X-ray Diffraction experiment



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X-ray diffractometer

Essential components:

- X-ray source in the 5-25 keV range
- Monochromator/filters and focusing system
- Goniometer
- Detector



Video monitor for sample alignment X-rays optics X-ray source sample Scattered X-rays Scattered X-rays Scattered X-rays Scattered X-rays

Additional components:

- Cryocooler
- Optical microscope for centering
- Fluorescence detector
- Automated sample changer
- ...





Rotating anode tube



X-ray tubes





Material of the anode (target) characterizes the wavelength of the emitted radiation.

Intensity of the radiation depends on ΔV applied. Maximum intensity depends on efficiency of cooling system.



Bremsstrahlung radiation:

due to deceleration of incident electrons in the target metal (e.g. copper).

Characteristic radiation:

corresponding to electronic transitions, with wavelength characteristic of target metal.





Rotating anode





Advantages: • High br

- High brilliance
- Tunable source
- Small beam divergence

- White beam
- Polarization





Photon energy, keV

Optics

Monochromator / filters

- for traditional sources: metal foil of element preceeding the anode metal
- for synchrotron sources: double crystal, e.g. Si(111)

Focusing mirrors / collimator

Be windows

Shutters

Slits





160 -

140+

internsty (arbitrary units)

100+

40 -

20 -

0.5

0.0

0.2

0.4

0.5

0.8

1.0

Wavelength (A)

1.2

1A

1.6

e.g. Ni foil for

a Cu anode

Ko:

Without Filter

With Fille

2.0

1.8

2.2

MB





Goniostat

Single axis (ϕ): rotatation around a single axis, perpendicular to the incident beam

<u>4-circles goniometer</u>: 3 axes of rotation of the crystal and an additional rotational axis of the detector



Image plate:

- (1) X-ray captured by phosphorescent material
- (2) Stimulated emission of visible light

Unrecorded Imaging Plate





Detectors

Characteristics:

- Quantum efficiency
- Dynamic range
- Spatial resolution

Photographic films



Charged Coupled Device (CCD):

- (1) X-ray converted in visible light
- (2) Excitation of CCD chip









- Maximum dynamic range
- Excellent Point Spread Function (PSF)
- High Detector Quantum Efficency (DQE)
- No dark-current and readout noise
- Readout time <6.7ms
- Allows to collect fine-φ-sliced data

Cryocrystallography

Hampton Magnetic

Crystal freezing:

- reduces radiation damage
- reduces thermal vibration
- reduces conformational disorder
- enhances signal-to-noise ratio

1. Crystal mounted on the goniometer with a loop on a magnetic base and flash frozen under a stream of nitrogen gas at ≈100K.







2. Crystal pre-frozen in liquid nitrogen

mounting with the automated system

and kept in dewar. On the beamline,

Crystal centering

Crystal should be in the beam path during all data collection (rotation). And ideally beam size should not excede crystal size to reduce background.

1. Manual centering: center crystal in 2 directions, 90° apart



Automatic centering (@beamlines):
 or 3- click procedures



3. Centering with gridding (@microfocus beamlines)





Ideal for centering of small, hard to distinguish crystals, but requires very small beam compared to crystal size.

Microfocus beamlines

Beamlines with beamsize of 1-20 μ m:

- Ideal for small crystals
- Low background scattering from solvent/loop
- High Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)
- Possible selection of well diffracting region in larger crystals & helical data collection strategy
- "Grid-scan" for crystals difficult to visualize
- In-situ diffraction

Beamlines: ID13 & ID23-2 @ESRF ID24 @Diamond 23ID-B & D @APS 24ID-E @APS BL32XU @SPring8 X06SA @SLS PX2 @Soleil



Requirements:

- High brilliance photon source (ondulator)
- Highly stable beam (Top-up mode)
- Thermally stable optics & endstation
- No vibrations on optics
- High precision goniometer

Problems:

- Higher radiation damage on crystals (overcome by helical data collection strategy)
- Usually requires screening for small crystals

X-ray diffraction experiment workflow



X-ray diffraction experiment

- 1. Select <u>wavelength</u> (i.e. dimension of Ewald sphere...).
- 2. Mount crystal on diffractometer. Center.
- 3. Check crystal quality by taking diffraction images at $\varphi = 0^{\circ}$ and at $\varphi = 90^{\circ}$ (check anisotropy)
 - -> is it salt? Is it a single crystal?
 - -> from initial images evaluate **resolution limit** and <u>crystal-to-detector distance</u>: *smaller distance for high resolution, but check sovrapposition of spots in the diffraction pattern. Larger unit cells have small reciprocal space cells, and very close diffraction spots.*
 - -> evaluate <u>exposure time</u>: longer exposure allows to collect stronger high resolution reflections, but check overloads in the low resolution spots; longer exposure causes more radiation damage.
 - -> check presence of ice rings





Low resolution data are important for phasing!

- 3. Collect further images to determine **unit cell parameters**, symmetry and crystal orientation (\approx 10 images, $\Delta \phi = 1^{\circ}$ /image)
 - -> evaluate **mosaicity** of the crystal (software): larger reciprocal lattice nodes in diffraction conditions for more than one image

4. Indexing: analyze images to identify

- (a) crystal orientation,
- (b) unit cell parameters,
- (c) symmetry (Laue group),
- (d) and assign to each reflection the Miller indexed of
 - the family of planes

using knowledge of

- (1) wavelength,
- (2) crystal-to-detector distance
- (3) beam position

Choice of the unit cell:

- (i) Highest symmetry
- (ii) Smallest cell







Indexing

(Indexing with Mosflm)Mosflm finds the diffracted spots.From the diffracted spots, a list of possible unit cells is obtained.Mosaicity is estimated.

The highest symmetry with low penalty is selected.

aP			b	c	α	β	Y	σ(x,y)	Nref	δ beam
C. L	0	58.6	58.6	62.1	90.0	118.1	120.0	0.10	250	0.49 (0.1)
aP	0	58.7	58.6	62.1	61.8	61.8	59.9	0.10	246	0.49 (0.1)
mC	1	101.6	58.6	62.1	90.0	123.0	90.0	0.11	250	0.47 (0.2)
mC	1	101.6	58.6	62.1	90.0	123.0	90.0	0.11	250	0.47 (0.2)
mC	2	101.4	58.6	62.1	90.0	123.0	90.0	0.09	245	0.48 (0.2)
mC	2	101.4	58.6	62.1	90.0	123.0	90.0	0.09	245	0.48 (0.2)
hR		58.6	58.6	156.4	90.0	90.0	120.0	0.12	255	0.48 (0.3)
mC	59	101.4	58.6	62.0	90.0	122.9	90.0	-	-	-
mC	59	101.4	58.6	62.0	90.0	122.9	90.0	-	-	-
hR	Atto	ntion	Init coll	with	90.0	90.0	120.0	-	5-3	<u></u>
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Indexing

(Indexing with Mosflm)Mosflm finds the diffracted spots.From the diffracted spots, a list of possible unit cells is obtained.Mosaicity is estimated.

The highest symmetry with low penalty is selected.

Expected diffraction spots are compared to experimental spots.

Full reflections (from nodes of the reciprocal lattice that have been completely crossed the Ewald sphere in this image)
 Partial reflections (nodes that partially

crossed the Ewald sphere)
Reflections in the Lorentz exclusion
region (nodes in reflection conditions for
very long time due to their proximity to
the rotation axis)

5. Data collection **strategy**: data collection has to cover all asymmetric unit in the reciprocal space ($\underline{\phi}_{start}$ - $\underline{\phi}_{end}$ depend on symmetry...). If anomalous signal needs to be collected, reciprocal asymmetric unit is NOT centrosymmetric.

Use maximum precaution: if in doubt, consider lowest symmetry and collect more images.

Software that optimize strategy for data collection identify the best way to collect the highest amount of unique data (not related by symmetry or Friedel) in the first images and suggest an optimal φ interval to increase **completeness**.

Identify the best $\underline{\Delta \phi}$ to avoid overlap.

Small $\Delta \varphi$ (e.g. 0.1°) may be useful to integrate the spots in 3D: evaluate the shape of nodes in the _____ reciprocal space as they cross the Ewald sphere, by analyzing together subsequent images. In this case, all reflection appear as partials.



<u>Strategy</u>: wavelength, exposure time, crystal-to-detector distance, $\Delta \phi$ rotation angle per image, overall range of ϕ



Ideally, completeness higher than 90%

Fine slicing





Higher reactivity: metal ions > disulfide bonds > -COOH groups > -OH groups > S-CH₃ groups

Radiation damage

Caused by interaction of X-ray with protein present in the crystal: secondary electrons generated by Xray radiation create radicals, break bonds, oxidize species, up to major rearrangements of proteins in the crystal lattice.

Results: loss of resolution, increase in B-factors, increase in mosaicity, increase in unit cell volume.

Initial image

Final image





Vector (or helical) data collection

Only for microfocus beamlines

lutch Sample Screening Raster Scan Collect	Analysis Users	Log
Iffraction Vector Strategy Multi Crystal Strategy	Collect	Run 1 (inactive)
Zom Image: State and	Pause Current position Gonio = 449,999 Detector = 1.50e+03 Atten, = 49.876 Beanstop = 30.000 Resolution Predictor 7,36 10:37 Filename Angle End	Select Description Ø Vector site 1 Ø Vector site 2 Ø Vector site 2 Ø Vector site 3 Ø Vector site 4 Ø Vector site 5 Ø Vector site 6 Ø Vector site 7 Ø Vector site 8 Ø Vector site 8 Ø Vector site 10 Ø Vector site 10 Ø Vector site 10 Ø Vector site 10 Ø Vector site 10

Data collection strategy for radiation sensitive crystals.

The user defines two points (start & end) and the data collection is performed while crystal is automatically translated between them.

At each frame, fresh sample moves into the beam, allowing longer exposure times per image and significantly reducing radiation damage.

Ideal for rod shaped crystals.

Better B-factors profile and better statistics.

GM/CA CAT @APS



Twinning

Growth defect on crystals: presence of multiple crystal lattices in different domains within the same crystal.







In merohedral and pseudomerohedral twinning, the twin law is a symmetry operation of the lattice and <u>reflections by different domains overlap</u> <u>perfectly</u>, often simulating higher symmetry.

Structures from twinned crystals can be solved if twinning law is known.

Analysis of cumulative distribution of intensities suggests presence of twinning.



Integration

To measure intensities of each spot:

- Analysis of the spot profile,
- adjusting for spot shape and anisotropy
- From single pixel intensity, fitting of a 2D curve
- Background subtraction









With newer software, 3D integration of fine slicing data collection: integration over subsequent images. Final goal of integration: obtain a list of *hkl* reflections with corresponding intensities, *I*, and errors, $\sigma(I)$.

1	9	-27	6.50	31.60
-1	-9	-27	13.90	24.10
1	-9	-27	32.00	25.70
-1	9	-27	-10.30	22.60
1	10	0	106.49	21.00
-1	-10	0	107.99	44.50
1	-10	0	132.99	38.90
-1	10	0	139.89	21.80

Serial Femtosecond Crystallography (SFX)

Fast acquisition of diffraction patterns

Fast injection of microand nano-crystals



X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL): High intensity of X-ray, more than synchrotron radiation, in pulses

LCLS@Stanford SACLA@SPring8 XFEL@Hamburg

High intensity of radiation causes significant radiation damage to (micro)crystals.

Short pulses (< 50 fs) are too fast to allow radiation damage to be visible.

Diffraction before destruction:

Collect one diffraction pattern before crystal is destroyed by X-ray beam.





X-ray emitted by electrons interact with the electrons and modulate their velocity, creating periodically distributed electron bunches and periodic bunches of emitted radiation.

Period of bunches of radiation: 0.1 psec



SFX: data collection



Diffraction before destruction:

X-ray 1.0-6.0 Å pulse = 50 fs spot size = 1.5 μ m 3.5 \cdot 10¹⁰ ph/pulse

crystals 1-10 μm 25 MGy/crystals

detector pixel array res. 1.5-2 Å

data collection ≈8000 pattern/min

Up to 5 million patterns recorded, of which ≈ 4% with diffraction < 1% indexed

SFX: data analysis



Orientation of the crystal, mosaicity, unit cell parameters have to be calculated for each frame/crystal.

Fluctuations due to X-ray source (energy, pulse, intensity) and crystals (size, quality).

Monte Carlo methods.

In <u>oscillation mode</u> (traditional X-ray crystallography), spots represent the **integrated diffraction intensity** from a node of the reciprocal lattice that enters and exits the Ewald sphere.

In <u>SFX</u>, a single frame yields a **partial intensity**. High values of multiplicity are required to plot and integrate the full spot intensity.



Photosystem II – Structure by SFX



SLAC@Stanford Structures of the S_1 state (5Å resolution) and of the the S_3 state (5.5Å resolution)





Systematic absences and space group

Space group determination based on **systematic absences** (i.e. reflections whose intensity is zero due to translational symmetry elements present in the lattice). Owing to experimental errors, intensity of these reflections is actually very low/close to zero. E.g. Data collection with Laue group 4/mmm.

Expected reflection conditions from International Tables for Crystallography

	C	of re	neck eflec [.] ith <i>k</i>	tior	ns (OkO	Laue class 4/m 4/mmm (1. 2 ₁ screw axis along b							
Reflection condit	id Okl	T	007		-	Extinction symbol P	Point group 4 P4 (75)	4 P4 (81)	4/m P4/m (83)	422 P422 (89)	22	mm 4mm (99)		SPECIAL STREEM	4/mmm P4/mmm (123)			
h + k h + k	k k l l k+l k+l	1 1 1 1	l $l = 4n$ $l = 4n$ l l l l l l l l l	k k k kkk kkkk		$P-2_{1}-P4_{2}-P4_{2}-P4_{2}-P4_{2}-P4_{2}-P4_{1}-P-P4_{1}-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P$	$ P4_2 (77) \\ \begin{cases} P4_1 (76) \\ P4_3 (78) \end{cases} \dagger $		P4 ₂ /m (84) P4/n (85) P4 ₂ /n (86)	$P42_{1}2 (90)$ $P4_{2}22 (93)$ $P4_{2}2_{1}2 (9)$ $\begin{cases} P4_{1}22 (9) \\ P4_{3}22 (9) \\ P4_{1}2_{1}2 (9) \\ P4_{1}2 (9) \\ $	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	1241.84 -0.0686 12.287 0.1013 238.64 0.1717 61.349 -0.9486 556.26 -0.7931 184.42 -2.055 99.319 -3.781 788.01	0.2267 0.409 0.3251 3.51 0.4471 1.171 0.5171 8.04 0.6374 3.75 1.056 1.616 0.923	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		

TETRAGONAL, Laue classes 4/m and 4/mmm

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Expected reflection conditions from International Tables for Crystallography

				neck	-		-	Laue class		1. 2 ₁ screw axis along b							
		C	of r	eflec	tio	ns	001	4/ <i>m</i>			4/ <i>mmm</i> (2.	4,	or	4_3 screw	axis aloi	ng c
						Point group	Point group										
kl	hk0	0k1	hhl	00/	0k0	hh0	symbol	4	4	4/ <i>m</i>	422	0	0	6	-0.0783	0.3331	1
A.C	63	1	1		1.1		P	P4 (75)	P4 (81)	P4/m (83)	P422 (8	0	0	7	1.0234	0.3993	1
							10000000420		1.00 - 1.0 3 1.0 1	CONTRACTOR DOCUMENT	10.0201033920	0	0	8	1720.30	34.47	1
					k		P-21-				P4212 (0	0	9	1.7896	1.4854	1
				1			P42	P4 ₂ (77)		$P4_2/m~(84)$	P4222 (0	0	10	-0.0409	0.4136	1
				1	k		$P4_{2}2_{1}-$				$P4_{2}2_{1}2$	0	0	11	0.6631	0.4547	1
				l = 4n			P41	${P4_1 (76) \\ P4_3 (78)}^{\dagger}$	ş		${P4_{1}22 \ P4_{3}22}$	0	0	12	1076.91	21.66	1
								(1 +3 (10))			$(P4_{3}22)$ $(P4_{1}2_{1}2)$	0	0	13	1.2668	0.6038	1
				l = 4n	k		$P4_12_1 =$				${P4_{3}2_{1}2}$	0	0	14	0.3309	0.5556	1
			t	1			P = -c					0	0	15	0.1202	0.5820	1
		167	l	I	k		$P = 2_1 c$					0	0	16	514.85	0.6679	1
		k			k		P = b =					0	0	17	0.0707	0.6673	1
		k	L	1	k		P = bc					0	0	18	-0.7296	0.6856	1
		1	\tilde{t}	1			P = c = P = cc					0	0	19	-0.3101	0.7151	1
		$\binom{l}{k+l}$		1	k		P = n =					0	0	20	190.92	0.7951	1
		k+1	t	1	k		P = nc					0	0	21	0.6292	0.7126	1
	h+k				k		Pn			P4/n (85)		0	0	22	0.0268	0.7811	1
	h + k			1	k		$P4_2/n$			$P4_2/n$ (86)		0	0	23	0.0680	0.7936	1
	h + k		l =	1	k		Pn - c			NO 110 110	*	0	0	24	26.634	1.132	1

TETRAGONAL, Laue classes 4/m and 4/mmm

TETRAGONAL, Laue classes 4/m and 4/mmm

	_					177	Laue class						
		1	2.	screw	<i>i</i> axi	s along b				4/mmm (4/m 2/	m 2/m)		
Reflectior			-			axis alon	10000000						
hkl		•1	•	.300				4	4/ <i>m</i>	422	4 <i>mm</i>	ā2m ām2	4/mmm
			1	5 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	84 G.	P	P4 (75)	P4 (81)	P4/m (83)	P422 (89)	P4mm (99)	$P\bar{4}2m$ (111) $P\bar{4}m2$ (115)	P4/mmm (123)
					k	P-21-				P4212 (90)		$P\bar{4}2_1m(113)$	
				1		P42	P4 ₂ (77)		$P4_2/m$ (84)	P4222 (93)		Construction of the second second	
				1	k	$P4_{2}2_{1}-$	ESONAL CONTROL			P42212 (94)			
				l = 4n		P41	${P4_1 (76) \\ P4_3 (78)}^{\dagger}$			$ {P4_{1}22 (91) P4_{3}22 (95)} $			
				l = 4n	k	P4121-				$ \begin{cases} P4_{1}2_{1}2 (92) \\ P4_{3}2_{1}2 (96) \end{cases} \dagger$			
			t	1		P = -c				1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.	$P4_2mc$ (105)	P42c (112)	P42/mmc (131)
			l	1	k	$P - 2_1 c$						$P\bar{4}2_1c$ (114)	
		k			k	P - b -	Docc	ihla	~~~~~	groupe	bm (100)	P4b2 (117)	P4/mbm (127)
		k	L	1	k	P - bc	P055	IDIE	space	groups			$P4_2/mbc$ (135)
		E	22	I		P - c -	Л	1 2		1 2 2	cm (101)	P4c2 (116)	$P4_2/mcm$ (132)
		1	I.	1	85.7	P - cc	P	4 ₁ ∠ ₁ ₄	2 or P4	4 ₃ 2 ₁ 2	cc (103)	= 0 0	P4/mcc (124)
		k + l	34	1	k	P - n -					$_{2nm}$ (102)	P4n2 (118)	P42/mnm (136)
		k+l	l	1	k	P - nc					P4nc (104)		P4/mnc (128)
	h+k			1.00	k	Pn			P4/n (85)				P4/nmm (129)
	h + k			1	k	$P4_2/n$			$P4_2/n$ (86)				
	h + k	0	1	1	k	Pn - c	5			3		3	P4 ₂ /nmc (137)

It is not possible, however, to distinguish between some space groups, such as enantiomorphic space groups. In this case, both possible space groups should be tested in the following phasing step...

Scaling and merging

Scaling: Diffraction data can be used only if intensities are on the same scale, but multiple phenomena affect experimental intensities (intensity of incident beam, crystal volume crossed by X-ray beam, radiation damage, scattering of buffer/loop...)

This is a fundamental step of data processing!

Merging: Redundant observations of the same reflections are merged together. In addition, according to space group, symmetry related reflections are averaged together (often weigthing the average with experimental errors of each reflection). Friedel pairs are also merged.

If anomalous signal is required for phasing, Bijvoet mates are merged, but Friedel pairs are not.



Final goal: the list of *hkl* reflections is on the same scale and not redundant.

Evaluation of data quality

Signal-to-noise ratio, in crystallography this indication is given by the average of intensities over their respective errors:

$$\langle |I|/\sigma(I)\rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{h} \frac{|I_{h}|}{\sigma(I_{h})}$$

with *N* number of all reflections in the dataset, or in a specific resolution shell.



Completeness: how many reflections within the unique wedge of the reciprocal space have been collected? Completeness can be evaluated for each resolution shell (each containing an equal number of reflections).

> Random missing reflections cause noise, but are not problematic. Systematically missing reflections can cause distorsions and hamper phasing.

Redundancy: average number of equivalent reflections for each unique (merged) reflection.

A higher redundancy can improve data quality and reduce errors.

Evaluation of data quality

R-values, evaluate the agreement between multiple measurements of the same intensity:

$$R_{merge} = \frac{\sum_{h} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left| I_{h,i} - \overline{I_{h}} \right|}{\sum_{h} \sum_{i=1}^{N} I_{h,i}}$$

But... increasing redundancy increases R_{merge} due to random experimental errors...

with N number of equivalent reflections.

This parameter can be calculated for each resolution shell. For higher resolution shells, R-values are usually higher.

Redundancy independent R-value:

Precision indicating R-value:

$$R_{rim} = \frac{\sum_{h} \sqrt{\frac{N}{N-1}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |I_{h,i} - \overline{I_{h}}|}{\sum_{h} \sum_{i=1}^{N} I_{h,i}}$$
Always larger than R_{merge} .

$$R_{pim} = \frac{\sum_{h} \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left| I_{h,i} - \overline{I_{h}} \right|}{\sum_{h} \sum_{i=1}^{N} I_{h,i}}$$

Decreases increasing redundancy.

Correlation coefficients, between random half datasets

$$CC_{1/2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} [(x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})]}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Ideally equal to 1, but data are significant even if $CC_{1/2}$ is lower.

Resolution

What is the resolution cutoff of the data? How far are data significant?

There is no general rule, but data are usually considered significant up to the resolution shell with a value

$$\langle |I|/\sigma(I)\rangle > 2.0$$

If the statistical distribution of intensitites is correct and the estimation of errors $(\sigma(I))$ is reliable, this value should correspond to $R_{merge} \approx 40\%$ in the same resolution shell.

However, new studies suggest that significant information is present in the diffraction intensities also beyond the resolution cutoff obtained using the previous threshold. It has been suggested to use the correlation coefficient $CC_{1/2}$ instead.

The suggested threshold varies according to authors, but a conservative criterion would suggest that $CC_{1/2} > 0.15$ in the last meaningful resolution shell.



Table of data collection statistics



source included)

number of unique reflections are included)

References

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