

# X-ray PDF investigations of complex metal-organic materials.

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## Introduction

PDF investigation of luminescent gold thiolate glasses

PEDOT conducting polymer confined in mesoporous MOFs

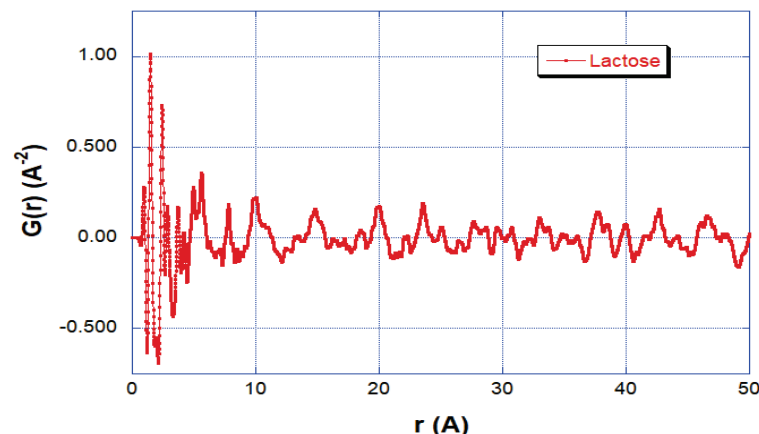
Crystal Structure of the spin transition polymeric compound  $[\text{Fe}(\text{Htrz})_2(\text{trz})](\text{BF}_4)$

Conclusion

Many organic/organo metallic materials exist in disordered state (on purpose or not). PDF analysis would be a tool of choice for the structural characterization of such materials

*But treating the PDF for organic/organometallic materials has specific difficulties*

- low symmetry implies many parameters  
=> possibility to handle large number of atoms
- necessity to limit the correlations between parameters+ presence of species with very different scattering powers  
=> chemical constraints/restraints or rigid blocks
- different types of bonds and bond strengths (ionic, covalent, hydrogen, van derWaals)  
=> different PDF peak widths depending on bond type, not distance



***So, relatively few PDF studies of MOFs, even less with attempts to refine the structure***

The Chemistry of Nucleation: In Situ Pair Distribution Function Analysis of Secondary Building Units During UiO-66 MOF Formation, Xu et al. *Chem. Eur. J.* 2019, 25, 2051

Early stage structural development of prototypical zeolitic imidazolate framework (ZIF) in solution, Terban et al., *Nanoscale*, 2018, 10, 4291

Pair distribution function-derived mechanism of a single-crystal to disordered to single-crystal transformation in a hemilabile metal-organic framework,

Allan et al. *Chem. Sci.*, 2012, 3, 2559

## First successful refinements of organic compounds in **DiffPy-CMI** using rigid blocks and combining PDFs with different a.d.p.'s

DiffPy-CMI: Complex modeling: a strategy and software program for combining multiple information sources to solve ill posed structure and nanostructure inverse problems, *Juhas et al., Acta Cryst. 2015. A71, 562*

Modelling pair distribution functions (PDFs) of organic compounds: describing both intra- and intermolecular correlation Functions in calculated PDFs *Prill et al. J. Appl. Cryst. (2015).48, 171*

## Here we use a different approach: applying distance/angle restraints and different a.d.p.'s for selected bonds, developed in **MolPDF**

MolPDF, Juan Rodriguez-Carvajal and Aleksei Bytchkov, ILL and ESRF, November 2016

In MolPDF, **distance and angle restraints** are input into the minimized cost function. The « strength » of the  $i$ th restraint depends on the value of  $\sigma(i)$ .

$$\chi^2 = \sum_r \left[ \frac{G_{obs}(r) - G_{calc}(r, \beta)}{\sigma(r)} \right]^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{rest}} \left[ \frac{V_{obs}(i) - V_{calc}(i, \alpha)}{\sigma(i)} \right]^2$$

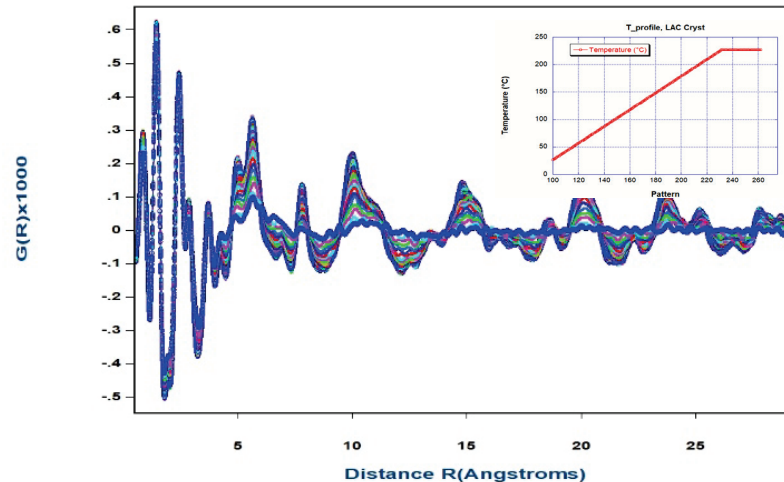
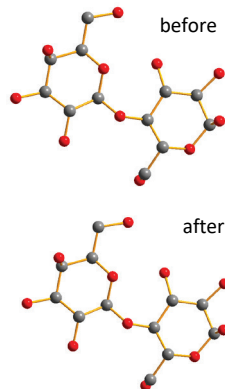
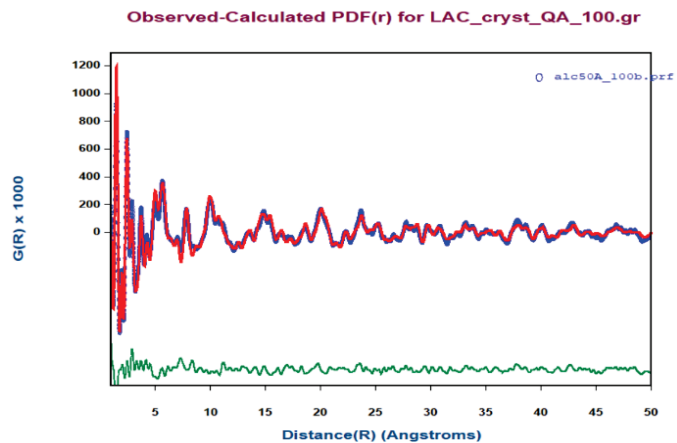
$V_{obs}$ : prescribed value of the  $i$ th restrained variable (distance or angle)

$V_{calc}$ : corresponding calculated value

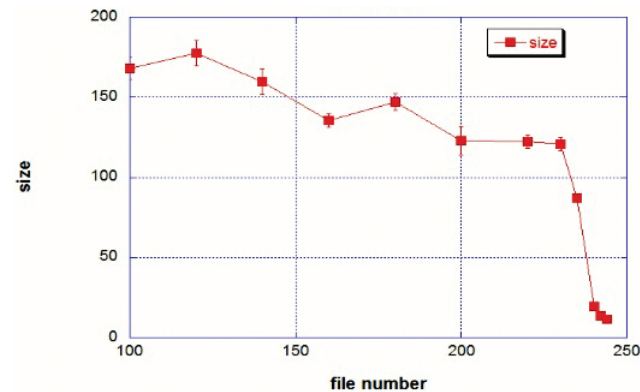
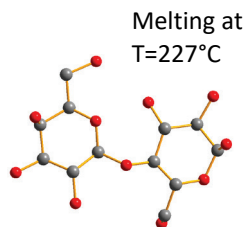
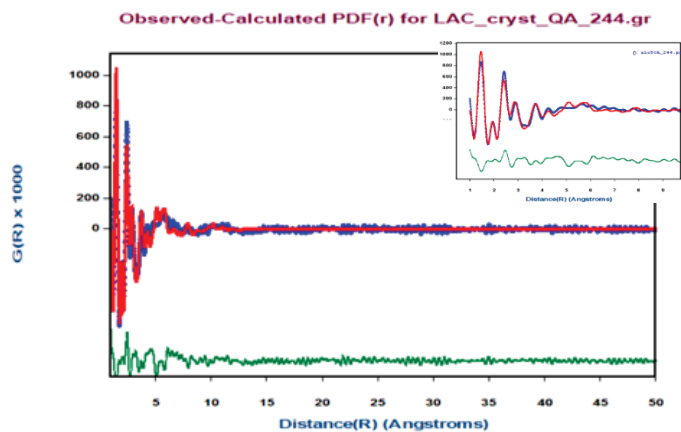
The PDF peak width due to thermal motion is described as in PDFGui plus the  $s_{mol}$  **sharpening** factor,  $0 < s_{mol} \leq 1$ , applied to selected atomic pairs (e.g. differentiate between intra- and intermolecular distances)

$$\sigma_{ij} = s_{mol} \sigma'_{ij} \sqrt{1 - \frac{\delta_1}{r_{ij}} - \frac{\delta_2}{r_{ij}^2} + Q_B^2 r_{ij}^2}$$

eg: structure refinement of  *$\alpha$ -lactose* vs temperature up to melting, XPD-2, NSLSII, E=67keV, Perkin-Elmer 2D detector



Refined: scale,  $\delta 1$ , cell, atom positions, size,  $s_{mol}$ ,  $B_{overall}$   
 Restraints on distances and angles within each molecule cycle



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**Crystal Structure of the spin transition polymeric compound  $[\text{Fe}(\text{Htrz})_2(\text{trz})](\text{BF}_4)$**

## Conclusion

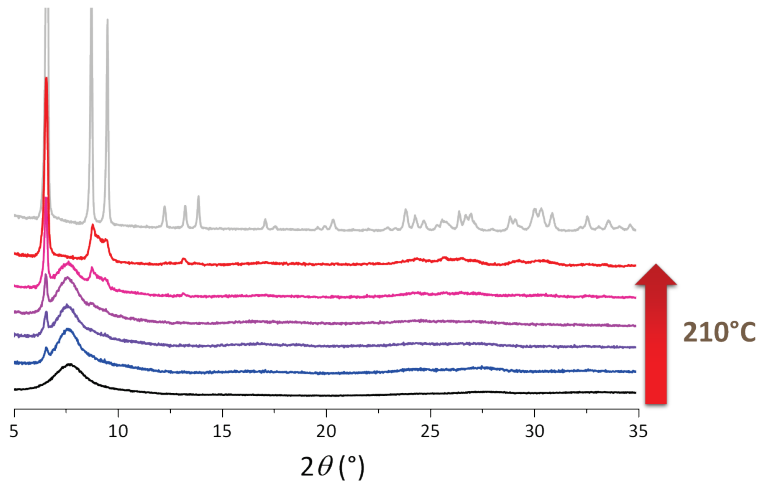
# PDF investigation of luminescent gold thiolate glasses

Coordination polymers glasses combine unique mechanical/shaping properties with interesting physical properties: porosity, conductivity, magnetism, luminescence

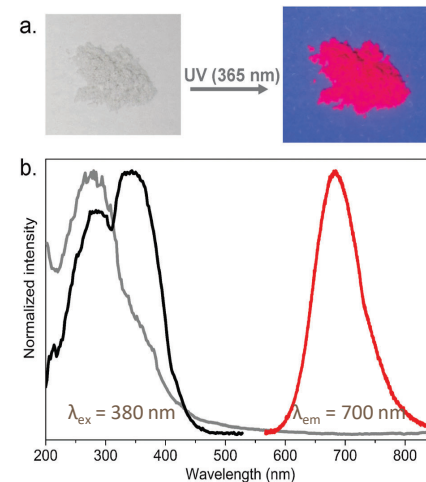
-**Gold-thiophenolate CP, [Au(SPh)]<sub>n</sub>**,

-hydrothermal synthesis at RT => amorphous. recrystallizes on heating up to 200°C

-hydrothermal synthesis at 120°C => crystalline



Lavenn et al. *J. Mater. Chem. C*, 2015, 3, 4115



(a) Photographs of 1b under ambient (left) and UV (right) lights. (b) Absorption (grey), excitation (black), emission (red) spectra of crystalline [Au(SPh)]<sub>n</sub> at room temperature

-The **crystalline** phase is red luminescent under UV light, the **amorphous** phase is not.  
Closely dependent on aurophilic interactions,  $d(\text{Au-Au})$ .

*What is the local structure of the amorphous phase ?*

# The structure of the crystalline phase was solved / refined by PXRD

$[\text{Au}(\text{SPh})]_n$

Au<sub>2</sub> C<sub>12</sub> H<sub>10</sub> S<sub>2</sub>

Space group C2/c

$a = 27.5009(7) \text{ \AA}$

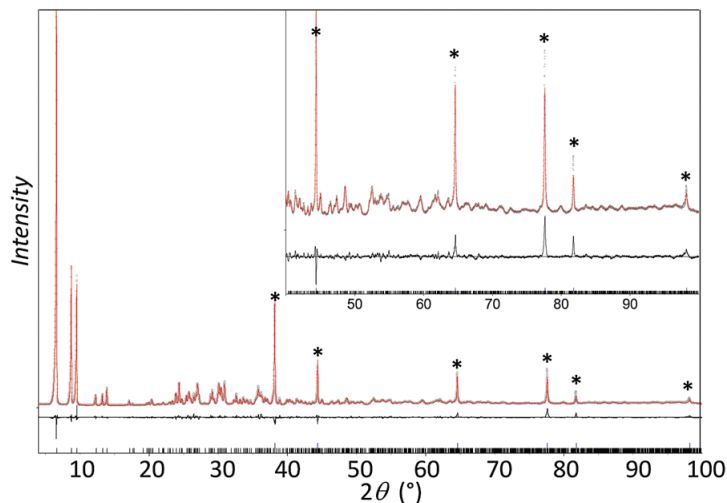
$b = 4.5327(1) \text{ \AA}$

$c = 20.8032(3) \text{ \AA}$

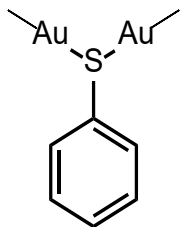
$\beta = 104.935(2)^\circ$

$V = 2505.6(1) \text{ \AA}^3$

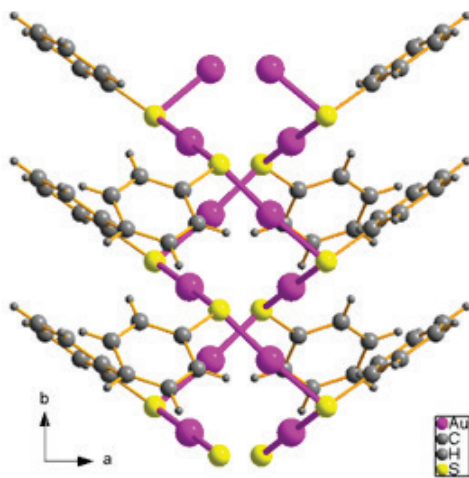
Z 8



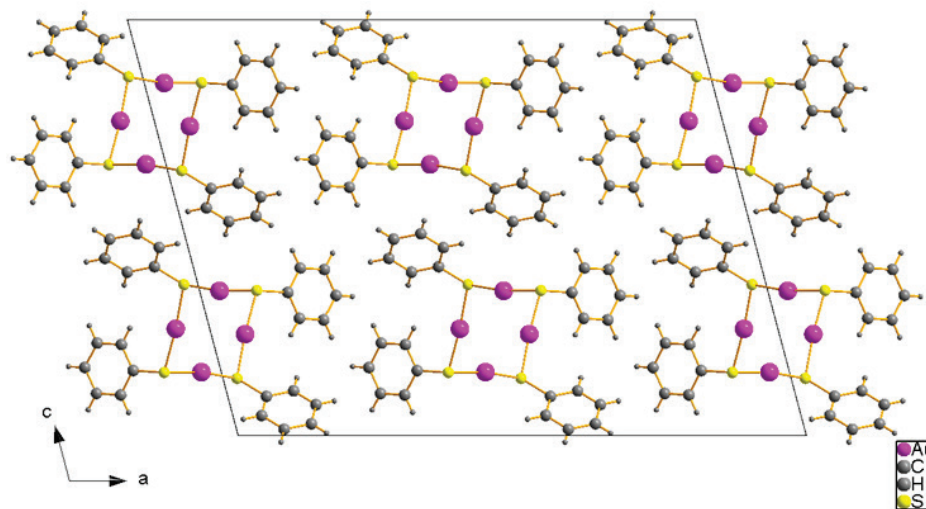
« monomer »



-S-Au-S- double helix chain



Chain packing in the crystalline phase



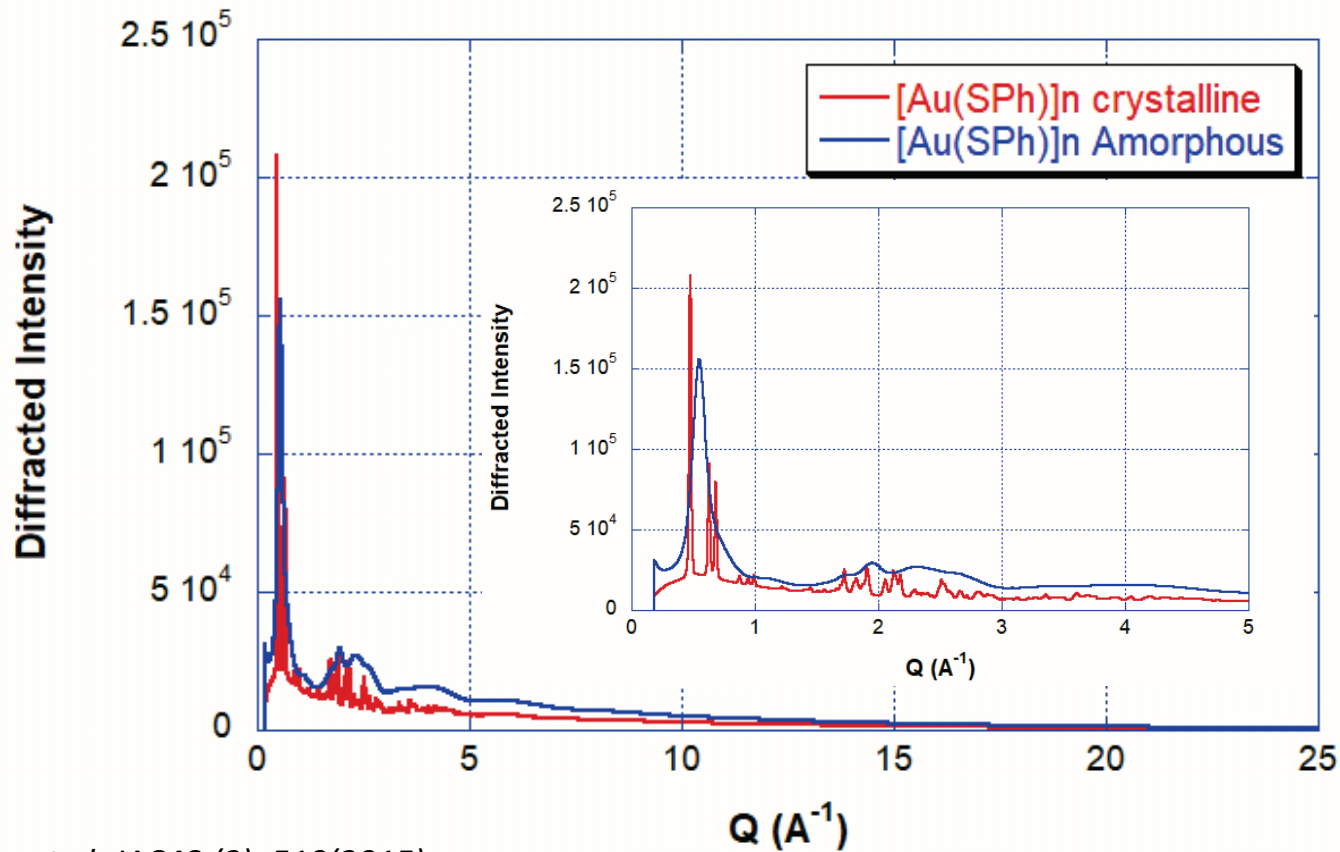


# Total scattering measurement

at ID 22-ESRF,  $\lambda = 0.2068 \text{ \AA}$  (60 keV), 0.7mm boro glass capillary

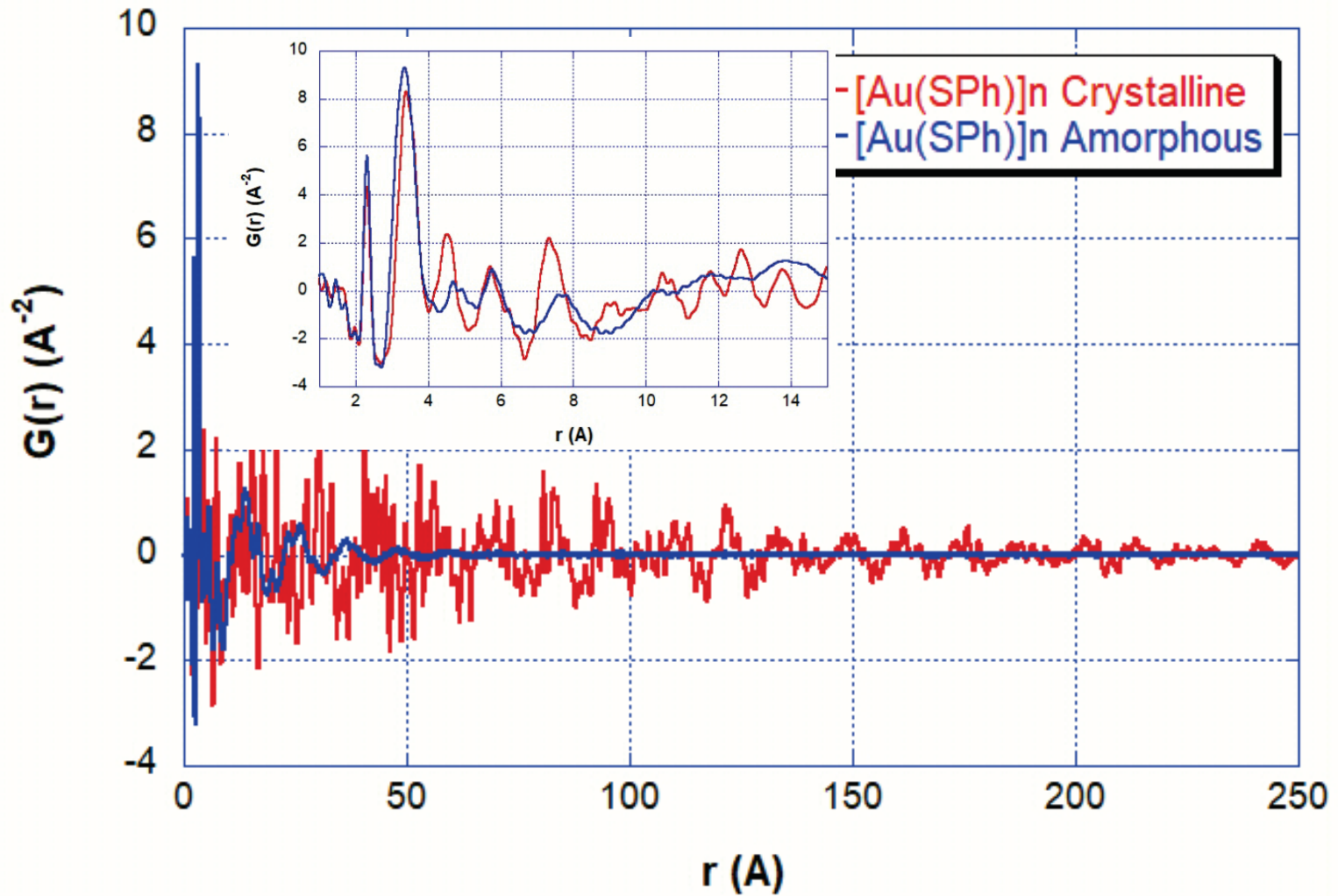
Perkin-Elmer flat panel detector at 38.5 cm from the sample  $\Rightarrow Q_{\text{max}} = 24 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ .

Image integration with **PyFAI**. Calibration using Ni and  $\text{LaB}_6$



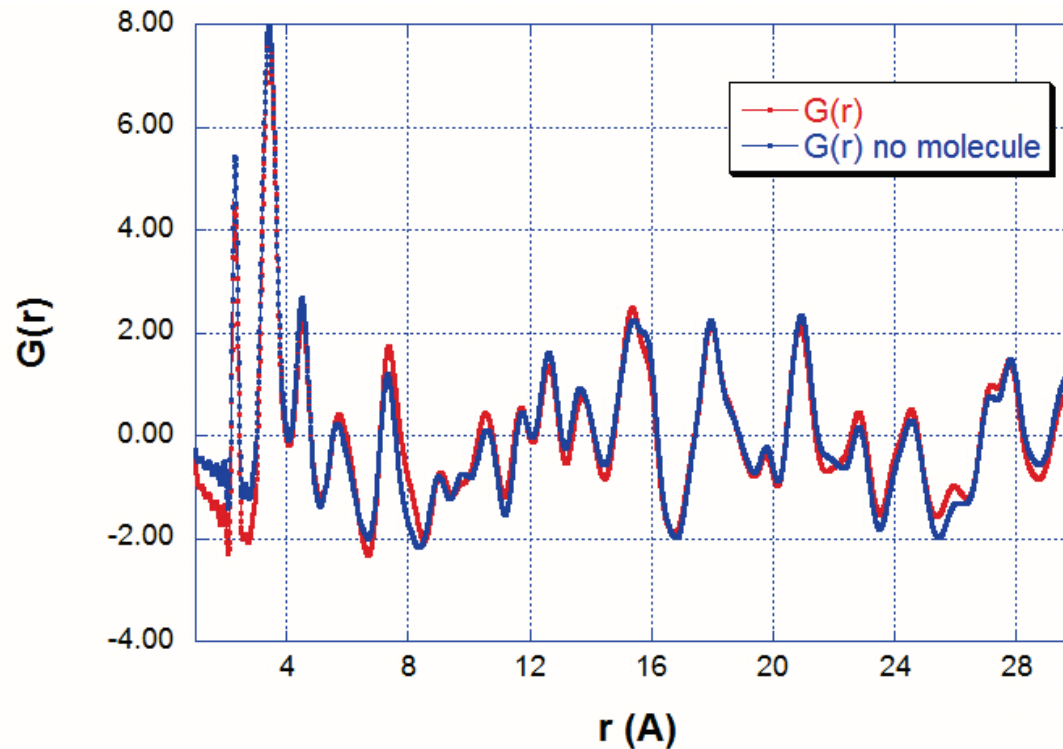
PyFAI: J. Kieffer et al. JAC48 (2), 510(2015)

The PDFs are obtained using PDFGetX3



Farrow et al., *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **19** (2007) 335219

The contribution of the molecules to the PDF is very small,  
⇒ impossible to refine the carbon atom positions without  
applying rigid group or strong distance/angle restraints



## PDF refinement of the crystalline phase using MolPDF

*All atomic position parameters are free*

With strong restraints on C-C molecule distances (14) and angles (16)

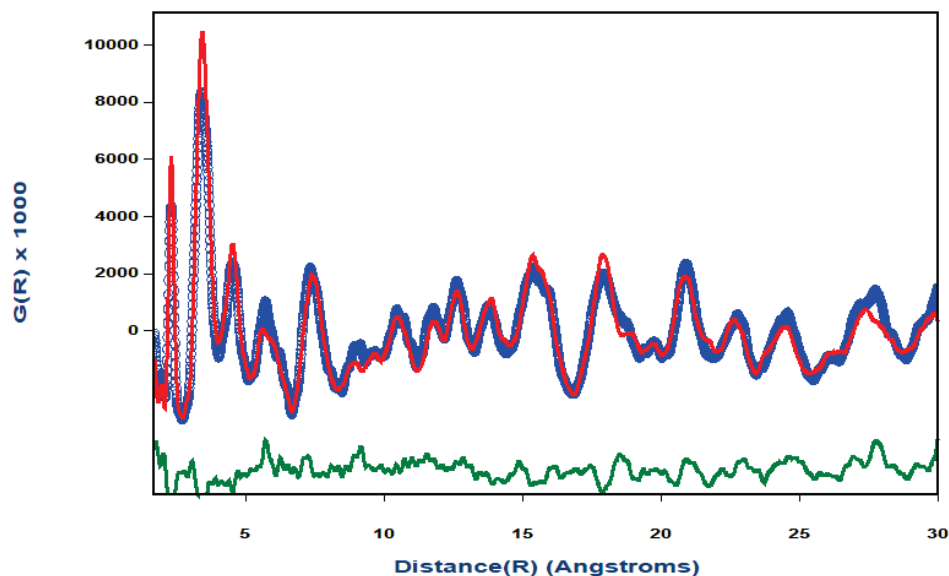
Using  $C2/c$  space group constraints

59 refined parameters

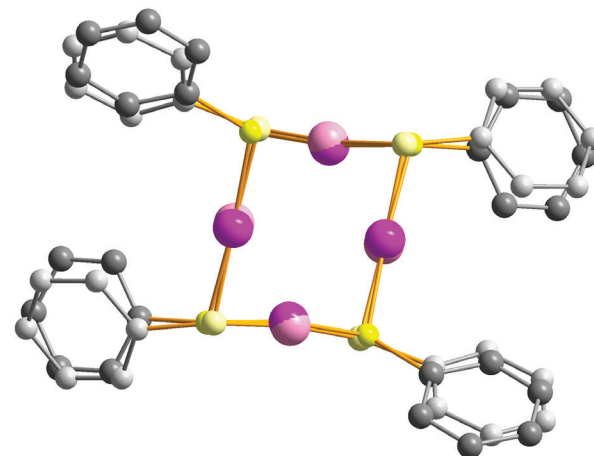
Scale factor, unit cell,  $\delta 1$ , diameter, U sharpening factor

xyz of Au & S atoms, Uiso-overall

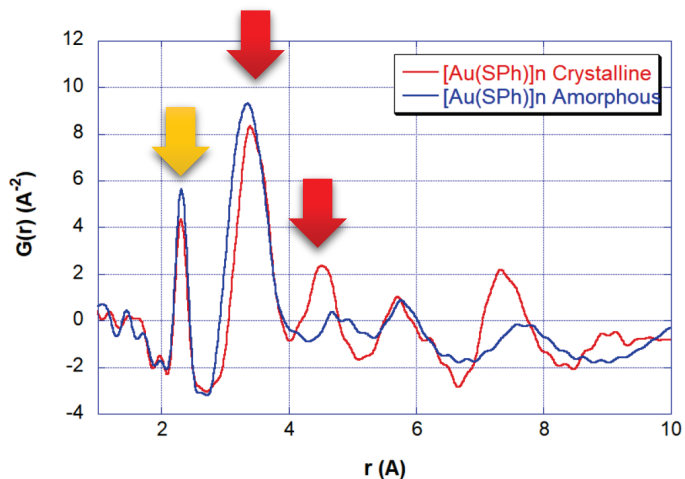
$R_F(\text{Sum}(|G_{\text{obs}} - G_{\text{calc}}|) / \text{Sum}|G_{\text{obs}}|)$ : 26.1,  $\chi^2$ : 5.6051



### Refined vs original structure

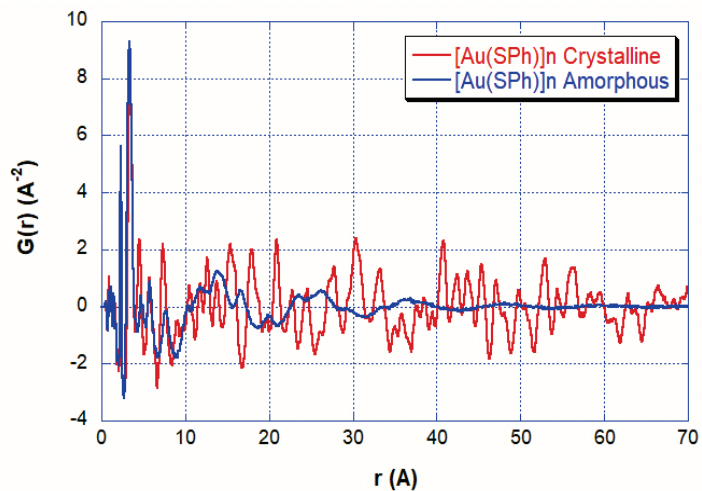


# Local structure of the amorphous phase

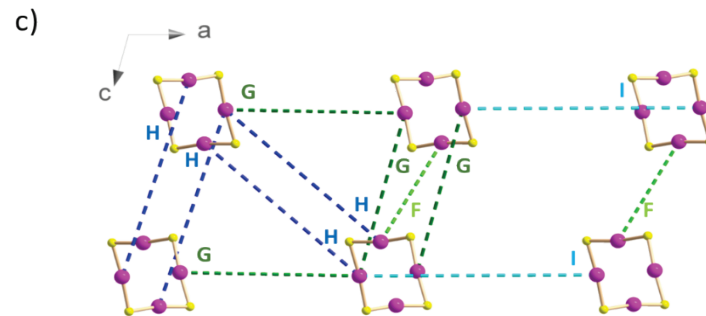
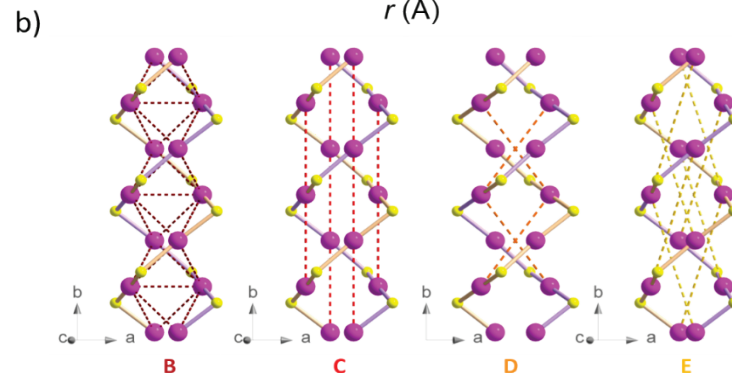
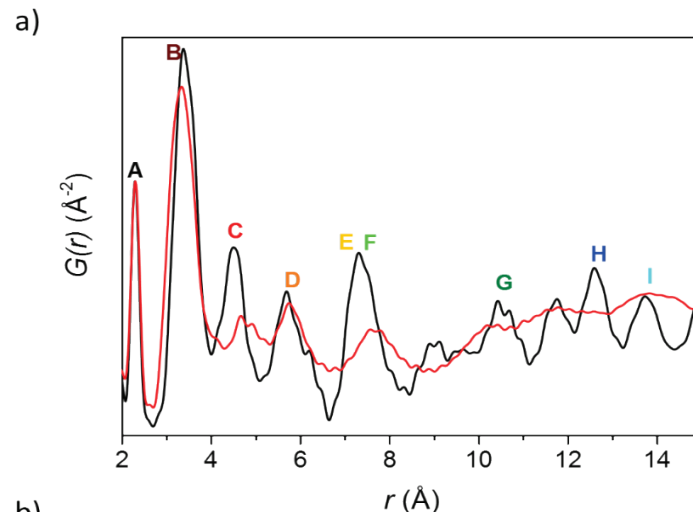


Au-S distances are conserved

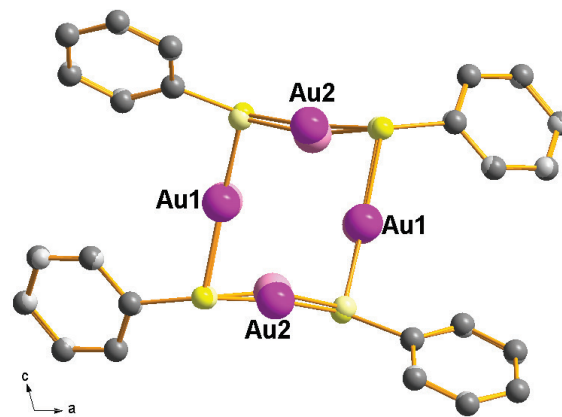
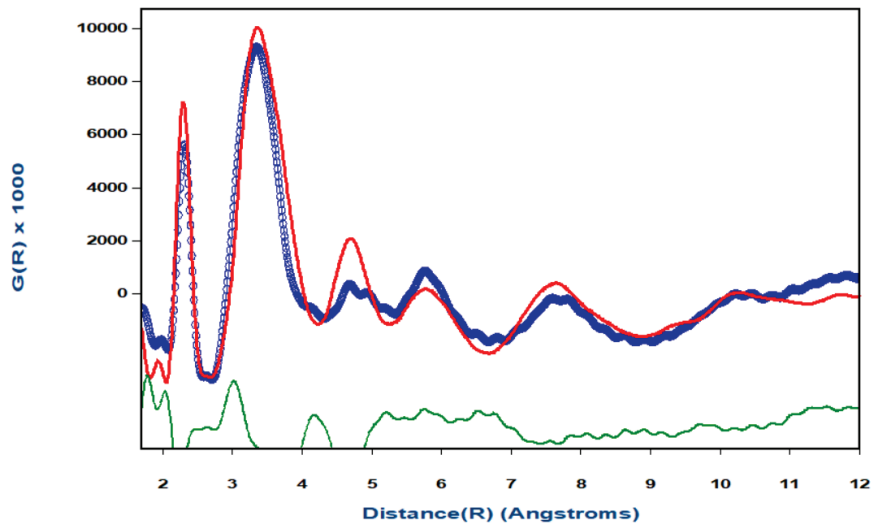
Au-Au distances are modified with a larger distribution



Broad oscillations of the PDF correspond to interchain correlations, up to  $\sim 50$   $\text{\AA}$ .



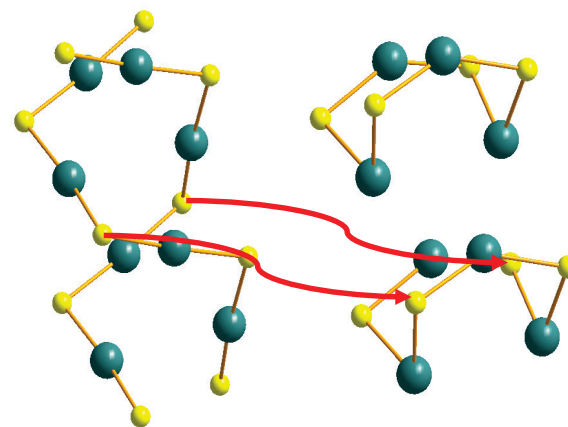
Refinement using MolPDF (molecules are restrained). Still based on same C2/c model.  
 $R_F(\text{Sum}(|G_{obs}-G_{cal}|)/\text{Sum}|G_{obs}|) = 40.186$   $\chi^2 = 30$



Crystalline (heavy) vs amorphous (light)

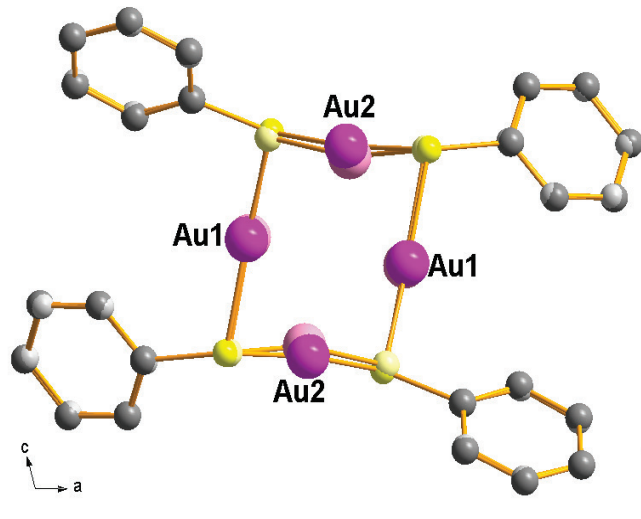
Several other cluster models from literature checked,  
 with much poorer agreement.  
 Including a known tetramer block model.

- ⇒ **Double helix chain model preserved**
- ⇒ **Short coherence length along the chains (~10Å): defects**
- ⇒ **~50Å coherence length between chains:  
 precursor of the crystal arrangement**



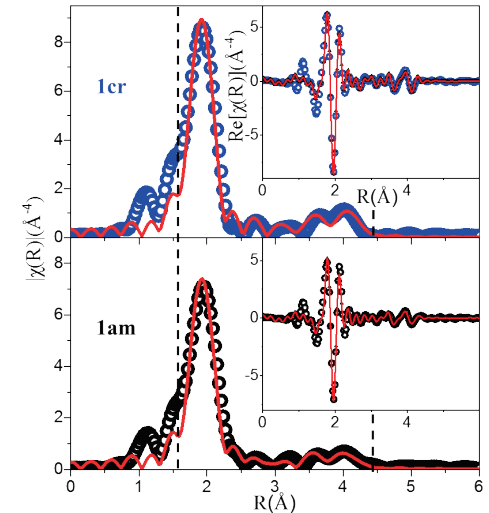
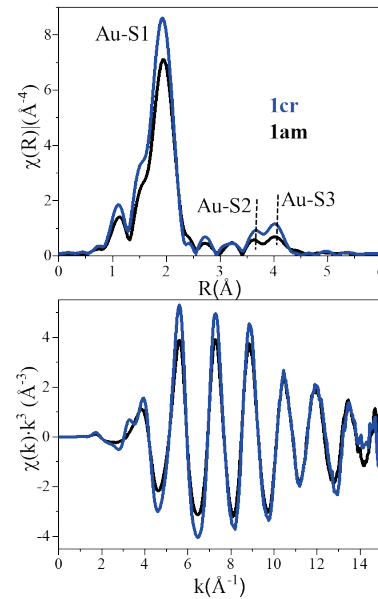
*Simpson et al. Inorg. Chem. 2010, 49, 10858*

The Au-Au distances are shorter in the amorphous phase, and the helices are more square



	Au1-Au1	Au2_Au2
crystalline	3.36	4.15
amorphous	3.27	3.81

The obtained model was used successfully to fit **Au-L<sub>3</sub> EXAFS** data  
Coll. M. Diaz-Lopez



*The change of photoluminescent properties may be related to the change of aurophilic interactions, which strongly influence the electronic structure.*

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## Conclusion



# PEDOT conducting polymer confined in mesoporous MOFs

**Electrochromic polymers** compared to TMO, PB analogues:

- higher color intensity
- larger variability in the choice of the color range
- faster stimulus response
- easy chemical tuneability
- low-cost
- facile processability

But **low stability** => poor cyclability

Try to stabilize by **encapsulation in a matrix** (zeolites, MOFs)

**Here, we investigate the confinement of the electrochromic PEDOT polymer in the highly porous and stable MIL100Fe MOF**



# Physical Properties

## Electrical conductivity

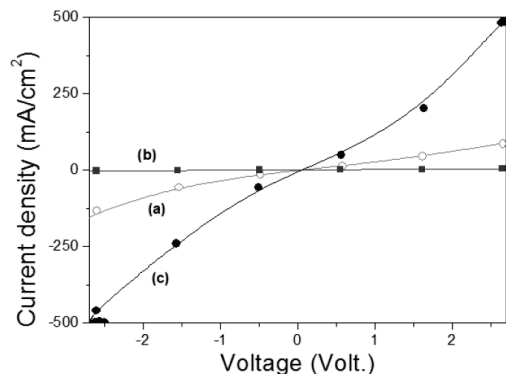
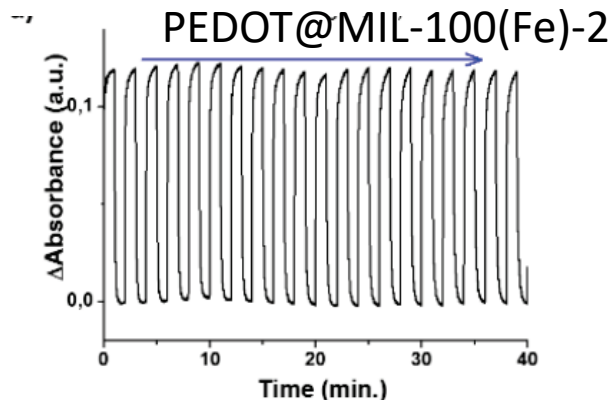
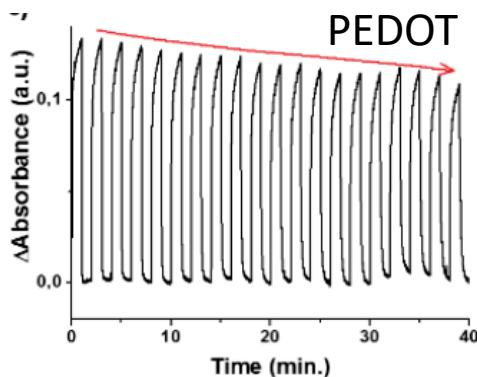


Figure 3. J-V plot corresponding to PEDOT (a), MIL-100(Fe) (b) and PEDOT@MIL-100(Fe)-2 (c).

Table 2. Electrical conductivity data of the materials	
Sample	Conductivity ( $S \cdot cm^{-1}$ )*
PEDOT	508
MIL-100(Fe)	53
PEDOT@MIL-100(Fe)-1	1983
PEDOT@MIL-100(Fe)-2	4883
PEDOT@MIL-100(Fe)-3	1266
PEDOT:PSS	4600 <sup>39</sup>

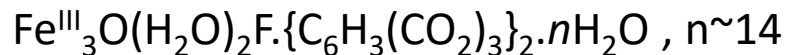
\*All calculations were carried out at 2 Volt. Potential

## Electrochromic switching properties



Electrochromic switching monitoring the optical absorbance changes at 600 nm of PEDOT (c) and PEDOT@MIL-100(Fe)-2 (d) acquired by repeated potential steps between -1 V (reduced) and 1 V (oxidized) in 0.1 M LiClO<sub>4</sub> and acetonitrile.

# MIL100Fe



Space-group ***Fd-3m*** (227)

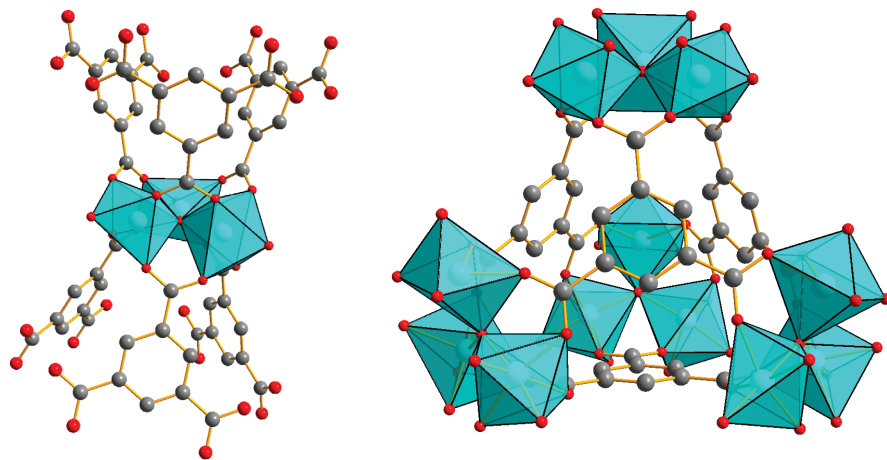
Cell  $a=73.34 \text{ \AA}$

$V= 394\,480 \text{ \AA}^3$

Independent positions:

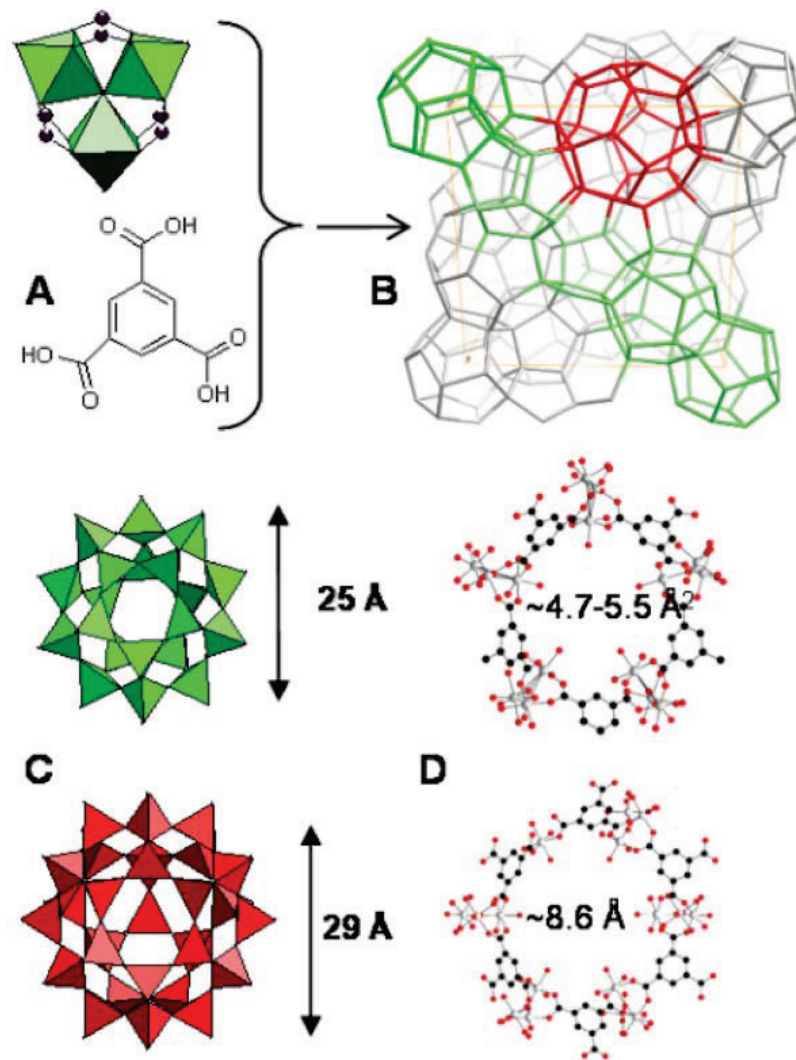
7 Fe, 28 O, 33 C, 30 O water

10 064 atoms in unit cell (excluding water)



$\text{Fe}(\text{O},\text{F})_6$  octahedra

benzene-1,3,5-tricarboxylate molecules

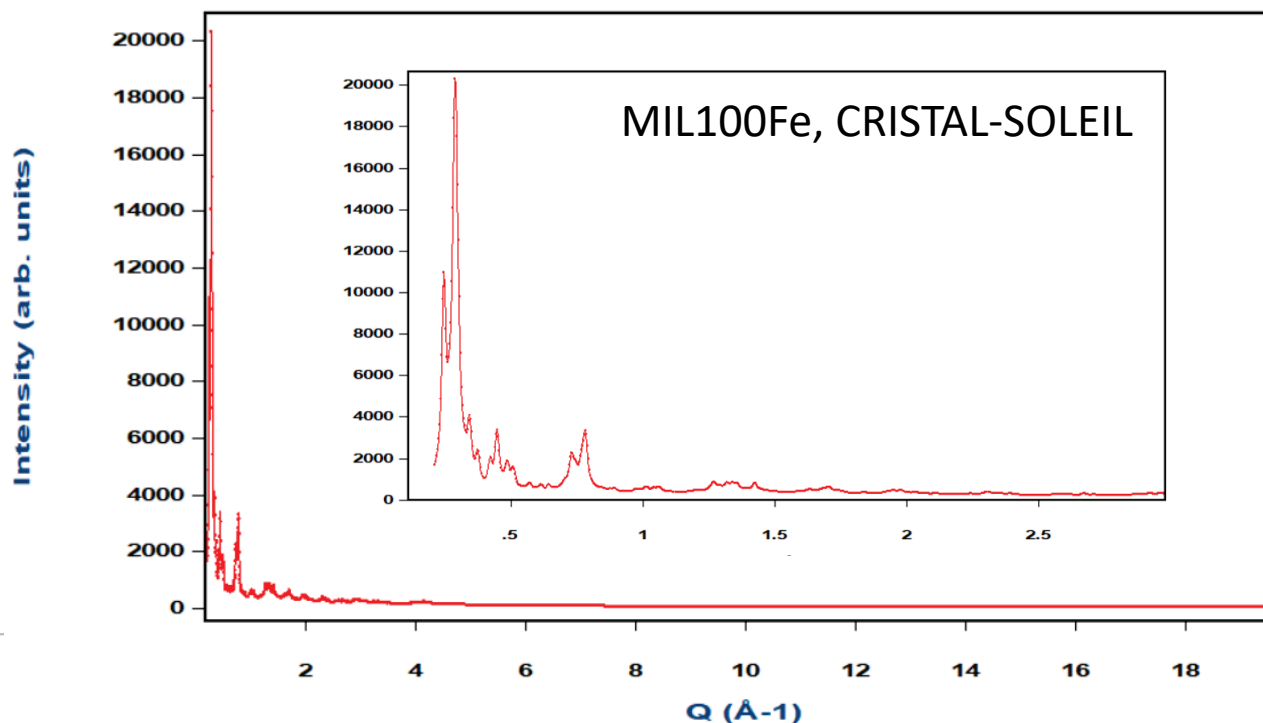


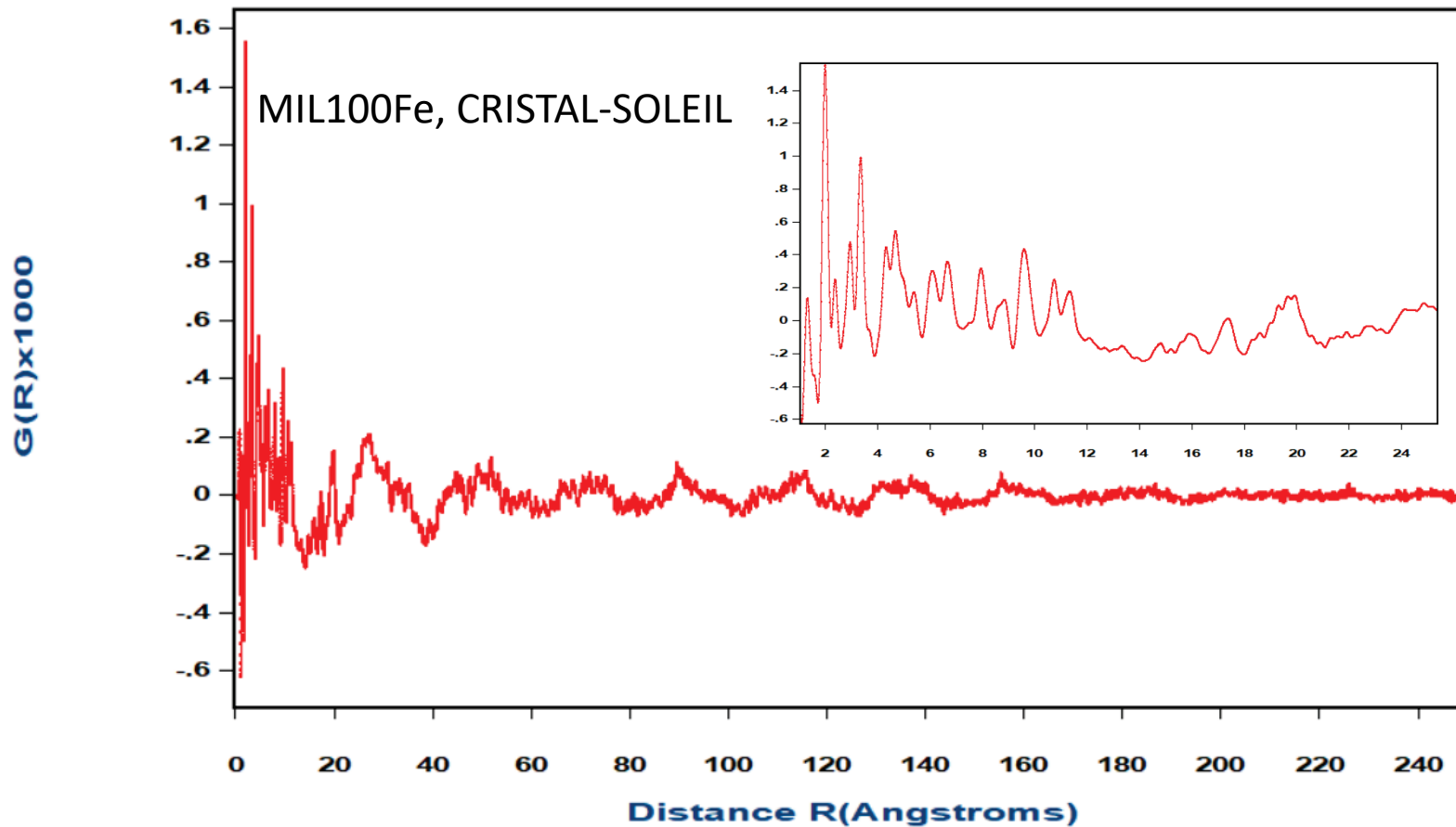
Horcajada et al. *Chem. Commun.*, 2007, 2820–2822

## Two total scattering synchrotron experiments:

at **ID 22-ESRF**,  $\lambda = 0.2068 \text{ \AA}$  (60 keV) , 0.7mm boro glass capillary  
Perkin-Elmer flat panel detector at 38.5 cm from the sample =>  $Q_{\text{max}}=24\text{\AA}^{-1}$ .  
Image integration with **PyFAI**. Calibration using Ni and  $\text{LaB}_6$

at **CRISTAL-SOLEIL**,  $\lambda = 0.51368 \text{ \AA}$  (24.1 keV) , 0.7mm boro glass capillary  
XPAD3.2 hybrid pixel 2D detector at  $\sim 450\text{mm}$ ,  
image every deg up to  $120^\circ$ , 80s / image, =>  $Q_{\text{max}}=20\text{\AA}^{-1}$ .  
Image integration using **ImageReducerCristal** developed at SOLEIL.





The coherent domain size is  $\sim 200 \text{ \AA}$ , i.e.  $< 3$  unit cells.

## PDF refinement attempt using MolPDF up to 20 Å

Initial position from Rietveld refinement of the same data using rigid blocks (N. Guillou)

For the PDF,

all positions are varied, except water O

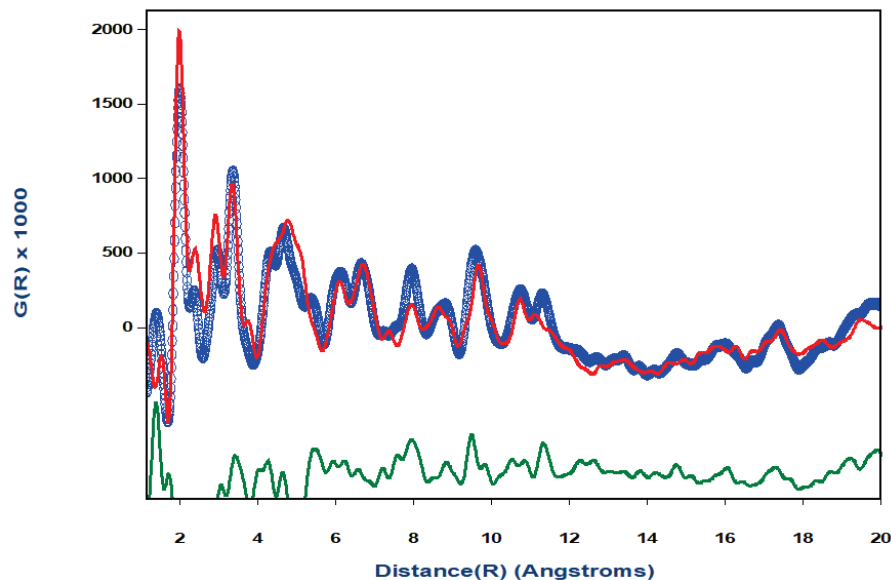
constrained Uiso for Fe, O&C, water.

392 restraints on distances up to 5 Å : molecule atoms,  $\sigma=0.0001$ , Fe-O,  $\sigma=0.01$

68 restraints on angles only for molecule atoms,  $\sigma=0.0001$

$R_F(\text{Sum}(|G_{obs}-G_{cal}|)/\text{Sum}|G_{obs}|)=40.635$ ,  $\chi^2=12.27$ , 167 refined parameters

About 1 min CPU time per iteration on a standard laptop

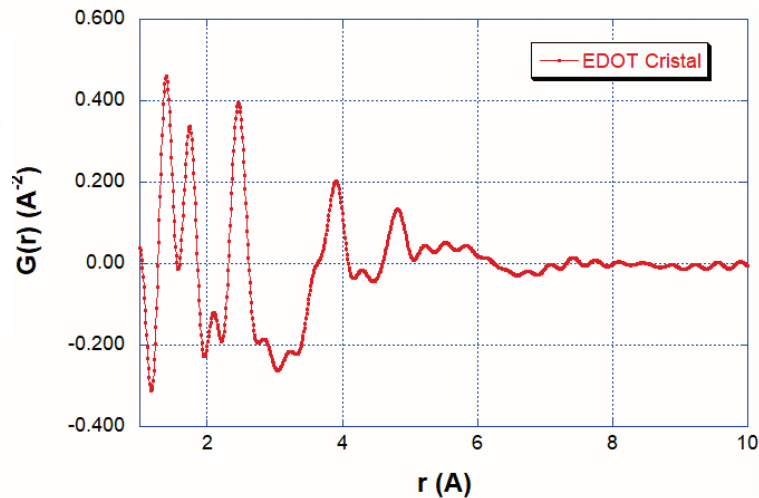
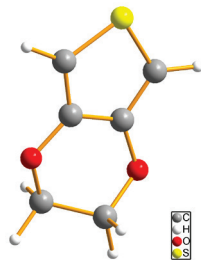


*Average dist. to initial=0.09 Å  
Maximum dist. to initial=1.3 Å*

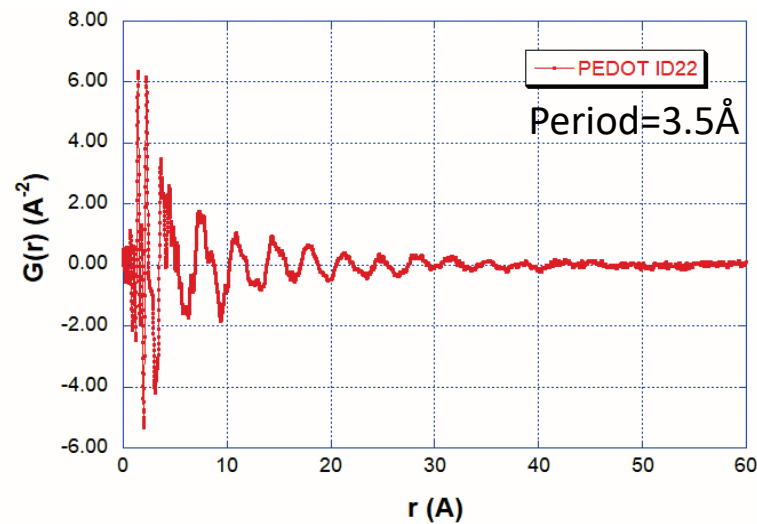
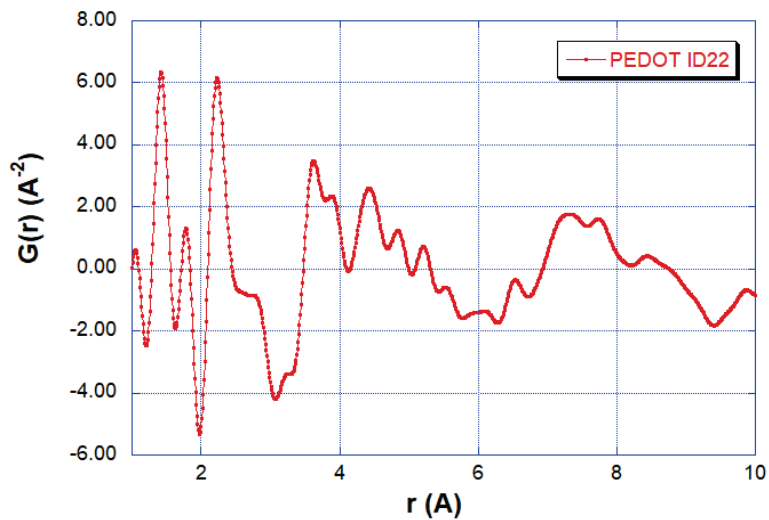
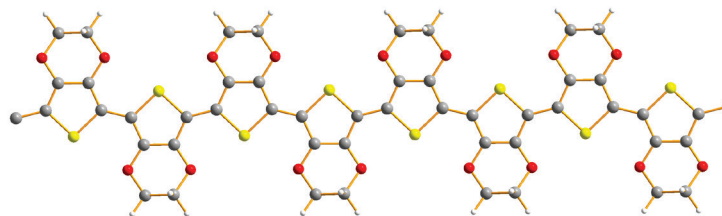
It would not be possible to directly obtain info about inserted PEDOT from such refinement.

=> ***Qualitative inspection of the PDF from the encapsulated polymer.***

# The EDOT monomer

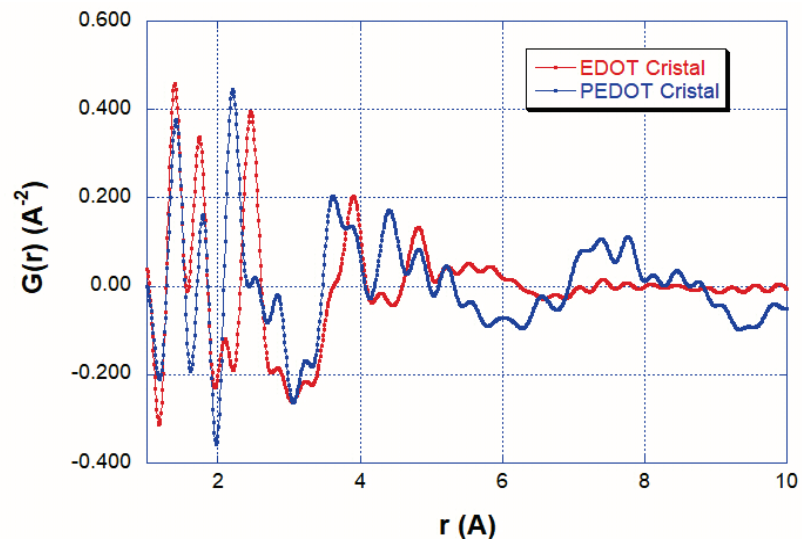


# The PEDOT polymer

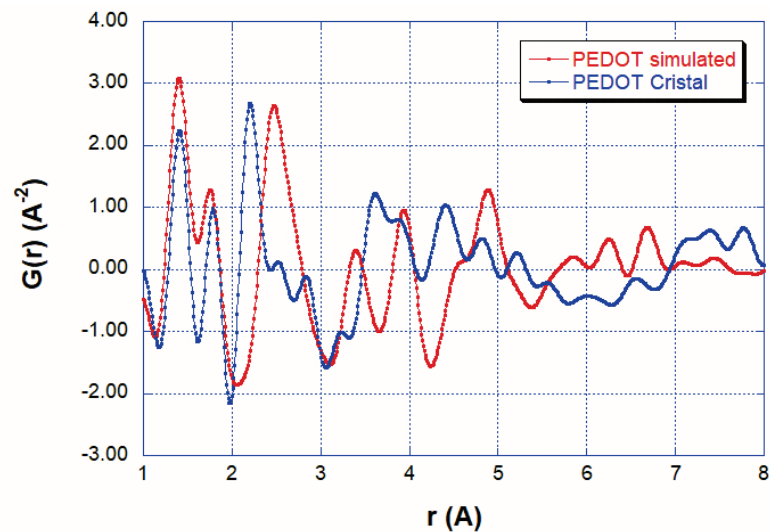
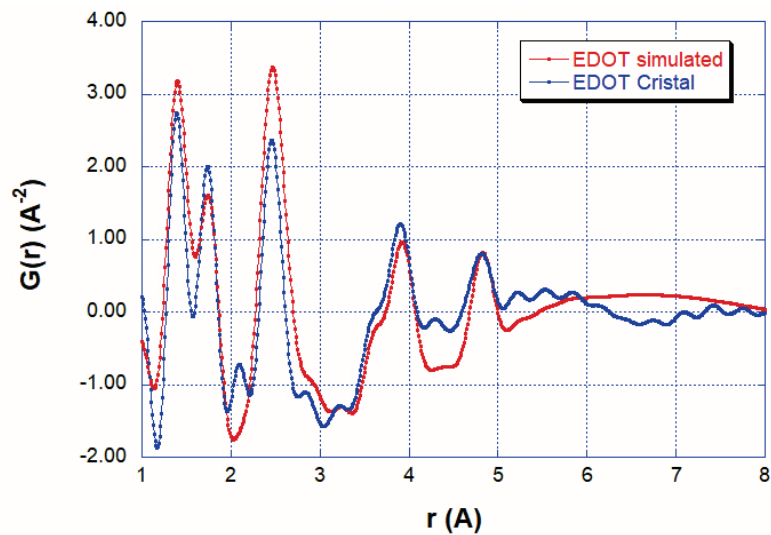




Compare the experimental PDFs of EDOT and PEDOT

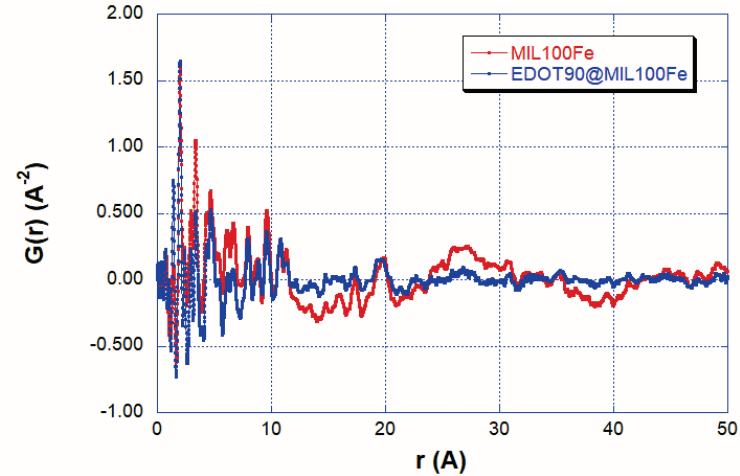
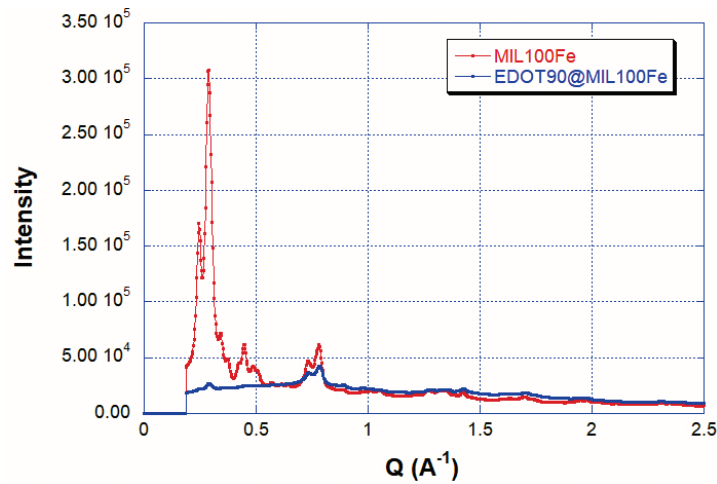


Compare the PDFs from experiment and DFT calculations

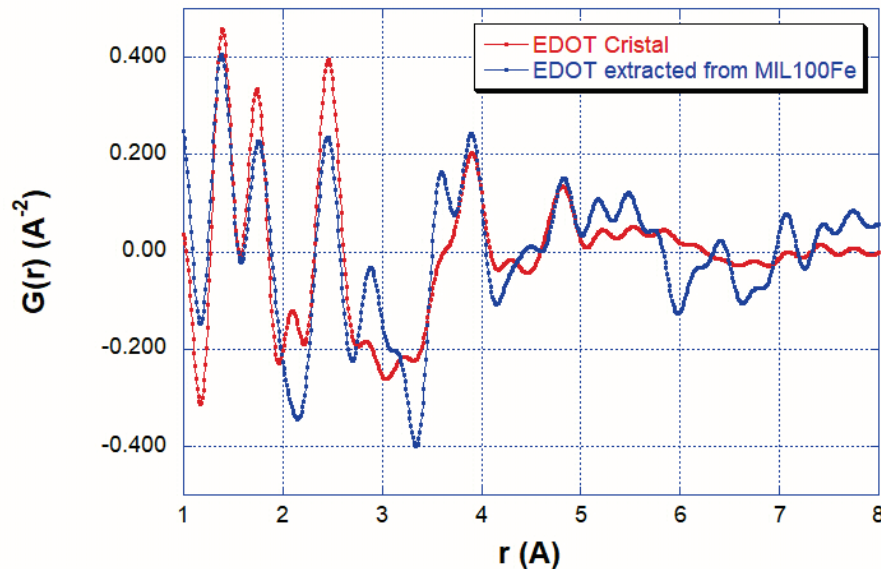


*DFT simulations cannot reproduce correctly the PDF from PEDOT !*

## Extract the PDFs of EDOT encapsulated in MIL100Fe

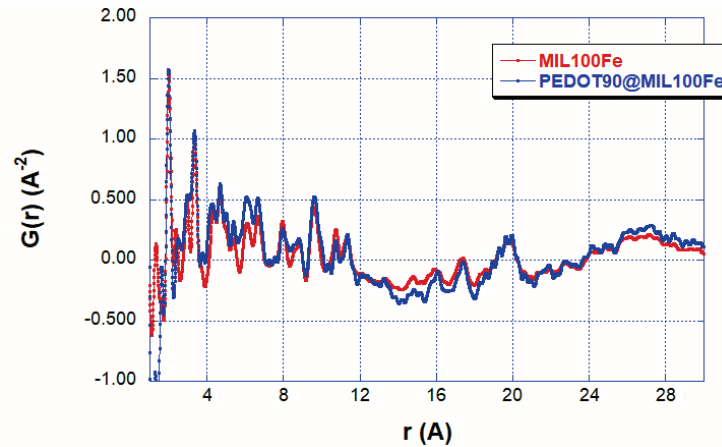
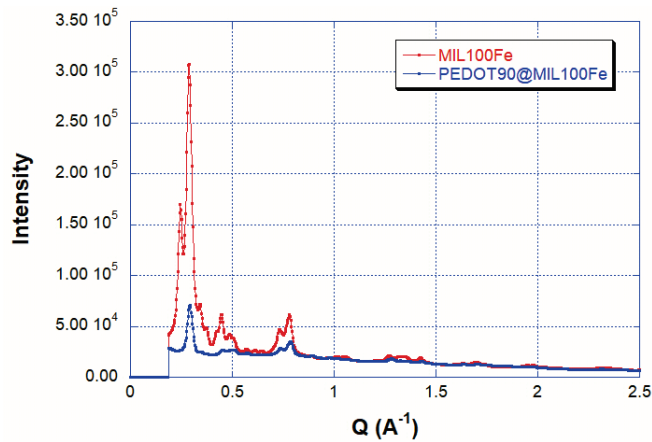


Before making the difference PDF, correct for different correlation lengths and scale

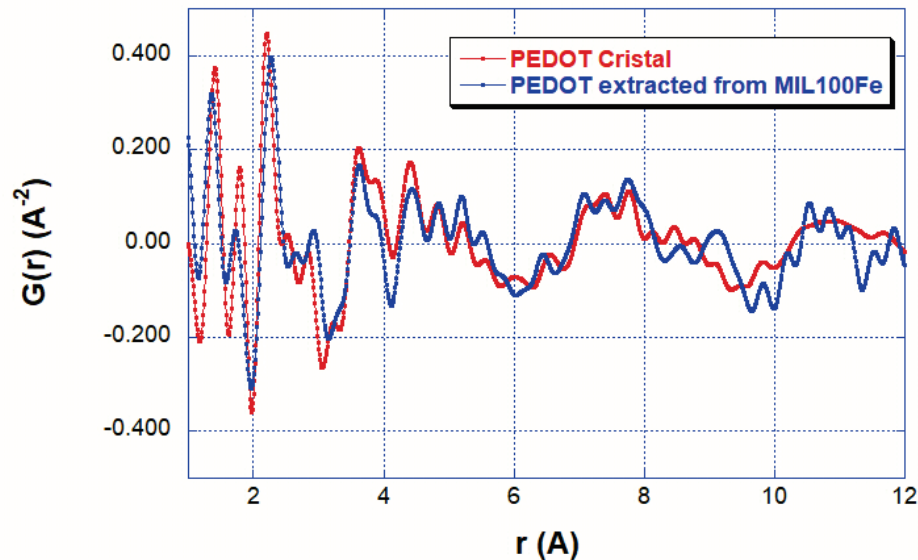


*Encapsulated EDOT is similar to free EDOT*

## Extract the PDFs of PEDOT encapsulated in MIL100Fe



*Encapsulated PEDOT is similar to free PEDOT, even longer range oscillations*



***Oxidative polymerization takes place into the MIL100Fe pores.  
The local structure of the polymer is preserved.  
Conductivity may be increased due to alignment of polymer molecules in the pores.  
Cyclability is enhanced due to protection and stabilization by the MOF framework.***

## Introduction

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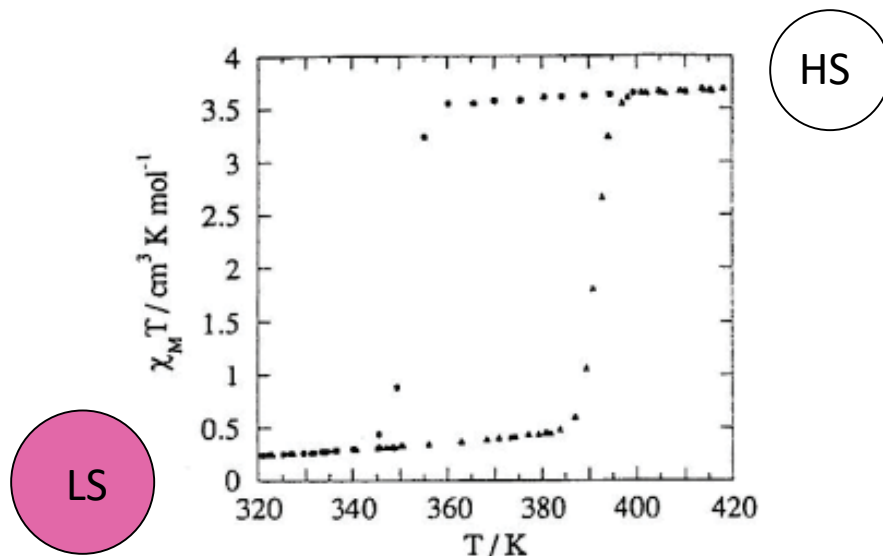
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## Conclusion

# Crystal Structure of the spin transition polymeric compound $[Fe(Htrz)_2(trz)](BF_4)$

Polymeric compound based on Fe II complex, spin transition close to RT.

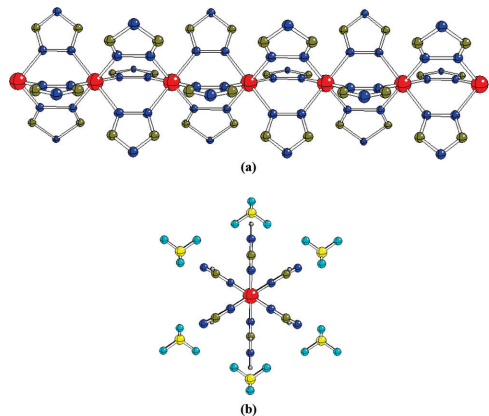
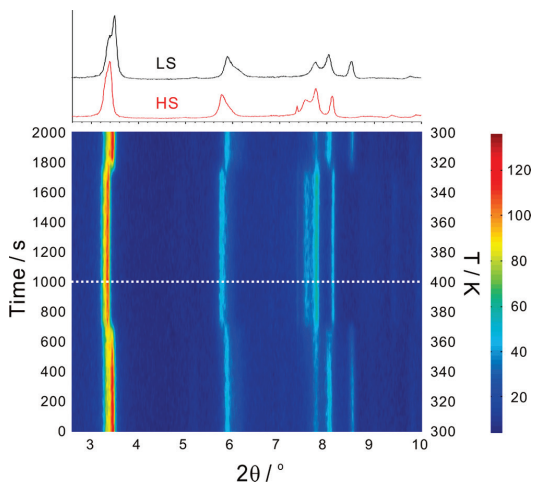


O. Kahn, J. Kröber, C. Jay, *Adv. Mat.* **1992**, 4, 718

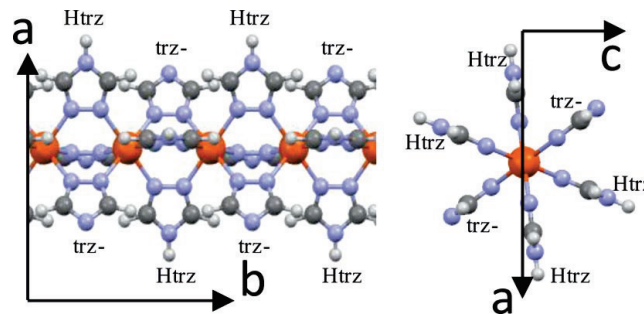
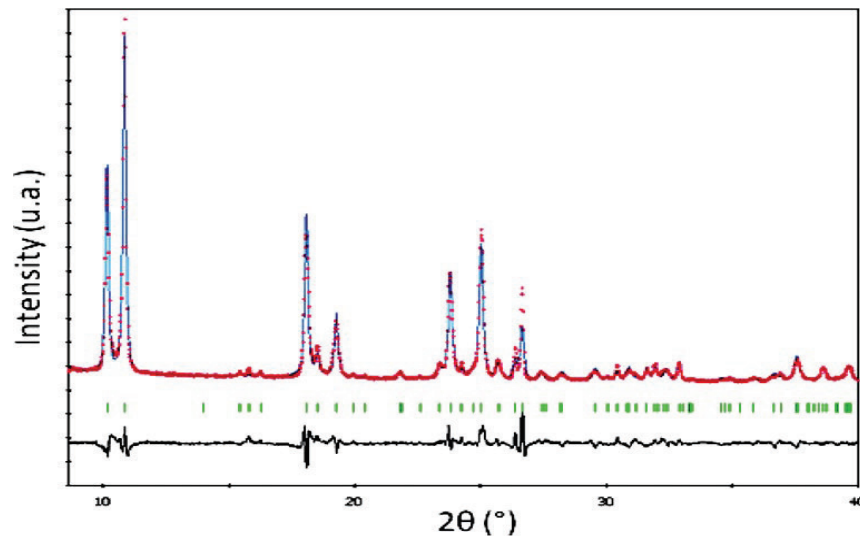
No crystals, badly crystalline powder=> uncertain structure (2 models proposed)

Grosjean et al., *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2013**, 796

### Cmcm

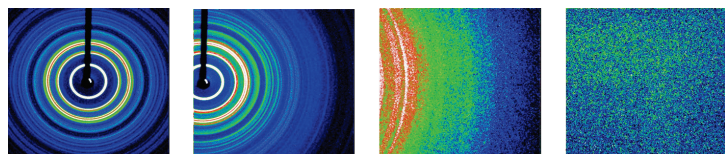
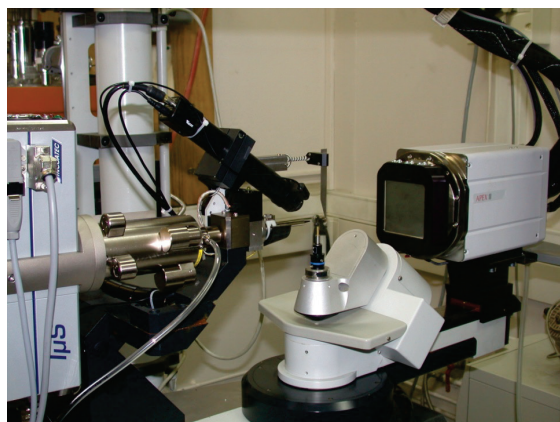


### Pnma

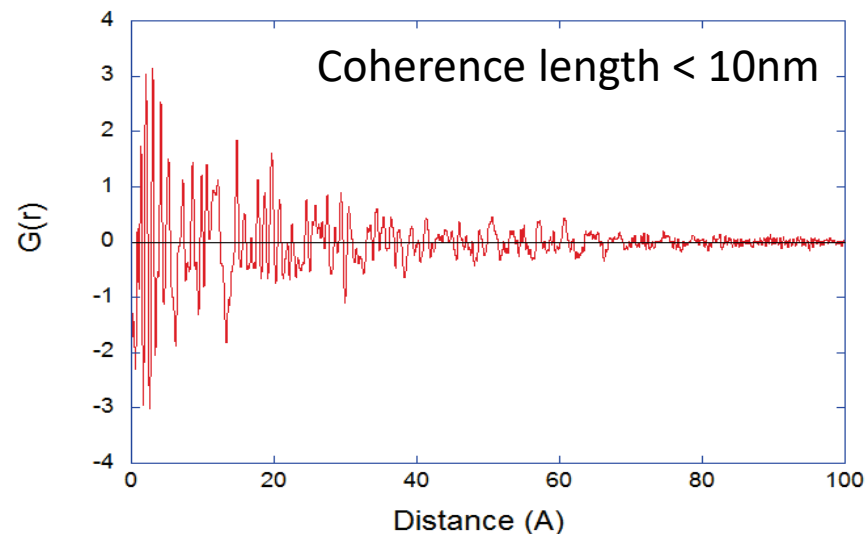
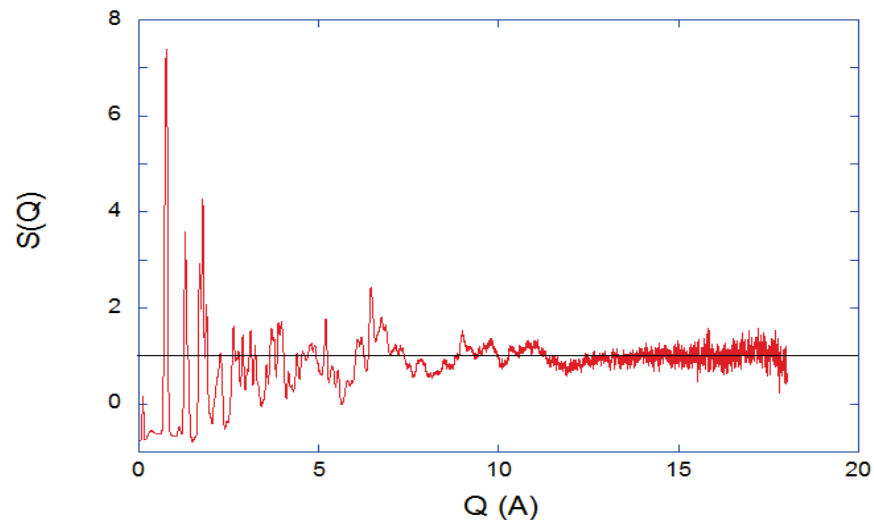
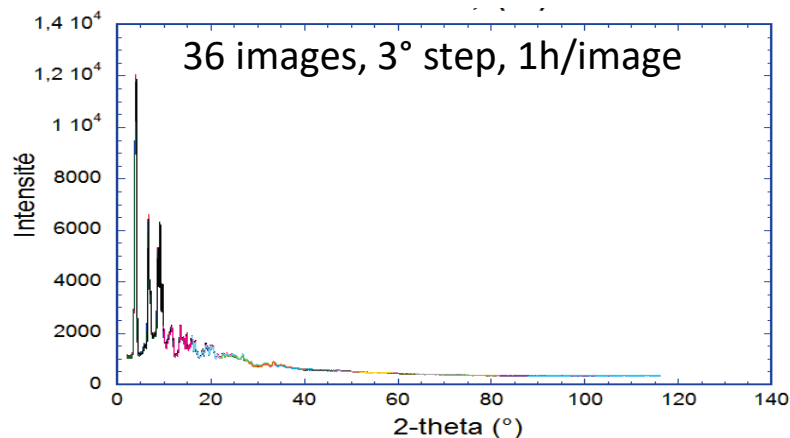


Can we use PDF analysis to decide which one is the right structure ?

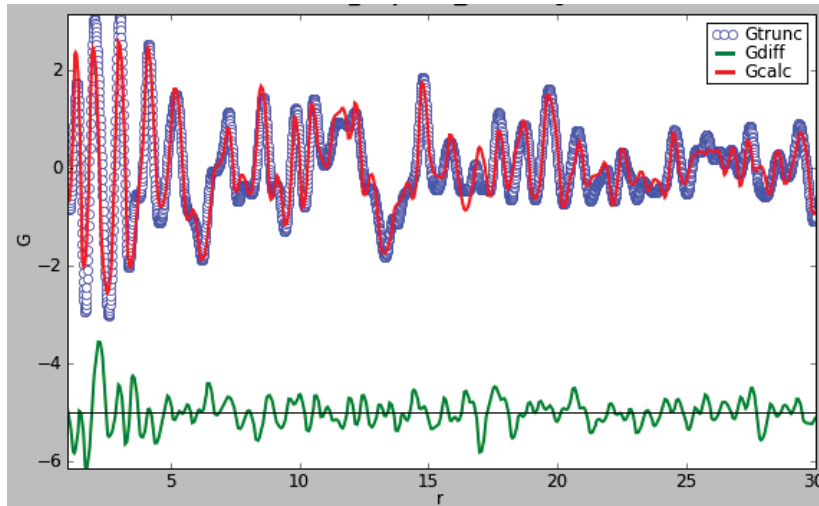
# Total scattering data measured with a $\text{AgK}\alpha$ microsource + CCD camera



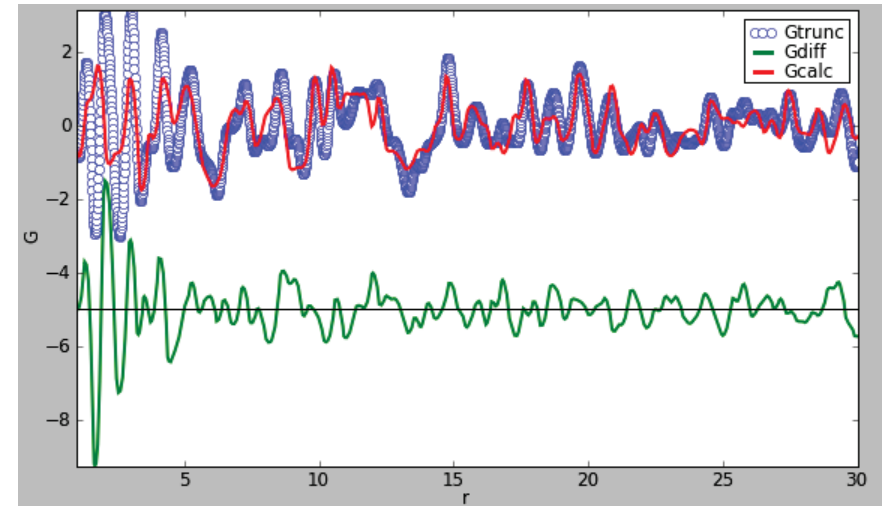
$\theta=0^\circ$        $\theta=9^\circ$        $\theta=25^\circ$        $\theta=41^\circ$



## *Pnma*



## *Cmcm*



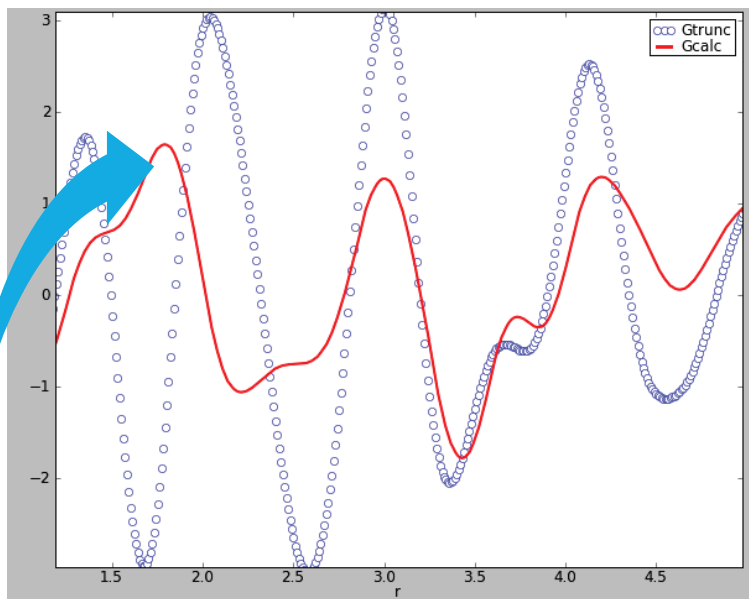
***All positional parameters fixed from cif files***

***refined*** : scale factor  
 $\delta 1$  (correlations)  
d nanoparticles  $\sim 7$  nm  
a, b, c  
Uiso (Fe; C,N,H; B,F)

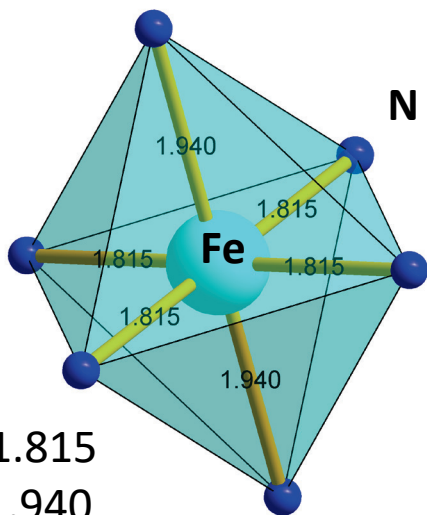
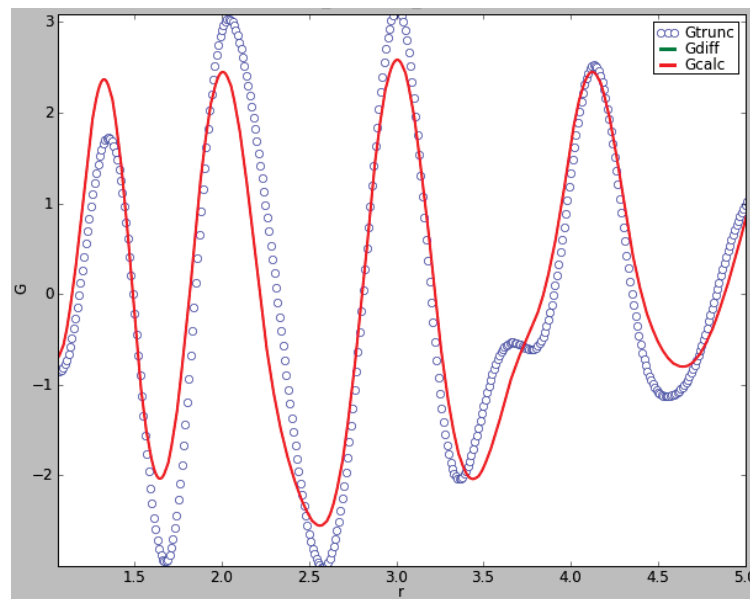
***Large differences at short distances***



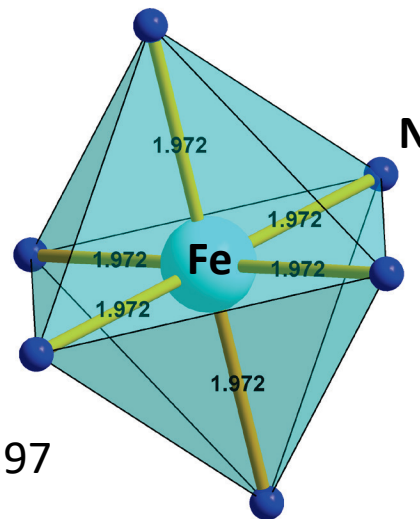
# Cmcm



# Pnma



Fe-N : 4 x 1.815  
2 x 1.940



Fe-N : 6 x 1.97

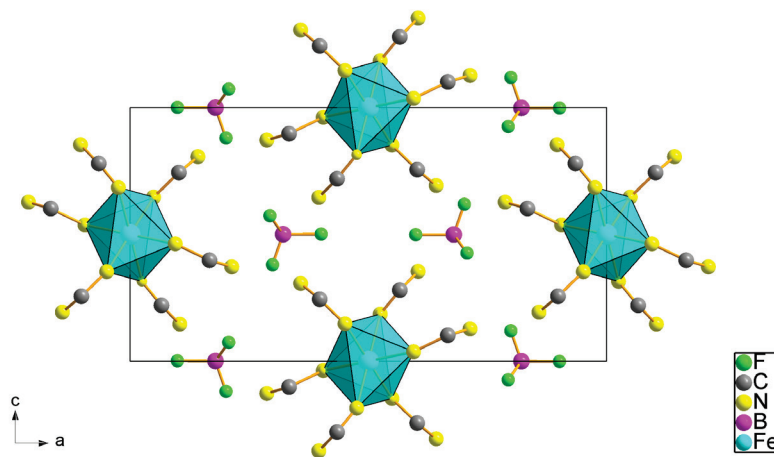
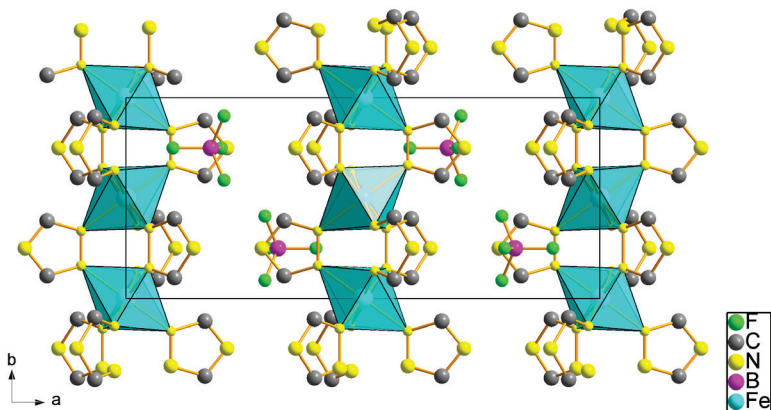
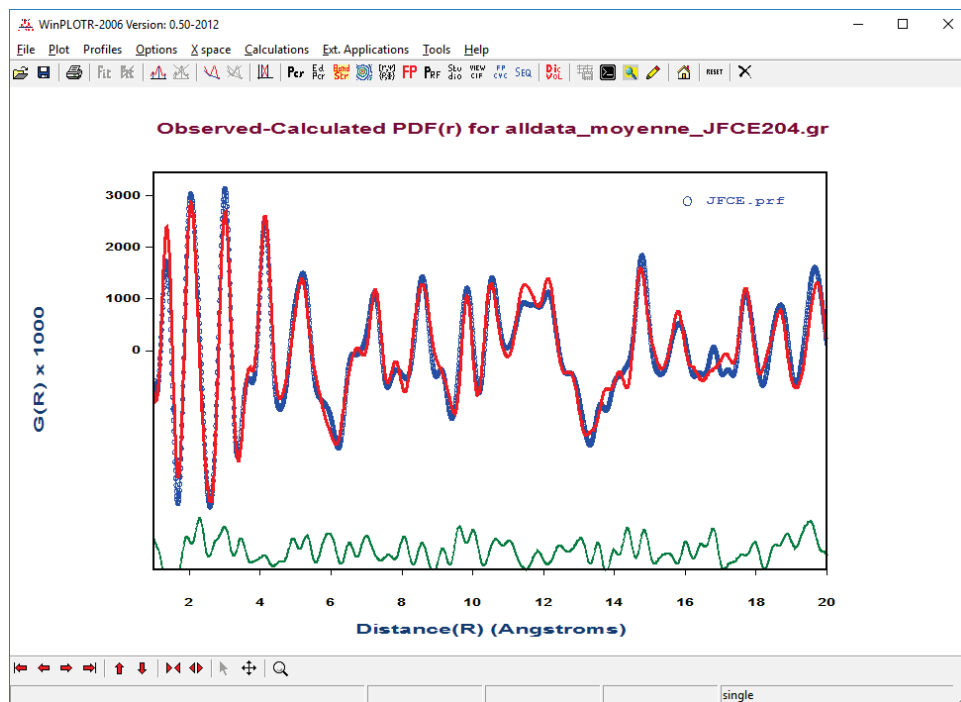
# Refinement using MolPDF

Restraints on distances and angles:  
C-N pentagonal rings,  
B-F tetrahedra

$$\delta_1 = 1.16(1)$$

$$D = 67(2) \text{ \AA}$$

$$R_F(\text{Sum}(|G_{\text{obs}} - G_{\text{cal}}|) / \text{Sum} |G_{\text{obs}}|) = 22.9$$



## Introduction

PDF investigation of luminescent gold thiolate glasses

PEDOT conducting polymer confined in mesoporous MOFs

Crystal Structure of the spin transition polymeric compound  $[\text{Fe}(\text{Htrz})_2(\text{trz})](\text{BF}_4)$

## Conclusion

# Special thanks to :

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**ANR**

*... and you !*



