

3.3. POWDER DIFFRACTION PEAK PROFILES

size and microstrain sample-broadening effects in cases where these were large.

A related alternative technique (Wang *et al.*, 2004) collects multiple energy-dispersive powder patterns over a narrow and coarse angular step scan; this is easily done in a typical multi-anvil high-pressure setup. The array of spectra are binned as multiple angle-dispersive patterns which are then combined into a single refinement; the complex corrections required for pure energy-dispersive patterns reduce to refinable scaling factors. Typically a scan over $10^\circ 2\theta$ with $0.1\text{--}0.2^\circ$ steps suffices to give suitable data; binning into $\Delta E/E \simeq 20\%$ energy bands gives data that are used in a conventional multiple-data-set Rietveld refinement.

3.3.5. Sample broadening

Very often, particularly for synchrotron-radiation experiments, the powder diffraction peak profile is dominated by broadening effects from the sample, *e.g.*

$$P(\Delta) = G_\lambda * G_l * G_s \simeq G_s. \quad (3.3.25)$$

For the cases considered here, the focus will be on sample-broadening models that allow improved fits within the context of a Rietveld refinement; a more detailed treatment aimed at extracting sample characteristics (*e.g.* crystallite size distributions) is covered in Chapter 5.1.

Two mechanisms for sample broadening are considered here: crystallite size and ‘microstrain’ broadening; each will be discussed in turn.

3.3.5.1. Crystallite size broadening

The reciprocal space associated with an ideal large crystal will consist of a periodic array of infinitely sharp δ functions, one for each of the structure factors, as expected from the Fourier transform of the essentially infinite and periodic crystal lattice. For real crystals, this limit is reached for crystal dimensions exceeding *circa* $10\ \mu\text{m}$. The Fourier transform of a crystal lattice that is smaller than this will show a profile that follows the form described by the $\text{sinc}(x) = \sin(\pi x)/\pi x$ function. Any dispersion in the crystal sizes in a powder sample will smear this into a form intermediate between a Gaussian and a Lorentzian, which is well described by either a Voigt [equation (3.3.9)], a pseudo-Voigt [equation (3.3.8)] or the less-useful Pearson VII [equation (3.3.7)] function. The physical process used to form the powder will influence the details of the size distribution; usually this will approximate a log-normal distribution and the resulting peak-shape contribution from crystallite size effects will be largely Lorentzian with a width Γ_{sL} . Predominantly Gaussian size broadening can only occur if the size distribution is very tightly monodisperse. Then, for isotropic crystal dimensions this broadening is uniformly the same everywhere in reciprocal space; *e.g.* $\Delta d^* = \text{constant} \simeq 1/p$, where p is the crystallite size. Transformation *via* Bragg’s law to the typical measurement of a powder pattern as a function of 2θ gives this Lorentzian width as

$$\Gamma_{pL} = \frac{180}{\pi} \frac{K\lambda}{p \cos \theta} \quad (3.3.26)$$

expressed in degrees and the Scherrer constant, K , which depends on the shape of the crystallites; *e.g.* $K = 1$ for spheres, 0.89 for cubes *etc.* (see Table 5.1.1 in Chapter 5.1). A similar expression for the crystallite size from a neutron TOF experiment is

$$\Gamma_{pL} = \frac{CK}{p}, \quad (3.3.27)$$

where C is defined by equation (3.3.21). In some cases the crystallites have anisotropic shapes (*e.g.* plates or needles), in which case the peak broadening will be dependent on the respective direction in reciprocal space for each reflection. Many Rietveld refinement programs implement various models for this anisotropy.

3.3.5.2. Microstrain broadening

The existence of imperfections (*e.g.* deformation faults) within the crystal lattice produces local distortions of the lattice and thus a broadening of the points in reciprocal space. To a first approximation these points are broadened proportionally to their distance from the origin, *e.g.* $\Delta d^*/d^* = \Delta d/d \simeq \text{constant}$.

As for crystallite size, there is normally dispersion in the density of defects and thus the peak shape will be intermediate between a Gaussian and a Lorentzian form, and it is well described by the Voigt, pseudo-Voigt or Pearson VII functions. Usually, the Lorentzian form dominates this type of broadening and it is the most common form of sample broadening in powder diffraction. It usually arises because of defects introduced during sample preparation (especially during grinding). The Lorentzian width contribution from microstrain broadening is

$$\Gamma_{sL} = \frac{180}{\pi} s \tan \theta, \quad (3.3.28)$$

where s is the dimensionless microstrain; it is frequently multiplied by 10^6 . A similar expression for neutron TOF is

$$\Gamma_{sL} = Csd, \quad (3.3.29)$$

where C is defined by equation (3.3.21).

In many cases, the microstrain broadening is not isotropic; presumably this is a consequence of the interaction between the defects and the elastic properties of the crystals. A phenomenological description of these effects by Popa (1998) and Stephens (1999) is obtained by considering the variance of

$$\frac{1}{d^2} = M_{hkl} = \alpha_1 h^2 + \alpha_2 k^2 + \alpha_3 l^2 + \alpha_4 kl + \alpha_5 hl + \alpha_6 hk \quad (3.3.30)$$

with respect to each of the coefficients α_i .

$$\Gamma_{sL}^2 = \sum_{i,j} S_{ij} \frac{\partial M}{\partial \alpha_i} \frac{\partial M}{\partial \alpha_j} \quad (3.3.31)$$

where

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial \alpha_i} \frac{\partial M}{\partial \alpha_j} = \begin{bmatrix} h^4 & h^2 k^2 & h^2 l^2 & h^2 kl & h^3 l & h^3 k \\ h^2 k^2 & k^4 & k^2 l^2 & k^3 l & hk^2 l & hk^3 \\ h^2 l^2 & k^2 l^2 & l^4 & kl^3 & hl^3 & hkl^2 \\ h^2 kl & k^3 l & kl^3 & k^2 l^2 & hkl^2 & hk^2 l \\ h^3 l & hk^2 l & hl^3 & hkl^2 & h^2 l^2 & h^2 kl \\ h^3 k & hk^3 & hkl^2 & hk^2 l & h^2 kl & h^2 k^2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.3.32)$$

Examination of this sum for the triclinic case collects terms to give

$$\Gamma_{sL}^2 = S_{400}h^4 + S_{040}k^4 + S_{004}l^4 + 3(S_{220}h^2k^2 + S_{202}h^2l^2 + S_{022}k^2l^2) + 2(S_{310}h^3k + S_{103}hl^3 + S_{031}k^3l + S_{130}hk^3 + S_{301}h^3l + S_{013}kl^3) + 4(S_{211}h^2kl + S_{121}hk^2l + S_{112}hkl^2) \quad (3.3.33)$$

with 15 coefficients S_{hkl} . The subscript hkl in S_{hkl} refers to the powers used for h, k, l in equations (3.3.33)–(3.3.44).