## **ESRF-** The European Synchrotron

# Diffraction computed tomography for materials chemistry



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What is it?

How do we do it?

Applications to materials chemistry

The future...



Many interesting samples which we do not wish to destructively analyze!

Relies upon taking many radiographs and performing reconstruction through back projection

Classically gives access to the absorption coefficient

What about materials with no Z contrast?

Chemical contrast?





Powder diffraction easily distinguishes materials of similar density

Can extract Angstrom-level detail from each voxel

-bond lengths and angles -coordination numbers -oxidation states









Bleuet, P., Welcomme, E., Dooryhee, E., Susini, J., Hodeau, J.-L. & Walter, P. (2008). Nat. Mater. 7, 468–472.





Diffraction slice (bone)

Diffraction slice (muscle)



Diffraction slice (fat)

## Pioneered at ESRF in 1998 by Ulf Kleuker et al

## Experiments performed using ID17 and a lamb chop!

Excellent contrast using scattered signal

Kleuker, U., Suortti, P., Weyrich, W. & Spanne, P. (1998). Phys. Med. Biol. 43, 2911–2923. ESRF The European Synchrotron



Next major advance was made at ID22 at the ESRF

18 KeV photons focused to sub-micron beam sizes

P. Bleuet et alBleuet, P., Welcomme, E., Dooryhee, E., Susini, J., Hodeau, J.-L. & Walter, P. (2008). Nat. Mater. 7, 468–472.





Demonstrated ability to reconstruct Rietveld quality powder patterns (Fe pigment powder)

P. Bleuet et alBleuet, P., Welcomme, E., Dooryhee, E., Susini, J., Hodeau, J.-L. & Walter, P. (2008). Nat. Mater. 7, 468–472.







Diffraction computed tomography made *fast* and user friendly by Marco Di Michiel and collaborators on ID15A

Now ca. 10 min for 100 x 100 grid of data. Optimised for beam sizes of 1-30  $\mu m$ 









Vertical N=17 R=300µm L2 ~ 4m



Horizontal N=17 R=200 $\mu$ m N=15 R=300 $\mu$ m L2 ~ 1.4m



Crossed gain: 1200









The European Synchrotron ESRF





Tool exceptionally well matched to problems in heterogeneous catalysis

Multiple billion Euro global industry

How to best optimise distribution and form of active catalyst? Begins with solution phase!





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#### Very complex temporal and spatial development

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Jacques, S. D. M., Di Michiel, M., Beale, A. M., Sochi, T., O'Brien, M. G., Espinosa-Alonso, L., Weckhuysen, B. M. & Barnes, P. (2011). The European Synchrotron Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 50, 10148–10152.





Catalytic membrane reactors developed for CH<sub>4</sub> to C<sub>2</sub> conversion

- Advantages:
  - Increased C<sub>2</sub> selectivity
  - Process Intensification
  - Disadvantages:
  - Long-term stability
  - Sealing at high temperatures
- Membrane (BaCo<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>y</sub>Zr<sub>z</sub>O<sub>3- $\delta$ </sub>):
  - High oxygen permeation flux
  - Chemical stability
  - Mn-Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> Catalyst
  - High C<sub>2</sub> yield
  - High stability under high temperatures





Extremely complex system

diffraction computed tomography can resolve the multiple phases present

Reaction between catalyst and oxygen membrane shown to be key

Tour de force of in-situ measurement, with online reaction, mass spectrometry etc





Experiments now routinely performed under reducing/oxidising conditions e.g. preparation of Pd loaded catalysts

Experiment can be easily modified to use pair distribution function contrast



Jacques et al, Nat. Com., 2013, 4, 2536





PDF method provides unique access to nanostructure, coherent domain size etc - see talk of Simon Billinge this afternoon



Jacques et al, Nat. Com., 2013, 4, 2536

## Beyond phase identification...



Full power of diffraction computed tomography applied to human teeth

Many questions about decay, strength of enamel (mineralised calcium hydroxy apatite)





## Beyond phase identification...



Very detailed analysis allowed extraction of preferred orientation (along load direction)

Variations in lattice parameters reflect compositional changes



Egan et al, Acta Biomaterialia 9 (2013) 8337–8345

#### What about the future?





The second phase of the Upgrade Programme, launched in 2015, is remarkably different ... It includes the delivery of the first of a new kind of storage ring based synchrotron source with a normalised horizontal emittance of at least a factor 10 better than any existing or currently planned projects, and at least a factor 100 more brilliant than the ESRF source today. ...ESRF Management has decided to highlight this second phase of the ESRF upgrade by choosing a name to emphasize the new project's main deliverable - a new source - and its principal attribute with respect to what is presently available or planned worldwide **- Extremely Brilliant**.





Next generation of light sources will be bright enough for 'chemically resolved x-ray vision' in 3D

WIII become a standard technique for all areas of science (chemistry, materials, cultural heritage etc), much like computed absorption tomography

ESRF upgrade will be ~20 years since technique first used on ID17



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