

# **Assessing Short-range order using total scattering and RMC**

## **- methods, challenges and opportunities**

15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

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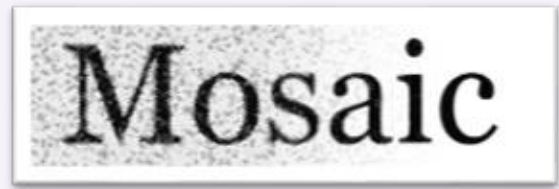
**Dr Lewis Owen**

Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow  
Lecturer in Metallurgy



**Royal Academy  
of Engineering**

# MOSAIC Group – University of Sheffield

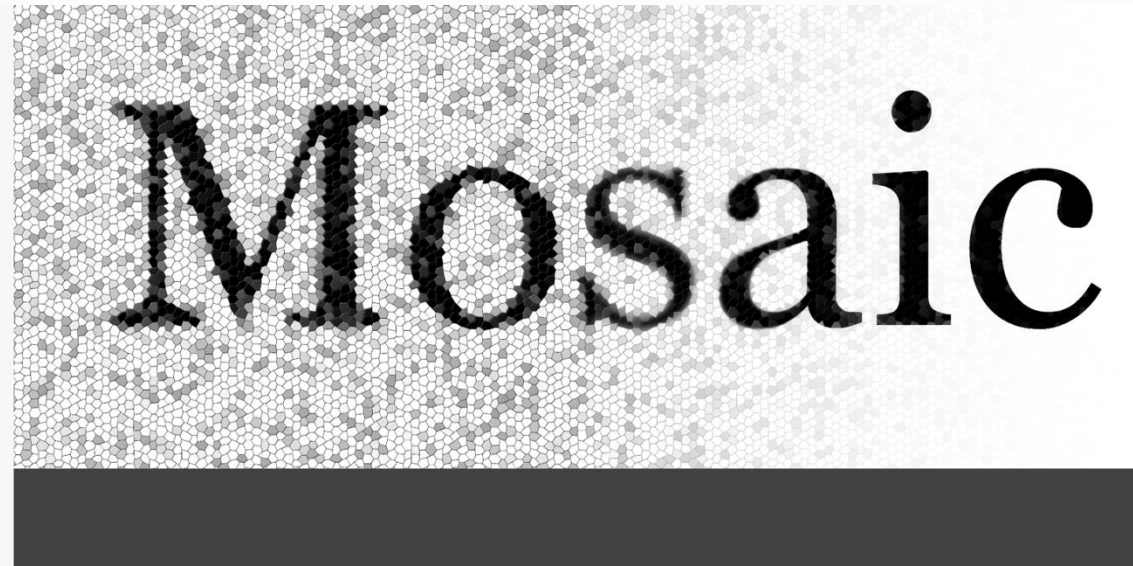
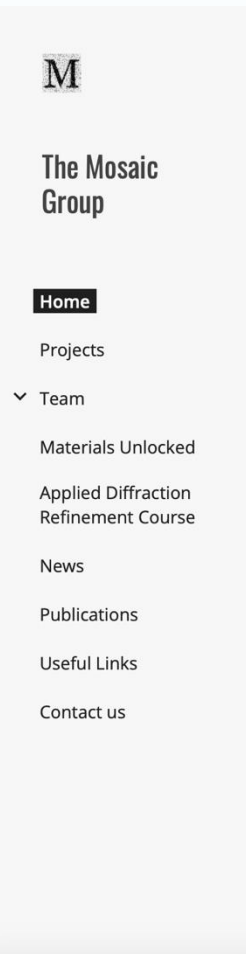




# MOSAIC Group



## Materials Ordering and Structure : Analysis, Investigation and Characterisation Group

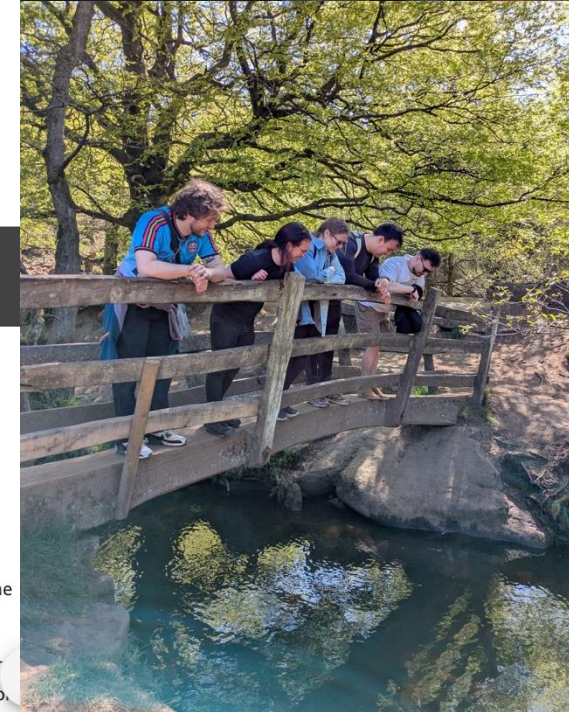


## WELCOME!!

### OUR WORK

We are the **Mosaic (Materials Ordering and Structure : Analysis, Investigation and Characterisation) Group** from the Department of Material Science and Engineering at the University of Sheffield.

① The group works on aspects of exploring structure-property links in materials, with a particular focus on local-structure determination and the study of alloy systems. A key component of this is the development of novel methodologies for characterisation using X-ray and Neutron scattering techniques. For more information about the group, please visit our website.

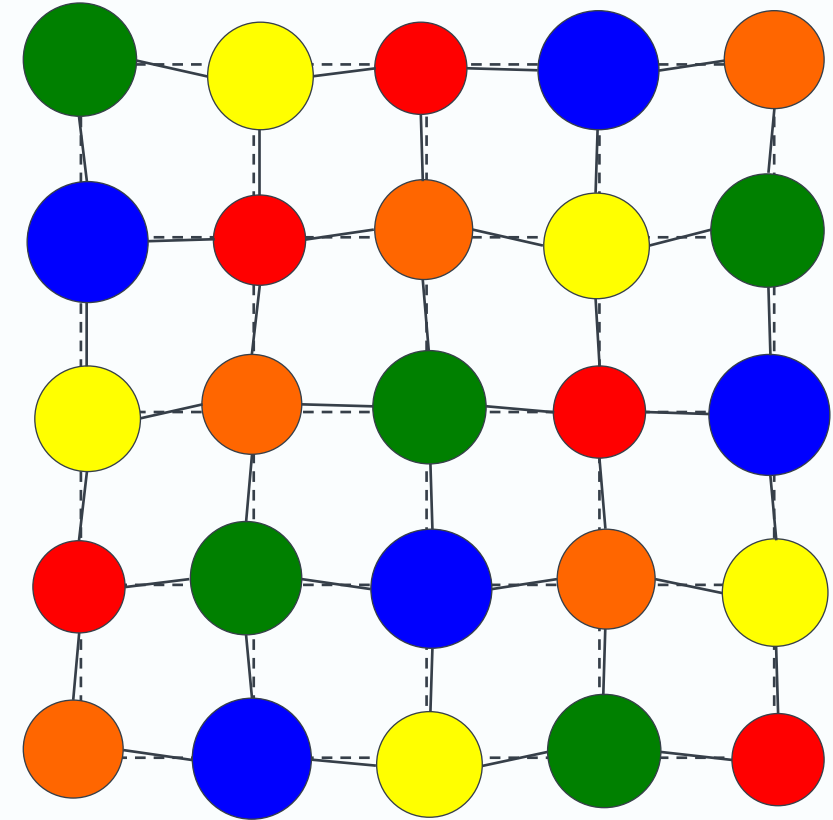
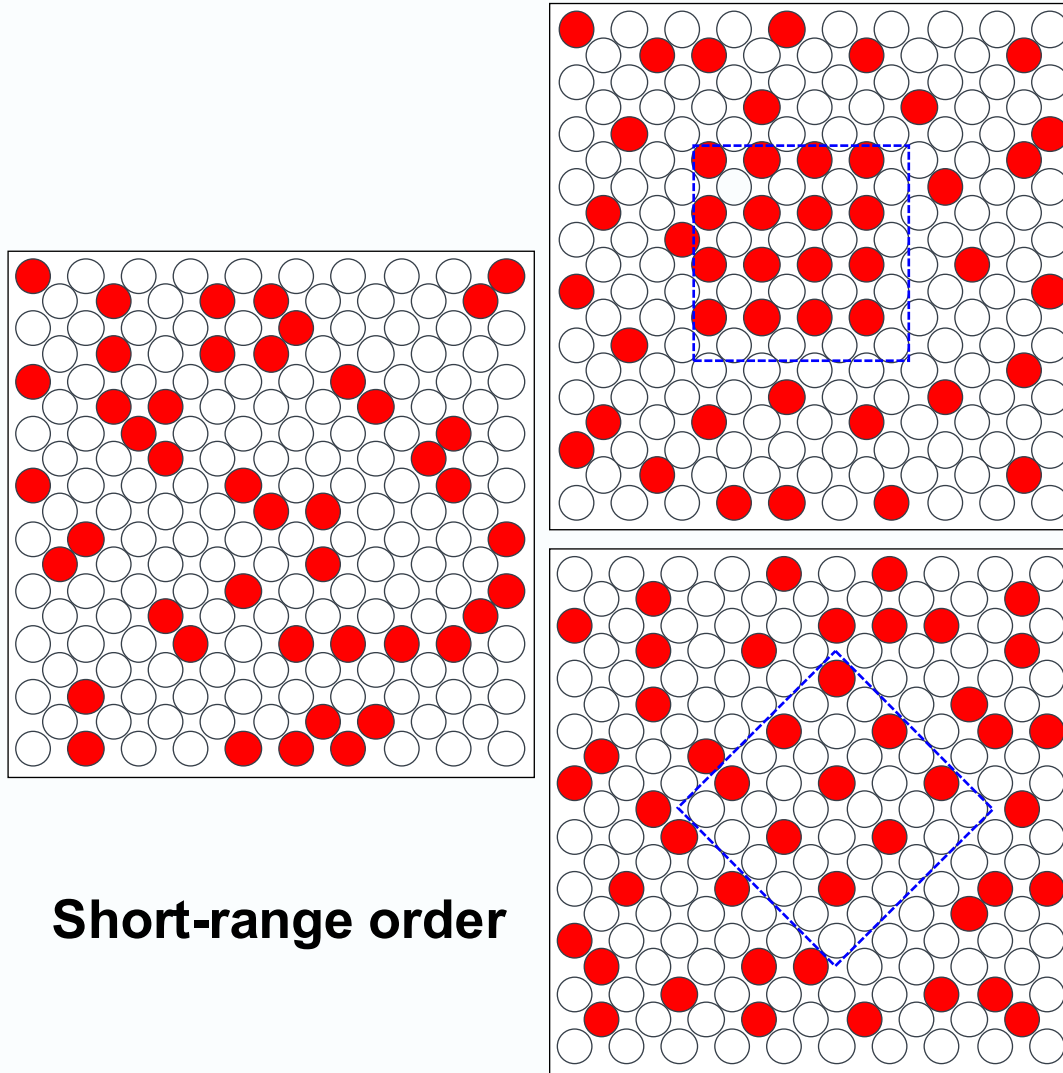


Chapter 1

# Short-Range Order in alloys

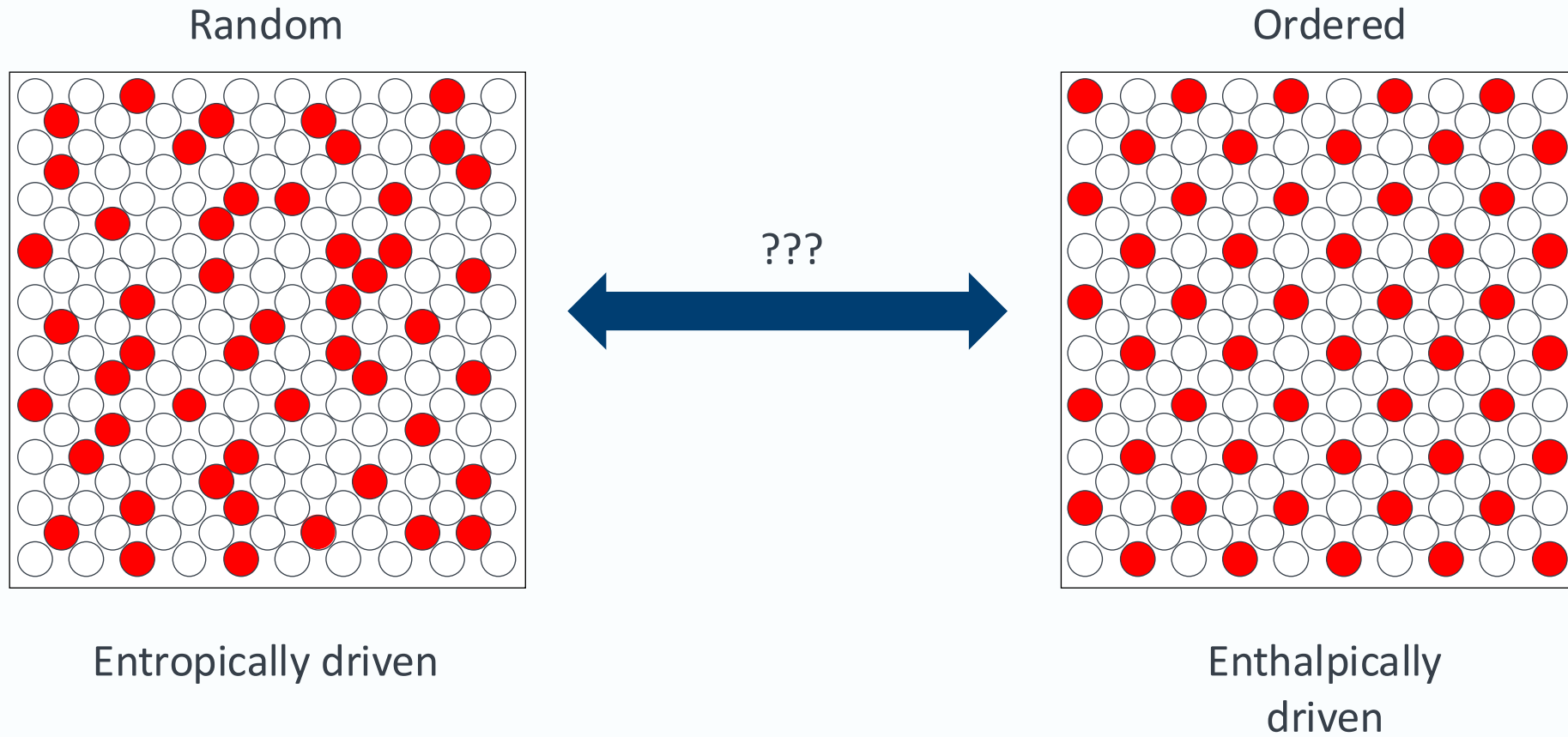


# Local Structure in alloy systems



**Local lattice distortion**

# Ordered and Random structures





# Models of Short range order

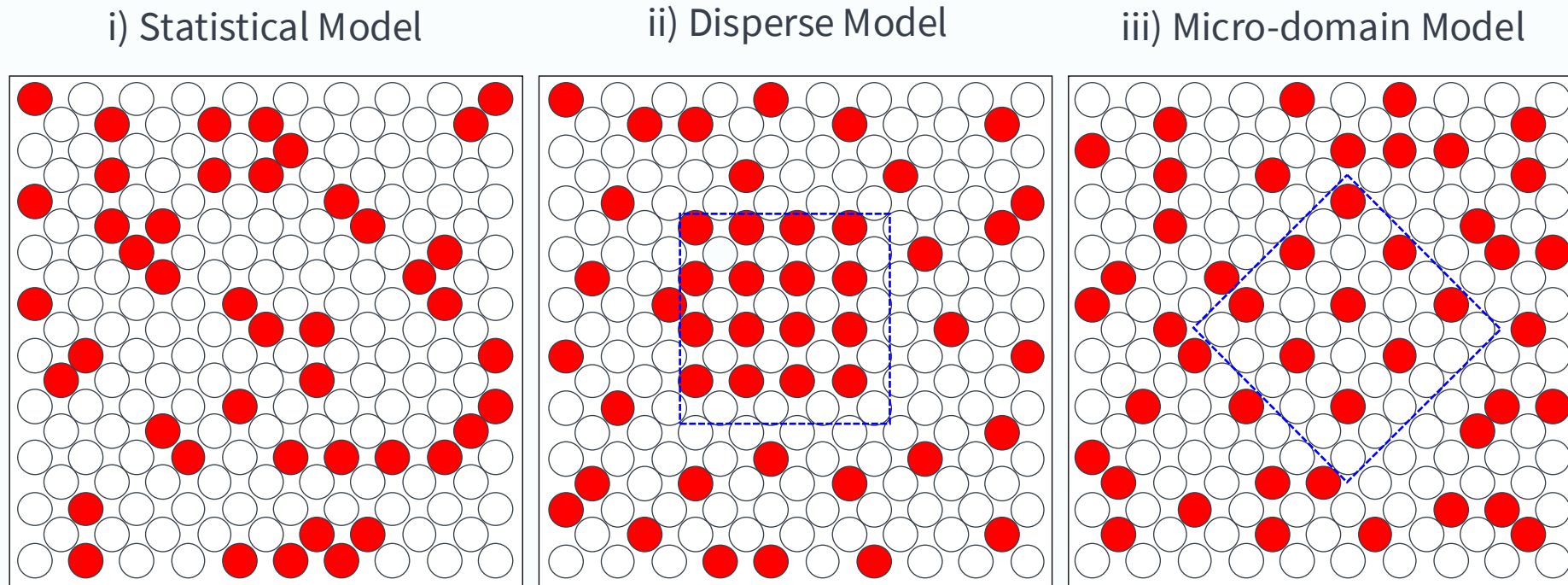


Fig. 6 – Models of the different types of short range order (SRO) that can occur in a system. From left to right they are the statistical model, the disperse model and the micro-domain model. The blue boxes indicate the small regions of LRO in the system. All the models are 25% red atoms, 75% white.

# Original studies of local structure in alloys

Mosaic

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 5

MARCH 1, 1950

## An Approximate Theory of Order in Alloys<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

J. M. COWLEY<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

*Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

(Received October 26, 1949)

Short-range order parameters  $\alpha_i$  are defined to express the interaction of a given atom in an alloy with the atoms of the  $i$ th shell of atoms surrounding it. From simple thermodynamic reasoning, involving a certain degree of approximation, equations relating the  $\alpha_i$  with energy terms and the temperature are derived. Equations for the long-range order parameter,  $S$ , are obtained by considering the limiting case of  $i$  very large. The values of the long- and short-range order parameters obtained by solving these equations

Zeitschrift für Physik, Bd. 129, S. 219—232 (1951).

## Über Widerstandslegierungen<sup>\*</sup>.

Von

HANS THOMAS, Hanau.

(Mitteilung aus dem Laboratorium der Vacuumschmelze AG.)

Mit 15 Figuren im Text.

(Eingegangen am 16. Dezember 1950.)

Eine Reihe von Legierungen, die aus primären Mischkristallen bestehen und wenigstens ein Übergangsmetall als Komponente enthalten, zeigt als Besonderheiten, daß die Widerstand-Temperaturkurve S-förmig gekrümmt ist und daß der Widerstand im weichen und im harten Zustand durch Wärmebehandlung bei niedrigen Temperaturen ansteigt und durch Kaltverformung erniedrigt wird. Dieses Verhalten läßt sich darauf zurückführen, daß sich bei niedrigen Temperaturen ein ganz bestimmter Zustand ausbildet, der sich durch erhöhten elektrischen Wider-

614

H. G. Baer: Überstruktur und K-Zustand im System Nickel-Chrom

Z. Metallkde.

## Überstruktur und K-Zustand im System Nickel-Chrom<sup>\*)\*\*</sup>

Von Hans Günter Baer in Hanau a.M.

(Aus dem Laboratorium der Vacuumschmelze AG., Hanau)

*Versuchsdurchführung — Röntgenographischer Nachweis der Ordnungsphase  $Ni_3Cr$  — Existenzgebiet von  $Ni_3Cr$  und Bildungskinetik — Neubestimmung der Löslichkeitslinie für Chrom in Nickel — Folgerungen*

Die homogenen Mischkristalle mancher Metalle, z. B. Nickel mit Chrom, Molybdän oder Aluminium, Eisen mit Aluminium, Kupfer mit Nickel, oder ternäre Legierungen, wie Nickel-Chrom-Eisen, Eisen-Aluminium-Chrom oder Kupfer-Nickel-Zink, zeigen Anomalien in ihren physikalischen Eigenschaften, für deren Charakterisierung sich nach dem Vorschlag von H. Thomas<sup>1)</sup> der Begriff K-Zustand eingebürgert hat. Nach der von ihm stammenden ausführlichen

gung bei einer Legierung, die 28 At.-% Cr enthielt und die nach einer Vorglühung längere Zeit in der Gegend von 500° getempert worden war, eine Nahordnung nachzuweisen. Sie kommen zu dem Schluß, daß ein hoher Grad von Nahordnung nicht vorhanden sein kann.

Die Verknüpfung des K-Zustandes mit einer Änderung des Auffüllungsgrades der inneren Elektronenschalen im Sinne eines Elektronenrücktritts allein

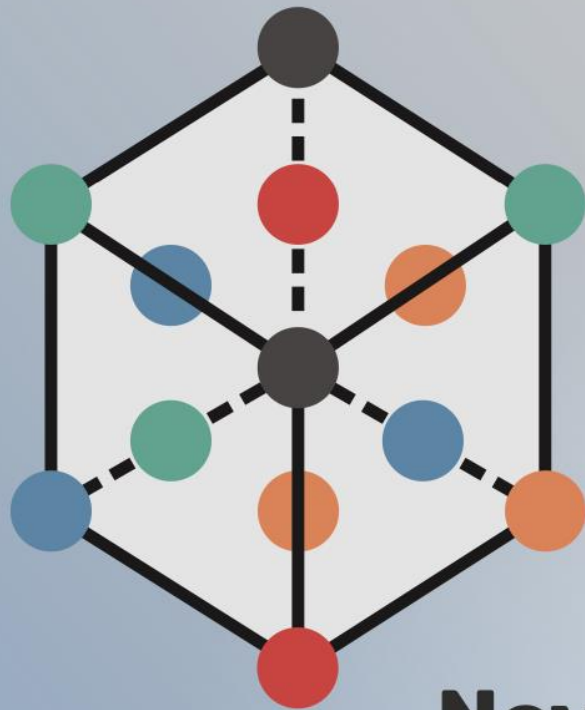


# Consequences



- Strengthening – variation in dislocation motion due to ordering and lattice distortion effects combined
- Electrical resistivity
- Magnetic properties
- Thermodynamic discontinuities
- Corrosion resistance
- Radiation damage

# 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress in High Entropy Alloys



3rd WORLD CONGRESS ON  
**HIGH ENTROPY ALLOYS**  
**HEA2023**

**November 12-15, 2023**

Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA



# 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress in High Entropy Alloys

# Mosaic

9:05 AM Invited  
**Short Range Order and the Evolution in the CrCoNi Medium Entropy Alloy**

California-Berkeley  
This talk will describe the evolution of short range order and nanomechanical multiscale deformation alloy. In order to understand the evolution of 4D-STEM was used in experiments. 4D diffraction analysis was performed strain in situ deformation then correlated to examine both the microstructure via electron microscopy (EM).

9:35 AM  
**Understanding Short Range Order in CrCoNi**  
Xin V. Tang, Timothy J. Schmitz, University of California, Berkeley

3:15 PM  
**Capturing Short-range Order in High-entropy Alloys with Machine Learning Potentials**  
Yifan Cao<sup>1</sup>; Killian Sheriff<sup>1</sup>; Rodrigo Freitas<sup>1</sup>; Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Chemical short-range order (cSRO) is recently reported to strongly influence the mechanical properties of various high-entropy alloys (HEA). However, the intricate nature of cSRO has made it challenging for current machine-learning potentials (MLP) to capture this feature, and many proposed approaches lack quantitative performance on this task. We propose a generalized framework for capturing short-range order in high-entropy alloys (HEAs) by learning the relationship between processing, structure, and properties in HEAs. This approach leads to a quantitative characterization of the cSRO state and provides a predictive framework for evaluation of HEAs.

11:15 AM

**Diffuse Electron Scattering Reveals Kinetic Frustration as Origin of Order in CoCrNi Medium Entropy Alloy:** Annie Barnett<sup>1</sup>; Mitra Taheri<sup>1</sup>; Michael Falk<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins University

2:55 PM

**Quantitative Assessment of Local Chemical Ordering in Atomistic Simulations of High-entropy Alloys:** Killian Sheriff<sup>1</sup>; Yifan Cao<sup>1</sup>; Rodrigo Freitas<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology

High-entropy alloys (HEAs) exhibit exceptionally good combinations of properties recently reported to correlate with chemical short-range ordering (cSRO). However, in atomistic simulations, their state of cSRO has only been so far characterized using the Warren-Cowley parameters. Yet, this approach is incomplete as distinct local atomic configurations sharing the same chemical concentration are indistinguishable. Here, we propose a generalized framework, based on graph-convolution neural networks equivariant to E(3) symmetry operations, statistical mechanics, and information theory, capable of completely identifying the set of distinct local atomic bonding environments and their associated population densities in HEAs. This approach leads to a quantitative characterization of the cSRO state and provides a predictive framework for evaluation of HEAs.

4:55 PM

**Atomic Representations of Local and Global Chemical Effects of Mechanical Strength:** Mitchell Wood<sup>1</sup>; Megan McCarthy<sup>1</sup>; Mary Alice Cusentino<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Sandia National Laboratories

Exceptional properties observed in complex concentrated alloys arise from the interplay between crystalline order and disorder at the atomic scale, complicating the quantification of properties. The base metallurgical argument is that observed strength is the maximization of solid solution strengthening effects, but is difficult to quantitatively address with experiments alone. Herein we present a quantum-accurate atomic potential (IAP) for use in molecular dynamics simulations with respect to size, time and chemical complexity. Furthermore, we use this IAP to quantify the relationship between inhomogeneous lattice strains and novel definitions of local chemical environment. We will highlight the improvement of this reduced order model over historical arguments of local atomic volume and element-wise attribution of strengthening in these complex alloys.

**Atom Approach for Simulating Refractory Alloys:** Chloe Zeller<sup>1</sup>; Ellad Tadmor<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>University of California, Berkeley

Refractory high-entropy alloys (RHEAs) are characterized by their high strength and are thus promising for aerospace applications, such as thermal protection materials on hypersonic vehicles. Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations are a powerful tool for predicting the thermomechanical response of these materials, but large simulations are required to obtain good statistics for local chemical fluctuations that can have a significant impact on properties. To reduce system size, we propose a new approach for simulating RHEAs by using a machine-learning potential (MLP) to capture the local chemical environment. This approach allows for the simulation of large systems with a high degree of accuracy, while maintaining a low computational cost.

8:55 AM

**Towards More Robust EXAFS Analysis for Quantifying Short Range Order in Multicomponent Alloys:** Brian DeCost<sup>1</sup>; Bruce Ravel<sup>1</sup>; McQueen<sup>2</sup>; Mitra Taheri<sup>2</sup>; Howie Jorress<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>National Institute of Standards and Technology; <sup>2</sup>Johns Hopkins University

Research has found that chemical short range order in high entropy alloys (HEAs) can play an important role on properties such as mechanical strength and corrosion resistance. EXAFS is a powerful measurement technique for quantifying this aspect of structure and chemistry; however, the complexity of EXAFS required for realistic analysis of multicomponent HEAs is a substantial barrier to obtaining meaningful insight. We present a principled Bayesian data analysis approach to EXAFS that improves its reliability. We also show a novel approach to incorporating physical constraints into EXAFS models, with a focusing on the short range order parameters in solid solutions. Our long term goal is to develop a framework that can drive adaptive measurement strategies for enabling comprehensive understanding of composition and short range order.

**Insights from Machine Learning:** Joao Carlos<sup>1</sup>; Angelo J. Field<sup>2</sup>; Michael Kaufman<sup>2</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Colorado School of Mines; <sup>2</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Machine Learning for Characterizing Short-range Order in High-entropy Alloys:** Rodrigo Freitas<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1:45 PM Invited

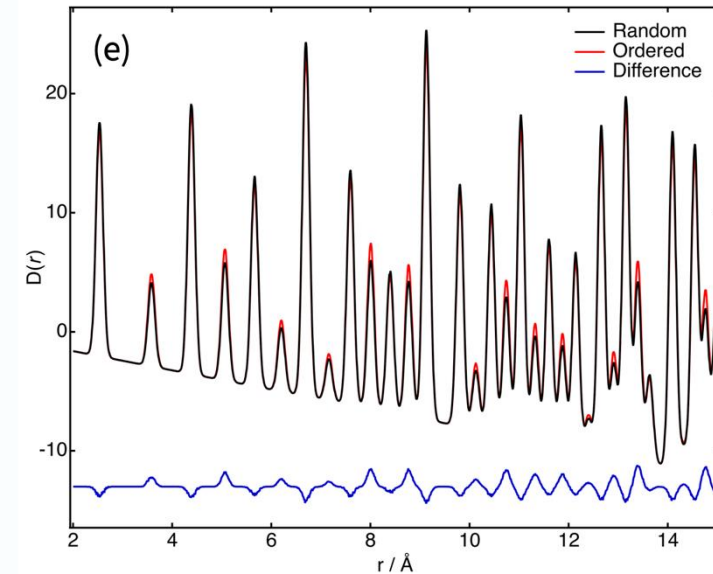
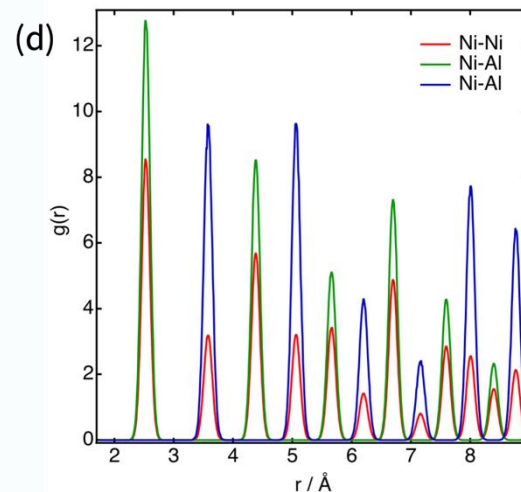
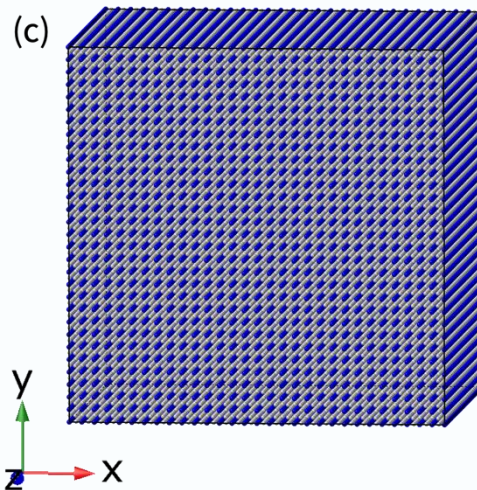
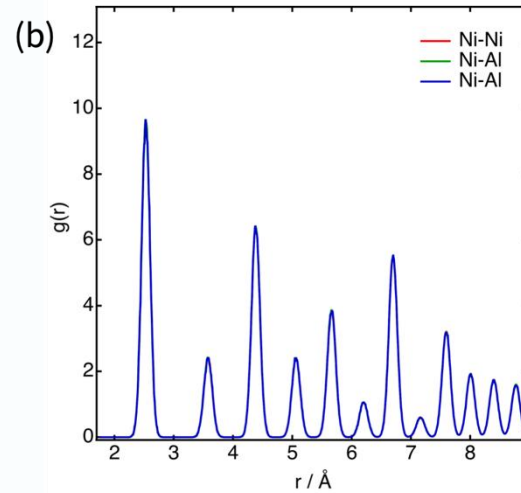
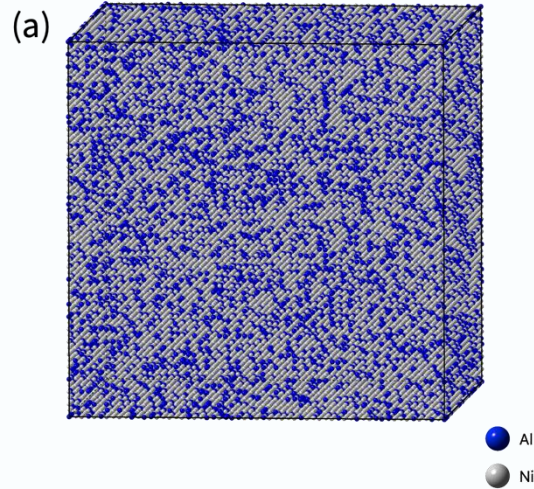
Complete characterization of short-range order is challenging to realize because of the sheer number of local chemical configurations that must be accounted for. Moreover, the chemical complexity of concentrated solid-solution phases is often described as "slightly less random than completely random", which does not translate easily into a physically intuitive and quantitative picture. In this talk I will introduce an approach that combines statistical mechanics and information theory with machine learning techniques to quantify the space of local chemical configurations available for high-entropy alloys. I will show that this approach provides a predictive framework for evaluation of short-range order in high-entropy alloys.

Chapter 2

# Applying total scattering to metallurgical systems



# What affect does the ordering have on the PDF?



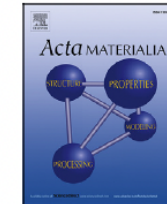




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Full length article

## A new approach to the analysis of short-range order in alloys using total scattering



L.R. Owen <sup>a, b</sup>, H.Y. Playford <sup>b, \*</sup>, H.J. Stone <sup>a</sup>, M.G. Tucker <sup>b, c, 1</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge, CB3 0FS, UK

<sup>b</sup> ISIS Facility, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0QX, UK

<sup>c</sup> Diamond Light Source Ltd, Harwell Science & Innovation Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0DE, UK

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### ABSTRACT

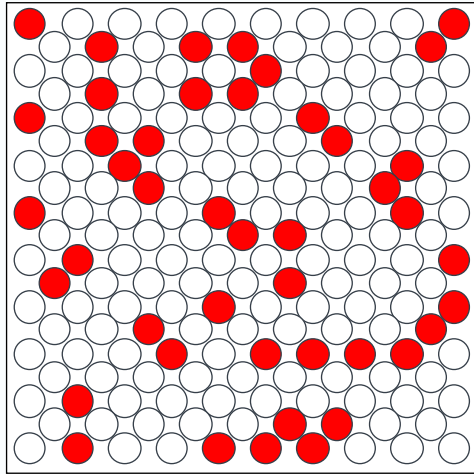
In spite of its influence on a number of physical properties, short-range order in crystalline alloys has received little recent attention, largely due to the complexity of the experimental methods involved. In this work, a novel approach that could be used for the analysis of ordering transitions and short-range order in crystalline alloys using total scattering and reverse Monte Carlo (RMC) refinements is presented. Calculated pair distribution functions representative of different types of short-range order are used to illustrate the level of information contained within these experimentally accessible functions and the insight into ordering which may be obtained using this new method. Key considerations in the acquisition of data of sufficient quality for successful analysis are also discussed. It is shown that the atomistic models obtained from RMC refinements may be analysed to identify directly the Clapp configurations that are present. It is further shown how these configurations can be enhanced compared with a random structure, and how their degradation pathways and the distribution of Warren-Cowley parameters, can then be used to obtain a detailed, quantitative structural description of the short-range order occurring in crystalline alloys.

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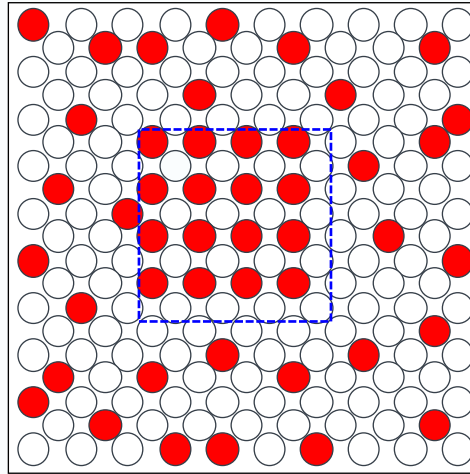
# Models of Short range order



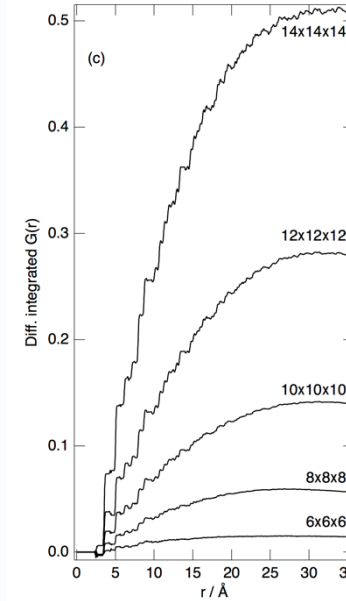
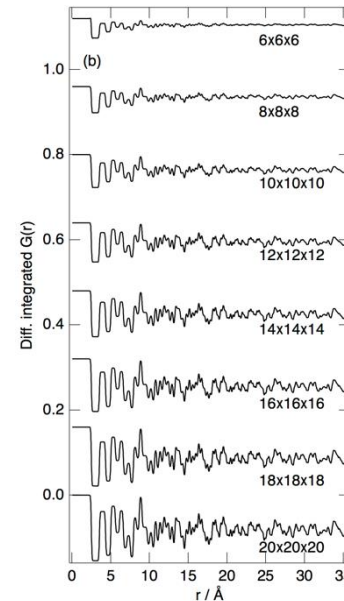
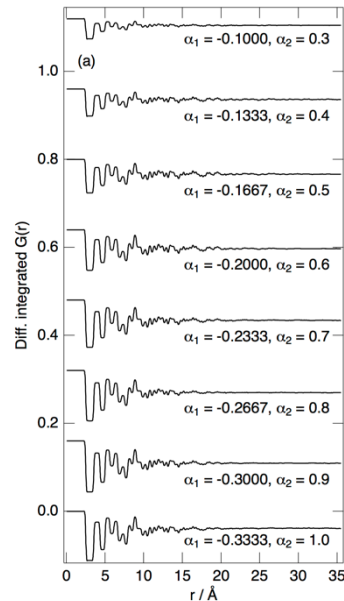
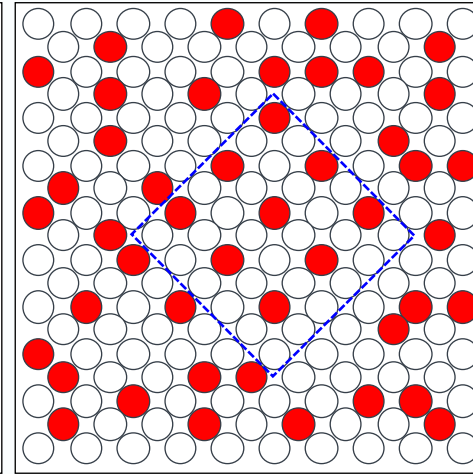
Statistical



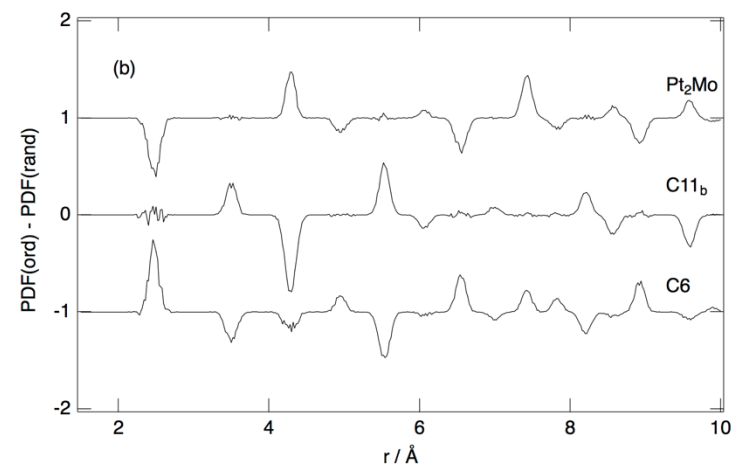
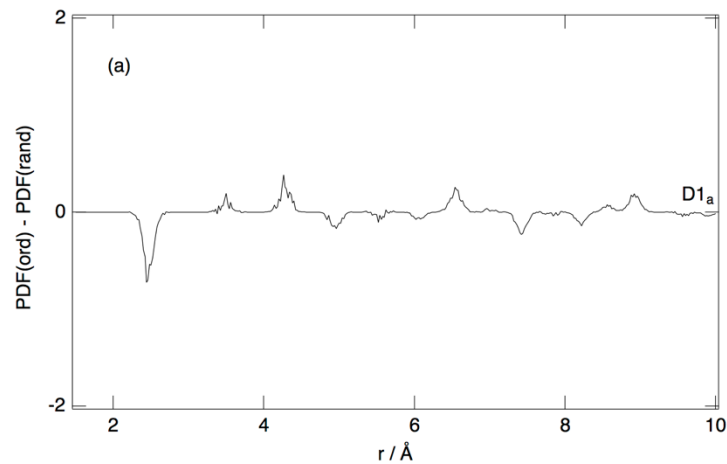
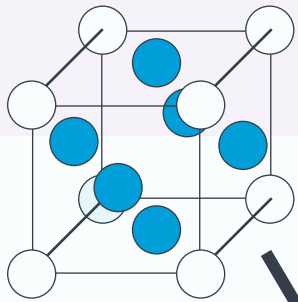
Disperse



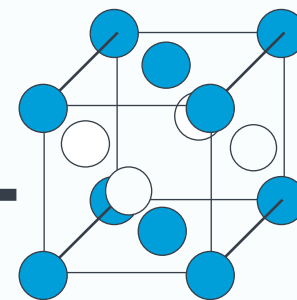
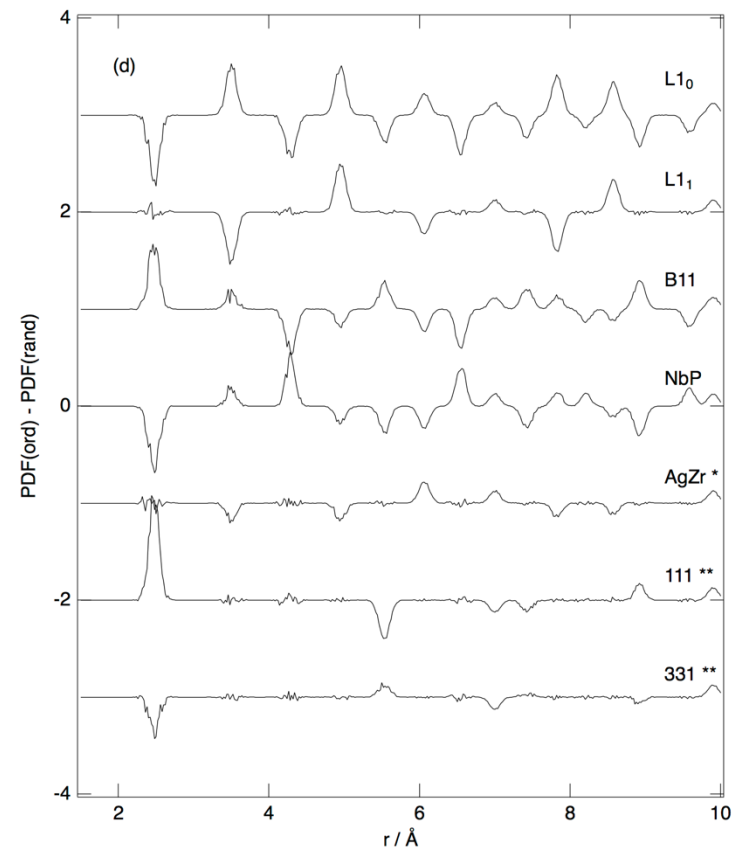
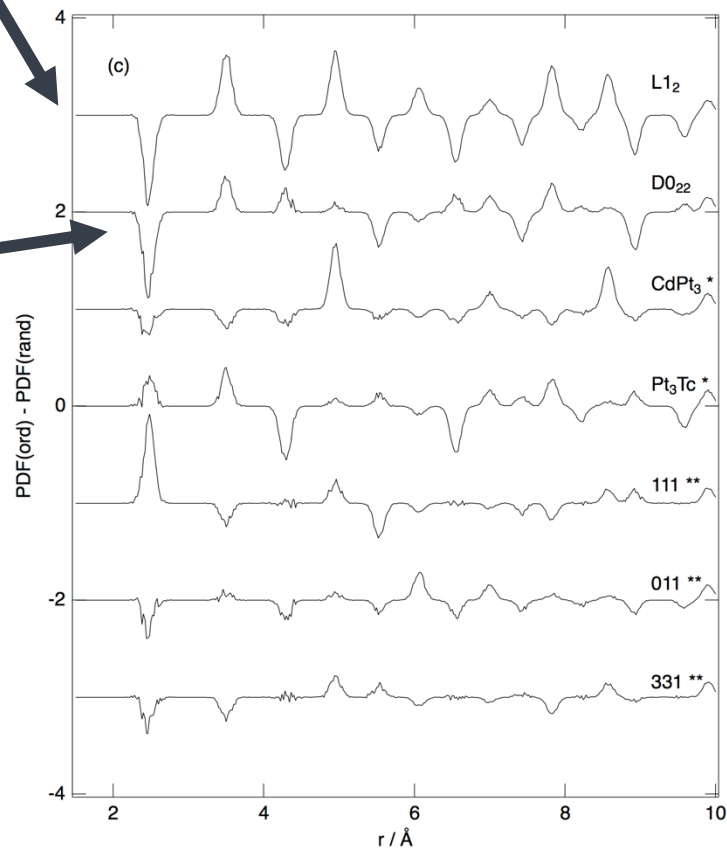
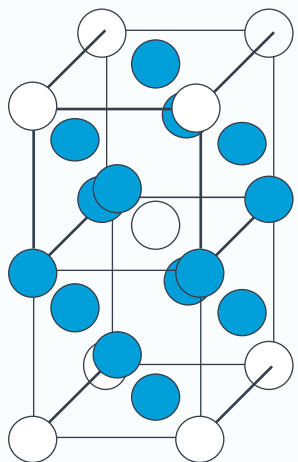
Micro-domain



"A New Approach to the Analysis of Short-range Order in Alloys using total scattering" - L.R. Owen, H.Y. Playford, H.J. Stone, M.G. Tucker, Acta Materialia, 115 (2016) 155-166



# Mosaic

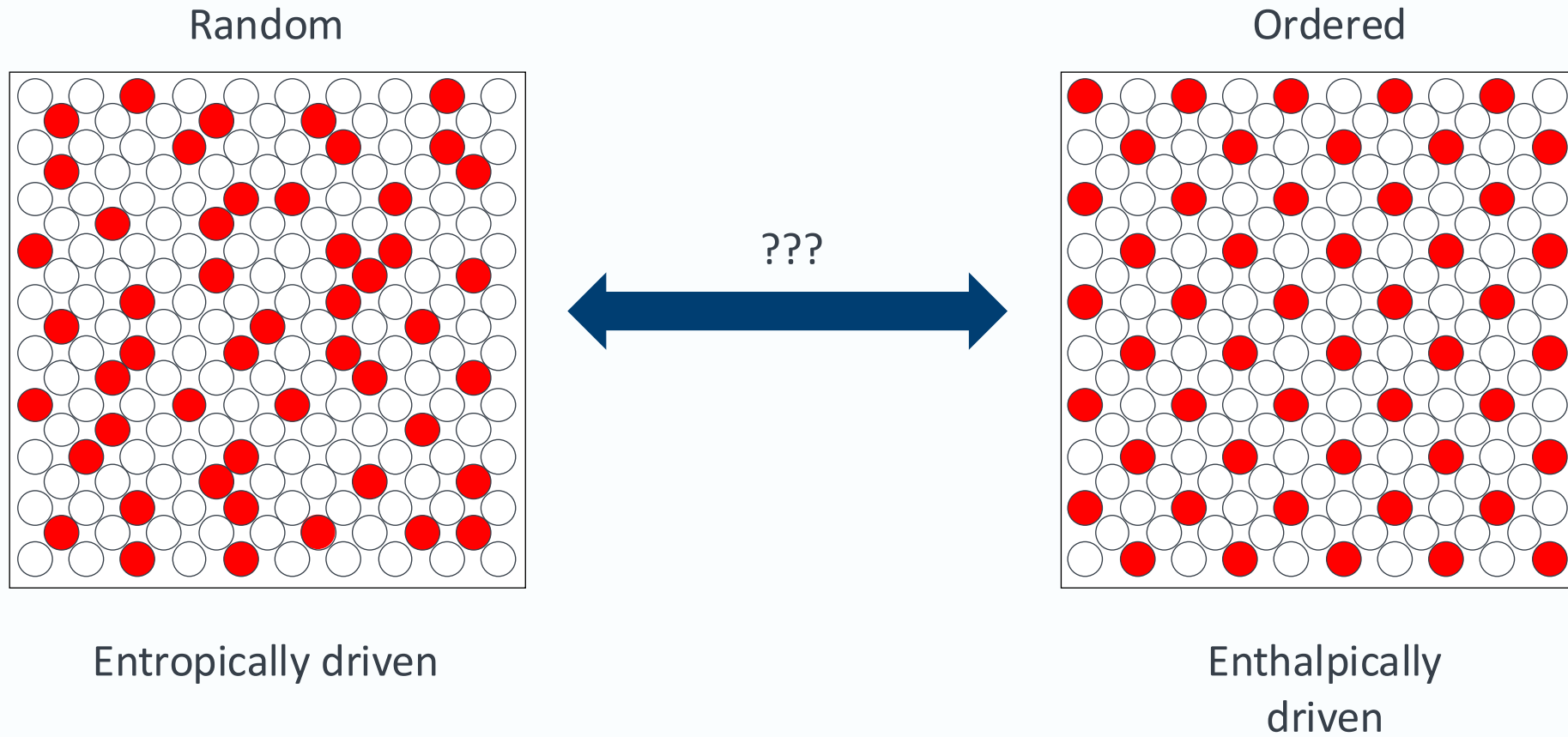


"A New Approach to the Analysis of Short-range Order in Alloys using total scattering" - L.R. Owen, H.Y. Playford, H.J. Stone, M.G. Tucker, Acta Materialia, 115 (2016) 155-166



## 2. Quantification

# Ordered and Random structures



We define:

$$\alpha_{lmn} = 1 - \frac{P_{lmn}^{AB}}{c^B} = 1 - \frac{P_{lmn}^{BA}}{c^A}$$

Where  $c$  is a concentration of a particular atom type in the alloy and  $P^{BA}$  the probability of finding an A atom (second letter in superscript) at  $lmn$  from a B atom (and vice-versa).

Random  $\alpha = 0$

All like atoms  $\alpha = 1$

All dislike atoms  $\alpha = 1 - (1/c)$

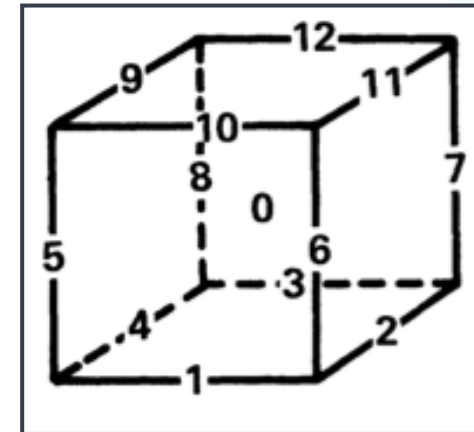


# Clapp configurations

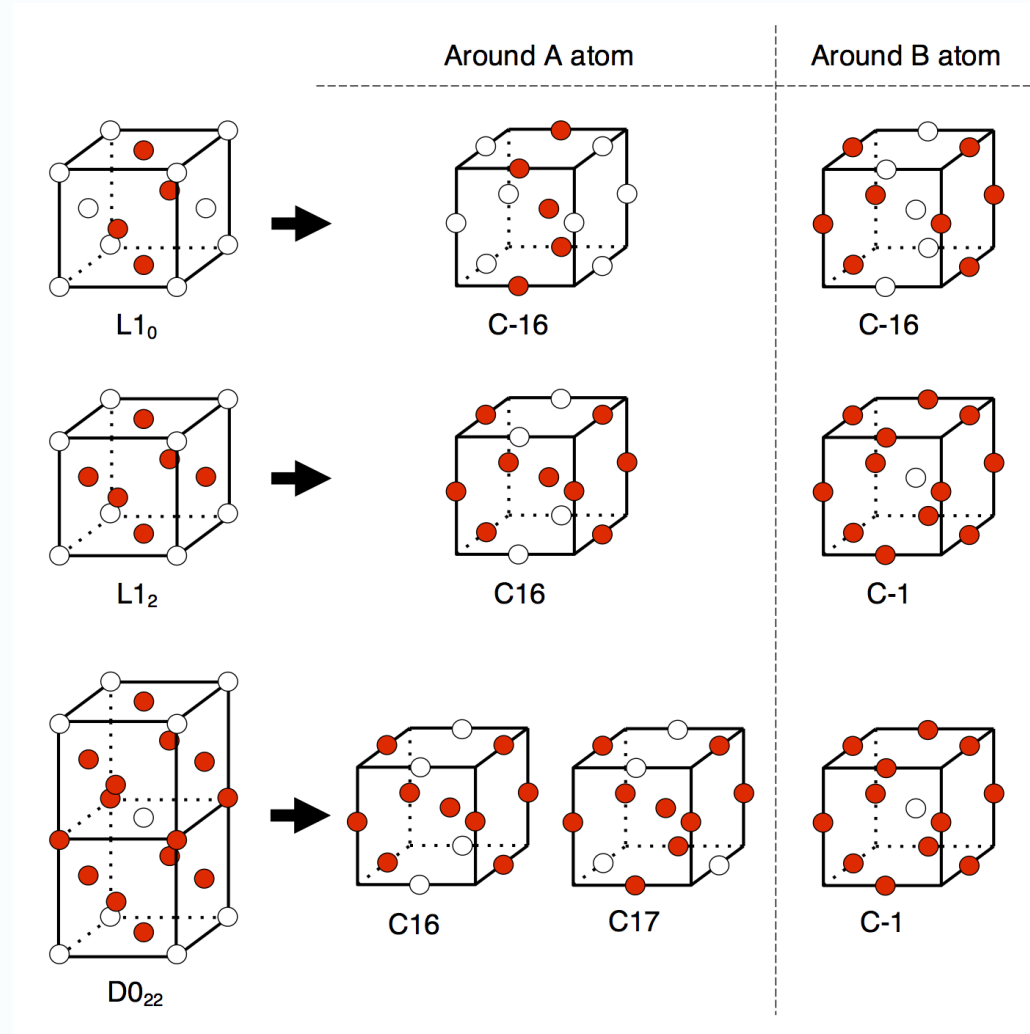


TABLE XIII. PVM parameters for fcc nearest-neighbor cluster. See Fig. 4 for site indices.

Index	Sites with	Multiplicity	Composition	First neighbor	Second neighbor	Third neighbor	Fourth neighbor
$k$	$\sigma_i = -1$	$W_k$	$W_k \langle \sigma \rangle_k$	$W_k C_k^1$	$W_k C_k^2$	$W_k C_k^3$	$W_k C_k^4$
1( $\bar{1}$ )	...	1	+1(-1)	+1	+1	+1	+1
2( $\bar{2}$ )	6	12	+10(-10)	+8	+8	+8	+8
3( $\bar{3}$ )	6, 7	12	+8(-8)	+4	+8	+4	+4
4( $\bar{4}$ )	5, 7	6	+4(-4)	+2	+2	+2	+6
5( $\bar{5}$ )	6, 12	24	+16(-16)	+8	+8	+12	+8
6( $\bar{6}$ )	6, 11	24	+16(-16)	+12	+8	+8	+8
7( $\bar{7}$ )	5, 6, 7	12	+6(-6)	0	+8	0	+8
8( $\bar{8}$ )	5, 6, 12	24	+12(-12)	0	+8	+8	0
9( $\bar{9}$ )	1, 7, 9	8	+4(-4)	0	0	+4	0
10( $\bar{10}$ )	5, 6, 11	48	+24(-24)	+8	+16	+8	0
11( $\bar{11}$ )	4, 6, 11	48	+24(-24)	+8	0	0	0
12( $\bar{12}$ )	1, 5, 11	24	+12(-12)	+4	0	0	0
13( $\bar{13}$ )	2, 6, 11	24	+12(-12)	+8	+8	0	0
14( $\bar{14}$ )	1, 6, 11	24	+12(-12)	+8	0	0	0
15( $\bar{15}$ )	6, 10, 11	8	+4(-4)	+4	0	0	0
16( $\bar{16}$ )	5, 6, 7, 8	3	+1(-1)	-1	+3	0	0
17( $\bar{17}$ )	4, 6, 7, 9	6	+2(-2)	-2	+2	0	0
18( $\bar{18}$ )	5, 6, 8, 11	48	+16(-16)	-8	+16	0	0
19( $\bar{19}$ )	3, 5, 6, 11	48	+16(-16)	-8	0	0	0
20( $\bar{20}$ )	1, 5, 10, 12	48	+16(-16)	0	+16	0	0
21( $\bar{21}$ )	1, 6, 7, 10	24	+8(-8)	0	+8	0	0
22( $\bar{22}$ )	5, 6, 9, 11	12	+4(-4)	0	+4	0	0



# Clapp configurations for some standard LRO structures



# Clapp configuration - Enhancement factors



$$p_a = m_a [x^n (1 - x)^{13-n} + x^{13-n} (1 - x)^n]$$

$$\overline{n}_a = p_a N$$

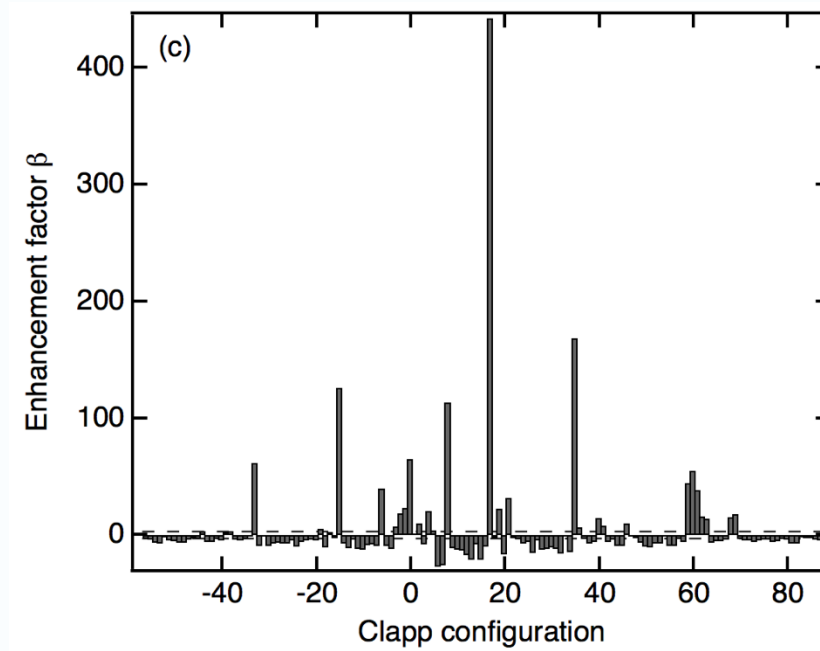
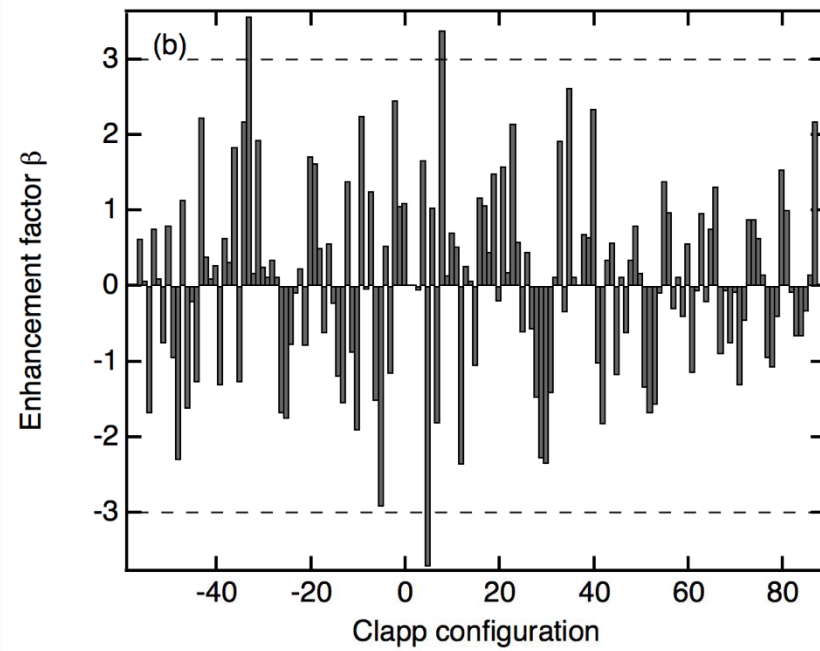
$$\sigma_a = \sqrt{p_a (1 - p_a) N}$$

$$\beta_a = \frac{(n_a - \overline{n}_a)}{\sigma_a}$$

$p_a$  is the probability of configuration  $a$  being occupied,  $m_a$  the multiplicity of that configuration,  $x$  the concentration of species  $A$ ,  $n$  the number of atoms of type  $a$  in the 12 nearest neighbours of the configuration,  $N$  the total number of atoms, and  $n_a$  and variants therefore the number of atoms in that configuration.



# Enhancement factors



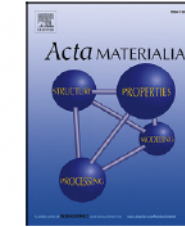
# 3. Demonstration



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Full length article

## Analysis of short-range order in Cu<sub>3</sub>Au using X-ray pair distribution functions



L.R. Owen<sup>a, b</sup>, H.Y. Playford<sup>b, \*</sup>, H.J. Stone<sup>a</sup>, M.G. Tucker<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> ISIS Facility, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, UK

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Short-range order

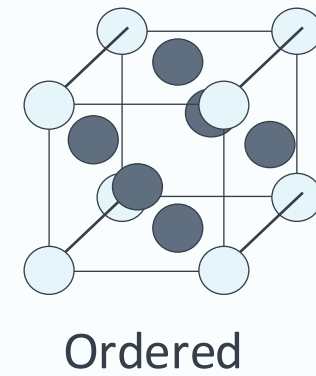
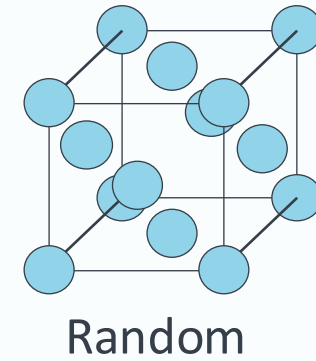
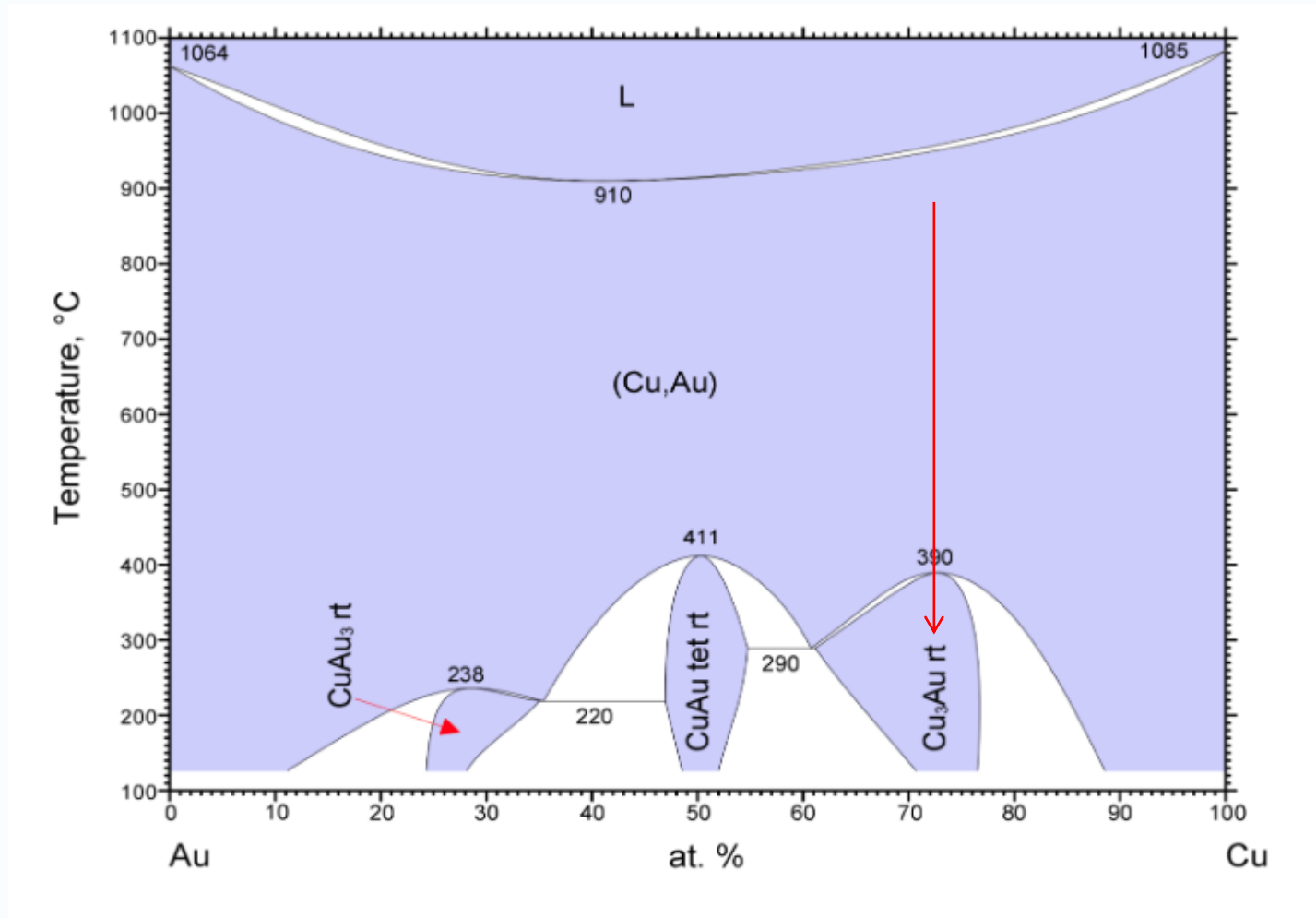
Short-range ordering

### ABSTRACT

Cu<sub>3</sub>Au is often cited as a case example of a metallic system exhibiting both short-range order in the solid solution phase and a long-range order-disorder transition. In this work, X-ray total scattering data obtained from the *in situ* heating of a gas-atomised powder sample of Cu<sub>3</sub>Au are used to demonstrate the suitability of total scattering, in conjunction with large-box modelling, for the analysis of short-range order in alloys. The existence of an ordering transition at c. 400° is confirmed, and the development of short-range order reminiscent of the L<sub>1</sub><sub>2</sub> long-range ordered structure is observed prior to this transition. Furthermore, it is found that a degree of short-range order is present even in quenched samples (usually assumed to be completely random) which throws into question the identification of short-range order in previous *ex situ* studies. It is demonstrated that total scattering can be used successfully to identify the type and degree of ordering, differences in the bond length distributions in the first coordination shell and to suggest a likely mechanism for the formation of order in the system.

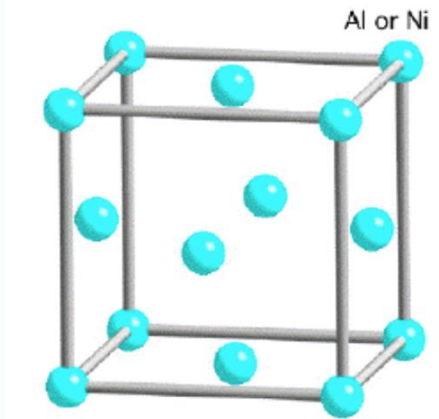
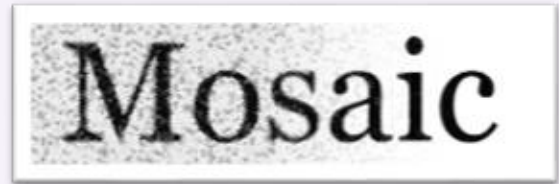
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# $\text{Cu}_3\text{Au}$ – On cooling

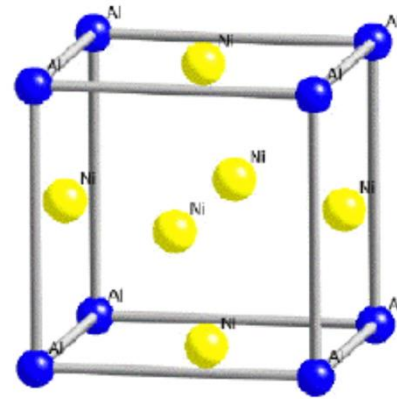




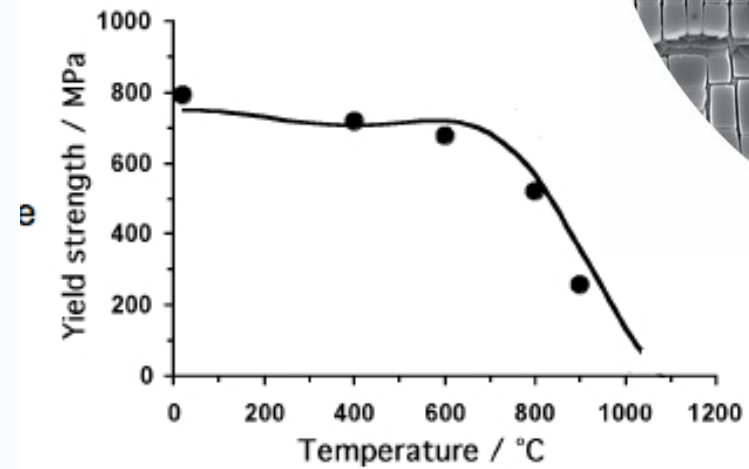
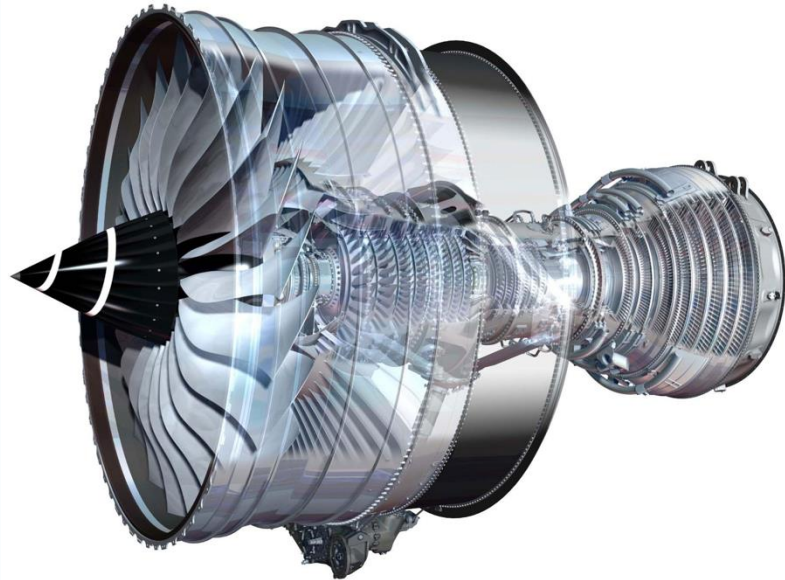
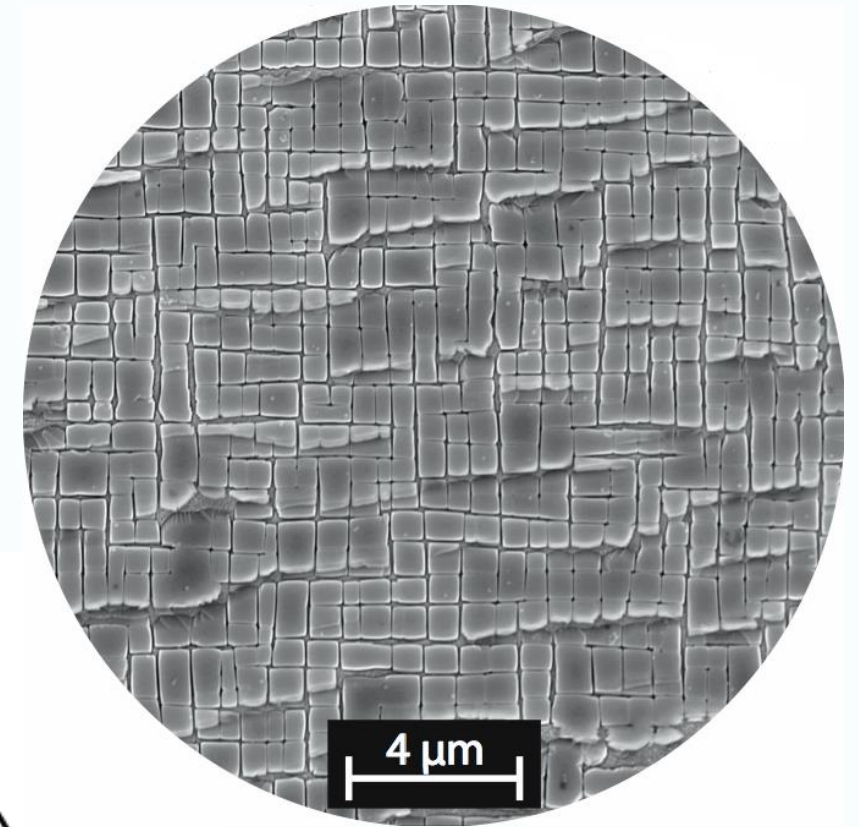
# Nickel Superalloys



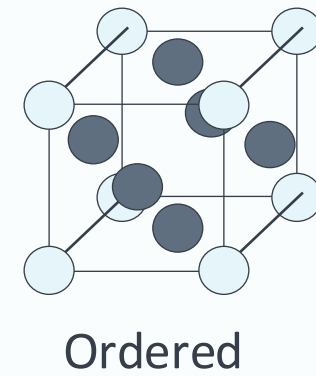
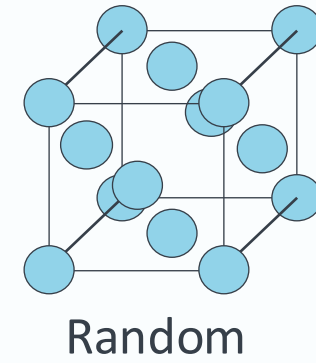
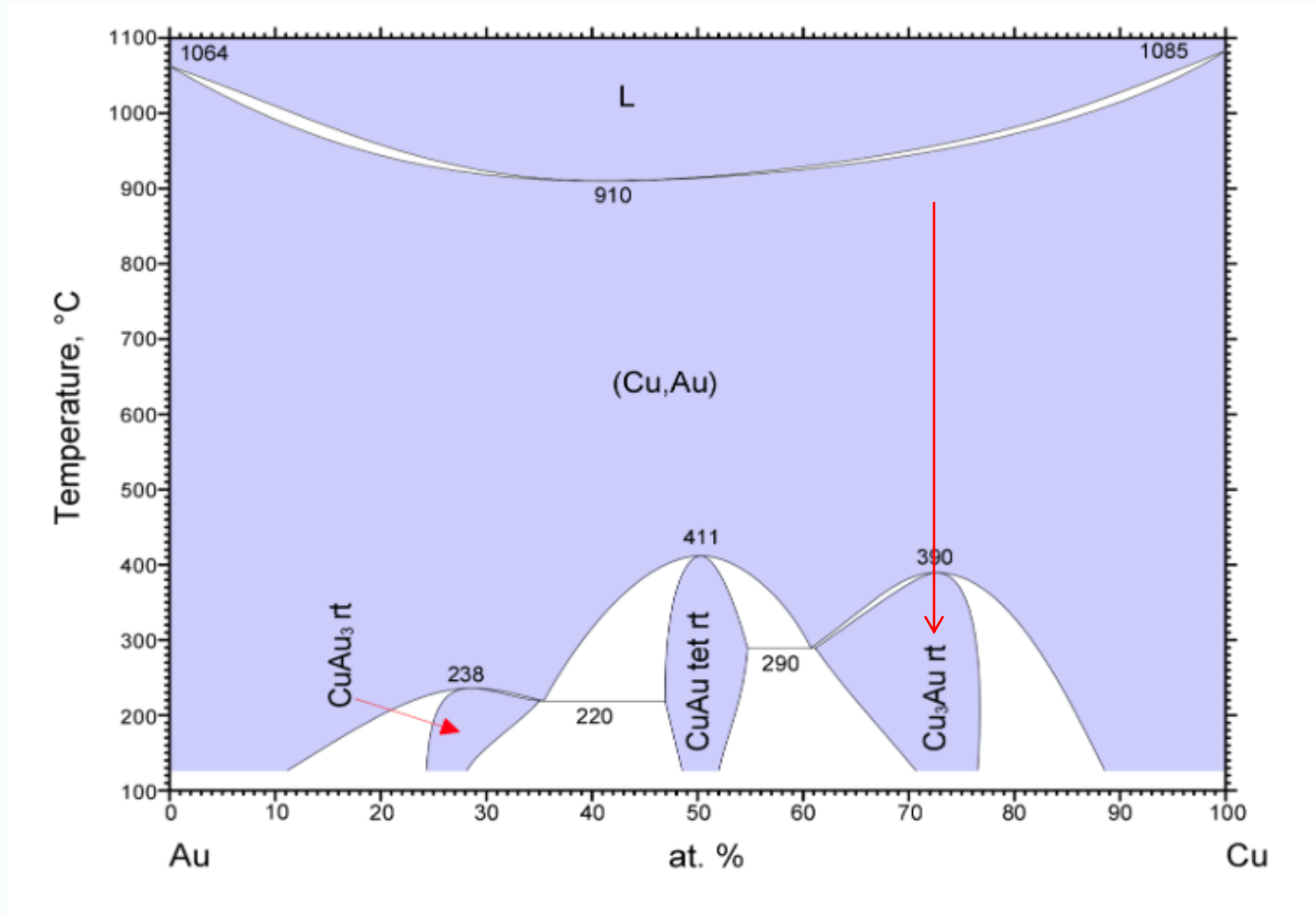
Crystal structure of  $\gamma$



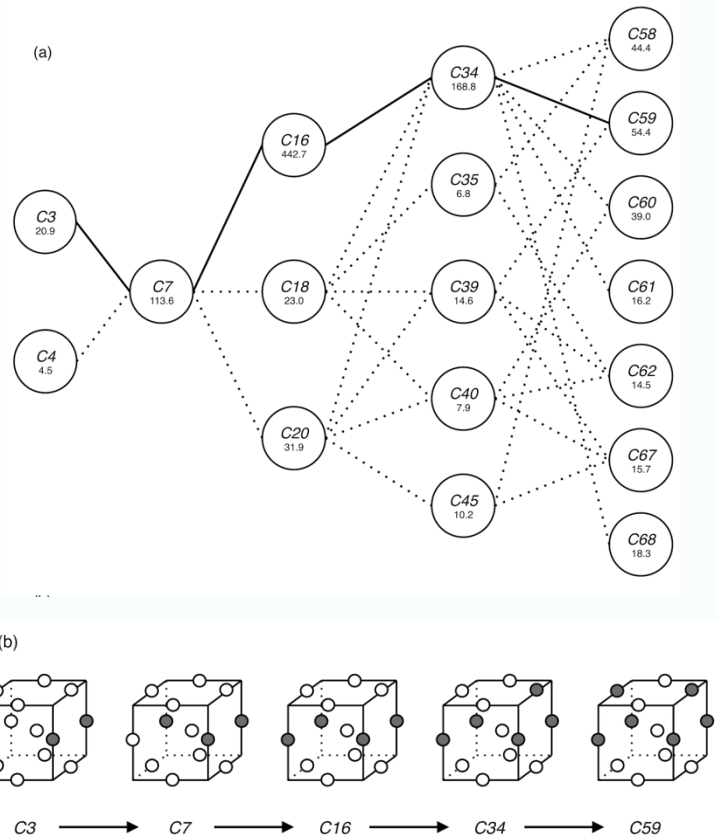
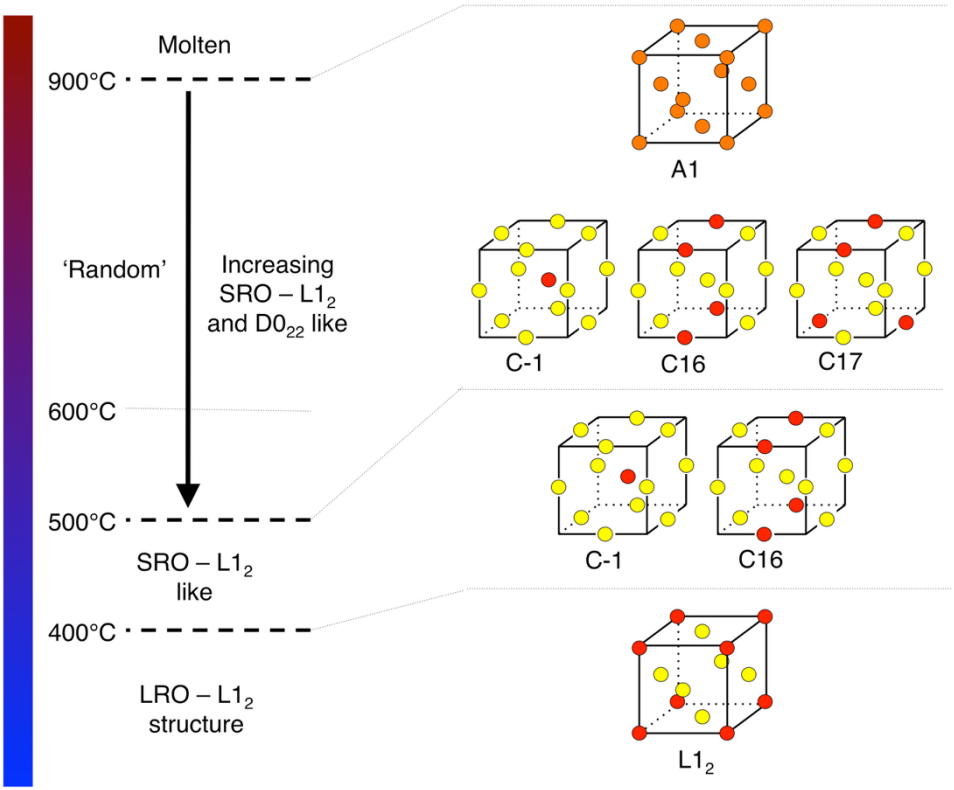
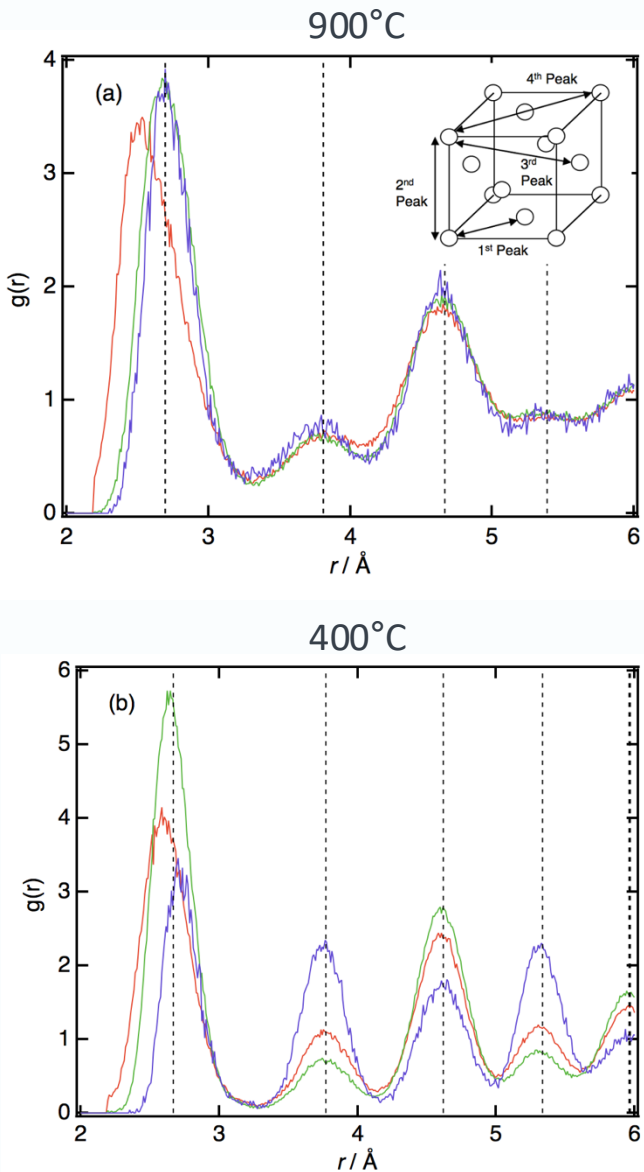
Crystal structure of  $\gamma'$



# $\text{Cu}_3\text{Au}$ – On cooling



# Analysis



L.R. Owen, H.Y. Playford, H.J. Stone and M.G. Tucker “Analysis of Short-Range Order in  $\text{Cu}_3\text{Au}$  using X-ray Pair Distribution Functions”, *Acta Materialia*, 125 (2017) 15-26.

# Challenges

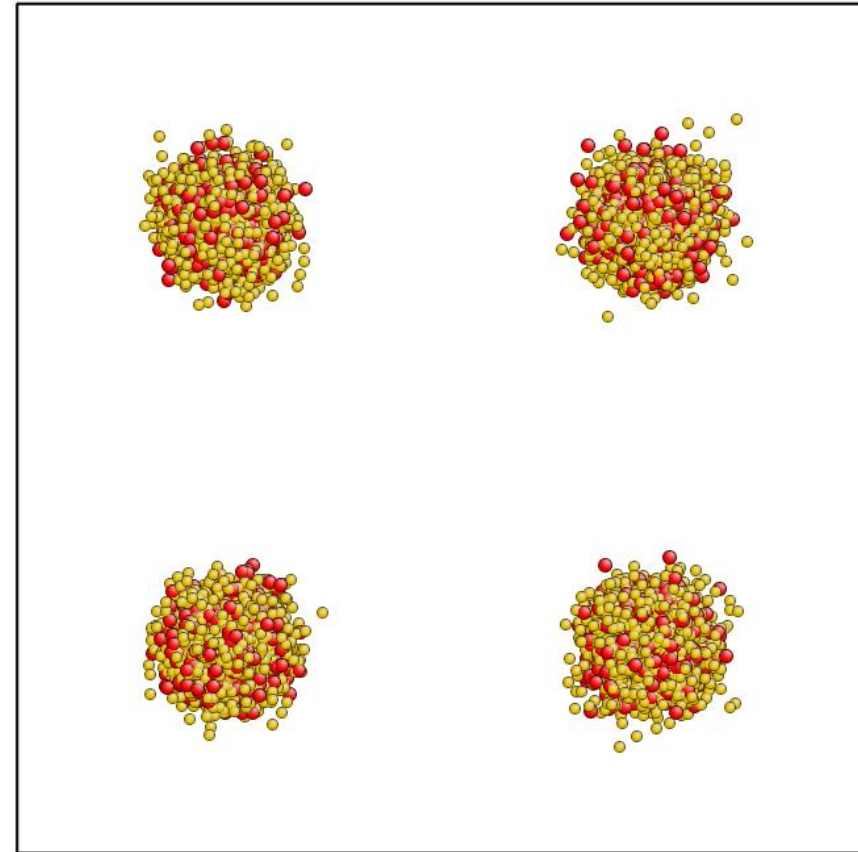
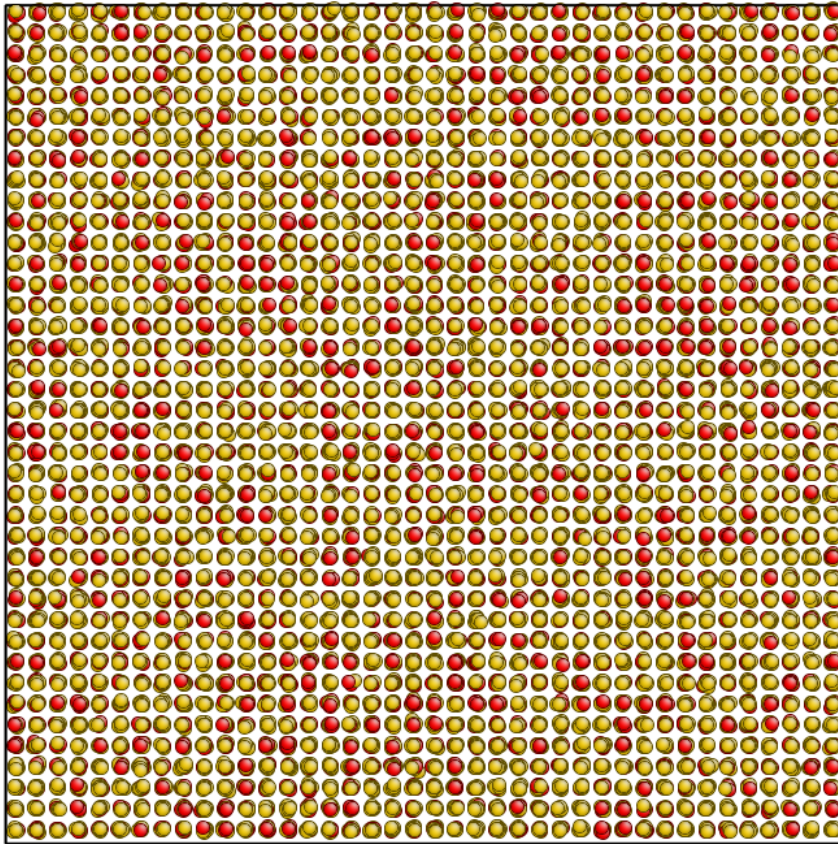
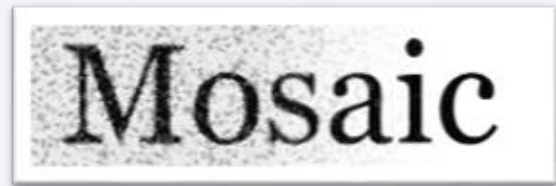


## Some possible errors

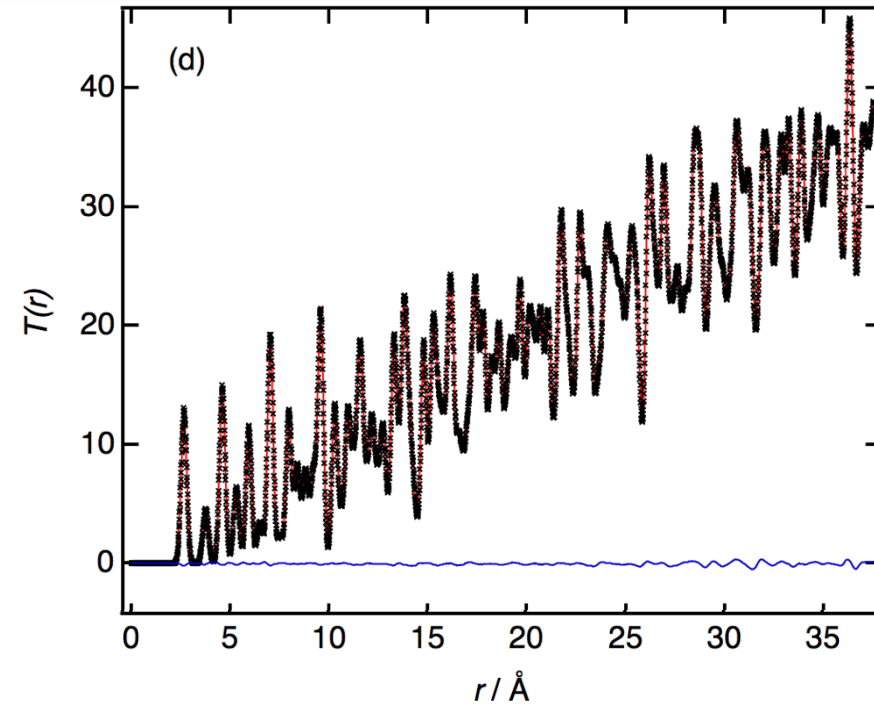
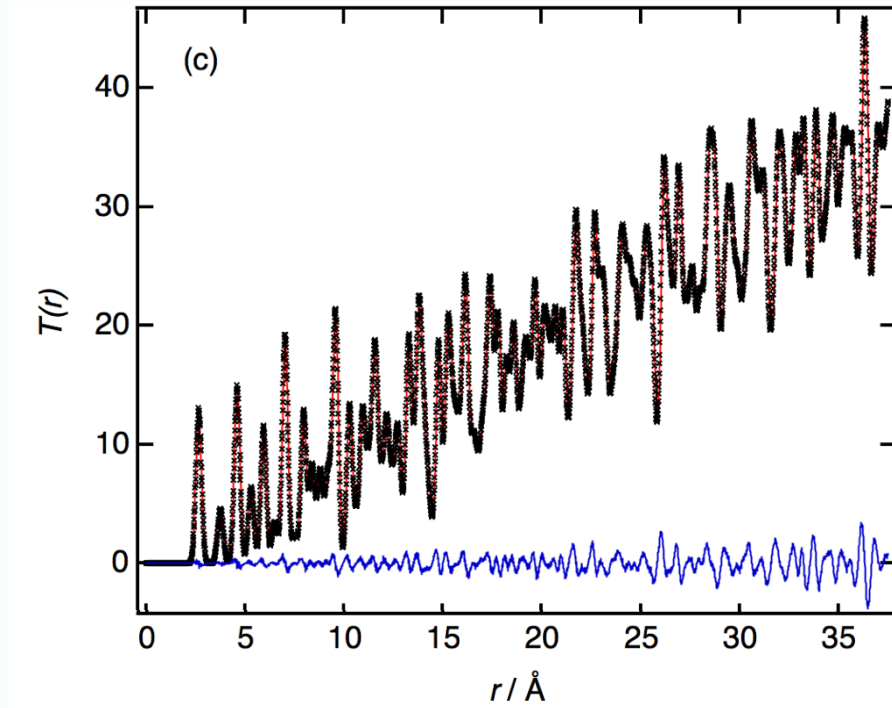


- Incorrect lattice parameter
- Offset in the data
- Instrumental resolution function
- Incorrect scaling
- Texture

# Fit to simulated data

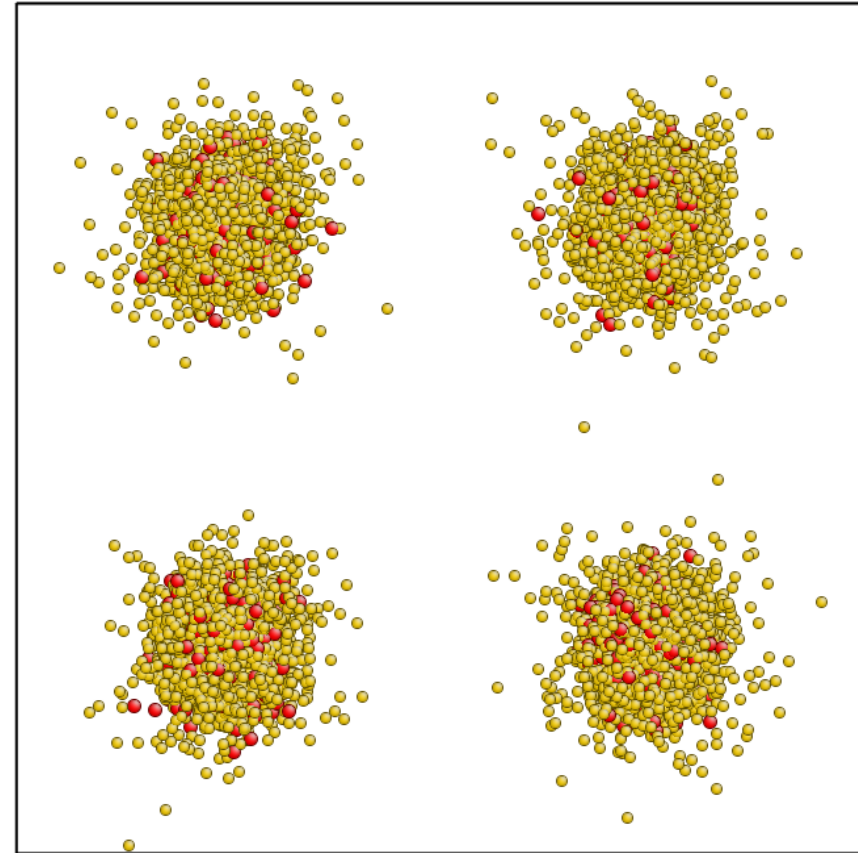
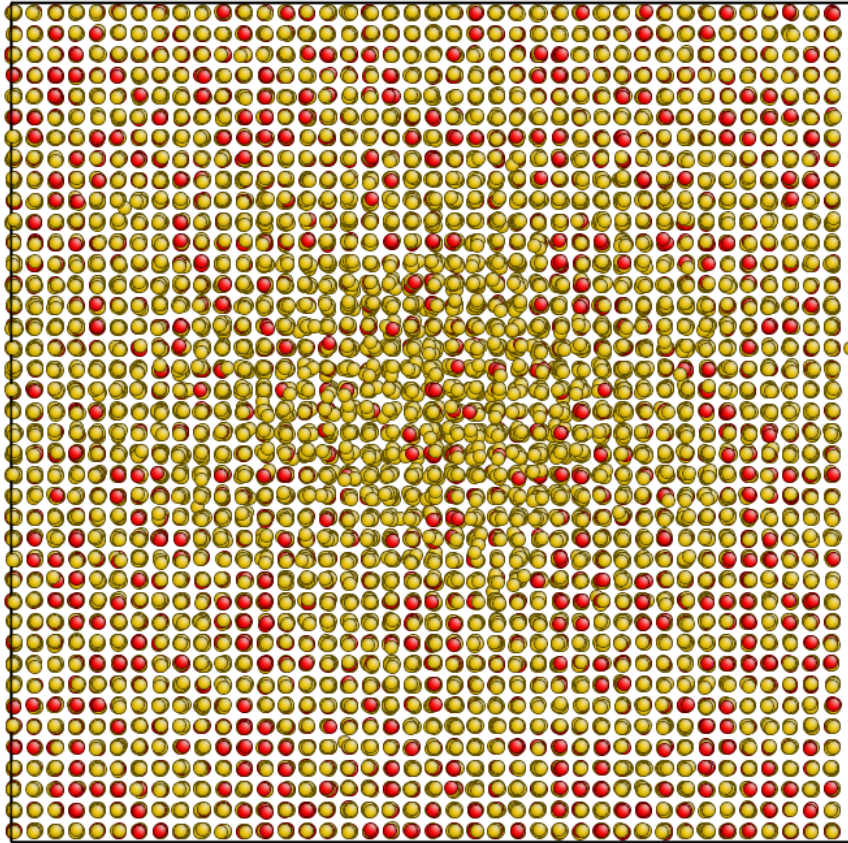


# Incorrect lattice parameter



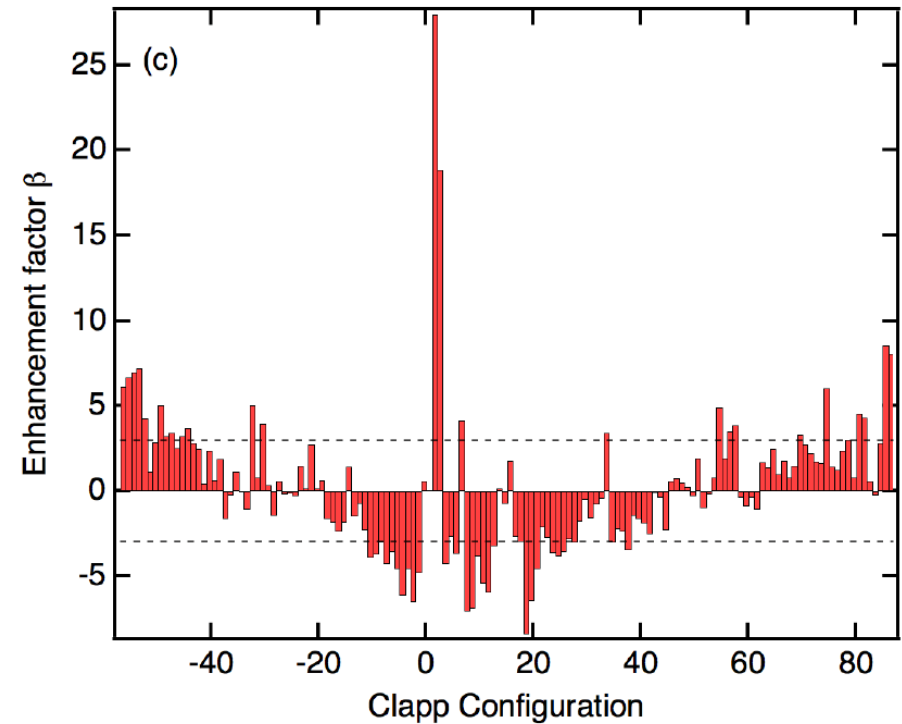
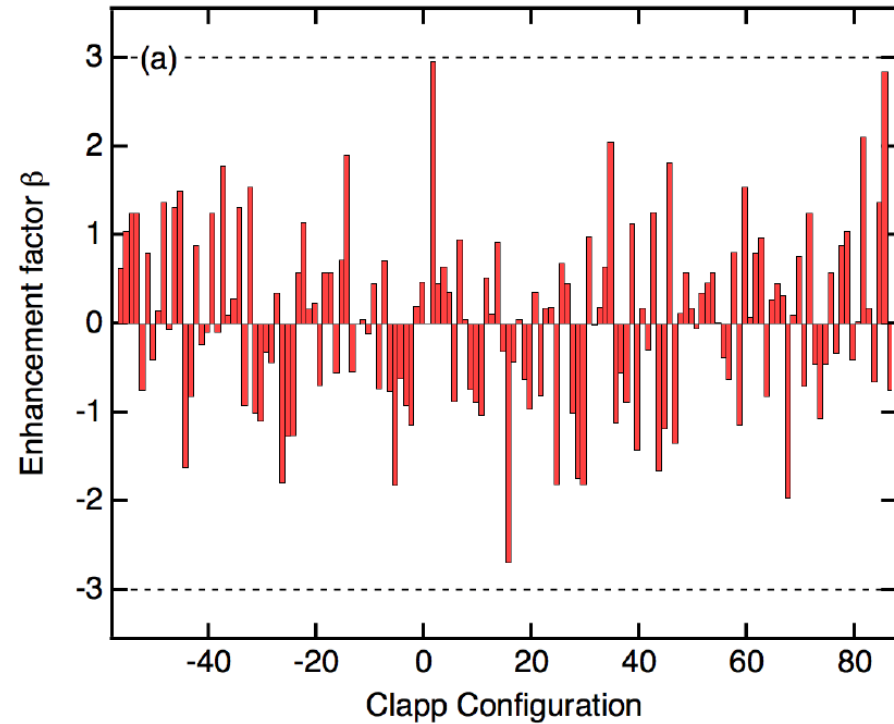


# Incorrect lattice parameter





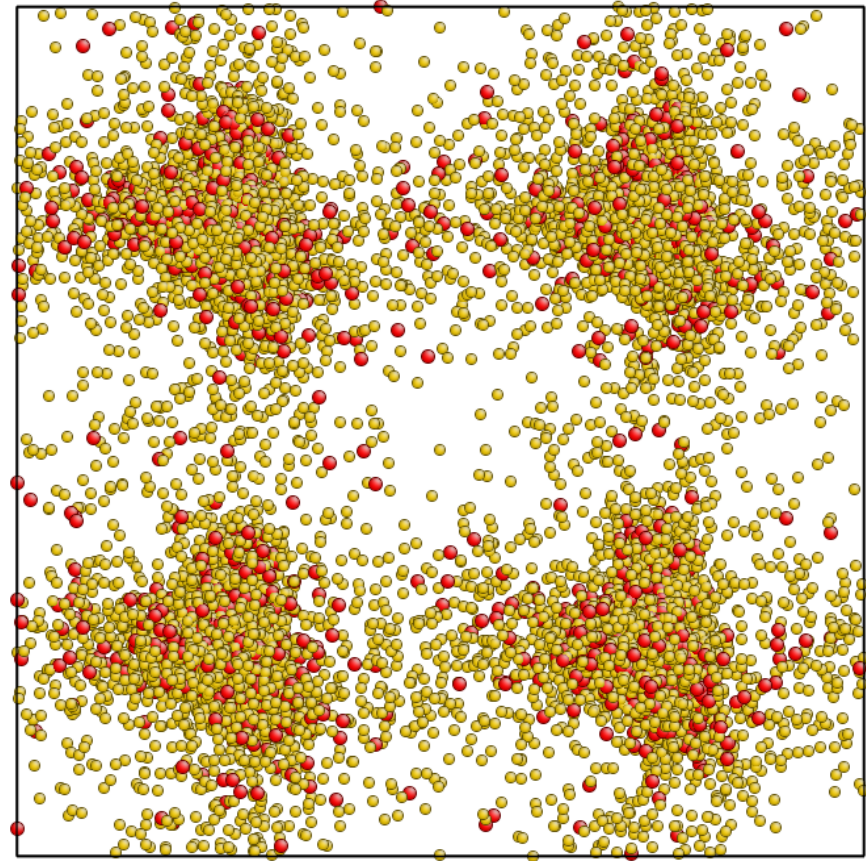
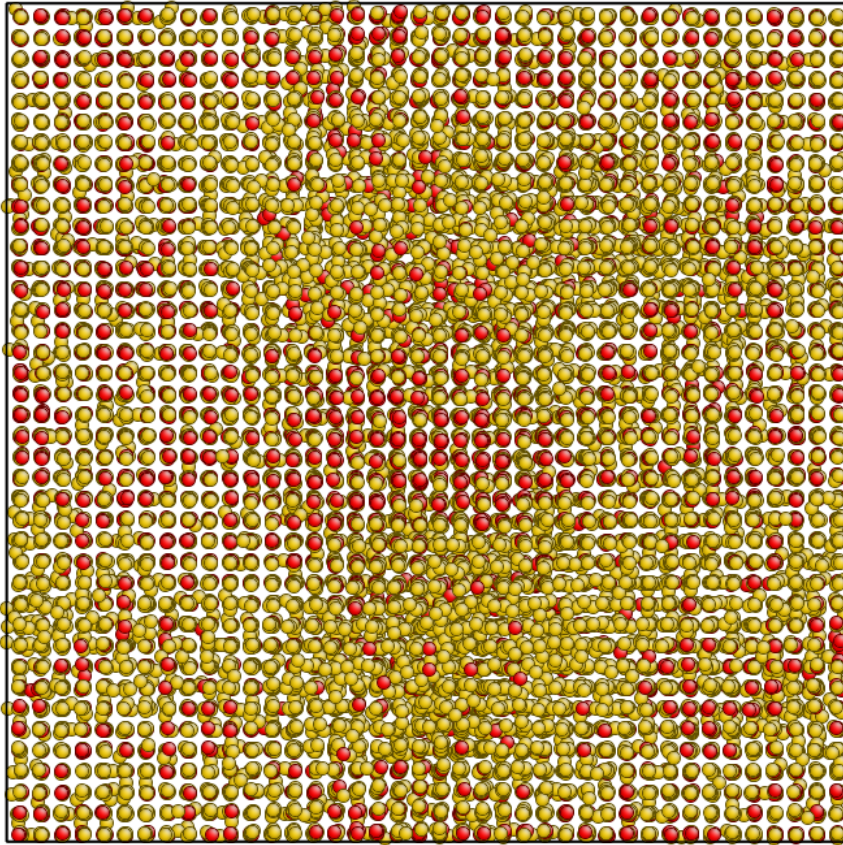
# Incorrect lattice parameter



**Input random configuration**

**Resultant artificial order**

# Not accounting for instrumental decay function





# Metallurgical challenges...

Mosaic



# Effects of texture

## Effect of crystallographic texture on pair distribution function analysis in engineering materials

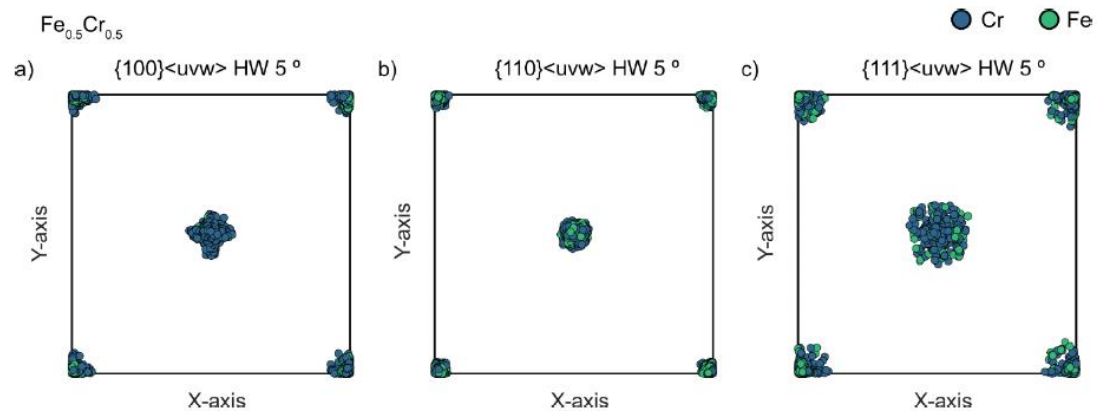
Monika Rolinska<sup>1\*</sup>, Lewis R. Owen<sup>2</sup>, Yuanpeng Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Peter Hedström<sup>1</sup>, Matthew G. Tucker<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Brinellvägen 23, 100 44, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> University of Sheffield, School of Chemical, Materials and Biological Engineering, Sir Robert Hadfield Building, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, United Kingdom

<sup>3</sup> Neutron Scattering Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, United States

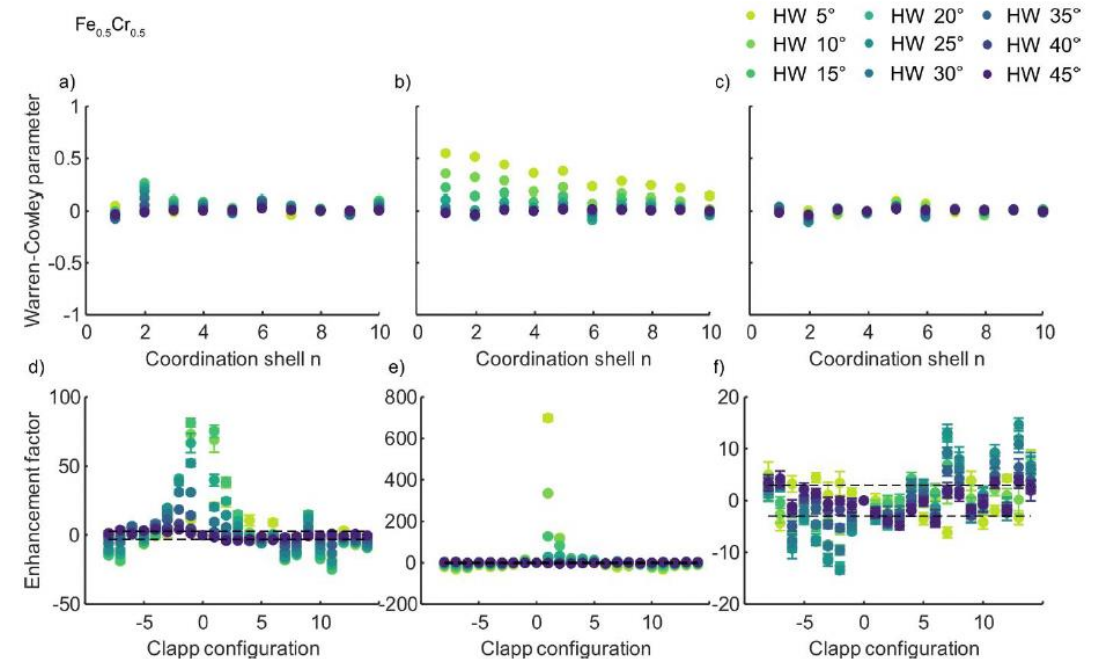
\* Corresponding author, email: rolinska@kth.se



**Figure 12** Distortions on the collapsed supercells of  $\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Cr}_{0.5}$  caused by different textures a) sharp  $\{100\}\langle uvw \rangle$  texture b) sharp  $\{110\}\langle uvw \rangle$  texture c) sharp  $\{111\}\langle uvw \rangle$  texture



**Monika Rolinska**



**Figure 10** Average of 10 runs showing the Warren-Cowley parameters for the first 10 coordination shells (a-c) and Clapp configurations enhancement factors (d-f) for different applied textures in the  $\text{Fe}_{0.5}\text{Cr}_{0.5}$  system



# Methods

## Running RMC



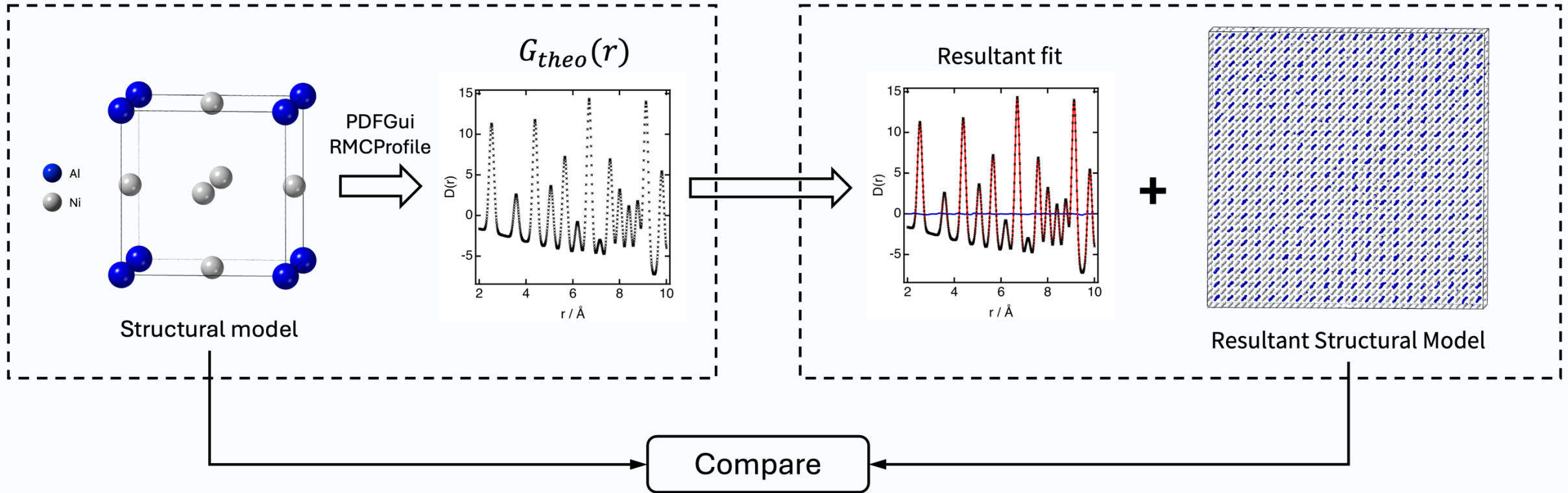
- Run with multiple starting configurations
- Run multiple times (and compare similarities)
- Testing and simulation

# Simulate – test the concept



Prediction

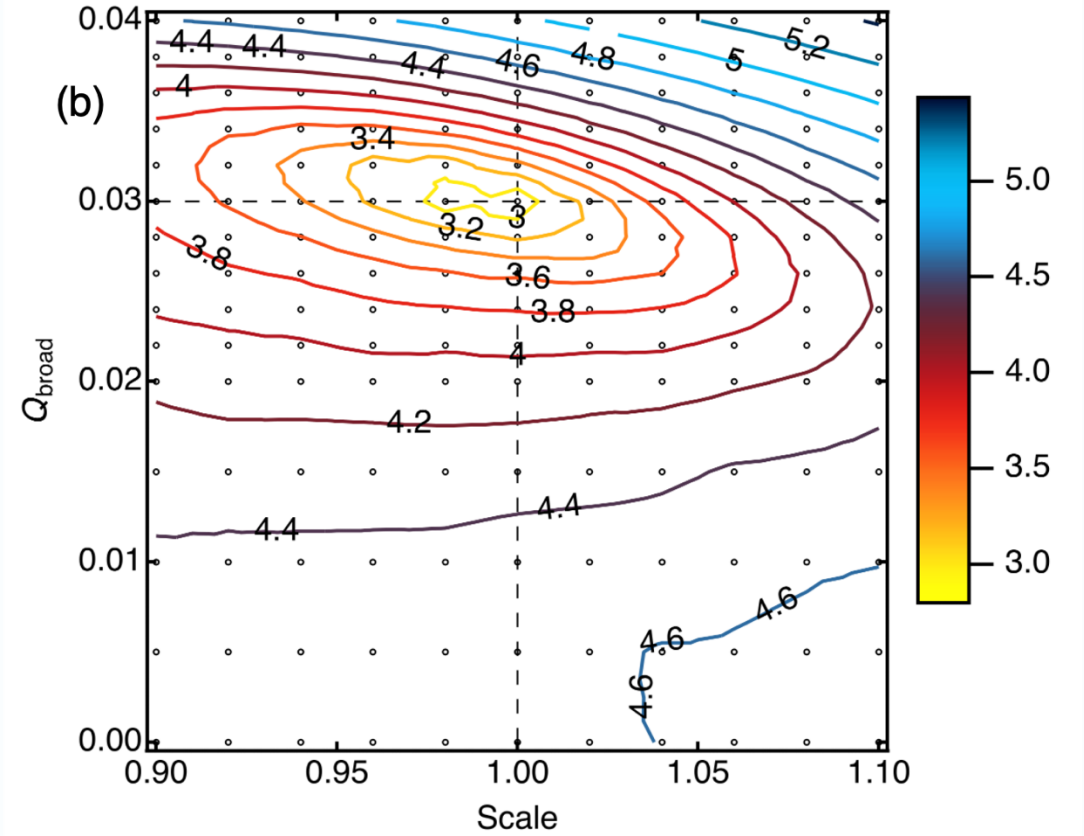
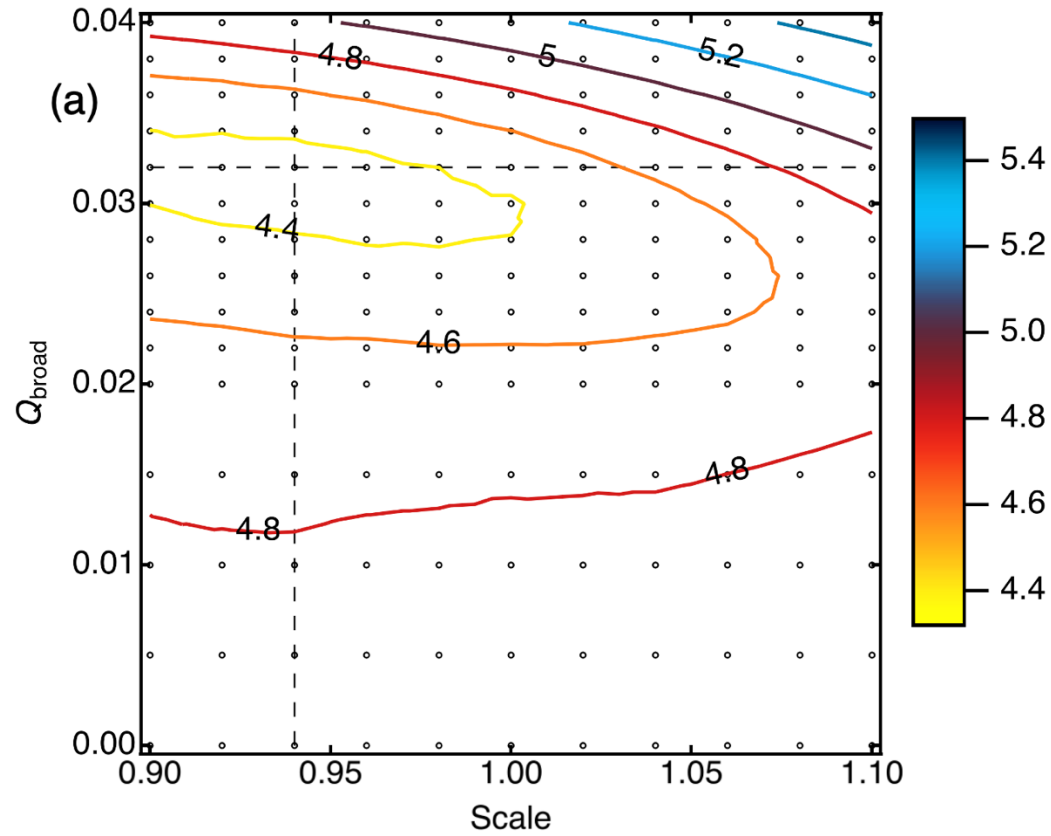
Fit of theoretical data



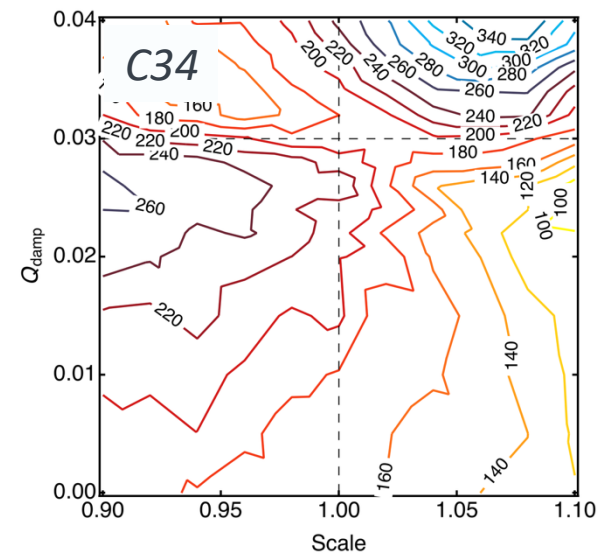
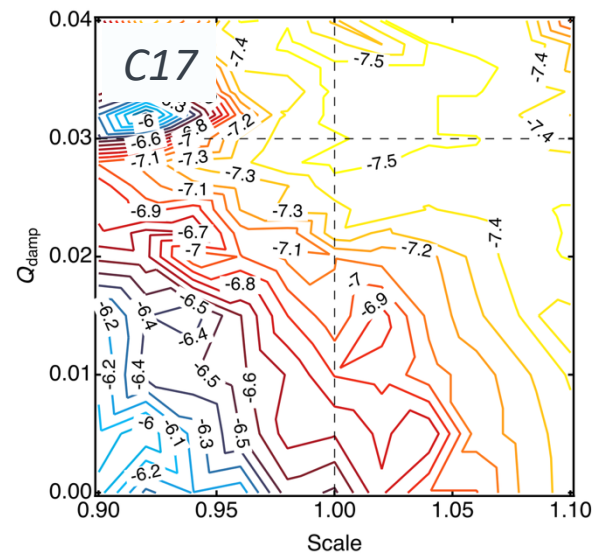
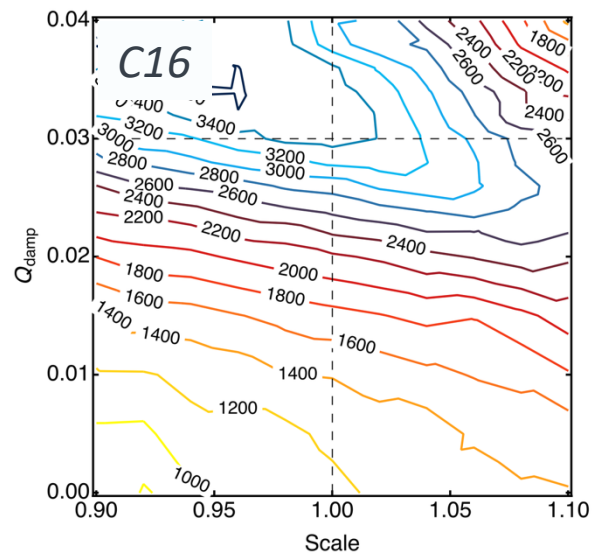
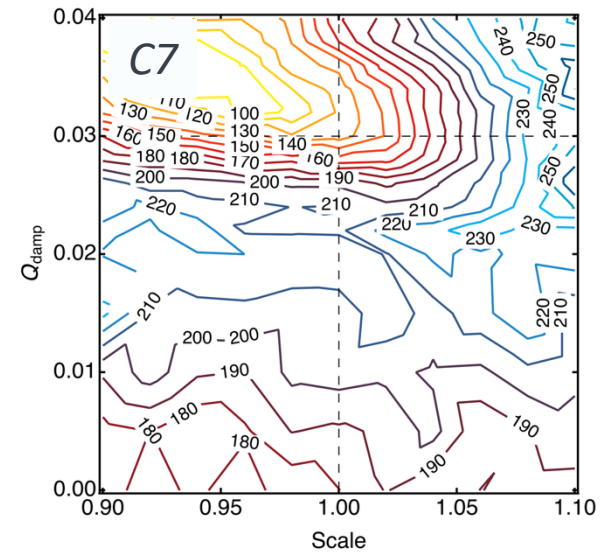
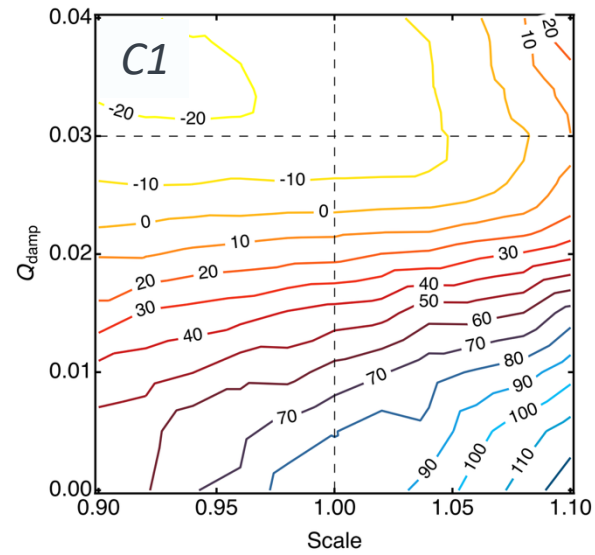
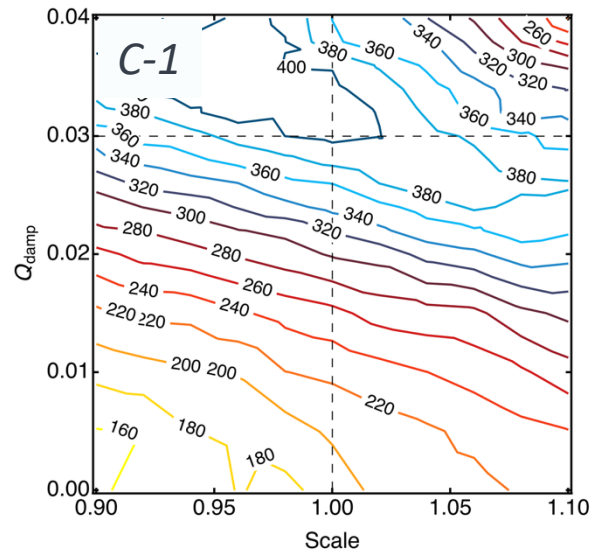
- Run with multiple starting configurations
- Run multiple times (and compare similarities)
- Testing and simulation
- Vary the parameter space
  - (particularly the important parameters)
  - Look for signs of issues



# Varying the parameters

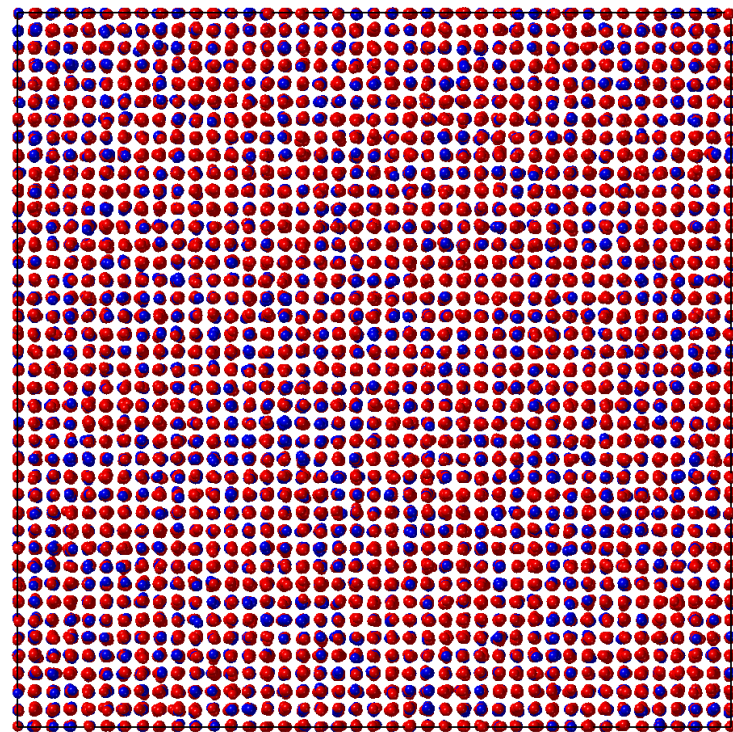
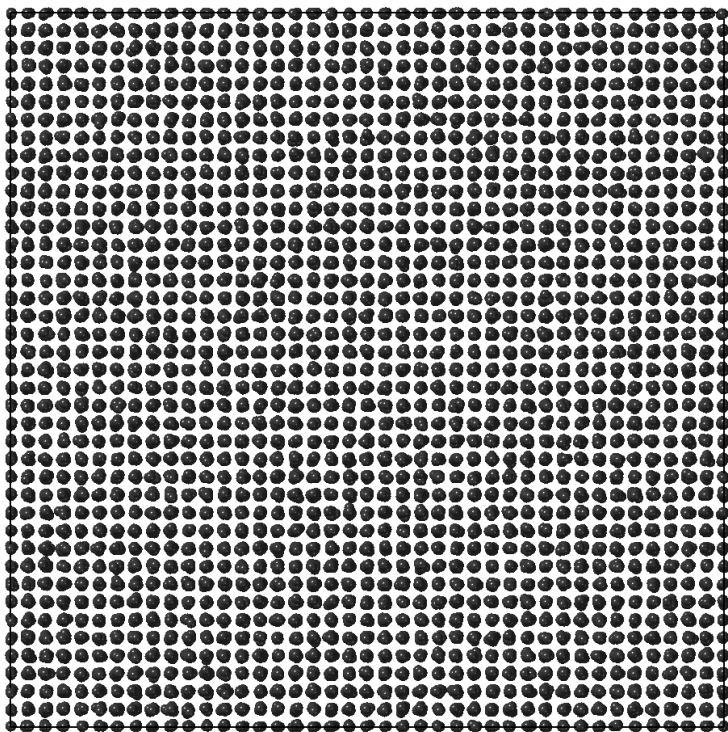
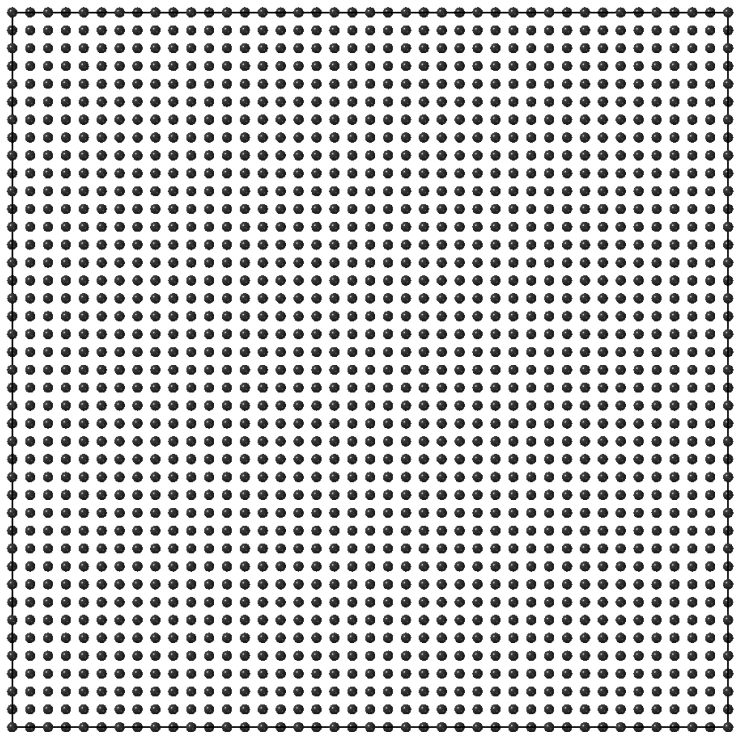


# Stability to changes in parameters



- Run with multiple starting configurations
- Run multiple times (and compare similarities)
- Testing and simulation
- Vary the parameter space
  - (particularly the important parameters)
  - Look for signs of issues
- Try 'Grey atom' method

# Grey atom refinement



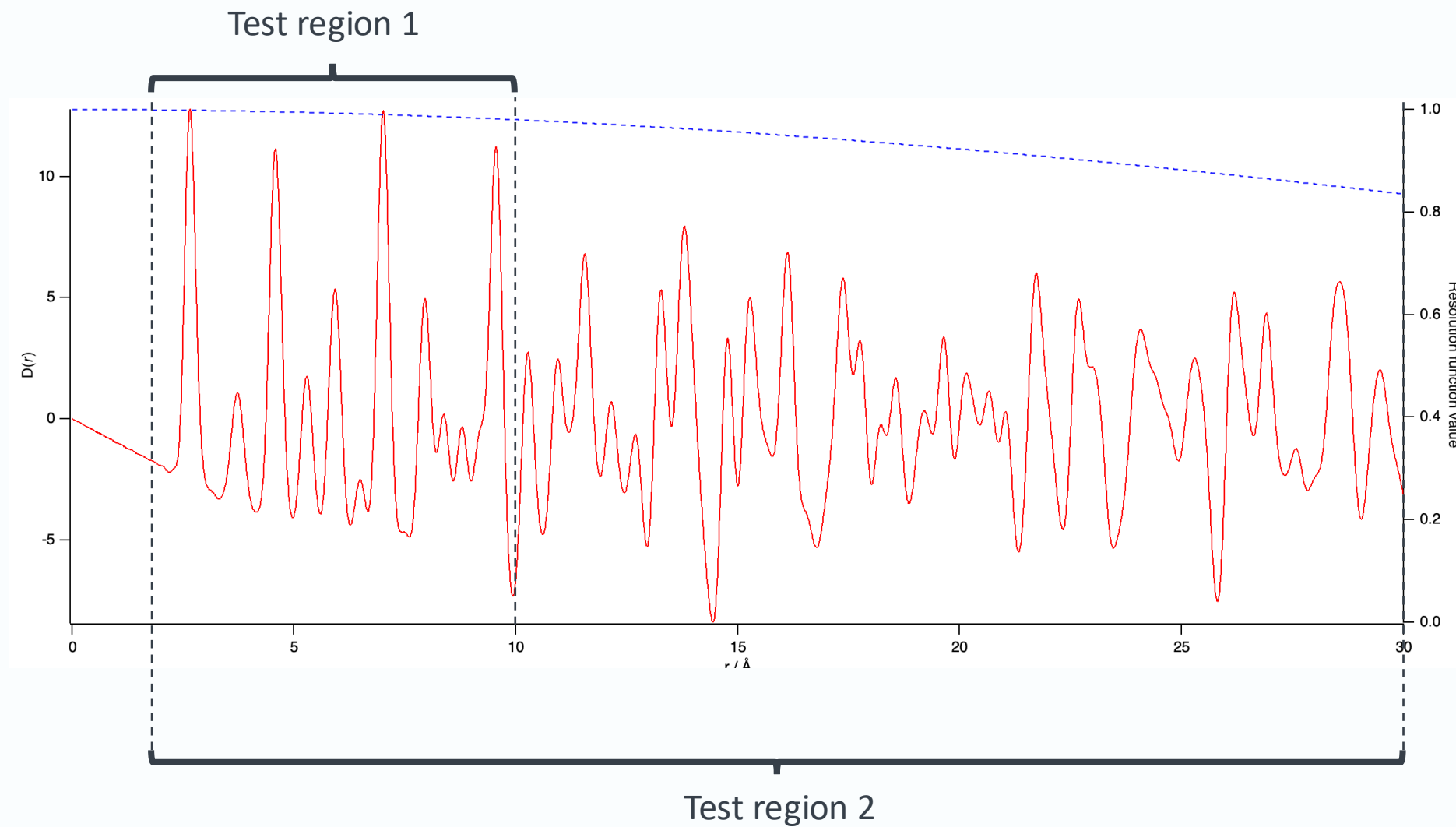
Translations only

Colour then allow swaps

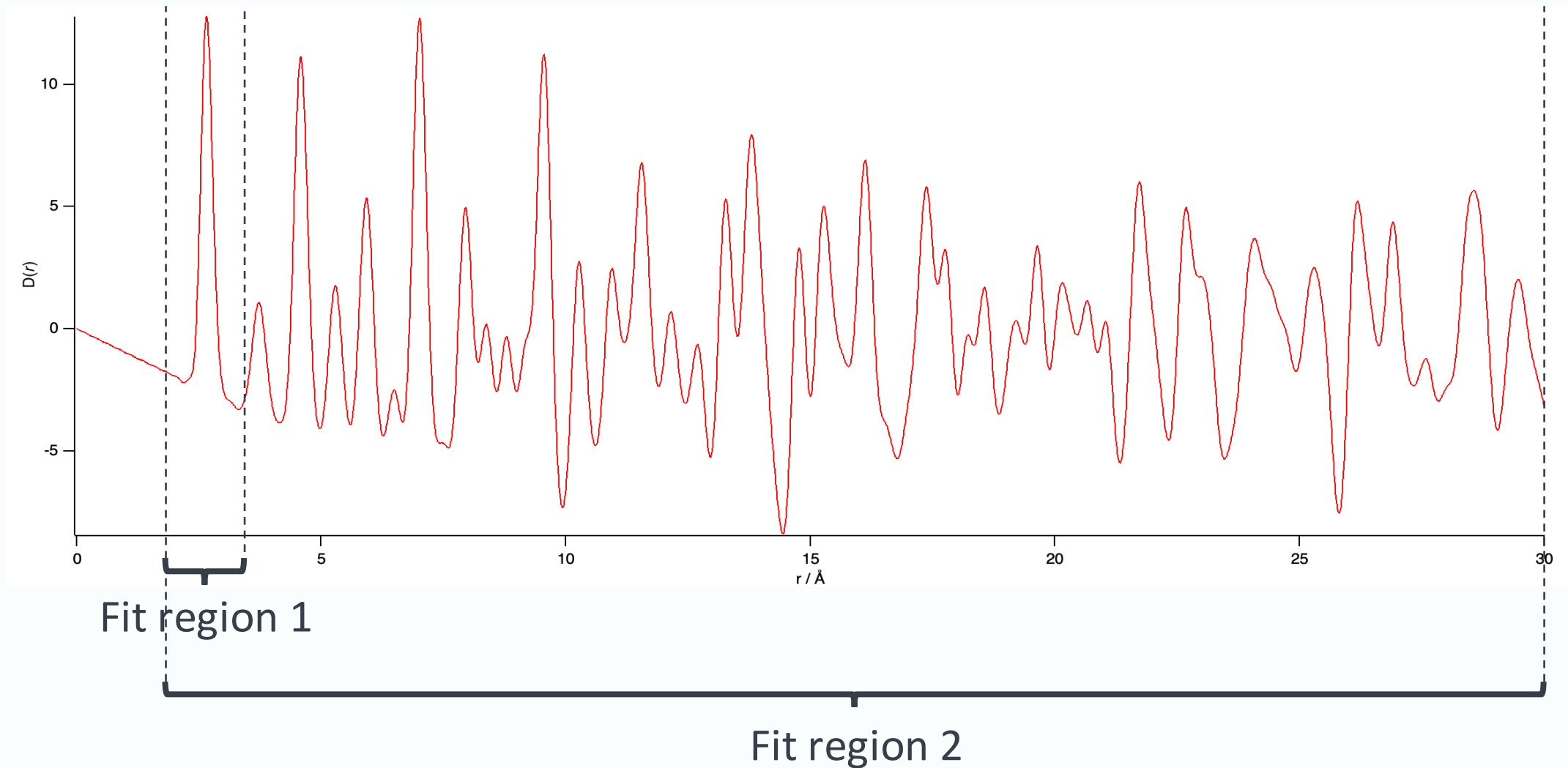


- Run with multiple starting configurations
- Run multiple times (and compare similarities)
- Testing and simulation
- Vary the parameter space
  - (particularly the important parameters)
  - Look for signs of issues
- Try 'Grey atom' method
- Vary the fitting regime
  - Datasets
  - Weightings
  - Regions

# Fitting regions – preliminary fitting



# Fitting regions – Multiple region fit

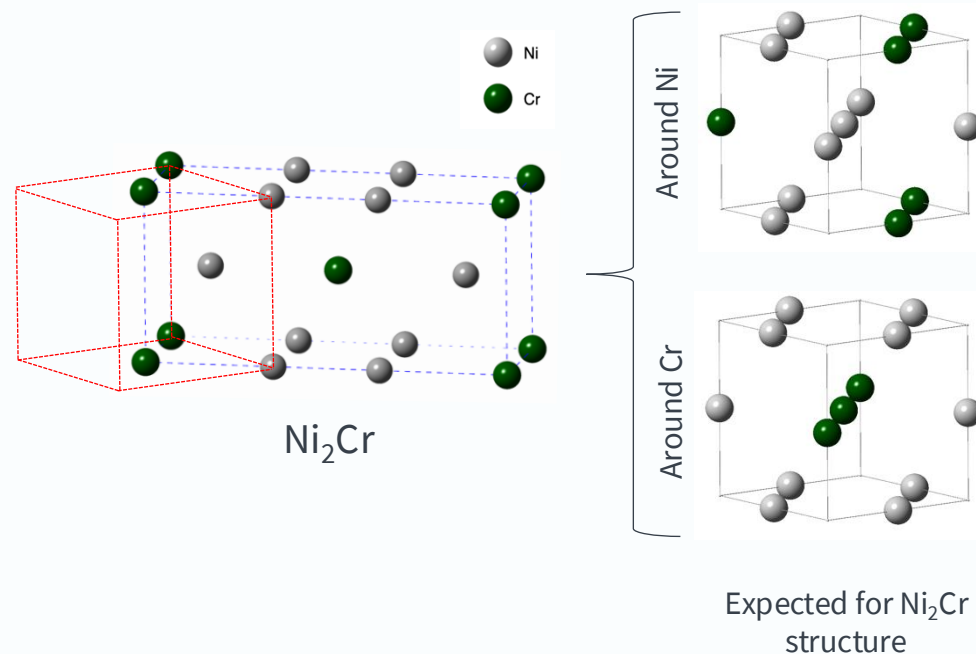
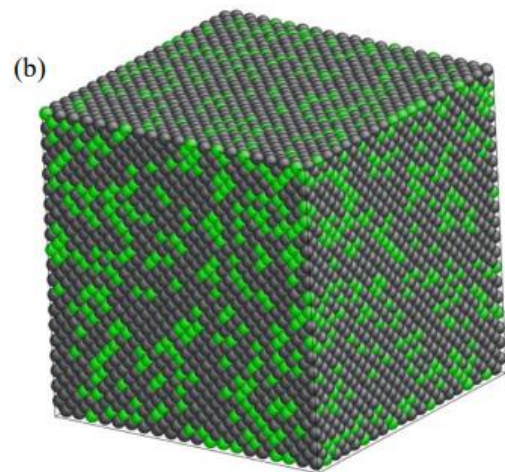
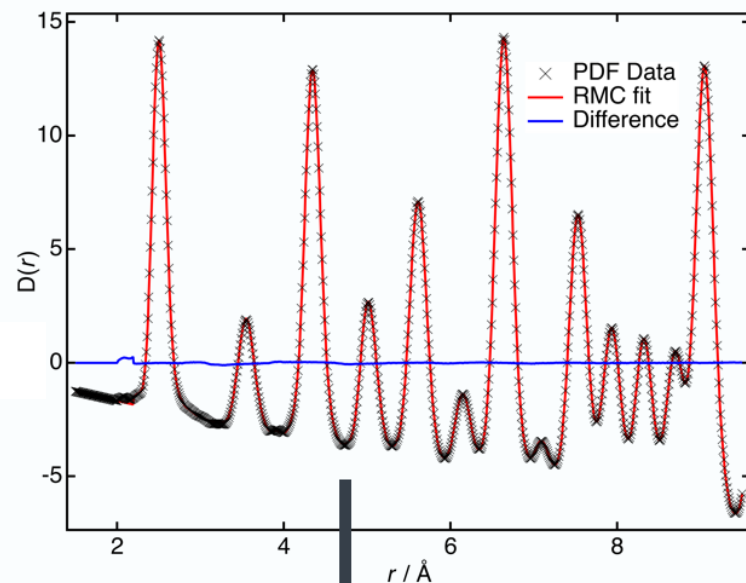


- Run with multiple starting configurations
- Run multiple times (and compare similarities)
- Vary the parameter space
  - (particularly the important parameters)
  - Look for signs of issues
- Try 'Grey atom' method
- Vary the fitting regime
  - Datasets
  - Weightings
  - Regions

# Opportunities



# Ni<sub>2</sub>Cr – K-state



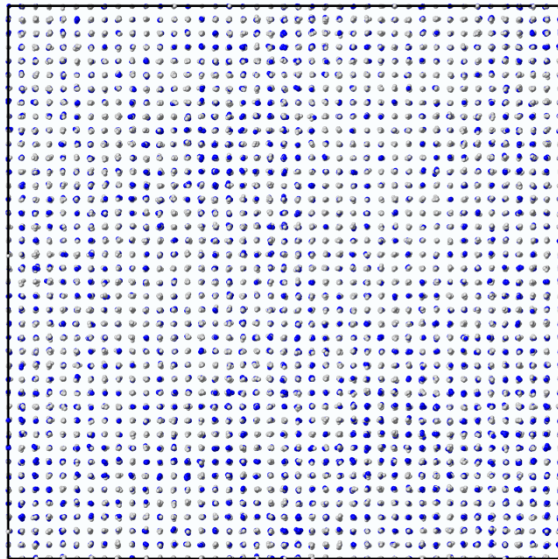
Most statistically increased local configurations

B.S. Rowlands, L.R. Owen, J.R. Miller, X. Shen, W. Song, H.J. Stone, E.I. Galindo-Nava, T. Jackson & C.M.F. Rae. The PLC Effect in the Absence of Long-Range Cottrell Atmospheres in RR1000. In: Cormier, J., et al. Superalloys 2024. ISS 2024. The Minerals, Metals & Materials Series. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-63937-1\\_37](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-63937-1_37)

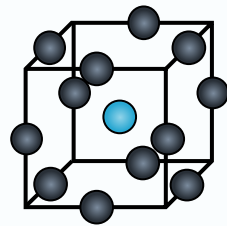
# Ni<sub>4</sub>Mo – Following the phase transition



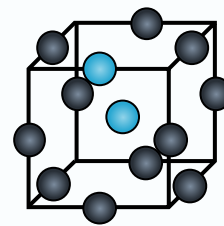
Niels Schreiner



Around  
Mo

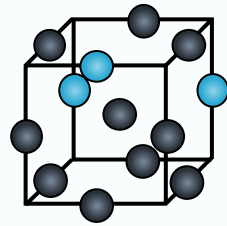


C-1

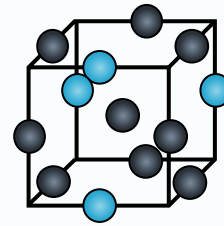


C-2

Around  
Ni

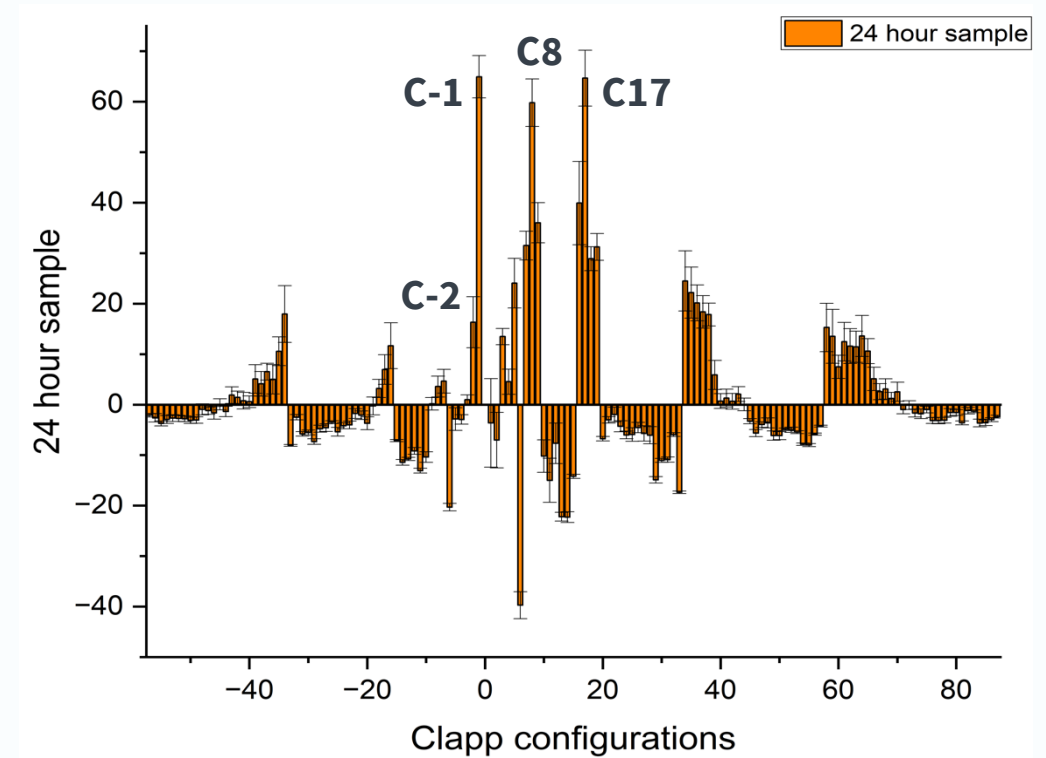


C8



C17

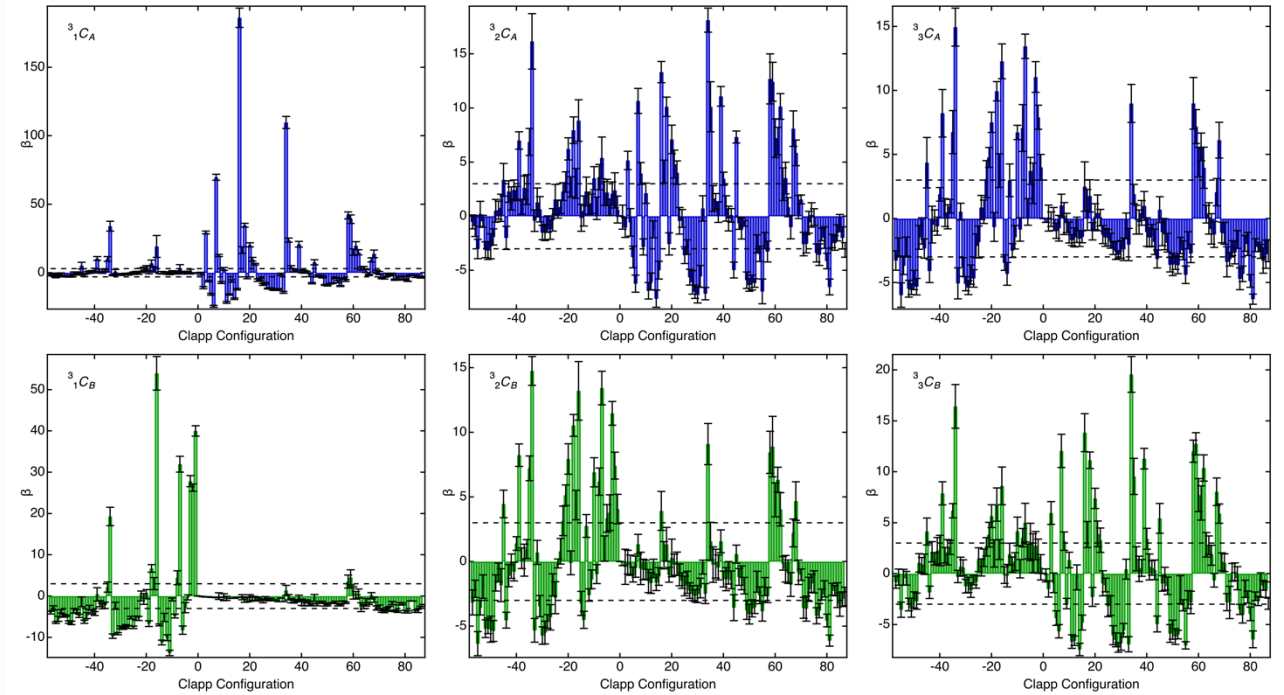
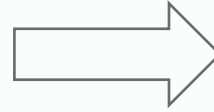
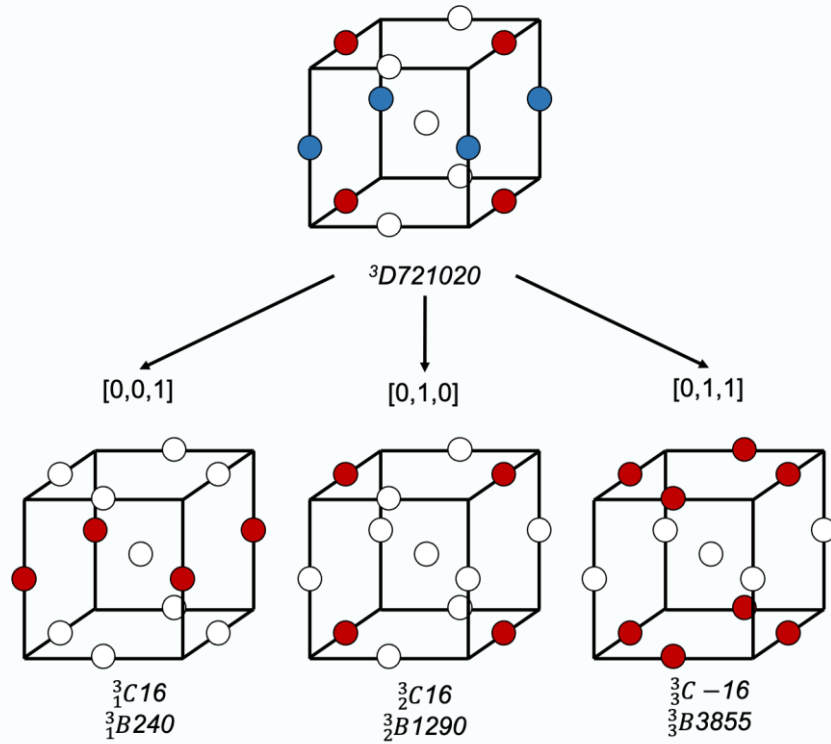
**D1a key  
configurations**



*“Understanding the ordering transition and local structure states in Ni<sub>4</sub>Mo using neutron total scattering”*

– N. Schreiner, P.C. Chater, L.R. Owen, Manuscript in preparation.

# Multicomponent systems

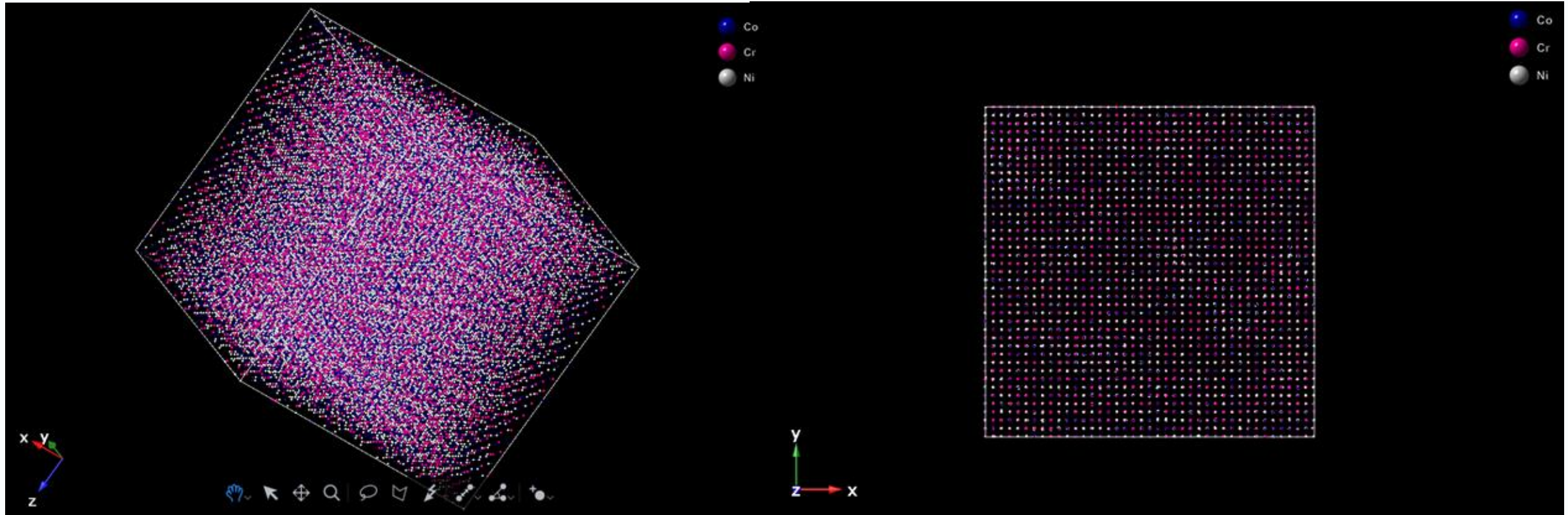




# To higher order systems - NiCoCr



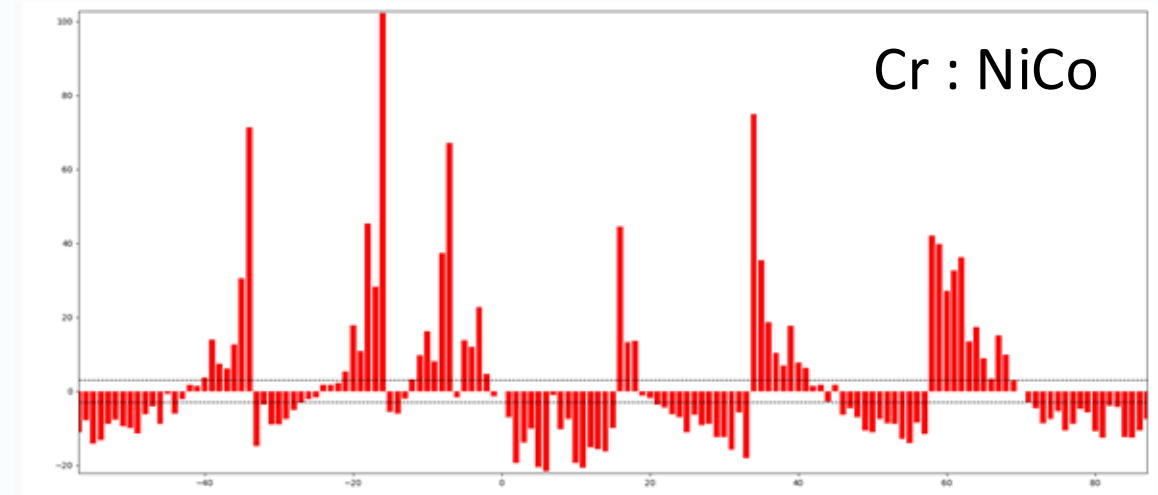
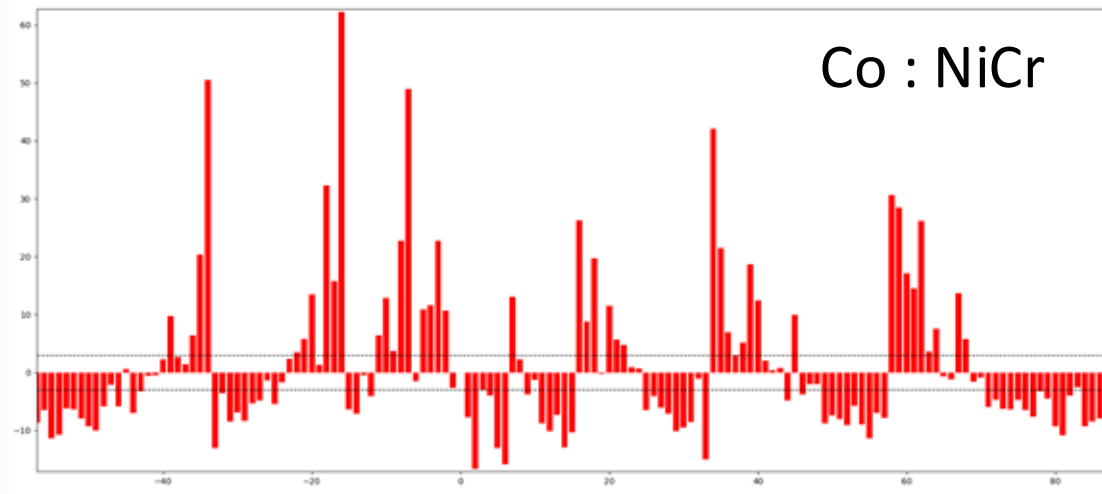
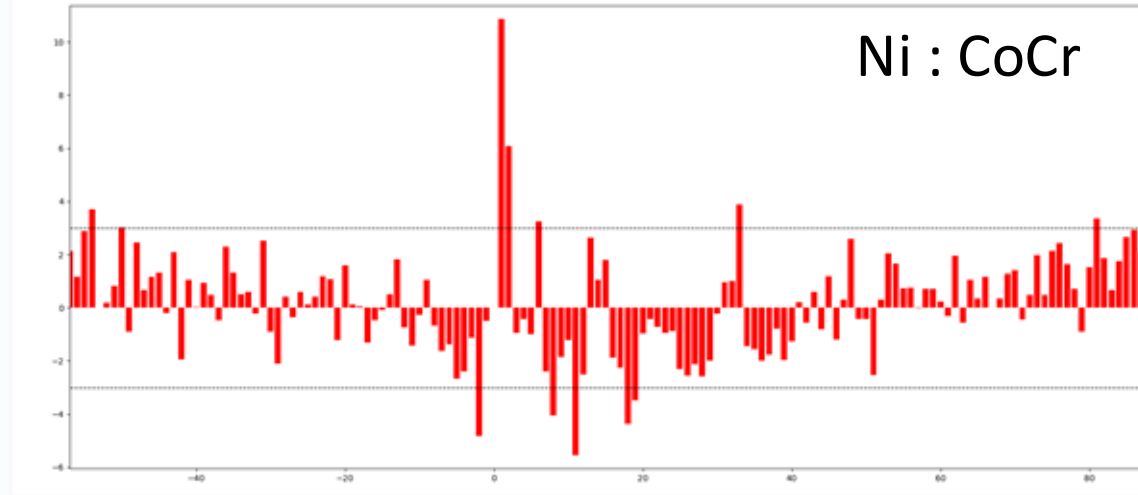
Ben Jolly



# To higher order systems - NiCoCr

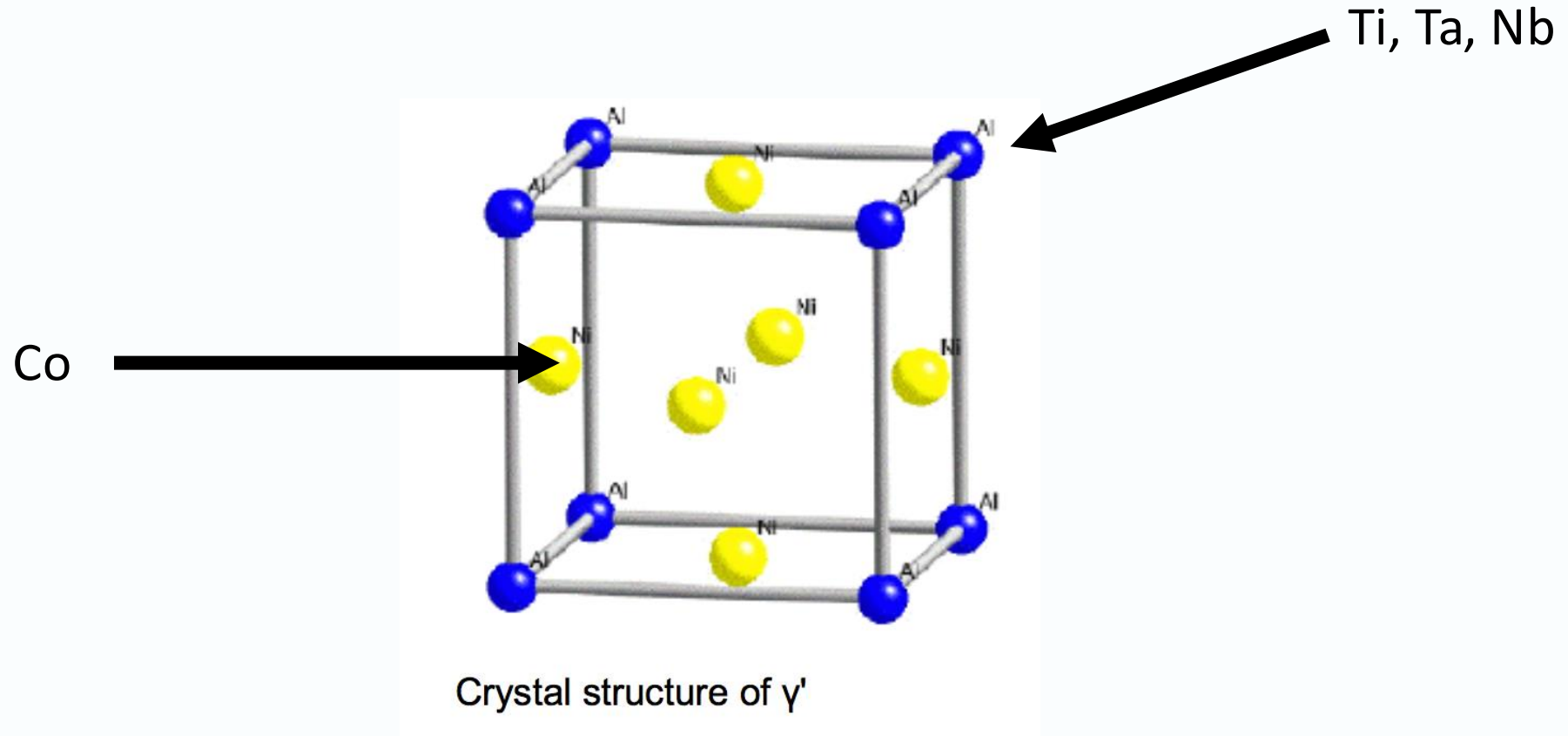


Ben Jolly

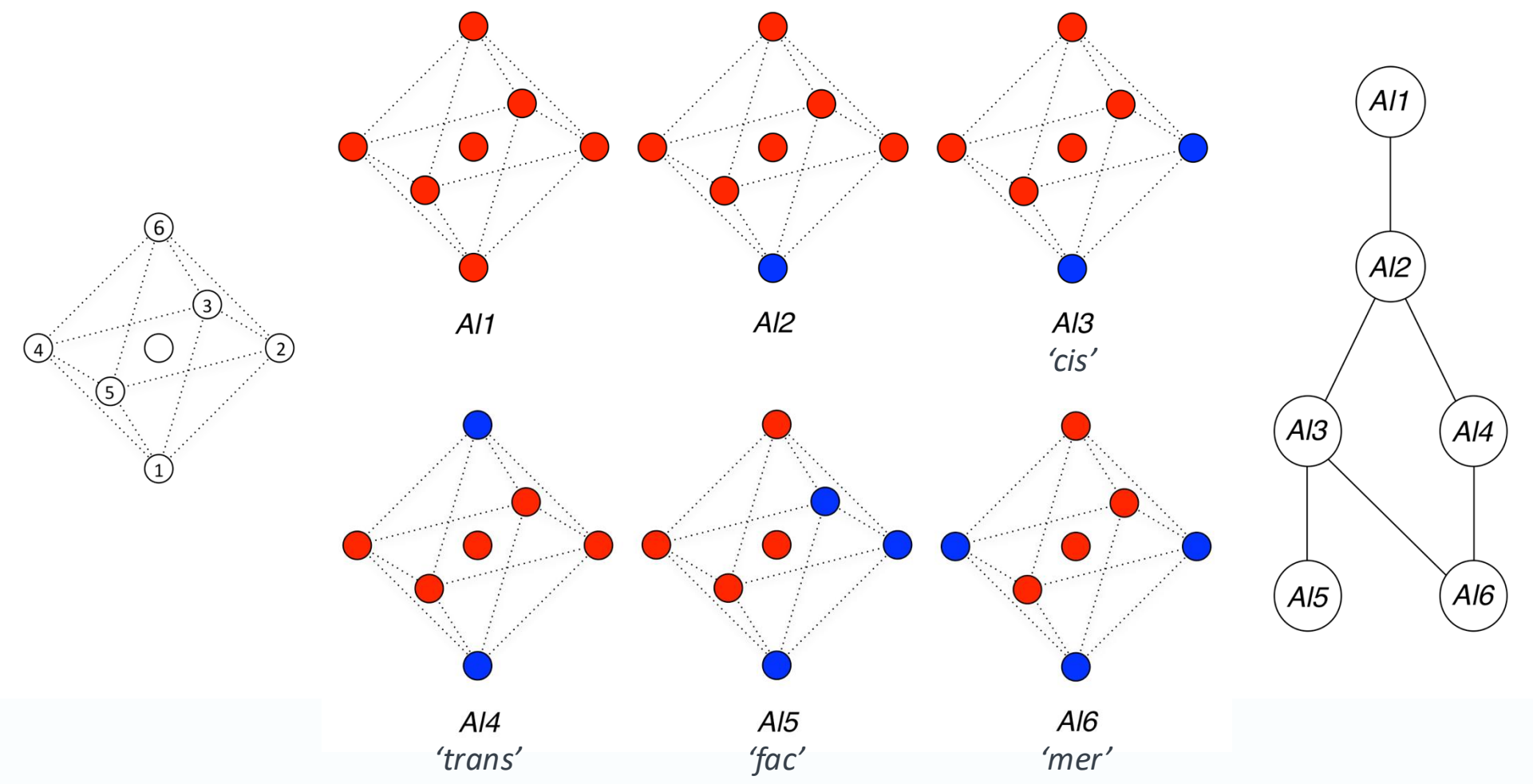




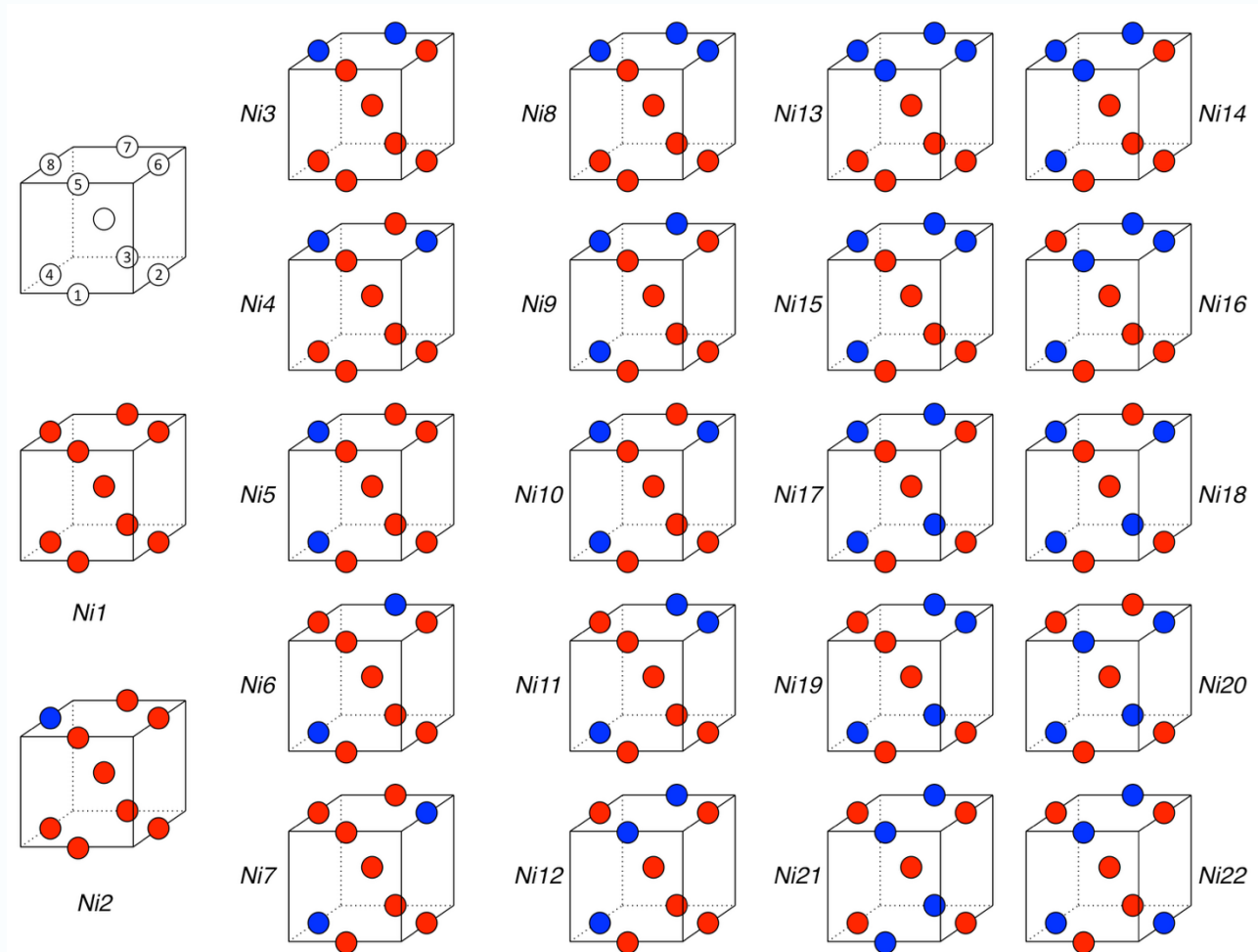
# Sublattice ordering in L1<sub>2</sub> alloys



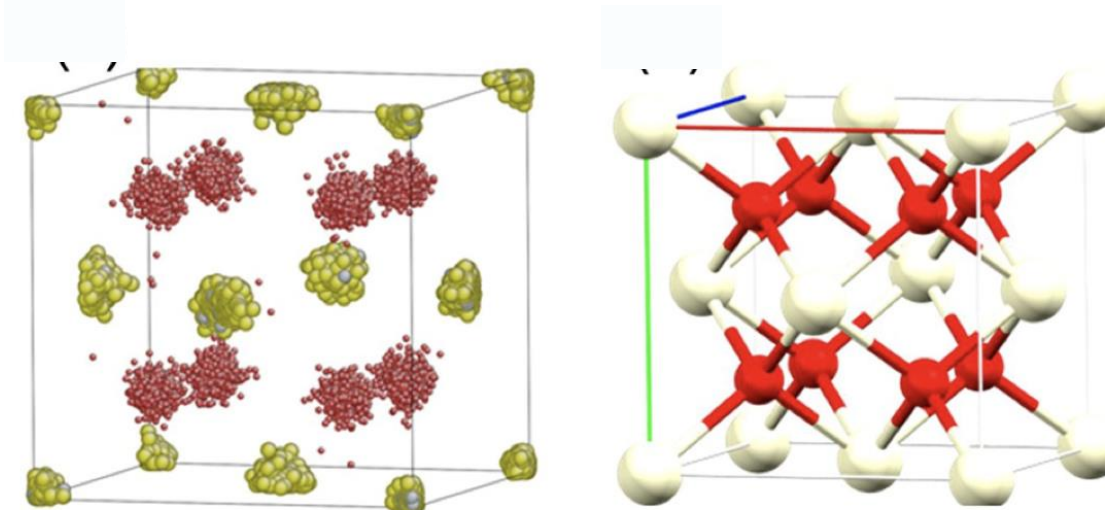
# Aluminium sublattice



# Nickel sublattice



# Chemical systems



RESEARCH ARTICLE | MARCH 21 2023

## Order and disorder in cerium-rich ceria-zirconia solid solutions revealed from reverse Monte Carlo analysis of neutron and x-ray total scattering

Special Collection: [Challenges and Perspectives in Materials Chemistry—A Celebration of Prof. Sir Anthony K. Cheetham's 75th Birthday](#)

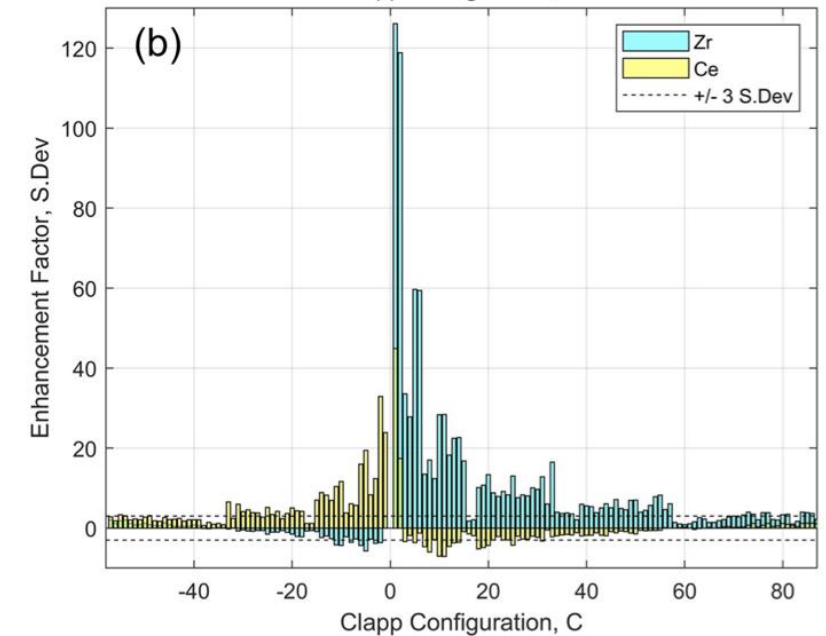
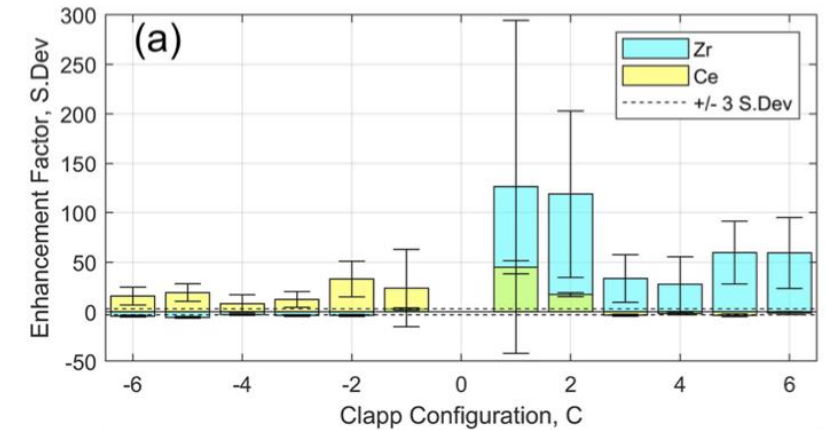
[Cheetham's 75th Birthday](#)

Aron Summer ; Helen Y. Playford ; Lewis R. Owen ; Janet M. Fisher; Amy Kolpin; David Thompsett; Richard I. Walton



APL Mater. 11, 031113 (2023)

<https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0139567>





# Thank you for listening



## Acknowledgements

Ben Jolly (University of Sheffield)

Prof. Katerina Christofidou (University of Sheffield)

Dr. Helen Playford (ISIS Neutron and Muon Source)

Dr Aron Summer and Professor Richard Walton (University of Warwick)

Prof. Howard Stone (Department of Material Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge)

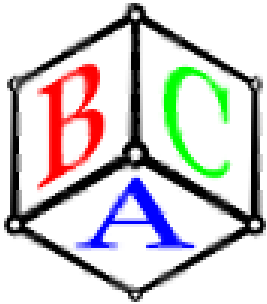
Dr. Matt Tucker (Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

## Funding:

I would like to acknowledge ongoing support from the Royal Academy of Engineering during my Research Fellowship

I would like to acknowledge the support from Gonville and Caius college during my Research Fellowship





## British Crystallographic Association Spring Meeting 2026

30<sup>th</sup> Mar– 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

University of Leeds

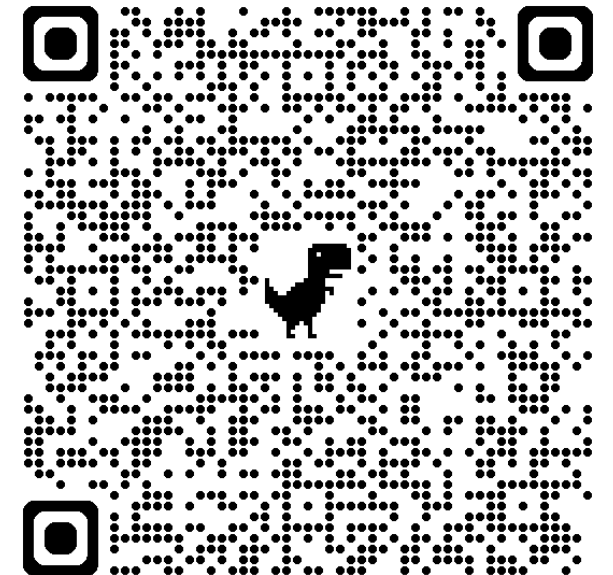
### Plenaries:

**BSG :** Dr Basil Greber  
**CCG:** Prof Neil Champness  
**ESCG:** Dr Ines Collings  
**IG:** Prof John Helliwell  
**PCG:** Prof Abbie Mclaughlin

### Sessions include:

(BSG) Structure-Based Drug Discovery  
(BSG) Complex structures  
(IG/BSG) Complementary techniques/Disorder  
(CCG/IG/ESCG) Crystal Formation (Crystallisation/Crystal prediction/Crystal Engineering)  
(CCG) George Sheldrick: his life and impact  
(CCG) Investigating molecular crystals  
(PCG/CCG) Functional materials  
(PCG) Quantum Materials  
(PCG) Energy materials  
Open sessions in all areas!!

*Abstract deadline*  
*Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026*



# Thank you for listening



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