

Structured Neutron Waves

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Waterloo, Ontario, Canada



Latitude:

London N51.5072°

Munich N48.1351°

Monaco N43.7389°

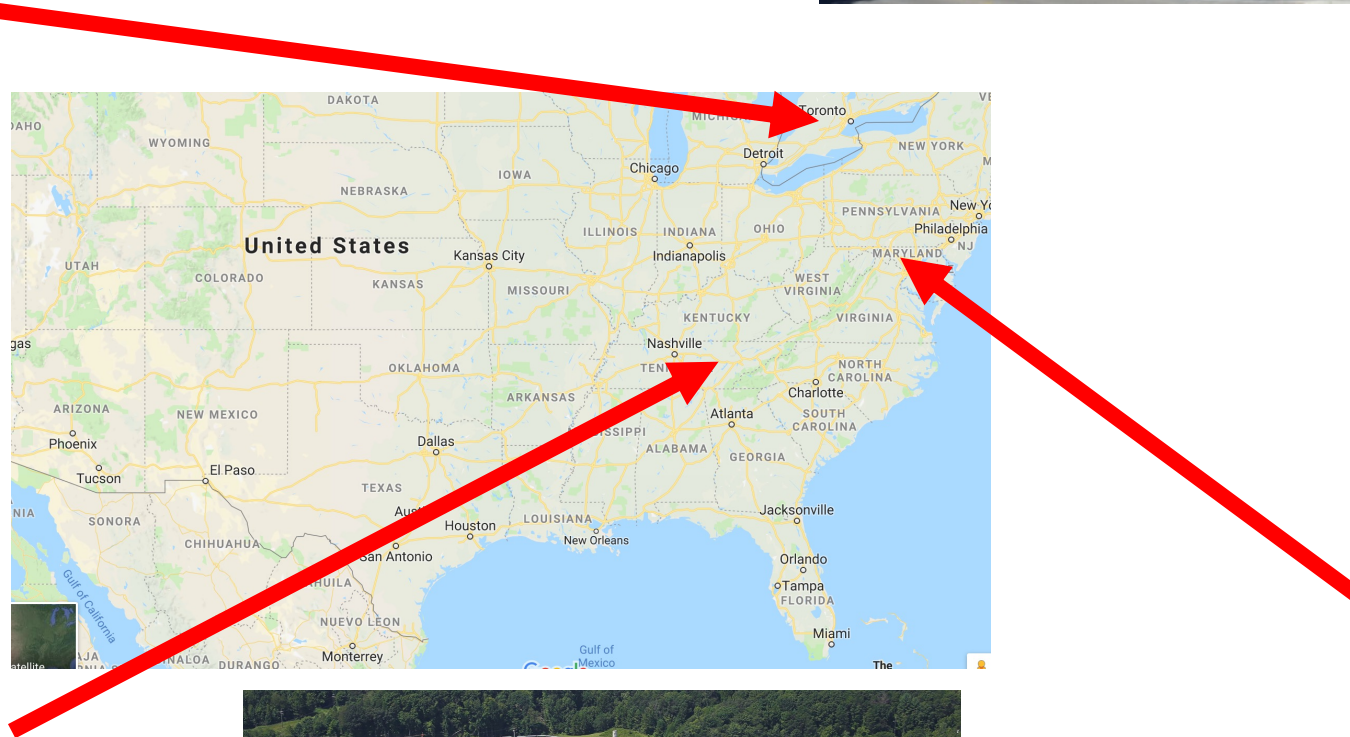
Waterloo N43.7102°

Cannes N43.5528°





- David Cory
- Ivar Taminau
- Melissa Henderson
- Austin Woolverton
- Joachim Nsofini
- Dusan Sarenac
- Huseyin Ekinci
- Connor Kapahi
- Olivier Nahman-Lévesque



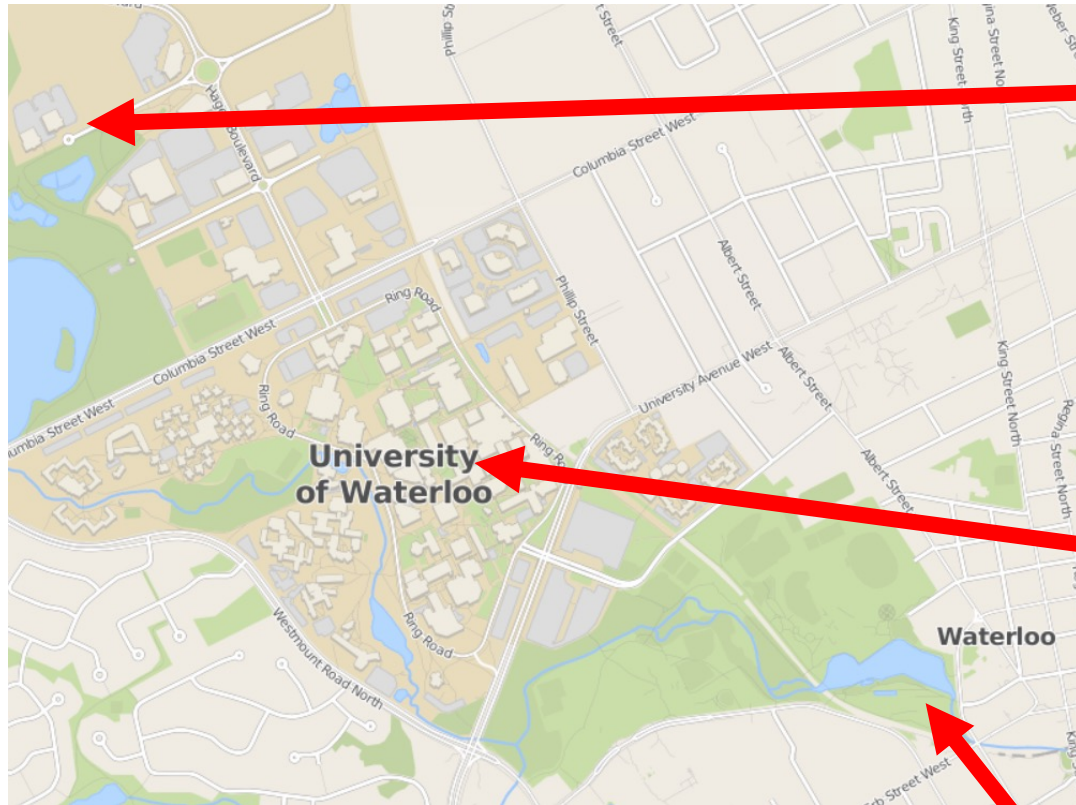
NLST

- Michael Huber
- Ben Heacock
- Shannon Hoogerheide
- Charles Clark
- Chandra Shahi
- Tom Gentile
- Wangchun Chen

OAK RIDGE
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-Lisa Debeer-Schmitt



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Our Lab



IQC

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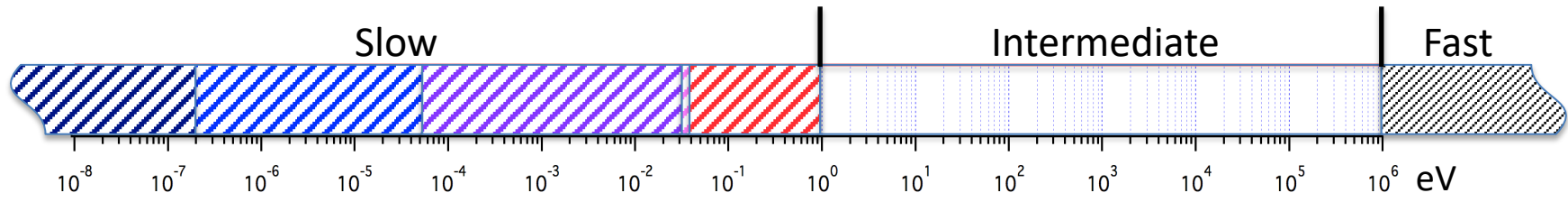
Mike Lazaridis





1935, nobelprize.org

Neutron spectrum



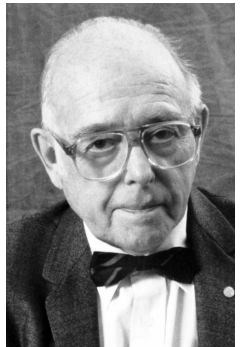
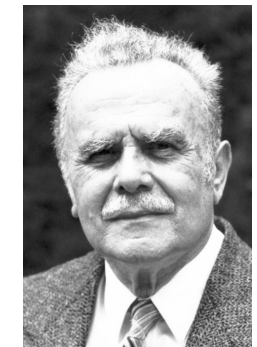
UCN

Very cold

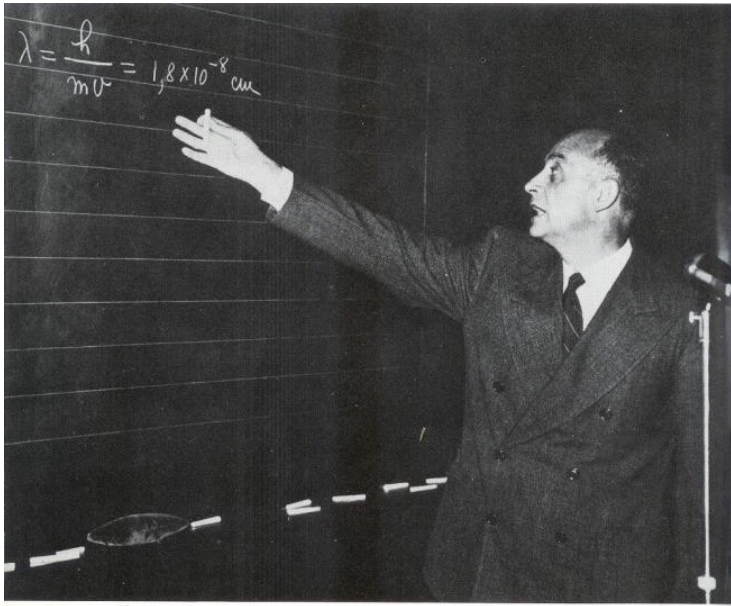
Cold

Thermal

Epithermal



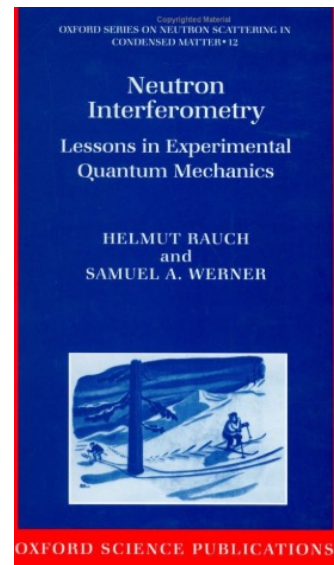
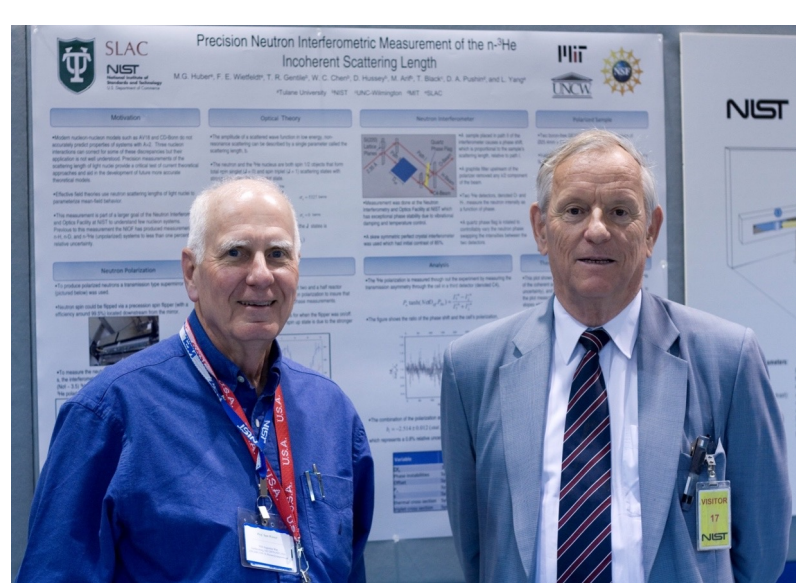
1994, nobelprize.org



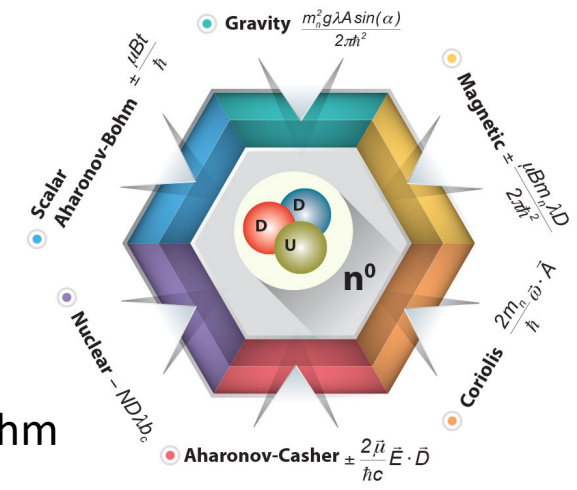
Rule of twos:

- Energy of 20 meV
- Wavelength of 2 Å
- Speed of 2000 m/s

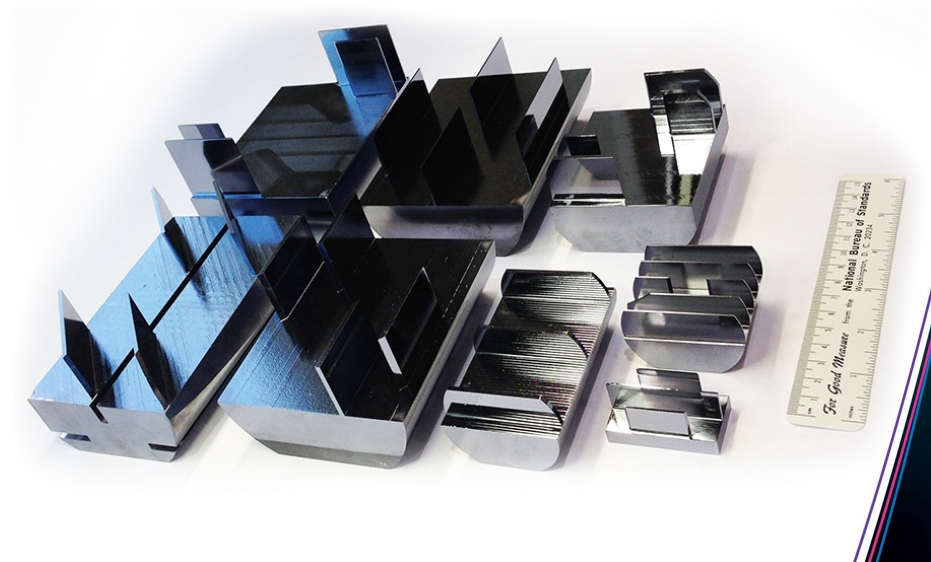
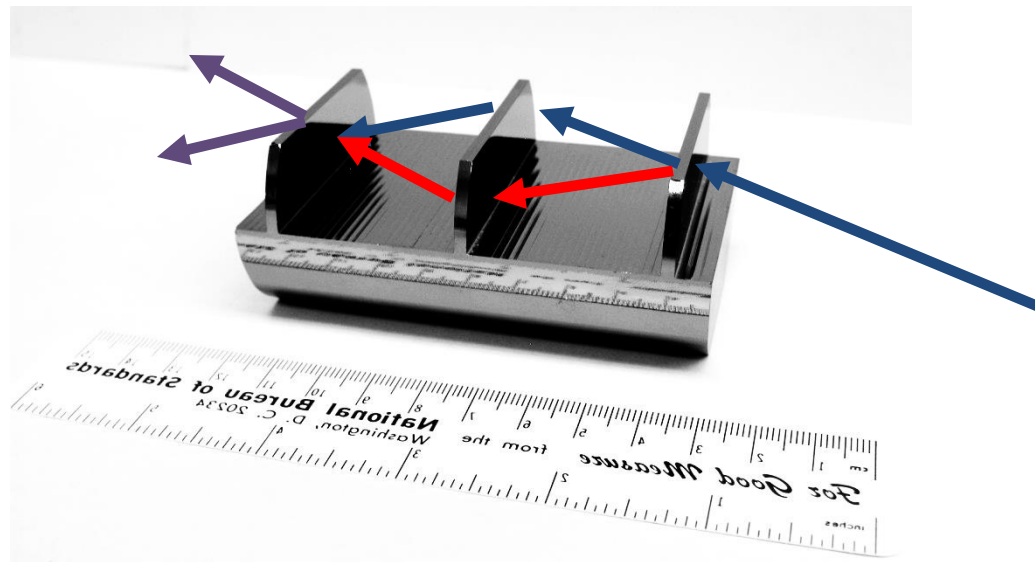




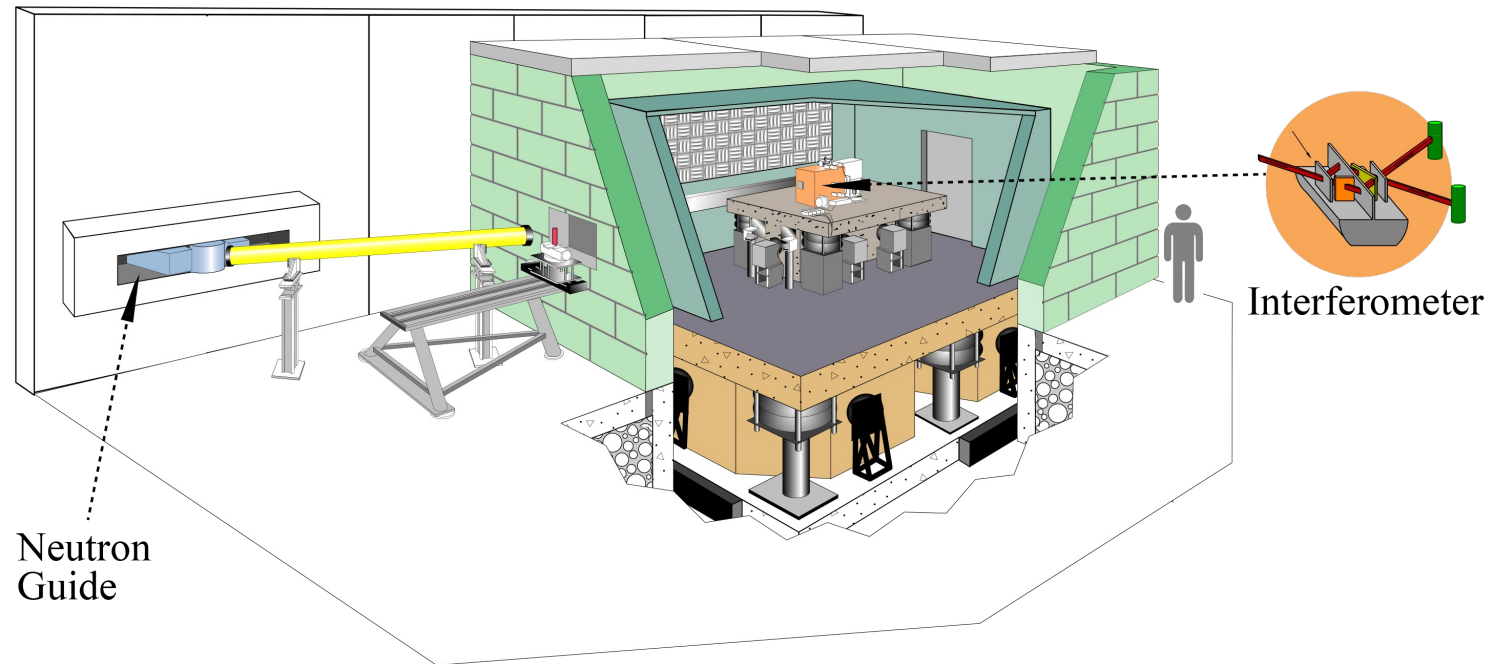
- Gravity
- Magnetic
- Coriolis
- Aharonov-Casher
- Nuclear
- Scalar Aharonov-Bohm



Neutron Interferometer



The Neutron Interferometer and Optics Facility



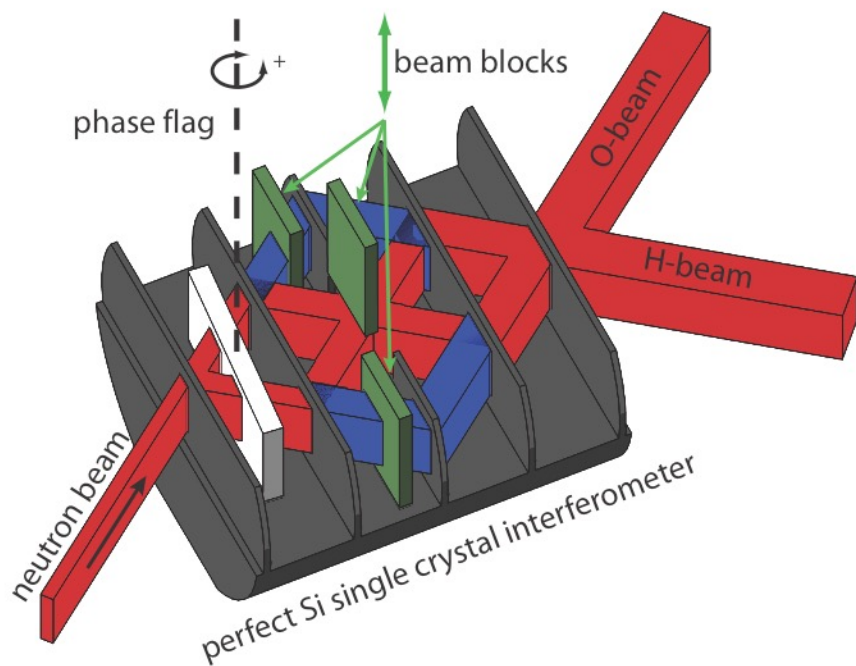
Isolated 40,000 Kg room is supported by six airsprings
Active Vibration Control eliminates vibrations less than 10Hz
Temperature Controlled to +/- 5 mK



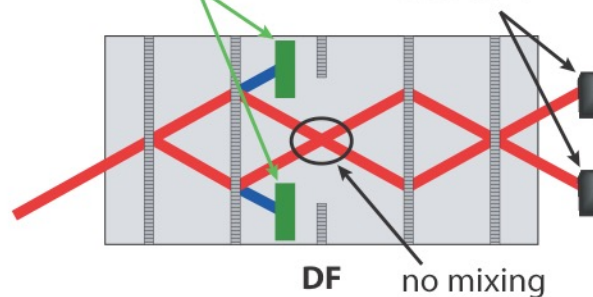
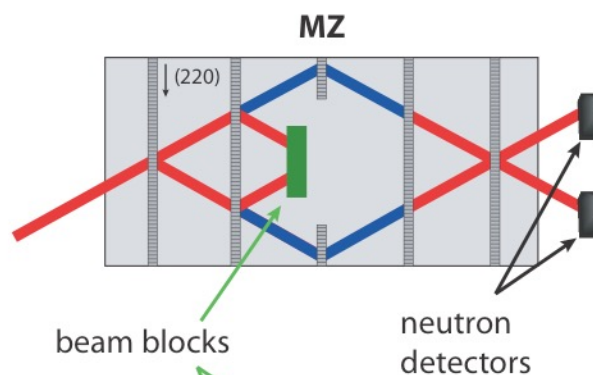
Experimental Realization of Decoherence-Free Subspace in Neutron Interferometry

D. A. Pushin,^{1,*} M. G. Huber,² M. Arif,² and D. G. Cory^{1,3,4}

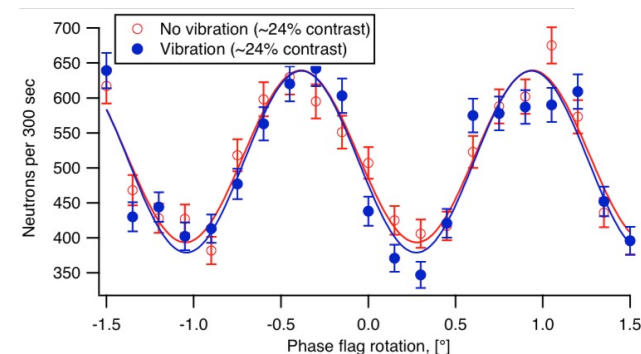
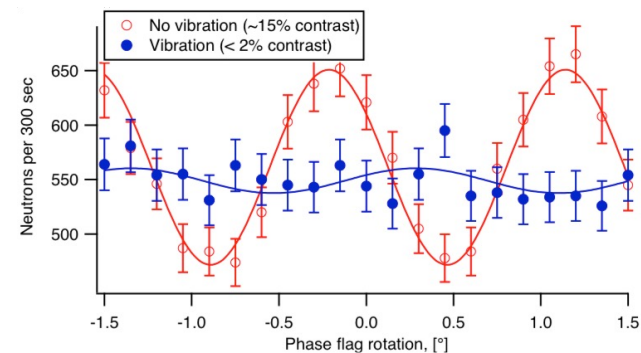
3+4=5?!



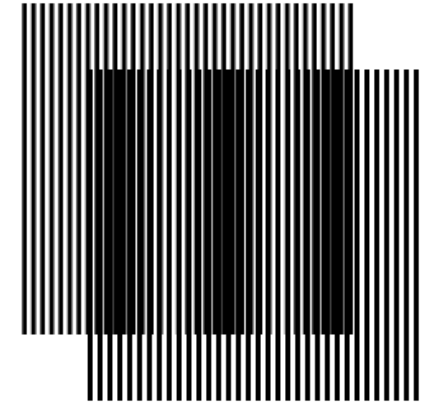
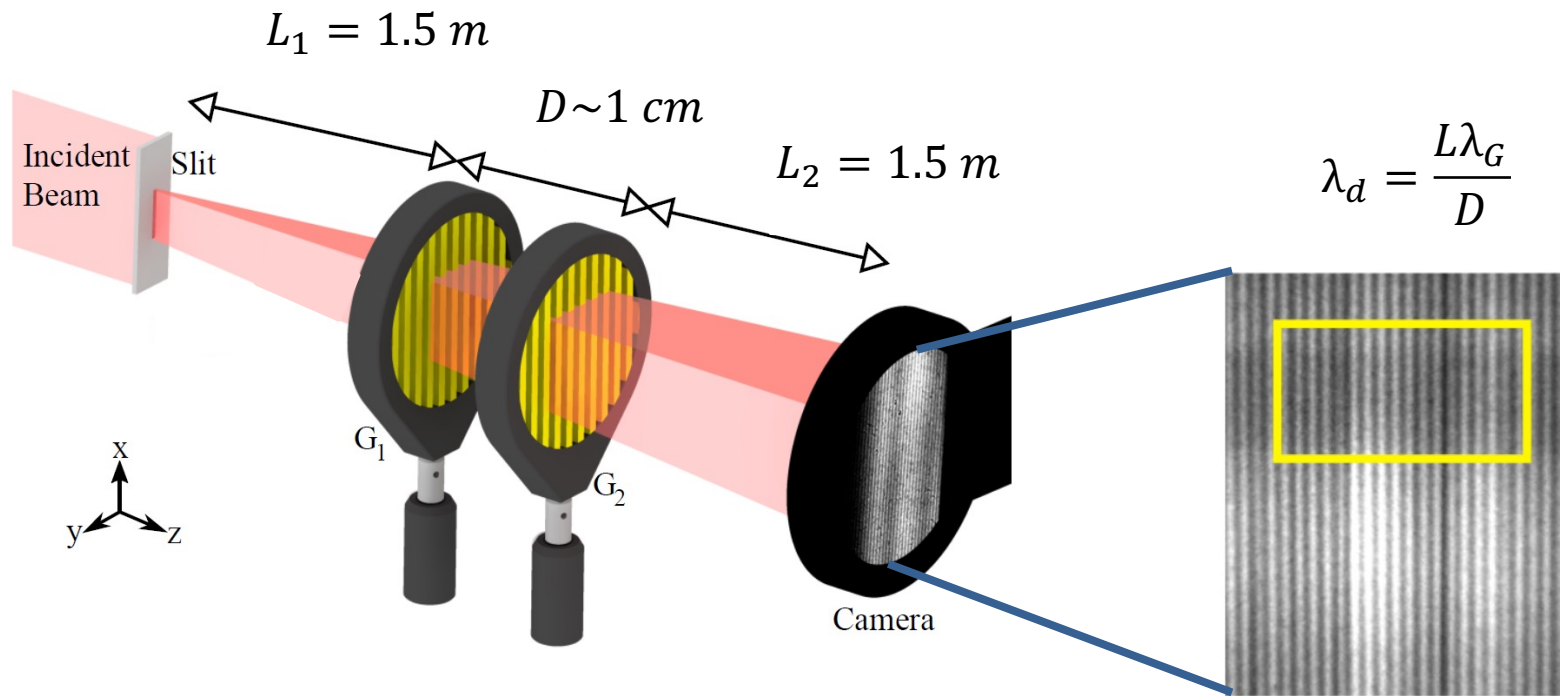
3 blade setup



4 blade setup



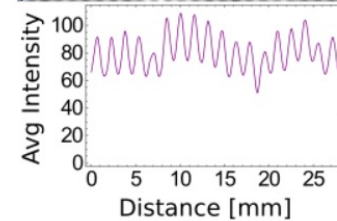
Two phase-grating moiré NI



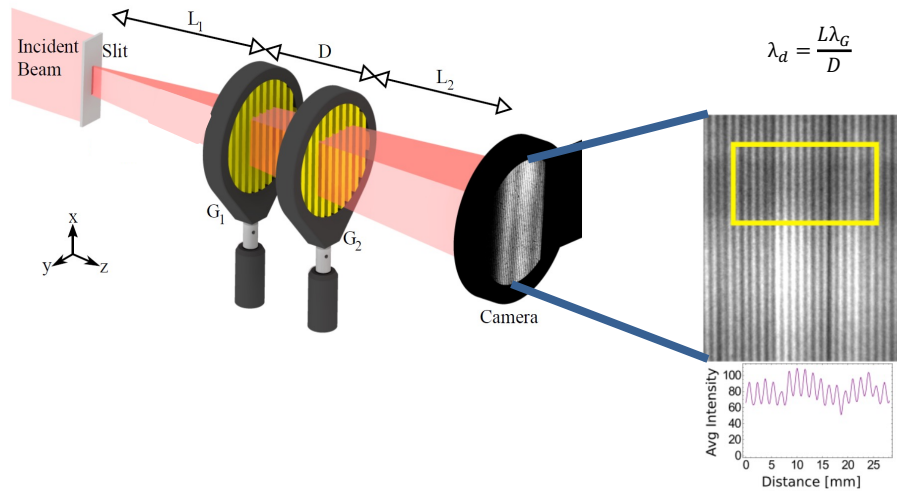
Transverse coherence length at the grating: $\sigma = \frac{\lambda L_1}{s_w} \geq \lambda_G$

Both gratings: $\lambda_G = 2.4 \mu m$ and $\varphi = \pi/2$

$$I = A + B \cos(2\pi f y + \varphi)$$



What we have so far



PHYSICAL REVIEW A **95**, 043637 (2017)

Far-field interference of a neutron white beam and the applications to noninvasive phase-contrast imaging

D. A. Pushin,^{1,2,*} D. Sarenac,^{1,2} D. S. Hussey,³ H. Miao,⁴ M. Arif,³ D. G. Cory,^{2,5,6,7} M. G. Huber,³ D. L. Jacobson,³ J. M. LaManna,³ J. D. Parker,⁸ T. Shinohara,⁹ W. Ueno,⁹ and H. Wen⁴

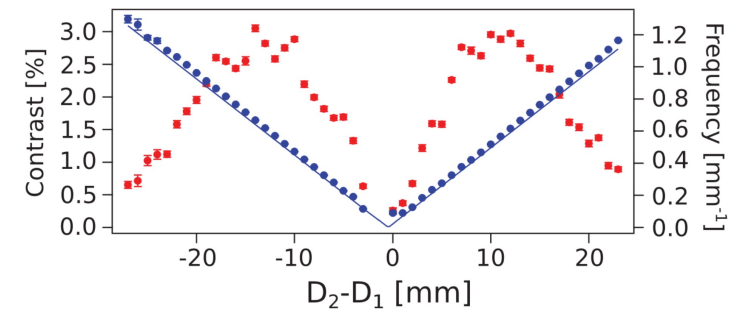
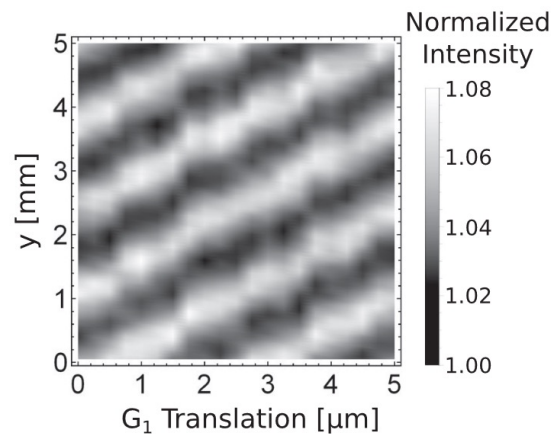
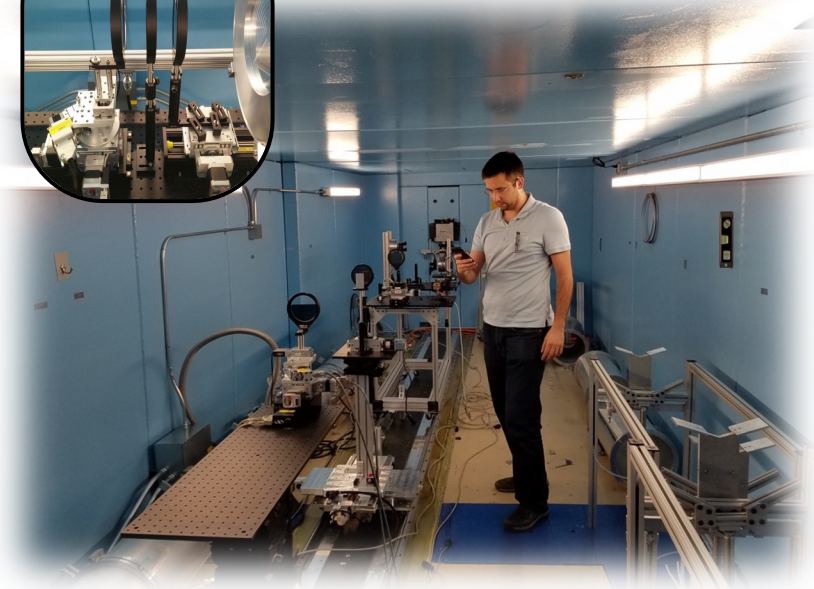
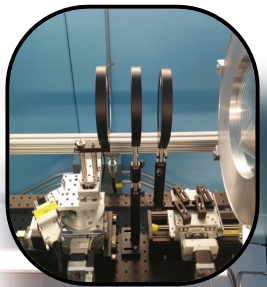
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **120**, 113201 (2018)

Editors' Suggestion

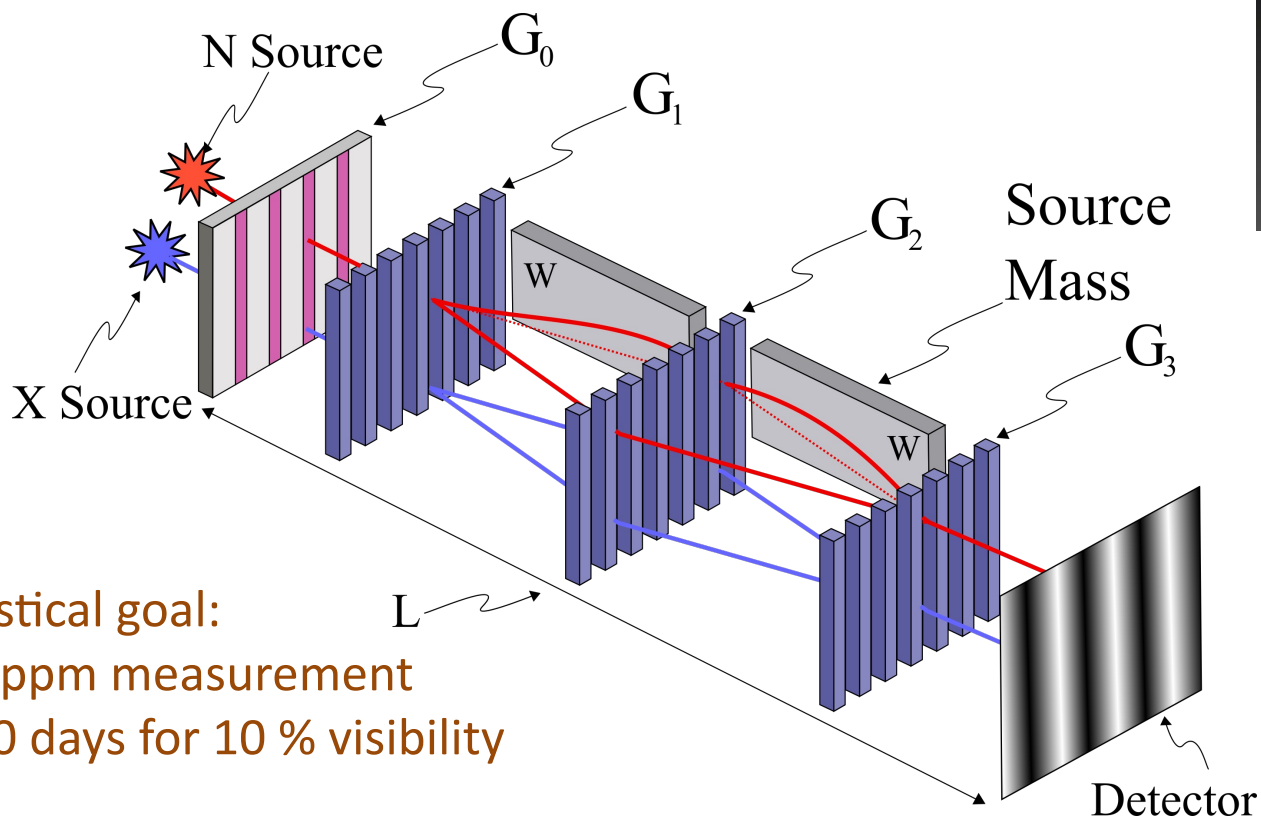
Featured in Physics

Three Phase-Grating Moiré Neutron Interferometer for Large Interferometer Area Applications

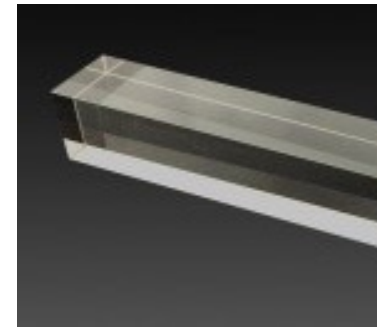
D. Sarenac,^{1,2,*} D. A. Pushin,^{1,2,†} M. G. Huber,³ D. S. Hussey,³ H. Miao,⁴ M. Arif,³ D. G. Cory,^{2,5,6,7} A. D. Cronin,⁸ B. Heacock,^{9,10} D. L. Jacobson,³ J. M. LaManna,³ and H. Wen⁴



Measuring Small Forces with **Neutron Interferometric Microscopy**: *A wholly unique and novel paradigm for Big-G*



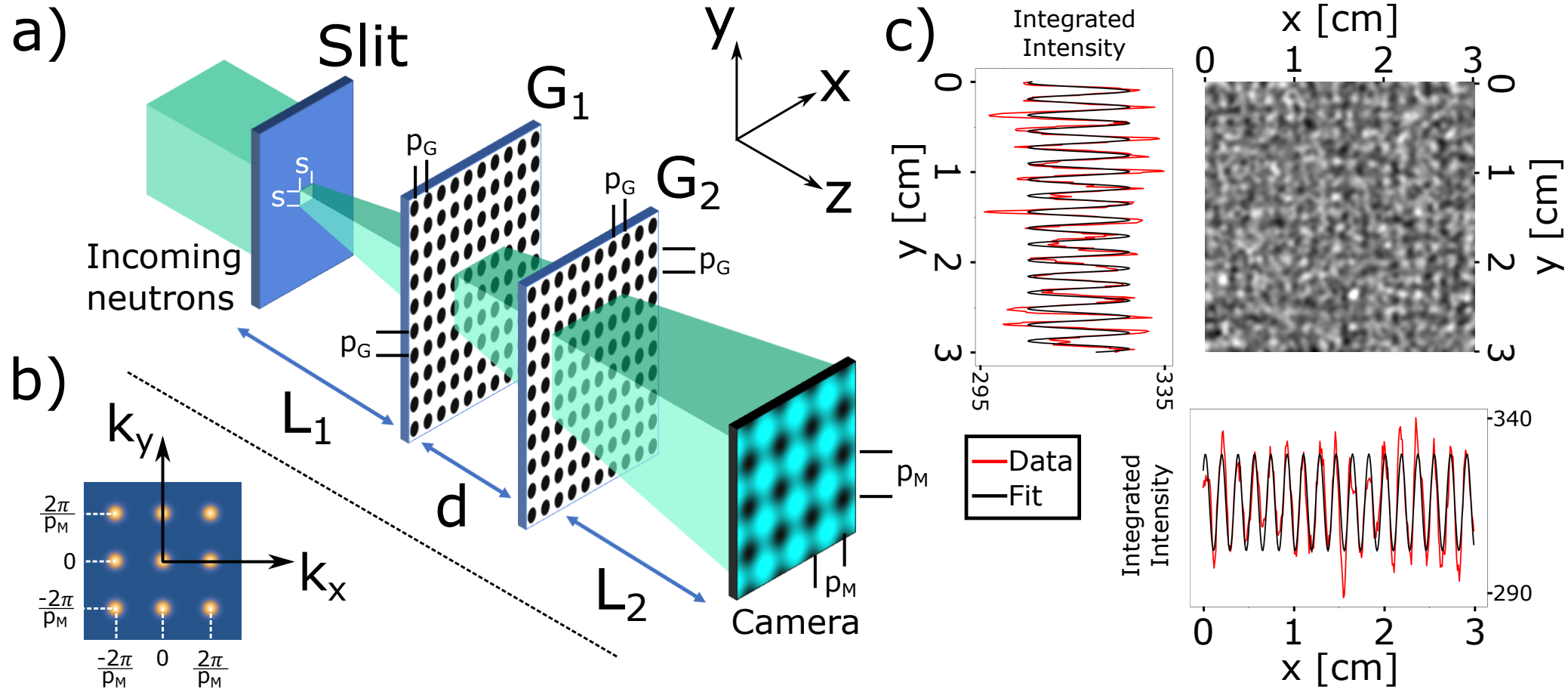
Statistical goal:
10 ppm measurement
~100 days for 10 % visibility



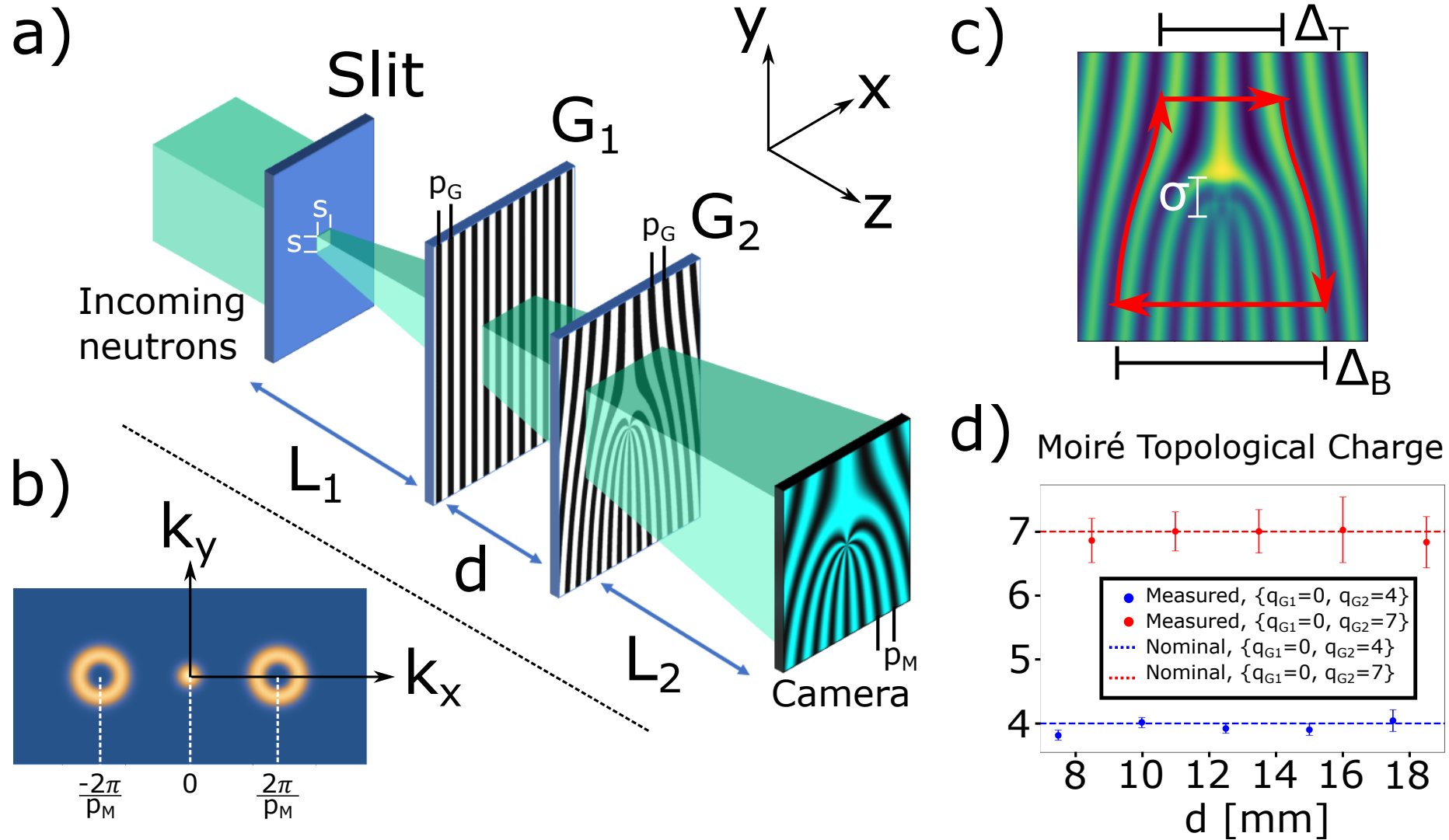
Lead Tungstate



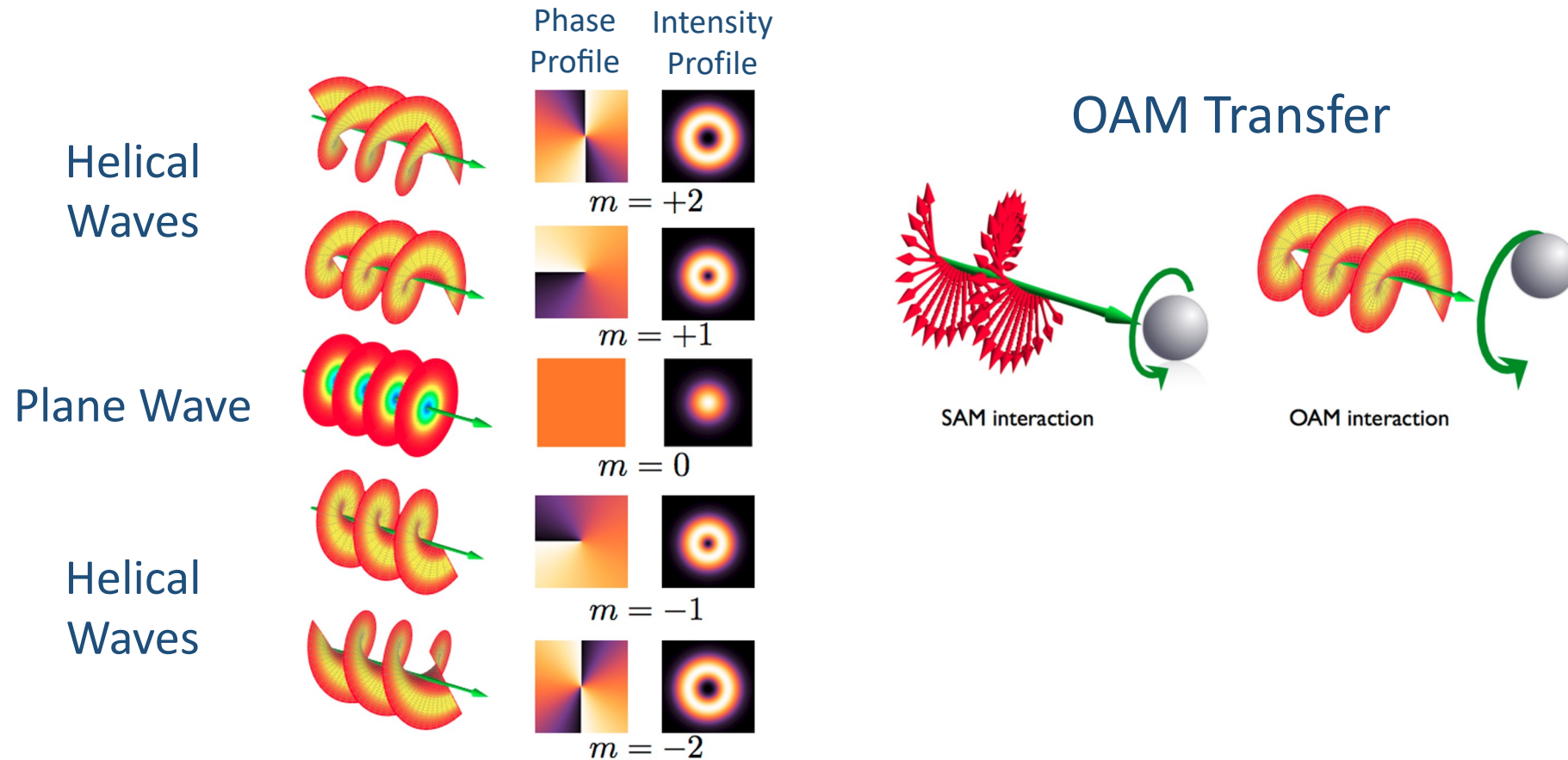
2d-grating interferometry

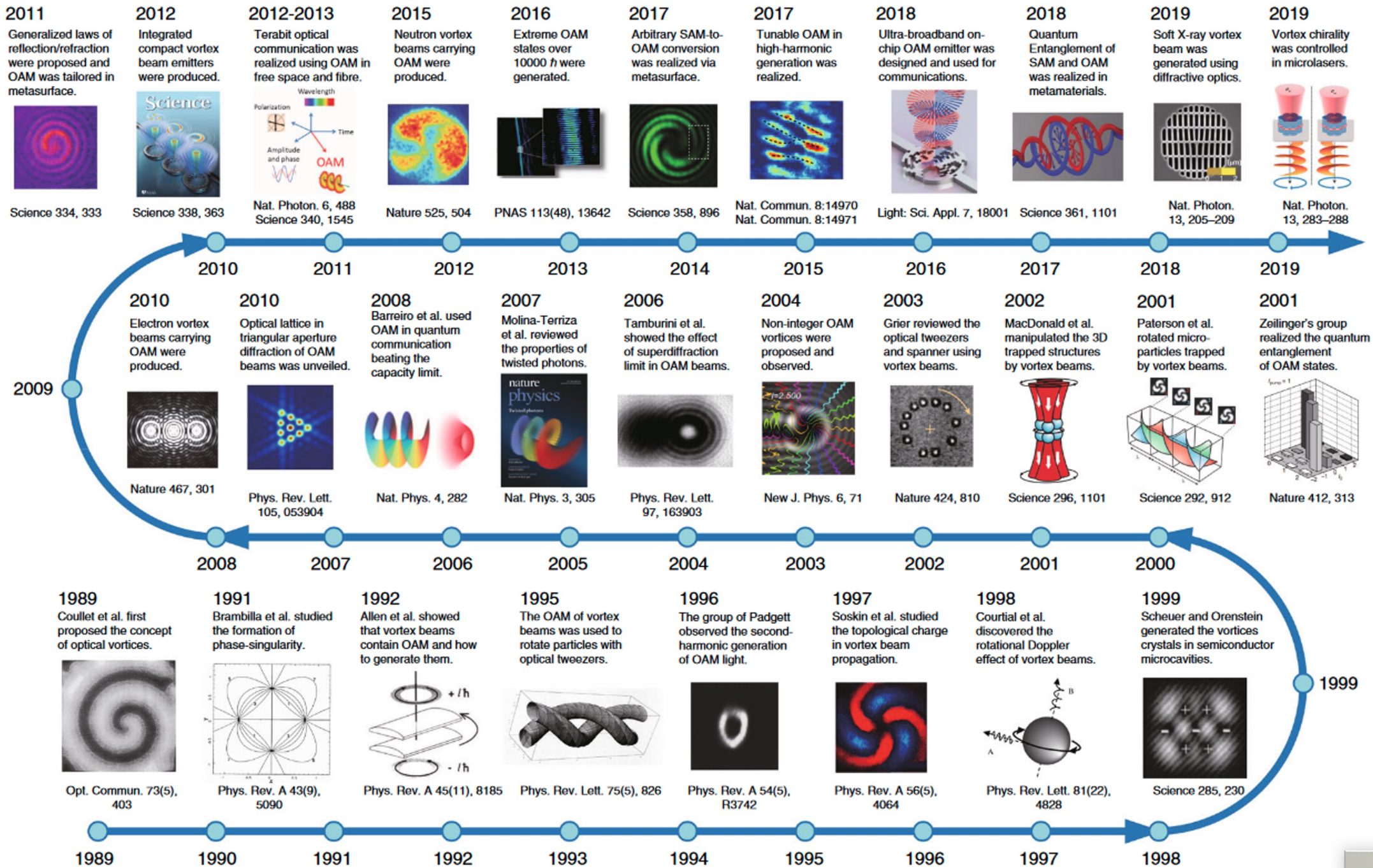


2d-grating interferometry



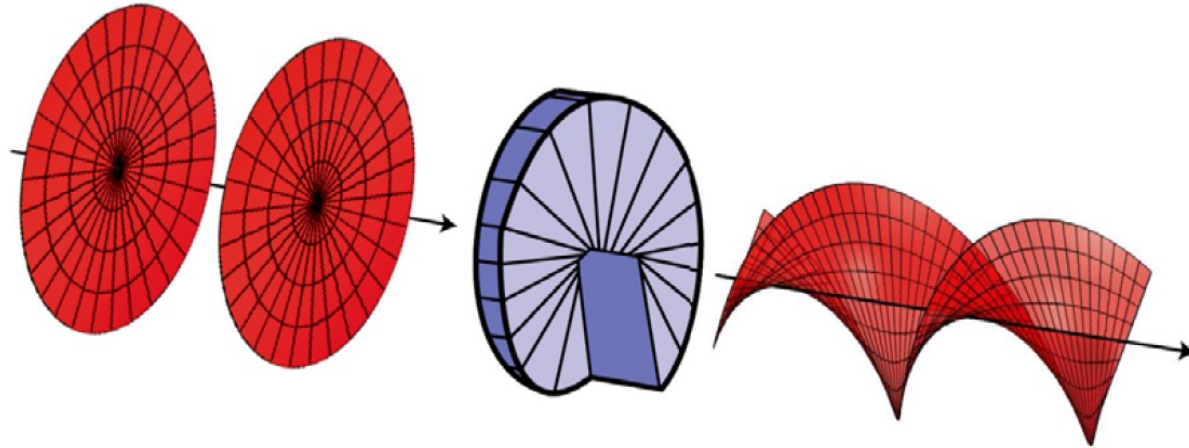
Structured Light and OAM





How to generate such modes?

Plane Wave
 $|\psi_{in}\rangle = e^{ikz}$



Helical Wave
 $|\psi_{SPP}\rangle = e^{i\ell\phi} e^{ik_z z}$

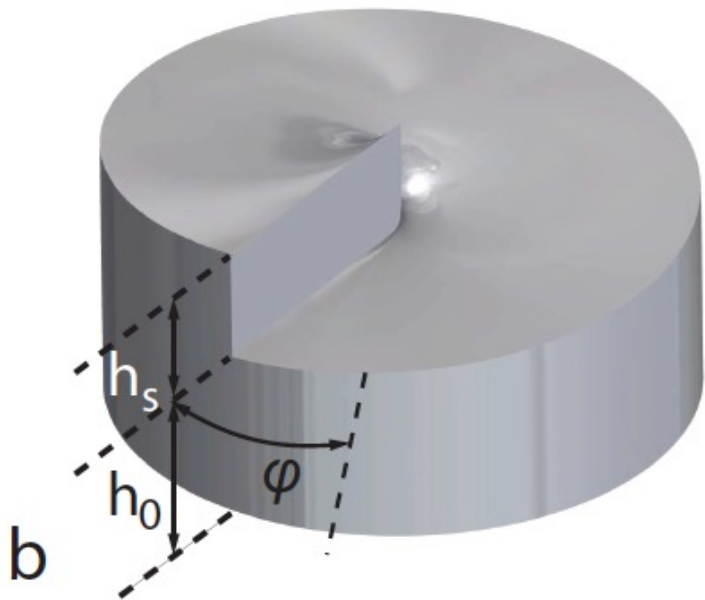
Yao, A. M. & Padgett, M. J.
Adv. Opt. Photon. 3, 161–204 (2011).



Aluminum spiral phase plates for neutrons

$$h = h_0 + \frac{h_s \varphi}{2\pi}$$

Phase of wavefunction increases linearly with azimuthal angle φ .

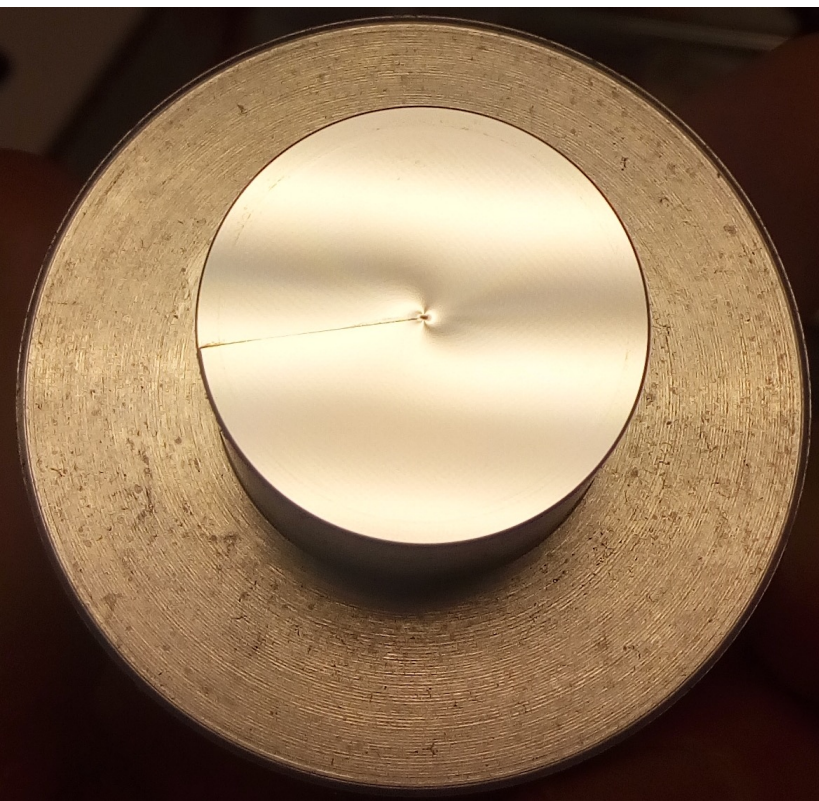


SPPs as seen from above, 25 mm diameter respectively.
Milled from Al 6061 dowel by diamond turning.

$$h_s = 112 \mu \text{ per } 2\pi \text{ phase step.}$$

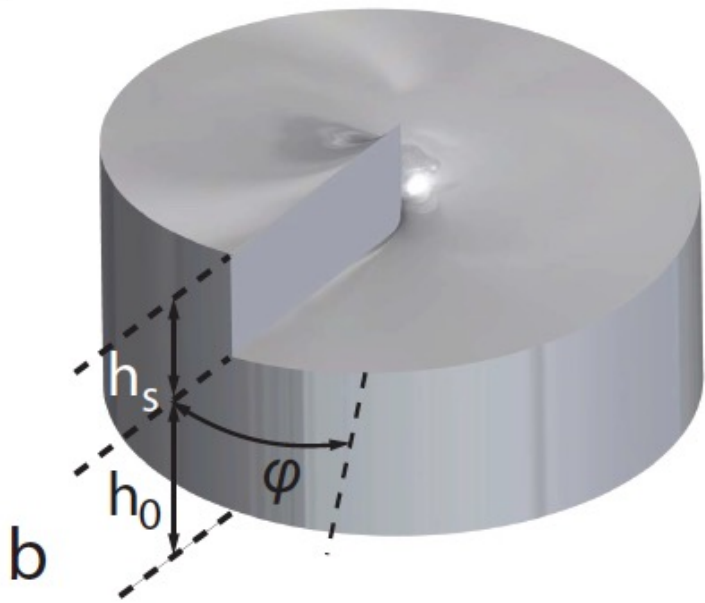
$$\text{Index of refraction } n = 1 - 2.43 \times 10^{-6}$$

**Control phase of $\lambda = 0.271$ nm wave motion
with 0.1 mm dimensional figure!**

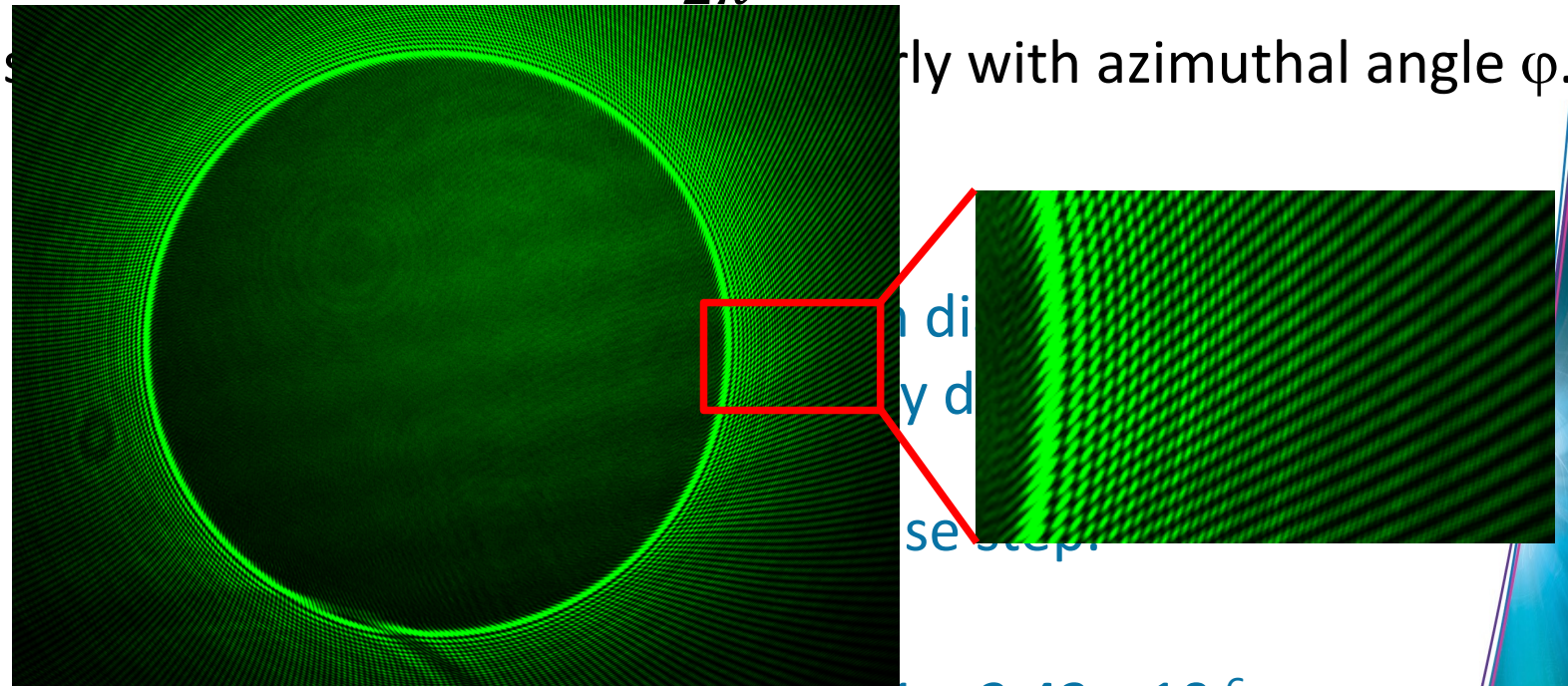


Aluminum spiral phase plates for neutrons

$$h = h_0 + \frac{h_s \varphi}{2\pi}$$

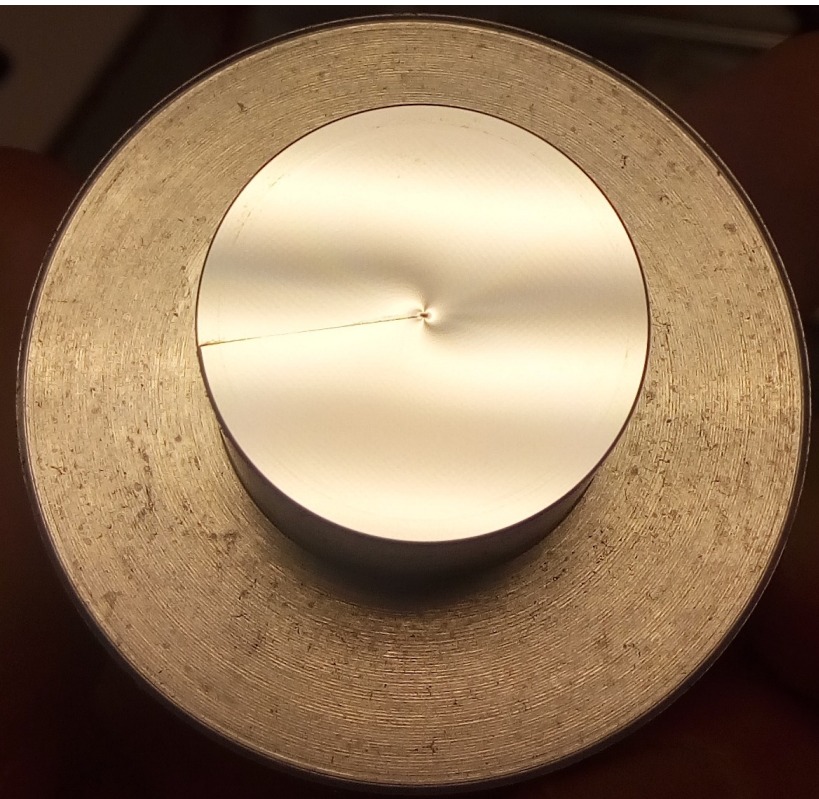


Phase φ varies linearly with azimuthal angle φ .



Index of refraction $n = 1 - 2.43 \times 10^{-6}$

Control phase of $\lambda = 0.271$ nm wave motion
with 0.1 mm dimensional figure!



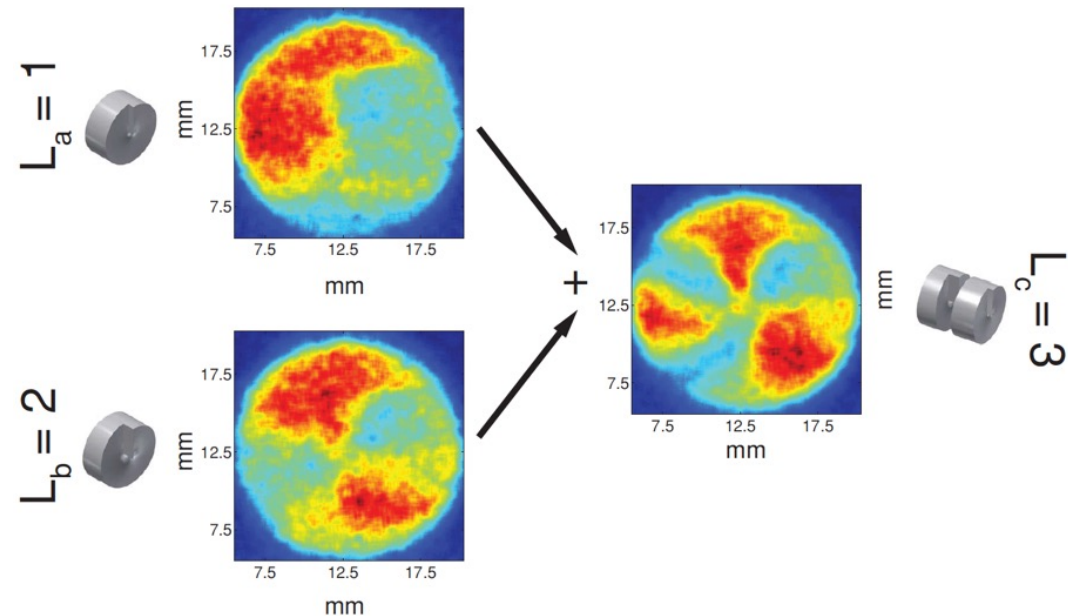
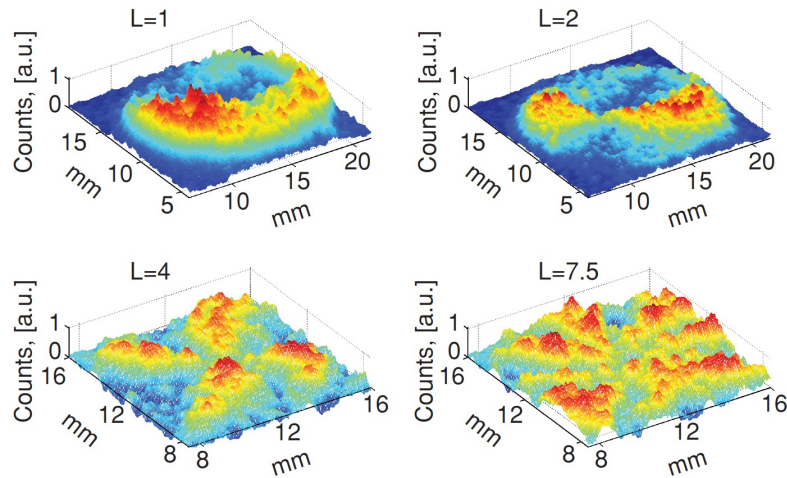
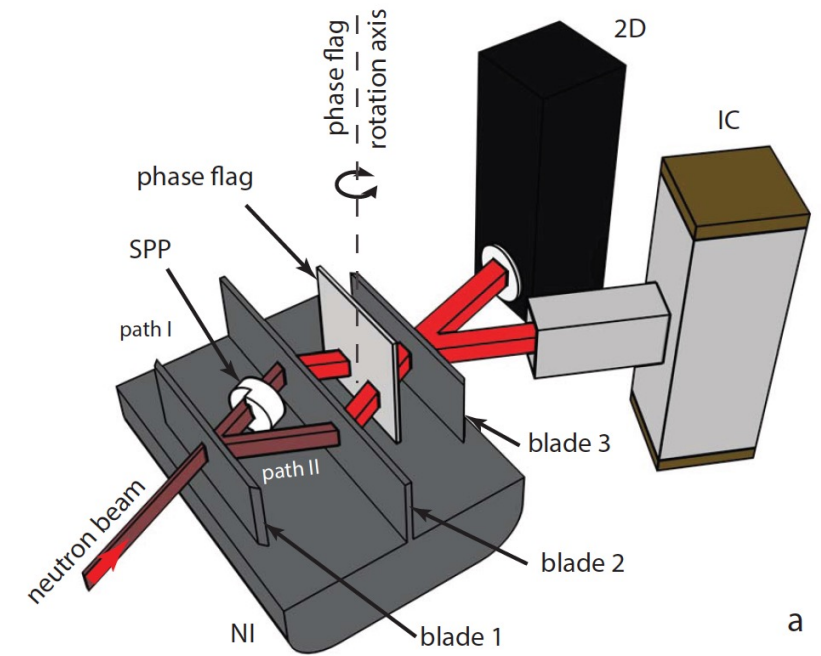


Letter | Published: 23 September 2015

Controlling neutron orbital angular momentum

Charles W. Clark, Roman Barankov, Michael G. Huber, Muhammad Arif, David G. Cory & Dmitry A. Pushin ✉

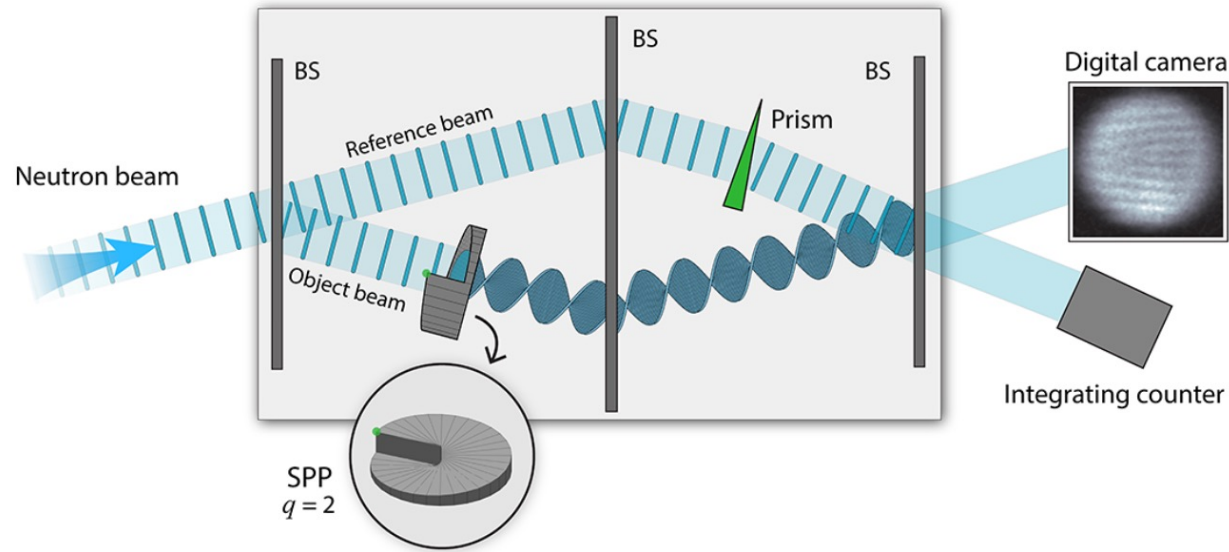
Nature **525**, 504–506 (24 September 2015) | [Download Citation](#) ↓



a



Neutron Holography



APS News Top Ten Physics Newsmakers of 2016

1. Ripples in Spacetime
2. Nobel Prizes
3. Rise and Fall of the 750 GeV Bump
4. Celebrity Elements
5. **Neutron Holography**
6. The Solar System's 9th Resident?
7. Kokabee Freed
8. CERN's First Female Director
9. Rosetta's Last Signal
10. In Memoriam

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APS NEWS

Top Ten Physics Newsmakers of 2016



Each year, *APS News* selects the top ten physics stories that made it into newspapers and onto televisions in the U.S. and across the world. While the selections may be scientifically important, the main criterion is how much coverage they generated.

Ripples in Spacetime

It was the black hole merger heard around the world. In February 2016, researchers announced the first direct observation of gravitational waves. The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory Scientific Collaboration (LIGO) and the Virgo Collaboration attributed the signal to a merger of two black holes, whose death spiral could be heard as a "chirp" when converted to an audio waveform. Then in June 2016, the research teams presented results from a second merger, this time of two black holes with smaller masses. The LIGO detectors were shut down for upgrades and restarted in November for a second observing run. Also in June, the European Space Agency had a successful test run of the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna Pathfinder mission, showing the feasibility of operating gravitational wave detectors in orbit.

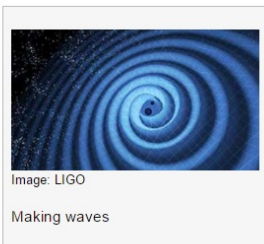


Image: LIGO

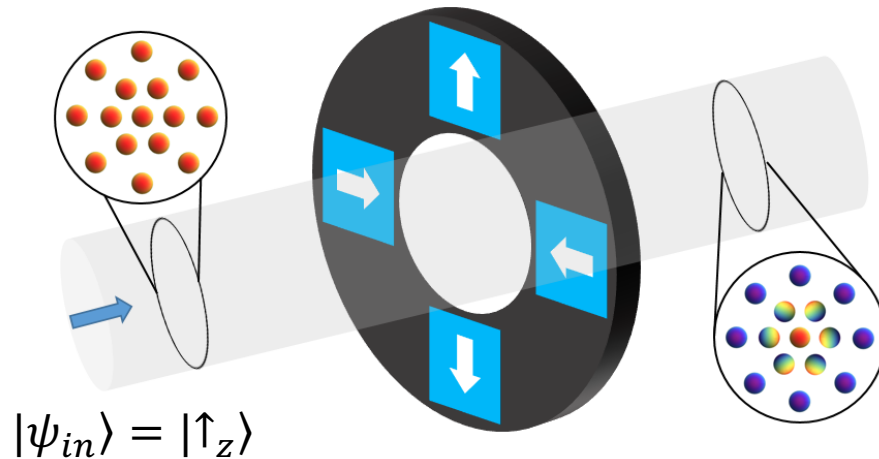
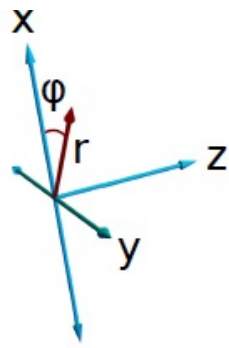
Making waves

Neutron Holography

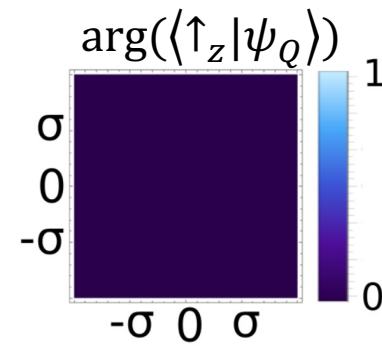
In 2016, researchers reported using neutrons to make holograms based on the same principles used in optical holography. A neutron enters an interferometer and is separated into two paths by a beam splitter, generating reference and object beams. The object beam was given a spatially varying phase after passing through a test object called a spiral-phase plate (a device that imparts helicity), while the reference beam, as in optical holography, is unaltered. The two beams were combined at another beam splitter, and the resulting beams sent to an imaging detector. The unique setup may offer a new way to study neutrons and use neutron imaging for characterizing properties of materials.

Sarenac, Dusan, Michael G. Huber, Benjamin Heacock, Muhammad Arif, Charles W. Clark, David G. Cory, Chandra B. Shahi, and Dmitry A. Pushin. "Holography with a neutron interferometer." *Optics express* 24, no. 20 (2016): 22528-22535.

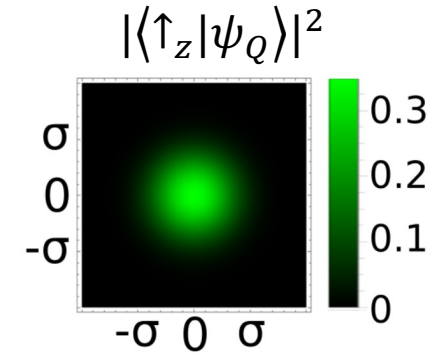
On-Axis Spin-Orbit States



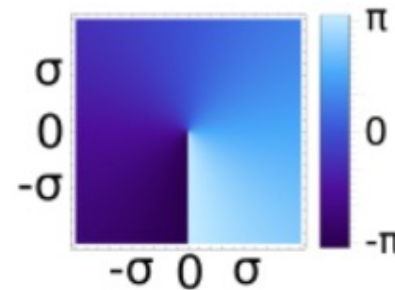
Phase Profile



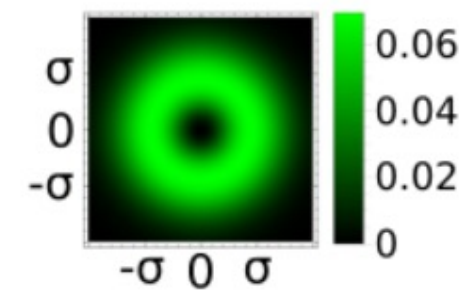
Intensity Profile



$\arg(\langle \downarrow_z | \psi_Q \rangle)$



$|\langle \downarrow_z | \psi_Q \rangle|^2$

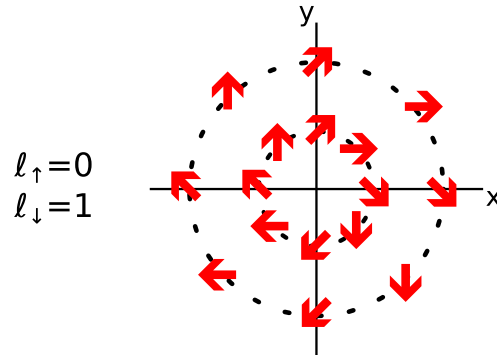


$$\begin{aligned}
 |\psi_Q\rangle &= U_Q |\psi_{in}\rangle \\
 &= \cos\left(\frac{\pi r}{2r_c}\right) |\uparrow_z\rangle + i \sin\left(\frac{\pi r}{2r_c}\right) e^{-i\varphi} |\downarrow_z\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Neutron Spin-Orbit States

a) CYLINDRICALLY POLARIZED STATES

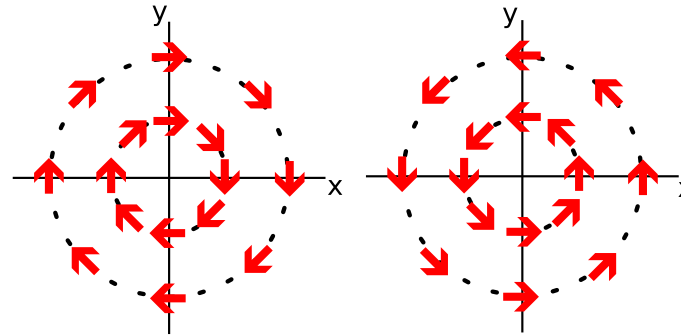
$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|\uparrow_z\rangle + e^{i\beta} e^{i\phi} |\downarrow_z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$



b) AZIMUTHALLY POLARIZED STATES

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|\uparrow_z\rangle - i e^{i\phi} |\downarrow_z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

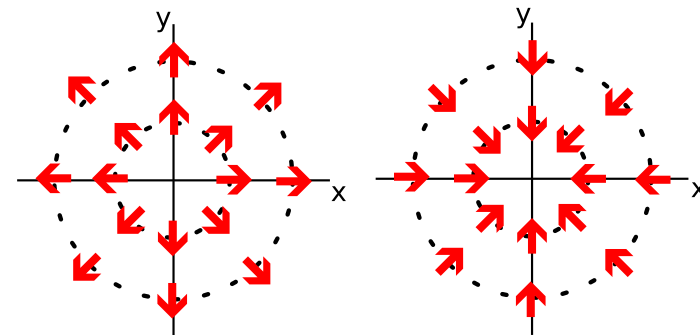
$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|\uparrow_z\rangle + i e^{i\phi} |\downarrow_z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$



c) RADIALLY POLARIZED STATES

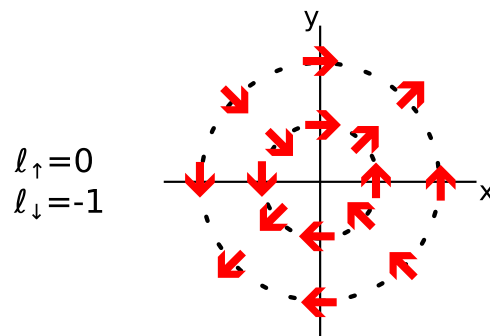
$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|\uparrow_z\rangle + e^{i\phi} |\downarrow_z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|\uparrow_z\rangle - e^{i\phi} |\downarrow_z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$



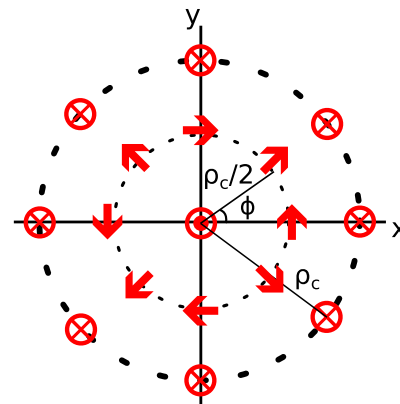
d) HYBRID POLARIZED STATES

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{|\uparrow_z\rangle + e^{i\beta} e^{-i\phi} |\downarrow_z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$



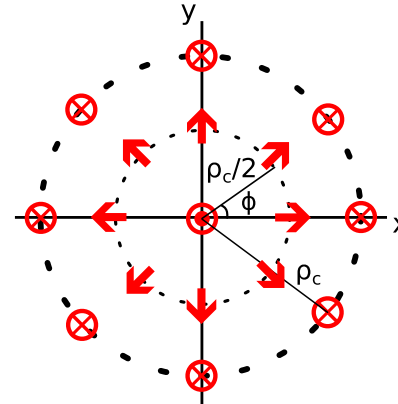
e) QUADRUPOLE SPIN-ORBIT STATES

$$|\Psi\rangle = \cos\left(\frac{\pi\rho}{2\rho_c}\right) |\uparrow_z\rangle + i e^{-i\phi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi\rho}{2\rho_c}\right) |\downarrow_z\rangle$$



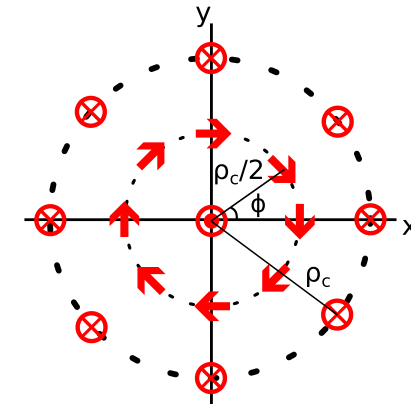
f) HEDGEHOG SKYRMION STATES

$$|\Psi\rangle = \cos\left(\frac{\pi\rho}{2\rho_c}\right) |\uparrow_z\rangle + e^{i\phi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi\rho}{2\rho_c}\right) |\downarrow_z\rangle$$



g) SPIRAL SKYRMION STATES

$$|\Psi\rangle = \cos\left(\frac{\pi\rho}{2\rho_c}\right) |\uparrow_z\rangle - i e^{i\phi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi\rho}{2\rho_c}\right) |\downarrow_z\rangle$$



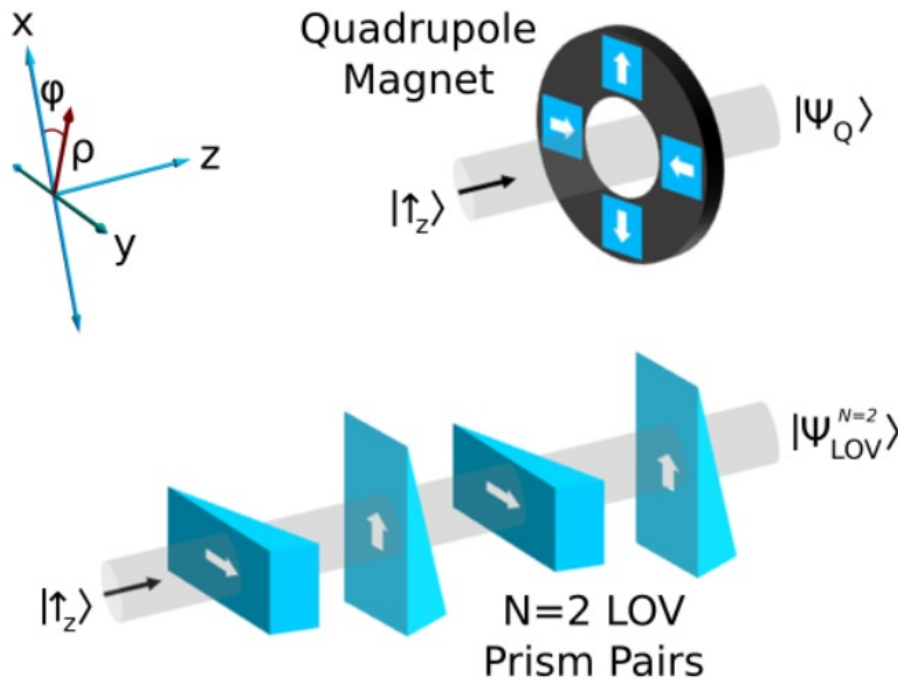
Neutron Spin-Orbit States

Quadrupole operator: $U_Q = e^{-i\frac{\pi r}{2r_c}(-\cos[\varphi]\sigma_x + \sin[\varphi]\sigma_y)} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi r}{2r_c}\right)\mathbb{1} + i\sin\left(\frac{\pi r}{2r_c}\right)(l_+\hat{\sigma}_+ + l_-\hat{\sigma}_-)$

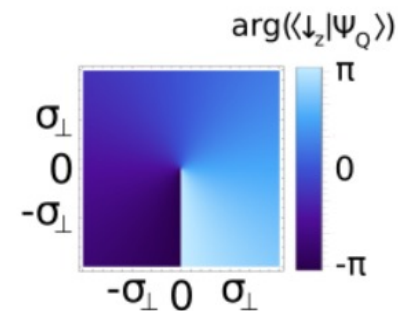
$$l_{\pm} = e^{\pm i\phi}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\pm} = (\hat{\sigma}_x \pm i\hat{\sigma}_y)/2$$

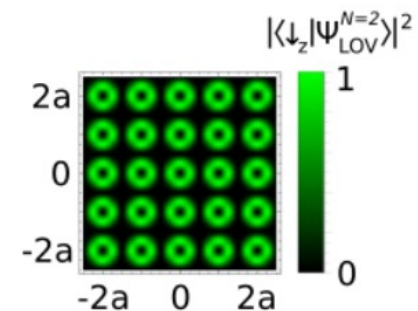
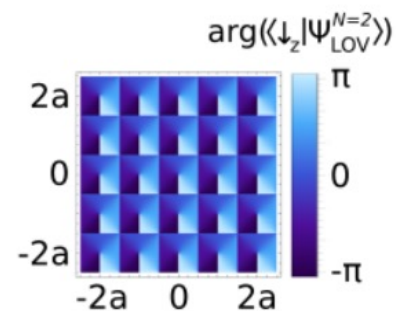
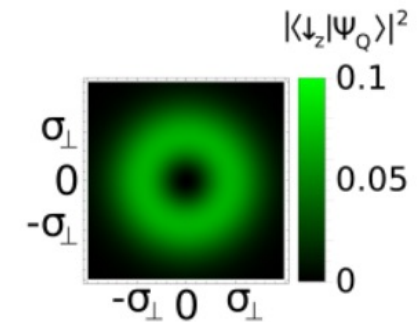
Suzuki-Trotter expansion: $U_Q = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left(e^{i\frac{\pi}{2Nr_c}x\sigma_x} e^{-i\frac{\pi}{2Nr_c}y\sigma_y} \right)^N$



Phase Profile



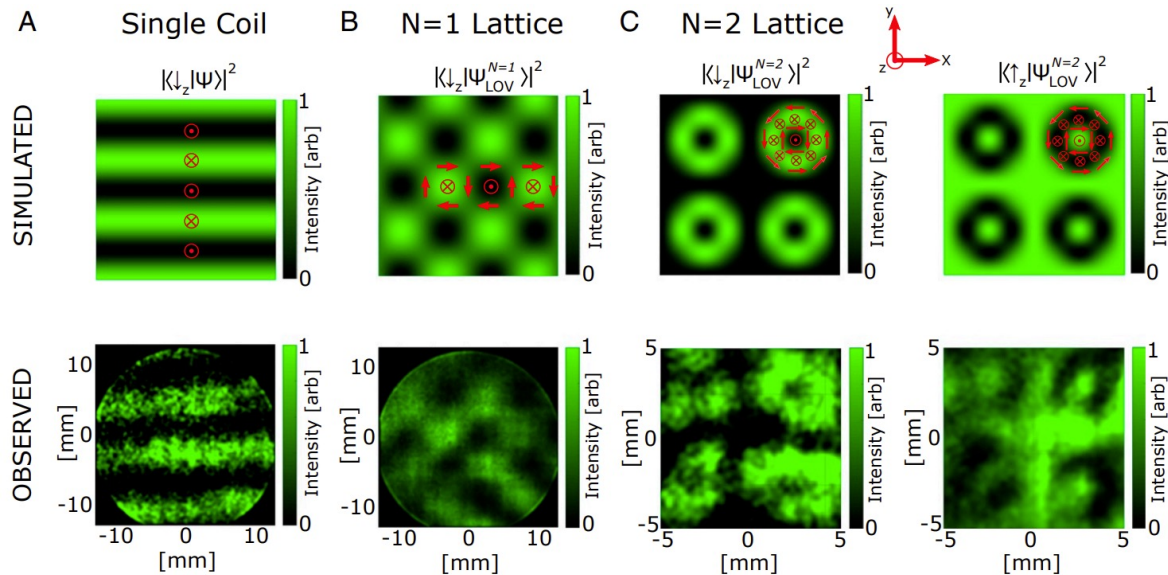
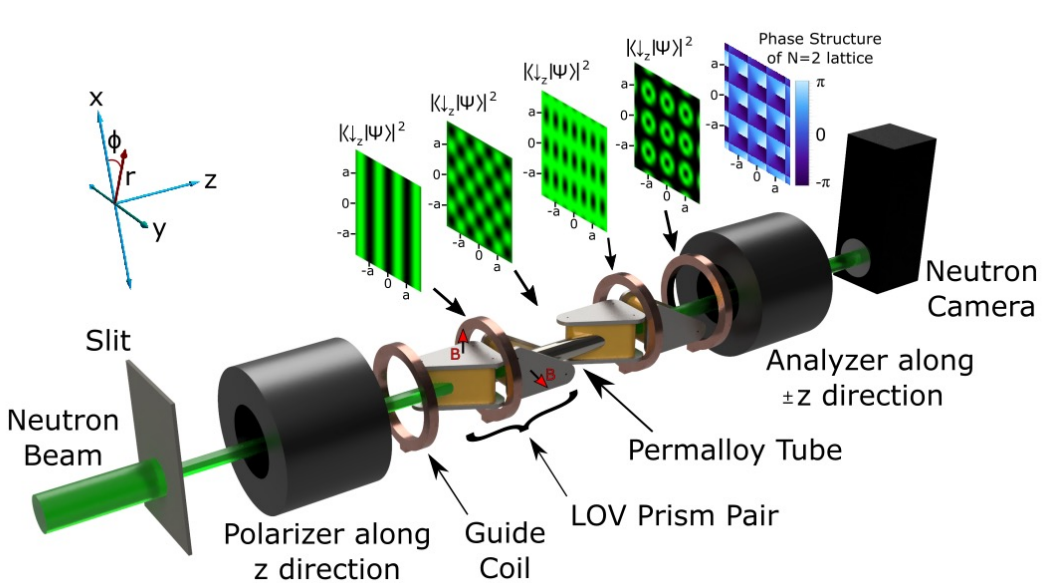
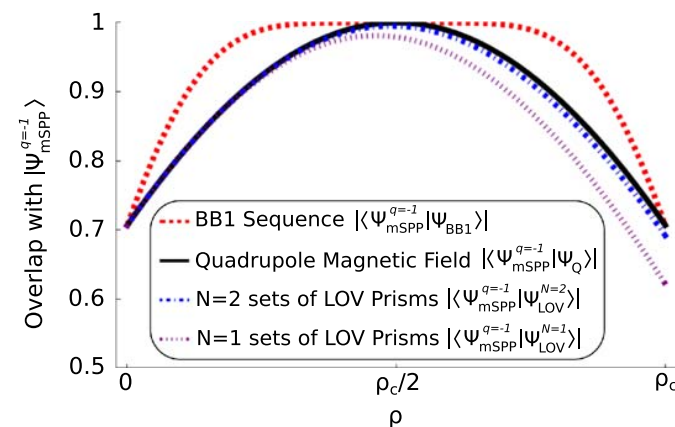
Intensity Profile

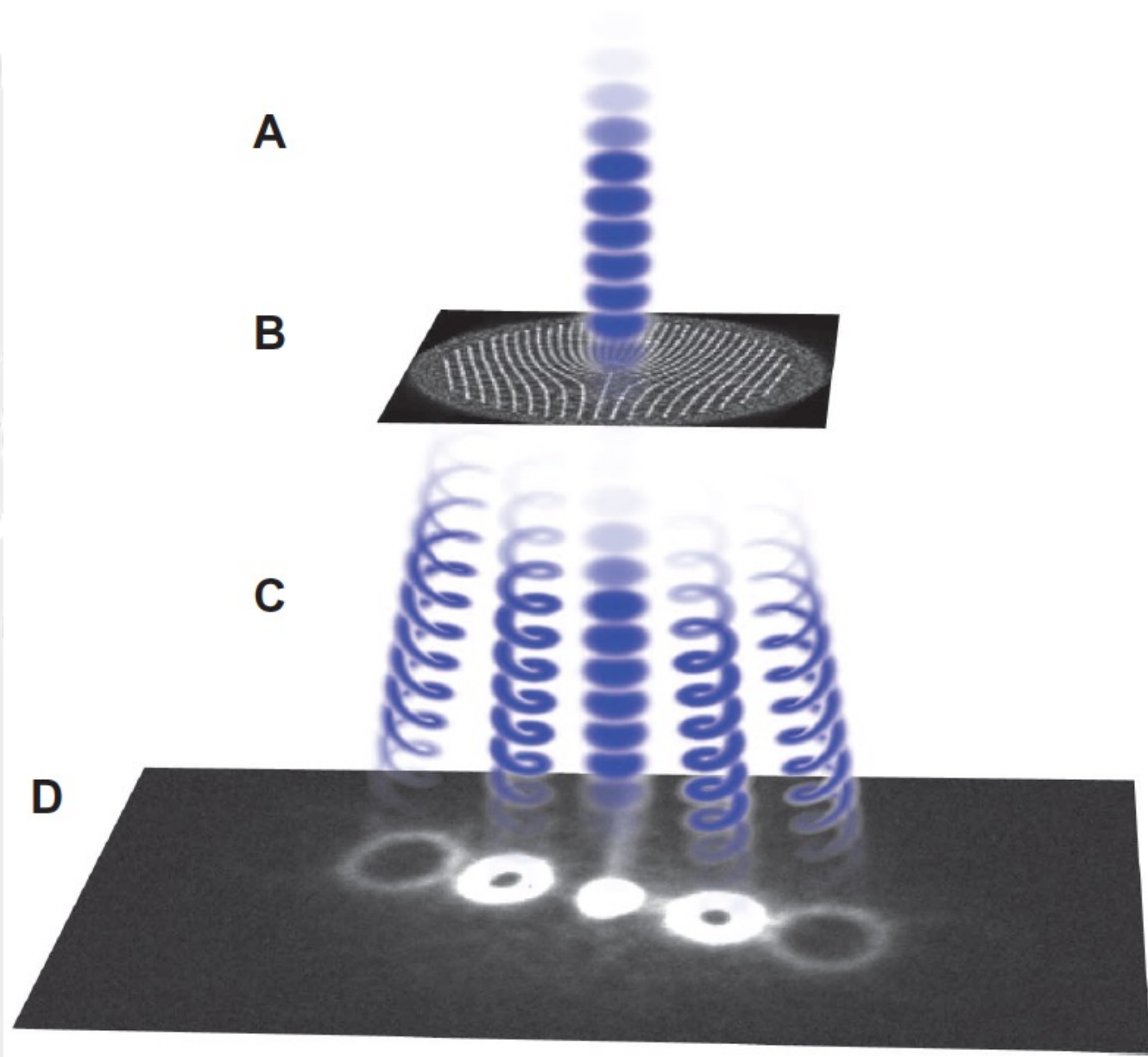


Generation and detection of spin-orbit coupled neutron beams

Dusan Sarenac^{a,1}, Connor Kapahi^{a,b}, Wangchun Chen^{c,d}, Charles W. Clark^e, David G. Cory^{a,f,g,h}, Michael G. Huberⁱ, Ivar Taminiau^a, Kirill Zhernenkov^{a,j,k}, and Dmitry A. Pushin^{a,b}

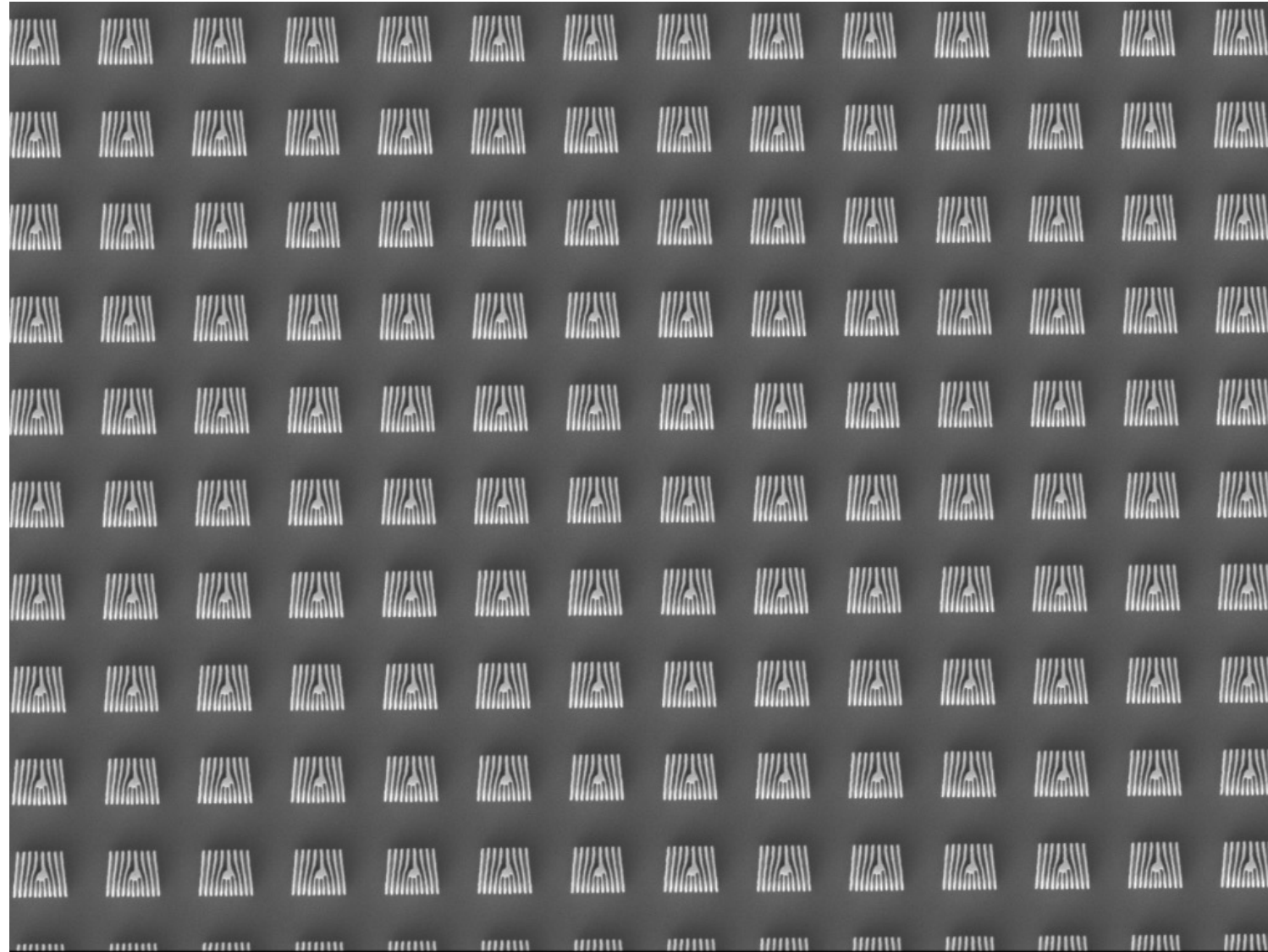
^aInstitute for Quantum Computing, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada; ^bDepartment of Physics, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada; ^cNIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; ^dDepartment of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; ^eJoint Quantum Institute, National Institute of Standards and Technology and University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; ^fDepartment of Chemistry, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada; ^gPerimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, ON N2L 2Y5, Canada; ^hCanadian Institute for Advanced Research, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8, Canada; ⁱPhysical Measurement Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; ^jJülich Centre for Neutron Science at Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Zentrum, Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, 85748 Garching, Germany; and ^kFrank Laboratory of Neutron Physics, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, 141980 Dubna, Moscow Region, Russia





Electron OAM obtained using gratings
McMorran et al Science 2011

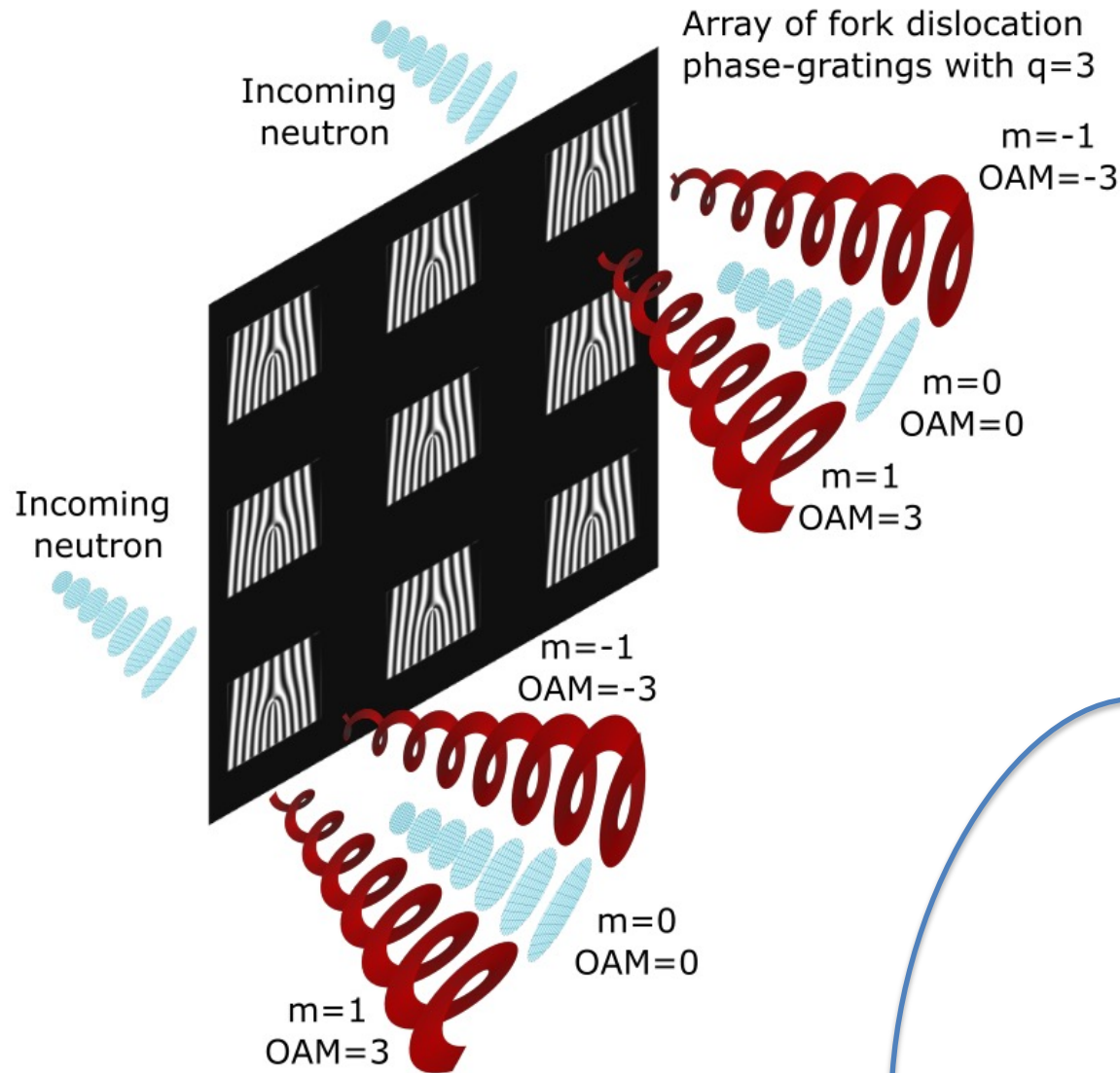
Back to neutrons



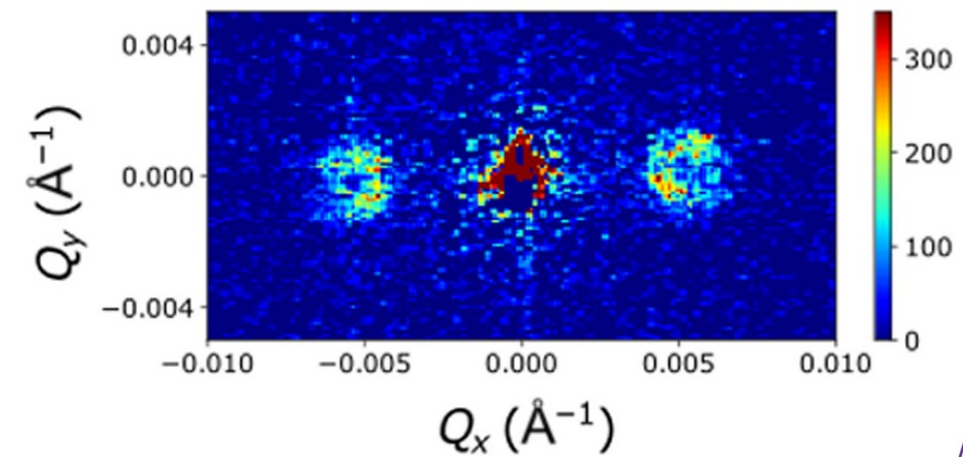
Experimental realization of neutron helical waves

DUSAN SARENAC¹, MELISSA E. HENDERSON¹, HUSEYIN EKINCI¹, CHARLES W. CLARK¹, DAVID G. CORY, LISA DEBEER-SCHMITT¹, MICHAEL G. HUBER¹, CONNOR KAPAHU, AND DMITRY A. PUSHIN¹ [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE ADVANCES • 18 Nov 2022 • Vol 8, Issue 46 • DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.add2002



Intensities from individual gratings combine in far field.



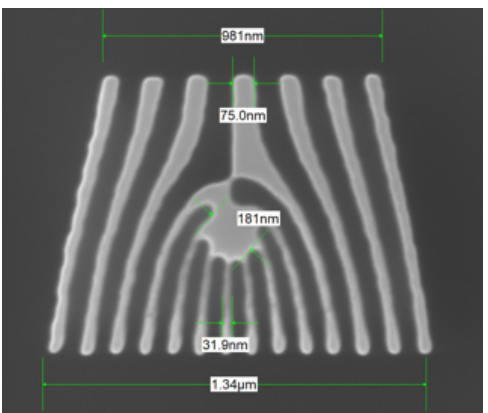
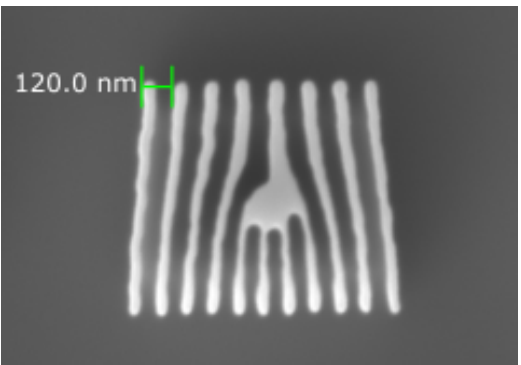
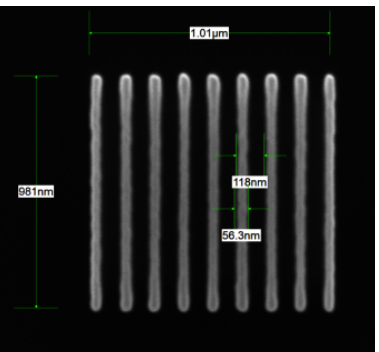
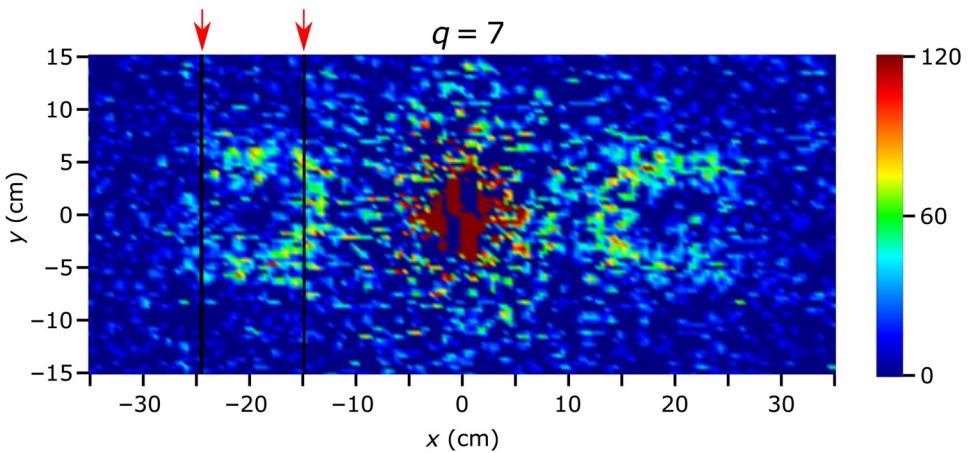
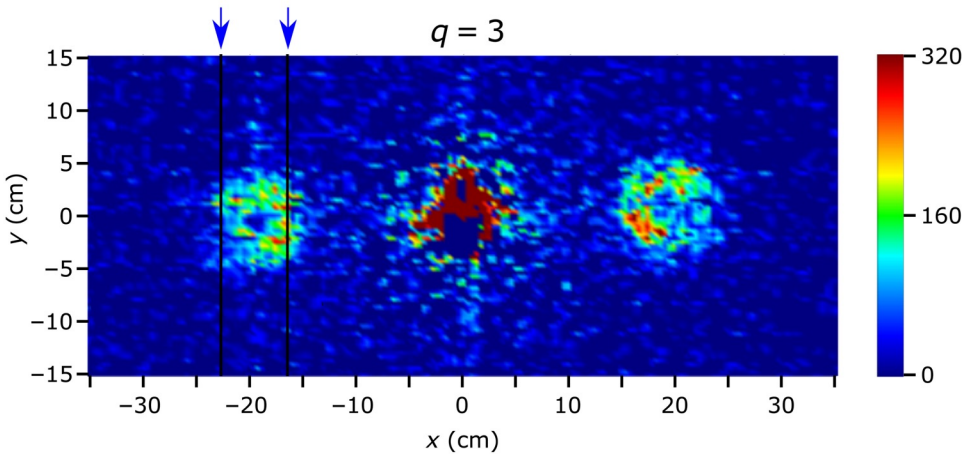
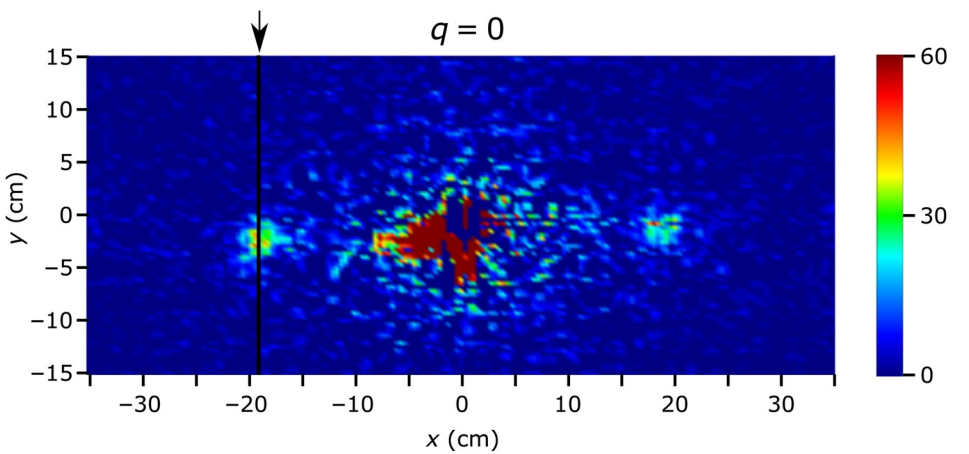
Each nanograting sees an $l = 0$ input, diffracts coherently.



Experimental realization of neutron helical waves

DUSAN SARENJAC¹, MELISSA E. HENDERSON², HUSEYIN EKINCI³, CHARLES W. CLARK⁴, DAVID G. COOBY⁵, LISA DEBERER-SCHMITT⁶, MICHAEL G. HUBER⁷, CONNOR KAPPAH¹, AND DMITRY A. PUSHIN¹ [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

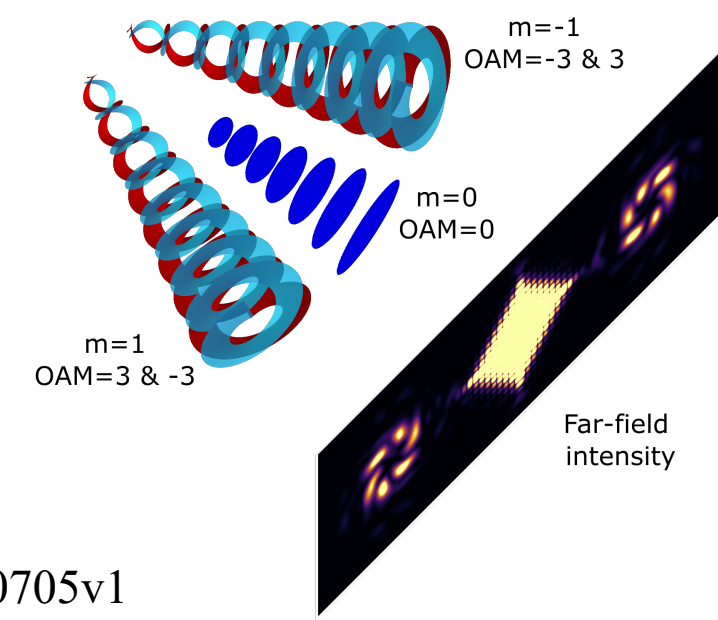
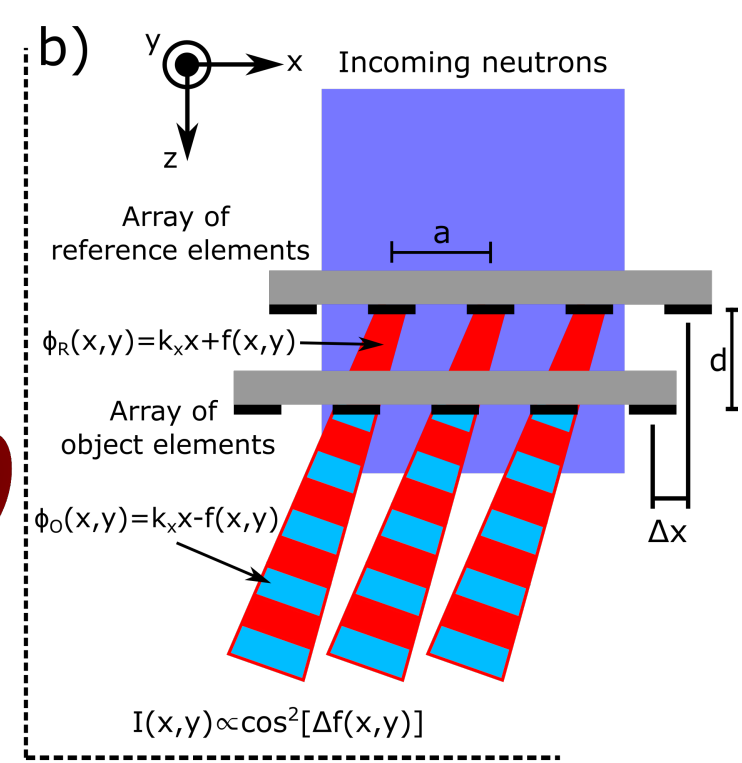
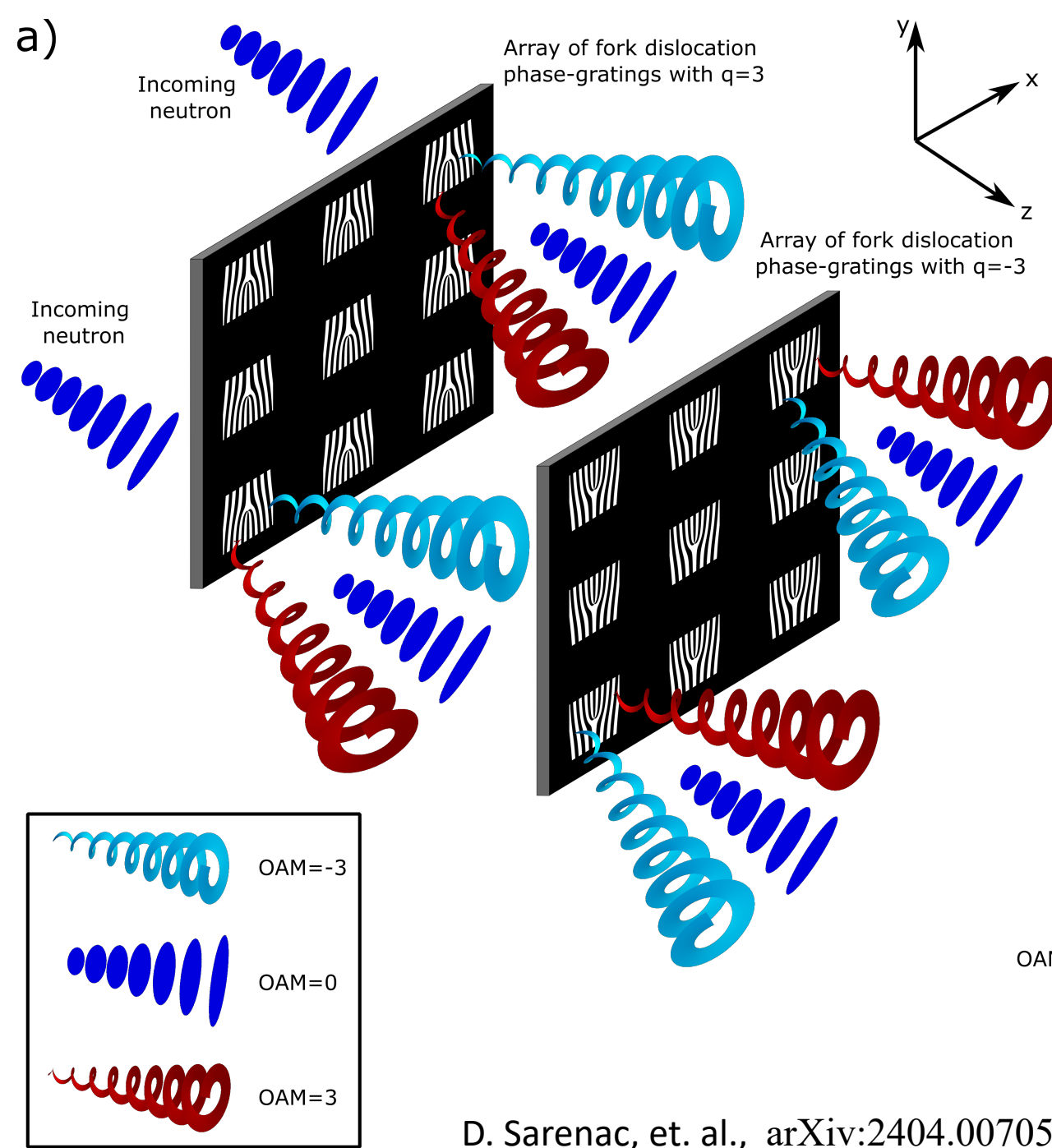
SCIENCE ADVANCES · 18 Nov 2022 · Vol 8, Issue 46 · DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adq2002



$q=0$

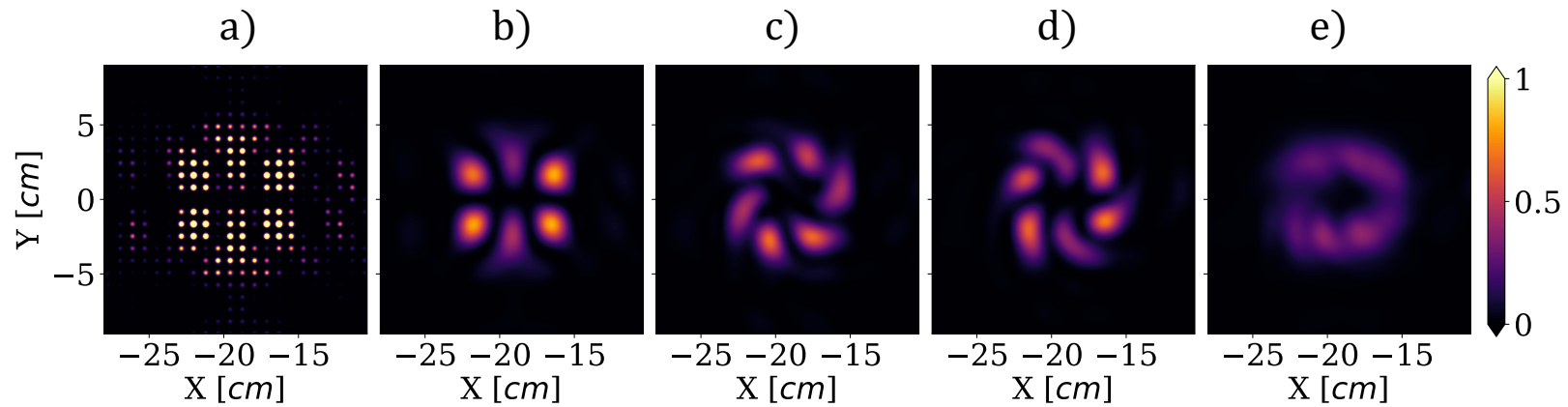
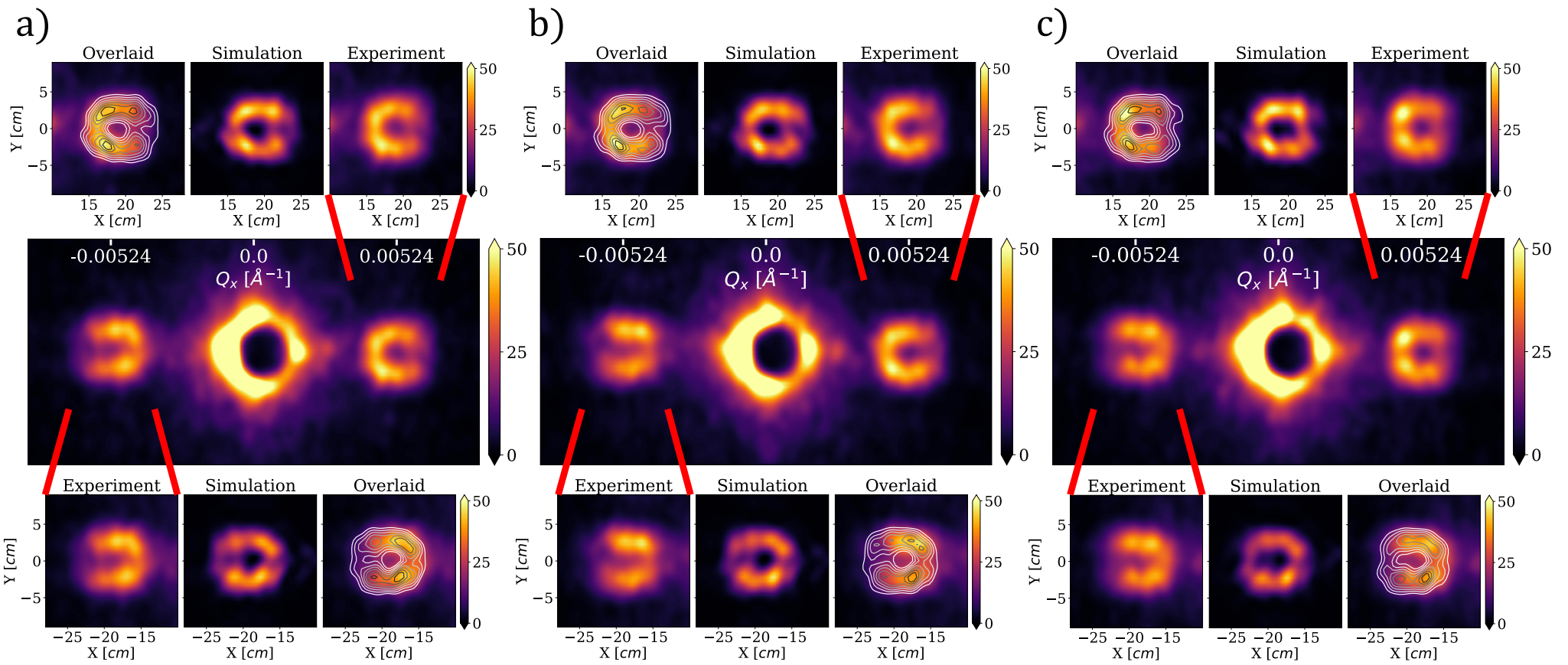
$q=3$

$q=7$



D. Sarenac, et. al., arXiv:2404.00705v1

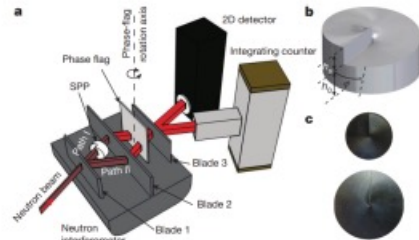




Neutron OAM Timeline

2015

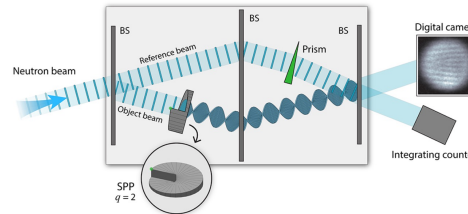
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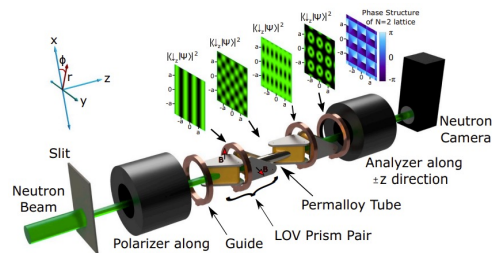
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N. Geerits et al. PRA 103,
0622205 (2021)

AV Afanasev, et al.
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C 103, 054612 (2021).

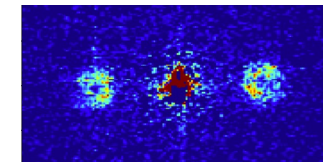
Jach, Terrence, et al.
arXiv:2109.07454 (2021).

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Joseph A Sherwin,
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Geerits, Niels, et al.
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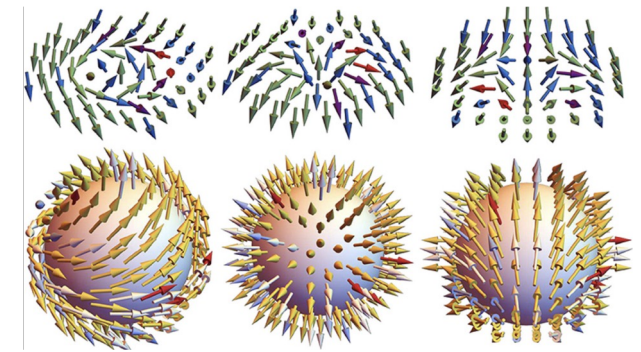


Something else

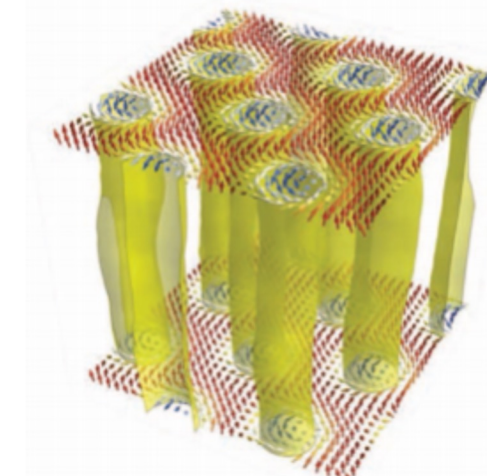


Topological Protection and Skyrmions

- Skyrmions represent topologically protected magnetic objects in which the spins wrap the entire unit sphere.
- The uniform stacking of these spin structures in 3D produces skyrmion strings which may be interrupted along their propagation length by defects at non-zero temperature.



A. A. Kovalev and S. Sandhoefner, *Front. Phys.* **6**, 98 (2018)



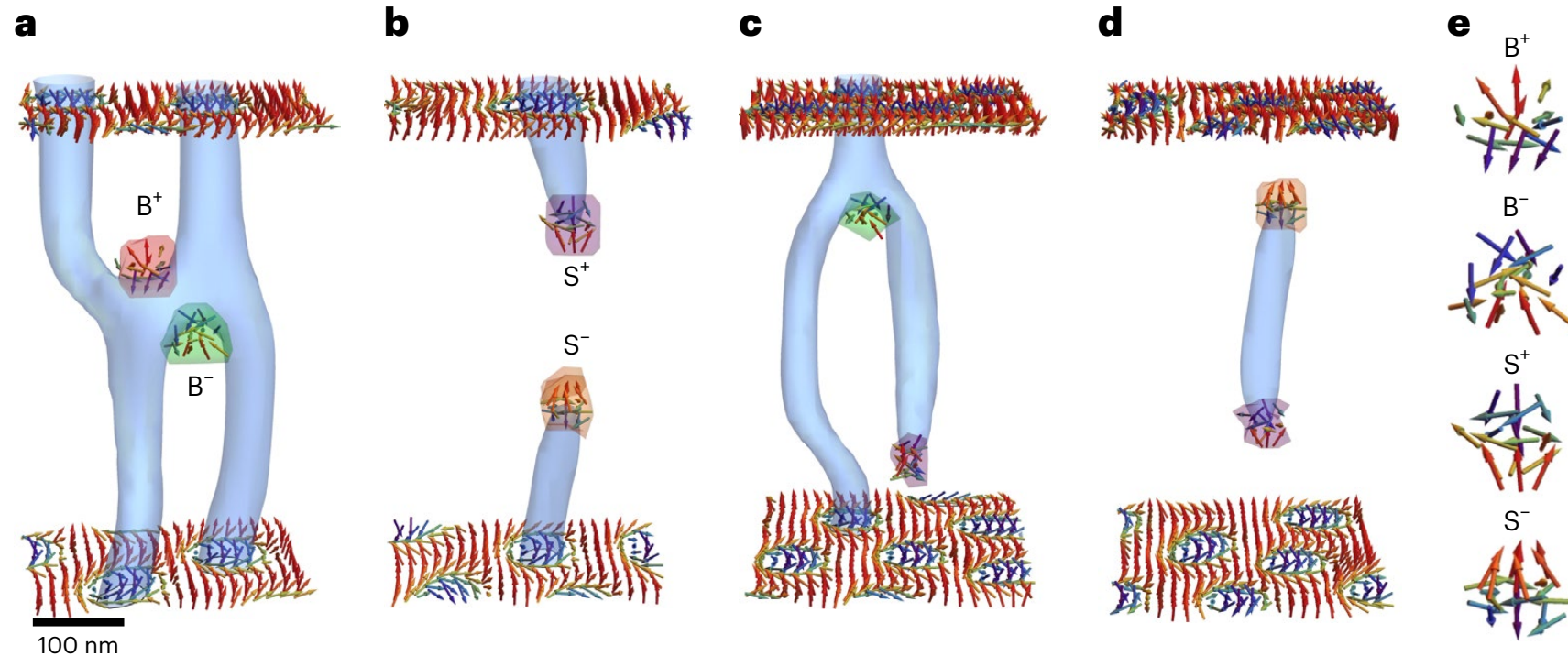
Milde, P., et al., *Science*. **340**, 1076 (2013).

Three-dimensional neutron far-field tomography of a bulk skyrmion lattice

Received: 30 August 2022

Accepted: 13 July 2023

M. E. Henderson^{1,2,9}✉, B. Heacock^{3,9}, M. Bleuel³, D. G. Cory^{1,4},
C. Heikes³, M. G. Huber³, J. Krzywon³, O. Nahman-Levesque^{1,2},
G. M. Luke^{5,6}, M. Pula⁵, D. Sarenac^{1,7}, K. Zhernenkov^{1,8} & D. A. Pushin^{1,2}✉



Quantum random walk for neutrons and other particles.

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Quantum-information approach to dynamical diffraction theory

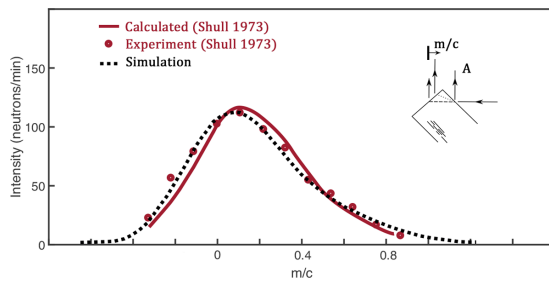
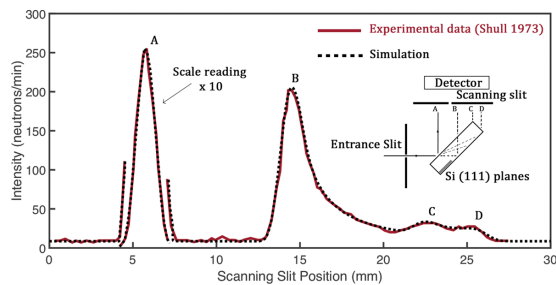
J. Nsofini, K. Ghofrani, D. Sarenac, D. G. Cory, and D. A. Pushin
 Phys. Rev. A **94**, 062311 – Published 8 December 2016

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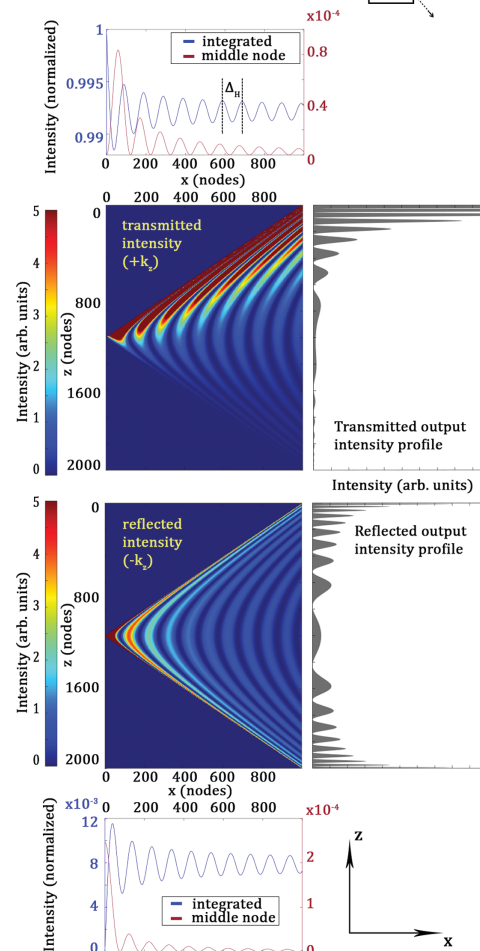
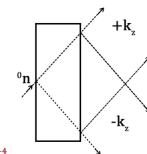
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Generalizing the quantum information model for dynamic diffraction

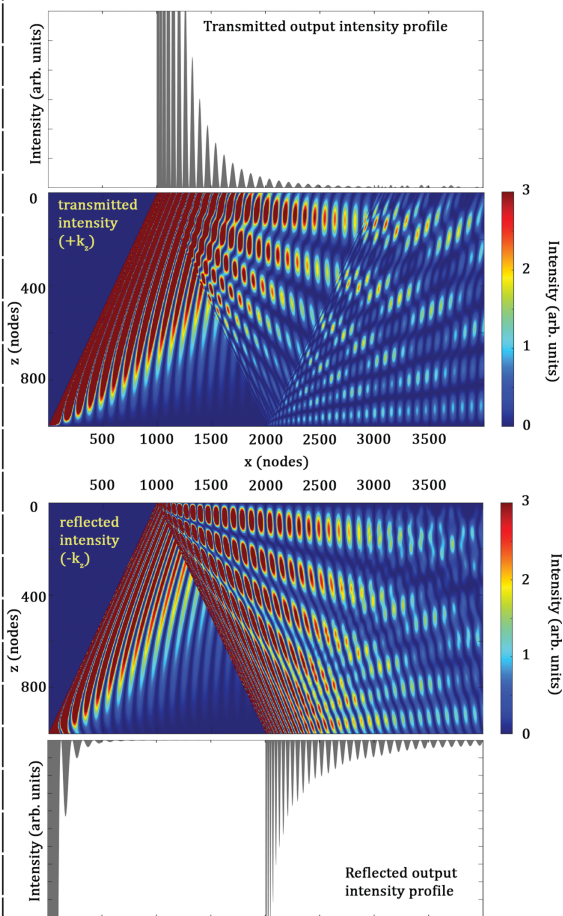
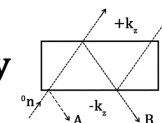
O. Nahman-Lévesque, D. Sarenac, D. G. Cory, B. Heacock, M. G. Huber, and D. A. Pushin
 Phys. Rev. A **105**, 022403 – Published 7 February 2022



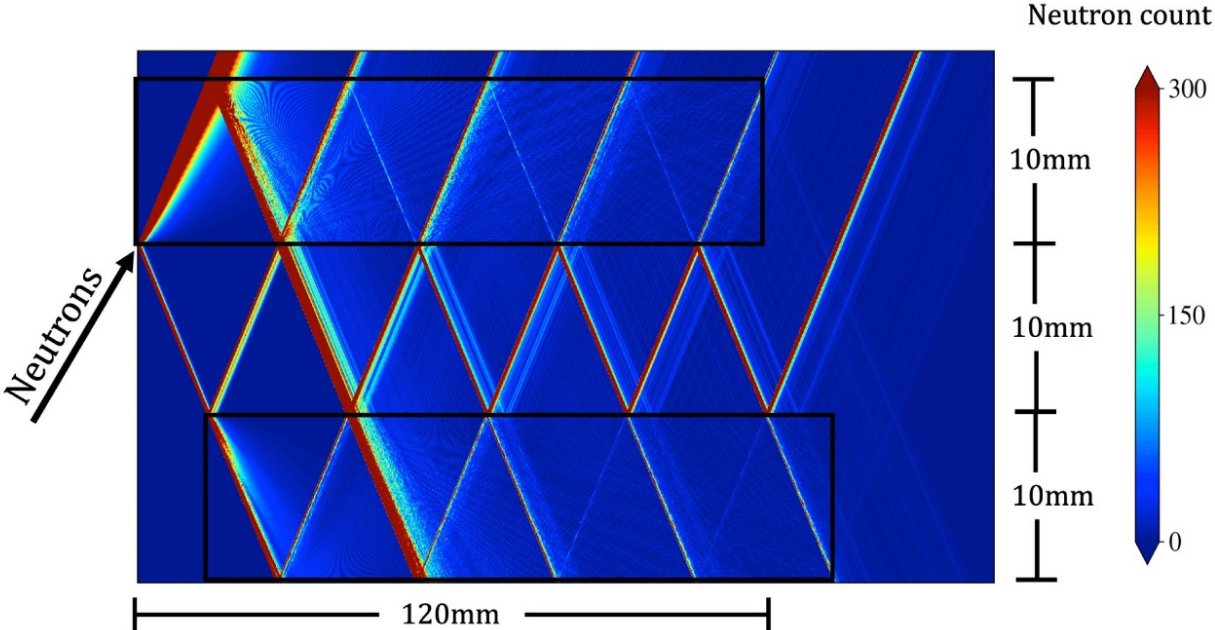
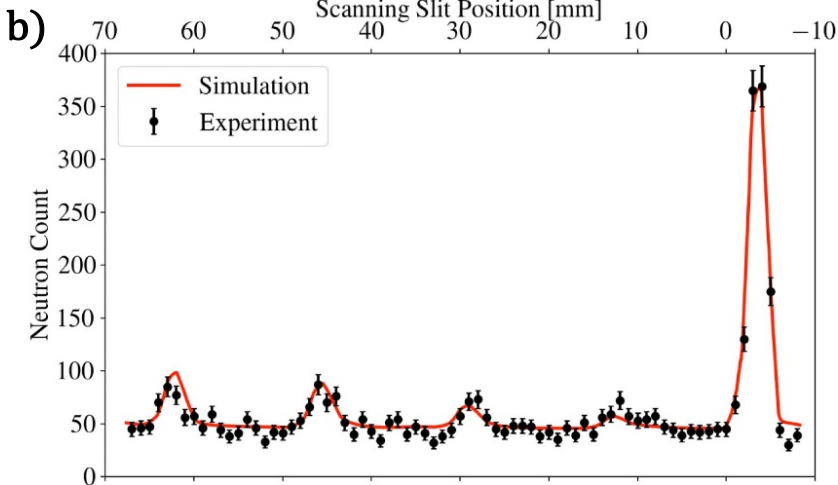
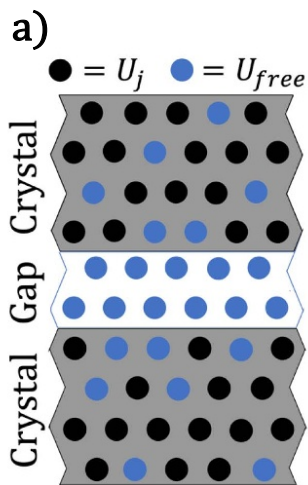
Laue Geometry



Bragg Geometry



Quantum random walk for neutrons and other particles.



New J. Phys. 25 (2023) 073016

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1367-2630/acdb93>

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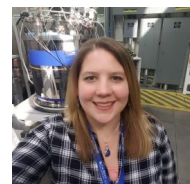
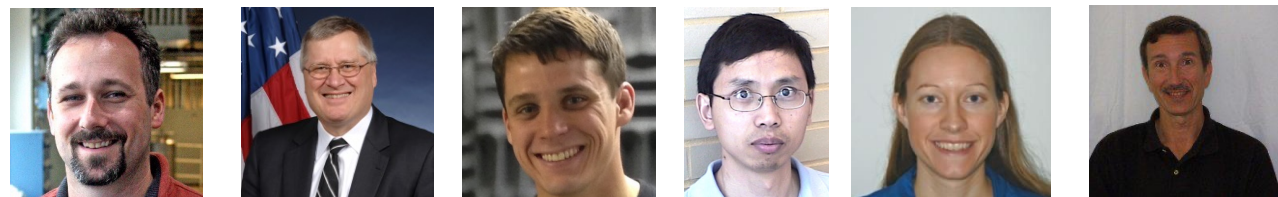
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PAPER

Quantum information approach to the implementation of a neutron cavity

O Nahman-Lévesque^{1,2}, D Sarenac^{1,3}, O Lailey^{1,2}, D G Cory^{1,4}, M G Huber⁵ and D A Pushin^{1,2,*}





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