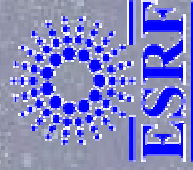


***FOX, "Free Objects for Xtallography"***  
***a free, modular approach to crystal  
structure solution***

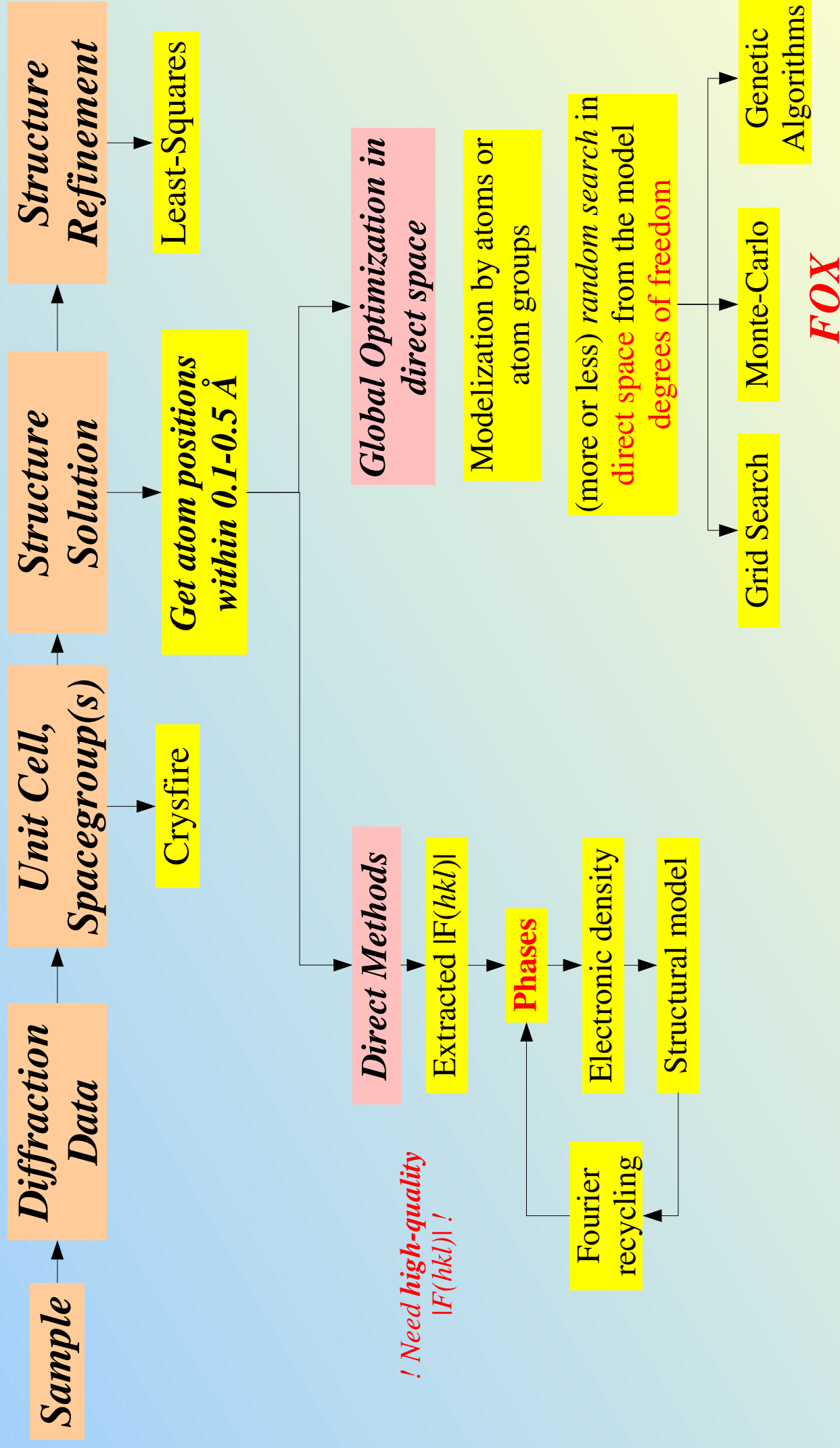
***V. Favre-Nicolin & R. Černý***



**UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE**



# Structure Determination Overview



# FOX Overview

## Parametrization

- **inorganic** or **organic** materials
- description using atoms or building blocks
- automatic, smooth correction of **special positions**

## Data

- powder pattern (X-Ray, neutron, multi-phase)
- (pseudo-) single crystal
- **joint optimization** with several data sets

## Algorithms

- Parallel Tempering (Simulated Annealing)
- expandable to new algorithms

## Availability

- **free** (<http://objcryst.sourceforge.net> and CCP14)
- **open source**
- available for *Linux* and *windows*

## Organization

### Graphical User Interface

Object-Oriented Crystallographic  
Computing Library

Algorithms

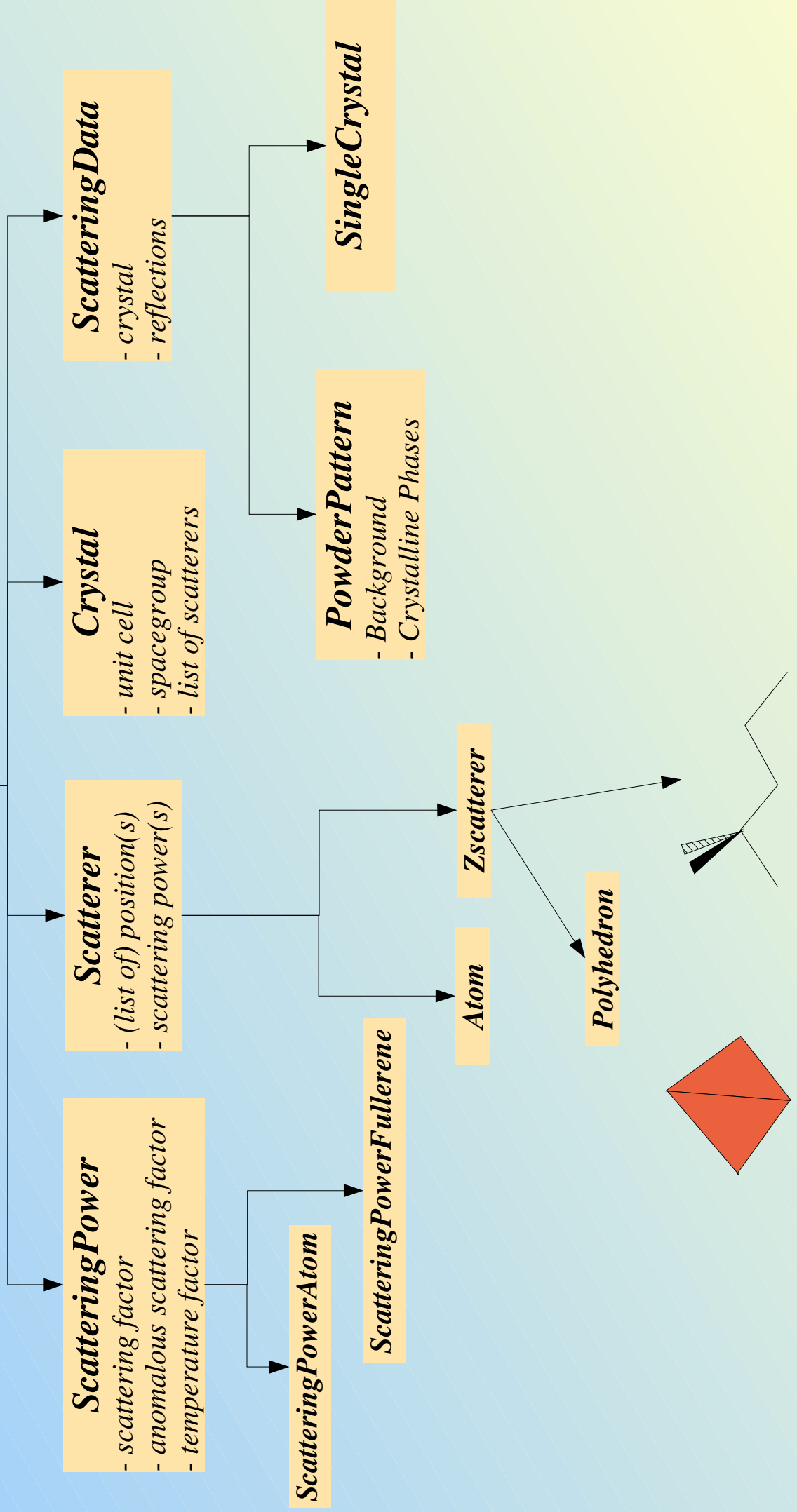
# ObjCryst++

## Algorithms

### Monte-Carlo

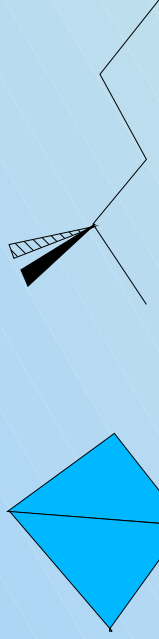
- Simulated Annealing
- Parallel Tempering

## RefinableObj



# Modelization

**Building blocks for the crystal structure**



**Atom**

**Polyhedron**

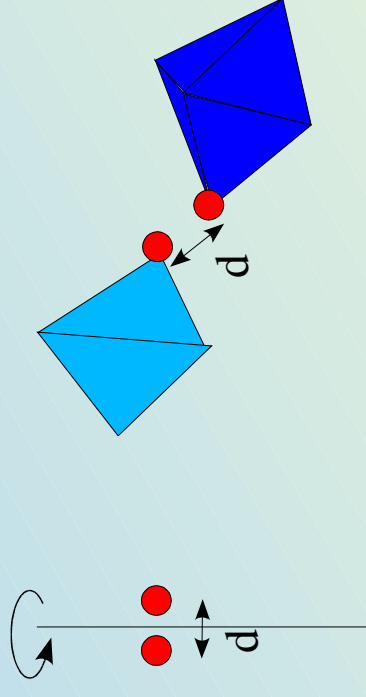
**Molecule**

Description from **bond lengths, bond angles** and **dihedral angles** :  
Z-matrix

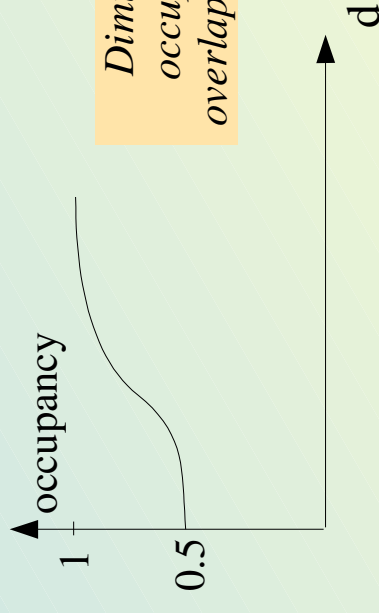
⇒ Use the maximum *a priori* information about the atoms coordination

**Less degrees of freedom**  
⇒ More efficient search

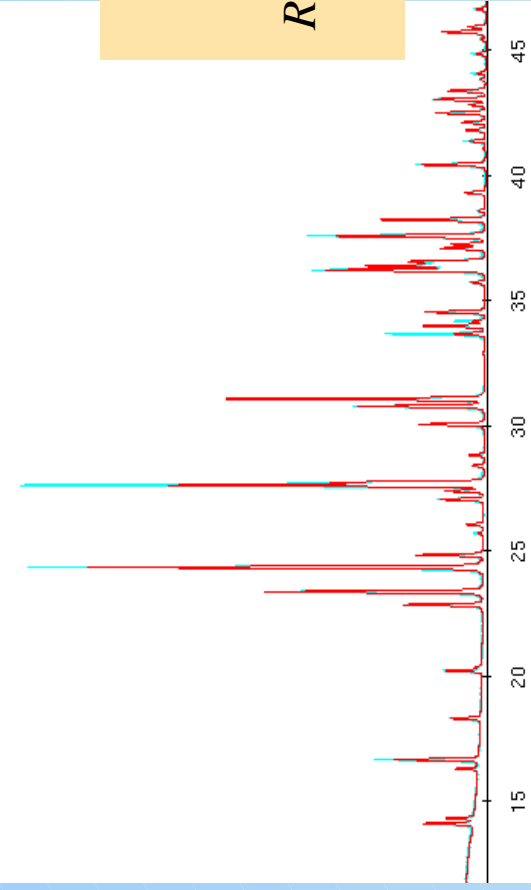
**Special positions & Shared atoms**



Overlap of identical atoms using a **Dynamical Occupancy Correction**



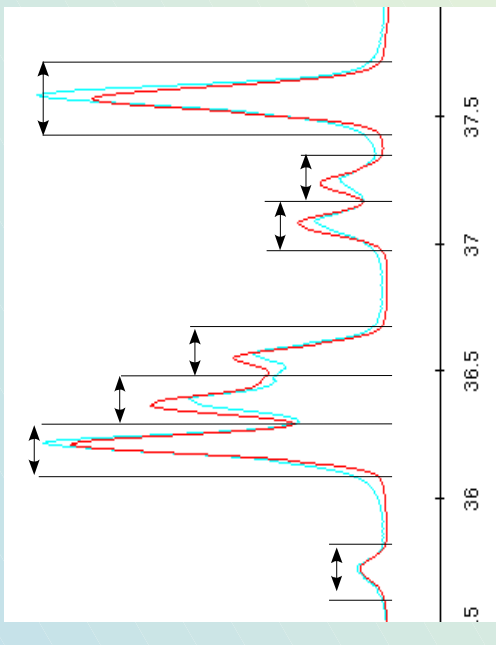
# Evaluation of Trial Configurations



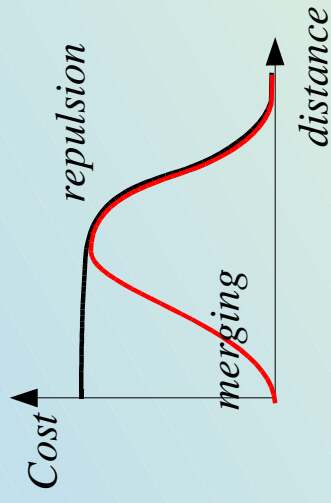
full profile R-factor

$$R_{wp} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum w_i (I_i^{obs} - I_i^{calc})^2}{\sum w_i (I_i^{obs})^2}}$$

integrated full profile R-factor  
 $iR_{wp}$



Anti-bump

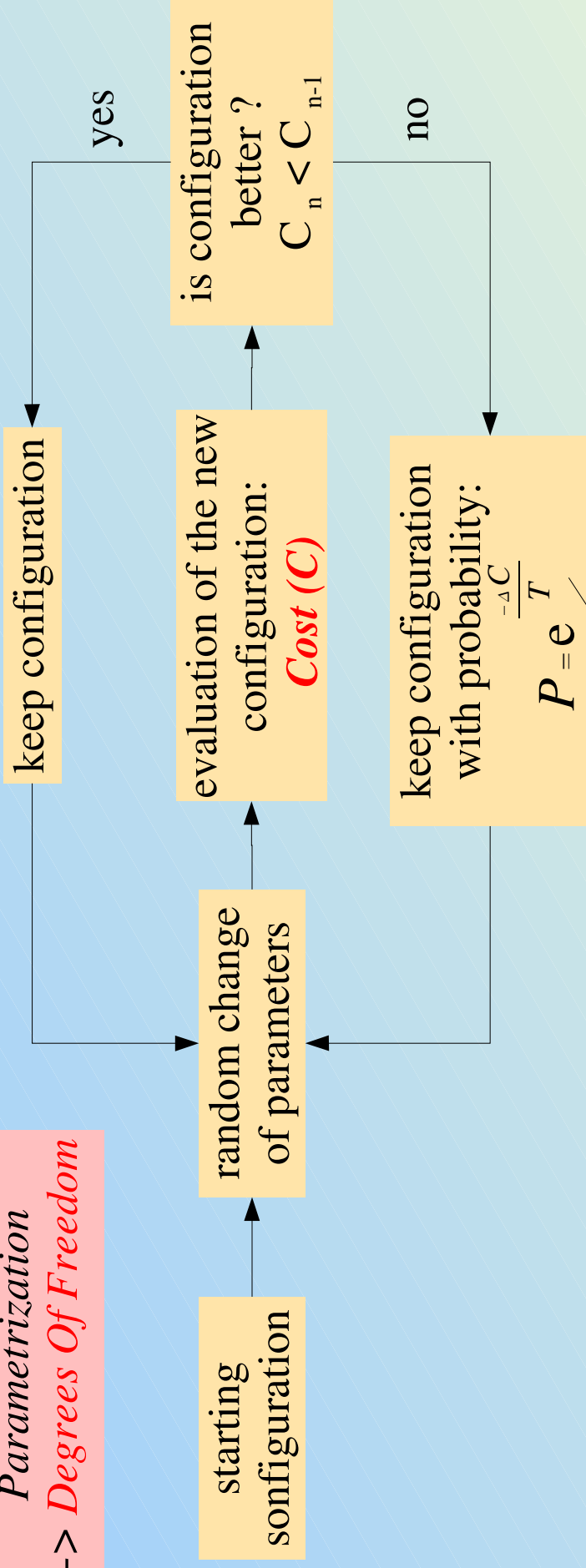


Use any combination of criteria

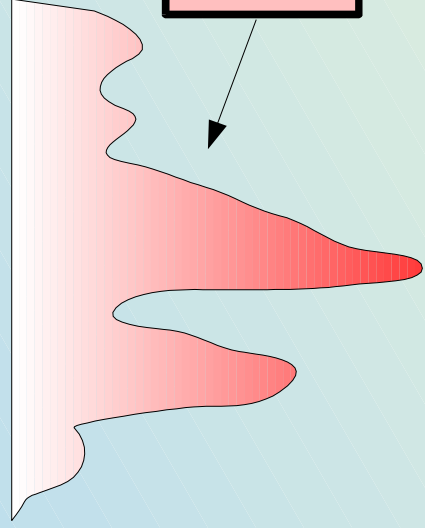
$$Cost = \sum w_j C_j$$

# Monte-Carlo Algorithm

Parametrization  
-> Degrees Of Freedom



Hypersurface  
 $Cost = f(DOF)$

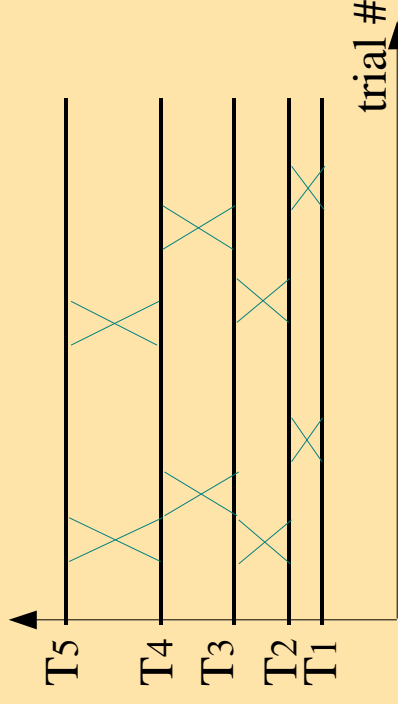


Generate a distribution of configurations following Boltzmann's law

Temperature of the algorithm

## Parallel Tempering

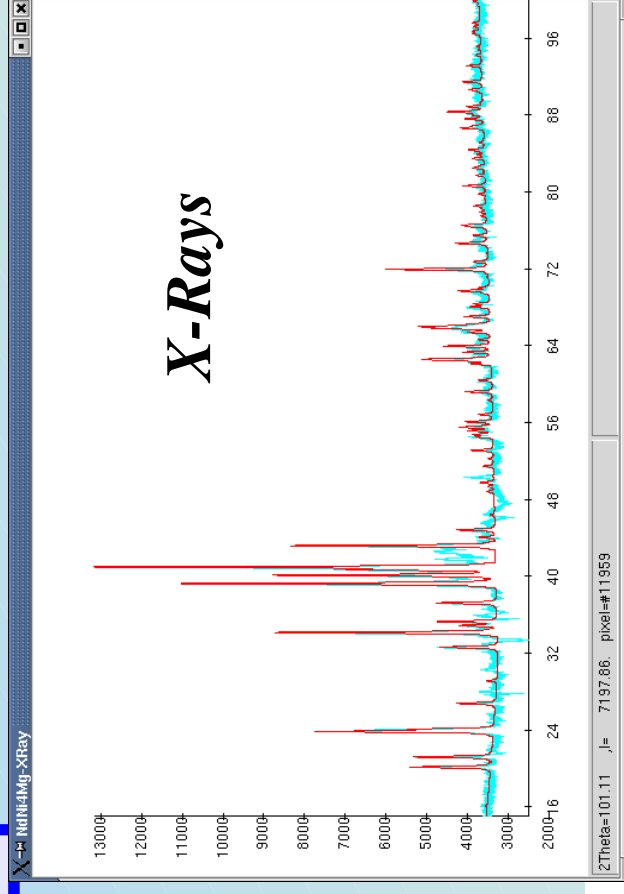
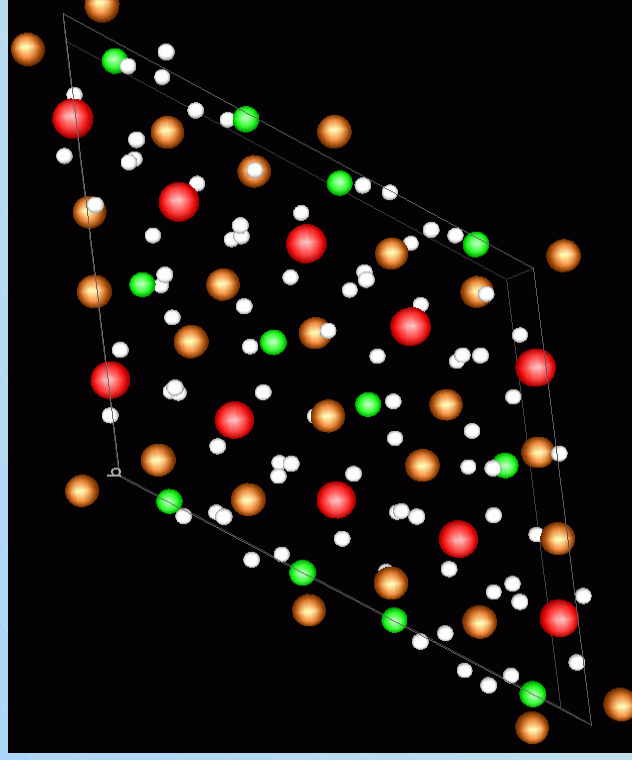
simultaneous optimization at different temperatures  
=> explore entire hypersurface  
More efficient than Simulated Annealing



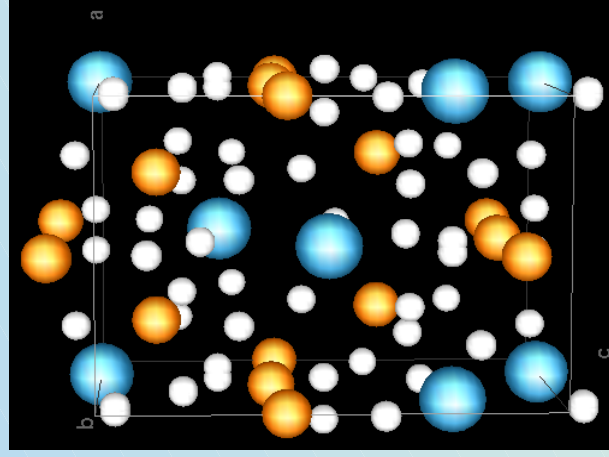
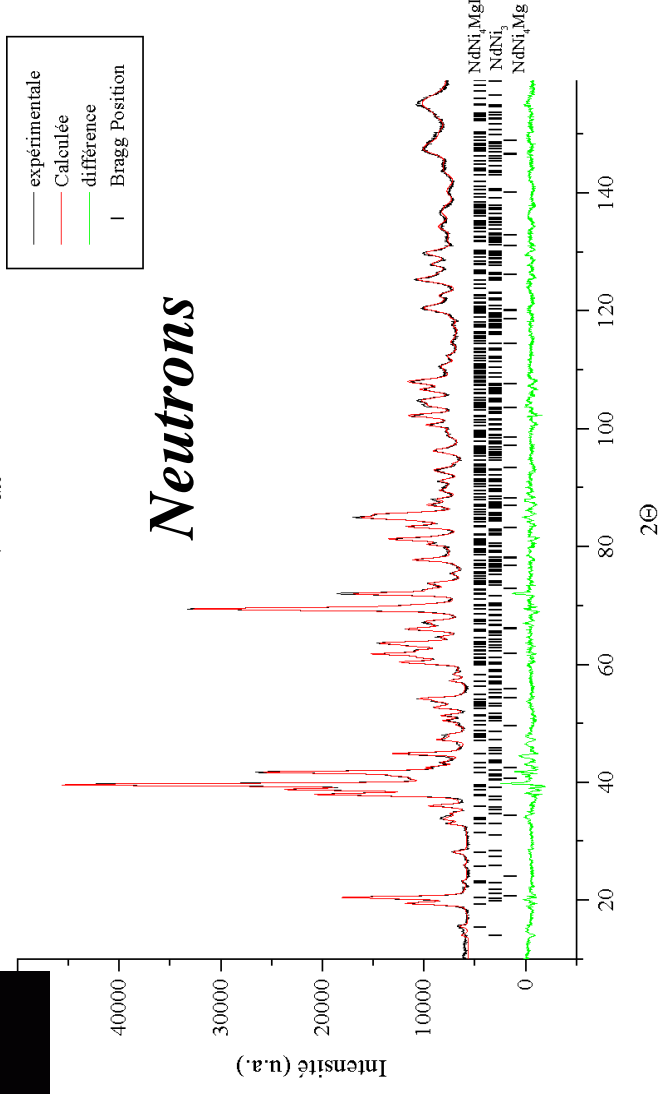
# Hydrides Solved Using Fox

## Inorganic

- NdNi<sub>4</sub>MgD<sub>3.6</sub>
- Zr<sub>3</sub>NiO<sub>0.6</sub>D<sub>6.32</sub>
- LaNi<sub>2</sub>Mn<sub>3</sub>D<sub>5.5</sub>
- LaMg<sub>2</sub>NiD<sub>7</sub>
- ...



NdNi<sub>4</sub>MgD<sub>3.58</sub>





# Hybrid Structure : $Al_2(H_3CPO_3)_3$

a=13.297 b=9.657 c=5.072 (89.6° 111.2° 92.1°) P-1  
17 atoms + 9 H

*Solving through direct methods : failed*

RMN  $^{13}C$   $^{27}Al$   $^{31}P$  : identification of 5 building blocks  
- 3 non-equivalent  $H_3C-PO_3$  fragments

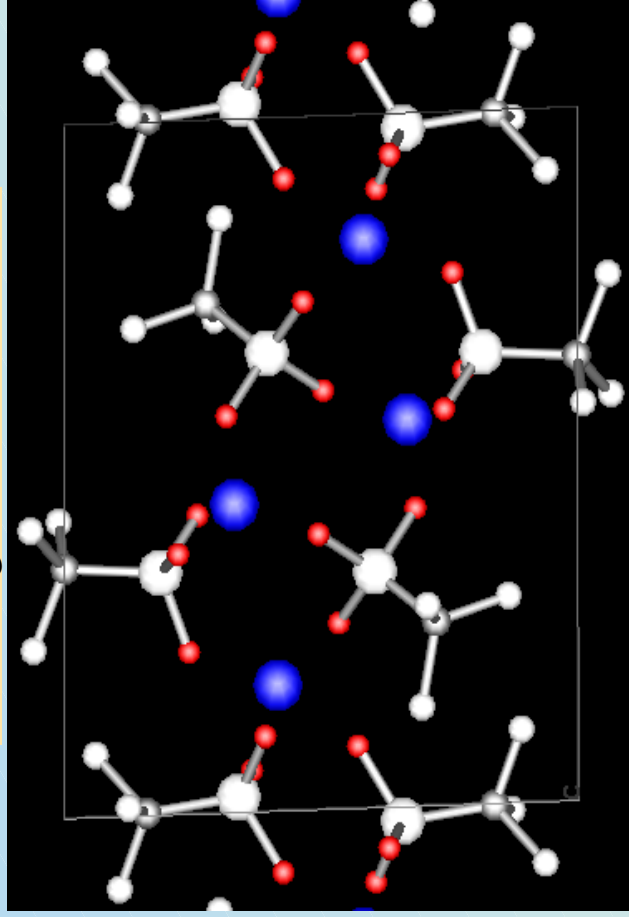
- 2 Al non-equivalent, one in tetrahedral and one in trigonal bipyramidal

*2 possible modelizations in Fox*

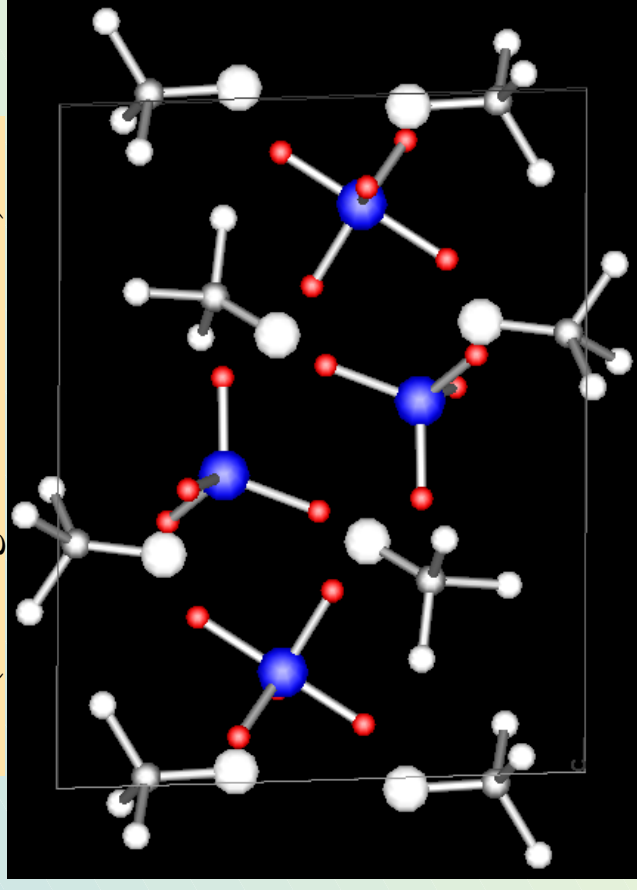
3  $H_3C-PO_3$  + 2 Al atoms  
(24 Degrees of Freedom)

*including the hydrogens improves  
the search, by steric effect*

3  $H_3C-P$  +  $AlO_4$  +  $AlO_5$   
(27 Degrees of Freedom)



750.000 trials /12 min



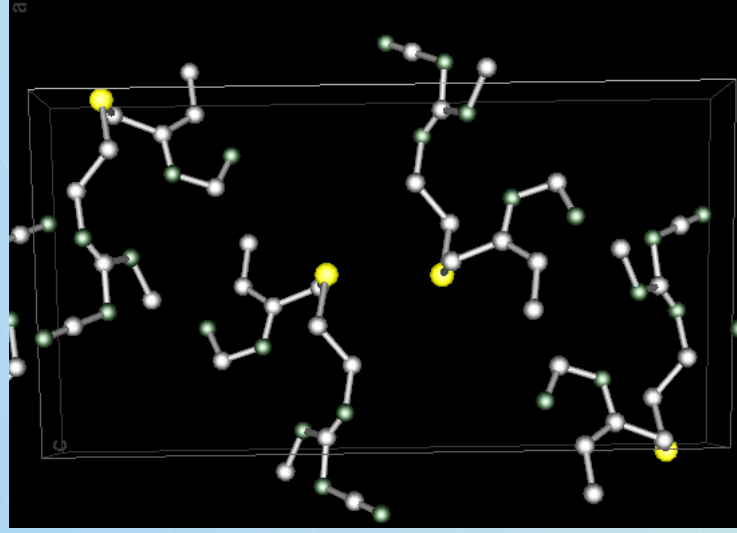
6.5 million trials /160 min

# Tests on Organic Compounds

## *Cimetidine*

14 DOF (8 torsion)

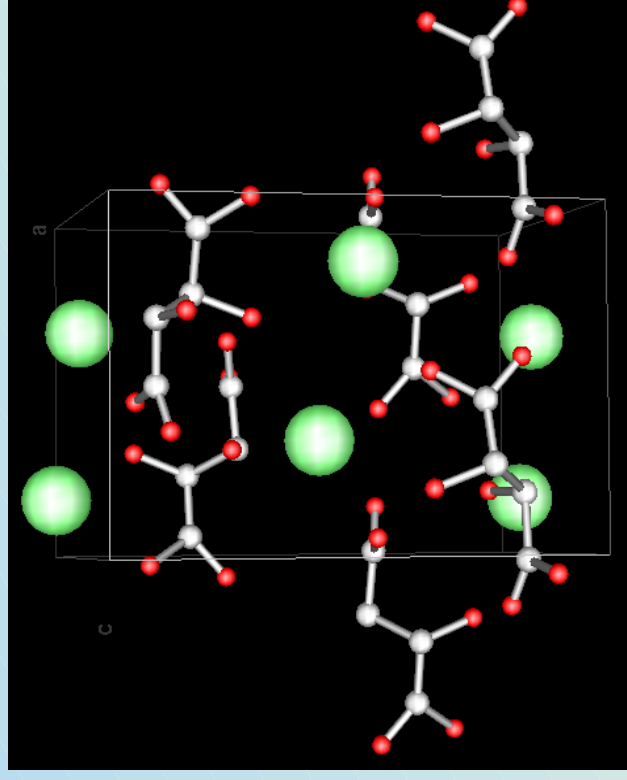
90% success after 4 million trials  
(25 mn single, 45 mn powder)



## *K-Tartrate*

14 DOF (5 torsion)

95% success after 1.2 million trials  
12 mn powder



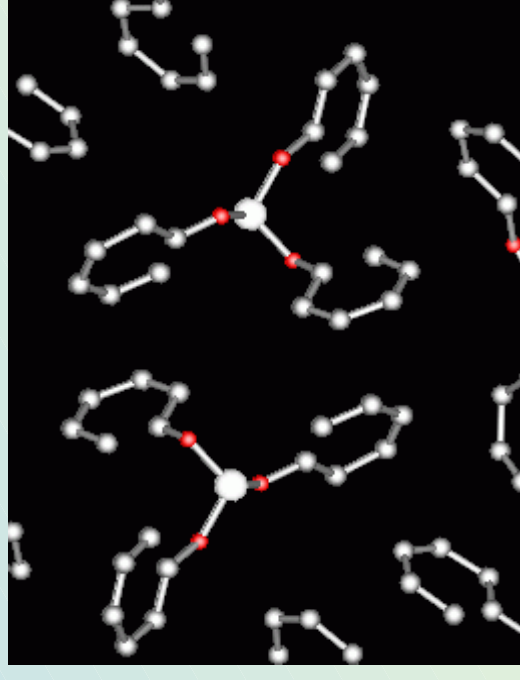
## *Triphenyl Phosphite*

in R-3 : 12 DOF (6 torsion)

(a few 100.000 trials)

in R3 : 23 DOF (6+6 torsion)

(20 million trials or more...)



# Conclusion

## *FOX : J. Appl. Cryst 35 (2002), 734*

- *modelize structure from any combination of building blocks (use chemist's a priori knowledge)*
- *automatic handling of special positions and building blocks connectivity*
- *multi-pattern joint optimization & multi-phase powder data*
- *new version with search of preferred orientation*
- *does not require individual structure factor extraction*
- *expandable (new algorithms, structure modelization, criteria...) : object-oriented library ObjCryst++*
- *fast*
- *Free for Linux & windows*
- *not a "black box"*

## *Future of FOX :*

- *more friendly to organic compounds*
- *more intelligent algorithms*
- *User-friendliness and forgiveness still to be improved !*
- *Depends on user feedback !!! Send user reports, feature requests !*
- *open-source project   => add your contribution*
- *=> help by testing "development" versions*

*Get FOX at <http://objcryst.sourceforge.net> and from CCP14 mirrors*

# Acknowledgements

## ***Samples & data:***

- *L. Guénee, G. Renaudin, B. Bertheville* (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
- *V. Paul-Boncour* (CNRS Thiais, France)
- *M. Edgar* (St Andrews, Scotland)

## ***Fox Development & ideas:***

- *Yu. Andreev*
- Spacegroup & element info library: *R. Grosse-Kunstleve* (LBL)
- *A. Markvardsen & W. David*

## ***CCPI4:***

- *L. Cranswick*

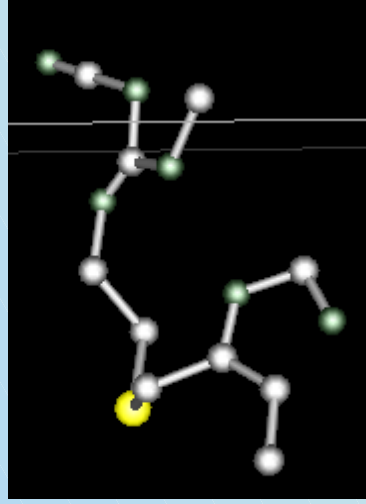
Project Supported by the *Swiss National Science Foundation*

# Future Developments

## Improve Molecule Modelization

Z-matrix approach is too “rigid” : diminishes the advantages of reducing the number of DOF

-> Use a description from *individual atoms*, plus *restraints* (bond lengths, angles, dihedral angles)



## Use Maximum Likelihood

- more general approach than current cost functions
- the likelihood takes into account the imperfections of the model => better convergence ?
- can handle partially disordered structures

## New Restraints (?)

- Chemical composition
- Density
- Atom Coordination
- Energy minimization (??)
- Use Calculated Enveloppe ?

## Introduce Derivative Calculations

- > New Algorithms (Hybrid MC)

**YOU Can Help !**

-> Get *development versions* of Fox and test !  
-> Supply code !

Fox is not my main research project any more