

Indexing XRD-patterns, getting cell parameters

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Abstract

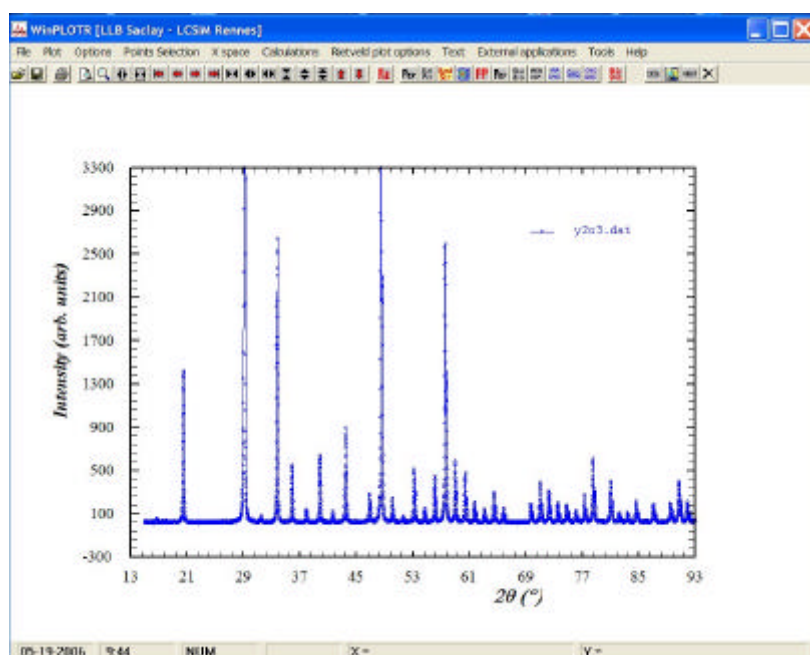
Some keys, hints and tips for the successful indexing of a powder diffraction pattern are given through examples, by using exclusively free access programs for academic research. Essentially, the sample has to correspond to a single phase; the powder pattern resolution should be maximal, avoiding preferred orientation; the tools used for peak position hunting and indexing should be the best on the market; the figures of merit have to be understood so as to be able to save time by discarding the poor quality suggestions of the indexing programs; further checking by post-indexing visualization is recommended in case of good quality multiple equivalent propositions; finally, whole pattern fitting has to be the ultimate test in order to be convinced enough for attempting the structure solution.

Tip-1 : Indexing powder diffraction data is probably the crystallography topic where the traditional way of sharing openly computer programs remains the more respected (ITO, TREOR, DICVOL, CRYSFIRE, McMaille, etc).

Exercise 1 – starting with a simple case : Y_2O_3

The powder pattern for that exercise is available at <http://www.cristal.org/powbase/> (Powbase is a small database of powder pattern), as well as the others.

Start WinPLOTR, select “File”, then select “Open pattern file”, select INSTRM=0 in the list of “Format of data file”, a windows allows you to select the data, find y2o3.dat (inside of 81.zip in PowBase) and open it.



Tip-2 : The file y2o3.dat is a text file. Lines starting by ! or # are ignored by WinPLOTR. The data format corresponding to INSTRM=0 corresponds to a line with starting angle, step and last angle in degrees 2θ , then follow the intensities step by step in free format :

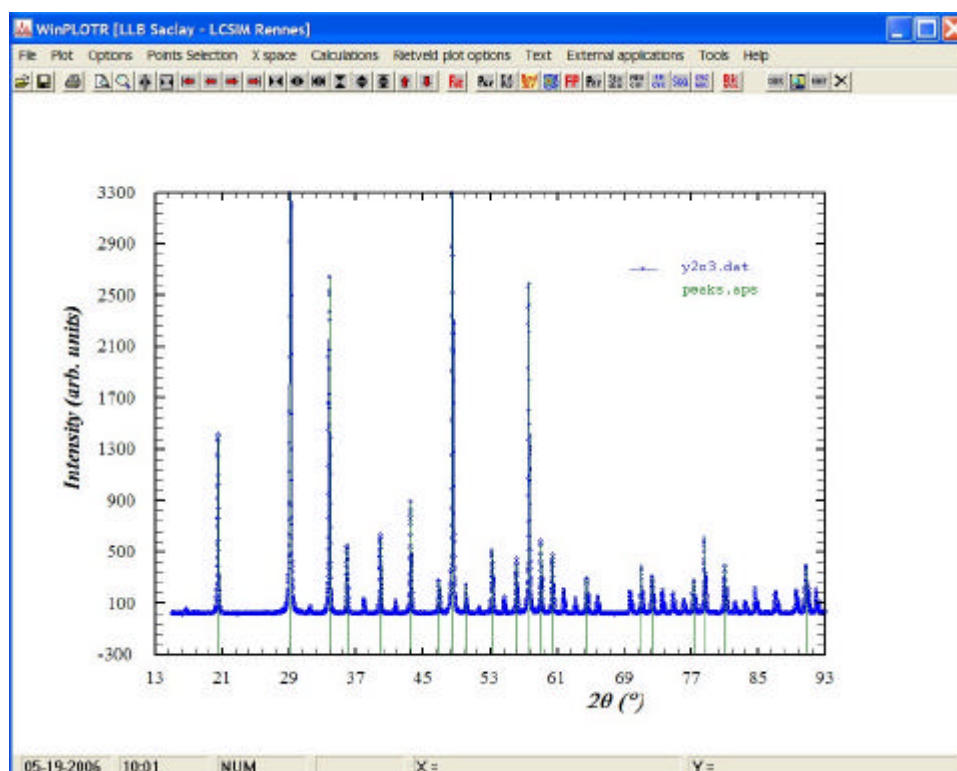
```

15.00 0.01 145.90
  25      22      19      21      19      14      23      25
  26      21      24      22      33      26      15      21
  19      20      20      16      14      17      22      21
  17      27      18      30      21      21      21      18
  19      22      22      28      19      19      13      30
.....etc
  37      33      44      48      55      46      61      48
  64      53      72      80      87      122      150      142
 150      203      238      256      316      386      453      557
 695      762      918      1005      1263      1372      1416      1398
1363      1242      1095      1027      837      761      587      506
 384      300      205      199      158      121      123      109
 107      82      64      67      42      68      62      59
  55      51      45      47      36      31      31      43
  32      28      39      27      22      35      25      29
  29      17      23      24      18      23      26      29

```

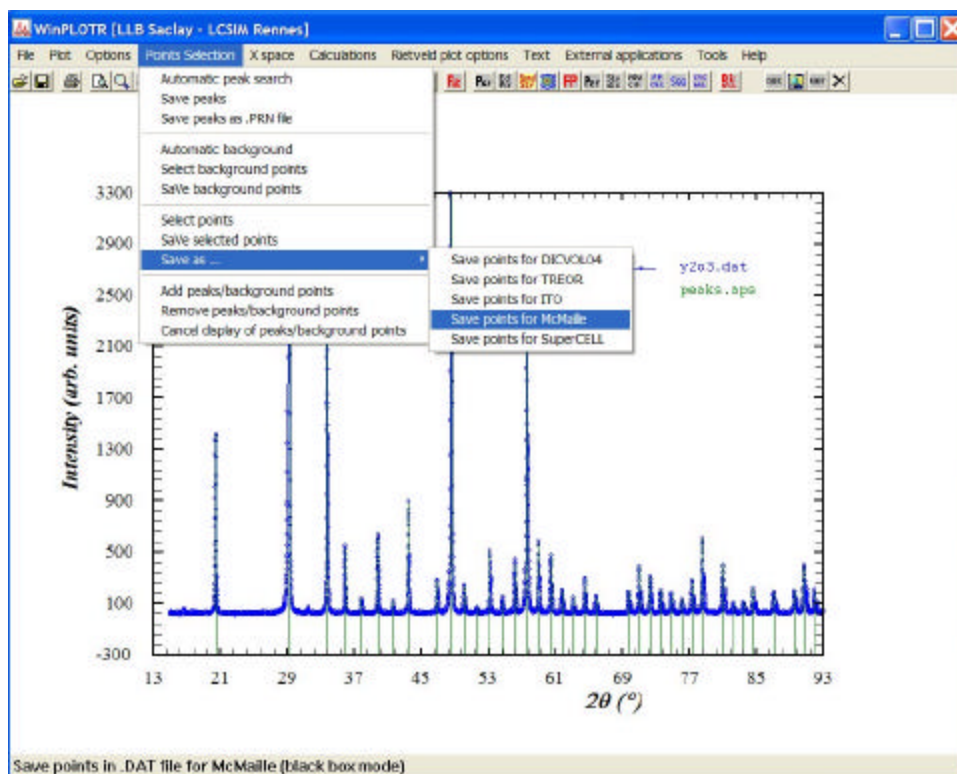
At this stage you are expected to make use of your crystallography expertise already. You must answer to the question : high or low symmetry ? Clearly, just by looking at the pattern, there are evidences for a high symmetry because of the quasi constant angular interval between the peak positions. Keep that possibility in mind.

Then click on “Points selection”, and “Automatic peak search”, select “Search Cu $K\alpha$ 1 $K\alpha$ 2 doublets” (yes, this is conventional laboratory X-ray data without any monochromator in the incident beam). Click on “OK”, the result is 21 peaks found if the range goes up to $93^\circ(2\theta)$. Clearly, many peaks with small intensity were not identified.



Go back to “Points selection”, and “Automatic peak search”, and change the “peak threshold” to 0.005 instead of 0.02, click on OK, that time 38 peaks are detected, click OK. Even if some very small peaks are not taken into account, we can try now to index.

Click again on “Points selection”, then on “save as”, then on “Save points for McMaille” (what were you expecting, I am the author of McMaille ;-):



Then a box is opened, type a title (why not Y2O3), give the wavelength (1.54056, yes this is $K\alpha_1$ only now) and let the zeroshift to be 0, click OK, the program says that a file named y2o3_mcmy.dat has been created, click OK and quit WinPLOTR.

Here is the y2o3_mcmy.dat file content :

```
Y2O3
! Wavelength, zeropoint and NGRID (NGRID=3: black box mode)
1.540560 0.000 3
! List of 2theta positions, intensity (min.=20)
20.50481 1411.71155
29.15784 11198.95700
33.79123 2632.66553
35.91046 531.02966
37.92135 135.21042
39.84880 606.23480
41.70092 118.49068
43.48877 881.15845
46.88918 271.40564
48.52835 4213.47021
50.12016 230.08562
51.68559 66.62399
53.20726 506.43854
54.69715 117.27492
```

```

56.16987      404.76215
57.61465      2603.39868
59.03540      563.80334
60.43375      471.21359
61.81146      194.23712
Etc

```

Copy that file inside of the directory where McMaille is installed and start this indexing program (click on “McMaille.exe, and give the file name without extension: y2o3_mcmy) :

```

C:\Documents\Conférences\ECM-23\Indexation\McMaille\McMaille.exe
Entry file (no extension) ??y2o3_mcmy
y2o3_mcmy

McMaille version 3.04
Data file : y2o3_mcmy

WARNING - WARNING - WARNING - WARNING - WARNING
This is the black box mode...
Could need the whole night, if not more...
If you do not want to continue : Ctrl+C would be better
To cancel but save, type K (capital letter) anytime

Monte Carlo search :
Cubic:      Rp      a      U      Nind
1      54. 0.060 7.4967 421.3 2
1      60. 0.032 10.6031 1192.1 0
1      96. 0.032 10.6032 1192.1 0
1      276. 0.032 10.6033 1192.1 0
Hexagonal:  Rp      a      c      U      Nind
1      164. 0.127 8.6573 5.3005 344.0 3
1      275. 0.038 8.6575 5.3007 344.1 1
Rhombohedral: Rp      a      c      U      Nind
Tetragonal:  Rp      a      c      U      Nind
1      189. 0.082 8.6554 14.5572 1090.6 3
1      400. 0.039 7.4979 7.4948 421.3 2
1      1086. 0.023 7.4966 5.3019 298.0 0
2      46. 0.023 7.4977 5.2977 297.8 0
Orthorhombic: Rp      a      b      c      U      Nind
1      76. 0.054 7.4946 5.3019 2.3713 94.2 3
1      102. 0.038 7.4977 5.2981 5.3019 210.6 2
1      121. 0.037 7.4956 5.3008 5.3024 210.7 2
1      145. 0.013 7.4974 3.7472 5.3021 149.0 0

YOU HAVE FOUND AN INTERESTING RESULT : Rp < Rmin!

FINAL VALUES : (STANDARD DEVIATIONS : 2nd LINE)
ZERO      LAMBDA      A      B      C      ALPHA      BETA      GAMMA
-0.015    1.5406    7.4999    3.7499    5.3031    90.000    90.000    90.000
0.003     0.0000    0.0004    0.0004    0.0003    0.000    0.000    0.000
RECIPROCAL CELL : 0.13334 0.26667 0.18857 90.000 90.000 90.000
VOLUME (A**3) : 149.142

M(20) = 280.06
F(20) = 243.64 ( 0.0019, 43)

```

Tip-3 : You will probably not obtain exactly this result, because McMaille uses a Monte Carlo algorithm, implying a sequence of pseudo-random number. You would obtain the same result if you start exactly at the same point in that sequence. The starting point is defined in McMaille by the time (expressed in seconds since the beginning of the day) at the instant when you start the program. At least you should obtain a similar result in a different order.

Let us comment these results. McMaille is working in the so-called “black box mode”. We have given only very few informations : peak positions, intensities, wavelength, a null zeropoint (this is a constant – an approximation - angular shift due to both instrumental – if misaligned - and sample – if not in the diffracting plane – effects that we should not neglect in

the next exercises). In that black box mode, McMaille follows its own strategy : testing first the highest symmetries, down to triclinic, inside of some predetermined limits of cell parameters and volumes.

Tip-4 : All indexing programs have such maximal default values which the user has to know – see the manuals - and should modify if no result is obtained.

The essential things to see in the output file of any indexing program are the FoMs (Figures of Merit), generally noted M20 and F20 or F30. The higher are these FoMs, the more the corresponding cells are plausible. For the definitions of the FoMs, see the excellent chapter 7, autoindexing, written by Per-Erik Wernet in the book “Structure Determination from Powder Diffraction Data.

Tip-5 : References are at the end of the tutorial

McMaille provides also these FoMs for selected good cells, but the solutions are sorted according to a somewhat different criterion noted R_p which is equivalent to a Rietveld profile reliability. The program will not always stop like it has done here, it may well examine all symmetries down to triclinic. In black box mode, it will stop if a solution with $R_p < 0.02$ is found. In that case, it has found an orthorhombic solution with $R_p = 0.013$ with a very small cell volume (149 \AA^3) and very large conventional FoMs ($M20 = 280$). A very small R_p value (< 0.05) means that the powder pattern is well fitted, the smaller will be R_p , the larger will be the conventional FoMs M20 and F20.

But is it the good cell ?

Tip-6 : The ultimate decision has to be made by the user, always...

Having a good formation in crystallography will help a lot to make the decision. In that case, solutions with small R_p are also proposed in cubic ($R = 0.032$), hexagonal ($R = 0.038$) and tetragonal ($R = 0.023$).

Tip-7 : First important point to keep in mind for becoming an expert in indexing : any cell with a high symmetry can also be indexed in all the lower symmetries.

In that case, if McMaille had not stopped at the orthorhombic symmetry, it would have provided cells also in monoclinic and triclinic symmetries, possibly with even lower R_p values.

Are all lines indexed ? In black box mode, whatever the number of lines given, McMaille will work only by using the first 20 lines, and has a tolerancy of 3 unindexed lines. The number of not indexed lines is provided (parameter Nind in the figure above). All lines are indexed in cubic, tetragonal and orthorhombic ($Nind = 0$). Making the ratio V_{cubic}/V_{ortho} gives $1192/148 = 8...$ So, very probably, the cell is cubic. McMaille prepares a new .dat file for further investigations in manual mode. That file name is y2o3_mcmmy-new.dat. Edit that file :

```
Y2O3
! Wavelength, zeropoint, Ngrid
1.540560 0.0000 0
! Codes for symmetry
```

```

1 0 0 0 0 0
! W, Nind
0.300 3
!Pmin, Pmax, Vmin, Vmax, Rmin, Rmax, Rmaxref
2. 20. 8. 2000. 0.05 0.25 0.50
! Ntests, Nruns
2000 1
! 2-theta Intensity
20.50481 1411.712
29.15784 11198.96
33.79123 2632.666
35.91046 531.0297
37.92135 135.2104
39.84880 606.2348
41.70092 118.4907
43.48877 881.1584
46.88918 271.4056
48.52835 4213.470
50.12016 230.0856
51.68559 66.62399
53.20726 506.4385
54.69715 117.2749
56.16987 404.7621
57.61465 2603.399
59.03540 563.8033
60.43375 471.2136
61.81146 194.2371
63.17843 149.1199
64.53022 288.8621
65.85427 145.6454
69.78623 190.6706

```

Cubic only

Decrease some values here

If you read the manual (don't believe you can become an expert in 2 hours...) you will see that that file is configured for a search only in cubic, just fine, this is what we want to do. Apply again McMaille to that file :

The screenshot shows the McMaille version 3.04 interface. It displays the data file 'y2o3_scmg-new' and provides a warning about the expected total number of tests (2000.000) and CPU time (2.4GHz). The Monte Carlo search results show a cubic phase with parameters: $R_p = 1337$, $a = 0.036$, $U = 10.6035$, $Nind = 1192.2$, and $\theta = 0$. The final values for the search are: $\lambda = 1.5406$, $A = 10.6059$, $B = 10.6059$, $C = 10.6059$, $\alpha = 90.000$, $\beta = 90.000$, $\gamma = 90.000$, $\text{RECIPROCAL CELL} = 0.09429$, $\text{VOLUME (Å}^3\text{)} = 1193.017$, $M(2\theta) = 168.08$, and $F(2\theta) = 151.03$ (0.0821, 62).

```

C:\Documents\Conferences\ECM-23\Indexation\McMaille\McMaille.exe
Entry file (no extension) ??y2o3_scmg-new
y2o3_scmg-new

McMaille version 3.04
Data file : y2o3_scmg-new

WARNING - WARNING - WARNING - WARNING
EXPECTED total number of tests 2000.000
EXPECTED TOTAL CPU TIME FOR A 2.4GHz:
Seconds: 0.1000000
Minutes: 1.6666667E-03
Hours: 2.7777778E-05
Days: 1.1574074E-06
Years: 3.1709790E-09
IF you do not want to continue : Ctrl+C would be better

Monte Carlo search :
Cubic: Rp a U Nind
1 1337. 0.036 10.6035 1192.2 0

YOU HAVE FOUND AN INTERESTING RESULT : Rp < Rmin !

FINAL VALUES : (STANDARD DEVIATIONS : 2nd LINE)
ZERO LAMBDA A B C ALPHA BETA GAMMA
-0.014 1.5406 10.6059 10.6059 10.6059 90.000 90.000 90.000
0.001 0.0000 0.0003 0.0003 0.0003 0.000 0.000 0.000
RECIPROCAL CELL : 0.09429 0.09429 0.09429 90.000 90.000 90.000
VOLUME (Å³) : 1193.017

M(2θ) = 168.08
F(2θ) = 151.03 ( 0.0821, 62)

Type any character and a RETURN to continue :

```

Have a look inside of the y2o3_mcmy-new.imp file containing the detailed results :

FINAL VALUES : (STANDARD DEVIATIONS : 2nd LINE)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| ZERO | LAMBDA | A | B | C | ALPHA | BETA | GAMMA |
| -0.014 | 1.5406 | 10.6059 | 10.6059 | 10.6059 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 0.001 | 0.0000 | 0.0003 | 0.0003 | 0.0003 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| RECIPROCAL CELL : | | 0.09429 | 0.09429 | 0.09429 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| VOLUME (A**3) : | | 1193.017 | | | | | |

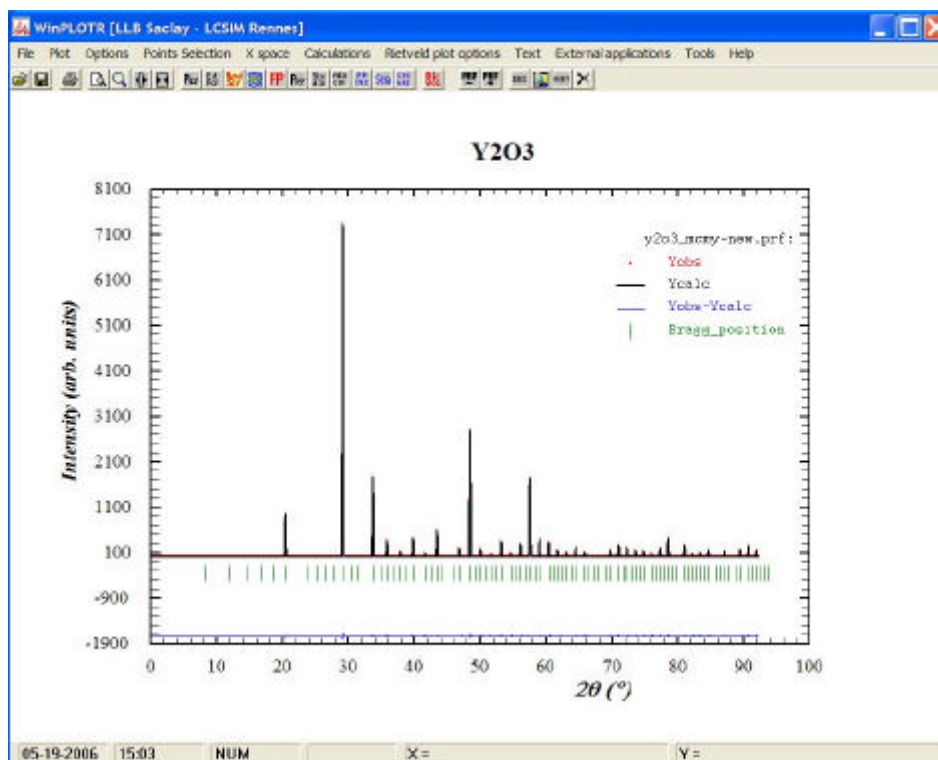
| H | K | L | TH(OBS) | TH-ZERO | TH(CALC) | DIFF. |
|---|---|---|---------|---------|----------|--------|
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 20.505 | 20.491 | 20.495 | -0.004 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 29.158 | 29.144 | 29.143 | 0.001 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 33.791 | 33.777 | 33.777 | 0.000 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 35.910 | 35.897 | 35.893 | 0.003 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 37.921 | 37.907 | 37.907 | 0.001 |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | 39.849 | 39.835 | 39.833 | 0.002 |
| 4 | 2 | 2 | 41.701 | 41.687 | 41.685 | 0.002 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 43.489 | 43.475 | 43.472 | 0.003 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 46.889 | 46.875 | 46.881 | -0.006 |
| 4 | 4 | 0 | 48.528 | 48.514 | 48.515 | -0.001 |
| 4 | 3 | 3 | 50.120 | 50.106 | 50.110 | -0.003 |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | 51.686 | 51.672 | 51.668 | 0.004 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 53.207 | 53.193 | 53.193 | 0.000 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 54.697 | 54.683 | 54.688 | -0.005 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 56.170 | 56.156 | 56.157 | -0.001 |
| 6 | 2 | 2 | 57.615 | 57.601 | 57.600 | 0.001 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 59.035 | 59.022 | 59.021 | 0.001 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 60.434 | 60.420 | 60.421 | -0.001 |
| 7 | 1 | 0 | 61.811 | 61.798 | 61.801 | -0.004 |
| 6 | 4 | 0 | 63.178 | 63.165 | 63.165 | 0.000 |
| 6 | 3 | 3 | 64.530 | 64.516 | 64.511 | 0.005 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 65.854 | 65.840 | 65.843 | -0.003 |
| 7 | 3 | 2 | 69.786 | 69.772 | 69.761 | 0.011 |
| 8 | 0 | 0 | 71.059 | 71.045 | 71.044 | 0.001 |
| 5 | 5 | 4 | 72.331 | 72.318 | 72.318 | 0.000 |
| 8 | 2 | 0 | 73.591 | 73.577 | 73.582 | -0.006 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 74.859 | 74.845 | 74.839 | 0.006 |
| 6 | 6 | 0 | 76.097 | 76.083 | 76.087 | -0.004 |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 77.347 | 77.333 | 77.330 | 0.004 |
| 6 | 6 | 2 | 78.580 | 78.566 | 78.566 | 0.000 |
| 8 | 4 | 0 | 81.036 | 81.022 | 81.023 | 0.000 |
| 8 | 3 | 3 | 82.255 | 82.241 | 82.244 | -0.003 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 83.480 | 83.466 | 83.463 | 0.003 |
| 6 | 5 | 5 | 84.689 | 84.675 | 84.678 | -0.004 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 87.115 | 87.101 | 87.102 | -0.001 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 89.529 | 89.515 | 89.521 | -0.006 |
| 8 | 4 | 4 | 90.747 | 90.733 | 90.730 | 0.003 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 91.955 | 91.941 | 91.940 | 0.001 |

M(20) = 168.09
F(20) = 151.03 (0.0021, 62)

This looks extremely good.

Will any attempt be that easy ? Certainly not... this was the first exercise and you are lucky.

McMaille prepares a file for a Rietveld-like fit (a .prf file) for the best solution which you can see by using WinPLOTR. Let us see that y2o3_mcmey-new.prf file. Start WinPLOTR, click on “File”, then on “Open Rietveld/profile file”, select “101 : Fullprof PRF file”, click on OK, and select the file in the Windows box.



The vertical bars note all lines that should be there. A lot are lacking. You may realize, by examining the hkl indices of the indexed lines that there is a systematic relation $h + k + l = 2n$, and thus the Bravais lattice is very probably I – centered. McMaille will not do that automatically for you.

Tip-8 : Some programs perform automatically everything (indexing, space group suggestion, solving the structure, refining, etc), like EXPO2006 : use these programs first, and if they fail, go back to some standalone programs.

Tip-9 : Only solving the structure confirm the indexing... but this is not the scope of this tutorial.

Tip-10 : you should never try to index without having defined the zeropoint...

Exercise 2 – A bit more difficult : τ -AlF₃

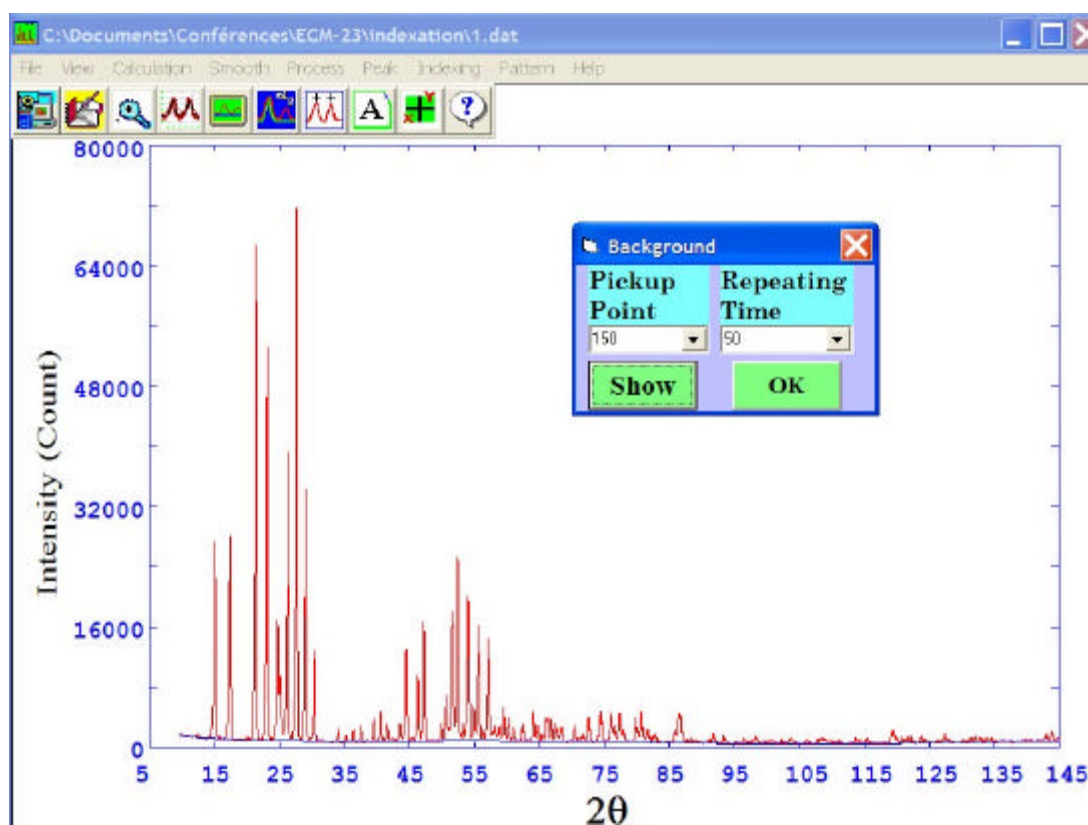
Software for hunting the peak positions are numerous (see session 2 of the SDPD Internet Course : <http://sdpd.univ-lemans.fr/DU-SDPD/>), free access (WinPLOTR, PowderX, EXPO2004, etc) or commercial (EVA, Highscore, Jade, etc). Let us try PowderX on the τ -AlF₃ powder pattern. In fact the pattern is corrected for a large zeropoint error (0.3° !) due to the fact that the sample was dusted on the sample holder for avoiding preferred orientation.

Tip-11 : Dusting a sample on the holder through a sieve allows for reducing preferred orientation effects. But since this enlarges the peak width, it is not recommended at the indexing stage : press the sample for a better resolution.

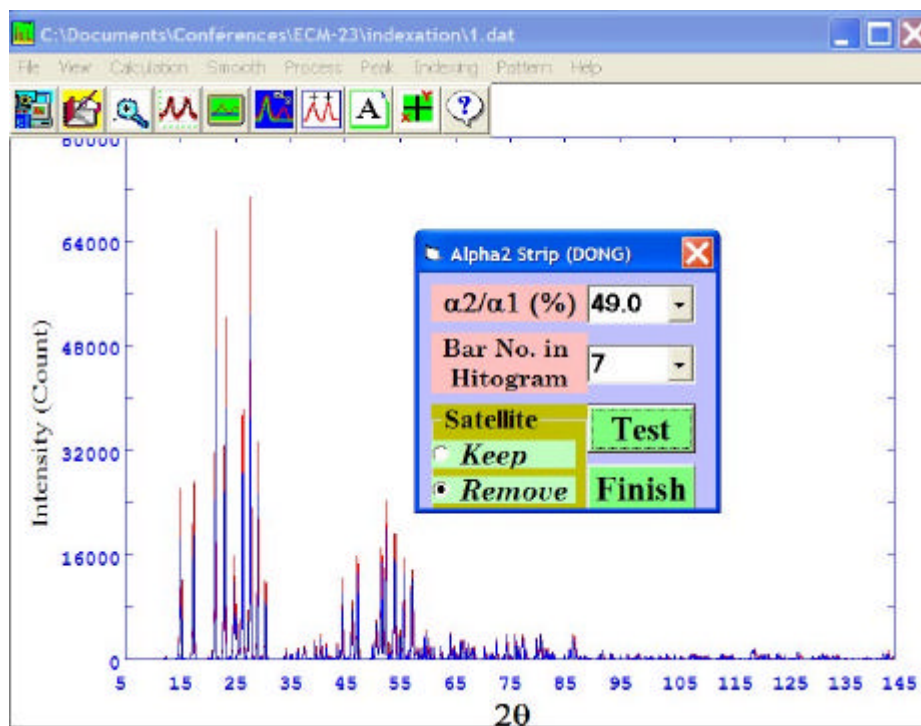
Tip-12 : Typical excellent minimal FWHMs (Full Width at Half Maximum) are (for well crystallized compounds) : 0.04 to $0.06^\circ(2\theta)$ for conventional laboratory instrument and 0.005 to $0.01^\circ(2\theta)$ for third generation synchrotron source. Note that a 0.02° FWHM at a synchrotron source with a 0.7 \AA wavelength is equivalent to 0.04° in your lab with a copper target...

Tip-13 : The zeropoint correction can be done before indexing by two methods : mixing a reference compound with the sample or using the harmonics technique. Let us consider that you know how doing these “simple” things. If not, see sessions 2 and 3 of the SDPD Internet Course.

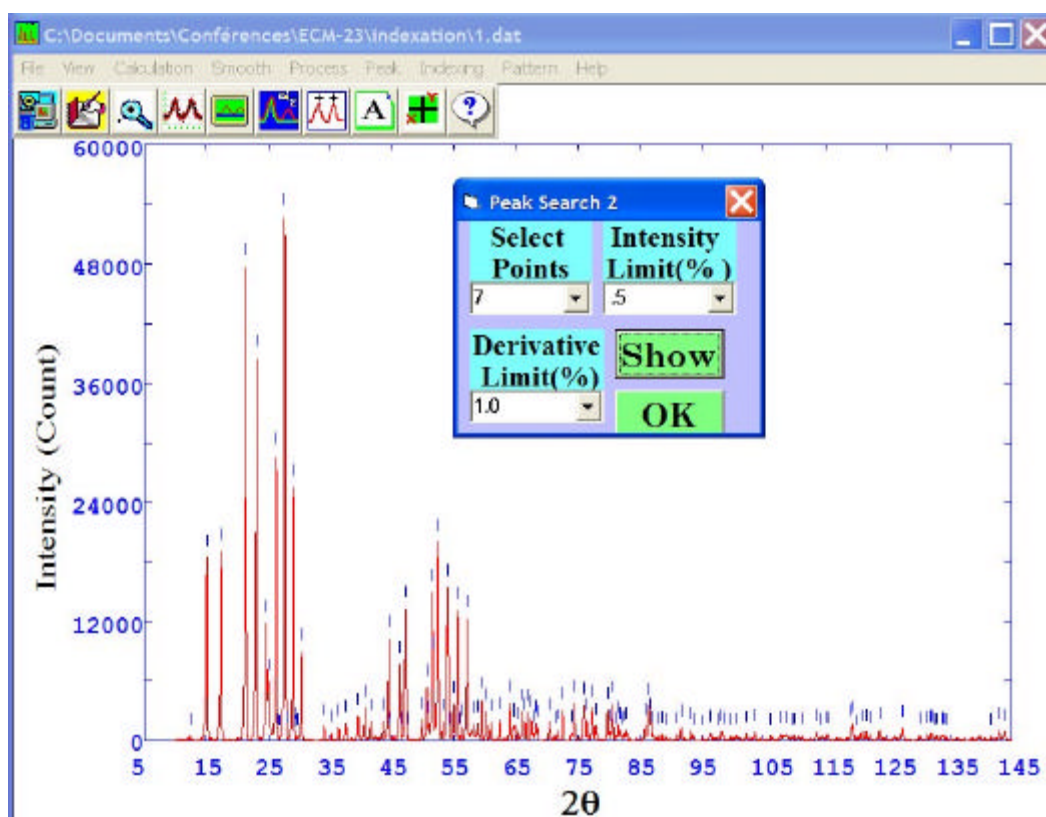
The $\tau\text{-AlF}_3$ powder pattern is also available in PowBase (1.dat inside of 1.zip), and can be read with PowderX by clicking on “File”, then “Import Data”, then “RIET7” for the format. This is a format analogous to the one read by WinPLOT (INSTRM=0), but you have to add 4 header lines (blank if you wish). First remove the background : click on “Subtract Background” then on “Show” in the small box and the on “OK” if you are satisfied (otherwise play with the options, and zoom to see the effect).



Click on “Alpha2 Elimination”, click on “Test”, click on “Finish”.



Click on “Peak Search”, then on “Show”, modify the intensity limit for the detection of the weakest peaks if you wish, then click on OK.



Save the file after confirmation of the wavelength :

| 2Theta | d (Å) | Height | Area | FWHM |
|--------|---------|---------|----------|--------|
| 12,292 | 7,19449 | 336,0 | 1262,2 | 0,0800 |
| 15,040 | 5,88588 | 18391,1 | 147126,3 | 0,1600 |
| 17,358 | 5,10448 | 19047,3 | 144454,3 | 0,1600 |
| 21,324 | 4,16331 | 47804,6 | 323420,4 | 0,1400 |
| 23,056 | 3,85441 | 38529,0 | 268961,3 | 0,1400 |
| 24,656 | 3,60768 | 11816,5 | 82581,7 | 0,1400 |
| 25,039 | 3,55334 | 5890,4 | 54511,0 | 0,2000 |
| 26,272 | 3,38940 | 28732,0 | 227980,7 | 0,1600 |
| 26,632 | 3,34432 | 408,5 | 1447,7 | 0,0800 |
| 26,748 | 3,33017 | 290,9 | 1085,7 | 0,0800 |
| 27,634 | 3,22529 | 52845,1 | 474146,2 | 0,1800 |
| 27,936 | 3,19114 | 644,3 | 2064,0 | 0,0800 |
| 29,023 | 3,07407 | 25452,0 | 203382,7 | 0,1600 |
| 29,240 | 3,05179 | 943,2 | 3265,4 | 0,0800 |
| 29,401 | 3,03544 | 284,2 | 1420,5 | 0,1000 |
| 29,729 | 3,00260 | 337,7 | 1909,7 | 0,1200 |
| 30,394 | 2,93842 | 8950,3 | 71150,3 | 0,1600 |
| 34,038 | 2,63177 | 1399,2 | 11181,9 | 0,1600 |
| 35,239 | 2,54473 | 698,6 | 4946,1 | 0,1600 |
| 36,355 | 2,46914 | 1346,2 | 10729,8 | 0,1600 |
| 37,523 | 2,39493 | 1679,4 | 12700,5 | 0,1600 |
| 39,501 | 2,27942 | 2415,3 | 16903,5 | 0,1400 |
| 40,567 | 2,22199 | 3282,1 | 22194,2 | 0,1400 |
| 41,526 | 2,17285 | 1868,9 | 14926,1 | 0,1600 |

Tip-14 : You may also play with the zeropoint correction system inside of PowderX. Then save the file for TREOR and transform it into a file for McMaille ;-). You have to change the comma into points and remove the stuff at the end of the file, rename it as AlF3.dat in the McMaille directory.

Tip-15 : When using PowderX, be carefull that the wavelength was taken into account, otherwise use only 2 θ values, but not d(Å) values.

AlF3

1.54056 0 3

| | | |
|--------|------|--------|
| 12.292 | 6 | |
| 15.040 | 348 | |
| 17.358 | 360 | |
| 21.324 | 905 | |
| 23.056 | 729 | |
| 24.656 | 224 | |
| 25.039 | 111 | |
| 26.272 | 544 | |
| 26.632 | 8 | Remove |
| 26.748 | 6 | Remove |
| 27.634 | 1000 | |
| 27.936 | 12 | |
| 29.023 | 482 | |
| 29.240 | 18 | |
| 29.401 | 5 | Remove |
| 29.729 | 6 | Remove |
| 30.394 | 169 | |

| | | |
|--------|-----|--------|
| 34.038 | 26 | |
| 35.239 | 13 | |
| 36.355 | 25 | |
| 37.523 | 32 | |
| 39.501 | 46 | |
| 40.567 | 62 | |
| 41.526 | 35 | |
| 43.515 | 36 | |
| 44.450 | 195 | |
| 44.727 | 8 | Remove |
| 46.241 | 145 | |
| 46.523 | 10 | |
| 47.176 | 251 | |
| 47.480 | 9 | Remove |
| 49.878 | 38 | |

Remove those weak peaks with intensity < 1% of the most intense one (maybe leaving the first at low angle).

Tip-16 : Peaks at low angles are essential even if they are weak.

Start McMaille and see the results. Cells with R close to 5% appear in tetragonal, orthorhombic, monoclinic, you may stop the calculation by typing K (large character), and then think...

```

C:\Documents\Conférences\ECM-23\indexation\McMaille\McMaille.exe
This is the black box mode...
Could need the whole night, if not more...
If you do not want to continue : Ctrl+C would be better
To cancel but save, type K (capital letter) anytime

Monte Carlo search :
Cubic:      Rp      a      U      Nind
1      102. 0.139 14.4217 2999.5 3
1      476. 0.139 14.4217 2999.5 3
1      613. 0.139 14.4217 2999.5 3
Hexagonal:  Rp      a      c      U      Nind
1      1329. 0.125 14.4294 20.3878 3676.2 2
1      2739. 0.125 14.4297 20.3873 3676.2 2
1      3102. 0.125 14.4296 20.3875 3676.2 2
1      3672. 0.124 14.4295 20.3875 3676.2 2
Rhombohedral: Rp      a      c      U      Nind
Tetragonal:  Rp      a      c      U      Nind
1      88. 0.123 12.4810 17.7665 2767.6 3
1      92. 0.123 12.4811 17.7670 2767.7 3
1      984. 0.079 10.2082 7.1871 748.9 3
1      985. 0.079 10.2090 7.1865 749.0 3
1      1990. 0.078 10.2085 7.1866 748.9 3
1      2945. 0.069 10.2086 28.7457 2995.7 0
9      264. 0.069 14.4370 14.3732 2995.8 3
Orthorhombic: Rp      a      b      c      U      Nind
1      2358. 0.060 5.1068 10.2024 7.1875 374.5 3
9      934. 0.060 5.1070 7.1872 10.2025 374.5 3
1      6395. 0.057 10.2147 10.2020 7.1870 749.0 3
8      479. 0.057 10.2023 10.2141 7.1872 749.0 3
Monoclinic:  Rp      a      b      c      bet      U      Nind
1      27270. 0.137 11.7853 4.1623 10.2359 94.25 500.7 2
1      87076. 0.111 8.3760 7.1957 7.3598 98.54 438.7 2
1      91153. 0.105 11.4169 7.7115 5.9003 117.00 462.8 3
2      53722. 0.058 5.1843 10.1677 8.1882 118.33 379.9 2
6      51522. 0.057 7.1877 10.2002 5.1051 90.03 374.3 3
6      51523. 0.054 7.1866 10.2015 5.1047 90.05 374.2 3

FINAL VALUES : (STANDARD DEVIATIONS : 2nd LINE)
ZERO      LAMBDA      A      B      C      ALPHA      BETA      GAMMA
0.039      1.5406      7.1784      10.1867      5.0944      90.000      90.038      90.000
0.007      0.0000      0.0019      0.0022      0.0020      0.000      0.019      0.000
RECIPROCAL CELL :      0.13931      0.09817      0.19629      90.000      89.962      90.000
VOLUME (Å³) :      372.529

M(2θ) =      84.56
F(2θ) =      108.12 ( 0.0039, 47)

```

Which cell is the good one ? Again there are several possibilities. Remember that any high symmetry cell can be proposed in a lower symmetry. In that case, the tetragonal cell with smallest volume seems to have chances to be the correct one. McMaille produces files with .ckm extension which can be read by the Chekcell program and may help to decide.

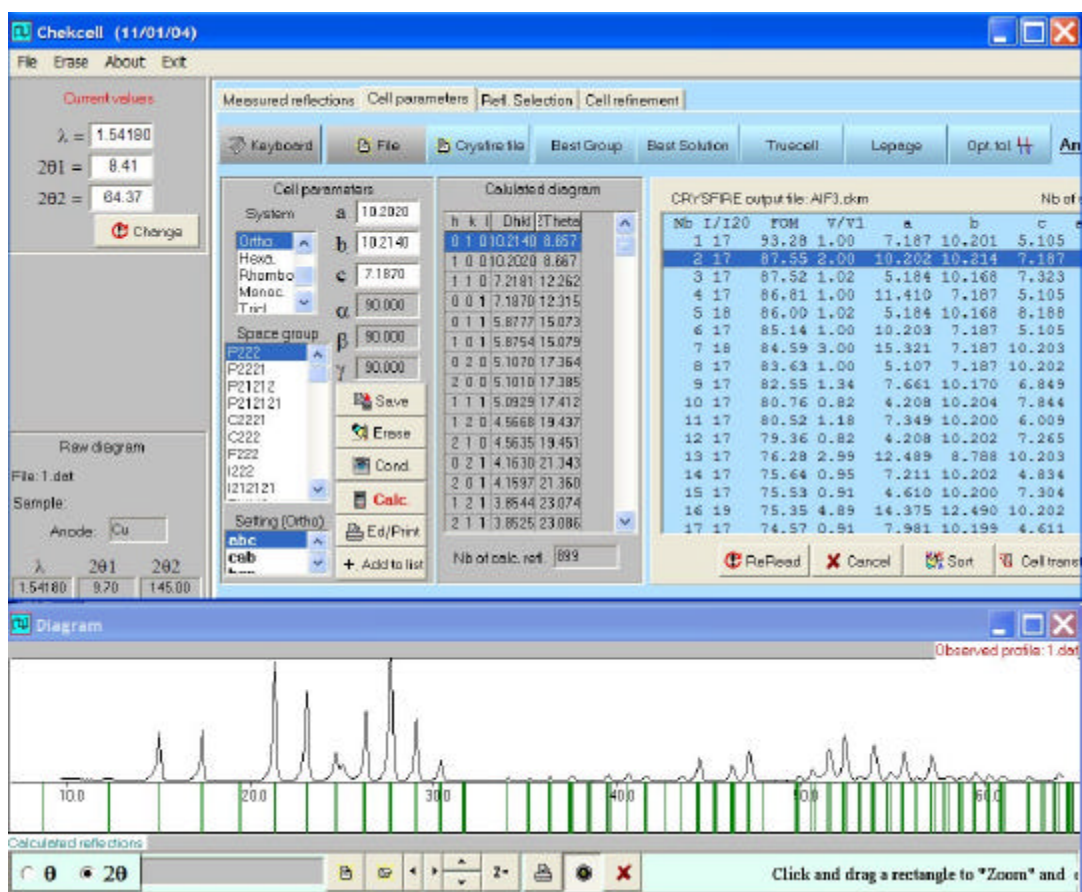
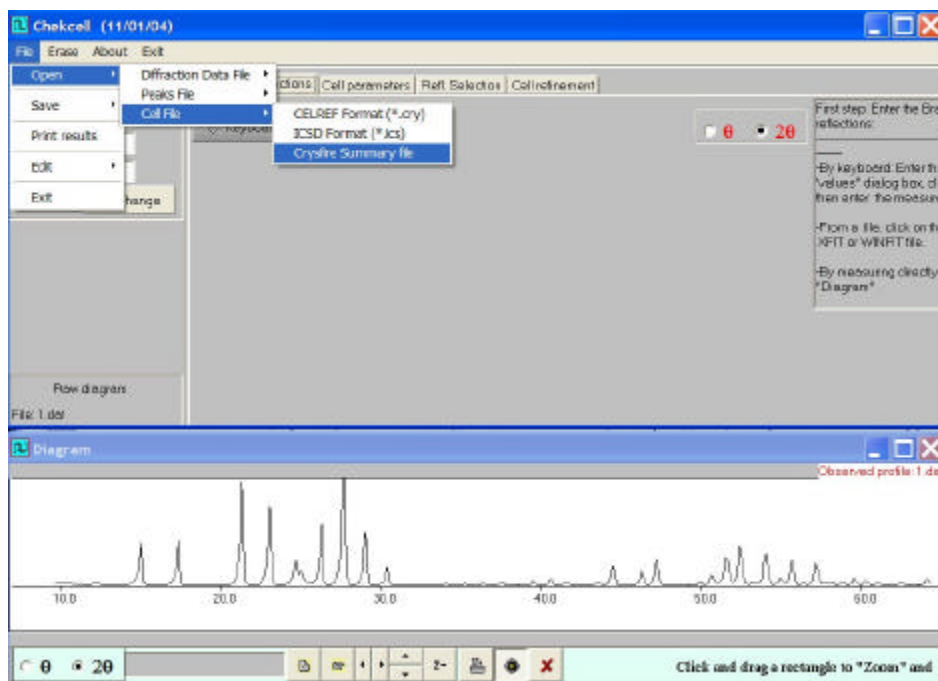
The ALF3.ckm file :

| N | FoM | V | V/V1 | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 17 | 93.28 | 374.247 | 1.00 | 7.1866 | 10.2015 | 5.1047 | 90.000 | 90.047 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 87.55 | 748.954 | 2.00 | 10.2023 | 10.2141 | 7.1872 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 87.52 | 379.961 | 1.02 | 5.1844 | 10.1684 | 7.3235 | 90.000 | 100.212 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 86.81 | 374.340 | 1.00 | 11.4104 | 7.1869 | 5.1053 | 90.000 | 116.603 | 90.000 |
| 18 | 86.00 | 379.919 | 1.02 | 5.1843 | 10.1677 | 8.1882 | 90.000 | 118.331 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 85.14 | 374.347 | 1.00 | 10.2026 | 7.1867 | 5.1054 | 90.000 | 90.030 | 90.000 |
| 18 | 84.59 | 1123.379 | 3.00 | 15.3210 | 7.1867 | 10.2026 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 83.63 | 374.484 | 1.00 | 5.1070 | 7.1872 | 10.2025 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 82.55 | 502.511 | 1.34 | 7.6607 | 10.1696 | 6.8487 | 90.000 | 109.642 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 80.76 | 308.628 | 0.82 | 4.2084 | 10.2036 | 7.8445 | 90.000 | 113.620 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 80.52 | 441.141 | 1.18 | 7.3487 | 10.1996 | 6.0087 | 90.000 | 101.627 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 79.36 | 308.588 | 0.82 | 4.2083 | 10.2022 | 7.2651 | 90.000 | 98.381 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 76.28 | 1119.785 | 2.99 | 12.4887 | 8.7879 | 10.2032 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 75.64 | 354.395 | 0.95 | 7.2113 | 10.2017 | 4.8337 | 90.000 | 94.722 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 75.53 | 338.952 | 0.91 | 4.6103 | 10.2002 | 7.3041 | 90.000 | 99.319 | 90.000 |
| 19 | 75.35 | 1831.669 | 4.89 | 14.3750 | 12.4897 | 10.2020 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 74.57 | 338.922 | 0.91 | 7.9813 | 10.1991 | 4.6105 | 90.000 | 115.436 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 73.60 | 502.352 | 1.34 | 7.6535 | 10.1970 | 6.8273 | 90.000 | 109.471 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 72.48 | 2995.752 | 8.00 | 14.4370 | 14.4370 | 14.3732 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 20 | 72.46 | 2995.731 | 8.00 | 10.2086 | 10.2086 | 28.7457 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 18 | 68.96 | 336.200 | 0.90 | 7.9158 | 10.2015 | 4.5834 | 90.000 | 114.722 | 90.000 |
| 18 | 68.34 | 371.538 | 0.99 | 10.1685 | 5.1044 | 7.1584 | 90.000 | 90.522 | 90.000 |
| 19 | 67.56 | 1208.311 | 3.23 | 14.2227 | 10.2029 | 8.3267 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 18 | 67.31 | 470.527 | 1.26 | 6.4170 | 10.2025 | 7.4635 | 90.000 | 105.645 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 64.36 | 429.930 | 1.15 | 7.2975 | 10.2033 | 5.8628 | 90.000 | 99.978 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 63.96 | 362.825 | 0.97 | 4.9471 | 10.2019 | 7.1966 | 90.000 | 92.649 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 63.92 | 748.935 | 2.00 | 10.2085 | 10.2085 | 7.1865 | 90.000 | 90.000 | 90.000 |
| 17 | 63.25 | 338.099 | 0.90 | 7.3083 | 10.1965 | 4.6008 | 90.000 | 99.549 | 90.000 |

Most of the cells with the highest FoMs have volumes multiple of 374 Å³.

Start Chekcell. Click on “File”, then “Open”, then “Diffraction Data File”, then “Rietveld Format”, specify the wavelength when asked by the program, the pattern should appear (the data file must have 4 header lines), zoom eventually.

Then, open the .ckm file : click on “File”, “Open”, “Cell File”, “Crysfire Summary File”, search for the .ckm option and select it, find ALF3.ckm (note that sub-files for different symmetries are also built up by McMaille) :



There is a chance that the cell would be tetragonal with cell parameters $a = 10.2$ and $c = 7.2$ Å. One intense impurity line is obvious (this is α -AlF₃).

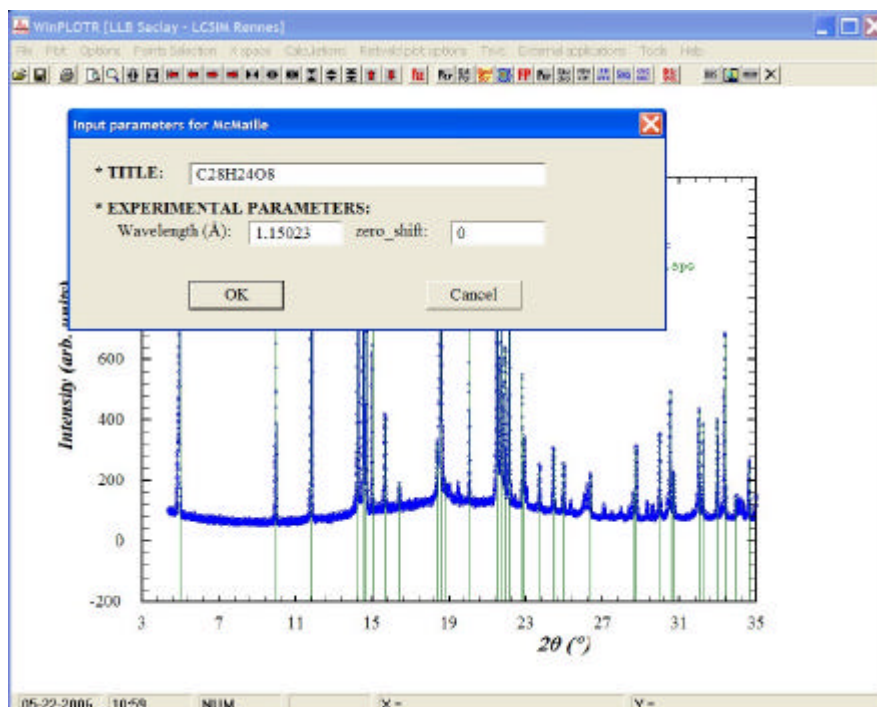
Tip-17 : Whole profile fitting (Pawley or Le Bail methods) would provide the ultimate convincing arguments (a perfect fit...) and allow to decide for some space group possibilities.

Exercise 3 – C₂₈H₂₄O₈ synchrotron data - Even more difficult ?

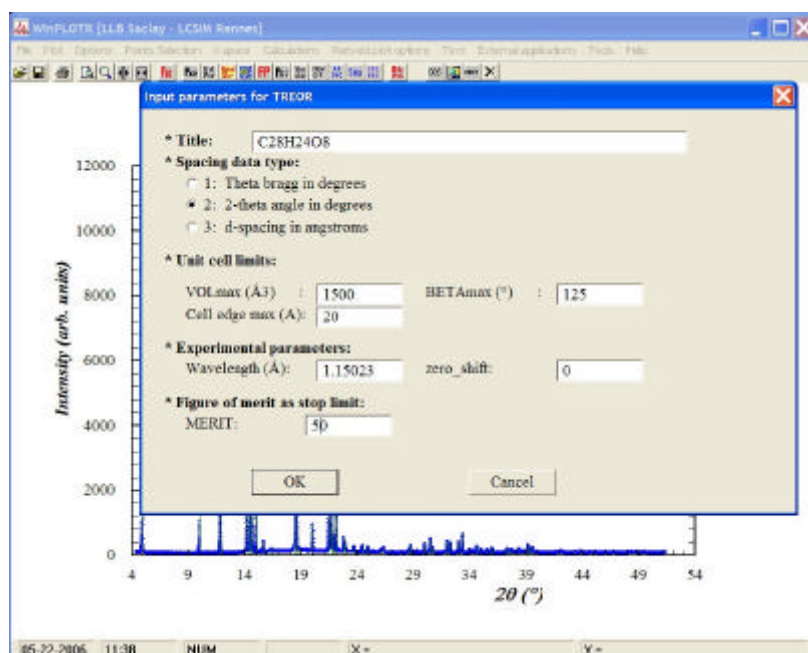
The powder pattern for that sample is also inside of PowBase (see 89.dat in 89.zip). Let us come back to WinPLOTR for the peak position extraction. Wavelength : $\lambda = 1.15023 \text{ \AA}$.

Tip-18 : in principle, synchrotron data corresponds to parallel beamline so that there is no zeropoint. In practice, but verify...

Use the automatic peak search option as in the exercise 1, decrease the peak threshold to 0.005 in order to locate some of the weakest peaks and save the file for McMaille :



Start McMaille, and during the calculations, save also the results for TREOR :



Do not forget to change the wavelength and increase the limit of the FoM to 50 : this is synchrotron data, you may expect high FoMs.

! DATA FILE: 89.dat

! INSTRM: 0

C28H24O8

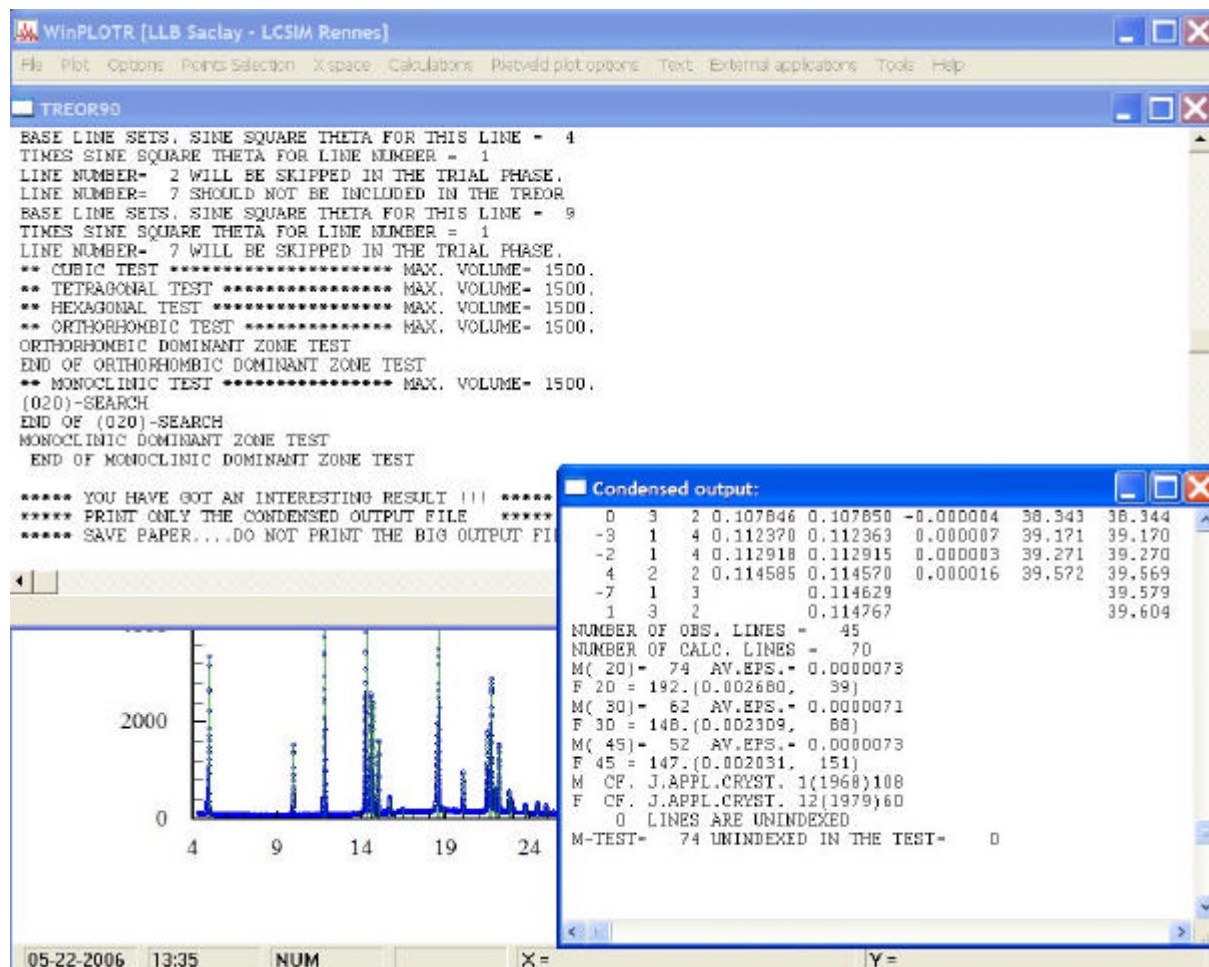
| | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 4.98193 | 3286.80762 | 83.30889 |
| 9.99003 | 1472.15564 | 57.64410 |
| 11.83465 | 4172.48730 | 66.85038 |
| 14.26077 | 5120.27832 | 132.29897 |
| 14.54244 | 2541.02197 | 127.71822 |
| 14.68000 | 2377.54810 | 114.03048 |
| 15.01395 | 1603.88196 | 96.83777 |
| 15.67321 | 402.99741 | 105.96571 |
| 16.43242 | 187.91476 | 106.60686 |
| 18.40516 | 320.04770 | 157.74744 |
| 18.57075 | 10253.10740 | 161.52725 |
| 18.81269 | 205.76633 | 155.59302 |
| 20.06825 | 933.78021 | 125.71569 |
| 21.49577 | 1768.68835 | 149.90627 |
| 21.70489 | 2902.25244 | 157.81589 |
| 21.89608 | 637.32843 | 155.65938 |
| 22.13791 | 1497.10925 | 137.45313 |
| 22.80752 | 548.14728 | 116.36189 |
| 22.90763 | 345.16406 | 117.80325 |
| 23.72424 | 243.58403 | 108.58457 |
| 24.44472 | 301.27338 | 99.54028 |
| 24.98247 | 252.92178 | 90.35323 |
| 26.37432 | 219.01628 | 82.18118 |
| 28.60269 | 157.93480 | 75.28192 |
| 28.76217 | 303.62329 | 73.10251 |
| 29.97874 | 350.80719 | 71.17887 |
| 30.52339 | 490.87183 | 83.80813 |
| 30.69416 | 222.56485 | 81.57237 |
| 32.01038 | 431.36816 | 96.65090 |
| 32.23336 | 385.18842 | 92.53907 |
| 32.98502 | 394.52618 | 82.19423 |
| 33.36611 | 675.33411 | 80.25625 |
| 33.97608 | 144.84073 | 73.54704 |

CHOICE=3,
WAVE= 1.15023,
MONO=125.00,
VOL= 1500.,
CEM= 20.,
MERIT= 50.,
END*

Maybe there are too much data.

Tip-19 : generally, the first 20 lines of a powder pattern are sufficient for indexing. Using more may even obscure the results...

And run TREOR inside of WinPLOTR :



Inside of WinPLOTR, TREOR produces also files for CHEKCELL.

Tip-20 : the statement ***** YOU HAVE GOT AN INTERESTING RESULT !!! ***** is given only if M(20) is better than your specifications, generally it announces a correct solution.

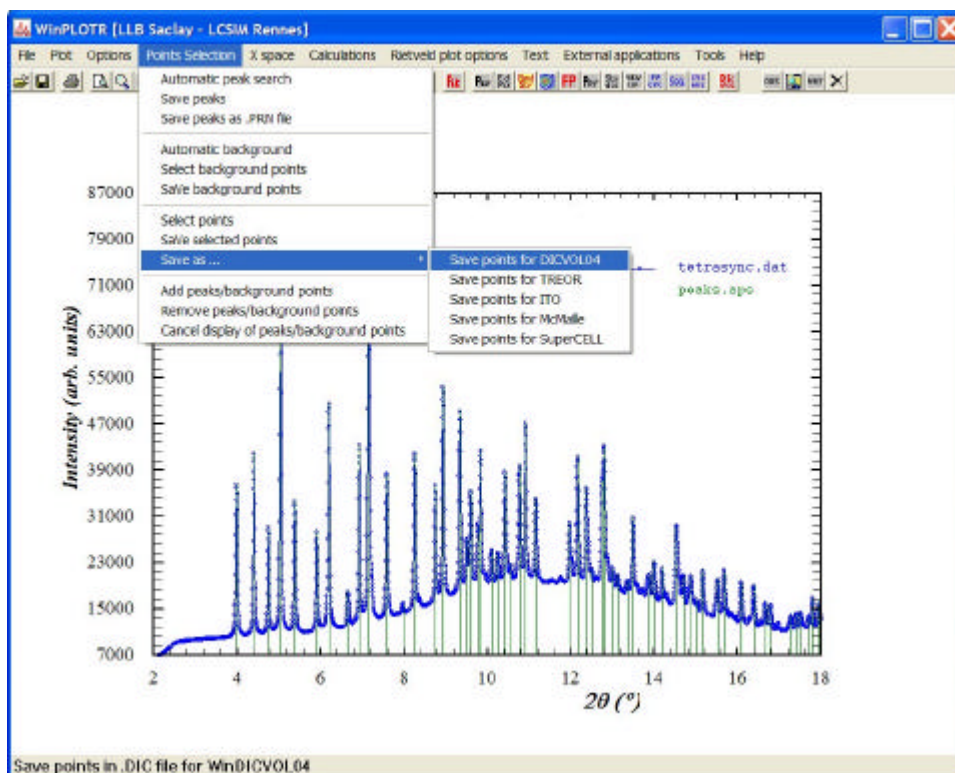
Tip-21 : TREOR runs much faster than McMaille... It is better to apply it first.

Now go back to the McMaille screen, and stop the calculations by typing K (capital letter). Maybe it had enough time to find that monoclinic solution as well ?

Exercise 4 – Tetracycline Hydrochloride – Synchrotron data

Use the file tetrasync.dat in PowBase (download 17.zip) with wavelength : $\lambda = 0.692 \text{ \AA}$. This is a capillary measurement (explaining the amorphous component).

Let us try again WinPLOTR :



Let us save the data for DICVOL04 :

The image shows the 'Input parameters for DICVOL' dialog box. The title is 'Tetracycline Hydrochloride'. The 'NUMBER OF LINES USED' is set to 20. The 'SPACING DATA' section has four radio buttons: '1: Theta bragg in degrees', '2: 2-theta angle in degrees' (selected), '3: d-spacing in angstroms', and '4: Q specified in Q-units as E+04/d**2'. The 'TESTED CRYSTAL SYMMETRY' section has checkboxes for 'cubic', 'tetragonal', 'hexagonal', 'orthorhombic', 'monoclinic' (selected), and 'triclinic'. The 'UNIT CELL LIMITS' section has input fields for 'Amax (Å): 25', 'Bmax (Å): 25', 'Cmax (Å): 25', 'BEmax (°): 90', 'BEmax (°): 125', 'VOLmin (Å³): 0', and 'VOLmax (Å³): 2500'. The 'EXPERIMENTAL PARAMETERS' section has input fields for 'Wavelength (Å): 0.692', 'Mol. weight (g): 0', 'Density (g/cm³): 0', and 'Density error: 0'. The 'DICVOL PARAMETERS' section has input fields for 'Data absolute error (EPS): 0.03', 'Lower figure of merit (FOM): 20', and 'Max. number of impurity lines (eg 3 or -3): 3'. There are checkboxes for 'A priori search of zero_shift' and 'Zero shift refinement'. The 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom.

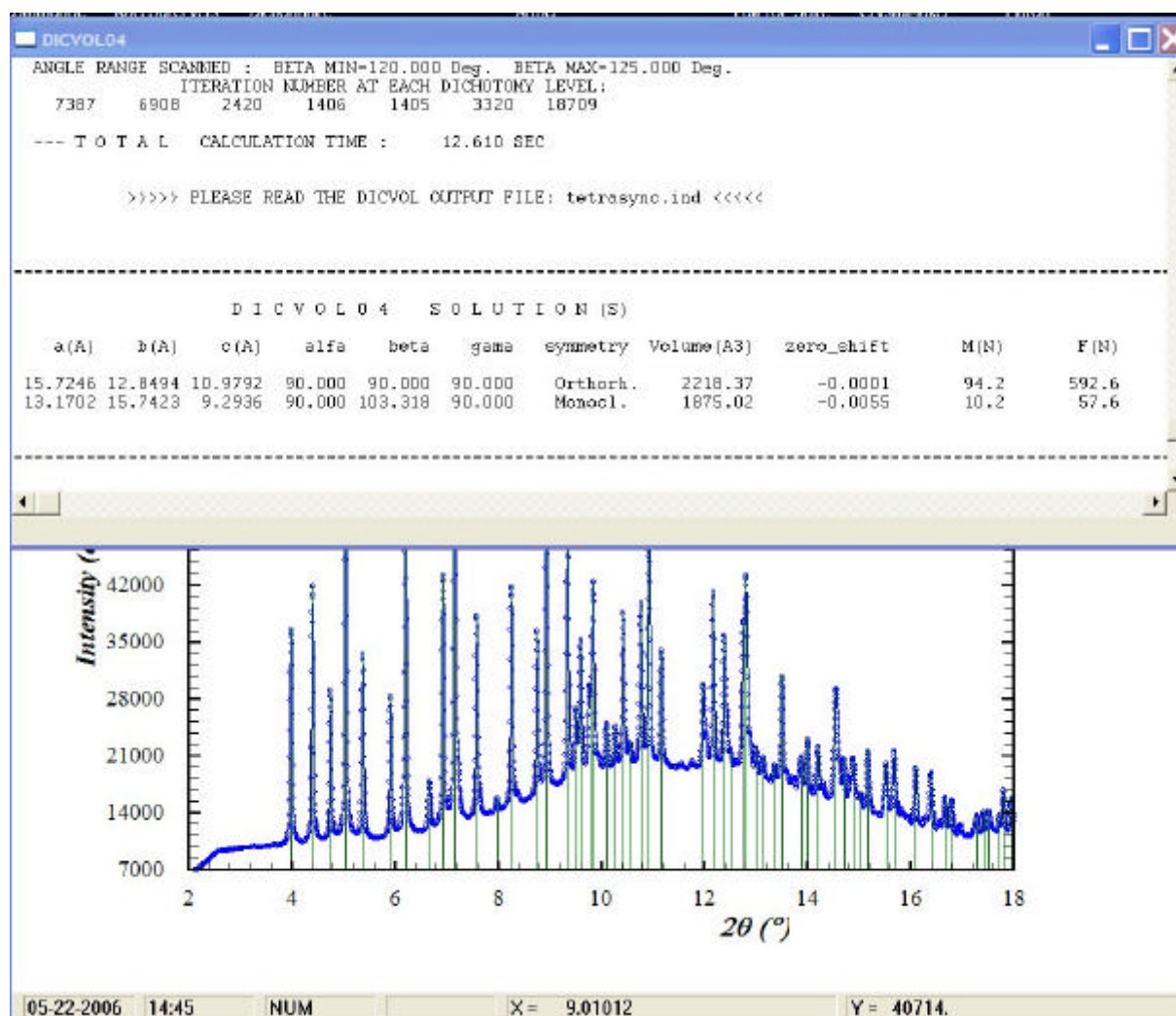
Tip-22 : DICVOL04 is generally much faster than McMaille but is a bit longer than TREOR for low symmetries (monoclinic and triclinic), in general, so, start with TREOR, then DICVOL04, then McMaille, then CRYSFIRE.

Tip-23 : Using first TREOR and DICVOL can be sufficient and convincing enough for not applying any other indexing software.

```

# Input file for WDICVOL04 (created by WinPLOTTR)
# created by WinPLOTTR: 22-05-2006 at 14:40:39
! DATA FILE: tetrasync.dat
! INSTRM: 0
Tetracycline Hydrochloride
20 2 1 1 1 1 1 0 ! N,ITYPE,JC,JT,JH,JO,JM,JTR
25.0 25.0 25.0 0.0 2500.0 90.0 125.0 ! AMAX, BMAX, CMAX, VOLMIN, VOLMAX,
BEMIN, BEMAX
0.69200 0.000 0.000 0.000 ! WAVE,POIMOL,DENS,DEL DEN
0.030 20.000 3 0 1 1 ! EPS,FOM, N_IMP, ZERO_search, ZERO_refinement, ISUP
3.98593 36431.48050 10162.20610
4.40658 41888.94530 10565.47270
4.75146 29037.62700 11002.17770
5.04268 65646.02340 11368.10350
5.38045 33498.84770 11182.45120
5.91553 28324.10940 11602.85940
6.20306 50488.21090 12065.03910
6.67000 17883.95510 12214.81350
6.93070 43182.59770 13354.95020
7.15491 77665.66410 13321.50490
7.58623 38302.71090 13787.45120
7.97693 15808.31350 14298.10740
8.25668 41806.14060 14822.07620
8.75711 36411.66410 17468.19530
8.93881 53459.96480 17769.21090
9.34233 49226.54300 18679.95310
9.51136 26989.77340 19966.95310
9.60437 35311.25780 20394.47270
9.77657 29438.52150 20606.06640
9.84160 42509.96090 20488.37500
10.09644 24946.23630 19272.28520
10.26473 24402.79490 19494.67380
10.42091 38604.35940 20171.22270
10.55440 22594.34180 20487.28520
10.76932 39757.06250 20055.43360
10.91930 46911.87110 20154.14650
11.16057 33845.78910 20396.83400
11.97332 29695.01560 19972.38870
12.16527 41121.92190 20340.83790

```



Try also with TREOR and McMaille.

Go back to previous exercises and try the programs that were not already applied. Paly with Chekcell.

Tip-24 : A simple way to deal with large cells without changing the default values of the indexing program is to give a fictitious wavelength being 2, 5 or 10 times (proteins) smaller than the real one. Then, the obtained cell parameters will be 2, 5 or 10 times smaller that the effective ones.

Additional notes

Not obtaining results with TREOR, DICVOL04 or McMaille, you may consider trying with CRYSFIRE (see session 3 of the SDPD Internet Course, or the CCP14 Web site). Consider also to use N-TREOR (either standalone or inside of EXPO2004) instead of TREOR. Visit the Indexing Benchmarks Web pages comparing the performances of many indexing programs, and see why using ITO may not be very interesting.

References

Useful Web address :

CCP14 : <http://www.ccp14.ac.uk/>

Indexing Benchmarks : <http://sdpd.univ-lemans.fr/uppw/benchmarks/>

SDPD Internet Course : <http://sdpd.univ-lemans.fr/DU-SDPD/>

Most recent review papers about indexing :

P.-E. Werner in “Structure Determination from Powder Diffraction Data”, Edited by W.I.F David, K. Shankland, L.B. McCusker and Ch. Baerlocher, Oxford Science Publications, Chapter 7 : “Autoindexing”, 2002, 118-135.

R. Shirley, “Overview of powder-indexing program algorithms (history and strenghts and weaknesses). IUCr Computing Commission Newsletter 2 (2003) 48-54.

J. Bergmann, A. Le Bail, R. Shirley and V. Zlokazov, “Renewed interest in powder diffraction data indexing”, Z. Kristallogr. 219 (2004) 783-790.

Programs :

Chekcell : J. Laugier & B. Bochu, <http://www.inpg.fr/LMGP> (and CCP14)

CRYSFIRE : R. Shirley, “The Crysfire 2002 system for automatic powder indexing: user’s manual. Lattice Press: Guilford, UK (2002).

DICVOL04: A. Boultif & D. Louër, “Powder pattern indexing with the dichotomy method”, J. Appl. Crystallogr. 37 (2004) 724-732.

McMaille : A. Le Bail, “Monte Carlo indexing with McMaille”, Powder Diffraction 19, 2004, 249-254. <http://www.cristal.org/McMaille/>

N-TREOR : A. Altomare, C. Giacovazzo, A. Guagliardi, A.G.G. Moliterni, R. Rizzi & P.-E. Werner, “New techniques for indexing : N-TREOR in EXPO”, J. Appl. Crystallogr. 33 (2000) 1180-1186.

PowderX : C. Dong, “PowderX: Windows-95-based program for powder X-ray diffraction data processing”, J. Appl. Crystallogr. 32 (1999) 838.

TREOR: P.-E. Werner, L. Eriksson & M. Westdahl, “TREOR, a semi-exhaustive trial-and-error powder indexing program for all symmetries”, J. Appl. Cryst. 18 (1985) 367-370.

WinPLOTR : T. Roisnel & J. Rodriguez-Carvajal,
<http://www-llb.cea.fr/fullweb/winplotr/winplotr.htm>