



XAFS16 at KIT: Five Days of Cutting-Edge X-ray Science in Karlsruhe

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The official conference photo with the XAFS16 logo.

The sixteenth international conference on X-ray Absorption Fine Structure, XAFS16, was held August 23–28, 2015, at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany. Since the first such meeting in 1981, the XAFS conference series has become the foremost international meeting covering developments and applications in X-ray absorption spectroscopy. Jointly organized by KIT, DESY (Hamburg), HZB (Berlin), and the European XFEL (Hamburg), under the auspices of the International X-ray Absorption Society (IXAS), the XAFS16 conference hosted over 550 participants (including more than 160 young scientists) from 37 different countries, establishing a new record for the number of participants. The local organization was provided by the KIT institutes INE, IKFT, and ITCP and the ANKA synchrotron facility, with Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt leading the local organizing committee.

The symposia and accompanying poster sessions addressed virtually all aspects of X-ray absorption spectroscopy—from the latest theoretical developments to instrumentation and applications—covering topics from the *in-situ* characterization of catalysts and novel materials, speciation of environmental contaminants and radionuclides, to novel developments in medical applications and forensic analysis of cultural and historical objects. Reflecting the increasing importance of X-ray absorption spectroscopy in industrial research, a special symposium took place, for the first time at a XAFS conference, dedicated to current and potential applications in industrial research. Important developments in instrumentation were presented in the fields of microspectroscopy, extreme conditions (high pressure and high temperature), X-ray emission spectroscopy (including high-energy-resolution fluorescence detected absorption) and

X-ray Raman spectroscopy and time-resolved studies, in particular using high-speed monochromators. X-ray spectroscopy performed at XFELs was presented in a dedicated symposium.

In addition to the main conference, a number of satellite meetings covering specialist topics were held at DESY (data acquisition, treatment, storage and quality assurance in XAFS spectroscopy), HZB (time- and energy-resolved soft X-ray spectroscopy), and at the MPI-IS in Stuttgart (application of XAFS to the study of magnetic materials). Three data analysis tutorials were offered before and after the conference in Karlsruhe (FEFF9, GNXAS, and CMT4XAS).

As with preceding XAFS conferences, the XAFS16 proceedings will appear in the *Journal of Physics: Conference Series (JPCS)*, which is part of the IOP Conference Series. Papers published in the IOP Conference Se-

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The International X-ray Absorption Society (IXAS) used the occasion of the XAFS16 conference to honor a number of scientists whose activities have contributed to the continued development of X-ray absorption spectroscopy: the Edward Stern Prize was awarded jointly to Majed Chergui, Professor of Physics and Chemistry at EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland (for his pioneering work in the field of time-resolved X-ray absorption spectroscopy), and Andrea Di Cicco, Professor of Physics at the Università di Camerino, Italy



The prize winners together with the conference organizers (from left to right, Pieter Glatzel, new IXAS chairman; Bruce Bunker, former IXAS chairman; Andrea Di Cicco, Majed Chergui, Amélie Juhin, Narcizo Souza-Neto, and XAFS16 chairman Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt).

(for outstanding achievements and pioneering work in the application of XAS to disordered systems). Amélie Juhin of the French National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris received the Farrel Lytle Prize for her contribution to the understanding of X-ray dichroism and resonant inelastic X-ray scattering, and the Dale Sayers Prize for outstanding young scientists went to Narcizo Souza-Neto, beamline scientist at the Brazilian Synchrotron Light Laboratory in Campinas, for the development of instrumentation and the use of synchrotron techniques for studies of matter under extreme conditions.

At the conclusion of the conference, the participants had the opportunity to visit the

ANKA synchrotron radiation facility at KIT's north campus, where there are three beamlines dedicated to X-ray spectroscopy and where the CAT-ACT beamline for catalyst and actinide research is currently being commissioned.

In the closing presentations, the hosts of the next conference, XAFS17 (www.xafs2018.com), which will take place July 22–27, 2018, in Krakow, Poland, were introduced. ■

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