

**TEM —**  
**the Transmission Electron Microscopy,**  
*a Powerful Tool for Imaging, Diffraction and  
Spectroscopy in Materials Science*

**Lecture -- I**

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31 - 01 - 2023

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**A?** **A quick review of last two lessons**

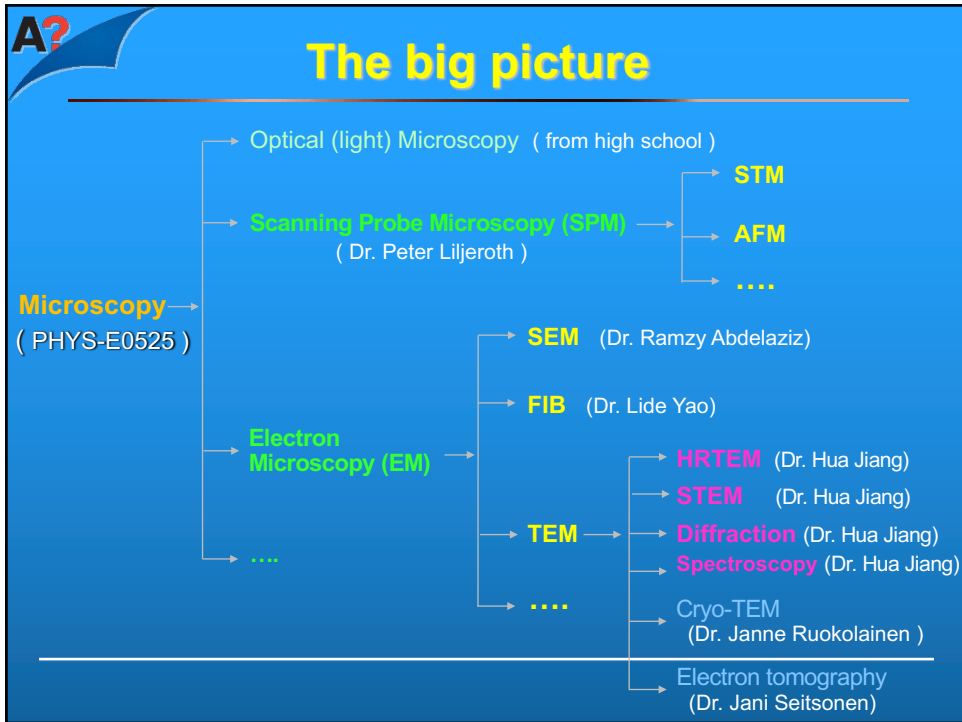
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*Let's review what have impressed you the most by far:*

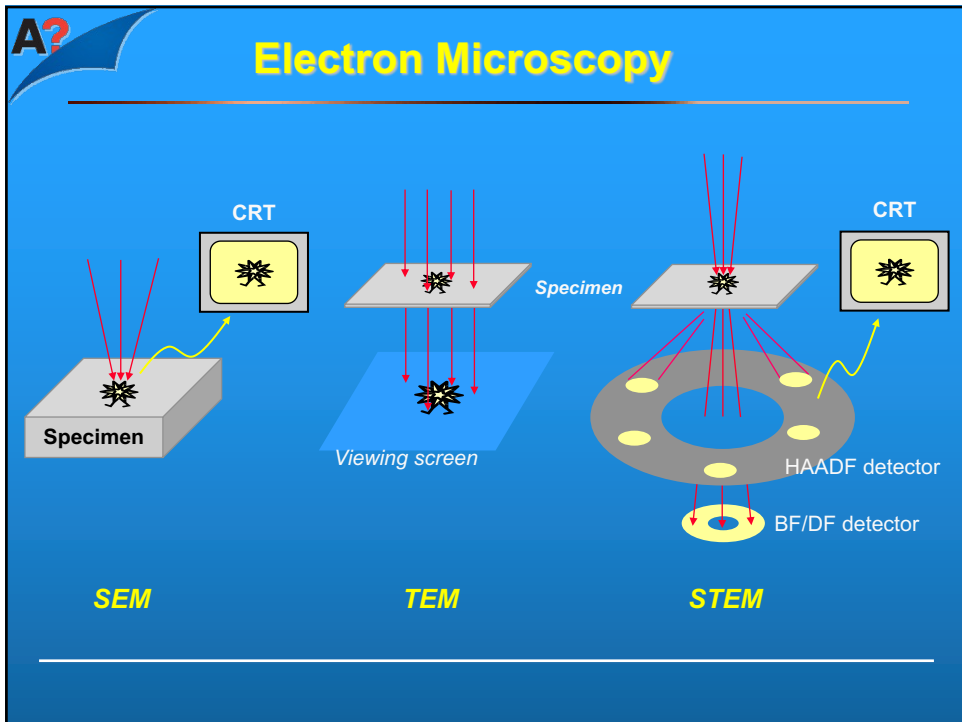
- **What is this course (PHYS-E0525) about?**  
*Keywords: Microscopy of Nanomaterials*
- **What is “Microscopy” about ?**  
*Keywords: Optical (light); SPM (STM, AFM); EM; ...*
- **What is “Electron Microscopy” about ?**  
*Keywords: SEM; FIB; TEM; STEM; Tomography...*
- **How does “Electron Microscopy” work?**  
*Keywords: electron microscopes; guns, lens, aperture, aberrations, vacuum, camera / detectors...*

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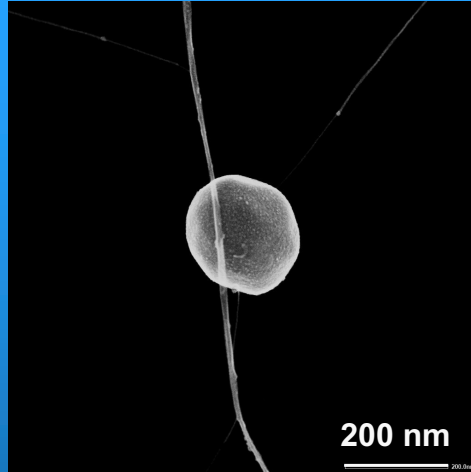


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## Electron Microscopy images

*This is a CNT sample*



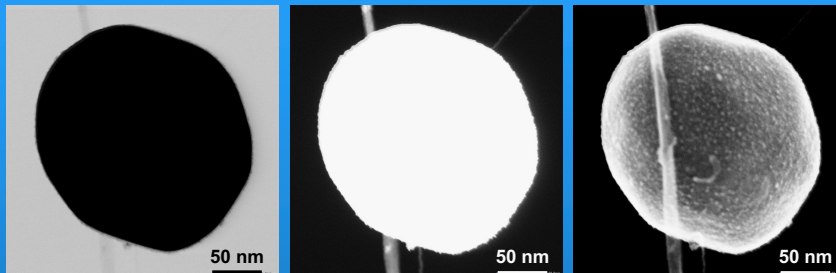
*Are you able to tell what types of microscopy images they are?*

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## Electron Microscopy images

*This is a CNT sample*



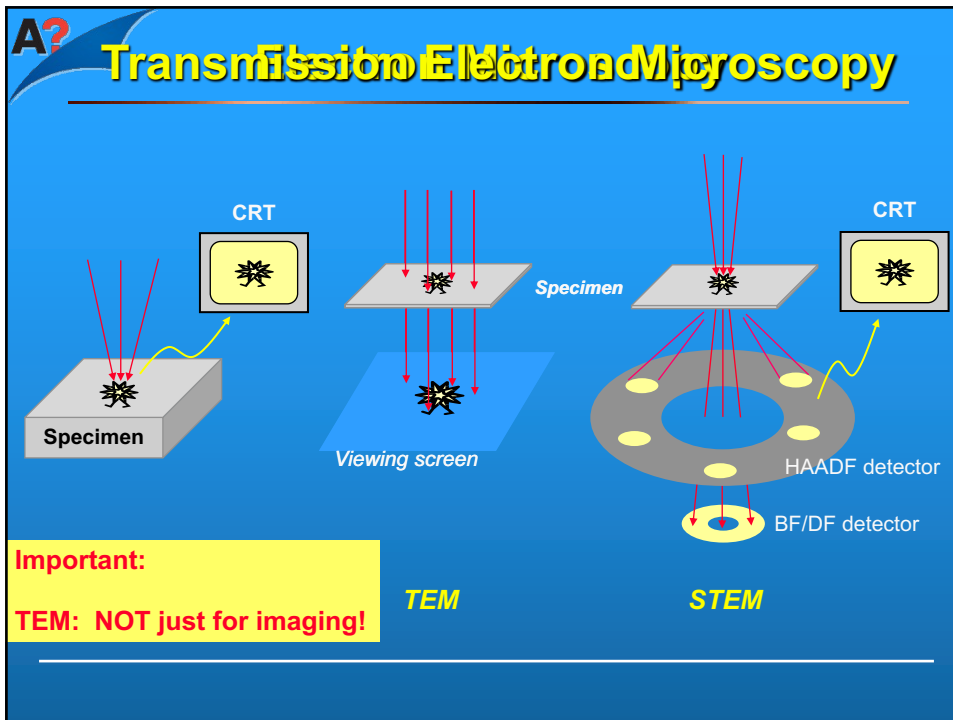
**TEM BF**

**STEM DF**

**SEM**

*This lecture is designed for you to recognize and analyze those images, and extract as much structural info as possible from the sample.*

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# A? Outline of the lectures

- ☞ **TEM basics – a brief overview**
  - why we use electrons for microscope?
  - why it is possible to use electrons?
  - How to use electrons: electron-sample interactions
  - basics of the instrument
  - sample requirements and preparation
  - what to learn from this lecture
- ☞ **Diffraction in TEM**
- ☞ **Imaging in TEM**
- ☞ **STEM imaging**
- ☞ **Spectroscopy in TEM**

**Lect. 1**  
 Jan. 31

**Lect. 2**  
 Feb. 7

**Lect. 3**  
 Feb. 14

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A?

## TEM Basics --- a quick review

- Basics of the TEM instrument --- the *Microscope*
  - *Electrons* and their interaction with *samples*
  - TEM sample preparation
  - Electron microscopy of a number of aspects
- 

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## Why electrons

- ☞ Limitations of a **light microscope (LM)** ☹

$$d = \frac{0.61\lambda}{n \sin \alpha} \cong \frac{1}{2} \lambda$$

*d* --- resolution; *λ* --- light wavelength

*n sin α* : may be as large as 1.3 (Numerical Aperture or N.A.)

*λ* as short as 400nm

**In brief:** *the resolution limit of a light microscope (LM) cannot be better than 200 nm, far away from seeing the nano-world.*

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## Why electrons

☞ nature of electrons ☺

- Moving electrons are electron wave

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{m_e v} \propto \frac{1}{v}$$

$v$  --- speed;  $h$  --- Planck constant;  $m_e$  --- mass

- The higher electron energy, the shorter electron wavelength

$$\lambda = \frac{12.25}{\sqrt{U(1+0.9788 \cdot 10^{-6}U)}} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{U}}$$

$U$  --- accelerating voltage

80kV:	0.00418nm
120 kV:	0.00335nm
200 kV:	0.00251nm
300 kV:	0.00197nm

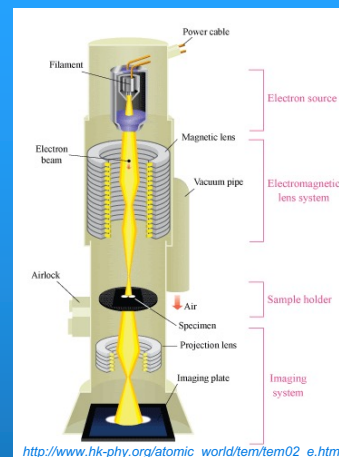
In brief: resolution supposed to be improved by using electron to image.

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## The basic units in an electron microscope

- ☞ **Electron gun**  
--- a source for producing high energy electrons
- ☞ **Electron lens**  
--- a medium for deflecting or focusing electrons
- ☞ **Cameras / Detectors**
- ☞ **High vacuum**  
--- an environment that frees the interaction of electrons from anything else but your sample and the lenses.



In brief: using electron as illumination source is not just beneficial but also possible.

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## Electron Gun

### Function

--- providing electron illumination at high current in a small probe size

### Configurations

--- a scheme of a typical thermionic-emission gun (right)

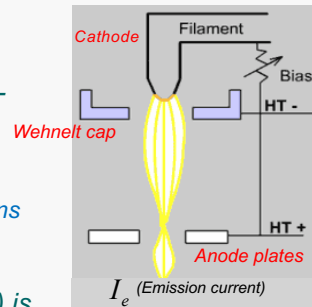
- Cathode: the filament
- Anode plates: accelerating electrons

### Accelerating voltage ( $U$ )

--- the electron energy (wavelength) is given by the accelerating voltage

### Emmision current ( $I_e$ )

--- the total current leaving the gun, typically  $\sim 100 \mu\text{A}$



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## Electron Lens

### Function

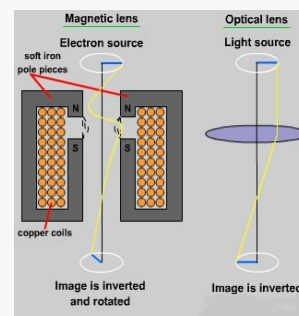
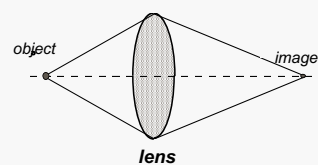
--- a lens forms an image of an object

- an optical microscope uses glass to refract light and form images.
- The electron beam is focused using electromagnetic lenses, which employ magnetic or electrostatic fields as the refracting medium.

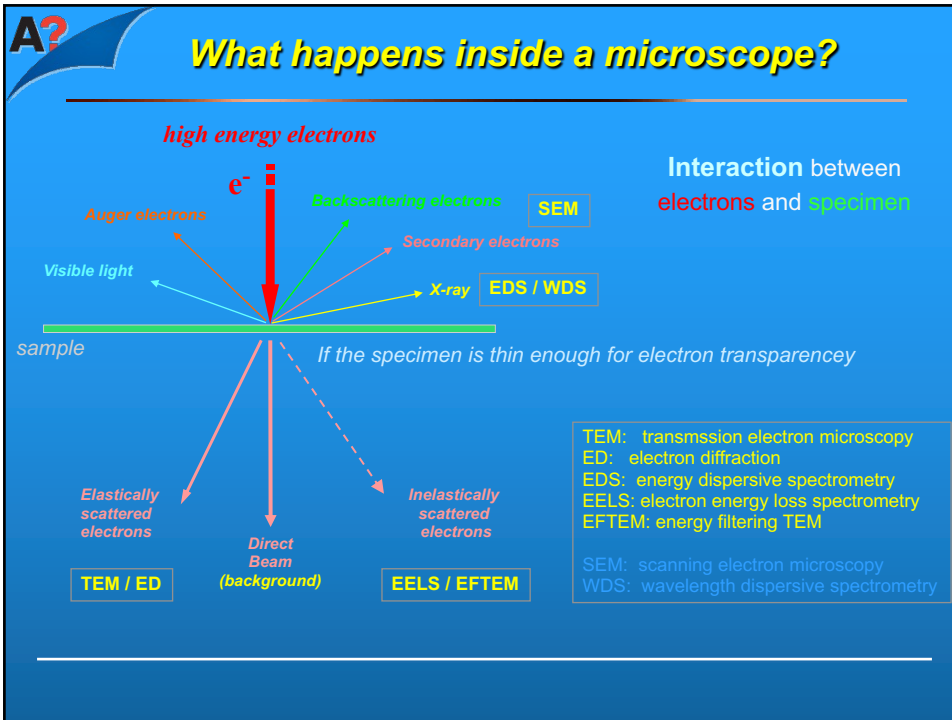
### Magnetic lens

--- including bacially lens coil which produce the magnetic field.

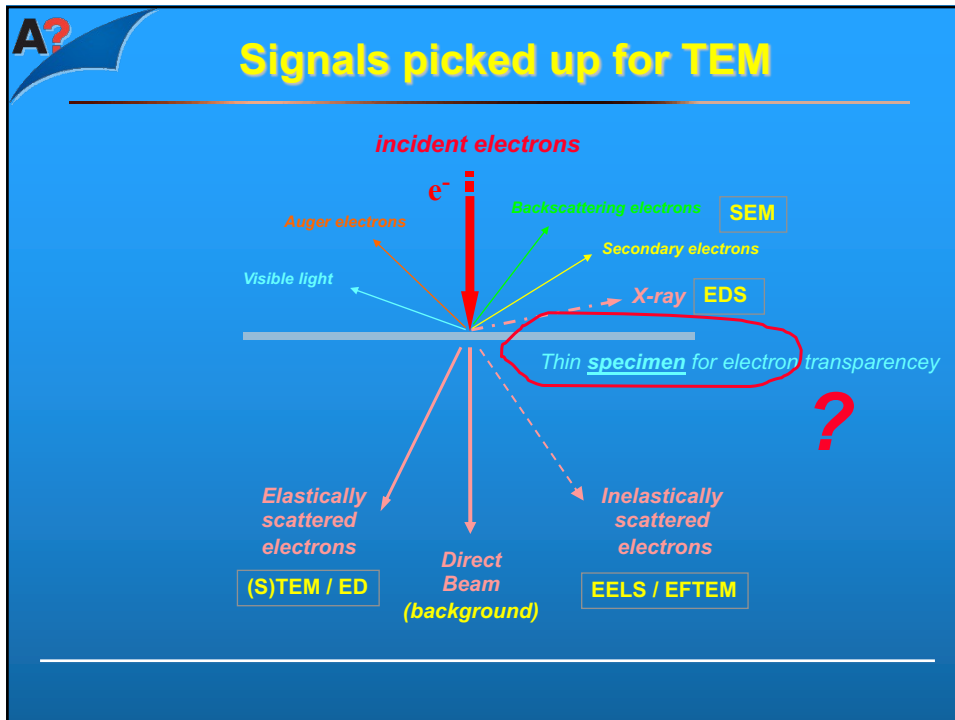
--- the focal length  $f$  can be changed by varying the lens excitation (the current or the potential)



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## Good specimen for TEM research

### General requirements ??

Be small: 3mm in diameter

Be thin: <100 nm in thickness

**Remember:** *Your microscope (TEM) is only as good as the sample that you put into it !!!*

\*  $1 \text{ nm} = 10^{-9} \text{ meter}$   
 $1 \text{ nm} = 10 \text{ \AA}$

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## TEM sample preparation

**General rule:** *the thinner, the better*, for "Electron transparency"

### Basic requirements

- **diameter**  $\phi \sim 3 \text{ mm}$
- **thickness**  $t < 100 - 150 \text{ nm}$ ,  $< \sim 50 \text{ nm}$  for HREM and spectrum

### Ways out: *highly depend on the materials you are working on*

- **powders, nanoparticles:** direct TEM sample is possible
- **ion-milling:** a sputtering method by kicking out atoms from the surface of the specimen by bombing with accelerated ions, such as Ar ions. Better for ceramics, semiconductor in particular.
- **FIB** (Focus ion beam): originally developed for semiconductor devices. The specimen is thinned rapidly by sputtering with a sharply focused ion beam, such as Ga ions. Especially suitable for specimens containing a boundary between materials. A SEM image can be displayed while thinning.

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## A? What can a TEM do? --- Diffraction and Imaging

200 kV  $e^-$

A B

Specimen

Objective Lens

diffraction

004

200

YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7-6</sub>

Y

Ba

O

Cu/O

image

B' A'

- An *image* represents the structure in real space at a certain resolution;
- The *diffraction* is a reproduction of the structure in reciprocal space.

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## A? What else can be picked up in TEM? --- EDS

primary electron beam

Auger electrons

cathodoluminescence

secondary electrons

x-rays

specimen

EDS

Al

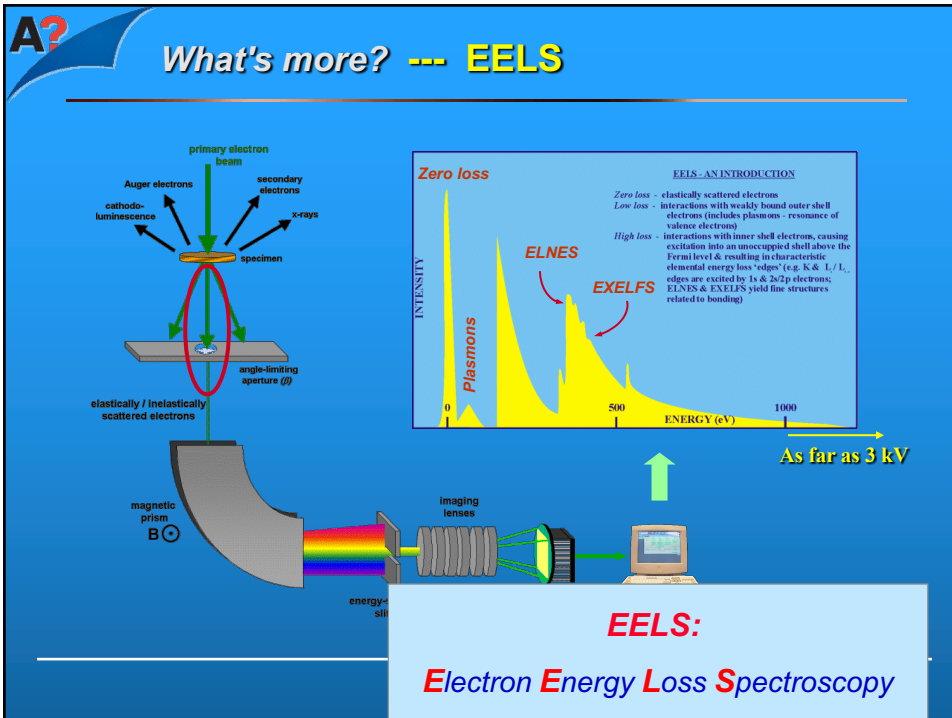
O

Si

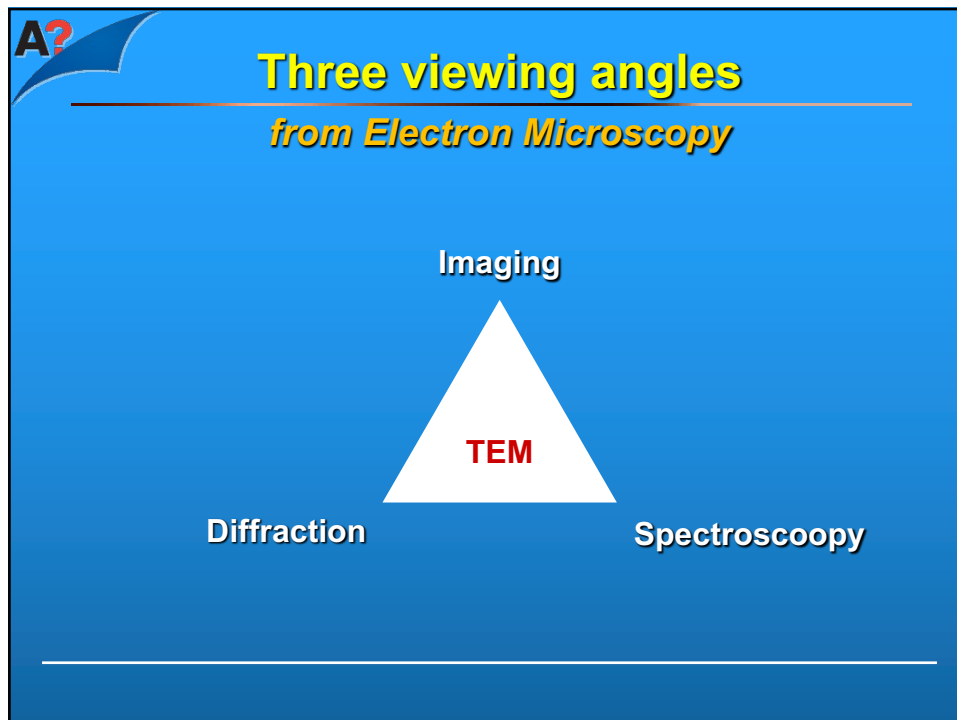
Cl

EDS: X-ray Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy

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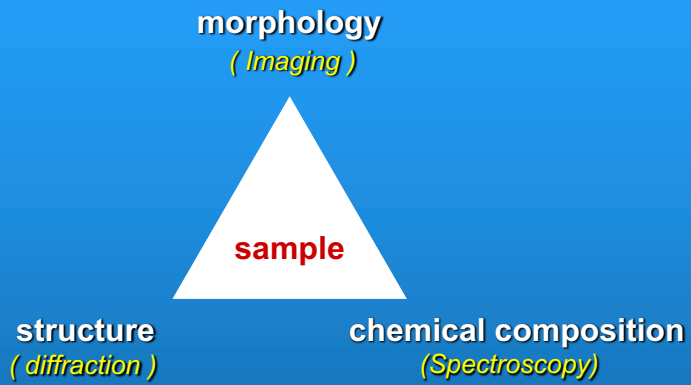


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## Three angles of view

*around your samples*

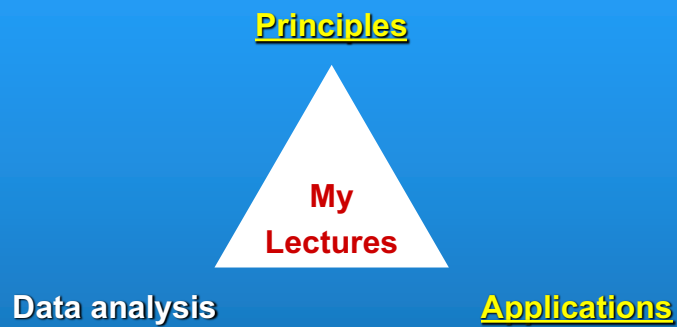


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## Three angles of view

*about my lectures*



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**A?**

**What are you expected to learn from this lecture?**

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☞ **Be aware of:**

*What is TEM about in general?*

☞ **Be capable of:**

*planning your experiments and working out your  
ideas by using TEM techniques !!*

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**A?**

**"Diffraction" in TEM**

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## "Diffraction" in TEM

- Basic crystallography concept
  - Diffraction principles
    - diffraction direction
    - diffraction intensity
  - Application Examples
    - Structure analysis of SWCNTs
    - Oxygen behavior in YBCO
- 

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## Basic crystallography

for a basic understanding of diffraction principle

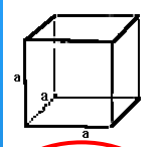
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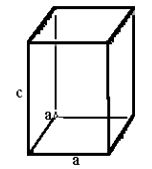
**A?**

## The 7 Crystal Systems

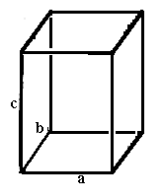
(classified by symmetry)



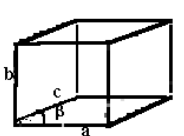
**Cubic**  
 $a = b = c,$   
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90$



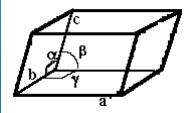
**Tetragonal**  
 $a = b \neq c,$   
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90$



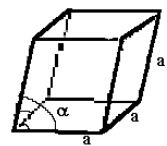
**Orthorhombic**  
 $a \neq b \neq c,$   
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90$



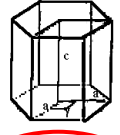
**Monoclinic**  
 $a \neq b \neq c,$   
 $\alpha = \gamma = 90, \beta \neq 90$



**Triclinic**  
 $a \neq b \neq c,$   
 $\alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90$



**Rhombohedral**  
 $a = b = c,$   
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma \neq 90$



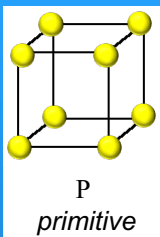
**Hexagonal**  
 $a = b \neq c,$   
 $\alpha = \beta = 90, \gamma = 120$

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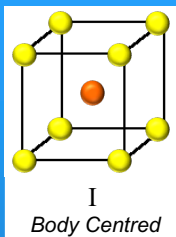
**A?**

## The 4 lattice type

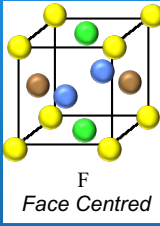
(Lattice point configuration)



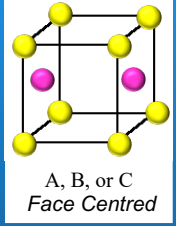
**P**  
*primitive*



**I**  
*Body Centred*




**F**  
*Face Centred*



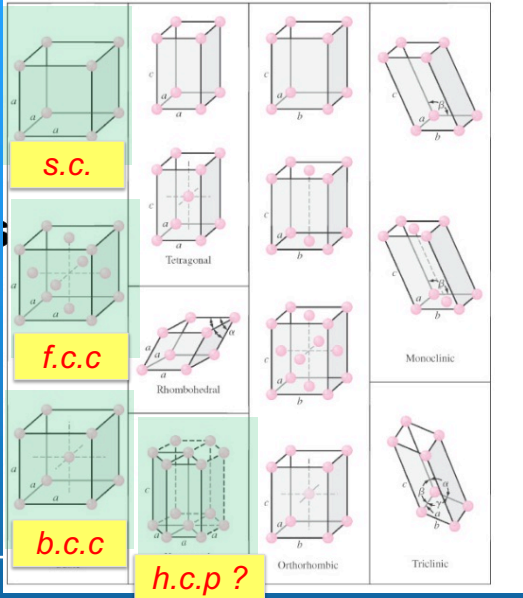
**A, B, or C**  
*Face Centred*

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**A?** **The 14 Bravais Lattices**



The combination of the 4 lattice types (P, I, F, C) and the 7 crystal classes give rise to all 14 possible variations, which are known as the 14 Bravais Lattices.



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**A?** **Miller indices: Directions  $[u\ v\ w]$**

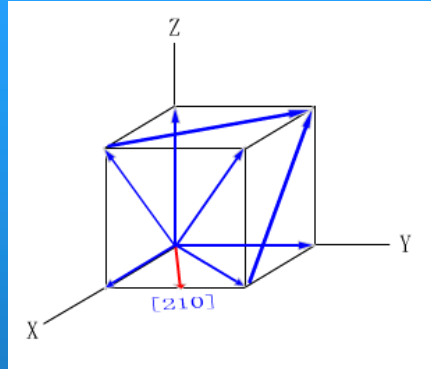
Grouping symbols:

- ( ) are called parentheses or rounded brackets;
- [ ] are called brackets or square brackets;
- { } are called braces or curly brackets;
- ⟨ ⟩ are called bra and ket or angular brackets.

A crystallographic direction is expressed in terms of its ratio of unit vectors in the form  $[u\ v\ w]$  where  $u$ ,  $v$  and  $w$  are integers. A family of crystallographically equivalent directions is expressed as  $\langle u\ v\ w \rangle$

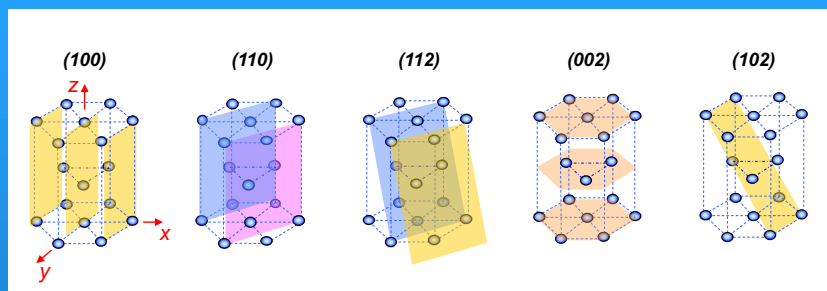
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**A?****Miller indices: Directions  $[u\ v\ w]$** 

A crystallographic direction is expressed in terms of its ratio of unit vectors in the form  $[u\ v\ w]$  where  $u$ ,  $v$  and  $w$  are integers. A family of crystallographically equivalent directions is expressed as  $\langle u\ v\ w \rangle$

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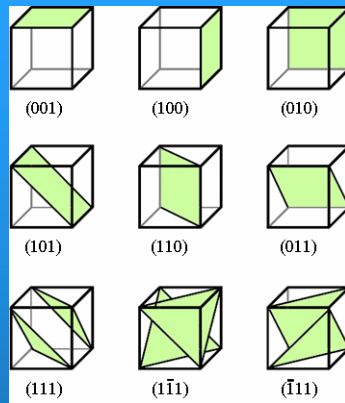
**A?****Miller Indices: Lattice planes  $(h\ k\ l)$** 

- In a crystal, there are numerous sets of lattice planes which are characterized by their 1) orientations and 2) lattice spacings.
- A set of lattice plane is labelled by using its **Miller Indices  $(h\ k\ l)$** .
- Electron beam is diffracted by lattice planes in a crystal structure.

**A lattice structure is thus composed of a number of sets of lattice planes.**  
(or say, a crystal structure can be decomposed into many lattice planes of...)

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**A?** Common lattice planes in a simple cubic structure



Simple cubic (s.c) structure

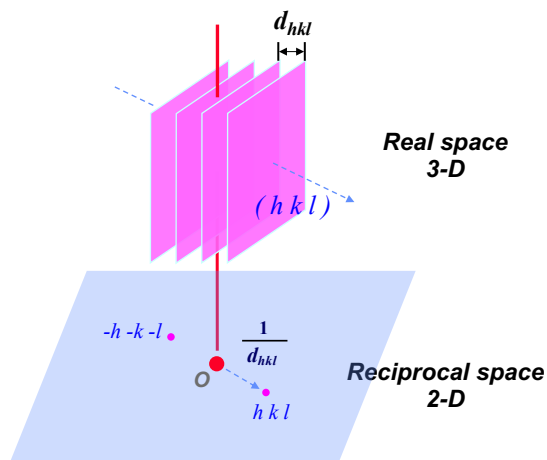
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**A?** "reciprocal space" --- Construction

A lattice plane ( $h k l$ )

FT

One single point



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**A?** "reciprocal space" --- Construction

**Diffraction : a description of a structure in reciprocal space !!**

Real space 3-D

Reciprocal space 2-D

image

Diffraction pattern

[010]

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**A?** **Fourier transform (FT):**  
 A tool to bridge "Real space" and "Reciprocal space"



**FFT Simulation**

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A?

## Electron Diffraction in TEM

### *Principles and applications*

Transmission electron microscopes create magnified images of samples and are, in contrast to the [light microscope](#), even able to resolve individual atoms. When transmitting a beam of electrons through a crystalline sample such as a complex mineral or a crystallized protein, the electrons are being diffracted in a specific way. Collecting such diffraction patterns of a sample from several different directions uniquely identifies a specific crystal structure.

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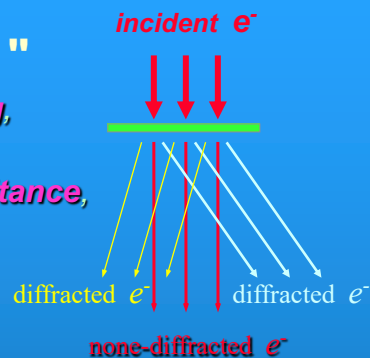
A?

## Basic laws for electron diffraction

👉 What is "diffraction" “衍射”

*Diffraction is, firstly, a **scattering**, which follows certain **rules**, and features a basic nature of **inheritance**, namely, the **genetics** !*

- Diffraction directions ?
- Diffraction intensities ?



***How the direction and the intensity of a diffraction beam inherit the structure information of your specimen ??***

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A?

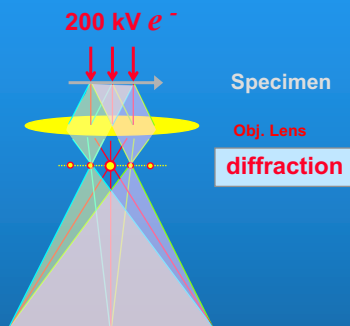
## Diffraction: directions ?

☛ Bragg's law --- diffraction direction

$$2d \sin \theta = \lambda$$



$$d_{hkl} \Rightarrow \theta_{hkl}$$

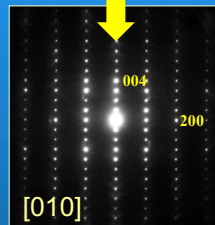
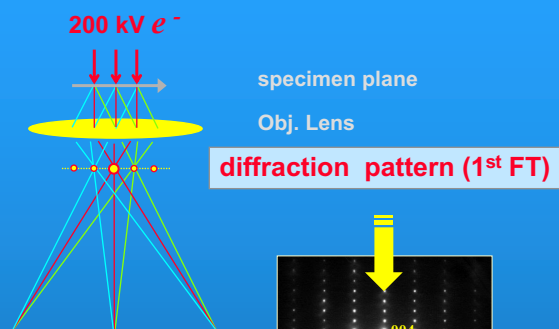


- One set of lattice planes ( $d$ ) will diffract electrons along a certain direction ( $\theta$ ).
- Electrons coming from the same direction will be focused at one spot on the back-focal-plane of the objective lens.
- So, one diffraction spot represents one set of lattice plane.
- Mathematically, the objective lens performs a Fourier Transform!!

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A?

## Electron diffraction produced in a TEM



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**A?** **Electron Diffraction Patterns from a single crystal**

Si [100]      Si [110]      Si [111]

*Selected-area electron diffraction patterns from a Si single crystal taken along three different zone axis.*

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**A?** **Diffraction Arts: Panorama Diffraction Pattern**

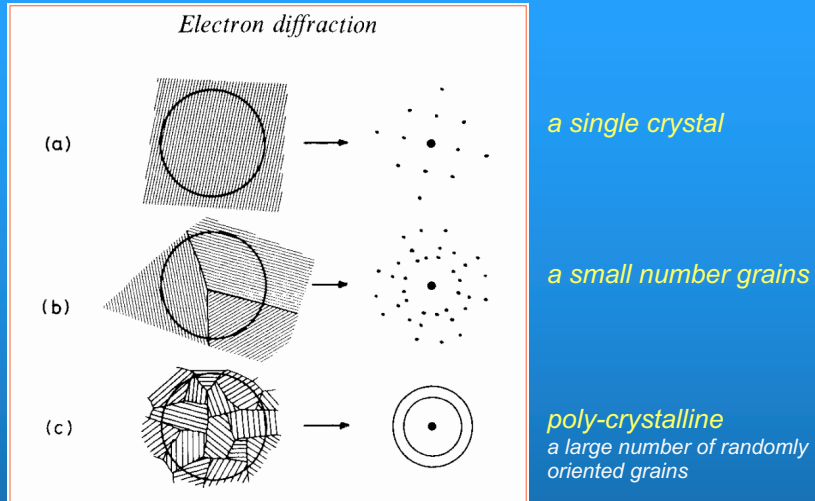
Specimen: Si pillar prepared by FIB  
 TEM: Hitachi H-9500  
 Accelerating Voltage: 300kV

<http://www.hitachi-hitec.com/global/em/nanoart/2005/index.html>

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## Diffraction from a polycrystalline

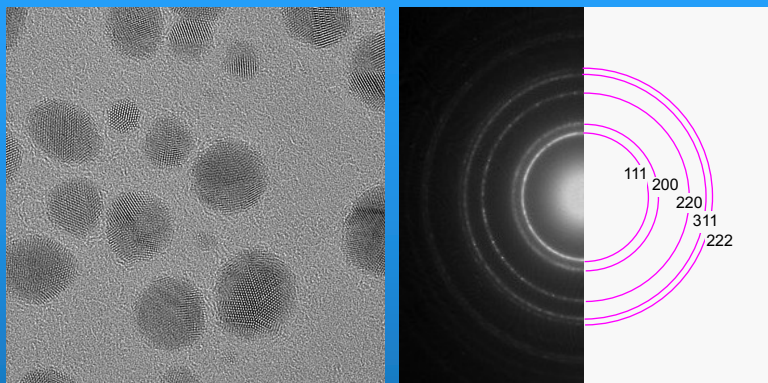


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A?

## An example: from f.c.c Au polycrystalline

Au nanoparticles:  $d_{111} = 0.235\text{nm}$ ,  $d_{200} = 0.204\text{nm}$ , ... ..



$$|R_{hkl}| = K \cdot \frac{1}{d_{hkl}}$$

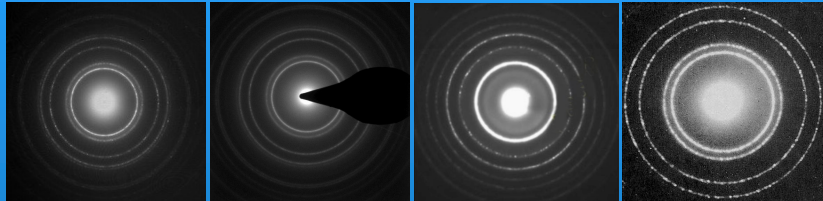
For calibration of K factor !!  
(Note: "camera constant")

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**A?**

## Learn to be an expert to recognize things!

The following four EDPs are taken from **Au**, **Cu**, **Al** and  $\alpha$ -**Fe** polycrystalline respectively. Au, Cu and Al have f.c.c structure but  $\alpha$ -Fe has b.c.c structure. Their lattice constants are given:  $a(\text{Au})=0.408\text{nm}$ ,  $a(\text{Cu})=0.361\text{nm}$ ,  $a(\text{Al})=0.405\text{nm}$ ,  $a(\alpha\text{-Fe})=0.286\text{nm}$ .



### Questions:

1. Can you recognize the EDP from b.c.c  $\alpha$ -Fe structure simply by a quick glance of those patterns? .
2. How would you distinguish EDPs from f.c.c Au, Cu and Al?
3. What other information would you need to answer Question 2 ?

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**A?**

**See you next Tuesday....**

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