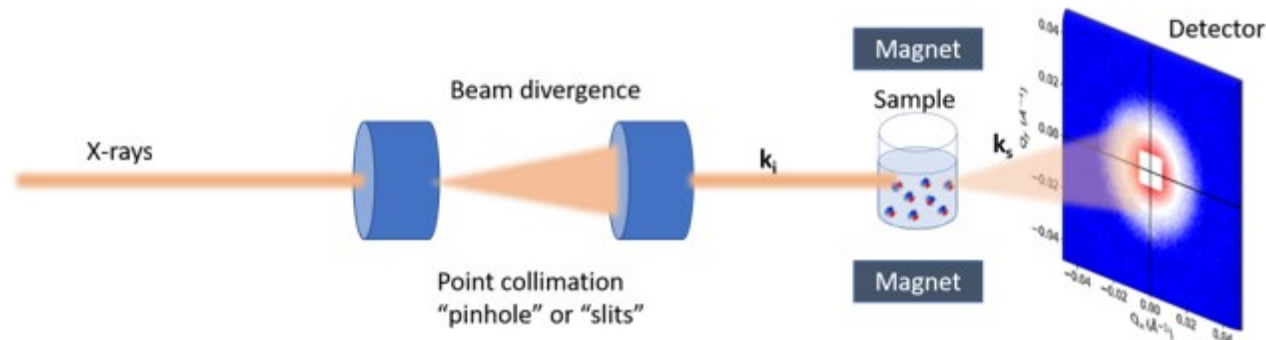


# Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering for Studying Nanostructured Systems

Asmaa Qdemat



# Where I work:

## Jülich Centre for Neutron Science (JCNS-2)



13 instr.



1 (+2) instr.



1 (+2) instr.



4 instr.



Single crystal &  
poly-crystalline



Thin film



Sample  
preparation

# JCNS-2 Facilities

MPMS



Magnetization

DynaCool

PPMS



4-circle  
diffractometer



GALAXI



Powder X-ray  
diffractometer



In-house X-ray  
facilities

Supernova single crystal  
diffractometer



Laue Camera



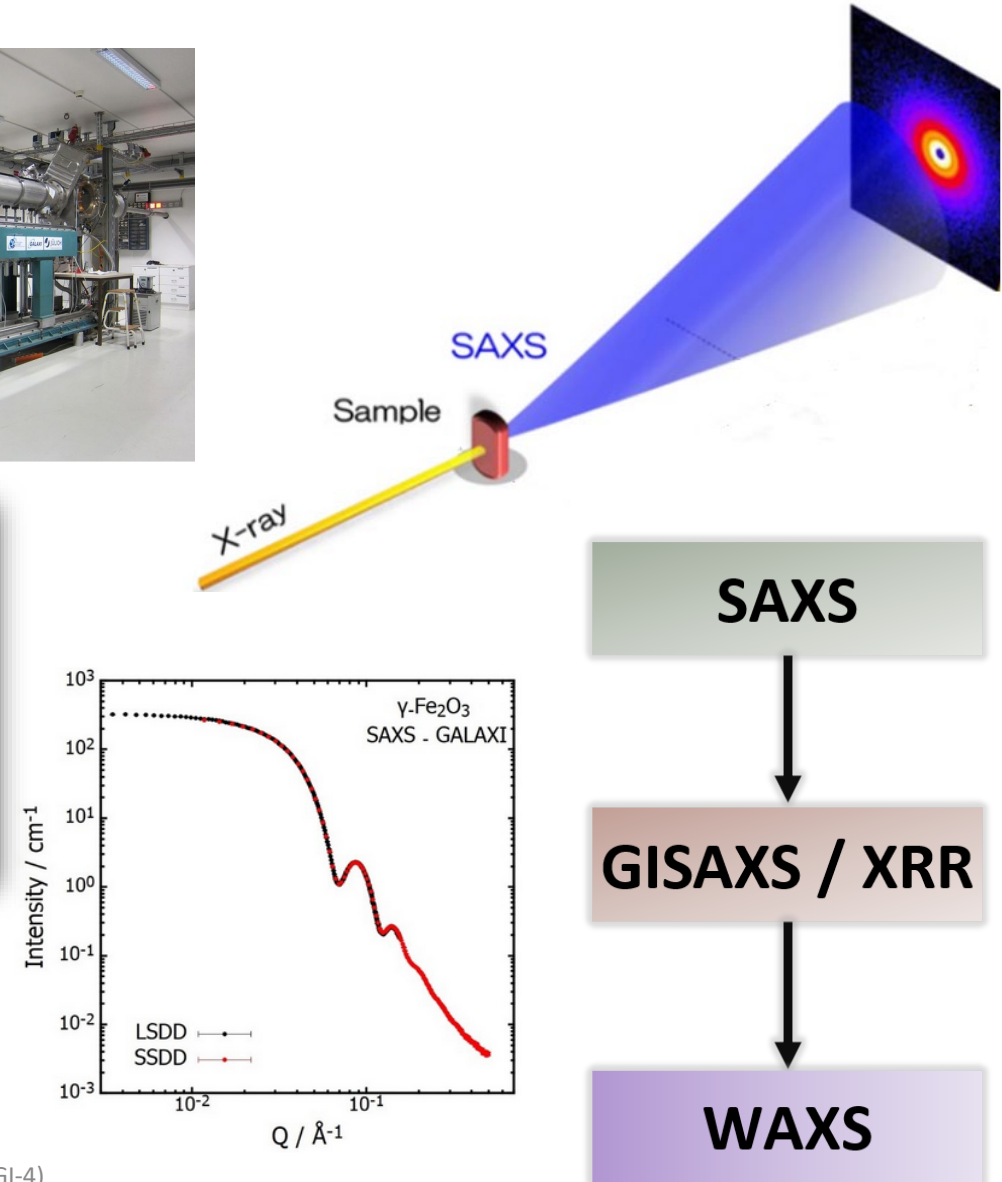
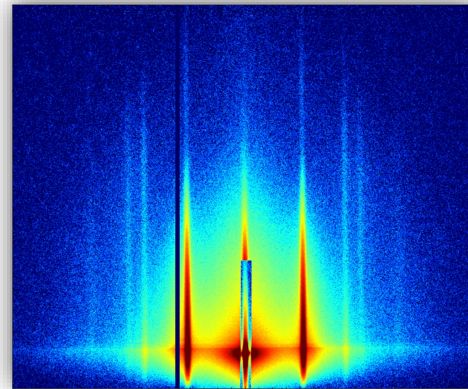
Bruker AXS  
reflectometer





# Contents

- Introduction
- Instrumentation
- Experimental techniques
- Scientific results
- Summary
- PDF @ ID09 - SESAME
- Future plans at SESAME

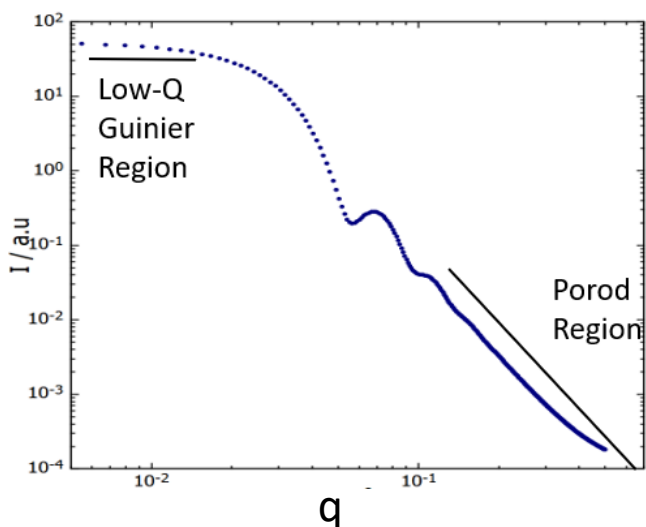
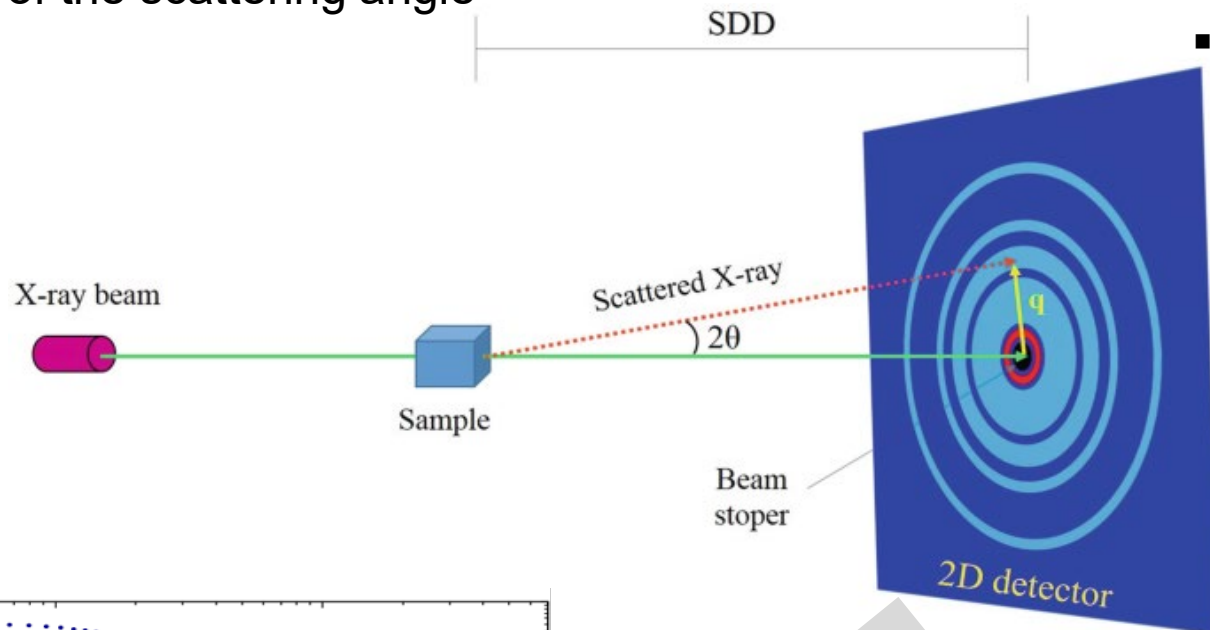


“When the scientist have learned how to control  
the arrangement of matter at very small scale  
they will see material take an enormously richer  
variety of properties”

Richard Feynman (1929)

# Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering

- Analytical technique, measures the intensities of X-rays scattered by a sample as a function of the scattering angle



Integration a long azimuthal angle

- SAXS → Mesoscopic length scale, 1 to several hundred nm
- chemical composition, Particle size, shape and correlations, formation of superstructures
- Transmission mode
- Elastic scattering

$$I(q) = N \boxed{F(q)}^2 \boxed{S(q)}$$

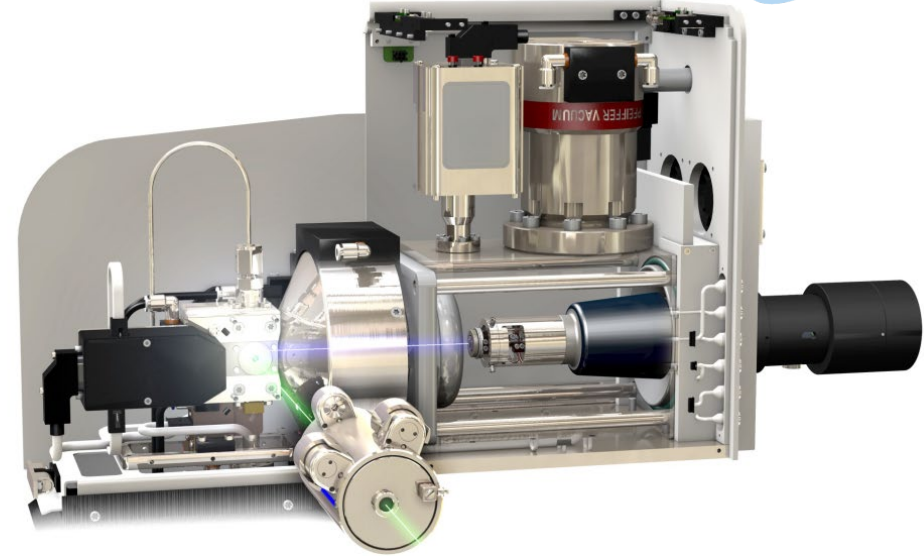
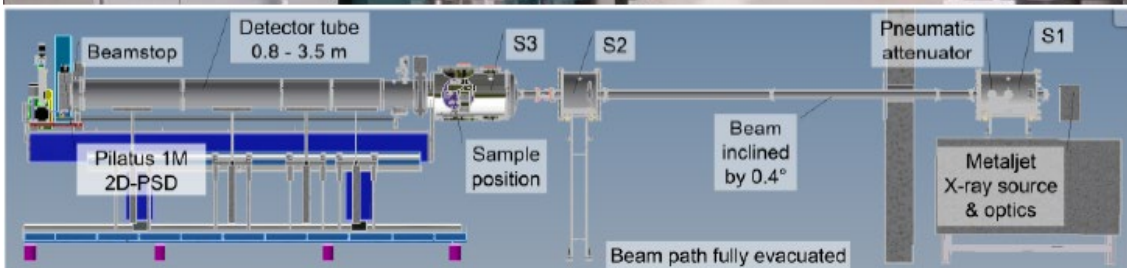
Shape      Size      interactions between particles

Intensity function ( $I(q)$ ) related to the scattering vector amplitude ( $q$ )

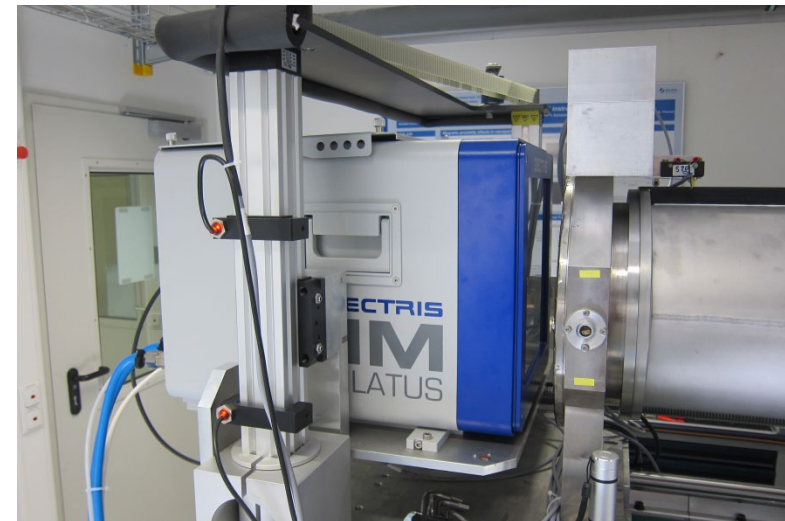
$$q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin 2\theta \Rightarrow q = \frac{2\pi}{D}$$

## Gallium Anode Low-Angle X-ray Instrument (GALAXI)

- Small angle X-ray diffractometer
- Laboratory X-ray source with the highest brilliance available today



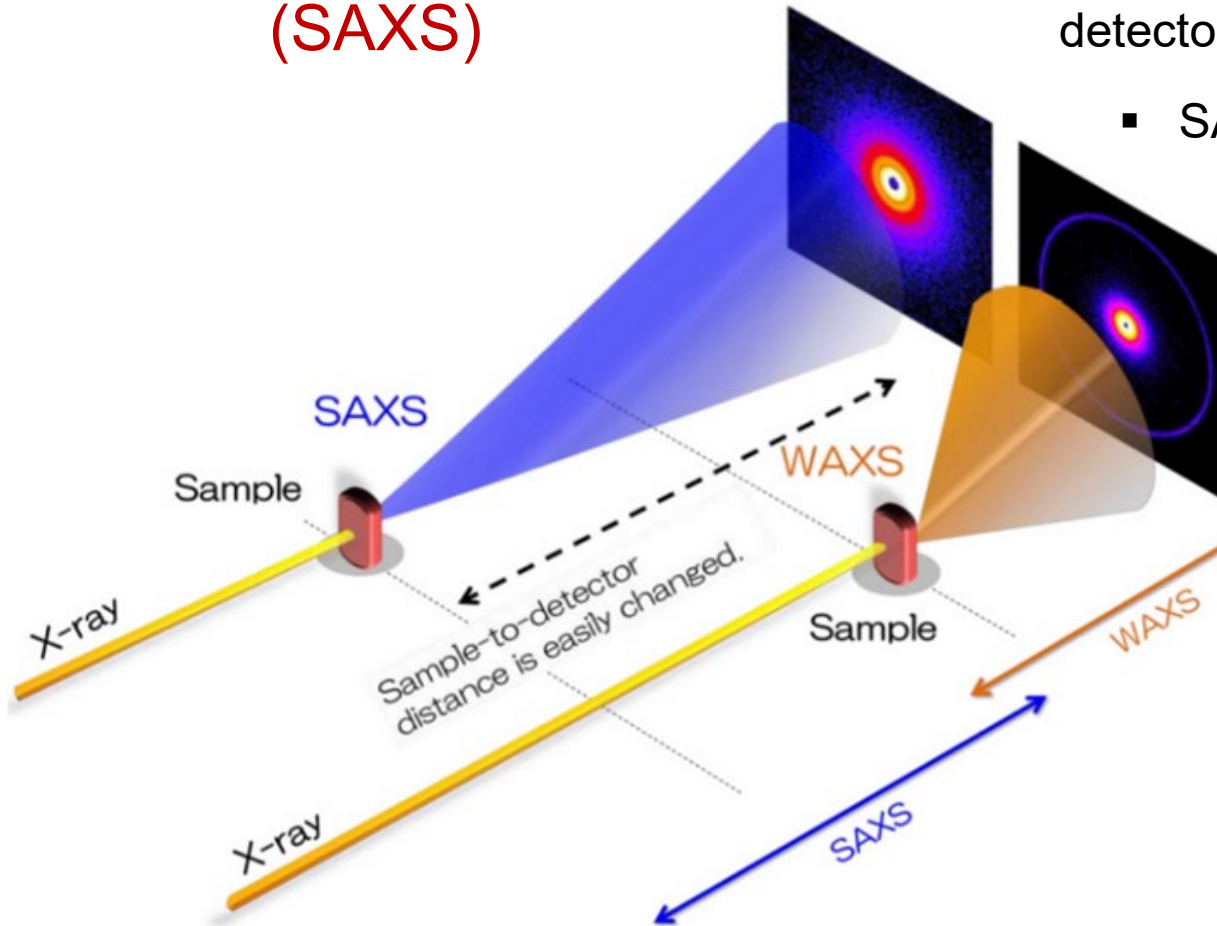
Metaljet from Bruker AXS



1M Pilatus from Dectris

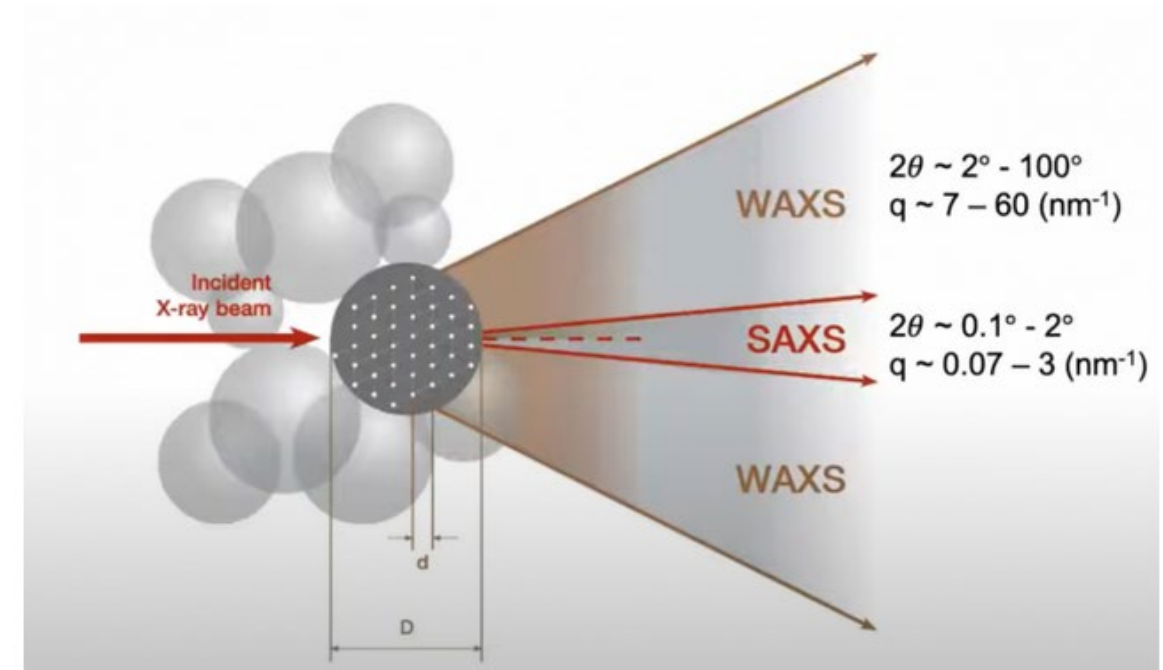


## Small Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS)



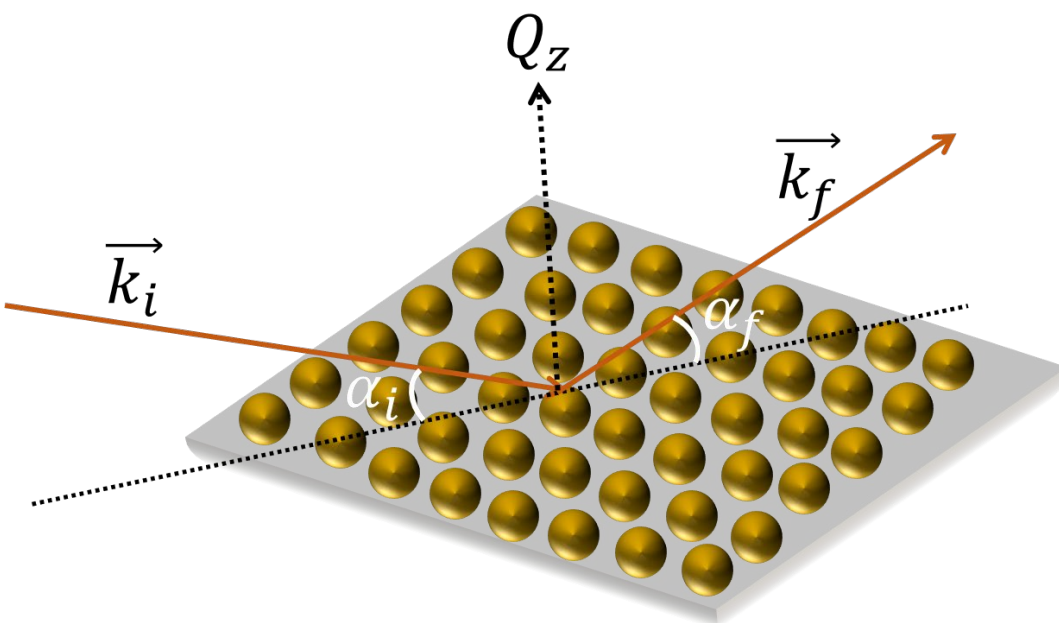
- SAXS and WAXS can be done simultaneously by moving the detector closer or further away from the sample
  - SAXS  $\longrightarrow$  very small angles  $\longrightarrow$  nanoscale resolution
  - WAXS  $\longrightarrow$  wider angles  $\longrightarrow$  atomic resolution

## Wide Angle X-ray Scattering (WAXS)



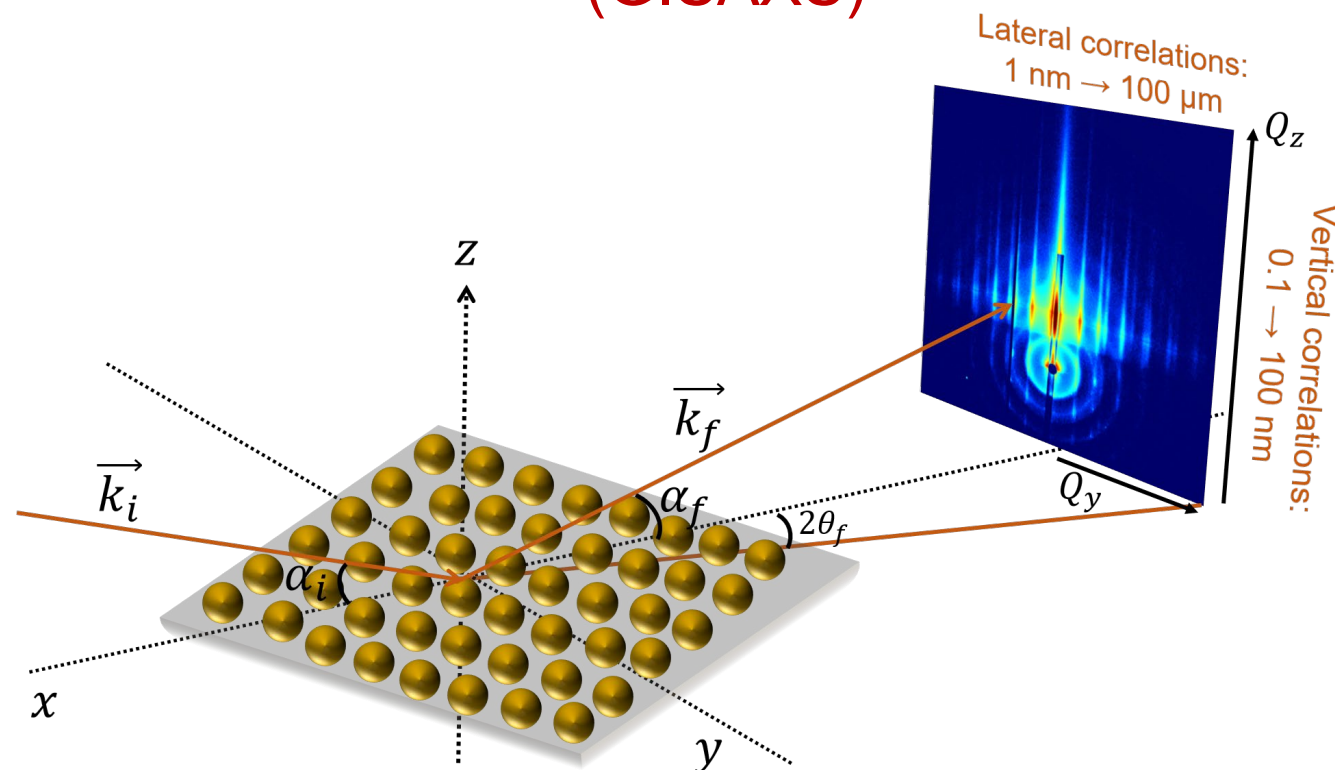


## X-Ray Reflectometry (XRR)



- Specular reflectivity,  $\alpha_f = \alpha_i$
- Laterally average density profile
- Out-of-plane structure
- Layer thickness / Interface roughness

## Grazing Incidence Small Angle X-ray Scattering (GISAXS)



- $\alpha_f \neq \alpha_i$ ,  $\vec{Q}$  has in-plane component
- In-plane structural correlation.
- Information about buried objects, object geometry, size distribution and spatial correlations

## SAXS

Permanent  
Magnet

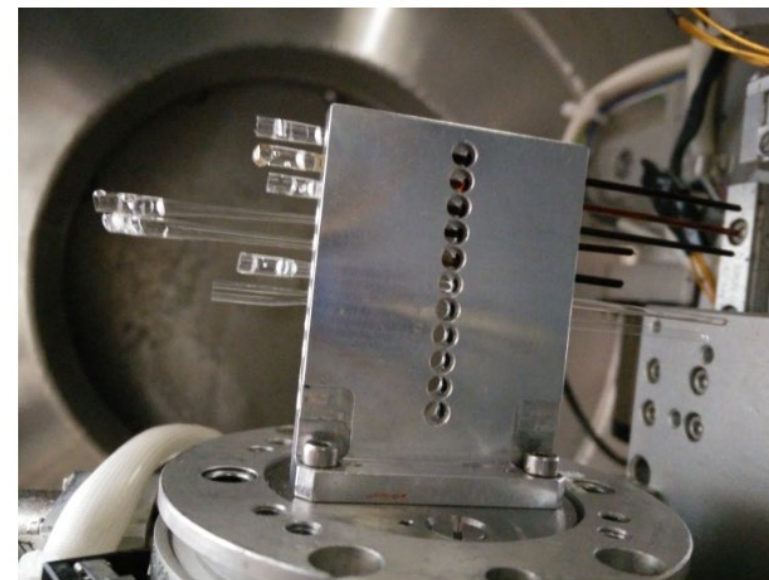
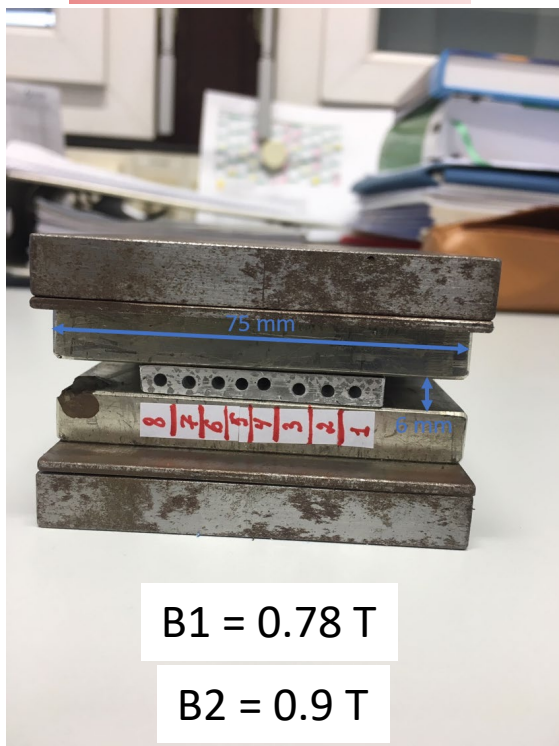
Solution

Temperature

10°C – 70°C

Immobilized  
samples

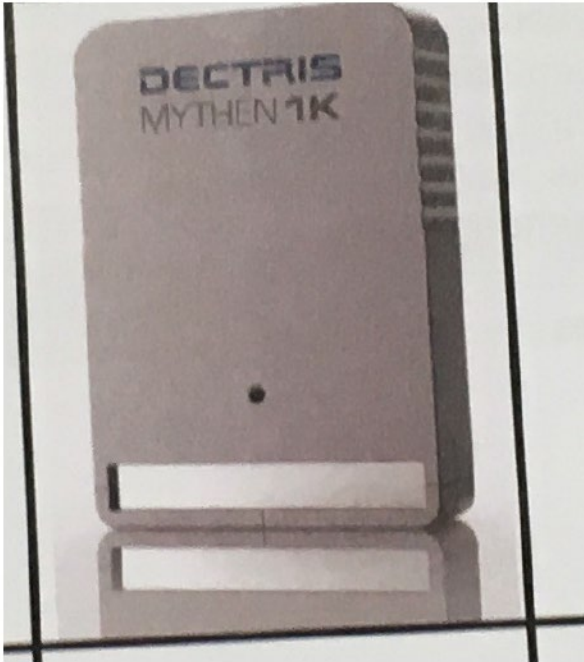
- Size and size distribution of NPs
- Self-assembly of the particles in dispersion at room temperature.
- Effect of size, concentration, and applied field in self-assembly of NPs



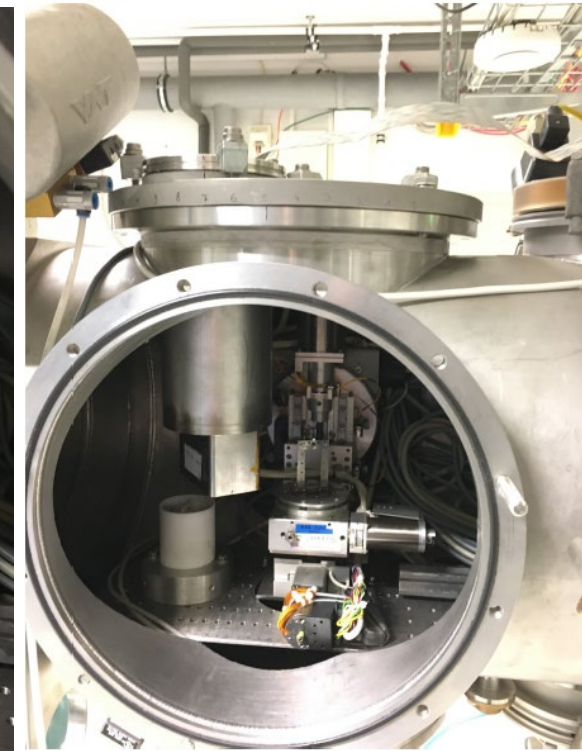
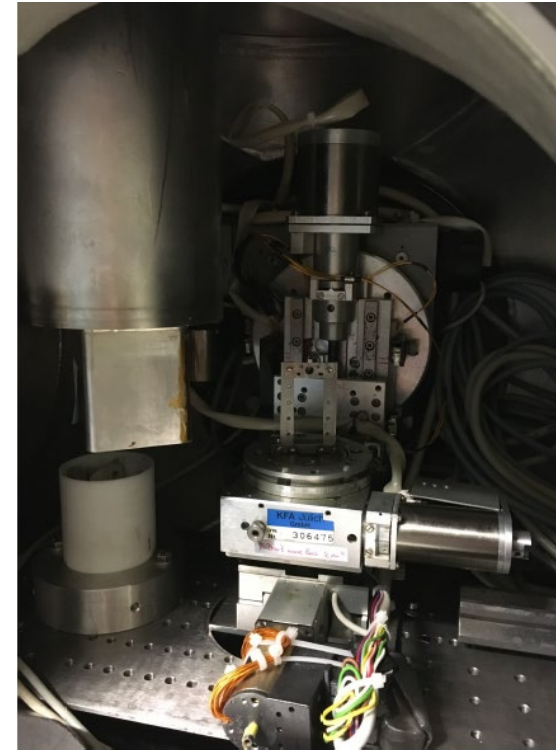
Quartz glass capillaries  
(Hilgenberg GmbH)

# WAXS

## Sample environment & Setup

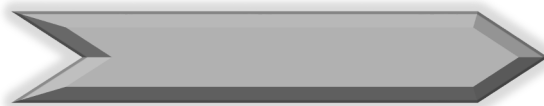


- 1D position-sensitive detector  
→ Mythen 1k from Dectris
- Oriented Horizontally
- covers 41 degrees in  $2\theta$
- WAXS with applying voltage
- Thin film sample



Sample-to-detector distance = 85 m

# FUTURE

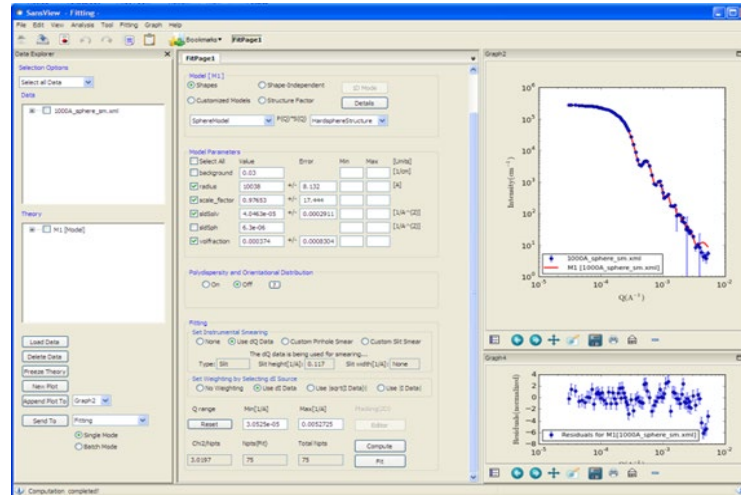


# GIWAXS measurement → in-plane polycrystalline samples



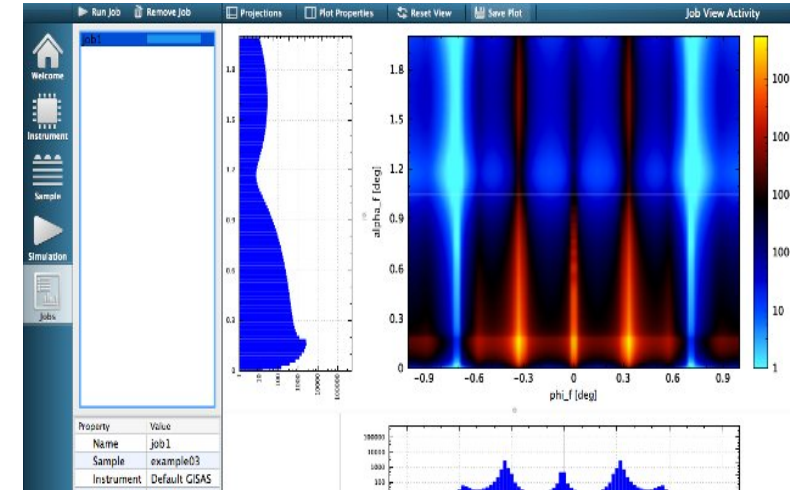
# Modelling of SAXS, GISAXS and XRR data

## SasView



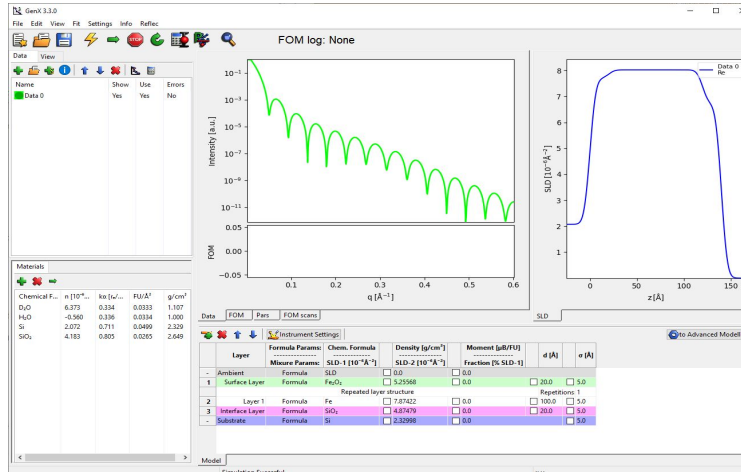
<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3653469>

## BornAgain



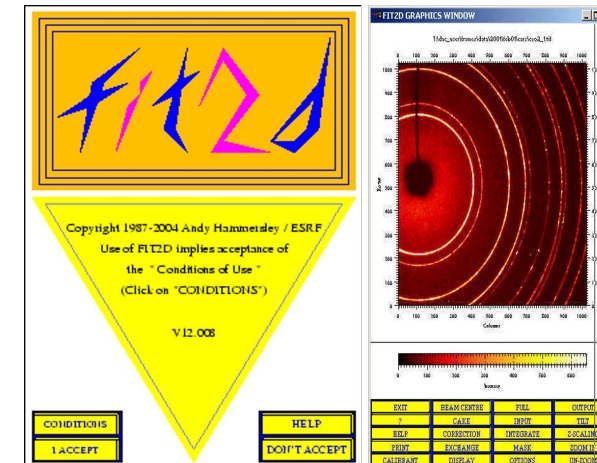
J. Appl. Cryst. (2020). 53, 262–276

## GenX



J. Appl. Cryst. (2022). 55, 1063–1071

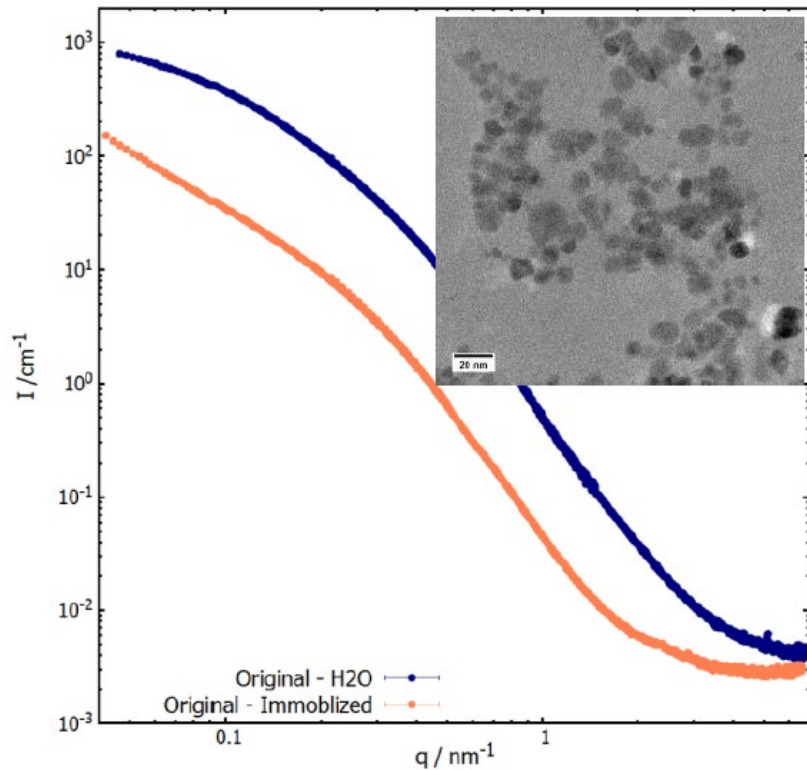
## Fit2d



J. Appl. Cryst. (2016). 49, 646–652

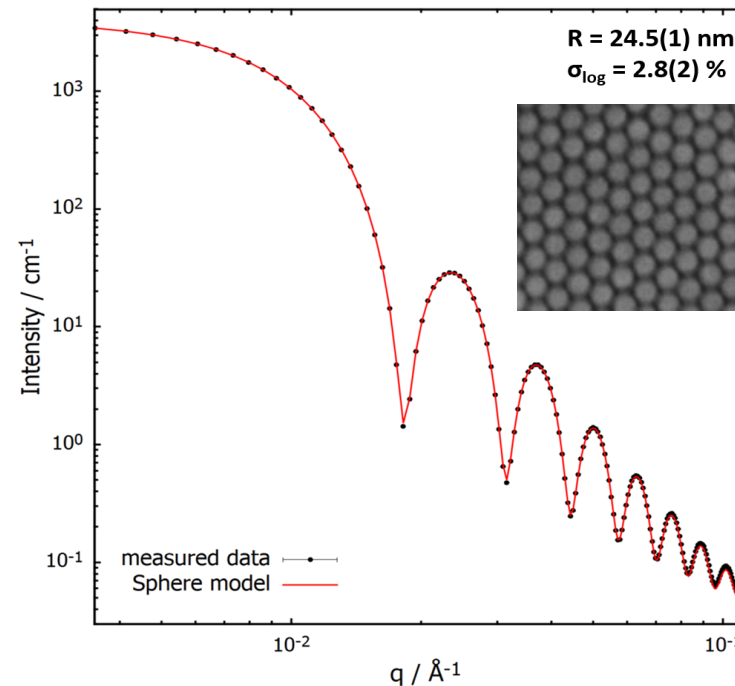
## SAXS

- Statistically average information

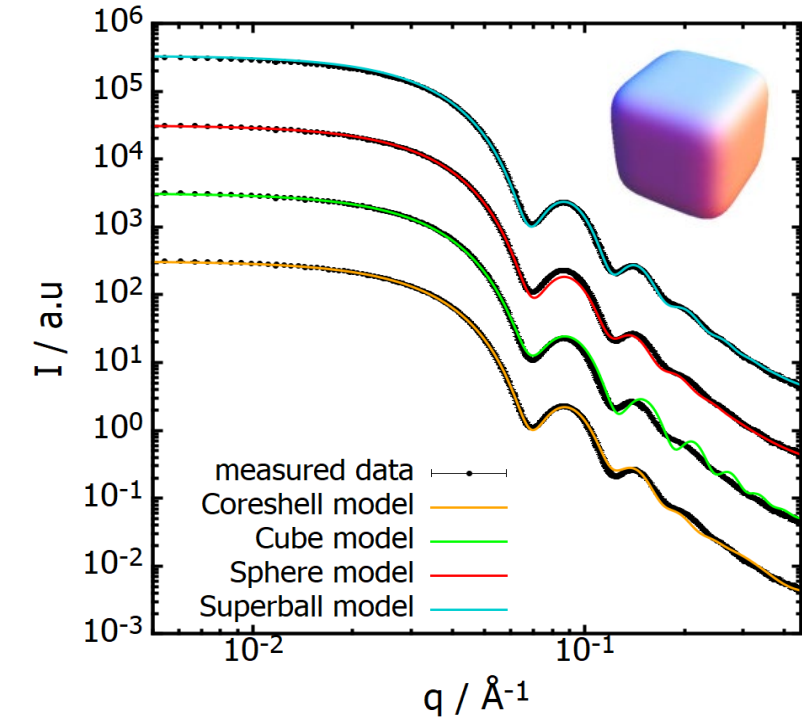


**SPION<sup>Citrate</sup>** in water and immobilized  
in crosslinked polymer matrix

- Spherical nanoparticles
  - Silica NP
  - Grafted with Stearylalcohol
  - Dispersed in toluene

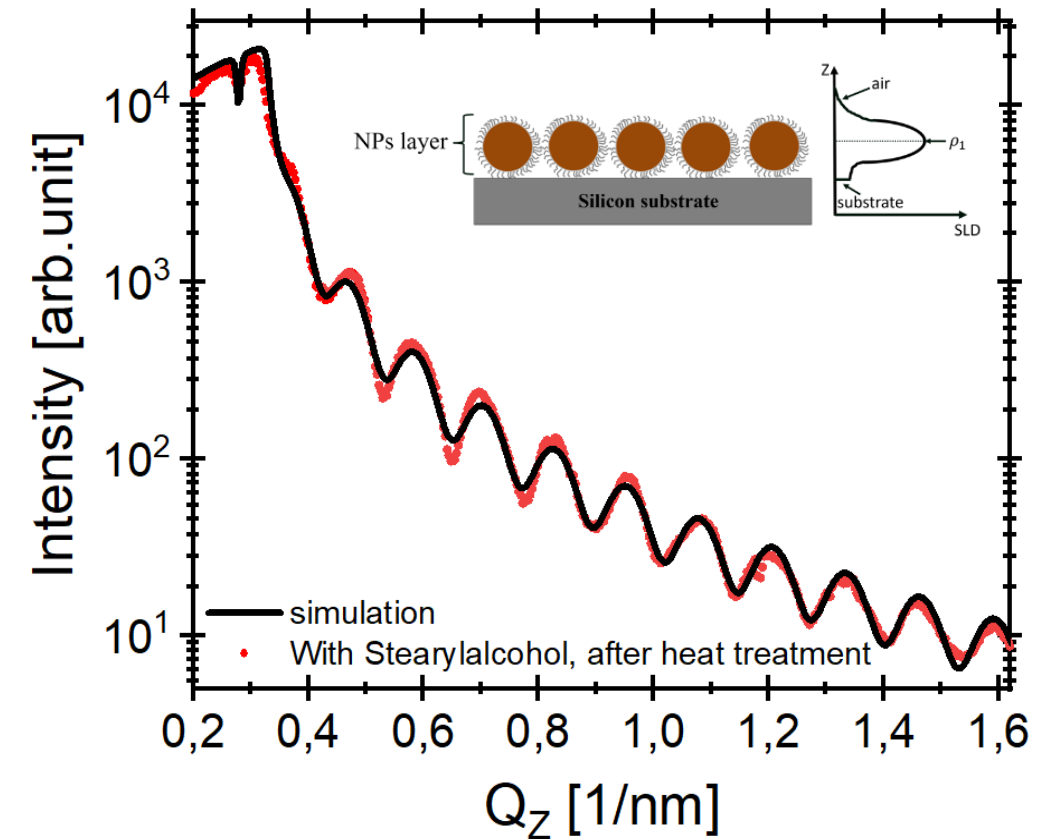
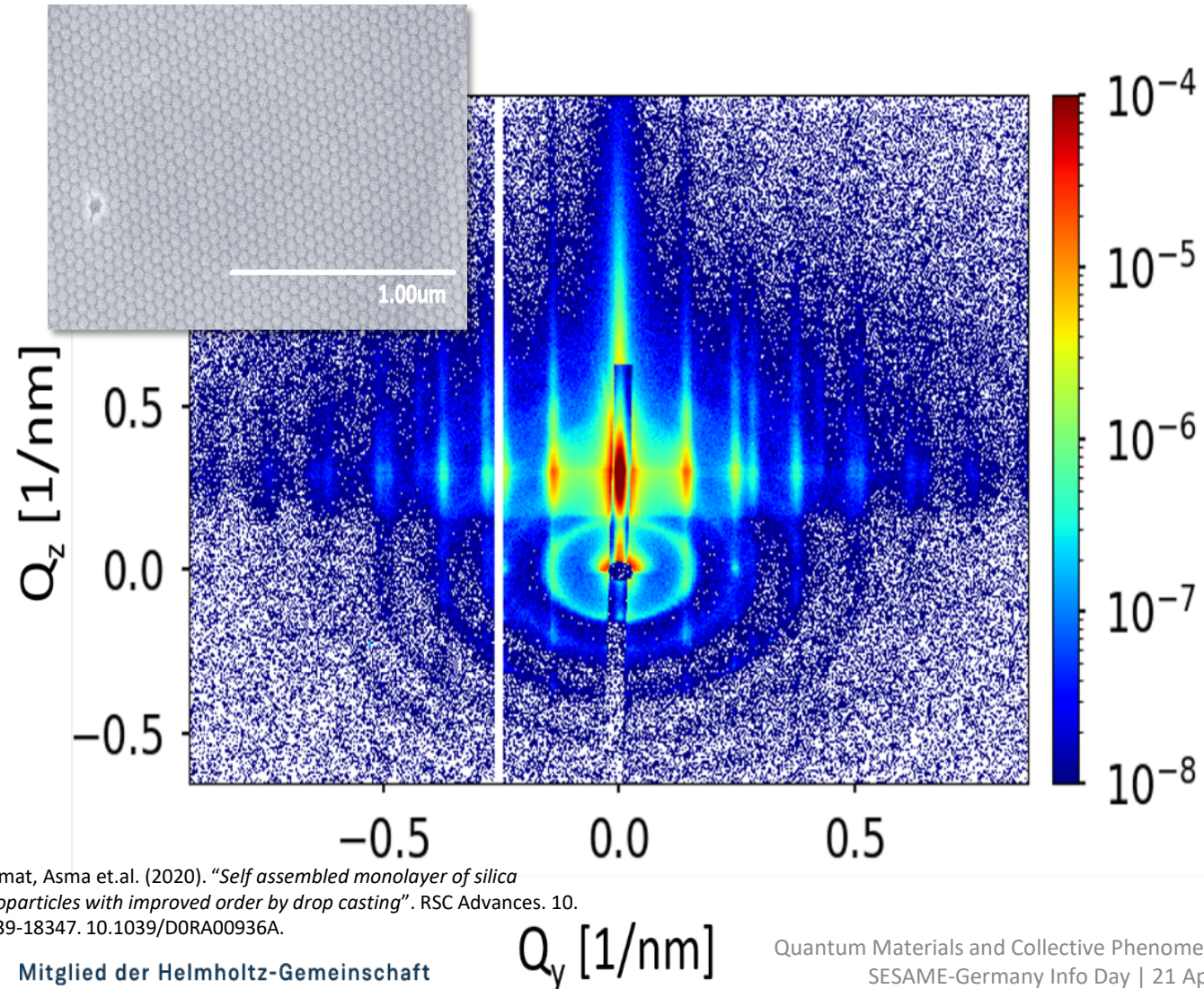


- Superball nanoparticles
  - Iron oxide (maghemite)





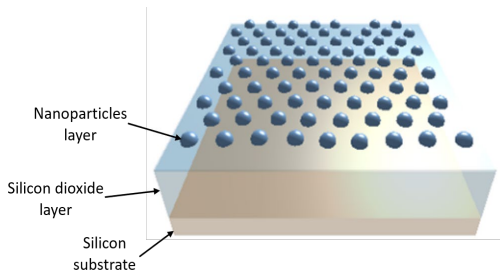
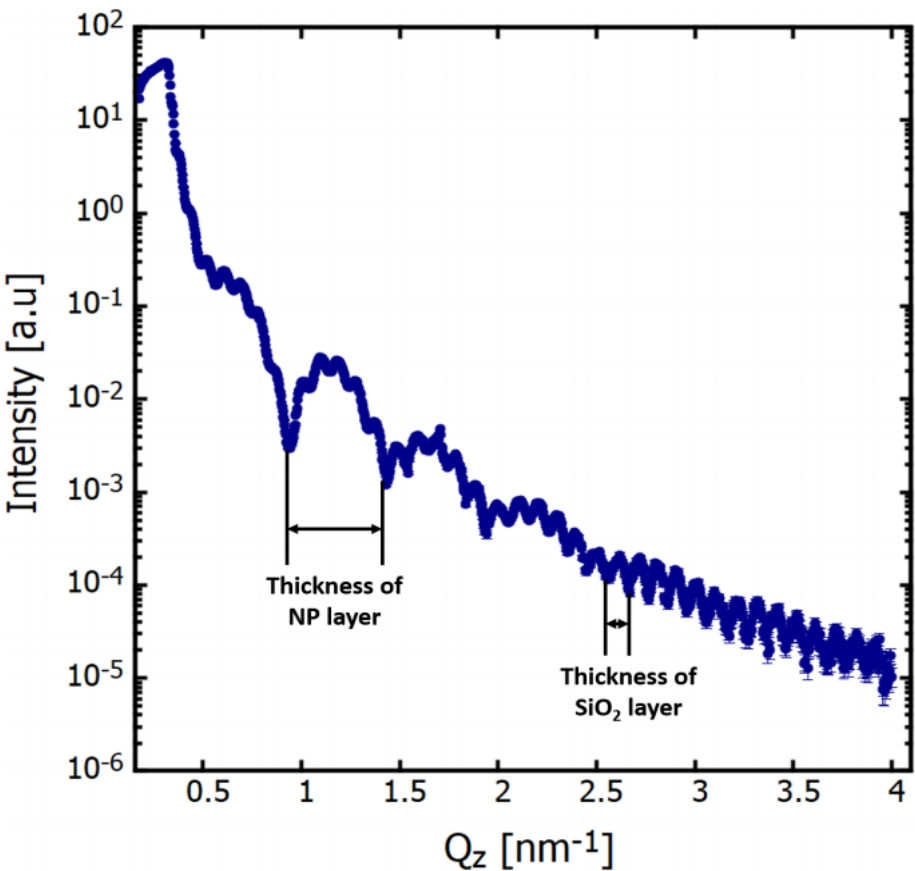
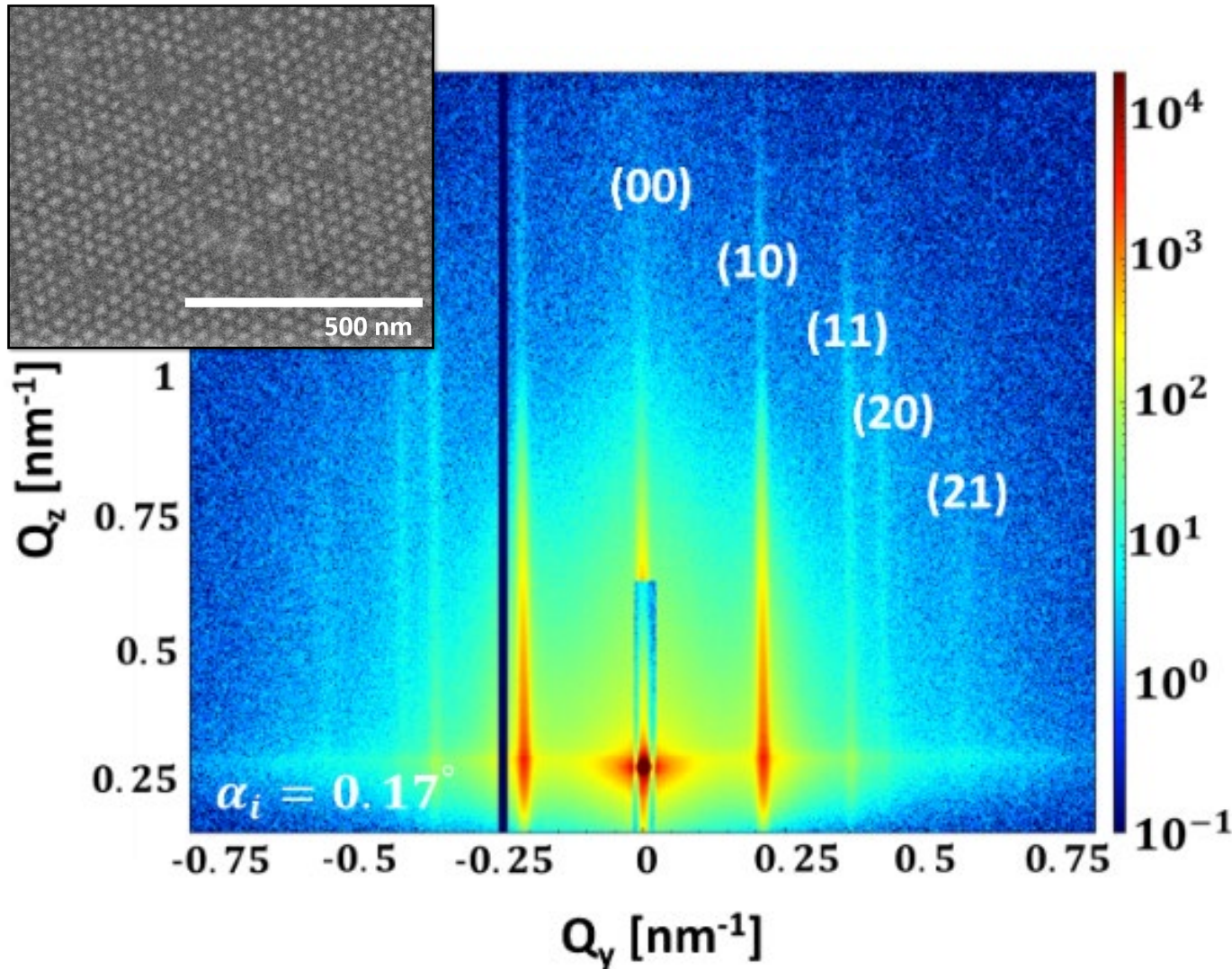
## Self assembled monolayer of silica nanoparticles with improved order by drop casting



Qdemat, Asma et.al. (2020). "Self assembled monolayer of silica nanoparticles with improved order by drop casting". RSC Advances. 10. 18339-18347. 10.1039/D0RA00936A.

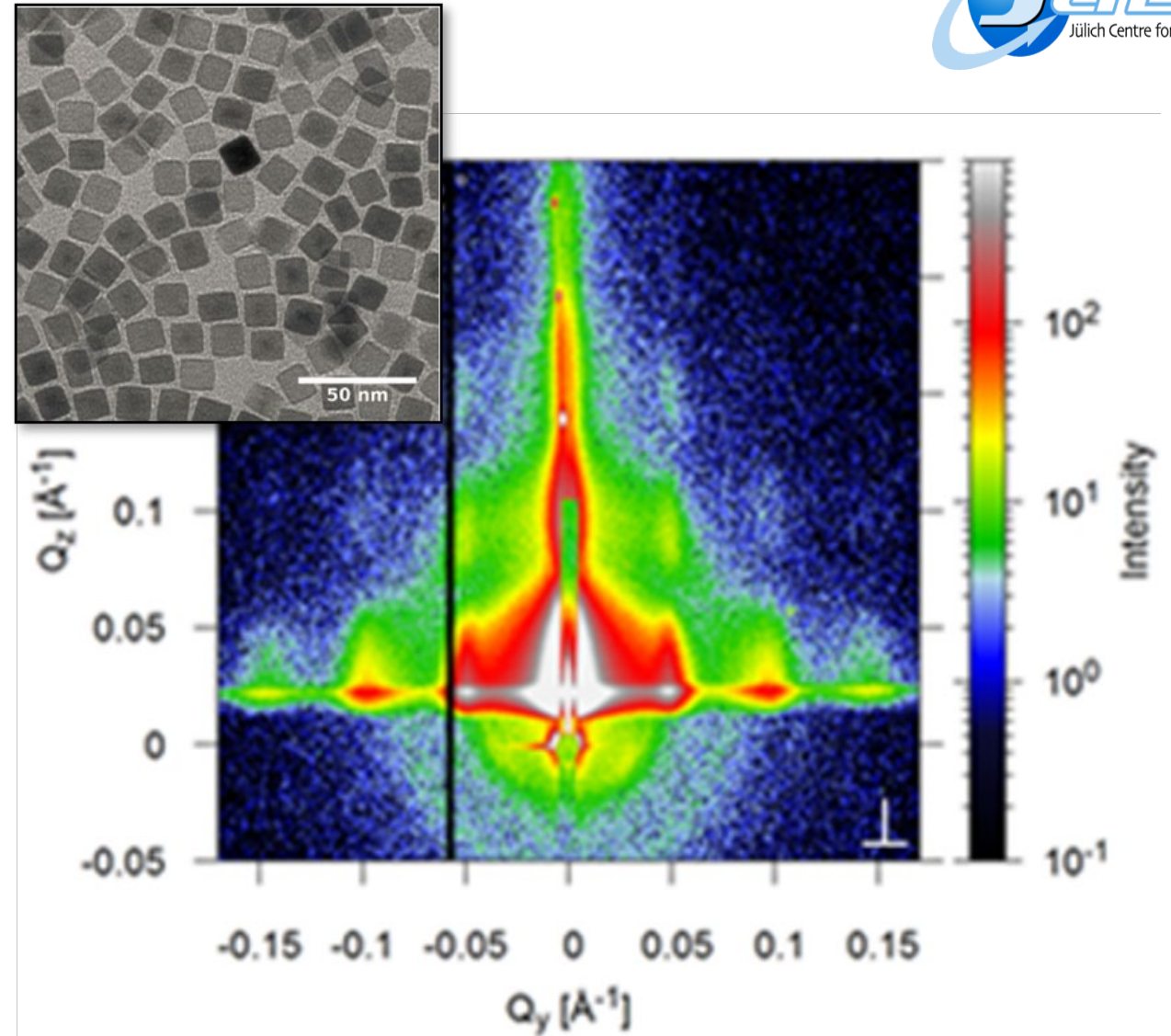
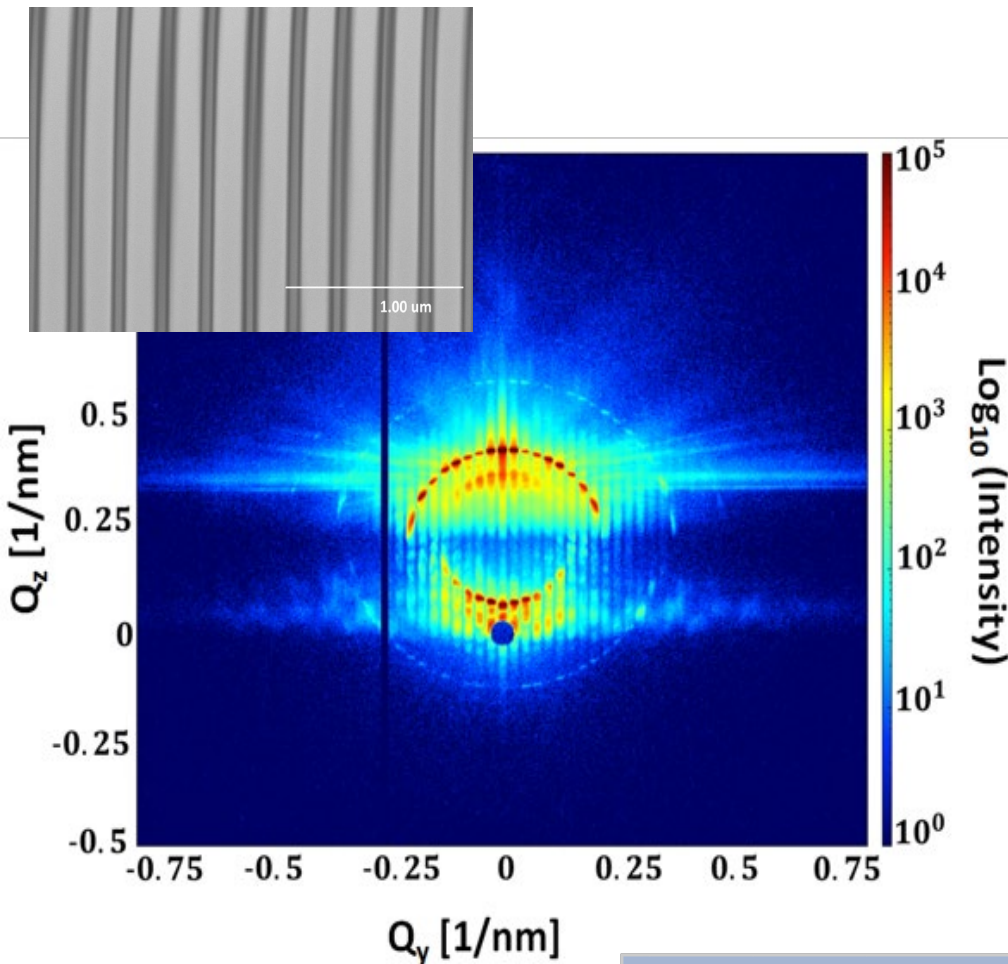


# 2D Ordered Arrays of Ferrimagnetic Cobalt Ferrite nanodots



# Directed self-assembly of magnetic nanoparticles on patterned substrates

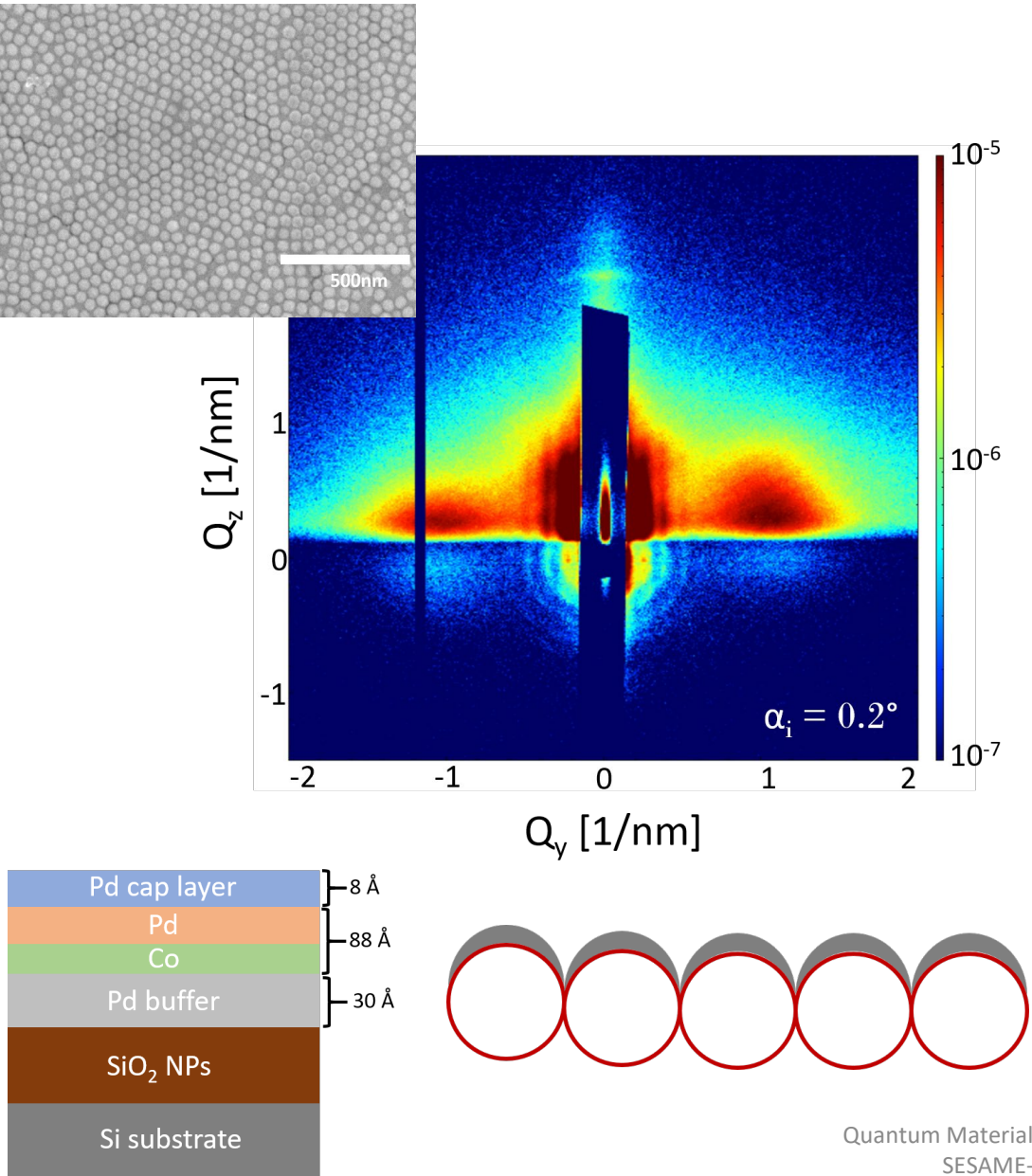
## patterned surfaces



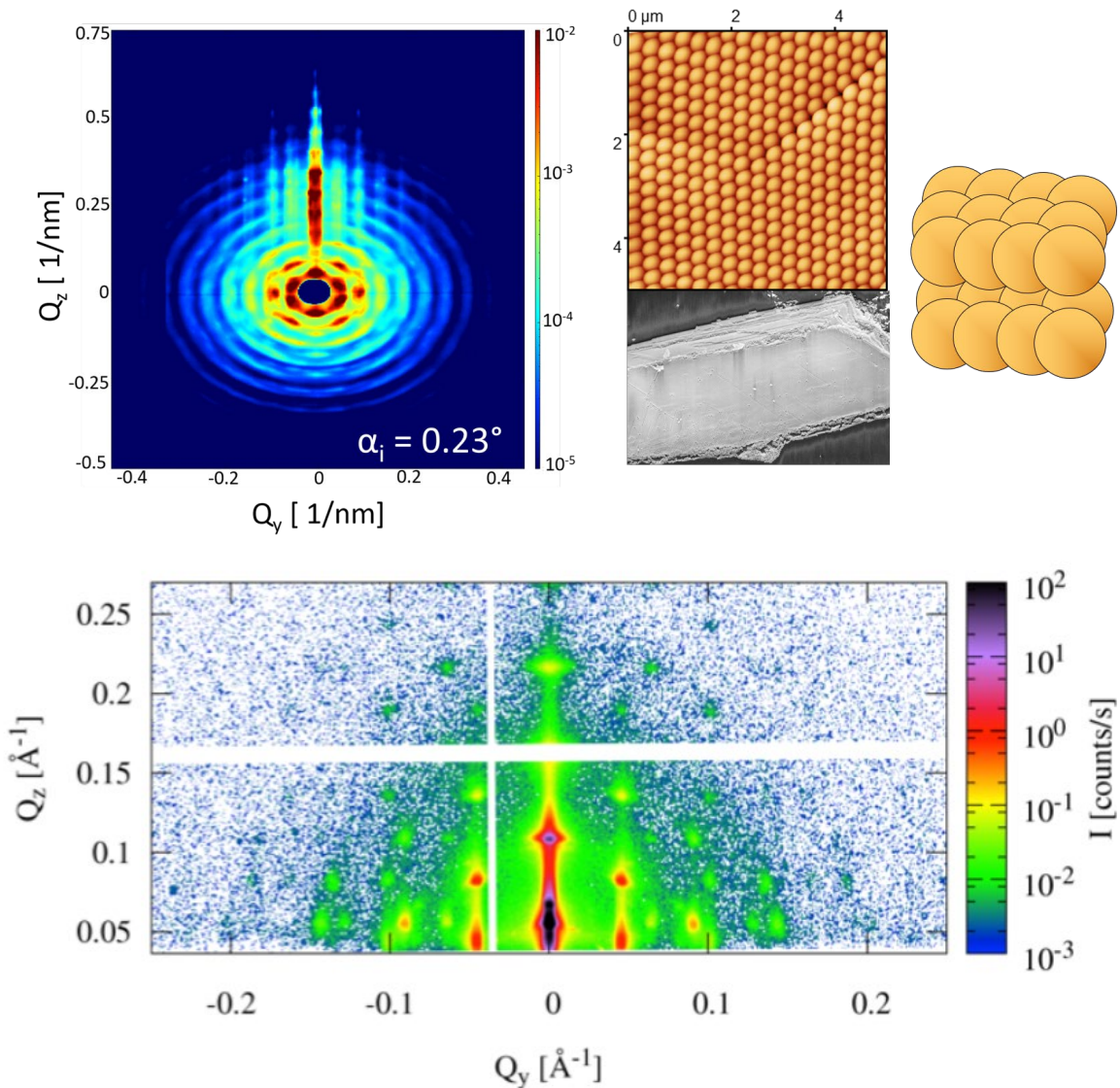
No correlation between the structural arrangement of nanoparticles and the geometry of the trench-patterned substrates



# Magnetic multilayers on Silica nanospheres



# Self-Assembled Mesocrystals of silica Nanospheres



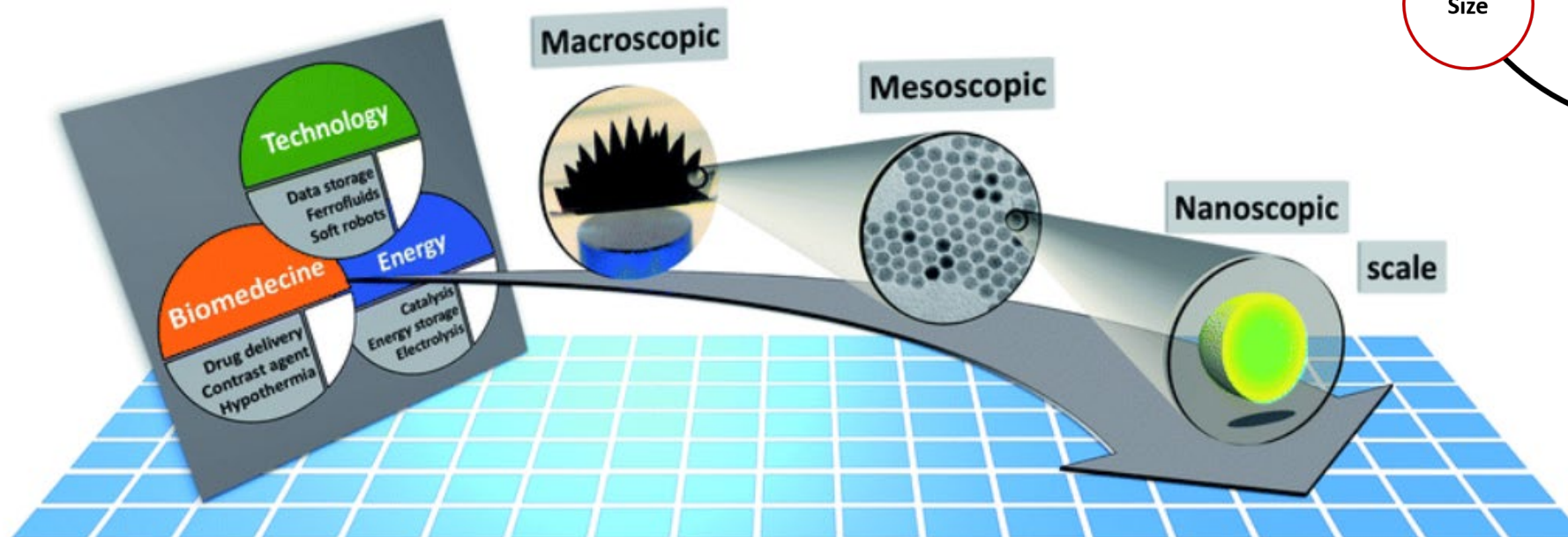
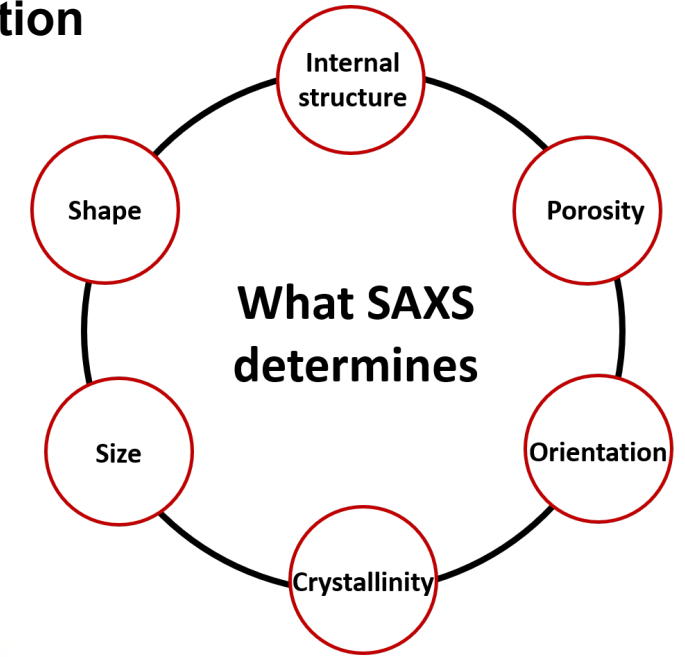
**GISAXS measurement from an assembly of magnetic nanoparticles of cubic shape deposited on a substrate**

(E. Josten et al. Nanoscale Horizons 5, 1065 (2020))



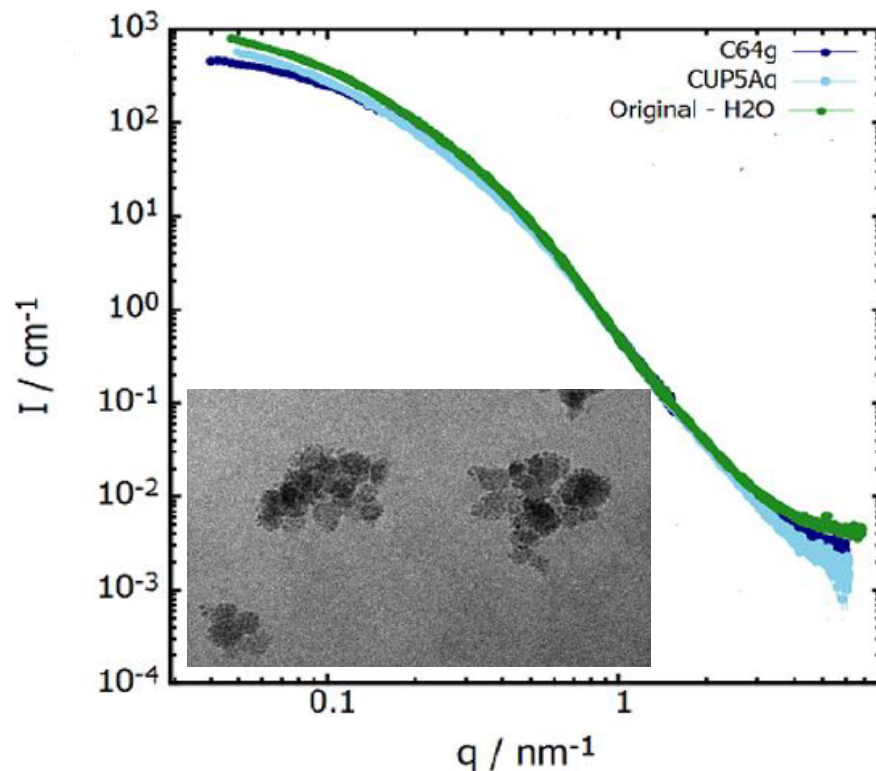
# Summary

- **SAXS / GISAXS:** open new possibilities of advanced sample characterization
- **SAXS / GISAXS :** reciprocal space analysis technique
  - non-destructive structural probe
  - Low sample preparation efforts
  - **Yields excellent sampling statistics**  
(averages over macroscopic regions to provide information on nanometer scale)



**Amal Atari**

## structural characterization of citrate coated superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles for magnetically controlled immune therapy



Time-resolved in situ PDF experiments  
during annealing

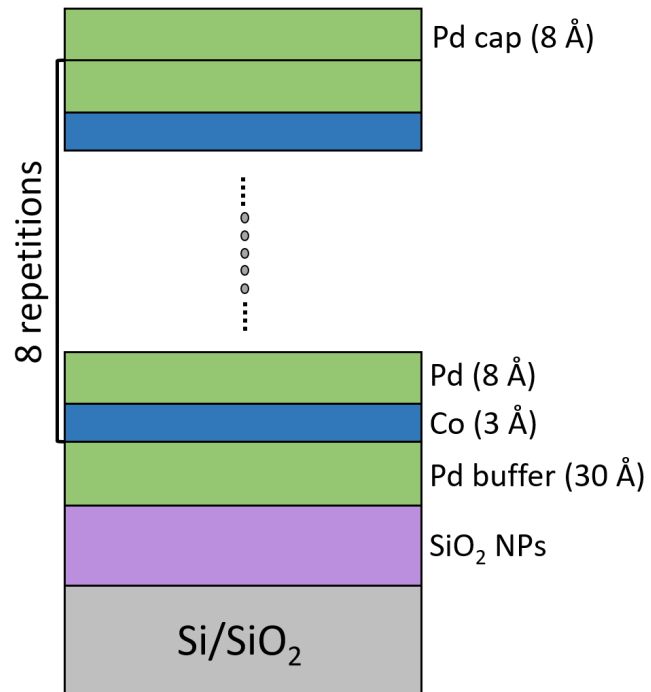


Track changes in the crystalline structure  
of the iron oxide core and determine its  
composition

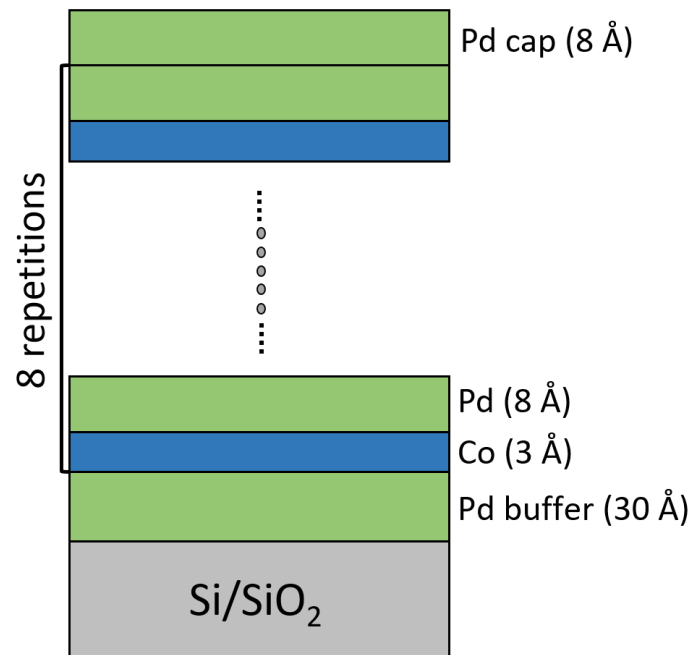
# Future plans at SESAME

## Tuning shape-imposed anisotropy via magnetic multilayers on self-organized nanospheres

**Aim:** investigate the influence of using curved surfaces as a substrate on the deposited magnetic thin film properties



**Magnetic multilayers on nanospheres**



**Magnetic multilayers on Si substrate**

Element-specific orbital magnetic moments and their anisotropies

**XMCD  
@  
ID11- HESEB**

**using** Co L-edge and Pd M-edge angle-dependent XMCD



**SAXS / WAXS / GISAXS  
beamline  
@  
SESAME**

**Future  
vision**



# 25th JCNS Laboratory Course - Neutron Scattering 2023

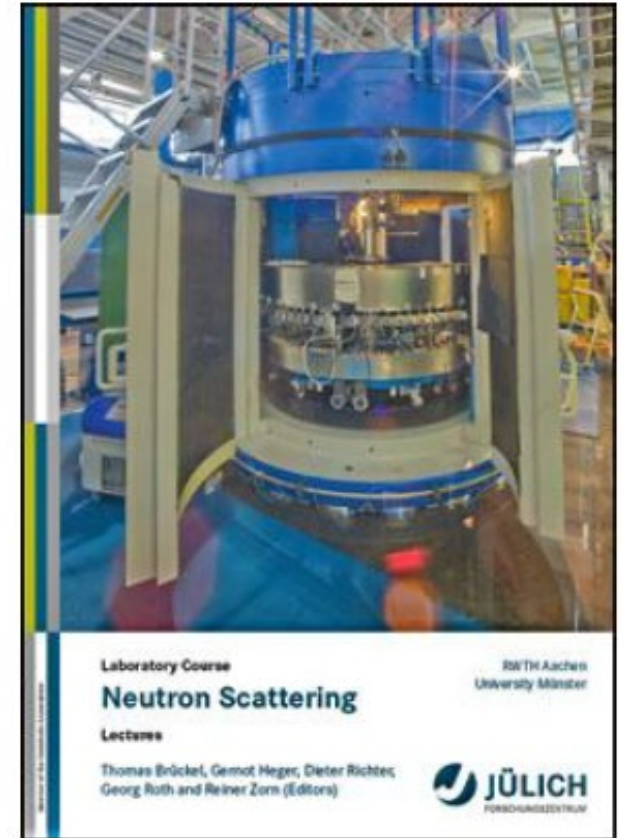


- 04 - 15 September 2023 Jülich / Garching – Germany



**Contact:** [neutronlab@fz-juelich.de](mailto:neutronlab@fz-juelich.de)

[https://www.fzjuelich.de/jcns/EN/Expertise/ConferencesAndWorkshops/LabCourse/\\_node.html](https://www.fzjuelich.de/jcns/EN/Expertise/ConferencesAndWorkshops/LabCourse/_node.html)



# Acknowledgments



Helmholtz Nanoelectronic  
Facility, HNF

**Electronic Materials (PGI-7)**



**SESAME**

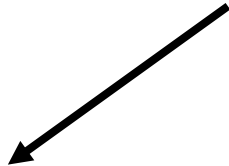
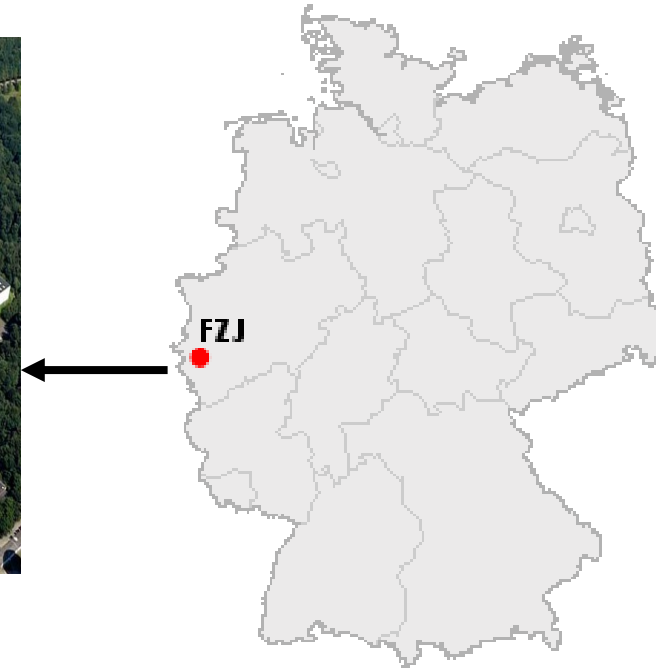
**Institute for Biological  
Information Processes (IBI-4)**



**university of  
groningen**



# *Thank you for your attention!*



If you want to perform your own SAXS  
or GISAXS or WAXS experiment with GALAXI:

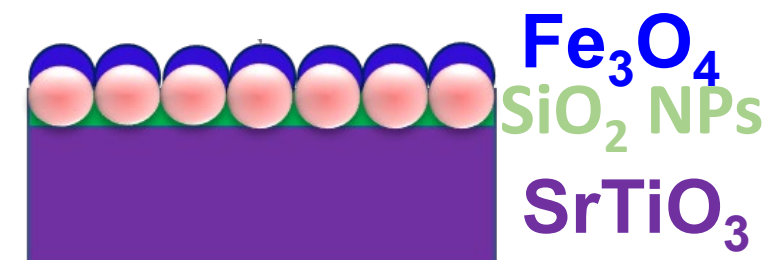
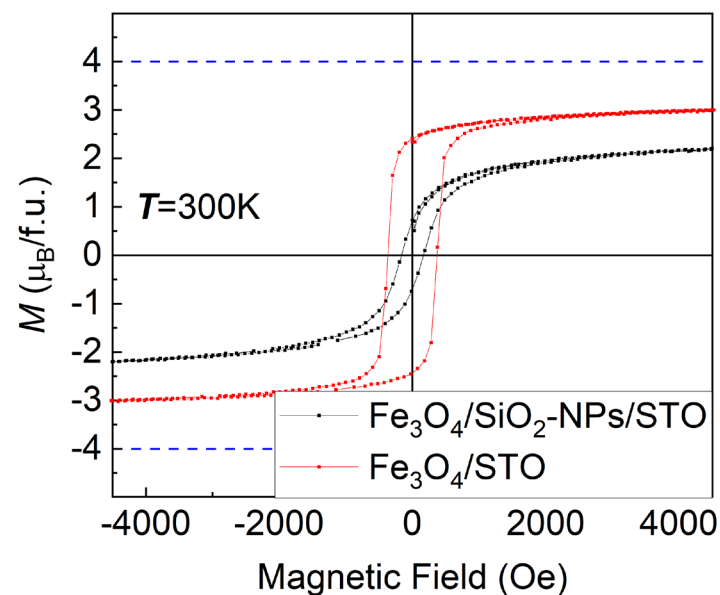
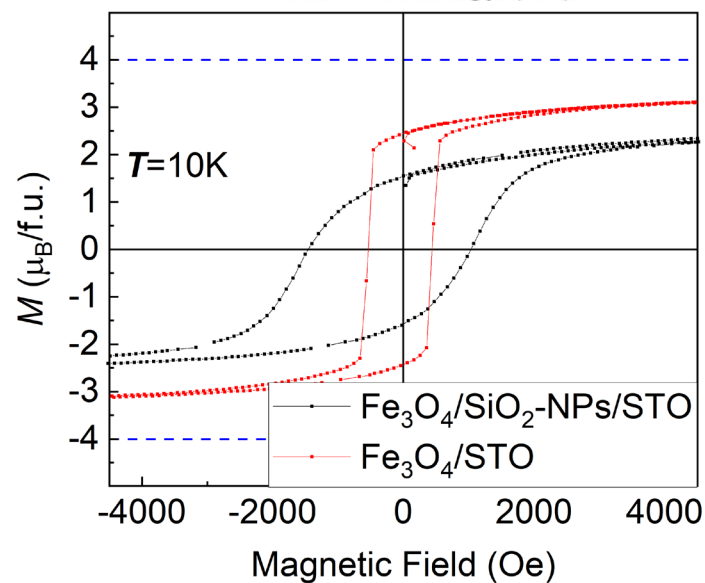
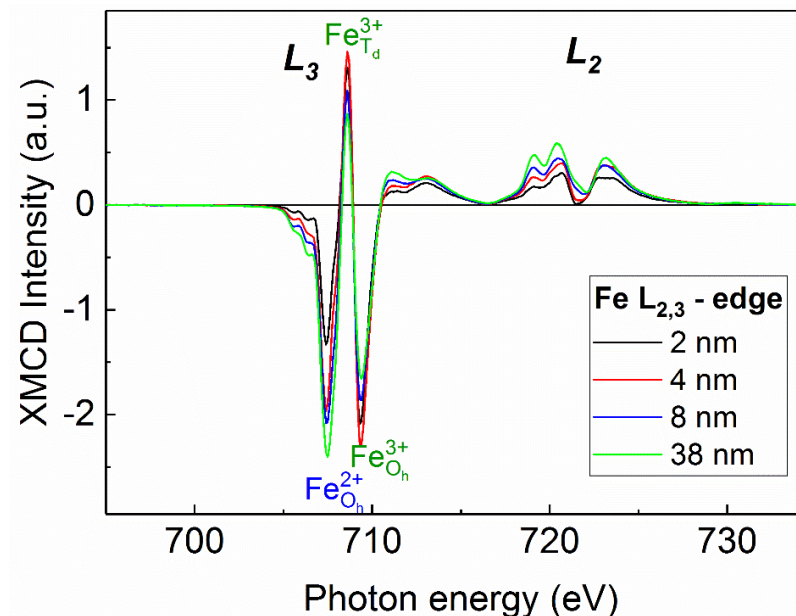
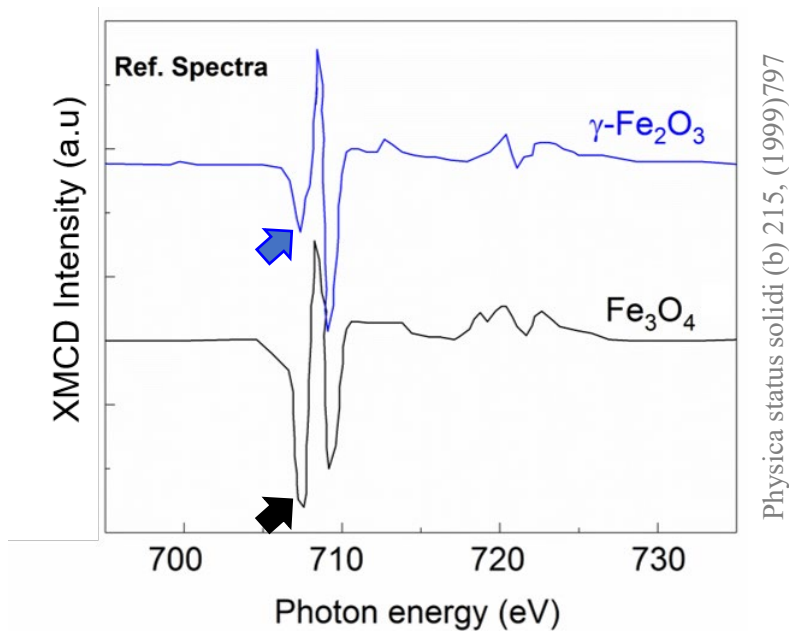
Info: <https://www.fz-juelich.de/en/jcms/jcms-2/expertise/in-house-x-ray/galaxi>

you are also welcome to e-mail me at

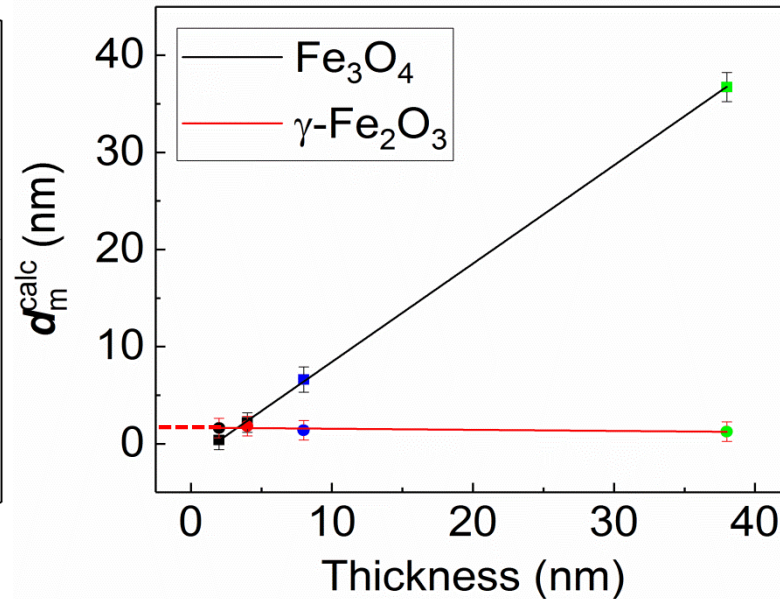
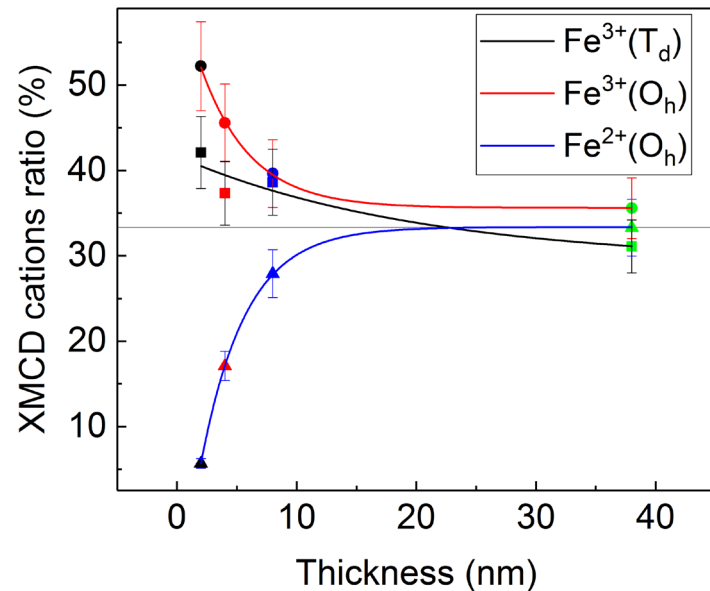
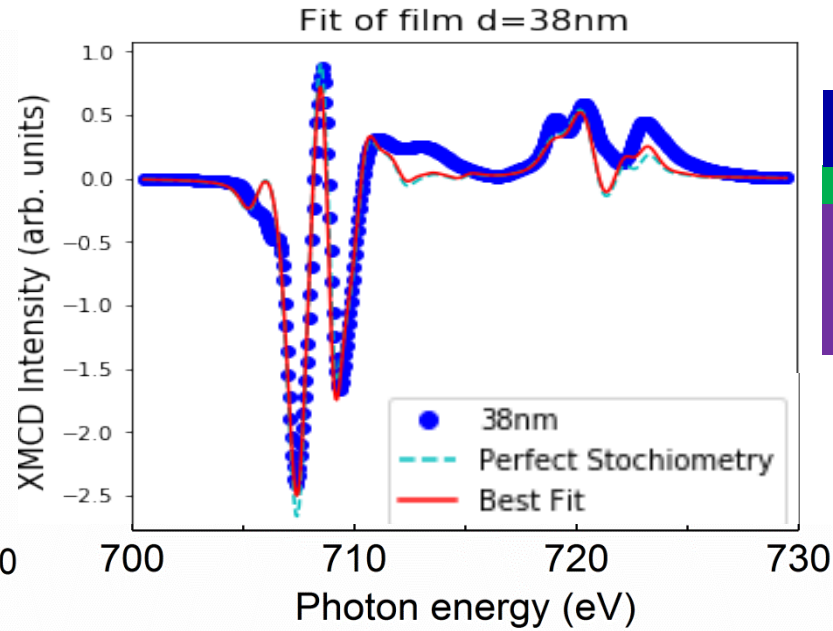
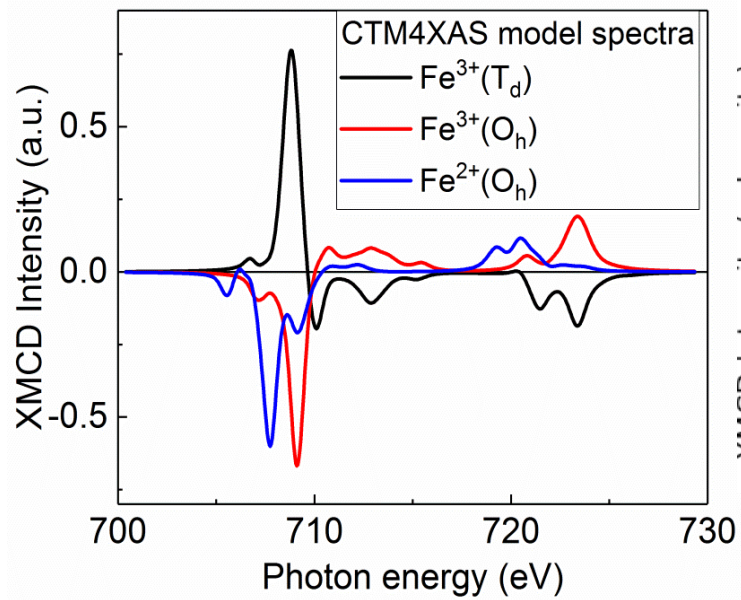
[a.qdemat@fz-juelich.de](mailto:a.qdemat@fz-juelich.de)



# Interface Magnetic Properties (XMCD)



# Intralayer Thickness (XMCD)



$\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  intralayer  
 $1.3 \pm 0.3\text{nm}$  ( $\sim 2\text{u.c.}$ )