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Hot Neutron Single Crystal Diffraction on HEiDi: New Applications and Perspectives

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The single-crystal diffractometer HEiDi at MLZ offers a broad spectrum of thermal and hot neutrons, excellent resolution, access to a large region of reciprocal space, low absorption and high sensitivity for light elements, making it a versatile tool for extended studies on many structures for nowadays topics in solid state physics, chemistry & mineralogy.

A key feature of HEiDi is its sample environment: Low T measurements are possible down to ~2 K, e.g. to study magnetic structures of rare earth orthoferrites (DFG SA 3688/1-1). A mirror furnace allows not only high T measurements up to 1300 K but also dedicated gas atmospheres to study light elements in potential battery materials, e.g. excess oxygen incorporation in brownmillerites and layered perovskites (DFG ME 3488/2-1) for a better understanding of the underlying diffusion processes and related structural and electronic changes. An optimization for tiny samples $\ll 1 \text{ mm}^3$ and high pressure cells within two BMBF projects (BMBF 05K16PA3, 05K19PA2) enables isotropic HP experiments up to 10 GPa, even at low temperatures, as new application and allowed development of a small Li-glass based area detector (PSD) prototype optimized for short λ .

As future extension of HEiDi's capabilities we plan a wide angle version of this PSD. Access to large Q matches perfectly the growing need for total scattering studies, offering PDF analysis (pair distribution function) to study locally disordered functional materials as new application.

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