

Revealing the hidden microstructure of materials: characterising surface and interfacial phenomena using reflectometry



@isisneutronmuon



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Outline

Motivation

- The importance of interfaces

Reflectivity

- Introduction to the basic Ideas
- Information contained
 - Specular/Off-specular
- Practical Considerations

Examples

Outlook

- Bright!



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Specular Scattering

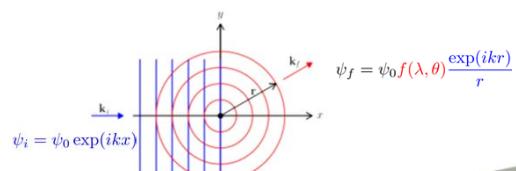
Neutron and x-ray reflectivity

How do we connect the scattering length profile with the reflectivity



Scattering from a single (fixed) atom

- atomic nuclei via the short-range (fm) strong force;
- unpaired orbital electrons via a magnetic dipole interaction



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Scattering length

$$\sigma_{tot} = 4\pi b^2$$

Where b is the scattering length



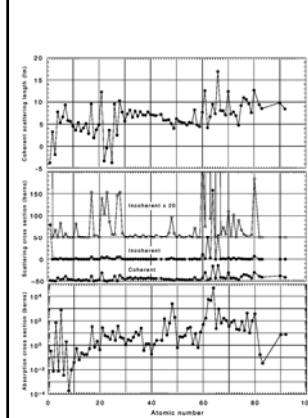
- The sign of b is arbitrary
- A negative sign implies a change in the phase of the scattered wave
- b is sometimes complex and wavelength dependent due to resonant absorption
- b depends on the isotope
- b depends on the spin states of the neutron and nucleus

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- Mass 1.67×10^{-27} kg 1.008665 atomic units
- Charge $0 (1.5 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-22}$ proton charge
- Spin $\frac{1}{2}$
- Magnetic moment $-1.913 \mu_N$
- Electric dipole moment $< 6 \times 10^{-25} e\text{-cm}$

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{mv}$$

$$E = \frac{h^2}{2m\lambda^2}$$



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Isotope Dependence

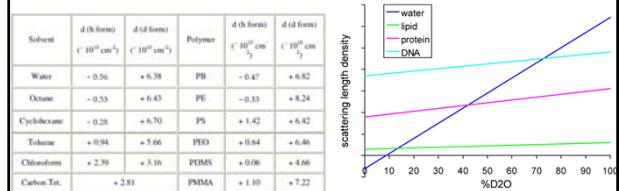
Nickel Isotope	Scattering length b (fm)	Hydrogen Isotope	Scattering length b (fm)
^{58}Ni	15.0(5)	1H	-3.7409(11)
^{60}Ni	2.8(1)	2D	6.674(6)
^{61}Ni	7.60(6)	3T	4.792(27)
^{62}Ni	-8.7(2)	O	5.803
^{64}Ni	-0.38(7)		
		$ 11\rangle = \uparrow\uparrow$	
		$ 10\rangle = (\downarrow\uparrow + \uparrow\downarrow)/\sqrt{2}$	
		$ 1 - 1\rangle = \downarrow\downarrow$	
		$ 00\rangle = (\downarrow\uparrow - \uparrow\downarrow)/\sqrt{2}$	

- Isotopic substitution for contrast
- Isotopic substitution to move peak positions in spectroscopy
- Incoherent scattering

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Scattering length density (SLD)

$$SLD = \sum_i b_i \frac{DN_a}{M_w}$$

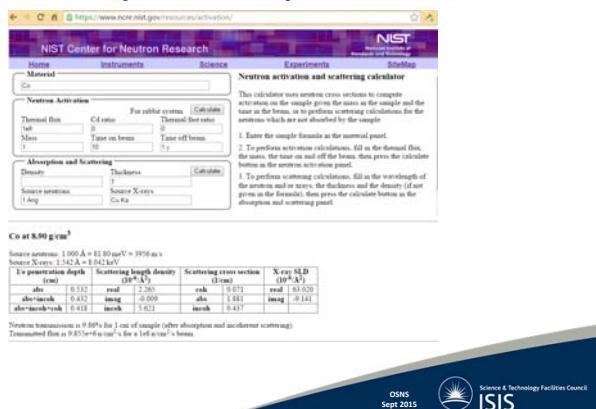


Intro to SANS SM King

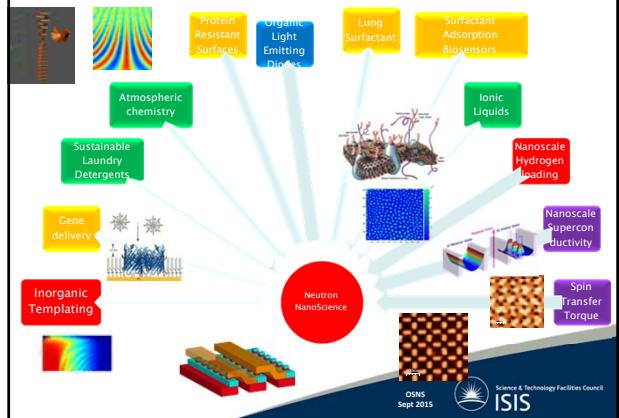
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SLD

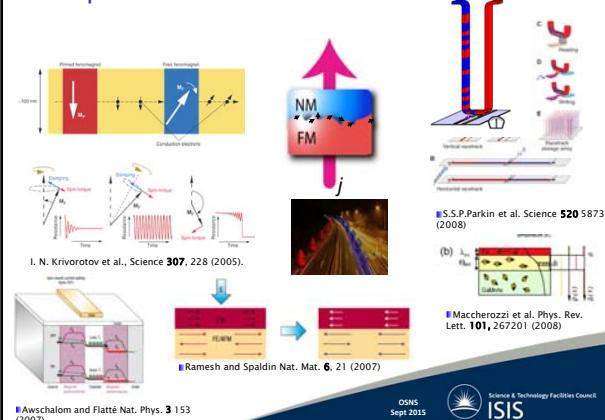
<http://www.ncnr.nist.gov/resources/slcalc.html>



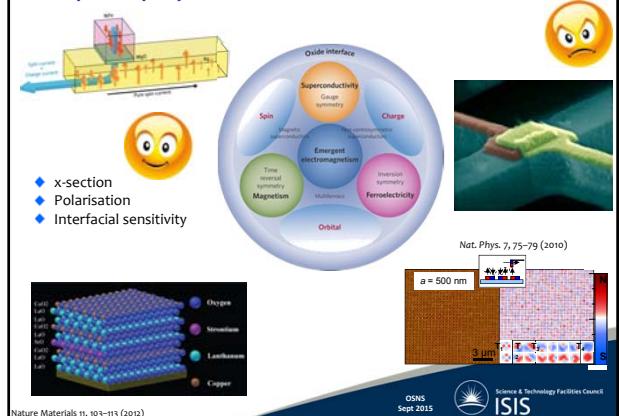
Fundamentally driven, technologically relevant



The Importance of interfaces



Complex physics: advanced characterisation

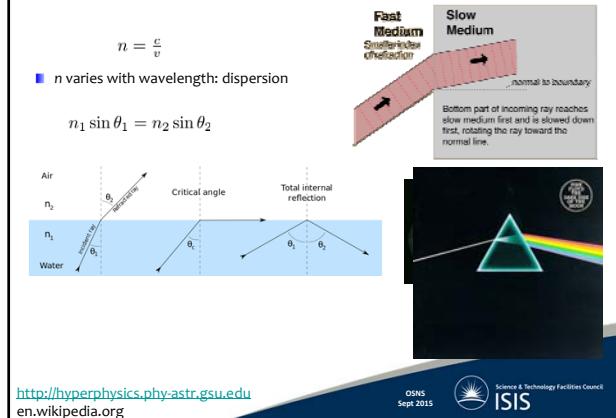


Interference effects



Fresnel reflection 1815

Refractive Index



<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu>
en.wikipedia.org

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$$n = 1 - \lambda^2 A - i\lambda B \quad (1)$$

$$A = \frac{Nb}{2\pi} \quad (2)$$

$$B = \frac{N(\sigma_a + \sigma_i)}{4\pi} \quad (3)$$

$$n = 1 - \alpha - i\beta \quad (1)$$

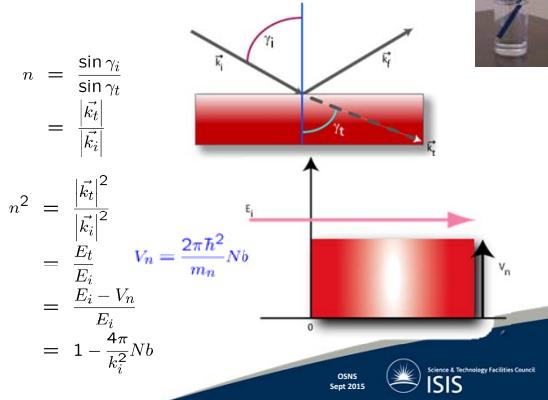
$$\alpha = \frac{N\lambda^2 |r_e|}{2\pi} \quad (2)$$

$$\beta = \frac{\lambda\mu}{4\pi} \quad (3)$$

$n < 1$ Total External reflection



Index of Refraction: Neutrons



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Critical Reflection

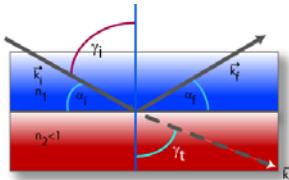
$$\frac{\cos \alpha_i}{\cos \alpha_f} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

At the critical angle

$$\frac{\cos \alpha_i}{\cos \theta_c} = n$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q_c &= \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} 2k \sin \alpha_c \\ &= 2k \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \alpha_c} \\ &= \sqrt{4k^2 (1 - n^2)} \\ &\cong \sqrt{4k^2 \cdot 2\delta} \\ &= \sqrt{16\pi N b} \end{aligned}$$

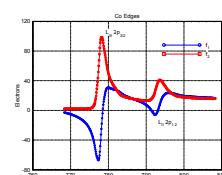
Q_c only depends on the material!



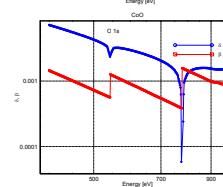
Material	$\theta_c / \text{\AA}$
Ni	0.1
Cu	0.083
Al	0.047
Si	0.047
D ₂ O	0.082

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Index of Refraction: Photons



$$\begin{aligned} n &= 1 - \delta - i\beta \\ &= 1 - \frac{r_e}{2\pi} \lambda^2 \sum_i n_i f_i(0) \\ f(0) &= f_1 + i f_2 \frac{\sigma_a}{2r_e \lambda} \\ &= f_1 + i \frac{\sigma_a}{2r_e \lambda} \\ &= Z^* + \frac{1}{\pi r_e \hbar c} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^2 \sigma_a(\epsilon)}{E^2 - \epsilon^2} \end{aligned}$$



http://www-cxro.lbl.gov/optical_constants/

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Fresnel's law for a surface and thin film

$k_i = n_i \sin \theta$

$\beta_i = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n_i d_i \sin \theta_i$

$R(Q) = \left| \frac{r_{01} + r_{12} \exp(-2i\beta_i)}{1 + r_{01} r_{12} \exp(-2i\beta_i)} \right|^2$

<http://www.cse.udel.edu/cns/pdf/Reflectometry.pdf>

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Using the neutron's spin

- The neutron is a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particle
- The neutron possesses an intrinsic magnetic moment: spin
- Caution...

$\vec{\mu}_n = \gamma \mu_N \vec{\sigma}$

$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

Nuclear Magnetic

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PNR from a single layer

$V = V_n + V_m$ (1)

$V = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi m} N(b \pm p)$ (2)

$p = (2.695 \times 10^{-4}/\mu_B) |\vec{\mu}_i|$

REFLECTIVITY

20nm

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Parratt Iteration

$X_j = \frac{R_j}{T_j} = \exp(-2ik_{z,j}z_j) \frac{r_{j,j+1}}{1 + r_{j,j+1}X_{j+1}} \exp(2ik_{z,j+1}z_j)$

Slicing of Density Profile

Can now simulate profile with a "slice and dice" approach

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PNR from a multiple layers

REFLECTIVITY

20nm

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Spin dependent cross-section

- In-plane orientation of magnetisation obtainable from 4 spin dependent cross-sections
- Components of the magnetisation, m give rise to
 - $m \parallel H$: Non Spin Flip Scattering (NSF)
 - $m \perp H$: Spin Flip Scattering (SF)
- Dynamical analysis gives absolute depth dependence profile

$b = b + p \sin \phi$

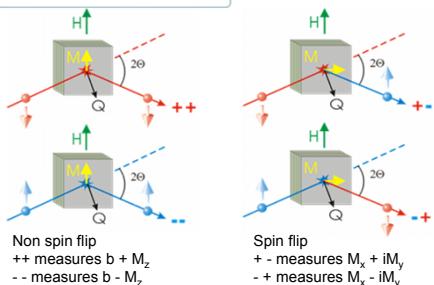
$p_m \cos \phi = p_x$

$\left[\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m_n} \nabla^2 + V(r) \right] \Psi^{l,l} = E \Psi^{l,l}$

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Polarisation

Polarised neutron reflection



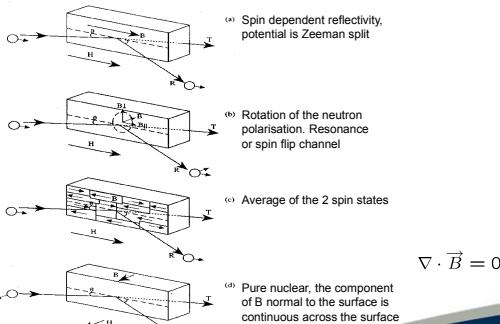
By fitting all components the direction and strength of the magnetic moment can be measured as a function of depth

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Effects of magnetisation on neutron reflectivity



G.P. Felcher, Physica B, 192, (1993), 137

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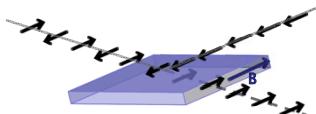


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Polarisation

Polarising supermirrors

Magnetic materials have a spin dependent term in their refractive index



An ~60%/40% Fe/Co mirror works well at saturation

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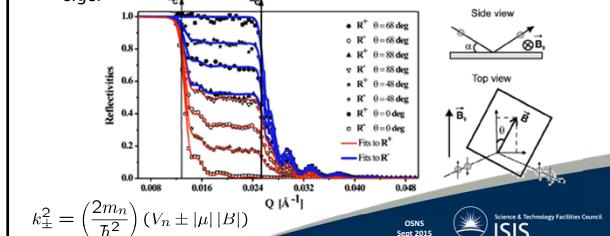
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Caveat to Classical Description

- CD predicts a continuous variation of critical edge

$$4\pi \sin(\alpha_c^\pm) = Q_c^\pm = \sqrt{\frac{2m_n}{\hbar^2} (V_n \pm |\mu| |B_s| \cos(\theta))}$$

- Stern-Gerlach effect? Only 2 eigenstates α_c^- and α_c^+



PHYSICAL REVIEW B 78, 214421 (2008)

Quantum states of neutrons in magnetic thin films

E. Radu,^{a,b,*} V. Lescut,^c M. Wolff,^c¹ V. K. Ignatenko,^d and H. Zabel^c
^a Institut für Werkstoffkunde und Werkstoßtechnik, Universität Stuttgart, Pfaffenwaldring 45, 70562 Stuttgart, Germany
^b Institut Laue-Langevin, F-38042 Grenoble Cedex 9, France
^c Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, PL-31027 Krakow, Poland
^d Dubna Research Center, JINR, 141980 Dubna, Moscow Region, Russia

(Received 12 April 2008; published 27 June 2008)

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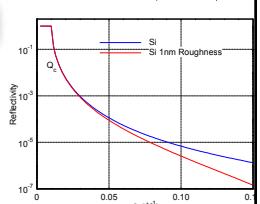
Roughness

Structural and magnetic interfacial phenomena

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Structural Roughness

$$R(Q) = R_F \exp(-Q^2 \sigma^2)$$



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PHYSICAL REVIEW B
VOLUME 38, NUMBER 4
1 AUGUST 1988

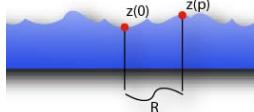
X-ray and neutron scattering from rough surfaces

S. K. Sinha, E. B. Sirota, and S. Garoff*

*Corporate Research Science Laboratory, Exxon Research and Engineering Company, Clinton Township, Route 22 East, Annandale, New Jersey 08801

H. B. Stanley[†]
[†]University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742
(Received 30 November 1987)

$$C(R) = \langle [z(x, y) - z(x', y')]^2 \rangle = \sigma^2 \exp(-r/\xi)^{2h}$$



- σ = roughness
- ξ = cut-off length:
 - for $R > \xi$, interface appears smooth,
 - for $R < \xi$, interface appears rough, fractal behaviour
- h = 3-D Hurst parameter for jaggedness ($0 < h < 1$)
 - smooth: $D=2$, $h=1$
 - very rough $D=3$, $h=0$

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Simulation Packages



Simulation Packages: neutron

<http://neutronreflectivity.neutron-eu.net/main/SimulationPrograms>



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Simulation Packages: photon

■ X-ray

- <http://sergey.mca.aps.anl.gov/>
- [ESRF](#)
- [RefTool](#)



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Spin polarised Neutron Reflectivity

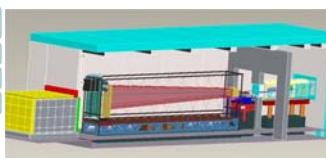
- Measure the reflected neutrons as a function of their perpendicular momentum and spin eigenstate
- $k^\pm = \sqrt{k - 4\pi N(b \pm cB)}$
- Can observe the magnitude and orientation of atomic magnetic moments in thin films and multilayer media.
- Probe length scale ($<1\text{ nm}$ to $>1000\text{ nm}$): covers many aspects of thin film structure and magnetism
- Complementary to:
 - VSM/SQUID
 - MOKE average magnetisation over the sample thickness
 - SEMPA, Lorentz surface domain magnetisation
 - XMCD/XRMS-element specific
- PNR gives the microscopic *in-plane vector* magnetisation *depth* profile.

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Inter

Designed for the study of chemical interfaces, with a particular emphasis on the air-water interface

- >10 times the flux of SURF
- Much wider dynamic range
- Tunable resolution



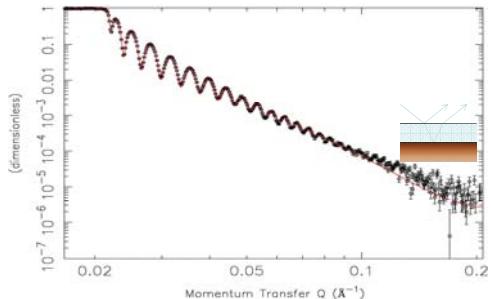
Scientific Opportunities

Biology

D-spacing range	1 – 16 (22) Å
Moderator	Coupled s-CH ₄ grooved – 26K
Primary flight path	17m (m=3 supermirror guides)
Secondary flight path	3-7 m
Beam size	60(h) x 30(v) mm
Flux at sample	$\sim 10^7$ n/s/cm ²

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First Results 29 sep 08



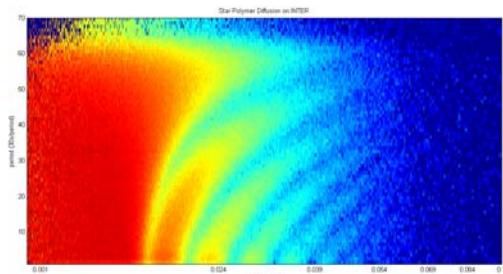
First reflectivity measured on INTER. Nickel/Carbon film (1216 Å) on glass

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Kinetics



■ Star Polymer
■ D.G. Bucknall (2010)

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PolRef



- Wavele
- Unpola
- Polariz
- Source
- Beam i: 2.3°
- Well shielded Helium tube
- 640 channel linear gas detector with 0.5mm pixel
- Vertical 20 7.5°
- Horizontal 20 22°



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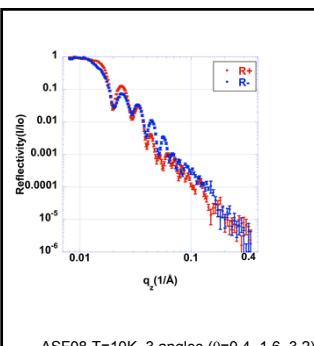
Reflectometry Village



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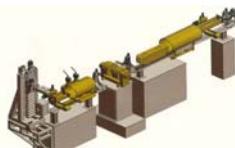


ASF08 T=10K, 3 angles ($\theta=0.4, 1.6, 3.2$)

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Reflectometers



- Continuous or tof mode of operation
- SA Monochromator (6Å Polarised)
- White beam flux 9.6×10^9 n/s/cm²

■ The CRISP reflectometer at ISIS is a white beam time of flight (tof) polarised neutron reflectometer viewing a 20K hydrogen moderator.



<http://www.will.fr/YellowBook/D17/>



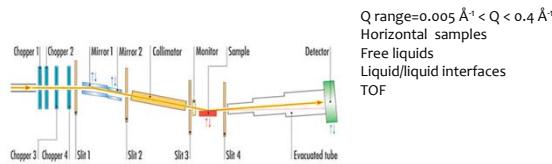
<http://www.will.fr/YellowBook/ADAM/>

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FIGARO - horizontal sample reflectometer at ILL



<http://www.ill.eu/instruments-support/instruments-groups/instruments/figaro/>

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Polref schematic

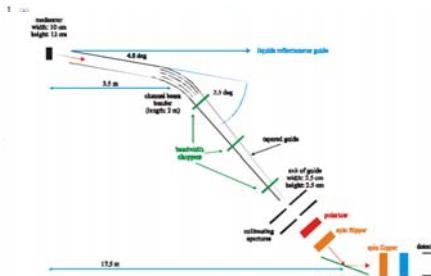


Figure 1 An outline side schematic of polREF

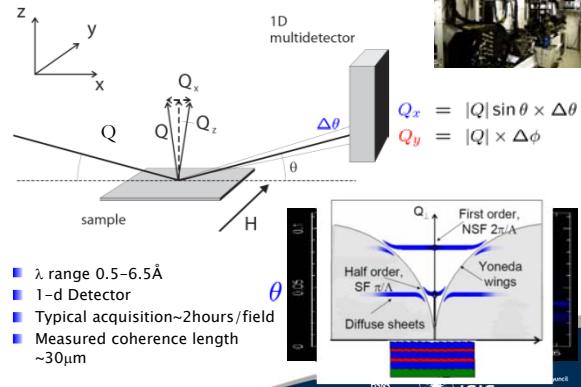
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Off-specular scattering

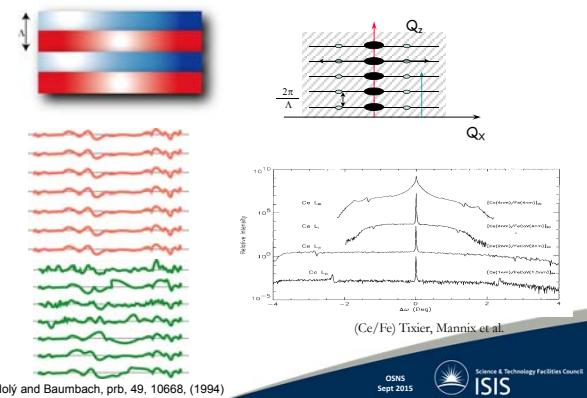
Probing in-plane lengthscales

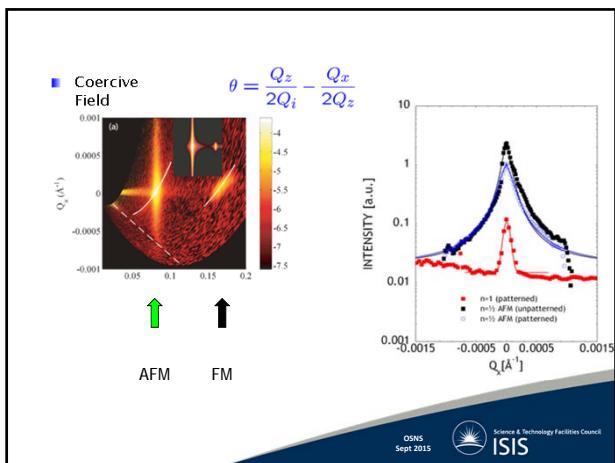
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Experimental Geometry



Diffuse scattering



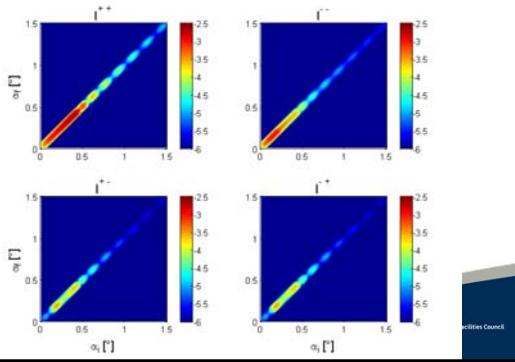


Domains and the coherence volume

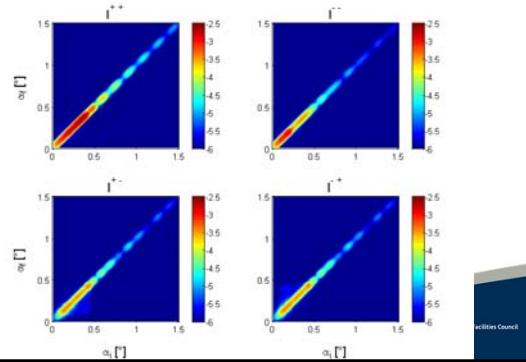
Many thanks to H. Zabel for slides



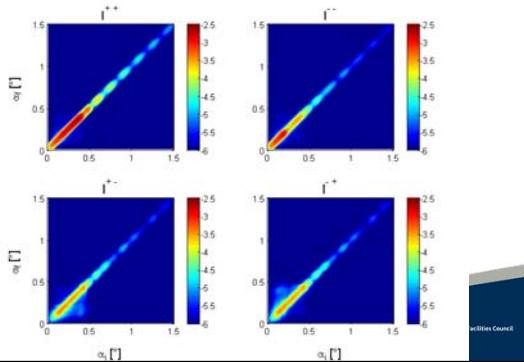
Domain size: $100 \mu\text{m}$ ($> L_c$)



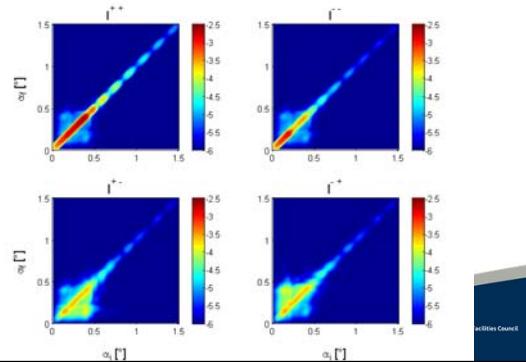
Domain size: $100 \mu\text{m}$



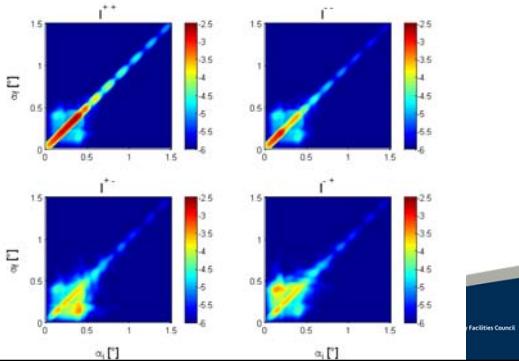
Domain size: $50 \mu\text{m}$



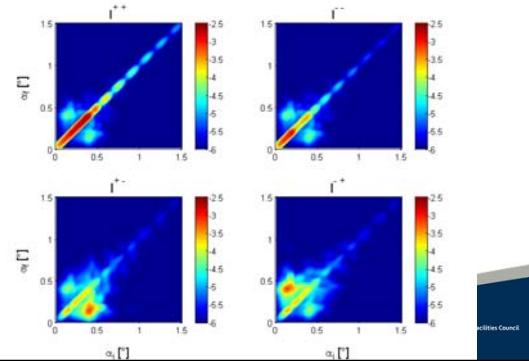
Domain size: $10 \mu\text{m}$



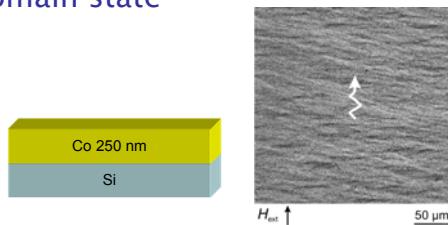
Domain size: 5 μm



Domain size: 1 μm



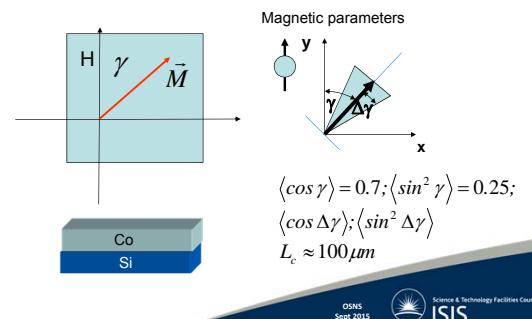
Single ferromagnetic film in the domain state



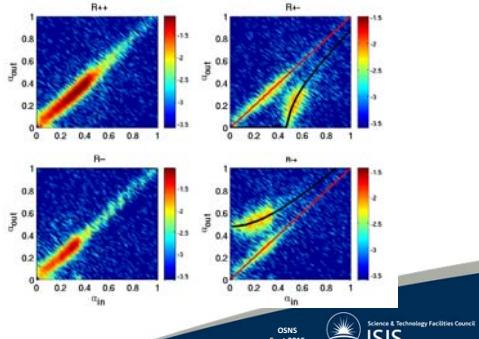
F. Radu et al., J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 17 (2005) 1711-1718

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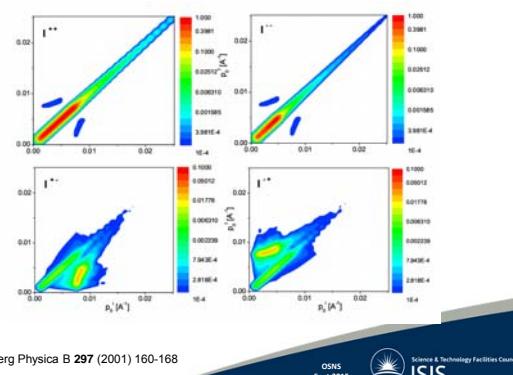
Simulation of a Co film on a substrate



Banana shape off-specular scattering from domain state



Simulation of domain state



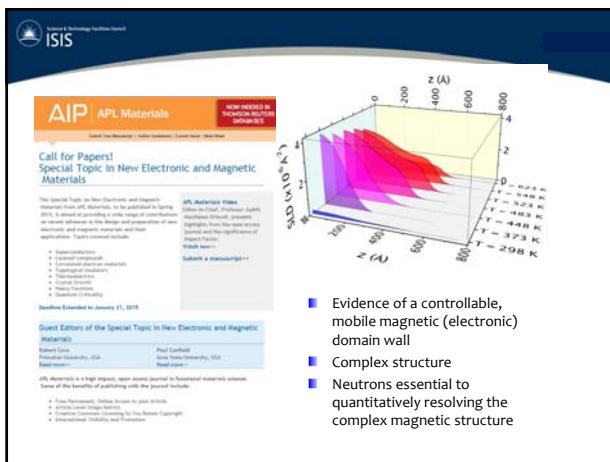
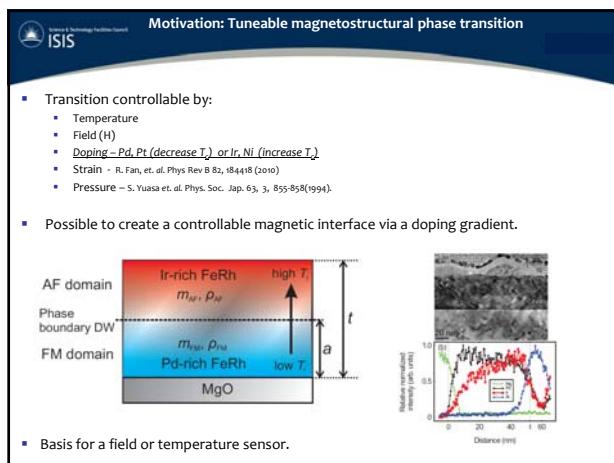
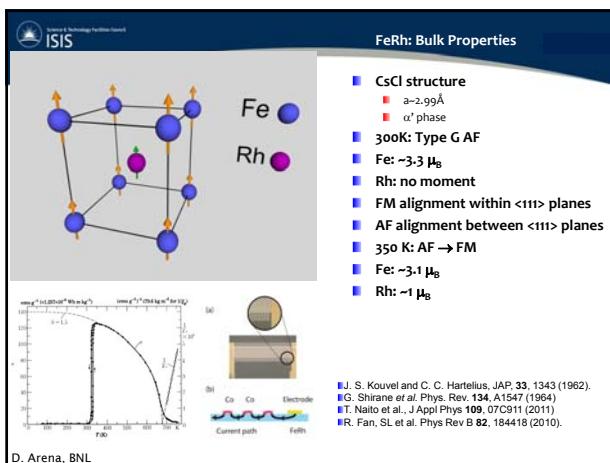
B.P. Toperverg Physica B 297 (2001) 160-168

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Examples of reflectivity



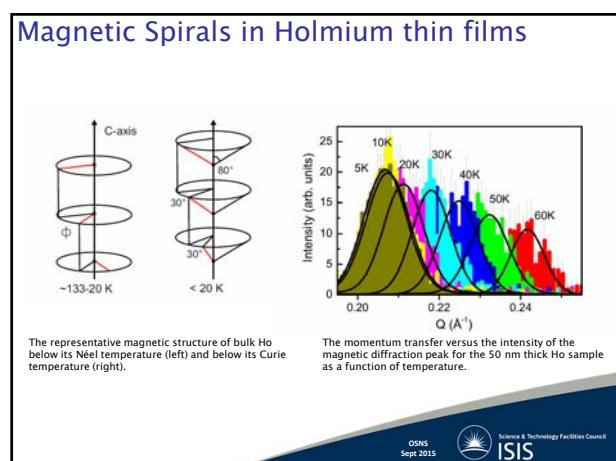
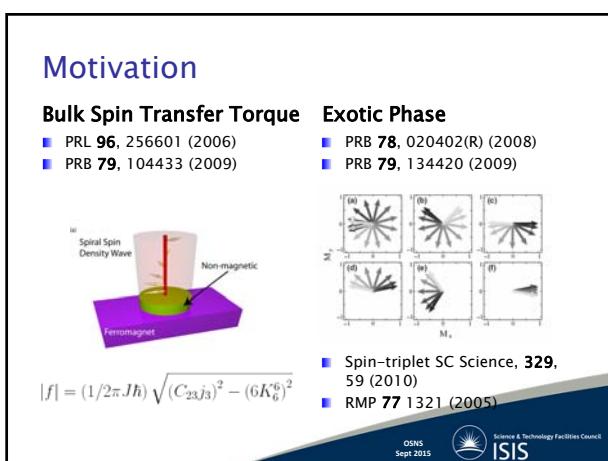
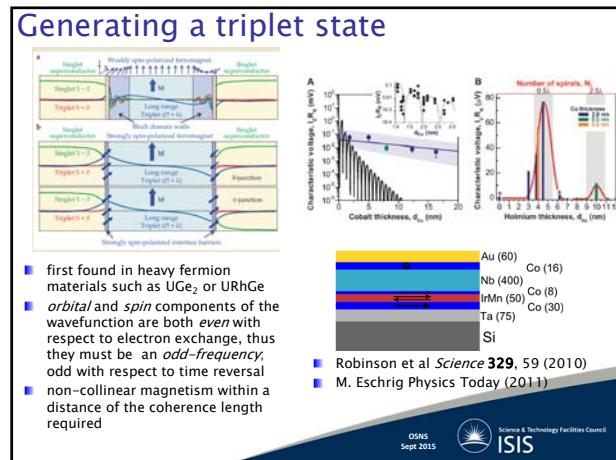
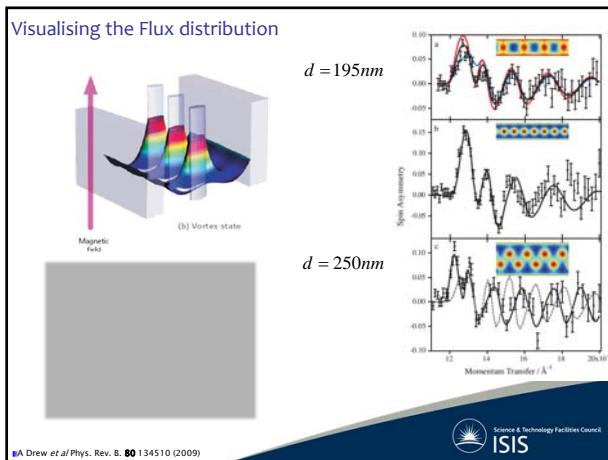
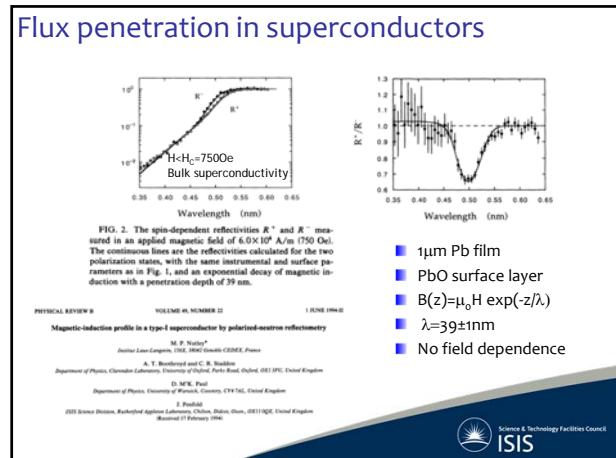
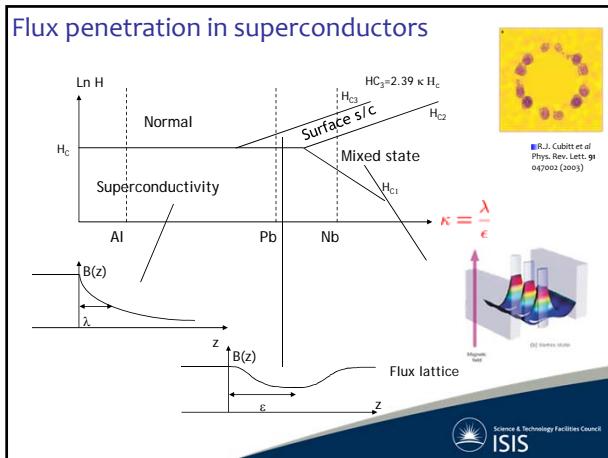
A Magnetic controllable interface doped-FeRh



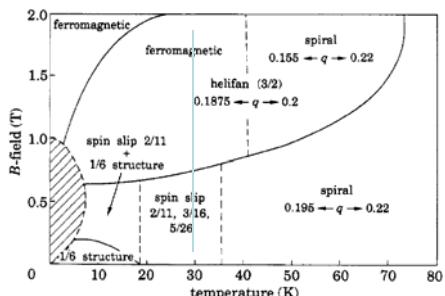
Superconductivity and reflectivity

Towards superconducting spintronics





Bulk Ho Field Phase diagram



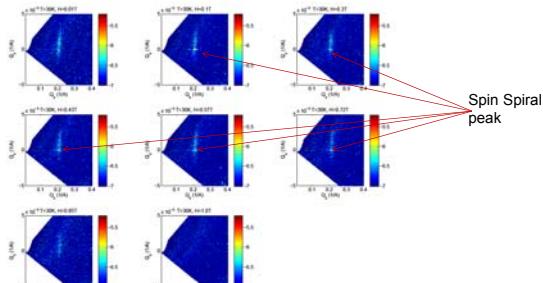
D. A. Jahan et al., Europhys. Letts. 17 553 (1992)

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Polref: Diffuse scattering from a holmium spin spiral: 7.5T



J. D. S. Witt et al. J Phys: Condens Matter 23, 416006 (2011).

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Glowing tags to reveal hidden prints



Combining Figaro and INTER

A. R. Hillman et al. Faraday Discussions (2013).

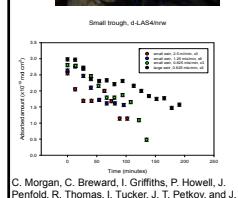
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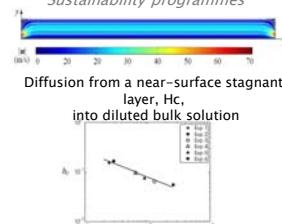
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Kinetics of surface desorption

Kinetics of anionic surfactant desorption followed by neutron reflectivity on INTER



'Understanding and optimising surfactant rinse mechanisms important for Sustainability programmes'



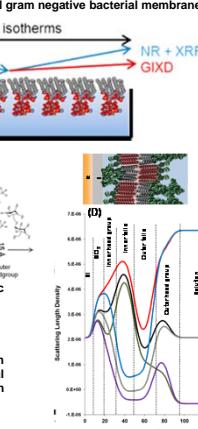
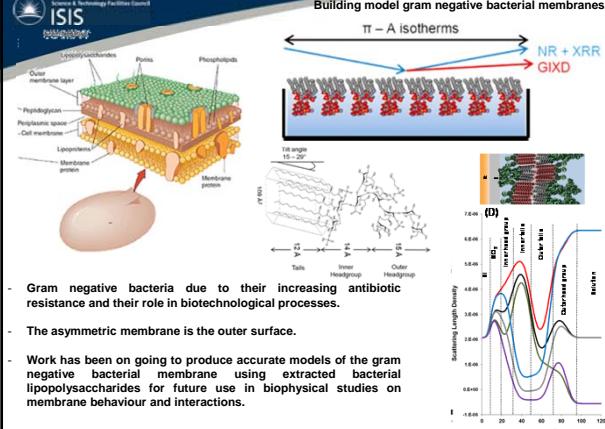
Kinetics determined by Hc (from mathematical model) and scales with Peclet number (flow conditions)

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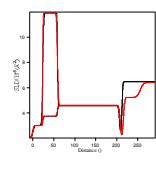
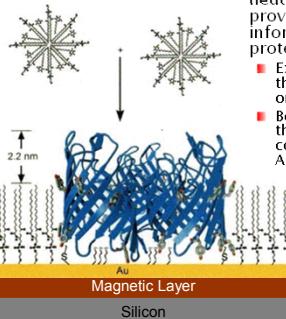
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Building model gram negative bacterial membranes



Polarised Neutrons for Biology

- Use polarised neutrons to provide additional information for protein absorption
- Extract protein thickness and orientation
- Better resolution than conventional AFM studies



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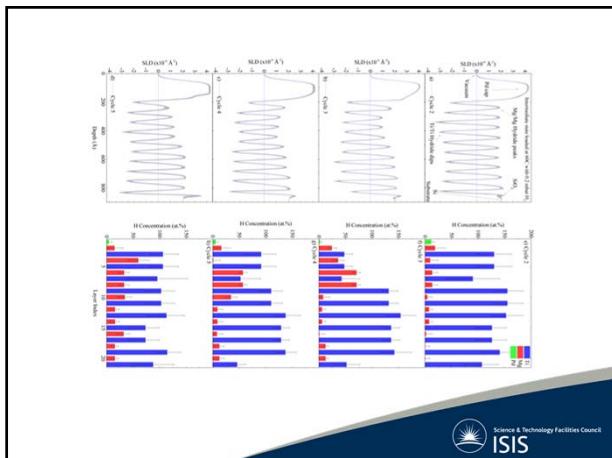
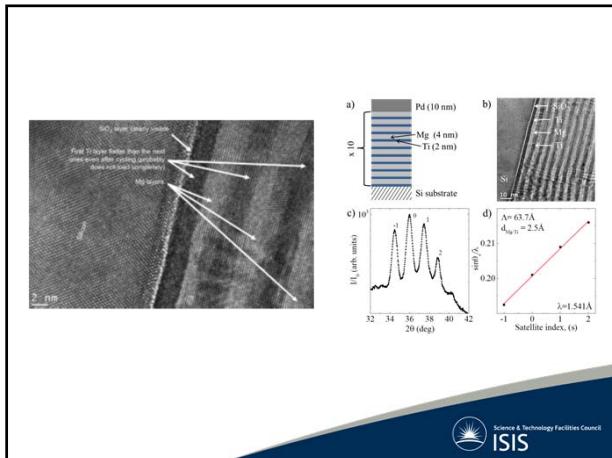


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**Seeing hydrogen
Nanoscale Storage**

Scanning electron micrograph (SEM) showing Mg layers after annealing. A scale bar indicates 2 nm.

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Mg/Ti thin film Hydrogen loading

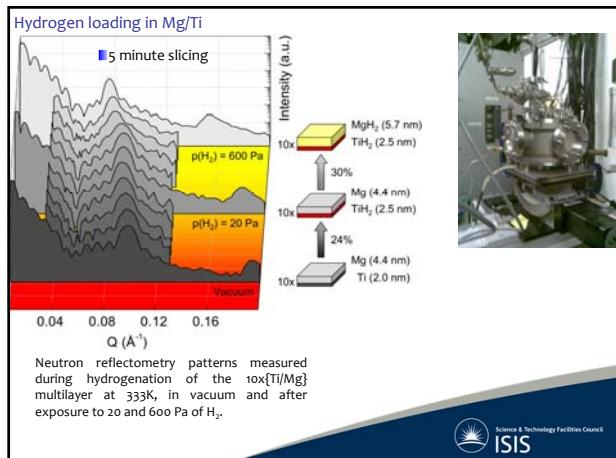
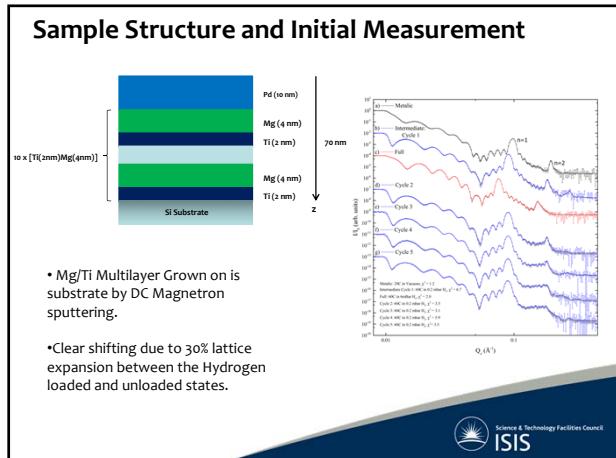
- These films have gravimetric hydrogen storage capacities up to 6.5 wt% and fast and reversible kinetics of hydrogen absorption and desorption.
- Multilayer thin films of Mg and Ti offer a geometrically well-defined system for the study of the hydrogen absorption properties of these metals.
- Neutron reflectometry (NR) is an ideally suited method for tracking composition changes in thin film samples as well as the changes in the thin film dimensions. Owing to the large negative coherent neutron scattering length of hydrogen ($b_{\text{H}_2} = -3.74 \text{ fm}$, compare to $b_{\text{Mg}} = 5.38 \text{ fm}$ and $b_{\text{Ti}} = -3.44 \text{ fm}$).
- With this in mind a low pressure hydrogen cell was developed for the CRISP reflectometer.

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Christian Krasse, Maximilian Skoda, Raymond Fan, Sean Langridge and William I. F. David
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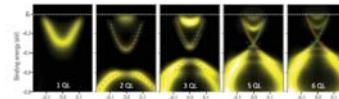


QUANTUM MATTER

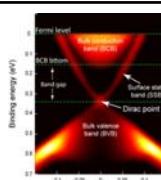
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QAHE & Topological Insulators (TIs)

- Quantum Hall effect observed in 2DEG
 - $\sigma = v \frac{e^2}{h}$
- Anomalous Quantum Hall effect (QAH)
 - Band inversion
 - Ferromagnetic insulator breaking TRS
- TIs possess insulating bulk gap and gapless edge states
 - Magnetic dopants



Yu et al. Science 329 (2010) 61
Chang et al. Science 334 (2012) 167
He, K., Wang et al. Natl. Sci. Rev. 1, 38–48 (2015)



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Cr doped Bi₂Se₃

Haazen et al. APL 100 (2012) 082404

- Tc~20K for 5%
- Good crystalline quality ~<5%

(Cr_{0.12}Bi_{0.88})₂Se₃

- Cr concentration fixed by RBS
- 1.5μ_B/Cr @0.7T
- No enhancement observed in the near surface region
- Moment less than 3.78μ_B of Cr³⁺ substituted on Bi site

Summary

- Cr doping up to 12% without a loss of crystallinity (substitutional doping)
- Moment lower (2.1) than expected for Cr³⁺*
- Homogeneous ferromagnetism
- Precursor to observing the QAHE (lower temperatures)

Collins-McIntyre, L. J. et al. Magnetic ordering in Cr-doped Bi₂Se₃ thin films. *Europhys. Lett.* 107, 57009 (2014).

New capability, new science

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- Visible change in Q_c and shift in Kiessig fringes
- Stroboscopic measurement on INTER
- Courtesy of A. Glidle et al.
- Time slices are 200 milliseconds
- Polymer redox system

Summary

- Can take advantage of (*i.e.* control) the refractive index (polarised neutrons, deuteration, isotopic substitution)
- Can extract magnetic structures
- Realistic sample environments
 - Time resolution
- Sub nm resolution for structural systems
- Lengthscales (out of plane) monolayer to ~100nm

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- www.ill.eu
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