Two-crystal focusing effect for the precise neutron spectrometry

Voronin Vladimir

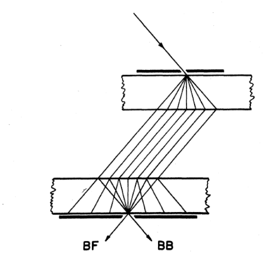
Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, National Research Centre Kurchatov Institute

Physics of fundamental Symmetries and Interactions - PSI2016

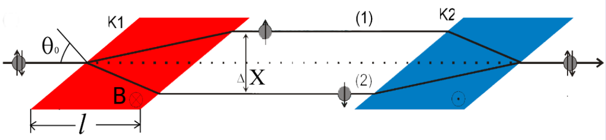
Goal

To develop new ultraprecise method to study neutron property and its interaction with the matter based on the combination of the effect of two-crystal focusing of neutrons at Laue diffraction and spin-interferometry technique SESANS (Spin Echo Small Angle Neutron Scattering).

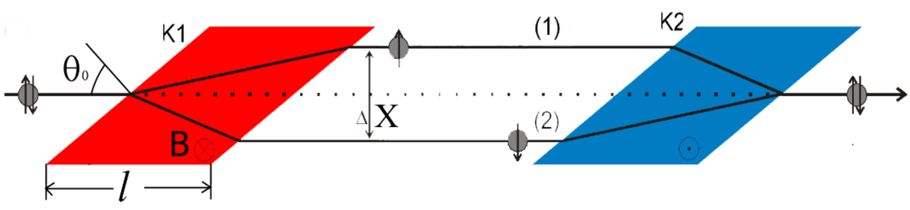
Two crystal focusing



SESANS technique



SESANS method

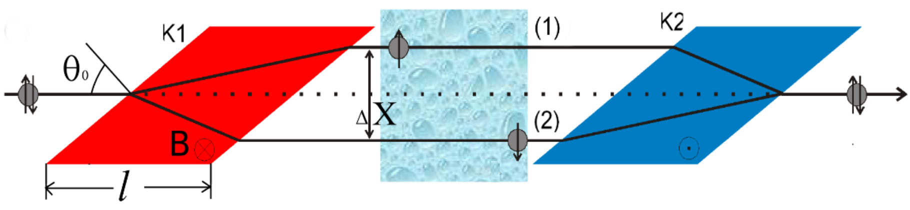


Neutron beam polarization **P** is directed perpendicularly to guiding magnetic field B. Neutron wave function can be written in form

$$\psi_{in} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{-\frac{i\varphi_0}{2}} \\ e^{+\frac{i\varphi_0}{2}} \end{pmatrix},$$

here φ_0 - neutron spin direction in azimuthally plane. Let's consider **P** parallel to X-axis ($\varphi_0 = 0$) $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\mathbf{P} = (1, 0, 0)}$

SESANS method - II



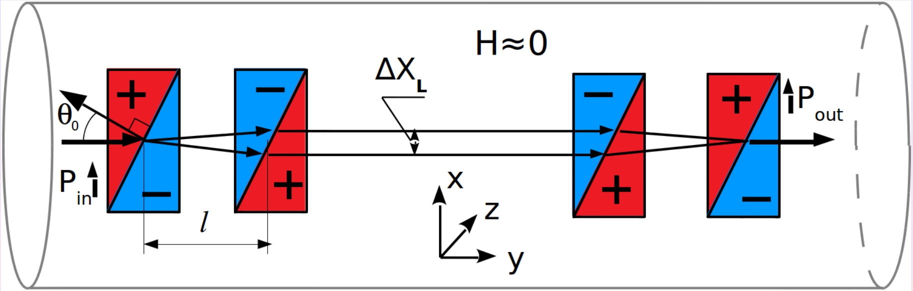
Let's apply $V_{sr}(x)$. The phase difference between these two eigenstates will be

$$\varphi_{sr} = (V_{sr}(x_0) - V_{sr}(x_0 + \Delta x))/\hbar \cdot \tau,$$

The neutron wave function on the exit of coil K2 will be

$$\psi_{out} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{-\frac{i\varphi_{sr}}{2}} \\ e^{+\frac{i\varphi_{sr}}{2}} \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{P} = (\cos\varphi_{sr}, \sin\varphi_{sr}, 0)}$$

Alternative SESANS layout

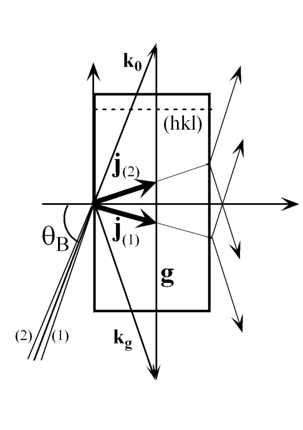


The value of spatial splitting

will be two times more than for the previous scheme

$$\Delta X_L = \frac{2\mu B}{E} \cdot l \cdot \tan\theta_0$$

Laue diffraction. Neutron trajectories in crystal



Symmetrical Laue diffraction. $\mathbf{j}_{(1)}$ and $\mathbf{j}_{(2)}$ are the neutron fluxes for two direction of incident beam.

Effect of diffraction enhancement

The neutron in the crystal changes the momentum direction by the angle of Ω (by several tens degrees) while the incident neutron beam deflects by the Bragg width (within a few arc seconds)

$$\Omega = \Delta\theta \cdot \frac{E}{2v_g} \Rightarrow \Delta\theta \cdot 10^5$$

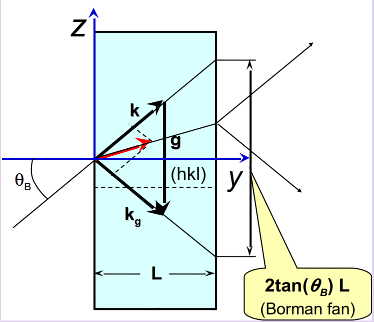
The same phenomenon occurs then not direction but neutron energy is changed according to the

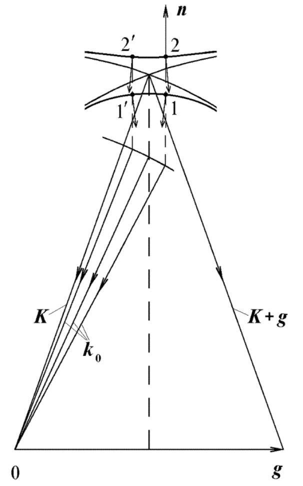
$$\Delta\theta = \frac{\Delta E}{2E} \tan\theta_B$$

Dispersion surface

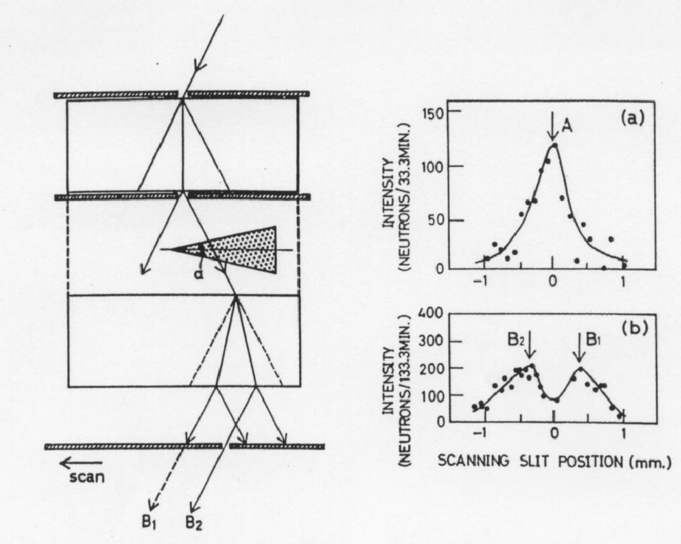
Direction of neutron current is normal to dispersion surface

$$\boldsymbol{j} = \frac{\hbar}{m}\left(|a_g|^2 \boldsymbol{k_g} + |a_0|^2 \boldsymbol{k}\right)$$





Measurement the neutron prism refraction[1]

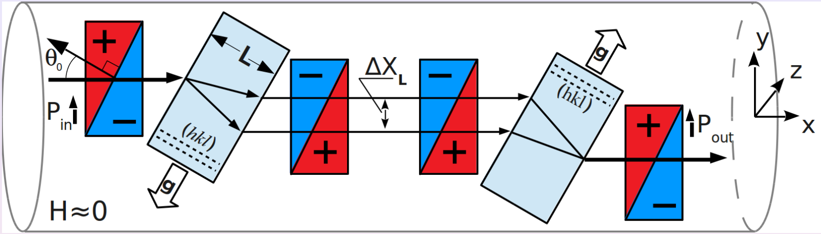


$\Leftarrow$ no refracting prism

$\Leftarrow 0.032$ arc sec $= 1.5 \cdot 10^{-7}$ rad refracting prism

[1] S.Kikuta et al., J. Phys. Soc. Japan, **39** (1975) 471

SESANS + Laue diffraction



The values of neutron splitting

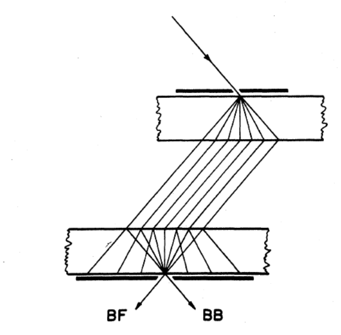
Laue diffr.+SESANS   Standard SESANS

$$\Delta X_L = \frac{2\mu B}{v_g} L \sin\theta_B \cdot \tan\theta_0 \iff \Delta X = \frac{2\mu B}{E} \cdot l \cdot \tan\theta_0$$

About $K_g = \frac{E}{v_g} \Rightarrow 10^5$ **times more.**

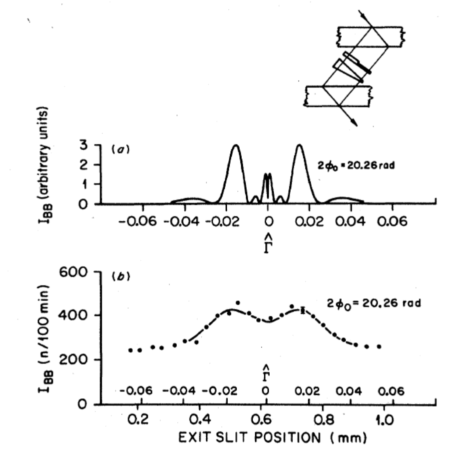
ΔX_L for silicon (220) and (100) quartz planes, $L = 10$ cm, $\tan\theta_0 = 1$ and $\theta_B = 65^0$ can be $\sim 40\mu$m and $\sim 120\mu$m for the $B = 1$ G.

Two crystal focusing effect[2]



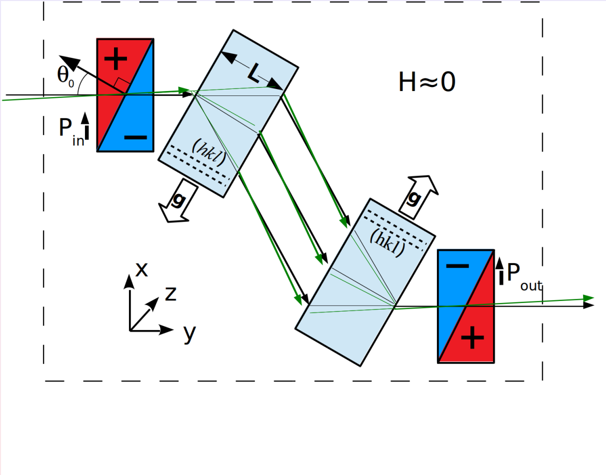
Spatial resolution

$$x_w = \frac{\Lambda \tan(\theta_B)}{2\pi} \sim (10-50)\mu m$$



[2] x-rays - Indenbom V.L., Slobodetskii I.Sh., Truni K.G., Sov JhETF, (1974) 66 1110
neutron - J. Arthur, C. G. Shull, A. Zeilinger, Phys. Rev. B,32 5753 (1985)

New layout of SESANS + Laue diffraction



Advantages -

- More luminosity
- Only two coils
- More space in working area.

Disadvantage -

- Nobody saw the two crystal diffraction focusing effect in separated crystals

Sensitivity of SESANS + Laue

Angle of spin rotation

$$\varphi_v = \frac{dV}{dx}\Delta X_L \cdot \frac{L_v}{\hbar v_n} \simeq 5 \cdot 10^{12} \cdot \frac{dV}{dx}[eV/cm]$$

For the (100) quartz plane (d=4.255Å, $v_g = 1.8 \cdot 10^{-8}$eV),
$\theta_B = 65^0$,$L = 10$cm, $\tan\theta_0 = 3$, $B = 100$G, $L_v = 100$cm
Spatial period $\Rightarrow 0.25$ mm

Statistical sensitivity

Accuracy of spin rotation measurement can be about 10^{-4} rad, so

$$\sigma\left(\frac{dV}{dx}\right) \simeq 2 \cdot 10^{-17}[eV/cm] \simeq 2 \cdot 10^{-8} m_n g$$

$$\boxed{\sigma(\alpha) \simeq 10^{-12} rad}$$

Motivations

- Test of a neutron electro-neutrality $\frac{dV}{dx} = E_e q_n$.

$$\sigma(\varphi) = 10^{-4} \Longrightarrow \underline{\sigma(q_n) \simeq 2 \cdot 10^{-22} e}$$

about one orders better present accuracy*.

*J.Baumann, R.Gahler, J.Kalus, W.Mampe, PR D37, 3107 (1988)

- Study the neutron gravity in the Earth with the sensitivity

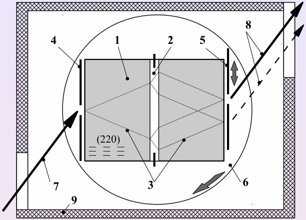
$$\underline{\sigma(m_n g) \sim 10^{-8} m_n g}$$

- Search for the new fundamental interaction of a neutron with the matter (5-th force) at the range distance about $0.01 - 1$ cm
- Measurement of a matter refracting index $\Longrightarrow$ amplitude of neutron scattering with stat. accuracy

$$\underline{\sigma(a_n) \sim (10^{-5} - 10^{-6})} \ for\ condenced\ matter$$

$$\underline{\sigma(a_n) \sim (10^{-3} - 10^{-4})} \ for\ gas$$

Test the two crystal focusing effect for plane (220) silicon

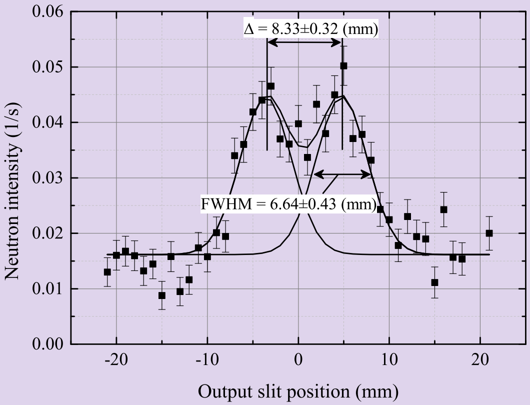


Crysytal -
$110 \times 110 \times 100\,\mathrm{mm}^3$
Displacement vs angle

$$x_\alpha = 2 \cdot 10^7 \alpha \; [\mathrm{mm}].$$

Spatial resolution 3 mm
corresponds to the angular

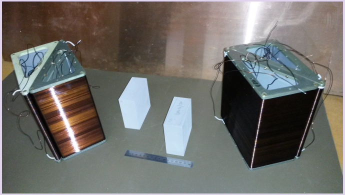
Scan by the exit slit at $\theta_B = 68^0$



$$\alpha_W < 1.5 \cdot 10^{-7} = 0.03''$$

Two crystal setup construction

Quartz crystal and coils



Coils test

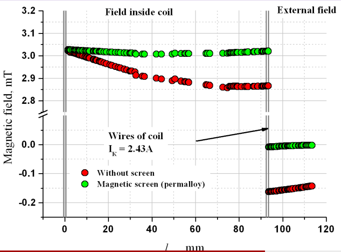
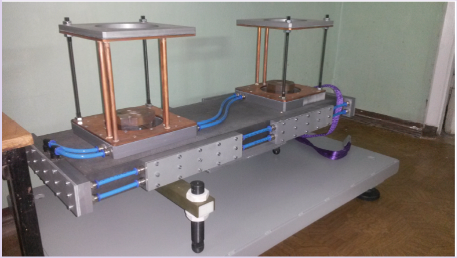
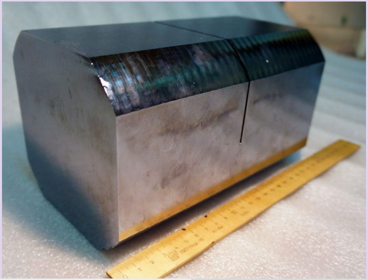


Photo of the setup





Summary

New approach for precise neutron spectrometry is proposed.

It is based on two principle

- spin interferometer technique SESANS
- effects in perfect crystal Laue diffraction

A method sensitivity can reach

$$\sigma\left(\frac{dV}{dx}\right) \simeq (10^{-16} - 10^{-17})[eV/cm] \Rightarrow \underline{\sigma\left(E_n\right) \sim 10^{-14}\ eV}$$

This approach can be applied for

- Test of a neutron electro-neutrality with the best accuracy
- Study the neutron gravity in the Earth with the sensitivity
- Search for the new fundamental interaction
- Precise measurement of an amplitude of neutron scattering

Thank you for your attention