

X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

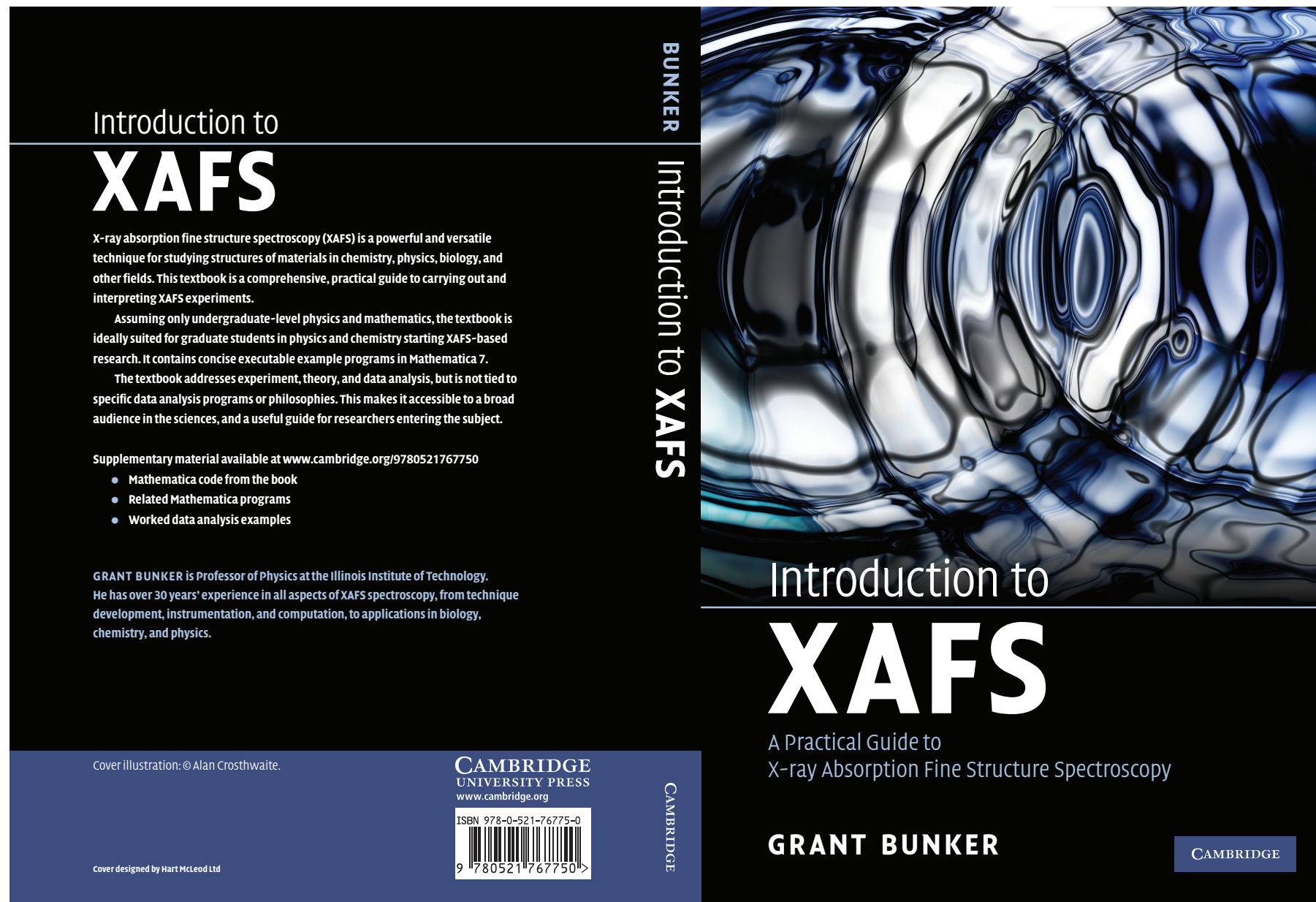
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Professor and Chair
Physics Department
Illinois Institute of Technology

- Overview of XAFS Spectroscopy and its uses
- Theory (a little)
- Experiment
- Data Analysis
- Conclusion

Acknowledgements

- >35 years
- Ed Stern, Dale Sayers, Farrel Lytle, John Rehr, Gerd Rosenbaum, many others...
- XAFS community that grew from it
- Students and postdocs

recent concise guide for new XAFS students



What is XAFS?

- X-ray Absorption Fine Structure spectroscopy uses the x-ray photoelectric effect and the wave nature of the electron to determine local structures around selected atomic species in materials
- Unlike x-ray diffraction, it does not require long range translational order – it works equally well in amorphous materials, liquids, (poly)crystalline solids, and molecular gases.
- XANES (near-edge structure) can be sensitive to charge transfer, orbital occupancy, and symmetry.

EXAFS experiment

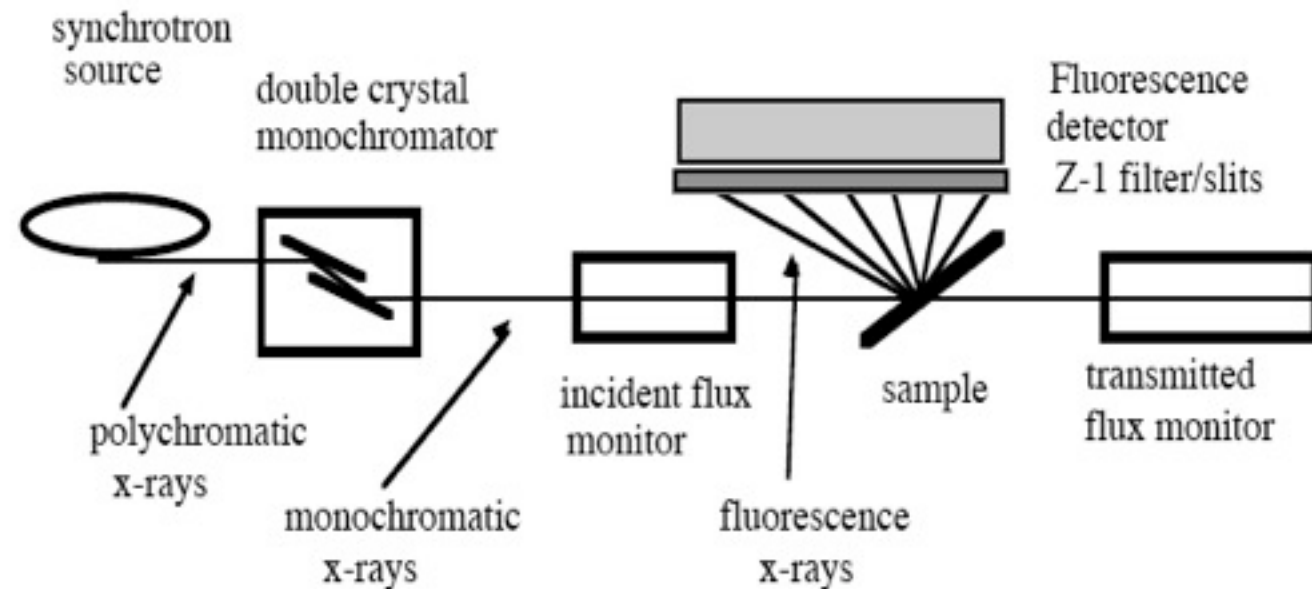


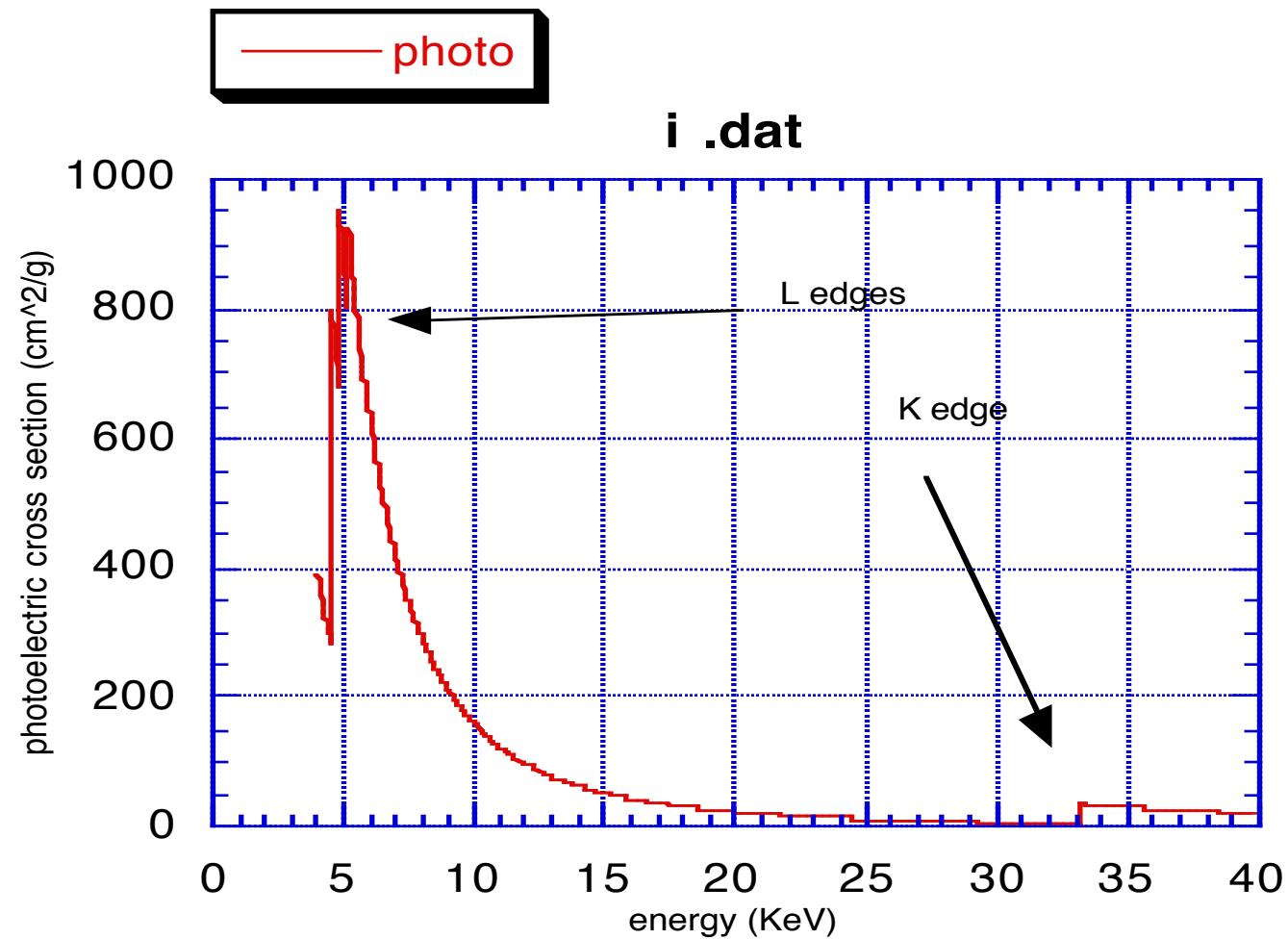
Figure 1 – Schematic XAFS experiment

$$\frac{I}{I_0} = \exp(-\mu(E)x)$$

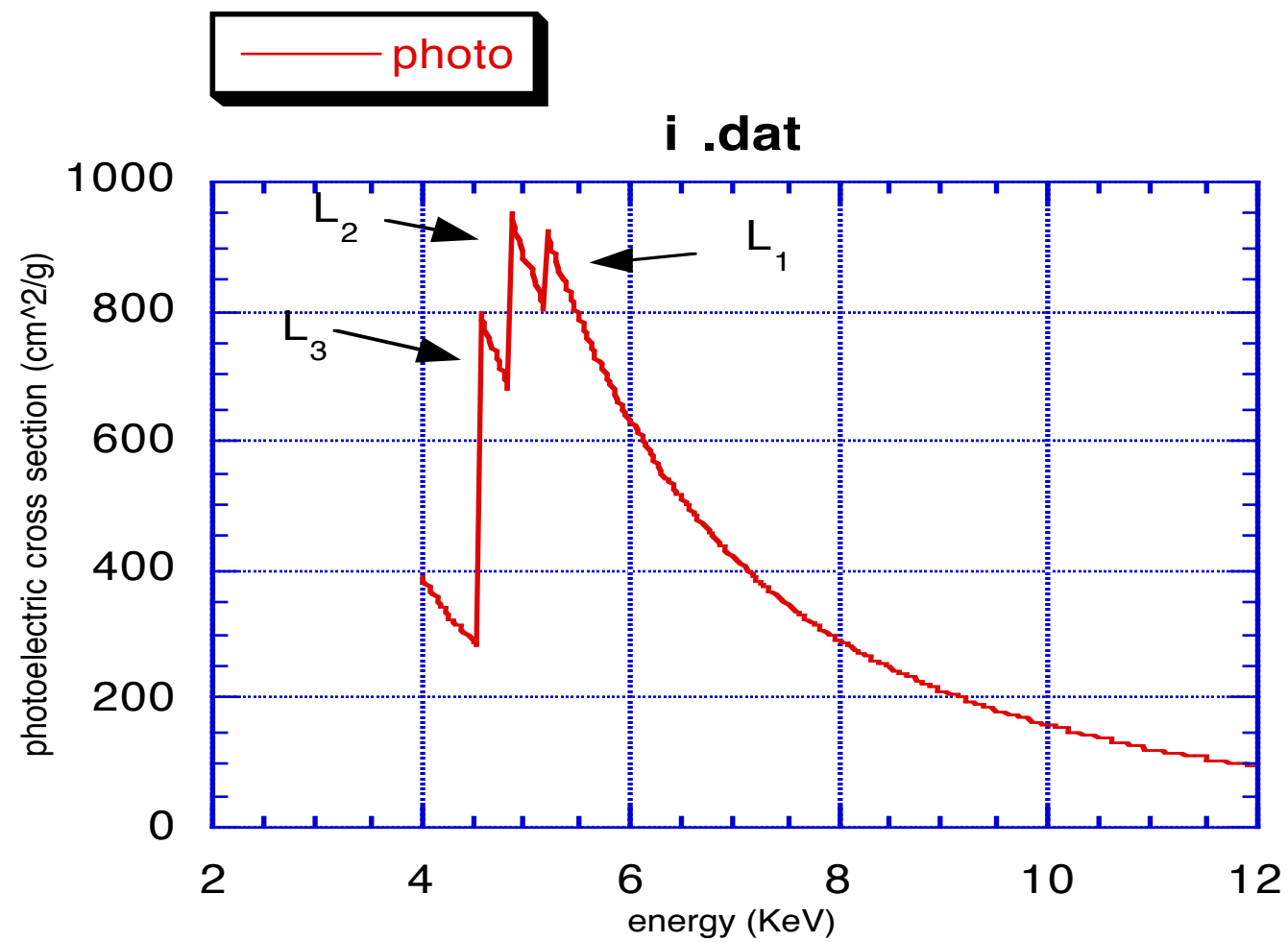
The X-ray absorption coefficient is the central quantity of interest. It is analogous to absorbance in UV-vis spectroscopy, and it is proportional to $f''(E)$.

Absorption Edges

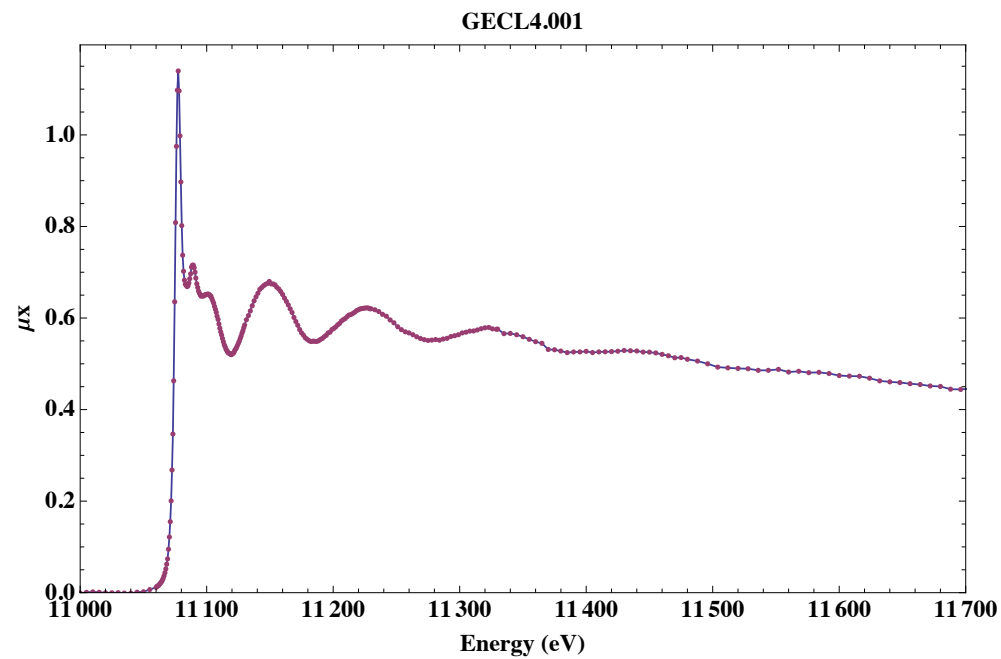
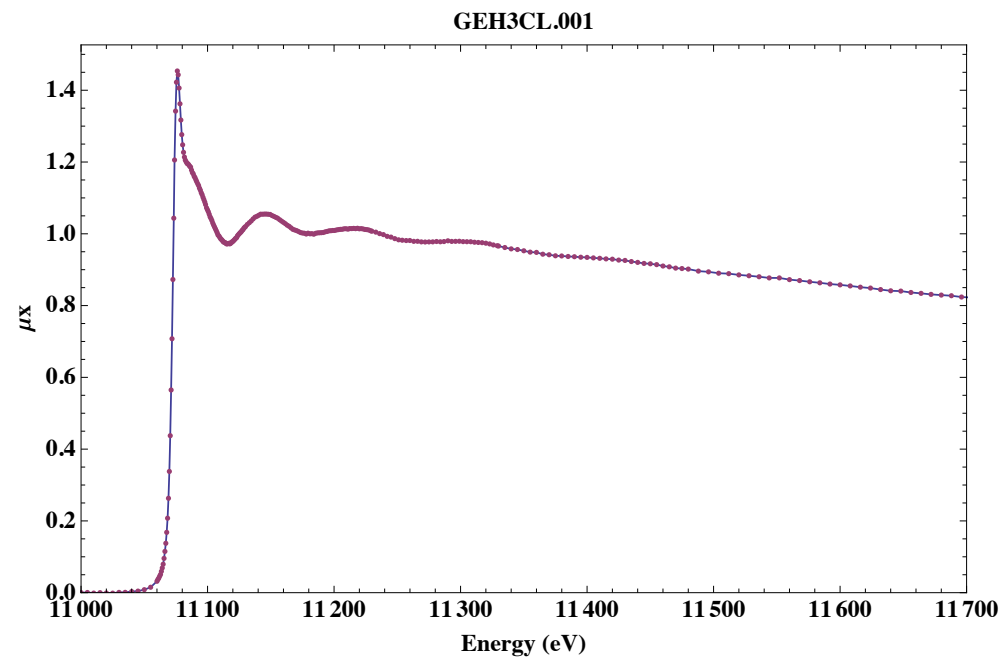
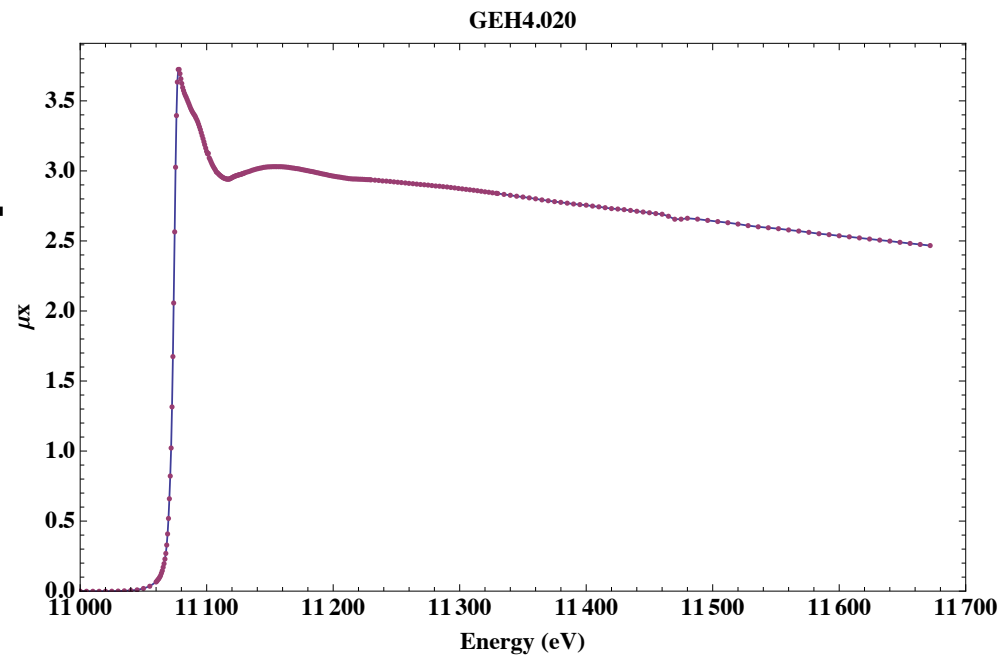
example: Iodine



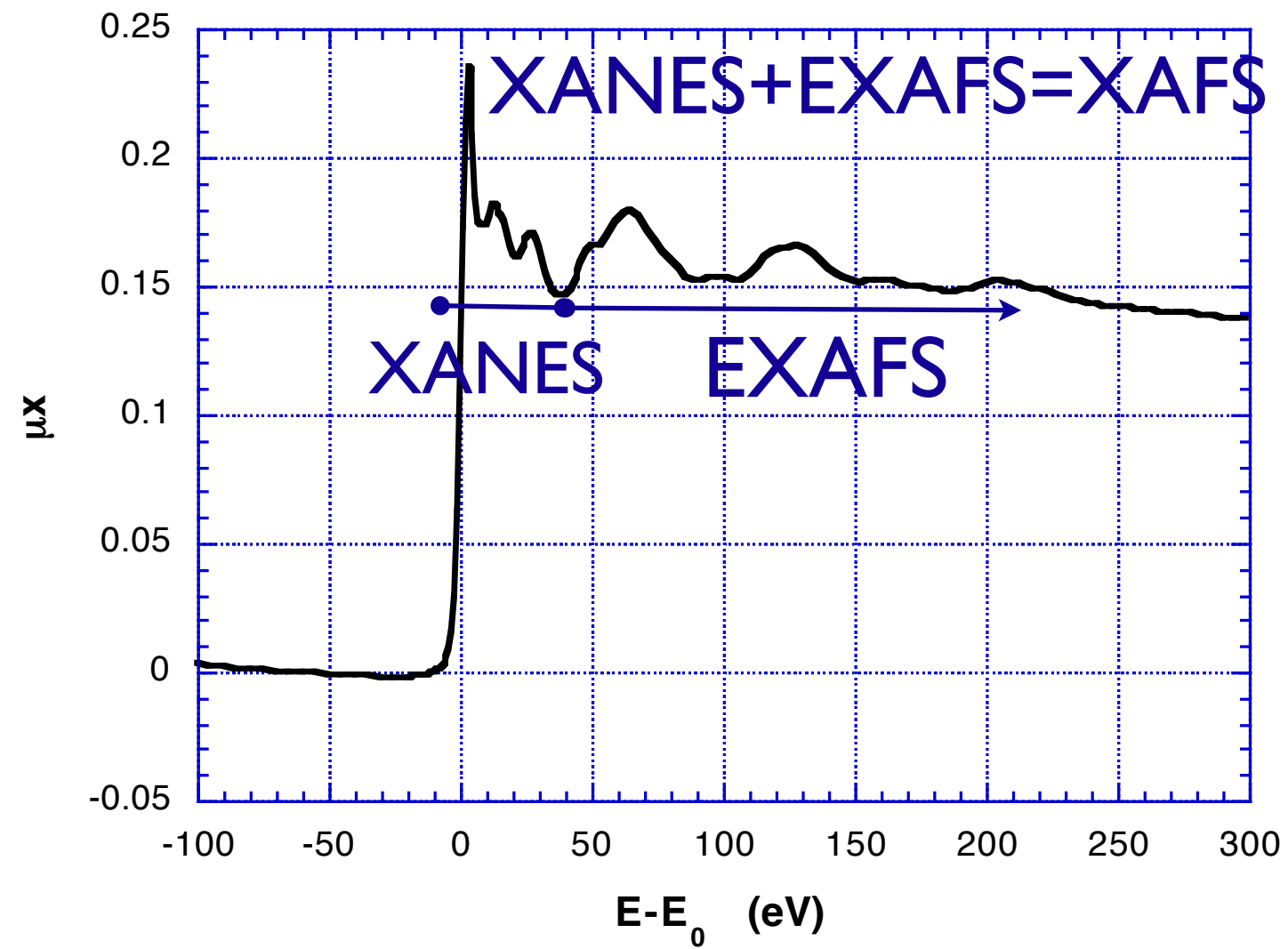
zoom in on L-edges



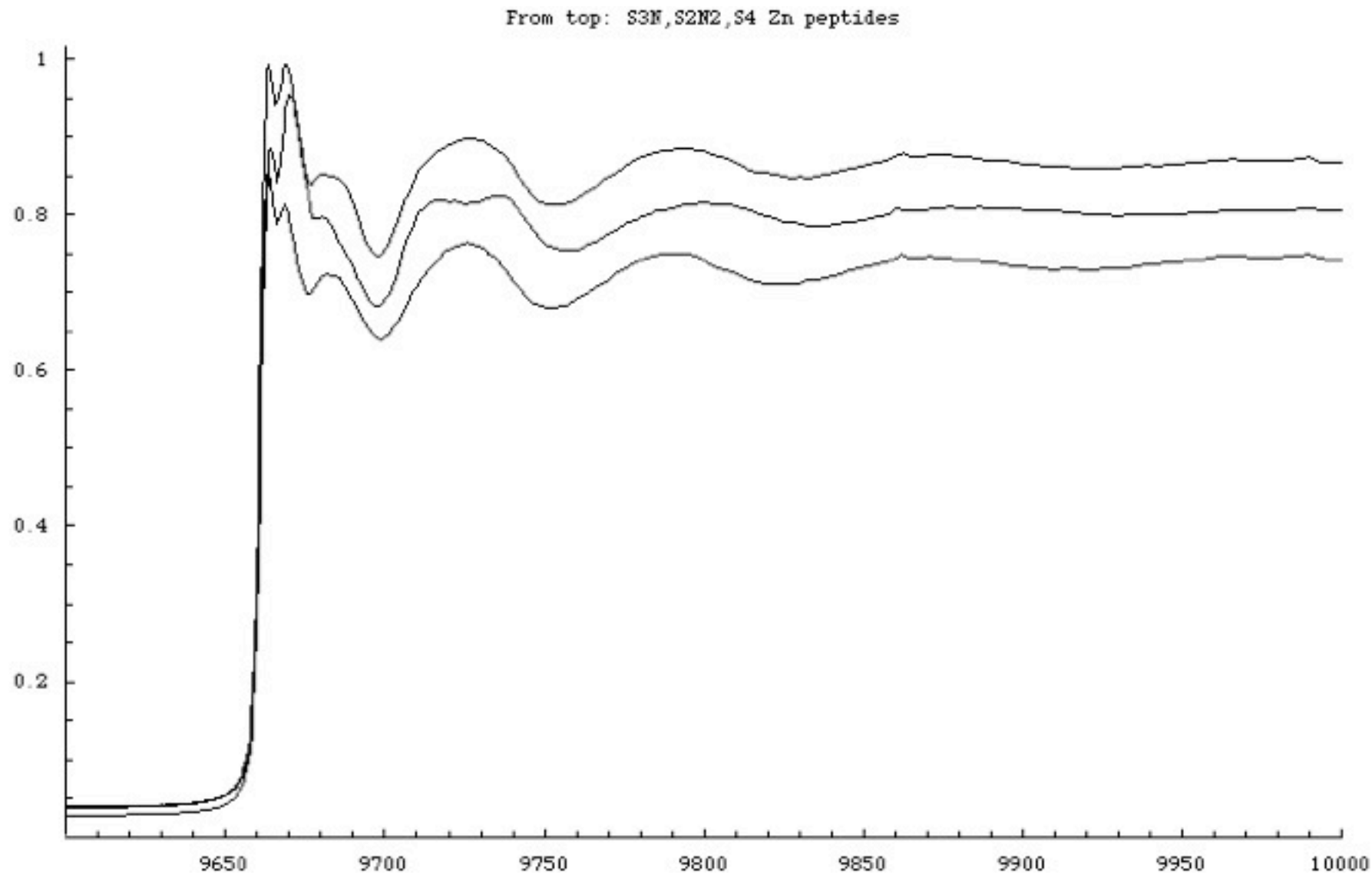
Molecular gases GeH4, GeH3Cl, GeCl4 tetrahedral coordination



ZnS transmission

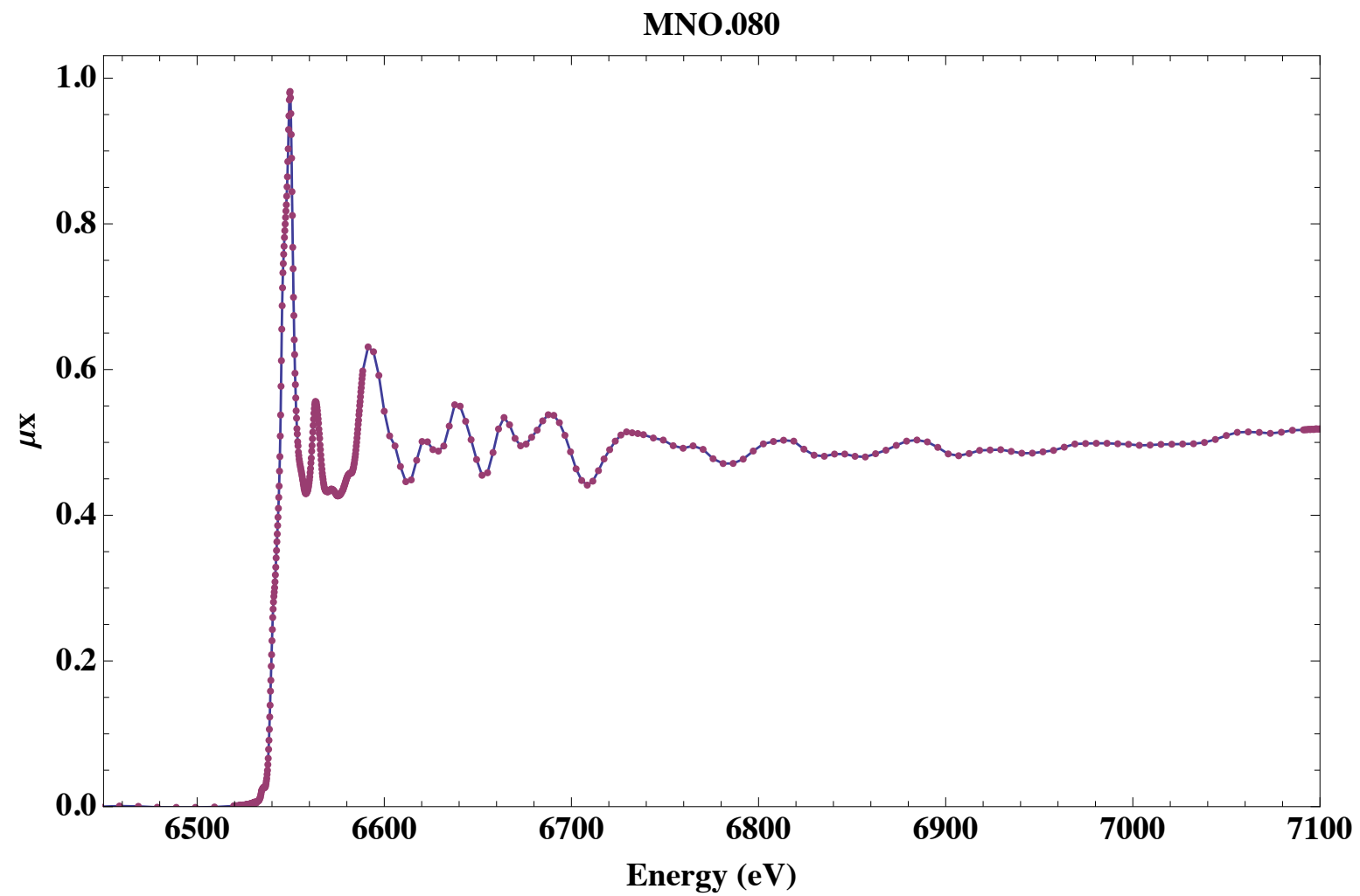


Zn cys/his complexes: XAFS encodes structure



Koch models: spectra courtesy of J. Penner-Hahn

MnO
rock salt
structure
T=80K



XAFS is element selective

By choosing the energy of excitation you can “tune into” different elements in a complex sample.

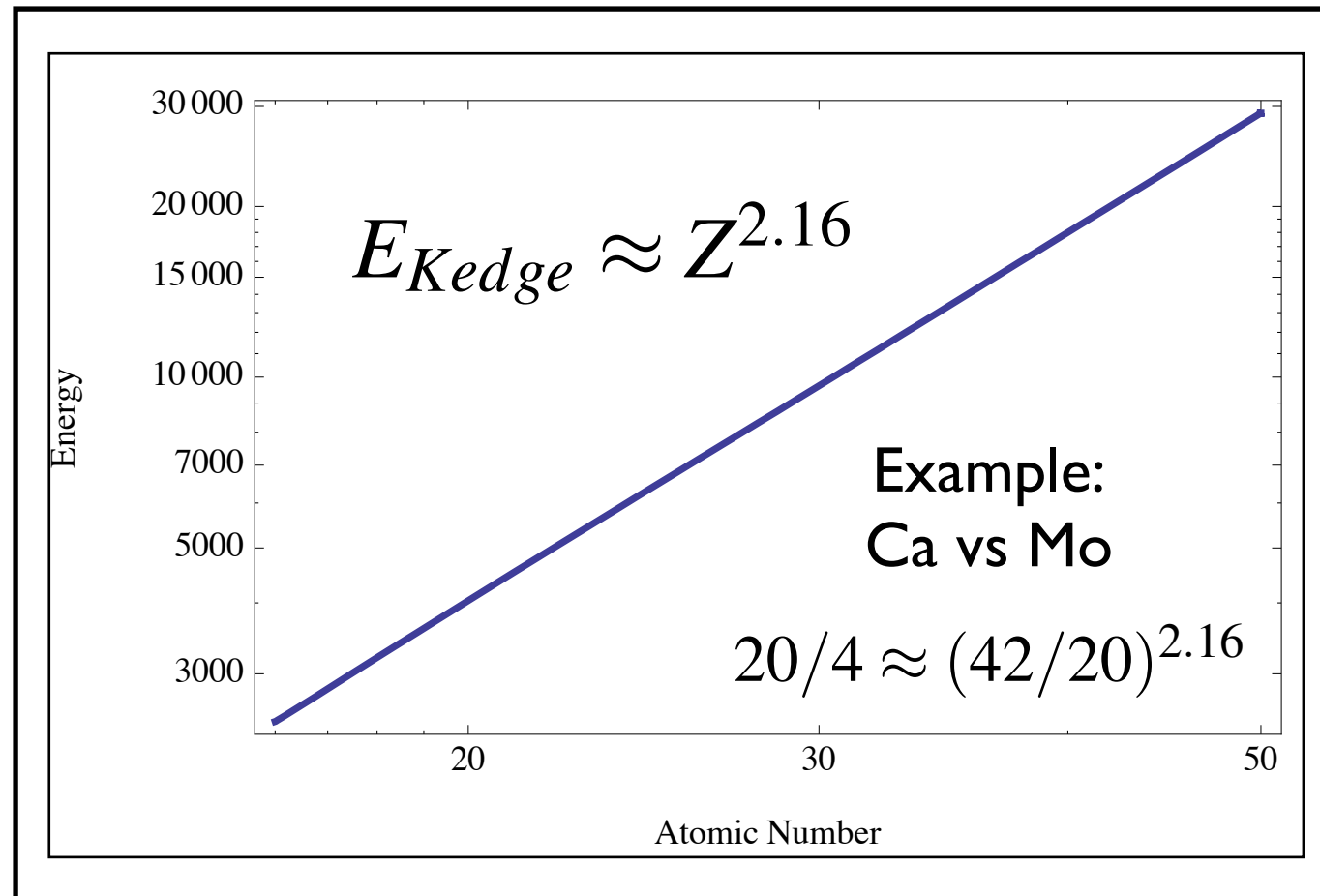
K-edge:

Ca: 4.0 keV

Fe: 7.1 keV

Zn: 9.7 keV

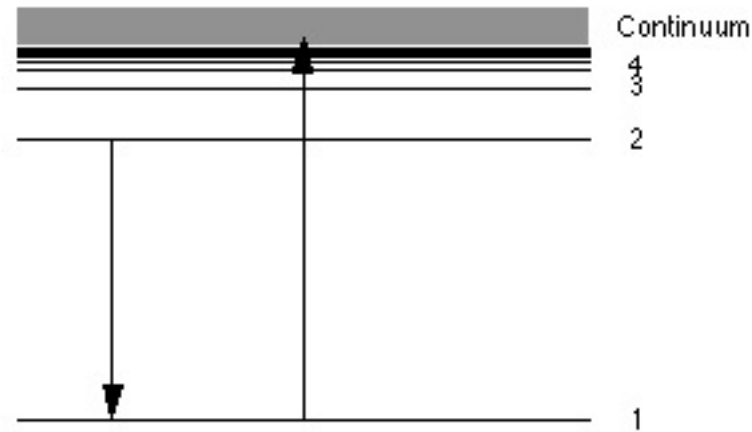
Mo: 20.0 keV



It is usually feasible to work in a convenient energy range by choosing an appropriate edge

X-ray Absorption Process

X-ray photon causes transition from $n=1$, $l=0$ (1S) initial state to unfilled p -symmetry ($l=1$) final state.



$$| \langle \psi_f | \hat{\epsilon} \cdot \vec{r} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} | \psi_i \rangle |^2$$

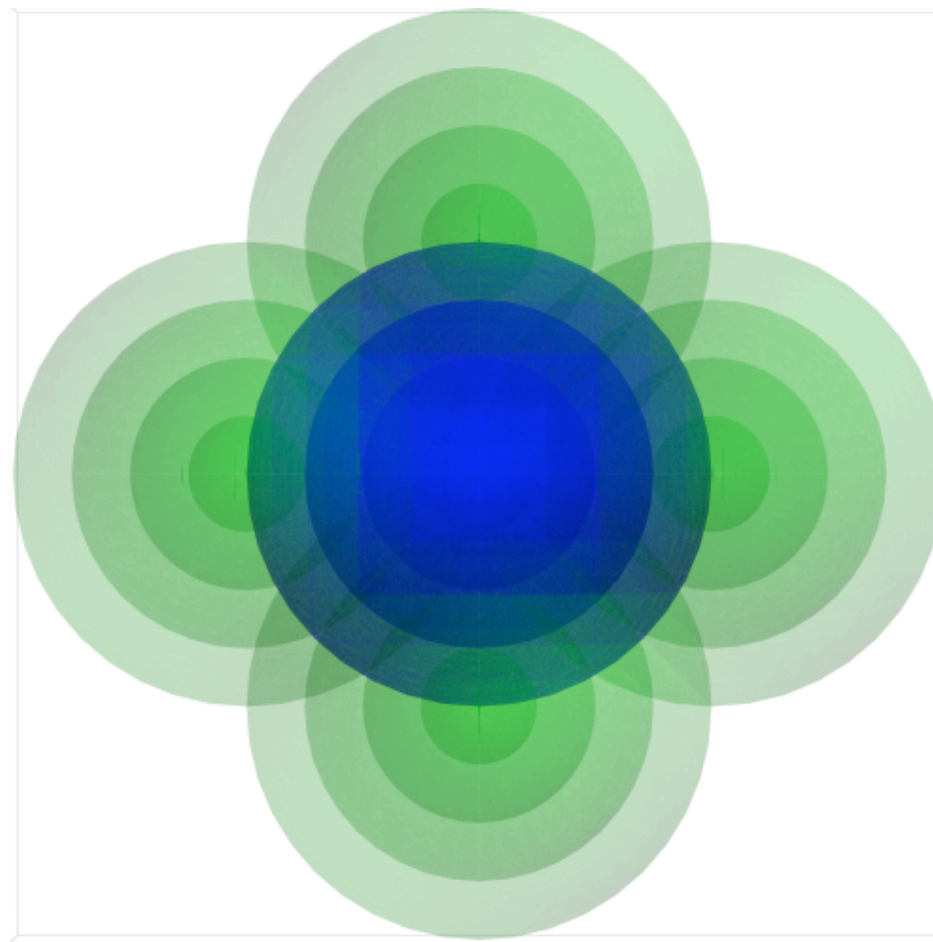
Absorption probability depends on dipole matrix element between initial and final quantum states of the electron, which are determined by local structure

Electron waves

- X-ray photon causes transition from inner level to unfilled final state of appropriate symmetry
- If photon energy exceeds binding energy E_0 , electron has positive kinetic energy and propagates as spherical wave

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} = \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (E - E_0)}$$

Electron wave emitted by central atom is scattered by neighboring atoms. The outgoing and scattered parts of the final state wavefunction interfere where the initial state is localized.



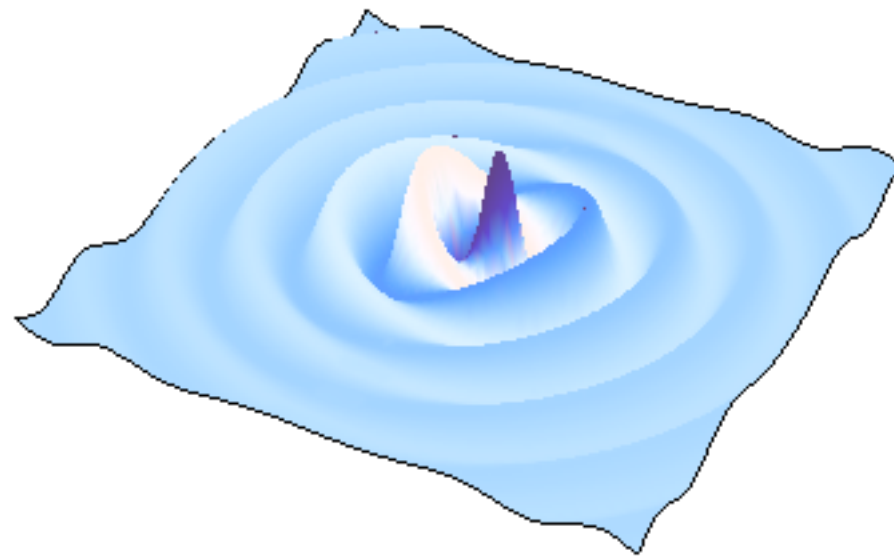
Interference is constructive or destructive depending on the distances and electron wavelength. Scanning the wavelength records an interferogram of distance distribution

Outgoing p-symmetry electron wave no scatterers (animation)

*Isolated atom has no final
state wavefunction
interferences.*

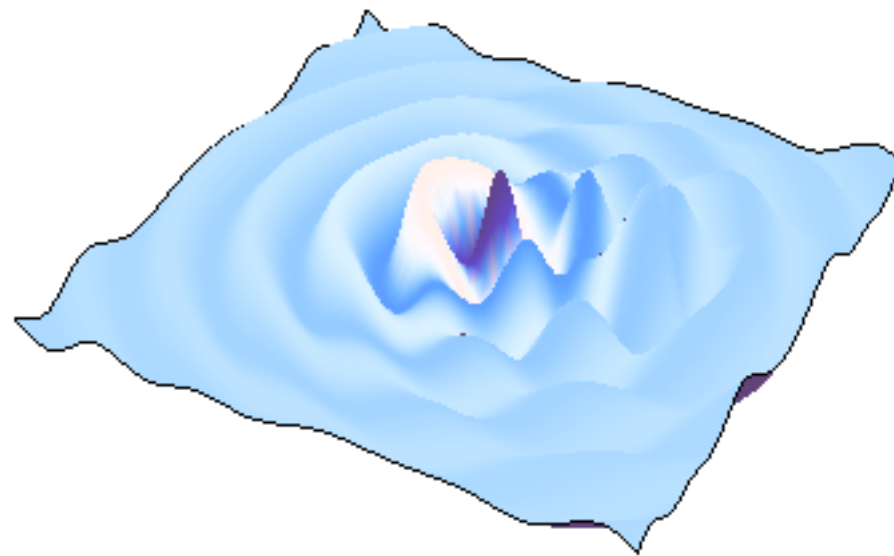
*Absorption coefficient
varies smoothly with
electron wavelength.*

*This directionality
can be useful for
polarized XAFS.*



Outgoing electron wave, with scatterers (animation)

*Scattering from
neighboring atoms
modifies wavefunction
near center of absorber,
modulating the energy
dependence of the
transition matrix element*



Time Dependent Perturbation Theory

Fermi's "Golden Rule" (Dirac)

Transition matrix element

$$\mu \propto \left| \int \psi_f^* \hat{\epsilon} \cdot \vec{r} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} \psi_i d^3r \right|^2$$

dipole and quadrupole terms



$$\approx \left| \int \psi_f^* (\hat{\epsilon} \cdot \vec{r} + i(\hat{\epsilon} \cdot \vec{r})(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r})) \psi_i d^3r \right|^2$$

Matrix element **projects out** the part of the final state that is of right symmetry (e.g p-symmetry for K-edge & dipole selection rules)

Selection rules (LS coupling)

Selection rules for discrete transitions

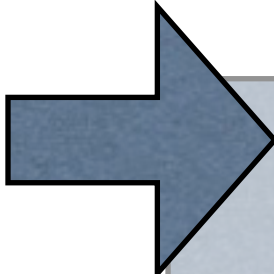
	Electric dipole (E1) ("allowed")	Magnetic dipole (M1) ("forbidden")	Electric quadrupole (E2) ("forbidden")
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Rigorous rules	1. $\Delta J = 0, \pm 1$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$)	$\Delta J = 0, \pm 1$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$)	$\Delta J = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$, $1/2 \nleftrightarrow 1/2$, $0 \nleftrightarrow 1$)
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	2. $\Delta M = 0, \pm 1$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$ when $\Delta J = 0$)	$\Delta M = 0, \pm 1$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$ when $\Delta J = 0$)	$\Delta M = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$
--	---	--	------------------------------

	3. Parity change	No parity change	No parity change
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With negligible configuration interaction	4. One electron jumping, with $\Delta l = \pm 1$, Δn arbitrary	No change in electron configuration; i.e., for all electrons, $\Delta l = 0$, $\Delta n = 0$	No change in electron configuration; <i>or</i> one electron jumping with $\Delta l = 0, \pm 2$, Δn arbitrary
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For <i>LS</i> coupling only	5. $\Delta S = 0$	$\Delta S = 0$	$\Delta S = 0$
	6. $\Delta L = 0, \pm 1$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$)	$\Delta L = 0$ $\Delta J = \pm 1$	$\Delta L = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2$ (except $0 \nleftrightarrow 0$, $0 \nleftrightarrow 1$)

source <http://physics.nist.gov/Pubs/AtSpec/node17.html>

- The measured spectrum is a Monte Carlo average of the “snapshot” spectra ($\sim 10^{-15}$ sec) of all the atoms of the selected type that are probed by the x-ray beam
- In general XAFS determines the statistical properties of the distribution of atoms relative to the central absorbers. In the case of single scattering the pair correlation function is probed. Multiple scattering gives information on higher order correlations. This information is encoded in the chi function:

$$\mu(E) = \mu_0(E)(1 + \chi(E)); \quad \chi(E) = \frac{\mu(E) - \mu_0(E)}{\mu_0(E)}$$

EXAFS oscillations

$$\mu(E) = \mu_0(E)(1 + \chi(E)); \quad \chi(E) = \frac{\mu(E) - \mu_0(E)}{\mu_0(E)}$$

information about the local
structure

- chi function represents the fractional change in the absorption coefficient that is due to the presence of neighboring atoms

XAFS spectroscopy provides:

- Precise local structural information (distances, numbers of atoms, types, disorder) in crystalline or noncrystalline systems e.g. metalloprotein active sites, liquids, amorphous materials
- All atoms of selected type are visible - there are no spectroscopically silent atoms for XAFS
- Information on charge state, orbital occupancy may be available by studying XANES depending on system and edge
- ***in situ* experiments, under conditions similar to natural state, as well as crystals.**
- XAFS probes effects of arbitrary experimental conditions on sample (high pressure, low temperature, pH, redox state, pump-probe, T-jump, p-jump...)
- Oriented samples provide more angular information

Complementary Structure Probes

- X-ray and Neutron diffraction
 - powerful and fast (x-ray), need good crystals, no solutions
- 2-D and higher dimensional NMR
 - Atomic resolution structures in solution, no large molecules, slow
- X-ray scattering
 - SAXS gives only low resolution information
 - wide angle can be informative
 - PDF (pair distribution function)
- XAFS
 - Gives short range structure around metal atom. Not sensitive or fast. XANES probes orbital matrix elements and occupancy.

Related

- XMCD: X-ray Magnetic Circular Dichroism uses circularly polarized x-rays to probe magnetic structure
- IXS: Inelastic X-ray Scattering analyzes the fluorescence radiation at high resolution, providing a 2-D excitation map. Provides a great deal of information in the near-edge region
- X-ray Raman: essentially allows one to obtain XAFS-like information using high energy x-rays
- DAFS: hybrid diffraction/XAFS gives sensitivity to inequivalent sites in crystals and multilayers
- XPS, ARPEFS, fluorescence holography...

Final state symmetry

- K-edge: 1s initial state ($n=1, l=0, m=0$)
- L_1 -edge: 2s initial state ($n=2, l=0, m=0$)
- L_2 -edge: 2p ($j=1/2$) initial state ($n=2, l=1$)
- L_3 -edge: 2p ($j=3/2$) initial state ($n=2, l=1$)
- dipole selection rules project out specific symmetry components of final state wavefunction
 - K, L_1 edges probe p part of final states
 - $L_{2,3}$ edges probe d (& s) part of final states

Single Scattering EXAFS Equation

Stern, Sayers, Lytle

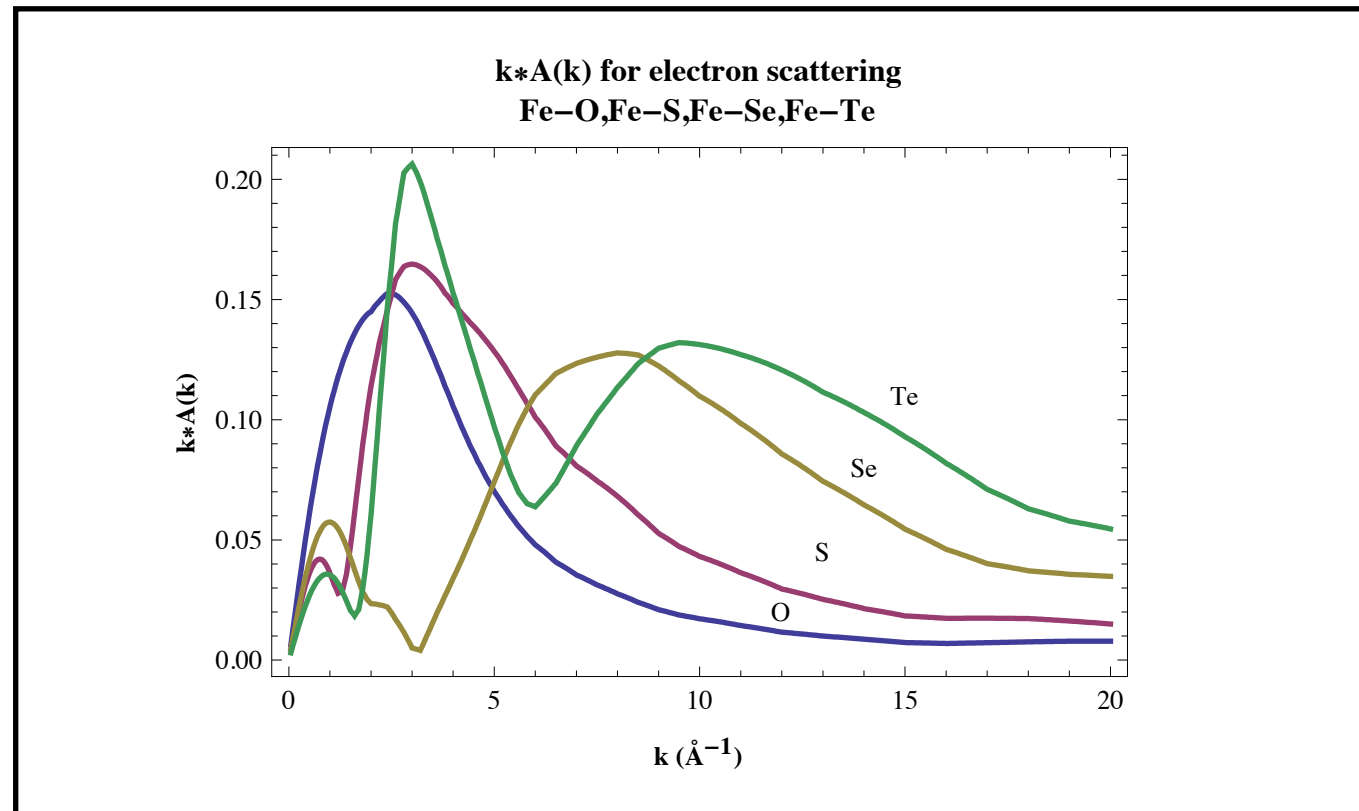
$$\chi(k) = S_0^2 \sum_i \frac{N_j}{k R_j^2} |f_j(k; r)| e^{-2k^2 \sigma_j^2} e^{-2R_j/\lambda(k)} \sin(2k R_j + \delta_j(k; r))$$

Experimental data are fit using the EXAFS equation with theoretically calculated (or empirically measured) scattering functions to determine structural parameters.

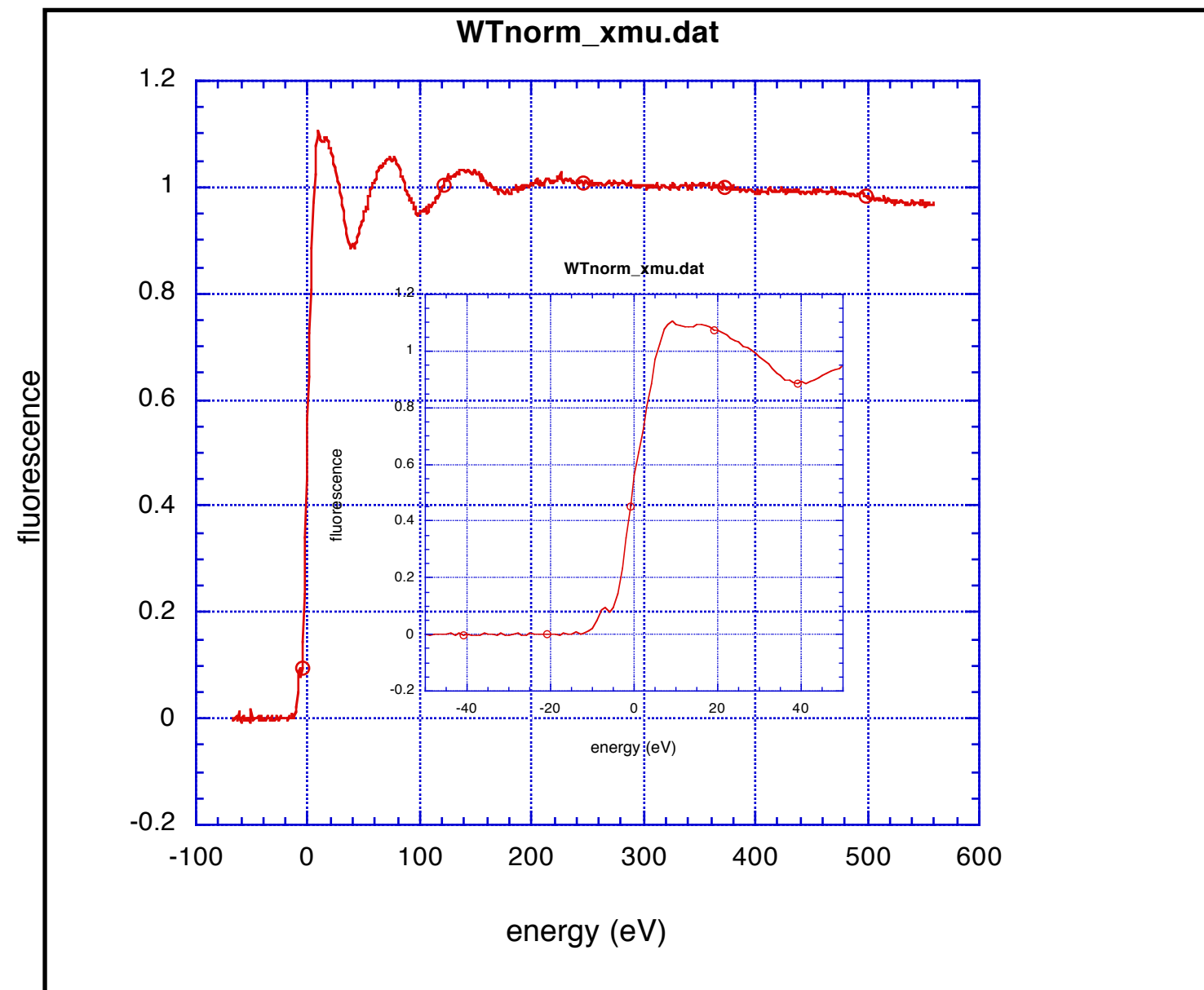
The k-dependence of scattering amplitudes and phases helps distinguish types of backscatterers

This equation is a bit too simple {large disorder, multiple scattering [focussing effect]}, but it can be generalized.

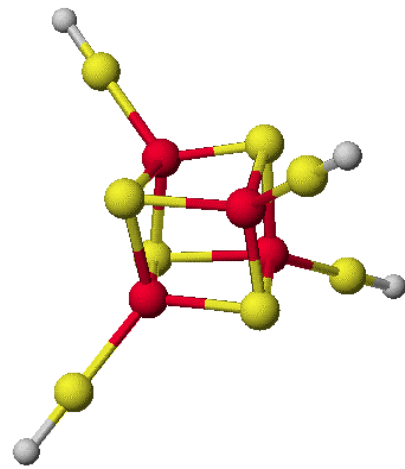
k-dependence of scattering amplitudes helps identify scatterers



Simple example: Fx Fe-S protein from PS I



Structure of Fe-S cluster in Fx from Photosystem I



XAFS fits for 4 Fe- 4 S cluster

Fe-S N= 4.00 R=2.27(2) SS= 0.007(1)

Fe-Fe N= 3.00 R=2.68(2) SS= 0.007(1)

The figure shows a molecular model based on XAFS that is consistent with the determined distances. These require a distortion of the cubane-like box.

Bunker and Carmeli, 2002

Protein solution only - no crystals!

Single Scattering EXAFS equation

Stern, Sayers, Lytle...

The most basic form of the EXAFS equation is:

$$\chi(k) = \left\langle S_0^2 \sum_i \frac{3 \cos^2(\theta_i)}{k r_i^2} |f_i(k; r)| e^{-2r_i/\lambda(k)} \sin(2k r_i + \delta_i(k; r)) \right\rangle$$

where r_i is the distance to the i_{th} neighbor; $\langle \dots \rangle$ represents an average over all sites in the sample; λ is the electron mean free path, and S_0^2 is a loss factor; f_i and δ_i are the scattering amplitude and phase shift of atom i ; θ_i is the angle between the electric polarization vector of the x-ray beam \hat{e} and the vector \hat{r}_i from the center atom to neighboring atom i . The r -dependence of f and δ is weak.

EXAFS equation (isotropic average)

Averaging over angle and grouping atoms of the same atomic number and similar distances into “shells” we obtain:

$$\chi(k) = S_0^2 \sum_i \frac{N_j}{k R_j^2} |f_j(k; r)| e^{-2k^2 \sigma_j^2} e^{-2R_j/\lambda(k)} \sin(2k R_j + \delta_j(k; r)),$$

where N_j, R_j, σ_j^2 are the coordination number, average distance, and mean square variation in distance to atoms in shell j . These are the leading terms in the “cumulant expansion”. If $k\sigma$ is not $\ll 1$, higher order terms should be considered.

**EXAFS is basically a sum of damped sine waves
-> Fourier Transform, beat analysis**

EXAFS DWFs are comparable to, but distinct from, diffraction DWFS.
There are both static and thermal contributions to σ^2

Multiple Scattering Expansion

Multiple scattering is accounted for by summing over MS paths Γ , each of which can be written in the form [ref: Rehr, Rev. Mod. Phys., 2000]

$$\chi_{\Gamma}(p) = S_0^2 \operatorname{Im} \left(\frac{e^{i(\rho_1 + \rho_2 + \dots + \rho_N + 2\delta_l)}}{\rho_1 \rho_2 \dots \rho_N} e^{-2p^2 \sigma_{\Gamma}^2} \times \operatorname{Tr} M_l F^N \dots F^2 F^1 \right)$$

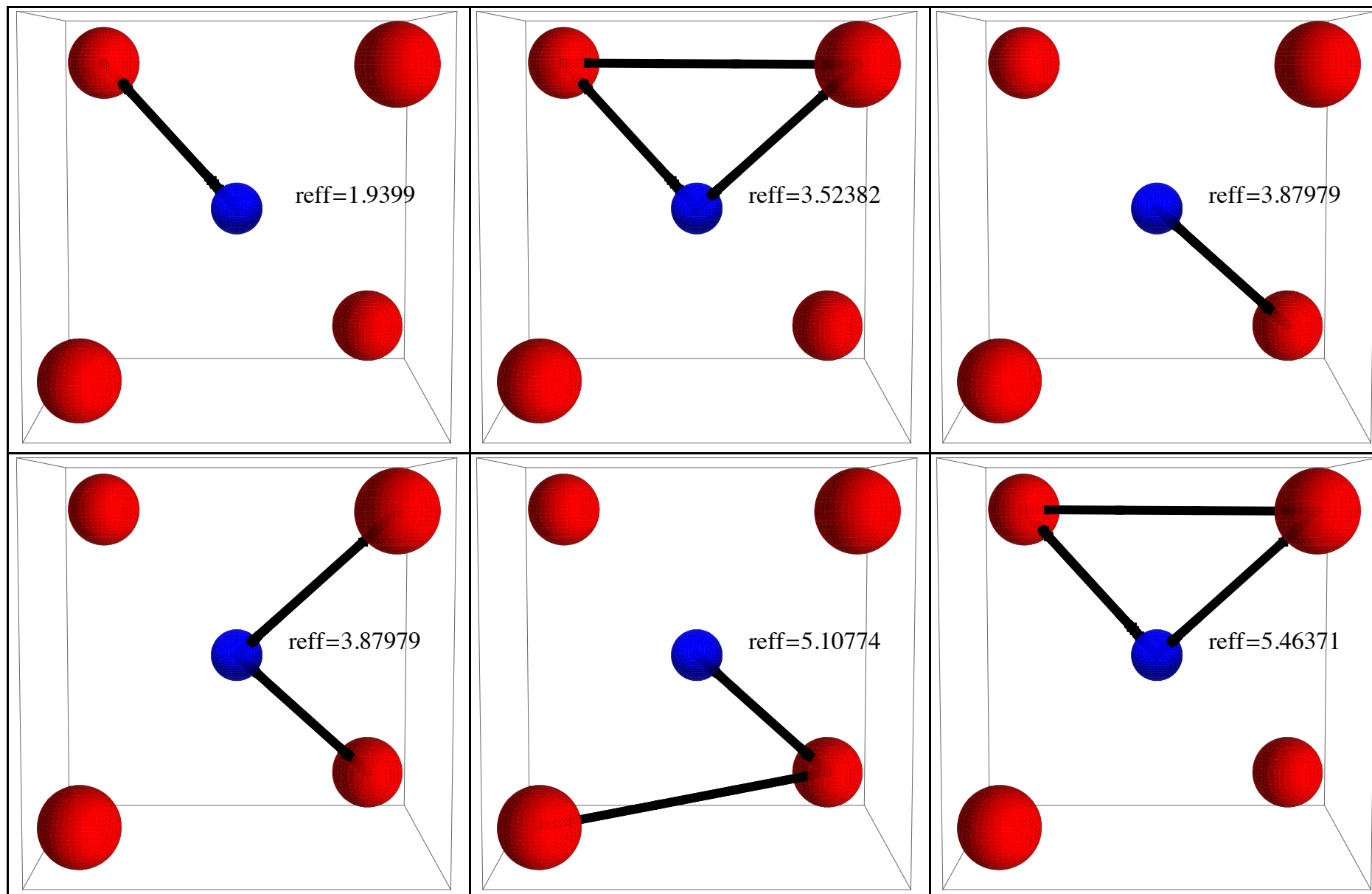
where p is the complex photoelectron momentum, ρ_j are p times the path lengths of the i_{th} leg of the MS path Γ ; the F matrices describe the scattering from each atom in the path; M is a termination matrix.

This can be expressed similarly to SS form

$$\chi_{\Gamma}(p) = S_0^2 \operatorname{Im} \left(\frac{f_{\text{eff}}}{kR^2} e^{2ikR + 2i\delta_l} e^{-2p^2 \sigma_{\Gamma}^2} \right)$$

whence “Feff”

Leading MS paths tetrahedral MnO₄

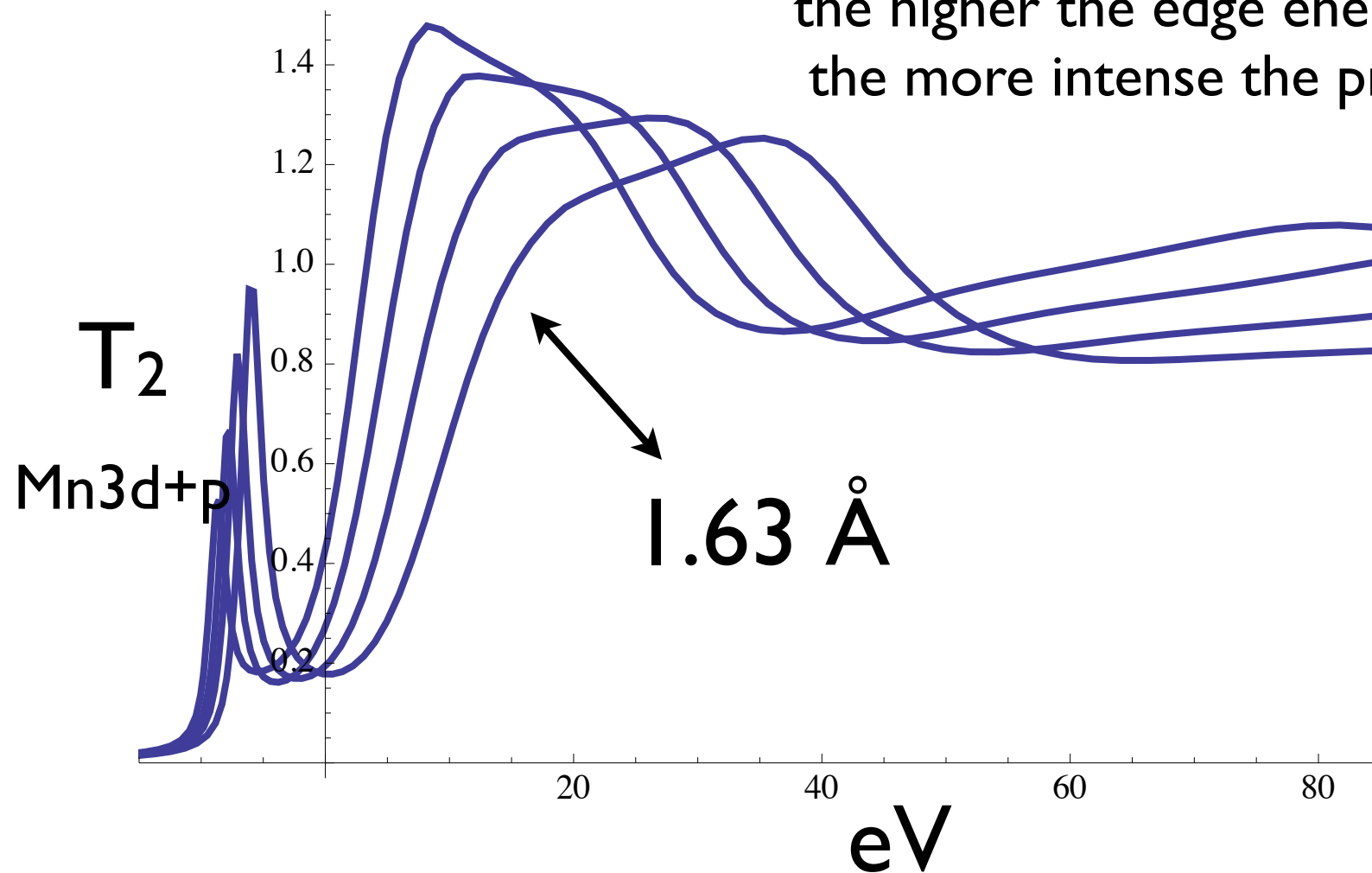


theory

MnO₄ tetrahedral cluster

$r=1.63, 1.73, 1.84, 1.94 \text{ \AA}$ $f_{\text{eff}} 8.2$ SCF/FMS

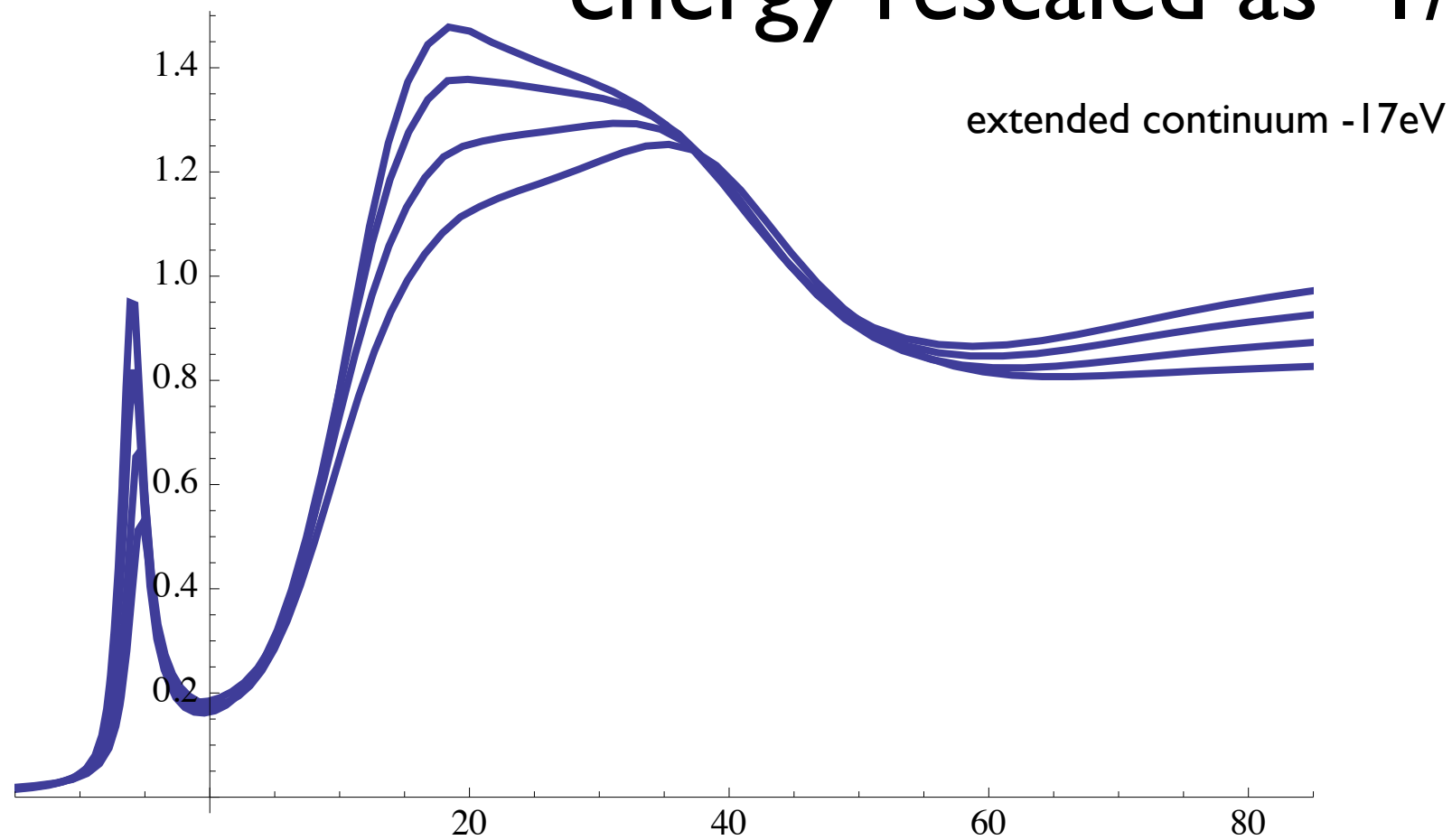
the shorter the distance,
the higher the edge energy and
the more intense the pre-edge



MnO₄ tetrahedral cluster

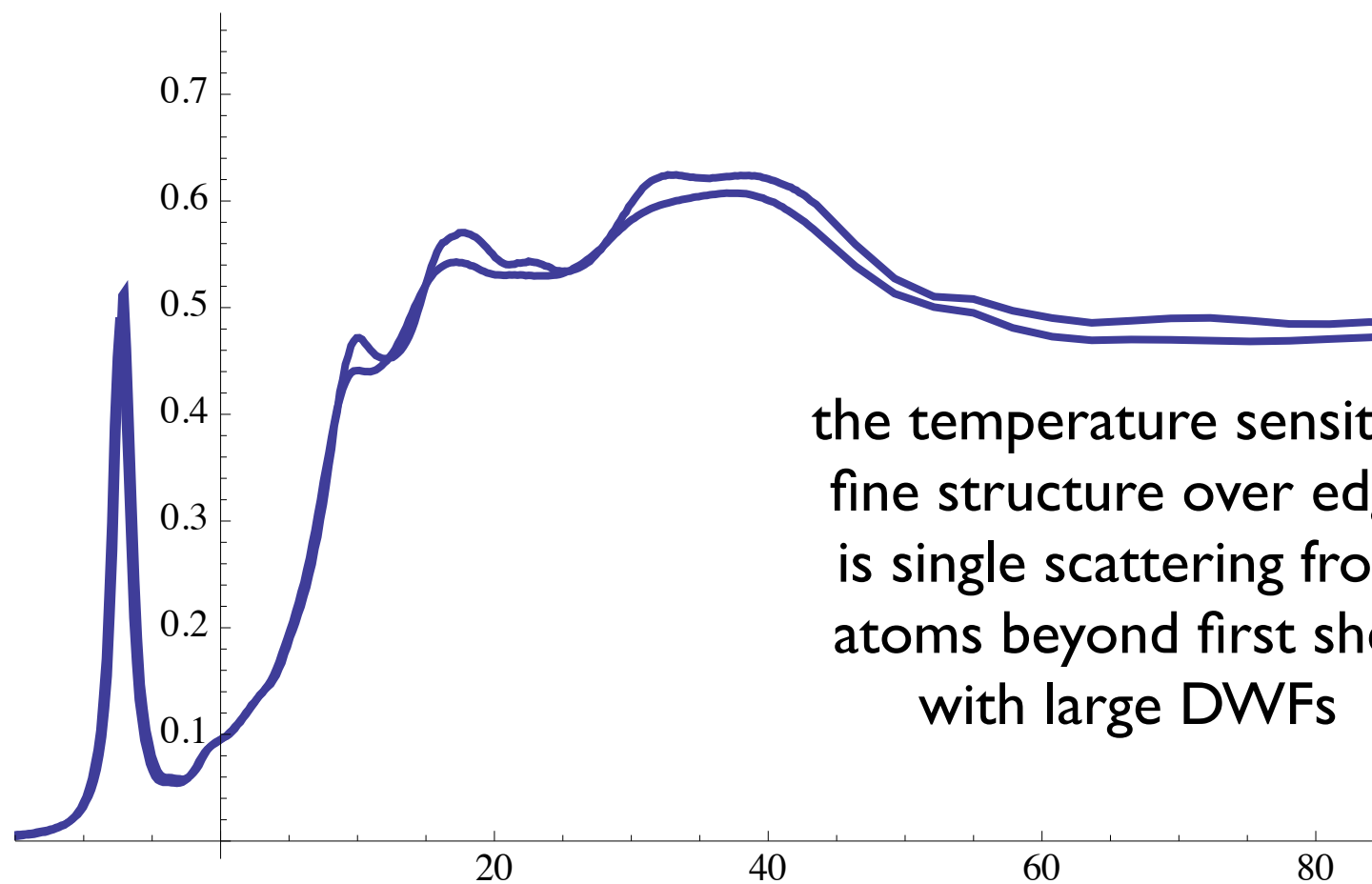
$r=1.63, 1.73, 1.84, 1.94\text{\AA}$ $f_{\text{eff}}8.2$ SCF/FMS

energy rescaled as $1/r^2$



expt.

Solid KMnO_4 at 80K and 300K experimental data*



the temperature sensitive
fine structure over edge
is single scattering from
atoms beyond first shell
with large DWFs

* G Bunker thesis 1984

XANES landscape is from SS+MS
among nearest neighbor tetrahedron
SS from distant atoms adds
temp dependent fine structure

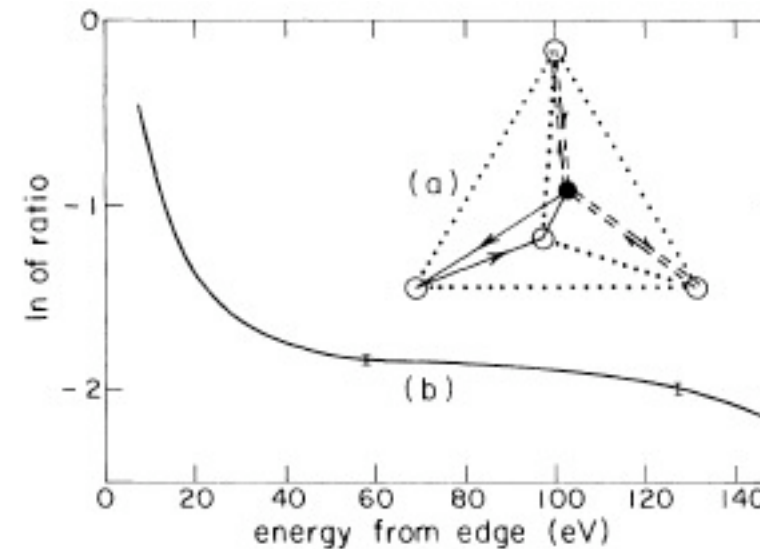
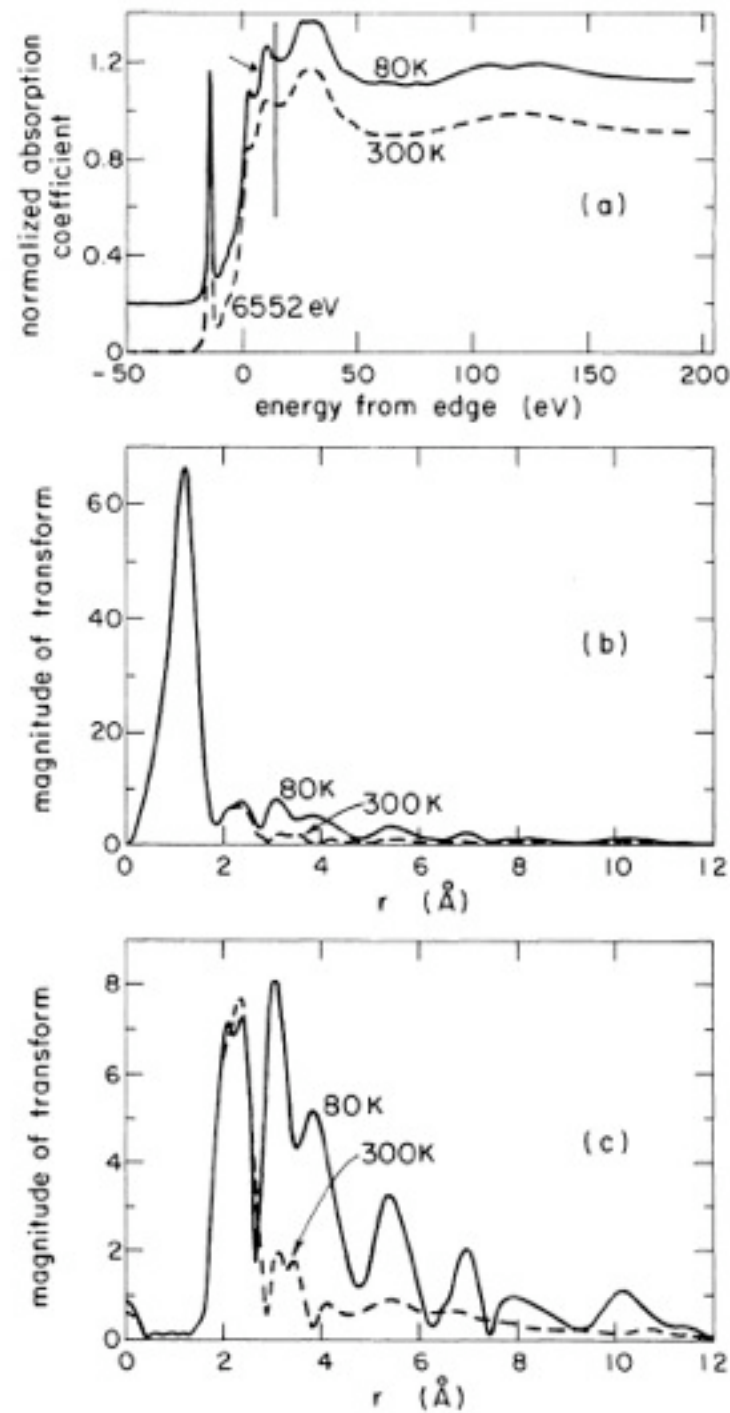


FIG. 2. (a) The two multiple-scattering paths that contribute to the second peak in the Fourier transform of KMnO_4 , denoted by solid and dashed lines. The black dot is Mn, and the open dots are O atoms. (b) The logarithm of the ratio of the k dependence of the amplitudes of the first (SS) peak to the second (MS) peak of Fig. 1(b), plotted vs energy from the edge.

Bunker and Stern
PRL **52**, 22 (1984)

XAFS experimental requirements

- suitable sample (depends on measurement mode)
- intense broad-band or scannable source
- monochromatic (~ 1 eV bandwidth), scannable beam, energy suitable for elements of interest
- suitable detectors (depends on mode)
- special equipment (cryostats, goniometers..)

source

(mirror)

monochromator

(mirror)

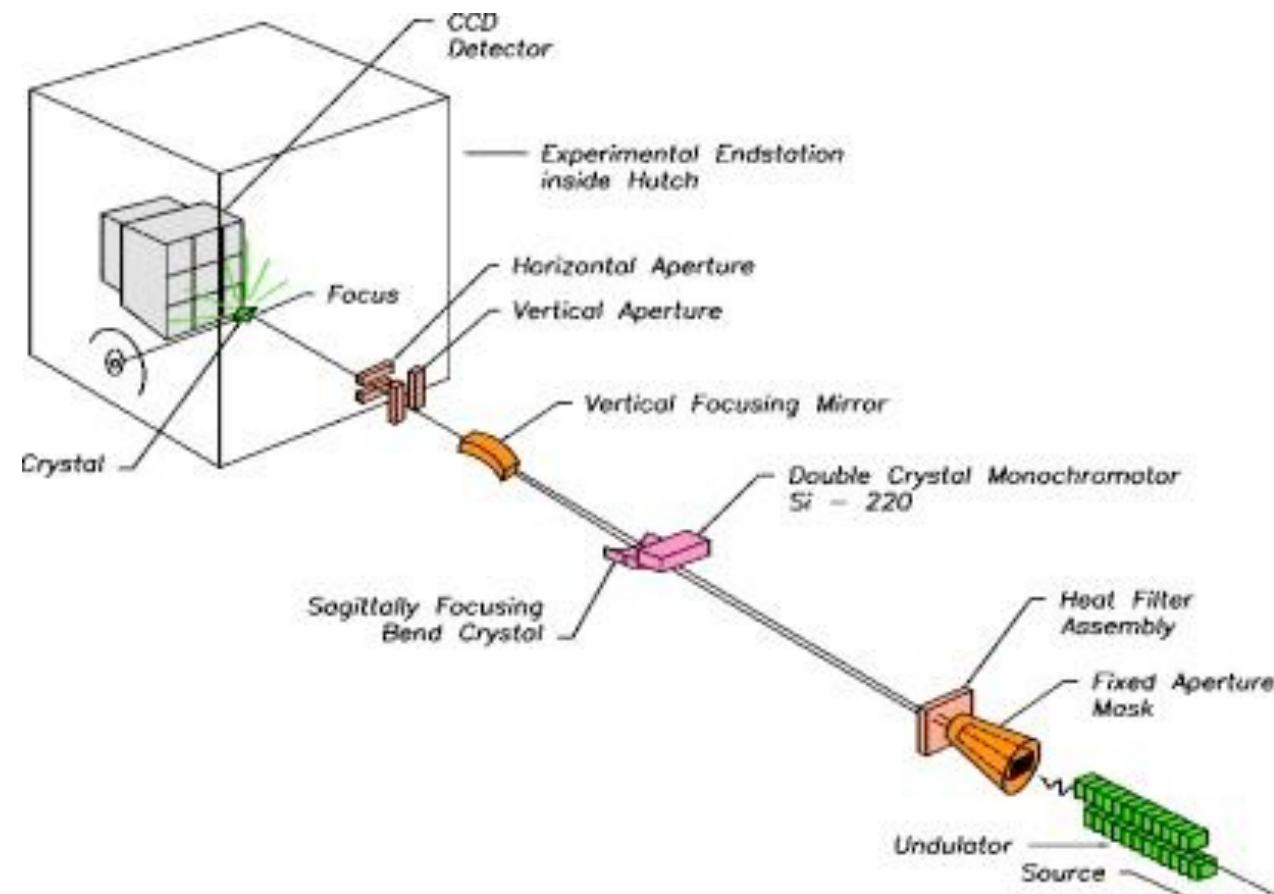
slits

detectors

Collimating mirror is
sometimes used
to match source to
acceptance of mono

mirror following mono is
often used for harmonic
rejection or focussing

graphic courtesy
of SER-CAT



Experimental modes

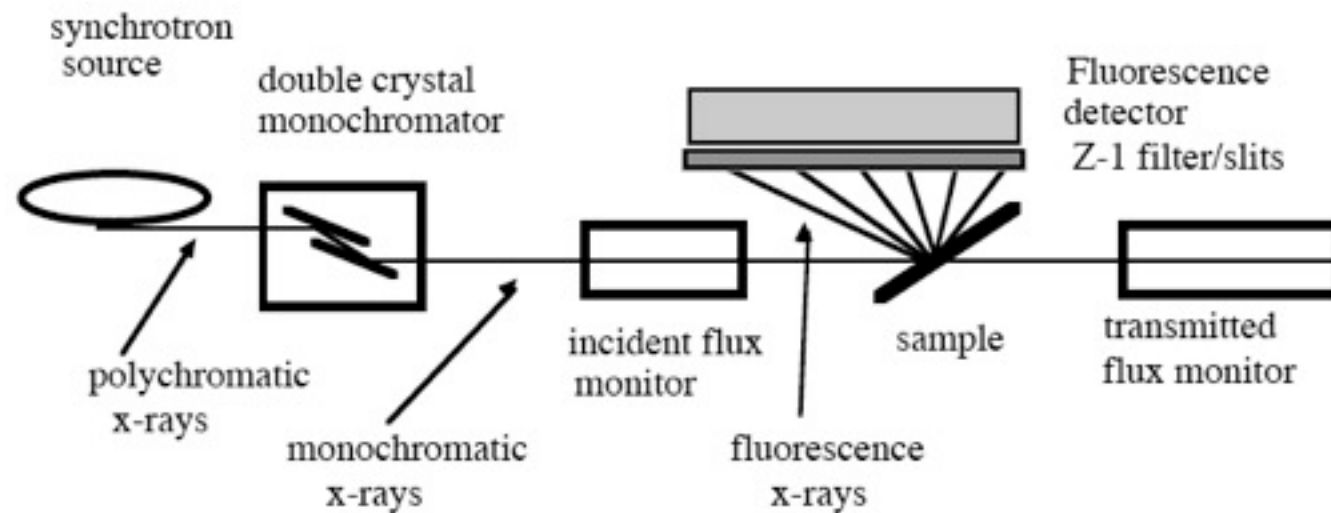


Figure 1 – Schematic XAFS experiment

Detection

- Transmission mode
- Fluorescence mode
- Electron yield
- Inelastic X-ray Scattering

Geometry

- Oriented e.g. single crystal
- Magic Angle Spinning
- Total External Reflection
- Grazing (glancing) incidence

Which mode to use?

- concentrated, not too thick: \Rightarrow use transmission
want edge step ~ 1.0 (>0.1 , <2.0)
- concentrated, thick: \rightarrow use electron yield, total external reflection fluorescence, or apply fluorescence corrections numerically
- dilute samples: ($< .1$ absorption length edge step) use fluorescence detection
- microbeams can be used to measure small grains which may be concentrated even if sample is dilute on average (still must worry about particle size effects though)

Checklist: “HALO” Mnemonic

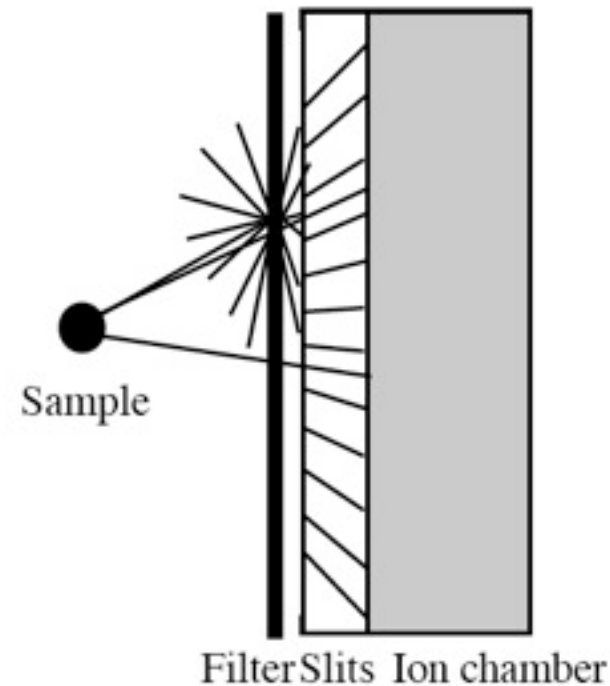
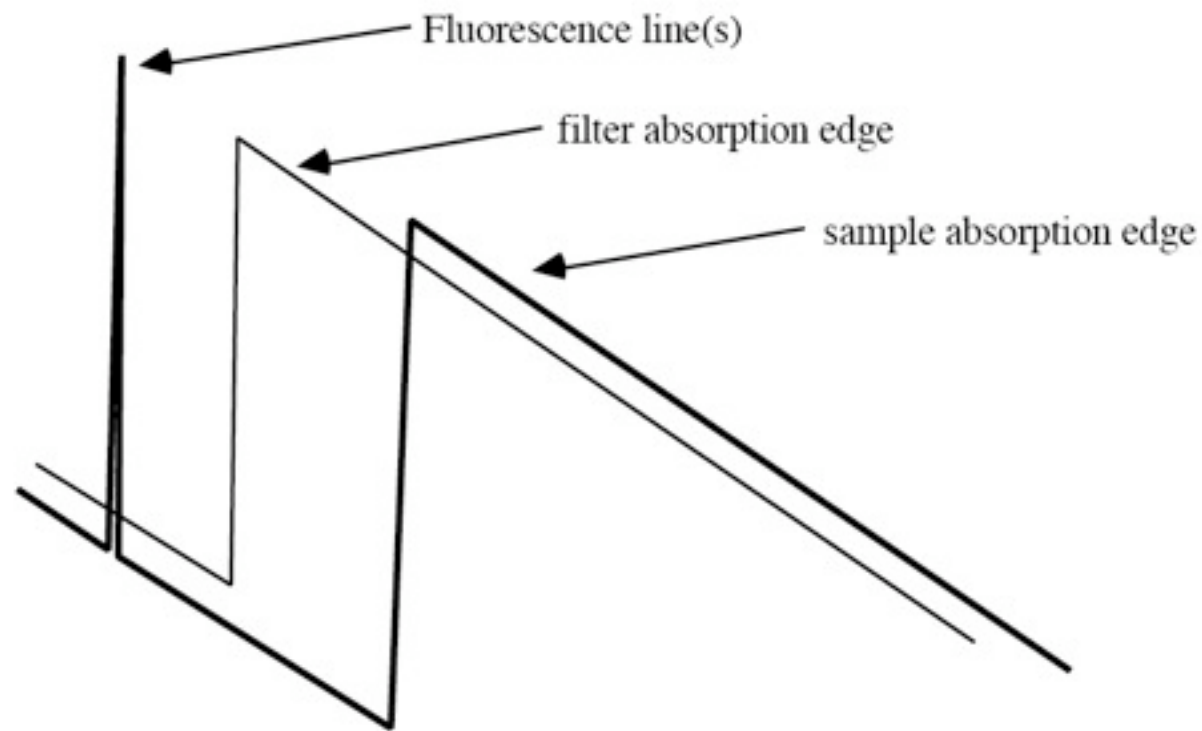
- **H**armonics - get rid of them using mirrors, detuning, or other means, especially for thick transmission samples.
- **A**lignment - the beam should only see homogeneous sample and windows between the I_0 and I (or I_f) detectors
- **L**inearity - ionization chambers must be plateaued. Other detectors may need deadtime corrections
- **O**ffsets - dark currents must be measured and subtracted to compensate for drifts

Standard EXAFS Detectors

- Integrating (non-energy resolving)
 - Ionization chambers
 - Fluorescence ionization chambers (Stern/Heald)
 - PIN diodes/PIPS detectors
- Pulse counting (energy resolving)
 - Solid State (Ge/Si) detectors
 - Silicon Drift Detectors (SDD)
 - Scintillator/Photomultiplier (PMT)
 - Proportional Counters (PC)
 - Avalanche Photodiodes (APD)

Fluorescence ion chamber

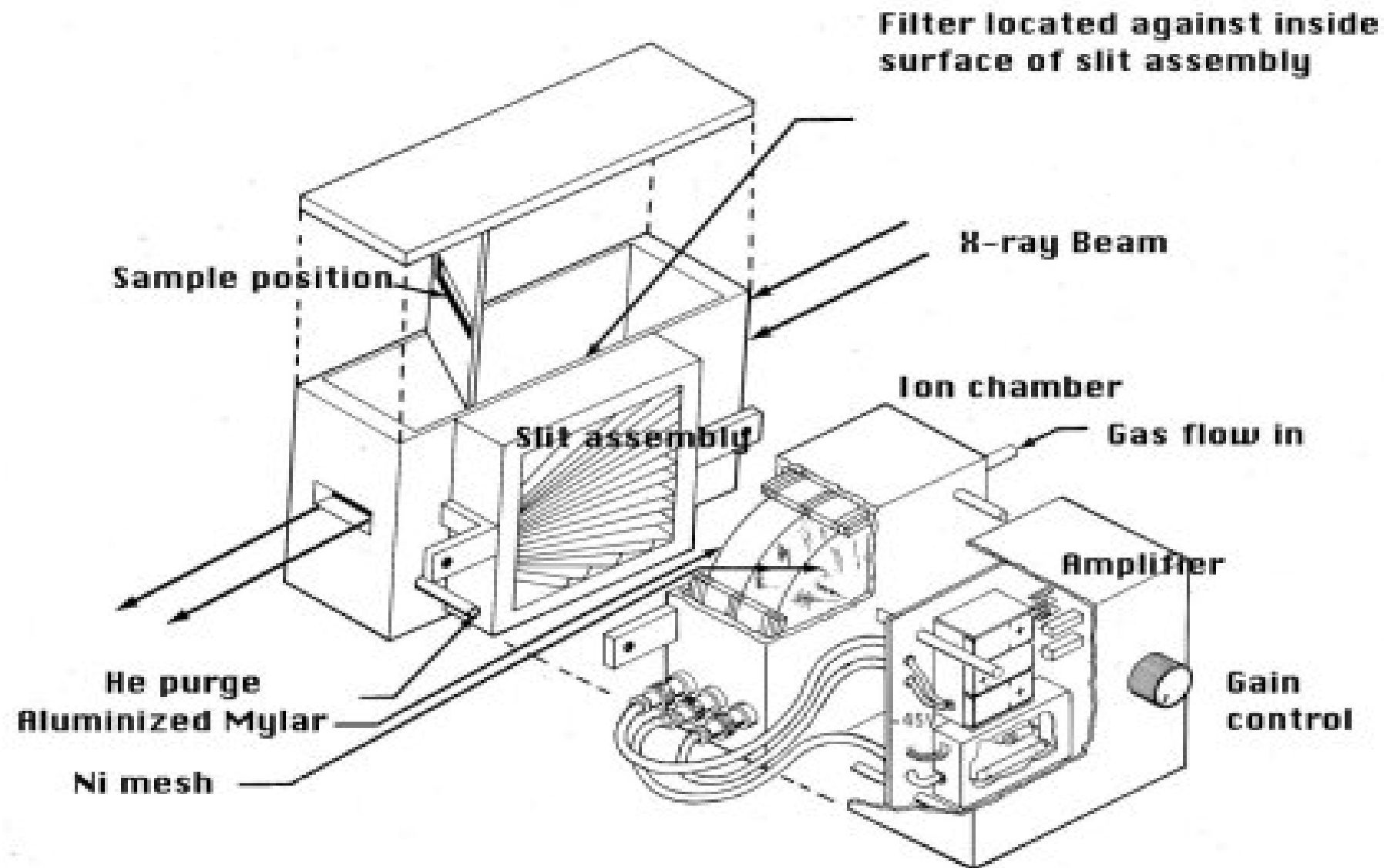
Stern/Heald/Elam + Lytle



Often used with filter and soler slits to keep scattered background out of detector

“Lytle Detector”

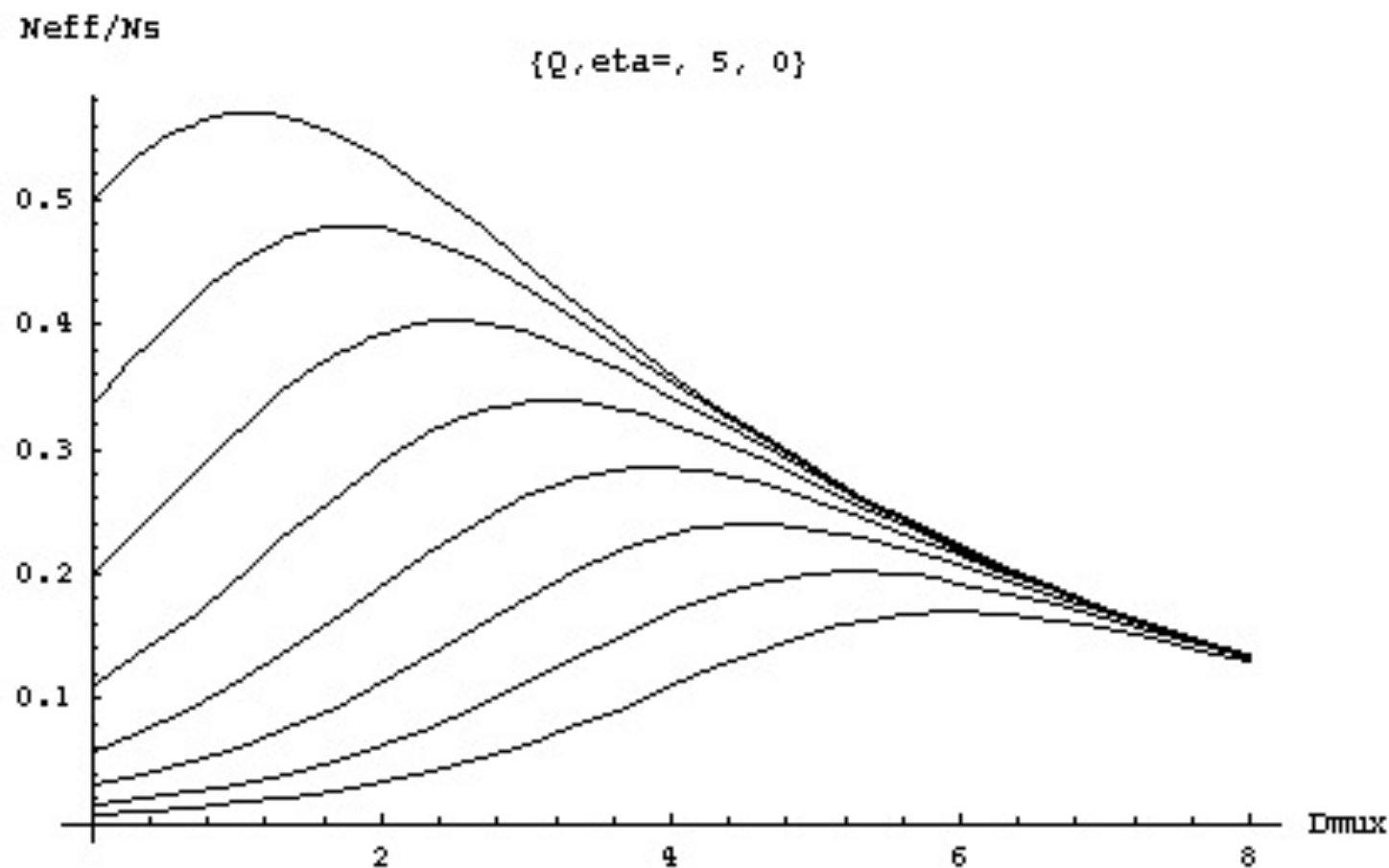
www.exafsco.com



Stern/Heald/Lytle Detectors

Performance for dilute systems depends critically on filter and slit quality, and correct choice of filter thickness. This approach cannot eliminate fluorescence at lower energies.

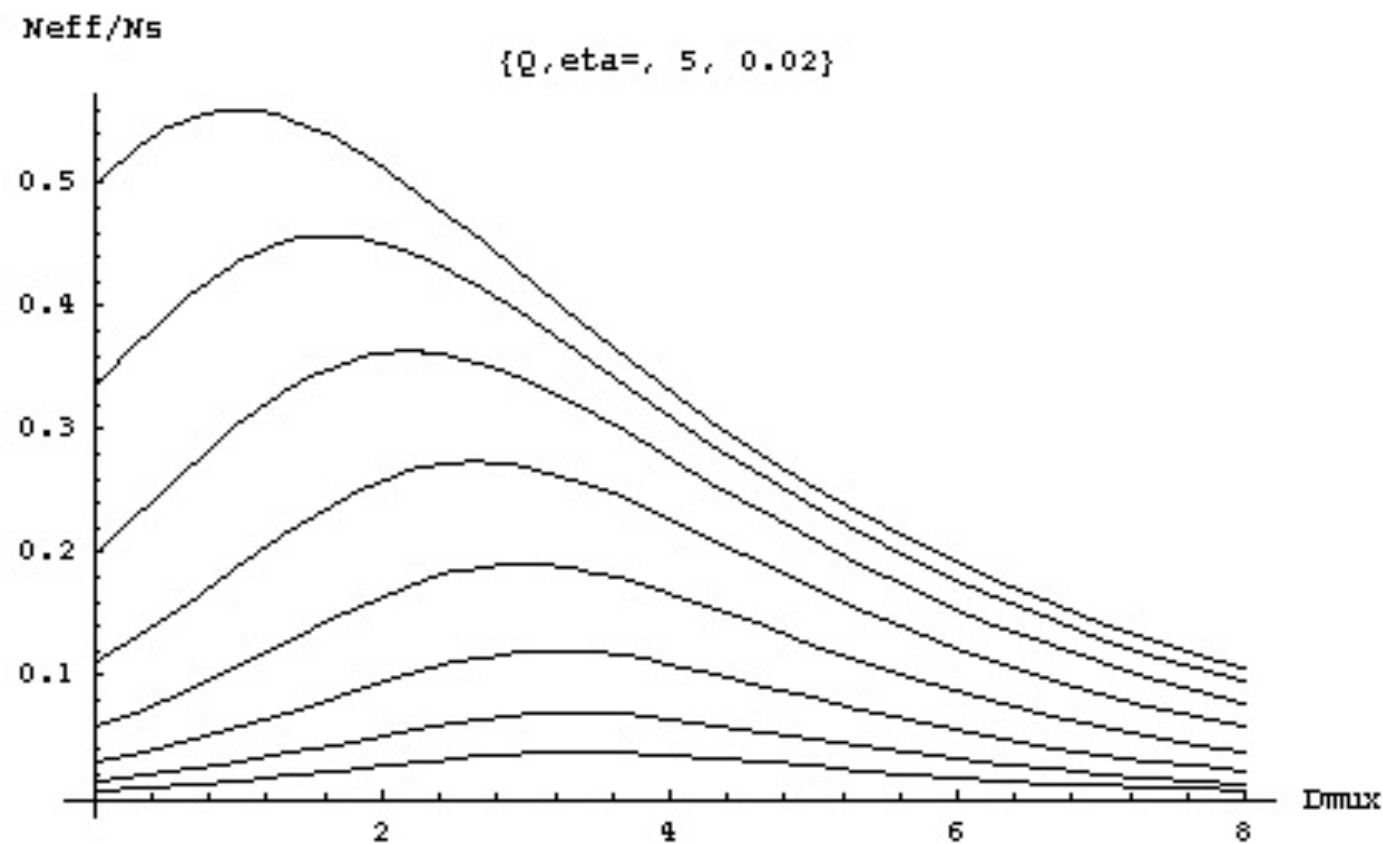
excellent
filter and
ideal slits



for more info see: <http://gbxafs.iit.edu/training/tutorials.html>

Stern/Heald Detector cont'd

Limitations to common slit systems seriously degrade performance at high dilution



Even with optimized filters, efficiency drops to a few percent for large (>100) background to signal ratios

for more info see: <http://gbxafs.iit.edu/training/tutorials.html>

Multielement Germanium Detector



**13 element
Canberra**

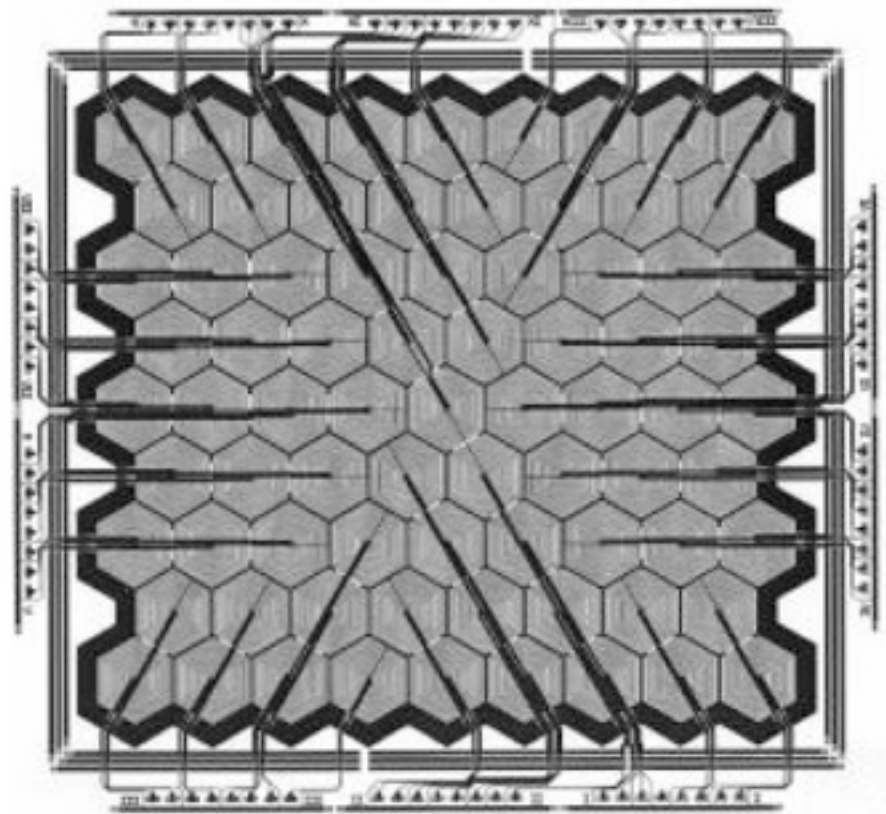
detector->
preamp->
shaping amp->
multichannel analyzer
or SCA & scaler

Maximum count rates of several
hundred KHz total (signal
+background)/channel.

Can use together with
Z-I filters and Soller slits

SDD Arrays

higher count rates are under active development



77 element prototype
silicon drift detector
C. Fiorini et al
Total active area
 6.7 cm^2

X-ray Analyzers

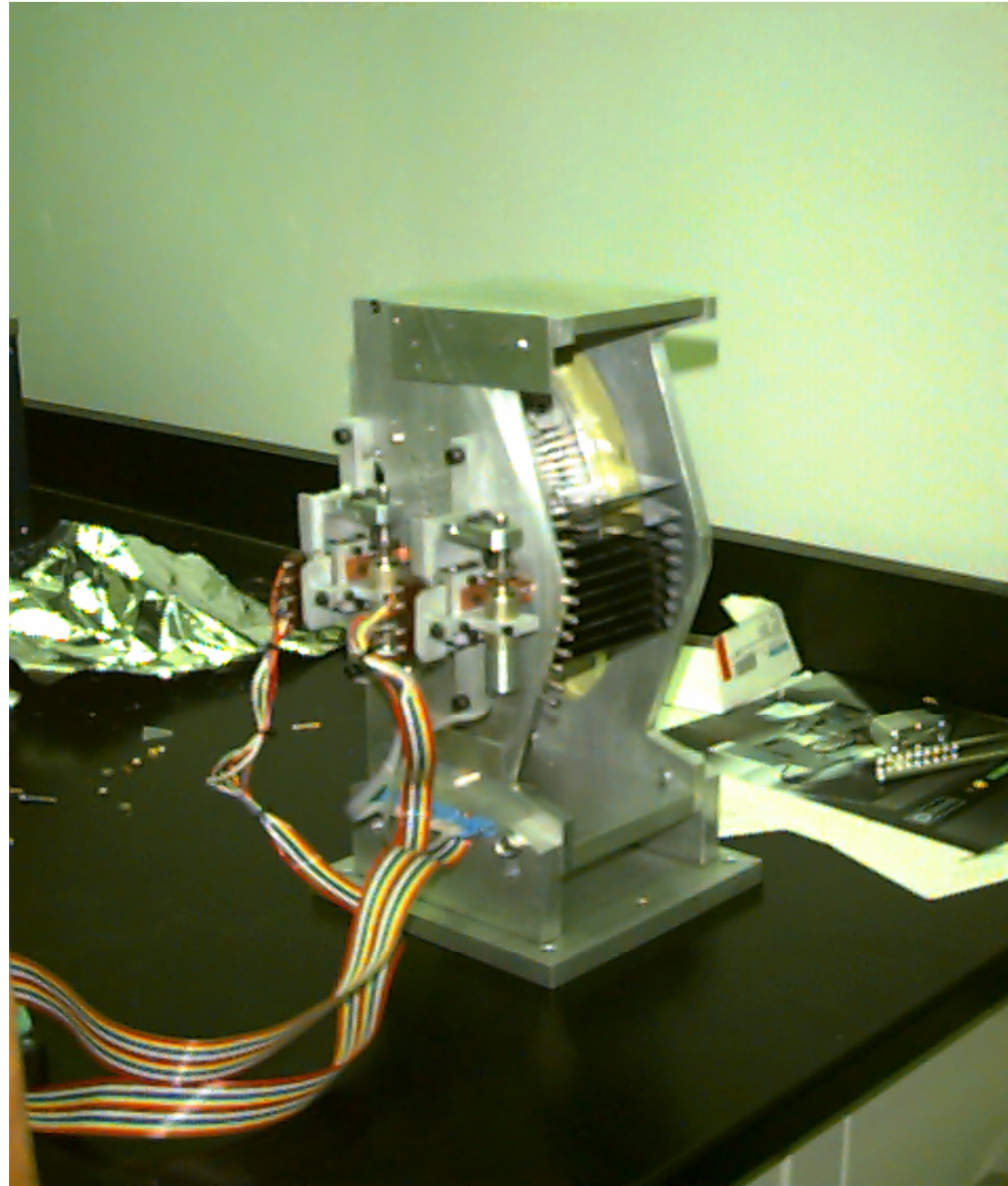
- Conventional solid state detectors can be easily saturated at high flux beamlines
- They spend most of their time counting background photons you throw out anyway
- **Multilayer, bent crystal Laue, and other analyzers eliminate background *before* it gets to detector**
- graphite log-spiral analyzer (Pease), Bragg log spiral analyzer (Attenkofer et al) are also good approaches
- Effectively no count rate limits, and good collection efficiency, or better resolution
- No count rate limit due to pulsed nature of source

Multilayer Array Analyzer Detector

This device uses arrays of synthetic multilayer structures to diffract the signal and eliminate scattered background. It makes possible some experiments that are otherwise intractable

Advanced versions of these analyzers are under development

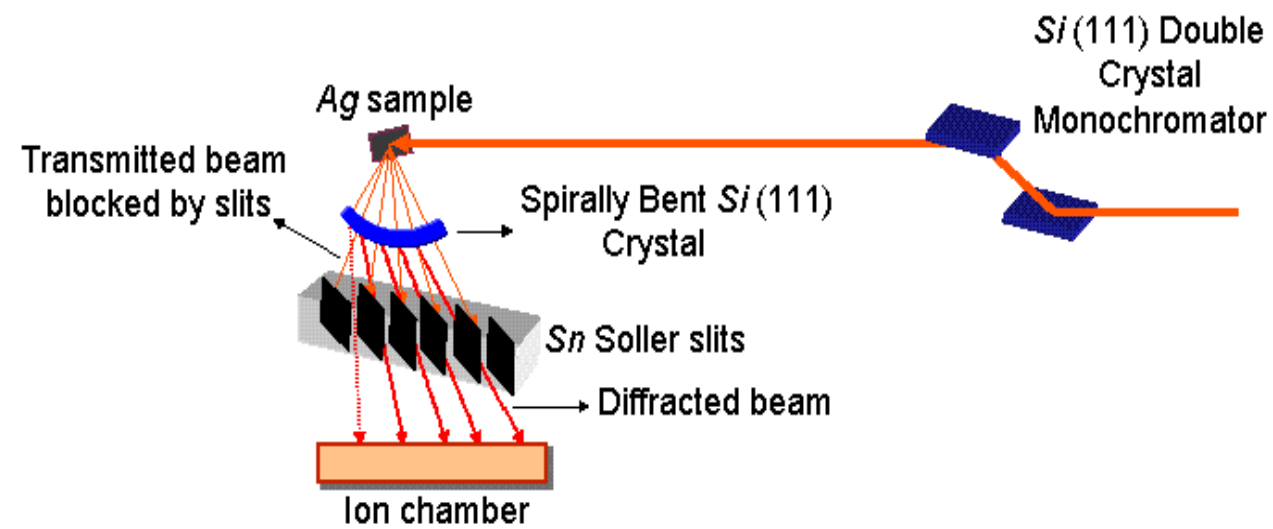
www.hdtechinc.com



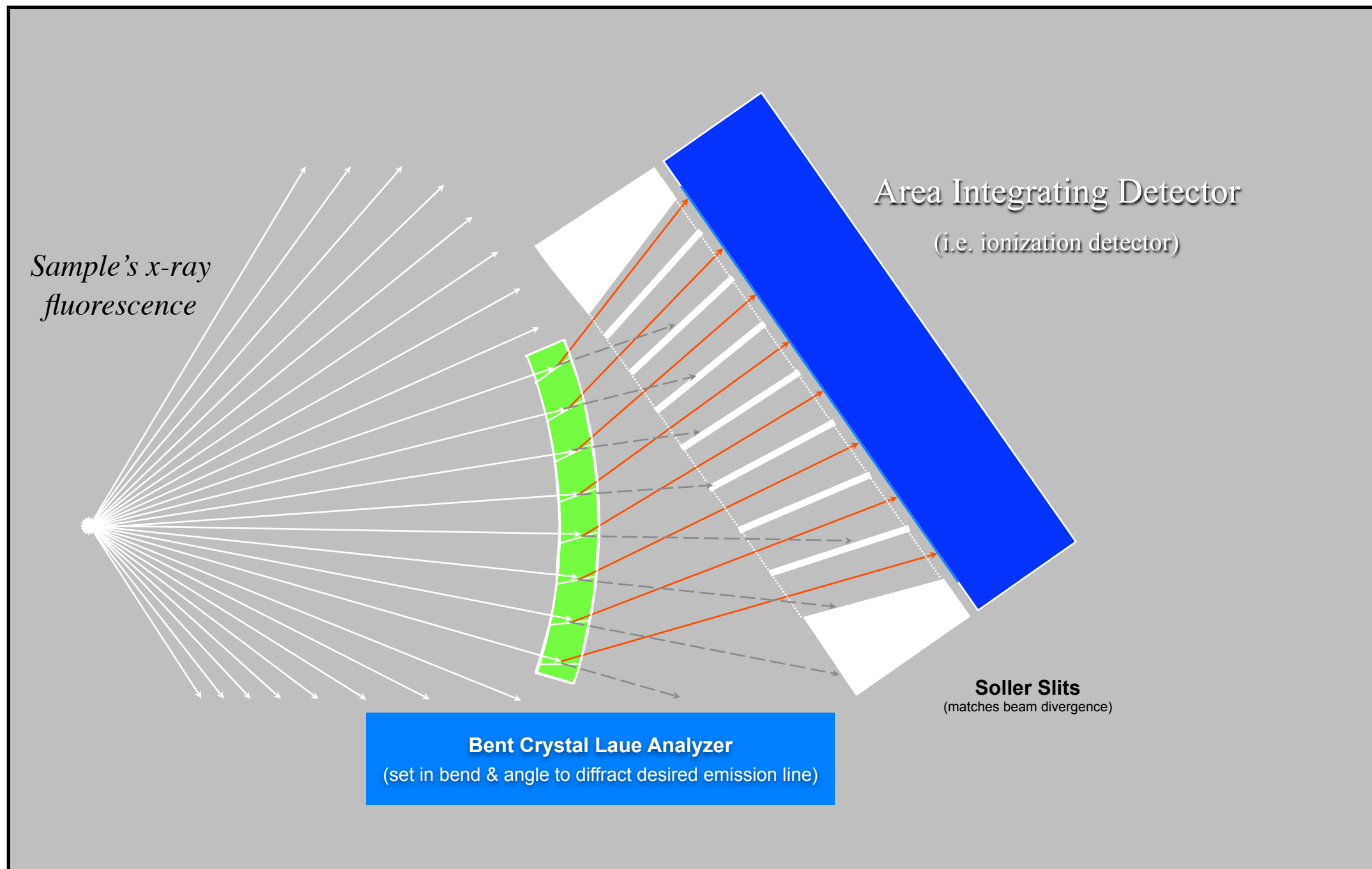
Bent Crystal Laue Analyzers

Logarithmic spiral bent crystal

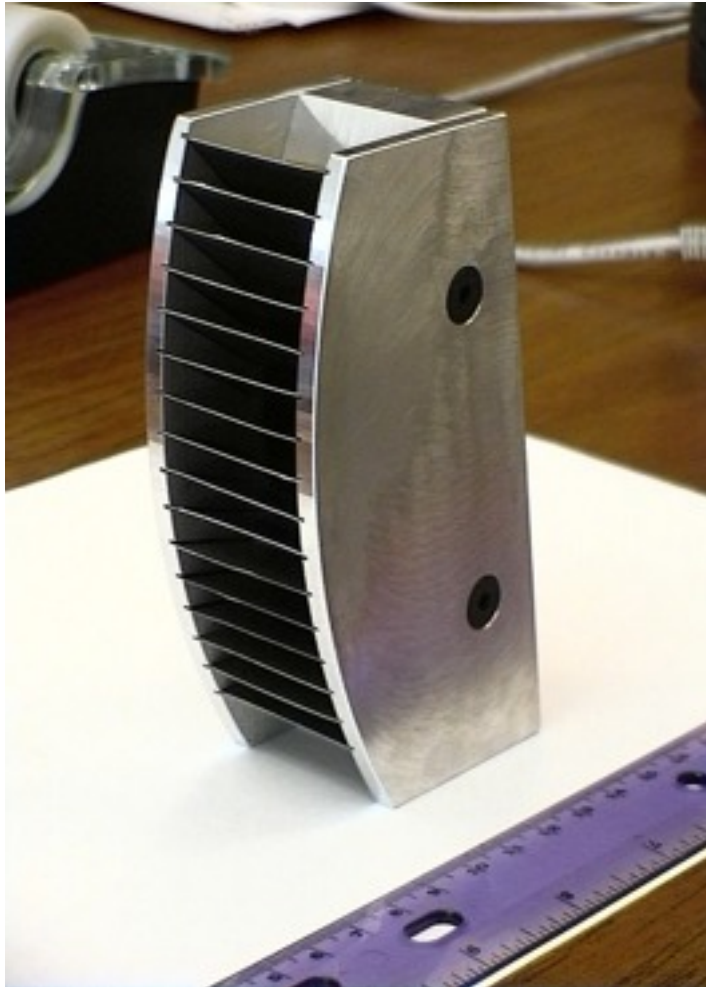
Extremely bent
silicon crystals
have very high
efficiency and
wide angular
acceptance



Bent Crystal Laue Analyzer



Bent Crystal Laue Analyzer



www.quercustech.com

Data Analysis

- Modern codes for calculating theoretical XAFS spectra are accurate enough to use to fit experimental data directly. “FEFF9” (J.J. Rehr et al) is a leading program for calculating spectra. Others include GNXAFS and EXCURV.
- FEFF does not analyze the data for you, however. Add-on programs of various kinds (e.g. Artemis/Athena,...) use FEFF-calculated (or other theoretical) spectra to fit the data by perturbing from a guess structure. Parameterizing the fitting process can be quite involved.
- Another approach (Dimakis & Bunker) uses FEFF as a subroutine and combines it with other info (e.g. DFT calculations) to estimate DWFS.

Data Reduction

- ④ Apply instrumental Corrections (e.g. detector dead-time)
- ④ Normalize data to unit edge step (compensates for sample concentration/thickness)
- ④ Convert from $E \rightarrow k$ space (makes oscillations more uniform spatial frequency, for BKG and Fourier transform)
- ④ Subtract background using cubic splines or other methods
- ④ Weight data with k^n , $1 \leq n \leq 3$; (compensates for amplitude decay)
- ④ Fourier transform to distinguish shells at different distances
- ④ Fourier Filter to isolate shells (optional)

Data Modeling

- Fit data in k-space, r-space, or E-space using single or multiple scattering theory, and theoretical calculations (e.g. feff8, GNXAS, EXCURV)
- Fitting is doing by describing an approximate hypothetical structure in terms of a limited number of parameters, which are adjusted to give an acceptable fit.
- Good open-source software is available e.g. feff6 (Rehr), ifeffit/Artemis/Athena (Ravel/Newville), SixPack (Webb) GNXAS (Di Cicco/Filliponi), RoundMidnight(Michalowicz), EXAFSPAK (George)...
- FEFF9 must be licensed, but it's at reasonable cost.
- Other programs e.g. Mathematica 9 can be useful.

Example: Raw XAFS data

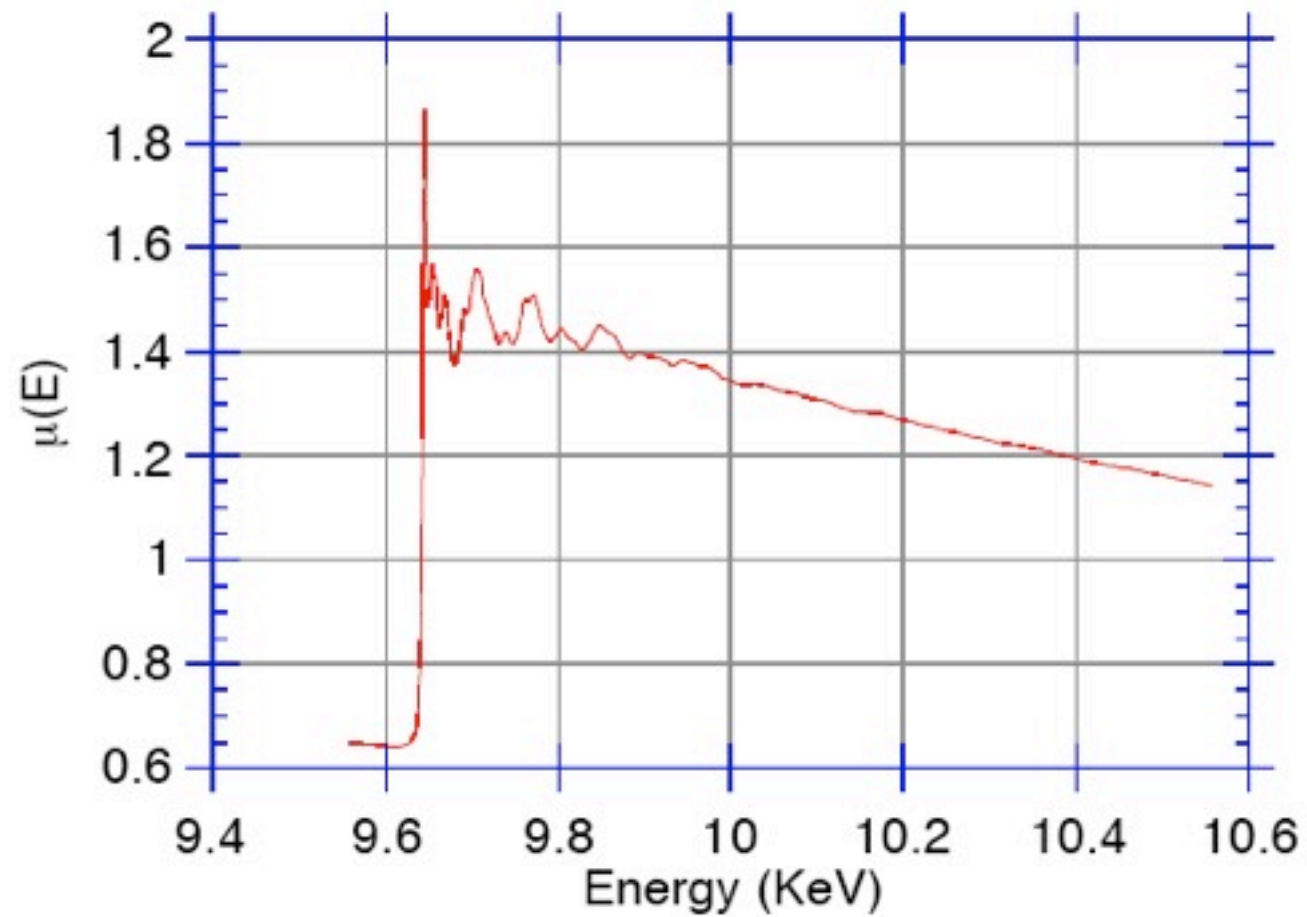
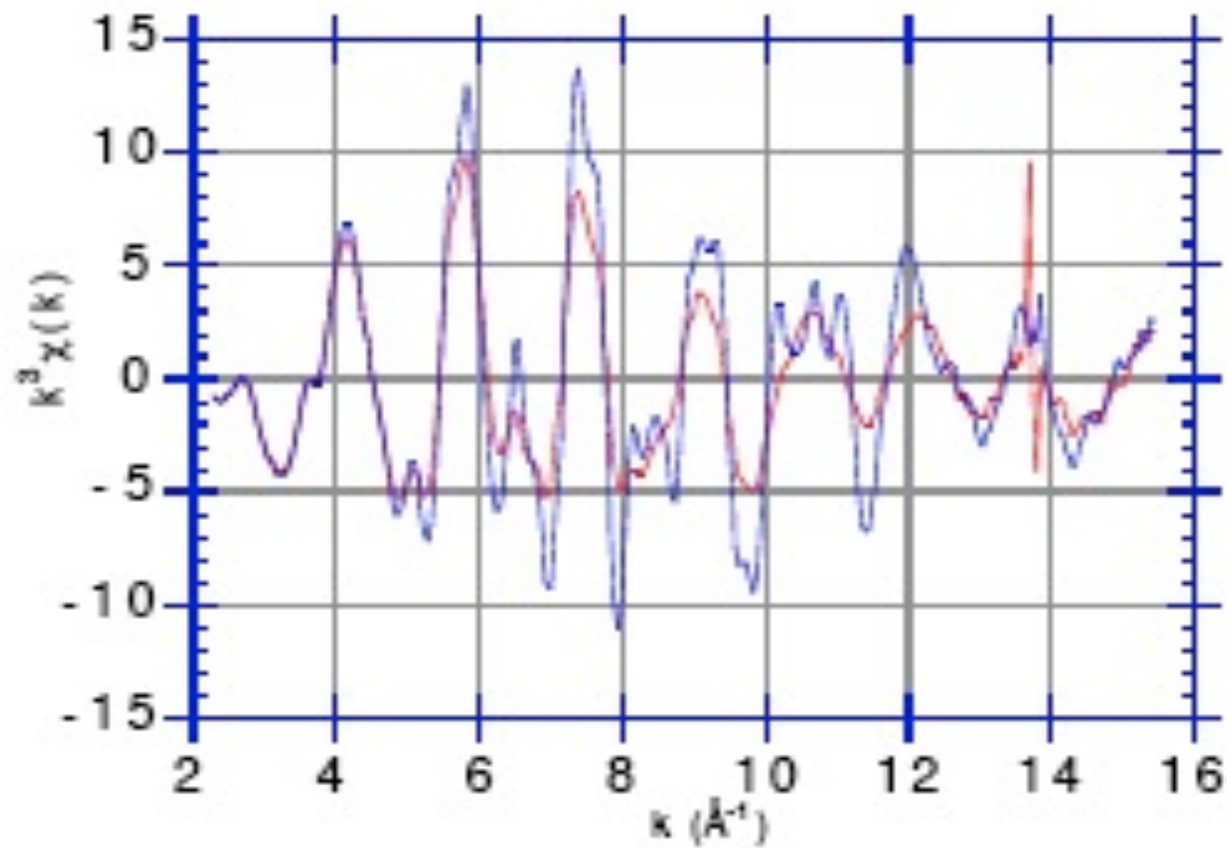


Figure 2 – Transmission XAFS spectrum of ZnS

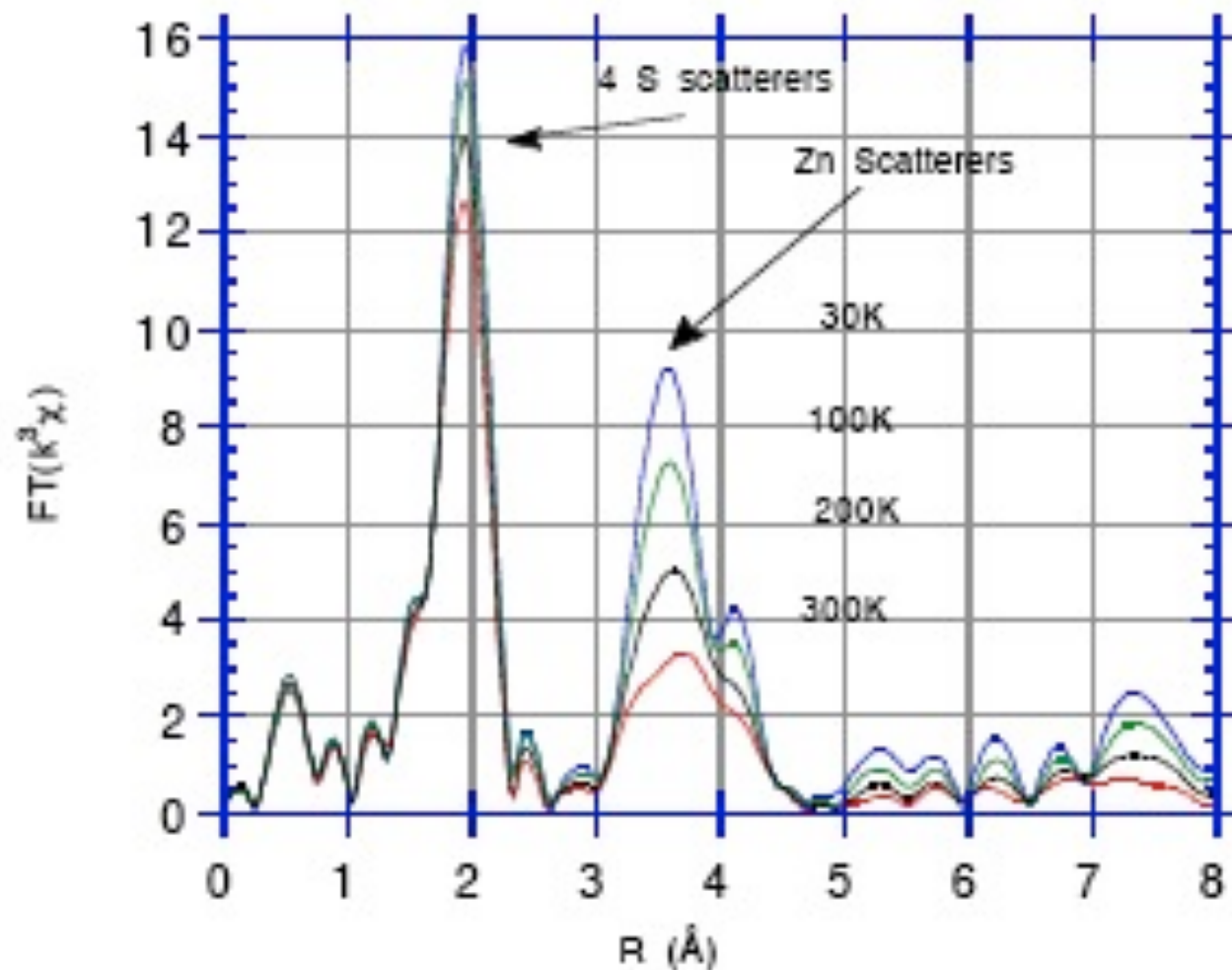
-> normalize, convert to k space, subtract spline background

k^3 weighted EXAFS



$k^3 \chi$, 300K vs 30K

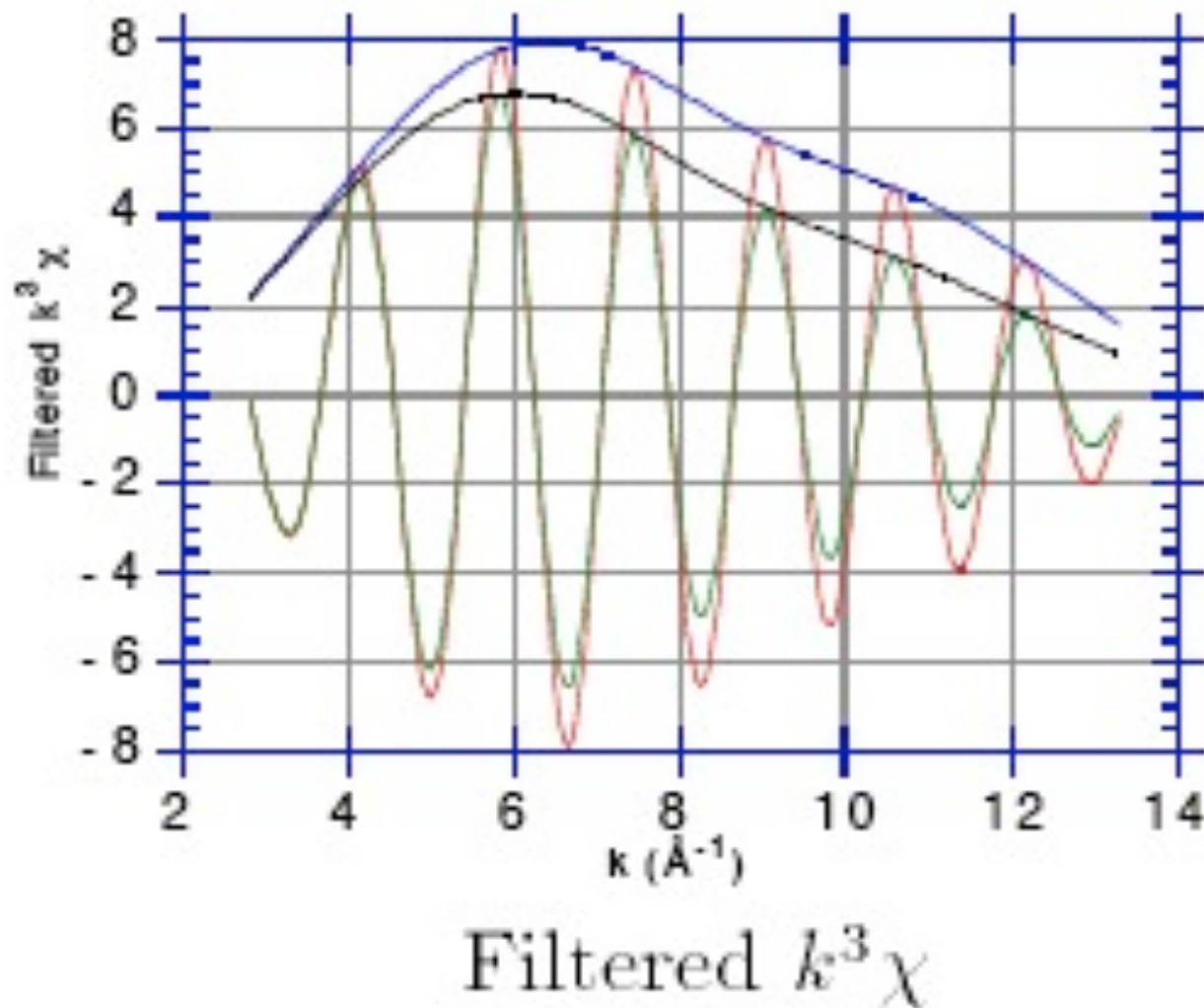
Fourier Transforms



Fourier transforms

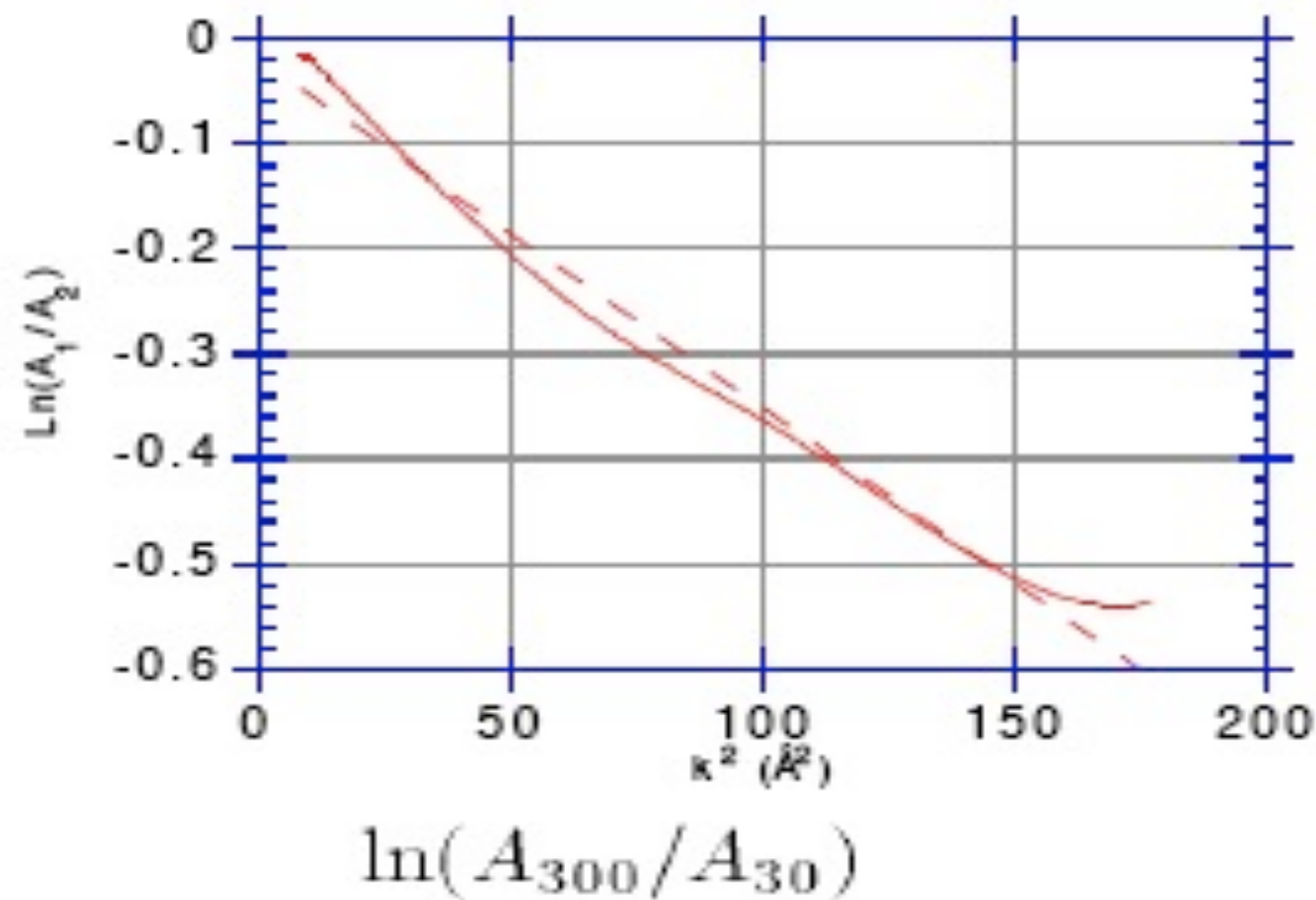
Average
EXAFS
signal
decreases
at higher
temperatures
because of
increased
thermal
DWFs

Fourier Filtered First Shell



determine
single shell's
amplitude
and phase
from real
and
imaginary
parts of
inverse FT

Log-Ratio Amplitude



Slope gives difference in σ^2 , intercept gives
 $\ln[\text{CN ratio}]$ vs reference spectrum

Single Scattering fitting

- If SS is a good approximation, and shells are well isolated, you can fit shell by shell
- Complications still occur because of large disorder, accidental cancellations, and high correlation between fitting parameters
- Multishell fits in SS approximation

Multiple scattering fitting

- MS often cannot be neglected (e.g. focussing effect)
- MS fitting introduces a host of complications but also potential advantages
 - SS contains no information about bond angles
 - MS does contain bond angle information (3-body and higher correlations)
- Parameter explosion -> how to handle DWFs?
 - Dangers of garbage-in, garbage-out
- (more on this later in the talk)

Theory

- Improved Theory and Practical Implementations
 - Fast sophisticated electron multiple scattering codes
 - Still limitations in near-edge (XANES) region
 - Solves the forward problem (structure->spectrum), but not the inverse problem (spectrum -> structure),
 - More work on better fitting direct methods is needed
 - Sophisticated quantum chemistry codes have been made easier to use; they can be leveraged to combine DFT and XAFS
 - correlate electronic and vibrational structure

Computing Multiple Scattering with FEFF9

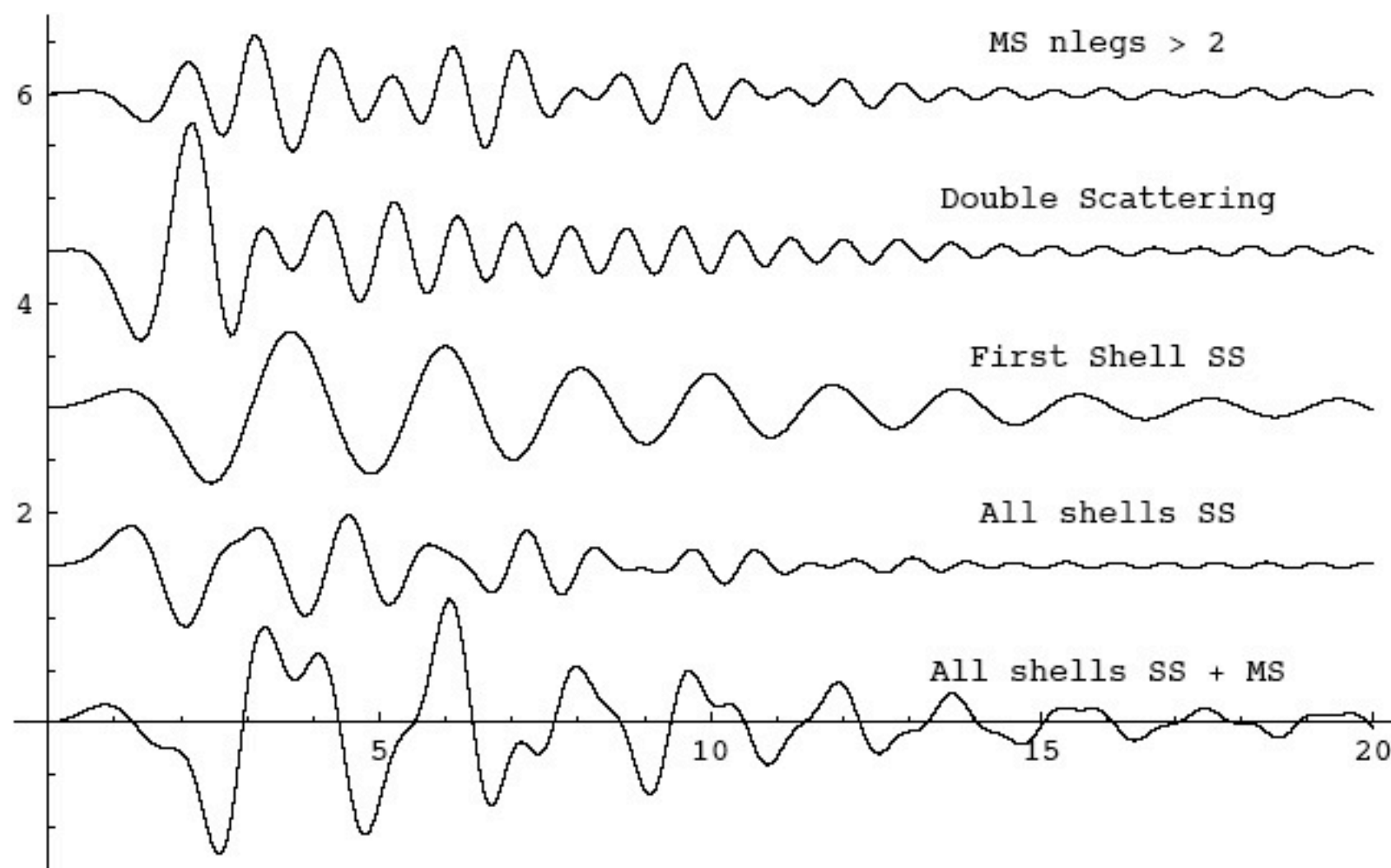
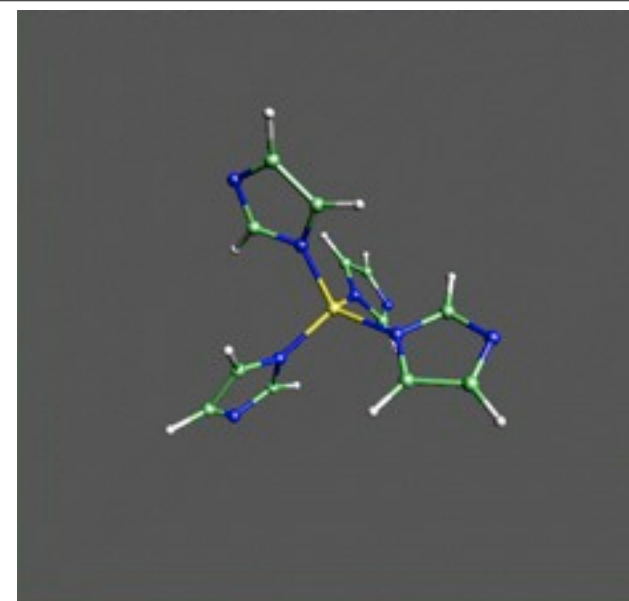
- ⌚ {Rewrite golden rule squared matrix element in terms of real-space Green's function and scattering operators; expand GF in terms of multiple scattering from distinct atoms}
- ⌚ initial atomic potentials generated by integration of Dirac equation (relativistic analog of Schrödinger); modified atomic potentials generated by overlapping (optional self-consistent field; use for XANES)
- ⌚ complex exchange correlation potential computed -> mean free path
- ⌚ scattering from atomic potentials described through k-dependent partial wave phase shifts for different angular momentum l
- ⌚ radial wave function vs E obtained by integration to calculate μ_0
- ⌚ unimportant scattering paths are filtered out (except FMS)
- ⌚ Feffs for each path calculated (e.g. Rehr Albers formalism)
- ⌚ final spectrum generated by summing finite number of paths, or, over restricted energy range, FMS (use for XANES)

⌚ **-> All of this is accomplished in a few seconds**

FEFFx: see papers of Rehr, Ankudinov, Zabinsky et al

see also DLXANES, GNXAS, and EXCURV programs

Example: Multiple Scattering within Histidine Imidazole Ring

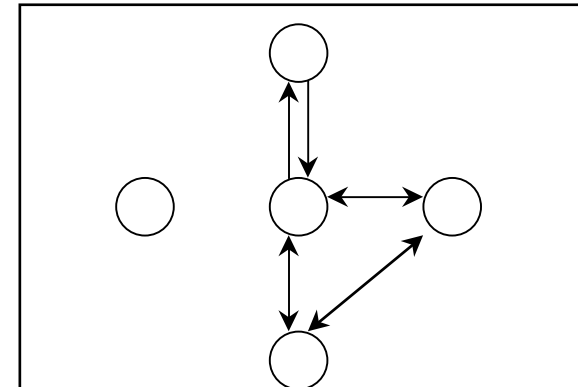


Information content of XAFS spectra is limited

- Estimate from Nyquist criterion
- Can completely describe band limited function by finite set of fourier coefficients
- **$N \text{ degrees of freedom} = 2 \Delta k \Delta r / \pi$**
 - **$2 * 10 * 3 / \pi \sim 20$ for solution spectra**

Parameter explosion in MS fitting

- Multiple scattering expansion
- May be tens or hundreds of important paths
- Each path has degeneracy, pathlength, debye waller factor, ...
- Geometry allows you to interrelate the pathlengths within certain limits
- Group fitting (Hodgson & Co)
- Determining all the MS Debye Waller parameters by fitting is a hopeless task
- What can you do?



Dealing with Parameter Explosion

- **Use *a priori* information;** extend k-space range
- Simultaneous fitting to multiple spectra e.g. different temperatures
- Suppress DWFs by measuring samples cryogenically -> zero point motion and static DWFs
- minimize use of ad-hoc assumptions!
- Calculate DWFs on physical grounds (Dimakis & Bunker, Poiarkova & Rehr) using density functional theory or faster methods
- If you can orient your sample, do it - you can double or triple information for low symmetry sites with polarized XAFS; better yet, joint refinement with XRD

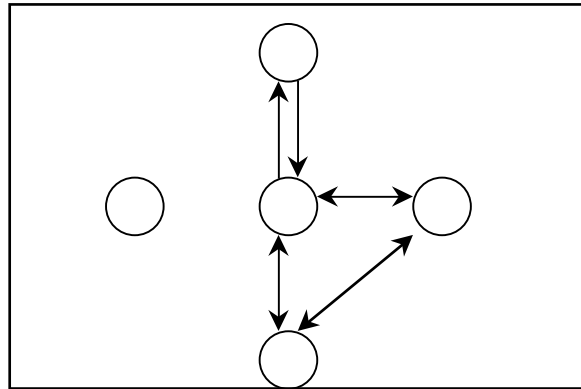
Parameters needed to describe structure

- Neglecting inter-ligand MS, how many parameters needed to define structure for metal protein site?
 - rho, alpha, beta for 4 ligands -> 12 parameters
 - rho, alpha, beta for 6 ligands -> 18 parameters
 - Need more parameters to describe disorder
 - Neglects multiple scattering between ligands
 - Indeterminate or nearly so for 3D structure

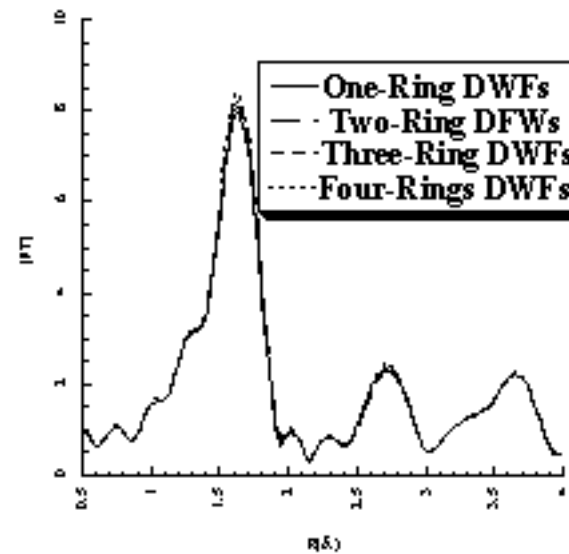
Polarized XAFS helps

- Second rank tensor – 3 by 3 matrix - 9 components, each a function of energy
- Diagonalize to 3 independent functions
- Isotropic average in solution (and cubic symmetry) to one independent function – the usual XAFS
- Low symmetry structures – can get up to 3 times the information (~60 parameters) from polarized XAFS
- Can use crystals that are not perfect enough for atomic resolution diffraction
- In principle could solve for 3D active site structure in crystal
- Joint refinement: crystallography and XAFS

Ab initio XAFS: scattering + vibrations



By combining sophisticated electron multiple scattering codes with density functional based quantum calculations of molecular vibrations, one can accurately calculate spectra with no fudge factors

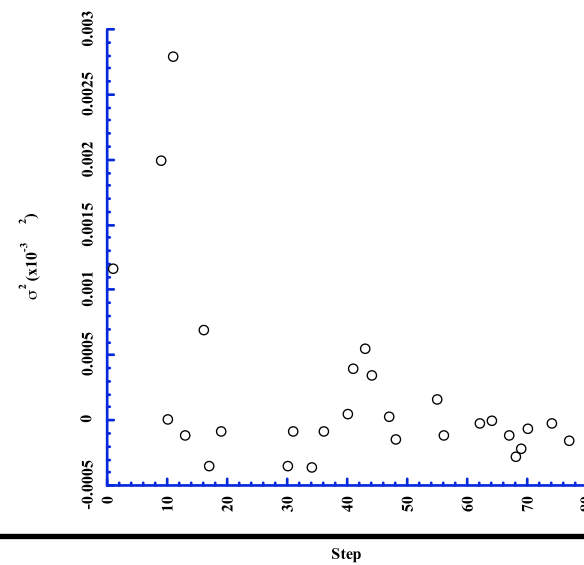
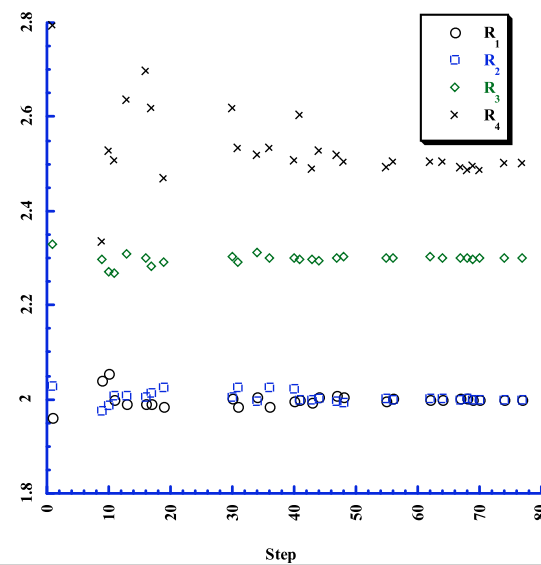
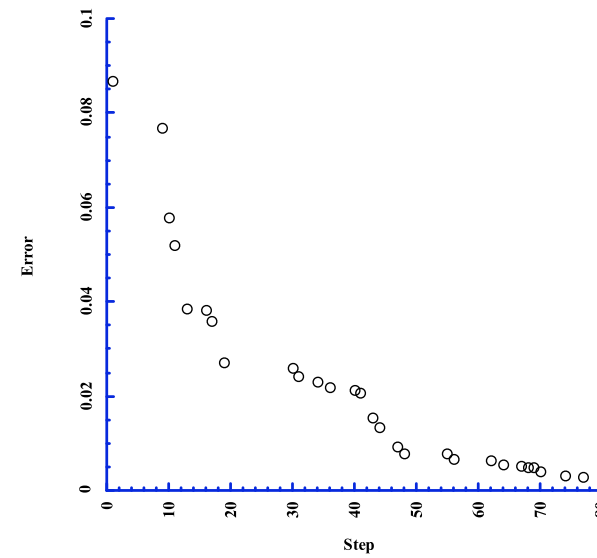
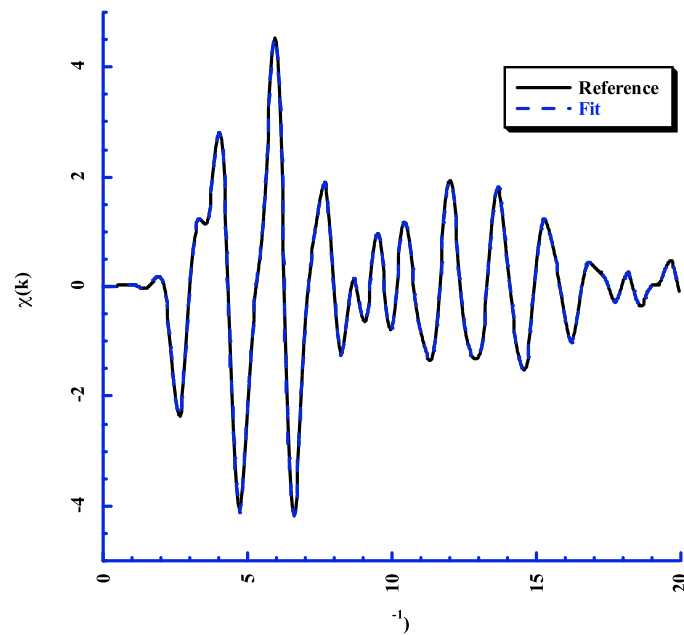


Zn tetraimidazole

His(3), Cys(1) Zn site:

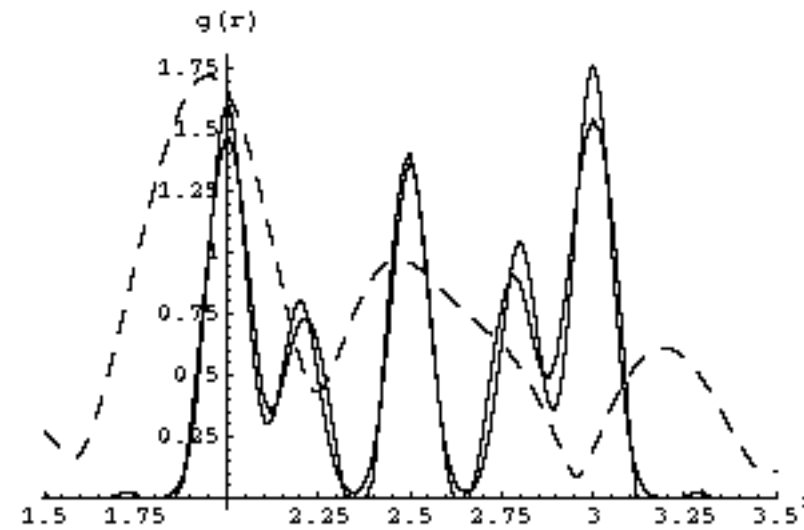
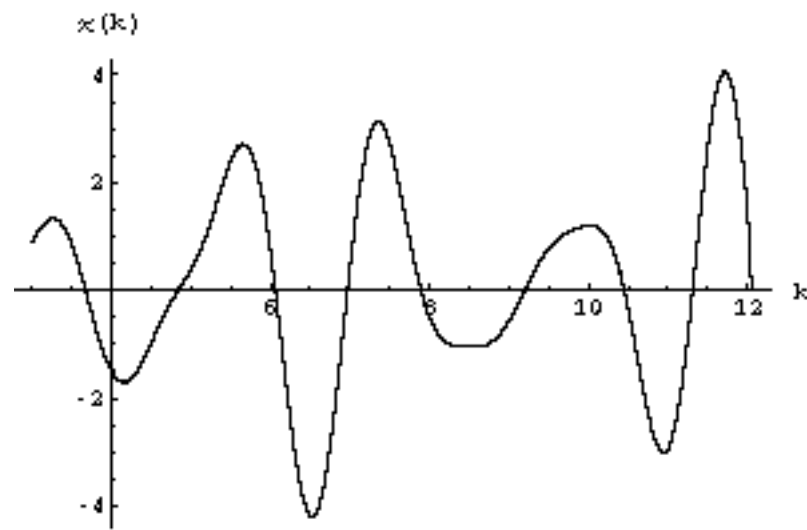
Automated
fitting
using a
genetic
algorithm,
+ FEFF7 +
ab initio
DWFs.

(Dimakis
& Bunker,
Biophys. Lett.
2006)



Direct Methods

Direct methods for determining radial distribution functions from EXAFS using Projected Landweber-Friedman Regularization



Khelashvili & Bunker

Chemical Speciation

- Mobility and toxicity of metals in the environment strongly depends on their chemical state, which can be probed in situ with XAFS
- Under appropriate conditions, total absorption coefficient is linear combination of constituent spectra
- Use singular value decomposition, principal components analysis, and linear programming (Tannazi) methods to determine species
- These deliver direct methods for determining speciation
- Nonlinearities arising from particle size effects theoretically and experimentally (Tannazi & Bunker)

Conclusion

- XAFS is a powerful tool for studying the local structure in both disordered and ordered materials.
- Recent advances have made the technique more powerful and flexible. Much more can be and is being done to build upon and exploit recent advances in theory, experiment, and data analysis.
- for more info, see “Introduction to X-ray Absorption Fine Structure Spectroscopy”, G. Bunker, Cambridge University Press (2010)