

PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT

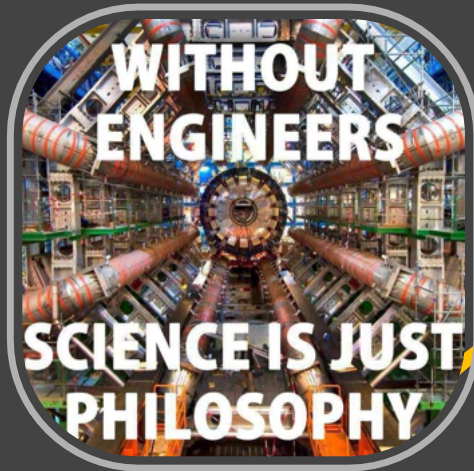


Marc Janoschek :: Head, Laboratory for Neutron and Muon Instrumentation :: Paul Scherrer Institut

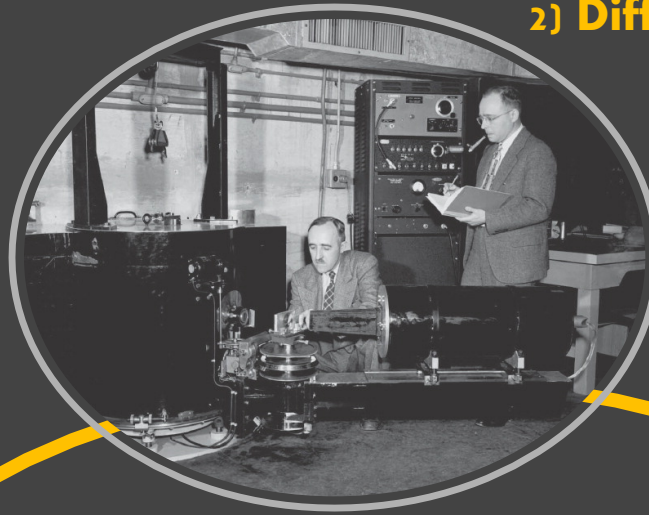
# Neutron Instrumentation

Oxford School on Neutron Scattering 2022

# Today's Menu



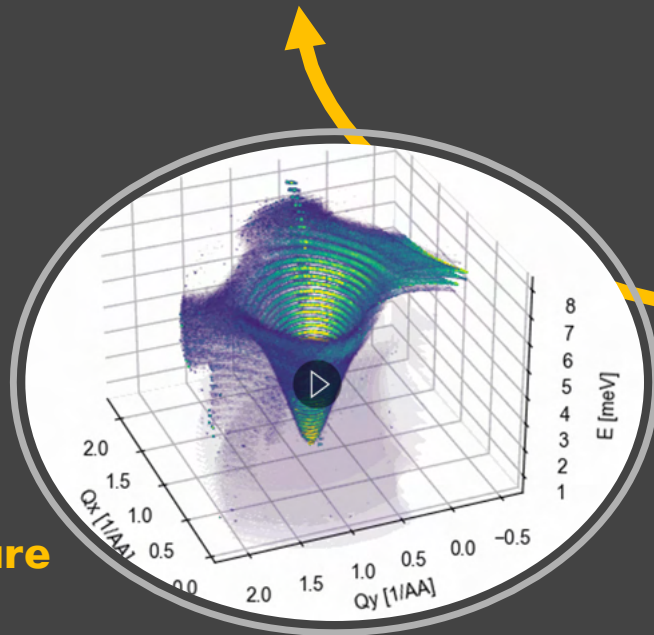
1) A Love Letter  
to (Neutron)  
Instrumentation



2) Diffraction



3) Instrument  
Components



6) Software



5) Spectroscopy



4) Intermezzo:  
Sample Environment


[nature](#) > [nature physics](#) > [editorials](#) > article

Editorial | [Published: 13 May 2022](#)

## Show instruments some love **YES!!!**

[Nature Physics](#) **18**, 475 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

**951** Accesses | **3** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Progress in research would be impossible without state-of-the art instruments, but their contributions are often **underappreciated.**  **For neutrons mostly not the case!!!**



European Spallation Source



Detectorbank of LET @ ISIS



D20 Diffractometer @ ILL



Oxford Instruments Cryomagnet and CAMEA @ PSI

**Neutron instrumentation cannot be overlooked thanks to its impressive size**

# 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics

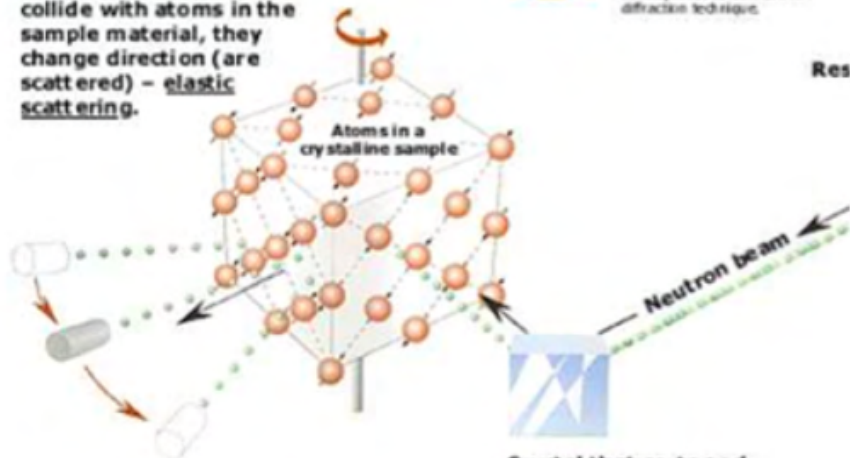
Clifford G. Shull  
1915 – 2001, USA



Clifford G. Shull, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, receives one half of the 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics for development of the neutron diffraction technique.

Neutrons show where atoms are

When the neutrons collide with atoms in the sample material, they change direction (are scattered) – elastic scattering.



Detectors record the directions of the neutrons and a diffraction pattern is obtained. The pattern shows the positions of the atoms relative to one another.

Crystal that sorts and forwards neutrons of a certain wavelength (energy) – monochromatized neutrons

Res

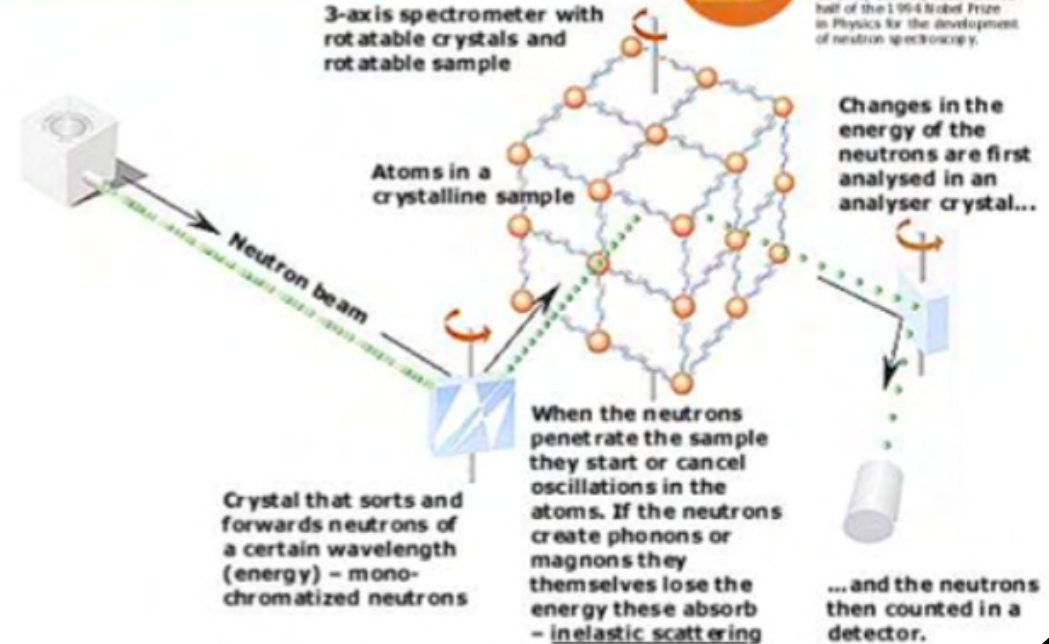
Bertram N. Brockhouse  
1918 – 2003, Canada



Bertram N. Brockhouse, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, receives one half of the 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics for the development of neutron spectroscopy.

Neutrons show what atoms do

3-axis spectrometer with rotatable crystals and rotatable sample



Crystal that sorts and forwards neutrons of a certain wavelength (energy) – monochromatized neutrons

When the neutrons penetrate the sample they start or cancel oscillations in the atoms. If the neutrons create phonons or magnons they themselves lose the energy these absorb – inelastic scattering

Changes in the energy of the neutrons are first analysed in an analyser crystal...

...and the neutrons then counted in a detector.

But its importance has also been recognized on the highest level!

# 90 Years of Neutrons in Nobel Prizes

## 1932

James Chadwick discovers the neutron. He receives the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1935 for discovering the missing part of the atom.

## 1938

Enrico Fermi receives the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work investigating the atomic scattering and absorption cross-sections of slow and thermal neutrons.

## 1970

Louis Néel wins the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of the concepts of antiferromagnetism and ferrimagnetism. Neutron diffraction was instrumental in verifying this concept.

## 1974

Small angle neutron scattering shows that polymer chains in the liquid state have a random coil conformation as predicted by Paul J Flory. He wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his fundamental achievements in understanding macromolecules.

## 1987

J. Georg Bednorz and K. Alexander Müller receive the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of high temperature superconductors. Later, neutron spectroscopy shows that magnetic interactions are crucial to this phenomenon.

## 1991

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes receives the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on liquid crystals and polymers. Neutron spin-echo spectroscopy was used to validate his models of the snake-like polymer reptation dynamics of polymers.

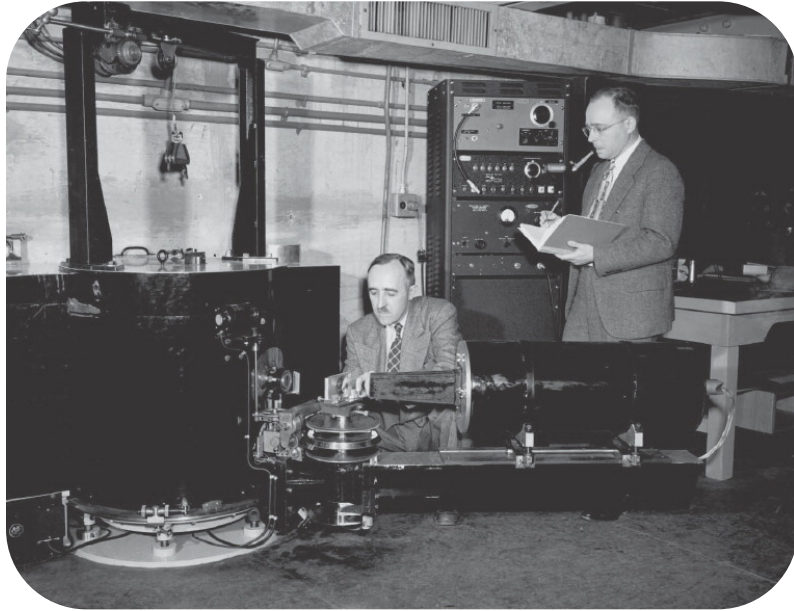
## 2016

David J. Thouless, for one half, and F. Duncan M. Haldane with J. Michael Kosterlitz for the second half, for 'theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter. Neutrons instrumental in validating these concepts.

<https://stfc.ukri.org/research/our-science-facilities/neutron-and-muon-sources/80-years-of-neutrons-a-timeline/>

<https://europeanspallationsource.se/article/nobel-prize-physics-once-again-highlights-essential-role-neutron-scattering-facilities>

# Definition of "Instrumentation"



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Donate](#)

Article [Talk](#)

[Read](#) [Edit](#) [View history](#)

[Not logged in](#) [Talk](#) [Contributions](#) [Create account](#) [Log in](#)

## Instrumentation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For other uses, see [Instrumentation \(disambiguation\)](#).*

**Instrumentation** is a collective term for [measuring instruments](#) that are used for indicating, measuring and recording physical quantities. The term has its origins in the art and science of [scientific instrument-making](#).

Instrumentation can refer to devices as simple as direct-reading [thermometers](#), or as complex as multi-sensor components of [industrial control systems](#). Today, instruments can be found in laboratories, refineries, factories and vehicles, as well as in everyday household use (e.g., [smoke detectors](#) and [thermostats](#))

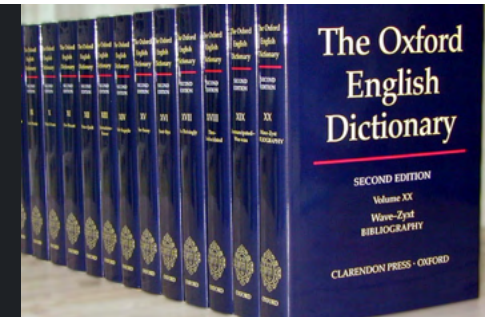


## instrumentation

/ˌɪnstrəmənˈteɪj(ə)n/

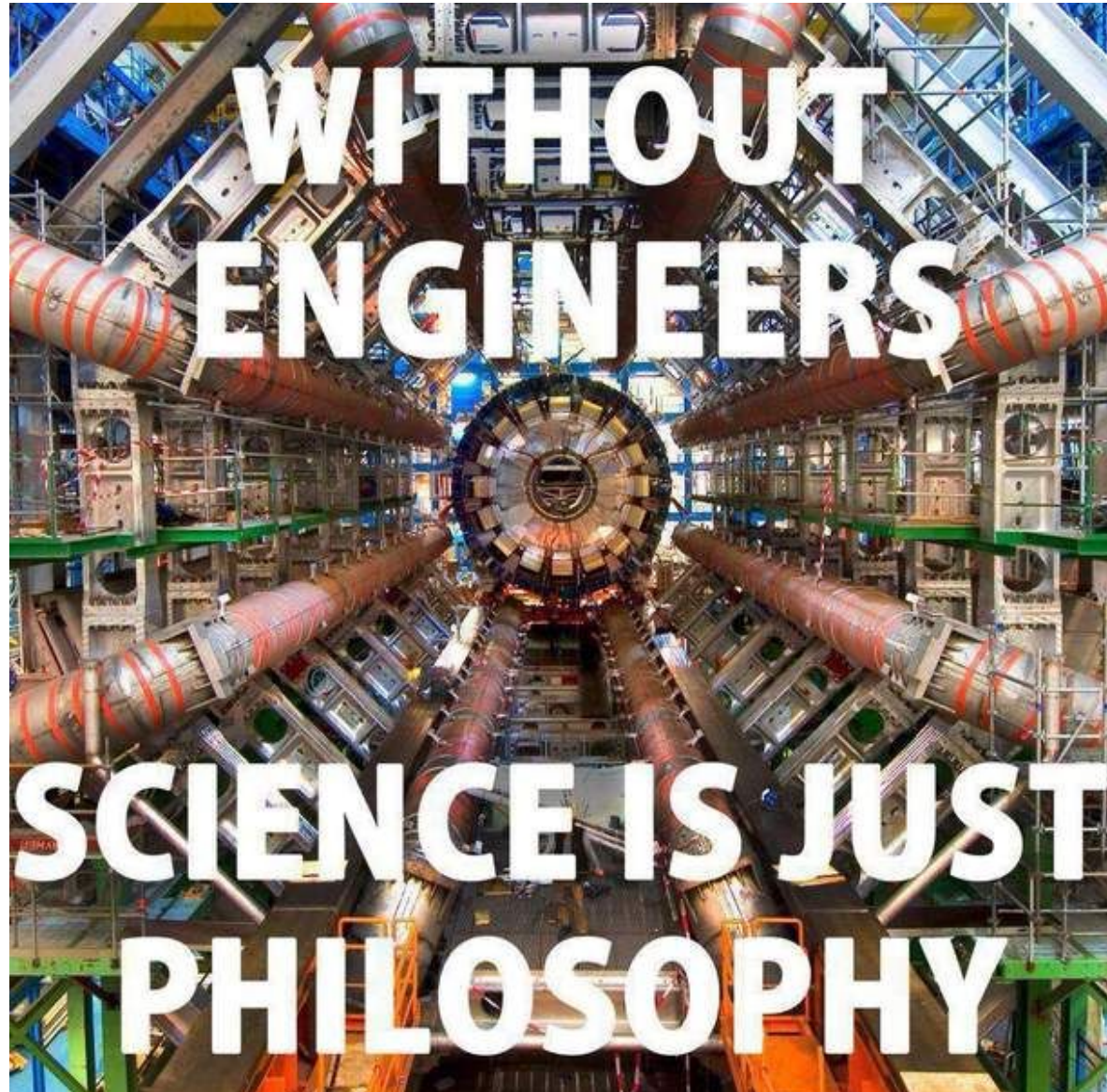
*noun*

- the particular instruments used in a piece of music.  
"Telemann's specified instrumentation of flute, violin, and continuo"
- measuring instruments regarded collectively.  
"the controls and instrumentation of an aircraft"



**In this lecture we will use the following definition:**

“Neutron instrumentation is a collection of technology that helps you exploit the properties of neutrons to realize your experimental strategy to study matter. Knowing instrumentation well, will allow you to extract the maximum out of your experiments.”





# Summary

## Rules/Guidelines



Instrumentation enables progress in science!



Neutron instrumentation is a collection of technology to exploit the properties of the neutrons for your measurements.

## Consequences

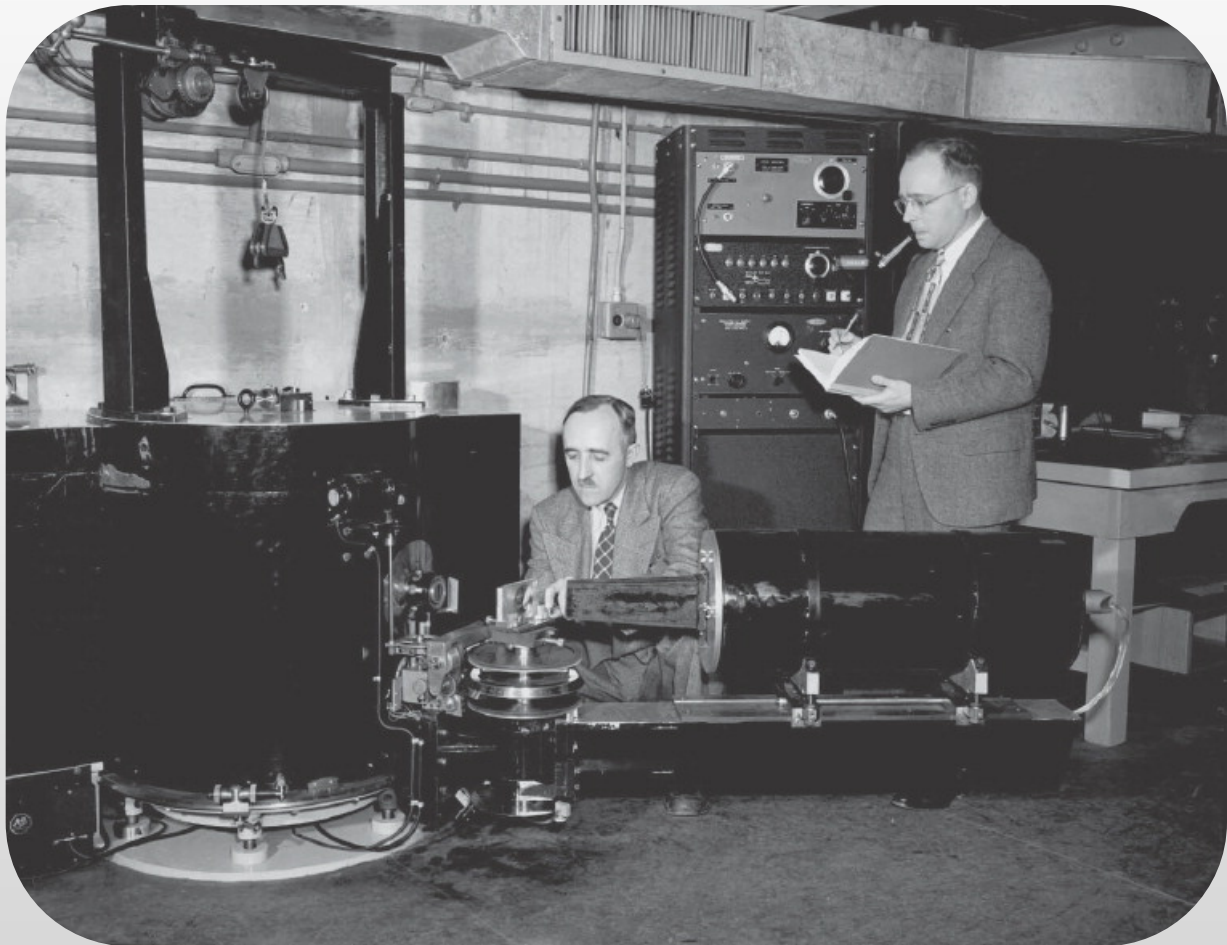


Neutron instrumentation is fun!



Knowing neutron instrumentation well, will improve your experiments!

# Two Experimental Strategies



**Ernest Wollan (left) and Clifford Shull (right) work with a double-crystal neutron diffractometer at the ORNLX-10 Graphite Reactor in 1949.**

Picture from:  
Jeremy Rumsey "A history of neutron scattering at ORNL," Neutron News 29, 10-16 (2018)

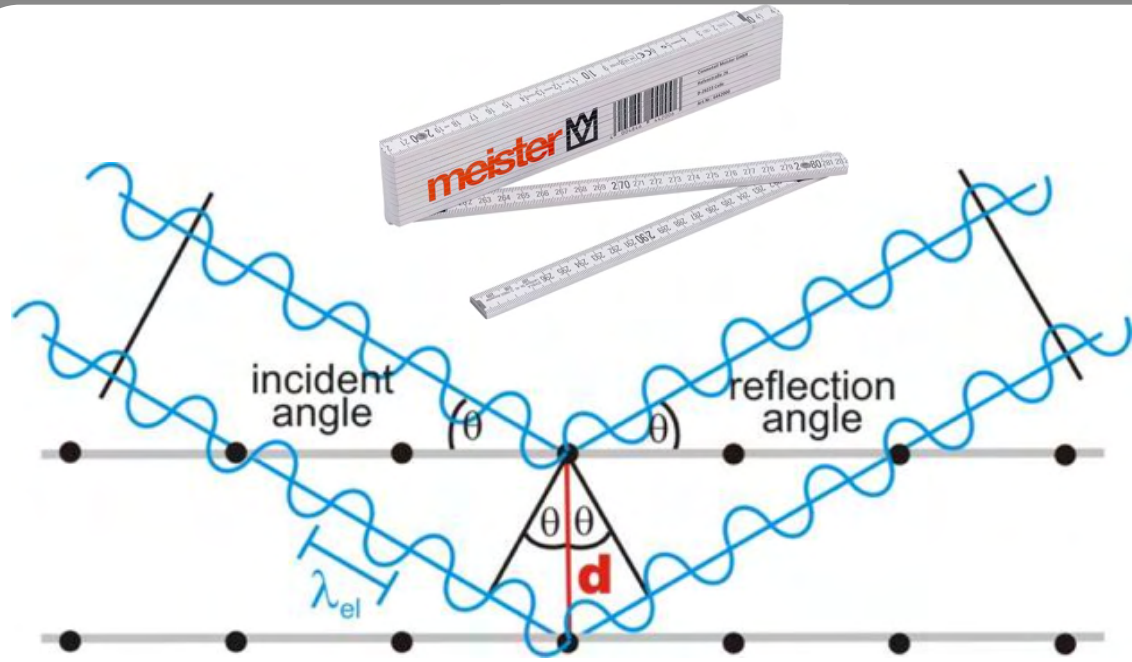


**B.N. Brockhouse with the first version of his triple-axis spectrometer at the NRU reactor (November 1958 – July 1959)**

Picture from:  
Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering (CINS)  
<https://cins.ca/discover/brockhouse/>

# What can we learn?

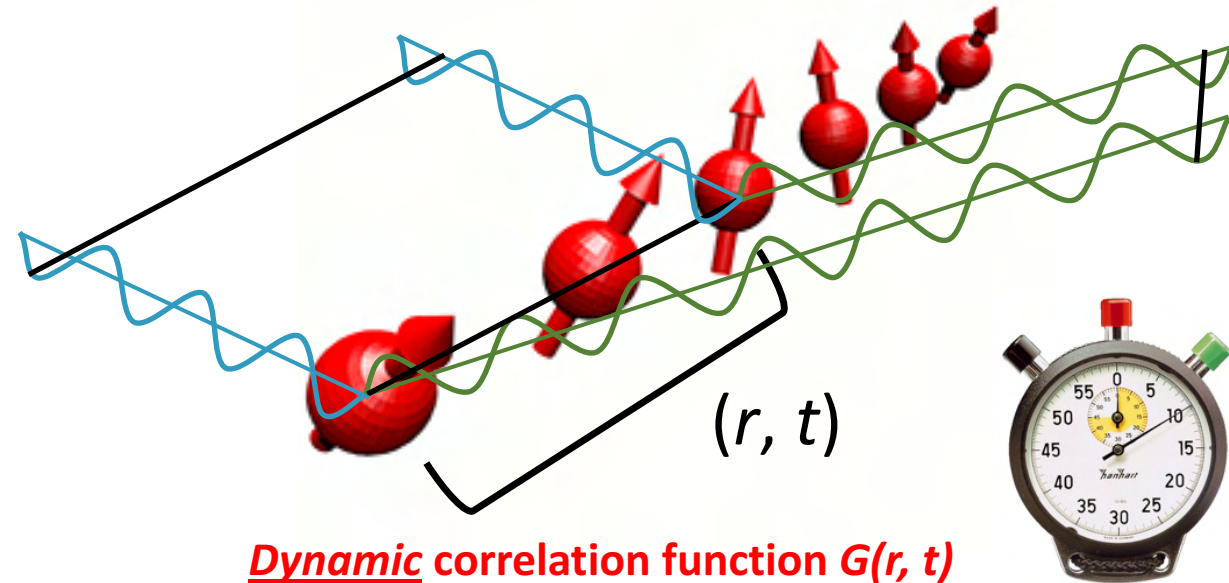
## Diffractometer



**Correlation function  $G(r)$**

Yard stick for measuring correlations over interatomic distances  $r$

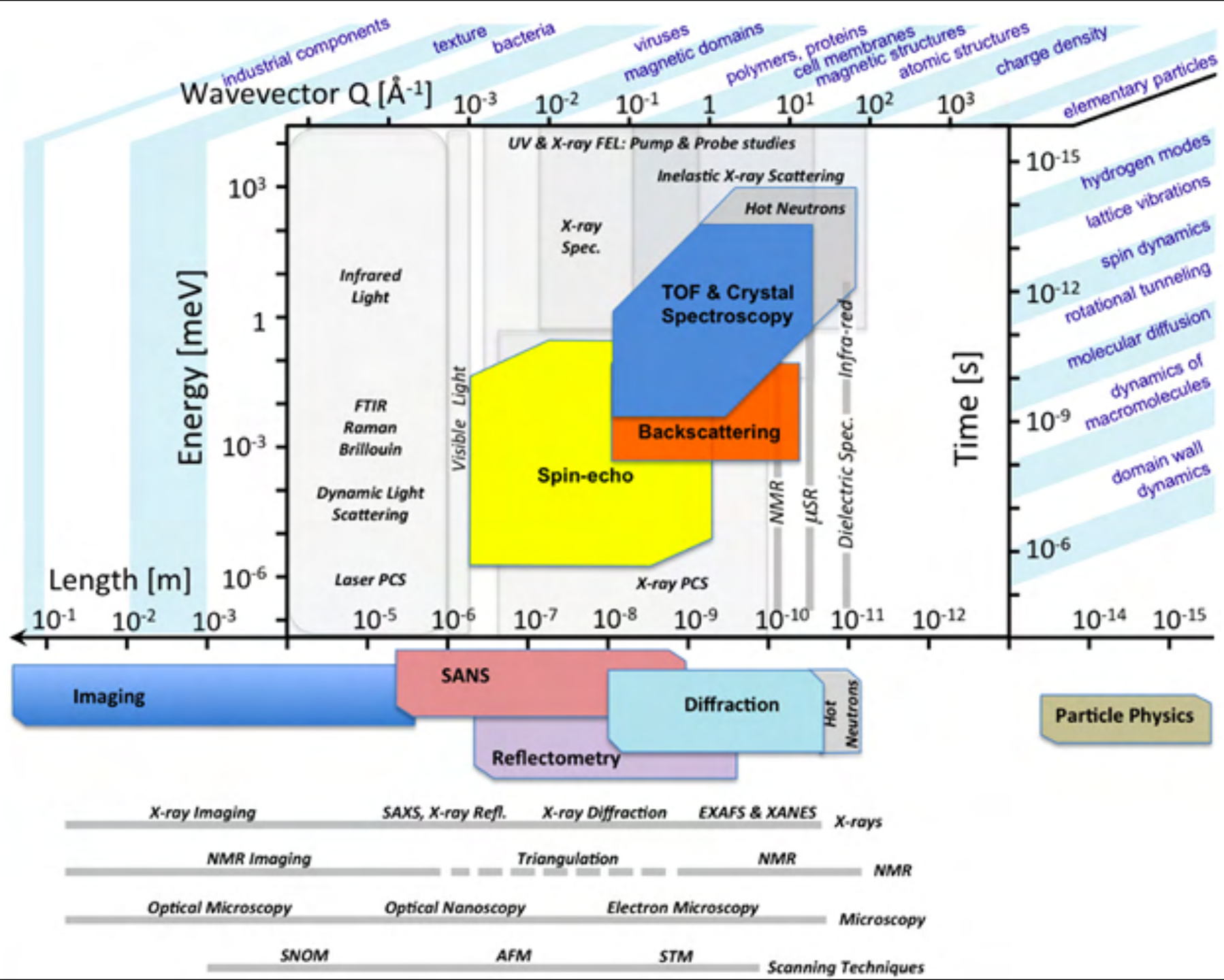
## Spectrometer



**Dynamic correlation function  $G(r, t)$**

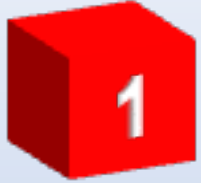
Combined yard stick & stopwatch  
for detecting correlations over distances  $r$  and times  $t$

What length & time scales can be accessed?



# Summary

## Rules/Guidelines



There are two main instrumentation strategies: diffraction and spectroscopy.



Diffraction: Exploit neutrons as atomic scale ruler



Spectroscopy: Exploit neutrons as atomic scale stopwatch

## Consequences

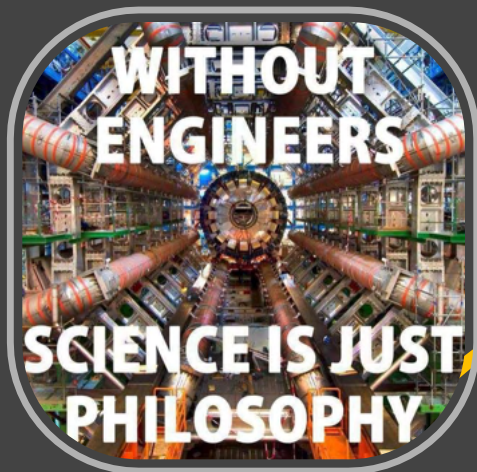


**Neutrons are ideal tools to measure atomic-scale structure and dynamics!**

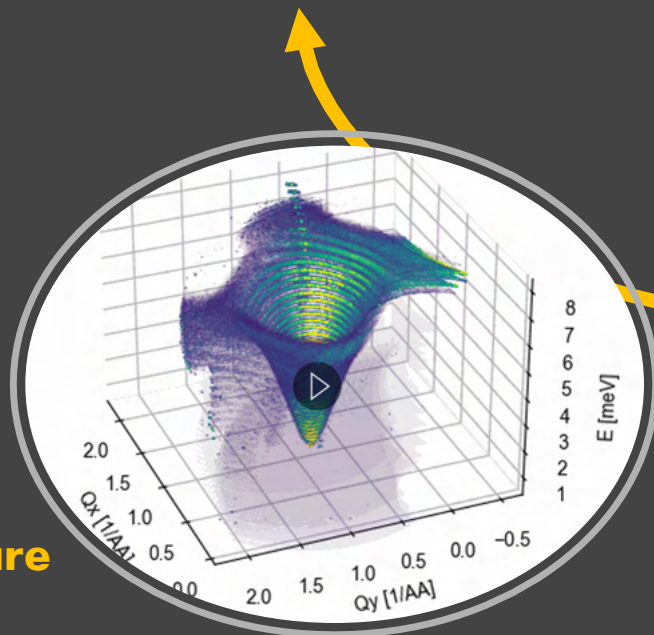
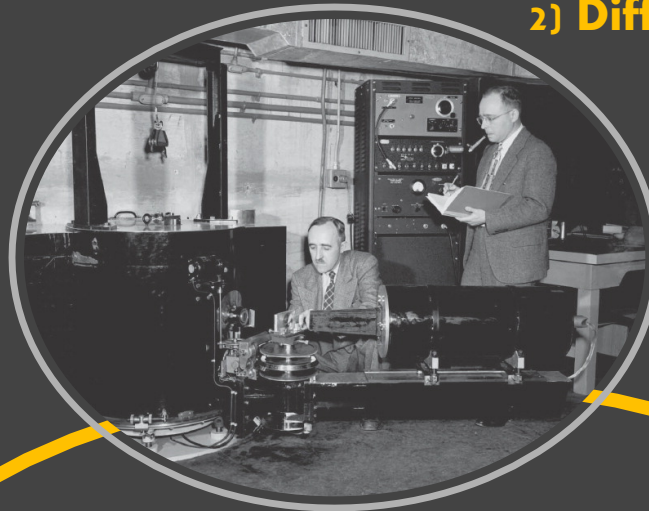


**Accessible length and time-scales cover many orders of magnitudes!**

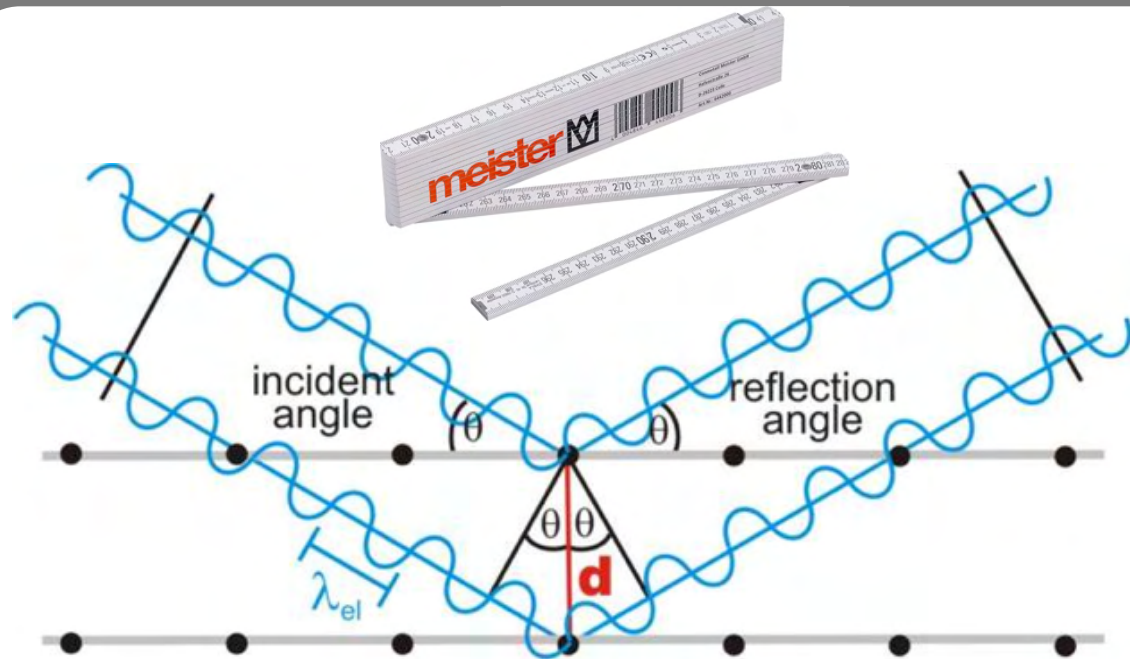
# Today's Menu



**1) Love Letter to Instrumentation**

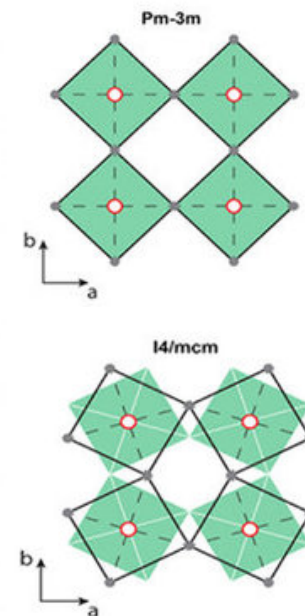
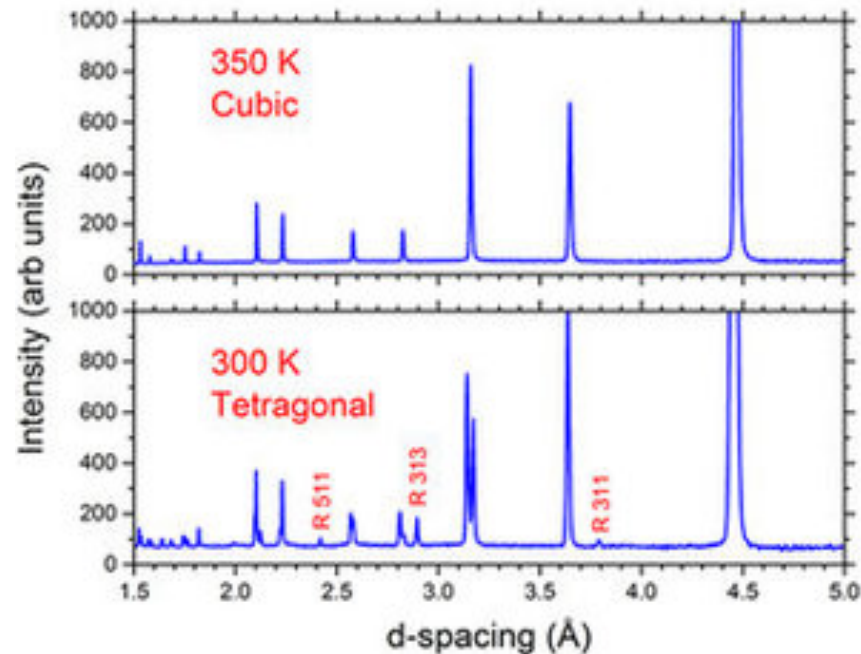


# Diffractometer



$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$

## Battery Material

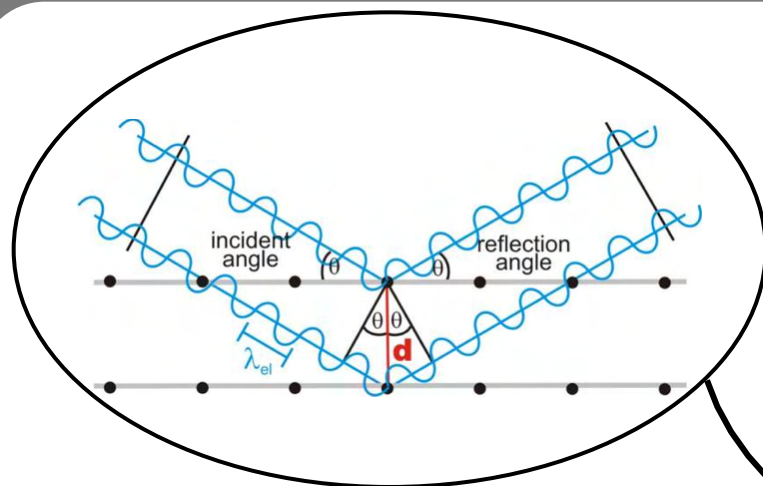


P. S. Whitfield et al., *Scientific Reports* 6, 35685 (2016)

## Experimental Strategy:

Exploit Bragg reflection on “sample” to obtain atomic scale structure!

# Diffraction: What are the parameters we want to control?

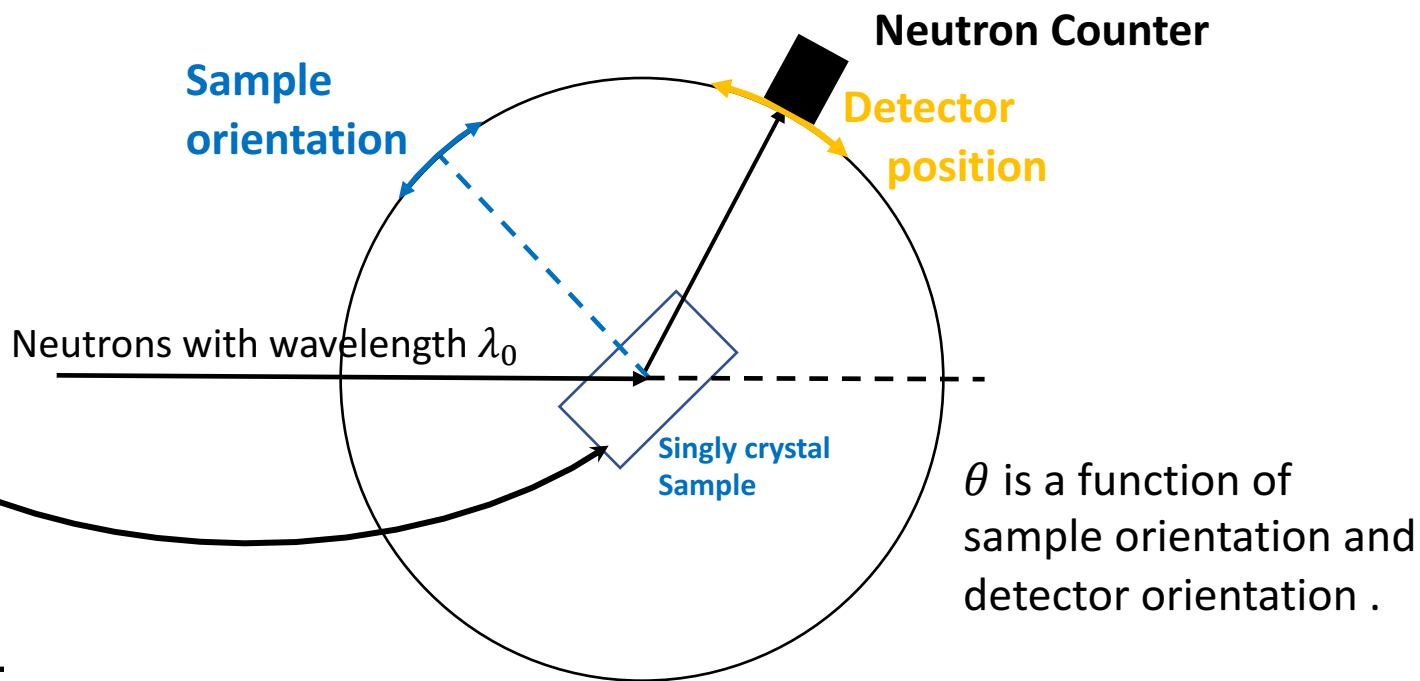


Bragg equation:

This is what we want to measure!

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta \implies d = \frac{\lambda}{2 \sin \theta}$$

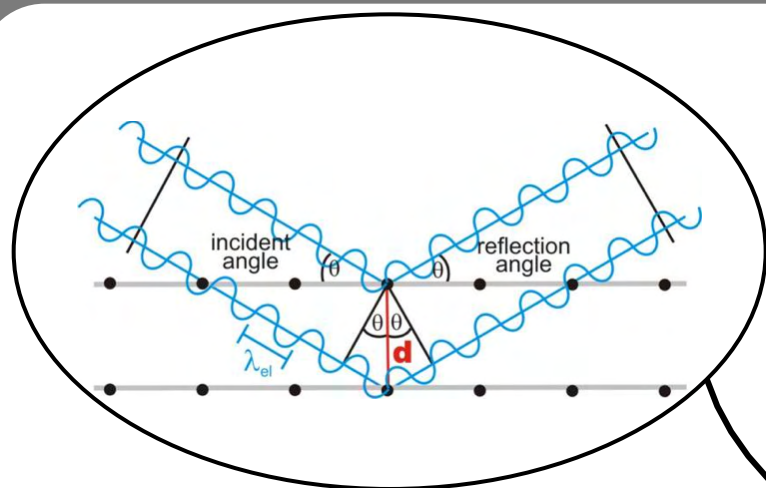
This is what we need to control!



Note that any neutron source produces a neutron spectrum containing many different wavelength  $\lambda$ !



# Diffraction: What are the parameters we want to control?

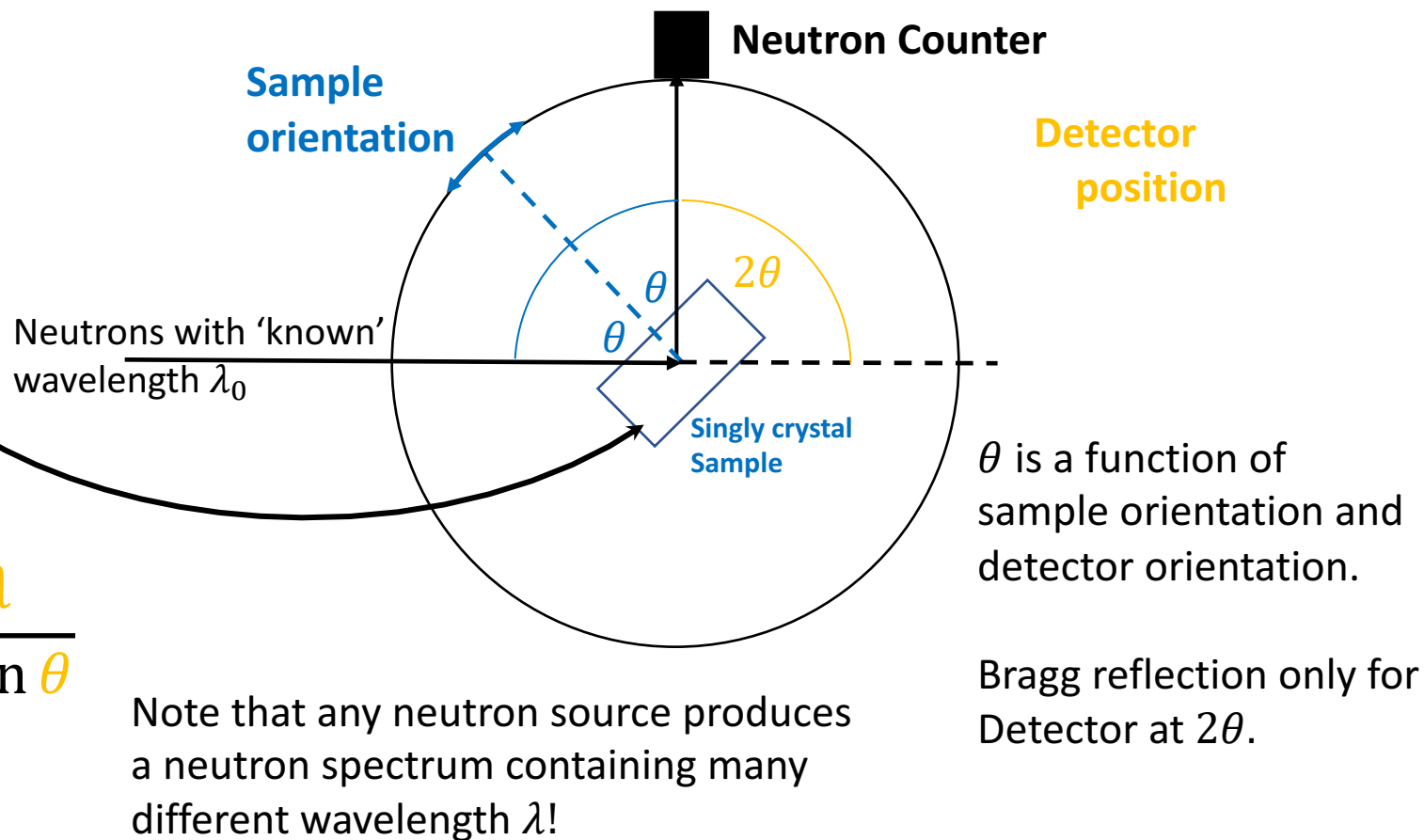


Bragg equation:

This is what we want to measure!

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta \Rightarrow d = \frac{\lambda}{2 \sin \theta}$$

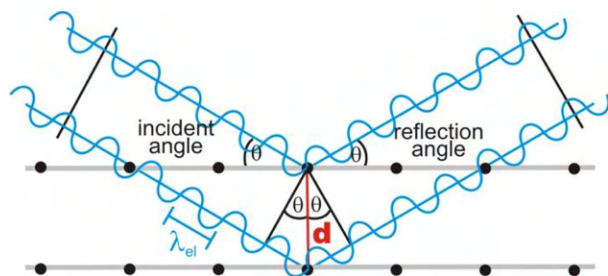
This is what we need to control!



**For a working diffractometer we need to:**

- ! be able to control the wavelength
- ! Be able to control orientation of sample and counter
- ! be able to count neutrons (will come back to this later)

# Monochromator: Selecting the Neutron Wavelength



Material (Reflection)	d-spacing (nm)
Germanium (333)	10.89
Copper (200)	18.07
Silicon (111)	31.35
Graphite (002)	33.55

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$

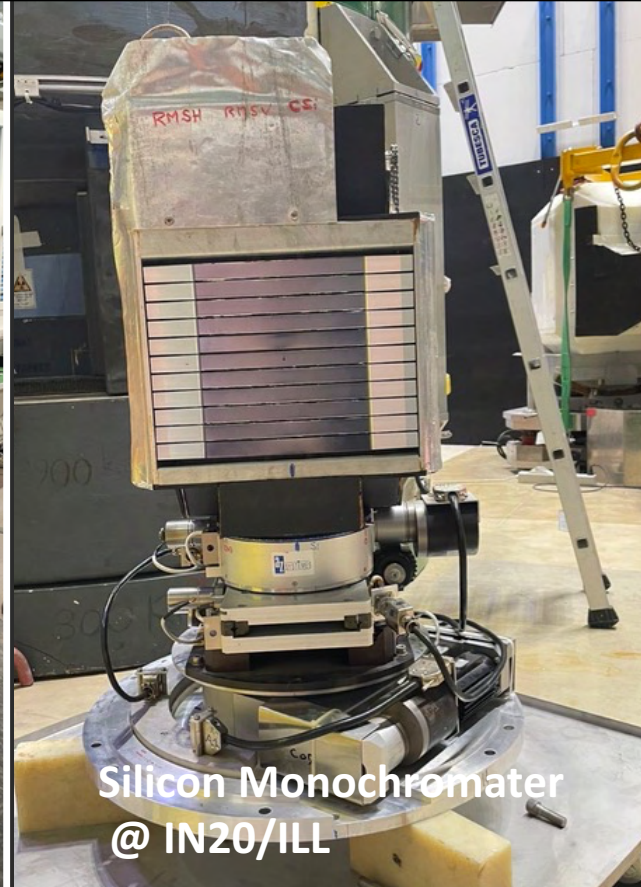
Material	Structure	Lattice constant(s) at 300 K a, c (Å)	Unit-cell volume $V_o$ ( $10^{-24}\text{cm}^3$ )	Coherent scattering length b ( $10^{-12}\text{cm}$ )	Square of scattering length density $10^{-21}\text{cm}^{-4}$	Ratio of incoherent to total scattering crosssection $\sigma_{inc}/\sigma_s$	Absorption cross section $\sigma_{abs}$ (barns)* at $\lambda = 1.8 \text{ \AA}$	Atomic mass A	Debye temperature $\theta_D$ (K)	$A\theta_D^2$ ( $10^6\text{K}^2$ )
Beryllium	h.c.p.	a: 2.2856 c: 3.5832	16.2	0.779(1)	9.25	$6.5 \times 10^{-4}$	0.0076(8)	9.013	1188	12.7
Iron	b.c.c.	a: 2.8664	23.5	0.954(6)	6.59	0.033	2.56(3)	55.85	411	9.4
Zinc	h.c.p.	a: 2.6649 c: 4.9468	30.4	0.5680(5)	1.40	0.019	1.11(2)	65.38	253	4.2
Pyrolytic graphite	layer hexag.	a: 2.461 c: 6.708	35.2	0.66484(13)	5.71	$<2 \times 10^{-4}$	0.00350(7)	12.01	800	7.7
Niobium	b.c.c.	3.3006	35.9	0.7054(3)	1.54	$4 \times 10^{-4}$	1.15(5)	92.91	284	7.5
Nickel ( $^{58}\text{Ni}$ )	f.c.c.	3.5241	43.8	1.44(1)	17.3	0	4.6(3)	58.71	417	9.9
Copper	f.c.c.	3.6147	47.2	0.7718(4)	4.28	0.065	3.78(2)	63.54	307	6.0
Aluminium	f.c.c.	4.0495	66.4	0.3449(5)	0.43	$5.6 \times 10^{-3}$	0.231(3)	26.98	402	4.4
Lead	f.c.c.	4.9502	121	0.94003(14)	0.97	$2.7 \times 10^{-4}$	0.171(2)	207.21	87	1.6
Silicon	diamond	5.4309	160	0.41491(10)	0.43	$6.9 \times 10^{-3}$	0.171(3)	28.09	543	8.3
Germanium	diamond	5.6575	181	0.81929(7)	1.31	0.020	2.3(2)	72.60	290	6.1

\*1 barn= 100 fm<sup>2</sup>.

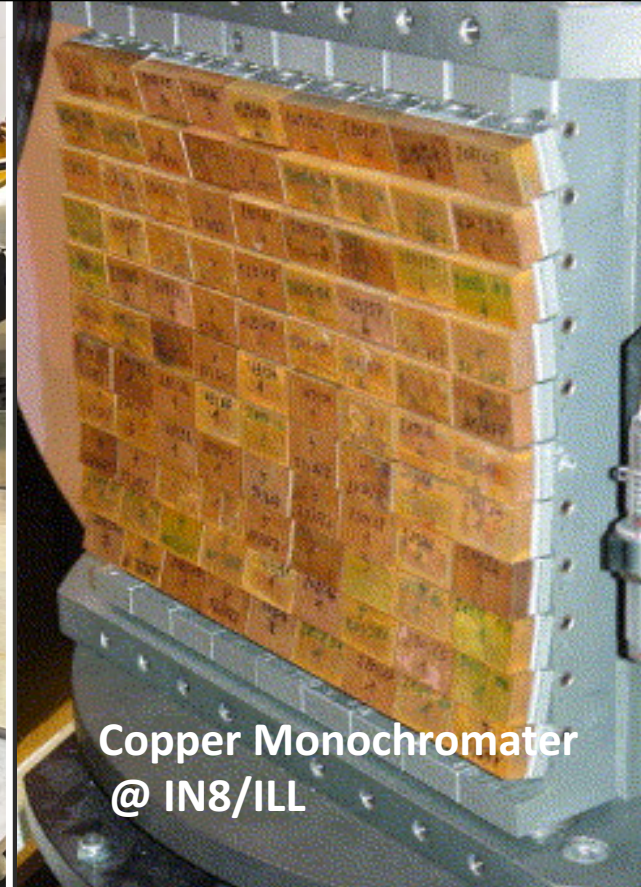
**Use well-characterized single crystals with large coherent scattering cross-section to select desired neutron wavelength.**



PG Monochromator  
@ CAMEA/PSI



Silicon Monochromator  
@ IN20/ILL



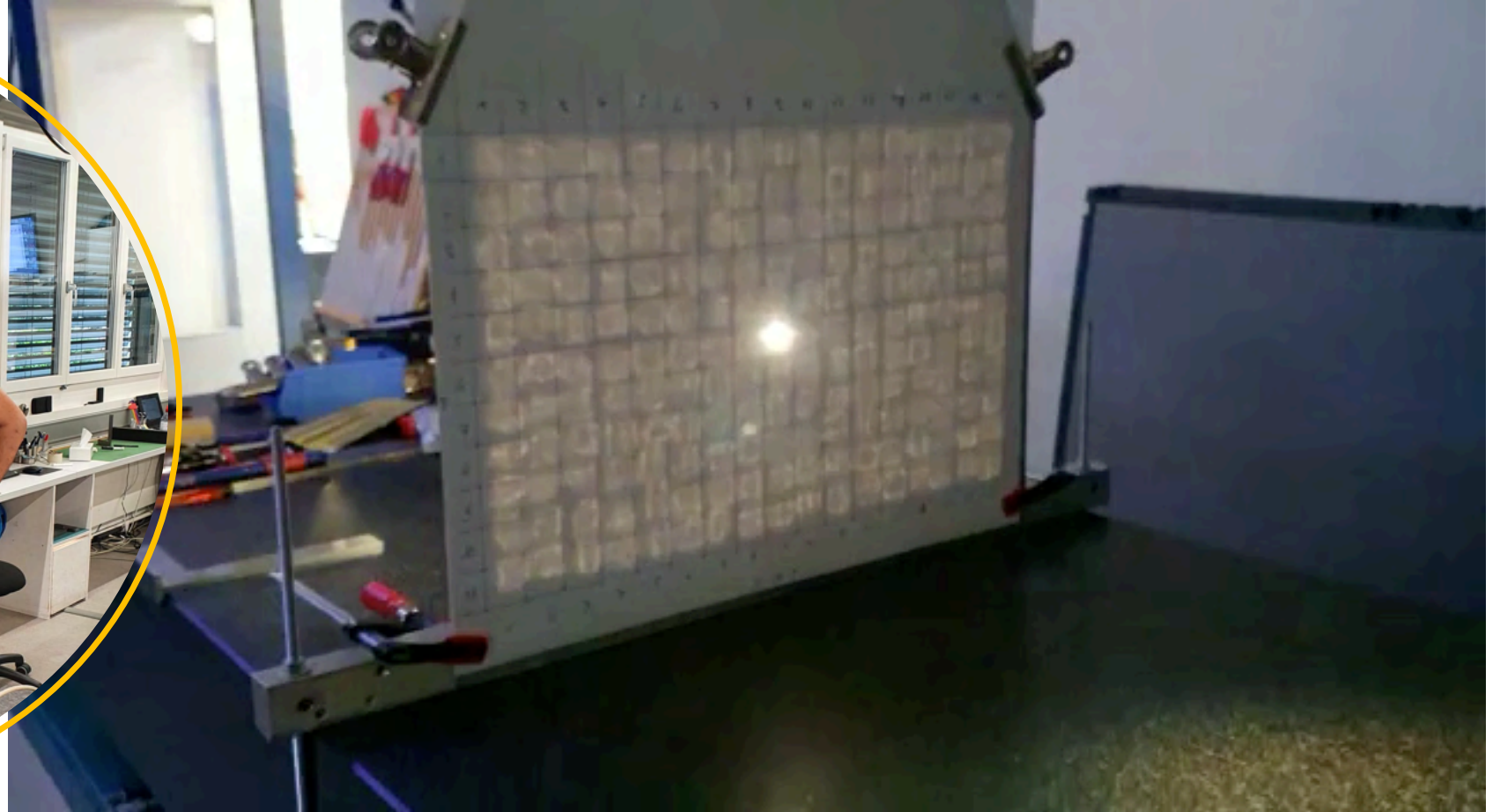
Copper Monochromator  
@ IN8/ILL



Heusler Monochromator  
@ IN20/ILL  
(also acts as polarizer)

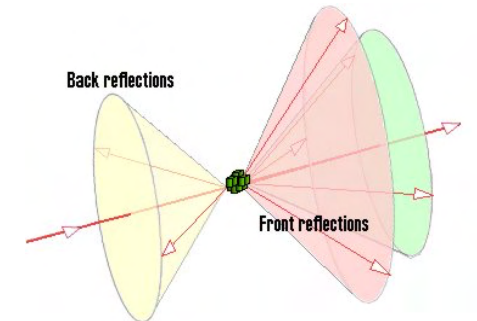
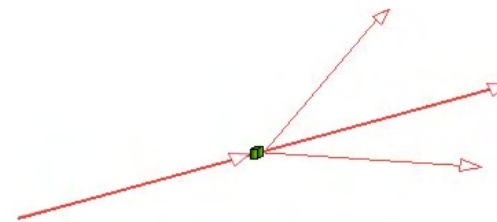
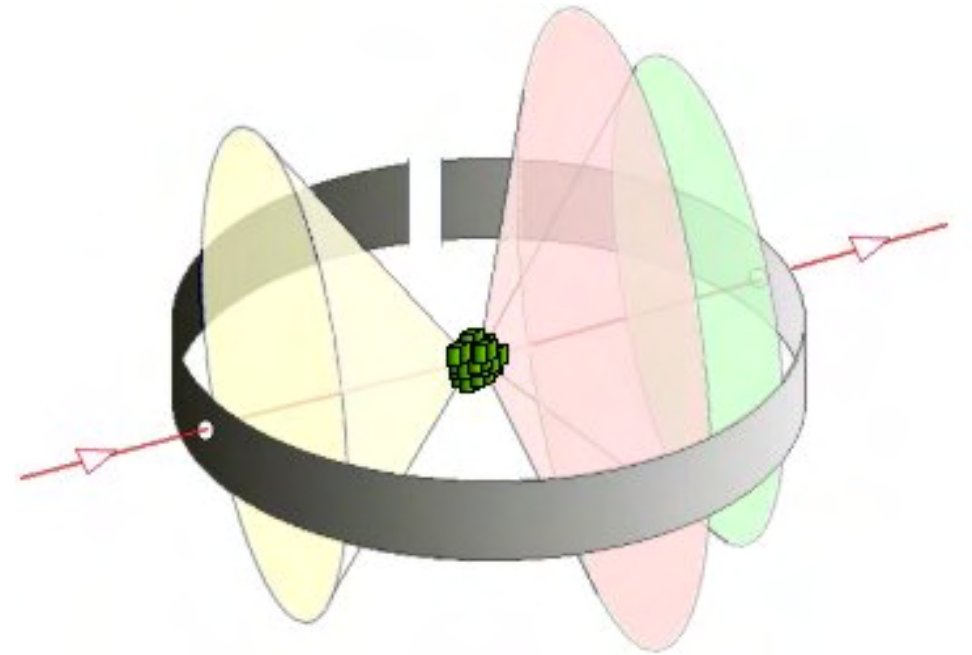
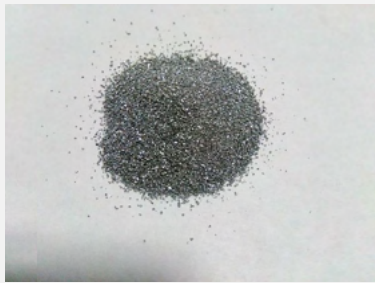
# Monochromator: Selecting the Neutron Wavelength

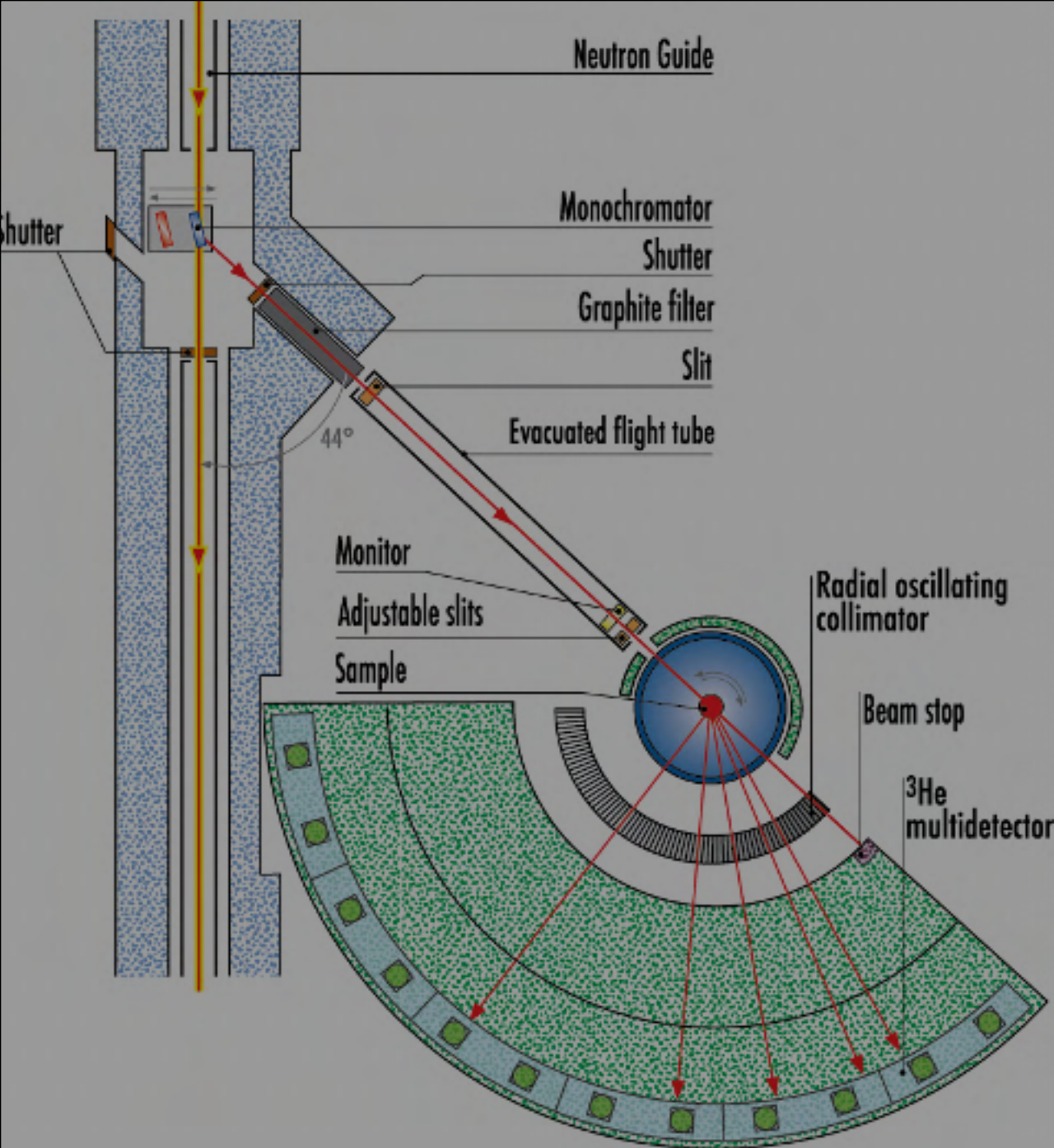
# Double-Focusing for Small Samples



# *Smash your Crystal or Powder Diffraction*

In this case, we do not need to orient our sample, which makes the experiment somewhat simpler.

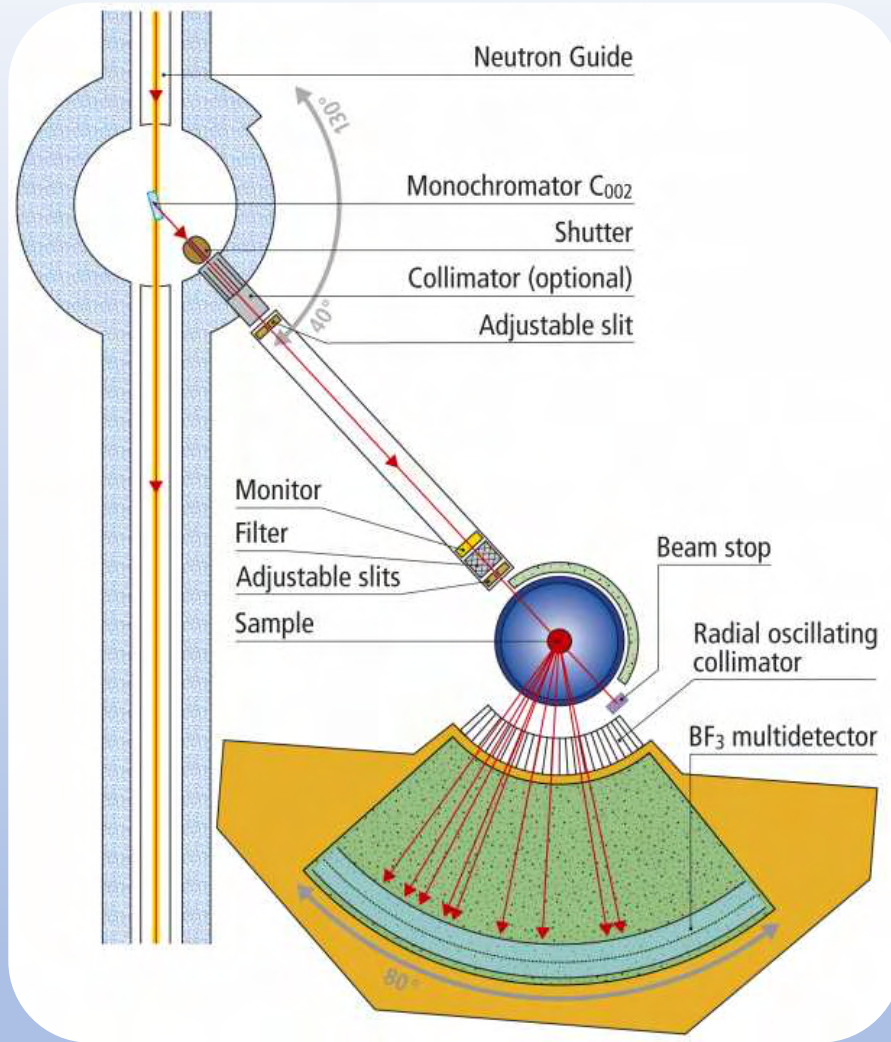




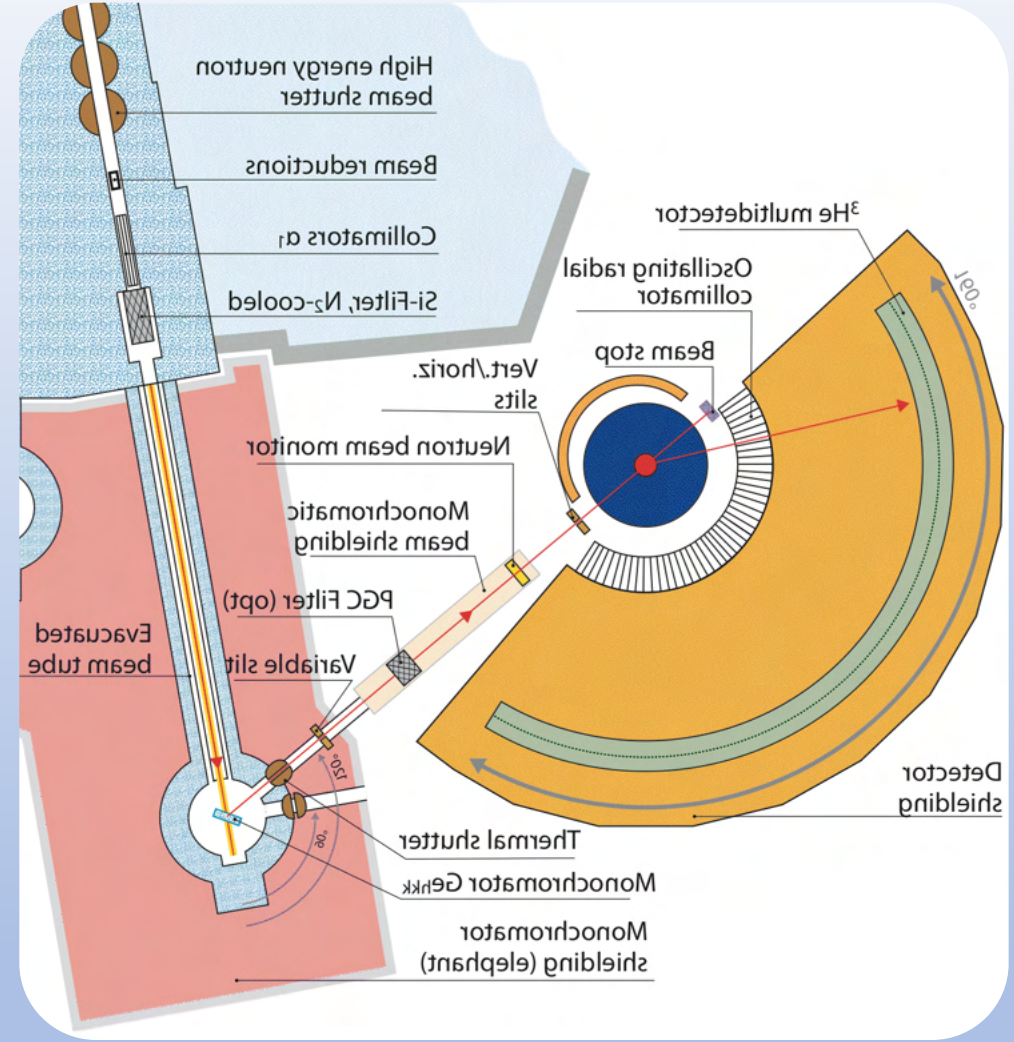
**D1B @ ILL**  
**A prototypical**  
**constant wavelength**  
**powder diffractometer**



# Resolution of a Constant Wavelength Powder Diffractometer



DMC @ PSI



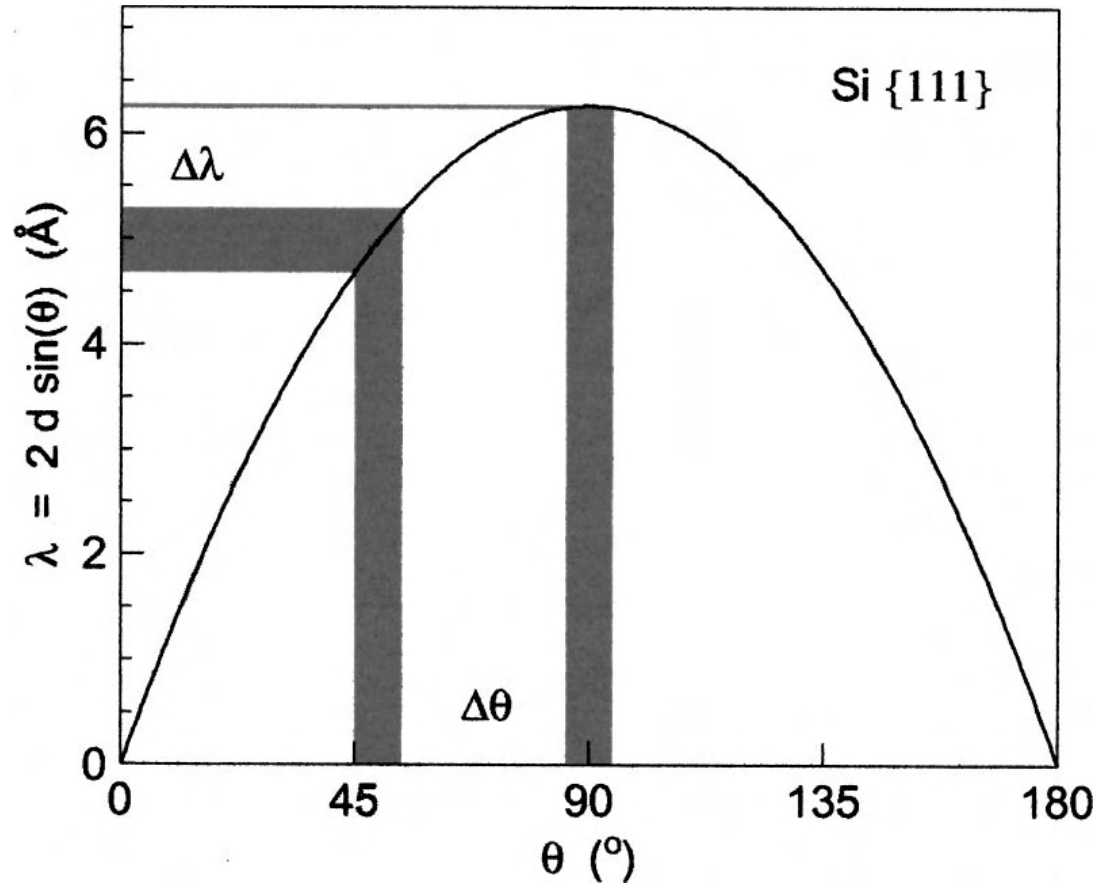
HRPT @ PSI

(High Resolution Powder Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons)

What makes HRPT higher resolution than DMC???



# Wavelength Resolution of a Crystal Monochromator



A. Meyer *et al.*, Review of Scientific Instruments **74**, 2759 (2003)

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$

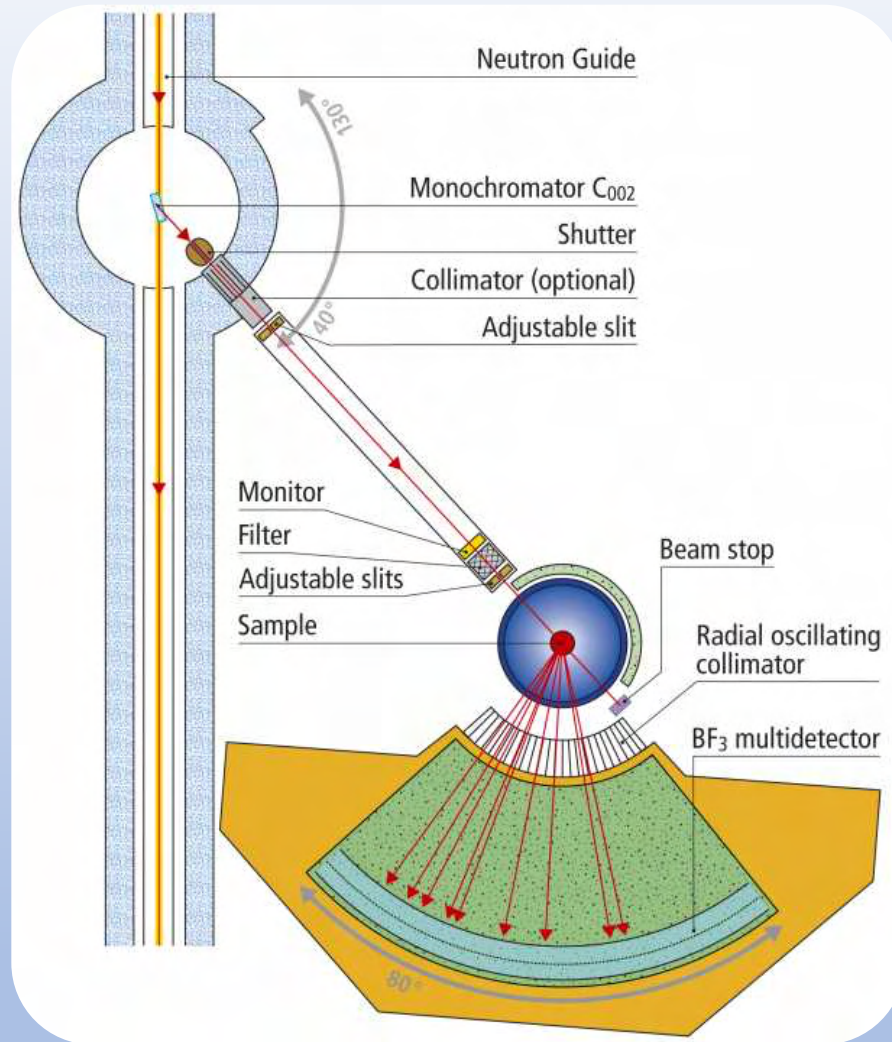
$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{\Delta d}{d} + \cot \theta d\theta$$

Depends on Crystal Quality

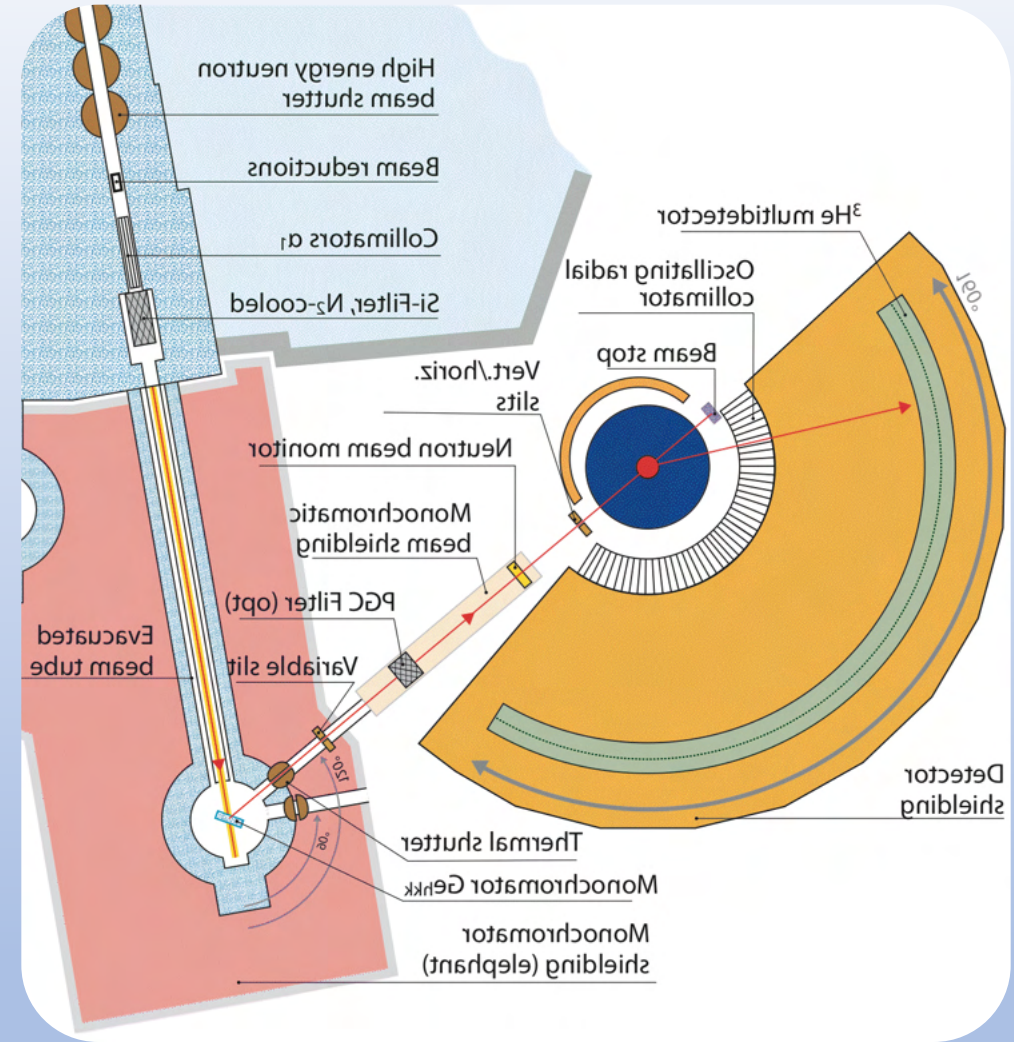
Depends on Beam Divergence  
(can be e.g. changed by  
focusing of monochromator!!!)

Depends on Scattering Angle!!!!

# Resolution of a Constant Wavelength Powder Diffractometer



DMC @ PSI

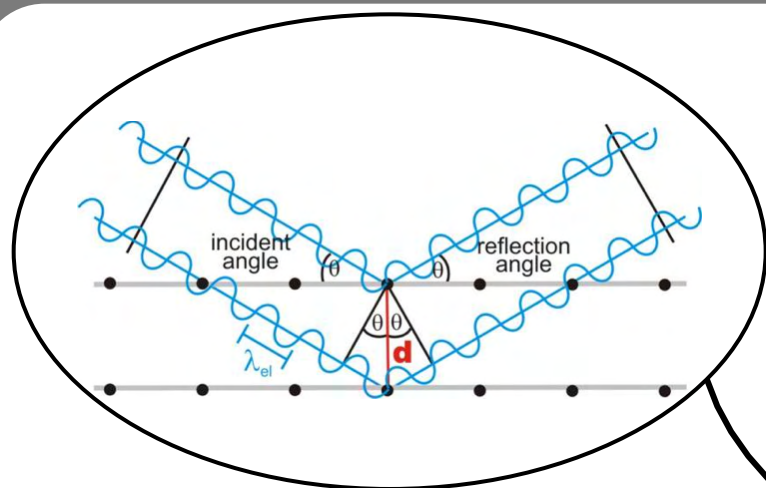


HRPT @ PSI

(High Resolution Powder Diffractometer for Thermal Neutrons)

What makes HRPT higher resolution than DMC??? Scattering Angle for HRPT closer to 90 degrees!!!

# Diffraction: What are the parameters we want to control?

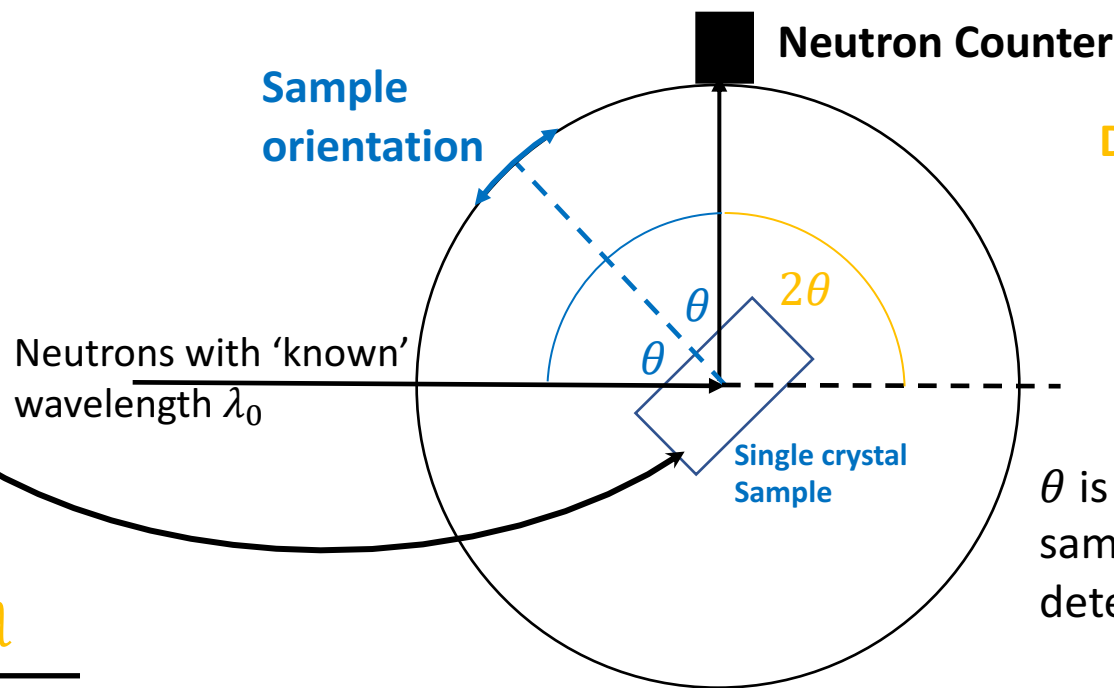


Bragg equation:

This is what we want to measure!

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta \implies d = \frac{\lambda}{2 \sin \theta}$$

This is what we need to control!



$\theta$  is a function of sample orientation and detector orientation.

Bragg reflection only for Detector at  $2\theta$ .

Note that any neutron source produces a neutron spectrum containing many different wavelength  $\lambda$ !

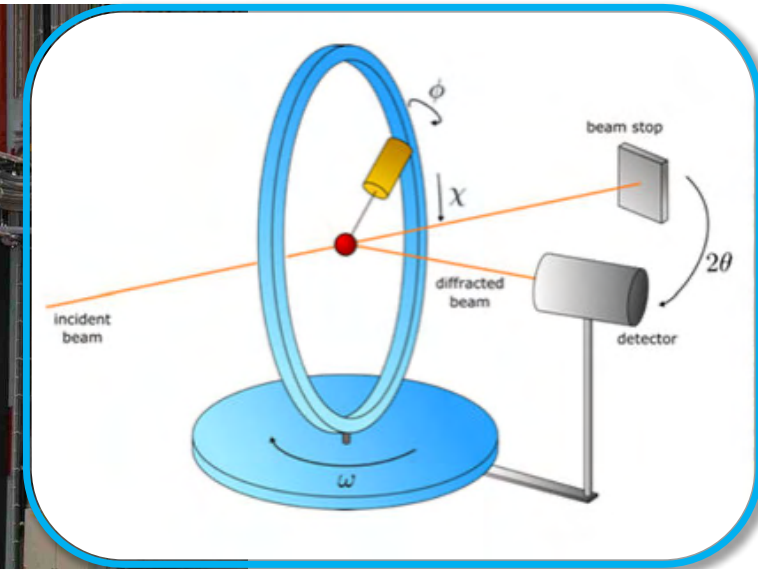
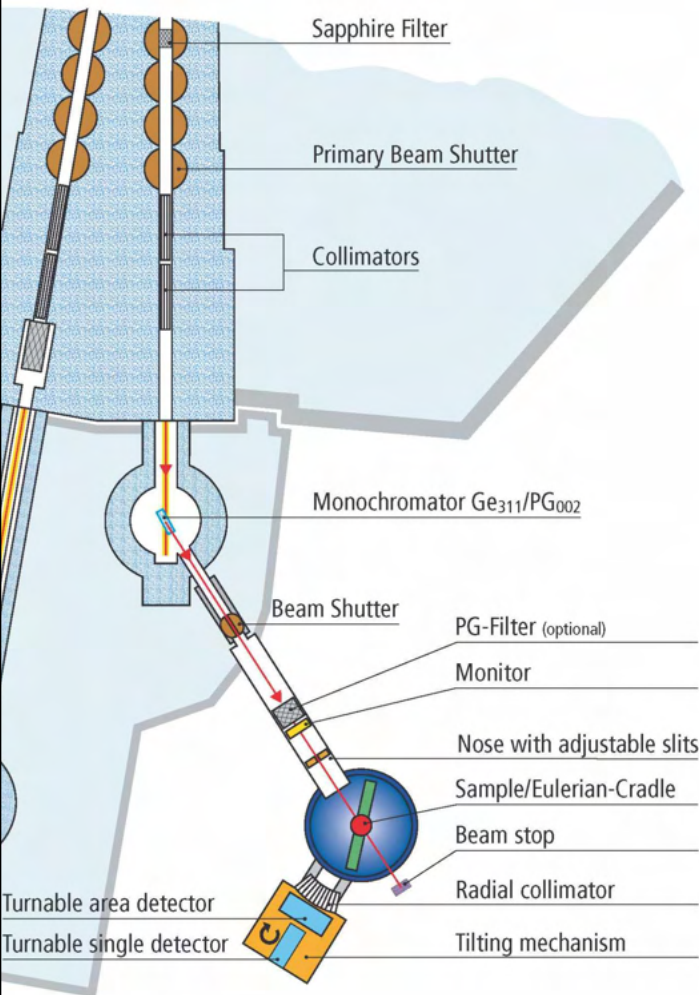
**For a working diffractometer we need to:**

- ! be able to control the wavelength 😊
- ! Be able to control orientation of sample and counter
- ! be able to count neutrons (will come back to this later)

**However, there seem to be a few more things:**

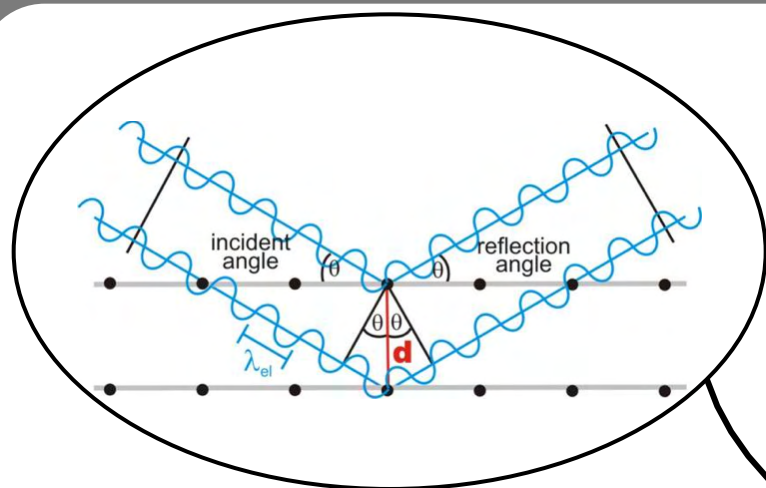
- ! Neutron guide
- ! Filter
- ! Collimator

# Single Crystal Diffractometer: Zebra @ PSI



3D rotation of sample with Eulerian cradle

# Diffraction: What are the parameters we want to control?

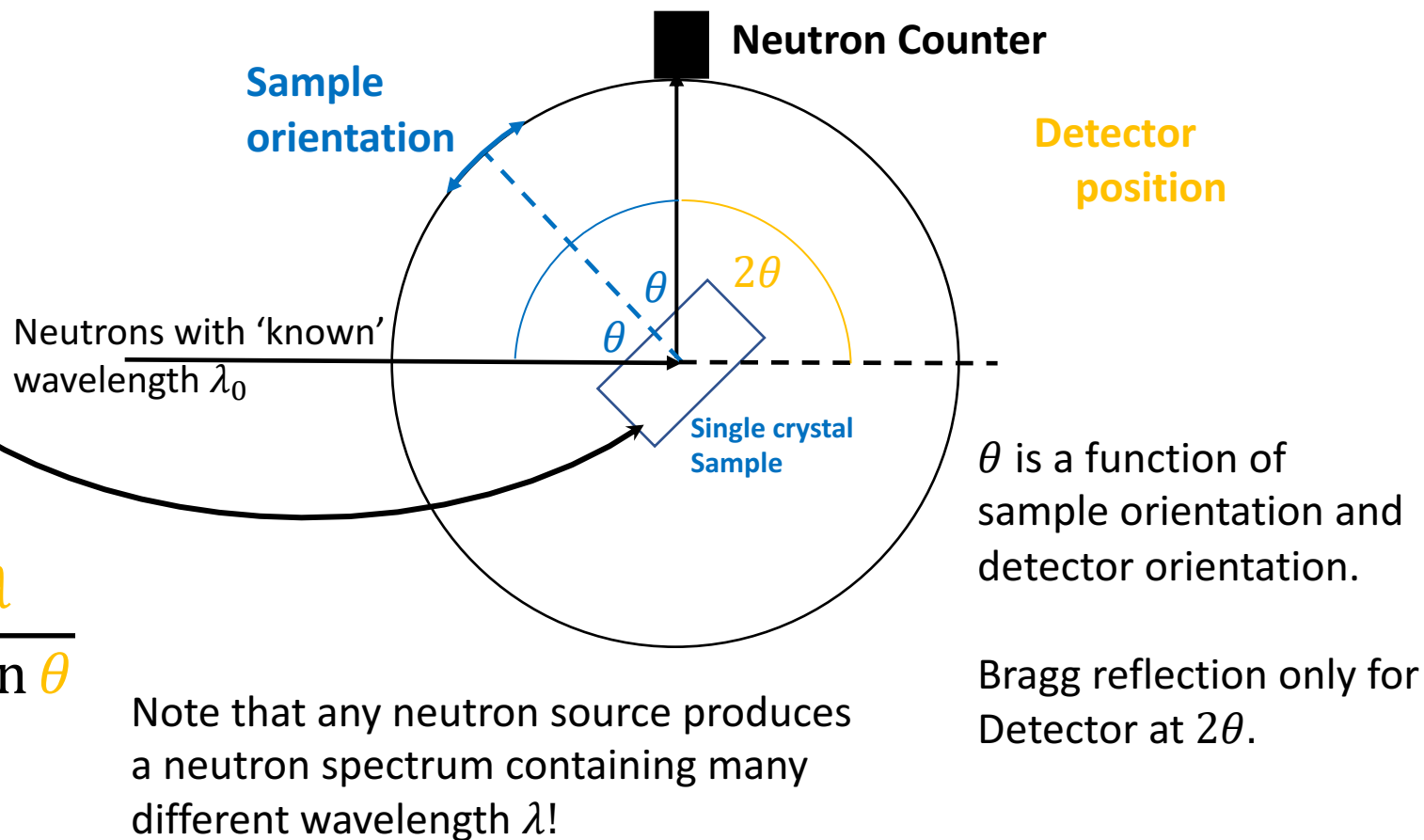


Bragg equation:

This is what we want to measure!

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta \implies d = \frac{\lambda}{2 \sin \theta}$$

This is what we need to control!



Note that any neutron source produces a neutron spectrum containing many different wavelength  $\lambda$ !

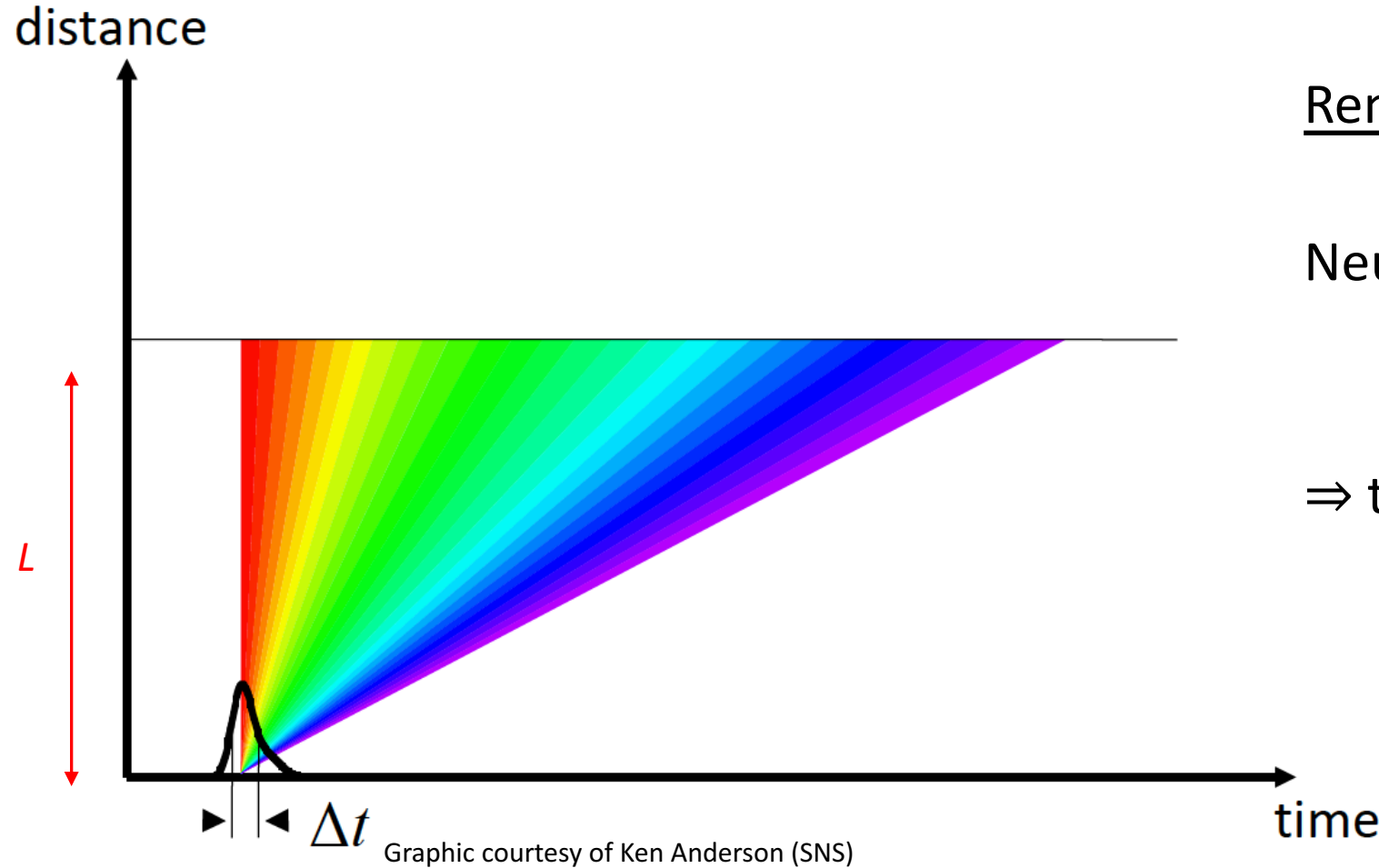
**For a working diffractometer we need to:**

- ! be able to control the wavelength 😊
- ! Be able to control orientation of sample and counter 😊
- ! be able to count neutrons (soon)

**However, there seem to be a few more things:**

- ! Neutron guide (soon)
- ! Filter (soon)
- ! Collimator (soon)

# Neutron Time-of-Flight at Pulses Sources



Reminder:

$$\text{Neutron velocity } v[\text{m/s}] = \frac{39560}{\lambda [\text{nm}]}$$

⇒ time of flight for distance  $L$ :

$$t[\mu\text{sec}] = \frac{L}{v} = L[\text{m}] \frac{\lambda [\text{nm}]}{25.3}$$

**For pulsed neutron sources we may use the time neutrons require to fly to select their wavelength.**

# Pioneers of Time-of-Flight Diffraction

Obituary

## James D. Jorgensen (1948–2006)

[Dimitry N. Argyriou](#) & [Paolo G. Radaelli](#)

*Nature Materials* **6**, 97 (2007) | [Cite this article](#)

257 Accesses | [Metrics](#)

### Pioneer of neutron diffraction and the structure of superconductors.

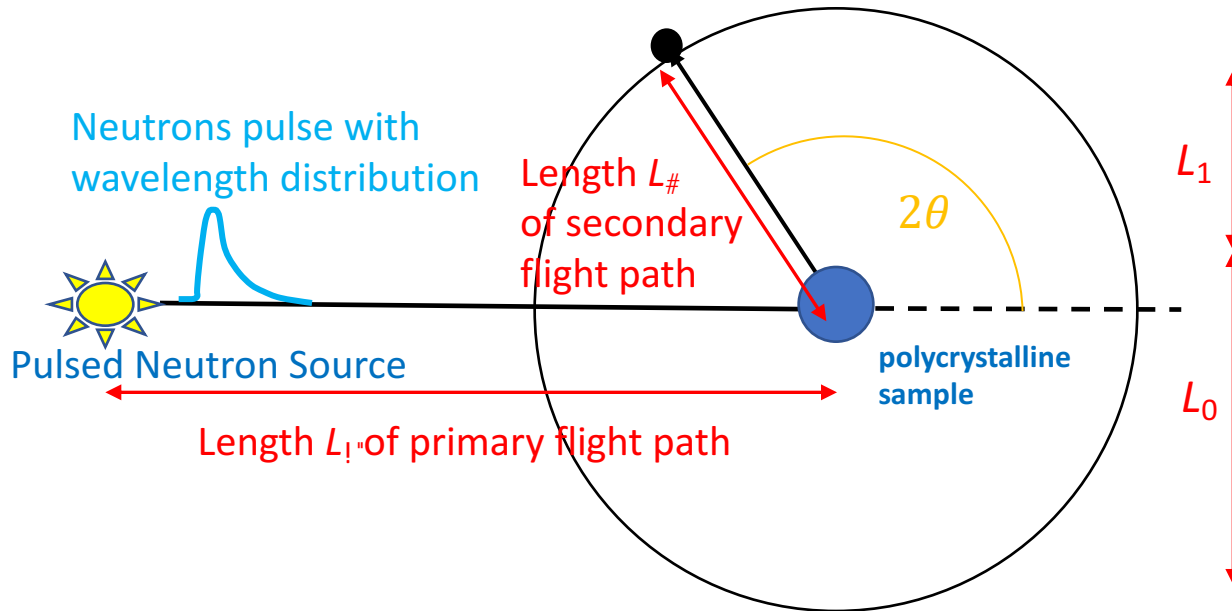
When Jim Jorgensen wished to refocus the attention of a post-doc after the presentation of a 'novel' result he would say in a jovial but gentle manner "...nothing simulates a new effect quite like a mistake". In many ways, this anecdote exemplifies Jorgensen's clarity of mind, a quality that allowed him to develop neutron powder diffraction at spallation sources from a little-appreciated curiosity into a powerful investigative tool, which he then went on to apply, with extraordinary results, to the study of the structure–property relations of a variety of materials. Jorgensen's contribution has perhaps been most influential in the field of superconductivity, where he produced authoritative and highly cited papers on virtually all superconductors of the past 30 years. However, his wider legacy in neutron powder diffraction, crystallography, materials physics and solid-state chemistry is as relevant now as at any time in his career, as the scientific case for the next generation of spallation neutron sources in the US and Japan is based to a large extent either directly on his work or indirectly on the example and inspiration he was able to set.



Credit: ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

# Time-of-Flight Diffraction

Graphic courtesy of Ken Anderson (SNS)

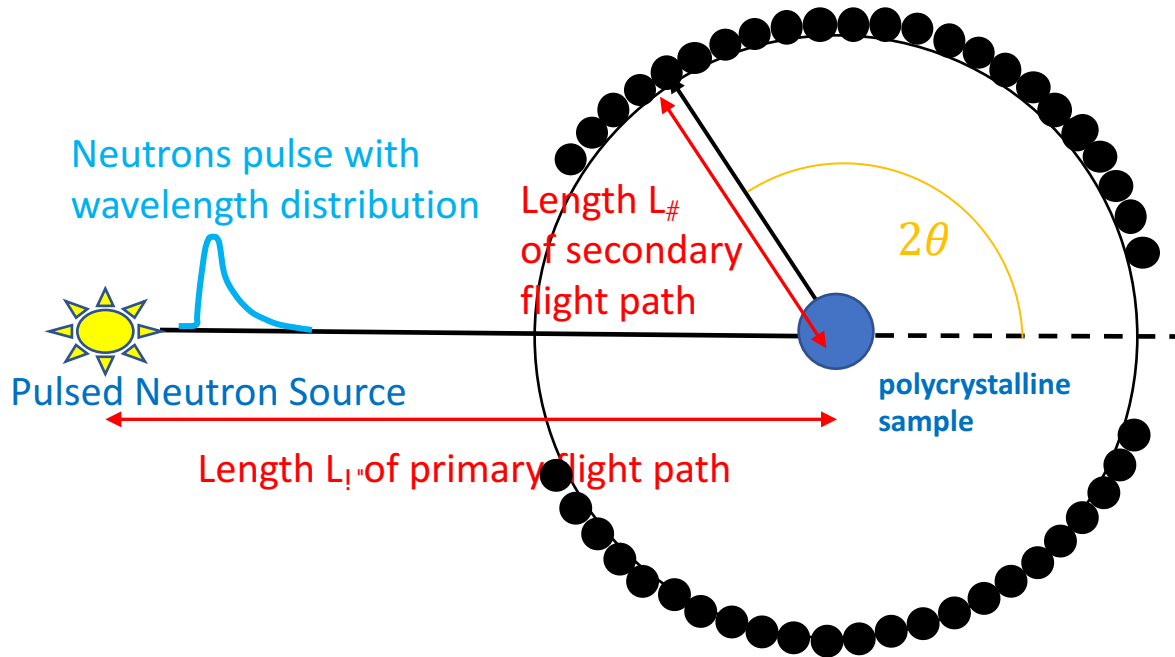


$$d = \frac{\lambda \leftarrow \text{Determined by TOF}}{2\sin \theta \leftarrow \text{Fixed}}$$

**Note that you can obtain an entire powder diffraction pattern with a single detector at one angle!!!**

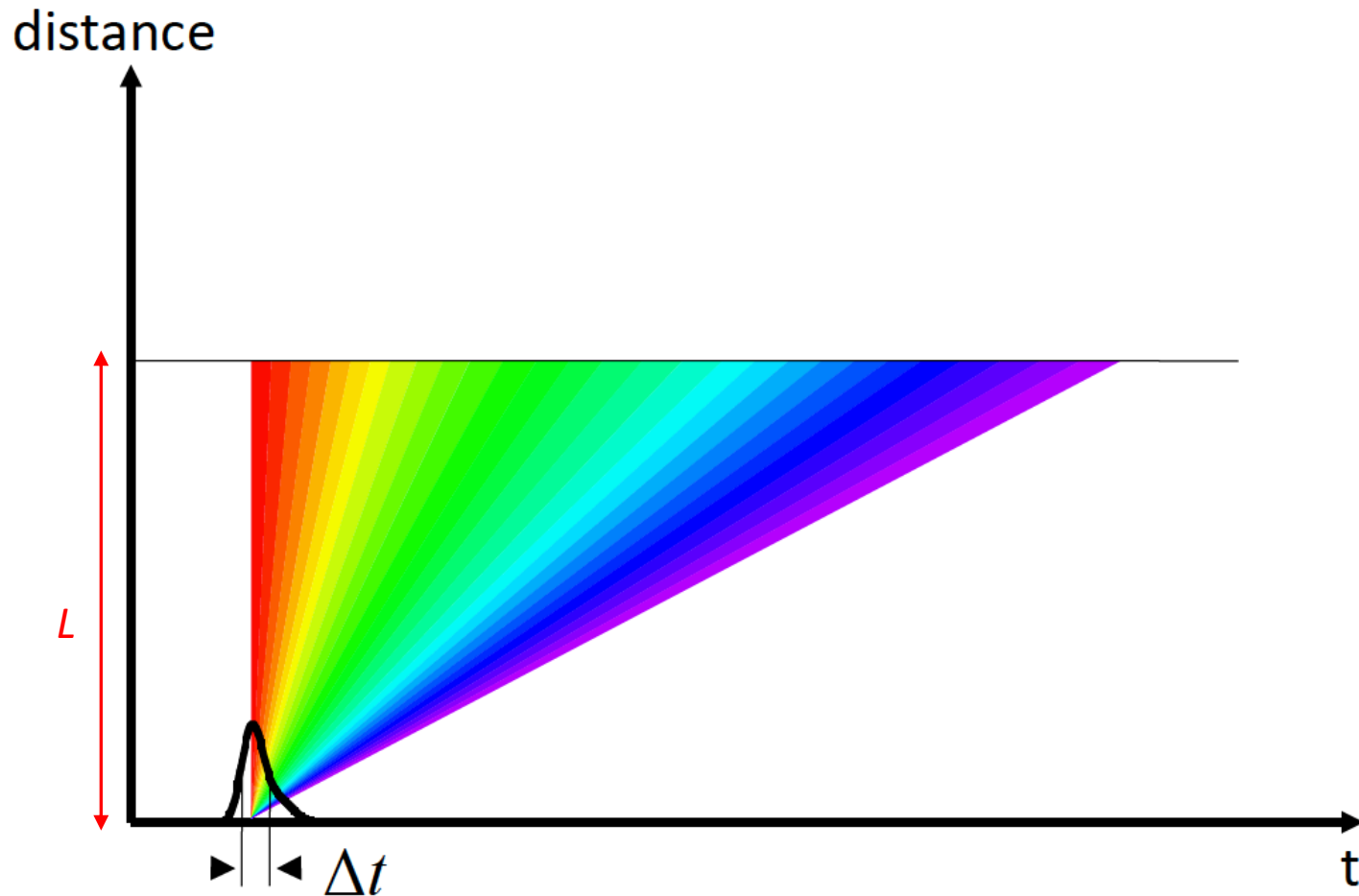


# Time-of-Flight Diffraction



⇒ Add many more detectors to increase efficiency!

# Time-of-Flight Resolution



Graphic courtesy of Ken Anderson (SNS)

Reminder:

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta d}{d} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} - \cot \theta d\theta$$

Depends on ToF accuracy

Depends on Beam Divergence

Reminder:

time of flight for distance  $L$ :

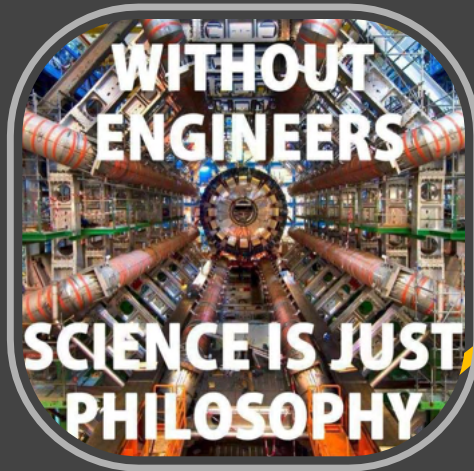
$$t[\mu\text{sec}] = \frac{L}{v} = L[\text{m}] \frac{\lambda [\text{nm}]}{25.3}$$

$$\Delta \lambda [\text{nm}] = \Delta t[\mu\text{sec}] \times \frac{25.3}{L[\text{m}]}$$

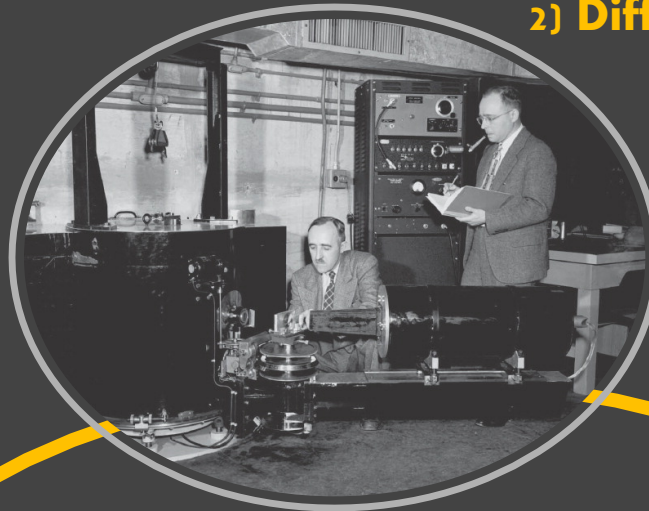
**To improve the resolution:**

- 1) **Decrease divergence (collimator, see later)**
- 2) **Increase flight path  $L$**
- 3) **Generate sharper neutron pulse ("sharper moderator")**

# Today's Menu



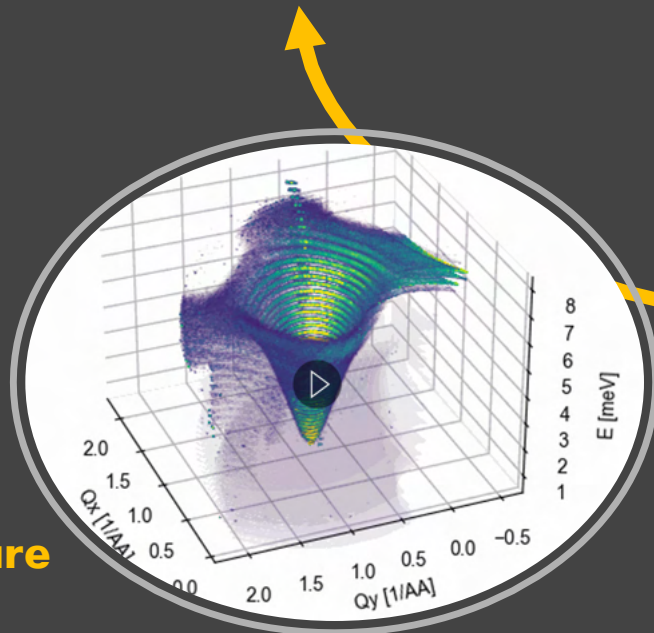
**1) Love Letter to Instrumentation**



**2) Diffraction**



**3) Instrument Components**



**5) Spectroscopy**



**4) Intermezzo:  
Sample Environment**



Filters



Guides



Detectors

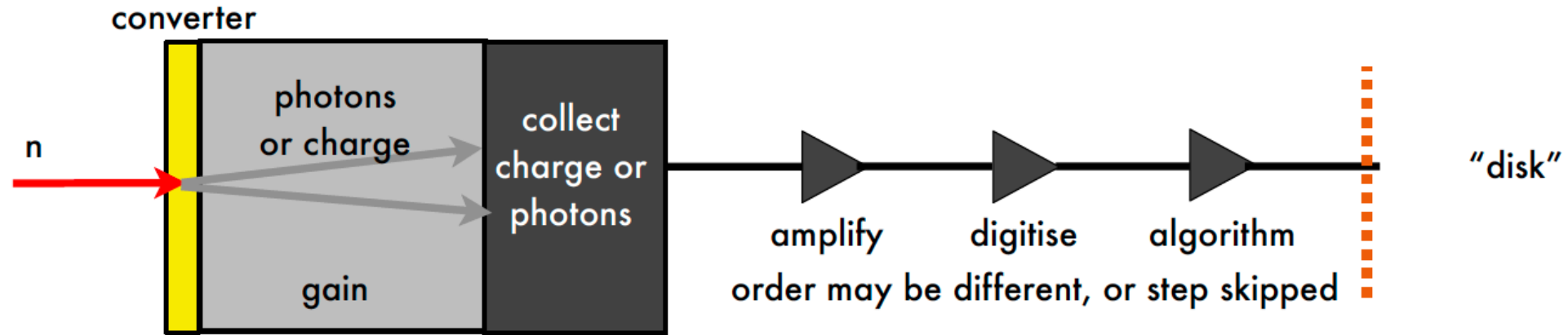


Collimators

**Let's look at some more instrument components!**

# Neutron Detectors: Basic Principles

Efficient neutron converters a key component for neutron detectors



"Converter"

"Detector"

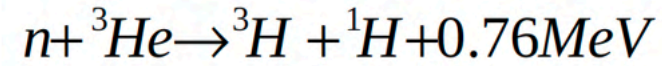
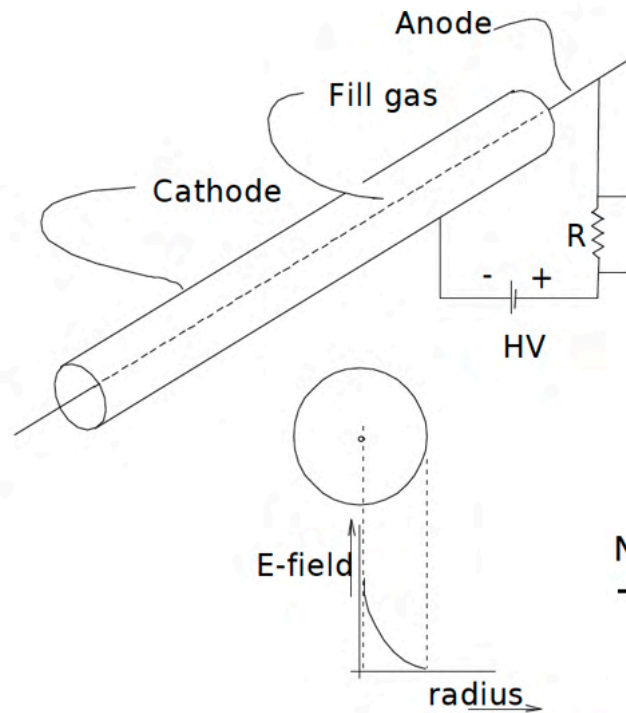
"Electronics"

Needs high neutron capture cross-section for cold and thermal neutrons

Graphic courtesy of Richard Hall-Wilton: [https://indico.cern.ch/event/979864/attachments/2156380/3637309/201204\\_CERNDetectorSeminar\\_RJHW.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/979864/attachments/2156380/3637309/201204_CERNDetectorSeminar_RJHW.pdf)

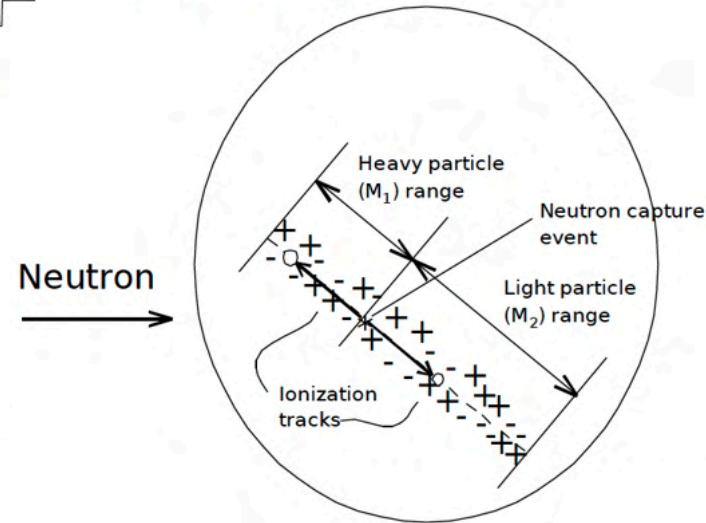
# $^3\text{He}$ Gas Detectors (most common)

Graphic courtesy of Ron Cooper (ORNL)



$$\sigma = 5333 \frac{\lambda}{18} \text{ barns}$$

~25,000 ions and electrons  
( $\sim 4 \times 10^{-15}$  coulomb)  
produced per neutron



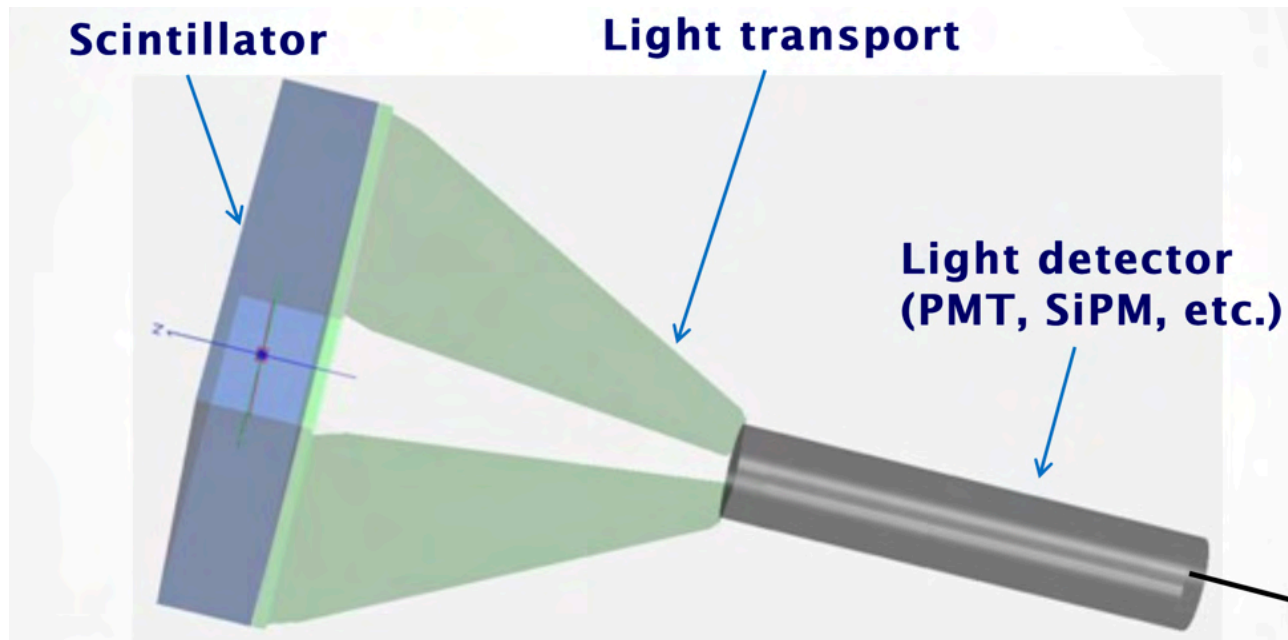
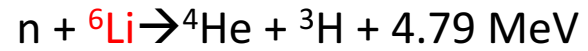
- >1mm resolution
- High efficiency
- Low gamma-sensitivity
- $^3\text{He}$  supply problem



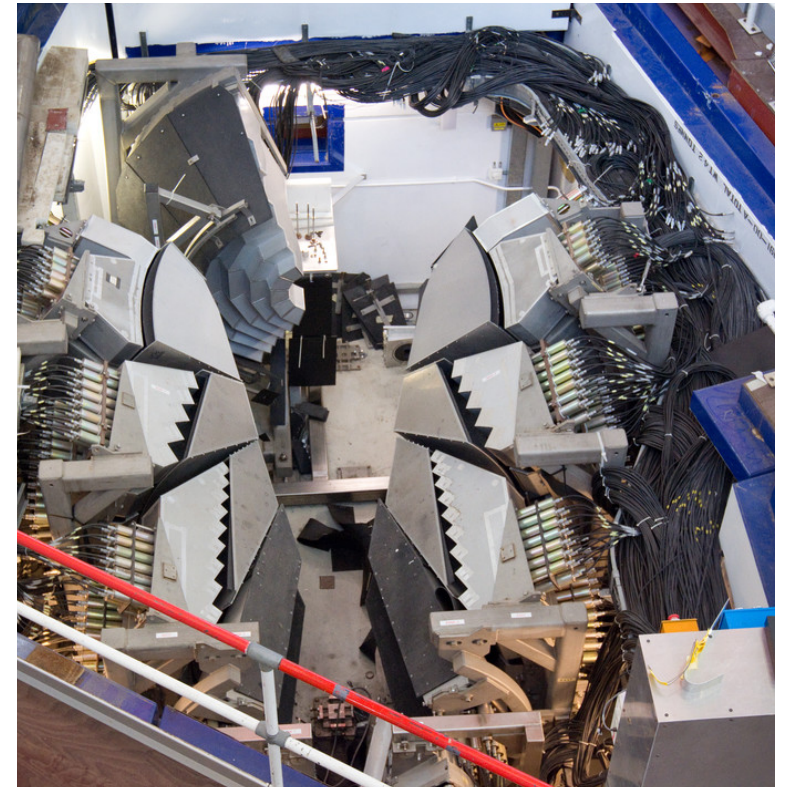
IN5  $^3\text{He}$  Detector Tubes @ ILL

# Li Scintillator Detectors

Graphic courtesy of G. J. Sykora (ISIS)



- <1mm resolution
- Medium efficiency
- Some gamma-sensitivity
- Magnetic-field sensitivity



Li Scintillator Detector at GEM @ ISIS





# Neutron Guides — Why do we need them?

Target Station 1

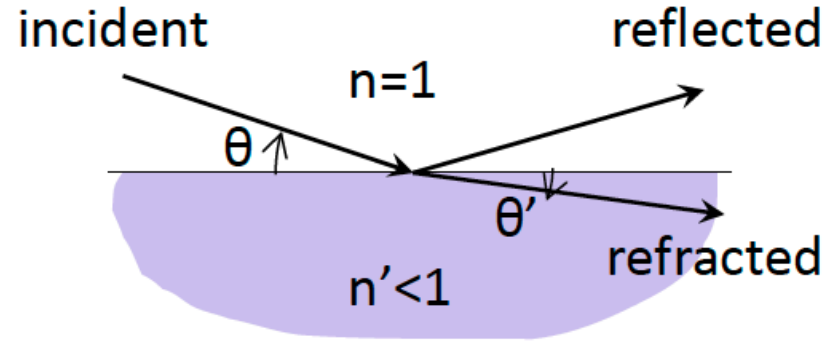
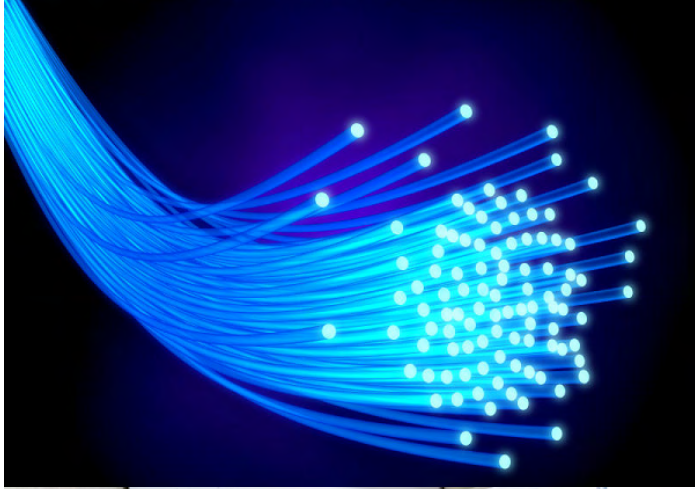


Target Station 2



- 1) **Transport neutrons to instruments without too much intensity loss.**
- 2) **Make space for more instruments by moving them further out.**
- 3) **Decrease background (fast neutrons, gammas, ...)**

# Neutron Guides — How do they work?



Snell's law:

$$\frac{\cos \theta}{\cos \theta'} = \frac{v_1}{v_2} = \frac{n'}{n}$$

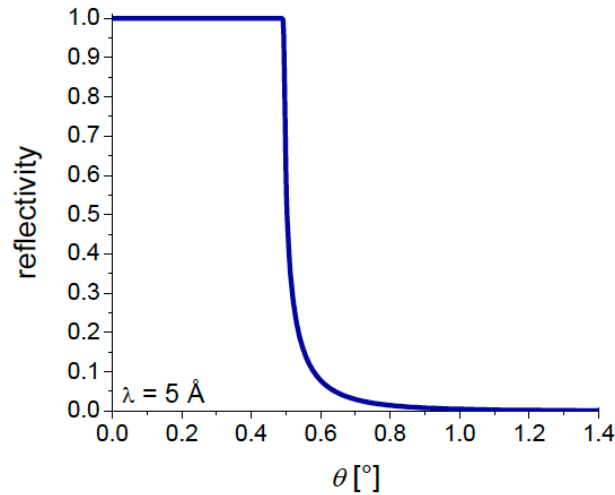
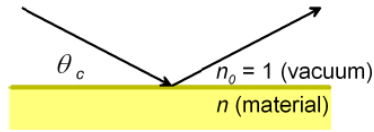
$\theta' = 0$ : critical angle of total reflection  $\theta_c$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \cos \theta_c &= n'/n = n' \\ n' &= 1 - \frac{N\lambda^2 b}{2\pi} \\ \cos \theta_c &\approx 1 - \theta_c^2/2 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \theta_c = \lambda \sqrt{Nb/\pi}$$

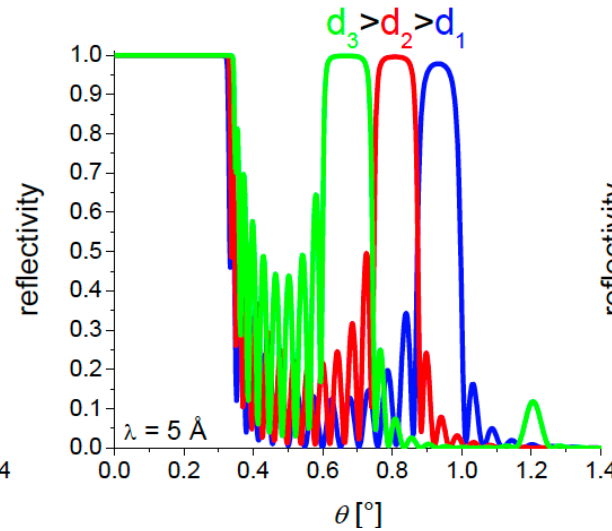
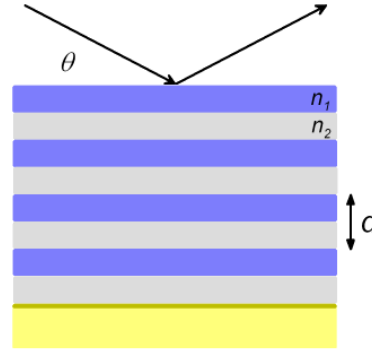
for natural Ni,  
 $\theta_c = \lambda[\text{\AA}] \times 0.1^\circ$   
 (1 \AA = 0.1 nm)

# Neutron Supermirror

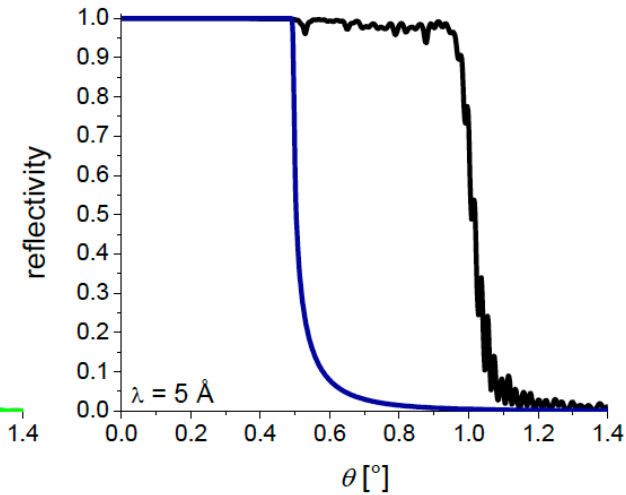
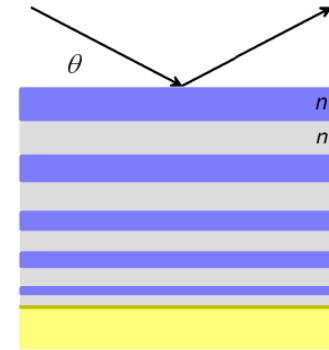
Single mirror



Periodic mirrors



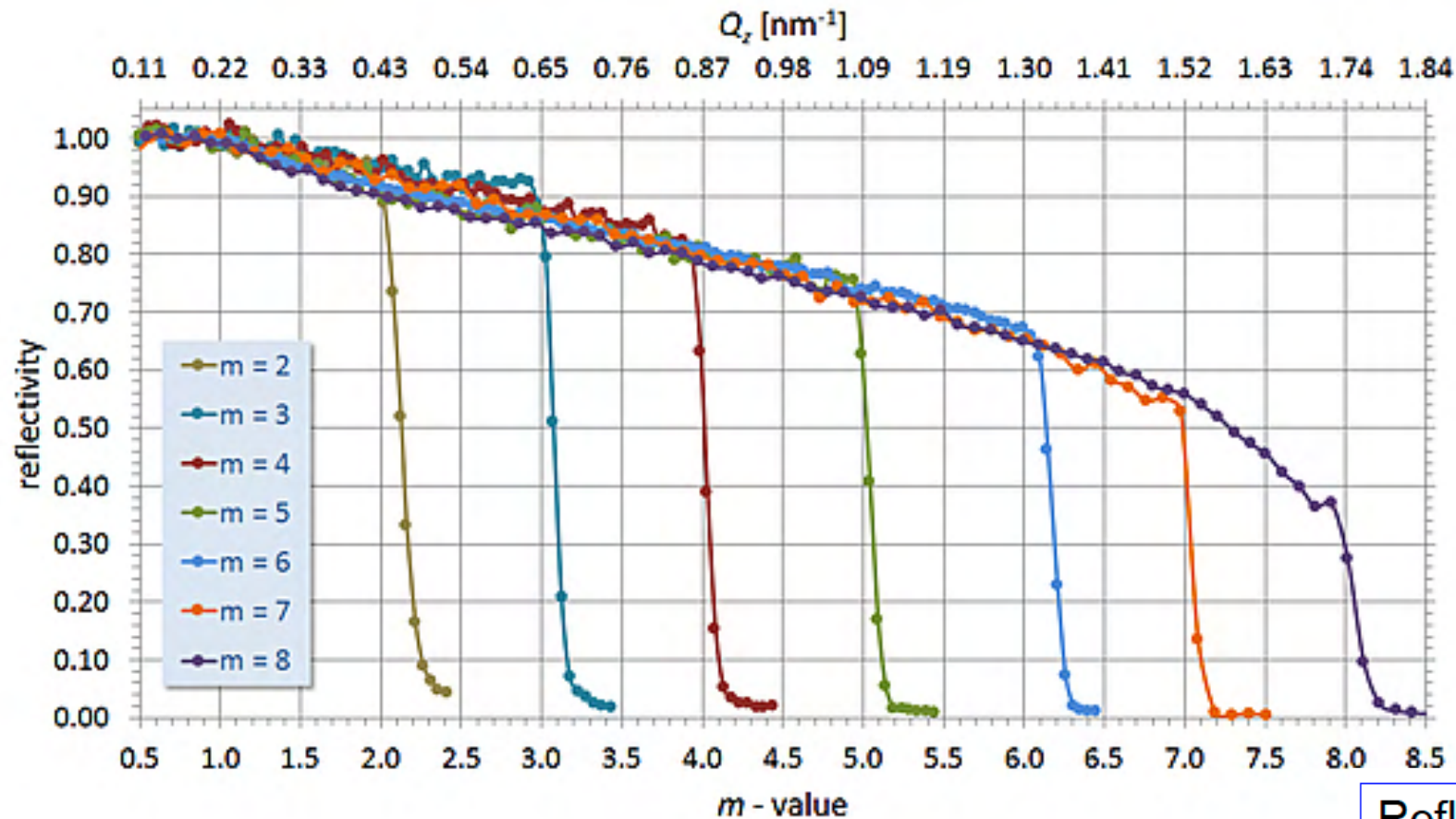
Supermirrors



Reflection:  $\theta_c(\text{Ni}) = \lambda[\text{\AA}] \times 0.10^\circ$

Multilayer:  $\theta_c(\text{SM}) = m \times \lambda[\text{\AA}] \times 0.10^\circ$

# State-of-the-Art Neutron Supermirrors

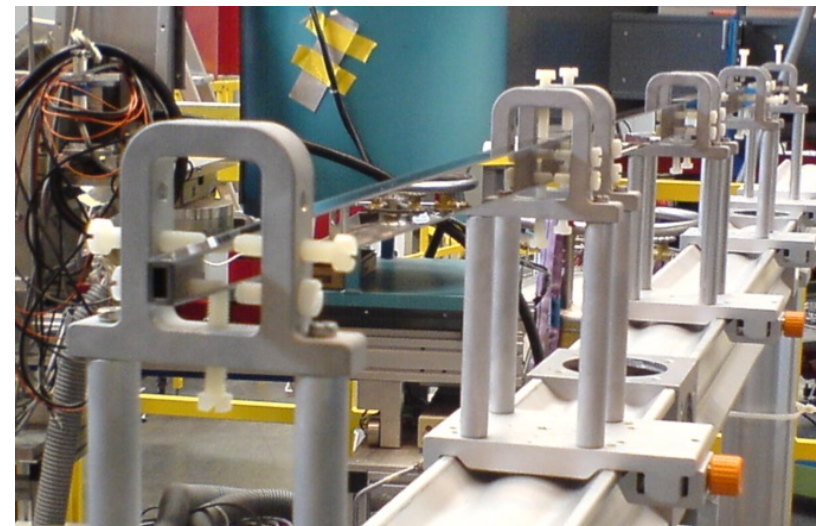
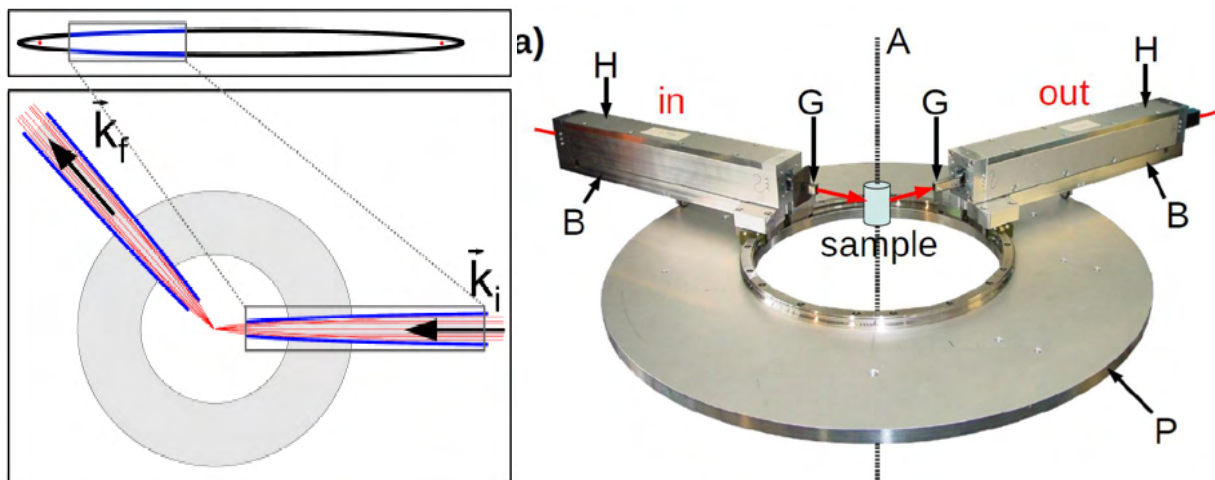


<https://www.swissneutronics.ch/products/neutron-supermirrors/>

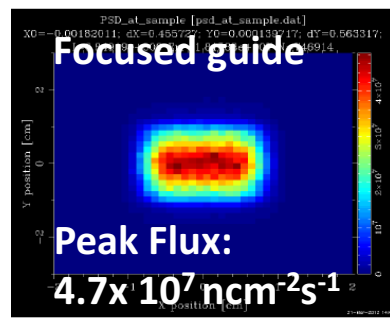
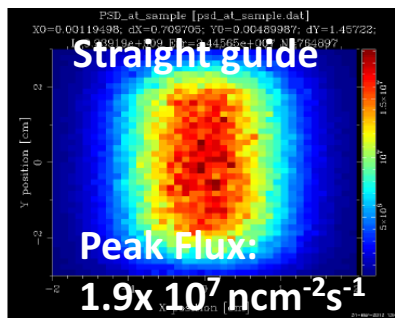
$$\text{Reflection: } \theta_c(\text{Ni}) = \lambda[\text{\AA}] \times 0.10^\circ$$

$$\text{Multilayer: } \theta_c(\text{SM}) = m \times \lambda[\text{\AA}] \times 0.10^\circ$$

# Focusing Geometries

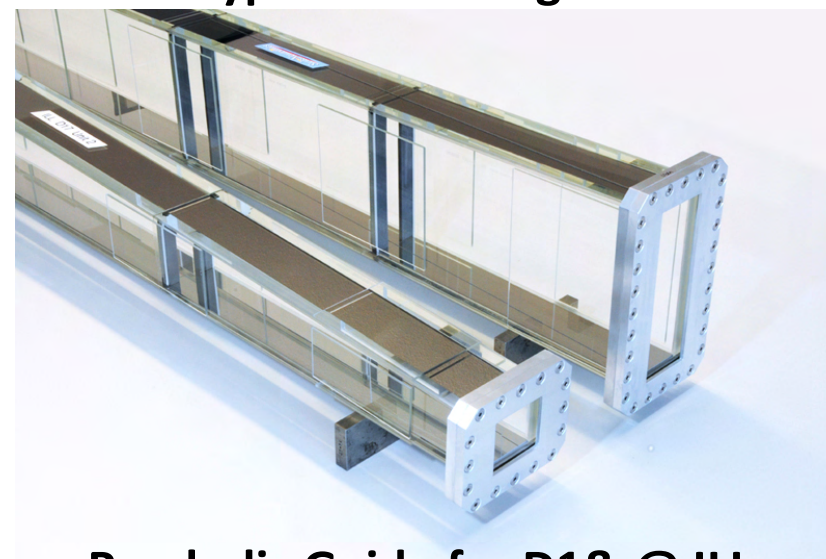


First Prototype of Focusing Guide 2005 @ PSI



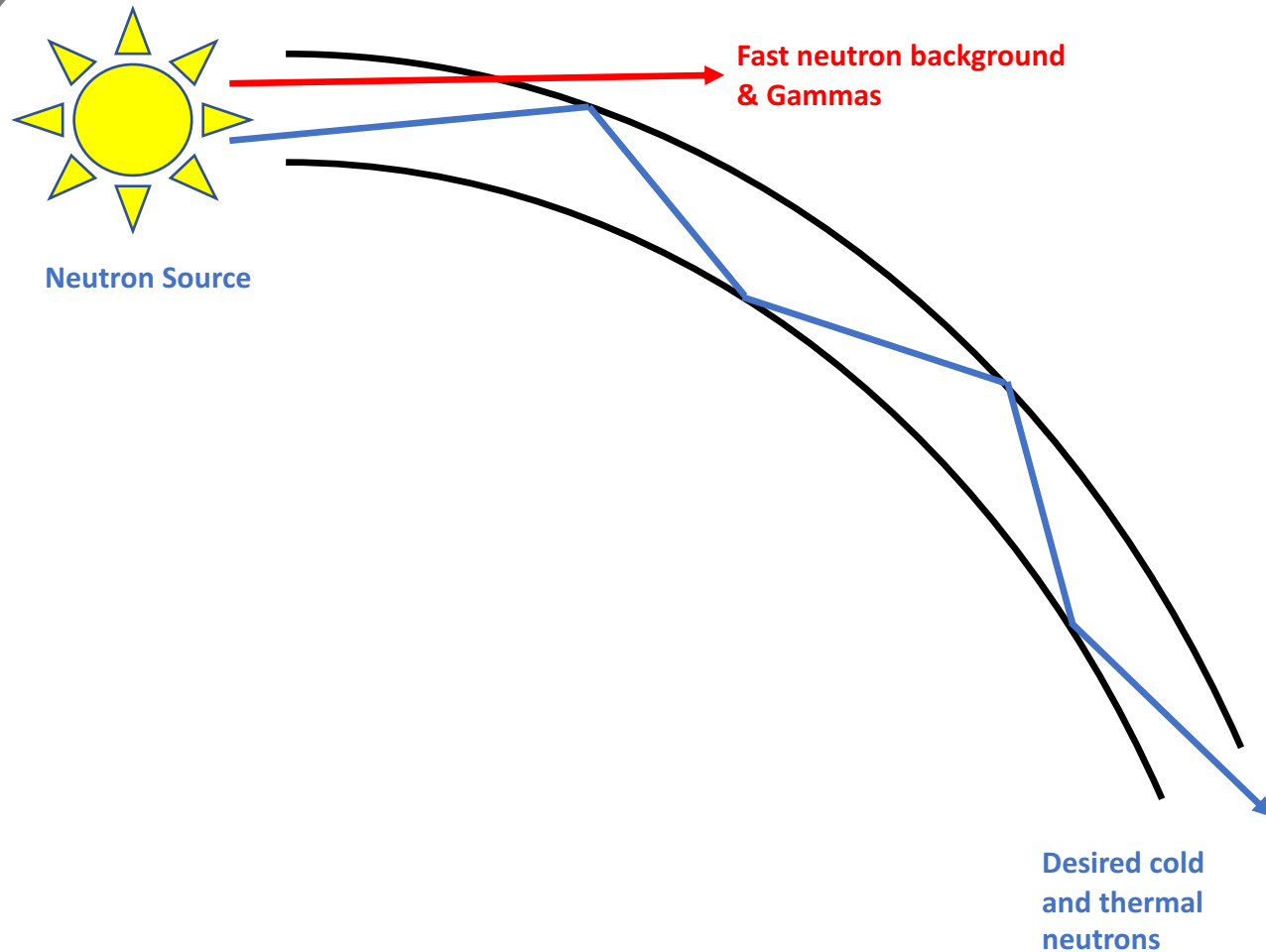
**New Focusing Guide for CNCS  
Spectrometer @ ORNL Optimized  
For Pressure Experiments**

Pictures Courtesy of P. Böni & A. Podlesnyak



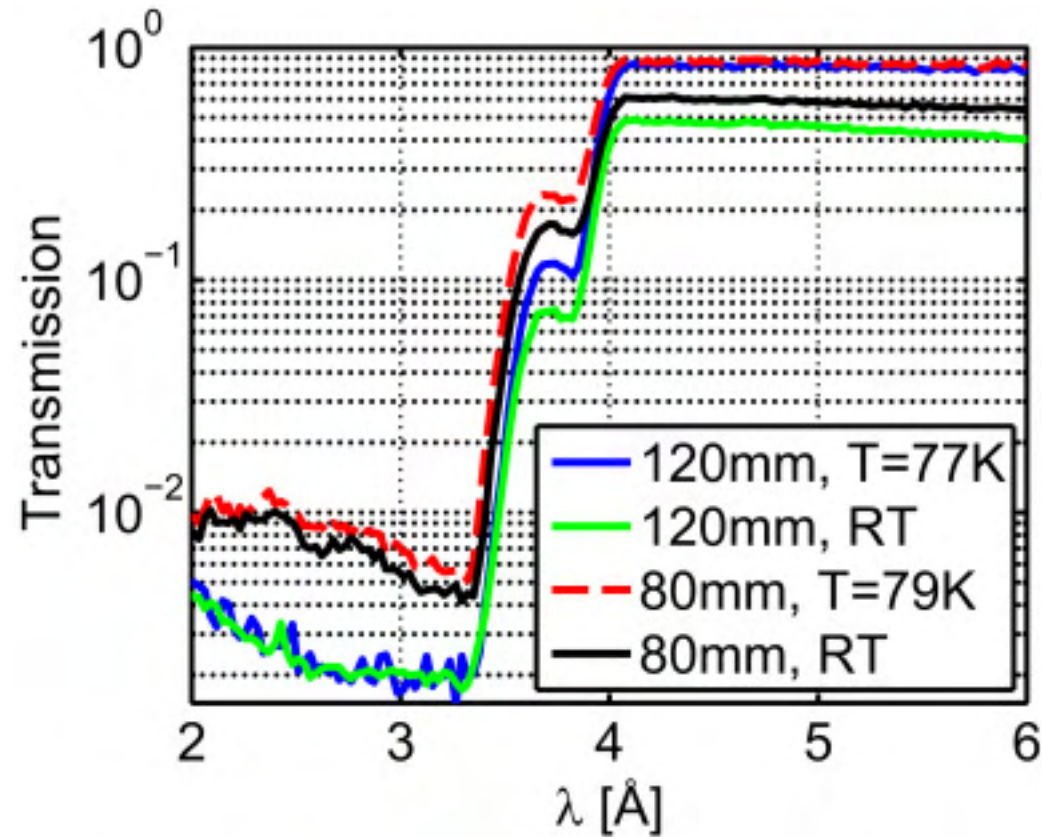
Parabolic Guide for D1& @ ILL

# Reducing Background: Curved Guides



- 1) Distance:  
move away from fast neutron source  
 $\sim 1/R^2$
- 2) avoid direct line-of-sight
- 3) avoid gammas

# Neutron Filter



Higher order scattering at monochromator

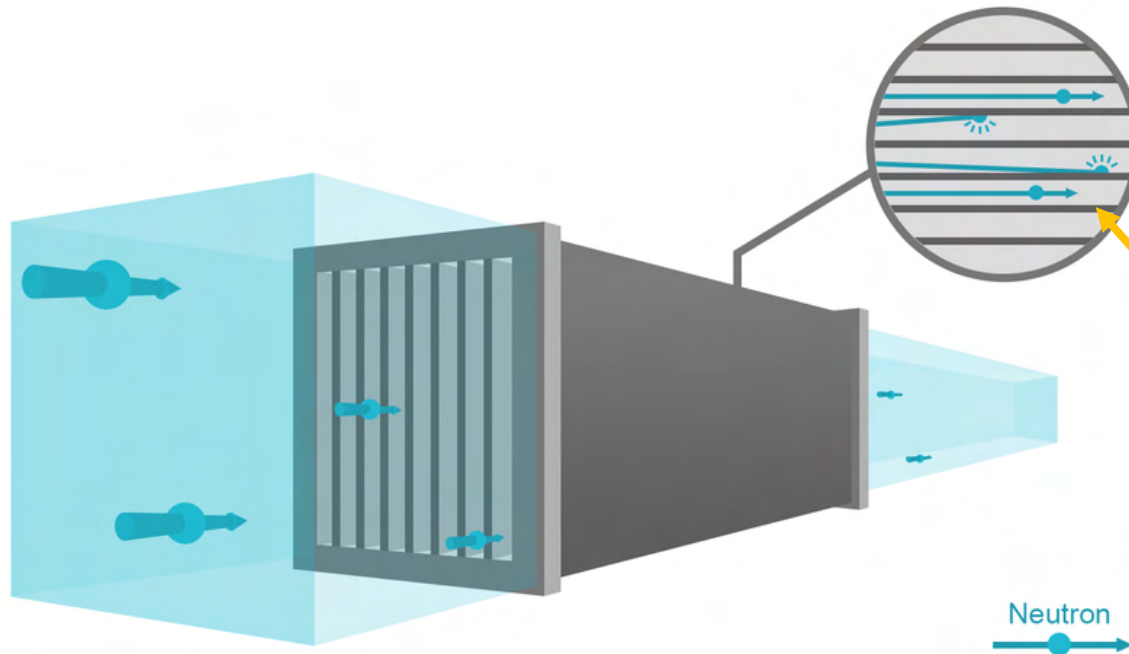
$$n\lambda = 2d \sin(\theta) \Rightarrow \lambda/2, \lambda/3, \dots$$

Contamination of experimental data with high-order.

Be-Filter can be used as low-pass filter for small wavelength.

Other typical filters: PG

# Neutron Collimator



Coated with  
neutron  
absorbing  
material

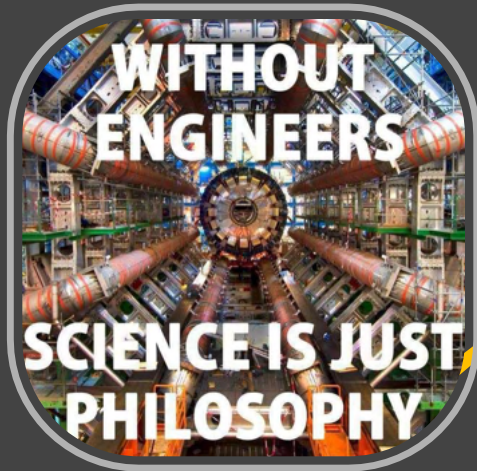
- ⇒ Defines divergence of beam
- ⇒ Improves spatial resolution

[https://e-learning.pan-training.eu/wiki/index.php/File:Collimator\\_instrument.png](https://e-learning.pan-training.eu/wiki/index.php/File:Collimator_instrument.png)

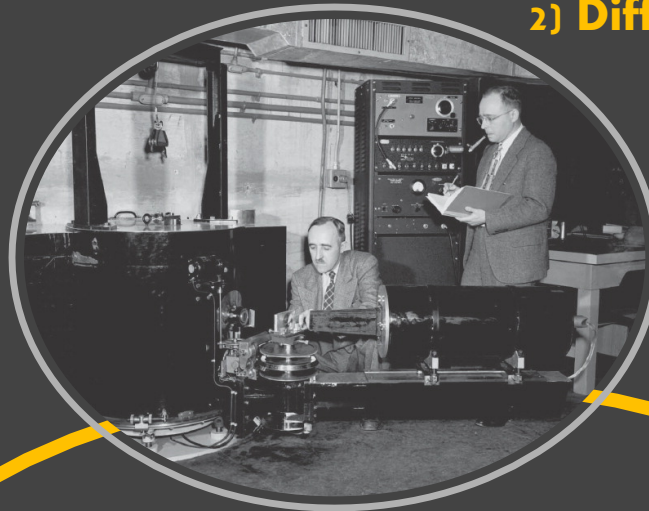




# Today's Menu



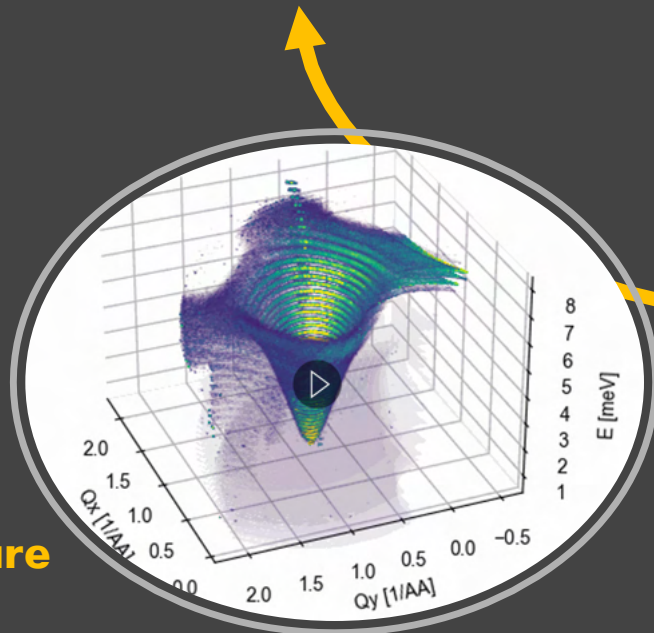
**1) Love Letter to Instrumentation**



**2) Diffraction**



**3) Instrument Components**



**5) Spectroscopy**



**4) Intermezzo:  
Sample Environment**

<https://sine2020.eu/news-and-media/the-sine2020-sample-environment-wp.html>



<https://sine2020.eu/news-and-media/the-sine2020-sample-environment-wp.html>

## Intermezzo: Sample Environment

Samples often need to be:

- cold (down to 10 mK)
- hot (up to 1000 of C)
- In magnetic fields (15 T +)
- Under pressure (several Gpa)
- Or other extreme stuff...

This poses an inherent problem:

- More things in the beam mean imply more background (bad)
- Scattering angles can be constrained
- Intensity goes down.



# Strategies for Sample Environment

## Materials

- Aluminum

$$\sigma_{\text{coh}} = 1.495 (4) \text{ barn}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{inc}} = 0 \text{ barn}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{abs}} = 0.0382(8) \text{ barn}$$

- Vanadium

$$\sigma_{\text{coh}} = 0.01838 (12) \text{ barn}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{inc}} = 5.08 (6) \text{ barn}$$

⇒ almost pure incoherent scatterer

⇒ scattering is isotropic

⇒ can be “easily” subtracted

- TiZr

⇒ scattering length of Ti and Zr are equal but opposite.

⇒ no coherent scattering at all.

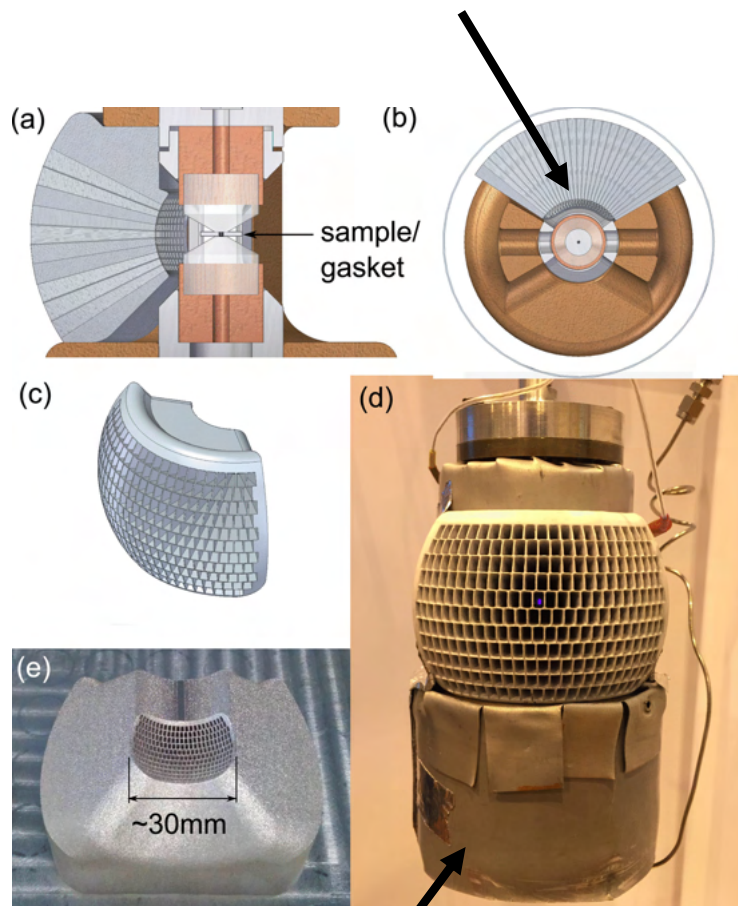
⇒ no Bragg peaks!!!

⇒ Also high yield strength (good for pressure).

- Saphir (single xtal and sintered)

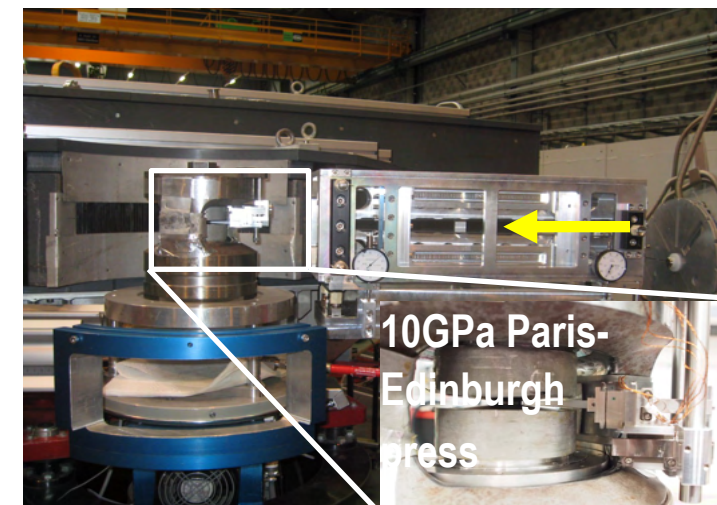
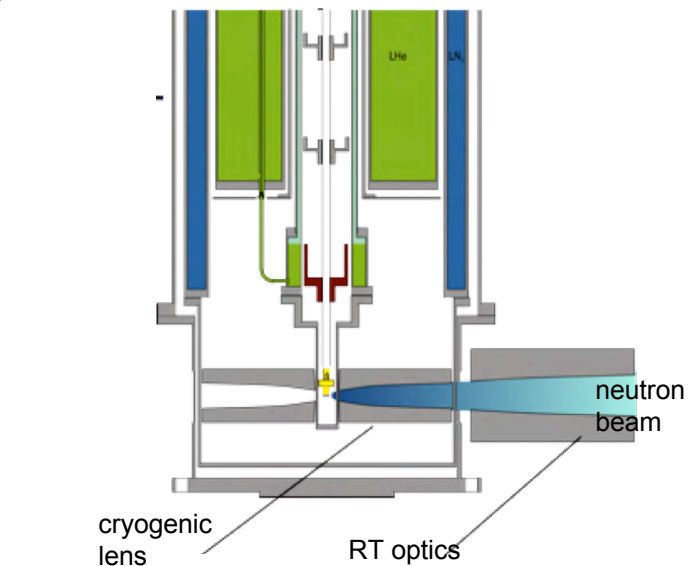


## Background Management



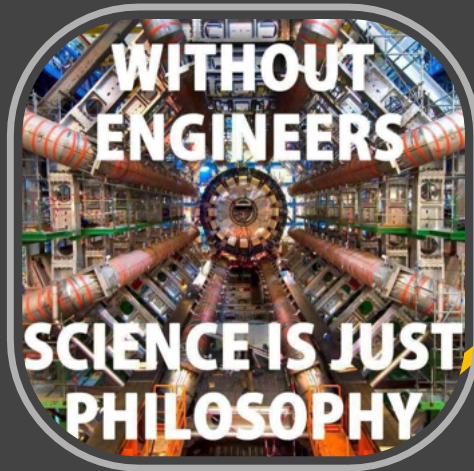
Neutron absorber: Cd

## Neutron Optics

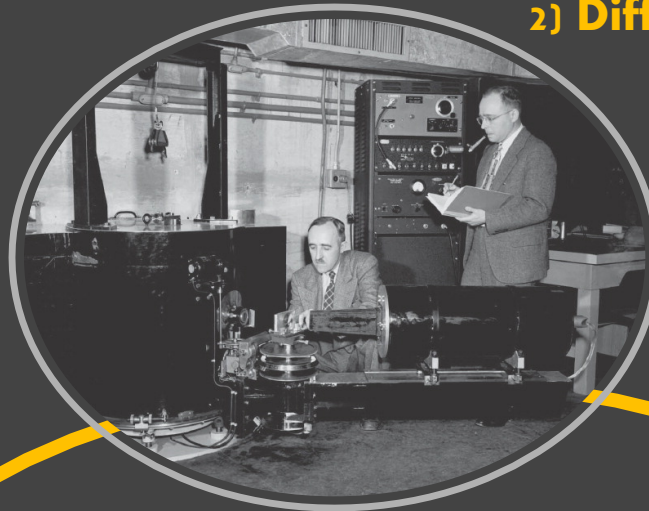


cryogenic neutron lens

# Today's Menu



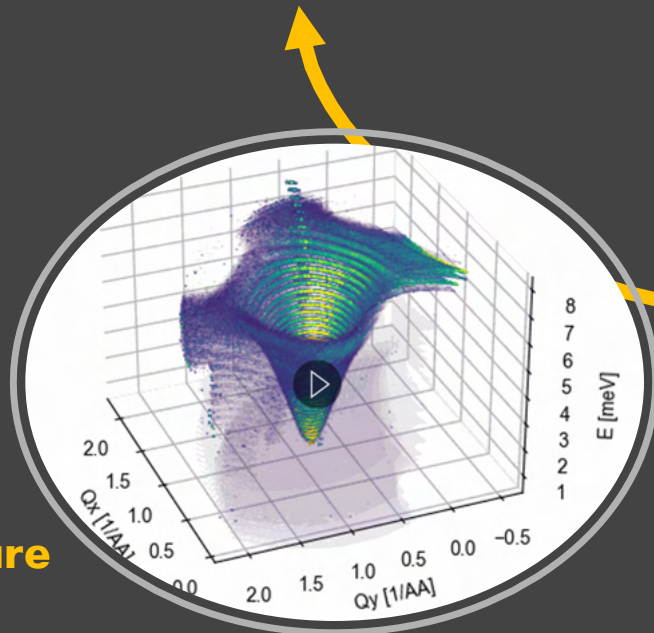
**1) Love Letter to Instrumentation**



**2) Diffraction**



**3) Instrument Components**

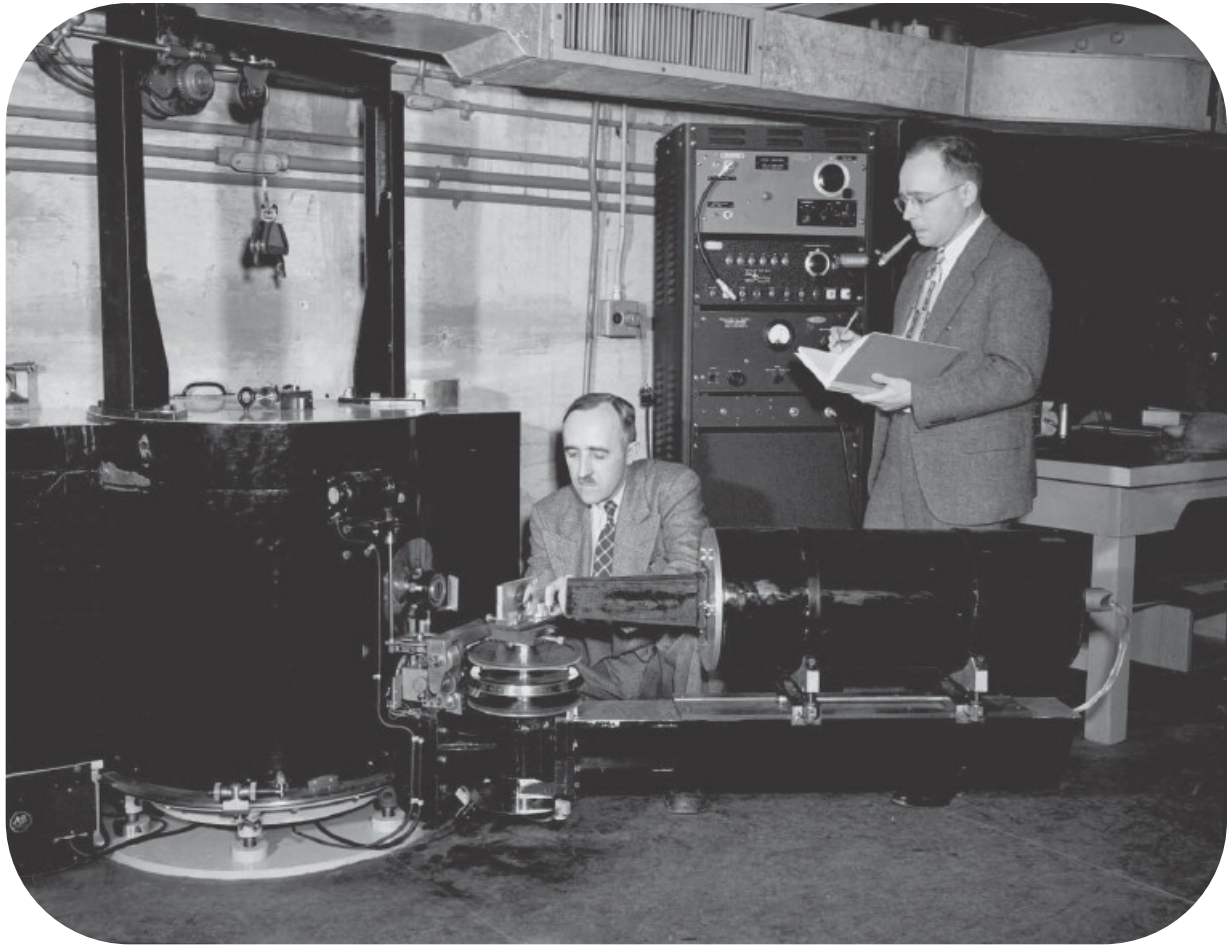


**5) Spectroscopy**



**4) Intermezzo:  
Sample Environment**

# Two Experimental Strategies



**Ernest Wollan (left) and Clifford Shull (right) work with a double-crystal neutron diffractometer at the ORNLX-10 Graphite Reactor in 1949.**

Picture from:  
Jeremy Rumsey "A history of neutron scattering at ORNL," Neutron News 29, 10-16 (2018)

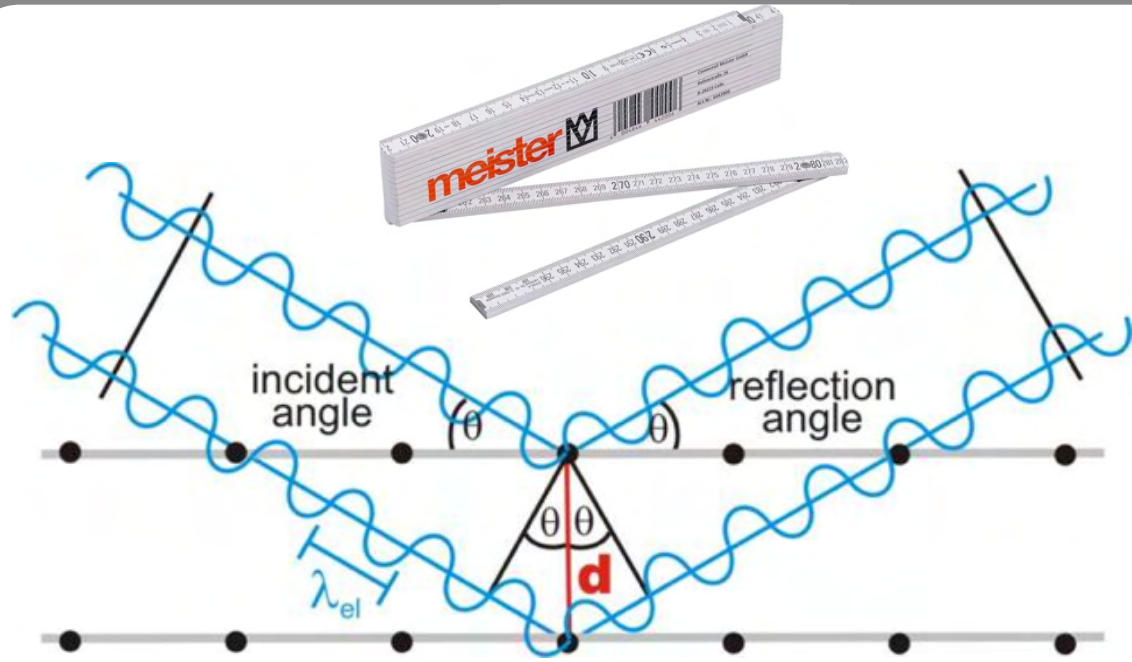


**B.N. Brockhouse with the first version of his triple-axis spectrometer at the NRU reactor (November 1958 – July 1959)**

Picture from:  
Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering (CINS)  
<https://cins.ca/discover/brockhouse/>

# What can we learn?

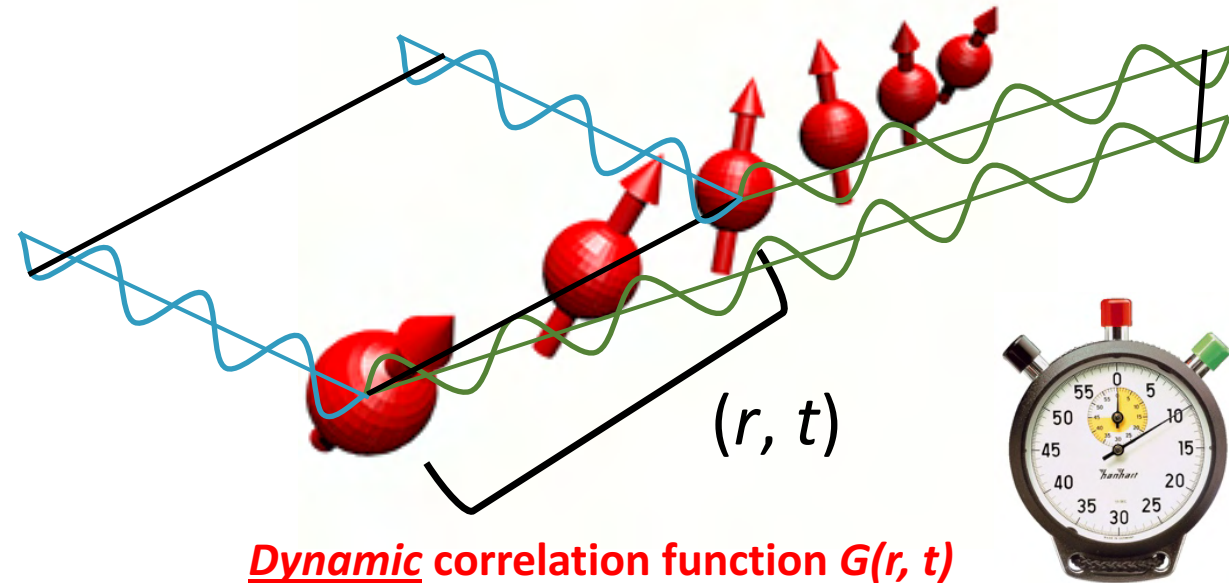
## Diffractometer



**Correlation function  $G(r)$**

Yard stick for measuring correlations over interatomic distances  $r$

## Spectrometer

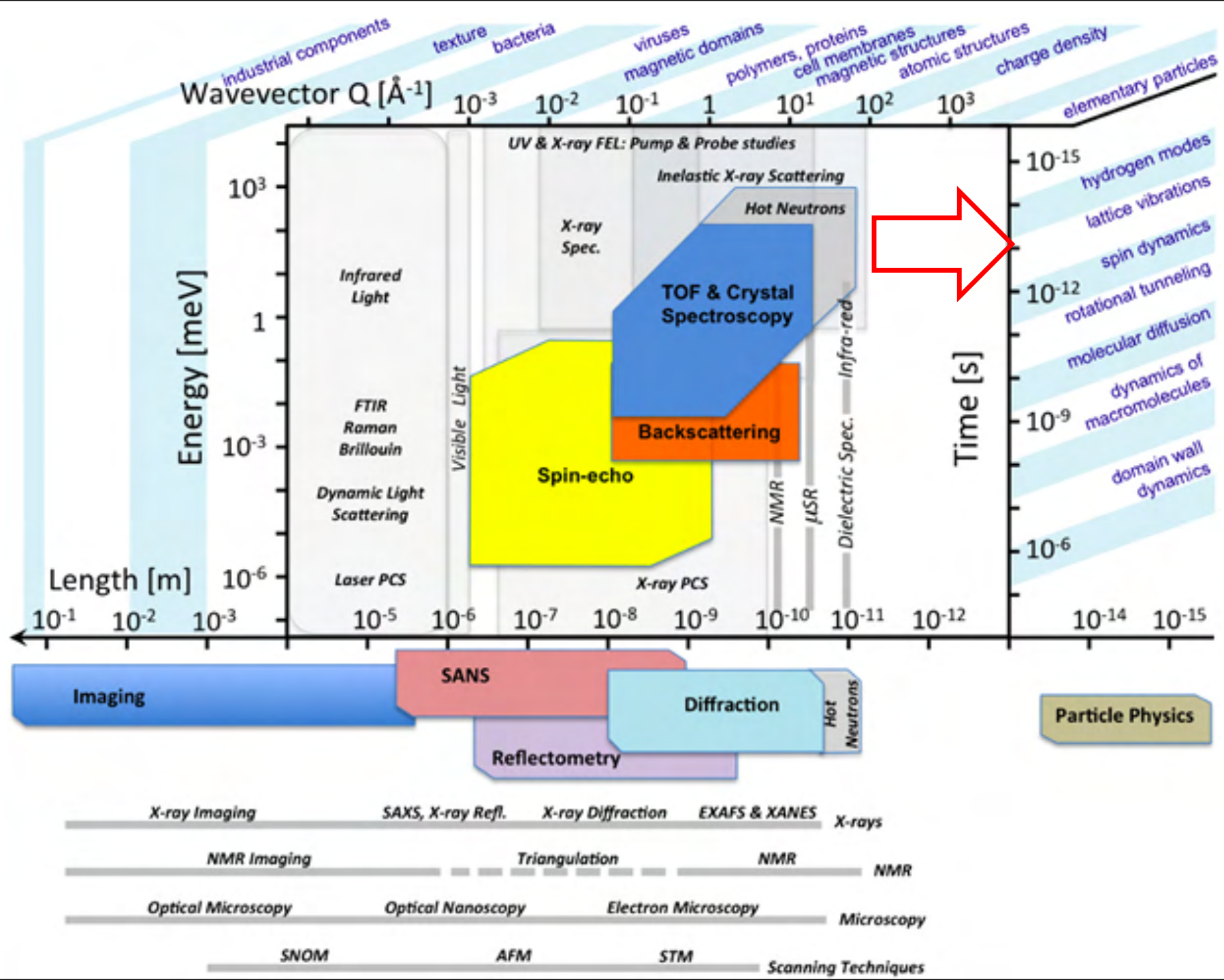


**Dynamic correlation function  $G(r, t)$**

Combined yard stick & stopwatch  
for detecting correlations over distances  $r$  and times  $t$

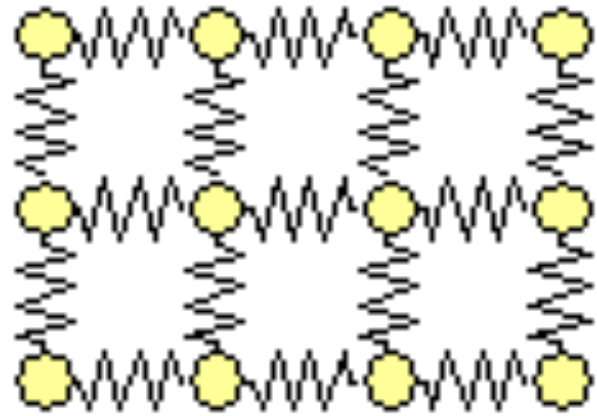


What length & time scales can be accessed?

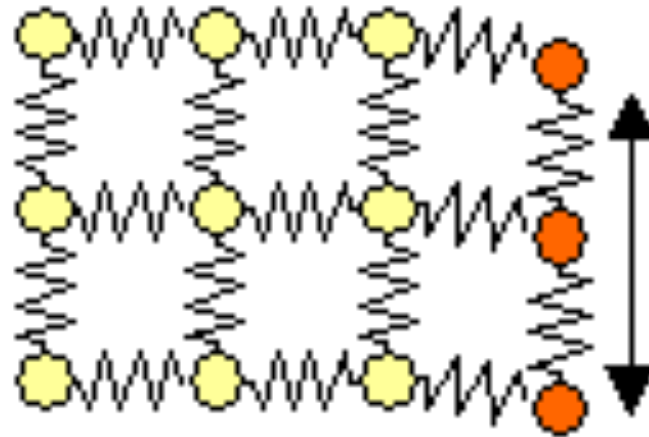


# Why do we want to perform Spectroscopy?

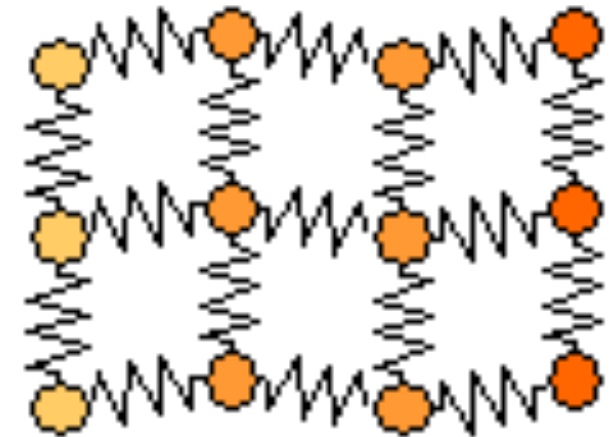
Example: Thermal conductivity in an insulator



1) network of atoms



2) vibrate "hot" side



3) whole structure vibrating

- Collective lattice vibrations transfer energy (heat) from hot side to cold side of material.
- How well a material can do this depends on the "spring constants" (atomic-scale forces) that connect atoms.
- Neutron spectroscopy can probe these lattice vibrations allowing to understand heat transport microscopically!!!



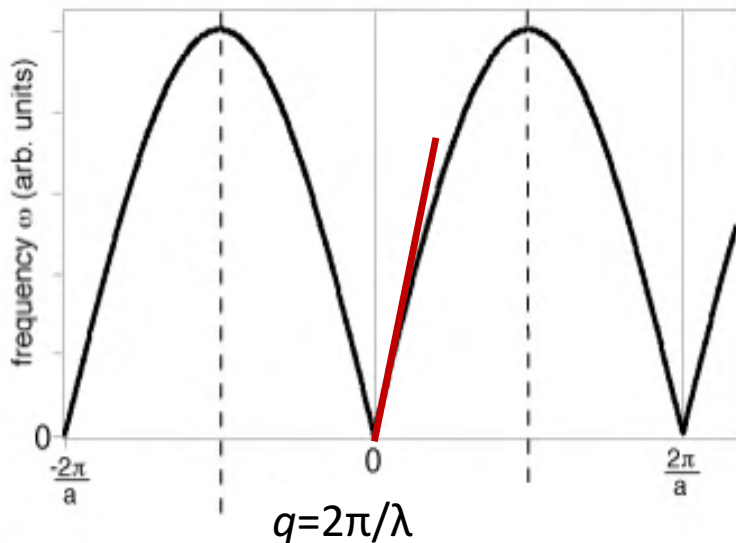
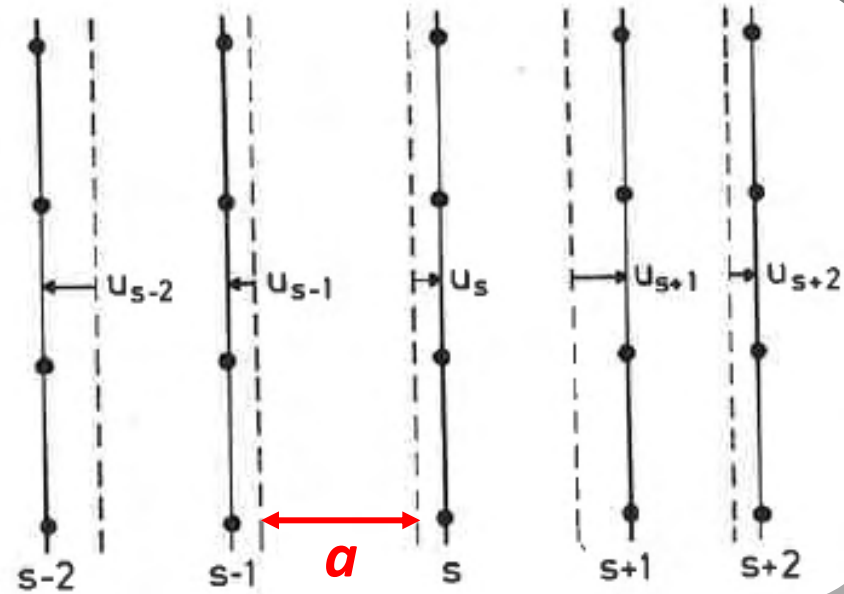
# Phonons: Collective Lattice Vibrations

For small deflections, the force applied by atoms in lattice plane  $(s+n)$  onto atoms in the plane  $s$  is proportional to  $(u_{s+n}-u_s)$ , where  $u$  is the deflection of the plane.

The total force on plane  $s$  is given by:

$$F_s = M \frac{d^2 u_s}{dt^2} = \sum_n f_n (u_{s+n} - u_s)$$

The solution yields a relationship between the wave  $q$  number (or momentum) and the frequency (energy) of the phonon  $\omega$  called a dispersion relation (for nearest neighbor forces):

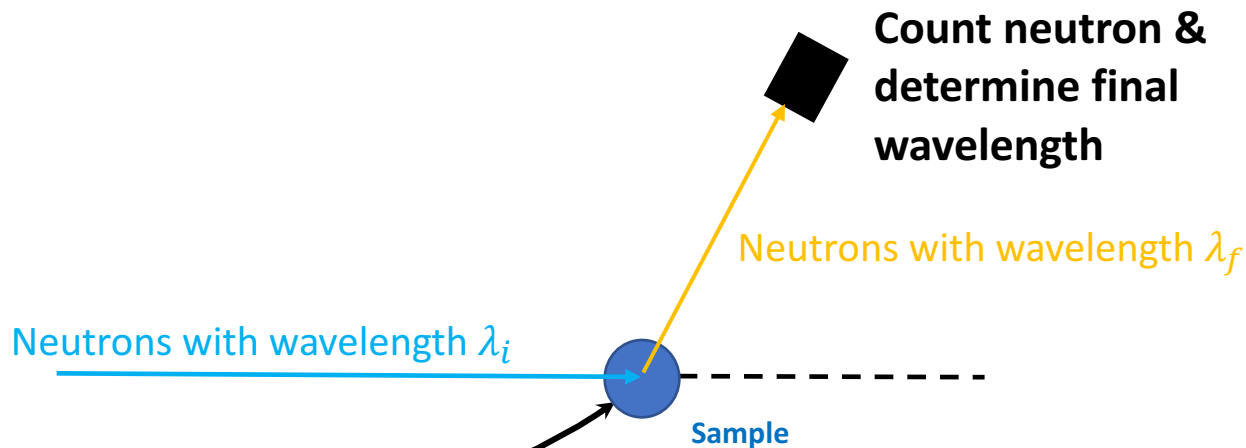
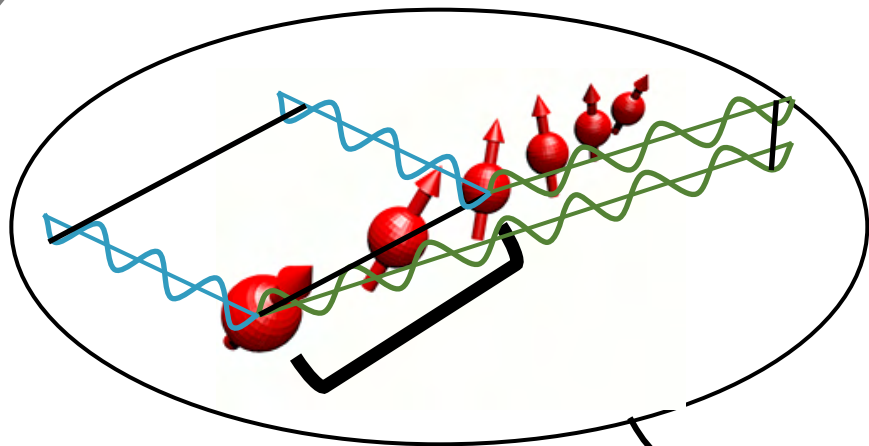


$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{4f_1}{M}} \left| \sin \frac{qa}{2} \right|$$

- $a$  — lattice parameter
- $M$  — mass
- $f_1$  — nearest-neighbor force constant
- $q$  — wavenumber ( $q = 2\pi/\lambda$ )

for  $q \rightarrow 0$ :  $V_g = \frac{d\omega}{dq} = \frac{1}{q} \sqrt{\frac{4f_1}{M}}$  (group velocity)

# Spectroscopy: What are the parameters we want to control?



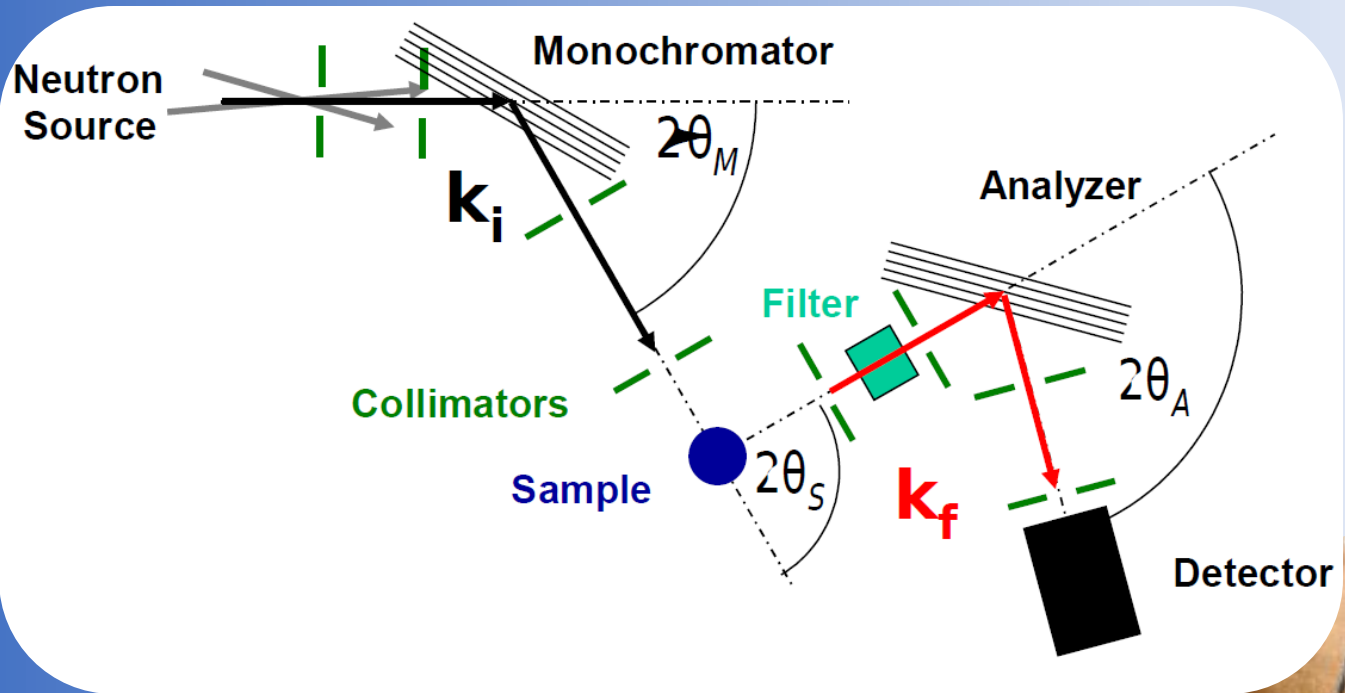
A neutron can create a collective excitation with an energy  $\hbar\omega$  and momentum  $\mathbf{q}$  by transferring part of its momentum  $\mathbf{k}_i$  ( $k_i = 2\pi/\lambda_i$ ) and energy  $E_i = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} k_i^2$  during the scattering process.

This is what we want to know:

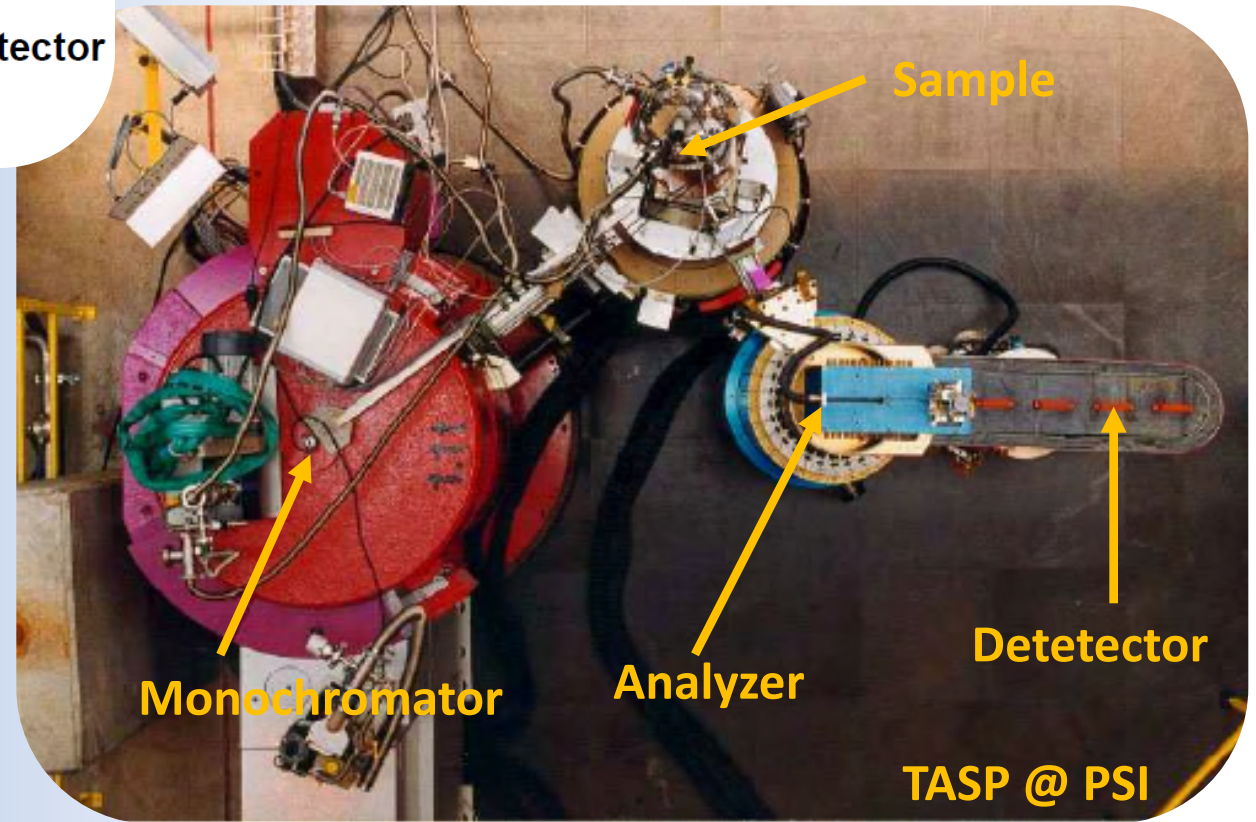
**Momentum conservation:**  $\mathbf{Q} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k}_i - \mathbf{k}_f$

**Energy conservation:**  $\hbar\omega = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_i^2 - k_f^2)$

This is what we want to measure

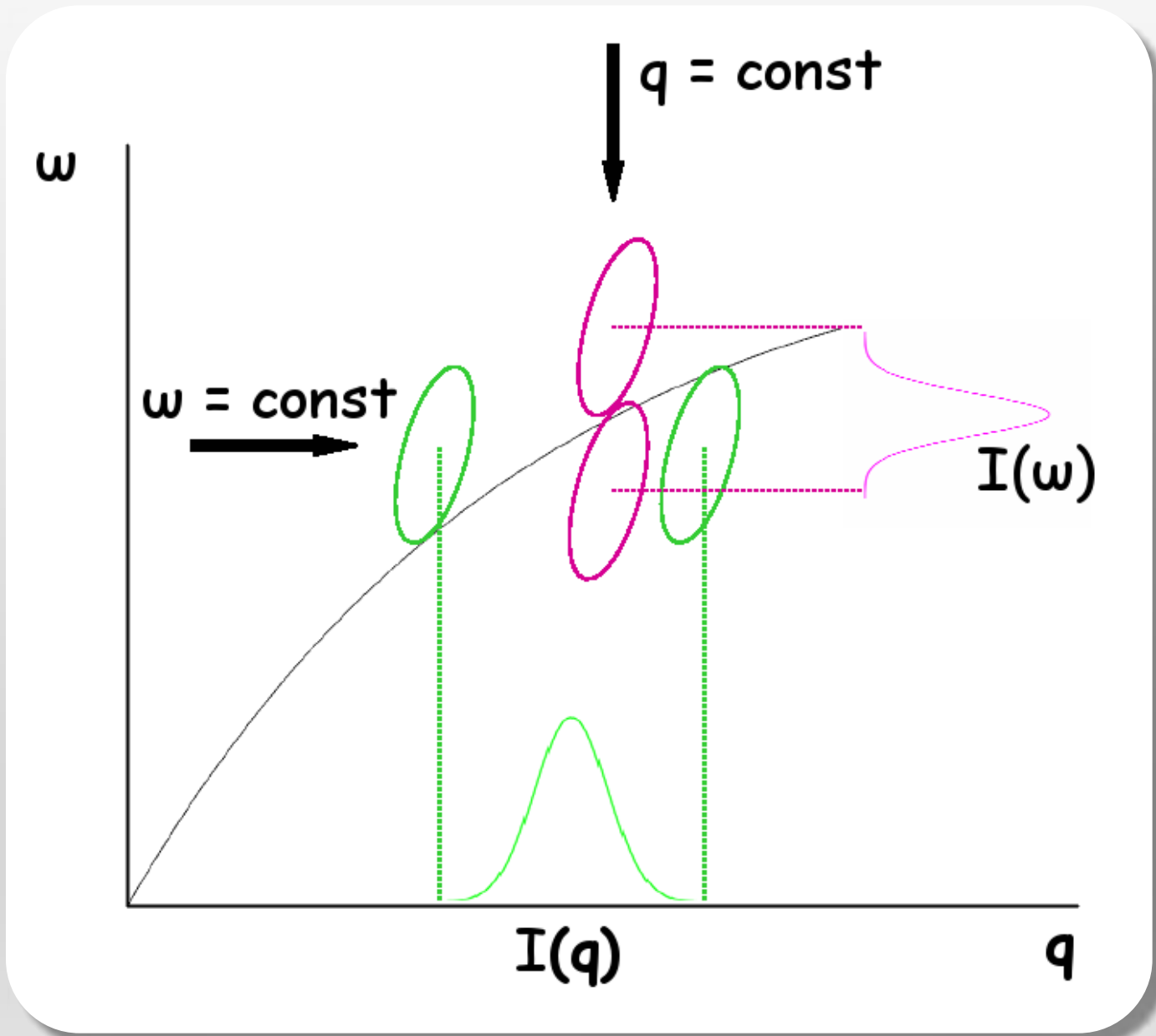
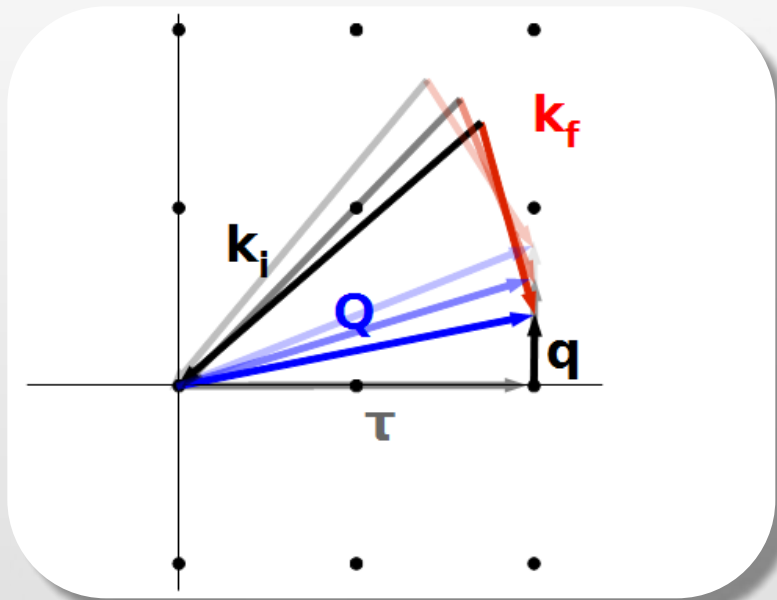
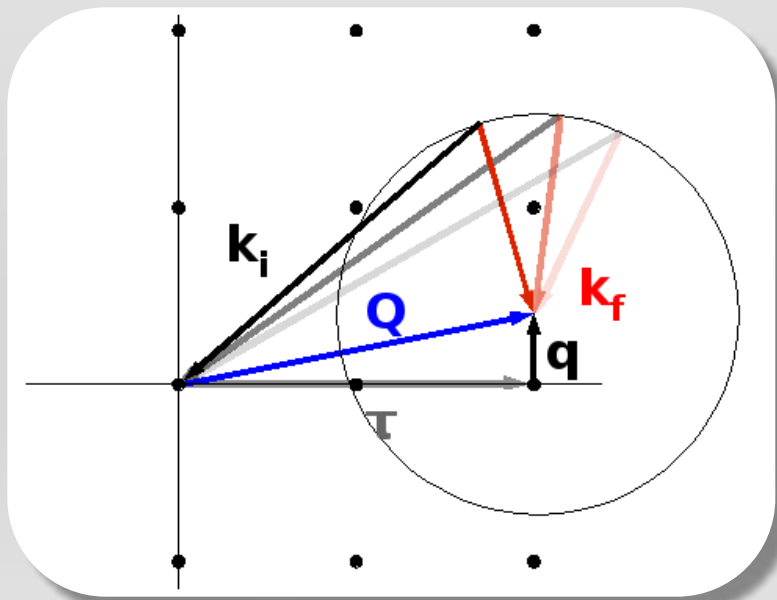


# Triple Axis Spectroscopy (at a continuous neutron source)

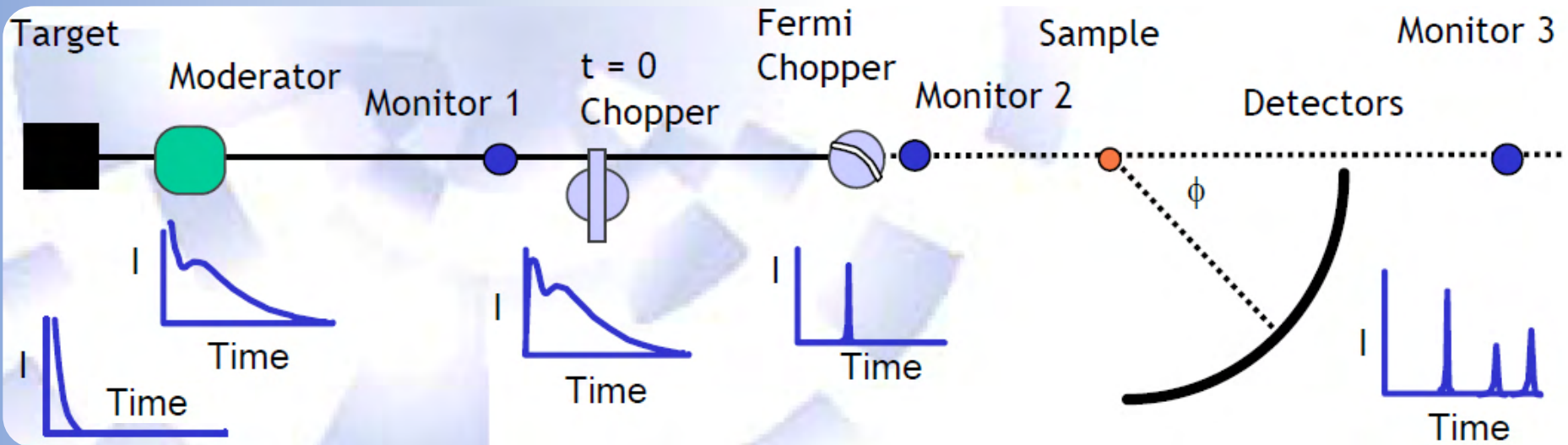
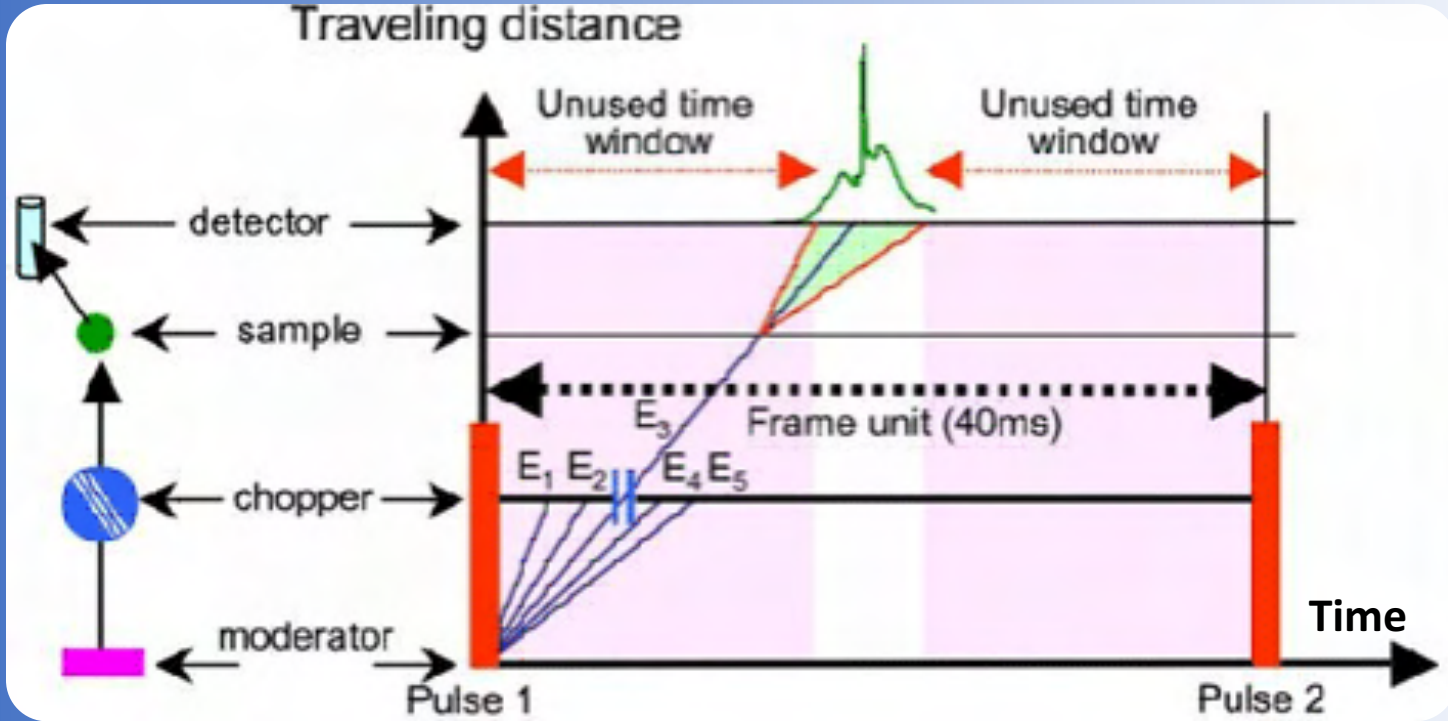


# Triple Axis Spectroscopy - Modes of Operation

Constant-Momentum Scan ( $q = \text{constant}$ )      Constant-Energy Scan ( $\omega = \text{constant}$ )



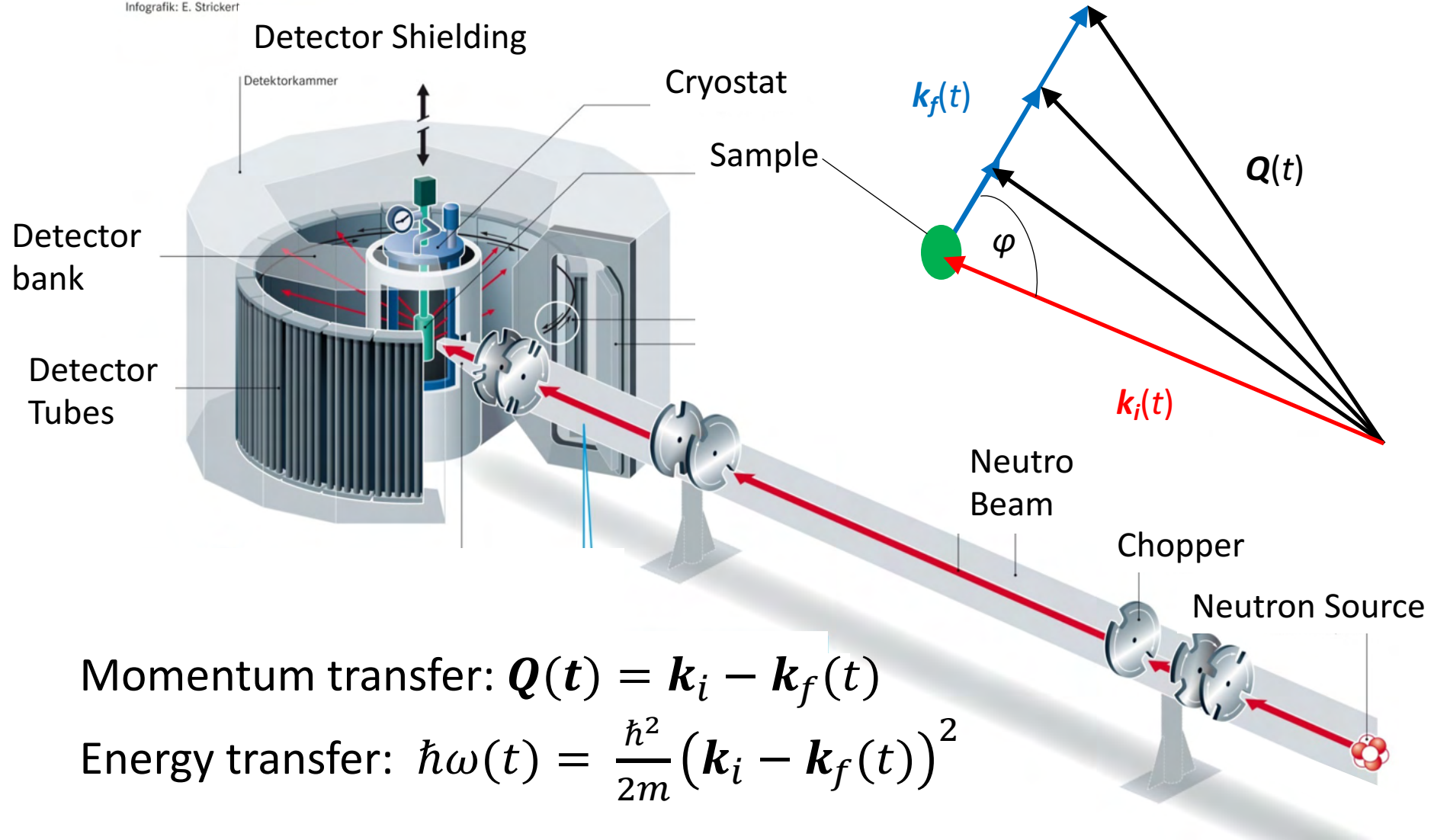
# Time-Of-Flight Spectroscopy (at a pulsed neutron source)



# Time-Of-Flight Spectroscopy

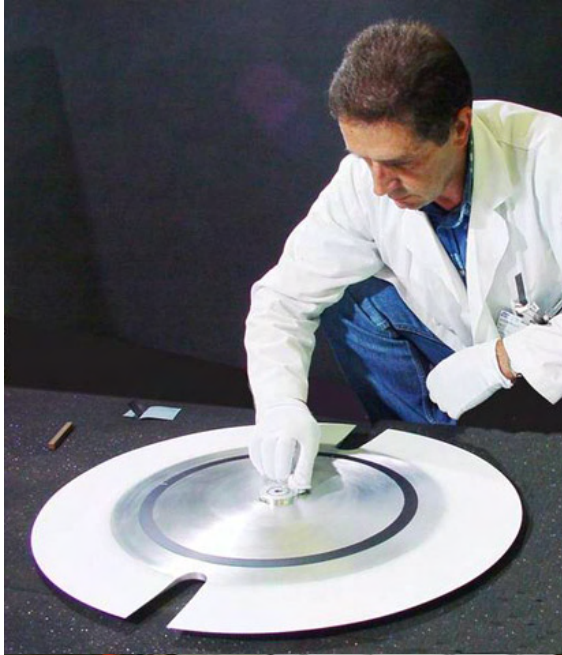
Flugzeitspektrometer NEAT II

Infografik: E. Stricker

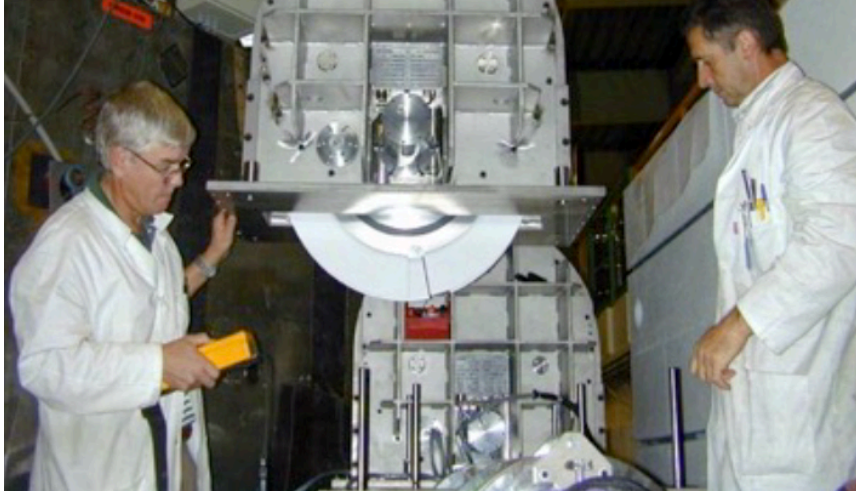


# Neutron Choppers

## Disk Choppers



$$f \lesssim 300 \text{ Hz}$$
$$\Delta t > 10 \mu\text{s}$$



## Fermi Choppers

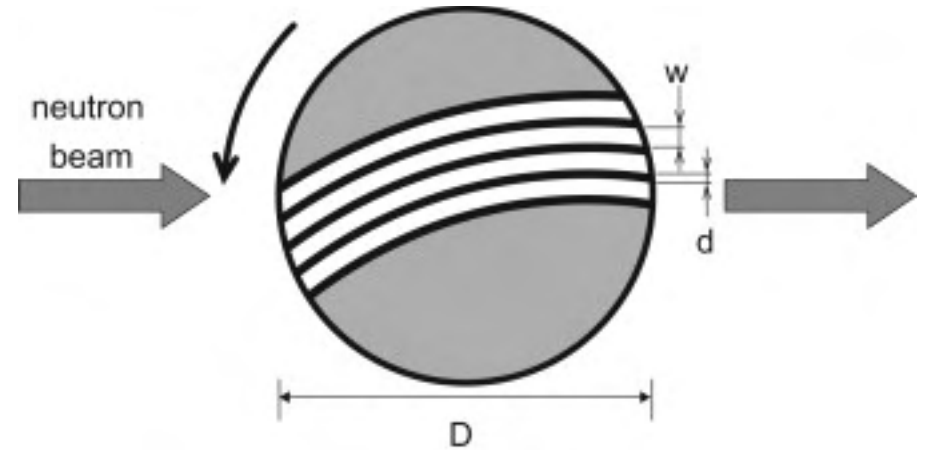
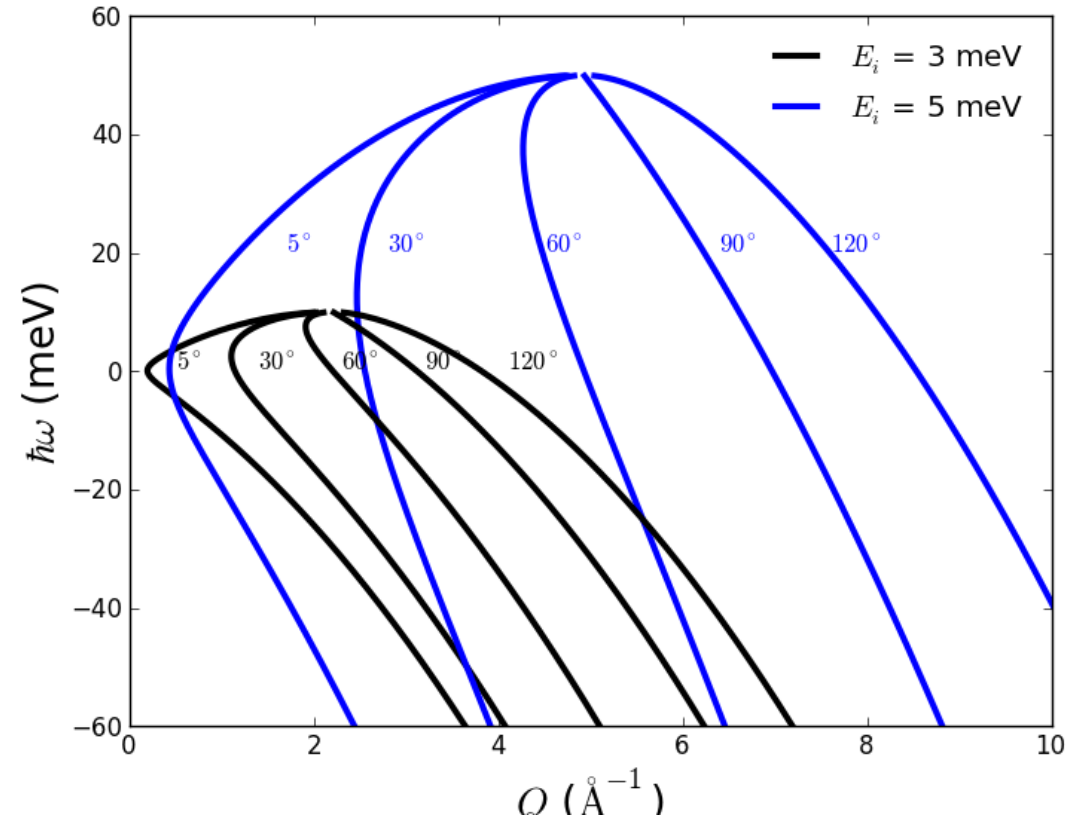
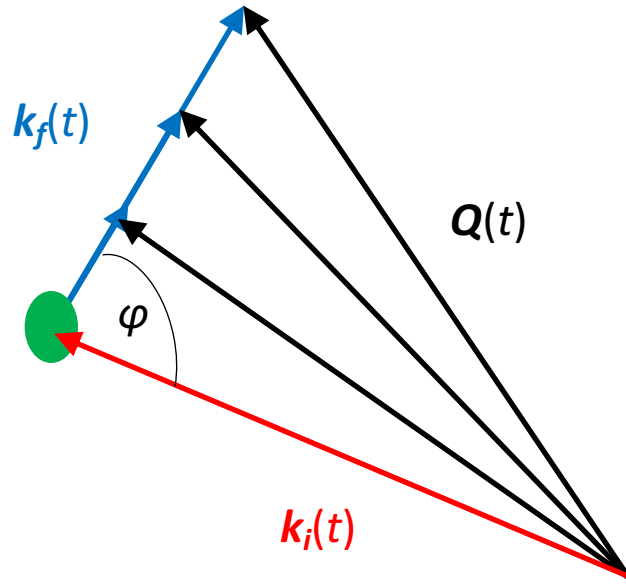


Image from: Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 661 (2012) 58–63



$$f < 600 \text{ Hz}$$
$$\Delta t > 1 \mu\text{s}$$

# Time-Of-Flight Spectroscopy: Kinematic Conditions



Cosine rule provides measurement range:

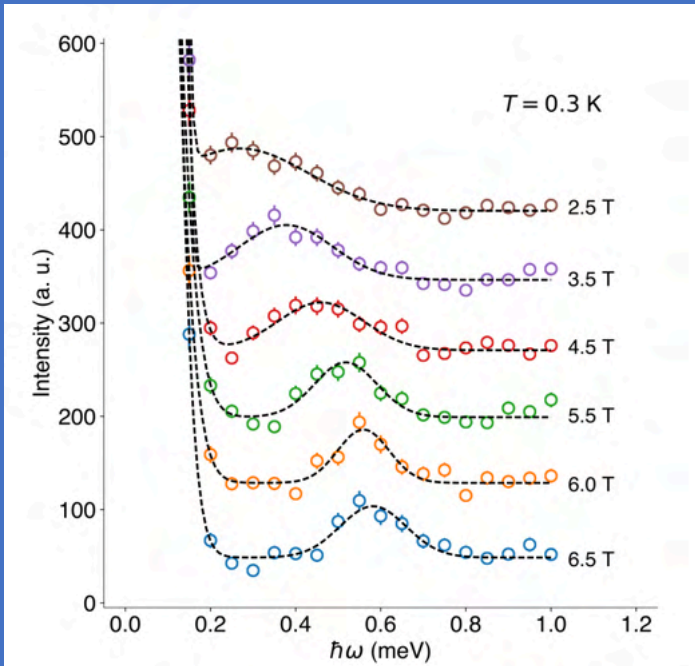
$$Q^2 = k_i^2 + k_f^2 - 2k_i k_f \cos \phi$$

$$\frac{\hbar^2 Q^2}{2m} = E_i + E_f - 2 \sqrt{E_i E_f} \cos \phi$$

$$\hbar \sqrt{E_i E_f} \cos \phi = \frac{2E_i + E_f}{2}$$



## TAS (here: SPINS @ NIST)

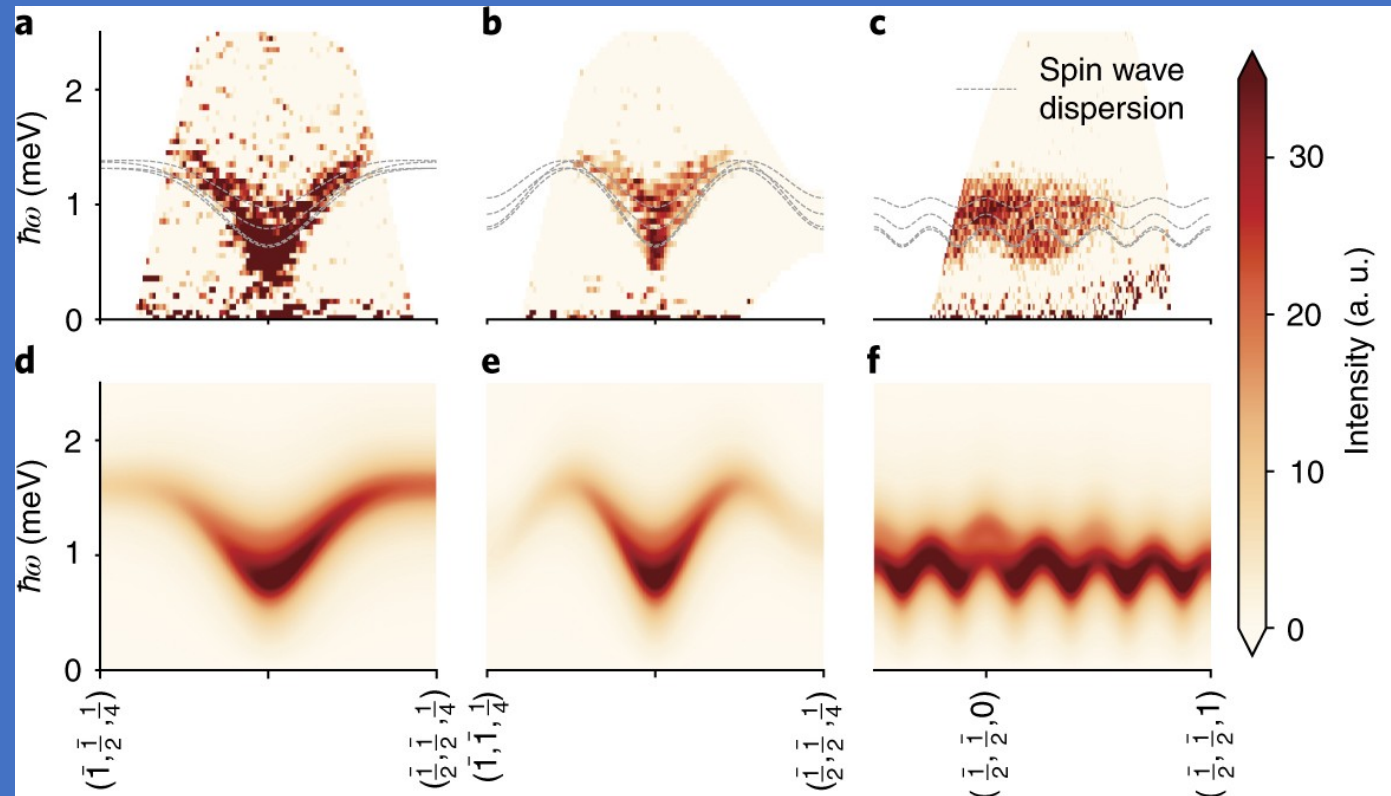


Good for:

- parametric studies
- highest resolution
- Low background studies

VS.

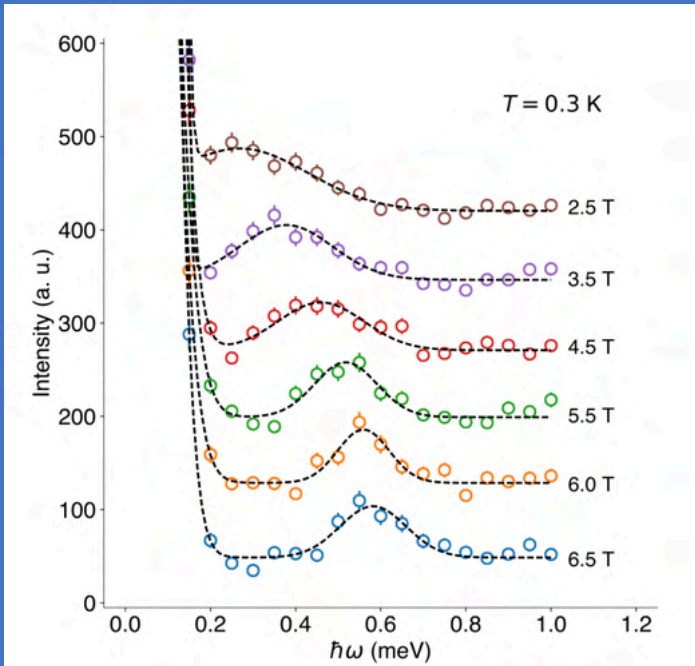
## TOF (here: LET @ ISIS)



Good for:

- Obtaining complete overview quickly
- Identify signals that modulate weakly in momentum and energy

## TAS (here: SPINS @ NIST)

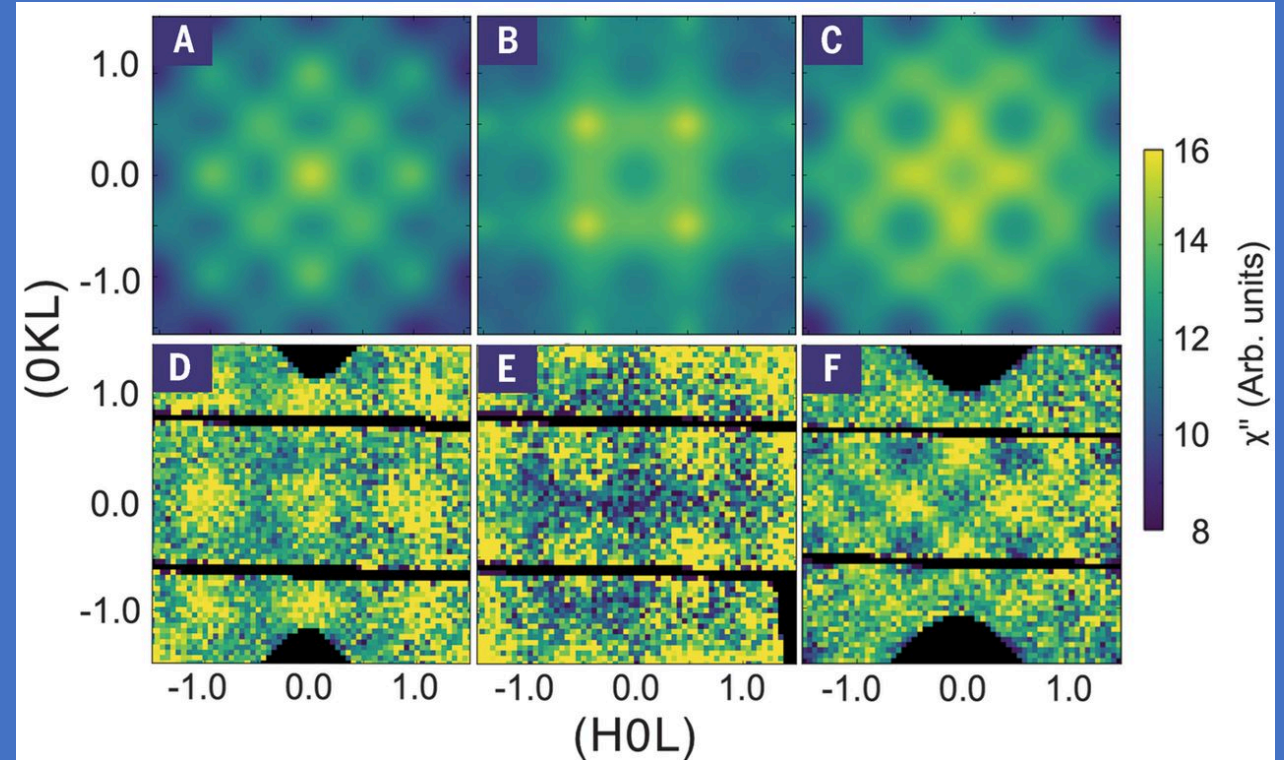


Good for:

- parametric studies
- highest resolution
- Low background studies

VS.

## TOF (here: ARCS @ SNS)



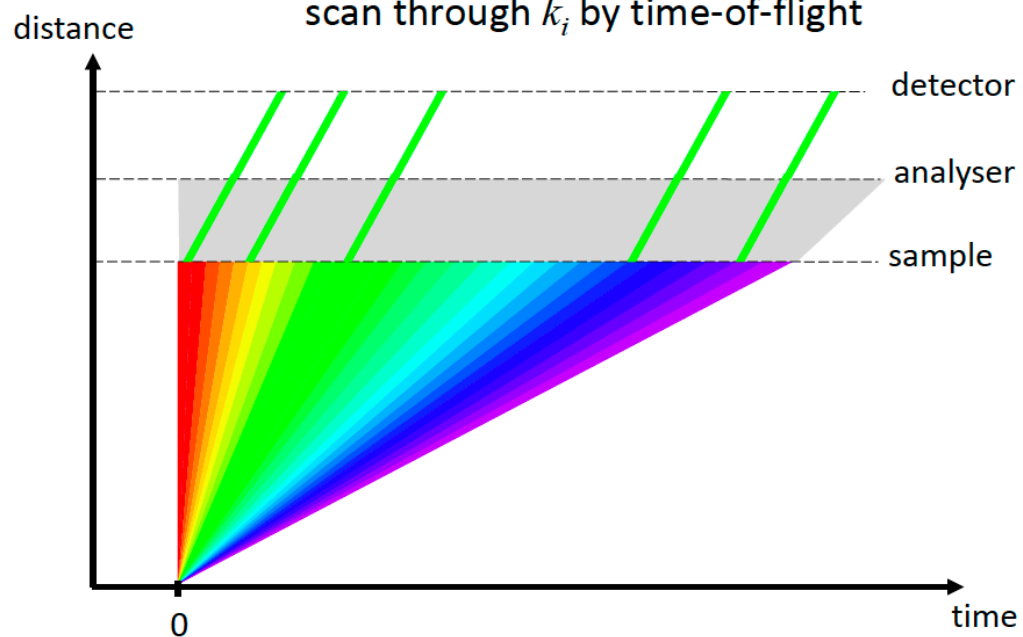
Good for:

- Obtaining complete overview quickly
- Identify signals that modulate weakly in momentum and energy

# Time-Of-Flight Spectroscopy: Inverse Geometry

Indirect geometry:

fix  $k_f$  – usually by analyser crystals  
scan through  $k_i$  by time-of-flight



Graphic courtesy of Ken Anderson (SNS)



BASIS@SNS Si111 3μeV

OSIRIS@ISIS PG002 25μeV



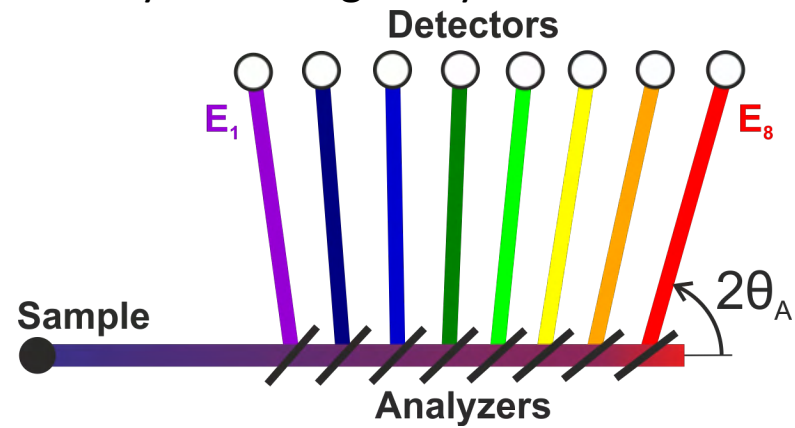
## Reminder:

- A monochromator used in backscattering geometry ( $\theta \approx 90$  degrees) has nearly perfect wavelength (or energy) resolution.
- Allows μeV resolution.

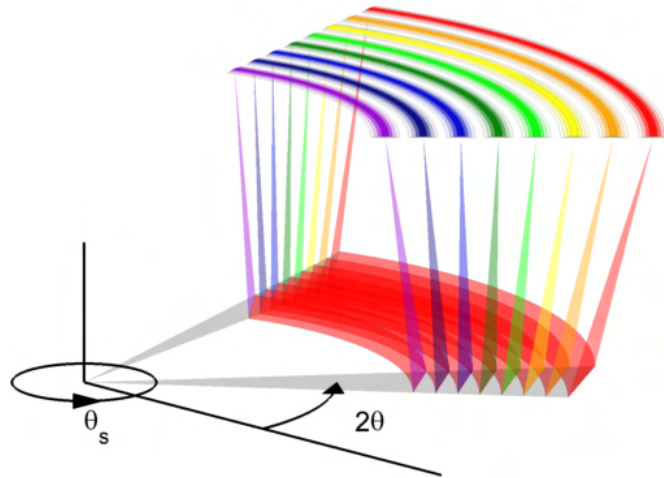
# Novel Approaches: CAMEA @ PSI

Continuous Angle Multiple Energy Analysis

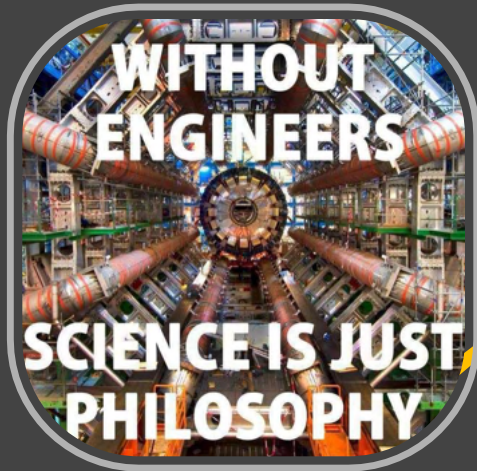
Cover several final energies by a series of vertically scattering analyzers



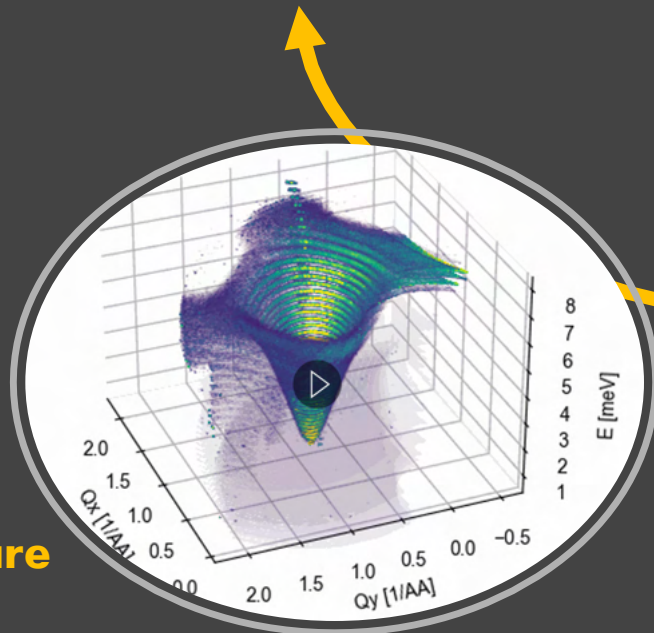
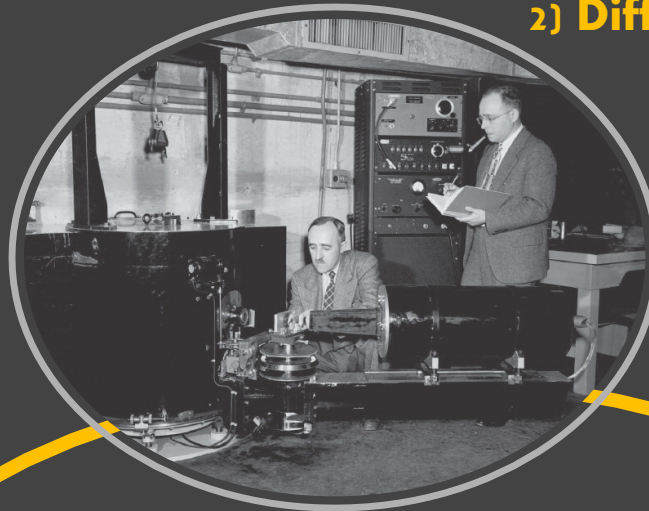
Cover range of scattering angles by analyzer arcs



# Today's Menu



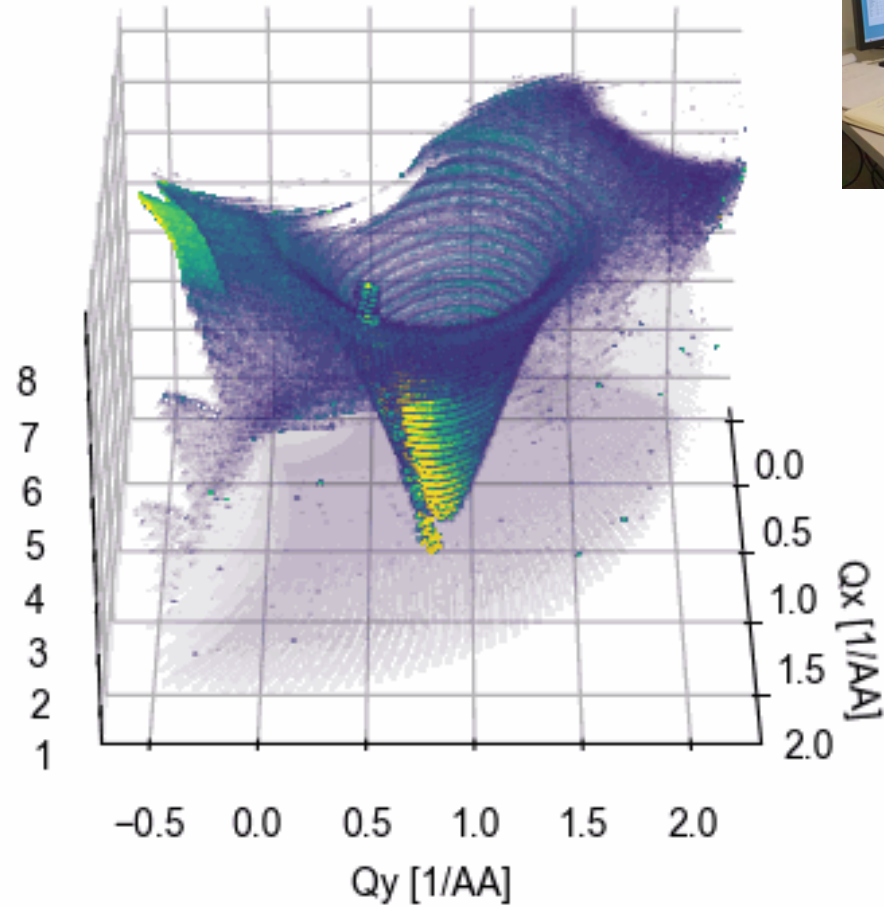
**1) Love Letter to Instrumentation**



# The Importance of Software

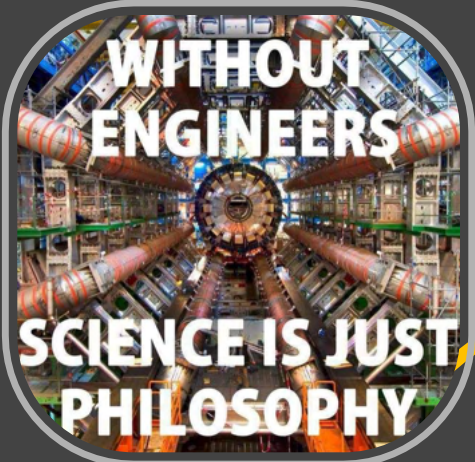


# Mjolnir

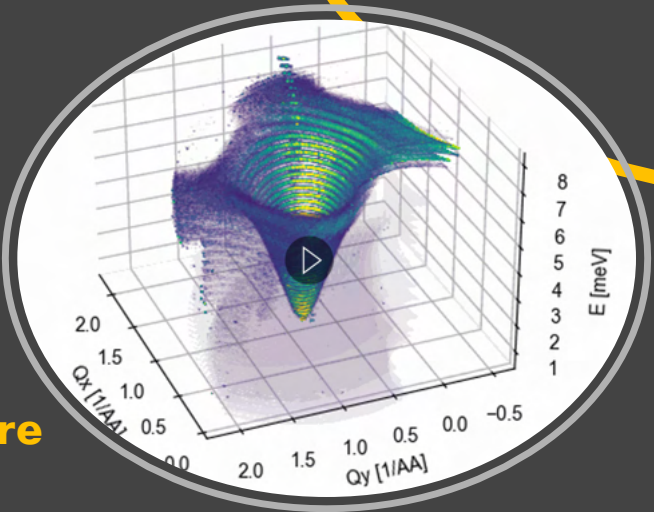
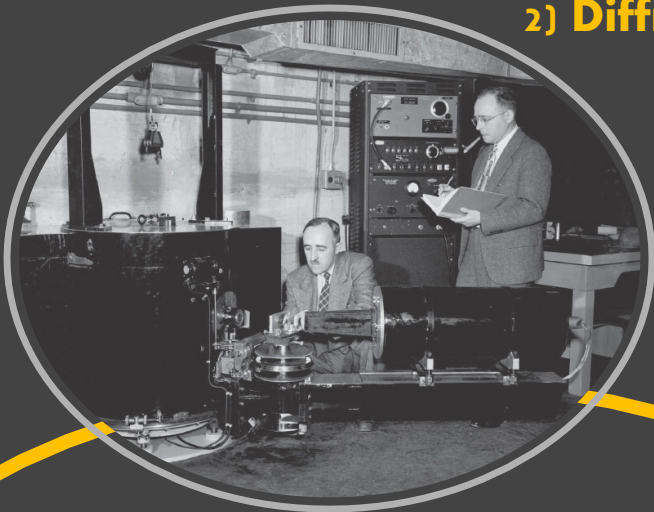


Jakob Lass

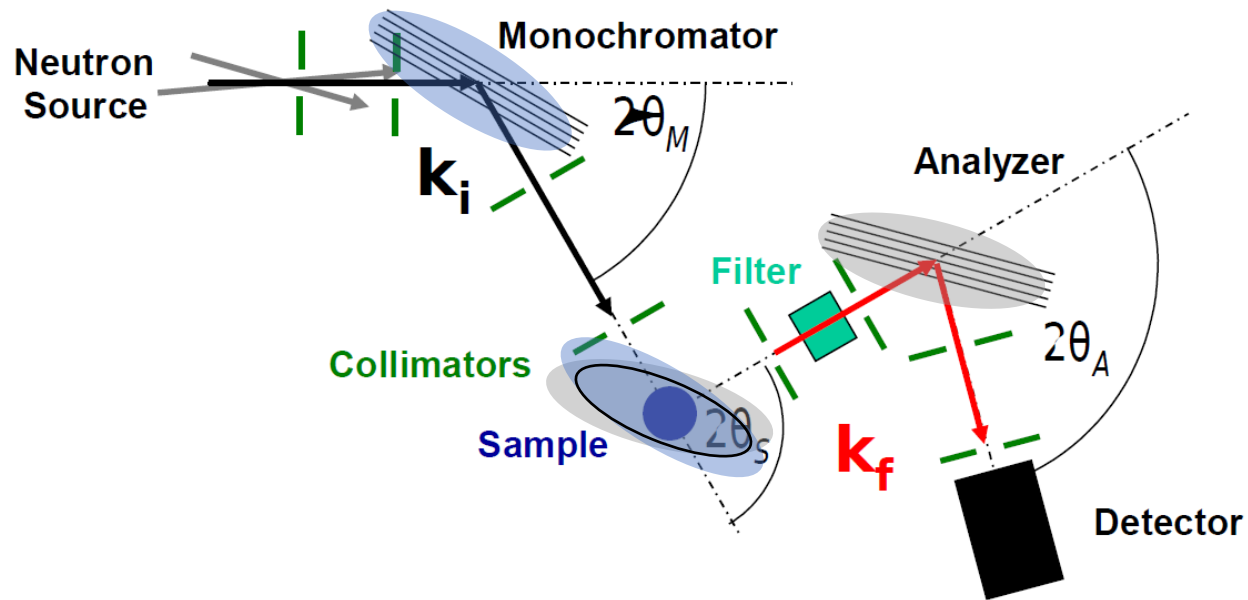
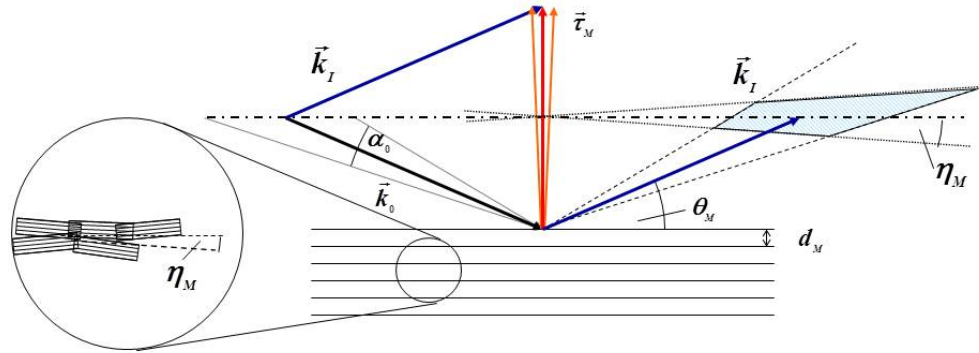
# Instead of a Summary



1) Love Letter to Instrumentation

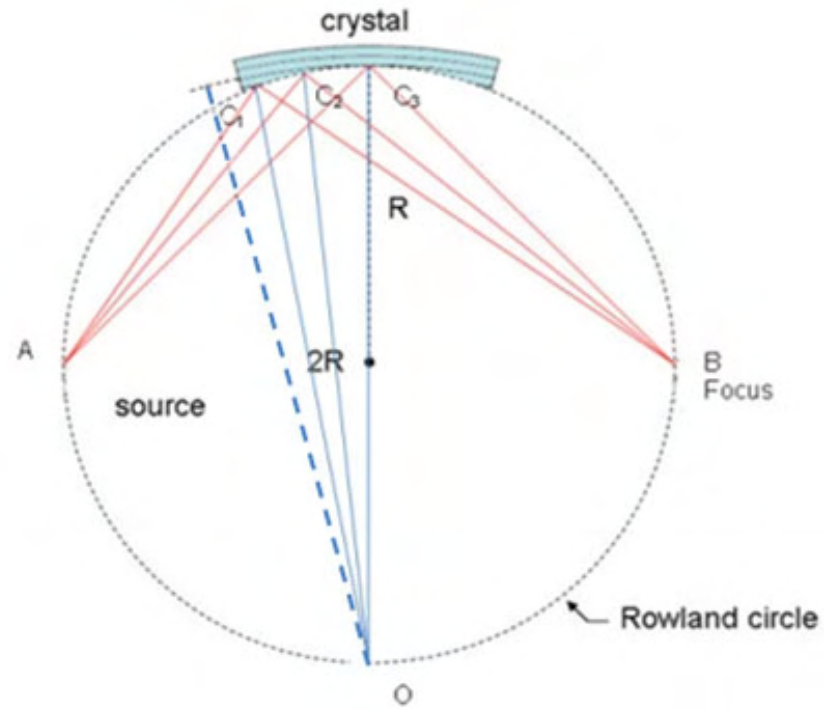


# Triple Axis Spectroscopy – Resolution Focusing





# Triple Axis Spectroscopy – Rowland Focusing



→ Focusing increases the flux on the sample.

→ What happens to the resolution?

# Triple Axis Spectroscopy – Rowland Focusing

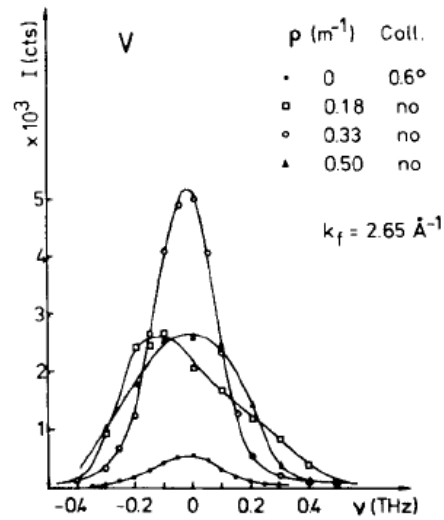


Fig. 7. Energy distributions of neutrons scattered elastically from a vanadium sample. Circles correspond to measurements with the curved analyser set at different curvatures and no collimator. A comparison scan with flat analyser and a  $0.6^\circ$  Soller collimator is shown with full dots.

NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS 143 (1977) 77-85;

→ Momentum resolution decreases (high flux).

→ However, energy resolution increases!!!

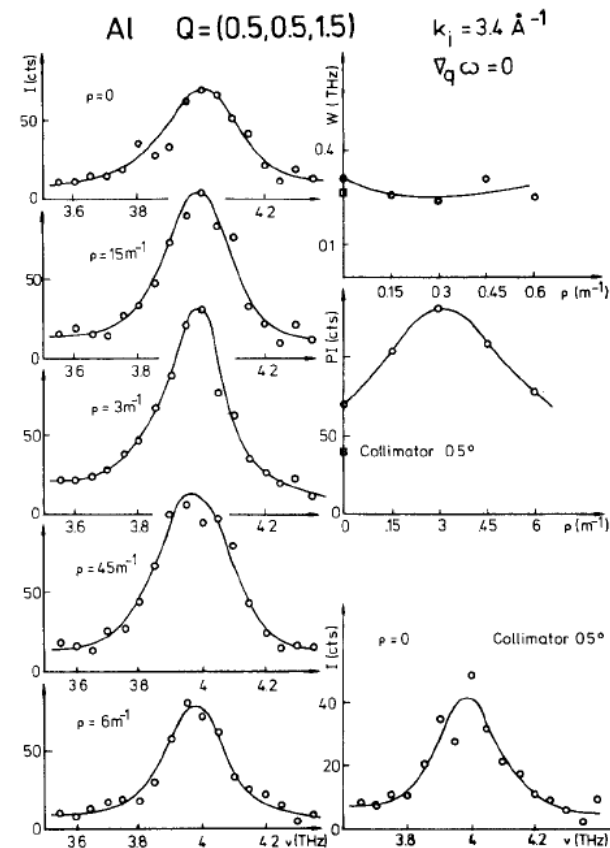


Fig. 8. Neutron groups corresponding to coherent one-phonon scattering involving the transverse mode at the L point in Al, for several values of the curvature  $\rho$ . Also shown are peak intensity PI, peak width  $W$  and a comparison scan with flat analyser and collimator (note different scale).