



The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



2139-12

**School on Synchrotron and Free-Electron-Laser Sources and their  
Multidisciplinary Applications**

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**Inelastic x-ray scattering: principles**

Filippo Bencivenga

*Elettra, Trieste  
Italy*

# Inelastic x-ray scattering: principles



Filippo Bencivenga



# OUTLINE

## Introduction

### High resolution inelastic x-ray scattering (IXS)

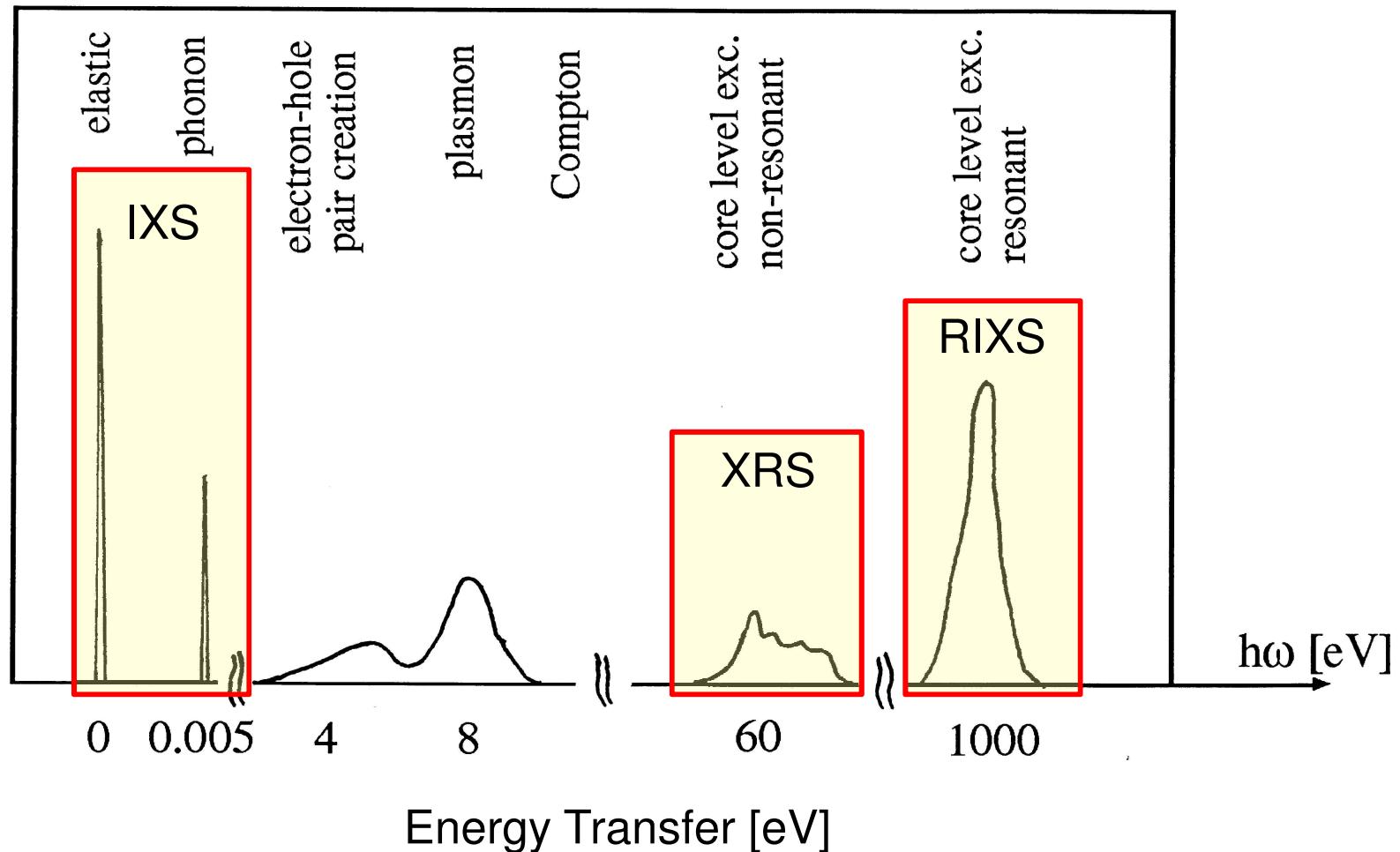
- Collective atomic dynamics
- Neutrons vs. X-rays
- Basic theory and instrumentation
- Experimental highlights

### Inelastic x-ray “Raman” scattering (XRS)

- Experimental/theoretical aspects
- Scattering vs. absorption spectroscopy
- Experimental highlights

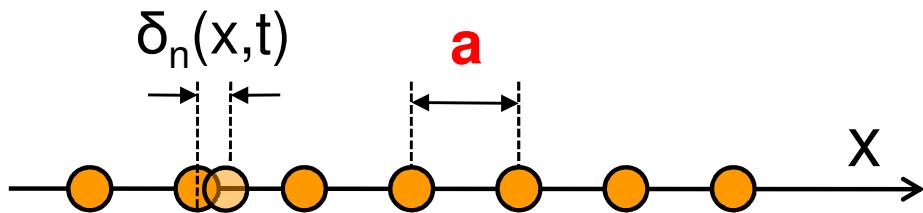
### Resonant inelastic x-ray scattering (RIXS)

# Introduction: inelastic X-ray spectrum



# IXS: collective atomic dynamics

*The simpler case*



## Information:

- Interatomic Structure (**a**)
- Interaction Potential (**β**)

$$U = -\beta x^2$$

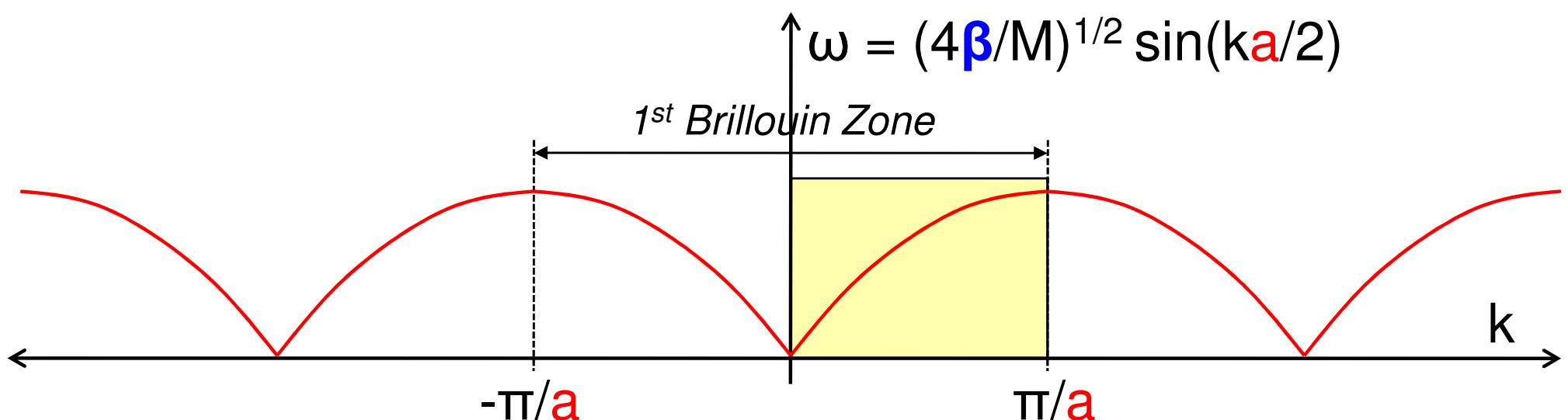
Phonons

→ Eigenstates of vibrational field

$$\delta_n(x,t) = \delta_{n,0} \exp[i(kx - \omega t)]$$

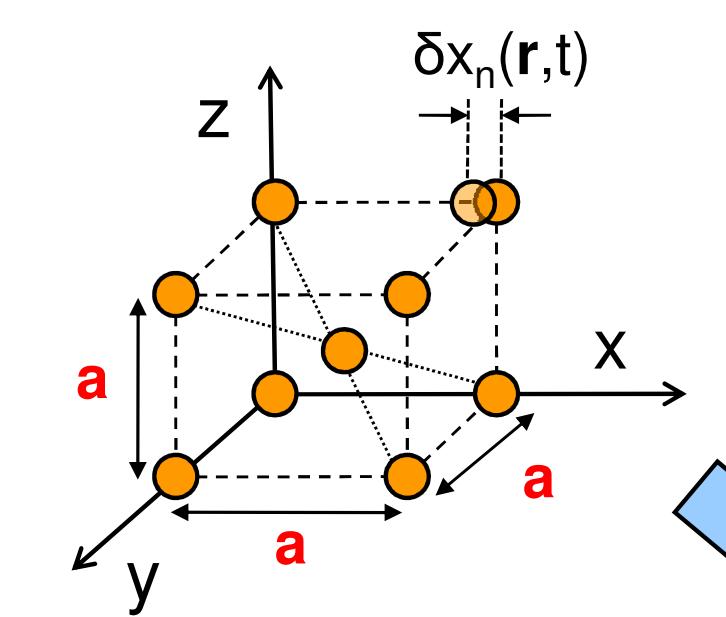
$$\omega(k)$$

→ Dispersion relation



# IXS: collective atomic dynamics

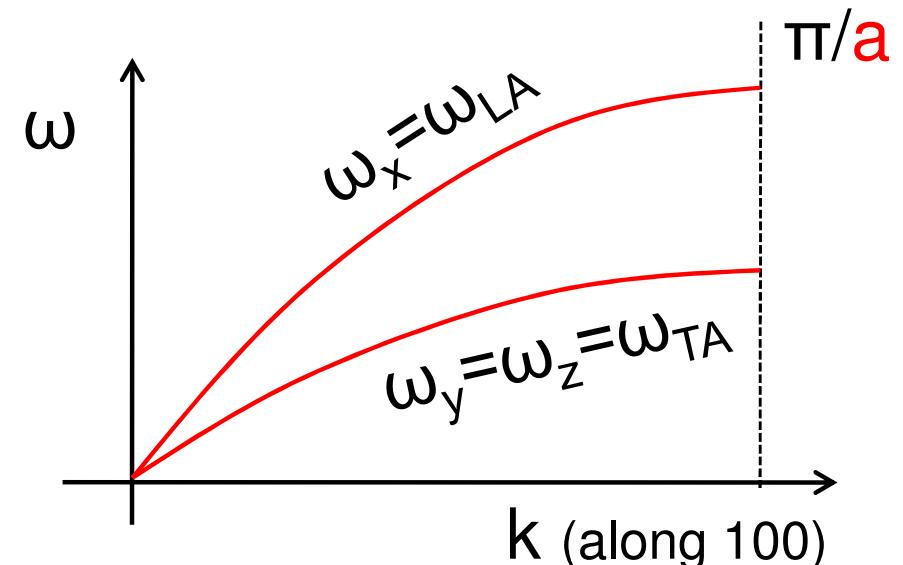
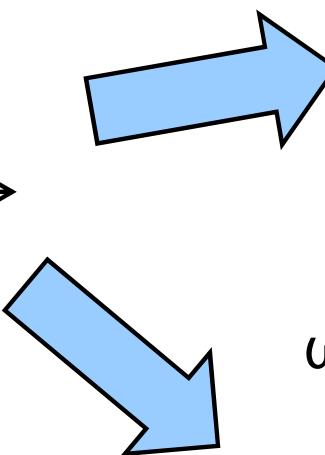
*One step forward: 3D lattice*



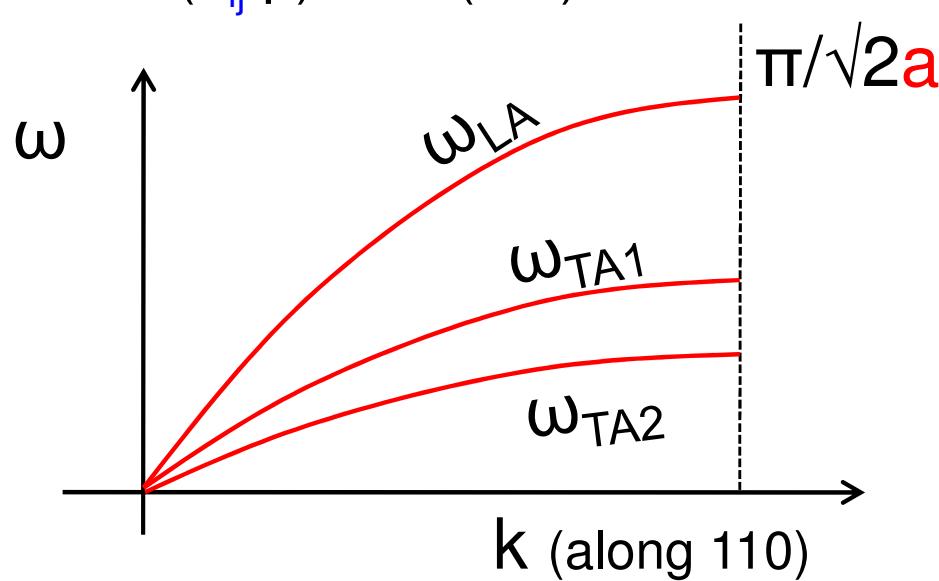
$$U = -\beta |\mathbf{r}|^2 \quad \mathbf{r} = (x, y, z)$$

## Information:

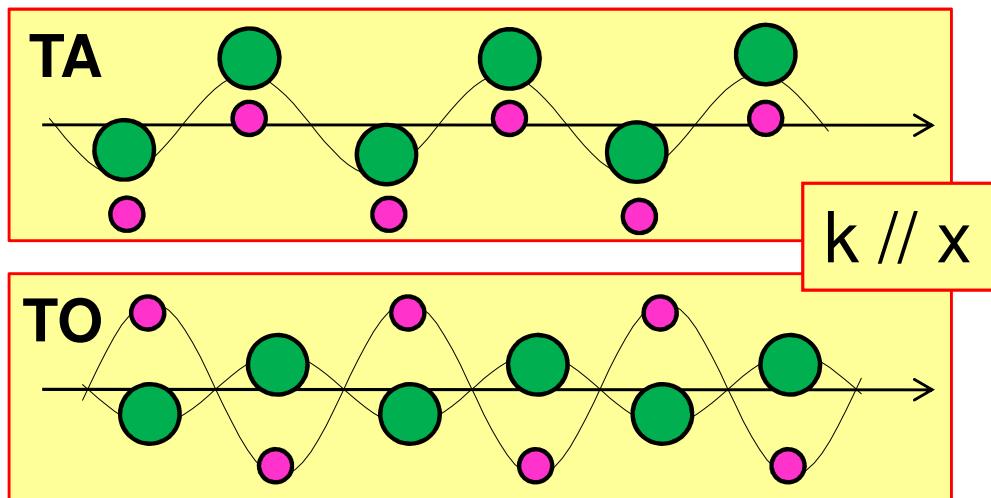
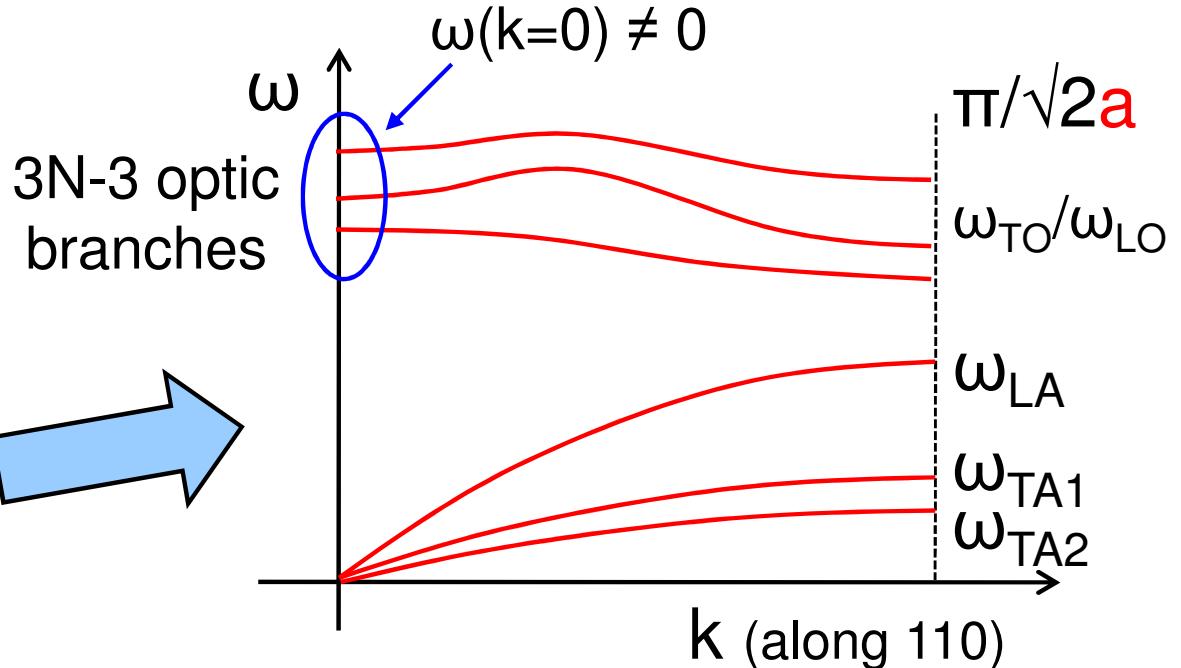
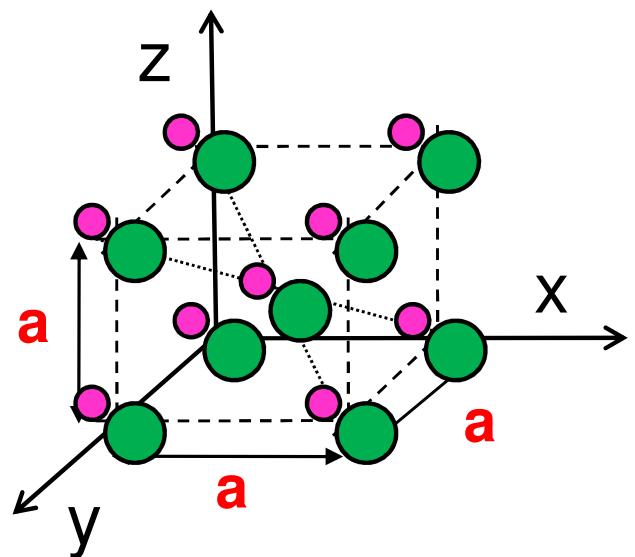
- Interatomic Structure ( $\mathbf{a}$ )
- Interaction Potential ( $\beta$ )
- Anisotropy (elasticity:  $\mathbf{c}_{ij}$ )



$$\omega = (\mathbf{c}_{ij}/\rho)^{1/2} \sin(ka^*)$$



# IXS: collective atomic dynamics

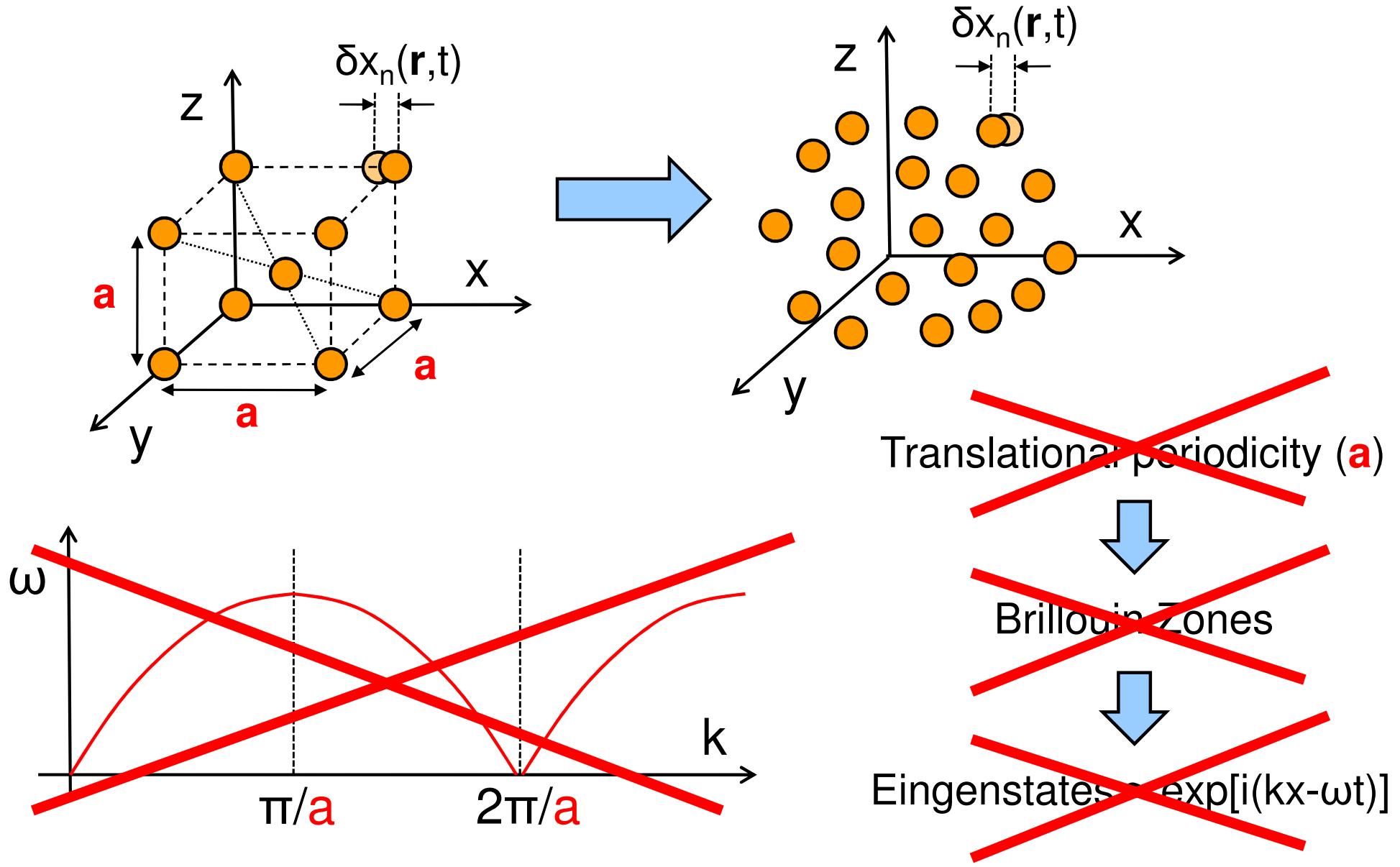


## Information:

- Interatomic Structure ( $\mathbf{a}$ )
- Interaction Potential ( $\beta$ )
- Anisotropy (elasticity:  $c_{ij}$ )
- Intramolecular vibrations

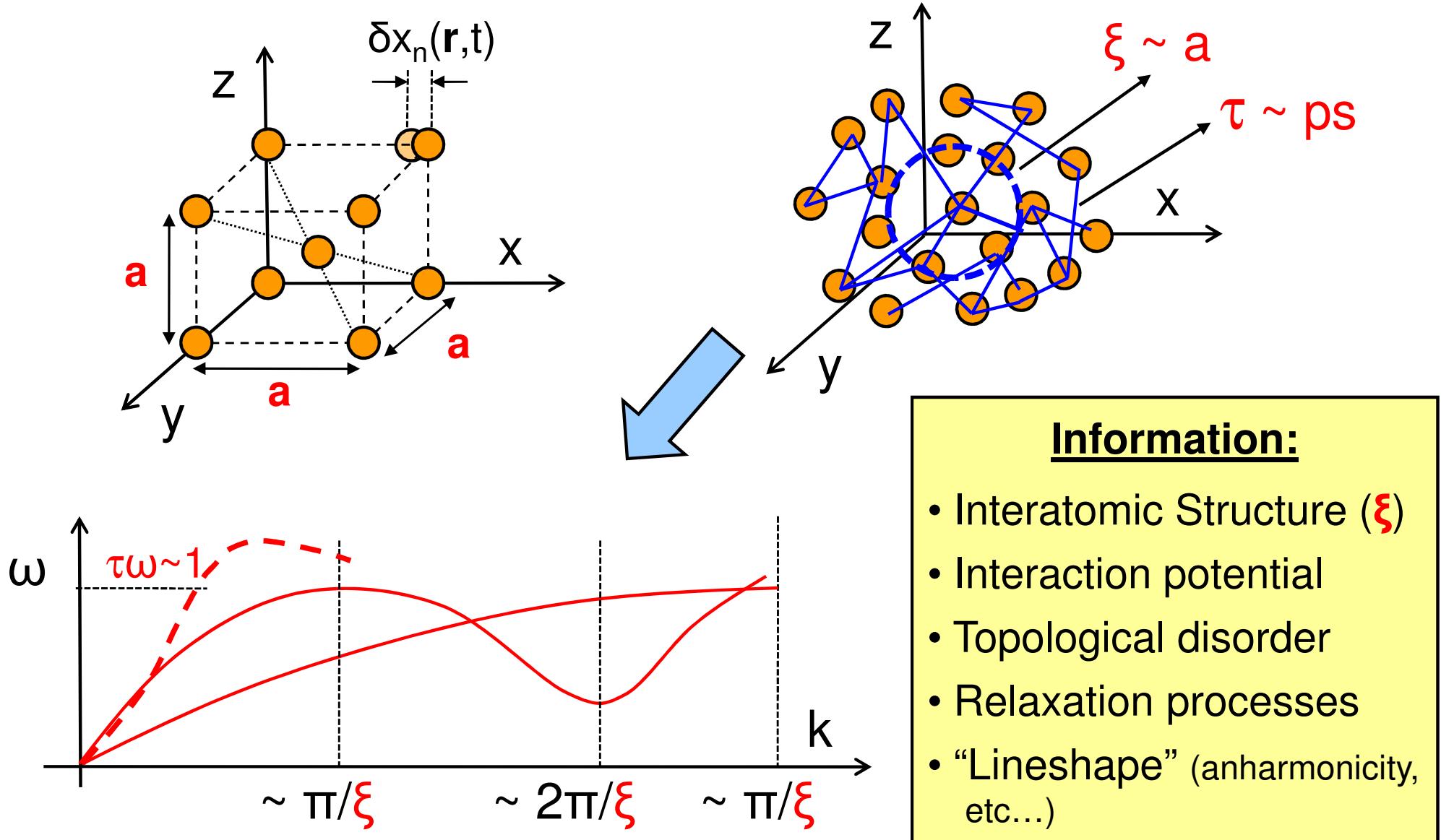
# IXS: collective atomic dynamics

*The most complex case: disordered systems*



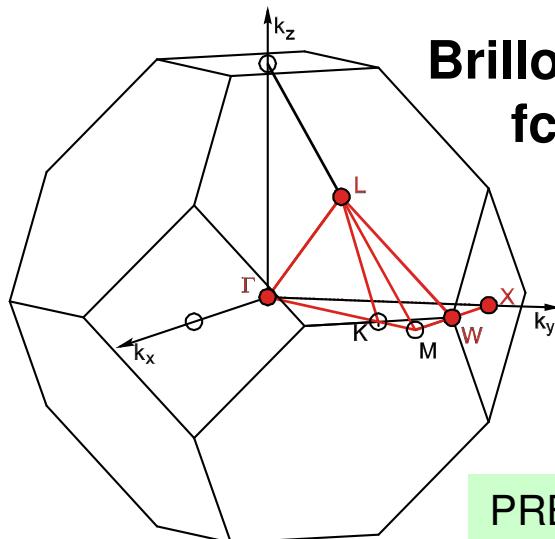
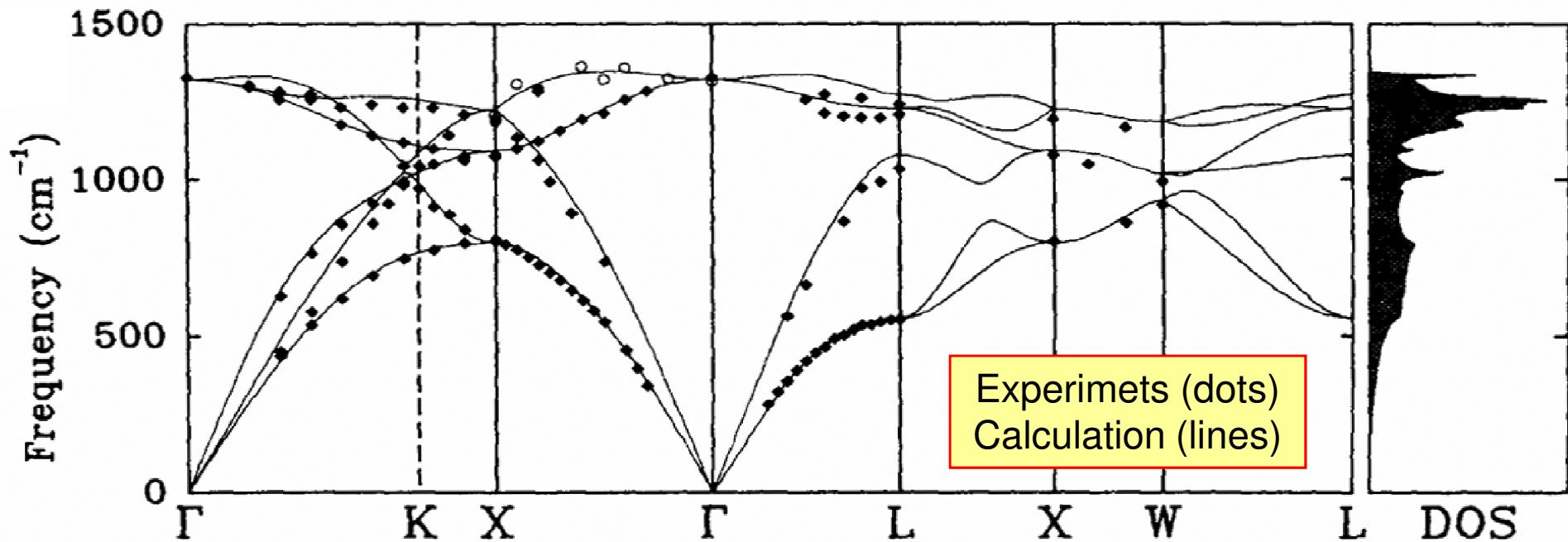
# IXS: collective atomic dynamics

*The most complex case: disordered systems*



# An example...

Diamond: fcc symmetry + 2 C atoms each lattice site @  $(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4})$



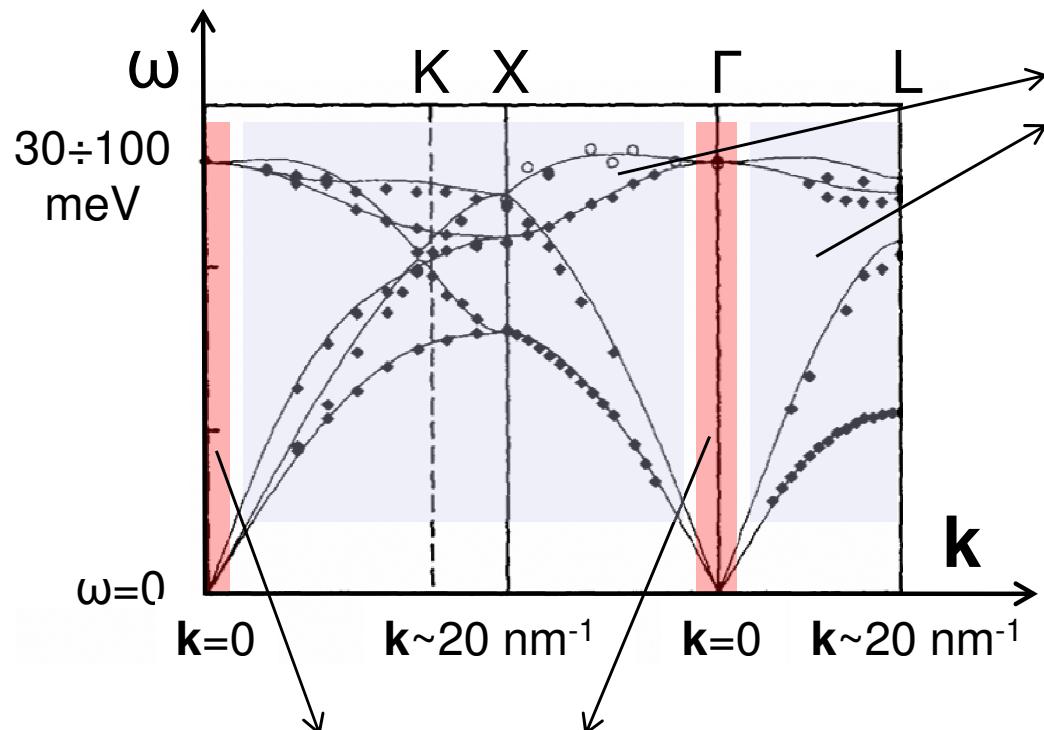
Brillouin zones for  
fcc symmetry

PRB 48, 3156 (1993)

## Information:

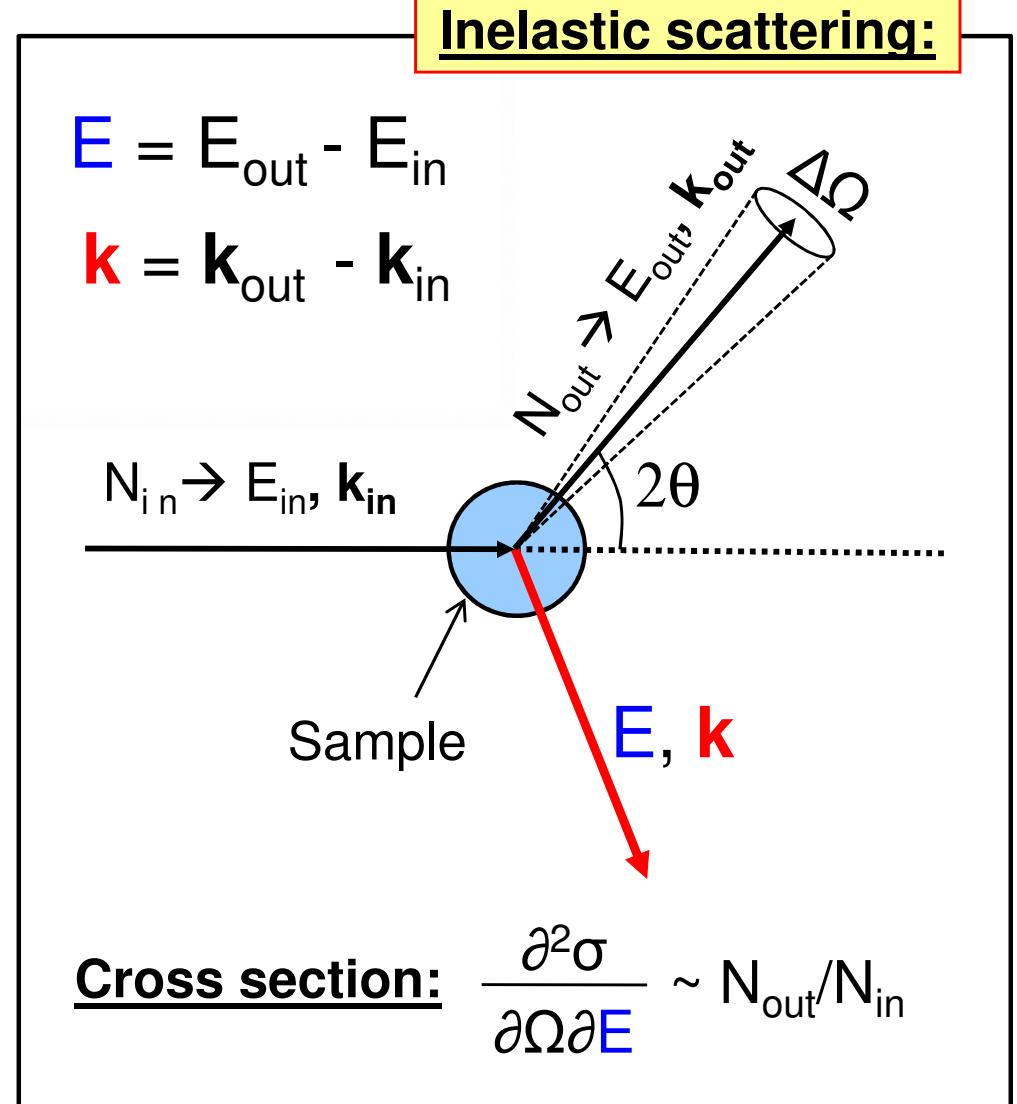
- Structure and Elasticity (sound velocities)
- Interaction Potential and Anharmonicity
- Dynamical Instabilities (phonon softening)
- Phonon-Electron coupling
- Thermodynamics ( $c_V$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\Theta_D$ ,  $S_D$ , etc ...)

# How can we measure Atomic Dynamics?



- Inelastic Light Scattering (Brillouin & Raman)
- Ultrasonics
- Transient Grating
- Etc ...

- Probe wavelength ( $2\pi/|\mathbf{k}|$ )  $< 0.1$  nm
- Probe energy ( $E$ )  $> 30 \div 100$  meV



# Neutrons

vs.

# X-rays

$$\lambda_{in} = 1\text{\AA} \rightarrow E_{in} = 82 \text{ meV}$$

$$\lambda_{in} = 1\text{\AA} \rightarrow E_{in} = 12.4 \text{ keV}$$

$$E > 4 \text{ meV} \rightarrow \Delta E/E_{in} = 0.05$$

$$E > 4 \text{ meV} \rightarrow \Delta E/E_{in} = 3 \cdot 10^{-7}$$

Moderate energy resolution



100 INS instruments

+

Spin sensitive

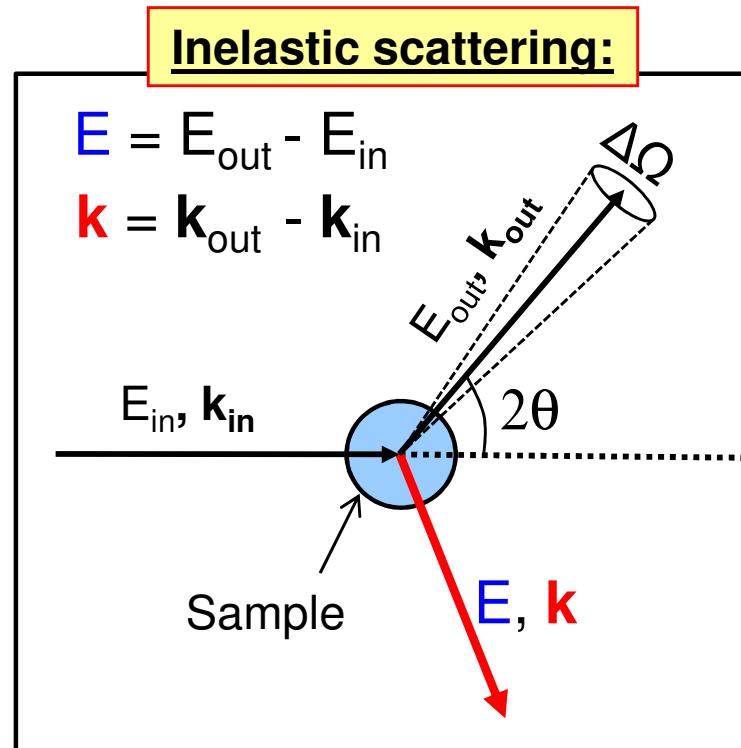
Better contrast

“Older” technique

Very high energy resolution



4 IXS instruments



Why  
X-rays?

# Neutrons vs. X-rays

$$\lambda_{\text{in}} = 1 \text{\AA} \rightarrow E_{\text{in}} = 82 \text{ meV}$$

$$\lambda_{\text{in}} = 1 \text{\AA} \rightarrow E_{\text{in}} = 12.4 \text{ keV}$$

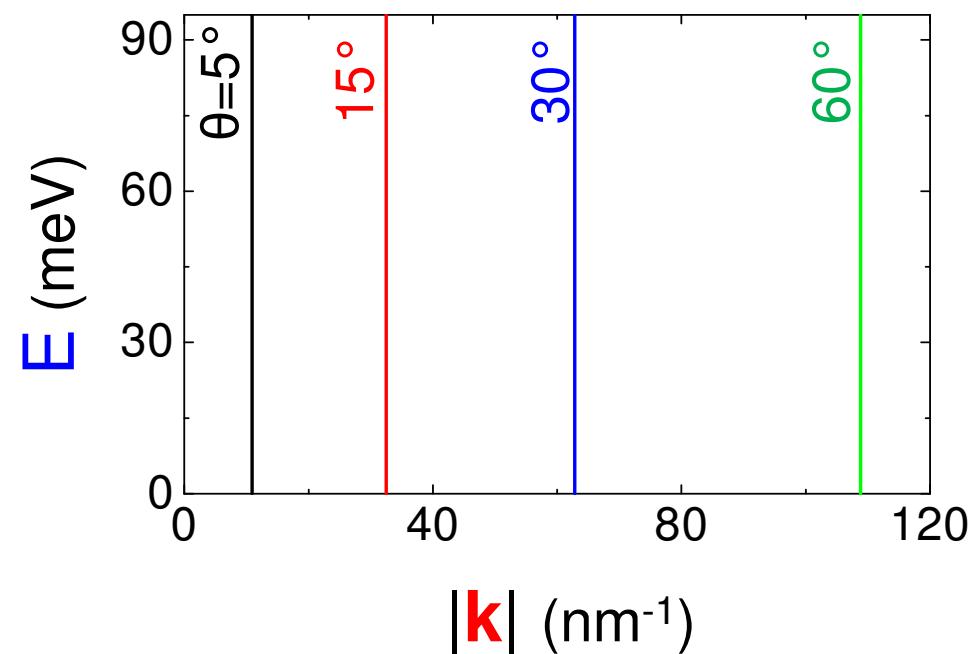
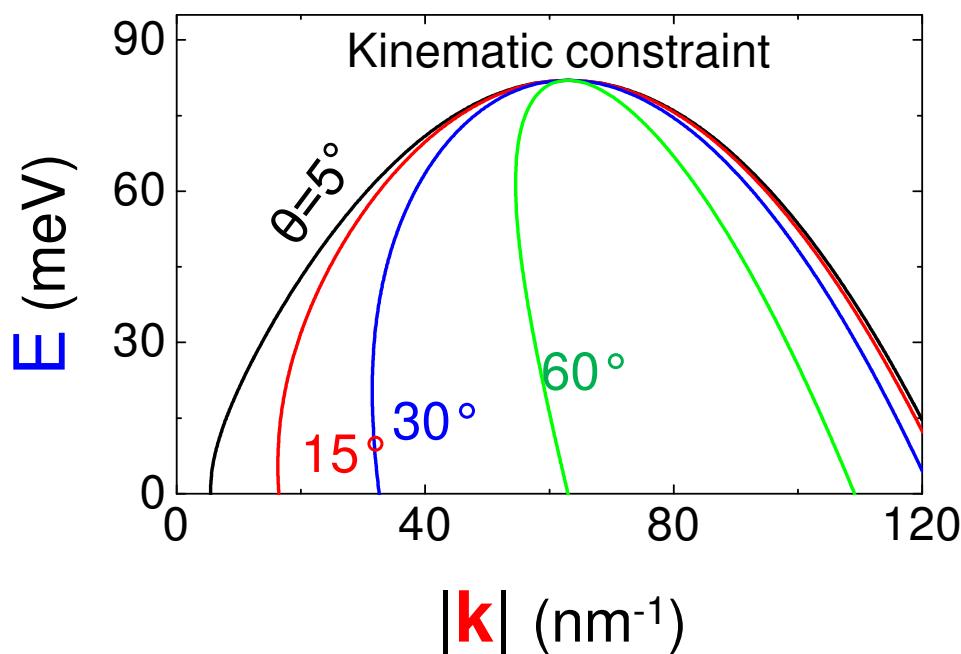
$$E_{\text{out}} \neq E_{\text{in}}$$

$$E = E_{\text{out}} - E_{\text{in}} \quad \& \quad \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{\text{out}} - \mathbf{k}_{\text{in}}$$

$$E_{\text{out}} \approx E_{\text{in}}$$

$$\frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{2|\mathbf{k}_{\text{in}}|^2} = 1 - E/E_{\text{in}} + \cos(2\theta)(1 - 2E/E_{\text{in}})^{1/2}$$

$$|\mathbf{k}| = 2|\mathbf{k}_{\text{in}}| \sin(\theta)$$



# Neutrons vs. X-rays

$$\lambda_{\text{in}} = 1 \text{\AA} \rightarrow E_{\text{in}} = 82 \text{ meV}$$

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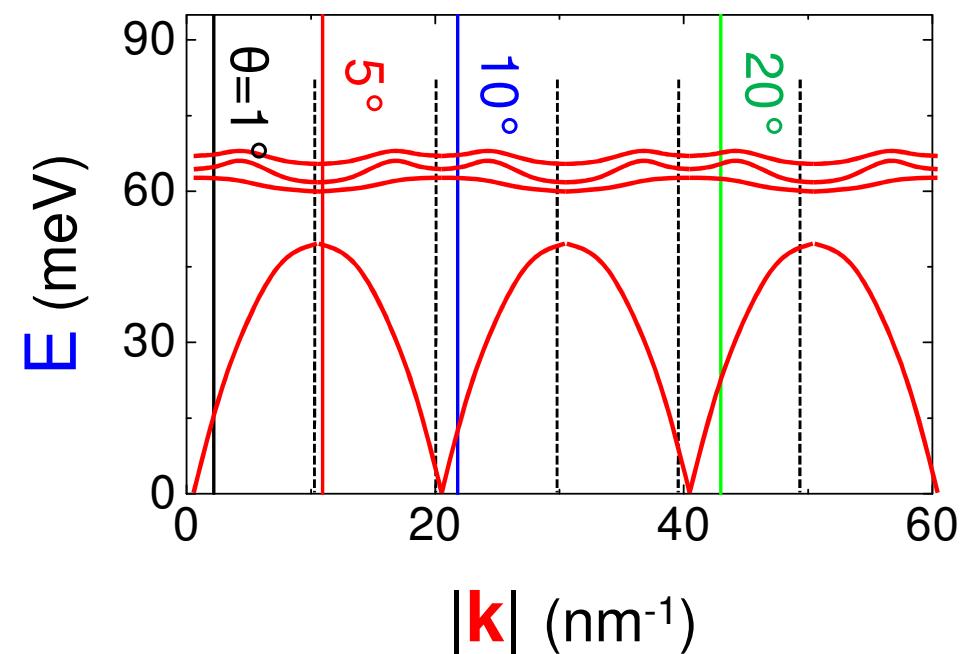
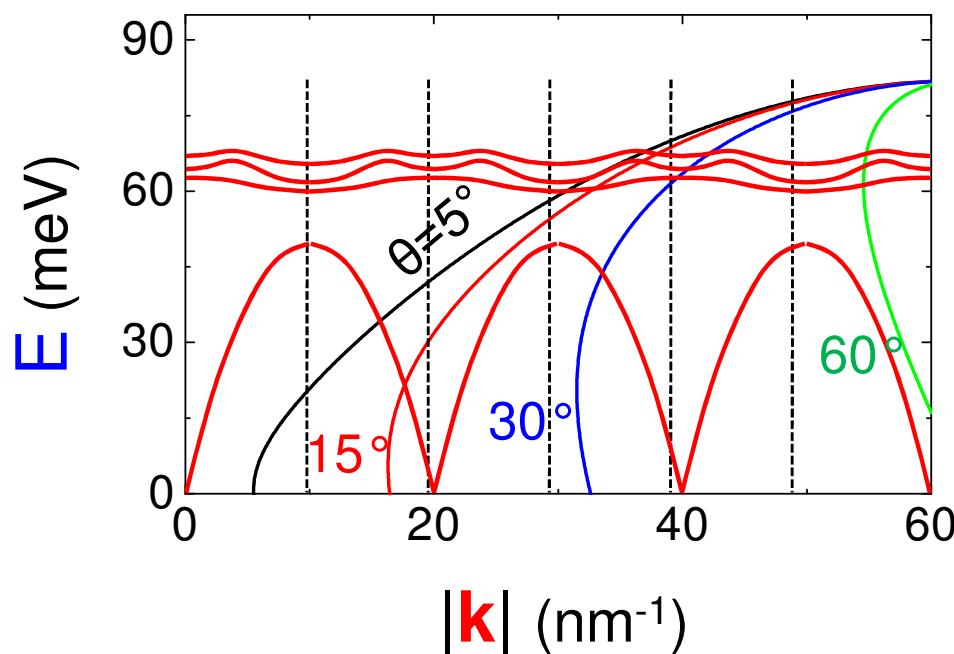
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# Neutrons

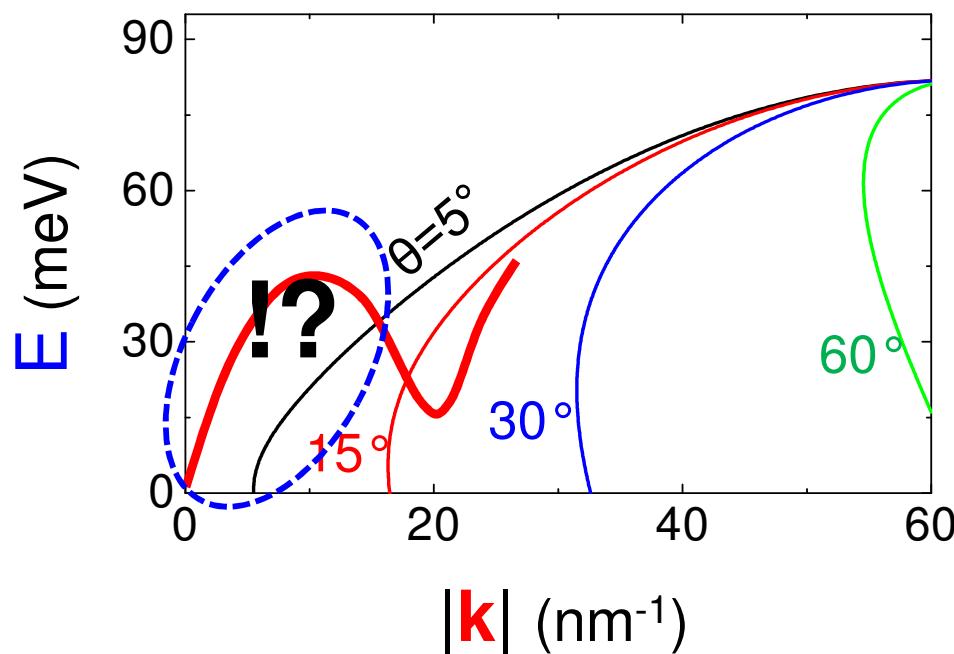
# vs.

# X-rays

## Inelastic excitations in disordered systems

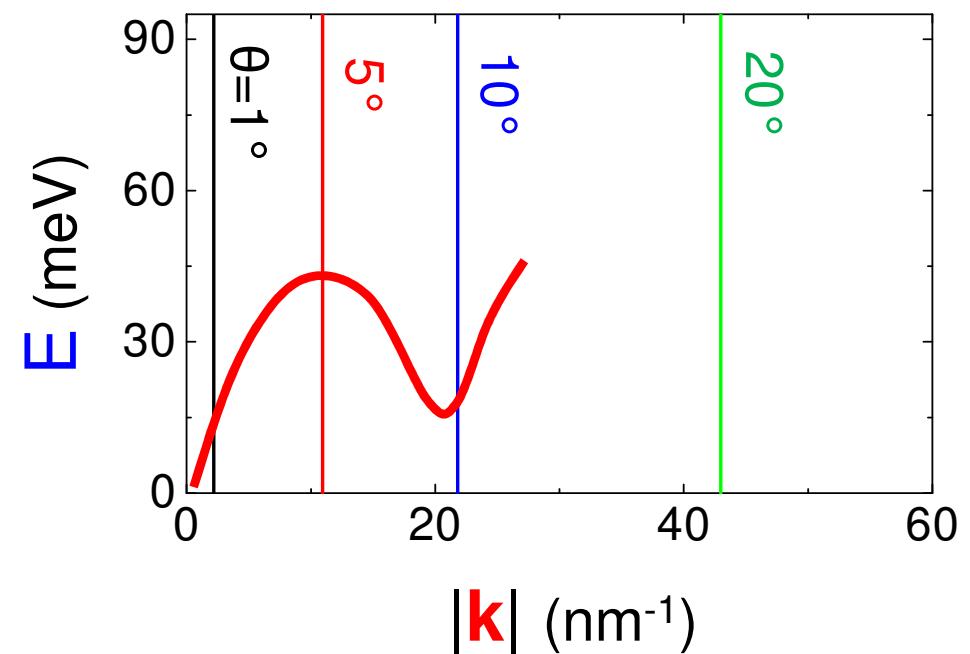
Neutrons

$$\lambda_{\text{in}} = 1 \text{\AA} \quad E_{\text{in}} = 82 \text{ meV}$$



X-rays

$$\lambda_{\text{in}} = 1 \text{\AA} \quad E_{\text{in}} = 12.4 \text{ keV}$$



# Neutrons

vs.

# X-rays

$$\lambda_{in} = 1\text{\AA} \rightarrow E_{in} = 82 \text{ meV}$$

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Moderate energy resolution



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Very high energy resolution

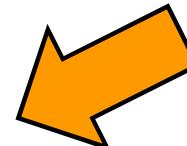


3 IXS instruments

**No kinematical constraints**  
(Disordered systems)

**Small beams**  
(small samples: high pressure, exotic materials, etc...)

Why  
X-rays?



**No incoherent cross section**

# Basic theoretical aspects

$$H_{\text{int}} = (e/m_e c) \sum_j [(e/2c) \mathbf{A}_j \cdot \mathbf{A}_j + \mathbf{A}_j \cdot \mathbf{p}_j + \text{magnetic}]$$

$\mathbf{A}$  is the vector potential of electromagnetic field

$\mathbf{p}$  is the momentum operator of the electrons

$j$  is the summation over all electrons of the system

## 1<sup>st</sup> order perturbation theory

A·A term → one photon (non-resonant) scattering

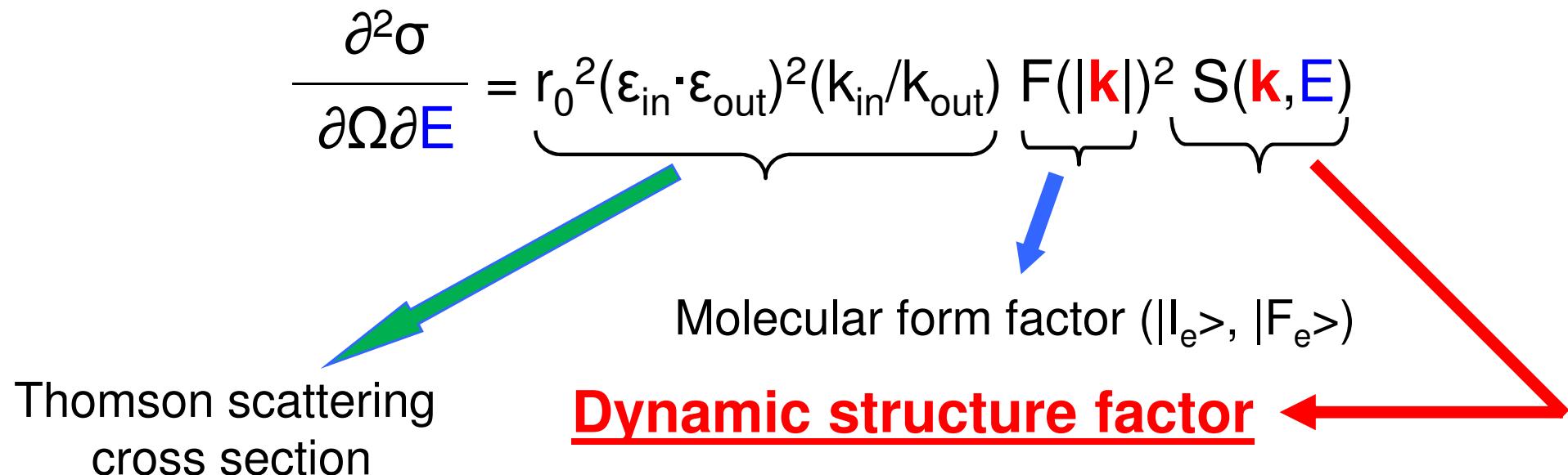
$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial \Omega \partial E} = r_0^{-2} (\epsilon_{in} \cdot \epsilon_{out})^2 (k_{in}/k_{out}) \sum_l P_l |<| \exp\{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j\} | F >|^2 \delta(E - E_{out} + E_{in})$$

# Basic theoretical aspects

$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial \Omega \partial E} = r_0^2 (\epsilon_{in} \cdot \epsilon_{out})^2 (k_{in}/k_{out}) \sum_i P_i | \langle I | \exp\{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j\} | F \rangle |^2 \delta(E - E_F + E_I)$$

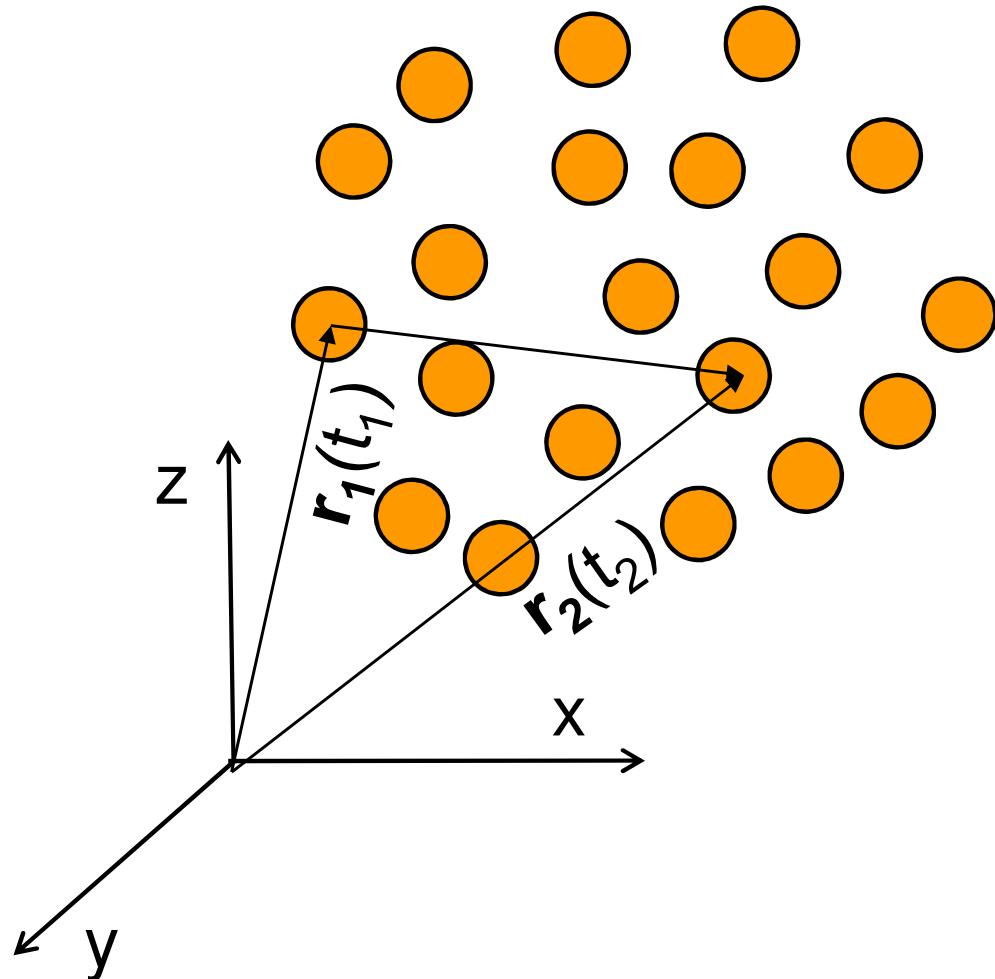
The key assumption:

Adiabatic approximation  $\rightarrow |I\rangle = |I_n\rangle |I_e\rangle$  and  $|F\rangle = |F_n\rangle |F_e\rangle$



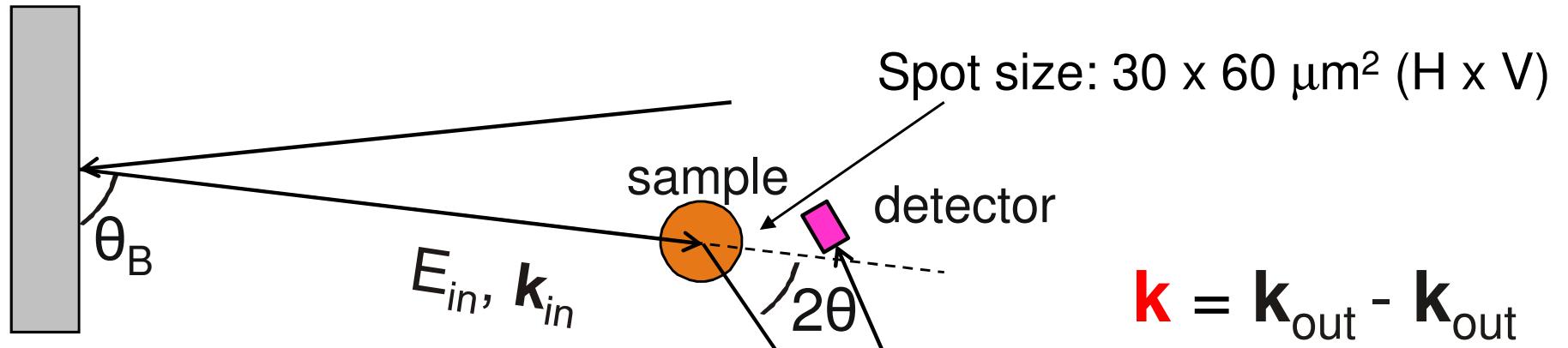
# The dynamic structure factor

$S(\mathbf{k}, E)$  is the **SPACE** and **TIME** Fourier transform of  $G(\mathbf{r}, t)$



$G(\mathbf{r}, t)$  is the probability to find two distinct particles at positions  $\mathbf{r}_1(t_1)$  and  $\mathbf{r}_2(t_2)$ , separated by the distance  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1$  and the time interval  $t = t_2 - t_1$ .

# Basic IXS instrumentation



$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{out} - \mathbf{k}_{in}$$

$$|\mathbf{k}| = 4\pi \sin(\theta)$$

## Monochromator

Si(n,n,n)  
 $n=7-13$        $\theta_B = 89.98^\circ$

$\lambda_{in}$  (**tunable**)

$$\lambda_{in} = 2hc/E_{in} = 2d_n \sin(\theta_B)$$

$\lambda_{out}$  (**constant**)

$$E = E_{in} - E_{out}$$

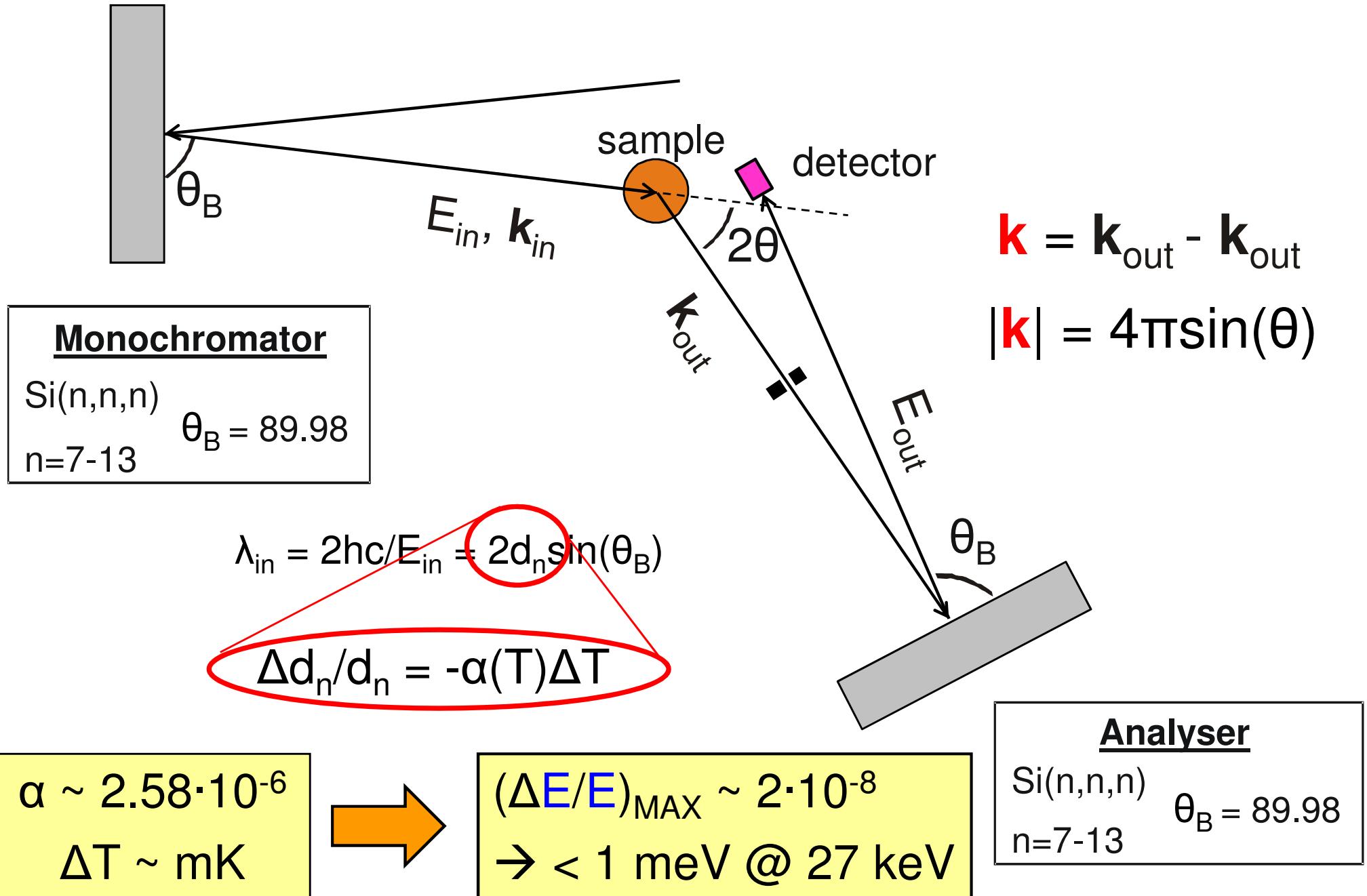
$$\lambda_{out} = 2hc/E_{out} = 2d_n \sin(\theta_B)$$

$$\Delta E/E = \Delta \lambda_{in}/\lambda_{in} \sim \cot(\theta_B)$$

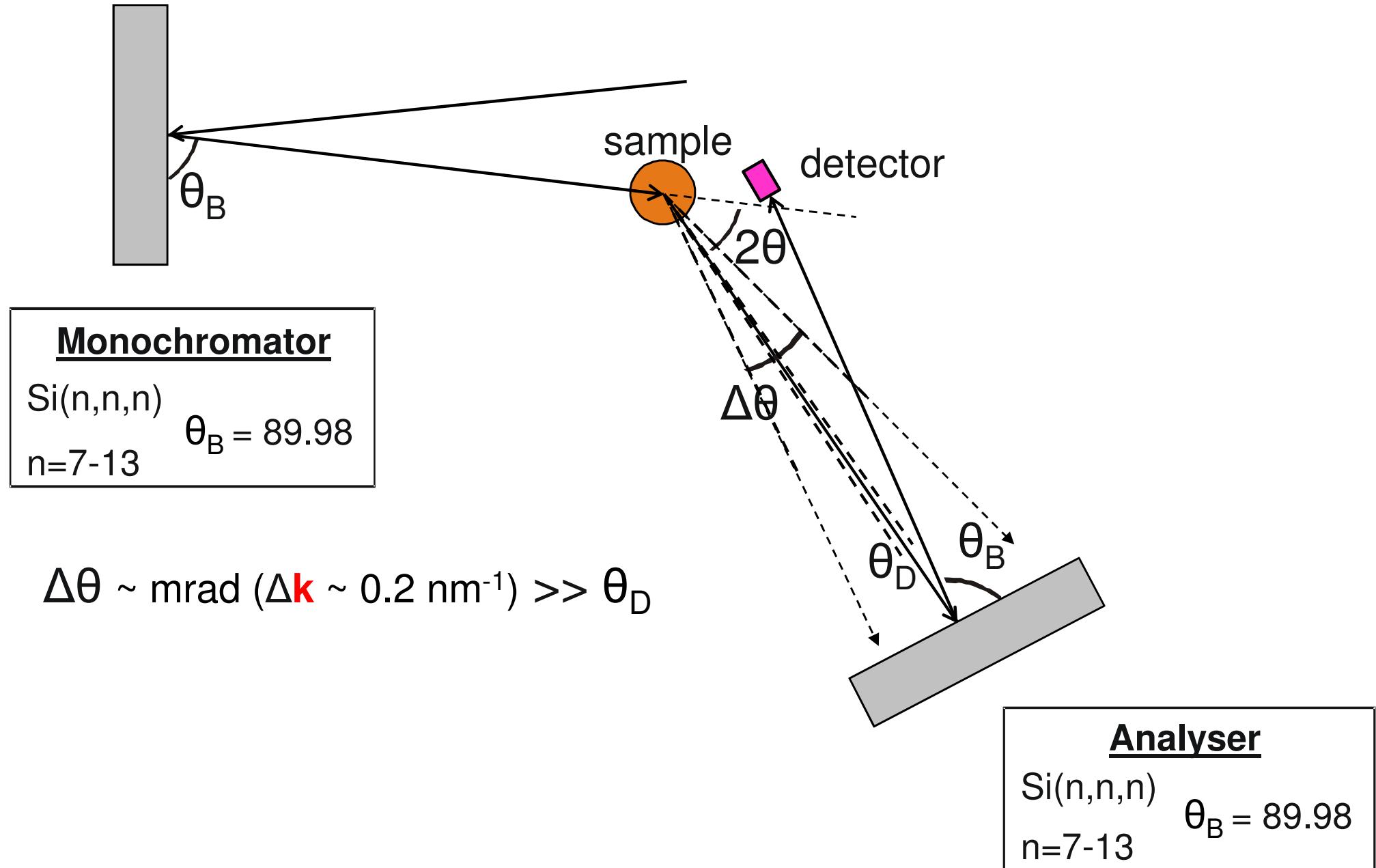
## Analyser

Si(n,n,n)  
 $n=7-13$        $\theta_B = 89.98^\circ$

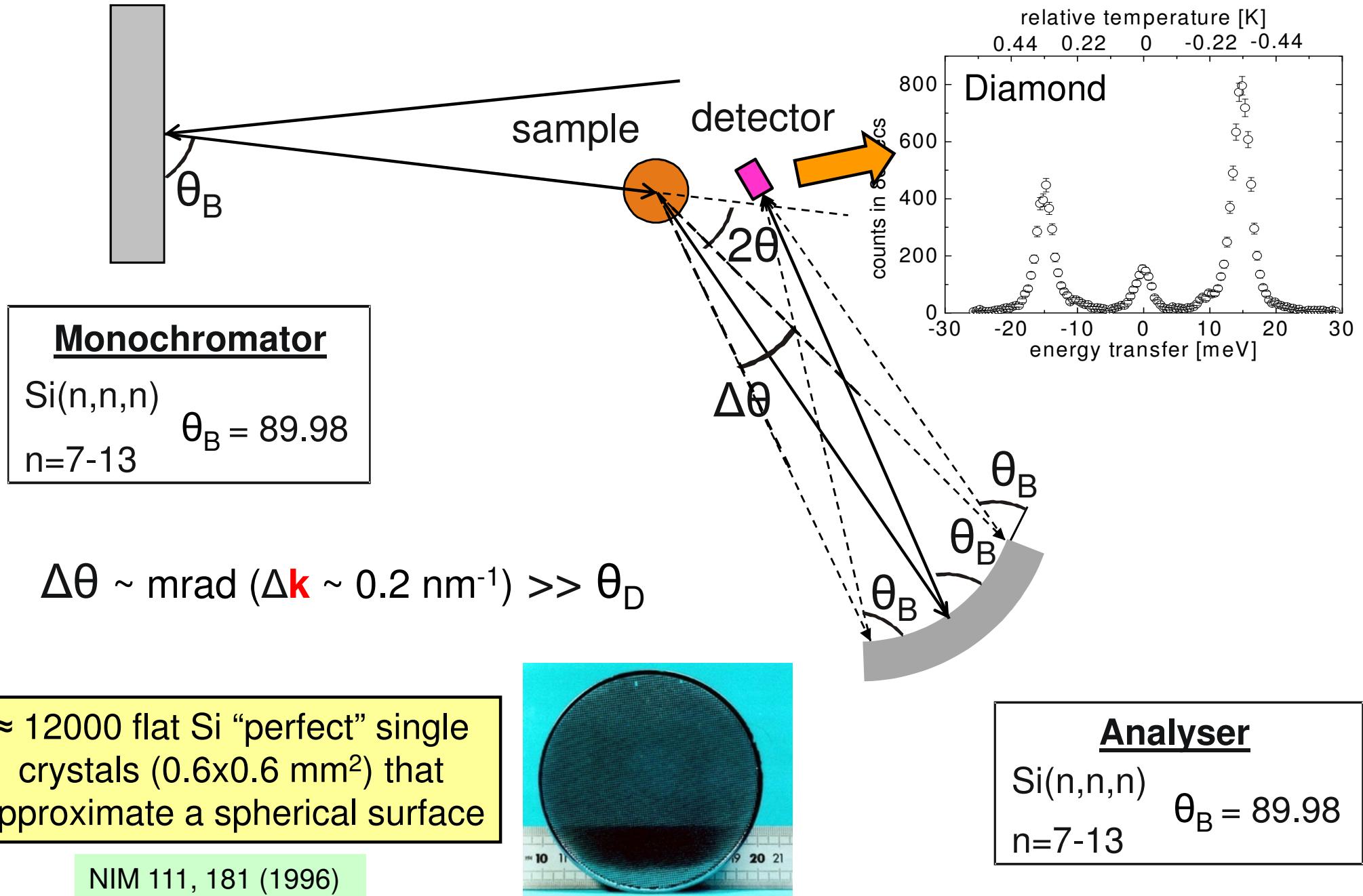
# Basic IXS instrumentation



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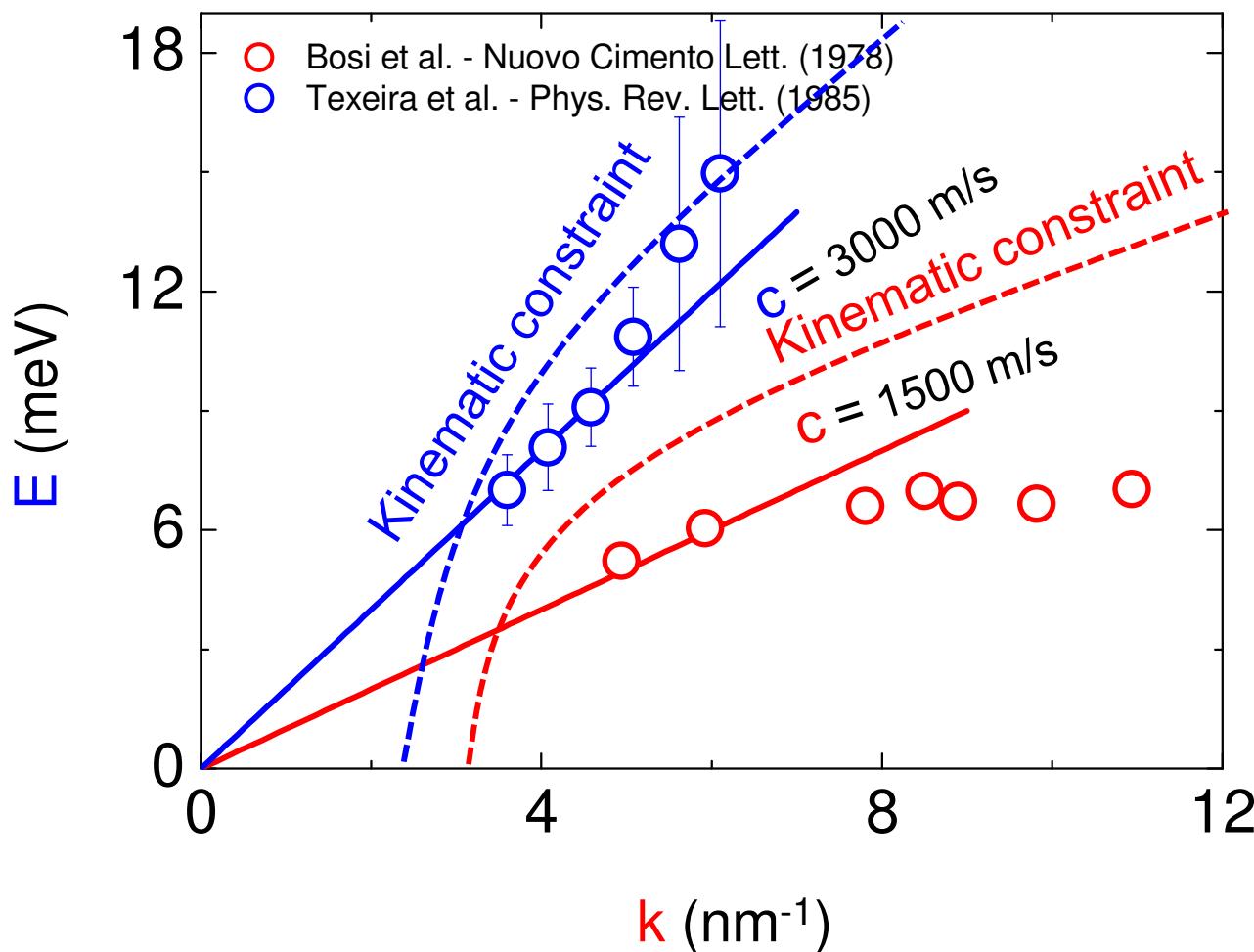


# Experimental highlights (1)

## *Collective dynamics in water*

Inelastic Neutron Scattering ( $D_2O$ ):

2 experiments, 2 results: why?



A possible interpretation:

- High frequency mode →  $\textcolor{blue}{D}$
- Low frequency mode →  $\textcolor{red}{O}$

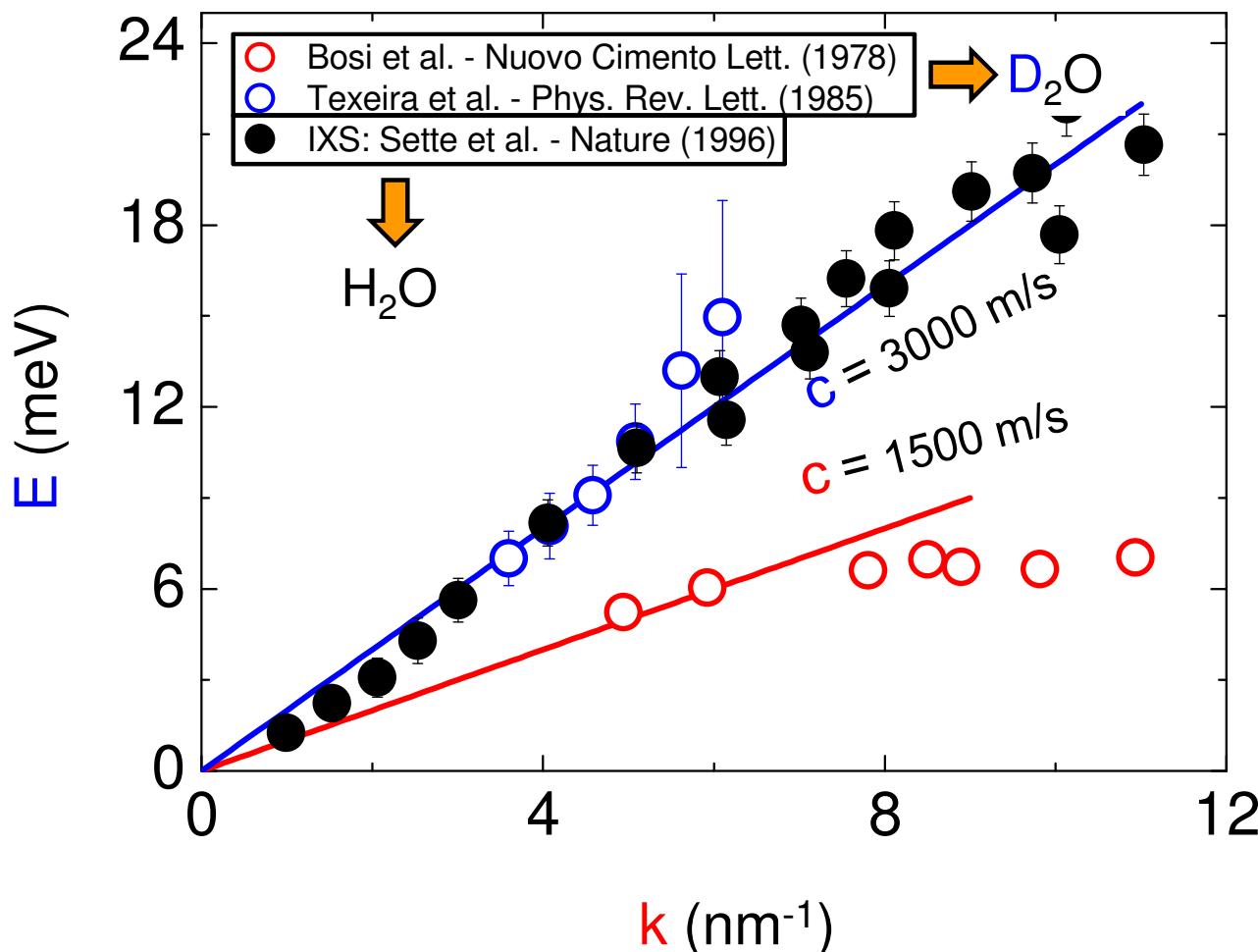


$$\Omega_{\text{HF}}/\Omega_{\text{LF}} \sim (m_{\textcolor{red}{O}}/m_{\textcolor{blue}{D}})^{1/2} \sim 2$$

# Experimental highlights (1)

## *Collective dynamics in water*

Inelastic Neutron Scattering vs.  
Inelastic X-ray Scattering ( $H_2O$  vs.  $D_2O$ )



A possible interpretation:

- High frequency mode →  $D$
- Low frequency mode →  $O$

$$\Omega_{HF}/\Omega_{LF} \sim (m_O/m_D)^{1/2} \sim 2$$

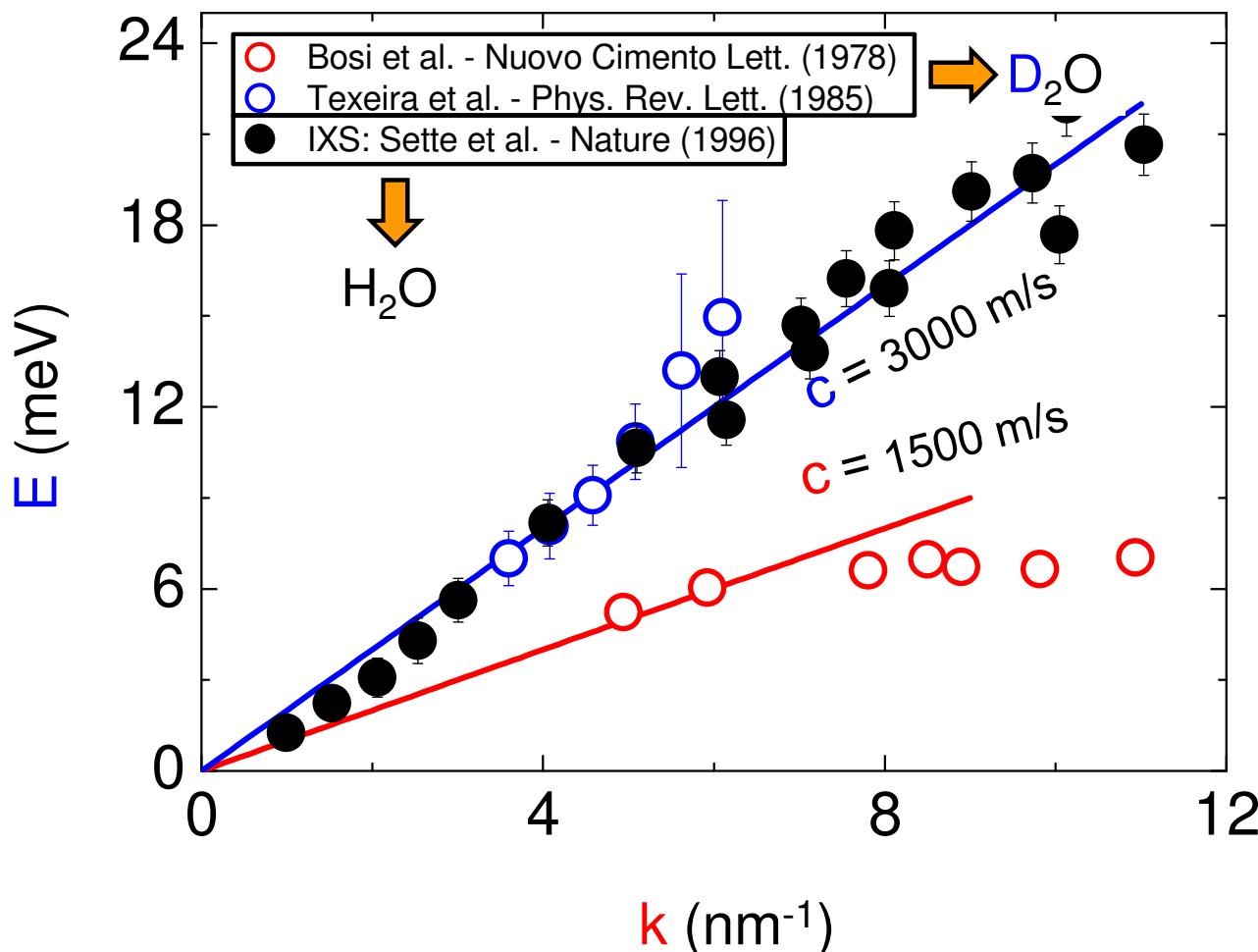
High frequency mode:

Expected for  $H_2O\dots$   
 $\Omega_{IXS}/\Omega_{INS} \sim (m_H/m_D)^{1/2} \sim 1.4$

# Experimental highlights (1)

## *Collective dynamics in water*

Inelastic Neutron Scattering vs.  
Inelastic X-ray Scattering ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vs.  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ )



A possible interpretation:

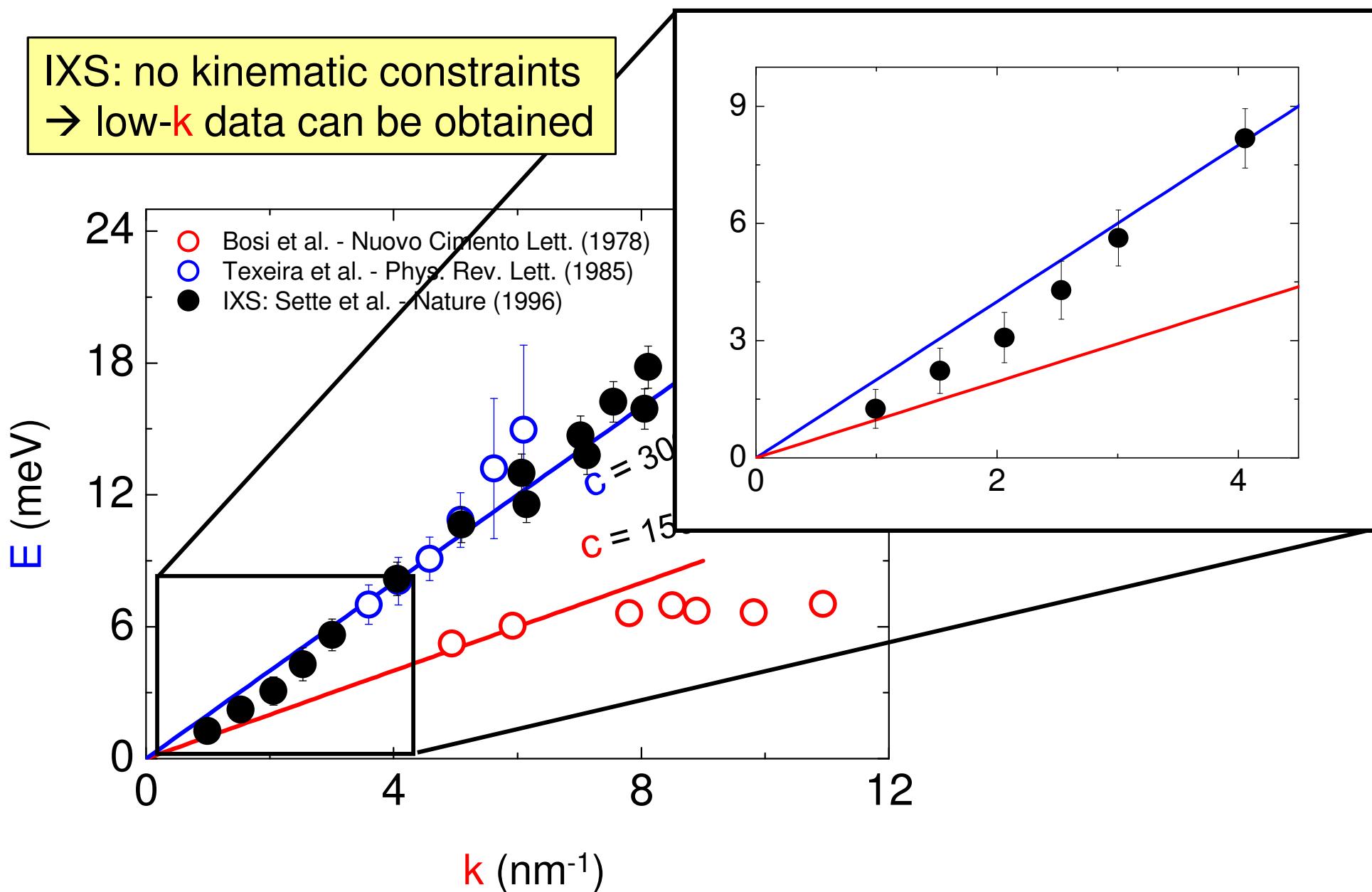
- High frequency mode →  $\text{D}$
- Low frequency mode →  $\text{O}$

$$\Omega_{\text{HF}}/\Omega_{\text{LF}} \sim (m_{\text{O}}/m_{\text{D}})^{1/2} \sim 2$$

High frequency mode:  
but...  $\Omega_{\text{IXS}} = \Omega_{\text{INS}}$

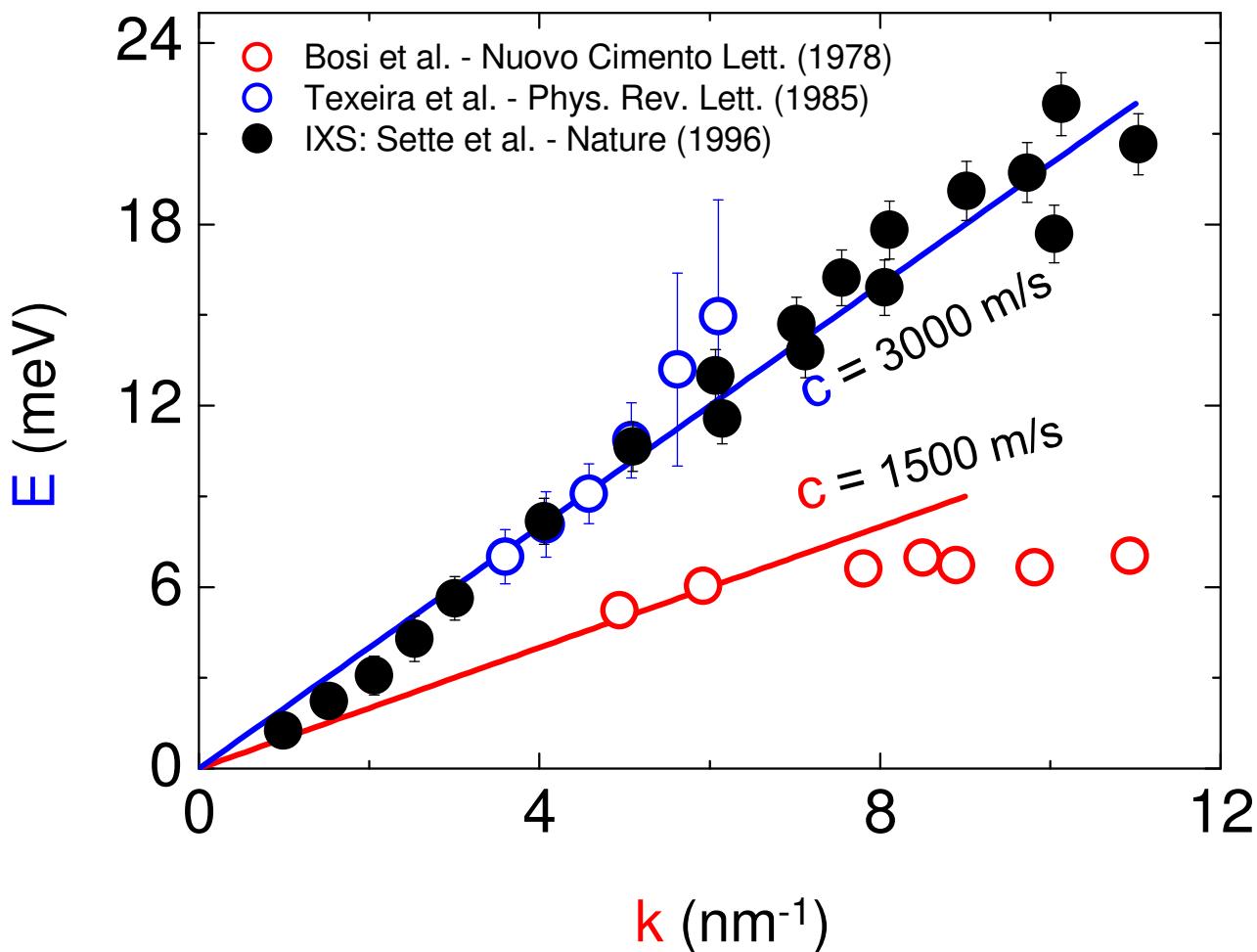
# Experimental highlights (1)

## *Collective dynamics in water*

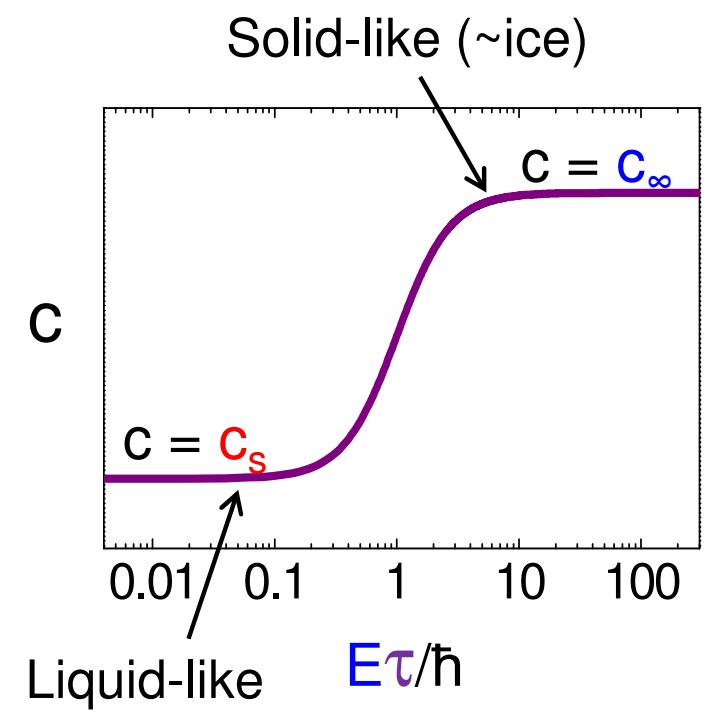


# Experimental highlights (1)

## *Collective dynamics in water*



Viscoelasticity:  
The sound velocity ( $c = E/\hbar k$ ) is not constant but depends on  $E\tau/\hbar$

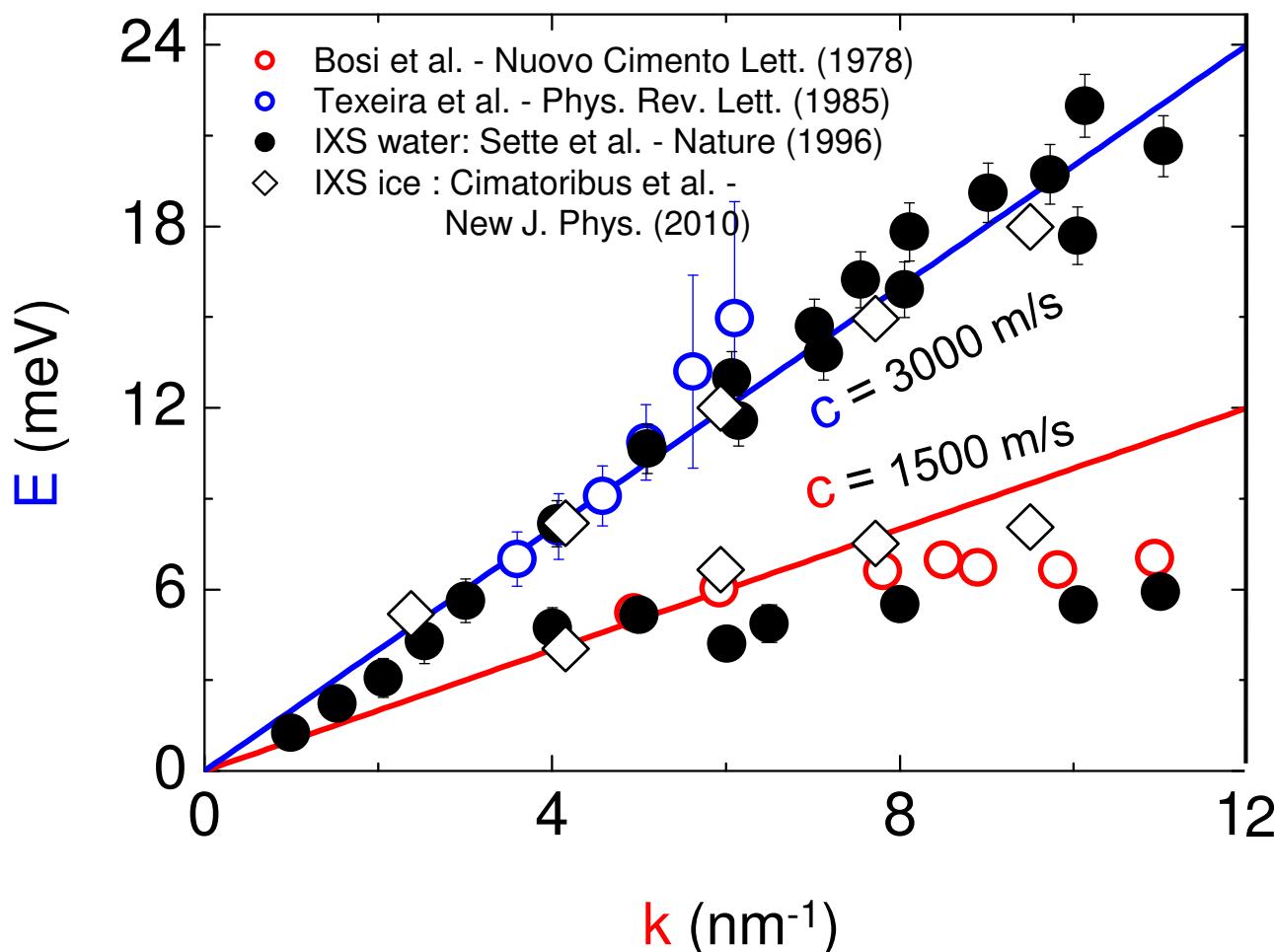


# Experimental highlights (1)

## *Collective dynamics in water*

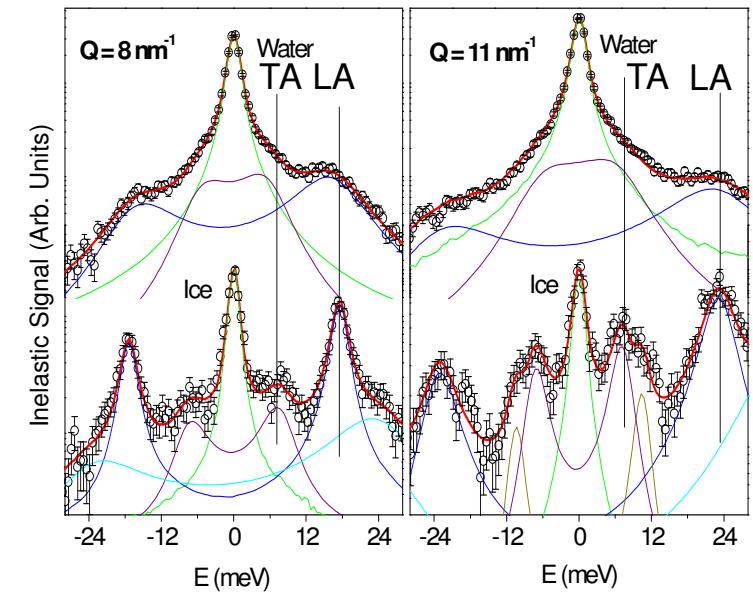
### Low frequency mode:

Transverse-like sound propagation in the elastic (solid-like) limit:  $E\tau/\hbar \gg 1$



### Viscoelasticity:

The sound velocity ( $c=E/\hbar k$ ) is not constant but depends on  $E\tau/\hbar$



PRL 79, 1678 (1997)

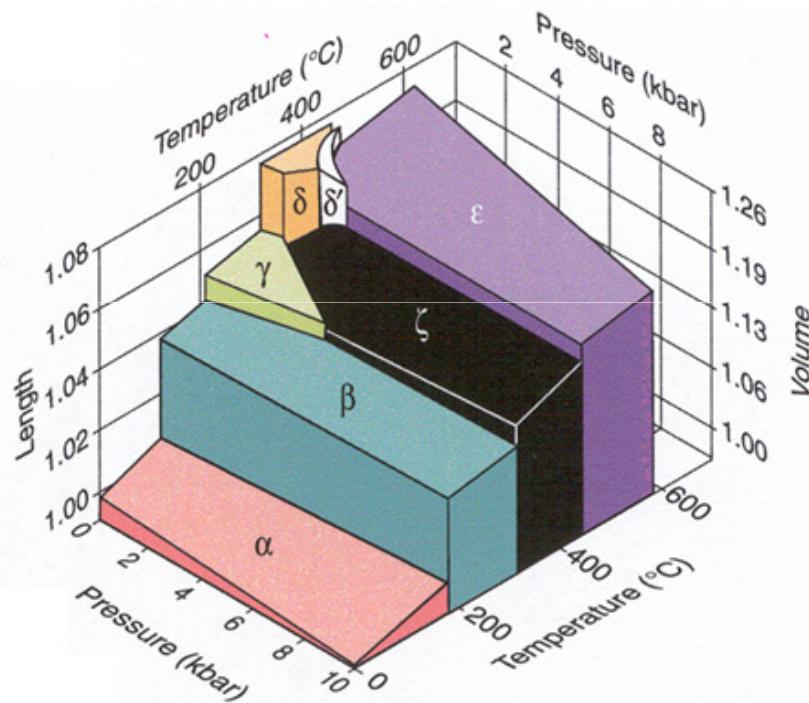
PRE 71, 011501 (2005)

# Experimental highlights (2)

## *Phonon dispersions in plutonium*

### Plutonium is one of the most fascinating and exotic element:

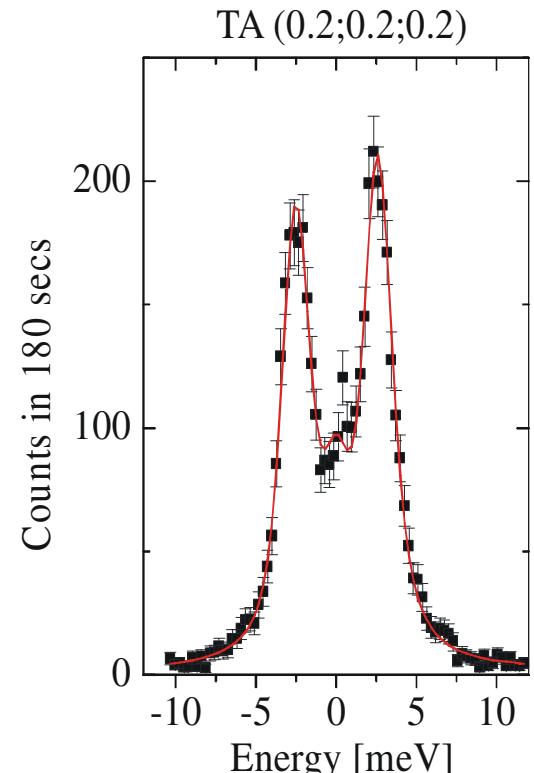
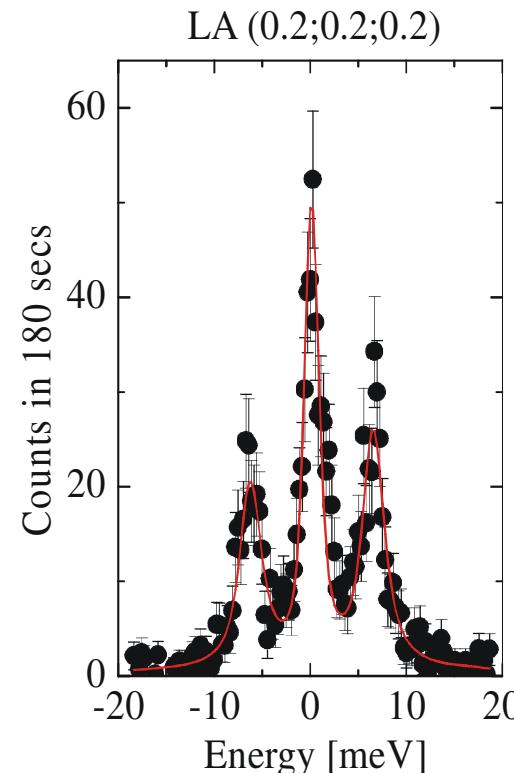
- Multitude of unusual properties
- Central role of 5f electrons



Science 301, 1078 (2003)

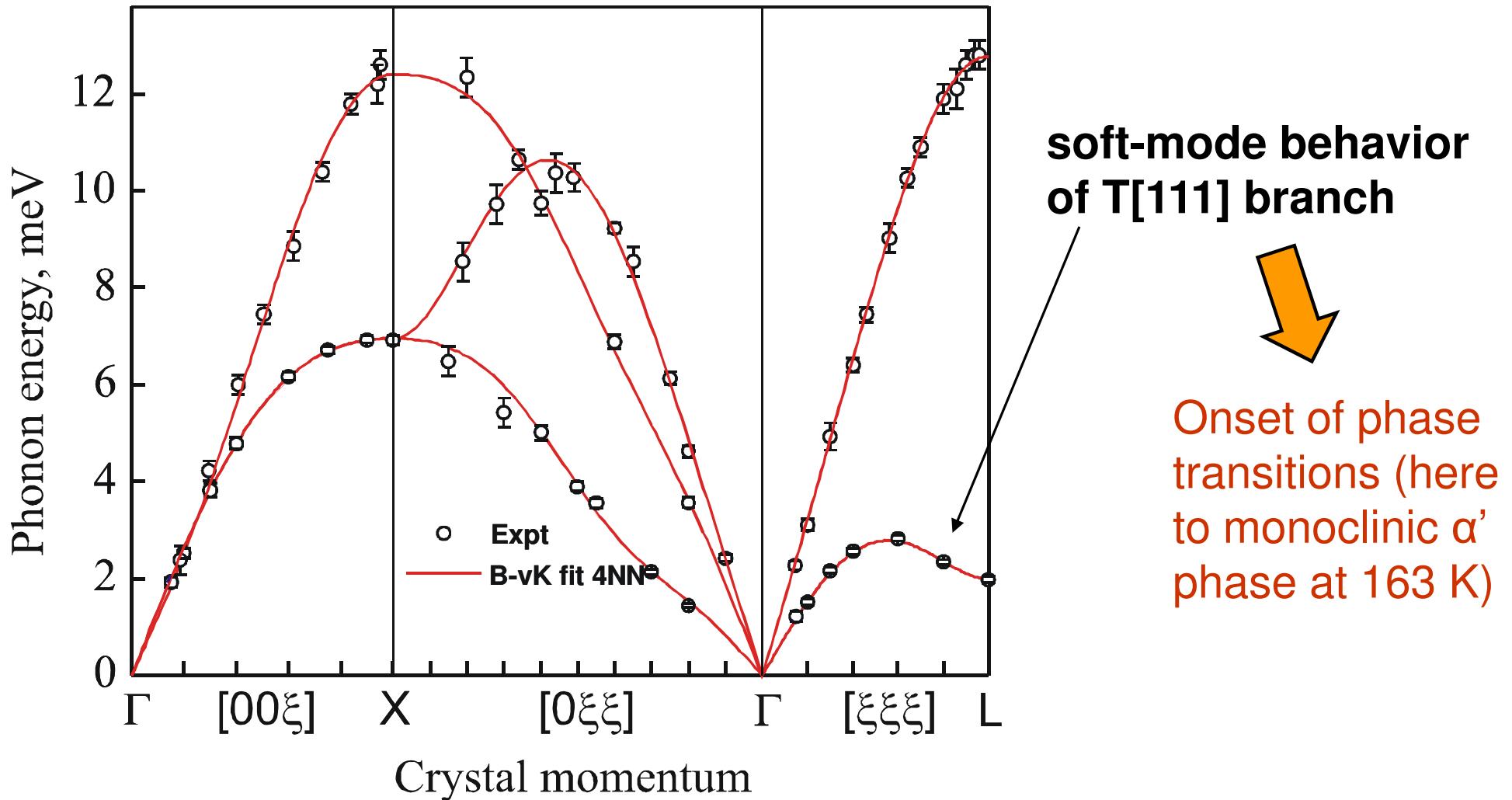
### ID28 at ESRF

- Energy resolution: 1.8 meV
- Beam size:  $20 \times 60 \mu\text{m}^2$  (HxV)
- Grain size:  $\sim 80 \mu\text{m}^2$
- On-line diffraction analysis



# Experimental highlights (2)

## *Phonon dispersions in plutonium*



- Born-von Karman force constant model fit (fourth nearest neighbors)

# Experimental highlights (2)

## *Phonon dispersions in plutonium*

Close to  $\Gamma$ -point:  $E = Vq/\hbar$



$$V_L[100] = (C_{11}/\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_T[100] = (C_{44}/\rho)^{1/2}$$

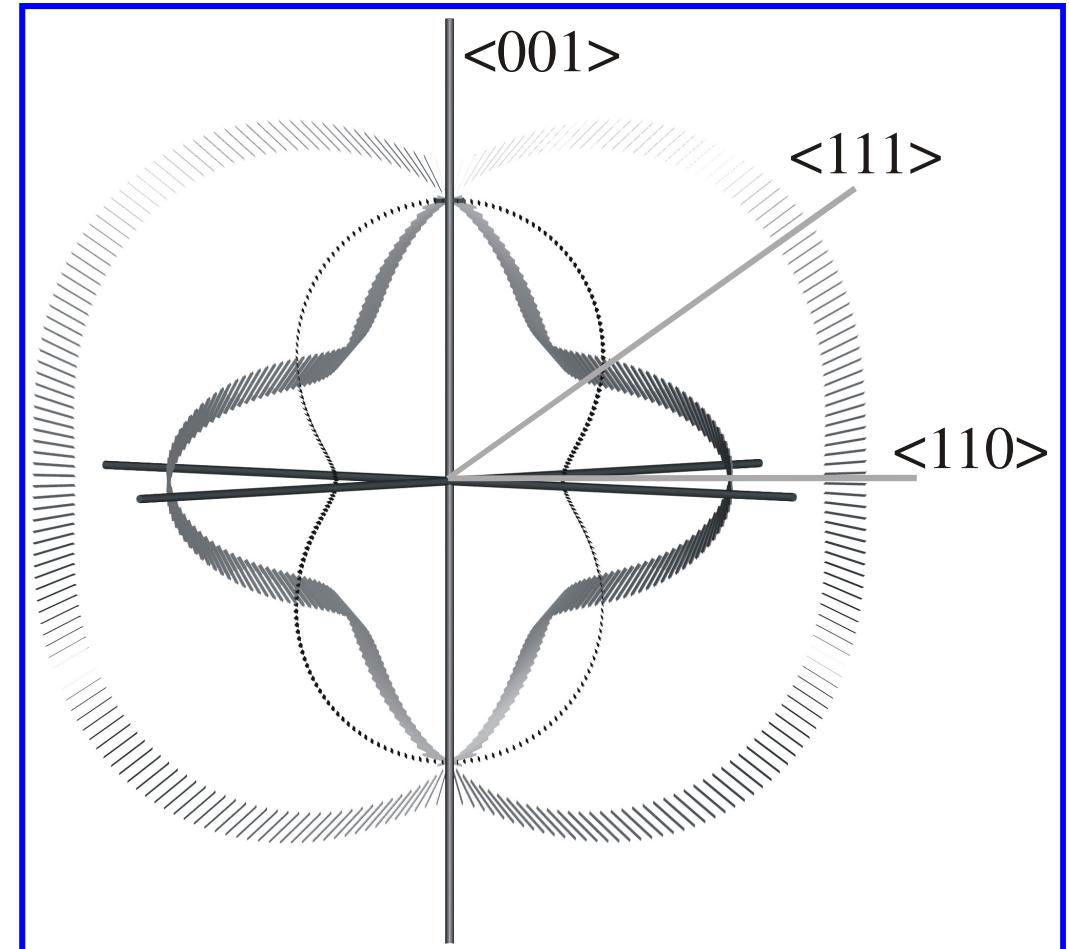
$$V_L[110] = ([C_{11} + C_{12} + 2C_{44}]/\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_{T1}[110] = ([C_{11} - C_{12}]/2\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_{T2}[110] = (C_{44}/\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_L[111] = [C_{11} + 2C_{12} + 4C_{44}]/3\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_T[111] = ([C_{11} - C_{12} + C_{44}]/3\rho)^{1/2}$$



$$C_{11} = 35.3 \pm 1.4 \text{ GPa}$$

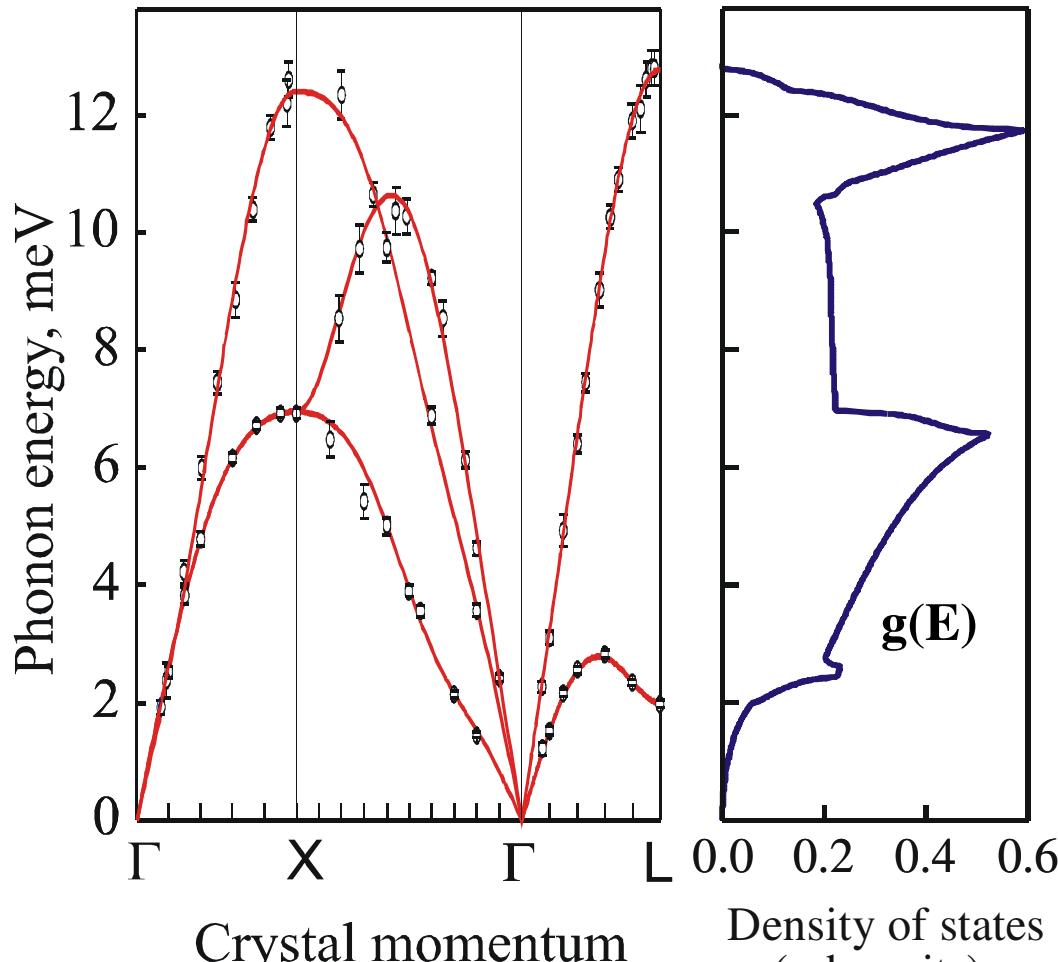
$$C_{12} = 25.5 \pm 1.5 \text{ GPa}$$

$$C_{44} = 30.5 \pm 1.1 \text{ GPa}$$

**highest elastic anisotropy  
of all known fcc metals**

# Experimental highlights (2)

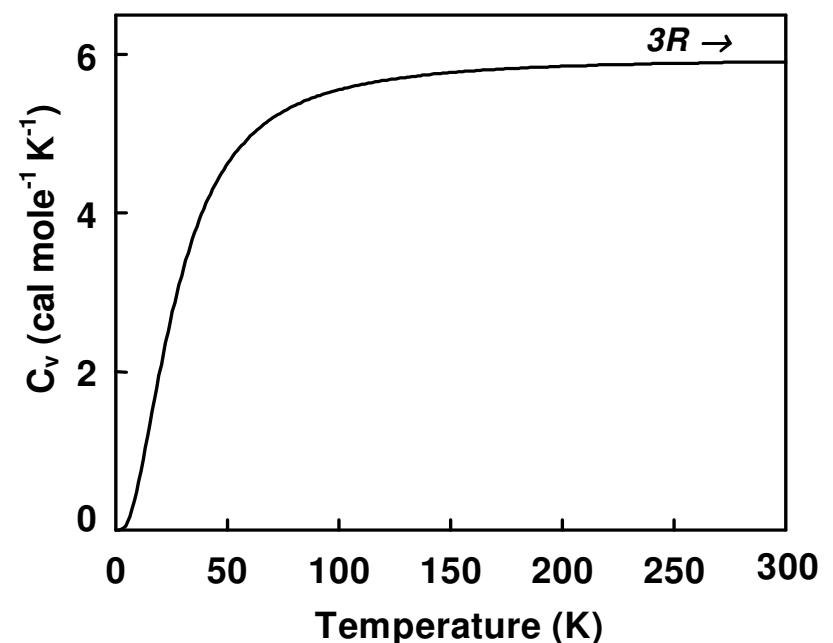
## *Phonon dispersions in plutonium*



• Born-von Karman fit

**Specific heat:**

$$C_v = 3Nk_B \int_0^{E_{\max}} \left( \frac{E}{k_B T} \right)^2 \frac{\exp(E/k_B T) g(E) dE}{(\exp(E/k_B T) - 1)^2}$$

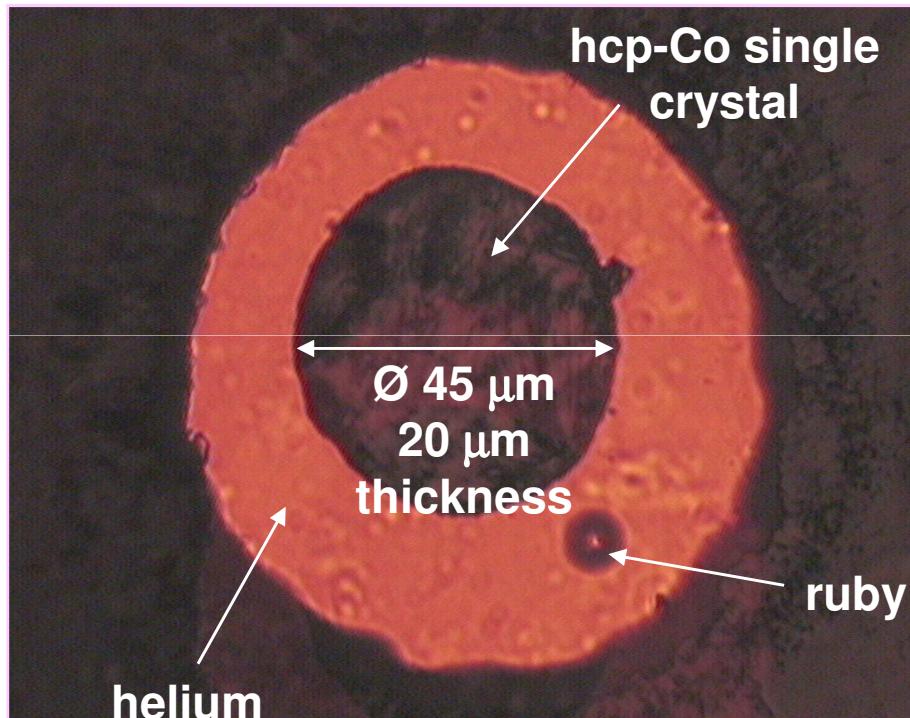


# Experimental highlights (3)

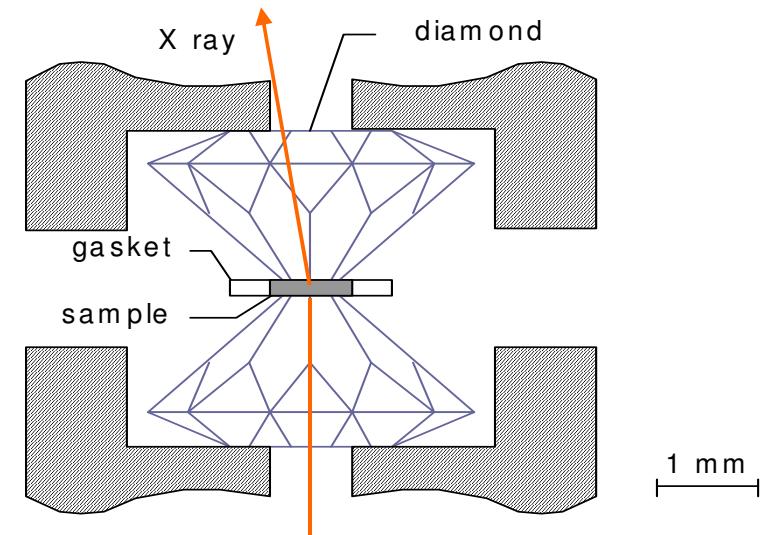
## *Elasticity at high pressure*

### Elasticity of hcp-metals under very high pressure (up to 1 Mbar):

- Geophysical interest (Earth core)
- DAC sample environment + IXS



PRL 93, 215505 (2004)



### hcp-structure:

5 independent elastic moduli

$$V_L[001] = (C_{33}/\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_L[100] = (C_{11}/\rho)^{1/2}$$

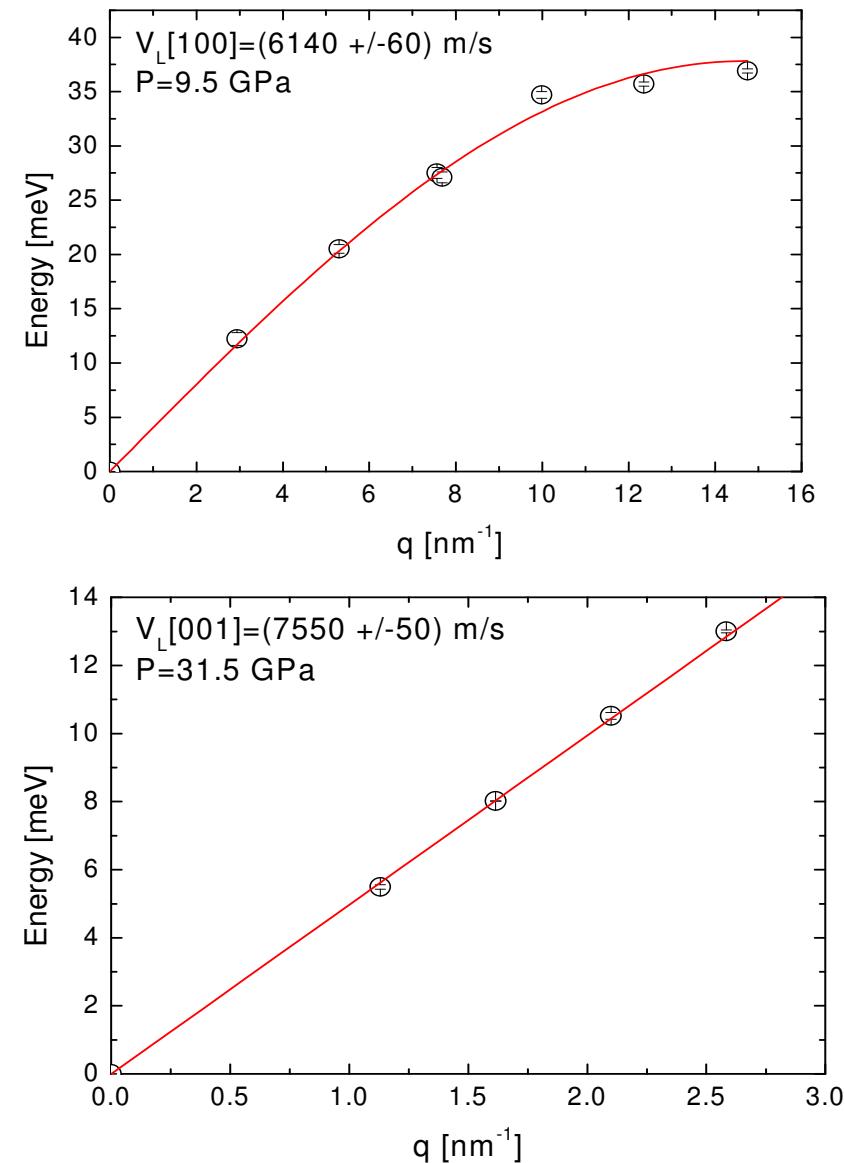
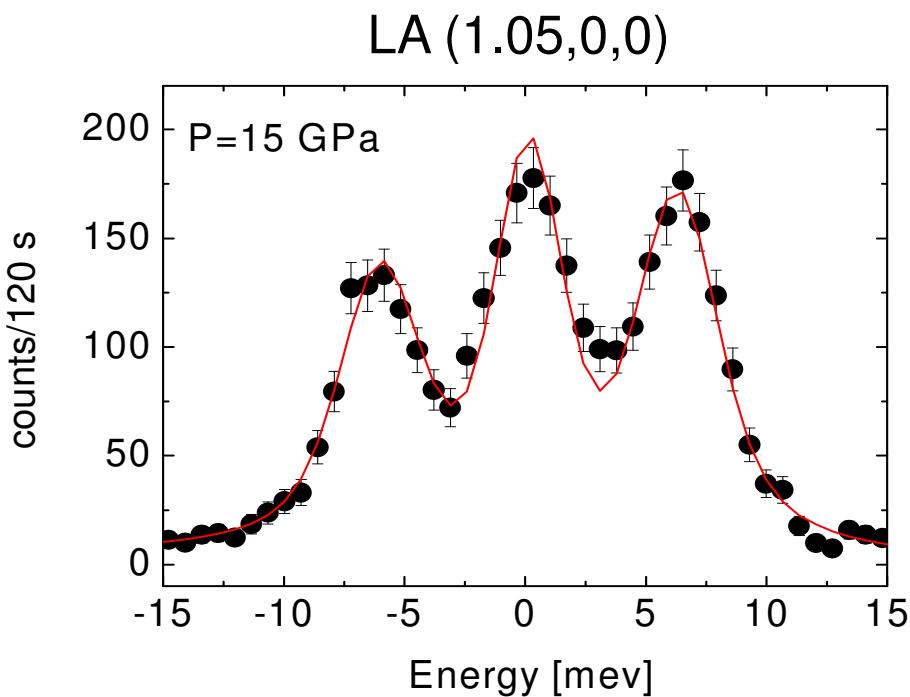
$$V_{T1}[110] = ([C_{11} - C_{12}]/2\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_{T2}[110] = (C_{44}/\rho)^{1/2}$$

$$V_{QL}[101] = f(C_{ij}, \rho) \rightarrow C_{13}$$

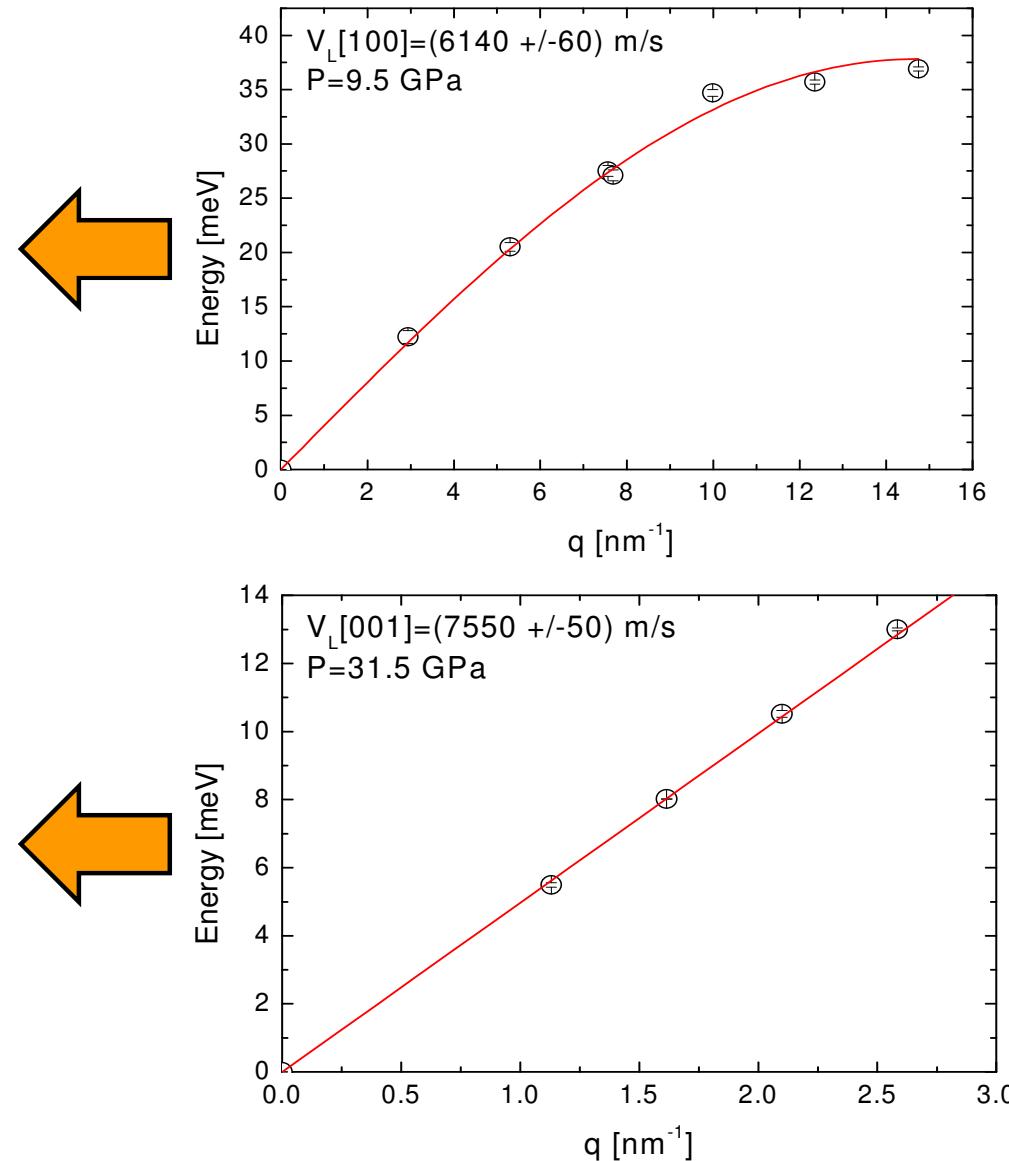
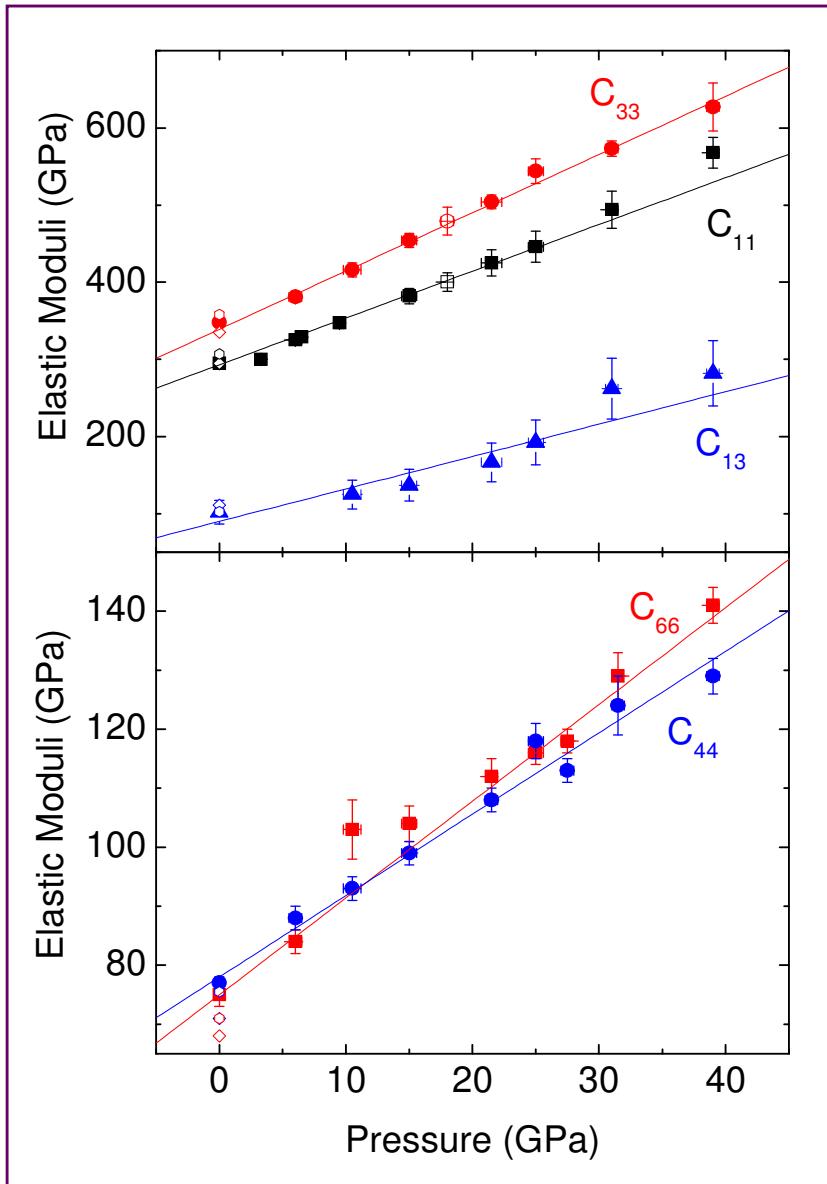
# Experimental highlights (3)

## *Elasticity at high pressure*



# Experimental highlights (3)

## *Elasticity at high pressure*

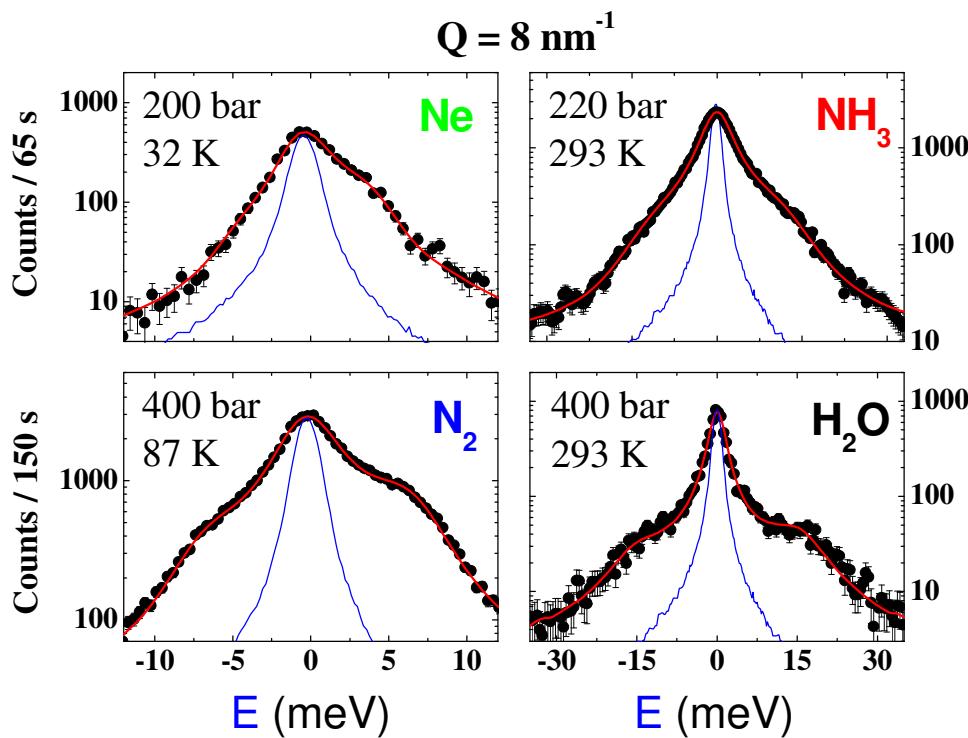


# Experimental highlights (4)

## Liquids and supercritical fluids

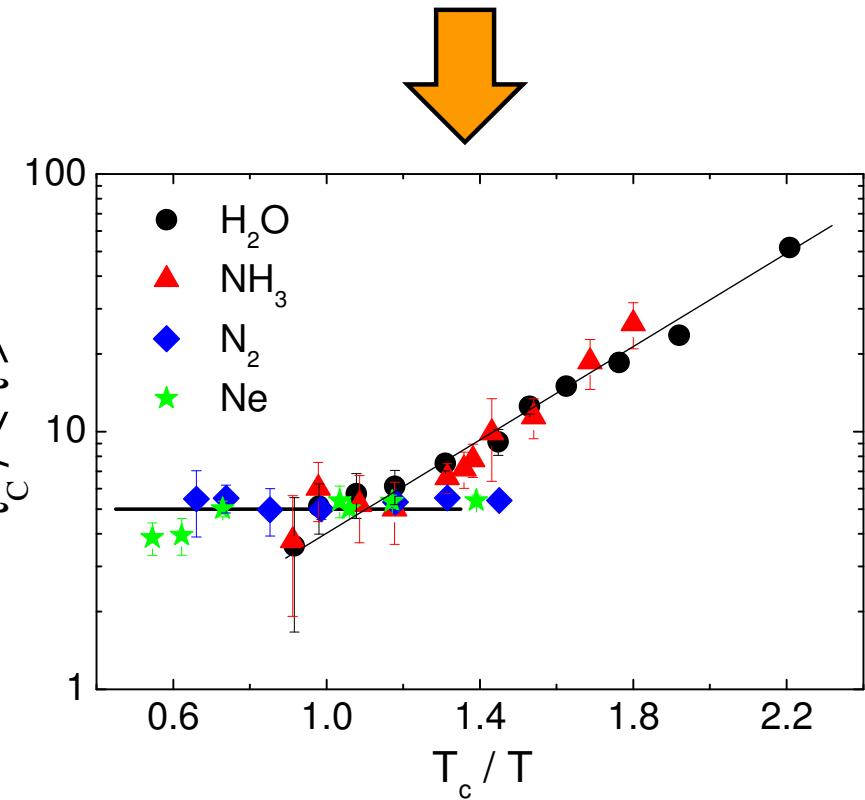
### ID28 and ID16 at ESRF

- Energy resolution: 1.5 meV
- Moderate pressure (< 500 bar)
- Various temperatures (20÷800 K)



PRL 98, 085501 (2007)

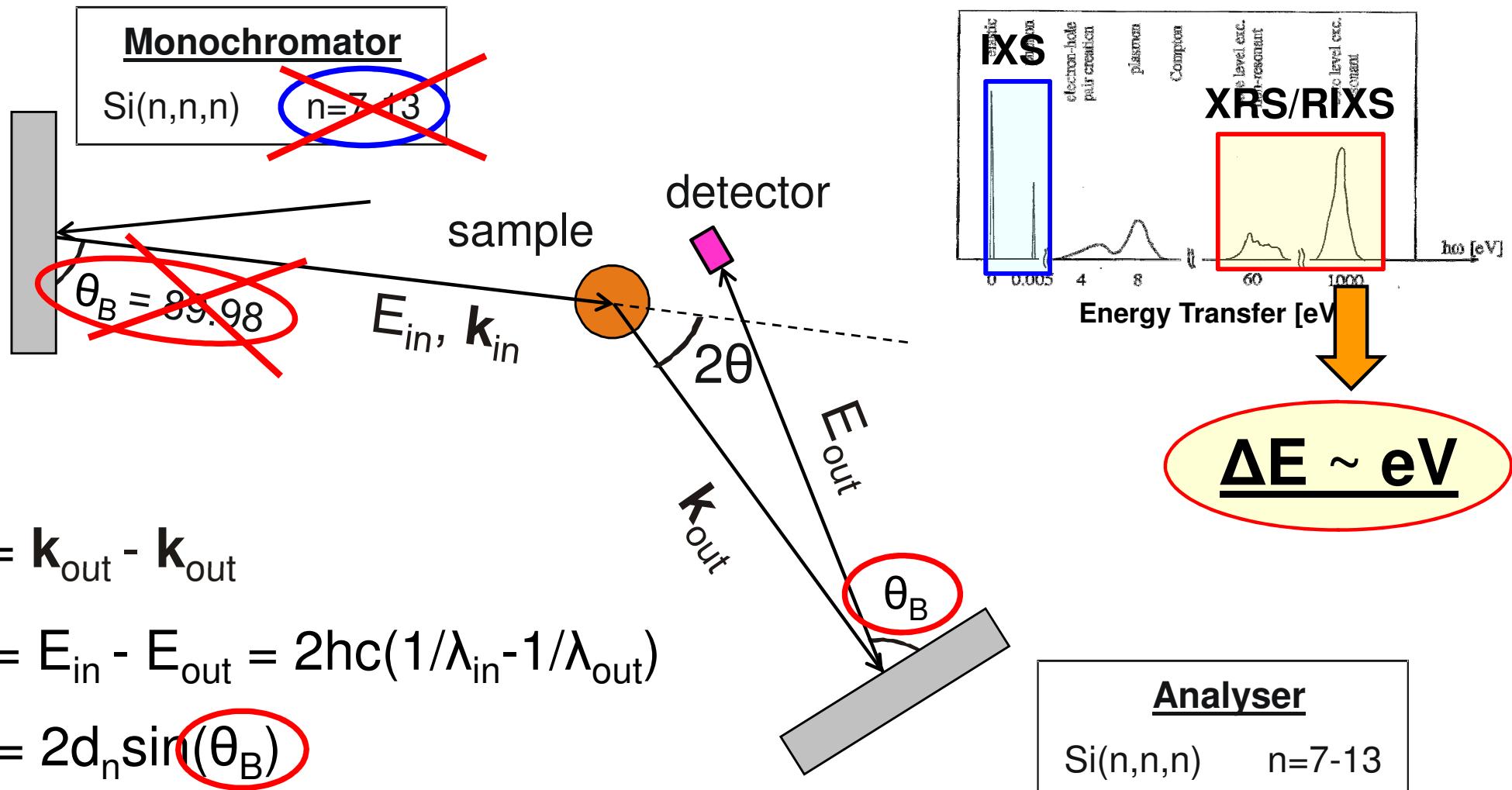
### Viscoelastic data analysis:



### Leading dynamics in fluids:

- $T > T_c \rightarrow$  collisions
- $T < T_c \rightarrow$  bond's lifetime

# Basic instrumentation



$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{out} - \mathbf{k}_{in}$$

$$E = E_{in} - E_{out} = 2hc(1/\lambda_{in} - 1/\lambda_{out})$$

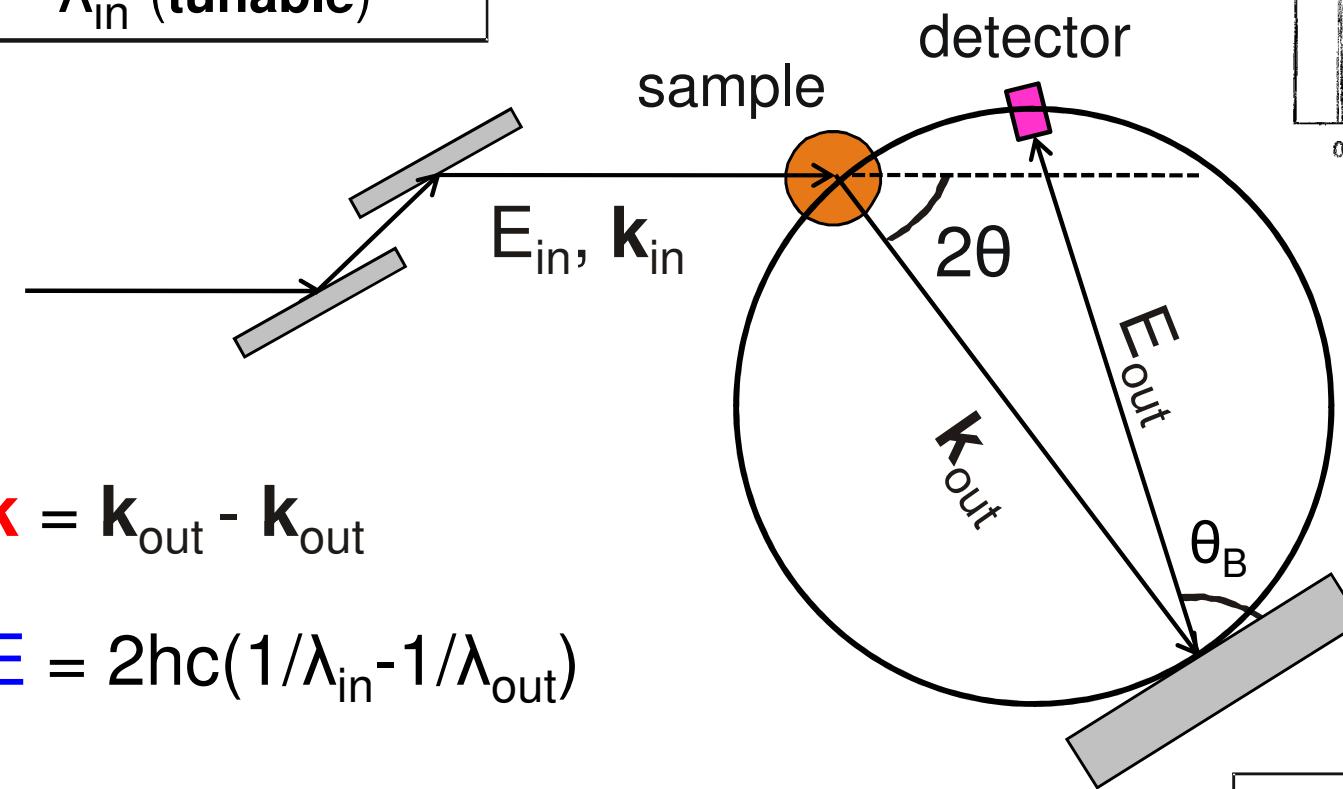
$$\lambda = 2d_n \sin(\theta_B)$$

~~back scattering + high order reflections~~ =  $\Delta E \sim meV$

# Basic instrumentation

## XRS / RIXS

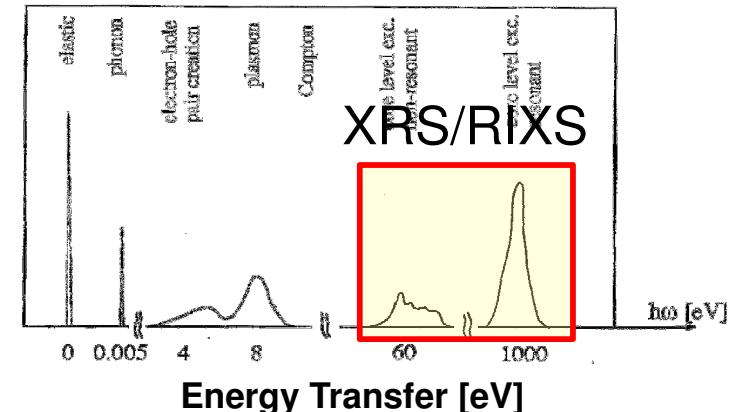
**Monochromator**  
Si(1,1,1); (2,2,0); ...  
 $\lambda_{\text{in}}$  (**tunable**)



$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{\text{out}} - \mathbf{k}_{\text{in}}$$

$$E = 2hc(1/\lambda_{\text{in}} - 1/\lambda_{\text{out}})$$

$$\lambda = 2d_n \sin(\theta_B); \theta_B < 90^\circ$$

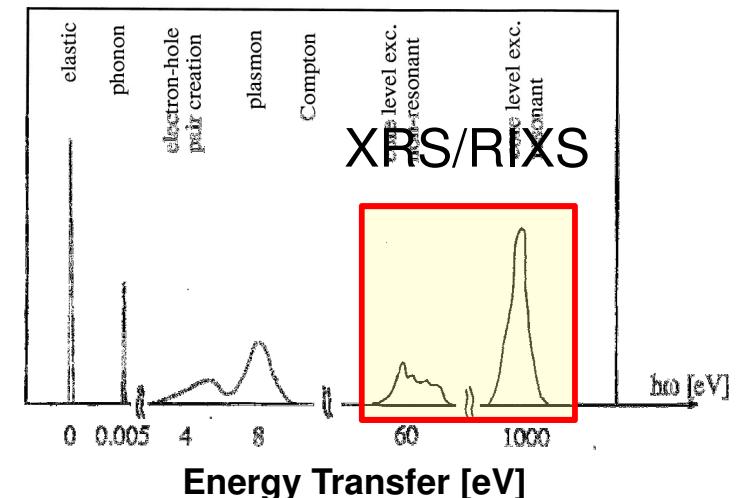
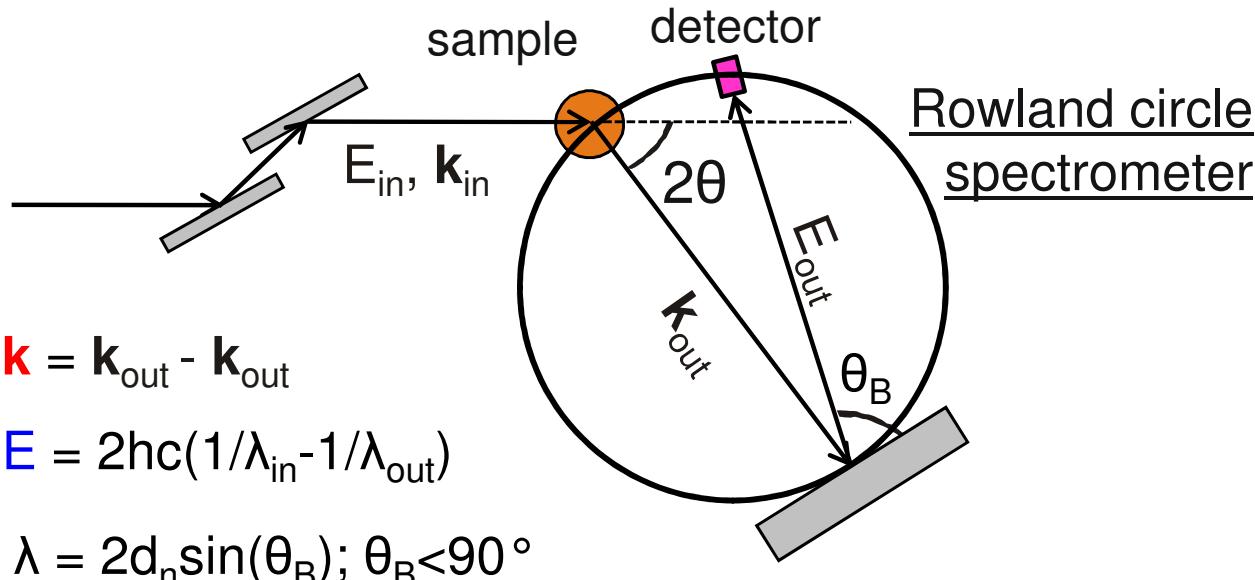


**Rowland circle  
spectrometer (1 m)**

**Analyser**  
Si(h,k,l)    $\lambda_{\text{out}}$  (**tunable**)

# Basic instrumentation

## XRS / RIXS



### Scanning strategy

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. $E_{\text{out}}$ fixed, scanning $E_{\text{in}}$  | IXS, XRS, RIXS |
| 2. $E_{\text{in}}$ fixed, scanning $E_{\text{out}}$<br>(rotating crystal and follow with the detector) | RIXS           |
| 3. Scanning $E_{\text{in}}$ and $E_{\text{out}}$ keeping $E$ constant                                  | RIXS           |

# Basic theoretical aspects

$$H_{\text{int}} = (e/m_e c) \sum_j [(e/2c) \mathbf{A}_j \cdot \mathbf{A}_j + \mathbf{A}_j \cdot \mathbf{p}_j]$$

**A**: vector potential of electromagnetic field

**P**: momentum operator of the electrons

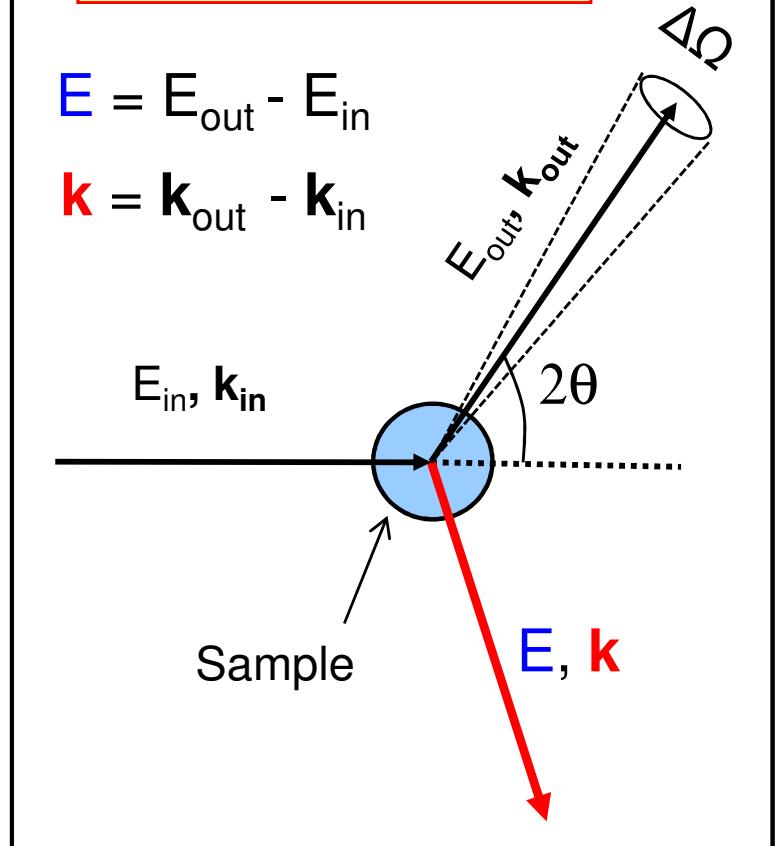
**j**: summation over all electrons of the system

## Inelastic scattering:

$$E = E_{\text{out}} - E_{\text{in}}$$

$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{\text{out}} - \mathbf{k}_{\text{in}}$$

$$E_{\text{in}}, \mathbf{k}_{\text{in}}$$



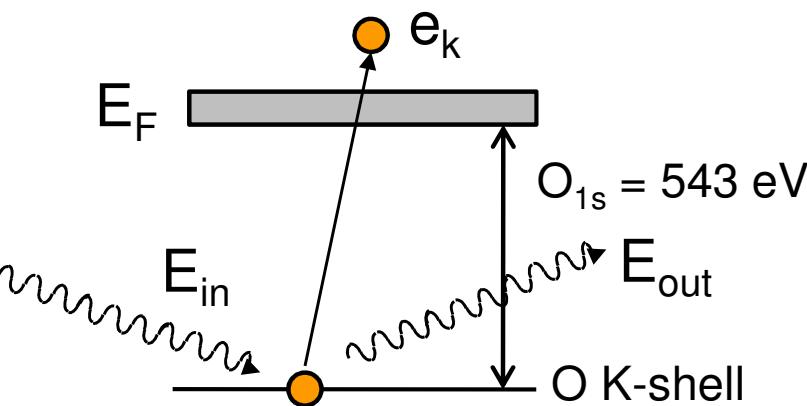
**A·A → non-resonant scattering (example: IXS)**

**A·p → resonant scattering, absorption followed by emission**

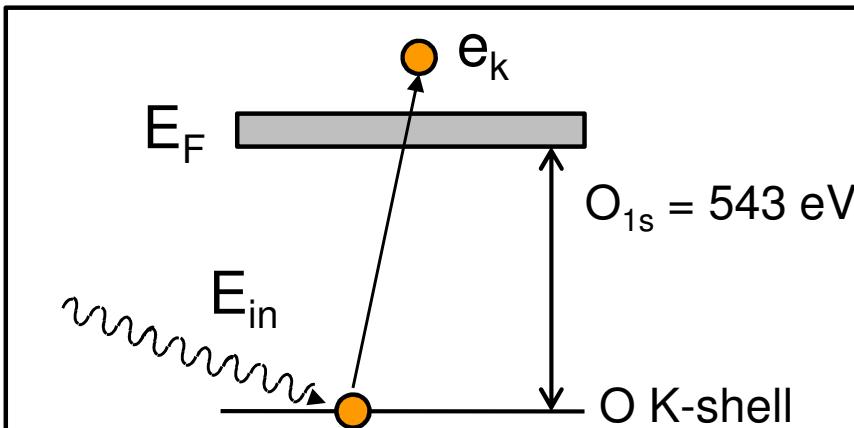
# Basic theoretical aspects

Non resonant IXS cross section:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial \Omega \partial E} = r_0^2 (\epsilon_{in} \cdot \epsilon_{out})^2 (k_{in}/k_{out}) \sum_I P_I |<I| \exp\{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j\} |F>|^2 \delta(E - E_F + E_I)$$



$$E_{1s} + e_k = E_{in} - E_{out} = E$$



$$E_{1s} + e_k = E_{in}$$

X-ray absorption cross section (dipolar approximation):

$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial E_{in}} = 4\pi^2 \alpha E_{in} \sum_I P_I |<I| \epsilon_{in} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j |F>|^2 \delta(E_{in} - E_F + E_I)$$

# Basic theoretical aspects

Non resonant IXS cross section:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial \Omega \partial E} = r_0^2 (\epsilon_{in} \cdot \epsilon_{out})^2 (k_{in}/k_{out}) \sum_I P_I |<I| \exp\{ik \cdot r_j\} |F>|^2 \delta(E - E_F + E_I)$$



$$k \cdot r_j \ll 1 \rightarrow e^{ik \cdot r} \sim 1 + ik \cdot r_j$$

$k \cdot r_j \ll 1 \rightarrow$  Dipolar regime: identical to photon absorption, where:

- i) The momentum transfer ( $k$ ) plays the role of the photon polarization vector ( $\epsilon_{in}$ )
- ii) The energy transfer ( $E$ ) plays the role of the incident energy ( $E_{in}$ )

X-ray absorption cross section (dipolar approximation):

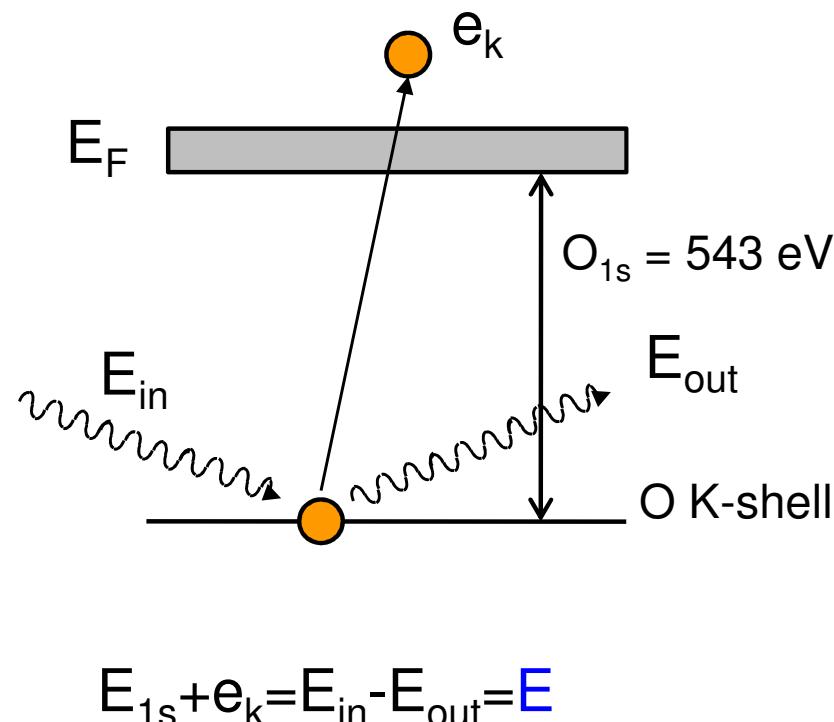
$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial E_{in}} = 4\pi^2 \alpha E_{in} \sum_I P_I |<I| \epsilon_{in} \cdot r_j |F>|^2 \delta(E_{in} - E_F + E_I)$$

# Basic theoretical aspects

Non resonant IXS cross section:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial \Omega \partial E} = r_0^2 (\epsilon_{in} \cdot \epsilon_{out})^2 (k_{in}/k_{out}) \sum_F P_F |<|I| \exp\{ik \cdot r_j\}|F>|^2 \delta(E - E_F + E_I)$$

## X-ray Raman Scattering (XRS)



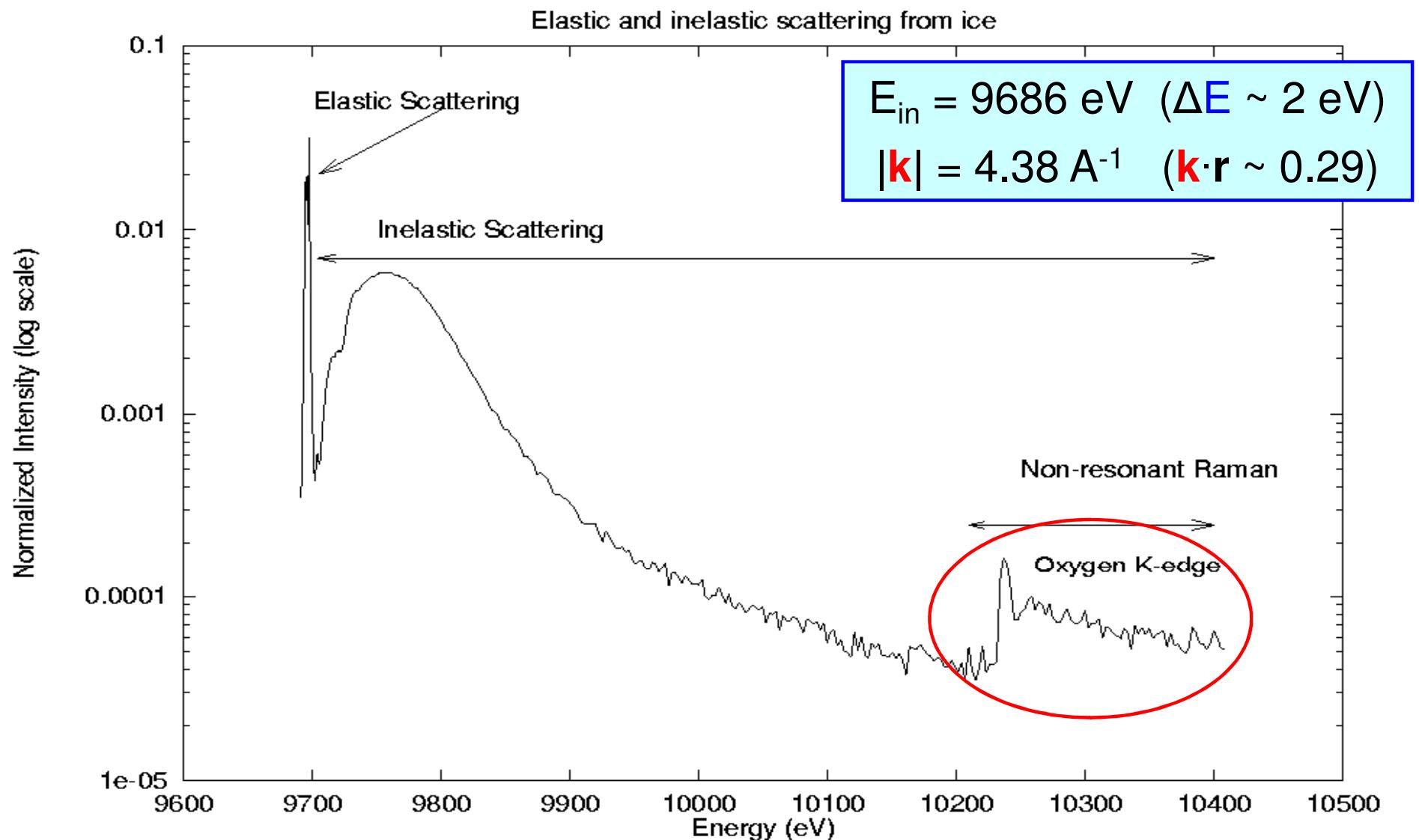
**Motivation:** element-selective probe for local atomic structure

XRS is alternative to:

- Neutron scattering (with isotopic substitution)
- X-ray (anomalous) scattering
- XANES and EXAFS

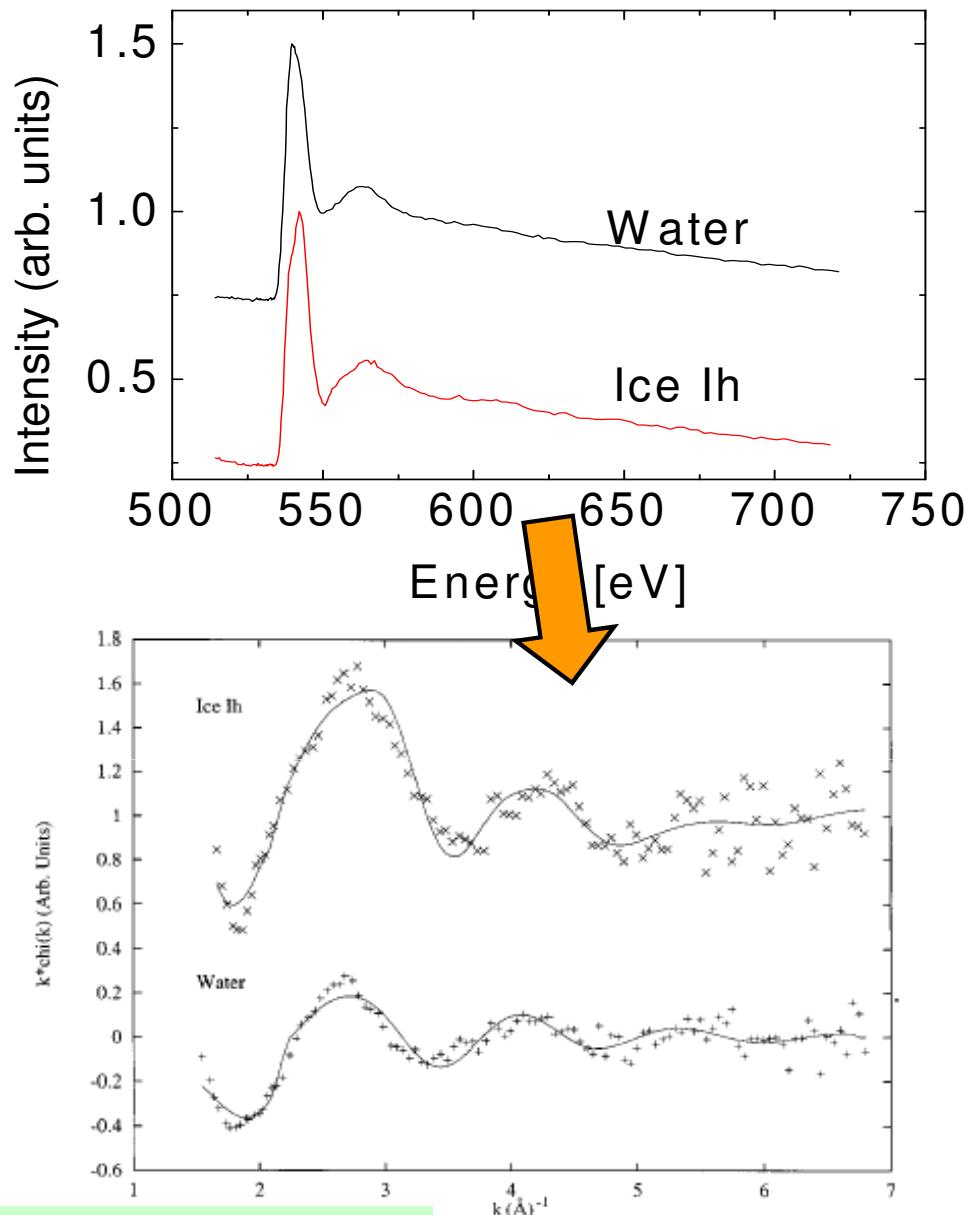
# Experimental highlights (XRS)

*XRS from O K-edge in water and ice*



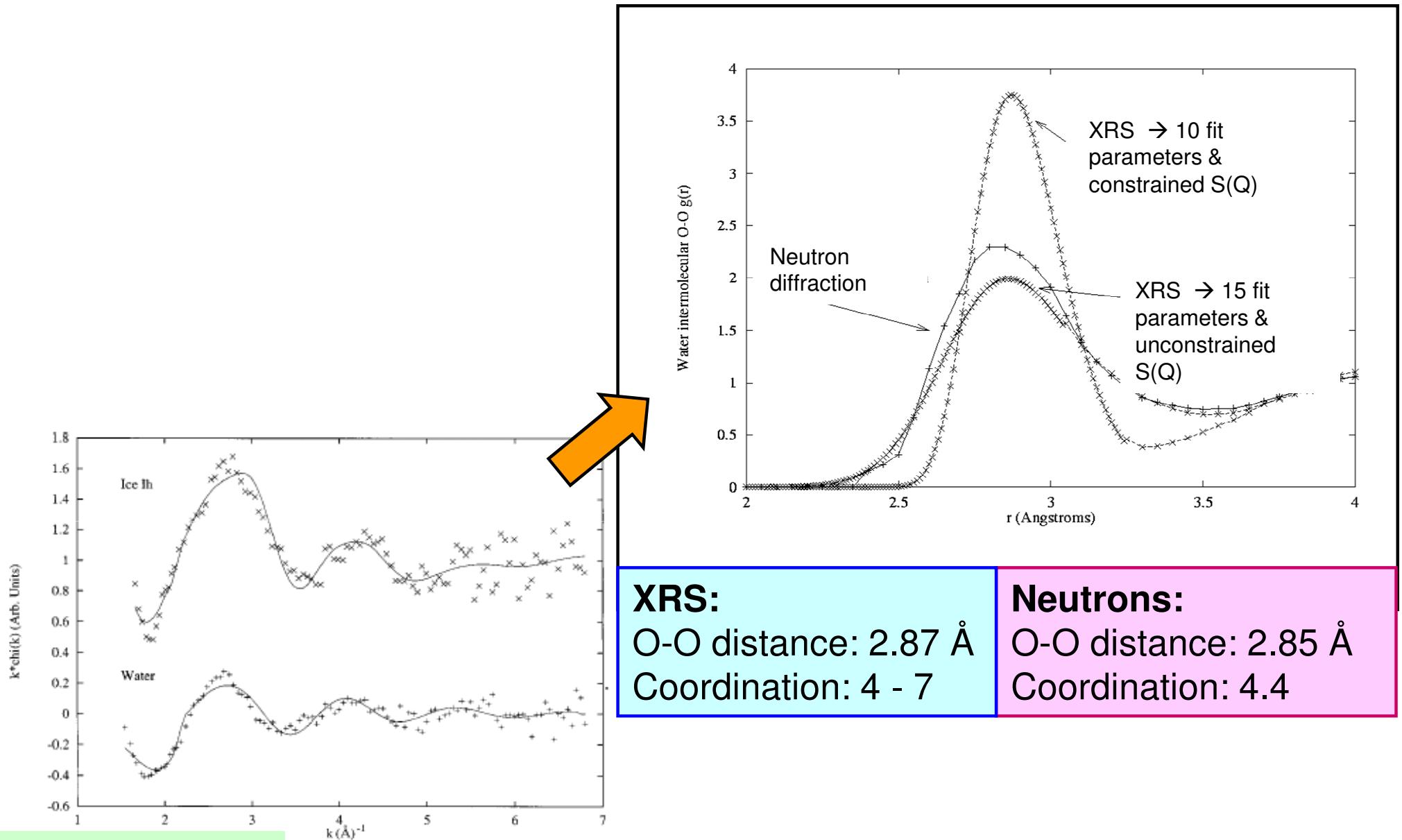
# Experimental highlights (XRS)

*XRS from O K-edge in water and ice (EXAFS)*



# Experimental highlights (XRS)

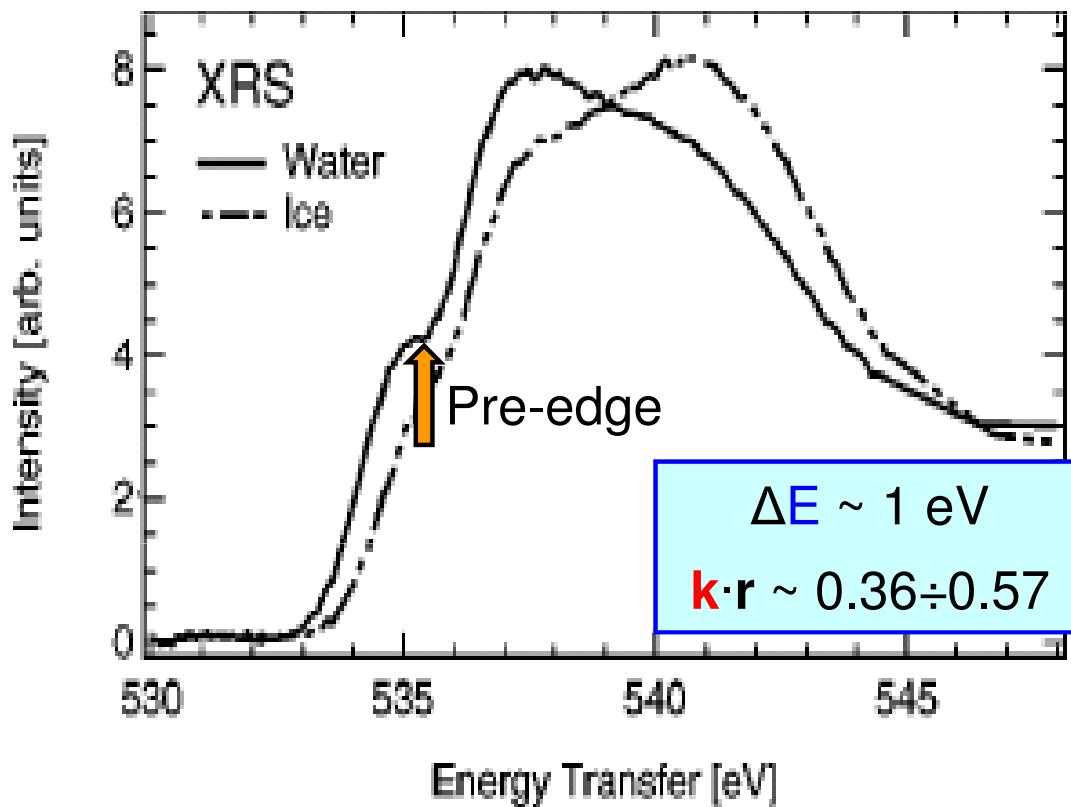
*XRS from O K-edge in water and ice (EXAFS)*



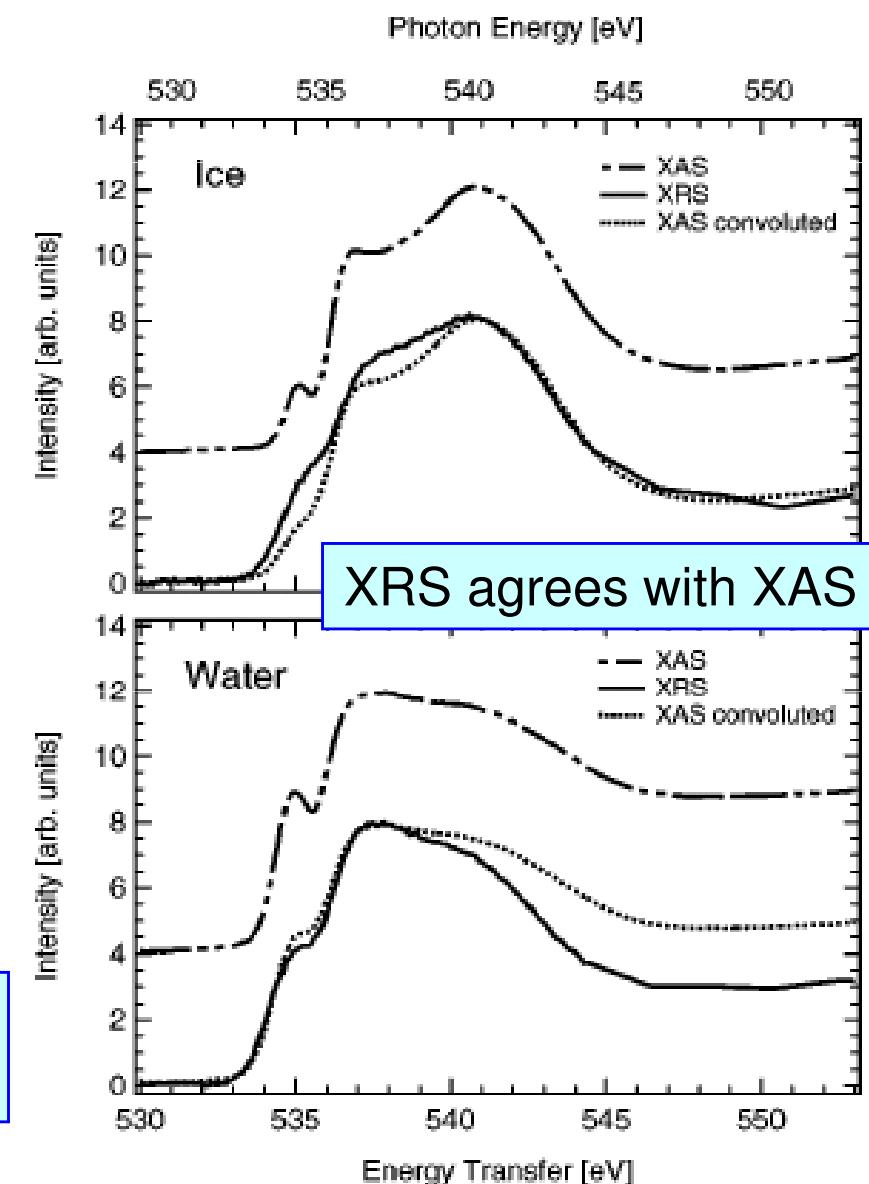
# Experimental highlights (XRS)

## XRS from O K-edge in water and ice (XANES)

XANES sensitive to the number and “type” of hydrogen bonds (HB)

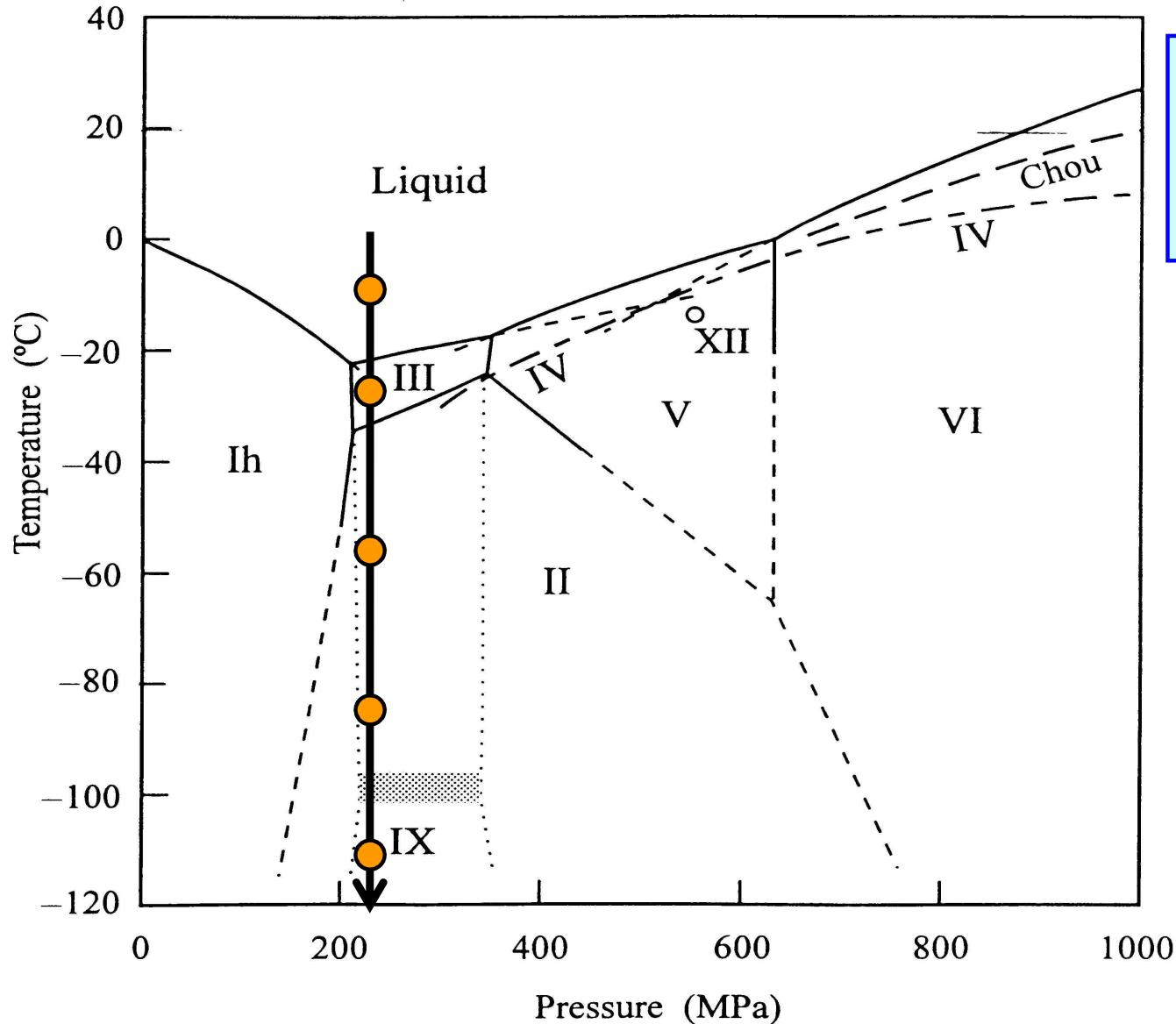


- Pre-edge indicates a large number (~ 70%) of distorted or broken HB (supported by calculation)



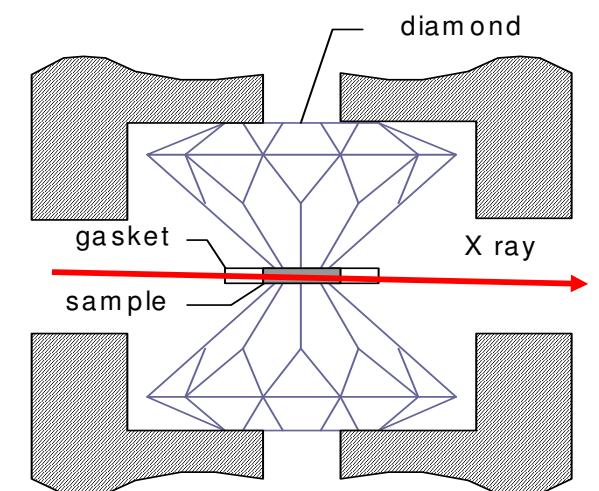
# Experimental highlights (XRS)

*XRS from O K-edge in ice under high pressure*



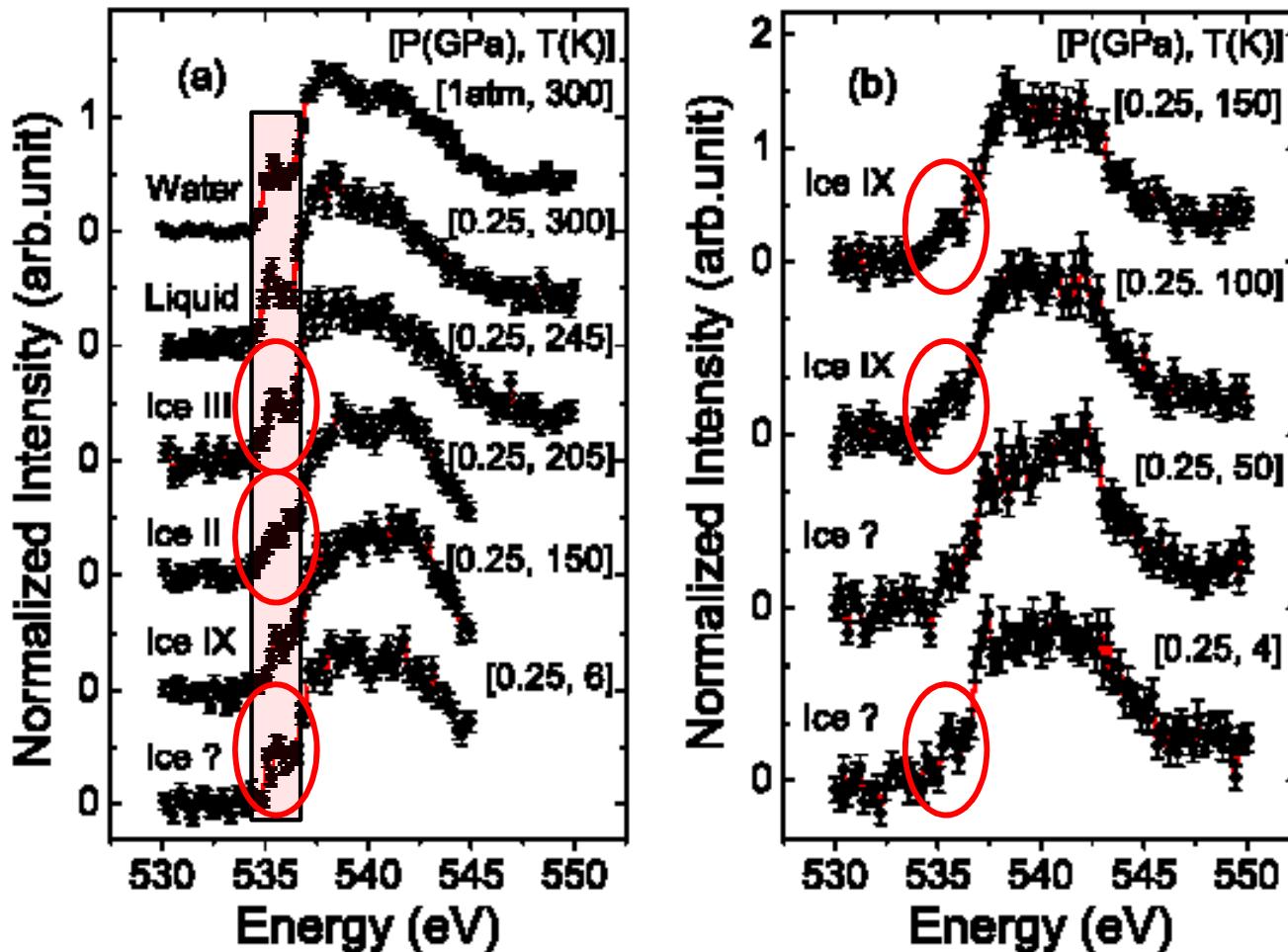
$E_{\text{out}} = 9885 \text{ eV}$   
( $\Delta E \sim 0.2 \div 0.3 \text{ eV}$ )  
 $|\mathbf{k}| \sim 3 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$  ( $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} \sim 0.2$ )

DAC sample environment:  
hard x-ray needed



# Experimental highlights (XRS)

*XRS from O K-edge in ice under high pressure*



- Slight increase of pre-edge with P (larger HB distortion)
- Increasing order of HB from liquid → Ice III (tetrahedral) → Ice II / IX
- New pre-edge increase @ low-T: new Ice phase?

## Observation of spectral changes:

Need of much better statistics and theory to extract quantitative information

# XRS in summary

## Soft x-ray spectroscopy in the hard x-ray regime

### Advantages

- “simpler” sample environment (high pressure/temperature, etc...)
- bulk sensitive
- indicated for studying (bulk) Oxygen and Carbon

### Drawbacks

- “weak probe” (practically limited to  $Z < 14$ )
- limited quality for structural analysis (EXAFS), reasonable quality in the XANES region

Exploit information in the near-edge region

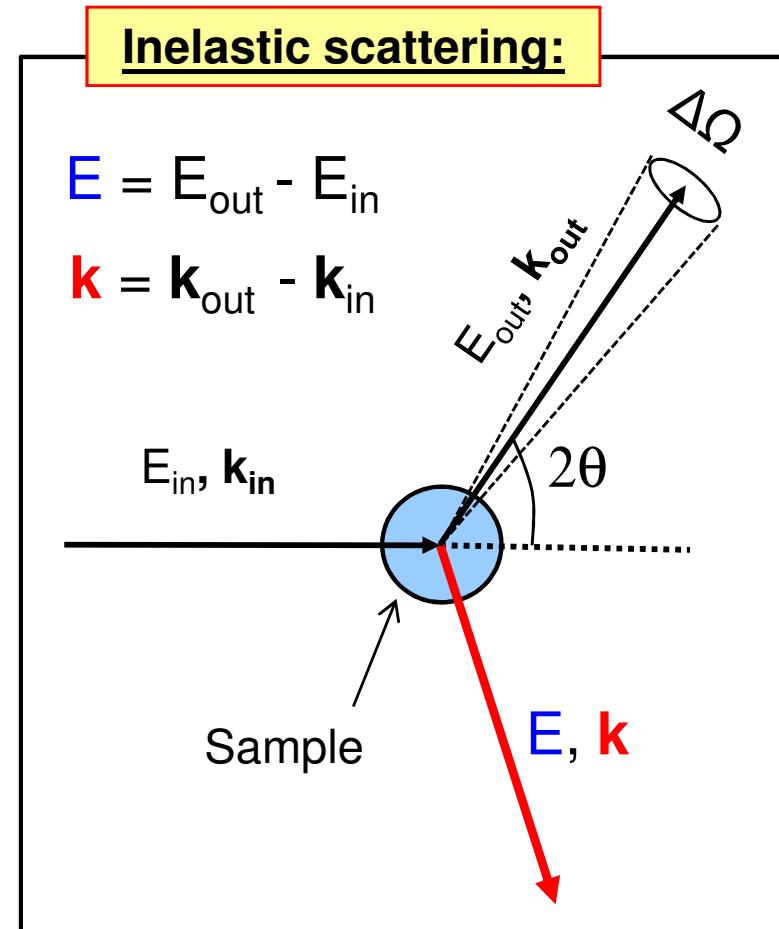
# Basic theoretical aspects (RIXS)

$$H_{\text{int}} = (e/m_e c) \sum_j [(e/2c) \mathbf{A}_j \cdot \mathbf{A}_j + \mathbf{A}_j \cdot \mathbf{p}_j]$$

**A**: vector potential of electromagnetic field

**P**: momentum operator of the electrons

**j**: summation over all electrons of the system



**A·A** → non-resonant scattering (IXS - XRS)

**A·p** → resonant scattering, absorption followed by emission

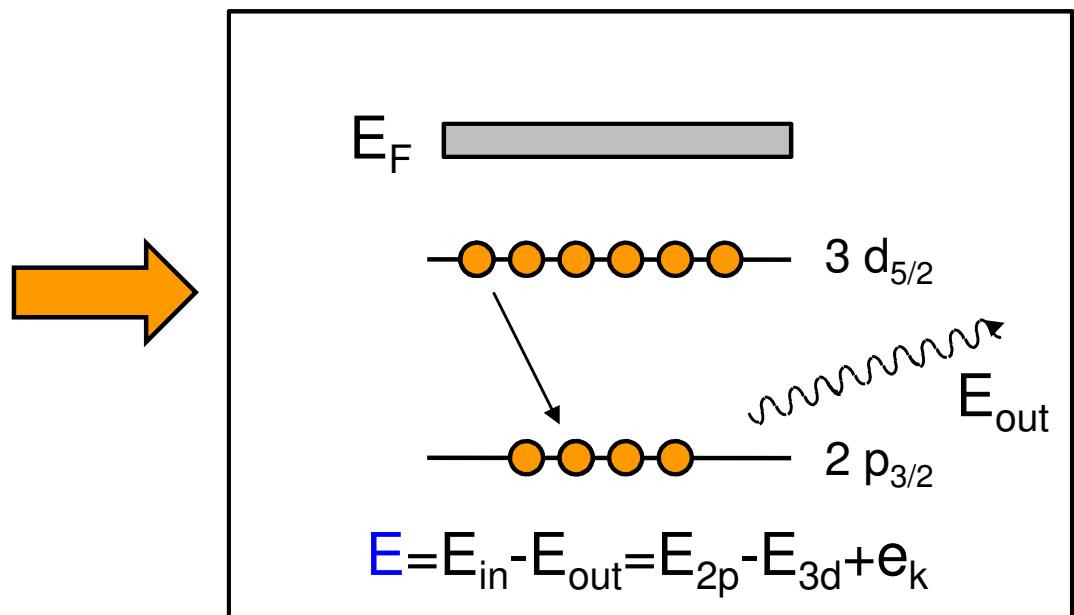
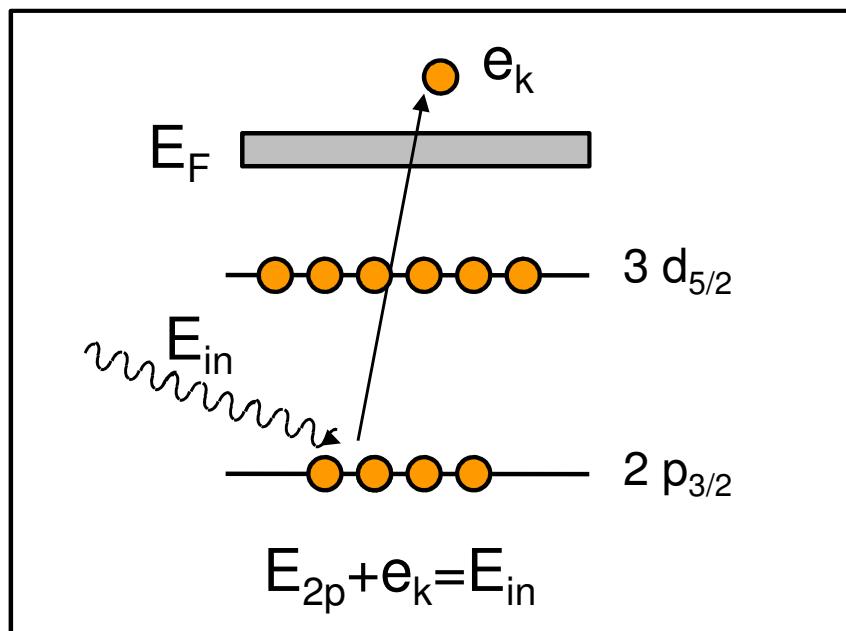
# Basic theoretical aspects (RIXS)

**Absorption** → Resonant IXS cross section: **Emission**

$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial \Omega \partial E} \sim \sum_F \left| \sum_n \frac{\underbrace{\langle I | C_k | N \rangle}_{E_N - E_I - E_{in}} \underbrace{\langle N | C_k^+ | F \rangle}_{-i\Gamma_N}}{E_N - E_I - E_{in} - i\Gamma_N} \right|^2 \delta(E - E_F + E_I)$$

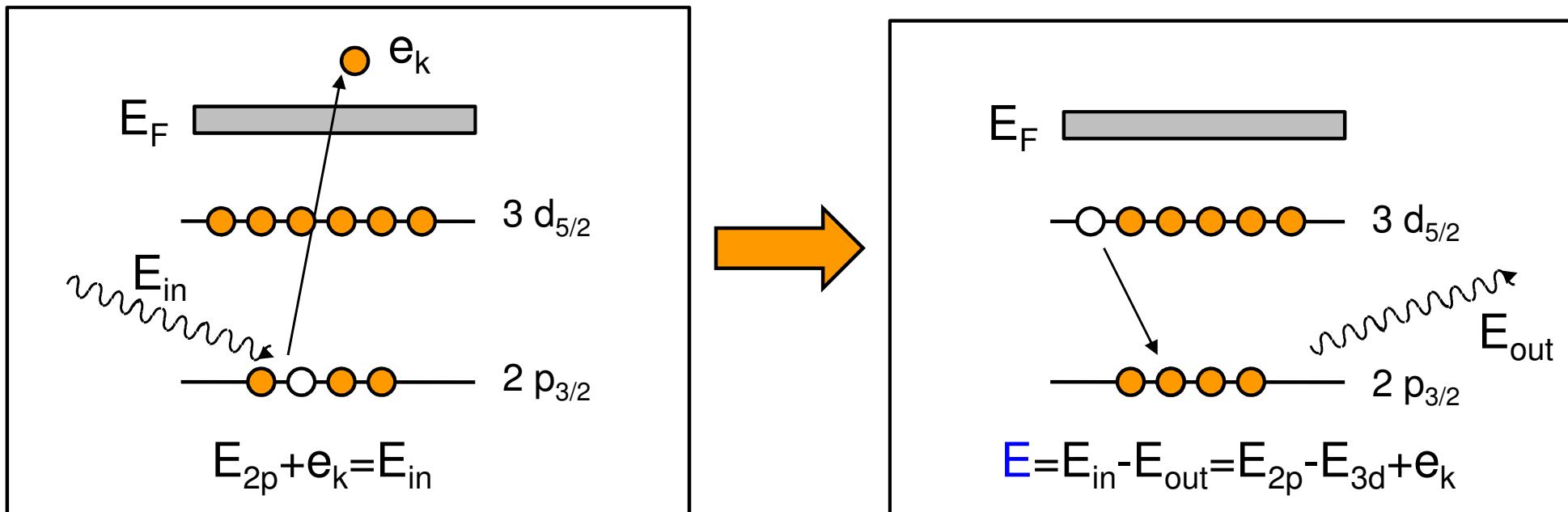
$$C_k = \sum_j (\epsilon \cdot p_j) \exp\{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_j\}$$

**Resonant denominator**



# Basic theoretical aspects (RIXS)

Final states for XAS are intermediate for RIXS (resolution  $\sim \Gamma_N$ )



**Motivation:** Final state core-hole lifetime < energy separation of the multiplet families

RIXS allows the separation of different excitation channels, which are obscured in XAS

**Motivation:** Keeping  $E$  fixed and tuning  $E_{in}$  through edge (CFS)

Resonant enhancement of intermediate states