Scattering from a lattice



for simplicity: one type of atom, one atom /unit cell.

"primitive" vectors $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3$

location of any atom in crystal described by linear combination of primitive vectors:

$$\vec{R} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3$$

"form factor" of entire crystal:

$$F_{crystal}\left(\bar{Q}\right) = \sum_{\bar{R}} f\left(\bar{Q}\right) e^{i\bar{Q}\cdot\bar{R}} \qquad \sim 1 \text{ for arbitrary phase factors}$$
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left|F_{crystal}\left(\bar{Q}\right)\right|^2 \qquad \sim N \text{ if all contributions add in phase}$$

in-phase addition guaranteed if $\vec{Q} \cdot \vec{R} = 2\pi \times \text{integer}$.

Construct special set of wave vector transfers for which this is the case.

$$\vec{K} = h\vec{a}_{1} * +k\vec{a}_{2} * +l\vec{a}_{3} * \text{"reciprocal lattice vectors"}$$

$$\vec{a}_{1} * = 2\pi \frac{\vec{a}_{2} \times \vec{a}_{3}}{\vec{a}_{1} \cdot (\vec{a}_{2} \times \vec{a}_{3})} = \frac{2\pi}{v} (\vec{a}_{2} \times \vec{a}_{3}) \qquad v = \text{volume of unit cell}$$

$$\vec{a}_{2} * = \frac{2\pi}{v} (\vec{a}_{1} \times \vec{a}_{3})$$

$$\vec{a}_{3} * = \frac{2\pi}{v} (\vec{a}_{1} \times \vec{a}_{2})$$

$$\vec{K} \cdot \vec{R} = 2\pi (hn_{1} + kn_{2} + ln_{3}) = 2\pi \times \text{ integer}$$

condition for in-phase scattering from all atoms in crystal lattice:

$$\vec{Q} = \vec{K}$$

(Bragg condition)

Example: cubic crystal



familiar form of Bragg's law

Scattered intensity is distributed in "Bragg peaks" with $\vec{Q} = \vec{K}$. Background between Bragg peaks due to inelastic scattering, air scattering etc. Very small compared to peak intensity.

 $\vec{Q} = \vec{K}$ contains two conditions:



detector must be set at correct angle 2Θ with respect to incident beam

(2) $\bar{Q} \| \bar{K}$

- For given $\vec{k}, \vec{k'}$, crystal must have correct orientation.

Automatically satisfied for *powder* (collection of many small crystallites with random orientation).

X-ray powder diffraction is the most common method for identifying crystal structures of materials.

 For given orientation, X-rays must have correct wave length to be Braggscattered ⇒ can use single crystal as X-ray monochromator.