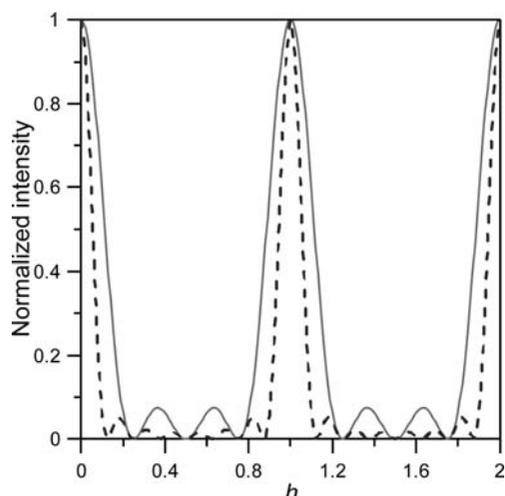1. INTRODUCTION

Figure 1.1.20
Normalized intensity from a finite lattice with $n = 3$ (solid curve) and $n = 8$ (dashed line), demonstrating the sharpening of peaks with increasing number of unit cells n. The normalization was done such that the peaks have the same peak maximum rather than the same integrated intensity for a clearer comparison of the relative peak widths.

Figure 1.1.21
Path-length difference of the scattered ray *versus* the depth of the lattice plane in the crystal. [Reproduced from Dinnebier & Billinge (2008) with permission from the Royal Society of Chemistry.]

vation of the Scherrer equation following Klug & Alexander (1974).

Fig. 1.1.21 shows the path-length difference *versus* the depth of the lattice plane. When the angle between the incoming beam and the lattice plane θ is different by an amount ε from the Bragg condition, it is always possible to find a lattice plane inside an infinite crystal where the extra path is $\Delta = \lambda(n + \frac{1}{2})$ for n integer, producing destructive interference. For a thick crystal this is true for arbitrarily small ε, which explains the sharp Bragg reflections. In the case of a crystal with finite dimensions, for small ε the plane for which $\Delta = \lambda(n + \frac{1}{2})$ holds will not be reached, thus leading to an intensity distribution over some small angular range. We can use this idea to estimate the broadening of a Bragg reflection due to size effects.

The thickness of a crystallite in the direction perpendicular to p planes of separation d_{hkl} (Fig. 1.1.21) is

$$L_{hkl} = pd_{hkl}. \tag{1.1.68}$$

The additional beam path between consecutive lattice planes at the angle $\theta + \varepsilon$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta &= 2d\sin(\theta + \varepsilon) \\
&= 2d(\sin\theta\cos\varepsilon + \cos\theta\sin\varepsilon) \\
&= n\lambda\cos\varepsilon + 2d\sin\varepsilon\cos\theta \\
&\simeq n\lambda + 2d\sin\varepsilon\cos\theta.
\end{aligned} \tag{1.1.69}$$

The corresponding phase difference is then

$$\delta\varphi = 2\pi\frac{\Delta}{\lambda} = 2\pi n + \frac{4\pi}{\lambda}\varepsilon d\cos\theta = \frac{4\pi\varepsilon d\cos\theta}{\lambda} \tag{1.1.70}$$
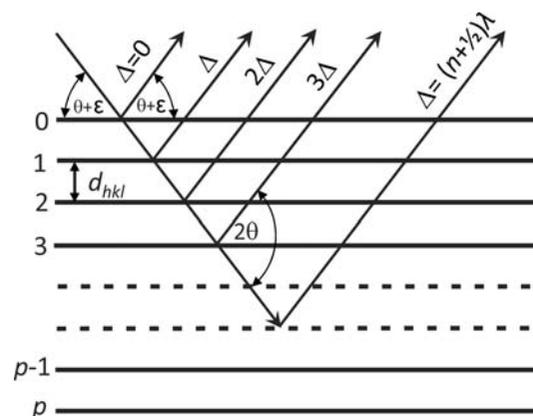
and the phase difference between the top and the bottom layer (layer p) is then

$$p\delta\varphi = p\frac{4\pi\varepsilon d\cos\theta}{\lambda} = \frac{4\pi L_{hkl}\varepsilon\cos\theta}{\lambda}. \tag{1.1.71}$$

Rearranging equation (1.1.71) leads to

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda\delta\varphi}{4\pi L_{hkl}\cos\theta}, \tag{1.1.72}$$

which gives an expression for the misalignment angle in terms of the crystallite size L_{hkl} and the phase difference $\delta\varphi$ between the

reflections originating from the top plane and the bottom plane. Clearly, the scattered intensity is at a maximum for $\delta\varphi = 0$ ($\varepsilon = 0$). With increasing ε the intensity decreases, giving rise to a peak of finite width. Perfect cancellation of the waves from the top and bottom planes occurs for a phase difference of $\delta\varphi = \pm\pi$, at which point $\varepsilon = \pm\lambda/(4L_{hkl}\cos\theta)$. On a 2θ scale, the measured angular width between these points is

$$\beta_{hkl} = 4\varepsilon = \frac{\lambda}{L_{hkl}\cos\theta}, \tag{1.1.73}$$

giving us some measure of the peak width in radians that results from the finite particle size. A full treatment taking into account the correct form for the intensity distribution gives

$$\beta_{hkl} = \frac{K\lambda}{L_{hkl}\cos\theta}, \tag{1.1.74}$$

with a scale factor of $K = 0.89$ for perfect spheres. In general K depends on the shape of the grains (*e.g.* K is 0.94 for cube-shaped grains), but it is always close to unity. This equation is not valid for crystallites[3] that are too large or too small. In the case of large crystallites the peak width is governed by the coherence of the incident beam and not by particle size. For nanometre-sized crystallites, Bragg's law fails and the Debye equation needs to be used instead. The Debye equation (see Section 1.1.5.3) gives the scattering from an isotropically scattering sample such as a glass, liquid or powder, and does not presume that the sample is periodic.

1.1.4.1.2. *Microstrain*

Several important relationships in crystallography, including the effect of strain and microstrain on Bragg peaks, follow directly from a derivative of the Bragg equation (1.1.3). First we rewrite Bragg's law making the d-spacing the subject of the equation:

$$d = \frac{n\lambda}{2\sin\theta}. \tag{1.1.75}$$

The uncertainty of the measured lattice spacing is given by the total derivative dd,

$$\mathrm{d}d = \frac{\partial d}{\partial\theta}\mathrm{d}\theta + \frac{\partial d}{\partial\lambda}\mathrm{d}\lambda, \tag{1.1.76}$$

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[3] Strictly speaking, the term crystallite size here refers to the dimension of a coherently scattering domain. Only in a perfect crystal is this the grain size.