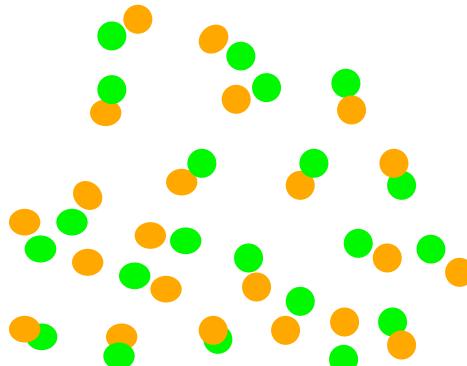
## Atomic aggregates

# Crystalline and non-crystalline materials

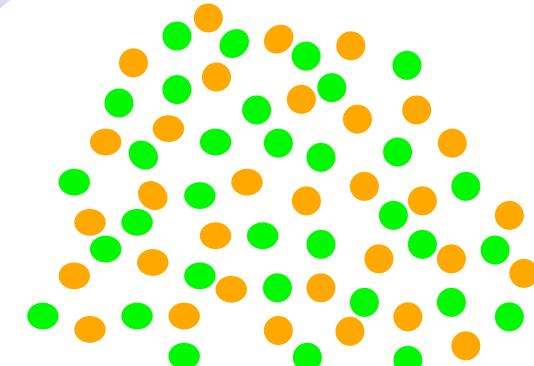
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Randomly oriented  
systems of small size

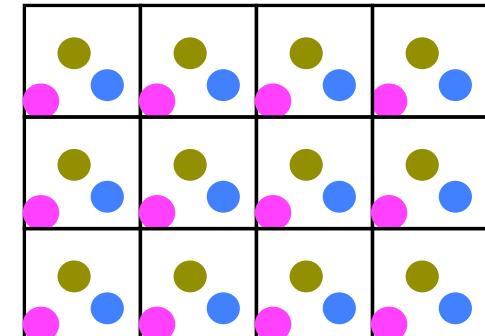
Molecules in gas phase  
Microcrystals



Liquids and  
non-crystalline solids



Crystalline solids



Short-range order

No long-range order

Statistical  
short-range order

No long-range order

Short-range order

Long-range order

## Atomic form factors

$$f_a(\vec{K}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f_X(\vec{K}, Z) = r_e f_0(\vec{K}, Z) \\ f_{el}(\vec{K}, Z) = \frac{me^2}{2\pi\hbar^2\epsilon_0} \frac{Z - f_0(\vec{K}, Z)}{K^2} \\ b_{coh}(Z) \end{array} \right.$$

X-rays      electrons      neutrons

(neglecting atomic vibrations: zero point + thermal)

# Atomic vibrations (zero point + thermal)

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Probability density for nuclear positions

$$w(\vec{r})$$

Thermal factor = FT of  $w(\vec{r})$

$$f_T(\vec{K}) = \int w(\vec{r}) \exp(i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}) dV$$

Resultant electron density

$$\rho_T(\vec{r}) = \rho(\vec{r}) * w(\vec{r}) = \int \rho(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') w(\vec{r}') dV$$

Atomic thermal factor

$$f_{a,T}(\vec{K}) = f_a(\vec{K}) f_T(\vec{K})$$

For isotropic harmonic vibrations:

Gaussian probability density

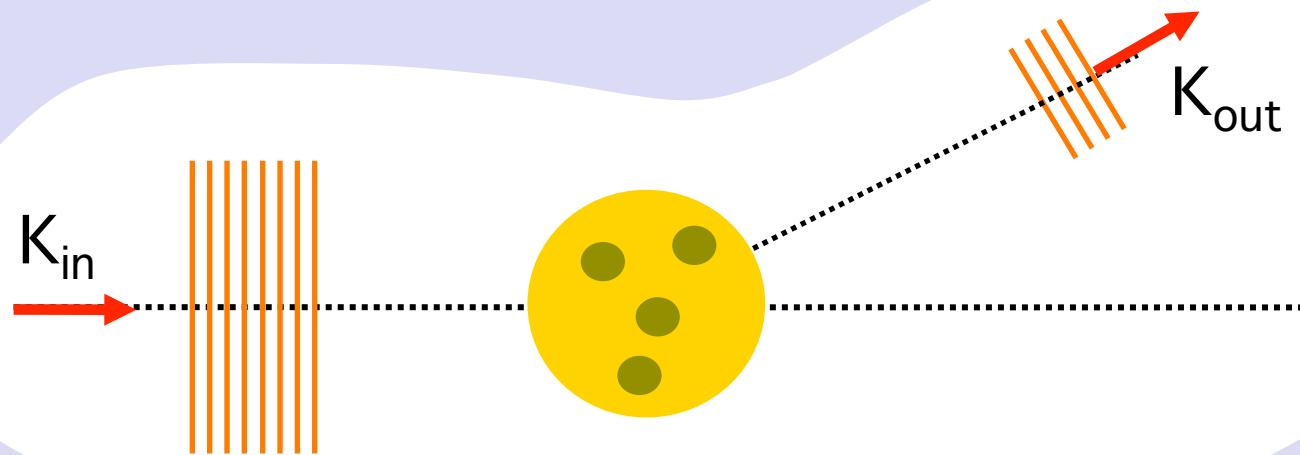
$$w(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{[2\pi\langle u^2 \rangle]^{3/2}} \exp\left[\frac{-r^2}{2\langle u^2 \rangle}\right]$$

Thermal factor:  
exponential damping

$$f_T(\vec{K}) = \exp\left[-K^2\langle u^2 \rangle/2\right]$$

# Scattering amplitude

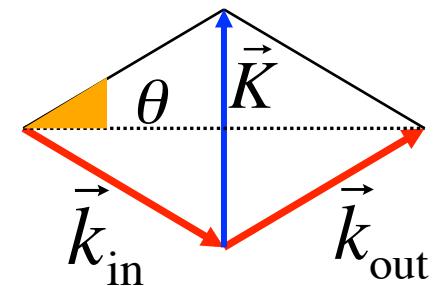
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**Amplitude**  $A_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \sum_m f_m(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m}$

→ Interference !

$$|\vec{K}| = 4\pi \frac{\sin \theta}{\lambda}$$



X-rays

# General formula

X-rays

Intensity  $I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = |A_{\text{e.u.}}|^2 = A_{\text{e.u.}} A_{\text{e.u.}}^*$

$$= \left( \sum_m f_m(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m} \right) \left( \sum_n f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{-i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_n} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{m=1}^N \sum_{n=1}^N f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}}$$

$$f_m(\vec{K}, Z) = f_0(\vec{K}, Z) f_T(\vec{K})$$

(including the thermal factors)

$$\vec{R}_{mn} = \vec{r}_m - \vec{r}_n$$

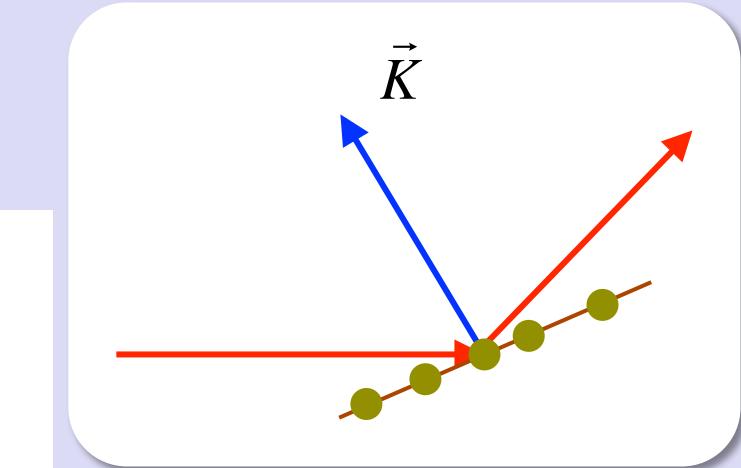
Inter-atomic distances  
(including m=n)

# Planar atomic distribution



N atoms of the same species

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) &= \left( \sum_{m=1}^N f(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m} \right) \left( \sum_{n=1}^N f(\vec{K}) e^{-i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_n} \right) \\
 &= N |f(\vec{K})|^2 + |f(\vec{K})|^2 \sum_{m=1}^N \sum_{n \neq m} \exp(i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}) \\
 &= N |f(\vec{K})|^2 + |f(\vec{K})|^2 \sum_{m=1}^N \sum_{n \neq m} [\cos(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}) + i \sin(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn})] \\
 &= N |f(\vec{K})|^2 + |f(\vec{K})|^2 \sum_{m=1}^N \sum_{n \neq m} \cos(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn})
 \end{aligned}$$



$$R_{mn} = -R_{nm}$$



N independent terms



N(N-1) interference terms

Max for  
specular  
reflection

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{K} &\perp \vec{R}_{mn} \\
 \cos(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}) &= 1 \\
 I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) &= N^2 |f(\vec{K})|^2
 \end{aligned}$$

# X-rays .vs. neutrons

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## X-rays

including the thermal factors

$$f_m(\vec{K}, Z) = f_0(\vec{K}, Z) f_T(\vec{K})$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = r_e^2 \sum_m \sum_n f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{R}_{mn}}$$

$$\vec{R}_{mn} = \vec{r}_m - \vec{r}_n$$

$m, n$  = atomic sites & atomic species

## Thermal neutrons

without thermal factors

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sum_m \sum_n b_m b_n^* e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{R}_{mn}}$$

including thermal factors

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sum_m \sum_n b_m f_{T,m}(\vec{K}) b_n^* f_{T,n}^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{R}_{mn}}$$

$m, n$  = atomic sites, isotopes, spins

# 3 types of atomic aggregates

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \sum_m \sum_n f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}}$$

$$\vec{R}_{mn} = \vec{r}_m - \vec{r}_n$$

Randomly oriented  
systems of small size

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \sum_{m,n} f_m f_n^* \frac{\sin(KR_{mn})}{KR_{mn}}$$

Debye scattering formula

Crystalline solids

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{\sin^2(N_i \vec{K} \cdot \vec{a}_i / 2)}{\sin^2(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{a}_i / 2)} |F(\vec{K})|^2$$

Laue  
interference function

Structure  
factor

X-rays

Liquids and  
non-crystalline solids

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N|f(K)|^2 + N|f(K)|^2 \int_0^\infty 4\pi r^2 [\rho(r) - \rho_0] \frac{\sin Kr}{Kr} dr$$



X-ray scattering from  
small atomic aggregates  
(molecules, nano-clusters...)

# Systems of small size

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Scattering amplitude

$$A_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \sum_m f_m(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m}$$

X-rays

Scattering intensity

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) &= \left[ \sum_m f_m(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m} \right] \left[ \sum_n f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{-i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_n} \right] \\ &= \sum_m |f_m(\vec{K})|^2 + \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}} \\ &= \sum_m |f_m(\vec{K})|^2 + \underbrace{\sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K})}_{\text{Interference: } N(N-1) \text{ terms}} \cos(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}) \end{aligned}$$



Independent  
scattering

Interference:  
 $N(N-1)$  terms

for small systems  
it can be calculated

# Randomly oriented systems of small size

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Random orientation of the molecule

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(K) = \sum_m f_m^2(K) + \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} f_m(K) f_n(K) \left\langle e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}} \right\rangle$$

Spherical symmetry around each atom

$$\left\langle e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}} \right\rangle = \frac{\sin(KR_{mn})}{KR_{mn}}$$



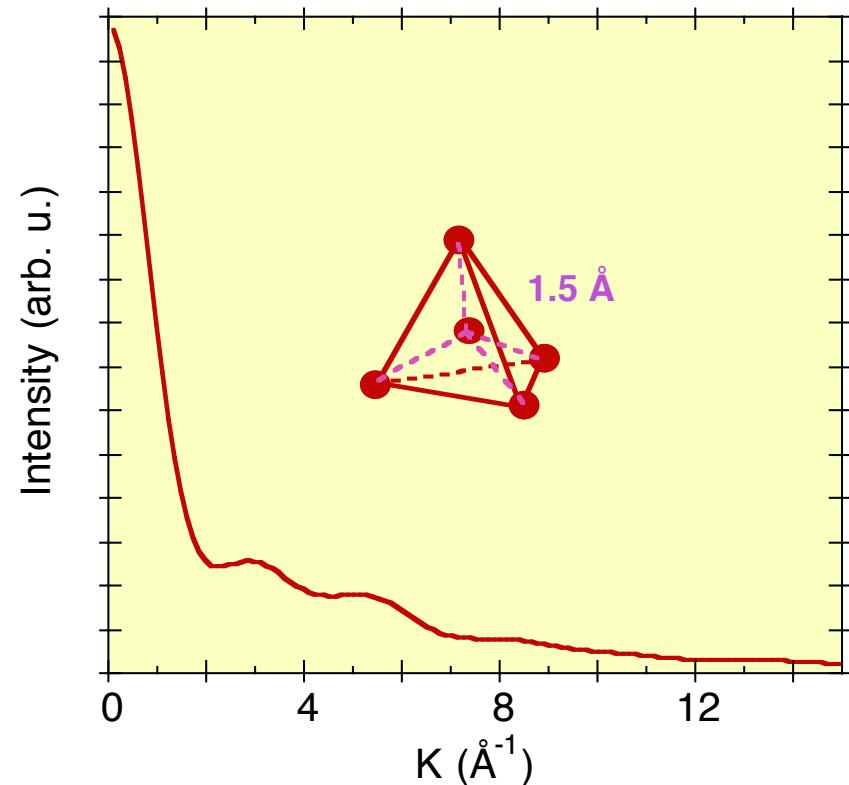
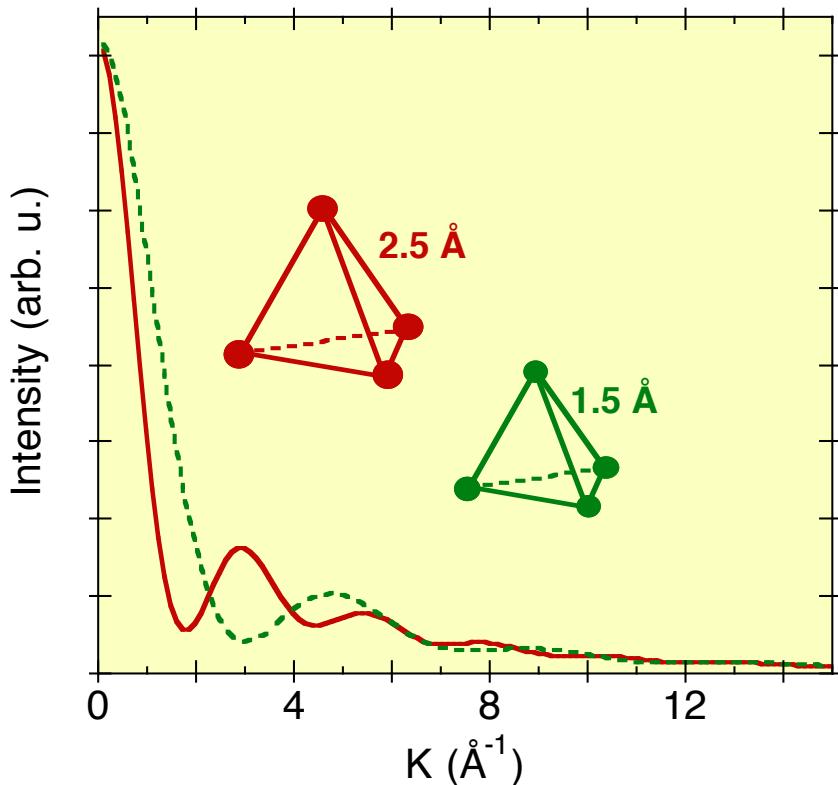
$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(K) = \sum_m f_m^2(K) + \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} f_m(K) f_n(K) \frac{\sin(KR_{mn})}{KR_{mn}}$$

Debye scattering formula  
for 1 molecule (1915)

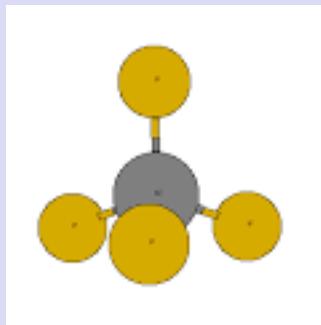
# Example 1: system with one atomic species

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(K) = f^2(K) \left[ N + \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} \frac{\sin(KR_{mn})}{KR_{mn}} \right]$$

Example: randomly oriented tetrahedral molecule



## Example 2: $\text{CF}_4$ molecule (a)

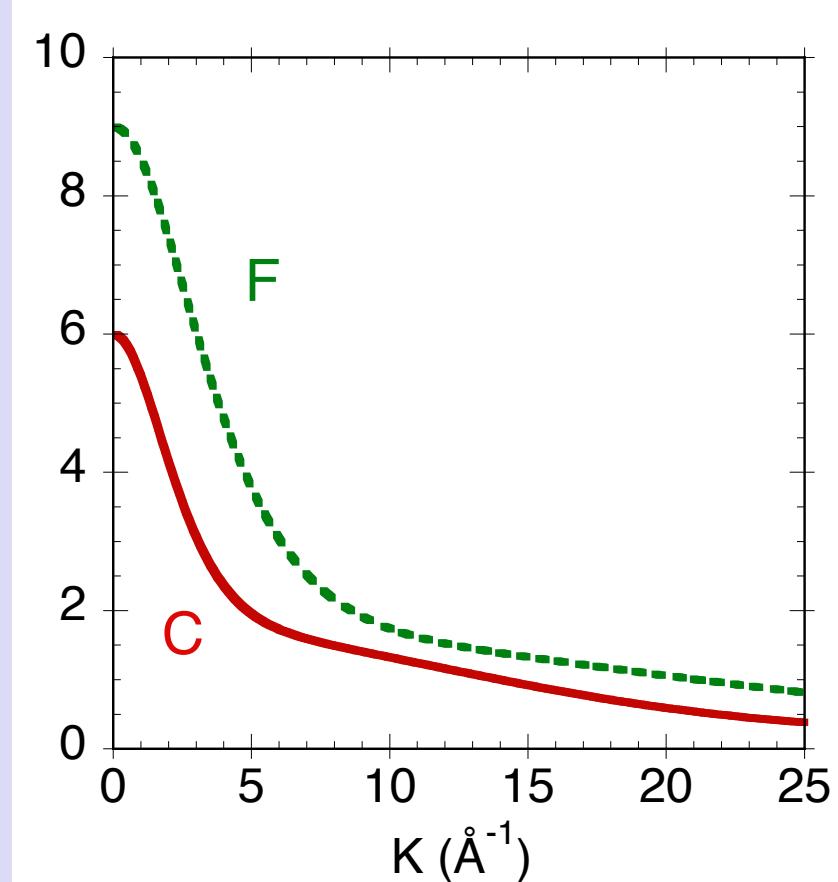


5 independent scattering terms

4 C-F distances =  $1.32 \text{ \AA}$

6 F-F distances =  $2.15 \text{ \AA}$

Atomic scattering factors

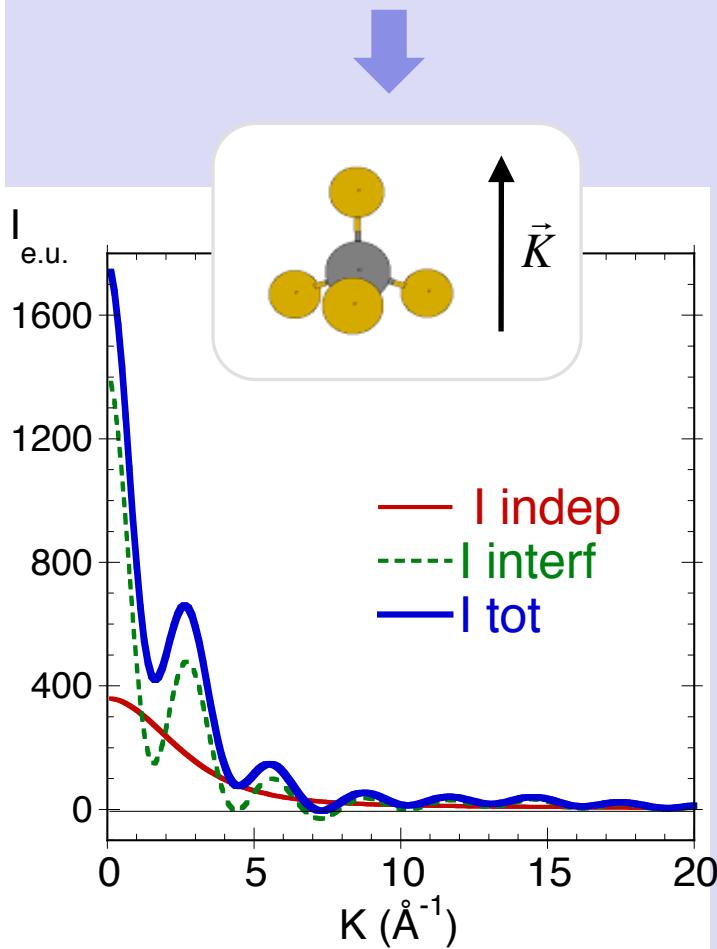


## Example 2: $\text{CF}_4$ molecule (b)

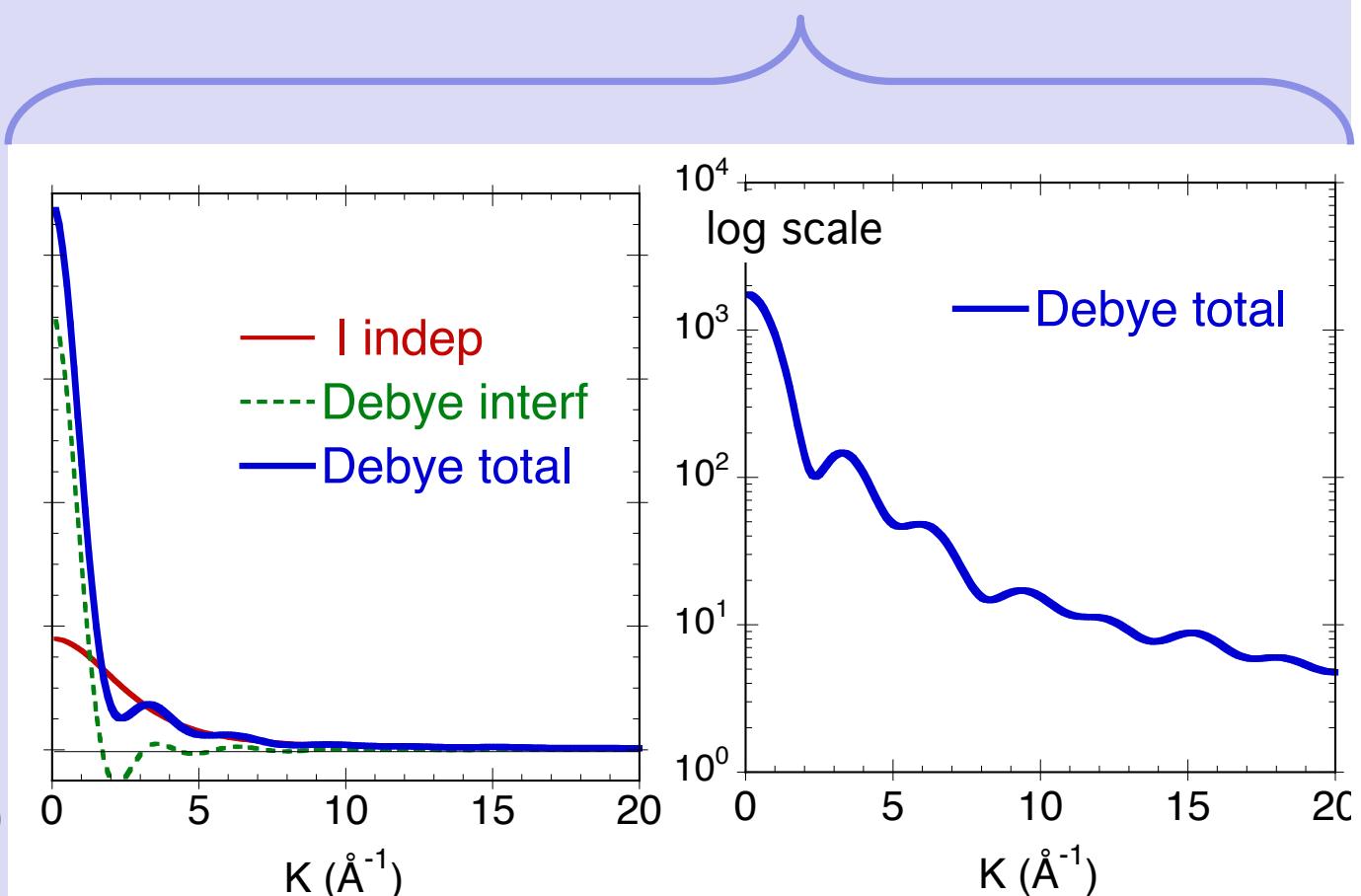
$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \sum_m f_m^2(\vec{K}) + \sum_{m \neq m} f_m(\vec{K}) f_n(\vec{K}) \cos(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn})$$

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(K) = \sum_m f_m^2(K) + \sum_{m \neq m} f_m(K) f_n(K) \frac{\sin(KR_{mn})}{KR_{mn}}$$

Oriented molecule



Random orientation  
Debye equation



## Example 2: $\text{CF}_4$ molecule (c)

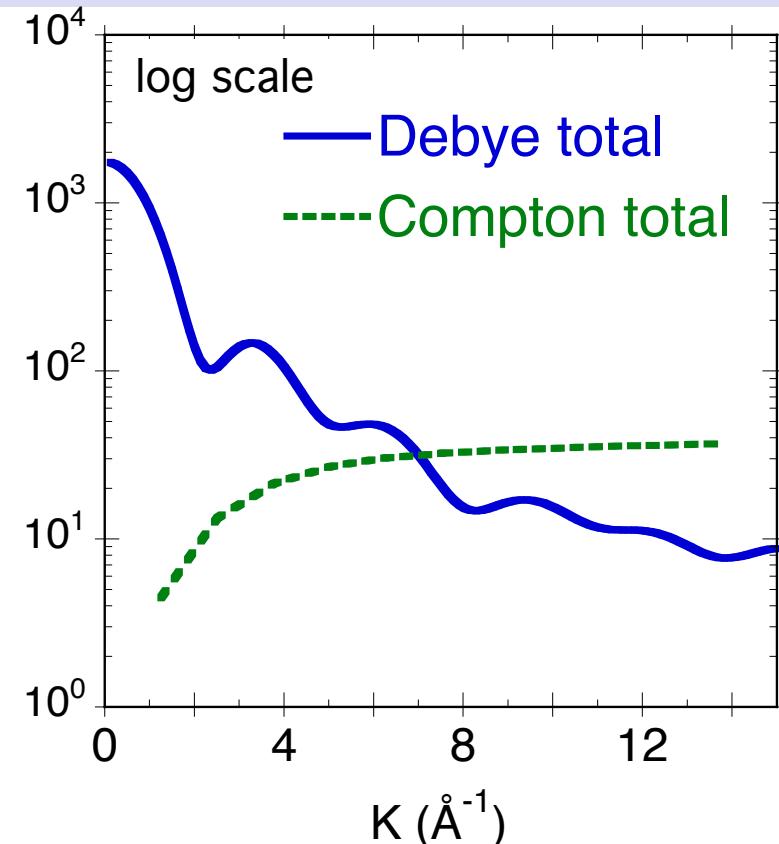
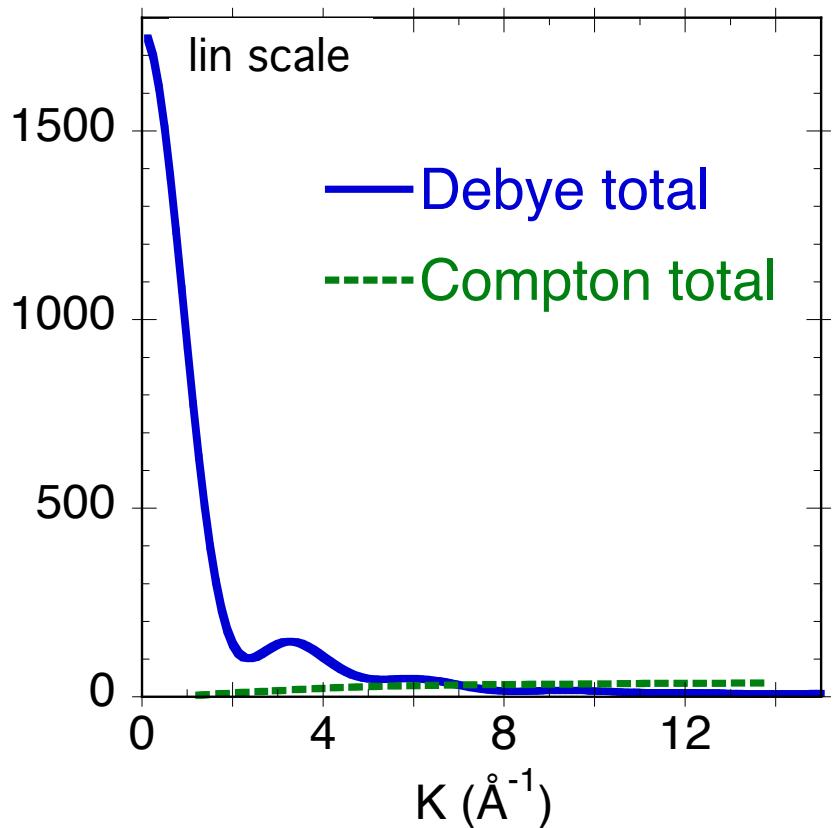
Elastic .vs. inelastic scattering

Debye

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(K) = \sum_m f_m^2(K) + \sum_{\substack{m \\ n \neq m}} f_m(K) f_n(K) \frac{\sin(KR_{mn})}{KR_{mn}}$$

Compton

$$I_{\text{mod}}(\vec{K}) = Z - \sum_{n=1}^Z |f_n|^2$$



- The Debye formula for one molecule has to be multiplied by the number of molecules of the gas
- Experimental intensities include the Compton contribution (standard detectors don't discriminate energy)
- The Debye formula gives only 1-dim info (on inter-atomic distances)
- The Debye formula directly connects the 1-dim structural info to the scattering intensity (by sin-transform)
- Information accuracy increases by increasing the maximum K value

A) Simple systems: sin-transform reciprocal space → real space  
(next slide)

B) Relatively large systems

Diffraction patterns are calculated from atomistic descriptions via the Debye function, and refined against measured data to obtain detailed microstructural information.

The number of terms to be calculated is proportional to  $N^2$

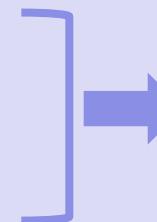


Originally suitable only for small molecules

At present

Interest in nano-technology

Available computing power available



Debye function revisited

# Debye formula: sin-transform

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THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS      VOLUME 17, NUMBER 11      NOVEMBER, 1949

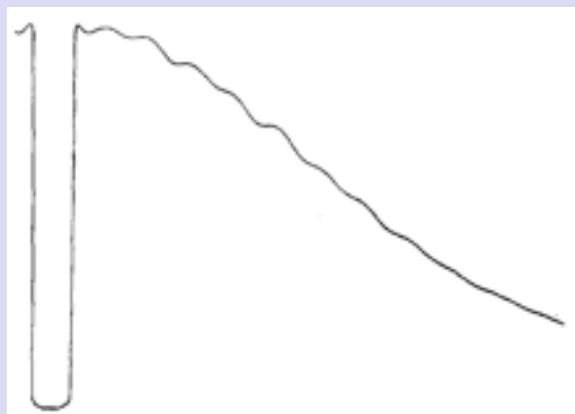
## Internal Motion and Molecular Structure Studies by Electron Diffraction\*

ISABELLA LUOOSKI KARLE AND JEROME KARLE

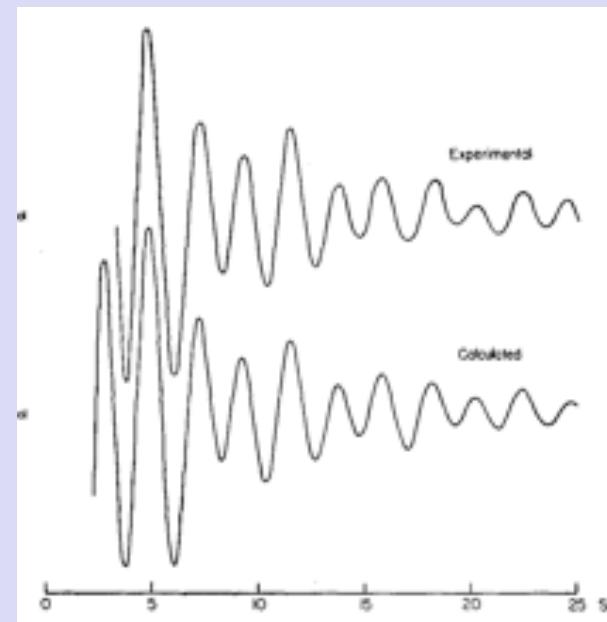
*Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C.*

(Received January 31, 1949)

$\text{C Cl}_4$

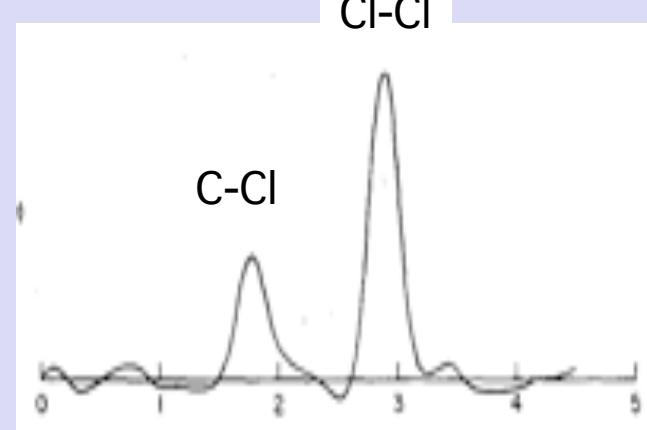


Experimental spectrum



Experimental and calculated oscillations

Cl-Cl



RDF from sin-transform



X-ray scattering from  
liquids and non-crystalline solids

# Large non-crystalline systems

General formula...

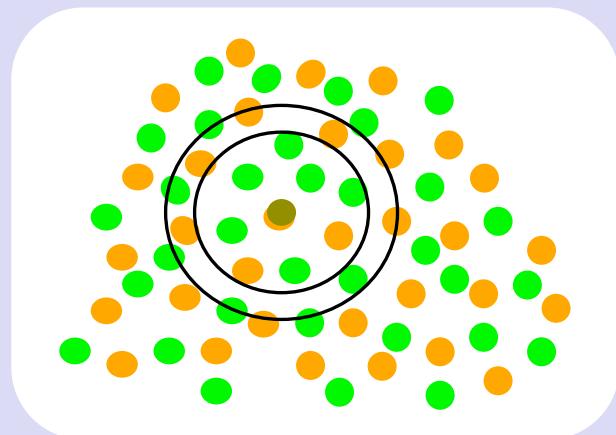
$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \left( \sum_m f_m(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m} \right) \left( \sum_n f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{-i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_n} \right)$$
$$= \sum_m \sum_n f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}}$$



No long-range order  
no Laue interference function

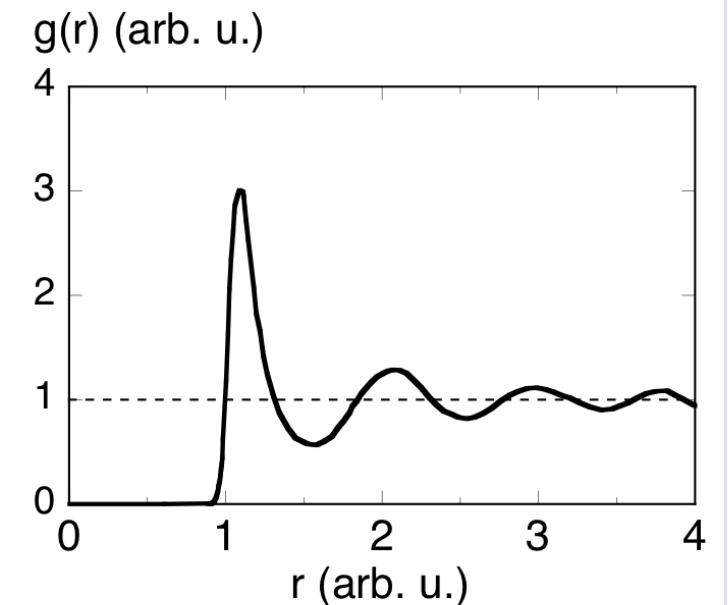
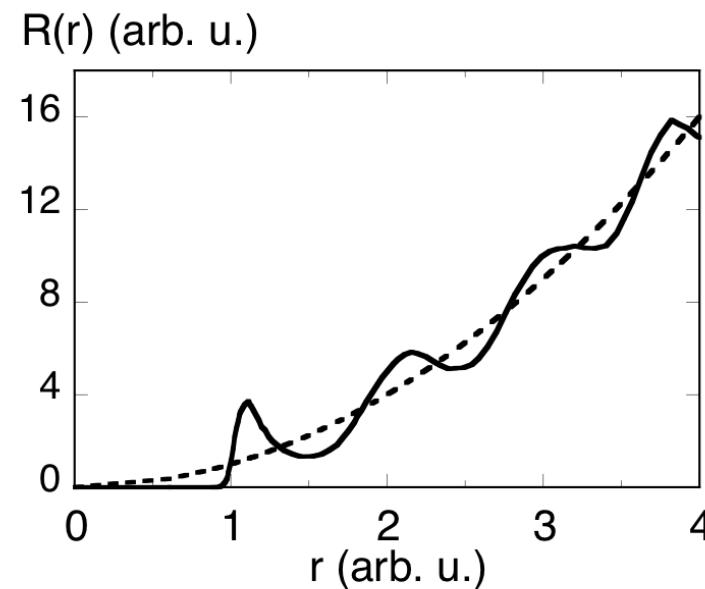
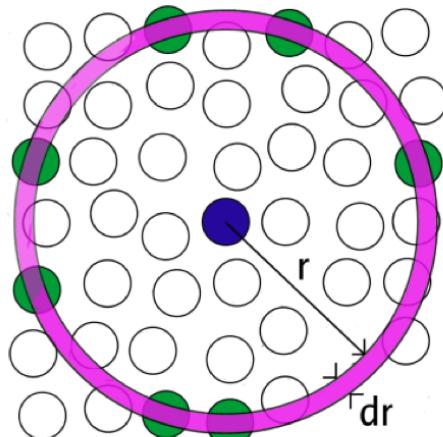
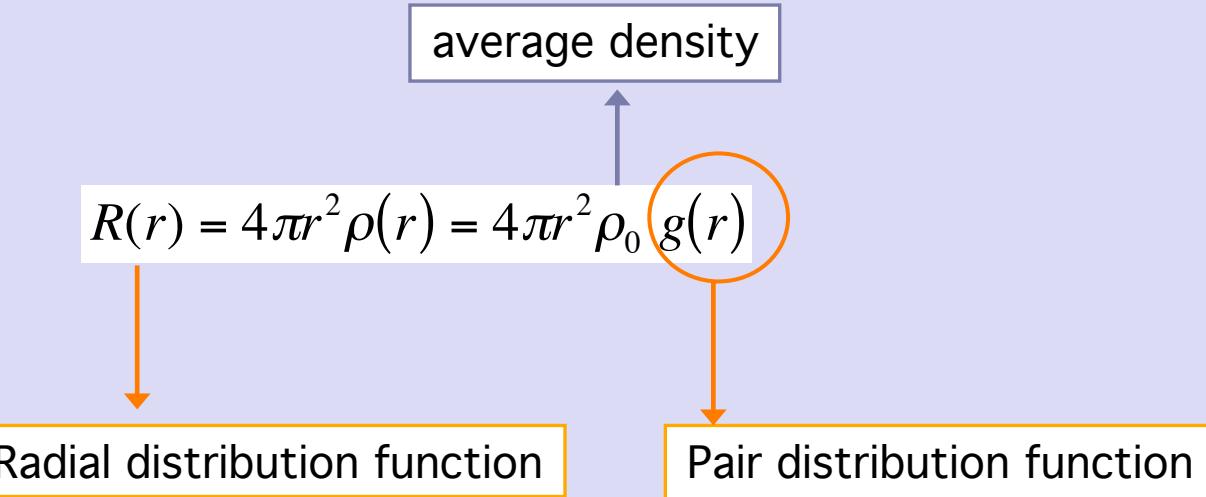
Large systems – no defined structure  
Debye formula impracticable

Random orientations



# Radial Distribution Function

$$R(r) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} \delta(r - r_{mn})$$



# Monatomic non-crystalline systems (a)

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General formula

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = \sum_m |f_m(\vec{K})|^2 + \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} f_m(\vec{K}) f_n^*(\vec{K}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}}$$

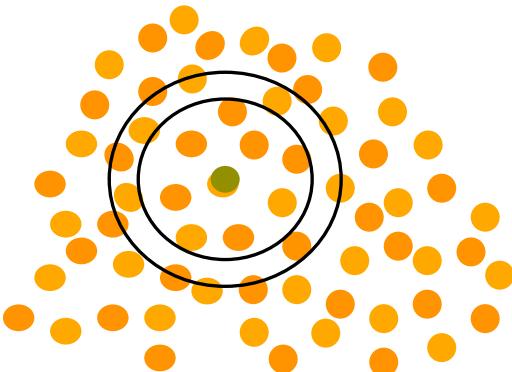
Only 1 atomic species

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N |f(\vec{K})|^2 + |f(\vec{K})|^2 \sum_m \sum_{n \neq m} e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_{mn}}$$

Independent scattering

Interference:  
N(N-1) terms

Disordered system



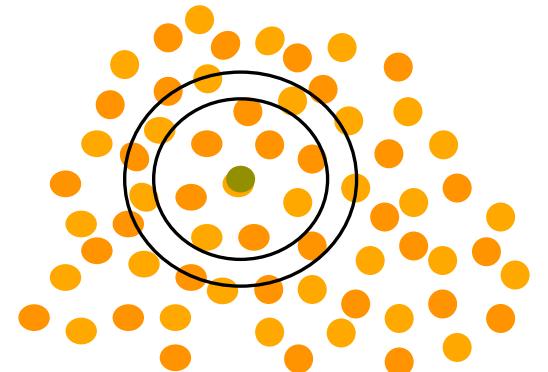
$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N |f(\vec{K})|^2 + |f(\vec{K})|^2 \sum_m \int_V \rho_m(\vec{r}_{mn}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$

Integral over distribution  
of distances from atom m

# Monatomic non-crystalline systems (b)

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 + \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 \sum_m \int_V \rho_m(\vec{r}_{mn}) e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$

Subtract and add  
the average density



Oscillation of the distribution  
around the average density

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 + \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 \sum_m \int_V [\rho(\vec{r}_{mn}) - \rho_0] e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$

$$+ \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 \sum_m \int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$

Small-angle scattering  
only at very small K

# Monatomic non-crystalline systems (c)

Neglecting the small-angle term:

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N|f(\vec{K})|^2 + |f(\vec{K})|^2 \sum_m \int_V [\rho(\vec{r}_{mn}) - \rho_0] e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$

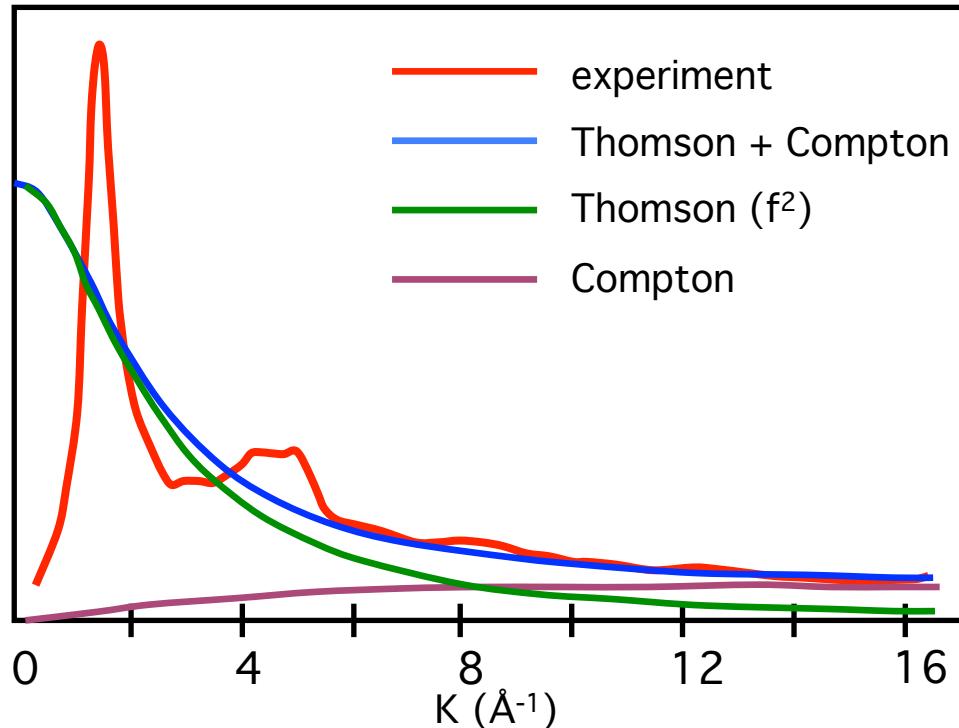
Averaging over the central atom and considering spherical symmetry:

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N|f(K)|^2 + N|f(K)|^2 \int_0^\infty 4\pi r^2 [\rho(r) - \rho_0] \frac{\sin Kr}{Kr} dr$$

$$\rho(r) = \rho_0 g(r)$$

$$4\pi\rho_0 \int_0^\infty r^2 [g(r) - 1] \frac{\sin Kr}{Kr} dr$$

# Experimental data: Interference function

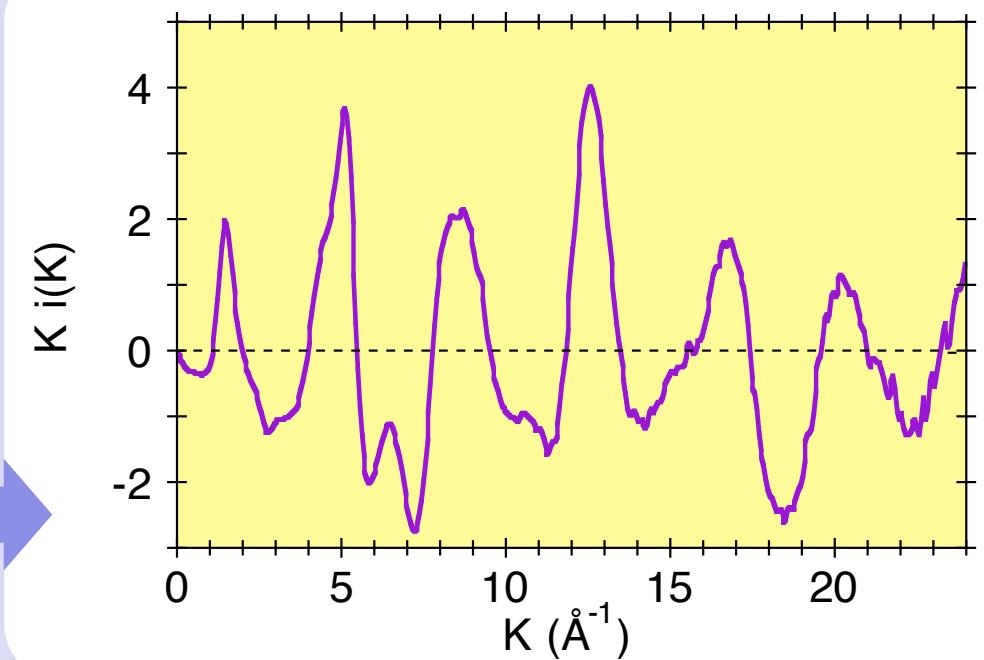


Interference function

$$i(K) = \frac{I_{\text{eu}}(K)/N - f^2(K)}{f^2(K)} = S(K) - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\text{e.u.}}(K) &= I_{\text{exp}}(K) - I_{\text{Compton}}(K) \\ &= Nf^2(K) S(K) \end{aligned}$$

Structure factor



# Fourier sin-transform

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N|f(K)|^2 + N|f(K)|^2 \cdot 4\pi\rho_0 \int_0^\infty r^2 [g(r) - 1] \frac{\sin Kr}{Kr} dr$$



Interference function

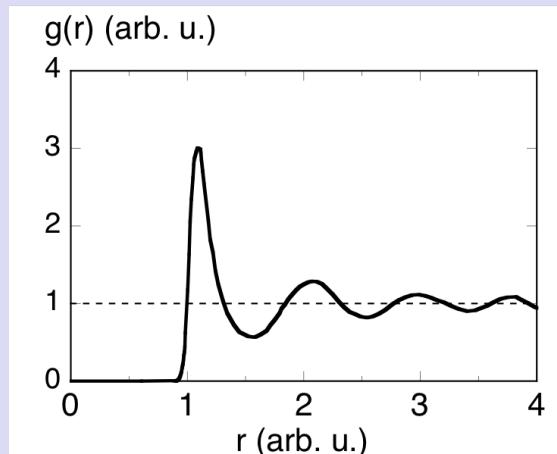
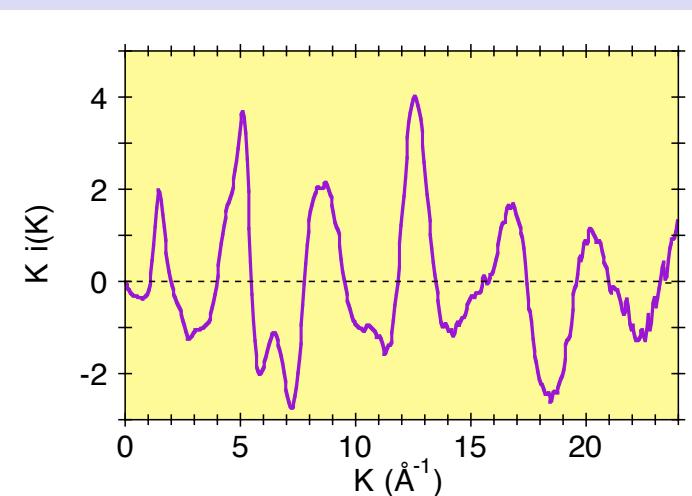
$$K i(K) = \frac{I_{\text{eu}}(K)/N - f^2(K)}{f^2(K)}$$

$$K i(K) = 4\pi\rho_0 \int_0^\infty r [g(r) - 1] \sin Kr dr$$



Pair distribution function

$$g(r) - 1 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 r \rho_0} \int_0^\infty i(K) \sin(Kr) K dK$$



# Distribution functions

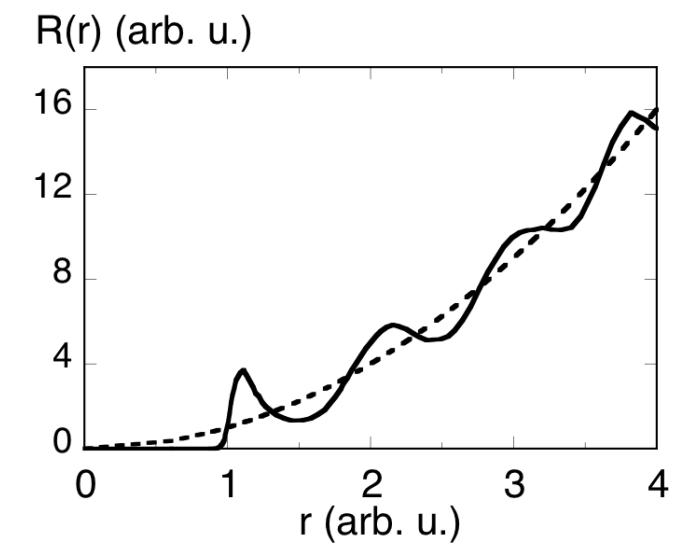
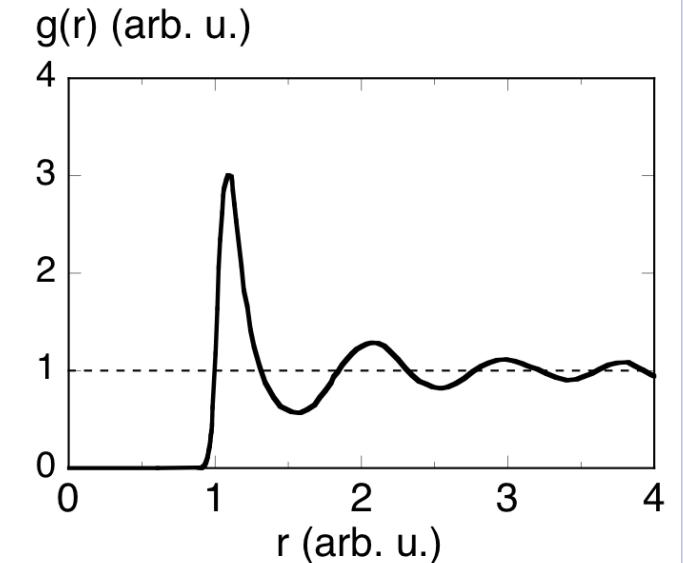
## Pair distribution function

$$g(r) = 1 + \frac{1}{2\pi^2 r \rho_0} \int_0^\infty i(K) \sin(Kr) K dK$$



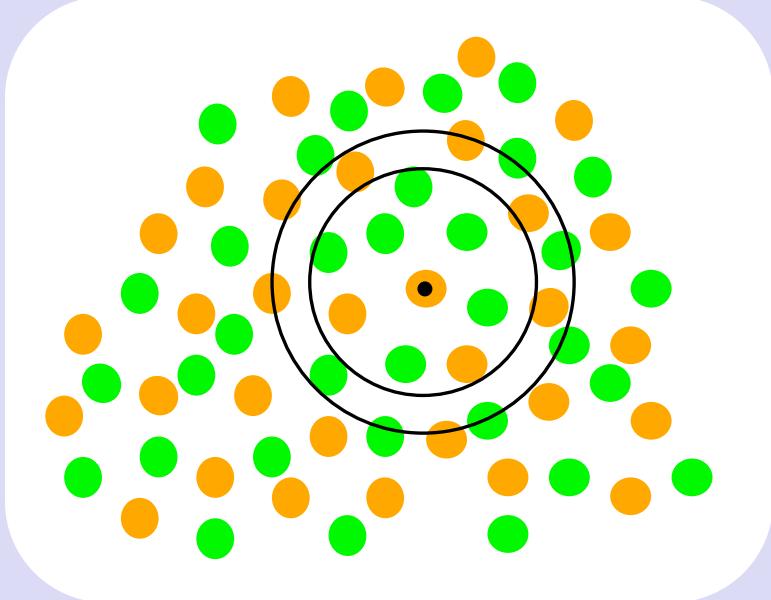
## Radial distribution function

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



# Many-atomic amorphous systems

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$M$  atomic species



$$\frac{M(M-1)}{2} + M = \frac{M(M+1)}{2}$$

$m \neq n$        $m = n$

partial RDFs

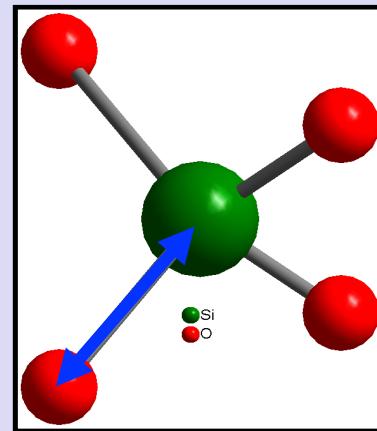
$g_{mn}(r)$

partial structure factors

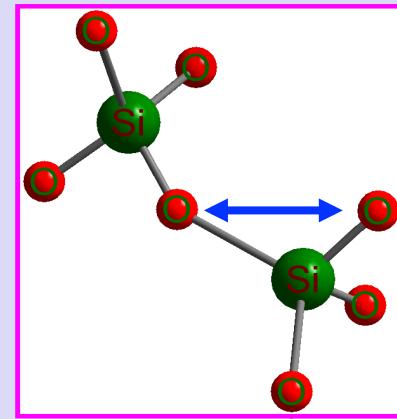
$S_{mn}(K)$

# Partial RDFs - Amorphous silica

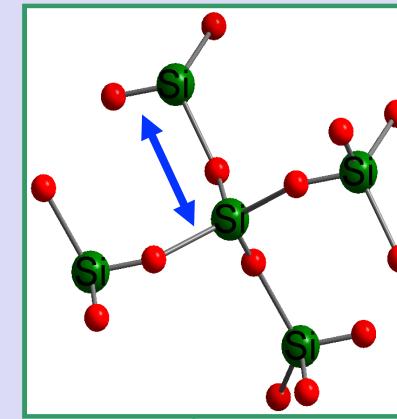
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Si-O



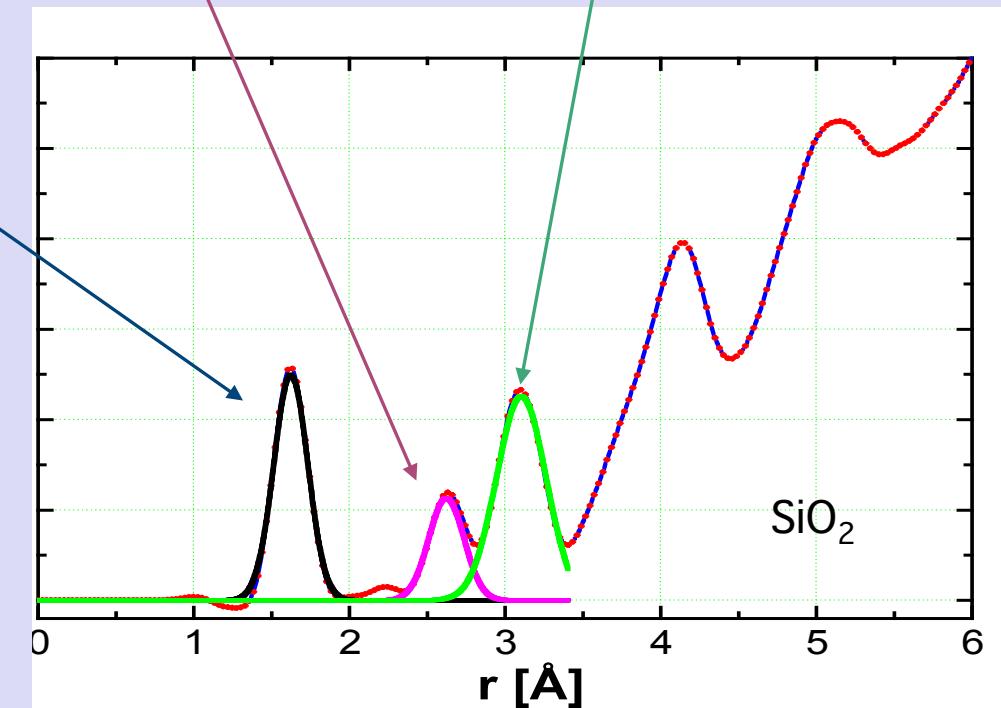
O-O



Si-Si

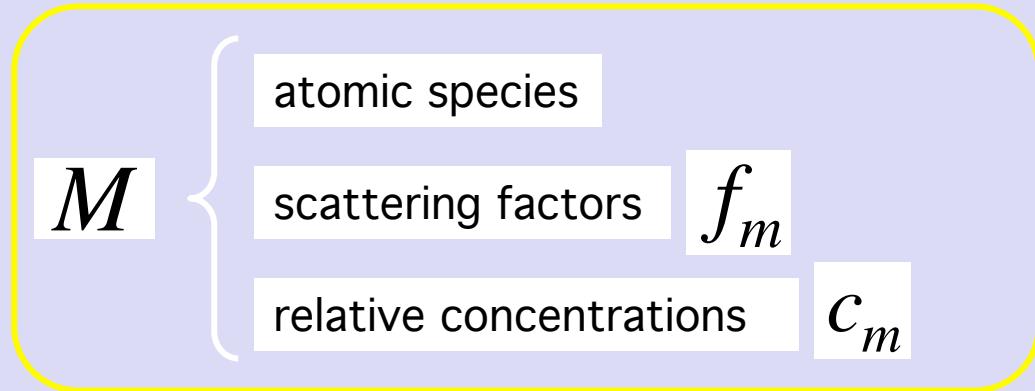
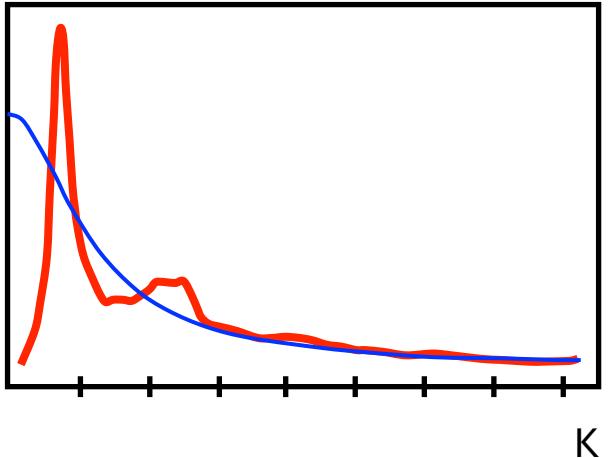
Peaks positions  
→ interatomic distances

Peaks area  
→ coordination numbers



# Partial structure factors

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$$I_{eu}(K) = \sum_m c_m f_m^2(K) + \sum_{m,n \neq m} c_m c_n f_m(K) f_n(K) [S_{mn}(K) - 1]$$

independent scattering

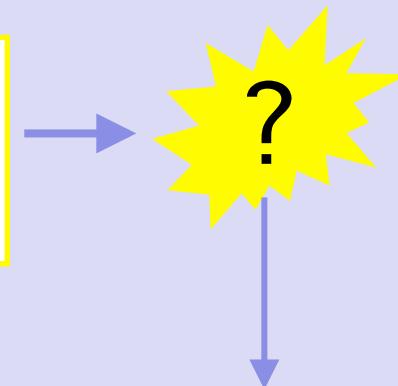
interference function

$m, n$  = atomic species

$$\frac{M(M+1)}{2}$$
 partial structure factors  $S_{mn}(K)$

# Partial distribution functions

- Neutron isotopic substitution
- X-ray anomalous diffraction (MAD)
- Approximate methods



$$I_{eu}(K) = \sum_m c_m f_m^2(K) + \sum_{m,n \neq m} c_m c_n f_m(K) f_n(K) [S_{mn}(K) - 1]$$

$$g_{mn}(r) - 1 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 \rho_0} \int_0^\infty [S_{mn}(K) - 1] \sin(Kr) K dK$$

$m, n$  = atomic species

# Method of compositional units

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Approximate method  
for molecular systems

$uc$  = unit of composition

$\text{SiO}_2$ : 1 Si + 2 O

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) &= \sum_{m,n} f_m f_n e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{R}_{mn}} \\ &= \sum_m f_m^2 + \sum_m f_m \sum_{n \neq m} f_n e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{R}_{mn}} \\ &= \sum_m f_m^2 + f_e^2 \sum_m K_m \sum_{n \neq m} K_n e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{R}_{mn}} \\ &= N \sum_{uc} f_j^2 + N f_e^2 \sum_{uc} K_j \int_0^\infty 4\pi R^2 [\rho_j(r) - \rho_0] \frac{\sin KR}{KR} dR + [\text{small angle term}] \end{aligned}$$

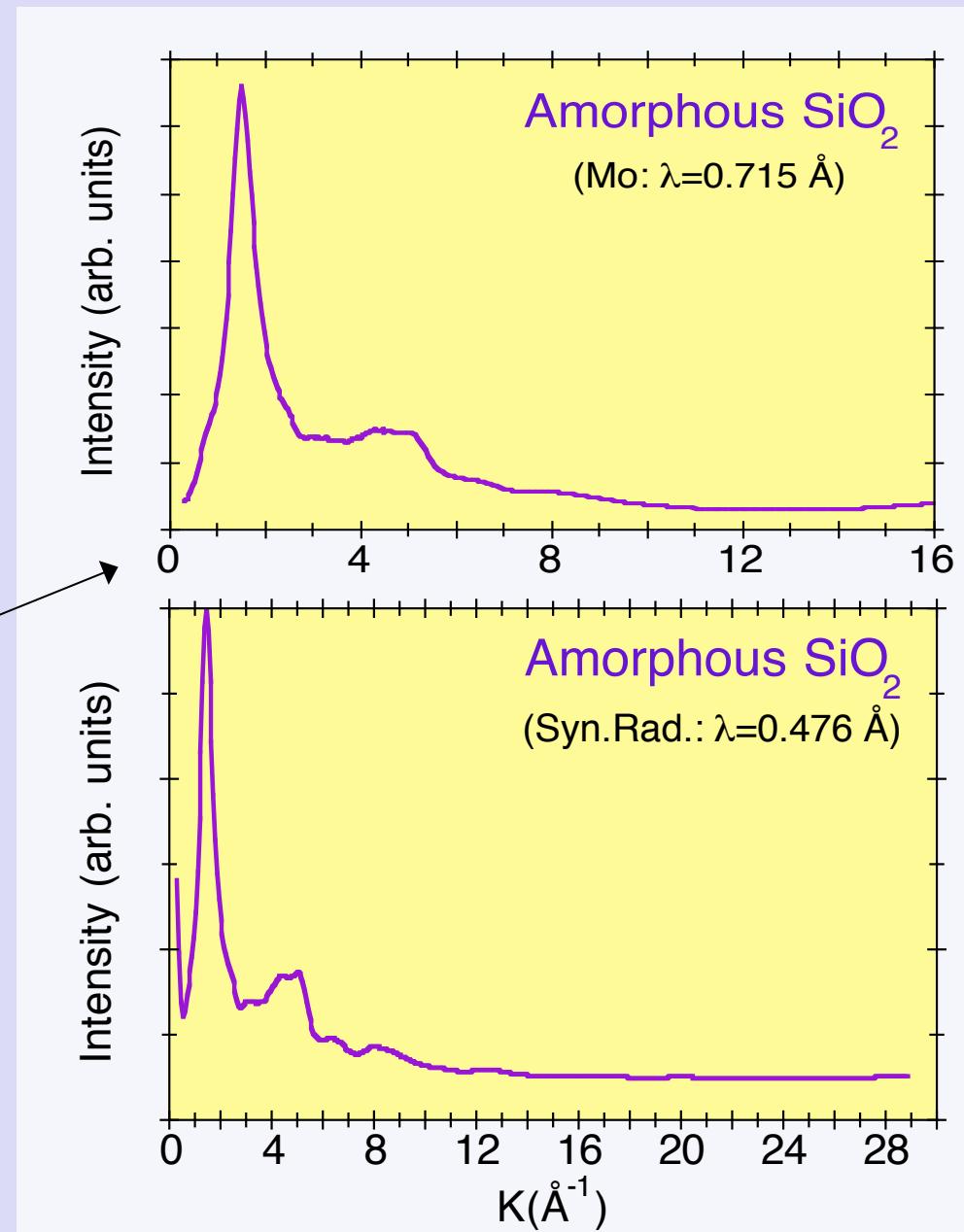
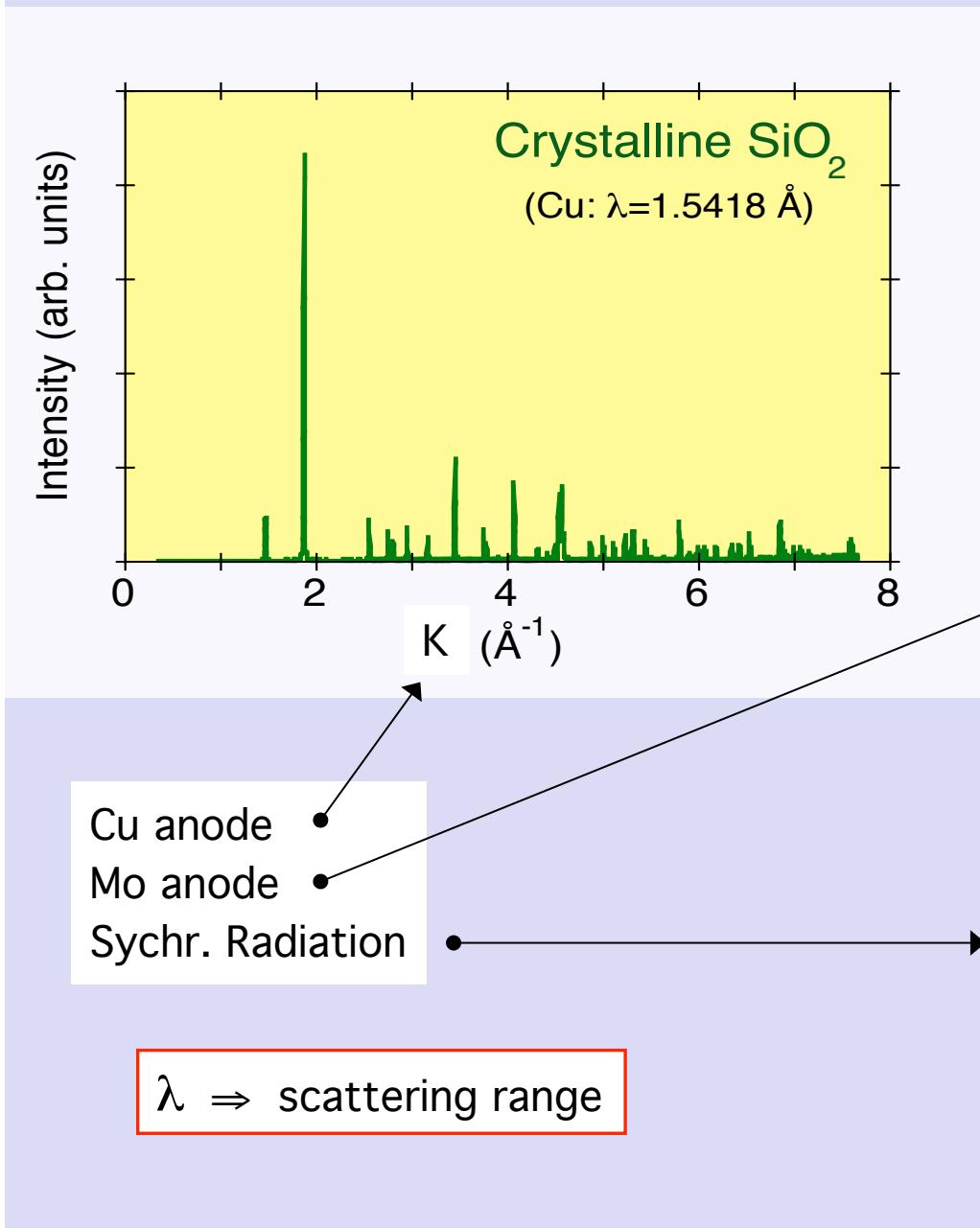


$$\text{average } f_e = \frac{\sum f_m}{\sum Z_m}$$

$$K_m = f_m / f_e$$

$m, n$  = atomic species

# Crystalline .vs. amorphous systems.



## Crystalline solids

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = r_e^2 \prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{\sin^2(N_i \vec{K} \cdot \vec{a}_i / 2)}{\sin^2(\vec{K} \cdot \vec{a}_i / 2)} |F(\vec{K})|^2$$

Laue interference function

Structure factor

## Non-crystalline systems

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = r_e^2 |f(K)|^2 S(K)$$

Structure factor



Small angle X-ray scattering  
SAXS

# Small angle scattering (a)

$$I_{\text{e.u.}}(\vec{K}) = N \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 + \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 \sum_m \int_V \left[ \rho(\vec{r}_{mn}) - \rho_0 \right] e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$

$$+ \left| f(\vec{K}) \right|^2 \sum_m \int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_{mn}} dV_n$$



$$I_{\text{e.u.}}^{\text{SAXS}}(\vec{K}) = f^2(\vec{K}) \sum_m \int_V \rho_0 e^{-i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m} dV_m$$

$$= f^2(\vec{K}) \int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_m} dV_m \int_V \rho_0 e^{-i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}_n} dV_n$$

$$= f^2(\vec{K}) \left| \int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}} dV \right|^2$$

## Small angle scattering (b)

$$I_{e.u.}^{SAXS}(\vec{K}) = f^2(\vec{K}) \left| \int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}} dV \right|^2$$



Fourier Transform of the average density:  
constant at the length scale of the pdf fluctuations.



Narrow peak near the origin, typically for  $K < 0.02 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$



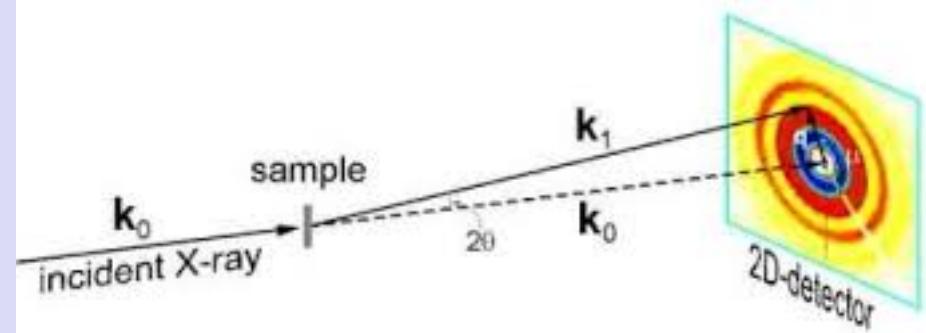
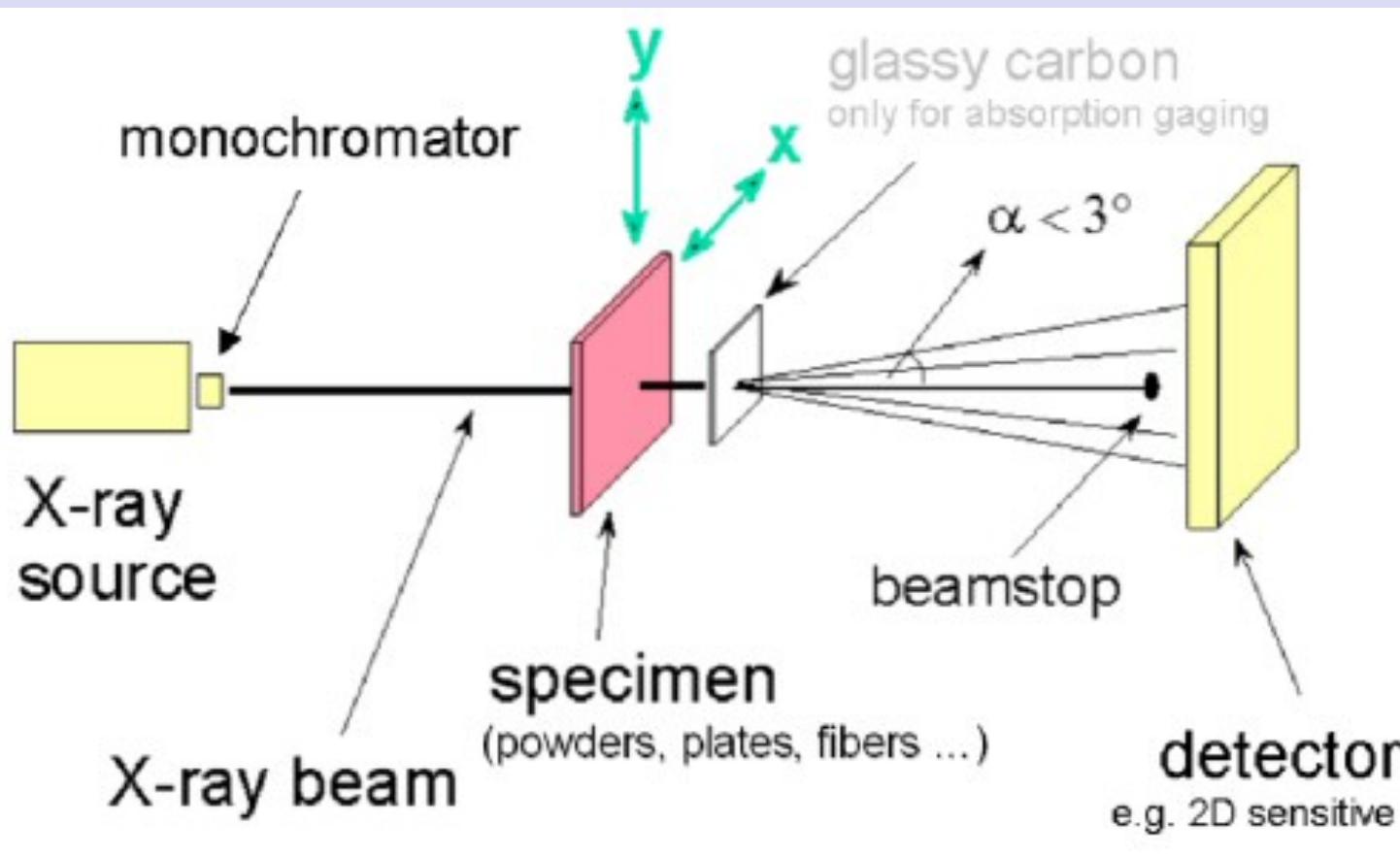
Structures of the small-angle peak  
> info on long-range density fluctuations ( $\sim 100 \text{ \AA}$ )

Approximate relation between  
object dimension, wavelength and angle

$$d \approx \frac{\lambda}{\sin \theta_B} \approx \frac{\lambda}{\theta_B}$$

# SAXS experimental layout

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# Small angle scattering (c)

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Independent particles in vacuum

$$I_{e.u.}^{SAXS}(\vec{K}) = f^2(\vec{K}) \left| \int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}} dV \right|^2$$

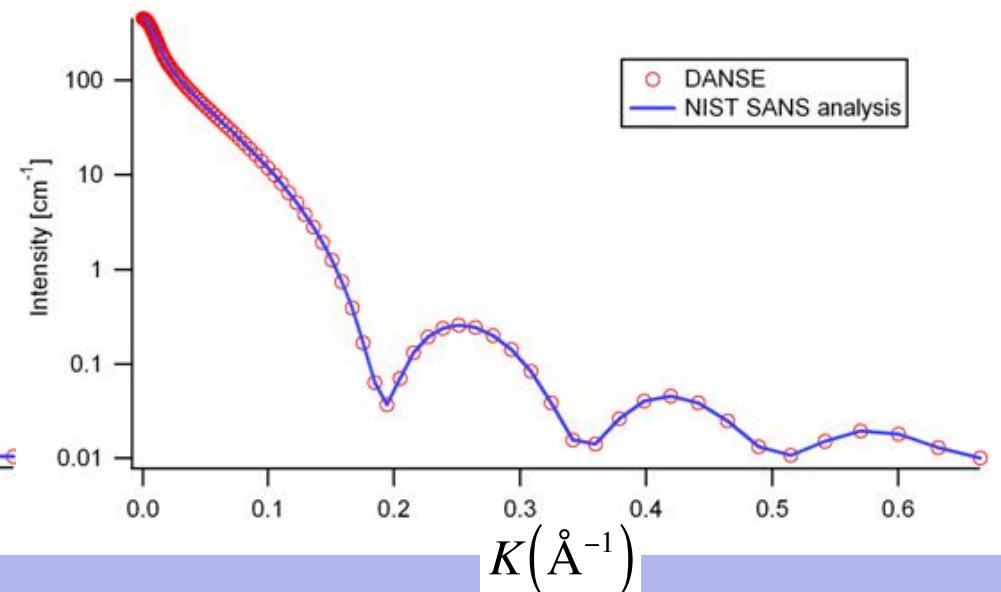
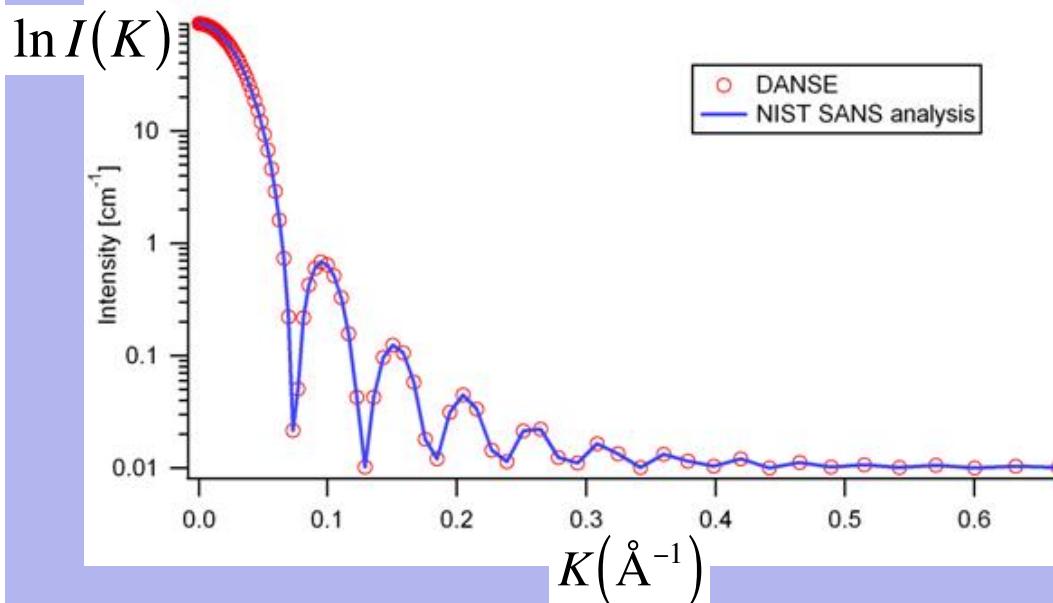
Form factor of one particle

$$\int_V \rho_0 e^{i\vec{K} \cdot \vec{r}} dV$$

Simple examples

Uniform sphere, radius 60 Å

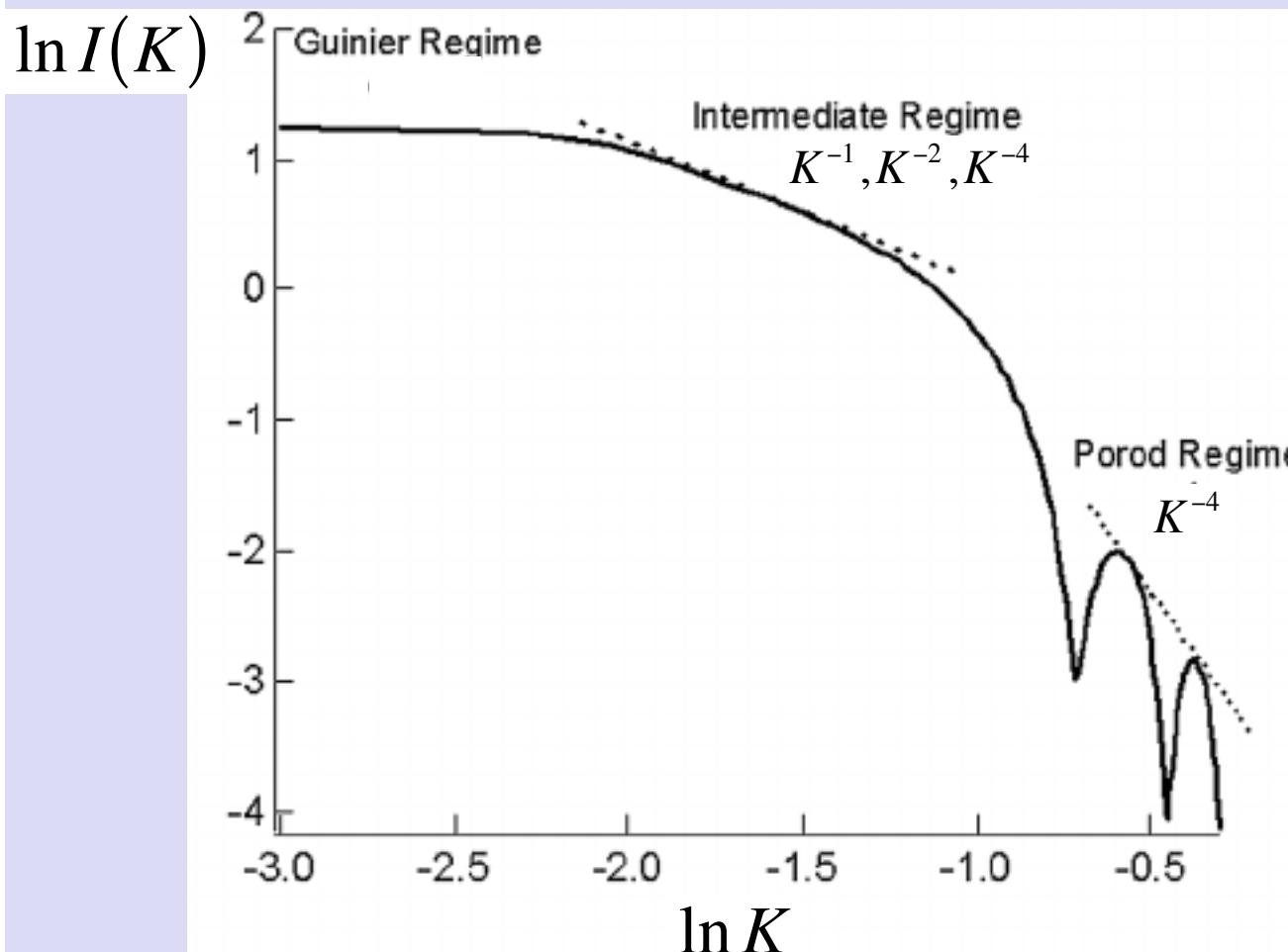
Uniform cylinder, radius 20 Å, length 400 Å



# Small angle scattering (d)

Long-wavelength limit

$$\text{slope} \propto -R^2/5$$



$$KR < 1$$

Short-wavelength limit

$$I \propto \text{surface}/K^4$$

SAS of X-rays and neutrons



Study of large-scale structures from 10 Å  
up to thousands and even several tens of thousands of angstroms.

Examples:

- Critical opalescence in critical phase transitions
- Colloidal aggregations
- Nano-clusters
- Defects in materials
- Polymers
- Proteins, viruses, ribosome

## Basic references

Paolo  
Fornasini  
Univ. Trento

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