

average, $\langle \rho(x) \rangle$. Stewart (1979) found that, for systems with a small number of particles, his (1977) equations (17) and (21) indeed lead to different intensities. Thus for small systems other configurations than the thermodynamic average can also contribute to elastic scattering. Hence, for small systems, Bragg scattering may thus not be an observable quantity. VH also refers to the case of small systems: the asymptotic convergence for $|t| \rightarrow \infty$, our equation (4), may then hold only in the mean. In the meantime Stewart (1979) has been able to convince himself that, for large systems, his (1977) equations (17) and (21) lead to the same intensity. Thus, for a crystal where the number of particles is very large, Bragg scattering and elastic scattering always coincide.

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International Union of Crystallography

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Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus

IUCr X-ray Attenuation Project

At the International Union of Crystallography Congress which was held in Warsaw in 1978, the Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus decided that there was a need to evaluate the techniques for the measurement of X-ray attenuation coefficients. A committee was set up to organize the project, and planning for the project is now well advanced.

It is the aim of the organizing committee to encourage the participation in the project of laboratories using a diverse range of techniques of measurement. For example, sources of incident X-ray beams which are to be used range from synchrotron radiation sources to radio-isotope sources. A diverse range of detection systems are also to be used.

All laboratories participating in the project will receive standard specimens from the project organizers and will be required to answer detailed questions about their equipment, techniques of measurement and their analysis of the experimental results. The first specimen will be silicon. Later specimen sets will include germanium, magnesium and pyrolytic graphite.

Any laboratory interested in participating in the project should contact: Dr D. C. Creagh, Chairman, IUCr X-ray Attenuation Project, Physics Department, Royal Military College, Duntroon, ACT 2600, Australia.

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President's Fund

Members of the crystallographic community are reminded that a President's Fund was established by the International Union of Crystallography in 1977, as suggested by Professor Hodgkin at the 1975 General Assembly. The fund is intended for use in emergency and in special or difficult circumstances, to help crystallographers to take part in the activities of the Union, and is operated by the President and the General Secretary and Treasurer of the Union.

The Executive Committee is most grateful to those crystallographers who have already made donations to the fund. Any further donations may be sent to the Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

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Structure Reports

Volume 44A of *Structure Reports* has recently been published. It covers the literature for metals and inorganic compounds for 1978 (vi + 387 pages), and costs 102 Dutch guilders for subscribers with standing orders. The full price for individual copies is 120 guilders but personal subscribers may buy a copy for their own use at 60 guilders. Volume 43B will be published in mid 1980 and Volume 45A towards the end of the year.