

## Structure Analysis of Solids (C004508)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 180 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Dendooven, Jolien

WE04

lecturer-in-charge

Boone, Matthieu

WE05

co-lecturer

Vrielinck, Henk

WE04

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Master of Science in Physics and Astronomy](#)

**crdts**

6

**offering**

A

[Exchange Programme in Physics and Astronomy \(Master's Level\)](#)

6

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Solid state, structure, surfaces, microscopy, analytical techniques, characterization, defects

**Position of the course**

The goal of the course is to make the students acquainted with modern techniques for structural analysis of solid materials. This includes the theoretical background of the different techniques as well as the data analysis and the practical use.

The course is a direct continuation of the courses Materials Physics and Solid State Physics. It is also directly related to almost any dissertation in experimental solid state physics and X-ray imaging.

**Contents**

- X-ray diffraction for structure determination of crystalline materials: fundamentals, practical use, indexing, phase identification, and pole figure measurements for texture analysis
- Total scattering of X-rays and analysis of the pair distribution function (PDF) for nanostructured and amorphous materials
- Small angle scattering (SAXS) for obtaining structure information on the nanoscale
- EXAFS (Extended X-ray absorption fine structure) for determining the local structure of an atom in crystalline as well as amorphous materials
- Computed Tomography with a focus on high-resolution X-ray CT: data acquisition, reconstruction, visualization and analysis of 3D volumes, and applications
- EPR (Electron paramagnetic resonance) and ENDOR (Electron nuclear double resonance) for the study of defects using magnetic resonance
- Seminars on selected modern techniques for structural analysis: student seminar on a selected topic

**Initial competences**

Having successfully followed the courses Materials Physics, Solid State Physics, Quantum Mechanics and Atomic and Molecular Physics, or having gained similar expertise by following other courses.

**Final competences**

- 1 Apply advanced knowledge of methods, techniques, processes and applications in materials research to analyze and solve complex problems.
- 2 Analyze, evaluate and structurally synthesize information from scientific literature on experimental solid state physics and materials characterization techniques.
- 3 Show a professional attitude which is a sign of openness to new scientific developments and their applications in a broad scientific or societal context.
- 4 Present own literature review appropriately orally to peers.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Practical, Independent work, Peer teaching

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- The seminars allow to apply and better understand the concepts introduced in the lectures.
- The practicals (lab sessions) provide an opportunity to apply some theoretical concepts in practice, and gain hands-on experience with some of the characterisation techniques discussed.
- Through independent work, the students immerse themselves in a topic of their own choosing, after which they prepare and give a presentation on it directed to peers.

#### **Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Scientific articles and book chapters

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

#### **References**

- Takeshi Egami, Simon J.L. Billinge, Underneath the Bragg peaks : structural analysis of complex materials, Pergamon, 2012. ISBN:9780080971339
- V. K. Pecharsky, P. Y. Zavalij, Fundamentals of powder diffraction and structural characterization of materials, Kluwer Academic, Boston (2003)
- C.R. Brundle, C.A. Evans, S. Wilson, Encyclopedia of Materials Characterization, Butterworth-Heinemann, Boston (1992)

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Individual explanations by instructors, by appointment.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment open-book

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment open-book

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Oral assessment, Presentation

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Continuous assessment: oral presentation in public with question round.

End-of-term assessment: written exam, partly closed-book, partly open-book.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Continuous assessment (30%) + End-of-term assessment (70%)