

Structure of glass-forming aluminate liquids under extreme conditions by neutron diffraction with isotope substitution

James W E Drewitt | ADD 2019

Acknowledgements



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Michael Walter



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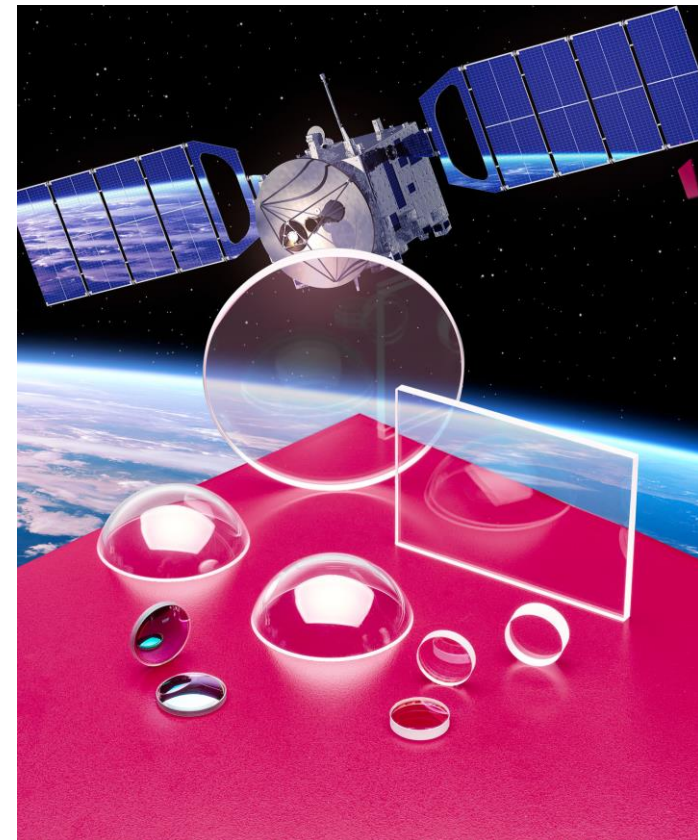
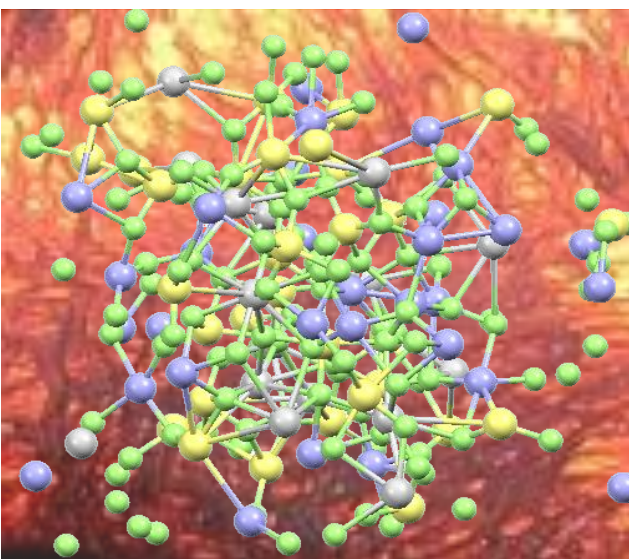
Anita Zeidler
Phil Salmon



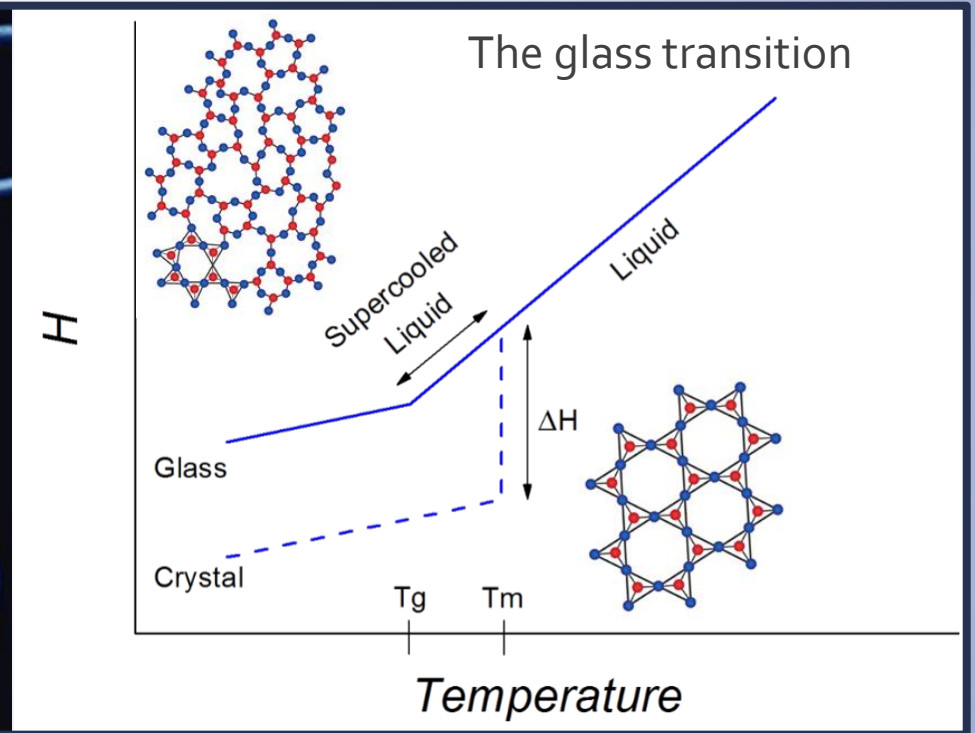
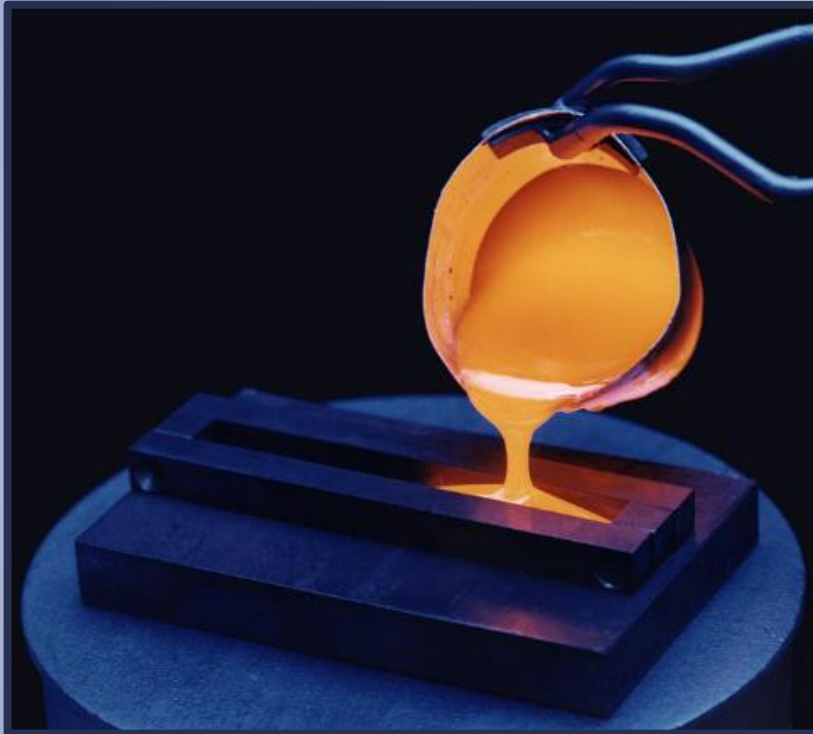
Henry Fischer
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Gaston Garbarino

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Aluminate liquids and glasses



Glass forming liquids



W. H. Zachariasen's rules

[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE RYERSON PHYSICAL LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO]

THE ATOMIC ARRANGEMENT IN GLASS

BY W. H. ZACHARIASEN

RECEIVED MAY 13, 1932

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 5, 1932

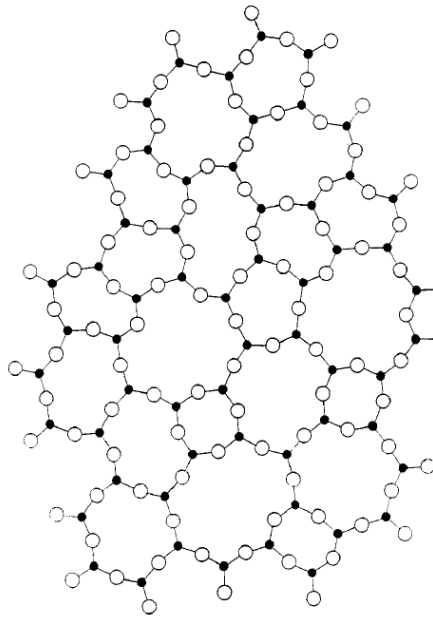
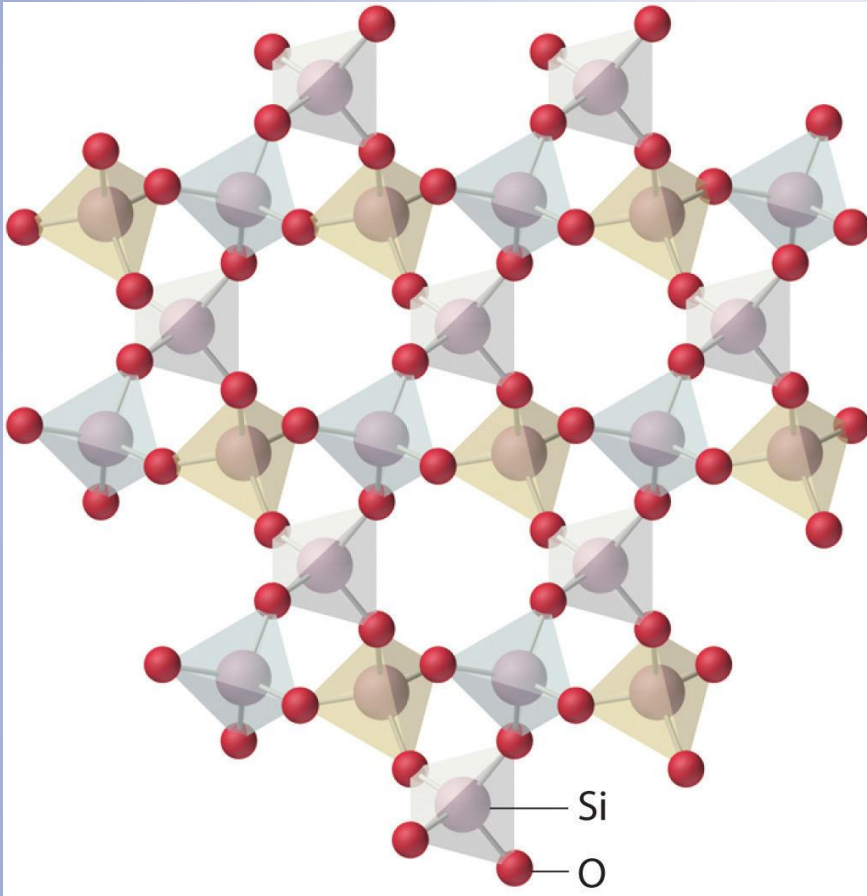


Fig. 1b.

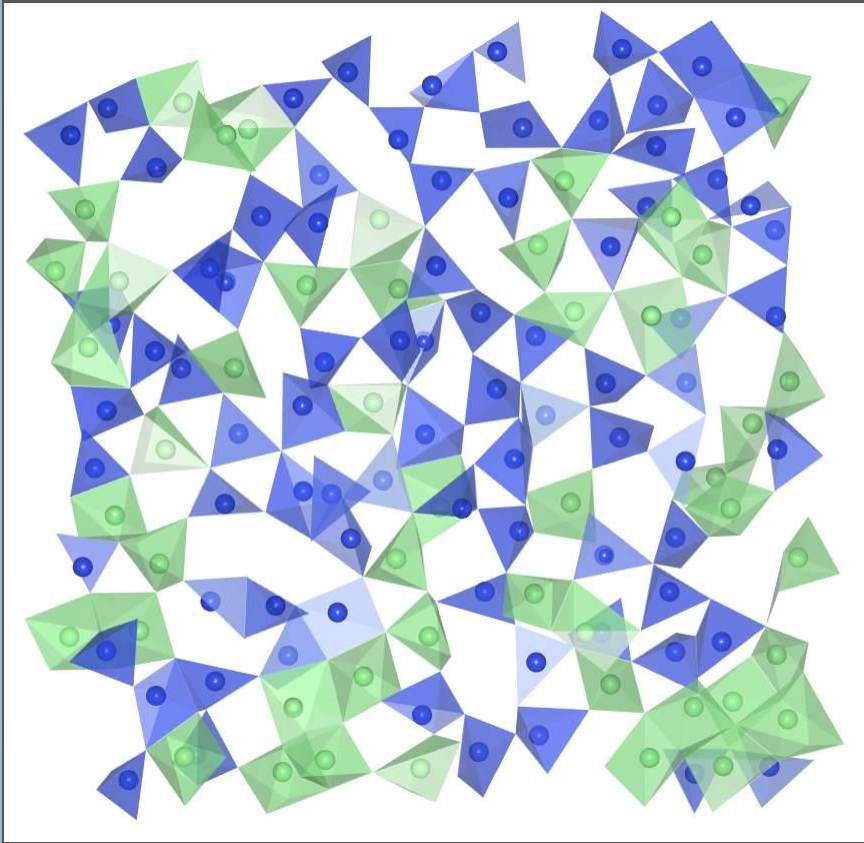
- An oxygen atom linked to no more than two glass-forming atoms
- The coordination number of the glass-forming atoms is small (3 or 4)
- The polyhedra share corners, not edges or faces
- Polyhedra linked in a 3-dimensional network

The case for liquid silica SiO_2



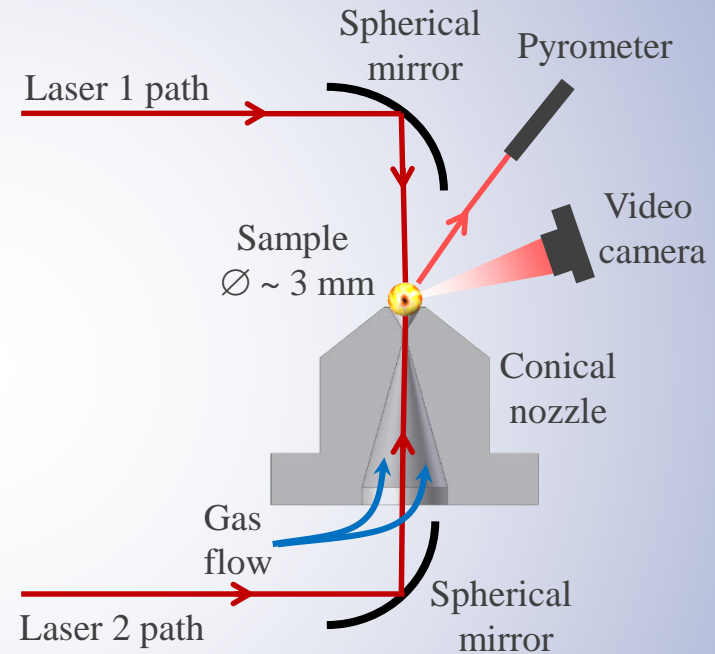
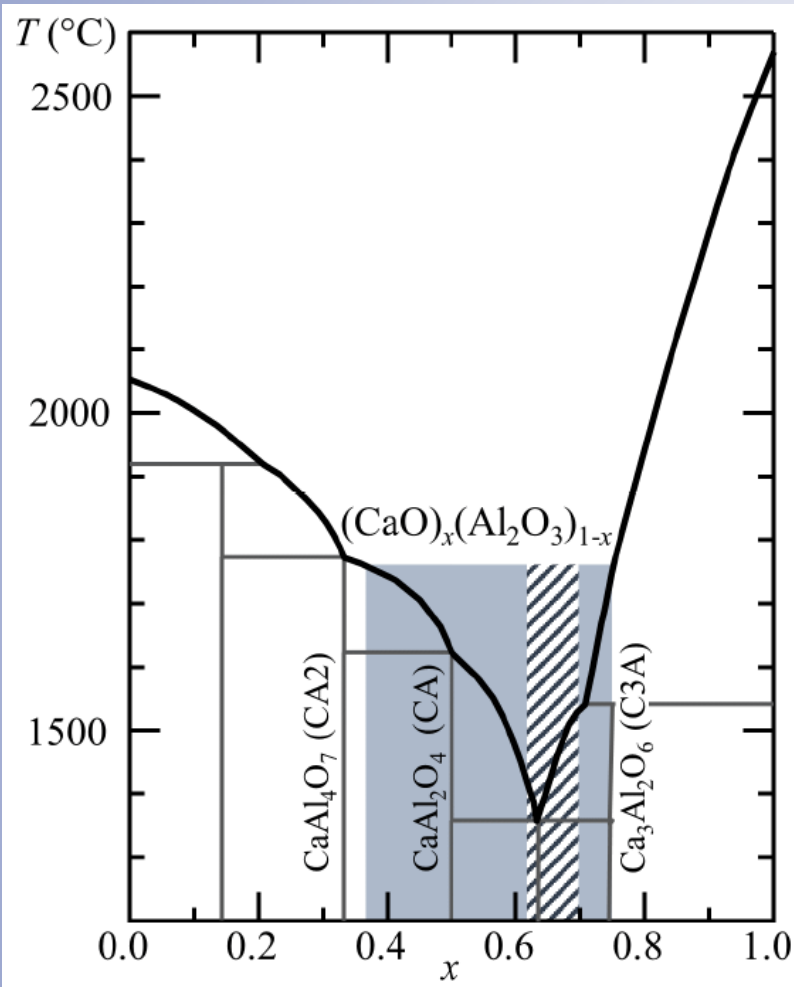
- ✓ An oxygen atom linked to no more than two glass-forming atoms
- ✓ The coordination number of the glass-forming atoms is small (3 or 4)
- ✓ The polyhedra share corners, not edges or faces
- ✓ Polyhedra linked in a 3-dimensional network

The case for liquid alumina Al_2O_3



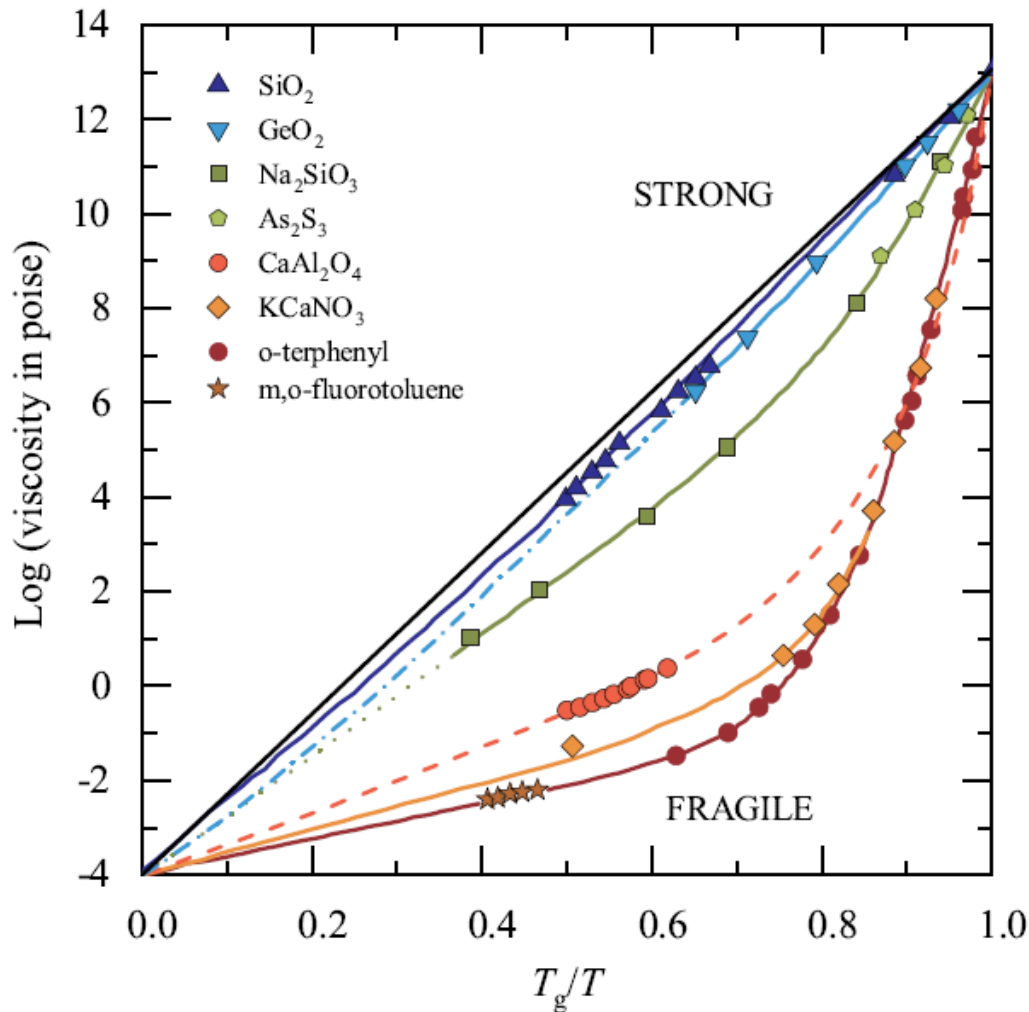
- ✗ An oxygen atom linked to no more than two glass-forming atoms
- ✗ The coordination number of the glass-forming atoms is small (3 or 4)
- ✗ The polyhedra share corners, not edges or faces
- ✗ Polyhedra linked in a 3-dimensional network

CaO-Al₂O₃ glass forming region



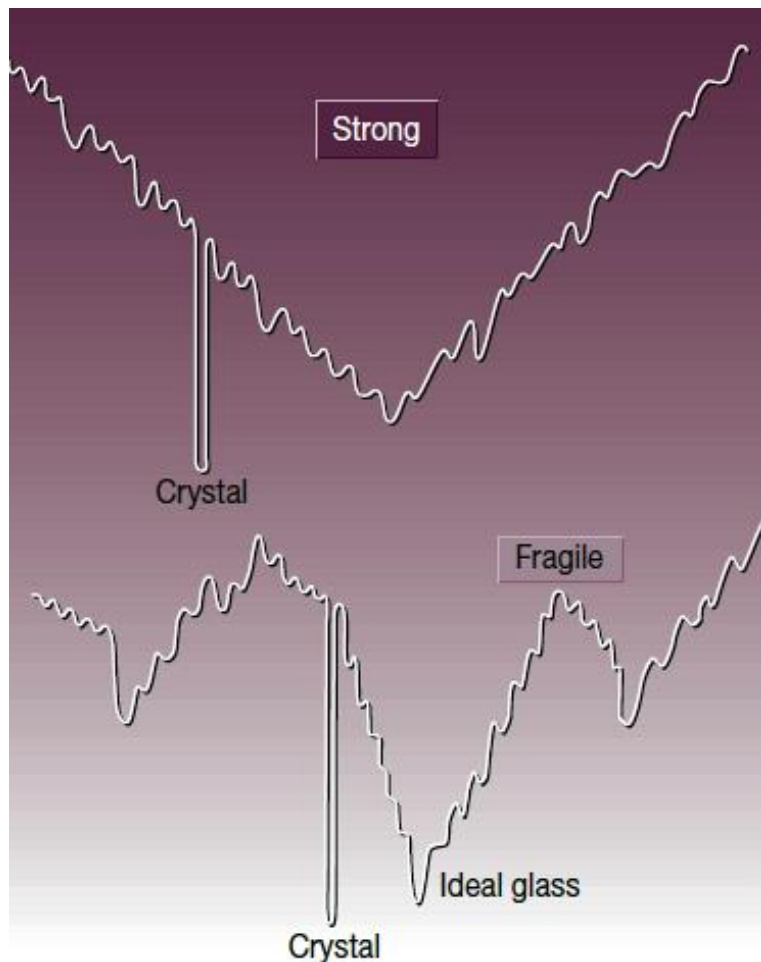
Aerodynamic levitation with laser heating

Liquid CaO-Al₂O₃ fragility



- Glass-forming liquids classified in terms of kinetic fragility
- “Strong” liquids exhibit approximately Arrhenius viscosity temperature dependence
- “Fragile” liquids exhibit non-Arrhenius behaviour characterised by a drastic dynamic slow-down on approach to T_g
- Vogel-Tammann-Fulcher fit to CaAl₂O₄ viscosity give fragility index (gradient at T_g) $m = 116$ characteristic of a fragile liquid (cf. $m = 20$ for SiO₂)

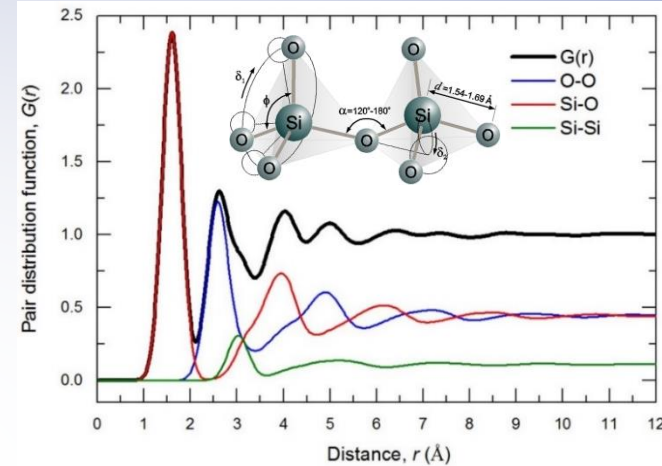
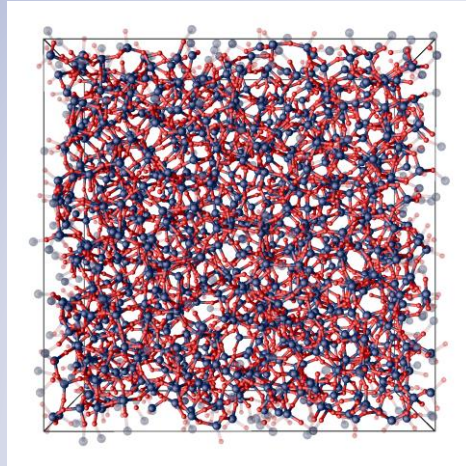
Liquid $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ fragility



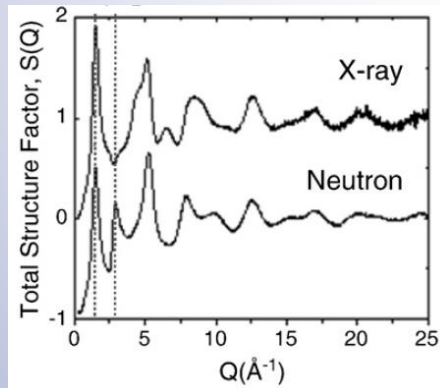
Debenetti & Stillinger 2001 *Nature* **410** 259

- Strong liquids (e.g. SiO_2) have deep broad minima in the potential energy landscape due to stable local coordinations and self-reinforcing 3-D networks that restrict the number of available configurations.
- Fragile liquids - larger range of potential energy minima in configurational space due to higher degree of short- and intermediate-range disorder
- On supercooling high energy barriers cf. thermal energies are encountered: increasingly unable to explore the full-range of configurational states.
- The system becomes trapped in a deep local energy minimum.

Liquid and Glass Diffraction

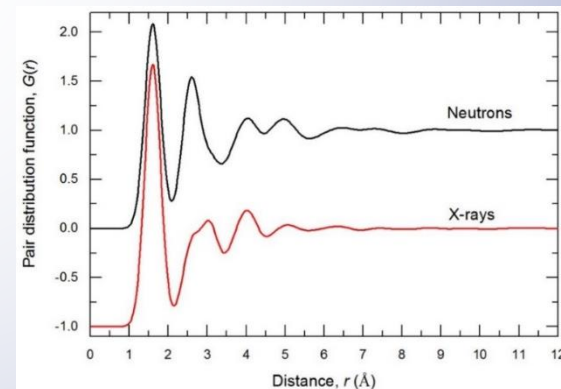


Structure factor



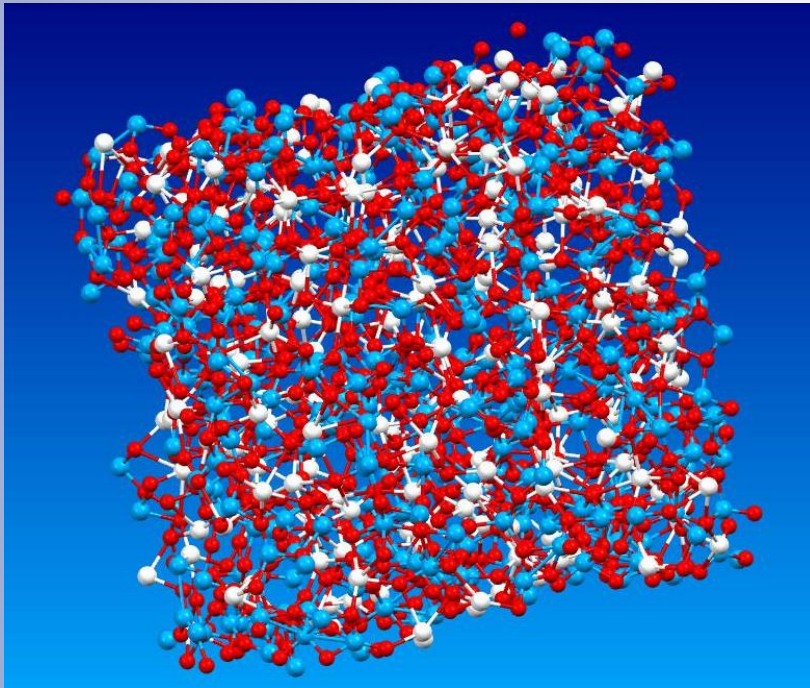
Fourier Transform

Pair distribution function



Aspherical Ion Model (AIM)

Snapshot of Liquid CaAl_2O_4 at 2500 K



- AIM ionic interaction potentials derived for the **Ca-Mg-Al-Si-O** system (Jahn & Madden 2007)
- Account for dipole polarisation and shape deformation

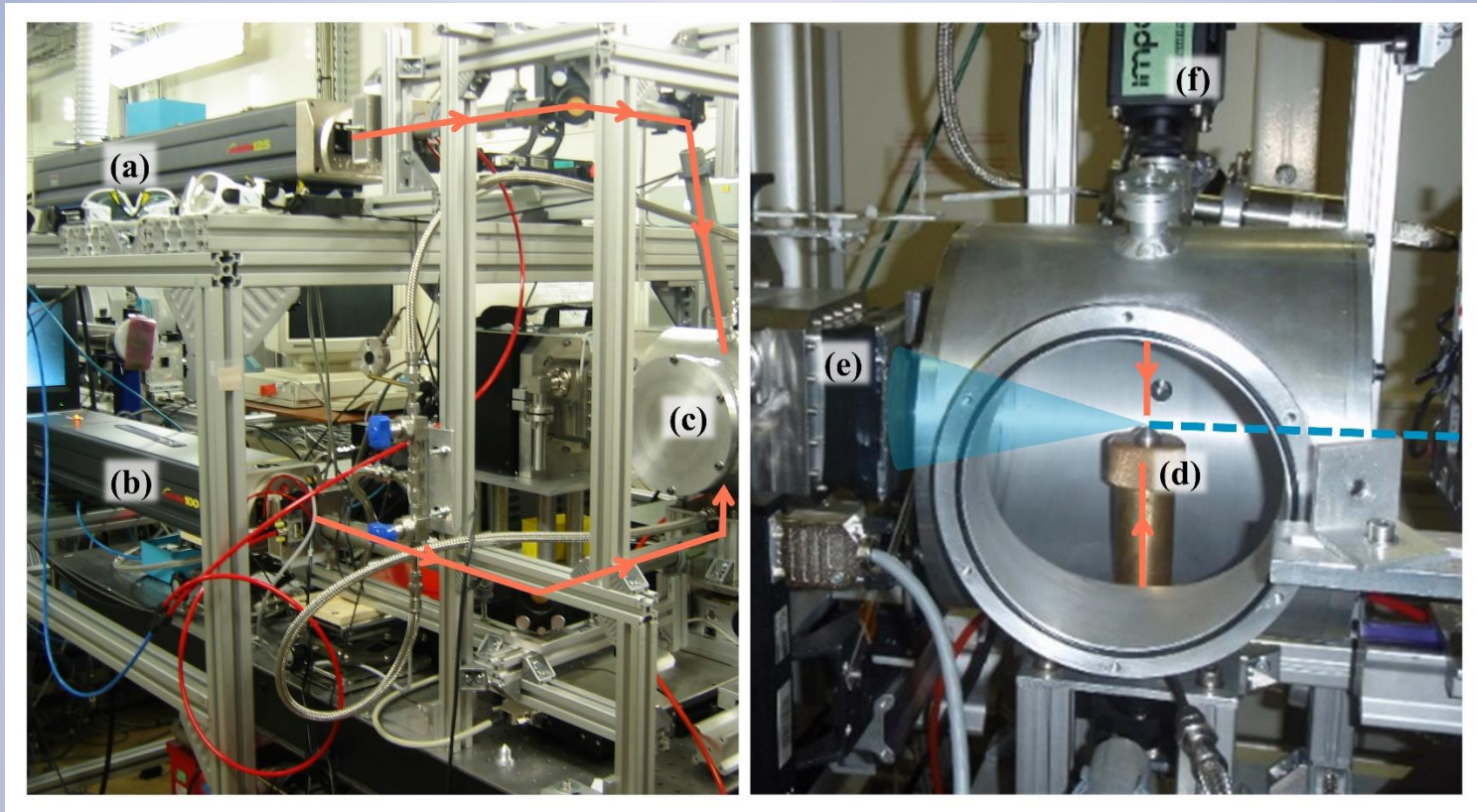
$$V = V^{qq} + V^{\text{disp}} + V^{\text{rep}} + V^{\text{pol}}$$

V^{qq} : pair wise additive Coulomb and
 V^{disp} dispersion interactions

V^{rep} : short-range repulsion term

V^{pol} : dipolar and quadrupolar
polarization terms

Synchrotron x-ray diffraction with aerodynamic levitation

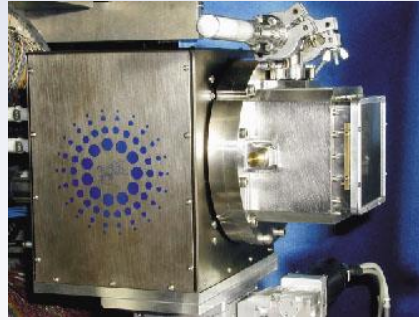
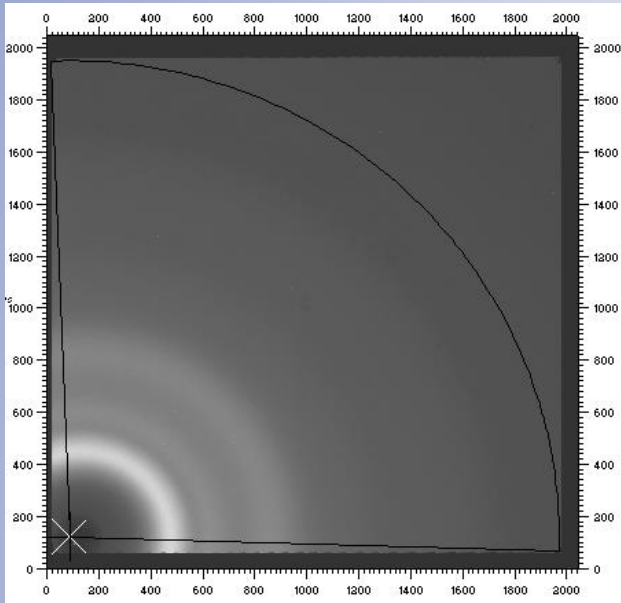


(a) + (b) : CO₂ lasers
(c) levitation chamber

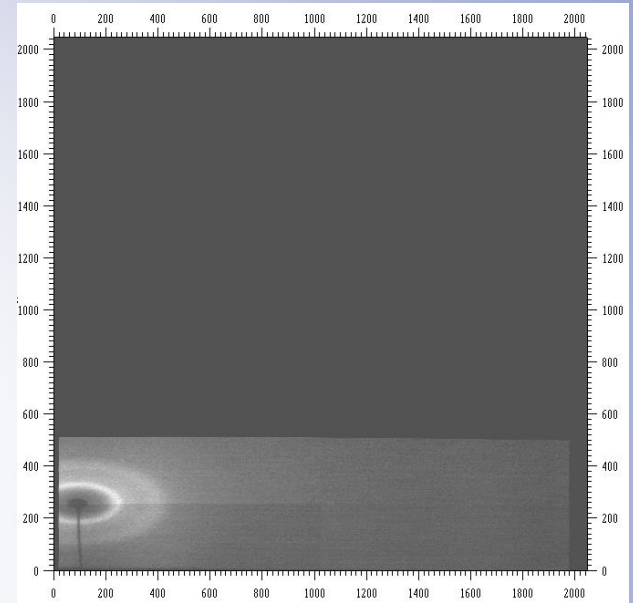
(d) levitation nozzle
(e) Frelon CCD detector
(f) pyrometer

Drewitt *et al.* 2011 *J. Phys. Condens.* **23** 155101

Static and time-resolved synchrotron x-ray diffraction



ESRF frelon camera:
Fast Readout **LOW** Noise



Full Frame Transfer mode

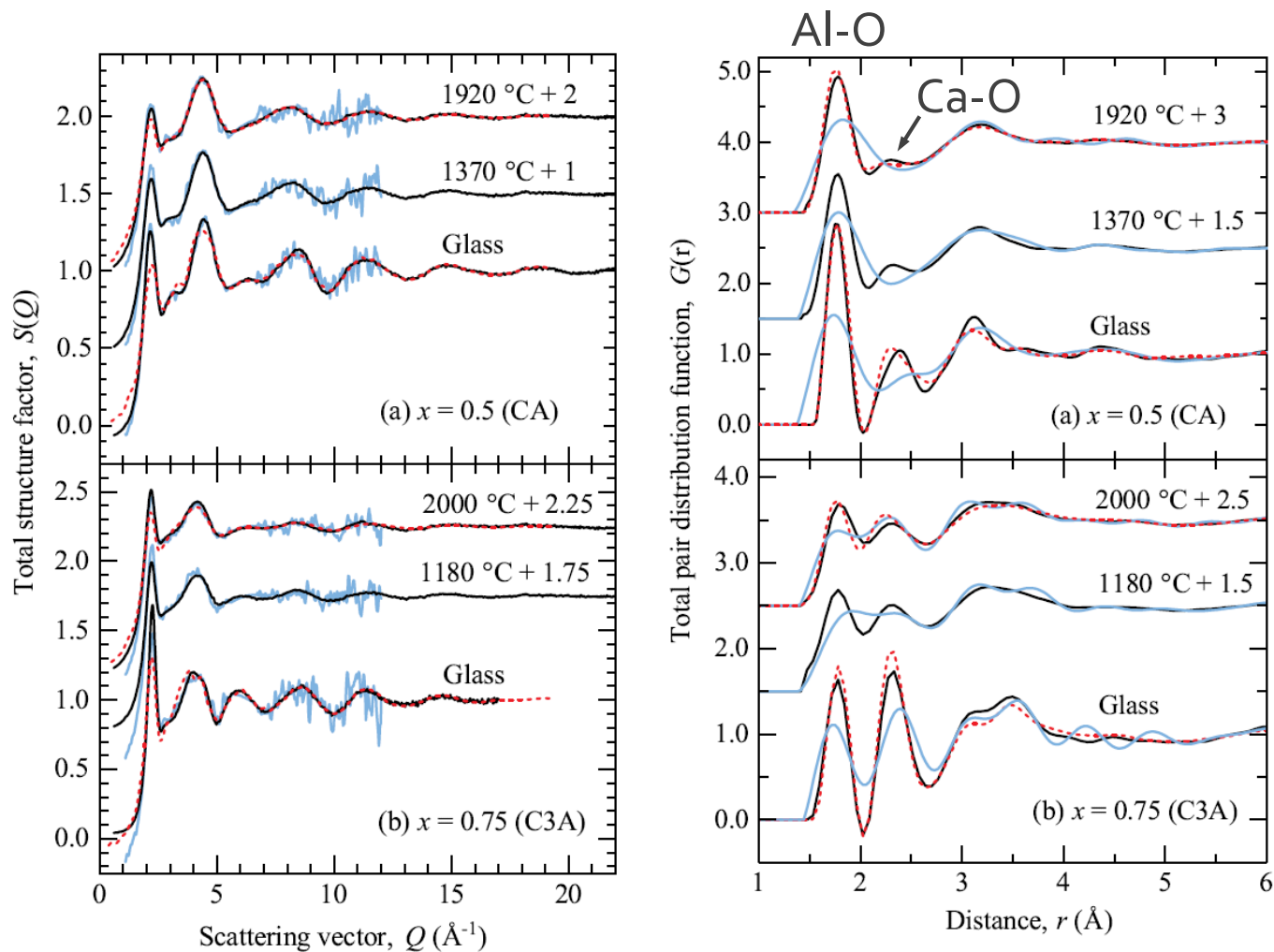
- Active image zone: 2048 X 2048 $14 \mu\text{m}^2$ pixels
- Static XRD 60 s acquisitions
- Beam centre at corner for large Q -range

Frame Transfer mode

- Active image zone: 2048 X 512 pixels
- Remainder of chip – memory buffer
- Time-resolved XRD with 30 ms acquisitions

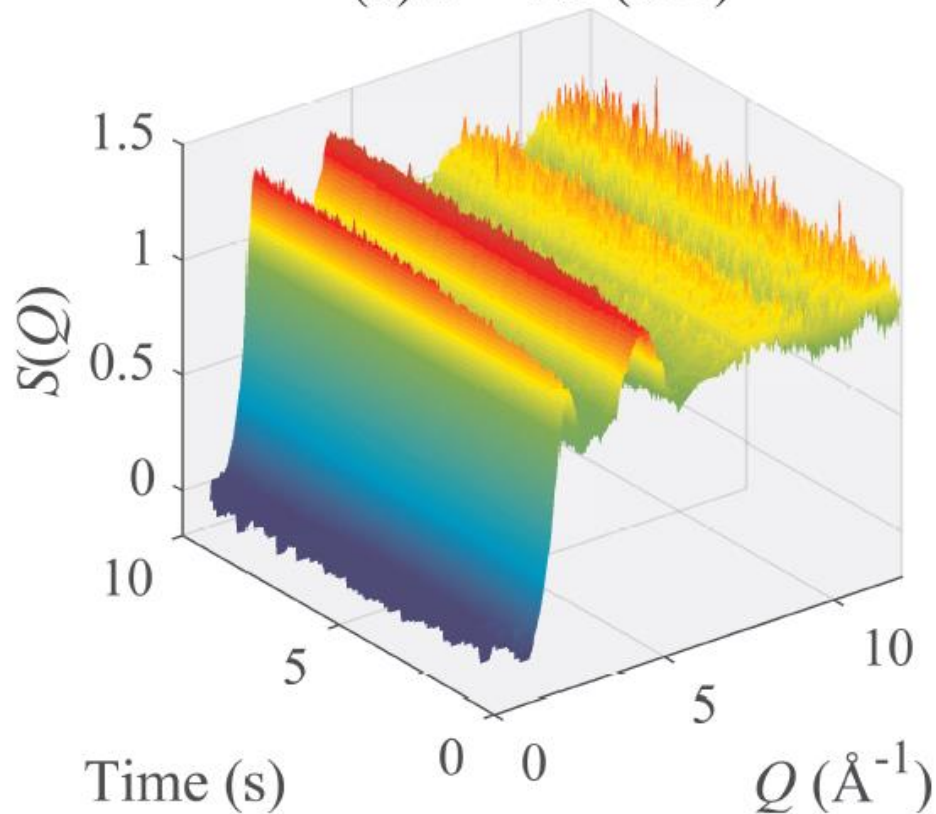
• Drewitt *et al.* 2011 *J. Phys. Condens.* **23** 155101

In situ vitrification of liquid CaAl_2O_4 and $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$

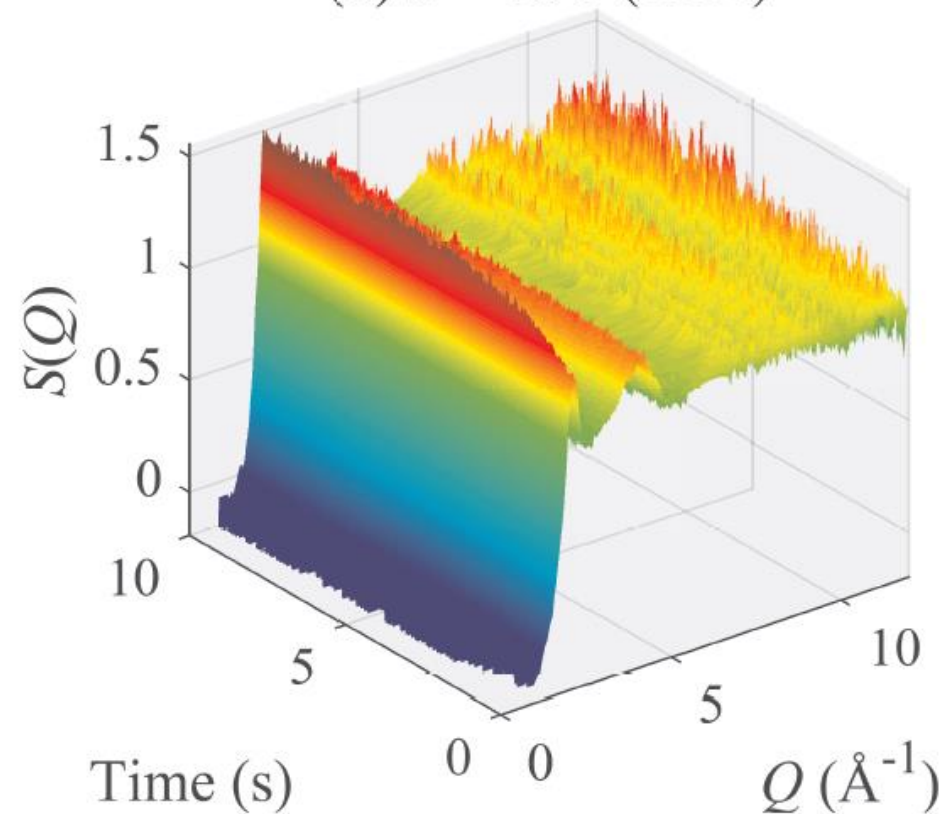


In situ vitrification of liquid $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3$

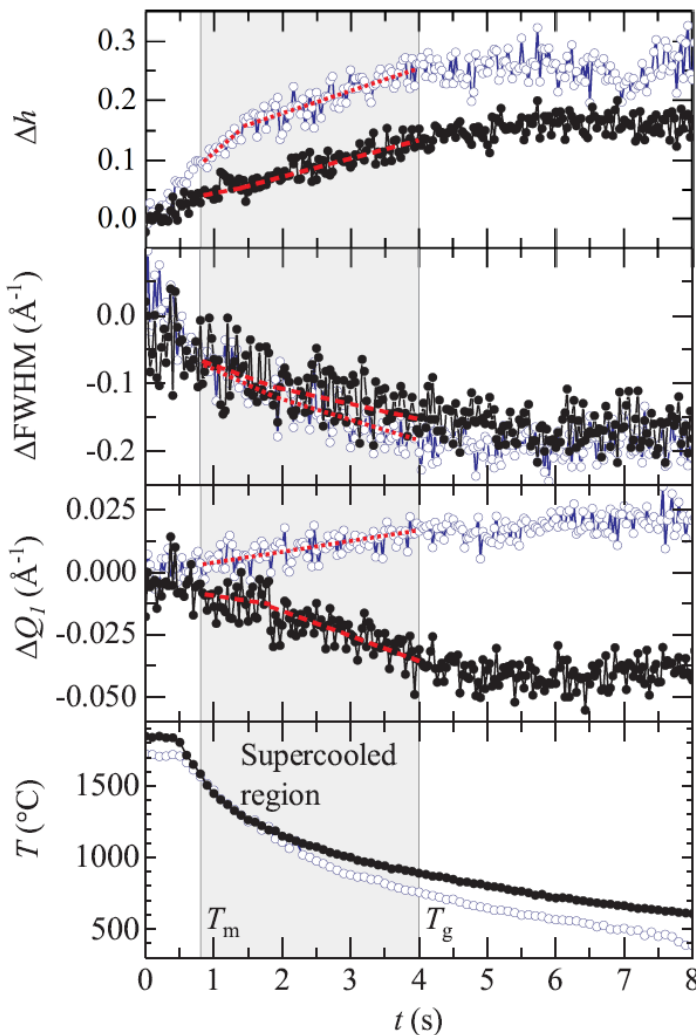
(a) $x = 0.5$ (CA)



(b) $x = 0.75$ (C3A)

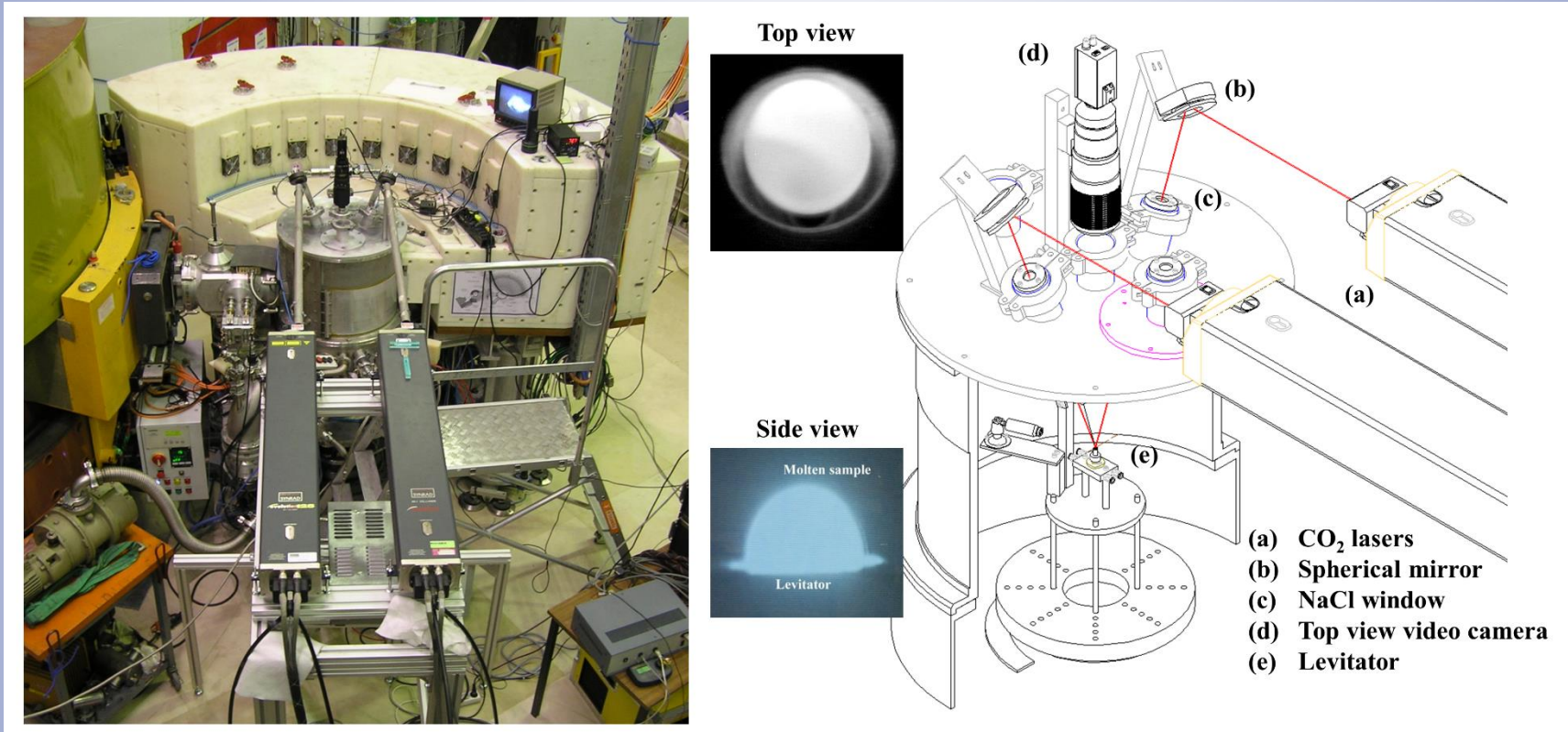


In situ vitrification of liquid CaAl_2O_4



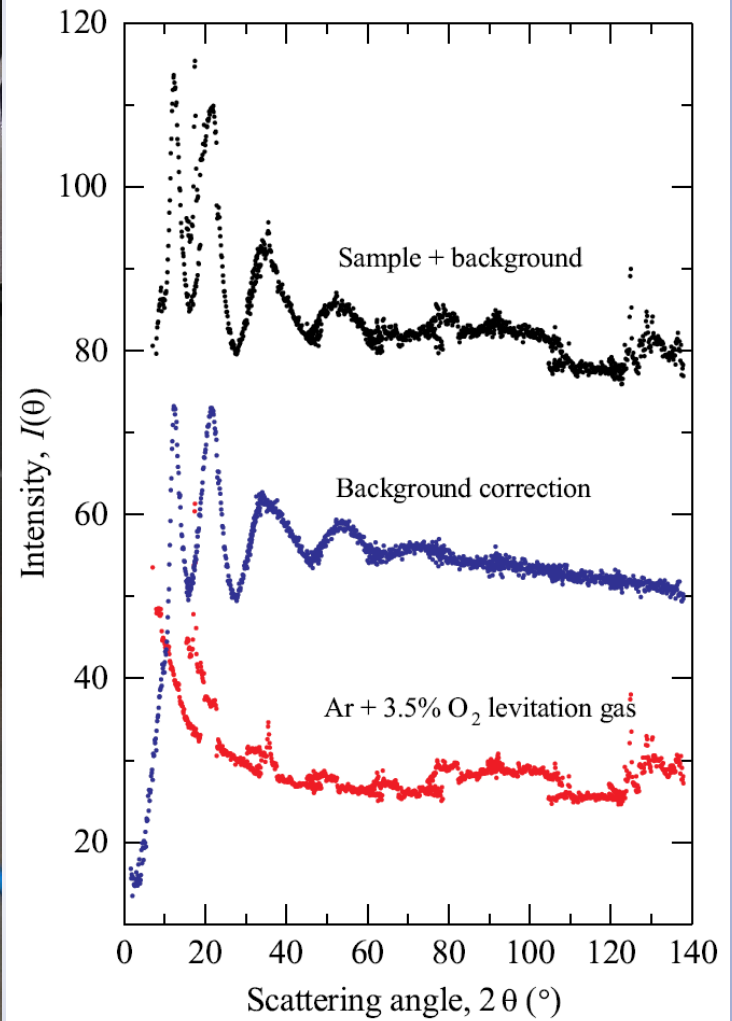
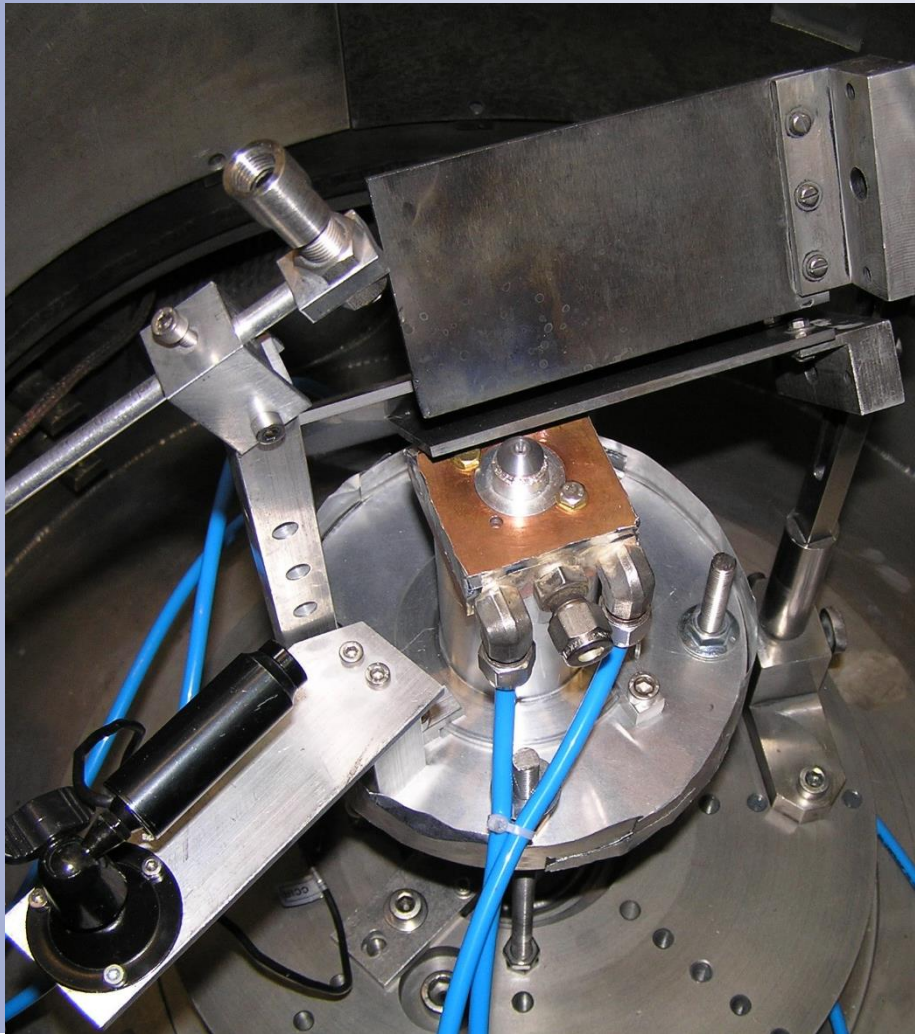
- Cooling from T_m to T_g in 3.2 s
- 96 X 30 ms acquisitions in supercooled region during glass formation
- Two distinct cooling regimes marked inflection in vicinity of dynamical cross-over temperature at $\sim 1.25 T_g$
- Progressive increase in height and reduction in FWHM of first peak in $S(Q)$ accompanied by shift in peak position (-ve for CA, +ve for C₃A)
- Indicative of progressive ordering of cation-centred polyhedra
- No further structural organisation beyond T_g

D₄c Neutron Diffractometer, Institut Laue-Langevin



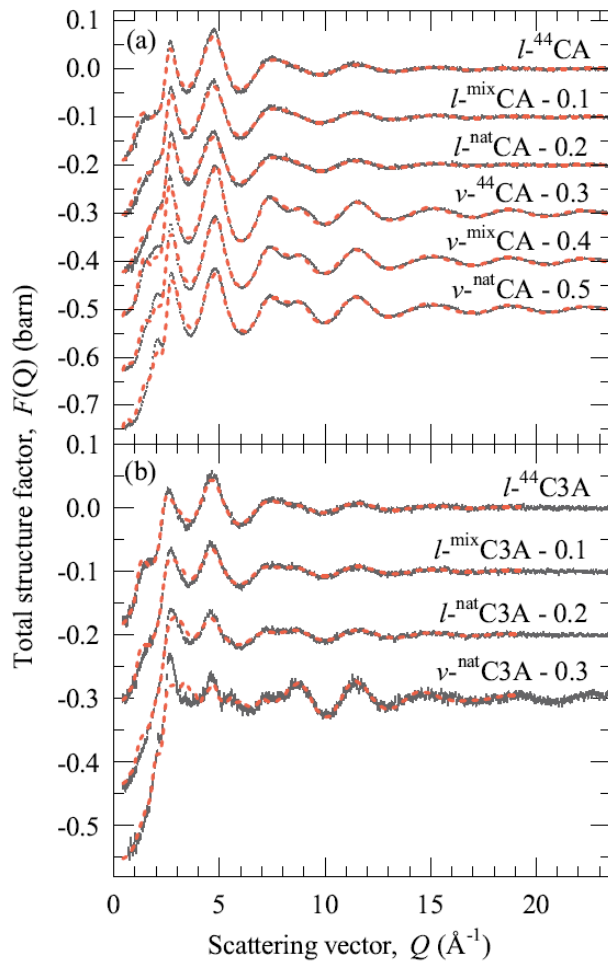
■ Drewitt *et al.* 2012 *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109** 235501

Neutron diffraction of levitated liquid CaAl_2O_4



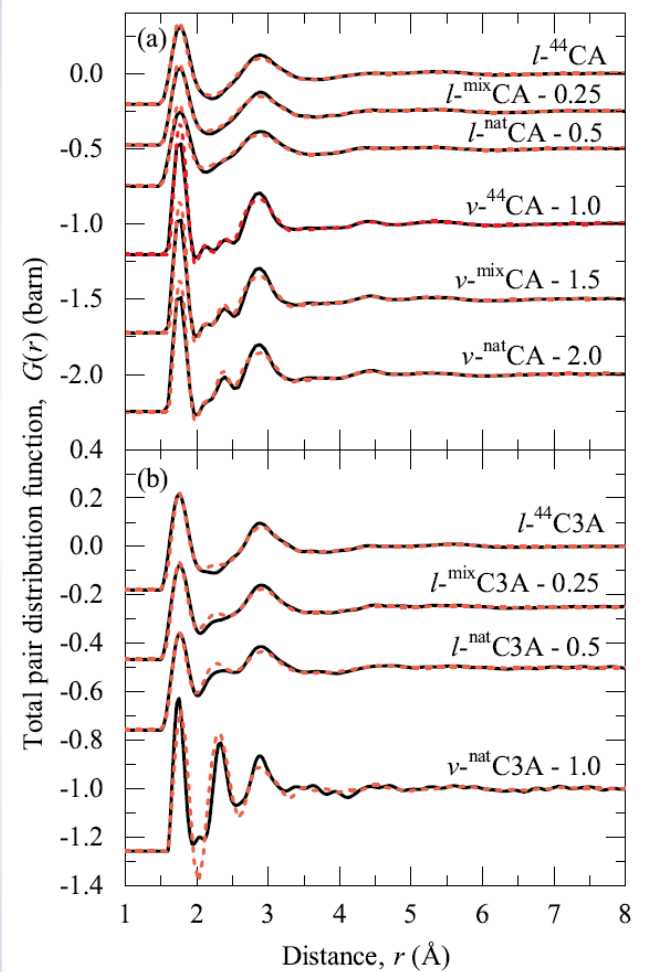
Drewitt *et al.* 2012 *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109** 235501

Neutron diffraction with ^{44}Ca isotope substitution



Three samples of identical composition varying only in Ca isotopic enrichment

- $b(^{44}\text{Ca}) = 1.42(6)$ fm
- $b(^{\text{nat}}\text{Ca}) = 4.70(2)$ fm
- $b(^{\text{mix}}\text{Ca}) = 3.06(3)$ fm
- Long counting times!



Neutron diffraction with ^{44}Ca isotope substitution

$$F(Q) = \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{\beta} c_{\alpha} c_{\beta} b_{\alpha} b_{\beta} [S_{\alpha\beta}(Q) - 1]$$

Full partial structure factor analysis using NDIS most feasible for binary systems as $N(N+1)/2$ isotopically substituted samples are required.

Pseudo-binary representation Ca and μ (Al, O)

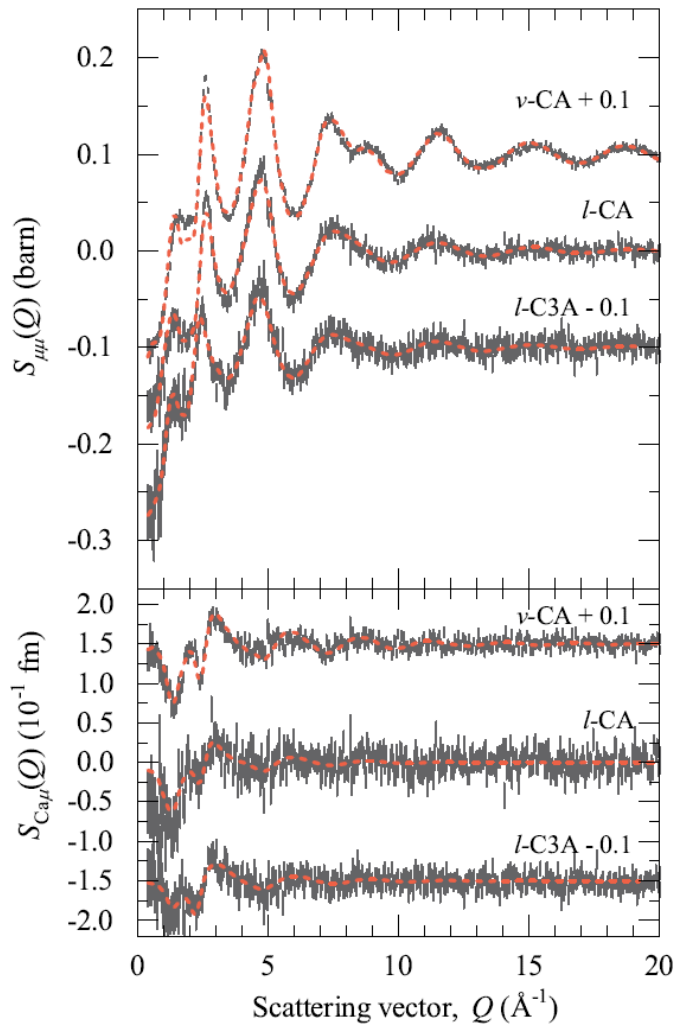
$$F(Q) = c_{\text{Ca}}^2 b_{\text{Ca}}^2 [S_{\text{CaCa}}(Q) - 1] + 2c_{\text{Ca}} b_{\text{Ca}} S_{\text{Ca}\mu}(Q) + S_{\mu\mu}(Q),$$

$$S_{\text{Ca}\mu}(Q) = c_{\text{Al}} b_{\text{Al}} [S_{\text{CaAl}}(Q) - 1] + c_{\text{O}} b_{\text{O}} [S_{\text{CaO}}(Q) - 1]$$

$$S_{\mu\mu}(Q) = c_{\text{Al}}^2 b_{\text{Al}}^2 [S_{\text{AlAl}}(Q) - 1] + c_{\text{O}}^2 b_{\text{O}}^2 [S_{\text{OO}}(Q) - 1] + 2c_{\text{Al}} c_{\text{O}} b_{\text{Al}} b_{\text{O}} [S_{\text{AlO}}(Q) - 1]$$

- Drewitt *et al.* 2012 *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109** 235501

Neutron diffraction with ^{44}Ca isotope substitution



Pseudobinary partial structure factors isolated using the scattering matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} S_{\text{CaCa}}(Q) - 1 \\ S_{\text{Ca}\mu}(Q) \\ S_{\mu\mu}(Q) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{\text{Ca}}^2 b_{44}^2 & 2c_{\text{Ca}} b_{44} & 1 \\ c_{\text{Ca}}^2 b_{\text{mix}}^2 & 2c_{\text{Ca}} b_{\text{mix}} & 1 \\ c_{\text{Ca}}^2 b_{\text{nat}}^2 & 2c_{\text{Ca}} b_{\text{nat}} & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \times \begin{bmatrix} {}^{44}\text{F}(Q) \\ \text{mix F}(Q) \\ \text{nat F}(Q) \end{bmatrix}$$

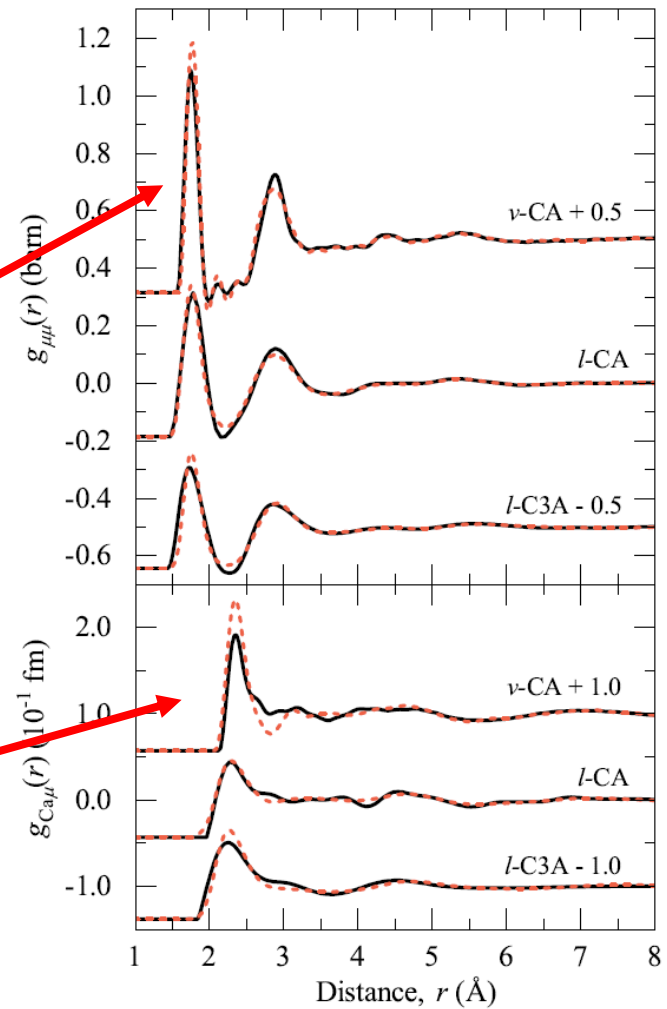
Real-space difference functions

Eliminate correlations involving Ca

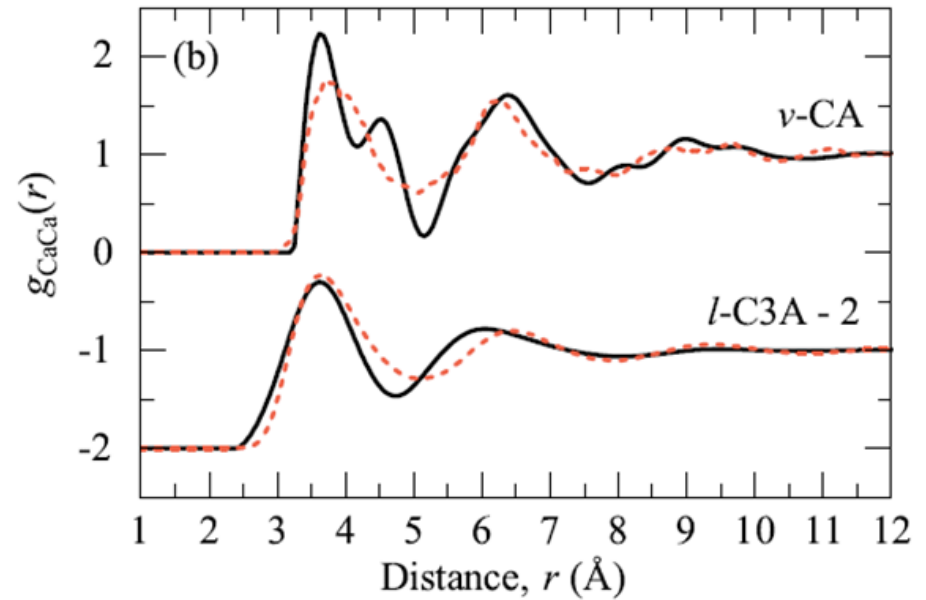
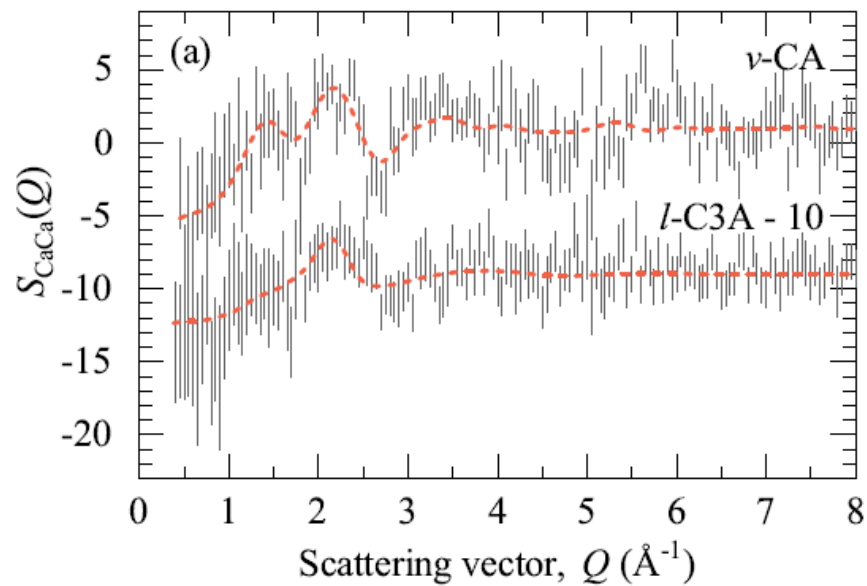
$$g_{\mu\mu}(r) = c_{\text{Al}}^2 b_{\text{Al}}^2 [g_{\text{AlAl}}(r) - 1] \\ + c_{\text{O}}^2 b_{\text{O}}^2 [S_{\text{OO}}(Q) - 1] \\ + 2c_{\text{Al}}c_{\text{O}}b_{\text{Al}}b_{\text{O}} [S_{\text{AlO}}(Q) - 1]$$

Eliminate correlations not involving Ca

$$g_{\text{Ca}\mu}(r) = c_{\text{Al}}b_{\text{Al}} [g_{\text{CaAl}}(r) - 1] \\ + c_{\text{O}}b_{\text{O}} [g_{\text{CaO}}(r) - 1]$$

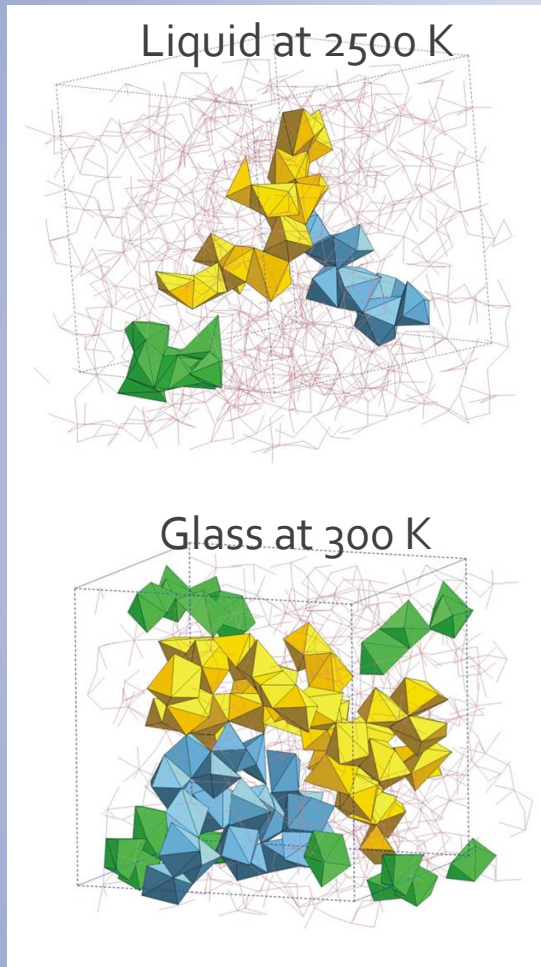


Direct extraction of the Ca-Ca correlations



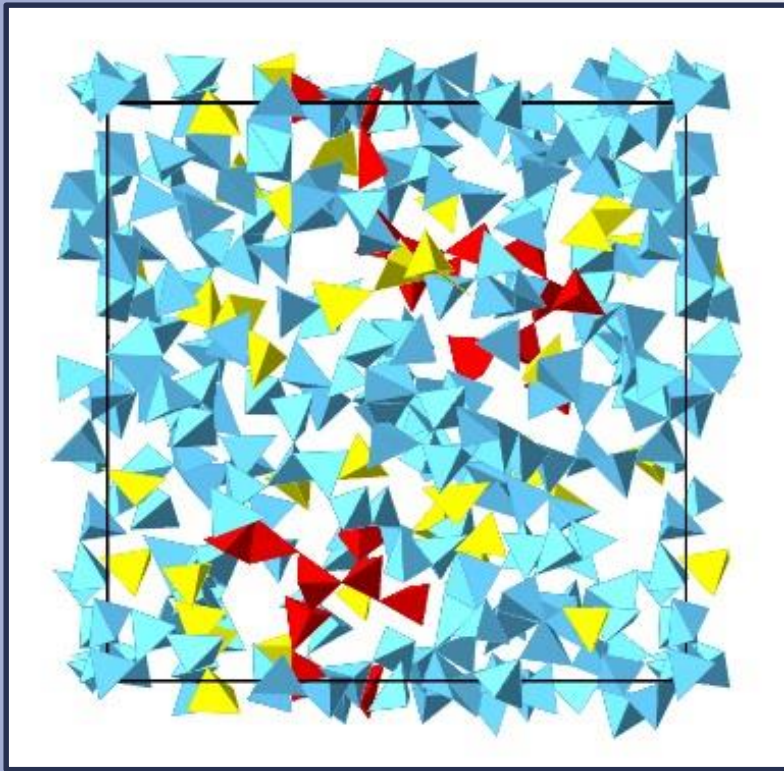
- $S_{\text{CaCa}}(Q)$ and $g_{\text{CaCa}}(r)$ isolated for equimolar CA glass and C₃A liquid
- Very small samples (~ 3 mm): first double difference function for oxide liquid

Structural reorganization on multiple length scales



- AlO_5 and oxygen triclusters present in the liquid
- On glass formation, these breakdown to form almost entirely corner shared tetrahedral glass network
- Accompanied by an increase in medium range order, associated with development of chains of edge and face shared Ca-centered polyhedra in glass
- Although CaAl_2O_4 liquid breaks Zachariasen's rules, on vitrification it forms a tetrahedral corner shared network

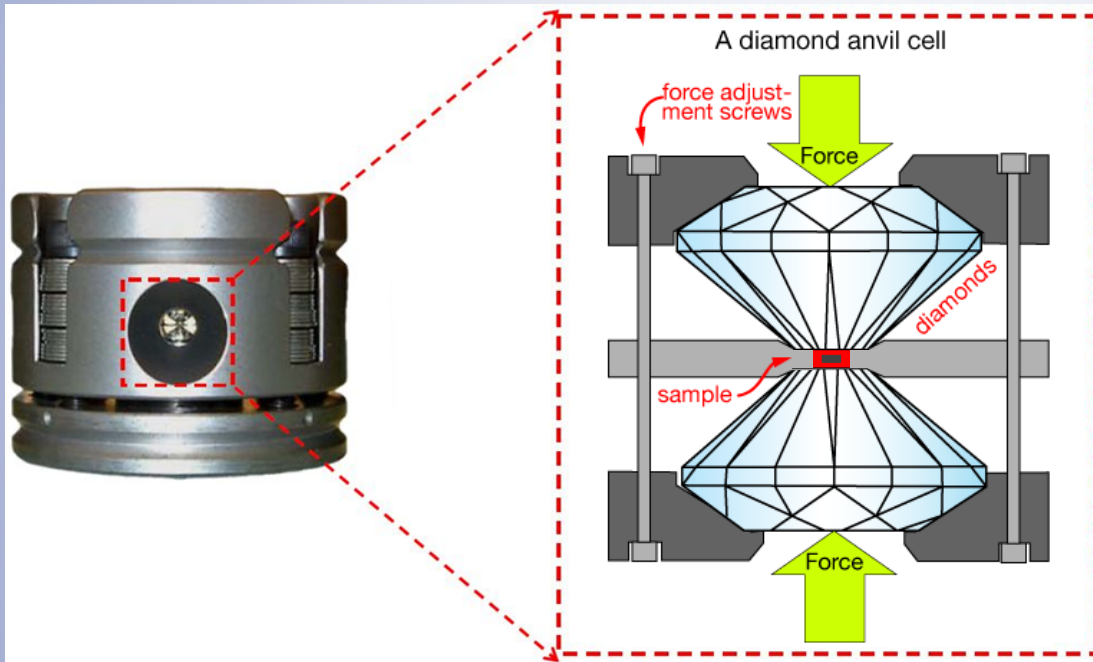
AlO_4 liquid network structure



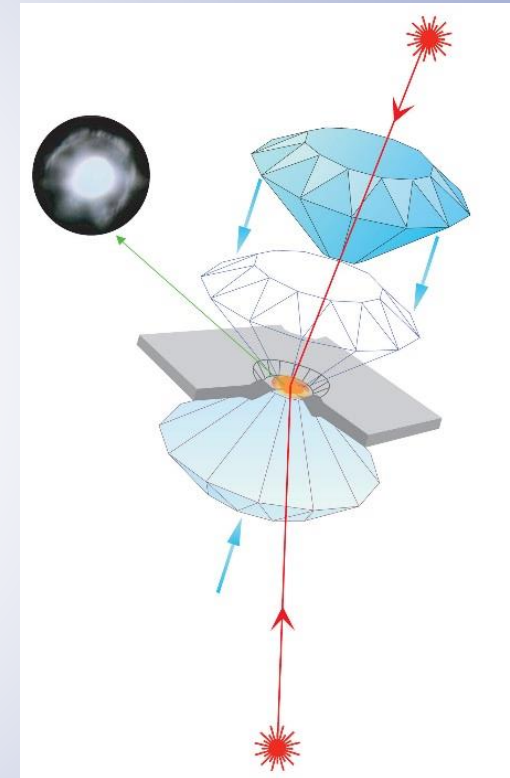
- Although depolymerised composition, liquid $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$ largely composed of AlO_4 tetrahedra forming infinite network
- Around 10 % unconnected AlO_4 monomers and Al_2O_7 dimers
- With increasing CaO concentration, number of isolated units increases, thus C₃A composition represents a threshold beyond which glass can no longer support infinitely connected network

Aluminate liquids and glasses at high-pressure

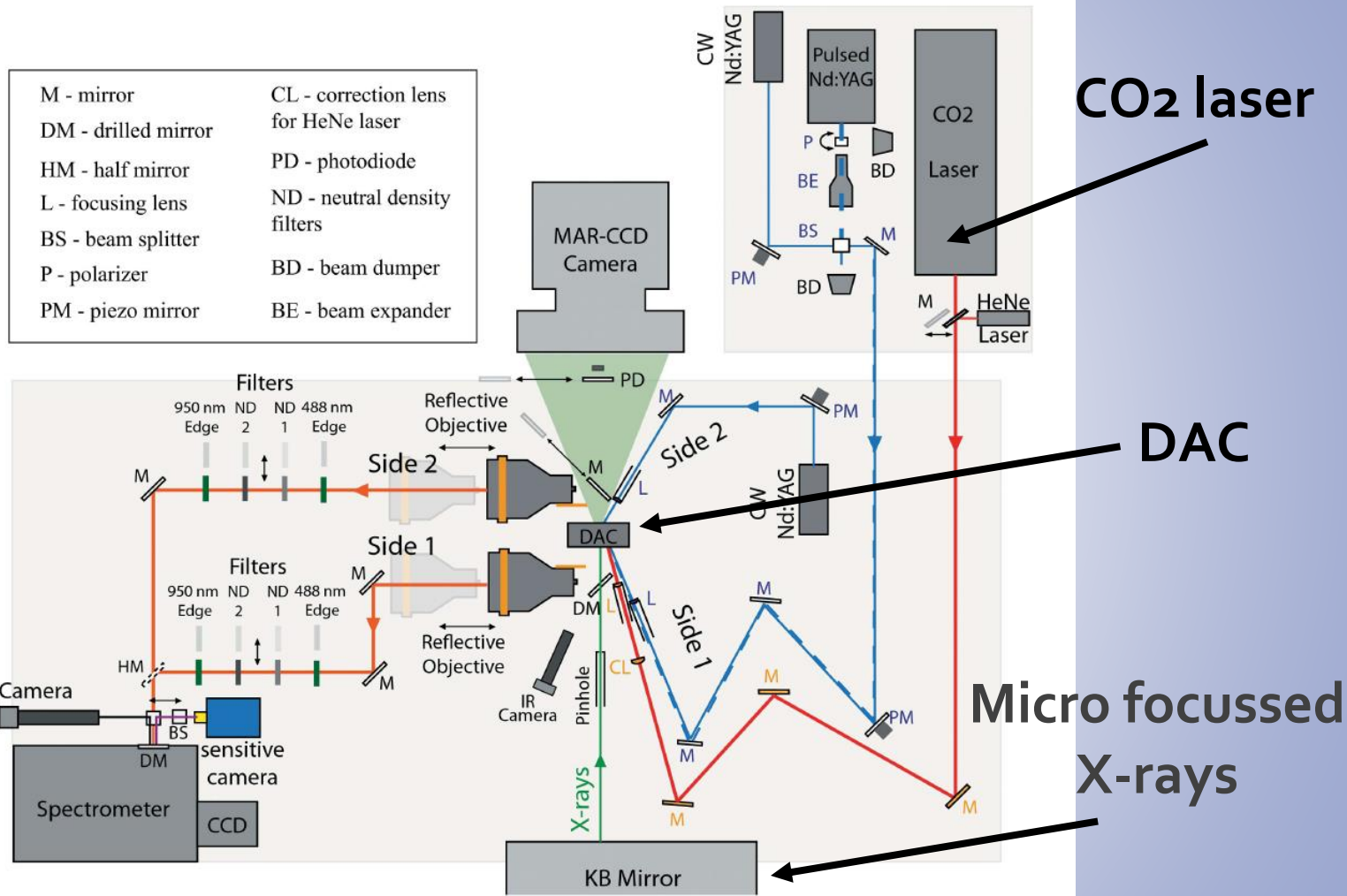
Diamond Anvil Cell (DAC)



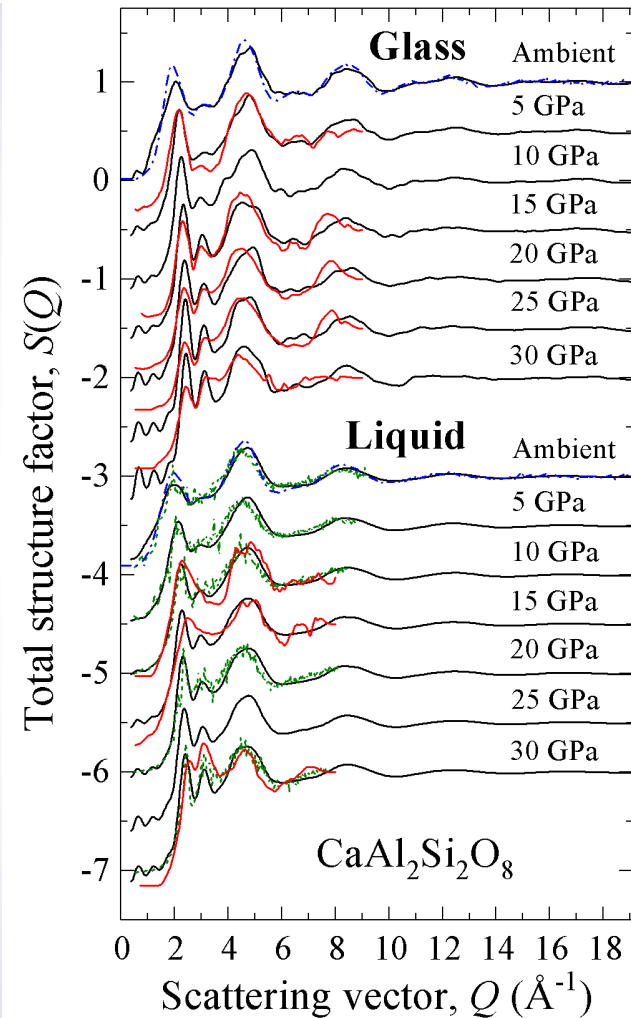
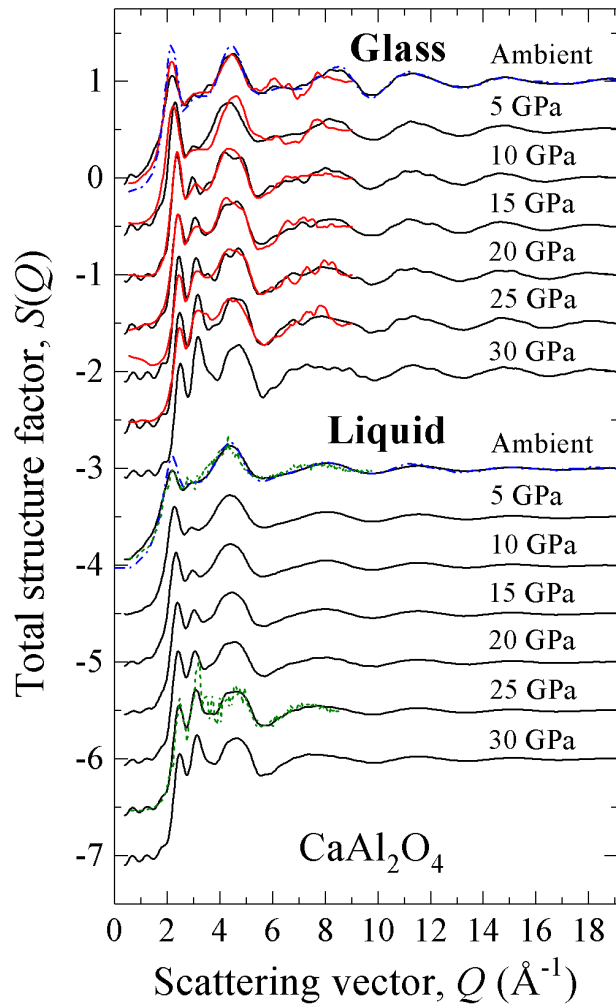
Laser heating



Beamline ID27 - ESRF

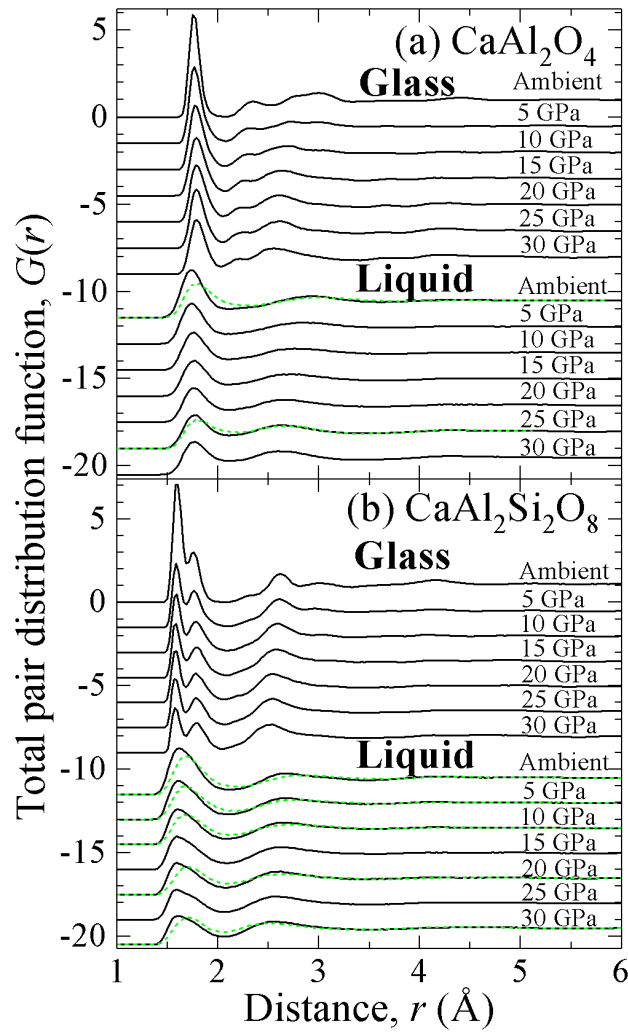
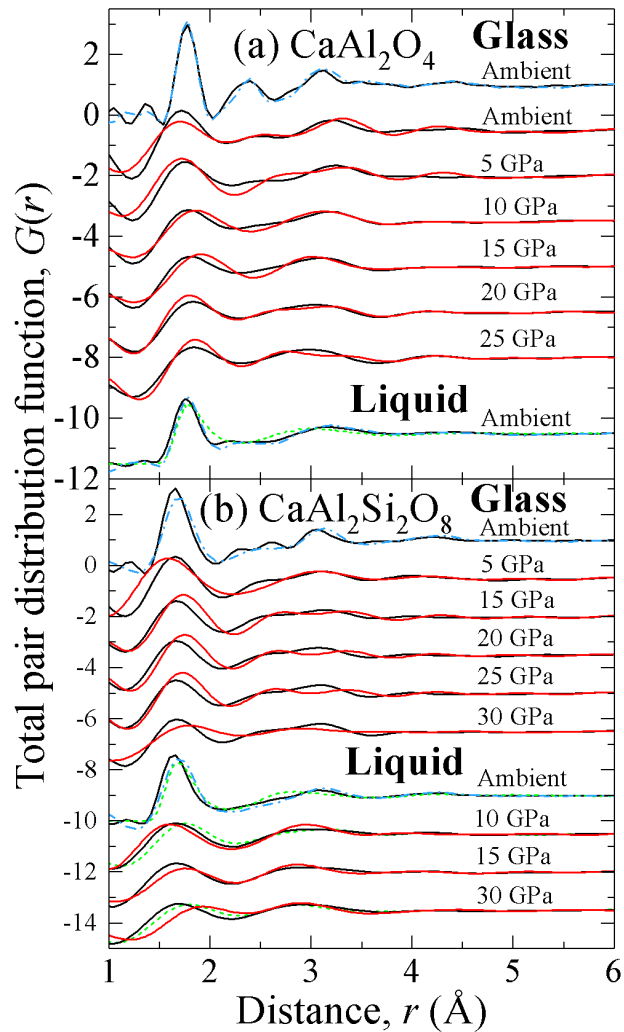


High pressure x-ray structure factors



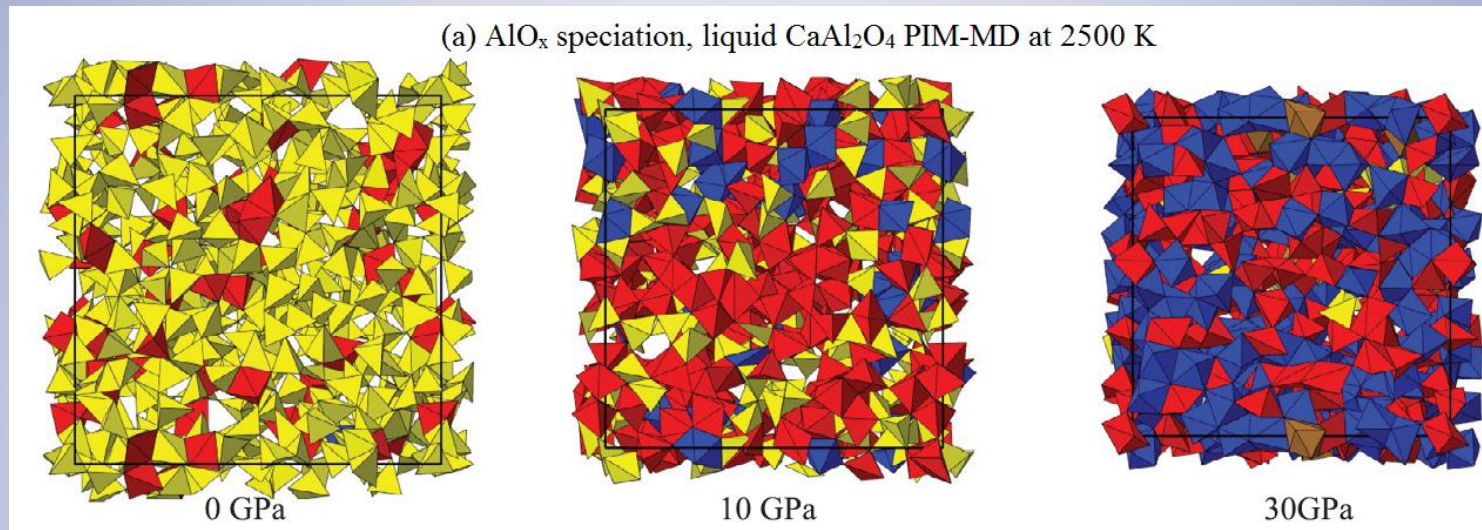
- Drewitt *et al.* 2015 *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **27** 105103

High pressure pair distribution functions



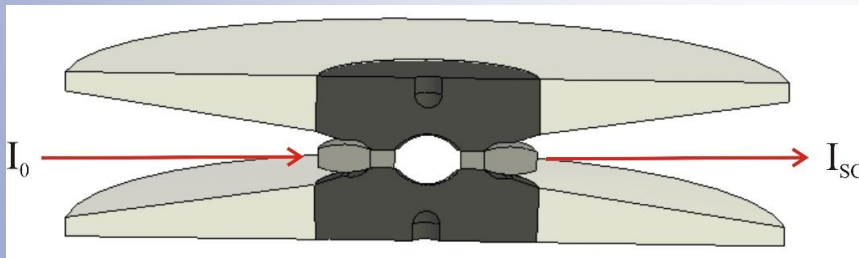
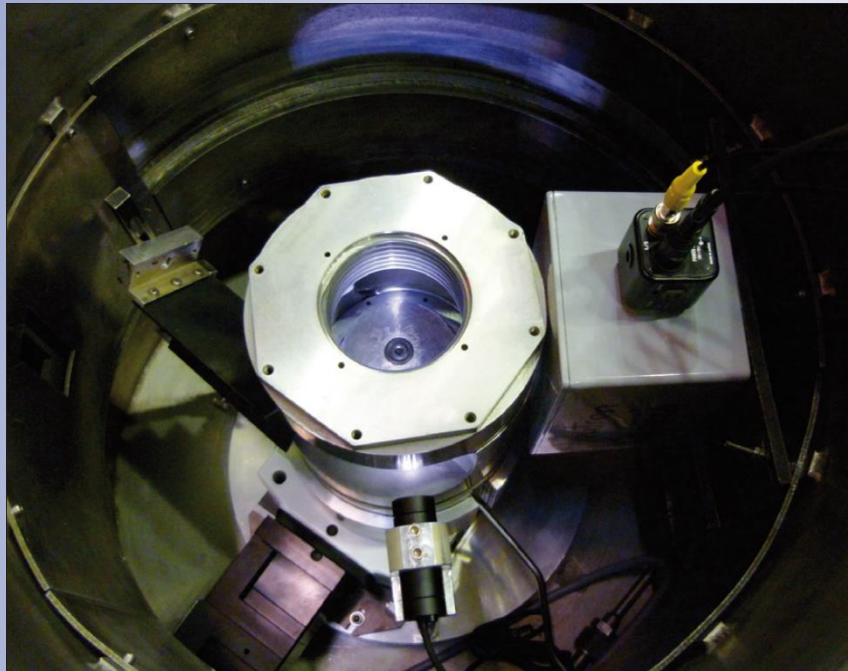
- Drewitt *et al.* 2015 *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **27** 105103

Al-O coordination and clustering with pressure

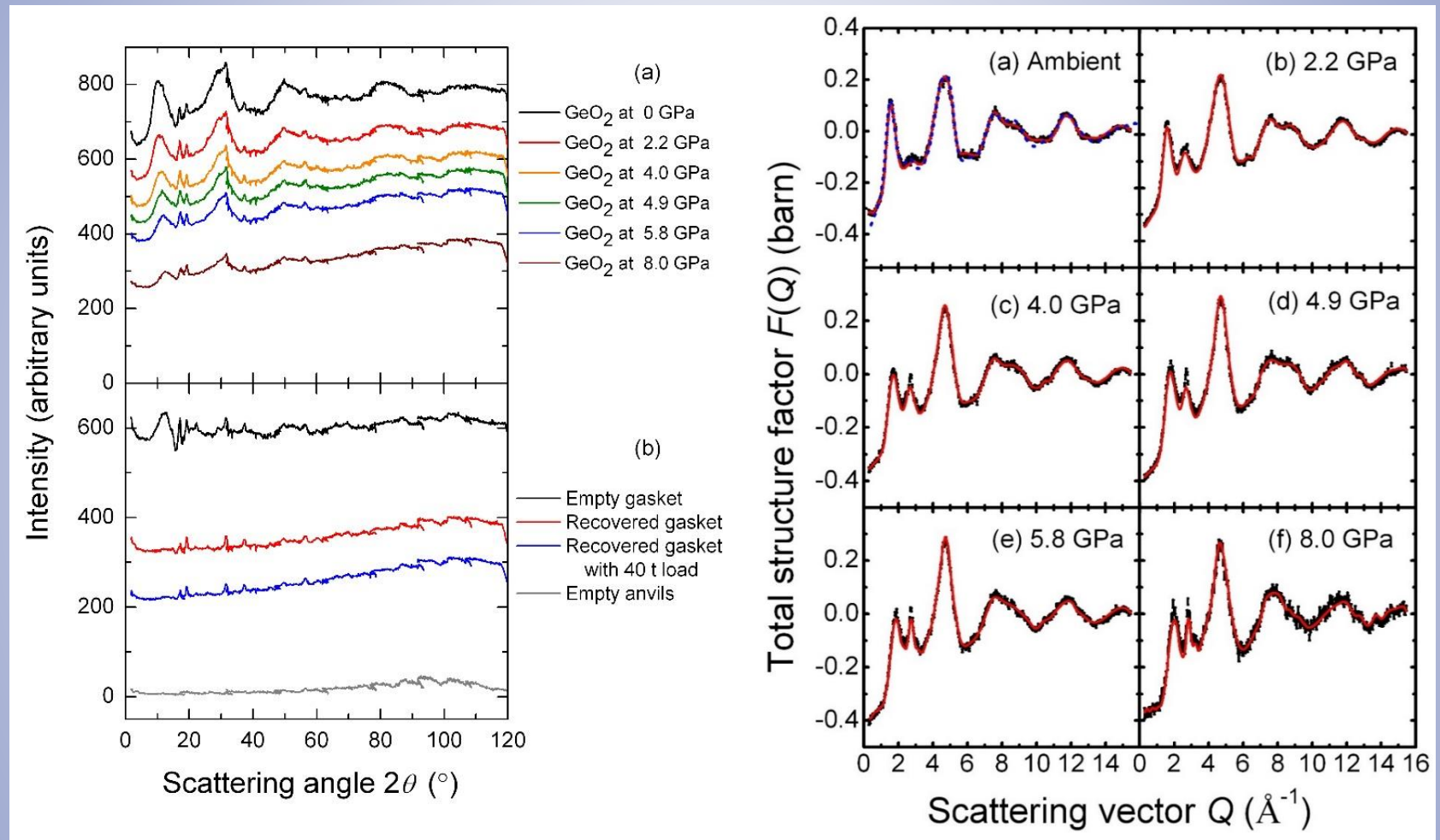


- Ambient pressure: structure is strongly determined by chemical ordering arising from network forming Al-O / Si-O tetrahedra (**yellow**).
- Elevated pressure: relatively open network structure is compressed and the Al and Si coordination increases. AlO_6 units (**blue**) become increasingly dominant above 15 GPa.
- Development of topological ordering: more closely packed structure, increase in O-O coordination number consistent with closely packed hard spheres.

High pressure neutron diffraction with isotope substitution

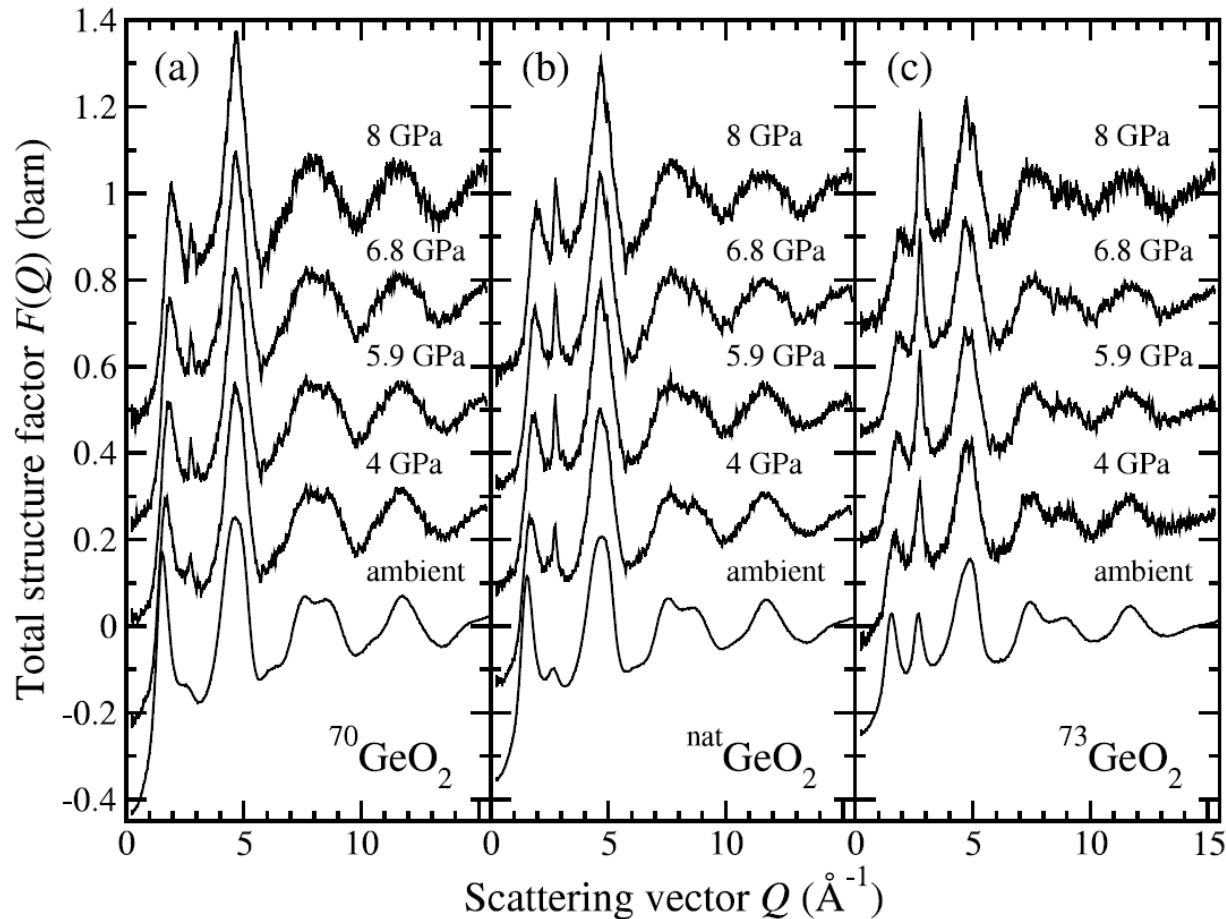


High pressure neutron diffraction with isotope substitution



• Drewitt *et al.* 2010 *Phys. Rev. B* **81** 014202

High pressure neutron diffraction with isotope substitution

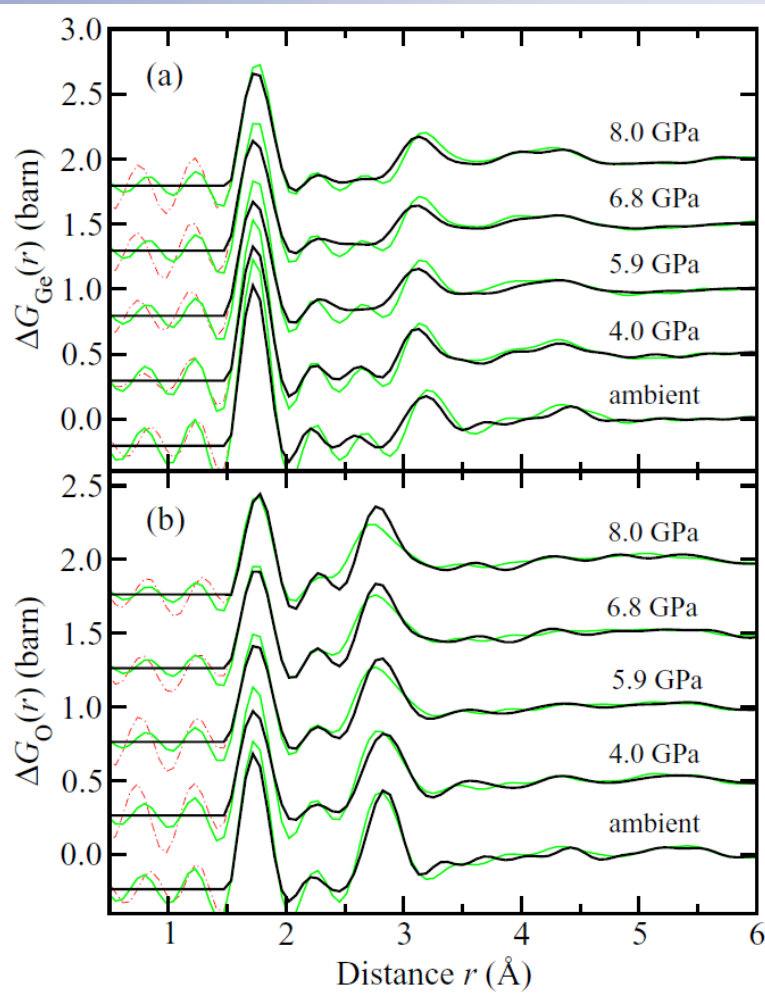


Contrast in neutron scattering lengths

- $b(^{73}\text{Ge}) = 5.02(4)$ fm
- $b(\text{nat Ge}) = 8.185(20)$ fm
- $b(^{70}\text{Ge}) = 10.0(1)$ fm

■ Wezka et al. 2012 *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **24** 502101

High pressure neutron diffraction with isotope substitution

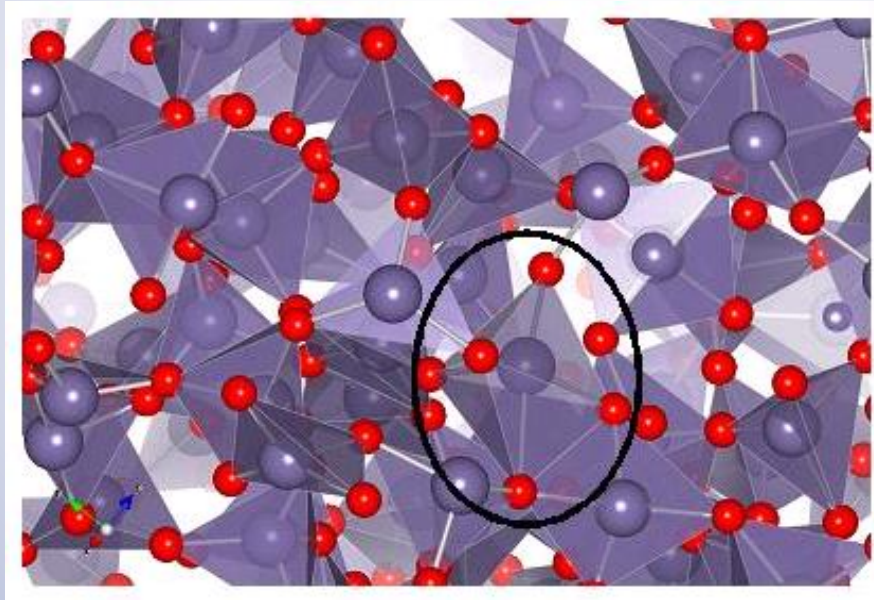


- Rigorous constraint for MD models
- DIPole-Polarisable Ion Model (DIPPI) only model in quantitative agreement with experiment

■ Wezka *et al.* 2012 *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **24** 502101

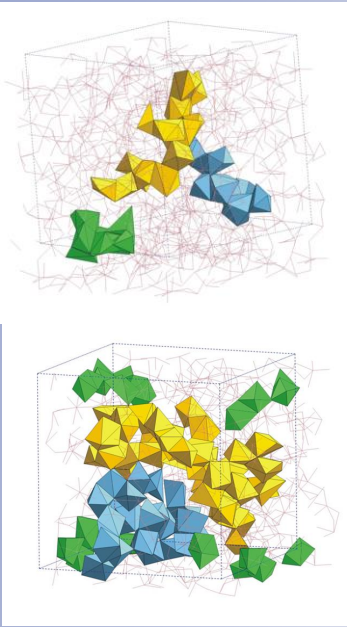
High pressure neutron diffraction with isotope substitution

- Results consistent with operation of two densification mechanisms:
- (1) Collapse of open network structure of corner-linked tetrahedra at low P – evidenced by reduction and shift in first sharp diffraction peak
- (2) > 5 GPa, transformation of tetrahedra to higher coordinations



5-fold polyhedra
play an essential
role in P -driven
transformations

Summary I: NDIS on small levitated liquid calcium aluminates

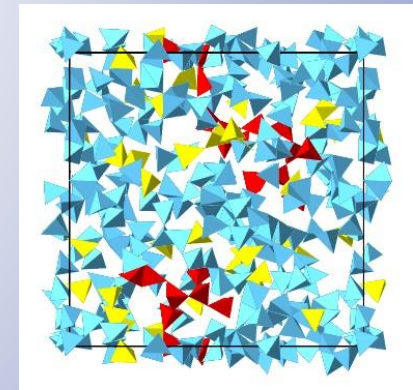


Equimolar CaAl_2O_4

- Liquid breaks Zachariasen's rules
- Undergoes structural reorganisation on quenching: Breakdown of AlO_5 oxygen triclusters to form corner-shared tetrahedral AlO_4 network structure
- Accompanied by changes in medium range order via formation of edge- and face-shared chains of Ca-centred polyhedra.

Glass forming end member $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$

- liquid consists mostly of tetrahedral AlO_4 network
- Represents a threshold, above which isolated AlO_4 monomers or Al_2O_7 dimers prevents formation of infinitely connected network.



Summary II: Al coordination change at high pressure

Al coordination change at high pressure

- Strong chemical ordering at ambient P : $\text{AlO}_4 + \text{SiO}_4$
- AlO_5 dominant at ~ 10 GPa followed by AlO_6 by 30 GPa
- At 30 GPa, Ca+Al ions form large clusters of edge- or face-sharing polyhedra
- O-O coordination from 9 to 11 at 10 GPa: consistent with random close packing of hard spheres
- Pressures within accessibility region for Paris-Edinburgh press: neutron diffraction with isotope substitution...

