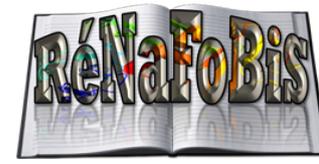




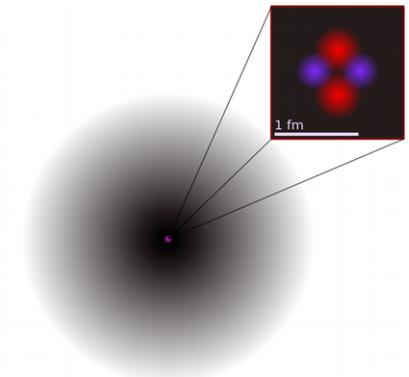
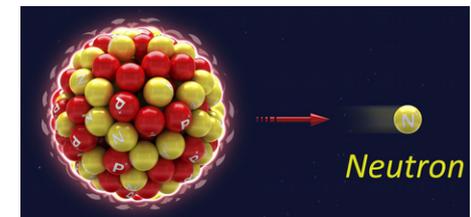
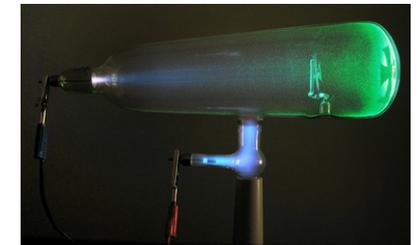
A few physical concepts essential to structural biology

**Dominique HOUSSET**  
E-mail : [dominique.housset@ibs.fr](mailto:dominique.housset@ibs.fr)

# How can we obtain structural information?



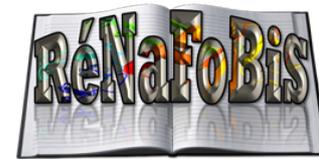
- A question of interaction between radiation and matter
- Radiations can be:
  - Photons (electro-magnetic wave: light, X-rays)
  - Electrons
  - Neutrons
- Matter
  - Your (macro)molecule under study
    - Atoms forming your molecule
      - H, C, N, O, S, ...



1 Å = 100,000 fm

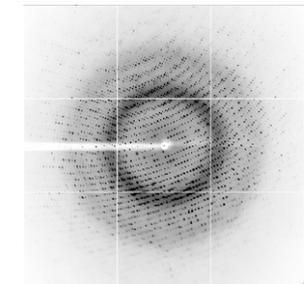
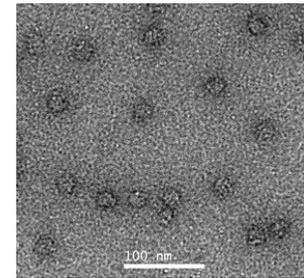
Illustrations dapted from Wikipedia

# Possible approaches



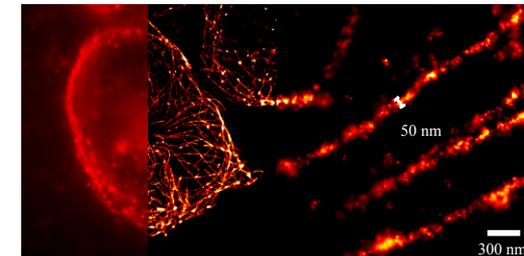
## ■ “Imaging” techniques

- Visible light microscopy
- Electron microscopy
- X-ray, neutron or electron crystallography



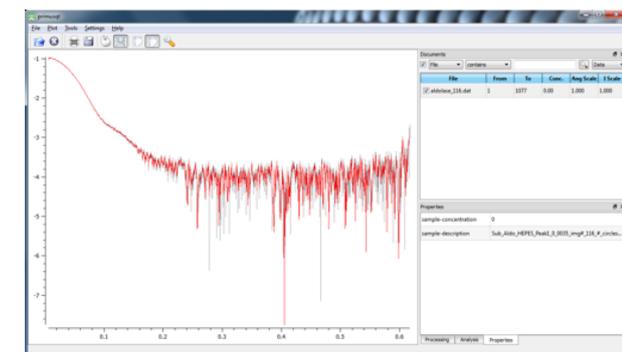
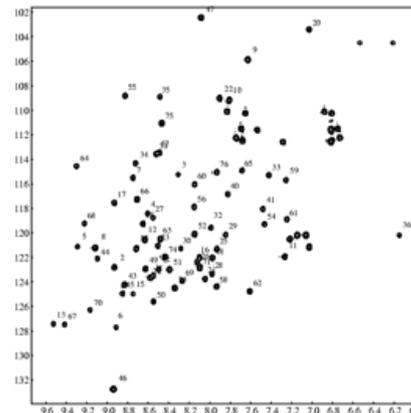
## ■ Localization technique

- Super-resolution microscopy

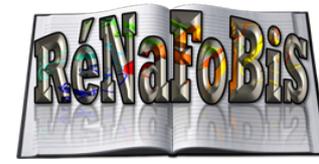


## ■ Spectroscopic techniques

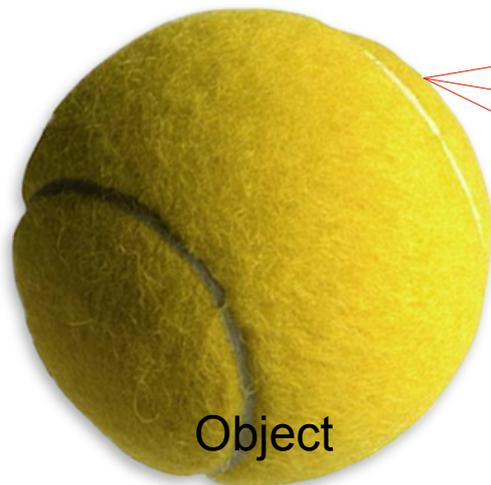
- NMR
- SAXS



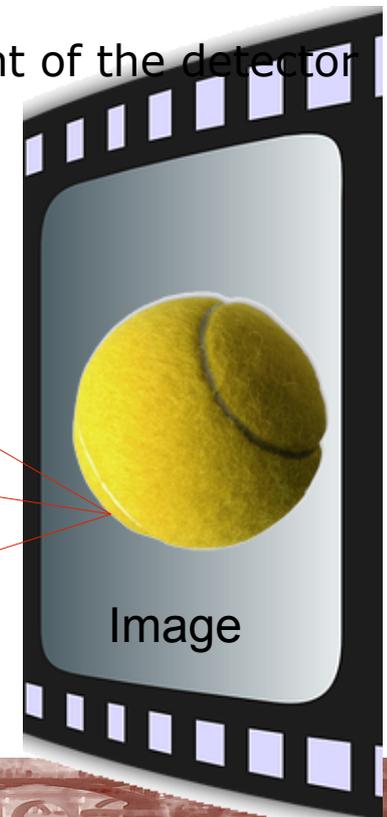
# Visible light microscopy



- Source light (radiation): photons or electromagnetic wave
  - Wave length:  $0.3 - 0.8 \mu\text{m}$
- Object (matter): absorb and re-emit incident light in all directions
  - More or less absorption
  - some time wave length dependent (color)
- Lens: focuses light emitted by the object on the image plane
  - The light emitted by one point of the object is focused on one point of the detector
- Image: eyes, camera, detector, film, ...



Object



Image

# Why can't we see molecule with visible light?

- Be because of the wave nature of light

- Diffraction of light by a disk when the disk size of the same order of magnitude than the wave length:

- The angle at which the 1<sup>st</sup> minimum occurs is given by:

$$\sin\theta \approx 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{d} \quad (\text{far from the aperture, } d \text{ diameter of the aperture})$$

- Rayleigh criterion

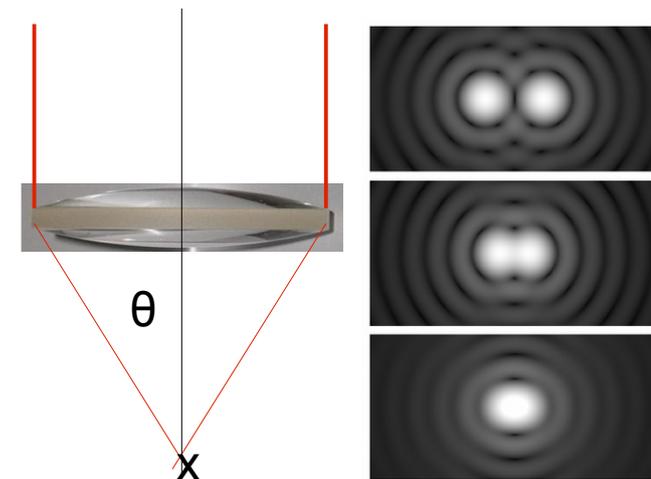
$$d = 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{2n \sin\theta} \approx \frac{\lambda}{2 \sin\theta} \quad (\text{in air})$$

- $n \cdot \sin\theta$  is the numerical aperture of the lens

- Max  $\approx 1.4 - 1.6$

- Maximum resolution with visible light

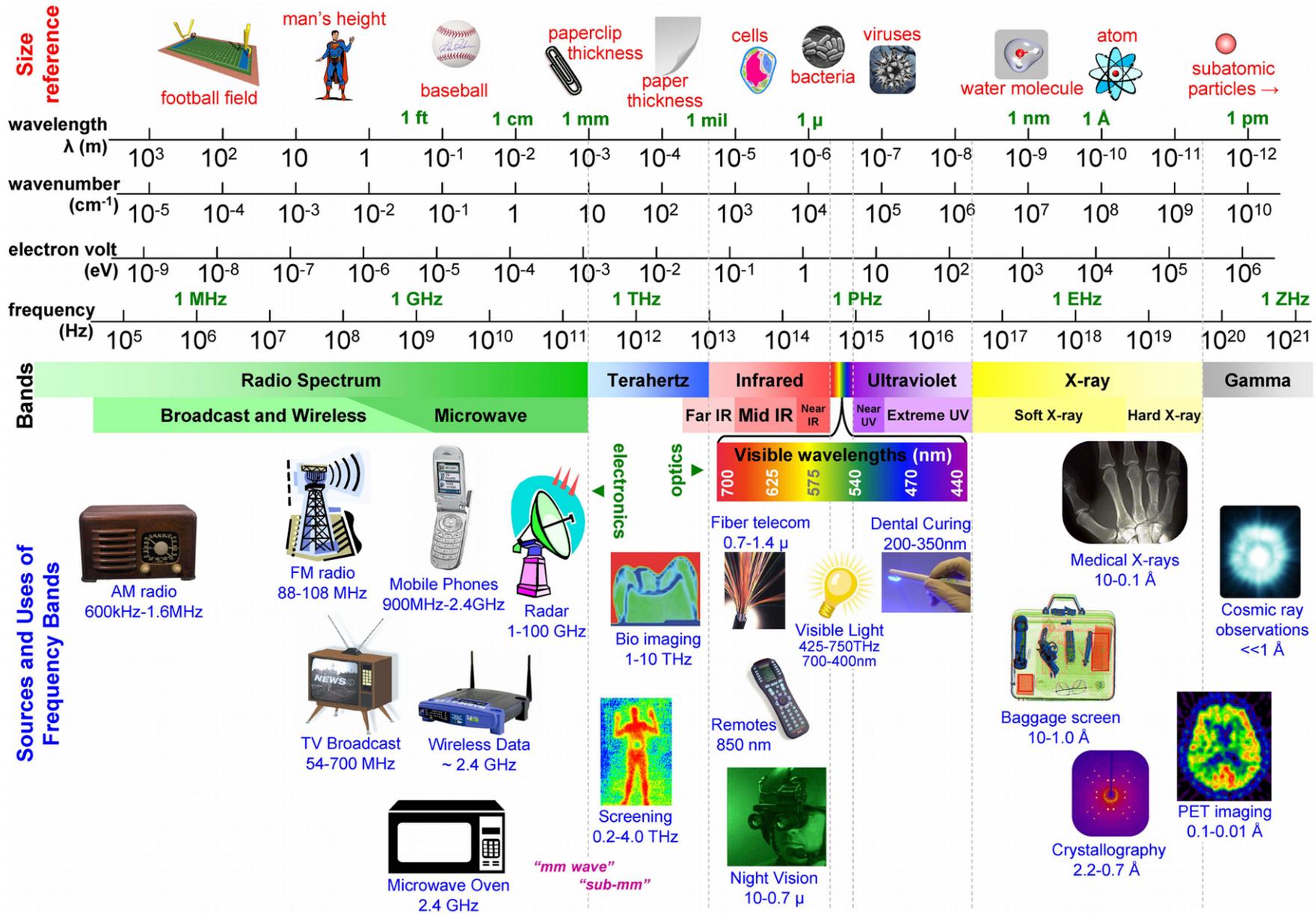
- $\approx 0.25 \mu\text{m}$
  - Enough for cells
  - Not enough for molecules



## Airy disk

The best focussed spot of light made by a lens of circular aperture is limited by the diffraction light

# How to increase resolution?



# Atomic resolution with photons?



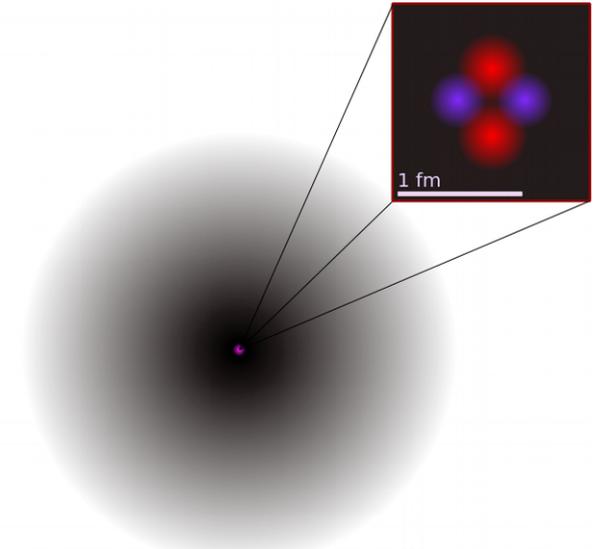
- Decrease the wavelength

- For atomic resolution

- ♦  $d \sim 1 \text{ \AA} \Rightarrow \lambda \leq 2 \text{ \AA}$

- Use photons in the domain of X-rays

- ♦ Typically: for  $\lambda = 1 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $E = h\nu = hc/\lambda \approx 12.4 \text{ keV}$

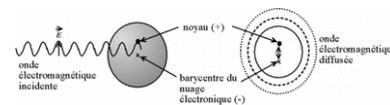
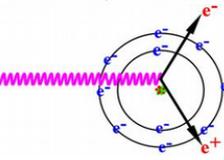
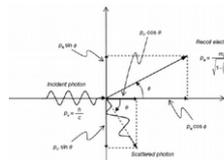
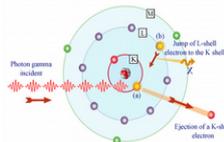


$1 \text{ \AA} = 100,000 \text{ fm}$

- Do X-rays interact with atoms?

- Yes, X-ray photons with the electronic cloud of an atom

- ♦ Photoelectric effect (absorption of a photon and emission of an electron)
- ♦ Compton Scattering (inelastic scattering between a photon and an electron)
- ♦ Electron/Positron pair production (only high energy photon  $> 1\text{MeV}$ )
- ♦ Rayleigh scattering (Photon elastic scattering by atomic electrons)



# How a photon is scattered by an atom



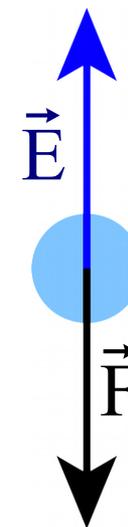
- **Elastic scattering** (no loss of energy, wavelength is conserved)
  - **Rayleigh scattering:** bound atomic electrons
  - **Thomson scattering:** free electrons (photon energy  $\gg$  electron binding energy)
    - ♦ Carbon atom  $E(1s) = -1013$  eV,  $E(2s,2p) = -36$  eV to be compared to 7 to 15 keV for X-ray photons
  - Photon energy should differ from element absorption edges
- The wave description of X-ray photons (electromagnetic wave) is fine to explain the phenomenon (classical model)
  - In an electric field  $\vec{E}$  a charge  $e$  feels a force:  $\vec{F} = e \cdot \vec{E}$ 
    - ♦ Thus, the electric field of the electromagnetic wave will induce movement of nucleus and electrons
    - ♦ Due to the non-relativistic velocity of atomic electrons, the Lorentz force induced by the magnetic field of the electromagnetic wave  $\vec{F} = e \cdot \vec{v} \wedge \vec{B}$  can be neglected

# Oscillating dipole

- In an electric field  $\vec{E}$  a charge  $e$  feels a force:  $\vec{F} = e \cdot \vec{E}$
- The force will induce an acceleration of both the electron and the nucleus

$$\vec{F} = m \cdot \vec{\gamma} \Rightarrow \vec{\gamma}_e = -e \cdot \frac{\vec{E}}{m_e} \text{ and } \vec{\gamma}_n = + Ze \cdot \frac{\vec{E}}{(Zm_p + (A - Z)m_n)}$$

- Since  $m_p$  and  $m_n \gg m_e$  one can neglect the movement of the nucleus



- The dipole induced by the electric field is:  $\vec{d} = Ze \cdot \vec{r}$

(with  $\vec{r}$  vector between center of mass of electrons and nucleus)

$$\frac{\partial^2 \vec{d}}{\partial t^2} = -Ze \cdot \vec{\gamma}_e = Ze^2 \cdot \frac{\vec{E}}{m_e}$$

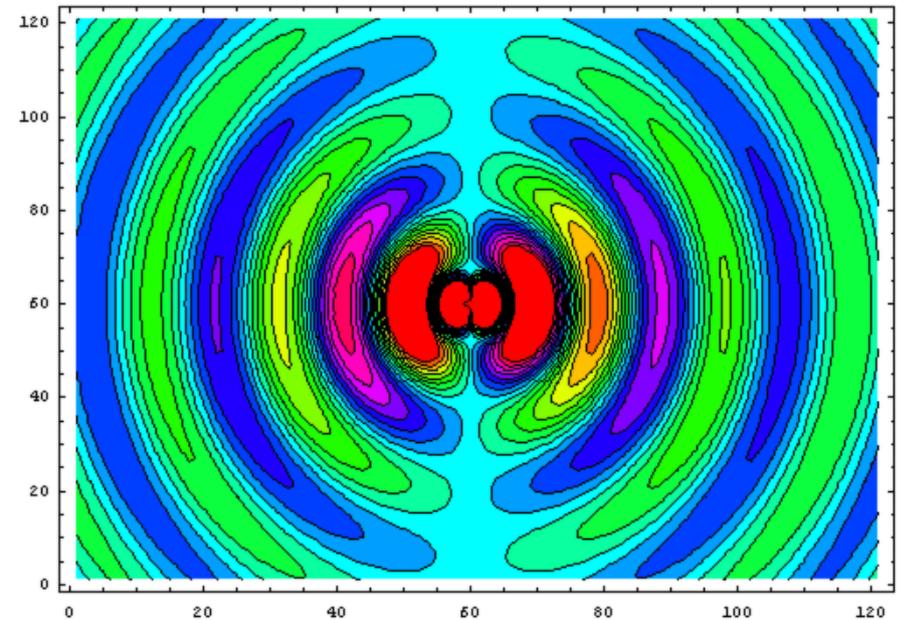
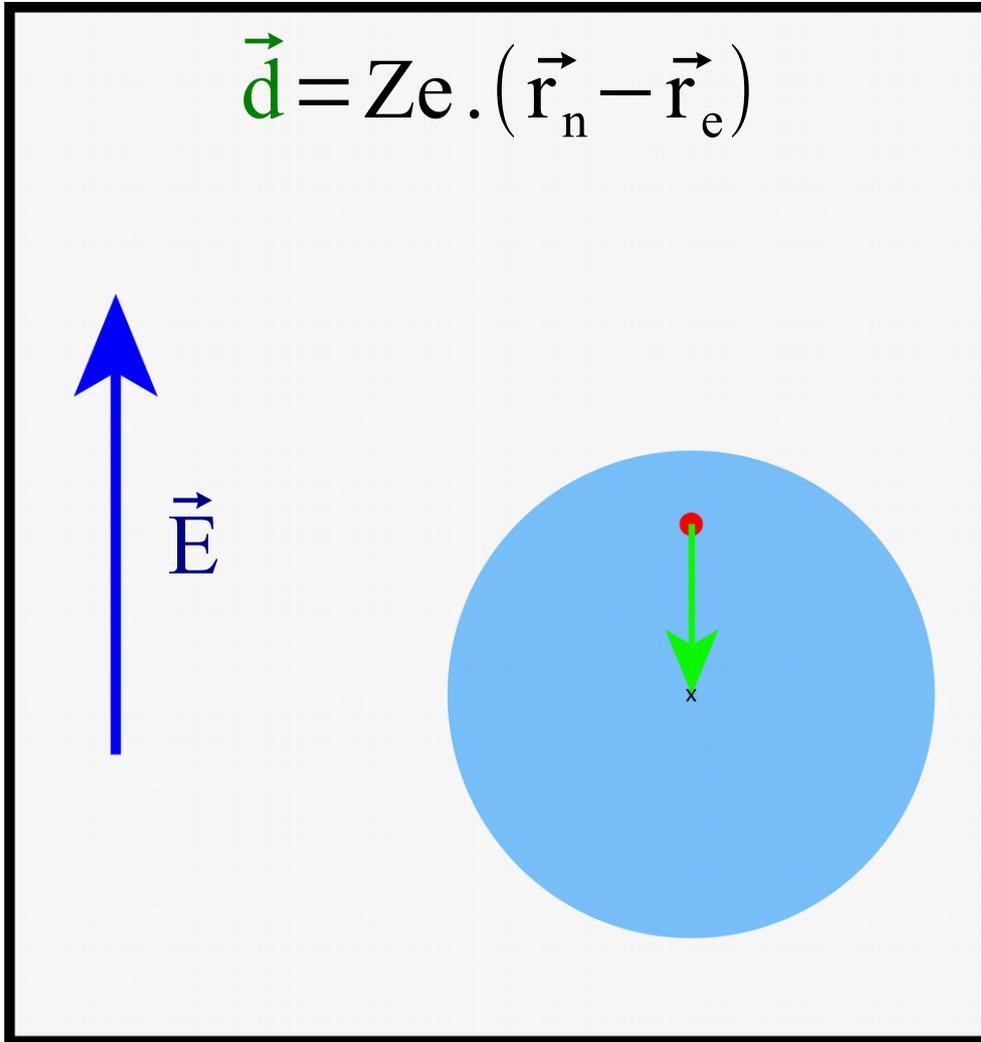
$$\underbrace{\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 \cos[\omega t]}_{\text{oscillating electric field}} \Rightarrow \underbrace{\vec{d} = -\left( Ze^2 \frac{\vec{E}_0}{m_e \omega^2} \right) \cos[\omega t]}_{\text{oscillating dipole}}$$

# Oscillating dipole and emitted wave



The incident electromagnetic wave induce the oscillation of the electronic cloud

$$\vec{d} = Ze \cdot (\vec{r}_n - \vec{r}_e)$$



The negatively charged electronic cloud and the positively charged nucleus become an **oscillating dipole**, thus emitting a spherical electromagnetic wave of **same wavelength** with a phase shift of  $\pi$

# Accessible information?



- Each atoms is emitting an electromagnetic wave (photon):
  - Amplitude proportional to  $Z$  (number of electrons)
  - Phase determined by the phase of the incident wave, at the position of the atom
- => In principle, access to the **electron density**
  
- What about other beams?
  - **Electrons**
  - **Neutrons**

# Other particles to probe matter?



- Is photon (electromagnetic wave) the unique probe to see molecule?
- In 1924, Louis de Broglie proposed that all elementary particles can behave both as a wave and as a particle

➤ Any particle can be used to probe matter if

- the associated wave length  $\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$  is appropriate
- It interact with matter

➤ What is the wave length of an elementary particle?

- Photon (no mass):  $E = h\nu = h \frac{c}{\lambda}$  ,  $p = \frac{h\nu}{c}$

- Particle (mass  $\neq 0$ ):  $E = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$  ,  $p = mv$  ,  $\lambda = \frac{h}{mv}$

with  $h$  (Planck constant) =  $6.6257 \cdot 10^{-34}$  J.s ,  $p$ : momentum ,  $\nu$ : frequency



# Energies and wave length



- Electromagnetic waves / photons (1901, Röntgen)

- Photon energy:  $E = hv = h \frac{c}{\lambda} \rightarrow 7 \text{ keV} < E < 17 \text{ keV}$  or  $1.7 \text{ \AA} > \lambda > 0.7 \text{ \AA}$



- Electrons (1897, Thomson)

- Negatively charged particle ( $q = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ ,  $m_e = 9.1091 \cdot 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$ )

$$E = \frac{1}{2} m_e v^2, \lambda = \frac{h}{m_e v} \rightarrow \lambda = 1.2 \text{ \AA} \text{ for } v = 6000 \text{ km/s and } E = 100 \text{ eV}$$

in practice  $100 \text{ keV} < E < 300 \text{ keV}$  and  $0.037 \text{ \AA} > \lambda > 0.019 \text{ \AA}$



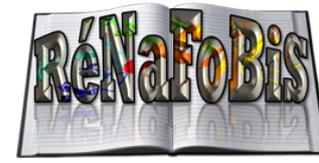
- Neutrons (1932, Chadwick)

- Neutral particle ( $m_n = 1.6749 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$ )

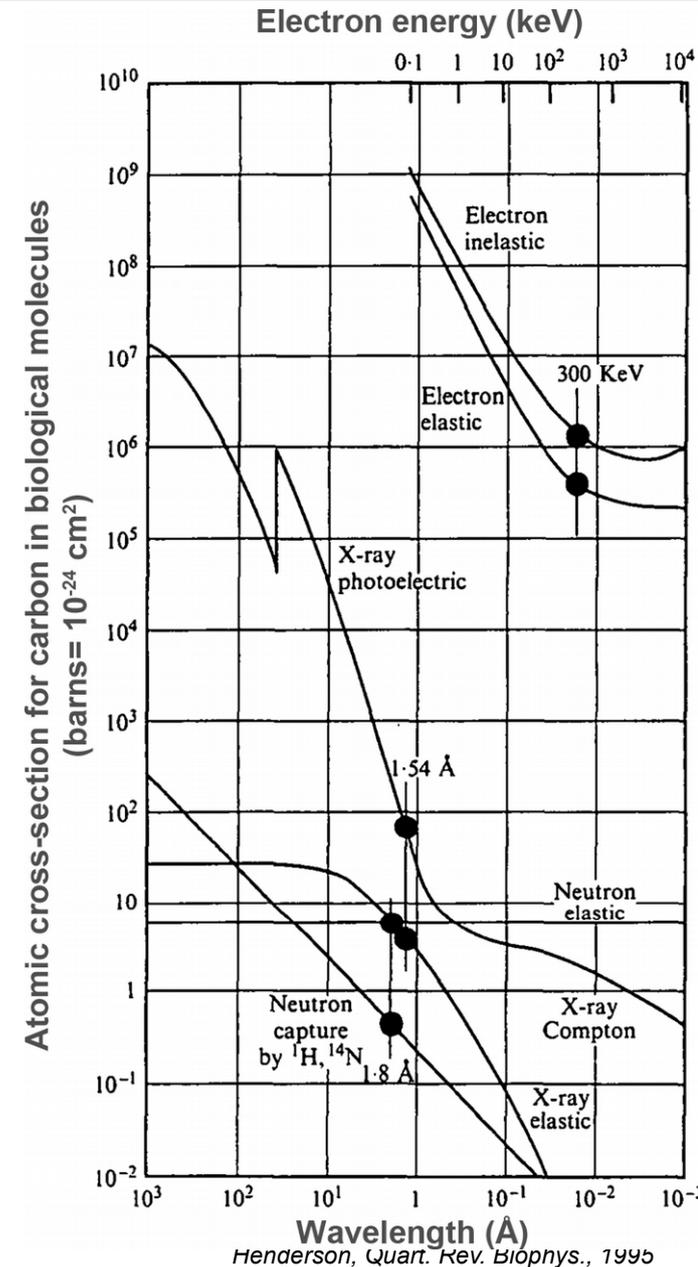
$$E = \frac{1}{2} m_n v^2, \lambda = \frac{h}{m_n v} \rightarrow \lambda = 1.5 \text{ \AA} \text{ for } v = 2600 \text{ m/s and } E = 3.6 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ eV}$$



# Electrons

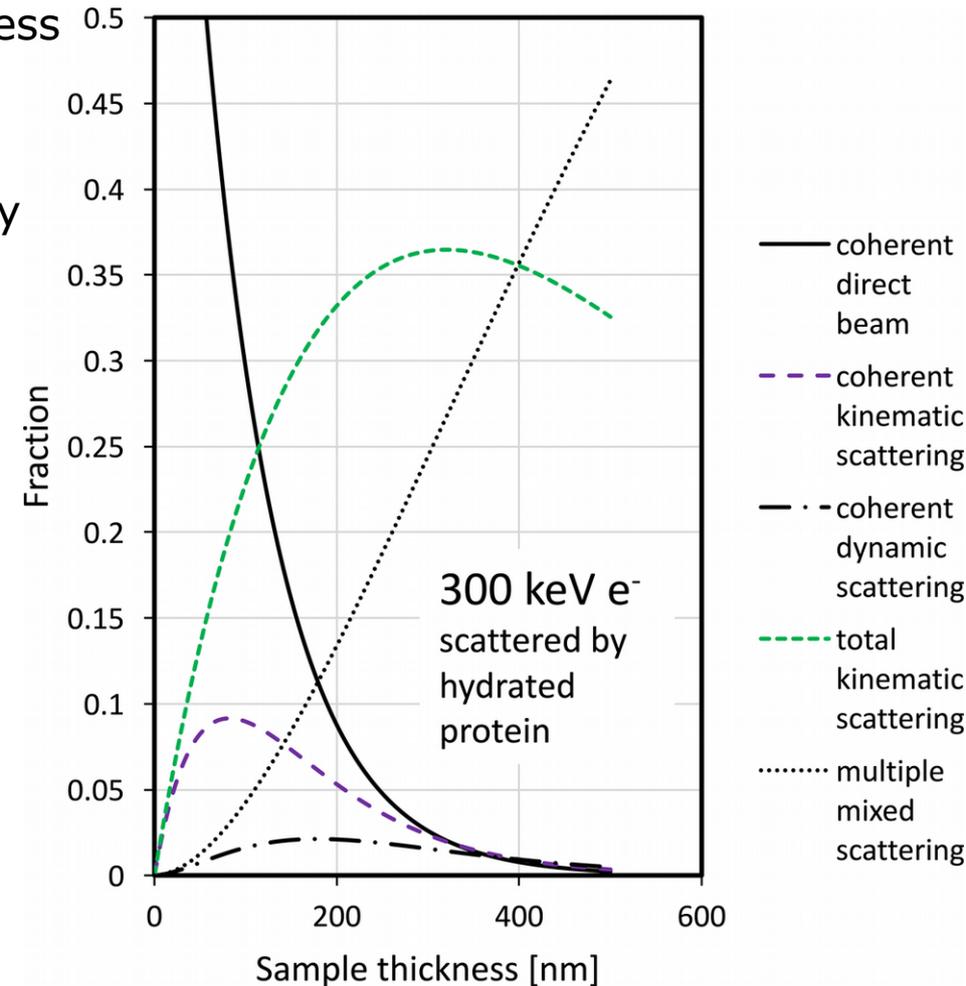


- Charged particle
  - “Sense” the electrostatic potential
- Strongly interact with matter
  - About  $10^4$  times more than X-rays
- Elastic scattering represents 25% of scattered electrons
  - Only 5% for X-rays



- Optimal thickness of sample

- All electrons are absorbed if sample thickness exceed the  $\mu\text{m}$
- For X-rays, about 98% of the photons go through a 100  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sample without any interaction

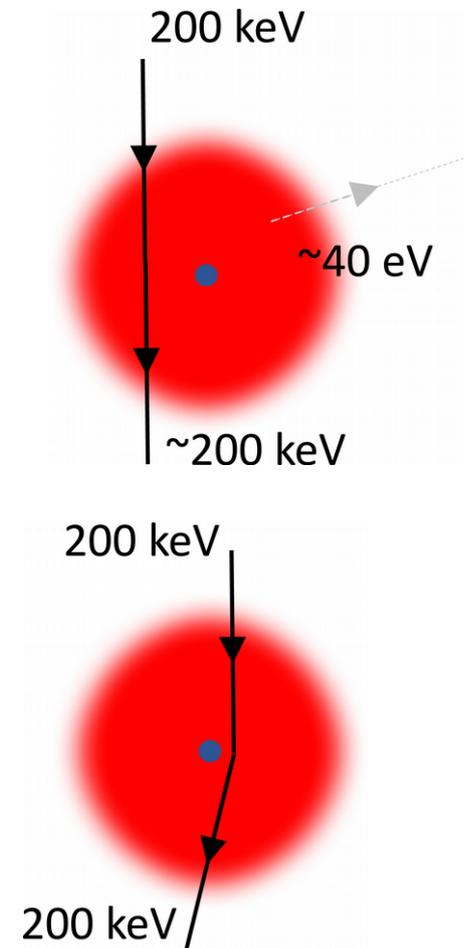


Illustrations taken from J.P. Abrahams

# Electrons



- Strongly interact with matter
  - Elastic interaction with:
    - Atomic electron (small energy transfer)
      - No change in trajectory
    - Nucleus (Rutherford or Coulomb scattering)
      - Main contribution to elastic scattering
  - Inelastic interaction
    - Bremsstrahlung (higher energies)
    - Absorption (lower energies)

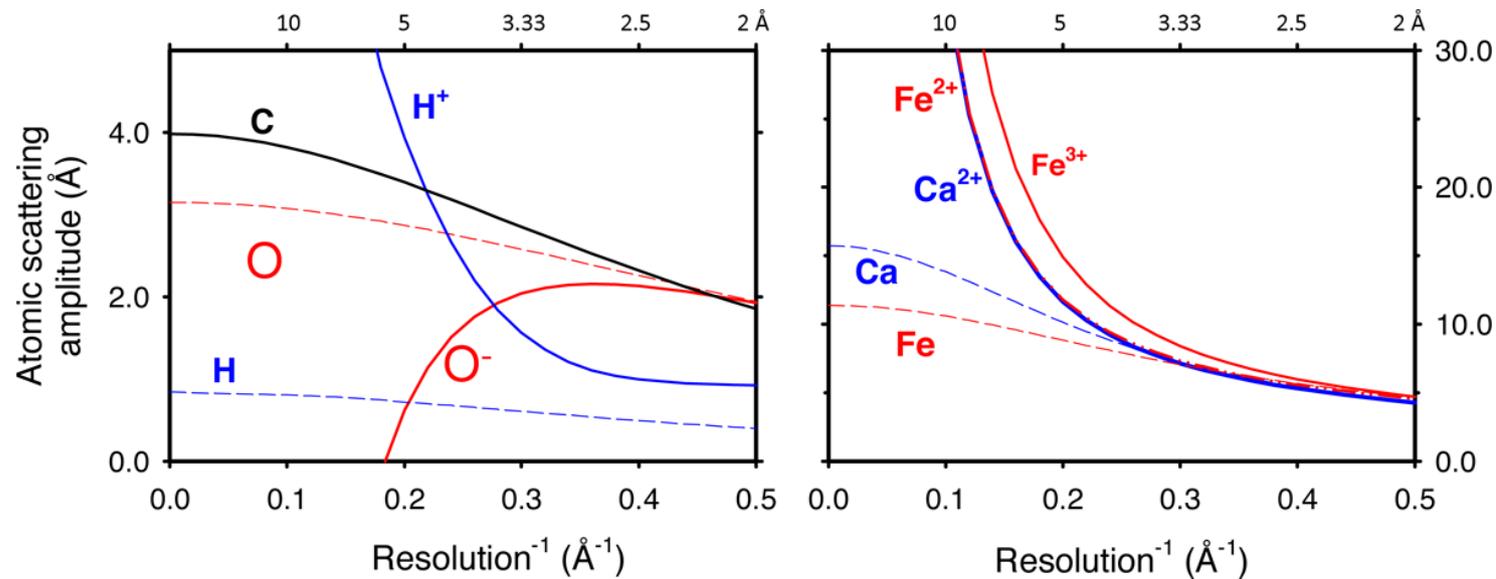


Illustrations taken from J.P. Abrahams

# Electrons



- Atomic scattering factor for electrons depends on  $Z$ 
  - Scattering probability  $\sim Z^{4/3}$  (for X-rays, scattering probability  $\sim Z^2$ )
- Also strongly depends on the atomic charge



- => access to a combination of electron density and charge information

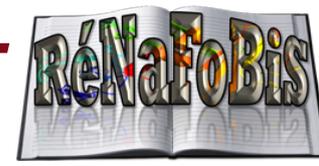
*Illustrations taken from K. Yonekura*

# Neutrons



- No electromagnetic interaction
  - Penetrate matter easily
- Different type of neutrons
  - ♦ Cold neutrons:  $E < 0.0038 \text{ eV}$
  - ♦ Thermal neutrons:  $0.0038 \text{ eV} < E < 0.5 \text{ eV} \Rightarrow$  used for diffraction and SANS experiment
  - ♦ Epithermal or resonance neutrons:  $0.5 \text{ eV} < E < 100 \text{ keV}$
  - ♦ Fast neutrons:  $100 \text{ keV} < E < 10 \text{ MeV}$
  - ♦ Relativistic neutrons:  $E > 10 \text{ MeV}$
  - Elastic interaction with nucleus:  $E < 1 \text{ MeV}$
  - Inelastic scattering by nucleus:  $E > 1 \text{ MeV}$
  - Induced fission

# Neutrons: differences and similarities with X-rays



- Neutrons interact with nucleus
  - We observe nucleus and not electron density
    - ◆ Proton can be observed
  - Scattering cross-section comparable to that of X-rays
  - Variable scattering cross section depending on the type of atom
- Nuclei are very small ( $10^{-15}\text{m}$ ) compare to the wave length ( $10^{-10}\text{ m}$ )

- Quasi a point

- ◆ Impact on the atomic form factor

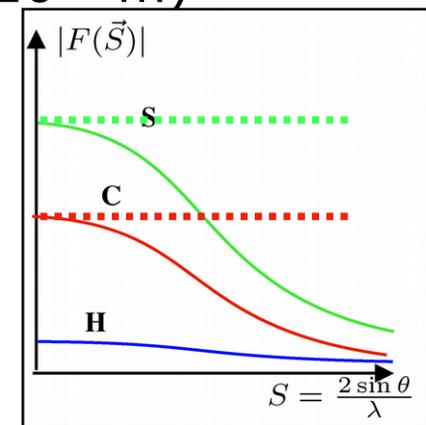
- ◆ Spherical electron density  $f_{\text{at}}(\vec{s}) = f_{\text{at}}(|\vec{s}|) = 2 \int_{r=0}^{\infty} \rho(r) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi sr}{s}\right) dr$

- ◆

$$f_{\text{at}}(0) = Z$$

- ◆ For neutron  $f_{\text{nuc}}(s) = \sigma_{\text{scat}}$

- ◆ No decrease with  $s$  or resolution



- => access to spatial distribution of nuclei

# *Different point of views*

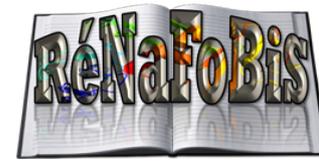


X-ray photons

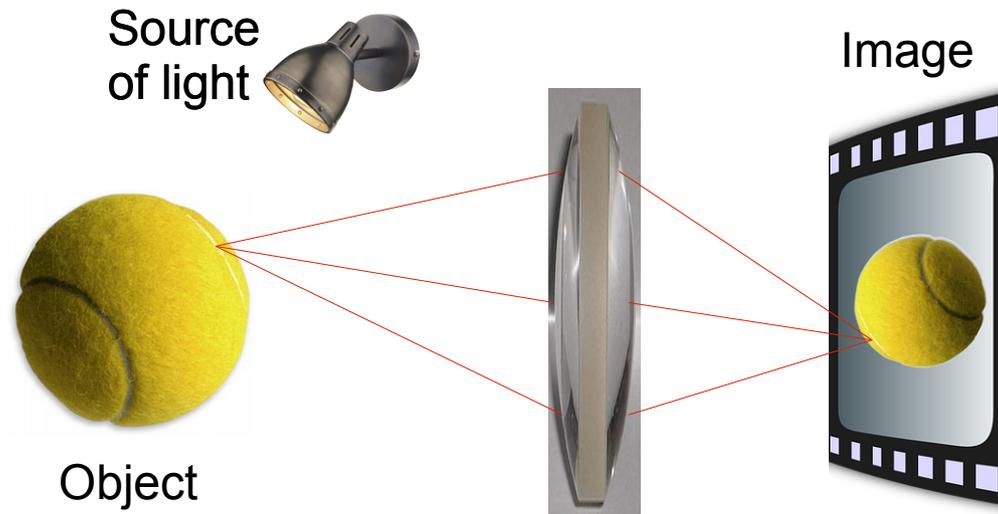
Electrons

Neutrons

# Why can't we get directly the image of the molecule with X-rays?



- Problem: we have **no lens for X-ray** photons
  - No image on the detector, but a scattering spectra
- With a lens
  - All radiation arriving on one point of the detector come from one point on the object



# Scheme for a scattering spectrum



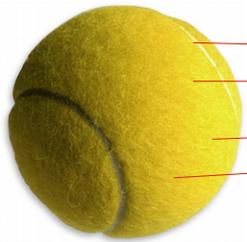
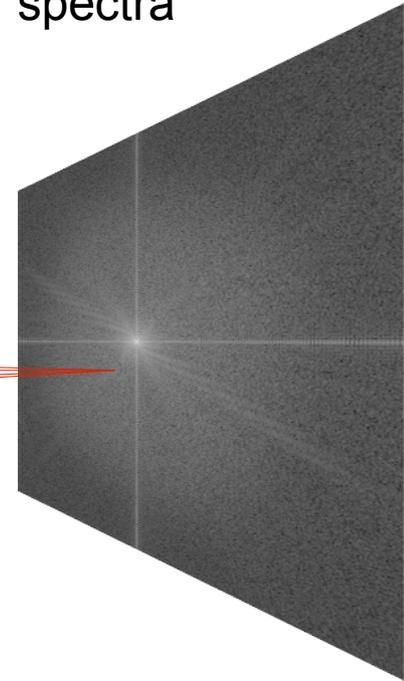
- Without a lens

- Radiation arriving on one point of the detector come from all points on the object
  - It the sum of waves emitted by each point of the object

Source  
of light



Diffusion/diffraction  
spectra

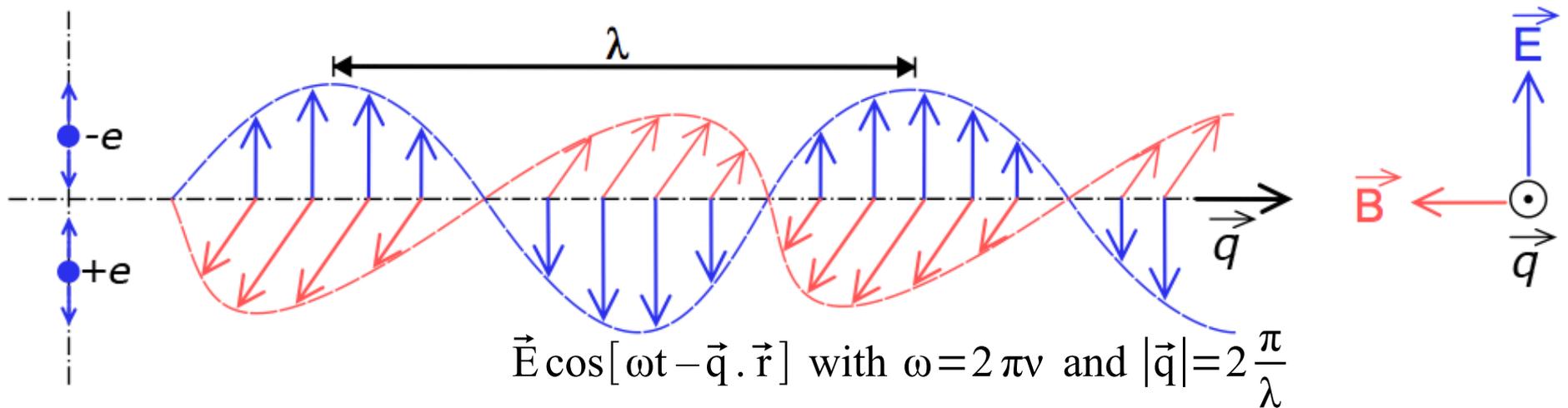


Object

# What can we do with a scattering spectra?



- What is the link between the scattering spectra and the molecule?
- Can we still get a image of the molecule?
- Mathematical representation of an electromagnetic wave?
  - Wave generated by an oscillating dipole



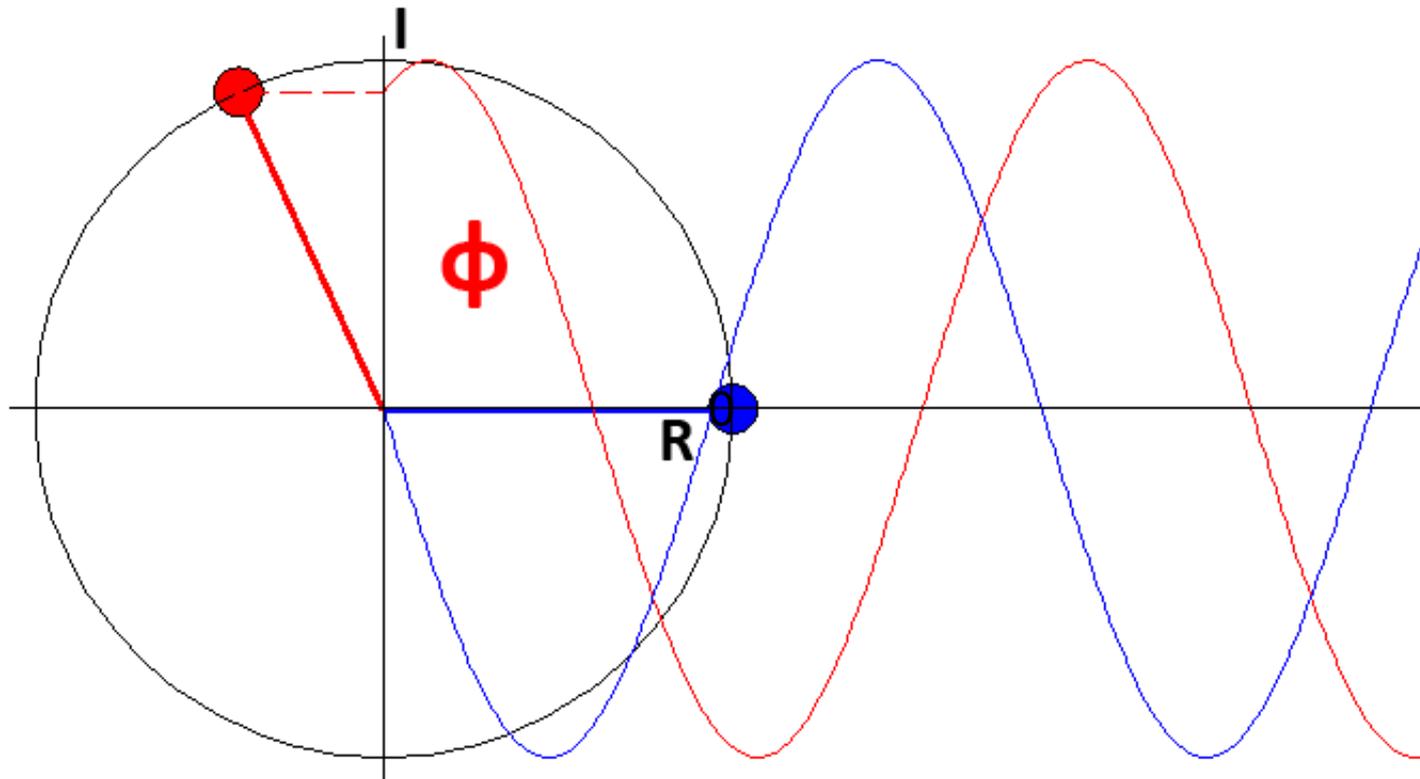
$\omega$ : angular frequency,  $\nu$ : frequency,  $\lambda$ : wave length,  $\vec{q}$ : wave vector or momentum

# Reminder about waves

- Fresnel representation of waves

- Electric field:  $\vec{E}_0 \cos[\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r}] = \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})]$

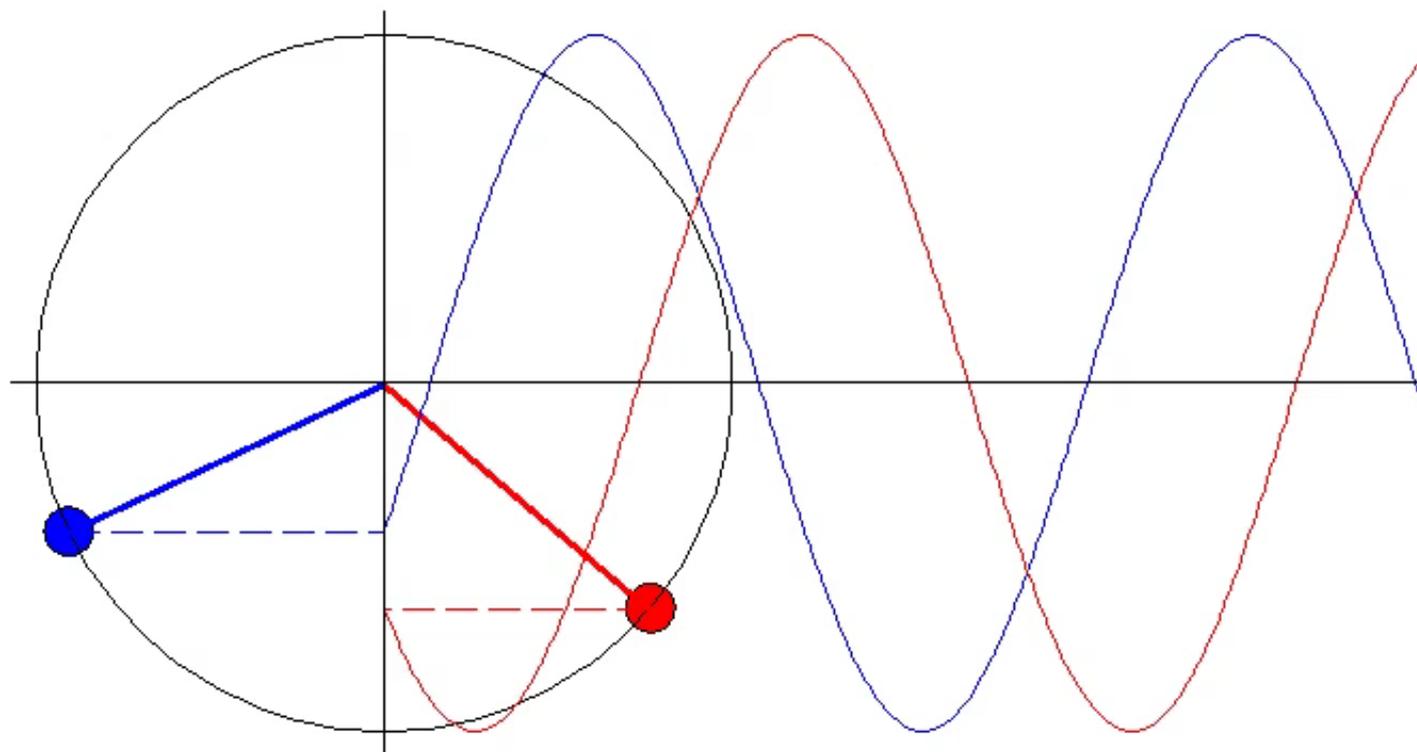
- A phase shift  $\phi$ :  $\vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r} + \phi)] = \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})] \cdot \exp[i\phi]$



# Reminder about waves

- Fresnel representation of waves

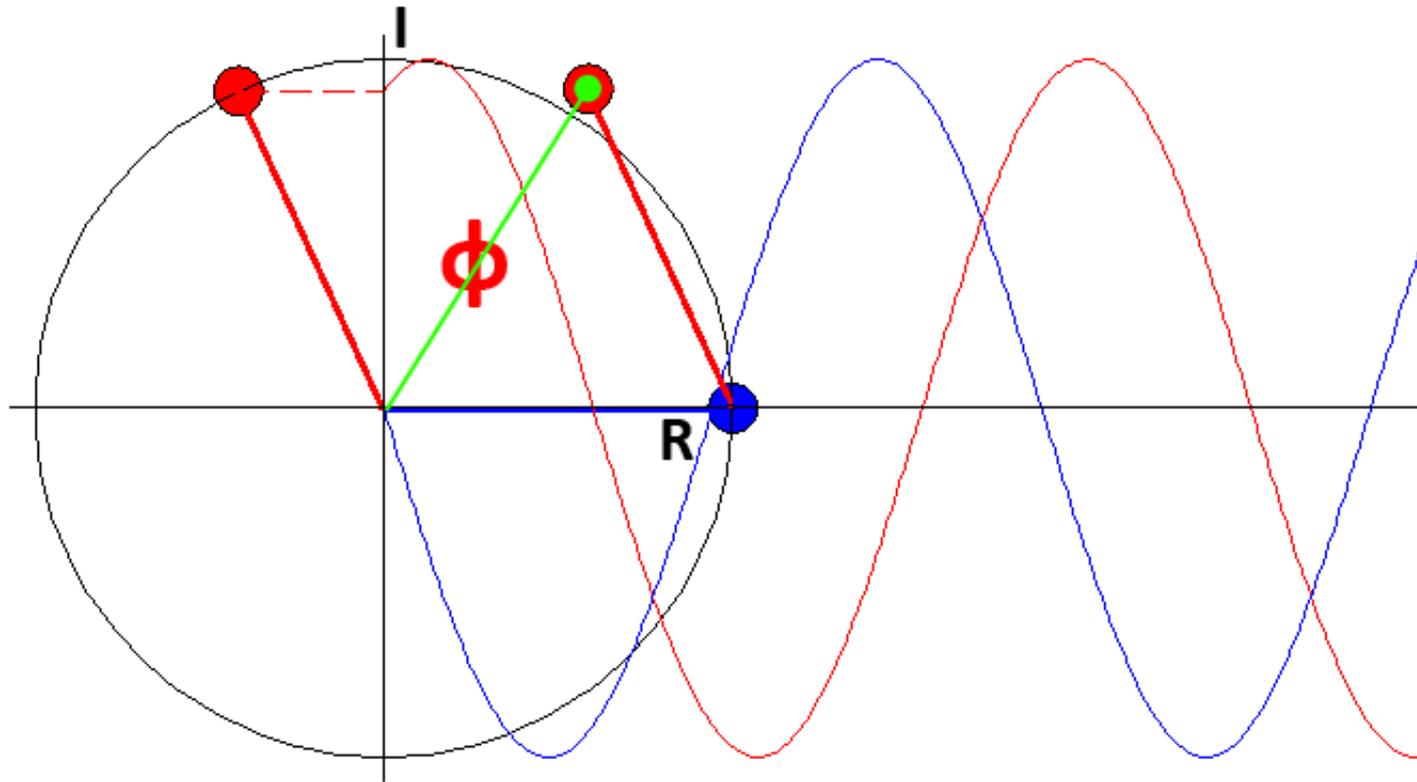
- Electric field:  $\vec{E}_0 \cos[\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r}] = \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})]$
- A phase shift  $\varphi$ :  $\vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r} + \varphi)] = \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})] \cdot \exp[i\varphi]$



# Reminder about waves

- Sum of two waves are simple to express

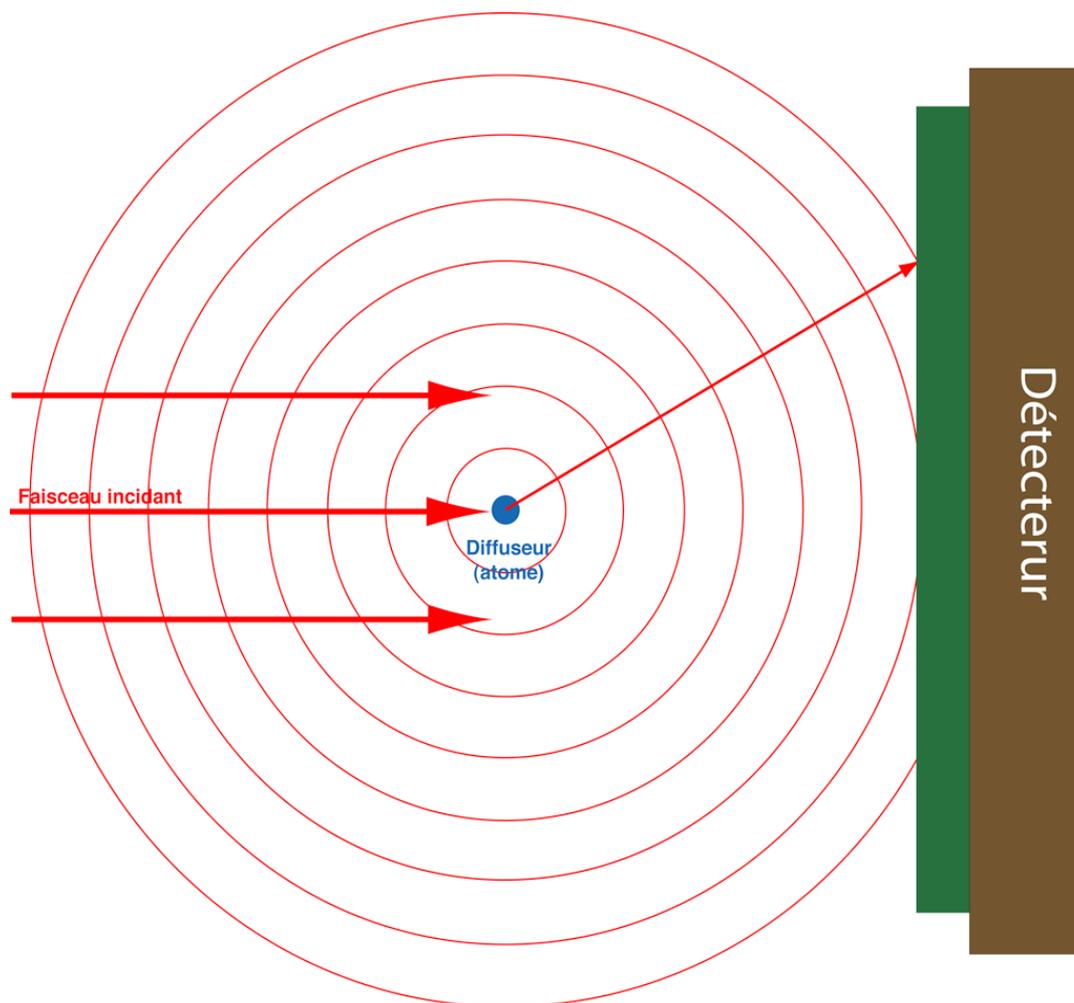
$$\vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})] + \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})] \cdot \exp[i\phi] = \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})] \cdot (1 + \exp[i\phi])$$



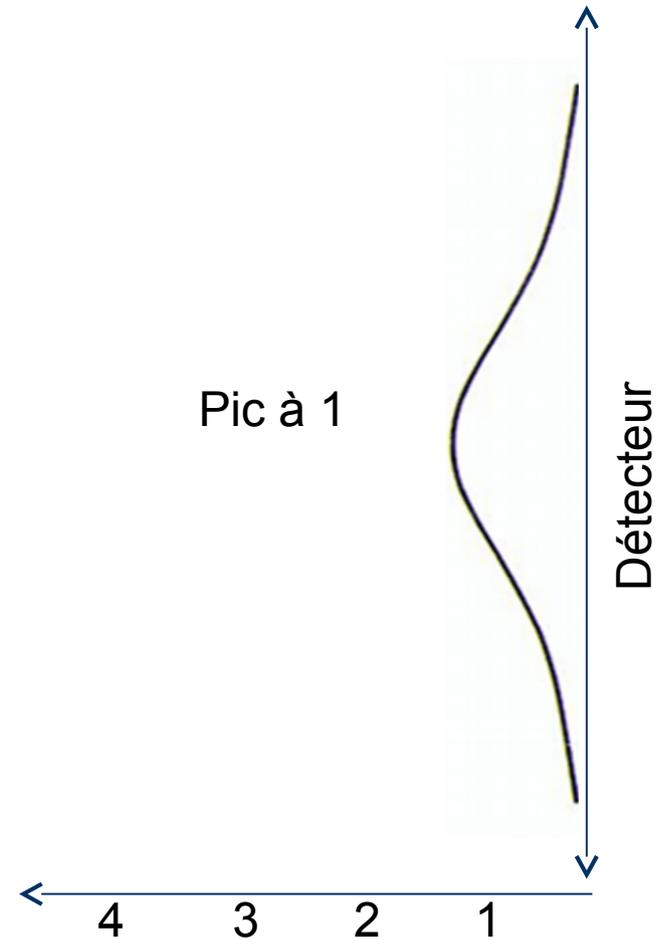
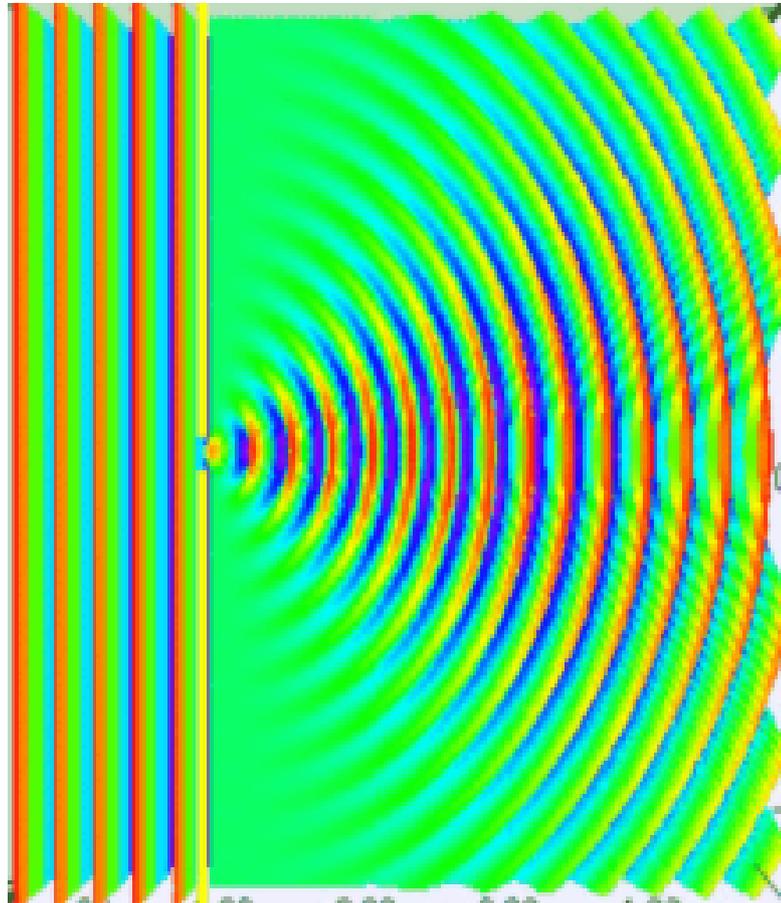
- $\phi = 0^\circ$  (or  $2\pi$ )  $\Rightarrow$  in phase  $\Rightarrow$  constructive interference
- $\phi = 180^\circ$  (or  $\pi$ )  $\Rightarrow$  out of phase  $\Rightarrow$  destructive interference

# Scattering by one atom

- The planar incident wave induces the emission of a spherical wave of same wavelength and with a  $\pi$  phase shift

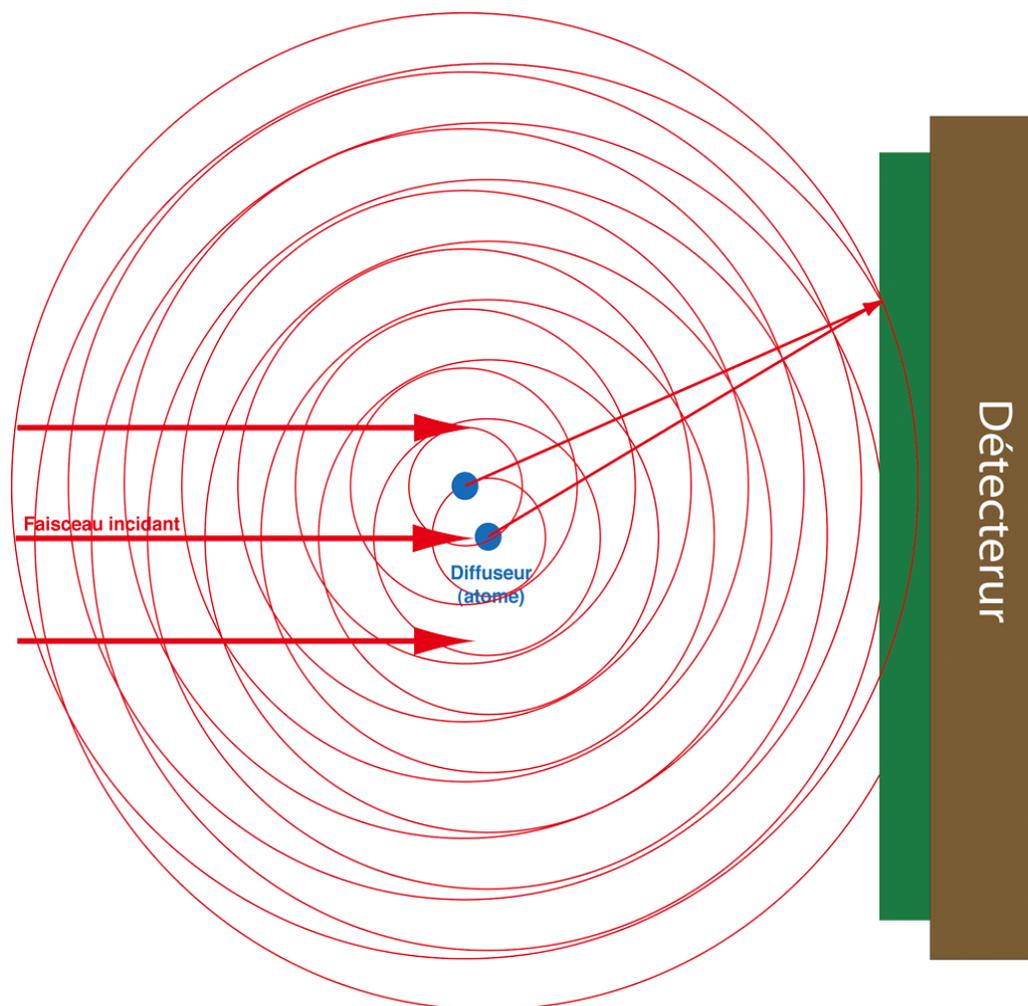


# Scattering by one atom

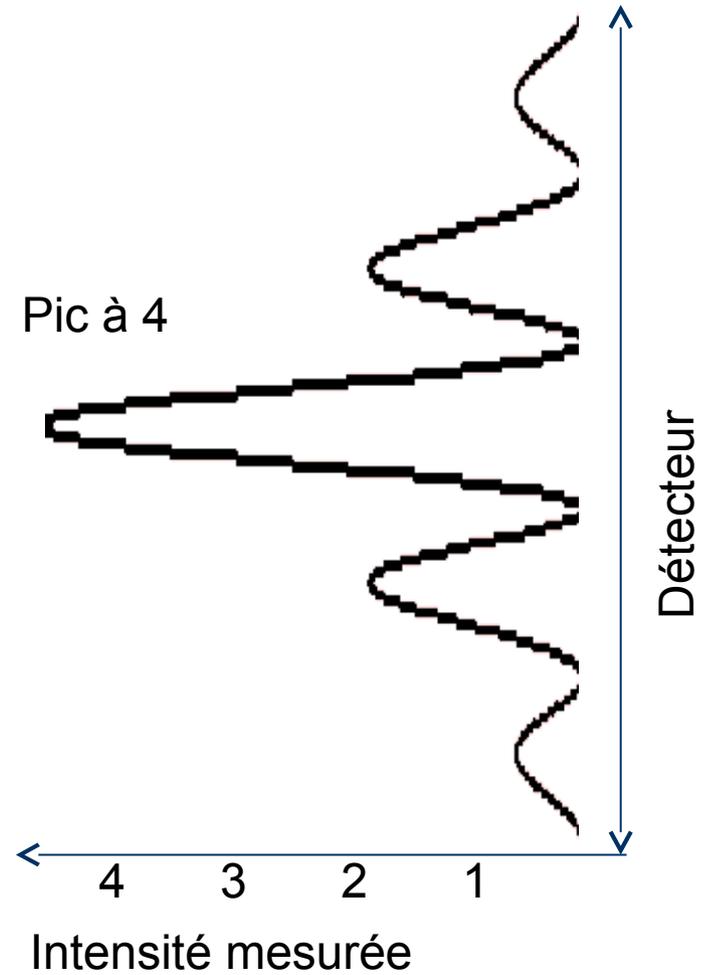
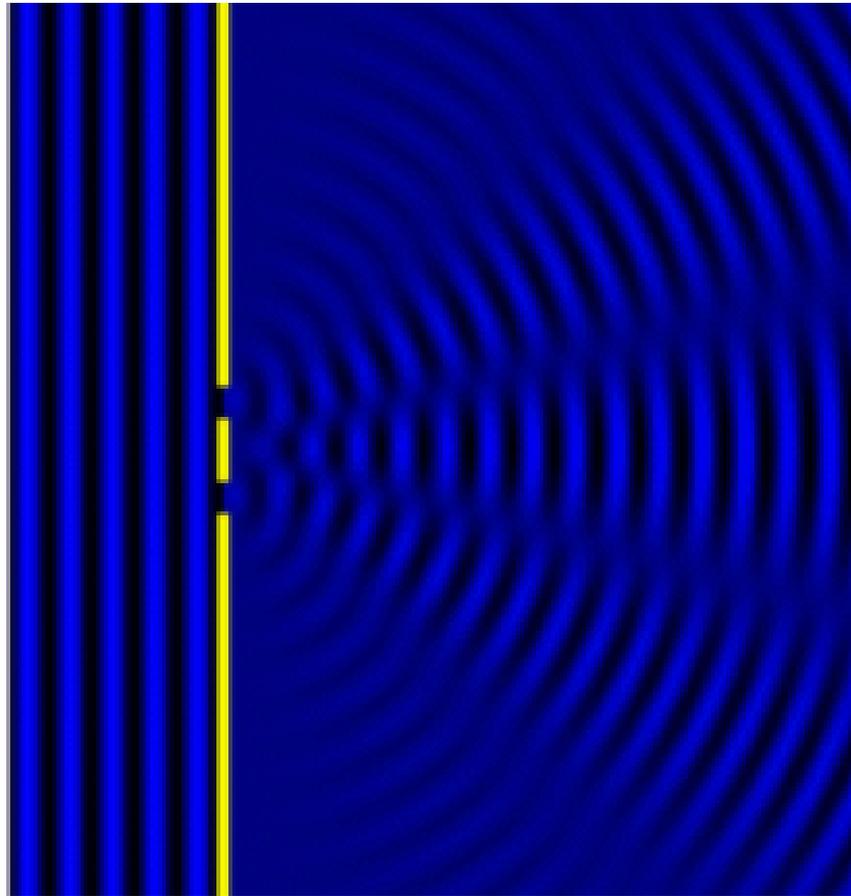


# Scattering by two atoms

- The two atoms are emitting a spherical electromagnetic wave. If the two atoms are not mobile and close by, the two waves interfere

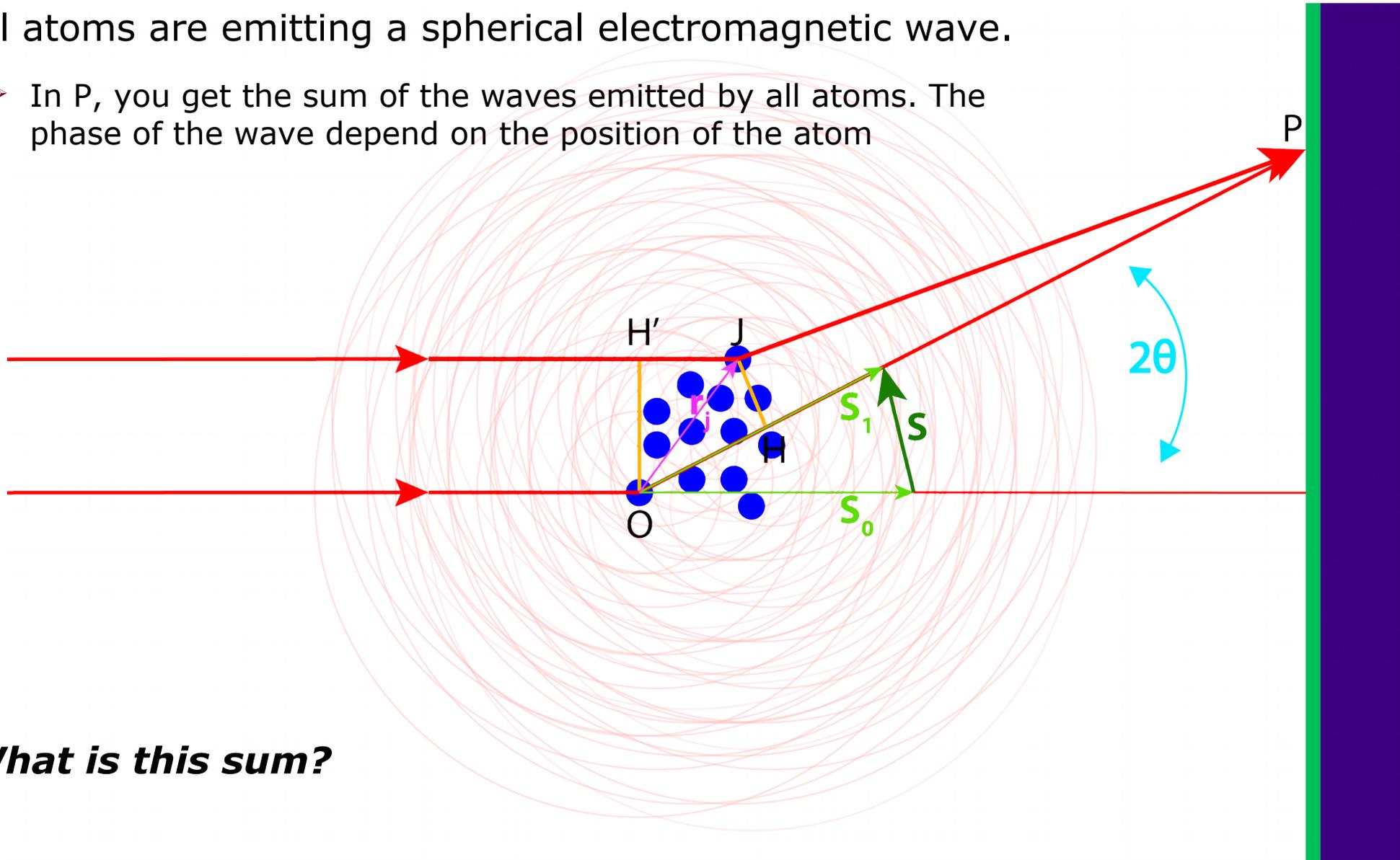


# Scattering by two atoms



# Scattering by numerous atoms

- All atoms are emitting a spherical electromagnetic wave.
  - In P, you get the sum of the waves emitted by all atoms. The phase of the wave depend on the position of the atom

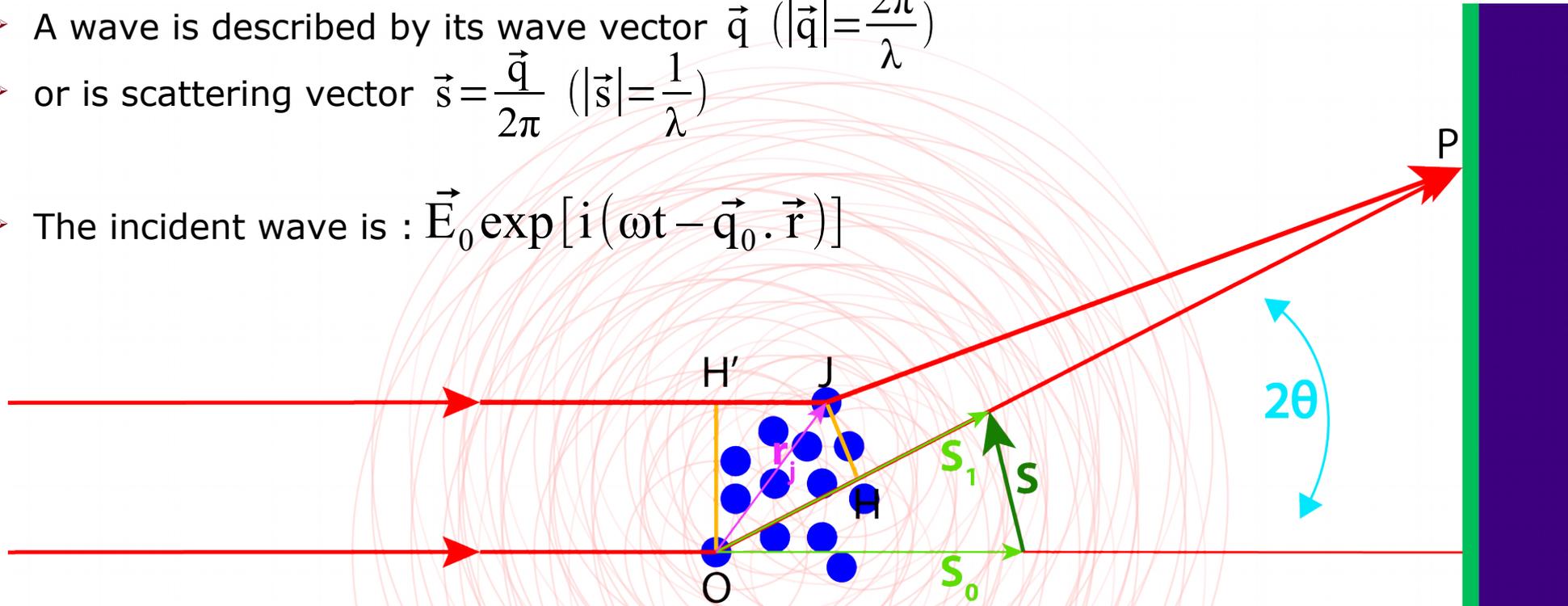


- ***What is this sum?***

# Scattering by numerous atoms



- A wave is described by its wave vector  $\vec{q}$  ( $|\vec{q}| = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ )
- or is scattering vector  $\vec{s} = \frac{\vec{q}}{2\pi}$  ( $|\vec{s}| = \frac{1}{\lambda}$ )
- The incident wave is :  $\vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r})]$



- The wave emitted by atom J in P is:

$$\underbrace{\vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r}_J)]}_{\text{incident wave at atom J}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{f_J}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J|}}_{\propto \text{scattering factor of atom J}} \cdot \underbrace{\exp[-i \vec{q}_1 \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J)]}_{\text{dependence with distance from atom J}} \cdot \underbrace{\exp[i\pi]}_{\pi \text{ phase shift}}$$

# Scattering by numerous atoms

- The wave emitted by all atoms in P is just the sum:

$$\sum_J \vec{E}_0 \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r}_J)] \cdot \frac{f_J}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J|} \cdot \exp[-i\vec{q}_1 \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J)] \cdot \exp[i\pi]$$

- If sample size  $\ll$  distance sample-detector ( $|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J| \approx |\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0|$ ) it becomes:

$$\frac{\vec{E}_0}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0|} \exp[i(\omega t - \vec{q}_1 \cdot \vec{r})] \cdot \exp[i\pi] \cdot \sum_J f_J \cdot \exp[i(\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_0) \cdot \vec{r}_J]$$

- If we define the scattering vector:  $\vec{s} = \vec{s}_1 - \vec{s}_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot (\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_0)$

$$\underbrace{\frac{\vec{E}_0}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0|} \exp[2i\pi(\nu t - \vec{s}_1 \cdot \vec{r})] \cdot \exp[i\pi]}_{\text{depend on the incident wave and position P}} \cdot \underbrace{\sum_J f_J \cdot \exp[2i\pi \vec{s} \cdot \vec{r}_J]}_{\text{Fourier transform of the distribution of scattering factors}}$$

depend on the incident wave and position P

Fourier transform of the distribution of scattering factors

# Scattering by numerous atoms



- The structure factor is  $F(\vec{s}) = \sum_J f_J \cdot \exp[2i\pi(\vec{s}) \cdot \vec{r}_J]$ 
  - It is the Fourier transform of the distribution of electron, *i.e.* the electron density:  
$$F(\vec{s}) = \sum_J f_J \cdot \exp[2i\pi(\vec{s}) \cdot \vec{r}_J] = \int_{\text{vol}} \rho(\vec{r}) \exp[2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r}$$
  - It is a complex number (amplitude and phase)
- The electron density can be calculated by the reverse Fourier transform:

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_J f_J \cdot \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J) = \int_{\text{rec.vol.}} F(\vec{s}) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{s}$$

- The detector measures the intensity of the scattered wave
  - ♦ This intensity is proportional to the square modulus of structure factor

$$I(\vec{s}) \propto |F(\vec{s})|^2$$

# What if the sample is a crystal?

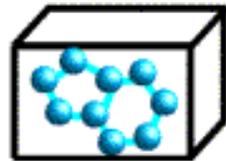


- A crystal can be described by a unit cell
  - Three vectors  $\vec{a}$ ,  $\vec{b}$ ,  $\vec{c}$  define this unit cell
- Unit cells (identical content) are piled up in the 3 directions of space

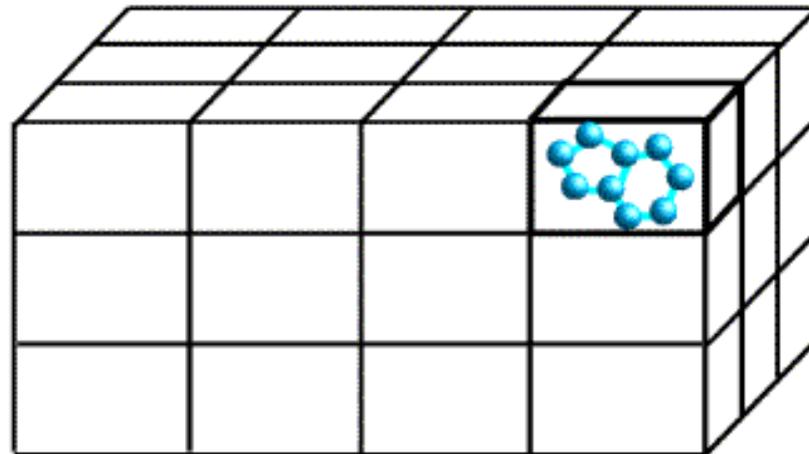
molecule



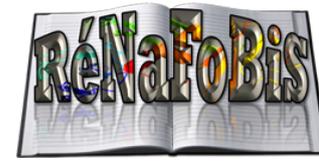
unit cell



crystal



# What if the sample is a crystal?



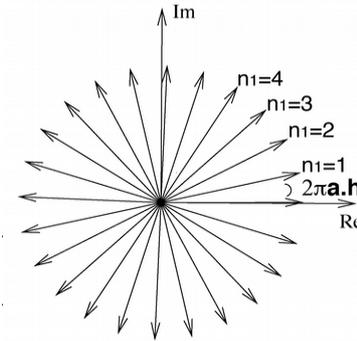
- The general form of the structure factor is:

$$F(\vec{s}) = \int_{\text{vol sample}} \rho(\vec{r}) \exp[2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r}$$

- If the sample is a crystal, it can be described as a pile of  $N_{\text{cell}}$  unit cells

$$F(\vec{s}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\text{cell}}} \int_{\text{vol cell}} \rho(\vec{r} + \vec{r}_n) \exp[2i\pi(\vec{r} + \vec{r}_n) \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r}$$

with :  $\vec{r}_n = n_1 \cdot \vec{a} + n_2 \cdot \vec{b} + n_3 \cdot \vec{c}$  and  $\rho(\vec{r} + \vec{r}_n) = \rho(\vec{r})$



$$F(\vec{s}) = \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{N_{\text{cell}}} \exp[2i\pi n_1 \cdot \vec{a} \cdot \vec{s}] \exp[2i\pi n_2 \cdot \vec{b} \cdot \vec{s}] \exp[2i\pi n_3 \cdot \vec{c} \cdot \vec{s}]}_{\text{factor} \approx 0, \text{ except if } \vec{s} \text{ satisfy Laue equations : } \vec{a} \cdot \vec{s} = h, \vec{b} \cdot \vec{s} = k, \vec{c} \cdot \vec{s} = l \Rightarrow \text{factor} = N_{\text{cell}}} \cdot \underbrace{\int_{\text{vol cell}} \rho(\vec{r}) \exp[2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r}}_{\text{Fourier transform of electron density of the unit cell}}$$

- There is significant X-ray scattering only in specific, discrete direction => diffraction phenomenon

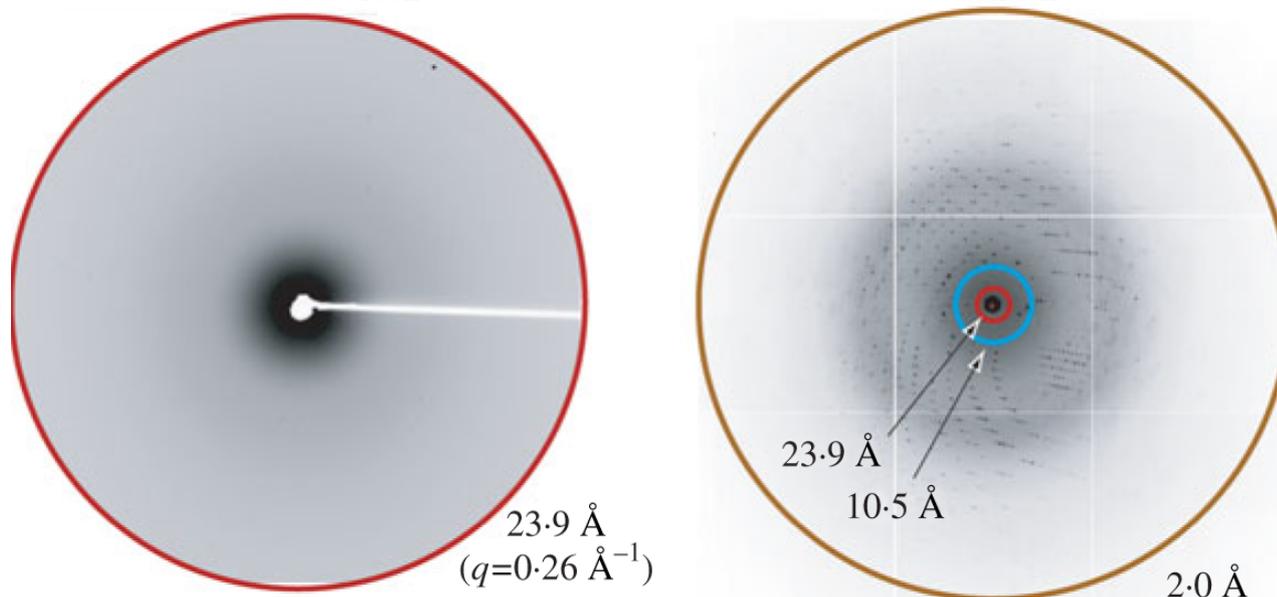
# X-ray scattering by a crystal

- In directions that satisfy Laue equation, the structure factor is the one of the unit cell, multiplied by the number of cells in the crystal.

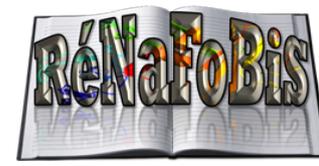
$$F(\vec{s}) = N_{\text{cell}} \cdot \underbrace{\int_{\text{vol cell}} \rho(\vec{r}) \exp[2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r}}_{\text{Fourier transform of electron density of the unit cell}}$$

- The crystal is a **signal amplifier**, in direction where you have signal:

$$I(\vec{s}) \propto N_{\text{cell}}^2 \cdot \left( \int_{\text{vol cell}} \rho(\vec{r}) \exp[2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r} \right) \cdot \left( \int_{\text{vol cell}} \rho(\vec{r}) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{r} \right)$$



# How we get the "image" from a diffraction spectra



- In the case of a crystal:
- $\vec{s}$  satisfies the **Laue equations**  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{s} = h$ ,  $\vec{b} \cdot \vec{s} = k$ ,  $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{s} = l$
- $\vec{s}$  is a vector of a lattice, named **reciprocal lattice**

$$\vec{s} = h \cdot \vec{a}^* + k \cdot \vec{b}^* + l \cdot \vec{c}^* \quad \text{with } \vec{a}^* = \frac{\vec{b} \wedge \vec{c}}{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \wedge \vec{c}}, \vec{b}^* = \frac{\vec{c} \wedge \vec{a}}{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \wedge \vec{c}}, \vec{c}^* = \frac{\vec{a} \wedge \vec{b}}{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \wedge \vec{c}}$$

$\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} \wedge \vec{c}$  : cell volume

- **Electron density** calculation

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_J f_J \cdot \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J) = \int_{\text{rec.vol.}} F(\vec{s}) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}] \cdot d\vec{s}$$



$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_J f_J \cdot \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J) = \sum_{h,k,l} F(\vec{s}) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}]$$

# What is a Fourier transform?



- Example of a crystal

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_J f_J \cdot \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J) = \sum_{h,k,l} F(\vec{s}) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}]$$

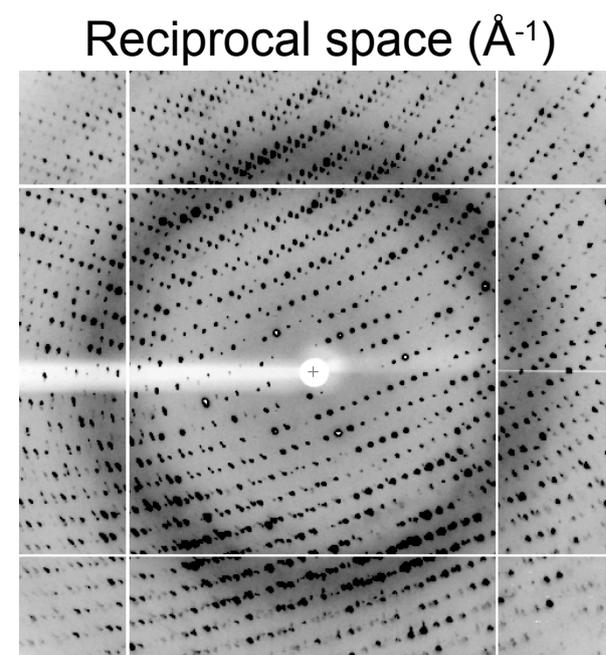
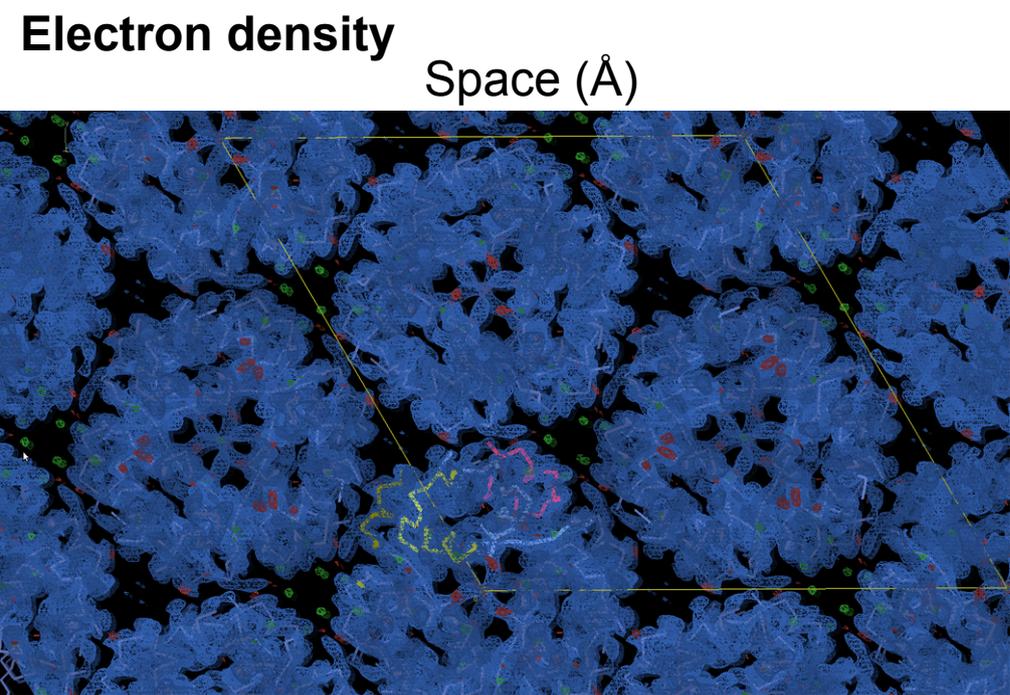
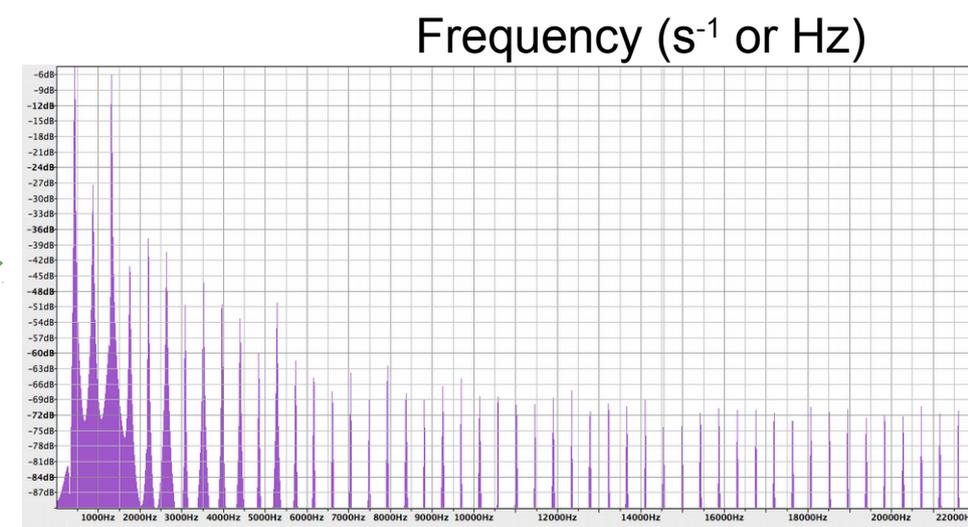
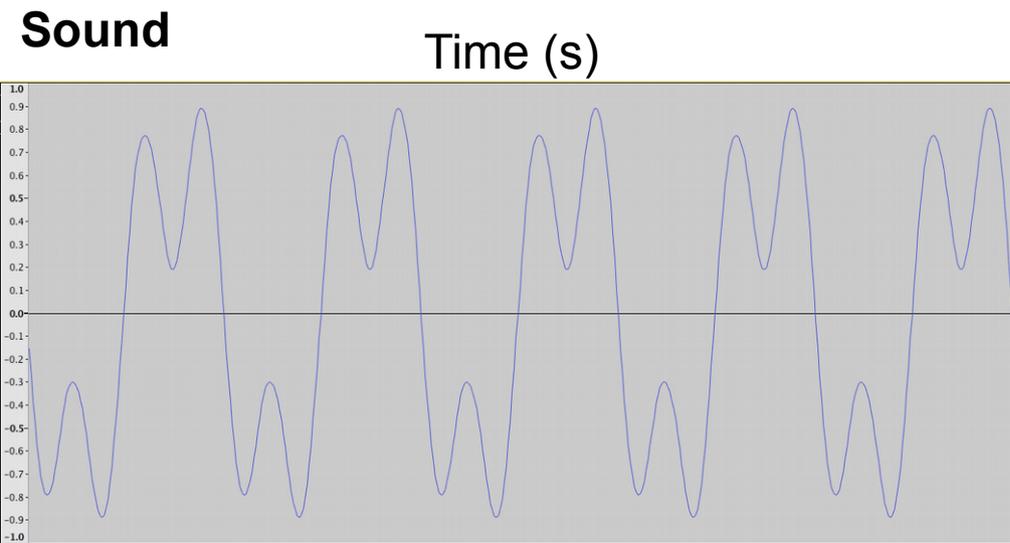
- The electron density is a complex function depending on the nature of your molecule
  - If the molecule is in a crystal, the electron density is periodical
- A way to describe it as a sum of well known functions
  - Sinus or cosinus
  - Structure factors represent the coefficients of these sinus/cosinus functions

# *What is the meaning of $F(s)$ ?*



- A parallel with sound
  - The sound can be described as the acoustic pressure as a function of time
  - The Fourier transform is the analysis of the frequencies present in your sound
    - ◆ One can describe the sound as a sum of different frequencies
    - ◆ The higher frequencies, the more detailed is the sound
    - ◆ Parallel with resolution
    - ◆
- Let try a real time analysis
  - Live with AudioXporer

# Parallels between sound and electron density



# Go back to electron density



- Equivalence Sound  $\Leftrightarrow$  Electron density
  - Pitch  $\Leftrightarrow$  unit cell dimensions
  - Instrument sound  $\Leftrightarrow$  molecule's electron density

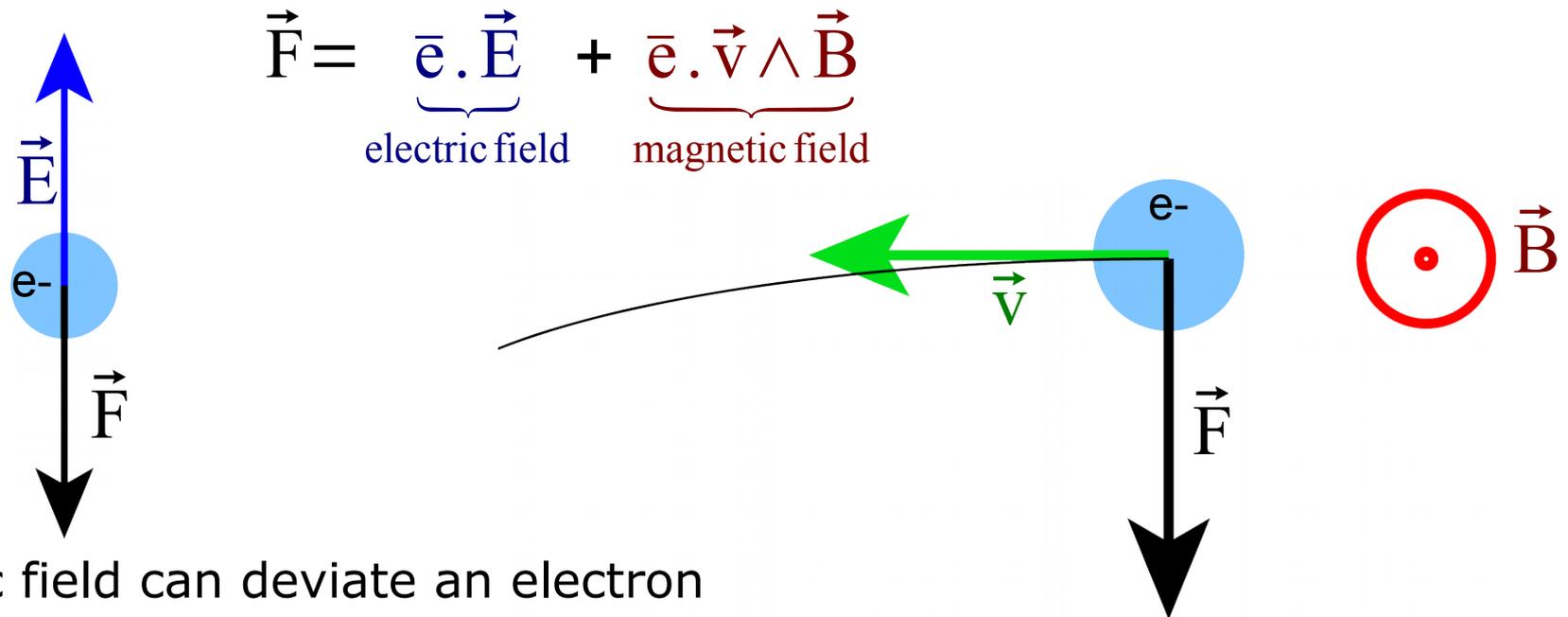
$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_{h,k,l} F(h \cdot \vec{a}^* + k \cdot \vec{b}^* + l \cdot \vec{c}^*) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot (h \cdot \vec{a}^* + k \cdot \vec{b}^* + l \cdot \vec{c}^*)]$$

- The reflection (1,0,0) is the coefficient for or sinusoidal function, the period of which is the a axis
- Higher indices correspond to higher spatial frequencies, i.e. to periods which are fractions of the a axis
- The higher you go in indices (h,k,l), the higher is the resolution (1/d):

$$|\vec{s}| = |h \cdot \vec{a}^* + k \cdot \vec{b}^* + l \cdot \vec{c}^*| = \frac{1}{d}$$

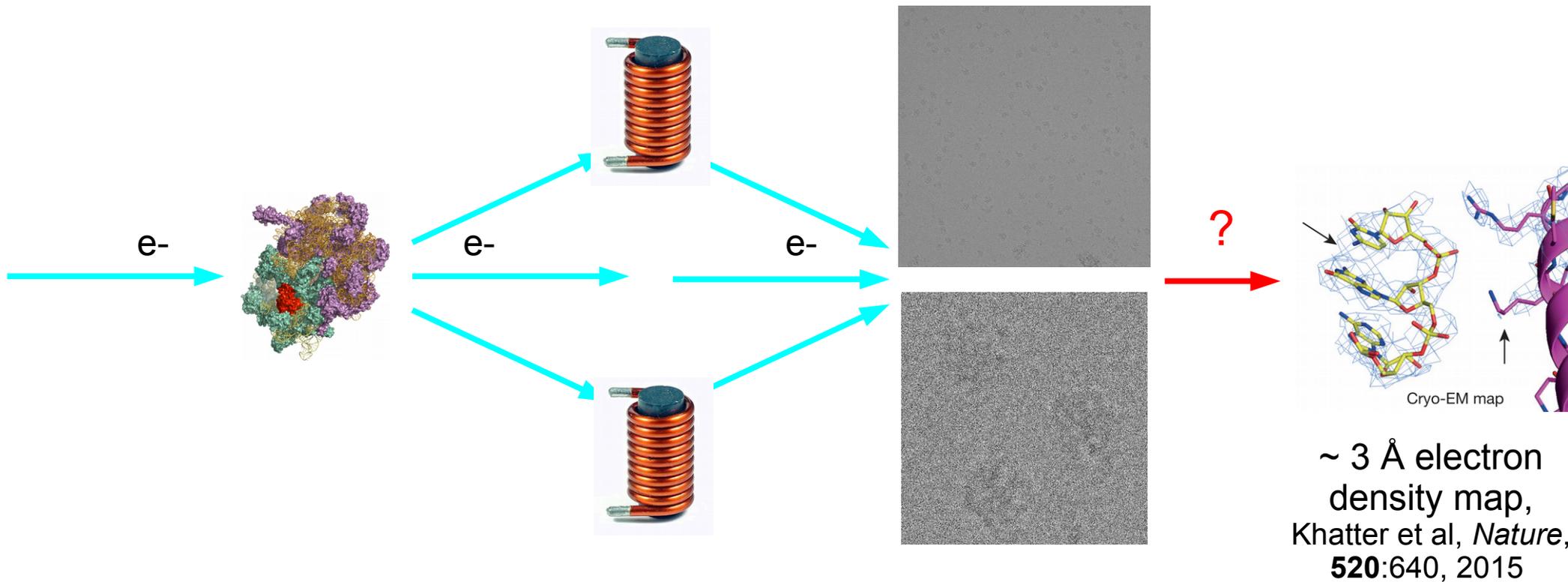
# Electrons: Imaging or diffraction?

- Both the electric and the magnetic field induce force on the electron



- A magnetic field can deviate an electron
- A lens can be made for electrons with magnet
  - First one made in 1929 (Ruska & Knoll)

# Direct imaging of the molecule



## *Not possible for neutrons*

- No lens available for neutrons
  - Diffraction spectra
- If you manage to measure the amplitude and to get the phase of the wave for each reflection on the detector
  - A Fourier transform enable to calculate the distribution of nucleus of your molecule

$$\sum_J \sigma_J \cdot \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_J) = \sum_{h,k,l} F(\vec{s}) \exp[-2i\pi \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}]$$

- Scattering cross section for H and D are very different
  - Deuteration can be useful

# *To conclude*



- X-rays & Neutrons

- Diffraction  $\Rightarrow F(hkl) + \varphi(hkl) \Rightarrow$  electron density map
- Small angle scattering  $\Rightarrow$  ab-initio modeling (fit with scattering curve)

- Electrons

- Direct imaging  $\Rightarrow$  "electron density" map
- Diffraction  $\Rightarrow F(hkl) + \varphi(hkl) \Rightarrow$  "electron density" map

- NMR

- Gather structural information (local interatomic distance, ...)  $\Rightarrow$  search for models that satisfy the data.