

SINGLE LINE SUBTITLE WITH A MAXIMUM OF APPROX. 90 CHARACTERS

Introduction to Pair Distribution Function Analysis



Intro to PDF Analysis

Outline

01 Why use PDF?

02 What is a PDF?

03 How do I get a PDF?

04 What can I see in a PDF?

Not on the agenda:
Math

Information in Diffraction Patterns

Peak positions

- Space group
- Lattice parameters

Peak intensities

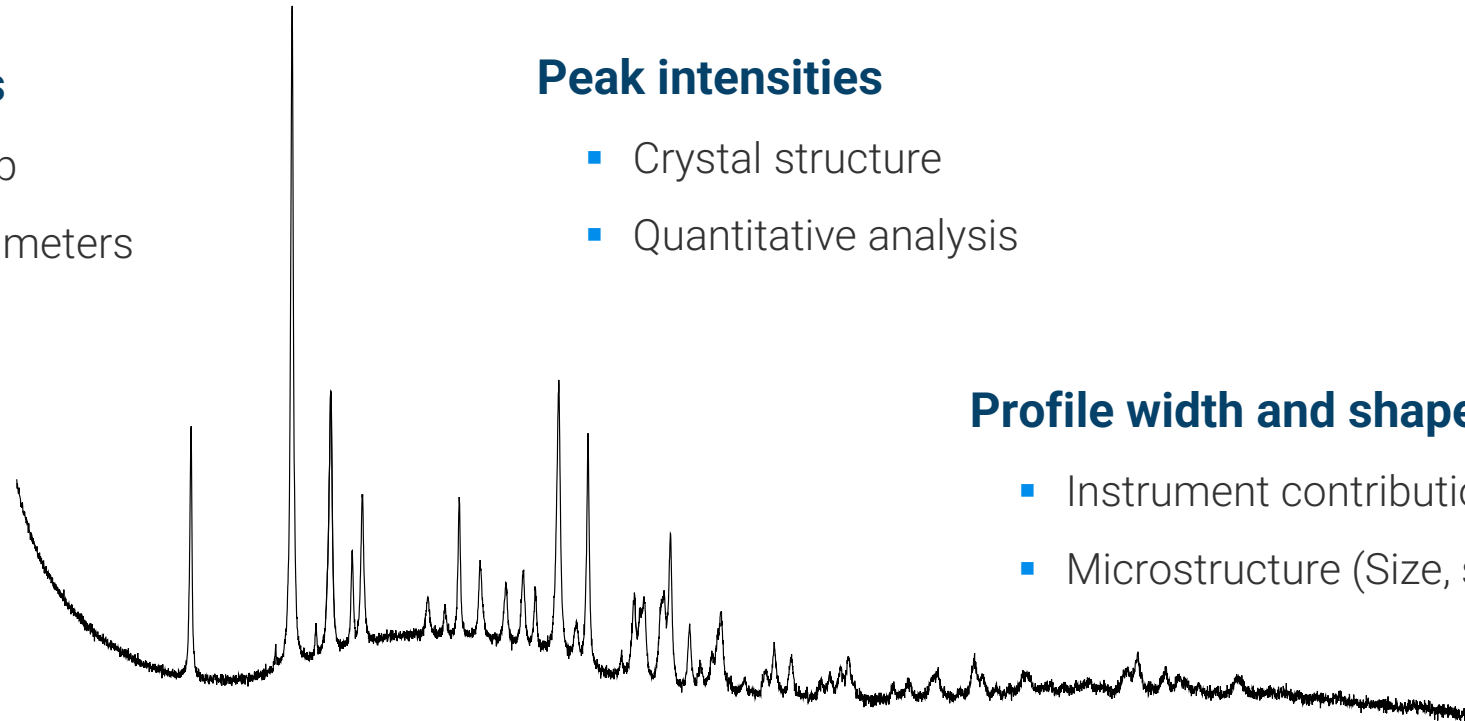
- Crystal structure
- Quantitative analysis

Profile width and shape

- Instrument contributions
- Microstructure (Size, strain, stacking faults, ...)

Background

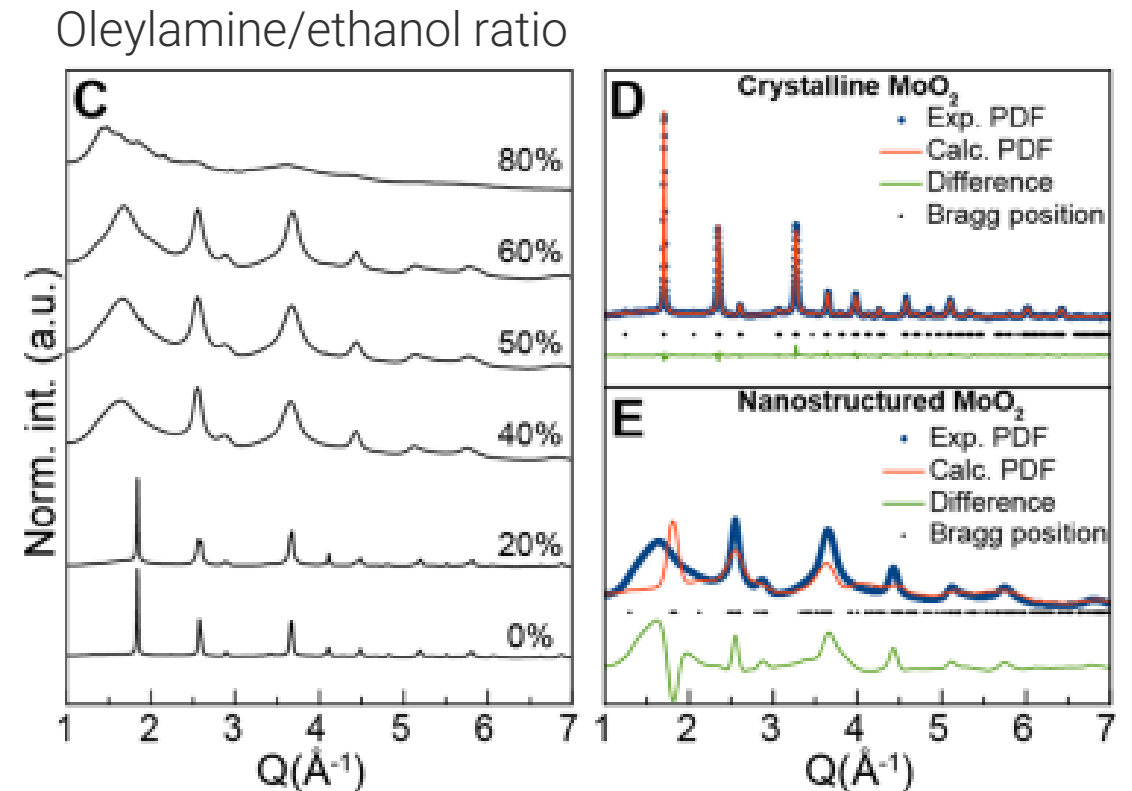
- Scattering from sample environment (air, sample holder, ...)
- Local order / disorder
- Amorphous phase amounts, "degree of crystallinity"



Why use PDF?

Nanosizing of MoO₂

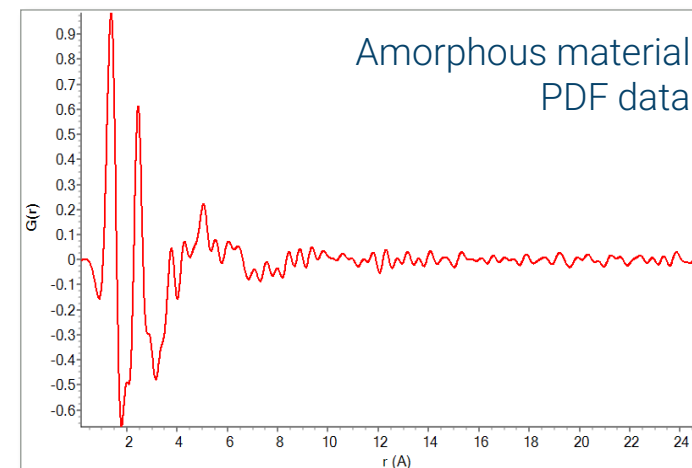
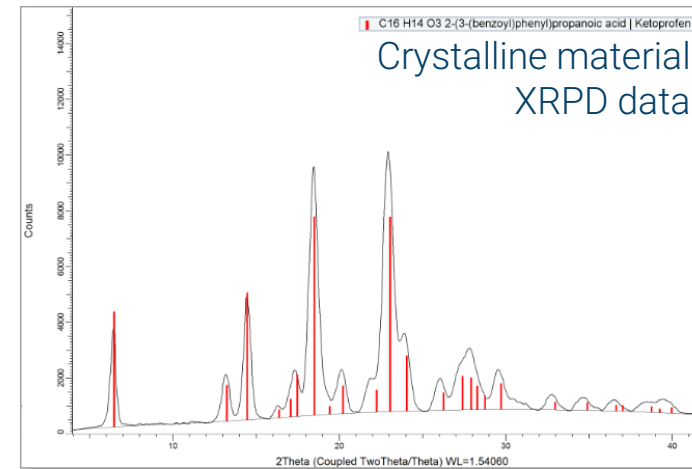
- MoO₂ prepared using different amounts of oleylamine
- Larger amounts of oleylamine produces smaller particles
- However, the structure looks quite different from the bulk material
- Nanostructured MoO₂ cannot be evaluated using traditional Rietveld analysis!



T. L. Christiansen et al., *ACS Nano*, 2019, 8725-8735

Why use PDF?

- Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) analysis relies on information in the Bragg peaks:
 - Limited to crystalline materials
 - Less useful for small nanoparticles
 - Not useful for glasses and liquids
 - Provides average structure information
- Pair Distribution Function analysis makes use of total scattering data (Bragg peaks and diffuse scattering)
 - Useful for crystalline, nano-crystalline materials as well as liquids and glasses
 - Can provide insights where classic diffraction techniques can't
 - Provides local structure information



Crystalline materials

- “Unexpected” structure or properties

Disordered materials

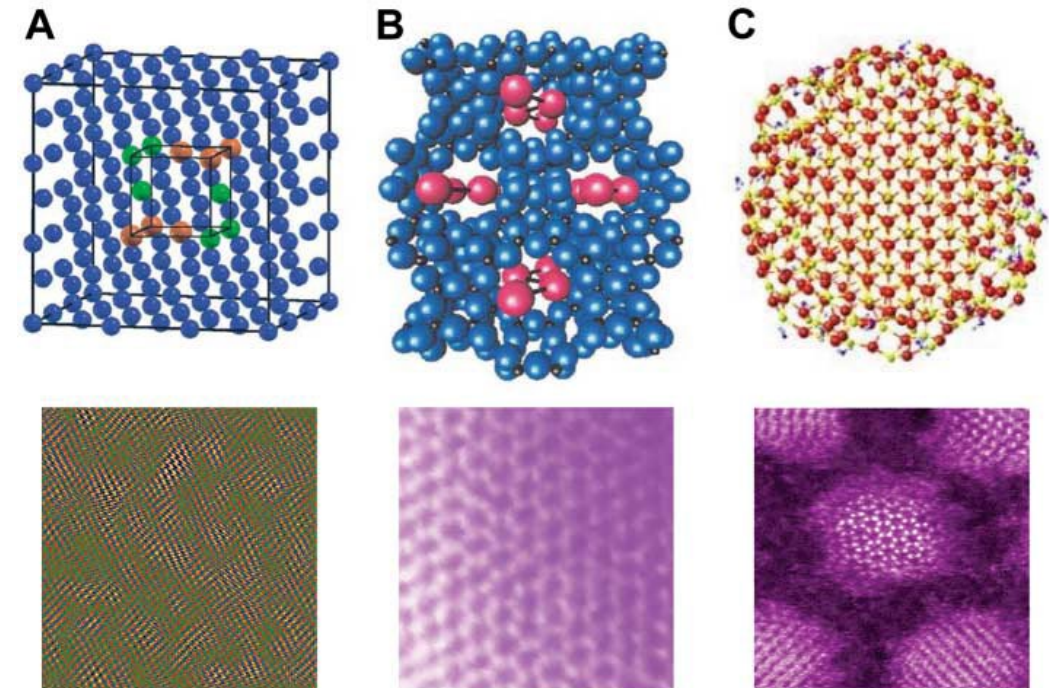
- Physical properties are often dictated by defects or domains of local structure

Nanomaterials

- Long-range order limited to a few nanometers
- Poorly defined Bragg peaks

Non-crystalline materials

- Amorphous materials and polymers

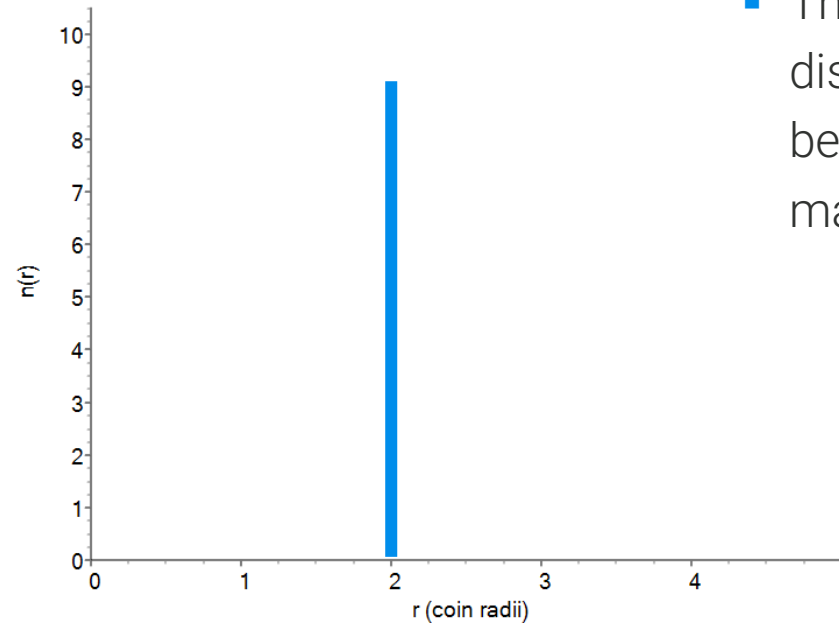
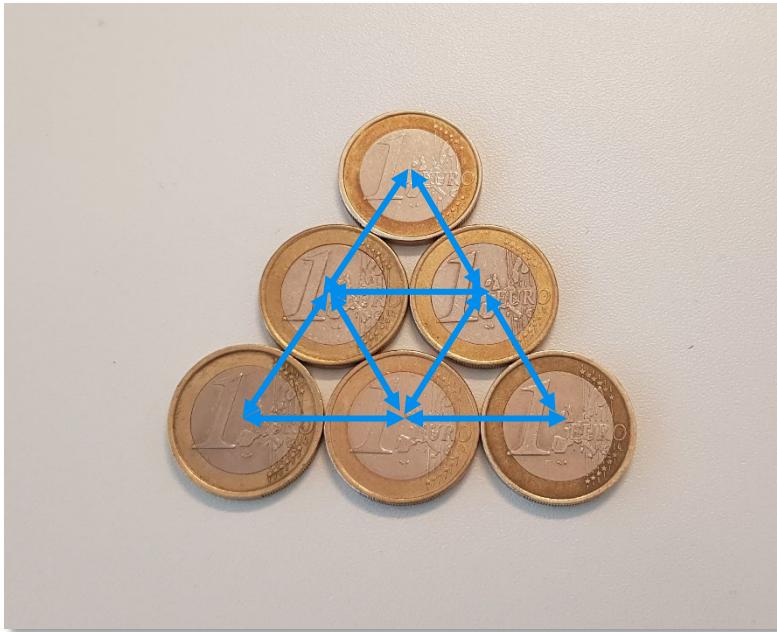


S.J.L. Billinge and I. Levin, *The problem with Determining Atomic Structure at the Nanoscale*, Science 316, 561 (2007)

INTRODUCTION TO PAIR DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION ANALYSIS

What is a PDF?

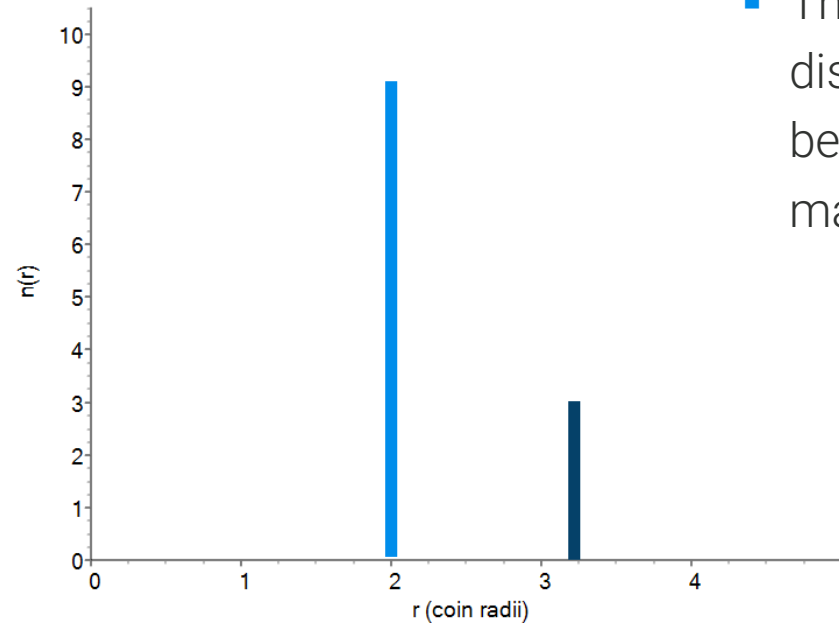
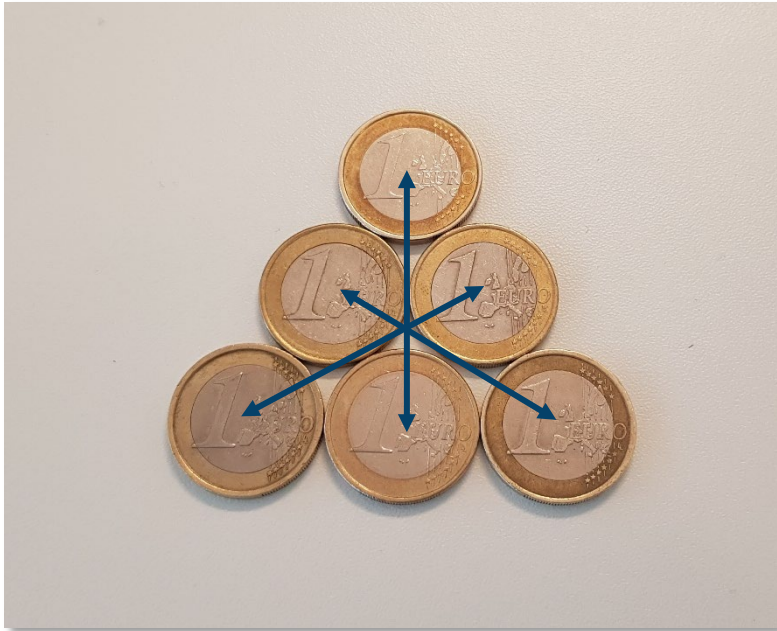
What is a PDF?



- The PDF shows the frequency distribution of distances between pairs of scatterers in a material

*The PDF is a real space function: it tells us **directly** where the coins are in relation to each other*

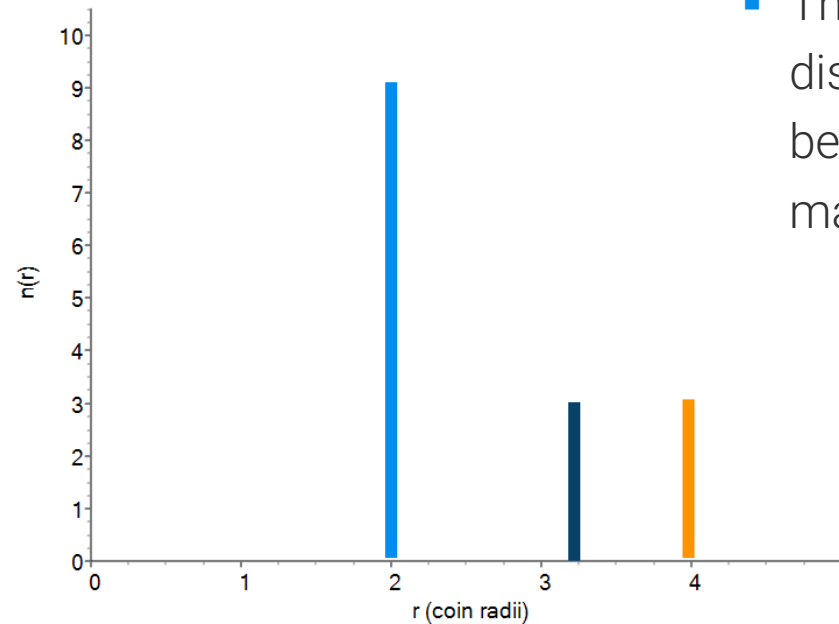
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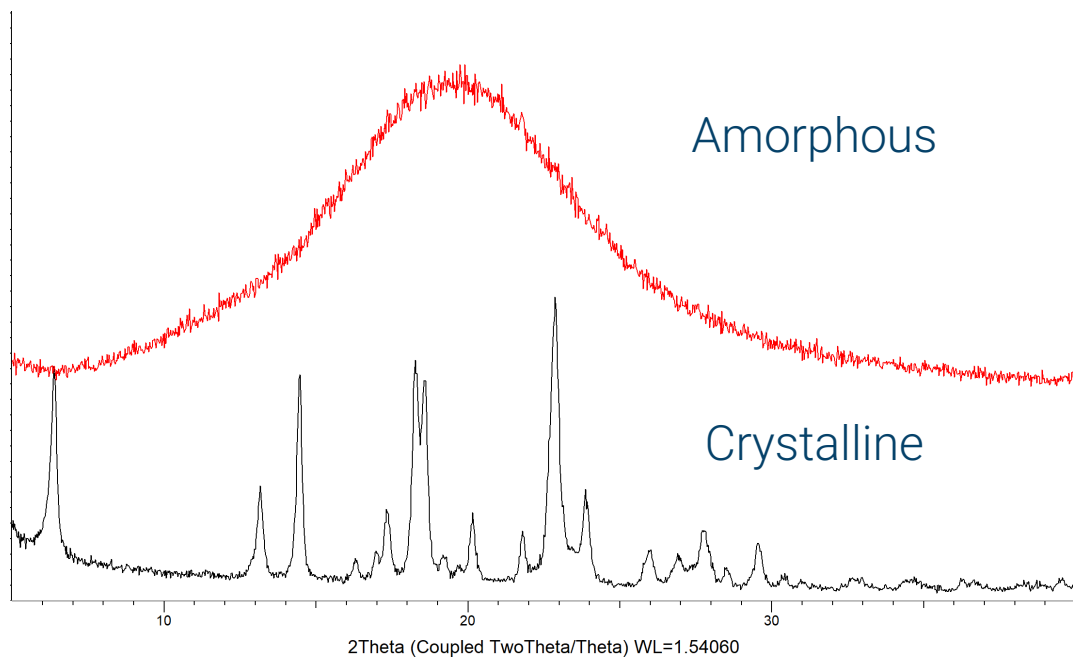


- The PDF shows the frequency distribution of distances between pairs of scatterers in a material

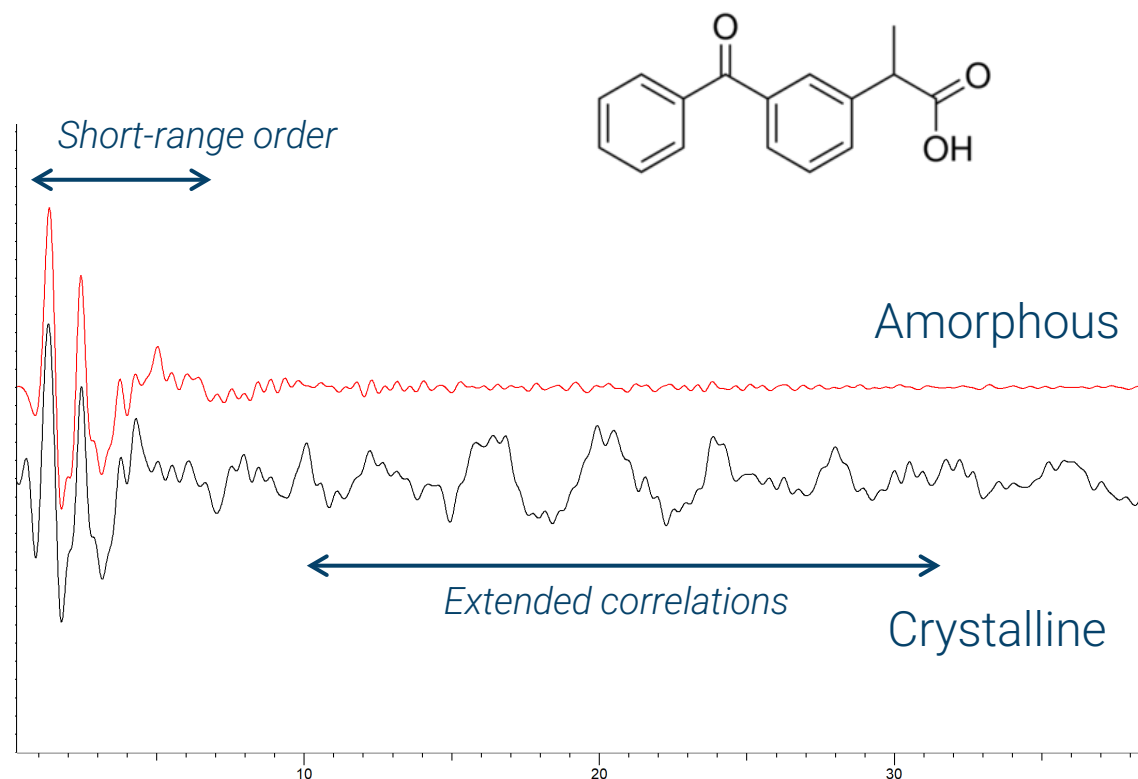
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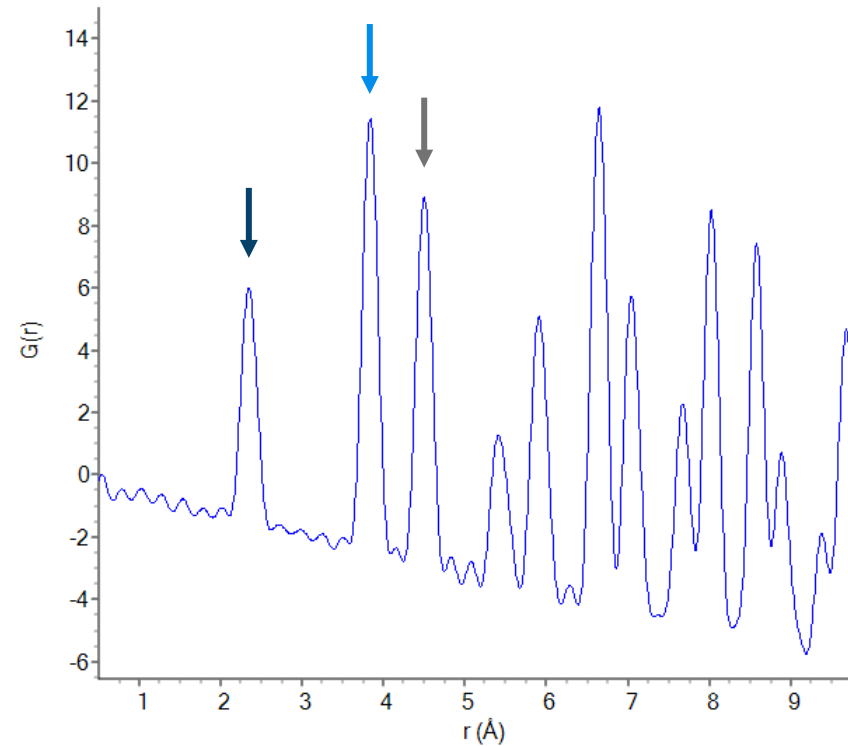
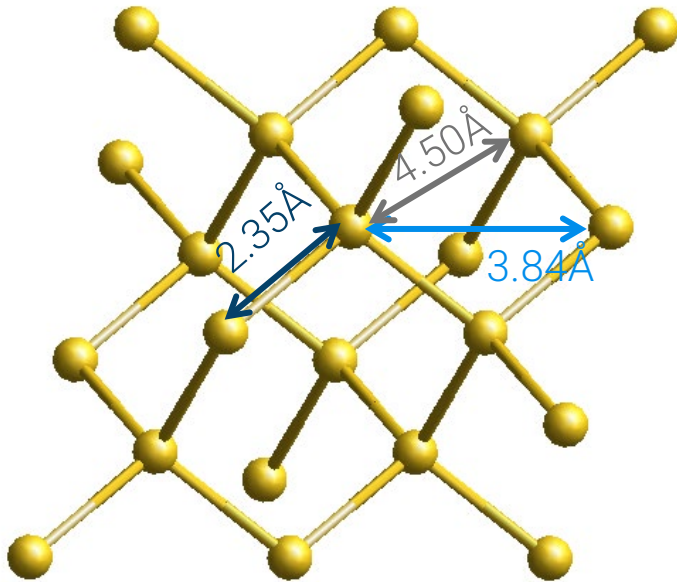
- Diffraction



- Pair Distribution Function



What is a PDF?



- The PDF shows the frequency distribution of distances between pairs of scatterers in a material

Information content in the PDF

Peak positions

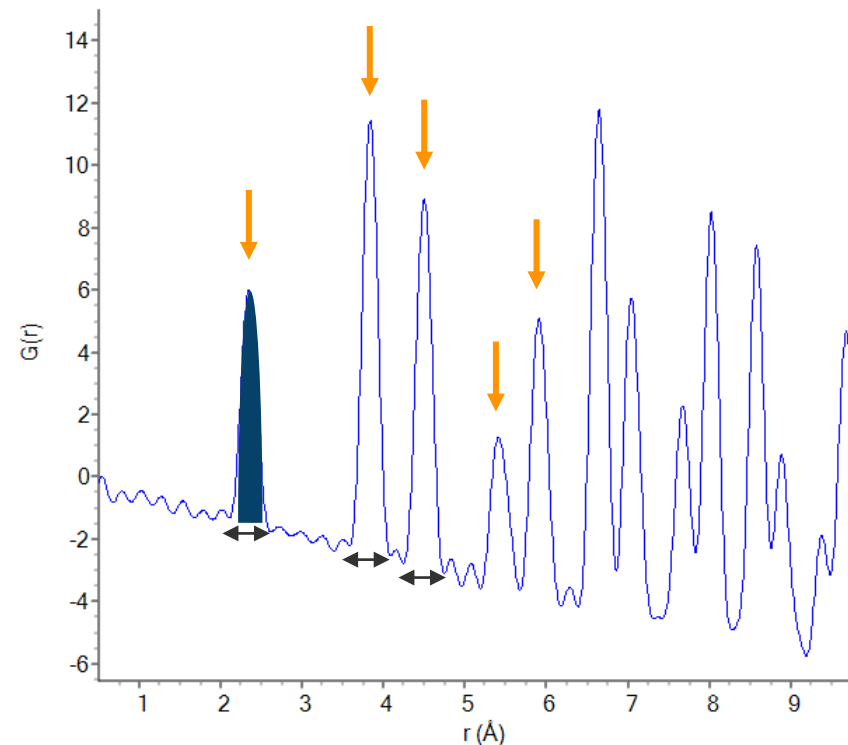
- Bond lengths, interatomic distances

Peak areas

- Coordination number

Peak widths

- Dynamic disorder (ADPs)
- Static disorder



- The PDF shows the frequency distribution of distances between pairs of scatterers in a material

Information content in the PDF

Peak positions

- Bond lengths, interatomic distances

Peak areas

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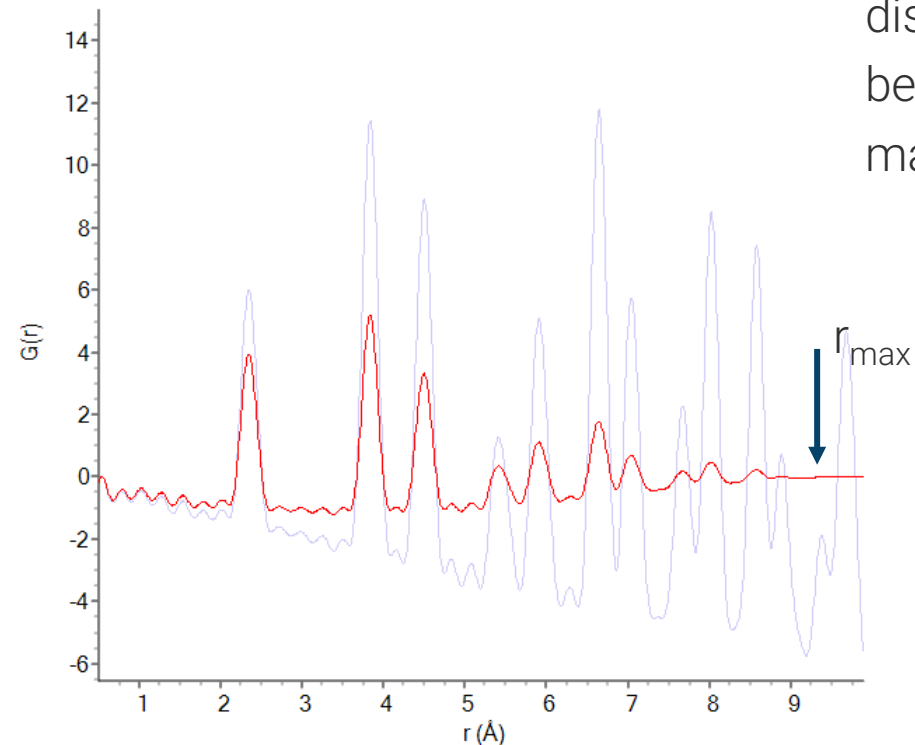
Peak widths

- Dynamic disorder (ADPs)
- Static disorder

PDF peak damping

- Crystallite size

- The PDF shows the frequency distribution of distances between pairs of scatterers in a material



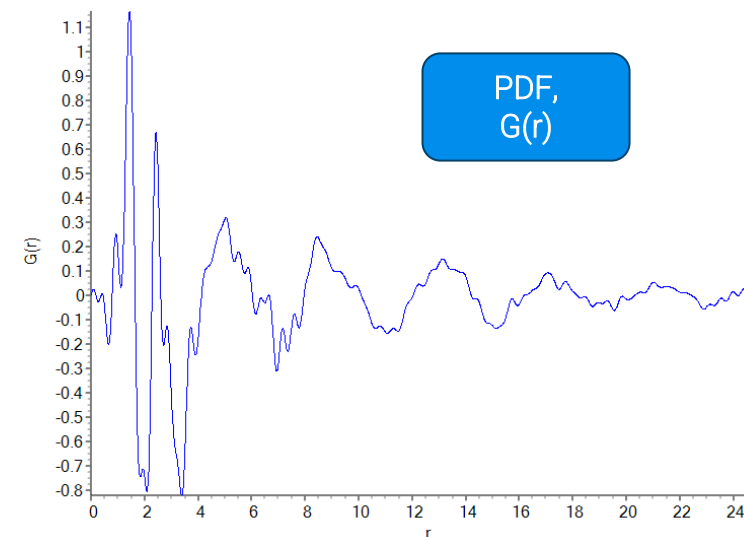
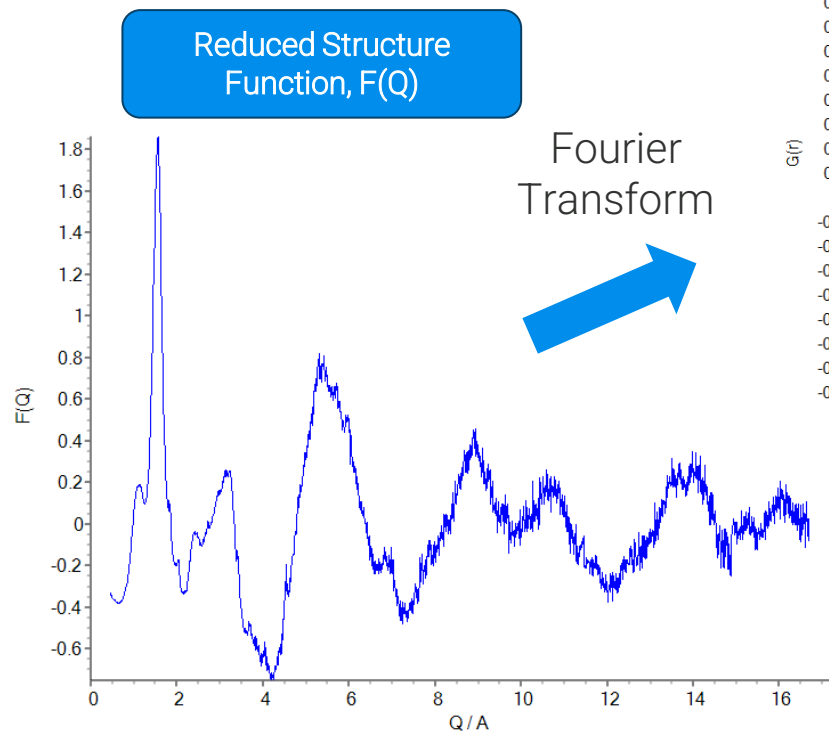
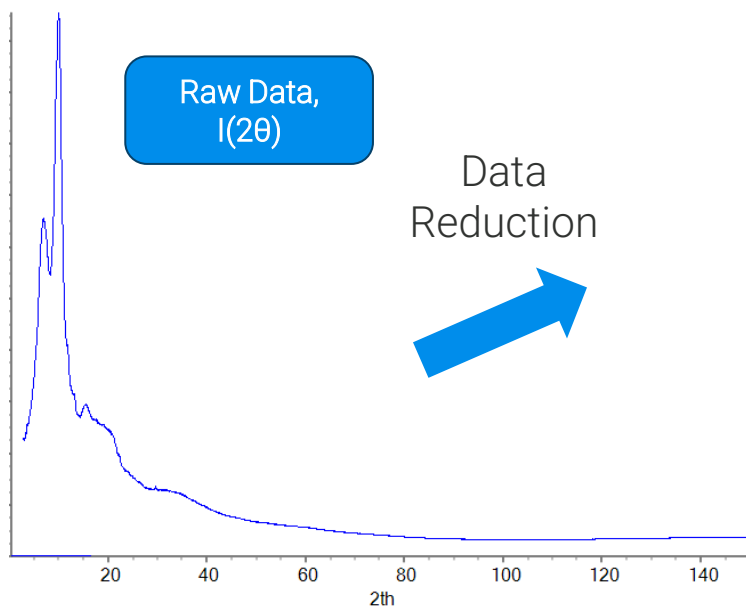
INTRODUCTION TO PAIR DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION ANALYSIS

How do I get a PDF?

How do I get a PDF?

3 Main Steps

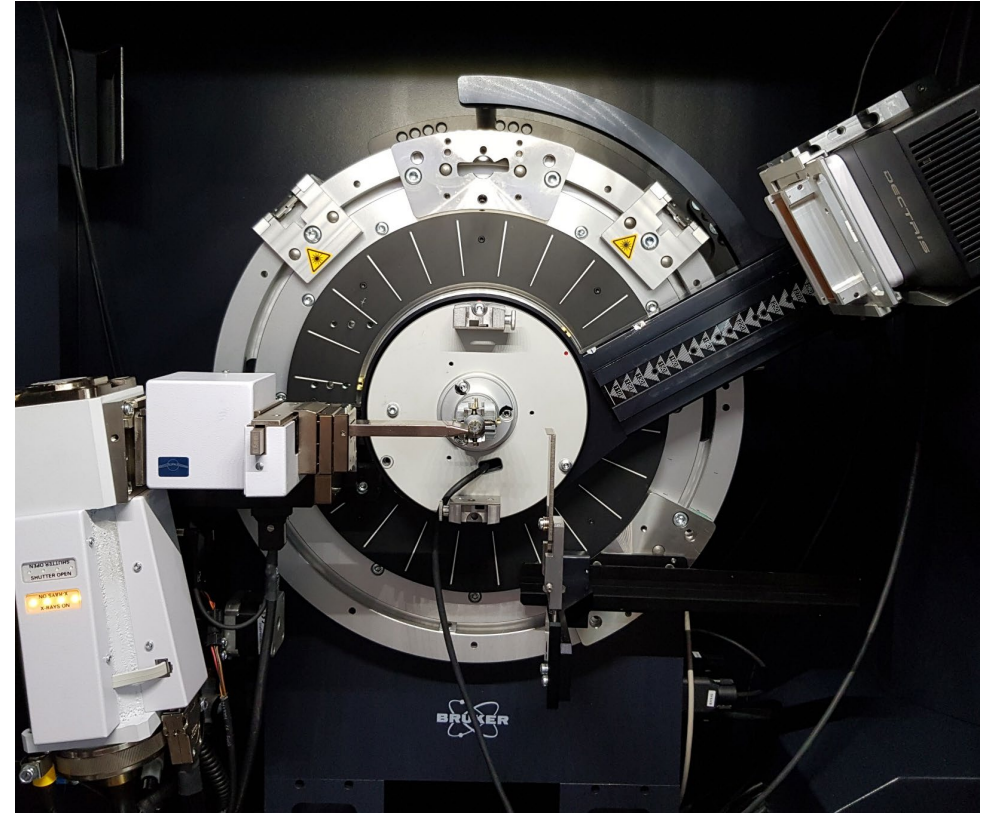
1. Collect raw data to high Q
2. Remove all non-coherent scattering signal, normalization
3. Fourier transform



How do I get a PDF?

Data Collection Requirements

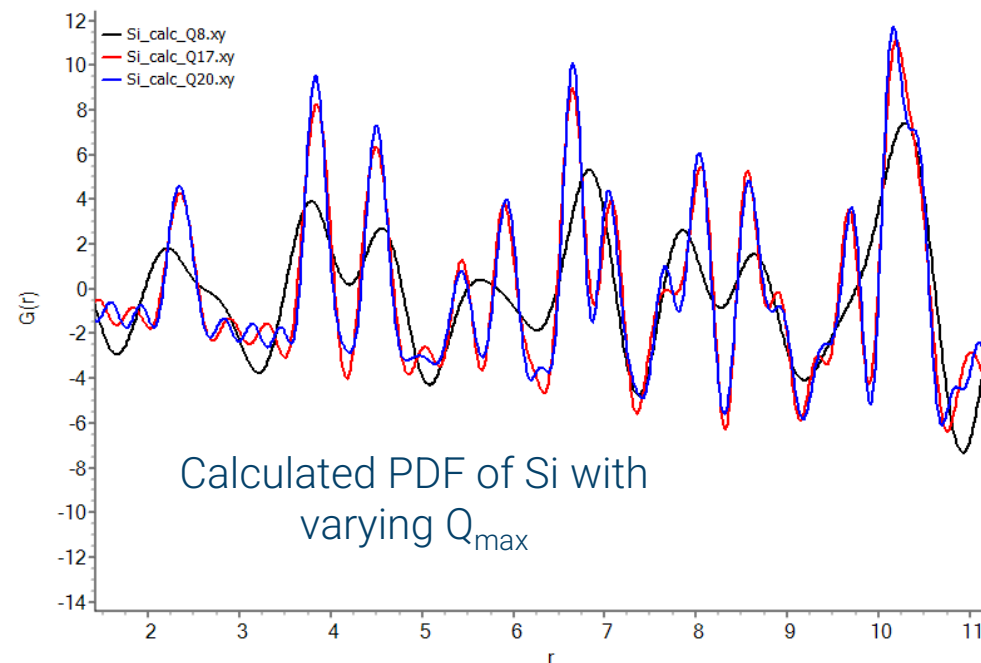
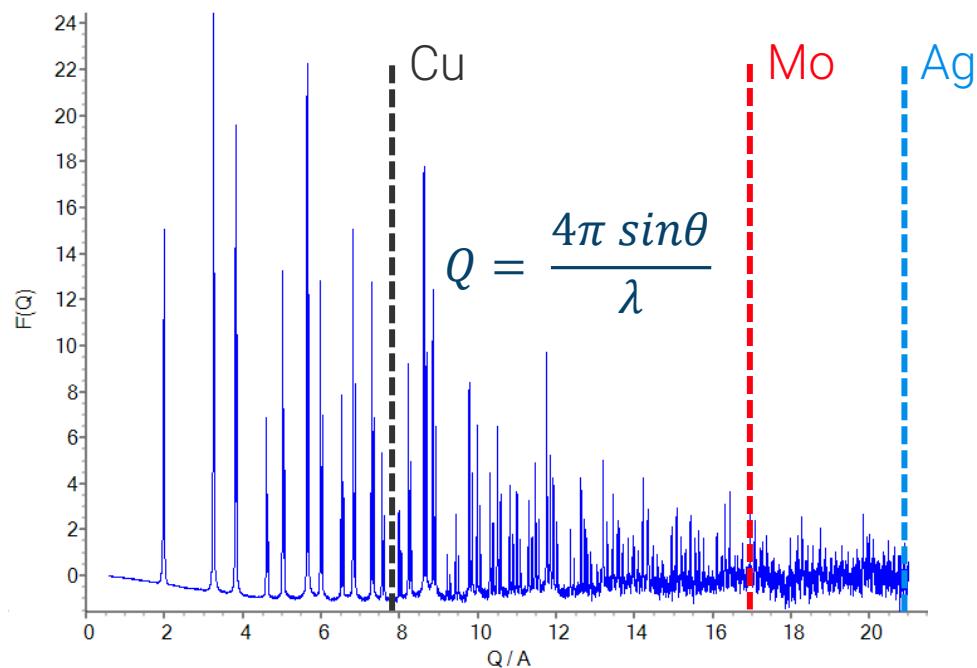
- High energy x-rays (Mo or Ag source) to collect data to high Q
- Good counting statistics, especially at high Q
- Low background
- Good angular resolution?



Why high energy X-rays?

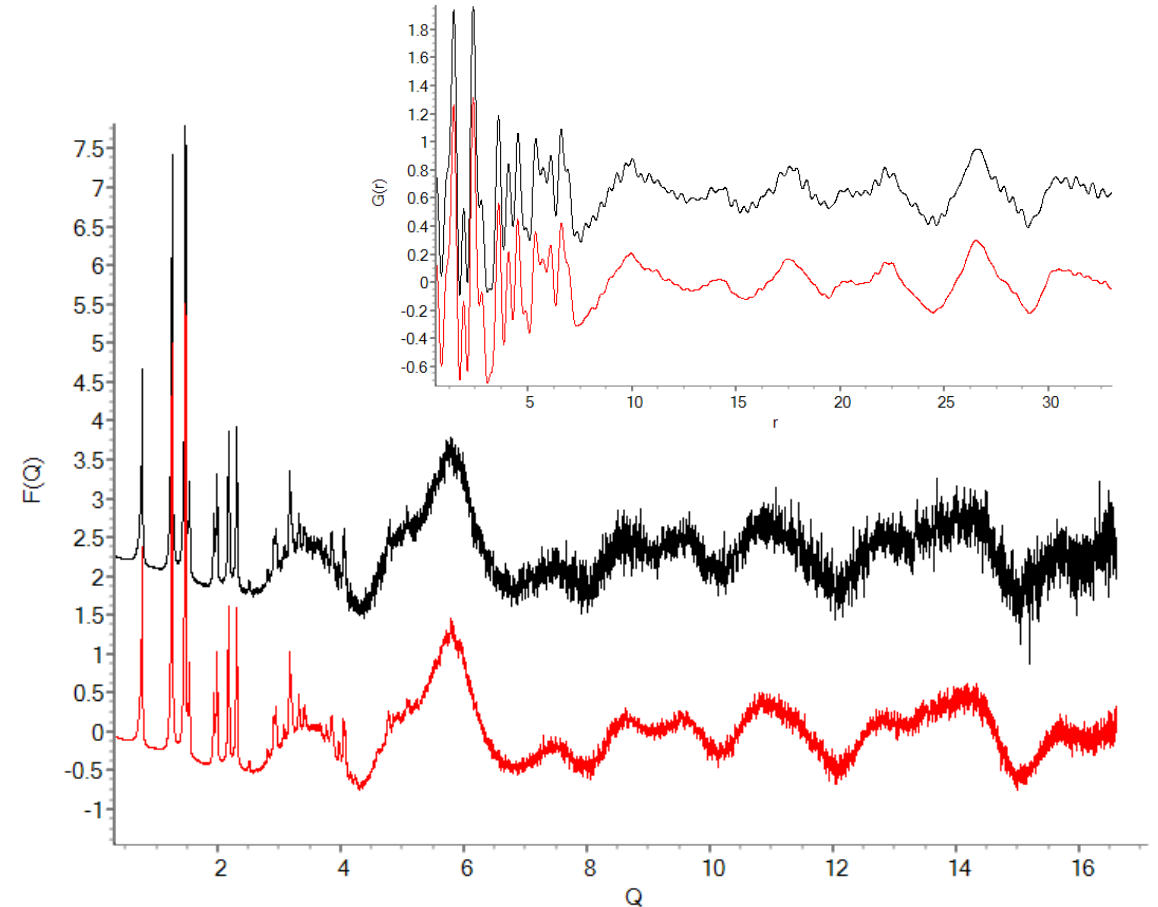
Source	$E_{K\alpha 1}$	$\lambda_{K\alpha 1}$	$2\theta_{max}$	Q_{max}
Cu	8.05 keV	1.541Å	160°	8.0 Å ⁻¹
Mo	17.48 keV	0.708Å	160°	17.5 Å ⁻¹
Ag	22.16 keV	0.559Å	160°	22.0 Å ⁻¹

- The **resolution** of the PDF depends strongly on the Q_{max} reached in the experiment!



Good counting statistics are important, too

- The large field-of-view for the EIGER2 means more diffracted x-rays are collected and better counting statistics for PDF measurements
- This can be seen in the reduced structure function, $F(Q)$, which is the normalized coherent scattered intensity
- Noise in the $F(Q)$ translates to noise in the PDF
- Data collected in 6 h



INTRODUCTION TO PAIR DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION ANALYSIS

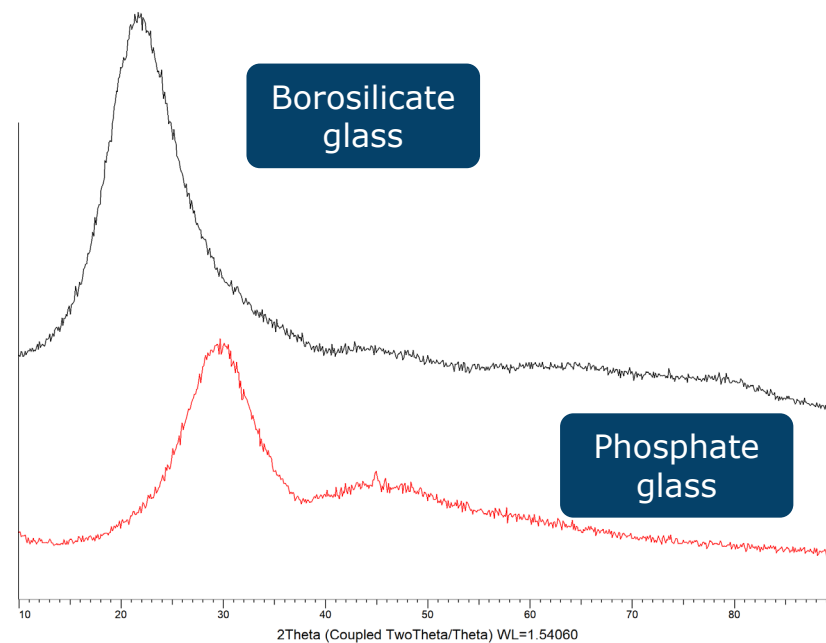
What can I see in a PDF?

Application Example

Glass

Glasses: amorphous materials with no long-range atomic ordering

- Diffraction patterns show only broad features, no Bragg peaks
- What structural information can be extracted?



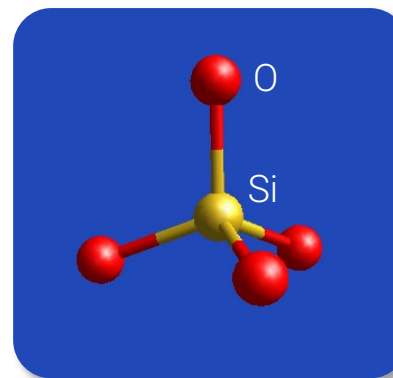
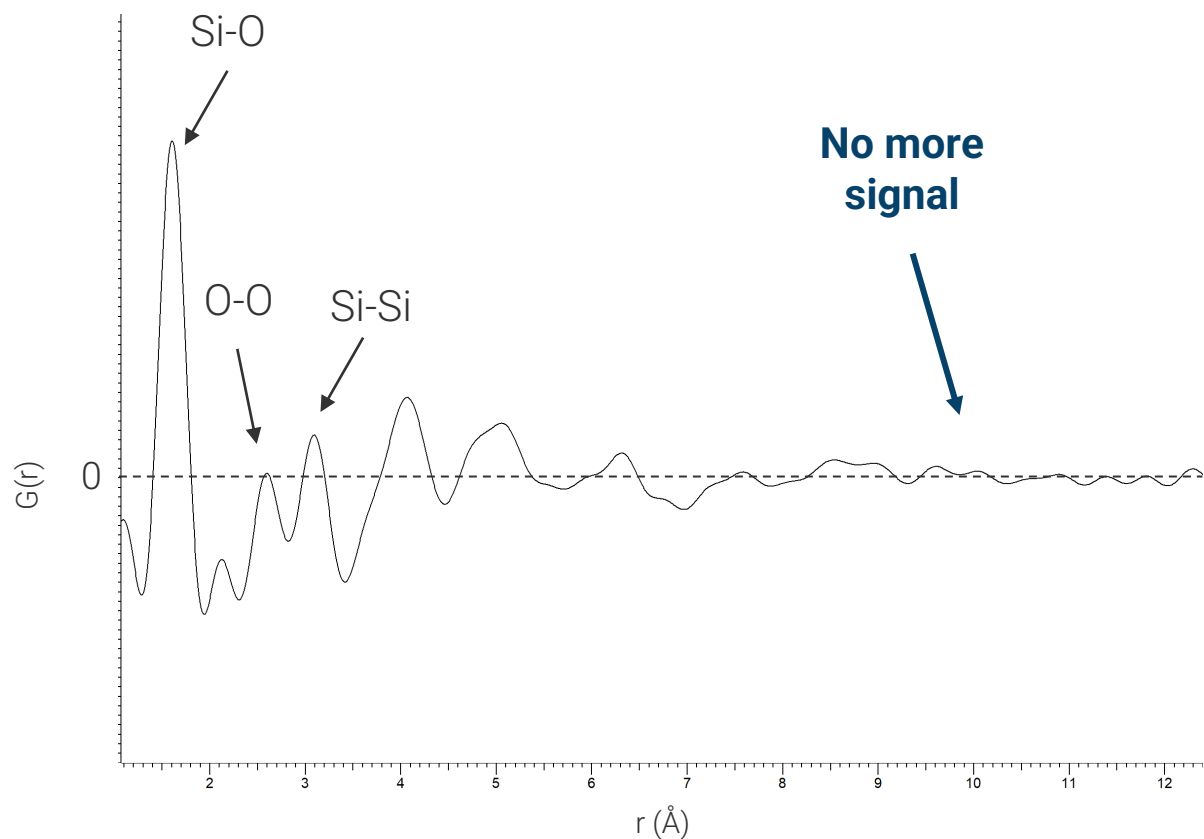
Oxide	(%)
SiO₂	81
B ₂ O ₃	13
Na ₂ O	3.5
Al ₂ O ₃	2.3
K,Ca	< 1

Oxide	(%)
P₂O₅	30
SrO	20
ZnO	20
CaO	20
Na ₂ O	10

Application Example

Borosilicate Glass

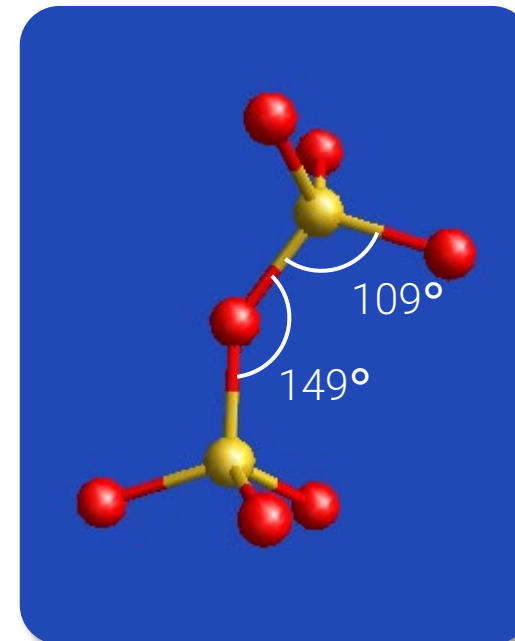
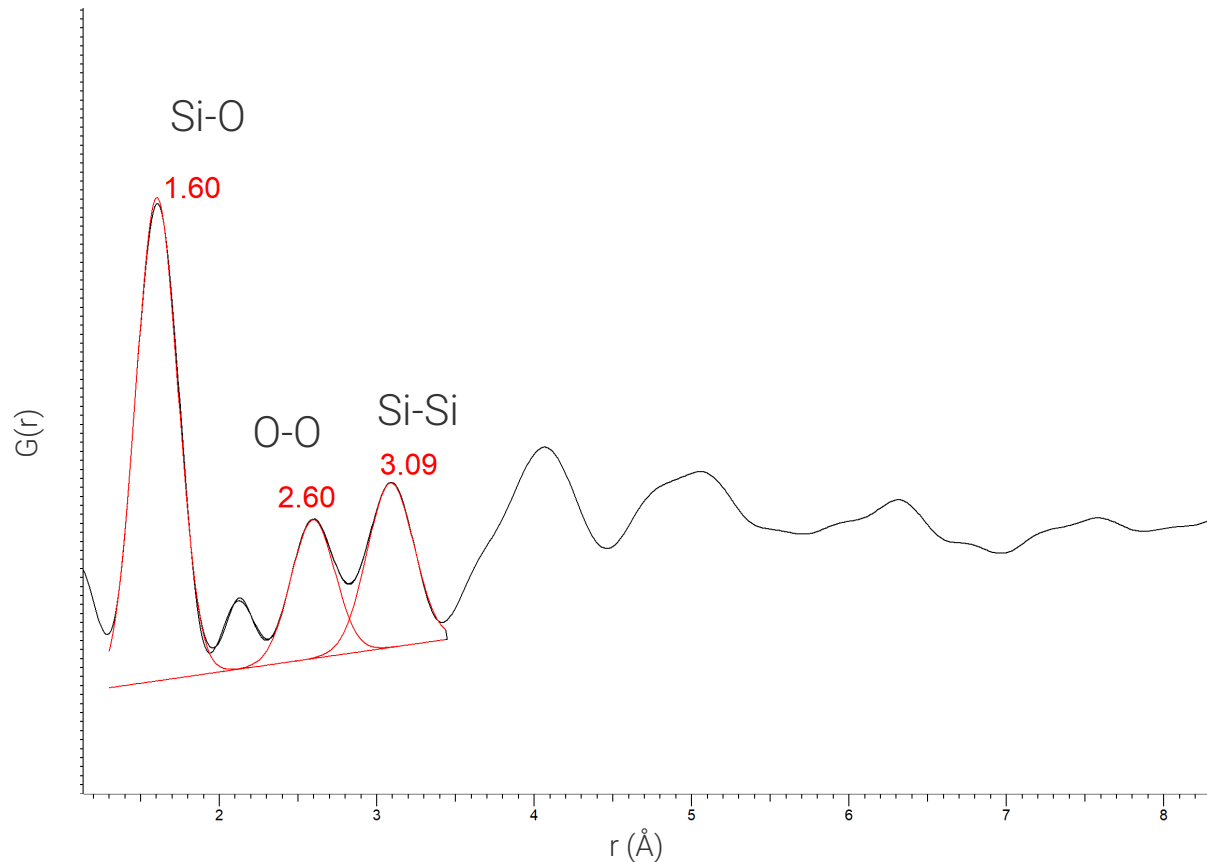
Direct information – what can we see just by looking at the PDF



Application Example

Borosilicate Glass

Peak fitting in DIFFRAC.EVA to obtain bond lengths



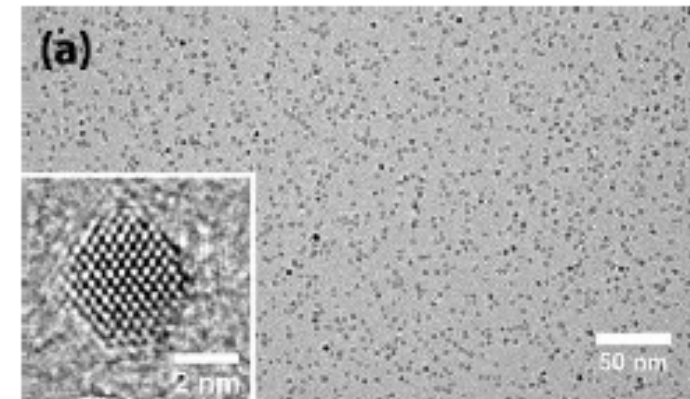
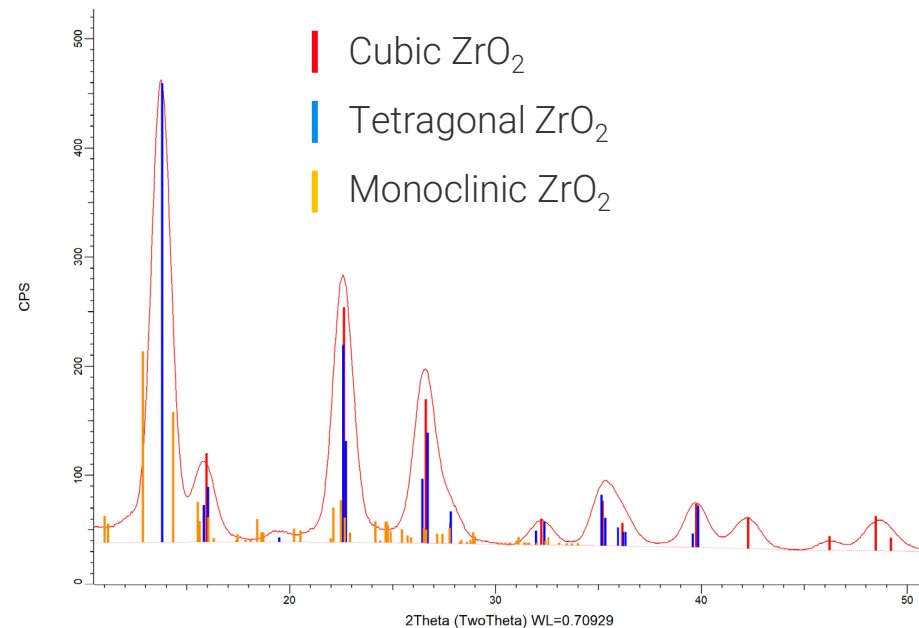
What about nanomaterials?

ZrO₂ nanoparticles

- ZrO₂ exists as 3 main polymorphs

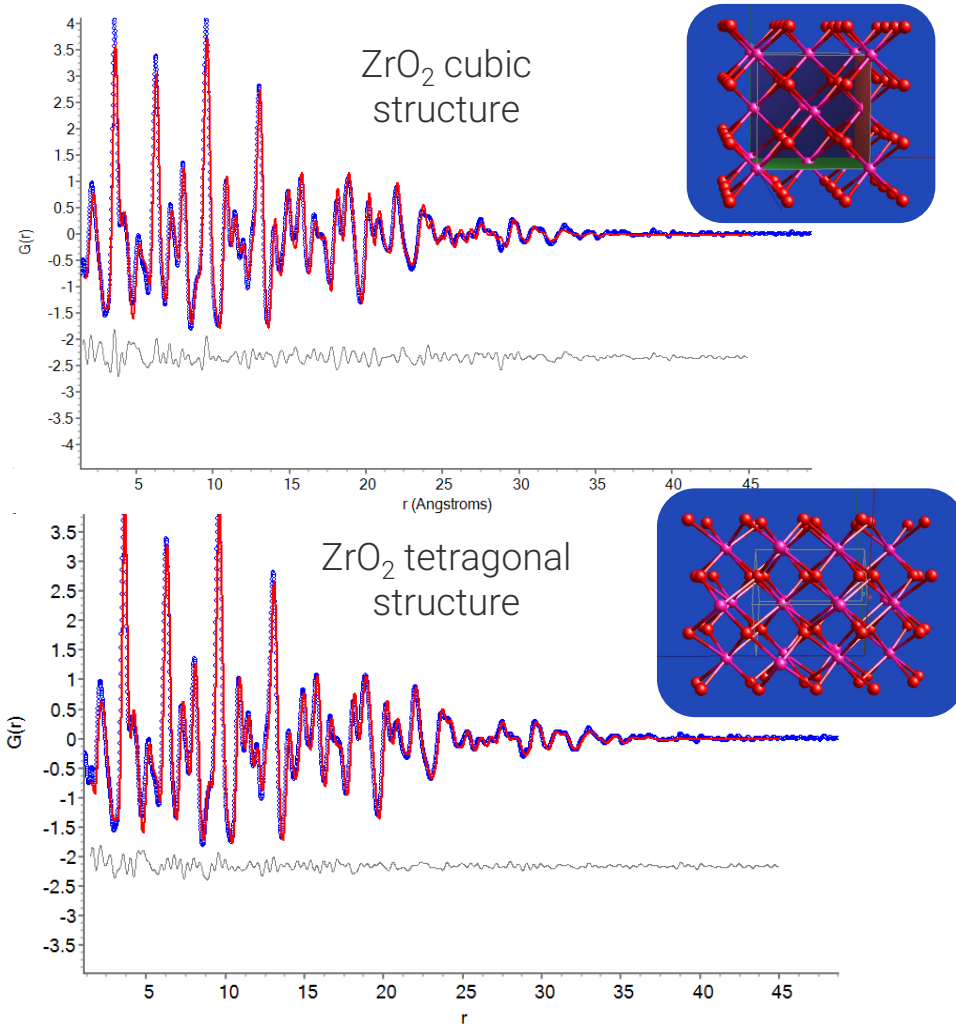
monoclinic → tetragonal → cubic
 1170 °C 2370 °C

- Each differs in catalytic activity and selectivity



Sample courtesy of Jonathan De Roo, Univ. of Basel
 Rijckaert, H. et al., *Materials* **2018**, *11* (7), 1066.

Real-Space Rietveld Refinement ZrO₂ nanoparticles

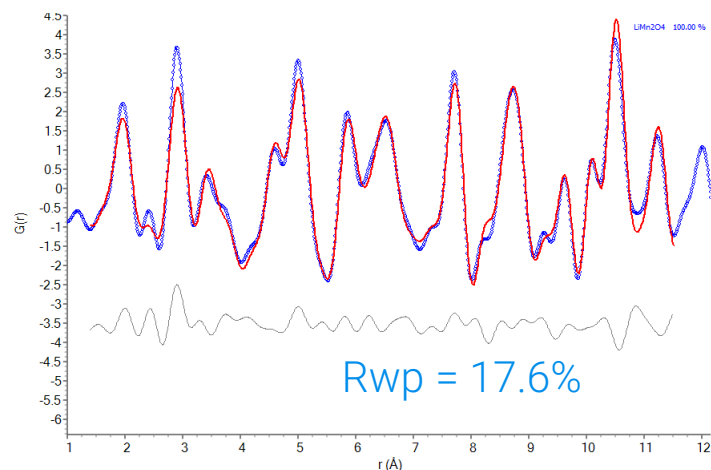


- Comparison of cubic and tetragonal structure models on the PDF data

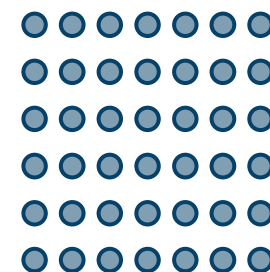
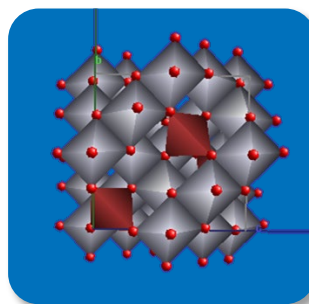
	ZrO ₂ (cub)	ZrO ₂ (tet)
SG	Fm-3m	P4 ₂ /nmc
<i>a</i> (Å)	5.1256(4)	3.6054(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)		5.1925(7)
<i>B</i> _{Zr}	1.03(2)	0.97(1)
<i>B</i> _O	5.64(5)	2.61(4)
dia. (Å)	3.9(1)	4.1(1)
<i>R</i> _{wp} (%)	16.2	11.3

PDF Refinements

Local Structure of LiMn_2O_4

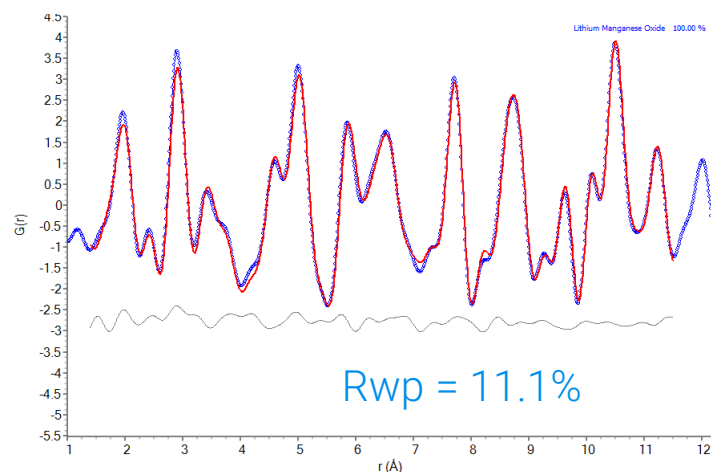


Cubic $Fd-3m$ – disordered $\text{Mn}^{3.5+}$

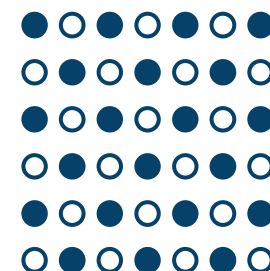
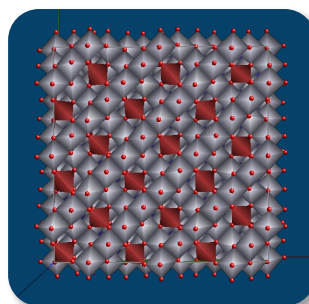


● $\text{Mn}^{3.5+}$

Mn-O bonds: 1.951 Å



Orthorhombic $Fddd$ – ordered $\text{Mn}^{3+}/\text{Mn}^{4+}$



○ Mn^{3+}

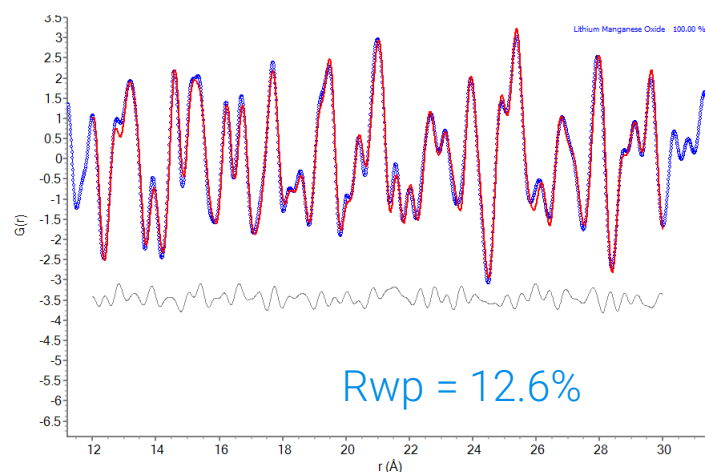
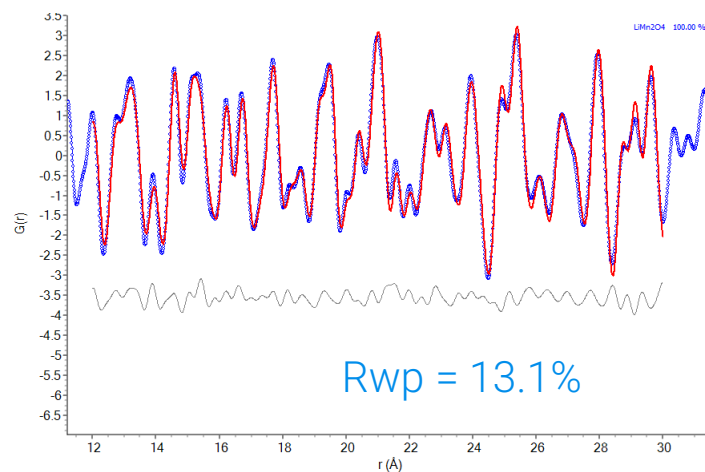
● Mn^{4+}

Mn-O bonds: 1.82 – 2.28 Å

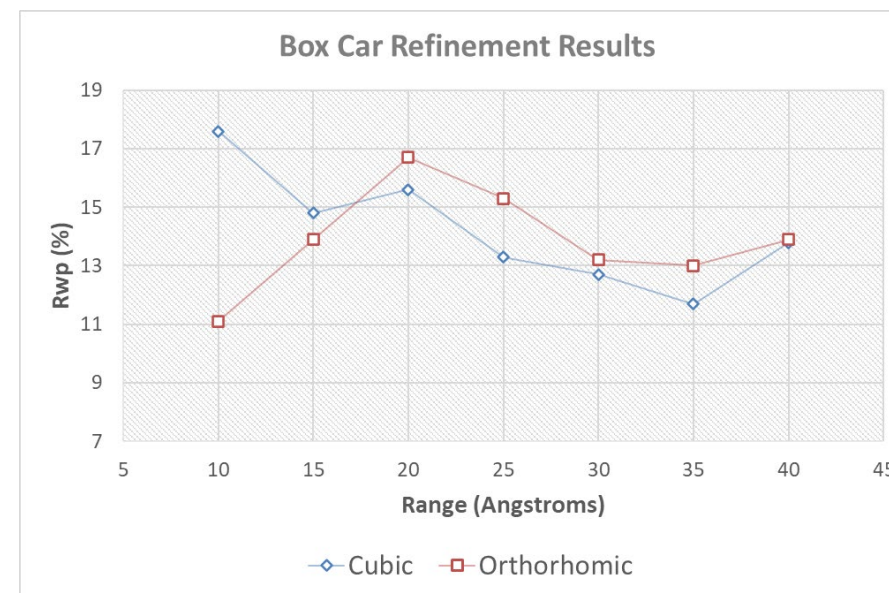
- 18 sites vs. 3 sites (cubic)
- Only Mn positions refined
- B_{eq} 's were constrained for each atom type

PDF Refinements

Local to Intermediate Structure of LiMn_2O_4

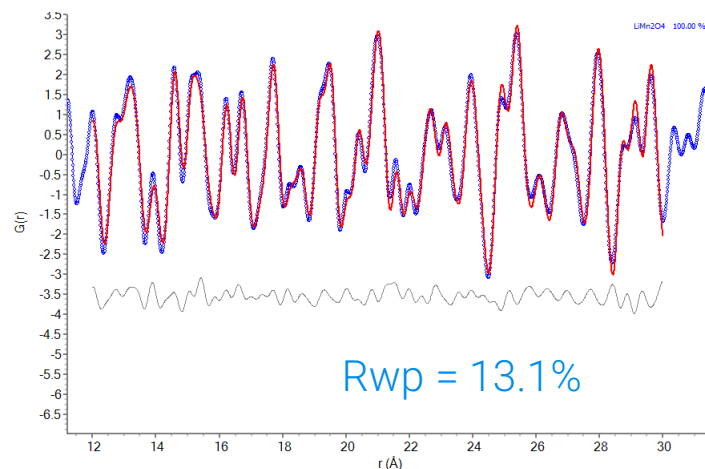


- Fixed length box (10 \AA) and performing sequential refinements from low to high r-ranges
- PDF fit to the cubic model gets better at higher r-range
- Closer to average structure

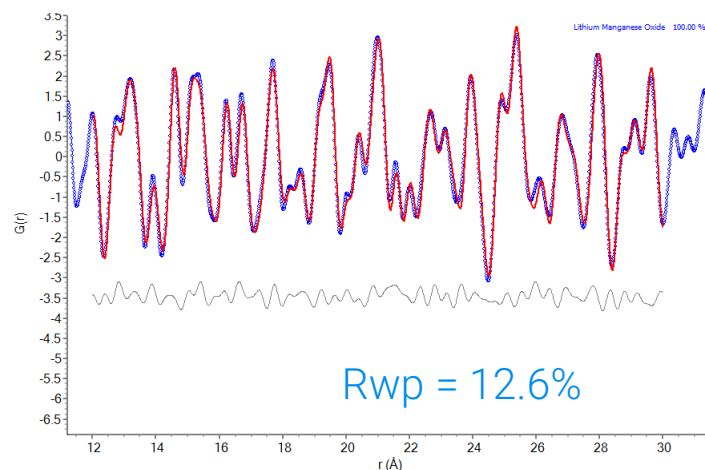
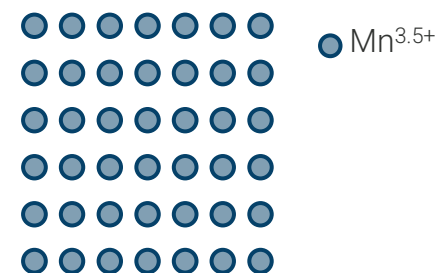
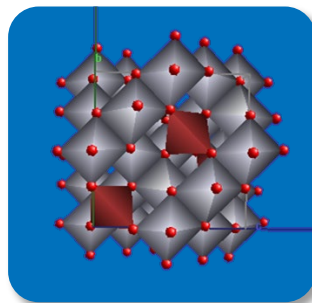


PDF Refinements

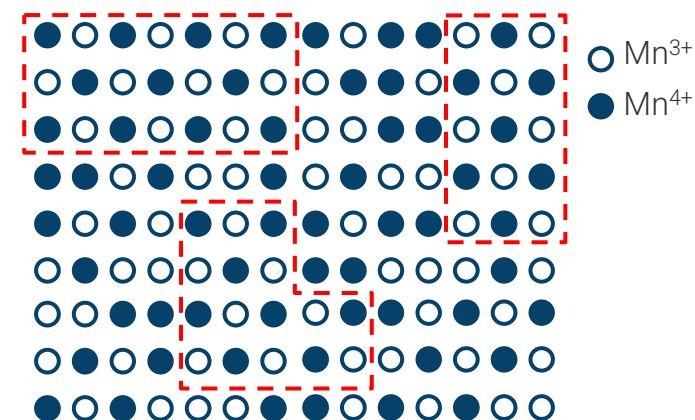
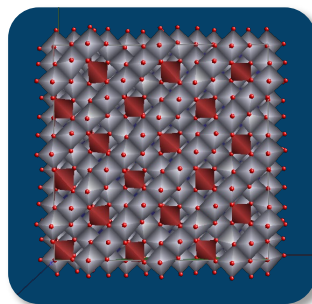
Local to Intermediate Structure of LiMn_2O_4



Cubic $Fd-3m$ – disordered $\text{Mn}^{3.5+}$ on long range



Orthorhombic $Fddd$ - ordered $\text{Mn}^{3+}/\text{Mn}^{4+}$ domains

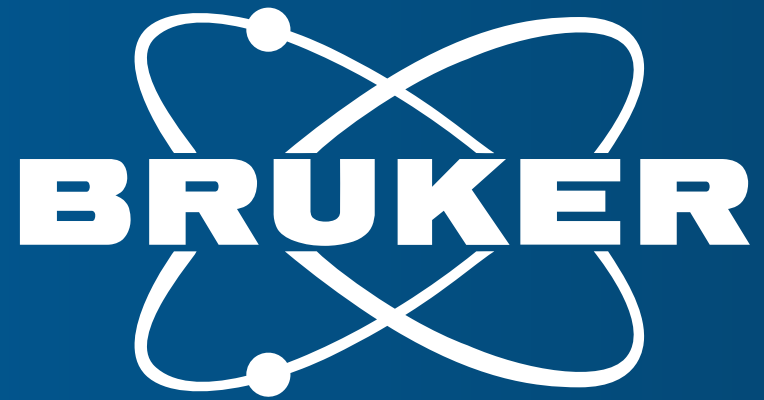




Thank you!

Name

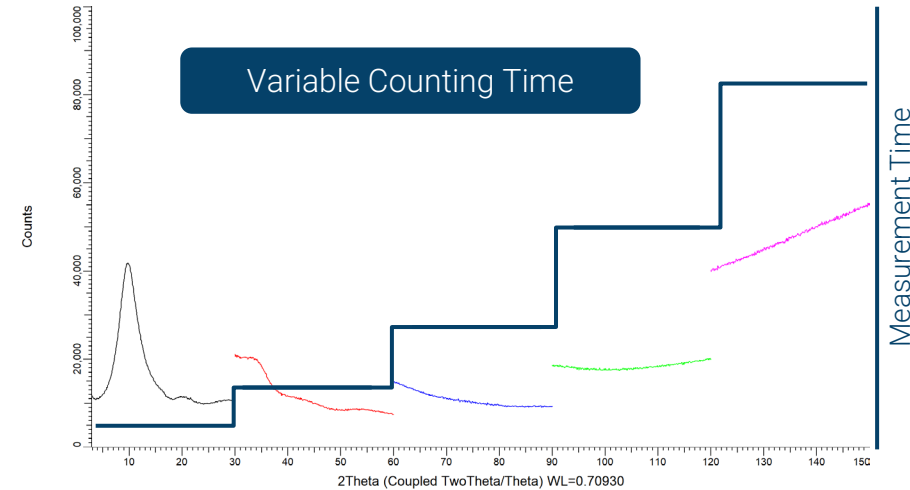
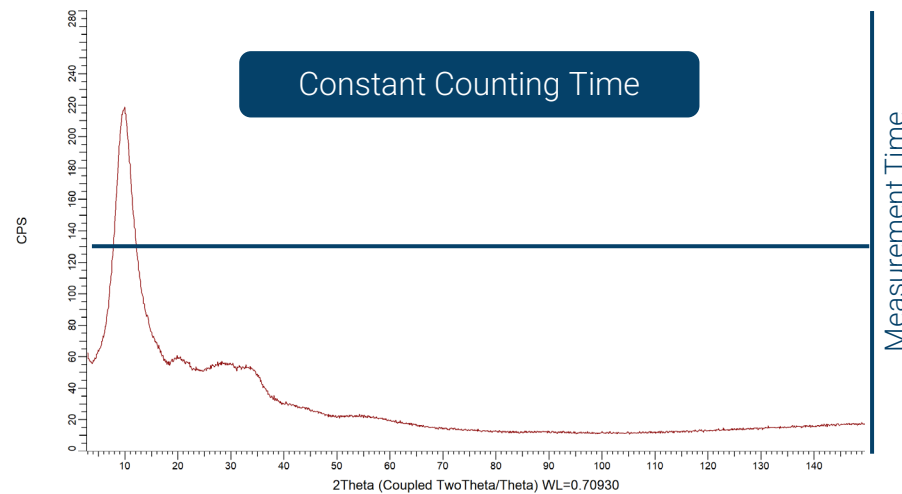
Email or phone number



Innovation with Integrity

Data Collection Requirements

How to improve counting statistics as a function of Q? Variable Counting Time (VCT)



Benefits of Variable Counting Time (VCT)

- Improved counting statistics as function of Q
- More efficient use of measurement time