

The Canadian Light Source Annual Mx Data Collection School

Since 2011, the Canadian Macromolecular Crystallography Facility (CMCF) at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) has been organizing the Annual Mx Data Collection School. The School was originally an offshoot of the Saskatoon Synchrotron Summer School held in 2010 (S₄V), which had a life science theme and included a macromolecular crystallography stream. The crystallography stream garnered enough attention so as to make feasible the Annual Mx Data Collection School as a separate event. This allowed expansion of the curriculum to 5 full days, including a lecture component, hands-on practical sessions and, importantly, ample time for one-on-one data collection with an experienced mentor.

The 4th Annual Mx Data Collection School in June 2014 saw the first edition of a one-day review of fundamental crystallography principles, which provides a framework for the rest of the week's more practical aspects for participants with a broad range of experience. Completing the school equips participants to effectively collect good diffraction data. Additionally, each year, a special topic is focused on in-depth with a top expert in the field, allowing the school to provide both breadth of practical abilities and depth of knowledge.

The 8th Annual Mx Data Collection School was held in June of 2018. This year brings the total number of participants to over 180. Each year up to 20 participants are accepted to the school, aimed primarily towards the needs of graduate students, research staff, and post doctoral fellows. Past participants have gone on to be efficient users of the CMCF beamlines in their research.

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