# Single-Crystal XRD and IXS of Elements Under Extreme Pressure





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**Peak Brilliance** 



#### **Average Brilliance**

- 100 fs hard x-ray pulses at MHz+ pulse rates (XFEL)
- 2 ps hard x-ray pulses at GHz+ pulse rates (ERL)
- coherent x-ray radiation

HS3090-Long Term Project at the ESRF

Utilise extreme intensity, micro-focused beams and high energy of ESRF to:

- Push single-crystal diffraction to 100+ GPa
- Extend high-P high-T methods
- Develop high-P low-T methods



Sample 15-30  $\mu$ m diam & 3  $\mu$ m thick, 5-15  $\mu$ m diam beam,  $\lambda$ ~ 0.3-0.4 Å



Gregoryanz *et al* Nature Mat (2011) Marques *et al* PRL (2011)

### Single Crystal Diffraction from Li-V at ~65 GPa & 200 K



Single Crystal Diffraction from Li-VI at ~75 GPa & 200 K



Single Crystal Diffraction from Li-VII at ~125 GPa & 300 K





What <u>similar</u> experiments might one imagine doing on ERL and XFEL???

Megabar single-crystal diffn. (D<sub>2</sub>-II/III, metallic O<sub>2</sub>, Li-VIII, Ice-X)

- ~micron sized beam
- 60 keV x-rays
- use short pulse length to minimise DAC background (2 ps = 600 microns)
- direct determination of e- density



Ma *et al* Nature 2009

Marques *et al* PRB 2011





Diffraction Studies of Dynamically-Heated Single Crystals

- Using either x-ray beam itself to heat (XFEL)
- Or a separate IR laser

#### Single-crystal X-ray diffraction at megabar pressures and temperatures of thousands of degrees

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High Pressure Research Vol. 30, No. 4, December 2010, 620–633



But We Can Also I magine Doing Entirely New Things

- Time-resolved Studies of the Dynamics of Melting
- Time and Momentum Resolved Imaging of Non-equilibrium Phonons
- Electron-Lattice Coupling in CDW Phases of Elements
- Diffraction from Dynamically Compressed Matter

What would we need:

- Fast fs heating lasers synchronised to x-ray beam
- Ability to split x-ray pulses into two, with variable time delay
- Ability to bring together pulses of different wavelengths
- Largest possible ns laser for ramp compression

# **Dynamics of Melting/Crystallisation**

- How do materials melt/recrystallise including non-thermal melting?
- How do they behave on the approach to melting?

PRL 95, 125701 (2005)	PHYSICAL	REVIEW	LETTERS	week ending 16 SEPTEMBER 2005

#### Observation of Structural Anisotropy and the Onset of Liquidlike Motion During the Nonthermal Melting of InSb

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Classical approach to measuring phonons and dispersion - inelastic neutron and x-ray scattering



Holt et al, PRL 83, 3317 (1999).







Agreement with neutron experiments is excellent



TDS from Cs-II at 3 GPa

Slow (ns to  $\mu \text{s}$  ) laser-induced melting – IR lasers well known to the HP community

Fast (fs) laser-induced melting - heats only electrons and not the lattice *or* excite a particular optical phonon to give displacements > Lindemann limit.

Determine phonon dispersion on approach to melting. Which modes go unstable, and where.



Calculated TDS from Si at AP

Can determine TDS pattern from known phonon spectrum - and are close to be able to do the reverse problem.

# Lattice Dynamics

PRL 102, 035501 (2009) PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 23 JANUARY 2009

⊗a

Origin of the Incommensurate Modulation in Te-III and Fermi-Surface Nesting in a Simple Metal

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Each data point takes ~hours



<sup>5</sup> Measure 1°s of incommensurate satellite peaks as function of delay time between laser pulse and x-ray probe

• Might expect I's  $\rightarrow$  zero over hundred fs, and then I's recover over few ps as softmode re-softens to zero, and CDW is reestablished

• Can follow softening of the CDW mode by determining phonon branches as a function of time via time-resolved TDS measurements

only) and "melt" the CDW V "melts" and then



# Diffraction from Dynamically-Compressed Matter

Upper P limit of ~400 GPa with DAC has not increased significantly in the last decade

The upper-T range available with laser heating has also remained relatively unchanged.

Dynamic compression can access truly extremes of P-Ts for nanoseconds, but structural studies impossible (to date).



Whole new areas of condensed matter physics, and new physical phenomena, lie tantalisingly out of reach, inaccessible to current techniques.

# What Might We Want to Study?

(Multi-)Terapascal behaviour of simple matter at ~300K (completely unknown)

(Multi-)Terapascal behaviour of simple matter to 11,000K (*almost* completely unknown)



#### Further Complexity at Extreme Density AI: A Simple Metal no More (Pickard & Needs, NatMat Jul2010)

Between 3.2 and 8.8 TPa (32-88 Mbars) AI is predicted to have an incommensurate H-G structure



# Further Complexity at Extreme Density $Li_3$ units in Li stable 300-1000 GPa (Ma *et al*, PRB 2008)

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 78, 014102 (2008)

# High-pressure structures of lithium, potassium, and rubidium predicted by an *ab initio* evolutionary algorithm

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We have extensively explored the high-pressure structures of lithium (Li), potassium (K), and rubidium (Rb) using an *ab initio* evolutionary algorithm. For Li, an unexpected cubic  $P4_132$  structure containing sixfold coordinated lithium atoms and Li<sub>3</sub> equilateral triangles was discovered to be stable above 300 GPa. This structure is reported for the first time in the elements and shows charge accumulation in the voids of the structure, rather than within the Li<sub>3</sub> triangles. At pressures above the stability field of complex incommensurate phases, the heavier elements K and Rb were predicted to adopt the sequence of  $I4_1/amd \rightarrow Cmca \rightarrow$  double-hexagonal-close-packed. This sequence parallels the experimentally known structural sequence in Cs, which can be explained by the predominant *d* character of the valence electrons in K, Rb, and Cs at high-pressures. The major *p* character at the Fermi level in Li makes it distinct from K, Rb, and Cs.

#### Still metallic at these pressures



FIG. 2. (Color online) (a) The calculated band structure (left



# NIF - the National Ignition Facility



Aspiration: Ramp compression of hydrogen to ~50 gcm<sup>-3</sup> (>4× density of lead)

Recent Results from NIF - courtesy Ray Smith (LLNL)



NIF-0310-18630

# Conclusions

New Light Sources such as ERL and XFEL offer the possibility of entirely new extreme-conditions science

- Ability to study structure on a fs-ps timescale and to higher P
- Ability to study dynamics on a fs-ps timescale and to higher P
- Able to pump individual phonons of particular interest.
- Ability to study structures of dynamically compressed matter with same quality of data currently available from DACs

• BUT, comparatively little fast/ultrafast laser science at high-P done to date - so probably lots of interesting high-P phenomena still to be discovered.

# Acknowledgements

R.J. Nelmes E. Gregoryanz
I. Loa L.F. Lundegaard
G. Stinton M. Marques
C. Guillaume G.J. Ackland
C. Hejny S. Falconi

M. Hanfland & M. Merlini W. Crichton & M. Mezouar A. Bossak & M. Krisch

C. Pickard

HK. Mao & Colleagues

R.F. Smith & Colleagues

Edinburgh O. Narygina E. McBride J.S. Loveday O. Degtyareva

ESRF

UCL

Geophysical Laboratory

Lawrence Livermore