

Time Domain Materials Science: X-ray Imaging of Excitations in Metal Nanoparticles

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Abstract

Coherent X-ray Diffraction is a method of imaging materials on the nanometre length scale using the high coherent flux of the latest synchrotron sources. Diffraction signals can be used to identify specific parts of the sample under investigation. When Bragg peaks of the sample are used, the resulting image becomes highly sensitive to the presence of strain, so the method is effective in exploring structural changes in materials. Bragg Coherent Diffraction Imaging (BCDI) can be used with XFEL sources from which the X-rays are highly coherent, but also in very short pulses. These can be used to "freeze" vibrations in materials and observe new transient phenomena. This also opens an opportunity to discover new phases of matter during the transients between more stable states.