Being Quantitative in Reciprocal Space

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If we knew the positions of all the electrons there would be no need to find the atoms

Over the years x-ray crystallography has become adept in handling numbers from diffraction and converting these into quantitative structural results. In most cases they have no alternative as images are not available. Different from this electron microscopists have been adept at doing crystallography in real space using images, but often this is where the analysis stops. However, we do have numbers from images which can be used (at least in theory [1-3]) to measure quantitative parameters such as local charge density changes, although this is easier to do with diffraction data either using precession [4] or just from diffraction such as at surfaces [5-9]

The focus of this paper will be on the issue of how quantitative can one be, and what can this give you particularly in reciprocal space. Examples will range from fairly simple concepts such as using precession electron diffraction to determine charge density (Figure 1) to more complicated examples such as refining surface charge density (Figure 2) and being able to combine real and reciprocal space methods such as HREM or STM with diffraction to solve complicated structures such as the homologous series of reconstructions on the (110) surface of SrTiO₃ [8] (Figure 3) or large unit cell reconstructions such as the $\sqrt{13x}\sqrt{13}$ reconstruction on SrTiO₃ (001) [9] (Figure 4).

References

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FIG. 1. Comparison of R1 fit for Andalusite precession diffraction data as a function of semiangle using structure factors calculated using the independent atom model (red) versus those calculated using the all-electron DFT code Wien2k. The intensities were in both cases calculated fully dynamically using a modified multislice code.

FIG. 2. Pseudocolor plot of the charge density for the Si (001) 2x1 surface on the left calculated using DFT and on the right from a pseudo-atom refinement versus experimental data. The match is fairly good, with the experimental data being less sharp due to thermal vibrations as well as measurement errors.





FIG. 3. Diagram of the 3x1 reconstruction of the SrTiO₃ (110) surface viewed from above (top) and from the side (bottom). Shown in blue are the rings of TiO₄ tetrahedra in the outermost surface plane, with the TiO₆ octrahedra as grew and the Sr atoms yellow.

FIG. 4. Experimental structure of the $\sqrt{13x}\sqrt{13}$ reconstruction on SrTiO₃ (001) showing TiO₅[] octahedron in green as well as the full TiO₆ octahedron in purple.

