EXAFS spectroscopy: fundamentals, experiment, data analysis, application examples and recent extensions

K. Klementiev, MAX IV Laboratory Lund, Sweden



MAX IV: Next-generation low emittance synchrotron radiation facility Inauguration on 21st of June 2016









Beamlines at MAX IV



Outlook

- Basic definitions and qualitative picture of XAFS
- The EXAFS formula and the need for amplitudes and phases
- XANES fingerprints
- An example of EXAFS study
- Deeper insights:
 - X-ray optics
 - Detection
 - Samples. Radiation damage
- Extensions:
 - Quick scanning
 - X-ray emission spectrometer



Reading

Proceedings of the HERCULES (Higher European Research Course for Users of Large Experimental Systems),

Neutron and synchrotron radiation for condensed matter studies. Vol. 1. Theory, instruments and methods. J.Baruchel, J.-L.Hodeau, M.S.Lehmann, J.-R.Regnard, C.Schlenker (eds.), Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1994

Extended x-ray absorption fine structure—its strengths and limitations as a structural tool P. A. Lee, P. H. Citrin, P. Eisenberger, and B. M. Kincaid Rev. Mod. Phys. 53, 769 – Published 1 October 1981

Кочубей Д.И., Бабанов Ю.А., Замараев К.И. и др. EXAFS-спектроскопия. Новосибирск: Наука, 1988. 306 с.



Interaction cross sections



• Two principal channels: absorption and scattering. The cross sections are Z- and energydependent.

• **Photoelectric process** is the most probable in the synchrotron energy range (the range of the Balder@MAX-IV beamline is marked by green).

• The shown cross-sections are for a single atom. The *collective* effects, like Bragg peaks, can be more intense.



X-ray Absorption Spectra



Qualitative Picture of XAFS





Theoretical Description

Fermi's Golden Rule in one-electron approximation:

$$\sigma(E) \propto \sum_{f}^{E_{f} > E_{F}} \left| \left\langle f \left| H_{\text{int}} \right| i \right\rangle \right|^{2} \delta(E - E_{f} + E_{i})$$

- $|i\rangle$ is an initial deep core state (e.g. $|1s\rangle = 2Z^{3/2}e^{-Zr}/\sqrt{4\pi}$): strongly localized.
- $\langle f |$ is an *unoccupied* state in the presence of a core hole [a collective response of the other electrons which is effectively described as a single particle of a positive charge called 'hole'],
- $H_{\rm int}$ is the electron transition operator:
 - $H_{\text{int}} = \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r});$
 - The photon is taken to be a classical wave: $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{e}A_0 e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$:
 - For deep-core excitations $e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \approx 1$ (dipole approximation) because *r* is small due to the strong localization of the initial state
 - The next term +*i*k·r (quadrupole approximation) is ~*Z*/(2·137) times weaker, and for heavy elements like Pb, Au, Pt is not negligible (but anyway is normally neglected)

• equivalent representations: momentum form $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{e}$ and position form $(\hbar \omega/m)\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{e}$. For example, consider a photon propagating along *z* with $\mathbf{e} || x$ and its K-absorption: Then $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{e} = x = r \sin\theta \cos\phi \propto Y_1^{\pm 1}(\theta, \phi)$ and $\sigma(E) \propto |\int \langle f | Y_1^{\pm 1} Y_0^0 \rangle d\Omega|^2$.

Hence for *K* absorption the final states $\langle f |$ can only be of $Y_1^{\pm 1}$ (i.e. *p*) symmetry

(in general, $\Delta l = \pm 1$).

16 Mar 2016

K. Klementiev – Introduction to XAFS



Theoretical Description

In the MS theory, the expression for μ can be factored in terms of an atomic background μ_0 and the oscillatory part χ

In the photoelectron momentum space, $k = [2m/\hbar^2(E-E_F)]^{\frac{1}{2}}$, the χ function is parameterized as: e oscillatory part χ $\chi(k) = S_0^2 \sum_j N_j \frac{|f_j(k)|}{kR_j^2} \sin(2kR_j + \varphi_j(k)) e^{-2R_j/\lambda(k)} e^{-2\sigma_j^2 k^2}$ For each coordination shell *j*: R_j, N_j, σ_j^2 are the sought distance, coord. number and variance of distance $f_j(k) = |f_j(k)| e^{i\phi_j(k)}$ is the scattering amplitude (calculated), λ is the electron free path (calculated), S_0^2 accounts for many-electron excitations.

 $\mu = \mu_0(1 + \chi)$

The present theory cannot give reliable μ_0 .

- For XANES region this is a problem, because μ_0 there is a rapidly changing function with features comparable with χ .
- In EXAFS region μ_0 is a smooth function and can be constructed empirically.

Thus, XANES spectra are mostly *interpreted*, not analyzed. EXAFS spectra can be analyzed quantitatively.





EXAFS amplitudes and phases

http://feffproject.org/

The FEI	F9 code				Home » Codes » The FEFF9	code Q Search	
Overview	Documentation	Download	Order	Troubleshooting	XAFS Data Analysis		
	States States		And An class contractions				1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2



Spectra of similar structures



What can we learn from XANES: a) Pre-edge Peak

Dipole selection rule (only in central-symmetric case!): $\Delta l = \pm 1$ Consider *K*-absorption for transition metals:

- initial state = 1s (l=0)
- states near E_F are formed by nd electrons (l=2)

central-symmetry	non-central symmetry
no resonance	resonance (pre-edge peak)





What can we learn from XANES: b) Edge Shift



Why does it shift?

- 1) Electrostatic: it is harder for the photoelectron to leave a positive (oxidized) atom
- 2) Shorter bonds at higher oxidation states \Rightarrow Fermi energy is higher

16 Mar 2016



What we can learn from XANES: c) White Line

 L_3 absorption edges for 5*d* metals: (transition $2p_{3/2} \rightarrow 5d$)

G. Meitzner, G. H. Via, F. W. Lytle, and J. H. Sinfelt, J. Phys. Chem. 96 (1992) 4960



Intensity is proportional to the number of free 5d states and also depends on valence state. But...



Bare, J. Chem. Phys. **116** (2002) 191 ė ഗ് and Ankudinov, J. J. Rehr, J. J. Low, octahedron (long dashdot), Pt₄ from A. L.

XAS spectra at various T



K. Klementiev – Introduction to XAFS





Experimental Setup (b)





Example: Application of EXAFS to Pd,Pt/C Catalysts (a)

Supported noble metal catalysts are used in a number of commercial chemical processes (Pd,Pt/C \rightarrow toluene and benzene hydrogenation).

Pd,Pt/C catalyst

- Support: graphite-like carbon (sibunit)
- Preparation: mild oxidative treatment of the support followed by ion exchange with Pd or Pt amine complexes
- Characterization: XPS, TPR, catalytic studies
- Outcome: highly dispersed metal clusters with ~1.1 wt% of Pd and ~0.9 wt% of Pt

XAFS measurements

- X1 beamline at Hasylab/DESY with a Si 311 double crystal monochromator, transmission mode
- Samples: non-pressed powders



Example: Application of EXAFS to Pd,Pt/C Catalysts (b)

Reduction treatment: in 5%H₂/He atmosphere, stepwise with ΔT =50°C.

Measurements at LN₂ temperature in order not to have interference of two effects: (i) due to different temperature vibrations and (ii) due to different particle sizes.



16 Mar 2016

Example: Application of EXAFS to Pd,Pt/C Catalysts (c)



The difference between a simply reduced Pd/C sample (hydrided) and one subsequently blown out by He flow (dehydrided)



EXAFS results for Pd/C sample during the reduction process

			<u> </u>		1
reduction	Path	<i>r</i> (Å)	CN	$\sigma^2 (10^{-3} \text{\AA}^2)$	$\Delta E (eV)$
temperature, °C					
200, hydrided	Pd-Pd	2.83(1)	5.5(8)	6(1)	6(1)
200, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.733(6)	5.2(5)	4.4(7)	5.3(7)
250, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.732(6)	5.9(5)	4.5(6)	5.4(7)
300, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.733(5)	6.6(6)	4.2(6)	5.5(7)
350, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.735(5)	7.4(6)	3.8(9)	5.5(7)
400, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.738(4)	8.0(6)	3.2(5)	5.7(7)
450, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.740(4)	8.4(6)	2.9(4)	6.0(7)
500, dehydrided	Pd-Pd	2.742(8)	8.7(6)	2.8(7)	6.2(7)
	reduction temperature, °C 200, hydrided 200, dehydrided 250, dehydrided 300, dehydrided 350, dehydrided 400, dehydrided 450, dehydrided	reduction Path temperature, °C 200, hydrided Pd-Pd 200, dehydrided Pd-Pd 250, dehydrided Pd-Pd 300, dehydrided Pd-Pd 350, dehydrided Pd-Pd 400, dehydrided Pd-Pd 450, dehydrided Pd-Pd	reduction Path r (Å) temperature, °C Pd-Pd 2.83(1) 200, hydrided Pd-Pd 2.733(6) 200, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.732(6) 200, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.732(6) 300, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.732(5) 350, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.735(5) 400, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.738(4) 450, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.740(4) 500, dehydrided Pd-Pd 2.742(8)	reduction temperature, °CPath r (Å)CN200, hydridedPd-Pd2.83(1)5.5(8)200, dehydridedPd-Pd2.733(6)5.2(5)250, dehydridedPd-Pd2.732(6)5.9(5)300, dehydridedPd-Pd2.735(5)6.6(6)350, dehydridedPd-Pd2.735(5)7.4(6)400, dehydridedPd-Pd2.738(4)8.0(6)450, dehydridedPd-Pd2.740(4)8.4(6)500, dehydridedPd-Pd2.742(8)8.7(6)	reduction temperature, °CPath r (Å) CN σ^2 (10^{-3} Å ²)200, hydridedPd-Pd2.83(1)5.5(8)6(1)200, dehydridedPd-Pd2.733(6)5.2(5)4.4(7)250, dehydridedPd-Pd2.732(6)5.9(5)4.5(6)300, dehydridedPd-Pd2.733(5)6.6(6)4.2(6)350, dehydridedPd-Pd2.735(5)7.4(6)3.8(9)400, dehydridedPd-Pd2.738(4)8.0(6)3.2(5)450, dehydridedPd-Pd2.740(4)8.4(6)2.9(4)500, dehydridedPd-Pd2.742(8)8.7(6)2.8(7)



Example: Application of EXAFS to Pd,Pt/C Catalysts (d)



Catalytic properties:

- The catalytic activity in toluene and benzene hydrogenation was found to exceed the activity of conventional Pd/Al₂O₃ and Pt/Al₂O₃ fourfold for Pd/C and almost ten-fold for Pt/C.
- If the reduction temperature exceeds 350°C the activity of both catalysts sharply decreases.

The EXAFS study made it possible to exclude intense metal sintering, or Pd carbide formation as possible reasons of the activity drop.

Stakheev et al., Russ.Chem.Bull.Int.Ed. 53 (2004) 528



Linear combination of spectra

- 1. Basis spectra: precursor (Pd I) and metallic Pd particles.
- 2. The spectrum "catalyst 2" shows coincidence with its *target transformation*.
- 3. Linear combination fitting of **XANES** of "catalyst 2" by the two basis spectra.
- 4. The found linear combination is then successfully applied to **EXAFS**.





In detail 1. Optics

What you need to know about x-ray optics



Balder beamline at MAX IV: optics



- In vacuum wiggler, 10¹³ photons/s, energy range 2.4 –... keV
 - Focusing down to 100×100 μm²
 - Fast scans: full EXAFS up to sub-second repetition
 - Fixed-exit *double mirror* setup. Two equal toroidal focusing mirrors (different coating). Fast change of energy range, focusing/defocusing

Quick acquisition and quick alignment/adjustment \rightarrow high throughput



Harmonics in monochromator



Rocking curves



Not only the fundamental energy is passed through a monochromator but also high harmonics.

Harmonics can be suppressed by detuning



Mirror reflectivity



With appropriate mirrors (coatings) at appropriate incidence angles the harmonics can be suppressed due to reflectivity properties.



Importance of harmonics

Consider a transmission experiment with two ionization chambers. Their signals i_0 and i_1 give the absorption coefficient: $\mu d = \ln[i_0/i_1]$.

 i_0 and i_1 are strongly correlated. You can check this if you take i_0 and i_1 from *different* repetitions of the same scan; the resulted μd would be much noisier. Therefore it is important to always keep the two signals in the ratio.

Let the beam be contaminated by some harmonics. The experimental absorption is then $\mu d = \ln[(i_0 + h_0)/(i_1 + h_1)]$ and the fluctuations in i_0 and i_1 do not cancel and thus the spectrum is noisier.

In summary, in the presence of harmonics the absorption coefficient μd : 1) is distorted (typically suppressed) and 2) is noisier.

Therefore you should select the right mirrors and/or detune the monochromator.

16 Mar 2016



In detail 2. Detection

Your samples determine which detection to choose



Relaxation channels



- $2p_{3/2}$ is 4-fold, $2p_{1/2}$ is 2-fold. $\Rightarrow K\alpha_1$ is as twice more intense as $K\alpha_2$.
- $K\alpha$ is more intense than $K\beta$ (~7-8 times for 3*d* metals).
- The core hole filling is a cascade process.
- The fluorescence energies are tabulated \Rightarrow used in x-ray fluorescence analysis.
- The core hole width $\Delta E = \hbar/\tau$. ($\Delta E \sim 1 \text{eV}$ for 1s hole in 3d elements $\Rightarrow \tau \sim 10^{-16} \text{ s}$)



Ways of detection

- 1. Direct intensity measurements in **transmission** geometry
 - ionization chambers
 - photodiodes with scattering foils
- 2. Fluorescence yield
 - semiconductor detectors, e.g. Ge and Si(Li)
 - crystal analyzers
 - Lytle detector
- 3. Total electron yield
 - current from biased collector electrode
 - channeltron



Ionization chamber

The principle of ionization chambers and semiconductor detectors (as reverse biased diodes) is the same: creation of electron-ion (hole) pairs in the inter-electrode medium and registering the current:





Fluorescence detectors

A typical energy resolved fluorescence spectrum:



Fluorescence detectors SDD and CdTe:





Total electron yield

A sample holder for electron (Auger) yield measurements with He gas as amplifying media





Summary on detection. Applicability

Probing depth:

- transmission: the full sample thickness (bulk sensitivity)
- fluorescence: ~(absorption length) * $sin(\varphi)$, 0.1 10 µm
- total electron yield: ~electron mean free path, 10 100 Å

Which detection mode to use:

- concentrated samples, transparent to x-rays transmission
- dilute samples fluorescence
- not transparent samples (low-*E* or thick) total electron yield or fluorescence (with self-absorption correction)





In detail 3. Samples

How to prepare your samples

39 of 55

Suitable samples

There are good reviews on sample preparation, for example:

- Matt Newville, Anatomy of an XAFS Measurement
- google for them Rob Scarrow, Sample Preparation for EXAFS Spectroscopy
 - General requirements
 - uniform on a scale of the absorption length of the material (typ. $\sim 10 \ \mu m$)
 - prepared without pinholes
 - Shape, aggregative state
 - Solids: powders, foils etc.; single crystals and thin foils can utilize polarization properties of SR.
 - Liquids
 - Gases
 - Concentrations
 - for transmission: typ. >1 wt%
 - for fluorescence: typ. >100 ppm and 1mM



Suitable amount

Program XAFSmass (see its web-page for detailed description):

powder:

*?• XAFS mass	•?- XA			
Powder 🗾	Foil, Film			
$\mathbf{v} = (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{T} \mathbf{d}) \cdot \mathbf{S} \cdot (\sum_{i} N_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} N_{i} 2 \mathbf{r}_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{\mathrm{u}})^{-1}; \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{v}$				
compound (example: Nd_2CuO_4 or Fe%5SiO_2):	compoun			
Cu%4Si0_2	Cu			
M (g/mol)=62.5883	M (g			
$\mu_{T}d = 2.6$ $S(cm^{2}) = 0.72$ E(eV) = 8979				
data table: Henke Plot f"	data tab			
v(mol) = 8.53016e-4 m(mg) = 53.389 absorptance step= Cu(m=2.136): 0.734 $p(q/cm^3) = d(\mu m) =$	absorpta			
Calculate About Help	Ca			

foil:

🐔 XAFS mass 📃 🗖 🗙					
Foil, Film, Glas etc. 📃					
$d = (\mu_{T}d) \cdot M \cdot (\varrho \sum_{i} N_{g} N_{i} 2 r_{o} \lambda f_{i}^{n})^{-1}$					
compound (example: Ag%25Ge_0.4Se_0.6):					
Cu					
M (g/mol)=63.5460					
μ _T d = [2.6	-				
$e(\alpha/cm^3) = 18.96$					
p(grow) = [0.50					
E(eV)= 8979					
data table: Henke 🗾 Plot f"					
d(µm) = 10.212					
absorptance step= Cu: 2.266					
Calculate About Help					

gas:

◆?+ XAFS mass			
Gas			
$p = -ln(1-obs.level) k T (d (\sum_i N_i 2r_0 A f_i^n)^{-1}$			
compound (example: Ar_0.1Kr_0.9):			
Ar			
M (g/mol)=39.9480			
absorption level = $1 \cdot \exp(-\mu_T d) = 0.22$			
d(cm) = 10			
E(eV)= 9500			
data table: Henke 🗾 Plot f"			
p(mbar) = 203.391			
Calculate About Help			

A typical value for total absorption is about 2. It can be as twice as smaller or bigger without significant change in spectrum quality. More important is the sample uniformity (particle size).



Pellets



\varnothing 5 mm pellets	Ø13 mm pellets
weights 2–20 mg, less consumption but more difficult to handle	weight 10–100 mg
easier to remove from dies	
more samples in the holder	

16 Mar 2016



Mixing and pressing

Dilute your powder with a supporting agent: BN (boron nitride), polyethylene, cellulose, sugar etc.

Probably, the mostly used one is BN. To my experience, it gives fragile pellets strongly adhesive to dies.

With PE and cellulose the pellets are more durable and easier to press. We will provide cellulose.

Do not put more than 1 ton! By pressing stronger you destroy the pellets rather than make them firmer. For \varnothing 5 mm dies 0.5 ton is enough.





XAS of Metallobiomolecules

XAS can provide unique information about the kinds of ligands holding a particular metal in a metallobiomolecule.

Symmetry information provided by XANES can help determine qualitatively the molecular geometry. For example, there is often a significant distinction between tetrahedral 4-coordinate and square planar 4-coordinate.

XAS is particularly good at elucidating differences between one sample and another: e.g. active site before and after addition of substrate, or competitive inhibitor, or reductant/oxidant etc.

Sample Limitations

Amorphous frozen solutions with glassing agent (e.g., 20% glycerol); cryogenic T to avoid radiation damage.

```
Concentration ~1 mM or even ~0.2 mM (for 3d metals)
```

Volume ~0.05-0.2 ml.

Homogenous metal site structure! XAS is not able to distinguish multiple site structures within a given sample: the resulting XAS-derived structure is an "average" one.



Radiation damage

We have ~10¹³ photons/s at the sample, focused into ~300h×200v μ m².

In hard x-ray XAFS the radiation damage is mostly seen (if seen) in the form of photo-reduction.

In solutions the x-ray induced reduction is more common due to radiolysis:



from S. Jayanetti et al, J. Chem. Phys 115 (2001) 954

from J. G. Mesu et al, J. Phys. Chem. B 109 (2005) 4042



Extensions 1. Quick scanning





Quick scanning



16 Mar 2016

K. Klementiev – Introduction to XAFS



Radiation damage

We have ~10¹³ photons/s at the sample, focused into ~300h×200v $\mu m^2.$

In hard x-ray XAFS the radiation damage is mostly seen (if seen) in the form of photo-reduction. I had it for oxidized Au samples.

In solutions the x-ray induced reduction is more common due to radiolysis:

The figure on the right shows XANES spectra of a copper containing peptide which demonstrate x-ray induced reduction from Cu(II) towards Cu(I). The quick scanning allows one to select a few first spectra referring to the pristine structure.



K. Klementiev – Introduction to XAFS

Extensions 2. Crystal analyzers

Why:

- to work with high flux fluorescence (>10 Mcps)
- to measure RIXS, x-ray Raman etc.





Comparison of 1D-bent crystal analyzers

Resolution-efficiency charts of 1D-bent Si444 crystal analyzers at 10^{13} ph/s incoming flux. The left chart is with a narrow source energy band equal to the 6-fold energy resolution; the right one is with a wide energy band equal to $8 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot E$ (approx. width of *K* β lines).





Spectrometer design





Crystals



The next processing stage is the surface treatment. Recrystallization in an ultra-high vacuum oven.

A small test piece has exhibited re-appearance of a LEED pattern measured in situ in the oven. We are building a larger volume oven, also with an in situ LEED instrument, to work on the production crystals.



K. Klementiev – Introduction to XAFS



Crystals

6 production crystals 310×50 mm² ground to 1.5 m radius:



K. Klementiev – Introduction to XAFS



X-ray emission analyzer. Application examples

- $K\alpha$ and $K\beta_{1,3}$ lines: FWHM $K\alpha$ and peak position of $K\beta_{1,3}$ give effective electron spin in the atomic *d* orbitals.
- *K*β_{1,3} lines: **site selective** EXAFS scans
- Kβ satellite lines: sensitivity to ligands (also with angular dependence for oriented samples)
- RIXS: 1) better resolved K pre-edge peaks; 2) soft edges with hard x-rays



Coordination Chemistry Reviews **249** (2005) 65–95 P. Glatzel et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **124** (2002) 9668.



Conclusions

- XAFS (XANES and EXAFS) spectroscopies:
 - suitable under reaction conditions (no high vacuum)
 - do not require long-range order
 - element specific
- XANES spectroscopy for:
 - symmetry information from the pre-edge peaks
 - valence state from the edge shift
 - analysis of mixtures using basis spectra
- XANES is experimentally simpler than EXAFS
 - signal is stronger (one can measure faster and at lower concentrations)
 - does not depend on T (if without phase transitions, of course)
- EXAFS gives:
 - inter-atomic distances and coordination numbers
 - identification of neighbor atoms
- Extensions (excluding sample environment):
 - quick scanning for for higher throughput and lower radiation damage
 - x-ray emission spectrometer for high flux fluorescence and RIXS

