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First experiment at the new SINQ beamline BOA

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The operation of the multi-purpose neutron beamline BOA (Beamline for neutron Optics and other Approaches) has started successfully in May 2011. BOA is a 18 m long instrument located at beam-channel 51 looking on the SINQ cold source and is actually a redesign of the former FUNSPIN beamline. The primary polarization element (polarizing bender) of FUNSPIN was kept because research with polarized neutrons is of key interest in the neutron scattering community. The position of BOA close to the cold source is crucial for the performance of the instrument: The measured polarized neutron flux is around $1 \times 10^8 \text{ n / (cm}^2 \text{ s mA)}^{-1}$. The secondary instrument consists of a highly flexible geometry. It is equipped with three rotating axes with flexible translation tables and aperture units. The maximum available free space is around 12 m, which allows new experiments presently not possible at SINQ. An area sensitive CCD camera system and optionally a He-3 neutron counter are available for data acquisition.

The beam characterisation measurements have shown that BOA fulfils the performance predicted by extensive McStas/MCNPX simulations done in 2010.

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