

6.1. X-RAY SOURCES

No doubt, the day will come when available intensities will be so high that instantaneous structure determination will become a possibility, but this will require major advances in X-ray detectors, probably in the form of the development of large pixel detectors (e.g. Beuville *et al.*, 1997).

There is still some scope for increasing the intensity of X-ray beams from conventional sources, which offer the advantage of making measurements in the local laboratory instead of at some remote central facility.

6.1.3.5. *Cross fire*

The cross fire is defined as the angle or the half-angle between extreme rays in the beam incident on a given point of the sample. In the absence of focusing elements, such as specularly reflecting mirrors, the X-ray beam diverges from the source. A diverging beam can be turned into a converging one by reflection from a curved mirror or crystal. A crystal with constant lattice spacing can change the sign, but not the magnitude, of the angle between rays, whatever the curvature of the crystal; the deviation produced by a reflection anywhere on the surface of the crystal must always be twice the Bragg angle. It is possible to change a divergent beam into a convergent one with a different cross fire by specular reflection at a mirror or by means of a crystal in which the lattice spacing varies from point to point along the length of the plate. Such variable-spacing reflectors may be either artificial-crystal multilayers (Schuster & Göbel, 1997) or, less commonly, natural crystals whose spacing is modified by variable doping or by a temperature gradient along the crystal plate (Smither, 1982). In the neutron-scattering community, graded-spacing multilayer monochromators are usually referred to as 'supermirrors' (see Section 6.2.1.3.3 in Chapter 6.2).

The construction of curved mirrors and curved-crystal monochromators is discussed below.

As a general rule, the better the collimation of the incident X-ray beam, that is, the smaller the cross fire and the more nearly parallel the beam, the cleaner the diffraction pattern and the lower the background. Synchrotron-radiation sources permit a certain prodigality in X-ray intensity and the beams from them are thus usually better collimated than beams from conventional sources.

The useful degree of collimation depends on the crystal under investigation. The aim in the design of an instrument for data collection from single crystals must be to make the widths of the angular profiles of the reflection small, but these widths cannot be reduced beyond the rocking-curve width determined by the mosaic spread of the sample, however small the cross fire. The mosaic spread of a typical protein crystal is often quoted as being about 10^{-3} rad or about 3.4 minutes of arc. However, there are many crystals with much larger mosaicities; for such samples, the intensity of the X-ray beam, expressed as the total number of photons which strike the crystal, can be increased by permitting a larger cross fire.

The mosaic spread must be understood as the angle between individual domains of the mosaic crystal. These domains may be as large as 100 μm , that is, they may have dimensions not so very much smaller than those of the macroscopic crystal. The individual rocking-curve widths may be as small as 10 seconds of arc (50 μrad). Fourme *et al.* (1995) have discussed the implications of this degree of perfection if the collimation is improved to a stage where it can be exploited.

The way in which the cross fire influences the angular widths of the reflections depends on the instrument geometry. In a single-counter four-circle diffractometer, all reflections are brought onto the equator and the crystal is rotated about an axis perpendicular to the equatorial plane. The cross fire should, therefore, be small parallel to the equatorial plane, *i.e.* usually in the horizontal plane.

The cross fire in the plane containing the rotation axis affects the angular width of the reflections much less, and it could thus be made larger in the interest of a high intensity.

The situation is different if the diffractometer is fitted with an electronic area detector, such as a CCD or other TV detector or a multi-wire proportional chamber (see Part 7). Here, the widths of reflections in upper levels are affected by the cross fire in the plane containing the crystal rotation axis, and the divergence or convergence of the beam in this plane should also be kept small.

With recording on photographic film or image plates, each exposure, or 'shot' or 'frame', corresponds to a crystal rotation that is usually many times larger than the angular width of a reflection. It is then less important to keep the cross fire small in the plane perpendicular to the rotation axis of the crystal.

In many collimation arrangements, the cross fire can be chosen independently in the two planes. In the absence of monochromators or mirrors, the cross fire is determined by beam apertures, which can be rectangular slits; it is, of course, simpler to employ circular holes, which give the same cross fire in both planes.

6.1.3.6. *Beam stability*

The synchrotron beam decays steadily after each filling of the ring as the number of stored positrons or electrons decays. Even with an X-ray tube operated from voltage- and current-stabilized supplies, the X-ray intensity changes with time as a result of contamination and roughening of the target surface. It is, thus, highly desirable to have a method of monitoring the beam incident on the sample, for example, by means of an ionization chamber built into the collimator (Arndt & Stubbings, 1988).

It should be noted that when the collimator contains focusing elements, the intensity at the sample can vary by several hundred per cent, depending on the exact alignment of the focusing mirrors or crystals and on the exact dimensions of the electron focus on the tube target.

Intensity changes can be caused by mechanical movement of collimating components. Among these may be such unsuspected effects as flexing of the target surface with changes in cooling-water pressure.

The response of an incident-beam monitor may itself vary as a result of changes in temperature, barometric pressure, or humidity.

Synchrotron radiation from storage rings has a regular time-dependent modulation brought about by the rate of passage of bunches of electrons or positrons in the ring. For the great majority of measurements, this time structure has no effect, but at very high intensities, the counting losses are greater than they would be from a steady source.

6.1.4. **Beam conditioning**

The primary X-ray beam from the source is conditioned by a variety of devices, such as filters, mirrors and monochromators, to produce the appropriate properties for the beam incident on the sample.

6.1.4.1. *X-ray mirrors*

It is usually necessary to focus the X-ray beam in two orthogonal directions. This can be achieved either by means of one mirror with curvatures in two orthogonal planes or by two successive reflections from two mirrors which are curved in one plane and planar in the other; the two planes of curvature must be at right angles to one another. In the arrangement adopted by Kirkpatrick & Baez (1948) and by Franks (1955), the two mirrors lie one behind the other (Fig. 6.1.4.1) and thus produce a different degree of collimation in the two planes. Instead of this tandem arrangement, the mirrors can lie side-by-side, as proposed by Montel (1957), to form what the author