50 Years of Neutron Backscattering Spectroscopy



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The short life of MARS

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MARS is an indirect TOF backscattering spectrometer at SINQ, PSI. MARS can be instrumentally best compared to the IRIS spectrometer at ISIS, but it was optimized for complementary research, i.e. high energy resolution and clean spectra in the inelastic region (magnetism). The secondary instrument consists of alternating 10 inelastic units and 12 diffraction detectors, arranged symmetrically at both side. Commissioning was in 2006, and first user experiment in 2007. Since 2012 the secondary instrument hosts the prototype of the CAMEA multiplexing analyzer back-end, which will be built both at PSI and at ESS. Presently the instrument is not in a regular user operation, but beam time can be requested via an informal proposal at any time. The SINQ upgrade project will be the end of the instrument; according to the present plan MARS will be shut down in 2018. This presentation is aimed to be a kind of memoir, going through the history both from instrumentational and from scientific point of view.

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