

Neutron Protein Crystallography

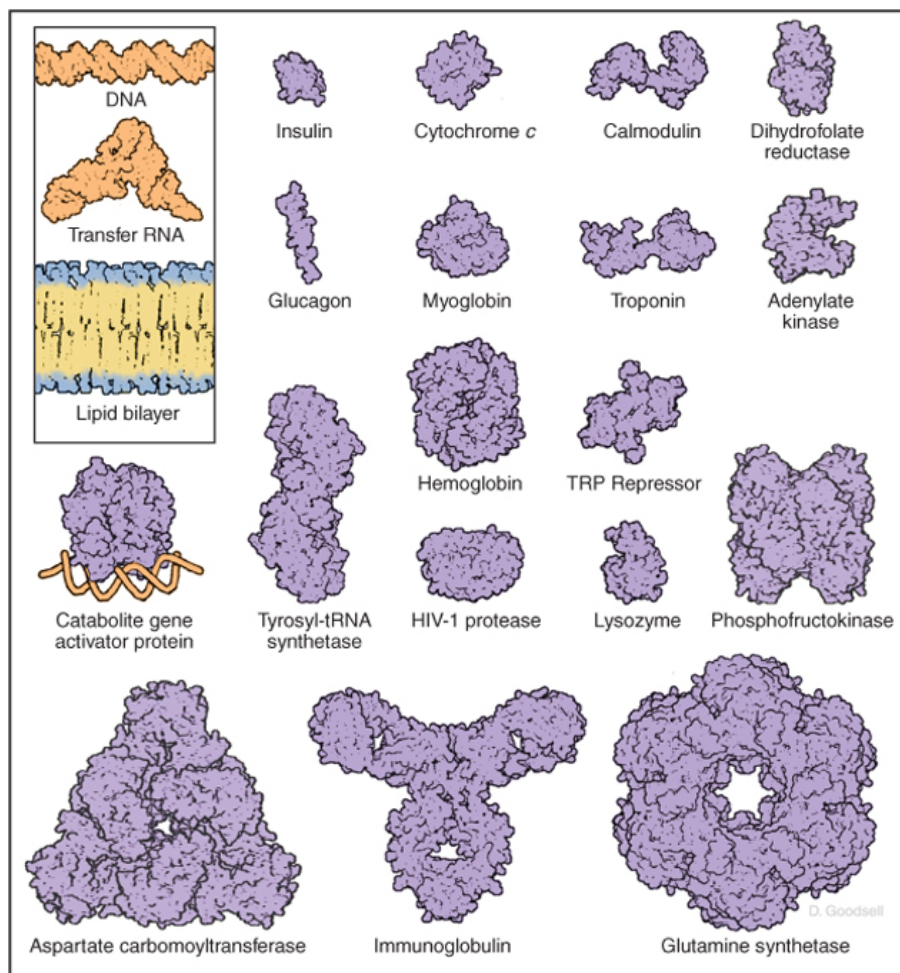
Bioschool, St. Petersburg, Russia

February 27th 2019 | [Tobias E. Schrader](#)

Outline

- Motivation: Why do we need protein structures at atomic resolution?
- x-ray protein crystallography
- neutron protein crystallography
- Theory of scattering from crystals
- One or two application examples: From Structure to function...

Proteins or structured macromolecules come in different shapes and sizes



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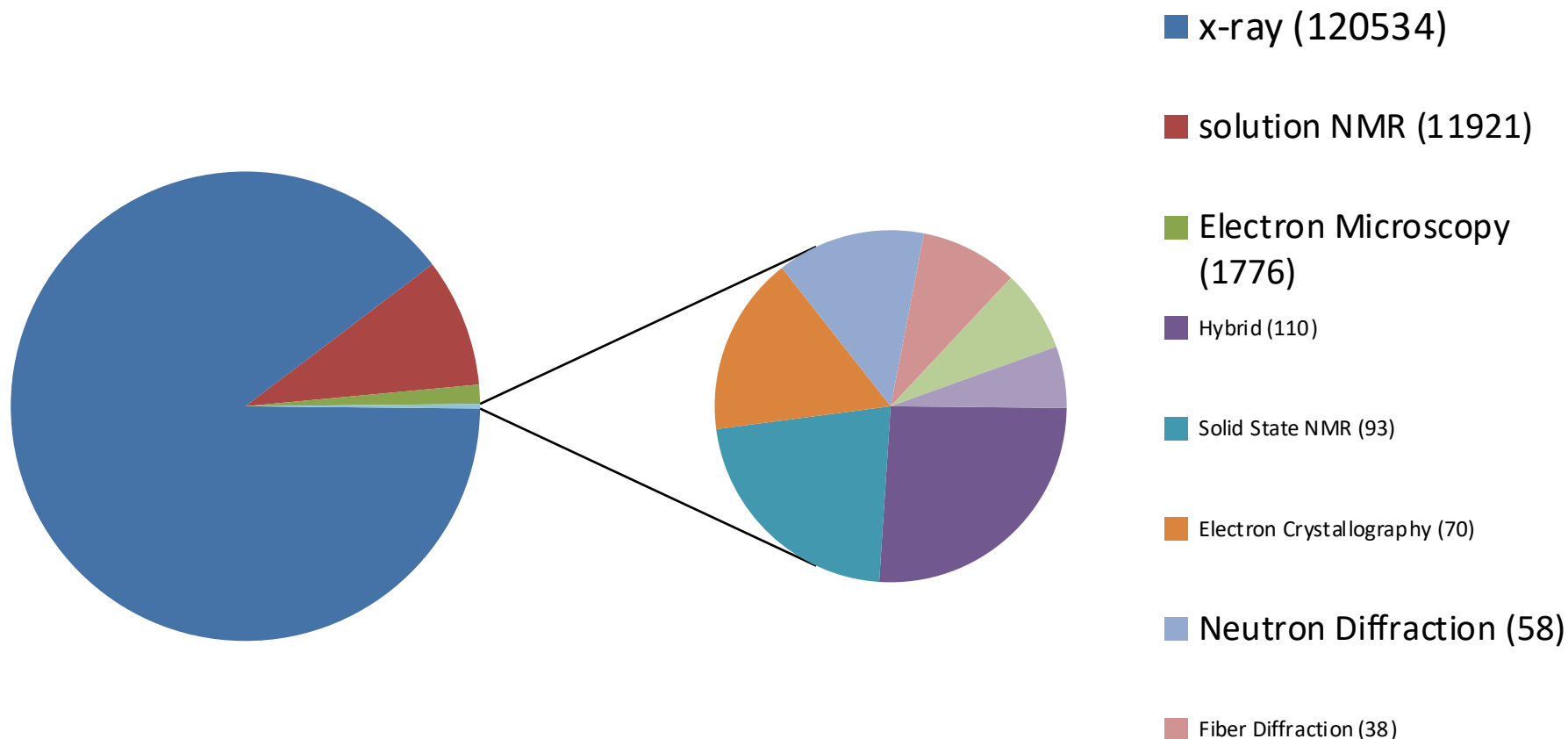
How do we find out about protein structures?

Why do we need experimental studies on proteins?

- **MD-Simulations** suffer from non-perfect force fields: Especially the **long range electrostatics** is not reproduced very well. But proteins use defined and structure related electrostatics to move the acidity constants of side chains in order to make them fulfill their tasks. MD-simulations cannot model **bond breaking** and forming very well since the quantum chemistry nature of this process is not included in the theoretical foundation of MD.
- **Ab initio quantum chemical calculations** are still **too demanding** to model the complete active centre of a protein (including its substrate)



Most structures are obtained by x-ray crystallography, available neutron structures in protein data bank: ca. 100

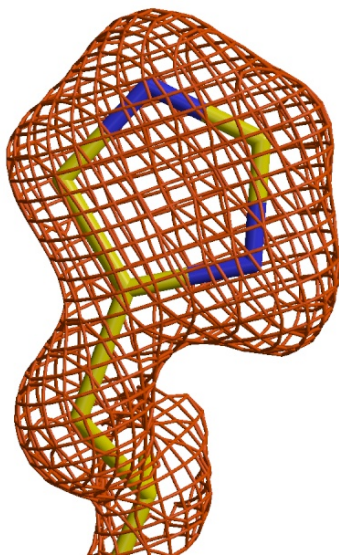


<http://www.rcsb.org/>

Total number of structures: 134656

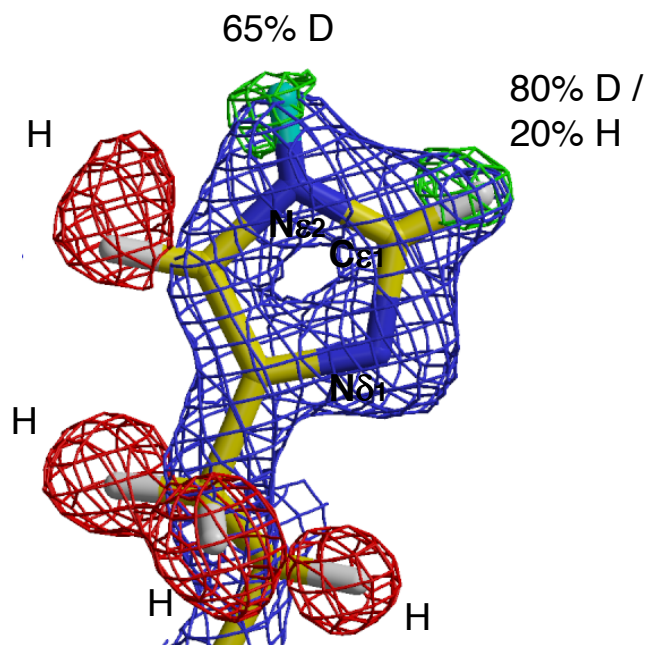
Protonation states of amino acids:

X-ray $d_{\min} = 1.5\text{\AA}$:



2Fo-Fc map; $+1.5\sigma$

neutrons $d_{\min} = 1.5\text{\AA}$:



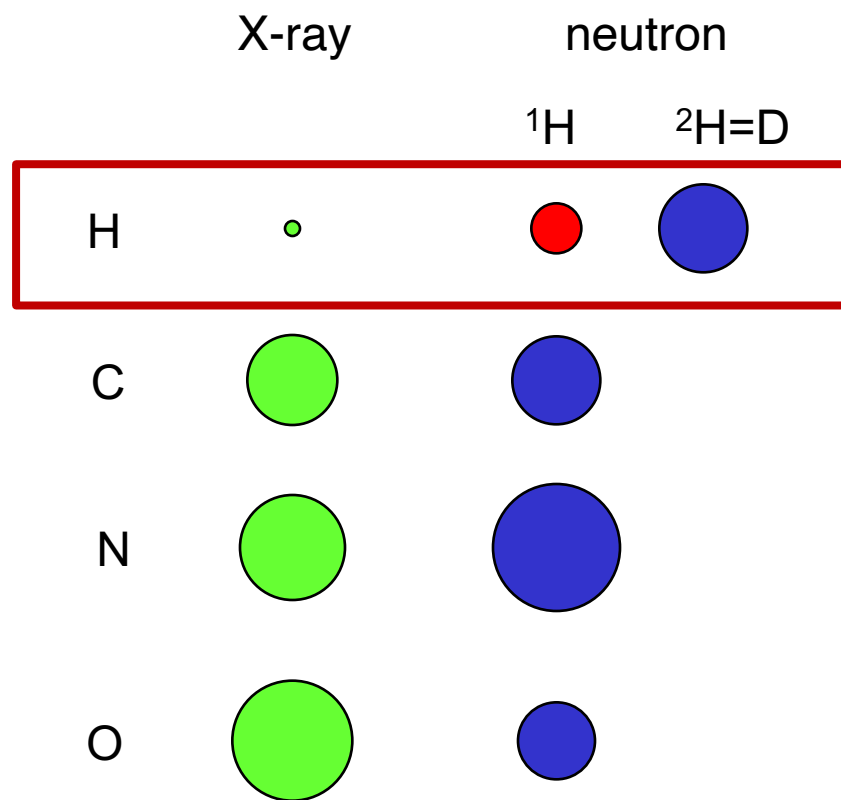
2Fo-Fc map; $+1.5\sigma$
Fo-Fc omit-map; -3.0σ
Fo-Fc omit-map; $+3.0\sigma$

Niimura N, Chatake T, Ostermann A, Kurihara K, Tanaka T. (2003) Z. Kristallogr. 218:96

Advantages of structure determination with neutrons:

Comparison of form factors (X-ray) and scattering lengths (neutrons):

Nucleus	atomic number	scattering length [10 ⁻¹² cm]
¹ H	1	-0.378
² H	1	0.667
¹² C	6	0.665
¹⁵ N	7	0.921
¹⁶ O	8	0.581



σ_{coh} of ¹H is 1.8x10⁻²⁸ m² but

σ_{incoh} of ¹H is 80.2x10⁻²⁸ m²

Large background from hydrogen atoms!

diameters correspond to:
form factor / scattering length
(scaled for C-atom)

A crystal structure according to the protein data bank (PDB)

x,y,z coordinates (Å)

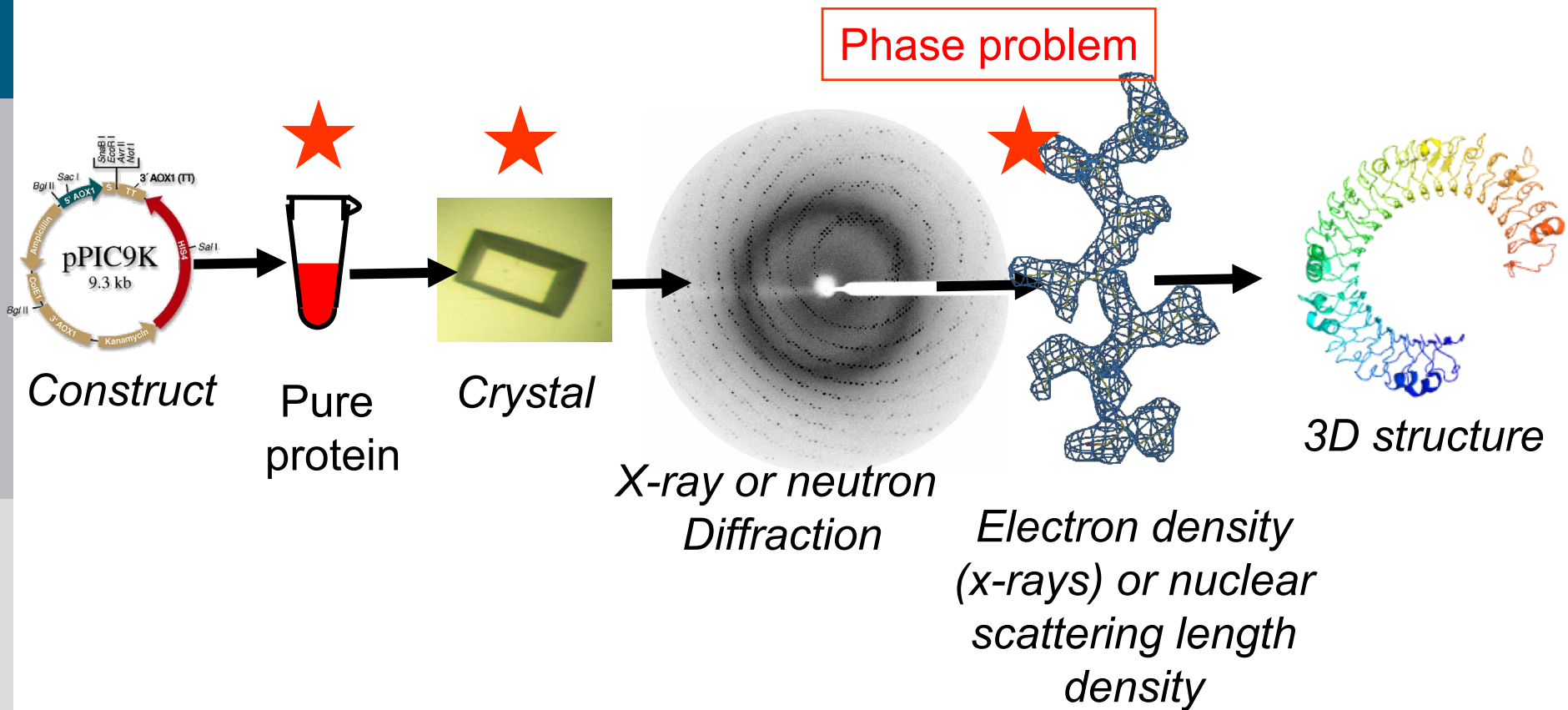
ATOM	25	N	ASP	A	928	19.062	9.157	35.067	1.00	4.73	N
ATOM	26	CA	ASP	A	928	19.770	10.123	34.232	1.00	4.58	C
ATOM	27	C	ASP	A	928	19.075	9.938	32.899	1.00	4.56	C
ATOM	28	O	ASP	A	928	19.074	8.824	32.351	1.00	5.39	O
ATOM	29	CB	ASP	A	928	21.259	9.776	34.071	1.00	3.13	C
ATOM	30	CG	ASP	A	928	22.112	10.245	35.233	1.00	5.52	C
ATOM	31	OD1	ASP	A	928	21.693	11.114	36.025	1.00	5.42	O
ATOM	32	OD2	ASP	A	928	23.239	9.742	35.349	1.00	7.93	O
ATOM	33	N	VAL	A	929	18.417	10.985	32.405	1.00	3.68	N
ATOM	34	CA	VAL	A	929	17.726	10.864	31.125	1.00	4.63	C

Isotropic B-factor or temperature factor is a measure of the mobility of an atom

$B (\text{\AA}^2) = 8\pi^2 \langle u^2 \rangle$, where $\langle u^2 \rangle$ is the mean square atomic displacement

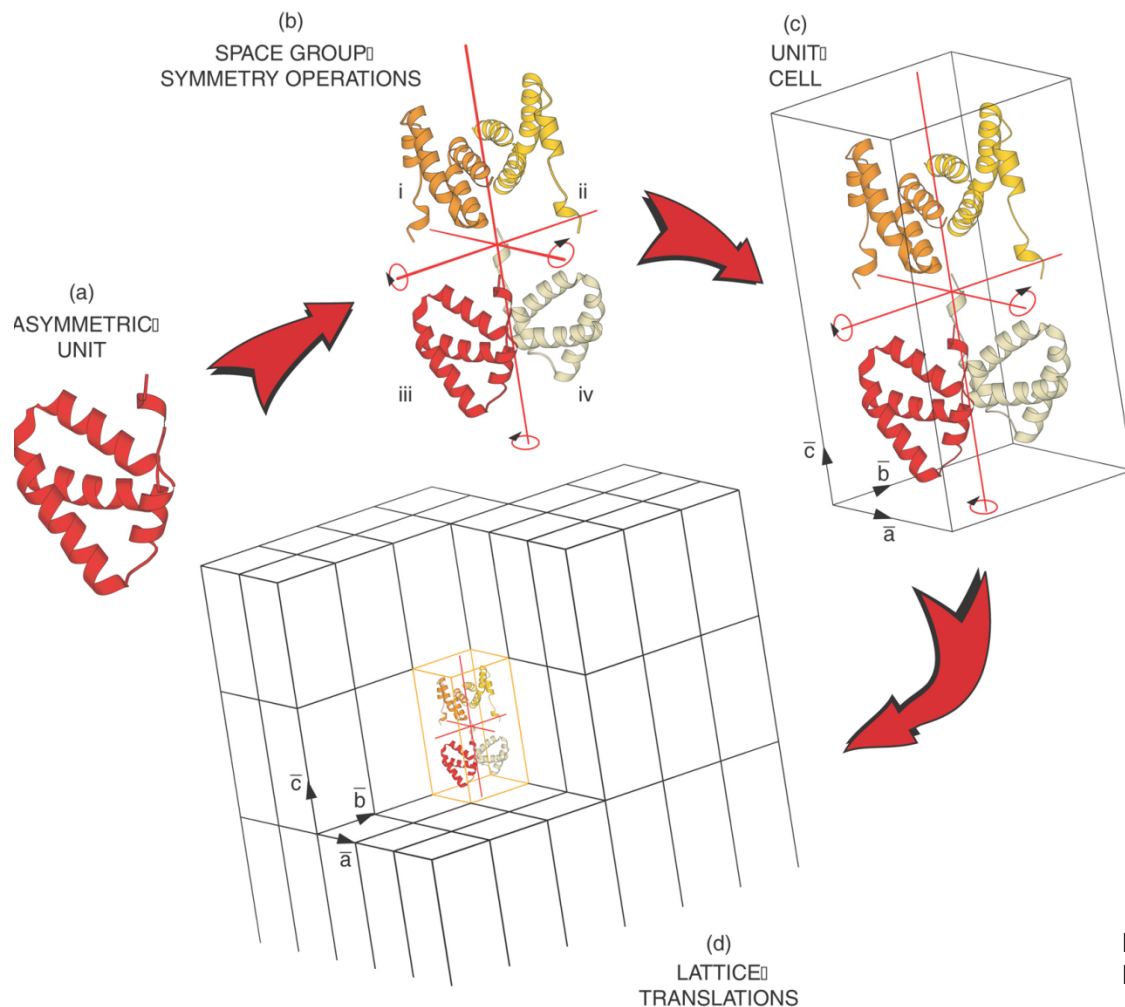
Protein crystallography in general, valid for both x-rays and neutrons as probes

Crystallography: Overview over the process



Harma Brondijk, Crystal and Structural chemistry, Utrecht University

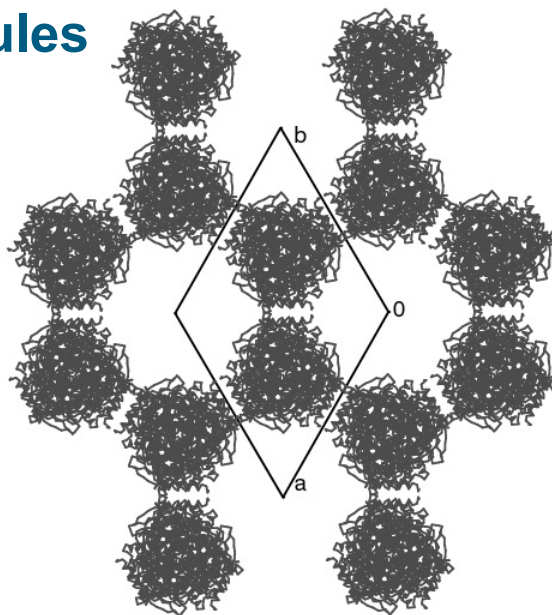
How a typical protein crystal looks like...



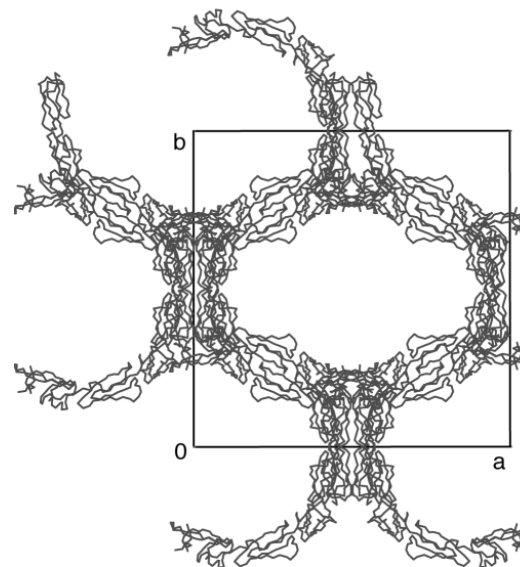
Picture taken from Lecture of
Prof. Locher at ETH Zürich

fig 2.2

Protein crystals contain a lot of solvent and are held together by a limited number of weak contacts between protein molecules



Acetylcholinesterase
~68% solvent



$\beta 2$ Glycoprotein I
~90% solvent
(extremely high!)

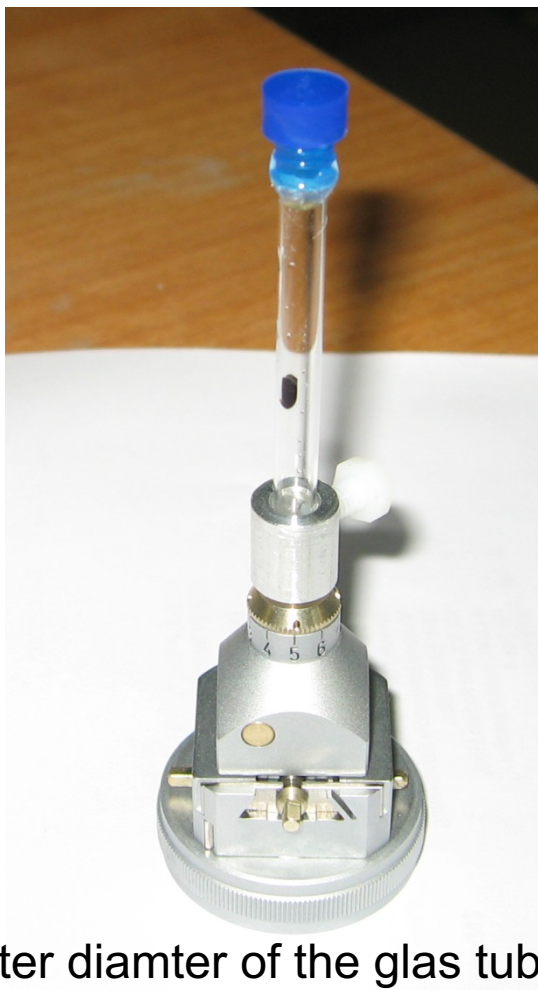
Typical solvent content 40-60%

Solvent channels allow diffusion of compounds into crystal

Often these compounds can reach the active or binding site

Often enzymes are active in crystalline state

Size considerations of protein crystals



size:

x-ray-crystallography:

ca. $10\text{ }\mu\text{m} \times 10\text{ }\mu\text{m} \times 10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$

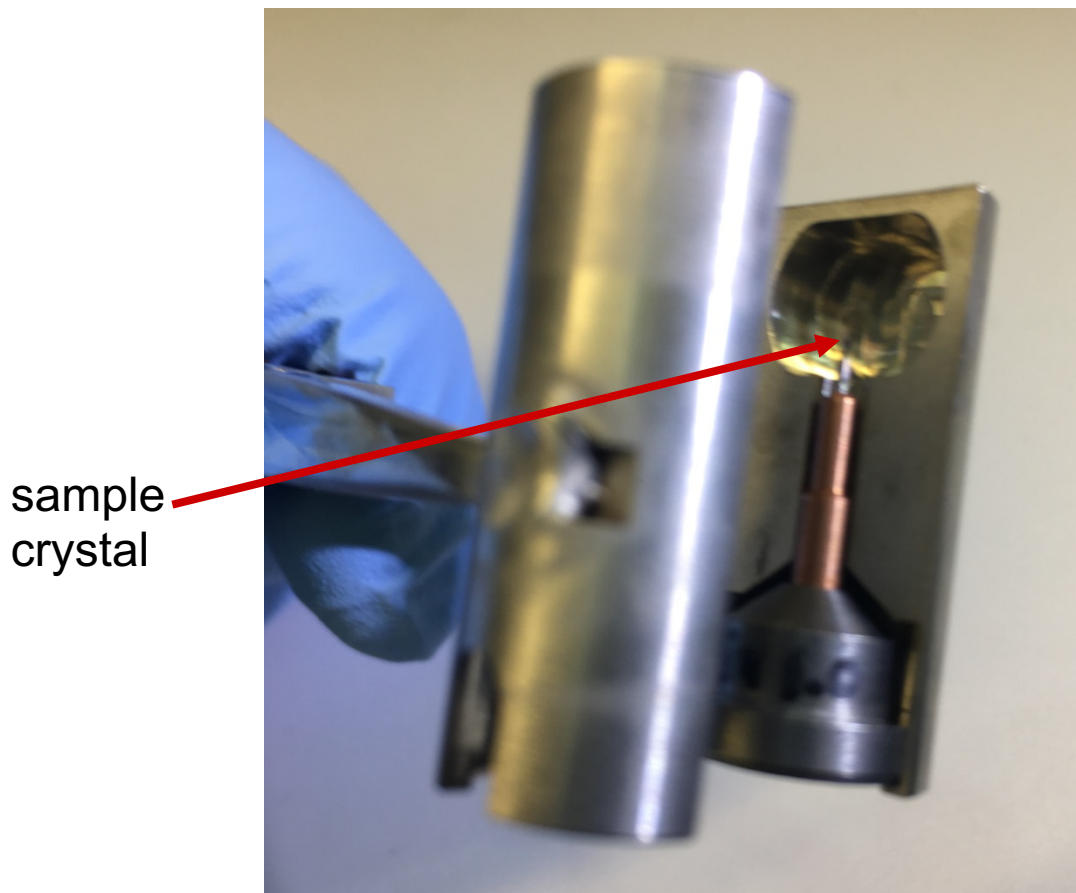
typically cryoprotectants needed to facilitate measurements at low (80 K) temperatures

neutron protein crystallography:

The desirable size should be around $1\text{ mm} \times 1\text{ mm} \times 1\text{ mm}$ (depending on the protein/space group)

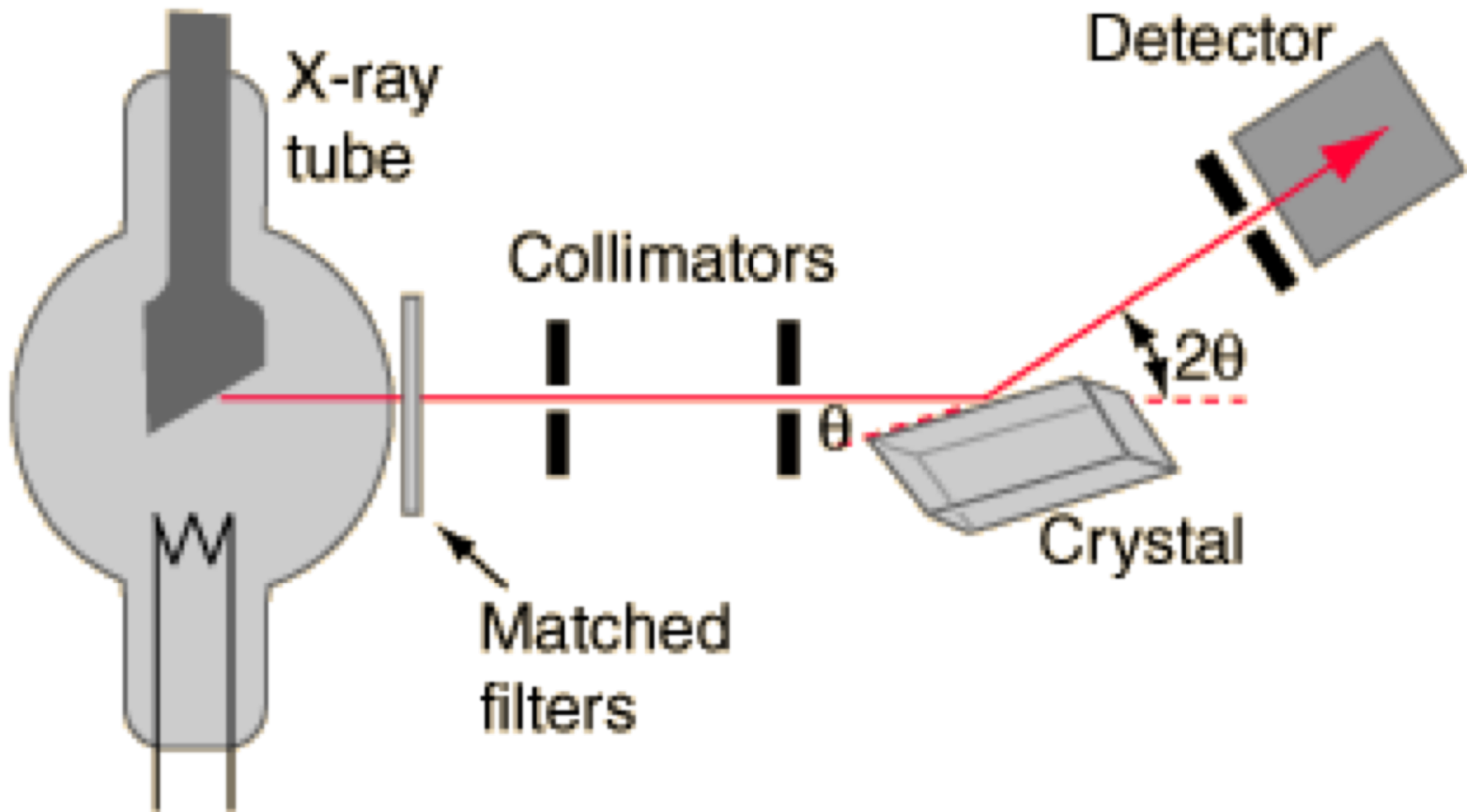
Outer diameter of the glass tube: 5 mm

Cryo-mounting of large crystals

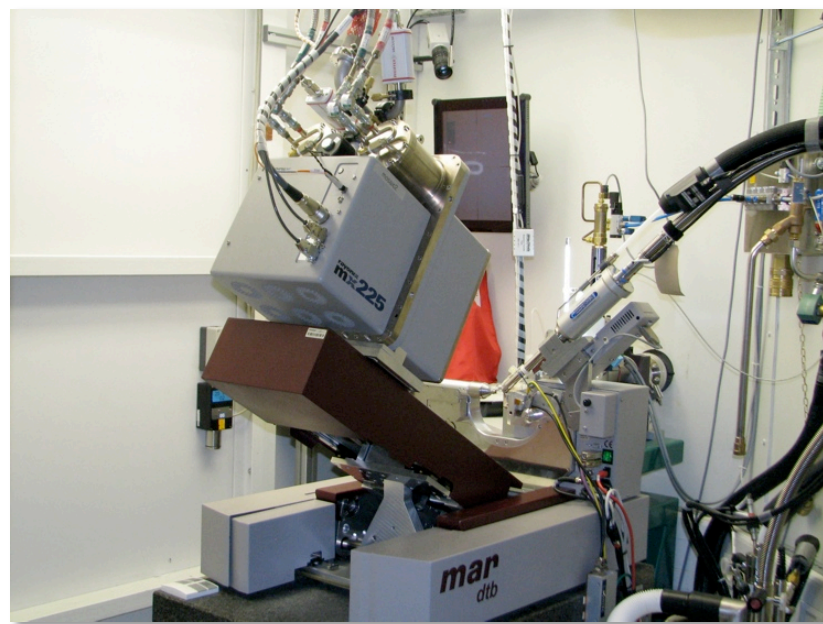
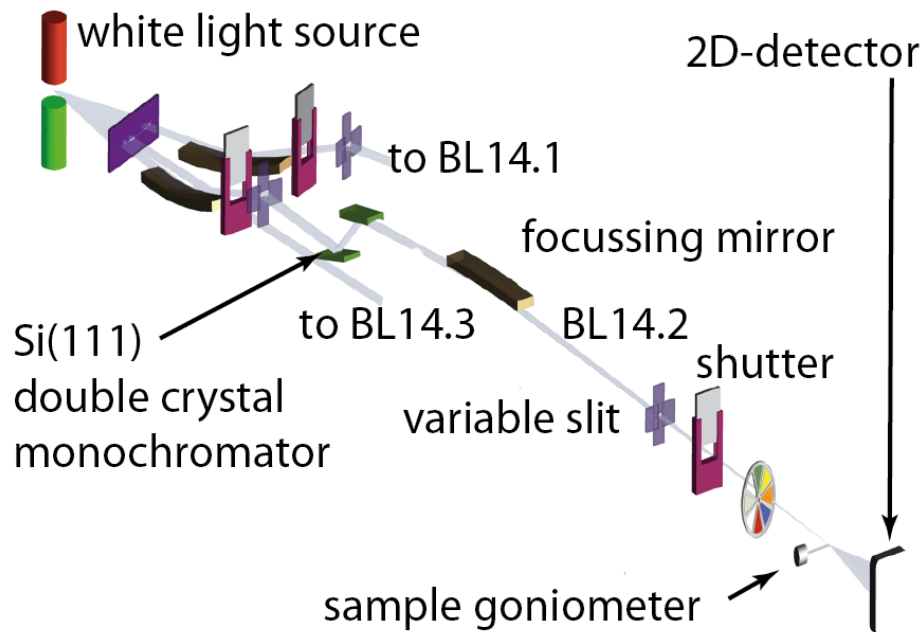


- Avoid hydrogenated polymers in the loop, use capton (Mitigen) or carbon meshes instead (especially when you have a fully deuterated protein)
- Make sure that your crystal fits into the cryoTong: We prefer the 18 mm one.

Experimental set up (in case of x-rays but similar in the case of neutrons):

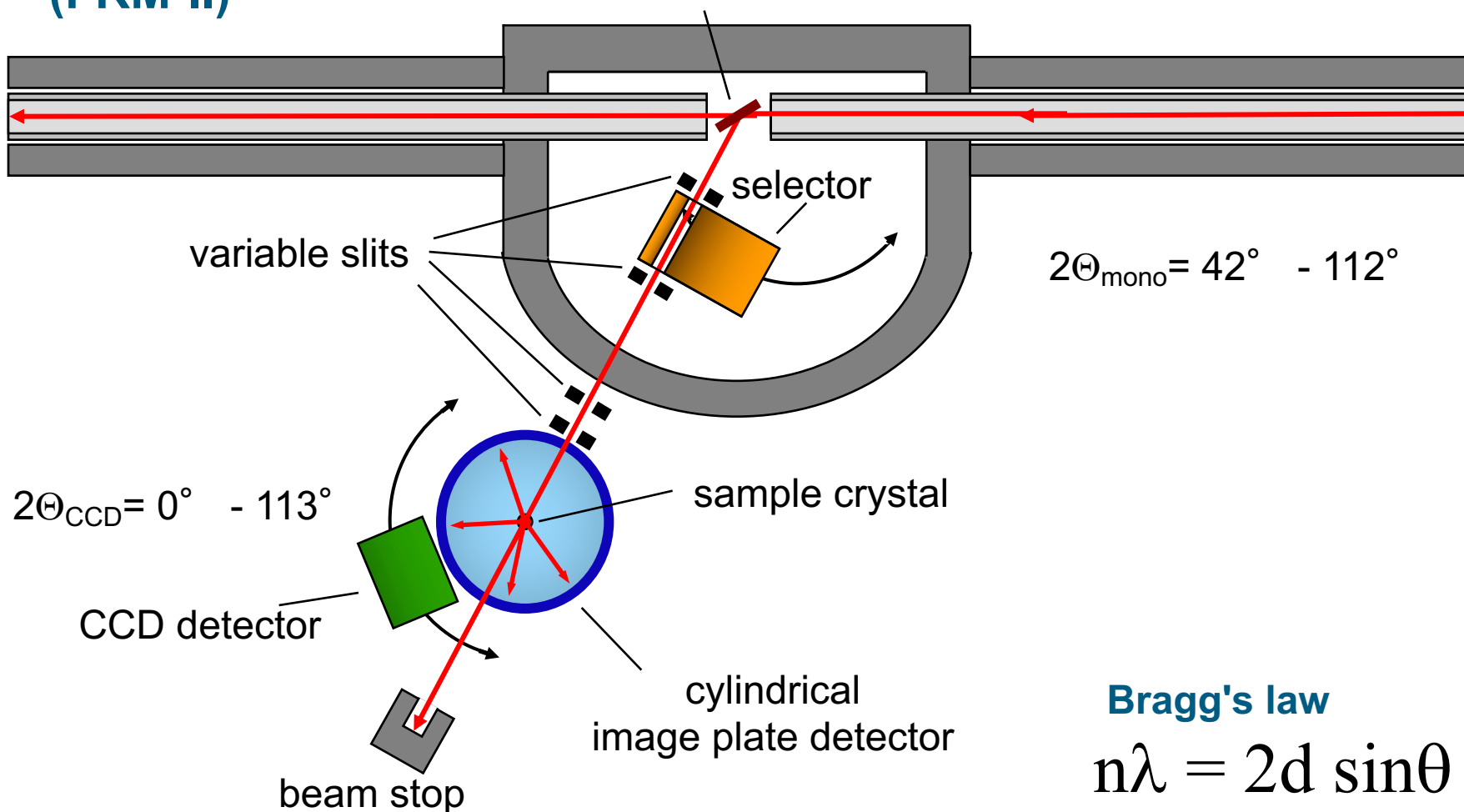


Typical x-ray protein crystallography beamline: BL 14.2 at Bessy (Berlin) run by Manfred Weiss



length scale ca. 0.5 m

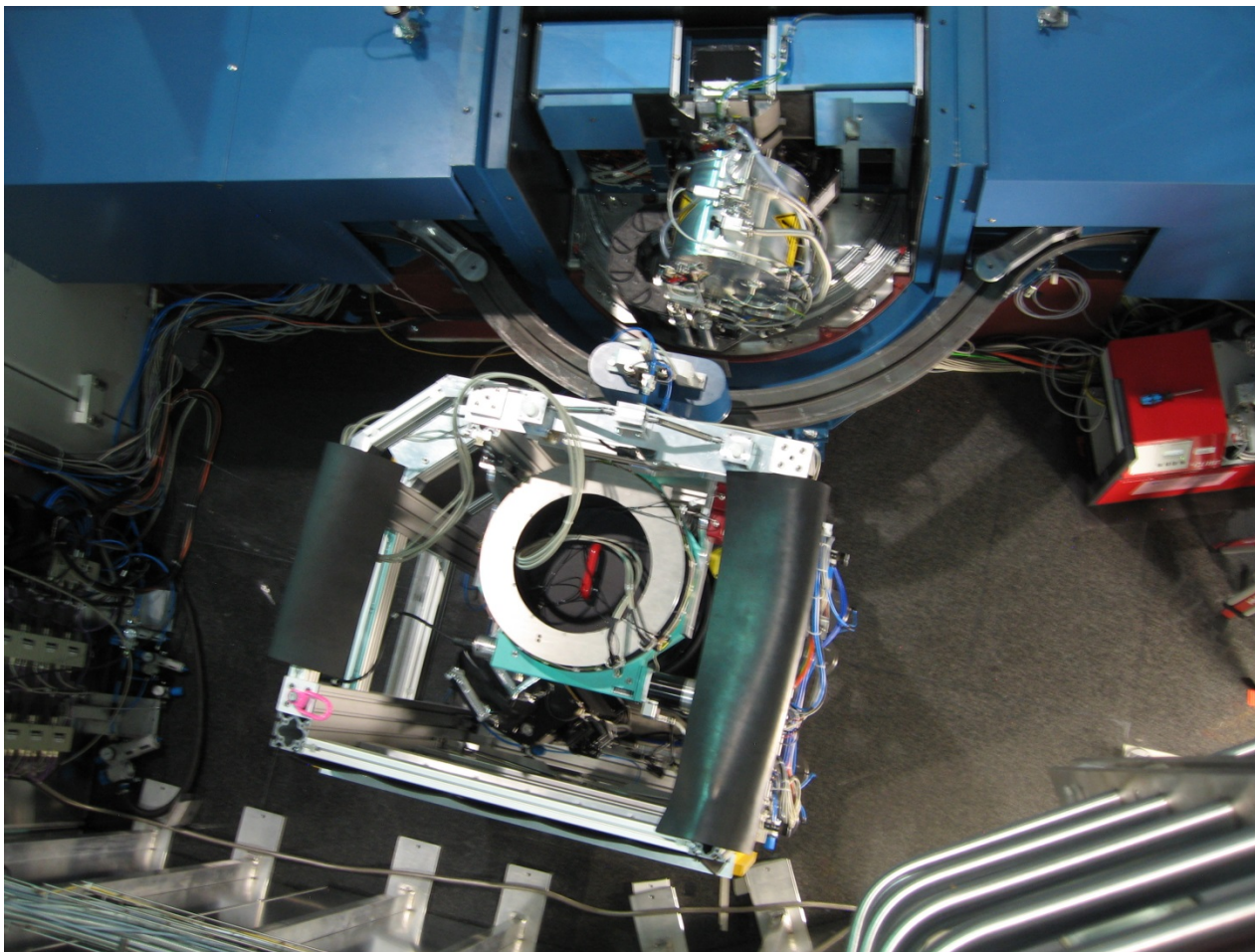
Schematic overview over BioDiff: A neutron protein diffractometer: collaboration between JCNS and TUM (FRM-II)



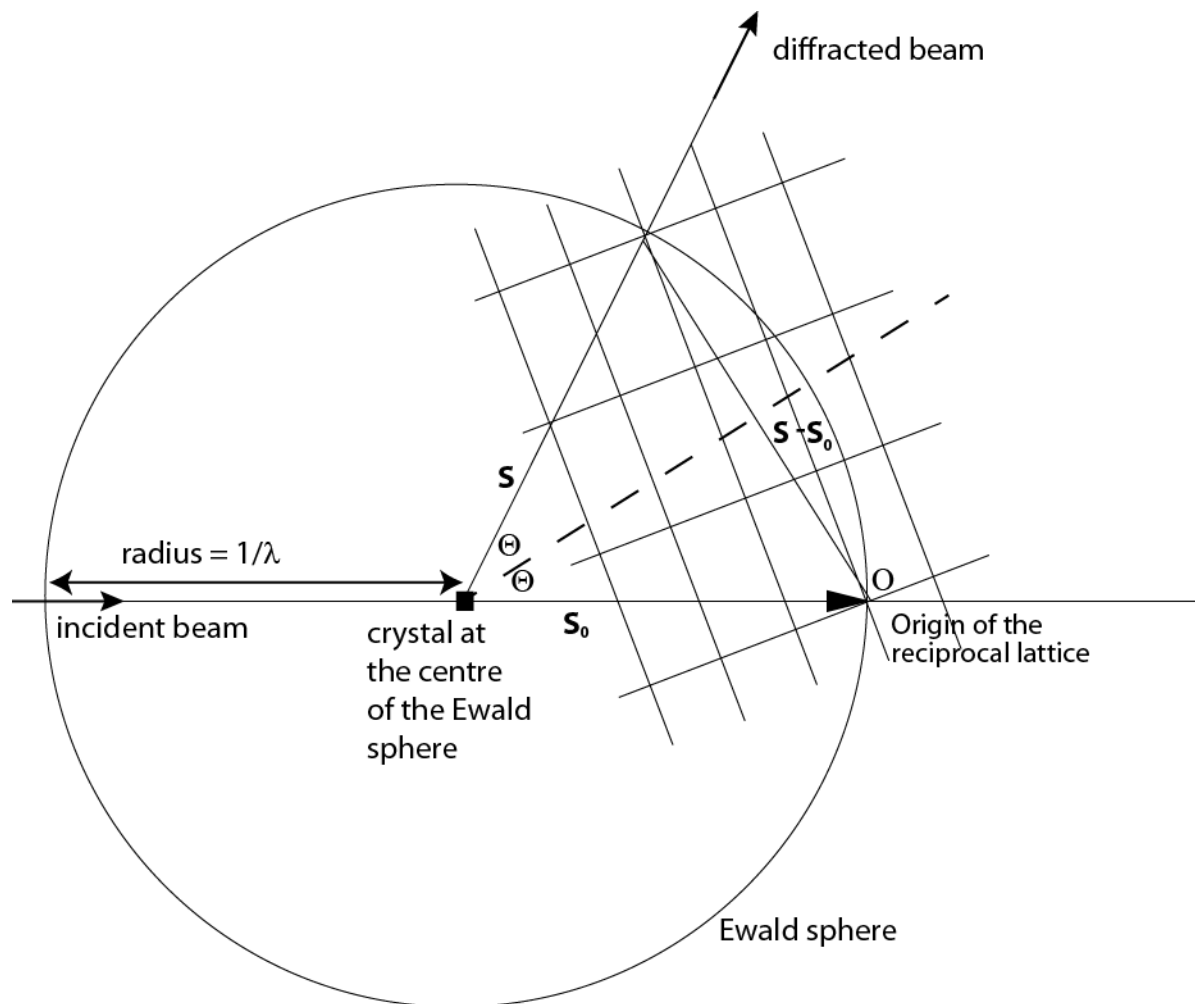
Bragg's law

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

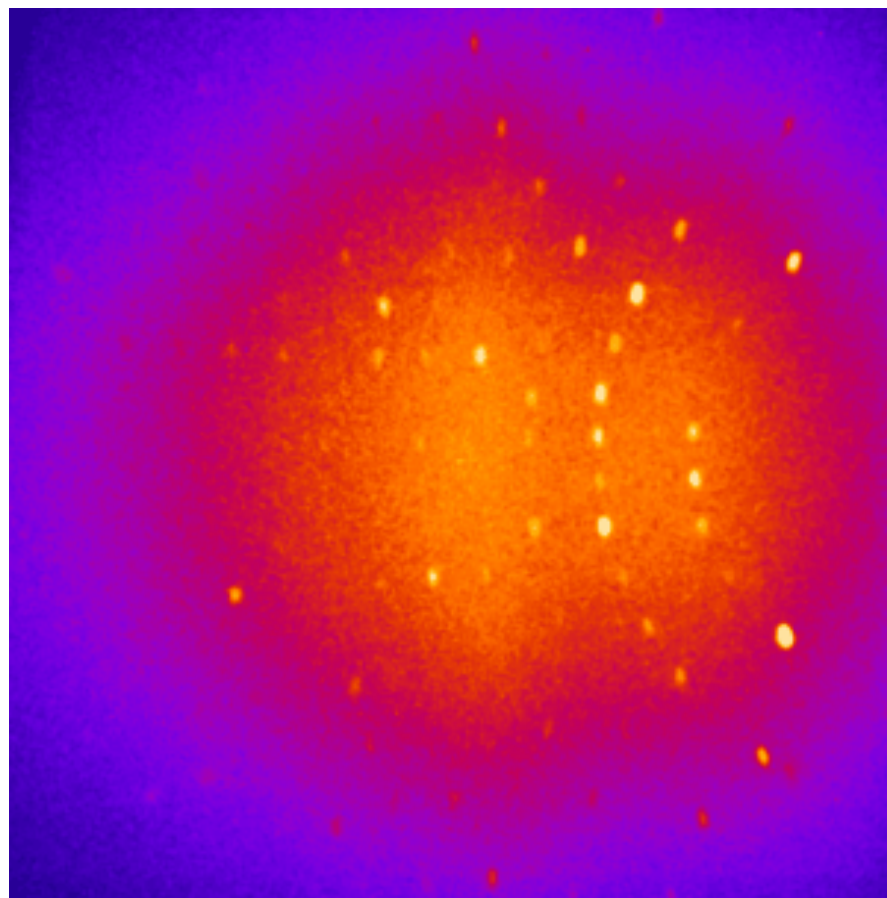
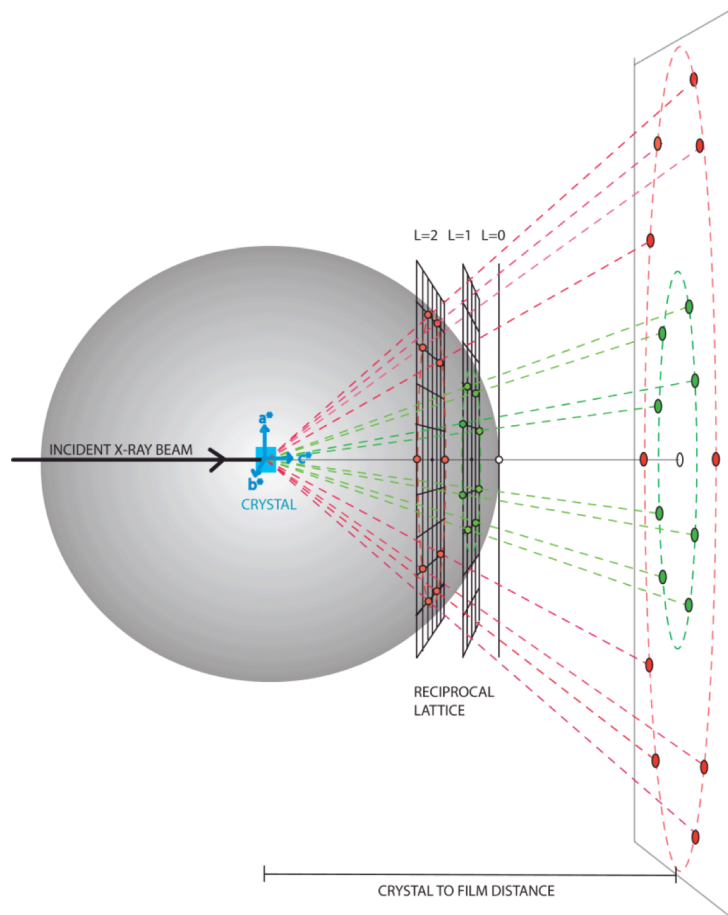
BioDiff, the corresponding view in reality:



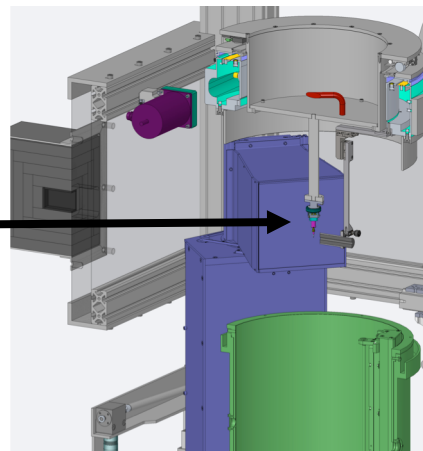
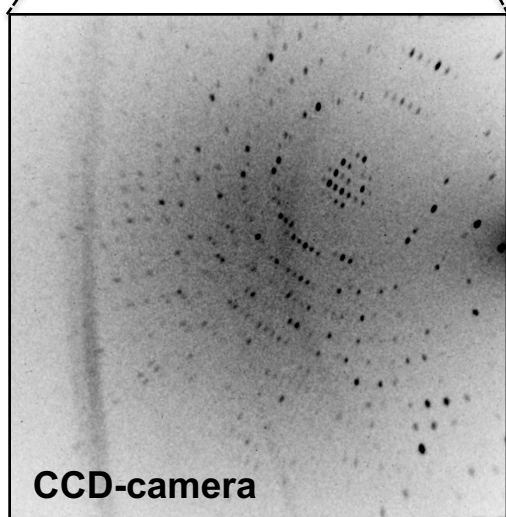
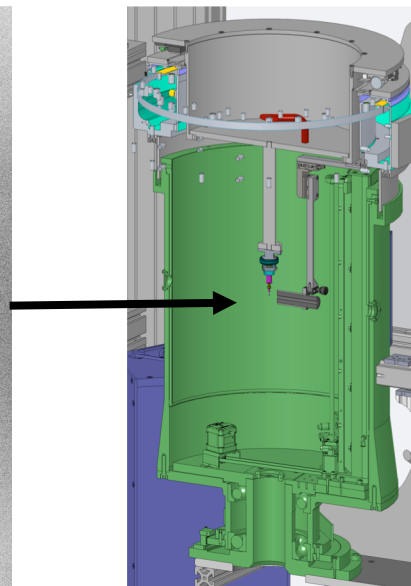
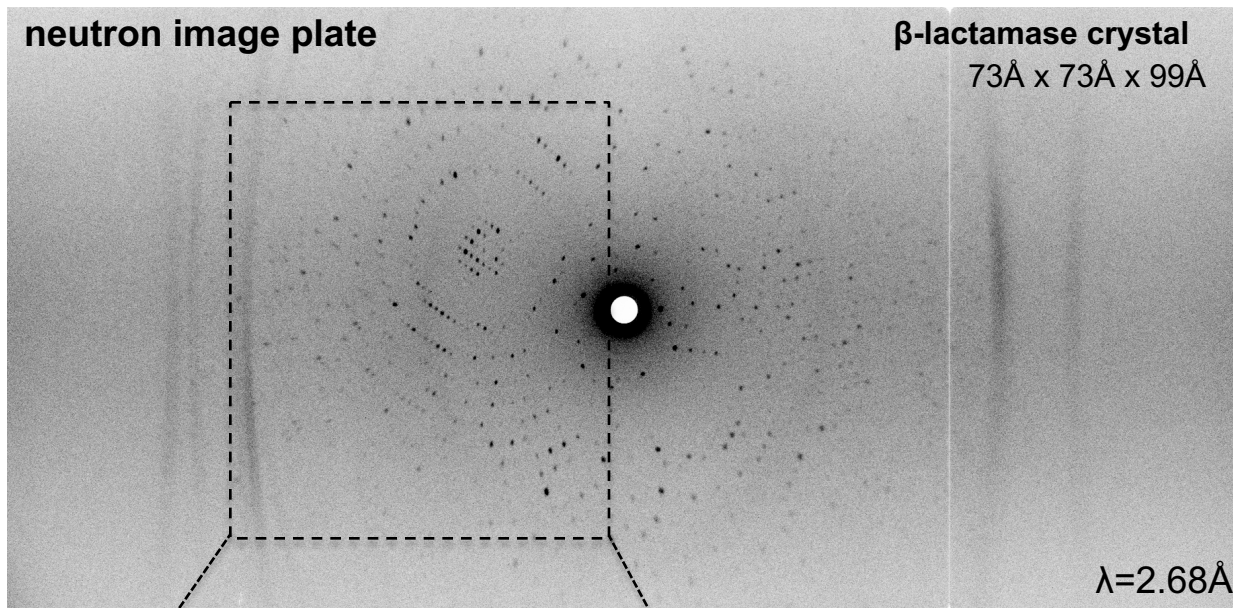
Ewald construction and Bragg's Law



Myoglobin protein crystal (deuterated mother liquor) full data set recorded with CCD



BioDiff: exposure time per frame: 20 minutes,
sample: Myoglobin in deuterated mother liquor



NIP-scanner

- larger solid angle
- readout time ≥ 4 min

CCD-camera

- smaller solid angle
- readout time ≥ 1 sec

Peak search with hkl DENZO

Applications Places System Sat Nov 5, 18:14 JCNLS

./309_01_001.raw

Zoom wind Write/Print A/D test Floor Up Floor Down reverse color Update pred Full scale Go Show Overfl Peak Sear Edit P.S. Help dim bright Zoom in Zoom out Int. box Diff Vec Zoom close

close Frame

Imax=1046720
I=1926
[213.8 ,563.4]

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Processing
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W. Minor
Z. Otwinowski

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jcns@phys:~/DENZO/denzo_1_96/real_data

```
File Edit View Terminal Help
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 5 18:03 309_01_001.raw
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1013 Nov 5 18:04 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat
[jcns@phys real_data]$ ls -ltr
total 16148
-rwxr--r-- 1 jcns jcns 4507524 Nov 2 18:51 Freimessen_291011_01_274_0.tif
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 2 19:01 Freimessen_291011_01_274_001.raw
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 496 Nov 2 19:03 refineone.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 474 Nov 2 19:03 refineall.dat
-rw-r----- 1 jcns jcns 467 Nov 2 19:03 cr_info
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 626060 Nov 2 19:03 denzo
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 325804 Nov 2 19:03 xdisp
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1049 Nov 2 19:05 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1269 Nov 2 19:07 peaks.file
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 441 Nov 2 19:09 refineone.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 14288 Nov 2 19:13 hklpredictions
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1013 Nov 5 18:04 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 5 18:11 309_01_001.raw
[jcns@phys real_data]$
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jcns@phys:~/DENZO/denzo_1_96/real_data

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File Edit View Terminal Help
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1047 Nov 2 19:03 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 496 Nov 2 19:03 refineone.dat
```

Reaktor-Info: Forschungs-Neutronenquelle Heinz Maier-Leibnitz (FRM II) - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.frm2.tum.de/intern/funktionen/reaktor-info/index.html

Most Visited Release Notes Fedora Project Red Hat Free Content

Reaktor-Info: Forschungs-Neutronenquelle Heinz Maier-Leibnitz (FRM II) - Mozilla Firefox

Telefondatenbank (intern)

Kontenverwaltung

Raumverwaltung

Raumbuchung GRS

Reaktor-Info

Webmail

19.8 MW

Shutterstellung NL-Anlage

jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... Reaktor-Info: Forschun... ./309_01_001.raw Untitled window

auto-index

Applications Places System Sat Nov 5, 18:24 JCS

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close Frame

Imax=1046720
I=1885
[298.6, 566.6]
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W. Minor
Z. Otwinowski

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jcns@phys:~/DENZO/denzo_1_96/real_data

File Edit View Terminal Help

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autoindex unit cell 35.44 31.09 64.92 90.00 105.53 90.00
crystal rotx, roty, rotz -112.379 87.484 0.804
Autoindex Xbeam, Ybeam 225.65 490.29
position 73 chi**2 x 11.35 y 8.84 pred. decrease: 0.000 * 73 = 0.0
partiality 73 chi**2 0.64 pred. decrease: 0.000 * 73 = 0.0
Angles equivalent by space group symmetry for:
vertical axis 1 0 0
spindle axis 0 0 1
crystal rotx 67.621 roty 92.516 rotz 0.804
rotz -112.379 roty 87.484 rotz -179.196
crystal rotx -112.379 roty 87.484 rotz 0.804
rotz 67.621 roty 92.516 rotz -179.196

```

jcns@phys:~/DENZO/denzo_1_96/real_data

File Edit View Terminal Help

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[jcns@phys real_data]$ ls -ltr
total 16140
-rwxr--r-- 1 jcns jcns 4507524 Nov 2 18:51 Freimessen_291011_01_274_0.tif
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 2 19:01 Freimessen_291011_01_274_001.raw
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-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 474 Nov 2 19:03 refineall.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 467 Nov 2 19:03 cr_info
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 626060 Nov 2 19:03 denzo
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 325804 Nov 2 19:03 xdisp
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1049 Nov 2 19:05 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 441 Nov 2 19:09 refineone.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1013 Nov 5 18:04 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 5 18:11 309_01_001.raw
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5029 Nov 5 18:12 peaks.file
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 3680 Nov 5 18:15 hklpredictions
[jcns@phys real_data]$ emacs auto_index_sim_spotb.dat &
[1] 23247
[jcns@phys real_data]$

```

jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... [Reaktor-Info: Forschu... ./309_01_001.raw Untitled window

d_min=2.5 Å

Applications Places System Sat Nov 5, 18:29 JCS

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File Edit View Terminal Help

partiality	286	chi**2	1.47	pred. decrease:	0.000	*	286	=	0.1
CrysZ (beam)	-5.048	shift	-0.002	error	0.024				
CrysY (vertical)	87.305	shift	0.019	error	0.052				
CrysX (spindle)	-118.356	shift	0.006	error	0.057				
Cell, a	35.15	b	31.11	c	64.76	alpha	90.00	beta	105.51
shifts	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	gamma	90.00		
errors	0.09	0.05	0.11	0.09					
CassY (vertical)	-0.365	shift	-0.035	error	0.085				
CassX (spindle)	0.070	shift	0.014	error	0.078				
distance	199.267	shift	-0.039	error	0.417				
X beam	225.944	shift	-0.014	error	0.055				
Y beam	490.208	shift	0.003	error	0.106				
Scanner skewness	0.00001	shift	0.00000	error	0.00041				
Y scale	-0.99962	shift	-0.00015	error	0.00076				
Crossfire y	1.097	shift	0.000	error	0.075				
Crossfire x	1.131	shift	-0.017	error	0.079				
Crossfire xy	-0.001	shift	0.008	error	0.086				

jcns@phys:~/DENZO/denzo_1_96/real_data

File Edit View Terminal Help

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-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 2 19:01 Freimessen 291011_01_274_001.raw
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 496 Nov 2 19:03 refineone.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 474 Nov 2 19:03 refineall.dat
-rw-r----- 1 jcns jcns 467 Nov 2 19:03 cr_info
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 626060 Nov 2 19:03 denzo
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 325804 Nov 2 19:03 xdisp
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1049 Nov 2 19:05 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 441 Nov 2 19:09 refineone.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1013 Nov 5 18:04 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 5 18:11 309_01_001.raw
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5029 Nov 5 18:12 peaks.file
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 3680 Nov 5 18:15 hklpredictions
[jcns@phys real_data]$ emacs auto_index_sim_spotb.dat &
[1] 23247
[jcns@phys real_data]$ emacs auto_index_sim_spotb.dat &
[2] 23304
[1] Done
[jcns@phys real_data]$ emacs auto_index_sim_spotb.dat
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jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... [Reaktor-Info: Forschu... /309_01_001.raw Untitled window [emacs@phys]

d_min=1.5 Å

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dim bright Zoom out Int. box Diff Vec Zoom close

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I=1799

[334.6 ,390.6]

HKL Processing System

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jcns@phys:~/DENZO/denzo_1_96/real_data

File Edit View Terminal Help

partiality 726 chi**2 1.27 pred. decrease: 0.006 * 726 = 4.0

CrysZ (beam) -3.384 shift -0.007 error 0.018

CrysY (vertical) 87.333 shift -0.028 error 0.031

CrysX (spindle) -116.653 shift -0.004 error 0.029

Cell, a 35.14 b 31.11 c 64.67 alpha 90.00 beta 105.57 gamma 90.00

shifts -0.04 0.00 -0.04 0.04

errors 0.02 0.01 0.03 0.03

CassY (vertical) -0.171 shift 0.065 error 0.045

CassX (spindle) 0.189 shift 0.041 error 0.036

distance 199.392 shift -0.004 error 0.133

X beam 226.058 shift 0.052 error 0.048

Y beam 490.238 shift 0.010 error 0.073

Scanner skewness -0.00022 shift -0.00010 error 0.00027

Y scale -0.99861 shift 0.00090 error 0.00037

Crossfire y 1.309 shift 0.026 error 0.054

Crossfire x 1.198 shift 0.034 error 0.073

Crossfire xy 0.051 shift 0.022 error 0.071

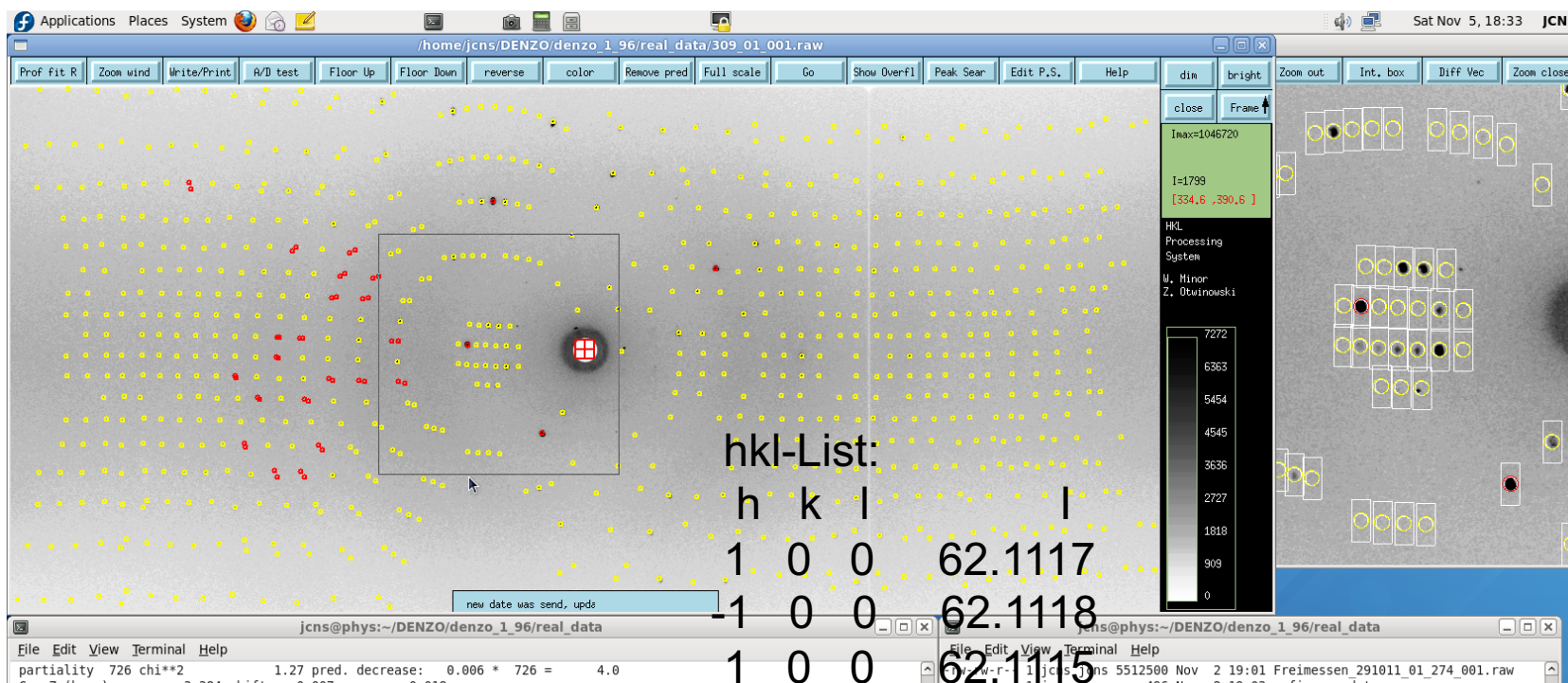
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-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 2 19:01 Freimessen_291011_01_274_001.raw
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-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 474 Nov 2 19:03 refineall.dat
-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 467 Nov 2 19:03 cr_info
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 626060 Nov 2 19:03 denzo
-rwxr-xr-x 1 jcns jcns 325804 Nov 2 19:03 xdisp
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1049 Nov 2 19:05 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat~
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 441 Nov 2 19:09 refineone.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 1013 Nov 5 18:04 auto_index_sim_spotb.dat
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5512500 Nov 5 18:11 309_01_001.raw
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 5029 Nov 5 18:12 peaks.file
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jcns jcns 3680 Nov 5 18:15 hklpredictions
[jcns@phys real_data]$ emacs auto_index_sim_spotb.dat &
[1] 23247
[jcns@phys real_data]$ emacs auto_index_sim_spotb.dat &
[2] 23304
[1] Done
[jcns@phys real_data]$
```

jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... jcns@phys:~/DENZO/... [Reaktor-Info: Forschu... ./.309_01_001.raw Untitled window [emacs@phys]

Integration of partial Bragg peaks with the commercial software hkl-denzo up to $d_{\min}=1.5 \text{ \AA}$



ca. 300 images

Flow chart of data treatment and model building

Scans at varying crystal orientation
Scan := Series of detector images

Data reduction

- determination of crystal orientation, unit cell dimensions etc.
- Calculating integral of reflection intensities

hkl-list for each scan:
h k l Intensity Intensity error

Scaling of each hkl list to match each other

-SCALA (CCP4-program package)

Unified hkl-list of measurement := complete data set

Calculation of a first map

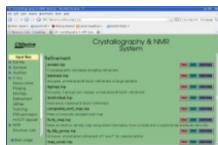
Additional information from the
solution of the phase problem

Structure refinement

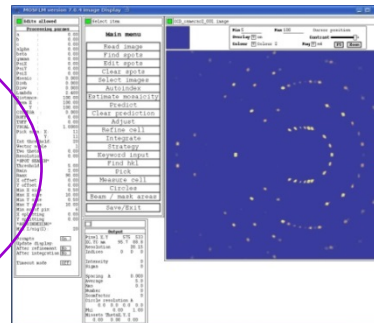
- Refinement of atom coordinates displacements
- Calculation of scattering density maps (neutrons) or electron density maps (x-rays)

Map-plotting

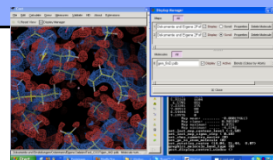
- inspection of model to fit the map)
- real space changes and refinement to the model



-nCNS
-PHENIX



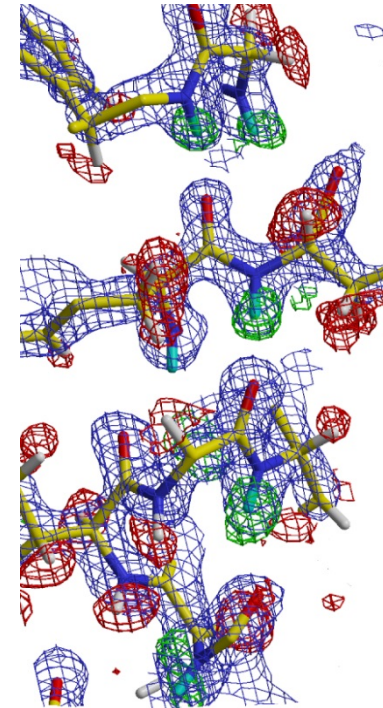
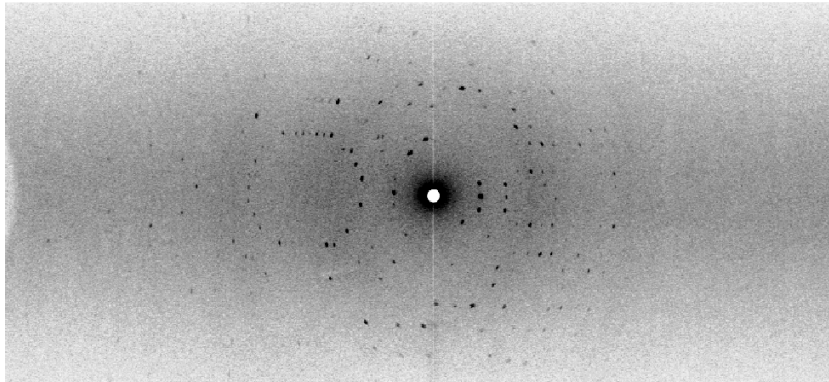
-MOSFLM
-HKL-denzo
(comercial)



-XtalView
-Coot

Theory on scattering from a crystal

3D structural analysis:

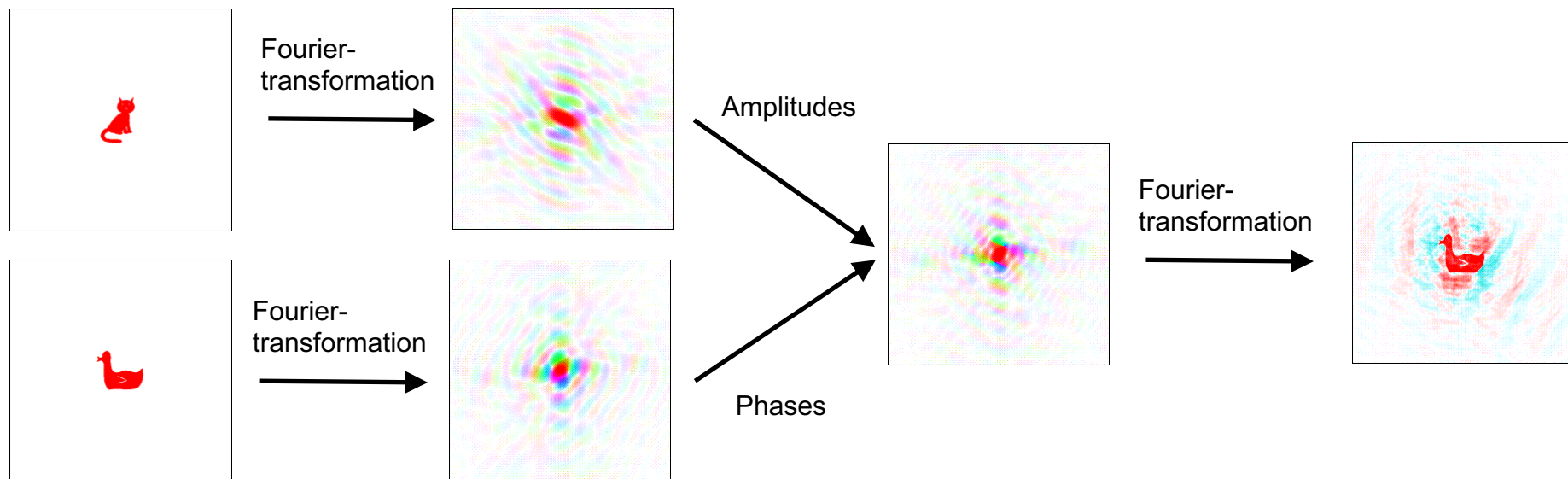


$$\rho(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{V_E} \sum_{h,k,l} F_{hkl} \cdot e^{-2\pi i(h \cdot x + k \cdot y + l \cdot z)}$$

Structure factors are complex numbers: $F_{hkl} = \|F_{hkl}\| e^{-2\pi i \alpha_{hkl}}$
with amplitudes $\|F_{hkl}\|$ and phases α_{hkl}

→ Phase Problem, because we only record intensities: $I = \|F_{hkl}\|^2$

The phases are stronger than the intensities



<http://www.ysbl.york.ac.uk/~cowtan/fourier/magic.html>

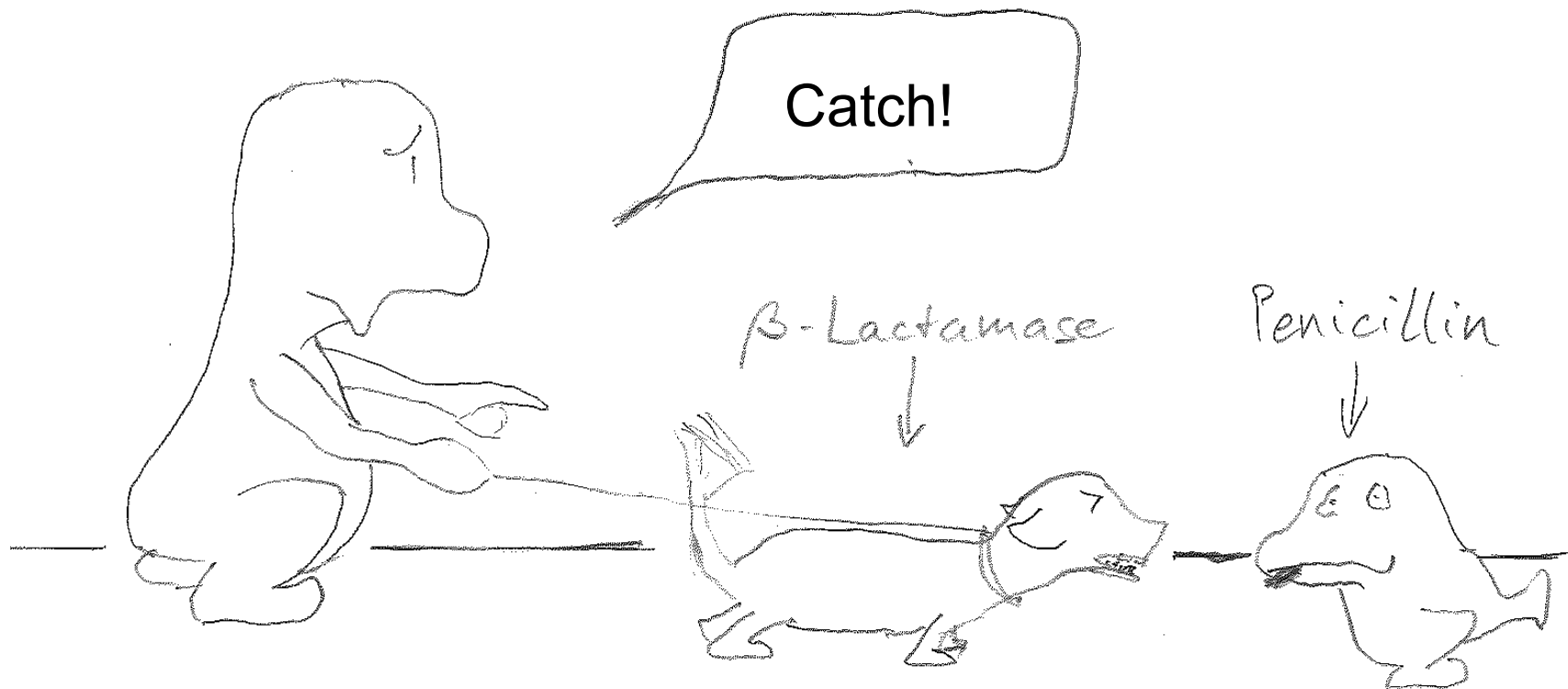
Neutron protein crystallography

Phase problem is solved by molecular replacement method using the structure obtained from the x-ray data.

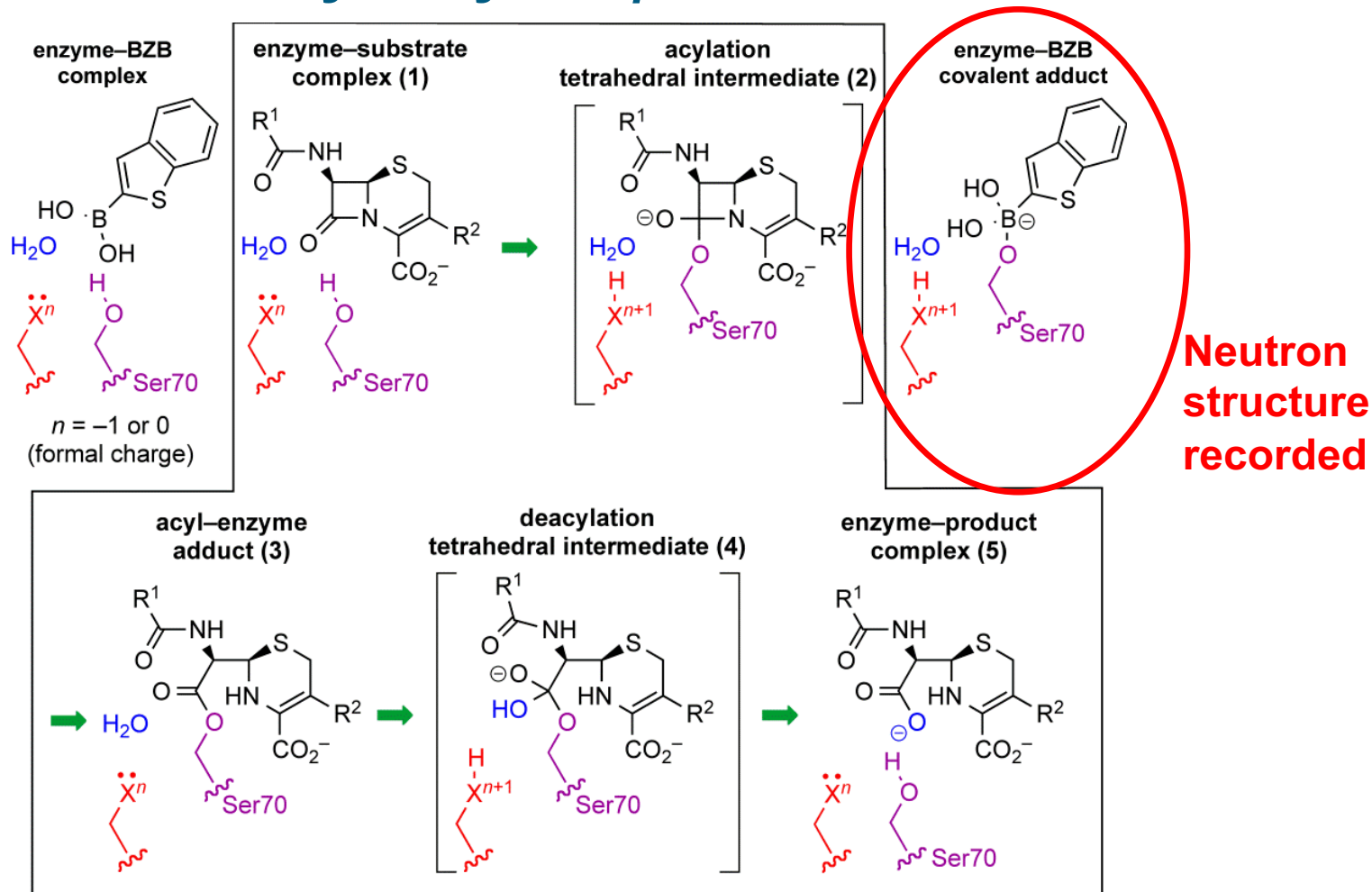
=> x-ray crystallography is a prerequisite of neutron protein crystallography.

Application Example: Protonation state of amino acid residues

The protein β -lactamase

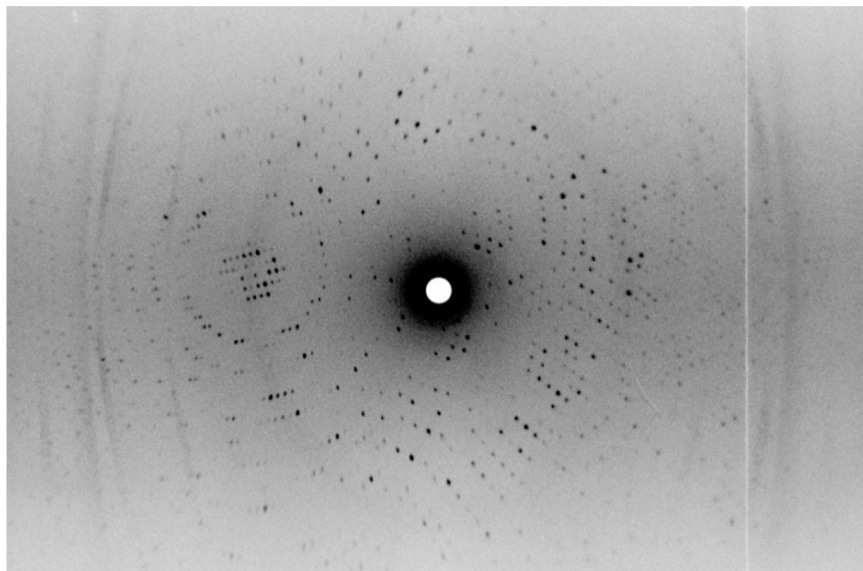


β -lactamase: hydrolyses β -lactam antibiotics



The catalytic cycle of a class A β -lactamase illustrated for a cephalosporin substrate (inside box) and the mode of inhibition by BZB (outside box). The general base employed is not necessarily the same for acylation and deacylation. The overall reaction pathway for β -lactam hydrolysis of a cephalosporin-like substrate by the class A β -lactamase enzymes.

Data-set: β -lactamase with bound inhibitor



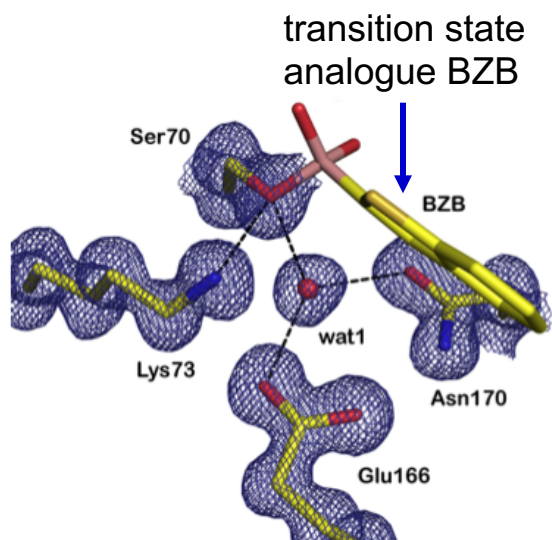
$d_{\min}$	$I/\sigma(I)$	N_{meas}	mult.	compl. in shell %	R_{merge} %
4.31	27.8	12685	5.6	97.6	4.9
3.42	19.0	11941	5.5	98.0	8.0
2.99	10.3	10378	4.9	96.9	14.6
2.71	7.6	8757	4.3	95.5	18.7
2.52	5.9	7820	3.9	92.8	21.2
2.37	5.4	7099	3.8	89.2	21.6
2.25	5.0	6095	3.5	84.6	23.0
2.15	4.5	5906	3.4	82.9	24.7
2.07	4.1	5673	3.2	82.0	27.2
2.0	3.7	5059	2.9	81.2	27.9
overall	7.4	81413	4.0	90.2	14.7

- unit cell: 73.4Å, 73.4Å, 99.1Å $P3_221$
- fully deuterated protein
- crystal size: 2.7mm³
- Collection time: 9d

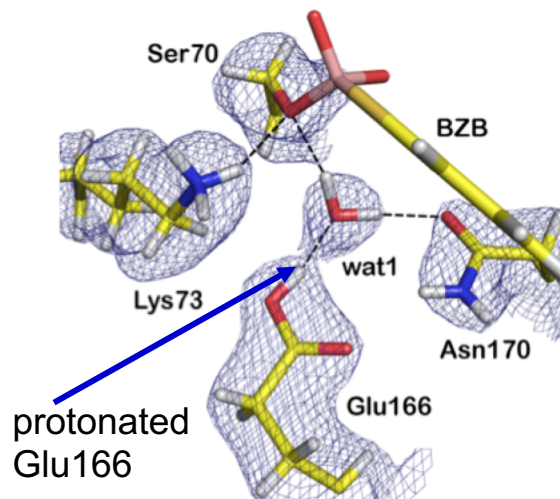
$R_{\text{pim}} = 7.9\%$ (17.9%)

Tomanicek et al., J. Biol. Chem., 288, 4715 (2013).

Catalytic Proton Network of the Toho-1 β -Lactamase



electron density map



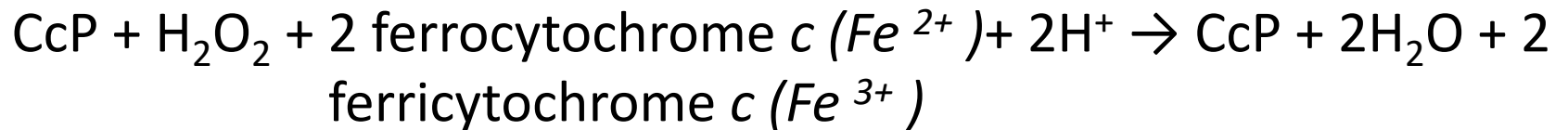
nuclear density map from BioDiff

Glu166 acts as the general base during the catalytic action of the enzyme.

Stephen J. Tomanicek, Robert F. Standaert, Kevin L. Weiss,
Andreas Ostermann, Tobias E. Schrader, Joseph D. Ng, and Leighton Coates
J. Biol. Chem. 2013, 288:4715-4722

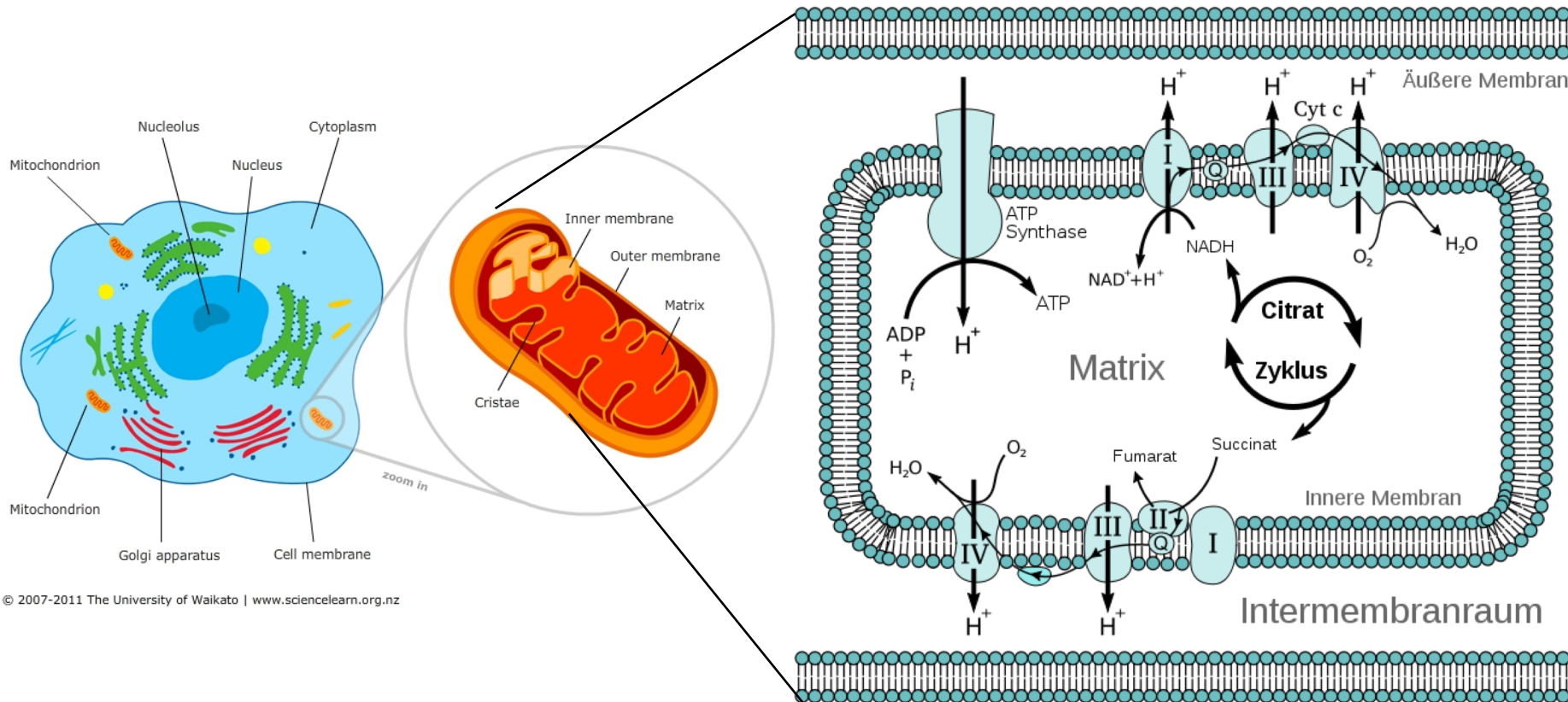
An example for a metallo-protein:

Cytochrome c peroxidase, or CcP is a water-soluble heme-containing enzyme of the peroxidase family that takes reducing equivalents from cytochrome *c* and reduces hydrogen peroxide to water:



(taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cytochrome_c_peroxidase)

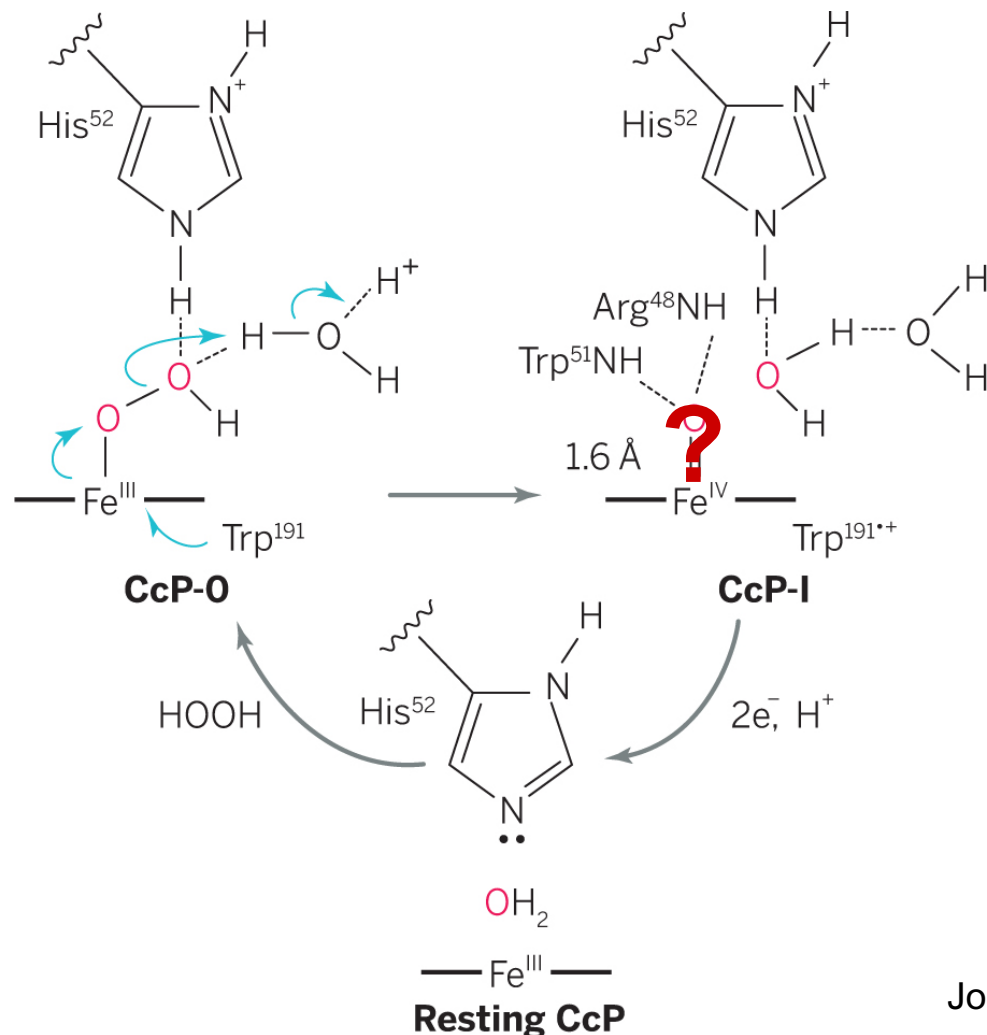
Mitochondria are the power plant of a cell (production of ATP):



<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atmungskette>

- Cytochrome C serves as an electron transporter in the respiratory chain.
- Cytochrome c Peroxidase uses two ferro-cytochrome C proteins to reduce H_2O_2 to water and two ferricytochrome C molecules

Proton-mediated mechanism. Reaction of ferric CcP with H_2O_2 first gives CcP-O, followed by O-O bond scission driven by external protonation to afford CcP-I.



Alternative Hypothesis:

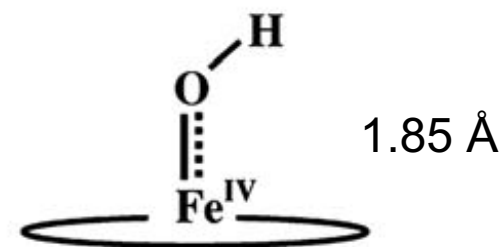
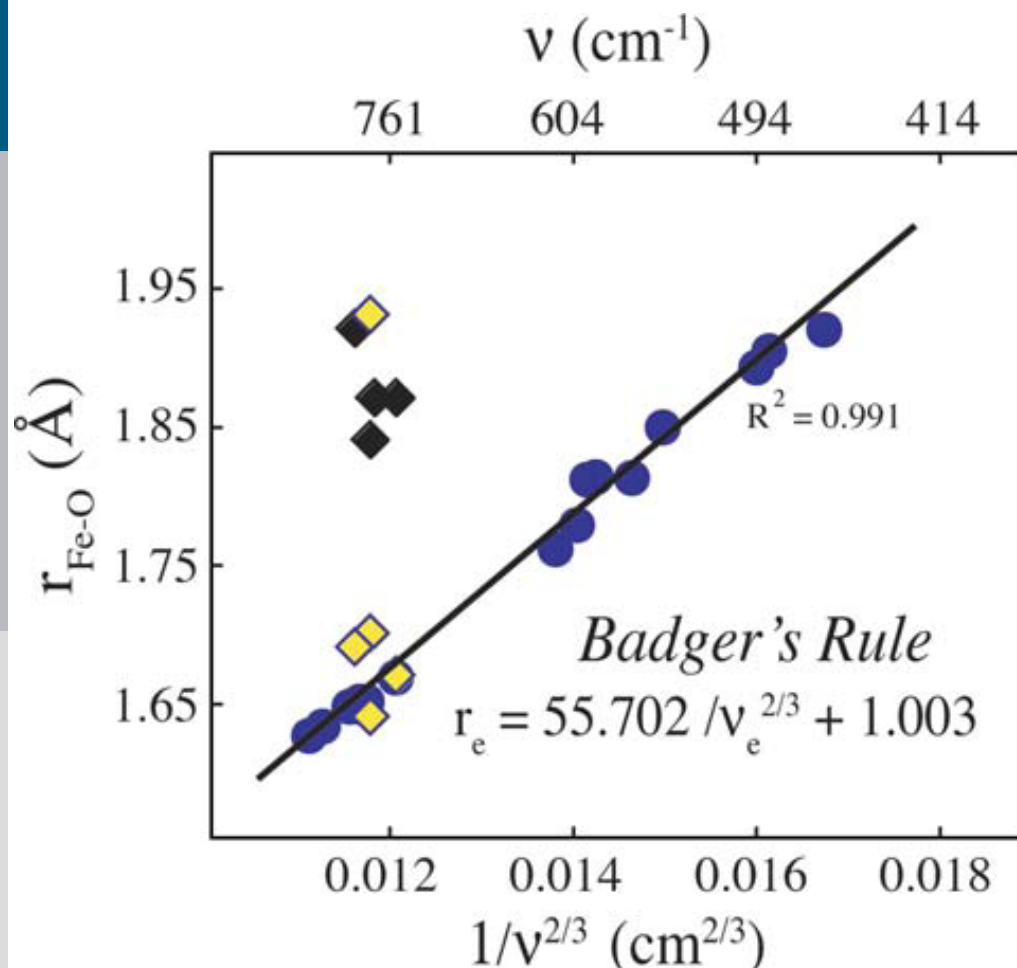


Fig. 3. Compound I with an O-H bond and a bond length of Fe-O of ca. 1.85 Å.

Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry 100 (2006) 448–459

J T Groves, and N C Boaz Science 2014;345:142-143

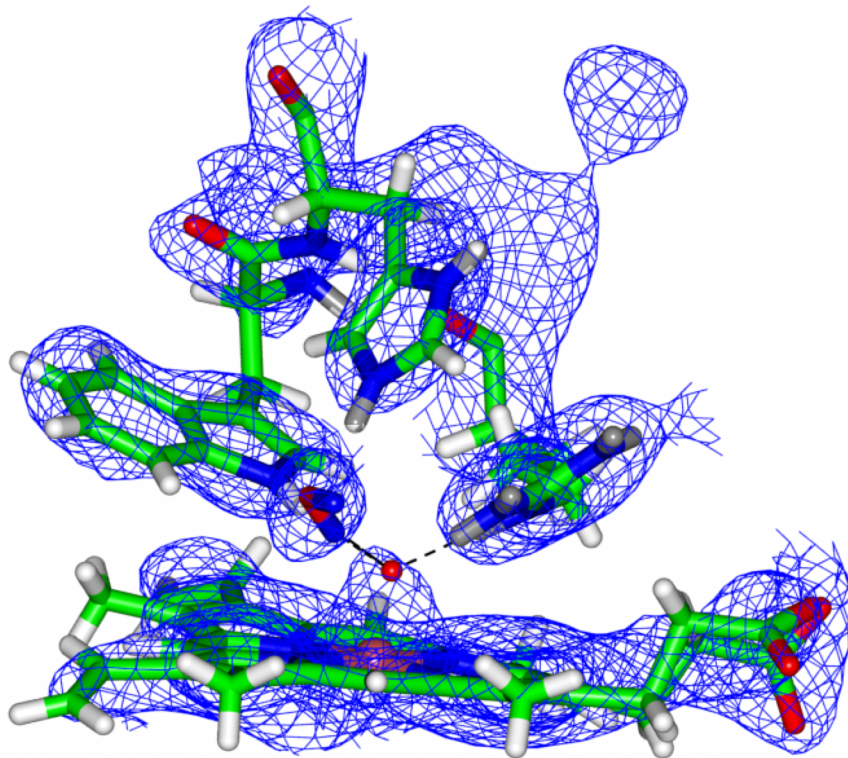
No method so far could unambiguously show the nature of the iron-oxide bond



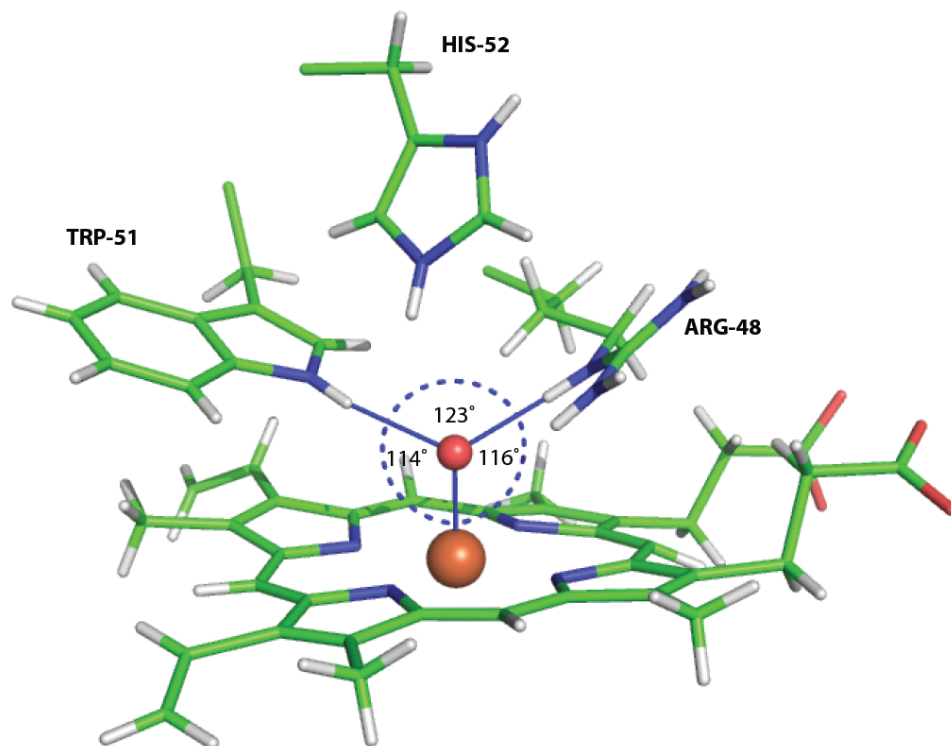
Plot of computed stretching frequency vs Fe–O bond distance. **Yellow diamonds** are from resonance Raman or EXAFS and the solid diamonds from X-ray crystal structures. The **blue circles** are from calculations.

Figure taken from: Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry 100 (2006) 448–459

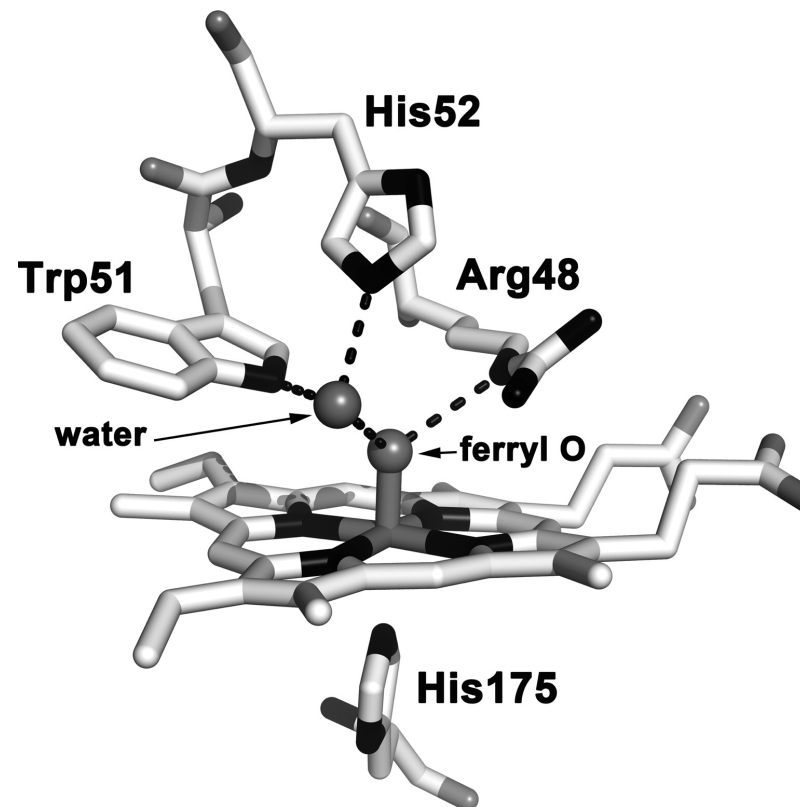
Compound I of Cytochrome c Peroxidase



Cecilia M. Casadei, Andrea Gumiero, Clive L. Metcalfe, Emma J. Murphy, Jaswir Basran, Maria Grazia Concilio, Susana C. M. Teixeira, Tobias E. Schrader, Alistair J. Fielding, Andreas Ostermann, Matthew P. Blakeley, Emma L. Raven, Peter C. E. Moody, *Science* 2014;345:193-197



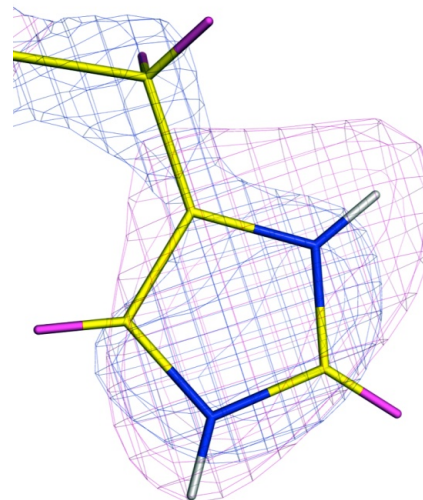
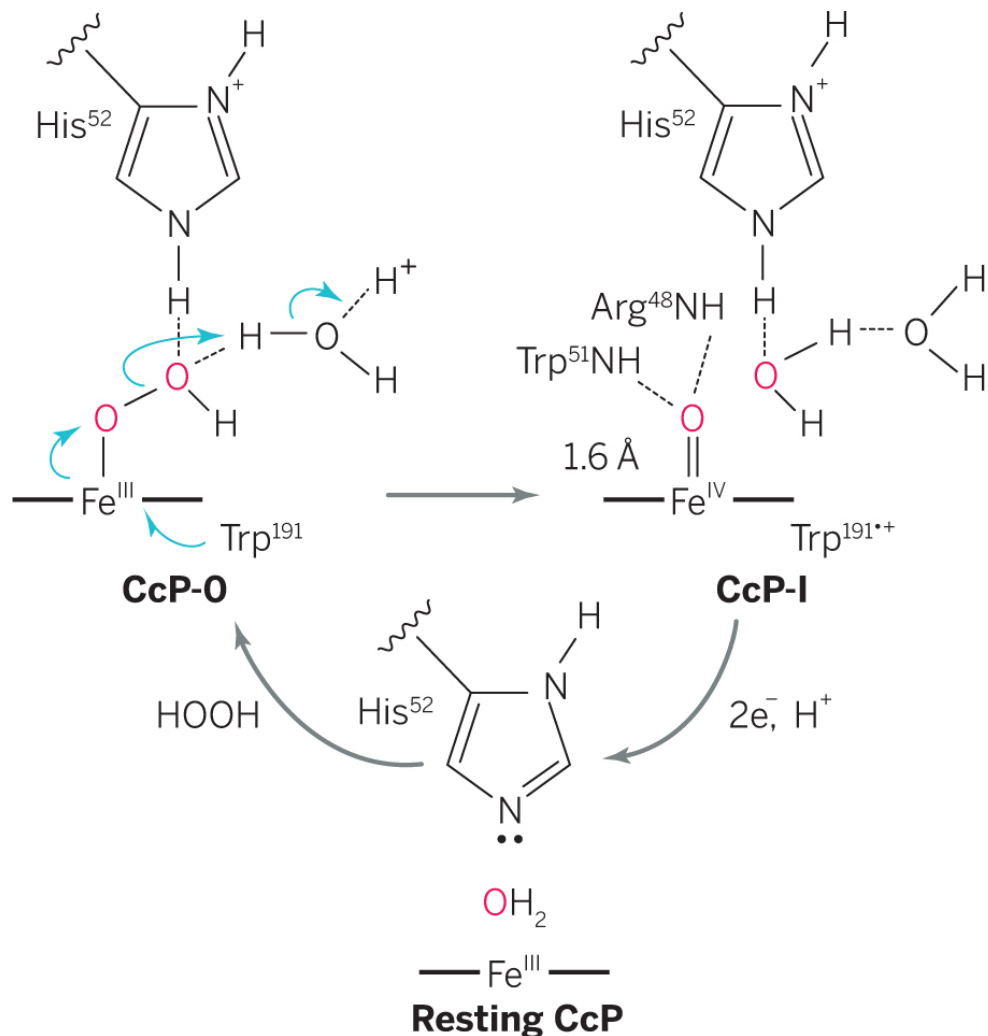
Neutron structure of CcP compound I. The water molecule H-bonded His 52 does not hydrogen bond to the ferryl O atom. Trp 51 interacts directly with the ferryl O.



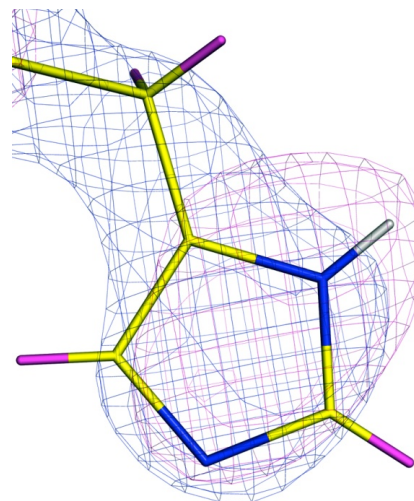
Crystal structure of CCP compound I (38) which is basically the same as the HRP compound I structure.(37) The water molecule H-bonded to the ferryl O atom is ideally positioned to assist His52 in acid–base catalysis as suggested.(39)

Published in: Thomas L. Poulos; *Chem. Rev.* Article ASAP
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Proton-mediated mechanism. Reaction of ferric CcP with H₂O₂ first gives CcP-0, followed by O-O bond scission driven by external protonation to afford CcP-I.



His 52
Compound I



His 52 ferric
(resting)

J T Groves, and N C Boaz Science 2014;345:142-143

- Proteins show a special 3-D structure which is specific to their function
- **x-ray crystallography**: Most of the beautiful schematic pictures of proteins in textbooks of chemistry and molecular biology represent structures determined by X-ray diffraction. Advantages:

1. only small crystals needed
2. short measurement times enable large throughput
3. phase problem can be solved with more and more sophisticated methods

Disadvantages:

1. radiation damage often observed: hydrogen abstraction, reduction of metal centres in the metallo-proteins, disulfide bond cleavage.
 2. Hydrogen positions can usually not be determined (only at high resolution)
- **Neutron protein crystallography** is a complementary technique as compared to x-ray crystallography. Here one can determine:
 1. protonation states of amino acid side chains (important for the function of the protein)
 2. deuterium exchange as a measure of flexibility and accessibility (discrimination between **H** / **D**)
 3. solvent structure including hydrogen atoms

Thanks to...

- Andreas Ostermann
- Alexander Ioffe
- Marialucia Longo
- Livia Balacescu

and you for your attention!