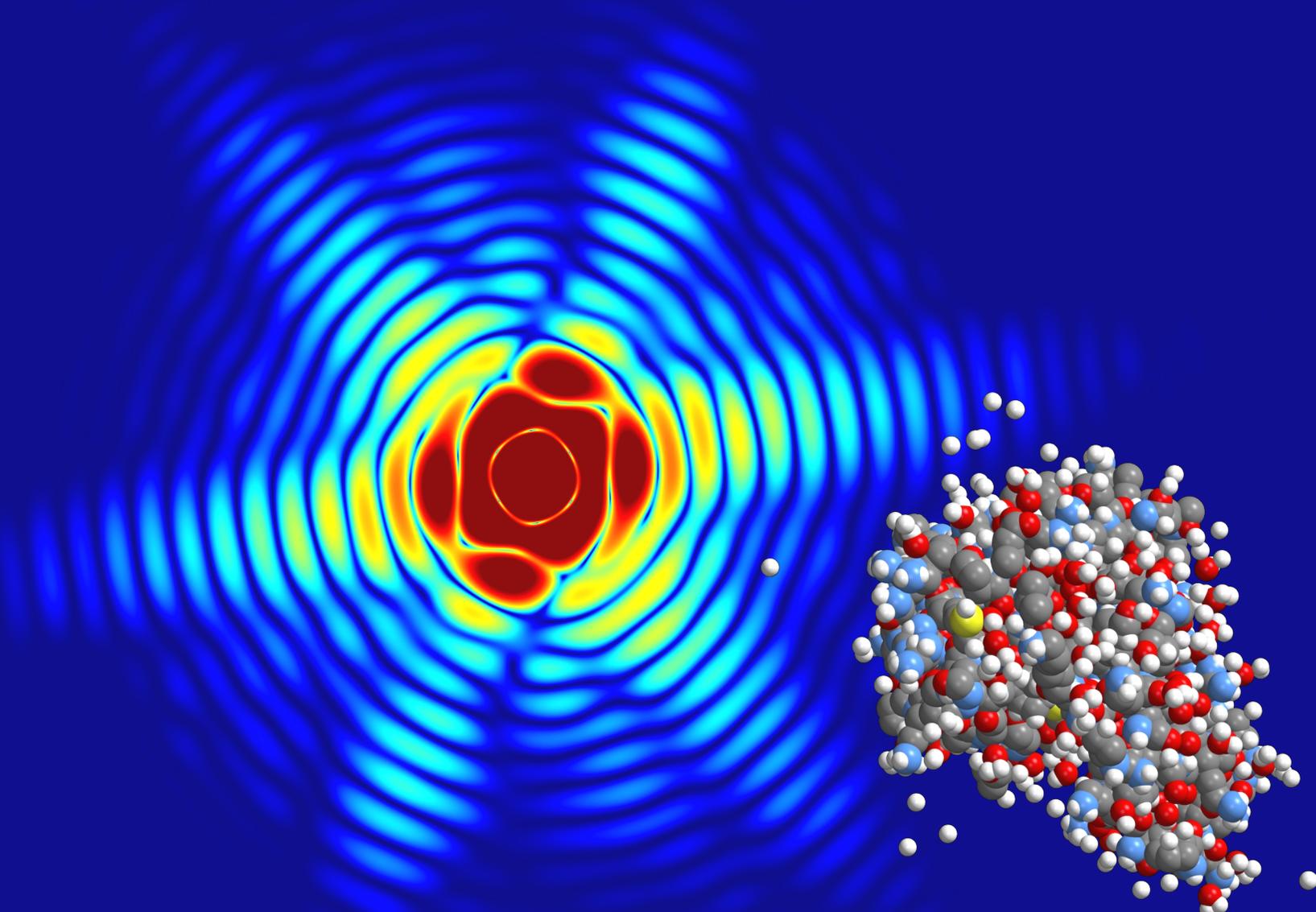
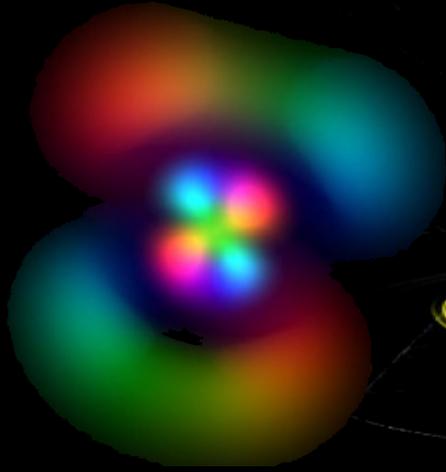


DIFFRACTION BEFORE DESTRUCTION



Janos Hajdu, Uppsala Universitet and XFEL

THE ACT OF OBSERVATION CHANGES WHAT IS BEING OBSERVED



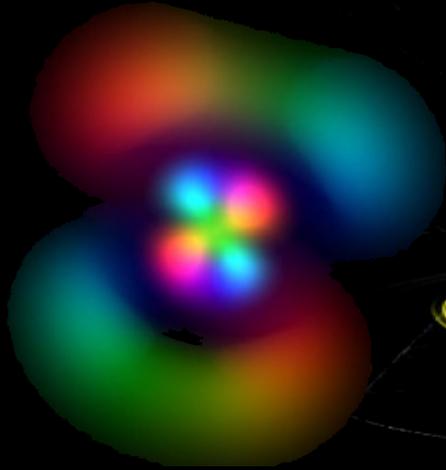
An atom



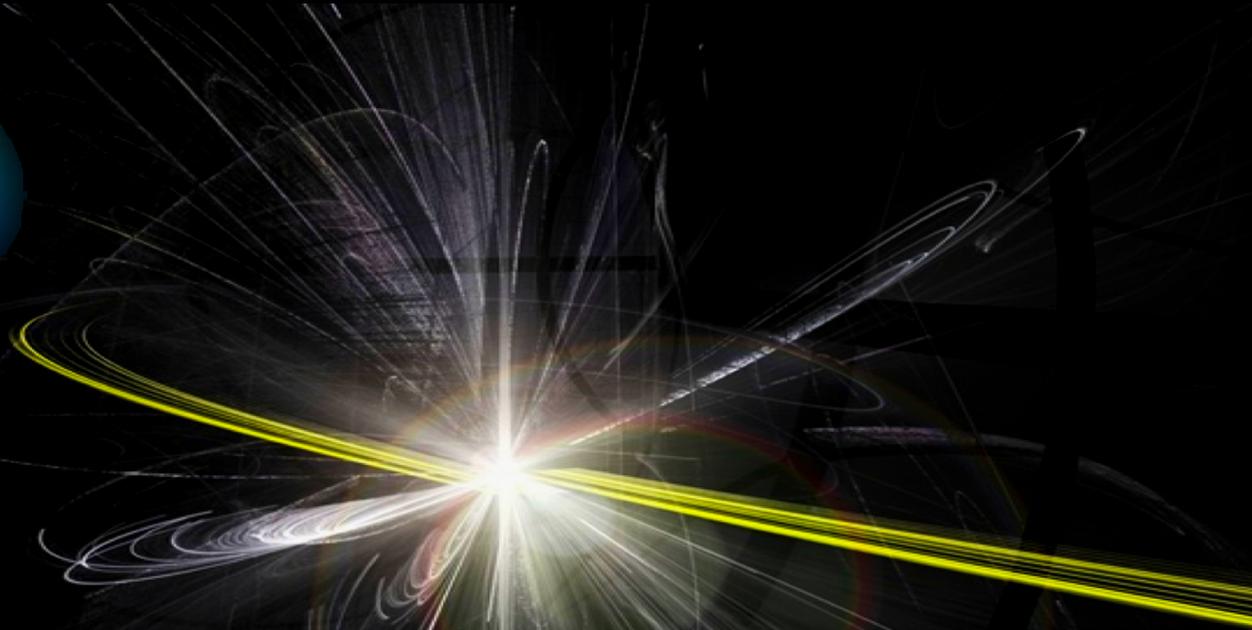
The changes can be quite dramatic

Consider the quantum world and larger systems

THE ACT OF OBSERVATION CHANGES WHAT IS BEING OBSERVED



An atom



WHEN TRYING TO IMAGE LARGE MACROMOLECULAR SYSTEMS, FUNDAMENTAL LIMITS TO OBSERVATION SEEM TO APPEAR LONG BEFORE QUANTUM LIMITS

The changes can be quite dramatic

Consider the quantum world and larger systems

OXFROD 1981: Glycogen phosphorylase *b* - A large macromolecular system



Wire works by John Jenkins and Giuseppe Zanotti

The 1st DEDICATED SYNCHROTRON SOURCE for HARD X-RAYS

DARES BURY LABORATORY (1981-2008)



The 1st DEDICATED SYNCHROTRON SOURCE for HARD X-RAYS

DARESBUURY LABORATORY (1981-2008)



From the 1st day...



Summer 1981

...to the very last

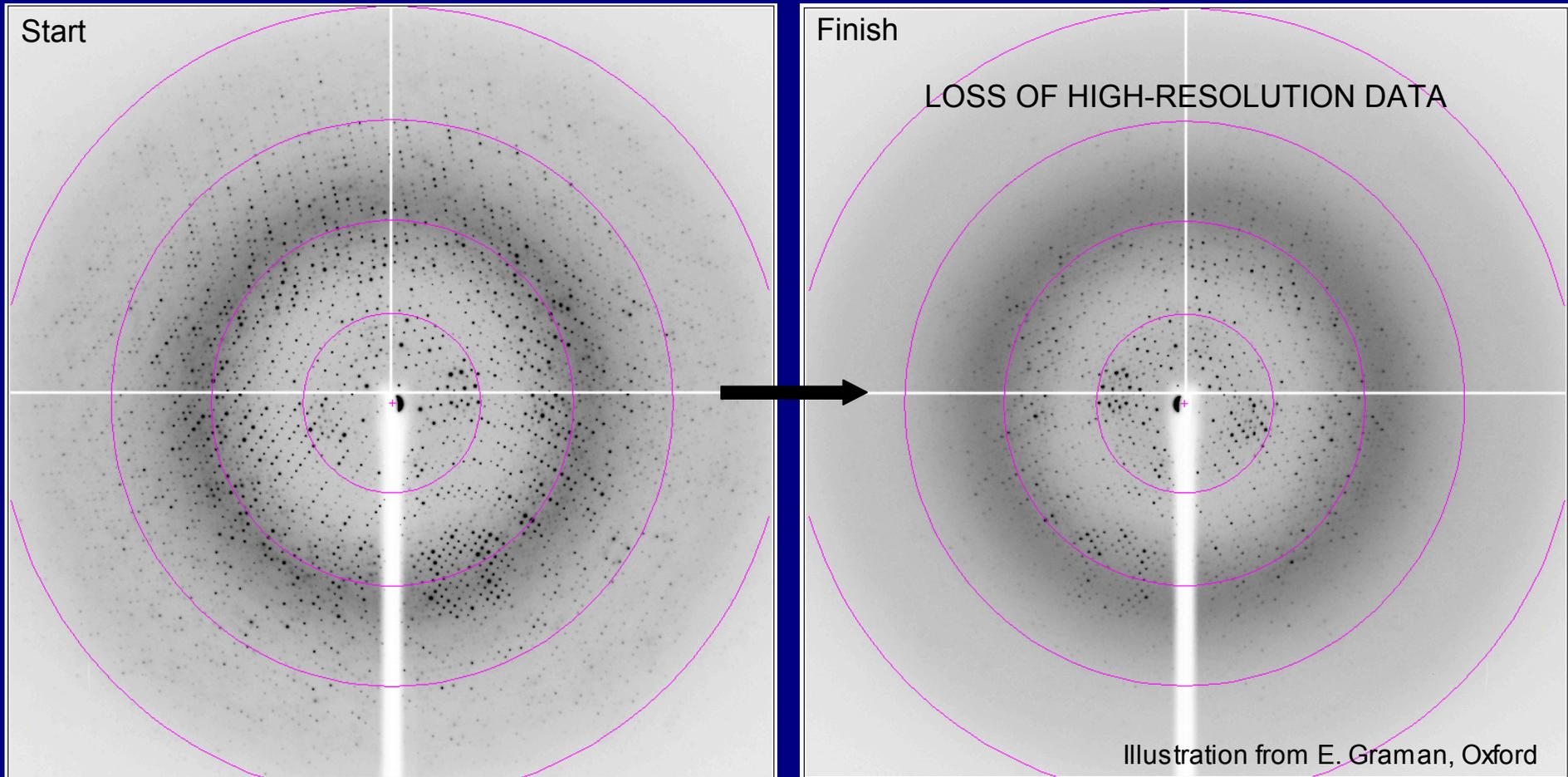


1 Aug. 2008



Marvin Seibert (UU)

RADIATION DAMAGE TO A CRYSTAL



A REVELATION FROM DARESURY: CRYSTALS LAST

The same dose caused less damage in Daresbury than back home in Oxford.

1981: The 1st hint for a significant time component in damage formation

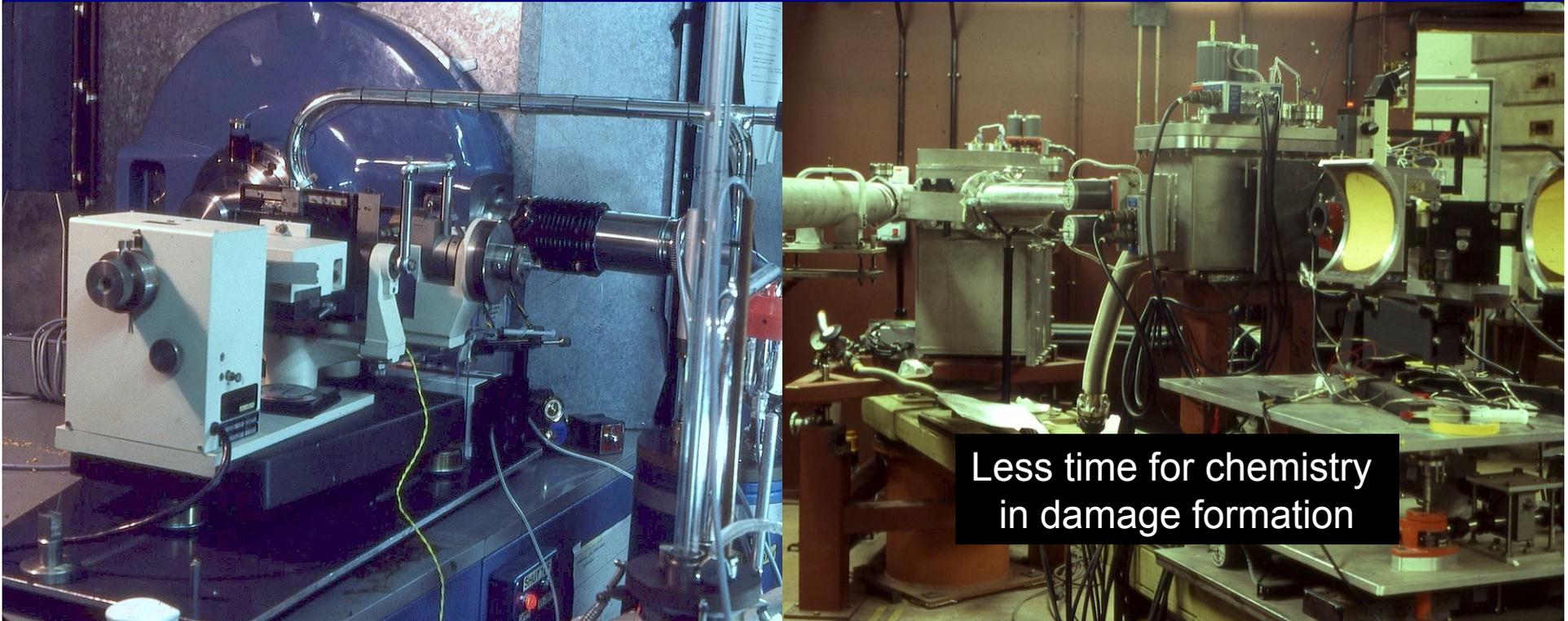
DATA COLLECTION ON PHOSPHORYLASE CRYSTALS

OXFORD: 1-2 weeks

No. of crystals used: 5-8

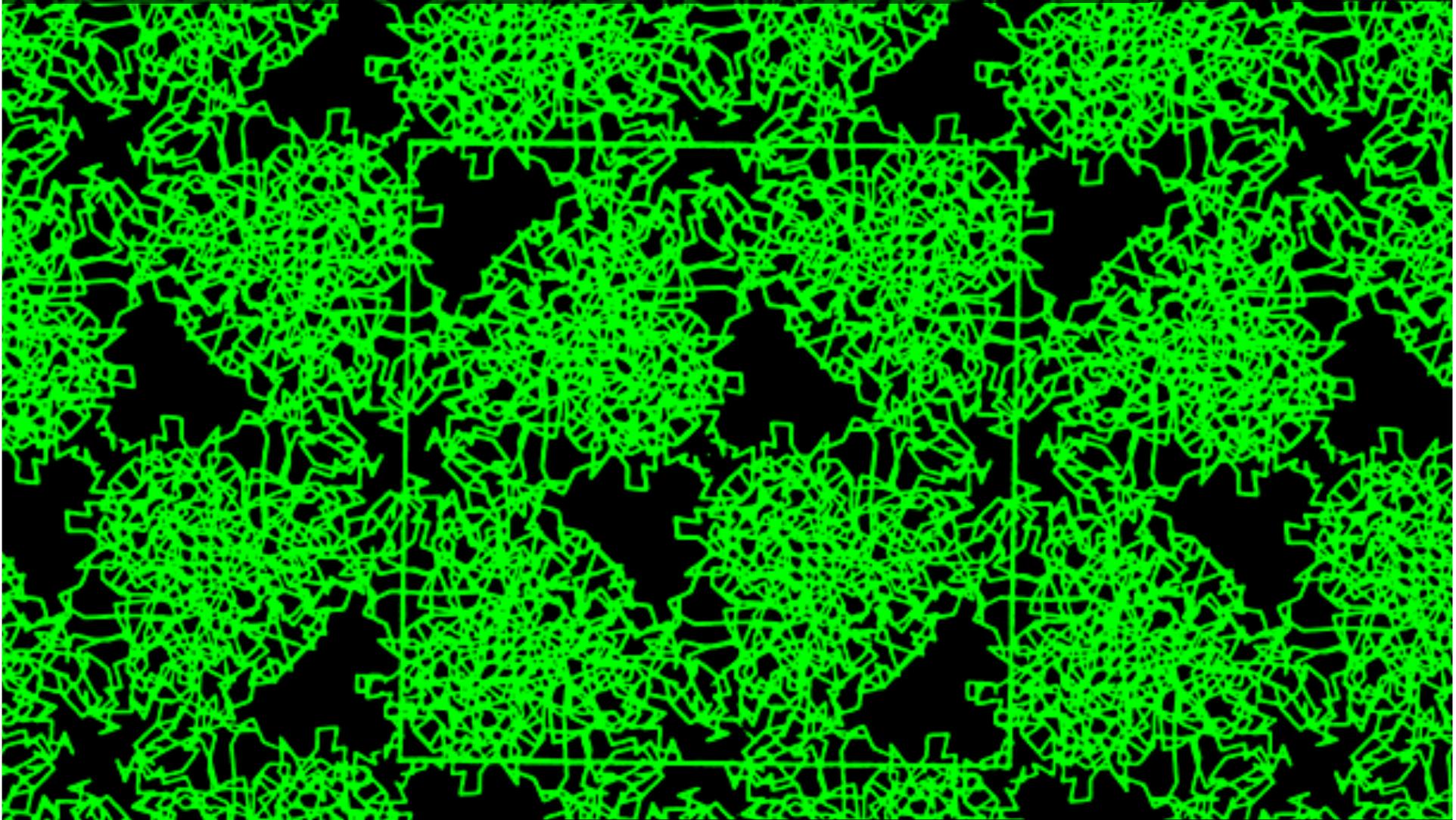
DARESBUURY: 20 minutes

No. of crystals used: 1



HIGH DATA RATES -
- NEW OPPORTUNITIES

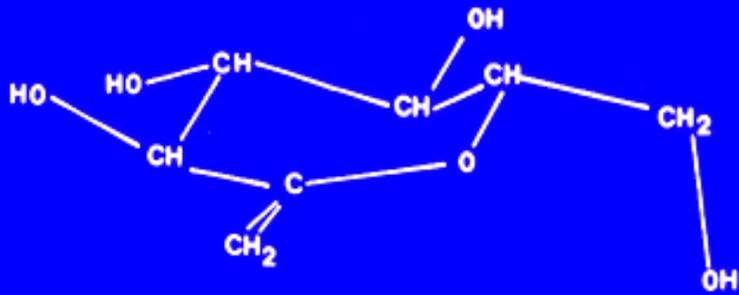
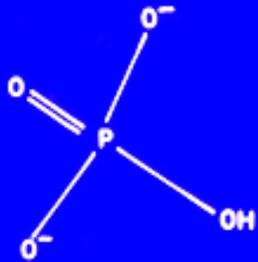
THE 1st TIME-RESOLVED EXPERIMENT IN XTALLOGRAPHY



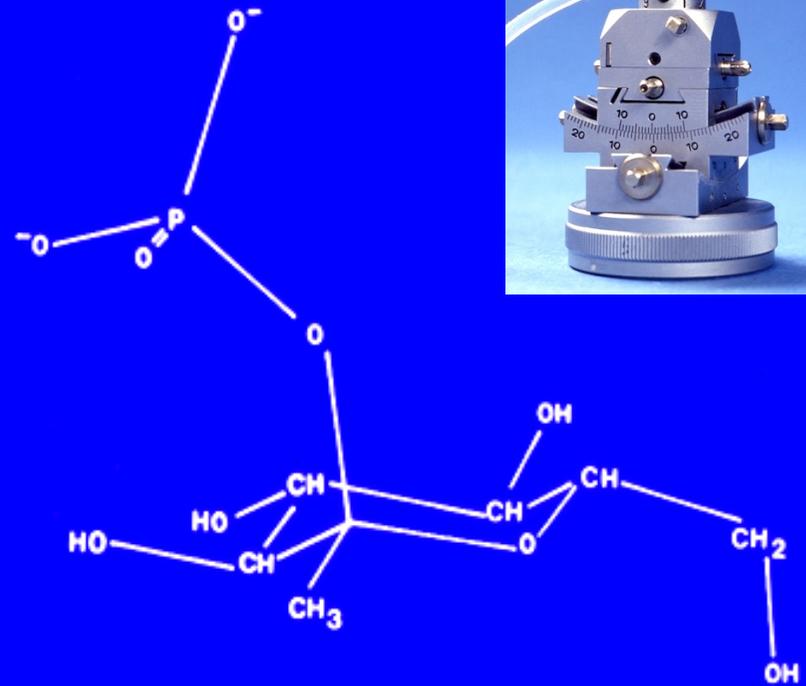
CATALYSIS IN A CRYSTAL OF PHOSPHORYLASE *b*

Hajdu, J., Acharya, K. R., Stuart, D. I., McLaughlin, P. J., Barford, D., Oikonomakos, N. G., Klein, H. & Johnson, L. N. (1987) Catalysis in the crystal: Synchrotron radiation studies with glycogen phosphorylase *b*. *EMBO J.*, 6, 539-546.

Hajdu, J., Acharya, K. R., Barford, D., Stuart, D. I., Johnson, L. N. (1988) Catalysis in enzyme crystals. *TIBS*, 13, 104-109.



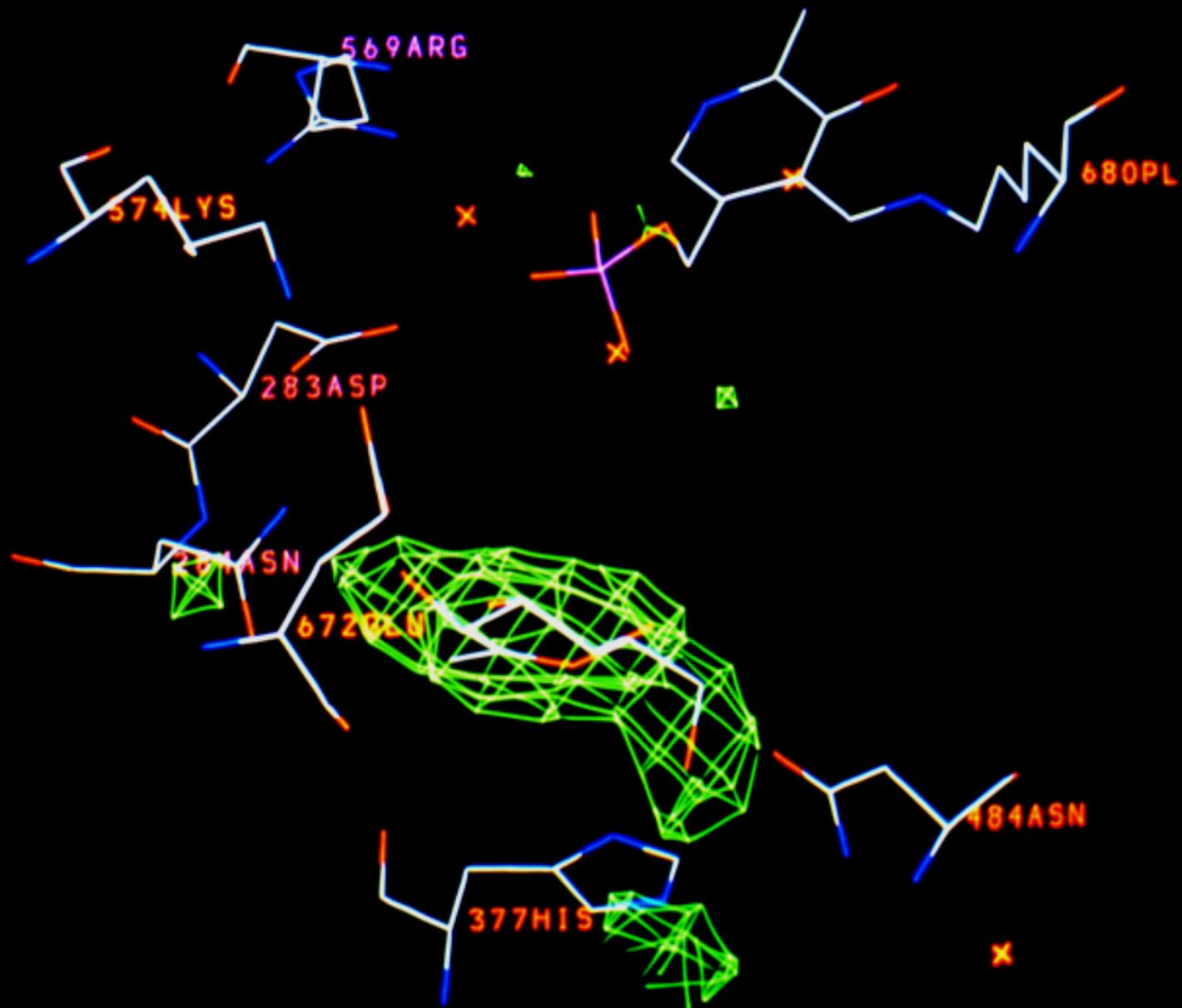
HEPTENITOL



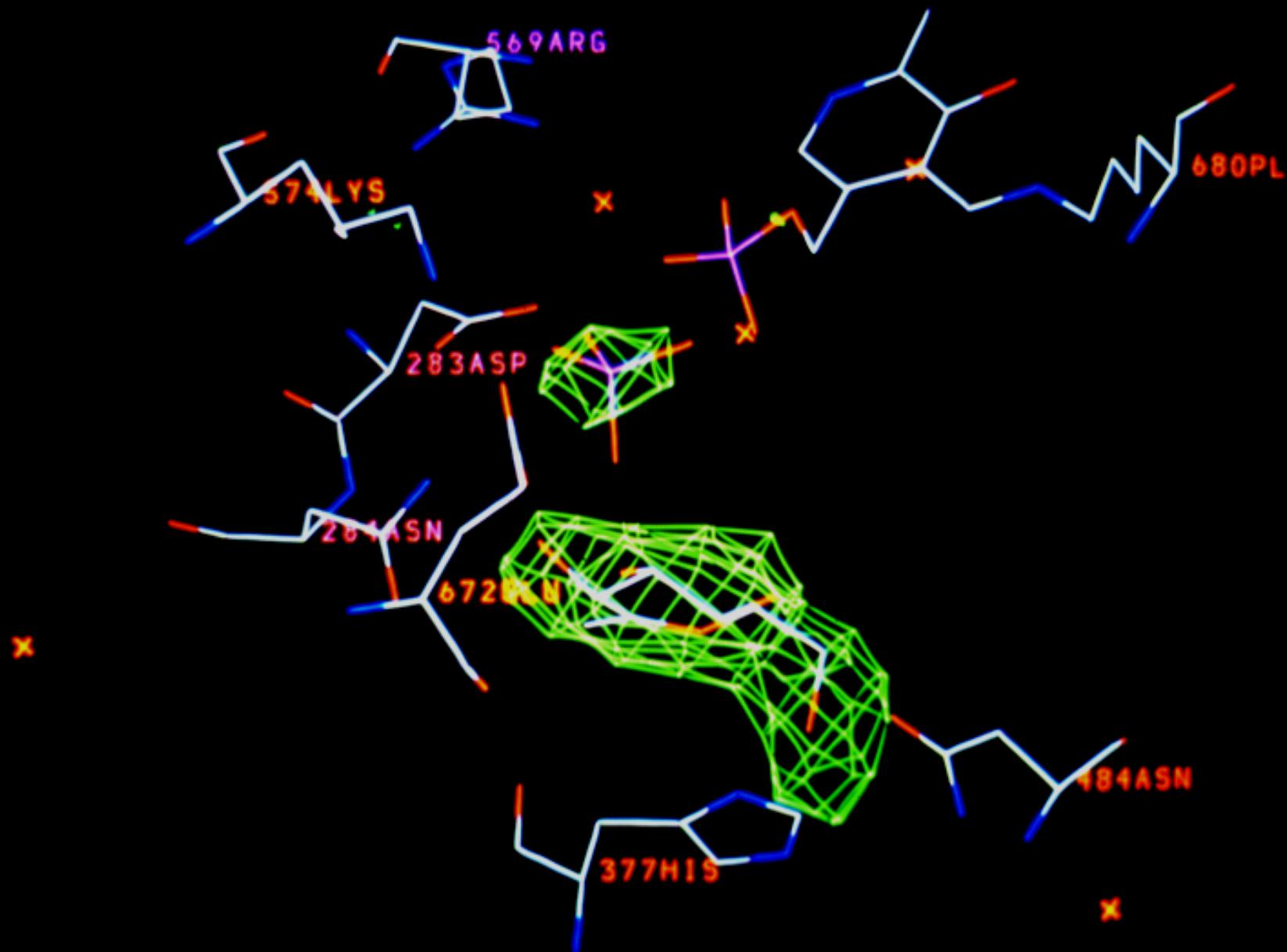
HEPTULOSE-2-PHOSPHATE



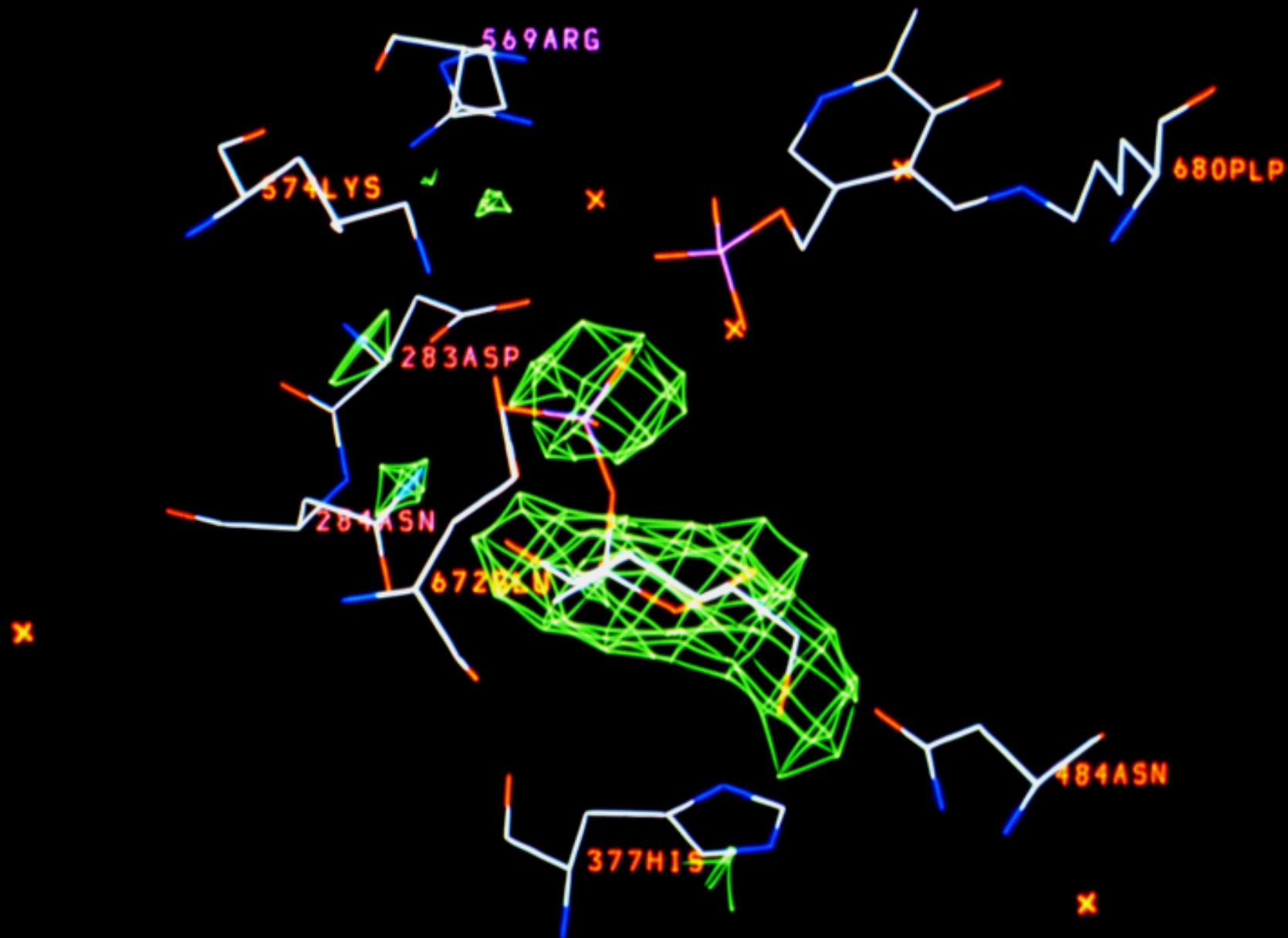
EACH DATA SET REPRESENTS A TIME & VOLUME AVERAGE



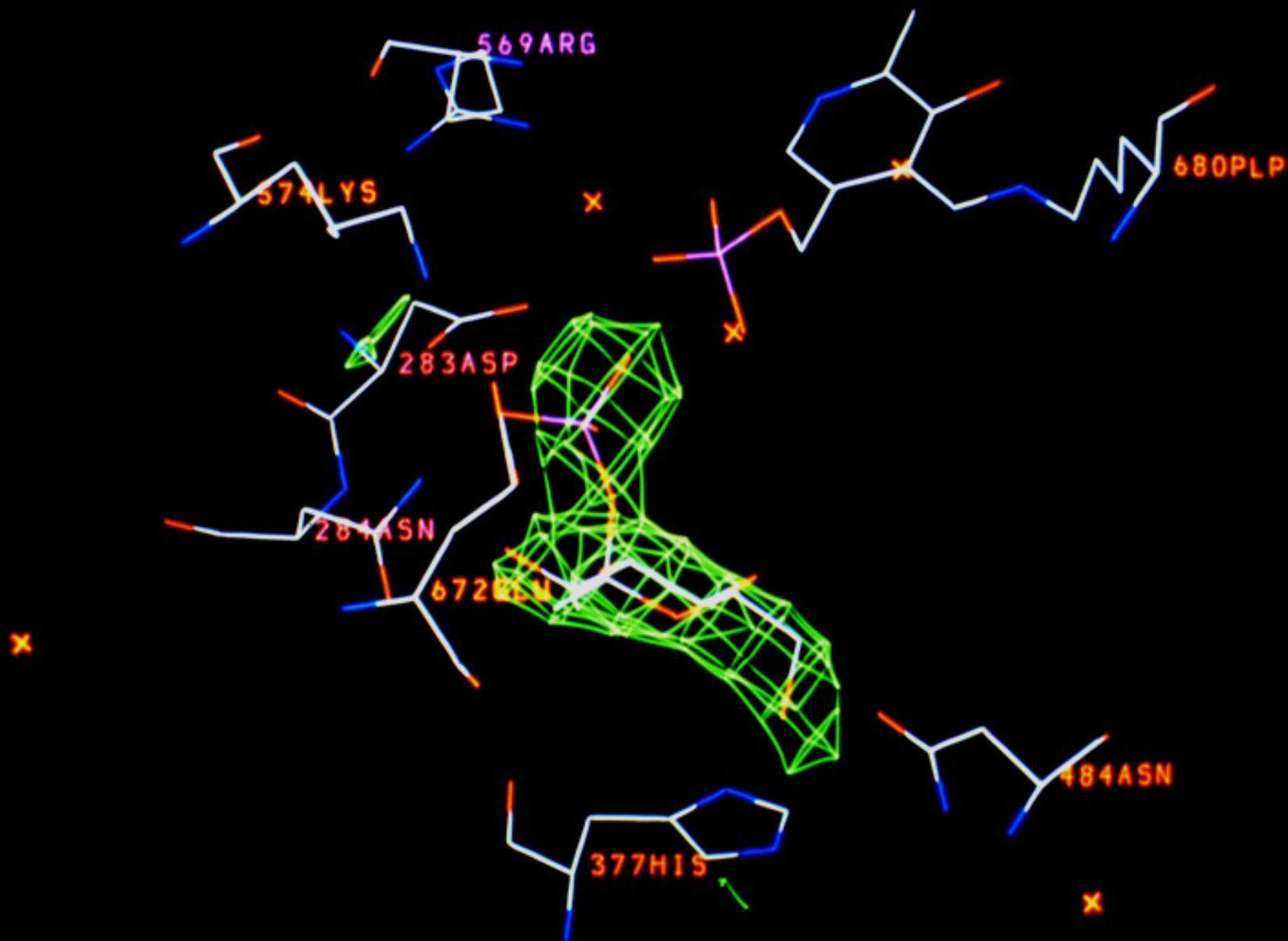
EACH DATA SET REPRESENTS A TIME & VOLUME AVERAGE



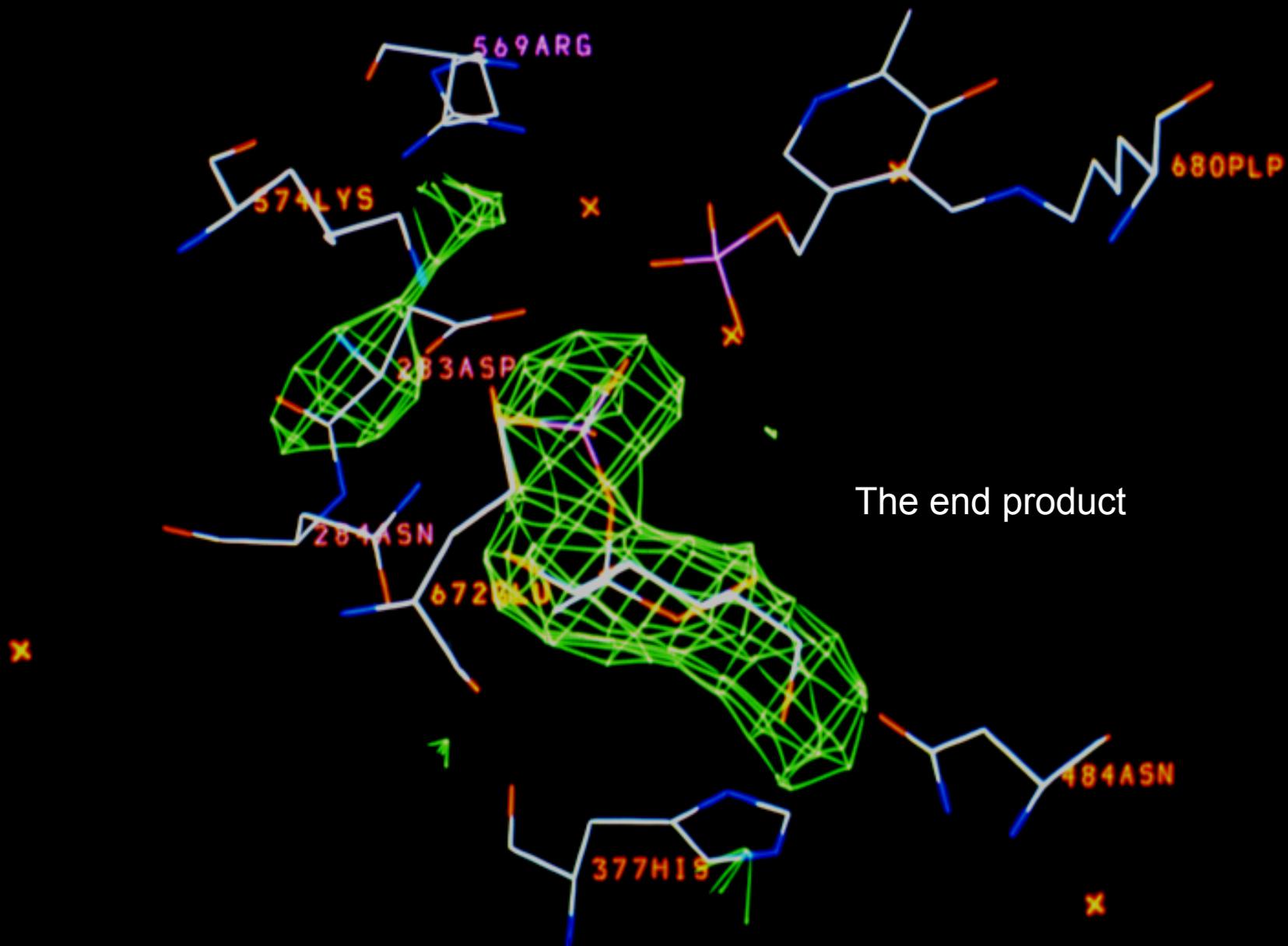
EACH DATA SET REPRESENTS A TIME & VOLUME AVERAGE

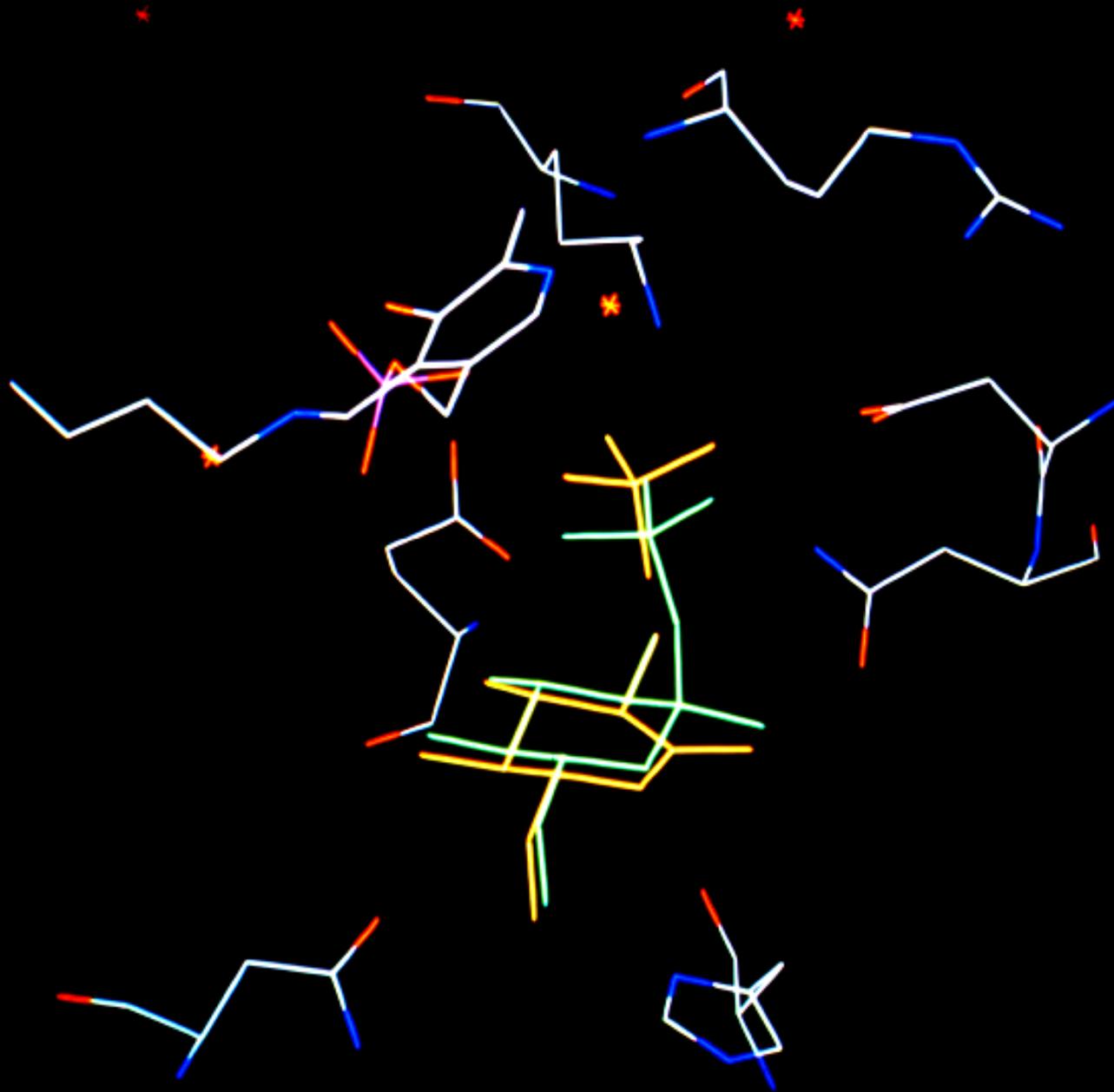


EACH DATA SET REPRESENTS A TIME & VOLUME AVERAGE



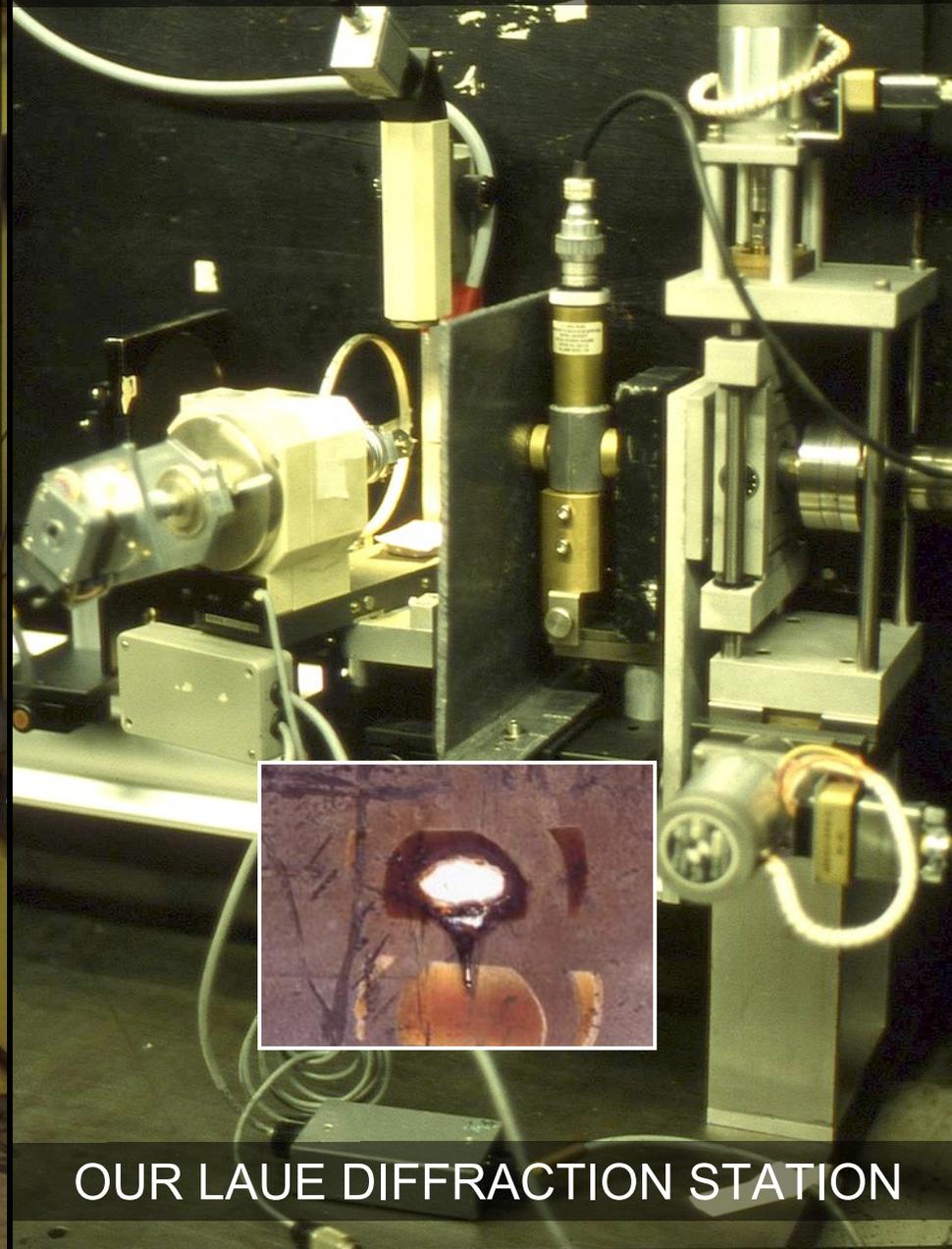
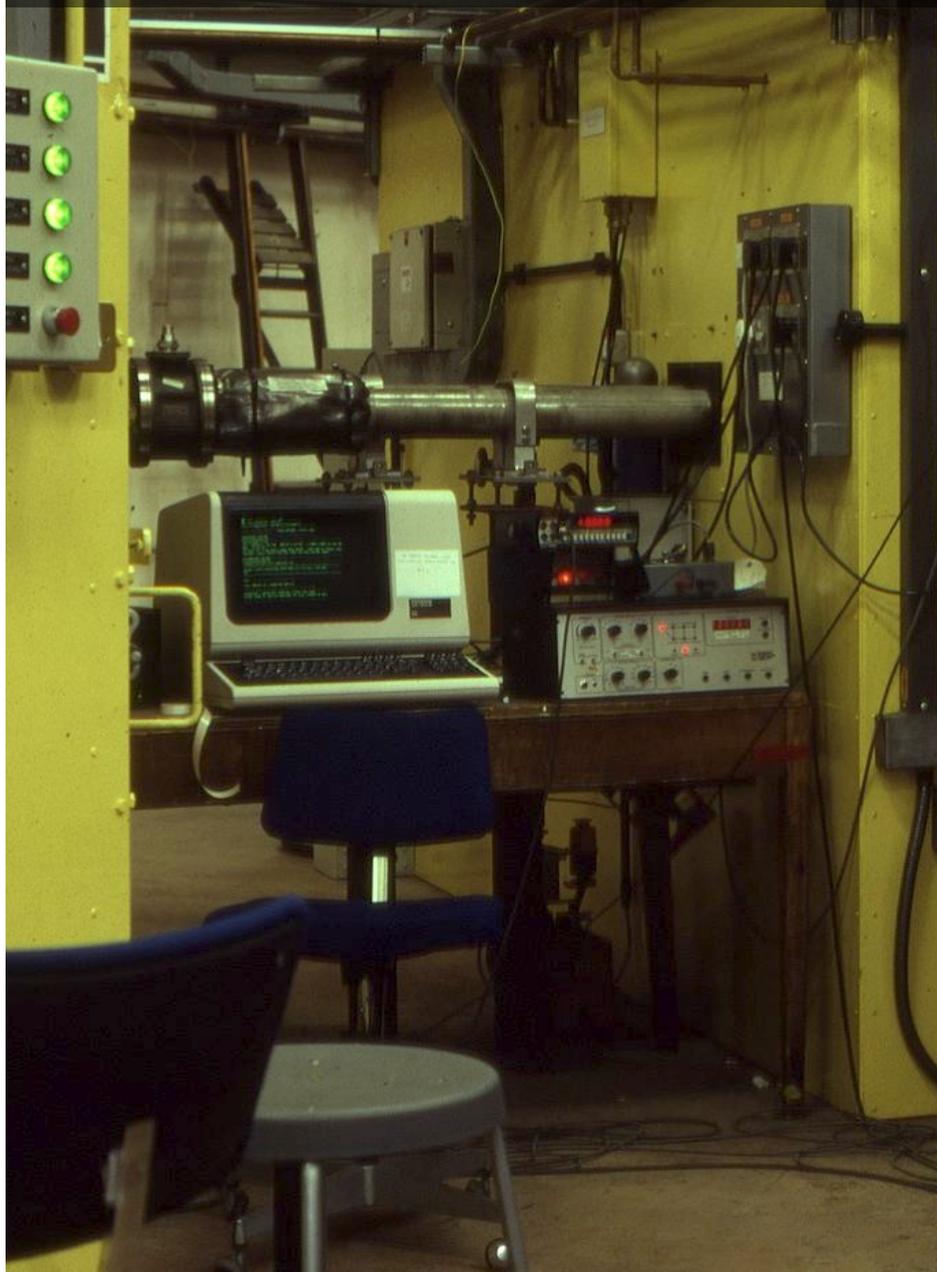
EACH DATA SET REPRESENTS A TIME & VOLUME AVERAGE





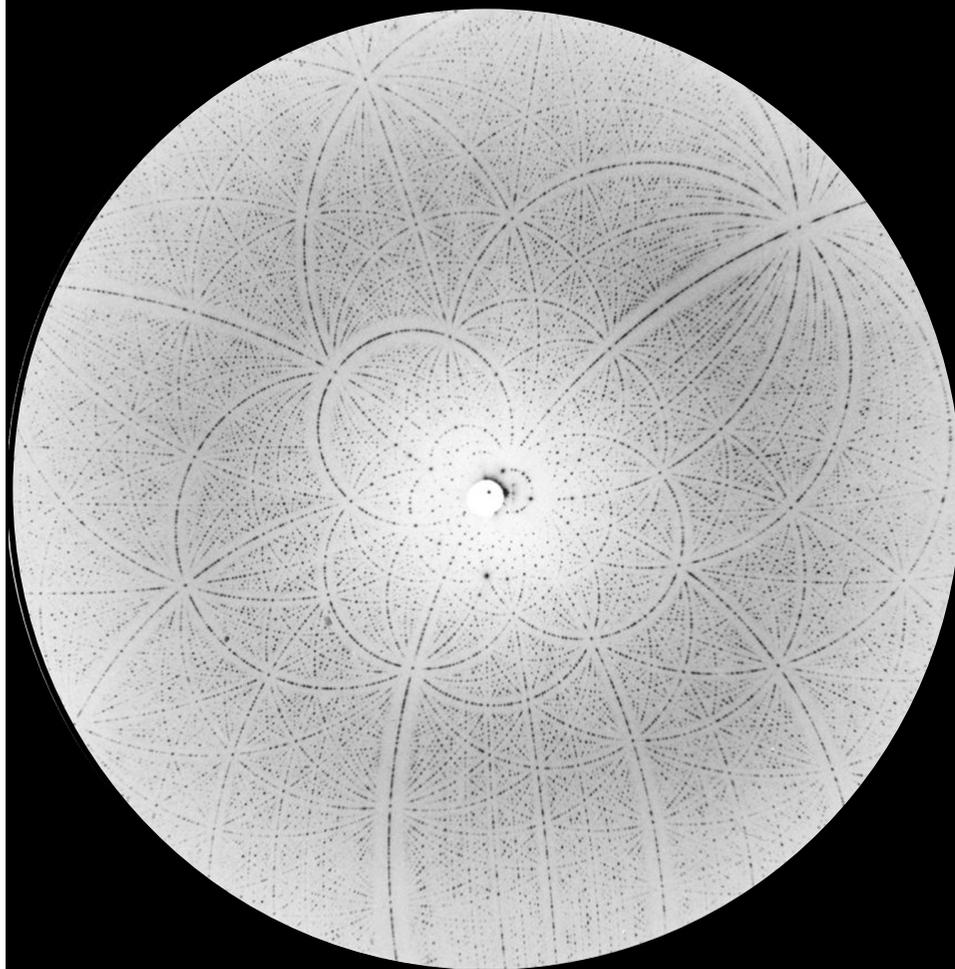
“Catalysis in the crystal: Synchrotron radiation studies with glycogen phosphorylase b”
Hajdu, J. et al. *EMBO J.* **6**, 539-546 (1987).

HIGHER SPEED REQUIRES HIGHER ENERGY DENSITIES
BRUTE FORCE - WHITE BEAM



OUR LAUE DIFFRACTION STATION

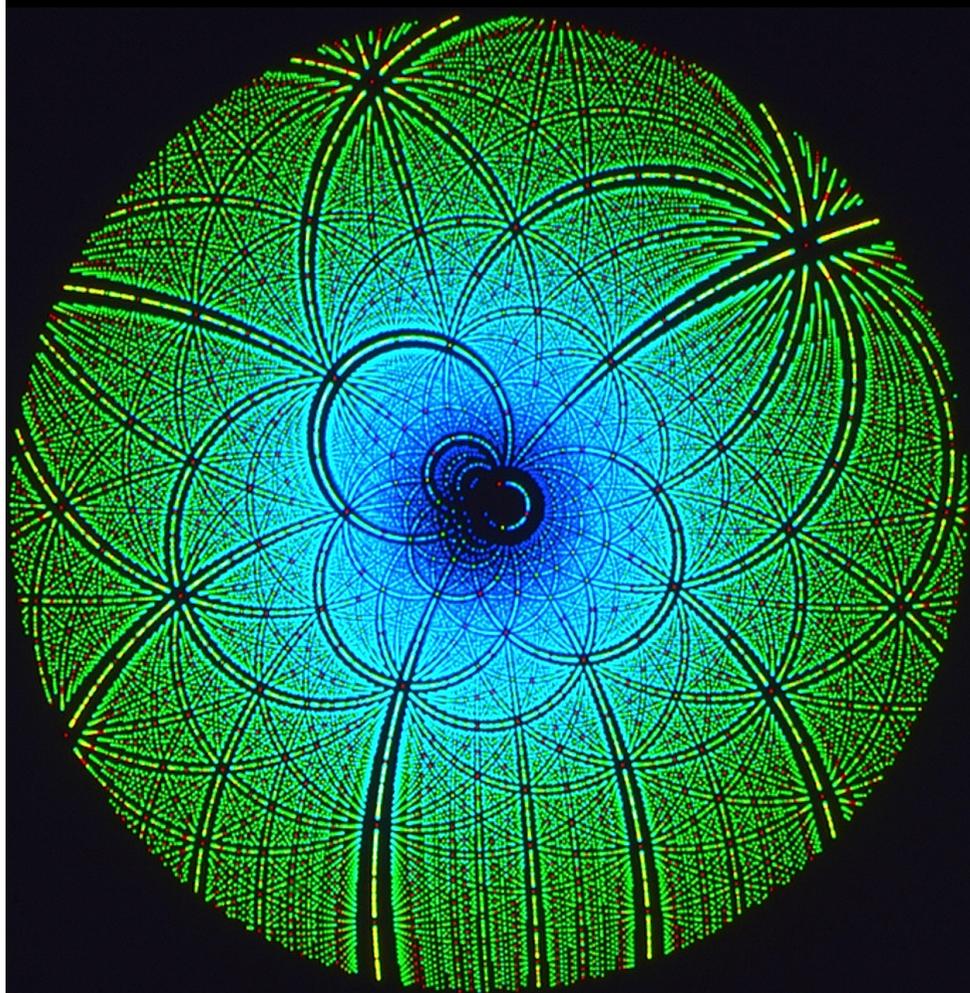
“Millisecond X-ray diffraction: First electron density map from Laue photographs of a protein crystal”
Hajdu et al. *Nature* **329**, 178-181 (1987)



Binding of maltoheptose to
glycogen phosphorylase *b*



“Millisecond X-ray diffraction: First electron density map from Laue photographs of a protein crystal”
Hajdu et al. *Nature* **329**, 178-181 (1987)

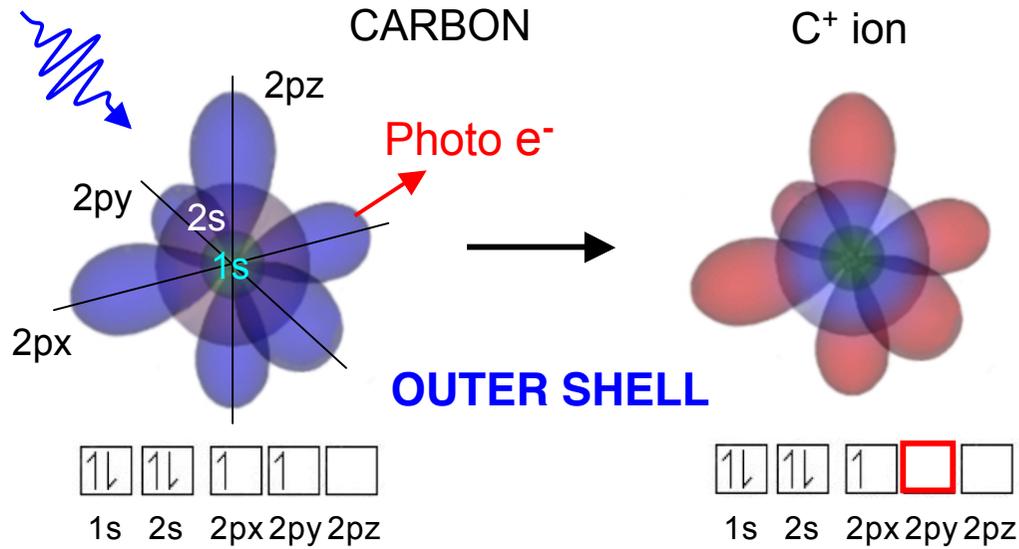


Binding of maltoheptose to
glycogen phosphorylase *b*

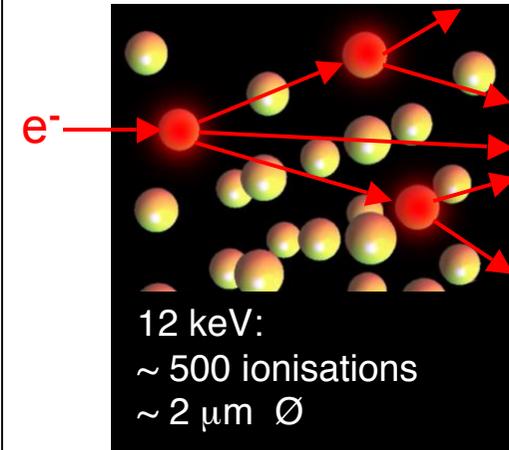


PHOTO-IONISATION

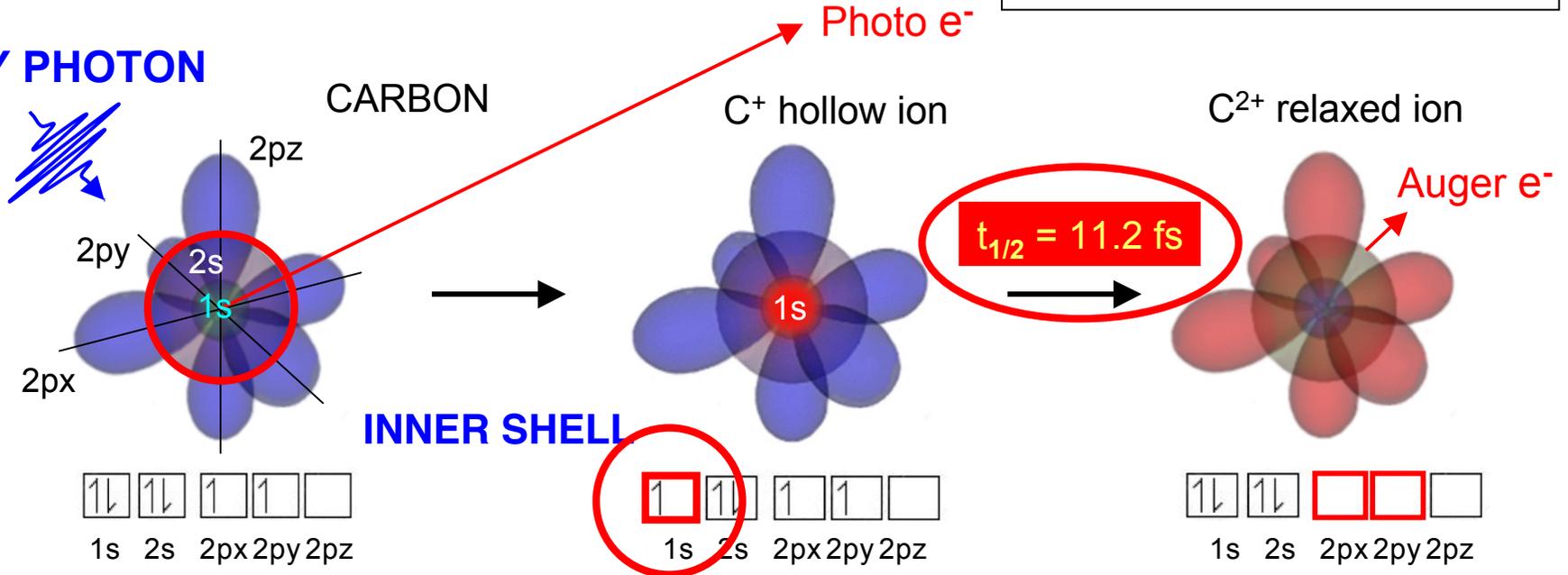
UV/VIS PHOTON



CASCADE PROCESSES
in condensed material, **10-100 fs**



X-RAY PHOTON

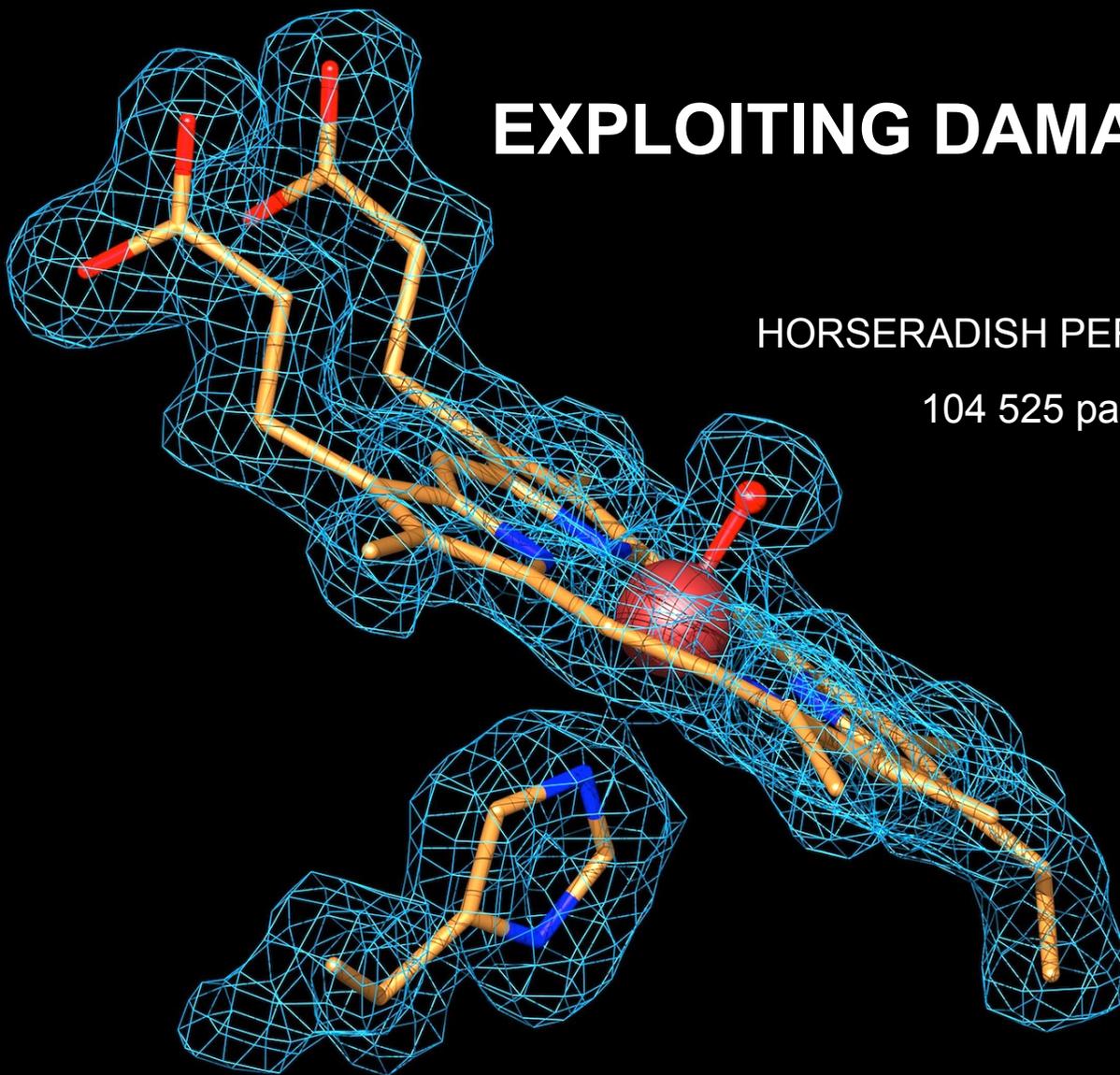


X-RAY DRIVEN CATALYSIS

EXPLOITING DAMAGE PROCESSES

HORSERADISH PEROXIDASE (HRP)

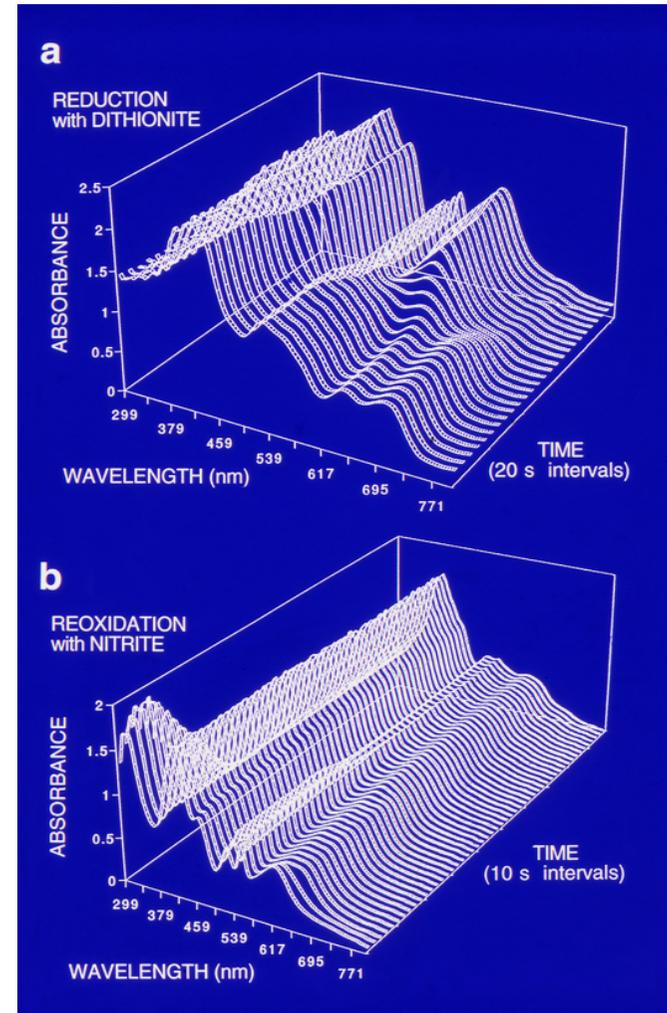
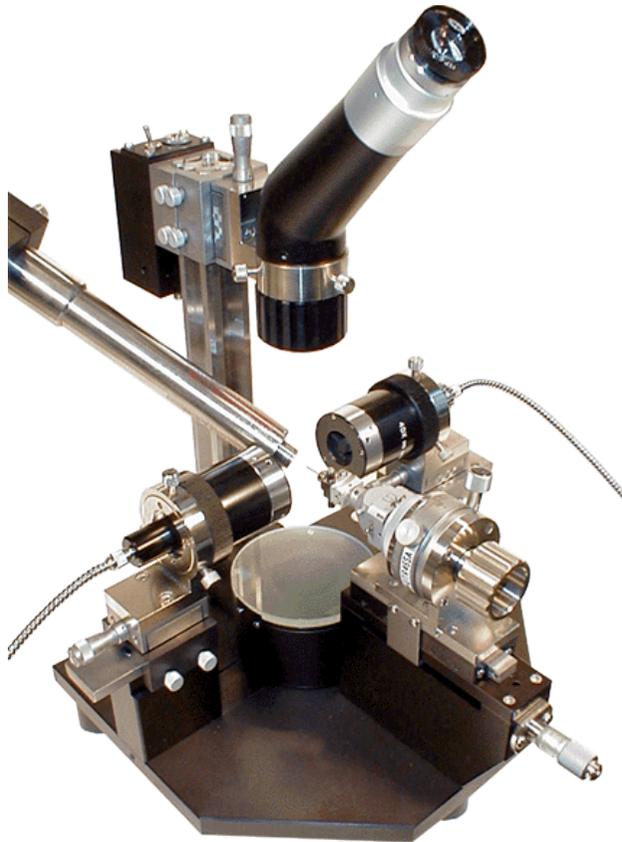
104 525 papers !



Berglund, G.I., Carlsson, G.H., Smith, A.T., Szöke, H., Henriksen, A. & Hajdu, J. (2002) *Nature* 417, 463-468.

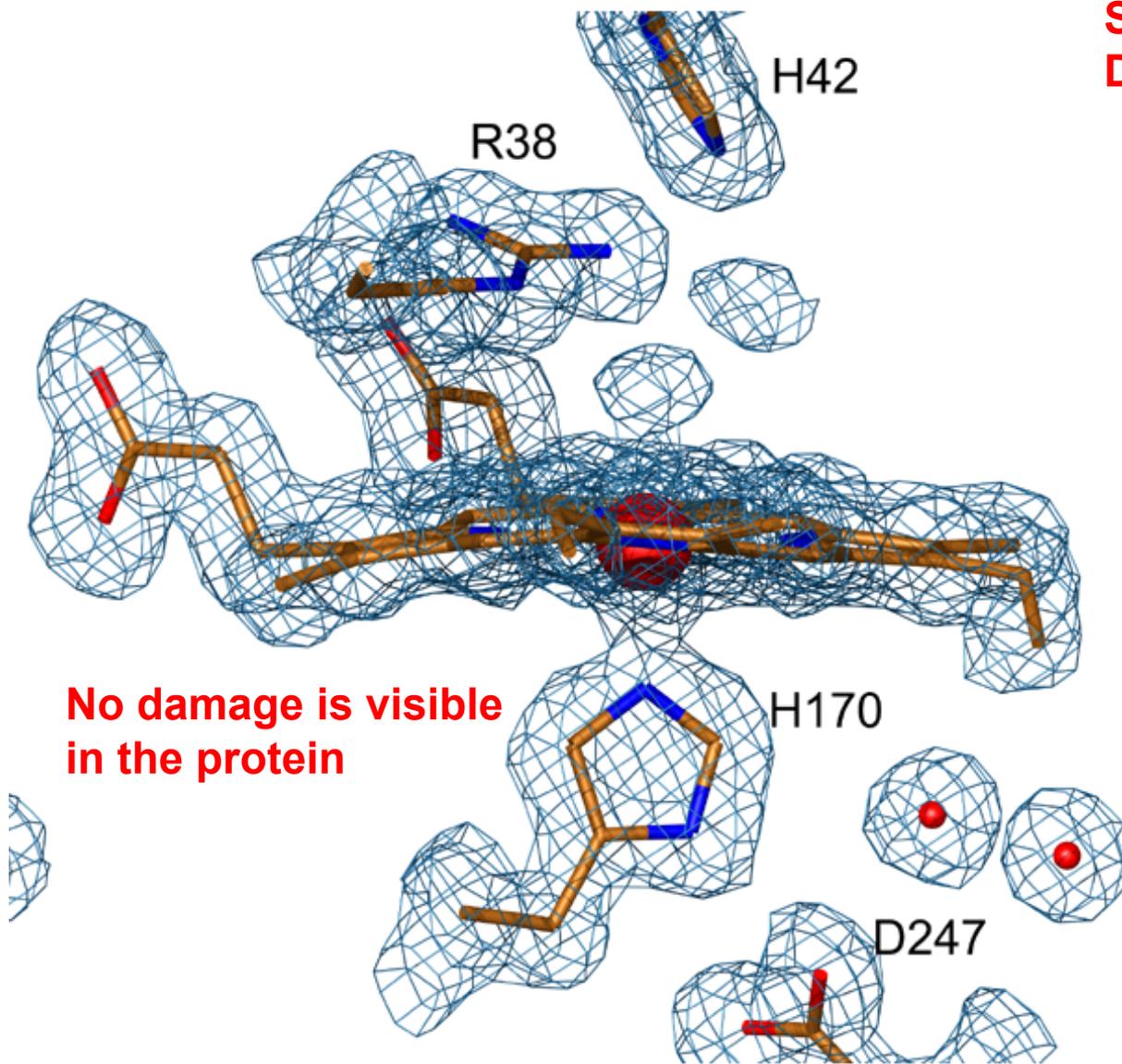
COMBINATION OF SPECTROSCOPY WITH CRYSTALLOGRAPHY (1993)

1. ASSIGN THE CORRECT ELECTRONIC STATE TO A STRUCTURE (particularly important for redox proteins)
2. CORRELATE ELECTRONIC TRANSITIONS WITH STRUCTURAL TRANSITIONS



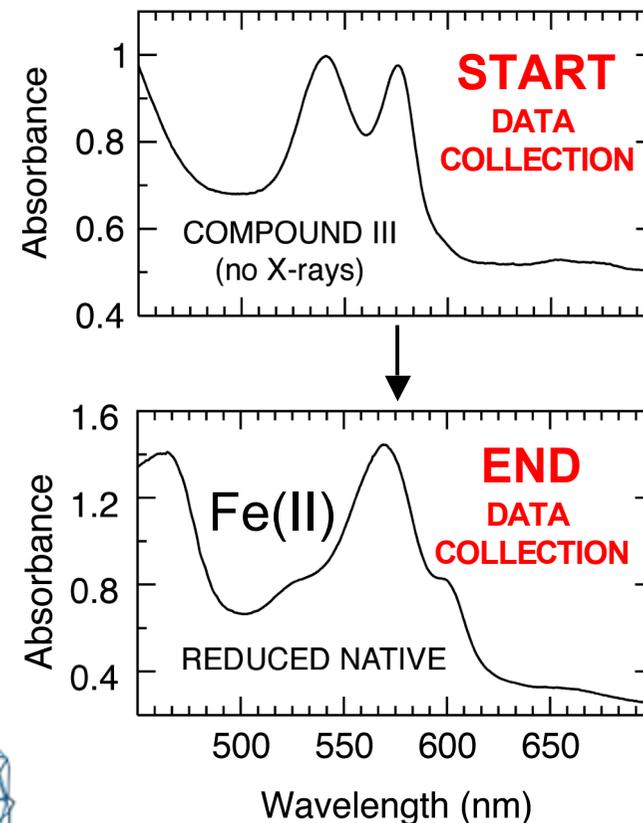
Hadfield, A. T. & Hajdu, J.: A fast and portable micro-spectrophotometer for time-resolved X-ray diffraction experiments. *J. Appl. Cryst.* **26**, 839-842 (1993).

COMPOUND III OF HRP CONTAINS A BOUND DIOXYGEN SPECIES. THE X-RAY STRUCTURE SHOWS TWO WATER MOLECULES...



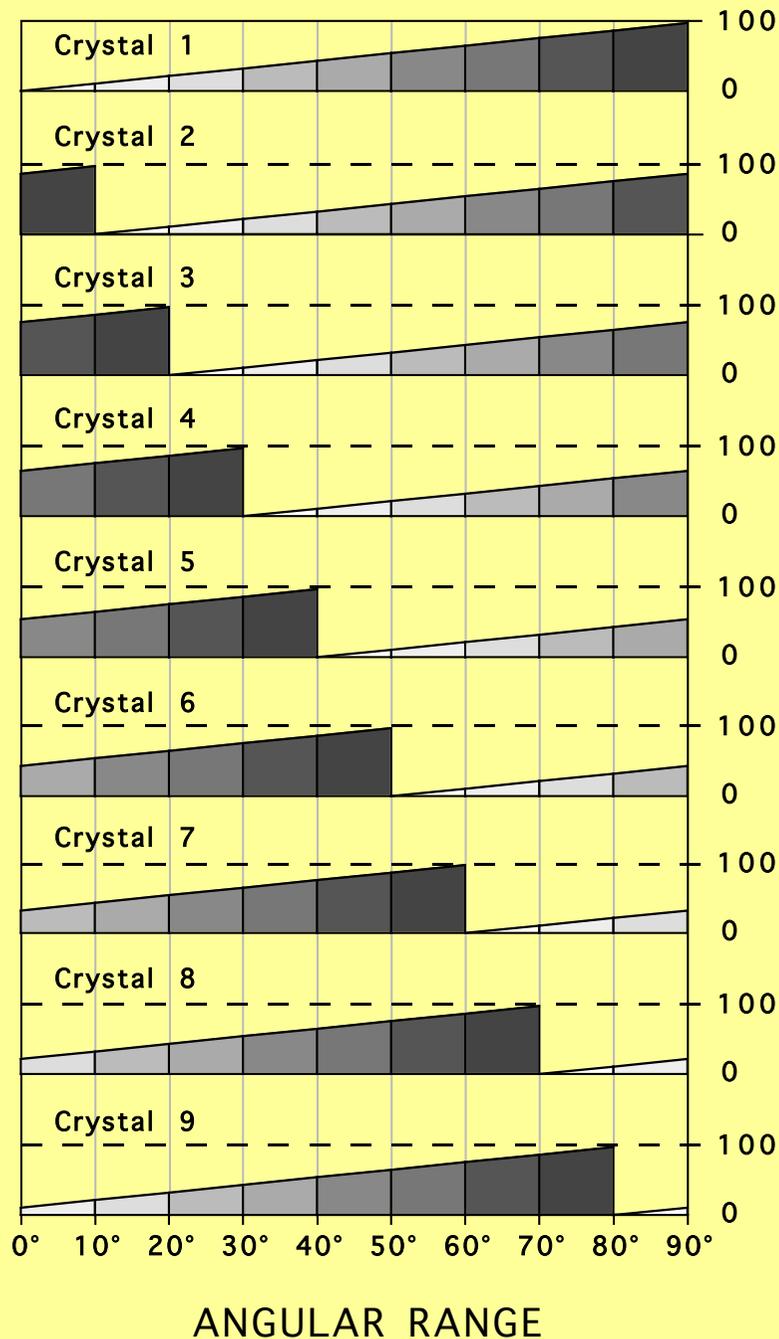
No damage is visible in the protein

SPECTRAL CHANGES DURING DATA COLLECTION:

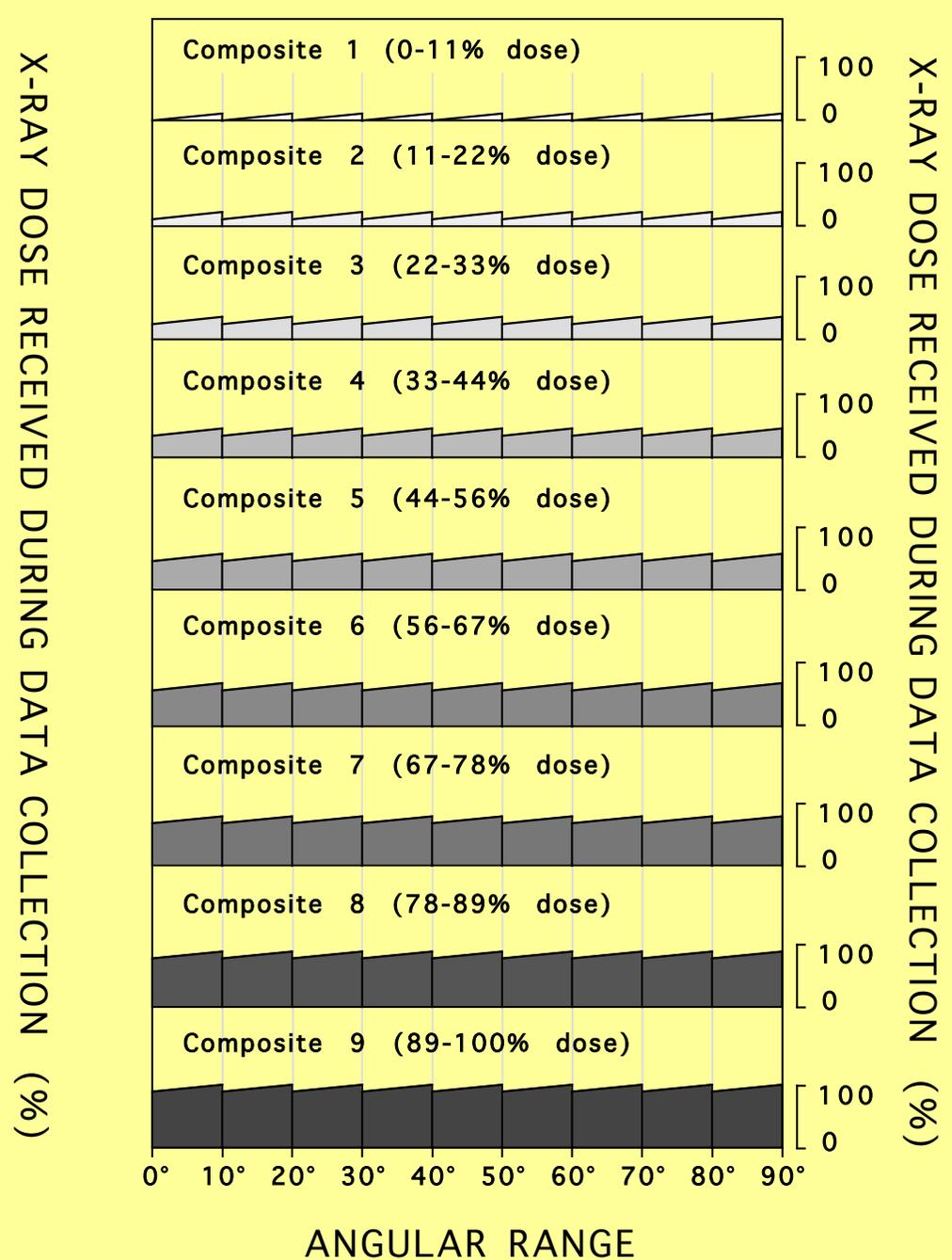


THE ENZYME GOT REDUCED

INDIVIDUAL DATA SETS

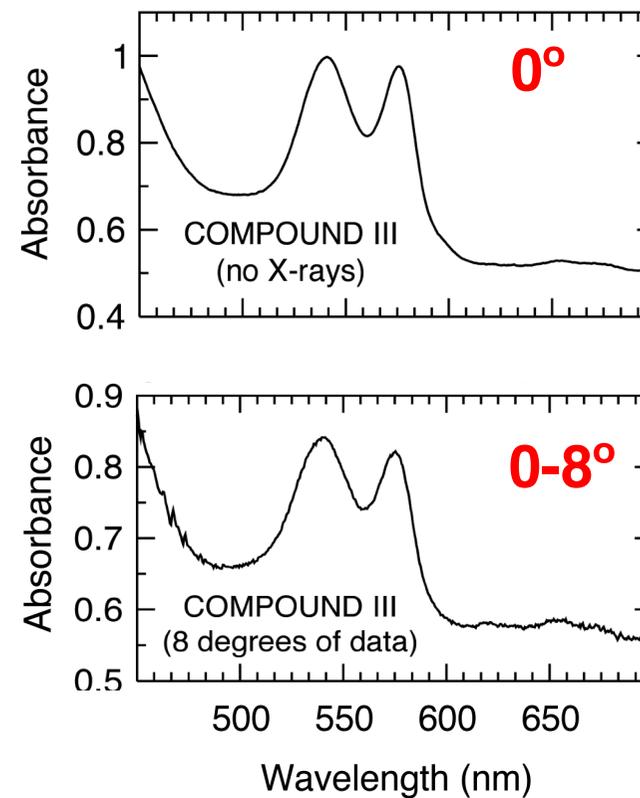
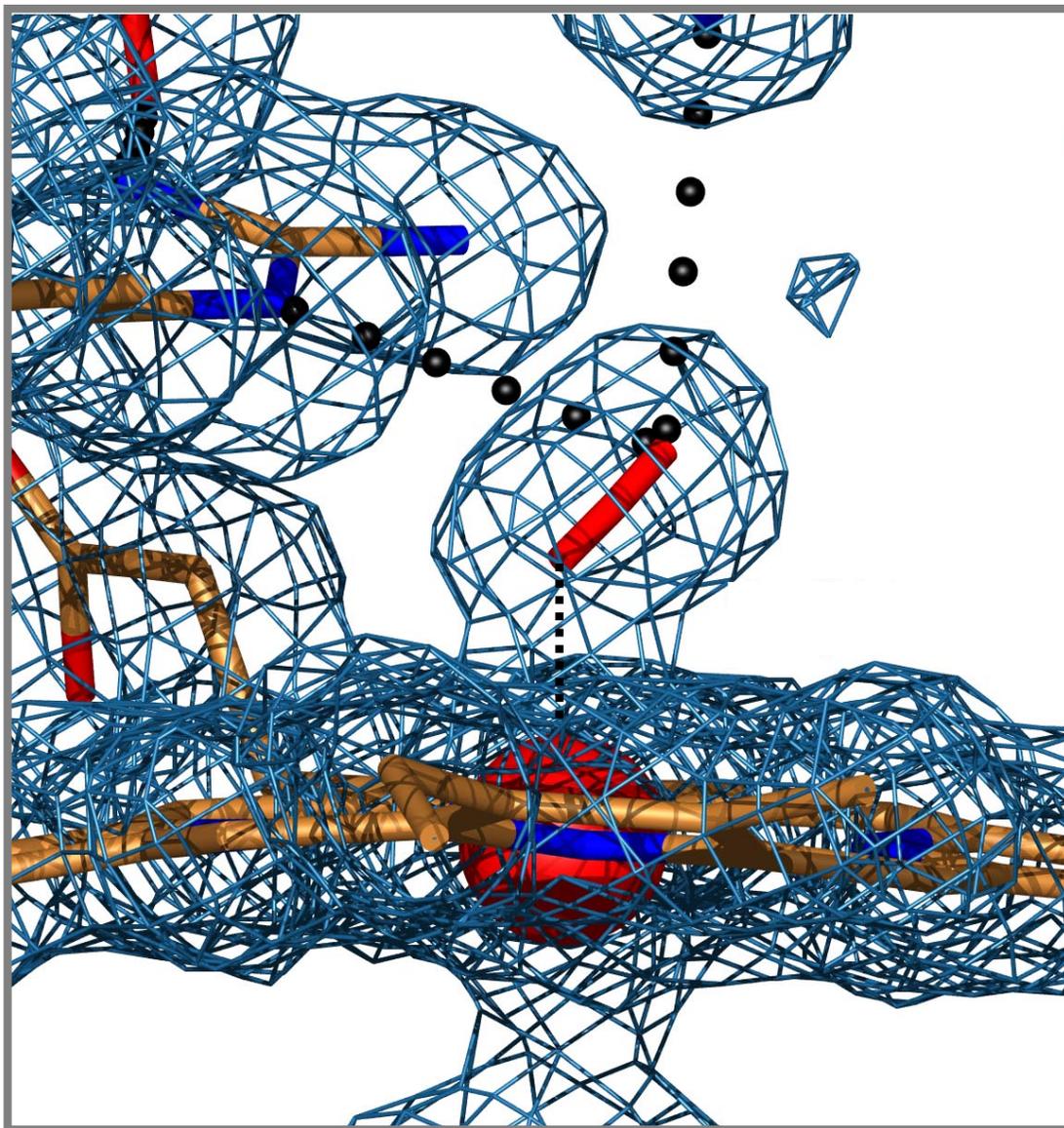


COMPOSITE DATA SETS



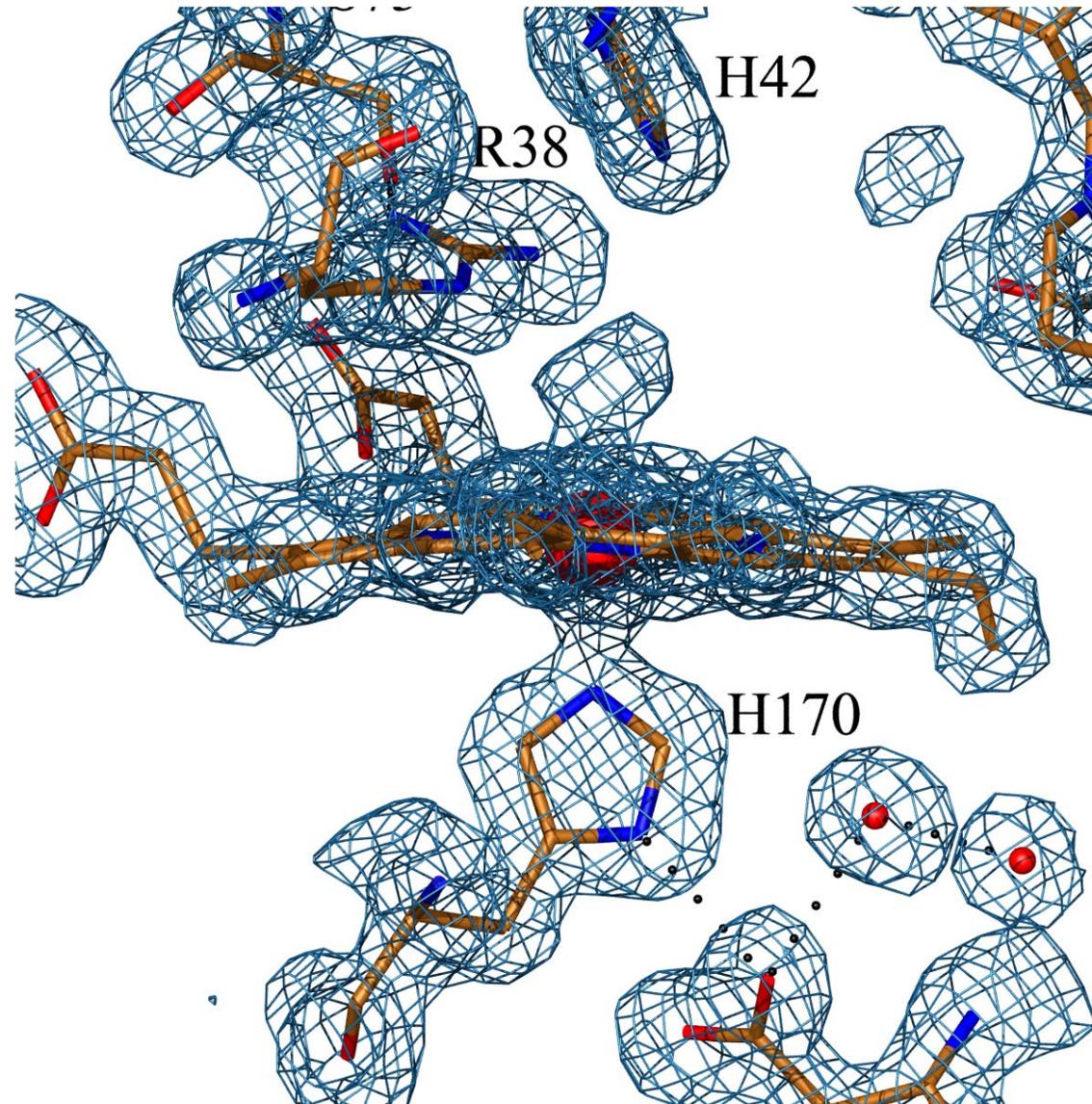
Voilà! HRP WITH BOUND DIOXYGEN SPECIES

Results from composite data set 0-8°

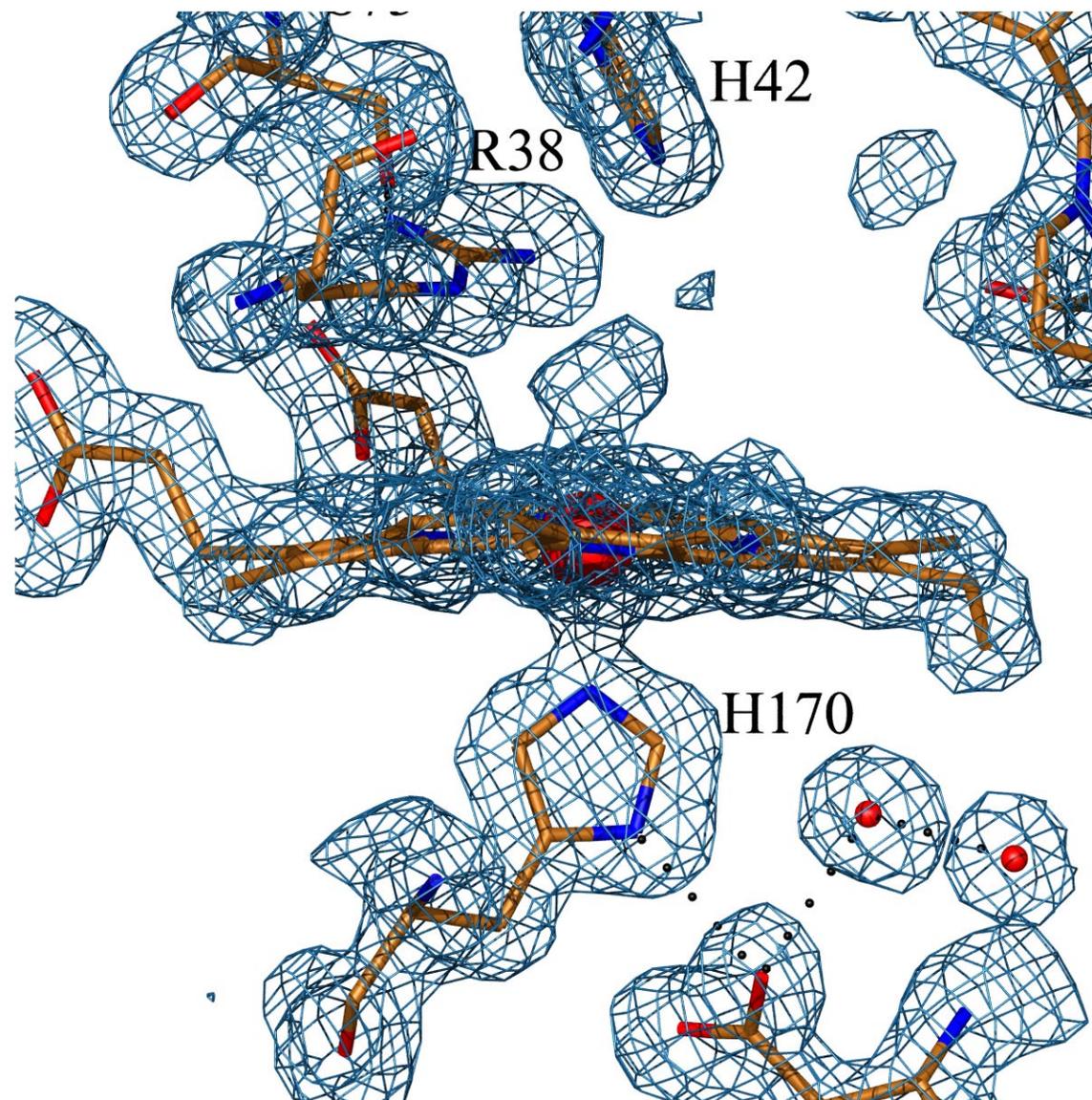


0-8°

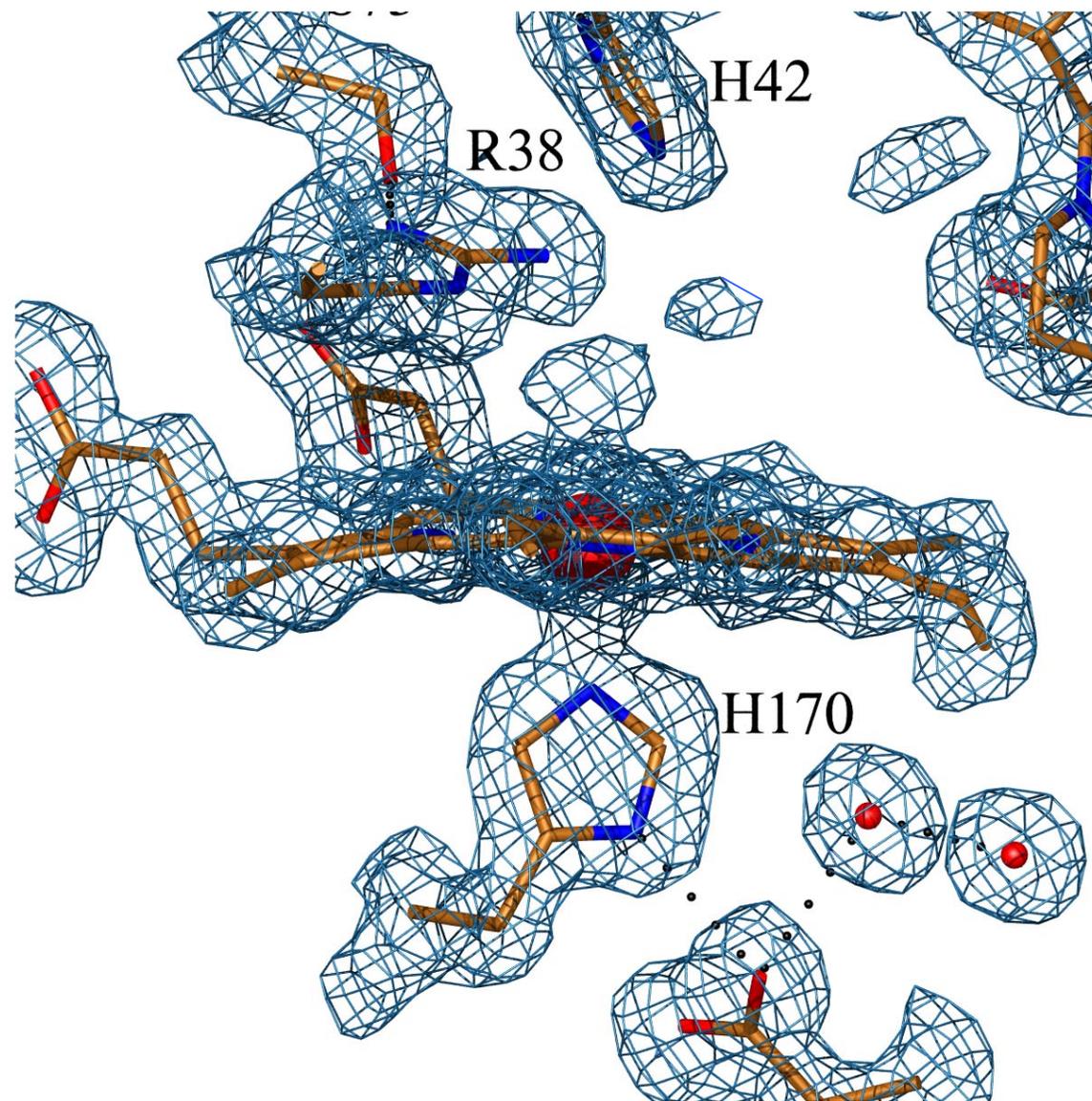
X-RAY-DRIVEN CATALYSIS



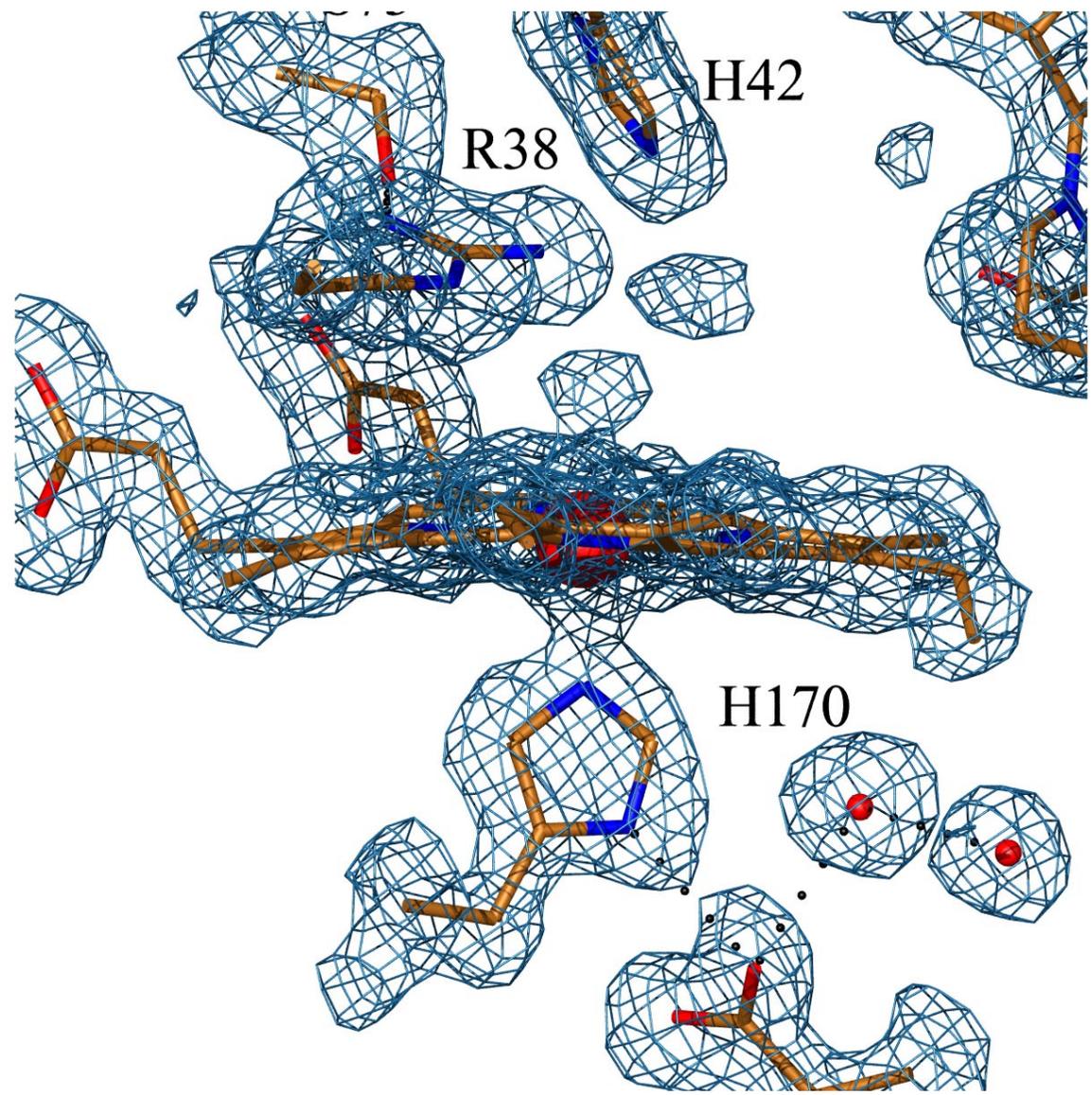
0-10°



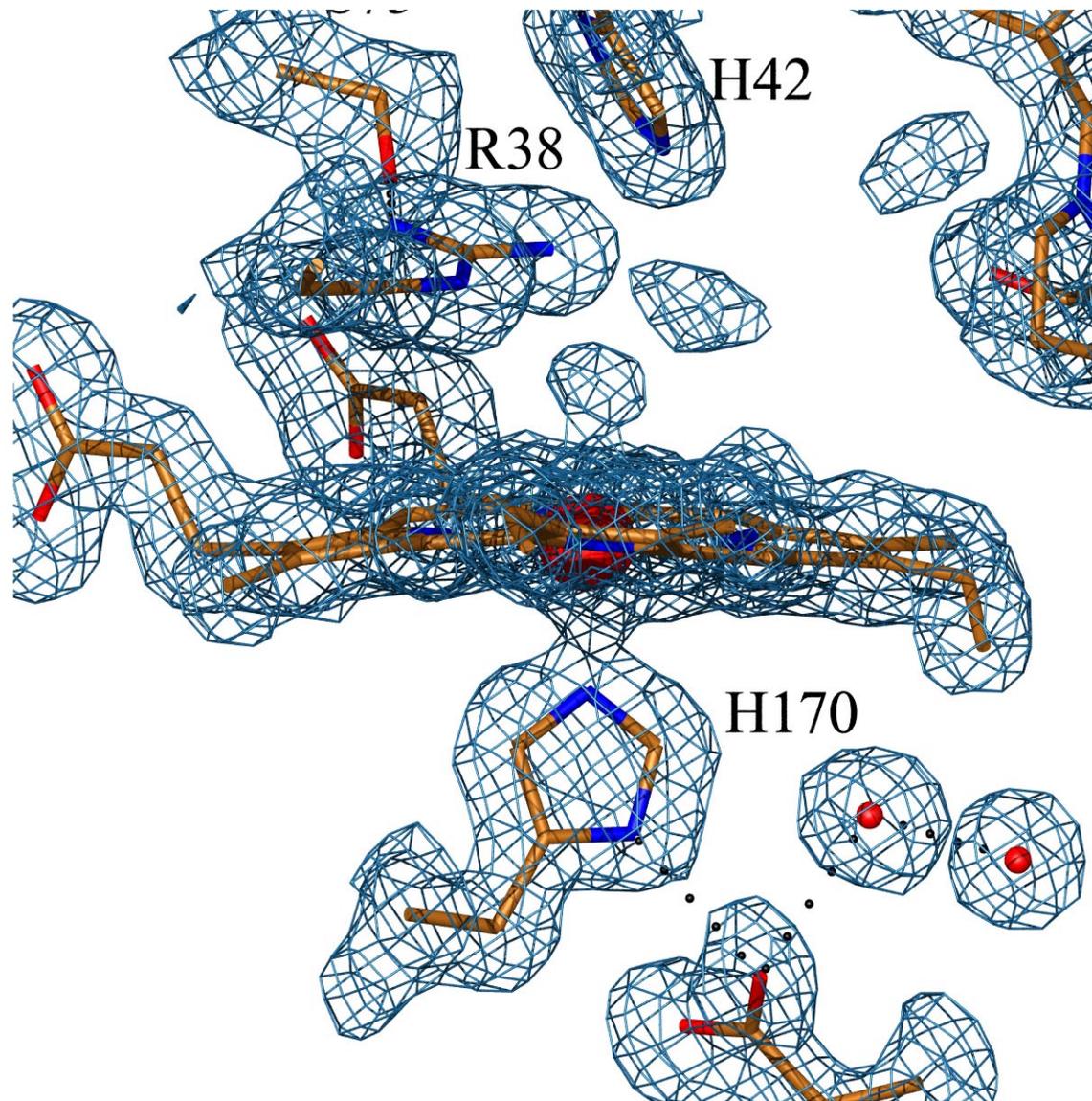
10-20°



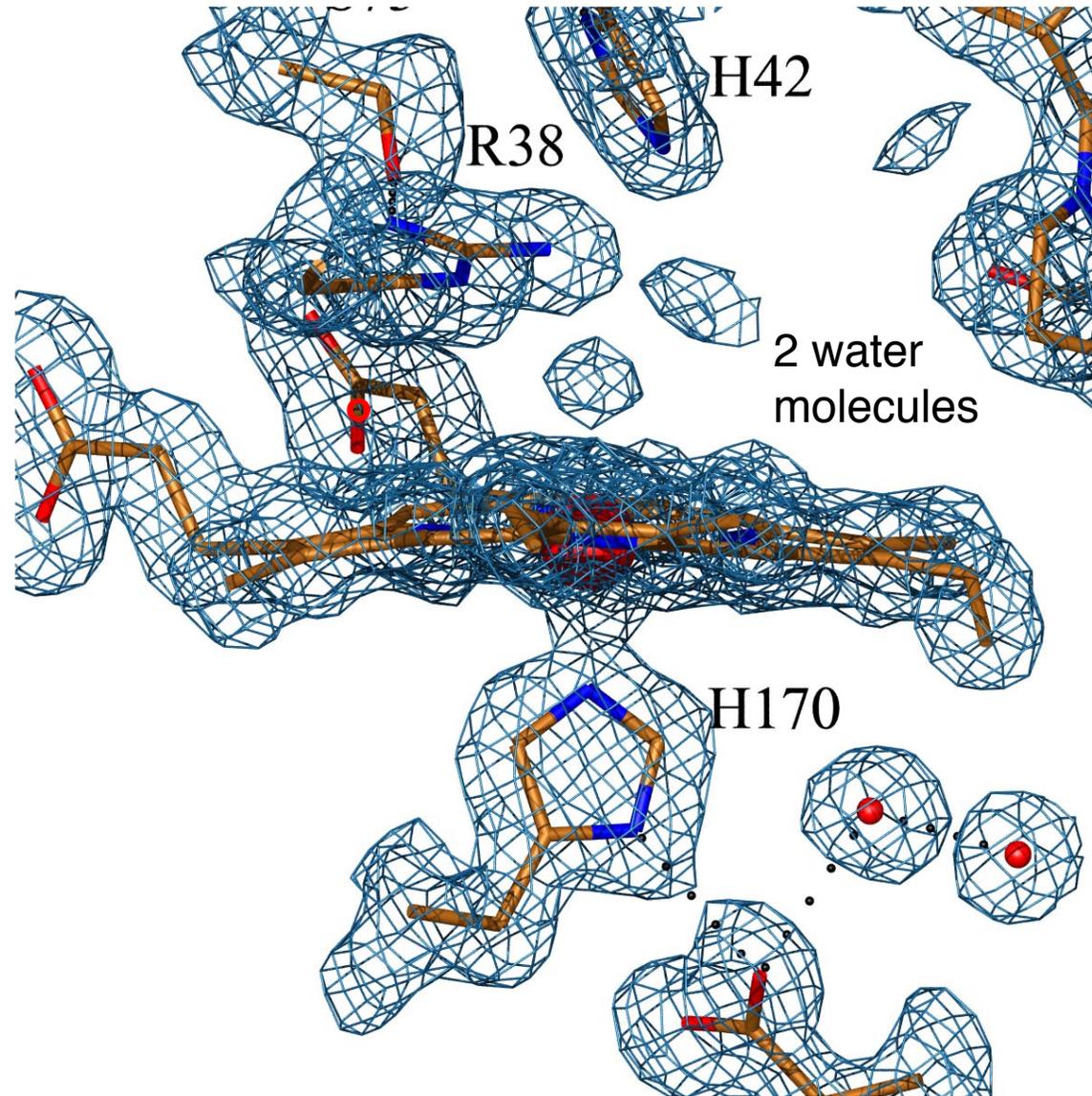
40-50°



50-60°



70-80°



“The catalytic pathway of horseradish peroxidase at high resolution”

Berglund, G.I., Carlsson, G.H., Smith, A.T., Szoke, H., Henriksen, A. & Hajdu, J., *Nature* **417**, 463-468 (2002)

- (1) Less than **10 electrons** were liberated per unit cell
- (2) Reduction of dioxygen to 2 waters requires **4 electrons**
- (3) Redox enzymes evolved to channel electrons to/from active sites
- (4) No damage was visible in the protein

**THIS IS ALL FINE BUT RADIATION DAMAGE
IS A SERIOUS BARRIER TO OBSERVATION**

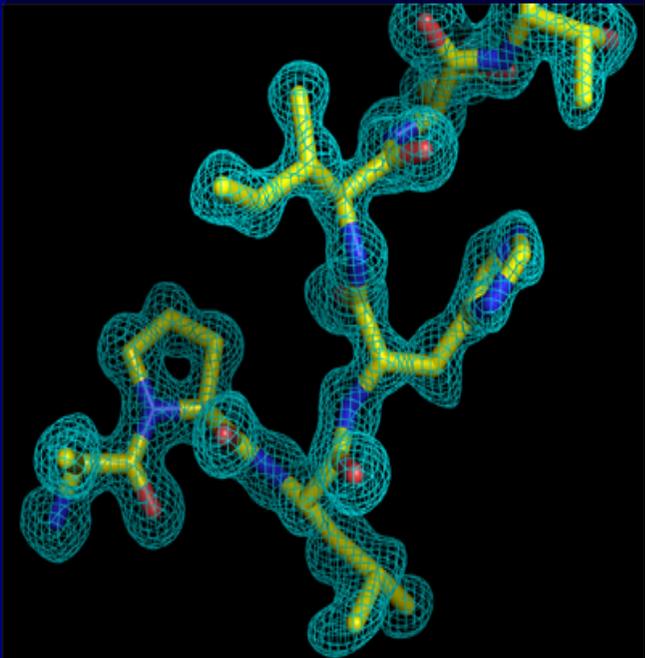
RADIATION DAMAGE KILLS

The more detail we want to see, the less is left from the sample

THERE IS A TIME COMPONENT IN DAMAGE FORMATION

Neutze, R., Wouts, R., van der Spoel, D., Weckert, E. Hajdu, J. (2000) *Nature* 406, 752-757

CRYSTAL STRUCTURE
DISTRIBUTED DAMAGE



NO IDENTICAL COPIES
CONCENTRATED DAMAGE

A GLIMMER OF HOPE:

SLAC-437
SLAC/SSRL-0066

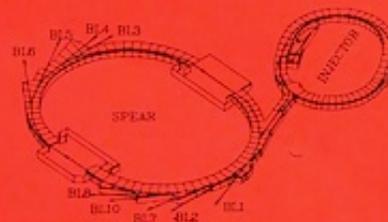
Workshop on Scientific Applications of Coherent X-Rays

Stanford, CA
February 12, 1994

Organization and Program
J. Arthur, G. Materlik, H. Winick

Executive Summary
R.J. Birgeneau, C.S. Fadley, G. Materlik

SLAC-Report-437



Prepared for the Department of Energy
under contract number DE-AC03-76SF00515

STANFORD LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER
STANFORD SYNCHROTRON RADIATION LABORATORY
Stanford University • Stanford, California

SciFi program: Explore the physical limits of imaging (1996-2000)



Carol V. Robinson
Oxford



Gyula Faigel
Budapest



Edgar Weckert
Karlsruhe



Sven Hovmöller
Stockholm



Marin van Heel
London



Janos Hajdu
Uppsala
Coordinator

THREE LINES OF DEVELOPMENT JOIN IN THE PROJECT

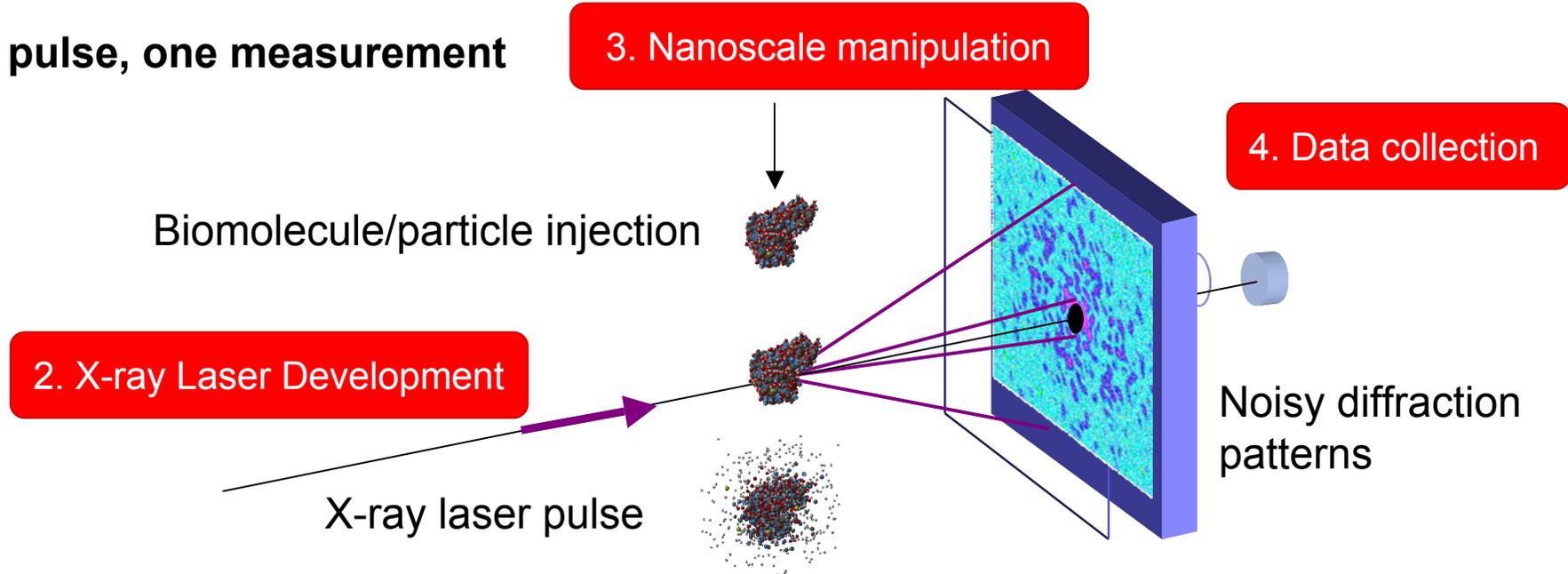
**1. DEVELOPMENT OF THEORIES TO EXPLORE THE
PHYSICAL LIMITS OF IMAGING**

2. DEVELOPMENT OF X-RAY LASERS

**3. DEVELOPMENT OF PHASING ALGORITHMS
(continuous diffraction patterns offer advantages)**

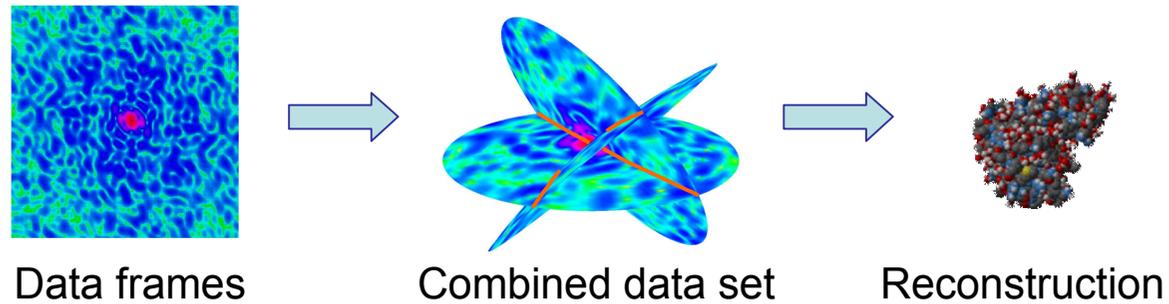
Single Molecule X-ray Imaging

One pulse, one measurement



Combine many measurements

1. Theories of damage in ultra-fast imaging



5. Data processing, phasing & reconstruction

Scattering and **damage** by X-rays

(12 keV photons, biological samples: C, N, O, H, S, P)

X-RAYS INTERACT WITH MATTER THROUGH ABSORPTION AND SCATTERING:

(1) PHOTOELECTRIC EFFECT (~90%) followed by **Auger emission, shake-up excitations, and secondary electron cascades** (large samples)

(2) ELASTIC SCATTERING (~7-10%)

(3) INELASTIC SCATTERING (~3%)

We compute the effect of ionisation, changing scattering factors, and sample explosion on the diffraction pattern

Compute time-integrated diffraction intensity:

$$I(\mathbf{q}) = \Omega r_e^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} I(t) \left| \sum_j f_j(\mathbf{q}, t) \exp\{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}_j(t)\} \right|^2 dt$$

Radiation damage interferes with atomic scattering factors $f_j(\mathbf{q}, t)$ and atomic positions $\mathbf{x}_j(t)$

Calculate “degradation (R) factor” to see how the explosion degrades the image

$$R = \sum_u \left| \frac{K^{-1} \sqrt{I_{real}(u)} - \sqrt{I_{ideal}(u)}}{\sum_{u'} \sqrt{I_{ideal}(u')}} \right| \quad K = \frac{\sum \sqrt{I_{real}(u)}}{\sum_u \sqrt{I_{ideal}(u)}}$$

- $R = 0$ is ideal; larger R means larger error
- For two totally random arrays: $R \hat{=} 0.67$
- Typical R -values in Protein Database: 0.20

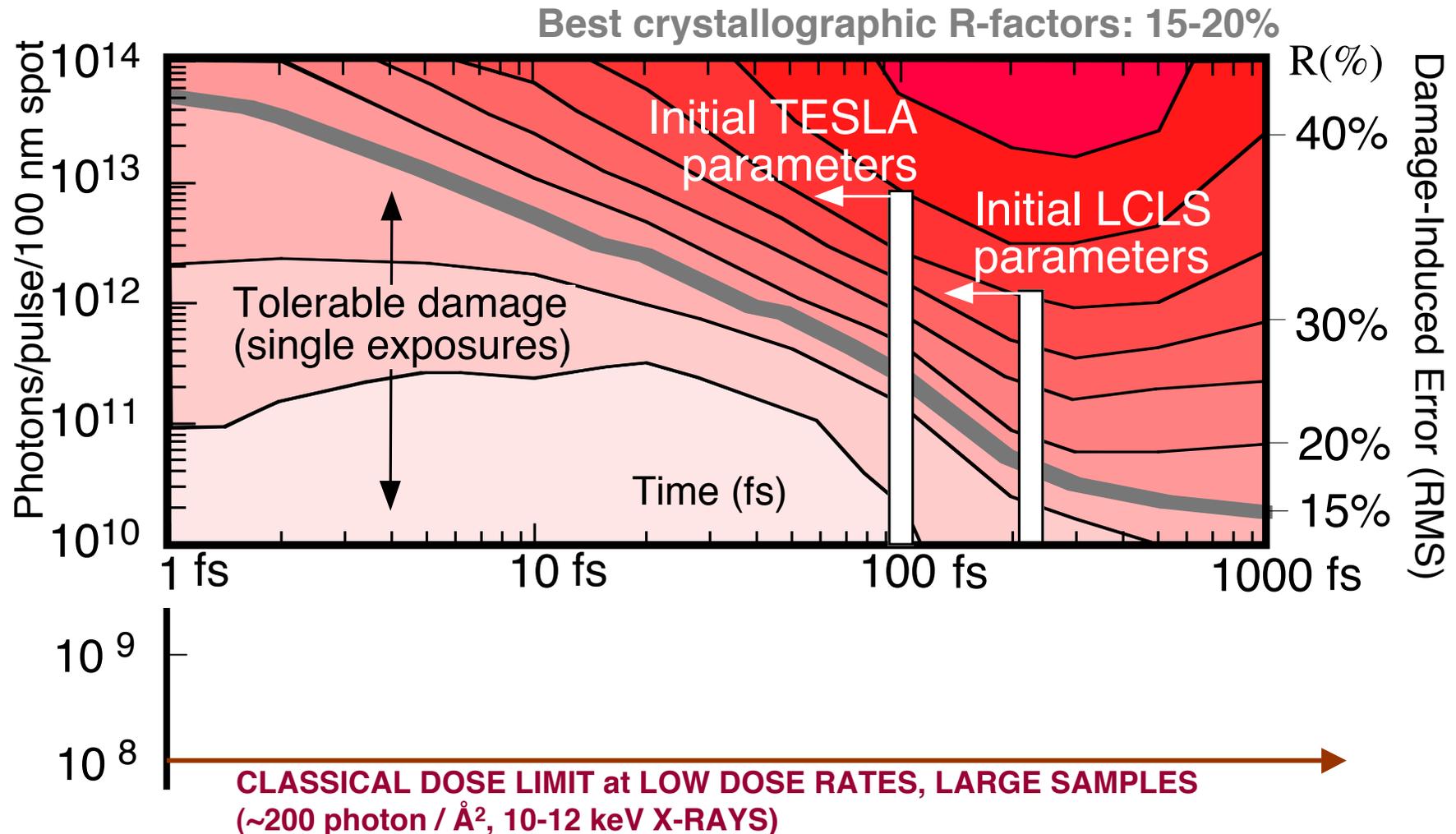
Landscape of damage tolerance from our XMD model

Neutze et al. (2000) *Nature* 406, 752-757

Ionisation and subsequent sample explosion cause diffraction intensities to change

Damage-Induced Error

$$R = \frac{|\sqrt{I(t)} - \sqrt{I_0}|}{\sqrt{I_0}}$$



Potential for biomolecular imaging with femtosecond X-ray pulses

Richard Neutze*, Remco Wouts*, David van der Spoel*, Edgar Weckert†‡ & Janos Hajdu*

* Department of Biochemistry, Biomedical Centre, Box 576, Uppsala University, S-75123 Uppsala, Sweden

† Institut für Kristallographie, Universität Karlsruhe, Kaiserstrasse 12, D-76128, Germany

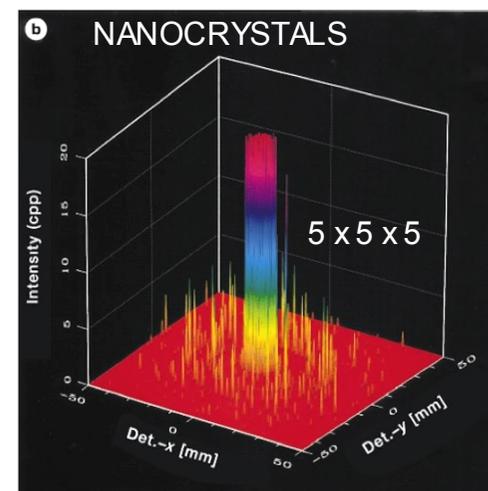
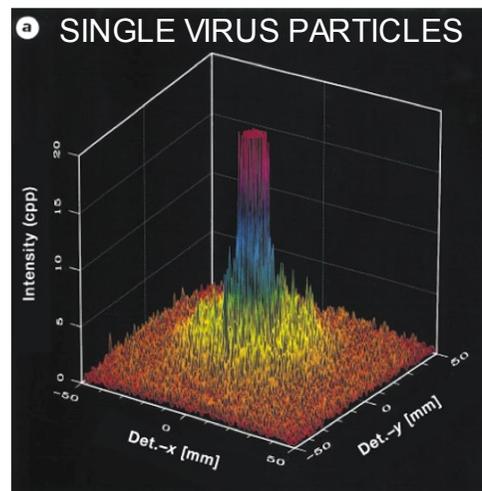
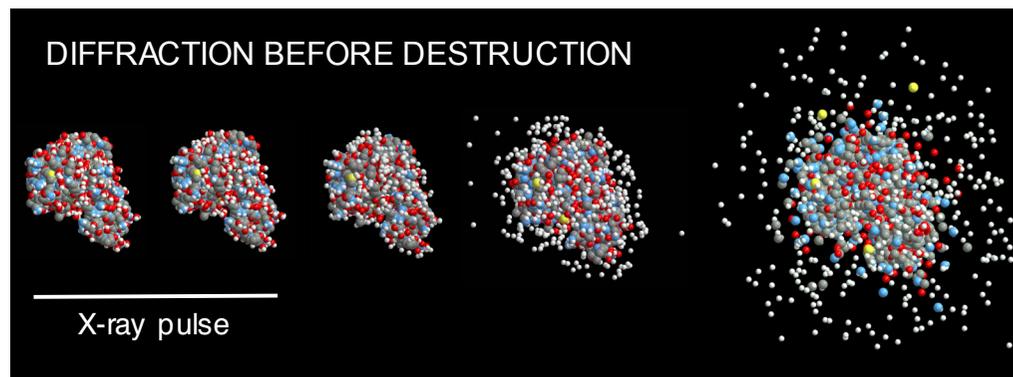
Sample damage by X-rays and other radiation limits the resolution of structural studies on non-repetitive and non-reproducible structures such as individual biomolecules or cells¹. Cooling can slow sample deterioration, but cannot eliminate damage-induced sample movement during the time needed for conventional measurements^{1,2}. Analyses of the dynamics of damage formation^{3–5} suggest that the conventional damage barrier (about 200 X-ray photons per Å² with X-rays of 12 keV energy or 1 Å wavelength²) may be extended at very high dose rates and very short exposure times. Here we have used computer simulations to investigate the structural information that can be recovered from the scattering of intense femtosecond X-ray pulses by single protein molecules and small assemblies. Estimations of radiation damage as a function of photon energy, pulse length, integrated pulse intensity and sample size show that experiments using very short exposures may provide useful structural information before radiation damage destroys the sample.



Richard Neutze

ultrashort, high-intensity X-ray pulses that are currently under development, in combination with container-free sample handling techniques, will provide a new paradigm for structural biology with X-rays. X-ray photons depositing energy at a wavelength shorter than the photoelectric cross-section, the photoelectric effect is the primary source of damage. This is a resonance phenomenon in which an electron is ejected⁸, usually from a core shell. About 95% of the photoelectric events

Nature **406**, 752–757 (2000)



Ingolf Lindau

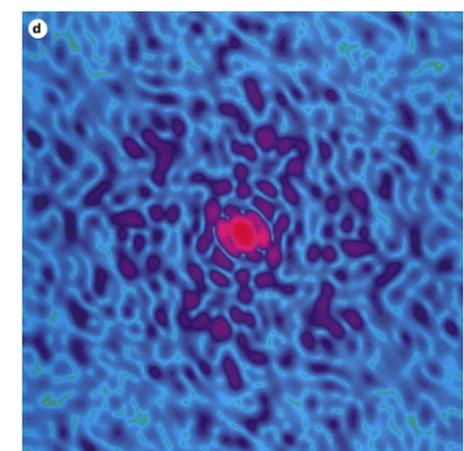


Figure 3 Elastic scattering from a variety of samples. a–c, Simulated diffraction images of 0.2 Å to model an imperfect lattice. c, Scattering from a single molecule of lysozyme. d,

AIMING THE BIG GUNS - The science case for X-ray FELs



September 2000



October 2002

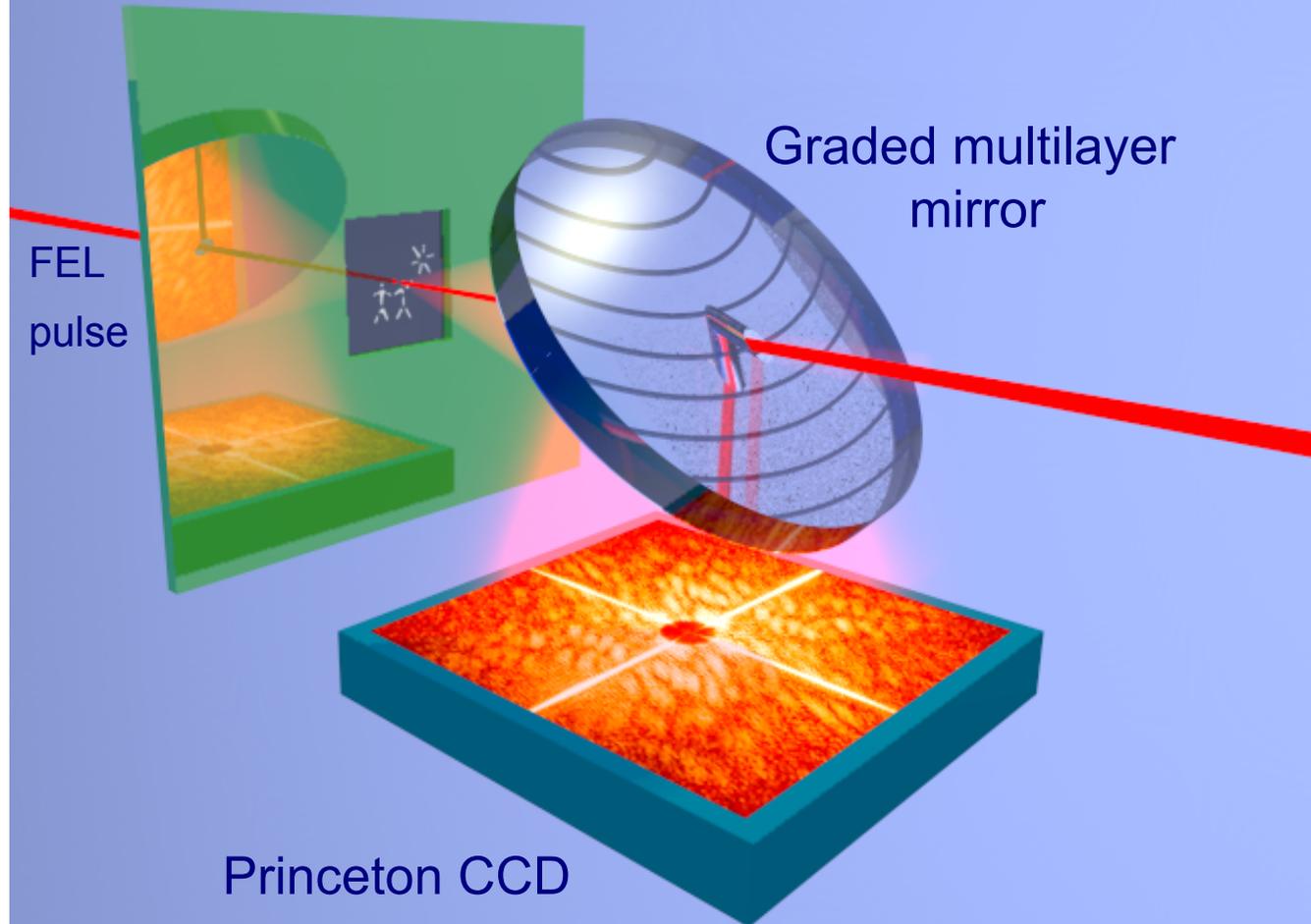
In 2002, Livermore joins our SciFi project



Henry Chapman

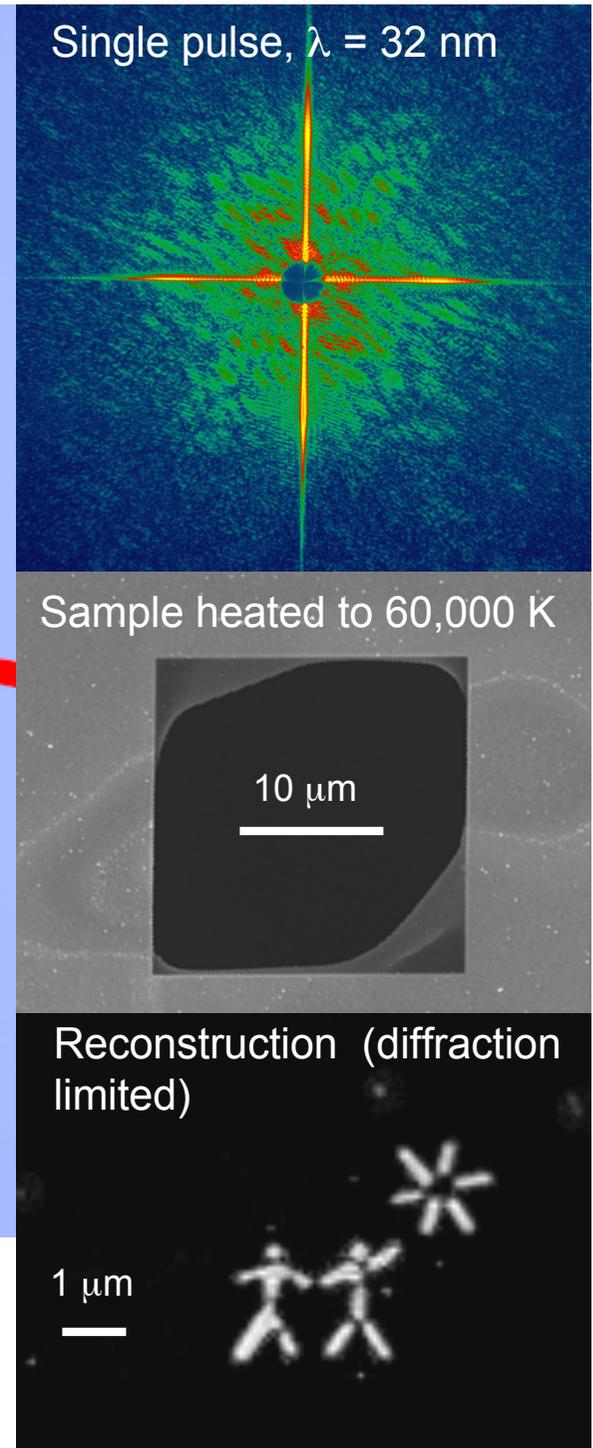
PROOF OF PRINCIPLE

1 February 2006

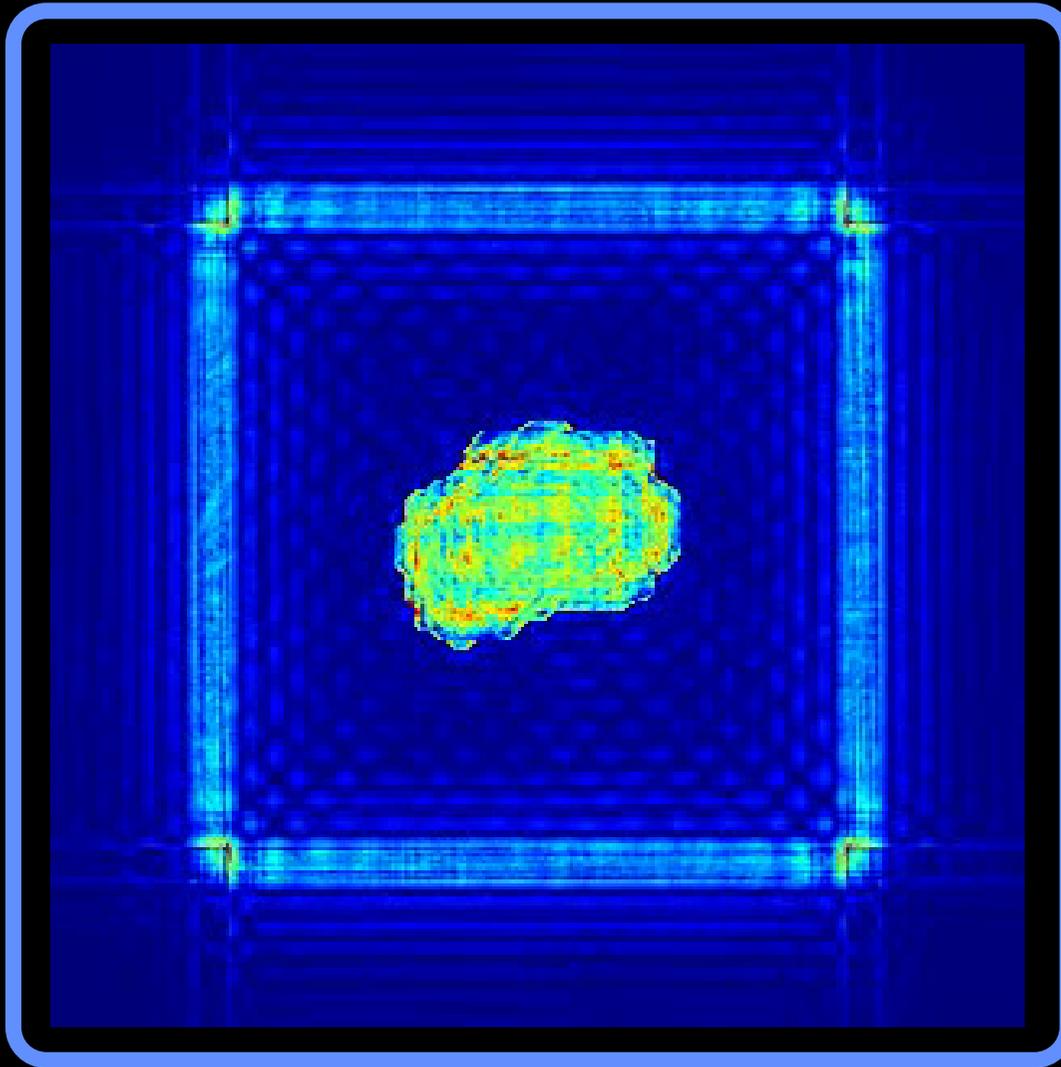


Nature Physics 2, 839-843 (Dec. 2006)

First flash diffraction experiment at the VUV-FEL



Reconstruction from the over-sampled diffraction pattern



Based on the *Gerchberg-Saxton* error reduction algorithm

- *Hybrid Input Output* as implemented in *Shrinkwrap / Hawk*

- Uses a dynamic instead of a static support.

- Uses a low resolution version of the current guess as new support.



Filipe Maia (Uppsala University)



Evgeny Saldin

Mikhail Yurkov

Tutorial on FELs

$$\frac{\lambda}{c-v_z} = \frac{\lambda_w}{v_z}$$

$$\lambda = \lambda_w \left(\frac{c-v_z}{v_z} \right) = \frac{\lambda_w}{\beta \gamma^2} (1 - \beta^2)$$

$$\frac{\lambda_w}{v_z} \left(1 - \frac{v_z}{c} \right) \frac{(1 + \frac{v_z}{c})}{(1 + \frac{v_z}{c})} \quad (V_z \cdot E_z) \approx \cos \delta z$$

$$\frac{\lambda_w}{2 \gamma^2} \approx \delta z \approx \delta v_z \approx N^2$$

LCLS: SINGLE PARTICLES AND BIOMOLECULES

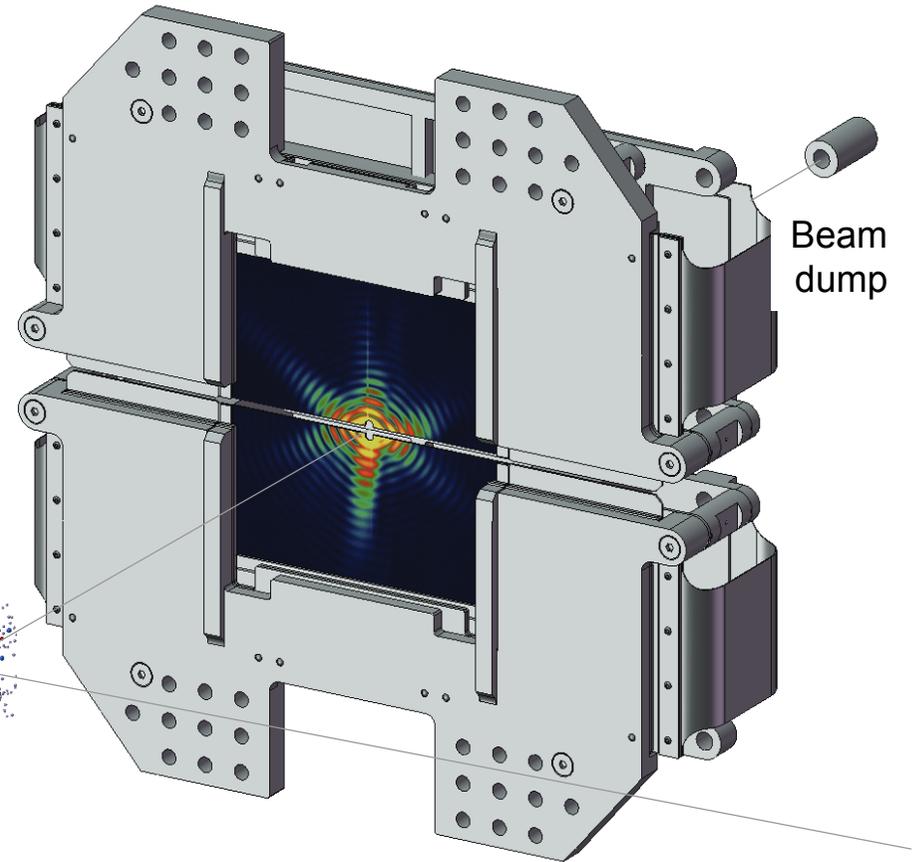
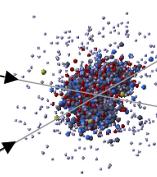
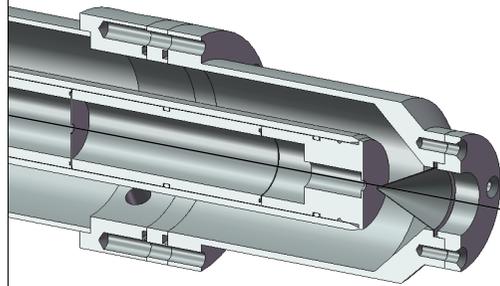
Random hits in random orientations

$$v_{hit} = \frac{F d_{x-ray}^2}{v_p d_p}$$

10^{-6} mbar

Very little background

Particle injector



X-ray pulses

@120 Hz

One pulse, one measurement

BIOLOGY IN THE GAS PHASE

Many infectious diseases are transmitted via aerosols

Ocean sprays put out 10^{13} kg aerosol per year from jet drops formed when bubbles burst

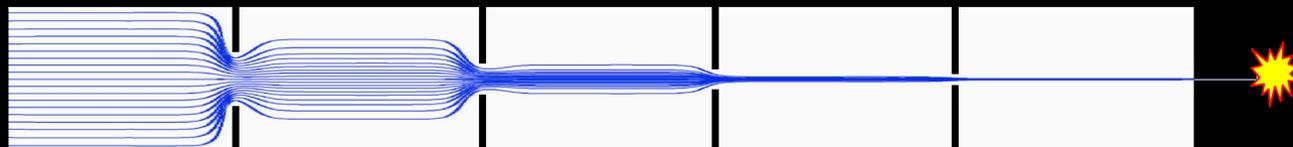
Metabolically active cells have been captured at altitudes of 20-70 km



Cells sorters and tissue printing devices are based on aerosols

AEROSOL SAMPLE INJECTION

AEROSOLISATION,
EQUILIBRATION



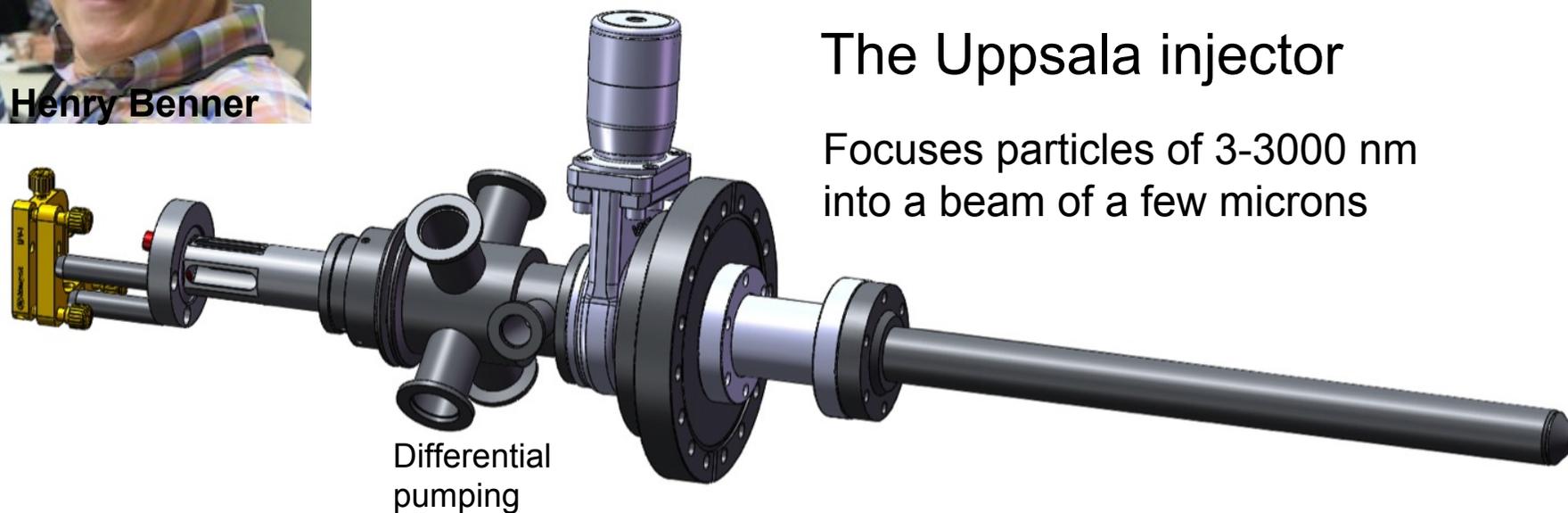
AERODYNAMIC FOCUSING: W.K. Murphy and G.W. Sears, "Production of Particulate Beams" *J. Appl. Phys.* **35**, 1986–1987 (1964).

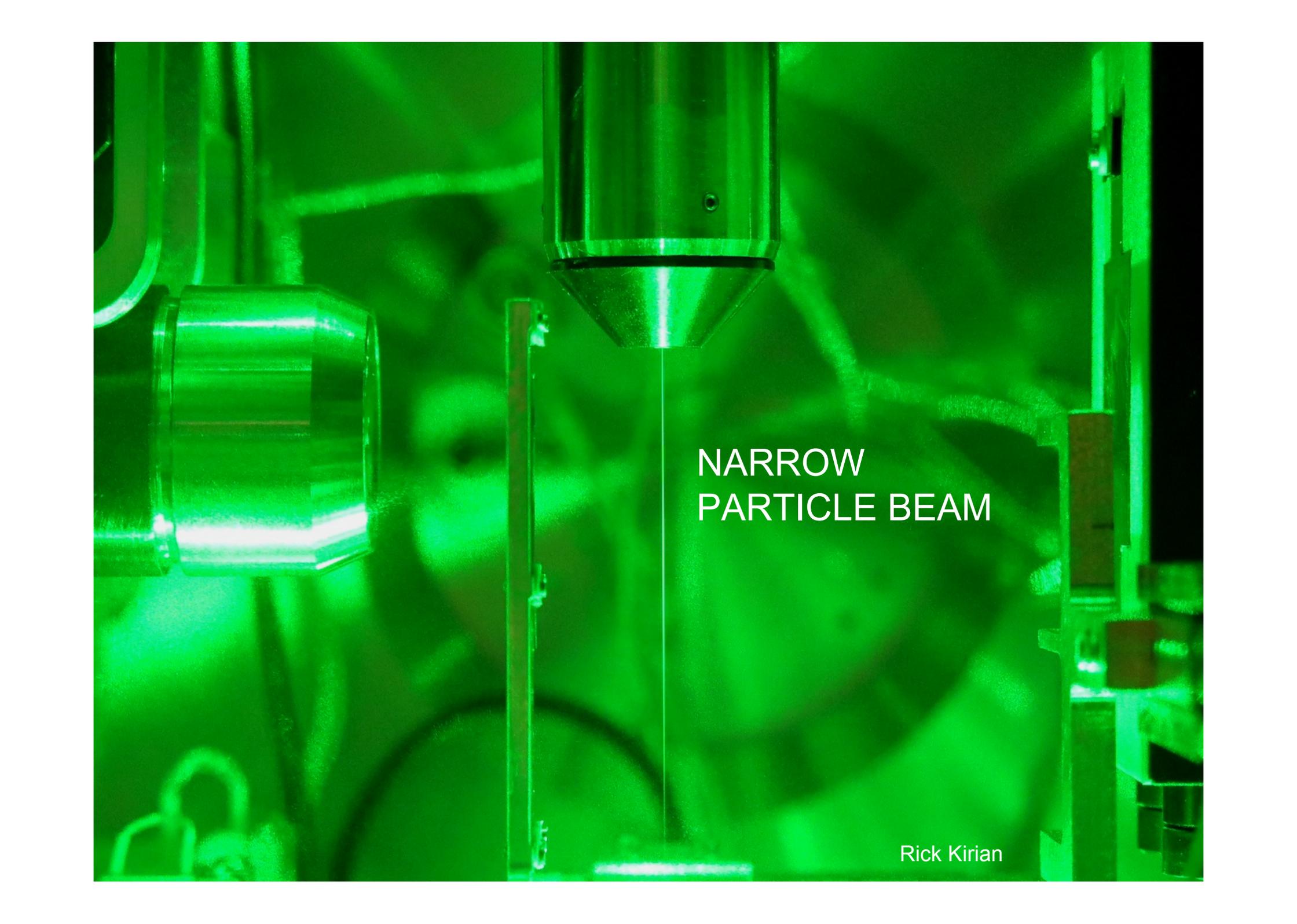


Henry Benner

The Uppsala injector

Focuses particles of 3-3000 nm
into a beam of a few microns





NARROW
PARTICLE BEAM

Rick Kirian

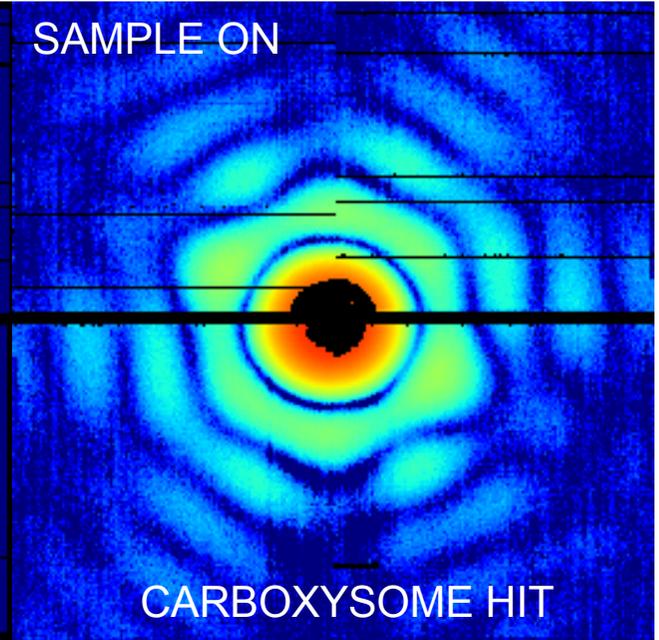
X-RAYS ON



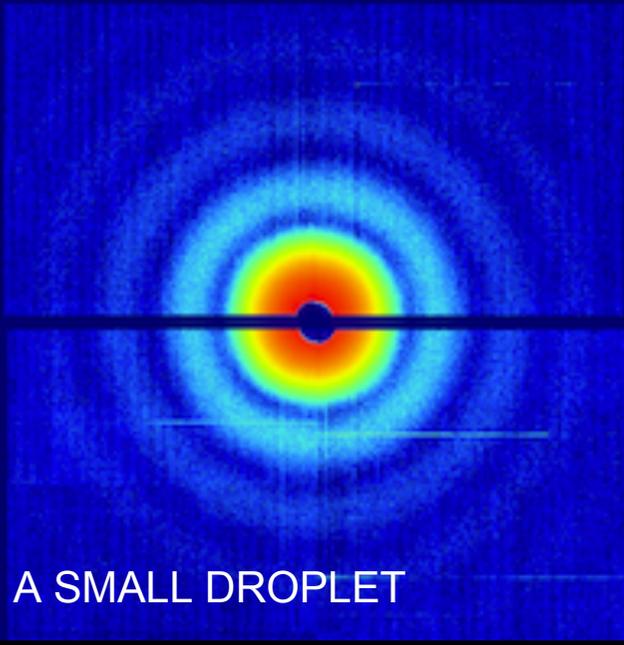
INJECTOR ON
running with water



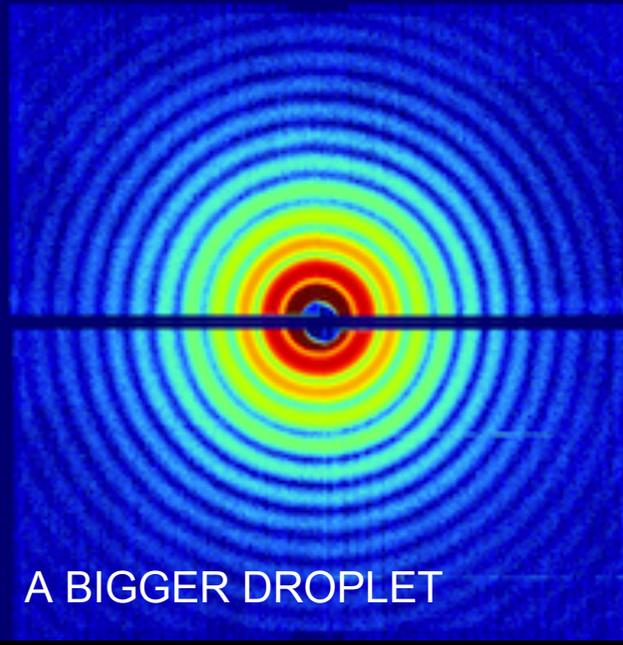
SAMPLE ON



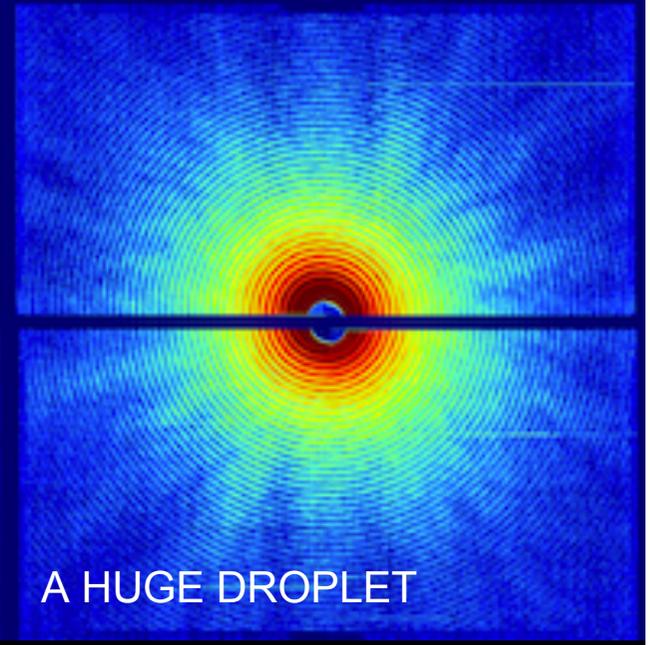
EVAPORATION CAN BE CONTROLLED BY ADJUSTING, PRESSURE, TEMPERATURE, LIQUID FLOW AND GAS FLOW. WE AVOID DROPLETS COMING THROUGH THE INJECTOR.



A SMALL DROPLET



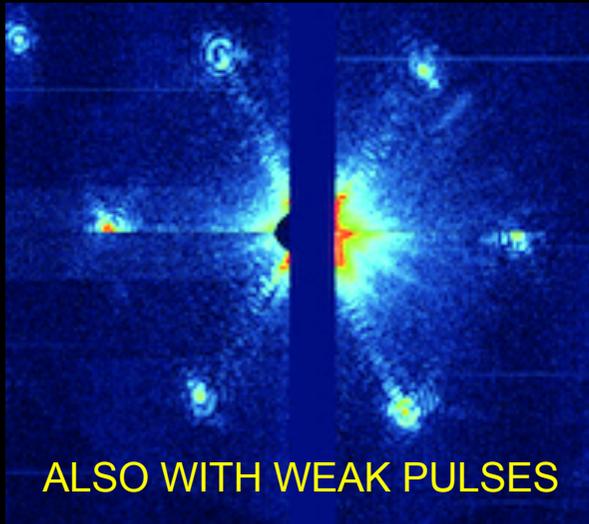
A BIGGER DROPLET



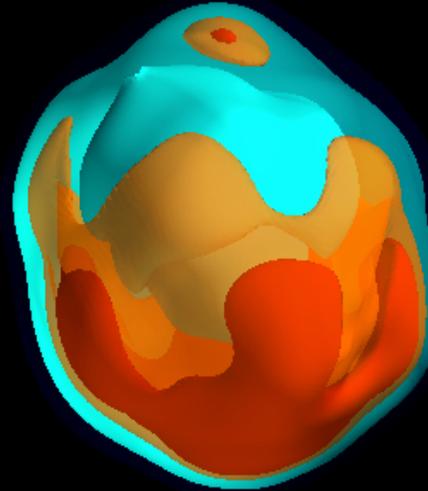
A HUGE DROPLET

OPPORTUNITIES

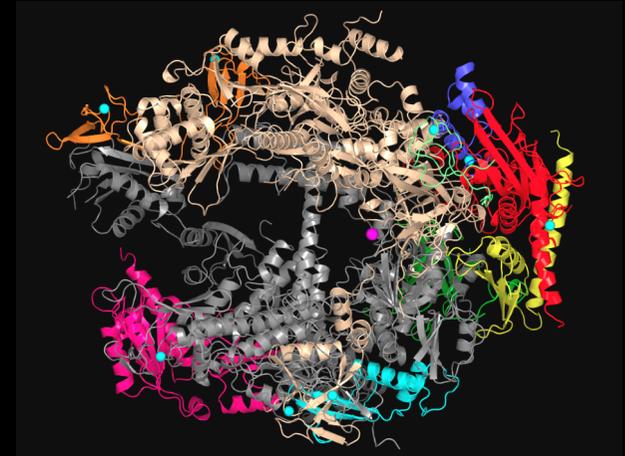
NANOCRYSTALS



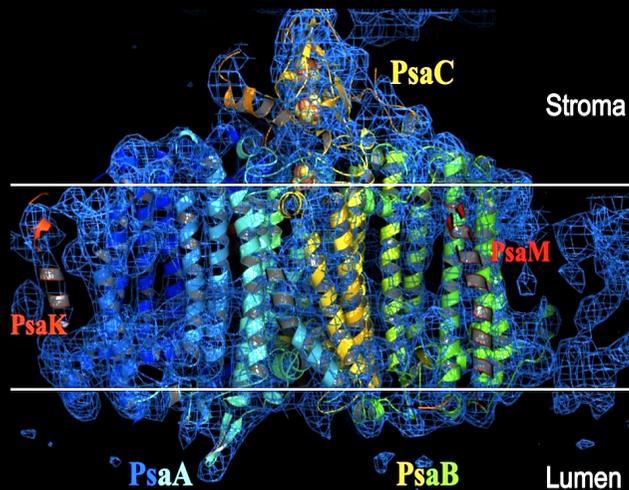
VIRUS PARTICLES



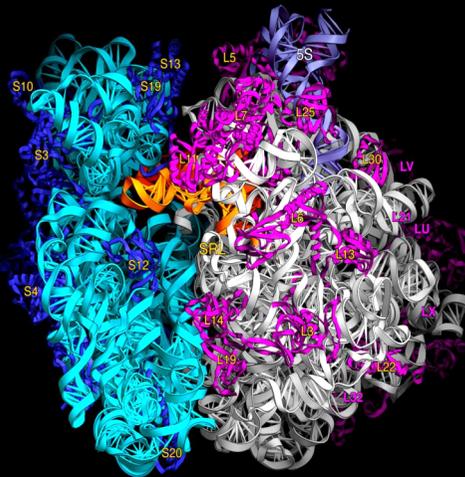
SINGLE MOLECULES



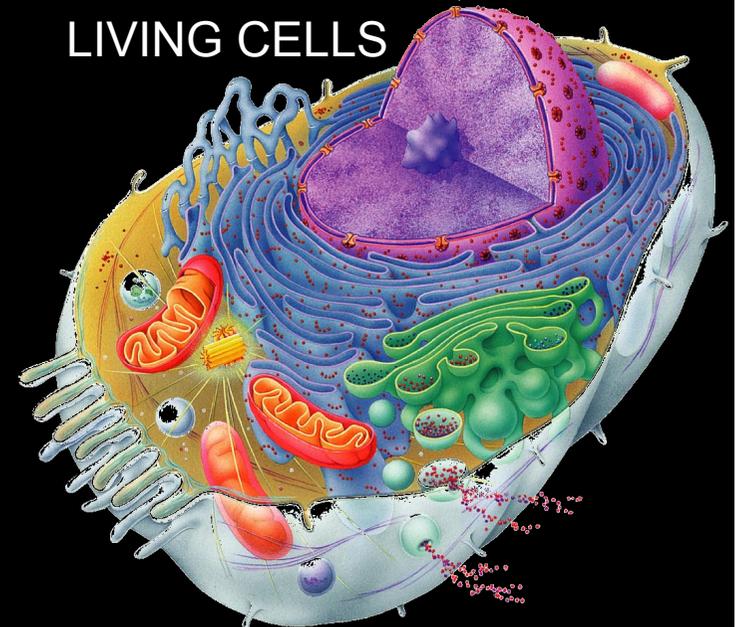
MEMBRANE PROTEINS



CELL ORGANELLES

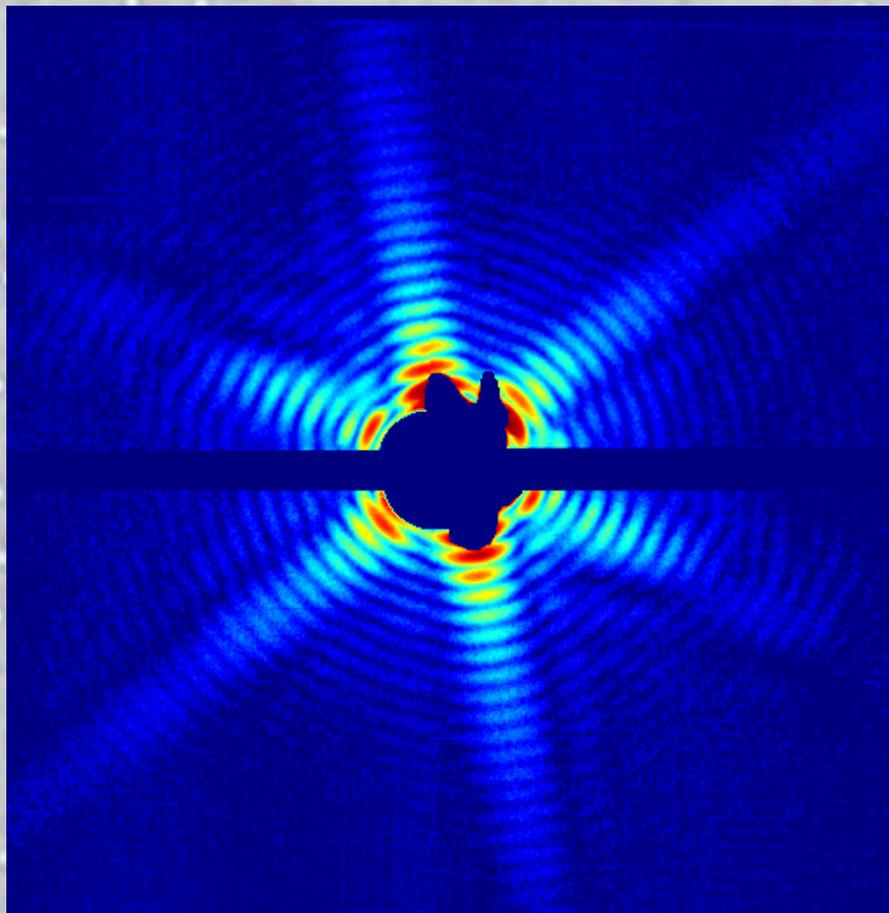


LIVING CELLS

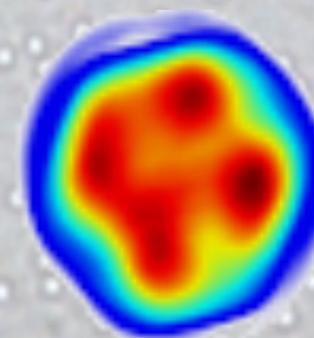
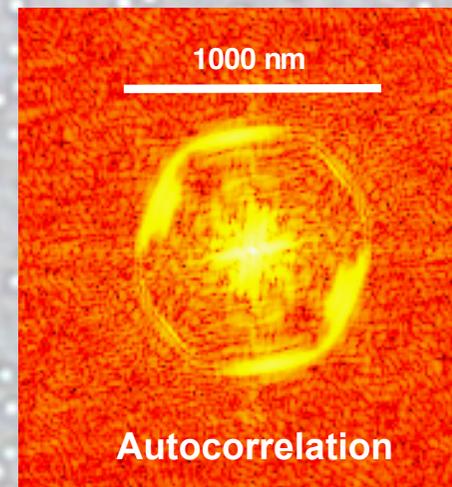


2009: 1st RESULTS - SINGLE VIRUS PARTICLES

THE GIANT MIMI VIRUS



Photon energy: 1.80 keV
Pulse length: 70 fs (FDHM)
Focus: 10 μm (FWHM)
 1.6×10^{10} photons/ μm^2



Projection image



Three-Dimensional Reconstruction of the Giant Mimivirus Particle with an X-Ray Free-Electron Laser

Tomas Ekeberg,^{1,*} Martin Svenda,¹ Chantal Abergel,² Filipe R. N. C. Maia,^{1,3} Virginie Seltzer,² Jean-Michel Claverie,²
 Max Hantke,¹ Olof Jönsson,¹ Carl Nettelblad,¹ Gijs van der Schot,¹ Mengning Liang,⁴ Daniel P. DePonte,⁴ Anton Barty,⁴
 M. Marvin Seibert,^{1,5} Bianca Iwan,^{1,6} Inger Andersson,¹ N. Duane Loh,⁷ Andrew V. Martin,⁸ Henry Chapman,^{4,9}
 Christoph Bostedt,⁵ John D. Bozek,⁵ Ken R. Ferguson,⁵ Jacek Krzywinski,⁵ Sascha W. Epp,¹⁰ Daniel Rolles,^{10,11}
 Artem Rudenko,¹¹ Robert Hartmann,¹² Nils Kimmel,^{13,14} and Janos Hajdu^{1,15}

¹Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Uppsala University,
Husargatan 3 (Box 596), SE-751 24 Uppsala, Sweden

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Parc Scientifique de Luminy, Case 934, 13288 Marseille Cedex 9, France

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⁷Centre for BioImaging Sciences, National University of Singapore, 14 Science Drive 4 Blk S1 A, Singapore 117546, Singapore

⁸The University of Melbourne, Parkville, 3010 Victoria, Australia

⁹University of Hamburg, Notkestrasse 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany

¹⁰Max Planck Advanced Study Group, Center for Free Electron Laser Science, Notkestrasse 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany

¹¹J. R. Macdonald Laboratory, Department of Physics, Kansas State University, 116 Cardwell Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, USA

¹²PNSensor GmbH, Römmerstrasse 28, 80803 München, Germany

¹³Max-Planck-Institut Halbleiterlabor, Otto-Hahn-Ring 6, 81739 München, Germany

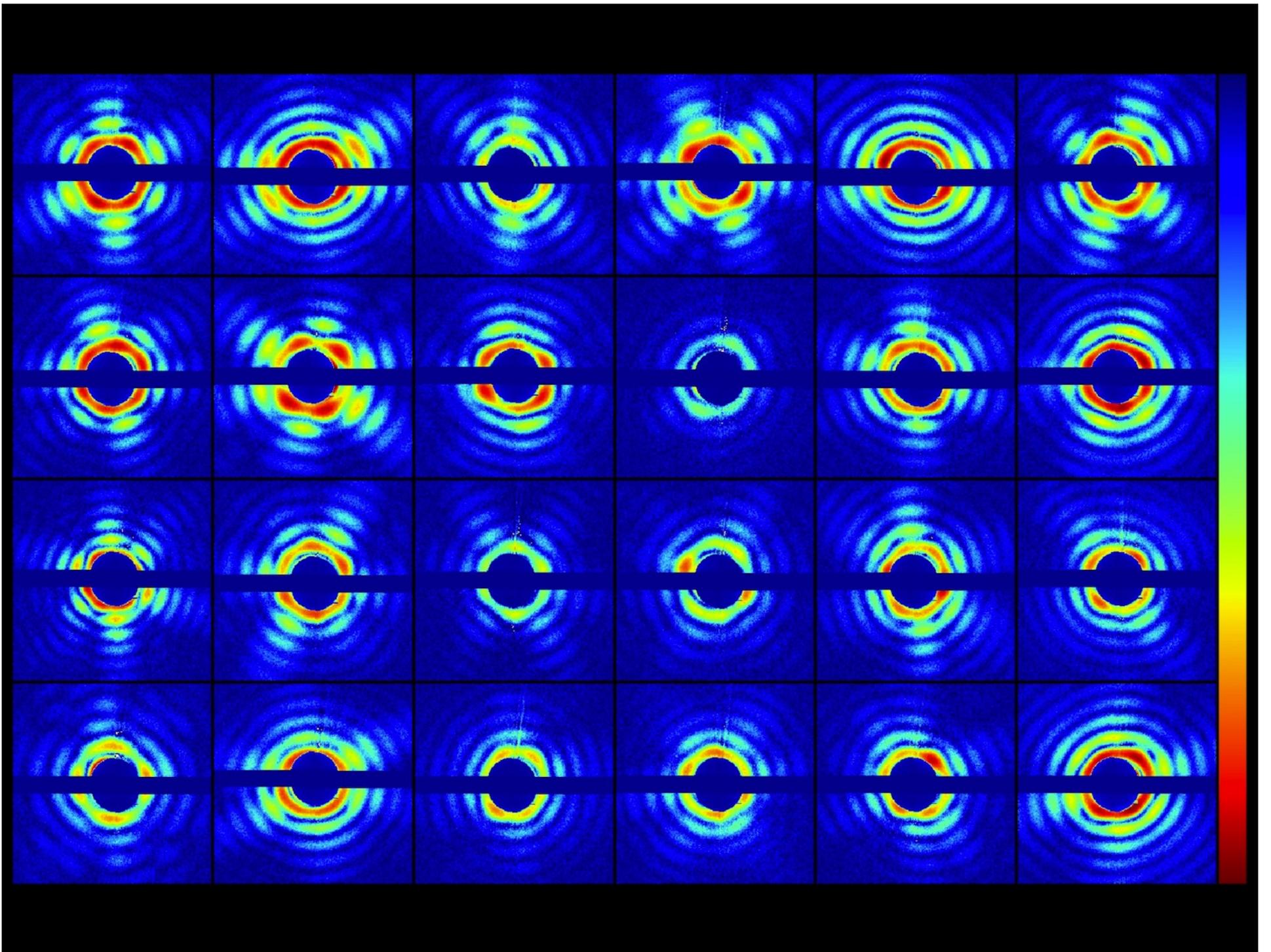
¹⁴Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik, Giessenbachstrasse, 85741 Garching, Germany

¹⁵European XFEL, Albert-Einstein-Ring 19, 22761 Hamburg, Germany

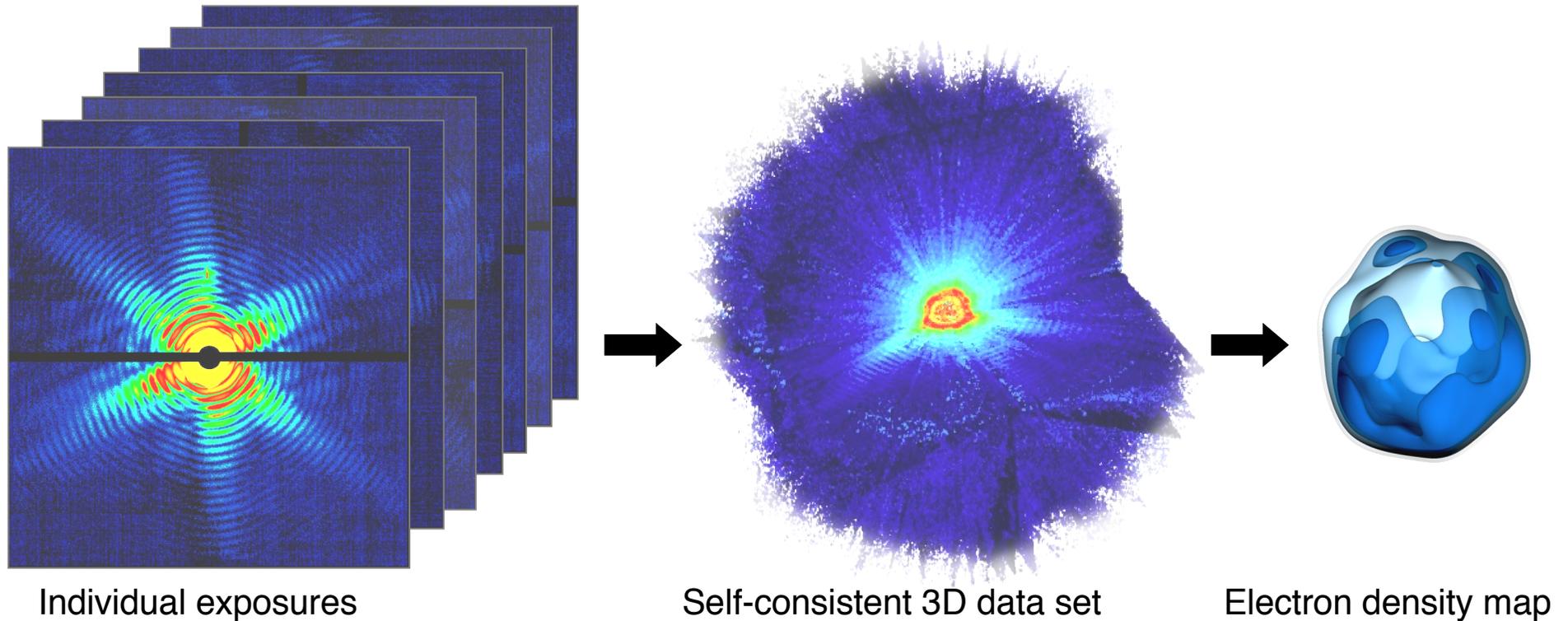
(Received 3 October 2014; published 2 March 2015)

We present a proof-of-concept three-dimensional reconstruction of the giant mimivirus particle from experimentally measured diffraction patterns from an x-ray free-electron laser. Three-dimensional imaging requires the assembly of many two-dimensional patterns into an internally consistent Fourier volume. Since each particle is randomly oriented when exposed to the x-ray pulse, relative orientations have to be retrieved from the diffraction data alone. We achieve this with a modified version of the expand, maximize and compress algorithm and validate our result using new methods.





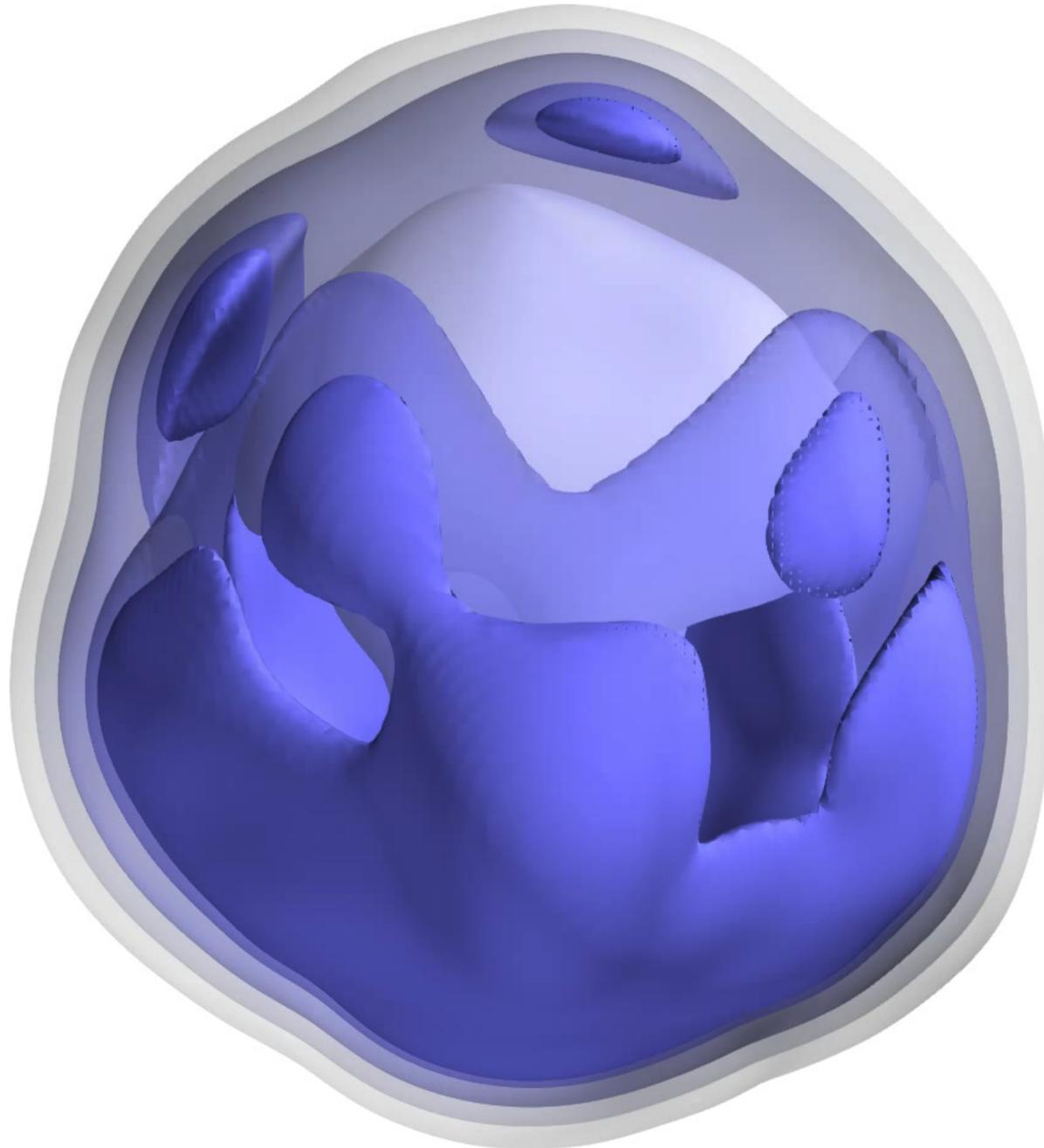
From 2D to 3D structure determination



EMC: Expectation Maximisation and Compression

Based on Loh et al. *PRE* (2009)

PROOF OF CONCEPT: First 3D structure determination



AEROSOLISED SAMPLES IN THE BEAM OF THE LCLS

CYANOBACTERIA
1-2 μm

CARBOXYSOMES
115 nm

MIMI VIRUS
450 nm

CARBOXYSOME
115 nm

RDV
70 nm

OmRV
45 nm

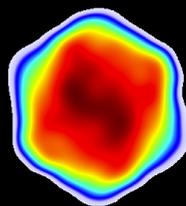
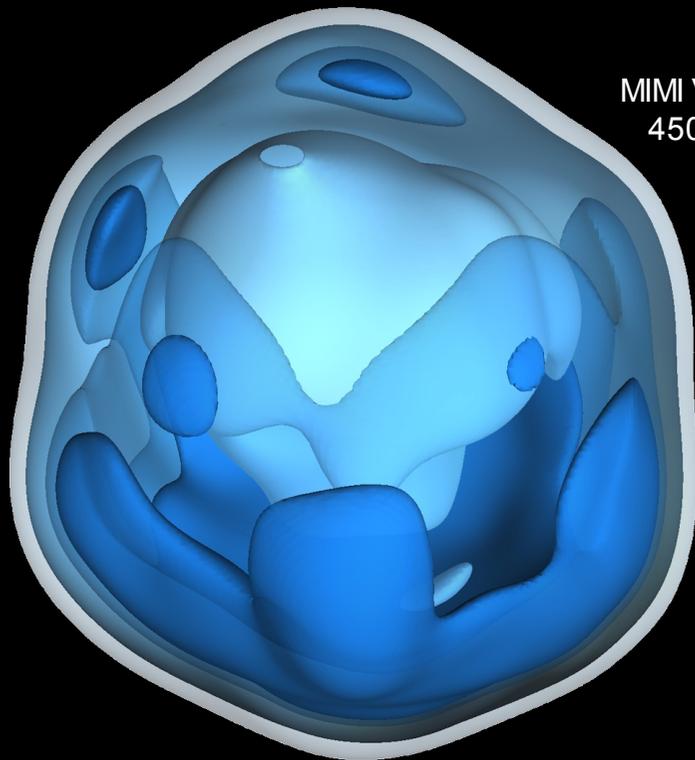
TBSV
31 nm

MS2
27 nm

Ferritin
13 nm

RNA Pol II
13 nm

Rubisco
12 nm



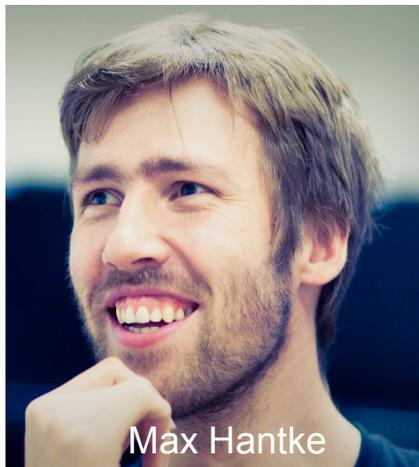
PARTICLE SIZE IN THE GAS PHASE
MATCHES SIZE IN SOLUTION

High-throughput imaging of heterogeneous cell organelles with an X-ray laser

Max F. Hantke, Dirk Hasse *et al.**

We overcome two of the most daunting challenges in single-particle diffractive imaging: collecting many high-quality diffraction patterns on a small amount of sample and separating components from mixed samples. We demonstrate this on carboxysomes, which are polyhedral cell organelles that vary in size and facilitate up to 40% of Earth's carbon fixation. A new aerosol sample-injector allowed us to record 70,000 low-noise diffraction patterns in 12 min with the Linac Coherent Light Source running at 120 Hz. We separate different structures directly from the diffraction data and show that the size distribution is preserved during sample delivery. We automate phase retrieval and avoid reconstruction artefacts caused by missing modes. We attain the highest-resolution reconstructions on the smallest single biological objects imaged with an X-ray laser to date. These advances lay the foundations for accurate, high-throughput structure determination by flash-diffractive imaging and offer a means to study structure and structural heterogeneity in biology and elsewhere.

- 12 minutes of beam time, 79% hit ratio, 70 000 hits
- Sample “purification” in *silicio* after data collection

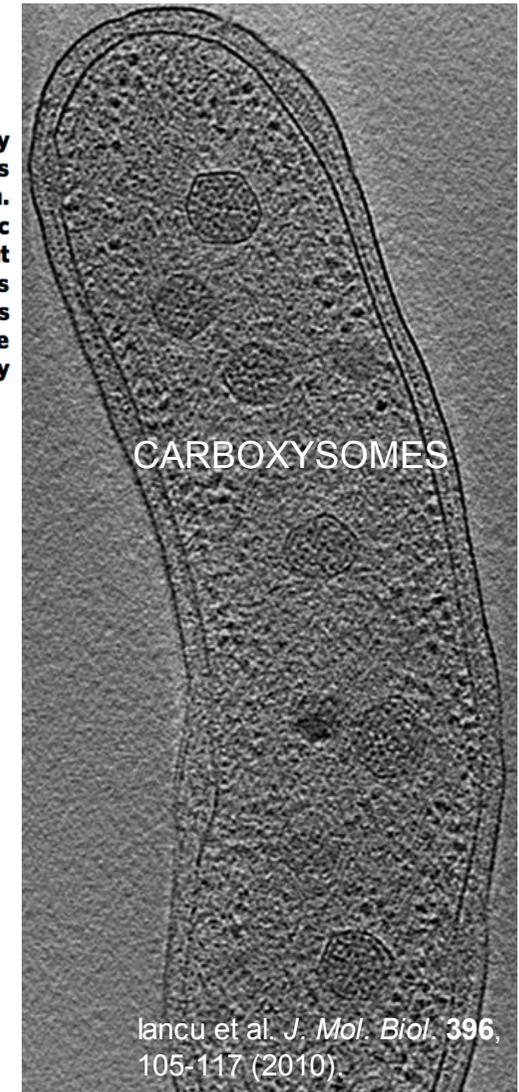


Max Hantke

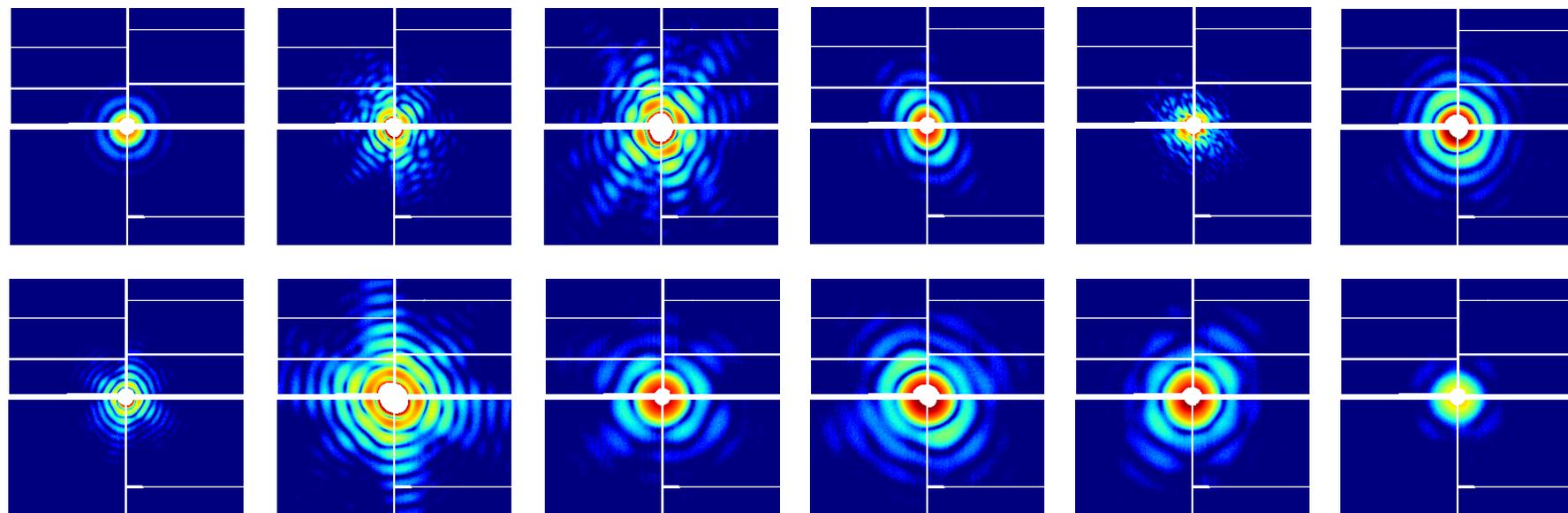
Total sample consumption:
 3.4×10^9 particles

Only 50 000 particles go between
two hits

Nature Photonics 8, 943-949 (2014)

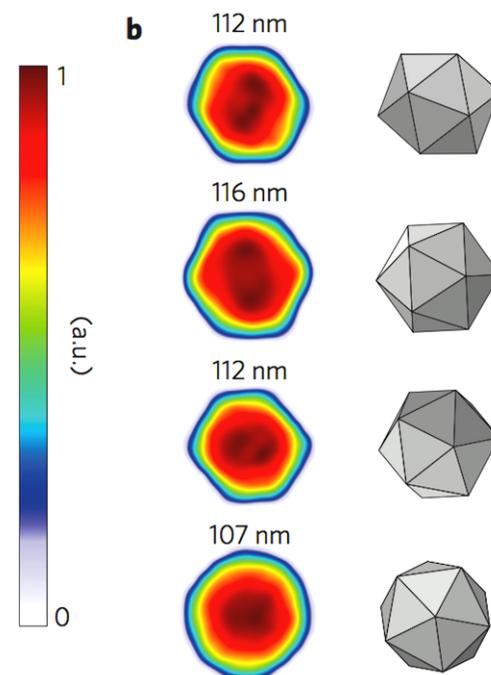
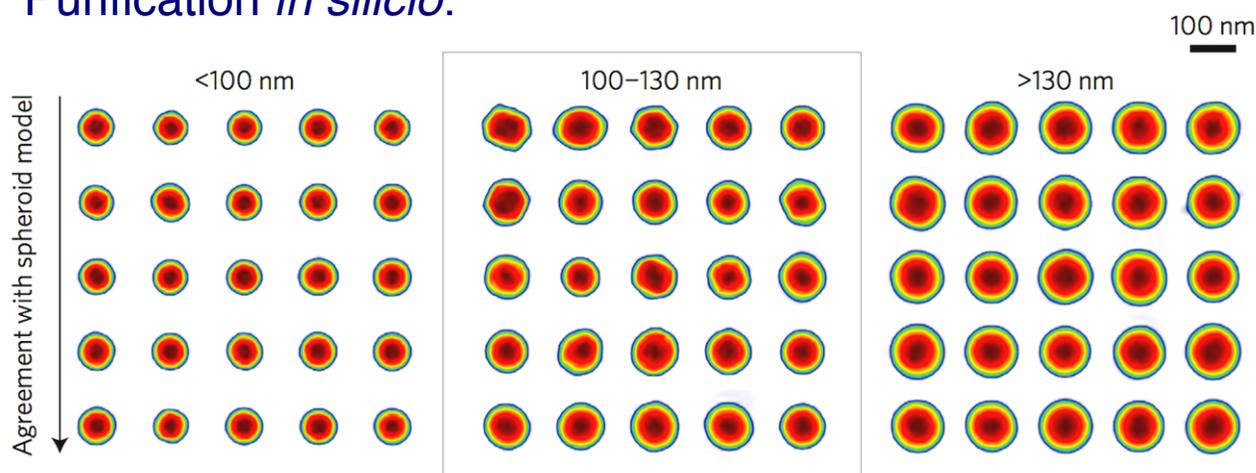


WE OBSERVE A HIGH DIVERSITY IN SHAPE AND SIZE



Same size distribution as in solution

Purification *in silicio*:



MEASUREMENT
to 18 nm resolution

10.6 million scattered photons

PREDICTION

Image reconstructed to 18.1 nm resolution

Rubisco  12 nm

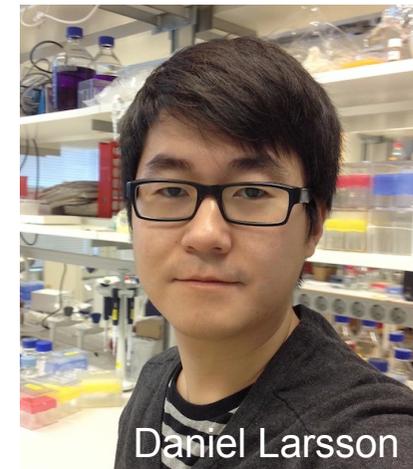
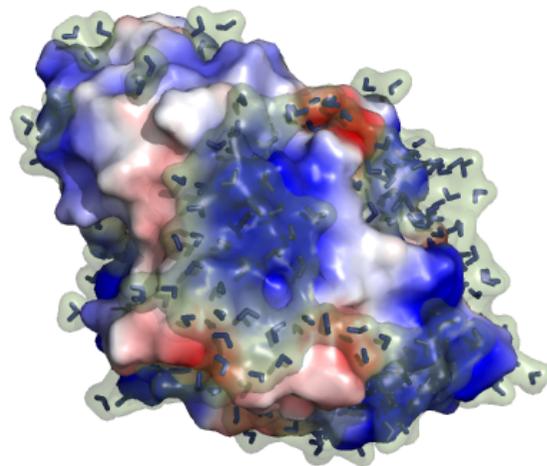
50 nm

Hantke, M. F. *et al.*, *Nature Photonics* **8**, 943-949 (2014).

Identical samples do not exist in biology

The thermal energy at physiological temperatures is commensurate to the energy of interactions, which stabilise the structure of macromolecules, and as a consequence, macromolecules fluctuate around distinct conformers.

500.0 ps



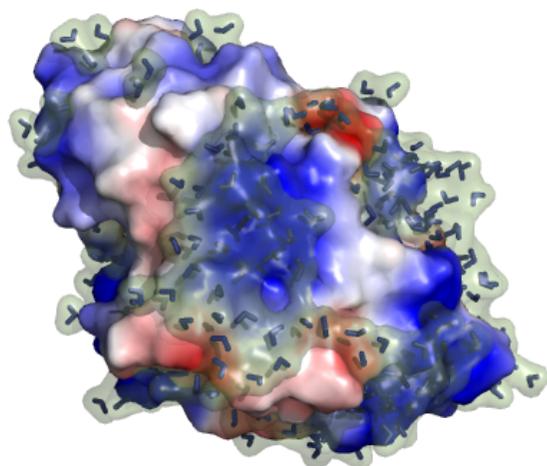
Strong single-shots can explore this heterogeneity

Structural variability and the incoherent addition of scattered intensities in single-particle diffraction.
Maia, F.R.N.C. et al., *Physical Reviews* **E 80**, 031905 (2009).

Identical samples do not exist in biology

The thermal energy at physiological temperatures is commensurate to the energy of interactions, which stabilise the structure of macromolecules, and as a consequence, macromolecules fluctuate around distinct conformers.

500.0 ps



AN OPPORTUNITY: By looking at one snapshot at a time, combined with sorting procedures, we can get access to the entire *conformational space* of macromolecules (T. Ekeberg)

ARTICLE

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DOI: 10.1038/ncomms6704

Imaging single cells in a beam of live cyanobacteria with an X-ray laser

Gijs van der Schot^{1,*}, Martin Svenda^{1,*}, Filipe R.N.C. Maia^{1,2}, Max Hantke¹, Daniel P. DePonte^{3,4}, M. Marvin Seibert^{1,4}, Andrew Aquila^{3,5}, Joachim Schulz^{3,5}, Richard Kirian³, Mengning Liang³, Francesco Stellato^{3,6}, Bianca Iwan¹, Jakob Andreasson¹, Nicusor Timneanu¹, Daniel Westphal¹, F. Nunes Almeida¹, Dusko Odic¹, Dirk Hasse¹, Gunilla H. Carlsson¹, Daniel S.D. Larsson¹, Anton Barty², Andrew V. Martin^{3,7}, Sebastian Schorb⁴, Christoph Bostedt⁴, John D. Bozek⁴, Daniel Rolles³, Artem Rudenko^{3,8}, Sascha Epp³, Lutz Foucar⁹, Benedikt Rudek¹⁰, Robert Hartmann¹¹, Nils Kimmel^{11,12}, Peter Holl¹¹, Lars Englert¹³, Ne-Te Duane Loh¹⁴, Henry N. Chapman^{3,15}, Inger Andersson¹, Janos Hajdu^{1,5} & Tomas Ekeberg¹

There exists a conspicuous gap of knowledge about the organization of life at mesoscopic levels. Ultra-fast coherent diffractive imaging with X-ray free-electron lasers can probe structures at the relevant length scales and may reach sub-nanometer resolution on micron-sized living cells. Here we show that we can introduce a beam of aerosolised cyanobacteria into the focus of the Linac Coherent Light Source and record diffraction patterns from individual living cells at very low noise levels and at high hit ratios. We obtain two-dimensional projection images directly from the diffraction patterns, and present the results as synthetic X-ray Nomarski images calculated from the complex-valued reconstructions. We further demonstrate that it is possible to record diffraction data to nanometer resolution on live cells with X-ray lasers. Extension to sub-nanometer resolution is within reach, although improvements in pulse parameters and X-ray area detectors will be necessary to unlock this potential.



DREAMS: IMAGING A **LIVING** CELL AT HIGH RESOLUTION

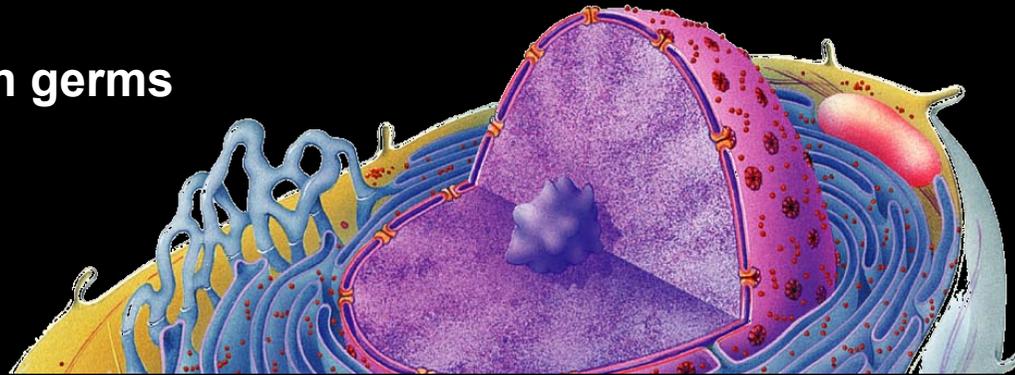
THE PROBLEM:

100,000,000 Grey is needed for a cell at 1 nm resolution

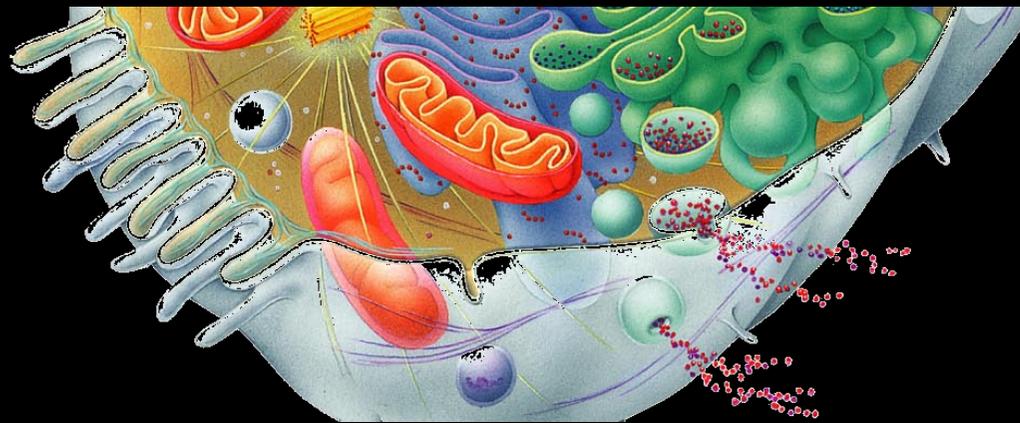
20 Grey kills a human

100 Grey kills a cell

25,000 kills all known germs



IN CONVENTIONAL STUDIES, THE FIRST HUNDRED MILLIONTH OF THE EXPOSURE KILLS THE CELL

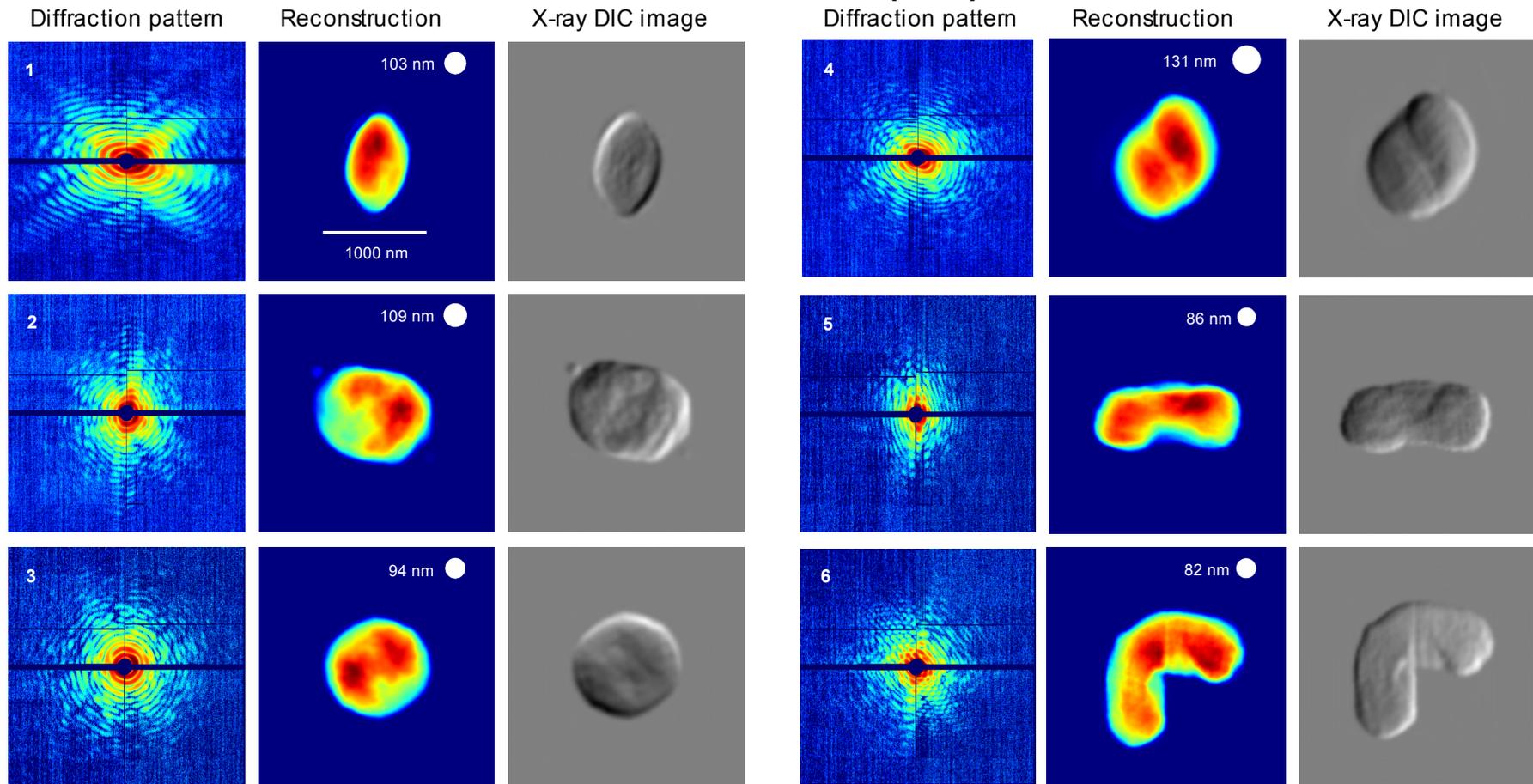


DIFFRACTION BEFORE DESTRUCTION CAN OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM

Movie at <http://lmb.icm.uu.se/video-single-cells/>

Snapshots of *Cyanobium gracile* cells

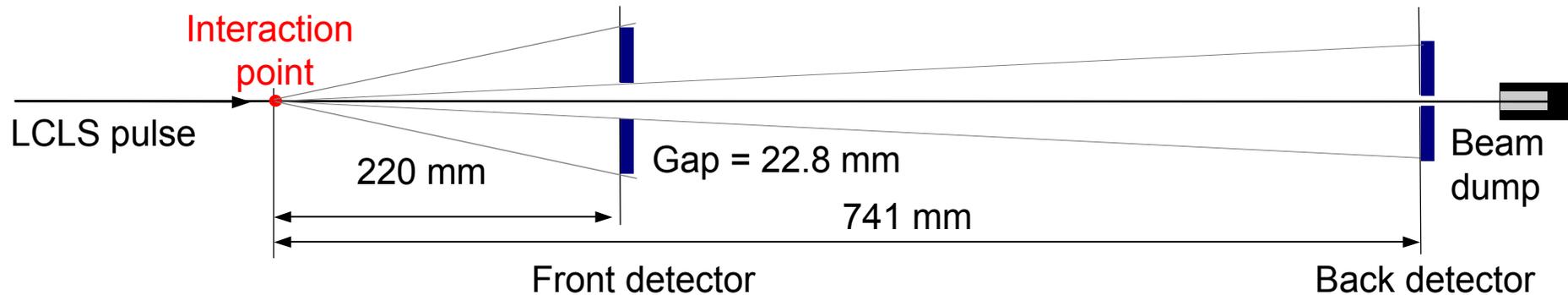
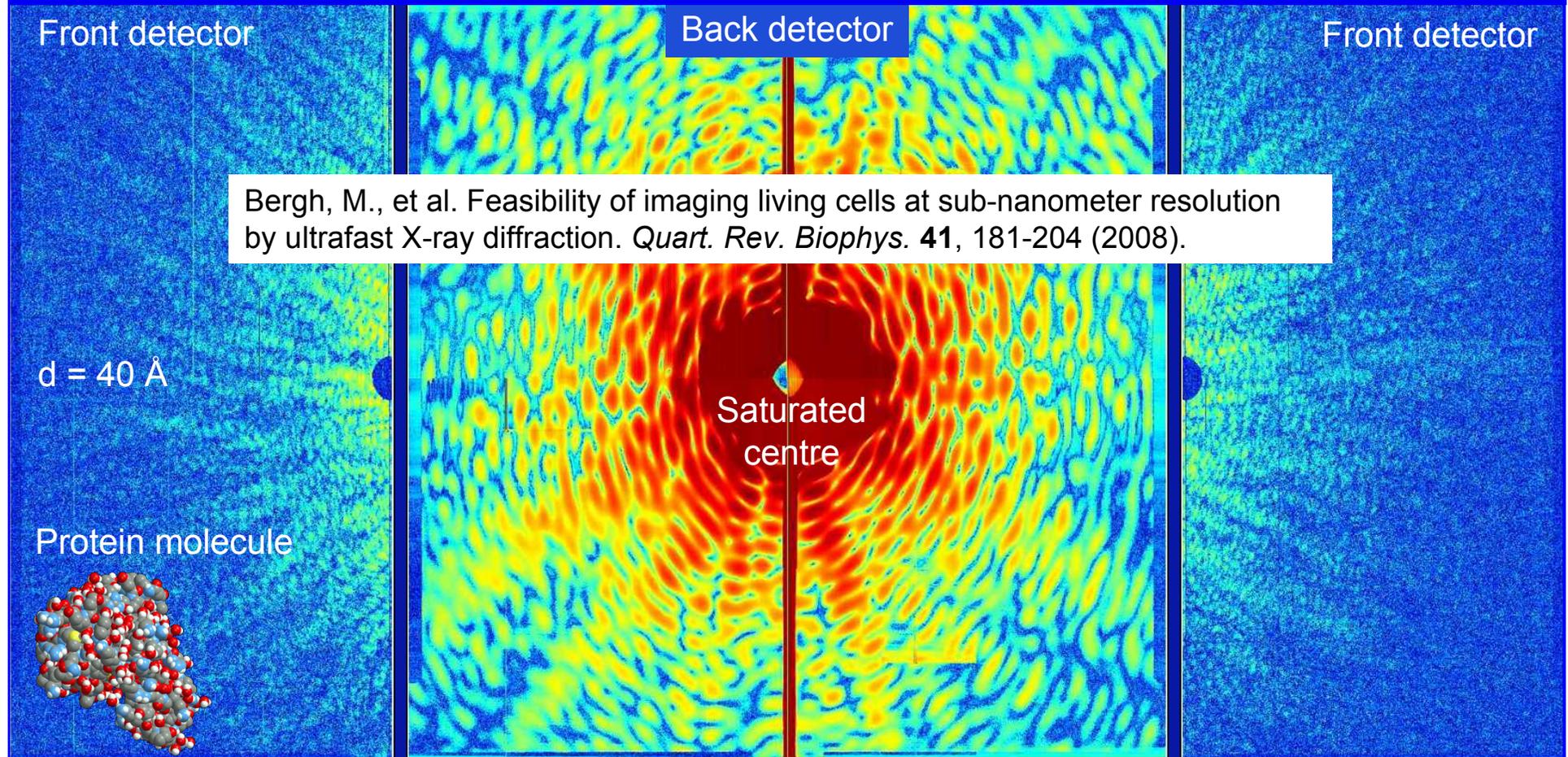
DIFFERENTIAL INTERFERENCE CONTRAST (DIC) IMAGES WITH X-RAYS



Optical DIC images of similar *Cyanobium gracile* cells:



LIVE CELLS IN MOLECULAR DETAIL?





“To understand the whole you must look at the whole”

H. Kacser “On parts and wholes in metabolism” in: Welch GR, Clegg JS (eds) *The organisation of cell metabolism*, Plenum Press, New York, p 327, (1986).

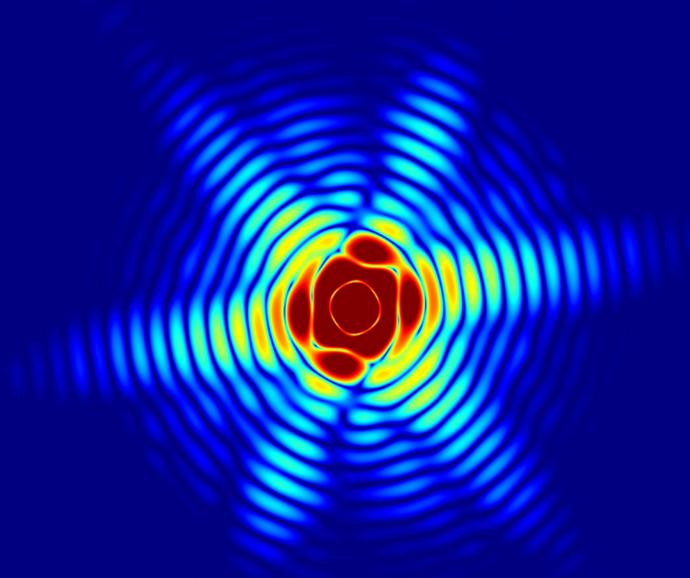
BILLIONS OF SHOTS PER DAY AT XFEL...

BIG DATA and DATA DRIVEN DISCOVERY

SUMMARY - DIFFRACTION BEFORE DESTRUCTION

Outrunning damage is now routinely done in practically all applications of X-ray FELs: (nano)crystallography, spectroscopy, single particle imaging. Practically every experiment is using our effect. The CXI station is entirely based on this principle.

AMO experiments confirm our predictions and guide critical developments.



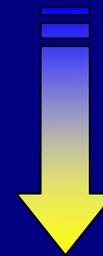
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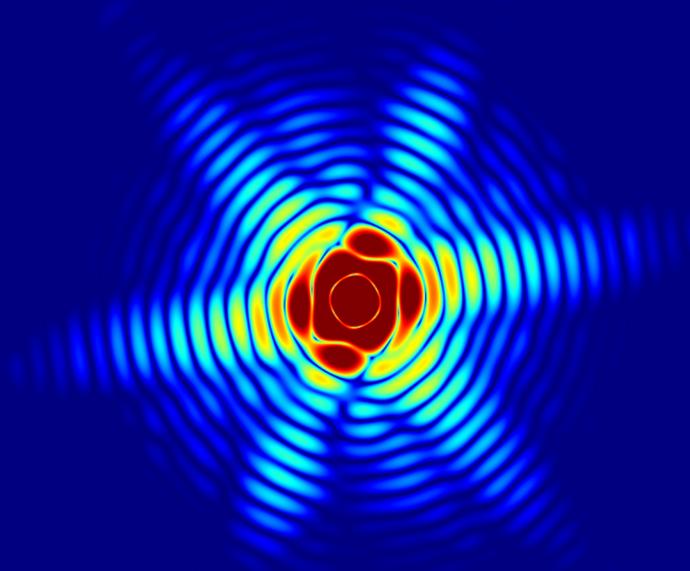
AMO experiments confirm our predictions and guide critical developments.

No physical limit has been reached so far.

MORE INTENSE PULSES PROMISE AMAZING NEW SCIENCE



$>10^{24}$ W/cm²
BOILING of VACUUM, etc.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A satellite view of Earth showing the Americas and surrounding oceans. The text "A NEW SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY" is overlaid on the image.

A NEW SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

This community did not exist 10 years ago, neither did requisite X-ray lasers