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To cite this version:

Olivier Taché, Antoine Thill, David Carriere, Fabienne Testard, Olivier Spalla. A SAXS/WAXS laboratory instrument for nanomaterials characterization. Nanometrology France 2016, Jun 2016, Paris, France. cea-02346098

HAL Id: cea-02346098

https://cea.hal.science/cea-02346098v1

Submitted on 4 Nov 2019

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A SAXS/WAXS LABORATORY INSTRUMENT FOR NANOMATERIALS CHARACTERIZATION

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Abstract:
Small Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS) allows traceable measurements of size, size distribution, surface area, concentration and shape of nanomaterials in solutions, powders and in bulk materials.
We present here a custom-made state-of-the-art SAXS laboratory instrument (see Figure 1) based on Mo X-ray generator. Its design has been thought and optimized for the wide angles (WAXS) for investigate nanostructured material in particular in the size range from below 1 nm to above 20 nm.
The X-ray generator is a molybdenum (17 keV) rotating anode. A combination of a multilayer collimating mirror and a patented hybrid slits gives us a very sharp and high purity beam for a laboratory setup, with a size of 1x1 mm2 and a flux of 10^8 photons/s.
The motorized sample holder can load 20 capillaries, a temperature controlled system or a circulation environment system for kinetic studies.
A vacuum chamber is placed behind whose output window diameter is designed for the 2D image plate Mar345 detector. The accessible q-range is qmin = 0.03 Å-1 to qmax = 3 Å-1.
A special attention was given to the complete data treatment processing (absolute intensities, uncertainties, reference samples, calibration,…), enable us to make traceable measurements.
Combining molybdenum energy and the state-of-art experimental setup provide us with a very powerful tool for nanomaterial studies [2][3].
We present here some results obtained with this experiment for inter-laboratories characterization studies in particular of silver nanoparticles, and Si nanoparticles.

Keywords: nanomaterials, nanoparticles, characterization, size and size distribution, nanoparticles concentration, inter-laboratories studies

Figure 1: photographic view of the SAXS-WAXS setup.

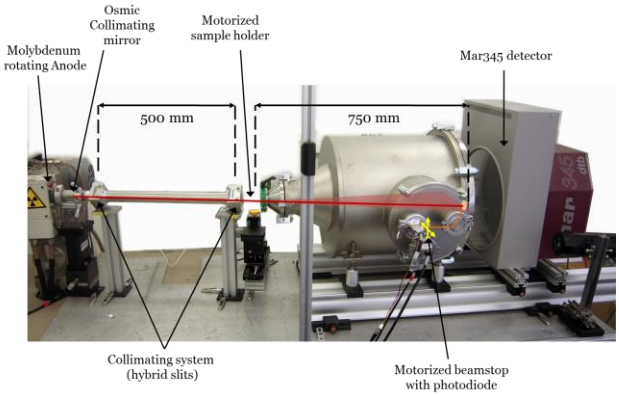
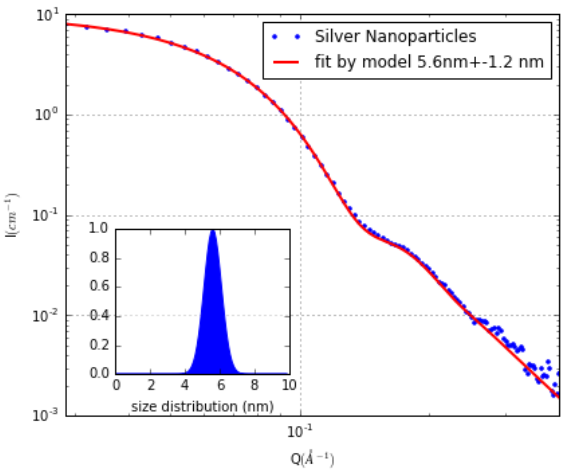


Figure 2 : SAXS datagram of silver nanoparticle (blue) and the fit model (red)



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