

2359-27

**Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Physics of Radiation Effect and its Simulation  
for Non-Metallic Condensed Matter**

*13 - 24 August 2012*

**Some unexpected X-ray interactions with matter**

Wim Bras  
*ESRF, Grenoble  
France*

# Some unexpected X-ray interactions with matter

Wim Bras

DUBBLE @ ESRF

Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)



# Outline

- Glass ceramics
- Polymers
- Protein solutions

7.3.3 ALS  
BM26A ESRF



# Energy range

- Most SR experiments used for structure determination  $2 < E < 30$  keV photons
- Electronic structure studies  $E < 2$  keV
- I will be dealing with structure determination, i.e. photons around 20 keV



# X-ray beam

- At modern sources size 20 – 500 micron
- On special microfocus lines < 2 micron
- Number of photons in beam  $10^{10} - 10^{14}/\text{sec}$
- absorption in sample most times  $\approx 60\%$
  
- This means hardly any heating due to beam ( $10^{-4}$  K/sec)
  - This is only relevant at cryogenic temperatures



# Radiation interaction

- Elastic/ inelastic scattering
  - All/most photon energy 'leaves' the sample
- Absorption
  - Mostly converted to photo electrons
  - Maximum electron energy is photon energy minus ionisation energy (i.e.  $E - \text{tiny bit}$ )
  - 30 keV photo electrons do not have sufficient energy to displace atoms in amorphous/crystalline state
  - In liquids/polymers free radicals can be created



# Kinetic energy not enough for direct structural change



10 keV electron at most



# Confession time!

I know hardly anything about radiation damage

Why talk here then?

Well, there is this guy Andre....

You mean THE Andre???....Say no more.....!!!

I'll stick to phenemological descriptions ....

Sensible!  
I think this Andre guy owes you a pint....



# Do we really deposit energy in samples?

- The beams are intense but not extreme
- The photon energies are not enormous
- They have much less energy than compared with electron microscopy or ion bombardments
- So what is the big deal?

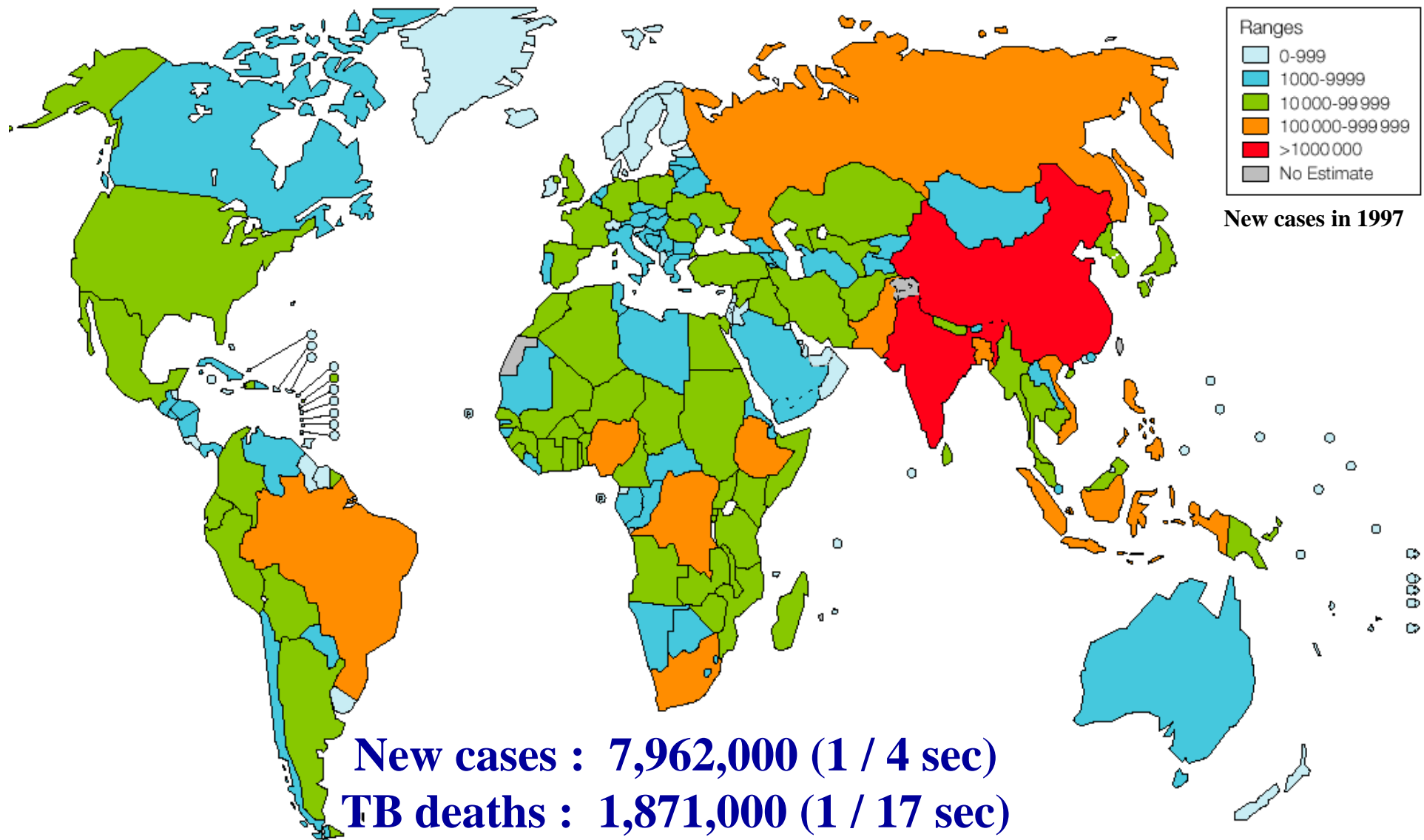


# Protein crystallography

- Very popular at the moment
- In principle simple experiment
- Radiation damage issues widely studied
- Can be well controlled when sample are cryo-cooled ( $\approx 80$  Kelvin)
- This freezes the free radicals
- This avoids major structural damage



# Estimates of TB burden

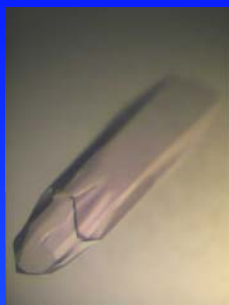




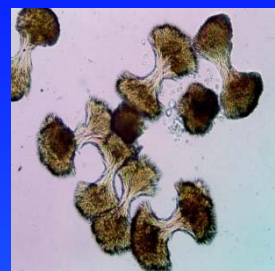
# TB Crystals



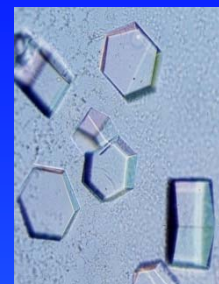
Rv2610



Rv3628



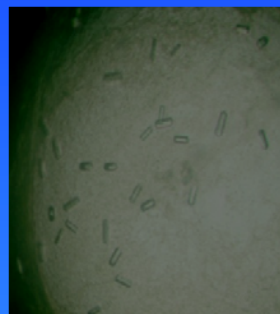
Rv1908c



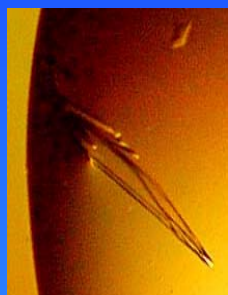
Rv2428



Rv2991



Rv2438c



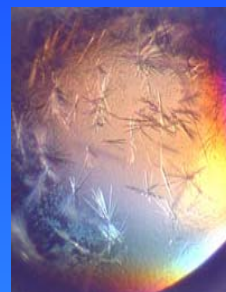
Rv0014c<sub>331</sub>



Rv0014c<sub>279</sub>



Rv0813c



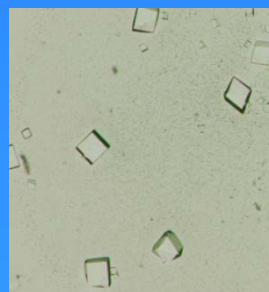
Rv0018c



Rv1846c



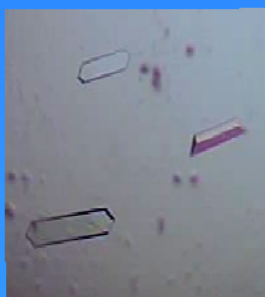
Rv0877



Rv2461c



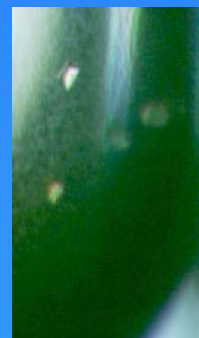
Rv2276



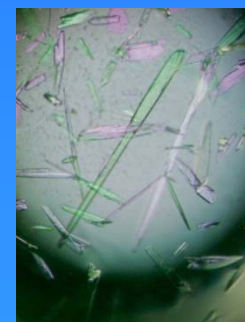
Rv2883c



ML2640



Rv2667



Rv0733



Rv2238





# Protein crystallography

- One of the main applications of SR
- 25% of beam lines at the ESRF are dedicated to it



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2009

"for studies of the structure and function of the ribosome"



Photo: MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

**Venkatraman  
Ramakrishnan**



Credits: Michael Marsland/Yale University

**Thomas A. Steitz**

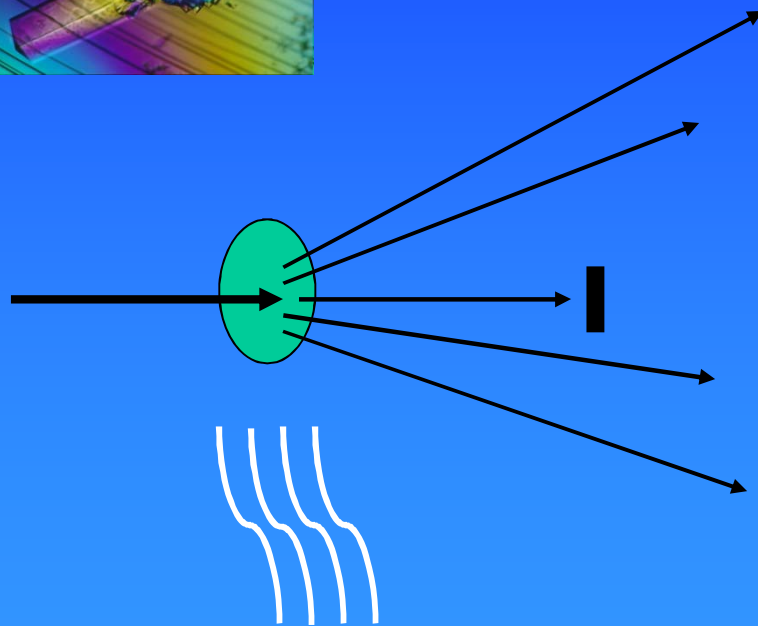
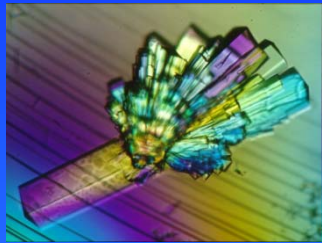


Credits: Micheline Pelletier/Corbis

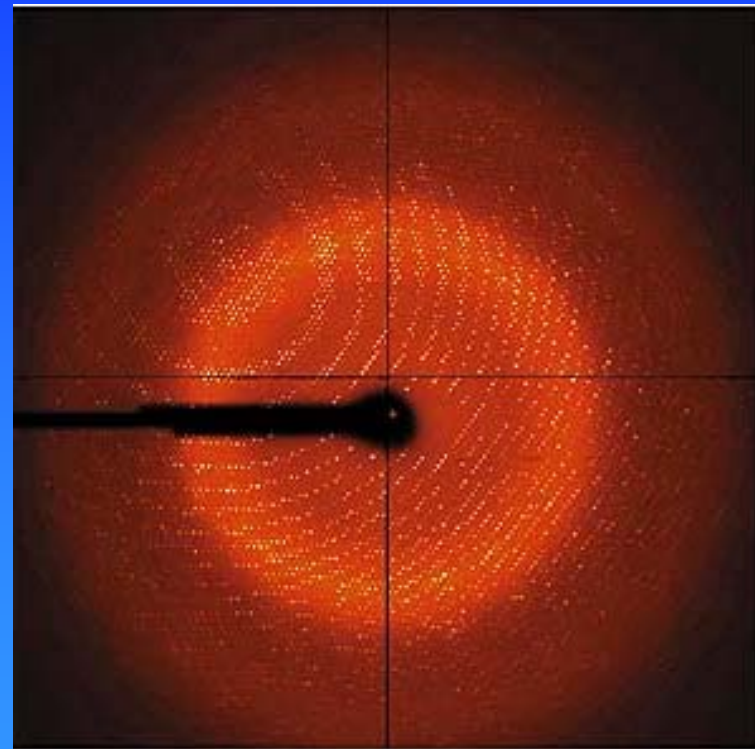
**Ada E. Yonath**



# Protein crystallography



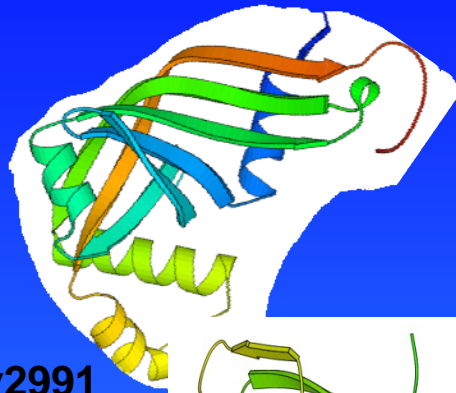
LN vapour



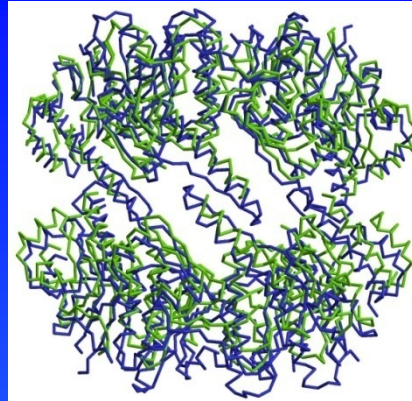
# 3D Structures



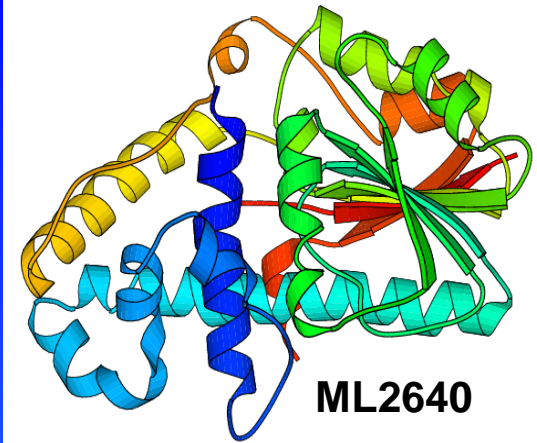
Rv3247c  
tmK



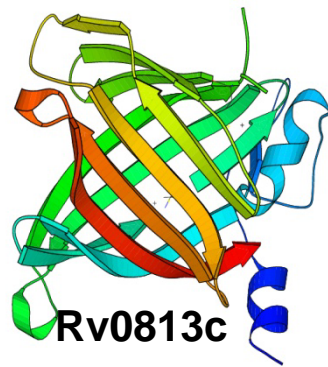
Rv2991



Rv2461c  
clpP



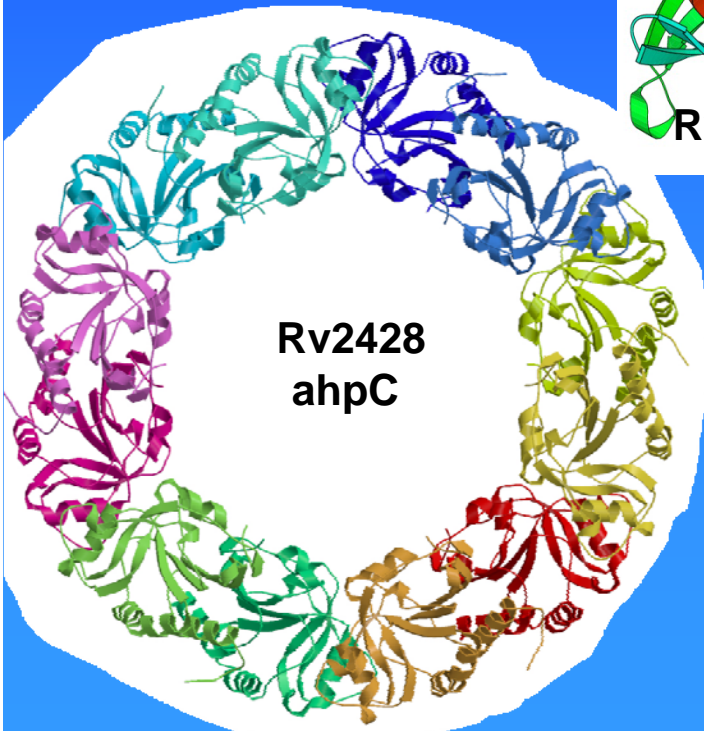
ML2640



Rv0813c



Rv0733  
adK



Rv2428  
ahpC



Rv0014c  
pknB



Protein crystal warmed  
up after experiment



temperature

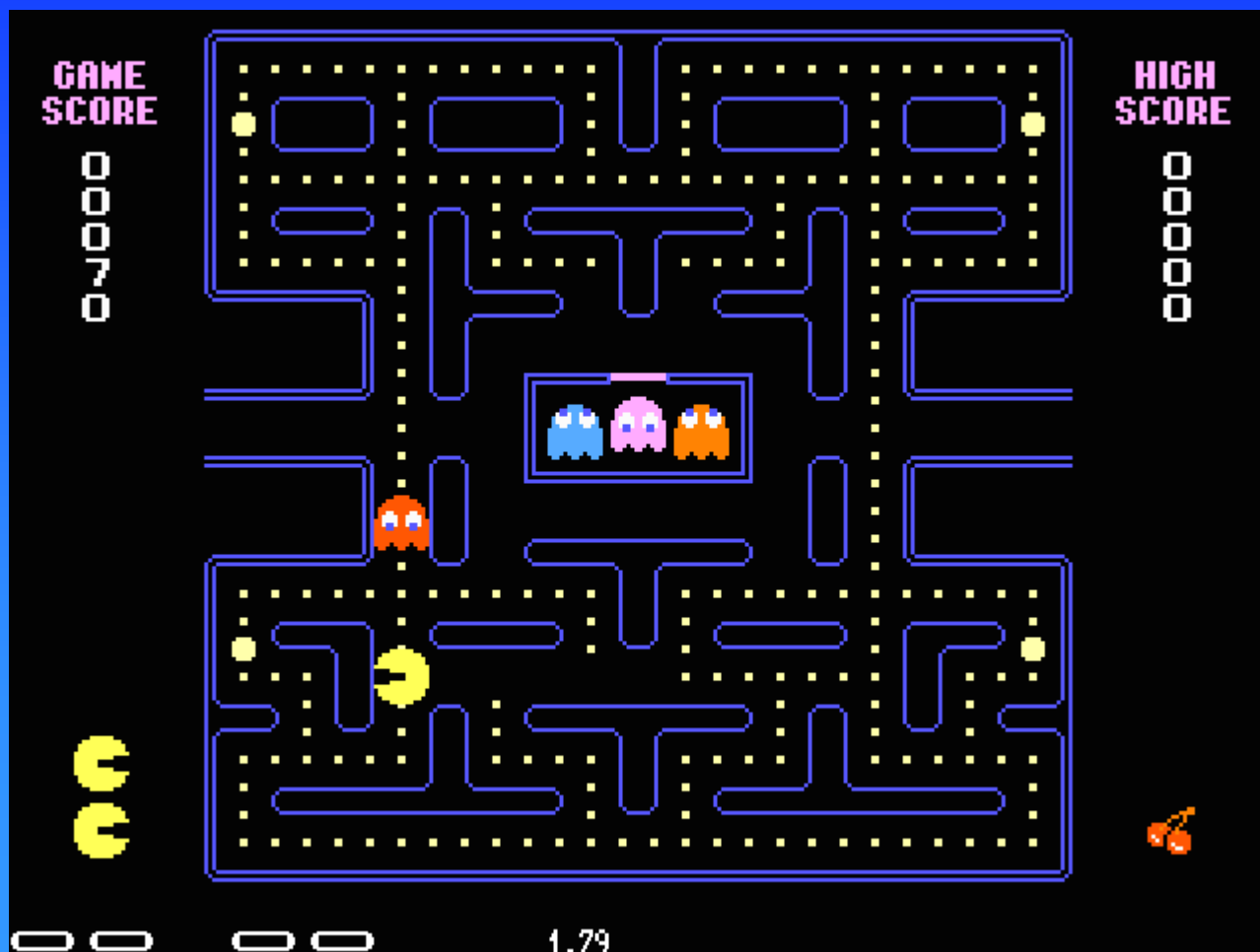


Ed Mitchel/Sean McSweeney

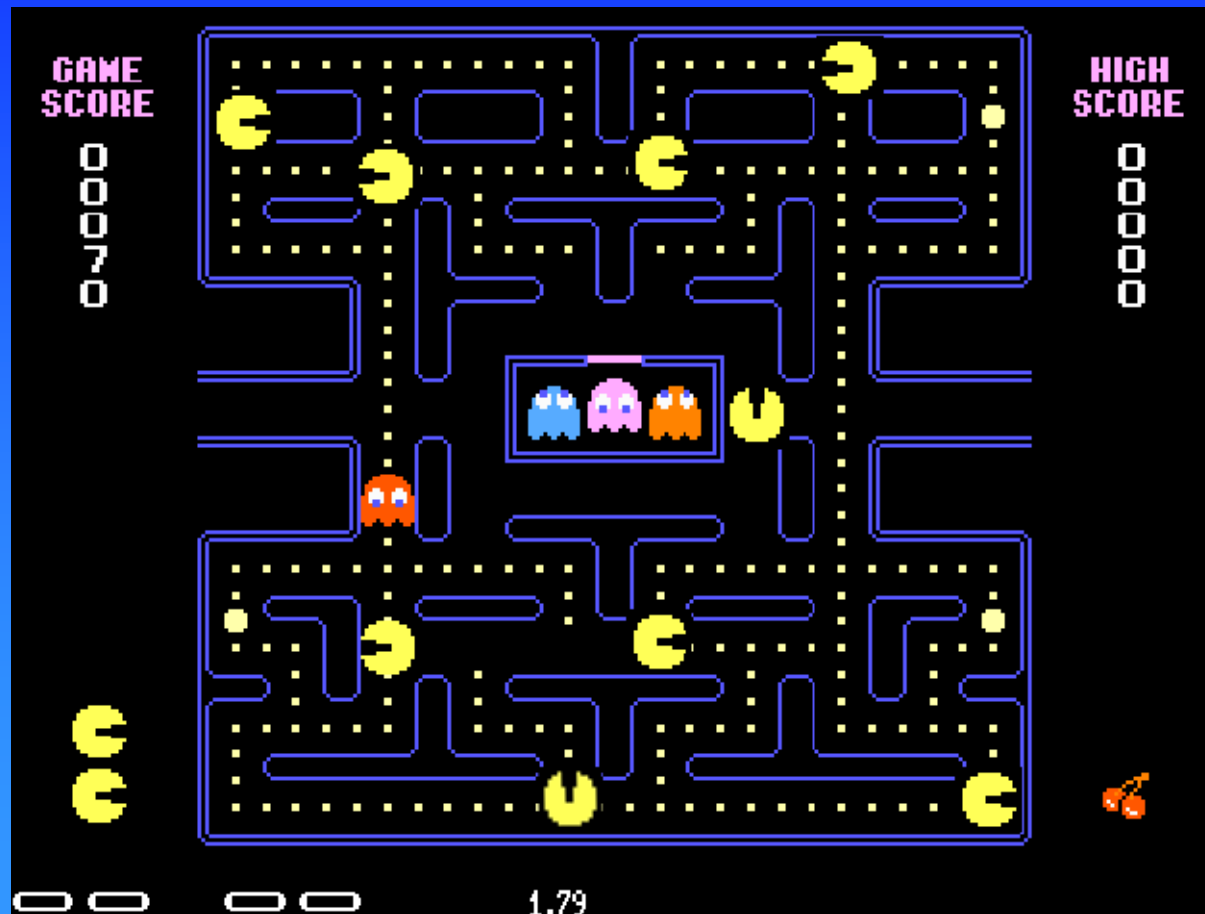


# What happened?

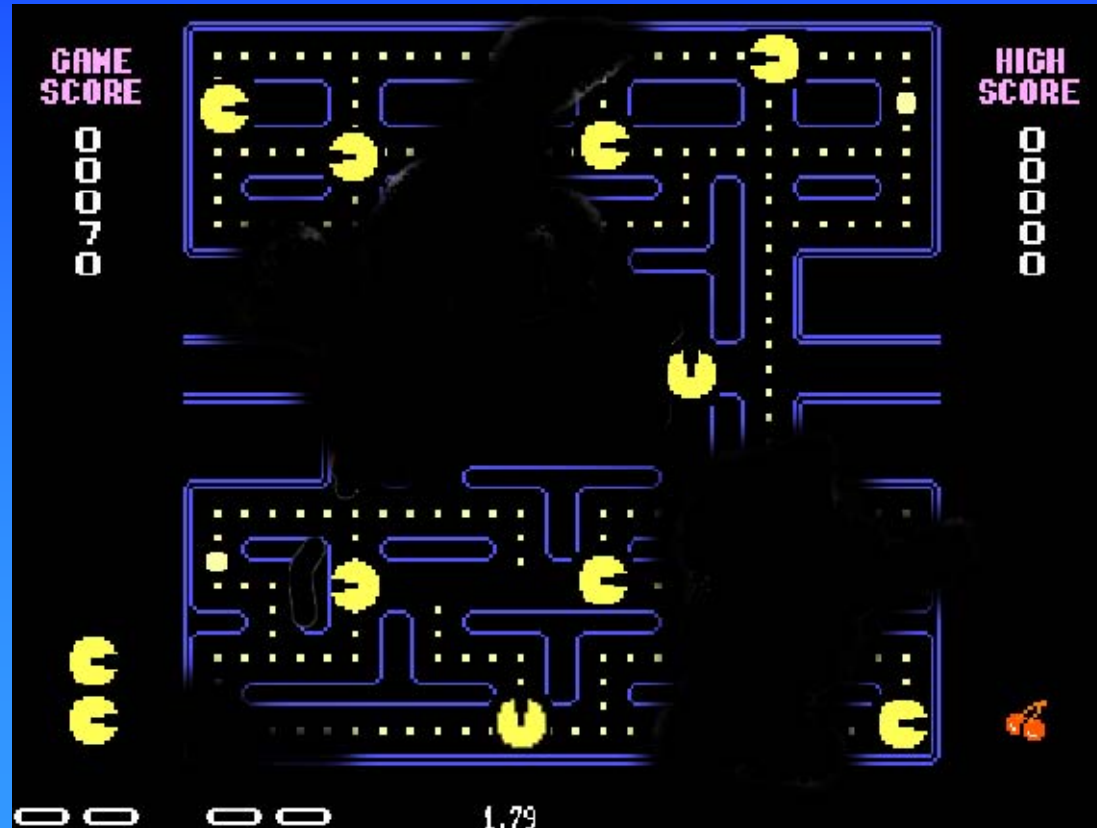
Free radicals become mobile



Not a single pac man but many

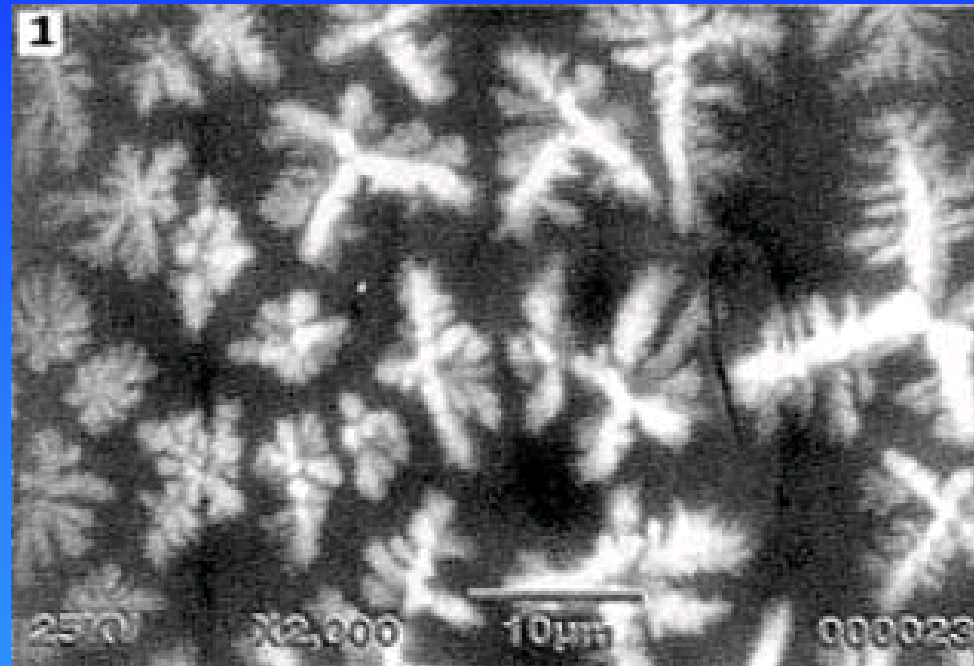


Pacman(s) didn't only eat Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde but they eat parts of the maze as well

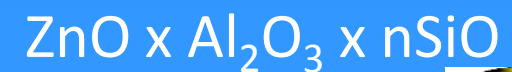




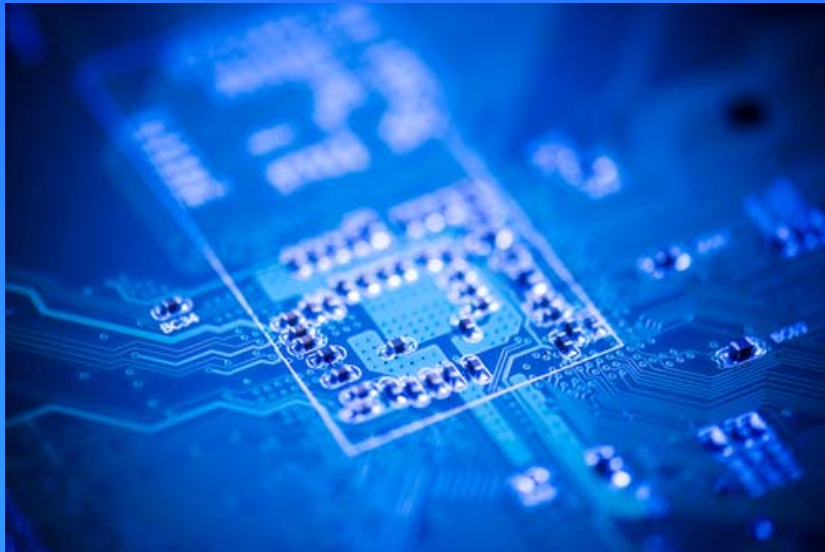
# Glass ceramics



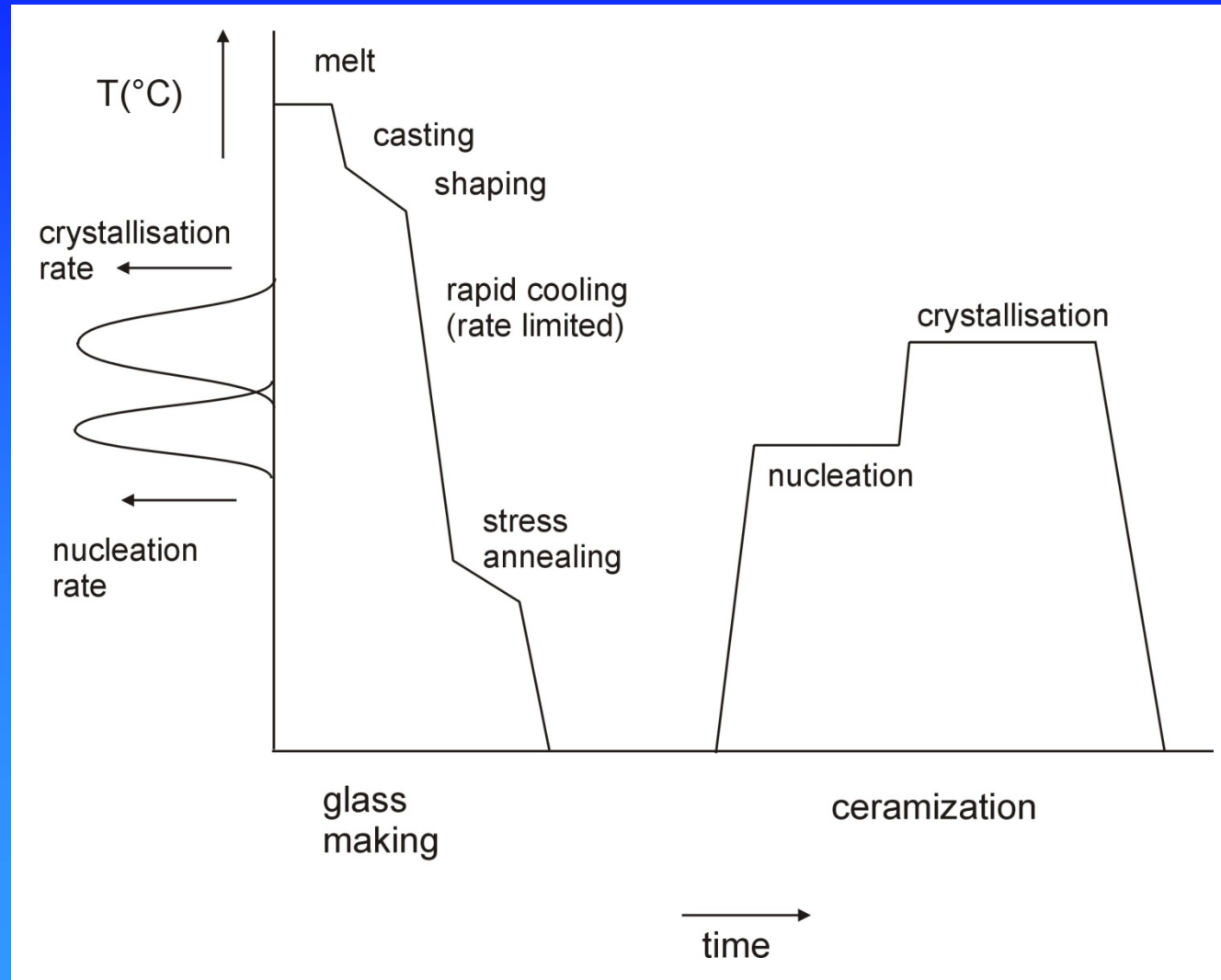
Composite material



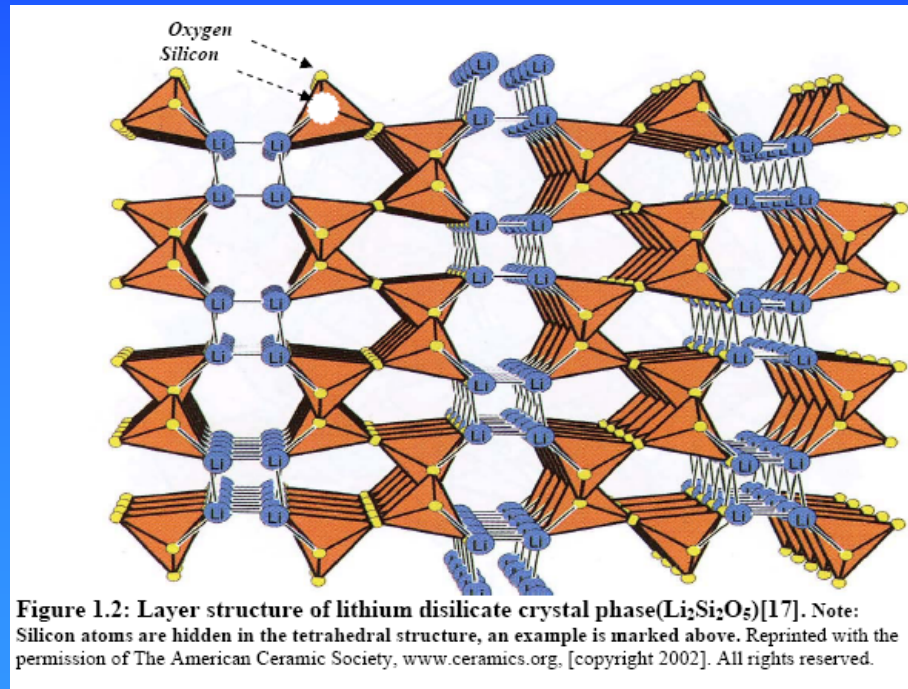




# How to make them?



# Lithium disilicate



Accidentally developed when looking for materials for missile nose cones





# More benign use



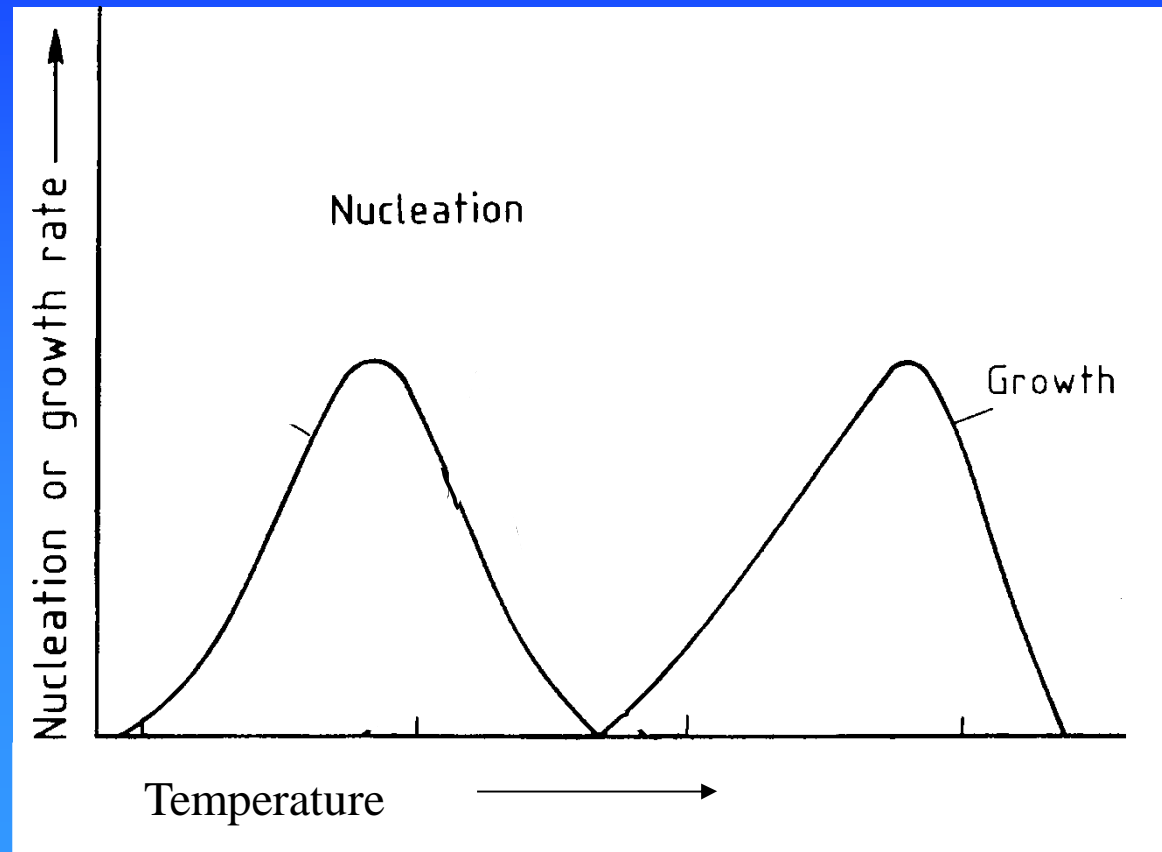
S. Donald Stookey  
1953



Early version of Corningware

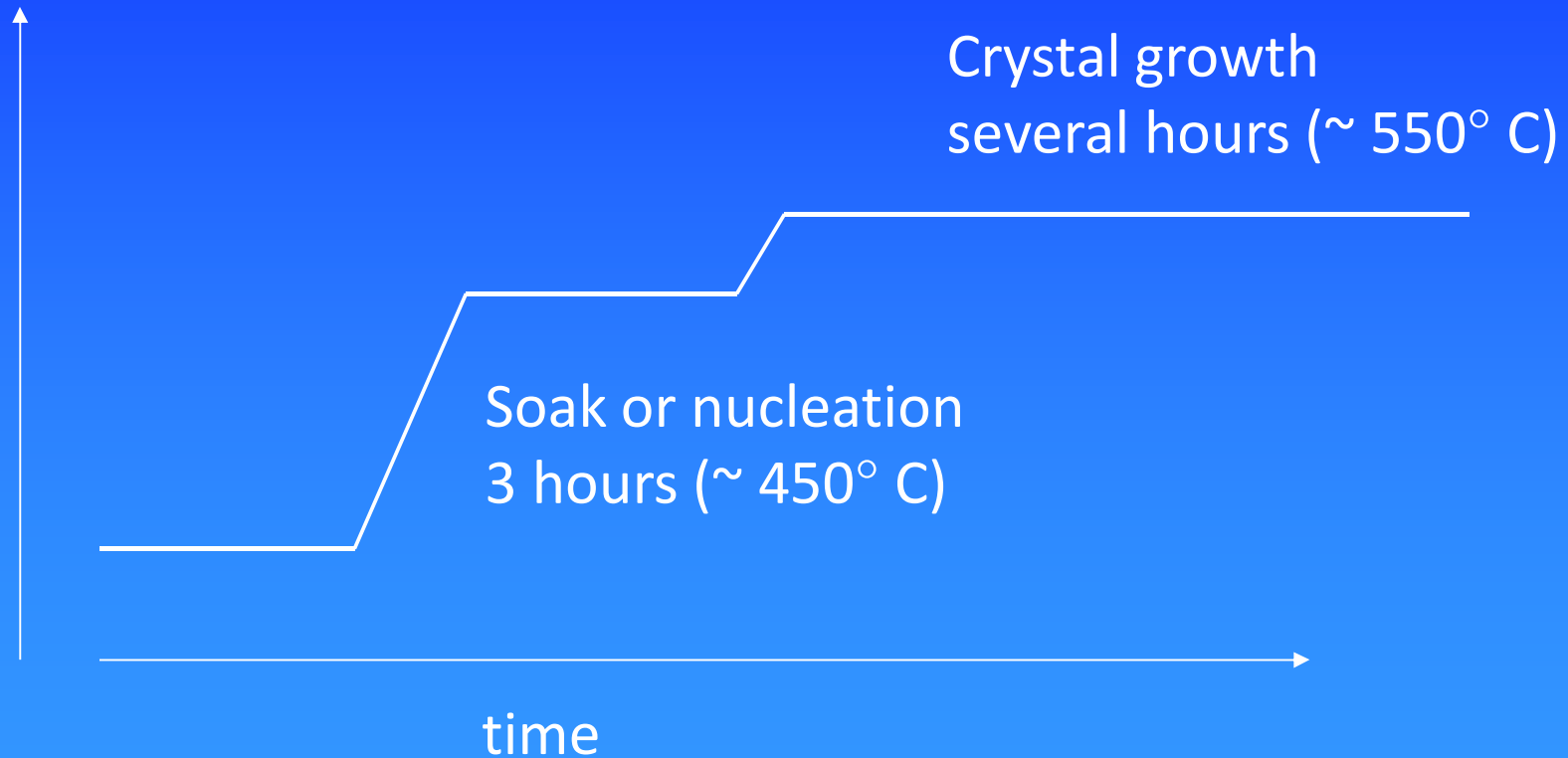


# Glass devitrification experiments



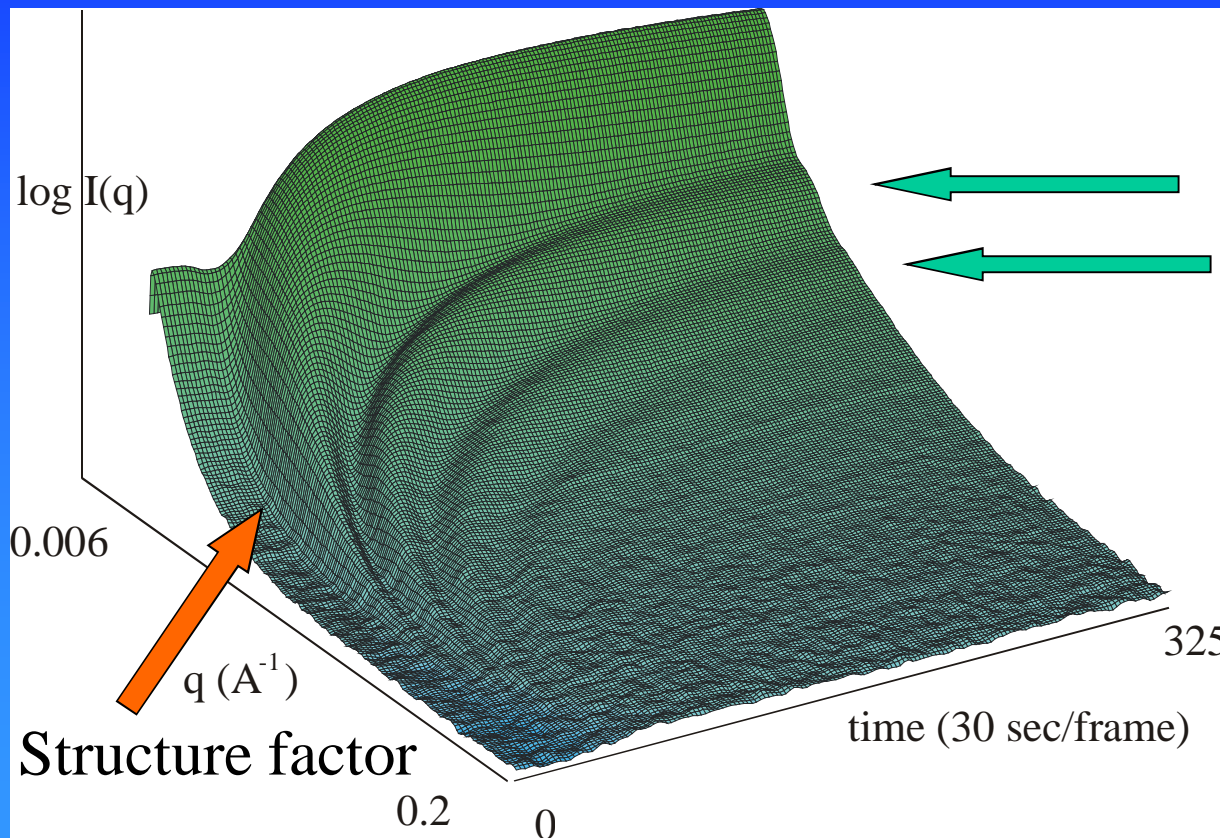
# Experiment on 200 micron thick platelet

temperature



# SAXS

$$I(q) = S(q) * |F(q)|^2$$



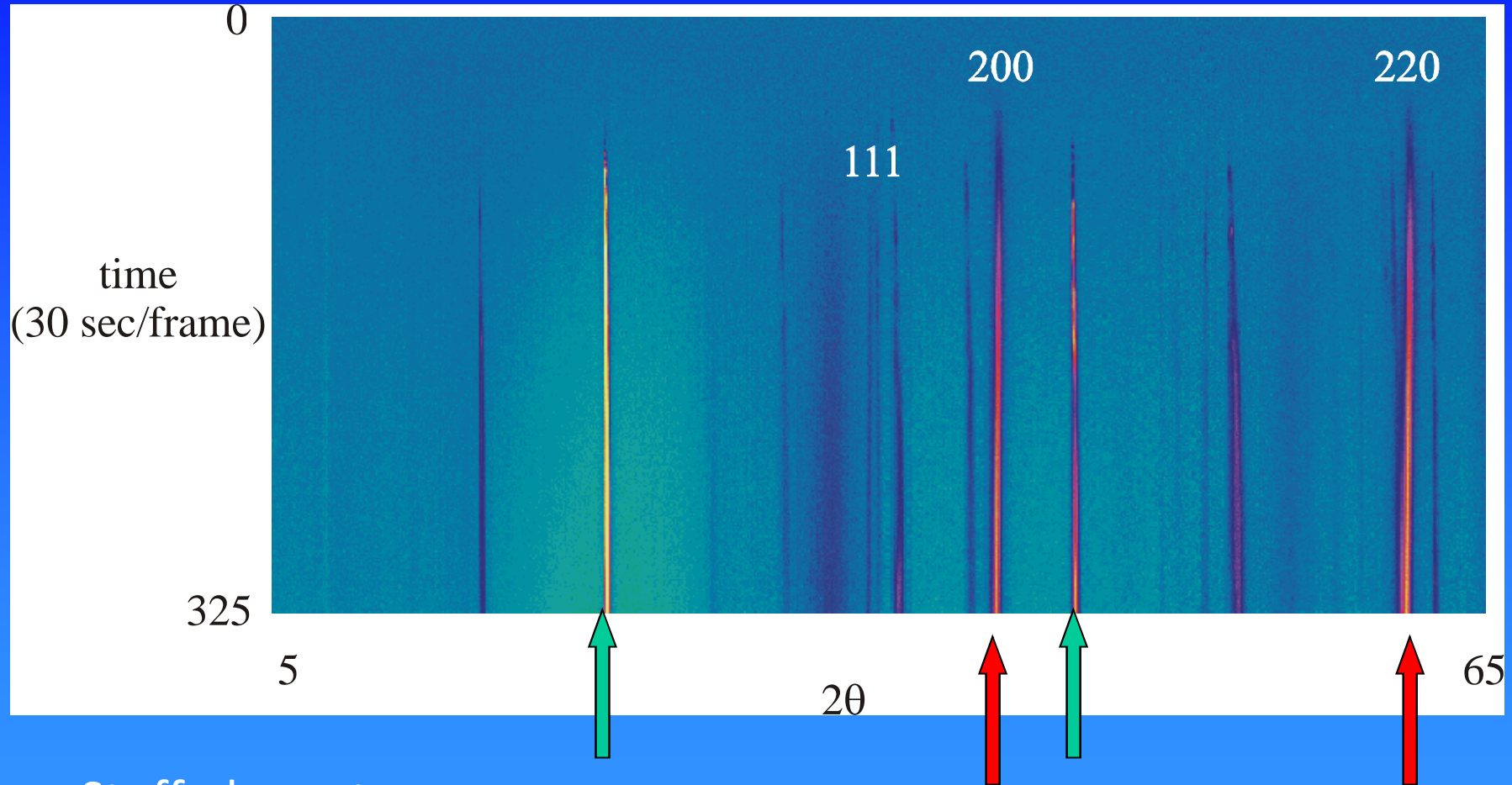
Form factor peaks  
(up to 5<sup>th</sup> order)

$$\Delta R/R \sim 0.04$$





# WAXS data



Stuffed quartz

Spinel unit cell increases in time  
 $\text{MgOAl}_2\text{O}_3$  FCC  $a = b = c = 8.06 \text{ \AA}$

Spinel

Stuffed quartz unit cell decreases in time  
trigonal  $a = b = 5.13 \text{ \AA}$   $c = 5.37 \text{ \AA}$



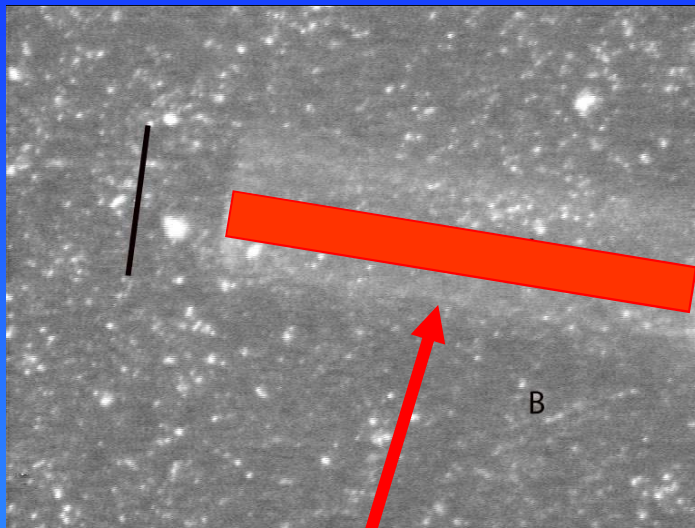
# Time-resolved SAXS and WAXS

- SAXS
  - Size of particles
  - Crystalline volume fraction
  - Diffusion or reaction limited process
- WAXS
  - Which phases
  - Crystallisation kinetics
  - Etc. etc. etc.

But that is not today's story



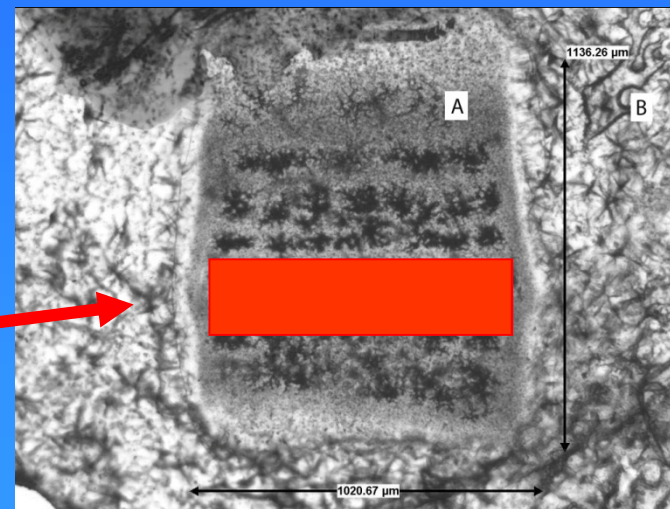
# Post mortem optical microscopy



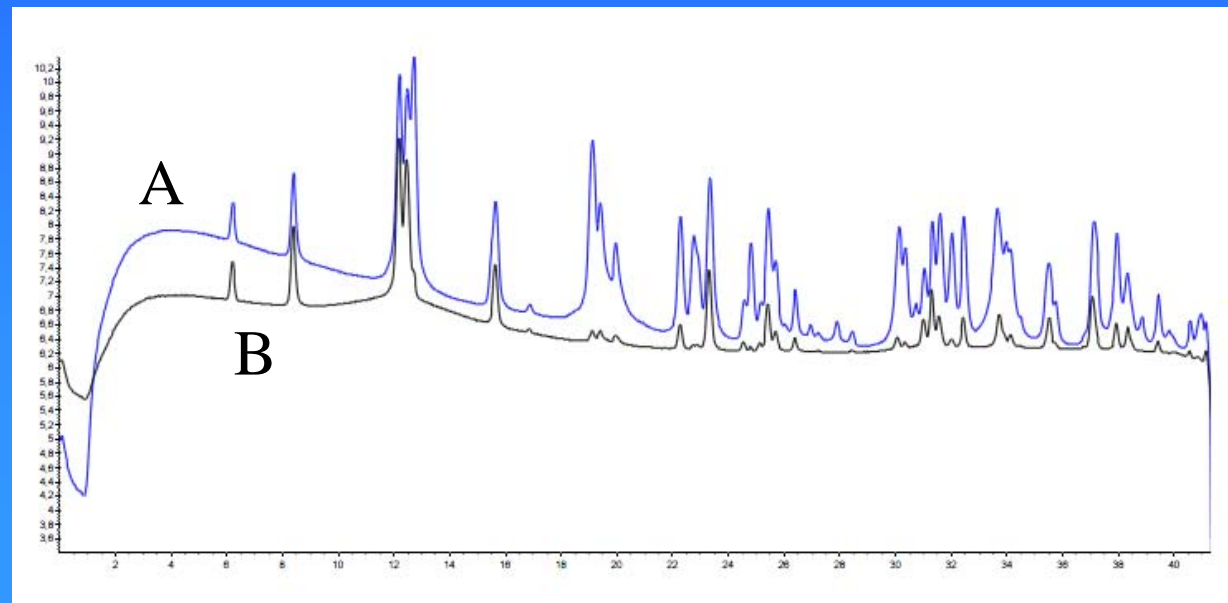
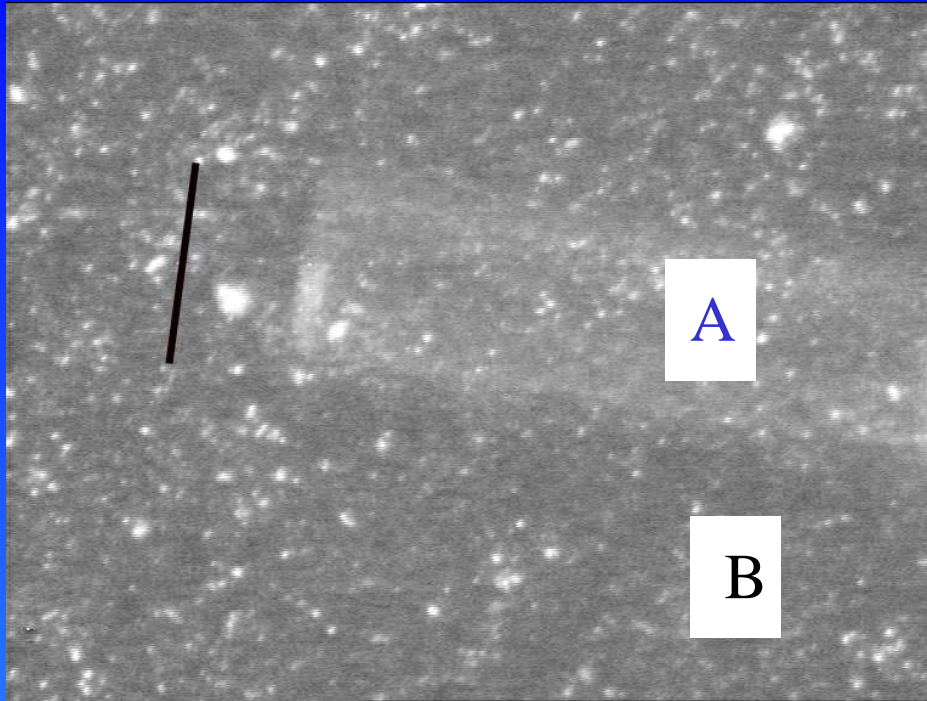
Partially crystallised

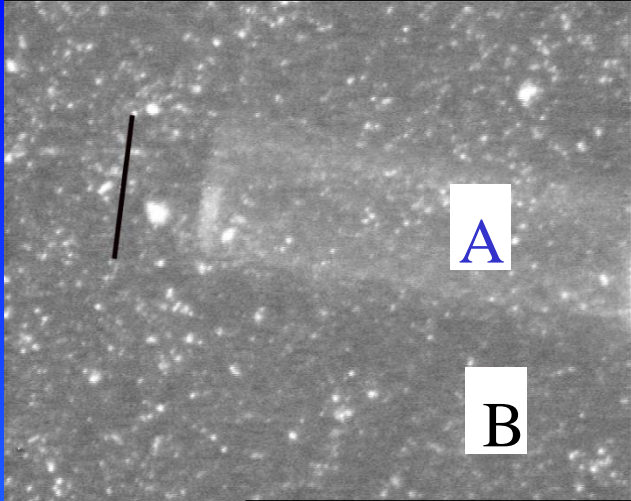
Real beam size

Fully crystallised



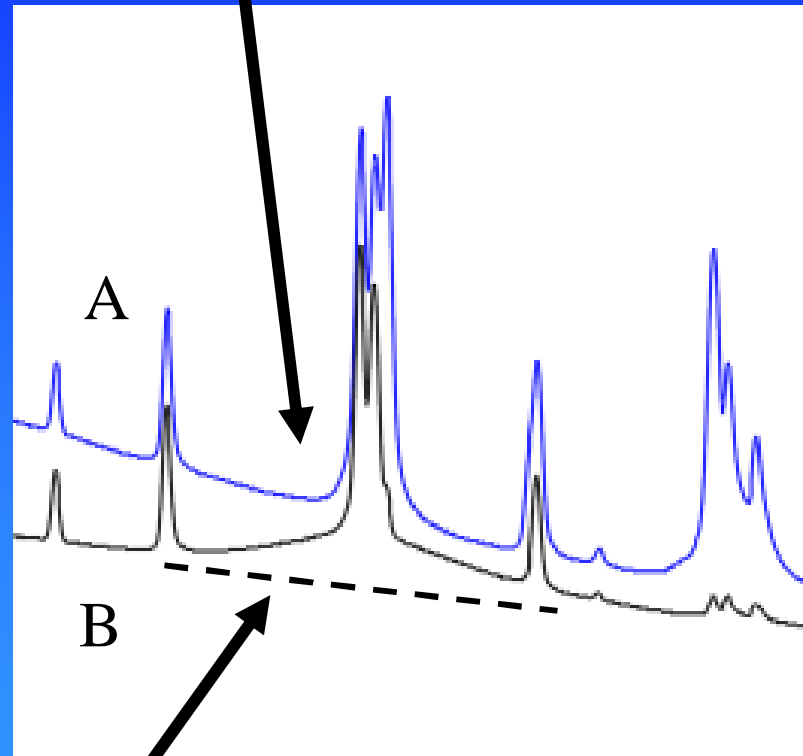
# Post mortem powder diffraction





Sample should only be partially crystallised according to recipe

Amorphous halo absent



Amorphous halo still present

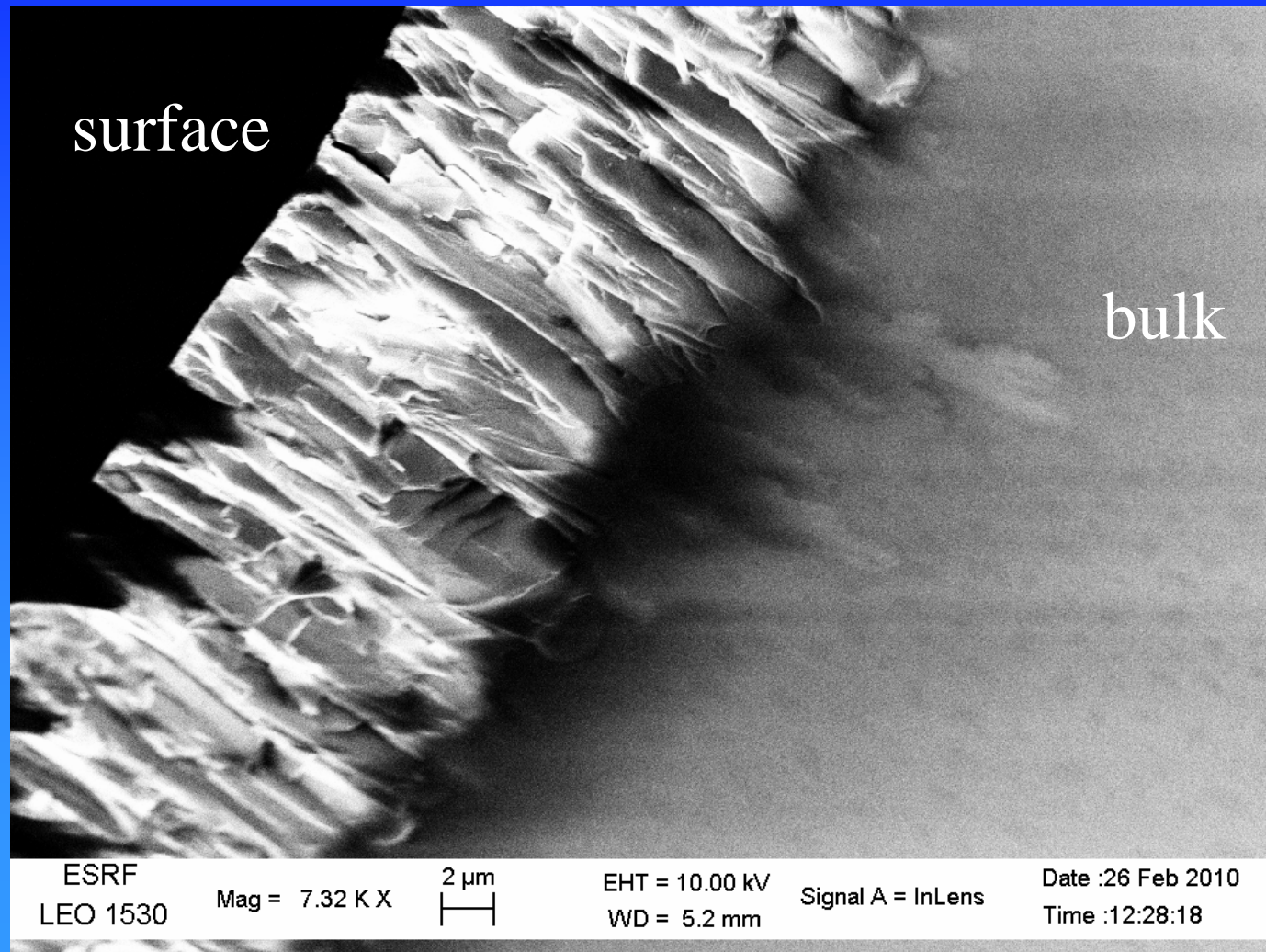


In irradiated region the sample has crystallised faster  
then in the non-irradiated region





# SEM partially crystallised (not irradiated)

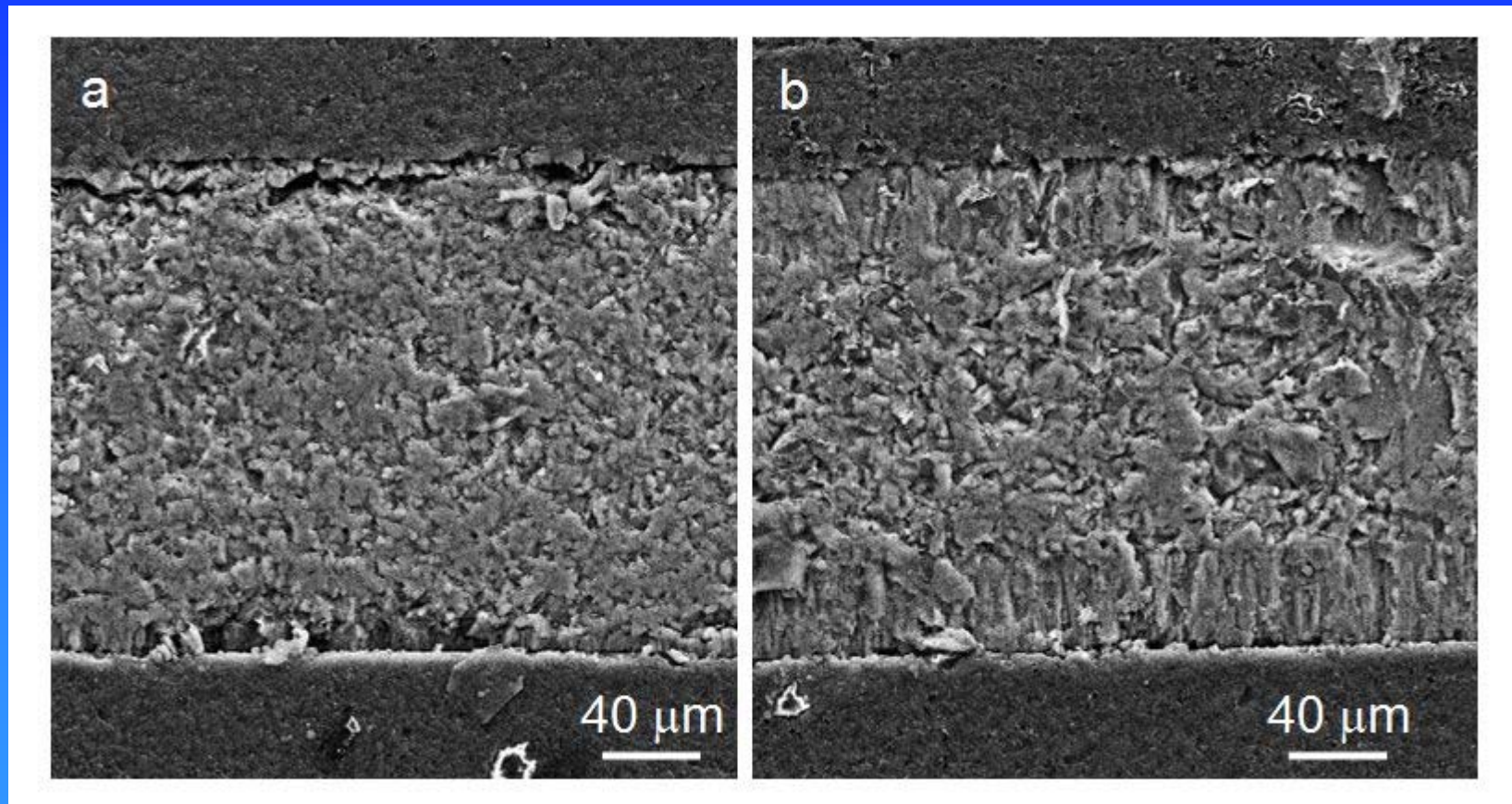


- Sample is in principle bulk crystallising
- There clearly is a textured crystalline layer on the surface
  - Not really all that uncommon
- The degree of crystallinity in surface layers is higher than in the bulk





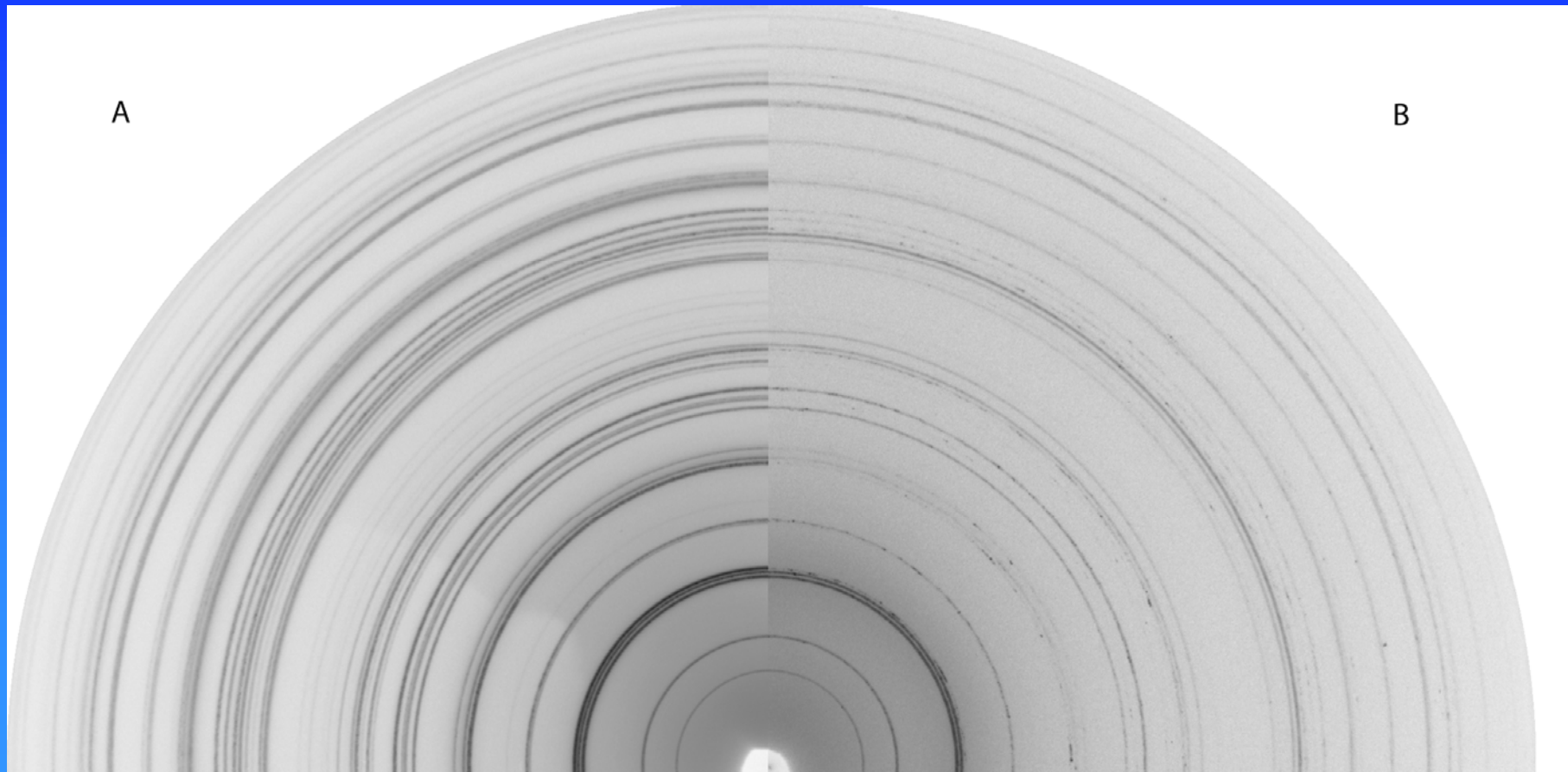
# SEM fully crystallised sample



Irradiated by X-rays

Not irradiated by X-rays

# Powder diffraction



A

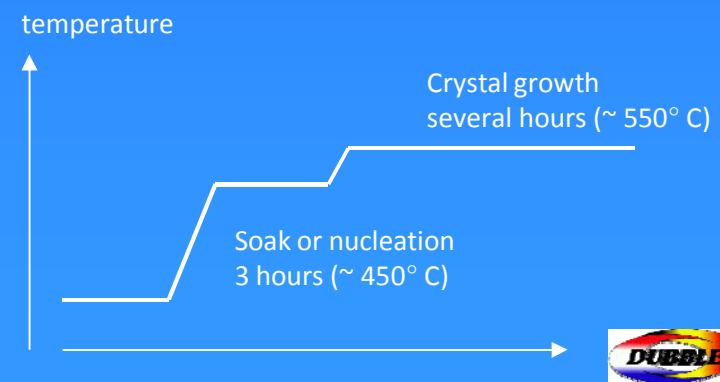
B

Irradiated

Not irradiated



- X-rays on during whole process
  - Fine morphology
  - No surface layer
  - Faster crystallisation
- X-rays on only during crystallisation
  - Texture increased
  - Surface layer less prominent
- X-rays off
  - Coarse morphology
  - (Textured) surface layer
  - Slower crystallisation



- The X-rays influence the crystallisation process
- The X-rays induce crystallisation
- Strongest effect during the thermal nucleation treatment
- Flux  $10^{11}$  photons/sec in  $0.3 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2$

But:

- The X-rays influence the crystallisation in a larger area than the direct beam
- This only occurs in the vertical direction



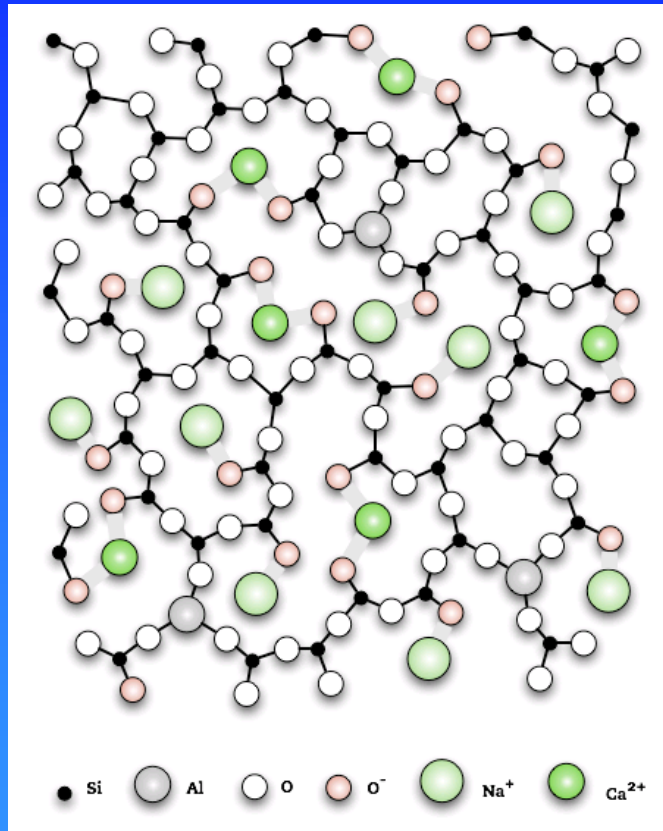
# What is happening?

- Local heating? Not sufficient energy deposited to influence kT dependent processes ( $\uparrow 10^{-4}$  K/s)
- Most likely due to electrons liberated in sample (photo electric effect)
- One way or another these electrons help to create nucleation sites



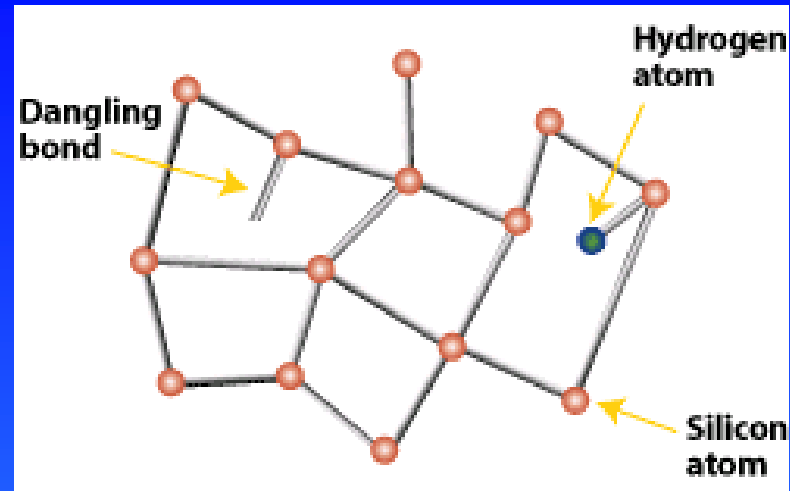
# Mechanism of electron-irradiation-induced recrystallization in Si

Frantz, J. Tarus, K. Nordlund, and J. Keinonen  
PHYSICAL REVIEW B, VOLUME 64, 125313



For electron irradiation, it has been recently shown that even quite low energy (25 keV) electron bombardment can produce recrystallization of amorphous pockets in silicon, germanium, and gallium arsenide.

Doses low enough to avoid sample heating due to electron beam



By geometric rearrangement we mean that after a bond between atoms  $i$  and  $j$  breaks, the atom  $i$  can reform the bond with some other atom  $k$  in the local neighbourhood and similarly with  $j$  and some other atom  $l$ ). Although this is quite unlikely to occur in the crystalline state, in an amorphous state produced by irradiation there are weak bonds which are relatively easy to break.

Frantz, J. Tarus, K. Nordlund, and J. Keinonen  
PHYSICAL REVIEW B, VOLUME 64, 125313





## But...

- This would not explain the vertical extension of the affected region
- This is around 200 micron (either vertical side of beam)
- The path length of scattered electrons is at most microns

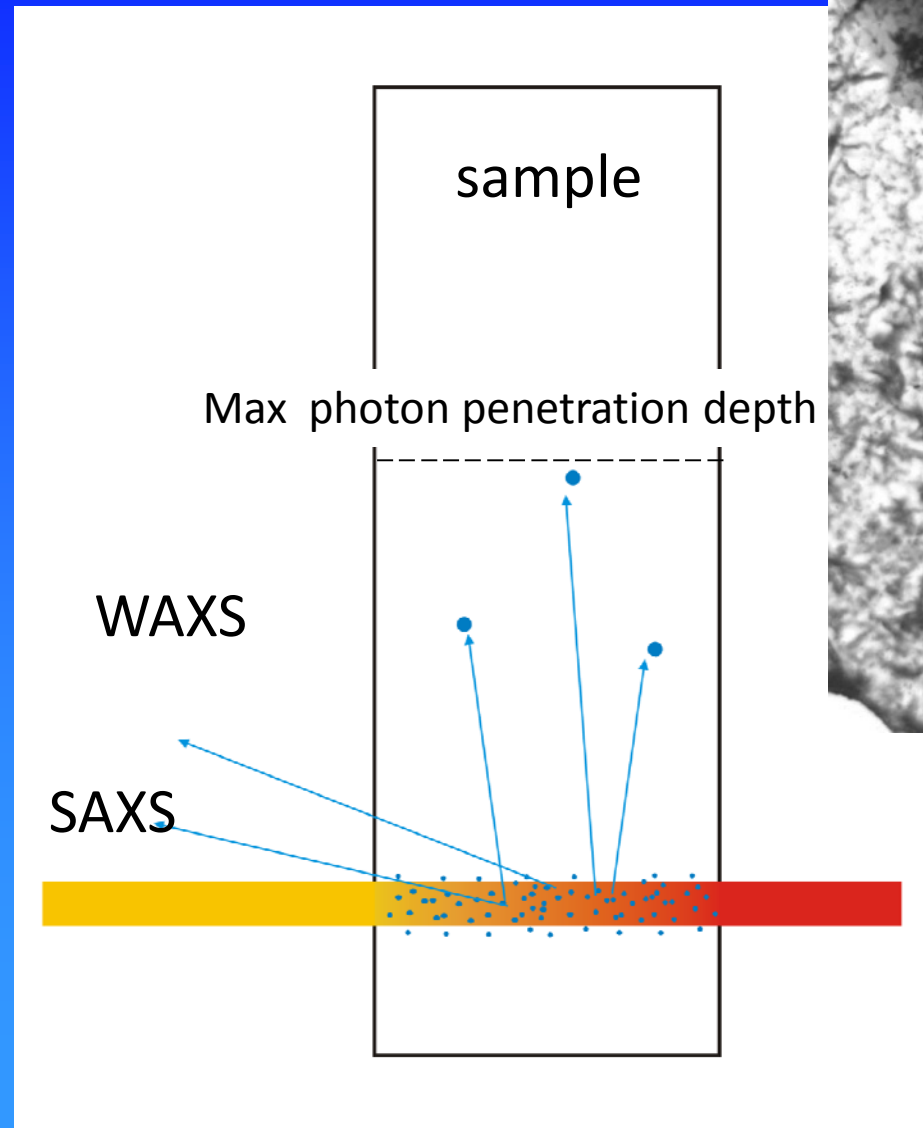


# But...

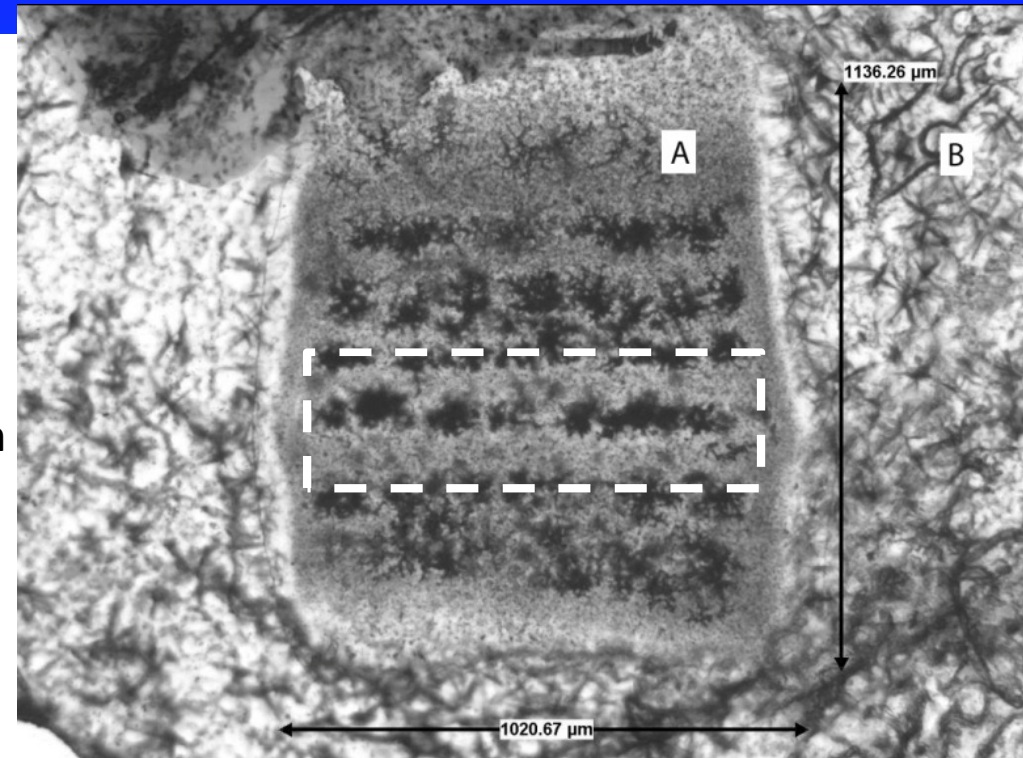
- 10 keV photons can travel around 200 micron in this sample
- The synchrotron photons are polarized
- They will be scattered in the vertical direction (both elastic as well as inelastic)



## Side view



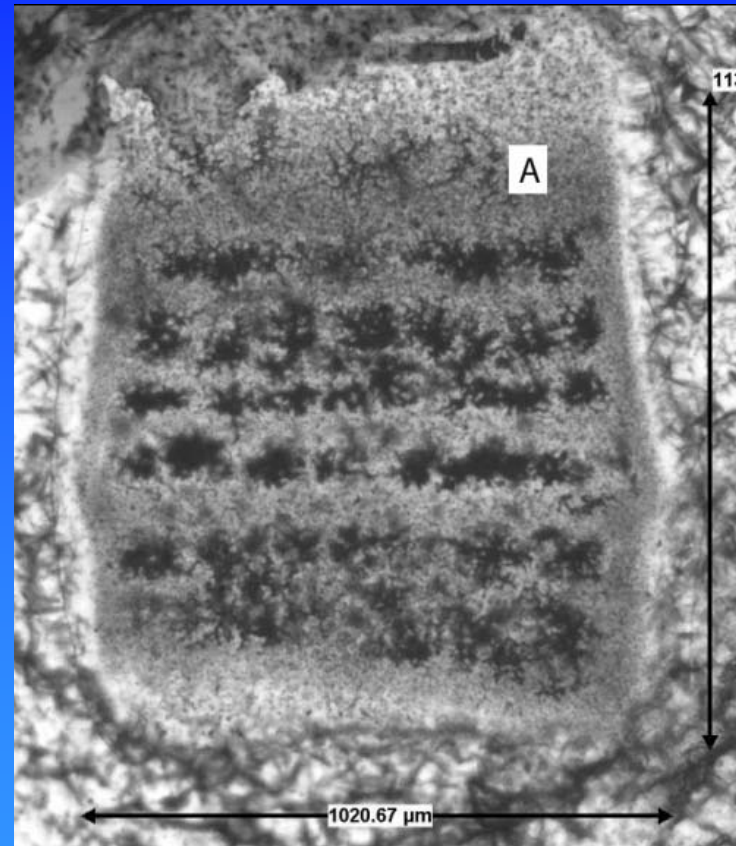
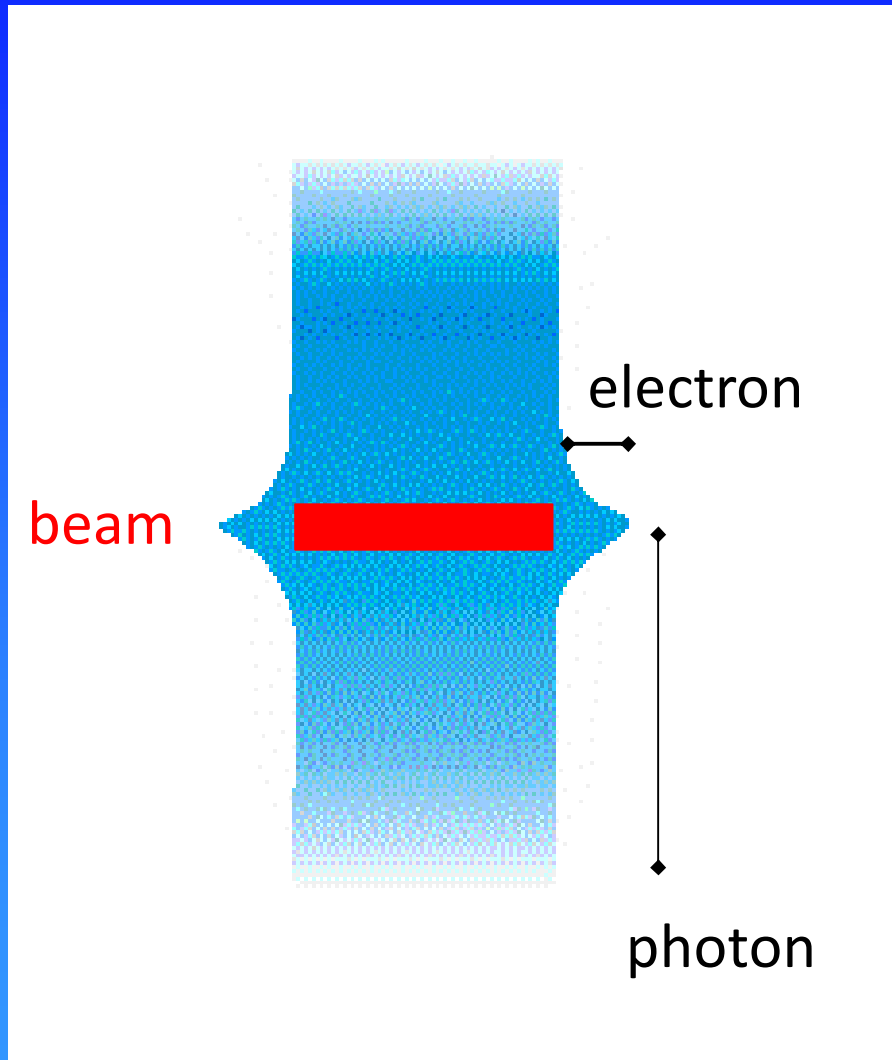
## Beam direction view



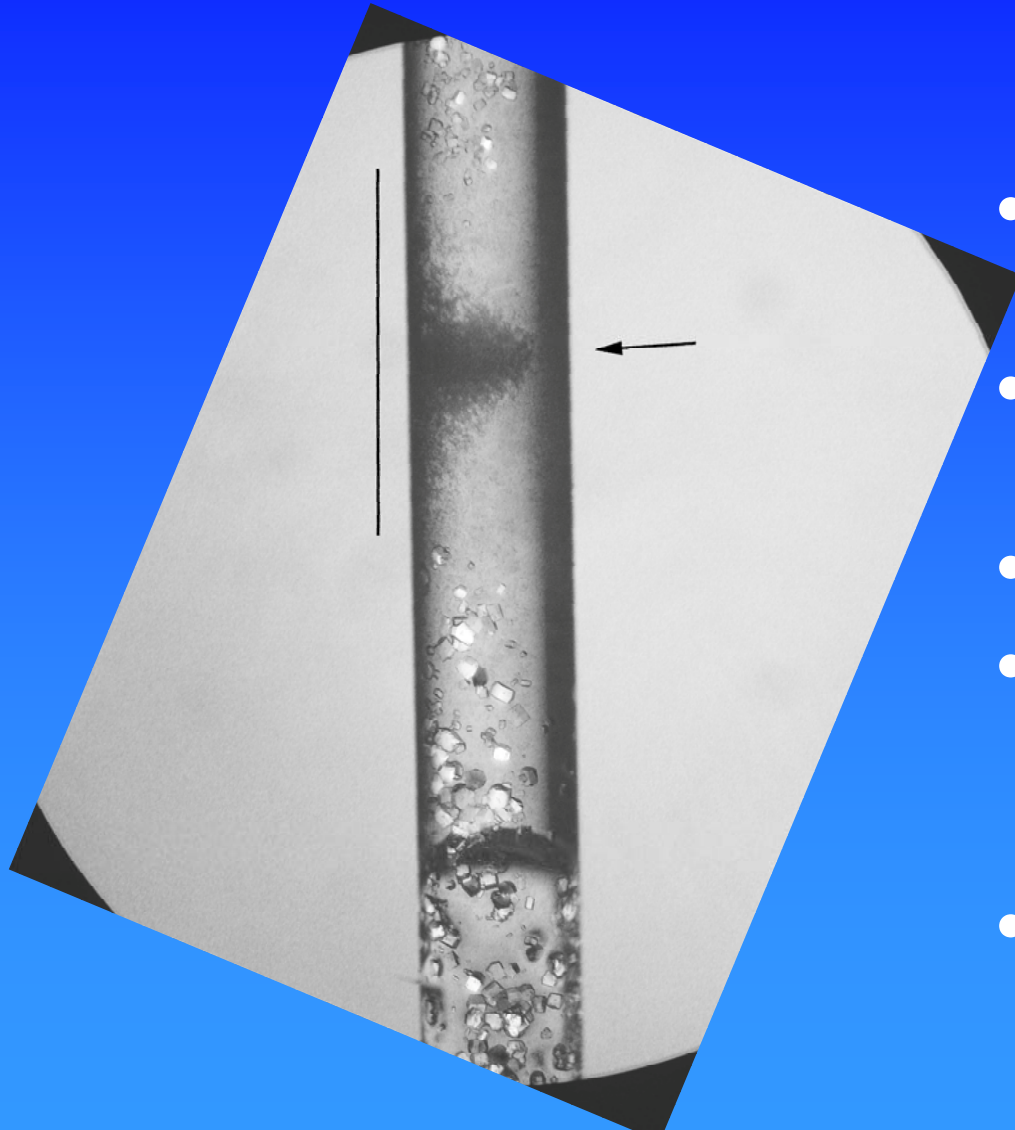
# What is most likely:

- Part of photons in direct beam get absorbed and release electrons
- Part of photons scatter inside sample
- These ultimately get absorbed and release electrons



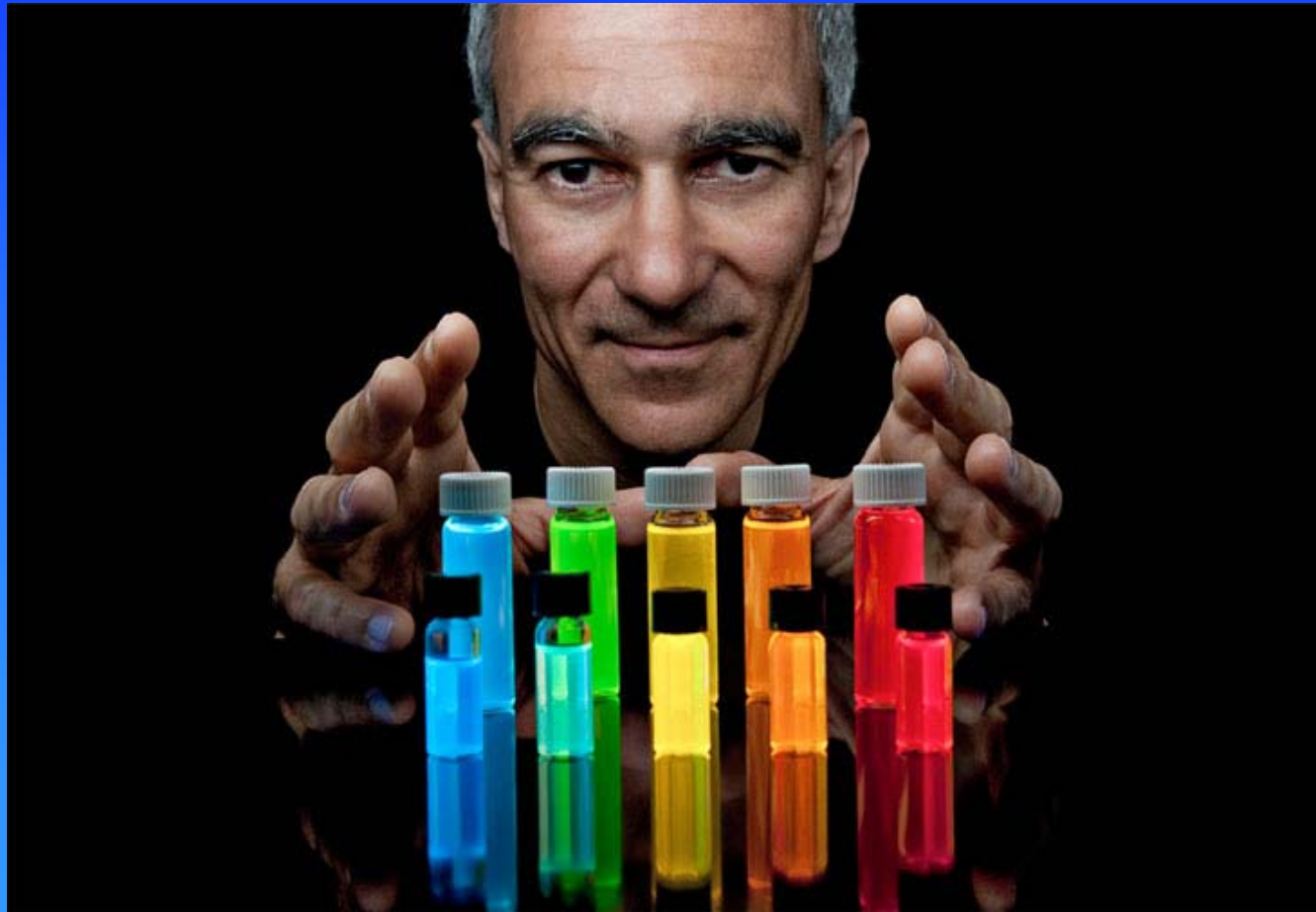


# Earlier work



- On-line lysozyme crystallisation
- Radiation damage in beam spot
- 8 keV photons
- No crystallisation in region of 500 mm above/below beam
- Hydrolysis products don't 'travel' that far (2 micron)

# Quantum dots





Just for aesthetics a second picture

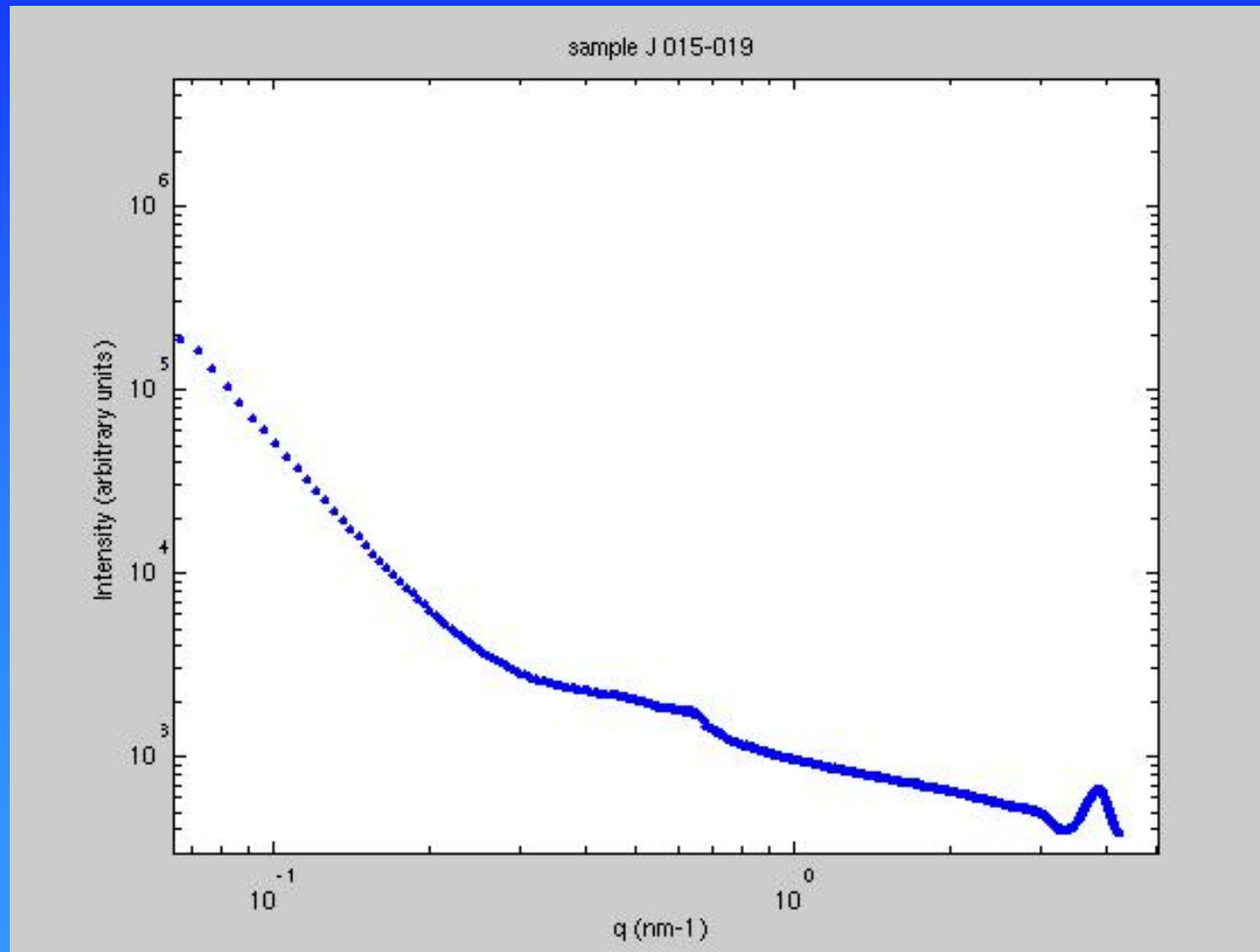


# Quantum dots

- Interesting for their optical properties
- Small size ( $\approx 1$  nm)
- Preferably monodisperse, i.e. all the same size
- Can be made with thermal treatments of glass
- PbS in silica glass matrix is well studied system



# Real time SAXS



# That looks ok!

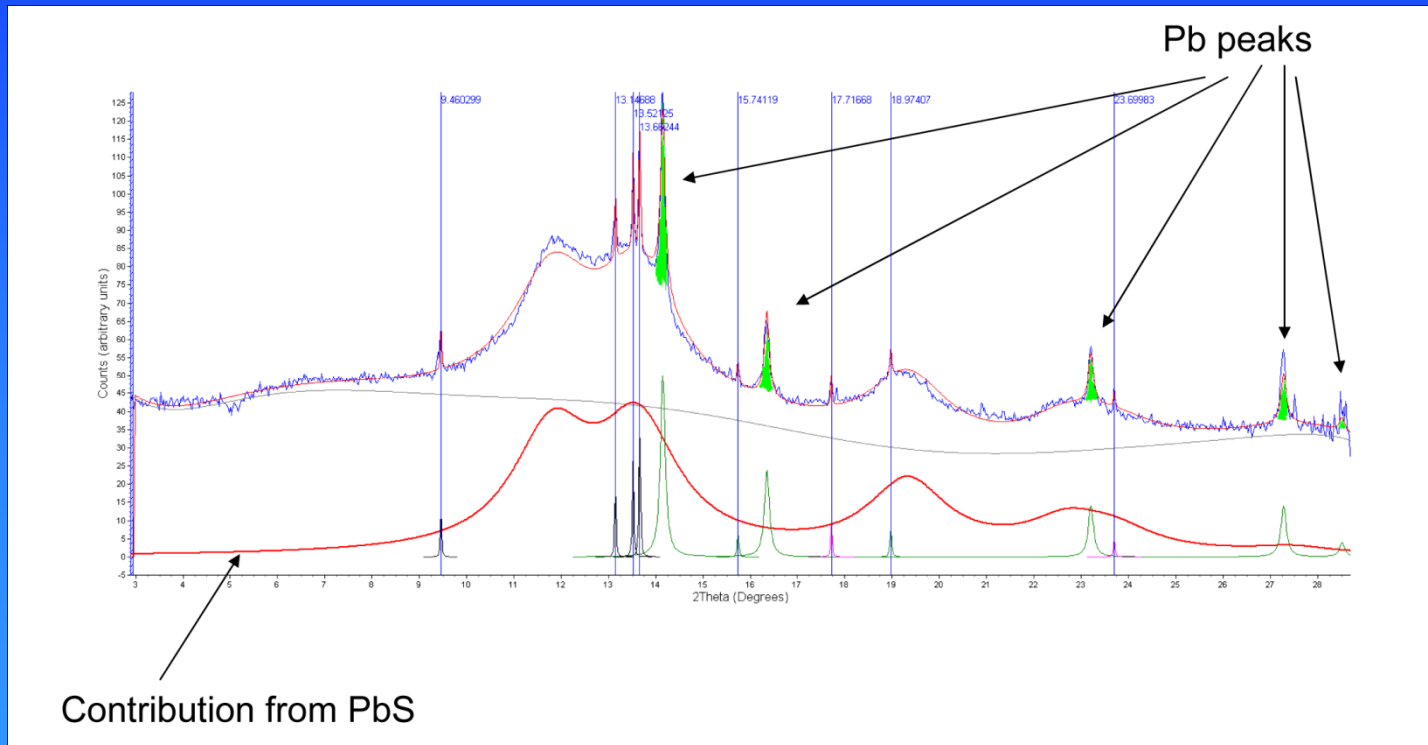
- Particles grow
- Finite size
- Very monodisperse
  
- Everything is ok, isn't it?



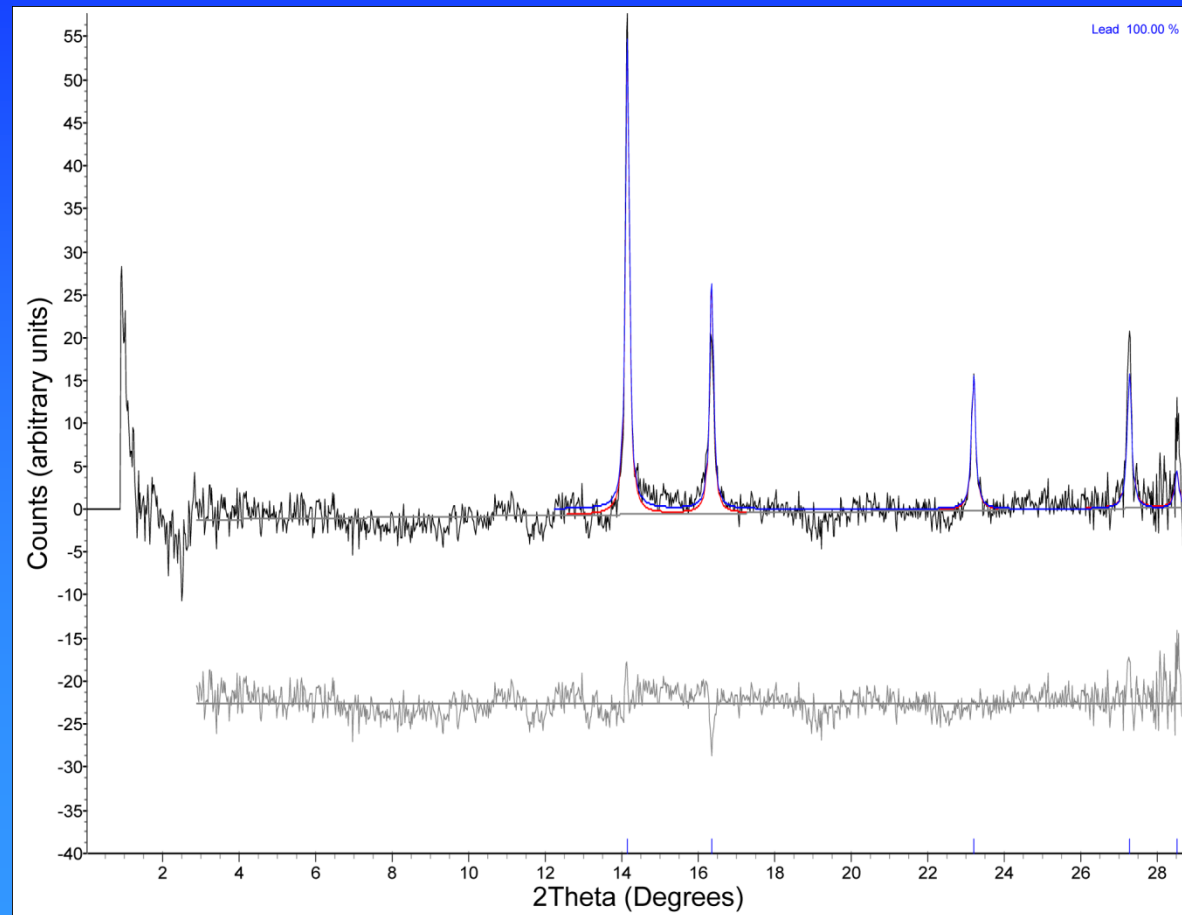
No it is not ok



# WAXS/powder diffraction



# The difference between exposed- not exposed





# The conclusion:

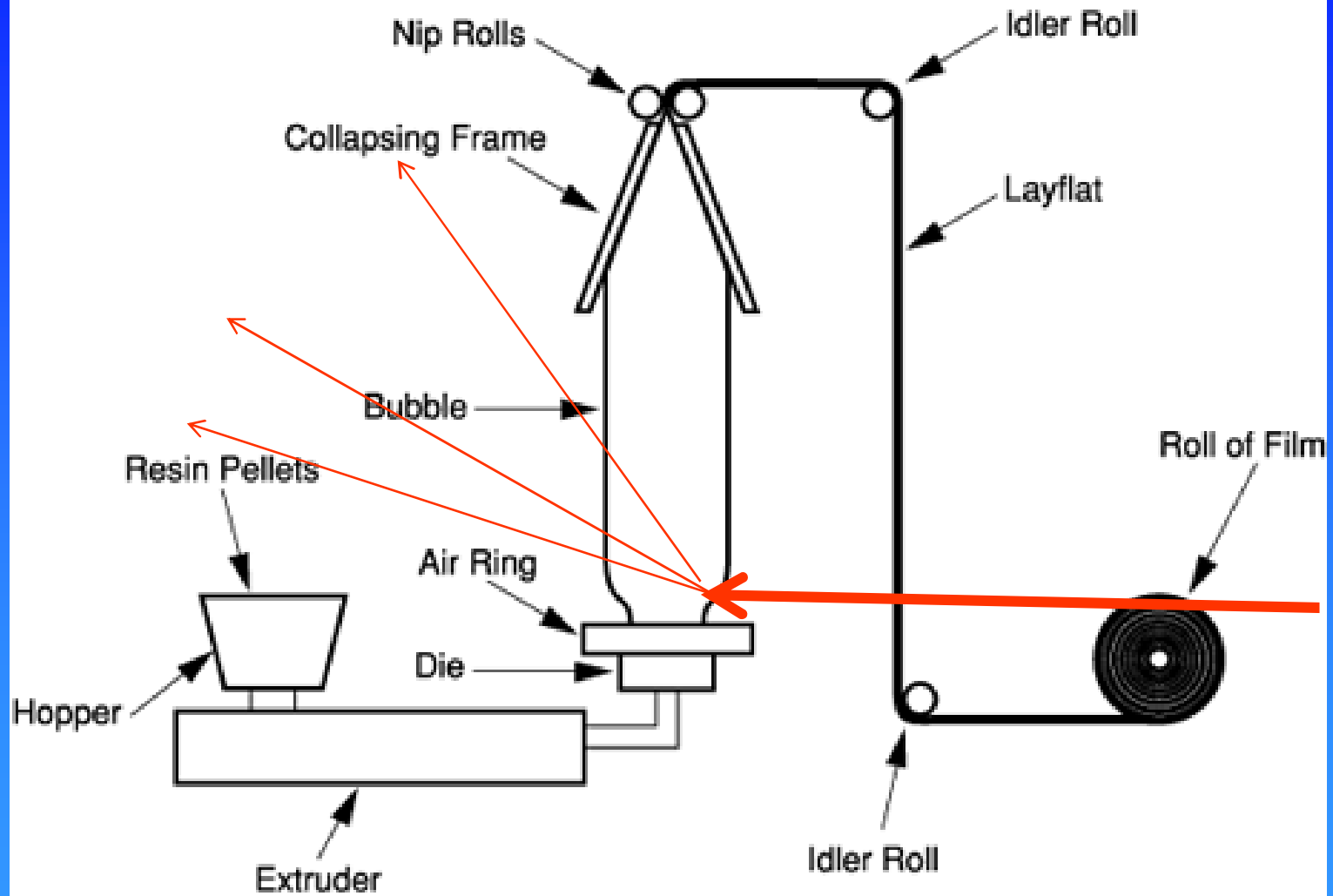
- PbS quantum dots grow
- Scattering pattern dominated by metallic lead particles!!
- Only small volume fraction but large contrast
- Metallic Pb is not found outside of the irradiated spot.
- Metallic Pb  $R = 40$  nm, PbS  $R = 2$  nm



# Polymer processing



# BASIC BLOWN FILM LINE

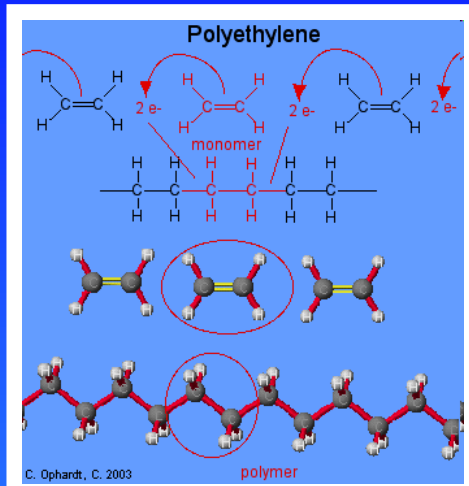


# Semi crystalline polymers

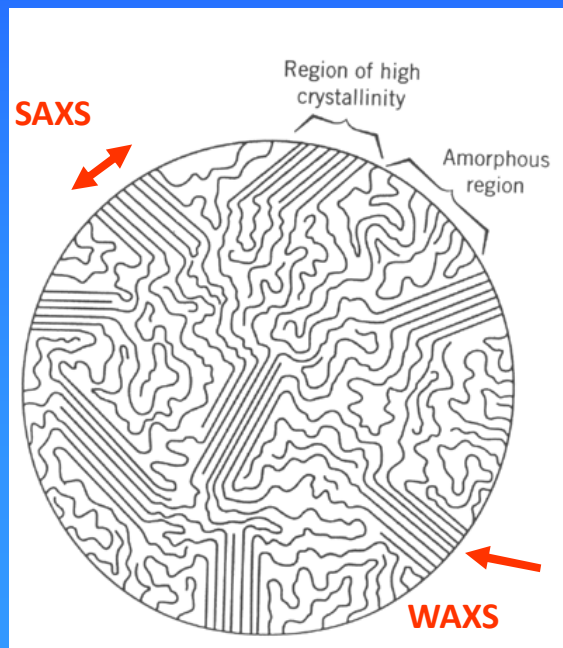
- Polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, PVC, i.e. 95% of the world polymer consumption



# polyethylene



Molten it looks like spaghetti



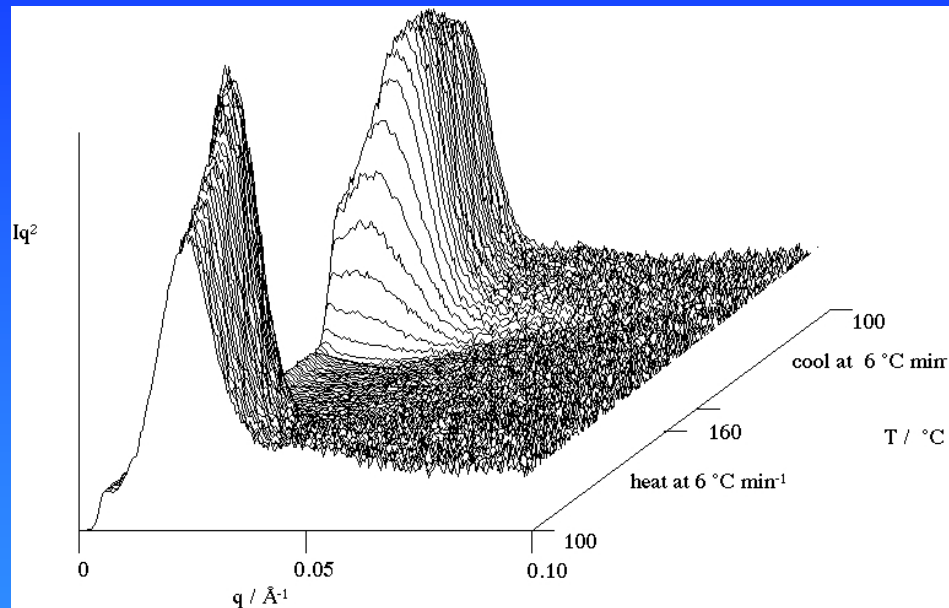
In solid state semi-crystalline

- amorphous parts
- crystalline parts

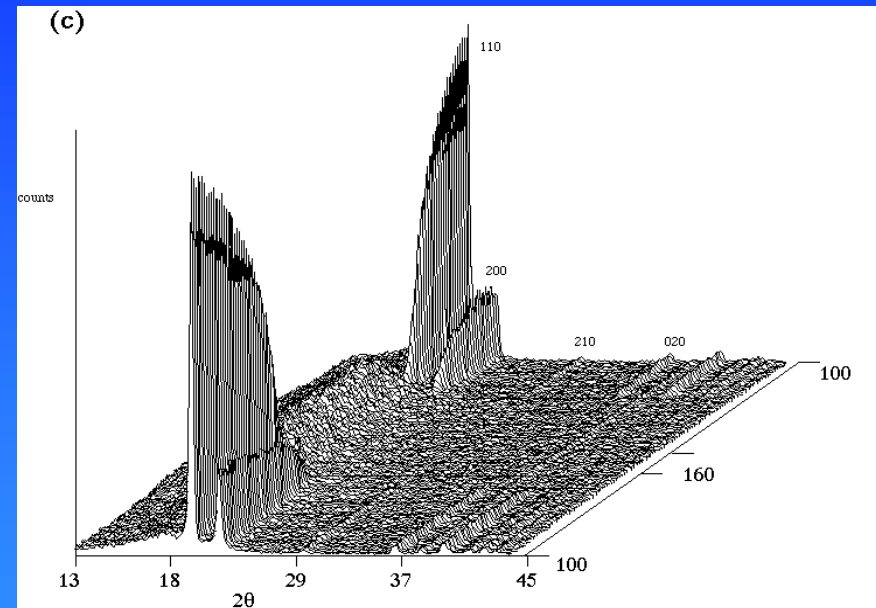
The ratio amorphous/crystalline and the spatial orientation determine the macroscopic properties



# Heating/cooling cycle on HDPE



SAXS  
(lamellar spacing)



WAXS  
(crystalline order)

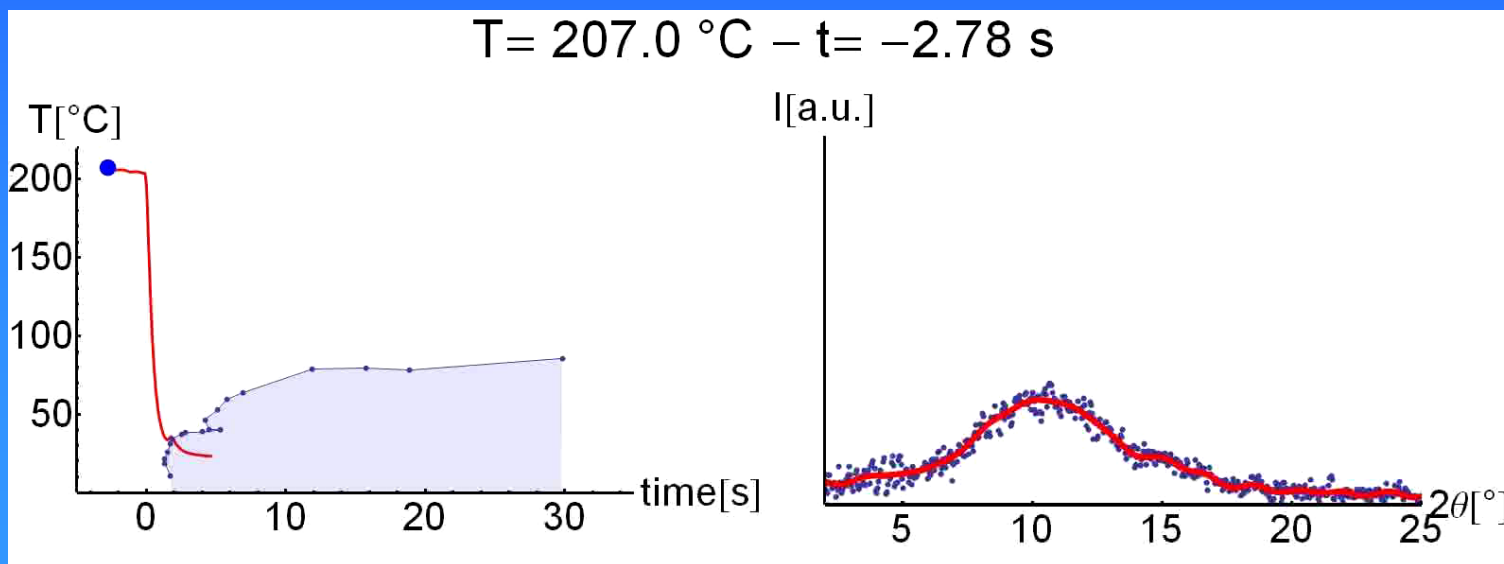
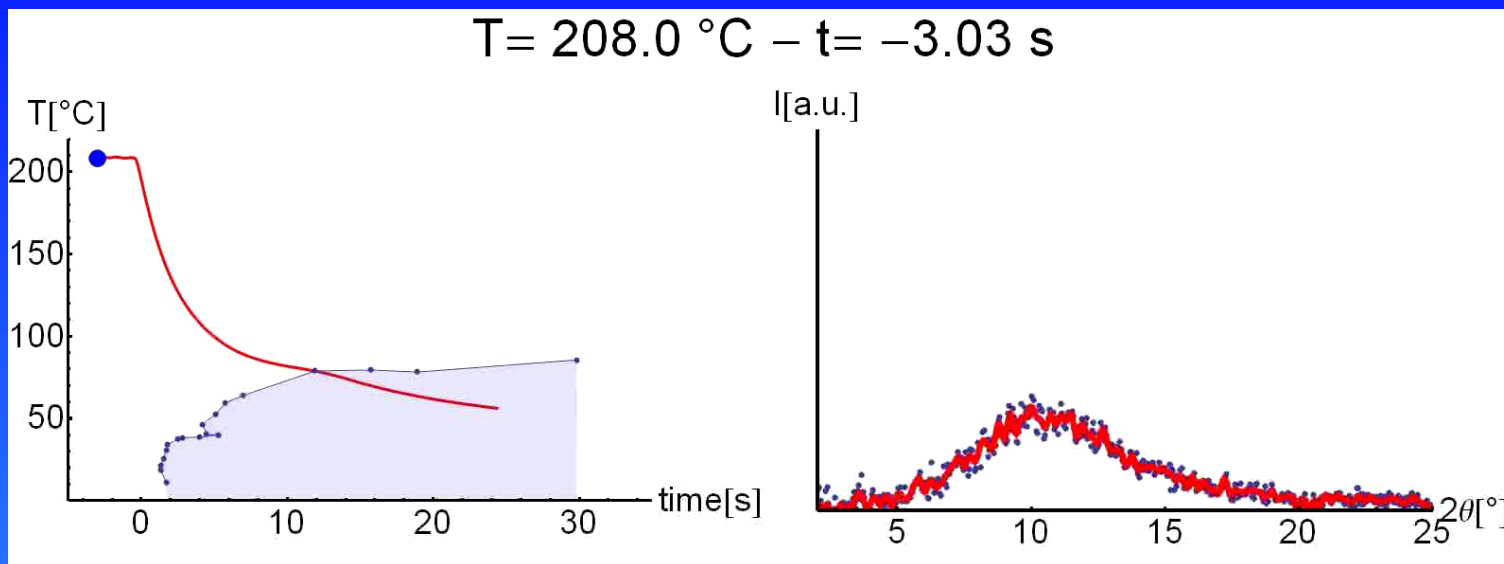
# Fundamental question

- What is the crystallisation process?
  - Nucleation and growth
  - Spinodal decomposition like
- Nucleation and growth
  - Lamellae and crystallinity develop at same time
  - SAXS and WAXS signals increase simultaneous
- ‘Spinodal’
  - Long range density fluctuations first
  - SAXS signal increases before WAXS



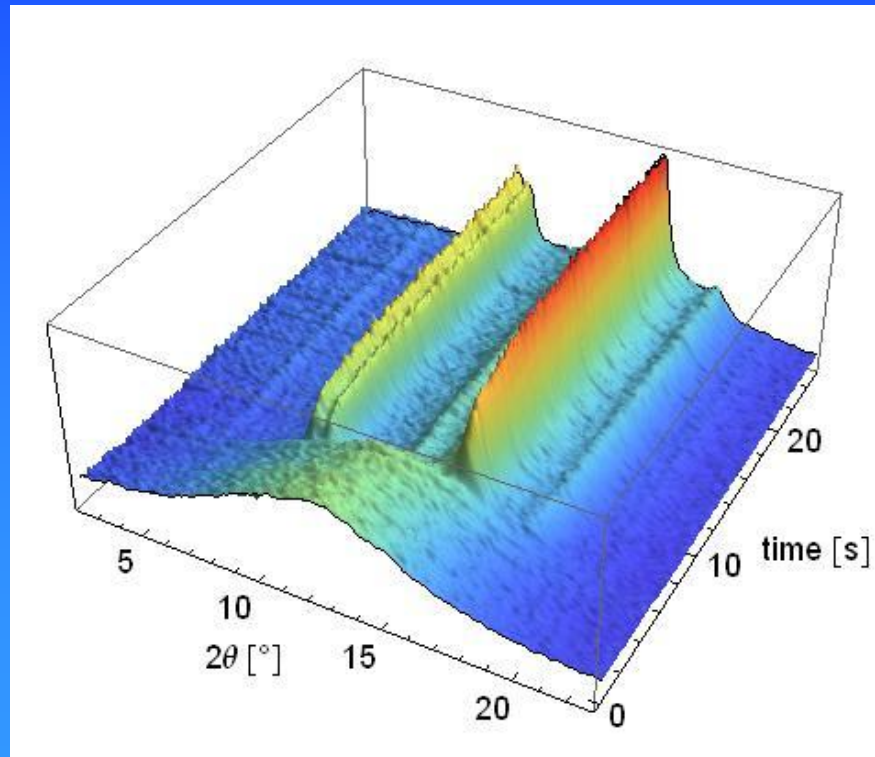


# On-line WAXD during quenching

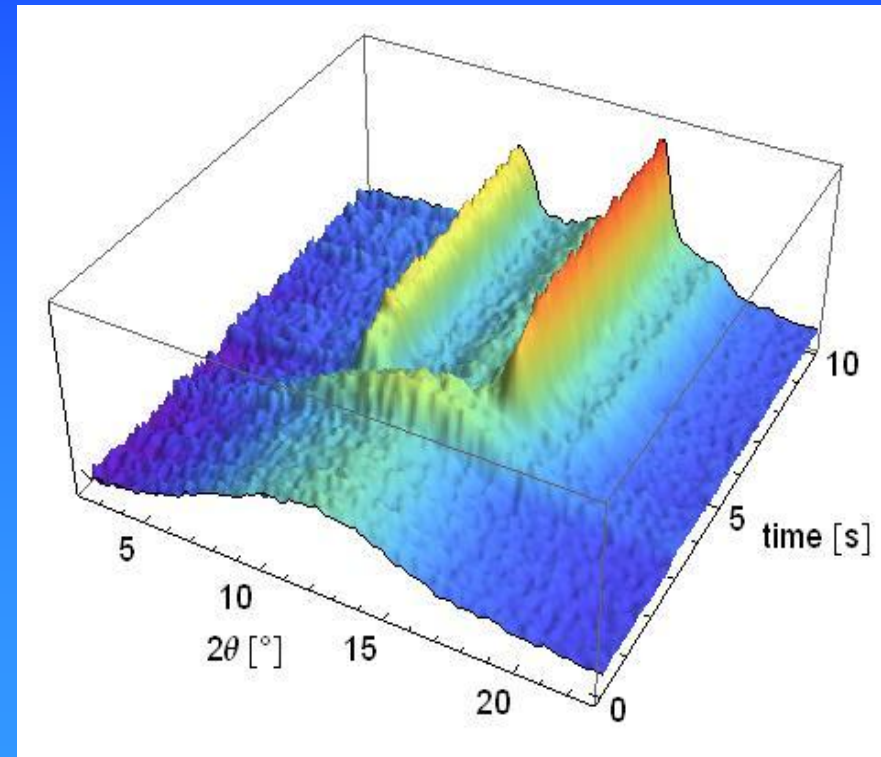


# The hidden mesophases

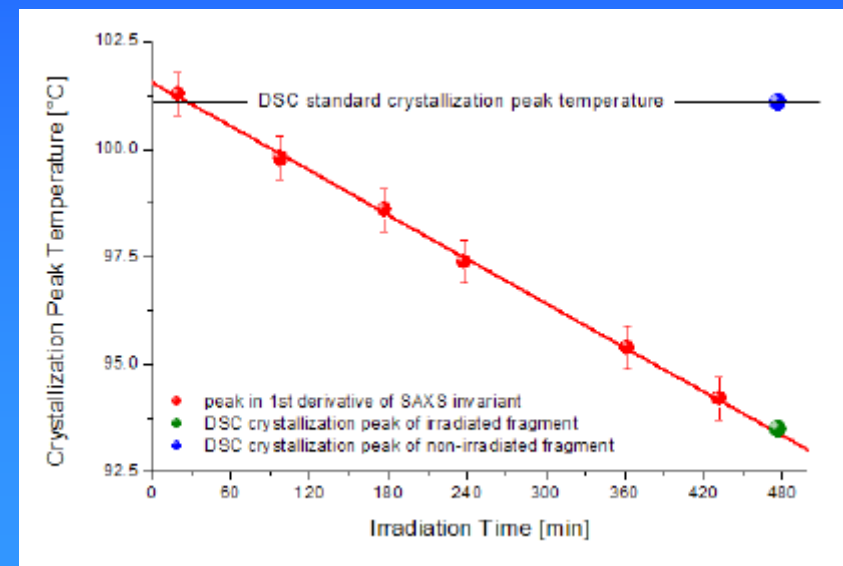
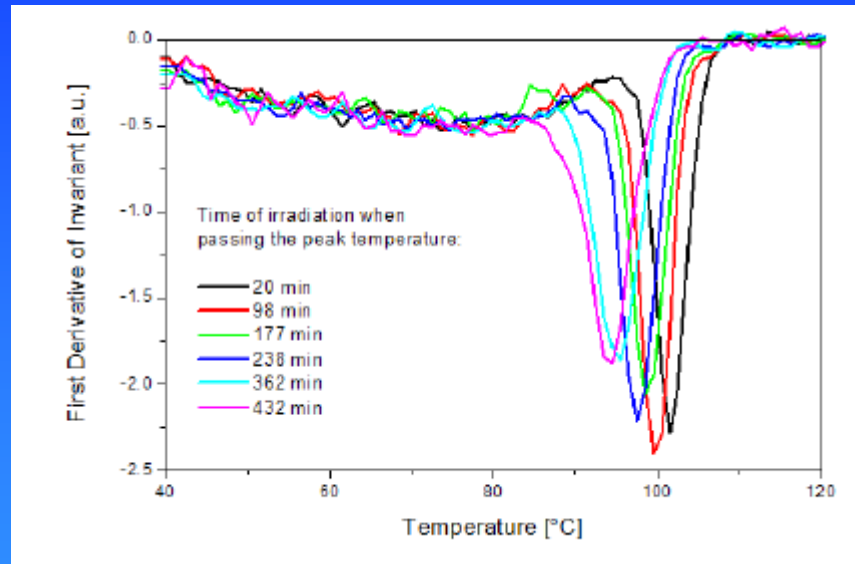
30 °C/s

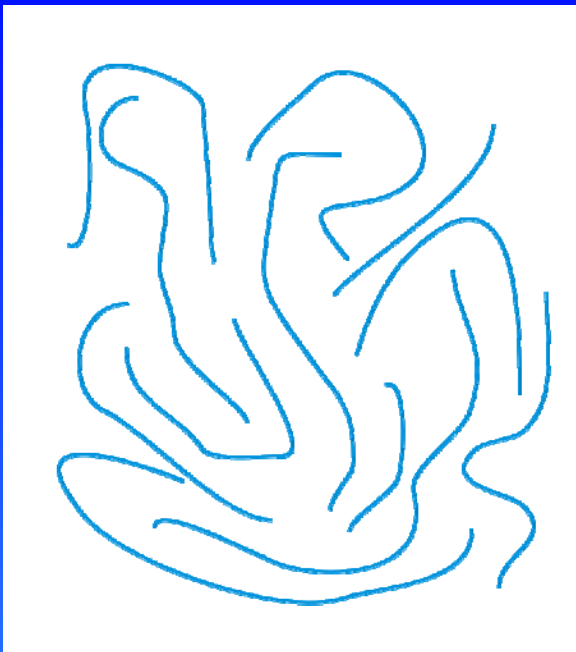


100 °C/s

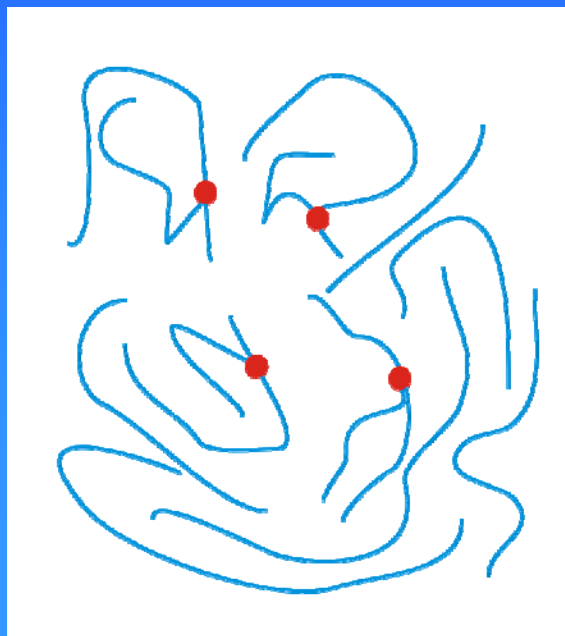
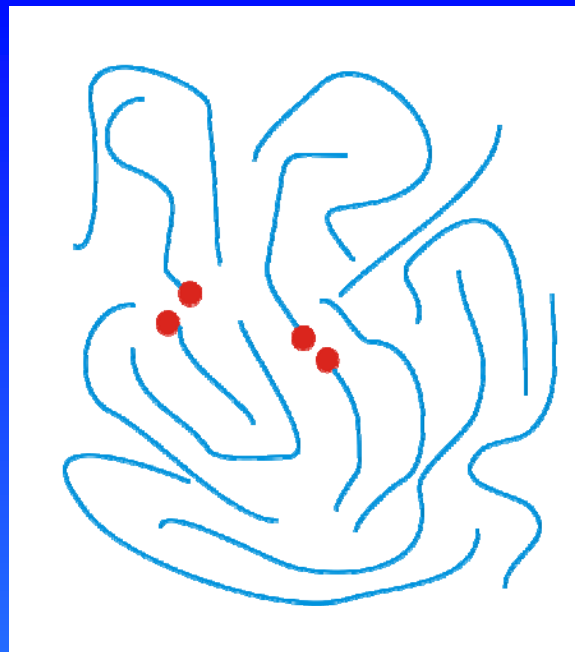


# But what happens when one is not careful.....





$$\bar{M}_w = x$$



$$\bar{M}_w > x$$



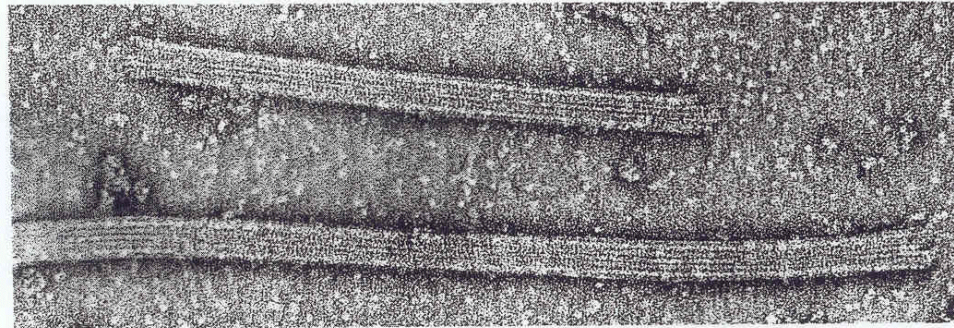
# Problem:

- One finds this back in the DSC data
- This means that instead of being a local 'problem' the total affected volume is much larger than the irradiated area



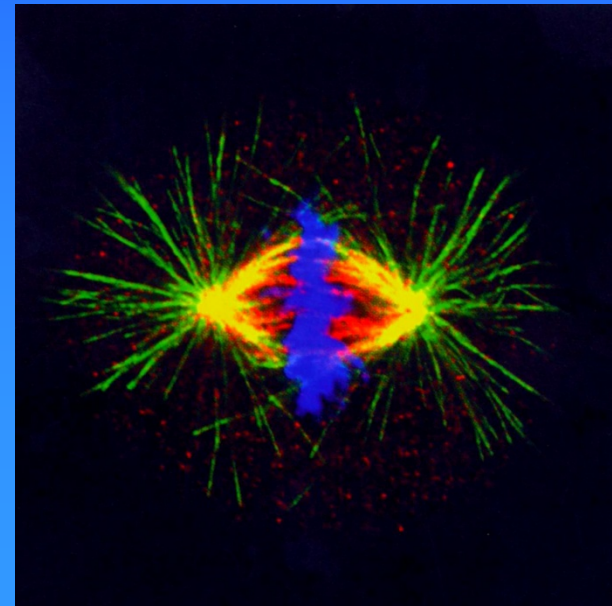
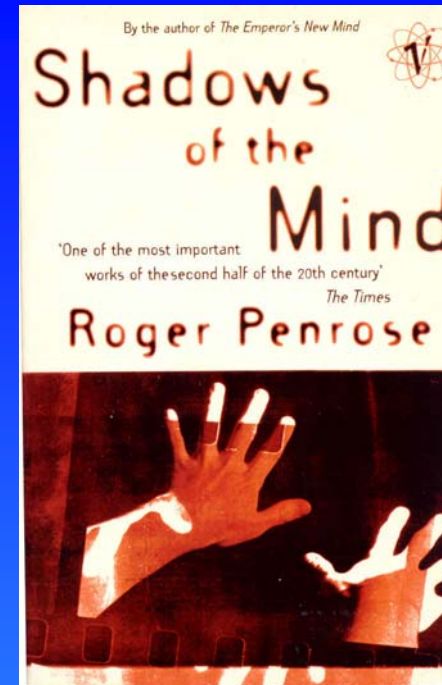




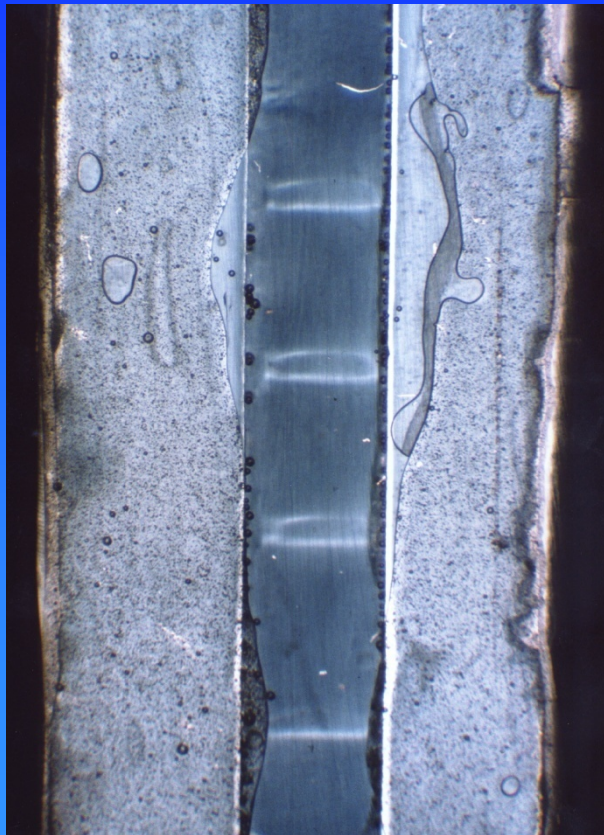


(A)

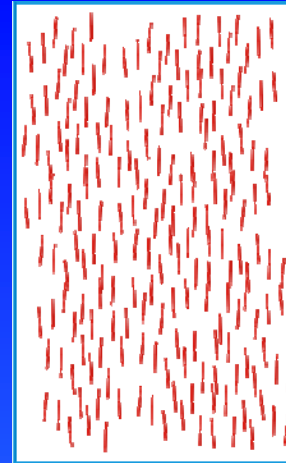
100 nm





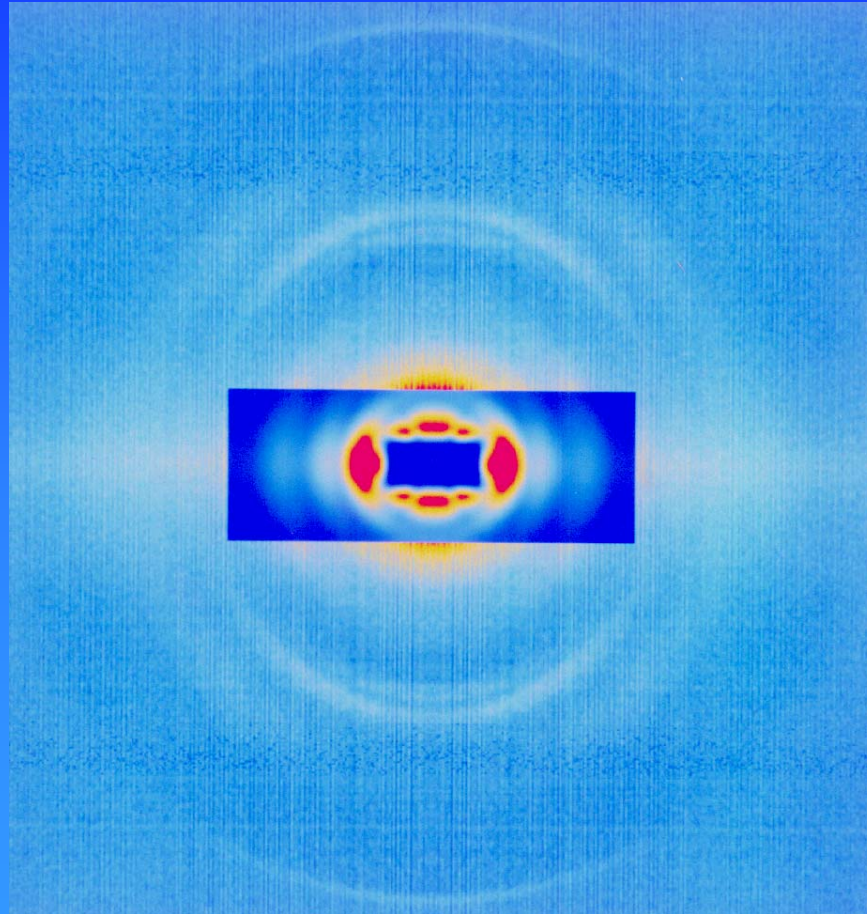


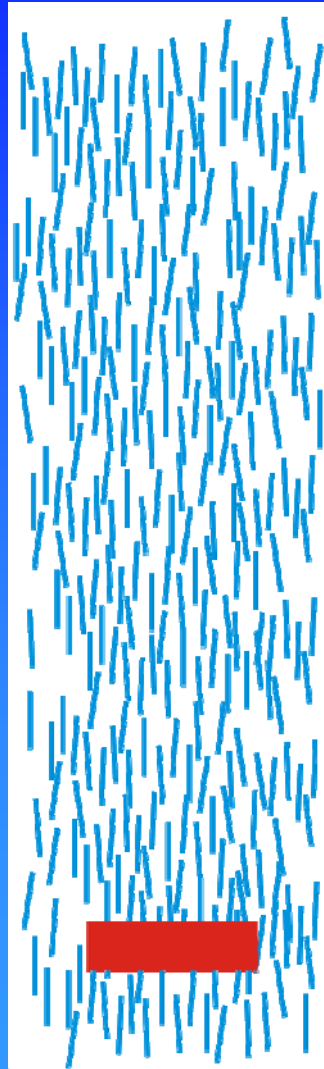
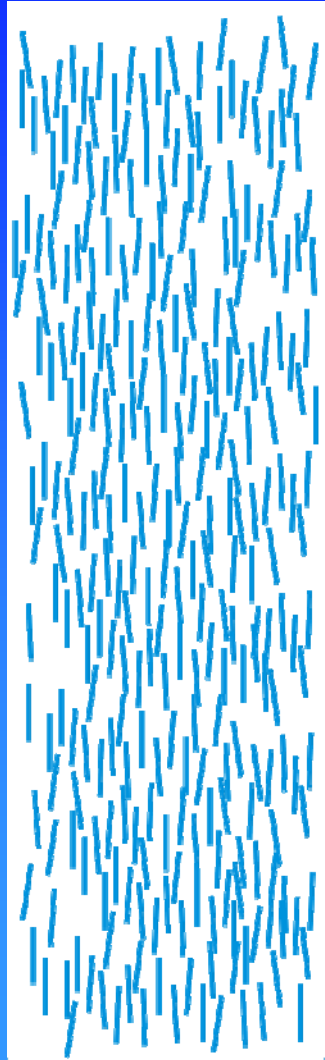
5 mm



- Microtubule (rigid rod) polymer solutions
- Beam spot 300 micron vertical
- Radiation damage around 1 mm vertical direction

# Fibre diffraction pattern





# Worrying detail

- Calculations show only 0.1 weight% of material is damaged
- In most cases this would not change macroscopic morphology of sample
- Here it definitely does



# Further results in the literature

- Au particles formation and Ostwald ripening
- Surface crystallisation at cryogenic temperatures
- Water evaporation due to lowered surface tension
- And probably more that I'm not aware of...



# Prof. Rontgen says:

Don't  
underestimate  
the power of my  
rays!



Thanks for your attention





# So:

- Even in hard condensed matter samples 10 keV photons can screw up a time-resolved experiment
- Not only direct footprint area of beam affected but area perpendicular in photon polarization direction as well





