

FYSC23

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# Powder X-ray Diffraction Lab

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# 1 Introduction

## 2 Theory

[1]

### 2.1 Crystal Lattice Structure

To calculate the distance between planes the formula

$$\frac{1}{d^2} = \frac{h^2}{a^2} + \frac{k^2}{b^2} + \frac{l^2}{c^2}. \quad (1)$$

If we use this formula for a simple cubic with  $a = b = c = 0.432 \text{ nm}$  for the plane(111) we get the separation to  $d = 0.249 \text{ nm}$ . If we do the same for the plane (211) we obtain a separation of  $d = 0.176 \text{ nm}$  and for the plane (100) we get  $d = 0.432 \text{ nm}$ .

### 2.2 Diffraction

To evaluate diffraction patterns Bragg's law is mainly used, with is defined as

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta, \quad (2)$$

where  $n$  is an integer,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the incoming photon,  $d$  is the spacing between the planes and  $\theta$  is the scattering angle. Using this we see that if the incoming x-ray has a wavelength of  $0.07 \text{ nm}$  we can at minimum spacing which can be observed is  $0.35 \text{ \AA}$ . In order to observe smaller spacings, a higher photon energy would have to be used.

For example if we have a (111) plane with an incident angle  $\theta = 11.2^\circ$  when X-rays of wavelength of  $0.154 \text{ nm}$  then the side of the side of each unit cell can be calculated as follows: From Equation 2 we obtain a the distance planer separation to  $d = 0.397 \text{ nm}$ , from Equation 1 we obtain that a separation of  $d = 0.397 \text{ nm}$  leads to a lattice constant of  $a = 6.36 \text{ \AA}$  for a simple cubic.

### 2.3 Powder X-ray Diffraction

Transmission, fluorescence,

Xray diffraction, oscillating E field. When X ray hit the electrons the electrons start o vibrate in that frequency - Constructive and destructive interference

Bragg's law:  $n\lambda = PD = 2s = 2d \sin \theta$

Crystal lattice: fcc, bcc

In powder diffraction we have all possible orientation of the crystallites and some will be oriented in the right way for diffraction. Give rise to powder diffraction rings.

Scherrer's formula

$$t = \frac{k\lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \quad (3)$$

Structure factor: See photos. For a simple cubic we see all peaks, for bcc and fcc we lose some peaks.

### 3 Method

The energy of the x-rays are 17.45 keV.

The detector uses six semiconductors.

Calibrations of hex..., this is good since we have a lot of diffraction rings.

1. Put in all the data 2. mask out dead spots 3. Tell where the rings are 4. The image is converted to an intensity plot (Note that the x-axis is in  $2\theta$ ).

Hot pixel, high peak with no width. The pixel can be burnt out.

### Questions (we can remove this later but keep it now for keeping track)

1. Calculate the separations of the planes (111), (211), and (100) in a crystal in which the simple cubic unit cell has the side  $a = 0.432$  nm. **DONE**
2. From Bragg's equation, what is the minimum d-spacing that can be observed with a wavelength of 0.07 nm? What do you need in order to observe smaller d spacings? **DONE**
3. Reflection from the (111) planes of a cubic crystal was observed at an incident angle  $\theta = 11.2^\circ$  when Cu K $\alpha$  X-rays of wavelength 0.154 nm were used. What is the length of the side of the unit cell? **DONE**
4. Calcium carbonate crystals in the form of aragonite have an orthorhombic unit cell with dimensions  $a = 0.574$  nm,  $b = 0.796$  nm,  $c = 0.495$  nm. Calculate the incident angles for the (100), (010), and (111) reflections using radiation of wavelength 0.083 nm.
5. Calculate the allowed values of  $hkl$  for a body-centered cubic (bcc) and face-centered cubic (fcc) system that will give Bragg points on a diffraction pattern.
6. Find the two elements.
7. Measure the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of each peak of the two diffraction patterns and calculate the crystallite size using Scherrer's equation. Scherrer's equation is suitable for particle sizes below approximately 100 nm. Which property of light limits this kind of quantification?
  - **Hint:** Constructive interference of two waves (and therefore diffraction) does not happen with any kind of light.

Bragg's law is based on the ideal case where a strictly monochromatic source is used. However, every X-ray source has a certain finite spectral bandwidth,  $\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda}$ . As a result, the broader the spectral bandwidth, the broader the diffraction peaks.

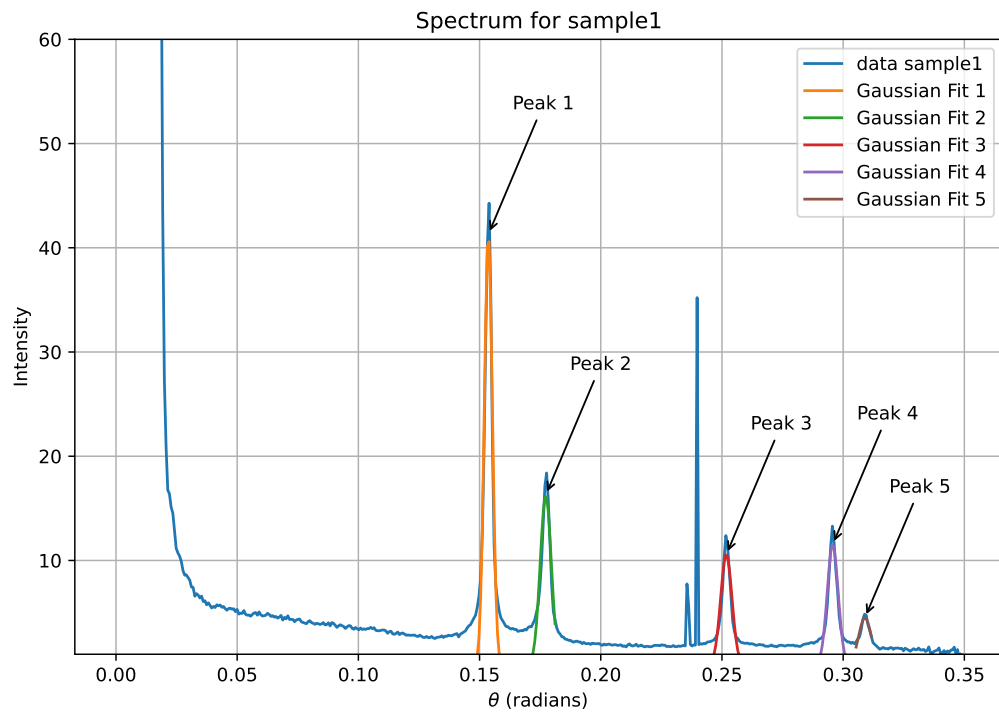
- (a) Prove that the spectral contribution of the source to the peak width,  $\Delta\theta$ , is related to the spectral bandwidth through the following relation:

$$\Delta\theta = \tan\theta \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} \quad (9.2)$$

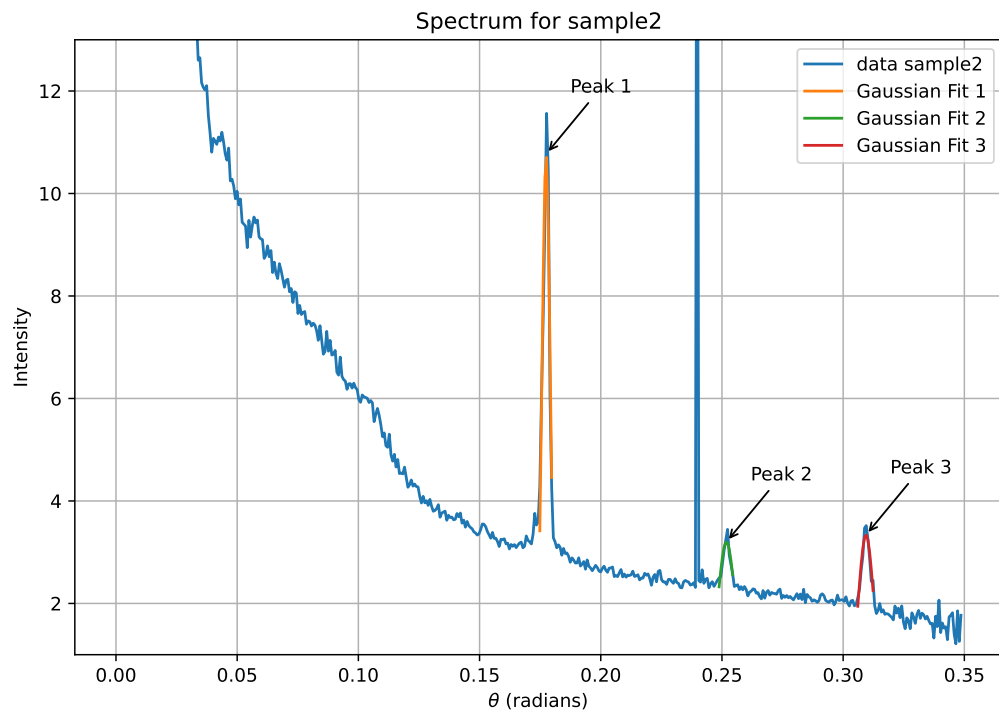
**Hint:** Differentiate Bragg's law.

- (b) Although this contribution affected the estimation you made in Exercise 7, it can be quantified to obtain a more exact crystallite size. Can you think of at least one other phenomenon or instrumental property that can affect the peak widths?

## 4 Result



(a) This is the first subfigure.



(b) This is the second subfigure.

Figure 1: This figure shows two subfigures with separate captions.

Table 1: Fitting results for Sample 1

Peak	Amplitude	Mean Angle	FWHM
Peak 1	$(41.29 \pm 2.15)$ units	$(0.153\,62 \pm 0.000\,10)$ radians	$(0.003\,88 \pm 0.000\,23)$ radians
Peak 2	$(16.28 \pm 1.14)$ units	$(0.177\,31 \pm 0.000\,19)$ radians	$(0.005\,35 \pm 0.000\,46)$ radians
Peak 3	$(10.57 \pm 0.71)$ units	$(0.251\,80 \pm 0.000\,18)$ radians	$(0.005\,50 \pm 0.000\,43)$ radians
Peak 4	$(11.53 \pm 0.66)$ units	$(0.295\,69 \pm 0.000\,15)$ radians	$(0.005\,30 \pm 0.000\,35)$ radians
Peak 5	$(4.51 \pm 0.19)$ units	$(0.309\,00 \pm 0.000\,15)$ radians	$(0.006\,16 \pm 0.000\,49)$ radians

Table 2: Fitting results for Sample 2

Peak	Amplitude	Mean Angle	FWHM
Peak 1	$(10.77 \pm 0.62)$ units	$(0.177\,46 \pm 0.000\,12)$ radians	$(0.004\,04 \pm 0.000\,34)$ radians
Peak 2	$(3.20 \pm 0.09)$ units	$(0.251\,86 \pm 0.000\,17)$ radians	$(0.008\,95 \pm 0.000\,92)$ radians
Peak 3	$(3.34 \pm 0.10)$ units	$(0.309\,42 \pm 0.000\,14)$ radians	$(0.007\,68 \pm 0.000\,56)$ radians

## 5 Discussion

## 6 Conclusion

## References

- [1] Philip Hofmann. *Solid State Physics: An Introduction*. Wiley-VCH, 2nd edition, 2015.