



# Towards real-time analysis of morphologies using x-ray scattering

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Alexander Hexemer

June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2017



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | Office of  
Science

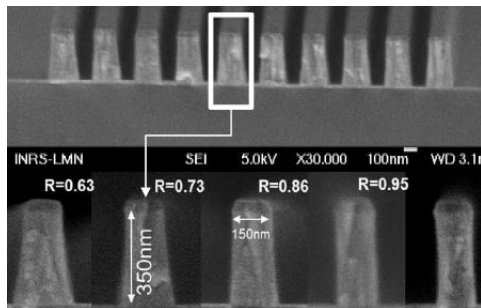


# Context

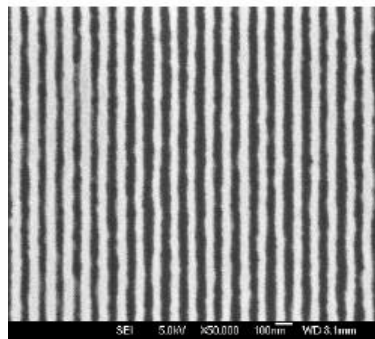
## Parameters to control :

- ✓ Pitch
- ✓ Linewidth
- ✓ Line height
- ✓ Roughness
- ✓ Sidewall angle

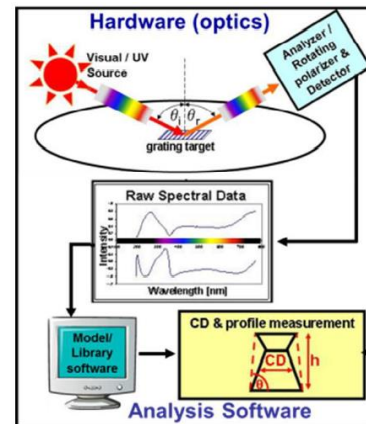
Sub-nm resolution



## Scanning electron microscopy



## OCD (« Optical critical dimension »)



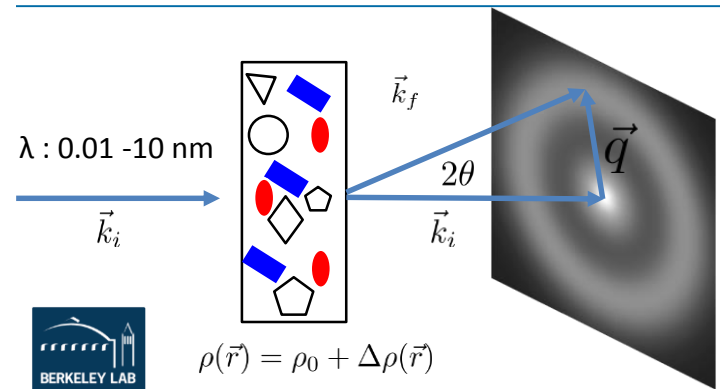
## What information can Small Angle X-ray Scattering bring? How to achieve real time analysis?

- ✓ Electronic density contrast:
- ✓ 1- 100s nm structure

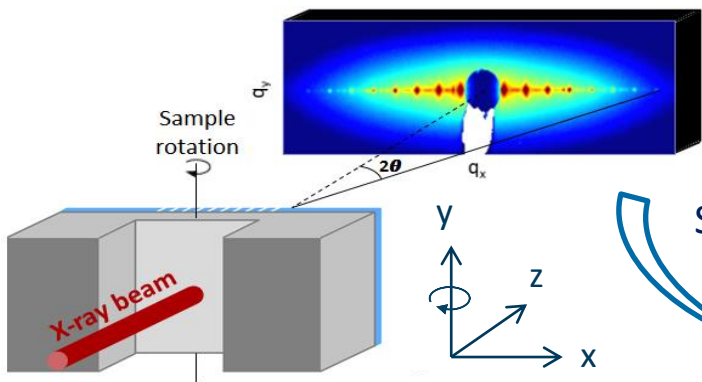
$$\Delta\rho \sim \Delta n$$

$$n = 1 - \delta + i\beta$$

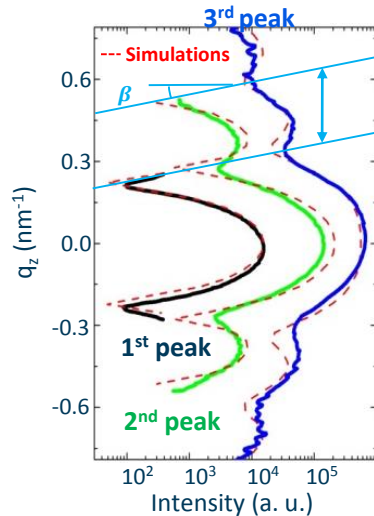
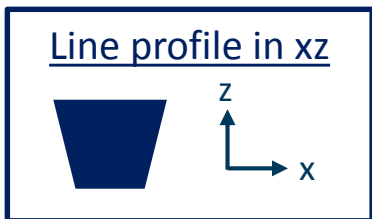
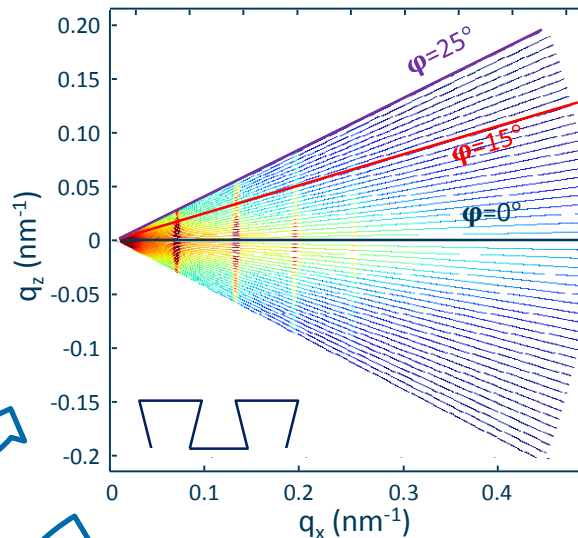
$$\vec{q} = \vec{k}_f - \vec{k}_i = \frac{4\pi \sin(\theta)}{\lambda}$$



# CD-SAXS : principle

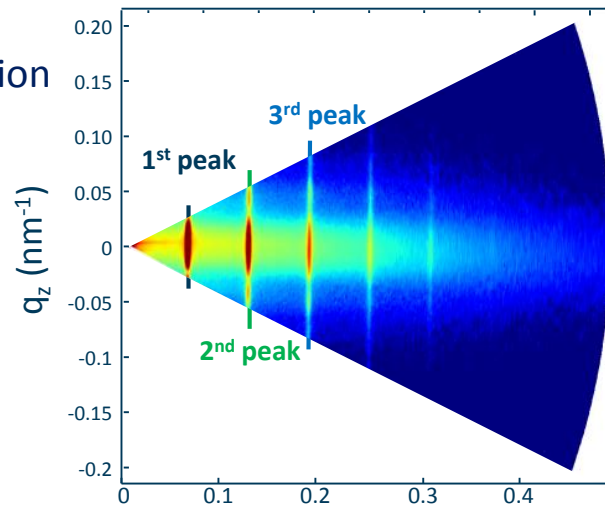


Sample rotation  
 $\varphi: -25 \Rightarrow 25^\circ$



Interpolation

1D Vertical cut  
 (Extraction of the  
 form factor)



Fit the experimental  
 data

# Outline

- **High throughput data treatment**
- CD-GISAXS
- Perspectives

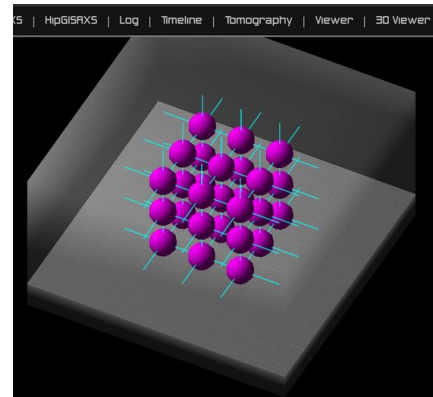
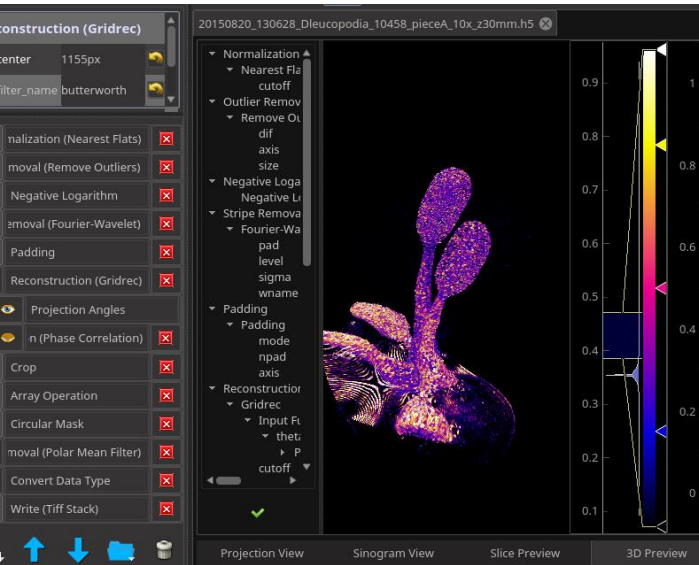
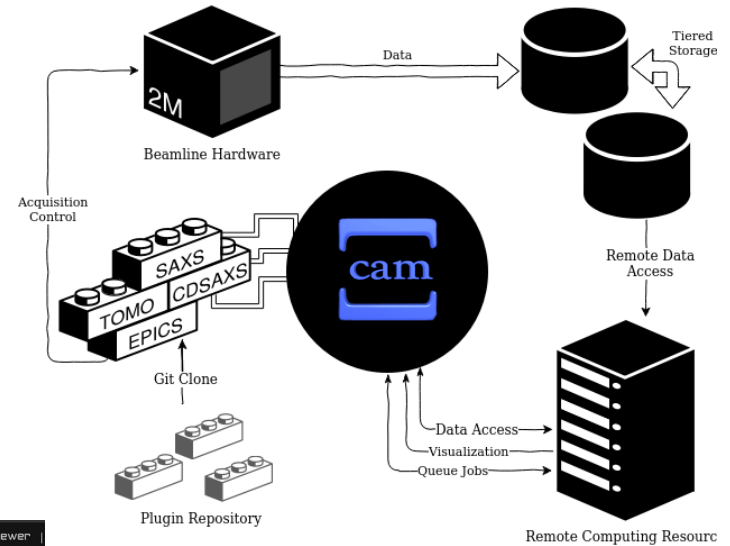
# Xi-CAM: High throughput data treatment

Develop and share data analysis algorithms



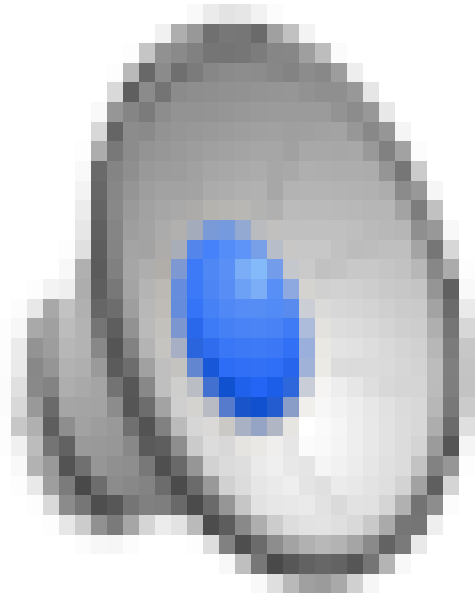
# Xi-CAM: High throughput data treatment

- ✓ Xi-CAM as a platform (backend features)
- ✓ Each technique is a plugin!
- ✓ Expose your technique cross-facility
- ✓ Support multi-modal analysis



**CD-SAXS plugin:**  
Collaboration with NIST : C. LIMAN, D. SUNDAY, J. KLINE and D. DELONGCHAMPS

# Xi-CAM: High throughput data treatment



# CD-SAXS limitations

## Transmission geometry :

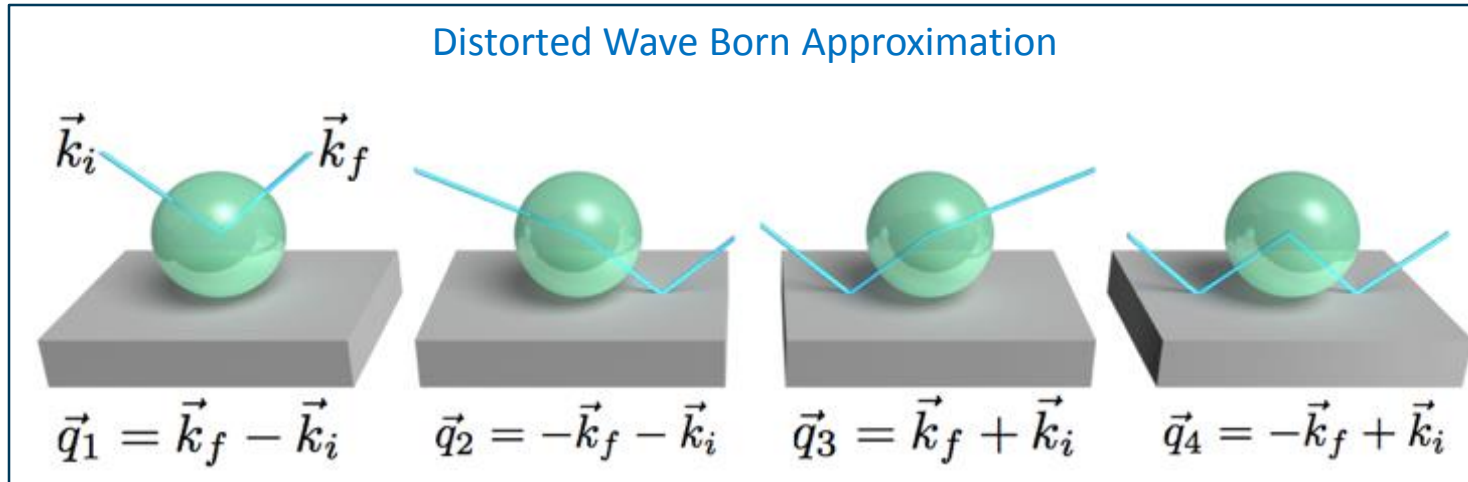
=> Cross the 700  $\mu\text{m}$  silicon wafer:

✓ Conventional lab-source (Cu  $K\alpha$ ,  $E = 8.047$  keV) :  $T = 0.01$  %

✓ High energy lab-source (Liquid Metal Jet,  $E > 20$  keV) :  $T = 55$  %

=> Acquisition time : > 30 minutes

## Reflection geometry : GISAXS

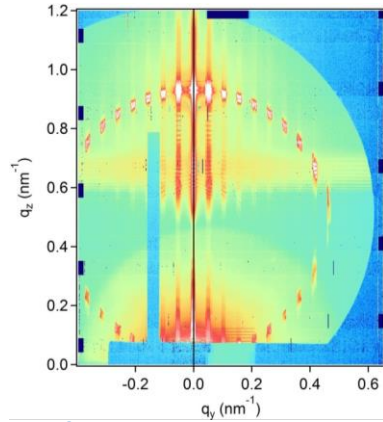
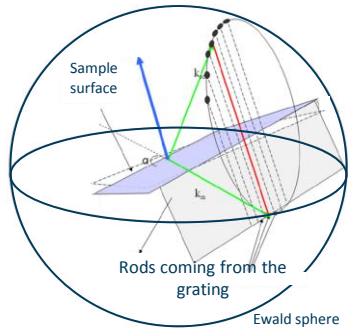




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- **CD-GISAXS**
- Perspectives

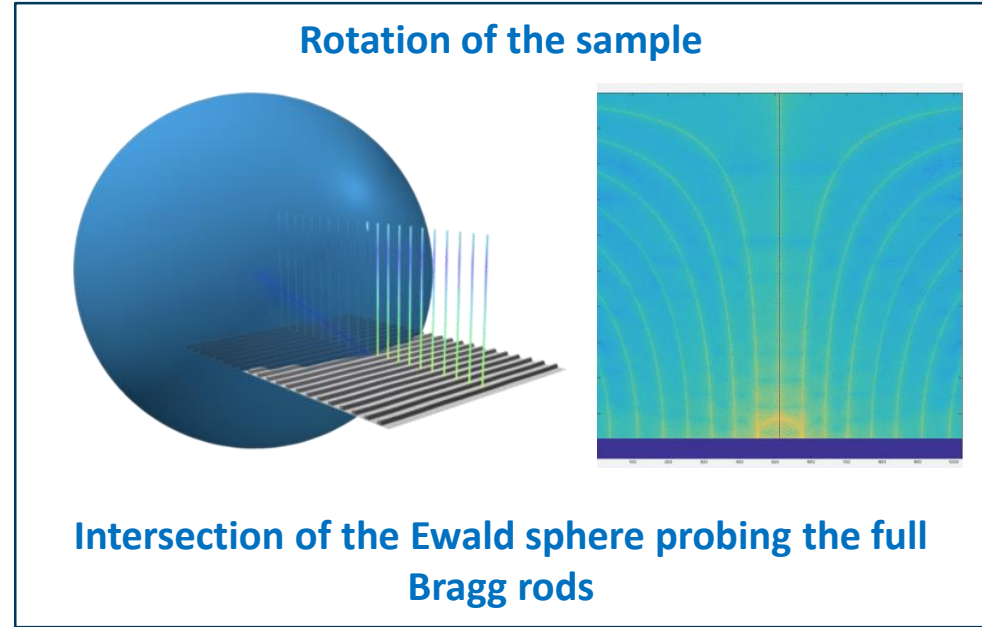
# CD-GISAXS



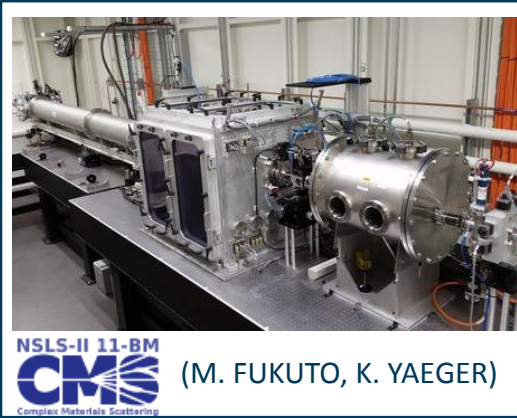
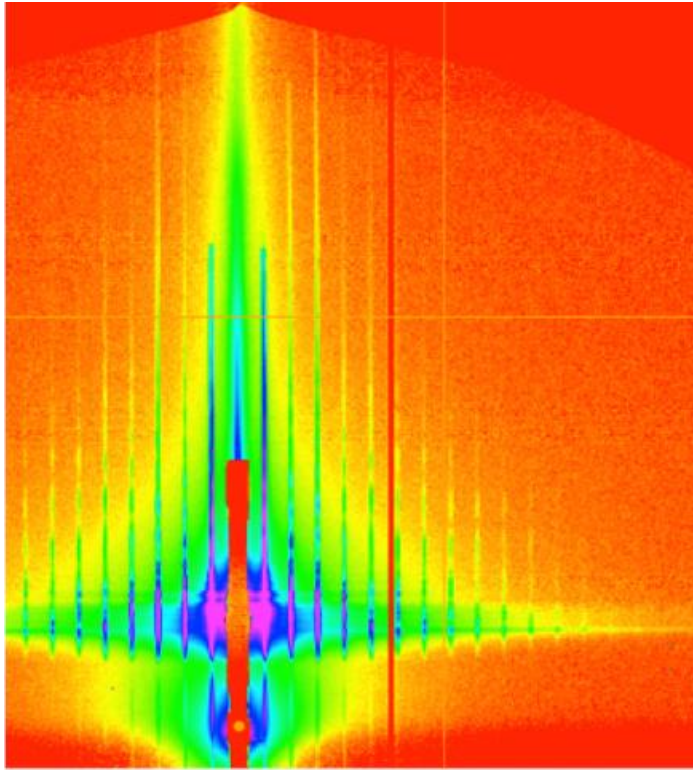
## Semi-circle of spots:

Intersection between the Ewald sphere and the Bragg rods coming from the grating

Probing the form factor only at few  $q$  values



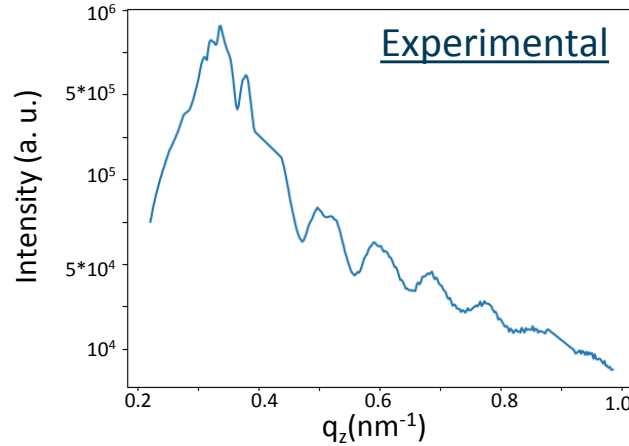
# CD-GISAXS



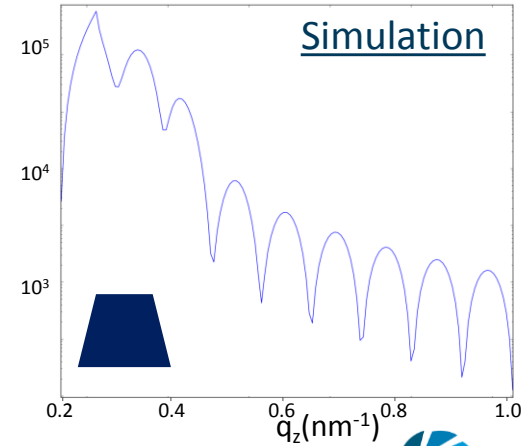
(M. FUKUTO, K. YAEGER)



7.3.3 beamline (ALS)

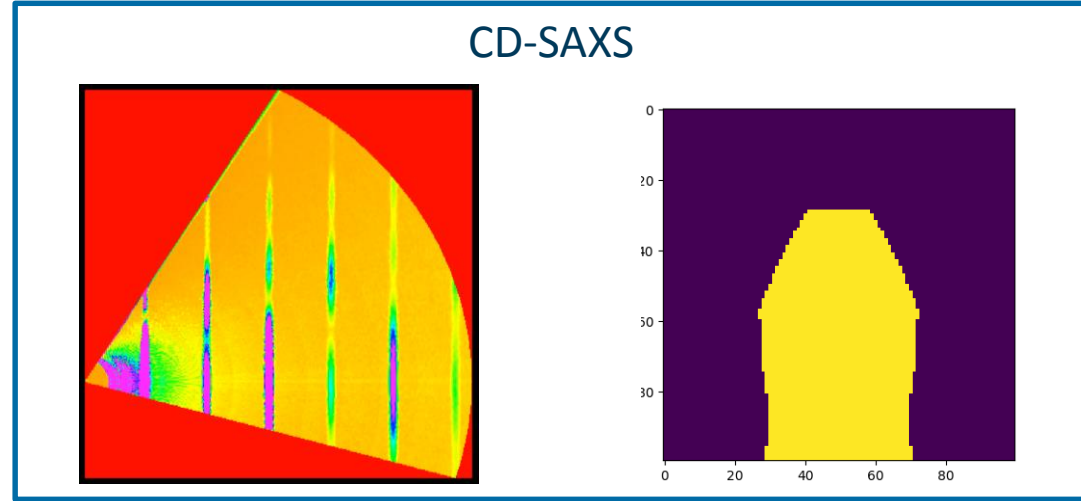
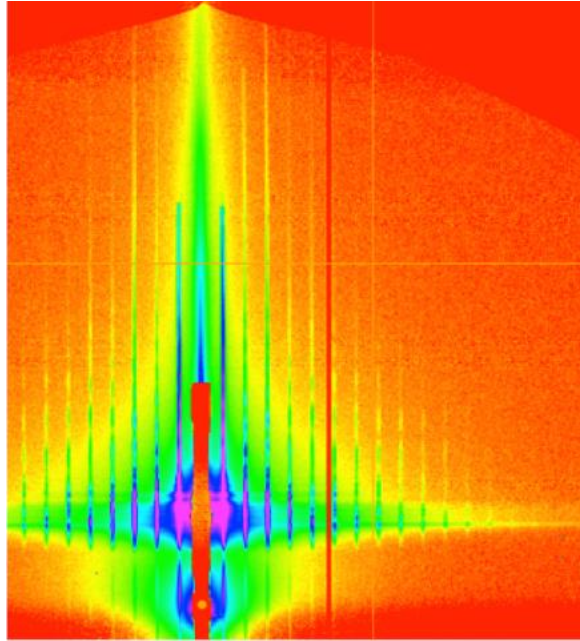


Experimental



Simulation

# Combination of CD-GISAXS and CD-SAXS



Fitting modulations along Bragg rods  
(Multi-trapezoid stack)



**Combination of profiles extracted by both techniques will increase the accuracy and confidence on the model**

# CD-GISAXS: High throughput measurement

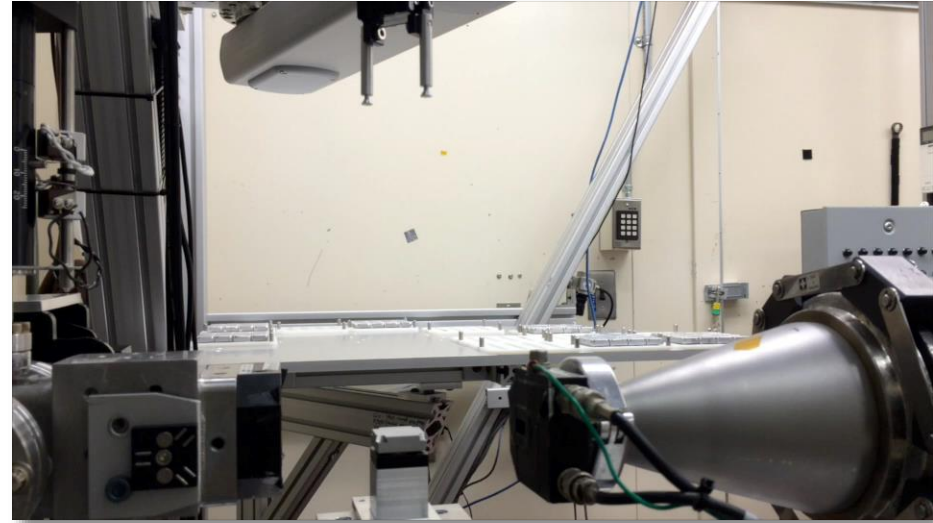
## Automation of the measurement on 7.3.3 beamline at the ALS

- Robotic arm to change the samples
- 30 seconds measurements
- Several orders => fit more precise

**Fit the data on the fly (during the positioning of the new sample)**

## CD-GISAXS at the lab

- “Low energy source” => conventional Cu-K $\alpha$
- Simulations running on a classic computer
- **A precise rotational stage is needed**



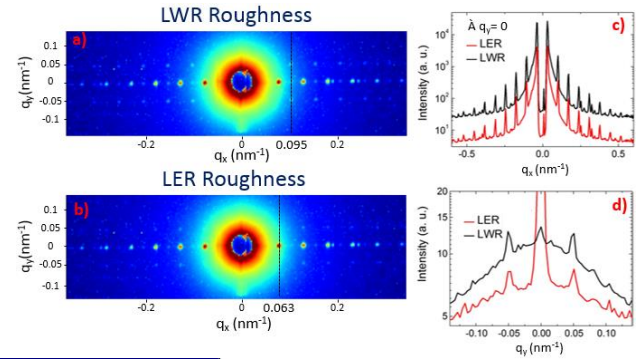
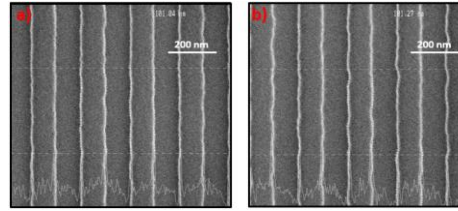
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- CD-GISAXS
- **Perspectives**

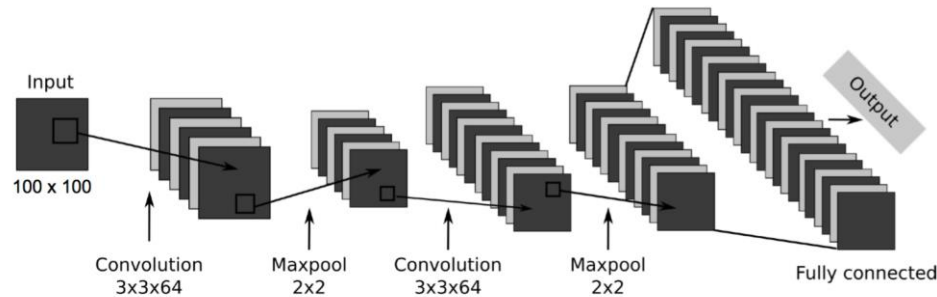
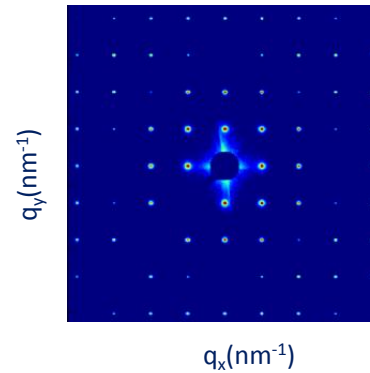
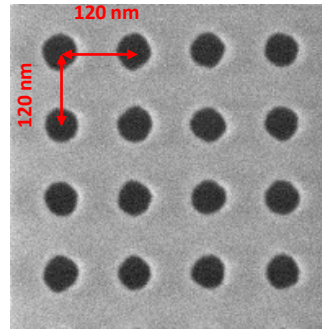


# Perspectives

- ✓ Study of line roughness  
CD-SAXS on periodic roughness
- ✓ Combination of CD-SAXS/GISAXS  
for LER/LWR roughness



- ✓ 2D gratings of cylinders  
(Collaboration with NIST and CEA  
Grenoble)



- ✓ Machine learning (Convolutional Neural Network)  
Classification of the data and automatic pre-treatment

# Acknowledgements

## Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory:

Dinesh Kumar  
Ronald J Pandolfi  
Isvar Cordova  
Daniel Staaks  
Victoria Norman  
Theo Picard-Joly  
Cheng Wang  
Chenhui Zhu  
James A. Sethian  
Alexander Hexemer

## National Institute of Standards and Technology:

Christopher Liman  
Daniel Sunday  
Joseph Kline  
Dean Delongchamp

## Center of for X-Rays Optics:

Antoine Wojdyla  
Patrick Naulleau

## National Synchrotron Light Source II:

Thomas A Caswell  
Masafumi Fukuto  
Kevin Yaeger

## Commissariat a l'energie atomique:

Jerome Reche  
Patrice Gergaud  
Mireille Maret

## Funding Acknowledgments

LBNL LDRD Program  
DOE Early Career Award  
CAMERA

**Thank you for your attention!**





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