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Elastic and Inelastic Diffraction of Fast Atoms

Schematic representation of grazing incidence diffraction (GIFAD) discovered in the group by Patrick Rousseau. At grazing incidence, the fast He projectile with keV energy is diffracted by the well-ordered rows of atoms by successive gentle collisions. The He projectile is repelled by the surface electronic density so that GIFAD can be seen as a helium tip AFM operated in the reciprocal space.
Atomic diffraction spots have two component, one is point-like corresponding to elastic scattering, the other one, the inelastic component, is broader and consist here in here in vertical stripes pointing upward or downward.

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