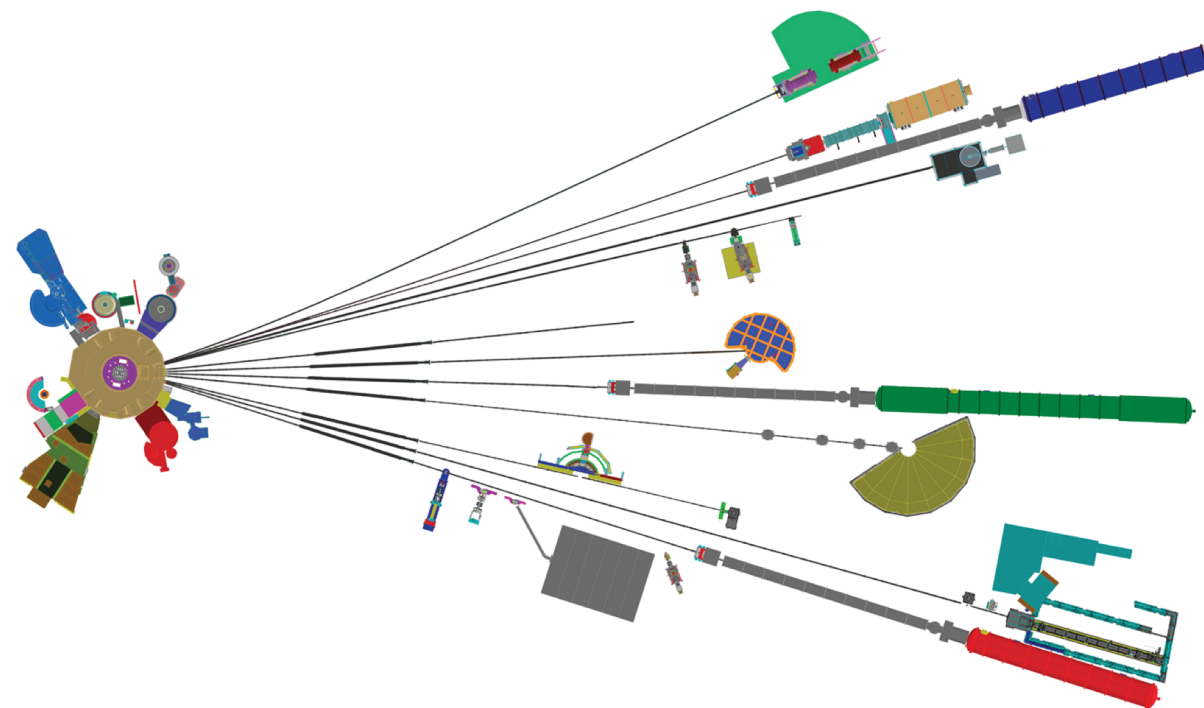




ISNIE

# ***AN INTRODUCTION TO NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS***



Jeremy Cook

Physicist, Research Facility Operations Group

NIST Center for Neutron Research

# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## OUTLINE



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- What are neutron guides and what do they do?
- Neutron optical properties
- Neutron reflective coatings
- Neutron guide substrates
- Neutron guide geometries and performance
- Transmission mirror devices
- Polarizing devices
- Windows, misalignments, cost estimates



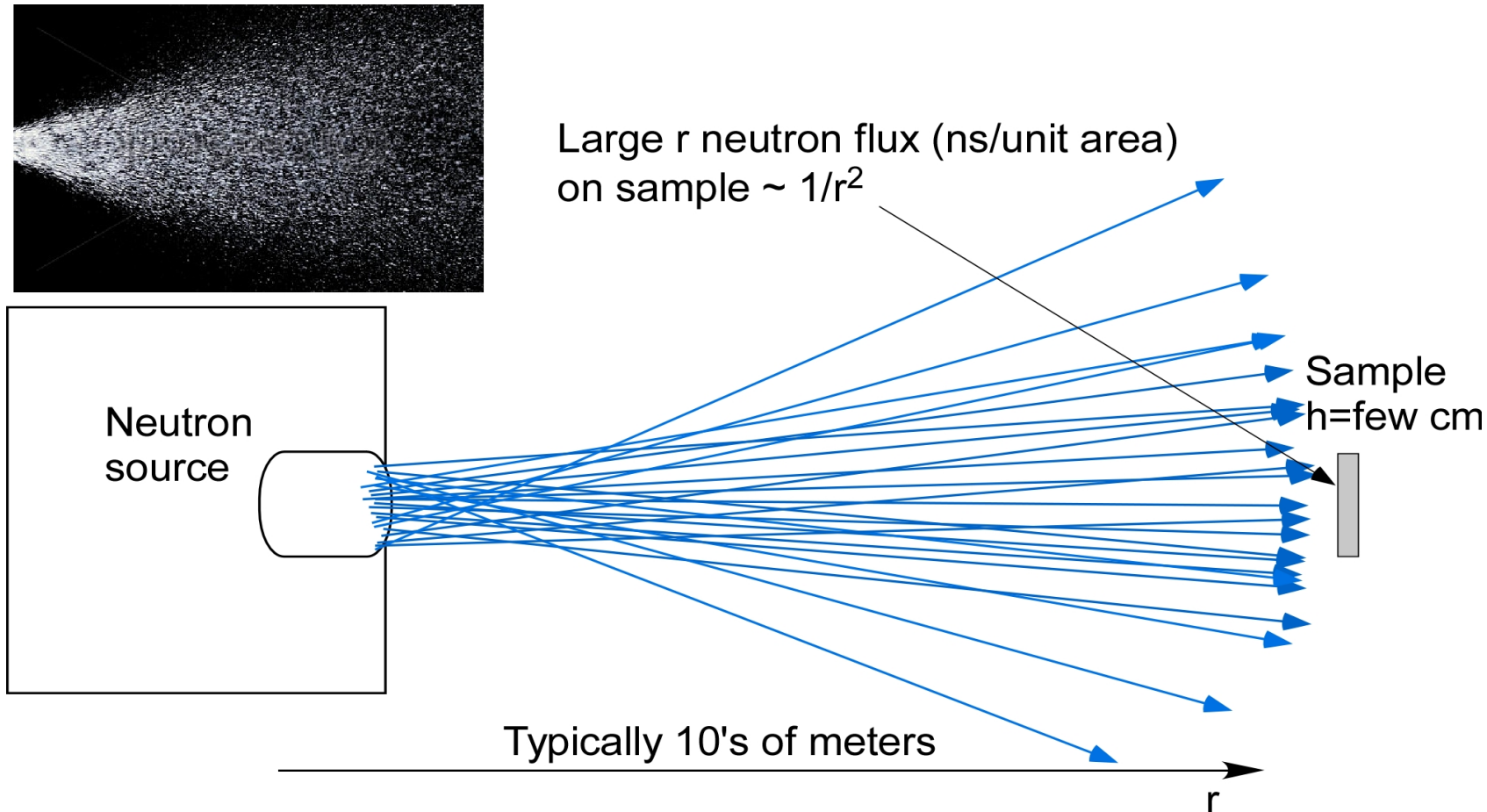
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## WHAT DO NEUTRON GUIDES DO?

- Instruments physically large (often displaced radially 10's m from source), samples ~ few cm in size – neutron guides **concentrate** the neutron beam **enhancing neutron flux (ns/unit area) at sample**



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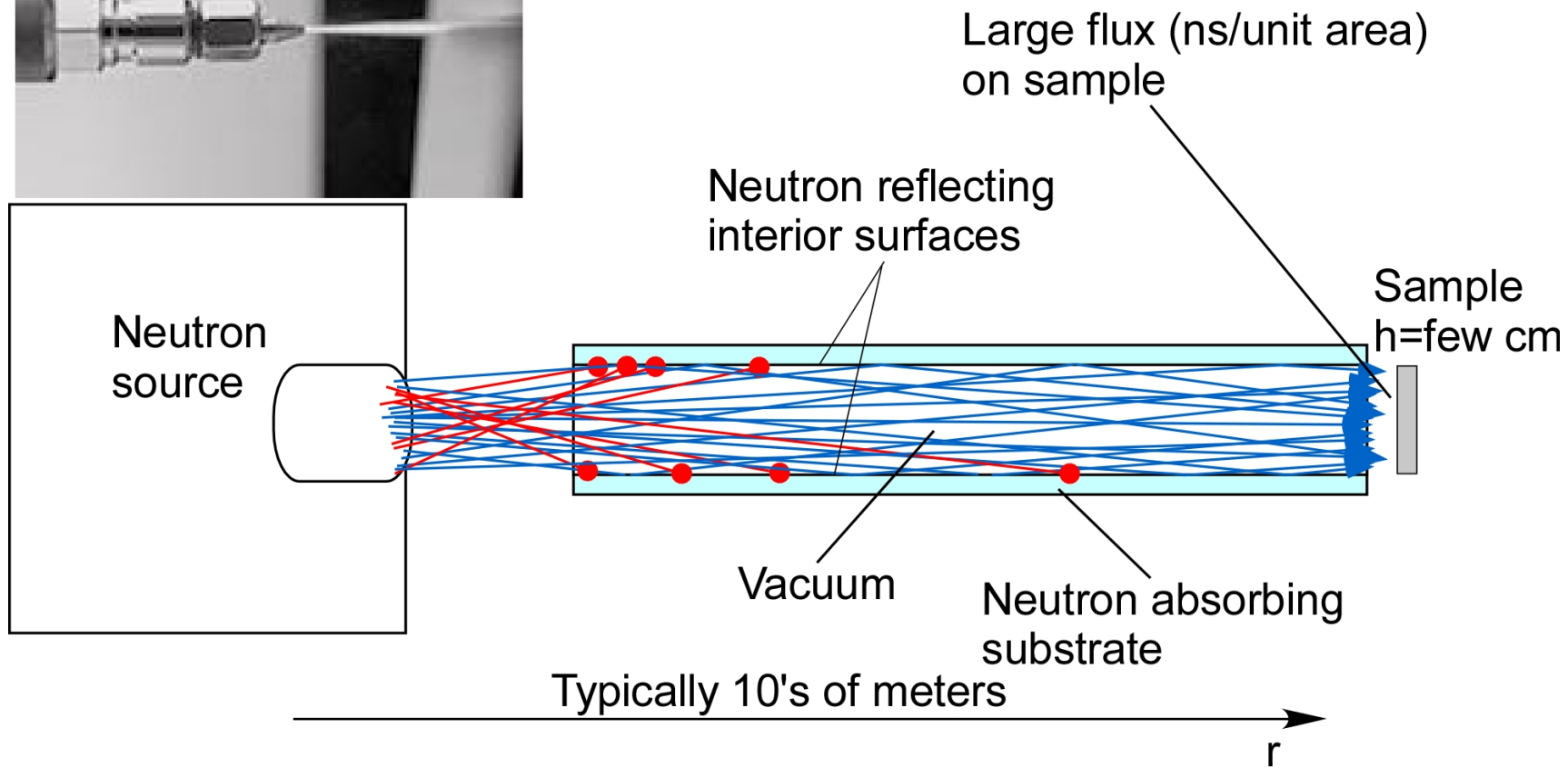


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## WHAT DO NEUTRON GUIDES DO?



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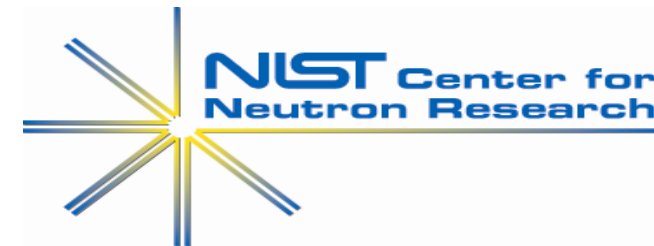
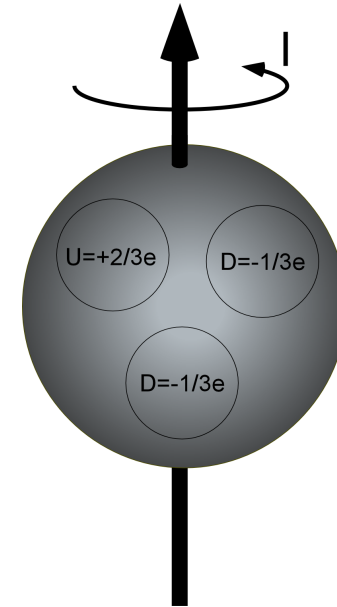
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## HOW?



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- Neutrons are uncharged – cannot redirect them easily like a charged particle beam
- BUT neutrons *DO* have **spin** a **magnetic moment**
  - Trajectory can be changed by *non-uniform* magnetic field (*refractive* optics).
  - Hexapole magnetic focusing devices exist ***but one neutron spin state is focused, the other is defocused***
- Neutron guides use reflective optics



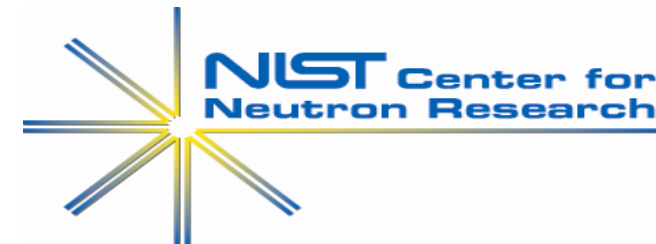
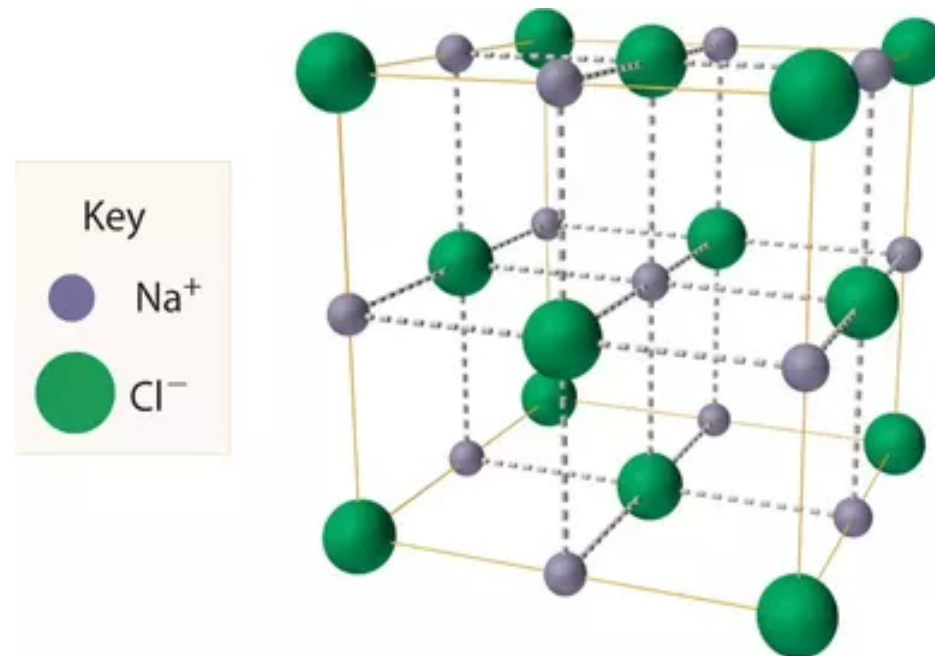
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## WAVE-LIKE PROPERTIES OF NEUTRONS



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- Wavelengths of *thermal-cold* neutrons typically several Angstroms  $\text{\AA}$  [ $1\text{\AA} = 0.1\text{ nm}$ ]
- Atomic spacings typically several  $\text{\AA}$  (e.g. NaCl has nearest Na-Cl separation  $2.8\text{\AA}$ )



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## WAVE-LIKE PROPERTIES OF NEUTRONS



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- Wavelength  $\lambda$  of neutron

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{m_n v_n}$$

$h$ =Planck's constant,  $m_n$ =mass of neutron,  $v_n$ =velocity of neutron

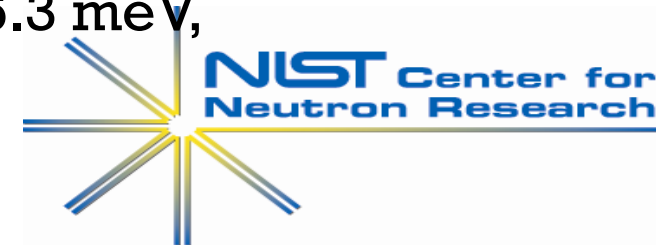
- Neutron energy

$$E_n = \frac{1}{2} m_n v_n^2$$

$$E_n [\text{meV}] = \frac{81.804207}{\left( \lambda \left[ \overset{\circ}{\text{\AA}} \right] \right)^2}$$

$$v_n [\text{ms}^{-1}] = \frac{3956.034}{\lambda \left[ \overset{\circ}{\text{\AA}} \right]}$$

**Neutron cross-sections** usually quoted at  $v_n = 2200 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  ( $E_n = 25.3 \text{ meV}$ ,  $\lambda = 1.7982 \text{ \AA}$ )



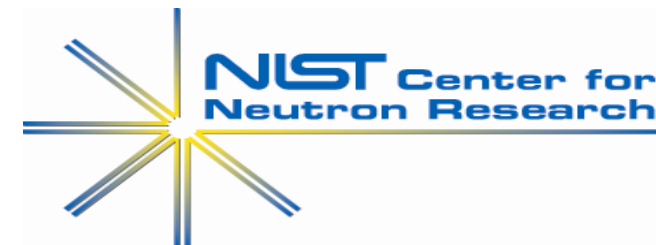
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## WAVE-LIKE PROPERTIES OF NEUTRONS

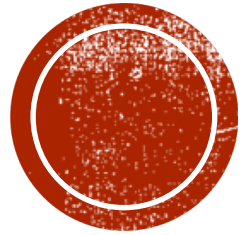


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$\lambda$ [Å]	Energy	Velocity [ms <sup>-1</sup> ]
10 <sup>-4</sup>	8.18 MeV	3.956×10 <sup>7</sup>
10 <sup>-3</sup>	81.8 keV	3.956×10 <sup>6</sup>
10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.818 keV	3.956×10 <sup>5</sup>
0.1	8.180 eV	39560.34
0.5	327.22 meV	7912
1	81.804 meV	3956
<b>1.7982</b>	<b>25.299 meV</b>	<b>2200</b>
2	20.451 meV	1978
4	5.113 meV	<b>989.0</b>
5	3.272 meV	791.2
6	2.272 meV	659.3
9	<b>1.010 meV</b>	439.6







# THE OPTICS OF NEUTRONS



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## REFRACTION AND TOTAL REFLECTION OF NEUTRONS



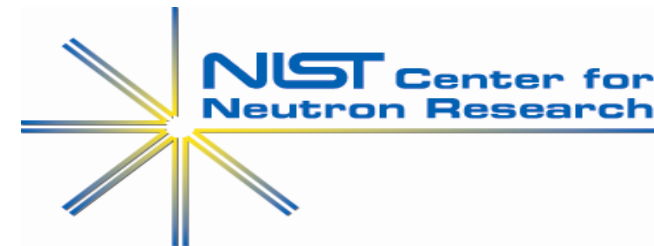
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- Neutron has *wave-like* properties: Can assign a **refractive index**,  $n$ , for their passage through a medium (ignoring absorption usually ok)

$$n \approx 1 - \lambda^2 \frac{Nb}{2\pi}$$

$Nb$  = “*scattering length density*” of medium

- $n=1$  for vacuum, also for air, He (to good approx.)
- $n$  very slightly less than 1 for dense media ( $1 - n \approx 10^{-6}$ )



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

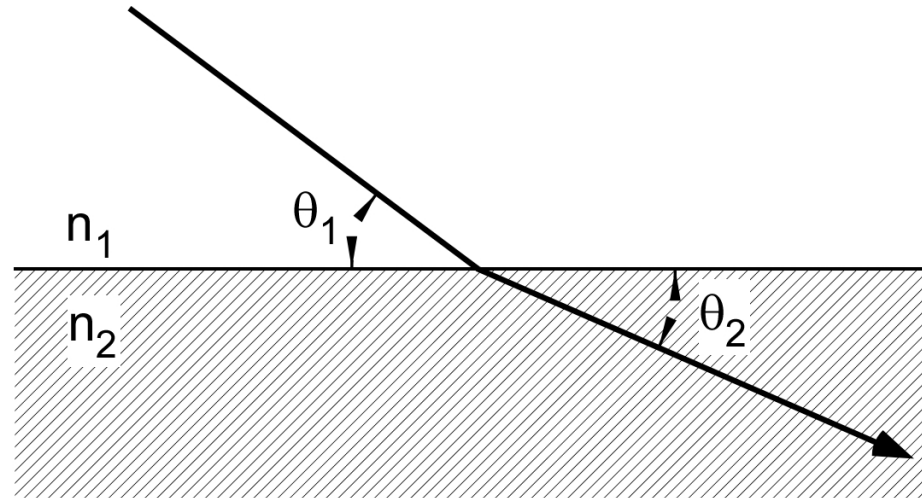
## REFRACTION AND TOTAL REFLECTION OF NEUTRONS



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- Snell's law

$$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = \frac{\cos \theta_2}{\cos \theta_1}$$



$$n_i \approx 1 - \lambda^2 \frac{N_i b_i}{2\pi}$$

For vacuum/air  $n_1 = n_{vac} = 1$

For dense medium  $n_2 = n_{med} < 1$

$$\therefore \theta_{med} = \theta_2 < \theta_{vac}$$

$$\cos \theta_{vac} = n_{med} \cos \theta_{med}$$



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

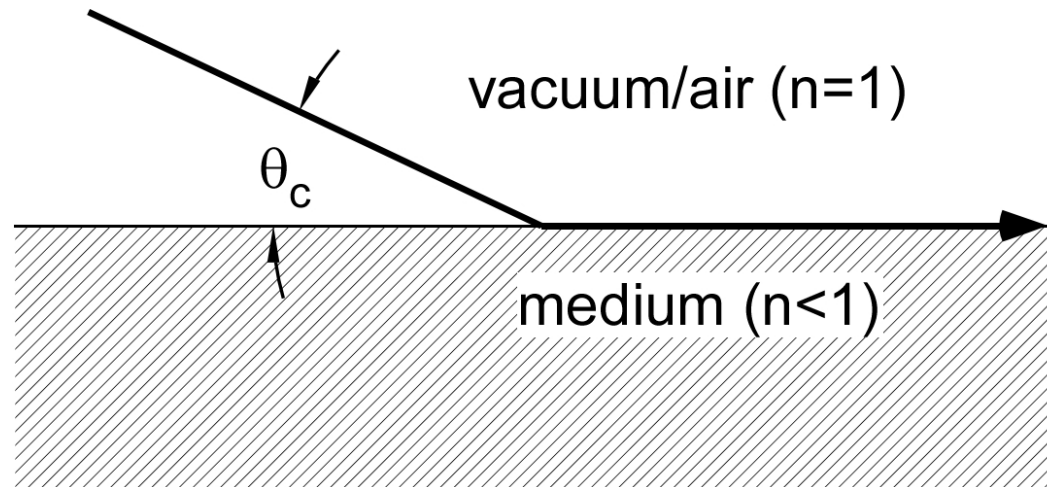
## REFRACTION AND TOTAL REFLECTION OF NEUTRONS



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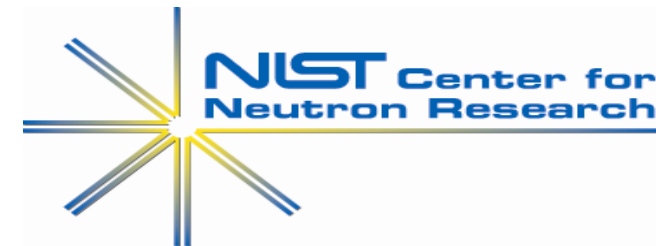
- Transition from refraction to **total reflection** occurs when:  
and

$$\theta_{med} = 0 \quad (\cos \theta_{med} = 1) \quad \theta_{vac} = \theta_c$$



$$\therefore \cos \theta_c = n_{med}$$

$\theta_c$  is the “**critical angle**”

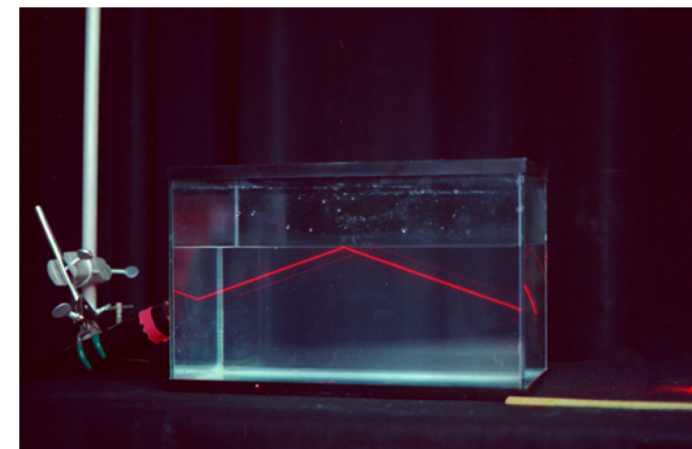
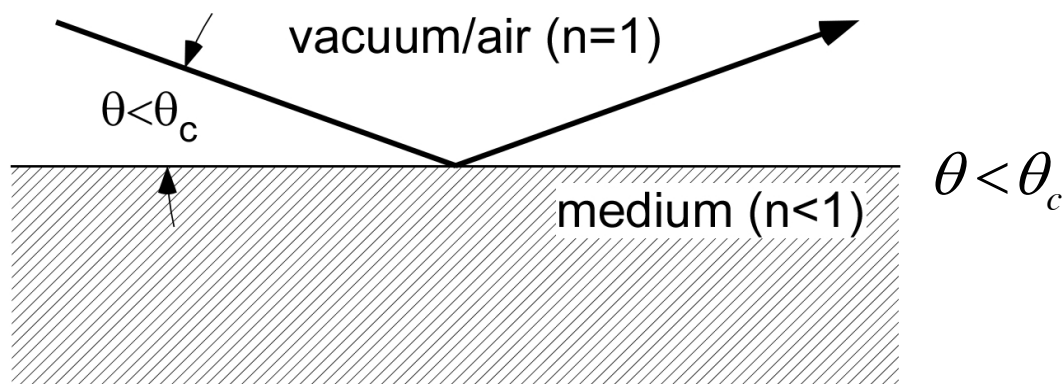


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## TOTAL REFLECTION AND CRITICAL ANGLE



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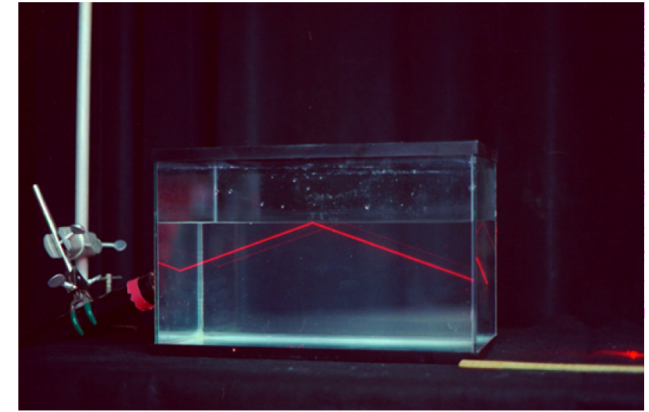
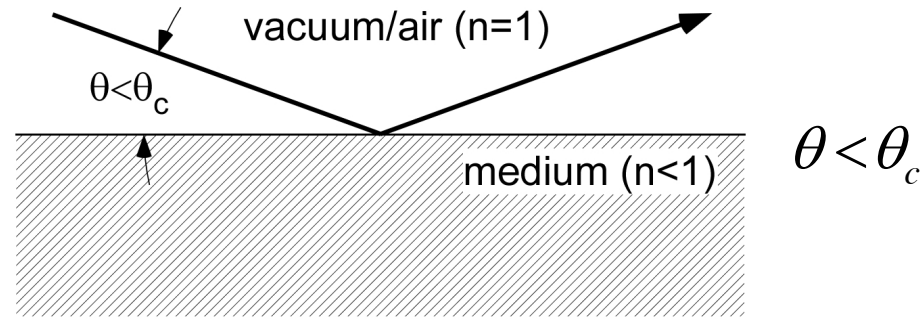


- **Total (external) reflection** occurs on going from *less dense* (vacuum) to *more dense* (mirror) interface
- Drop “*med*” subscript for **neutron guides**:
  - Dealing with  $n=1$  for vacuum/He/air
  - $n$  (and  $N, b$ ) henceforth refer to the *dense medium* (reflective coating)



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## TOTAL REFLECTION AND CRITICAL ANGLE



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- 1-  $n$  very small ( $\approx 10^{-6}$ )  $\Rightarrow$  **small angle approximation** applies:

$$\cos \theta_c \approx 1 - \frac{\theta_c^2}{2} = n = 1 - \lambda^2 \frac{Nb}{2\pi} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\theta_c}{\lambda} \approx \sqrt{\frac{Nb}{\pi}}$$

$$\theta_c(\lambda) \propto \lambda$$

- In 2-dimensions: Solid angle  $\sim \theta_{c,x}(\lambda)\theta_{c,y}(\lambda)$

$\therefore$  (idealized) **solid angle of acceptance of guide  $\sim \lambda^2$**

**(guide naturally filters out fast neutrons)**



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## REFLECTIVITY



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- **Fresnel's law reflectivity**

$$R(\theta < \theta_c) = 1$$

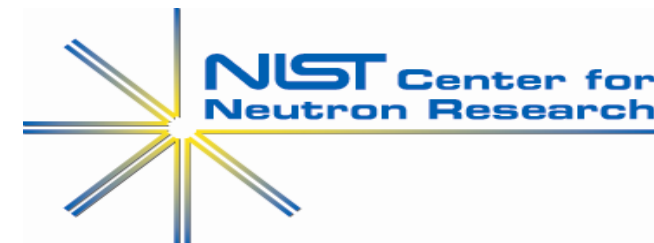
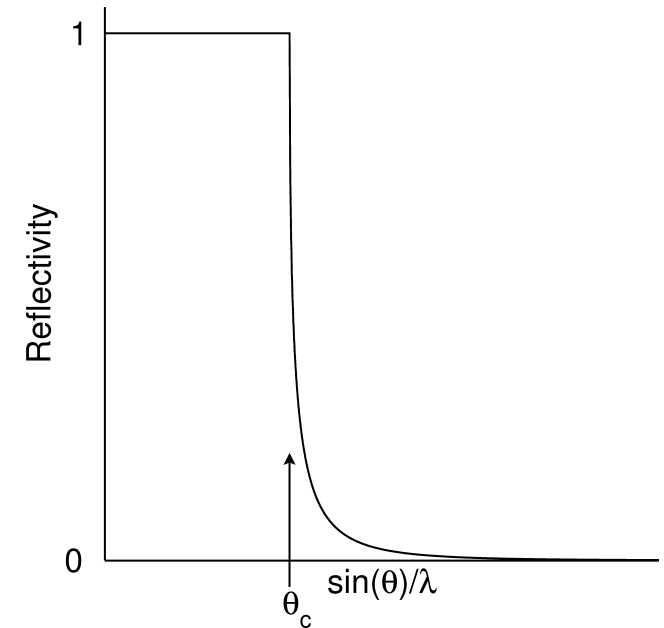
$$R(\theta \geq \theta_c) = \left| \frac{\sin \theta_1 - (n^2 - \cos^2 \theta_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\sin \theta_1 + (n^2 - \cos^2 \theta_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right|^2 \equiv \left| \frac{\sin \theta_1 - (\cos^2 \theta_c - \cos^2 \theta_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\sin \theta_1 + (\cos^2 \theta_c - \cos^2 \theta_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right|^2$$

- Often plot reflectivity against **wavevector transfer  $Q$**

$$Q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin \theta \approx 4\pi \frac{\theta}{\lambda}$$

- Note **critical  $Q$**  is

$$Q_c \approx 4\pi \frac{\theta_c}{\lambda} = 4\sqrt{\pi N b}$$



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## REFLECTIVITY LIMITS AND CRITICAL ANGLE



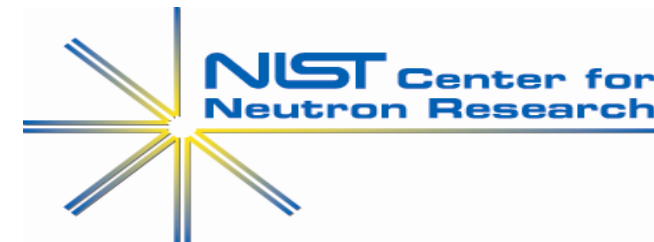
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- Largest critical angle for largest scattering length density  $Nb$

Material	$N$ or $\langle N \rangle$ ( $\times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ )	$b$ or $\langle b \rangle$ (fm)	$Nb$ or $S_i N_i b_i$ ( $\times 10^{-6} \text{ \AA}^2$ )	"m" $\equiv q_c/q_c(\text{nat Ni})$
Be	12.34	7.79	9.61	1.01
Fe	8.48	9.45	8.01	0.92
Ni (reference)	<b>9.13</b>	<b>10.3(1)</b>	<b>9.41</b>	<b>1.00</b>
$^{58}\text{Ni}$	9.11	14.4(1)	13.1	1.18
Cu	8.49	7.72	6.55	0.83
Borkron® NZK7 glass	7.36	5.26	3.87	0.64

$$\frac{\theta_c}{\lambda} \approx \sqrt{\frac{Nb}{\pi}}$$

- Largest  $\theta_c$  in *naturally-occurring* elements (except Be which is not practical) is for **Ni** ( $^{58}\text{Ni}$  isotope is larger)
- $\theta_c(\text{nat Ni})/\lambda = 1.73 \text{ mrad} \text{ \AA}^{-1} (\approx 0.1^\circ \text{ \AA}^{-1})$
- $\theta_c(^{58}\text{Ni})/\lambda = 2.04 \text{ mrad} \text{ \AA}^{-1} (\approx 0.12^\circ \text{ \AA}^{-1})$
- $\theta_c$  for guides usually referenced to nat. Ni via factor "m"





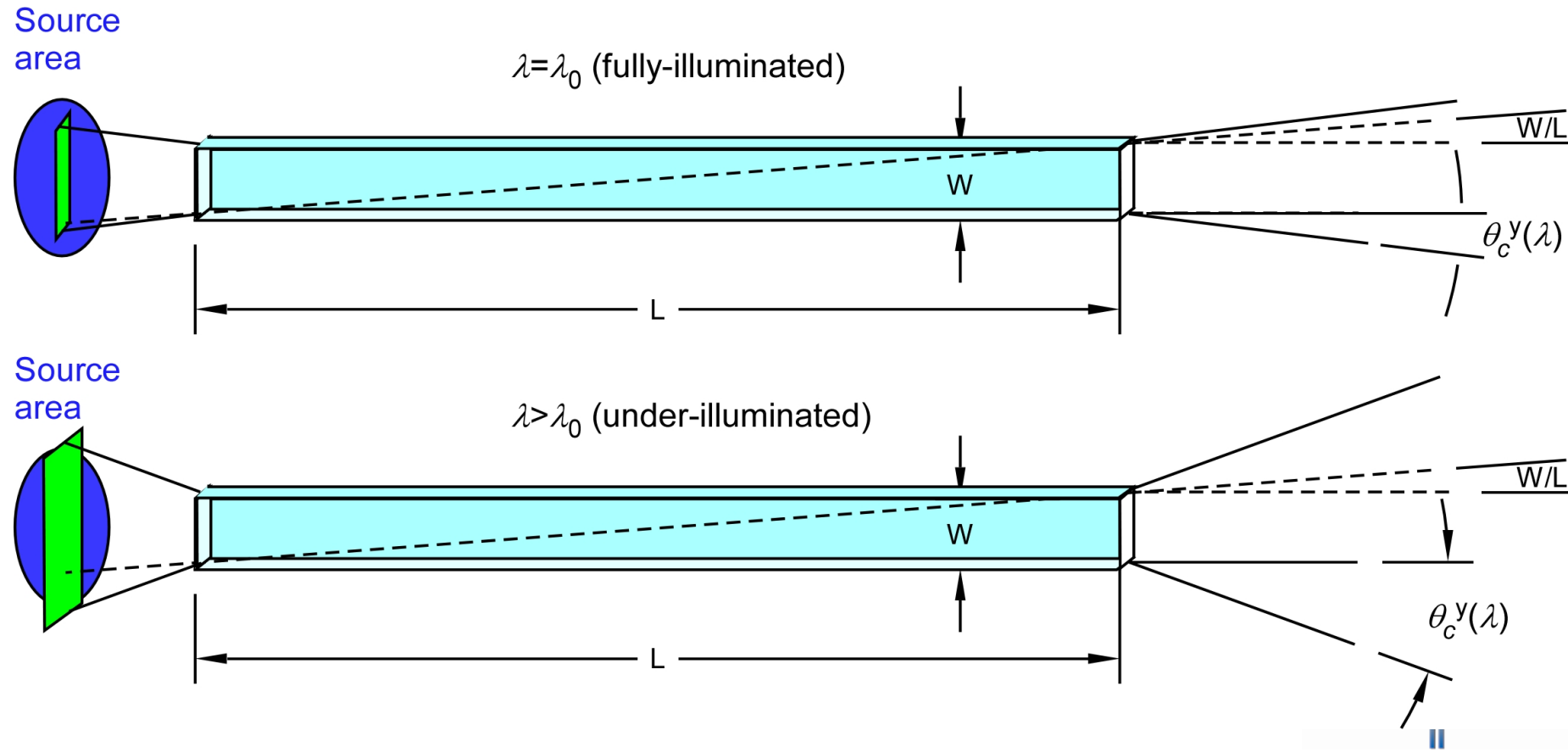
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## DEFINITIONS: "FULLY-ILLUMINATED"

- "Fully-illuminated"  $\Rightarrow$  What can be accepted by the guide is not limited by the boundaries of the source: Think "**infinite source**"
- Usually wish to fully-illuminate to **reasonably long wavelength** or for **max acceptable beam divergence**



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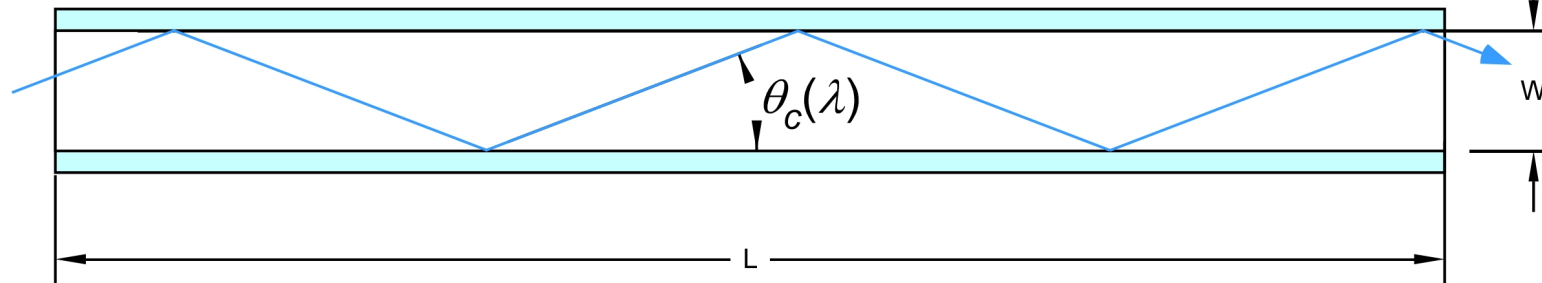
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## DEFINITIONS: "LONG" STRAIGHT GUIDES

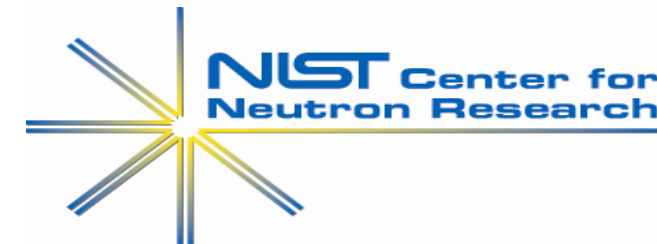
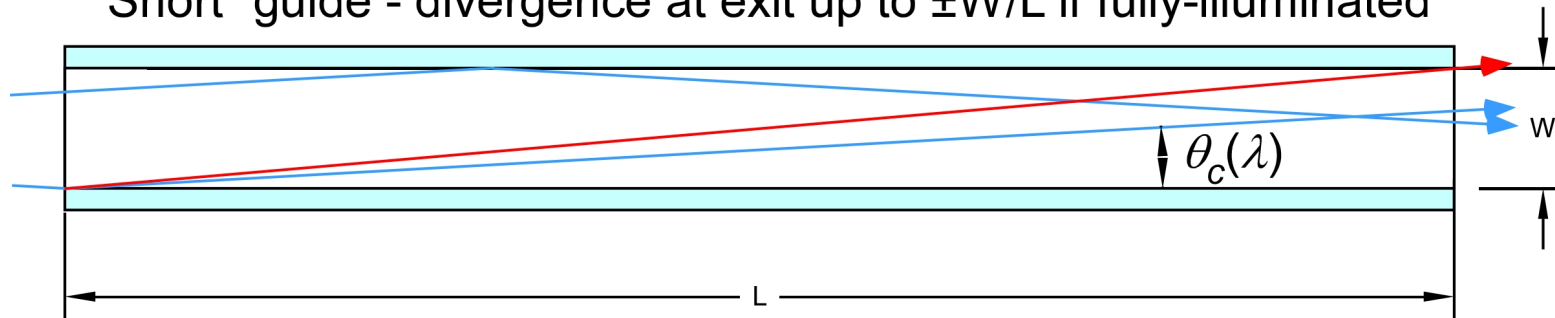


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"Long" guide ( $\theta_c(\lambda) > W/L$ ) - divergence at exit  $\pm\theta_c(\lambda)$  if fully-illuminated



"Short" guide - divergence at exit up to  $\pm W/L$  if fully-illuminated



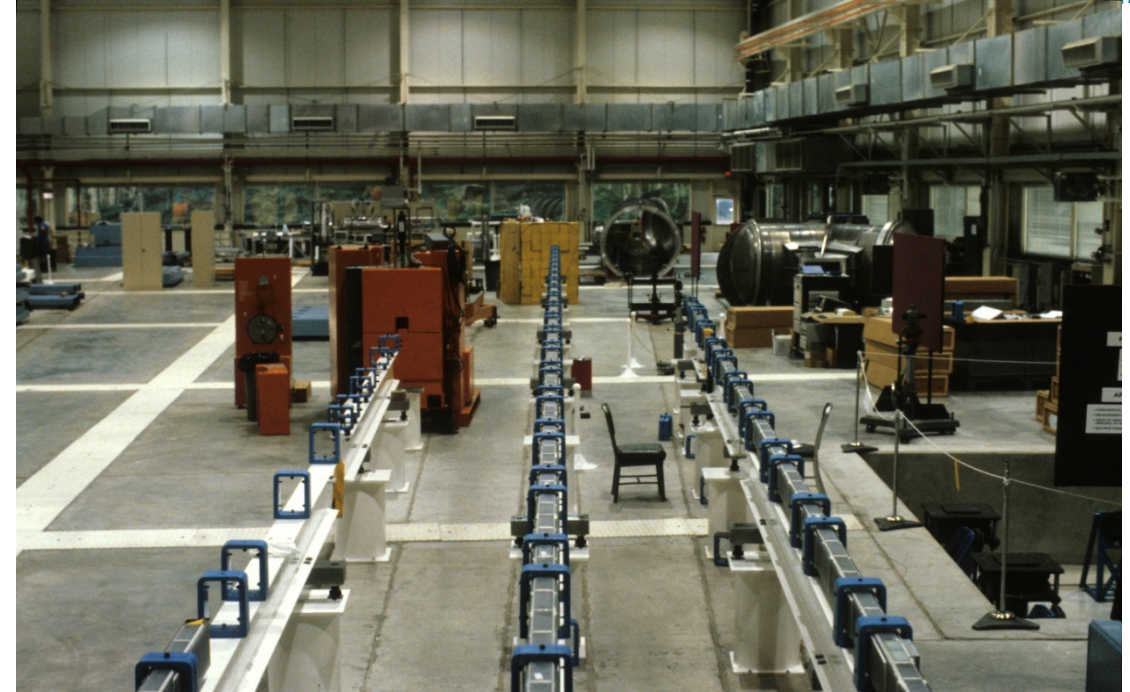
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SIMPLE EXAMPLE “LONG” STRAIGHT GUIDE



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- First guides at NCNR (CNRF) early 1990's were straight-sided and not curved



- IDEALIZED transmission  $\sim \theta_c^2 \propto \lambda^2$
- NG3,5,6,7 are  $^{58}\text{Ni}$ ,  $\theta_c(^{58}\text{Ni})/\theta_c(\text{Ni}) = 1.18 \Rightarrow$  ideal gain  $^{58}\text{Ni}/\text{Ni} = 1.18^2 \approx 1.4$
- Flux gain is at the expense of increased divergence



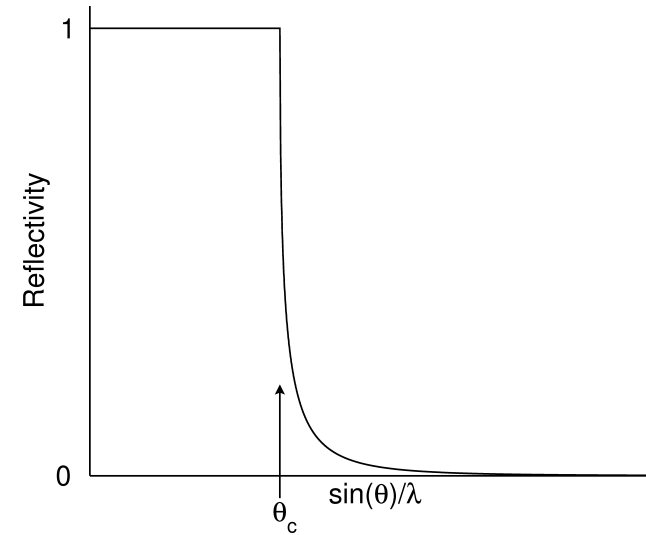
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## EXTEND THE LIMITS OF CRITICAL ANGLE?

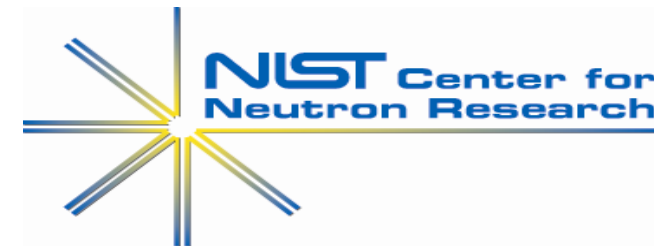


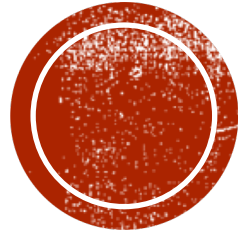
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- Fresnel's law reflectivity
  - Very high reflectivity below  $\theta_c$
  - $\theta_c$  is fundamentally **limited by physical and nuclear properties of material**



- Can we somehow increase the naturally-limited critical angle by factor  $m$ ?
  - e.g.  $m=2 \Rightarrow$  idealized gain wrt Ni  $=m^2 = 4$
  - $m=3$ , gain=9 etc.
- Yes! – Can do this artificially with **supermirrors**





# SUPER MIRRORS



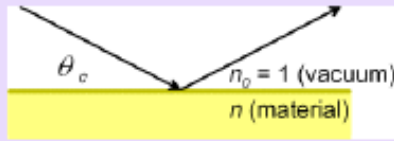
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## ARTIFICIALLY EXTENDING THE LIMITS OF CRITICAL ANGLE

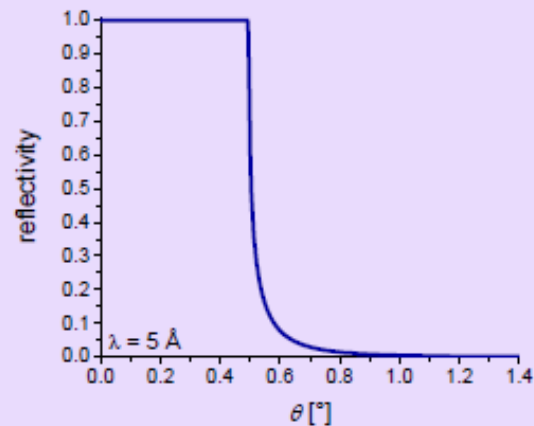


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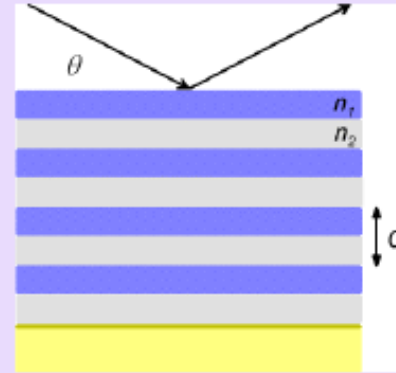
@ smooth surfaces



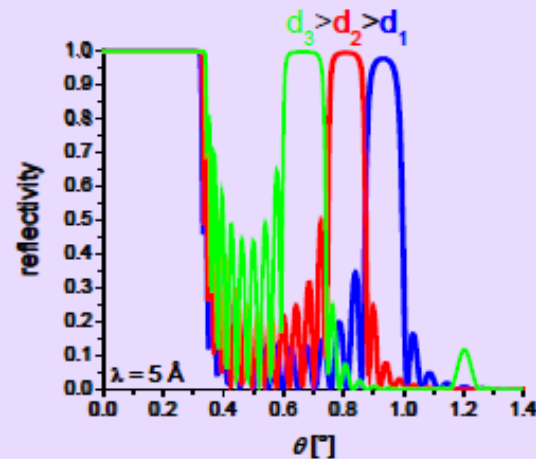
- ▶ refractive index  $n < 1$
- ▶ total external reflection  
e.g. Ni  $\theta_c = 0.1^\circ/\text{\AA}$



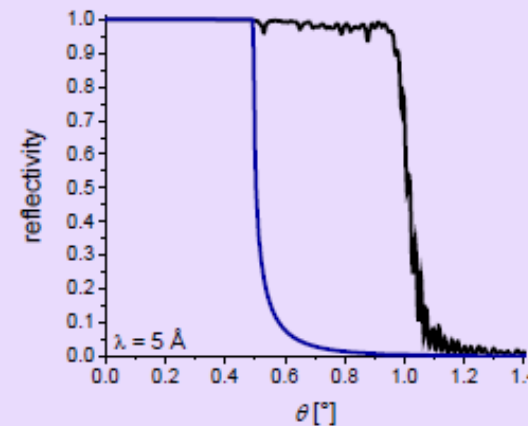
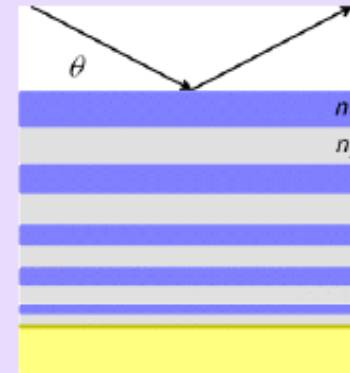
@ multilayer



$$\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$



@ supermirror



Slide due to P. Böni



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



Ex. m=3

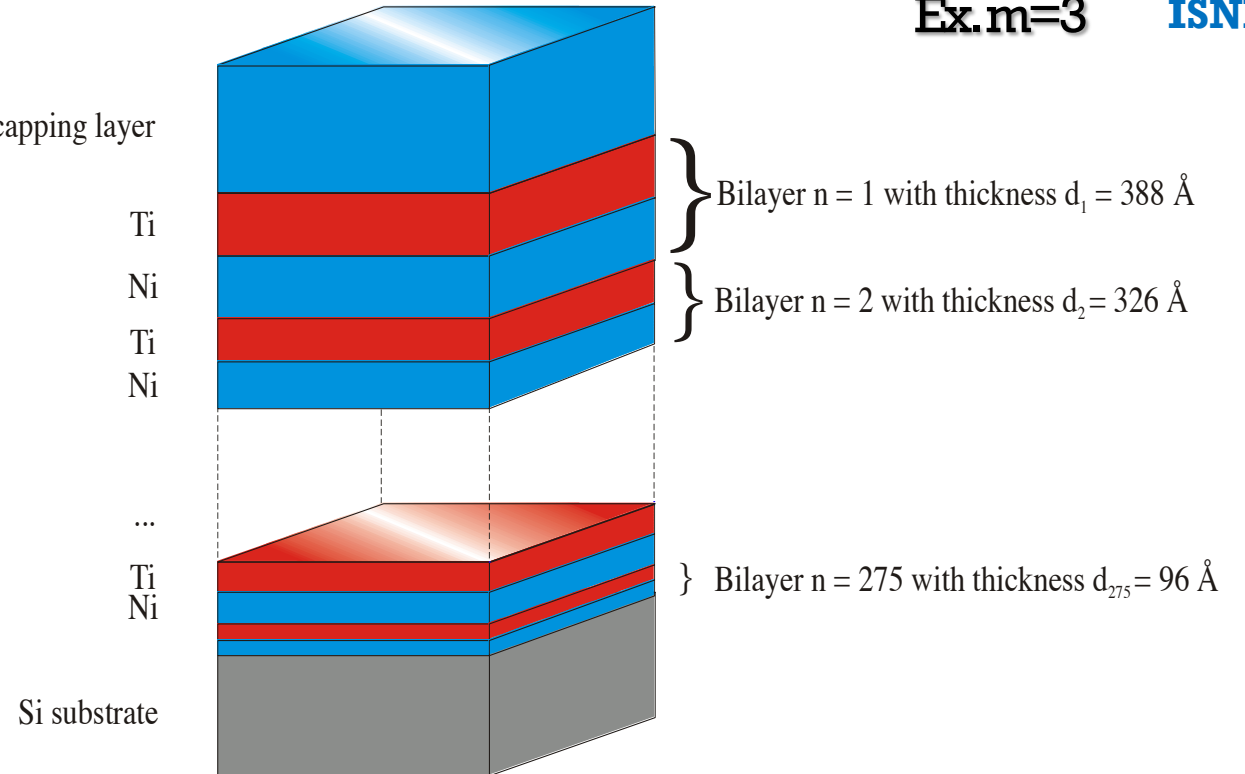
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### Mezei's Supermirror Design Recipe

$$d(n) = \frac{d_c^{\text{Ni}}}{\sqrt[4]{n}}$$

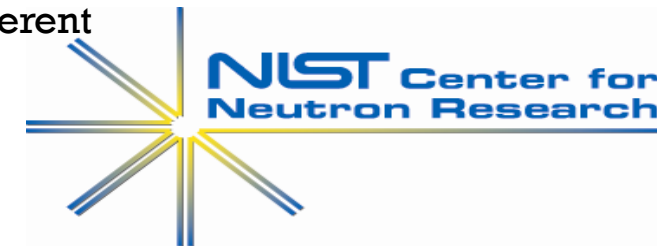
- Alternating layers of “**high contrast**” materials
- e.g. **Ni** ( $Nb=9.41 \times 10^{-6} \text{ \AA}^{-2}$ ) and **Ti** ( $Nb=-1.91 \times 10^{-6} \text{ \AA}^{-2}$ )

1000 Å Ni capping layer



- Relies on coherent (in-phase) neutron scattering from different layers
  - Each  $d$ -spacing reflects a different  $Q$  (different angle for a given wavelength or different wavelength for a given angle)

Figure from C. Rehm



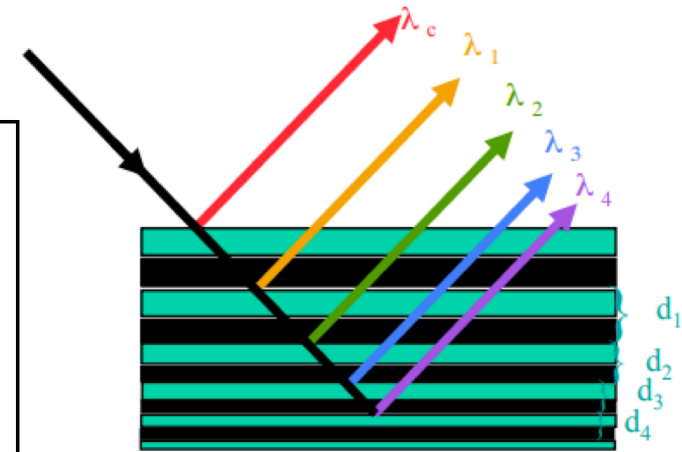
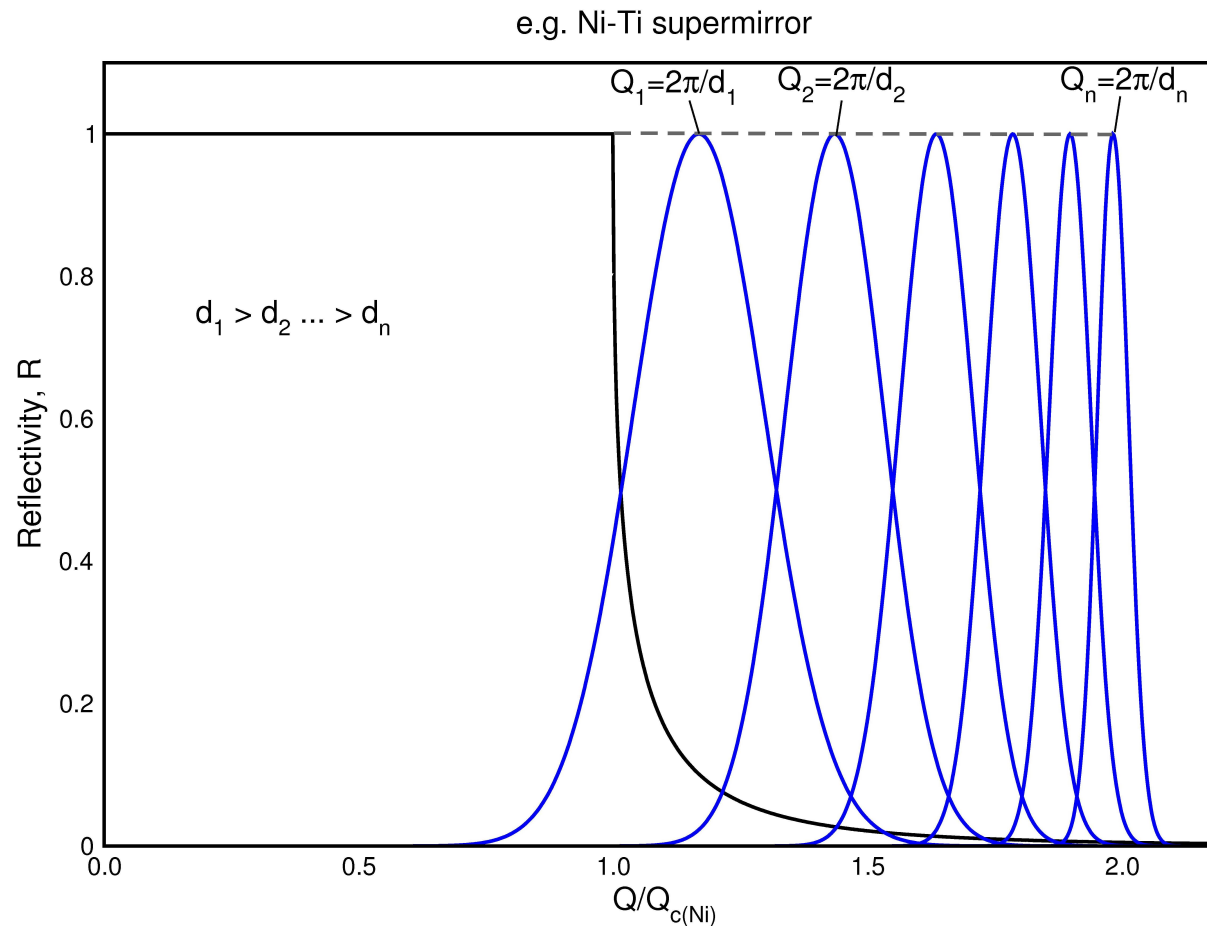
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



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- $d_i$  are chosen such that the corresponding Bragg peaks intersect at half-height
- “ $m$ ” defines the ratio of the effective supermirror reflectivity cutoff wrt nat. Ni (e.g.  $m=3 \Rightarrow Q_c(\text{SM})/Q_c(\text{Ni})=3$ )



$$Q \approx 4\pi \frac{\theta}{\lambda}$$

Fixed  $\theta$

$$d_1 > d_2 > d_3,$$

$$\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \lambda_3,$$

$$Q_1 < Q_2 < Q_3, \text{ etc.}$$





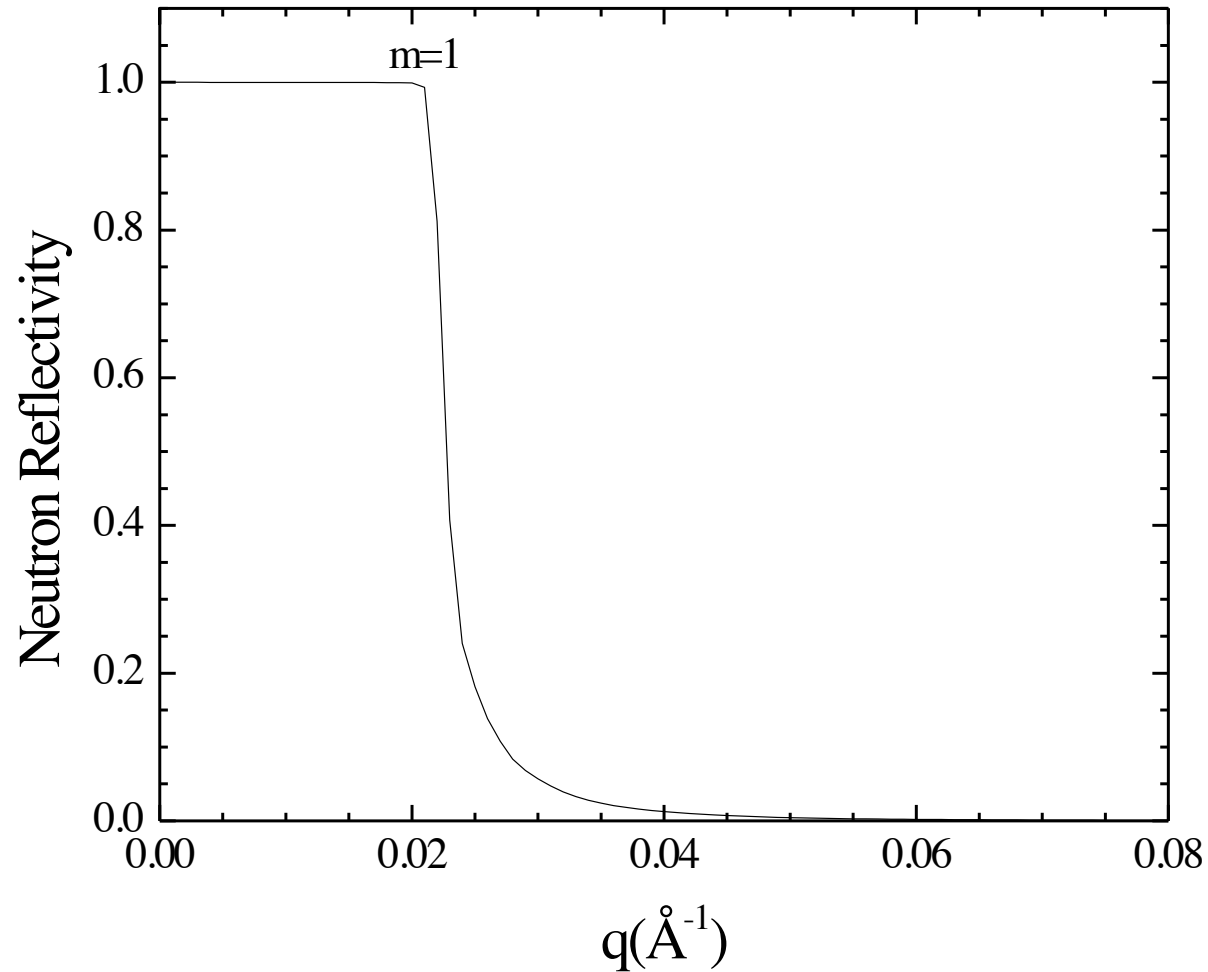
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



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- Number of required layers increases rapidly with increasing  $m$



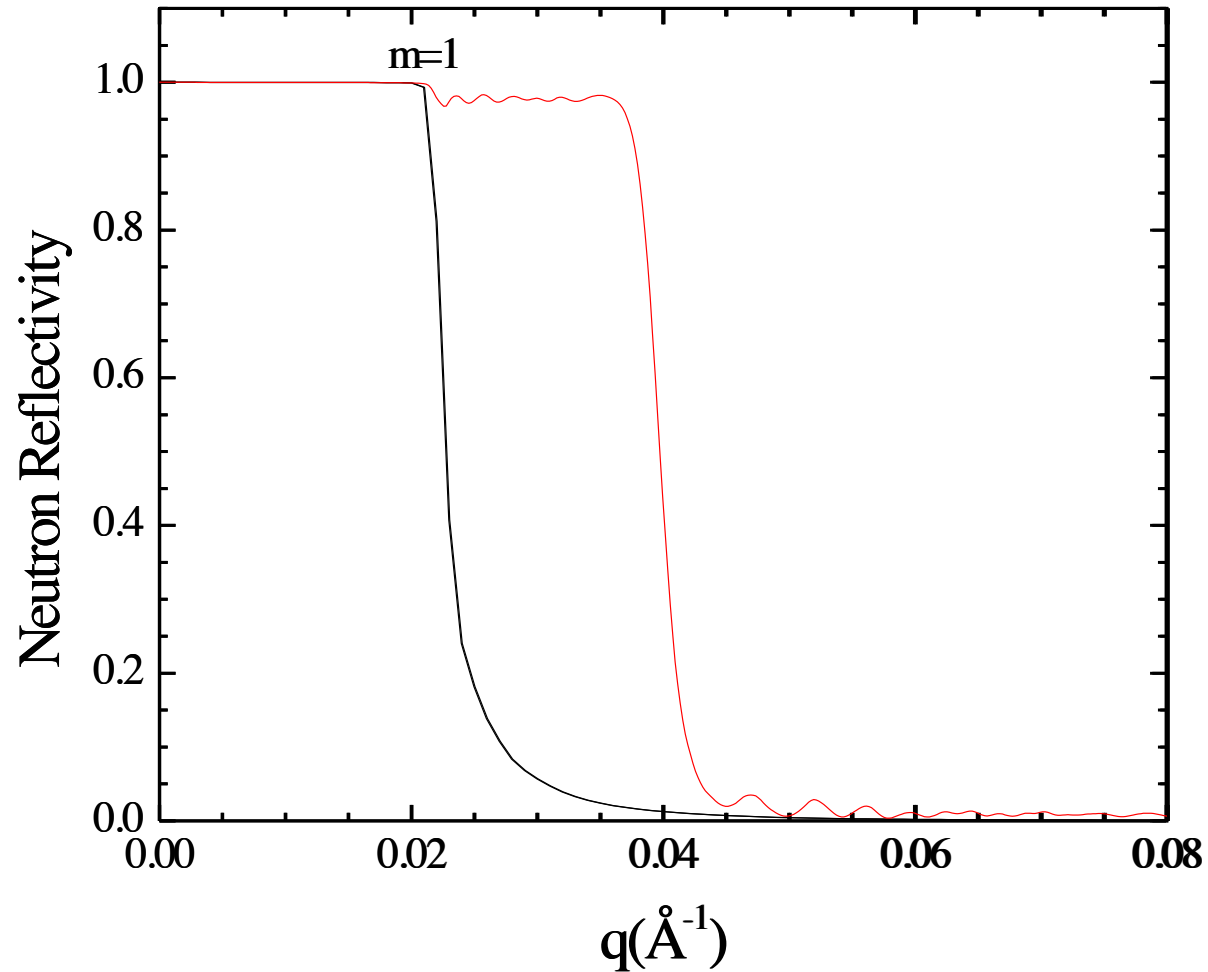
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



ISNIE

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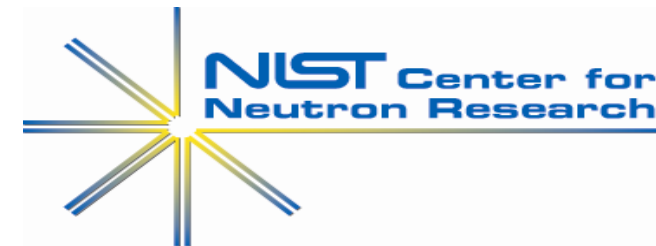
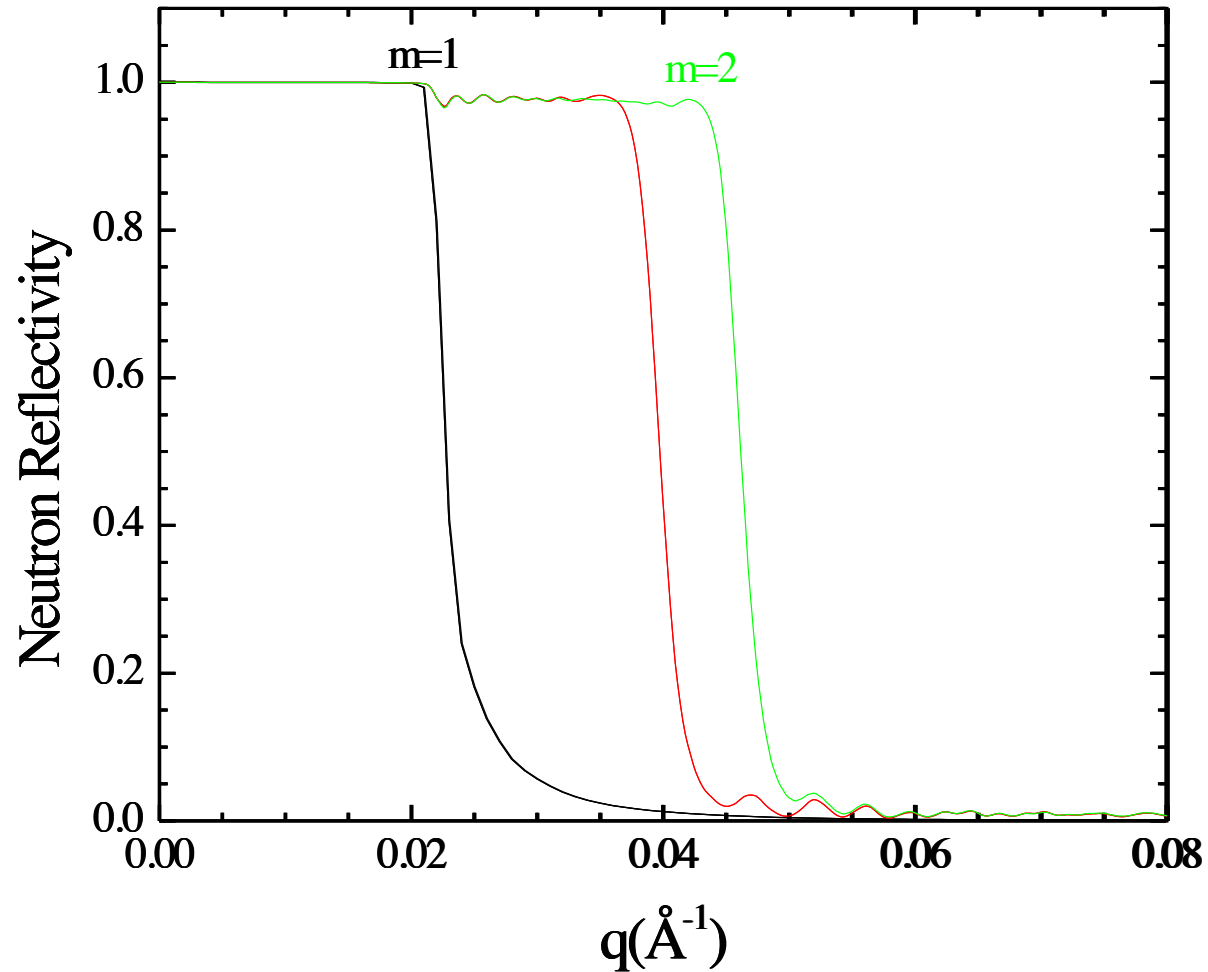
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



ISNIE

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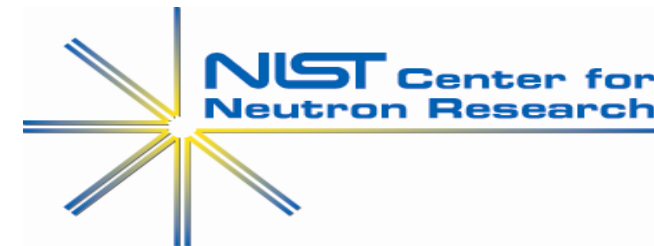
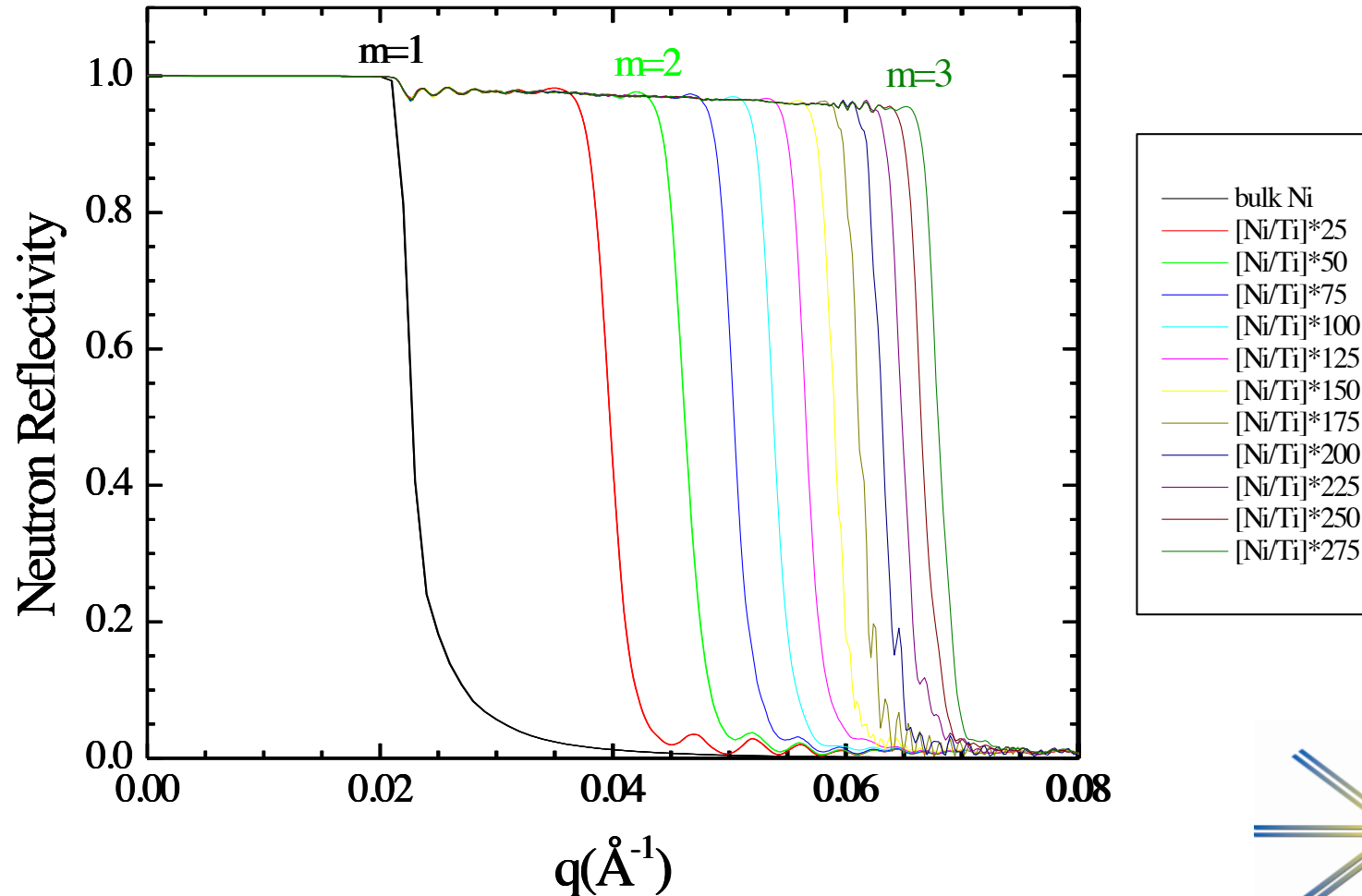
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



ISNIE

- Number of required layers increases rapidly with increasing  $m$



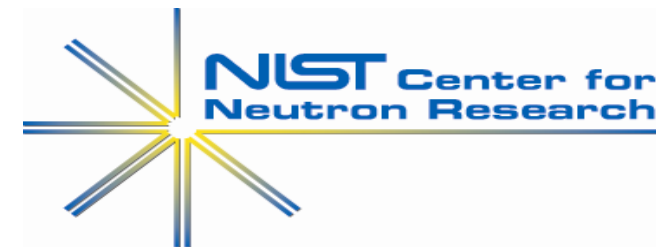
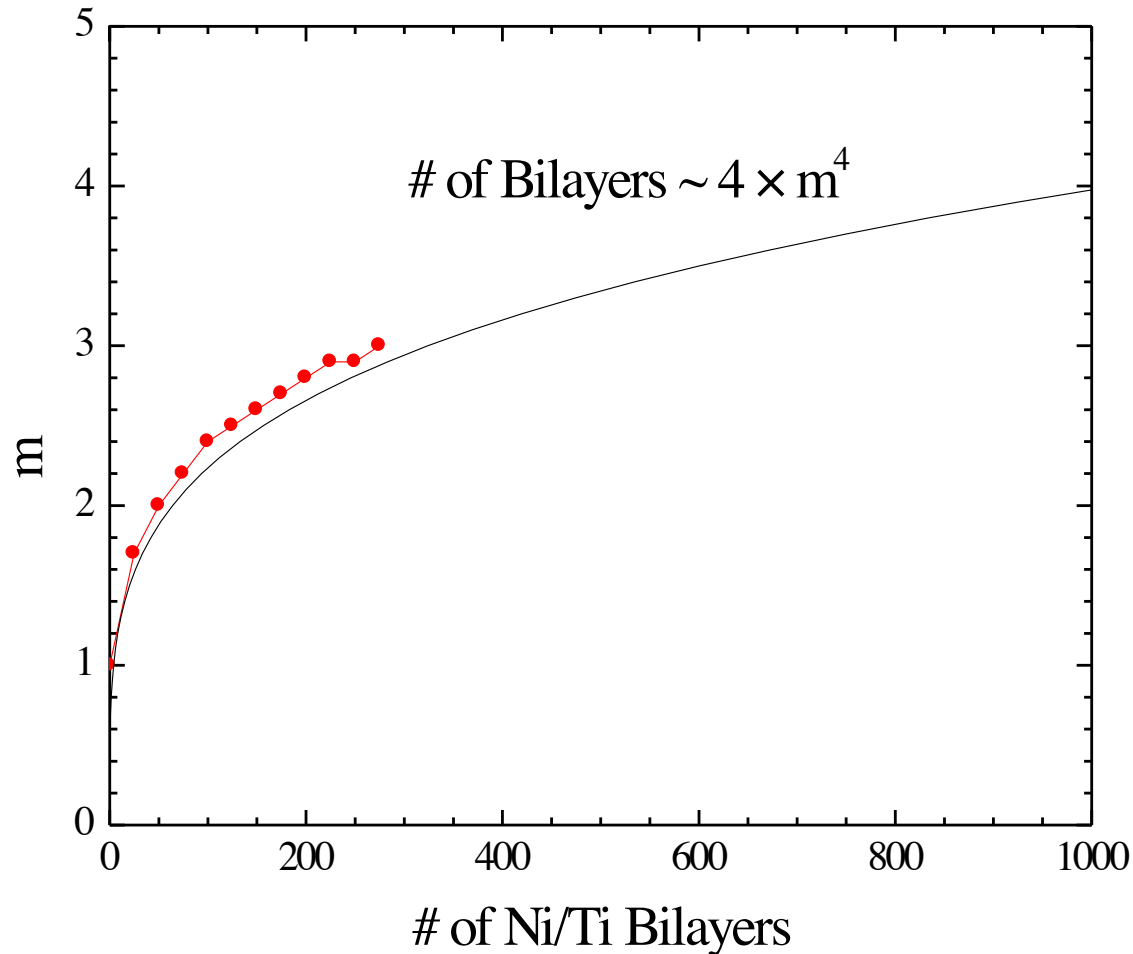
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## SUPERMIRRORS



ISNIE

- Number of required layers increases rapidly with increasing  $m$  ( $\sim m^4$ ) - influences cost



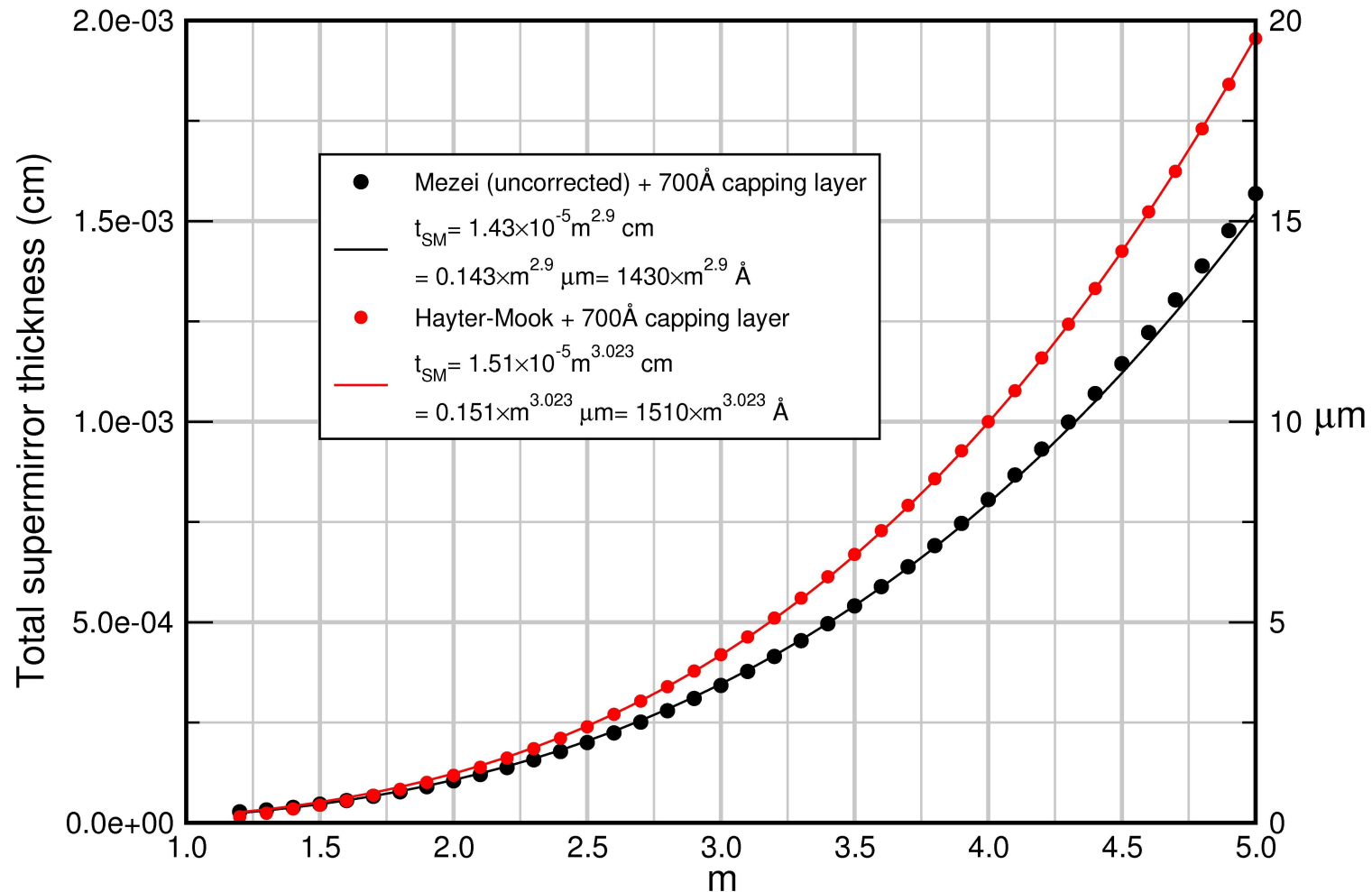
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

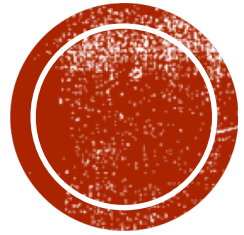
## SUPERMIRRORS



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- Thickness of supermirror increases  $\sim m^3$





# COATING TYPES



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## TYPES OF SUPERMIRROR



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- Common (non-polarizing guides): **Ni-Ti**
- Polarizing
  - **Fe/Si**
  - **FeCoV / TiN** (problem activation of Co ( $^{60}\text{Co}$   $T_{1/2} > 5$  yrs))
  - Require  $> 100$  Gauss (0.01 T) magnetic field in “easy magnetization direction” (plane of supermirror) to saturate polarization
- Non-magnetic **Ni(Mo)/Ti** (special applications)

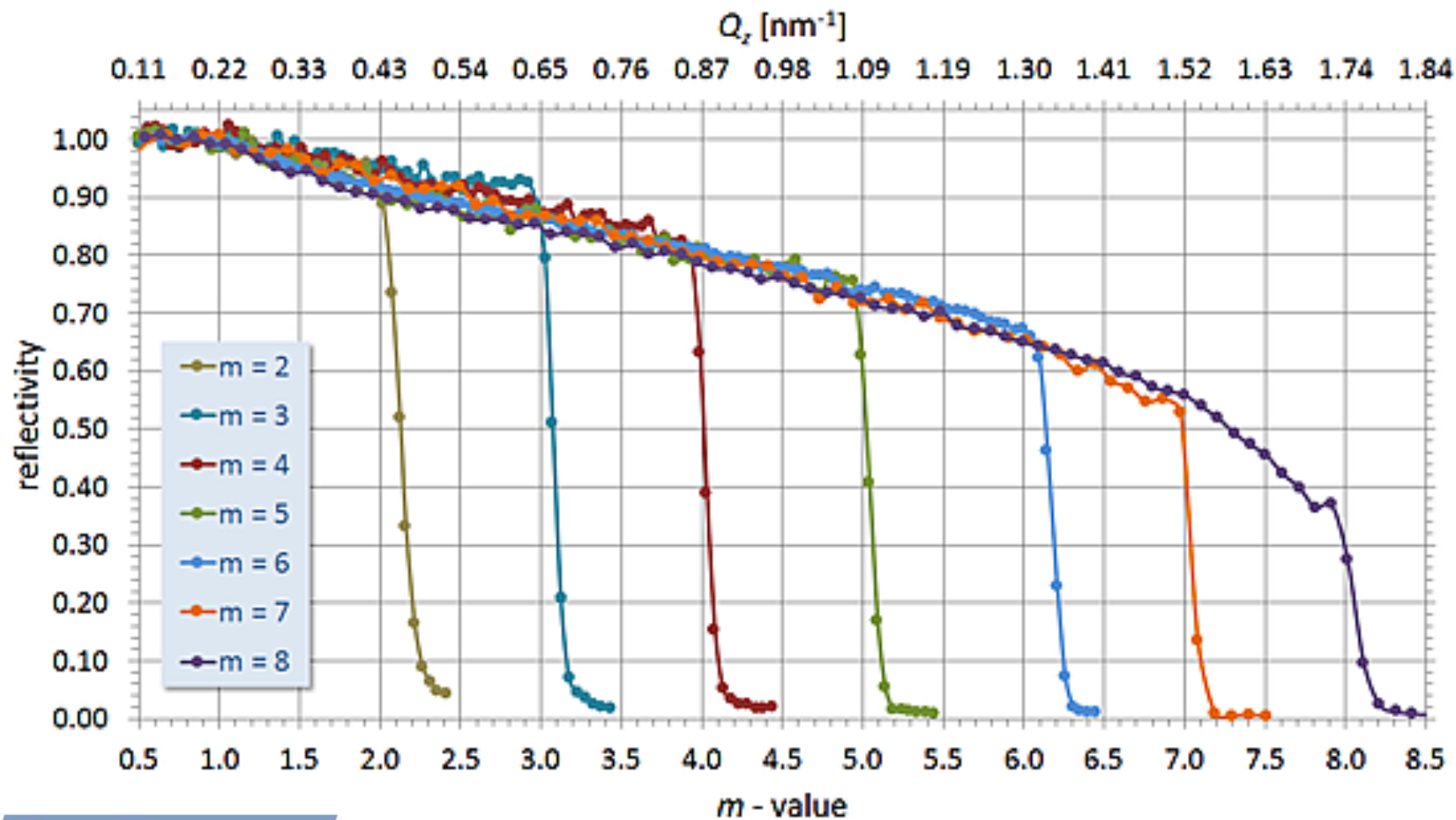




# SUPERMIRROR COATINGS



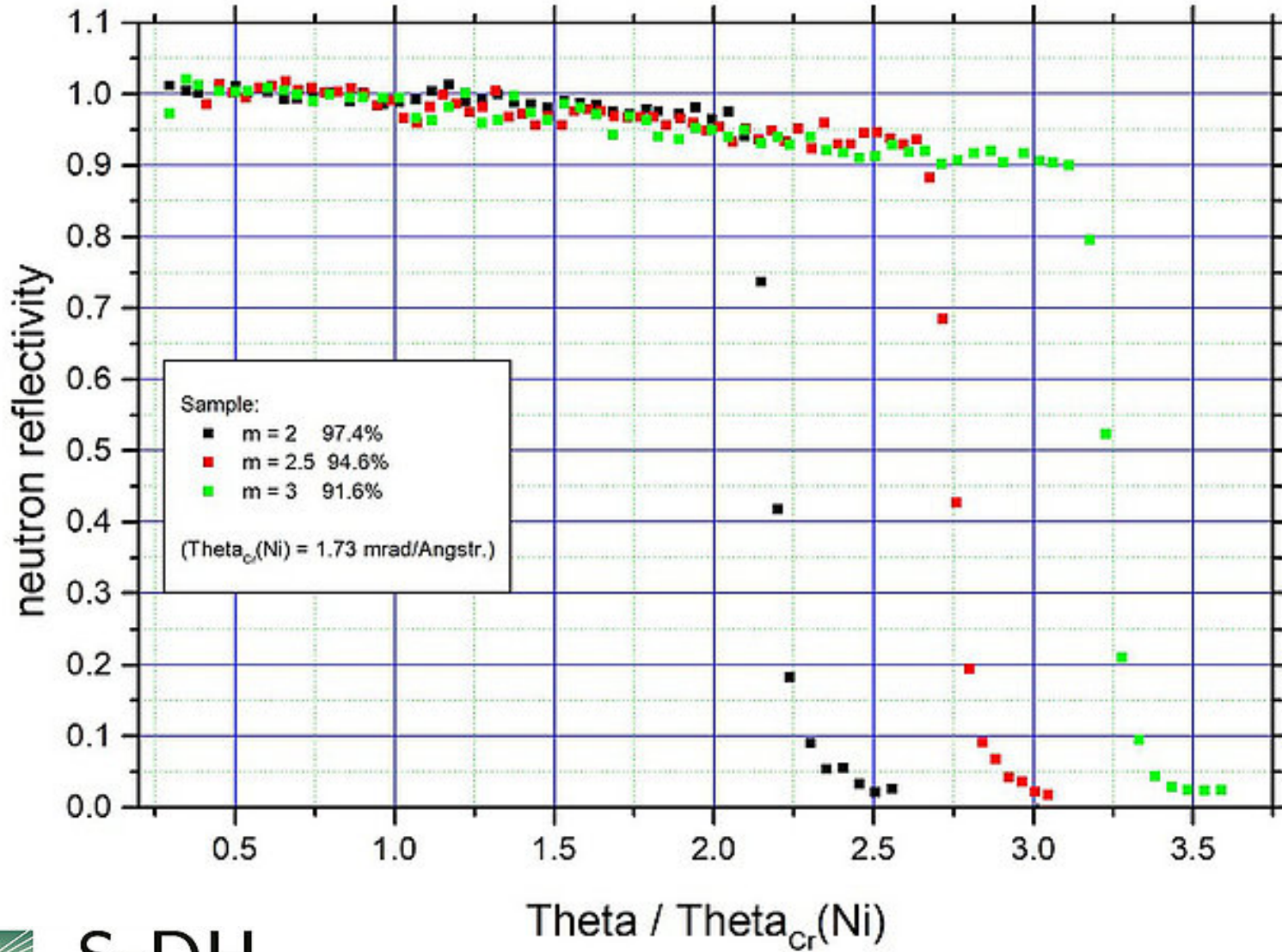
ISNIE



# SUPERMIRROR COATINGS



ISNIE



S-DH

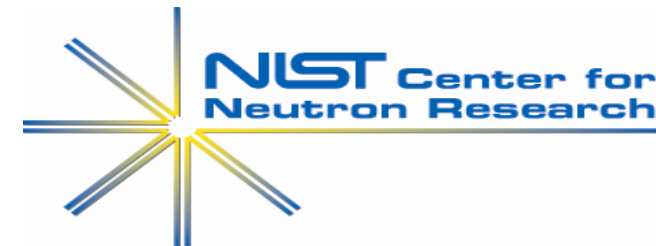
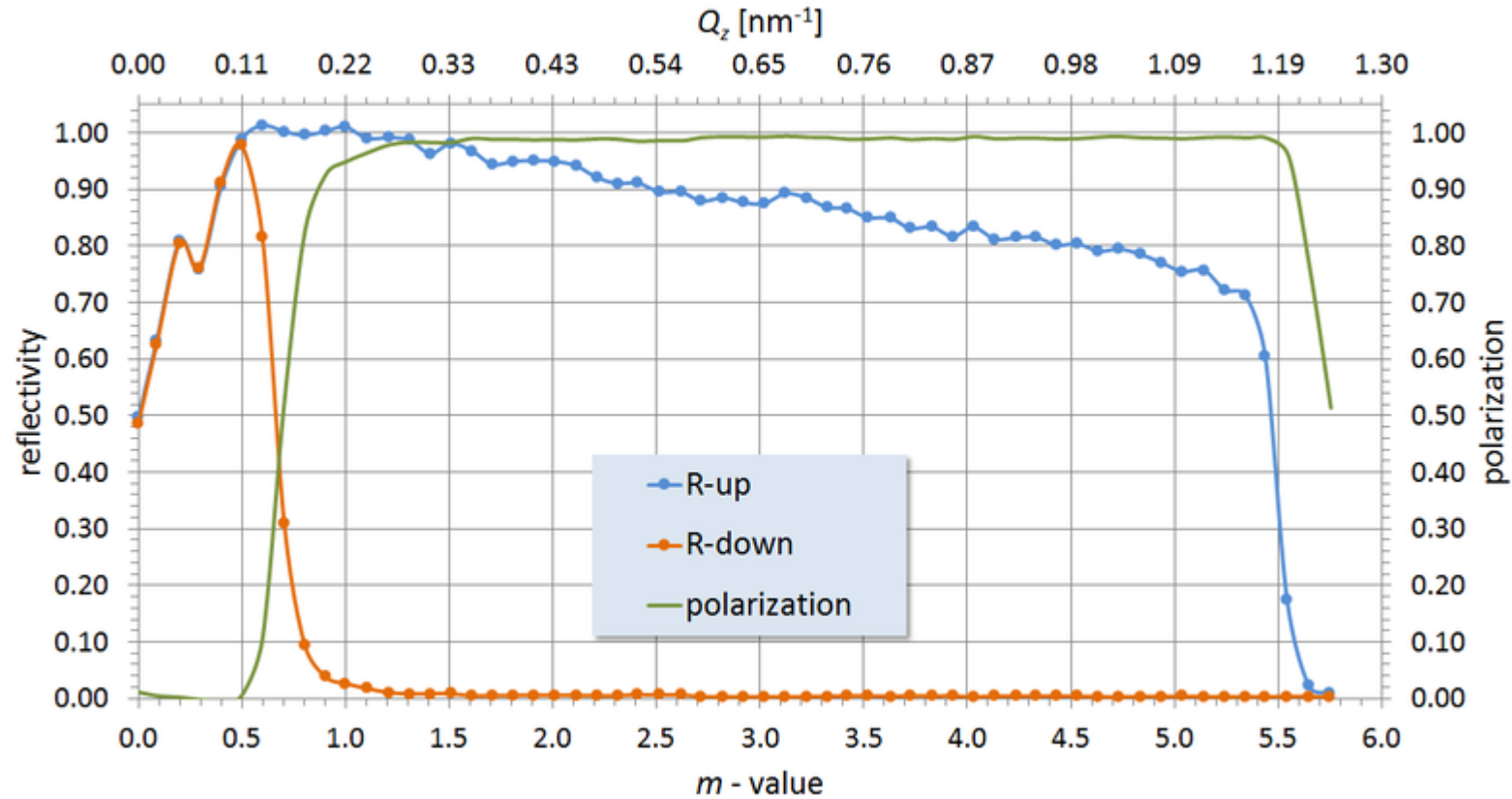


# POLARIZING SUPERMIRROR COATINGS



ISNIE

Polarizing: Fe/Si,  $m=5.5$



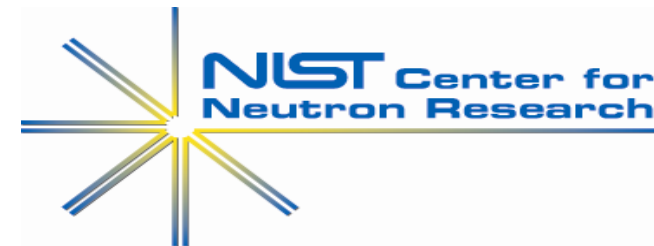
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

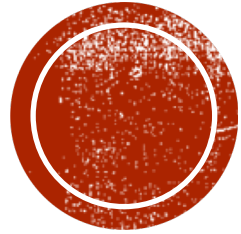
## SUPERMIRRORS



ISNIE

- NCNR guides 3, 5, 6, 7 are currently  $^{58}\text{Ni}$ 
  - will be upgraded with supermirror guides (5,6), 7 ( $m=2$  through confinement)
  - curved (6)
  - bi-elliptical (5)





# GUIDE LOSSES



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## REALITY! REFLECTIVITY AND OTHER LOSSES



ISNIE

- Reflectivity of all coatings  $< 1$  because of imperfections
  - Surface roughness has to be on Å scale (leads to off-specular reflections)
    - Effect can be approximated by factor  $\exp(-Q^2\langle u^2 \rangle)$  where  $\langle u^2 \rangle$  is the **mean squared roughness**
    - Controlling roughness particularly important for **high  $m$**  supermirrors (large  $Q$ )
  - Interdiffusion of layers (supermirrors)
  - Absorption of neutrons in reflecting layers
  - Surface roughness and interdiffusion are significantly improved by **“reactive sputtering”**
    - ex. For Ni-Ti supermirrors Ni layer is deposited in a partial pressure of air or carbon is added



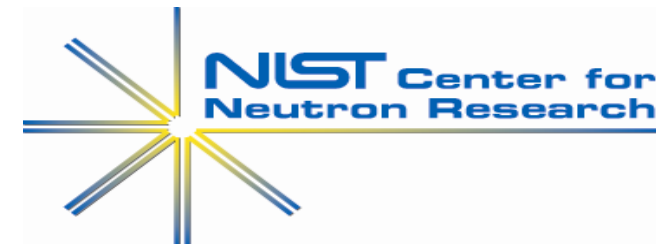
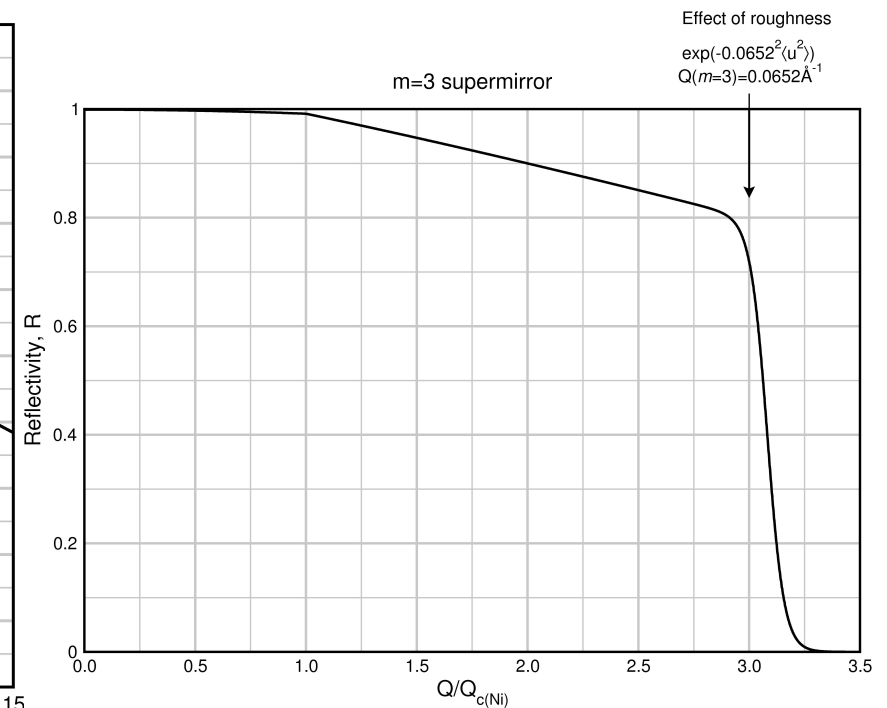
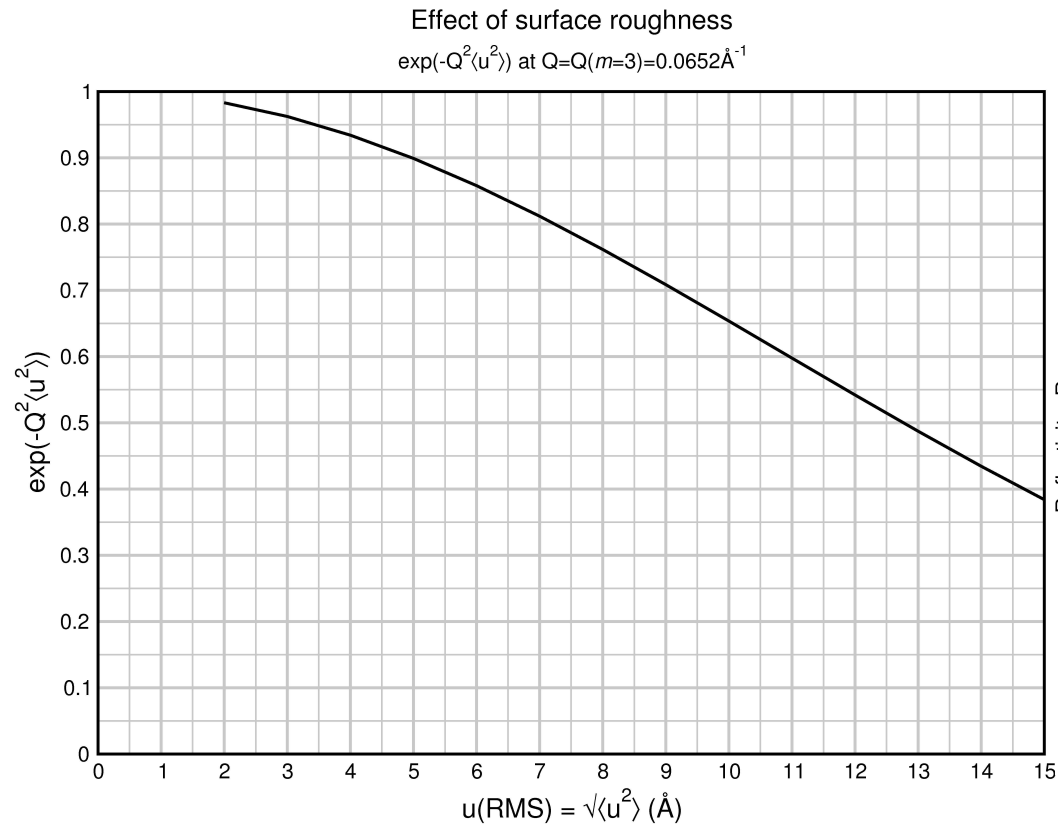
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## REALITY! REFLECTIVITY AND OTHER LOSSES



ISNIE

- Example of effect of surface roughness at  $Q=Q(m=3)=0.0652\text{\AA}^{-1}$



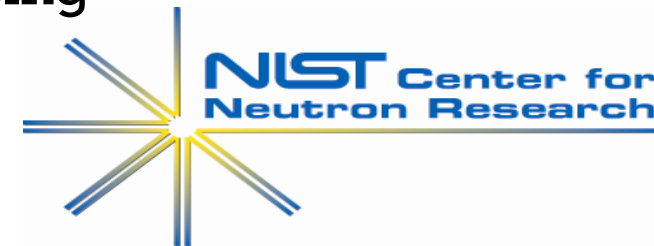
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## REALITY! REFLECTIVITY AND OTHER LOSSES



ISNIE

- Other sources of losses in guides
  - Misalignments (angular and spatial)
  - Waviness of substrates (long-range undulations of substrate surface redirects neutron away from intended direction)
  - (Often  $\sim 0.1$  mrad level of angular precision required for the above)
  - Intrinsic manufacturing imprecision (e.g. cross-section  $\sim \pm 0.01$  mm, degree of parallelism etc., substrates are selected for low waviness)
  - Oxidation, overheating of mirrors/ supermirrors
  - Poor vacuum
- Reflectivity losses can be very large when a large number of reflections,  $n_r$ , are required for transmission
$$T \sim R^{n_r}$$
- Redirection of neutron trajectory also blows up with increasing  $n_r$  etc.



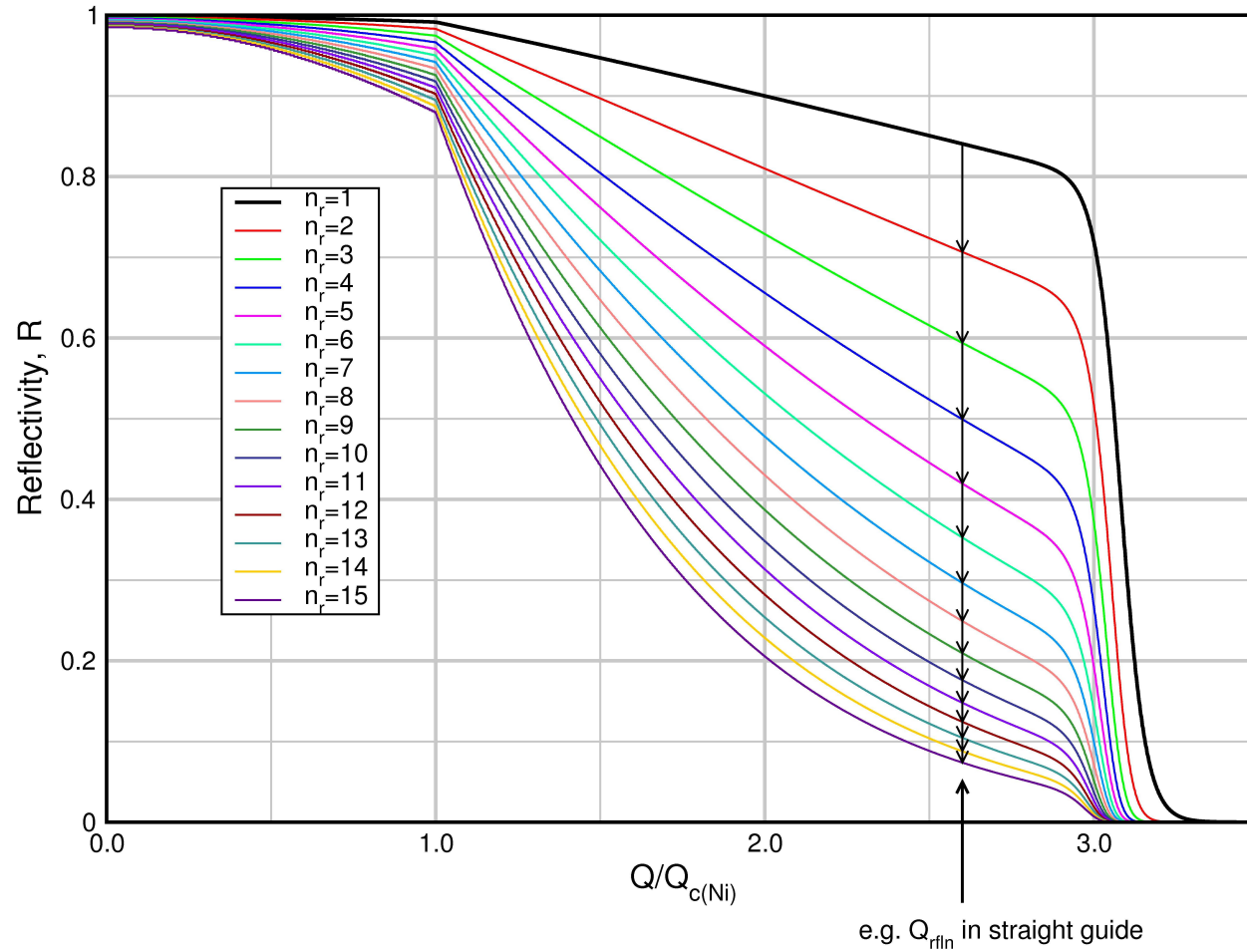


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

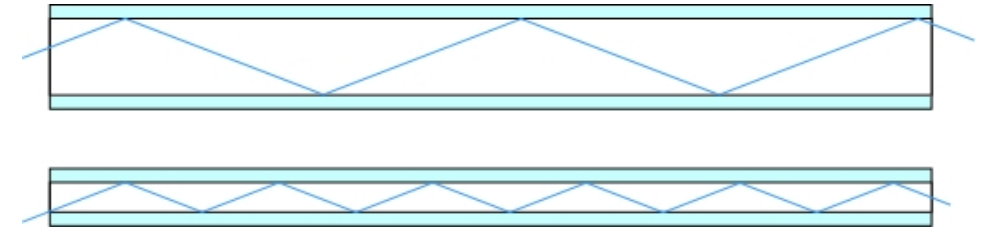
## REALITY! REFLECTIVITY AND OTHER LOSSES

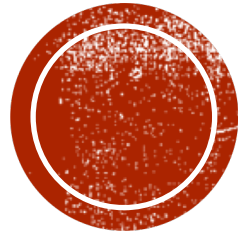


ISNIE



$$Q \approx 4\pi \frac{\theta}{\lambda}$$





# SUBSTRATES



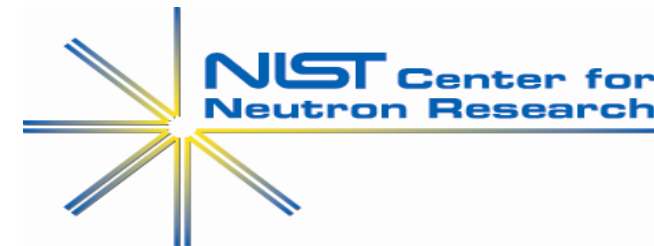
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## TYPES OF SUBSTRATE



ISNIE

- $\sim \text{\AA}$  (0.1 nm) level roughness required
- Borated glass (usually bonded with radiation-resistant epoxy)
  - Borkron NZK7 and NBK optical glass – superpolished (more resistant to high flux neutron irradiation than borofloat)
  - Borofloat – floated on molten metal
  - Embrittlement due to  $^{10}\text{B}(n,\alpha)^7\text{Li}$  reaction (charged particle track displaces atoms in glass structure (cascades))
  - Thermal neutron beam cannot escape the guide, easily-shielded gamma radiation
- Non-borated glass
  - e.g. soda-lime float glass: No  $\alpha$ -related embrittlement but higher energy gamma spectrum from e.g. Na, Si, may be some neutron transmission near source
- Silicon
  - Produces hard gammas but can be made thin
  - Thin substrates can be bent on a figure (e.g. elliptical or other forms)
- Metallic (very low roughness  $\sim 1\text{\AA}$  rms now available)
  - Aluminum (produces hard gamma spectrum – more shielding challenges than borated substrates) – good heat conduction and radiation heat removal in very high flux
  - Copper, steel (can also shield gammas from supermirror inside)
  - Possibility to weld Al without significant distortion (we are told)



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

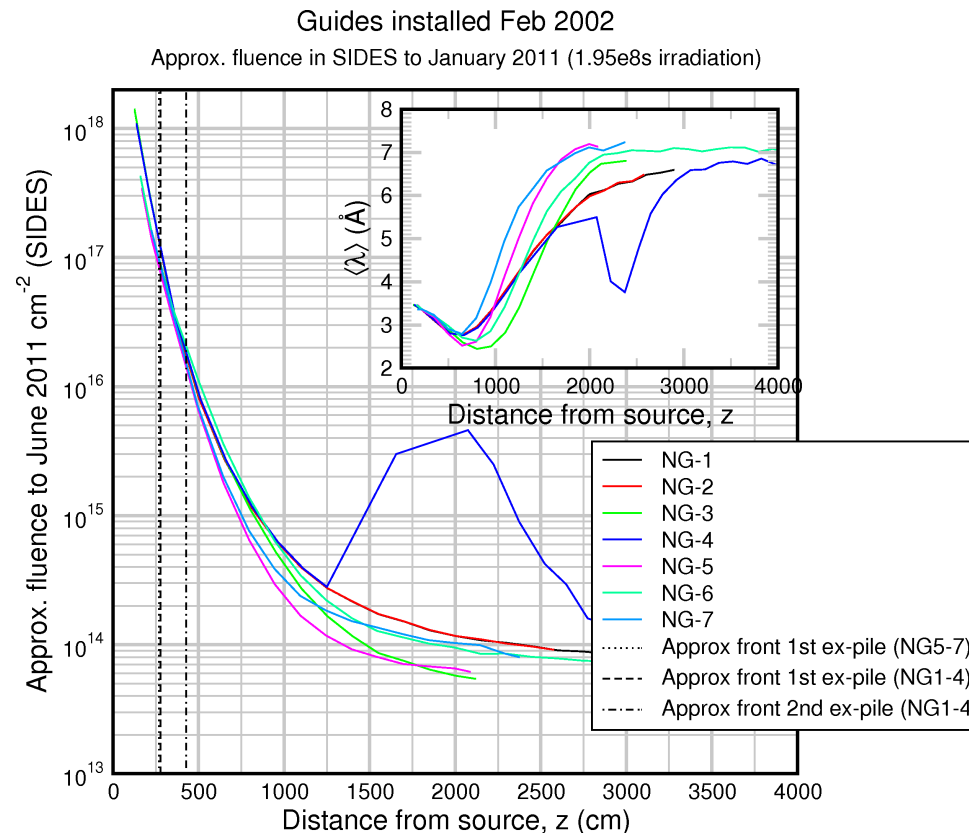
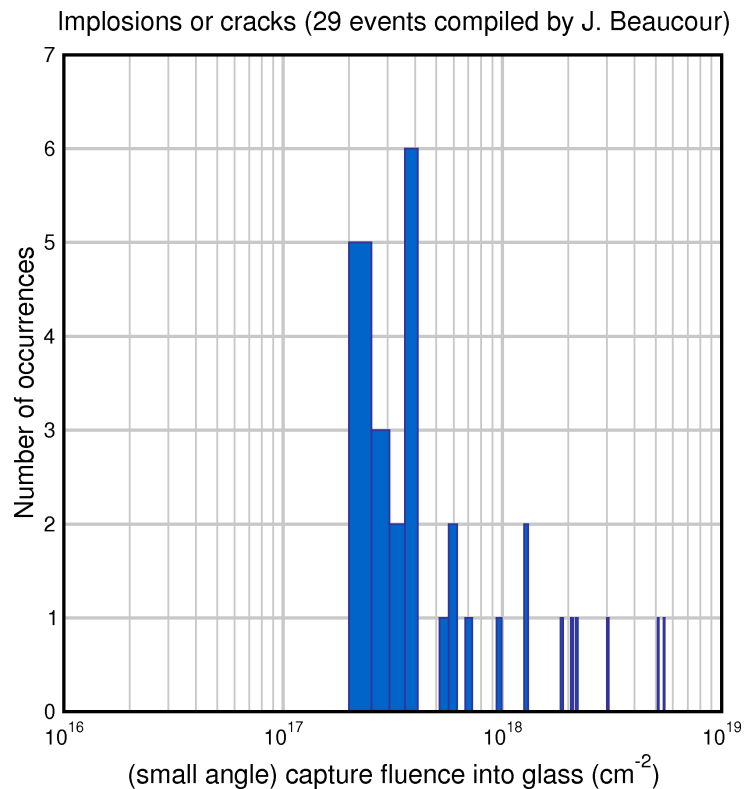
## CHOICE OF SUBSTRATE?



ISNIE

### ■ Borkron (NZK7 or NBK7)

- Should not exceed  $\sim 10^{17}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> lifetime neutron fluence – embrittlement from (n, $\alpha$ ) reaction
- First Borkron NIST guides outside of inpile have been known to break under their own weight when removed
- Must protect exposed ends of guides (borated Al mask) even 10's of m from source (risk of implosion for evacuated guides)



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

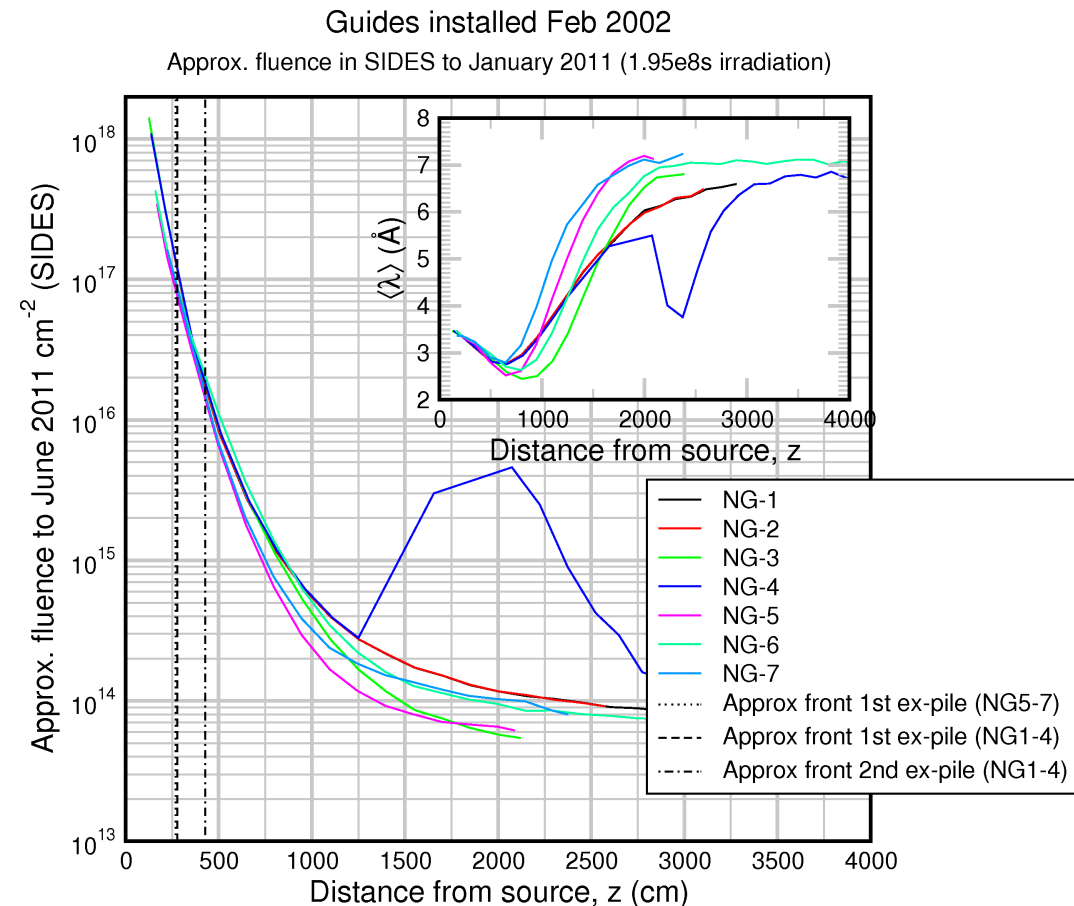
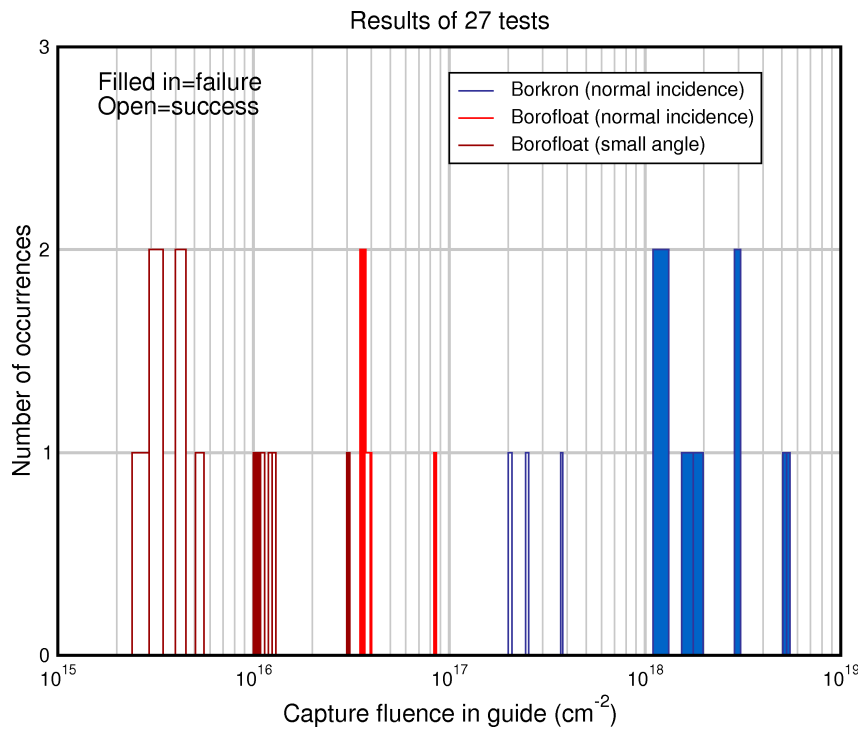
## CHOICE OF SUBSTRATE?



ISNIE

### ■ Borofloat

- Appears to have significantly shorter lifetime wrt n irradiation than Borkron 1-2 orders of magnitude (cannot use close to source)
- Must protect exposed ends of guides (borated Al mask) even 10's of m from source (risk of implosion for evacuated guides)



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CHOICE OF SUBSTRATE?

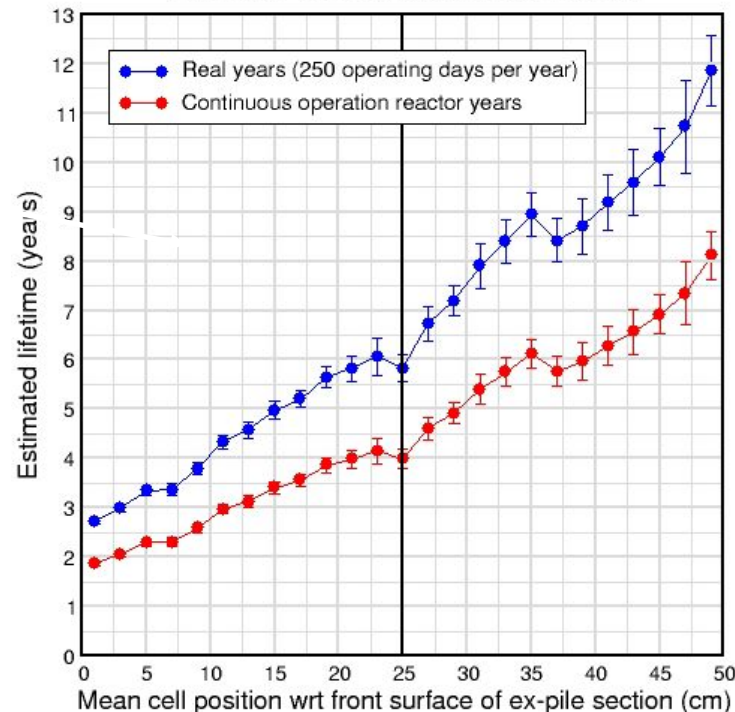


ISNIE

- Soda Lime float glass (boron-free)
  - Used on first in-pile guides at NIST
  - Does not suffer from embrittlement from  $^{10}\text{B}(n,\alpha)^7\text{Li}$  reaction
  - Epoxy in highest radiation estimated exceed lifetime (radiation damage) – fears of in-pile collapse after 2011 mag 5.8 earthquake near Richmond VA!

- Estimate in **first ex-pile** element based on  $10^9$  rad lifetime
- **Float glass NG1-4 in-pile epoxy should be totally shot!**

Anticipated lifetime of epoxy near front of NG-1 to NG-4 ex-pile guides based on  $10^9$  Rads and 20MW reactor operation

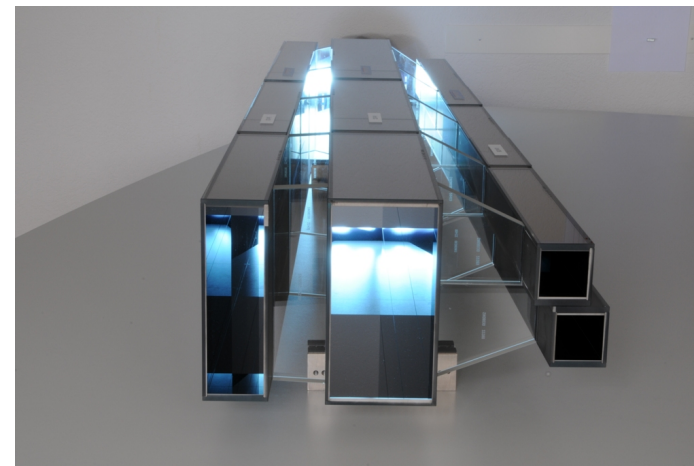
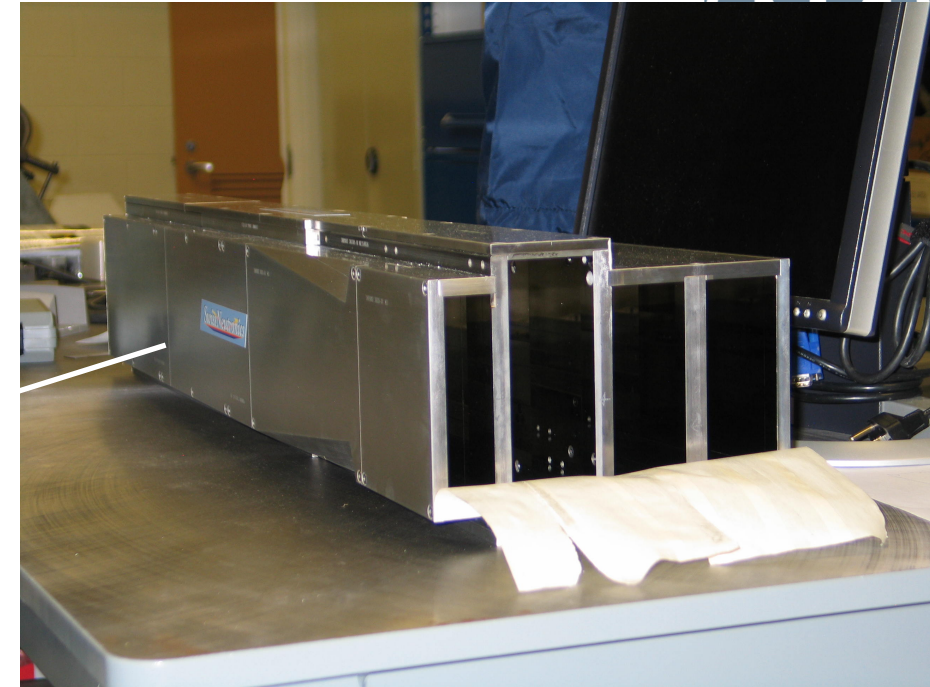


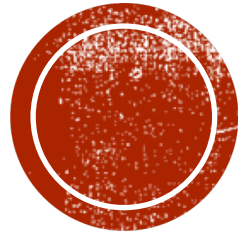
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CHOICE OF SUBSTRATE?

### ■ Aluminum

- Material selected for all new in-pile (non-evacuated) guides at NIST
- Indefinite substrate lifetime
- Much lower risk of breakage than glass (**future CTW ex-pile monolith sections will be Al**)
- Very low roughness





# TYPES OF GUIDE





# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## COMMON TYPES OF GUIDE



ISNIE

### ▪ **Straight**

- Direct line of sight to the source
- Often require cooled crystal filters to eliminate fast neutron and gamma beam contamination

### ▪ **Curved** (eliminate line of sight to source – lower beam contamination)

- Often polygonal approximation to circular arc, non-uniform spatial-angular distribution at exit
- Curved-straight (improves spatial-angular uniformity of beam)
- “Phase Space Tailoring” guide – variant of curved-straight: Can produce **almost perfect beam uniformity** above a given wavelength (NGBI and NGBu SANS at NCNR)

### ▪ **Other line-of-sight elimination**

- “Optical filter” designs (e.g. NG-4)

### ▪ **Profiled** (focusing/ defocusing) – parabolic, elliptical, general shape

- Can be produced on bent silicon substrates if small scale
- Can use polygonal approximation to profile (e.g. 0.5m linearly tapered sections used for NGC at NCNR)



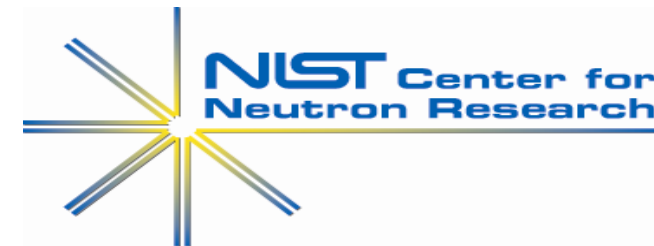
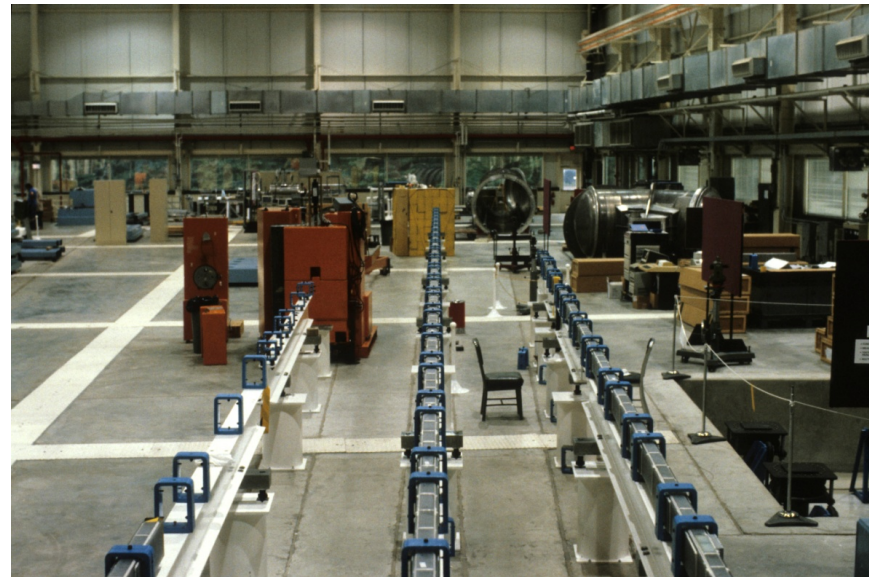
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## STRAIGHT GUIDES



ISNIE

- All original NCNR guides (NG1-7) through confinement are straight
- Unwanted fast neutrons and gammas emitted from the source eliminated by cooled crystal filters
  - e.g. Polycrystalline beryllium strongly scatters  $\lambda < 4\text{\AA}$  neutrons (transmits  $\lambda > 4\text{\AA}$ )
  - Bismuth attenuates gammas but good thermal neutron transmission
  - Also sapphire, quartz, MgO, Si, graphite etc. for fast neutrons
- NG4 & 5 have “optical filters” to eliminate direct lines of sight from the guide exit to the source



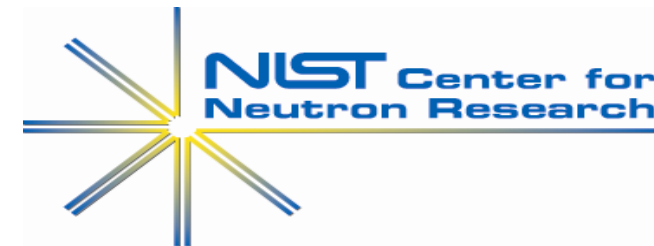
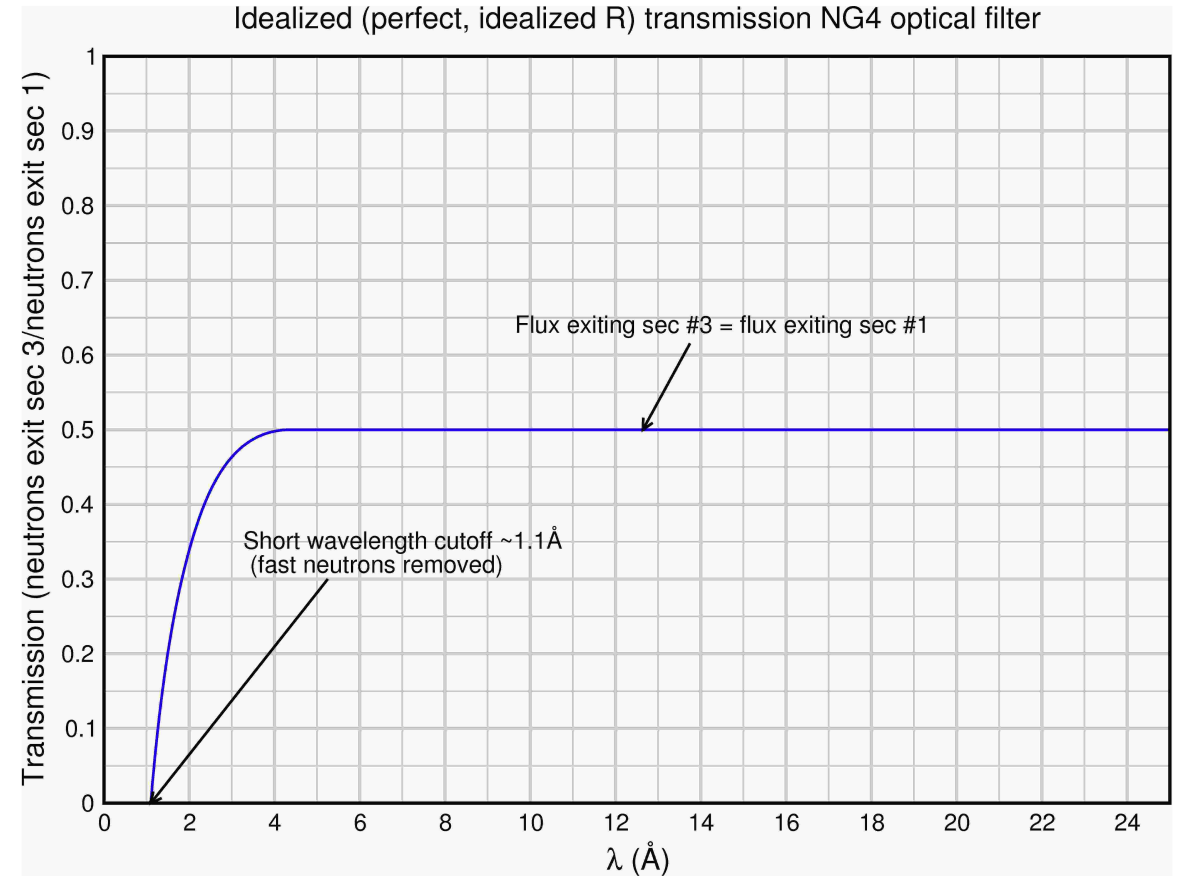
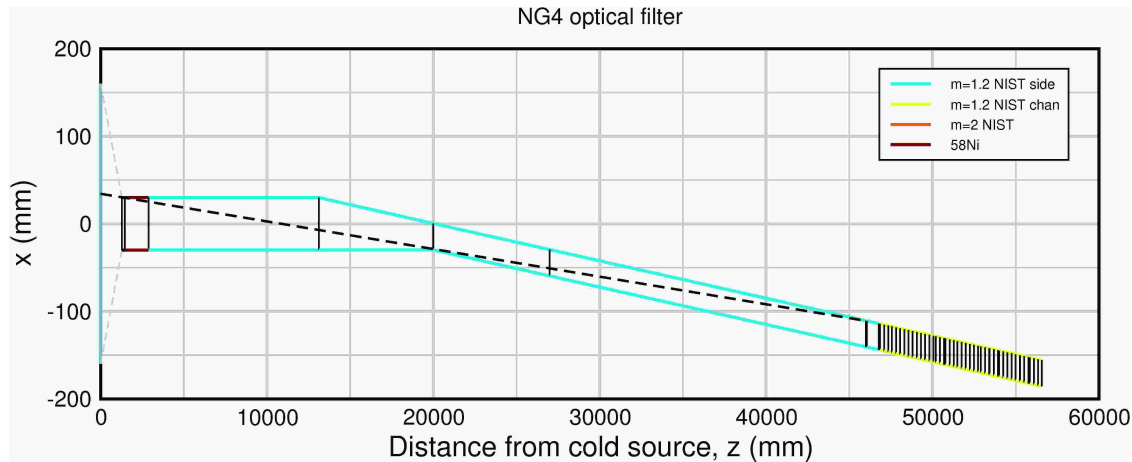
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## OPTICAL FILTERS (NG4 AND NG5)



### NG4

“Optical filter” kink eliminates direct line of sight (cold neutrons follow kink, fast neutrons and gammas go straight on and get lost in shielding)

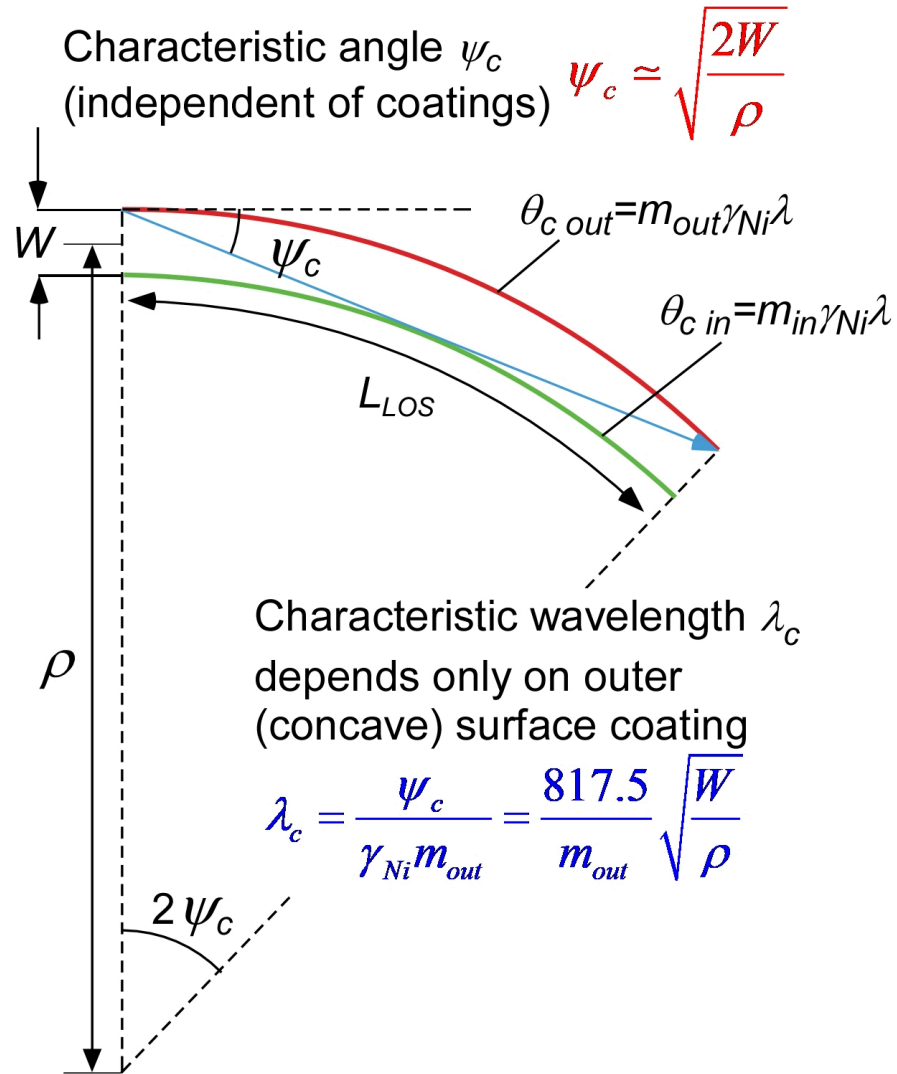


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE



- Avoid direct line of sight with curved guide



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE

- Advantages

- Reduce fast neutron and gamma contamination

- $W$ =width of guide,  $\rho$ =radius of curvature  $L_{LOS} \approx \sqrt{8W\rho}$

- NGB1  $W=5\text{cm}$ ,  $\rho=780.6\text{m}$ ,  $L_{LOS} \approx 17.7\text{m}$

- Increase separation of instruments: Lateral displacement of guide exit  $D=\rho(1-\cos(L/\rho))$

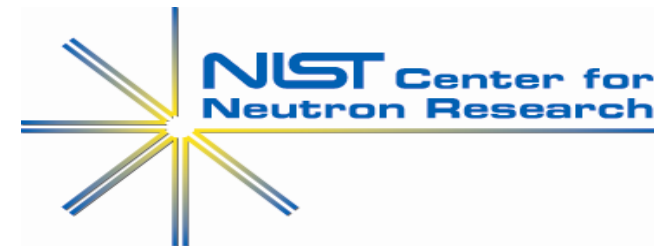
- If  $L/\rho$  small  $D \approx L^2/2\rho \Rightarrow$  displacement at end of line of sight  $\approx 4W$  (e.g. NGB1, **20cm at  $L_{LOS}=17.7\text{m}$ ,  $\approx 80\text{cm}$  at  $2L_{LOS}=35.3\text{m}$ ,  $\approx 1.8\text{m}$  at  $3L_{LOS}=53\text{m}$  etc.)**

- Possible to use lower  $m$  on inner radius than outer radius

- Disadvantages

- Non-uniform spatial-angular distribution of neutrons at exit (improves with increasing  $\lambda$ )

- Short wavelength “cutoff” theoretically in limit of  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$



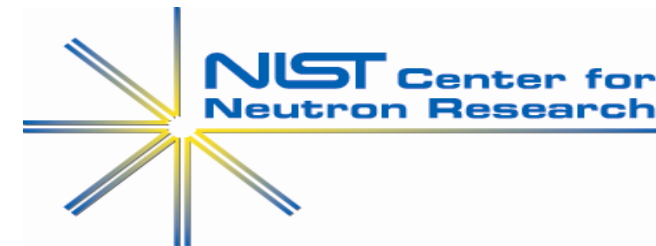
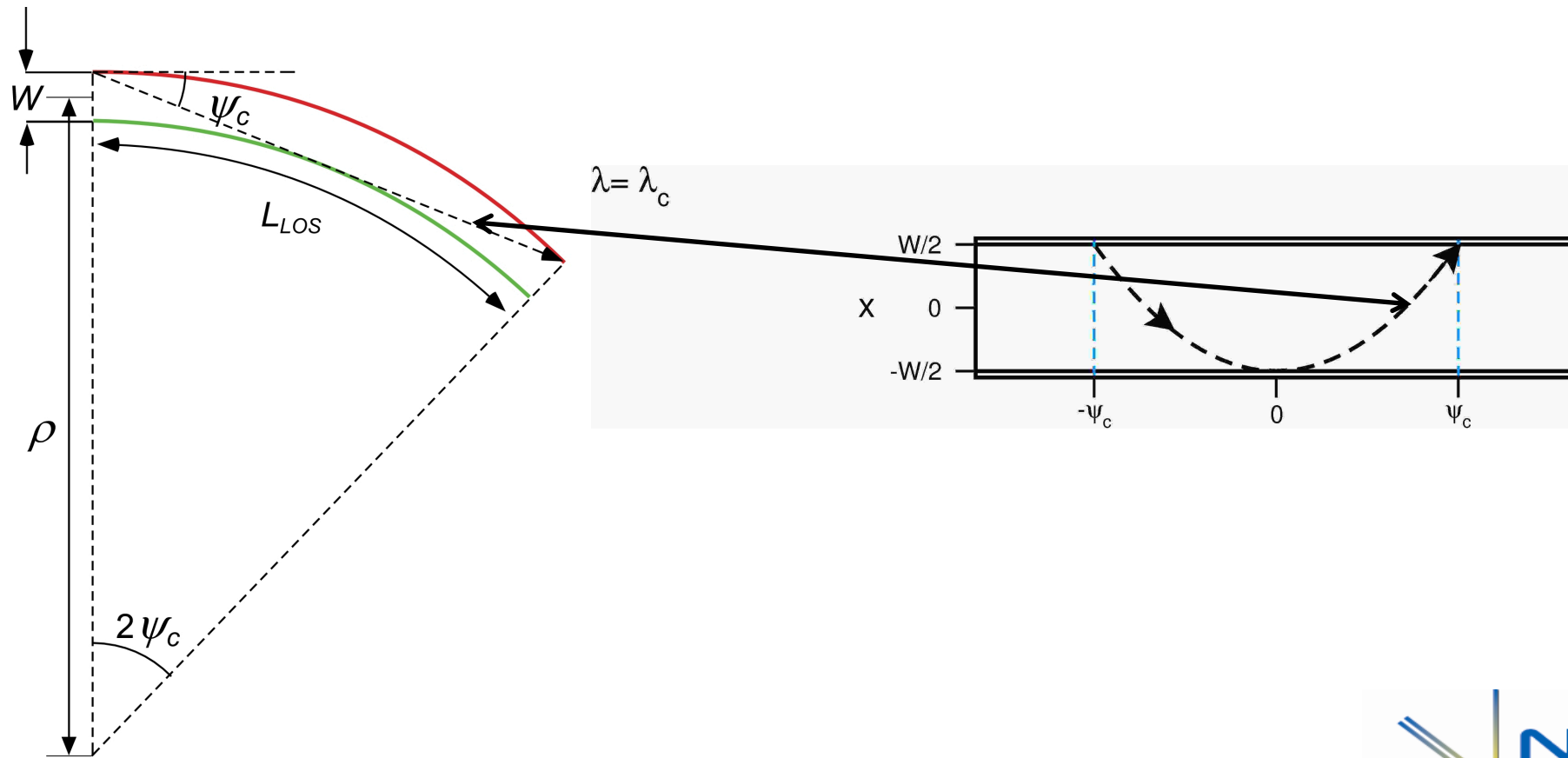
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE

- Neutron spatial-angular distributions (no line of sight)



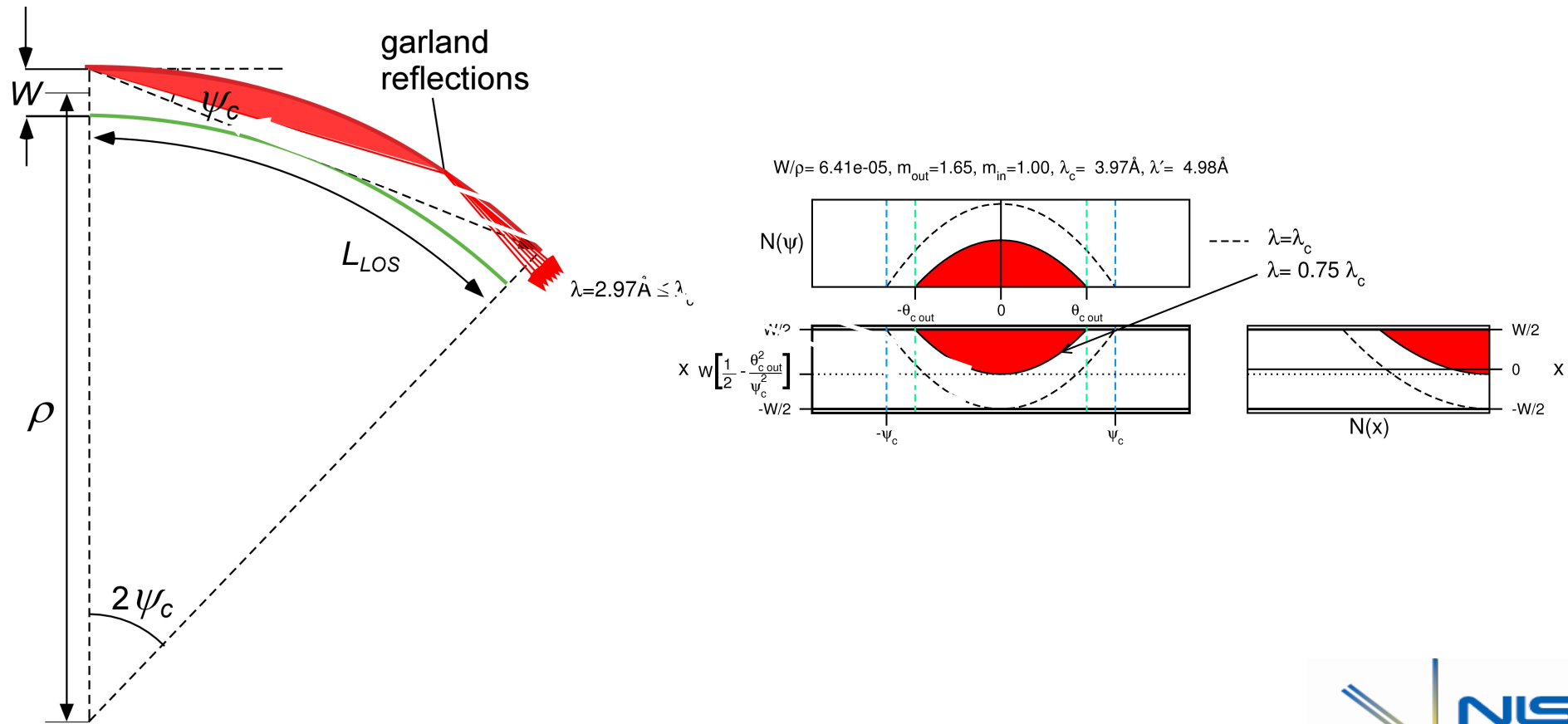
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE

- Neutron spatial-angular distributions (no line of sight)



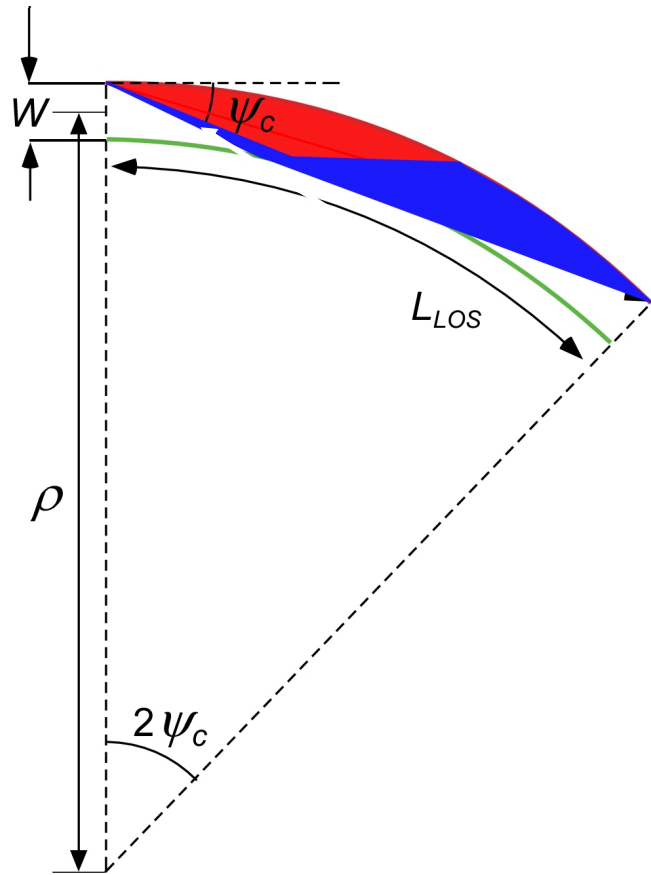
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES

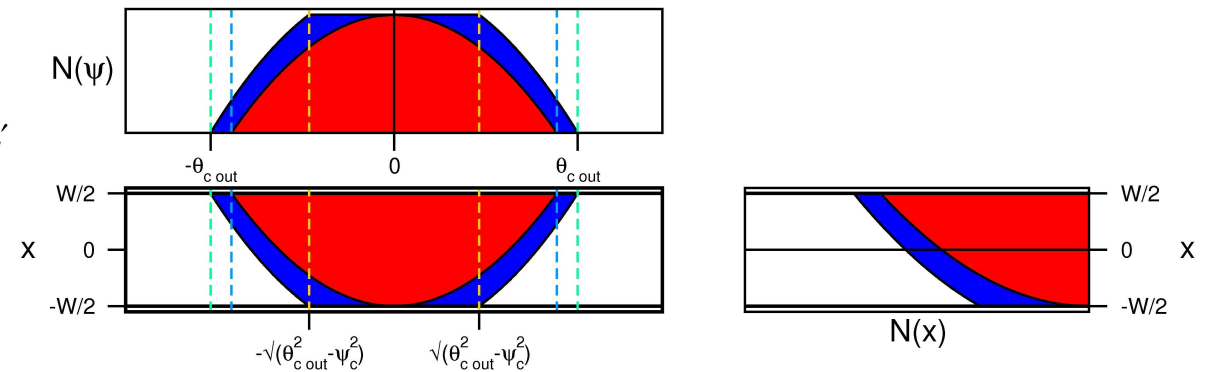


ISNIE

- Neutron spatial-angular distributions (no line of sight)



$$\lambda_c < \lambda = 4.48 \text{ \AA} \leq \lambda'$$





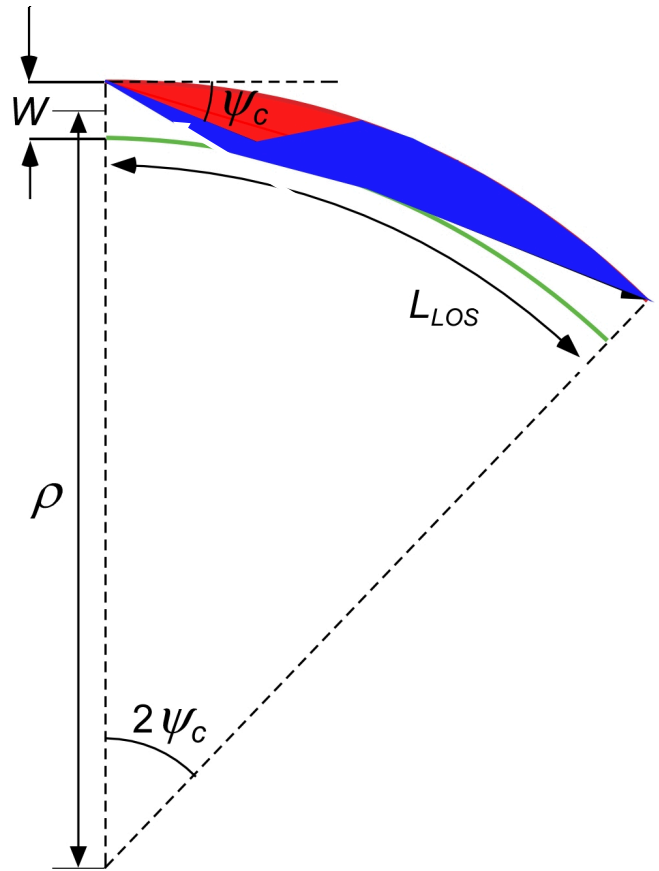
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE

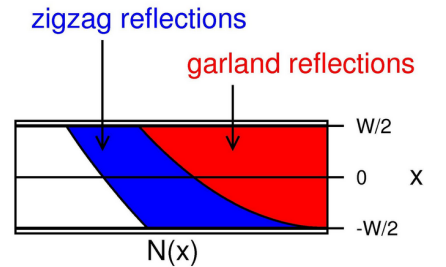
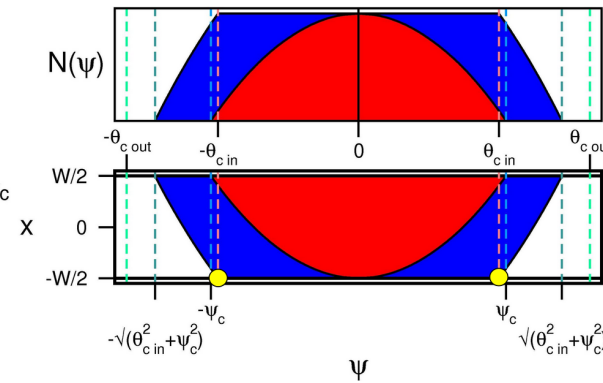
- Neutron spatial-angular distributions (no line of sight)
- If  $m_{out} > m_{in}$ ,  $\lambda'$  exists



$$\lambda' = \lambda_c \frac{m_{out}}{\sqrt{m_{out}^2 - m_{in}^2}}$$

$\lambda (= 6.23 \text{ \AA}) > \lambda'$   
( $m_{out} > m_{in}$ )

$$\lambda' = \frac{m_{out}}{\sqrt{m_{out}^2 - m_{in}^2}} \lambda_c$$



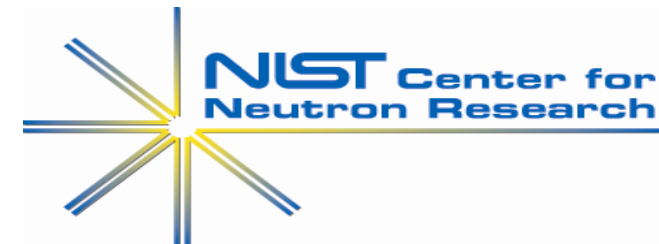
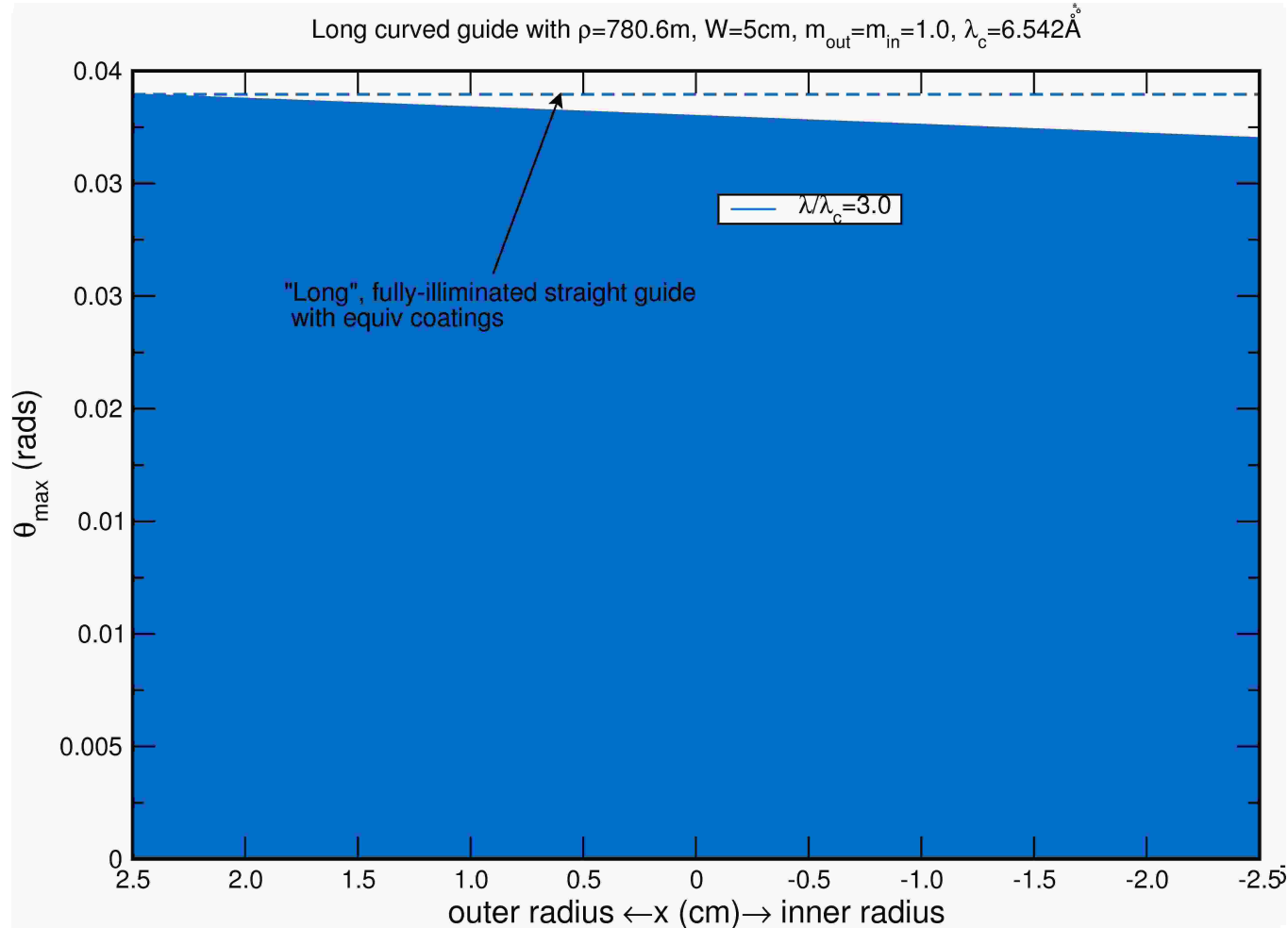
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE

- Neutron spatial-angular distributions (no line of sight)

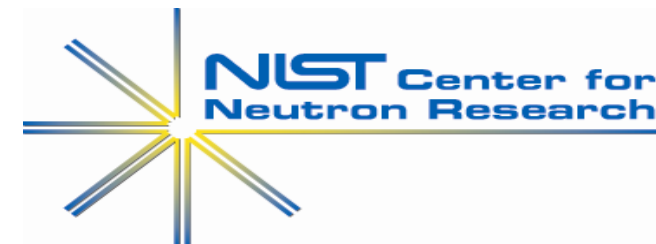
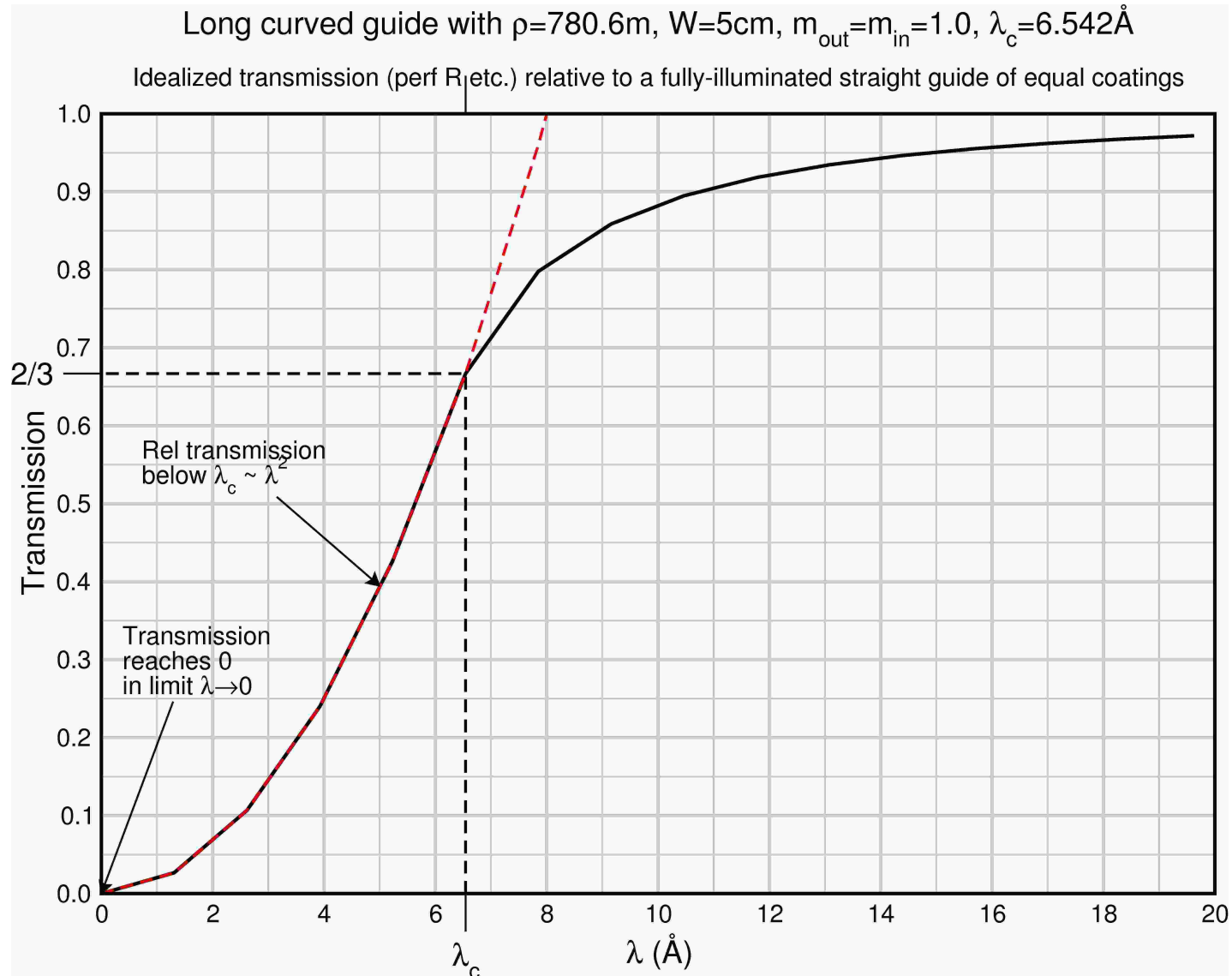


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED GUIDES



ISNIE



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

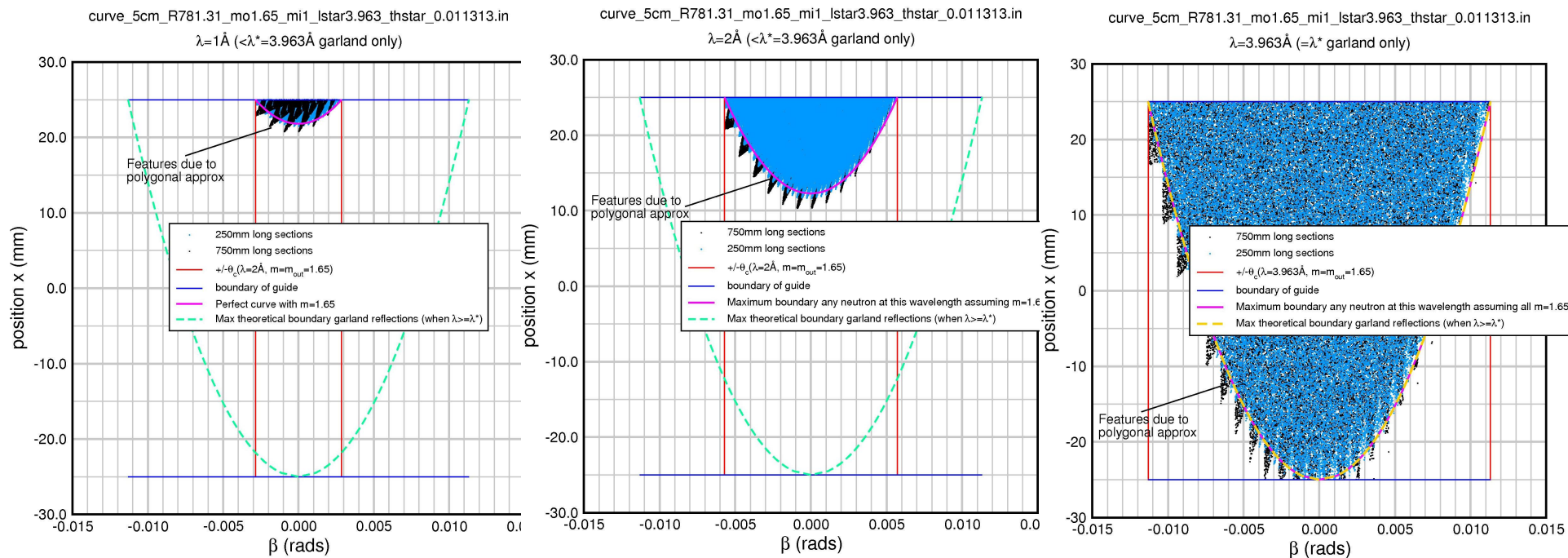
## CURVED GUIDES – EFFECT OF POLYGONAL APPROXIMATION



ISNIE

- Usually use a polygonal approximation for curved guide (straight sections with angular offsets)
- Puts jagged edges and holes in acceptance diagram (gets more exaggerated as  $\lambda$  reduces or length of elements increase for a given  $\rho$  (bend angle becomes increasing fraction of  $\theta_c$ ))

Example similar to NG-B1 ( $\rho = 781\text{m}$ ) with 750mm (bend angle= $0.055^\circ$ ) or 250mm elements (bend angle= $0.0183^\circ$ ) and  $\lambda = 1\text{\AA}$ ,  $2\text{\AA}$ , or  $\lambda = \lambda_c \approx 4\text{\AA}$

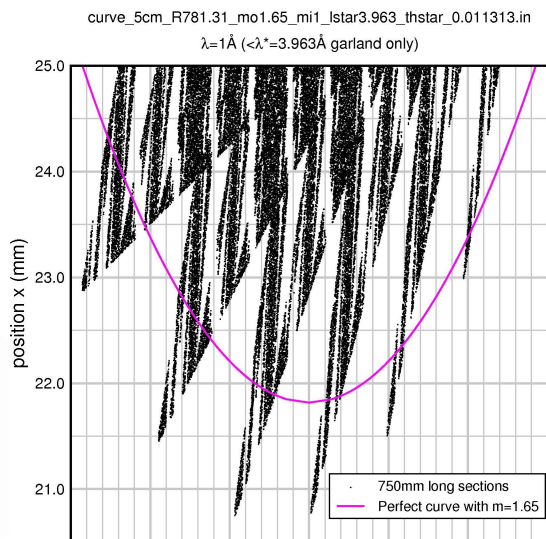
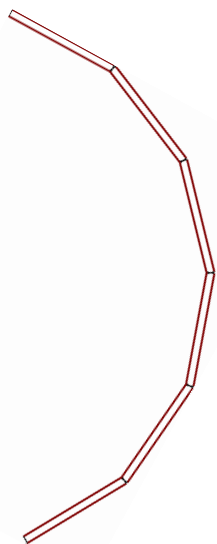


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

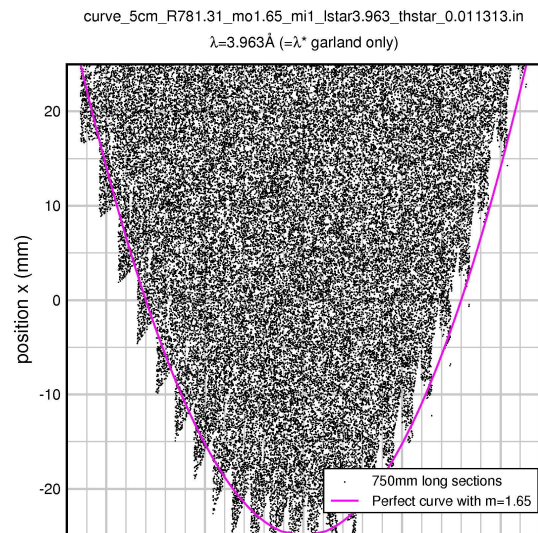
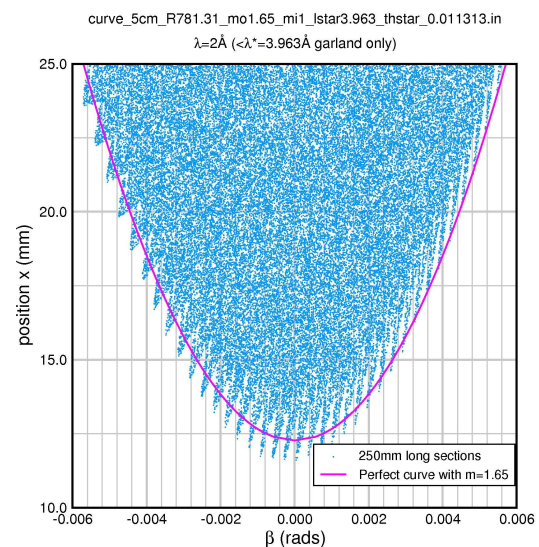
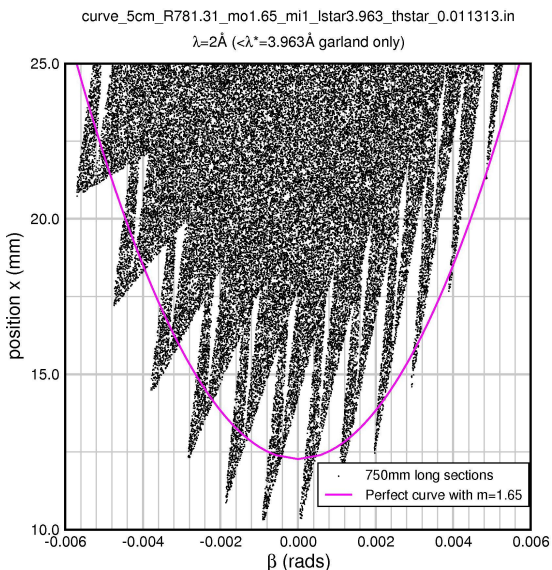
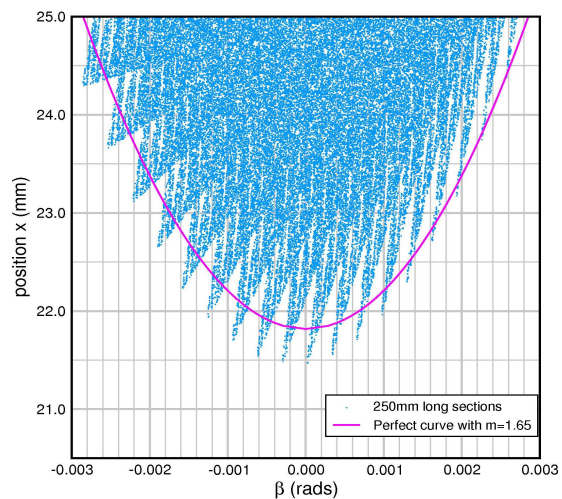
## CURVED GUIDES — EFFECT OF POLYGONAL APPROXIMATION



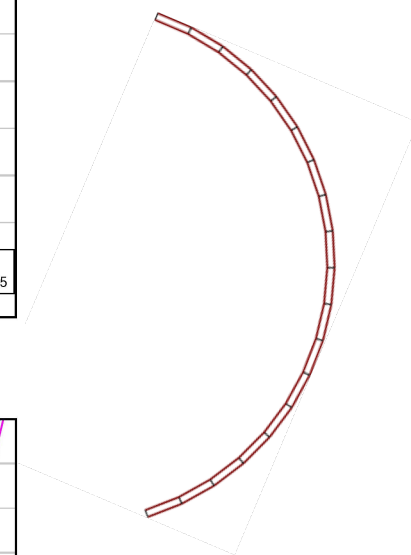
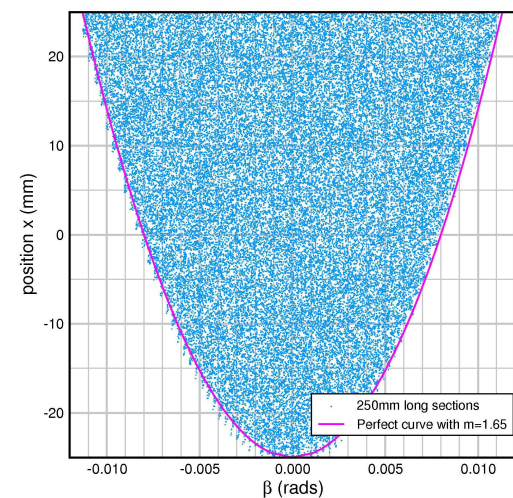
ISNIE



$\lambda = \lambda_c \approx 4\text{\AA}$ ,  $l=750\text{mm}$



$\lambda = \lambda_c \approx 4\text{\AA}$ ,  $l=250\text{mm}$



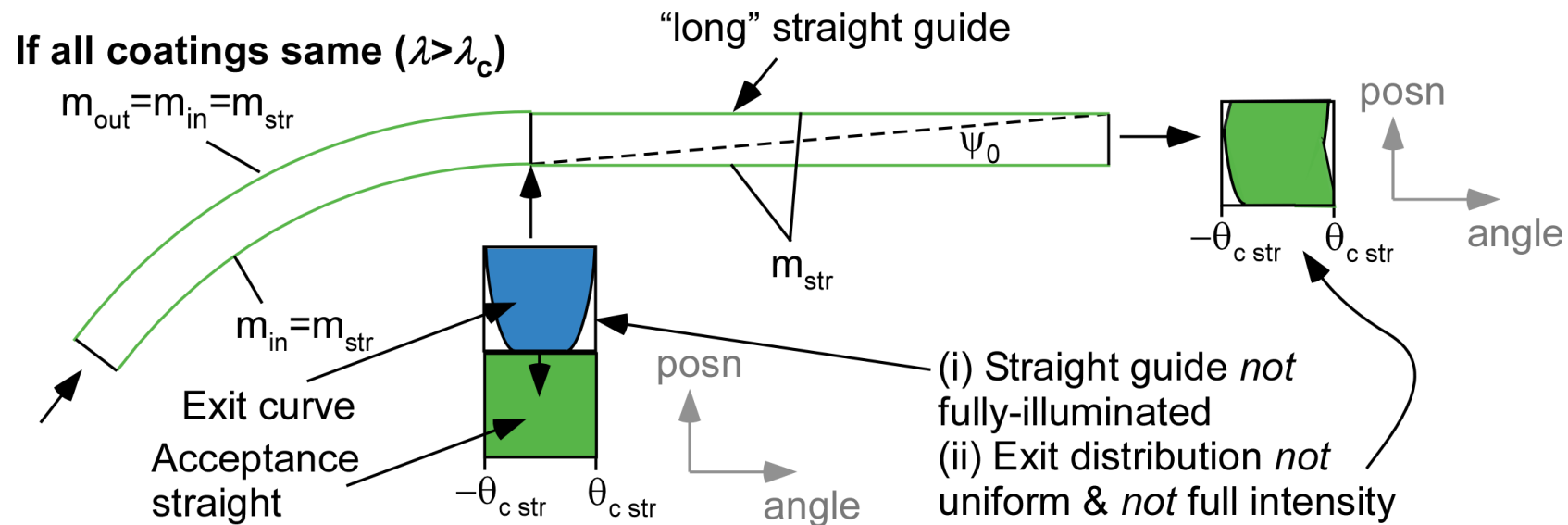
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## CURVED-STRAIGHT GUIDES



ISNIE

- With fixed  $m$  coatings improves but does not cure spatial-angular non-uniformity





# Neutron guide optics

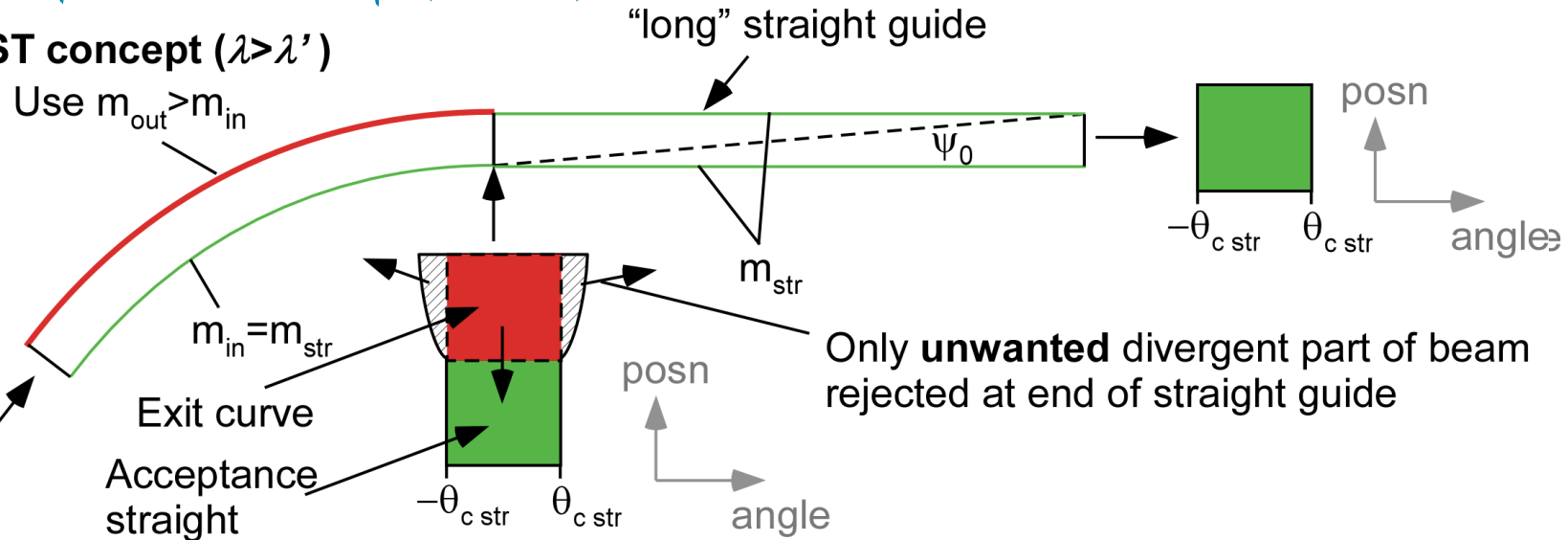
## Some tricks: PST guide concept (limited div guides)

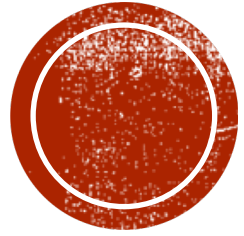
THEN straight part fully-illuminated for all  $\lambda > \lambda'$

- Uniform beam at exit
- Required divergence at exit
- Intensity like straight guide without xtal filt

$$\lambda' = \lambda_c \frac{m_{out}}{\sqrt{m_{out}^2 - m_{in}^2}} = \frac{1}{\gamma_{Ni}} \sqrt{\frac{2W}{\rho(m_{out}^2 - m_{in}^2)}}$$

**PST concept ( $\lambda > \lambda'$ )**





**BENDERS**



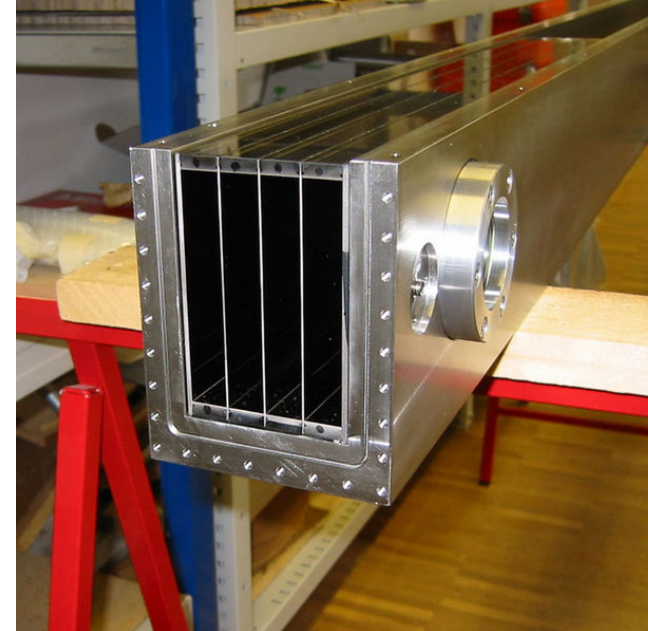
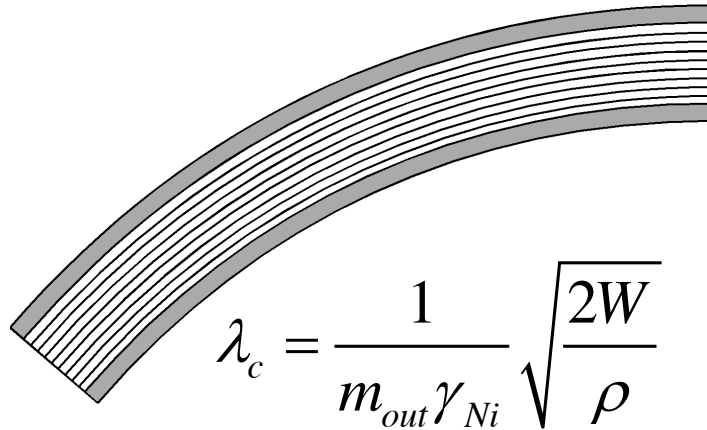


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

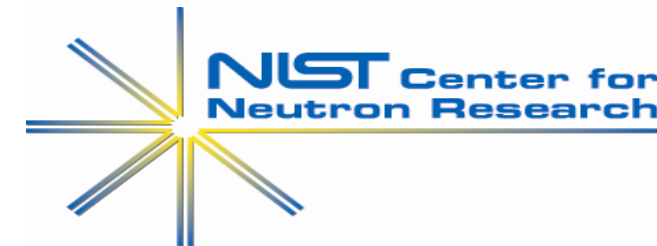
## BENDERS



ISNIE



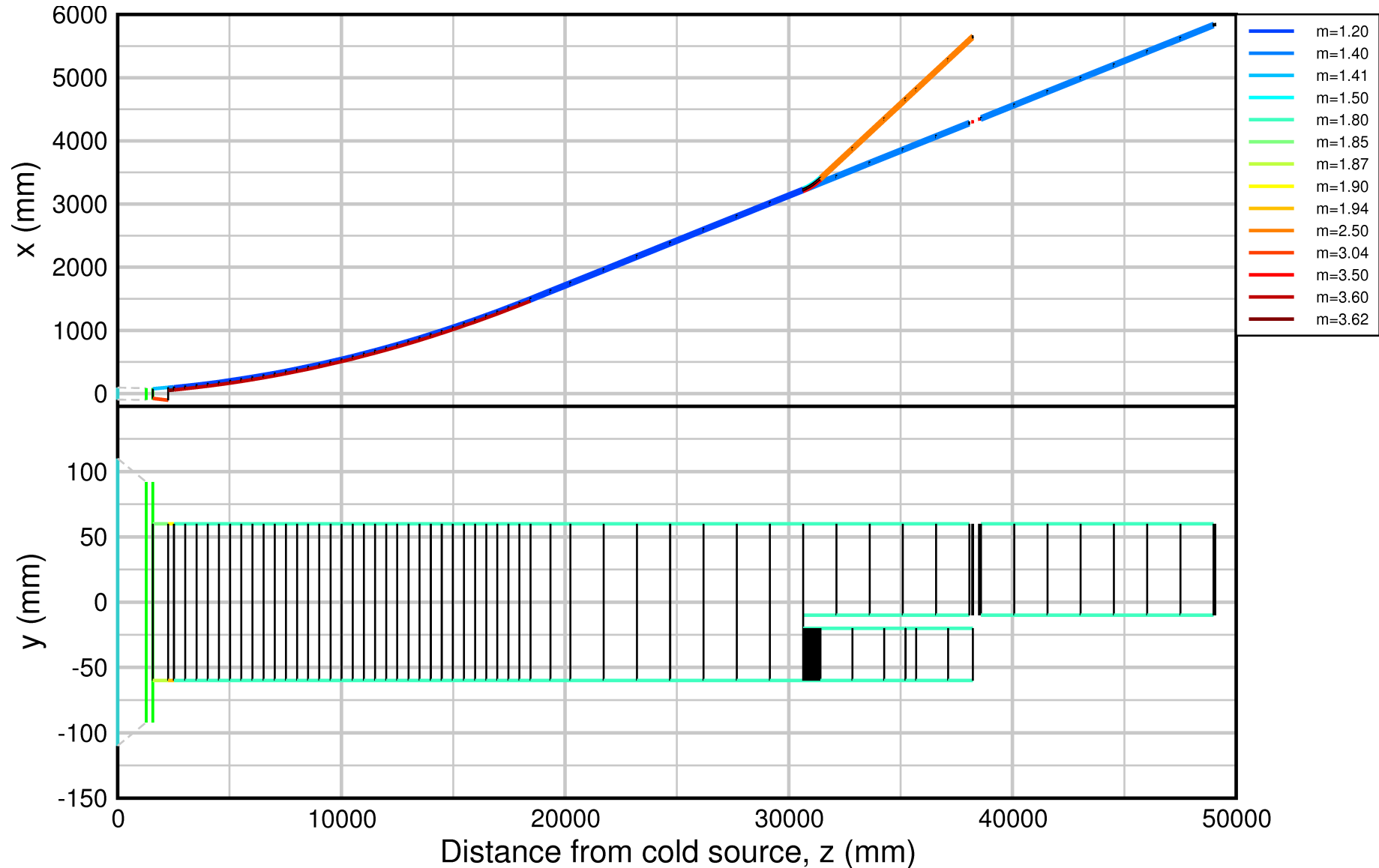
- Allow larger deflection in restricted space than equivalent curved guide (NGA')
- Decreasing  $\lambda_c$  increases transmission (reduce  $W$ , increase  $\rho$ , increase  $m_{out}$ ) but decreasing  $W \Rightarrow$  more channels, more blanking – find optimum
- Increasing  $\lambda_c$  decreases short wavelength background
- Can also be polarizing



# NGA' for NDP



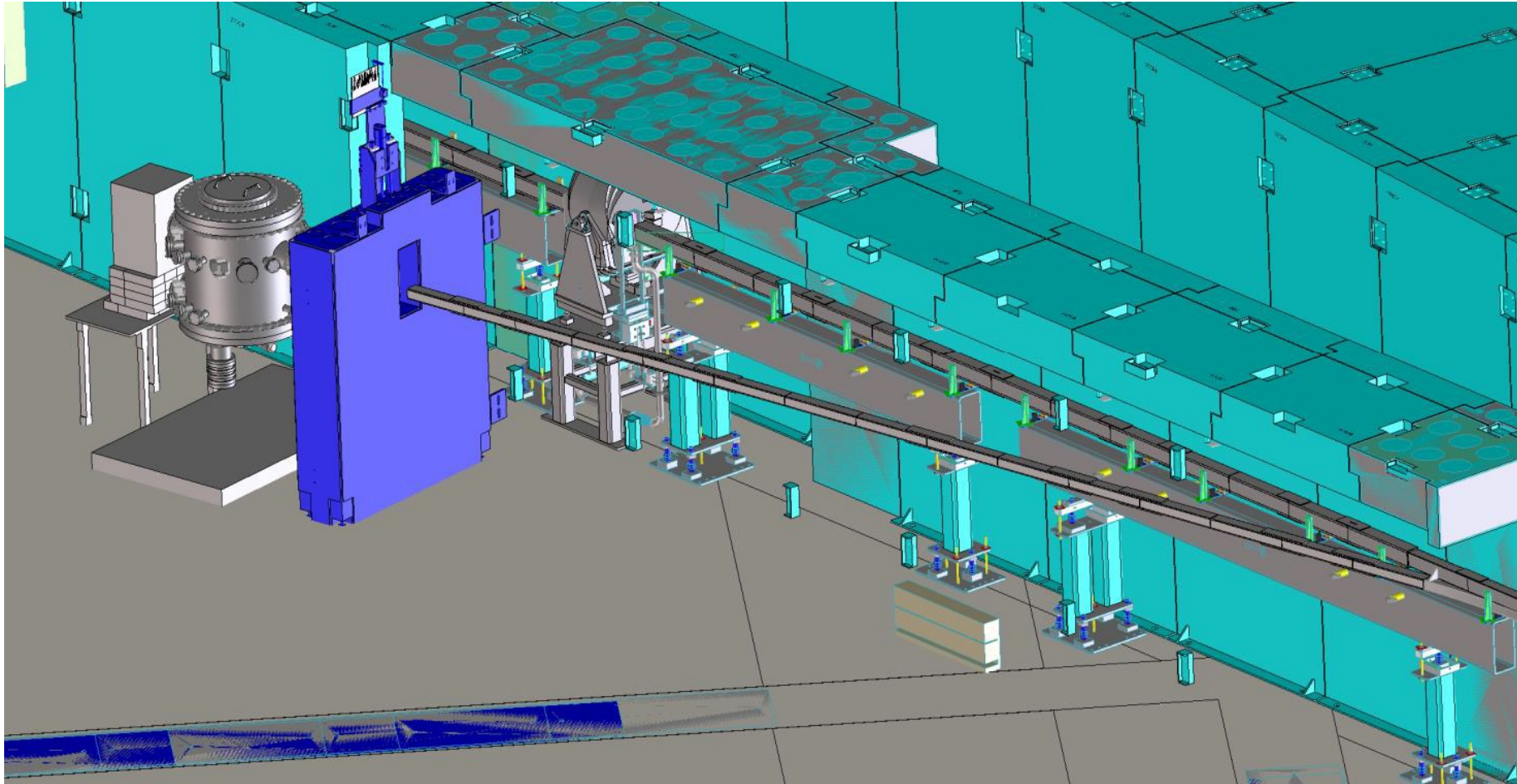
ISNIE



# NGA' for NDP



ISNIE

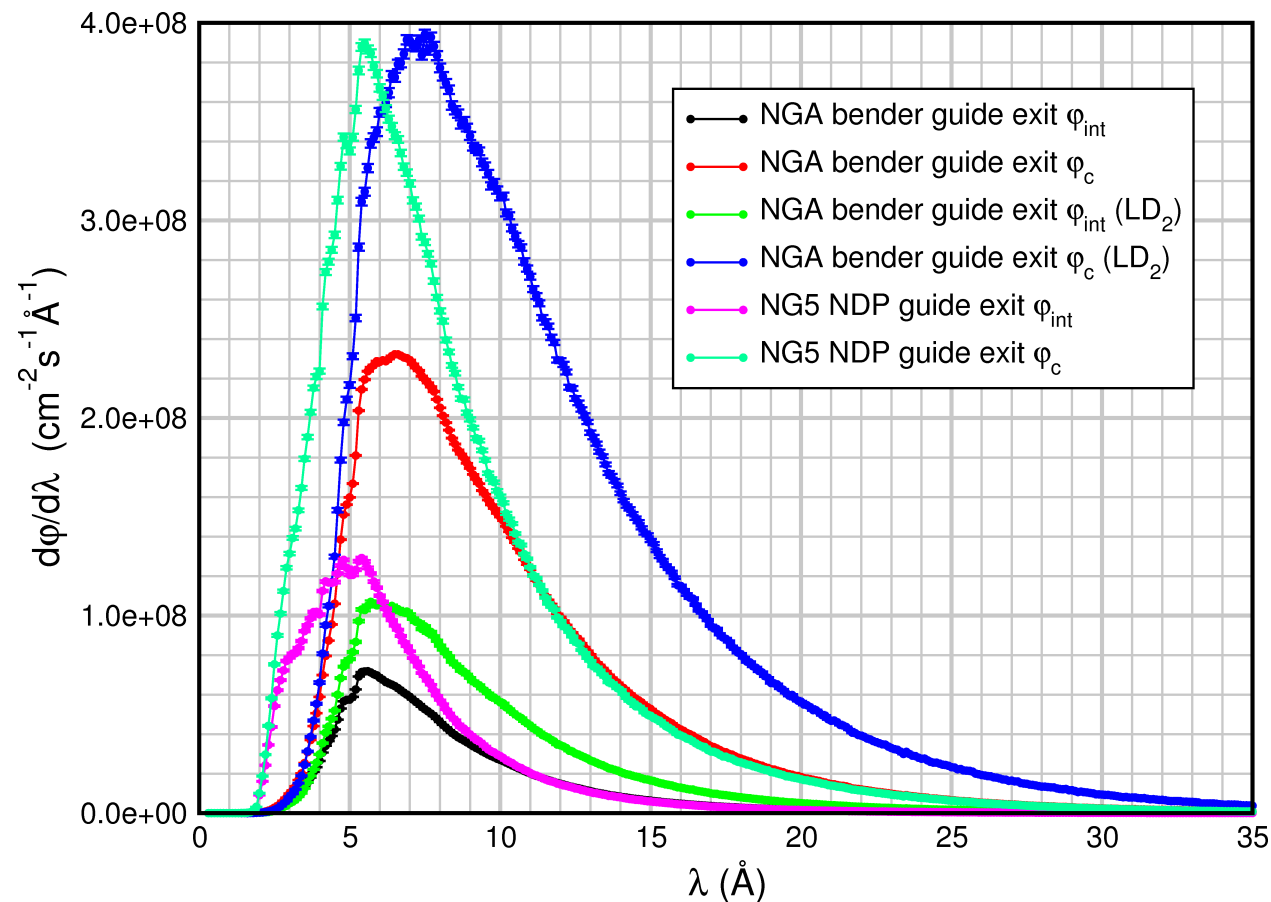


# NGA' for NDP



ISNIE

	$\phi_c$ ( $\times 10^9$ cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	$J_c$ ( $\times 10^{10}$ /s)
D <sub>2</sub> NGA'	3.7	7.3
NGA'	1.9	3.7
NG5	2.7	2.4



The NGA' beam will be very cold and very clean (already out of line of sight of feed guide)

⇒ low background



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

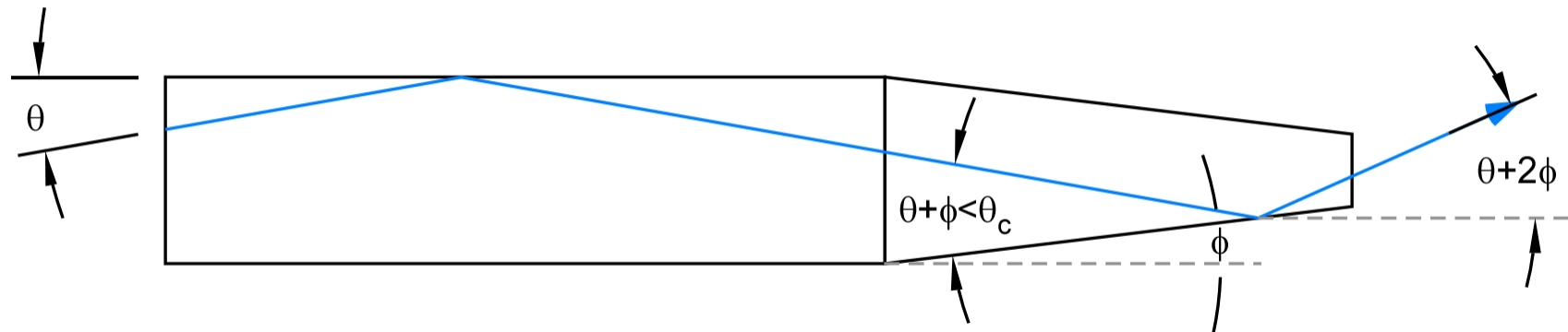
## FOCUSING AND PROFILED GUIDES



ISNIE

### ■ Linear taper

- Most early focusing guides were linearly tapered (can taper in both directions)
- Focus (max flux) is physically at exit of taper
- Focusing compresses beam in size (flux increases) **but beam divergence increases** (unavoidable consequence of Liouville's theorem) – sometimes undesirable
- Eventually critical angle limits what can be reflected



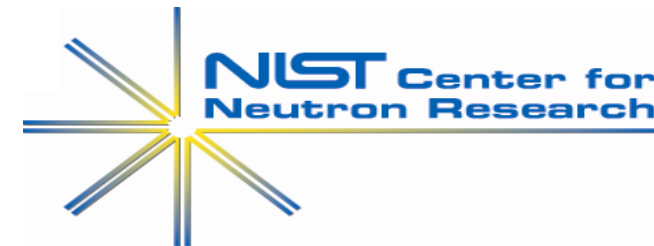
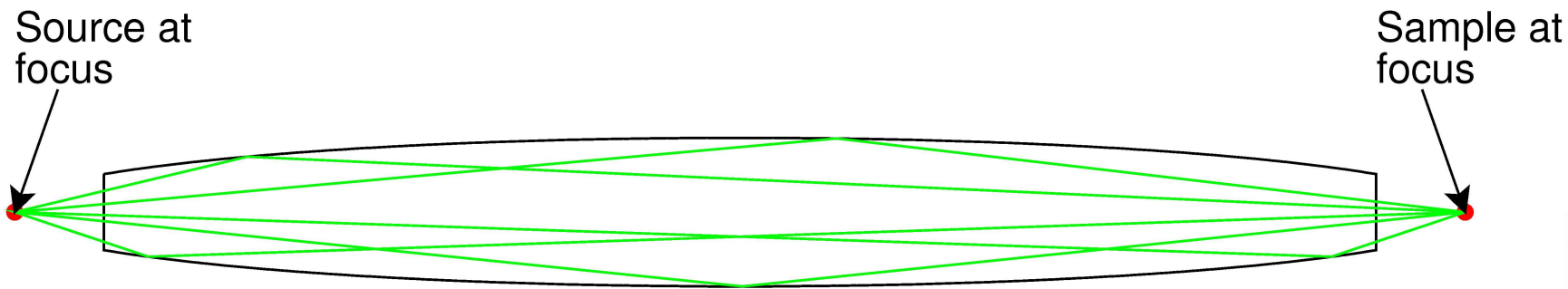
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## FOCUSING AND PROFILED GUIDES



ISNIE

- **Elliptical, parabolic, general form, etc.**
- Elliptical: foci can be beyond guide exit
- Ellipse: Can think of “focusing on source and/or sample”
- Ellipse with point source at one focus transmits with (at most) 1 reflection to sample placed at other focus
- Unreflected still defocusing (divergence depends on solid angle of direct view)
- Transmission efficiency high because few reflections from source to sample
- Have extended sources and samples  $\Rightarrow$  multiple reflections and possibly structure in source image (often want uniform neutron distributions at sample)



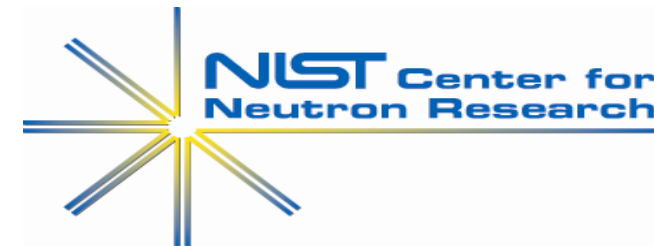
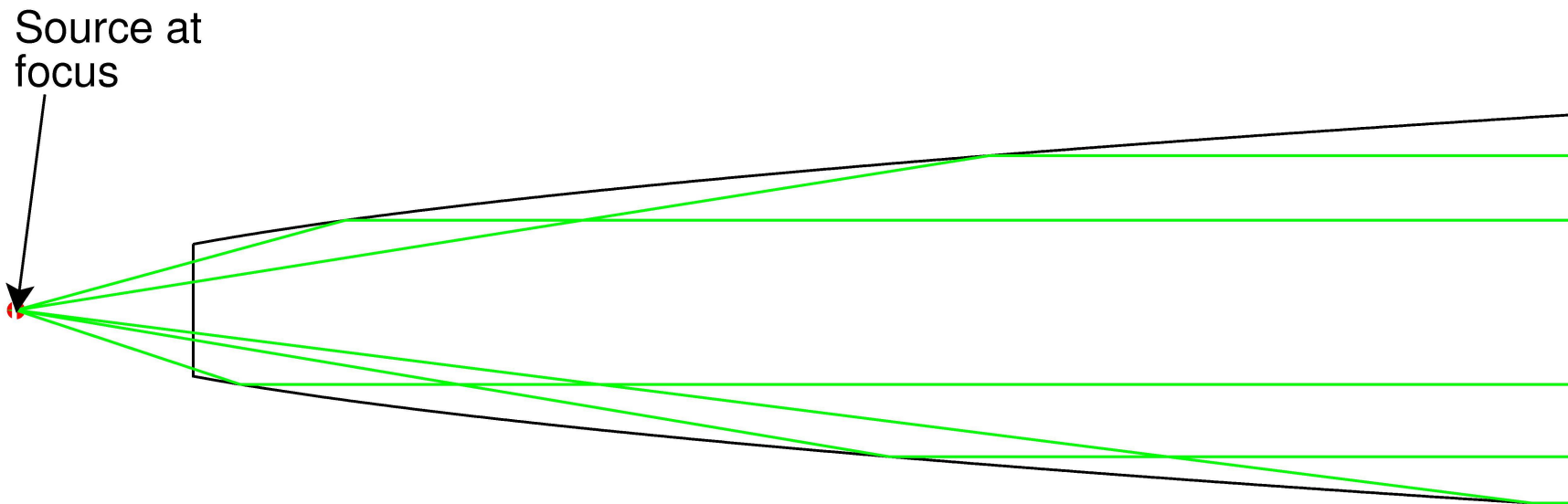
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## FOCUSING AND PROFILED GUIDES



ISNIE

- **Parabolic**
- Can think of “focusing on source” (time-reversal)
- With point source at focus converts small divergent source beam into broad parallel beam (reflected component)
- Un-reflected still divergent depending on solid angle of direct view
- Transmission efficiency high because few reflections from source to sample
- Neutron experiments have use extended sources

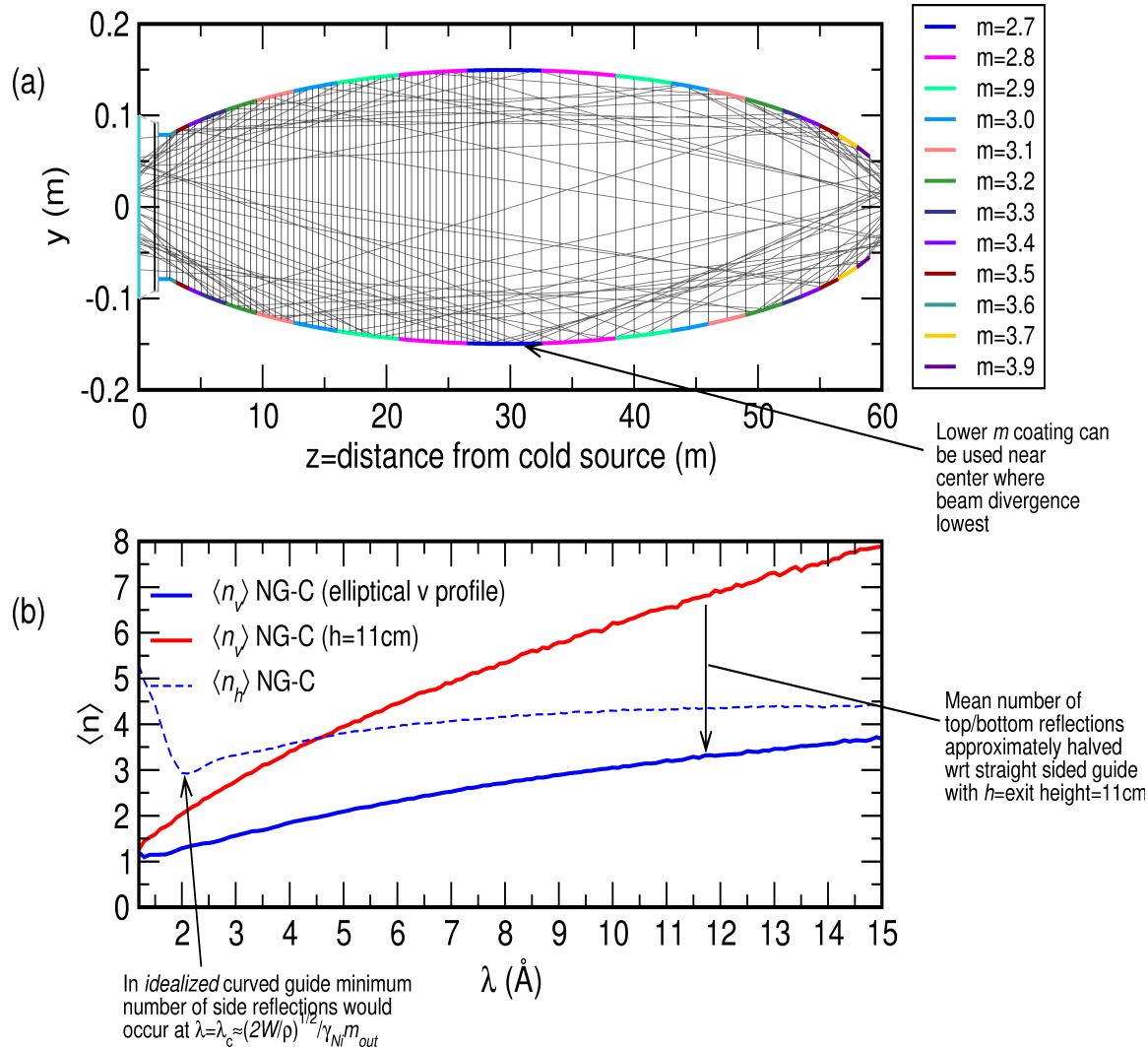


# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

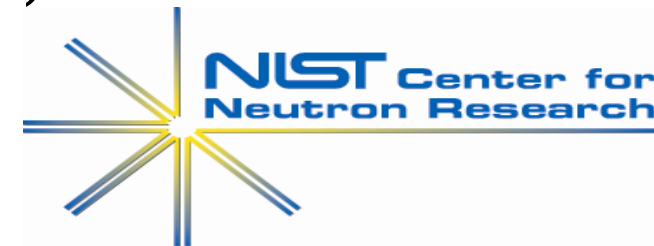
## ELLIPTICAL GUIDES AT NCNR



ISNIE



- NGC elliptical in vertical plane (increases transmission efficiency), graded  $m$
- 1. Ellipse accepts narrower divergent beam from source
- 2. Converts to wider less divergent beam in the center
  - a) Allows long distances traveled with reduced number of contacts (losses) at the guide walls
  - b) Also permits lower  $m$  to be used near center.
- 3. Refocuses beam near exit increasing the flux and reduces the beam size (but divergence increases)





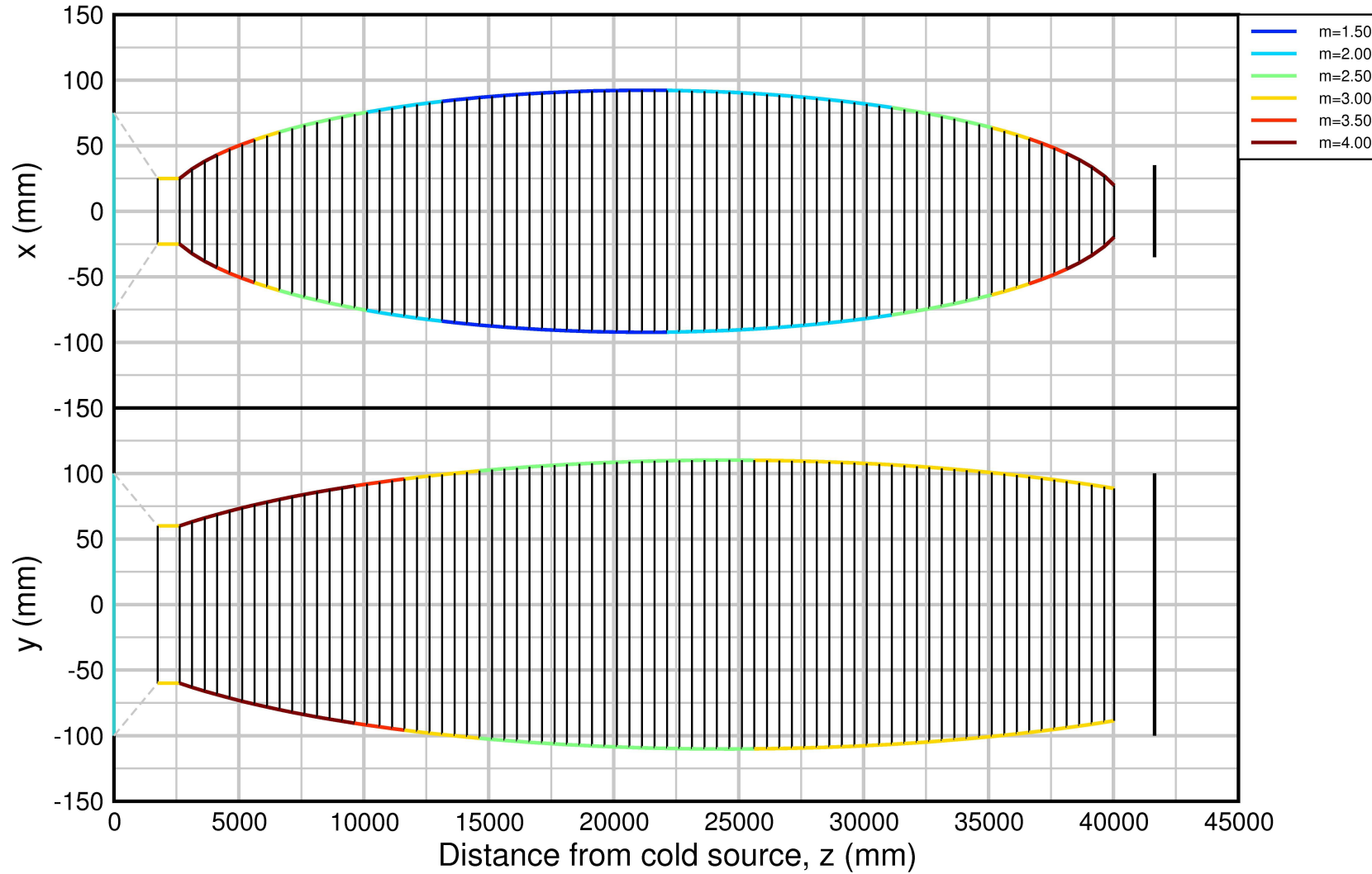
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## ELLIPTICAL GUIDES AT NCNR



ISNIE

- NG5 will be bi-elliptical, graded  $m$   
NG-5 (MegaSPINS)



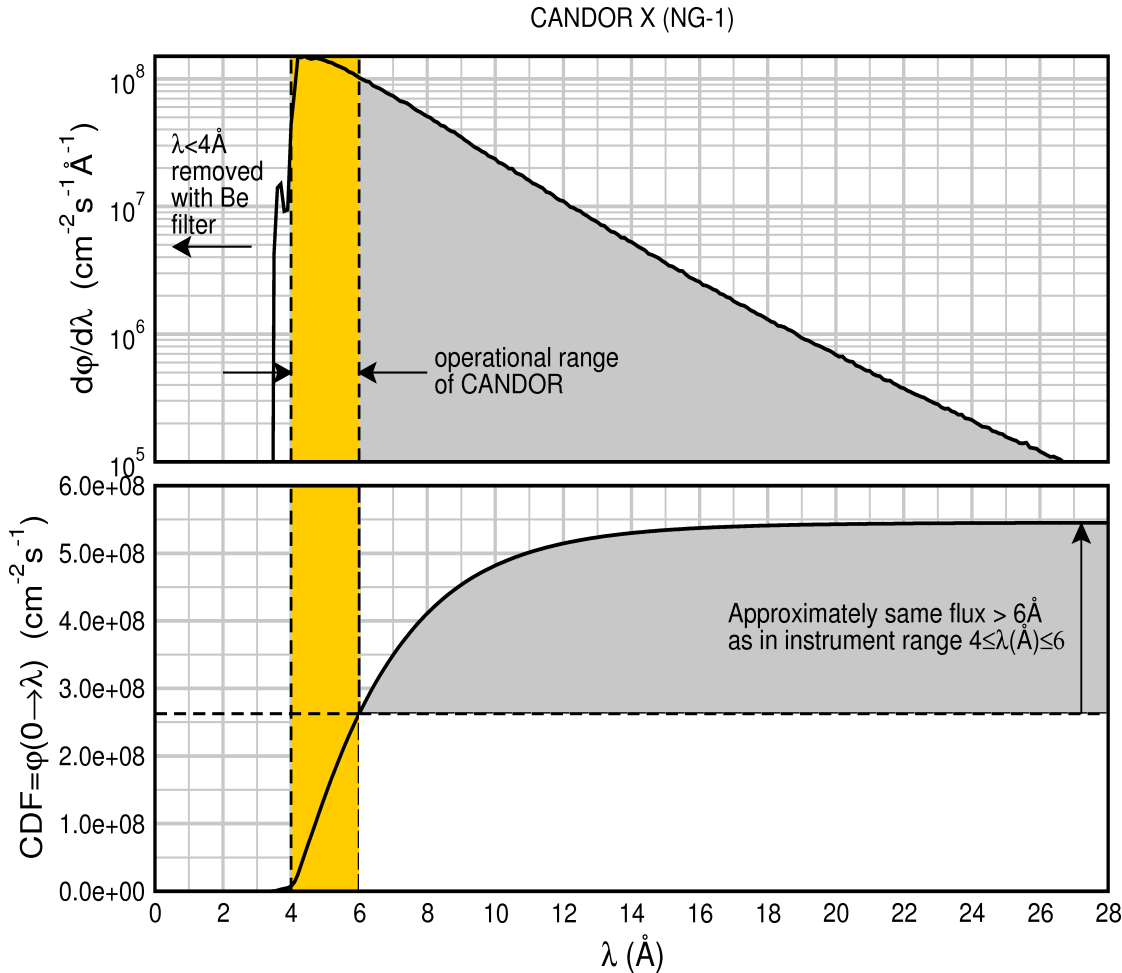
NIST Center for  
Neutron Research

# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

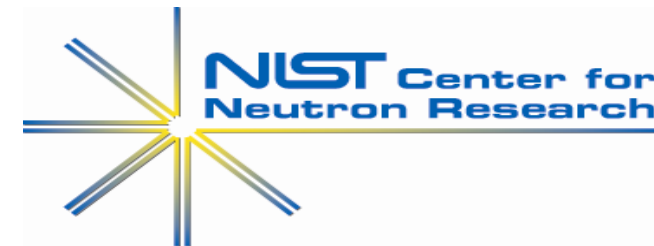
## LONG WAVELENGTH CUTOFF DEVICE FOR CANDOR



ISNIE



- CANDOR instrument at NCNR uses **ONLY wavelength range between 4 and 6  $\text{\AA}$**
- Wavelengths **outside of this range** only contribute to **instrumental background**
- Eliminate  $\lambda < 4 \text{\AA}$  very effectively with Be filter
- Want to reduce wavelengths with  $\lambda > 6 \text{\AA}$  with minimal penalty to  $\lambda \leq 6 \text{\AA}$

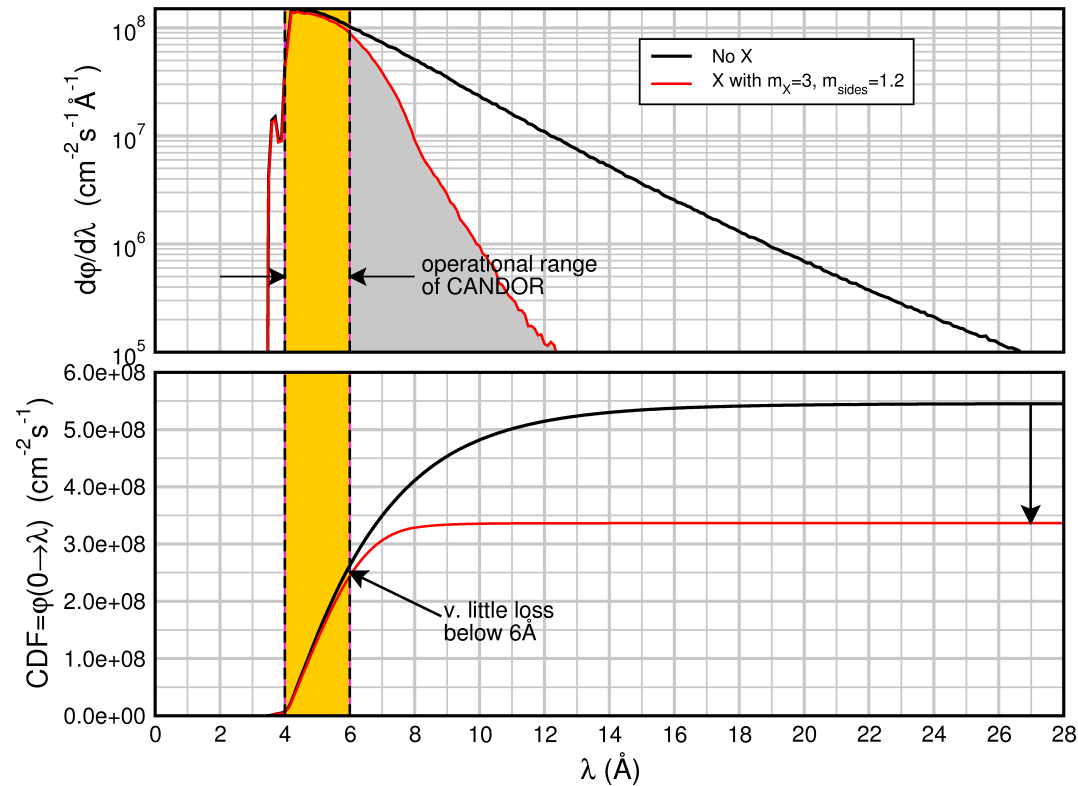
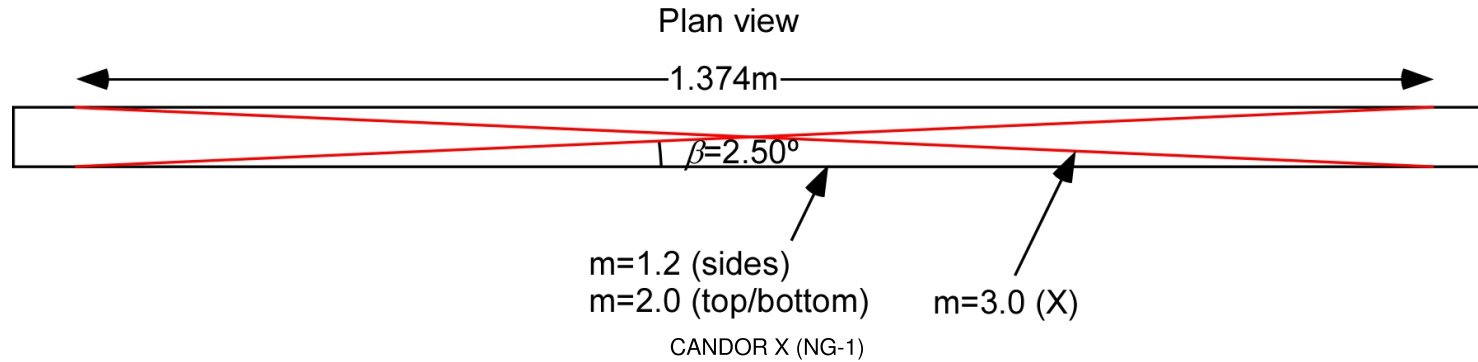


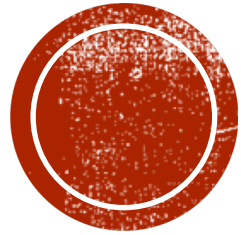
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## X-DEFLECTOR (CANDOR)



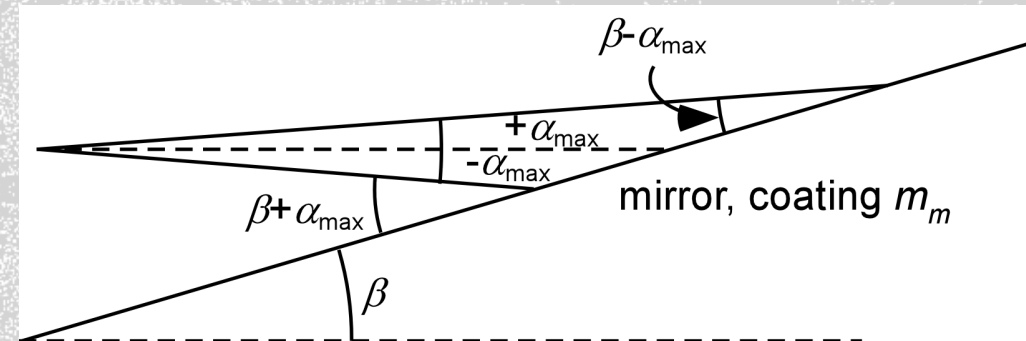
ISNIE





# SPECIAL DEVICES

## LONG WAVELENGTH CUTOFF



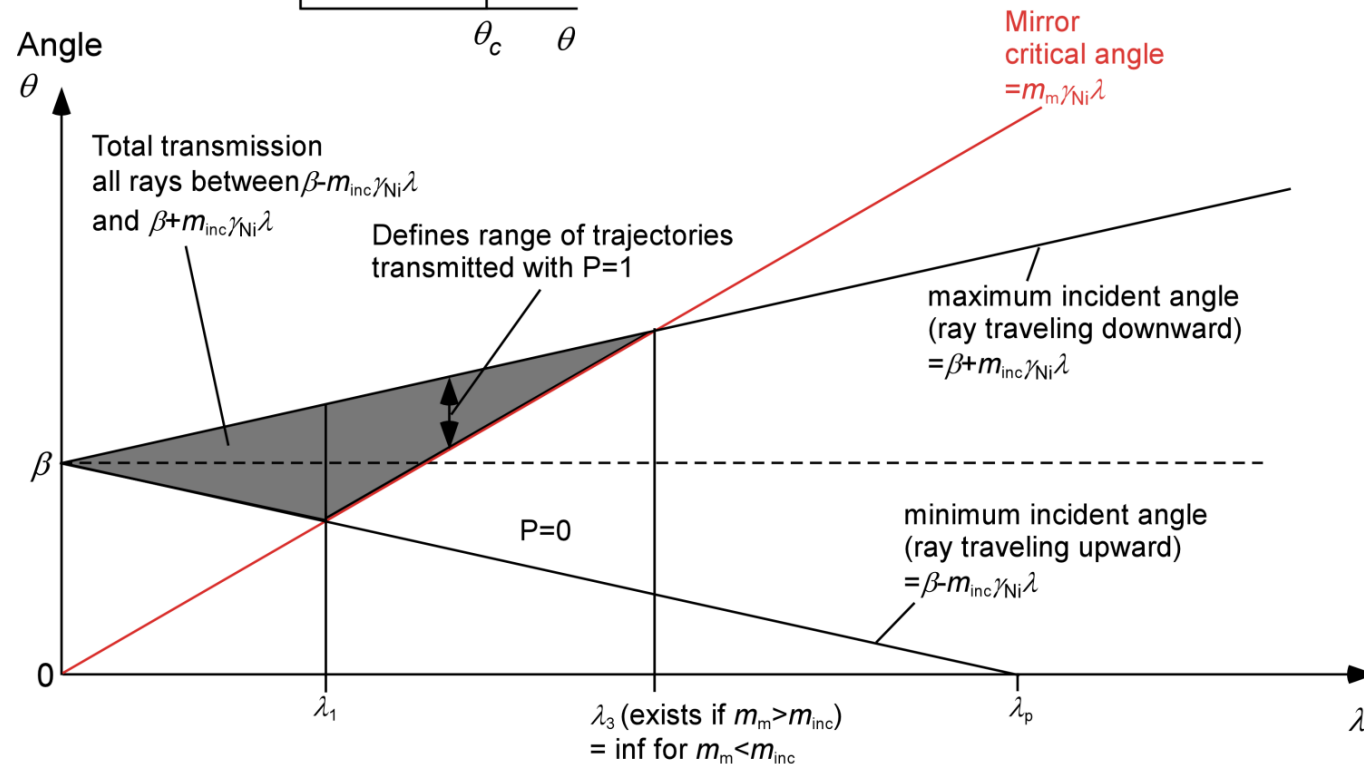
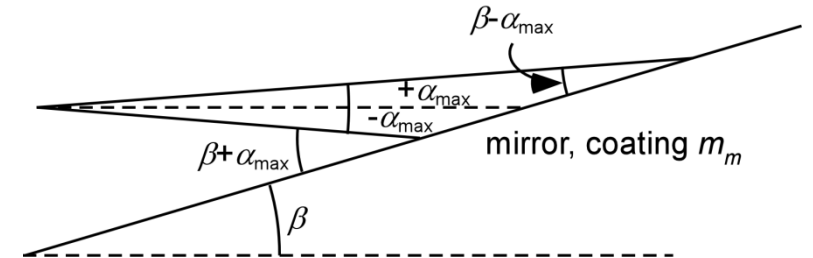
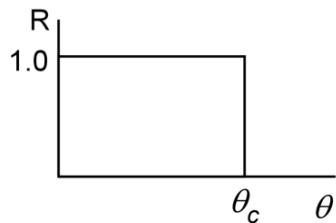
# Special devices

## Long wavelength cutoff device (perfect R, transmission)



ISNIE

### 1. PERFECT IDEALIZED REFLECTIVITY



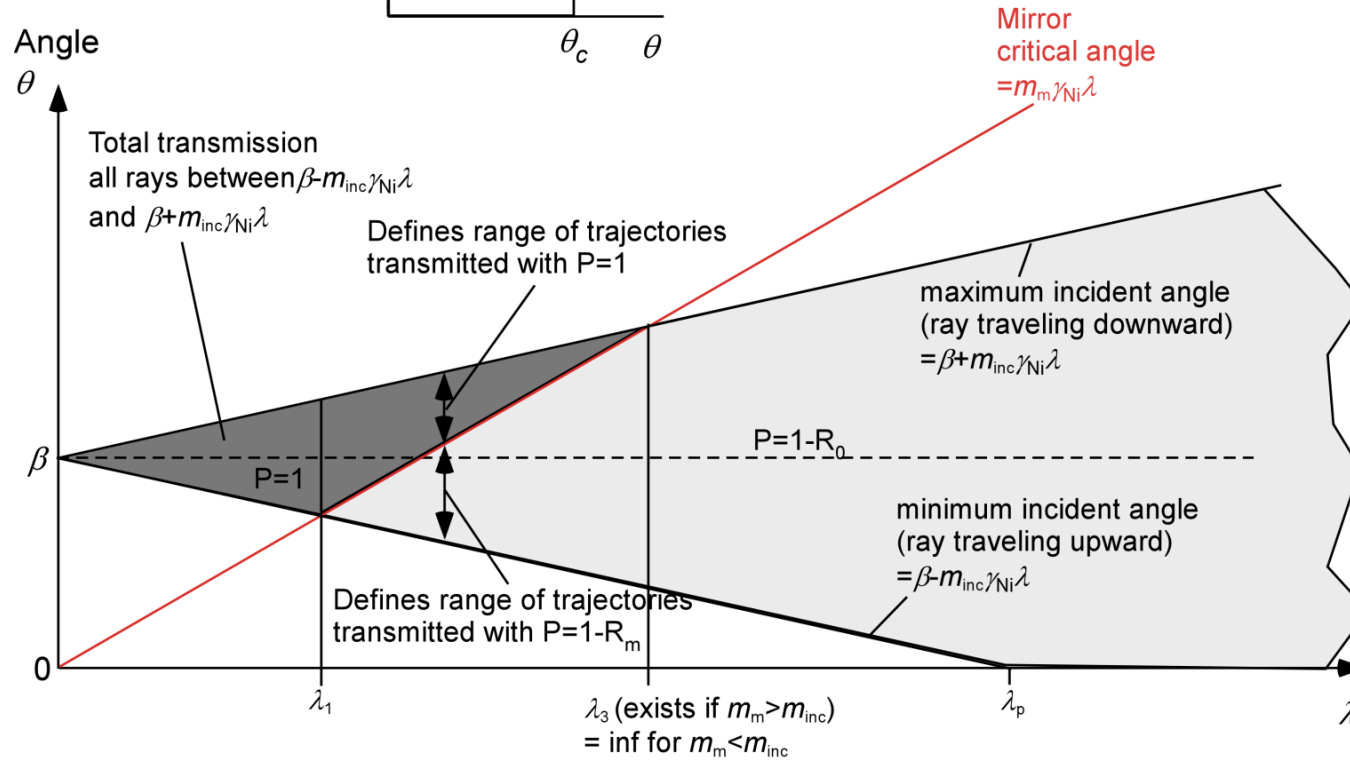
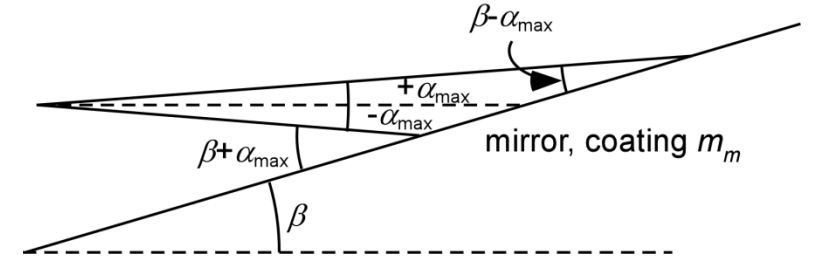
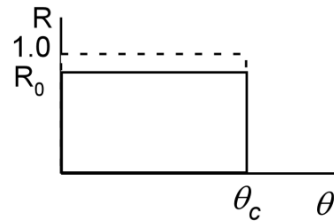
# Neutron guide optics

## Long wavelength cutoff device (imperfect R, transmission)



ISNIE

IDEALIZED NON-PERFECT REFLECTIVITY ( $R(\theta < \theta_c) < 1$ )

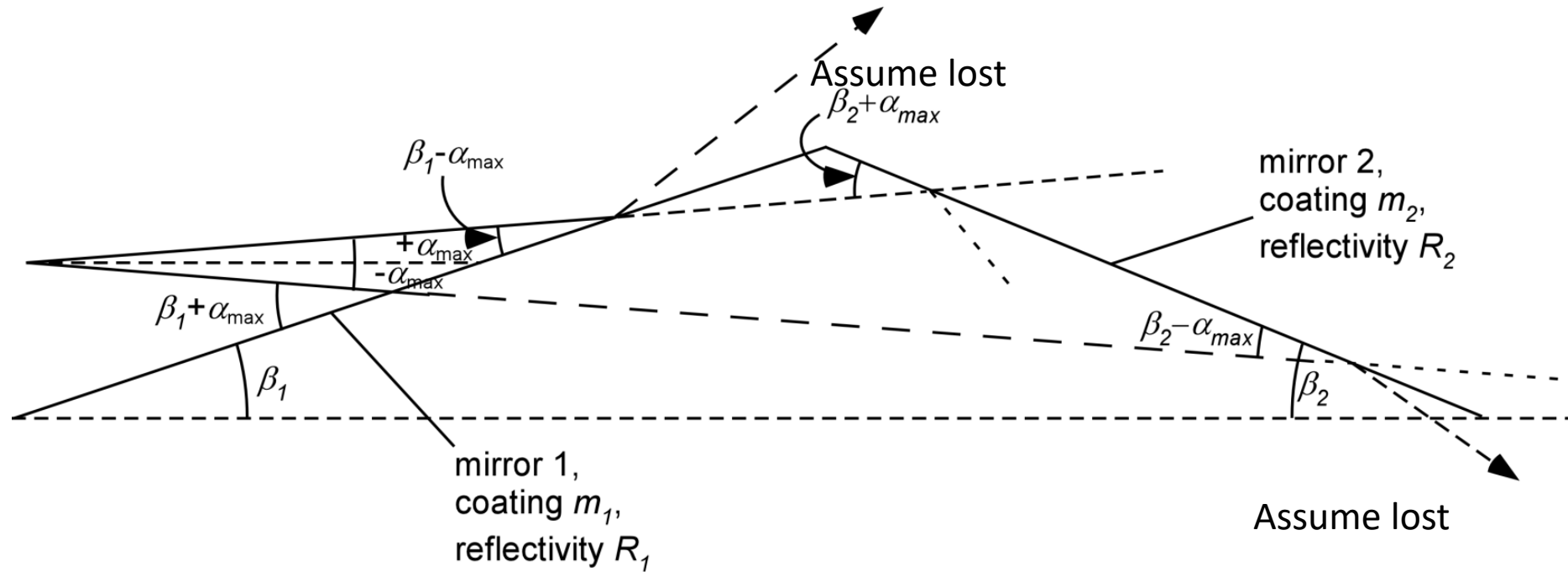


# Neutron guide optics

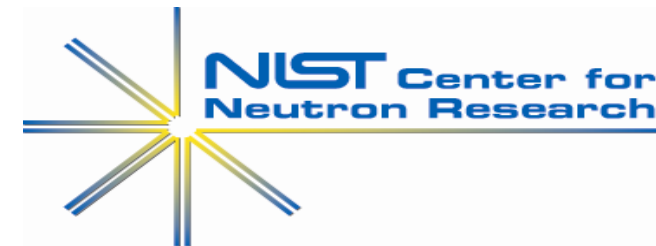
“V” or “X” (may be asymmetric)



ISNIE



Ignore physical length of device for now

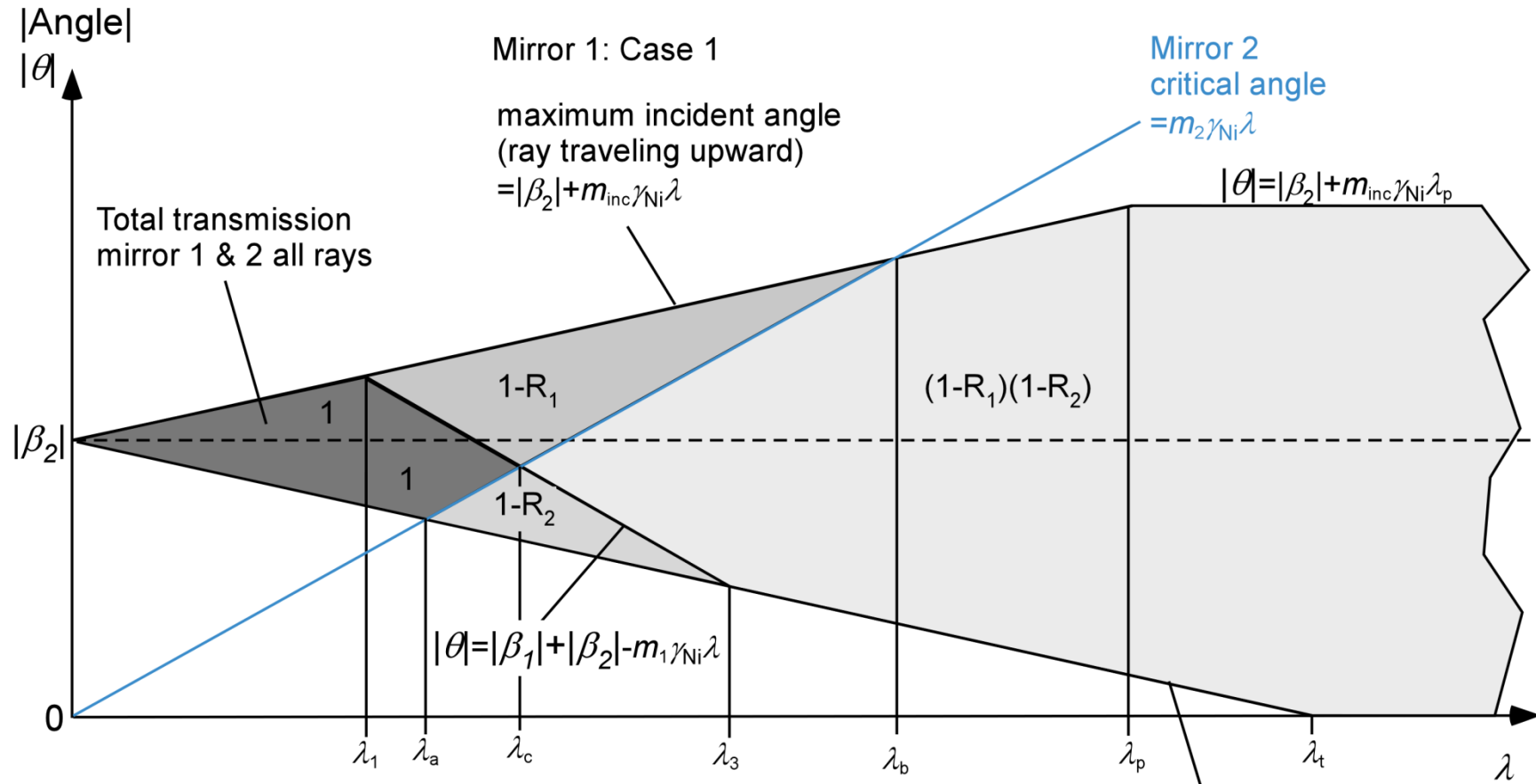


# Neutron guide optics

“V” or “X” (may be asymmetric)



ISNIE



Mirror 1: Case 1  
 maximum incident angle  
 (ray traveling upward)  
 $= |\beta_2| + m_{inc} \gamma_{Ni} \lambda$

Mirror 2  
 critical angle  
 $= m_2 \gamma_{Ni} \lambda$

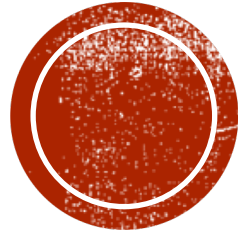
$|\theta| = |\beta_2| + m_{inc} \gamma_{Ni} \lambda_p$

$|\theta| = |\beta_1| + |\beta_2| - m_1 \gamma_{Ni} \lambda$

minimum incident angle  
 (ray traveling downward)  
 $= |\beta_2| - m_{inc} \gamma_{Ni} \lambda$







# **SPECIAL DEVICES**

## **POLARIZERS**



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## POLARIZING DEVICES – POLARIZING GUIDES

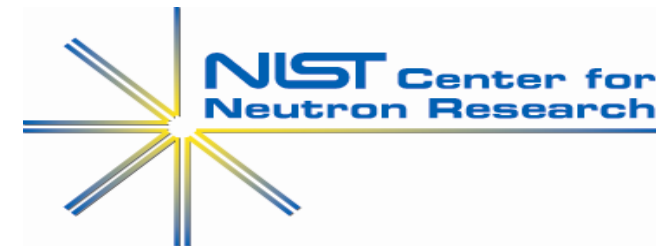


ISNIE

- Polarizing guide (Fe/Si, FeCoV / TiN supermirror) – typically require several 100 Gauss magnetic field in “easy magnetization direction” (plane of supermirror) to “saturate” magnetization in desired direction



Polarizing guide at  
FRM2, Munich



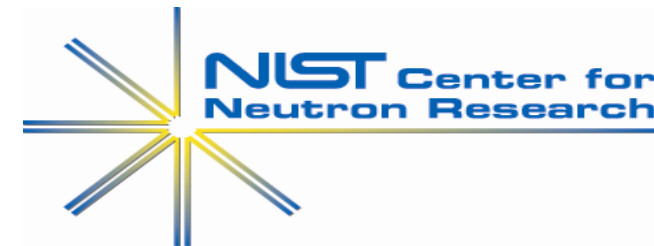
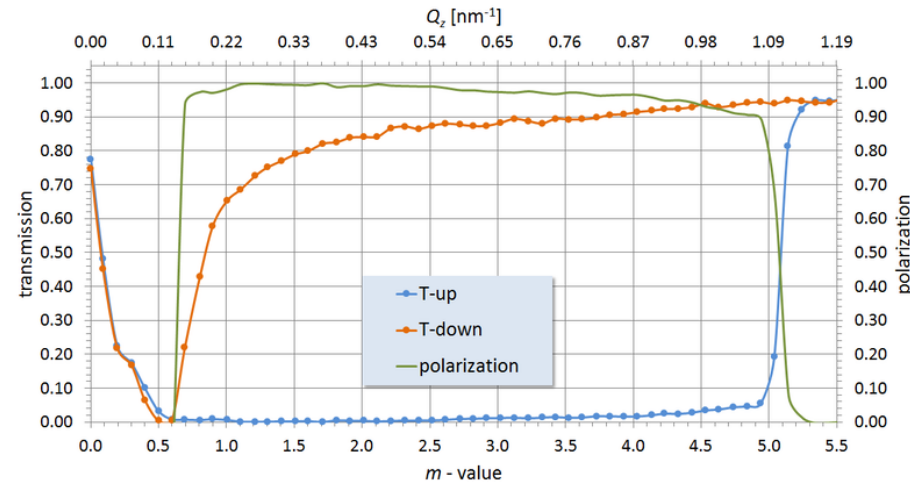
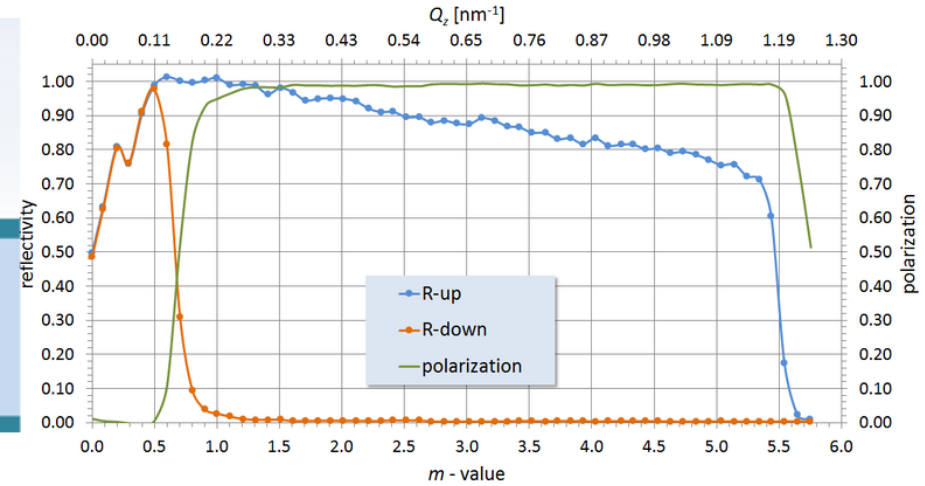
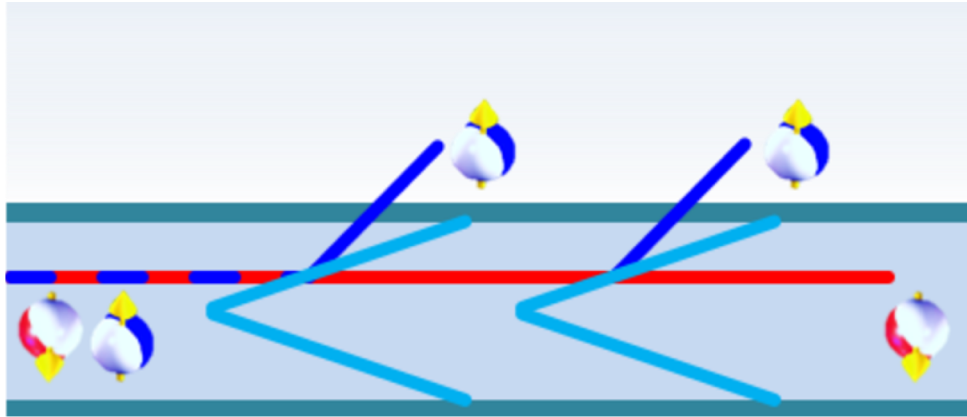
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## POLARIZING DEVICES – V-POLARIZER



ISNIE

- Polarizing: Fe/Si, FeCoV / TiN (problem activation of Co ( $^{60}\text{Co}$   $T_{1/2} > 5$  yrs) – require few Gauss magnetic field in “easy magnetization direction” (plane of supermirror))



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

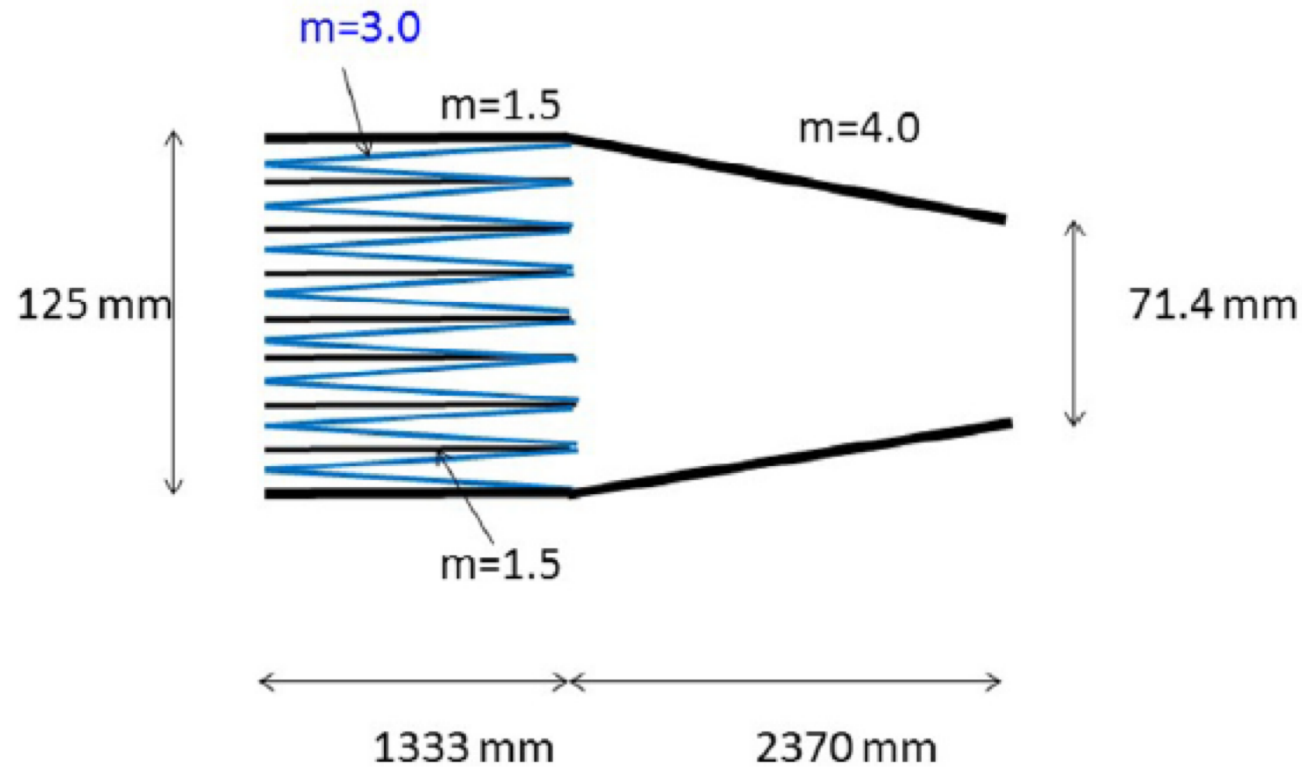
## POLARIZING DEVICES – V-POLARIZER ...



ISNIE

R.R. Gainov, F. Mezei, J. Füzi, M. Russina

[Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 930 \(2019\) 42–48](#)



*SwissNeutronics*

- Because of the small angles required for the V's devices can be long
- May be remedied by placing multiple adjacent shorter V's



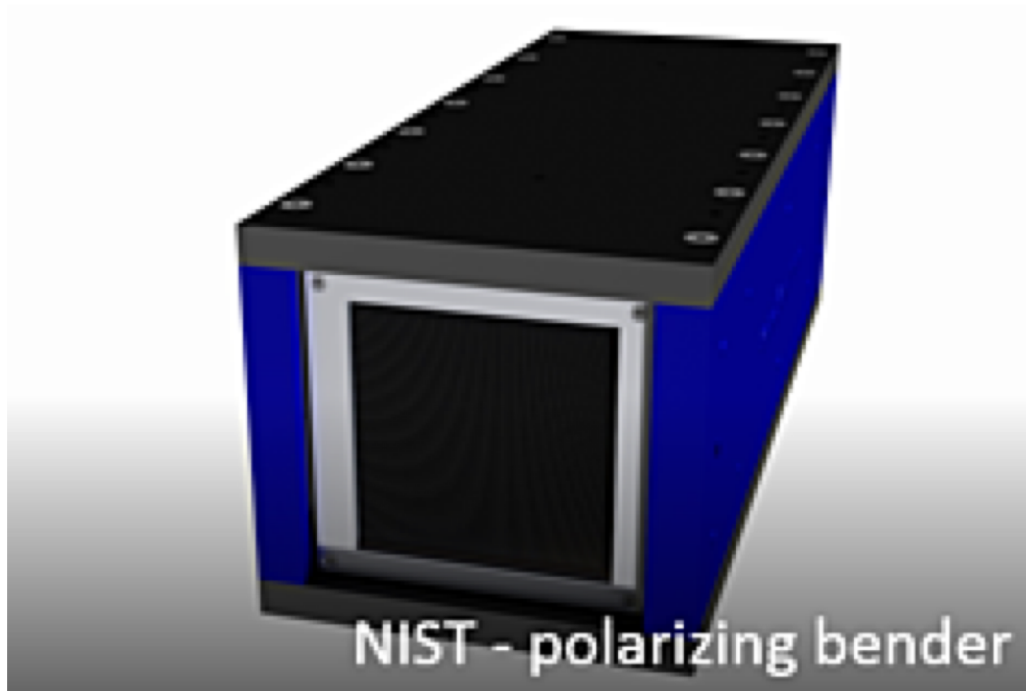
# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## POLARIZING DEVICES – POLARIZING BENDER



ISNIE

- Otto Schärpf (ILL 1980's)



### Polarizing bender - NIST (2013)



#### Bender design

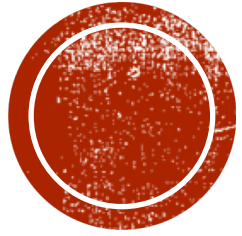
Number of channels:	60
Path/Profile:	truly curved
Radius of curvature:	11160 mm
Cross-section:	106 mm( <i>w</i> ) x 100 mm ( <i>h</i> )
Length:	402 mm
Width of channels:	1.37 mm
Thickness of blades:	0.3 mm
Coating of blades:	Fe/Si, $m = 2.5$

#### Specials

Magnetic casing with  $B = 450\text{G}$

SwissNeutronics





**WINDOWS**

# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## GUIDE WINDOWS



ISNIE

- Must have high thermal/cold neutron transmission (low scattering and absorption)
- Most materials have “1/v” absorption (absorption cross-section increases  $\propto \lambda$ )

$$\sigma_a(v_n) \approx \sigma_{a,2200} \frac{2200}{v_n [\text{ms}^{-1}]} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_a(\lambda) \approx \sigma_{a,2200} \frac{\lambda \left[ \overset{\circ}{\text{\AA}} \right]}{1.7982}$$

$$T = \exp(-\Sigma_a t), \quad \Sigma_a = \sum_i N_i \sigma_{a,i}$$

- Usually assume that *any* scattering loses neutron from the beam so

$$T \approx \exp(-\Sigma_t t), \quad \Sigma_t = \sum_i N_i (\sigma_{a,i} + \sigma_{s,i})$$



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## GUIDE WINDOWS

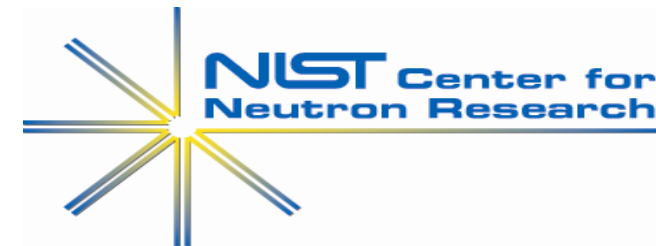


ISNIE

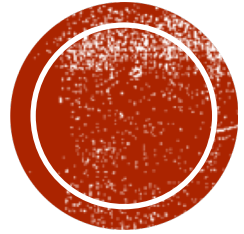
- Windows are “thin” (exponent is small) so

$$T \approx \exp(-\Sigma_t t) \approx 1 - \Sigma_t t$$

- This means that the absorption probability  $\approx \Sigma_a t$ , so **prompt gamma production and activation rate  $\propto t\lambda$  (minimize  $t!$ )**
- Common materials for guide windows Al (Al6061-T6), Mg (AZ31B – 3% Al, 1% Zn), Be
- Note neutron activation of Al,  $^{28}\text{Al}$   $T_{1/2}=2.3$  minutes
  - Saturation activity is reached after a few minutes of irradiation
  - Should wait at least 20 minutes before approach after beam off







# MISALIGNMENT



# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

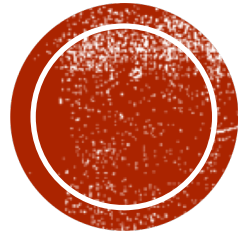
## EFFECTS OF MISALIGNMENTS



ISNIE

- **Spatial misalignments**
  - Lose transmittable area of beam
  - Steps can block non-negligible preceding reflecting surface due to small reflection angles
- **Angular misalignments**
  - Can be cumulative increasing error of intended trajectory
  - Cause additional trajectories to exceed critical angle
- **Causes**
  - Manufacturing defects - machining, measurement accuracy limitations (also substrate waviness, parallelism)
  - Installation errors
  - Building settlement
- Effects of both types of misalignment tend to decrease with increasing wavelength (e.g. for instance if angular offset  $\ll$  critical angle) BUT longer wavelengths tend to reflect more on the average (depends on design)
- Effects can be estimated in simulations





# **BONUS COSTING APPROXIMATIONS**

# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

## (VERY) APPROXIMATE GUIDE COSTS!



ISNIE

- “Home-made” algorithm based on purchased guide data and some guesses (zero knowledge of proprietary cost algorithms!)
- Over-dependence fraught with danger (many variables, including load and market constraints which are NOT factored in)
- For rough initial budget estimates only – **only for standard or simple tapered elements**
- **I will deny all knowledge of this in cases of failure!**

Glass cost ,

$$C_{glass} = C_{fixed} + L(m) \left( C_l + C_{pol} \max [w_{ent} (cm), w_{ex} (cm), h_{ent} (cm), h_{ex} (cm)] \right)$$

where  $C_{fixed} = \$415$  ,  $C_{pol} = \$656m^{-1}cm^{-1}$  (polishing) and

1 Non-tapered or singly tapered

$$C_l = \$7963$$

2 Doubly-tapered

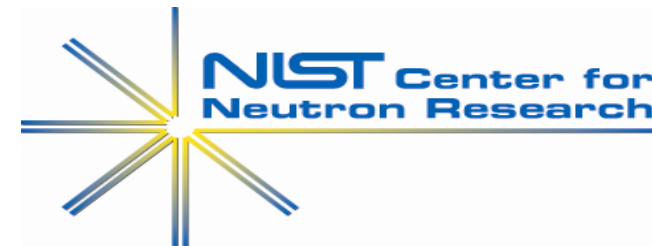
$$C_l = \$9555$$

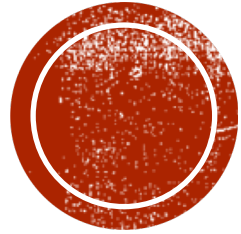
Supermirror/coating cost for side i

$$C_{coat,i} = C_{m,i} A_i (m^2)$$

where

$$C_{m,i} = \begin{cases} \$1700m^{2.9} & \text{SM} \\ \$1700 & \text{Nat Ni} \\ \$5806 & {}^{58}\text{Ni} \end{cases}$$





# NEUTRON GUIDE OPTICS

END



## **Acknowledgements**

All of my RFO colleagues, Dan Neumann (NCNR) for some figures and slides, Cristine Rehm (some figures), Chuck Majkrzak ...