

# A Crash Course on Transmission Electron Microscopy and Electron Energy Loss Spectroscopy

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<https://sites.google.com/site/xinhuolin/Home>



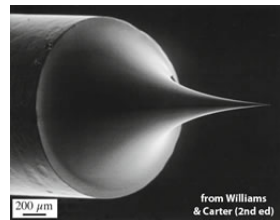
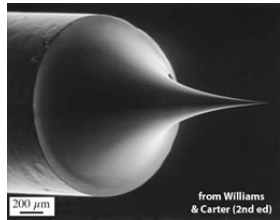
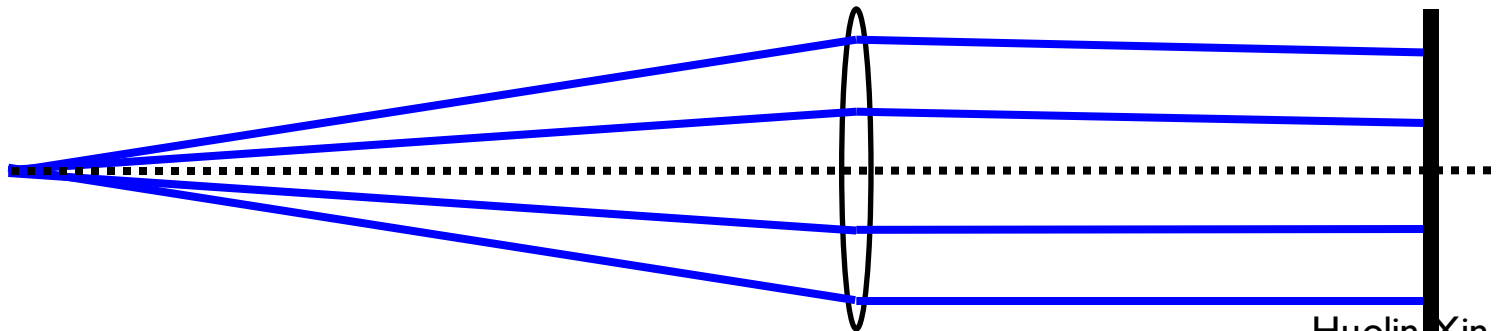
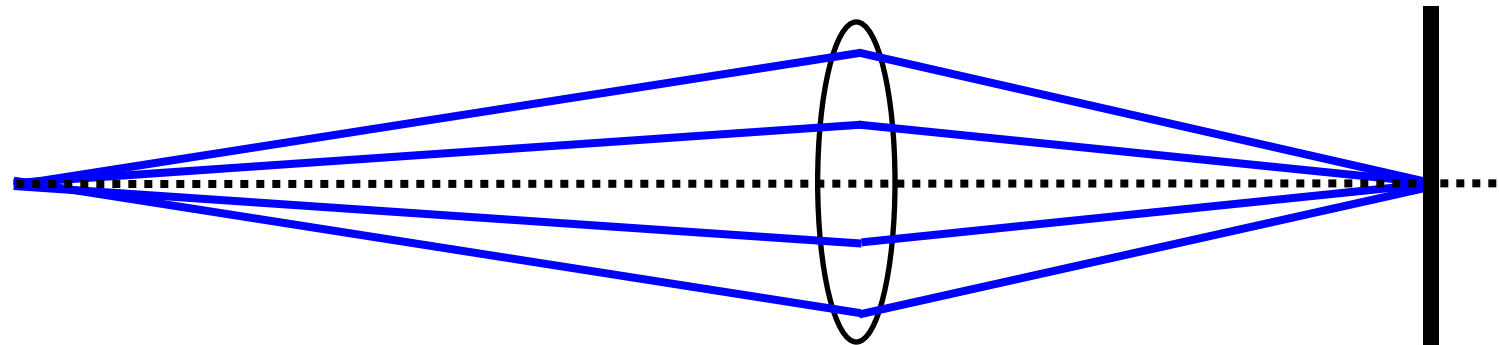
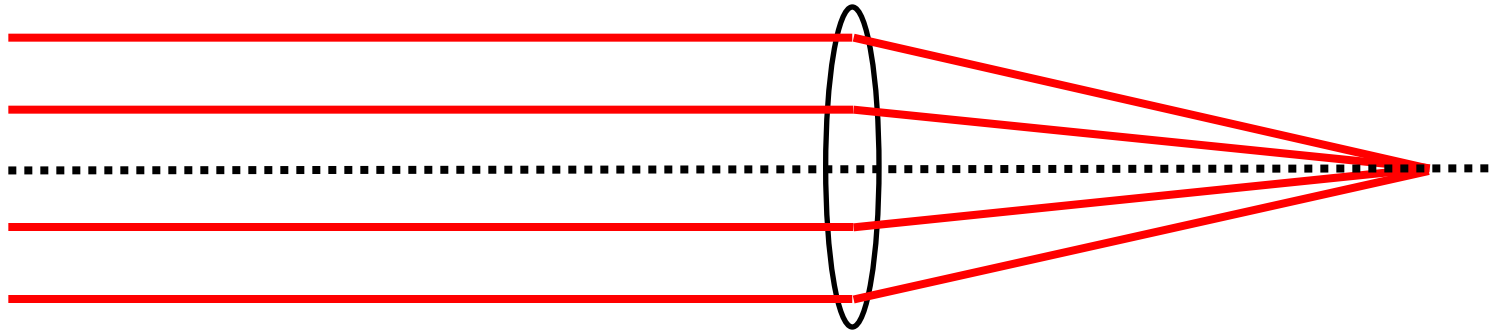
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## Start a fire with a water bottle

# A Crash Course on Transmission Electron Microscopy and Electron Energy Loss Spectroscopy

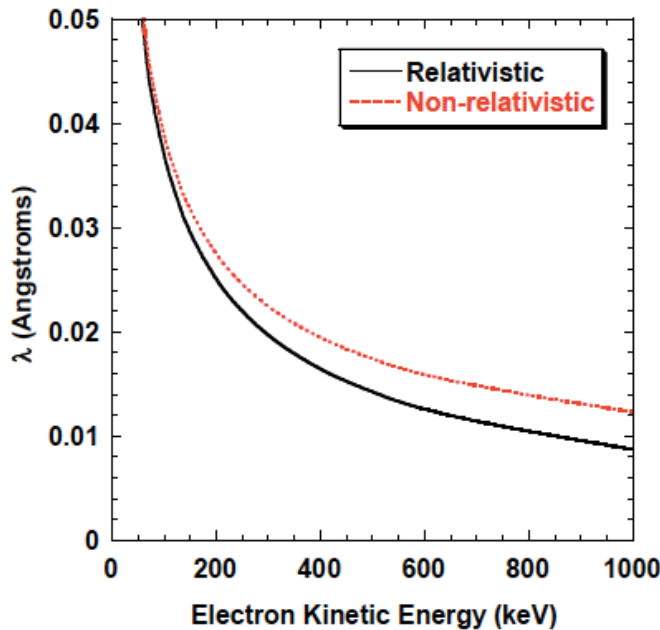
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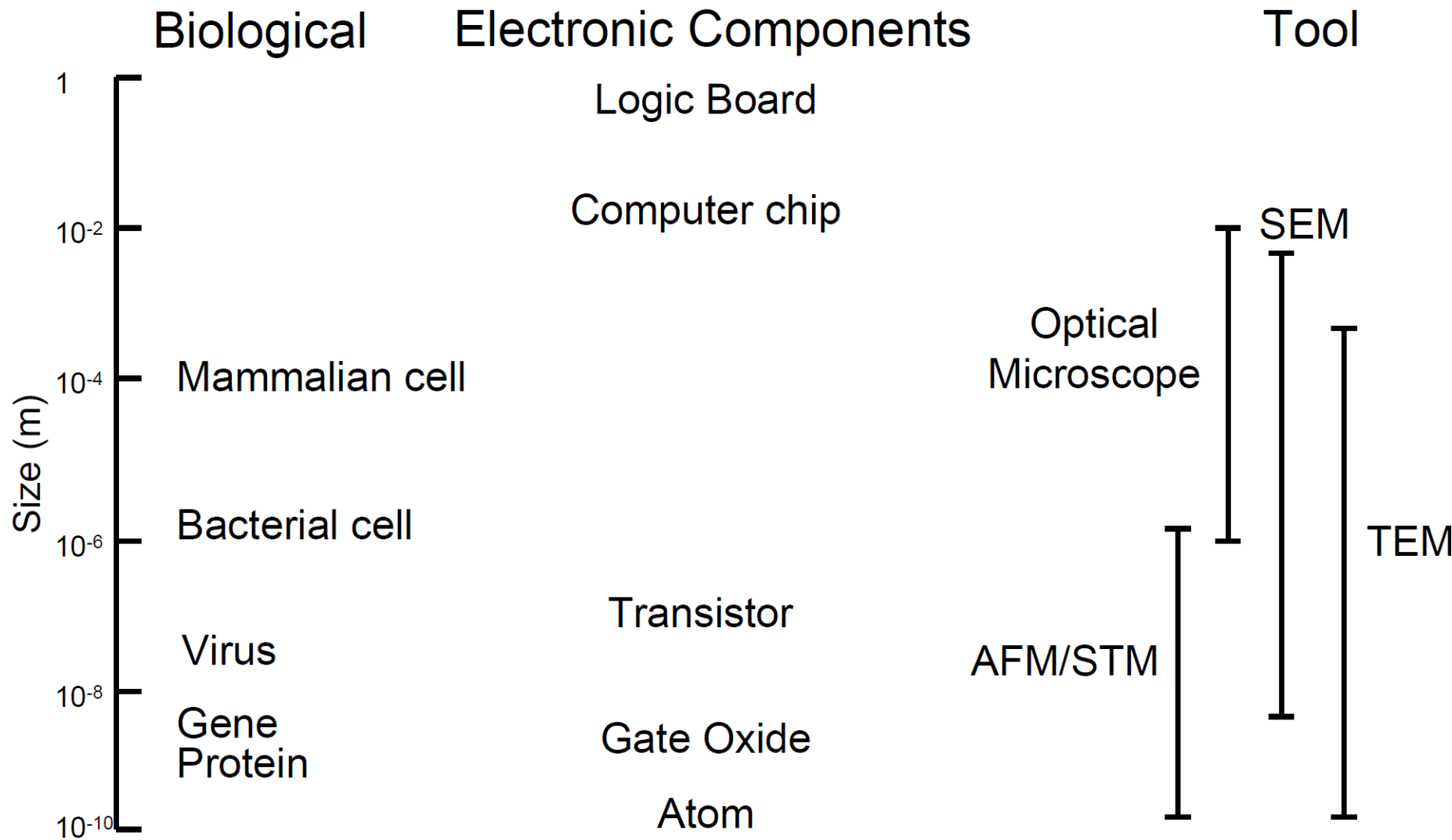
# Motivation for building an electron microscope



Accelerating Voltage	$v/c$	$\lambda$ (Å)
1 V	0.0019784	12.264
100 V	0.0062560	1.2263
1 keV	0.062469	0.38763
10 keV	0.019194	0.12204
100 keV	0.54822	0.037013
200 keV	0.69531	0.025078
300 keV	0.77653	0.019687
1 MeV	0.81352	0.0087189

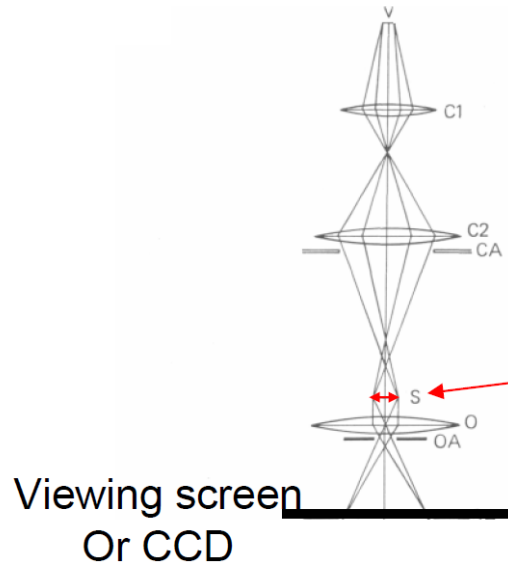
1. It is easy to accelerate electrons (charged particles)
2. It is easy to focus electrons (use magnetic or electric field)
3. Higher resolution than optical/X-ray microscopes—atomic resolution is routine now
4. Chemical and bonding imaging and spectroscopy
5. Radiation damage limits imaging resolution but it is not as bad as X-ray [ref: Henderson, Quarterly Reviews of Biophysics 28, 171 (1995)]

# Biological and Electronic Component Dimensions

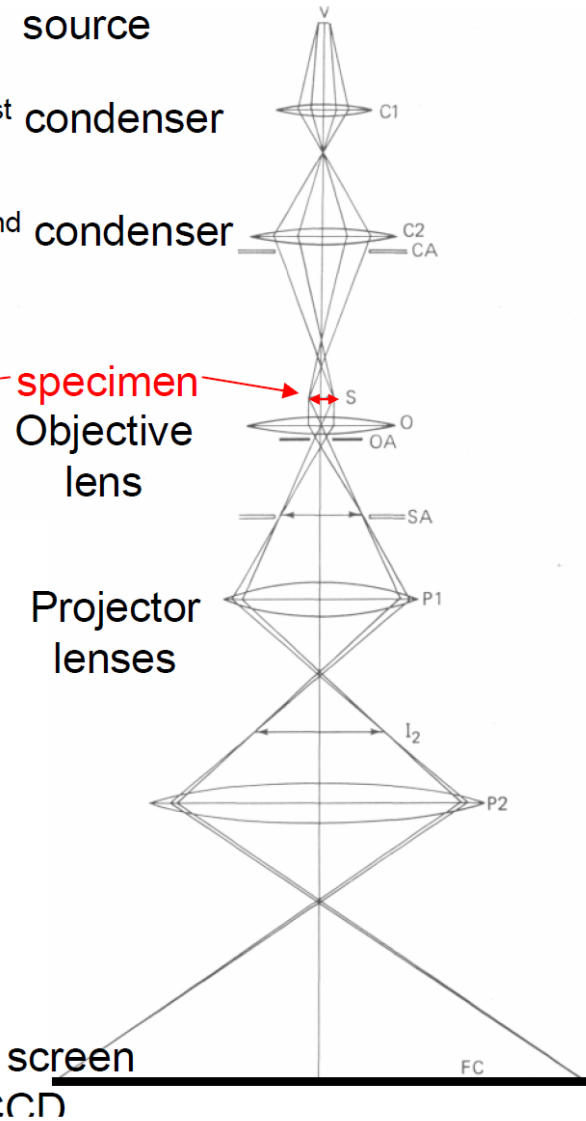


# Comparison of Optical and Electron Microscopes

## Light Microscope



## TEM



## SEM or STEM

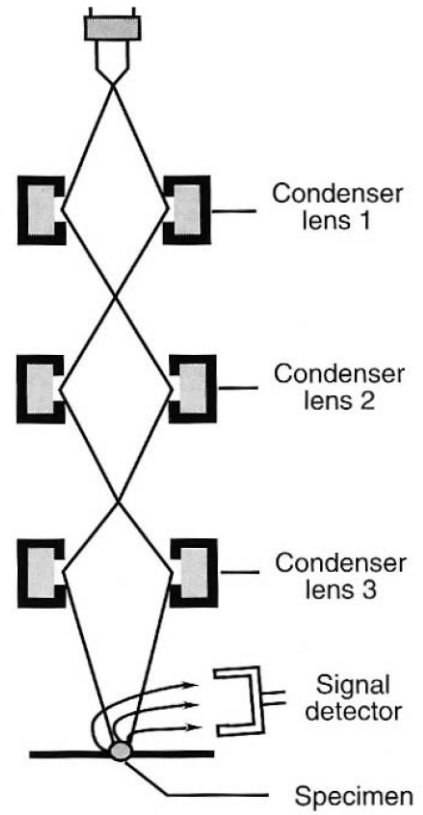
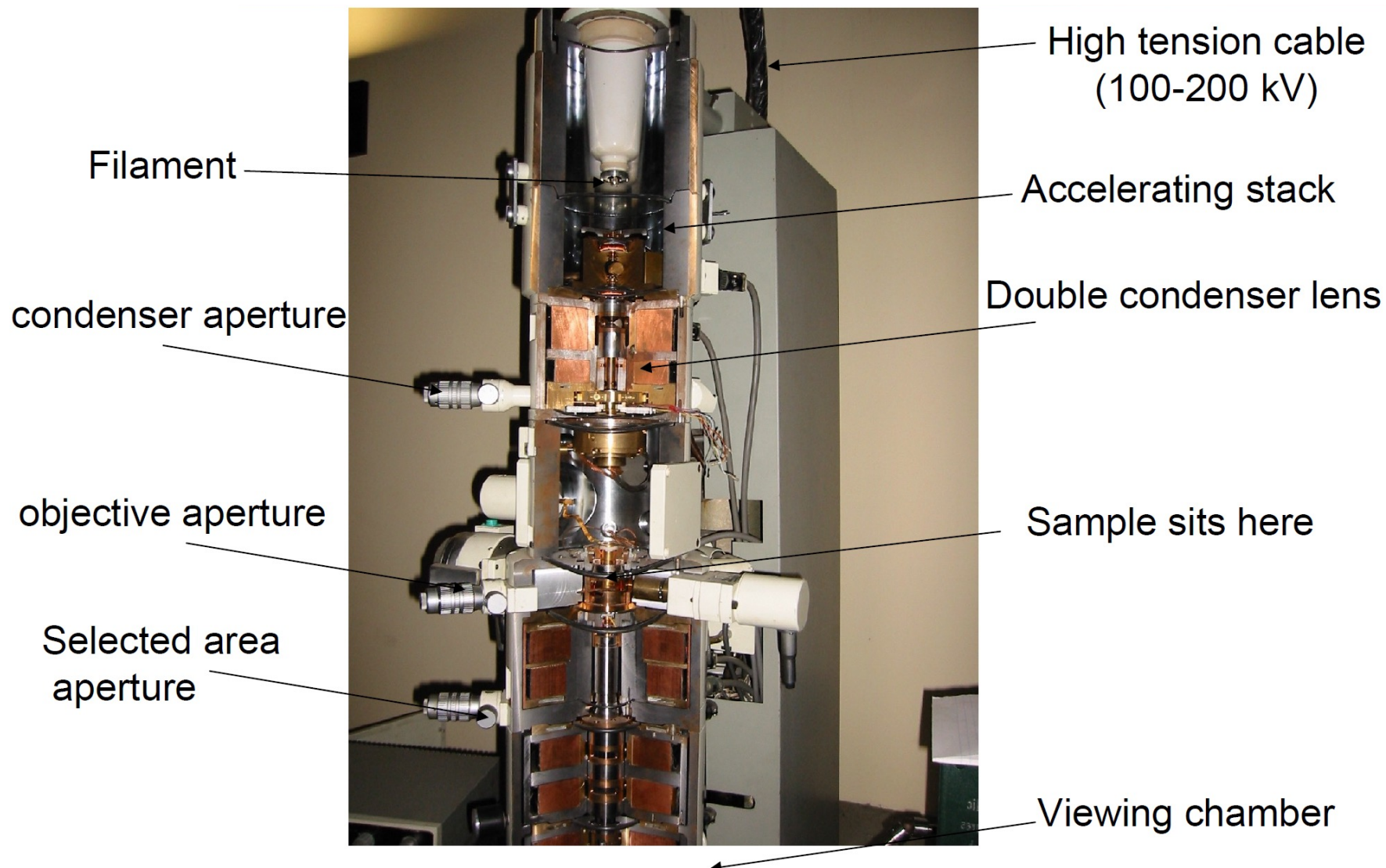


Image formed by scanning a small spot

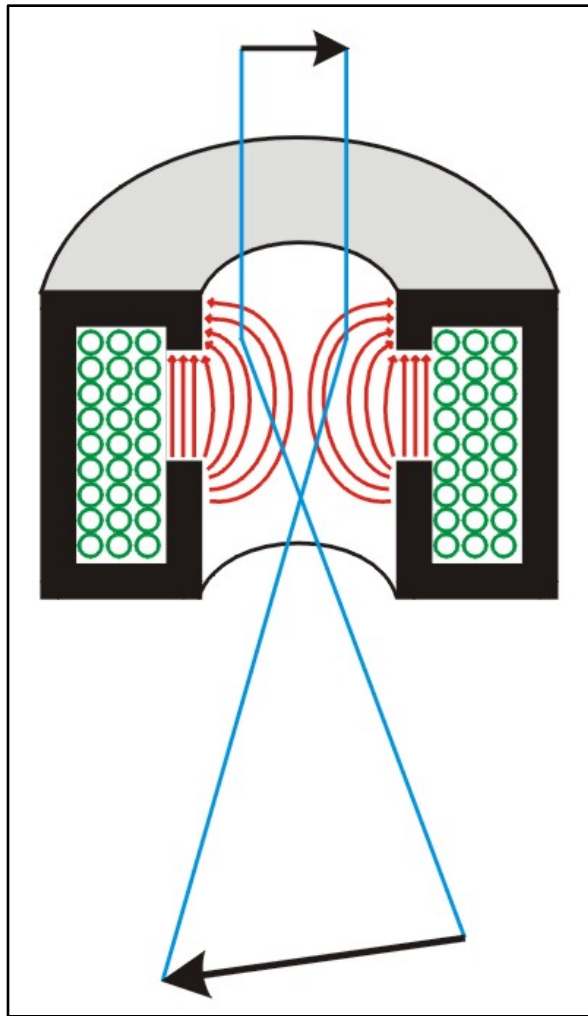
CA condenser aperture  
OA objective aperture  
SA selected area aperture

# The cross section of a real TEM



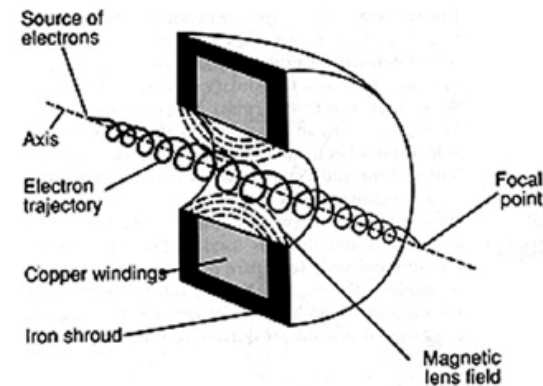


# Electromagnetic Lens



## Electromagnetic Lenses

Electromagnetic lenses are comprised of windings of wire through which electric current is applied. This creates a strong magnetic field through which negatively-charged electrons must pass.



Due to the magnetic field, the electrons follow a helical trajectory which converges at a fine focal point after it emerges from the lens. (DC-powered magnets behave similar to converging glass lenses)

Field Strength -determines the focal length which varies with:

$$(\text{focal length}) f = K (V / i^2)$$

$K$  = constant based on the number of turns of lens coil wire and the geometry of the lens.

$V$  = accelerating voltage

$i$  = milliamps of current put through the coil

Potentiometer controls which vary the current to the various lenses are the means by which focus and magnification of the electron beam are achieved.

<http://www.microscopy.ethz.ch/lens.htm>

<http://www.udel.edu/biology/Wags/b617/tem/tem.htm>

# Focal Length can be Changed in TEM

$$\text{(focal length) } f = K (V / i^2)$$

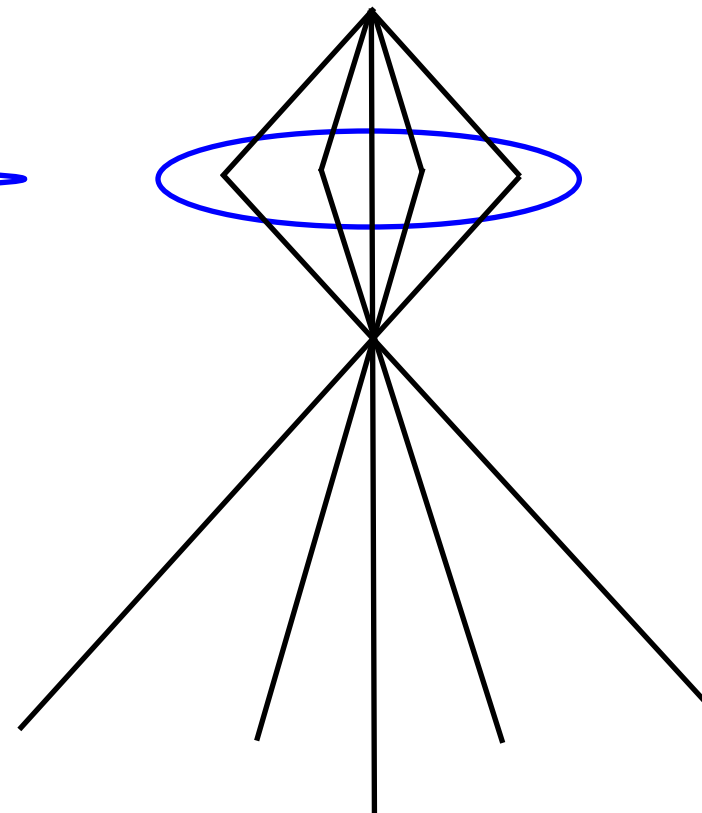
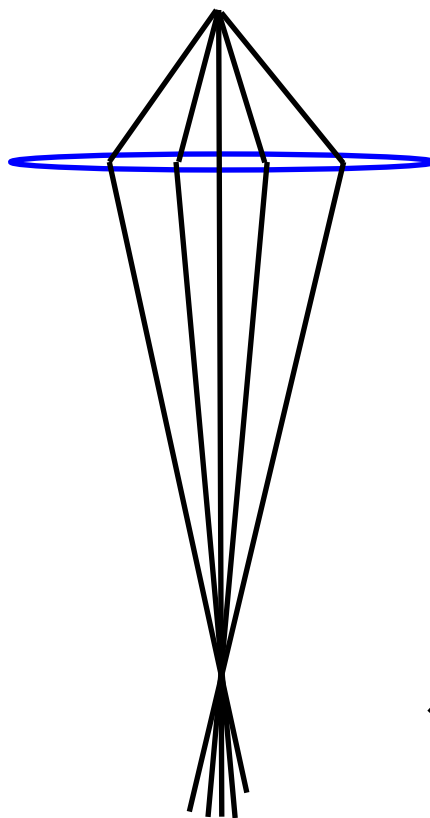
Constant:  
Number of turns  
and lens geometry

Accelerating voltage

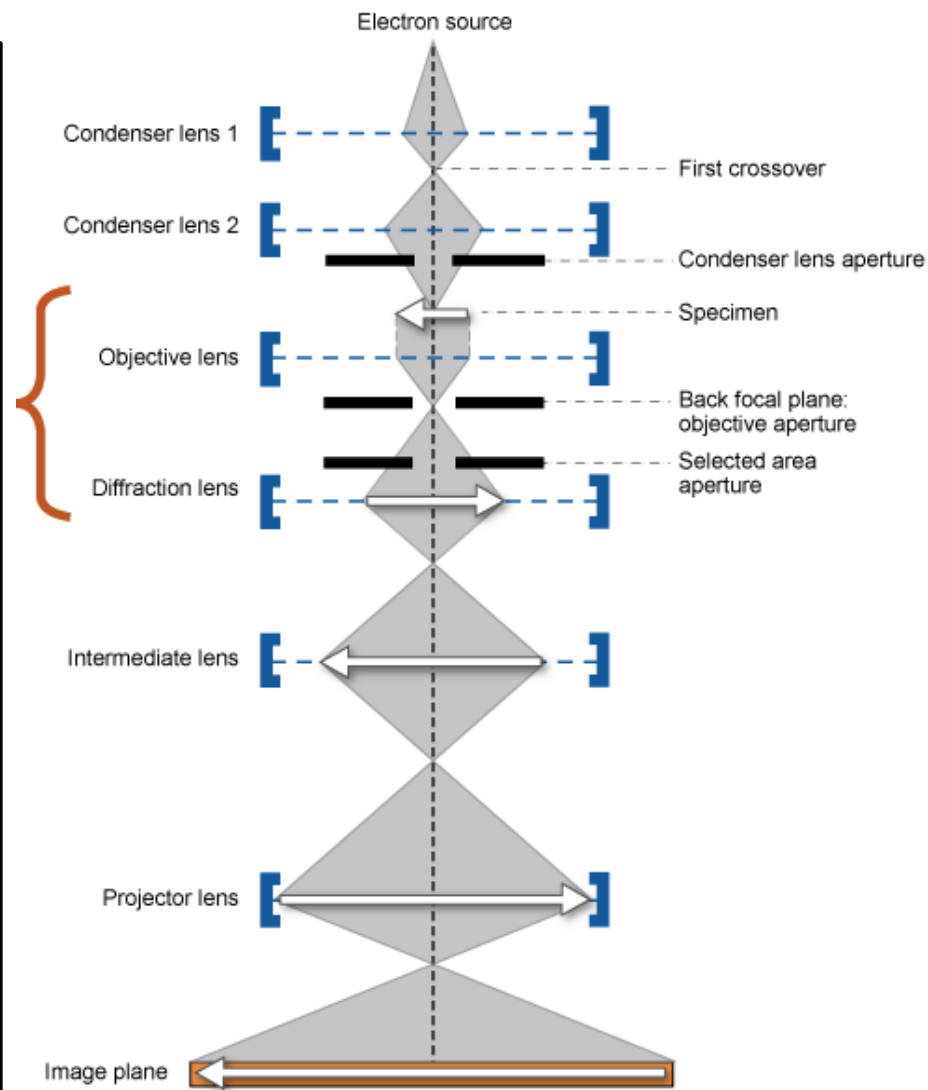
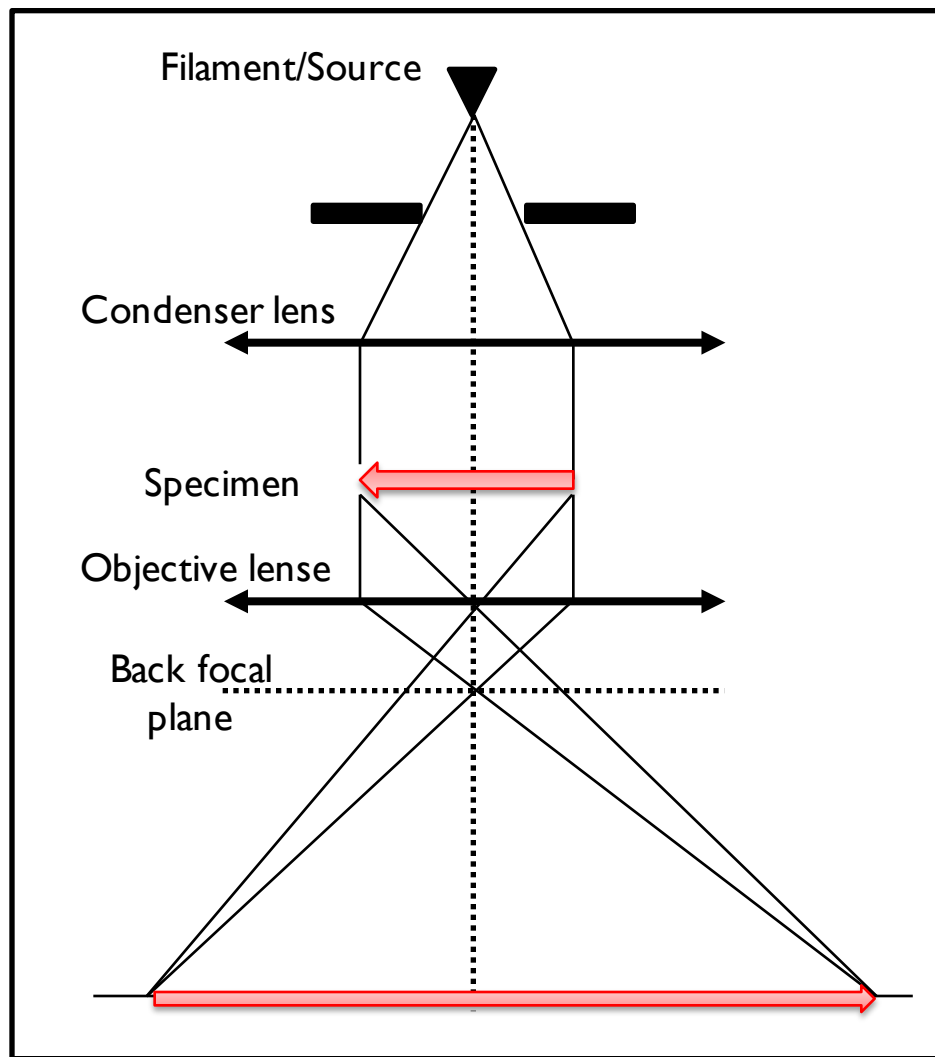
Current

Thin lens  
Long focal length

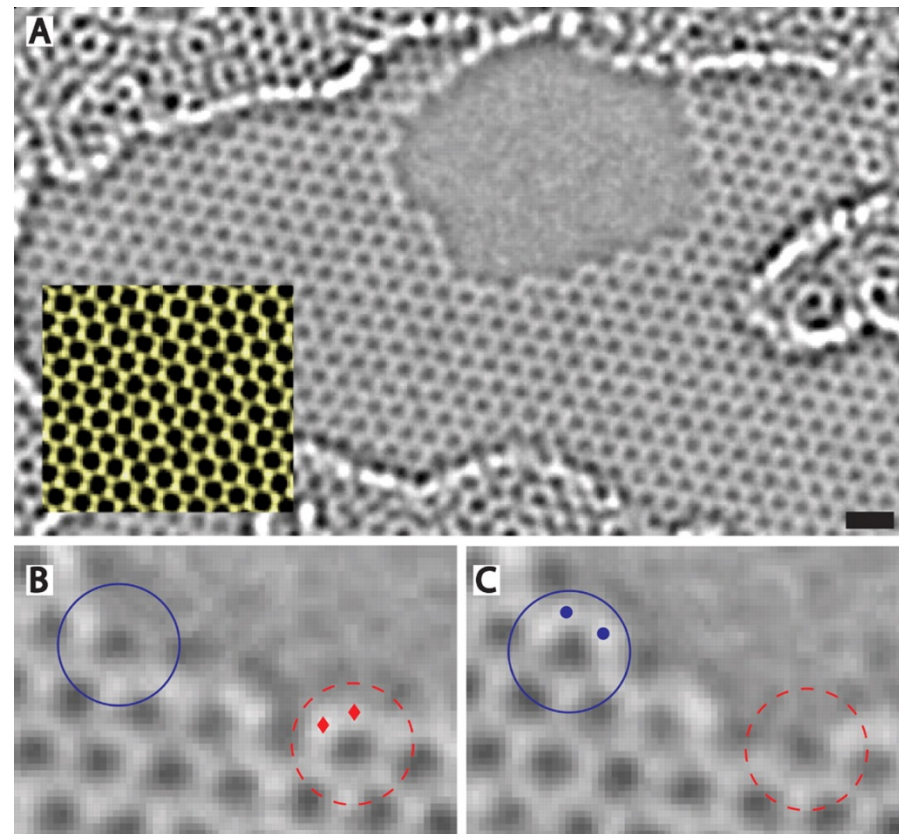
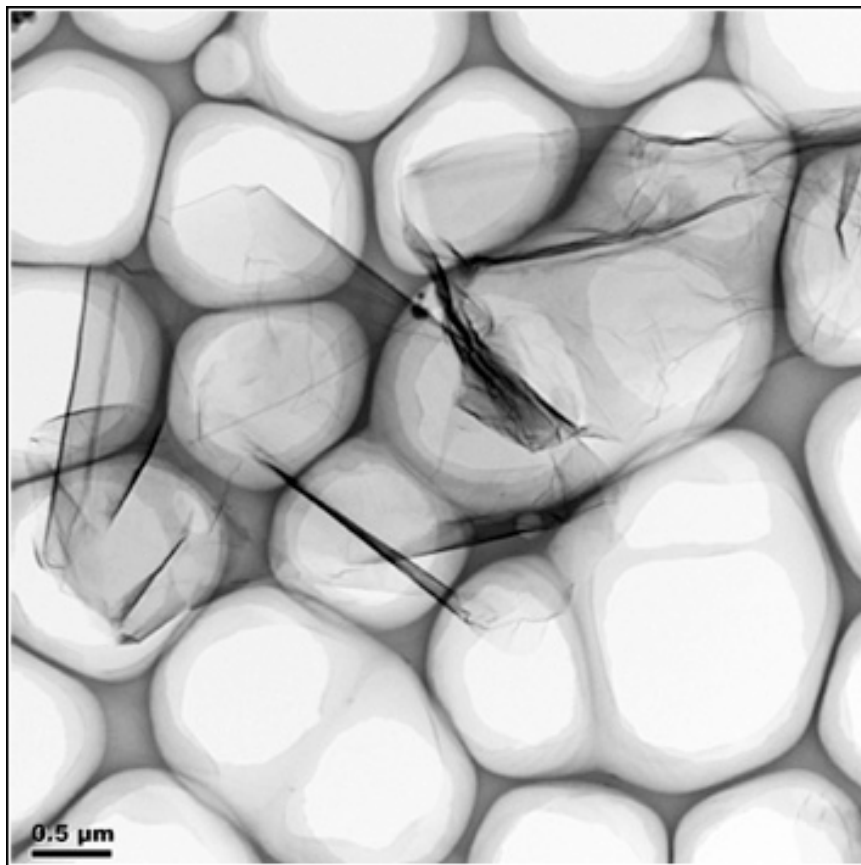
Thick lens  
Short focal length



# A Transmission Electron Microscope



# From micrometers to atomic scales



Science 27 March 2009:  
Vol. 323 no. 5922 pp. 1705-1708



# Propagation of Wave Front

## Fresnel diffraction integral

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{z}{i\lambda} \iint_{-\infty}^{+\infty} E(x', y', 0) \frac{e^{ikr}}{r^2} dx' dy'$$

## Fresnel diffraction: near field

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} \iint_{-\infty}^{+\infty} E(x', y', 0) e^{i\frac{k}{2z}[(x-x')^2+(y-y')^2]} dx' dy'$$

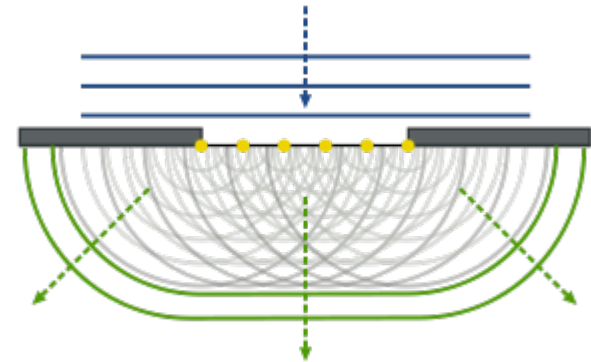
$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2+y^2)} \mathcal{F} \left\{ E(x', y', 0) e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x'^2+y'^2)} \right\} \Big|_{p=\frac{x}{\lambda z}; q=\frac{y}{\lambda z}}$$

## Fraunhofer diffraction: far field

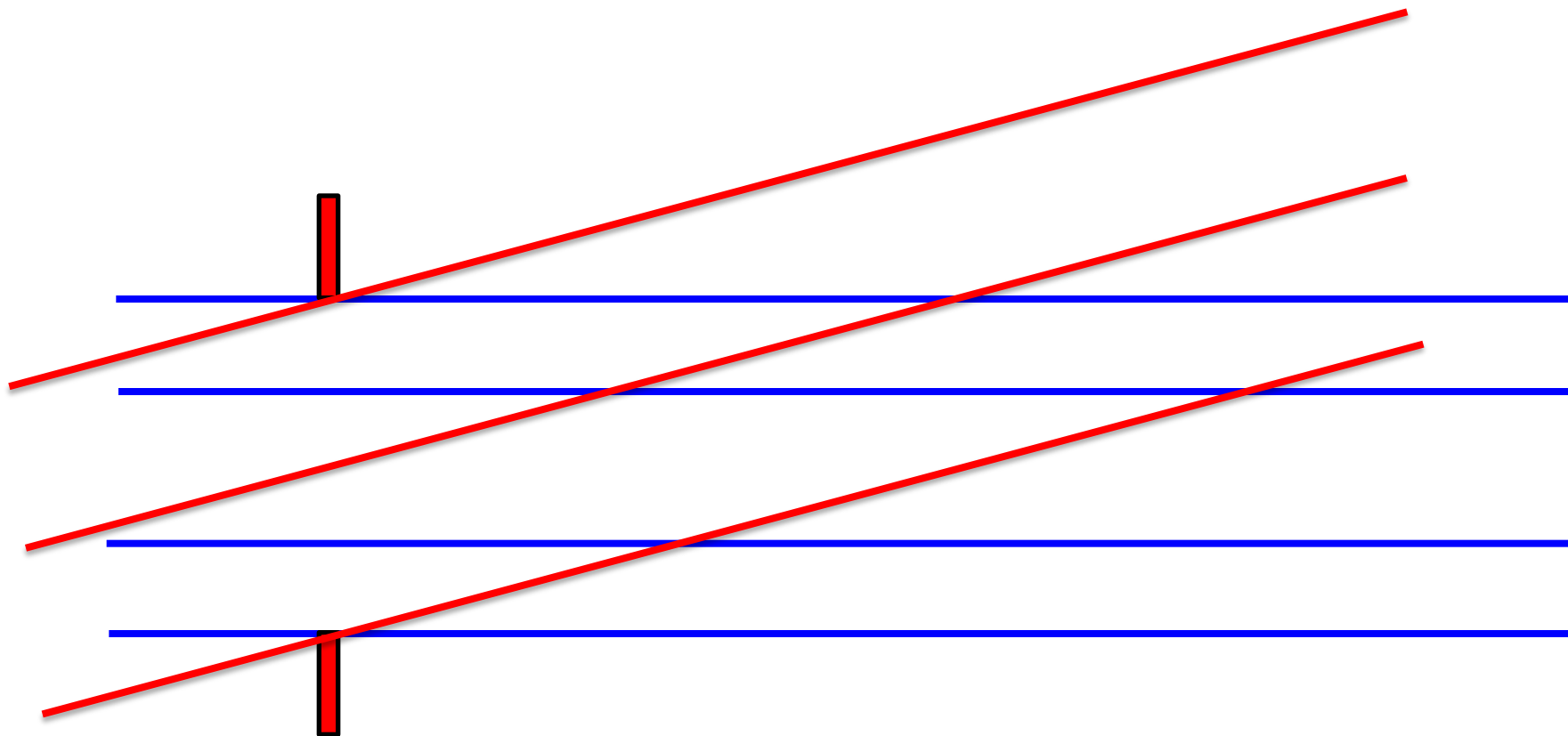
$$z \gg \frac{x'^2 + y'^2}{\lambda}$$

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2+y^2)} \mathcal{F} \left\{ E(x', y', 0) e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x'^2+y'^2)} \right\} \Big|_{p=\frac{x}{\lambda z}; q=\frac{y}{\lambda z}}$$

## Huygens–Fresnel principle



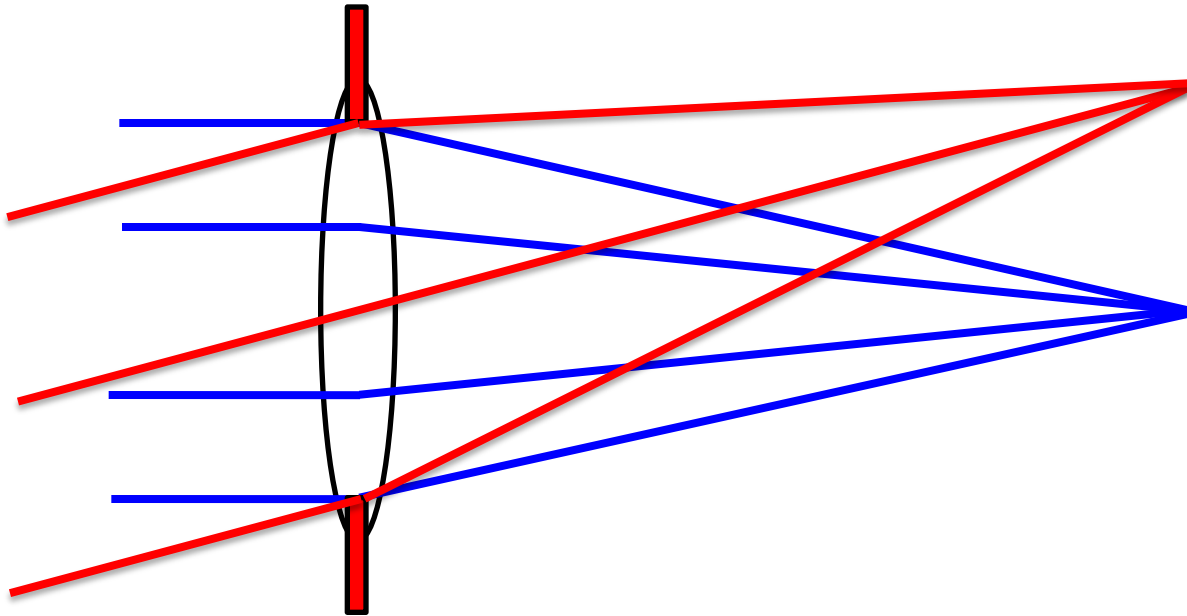
# What does a lens do?



**Fraunhofer diffraction: far field**

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2+y^2)} \mathcal{F} \left\{ E(x', y', 0) e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x'^2+y'^2)} \right\} \Big|_{p=\frac{x}{\lambda z}; q=\frac{y}{\lambda z}}$$

# What does a lens do?

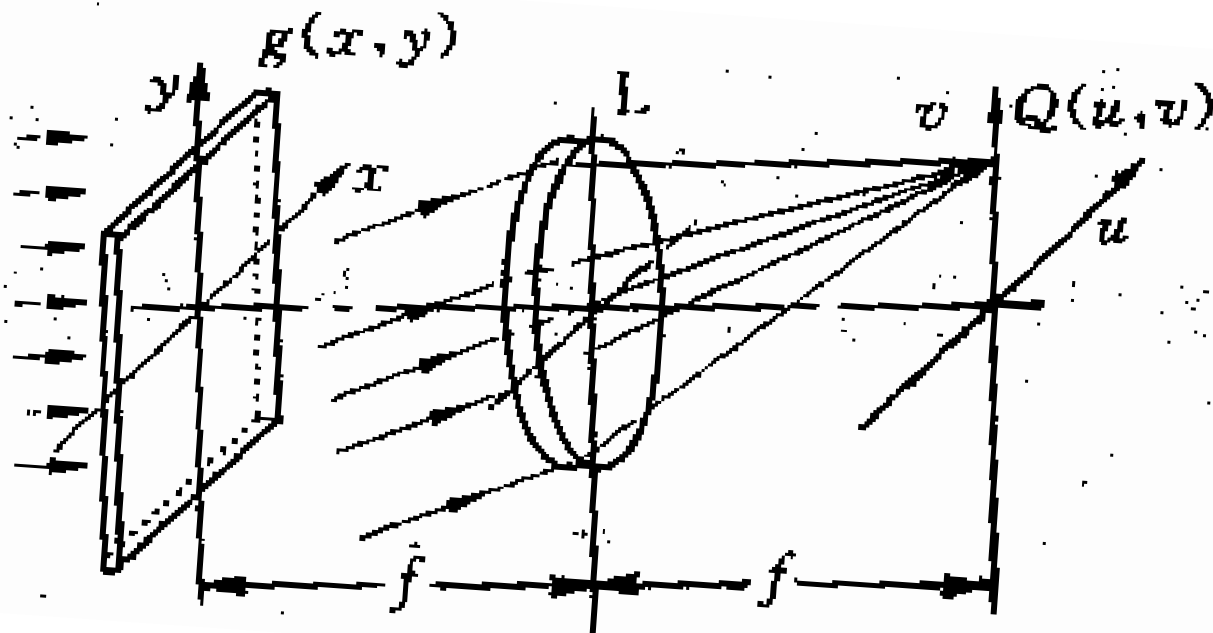


- It focuses the Fraunhofer diffraction pattern to the back focal plane;

**Fraunhofer diffraction: far field**

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2+y^2)} \mathcal{F} \left\{ E(x', y', 0) e^{i\frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x'^2+y'^2)} \right\} \Big|_{p=\frac{x}{\lambda z}; q=\frac{y}{\lambda z}}$$

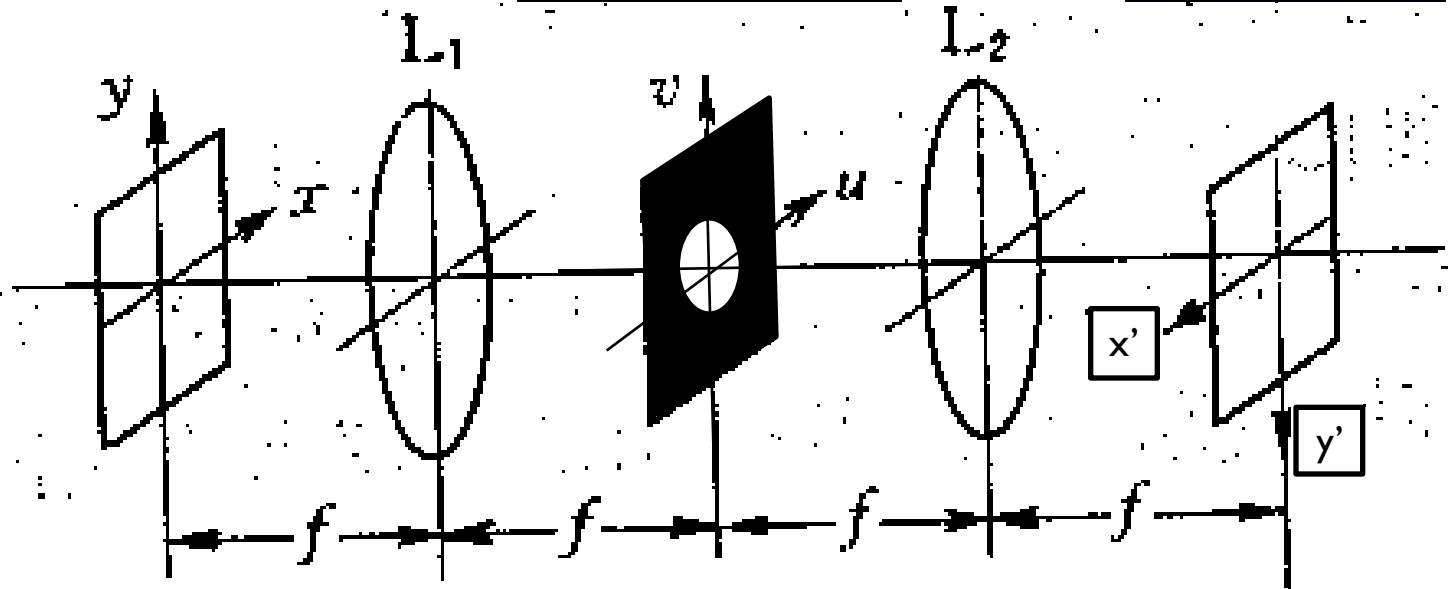
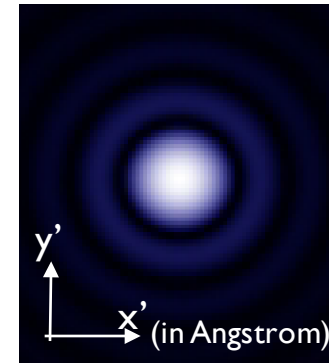
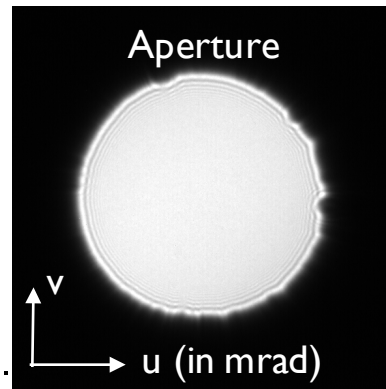
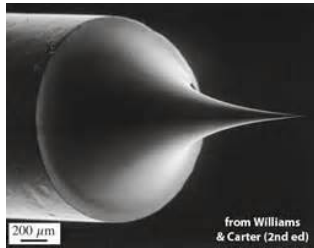
# A Converging Lens is Fourier Transform



$$\psi(u, v) = \frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f^2} \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0(x, y) \exp \left[ -i \frac{2\pi}{\lambda f} (xu + yv) \right] dx dy$$



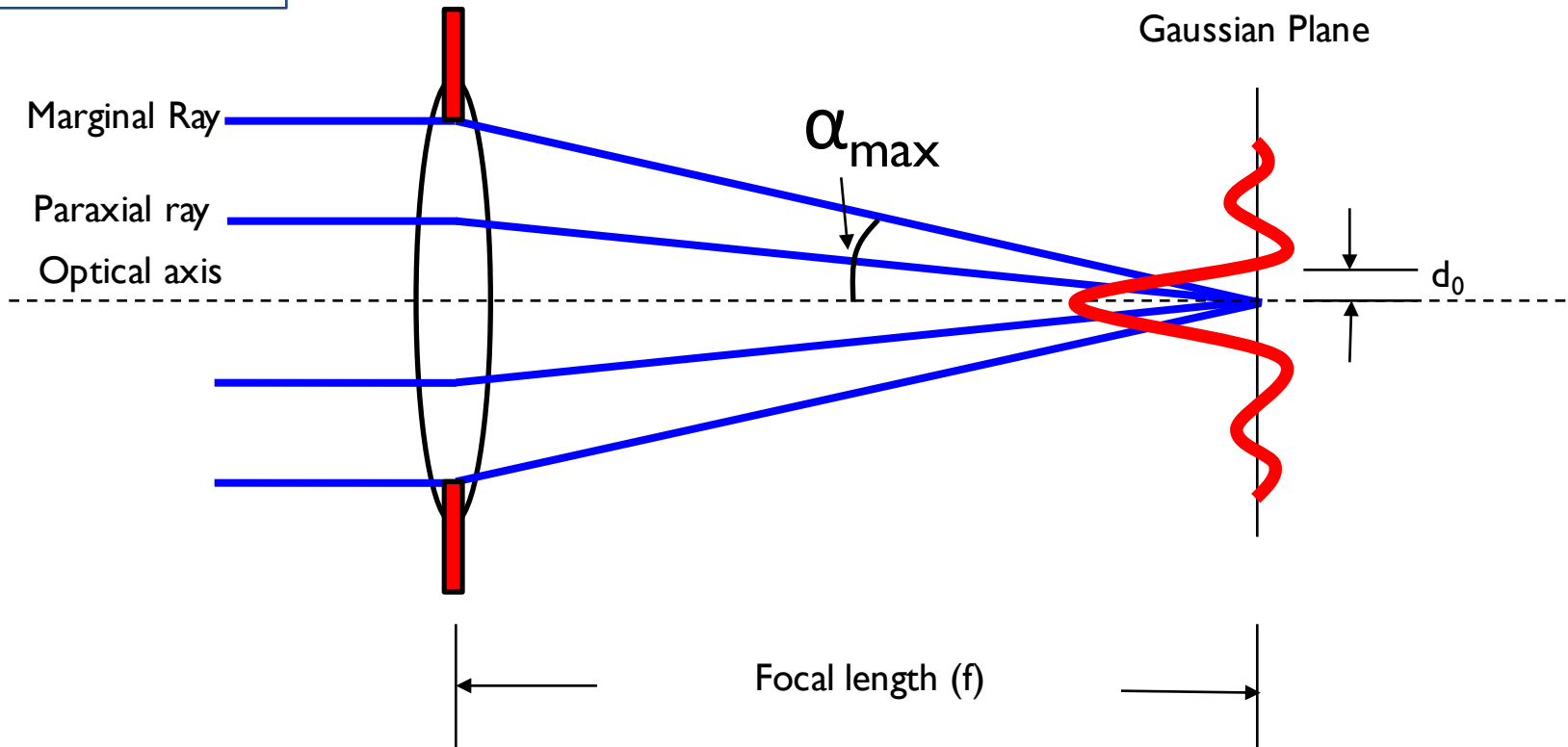
# How does a STEM create an electron probe



- The electron probe is a simple Fourier transform a round aperture

# Imaging with a perfect Lens

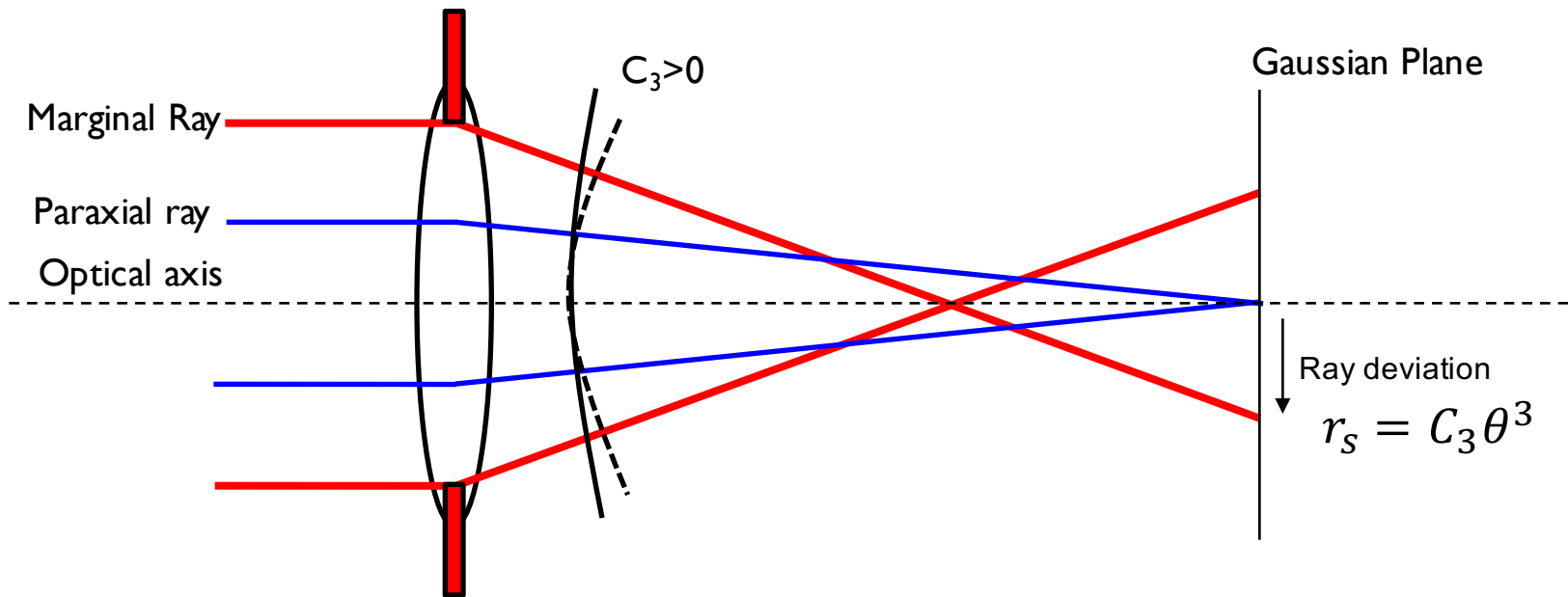
Source is far away



- The image of a point transferred through a lens with a circular aperture of semiangle  $\alpha_{max}$  is an Airy disk of diameter  $d_0 = \frac{0.61\lambda}{\alpha_{max}}$

# Spherical Aberration

“For lenses made with spherical surfaces, rays which are parallel to the optic axis but at different distances from the optic axis fail to converge to the same point.”

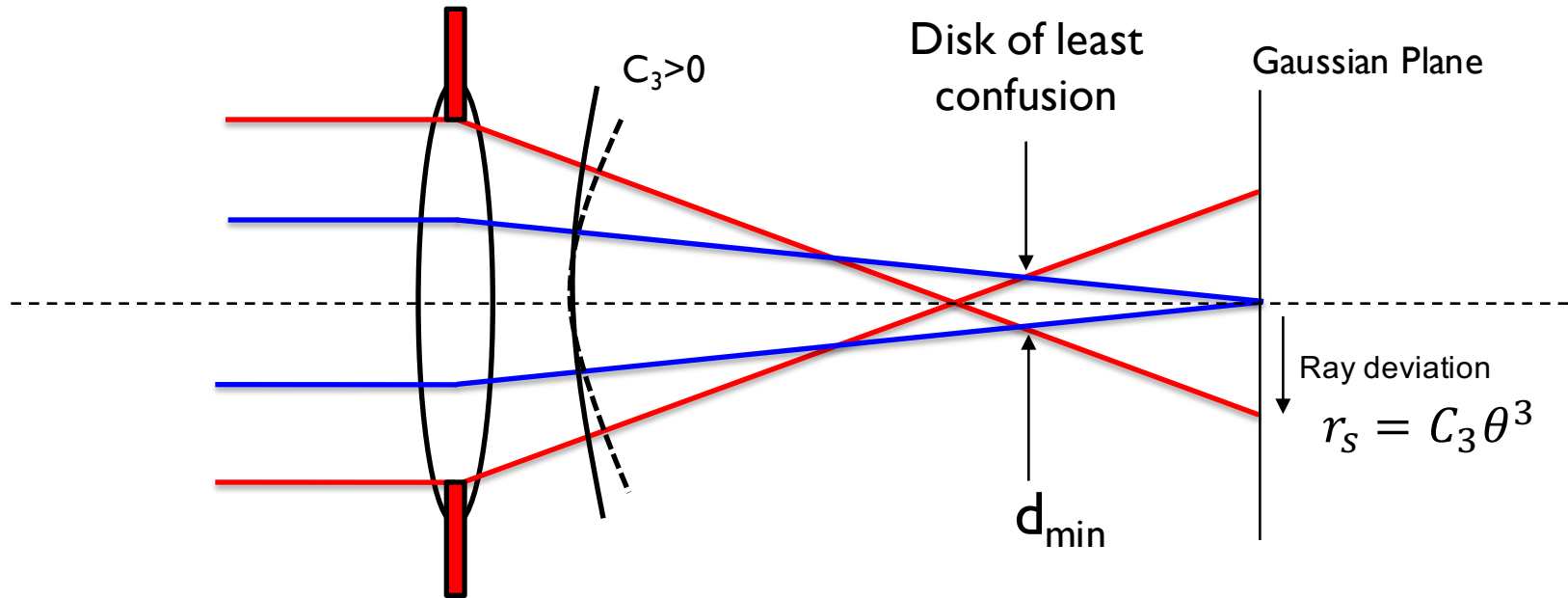


## Scherzer Theorem (1936)

- For electron optics: Scherzer showed that the expression for  $C_s$  is a sum of squares (always positive) if:
  - The optical system is rotationally symmetric,
  - The system produces a real image of the object,
  - The fields of the system do not vary with time,
  - There is no charge on the axis.



# Resolution limits imposed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Order Spherical Aberrations



It is easy to proof

$$d_{min} = \frac{1}{2} C_3 \alpha^3$$

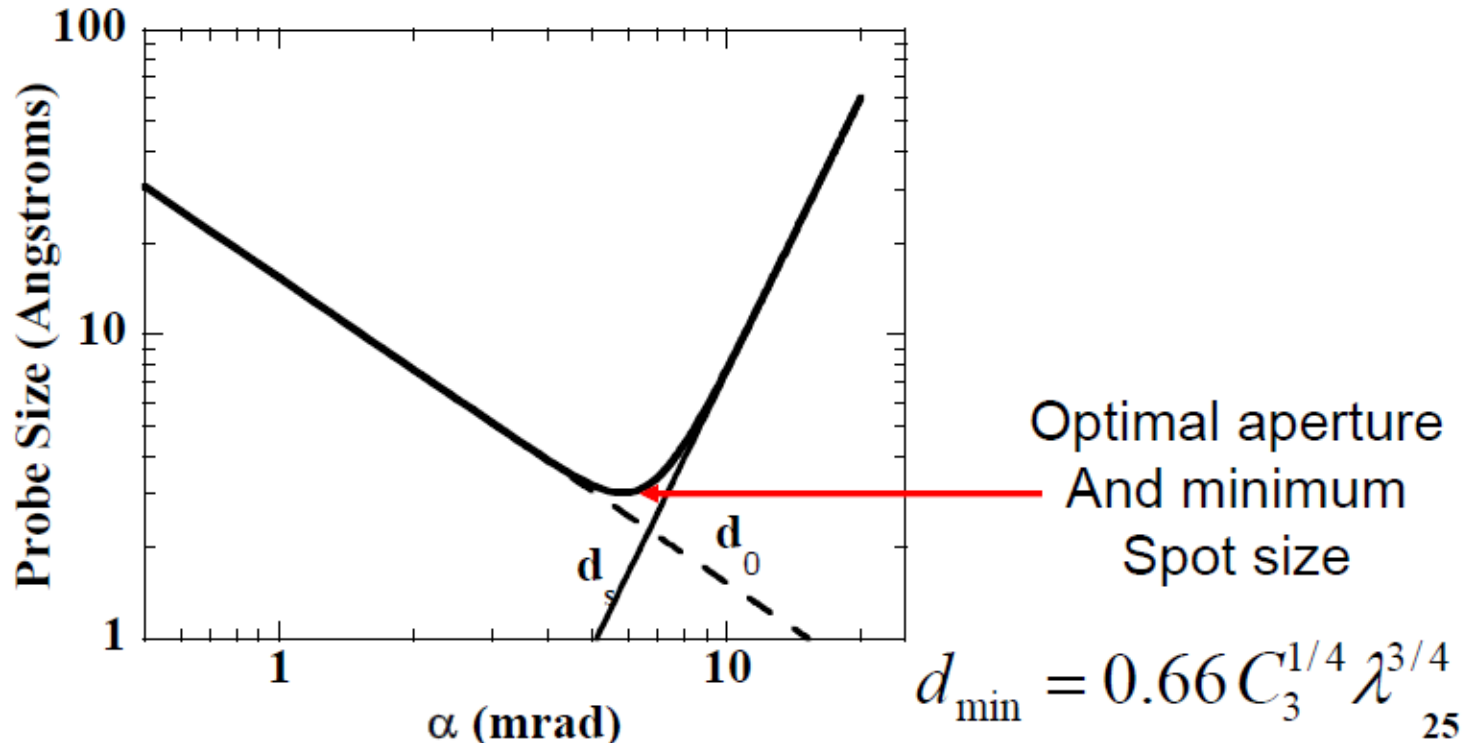
- So, FEI analytical pole piece:  $C_3 = 1.2 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\alpha = 9.2 \text{ mrad}$

$$d_{min} = 0.48 \text{ nm}$$

# Balancing Spherical Aberration against the Diffraction Limit

First Order Approximation

$$d^2 \approx d_{diff}^2 + d_{sph}^2 = \left( \frac{0.61\lambda}{\alpha_{max}} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{1}{2} C_3 \alpha_{max}^3 \right)^2$$

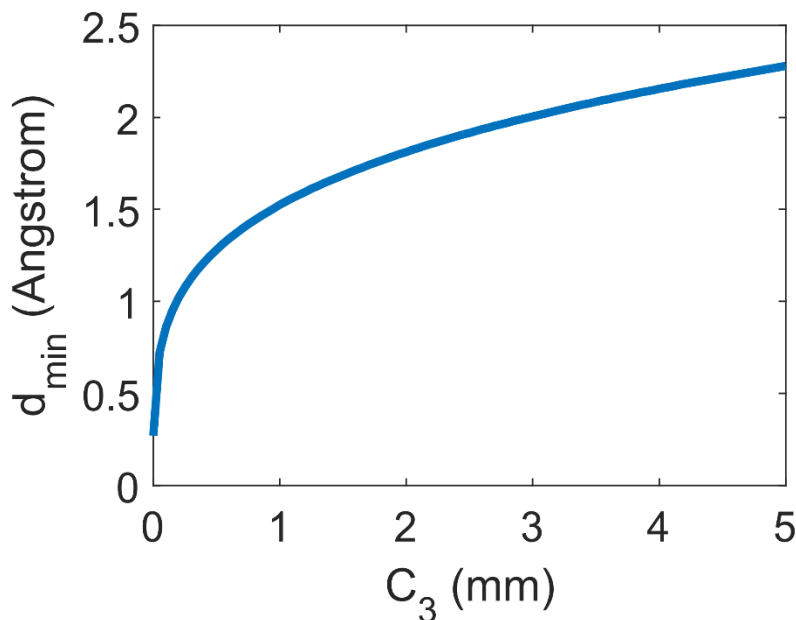


# Balancing Spherical Aberration against the Diffraction Limit

A more accurate wave-optical treatment, allowing less than  $\lambda/4$  of phase shift across the lens gives

Optimal aperture size:  $\alpha_{opt} = \left(\frac{4\lambda}{C_3}\right)^{1/4}$

Minimum Spot size:  $d_{min} = 0.43 \times C_3^{1/4} \lambda^{3/4}$



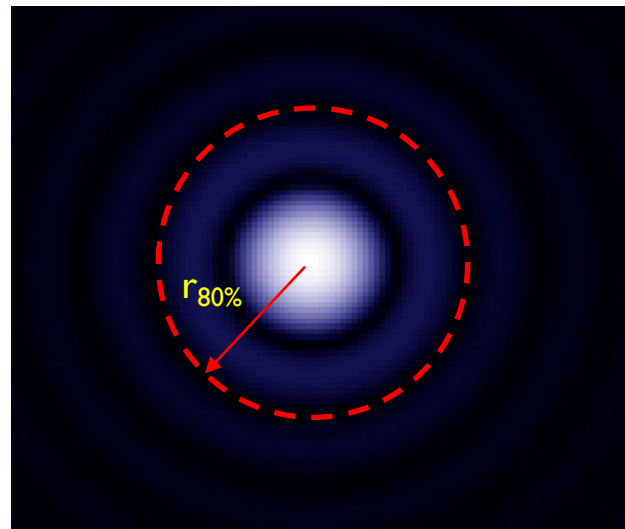
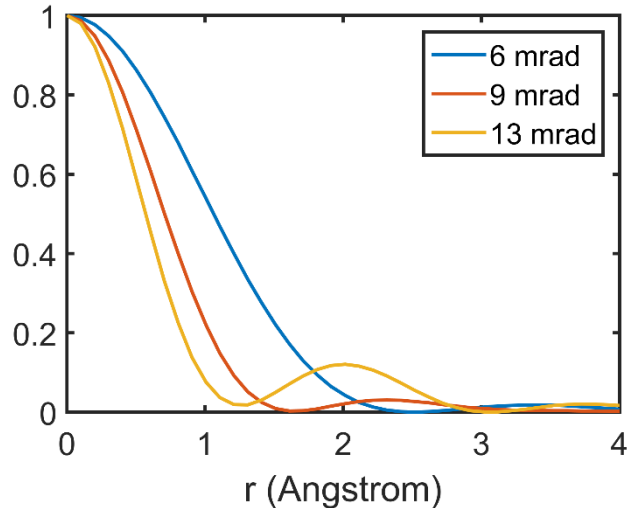
At 200 keV

- $C_3$  1.2 mm, 1.6 Angstrom
- $C_3$  1.0 mm, 1.52 Angstrom
- $C_3$  0.5 mm, 1.28 Angstrom
- $C_3$  0.1 mm, 0.86 Angstrom

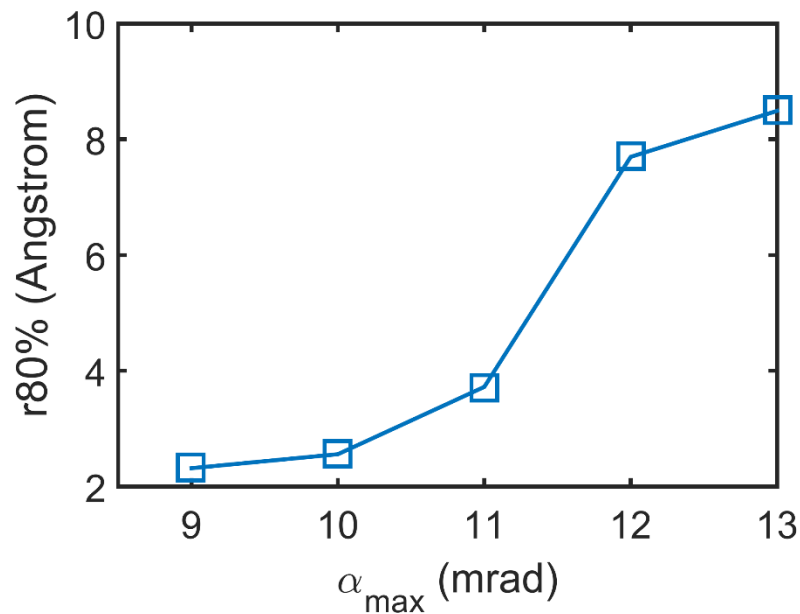
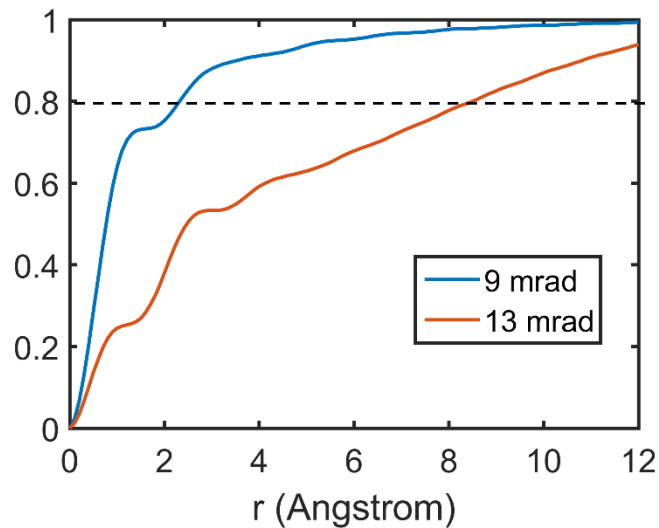
# Why you don't want to use too big an aperture

200 keV  
C3 = 1.2 mm

Point Spread Function

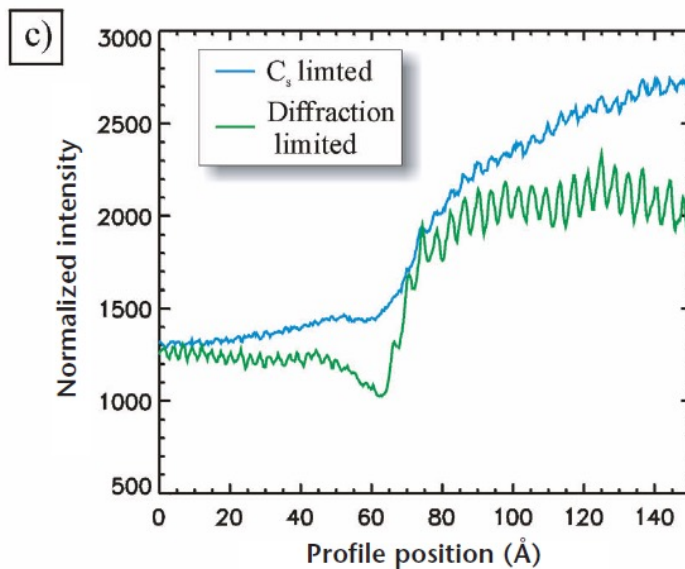
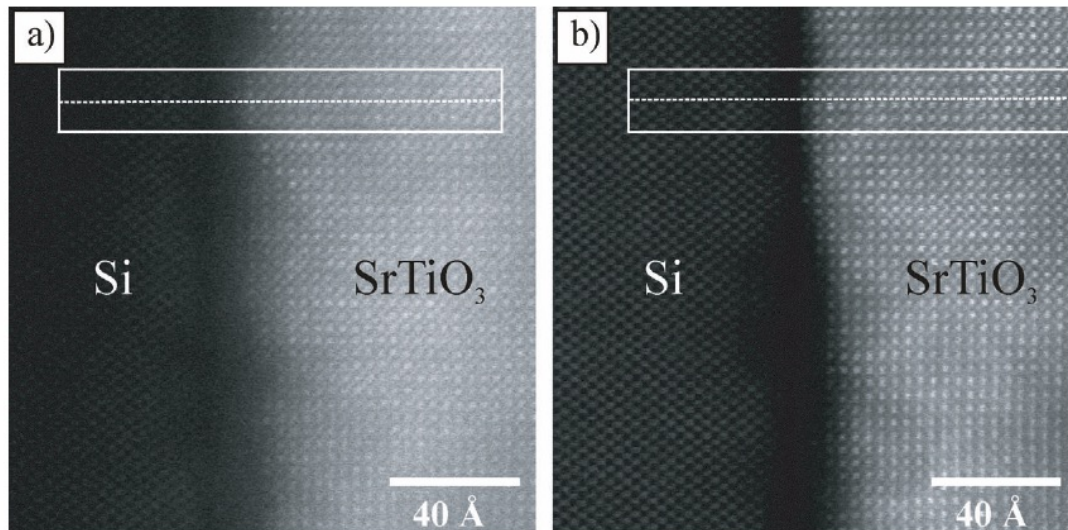
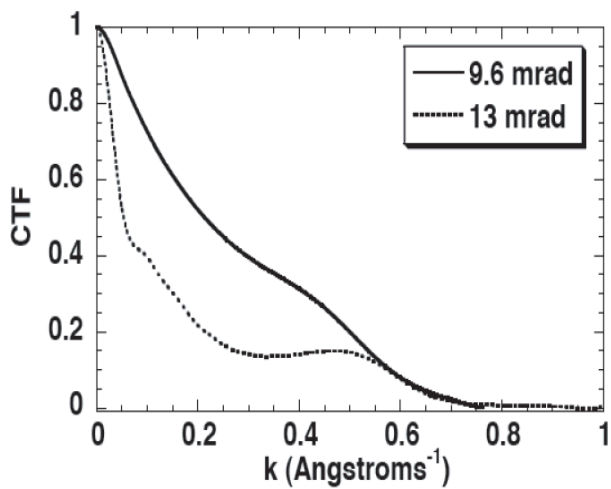


Cumulative Intensity

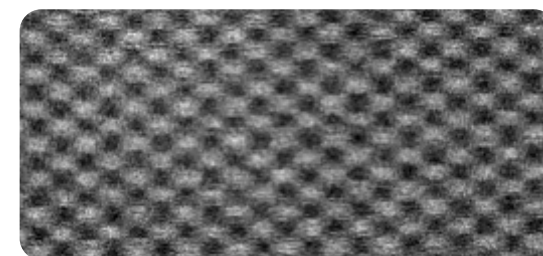
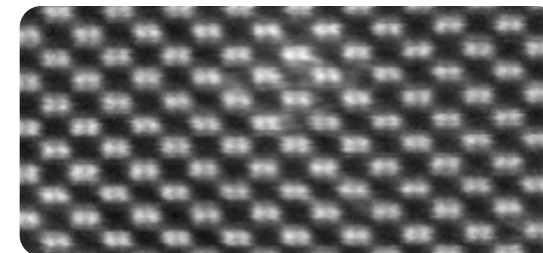
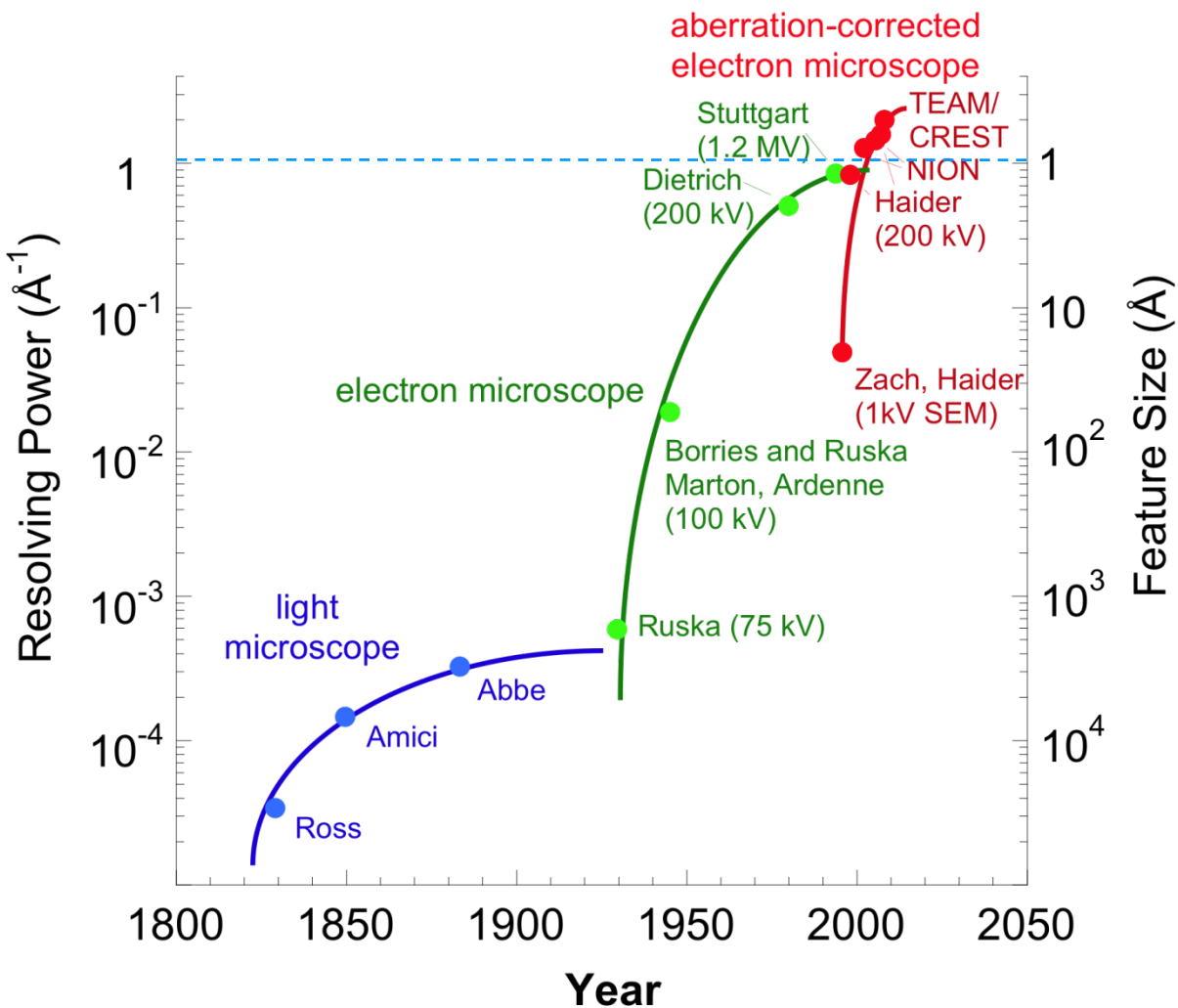


- **51**

# Contrast Reduces if Aperture is Too Large



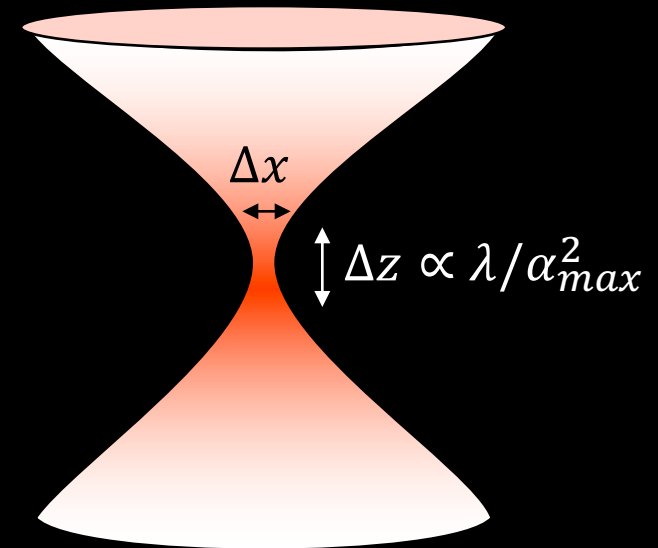
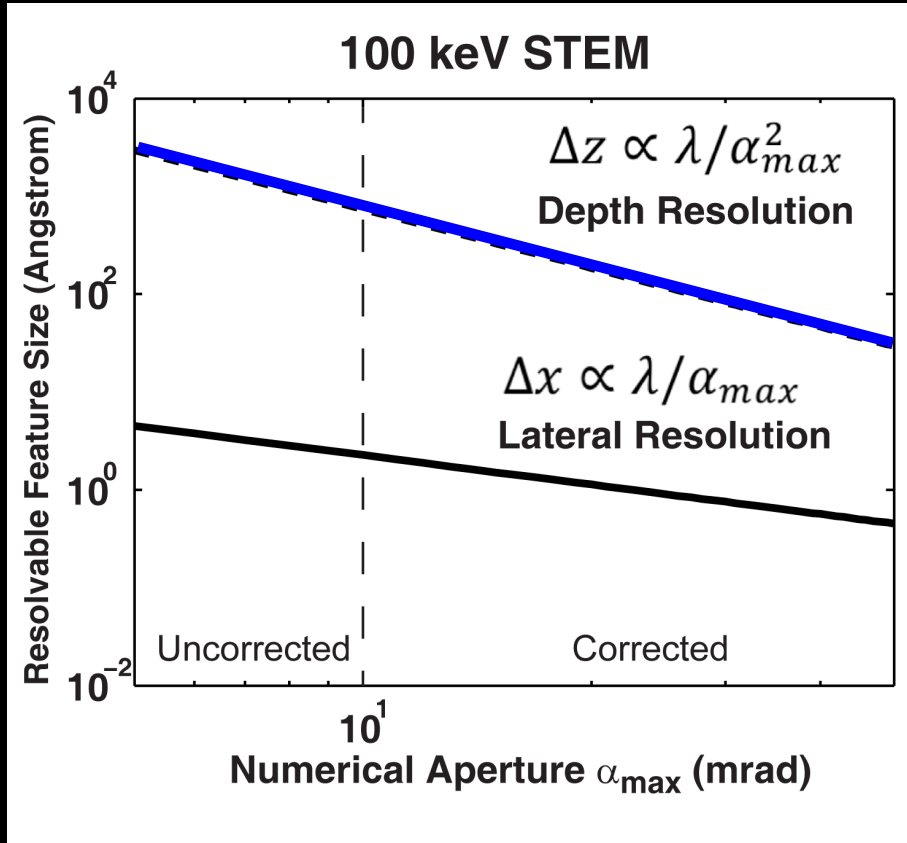
# Hardware Advances in Microscopy



Corrected optics have enabled practical Sub-Angstrom resolution

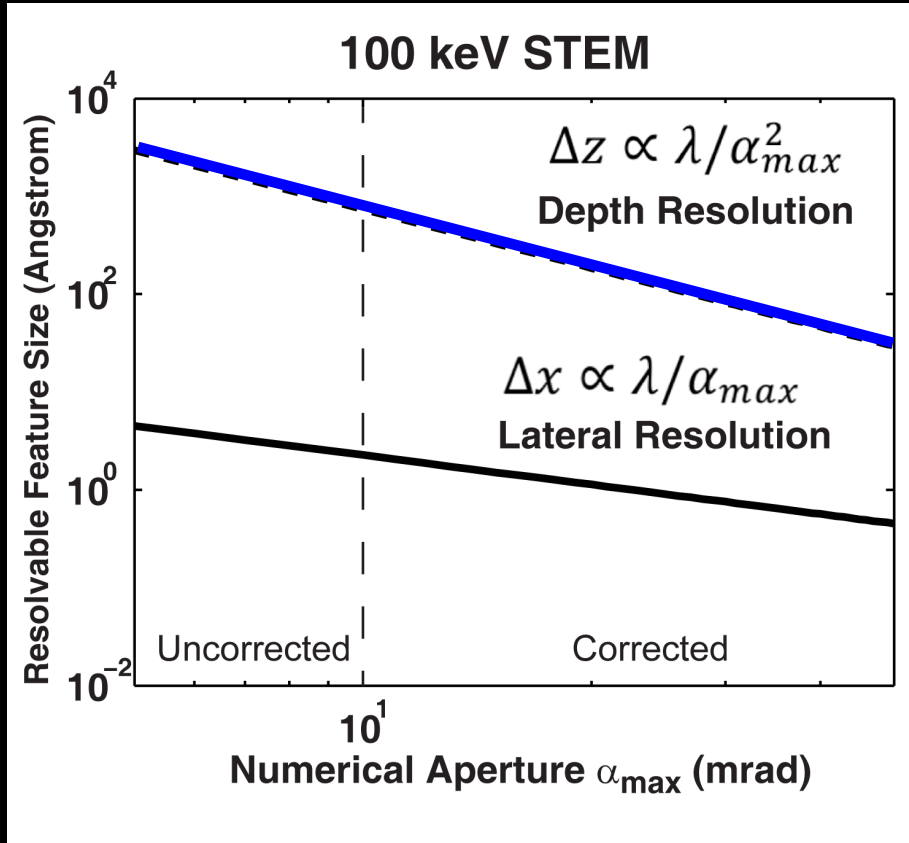
# Depth Sectioning and Confocal Imaging in an Aberration-Corrected S/TEM

3D Point Spread Function of ADF-STEM

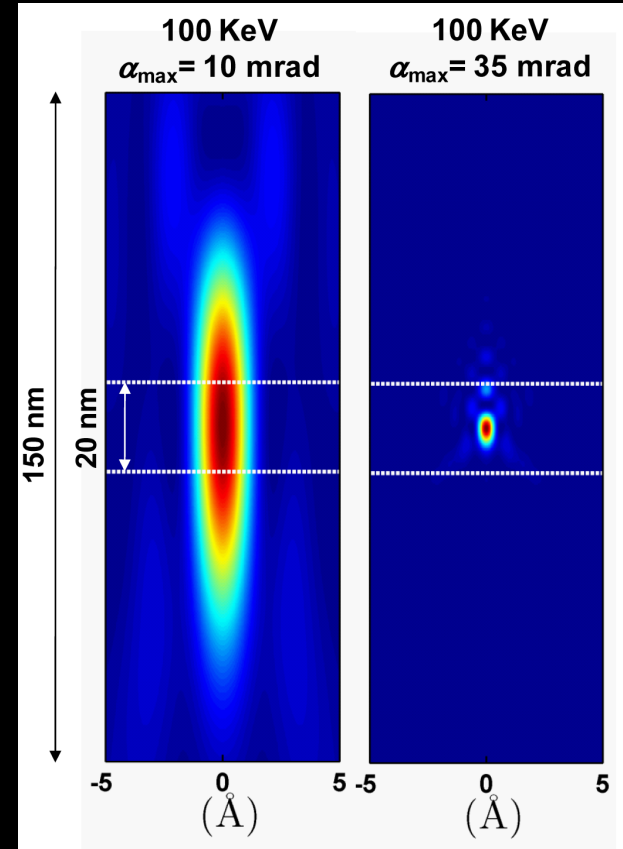


- The short depth of focus could potentially enable 3D reconstruction of nanomaterials through acquisition of a through-focal series in a similar manner to confocal microscopy.

# Depth Sectioning and Confocal Imaging in an Aberration-Corrected S/TEM



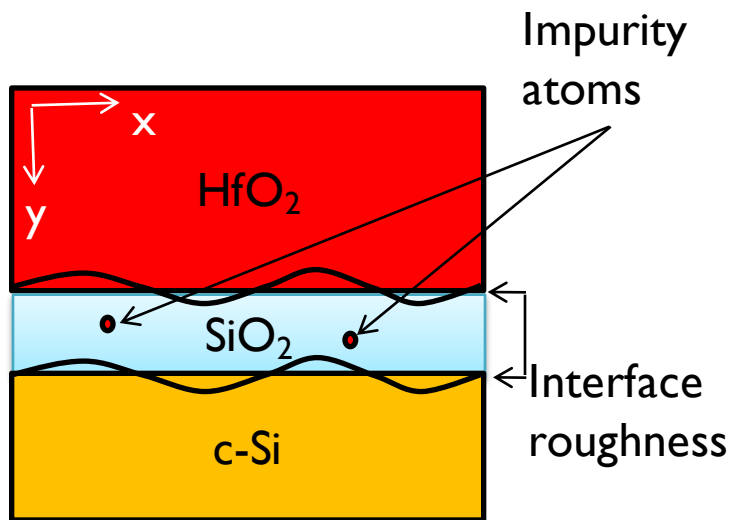
3D Point Spread Function of ADF-STEM



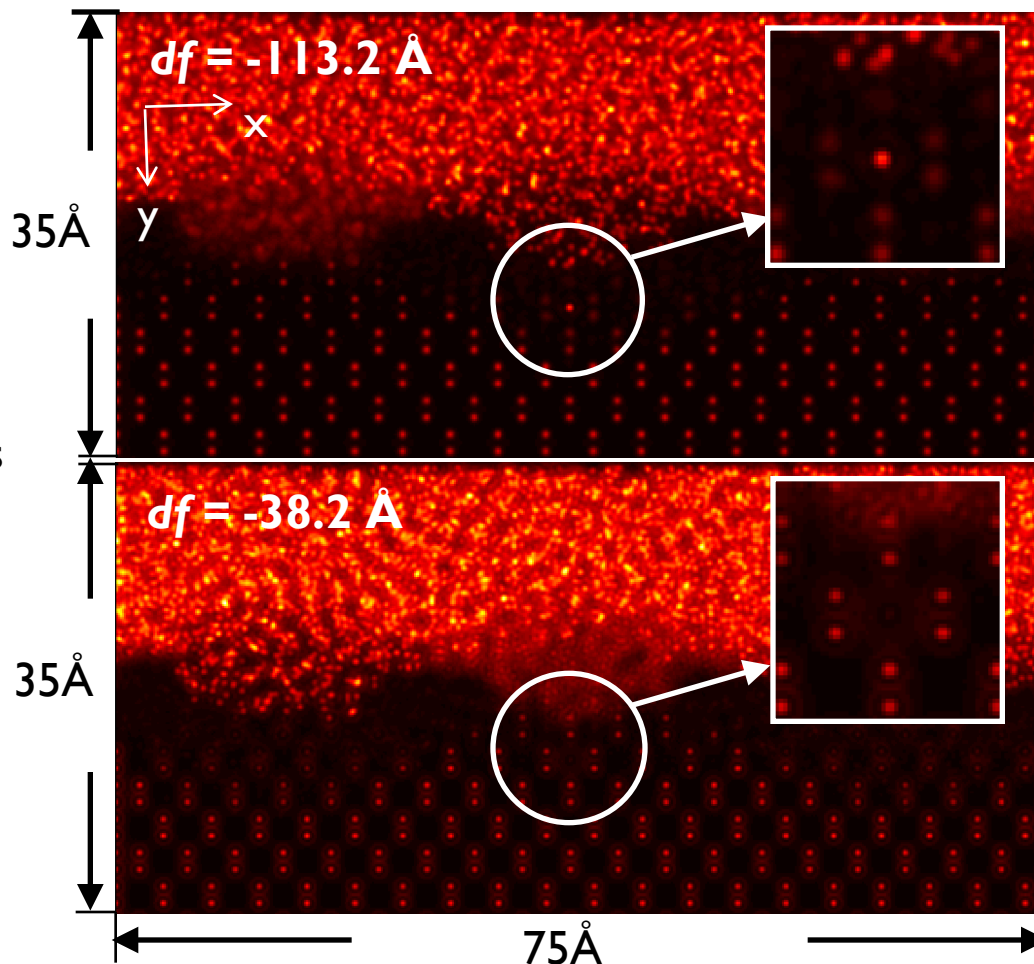
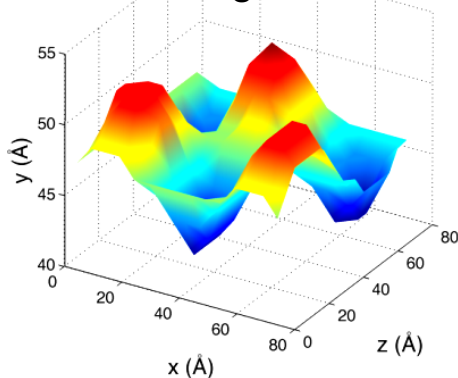
- The short depth of focus could potentially enable 3D reconstruction of nanomaterials through acquisition of a through-focal series in a similar manner to confocal microscopy.



# Depth Sectioning of Impurity Atoms



Interface Roughness in 3D



*Xin, HL and et al, APL 92, 013125 (2008)*

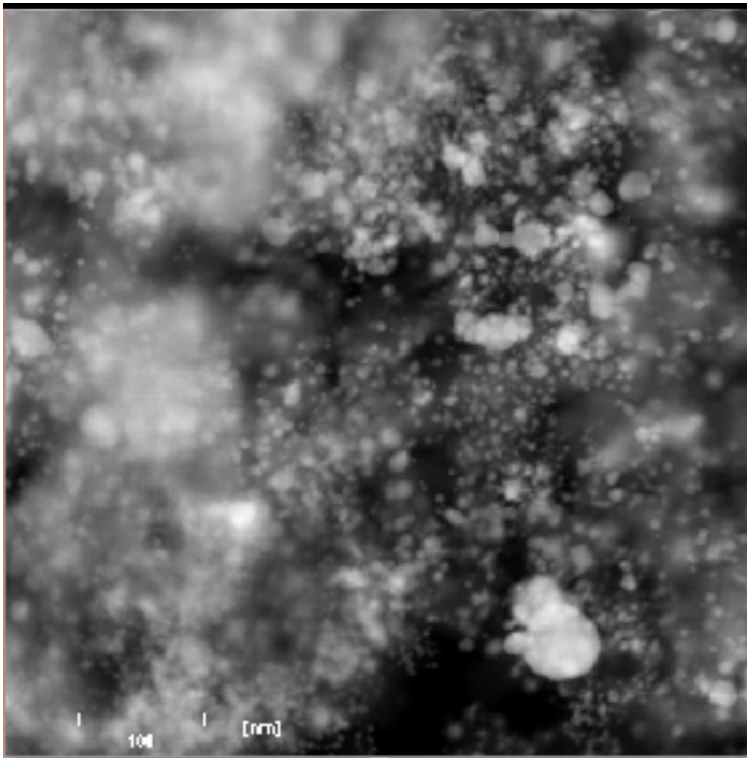
A 300KeV 23mrad aberration-corrected STEM can reveal the depth profile of a impurity atoms in amorphous layers (no electron channeling). Huolin Xin 2015

Through-focal series of Ru-TaN ~6nm

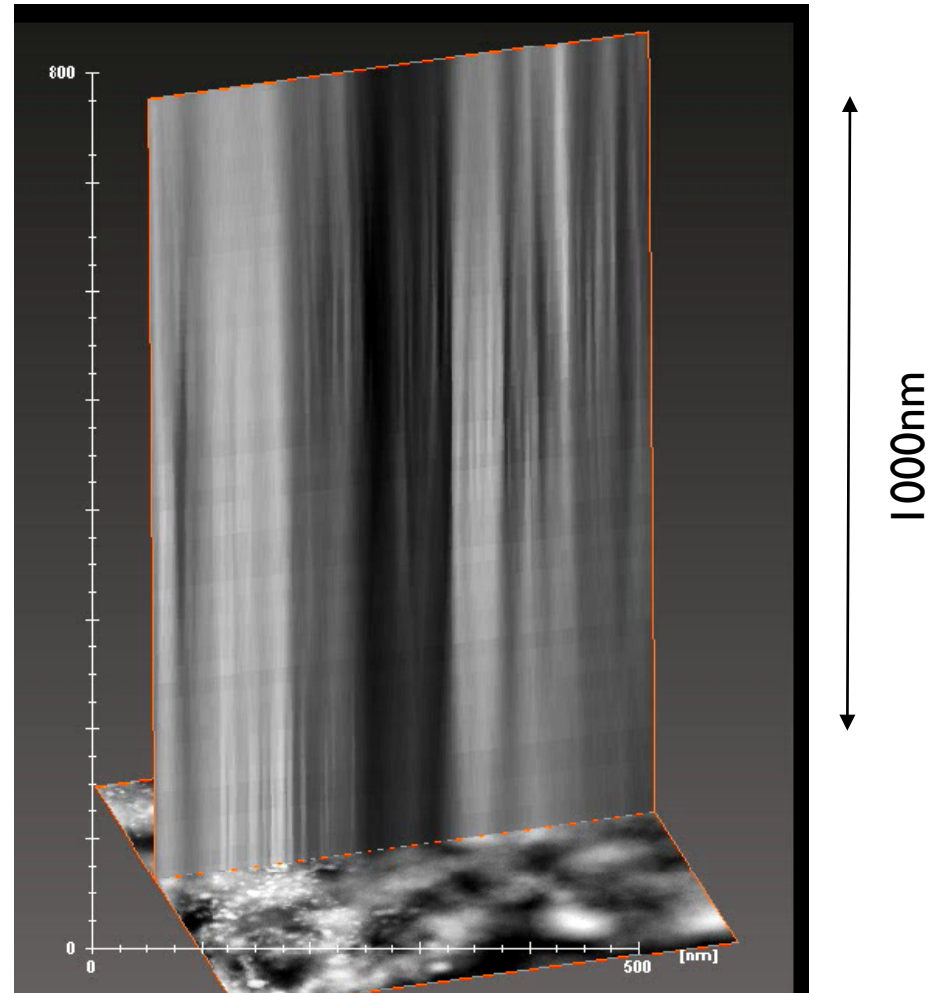
Animation: Defocus interval: 2nm  
# of Slices: 16

# Reconstruction of Extended Features by ADF-STEM Depth Sectioning

## ADF-STEM Through-focal Series Pt-Co Clusters on Carbon Support



100 KeV, 33 mrad,  $df = -500-500\text{nm}$ , 51 frames

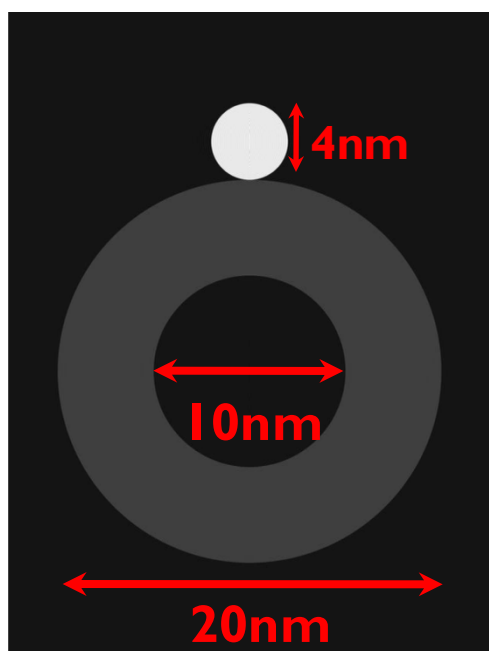


- 5 nm particles are elongated to a few hundred nanometers long.

# Depth Sectioning Artifacts: Inside or Outside?

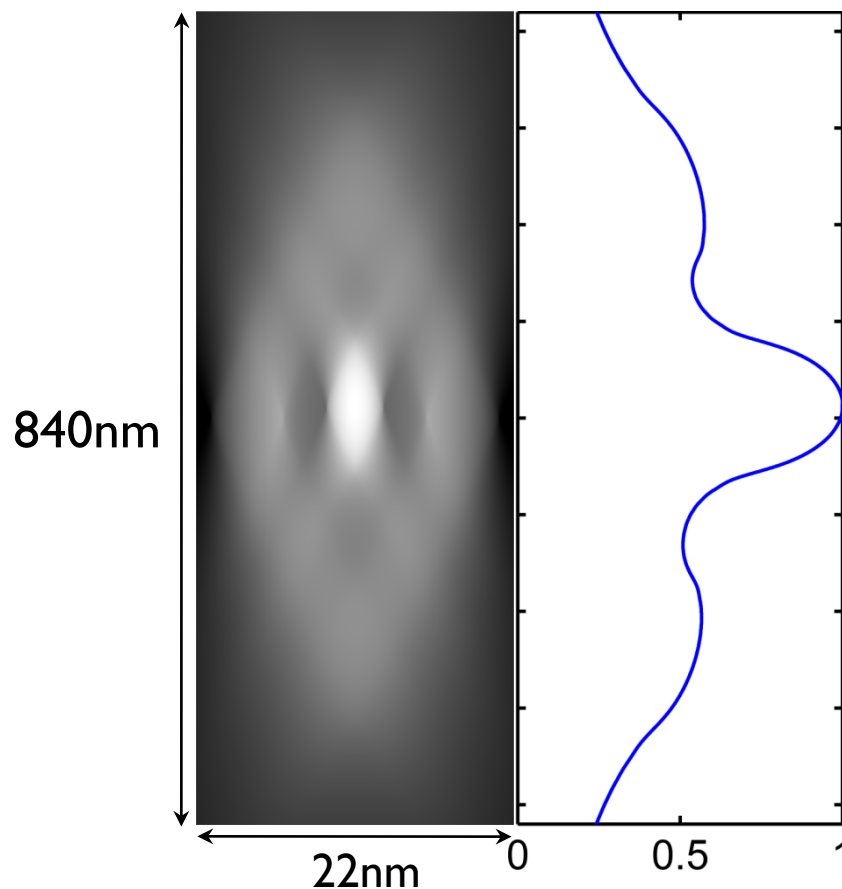
## Original Objects

Catalyst Particle on a Low-Z Support



## STEM Depth Sectioning

Z axis compressed by 15 fold

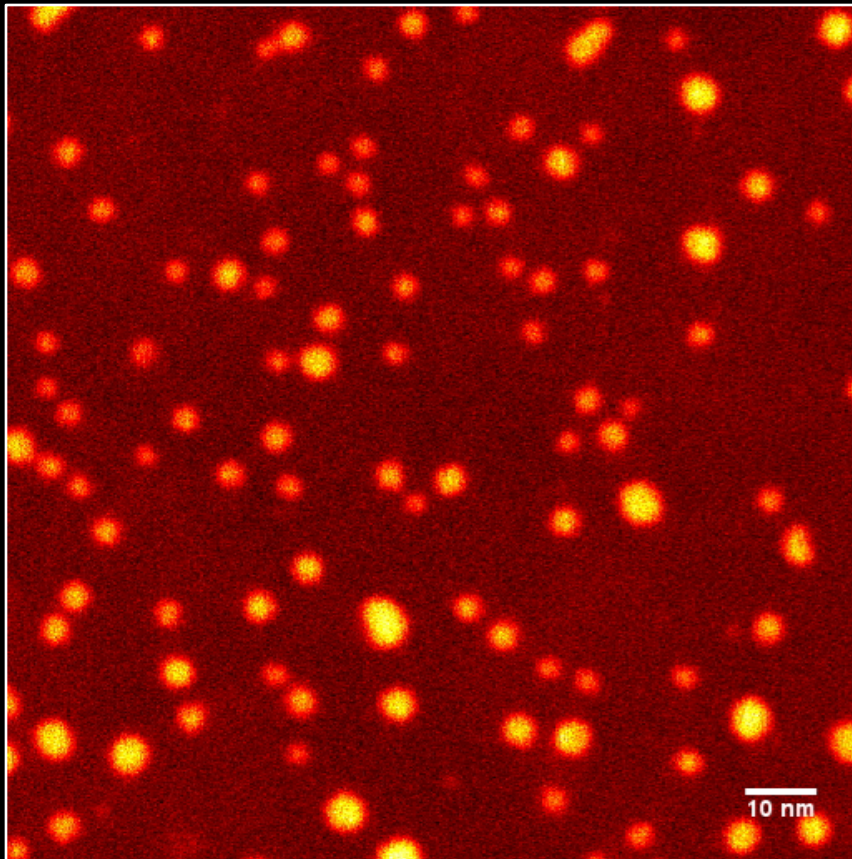


**STEM depth sectioning reconstruction can be confusing and not direct interpretable.**

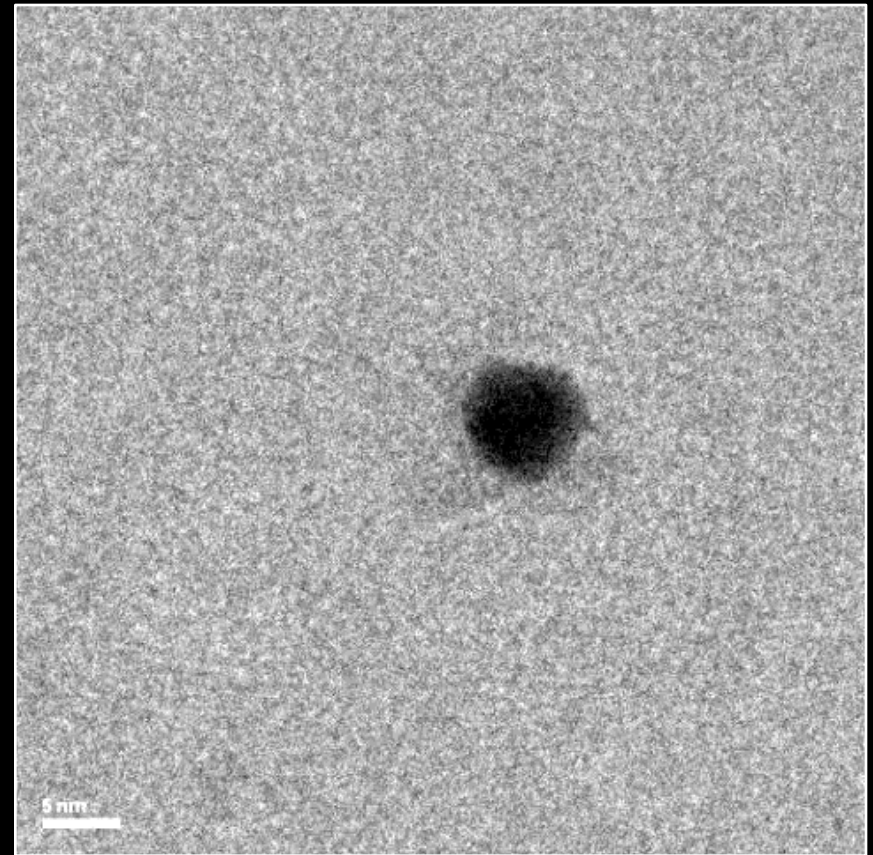


# The $T = 0$ problem

Focused beam induced coarsening  
at ( $>300$  pA)

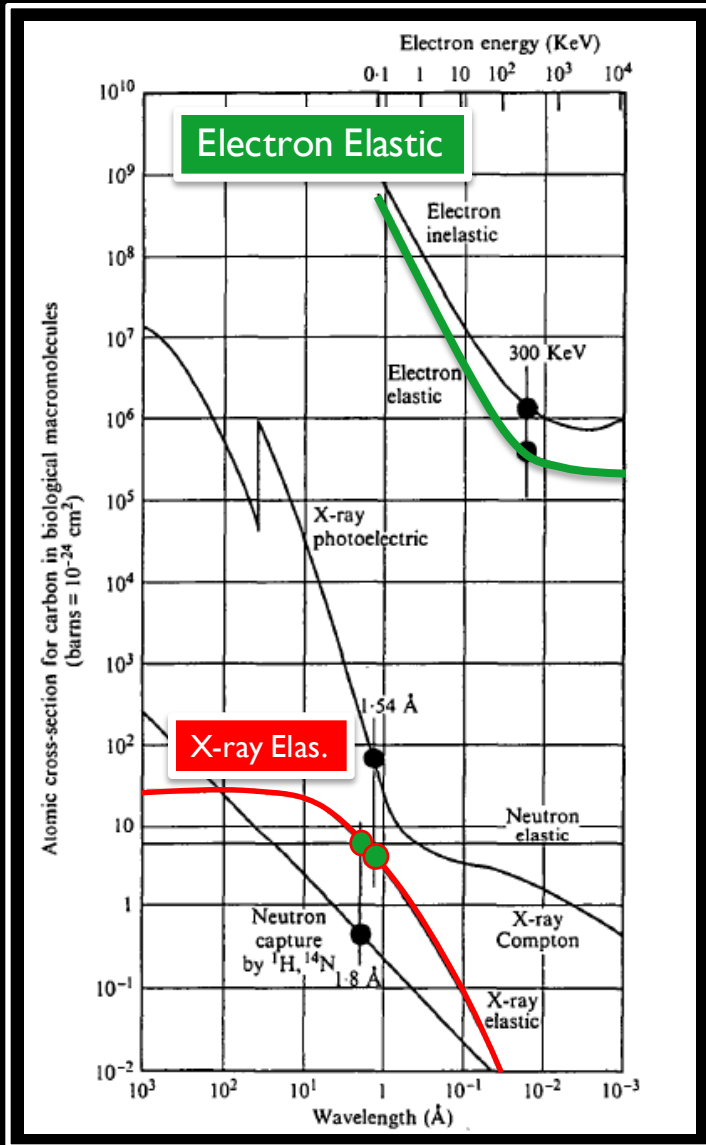


High-dose imaging in gas  
 $4500/\text{Ang}^2/\text{sec}$



Is it a pitfall of electrons?

# Fast Electron vs. X-ray



It's not the **cross-section**, but

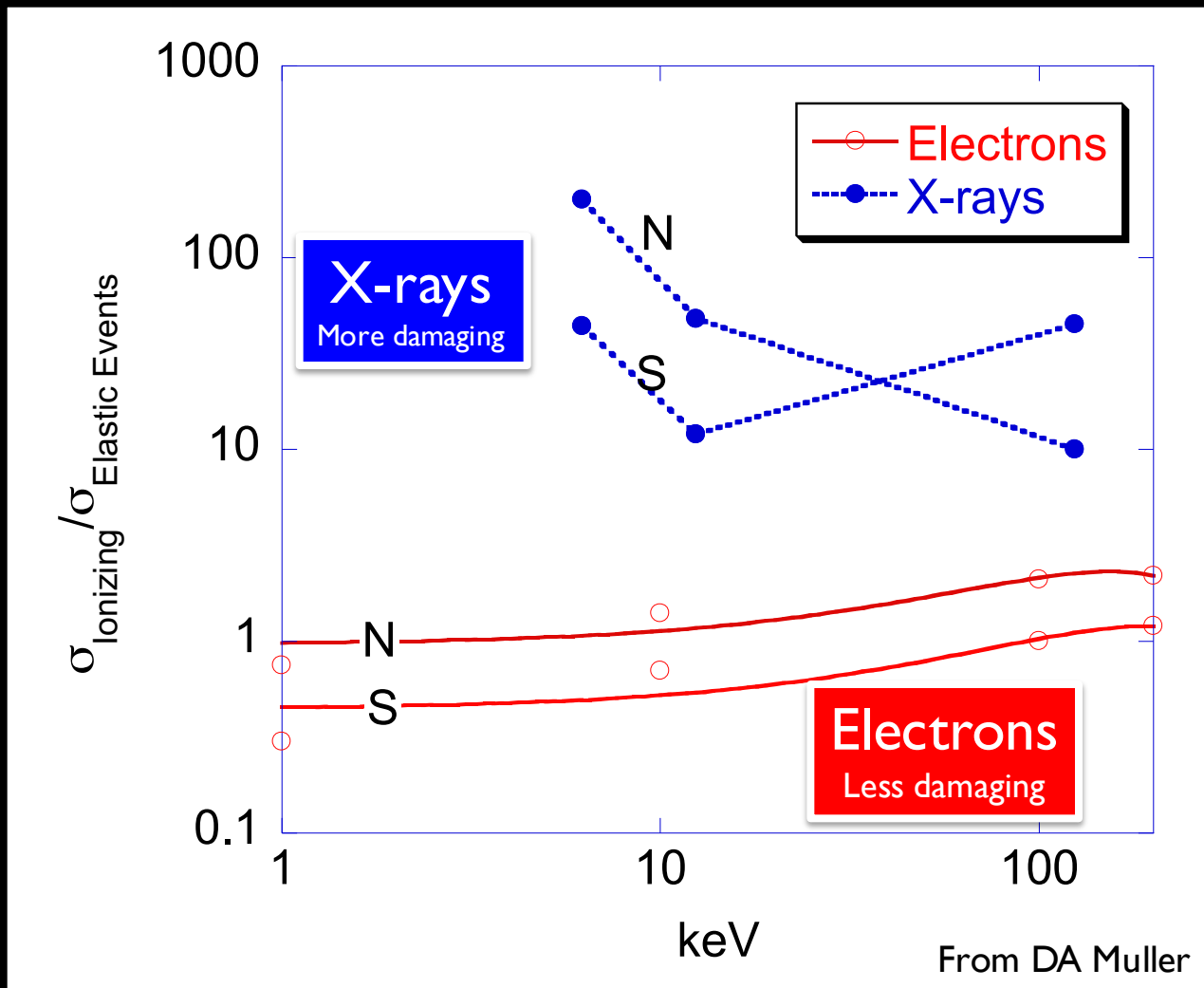
**How many damaging events per useful imaging event.**

Least Damage

Elastic Imaging – Electrons win

Inelastic imaging – Soft X-rays win

# Elastic information per damaging event (i.e. ionizing event)

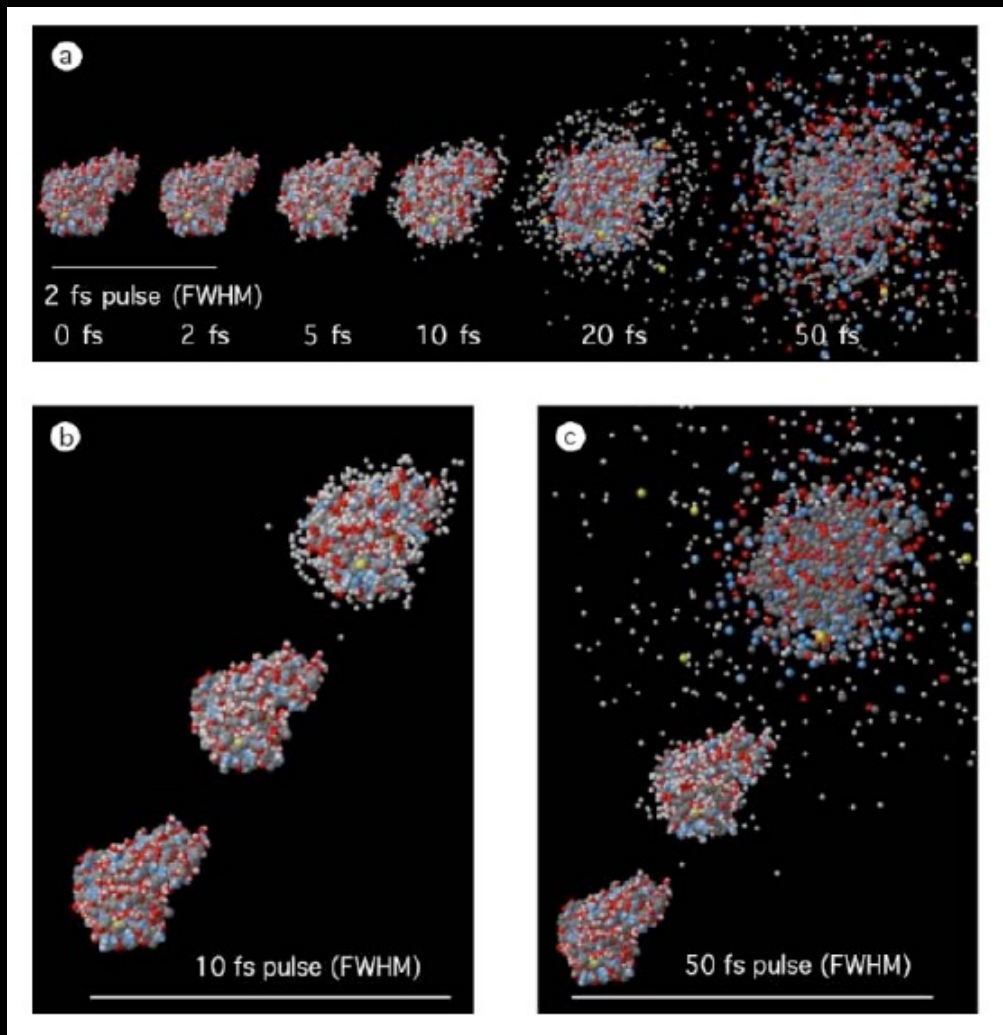


Damaging  
Useful

More elastic info per damaging event

- Can we do SLAC-type of protein crystallography with electrons?

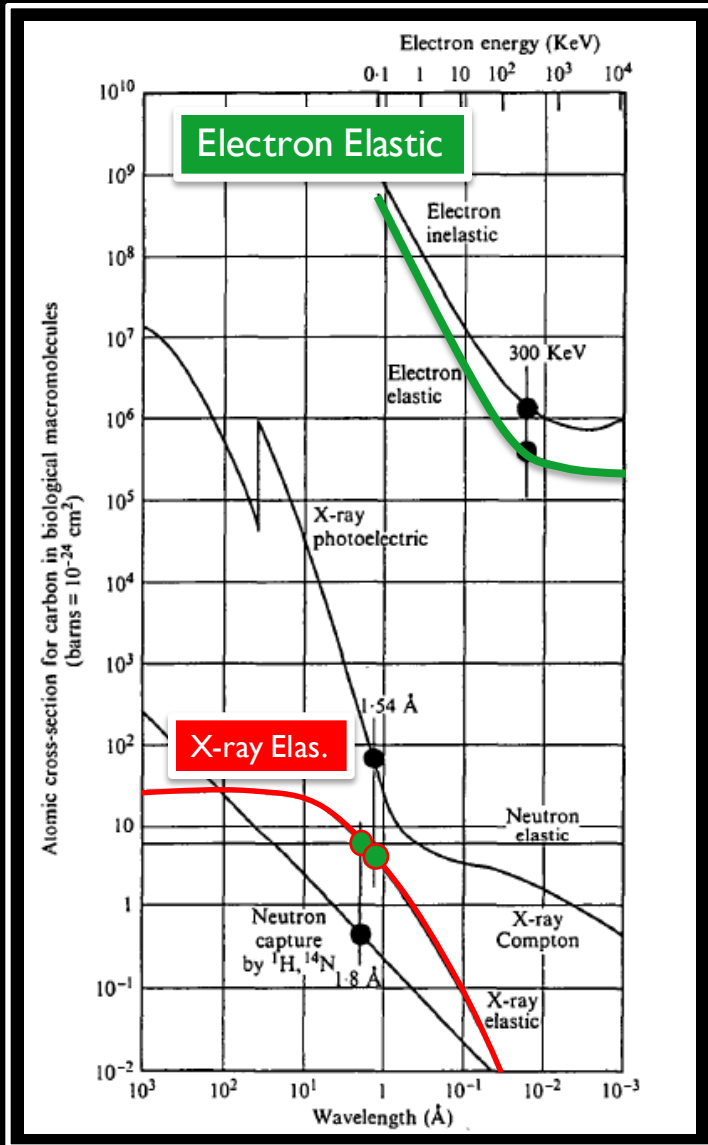
# Can we do Free Electron Laser-type of protein crystallography with short electron pulses?



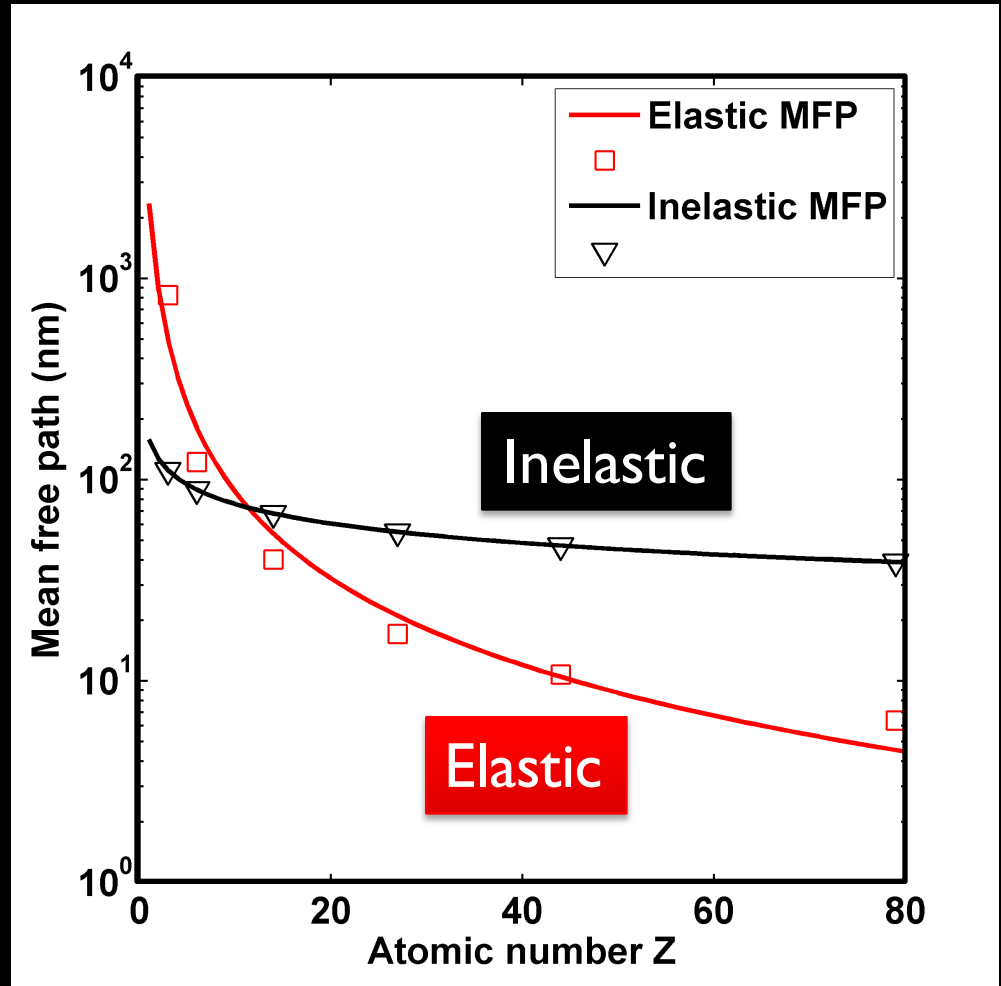
- We have really good lateral and longitudinal **coherence** with electrons
- What are the limitations?



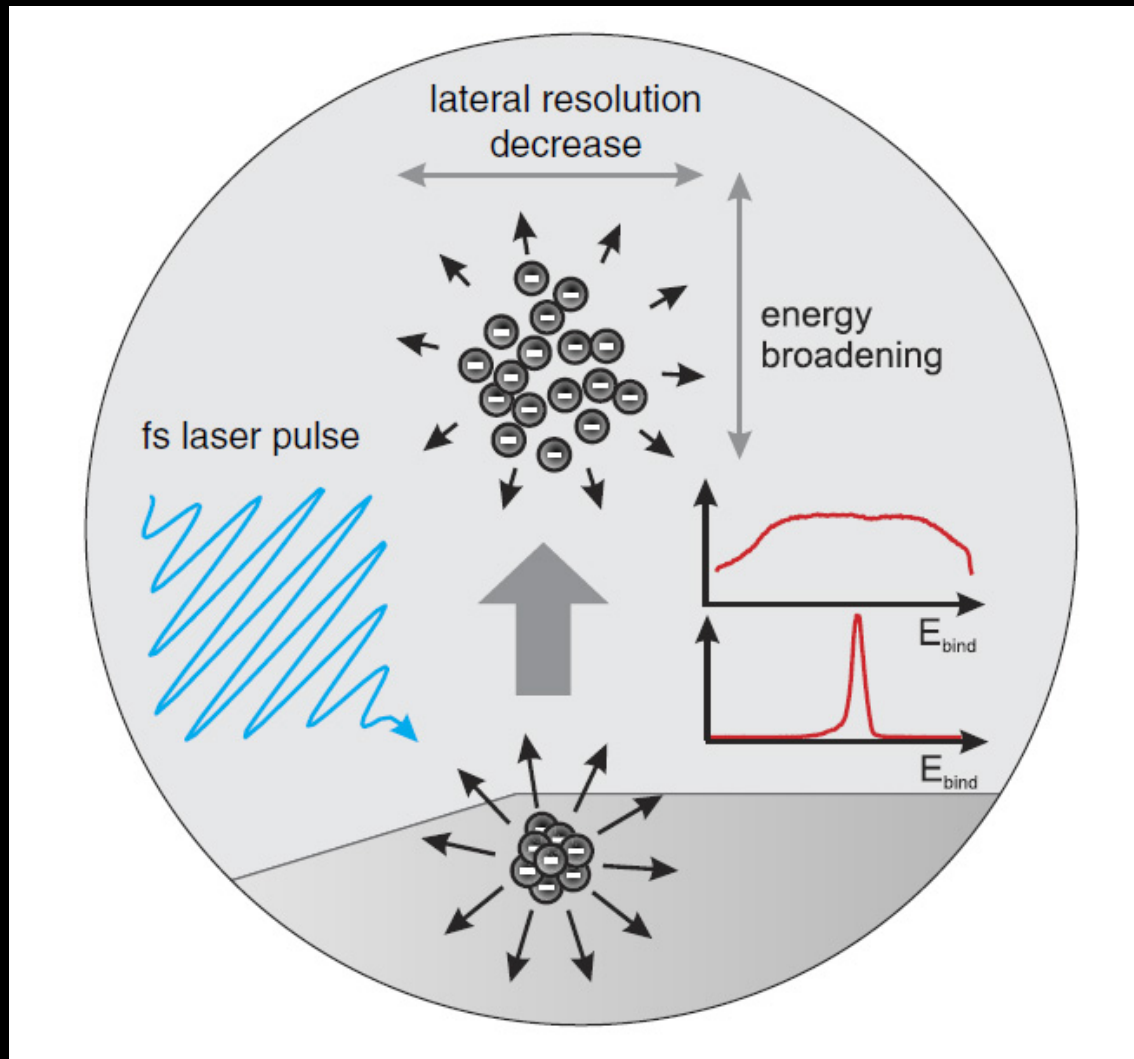
# Electron Mean Free Path



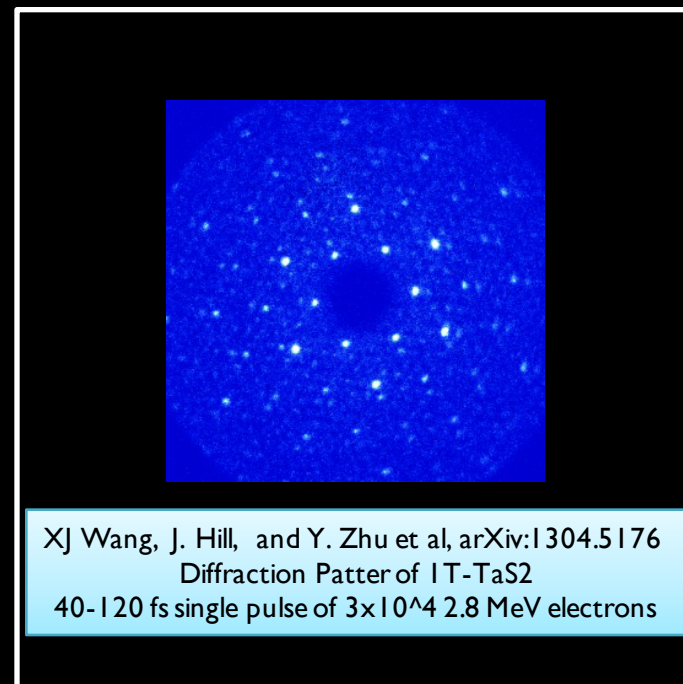
Mean free path for 100 keV electrons



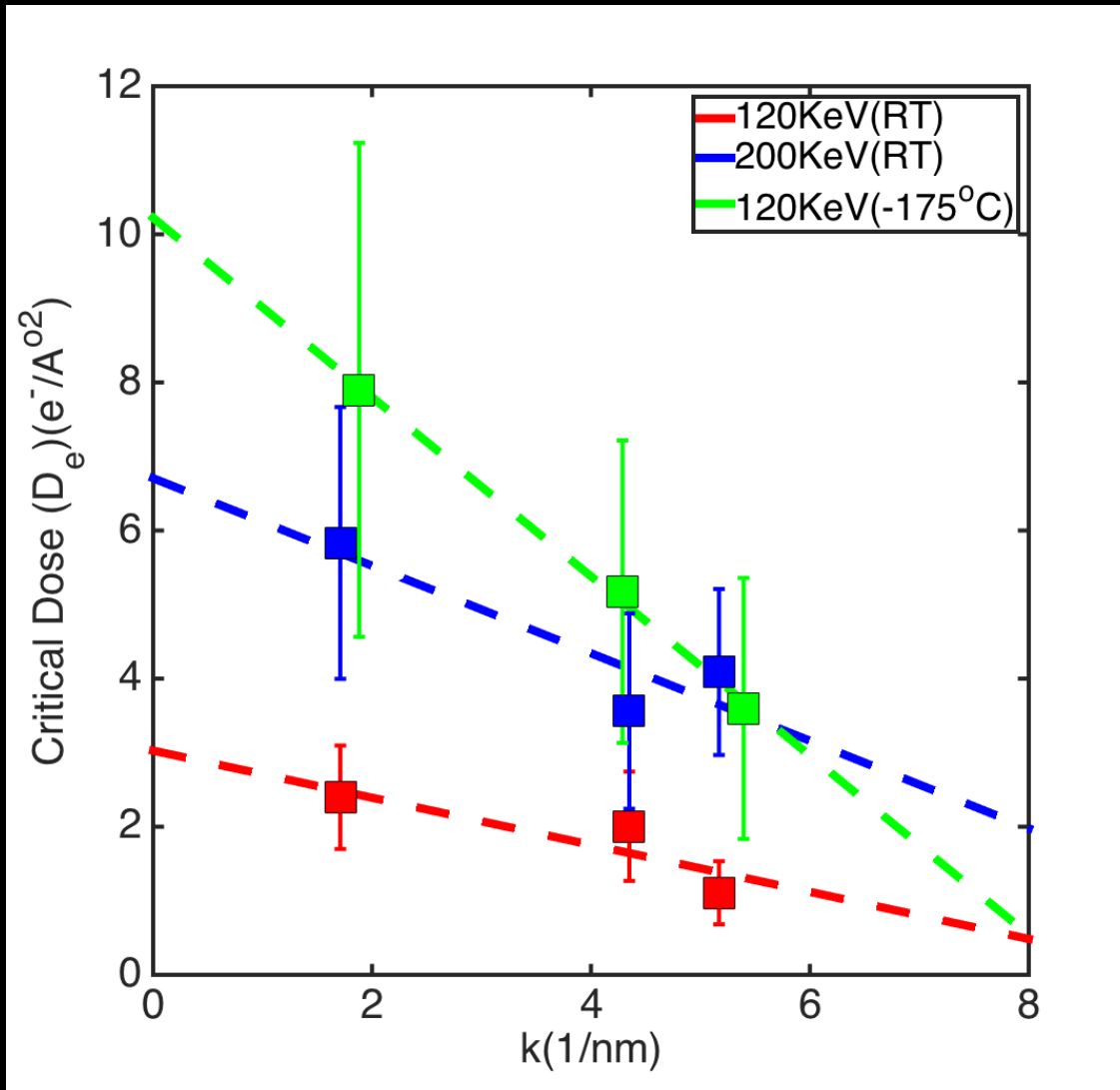
# Difficult Using Electron Pulses due to the Space Charge Effect



- The **temporal width** of the electron pulses decreases quickly with the number of electrons

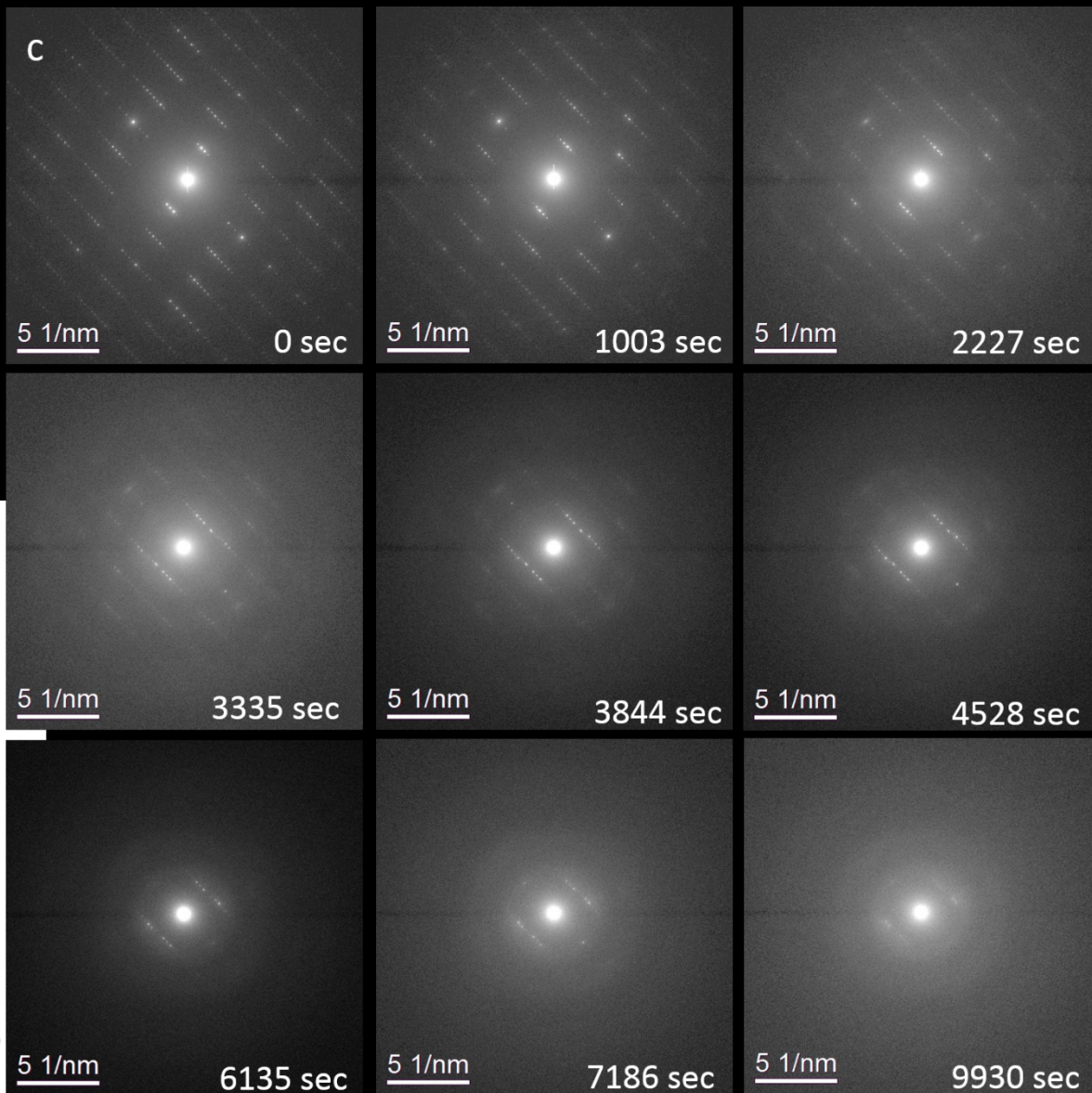
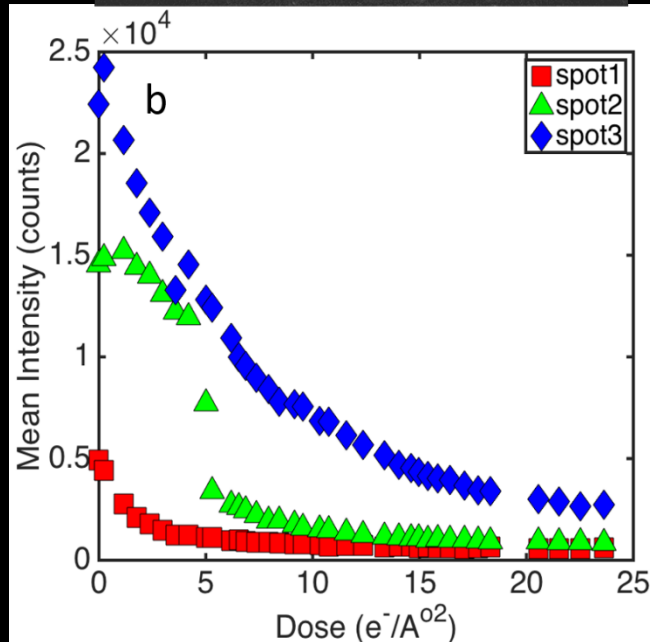
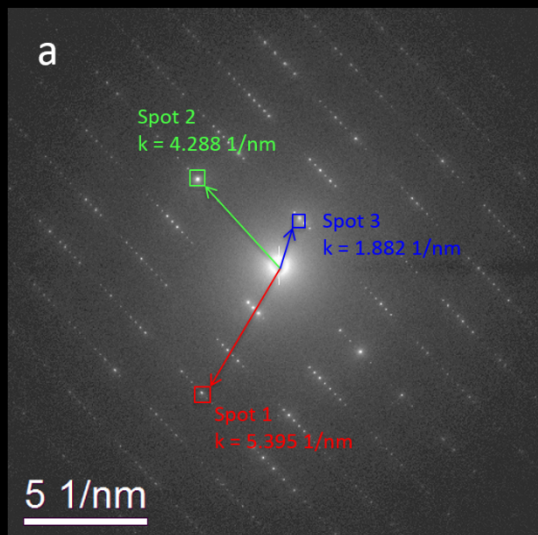


# Diffract but not Destroy



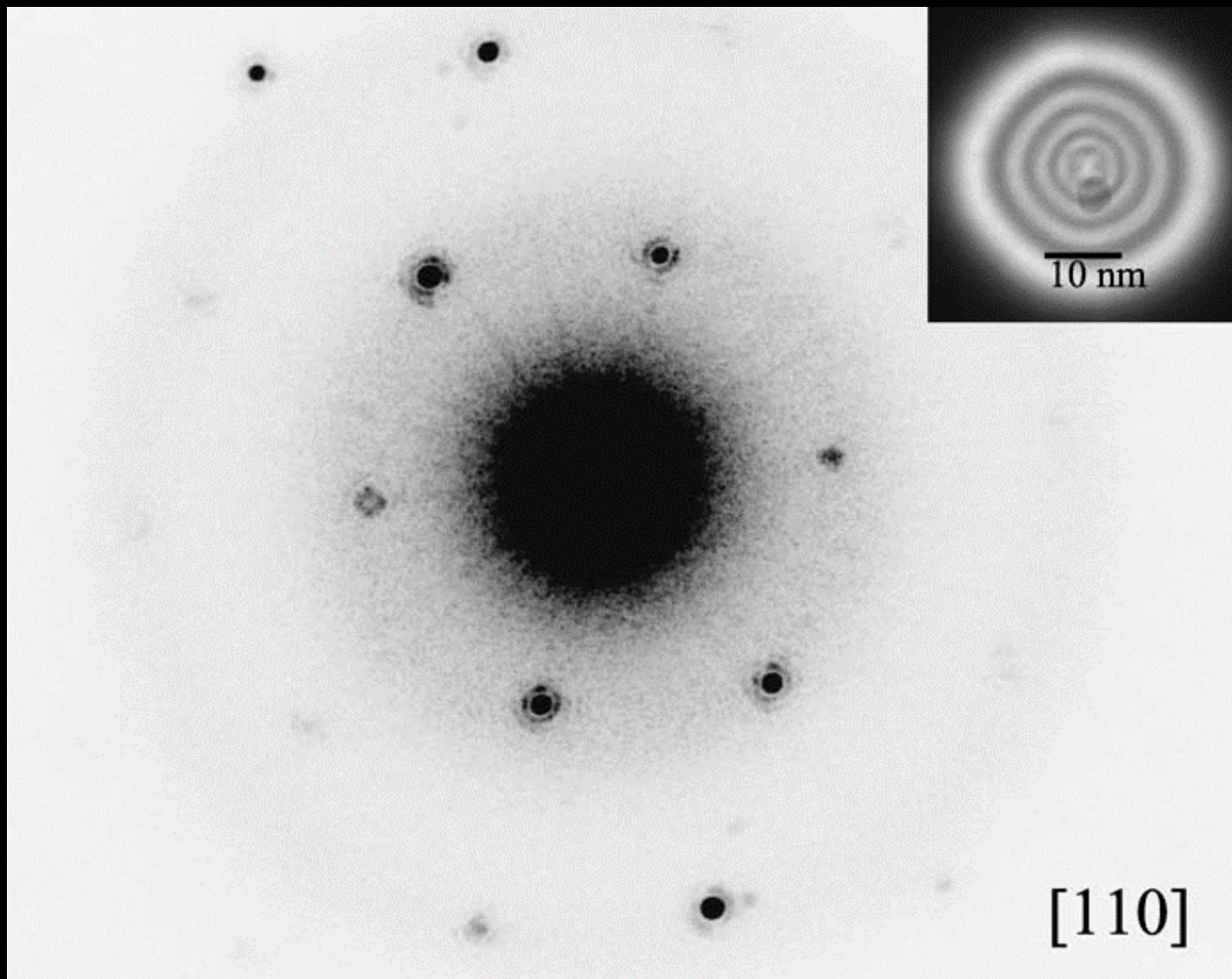
Critical dose is low,  
but elastic scattering  
cross section is large.  
Ratio between useful  
event vs. damaging  
event is high.

# Diffract but not Destroy

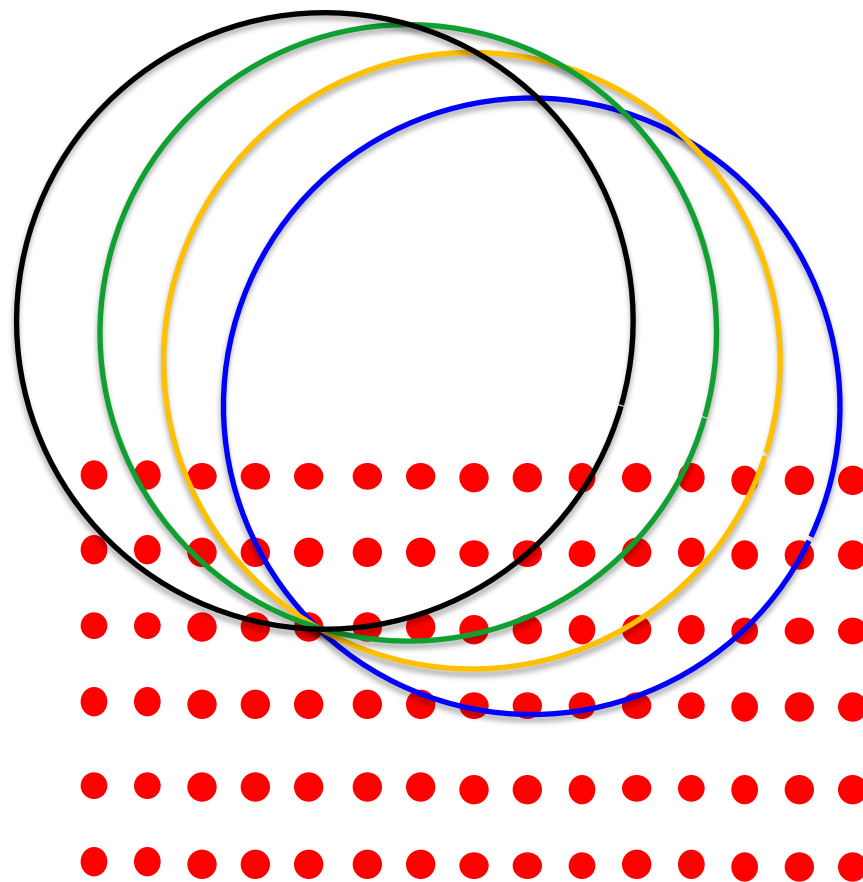
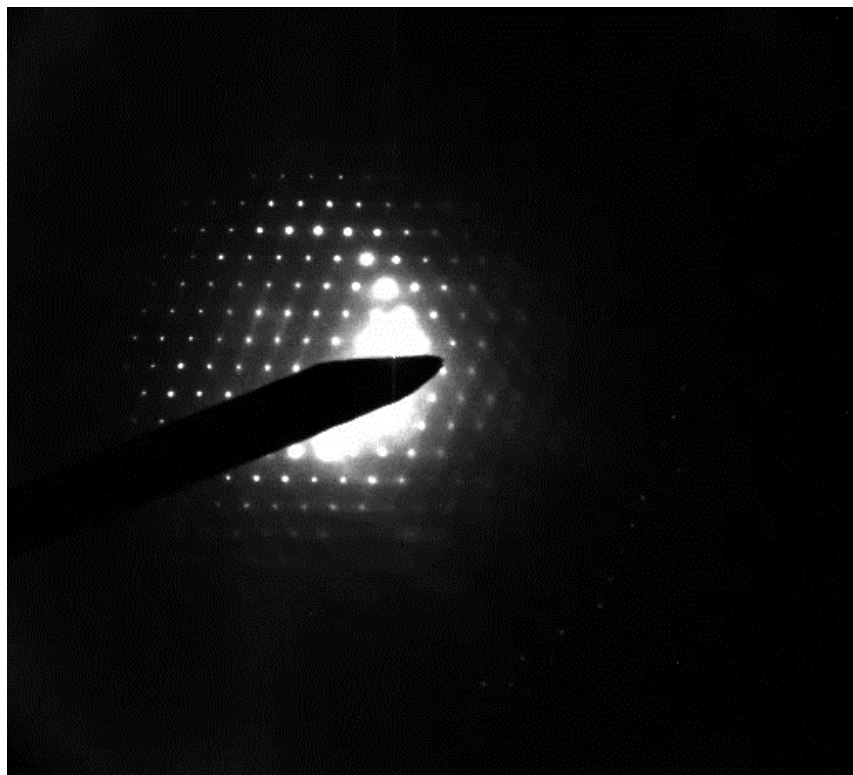




# Coherent diffraction from a single nanoparticle

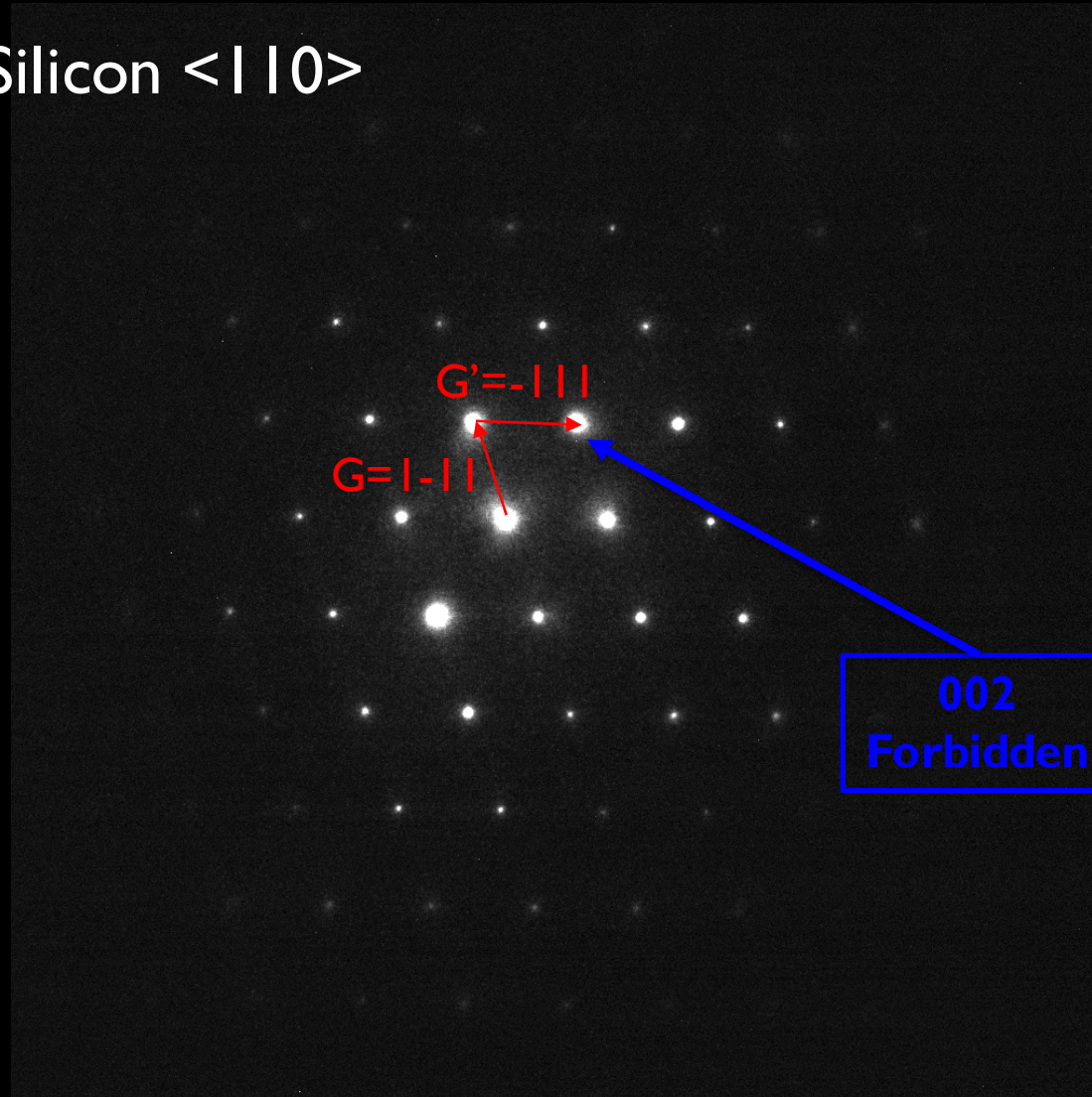


# Passing through a zone axis



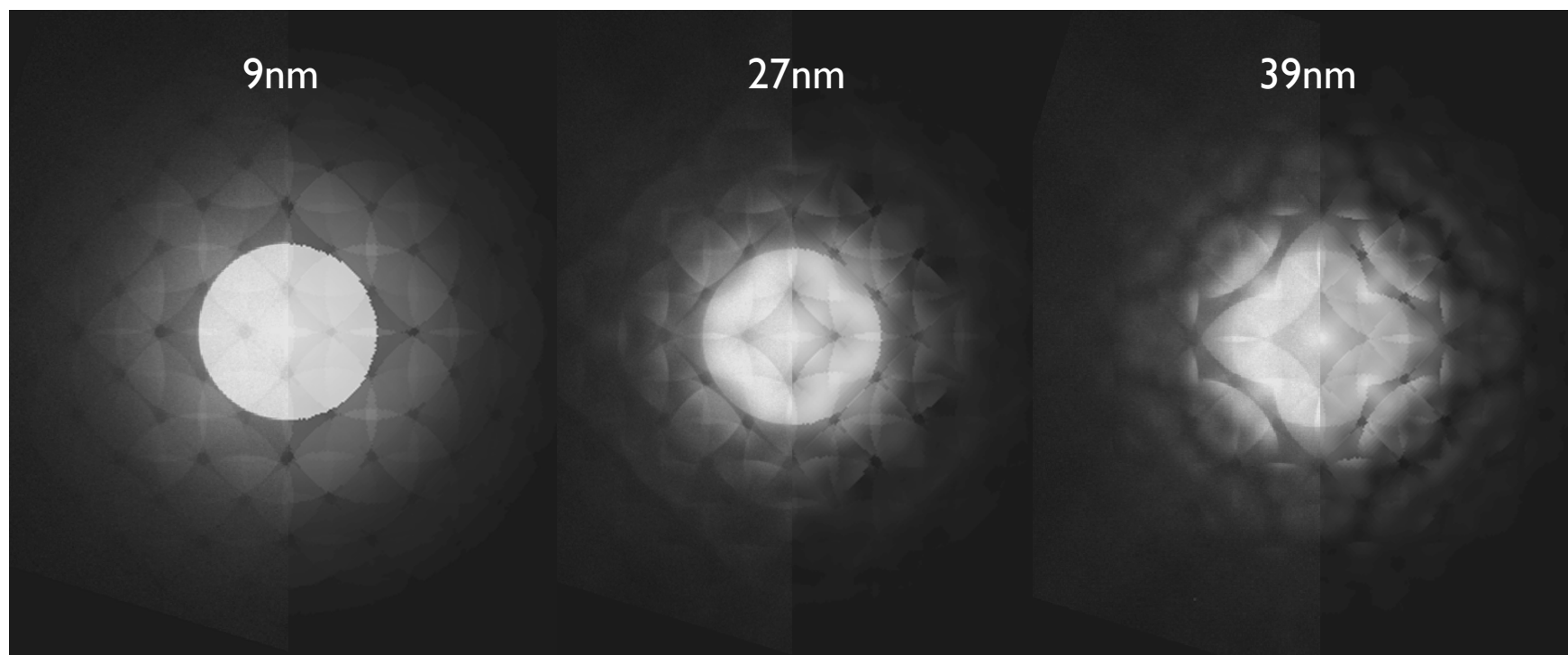
# Electron Diffraction is Highly Dynamical

Silicon  $\langle 110 \rangle$





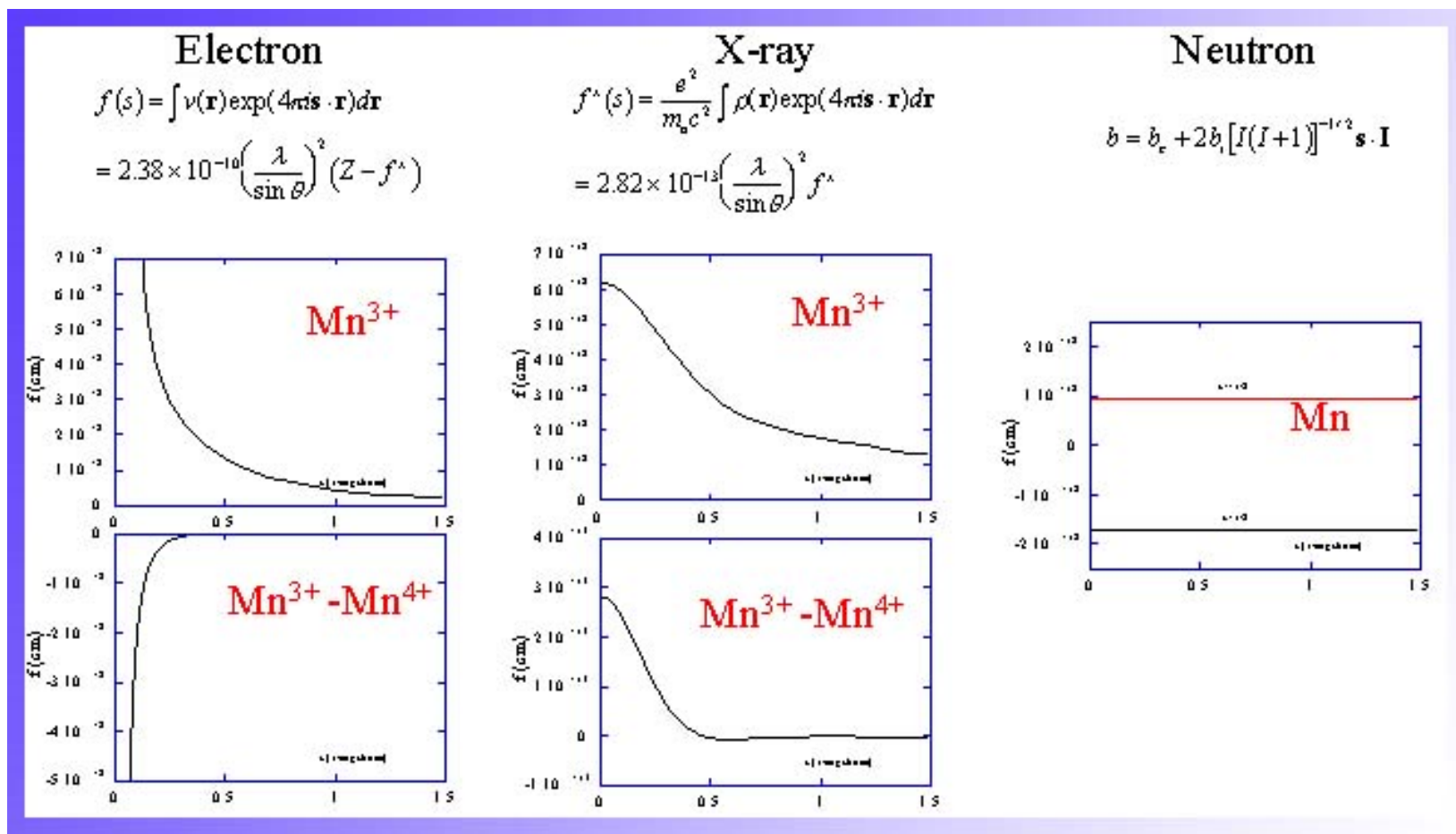
# Thickness fringes



Thicknesses determined by comparing position independent CBED (scanning probe CBED) with Block-wave CBED simulations.



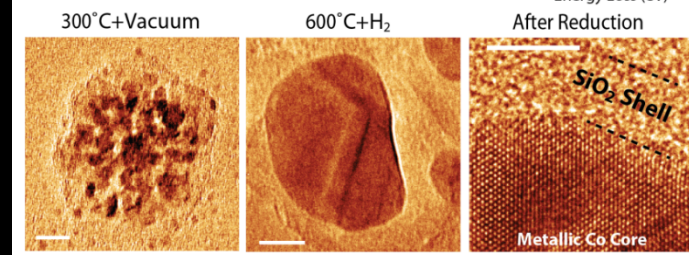
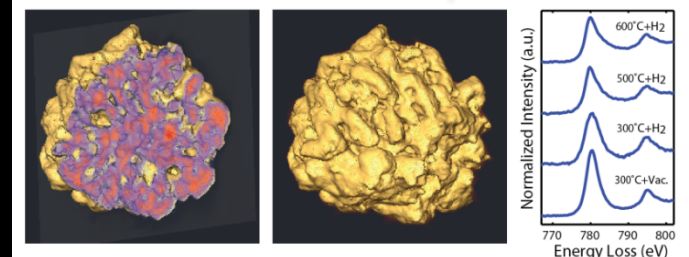
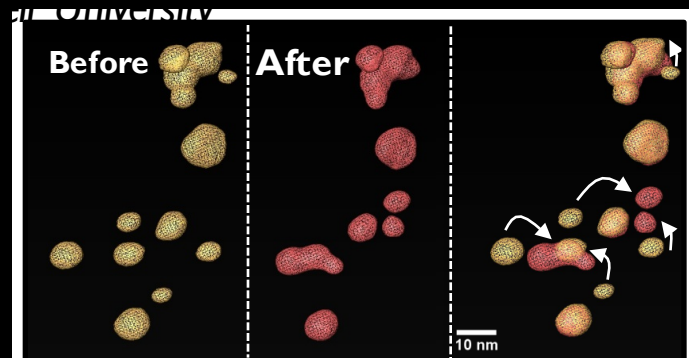
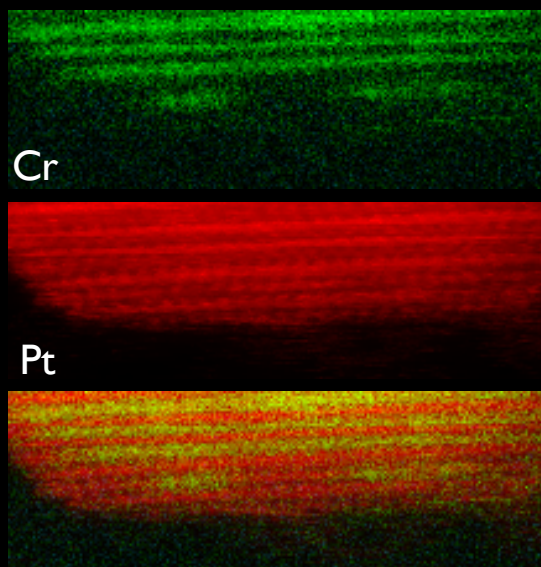
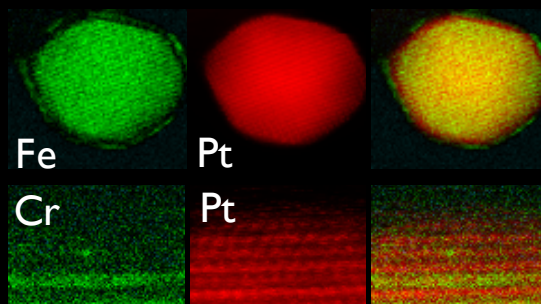
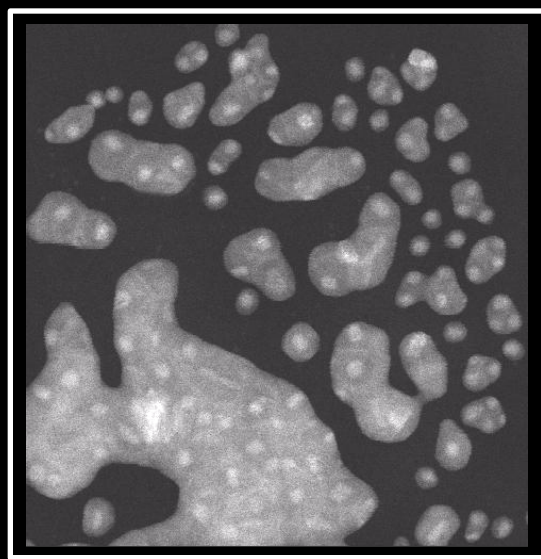
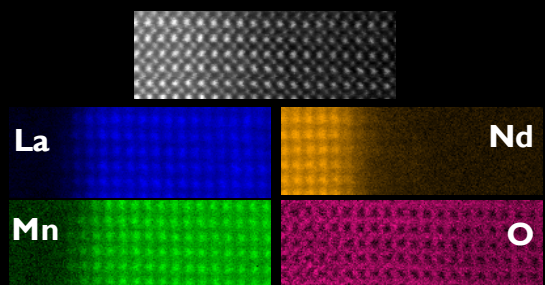
# Electron diffraction is sensitive to the change in lower-order structure factors.



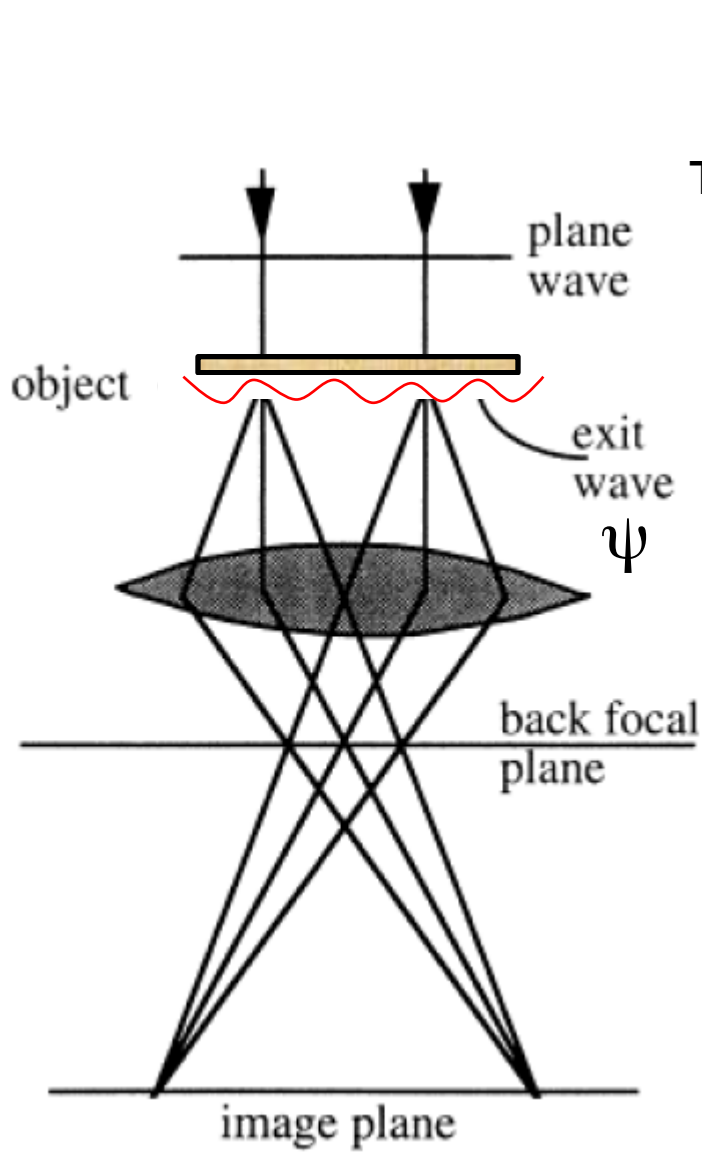
<http://cbcd.matse.illinois.edu/>

- Quantitative electron diffraction is good for charge density reconstruction in a wide range of crystalline/poly-crystalline materials (sensitivity + spatial resolution)

# Atomic-Resolution Spectroscopic Imaging and In Situ Environmental Study of Bimetallic Nanocatalysts



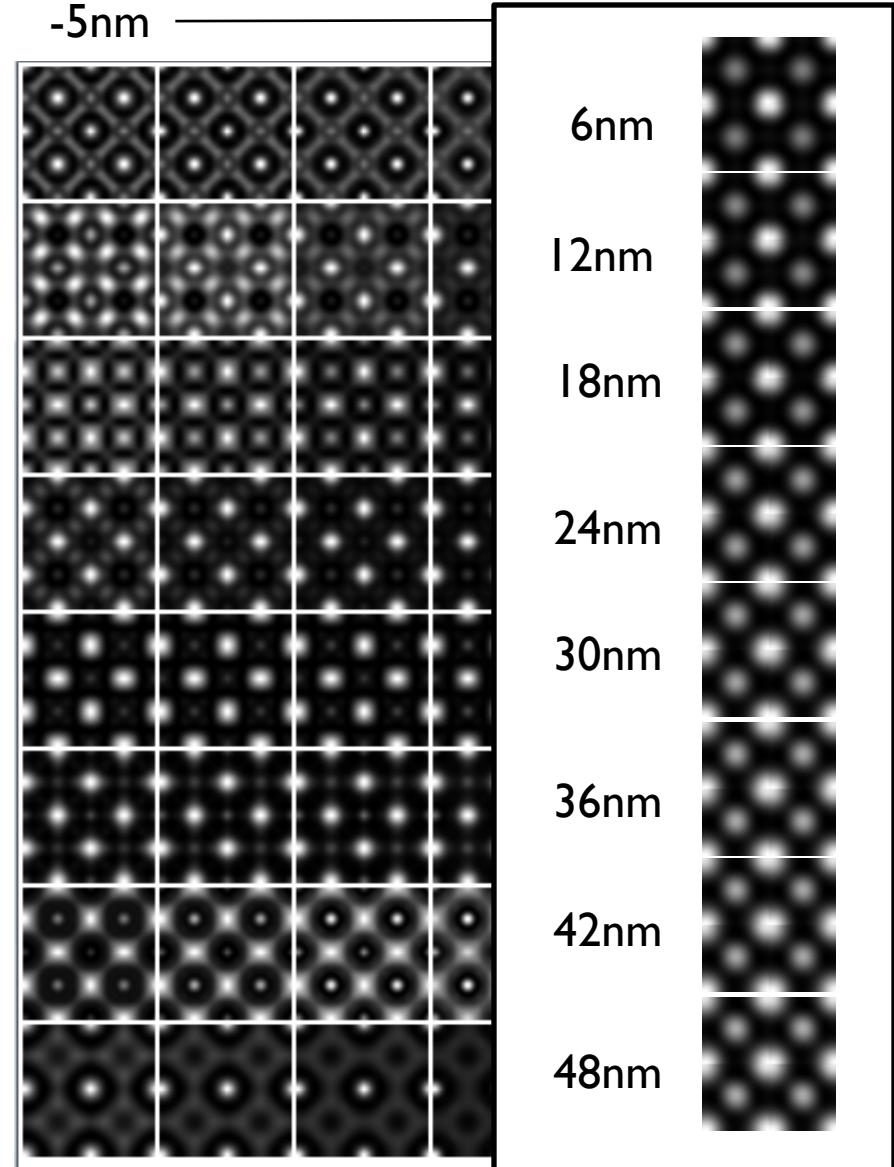
# Coherent Imaging (HRTEM) is Confusing



$$|\psi \otimes P|^2$$

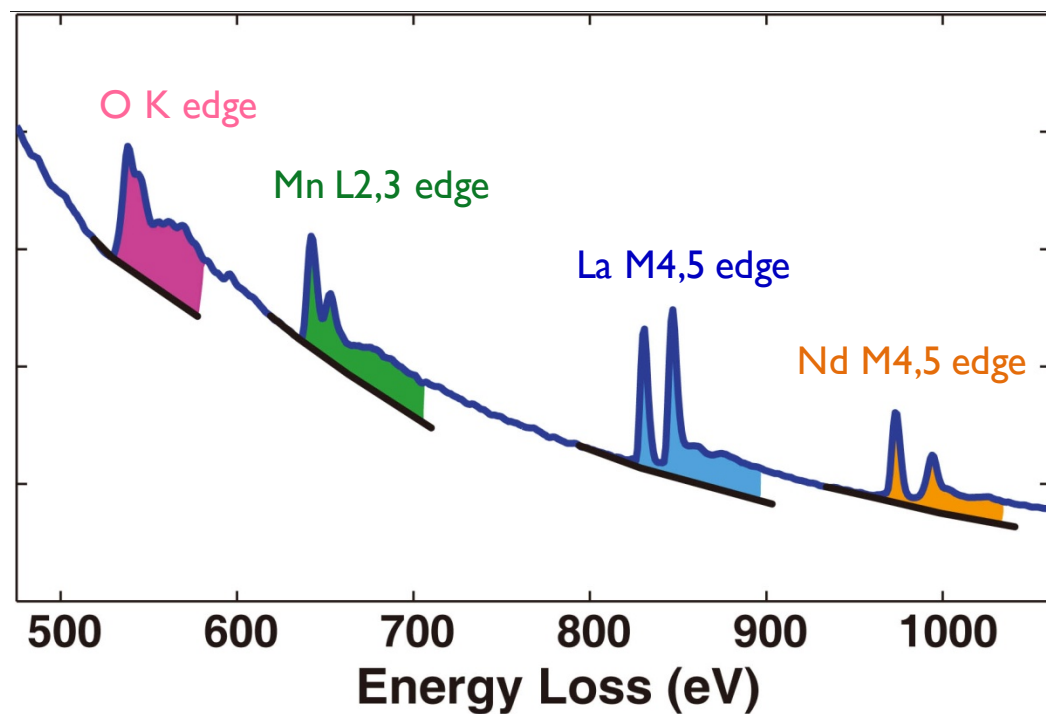
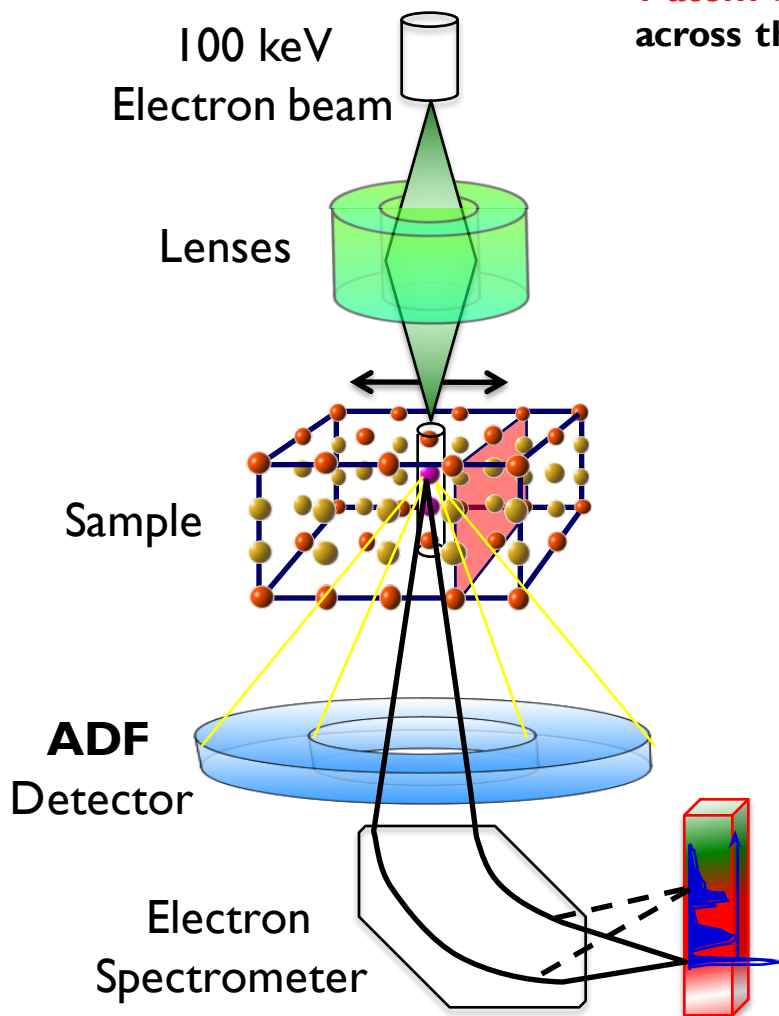
Defocus  $-5\text{nm}$  **SrTiO<sub>3</sub> [001]**

Thickness  
5nm  
10nm  
15nm  
20nm  
25nm  
30nm  
35nm  
40nm



# Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy

**1 atom wide (1 Å)** beam is scanned across the sample to form a 2-D image

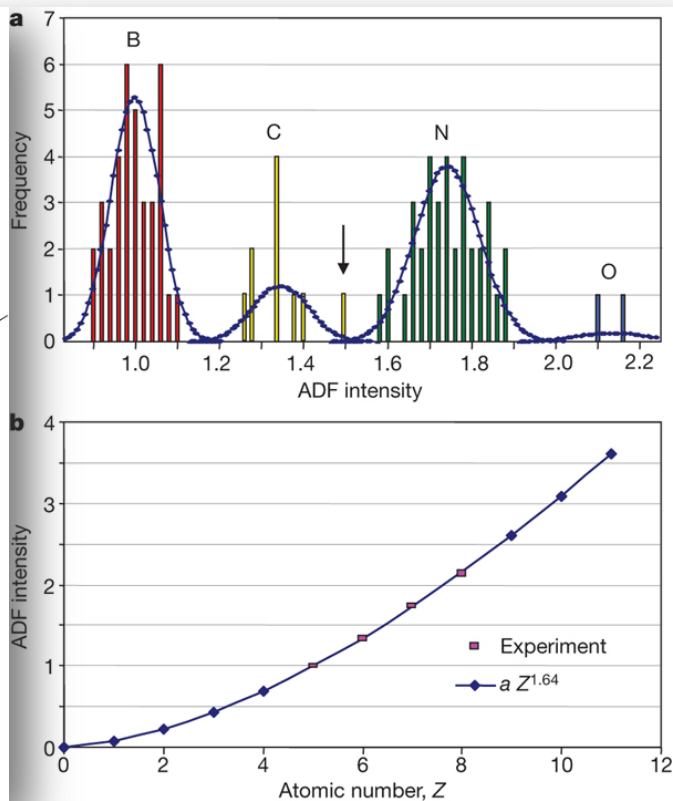
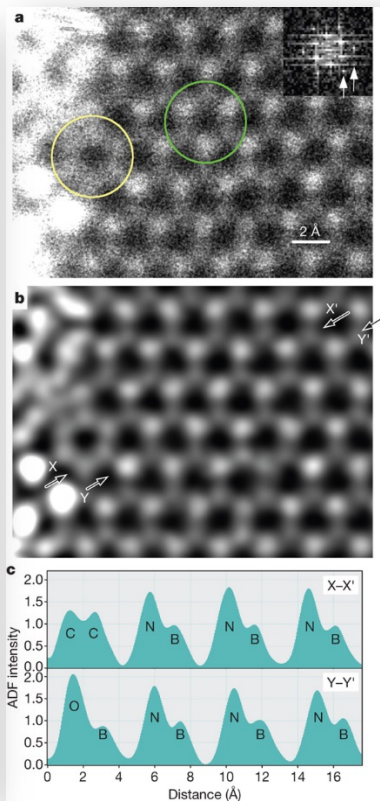
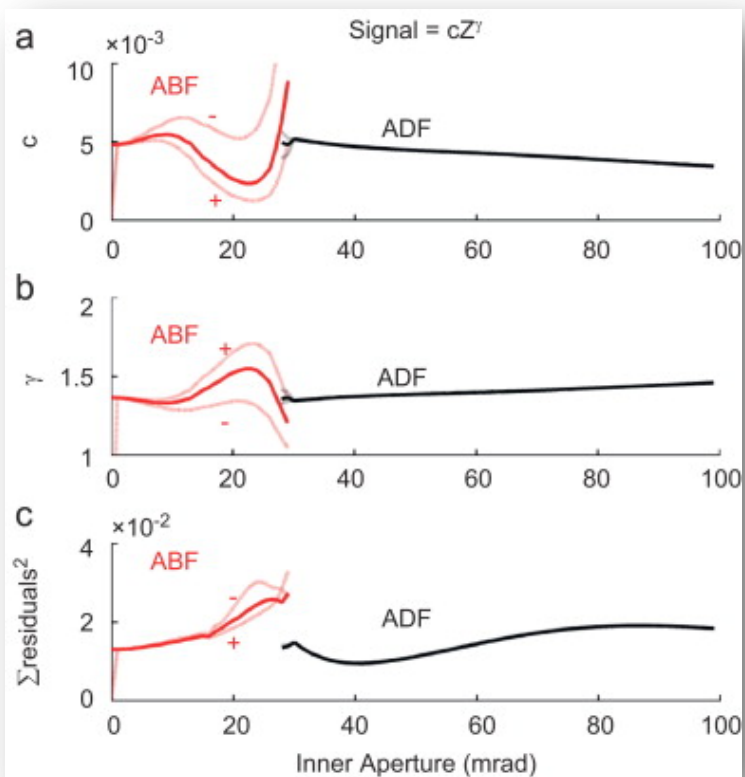


Inelastic Scattering  
**EELS**: Chemical Imaging



# Application of “Z-Contrast” – $Z^\gamma$

## Theory



Hovden et al, Ultramicroscopy  
123, December 2012, Pages 59–65

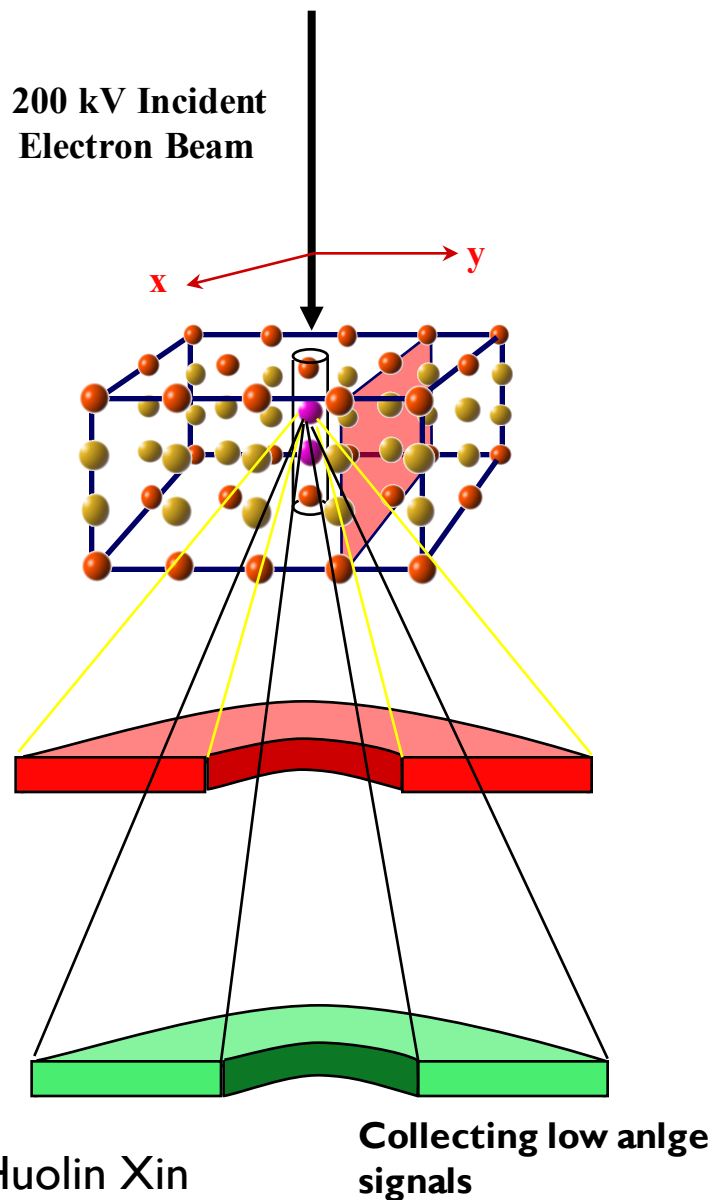
Krivanek et al, Nature **464**, 571-574 (25 March 2010)

ADF detector (outer angle=240 mrad) varies with inner angle for a 60 keV STEM (convergence angle 30 mrad,  $C_{S3}=-0.018$  mm,  $C_{S5}=20.0$  mm,  $df=-30.4$  nm).

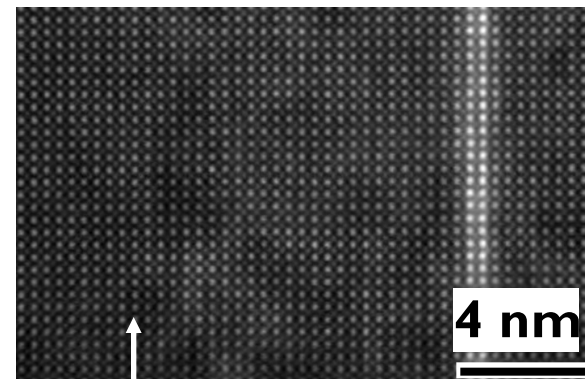
# Not always “Z-Contrast”

## Caveat: Low-angle ADF and Strain Fields

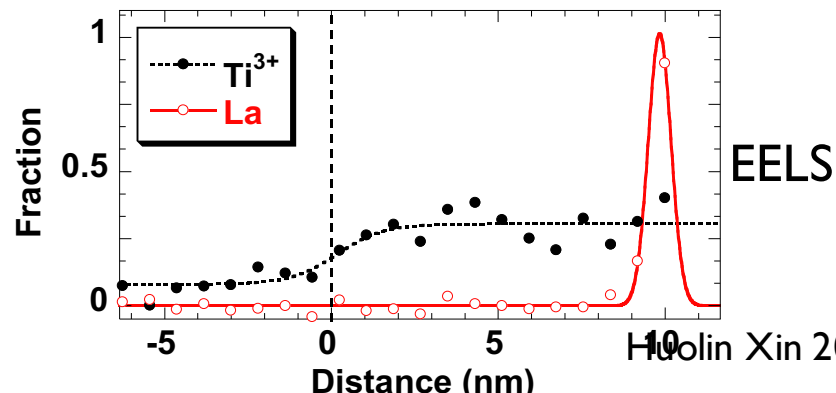
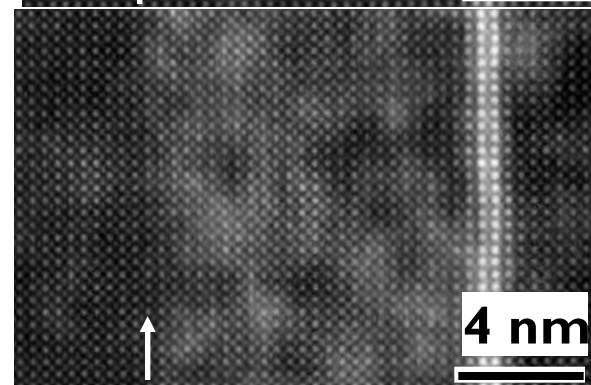
( grow 25 layers of  $\text{SrTiO}_{3-\delta}$  on  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ ,  $\delta=0.13$  )



HAADF  
“Z” map



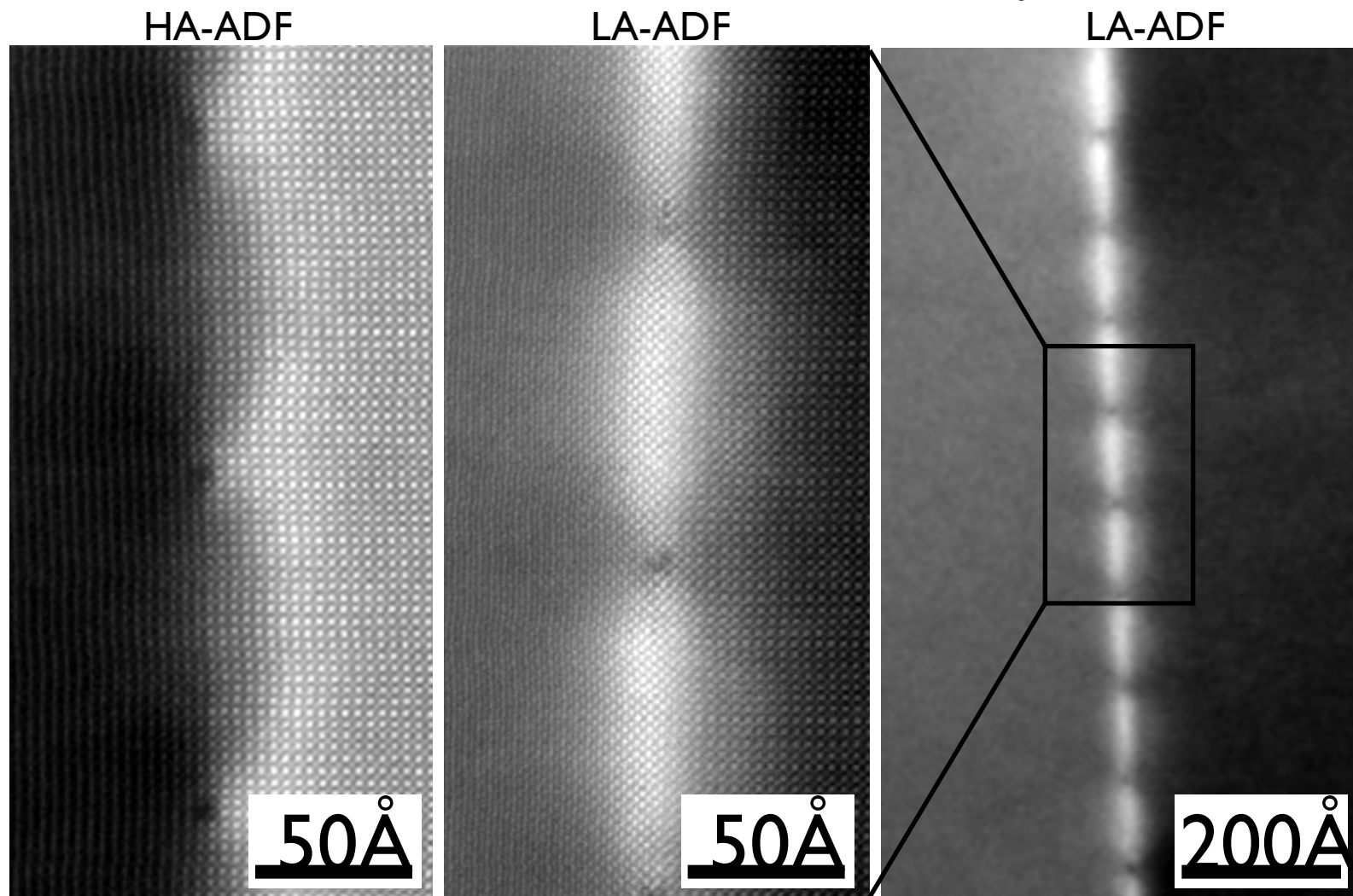
LAADF  
“Strain” map  
 $10 \pm 2$  nm x/s



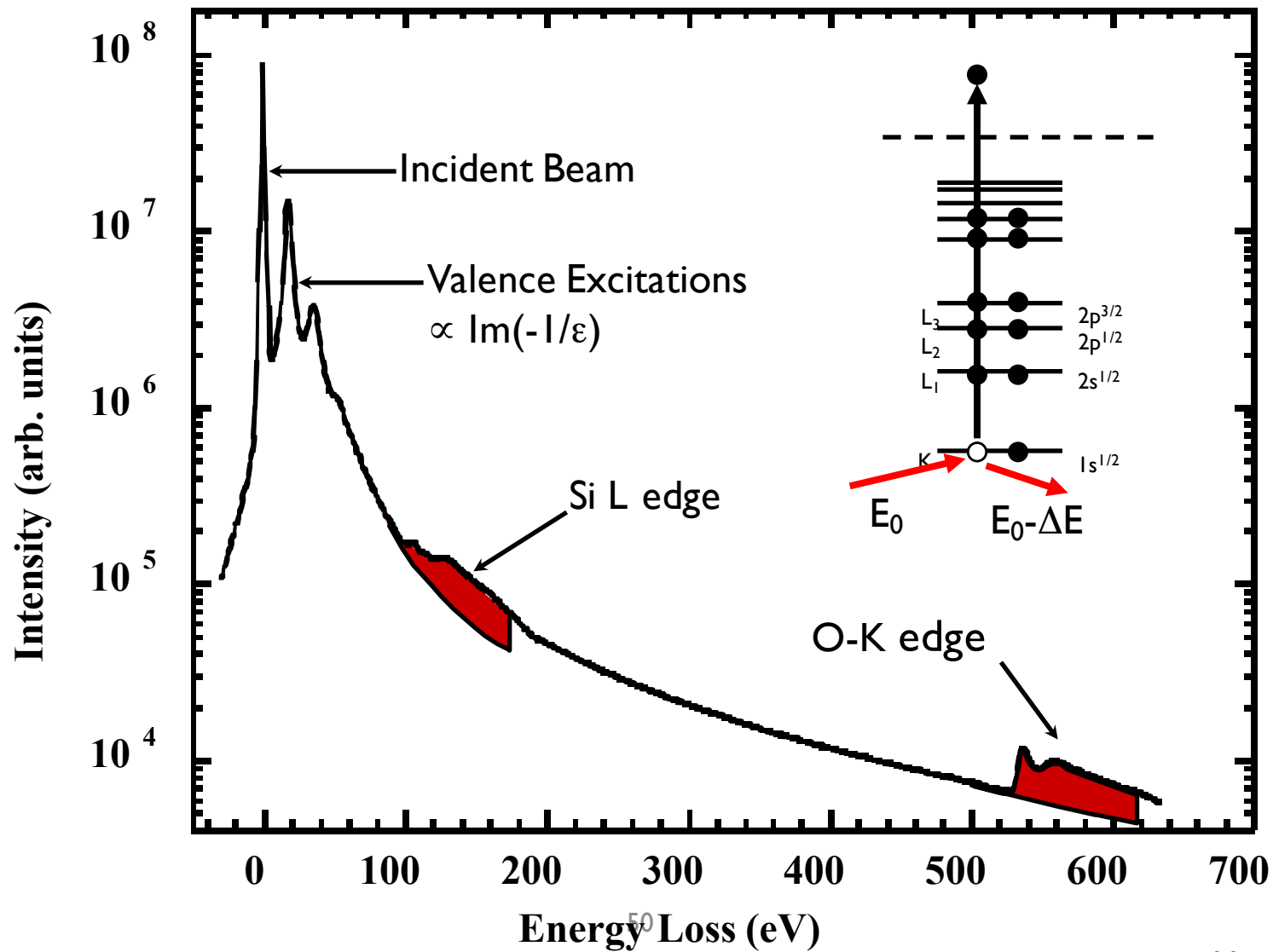
# Not always “Z-Contrast”

## Caveat: Strain Fields

Strain Fields at the Tilt-Boundary

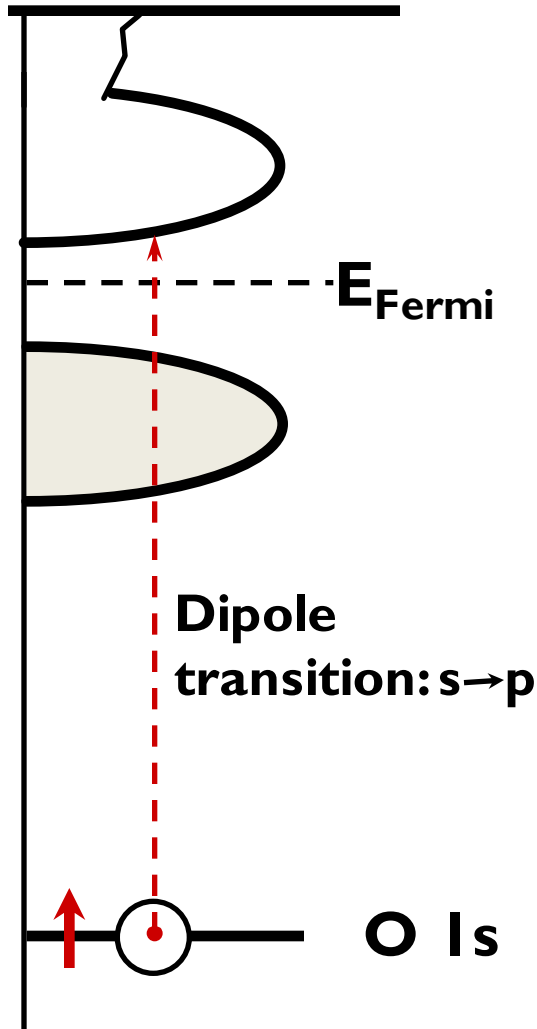


# Electron Energy Loss Spectrum of SiO<sub>2</sub>





# Core-Level Near-Edge Electron Energy Loss Spectroscopy (EELS)



**EELS** measures the **empty local density of states** (the **conduction band**) partitioned by

- **site** - as the probe is localized,
- **element** - the core level binding energy is unique
- **angular momentum** - (s,p,d states separately)

HOWEVER

- DOS modified by presence of core hole

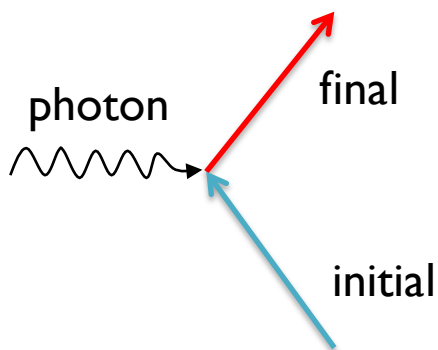
# X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) vs EELS

**XAS**

$$\sigma = \sum_{i,f} 4\pi^2 \hbar \alpha \omega |\langle f | \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \cdot \mathbf{R} | i \rangle|^2 \delta(E + E_i - E_f),$$

Absorb a photon

Polarization vector  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$  is determined by your incident setup

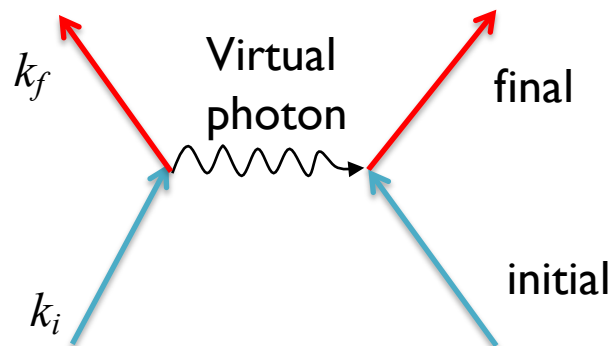


**EELS**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial E \partial \Omega} &= \sum_{i,f} \frac{4\gamma^2 k_f}{a_0^2 q^4 k_i} \left| \left\langle f \left| \sum_{j=1}^n e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{R}_j} \right| i \right\rangle \right|^2 \delta(E_i - E_f + E) \\ &\doteq \sum_{i,f} \frac{4\gamma^2 k_f}{a_0^2 q^4 k_i} |\langle f | \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{R} | i \rangle|^2 \delta(E_i - E_f + E), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

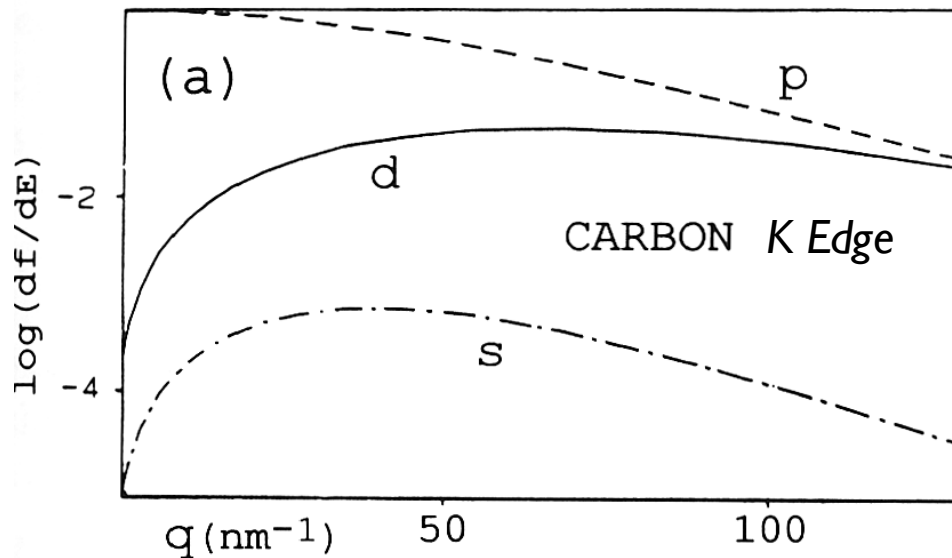
Absorb a virtual photon

The equivalent polarization vector  $\mathbf{e}_q = \mathbf{q}/q$  is determined by your collection setup

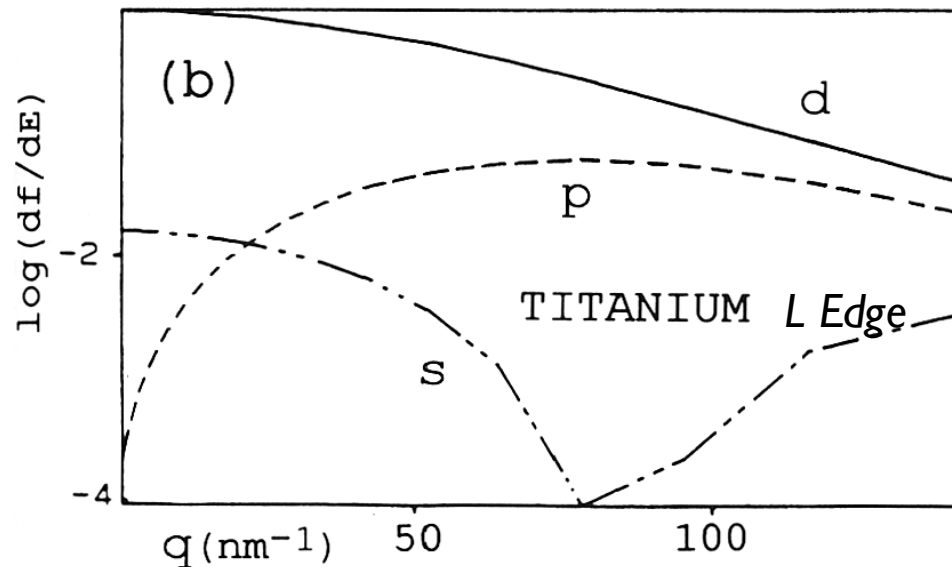


# Dipole Approximation is good for Core Level EELS

(except when the probe < core orbital size)



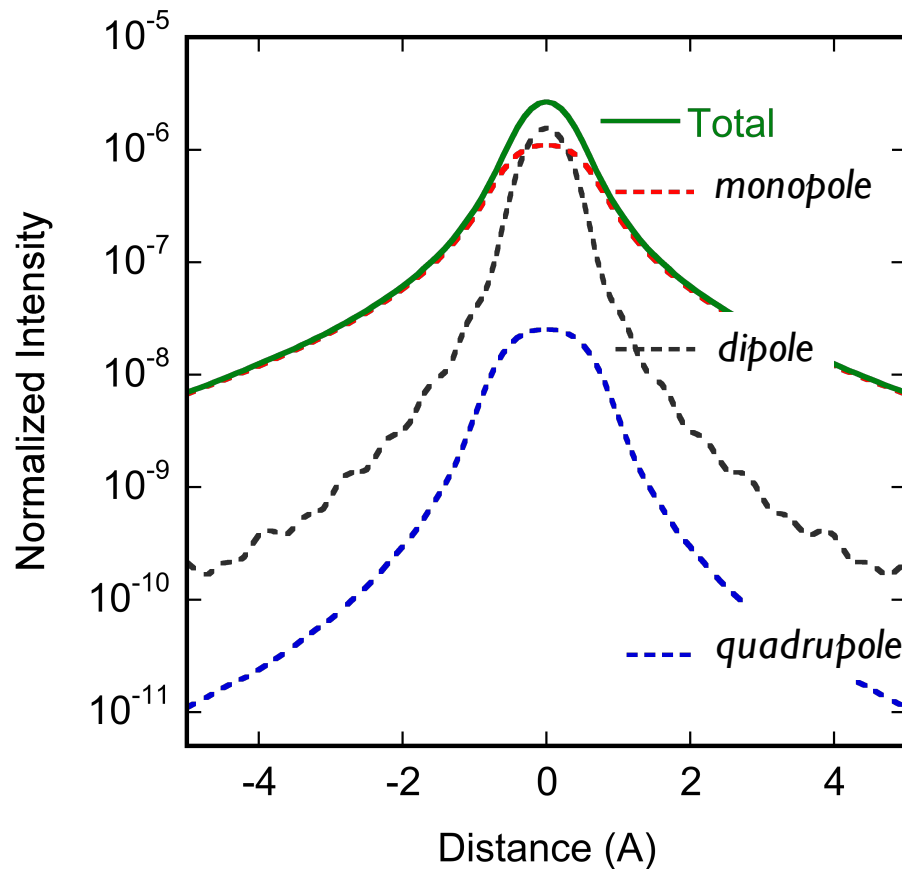
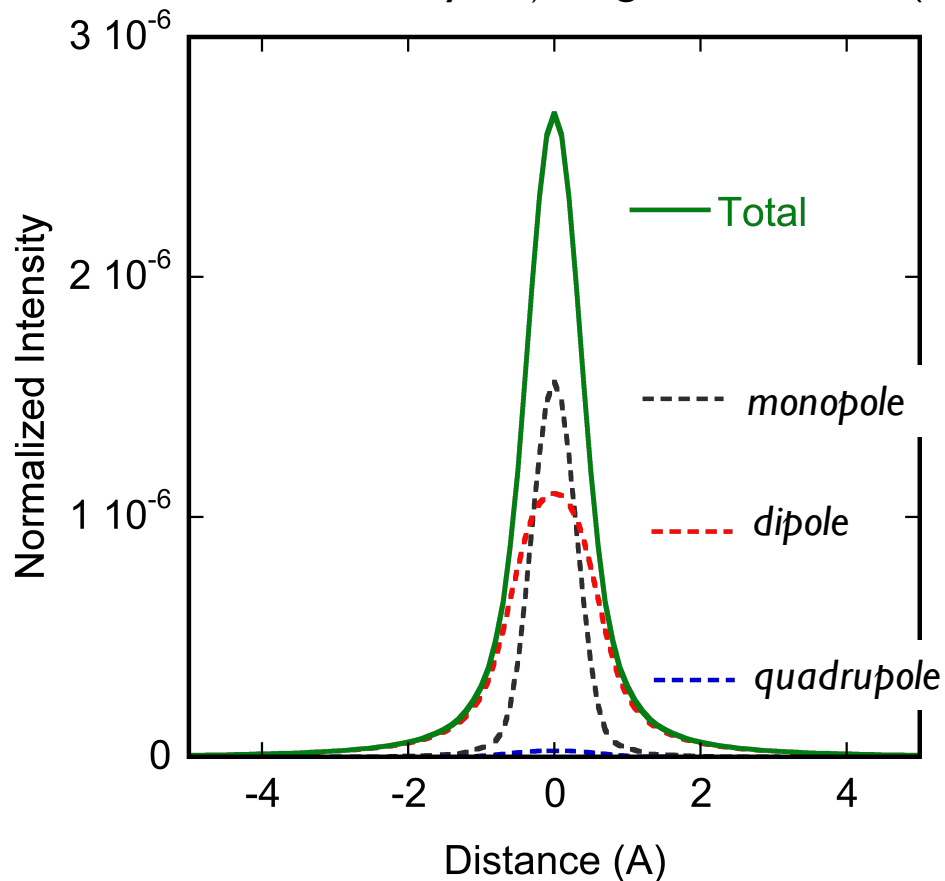
*1s*->*p* dipole  
*1s*->*s* monopole  
*1s*->*d* quadrupole



*2p*->*d* dipole  
*2p*->*p* monopole  
*2p*->*s* dipole

# Dipole vs. Multipole in Aberration-Corrected STEM-EELS

Dy  $N_{4,5}$  Edge Line Profile (off resonance)



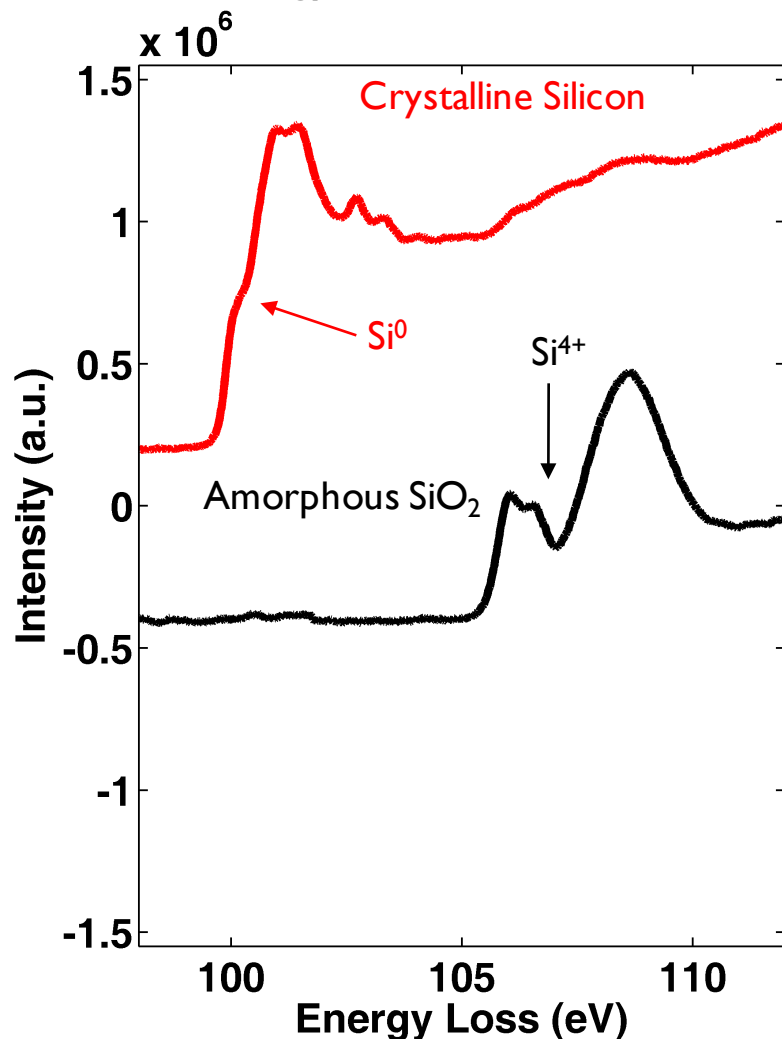
Dipole dominates the broad tails of the STEM-EELS profile: 80% of total intensity

Dipole gives upper bound to spatial resolution (monopole is a bit narrower)

# Crystalline Si vs. SiO<sub>2</sub>

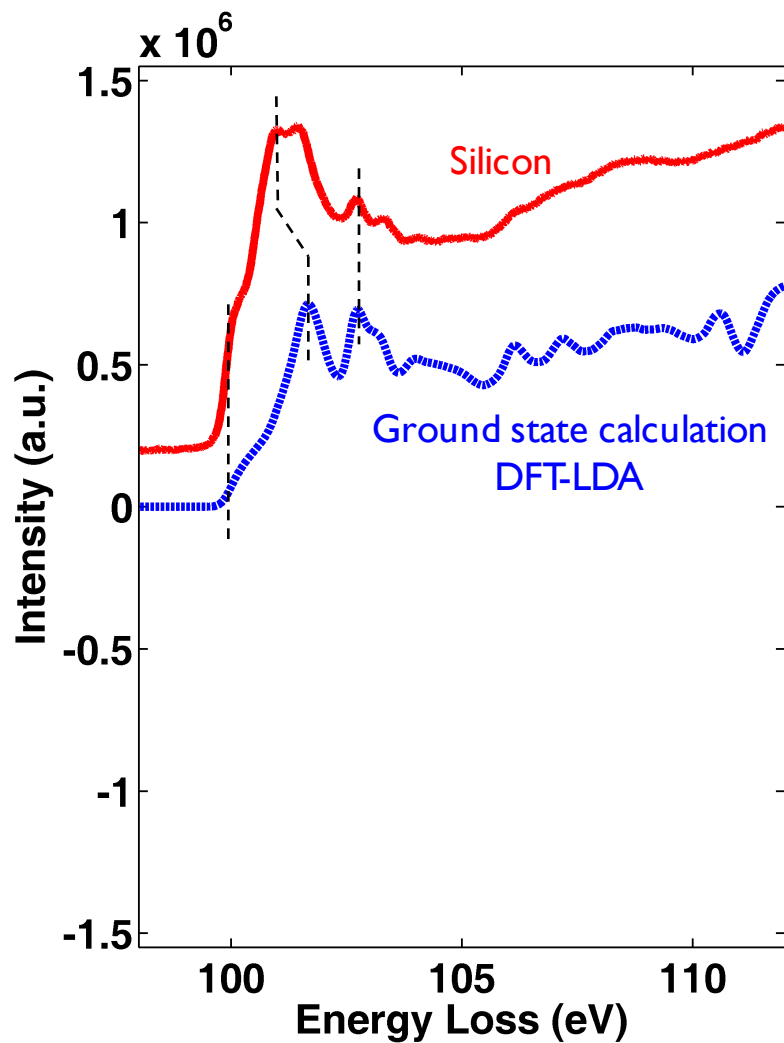
## Monochromated EELS

Energy resolution = 100 mV



- General rule: valence  $\uparrow$
- edge onset  $\uparrow$
- Edge onset shift however does not always track the magnitude of the core level shift (e.g. latter 3-d TM).
- Slightly more complicated for insulators due to the presence of excitonic features

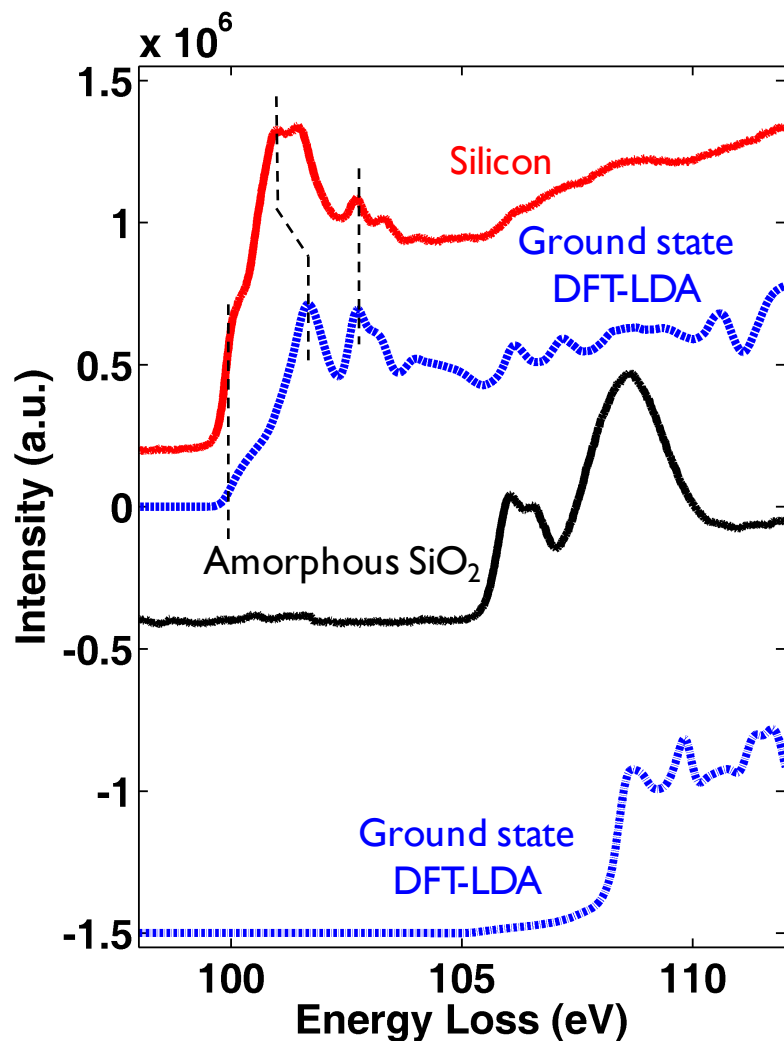
# Crystalline Si vs. SiO<sub>2</sub>



- Core-hole life time in c-Si is relatively short. The spectrum resembles the ground state calculation.

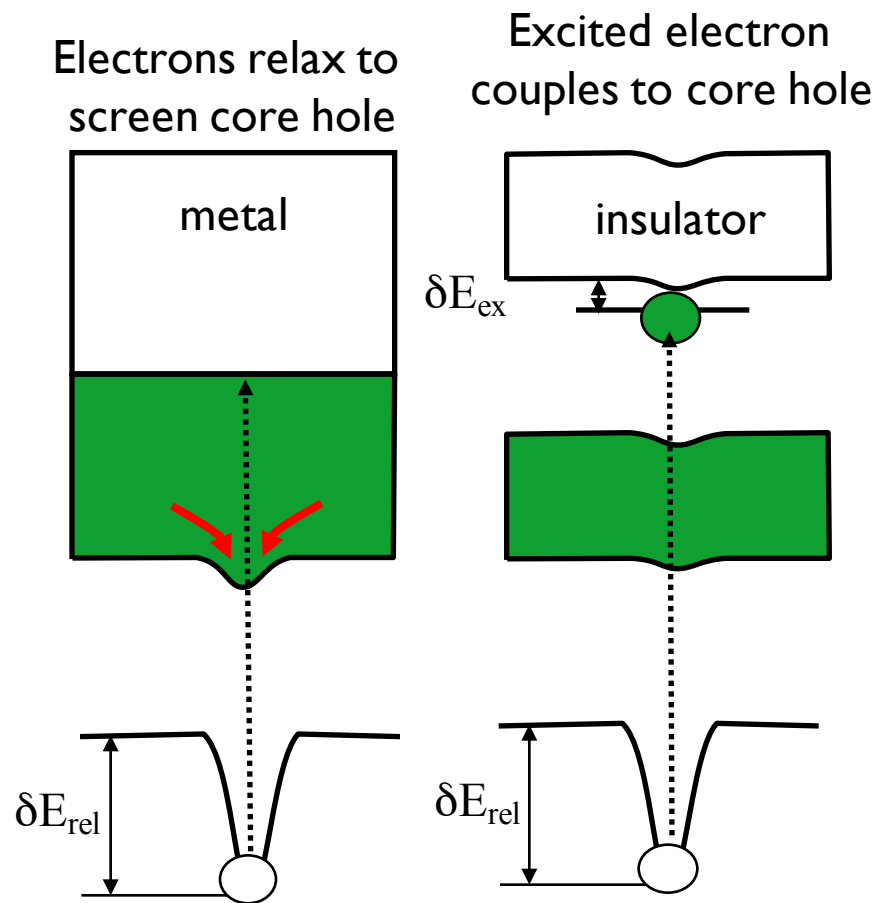
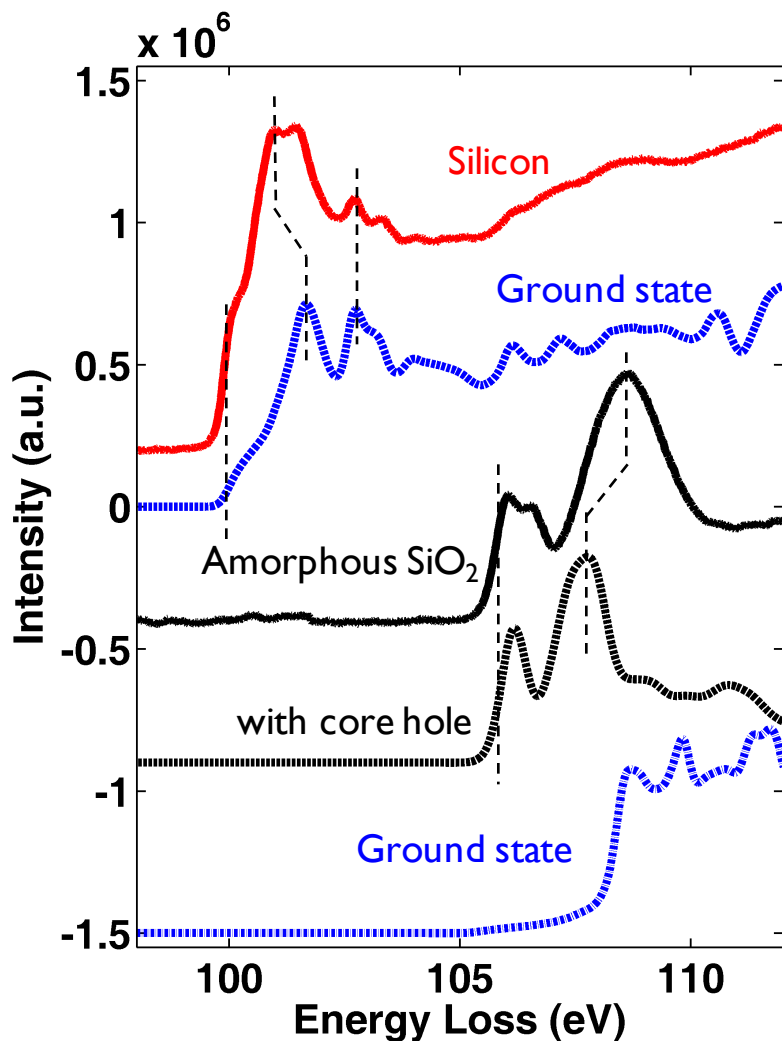


# Crystalline Si vs. SiO<sub>2</sub>



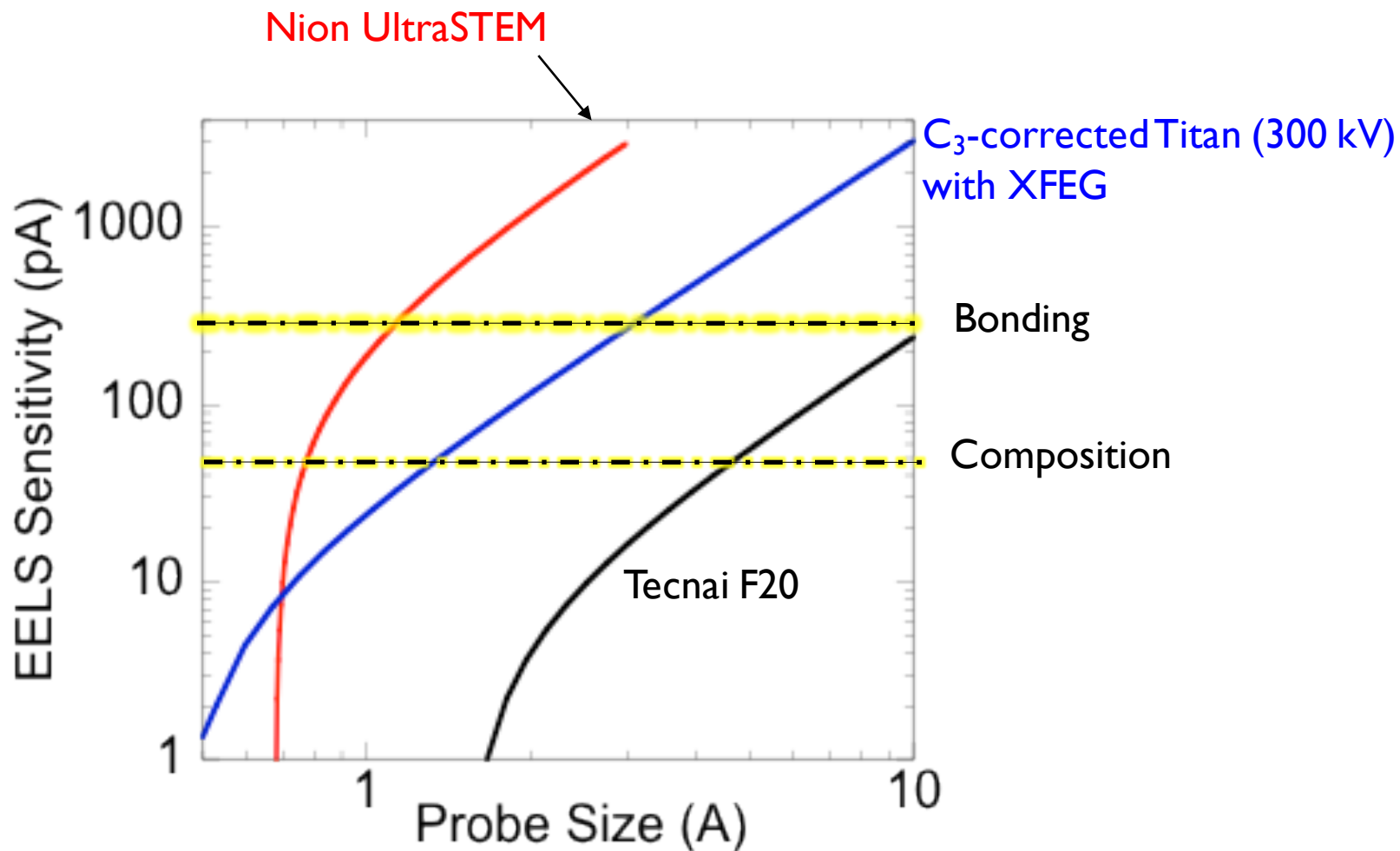
- Strong core-hole effects on the silicon-L Edge in SiO<sub>2</sub>  
(it does not reflect the ground state)

# Crystalline Si vs. SiO<sub>2</sub>



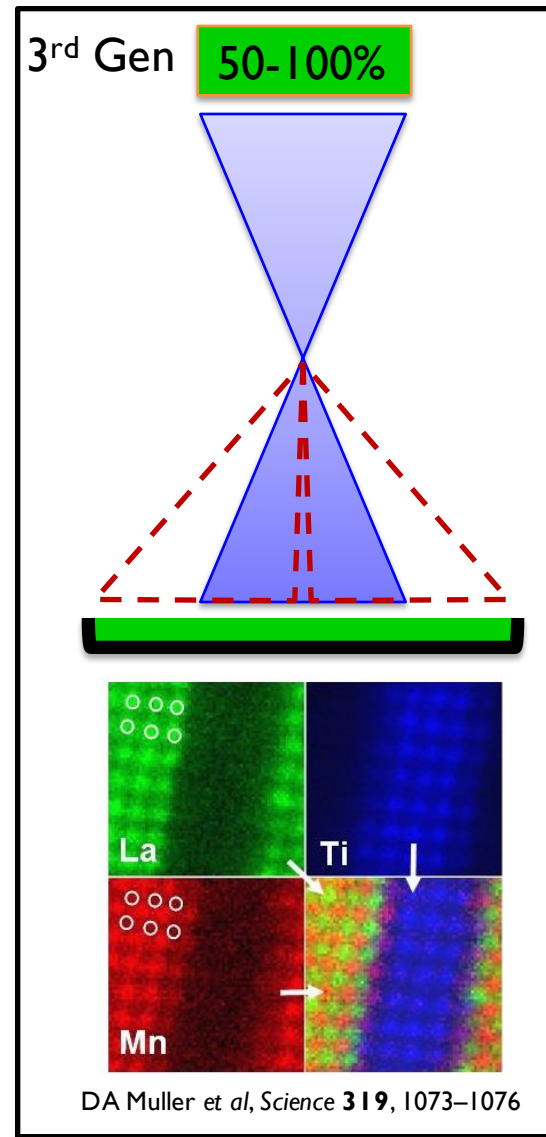
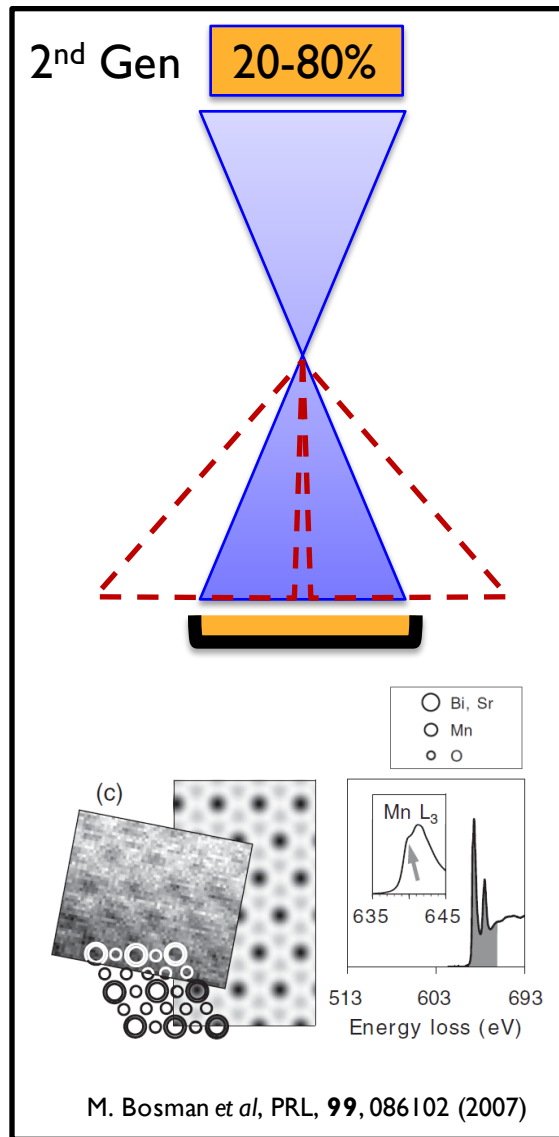
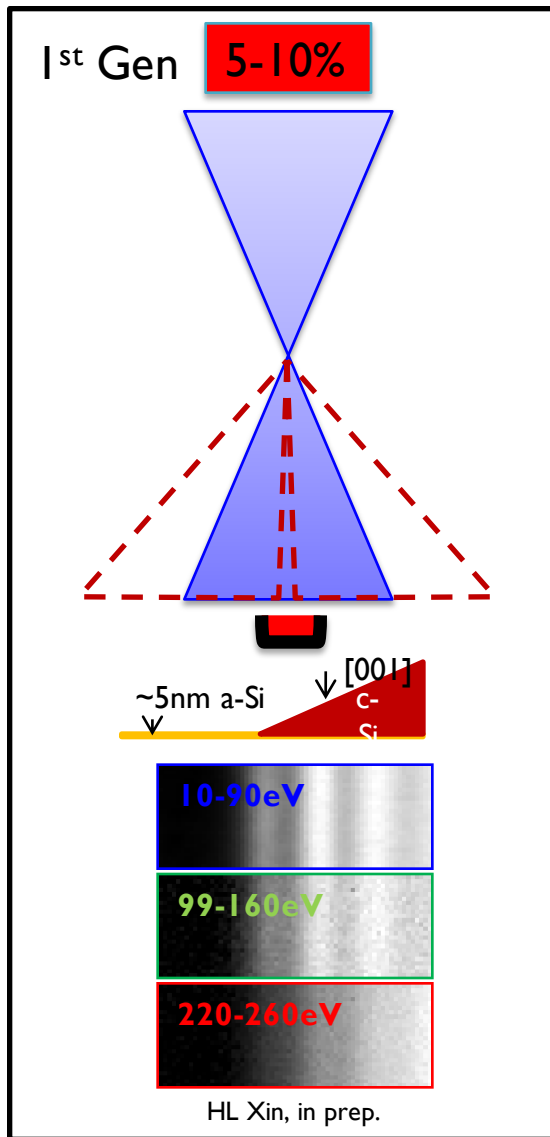
# Tradeoff: Probe Size for Beam Current

$$I_{\text{coll}} = \beta \times (\text{Probe Area}) \times (\text{Probe Solid Angle}) \times (\text{Collection Efficiency})$$



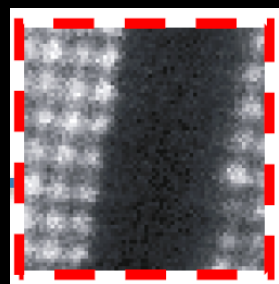
# EELS Collection Efficiency

Improved Dose efficiency, improved interpretability

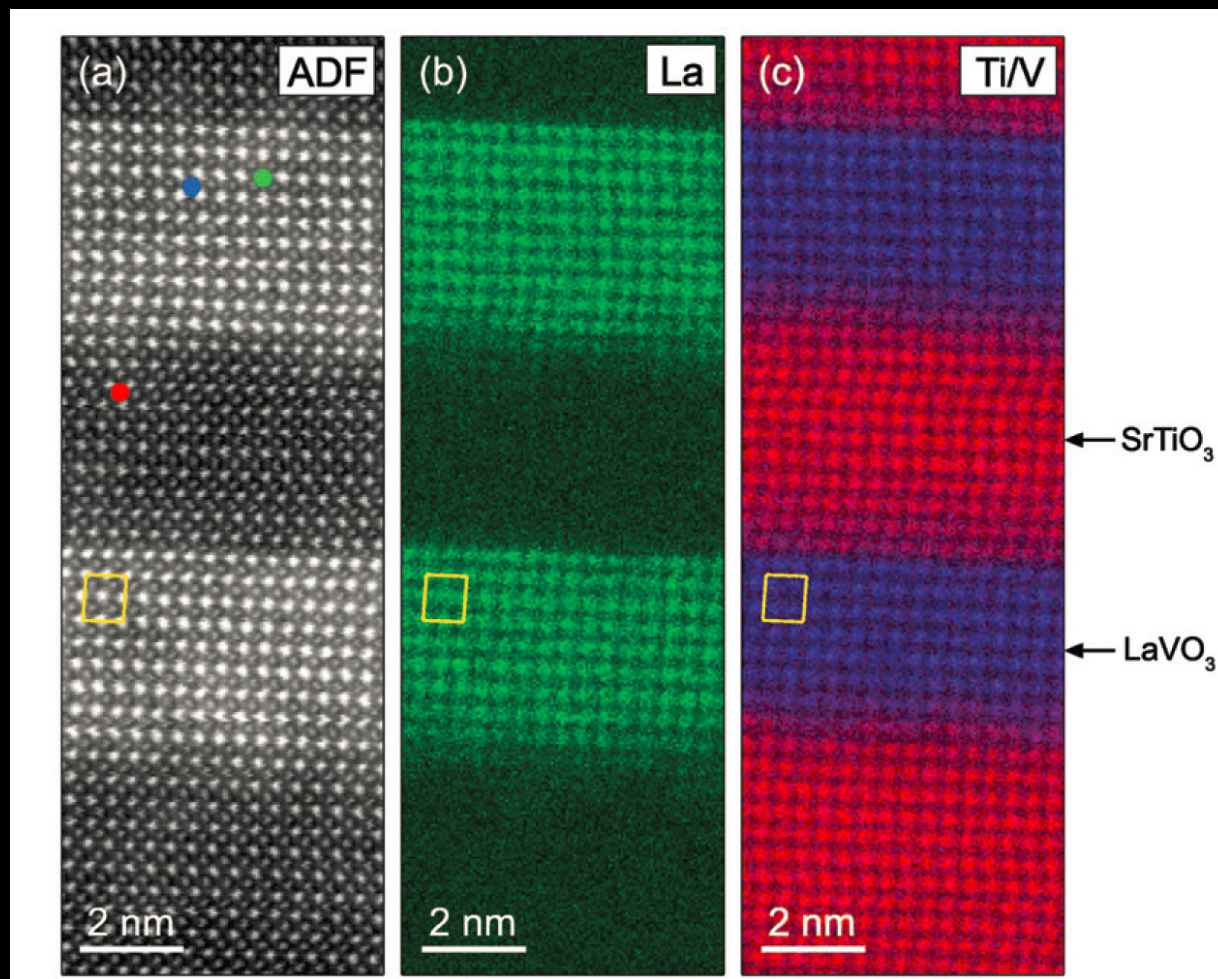


# Atomic Resolution Spectroscopic Imaging of STO/LVO Multilayer

64x64



Science, 2008



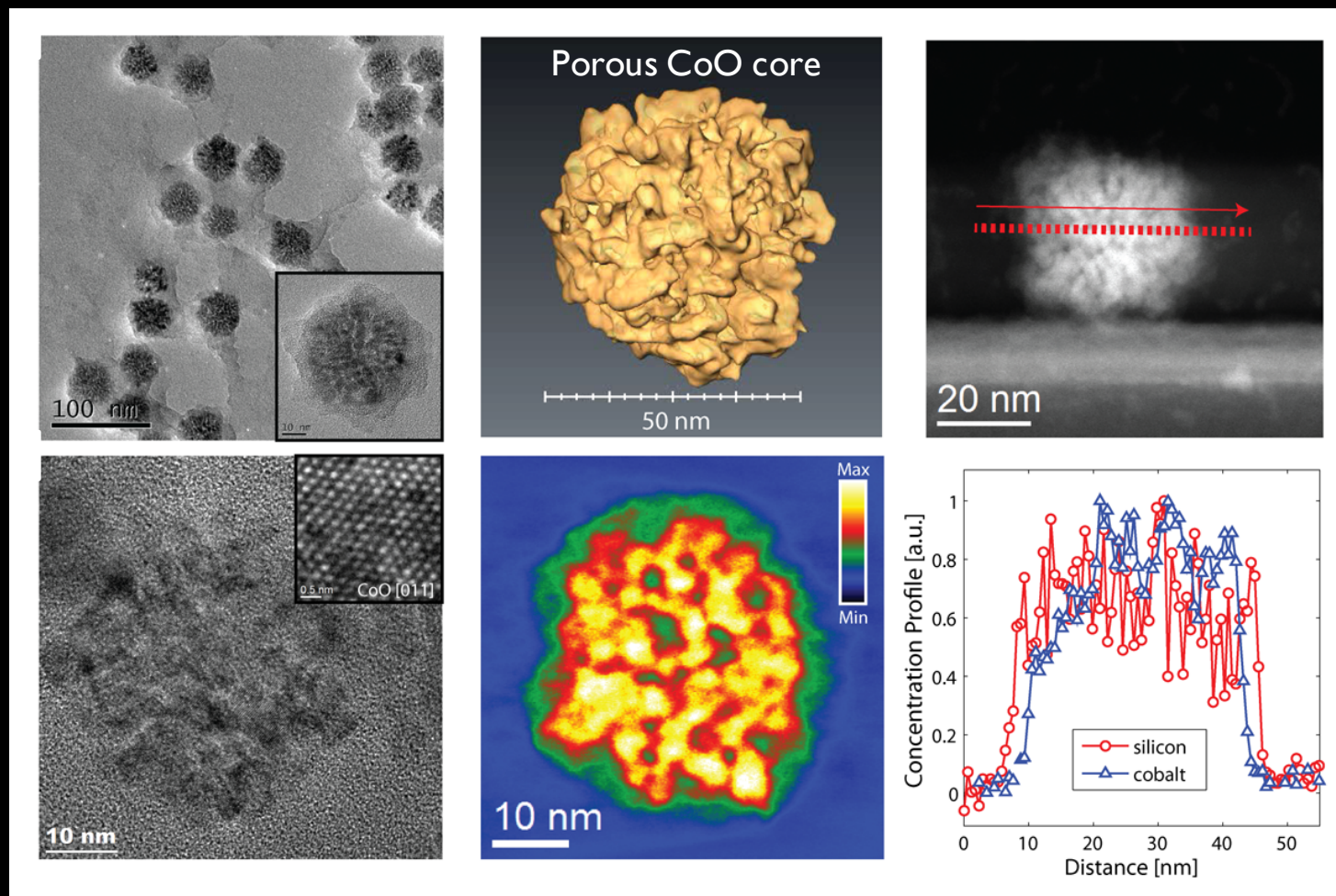
- La in green, Ti in red, and V in blue.

Kourkoutis, **Xin**, et al *Phil. Mag.*, **90**, 4731 (2010)

Huolin Xin 2015



# Co/Silica Porous Catalyst for Carbon Monoxide (CO) Hydrogenation

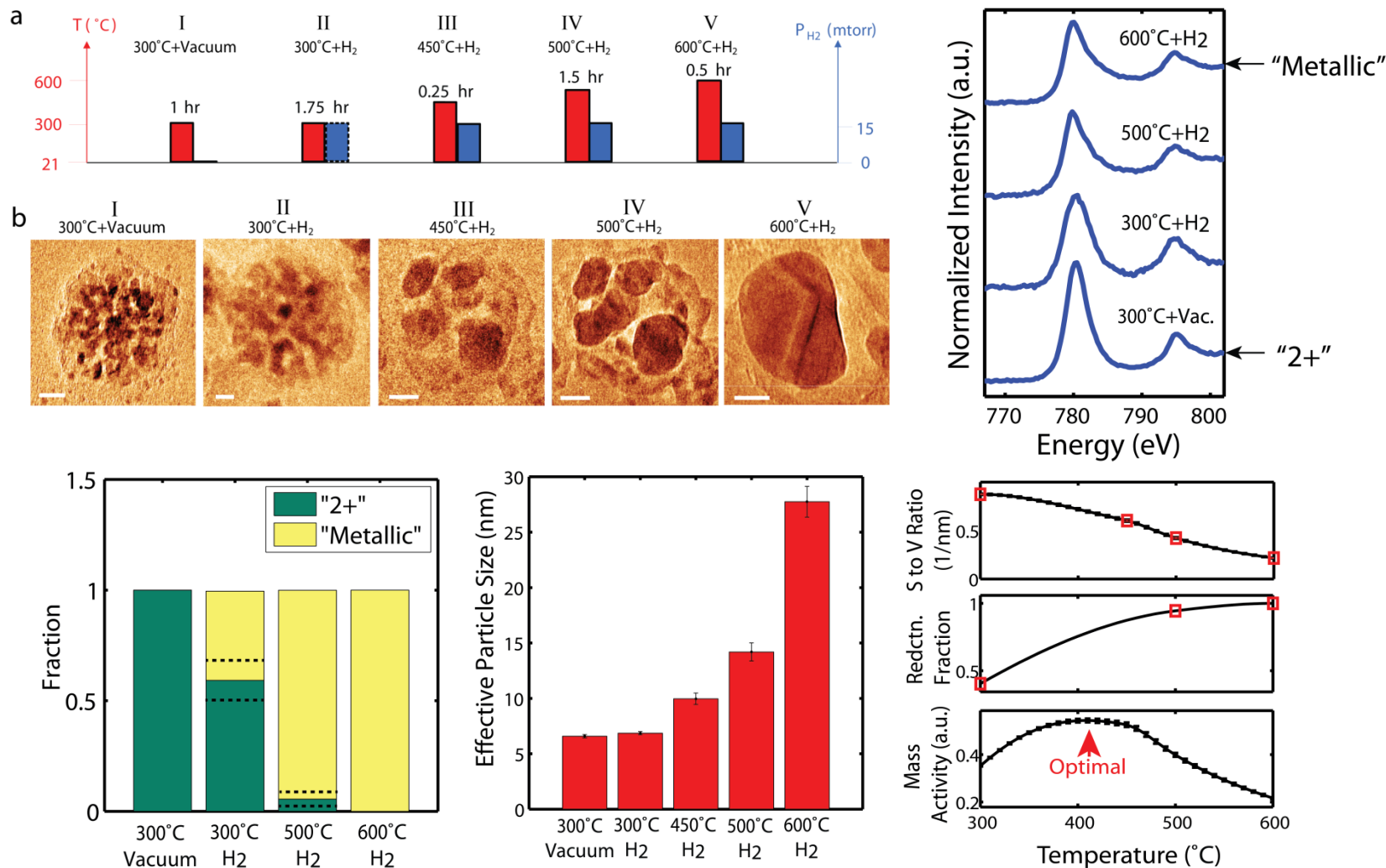


HL Xin et al, ACS Nano, 6, 4241, (2012)

- Need to reduce Co oxide to metallic cobalt. What's the optimal reduction temperature?

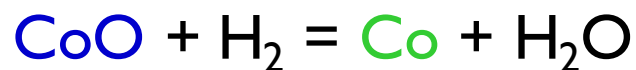
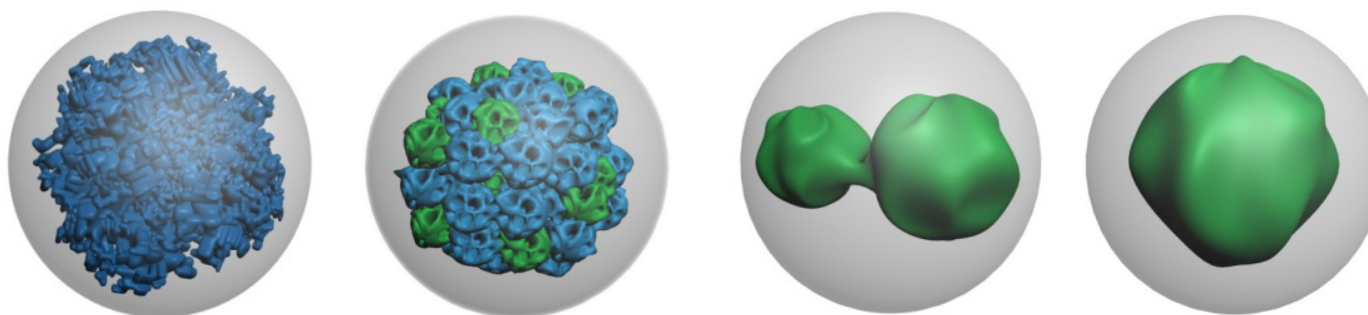
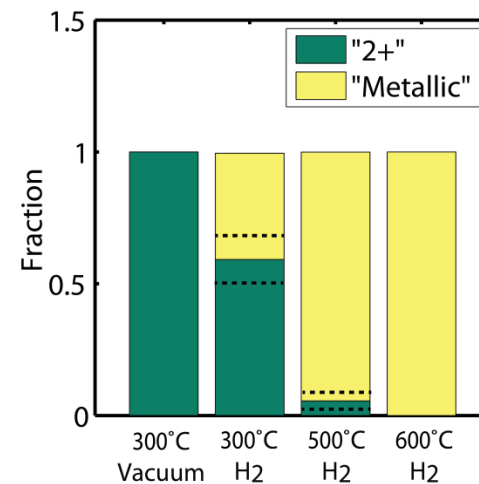
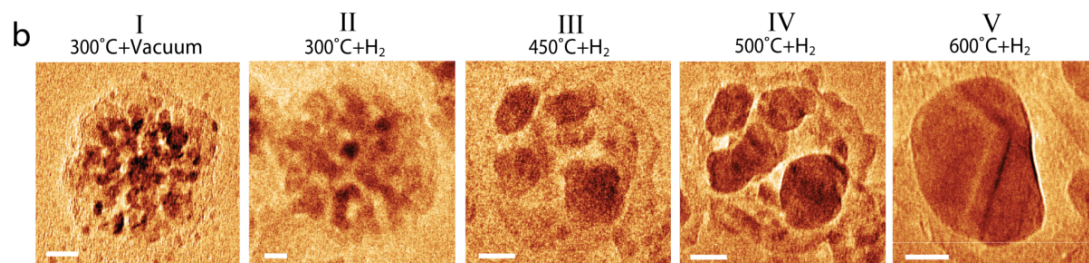
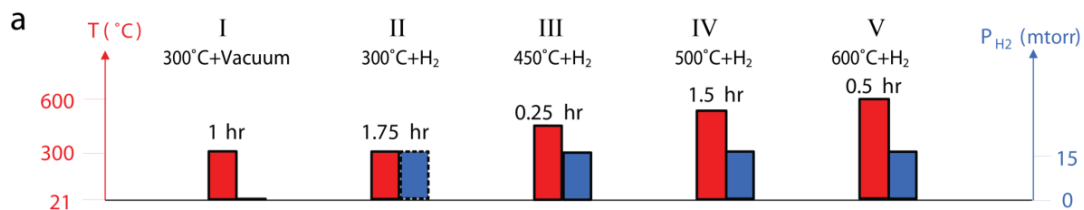


# Connecting In situ Imaging with Electronic Structures of the Materials

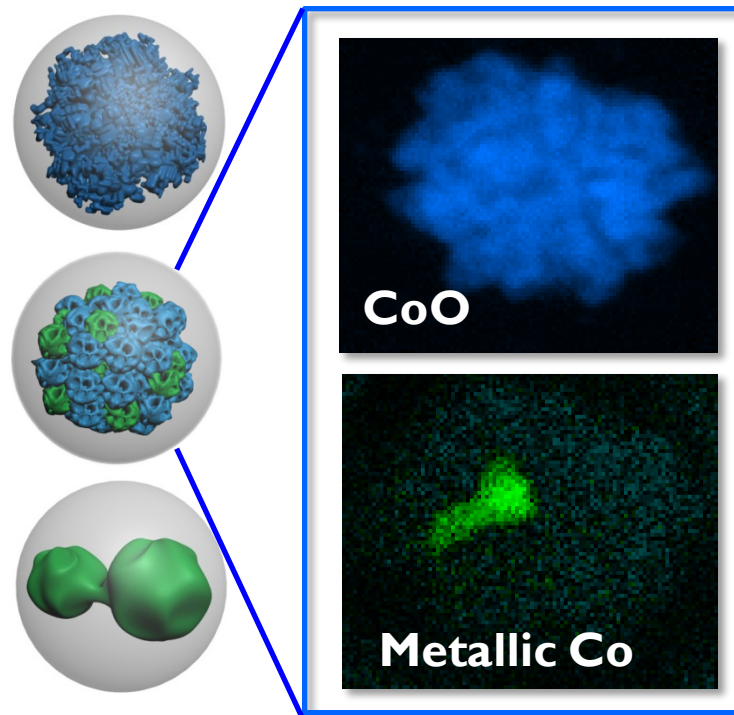
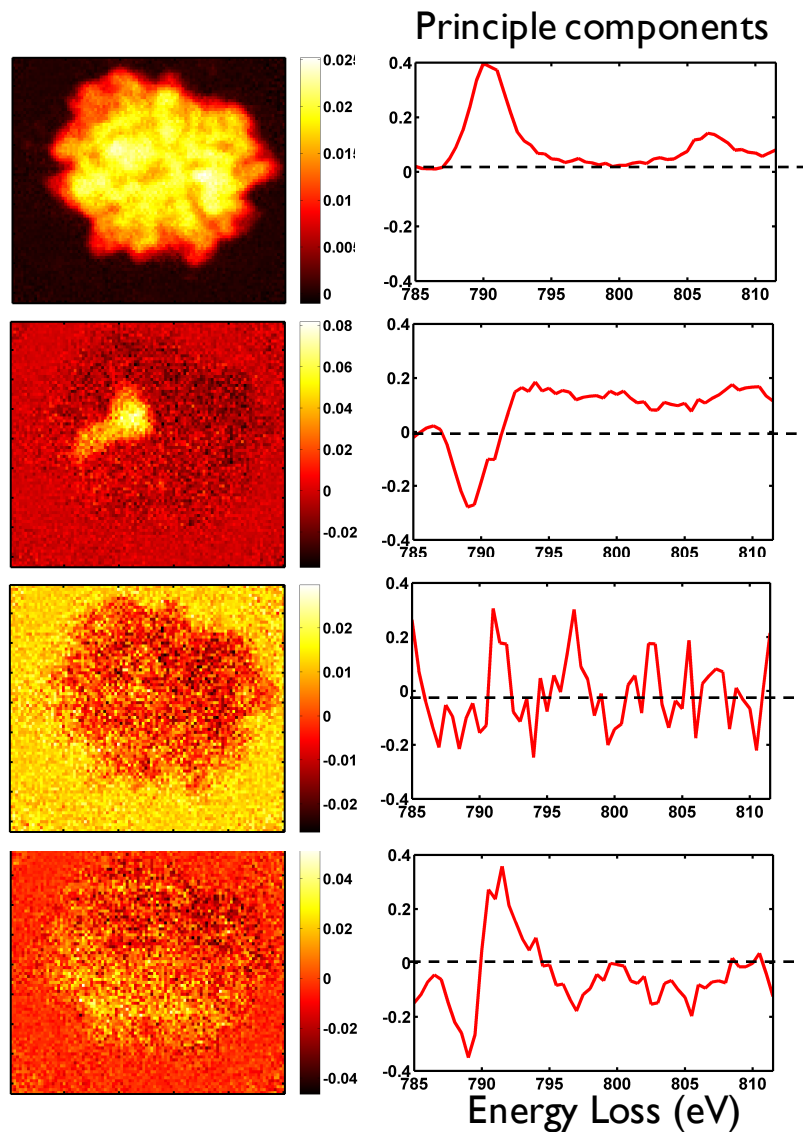


- Building a correlation between structural coarsening and valence state changes allow us to understand the underlying mechanisms in the catalyst optimization used in the industry

# Reaction Pathway

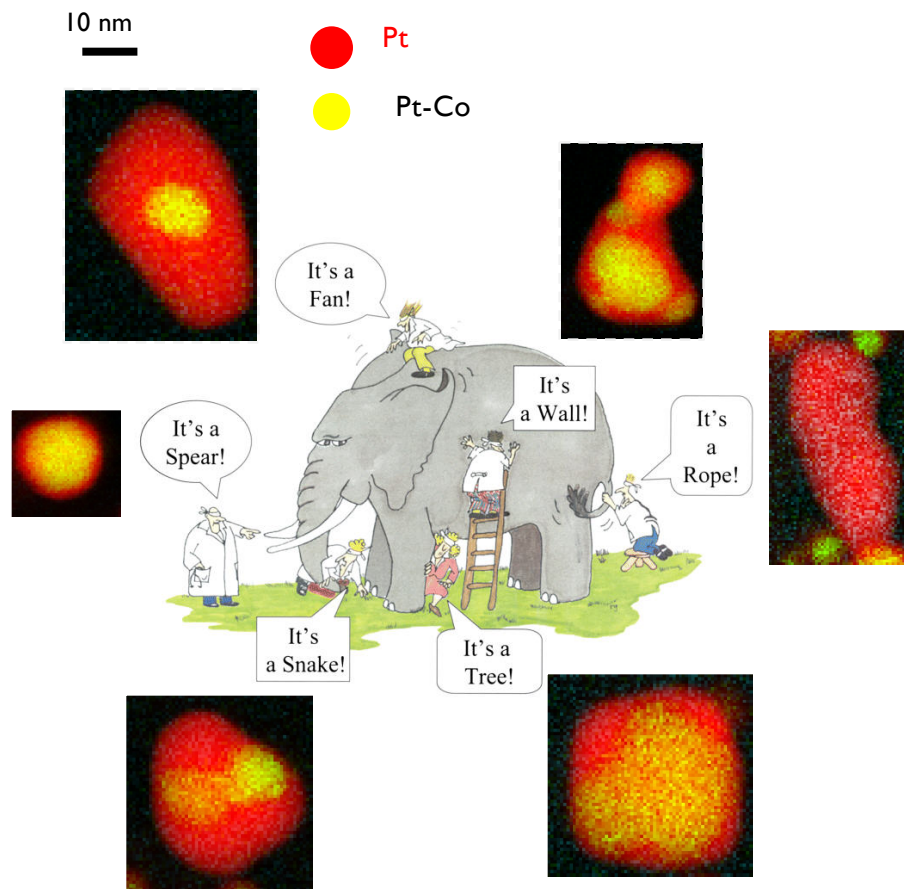


# Principle Component Analysis of Partially Reduced CoO Porous Networks



HL Xin et al, ACS Nano, 6, 4241, (2012)

# Critical Thinking



and many more.....

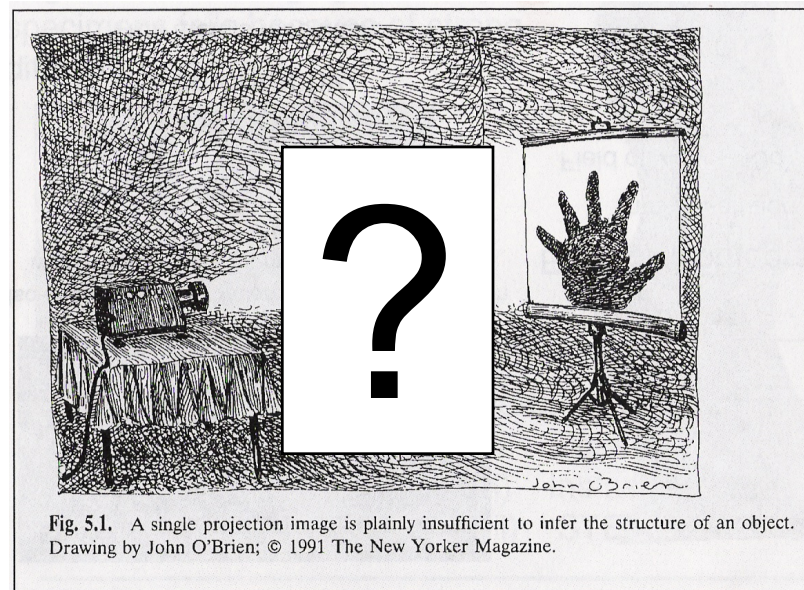
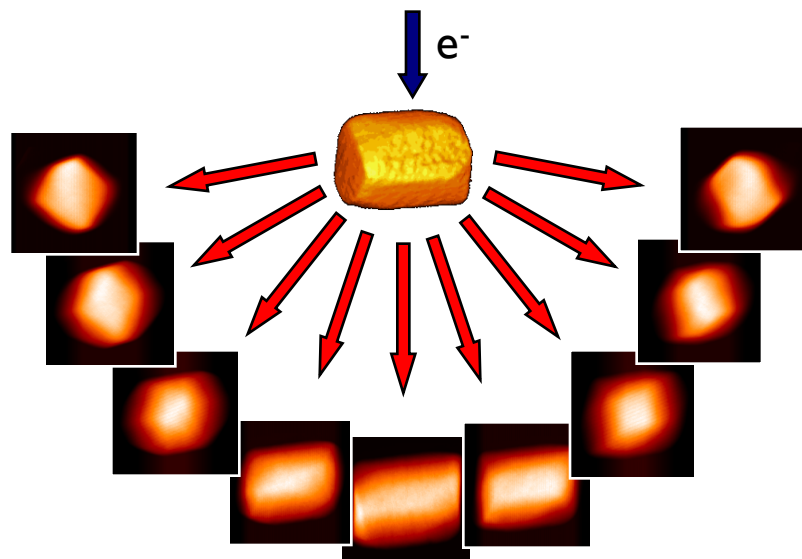


Fig. 5.1. A single projection image is plainly insufficient to infer the structure of an object. Drawing by John O'Brien; © 1991 The New Yorker Magazine.



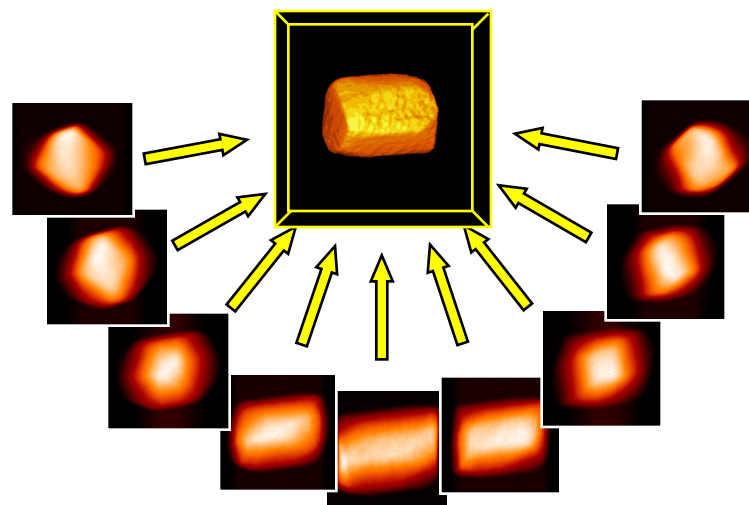
# Tomography Experiment



**Acquisition**

## Slab Geometry:

- One image every 1-2° from ±70°
- 70 - 140 images



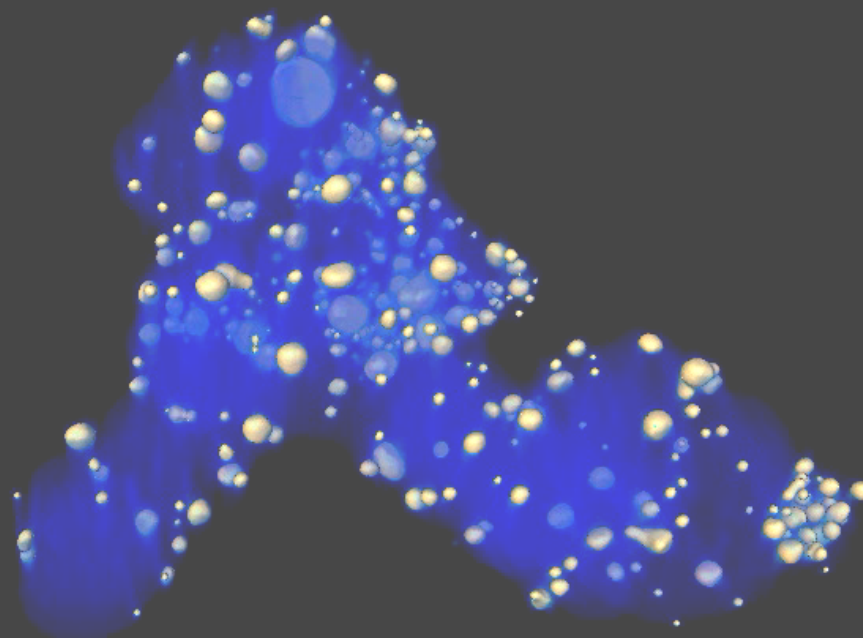
**Reconstruction**

## Requirement:

- Image intensities vary monotonically with thickness

(STEM is superior to TEM for tomography because TEM suffers from phase contrast and diffraction contrast which breaks the monotony of the signal )

# 3-D Reconstruction of Pt-Co particles on Support

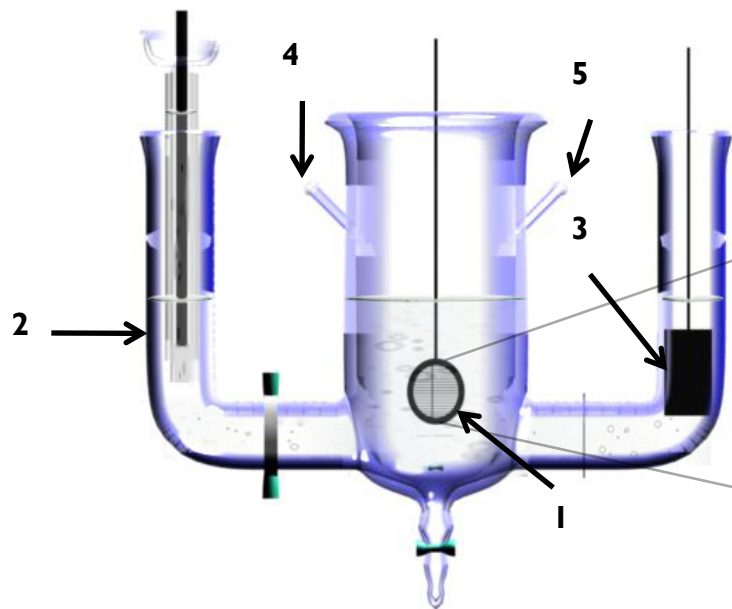


20 nm

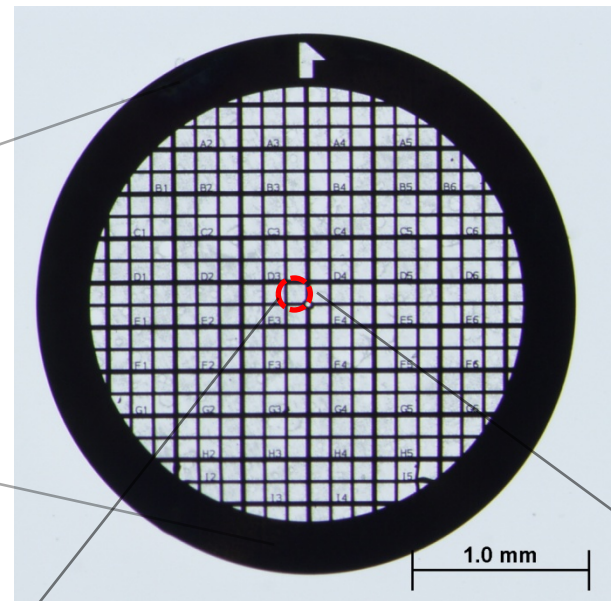




# Ex-Situ: Coarsening During Voltage Cycling

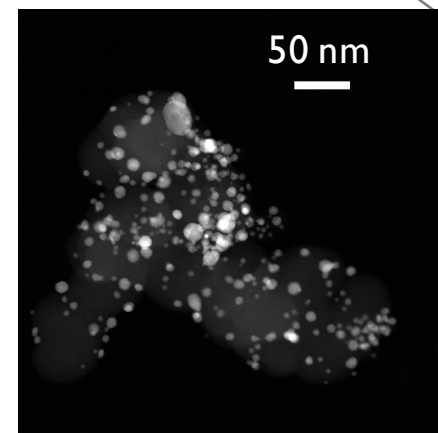
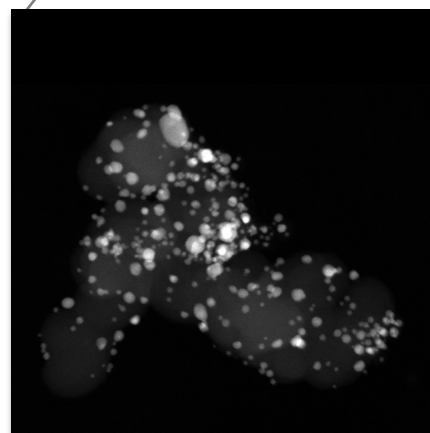


1. Gold index grid (working electrode)
2. Reversible Hydrogen Electrode (reference electrode)
3. Platinum foil (counter electrode)
4. Argon gas inlet
5. Argon gas outlet



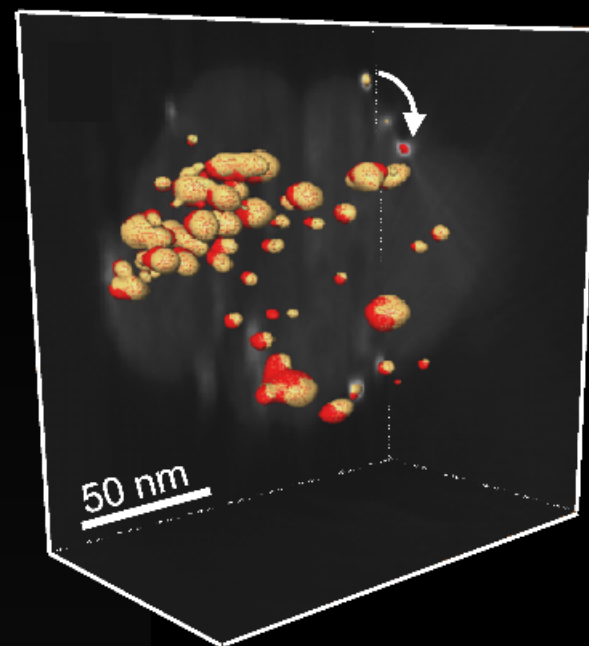
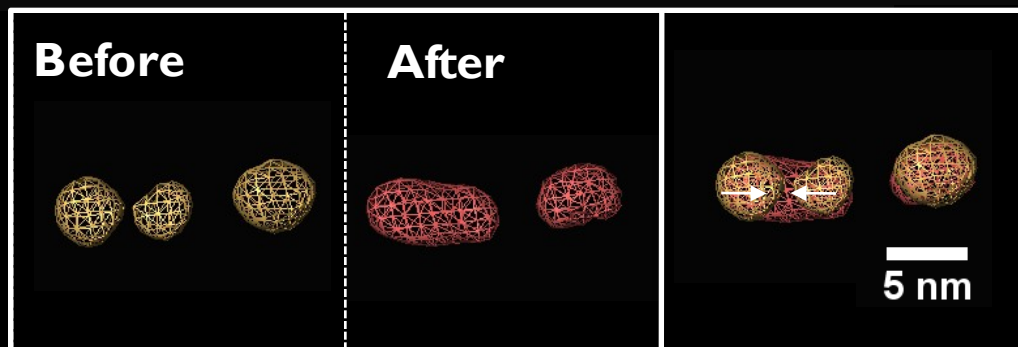
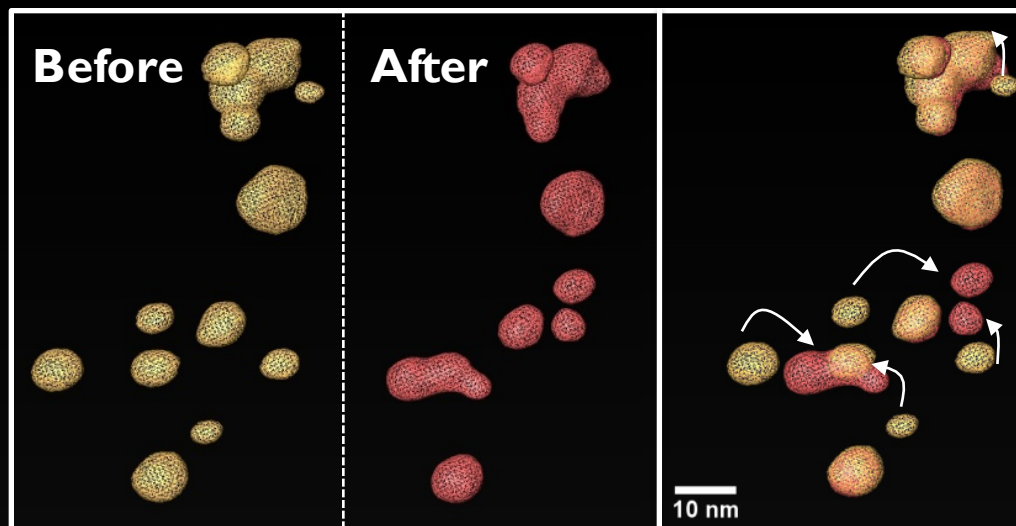
Before

After



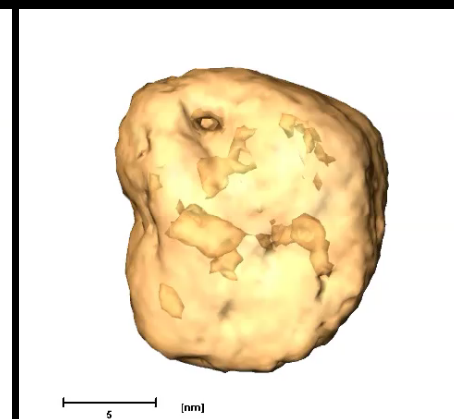
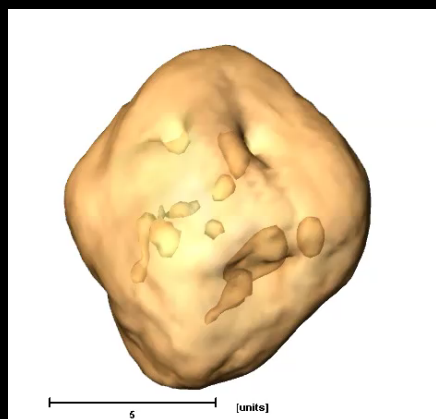
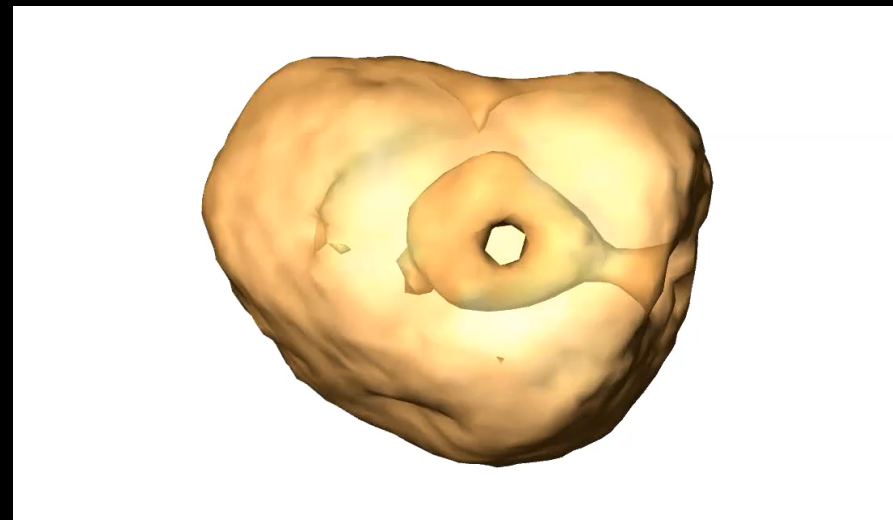
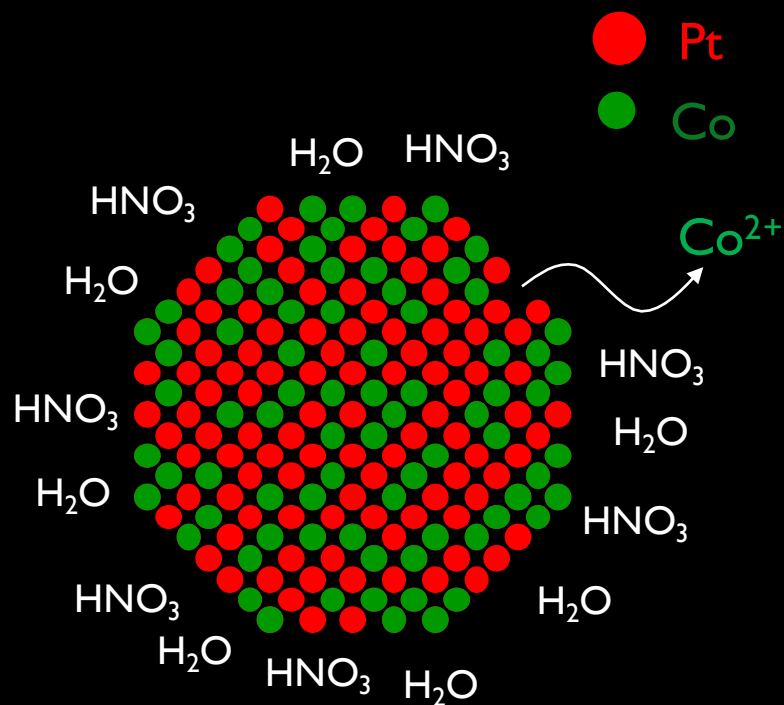
**3-D imaging for the first time the same region before and after electrochemical cycling**

# Observing Coalescence in 3-D



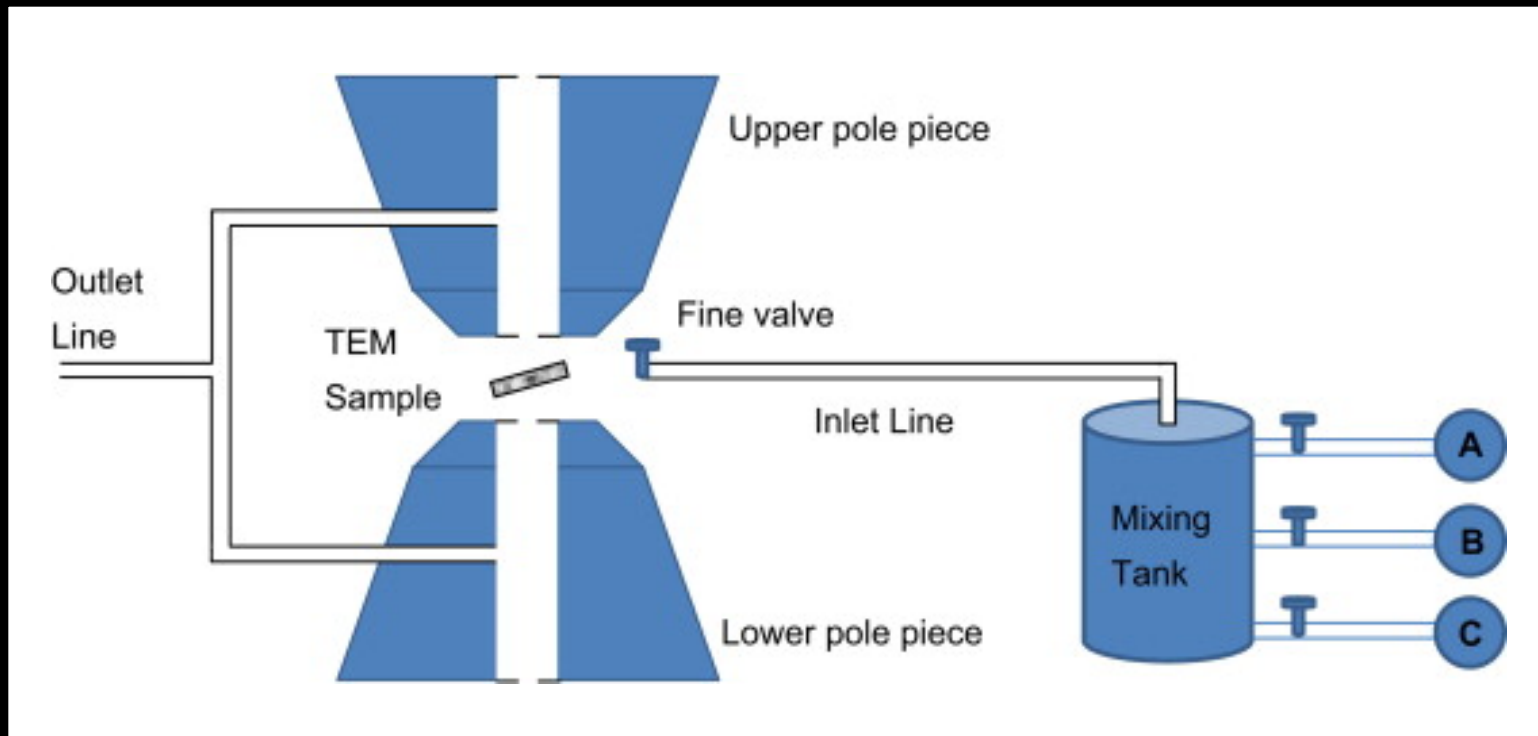
- **Tracking individual particles and how they move on the support to coalesce**

# Chemical Dealloying of Pt-Co Nanoparticles



- Leaching of Co left holes and divots in the remaining Pt

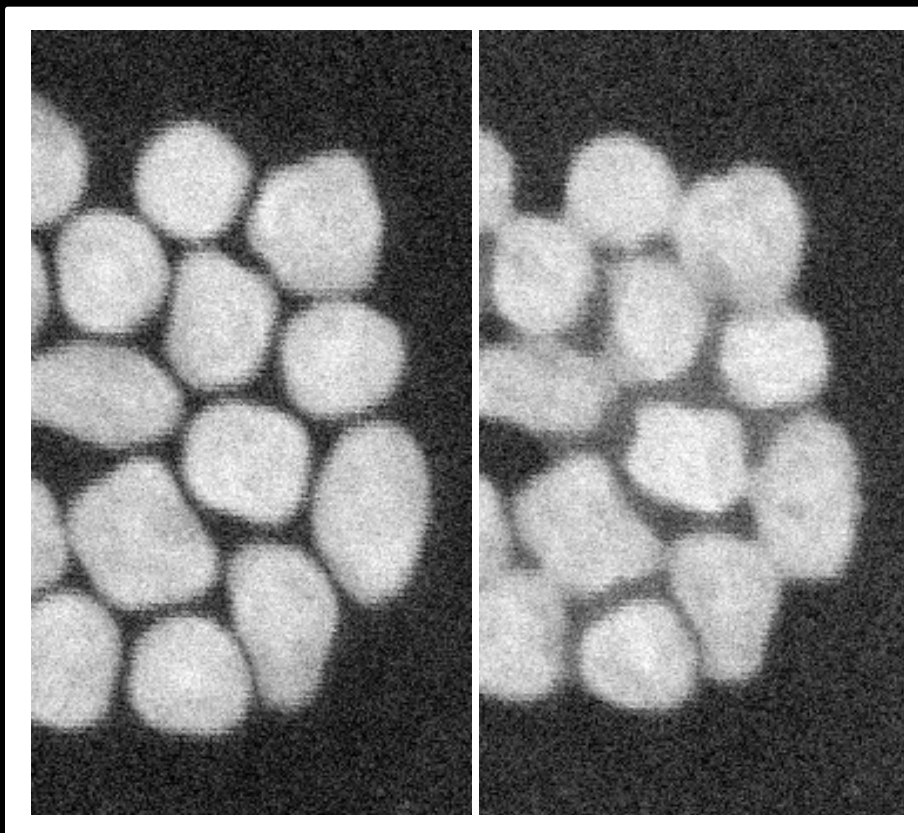
# A Schematics for ETEM



Crozier et al, Ultramicroscopy, 111, 177 (2011)

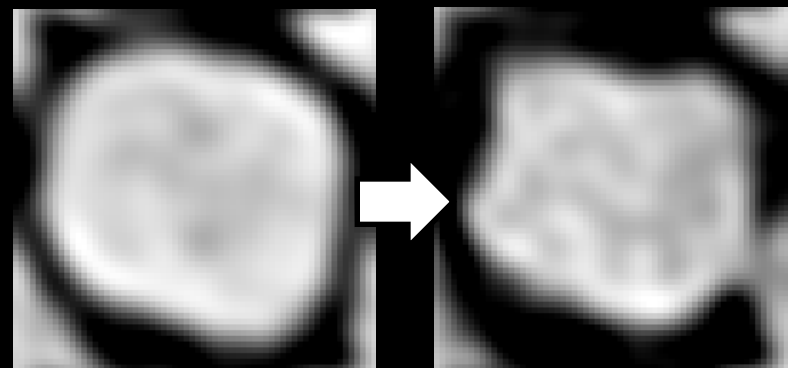
# Oxidation of 12nm PtCo Particles

400°C + 0.14 Torr O<sub>2</sub>



Before

After



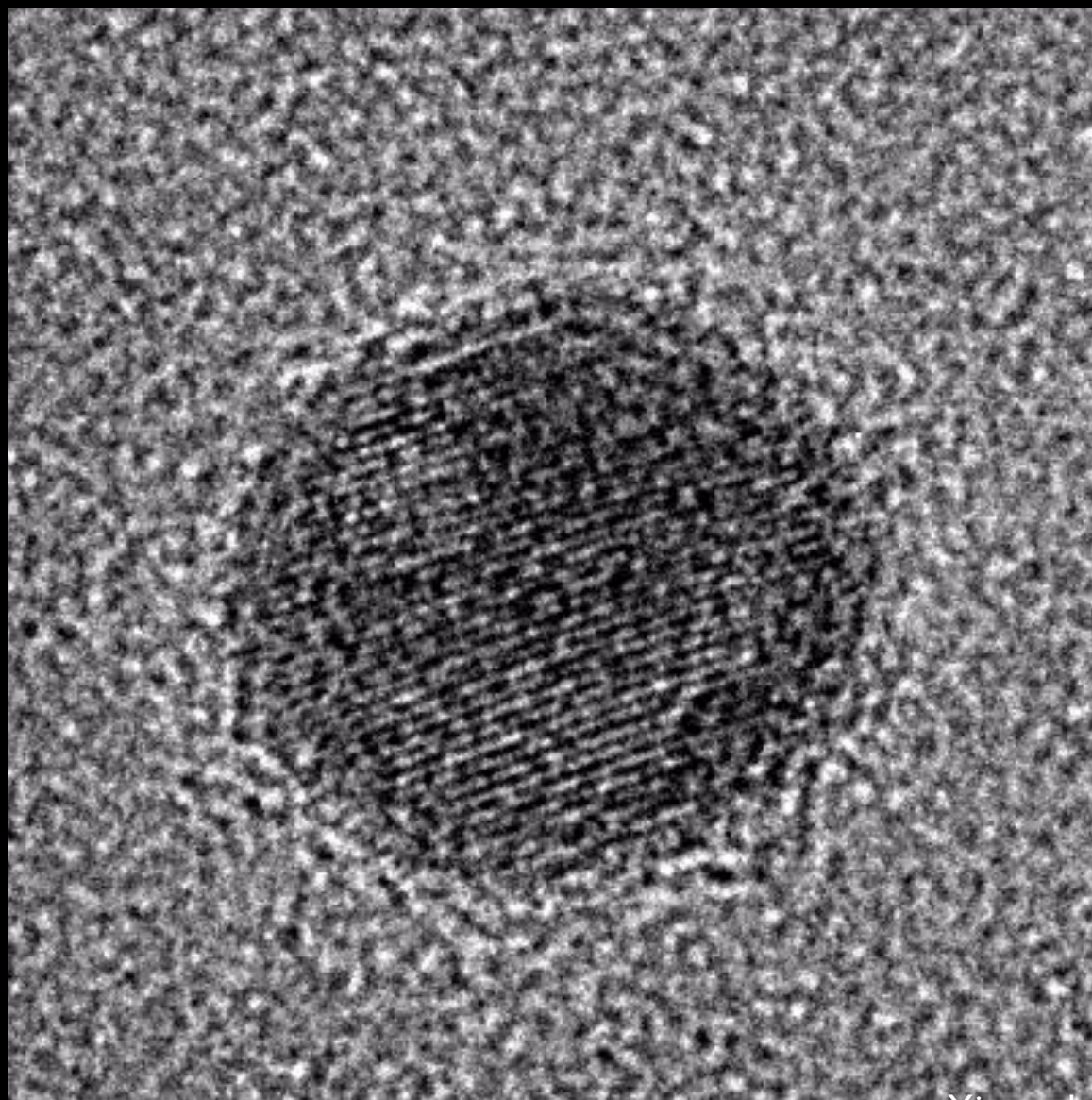
Ex situ Imaging



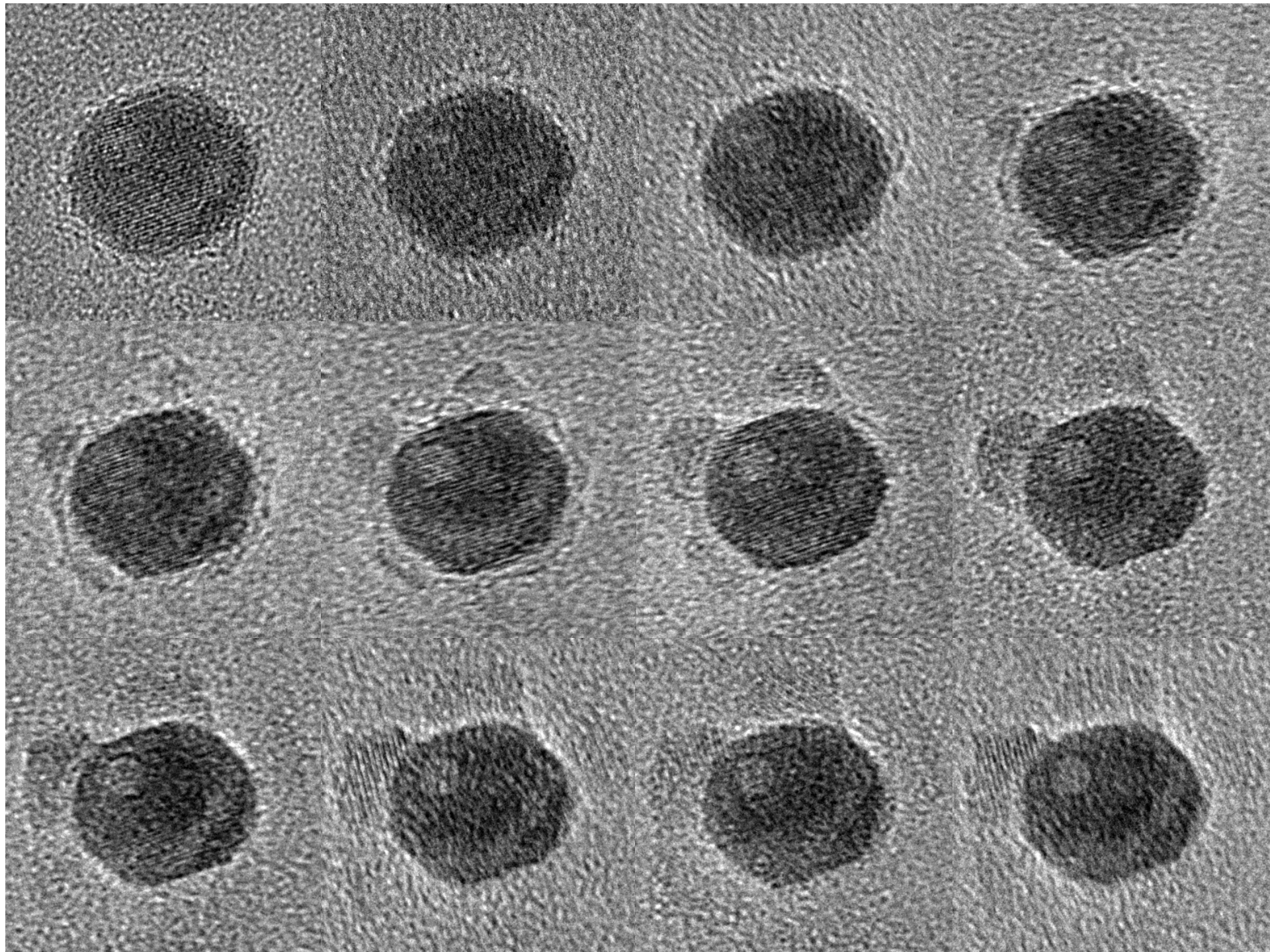
- Co diffuse out causing the Pt core to either shrink or forming holes

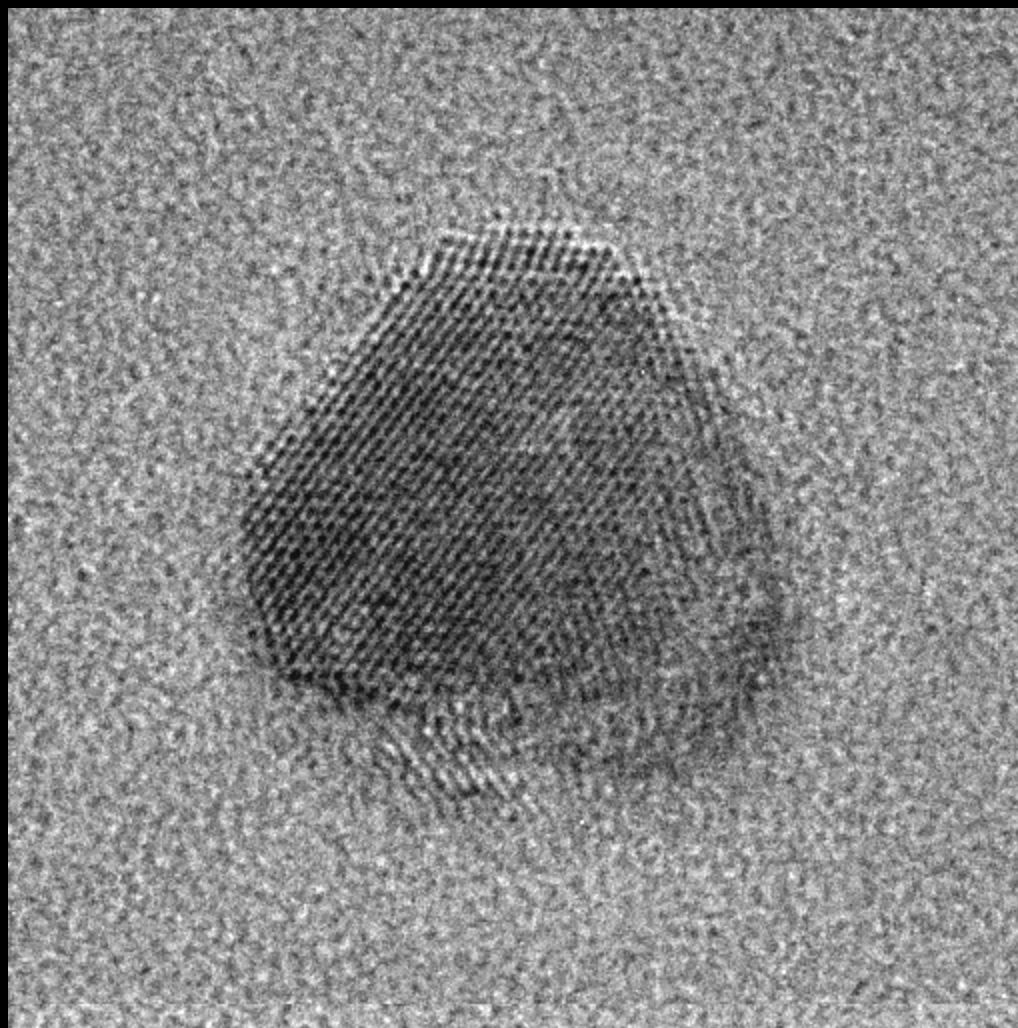


# Atomic Scale Real Time Imaging of Oxidation of Individual Co-Pt Nanocatalysts







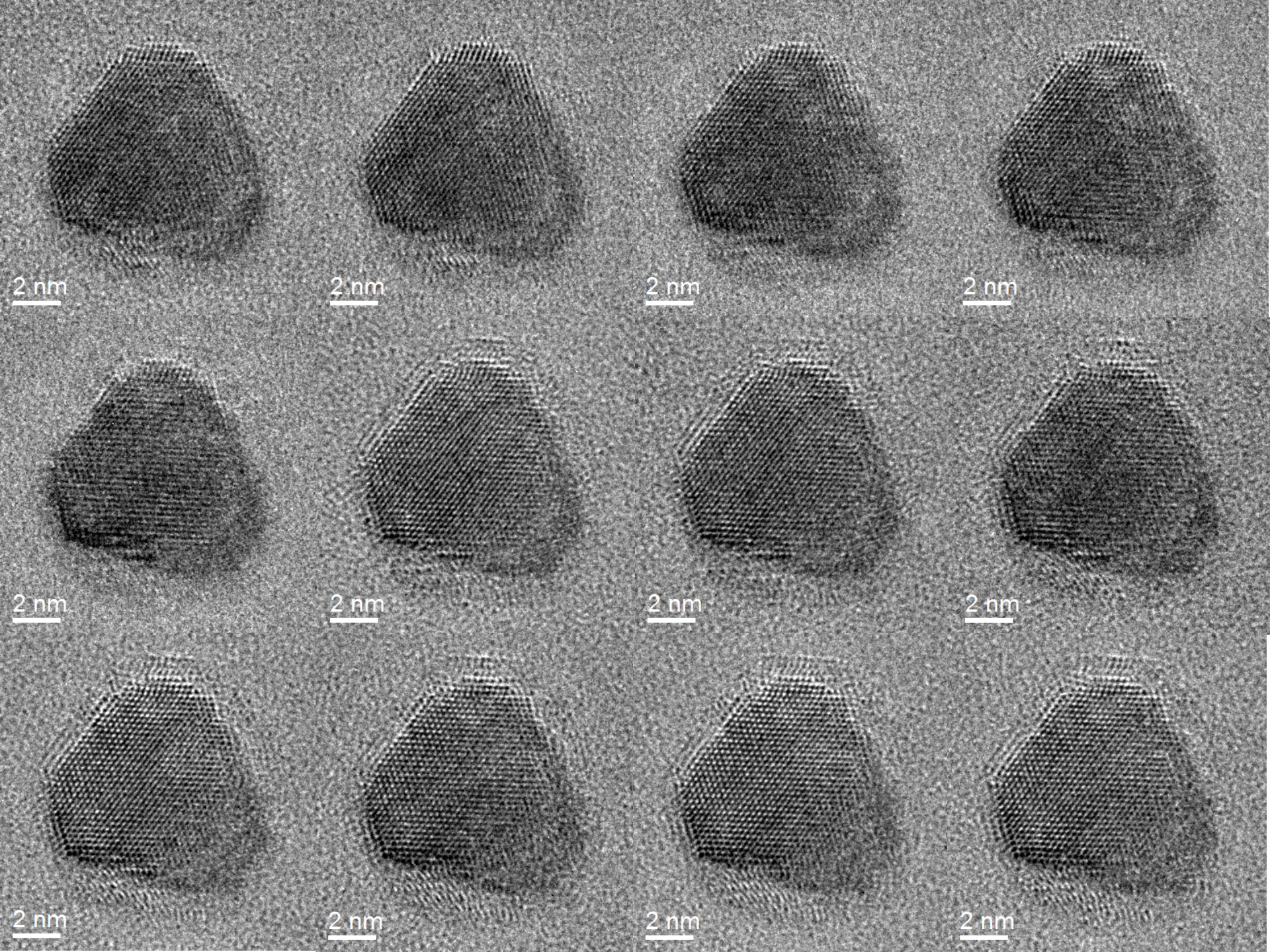


2 nm

~30X

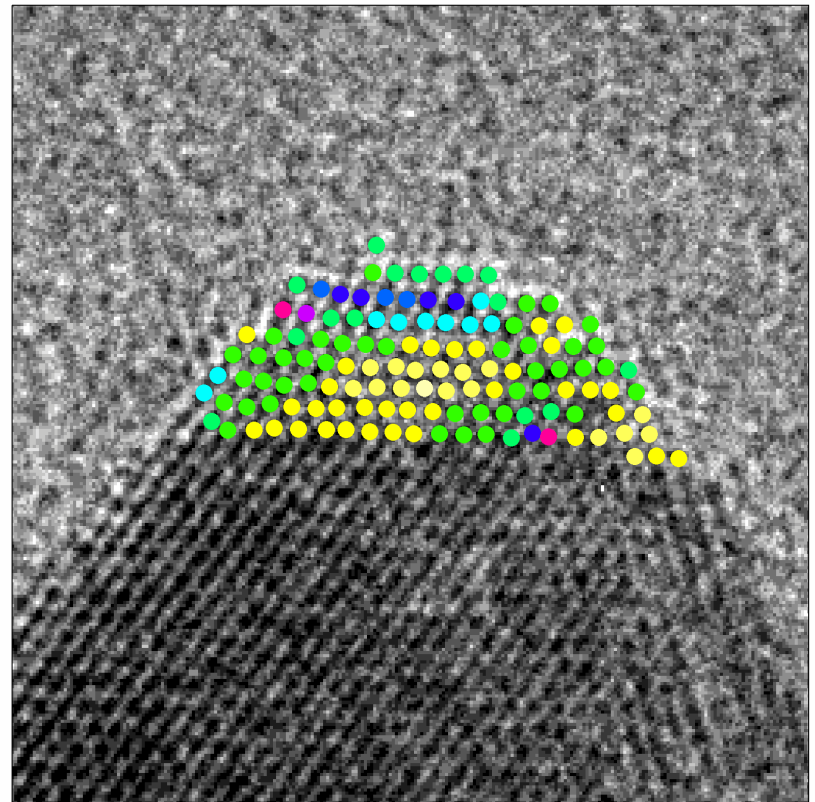
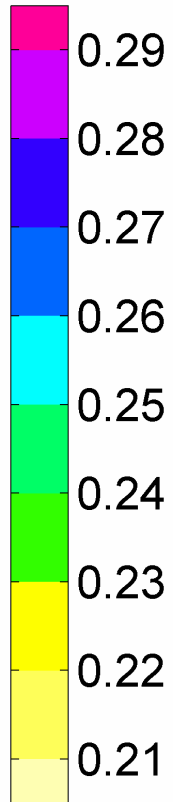
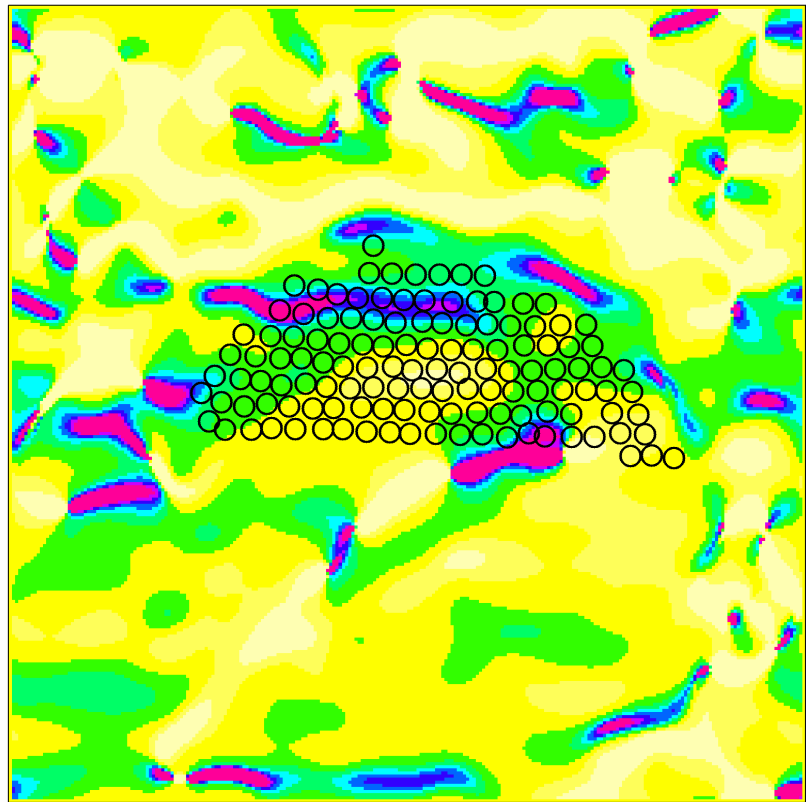
- 250°C in 0.1 mbar O<sub>2</sub>





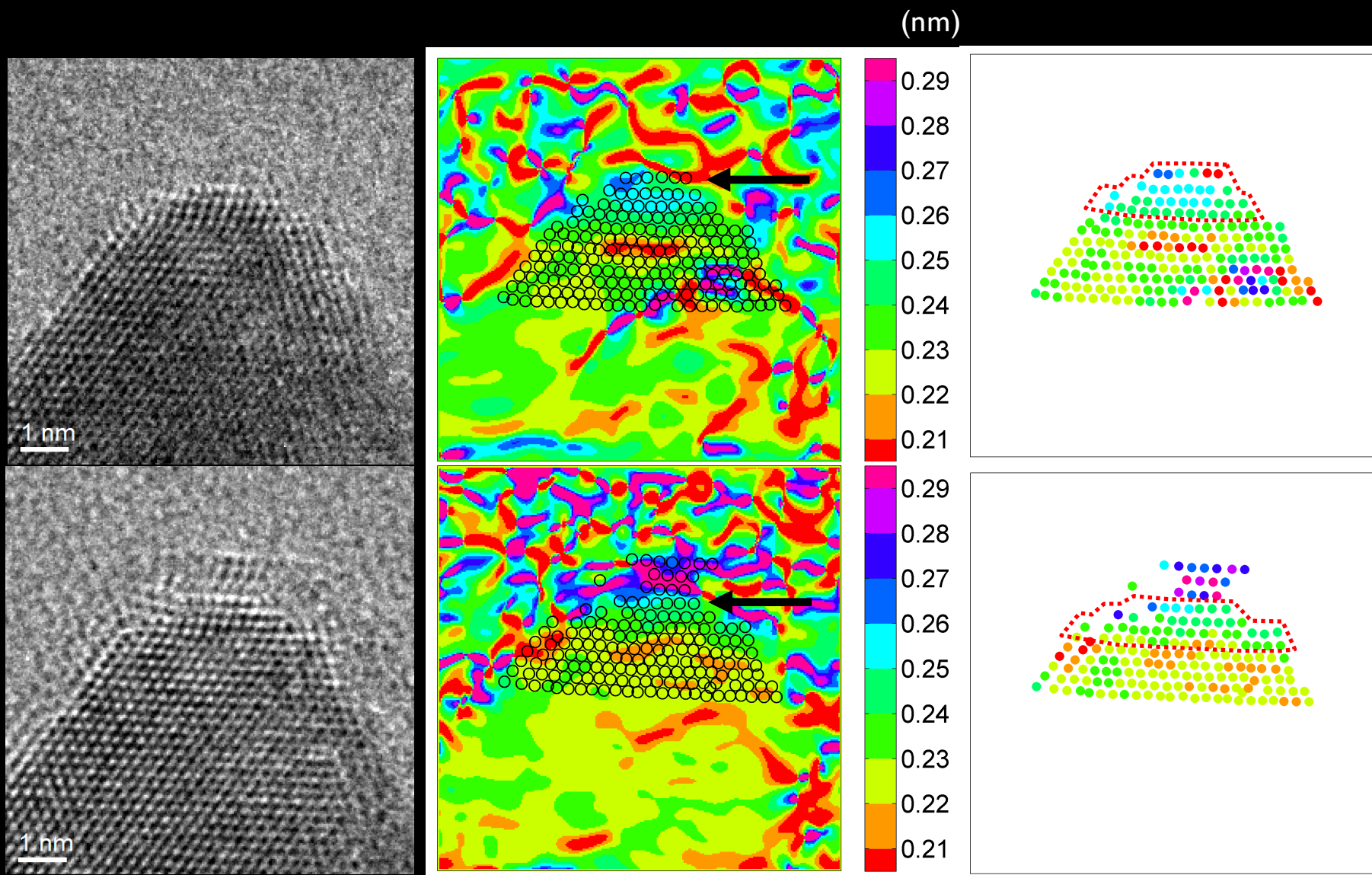


Lattice Parameter  
(nm)



(Animated GIF. Play in presenting mode.)

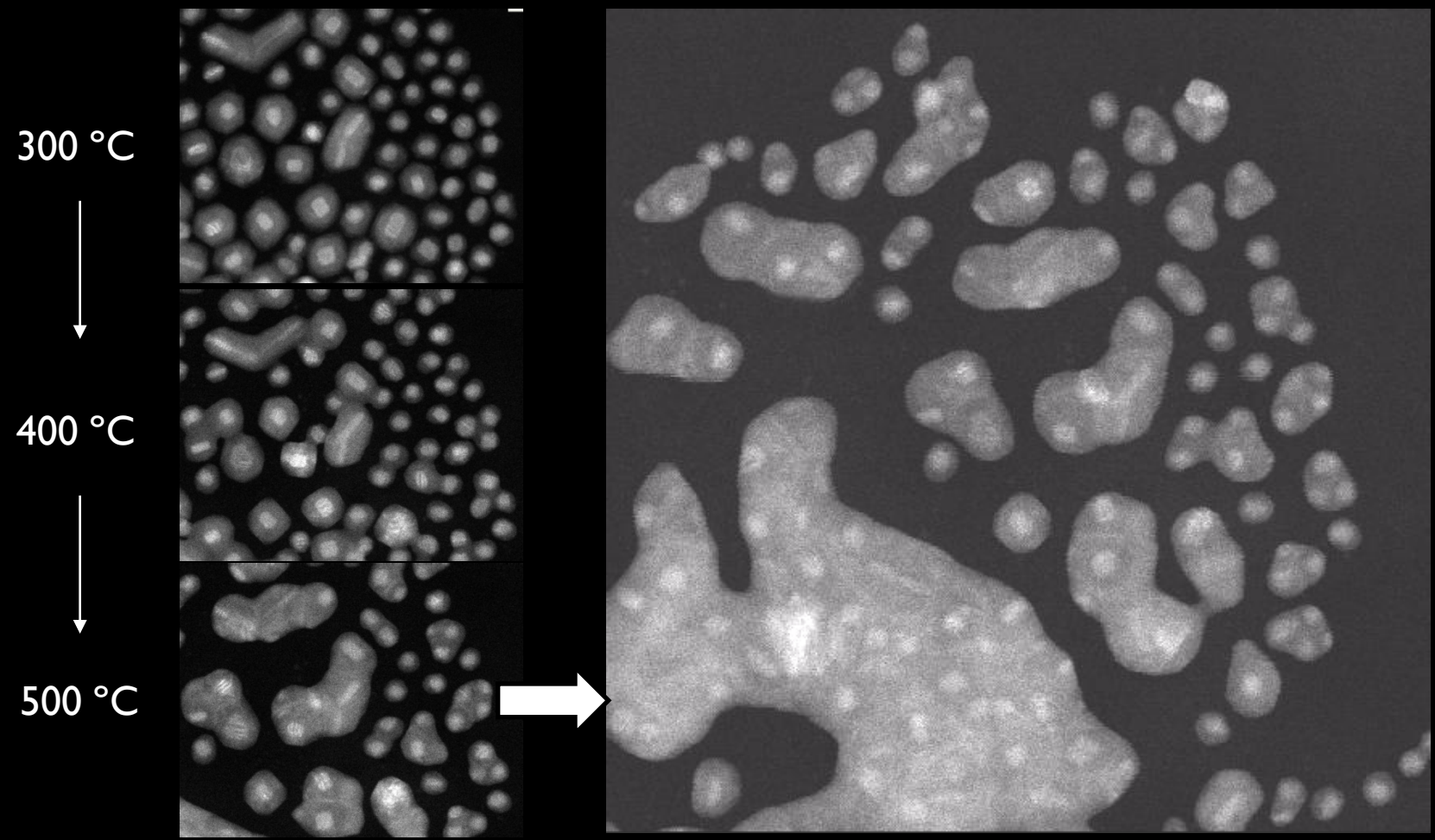
# GPA Strain Mapping



# Low Concentration of Pt in Co

Initial Annealing (0.3 Torr H<sub>2</sub>)

Oxidation (~30 mTorr O<sub>2</sub> + 300°C)

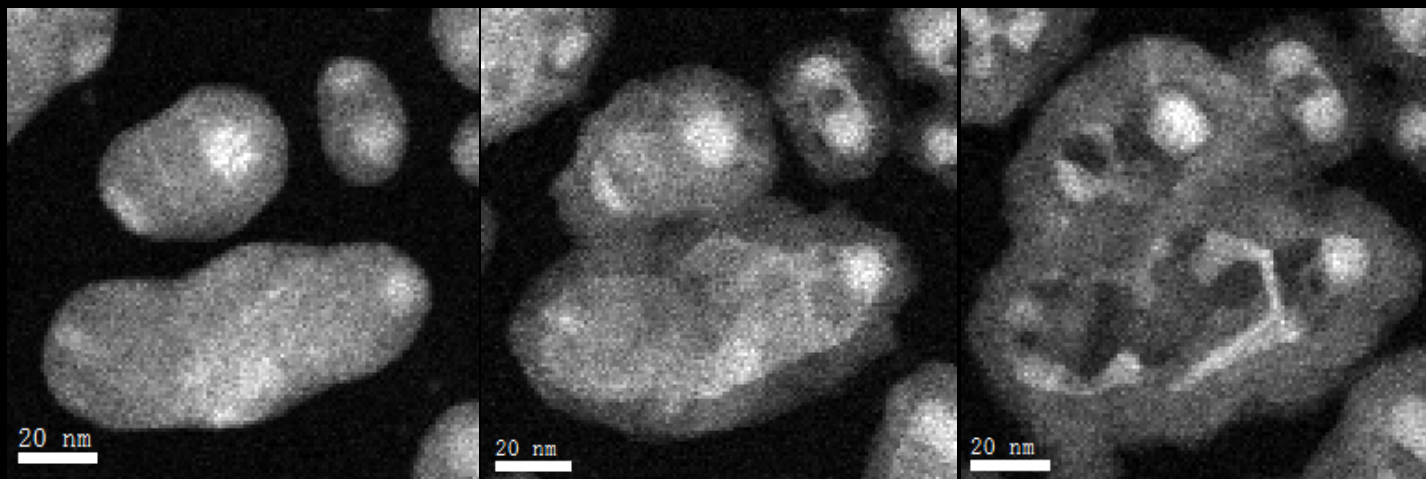


- Much larger porousness in the dilute Pt system

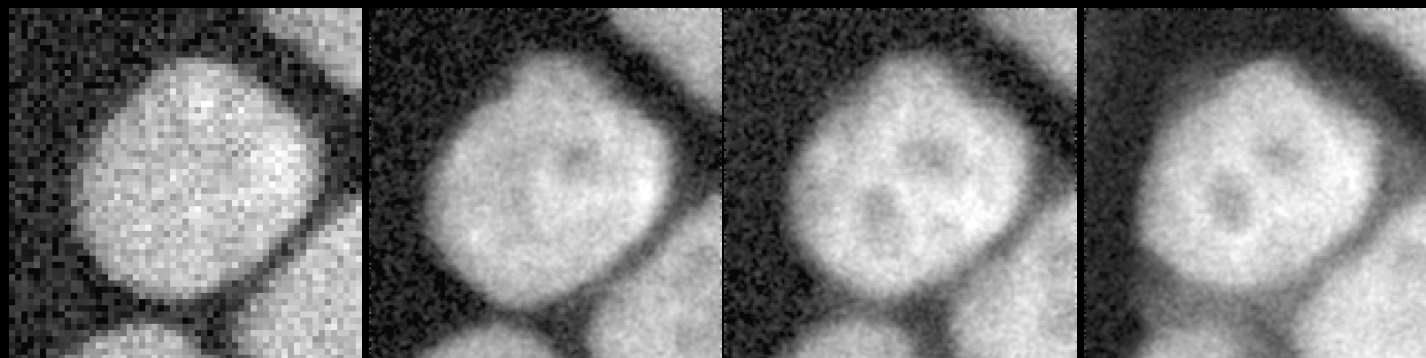


# Low Concentration of Pt in Co

Oxidation ( $\sim 30$  mTorr  $O_2$  +  $300^\circ C$ )

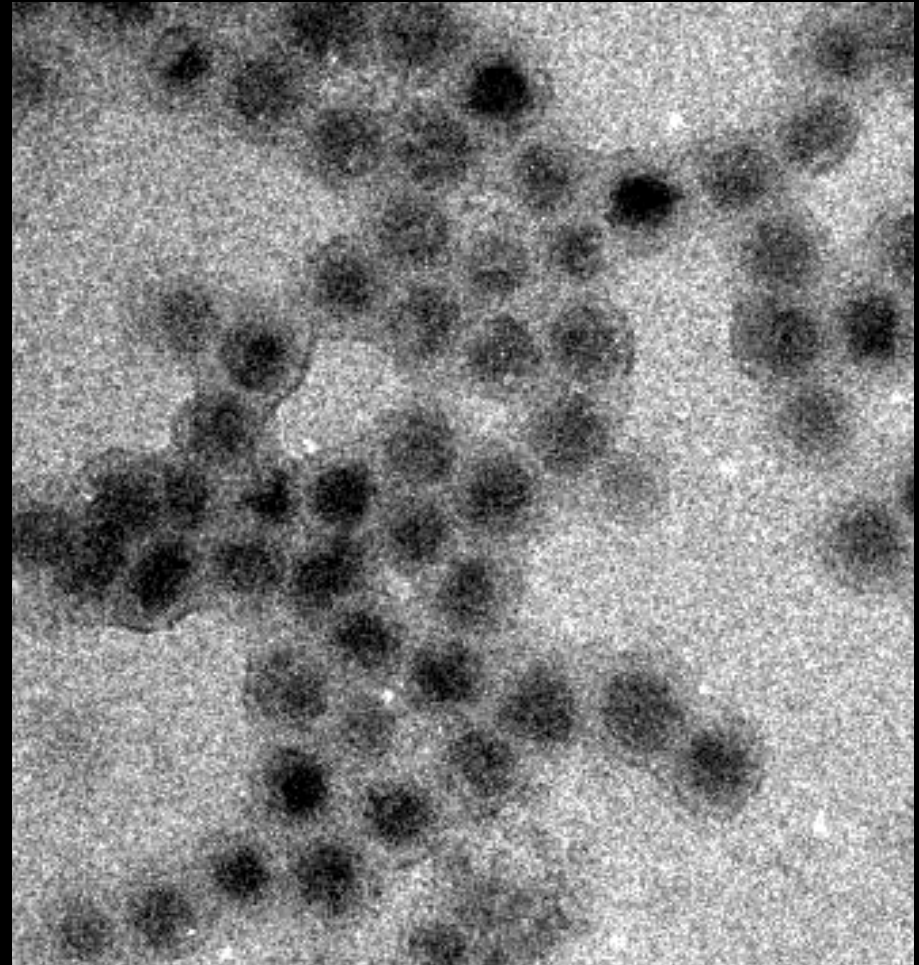
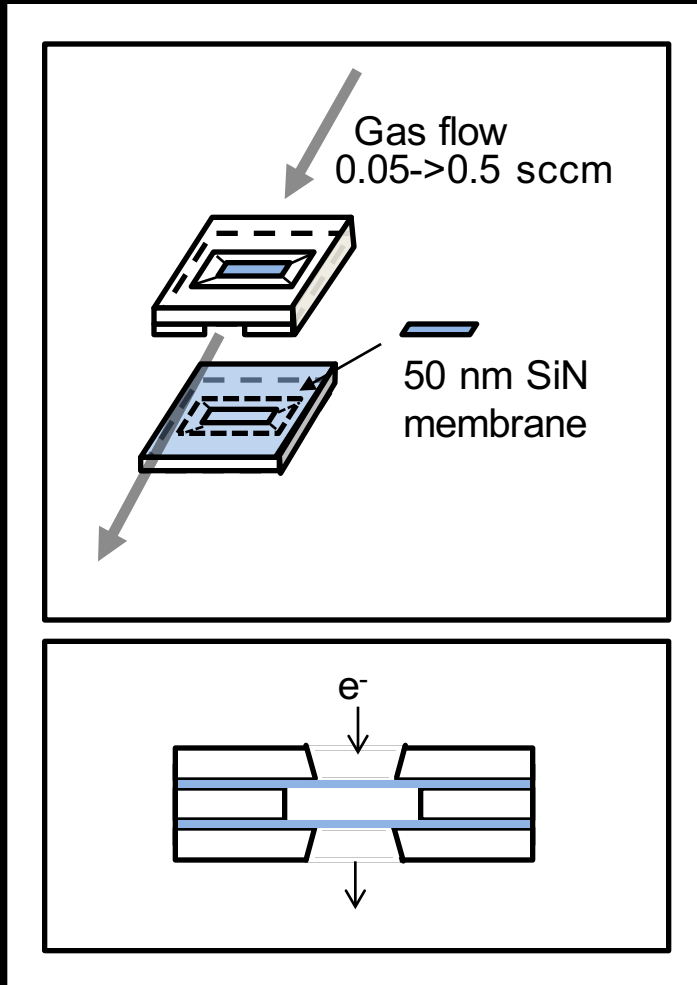


Pt:Co = 1:1



# Kirkendal Voids Forming Dynamics

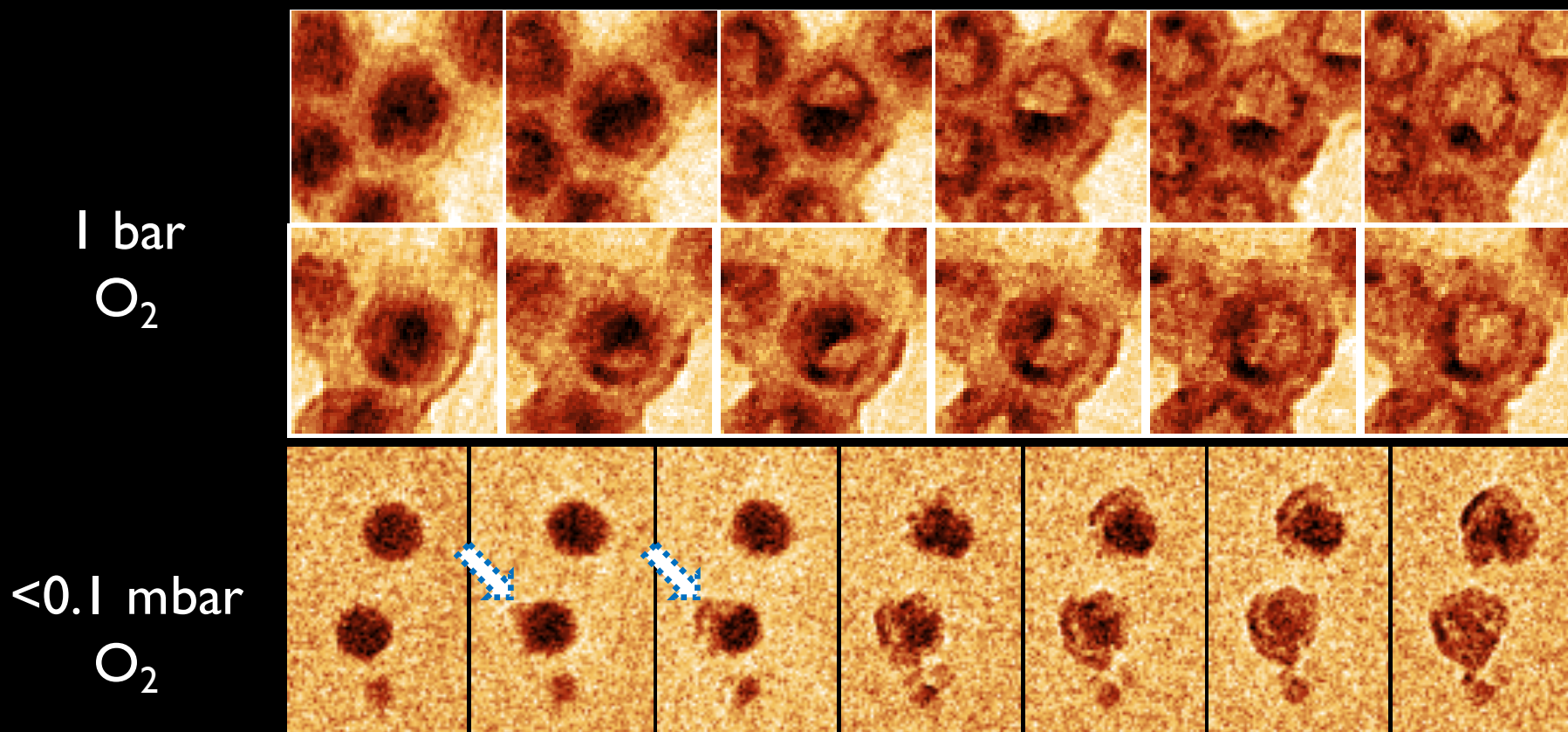
Ramping from 150 to 250°C in oxidation environment (1 atm)



25 nm

- Oxidation dynamics of cobalt nanoparticles

# Gas Pressure Can Modify Spatial Dependent Reaction Kinetics



- Disclaimer: I have no intention to discredit differentially pumped ETEM.