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# A silicon analyser for the OSIRIS spectrometer: An analytical and Monte Carlo simulation study

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## Abstract

The indirect time-of-flight near-backscattering spectrometer OSIRIS at the ISIS Facility is being upgraded with the addition of a silicon analyser. The new analyser bank will allow to increase the dynamic range, giving access to relaxation times up to 400 ps, and provide a further dimension in momentum transfer detection with the help of position-sensitive detectors. Here we present analytical calculations for the energy resolution and an extensive Monte Carlo simulation study to assess the performance of the new analyser bank. Simulation and calculation agree perfectly and confirm the initial design parameters of the spectrometer. The simulations predict similar detected intensity but with a higher resolution compared to the existing analyser setup using pyrolytic graphite crystals. Furthermore, the simulations stress the importance of the sample height for this setup and point toward a necessary further upgrade of the guide system. Further improvements of the energy resolution might be achieved with a pulse shaping chopper.

*Keywords:* neutron spectrometer, Monte Carlo simulations

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## 1 Introduction

2 The backscattering technique with neutrons was developed about five  
3 decades ago in Garching, Germany [1, 2]. This type of instrument promised  
4 the highest energy resolution of about  $1 \mu\text{eV}$  at that time and hence access to  
5 ns relaxation times. Most of the following developments focused on enhancing  
6 the flux and, nowadays, the most modern instruments also exploit phase  
7 space transformation [3, 4, 5, 6].

8 At pulsed sources, backscattering from an analyser crystal has been im-  
9 plemented in combination with time-of-flight (TOF) to analyse the energy  
10 of the incident neutrons. One of the first instruments of this type was IRIS  
11 at the ISIS Facility (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, UK) [7, 8].  
12 The instrument is different from classical backscattering spectrometers in the  
13 sense that it uses cooled pyrolytic graphite analysers in a near-backscattering  
14 geometry. This results in a relaxed energy resolution of about  $15 \mu\text{eV}$ , but  
15 with a significantly increased dynamic range. The combination of high reso-  
16 lution and wide range in momentum transfers ( $Q$ ) with a large dynamic range  
17 allowed novel applications in cold neutron spectroscopy. Based on a similar  
18 design as IRIS, the OSIRIS spectrometer at the ISIS Facility achieved a large  
19 gain in intensity by using a supermirror guide and an increased analyser unit  
20 [9, 10]. At the other end an improvement of the energy resolution towards the  
21  $\mu\text{eV}$  regime at a spallation source was achieved on BASIS (Oak Ridge Na-  
22 tional Laboratory, TN, USA), by combining a long flight path with a silicon  
23 analyser [11]. Following this concept a series of TOF backscattering spec-  
24 trometers have been built or proposed [12, 13, 14, 15, 16]. At reactor sources  
25 the approach combining a crystal analyser with a time-of-flight primary spec-  
26 trometer has been proposed and implemented as well [17, 18, 19, 20].

27 The cold TOF spectrometer OSIRIS has been described in detail in refer-  
28 ences [9, 10, 21, 22] and hence we will only provide a short overview. OSIRIS  
29 has been recently upgraded with a moveable Beryllium filter to remove the  
30 second order reflection of the pyrolytic graphite analyser [23], and its energy  
31 resolution has been modelled with Monte Carlo simulations [24]. It is mainly  
32 used to study low-energy excitations, *e.g.* the magnetic field dependence of  
33 the spin resonance in  $\text{CeCoIn}_5$  [25], or spinon confinement in  $\text{Yb}_2\text{Pt}_2\text{Pb}$  [26],  
34 and for quasielastic neutron scattering experiments probing stochastic dy-  
35 namics, *e.g.* for catalysis [27, 28], or the mobility of ions in battery materials  
36 [29].

37 To further improve the performance of the instrument with respect to

38 energy resolution, and allow novel challenging studies of, for instance, ionic  
39 diffusion of weakly incoherently scattering ions in battery materials, an up-  
40 grade was proposed to implement a Si(111) analyser unit allowing energy  
41 resolution down to  $\Delta E \approx 10 \mu\text{eV}$  [30]. This silicon analyser (SA) will be  
42 constituted of two banks of curved analysers, positioned on the vacant side  
43 inside the vacuum tank of the secondary spectrometer. Each analyser unit  
44 will focus the neutrons onto an image point above or below the sample po-  
45 sition. Position-sensitive  $^3\text{He}$  detectors (PSD), positioned above and below  
46 the horizontal, sample scattering plane ( $Q_x, Q_y$ ), will be used to register the  
47 Bragg-reflected neutrons. The use of PSD's allows to access the vertical di-  
48 rection in momentum transfer ( $Q_z$ ) for single-crystal studies and gives the  
49 opportunity to correct for the small path-length differences in the secondary  
50 spectrometer. More details on the engineering design can be found in refer-  
51 ence 30.

52 Here we present analytical calculations of the energy resolution and Monte  
53 Carlo simulations using the McStas programme package to assess the perfor-  
54 mance of the new SA setup.

## 55 Analytical considerations

56 The OSIRIS instrument has been described in detail previously [9, 10,  
57 22, 21] and hence we will only provide a brief account of parts relevant for  
58 this work. The OSIRIS instrument views the 25 K cold hydrogen moderator  
59 at the Target Station 1 of the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source. A curved  
60 supermirror guide ( $m = 2$ ) transports the neutrons to the sample position  
61 34.00 m away from the moderator. At the end of the guide a 1.5 m long  
62 focusing guide section ( $m = 3.6$ ) reduces the beam cross section from  $43 \times$   
63  $65$  mm to  $22 \times 44$  mm. The secondary spectrometer consists of a large  
64 analyser bank and 42 half inch diameter  $^3\text{He}$  detectors with an active length  
65 of 38 mm. The neutrons are scattered in a near-backscattering geometry from  
66 more than  $8000 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2$  sized pyrolytic graphite crystals into the detectors.  
67 Two reflections from the graphite crystals can be used: the (002) and (004)  
68 reflections define final energies of 1.845 meV and 7.38 meV, respectively. The  
69 analyser bank is cooled to 10 K to reduce thermal diffuse scattering.

70 In a previous study it was shown that the current energy resolution is lim-  
71 ited by the geometry of the analyser unit [24]. To further improve the energy  
72 resolution, silicon is considered as analyser material, which is the standard at  
73 classic backscattering spectrometers, and nowadays also on high-resolution

74 TOF backscattering instruments [31]. There are several advantages in us-  
75 ing silicon compared to the present pyrolytic graphite. Since Si(111) has  
76 no second order reflection, there is no need for the installation of a cooled  
77 beryllium filter. Furthermore, silicon has extremely low thermal diffuse scat-  
78 tering, as it was recently demonstrated by the DNA spectrometer (J-PARC,  
79 Naka-gun Ibaraki, Japan) that achieved a very high signal to noise ratio  
80 approaching  $10^5$  [12, 13, 14]. However, there is a disadvantage with sili-  
81 con crystals concerning its neutron reflectivity: the crystals are too perfect  
82 for the required resolution, in particular, for the more relaxed resolution in  
83 near-backscattering geometry. For the Si(111) reflection, the energy resolu-  
84 tion contribution from the Darwin width is  $0.077 \mu\text{eV}$  [31] and, hence, about  
85 a factor 100 too small for OSIRIS. That mismatch with the resolution of the  
86 primary spectrometer would result in a substantial intensity loss. To over-  
87 come this limitation, standard practice involves the elastic deformation of the  
88 crystals, which increases the reflected intensity. This results in a gradient in  
89 lattice spacing,  $d$ , which depends on the curvature radius of the analysers,  
90  $R_A$ , and the thickness of the wafers,  $D$ , according to Eq. (1) [3], with  $\mu_{eff}$   
91 being an average Poisson ratio, and the small contribution from the Darwin  
92 width being omitted.

$$\frac{\Delta d}{d} = \mu_{eff} \frac{D}{R_A} \quad (1)$$

93 Another advantage of the new setup is that position-sensitive detectors will  
94 be used. The existing graphite analyser on OSIRIS focuses all reflected neu-  
95 trons to the detector position and hence a position-sensitive detector is not  
96 useful. On the other hand, the chosen elliptical geometry with a focus point  
97 at the detector position has no path-length differences in the secondary spec-  
98 trometer. However, the SA will focus the neutrons on an image point below  
99 or above the sample position and therefore a linear PSD can analyse  $Q_z$  and  
100 therefore correct for final flight-path differences.

101 To calculate the expected energy resolution for the SA setup, we are using  
102 the same formalism as previously published [16, 24]:

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = 2 \left\{ \left( \frac{\Delta t}{t} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\Delta L}{L} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\Delta d}{d} \right)^2 + (\cot \theta \Delta \theta)^2 \right\}^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

103 For monochromatic focusing conditions of a Bragg-reflecting spherically-bent  
104 crystal, the focusing distance  $f$  is  $f = \frac{R_A}{2} \sin \theta$  with  $\theta$  the Bragg angle, and  
105 the object and image distances are equal to  $2f$  [32].

106 The SA will sit inside the existing vacuum tank at a distance of 880 mm  
 107 from the sample position. The curvature radius shall be 880 mm and the  
 108 radius centre point shall be 110 mm below or above the sample. The angu-  
 109 lar term of the analyser resolution is determined by the near-backscattering  
 110 Bragg angle  $\theta = 83^\circ$ . The Bragg angle is strongly interrelated with the res-  
 111 olution and directly linked to the shift of the focus point. On the other side  
 112 the Bragg angle has to be balanced with the solid angle opening towards the  
 113 analyser bank, which determines the intensity. The vertical opening angle  
 114 towards the analysers from the point of view of the sample position is limited  
 115 by the positioning of the detectors on a radius of 240 mm around the sample  
 116 position. The smaller the shift of the focus point, the nearer the detectors will  
 117 be positioned on the sample plane and, hence, reduce the solid angle available  
 118 to the analyser crystals, because of shadowing of the scattered neutrons. The  
 119 110 mm shift of the radius point was found to be a good compromise between  
 120 achievable resolution and available solid angle. The divergences are defined  
 121 through the sample size (assumed to be 10 mm high) and the pixel size of  
 122 the linear PSD's which will be around 15 mm. This sample size is about the  
 123 minimum size which is normally applied to single-crystal experiments up to  
 124 now. More details of the influence of sample size on energy resolution will  
 125 be presented in the section devoted to the simulations. For a Bragg crystal  
 126 with incoming beam divergence  $\alpha_i = 1.3^\circ$  and outgoing divergence  $\alpha_f = 0.9^\circ$   
 127 and negligible mosaic spread,  $\Delta\theta$  can be written in the following form [33].

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{\alpha_i\alpha_f}{\sqrt{\alpha_i^2 + \alpha_f^2}} \quad (3)$$

128 For the contribution of the elastic bending of the wafers, we assume a  
 129 wafer thickness of  $D = 0.8$  mm, which will be the thickness to be used in  
 130 the construction. With all these input parameters, we calculate the energy  
 131 resolution around the final energy  $E_f = 2.11$  meV.

132 For the time-of-flight uncertainties  $\Delta t$  the main contribution stems from  
 133 the moderator pulse, which is about  $125 \mu\text{s}$  at  $\lambda = 6 \text{ \AA}$ . Interpolated moder-  
 134 ator widths determined from diffraction experiments have been used for dif-  
 135 ferent wavelengths [24]. Another term is the spread from the guide  $\Delta t_{\text{guide}}$ .  
 136 The latter can be estimated by taking into account path-length differences in  
 137 the guide ( $m = 2$ ) with an opening of 43 mm. By calculating the maximum  
 138 number of reflections over 32 m, about 10, we can estimate the length and  
 139 therefore the time spread of the neutrons due to different paths. We get a

140 maximum delay of  $\Delta t = 22 \mu\text{s}$  for  $6 \text{ \AA}$  neutrons, from which we deduce a  
 141 contribution of  $\Delta t_{\text{guide}} = 11 \mu\text{s}$  to the spread in time. For the sample size  
 142 TOF contribution we assume a diameter of 10 mm for the sample which can  
 143 be transferred into a time spread of  $8 \mu\text{s}$ . On the secondary spectrometer, we  
 144 assume no further time spread from different path lengths due to the use of  
 145 PSD's and only a  $\Delta t_{\text{detector}} = 7 \mu\text{s}$  spread from the  $^3\text{He}$  detectors. All time-  
 146 of-flight contributions are added quadratically assuming they are statistically  
 147 independent.

148 Figure 1 shows the resulting energy resolution for energy transfers around  
 149 the elastic line. The calculated resolution for the PG analyser agrees perfectly  
 150 with the measured value from a vanadium standard at the elastic line and  
 151 with Monte Carlo simulations [24]. With the SA, the energy resolution will  
 152 be  $11 \mu\text{eV}$  at the elastic line, hence an improvement by about a factor 2.5.  
 153 Included is also the contribution solely from the primary spectrometer, which  
 154 now dominates the resolution, in contrast to the PG(002) case, where the  
 155 secondary spectrometer is the major contribution to the energy resolution  
 156 [24]. The calculated contribution of the secondary spectrometer is  $\Delta E_f =$   
 157  $7.2 \mu\text{eV}$  at the elastic line.

158 With the SA, in the time domain, relaxation times up to around 400 ps  
 159 will be accessible and in total about 3 orders in magnitude in relaxation  
 160 times can be covered over a wide range of wave vectors ( $Q = 0.2\text{--}2.0 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ )  
 161 in a single setting. This increases the versatility of OSIRIS that will then  
 162 operate synchronously the PG analyser, the SA, and the diffraction bank.

## 163 Simulations

164 The simulations were performed with the McStas ray-tracing package  
 165 [34, 35, 36]. As source we used the *ViewModISISver1* component, which  
 166 links to a file characterising the 25 K cold hydrogen moderator leading to  
 167 the OSIRIS and IRIS instruments.

168 For the transport of neutrons, the *guide* and the *guide\_curved* compo-  
 169 nents with the standard reflectivity profile were used, with  $\alpha = 6.07$  the  
 170 linear decrease in reflectivity beyond  $m = 1$ . The curvature radius of the  
 171 guide is  $R = 2050 \text{ m}$  and corresponds to a characteristic wavelength of  
 172  $\lambda \approx 2\pi\sqrt{(2a/R)}/k_{\perp} = 1.92 \text{ \AA}$  with  $k_{\perp} = 0.0214 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$  the maximum wavevec-  
 173 tor for a  $m = 2$  guide and a guide width of  $a = 43 \text{ mm}$ . At this characteristic  
 174 wavelength, the transmission of the curved guide is reduced to  $2/3$  compared

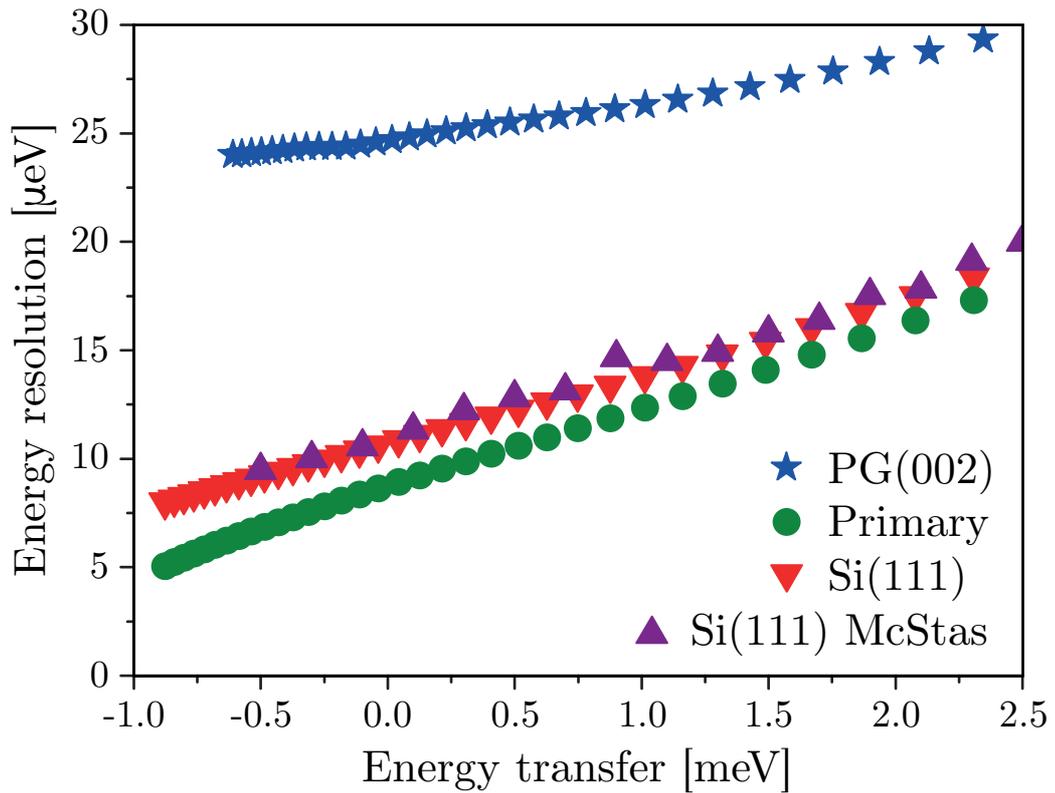


Figure 1: Analytically calculated total energy resolution of the SA (inverted triangles) and pyrolytic graphite analyser PG(002) (stars). In addition, the contribution from the primary spectrometer alone is shown (circles). The energy resolution of the SA calculated from the McStas simulations is also shown for comparison (triangles).

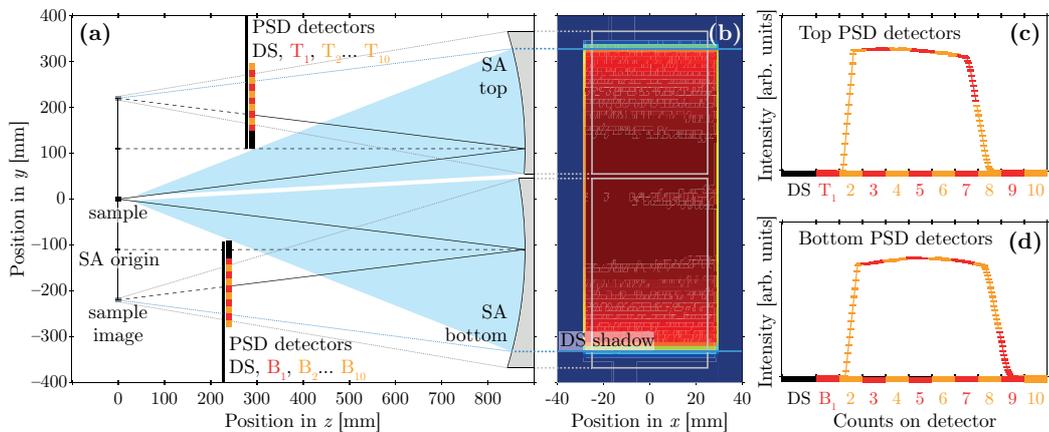


Figure 2: (a) Scheme of the silicon side of the secondary spectrometer modeled in McStas. (b) Neutron counts on the analyser (2D PSD monitor component). Dimension and position of the SA top and bottom part are represented by grey lines, and detector dead-spot (DS) shadow positions by blue lines. Pixel-wise neutron counts on the PSD top (c) and bottom (d) detectors.

175 to a straight guide and indicates a lower limit of useful wavelengths. Incom-  
 176 ing energies up to about 20 meV and hence energy transfers up to 18 meV  
 177 can be exploited on OSIRIS, as exemplified on IRIS [37, 38]. At the end of  
 178 the guide a  $m = 3.6$  straight focusing section reduces the beam area from  
 179  $43 \times 65 \text{ mm}^2$  to  $22 \times 44 \text{ mm}^2$ . The guide ends 250 mm before the sample  
 180 position.

181 The *incoherent* and the *tunneling\_sample* components from McStas are  
 182 used as samples, which both emulate an isotropic incoherent scatterer either  
 183 for elastic or inelastic scattering. The sample geometry is defined by a hollow  
 184 cylinder, with thickness of 2 mm and an outer diameter of 12 mm. The  
 185 sample height is set as a variable parameter, with a default value of 10 mm.

186 The SA is modeled using two instances of the *PerfectCrystal* component,  
 187 representing the top and bottom part of the analyser, respectively, as il-  
 188 lustrated in Fig. 2(a). Note that the *PerfectCrystal* component describes  
 189 a curved crystal on a sphere. The position of the SA is fixed to a dis-  
 190 tance of 880 mm from the sample. The curvature radius is then defined  
 191 as  $R_A = 880 + \Delta R_A$  mm, with  $\Delta R_A$  being the offset leading to under or  
 192 over-focusing of the sample image.

193 The height of the SA is set to 413 mm ( $-368 \leq y \leq 45$  mm with the  
 194 sample at the origin) for the bottom part and 311 mm ( $55 \leq y \leq 366$  mm)

195 for the top part, which represent an angular coverage of 40–45° in  $\phi$  (sample-  
 196 height dependent, blue area in Fig. 2(a)). The analyser width is set to 50 mm,  
 197 which corresponds to the width of one detector tube at the detector position,  
 198 and represents 3.25° of the 142.5° angular coverage in  $\theta$ . We only consider  
 199 one scattering angle in the horizontal plane assuming no significant change of  
 200 resolution and performance with  $2\theta$ . The reflection condition of the analyser  
 201 is determined by the Bragg law considering scattering angles close to 83°  
 202 and the  $d$ -spacing of Si(111) lattice planes,  $d_{111} = 3.135 \text{ \AA}$ . The spread in  
 203  $d$ -spacing is determined from Eq. (1), with values close to  $\Delta d/d = 3 \cdot 10^{-4}$ .

204 The top and bottom detectors are modeled by several superimposed moni-  
 205 tor components, including the *PSD\_monitor* and the *TOF2E\_monitor* com-  
 206 ponents, measuring the 2D spatial distribution and the final energy of neu-  
 207 trons converted from the TOF at the detector position, respectively. Linear  
 208 position-sensitive  $^3\text{He}$  tubes, with 1/2 inch diameter, will be used as detec-  
 209 tors. They exhibit a dead end of about 37 mm, which will interfere with the  
 210 scattered neutrons and has to be taken into account in the simulations. It is  
 211 not relevant for the resolution considerations, however, the solid angle and  
 212 therefore the intensity is directly influenced by the detector dead end. The  
 213 position sensitive aspect of the detector is modeled by dividing the detector  
 214 height in 10 sections, represented by a stack of 10 monitor components with  
 215 a *pixel* height of 15 mm (labeled B<sub>1</sub> to B<sub>10</sub> and T<sub>1</sub> to T<sub>10</sub>) and a width of  
 216 12.7 mm. The monitor arrays are positioned on a 240 mm and 290 mm ra-  
 217 dius from the sample for the bottom and top part, respectively. The larger  
 218 radius for the top detector array results from engineering constraints around  
 219 the sample bin of the spectrometer. The detector dead-spot (DS) is simply  
 220 represented, at the detector position, by an offset of the monitor arrays. The  
 221 shadow caused by the dead-spot (DS) on the silicon analyser (Fig. 2(b)) is  
 222 treated by adding a neutron-absorbing mask at the position of the detector,  
 223 modeled beforehand by a *Beamstop* component. The neutron counts on each  
 224 pixel of the top and bottom PSD detectors are shown in Fig. 2(c) and 2(d).  
 225 The size of the sample image at the position of the detector depends on the  
 226 sample height; for a 3 cm tall sample, the entire analyser and detector array  
 227 is used.

228 The line shape parameter full width at half maximum (FWHM), which  
 229 represents the energy resolution and can be directly compared to the analyt-  
 230 ical calculations, is extracted from the simulated spectra through a fit with a  
 231 Gaussian line shape. The curve is fitted to the highly asymmetric simulation  
 232 curves in a restricted energy range around the peak value.

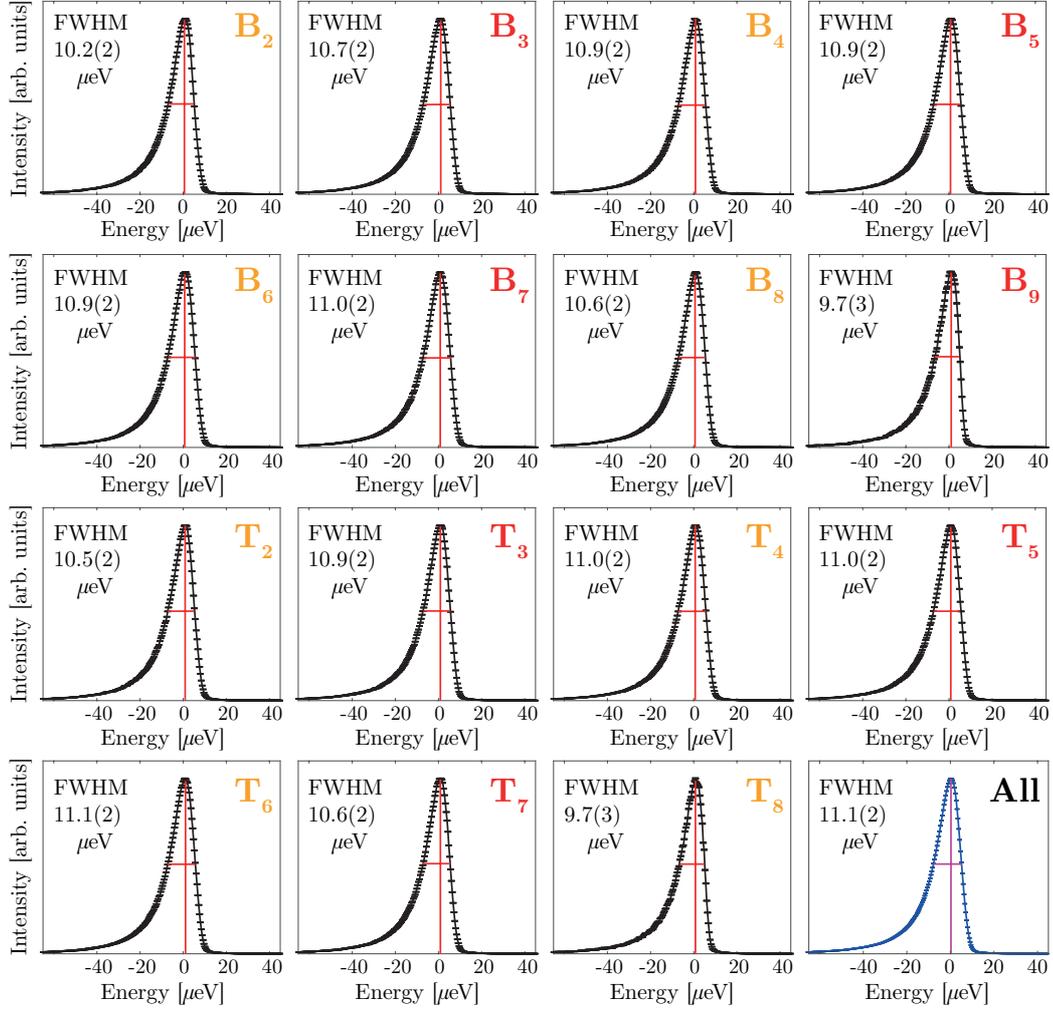


Figure 3: Line shape, calculated from the time-of-flights, zero-shifted, measured on each pixel constituting the monitor arrays associated to the top part (T<sub>2</sub> to T<sub>8</sub>) and bottom part (B<sub>2</sub> to B<sub>9</sub>) of the SA, together with their FWHM. The sum of the 15 individual pixel line shapes is represented in blue (labeled “All”) and has a FWHM of 11.1(2)  $\mu\text{eV}$ .

233 **Results and Discussion**

234 In the following section we will consider the influence of different parts of  
235 the instrument to the resolution before we discuss the full results.

236 *Pixel-wise and overall resolution*

237 Fig. 3 shows the line shape, calculated from the time-of-flights, mea-  
238 sured on each pixel constituting the monitor arrays associated to the top  
239 and bottom part of the SA. The line shapes are zero-shifted, *i.e.* the energy  
240 corresponding to the maximum of the line shape is shifted to zero. Note that  
241 only the pixel with neutron counts are represented (*cf.* Fig. 2(c), 2(d)). For  
242 a specific pixel, the FWHM of the line shape is estimated, from a Gaussian  
243 fit, in the range 9.7–11.1  $\mu\text{eV}$ . The slightly better resolution of the detec-  
244 tor pixels with lower neutron counts (B<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>9</sub>, and T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>8</sub>) is explained by  
245 their partial exposure to the sample images, which makes the effective sam-  
246 ple height smaller, thus reducing its contribution to the resolution. We also  
247 report in Fig. 3 the sum of the individual pixels. The overall total energy  
248 resolution is about 11.1(2)  $\mu\text{eV}$  in excellent agreement with the analytical  
249 calculations.

250 In order to isolate the contribution of the SA from the primary spectrom-  
251 eter, we added a *DiskChopper* component directly after the source compo-  
252 nent, to reduce the time-of-flight spread from *ca* 125  $\mu\text{s}$  to *ca* 12  $\mu\text{s}$ . Note  
253 that the average line shape is now symmetric (Fig. 4), which confirms that  
254 the asymmetry of the total time-of-flight (primary and secondary) originates  
255 from the moderator asymmetric pulse. Note that an overall signal to back-  
256 ground ratio of more than four orders of magnitude should be possible in  
257 such a configuration, a value which has already been demonstrated on the  
258 DNA spectrometer. The FWHM of the line shape is 6.0(1)  $\mu\text{eV}$ , which then  
259 corresponds mostly to the secondary spectrometer contribution of the total  
260 resolution. Adding quadratically this contribution from the secondary spec-  
261 trometer with the contribution from the primary spectrometer, which was  
262 estimated to be 8.5  $\mu\text{eV}$  [7], results in a total resolution of 10.4  $\mu\text{eV}$  in good  
263 agreement with the simulation.

264 The width of 6.0(1)  $\mu\text{eV}$  is then a good prediction for an OSIRIS spec-  
265 trometer equipped with a pulse shaping chopper. The disadvantage of a pulse  
266 shaping chopper option is the drastically reduced dynamic range, reasoned  
267 now by the width of the moderator pulse and the distance between chopper  
268 and moderator [16]. The dynamic range can be increased by a multi-slit

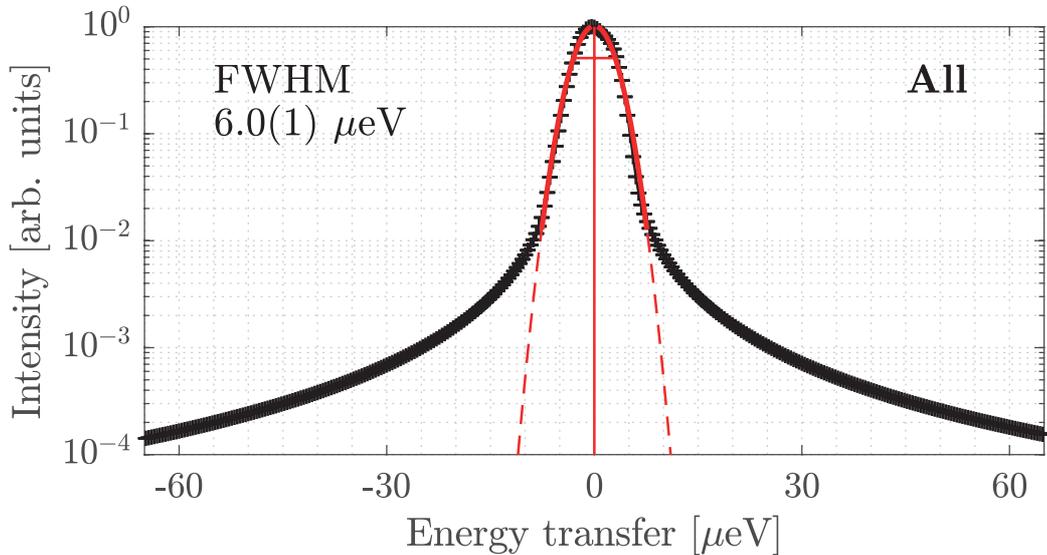


Figure 4: Simulated line shape on a logarithmic scale, calculated from the sum of the zero-shifted lines over all pixel detectors. The incoming pulse was chopped to a length of  $12 \mu s$ . As a dashed line, a Gaussian fit is included to determine the FWHM.

269 option for the choppers. In combination with phase changes at the chopper  
 270 system a wide dynamic range can be recovered. That option has been im-  
 271 plemented in the DNA spectrometer [12]. The shortening of the pulses and  
 272 the sequential measuring have a direct impact on the counting rate. With  
 273 the chosen Bragg angle it would not be possible to achieve an even better  
 274 energy resolution, for example, comparable to the DNA spectrometer [12].  
 275 The small size of the secondary spectrometer limits the possibilities towards  
 276 an even higher resolution. To achieve an improvement of the energy reso-  
 277 lution by a factor 2 with all the implications on operation and intensity of  
 278 the spectrometer this option seems to be not very favorably. A complete  
 279 new design would be necessary to move towards  $1 \mu eV$  resolution, which was  
 280 already proposed some time ago [16].

#### 281 *Resolution dependence in relation to SA geometry*

282 Figure 5 shows the dependence of the intensity (a) and FWHM (b) of  
 283 the line shape with the vertical distance (offset) of the focus point from the  
 284 sample (*cf.* Fig. 2(a)). That offset is directly correlated to the Bragg angle at  
 285 the SA and therefore to the resolution. With increasing offset also the path  
 286 length differences play a larger role and hence the resolution worsens with

287 a single detector compared to the pixelated detection mode. The detector  
 288 dead-spot creates a shadow on the SA and consequently the detected intensity  
 289 decreases, depending on the offset value. On the other side, the offset value  
 290 is directly linked to the Bragg angle and hence the resolution. At an offset  
 291 value of 120 mm the whole SA is exposed to the neutrons. We have chosen a  
 292 distance of 110 mm (box in Fig. 5) as the most sensible compromise between  
 293 resolution and solid angle.

294 Figure 5(c) shows the dependence of the FWHM with the  $\Delta R_A$  parame-  
 295 ter, which represents a modulation of the curvature radius of the SA around  
 296 its value of 880 mm when keeping the distance between sample axis and  
 297 analyser constant at 880 mm, *i.e.* having the SA in over-focusing ( $\Delta R_A < 0$ )  
 298 or in under-focusing conditions ( $\Delta R_A > 0$ ). The energy resolution shows a  
 299 broad minimum for values of  $\Delta R_A$  in the range of 0–40 mm.

### 300 *Resolution dependence with sample height*

301 Figure 6 shows the dependence of the intensity and FWHM of the line  
 302 shape with sample height. As expected, the intensity varies linearly with the  
 303 sample height. The energy resolution saturates at *ca* 11  $\mu\text{eV}$  for a small  
 304 sample ( $h = 10$  mm) and increases linearly to *ca* 18  $\mu\text{eV}$  for a 30 mm  
 305 sample. This dependence opens up the possibility to trade intensity against  
 306 resolution. With a modest increase of the FWHM by 50% the measured  
 307 intensity can be increased by a factor 3. The resolution of the PG analyser  
 308 is dominated by the elliptical geometry [24] and, hence, the influence of  
 309 the sample height is quite small. By eliminating that contribution in the  
 310 resolution, in Eq. (2), the  $\Delta\theta$  term is now dominated by the divergence  
 311 contribution from the sample height.

312 For an ideal reflection the sample size defines the size of the picture on the  
 313 focus point, which is about 240 mm behind the detectors position. Therefore  
 314 the vertical Q-direction of a small sample can be resolved on the PSD.

315 To use the highest resolution without losing too much intensity with a  
 316 smaller sample an important step would be to focus the neutrons on a smaller  
 317 sample spot. By using modern guide geometries, like elliptic or parabolic  
 318 focusing sections, smaller sample spots can be achieved and a gain in intensity  
 319 of a factor of about 5 on a 1  $\text{cm}^2$  sample size are within reach for OSIRIS.

### 320 *Resolution dependence with energy transfer*

321 The dependence of the energy resolution with the energy transfer is shown  
 322 in Fig. 1. The trend calculated from the McStas data is in excellent agreement

323 with the analytical calculation as shown in this figure.

#### 324 *Resolution with the Si(333) reflection*

325 The present OSIRIS supermirror guide delivers neutrons up to about  
326 20 meV with high intensity and beyond this energy the cut-off due to the  
327 curvature reduces the intensity smoothly. Hence, it will be possible to use  
328 the Si(333) reflection with a suitable setting of the bandwidth choppers.  
329 That instrument setting could deliver valuable information on a much wider  
330  $Q$ -range up to  $Q = 6 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ . A much wider wave vector range is beneficial  
331 in studies of local dynamics to properly assess the elastic incoherent struc-  
332 ture factor. Also jump diffusion models for translational dynamics rely on  
333 a wide-enough  $Q$ -range. We also simulated the Si(333) reflection of the SA  
334 by decreasing the  $d_{hkl}$  from  $3.135 \text{ \AA}$  to  $1.045 \text{ \AA}$ , and increasing the incident  
335 neutron energy from  $2.0\text{--}2.2 \text{ meV}$  to  $18.0\text{--}19.8 \text{ meV}$ . This increases the max-  
336 imum  $Q$  to *ca*  $6 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ , at the cost of an increased energy resolution, simulated  
337 as  $\text{FWHM} = 77.8(3) \text{ \mu eV}$  at the elastic line (Fig. 7). The final energy of  
338 the Si(333) reflection is a factor 9 larger, however, with a smaller wavelength  
339 the pulse width from the moderator decreases and therefore the energy res-  
340 olution is smaller than the factor 9 increase. In fact, the energy resolution  
341 is smaller than the presently possible value for the PG(004) setup, which is  
342  $\text{FWHM} = 99 \text{ \mu eV}$  with still a smaller  $Q$ -range.

#### 343 *Intensity comparison*

344 Finally, we discuss the simulated intensities of the PG(002) analyser and  
345 the Si(111) analyser, considering the standard sample height of 10 mm (*cf.*  
346 Fig. 7). Calculating the integral under the spectral curves we obtain a factor  
347 1.8 higher intensity for the SA compared to the PG analyser, which is due to  
348 the increased solid angle. That factor does not include the losses due to the  
349 transmission of the Beryllium filter on the PG side, about 60% [23]. Hence,  
350 it can be expected that, considering the same sample size, the SA setup will  
351 outperform the PG analyser not only in the view point of resolution but also  
352 intensity. Because the analysing energy of PG(002) and Si(111) are very  
353 similar, both analysers, in addition to the diffraction bank, can be operated  
354 concurrently for one sample, which significantly increases the output and  
355 versatility of OSIRIS.

## 356 **Conclusions**

357 Monte Carlo simulations and analytical calculations have been performed  
358 to describe the energy resolution of a new secondary spectrometer of the  
359 OSIRIS instrument. The use of silicon analysers will improve the energy  
360 resolution by about a factor 2.5 and relaxation times up to 400 ps will be  
361 accessible, compared to about 160 ps previously. The predicted FWHMs of  
362 the analytical calculations and the results from the simulations are in excel-  
363 lent agreement. The simulations guided the design to choose the optimum  
364 geometric parameters, and evinces a strong link between sample height and  
365 resolution in this high resolution setup. As a consequence a new focusing  
366 guide would benefit this SA setup. Preliminary Monte Carlo simulations es-  
367 timate a gain in intensity of a factor 5 at the sample position on a 1  $cm^2$  spot  
368 size with an elliptically curved supermirror guide. Due to the larger solid an-  
369 gle, the measured intensity on the SA will be similar to the one obtained  
370 on the pyrolytic graphite side. The concurrent use of the PG analyser and  
371 the SA will lead to an increase in intensity by about a factor 3 with respect  
372 to the graphite analyser alone. The simulations also showed the limitations  
373 of this design, which is constrained by the existing design of the secondary  
374 spectrometer. Implementation of a pulse shaping chopper would allow to  
375 gain another factor 2 in resolution with serious consequences for dynamic  
376 range and intensity. However, to go beyond this value, a completely new  
377 designed secondary spectrometer is necessary. The OSIRIS silicon analyser  
378 is now under construction and envisaged to be ready to the user community  
379 in the second half of 2021.

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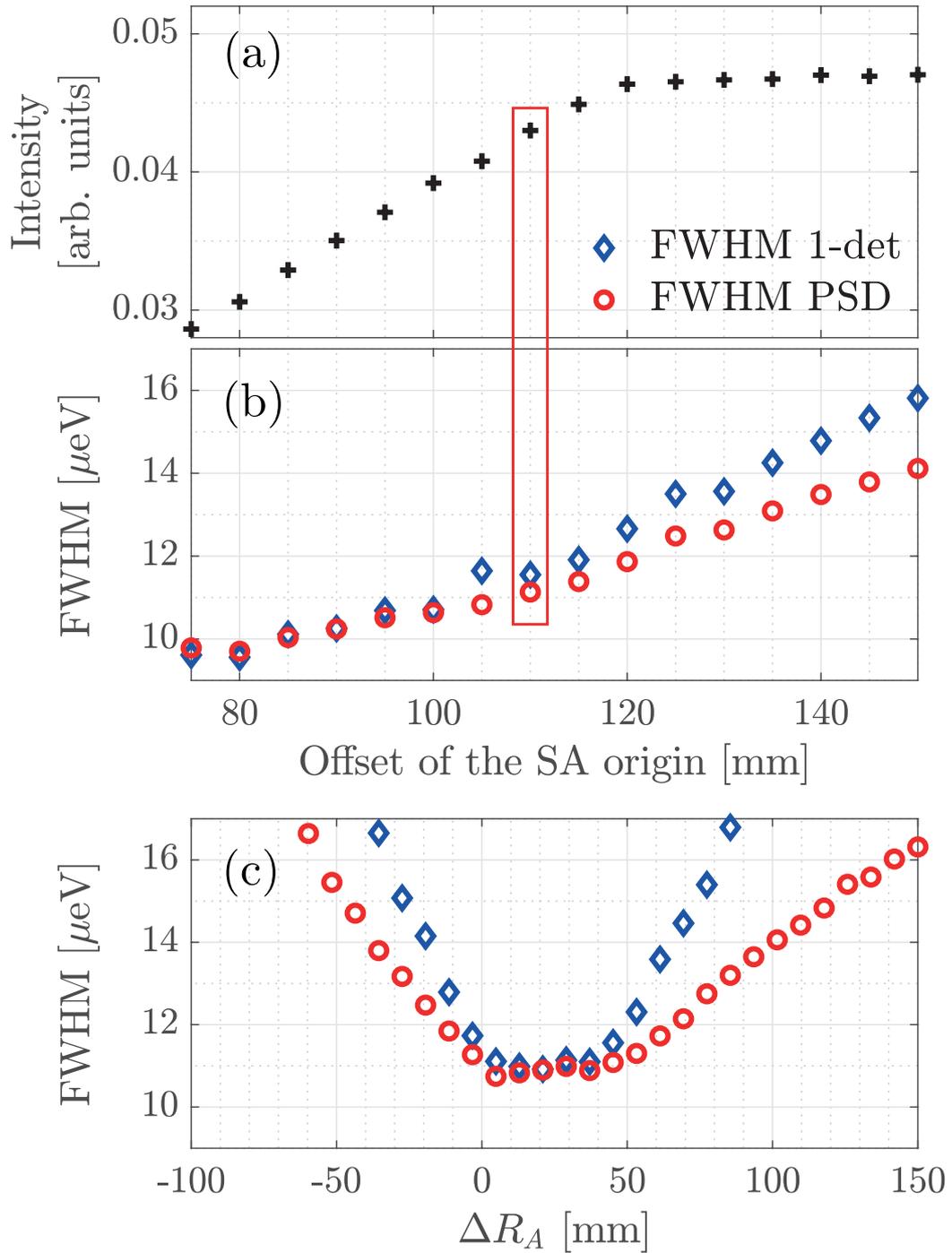


Figure 5: Dependence of the intensity (a) and FWHM (b) of the line shape with the offset of the SA origin. Included are simulated results from a whole detector tube (diamonds) and from the summed individual pixels (circles). (c) Dependence of the FWHM with the  $\Delta R_A$  parameter.

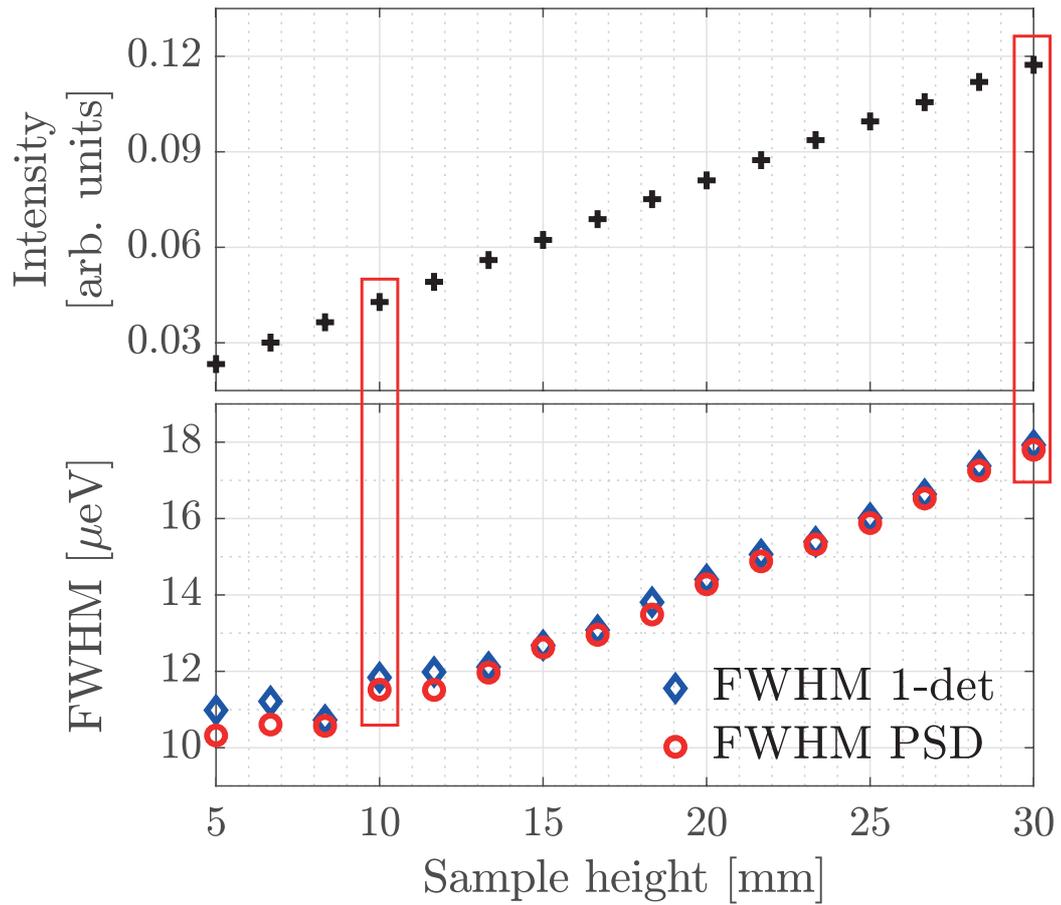


Figure 6: Dependence of the intensity and FWHM on sample height. Included are simulated results from a whole detector tube (diamonds) and from the summed individual pixels (circles).

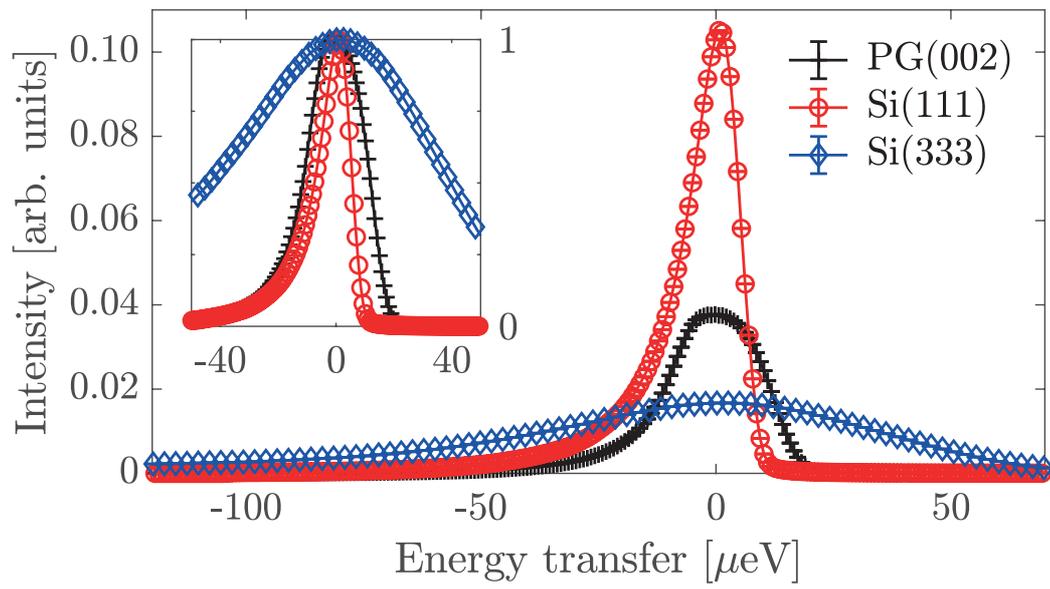


Figure 7: Line shape for the PG(002) (crosses), and average line shapes for the SA (top and bottom), considering the (111) reflection (circles) and the (333) reflection (diamonds). Line shapes are normalised to unity in insert.