



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

Hidden complexity in D₂O Ice VII

Wojciech A. Slawinski
wslawinski@chem.uw.edu.pl

Contributors

Wojciech A. Sławiński
Krzysztof Woźniak
Roman Gajda
Michał Chodkiewicz
Piotr Rejnhardt
Mihails Arhangeliskis



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

Grzegorz Łach

**FACULTY OF
PHYSICS**

Craig L. Bull



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Christopher J. Ridley

ISIS Neutron and
Muon Source



Funding

National Science Centre, Poland



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

- grant number 2018/31/B/ST4/00943
- grant number 2021/41/B/ST4/03010

Foundation for Polish Science

- TEAM TECH Core Facility for Crystallographic and Biophysical Research



**Foundation for
Polish Science**

ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, STFC

- ISIS Beamtime Allocation: RB2310212



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

ISIS Neutron and
Muon Source

Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and
Computational Modelling University of
Warsaw

- computational allocation no G97-1992



Outline

Introduction

- water molecule in gas phase
- water molecule in liquid state
- solid form of water
 - ✓ phase diagram
 - ✓ ordered / disordered phase of ice
 - ✓ metastable forms

Outline

Disordered ICE VII

- average structure
- neutron experiment at ISIS Neutron and Muon Source UK
- *big box modeling* in RMCProfile7

Results

- How does the local structure differ from the average?
- What about molecule geometry in solid?

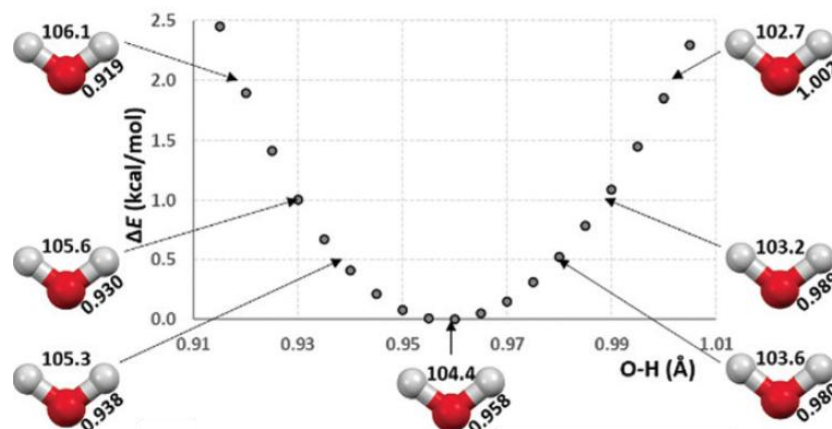
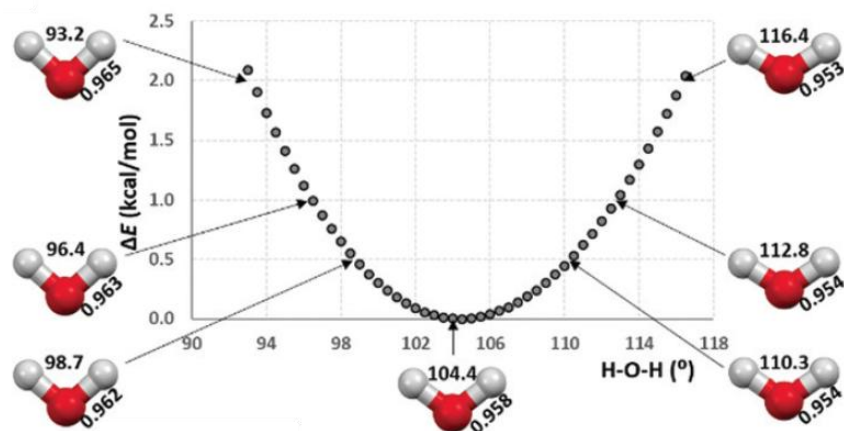
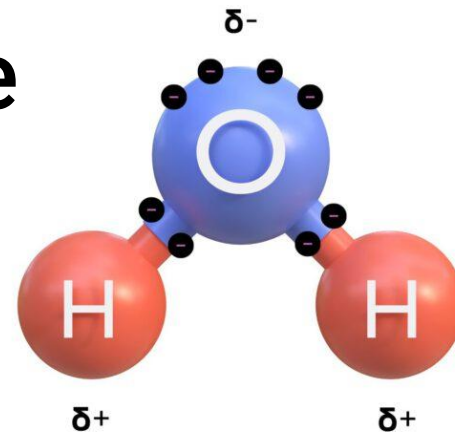
Conclusions

Some more details about *RMCProfile7* modelling

H₂O molecule in gas phase

$$d_{\text{O-H}} = 0.958 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{H-O-H}} = 104.4^\circ$$



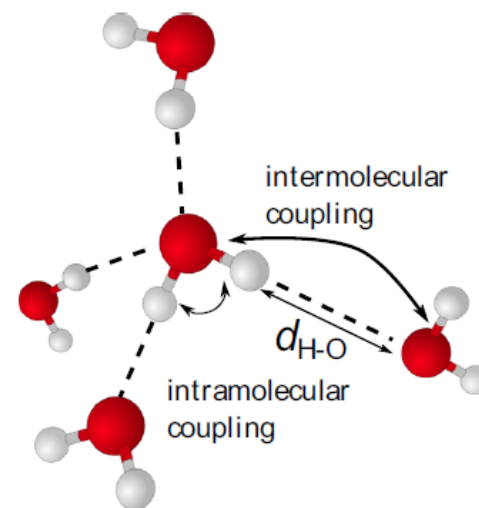
Results of Energy calculations in CCSD(T)/aug-cc-PV6Z potential in Gaussian package

[figs from M. R. Milovanović, J.M. Živković, D.B. Ninković, I.M. Stanković, S.D. Zaric, Phys.Chem.Chem.Phys., 2020, 22, 4138]

[molecule figure from <https://www.centralgalaxy.com/what-makes-water-so-special/>]

H₂O molecule in liquid phase

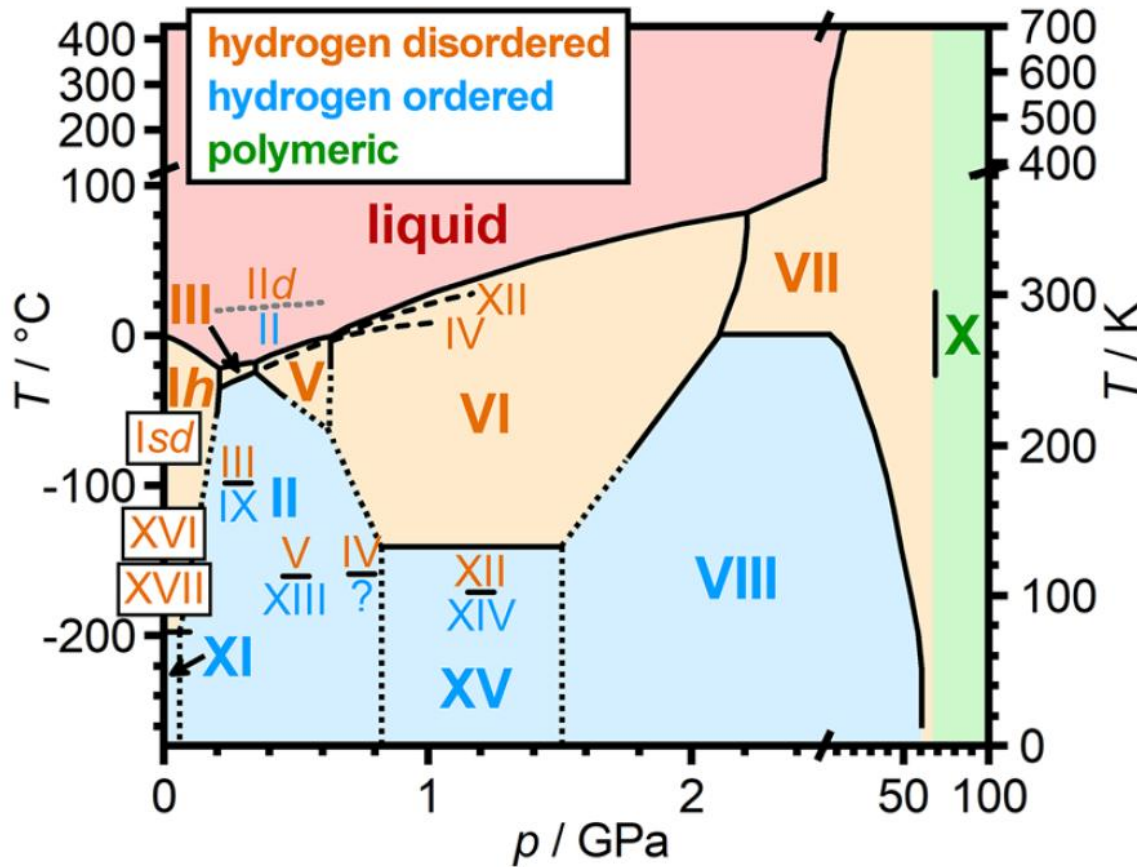
- In liquid water H-O-H angle increases to $106.1 \pm 1.8^\circ$ and O-H distance is $0.960 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}$ [1]
- H₂O molecules also form tetrahedral geometry due to extra electron pairs on oxygen [2]
- H₂O molecules in liquid and solid follow „ice rules”



[1] from K. Ichikawa, Y. Kameda, T. Yamaguchi, H. Wakita and M. Misawa, Mol. Phys., 1991, 73, 79

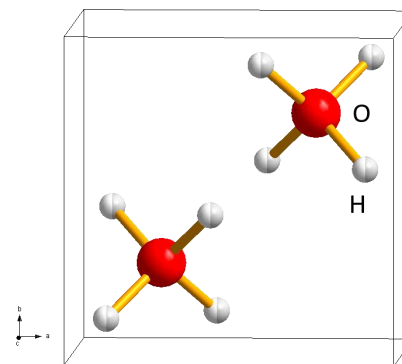
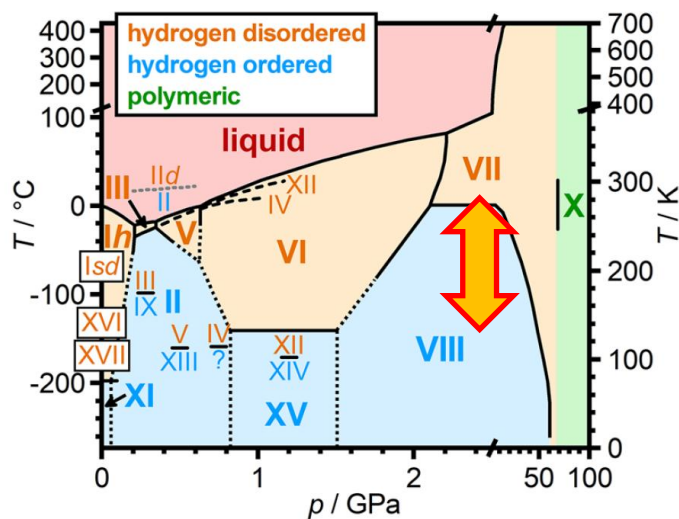
[fig from 2] L. Gunkel, A.A. Ehrhard, C.S. Krevert, B.A. Marekha, M. Bonn, M. Grechko, J. Hunger, Nature Communications, 2024, 1, 5:10453

H₂O in solid phase = ice

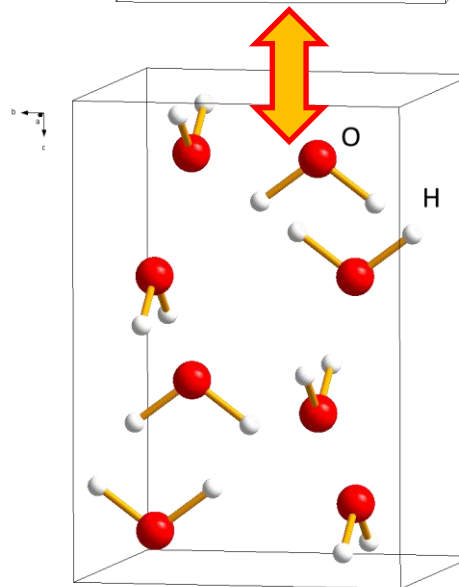


[fig from] C.G. Salzmann, J. Chem. Phys. 150, 060901 (2019)

H₂O in solid phase = ice



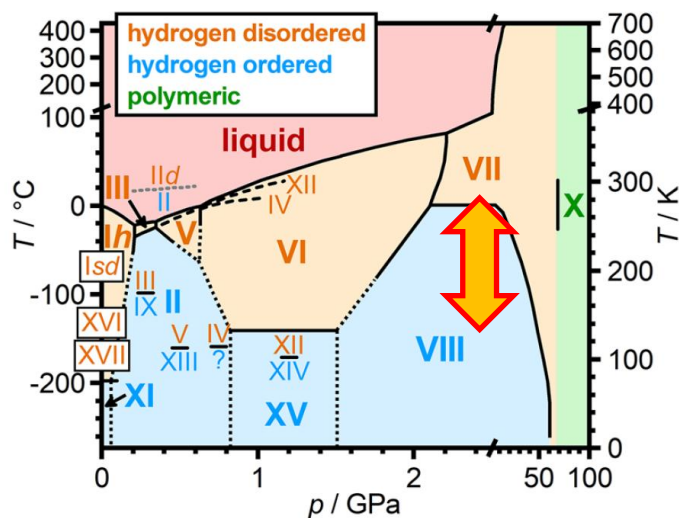
disordered ice VII



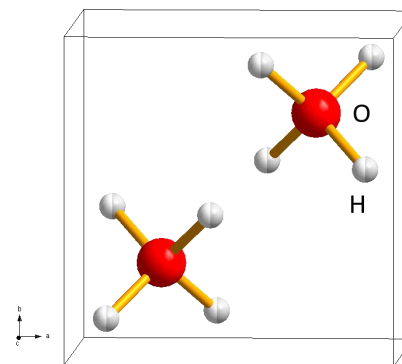
ordered ice VIII

[fig from] C.G. Salzmann, J. Chem. Phys. 150, 060901 (2019)

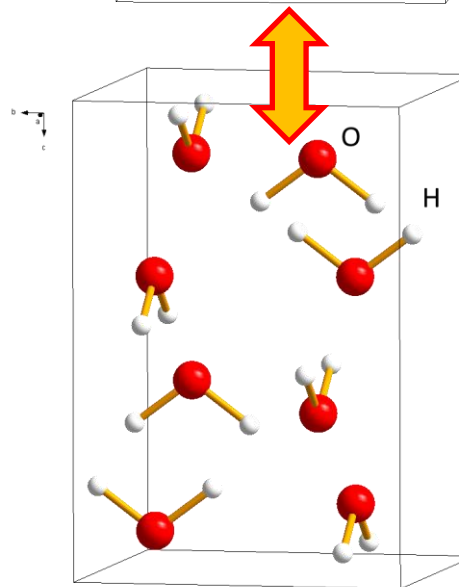
H₂O in solid phase = ice



- some crystal forms are metastable
- different experimental routes show different phases



disordered ice VII



ordered ice VIII

[fig from] C.G. Salzmann, J. Chem. Phys. 150, 060901 (2019)

Ice VII structure by HAR (Hirshfeld Atom Refinement)

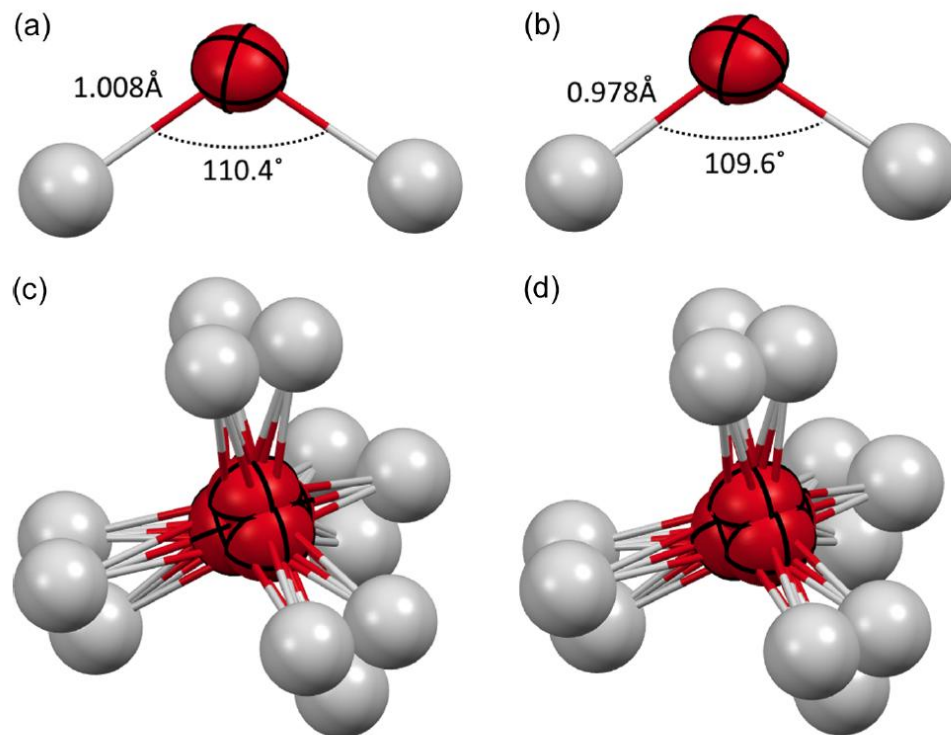
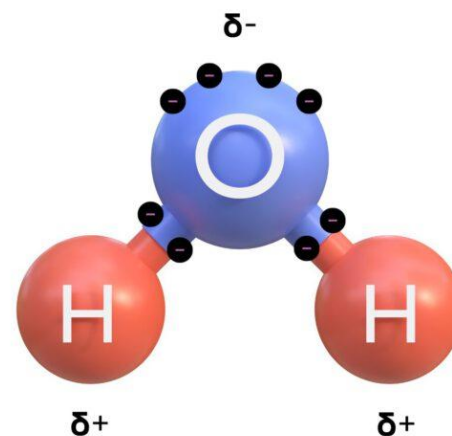


Figure 4

Structures refined with the oxygen atom split in the $\langle 111 \rangle$ family of directions. (a, b) Geometries of selected configurations of the water molecule. (c, d) Disordered water molecule. Refinements for (a) and (c) H_2O ; (b) and (d) D_2O .

H₂O molecule in different Ice phases

Ice	Bond angle ^a (°)	Bond length ^a (Å)
I _h ³	109.34–109.57	0.999–1.001
Ice 2 ⁴	82.40–99.88	1.007–1.023
Ice 3 ⁵	74.00–132.00	0.915–0.958
Ice 4 ⁶	89.69–118.32	0.840–1.079
Ice 5 ⁷	82.33–126.09	0.984–1.063
Ice 6 ⁸	97.97–115.51	0.937–0.986
Ice 7 ⁹	109.42	0.943
Ice 8 ¹⁰	106.80	0.973
Ice 9 ¹¹	97.86	0.915–0.958
Ice 10 ¹²	109.48	1.180
Ice 11 ¹³	109.42–109.45	0.961
Ice 12 ¹⁴	100.70–119.20	0.917–0.988
Ice 13 ¹⁵	100.25–109.31	0.938–1.004
Ice 14 ¹⁵	98.29–108.49	1.001–1.083
Ice 15 ¹⁶	94.21–107.62	0.887–1.115
Ice 16 ¹⁷	106.57	0.993
Ice 17 ¹⁸	108.60–113.10	1.006–1.023



$$d_{\text{O-H}} = 0.958 \text{ Å}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{H-O-H}} = 104.4^\circ$$

[figs from M. R. Milovanović, J.M. Živković, D.B. Ninković, I.M. Stanković, S.D. Zaric, Phys.Chem.Chem.Phys., 2020, 22, 4138]

[molecule figure from <https://www.centralgalaxy.com/what-makes-water-so-special/>]

Results obtained from neutron PDF

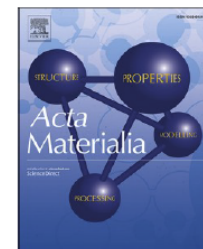
Acta Materialia 305 (2026) 121839











Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Acta Materialia

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/actamat



Hidden complexity in D₂O Ice VII

Wojciech A. Sławiński^{a,*} , Grzegorz Łach^b , Roman Gajda^a , Michał Chodkiewicz^a,
Piotr Rejnhardt^a , Mihails Arhangeliskis^a , Christopher L. Ridley^{c,e} , Craig L. Bull^{c,d} ,
Krzysztof Woźniak^{a,*} 

^a Faculty of Chemistry, University of Warsaw, Pasteura 1, 02-093 Warszawa, Poland

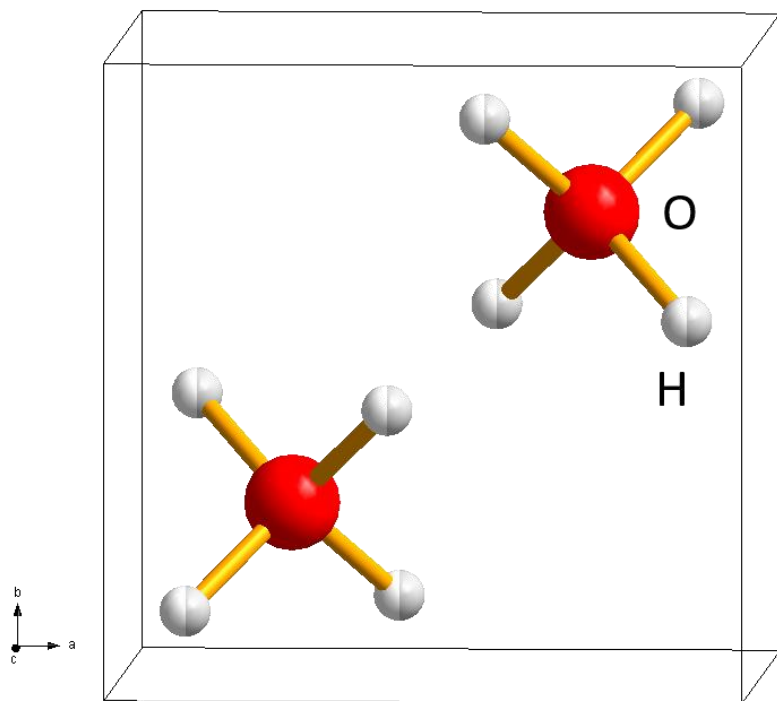
^b Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Pasteura 5, 02-093 Warszawa, Poland

^c STFC, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, Harwell Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, United Kingdom

^d EaStCHEM School of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh, Joseph Black Building, Edinburgh EH9 3FJ, Scotland, United Kingdom

^e Spallation Neutron Source, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, USA

ice VII average crystal structure



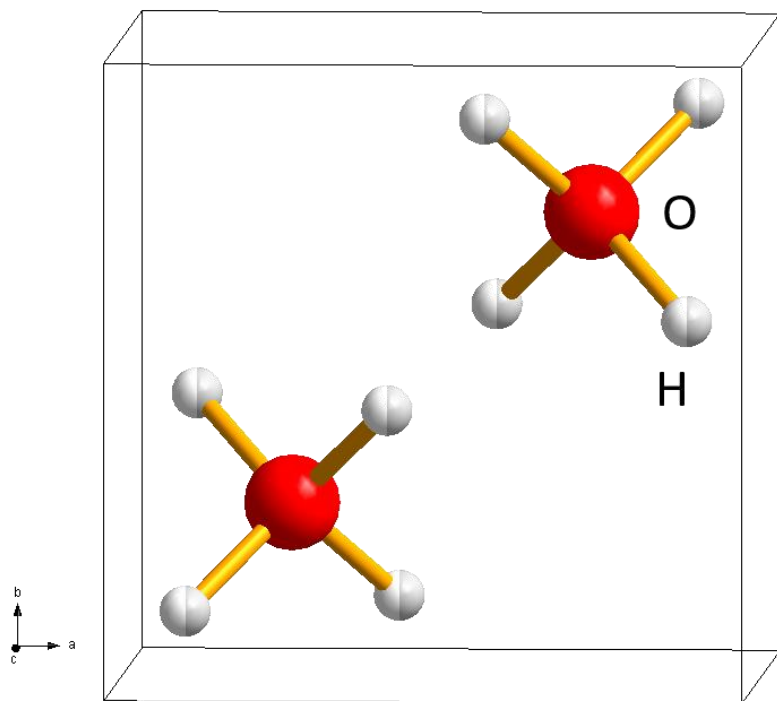
spacegroup $Pn-3m$

$a = 3.3738 \text{ \AA}$

O at $(\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4})$ occ = 1.0

H at $(0.40834 \ 0.40834 \ 0.40834)$ occ = 0.5

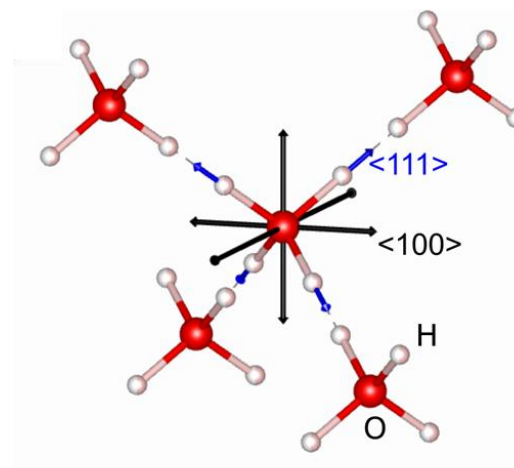
ice VII average crystal structure and possible molecule displacements



spacegroup Pn-3m
 $a = 3.3738 \text{ \AA}$

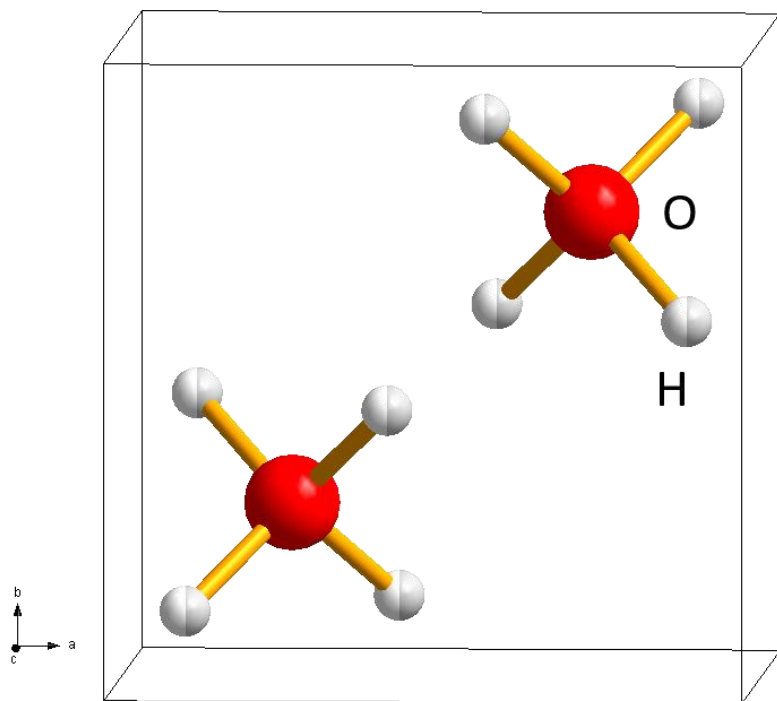
O at $(\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4})$ occ = 1.0

H at $(0.40834 \ 0.40834 \ 0.40834)$ occ = 0.5



right fig. from K. Yamashita^a, K. Komatsu^a, S. Klotz, O. Fabelo, M.T. Fernandez-Diaz, J. Abed, S. Machida^a, I. Hattori^a, I. Irifune, I. Shinmei^a, K. Sugiyama, I. Kawamata, H. Kagi, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. 119 (2022) e2208717119

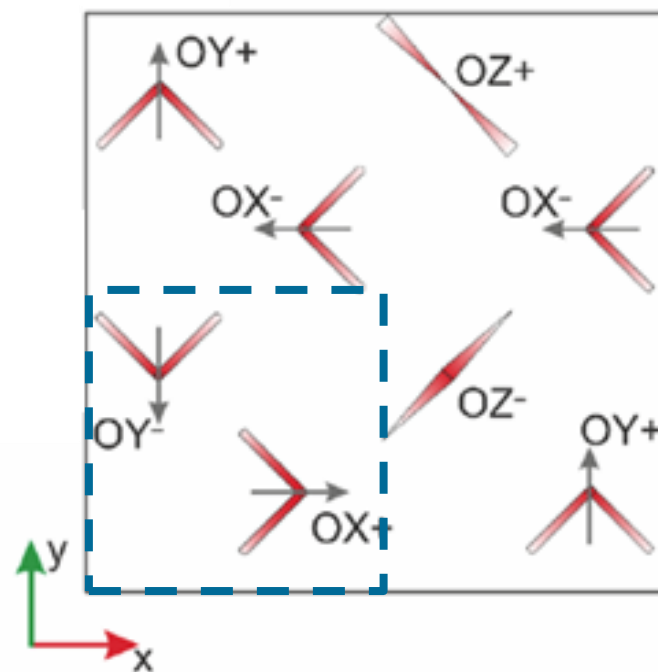
ice VII average crystal structure and possible molecule displacements



spacegroup $Pn-3m$
 $a = 3.3738 \text{ \AA}$

O at $(\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4})$ occ = 1.0

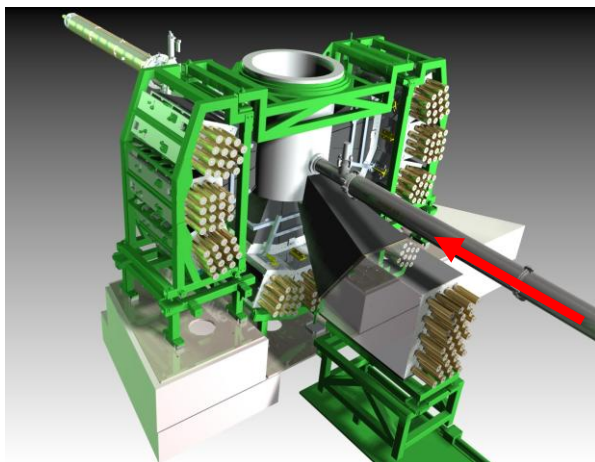
H at $(0.40834 \ 0.40834 \ 0.40834)$ occ = 0.5



High Pressure experiment at ISIS neutron and muon source



The Paris-Edinburgh press



- pure D_2O between two zirconia-toughened alumina anvils within a null scattering TiZr gasket and placed in a Paris-Edinburgh press
- maximum load was 40 tonnes
- measurement time was 23 h at 290 K at RT

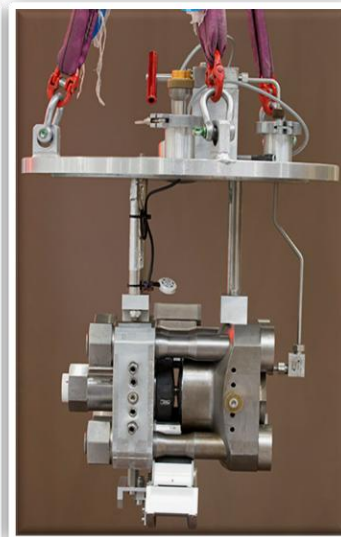
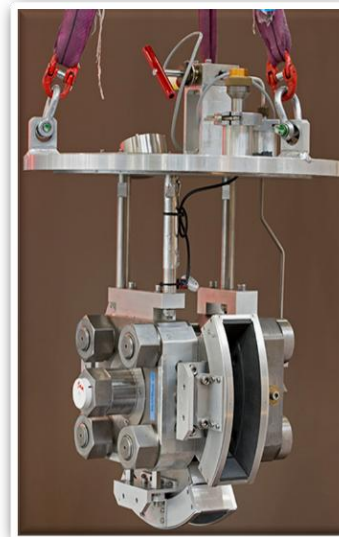


fig from <https://www.isis.stfc.ac.uk/Pages/pearl.aspx>

High Pressure experiment at ISIS neutron and muon source

- In order to avoid Preferred Orientation and increase sample crystallinity the following route was used:

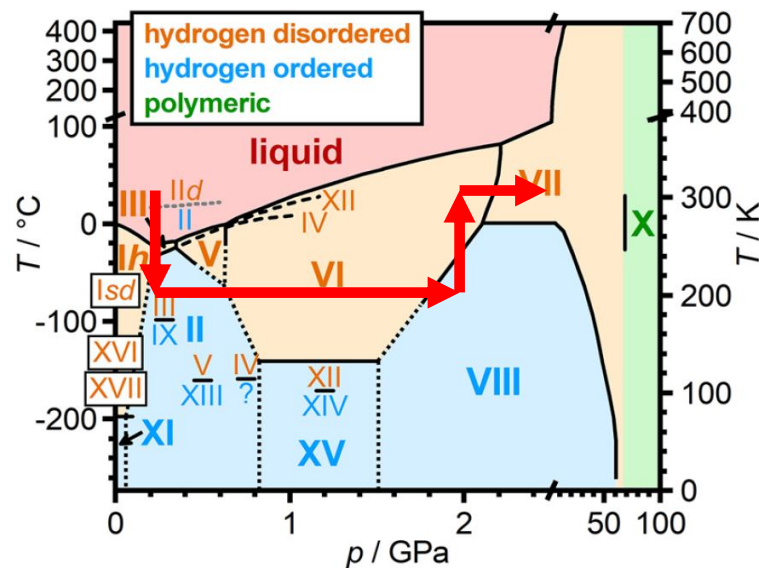
290 K, 3 tonns \rightarrow

→ 200 K, 3 tonns →

→ 200 K, 32.5 tonns →

→ 290 K, 32.5 tonns →

→ 290 K, 37.5 tons



[fig from] C.G. Salzmann, J. Chem. Phys. 150, 060901 (2019)

High Pressure experiment at ISIS neutron and muon source

- In order to avoid Preferred Orientation and increase sample crystallinity the following route was used:

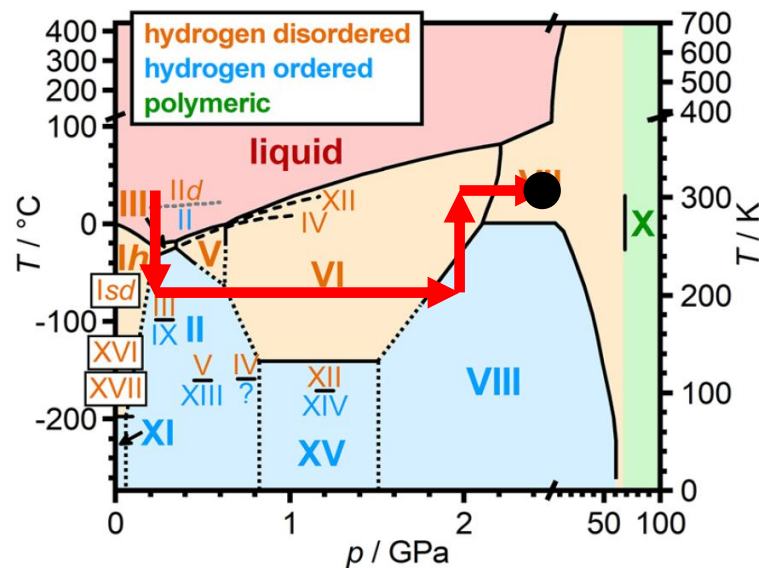
290 K, 3 tonns →

→ 200 K, 3 tonns →

→ 200 K, 32.5 tonns →

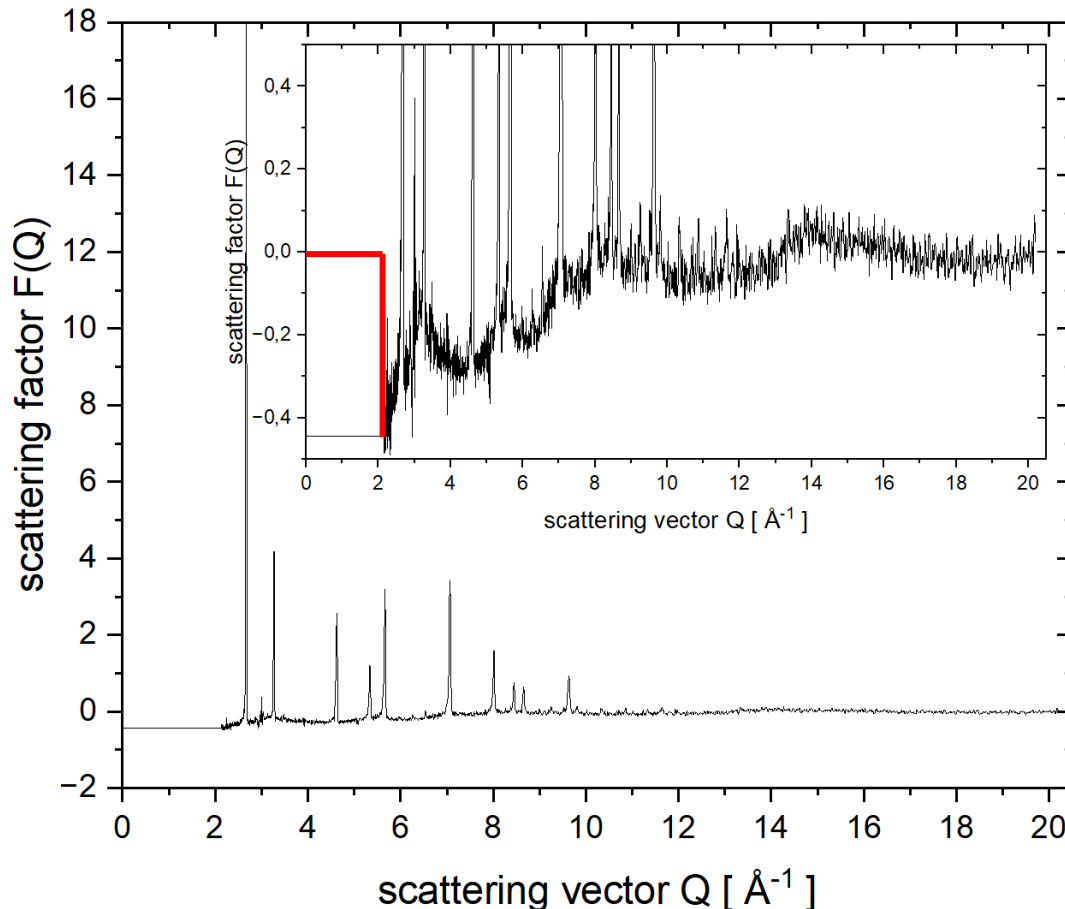
→ 290 K, 32.5 tonns →

→ 290 K, 37.5 tons



[fig from] C.G. Salzmann, J. Chem. Phys. 150, 060901 (2019)

High Pressure experiment at ISIS neutron and muon source



- $Q_{\text{MAX}} = 20.5 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$
- $Q_{\text{MIN}} = 1.55 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$

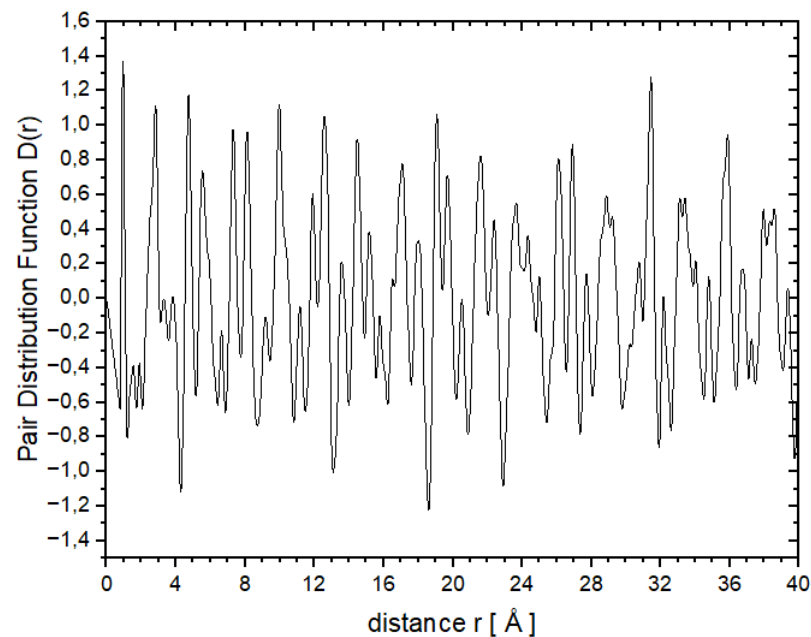
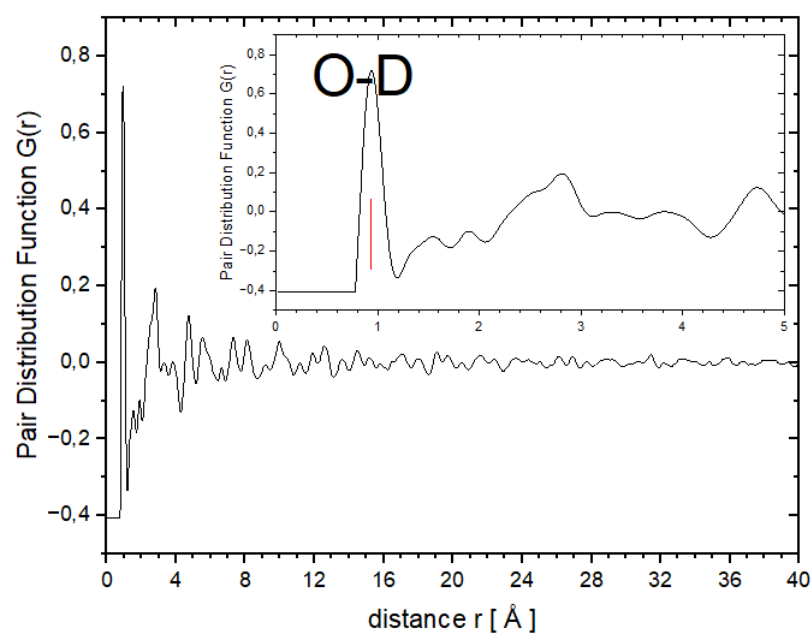
$$F(Q \rightarrow 0) = -\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \bar{b}_i^2 + \eta,$$



RMCPProfile7 hint

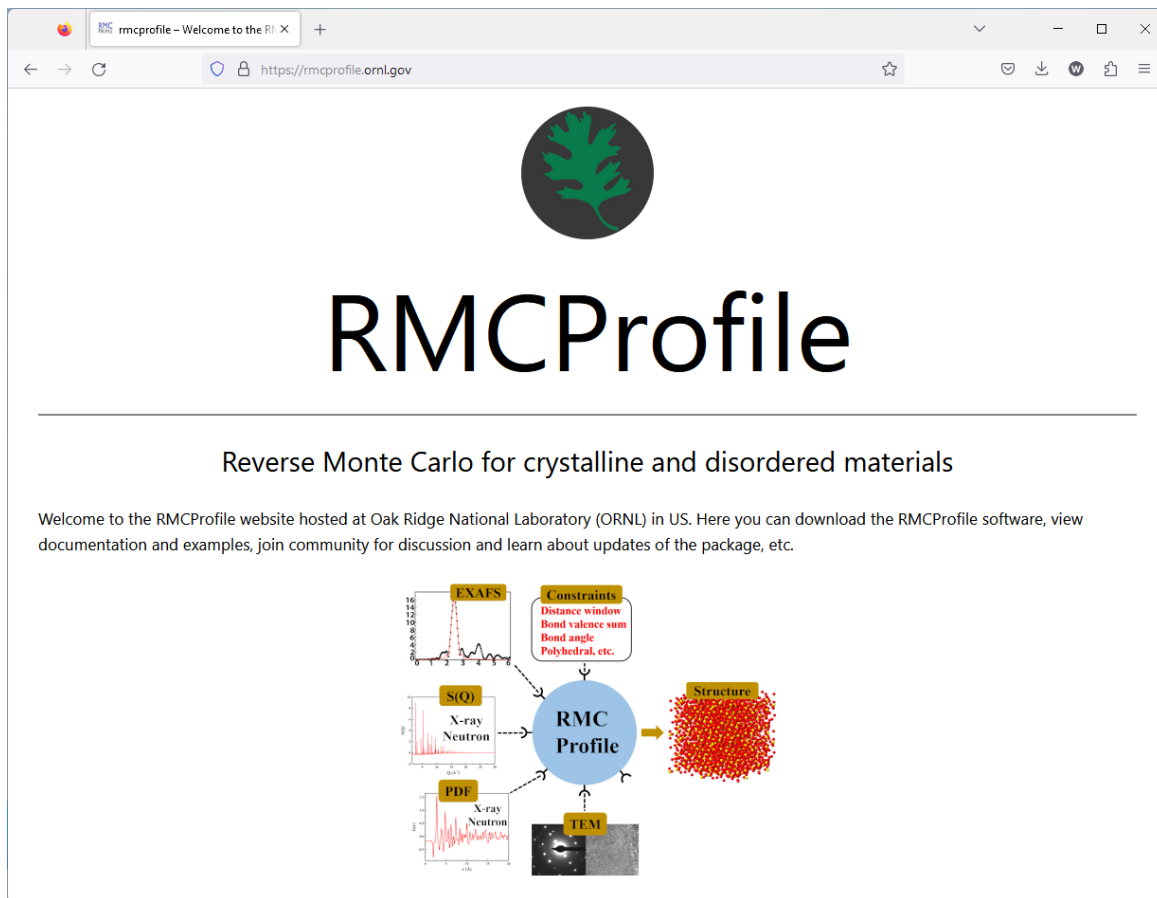
see equations in D. Keen, J. Appl. Cryst. (2001). 34, 172

High Pressure experiment at ISIS neutron and muon source



see equations in D. Keen, J. Appl. Cryst. (2001). 34, 172

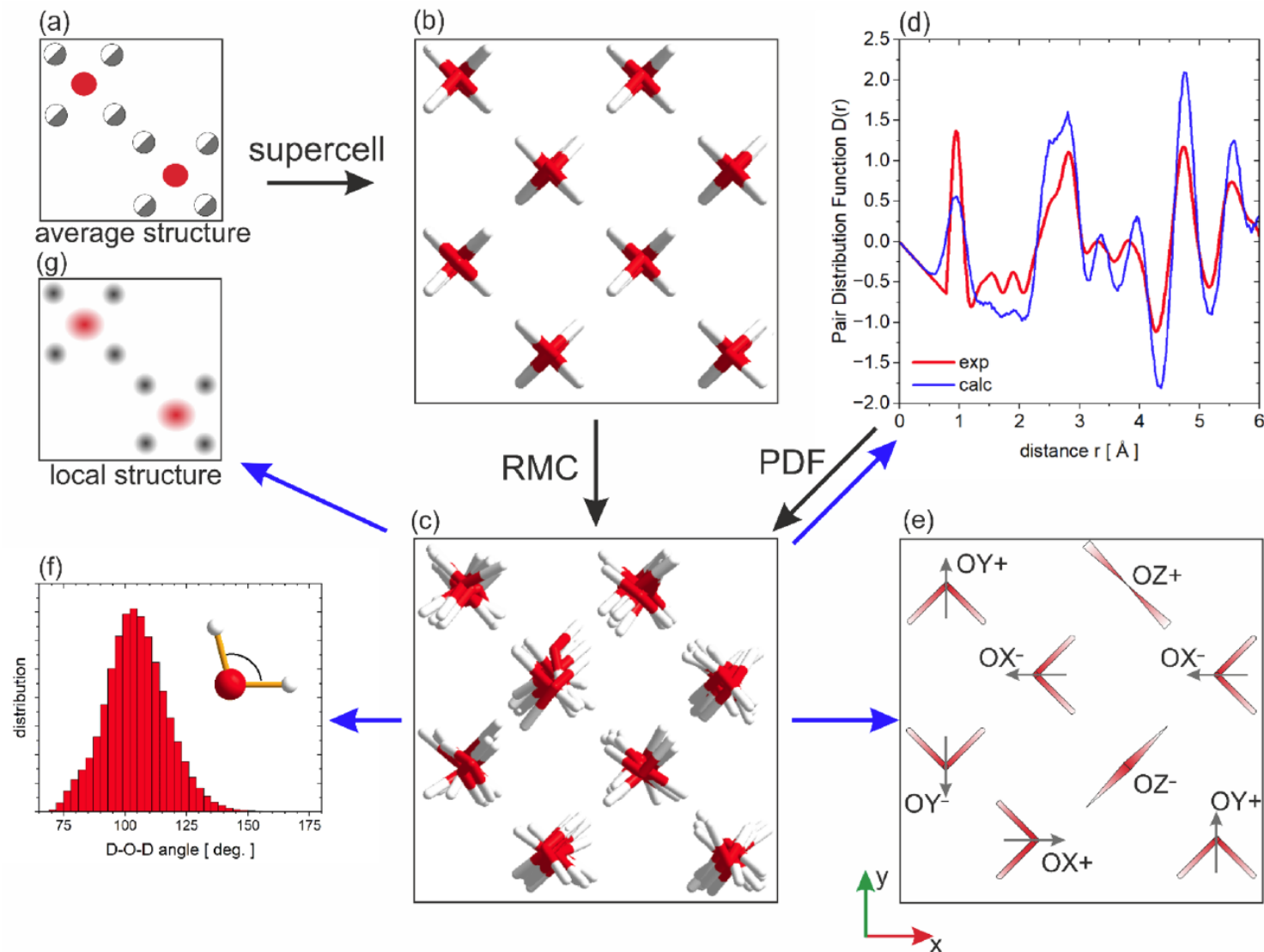
RMCPProfile in brief



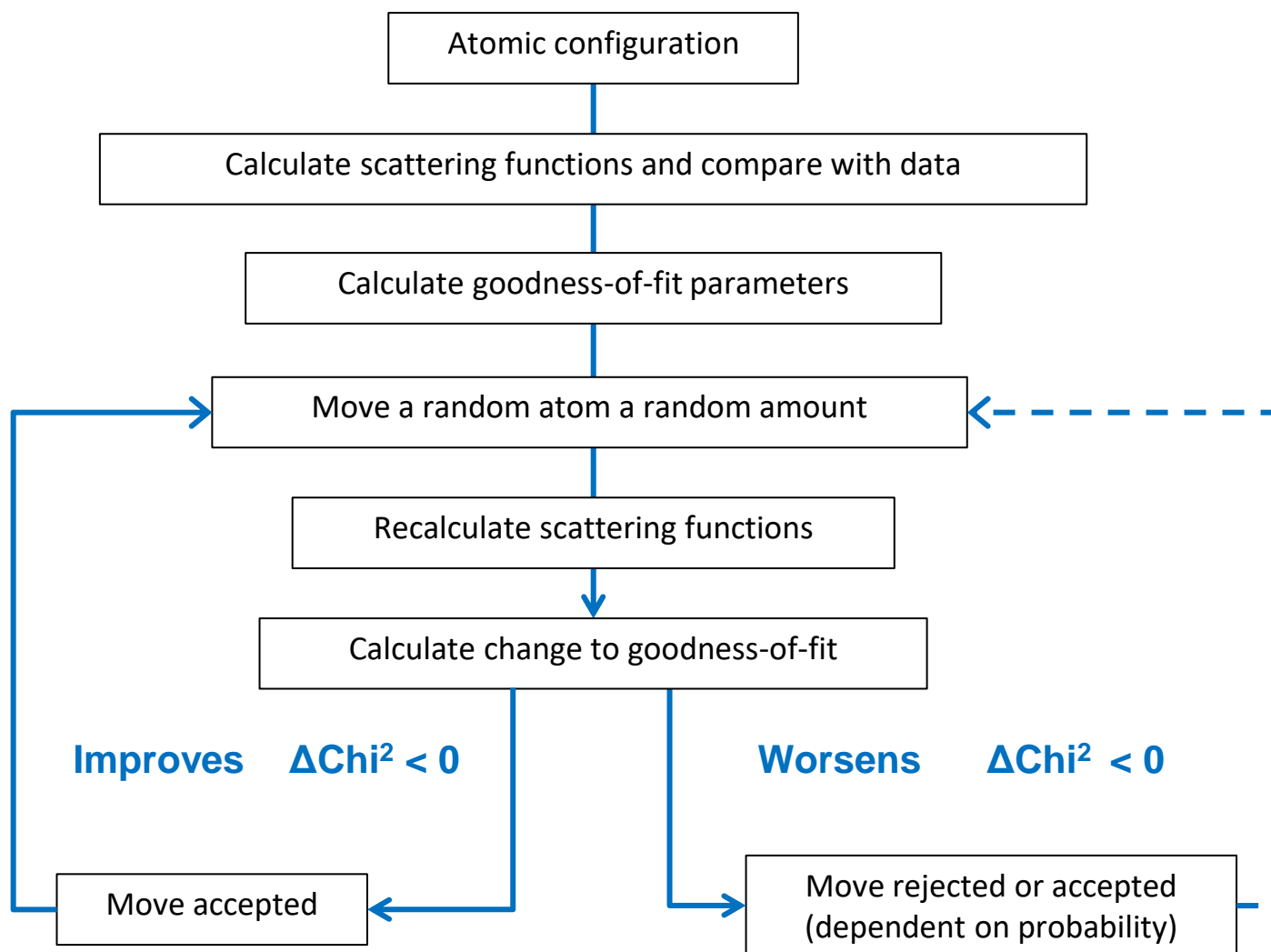
The screenshot shows the RMCPProfile website in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays <https://rmcprofile.ornl.gov>. The website features a green oak leaf logo at the top center. Below the logo, the title "RMCPProfile" is prominently displayed in a large, black, sans-serif font. Underneath the title, a subtitle reads "Reverse Monte Carlo for crystalline and disordered materials". A welcome message follows: "Welcome to the RMCPProfile website hosted at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in US. Here you can download the RMCPProfile software, view documentation and examples, join community for discussion and learn about updates of the package, etc." At the bottom of the page, a diagram illustrates the workflow of the software. It shows various input data types on the left: EXAFS (Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure), S(Q) (Static Structure Factor), PDF (Pair Distribution Function), and TEM (Transmission Electron Microscopy) images. These inputs feed into a central blue circle labeled "RMC Profile". Above this central circle is a box labeled "Constraints" which lists "Distance window", "Bond valence sum", "Bond angle", and "Polyhedral, etc.". An arrow points from the "RMC Profile" circle to a 3D visualization of a "Structure" on the right, depicted as a cluster of red spheres.

<https://rmcprofile.ornl.gov/>

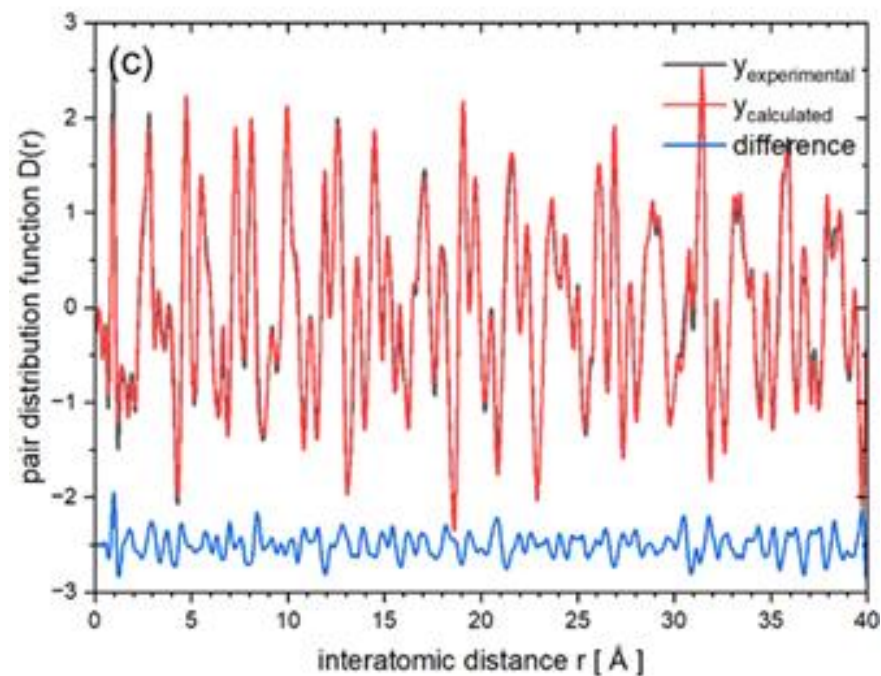
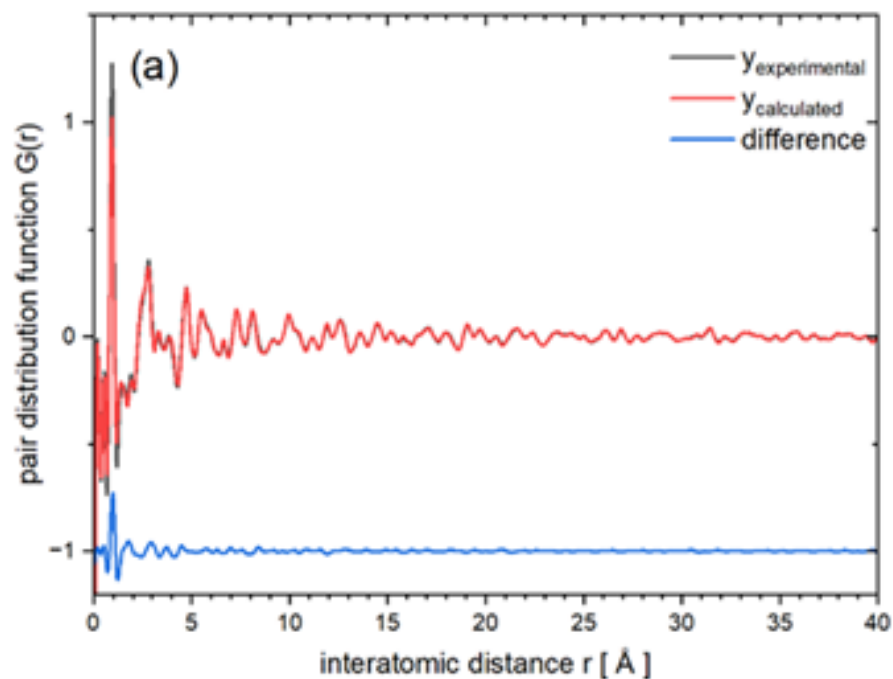
RMCPProfile in brief



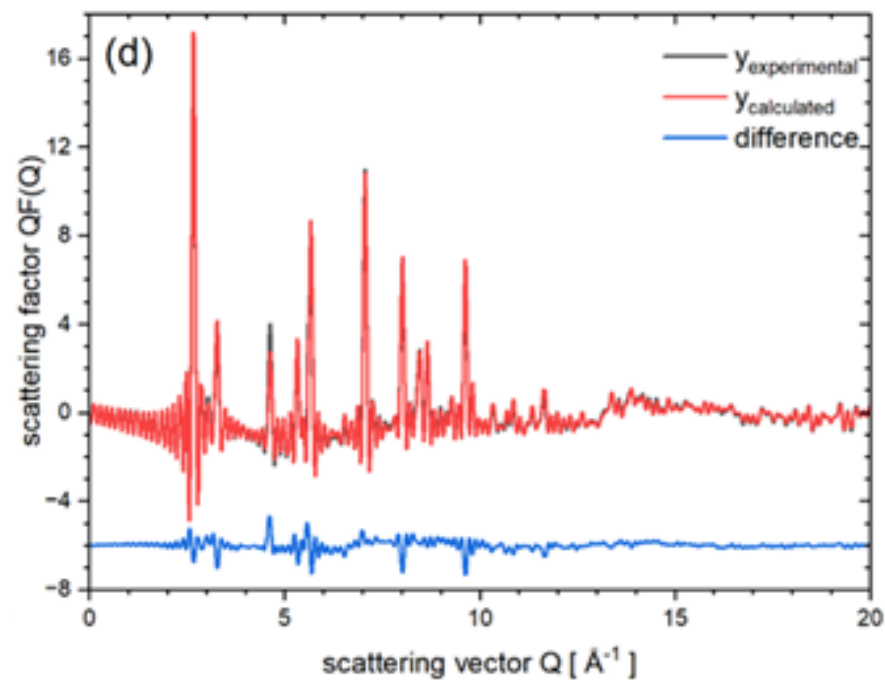
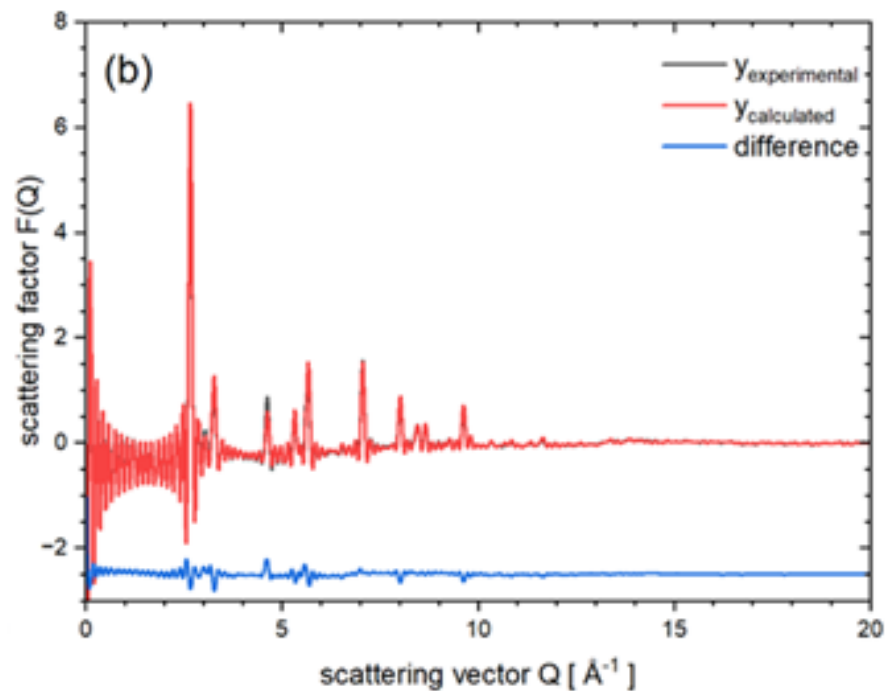
Reversed Monte Carlo in brief



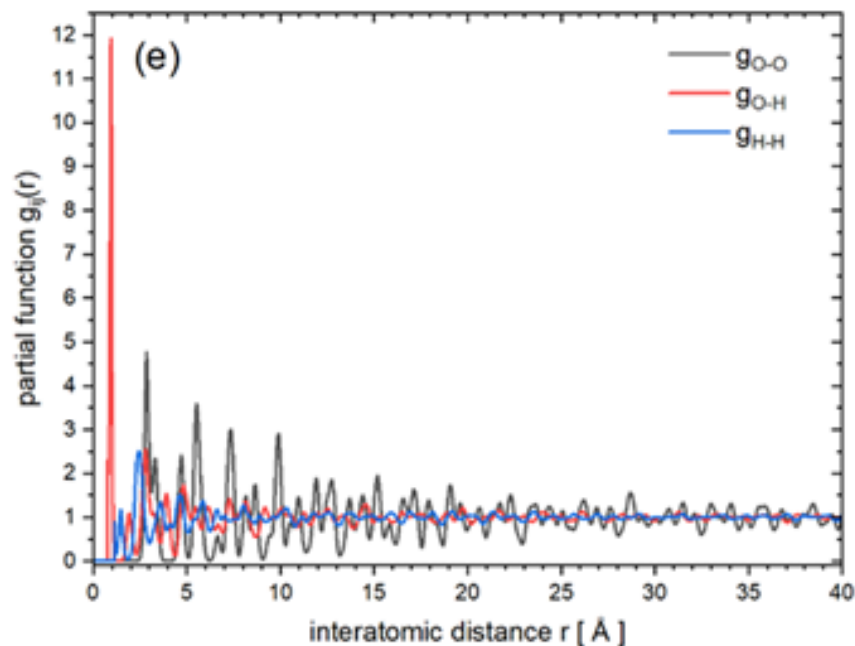
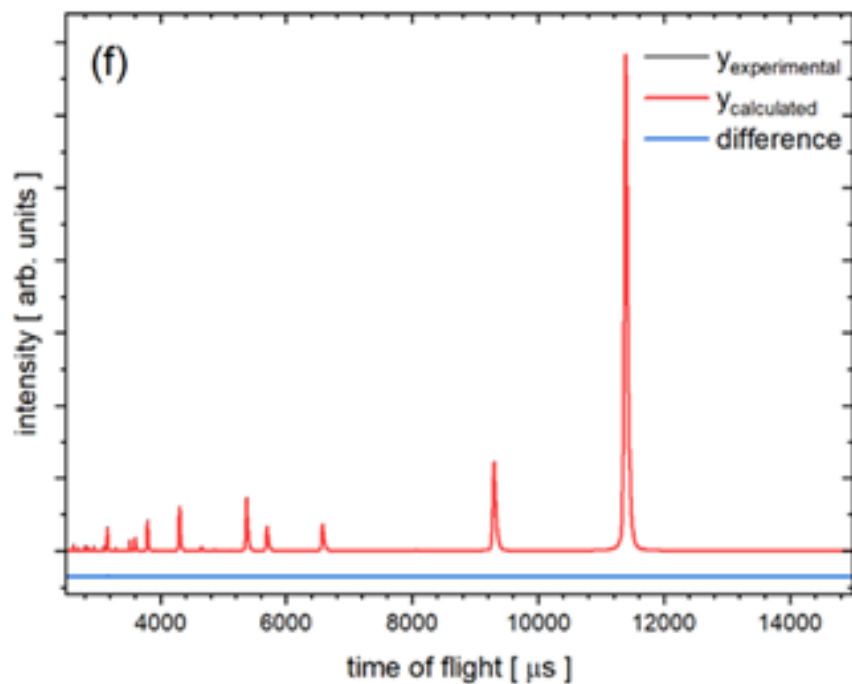
RMCPProfile results



RMCPProfile results



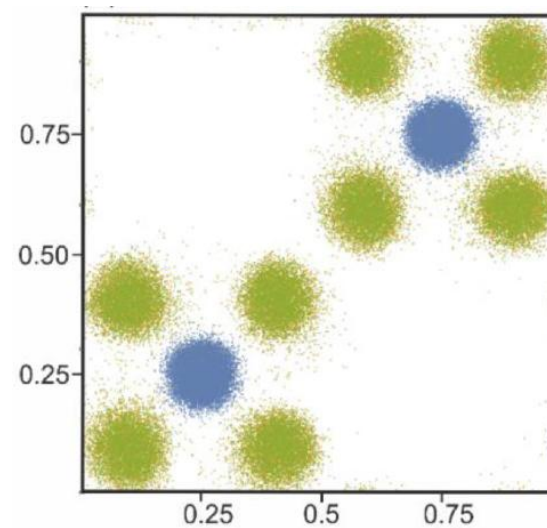
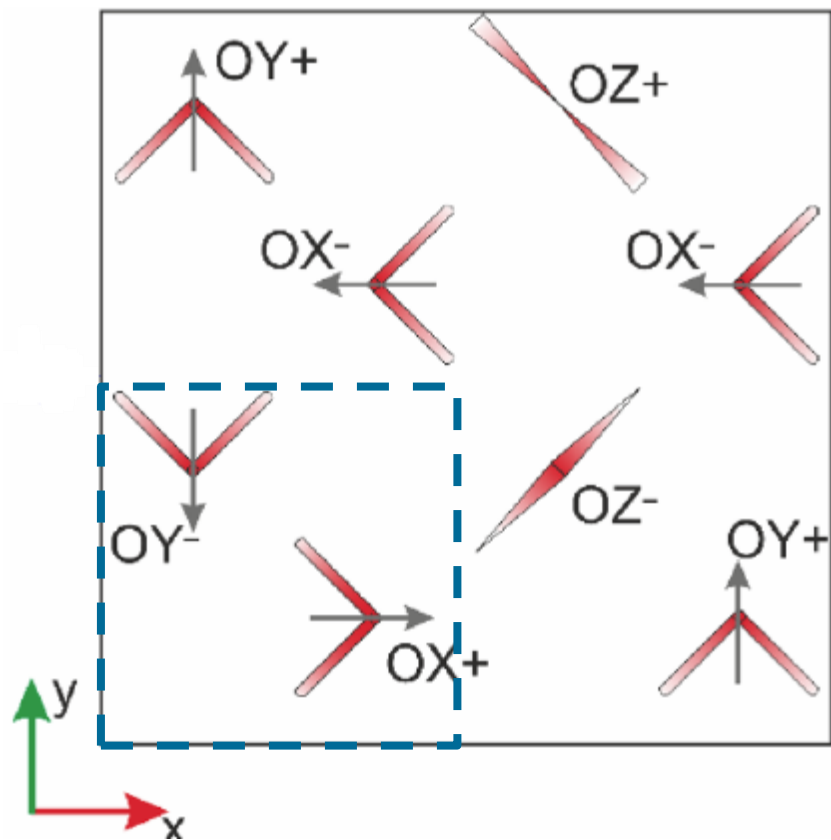
RMCPProfile results



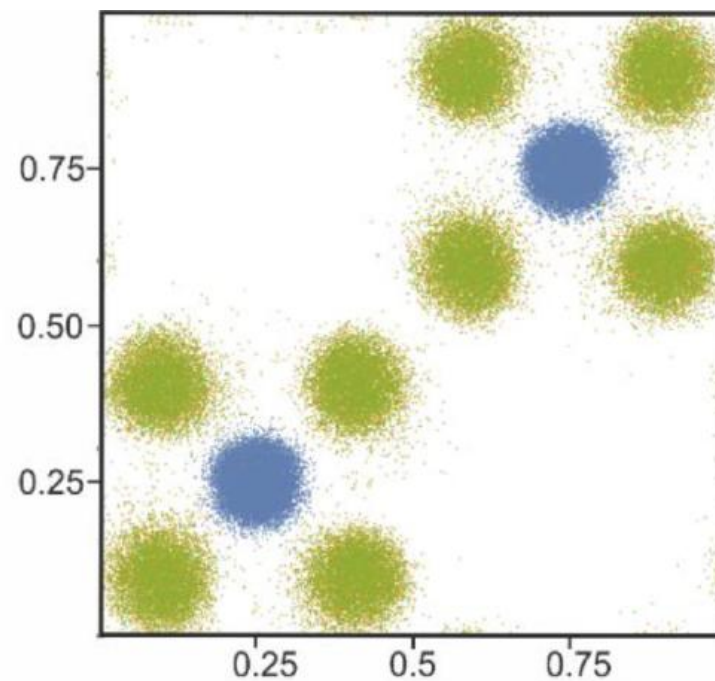
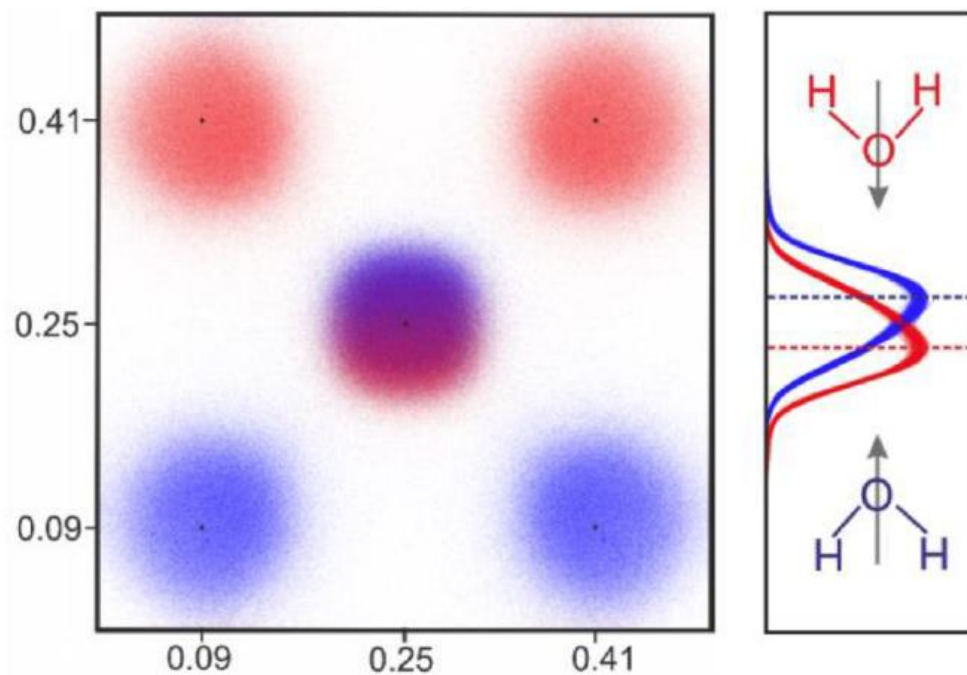
due to Preferred Orientation for RMC refinement
corrected and simulated powder pattern was used

RMCPProfile7 hint

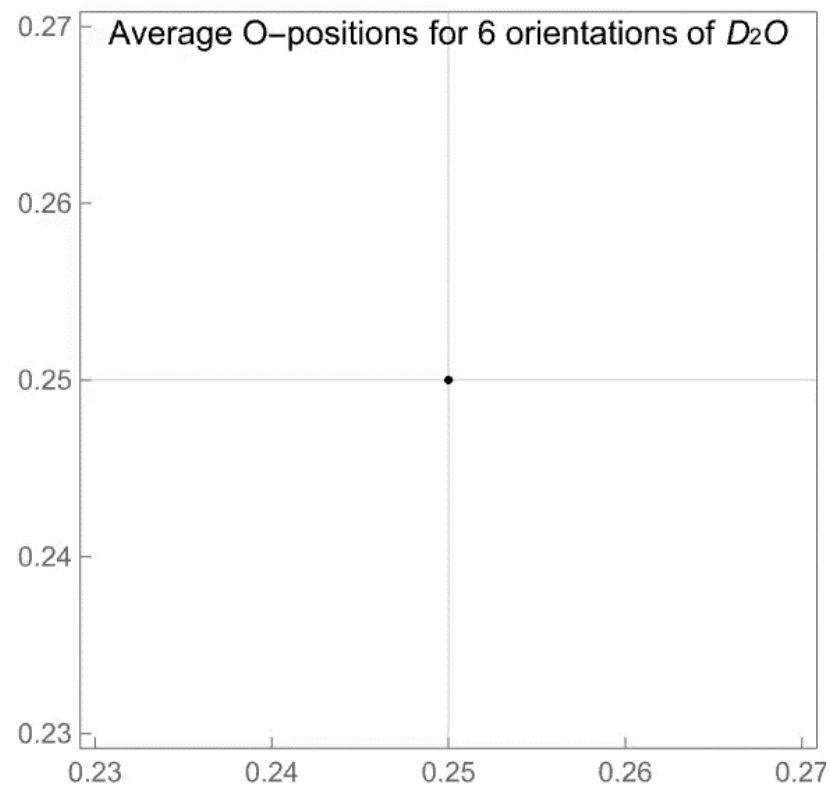
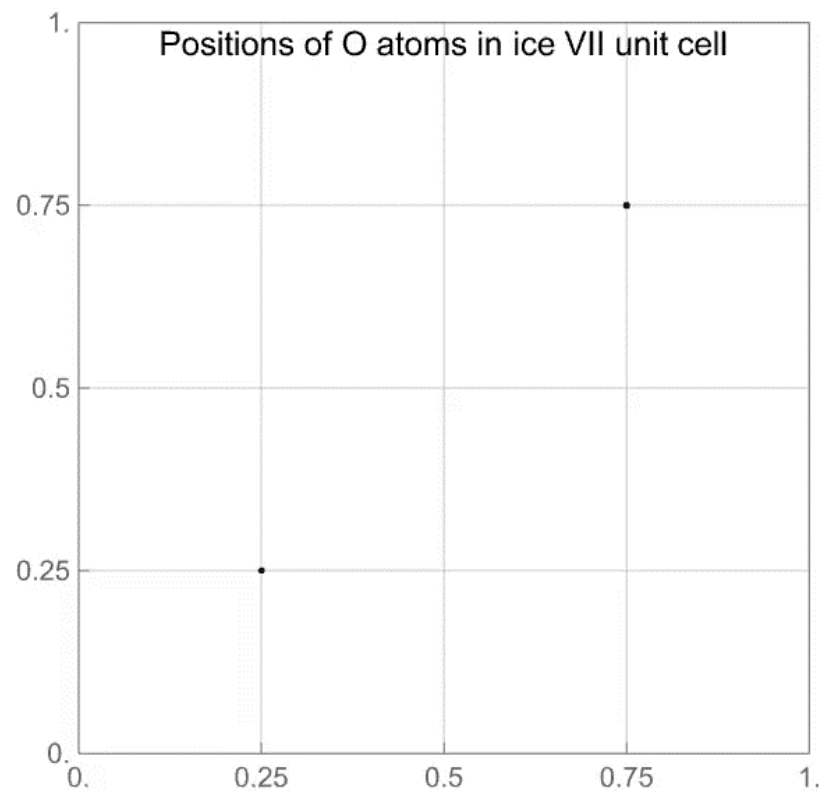
RMCPProfile results



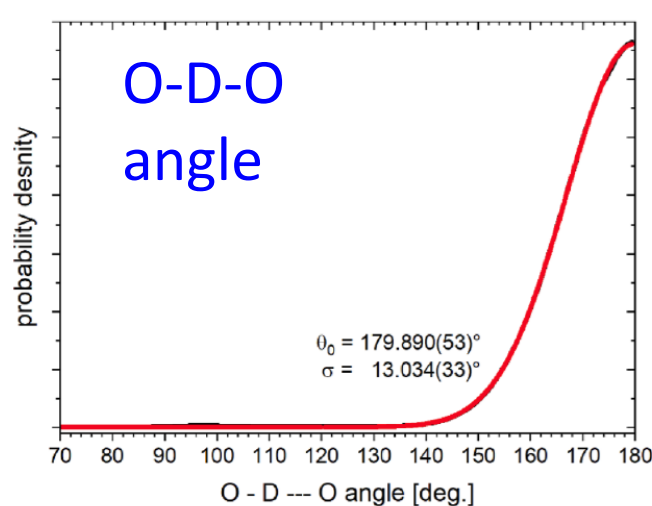
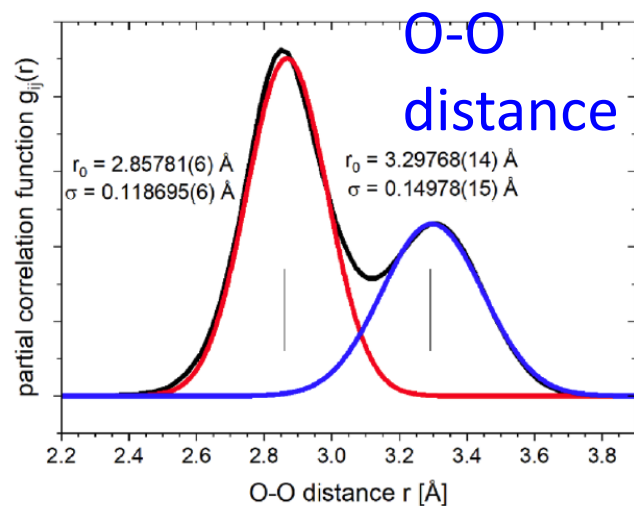
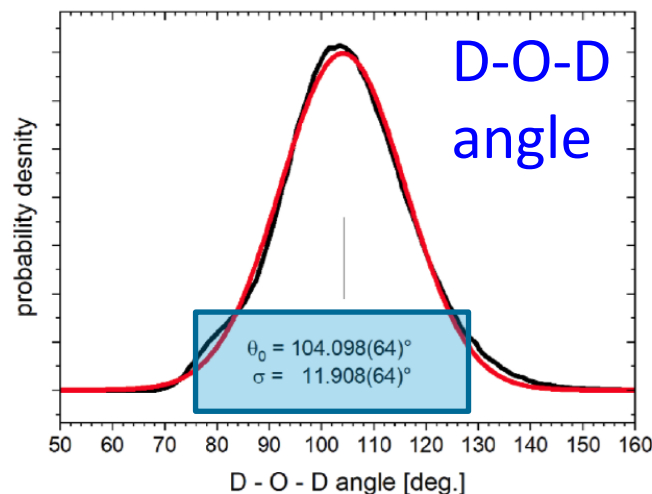
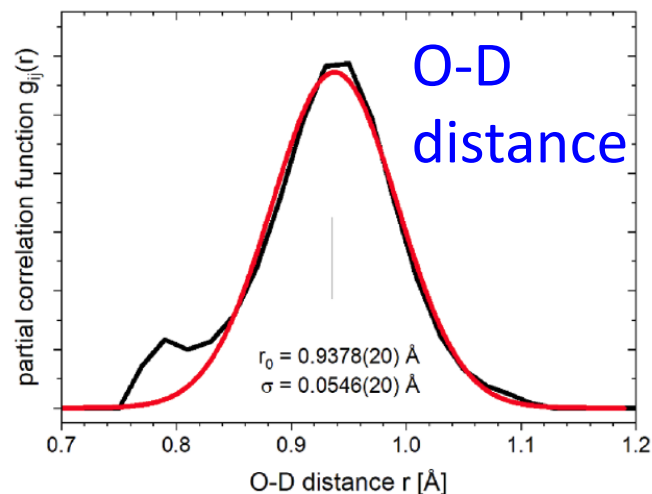
RMCPProfile results



RMCPProfile results



RMCPProfile results



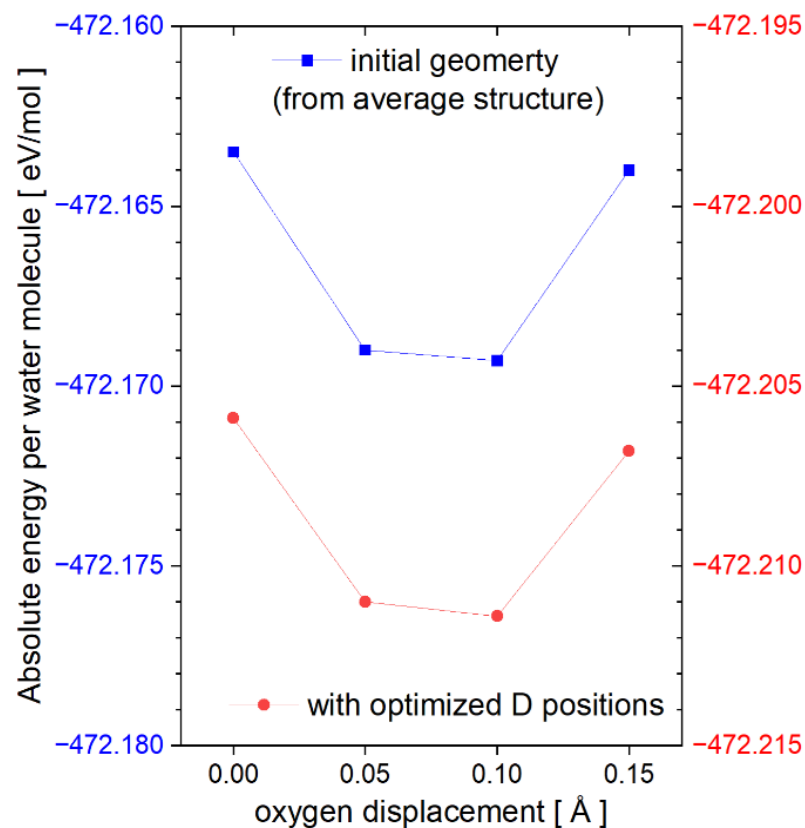
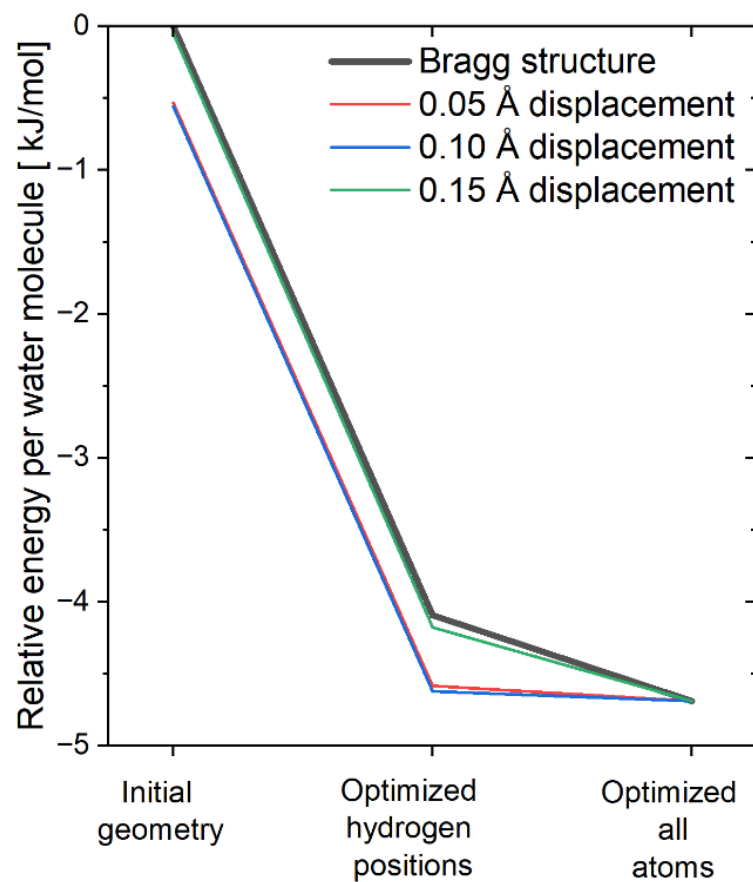
[from M. R. Milovanović,
 J.M. Živković, D.B. Ninković,
 I.M. Stanković, S.D. Zaric,
 Phys.Chem.Chem.Phys.,
 2020, 22, 4138]

$$d_{\text{O-D}} = 0.896(1) \text{ Å}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{D-O-D}} = 109.47^\circ$$

from average structure
 Rietveld refinement
 (our data)

DFT results

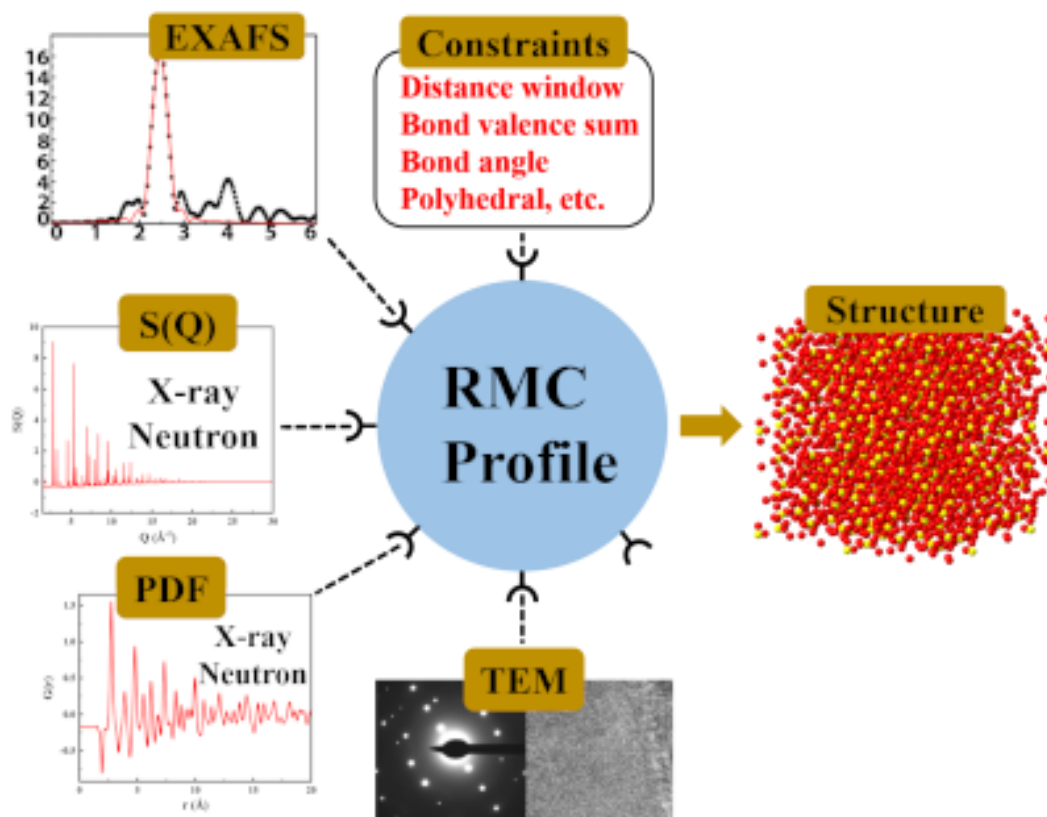


Displacements of D₂O molecules by 0.05 Å stabilizes the structure by 0.536 kJ mol⁻¹ per water molecule with respect to the average structure

Summary

- High quality PDF data can be measured at high pressure and analyzed with big box approach by RMCProfile7
- Pair Distribution Function studies allow:
 - get the local structures of ice VII with well defined positions of water molecules,
 - identify distributions of water molecules deviating from the average positions,
 - obtain reliable geometrical parameters,
 - identify subtle structural effects hidden within the average structure.

RMCPProfile in brief



- big box of atoms
- many datasets
- many constraints
- support from theory

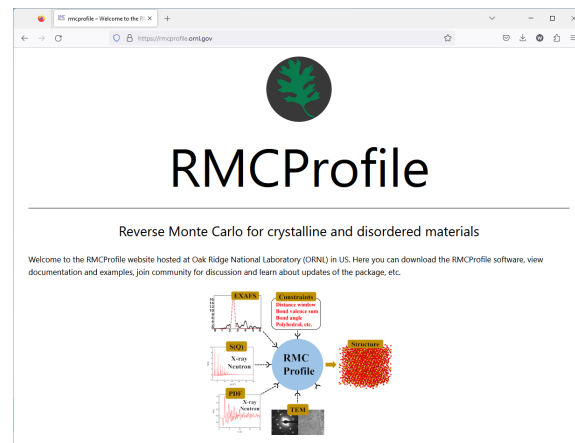
<https://rmcprofile.ornl.gov/>

RMCPProfile7 in brief

Basic steps

1. Create a starting supercell (called a configuration)
2. Create and normalize experimental data files $G(r)$, $D(r)$, $F(Q)$
3. Prepare Bragg profile data file
4. Run RMCPProfile7 with 0 moves
5. Check initially calculated functions and partials
6. Run RMCPProfile7, wait and be patient
7. Check final functions and partials
8. Analyze refined configuration

<https://rmcprofile.ornl.gov/>

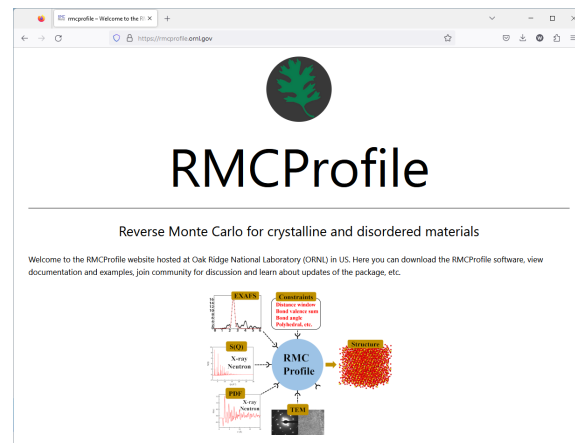


RMCPProfile7 in brief

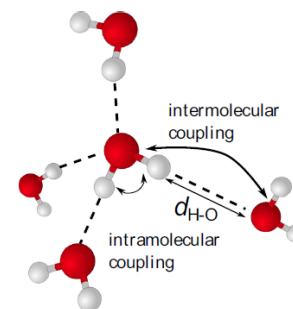
Basic steps

1. Create a starting supercell (called a configuration)
2. Create and normalize experimental data files
 $G(r)$, $D(r)$, $F(Q)$
3. Prepare Bragg profile data file
4. Run RMCPProfile7 with 0 moves
5. Check initially calculated functions and partials
6. Run RMCPProfile7, wait and be patient
7. Check final functions and partials
8. Analyze refined configuration

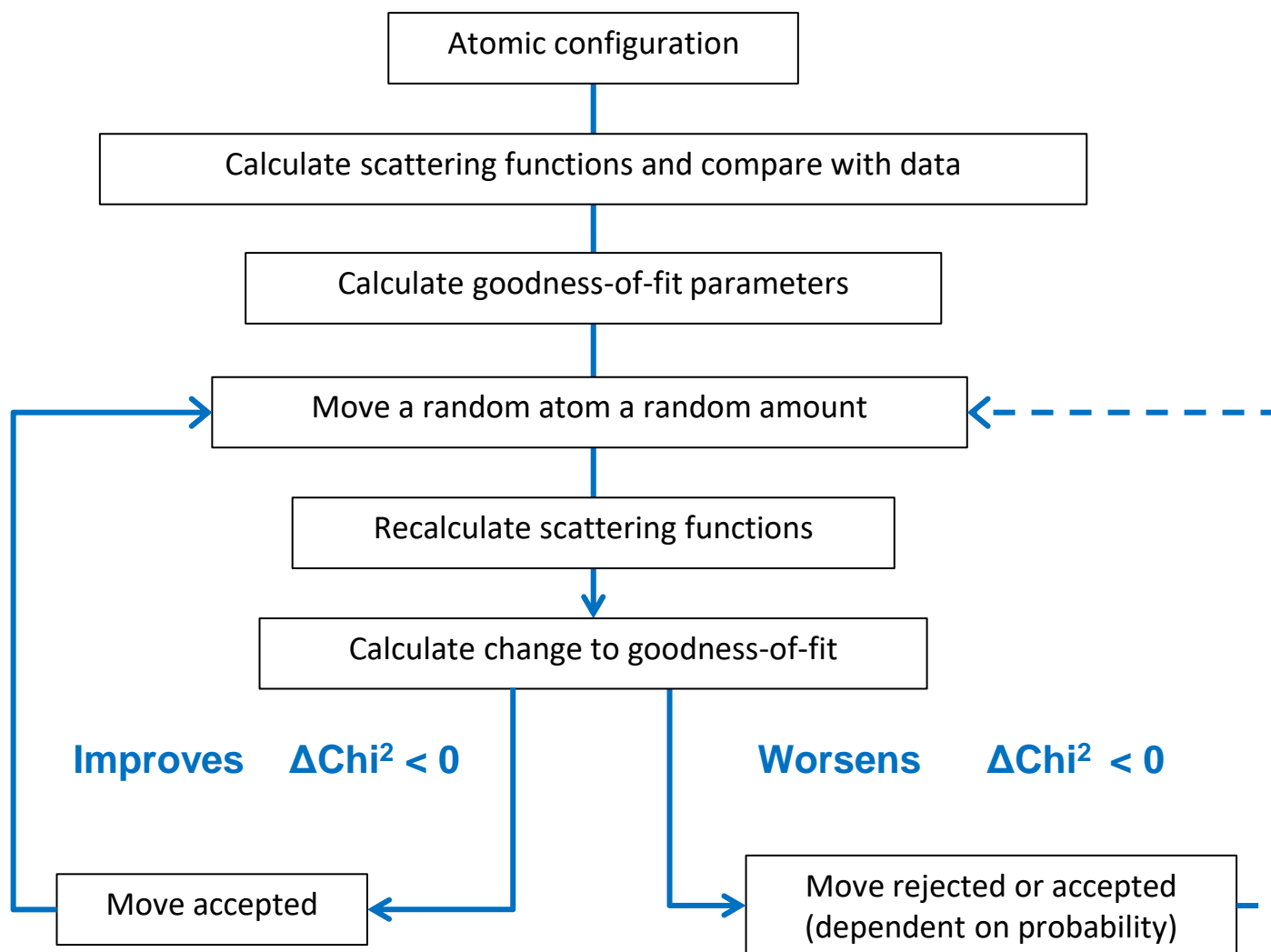
<https://rmcprofile.ornl.gov/>



ICE RULES (2 in, 2 out)



Reversed Monte Carlo in brief



RMCPProfile7 in more details

■ Atomic configuration

- usually a supercell of the crystallographic unit cell
- 10 000 – 1 000 000 atoms

■ RMCPProfile7 can fit

- real space data , i.e. $G(r)$, $D(r)$, $G_PDFGUI(r)$, $T(r)$...
- reciprocal space data, i.e. $F(Q)$, $QF(Q)$, $S(Q)$
- Bragg data (instrumental parameters from GSAS, GSAS-II and Topas)
- magnetic scattering in reciprocal space
- EXAFS (k- and/or r-space)
- (Electron) single crystal diffuse

■ Variety of additional constraints

- minimum distance “hard sphere Monte Carlo”
- distance window
- molecular potentials

RMCPProfile7 in more details

- **Multiphase refinement**
 - calculation of all dataset types can be done for multiple phases*
- **RMCPProfile7 can fit**
 - real space dataset (X-Ray and neutron) can be calculated as a back Fourier Transform of reciprocal space dataset
 - full GSAS-II compatibility (easy Bragg data extraction)
- **Variety of additional constraints**
 - molecular potentials (distances, angles, torsion angle, inversion angle, planarity + variants)
 - potentials and swaps are now compatible
- **Molecule (rigid body) move type**
 - **molecule (rigid body) type move**
 - swap between atoms and atoms, atoms to molecules and molecules to molecules

*W. Sławiński, J. Appl. Cryst. (2018). **51**, 919–923

Some more details about *RMCProfile7*

```

RMC7_ice_VII.dat
1  TITLE :: ICE VII
2  R_SPACING      :: 0.02
3  PRINT_PERIOD  :: 10000
4  SAVE_PERIOD   :: 10000
5  VERBOSITY     :: STANDARD
6  %%TIME_LIMIT  :: 10800 SECONDS
7  %%ITERATION_LIMIT :: 0
8
9  CONFIGURATION  :: D2O
10 > MAXIMUM_MOVES      :: 0.1 0.1 Angstrom
11 > CONFIGURATION_FILE :: ice_vii_24_24_24.rmc7
12 > ATOMS :: O 2H
13 > PROPORTION :: 1.0
14 %%> RESOLUTION_CORRECTION_X :: 0.002
15 > MOVEOUT
16 > WRITE_HISTORY
17 > NO_IGNORE_HISTORY
18
19
20 MINIMUM_DISTANCES :: 1
21 > MINIMUM_DISTANCES :: 2.38 0.78 1.16 Angstrom
22
23 DISTANCE_WINDOWS :: 1
24 > NEIGH_FILE      :: ice_VII.neigh
25 > MINIMUM_DISTANCES :: 0.00 0.78 0.00 Angstrom
26 > MAXIMUM_DISTANCES :: 0.00 1.12 0.00 Angstrom
27
28 MOLECULE ::
29 > NO_UPDATE
30 > TRANSLATION_PROBABILITY :: 0.2
31 > MAXIMUM_MOVES :: 0.1
32 > ROTATION_PROBABILITY :: 0.2
33 > ROTATION :: euler 0 10 0 10 0 10
34 > MOLECULE_FILE :: H2O.list
35 > ATOM :: O
36 > ATOM :: 2H 1 0.76 1.18 Angstrom
37 > ATOM :: 2H 1 0.76 1.18 Angstrom
38

```

24x24x24 unit cells => 82 944 atoms

isotop definition 2H = D

Minimum distance constrain

Distance windos constrain

D₂O molecule definition

molecule rotation definitione:

- Euler angle
- xyz direction
- uvw direction
- interatomic vector direction

RMCPProfile7 results

```
74 NEUTRON_RECIPROCAL_SPACE_DATA :: 1
75 > FILENAME :: 118473_rmc_low_q_rescale.fq
76 > REBIN :: 0.02
77 > LOW_R_CUT_OFF :: 0.74
78 > START_POINT :: 1
79 > END_POINT :: 4038
80 > WEIGHT :: 0.01
81 > NO_FITTED_OFFSET
82 > NO_FITTED_SCALE
83 > DATA_TYPE :: F(Q)
84 > FIT_TYPE :: F(Q)
85 > CONVOLVE
86 > REAL_SPACE_FIT :: 1 2000 0.01
87 > REAL_SPACE_FIT_TYPE :: G(r)
88 > REAL_SPACE_QMAX :: 20.180
89 > REAL_SPACE_QMIN :: 0.005
90 > REAL_SPACE_QSTEP :: 0.005
91 > NO_REAL_SPACE_FITTED_SCALE
92 > NO_REAL_SPACE_FITTED_OFFSET
```

real and reciprocal space correction
=> subtraction of ripples below 0.74 Å

internal data type conversion

calculation of real space data as a
back Fourier transform also for
neutron data

```
129 BRAGG ::
130 > BRAGG_SHAPE :: 1 GSASII_TOF
131 > WEIGHT :: 0.0001
132 > DMIN :: 0.515
133 > FILENAME :: 118473_tt70_subtracted_cell_ice_VII_no_abs_calc_no_preferred_for_rmc_1.txt
134 > BACKGROUND_TYPE :: 1
135 > BACKGROUND_FILE :: 118473_tt70_subtracted_cell_ice_VII_no_abs_calc_no_preferred_for_rmc.pwdrbck
136 > RECALCULATE
137 > INSTRUMENT_FILE :: 118473_tt70_subtracted_cell_ice_VII_no_abs_calc_no_preferred_for_rmc.instprm
138 > NO_FITTED_SCALE
139 > NO_FITTED_BACKGROUND
140 > NUMBER_OF_POINTS_PER_PEAK :: 2001
```

GSAS-II input files for Bragg data

RMCPProfile developers

- Wojciech A. Slawinski, University of Warsaw, Poland
- Chris Kerr, Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Matt Tucker, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, US
- Yuanpeng Zhang, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, US
- Helen Playford, ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, UK
- Marin Dove, Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Anthony Phillips, Queen Mary University of London, UK



ISIS Neutron and
Muon Source



RMCPProfile7 plans for the future

- **Magnetism**

- calculation of magnetic contribution to $F(Q)$ and/or mPDF

- **EXAFS**

- implementation of EXAFS calculation

- **single crystal diffuse scattering**

- 2D planes and 3D volumes of diffuse scattering calculations

- **better speed optimization and possibly GPU optimization**

- **encourage more Users to switch from RMCPProfile6 to RMCPProfile7**

- more examples and tutorials using RMCPProfile7
- more bug testing
- more user friendly preparation and analysis of configurations