Vibrational Spectroscopy with Neutrons: Direct Geometry Instruments

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CV

- **1974 1978 BSc (Hons) University of Surrey**
- **1978 1983** MA & PhD University of California at Santa Barbara (MI-IR)
- **1983 1985 Postdoc at the University of East Anglia (FT-RAIRS)**
- **1985 1993** Analytical Division of BP Research (IR catalysts & polymers)
- **1993 2014** ISIS Facility (TFXA, then TOSCA instrument scientist)
- 2014 Present ISIS Catalysis Scientist
- Research:Catalysis/catalystsInorganic materialsPolyethylene/Advanced composites





Why catalysis?



= £36 bn = 800,000 jobs



Inelastic neutron scattering







Why use neutrons?

Vibrational spectrum

Complementary to infrared and Raman.

No selection rules:- interaction is with nucleus *not* electrons.

Intensities straightforward to calculate:- $S(Q, n\omega_i) \propto \frac{(QU_i)^{2n}}{n!} \exp(-(QU_{Tot})^2)\sigma$ N!





C₇₀ Physics - Astronomy Chemistry - Polymers Materials science - Solar cells Biology – Physiological effects

Why new INS?

All previous assignments at least partially wrong!

K. Refson and S.F. Parker, *ChemistryOpen* 4 (2015) 620-625





Official Publication of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy



Getting access to neutrons

Free at the point of use

Two proposal rounds per annum (spring and autumn) Industry, academia is eligible to apply for beamtime For experiments where the PI is from the facility's host country, travel, subsistence and contribution towards cost of preparation of samples are usually covered **Condition of acceptance is that data is public domain** (generally, three year embargo) and publication is expected **ISIS/SNS run an Xpress system (nominally) available on** all instruments



Neutron scattering facilities



Reactors and spallation sources









Vibrational Spectroscopy Instruments at ISIS



Scattering in





Neutron scattering:- elastic

$$E = \frac{mv_n^2}{2} = \frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{d}{T}\right)^2$$

Since the mass of the neutron (m) is known, as are the neutron flight distances (d), for an elastic scattering (diffraction) process the total time-of-flight (T) enables the neutron velocity (v_n) to be determined and hence its energy, wavelength, wavevector *etc*...



Neutron scattering:- inelastic



Thus it is necessary to know the distance from the source to the sample, L_i , the sample to detector distance, $L_{\rm f}$, and *either* the incident, $E_{\rm i}$, or final, $E_{\rm f}$, energy as well as the total time-of-flight. Instruments that fix the incident energy are known as direct geometry instruments and those that fix the final energy are known as indirect geometry instruments. Note that this means that most of the flux is not used!



Direct and indirect geometry



(Q,w) trajectory for a low final energy instrument





Intensity

Why do chemists need chopper spectroscopy?



But: Few instruments

Insensitive (but improving)

Spectra similar to IR and Raman Easy to use **Good-to-excellent**

No useful information in C-H/O-H stretch region $E_{\rm T} \sim 16Q^2$ At 3000 cm⁻¹, $Q \sim 13.5$ Å⁻¹ energy resolution $S(Q, n\omega_i) \propto \frac{(QU_i)^{2n}}{n!} \exp(-(QU_{Tot})^2)\sigma$







- Direct geometry chopper spectrometer
- Angular coverage: low angle 3° - 20° high angle 20° - 60°
- Energy resolution: 1.5% incident energy

A chopper spectrometer on a pulsed source

The source operates at 50Hz.

The neutron beam is under-moderated to preserve a high flux of epithermal neutrons and a short pulse width.



Neutron scattering:- inelastic



Scattering triangles for a direct geometry instrument. (a) Detectors at different angles give different Q at constant energy transfer and (b) an individual detector measures energy transfer at constant Q.



Neutron scattering:- inelastic $Q^{2} = k_{i}^{2} + k_{f}^{2} - 2k_{i}k_{f}\cos\theta$ $\frac{\hbar^{2}Q^{2}}{2m} = E_{i} + E_{f} - 2\left\{E_{i}E_{f}\right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}\cos\theta$ $\frac{\hbar^{2}Q^{2}}{2m} = 2E_{i} - \hbar\omega - 2\left\{E_{i}(E_{i} - \hbar\omega)\right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}\cos\theta$

Thus a detector positioned at a scattering angle θ will perform a scan in time whose locus is a parabola in (Q, ω) space. This gives rise to a characteristic "bishop's mitre" type of plot. As the incident energy increases, the Q-range also increases.



 (Q, ω) trajectories for MARI and TOSCA



Direct geometry - resolution $\frac{\Delta E}{E_i} = \left[\left(\frac{\Delta E_M}{E_i} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta E_{ch}}{E_i} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ t_{ch} is the neutrons' time of $\frac{\Delta E_M}{E_i} = 2 \left(\frac{\Delta t_M}{t_{ch}} \right) \left| 1 + \frac{L_2}{L_3} \left(1 - \frac{E_T}{E_i} \right)^{3/2} \right|$ the chopper. Fermi chopper. $\frac{\Delta E_{ch}}{E_i} = 2 \left(\frac{\Delta t_{ch}}{t_{ch}} \right) \left| 1 + \frac{L_1 + L_2}{L_3} \left(1 - \frac{E_T}{E_i} \right)^{3/2} \right|$ constant for all detectors.

Note that for a chopper instrument the resolution is usually given as a fraction of the *incident energy* whereas for the crystal analysers it is as a fraction of *energy* transfer.



flight from the moderator to

 Δt_{ch} is the opening time of the

Generally, all the detectors are at the same distance from the sample, so the resolution is

Flux and resolution: 1



The resolution is determined by: Pulse width Fermi chopper Sample-to-detector distance





INS spectra (MERLIN (blue) and MAPS (red) spectrometers) of clean, activated (a) Spectral region 4000–2800 cm⁻¹, 4000 recorded with an incident energy of 5244 cm1; (b) spectral region $1800-0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, recorded with incident energies of



Flux and resolution: 2



Flux and resolution: 3



Why do chemists need chopper spectroscopy?



Propyne: on MAPS



Propyne on TOSCA and MAPS







The more general form of $S(Q, n\omega)$ is:

$$S(Q, n\omega_i) \propto \frac{(QU_i)^{2n}}{n!} \exp\left(-(QU_{Tot})^2\right)\sigma$$

By differentiation, the maximum in $S(Q, n\omega)$, occurs when:

$$n = Q^2 U_{Tot}^2$$

thus providing a method to distinguish fundamentals (n = 1) from higher order $(n \ge 2)$ transitions such as overtones and combinations.







Hydrous palladium oxide, PdO.H₂O or Pd(OH)₂? From empirical formula to mechanism: a case study in neutron capabilities

S.F. Parker, K. Refson, A.C. Hannon, E. Barney, S.J. Robertson and P. Albers, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 114 (2010) 14164. S.F. Parker, *Chem. Comm.*, 47 (2011) 1998-1990





Bulk structural characterisation by powder diffraction. Neutron cross-section: Pd = 4.39 barn, O = 4.23 X-ray cross-section: Proportional to atomic number: Pd = 46, O = 8











Analysis of neutron data shows that the hydrous PdO is poorly crystalline and that most of the disorder is due to the oxygen.



Surface characterisation by vibrational spectroscopy





Model hydrous PdO as a slab capped by hydroxyls with hydrogen-bonded water.



INS





INS spectra of PdO·0.31H₂O: (a) 5243 and (b) 2017 cm⁻¹ incident energy at room temperature (c) 5243 and (d) 2017 cm⁻¹ incident energy and at 5 K recorded on MARI. (e) TOSCA at 20 K.





Operando INS study at 300 K: PdO.H₂O + CO \rightarrow Pd(0) + CO₂ + H₂O



Sometimes you get lucky...



How does it work?





Summary

- Vibrational spectroscopy with neutrons provides a unique view of materials.
- Access to the complete "mid-infrared" $0 4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is a major advantage.
- Indirect and direct geometry instruments are highly complementary: both are essential.
- Direct geometry instruments allow the high energy X–H (X = B, C, N, O, Si...) stretch modes to be observed.
- They can also mitigate the effect of the Debye-Waller factor allowing room temperature (and above) measurements, as well as kinetics.



Thank you

