# THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN X-RAY DIFFRACTOMETER FOR THE STUDY OF THIN METAL FILMS

Andrew Evans, Brandon Hoffman, Houghton College Physics Department



#### □ Introduction

Design



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roentgen2.jpg

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv\_Bild\_183-U0205-502,\_Max\_von\_Laue.jpg



## History

- The Discovery of X-rays
  Crookes Tubes
  Wilhelm Röntgen
  The Discovery of X-ray Diffraction
   Paul Peter Ewald
  - Max von Laue



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Crookes\_tube\_two\_views.jpg

### Introduction: The Basics

- □ What are x-rays?
  - Photons
  - Produced from atomic transitions (Fluorescence)



http://9-4fordham.wikispaces.com/Electro+Magnetic+Spectrum+and+light

#### The Basics: Fluorescence

Excitation and subsequent de-excitation of electrons



## The Basics: What is a diffractometer?

#### Optical Diffraction



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Interference-colors.jpg

## The Basics: Bragg's Law



## Introduction: What is a diffractometer?

X-ray Diffraction (in Silver)

Measurement of atomic lattice plane spacing









http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Silver\_crystal.jpg

### Introduction: What is a diffractometer?



### Introduction: What is a diffractometer?



## Design: A Bragg-Brentano Diffrac.



### **Construction: X-ray Generation**

#### Old X-ray System



### **Construction: X-ray Generation**



## **Construction: Mechanical System**



## **Construction: Detection System**

#### Vernier Student Radiation Monitor



## **Construction: Electronic System**

#### LabView

- Stepper Motor Control
- Eventual System Control
- Logger Pro
  - Water System Temperature
  - Radiation Detection

### **Results: X-Ray Generation**



### **Results: X-Ray Generation**



# **Results: Mechanical System**

- Motors and Arms
  - Done
- Sample Holder
- Shielding
  - Beam
  - Detector
  - People
- Detector Mount



## Results: Electronic System

- LabView Motor Control Program
  - Variable speed and distance
- Logger Pro
  - Cooling system
  - Radiation Monitors

# Conclusion: Where We'd Like to Go

- X-Ray System
  - Higher output power supply
  - Energy spectrum measurement
- Mechanical System
  - Sample Holder
- Detection System
  - Adjustable X-ray shielding
- Electronic System
  - More LabView control



### Questions?

