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Effectiveness of K-B mirrors on neutron micro-focusing for single crystal diffraction studies

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Single crystal neutron diffraction experiments with Forsterite (Mg_2SiO_4) crystals have been performed at Chalk River Laboratories, Canada to demonstrate the effectiveness of K-B (Kirkpatrick-Baez) mirrors for neutron micro-focusing. Use of the K-B mirrors produced a beam-size with a FWHM of 90 μ m x 89 μ m, a signal gain of nearly 20 times, and negligible diffracted beam divergence. White-beam Laue diffraction patterns were collected, on a MAR 345 detector at station L3, from forsterite samples as small as 300x300x700 μ m mounted on silica glass capillaries. These patterns are sufficient for indexing and extracting crystallographic information. Additionally, preliminary in-situ high-pressure diffraction experiments with a 200x500 μ m single crystal of FeO in a moissanite anvil cell have been performed. Diffraction from the sample is discernible from that of the anvils. These results indicate the effectiveness of neutron focusing by K-B mirrors for diffraction studies of small single crystals either as static mounts or in-situ with high-pressure apparatus.