



# A NEW MODEL OF CORRELATED DISORDER IN RELAXOR FERROELECTRICS

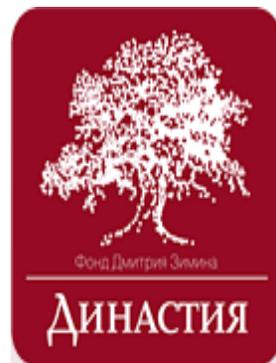
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Alexei Bosak

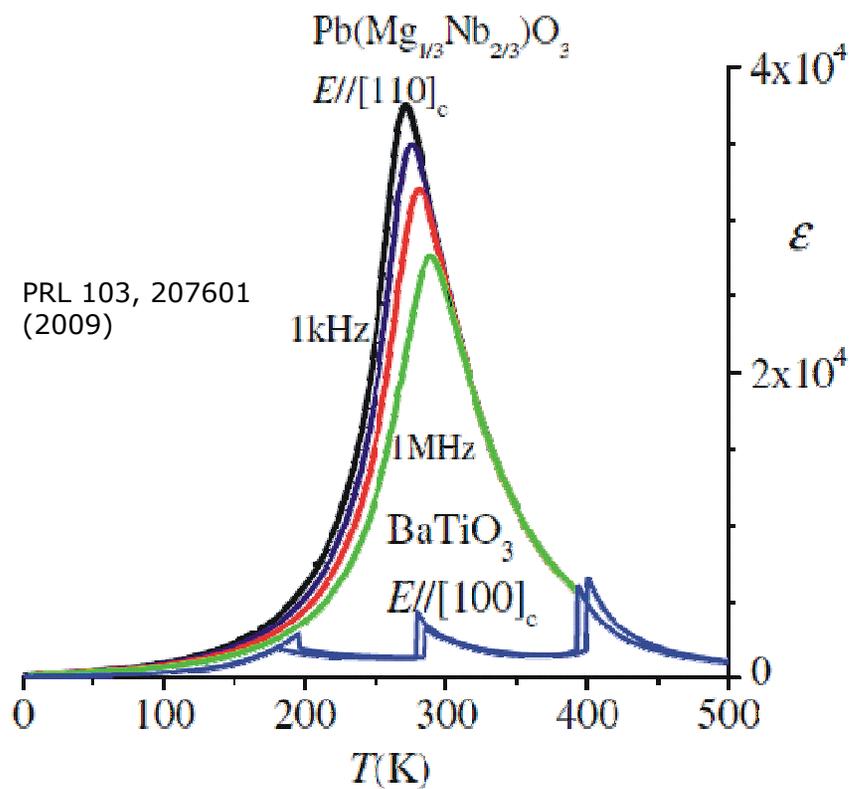
Dmitry Chernyshov

Sergey Vakhrushev

Michael Krisch



# Why relaxors and diffuse scattering?



## Relaxors are interesting

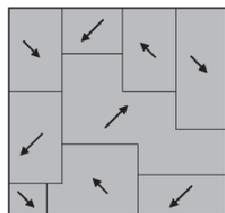
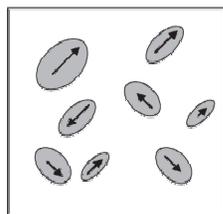
- ❑ Broad frequency-dependent peak of susceptibility
- ❑ No change of the average structure
- ❑ No macroscopic polarization

## Relaxors are disordered

*Chemically ordered regions (COR)*  
*Static polar nano-regions (PNR)*  
*Polar glass*  
*Soft phonons*  
*Discrete breathers*

## Disorder is challenging

“Relaxor ferroelectrics were discovered in the 1950s but many of their properties are not understood.” AiP 2011



■ - polar nanoregions

□ - regions of cubic symmetry

# Outline

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- Diffuse scattering in relaxors
- What do we measure - the data
- What do we model - PNR
- New parameterization
- Microscopic picture for new model
- Where to move

# Well known things - I

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□ Diffuse scattering in relaxors is well documented

- Diffuse scattering = Relaxor-Specific + TDS + Huang Scattering
- RS component disappears on heating and/or pressure
- Electric field distorts RS component.
- RS scattering has maxima at Bragg nodes and decays as  $\frac{1}{q^2}$

(in close vicinity of Braggs as  $\frac{1}{q^2+k^2}$ )

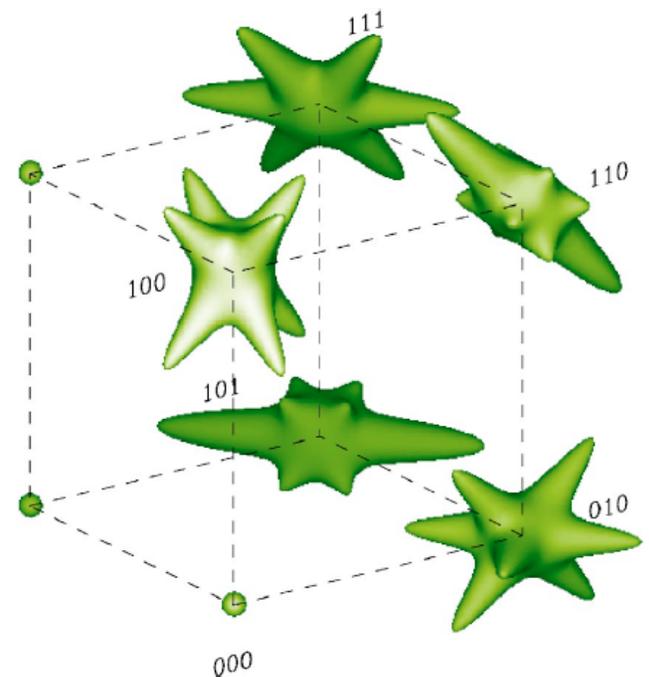
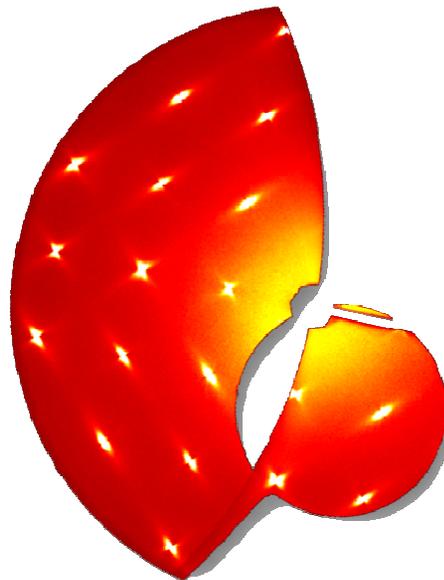
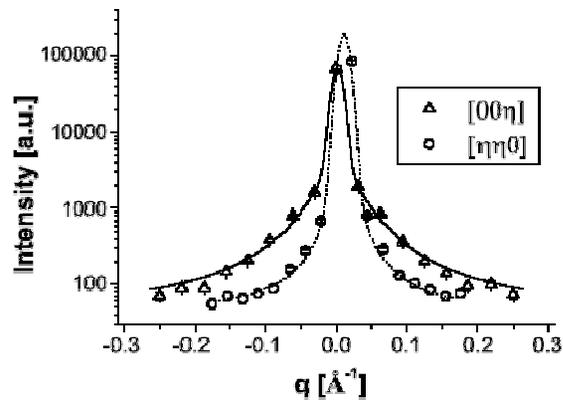
relaxor-specific >> Huang scattering >> thermal diffuse scattering

Gehring et al. PRB 79, 224109 (2009)

# Reported DS data

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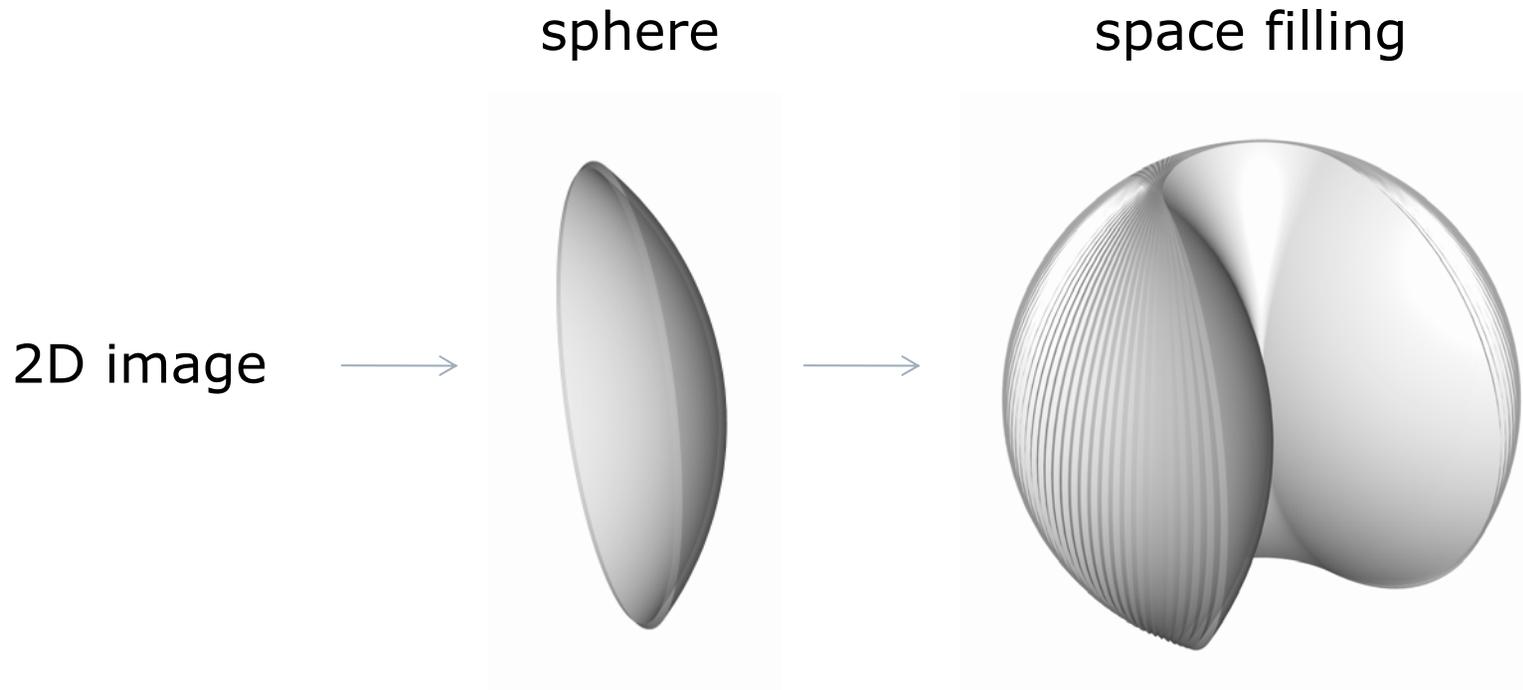
- ❑ 1D: line scans
- ❑ 2D: flat or curved reciprocal space cuts
- ❑ 3D: not yet reported



# 3D mapping

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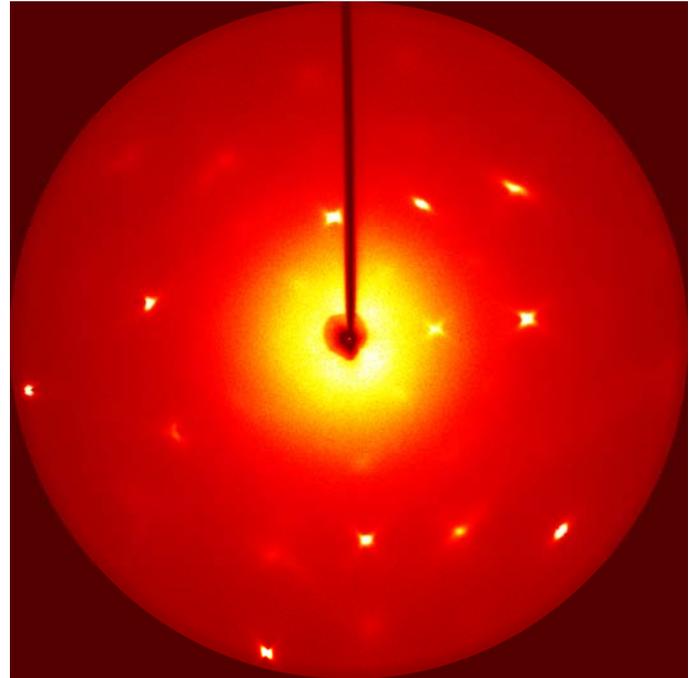
- ❑ Laue time-of-flight neutron diffraction
- ❑ X-ray area detector data



# Experiment

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- $\text{PbMg}_{1/3}\text{Nb}_{2/3}\text{O}_3\text{-PbTiO}_3$  6%  
50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick needle,  
chemically etched  
SNBL at ESRF /  $\lambda = 0.7\text{\AA}$   
MAR345 ImagePlate  
angular step  $0.2^\circ$
- Data analysis - CrysAlis
- 3D maps – local software
- Visualization – Chimera

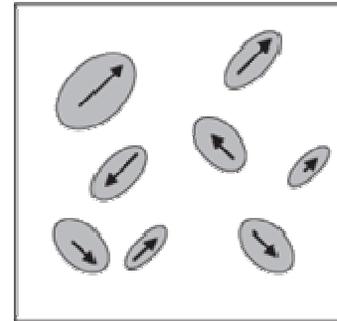


# Well known things - II

## □ Diffuse scattering in relaxors serves as evidence of PNRs

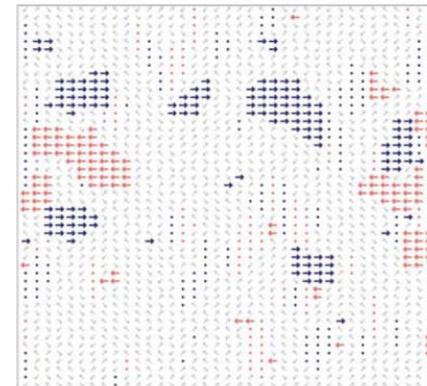
1. Diffuse scattering → parameterization with shaped PRN and local polarization

A. Cervellino et al, J. Appl. Cryst. **44**, 603 (2011)

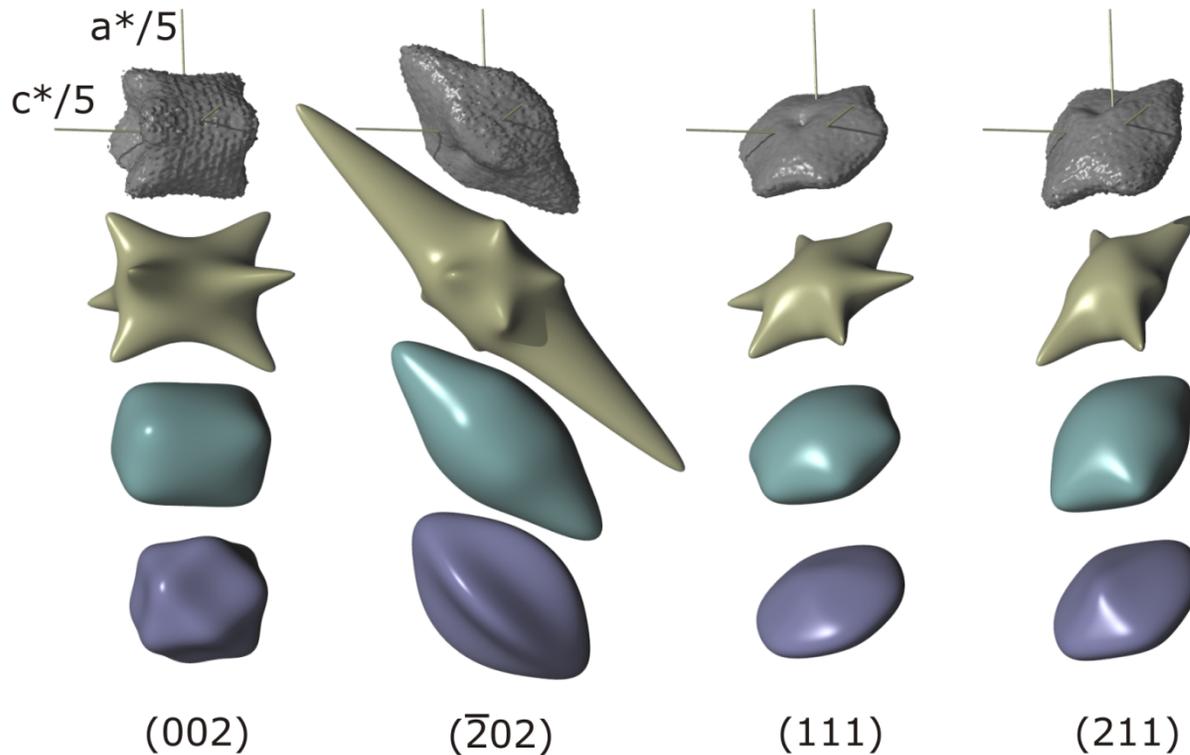


2. Diffuse scattering → MC modeling of polar displacements

M. Pasciak and T.R Welberry, 2011



# 3D data vs. documented PNR models



experiment

$$G(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{\xi_{//}}{1 + q_{//}^2 \xi_{//}^2} \frac{\xi_{\perp}^2}{(1 + q_{\perp}^2 \xi_{\perp}^2)^{3/2}}$$

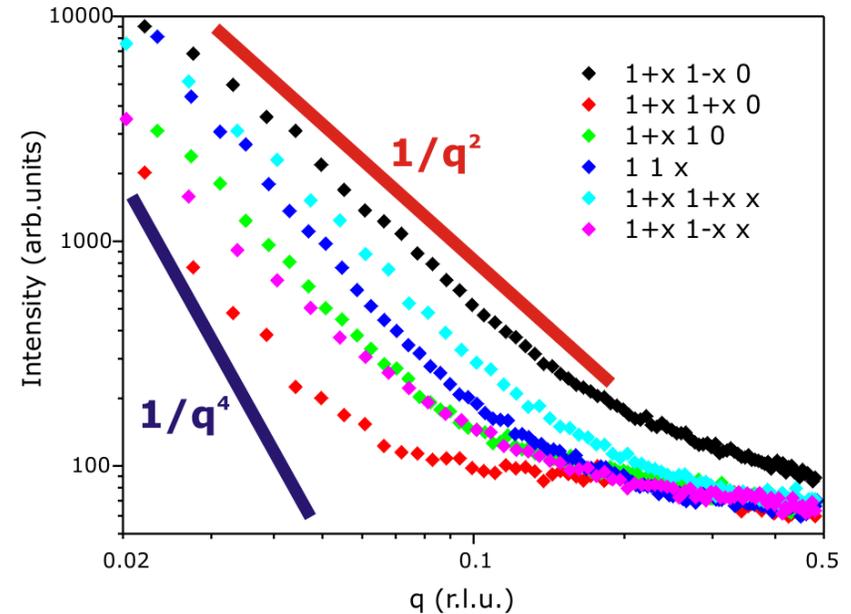
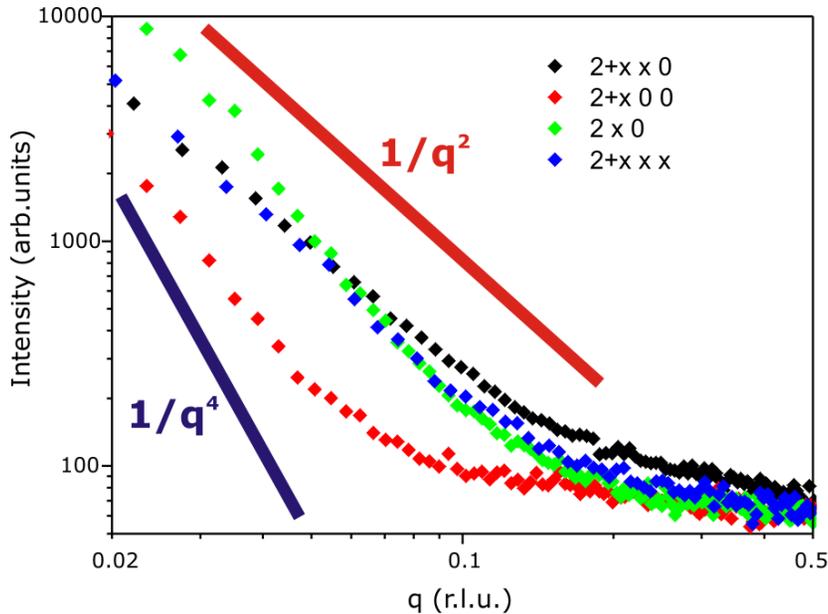
up to 6 parameters

$$G(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{\xi_1 \xi_2 \xi_3}{\left(1 + (\xi_1 \mathbf{w}_1 \mathbf{q})^2 + (\xi_2 \mathbf{w}_2 \mathbf{q})^2 + (\xi_3 \mathbf{w}_3 \mathbf{q})^2\right)^2}$$

up to 8 parameters

G.Xu, Z. Zhong, H. Hiraka, G. Shirane, Phys. Rev. B **70**, 174109 (2004)  
 A. Cervellino, S.N. Gvasaliya, O. Zaharko, B. Roessli, G.M. Rotaru, R.A. Cowley,  
 S.G. Lushnikov, T.A. Shaplygina, M.-T. Fernandez-Diaz, J. Appl. Cryst. **44**, 603 (2011)

# 1D data vs. PNR models



typically decays as  $\sim q^{-2}$ ; never reaches  $q^{-4}$

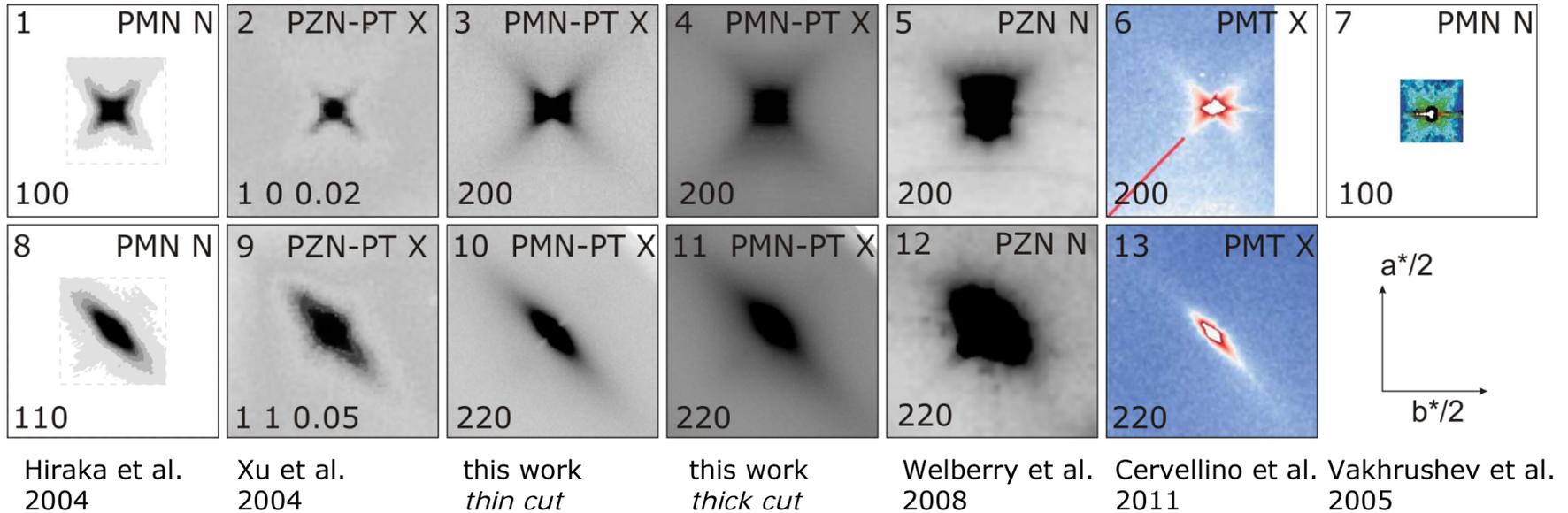
$$G(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{\xi_{//} \xi_{\perp}^2}{1 + q_{//}^2 \xi_{//}^2 (1 + q_{\perp}^2 \xi_{\perp}^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$I \sim q^{-2} \text{ to } I \sim q^{-5}$$

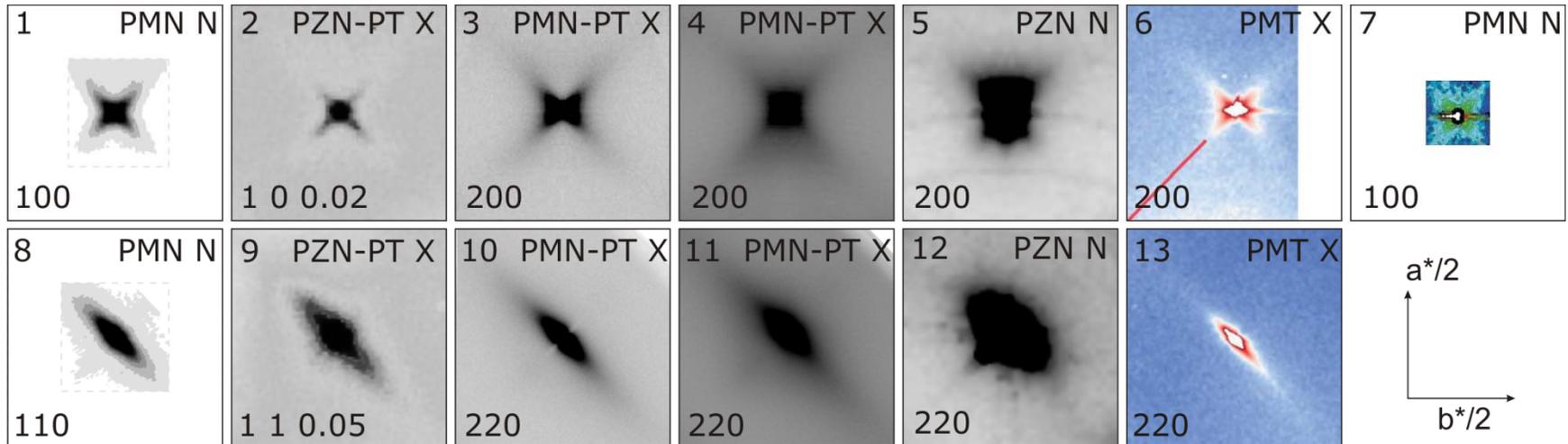
$$G(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{\xi_1 \xi_2 \xi_3}{\left(1 + (\xi_1 \mathbf{w}_1 \mathbf{q})^2 + (\xi_2 \mathbf{w}_2 \mathbf{q})^2 + (\xi_3 \mathbf{w}_3 \mathbf{q})^2\right)^2}$$

$$I \sim q^{-4}$$

# Comparing 2D data...



# Comparing 2D data



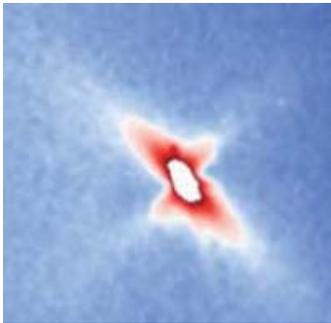
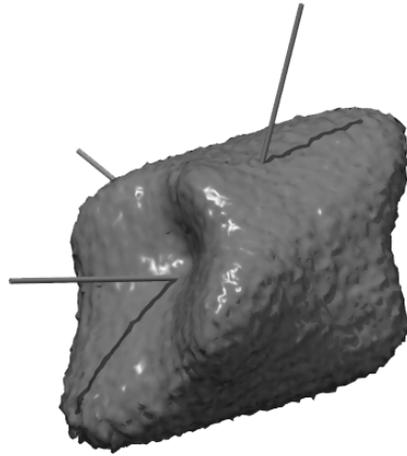
$\Delta Q_z?$  misalignment

thick layer?

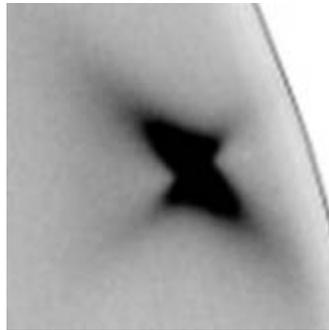
damaged surface  
(known)

# 310 node – 2D and 3D

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Cervellino et al.  
2011



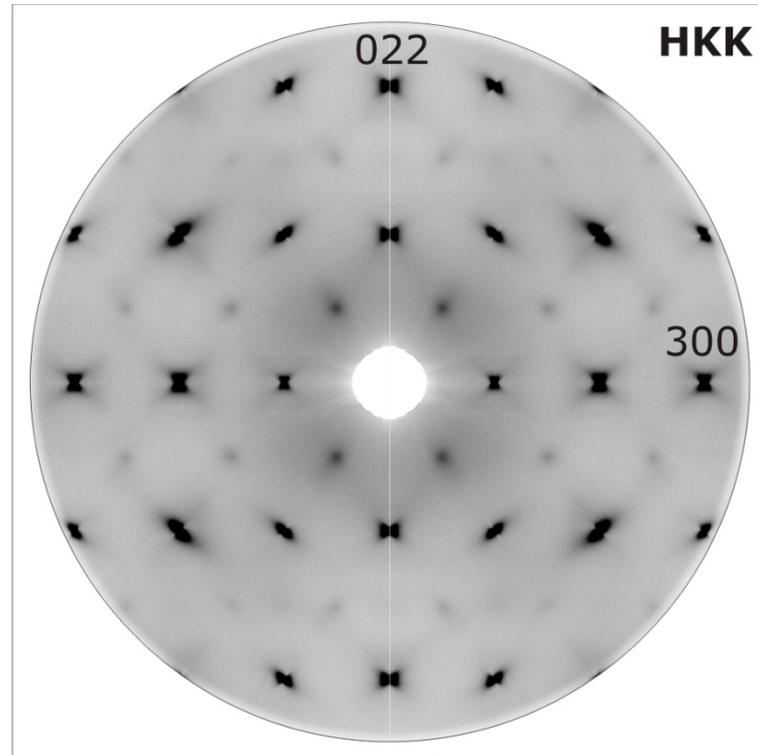
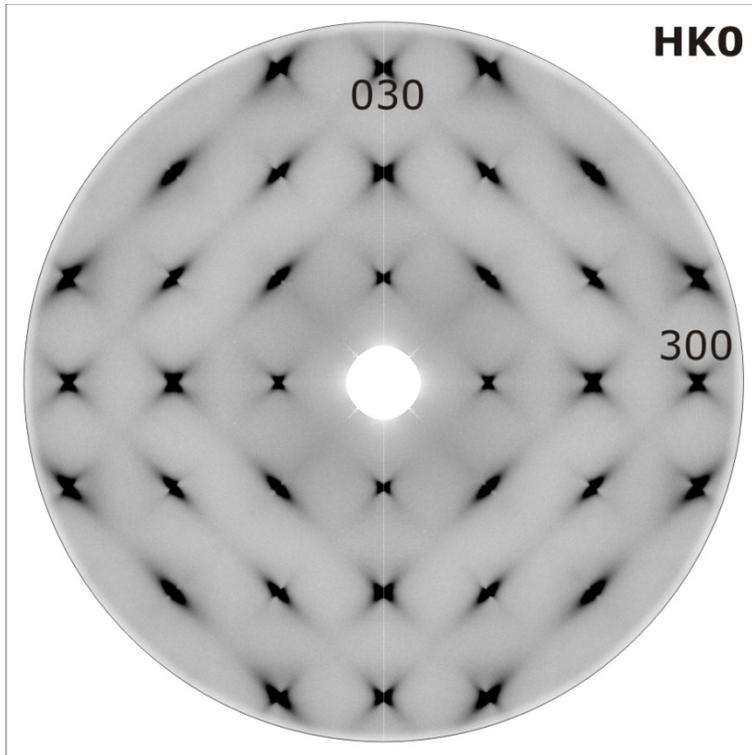
this work  
*thin cut*



Welberry et al.  
2008

# Do we care about this difference?

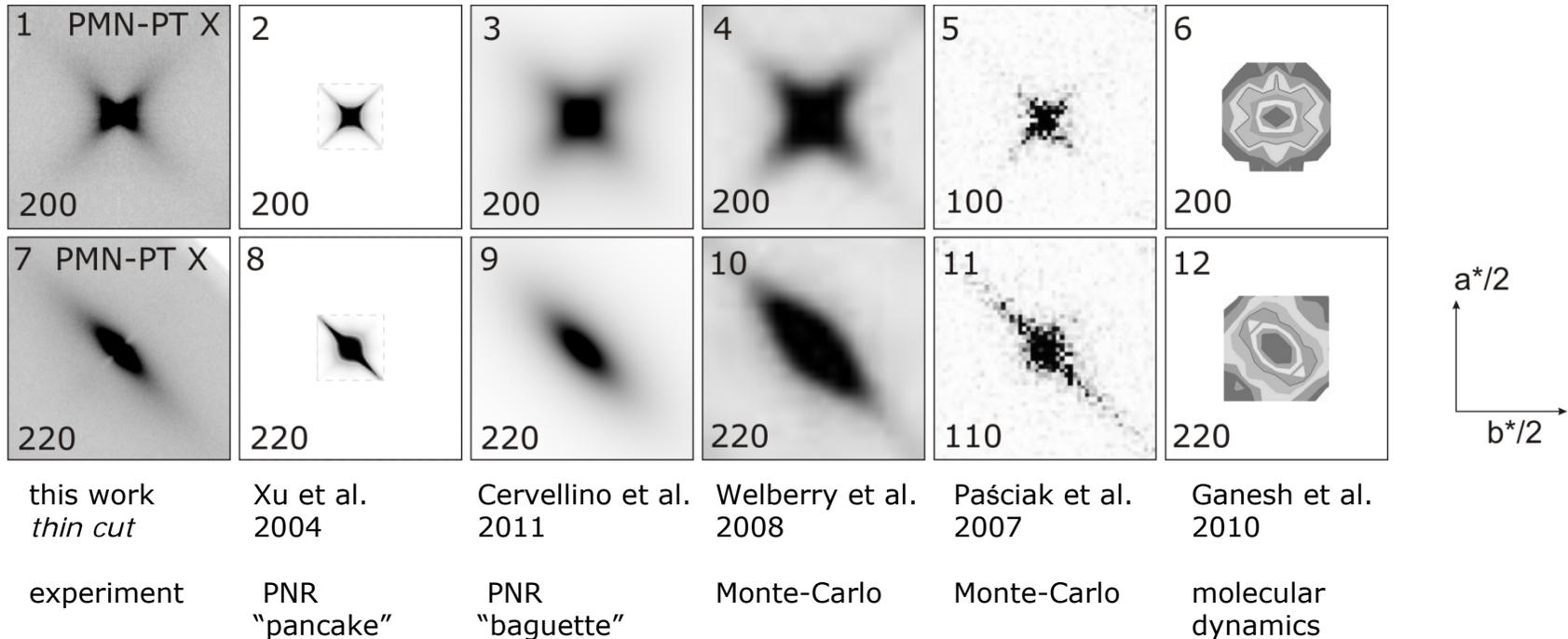
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directional minima along  $\tau = \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{q}$ : *not noted before*

asymmetry of spots out of high symmetry directions: *not noted before*

# Incomplete input for modeling



directional minima along  $\tau = \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{q}$ : *never predicted*

asymmetry of spots out of high symmetry directions: *never predicted*

- reverse MC modeling cannot reproduce features not present in the input
- existing phenomenological models have poor descriptive and predictive power

# Too complex for simple models?

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phenomenological PNR models introduce low-symmetry objects  
embedded in cubic matrix

- 3 parameters: characteristic lengths ( $\xi_\alpha \sim 10$  nm)
- 3 parameters: basis orientation
- 2 parameters: Pb displacement direction

still not enough to reproduce the experimental data

- Wrong q-dependence
- Does not reproduce 2D maps
- Wrong shape in 3D

Is something wrong with the structure of models?

How can one model diffuse scattering in relaxor without having PNRs?

# New parametrization

hint: use the analogy with thermal diffuse scattering

average symmetry: cubic

Pb position: delocalized over sphere

$$I \propto f_{Pb}^2(\mathbf{Q}) \exp(-2W_{Pb}(\mathbf{Q})) \frac{\sin^2(2\pi r_0 \mathbf{Q})}{Q^2} \cdot \mathbf{Q}^T \cdot \Sigma(\mathbf{Q})^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{Q}$$

$$\Sigma_{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{Q}) = (1 - \mu) \Sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{pc}(\mathbf{Q}) + \mu \Sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{fcc}(\mathbf{Q})$$

$$\Sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{pc}(\mathbf{Q}) = 2\Psi_{11}(1 - \cos(2\pi Q_\alpha)) + 2\Psi_{44}(2 - \cos(2\pi Q_\beta) - \cos(2\pi Q_\gamma))$$

$$\Sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{fcc}(\mathbf{Q}) = \Psi_{11}(2 - \cos(2\pi Q_\alpha)(\cos(2\pi Q_\beta) + \cos(2\pi Q_\gamma))) + (2\Psi_{44} - \Psi_{12})(1 - \cos(2\pi Q_\beta) \cos(2\pi Q_\gamma))$$

$$\Sigma_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{Q}) = (\Psi_{44} + \Psi_{12}) \sin(2\pi Q_\alpha) \sin(2\pi Q_\beta)$$

$\Psi_{ijkl}$  is of cubic symmetry: 3 invariants

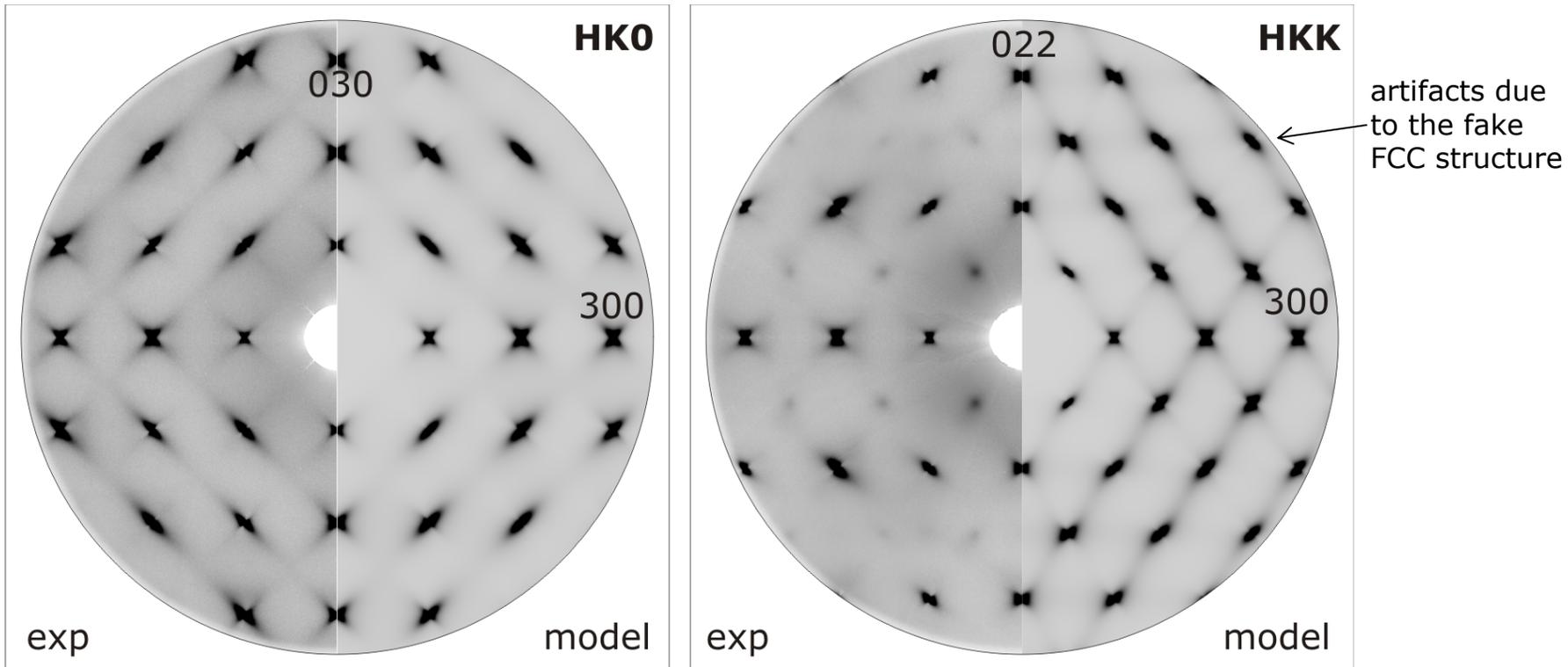
analogy with  $D(\mathbf{Q})$   
for monoatomic lattice

$\Psi$  is **not** elastic tensor

**2** adjustable parameters: i.e.  $\Psi_{11}/\Psi_{12}$  and  $\Psi_{11}/\Psi_{44}$ ; large  $q$ : adjustable  $\mu$   
for the prototype formulae see A. Bosak, D. Chernyshov, Acta Cryst. A **64**, 598 (2008)

# New parametrization: 2D

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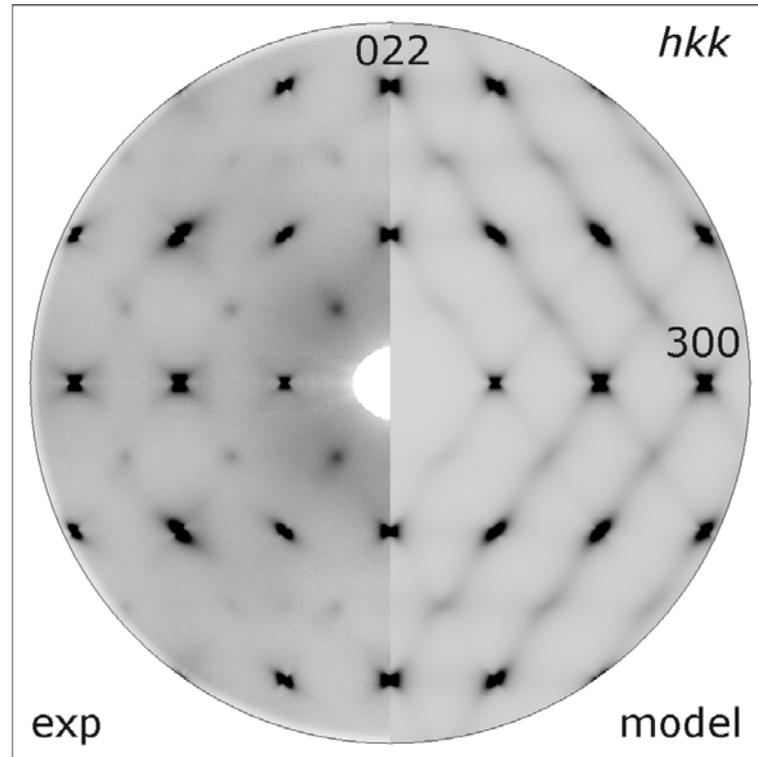
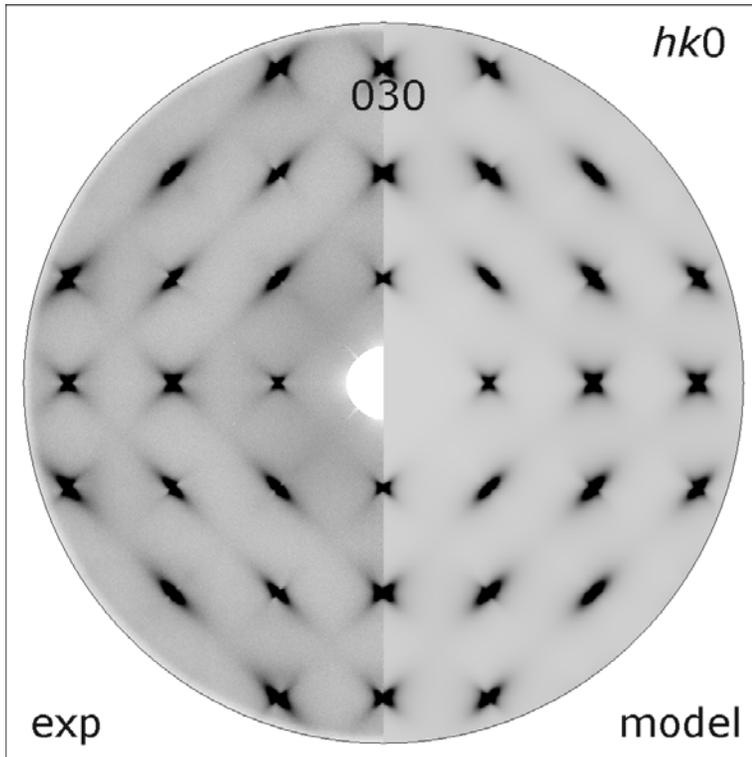
shape in the proximity of nodes: **reproduced**

decay: **automatically  $q^{-2}$**

relative intensities of spots: **qualitatively reproduced**

# New parametrization: 2D

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$\mu = 0.95$

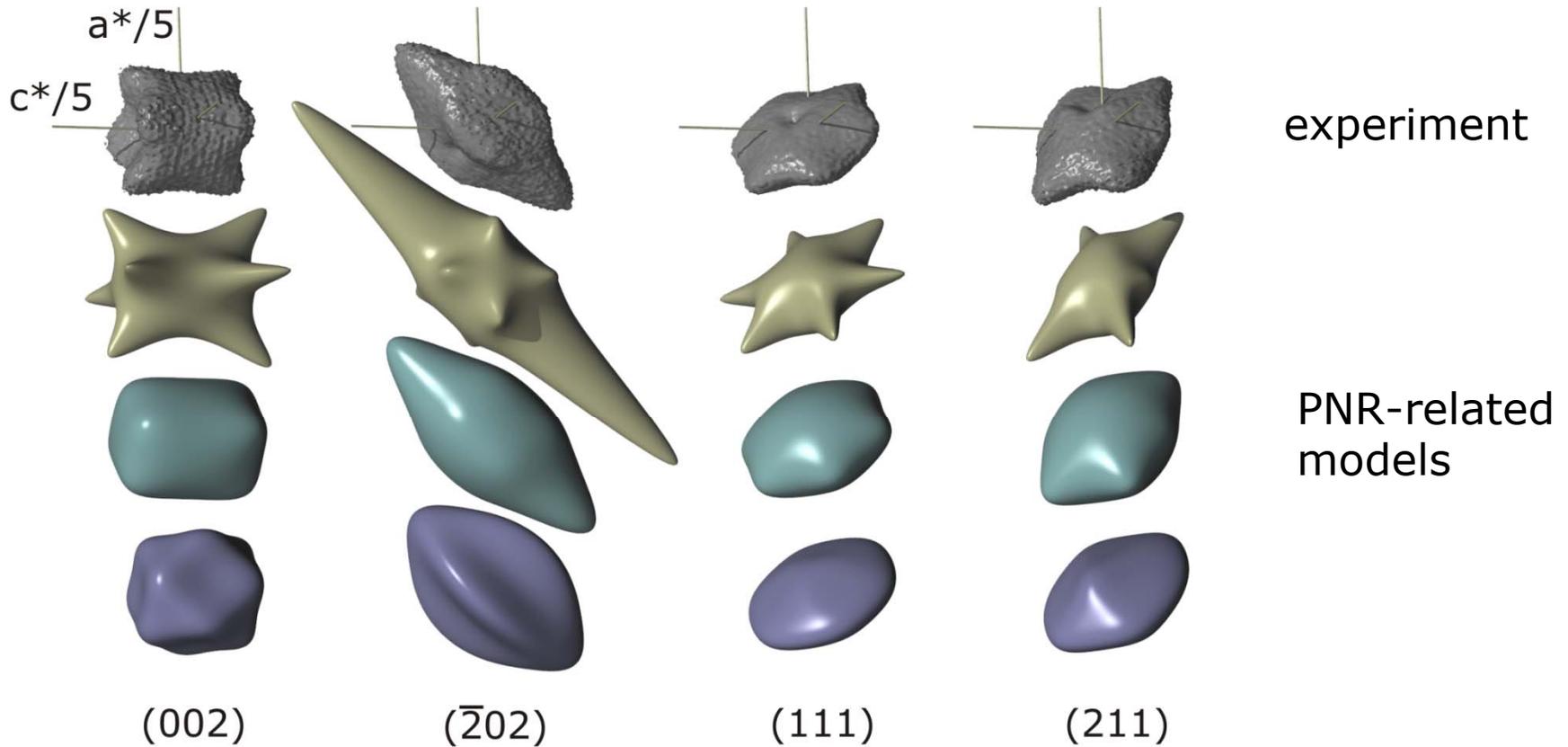
shape in the proximity of nodes: **reproduced**

decay: **automatically  $q^{-2}$**

relative intensities of spots: **qualitatively reproduced**

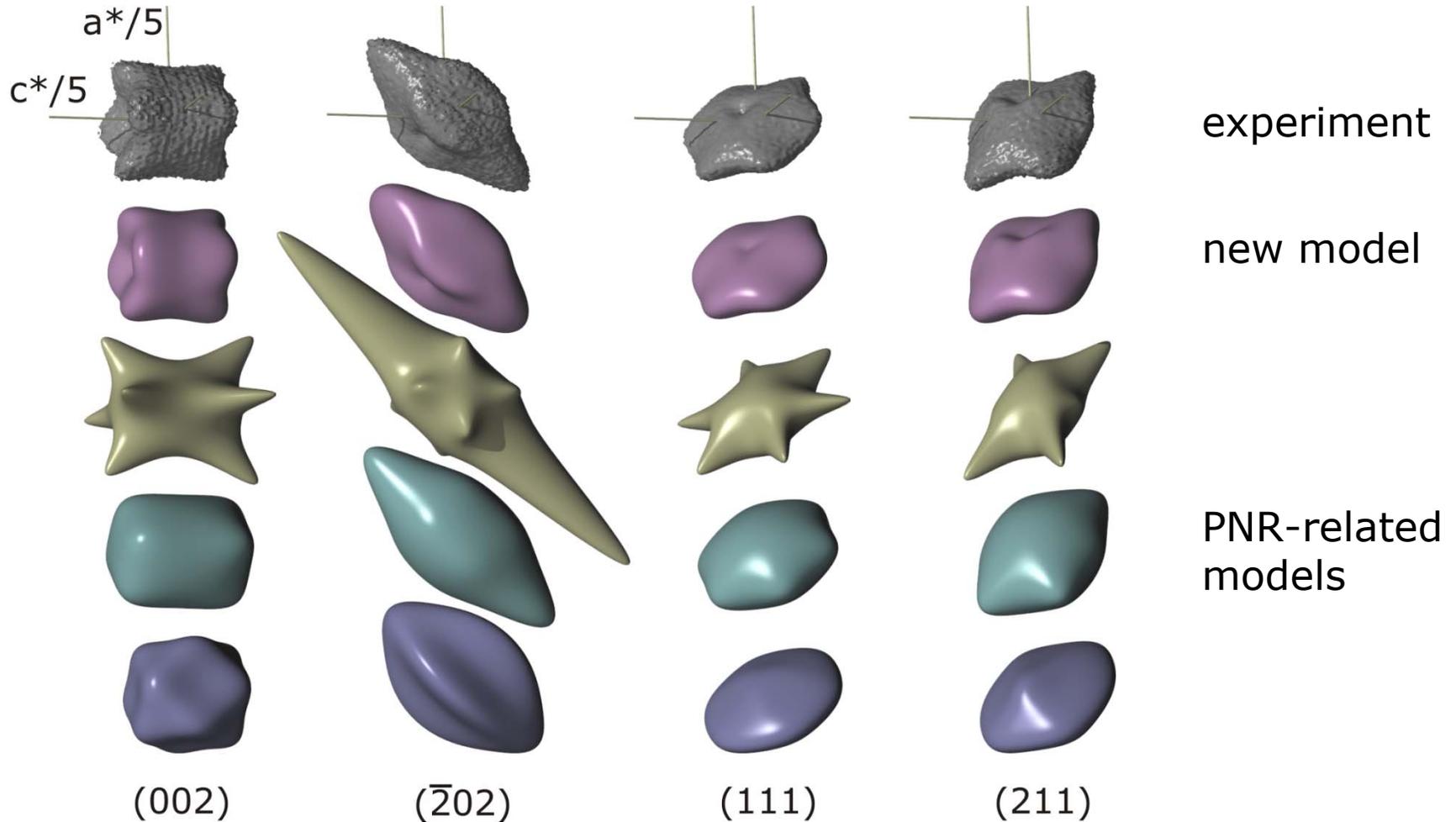
# New parametrization: 3D

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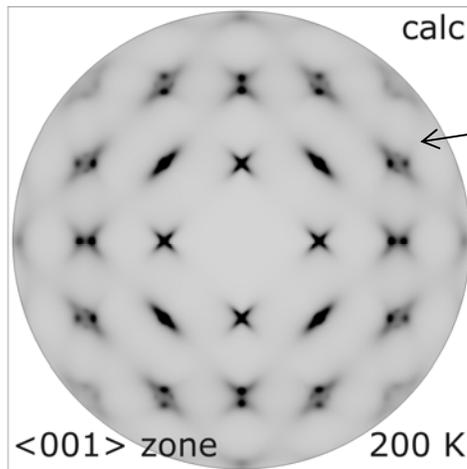
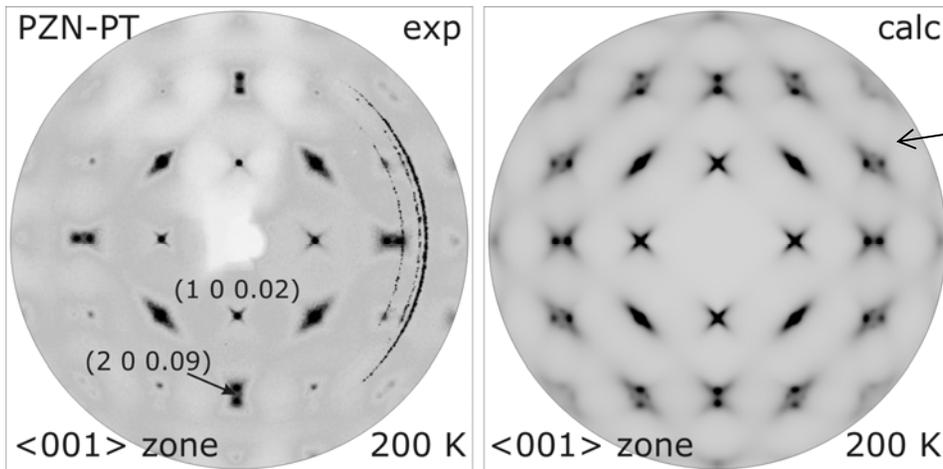


# New parametrization: 3D

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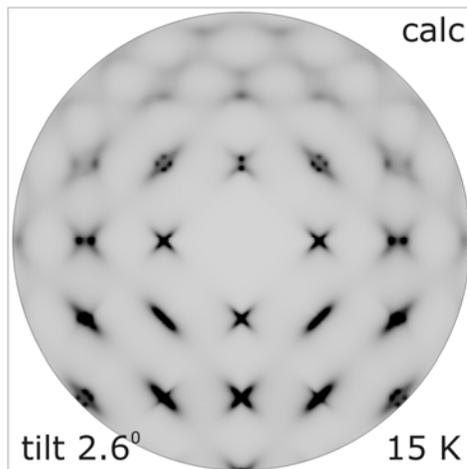
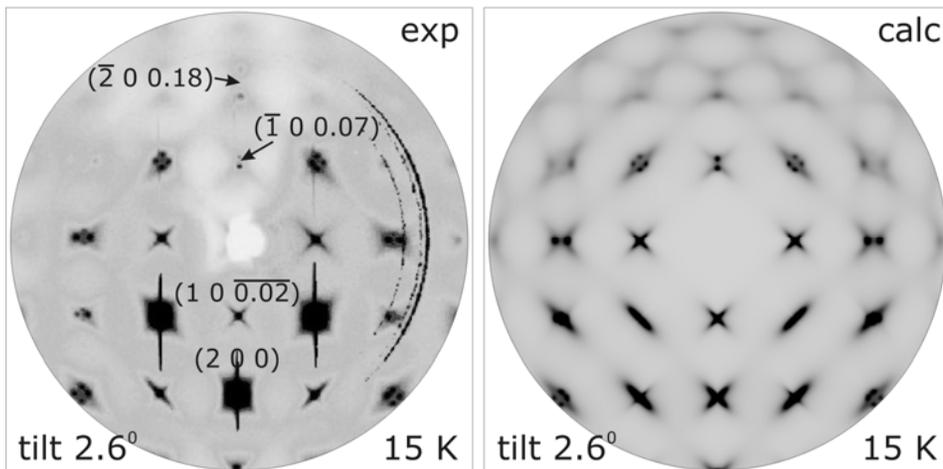
# Reconciling with the old data



$\Psi_{12}$  increased by 20%  
vs. PMN-PT

no artificial low-symmetry  
entities are introduced

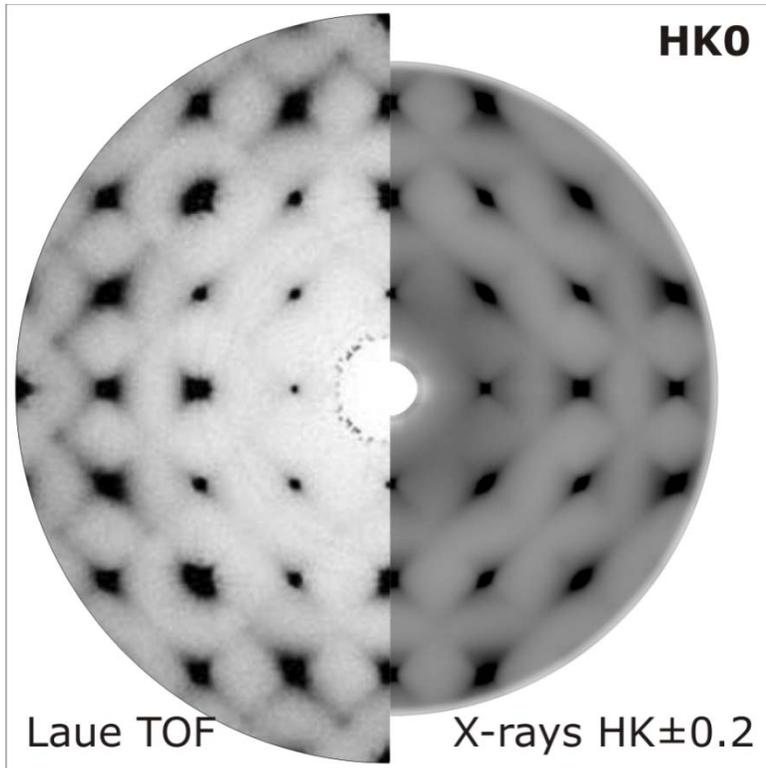
cubic symmetry **only**



experimental data for PZN-PT:  
G.Xu, Z. Zhong, H. Hiraka, G. Shirane,  
Phys. Rev. B **70**, 174109 (2004)

# Laue TOF vs. X-ray scattering

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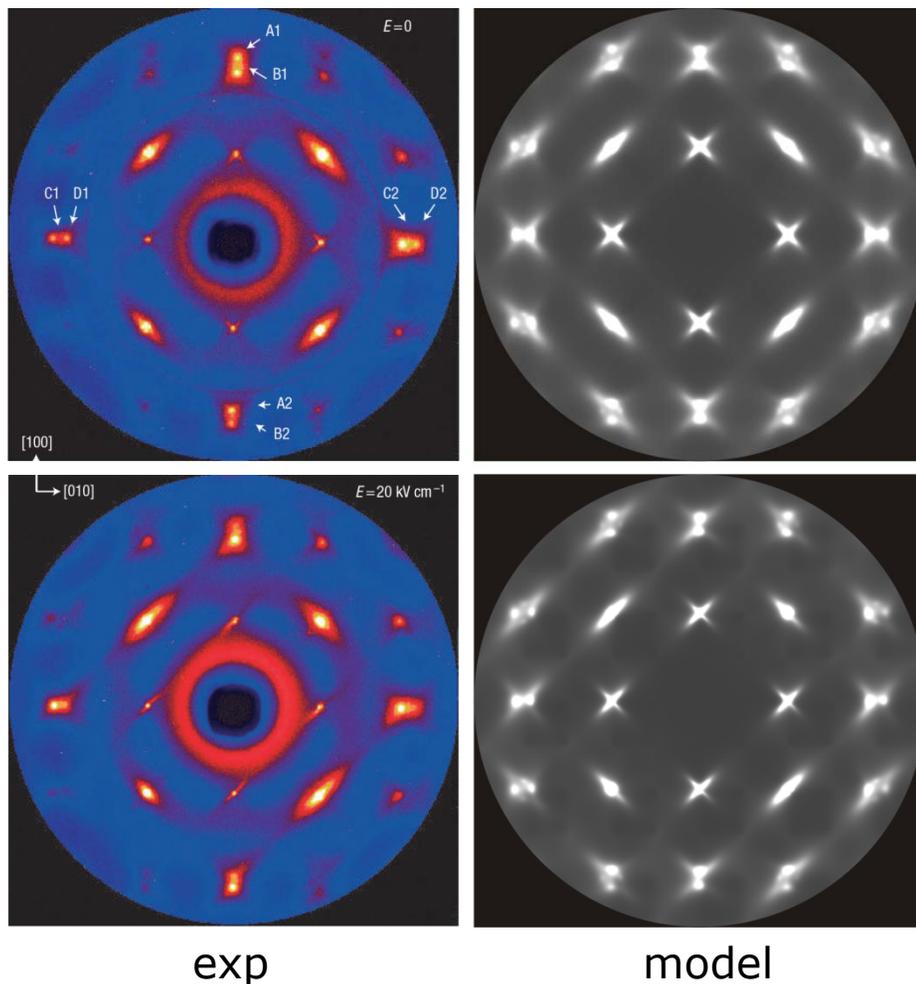
main features of Laue TOF pattern are reproduced when the integration layer thickness of  $\pm 0.15-0.2$  r.l.u. is taken

# More than description...

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- 2 parameter TDS-like formalism reproduces experimental 1D, 2D, and 3D data better than any PNR models
- Parametric model could be used for structure-property correlations
- It also has a *predictive power* – what would be under electric field?

# Electric field effect



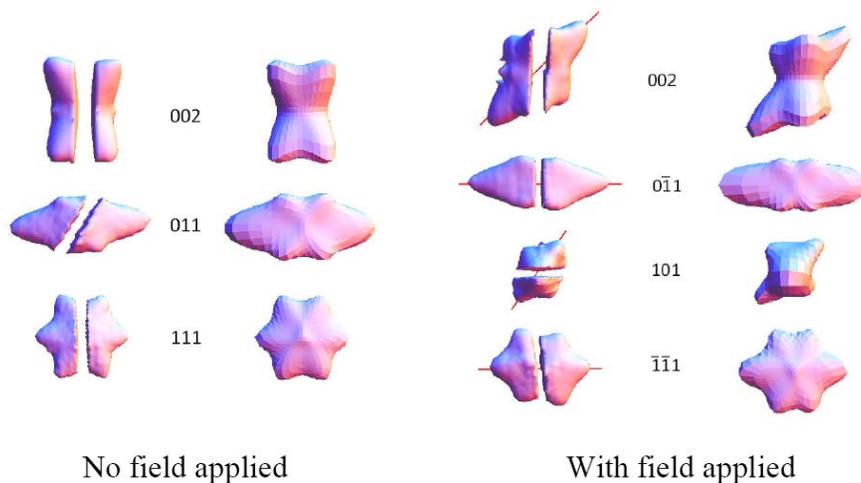
experimental data for PZN-PT:  
G. Xu, Z. Zhong, Y. Bing,  
Z.-G. Ye, G. Shirane,  
*Nature Materials* **5**, 134 (2006)

field applied along  $\langle 111 \rangle$   
intensity redistribution and  
pattern symmetry lowering is  
reproduced by replacing the  
uniform distribution of Pb  
displacements over sphere by  
ellipsoid-like distribution  
with 1 parameter

# Pleasant surprise



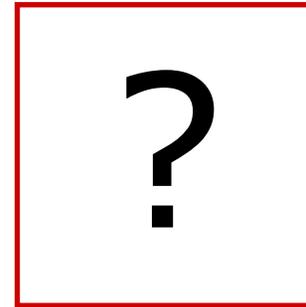
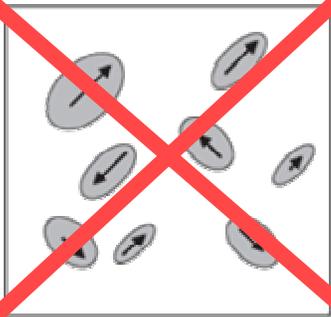
MS30.P08(C417) | B.A. Frandsen: Quantitative modeling of diffuse scattering from a relaxor ferroelectric



- 3D reconstructions from CCD images
- similar low-q formalism, based on purely cubic symmetry

# If no polar domains – than what?

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Parameterization can be used to generate  
real space structure with required  
correlation properties

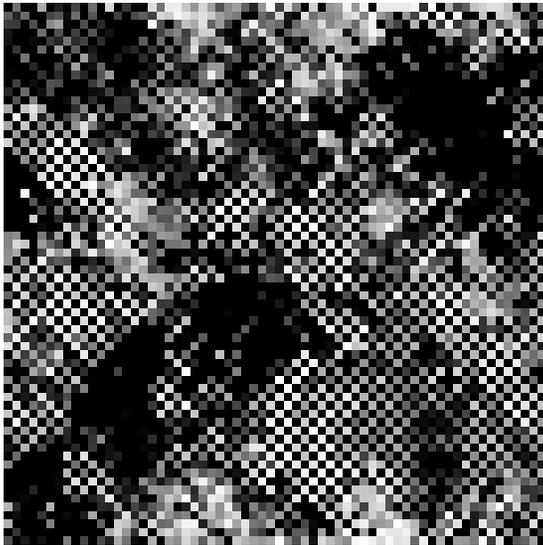
$$\Psi_{11}/\Psi_{12} \text{ and } \Psi_{11}/\Psi_{44} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}(\mathbf{Q}) \rightarrow \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{Q}) \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_i$$

(as before we consider only lead subattice)

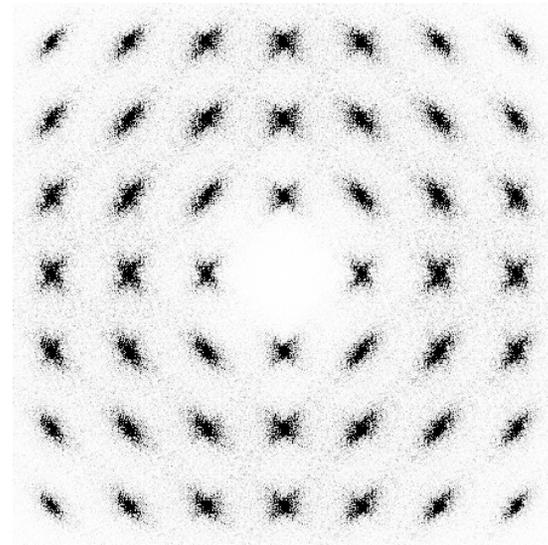
# Real space model: concept at work

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- cluster  $64^3$  was populated by  $3 \cdot 64^3$  waves with random phases and appropriate amplitudes
- all local displacements were normalized to the radius of Pb sphere (e.g.  $0.08a$ )



cut of real space cluster  
x component

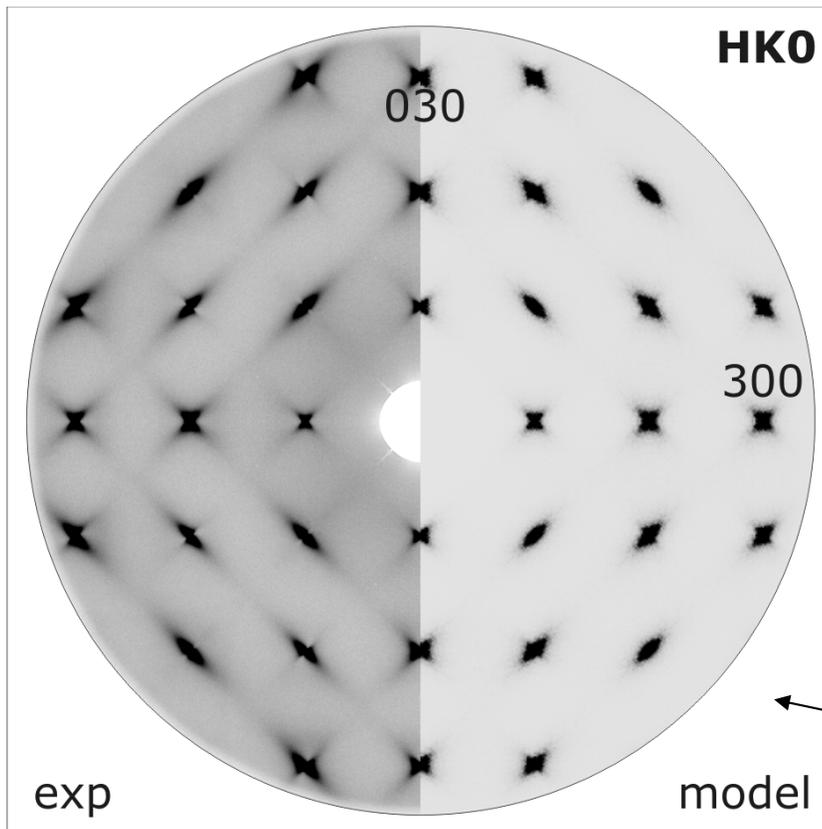


HK0 scattering from cluster  
decay as  $q^{-2}$

# Real space model: concept does work

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- 4 clusters generated + Laue averaging (x48)

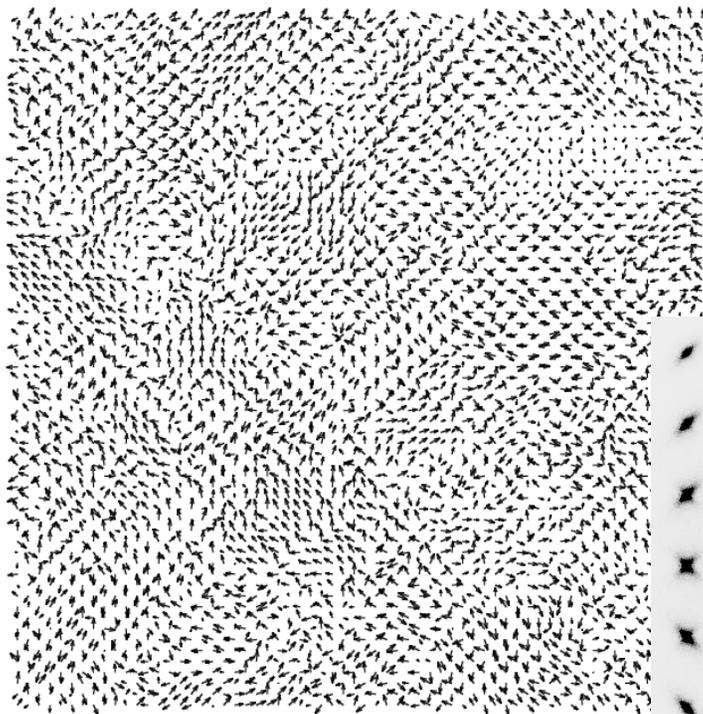


experimental scattering can  
be reproduced by Pb  
displacement pattern  
**without introducing PNRs**

microscopic model!

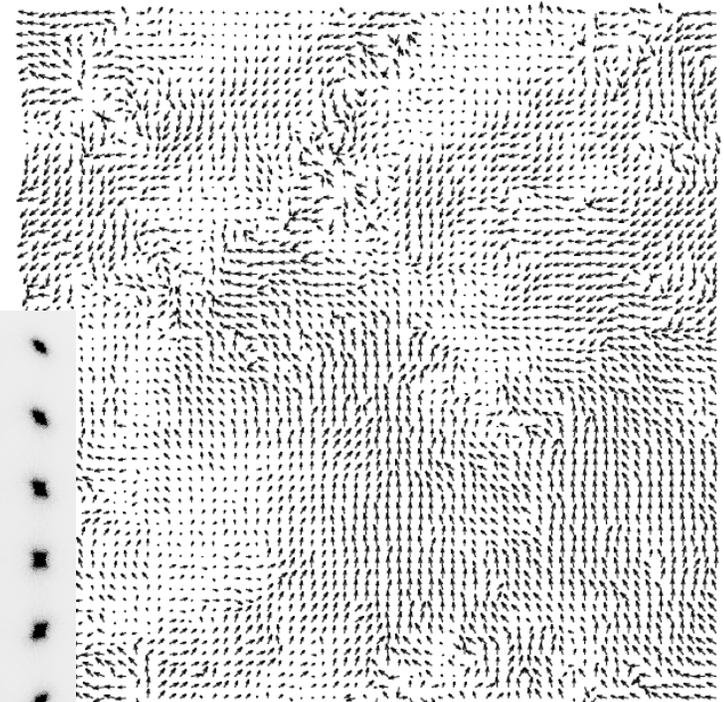
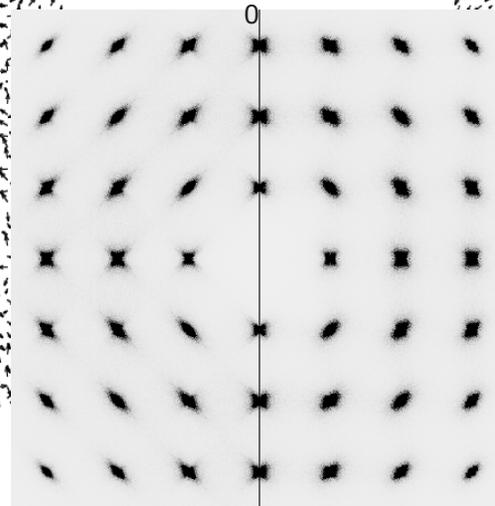
# Real space model: displacement pattern

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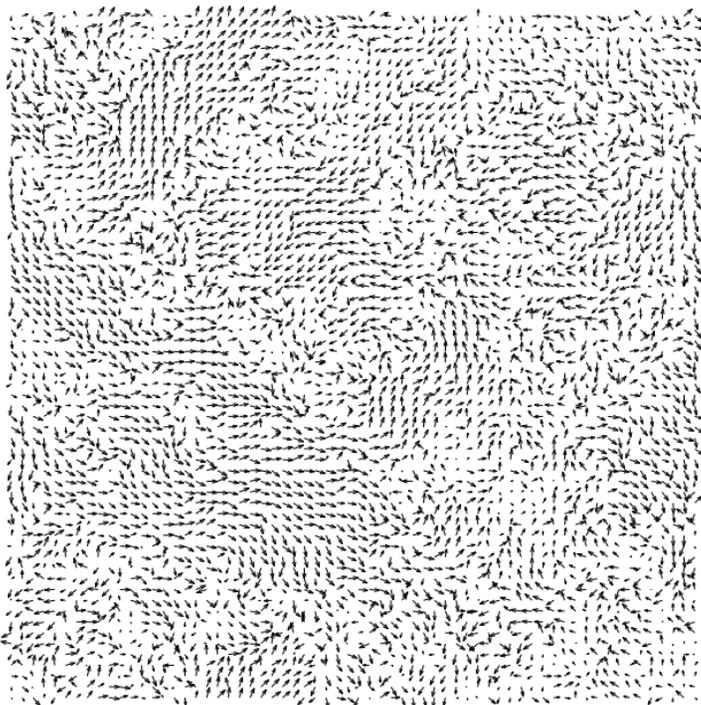
fcc-like model

100 nm

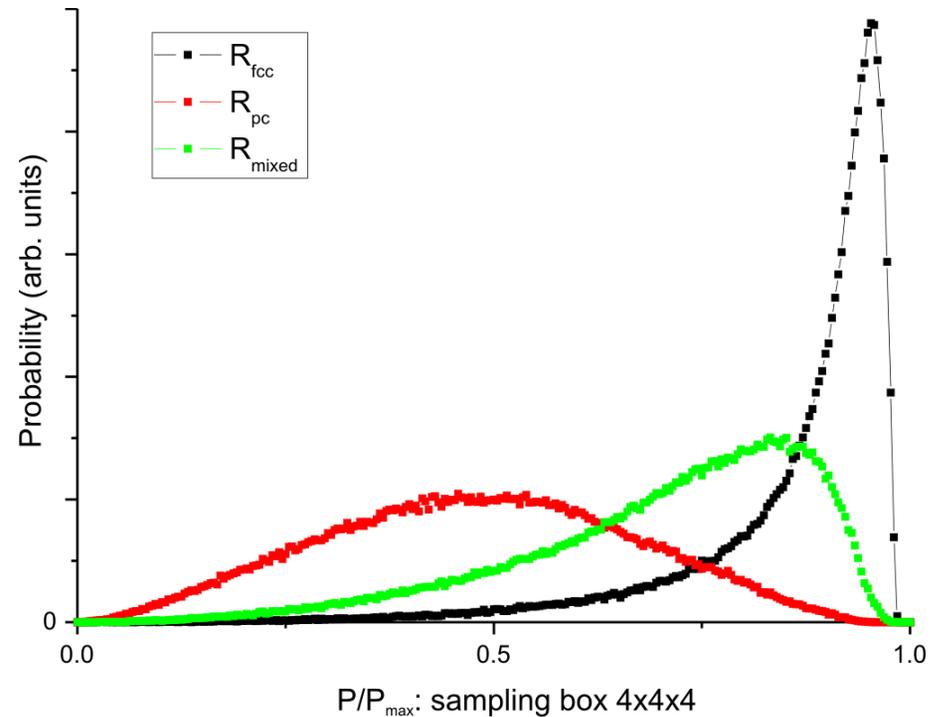
A horizontal black line representing a scale bar of 100 nm.

primitive cubic model

# Real space model: displacement pattern

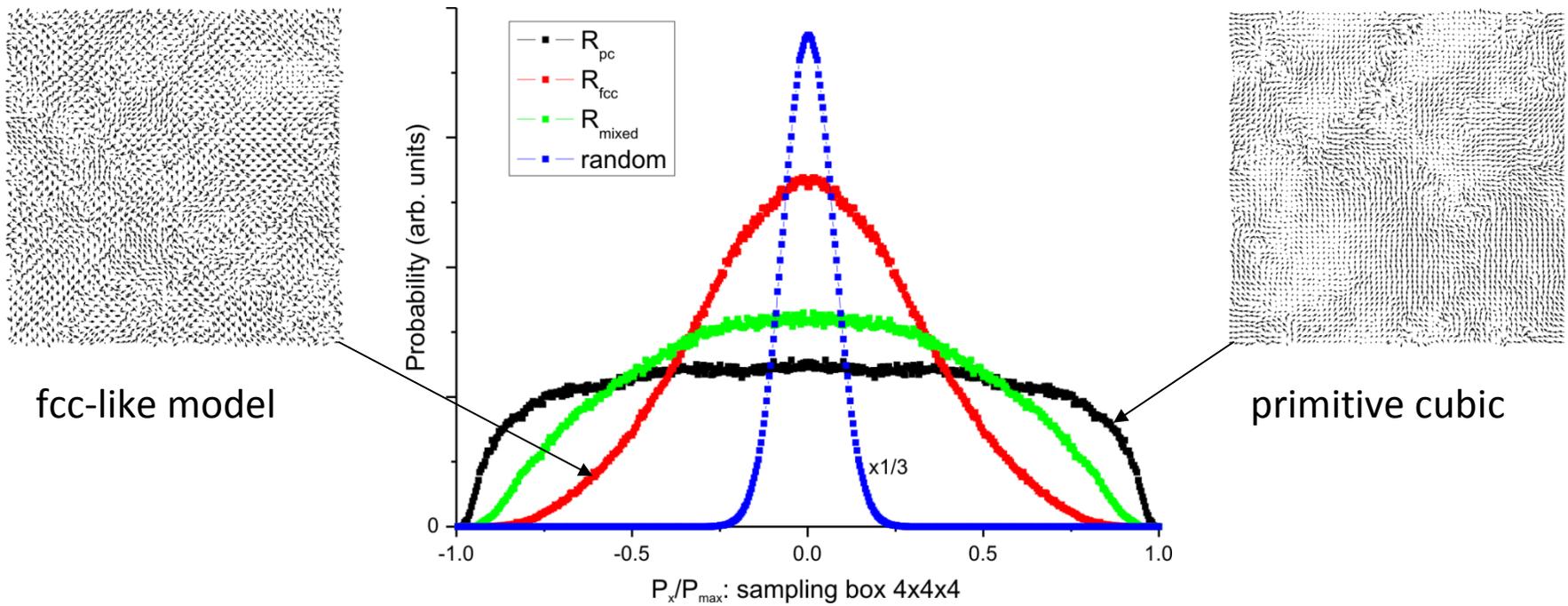


mixed model



$$\mathcal{R}_{mixed}(\mathbf{Q}) = \mu \mathcal{R}_{fcc}(\mathbf{Q}) + (1 - \mu) \mathcal{R}_{pc}(\mathbf{Q})$$

# Local polarisation



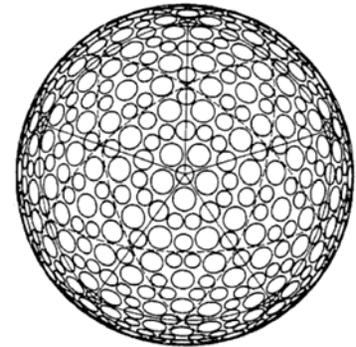
Using 2D  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  NMR, the probability distribution of local polarization in PMN is found to be Gaussian

[R. Blinc, J. Dolinšek, A. Gregorovič, B. Zalar, C. Filipič, Z. Kutnjak, A. Levstik, and R. Pirc, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 83, 424 (1999)]

# Microscopic model behind

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- The set of possible positions of Pb is very large and can be approximated by a spherical shell
- Pb ions interact essentially *via* the  $\text{BO}_3$  octahedral framework; they can be aligned by a dynamical local distortion - phonon with sufficient amplitude and proper polarization
- The probability of switching is therefore inversely proportional to the frequency of the wave ( $\sim \omega^{-2}$  for  $\hbar\omega \ll k_B T$ ), and the Pb displacement pattern remains frozen, unless it is affected by another wave/phonon. The quasielastic diffuse scattering mimics the thermal diffuse scattering pattern from acoustic phonons



golf ball  
U.S. Patent 4,560,168

- 
- ❑ Relaxor-specific component of diffuse scattering (RSDS) should disappear at high temperature as Pb displacements will become a free uncorrelated movement over the spherical shell
  - ❑ RSDS should disappear under high pressure as Pb ions will be immobilised in the emerging local minima on the sphere
  - ❑ RSDS should deform in an applied electric field as Pb ions as additional anisotropy will be created over the displacement shell; features perpendicular to the field direction should shrink
  - ❑ The naturally created hierarchy of displacement patterns in space and their respective lifetimes should result in the large spread of relaxation times
  - ❑ The uniform slow fading of polarization in switched domain without wall movement is also in line with our concept.

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G. Xu, Z. Zhong, Y. Bing, , Z.-G. Ye, G. Shirane, Nature Materials **5**, 134 (2006)

S.B. Vakhruhev, A.A. Naberezhnov, N.M. Okuneva, B.N. Savenko, Phys. Solid State **40**, 1728 (1998)

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  - ❌ RSDS should deform in an applied electric field as an additional anisotropy will be created over the displacement shell; features perpendicular to the field direction should shrink
  - ❌ The naturally created hierarchy of displacement patterns in space and their respective lifetimes should result in the large spread of relaxation times
  - ❌ The uniform slow fading of polarization in switched domain without wall movement is also in line with our concept.

# Conclusions I

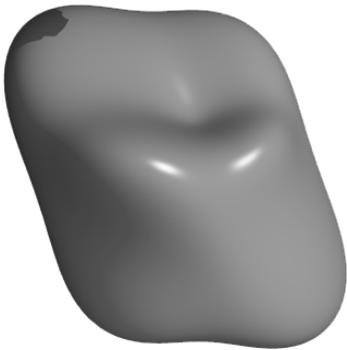
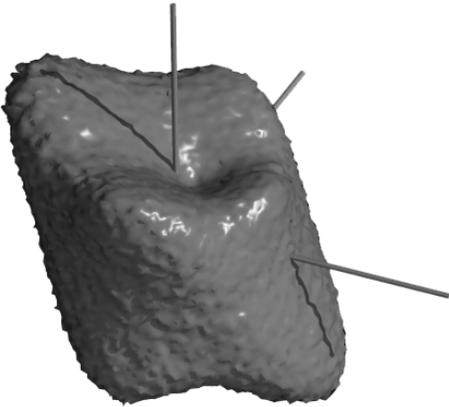
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- ❑ The characteristic diffuse scattering in Pb-containing relaxors is incompatible with any proposed static PNR models ( $\xi_{\alpha} \sim 10$  nm)
- ❑ We suggest a phenomenological pseudo-TDS model with a minimal number of adjustable parameters (2 to 3) and keeping average cubic symmetry
- ❑ Proposed model even in the current very simple form fits much better available experimental data
- ❑ Corresponding real space realization is a superposition of displacements - at variance with a distribution of polar domains.

# Conclusions II

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- ❑ Diffuse clouds of complex 3D shape require 3D real-space models
- ❑ Special care has to be taken about effects distorting 2D images (geometrical correction, orientation matrix, thickness of reciprocal layers ...)
- ❑ Often there is a volume of good old data on 1D  $q$ -dependences – should not be ignored.
- ❑ If a disordered structure affects the properties – the model has to be compatible with physical properties.

# Where to move

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- ❑ More realistic modeling - with all atoms in the unit cell.
- ❑ From statistical properties of real space realizations to physical properties.

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- ❑ Why the decay is sometimes a bit faster than  $q^{-2}$ ? Is it related to the attraction/repulsion poles on the Pb-locus sphere?
  - ❑ Does Pb pattern results from normal phonon population, or it resembles the mechanism of “rogue waves” creation? Or non-linear discrete breathers? Or critical fluctuations?
  - ❑ And what happens in lead-free relaxors?

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