

*The use of Building Blocks  
in  
Structure Determination  
from  
Powder Diffraction*

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FOX, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **35** (2002), 734-743

<http://objcryst.sourceforge.net>



UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

<sup>b</sup>

cea  
DSM Grenoble



DRFMC

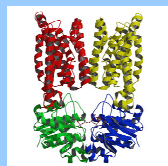
DÉPARTEMENT DE RECHERCHE FONDAMENTALE SUR LA MATIÈRE CONDENSÉE



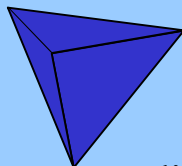
# Building Blocks

Well defined sub-units  
of the crystal

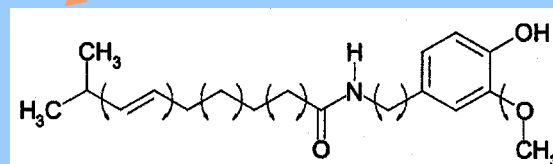
isolated atoms



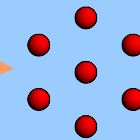
chains of amino-acids



coordination polyhedra



molecules, fragments



## Advantages:

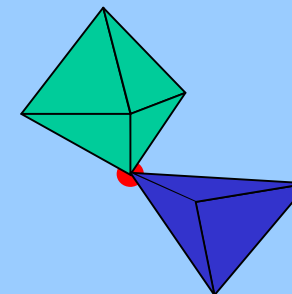
- Lower number of free parameters :  
( $3 \times 5 = 15$  against  $3 + 3 = 6$ ) for a tetrahedron
- Direct crystal-chemistry interpretation  
allowing *a priori* definition of blocks

## Benefits:

- Meaningless structural configurations cannot occur
- Range of convergence of the correct model is larger
- Hydrogen atoms can be included
- Active use of the chemical information and intuition

## Problems:

- Description of blocks
- Connectivity between  
the blocks



- Structural solution is biased

## Refinement:

- Common tool in single crystal diffraction

C. Scheringer, *Acta Cryst.* **16** (1963) 546-550

- Distance and orientation constraints and restraints

D. Watkin, *Acta Cryst.* **A50** (1994) 411-437

- TLS thermal vibration model (Translational and Librational harmonic motion + Screw tensor)

- Becoming un-avoidable in powder diffraction

R. Dinnebier, *Powder Diffraction* **14** (1999) 84-92

- Distance least-squares refinement

Ch. Baerlocher, XRS-82. *The X-ray Rietveld system*, 1982, ETHZ Zürich

- *Ab-initio* least-squares refinement

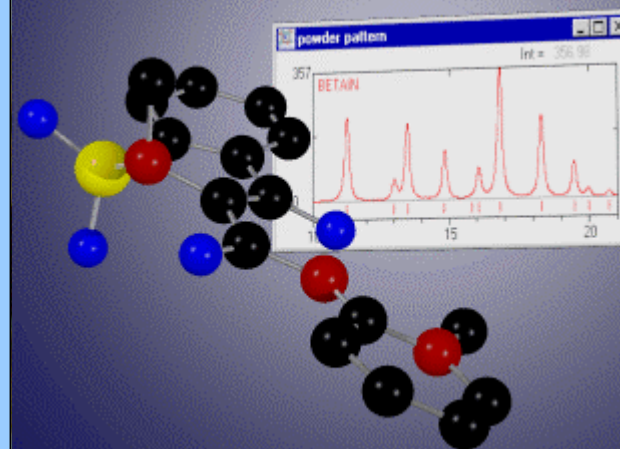
R. Bianchi *et al.*, *Acta Cryst.* **A37** (1981) 65-71 ... RISCO

N. Masciocchi *et al.*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **27** (1994) 426-429 ... P-RISCO

- Modeling against small-angle scattering data

D.I. Svergun, *Acta Cryst.* **A50** (1994) 391-402

## (Semi-) Rigid Bodies



W. Kraus, G. Nolze, *PowderCell*



# (Semi-) Rigid Bodies

## Analysis of Patterson maps:

- Locating vector sets of known fragments.

C.E. Nordman, K. Nakatsu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **85** (1963) 353-354 ... DIRDIF (ORIENT)

- Convolution molecule method.

W. Hoppe, *Z. Elektrochem.* **61** (1957) 1076-1083  
R. Huber, *Acta Cryst.* **19** (1965) 353-356

- Rotational and translation search ... PATSEE.

E. Egert, *Acta Cryst.* **A39** (1983) 936-940

## Analysis of E-maps:

- Interpretation of E-maps by locating known fragments

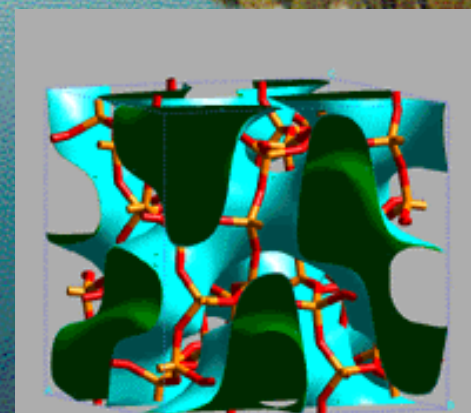
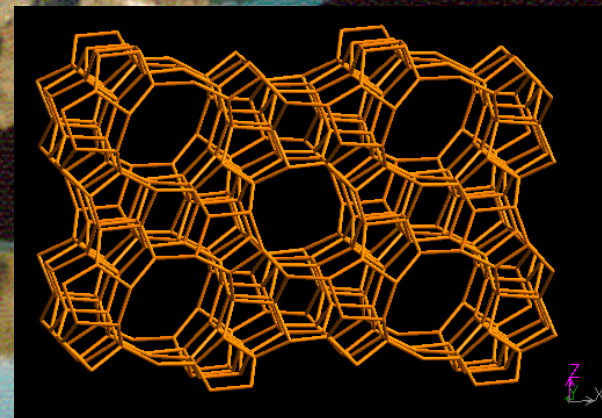
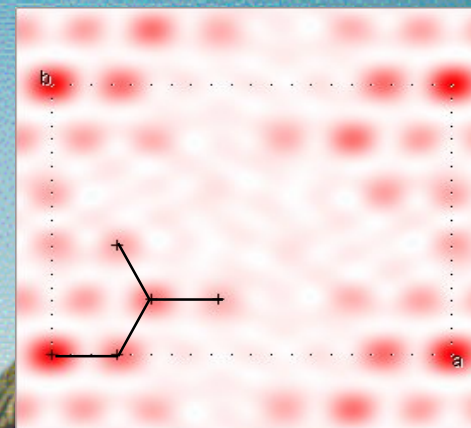
F. Pavelčík *et al.*, *Acta Cryst.* **D58** (2002) 275-283

- Search for fragments of known framework topology, zeolites ... FOCUS.

R.W. Grosse-Kunstleve *et al.*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **30** (1997) 985-995

- Structure envelopes

S. Brenner *et al.*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **30** (1997) 1167-1172





# (Semi-) Rigid Bodies

**Powder patterns decomposition:** A. Altomare *et al.*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **32** (1999) 339-340 ... EXPO

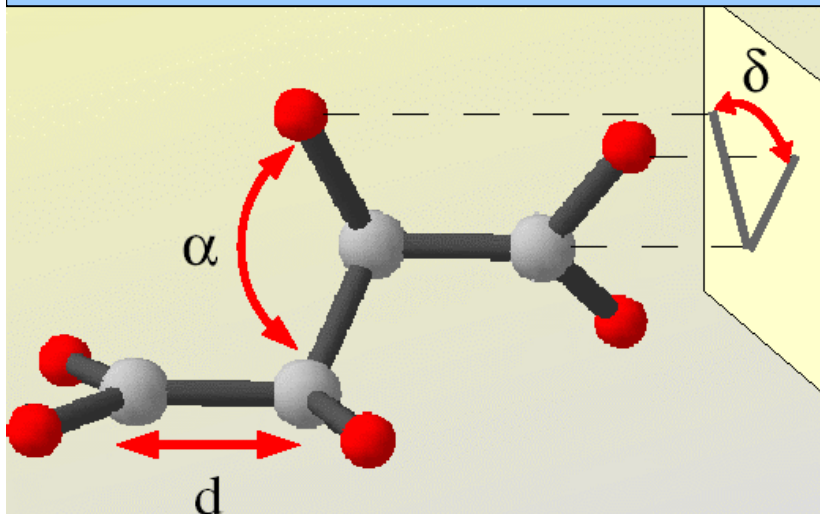
$$\langle |F_{\mathbf{h}}| \mid |F_{p\mathbf{h}}| \rangle = |F_{p\mathbf{h}}|^2 + \sum_j f_j^2(\mathbf{h})$$

## Global optimization of the model in direct space:

- Locating known blocks when minimizing cost function (diffraction and/or other observations). Rapidly developing in powder diffraction for last 15 years.

### Easy for molecular structures:

- Connectivity is known (plane molecular formula)
- Description in terms of internal coordinates (bond distances, bond angles and torsion angles)

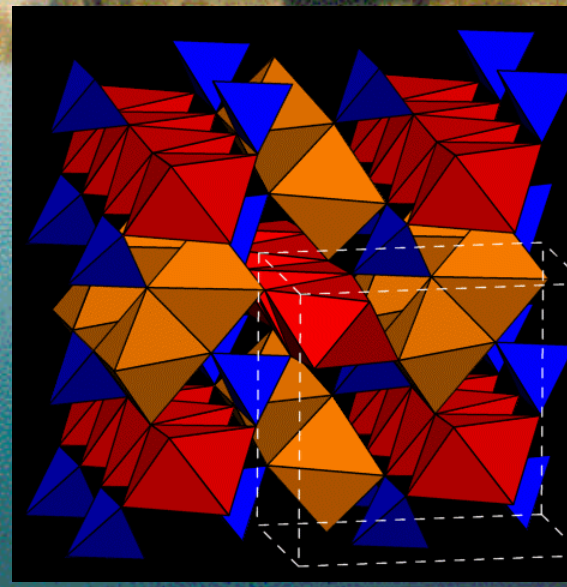


### Difficult for non-molecular structures:

- Coordination of atoms is *a-priori* unknown
- Connectivity of blocks is *a-priori* un-known
- Description in terms of int. coo. still possible

### Using information on connectivity:

- T-T distances and angles in zeolites  
M.W. Deam, J.M. Newsam, *Nature* **342** (1989) 260-262 ... ZEFSA
- Potential energy  
H. Putz *et al.*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* **32** (1999) 864-870 ... ENDEAVOUR



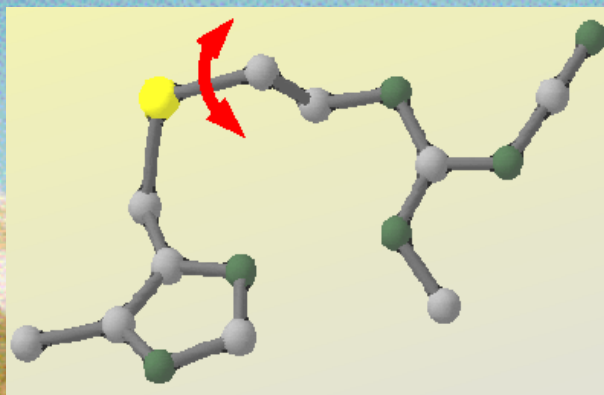
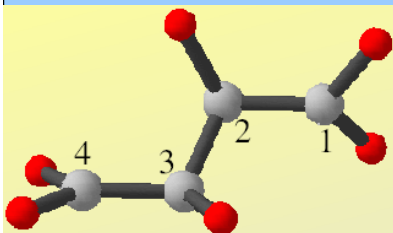


# Building Blocks : Description

Atomic coordinates  
+ constraints

Pitfalls of internal coordinates (Z – matrix)

Internal coordinates  
(Z – matrix)



Atoms are deduced from previous atoms:

- The first atom in the Z-matrix must also be the first to be found
- The convergence can depend on the order of the atoms in the Z-matrix !

Z-Matrix

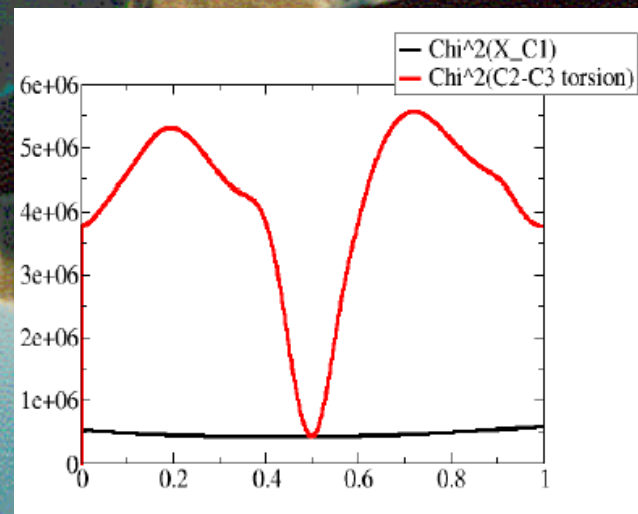
10							number of atoms
C	1						
C	1	1.5					
C	2	1.5	1	110			
C	3	1.5	2	110	1	0	
O	1	1.2	2	120	3	0	free torsion angles
O	1	1.2	2	120	5	180	
O	2	1.4	1	110	3	180	
O	3	1.4	2	110	4	180	
O	4	1.2	3	120	2	0	
O	4	1.2	3	120	9	180	

atom type

bond length  
with atom #

bond angle  
with atom #

dihedral  
angle with  
atom #



A torsion angle has a much narrower minimum than a translational parameter of a free atom

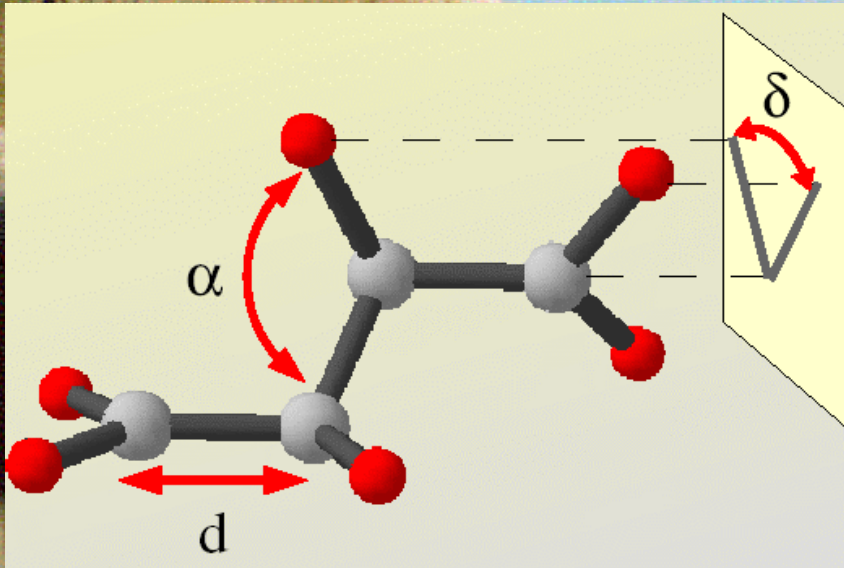
The internal coordinates approach (Z-matrix) reduces the parameter space to explore, but makes it (much) more difficult to find the solution.



# Building Blocks : Description

Flexible approach = isolated atoms + restraints (presented by VFN in Durban)

Idea: keep all the coordination information, but **without its pitfalls**



- this modelization is **independent from the order of the atoms**
- **any type of restraint** can be introduced
- **any type of movement** can be directly done (no need to compute complex torsions)

All atom positions are directly defined by their xyz coordinates  
*and*  
the coordination information is introduced by **restraints** on:

- **bond lengths**  $\chi^2 = \frac{(d - d_0)^2}{\sigma_d^2}$

- **bond angles**  $\chi^2 = \frac{(\alpha - \alpha_0)^2}{\sigma_\alpha^2}$

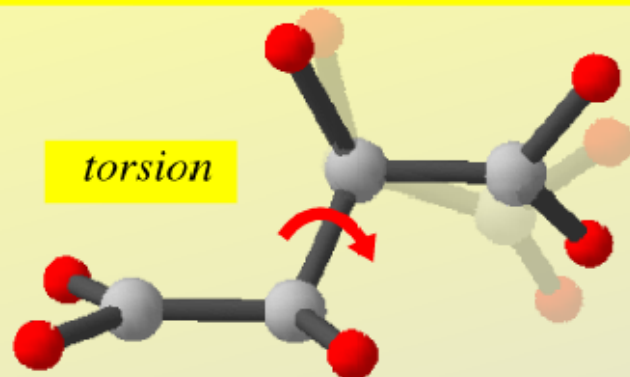
- **dihedral angles**  $\chi^2 = \frac{(\delta - \delta_0)^2}{\sigma_\delta^2}$



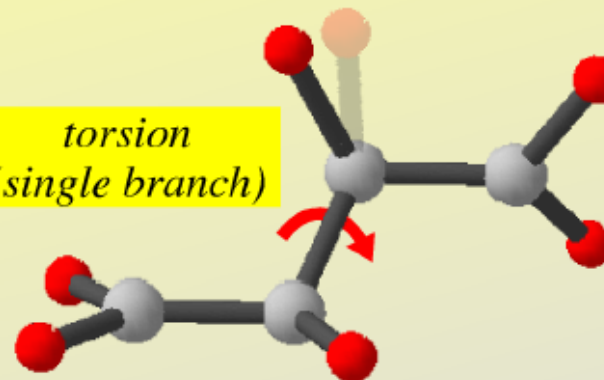
# Building Blocks : Description

Flexible approach - random moves

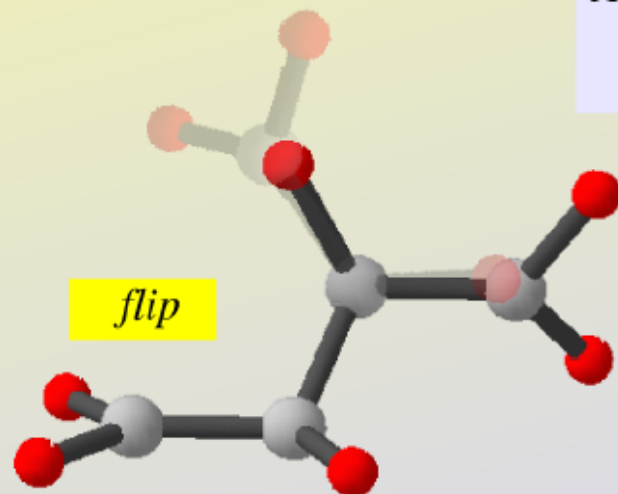
With atoms defined independently, it is vital to have **intelligent moves** that do not break the restraints



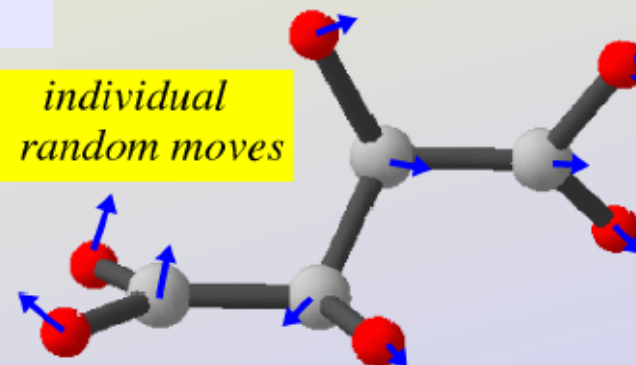
torsion  
(single branch)



All torsion & flip moves that do not break restraints are **automatically identified**



individual  
random moves

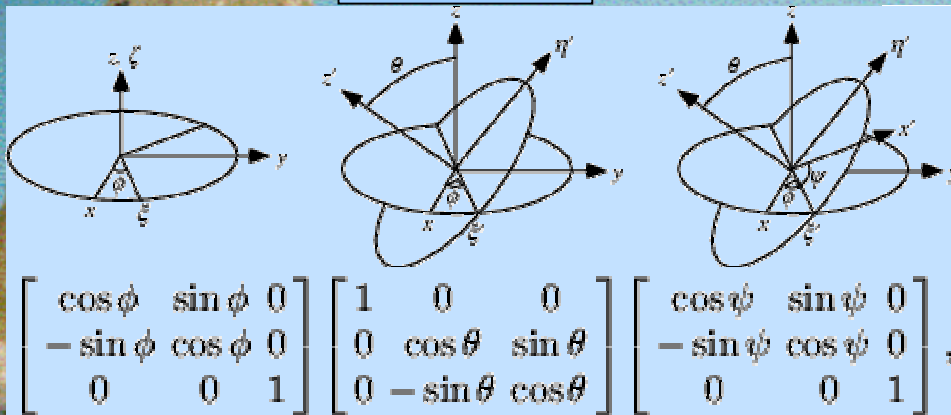


After each random move, a Monte-Carlo test is made on the total internal restraint cost to see if the configuration is kept

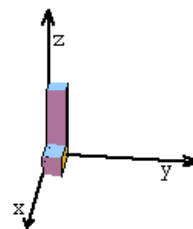


# Building Blocks : Rotations

## Euler angles



Starting position



## Gimble lock :

Coincidence of inner most and outmost gimbles' rotation axes; loss of degree of freedom.

## Rotations around one axis :

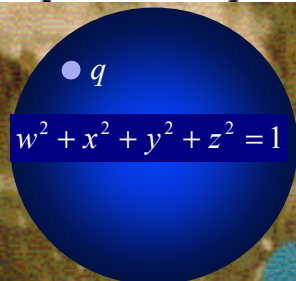
Ambiguity of rotations ( $\pi$ ,  $-\pi$ ).

## Euler parameters - quaternions

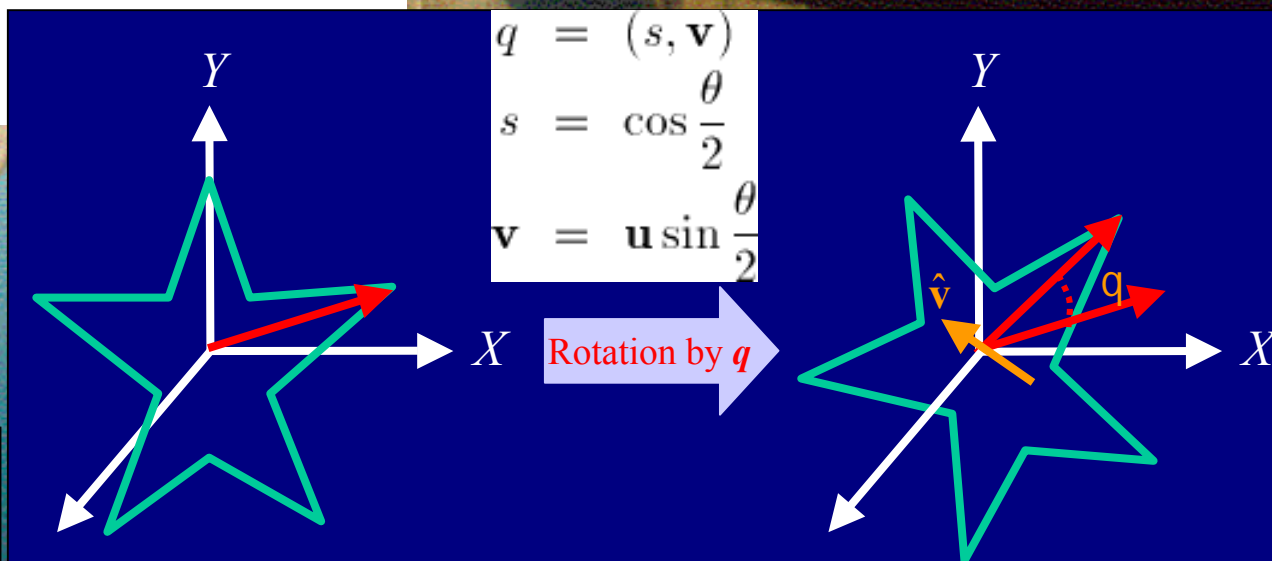
$$\mathbf{q} = w + x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k} = [x \ y \ z \ w] = (s, \mathbf{v})$$

$$s = w$$

$$\mathbf{v} = [x \ y \ z]$$



- One-to-one mapping between quaternions and rotations.
- Homogeneous distribution of quaternions on the 4D sphere.



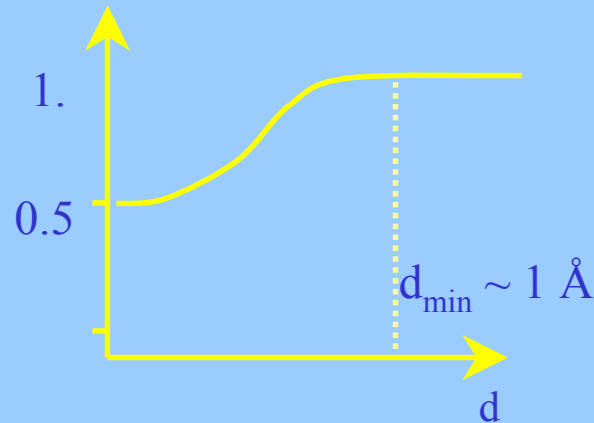
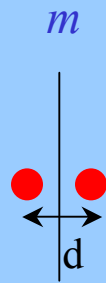


# Connectivity of blocks and Special Positions: Dynamical Occupancy Correction

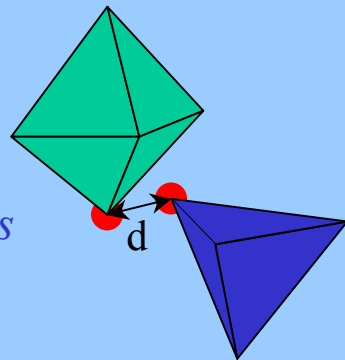
$$\text{Occupancy}^{-1} = 1 + \sum_{\text{neighbours closer than } d_{\min}} (d_{\min} - d_i) / d_{\min}$$

Dynamical occupancy

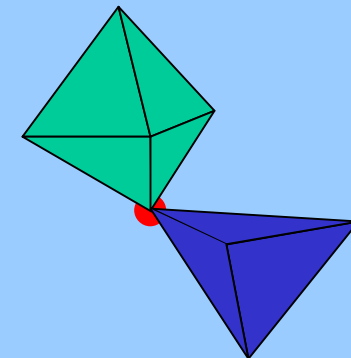
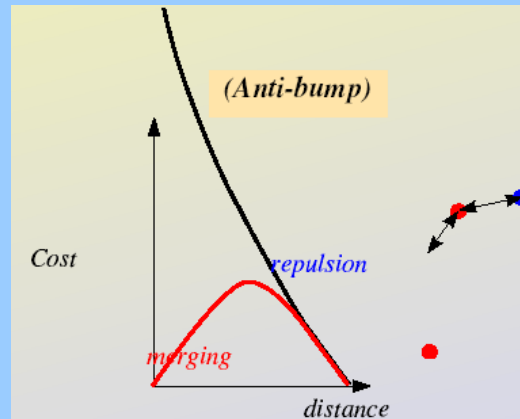
Symmetry



Shared atoms

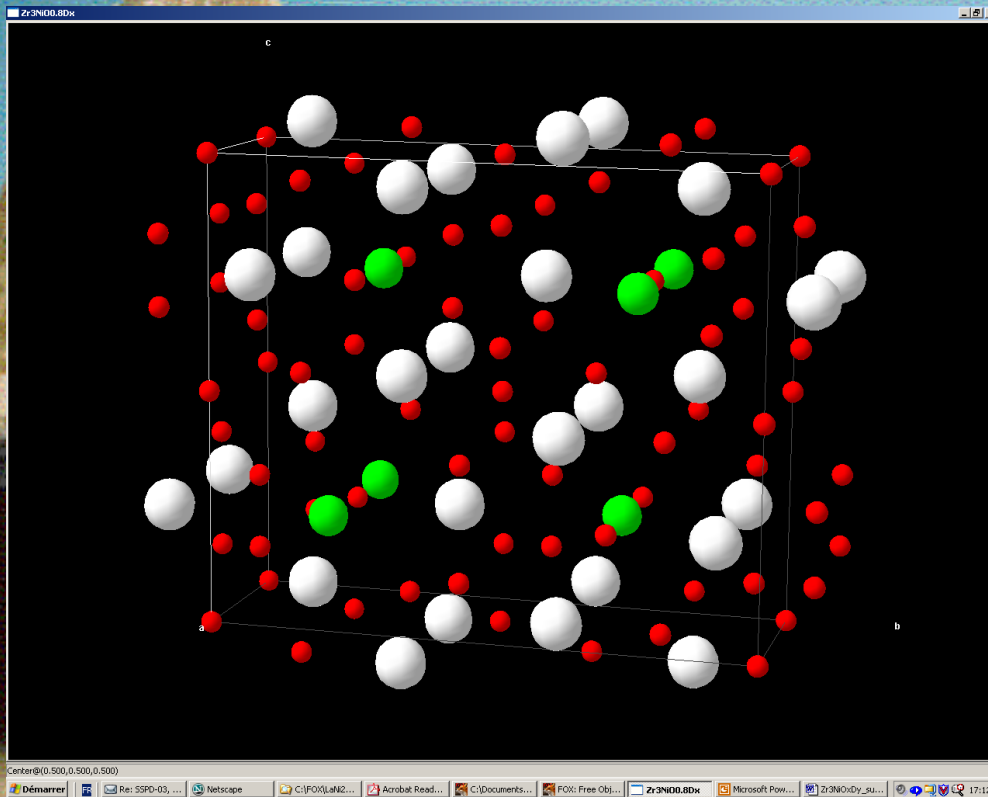


- **Smooth** correction
- **Merging** of identical atoms

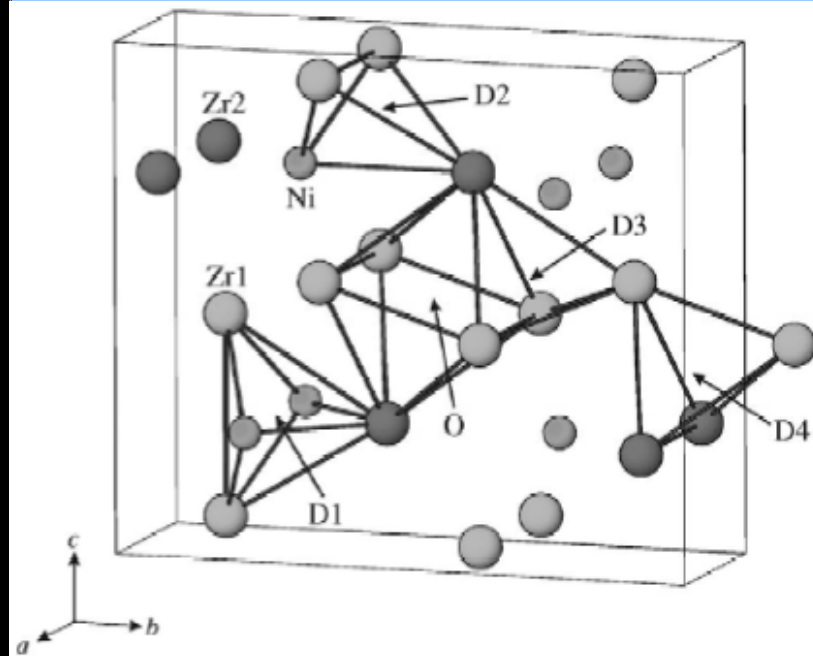




# Merging excess atoms : $Zr_3NiO_xD_y$



Zavaliy I.Yu., Cerny R., I.V. Koval'chuk, I.V. Saldan  
*J. Alloys and Compounds*, in press



## Merging excess hydrogen (deuterium) atoms by Dynamical Occupancy Correction:

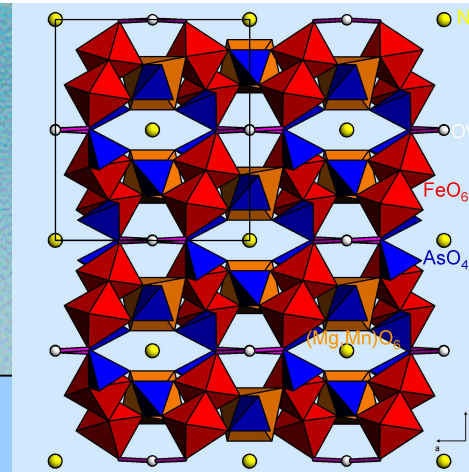
- The amount of absorbed hydrogen is not exactly known.
- The hydrogen atoms are distributed on interstitial sites, which can be predicted, **but**
- Not all sites are occupied (2 Å exclusion rule) **and**
- The sites are often partly occupied

- Introduce more isolated hydrogen atoms **so**
- Merge the excess by **DOC**



# Merging excess polyhedra : $NaFe_2(Mg_x, Mn_{1-x})[AsO_4]_3 \cdot H_2O$

Structure without knowing exact composition



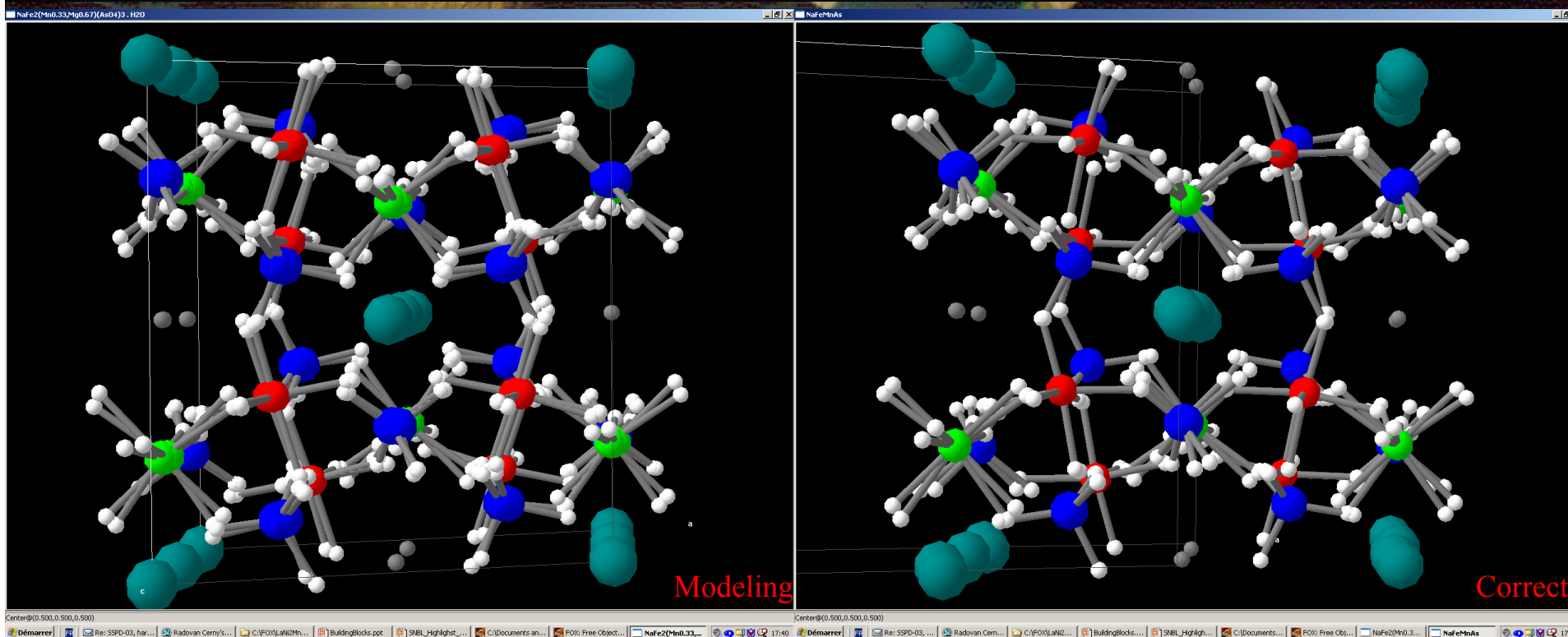
Single crystal data, composition known only qualitatively.

$a = 12.181(1)$ ,  $b = 12.807(1)$ ,  $c = 6.6391(5)$  Å,  $\beta = 112.441(9)^\circ$ ,  $C2/c$

**Modeling:** 3 tetrahedra  $AsO_4$ , 2 octahedra  $FeO_6$ , 1 octahedron  $MnO_6$ , 1 atom Na, 1  $H_2O$

**Correct :** 2 tetrahedra  $AsO_4$ , 1 octahedra  $FeO_6$ , 1 octahedron  $(Mg,Mn)O_6$ , 1 atom Na, 1  $H_2O$

Excess polyhedra merged by DOC. No solution by Direct Methods when composition wrong!

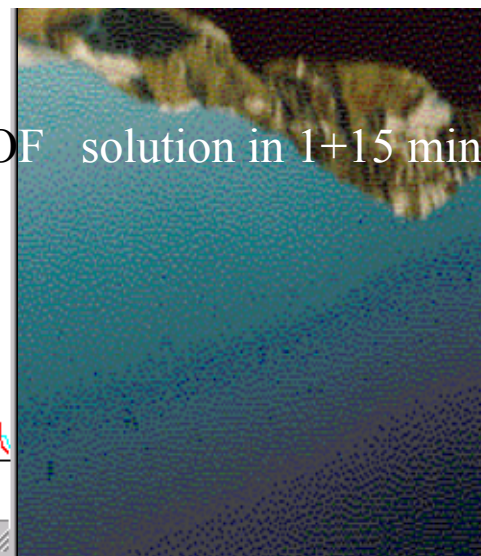
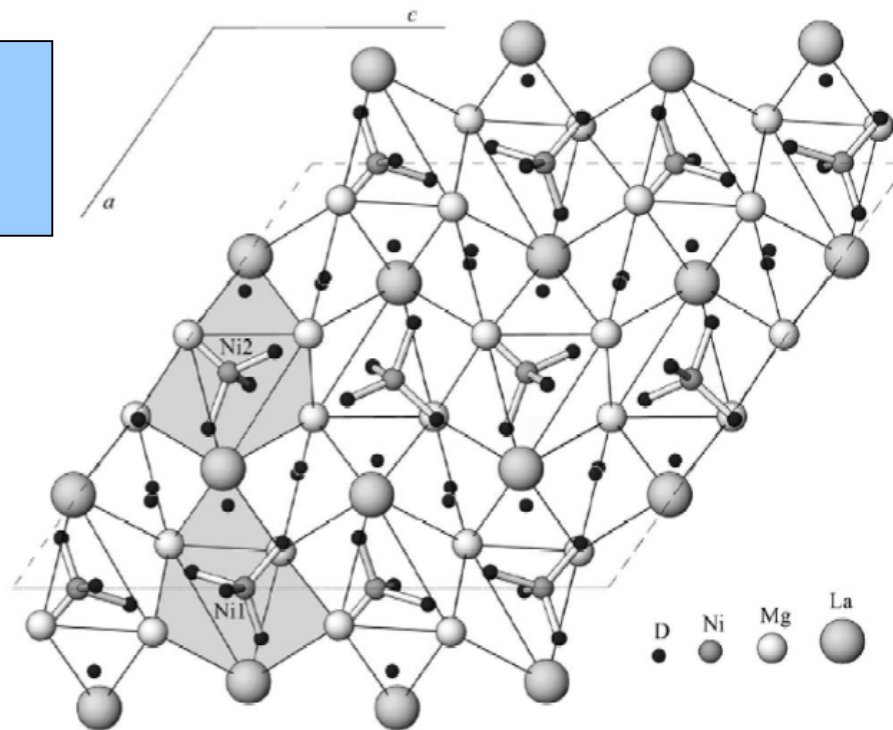
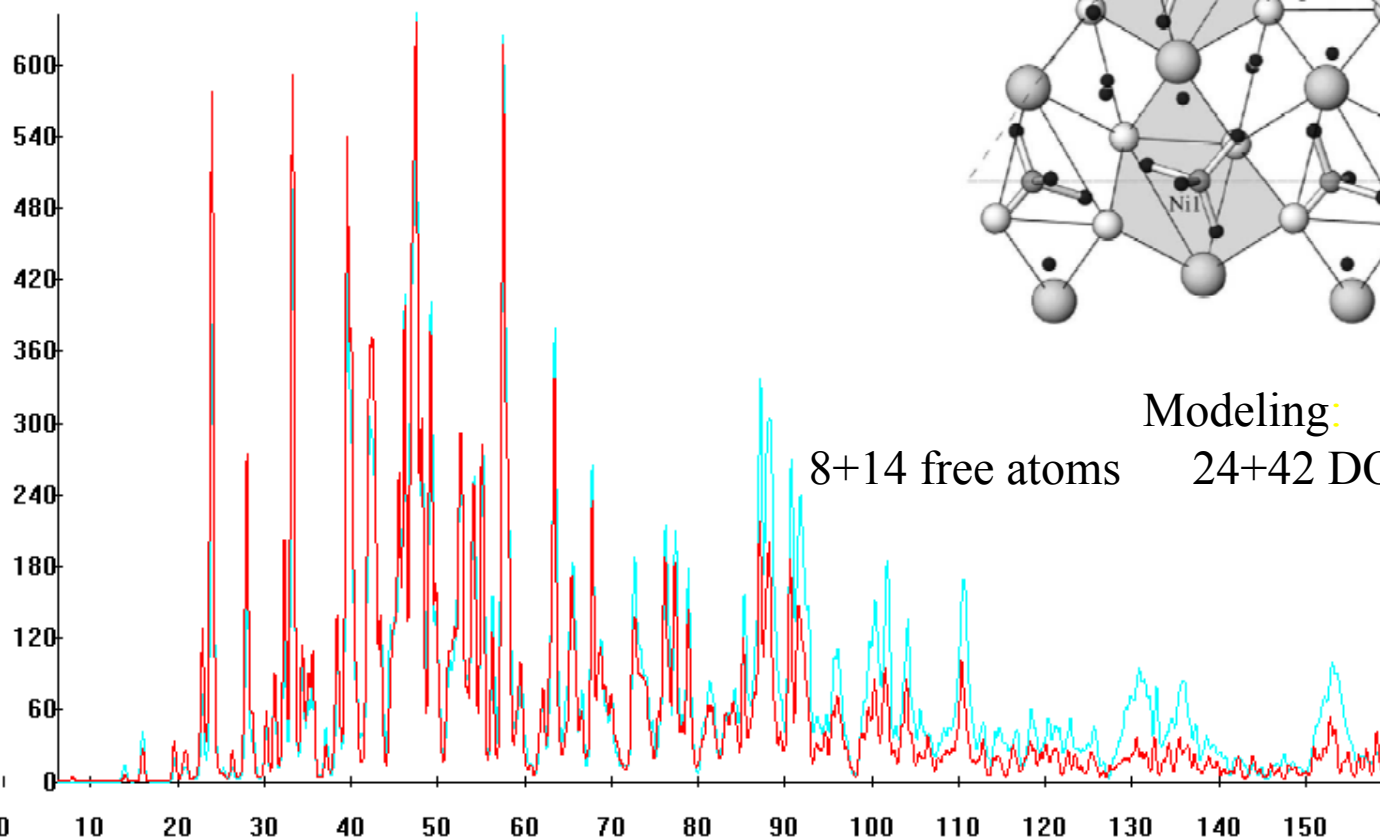


# Isolated atoms : $LaMg_2NiD_7$

$a = 13.9785$   $b = 4.7025$   $c = 16.0244$   $\beta = 125.238$ ,  
 $P2_1/c$ , metal atoms pseudosymmetry  $Cmcm$   
8 metal and 14 deuterium atoms

P21/c

Neutron pattern (ILL-D2B),  $\lambda = 1.594 \text{ \AA}$



2Theta=154.65    I= 212.05    pixel=#2969



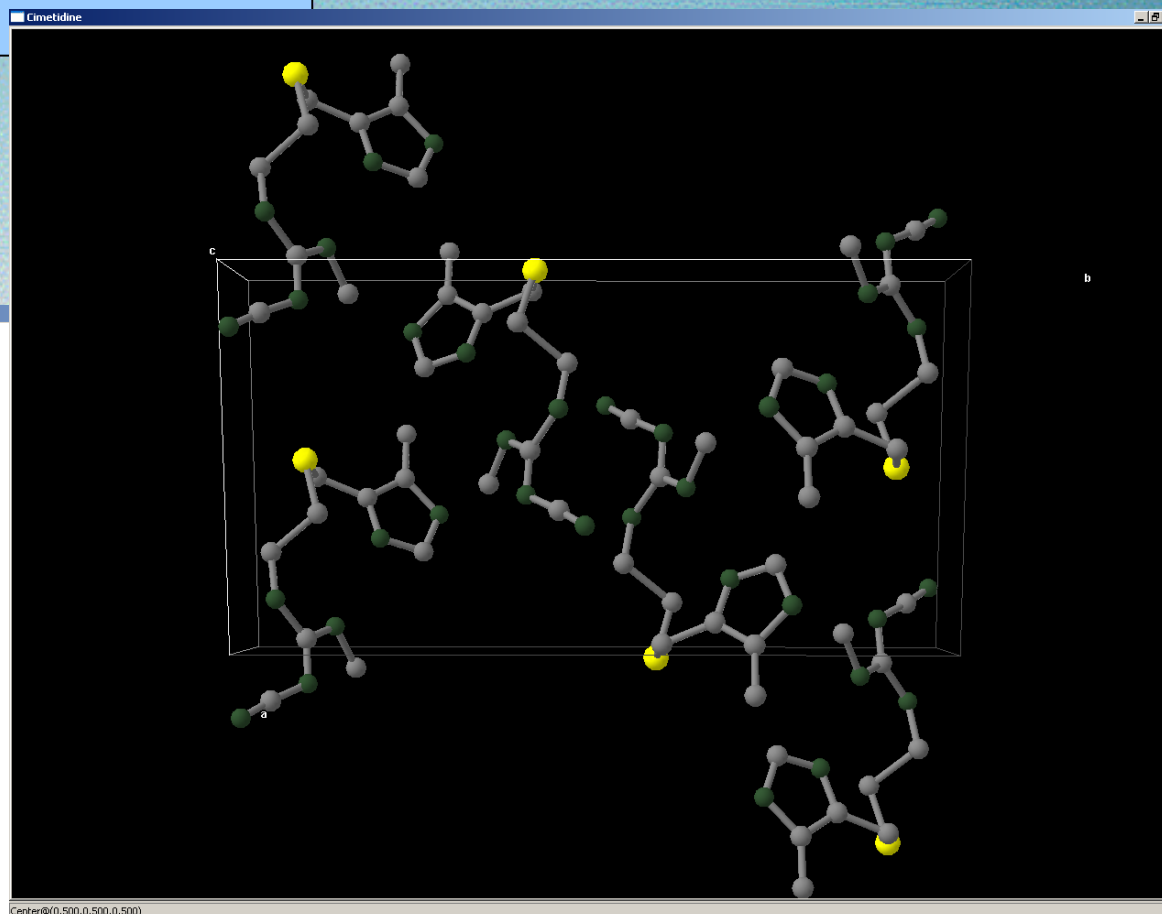
# Molecule : Cimetidine

$a = 10.3941$   $b = 18.8188$   $c = 6.8249$   $\beta = 106.44$

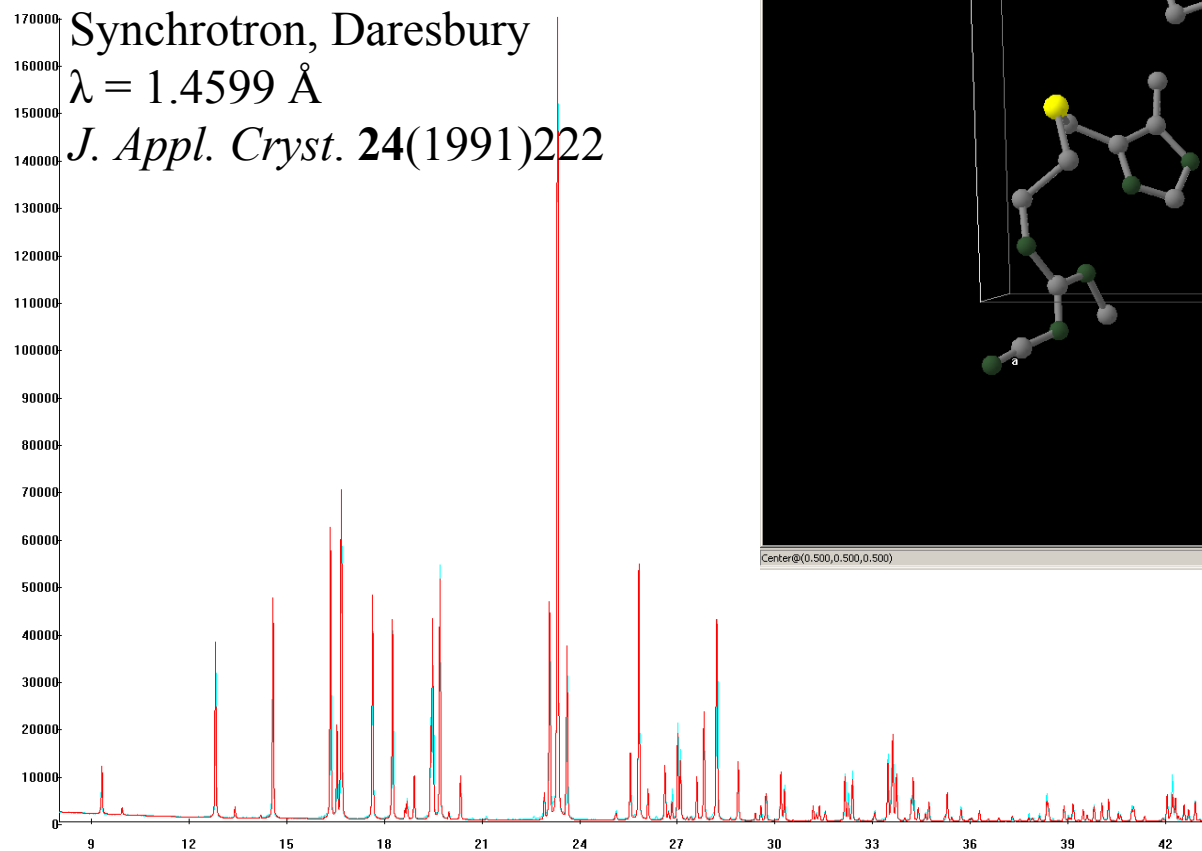
$P2_1/a$  17 non-hydrogen atoms

Modeling:  $C_{10}N_6S$  – Z-matrix

6 + 8 DOF 3.8 M trials



Synchrotron, Daresbury  
 $\lambda = 1.4599 \text{ \AA}$   
*J. Appl. Cryst.* **24**(1991)222

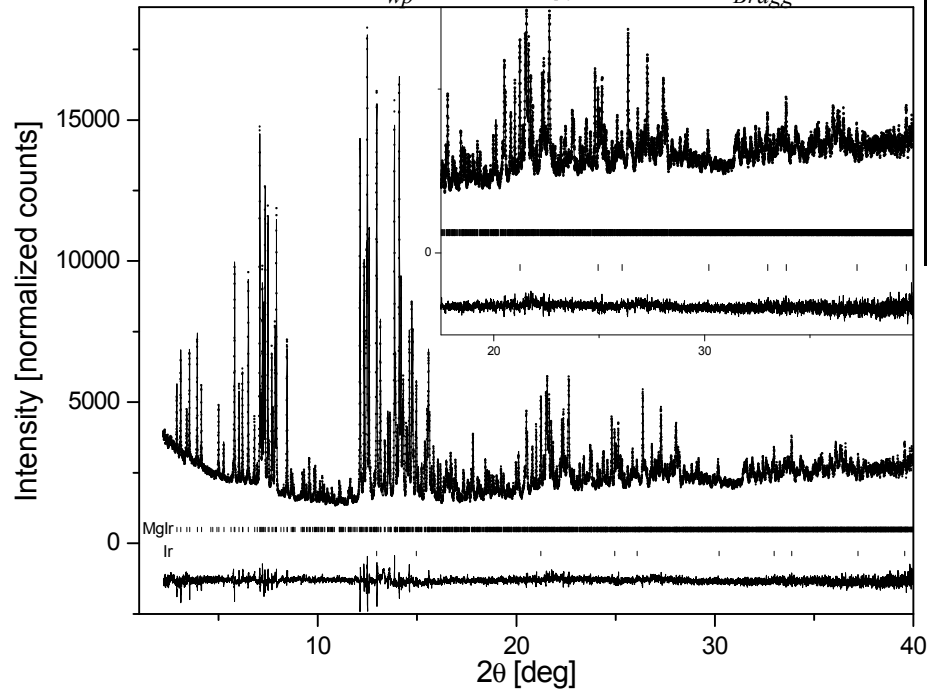


Modeling:  $C_{10}N_6S$  – isolated  
atoms + bonding restraints  
6 + 51 DOF + 40 restraints  
1.85 M trials

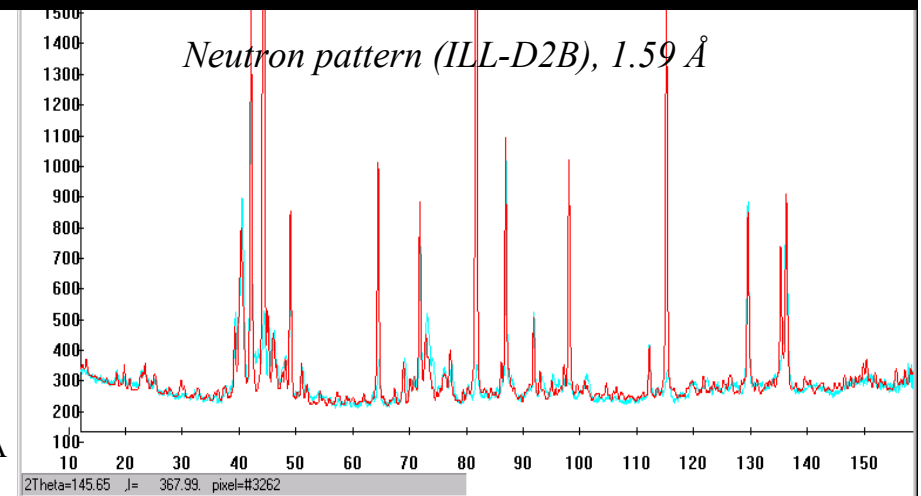
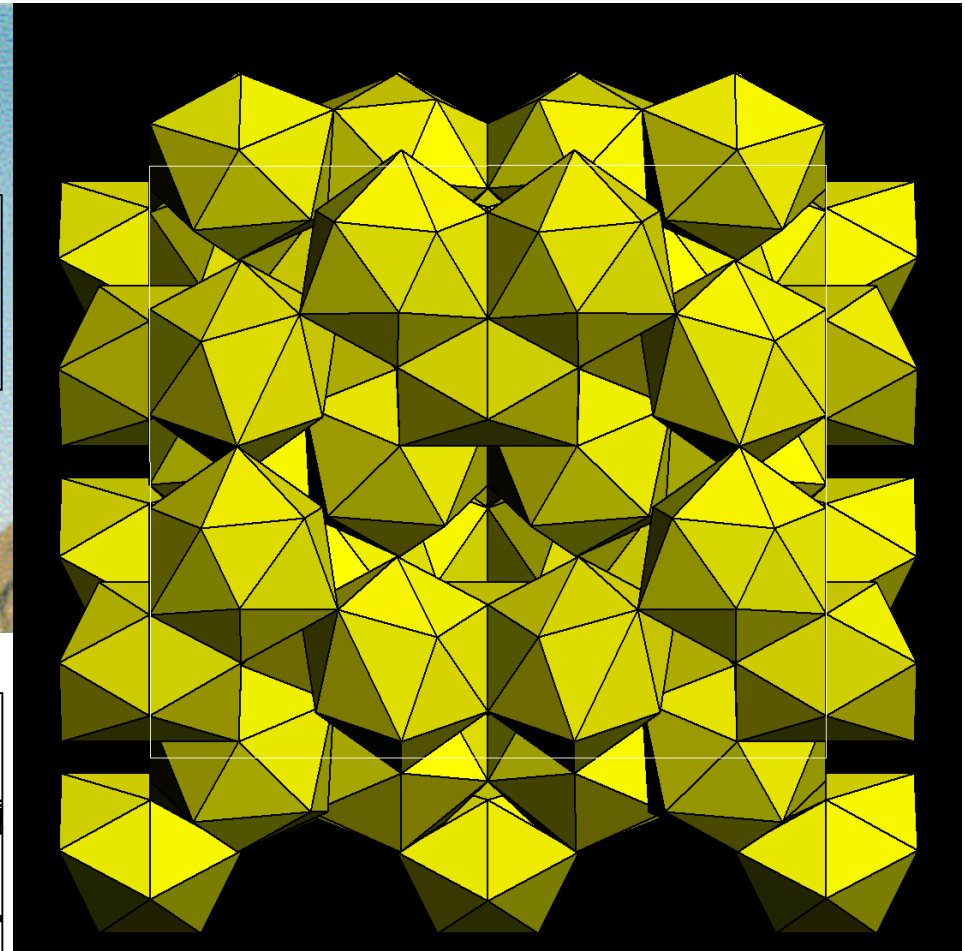
# Polyhedra : MgIr

$a = 18.4648$   $b = 16.1701$   $c = 16.8175$ ,  $Cmca$   
13 Ir and 12 Mg atoms  
Frank-Kasper intermetallic compound

SNBL,  $0.50012 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $R_{wp} = 0.094$ ,  $\chi^2 = 3.02$ ,  $R_{Bragg} = 0.05$



$d = 0.73 \text{ \AA}$



2Theta=145.65 J= 367.93 pixel=#3262



# Modeling MgIr

Modeling:

## Free atoms

13 Ir atoms introduced on general positions and quickly localized.

All Ir atoms fixed and 12 Mg atoms introduced and localized. Any additional atom merged.

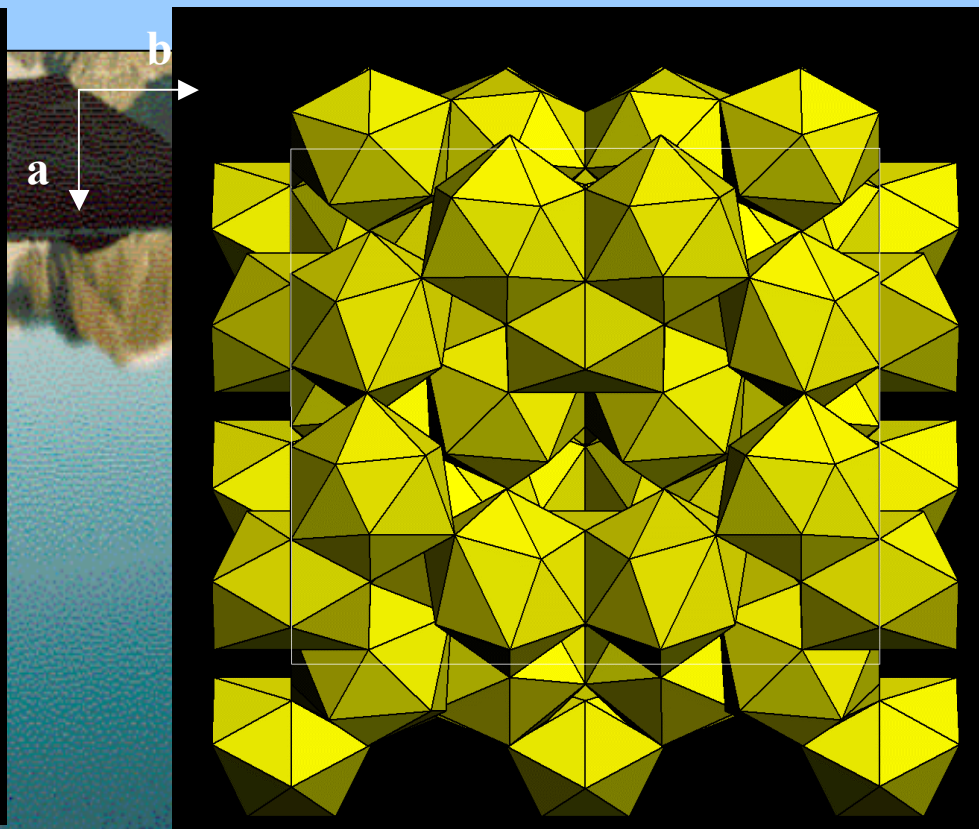
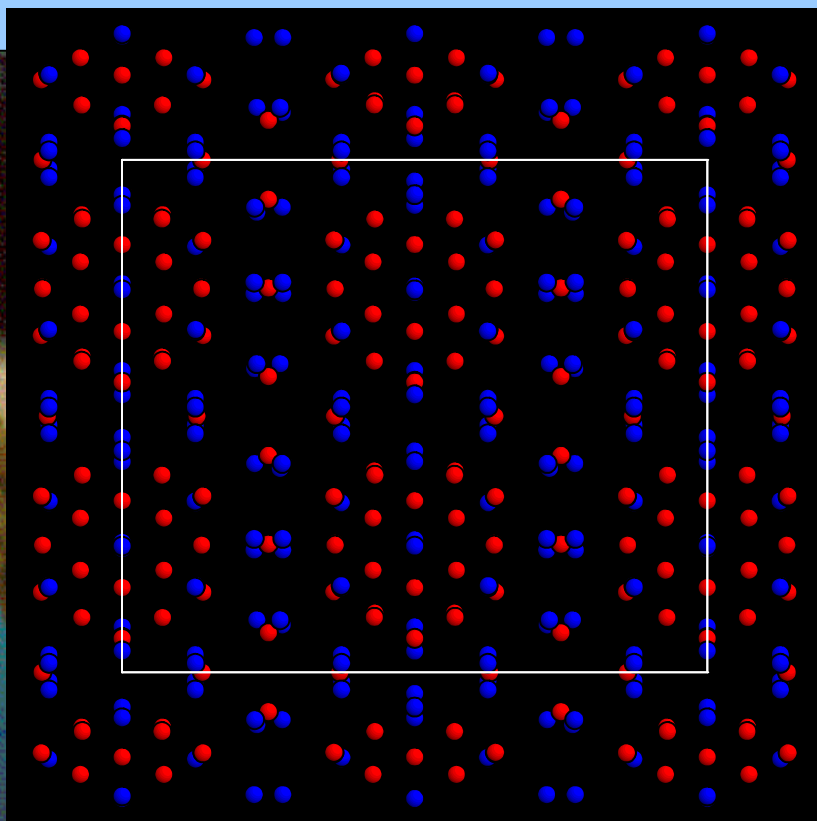
13+12 free atoms = 39+36 free p. solution in 15+160 min

## Polyhedra

7 icosahedra (Ir, Mg)<sub>12</sub> introduced on general position and localized.

Ligands identification difficult – needs more programming.

7 icosahedra = 42 free p. solution in 120 min

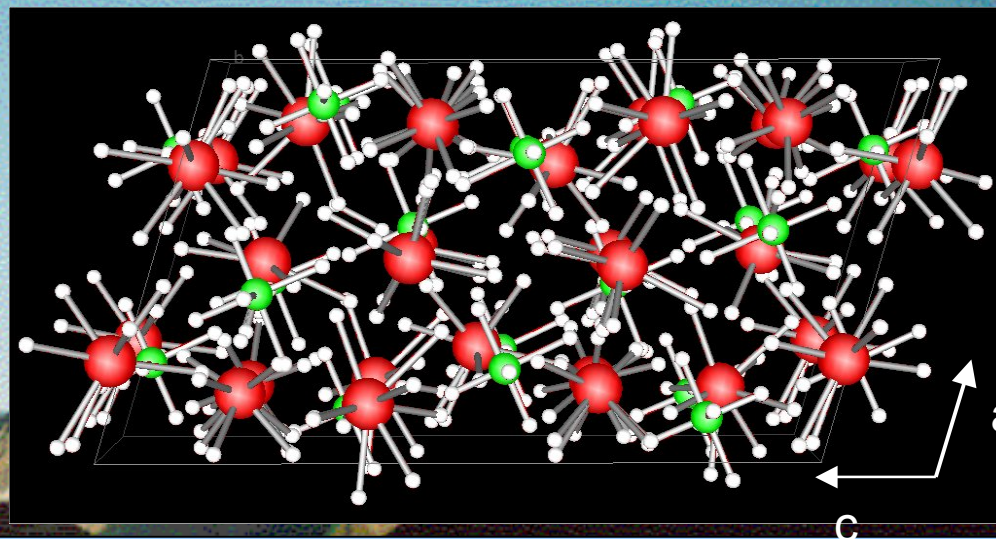


# Polyhedra : $Sr_5V_3(F/O/OH/H_2O)_{22}$

$a = 11.2428$ ,  $b = 8.19535$ ,  $c = 19.94831$ ,  
 $b = 106.72$ ,  $P2_1/c$ , 30 atoms

8 polyhedra + 22 free atoms =  
48 + 66 DOF solution in 5 + 10 min

simulated data, synchrotron,  $\lambda = 0.79764 \text{ \AA}$



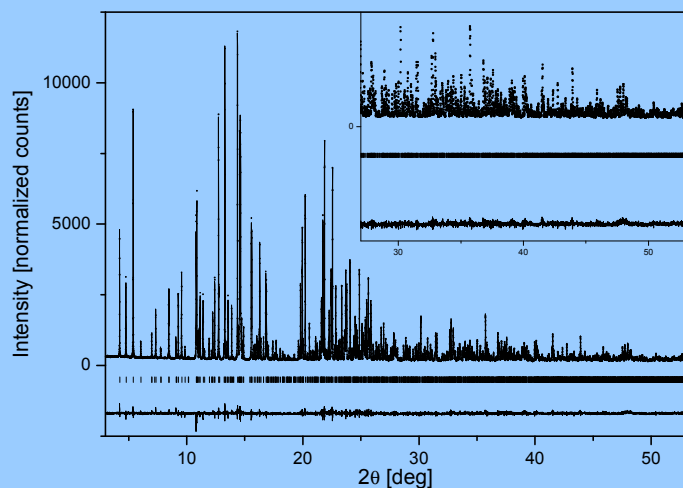
Modeling:

3 polyhedra  $SrO_9$  and 2 polyhedra  $SrO_{11}$  and

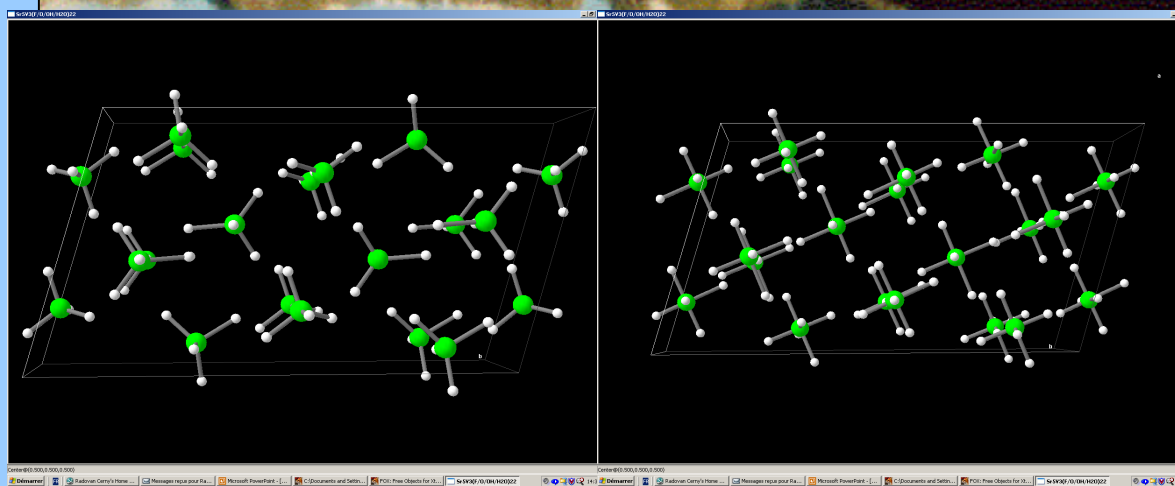
3 tetrahedra  $VO_6$

or

3 octahedra  $VO_6$

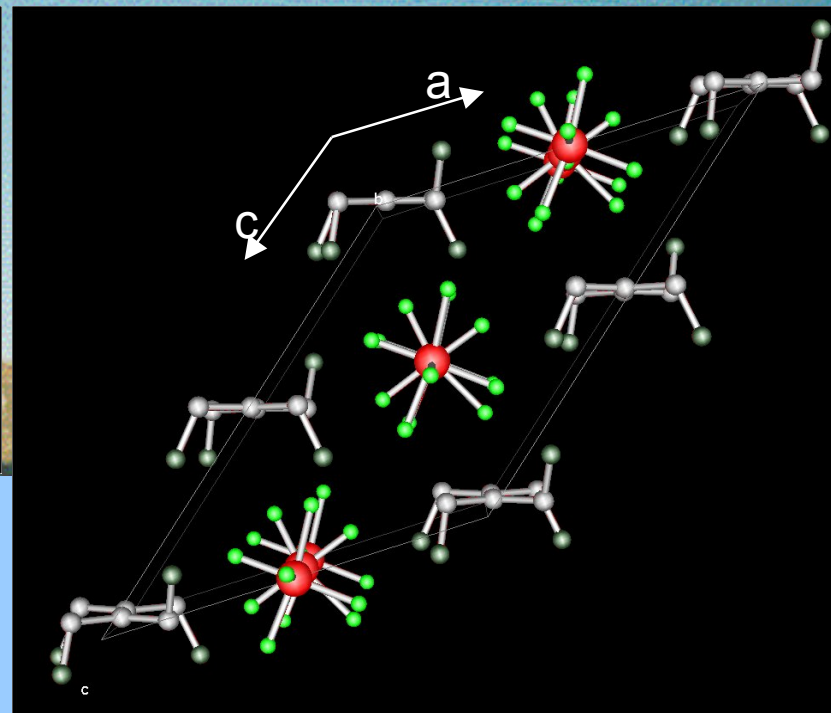
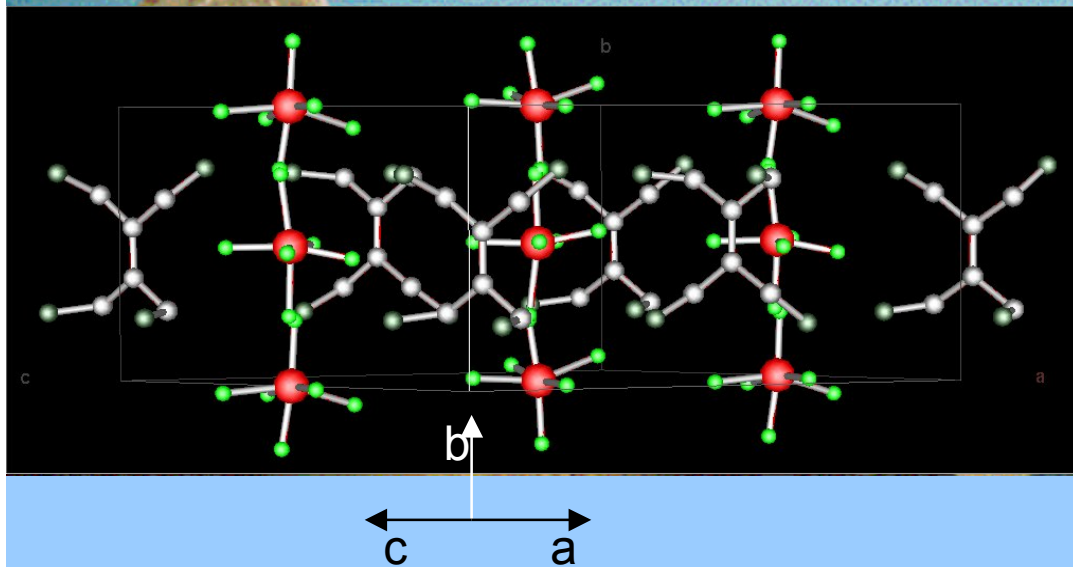


$R_{wp} = 0.195$ ,  $\chi^2 = 6.12$ ,  $R_{Bragg} = 0.103$





# Mixed : $Al_2F_{10} [C_6N_4H_{20}]$



Powder data, laboratory,  $CuK\alpha$ ,  $a = 10.3258(9)$ ,  $b = 7.3960(6)$ ,  $c = 13.243(1)$  Å,  $\beta = 139.901(2)^\circ$ ,  $Pc$

**Modeling in  $P2/c$ :** 2 octahedra  $AlF_6$ , 1 molecule  $C_6N_4H_{20}$

Both octahedra quickly and correctly localized, non-centrosymmetric molecule localized on the inversion centre. The structure transformed to the non-centrosymmetric space group and refined.

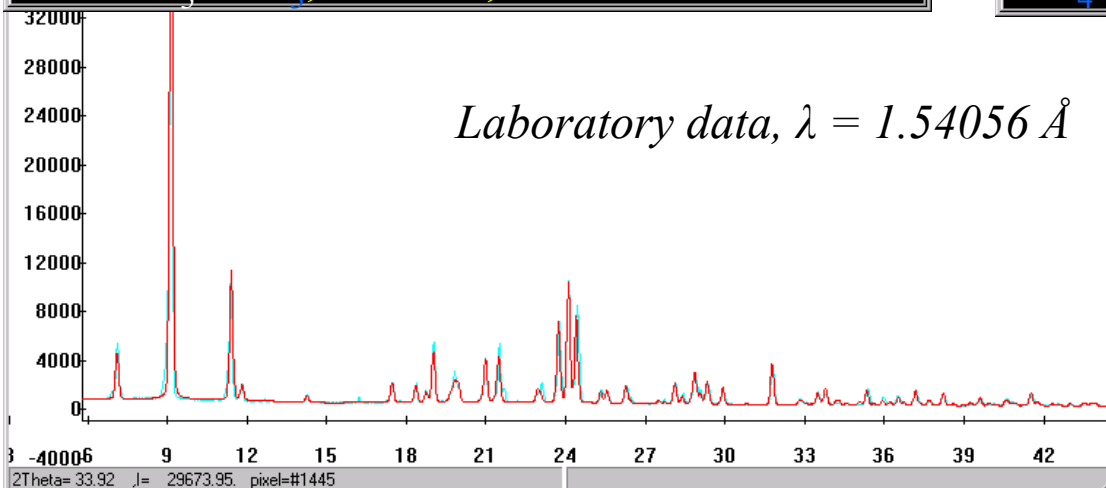
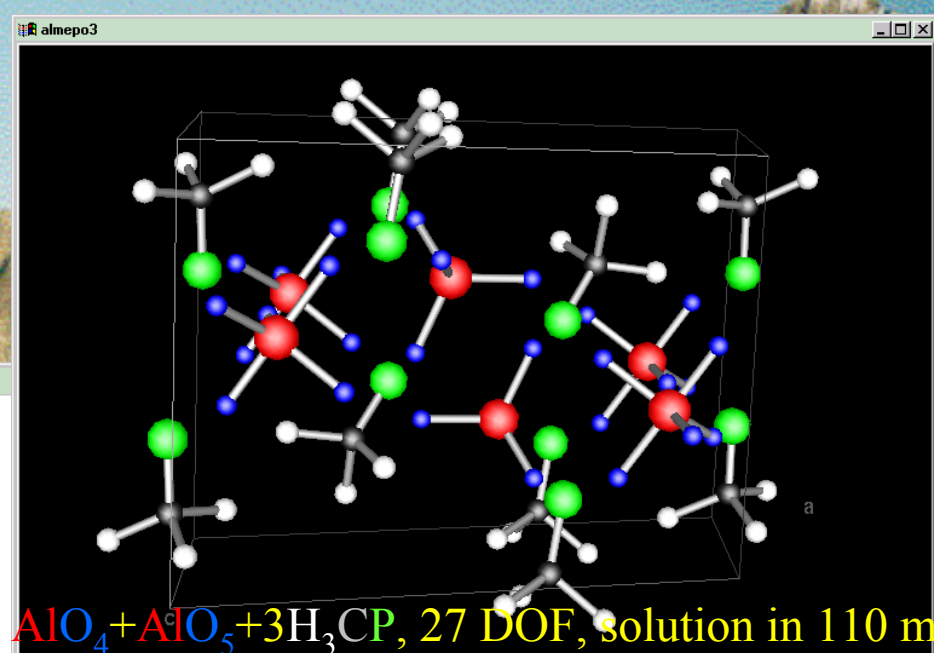
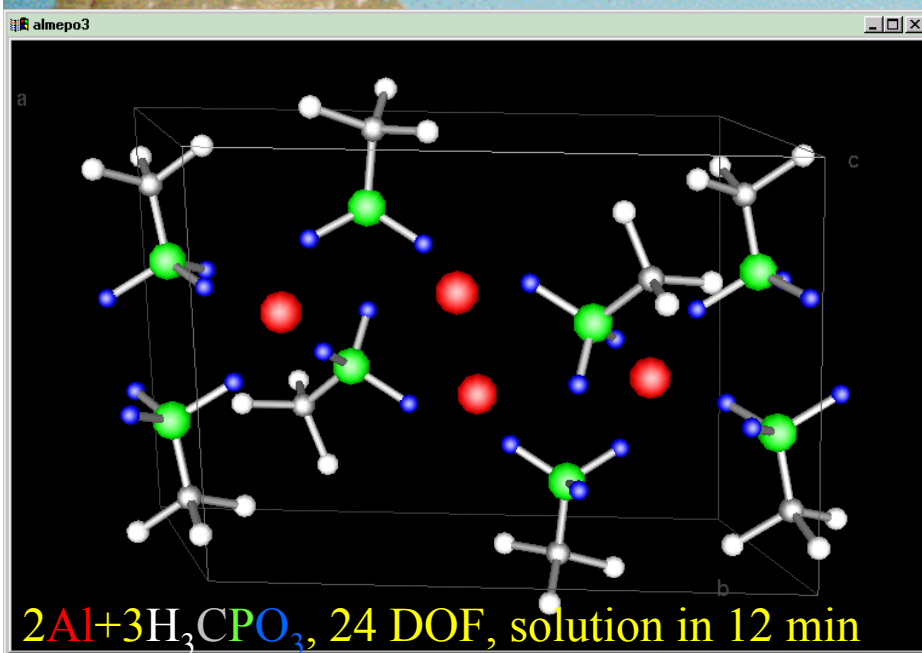
2 polyhedra + 1 semi-rigid molecule = 12 + 6 free params.

solution in 5 min

# Mixed : $Al_2(CH_3PO_3)_3$

Edgar *et al.* (2002) *Chem. Commun.* **8** (2002) 808-809

$a = 13.2979$   $b = 9.6570$   $c = 5.0725$   $\alpha = 89.601$   $\beta = 111.242$   $\gamma = 92.088$ ,  $P \bar{1}$ , 26 atoms



Buildings blocks deduced from  
 $^{27}Al$ ,  $^{13}C$  and  $^{31}P$  NMR spectra :

3 C-PO3 units and 2 Al atoms



# Errors in Building Blocks ?

**Maximum likelihood approach  
(presented by VFN in Durban)**

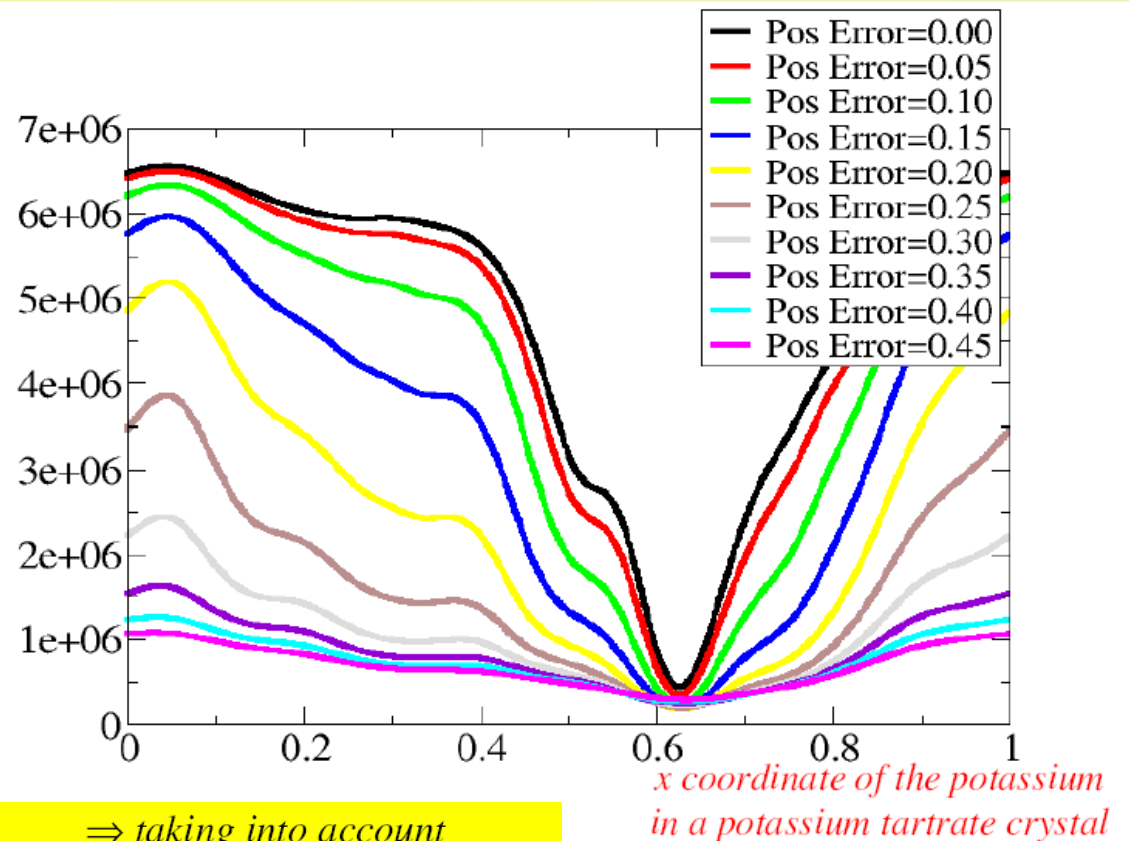
In a "classical approach" :

$$\sigma_i^2 = y_{obs}^i$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(y_{obs}^i - y_{calc}^i)^2}{\sigma_i^2}$$

Assumes that the model can fit perfectly the observed data during the global optimization. But there are **positional errors** in the model, because the model is **not yet correct!** And some building blocks can be missing!

Hypersurface :  $\chi^2 = f(\text{parameters})$



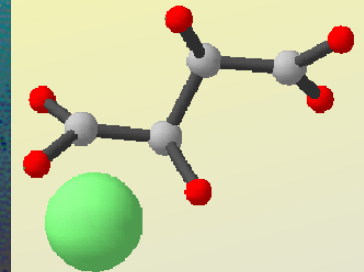
⇒ taking into account  
random positionnal errors :

- **increases the width of the global minimum** (for small errors)

- **flattens the hypersurface** for large errors

$$\sigma_i^2 = \sigma_{calc}^2 + \sigma_{obs}^2$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(y_{obs}^i - \langle y_{calc}^i \rangle)^2}{\sigma_i^2}$$

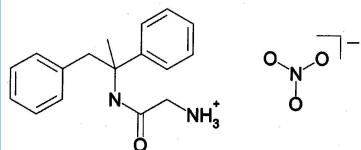


# Solving structures per partes ?

Missing atoms (*blur*) do not contribute to calculated structure factor, but increase the  $\sigma_{\text{calc}}^2$ .

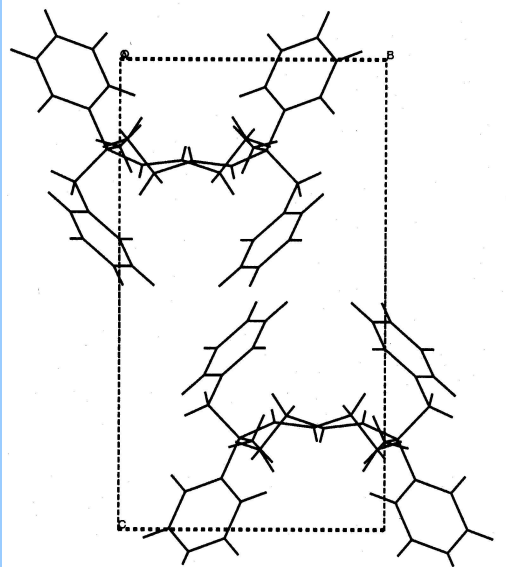
A.J. Markvardsen, W.I.F. David and K. Shankland, *Acta Cryst.* **A58** (2002) 316 - 326

remacemide nitrate

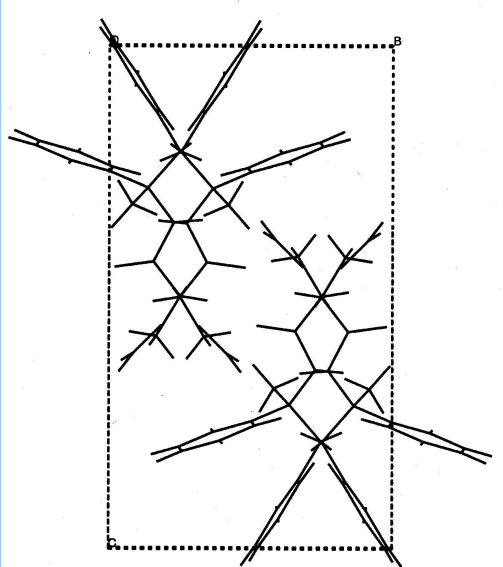


Nitrate ion contains ~ 18 % of the total scattering power

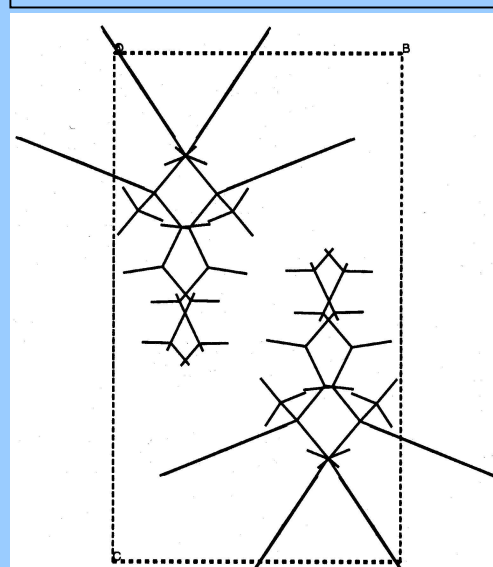
LS solution without  $\text{NO}_3$



correct solution



ML solution without  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  
but taking into account its  
contribution to  $\sigma_{\text{calc}}^2$ .





# Summary

**FOX** - program for the global optimization of crystal structures (powder diffraction)

- **any** combination of **building blocks** :  
isolated atoms, molecules, polyhedrons
- **no** assumption on the actual **connectivity**
- **no a priori** knowledge about **special positions**

Future developments :

- Optimizing individual building blocks **separately** in different worlds of parallel tempering?
- “**Genetic**” approach, to copy “**best**” partial structures between the different parallel optimizations?
- Use **additional information** (potential energy, bond valences etc.) for searching the **correct connectivity** between blocks.

Favre-Nicolin V., Černý R., *J. Appl. Cryst.* **35** (2002), 734-743  
Availability (Windows, Linux): <http://objcryst.sourceforge.net>





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