#### Introduction to neutron science



# • John B. Parise **Stony Brook**

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#### Outline



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- Why neutrons?
  - Properties of neutron (esp. compared to X-rays)
  - Consequences and applications
  - Scientific opportunities





• Electrically neutral - more penetrating than X-rays.



- Electrically neutral more penetrating than X-rays.
- Neutrons act like both particles and waves
  - They have velocities, times of flight and diffract
  - Wavelength  $\lambda = h/(mv)$
  - Thermal neutrons:  $\lambda$  ~ 1 Å to 2 Å
  - Cold neutrons:  $\lambda$  ~ 3 Å to 10 Å



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- Slow: v  $\approx$  4000 m/s / ( $\lambda$  / Å) and E distribution easily shifted
  - Same source large E-range = many apps
  - Low energy, E =  $mv2/2 \approx 82 \text{ meV} / (\lambda 2/\text{Å}2)$
  - Neutron's mass ~  $^{1}H$  couple strongly with phonons
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- Neutrons have moments interaction with unpaired electrons
  - Spin 1/2 -- same as unpaired electron magnetism

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- Neutron nucleus interactions
  - Most probable interaction
  - Short range essentially point scattering
- Neutron electron interactions
  - Spin-spin interaction (requires unpaired electrons)
  - Magnetic scattering



- Neutron is absorbed radiography
  - yielding a new isotope (stable or radioactive)
  - to yield an excited nuclear state
- Neutron is scattered (momentum change)
  - Energy can be lost/gained (inelastic)
  - No energy transfer (elastic)

Also

- Phase can be lost (incoherent)
- Phase can be retained (coherent)



- Neutral no interaction with Coulomb charge
  - Highly penetrating



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- Neutral no interaction with Coulomb charge
  - Highly penetrating (except B, Cd, Gd, Hf ...)
- Applications
  - light-weight machinable shielding (BN); opaque self collimating anvils (c-BN); Imaging real rocks and parts



Neutrons penetrate deep into matter (Winkler et al, EJ Mineral., V14)



Radiographic images of highly Absorbing Hf sphere falling in silicate melt



#### Neutron is absorbed

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- to yield an excited nuclear state Neutron Activation Analysis
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#### **Neutron activation analysis (NAA)** <u>http://www.ncnr.nist.gov/instruments/nactanal.html</u>



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Neutron activation analysis (NAA)

- "Neutron fluorescence" either delayed or prompt
  - Instrumental NAA measure concentrations of many elements in single sample non-destructively
  - Especially art, acheological, botanical, geological



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  - most elements become radioactive.
  - Wait or measure while sample in beam (prompt γ "neutron fluorescence")
  - E of γ allows ID of element
  - I ∝ [element]



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- Radiochemical NAA
  - Activation + separation of species of interest
  - Iow background, remove interference

#### Elements Determined Using Nuclear Analytical Methods

	INAA / RNAA PGAA									Both	h Potentially Measureable						
Н								Не									
Li*	Be												С	N*	0*	F	Ne
Na	Mg	<mark>Ид</mark>											Si	Р	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Со	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Мо	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	Ι	Xe
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	T1	Pb	Bi	Ро	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac	104	105	106	107	108	109									

Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Th	Ра	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

\*NDP is used for surface analysis of B, Li, N, O.

Courtesy of Brian Toby, Argonne

#### Elements Determined Using Nuclear Analytical Methods

			INAA	A / RN/	٩A		PGA	4		Both			eable				
Н		Use of X-ray													He		
Li*	Be	fluorescence limited											С	N*	0*	F	Ne
Na	Mg													Р	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Со	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	Ι	Xe
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	T1	Pb	Bi	Ро	At	Rn
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Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Th	Ра	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

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NIST: SRM 695 Trace Elements in Multi-Nutrient Fertilizer



## Cd Hg As Se Zn Ni Pb Cu Mo Co

Background: In 1998, percent levels of Cd were found in a chemical fertilizer that was applied to farmland in California. Many states proposed regulations limiting levels of 10 elements shown above. Fertilizer manufacturers and state regulators needed standards to develop methods and validate analytical results.

Project: Material was donated by the industry. Sieved fractions were analyzed by INAA and the decision was made to jet mill the material. XRF and PGAA were used to assess homogeneity of the final material.

Certification analyses underway in FY05. Certified or reference values planned for 23 elements, 19 to be determined by nuclear methods

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#### **Prompt-**γ Activation Analysis

- non-destructive analytical chemistry Detects ~1/3 of periodic table
  - ppm sensitivity for hydrogen



 $H_{0.28}Al_{0.28}Si_{0.72}O_2vs$ " $D_{0.28}Al_{0.28}Si_{0.72}O_2$ "

Courtesy of Brian Toby, Argonne







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  - yielding a new isotope (stable or radioactive)
  - to yield an excited nuclear state
- Neutron is scattered (momentum change)
  - Energy can be lost/gained (inelastic)
  - No energy transfer (elastic)

#### Also

- Phase can be lost (incoherent) no interference (diffraction) effects
- Phase can be retained (coherent) interference between scattering centers - diffraction effects





#### σ (scattering cross section)

- Measure of the probability that an interaction of a given kind will take place between a nucleus and an incident neutron



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#### 

- Measure of the probability that an interaction of a given kind will take place between a nucleus and an incident neutron
  - (elastic, inelastic for eg)
- Difference between X-ray and neutron cross-sections (ototal)
  - While the cross-section (probability of scattering) is positive the atomic scattering length, b (σ = 4πb<sup>2</sup>) can be negative
    - +ve b, scattered neutron π/2 phase shifted (like X-rays)
  - b is different for different isotopes, different nuclear spin states



- Other differences
  - The nucleus is a point compared to electron cloud
    - No dependence on scattering angle
    - Ithe neutron interaction stay the same and weak!





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# Other differences

- The nucleus is a point compared to electron cloud
  No dependence on scattering angle
- Can't be calculated; must be measured
- Probability of coherent (phase retained, interference effects) and incoherent (phase lost) varies with isotope (not just atom)

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{coh} = 4 \pi (\bar{b})^2, \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{inc} = 4 \pi \{ \overline{b^2} - (\bar{b})^2 \}$$

- Coherent scattering depends on correlation between positions of nuclei, interference effects, Bragg, phonon scattering (correlated motion)
- Incoherent scattering does not give rise to interference effects
  - Useful in studies of diffusion (uncorrelated motion), since it arises from correlations of the same nucleus at different times.

Probability for coherent vs. incoherent scattering changes with isotope







# calculate this, exactly



G(r, t) is the time-dependent pair-correlation function (where the atoms are)

 $S(Q, \omega)$  is the structure function, dynamical structure function, coherent scattering function, also referred to as the scattering function or scattering law. By inspection  $S(Q, \omega)$  is the Fourier transform of G(r, t) in space and time (dr dt).

















- Neutrons are electrically neutral & more penetrating than X-rays.
  tomography, radiography of real rocks and parts
- Seutrons act like particles
  - waveguides, gavitational effects
- **Neutrons act like waves** 
  - Seutrons interact with nuclei & locate atoms more precisely.
    - **Light atoms scatter neutrons as strongly as heavy atoms.**
    - $\bigcirc$  **b**<sub>coh</sub> independent of Z, sin $\theta/\lambda$ , can be -ve
    - Diffraction, D/H contrast, precise positions, PDF
- Solutions have a moment, & can determine magnetic structures.
- **Solution** Neutrons can study atom dynamics & the forces between atoms.





### **Properties of thermal/cold neutrons**

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- Wave-like nature and Bragg (elastic) scattering
- Solution  $\lambda$  = 2dsin $\theta$  Same formalism as X-ray scattering
- Powder diffractometers, sample geometry similar just bigger



# powder diffractometers - just bigger





# powder diffractometers - just bigger





Modern neutron powder diffractometers use multiple detector; neutrons come from weak sources (cf. X-ray synchrotrons)





# **Construction of a microstrip position-sensitive detector (printed circuit)**



Anton Oed Bruno Guerard Pierre Convert Thomas Hansen Jacques Torregrossa

# Construction of a microstrip position-sensitive detector (printed circuit)





**Applications of large fast detectors/detector banks scattering** 



Complete diffraction pattern in 20 min. on small samples - at ambient or in environmental (high P) cells



21 mm<sup>3</sup> pellet recovered from HP synthesis

Byeon,, Lufaso, Parise, Woodward, Hansen (2003) High-Pressure Synthesis and Characterization of Perovskites with simultaneous ordering of both the A- and Bsite Cations, (M = Sb, Ta) Chem. Materials, 15, 3798-3804



# Light element sensitivity: finding H(D) in minerals



- Sites for H (or D) precisely determined
- Even in small samples H-positions easily determined



- 1. Parise, Cuff, Moore (1980) Min Mag, 43, 943
- 2. Chen, Lager, Kunz et al. (2005) Acta Cryst., 61, 1253
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New positions revealed by recent ambient (2) and high pressure work (3)

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I.



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Diffraction, D/H contrast variation, precise positions, PDF
 Neutrons have a moment, & can determine magnetic structures.

Neutrons can study atom dynamics & the forces between atoms.

Contrast variation:  $b^{H}_{coherent} \sim -4$  fm;  $b^{D} \sim 6$  fm;  $b^{O} \sim 5$  fm;  $b^{H2O} \sim -3$  fm,  $b^{D2O} \sim 17$  fm  $B_{RC}^{STC}$ 

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# H<sub>2</sub>O Liquid



**Hydrogenous particles** 

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# **Less Hydrogenous particles**

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# H<sub>2</sub>O Liquid $D_2O$ **Hydrogenous particles**

# **Less Hydrogenous particles**



**Mostly deuterated particles** 

- Applications
  - Deriving partial G(r) by choosing appropriate isotopes LiNi<sub>0.5</sub>Mn<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>2</sub> - site disorder of ALL metals over sites (Not HP)



**Figure 1.** Ideal structural model of LiNi<sub>0.5</sub>Mn<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>2</sub> based on LiCoO<sub>2</sub> ( $\alpha$ -NaFeO<sub>2</sub> structure, space group  $R\bar{3}m$ , a = b = 2.8874 Å, c = 14.2825 Å,

Breger, Dupre, Chupas, Lee, Proffen, Parise, Grey (2005), JACS, 127, 7529



- Applications
  - Deriving partial G(r) by choosing appropriate isotopes

$$G(r) = 4\pi r [\rho(r) - \rho_0] = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty Q[S(Q) - 1] \sin(Qr) dQ$$

Determined experimentally (note this is G(r) not g(r) and its neutrons - it can be negative)

$$G_{c}(r) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \left[ \frac{b_{i}b_{j}}{\langle b \rangle^{2}} \delta(r - r_{ij}) \right] - 4\pi r \rho_{0}$$

Determined from model

Breger, Dupre, Chupas,Lee,Proffen,Parise,Grey (2005), JACS, 127, 7529


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 $\frac{b_i b_j}{\langle b \rangle^2} \delta(r - r_{ij})$ 

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Determined from model

Now, if b<sub>i</sub> and/or b<sub>j</sub> is zero, the partial (contributions from atom pair involving i), disappears. How do we play this game?

Breger, Dupre, Chupas,Lee,Proffen,Parise,Grey (2005), JACS, 127, 7529

MSA, Dec 7, 2006

 $G_c(r) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i}$ 



- Applications
  - Deriving partial G(r) by choosing appropriate isotopes

Ni-O



Breger, Dupre, Chupas, Lee, Proffen, Parise, Grey (2005), JACS, 127, 7529

MSA, Dec 7, 2006



Applications



Breger, Dupre, Chupas, Lee, Proffen, Parise, Grey (2005), JACS, 127, 7529

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#### SUMMARY

- X-rays scattered by electrons
- Cross-section increases with # of electrons
- Cross-section decreases with Q [Q=4πsinθ/λ]
- Energy: 5,000 eV to 100,000 eV

- Neutrons scattered by nucleus
- Cross-sections "random" (function of isotope)
- Cross-section independent of Q
- Energy: 0.001 eV to 0.2 eV



#### SUMMARY

More penetrating; larger samples needed.

Good for light elements (usually).

Good high "angle" data -provides more accuracy

Right range for diffusion & atom vibrations (BIGGER % change upon interaction)

- Neutrons scattered by nucleus
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  independent of Q
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	Elastic Scattering	Inelastic Scattering
Coherent Scattering		
Incoherent Scattering		

Much of the impact of neutron scattering related to inelastic - especially phonons and spectroscopic studies

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	Elastic Scattering	Inelastic Scattering
Coherent Scattering	Diffraction (structural studies)	Phonons, magnons (collective excitations) periodic and interference effects
Incoherent Scattering	QENS (diffusion, low barrier motion)	Neutron Spectroscopies (atomic vibrations)

Much of the impact of neutron scattering related to inelastic - especially phonons and spectroscopic studies

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### **Inelastic neutron scattering?**



Addresses questions of the directions and time-dependence of atomic motions. periodic, correlated or uncorrelated (diffusion for eg)? Etc.



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MSA, Dec 7, 2006



## The neutron changes both energy and momentum when inelastically scattered by moving nuclei



These equations define the accessible energy and momentum transfers: limit of energy transfer = neutron energy and momentum is conserved; this is a huge range and covers wide variety of phenomena

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- Excitation or absorption of one quantum of lattice vibrational energy (phonon)
- Various models for atomic motions in liquids and glasses
- Various models of atomic & molecular translational & rotational diffusion
- Rotational tunneling of molecules
- Magnons and other magnetic excitations such as spinons
- Inelastic neutron scattering reveals details of the shapes of interaction potentials

## Vibrational spectroscopy

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Intensities straightforward to calculate:-Since the neutron scattering law is DIRECTLY calculable, computational techniques are the natural partner to neutron spectroscopy

 $S(Q,\omega)$  = observed intensity of transition at energy  $\omega$ ,  $\sigma$  = inelastic cross-section,

- **Q** = momentum transfer,
- $U_{\omega}$  = amplitude of vibration for the mode at energy  $\omega$
- $U_T$  = total amplitude of motion.

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$$S(Q,\omega) = \sigma Q^2 U_{\omega}^2 \exp(-Q^2 U_T^2)$$

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#### Planar Rotation of Molecular Hydrogen



$$\mathbf{B} \ \delta^2 / \delta^2 \varphi \ + \ 1/2 \ \mathbf{V}_2 \mathbf{cos} 2\varphi \ ) \ \psi = \mathbf{E} \ \mathbf{v}$$
  
EI = BI<sup>2</sup> if V<sub>2</sub>=0

Molecular Hydrogen Complexes



Energy level scheme differs appreciably from that for 3-D rotation

Deduce chemical binding of  $H_2$ ?



Rotational energy levels for unrestricted 3D rotation of H<sub>2</sub>



Rotational energy levels for unrestricted 3D rotation of H<sub>2</sub>

Model for Dihydrogen Rotation



( - B  $\delta^2/\delta^2\phi$  + 1/2  $V_2cos2\phi$  )  $\psi$  = E  $\psi$  EJ = BJ^2 if  $V_2$ =0



Rotational energy levels for unrestricted 3D rotation of H<sub>2</sub>





Restricted 2D rotation of H<sub>2</sub>







Restricted 2D rotation of H<sub>2</sub>

Energies typically range between 0.025- 30 meVHow do we measure this?



## QENS



## It's not just surface area: hydrogen uptake in porous systems.





Paul M. Forster Juergen Eckert Jong-San Chang Anthony K. Cheetham John B. Parise.

International Symposium on Materials Issues in Hydrogen Production and Storage, August 25, 2006

## **QENS** Data







- Neutrons have distinct advantages over all length scales of interest to earth and material scientists
  - Imaging and scattering
- Focusing and detector development (and new sources)
  - Increase neutrons on sample
  - Smaller single crystals/powder samples
  - New environmental equipment designs (P, T, s, e) measurements
- Prospect of
  - Work on "real" rocks and cores, slurries, in situ pilot plant studies
  - Under variety of conditions

#### Phenomena neutrons see: www.mrl.ucsb.edu/~pynn/Lecture 6 Inelastic.pdf





#### **Energy & Wavevector Transfers accessible to Neutron Scattering**

MSA, Dec 7, 2000





- Smaller samples
- higher through-put