Choosing the Right Spectrometer

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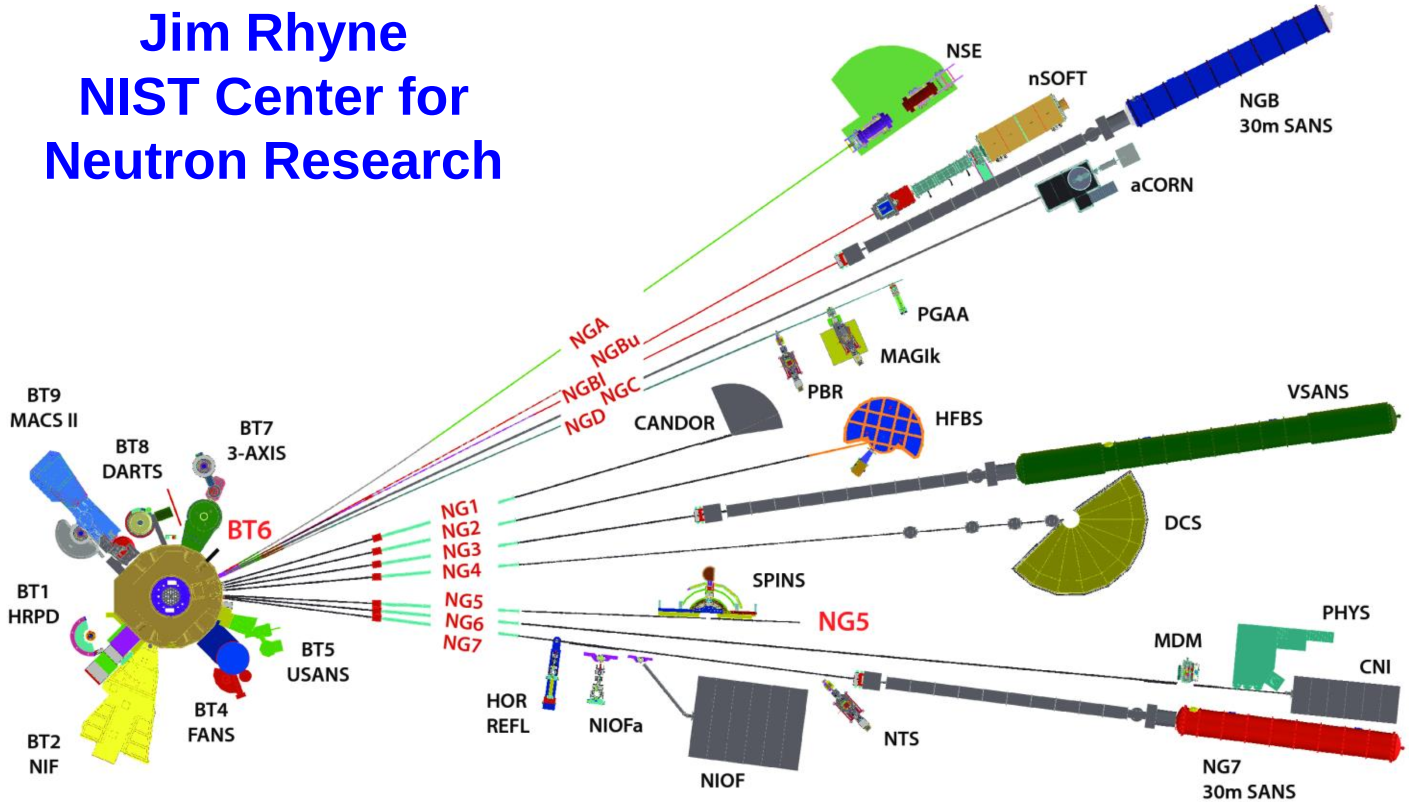
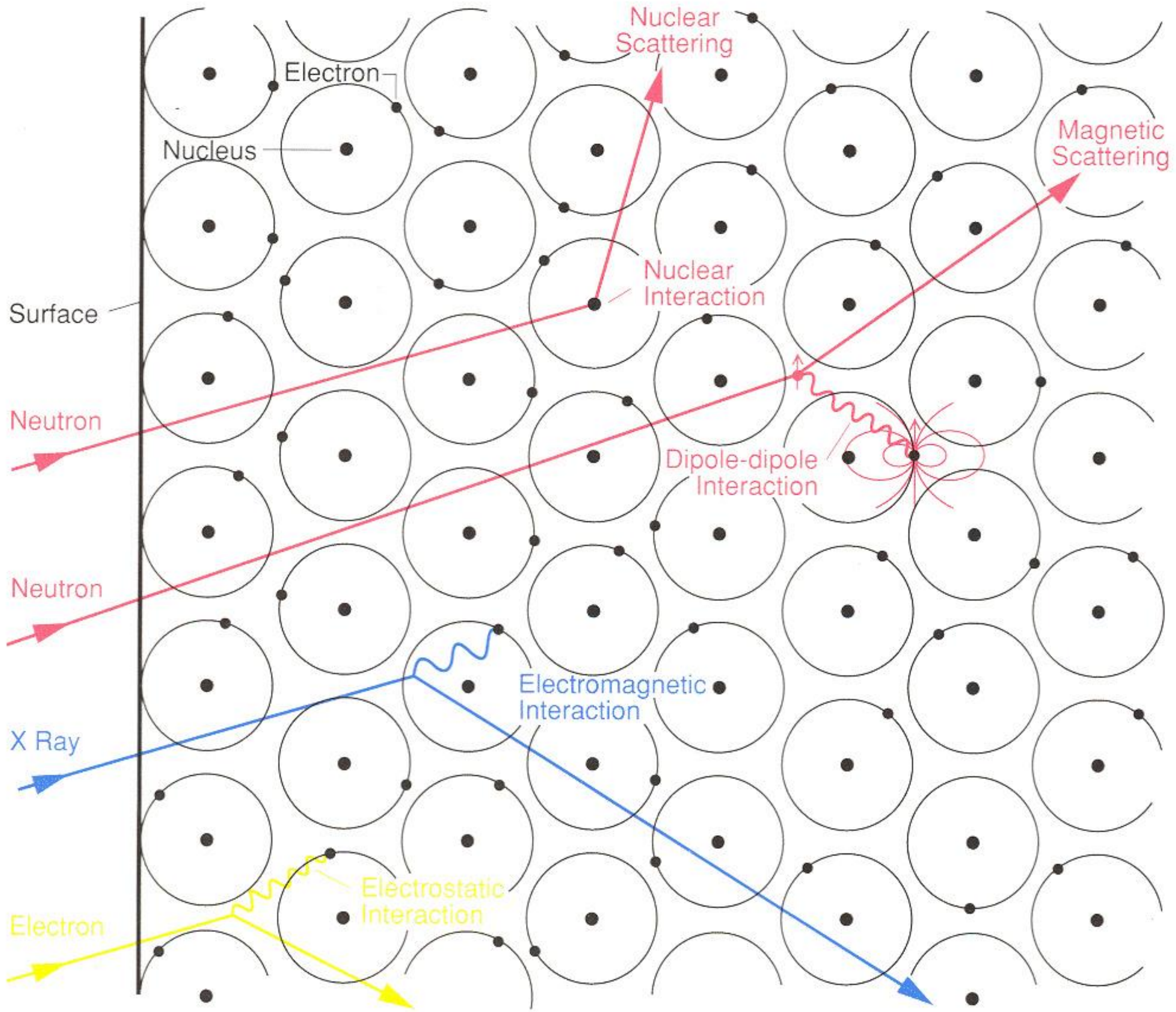
NIST Center for Neutron Research



Thanks to Peter Gehring, Jeff Lynn, and Dan Neumann for preparing many of the slides

Interaction of radiation with materials

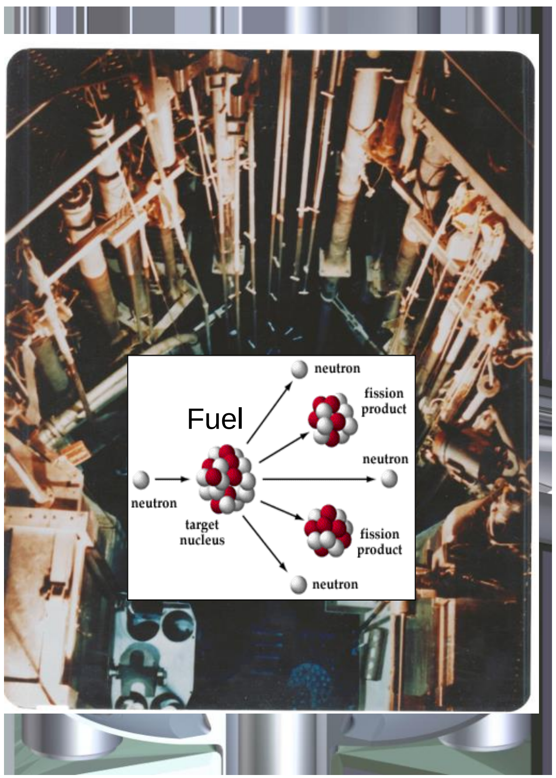


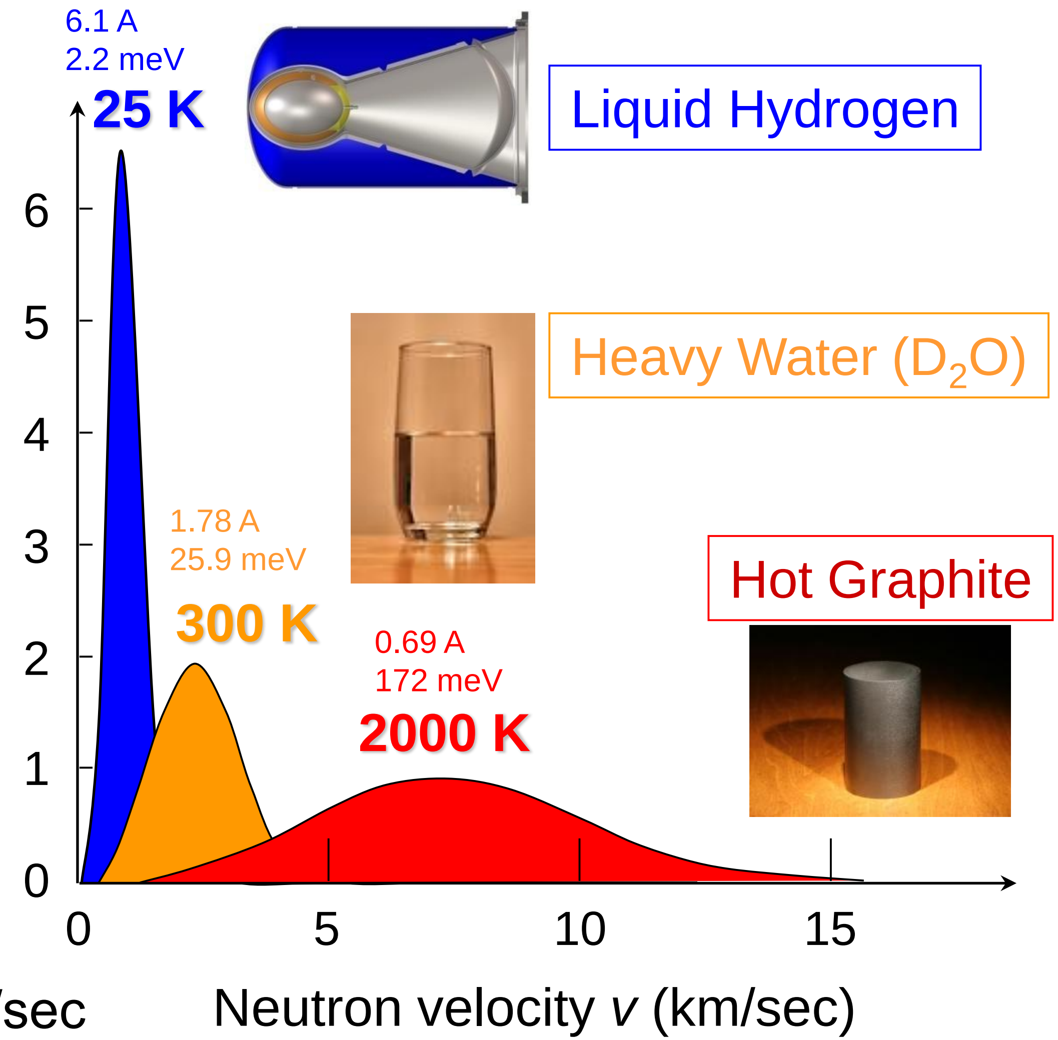
From Roger Pynn – *Neutron Primer*

Neutron Source: Moderation

Maxwellian Distribution

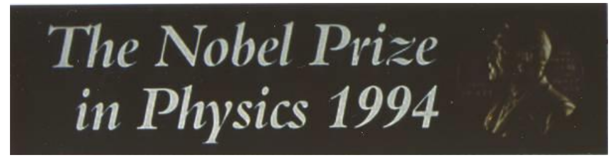
$$\Phi \sim v^3 e^{(-mv^2/2k_BT)}$$



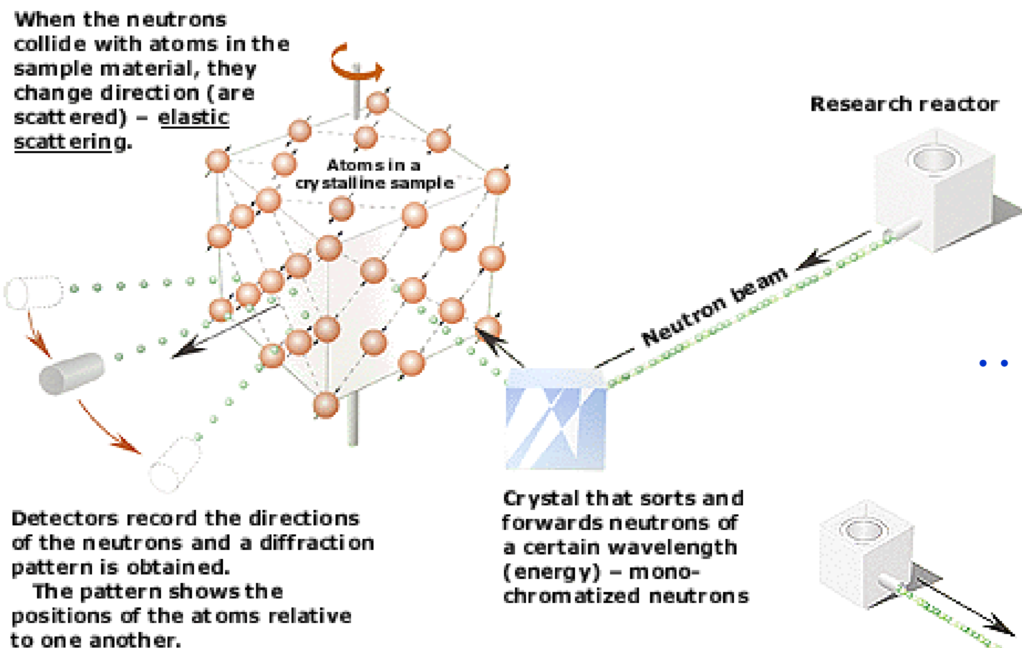


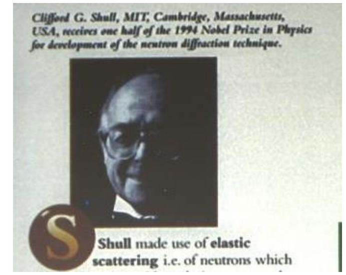
"Fast" neutrons: v = 20,000 km/sec

Neutron Scattering



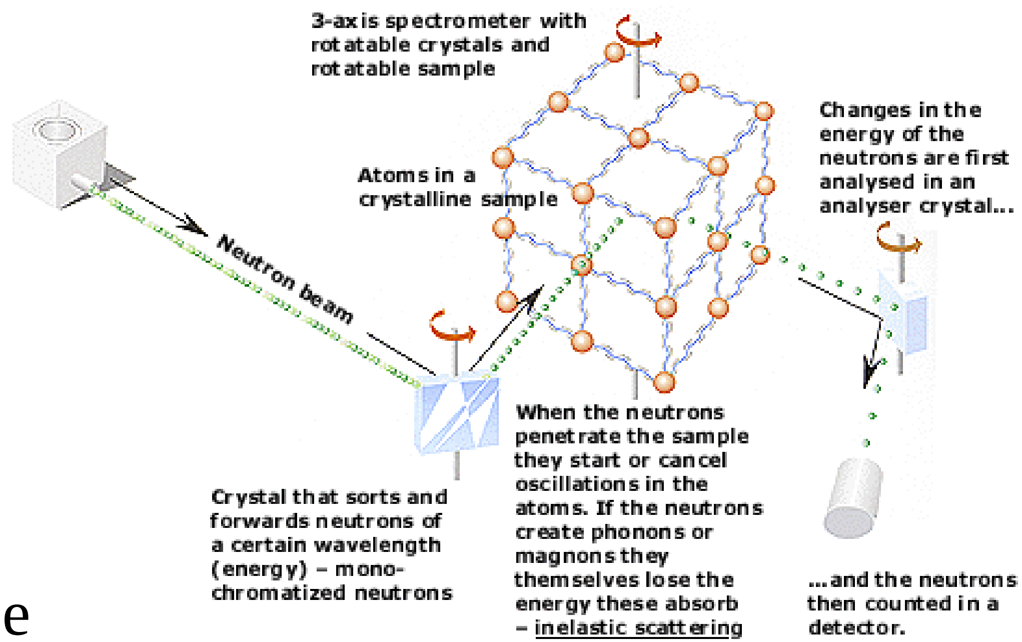
Neutrons show where the atoms are….

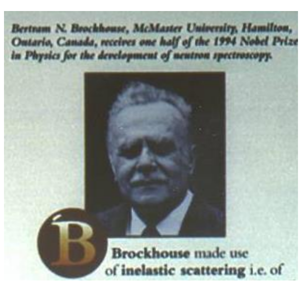




Cliff Shull

…and what the atoms do.





Bertram Brockhouse

Scattering of neutrons by nuclei

- A single isolated nucleus will scatter neutrons with an intensity (isotropic)
  - $I = I_0\,\sigma = I_0[4\pi b^2]$

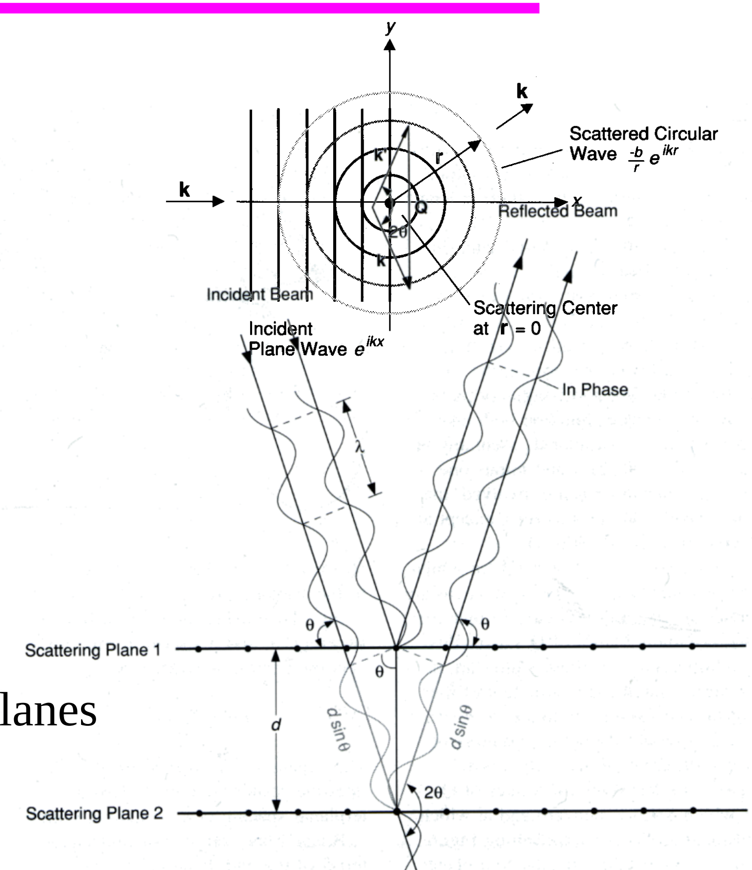
    where I_0 = incident neutron intensity,
    b = scattering amplitude for nucleus
- What happens when we put nucleus (atom) in lattice?
  - Scattering from N neuclei can add up because they are on a lattice (constructive interference)
  - Adding is controlled by phase relationship between waves scattered from different lattice planes
  - Intensity is no longer isotropic

    Bragg law gives directional dependence

$$\lambda = 2d\sin\theta$$

  - Wave vector $|\mathbf{k}| = 2\pi/\lambda$

-- Intensity I(Q, or θ) is given by a scattering cross-section

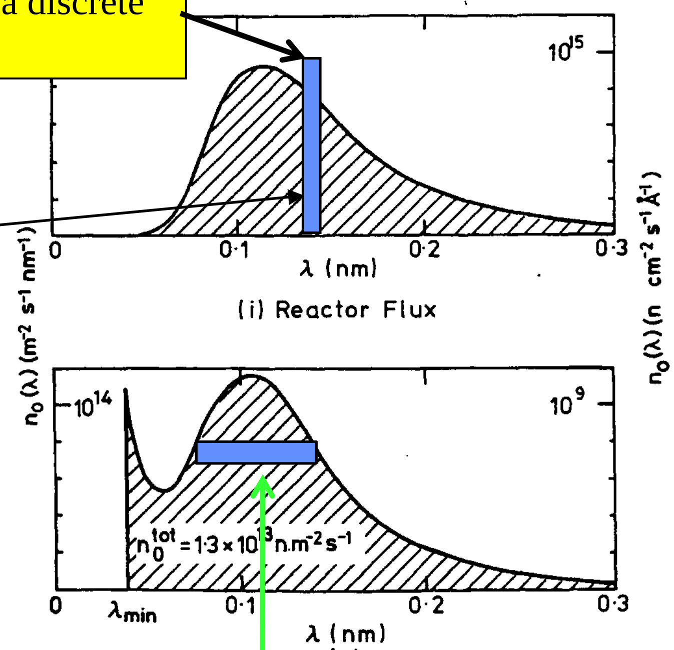


Path difference for neutrons (waves) scattered from two adjacent atomic planes
= 2d sin θ = m λ for constructive interference to occur

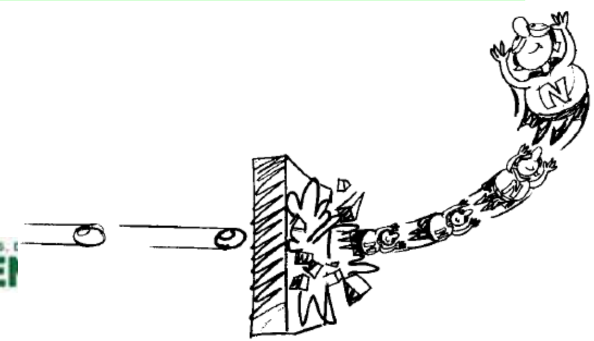
How do we find the wavelength to make the Bragg law work?

- **Reactor**
  - Fission of U^{235} produces neutrons
  - Fission spectrum moderated (slowed down) by either D_2O or H_20 (less effective moderator) and neutrons are extracted through beam tubes for spectrometers – fixed wavelength used
- **Spallation source**
  - High E protons (e.g., 800 MeV) impinge on target (W, Hg or U)
  - Nucleus of target is “exploded” by proton impact and emits 15 – 25 neutrons per proton with average E = 55 MeV (+ γs, neucleons and neutrinos)
  - Neutrons moderated by liquid H, H_20 or methane
  - Spallation sources generally operate in pulse mode – 60 Hz at SNS

Monochromator crystal is used to saw-out a discrete wavelength



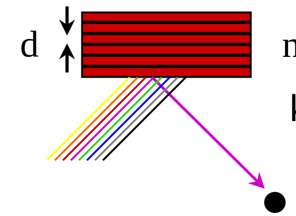
Time of flight is used to sort out wavelengths



Methods of Specifying and Measuring $\vec{k}_i$ and $\vec{k}_f$

1. Bragg Diffraction

   BT7, MACS, HFBS

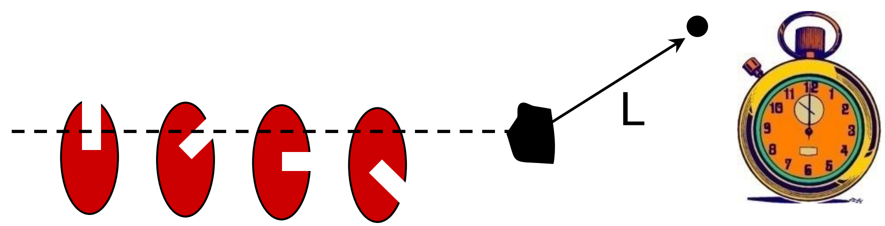


$n\lambda = 2d\sin\theta$

$k = \pi/(d \sin\theta)$

2. Time-of-Flight (TOF)

   DCS, HFBS

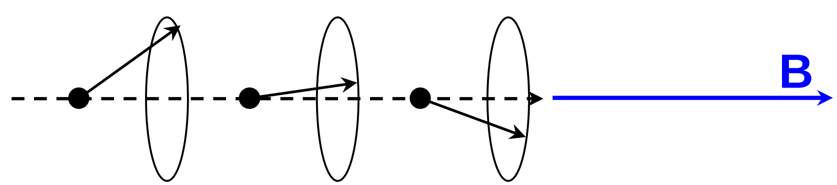


$v = L/t$

$k = m_n L/(\hbar t)$

3. Larmor Precession

   NSE



Larmor precession angle of neutron mag moment acts as a clock – if $\Delta E \neq 0$ precession angles before and after sample are different.

It's all about Conservation of Momentum
(**p** = $\hbar$**k** and Energy (E = $\hbar\omega$ = $\left|p^2/_{2m}\right|$

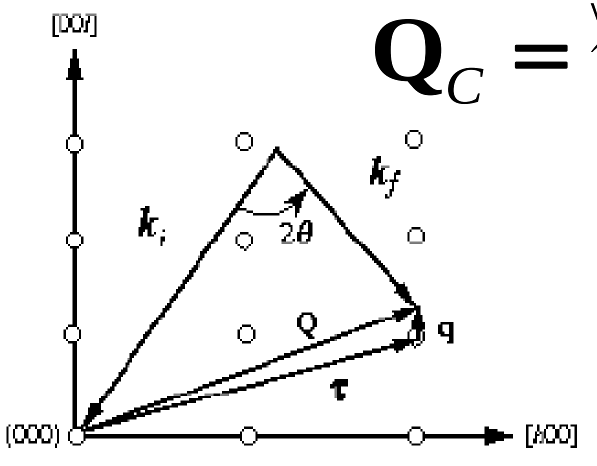
$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{k}_i - \mathbf{k}_f$$ Wave vector transfer to excitation

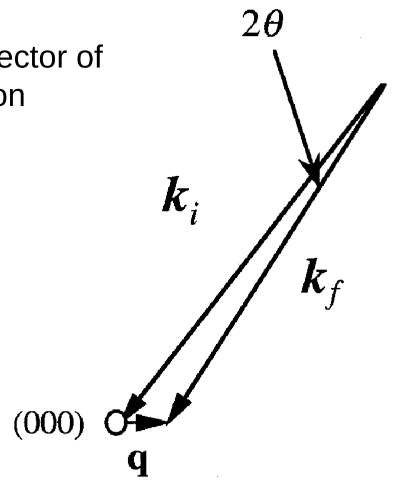
$$\Delta E = \frac{\hbar^2 k_i^2}{2m} - \frac{\hbar^2 k_f^2}{2m}$$ Energy transfer to/from excitation

$$\mathbf{Q}_C = \tau + \mathbf{q}$$

Reciprocal lattice vector

Wave vector of excitation





Energy, wave vector, and wavelength relations for various probes

$$E_{neutron}(meV) = 2.0719k^2 = 81.7968/\lambda^2$$

$$E_{photon}(keV) = 2.0k = 12.4/\lambda$$

$$E_{electron}(eV) = 3.8k^2 = 150/\lambda^2$$

$$1\,meV = 11.6\,K \quad (k_B T)$$

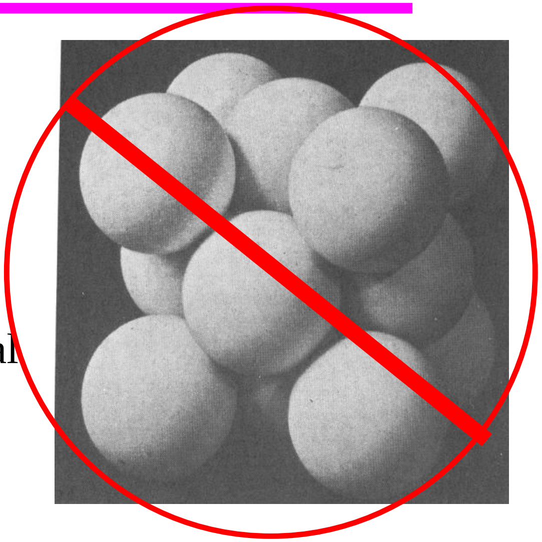
$$1\,meV = 8.06\,cm^{-1} \quad (E/hc)$$

$$1\,meV = 0.2418\,THz \quad (E/h)$$

$$1\,meV/\mu_B = 17.3\,T \quad (E/\mu_B)$$

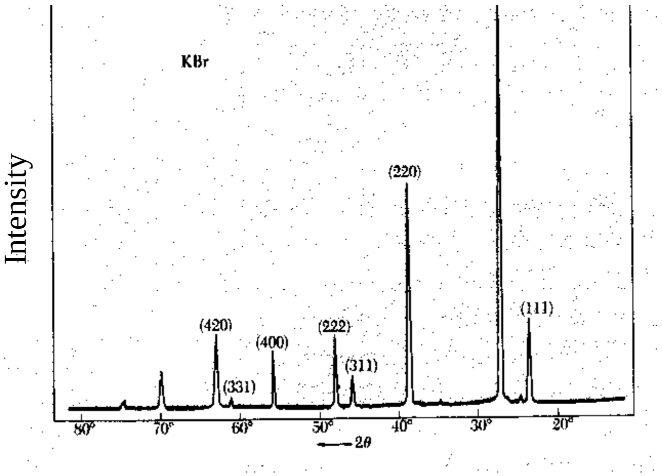
Golden Rule of Neutron Scattering

- We don't take pictures of atoms!



Atoms in fcc crystal

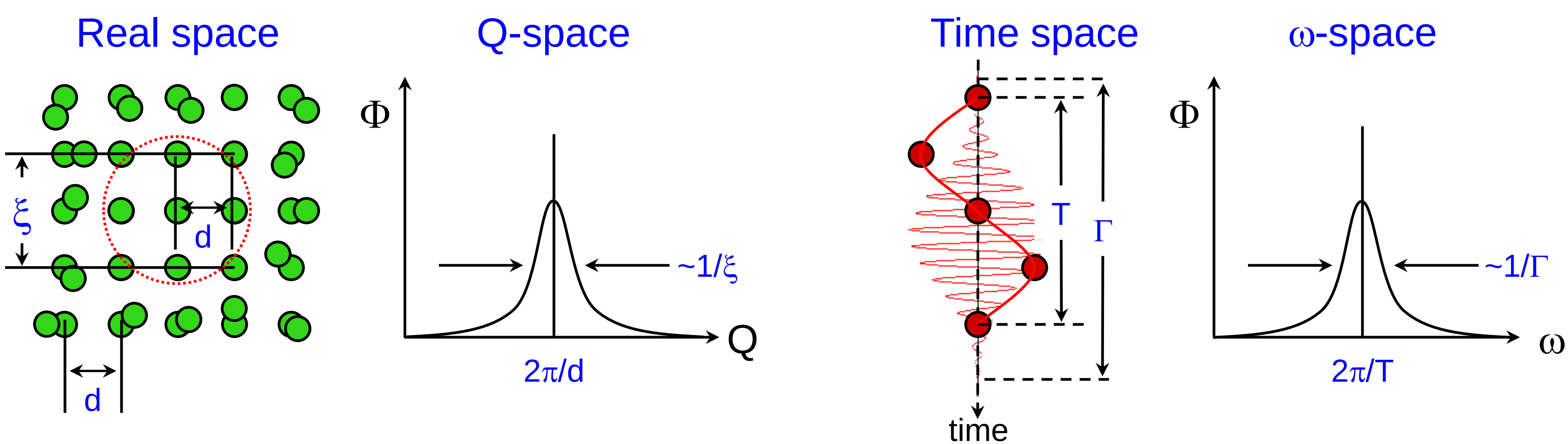
- Job security for neutron scatterers – we live in ***reciprocal space***



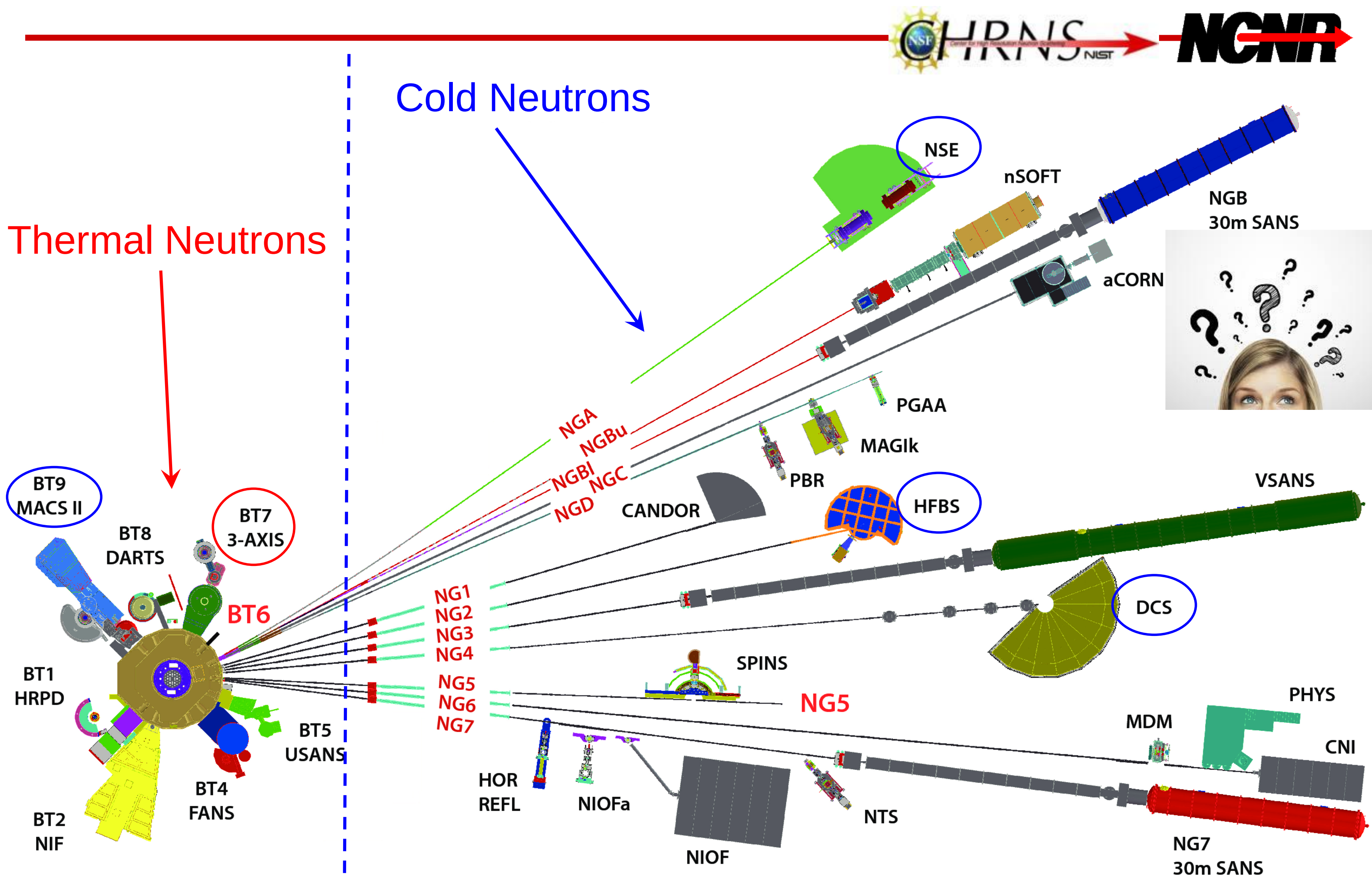
Review: Main Messages of the Week

(3) The scattered neutron flux $\Phi(\vec{Q},\hbar\omega)$ is proportional to the <u>space</u> ($\vec{r}$) and <u>time</u> (t) Fourier transform of the <u>probability</u> $G(\vec{r},t)$ of finding one or two atoms separated by a particular distance at a particular time.

$$\Phi \propto \frac{\partial^2\sigma}{\partial\Omega\partial\omega} \propto \iint e^{i(\vec{Q}\cdot\vec{r}-\omega t)} G(\vec{r},t)\, d^3\vec{r}\, dt$$



The NCNR Menagerie of Instruments

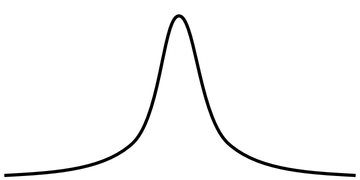


Why So Many Different Spectrometers?

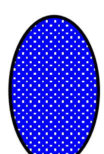
Because neutron scattering is an intensity-limited technique. Thus detector coverage and resolution MUST be tailored to the science.

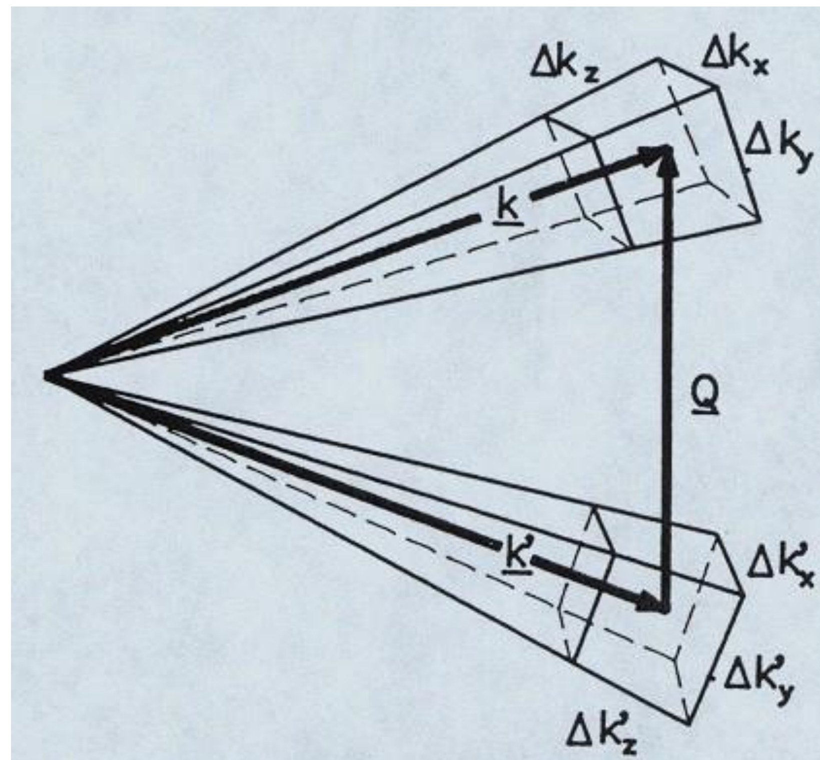
Uncertainties in the neutron wavelength and direction imply **Q** and $\hbar\omega$ are only defined with a finite selectable precision.

The total signal in a scattering experiment is proportional to the resolution volume → better resolution leads to lower count rates! *Choose carefully* …



$\propto$





Courtesy of R. Pynn

How do I Choose the Right Spectrometer?

Two basic considerations:

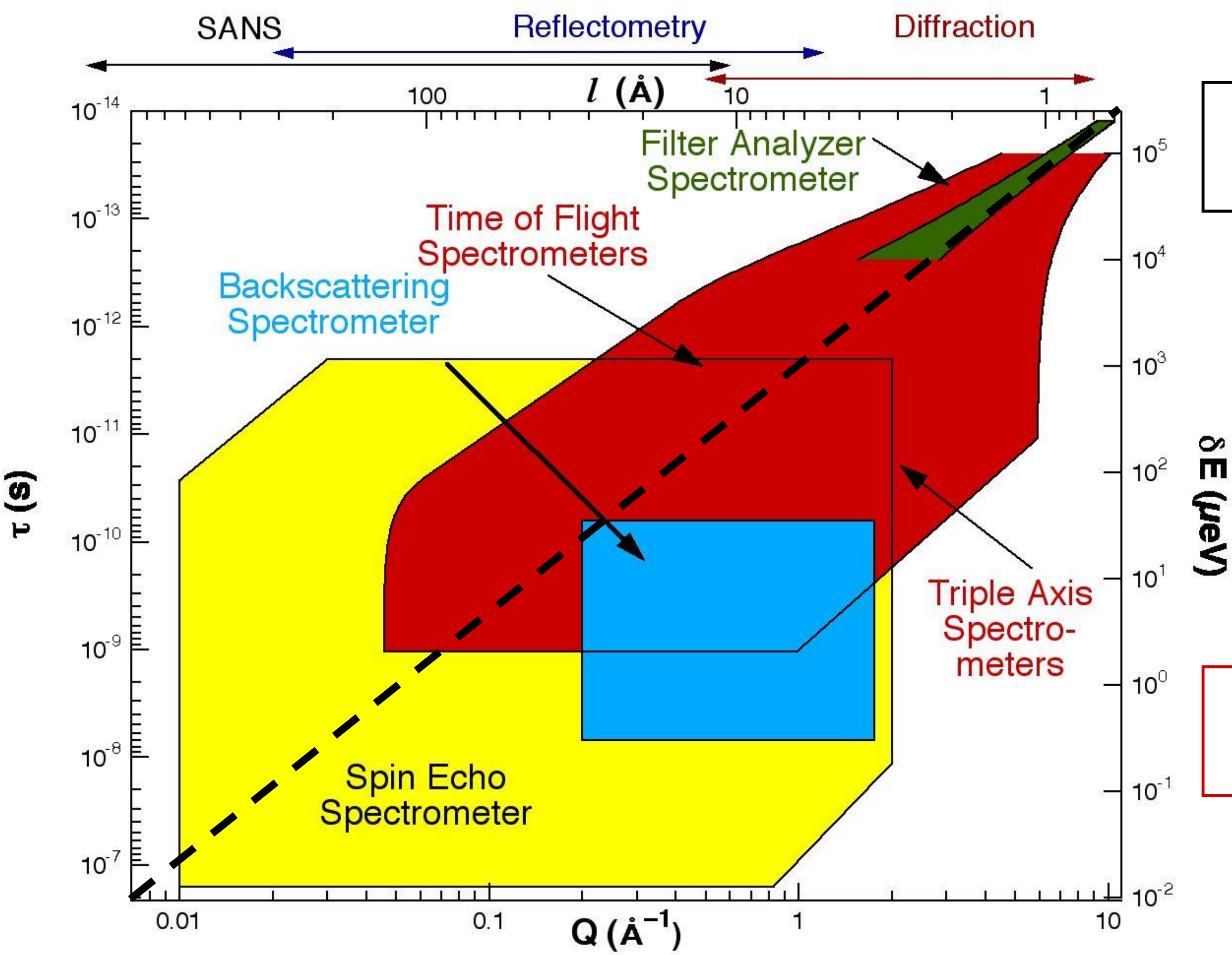
1. What are the time scales ($\hbar\omega$) of interest?
2. What are the length scales (Q) of interest?

(Some spectrometers overlap →
the choice may boil down to one of resolution)

Two additional considerations:

1. What energy resolution ($\Delta\hbar\omega$) is required?
2. What momentum resolution (ΔQ) is required?

Different Spectrometers Cover Different Regions of Phase Space



Do you see a pattern here?

Larger "objects" tend to exhibit slower motions.

Inelastic Spectrometers

Approx. Resol.

	Thermal triple-axis instruments (BT-7) (BT-4)	1 meV
	Cold neutron triple-axis instrument (MACS) (SPINS)	
S(**Q**,*E*)	Disk chopper time-of-flight spectrometer (DCS) (FANS)	~250 μeV
	High flux backscattering spectrometer (HFBS)	1 μeV
S(**Q**,*t*)	Spin-echo spectrometer (NSE)	δt → ~10 neV

All these different spectrometers are designed differently to optimize intensity and resolution for different measurement requirements

Rules of Thumb

1. What are the energies ($\hbar\omega$), i.e. time scales ($\Delta t \sim 1/\omega$), of interest?

$\hbar\omega \approx$ 1-100 meV - use a thermal triple-axis spectrometer like BT7.

$\hbar\omega \approx$ 20-30 μeV - use HFBS or NSE.

In between - use MACS or DCS or a cold-neutron triple-axis spectrometer like SPINS.

2. Make sure that the length scales **L** of the relevant motions lie within the range of the spectrometer. For example, consider the HFBS

$$\mathbf{Q}_{min} = 0.25\ \text{Å}^{-1} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}_{max} \sim 25\ \text{Å}$$
$$\mathbf{Q}_{max} \approx 1.75\ \text{Å}^{-1} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}_{min} \sim 3.5\ \text{Å}$$

$$Q = 2\pi/L$$

REMEMBER - $\mathbf{Q}_{min}$ and $\mathbf{Q}_{max}$ are <u>inversely</u> proportional to the incident neutron wavelength

More Rules of Thumb

Is your sample polycrystalline or amorphous?

Does ONLY the magnitude (not the direction) of $\mathbf{Q}$ matter?

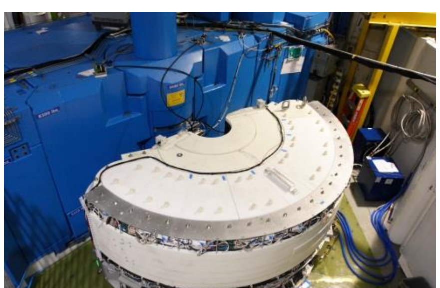
Is the expected $\mathbf{Q}$-dependence of the scattering weak?

This often means that you want to look at a large region of $\mathbf{Q}, \hbar\omega$ space, or that you can sum the data over a large region of $\mathbf{Q}, \hbar\omega$ space.

YES? Consider instruments with large analyzer areas.

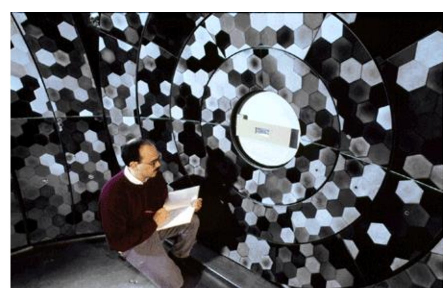
NO? Consider using BT7, SPINS, or NSE.

MACS



DCS

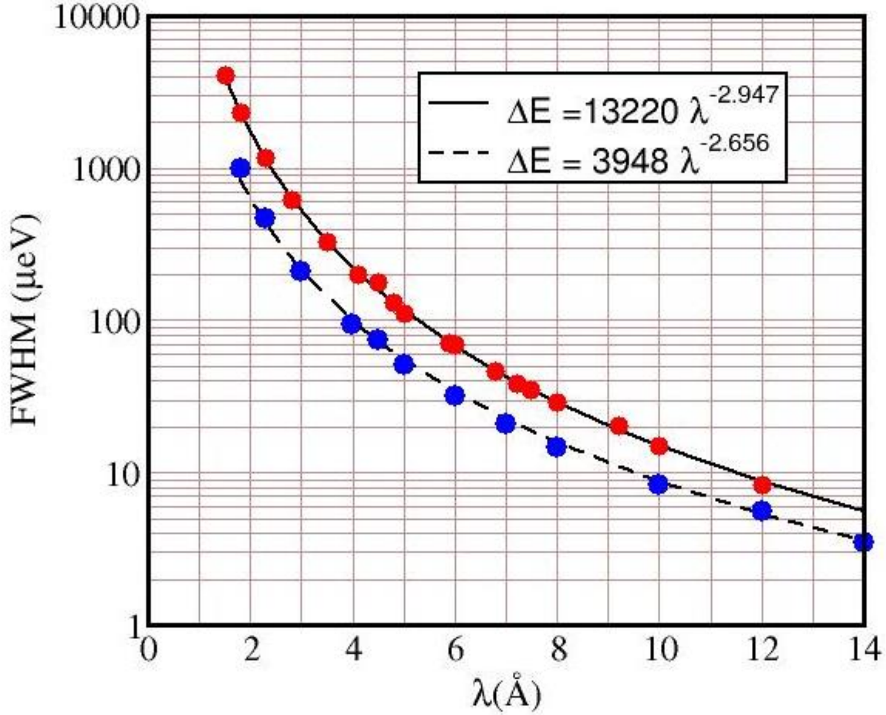
HFBS



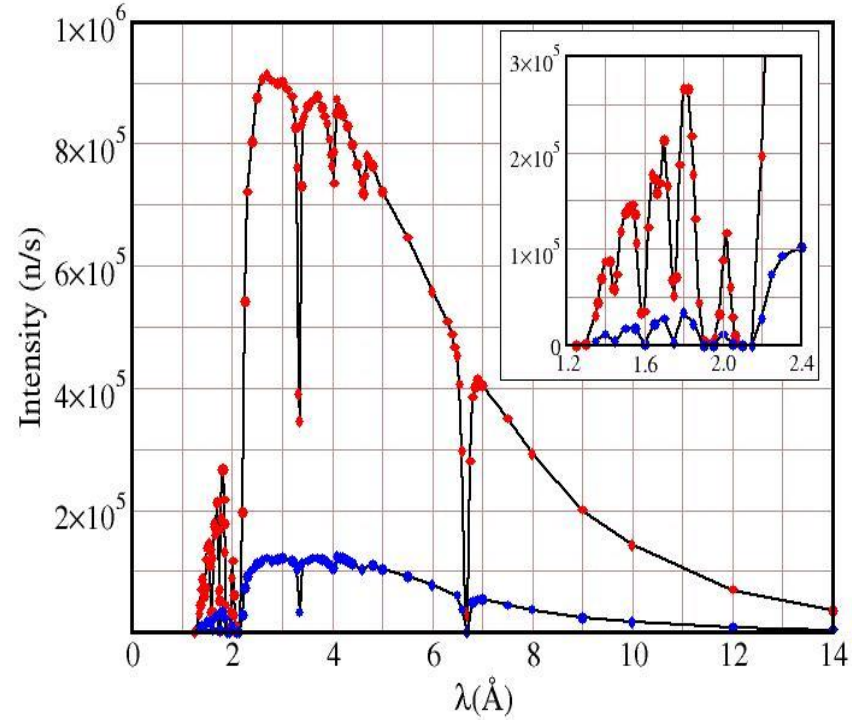
BT7

Things to Consider When Choosing DCS

ΔE (resolution)



Incident Intens.



Quantities varied

- wavelength λ
- chopper slot widths W

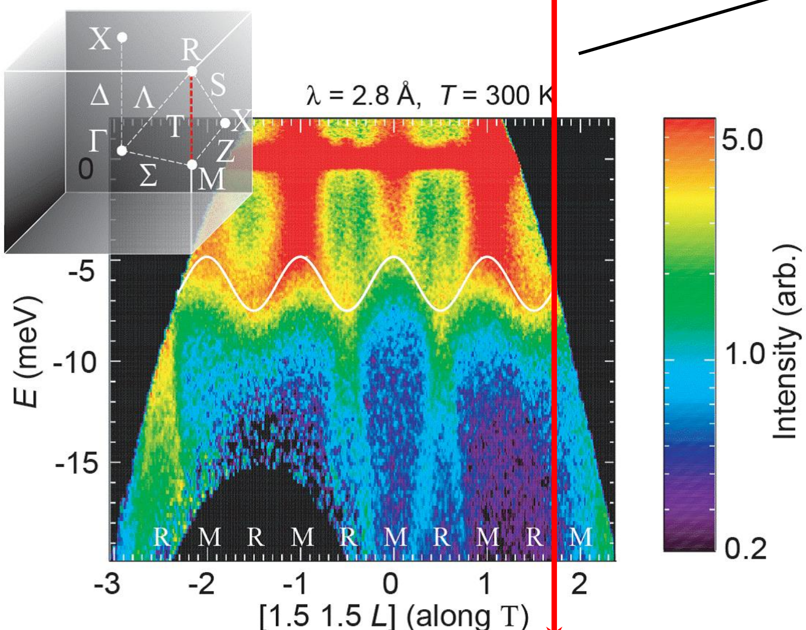
Remember – **Intensity ↓**

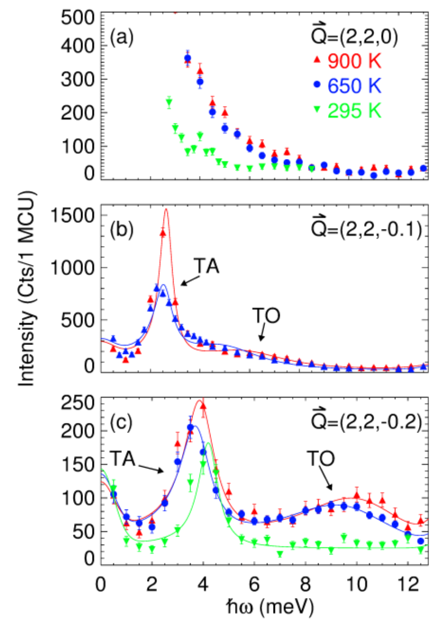
Resolution ↑

Example: DCS versus BT7

DCS Broad surveys in **Q-ω**

BT7 Limited regions in **Q-ω**





Rules of Thumb: (think carefully before violating)

DCS, MACS – systems requiring resolution < 400 μeV

BT7 – single crystals – resolution > 100 μeV

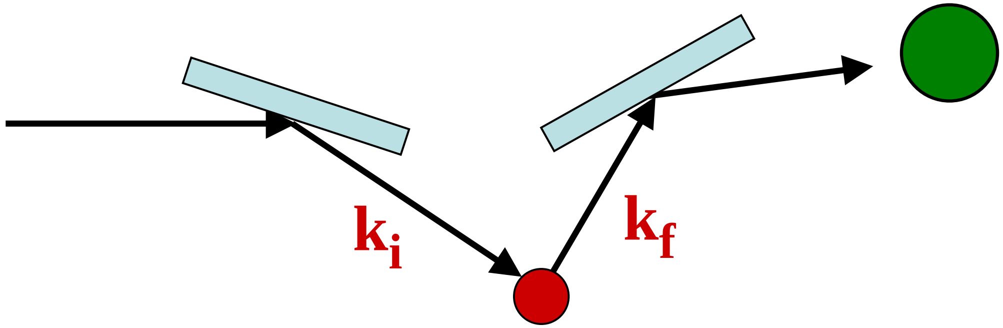
depends on collimation and monochrometer/analyzer

Things to Consider When Choosing BT7

Triple axis spectrometers are typically used when either -

(1) the *direction* of **Q** is important or

(2) the interesting region of **Q-ω** space is of *limited extent*.



One data point at a time …

Remember – **Intensity** ↓

Resolution ↑

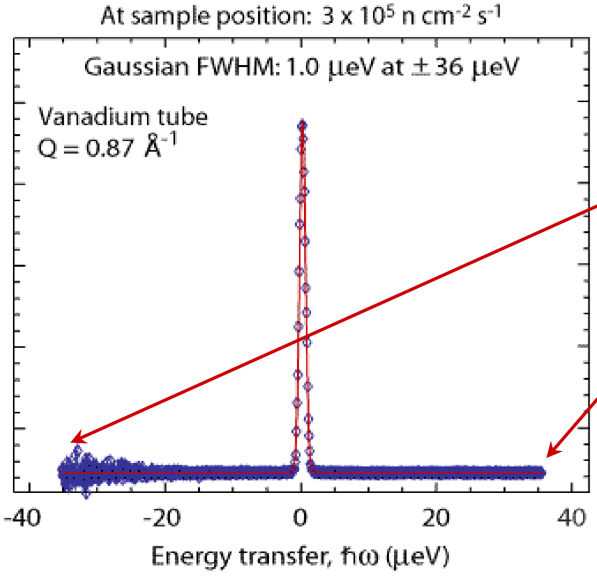
Things to Consider When Choosing HFBS

$0.25\ \text{Å}^{-1} < \mathbf{Q} < 1.75\ \text{Å}^{-1}$

Do the length scales of interest lie within this Q-range?

$\delta\mathbf{Q} < 0.1 - 0.2\ \text{Å}^{-1}$

Can you live with such coarse Q-resolution?



Do the features of interest lie within this hω-range?

Do you really require such good energy resolution $\delta E \sim 1\ \mu eV$?

General Sample "Design"

Know as much about your sample as possible!!
(Beamtime costs ~ $5000/day!!)

Other considerations:
What's the structure (in a general sense)?
Are there any phase transitions (or a glass transition)?
What isotopes are present?
Supplementary data from other measurements …

Magnetization vs T

Muon spin relaxation

X-ray data

Specific heat vs T

Raman spectroscopy

General Sample "Design"

Try to avoid isotopes that are strongly absorbing.

^{6}Li ^{10}B ^{113}Cd ^{157}Gd

For a complete listing go to

http://www.ncnr.nist.gov/resources/n-lengths

Sample "Design"

Single crystals yield the most information.

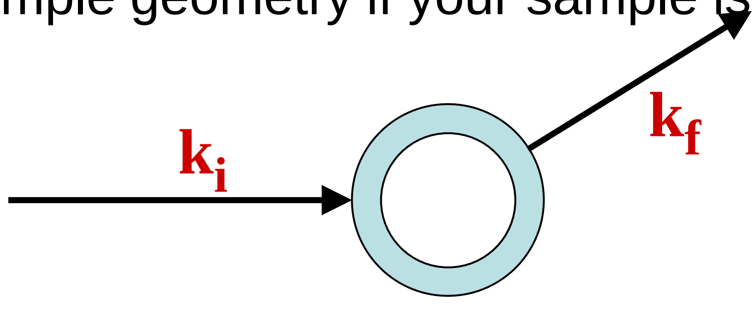
Increase the intensity by increasing the amount of sample.

If you have a powder, use a cylindrical container (rather than flat plate).

Annular may be the best sample geometry if your sample is absorbing.

Transmission of the beam should be ~70-90%.

$I/I_o = \exp(-n\sigma_A T)$



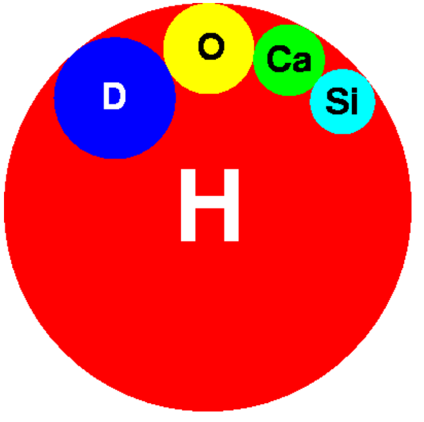
Almost all experiments of collective excitations involve coherent scattering
→ If sample contains H it should be deuterated (D).

Sample Selective Deuteration

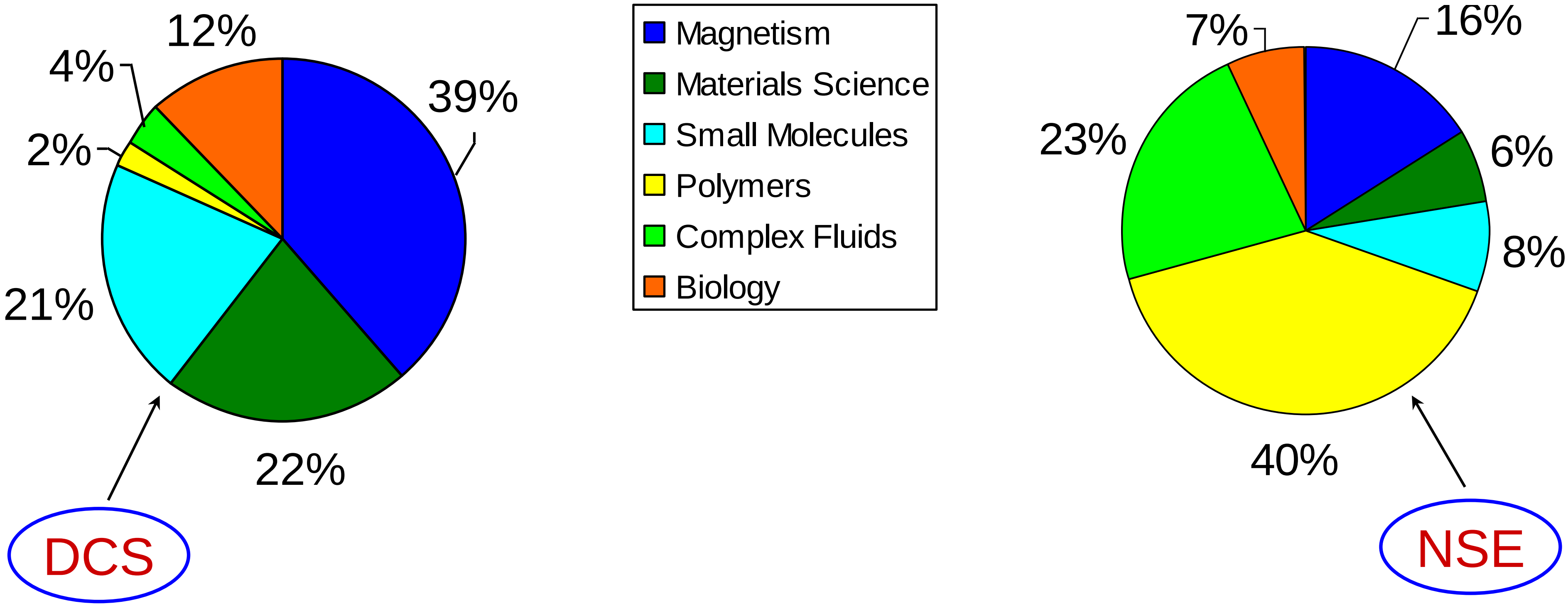
Does the sample contain H?

Remember: Neutrons LOVE H!!

Create a sample where -
the “interesting” portions are hydrogenated and
the “uninteresting” portions are deuterated.



Typical Distributions of Science by Instrument



Some Summer School Success Stories

2001

2003

Jae-Ho Chung
University Prof.

Vicky Garcia-Sakai
ISIS Staff Scientist

1999

1997

William Ratcliff
NCNR Staff Physicist

Rob Dimeo
NCNR Director

Acknowledgements

Organizers – Joe Dura and Yamali Hernandez

Administrative staff

Experiment teams

Enjoy the Science With Neutrons!