
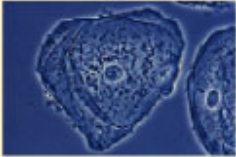
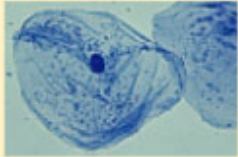

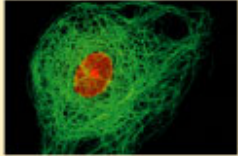
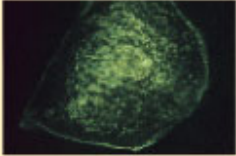


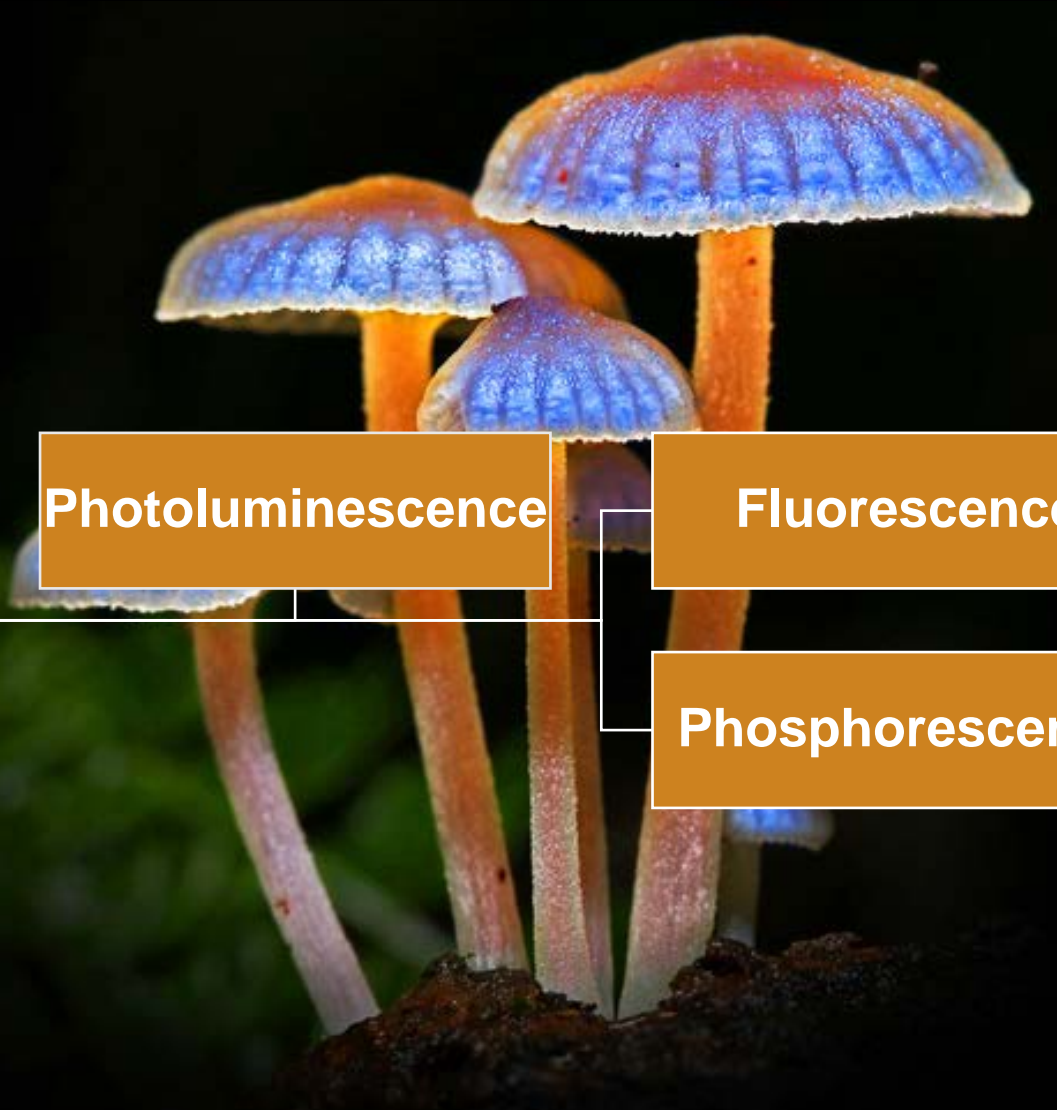
# **Confocal Microscopy and Living Cell Studies**

**Soňa Legartová**

***Institute of Biophysics of the Czech  
Academy of Sciences***

Table 7.1 Different Types of Light Microscopy: A Comparison

Type of Microscopy	Light Micrographs of Human Cheek Epithelial Cells		Type of Microscopy
<p><b>Brightfield (unstained specimen).</b> Passes light directly through specimen; unless cell is naturally pigmented or artificially stained, image has little contrast.</p>			<p><b>Phase-contrast.</b> Enhances contrast in unstained cells by amplifying variations in density within specimen; especially useful for examining living, unpigmented cells.</p>
<p><b>Brightfield (stained specimen).</b> Staining with various dyes enhances contrast, but most staining procedures require that cells be fixed (preserved).</p>			<p><b>Differential-interference-contrast (Nomarski).</b> Like phase-contrast microscopy, it uses optical modifications to exaggerate differences in density.</p>
<p><b>Fluorescence.</b> Shows the locations of specific molecules in the cell. Fluorescent substances absorb short-wavelength, ultraviolet radiation and emit longer-wavelength, visible light. The fluorescing molecules may occur naturally in the specimen but more often are made by tagging the molecules of interest with fluorescent molecules.</p>			<p><b>Confocal.</b> Uses lasers and special optics for “optical sectioning.” Only those regions within a narrow depth of focus are imaged. Regions above and below the selected plane of view appear black rather than blurry. This microscope is typically used with fluorescently stained specimens, as in the example here.</p>



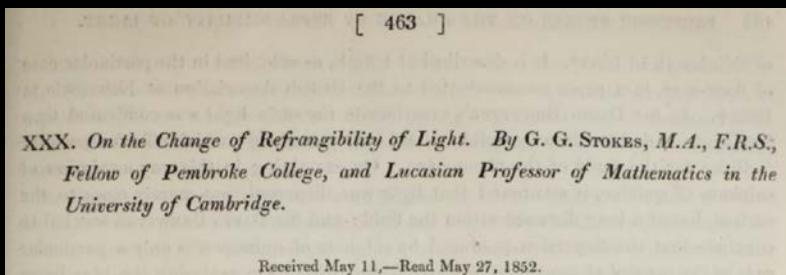
**Luminescence**

**Photoluminescence**

**Fluorescence**

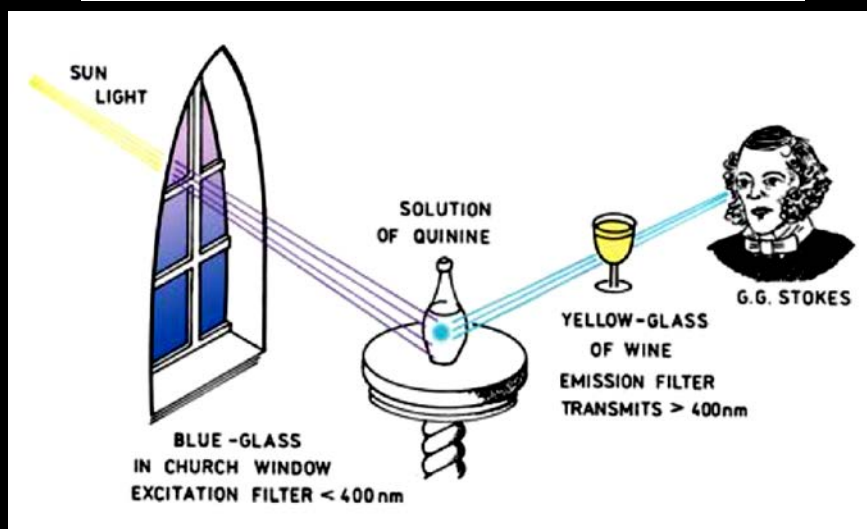
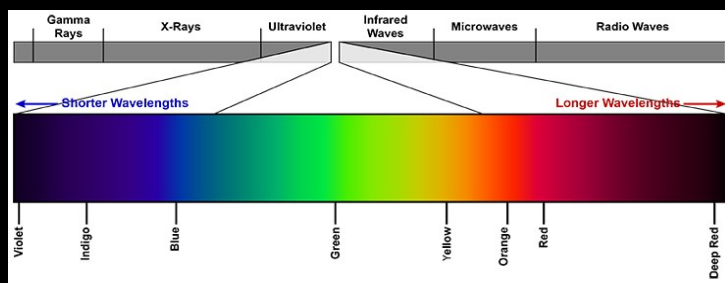
**Phosphorescence**

# Introduction to Fluorescence

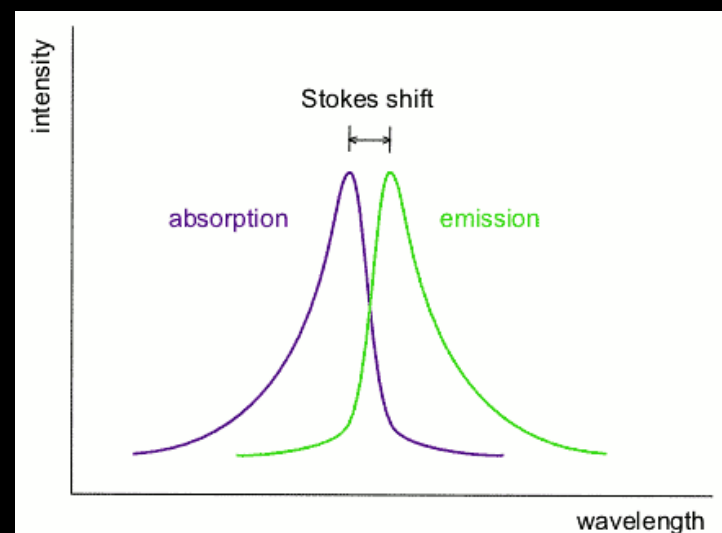


<http://rstl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/142/463.full.pdf+html>

**Sir George Gabriel Stokes (1819 – 1903)**  
a British physicist and mathematician

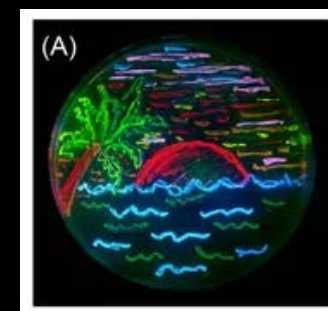


Lakowicz et al., 2006



Ishikawa-Ankerhold et al., 2012

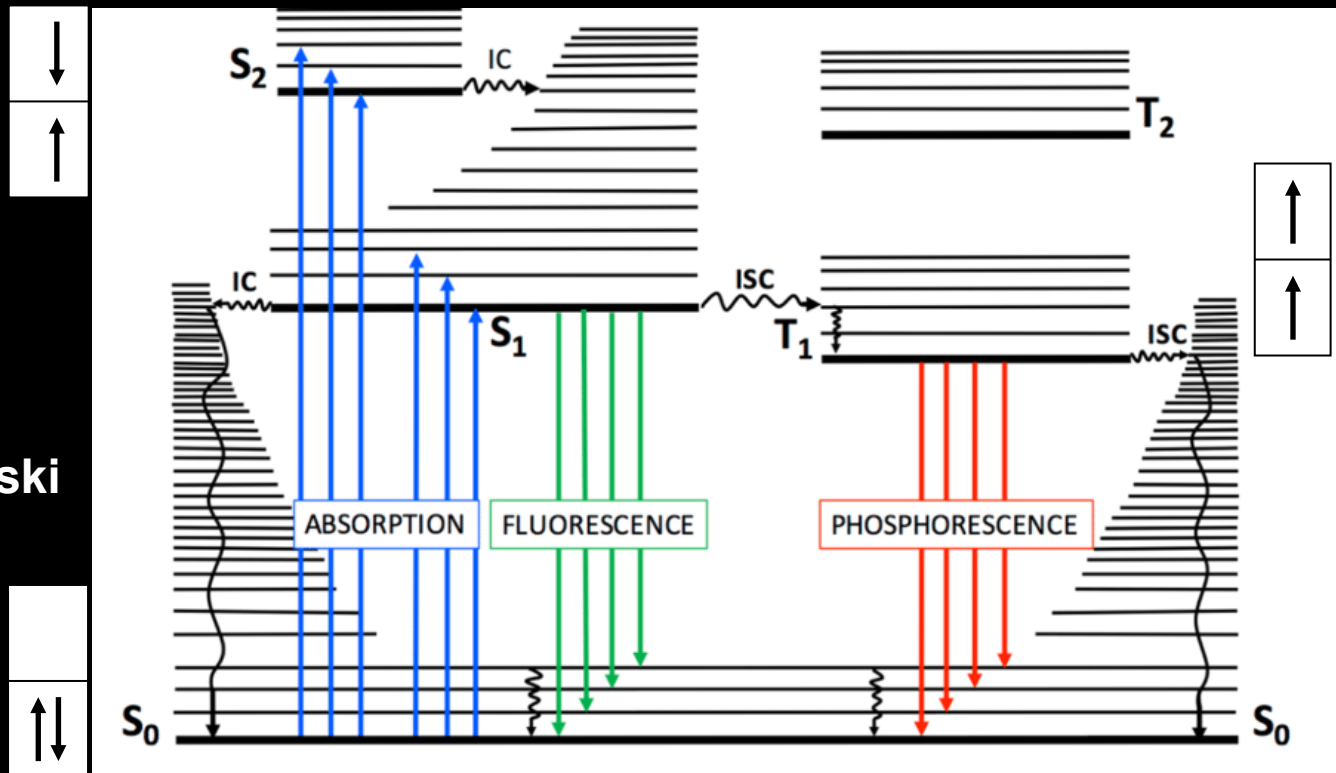
# Introduction to Fluorescence



## Perrin-Jablonski diagram (1935)



Aleksander Jabłoński  
(1898 – 1980)

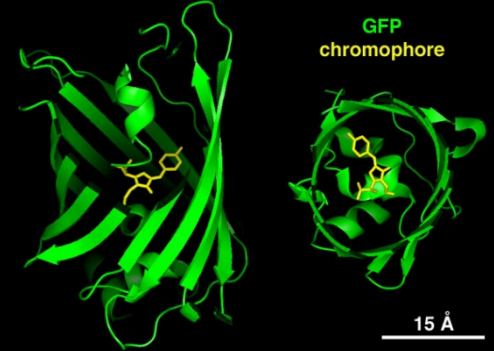


[https://www.researchgate.net/Perrin-Jablonski-diagram-The-vibrational-manifold-associated-with-electronic-states-is\\_fig7\\_321823164](https://www.researchgate.net/Perrin-Jablonski-diagram-The-vibrational-manifold-associated-with-electronic-states-is_fig7_321823164)

- ground state (singlet  $S_0$ )
- vibrational relaxation
- internal conversion (IC)  $\rightarrow$  the lowest singlet state ( $S_1$ )
- intersystem crossing (ISC)  $\rightarrow$  triplet state ( $T_1$ )

# Introduction to Fluorescence

## *Aequorea victoria*



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2008  
Osamu Shimomura, Martin Chalfie, Roger Y. Tsien

Share this:

## The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2008

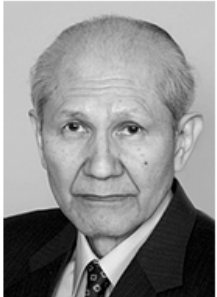


Photo: U. Montan  
**Osamu Shimomura**  
Prize share: 1/3



Photo: U. Montan  
**Martin Chalfie**  
Prize share: 1/3

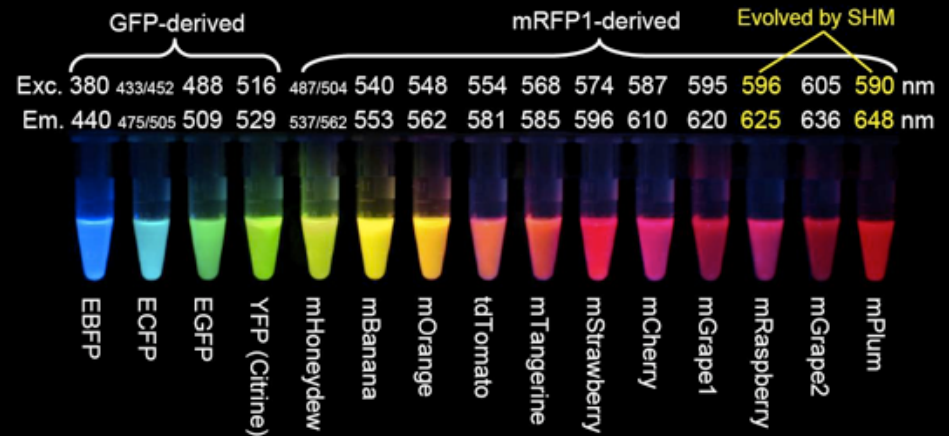


Photo: U. Montan  
**Roger Y. Tsien**  
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2008 was awarded jointly to Osamu Shimomura, Martin Chalfie and Roger Y. Tsien *"for the discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein, GFP"*.

Photos: Copyright © The Nobel Foundation

[https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2008/](https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2008/)

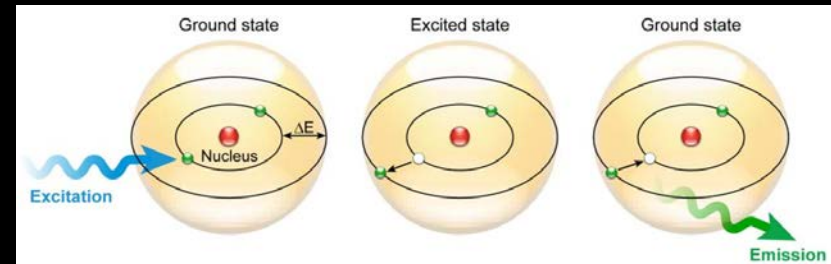


<http://photobiology.info/Zimmer.html>

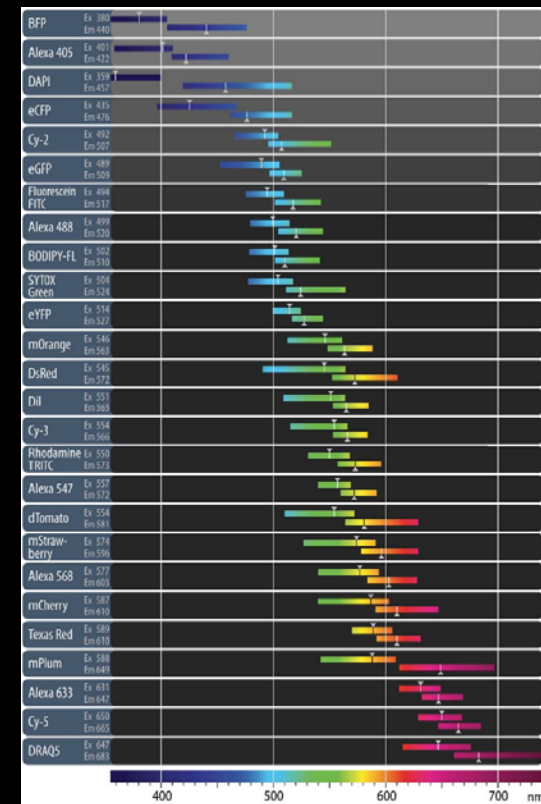
# Introduction to Fluorescence

## Fluorophores

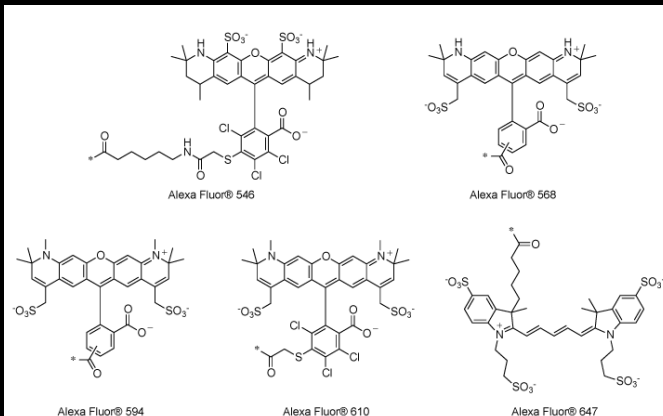
- chemical compounds: re-emit light upon light excitation
- absorb light (a particular wavelength) → transiently excited → return to ground state
- contain several combined aromatic groups, or plane or cyclic molecules with several  $\pi$  groups
- not all energy is emitted as fluorescence, some is dissipated as heat or vibrational energy



Ishikawa-Ankerhold et al., 2012



Carl Zeiss Micro\_Imaging GmbH



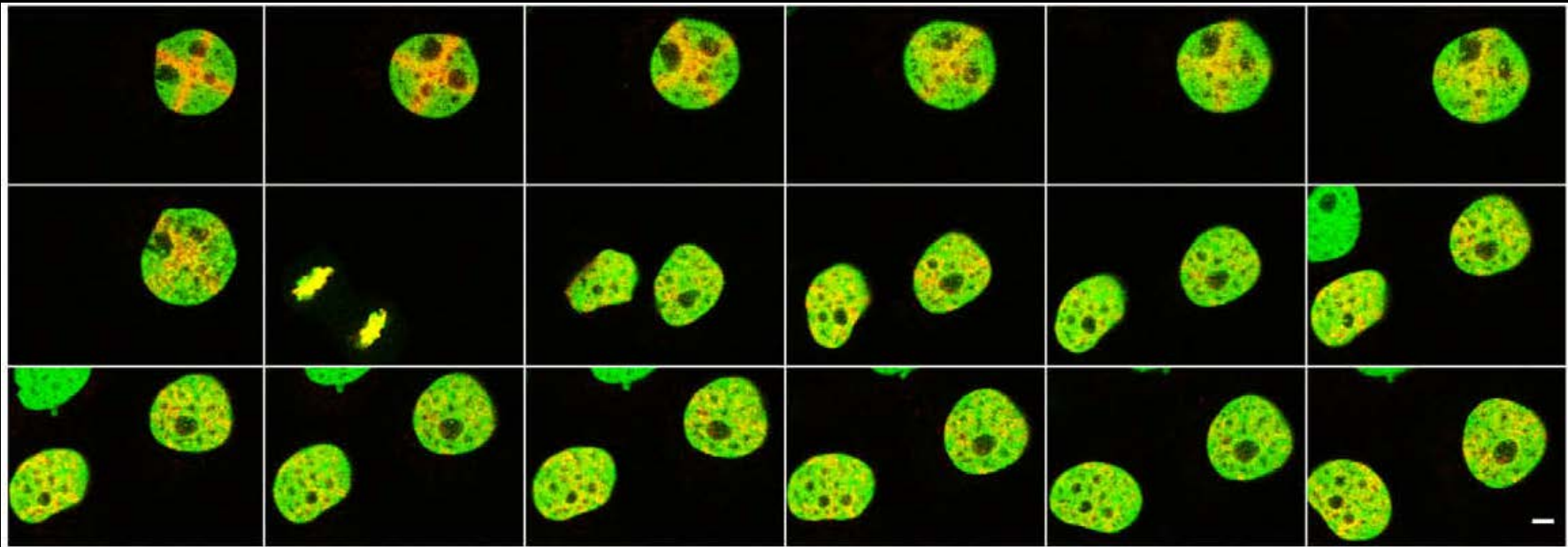
# Photoconversion

## Dendra2: improved green to red photoswitchable fluorescent protein



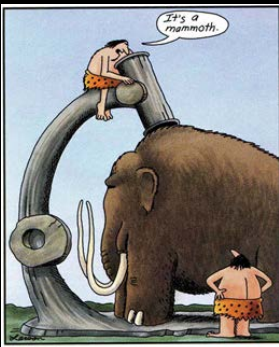
- derived from octocoral *Dendronephthya* sp. (Gurskaya et al., 2006)
- low phototoxicity
- monitoring selective cell fate
- real-time tracking protein dynamics (movement, degradation, etc.)

## H4-Dendra2



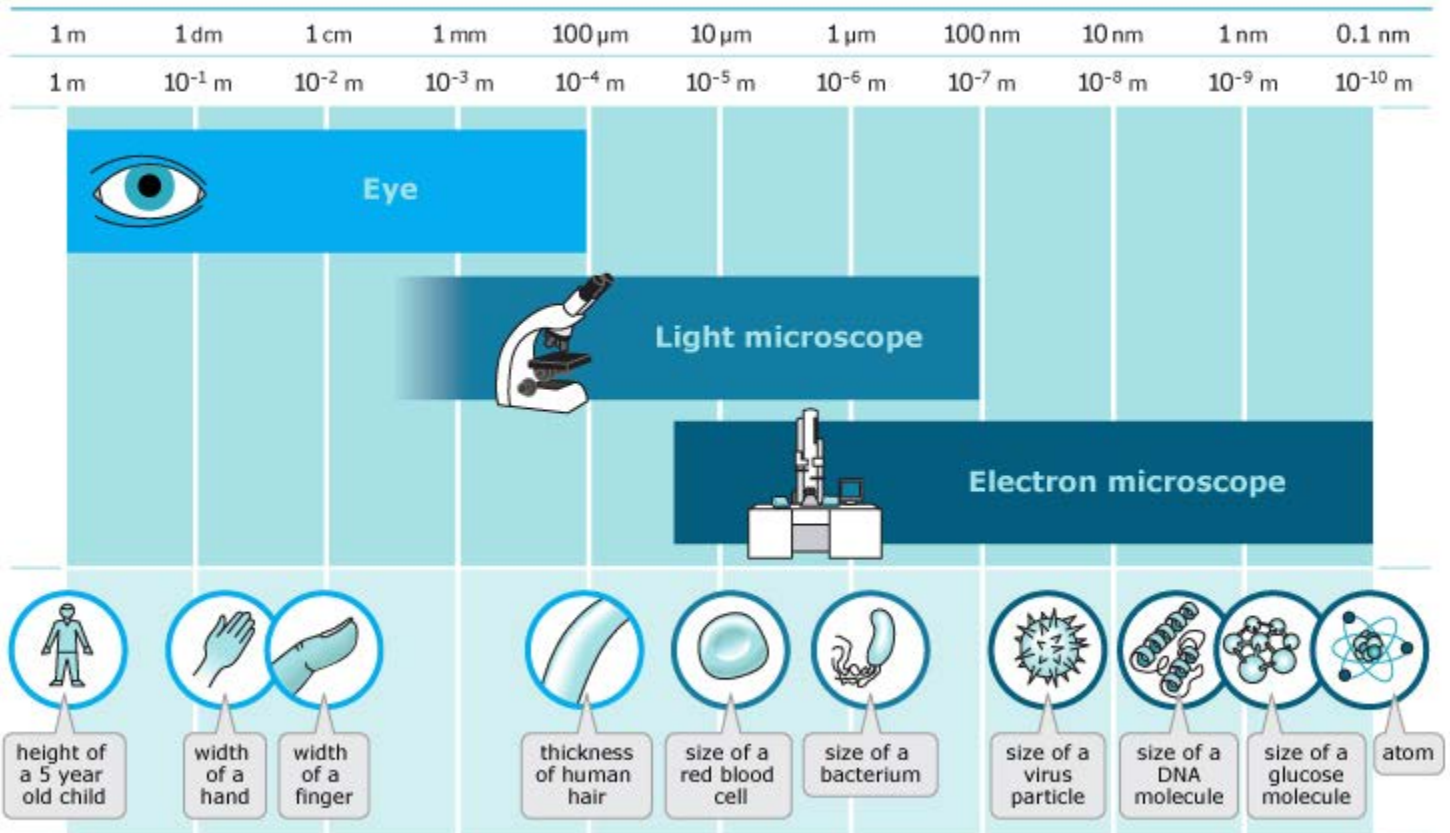




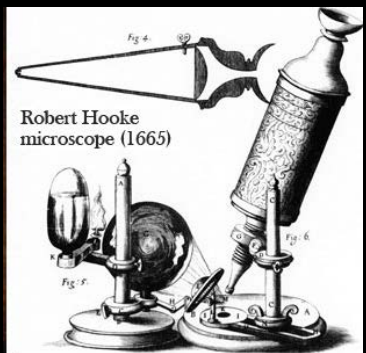
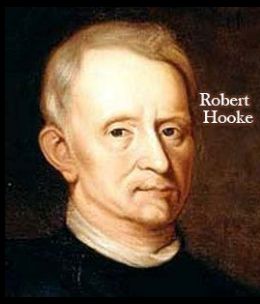
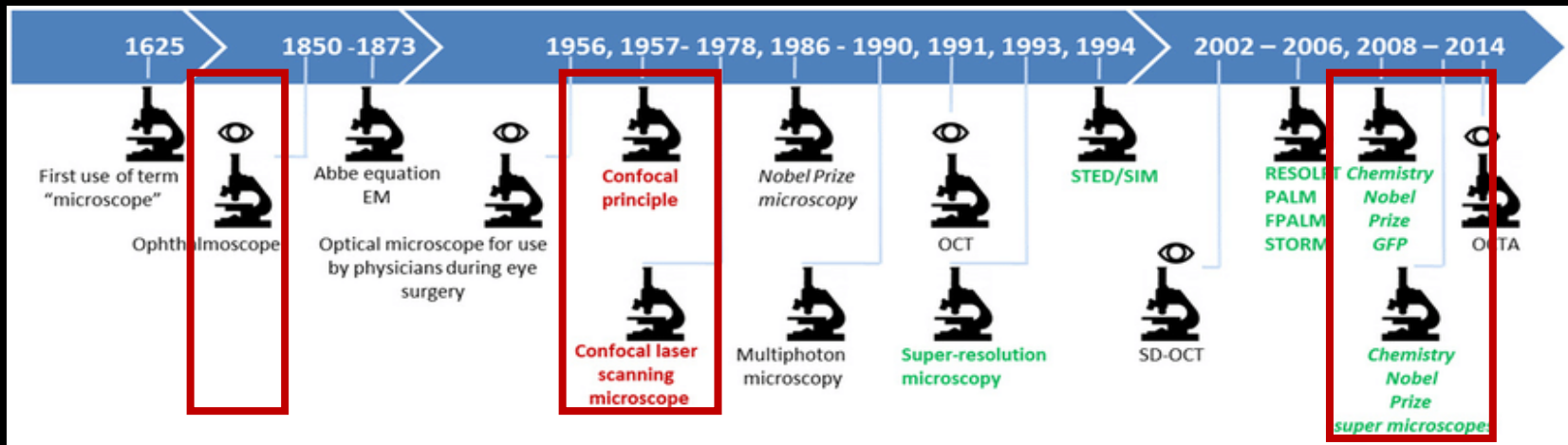


Early microscope

## Resolving power of microscopes



# History of Microscopy:



**Marvin L. Minsky**  
(1927-2016)

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014  
Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell, William E. Moerner

Share this:

## The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014



Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Eric Betzig**  
Prize share: 1/3

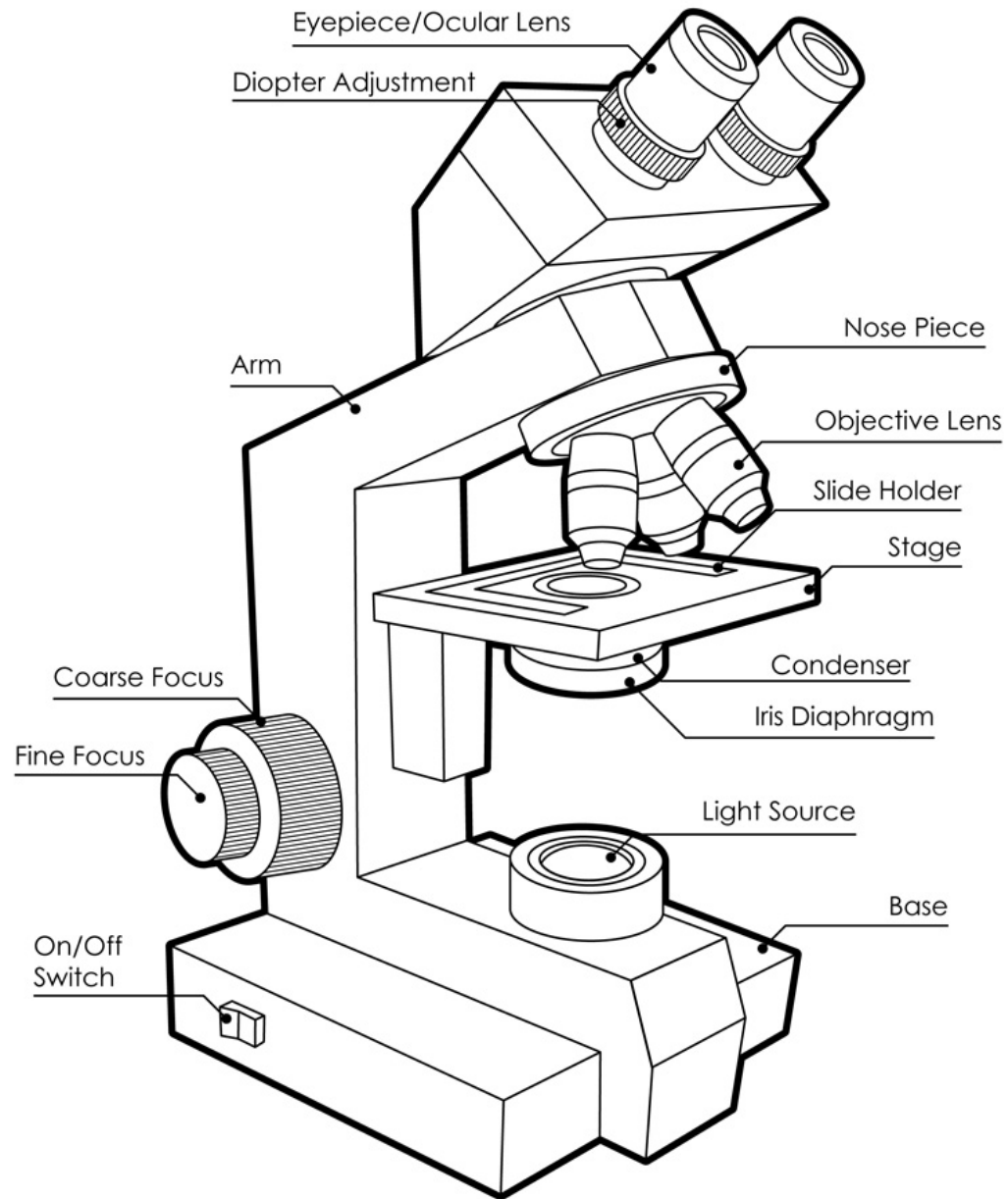


Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Stefan W. Hell**  
Prize share: 1/3



Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**William E. Moerner**  
Prize share: 1/3

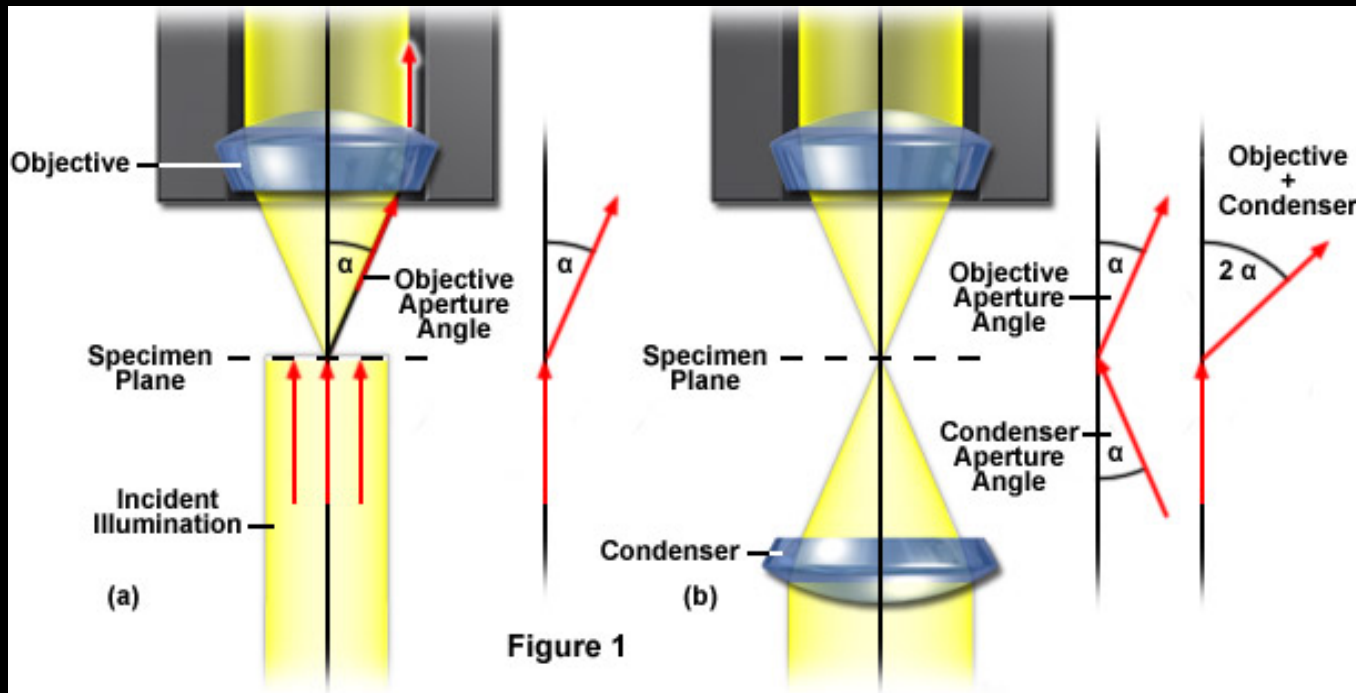
The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014 was awarded jointly to Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell and William E. Moerner "for the development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy".



# Numerical Aperture (NA)

- ability to gather light and resolve fine specimen detail at a fixed object distance

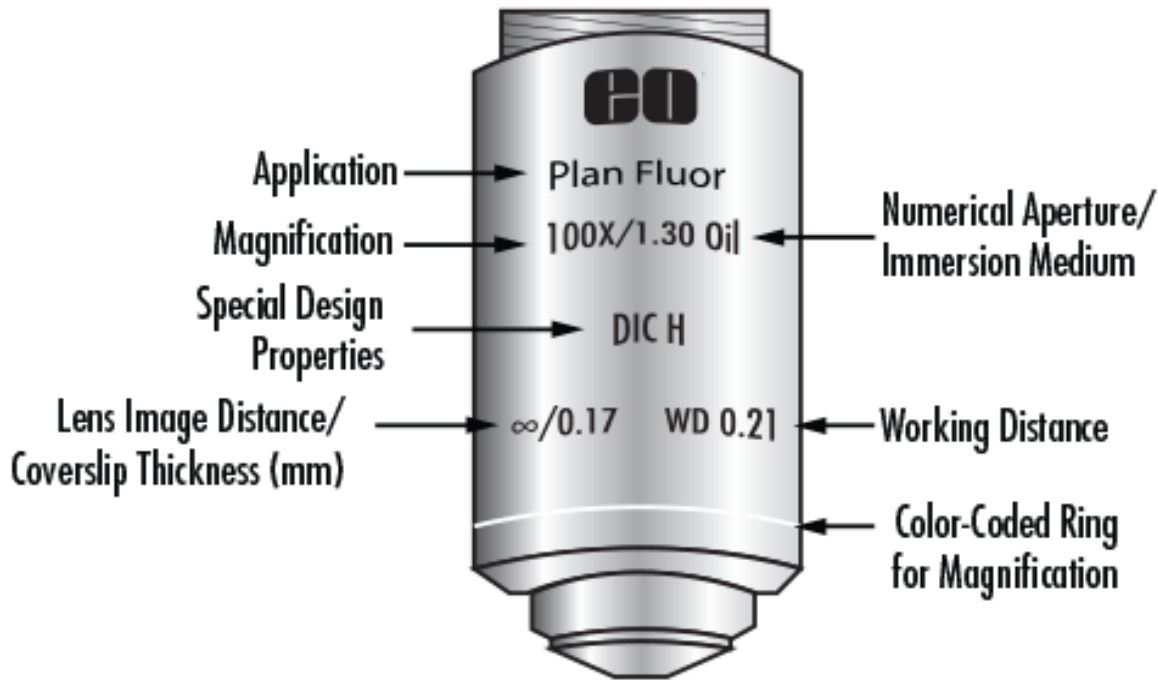
$$\text{Numerical Aperture (NA)} = n \times \sin(\mu) \text{ or } n \times \sin(\alpha)$$



<http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/articles/basics/resolution.html>

- most oil immersion objectives → a maximum numerical aperture of 1.4
- the most common numerical apertures ranging from 1.0 to 1.35

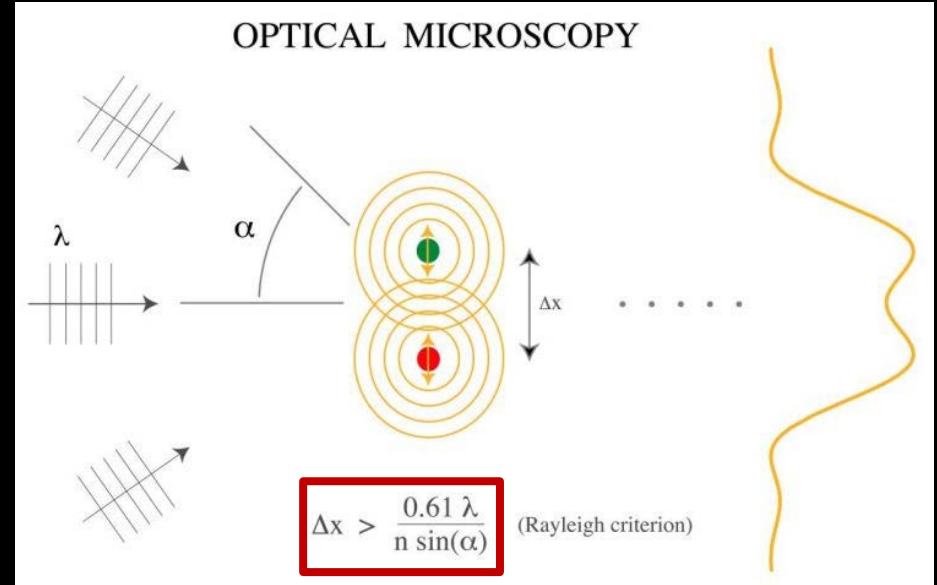
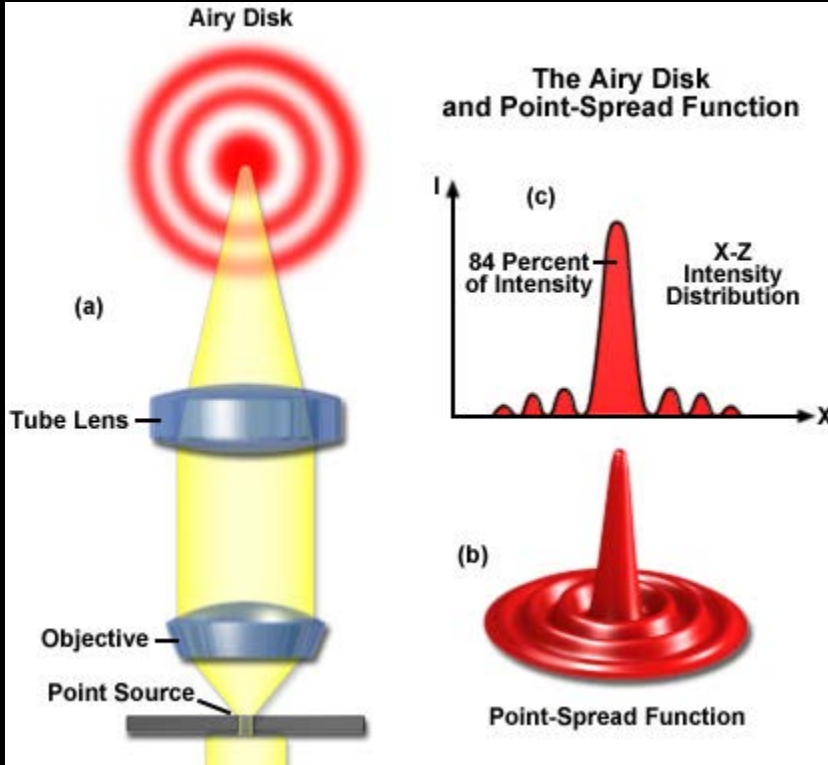
# Numerical Aperture (NA)



Magnification	1X	2X	3X	4X	10X	20X	40X	60X	100X
Color Code	Black	Gray	Red	Yellow	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	White

# Numerical Aperture (NA)

## The Abbe diffraction limit



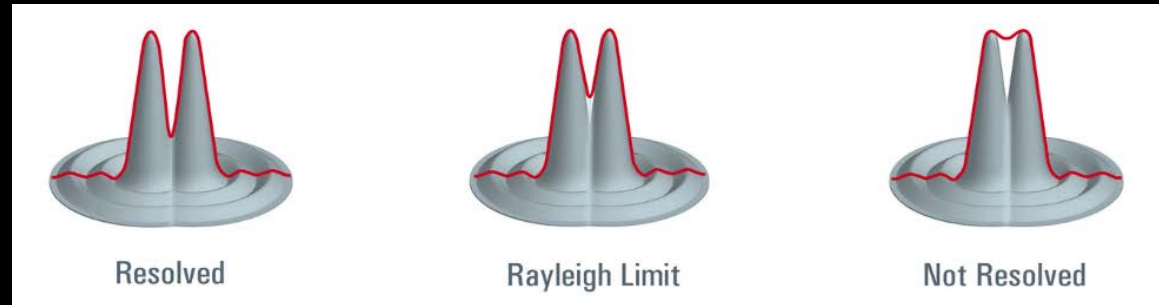
<http://www2.optics.rochester.edu/workgroups/novotny/snom.html>

<http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/articles/basics/resolution.html>

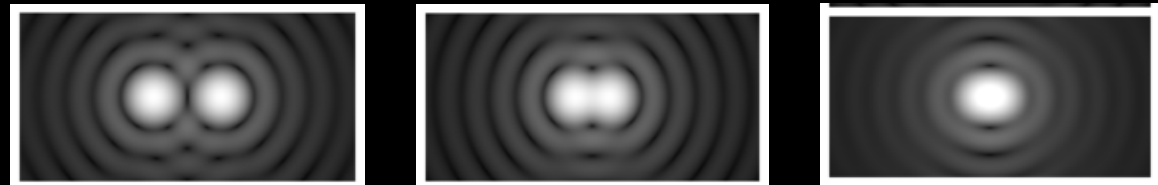
$$d = \frac{\lambda}{2n \sin \alpha}$$

# The Abbe diffraction limit

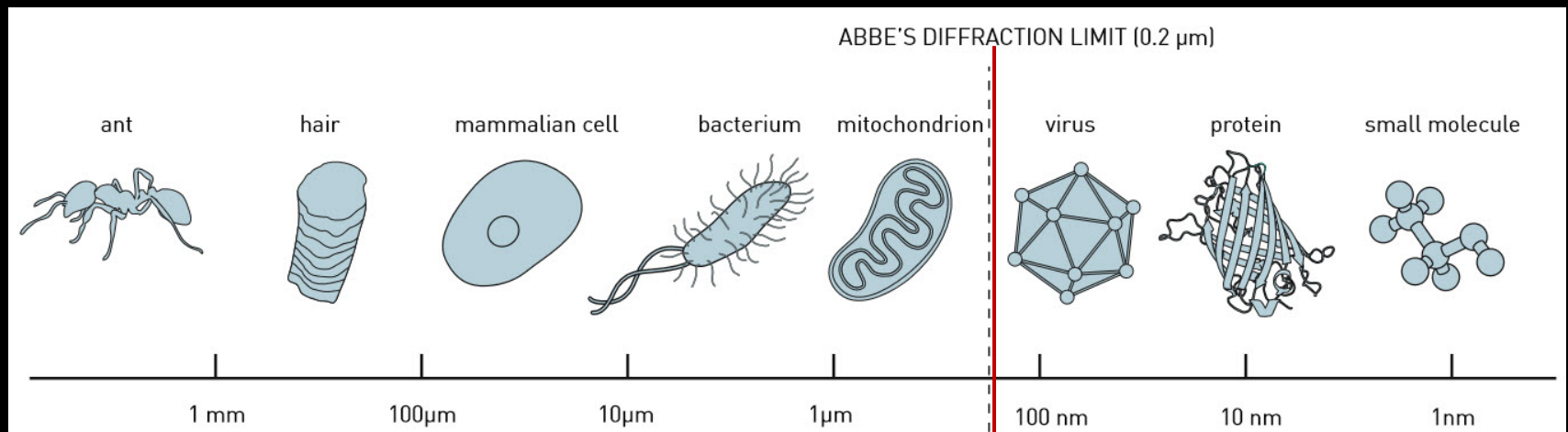
$$d = \frac{\lambda}{2n \sin \alpha}$$



<https://www.leica-microsystems.com/science-lab/microscope-resolution-concepts-factors-and-calculation/>



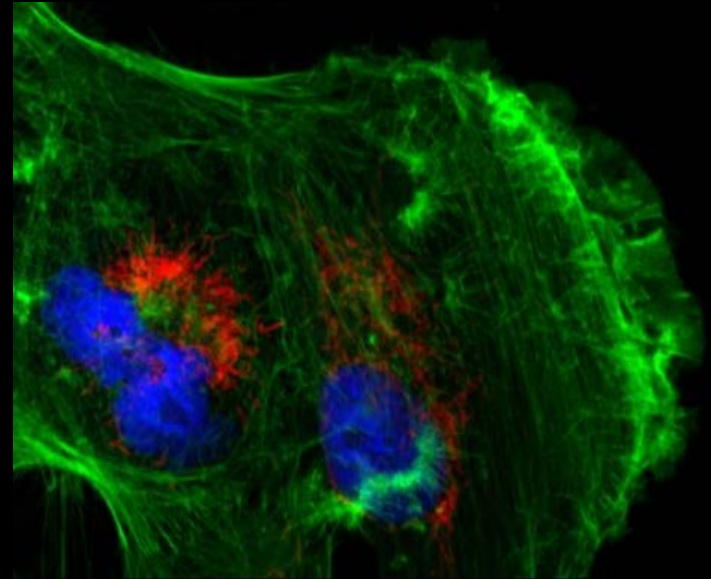
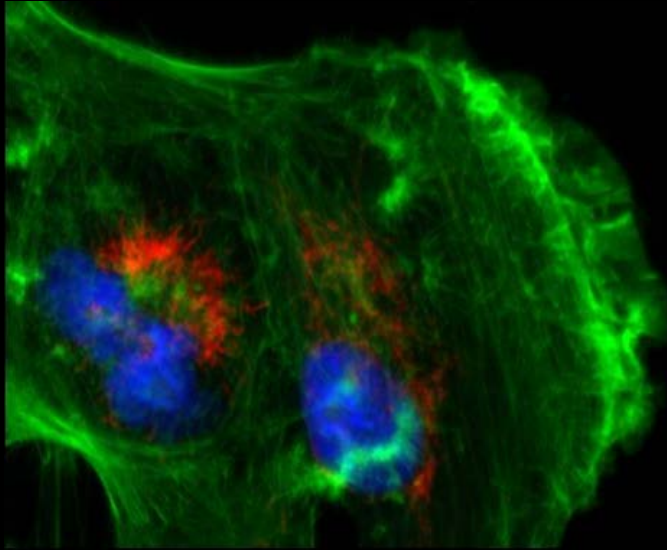
<https://phys.org/news/2016-09-quantum-mechanics-technique-rayleigh-curse.html>



<http://www.kurzweilai.net/the-nobel-prize-in-chemistry-2014-beyond-the-diffraction-limit-in-microscopy>

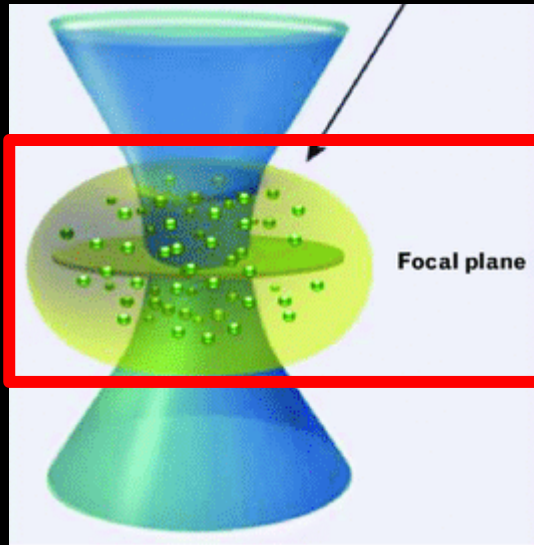


# The Abbe diffraction limit

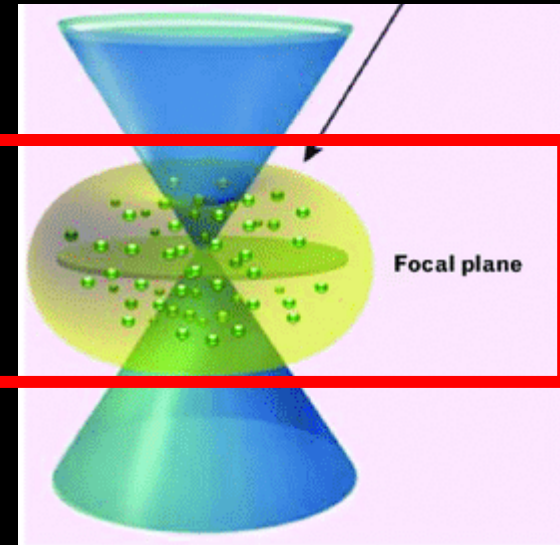


<https://slideplayer.com/slide/10351495/>

Widefield



Confocal

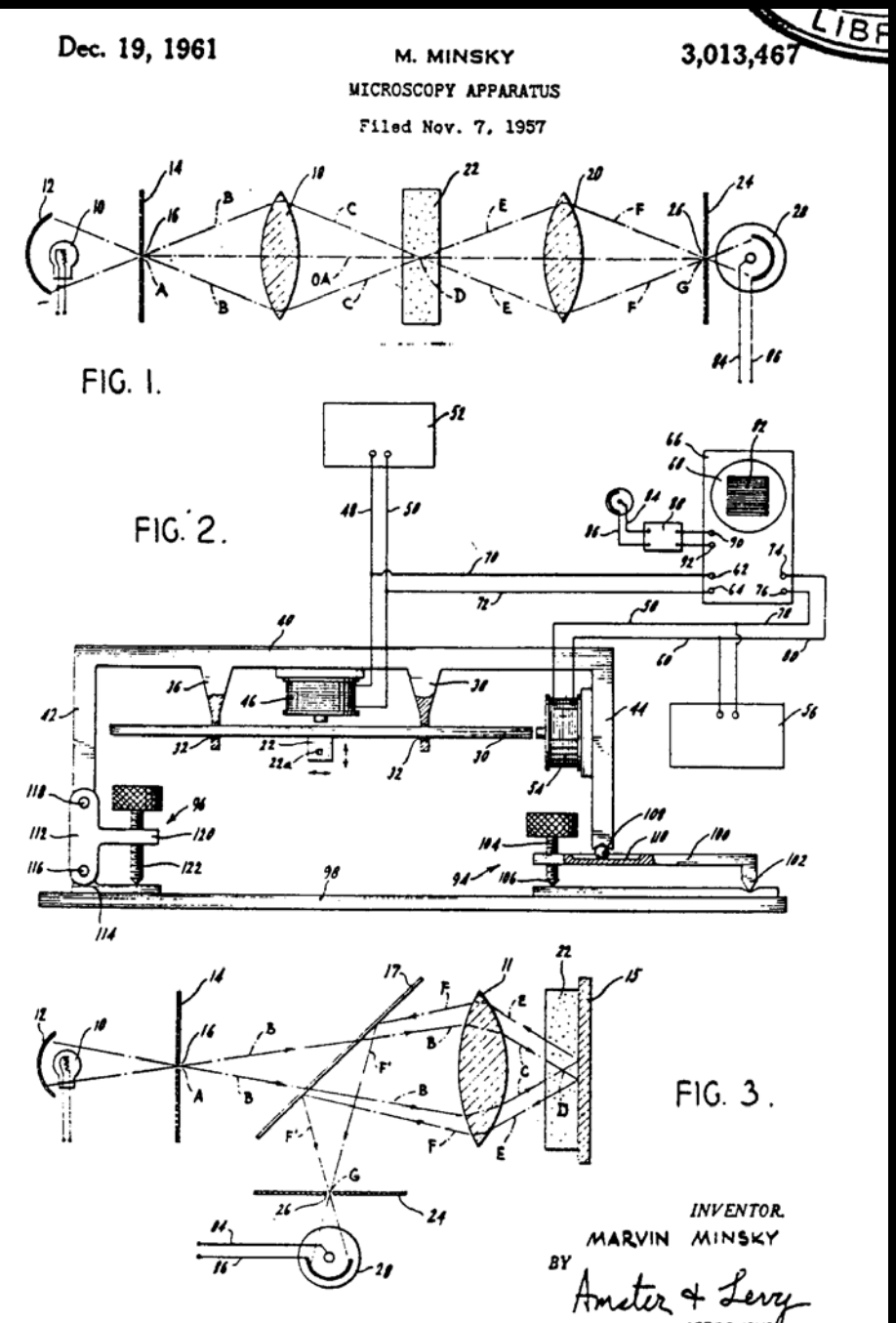


# Confocal Microscopy



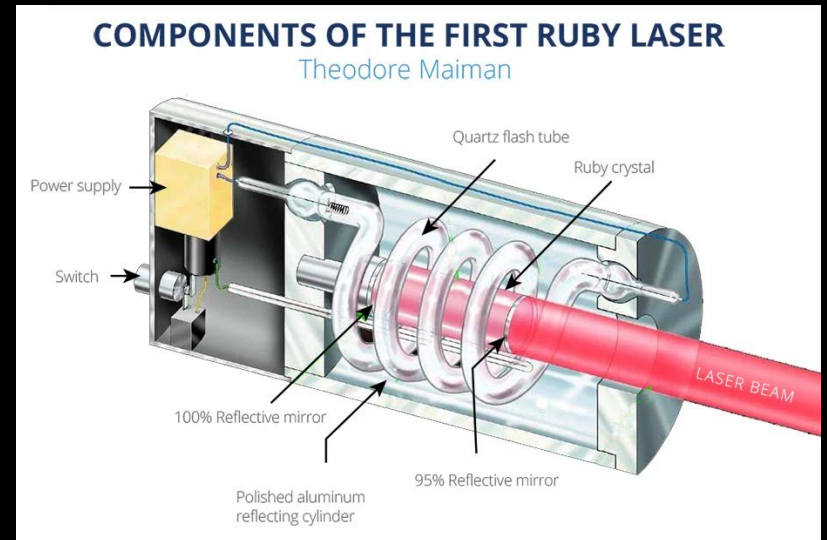
Marvin L. Minsky (1927-2016)

- basic concept of confocal microscopy (1950s)
- advances in computer technology
- laser



# L A S E R

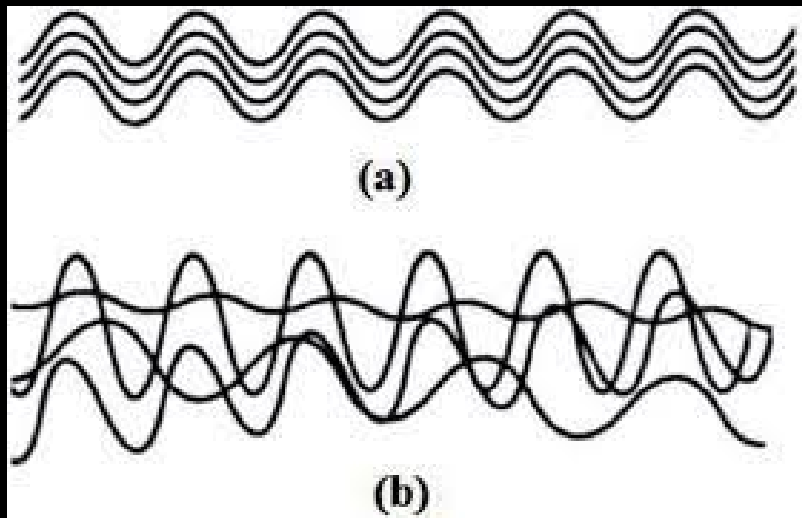
Light  
Amplification  
Stimulated  
Emission  
Radiation



<https://escooptics.com/blogs/news/what-is-the-international-day-of-light>

- coherent monochromatic light (stimulated emission of photons from excited atoms or molecules)

**COHERENT**

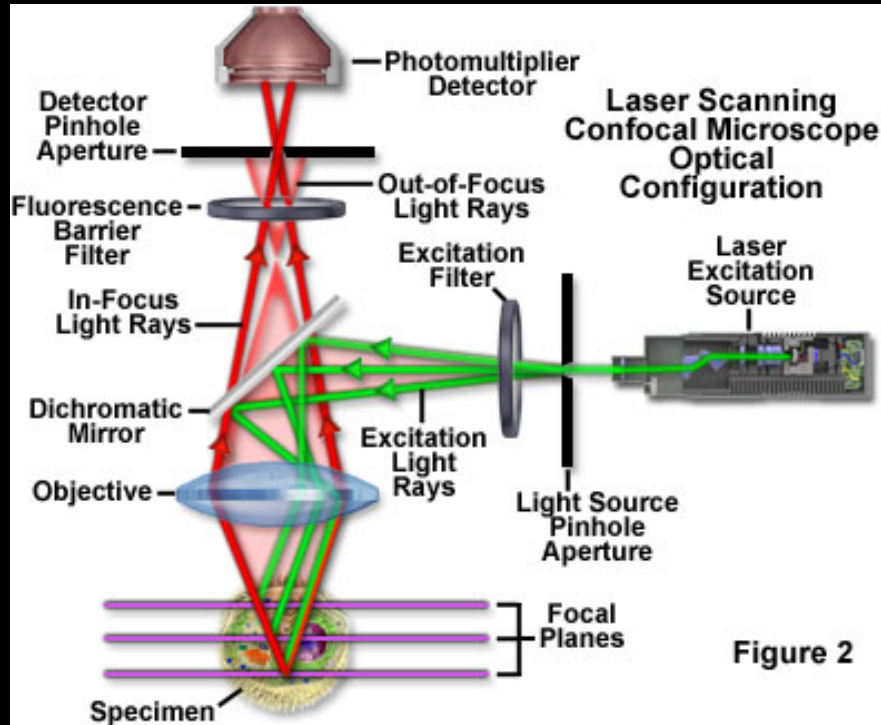
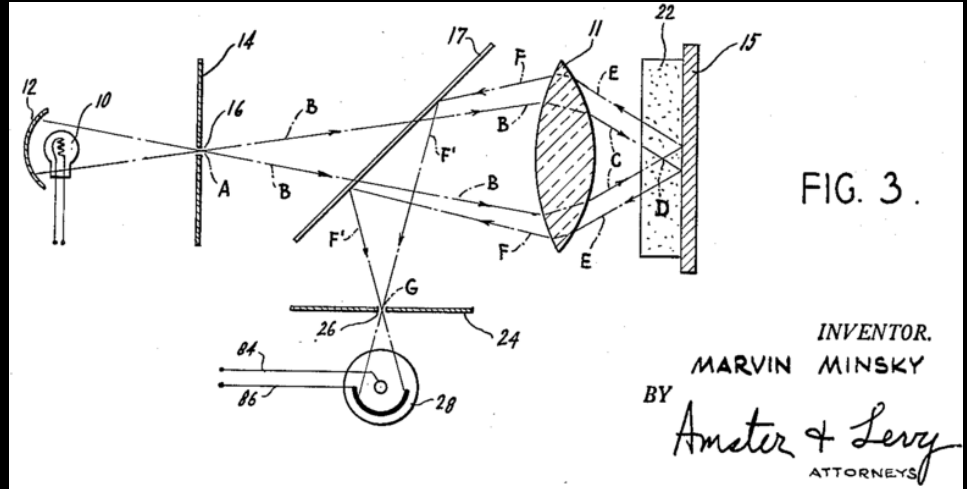


**NON-COHERENT**

# Confocal Microscopy



**Marvin L. Minsky**  
(1927-2016)



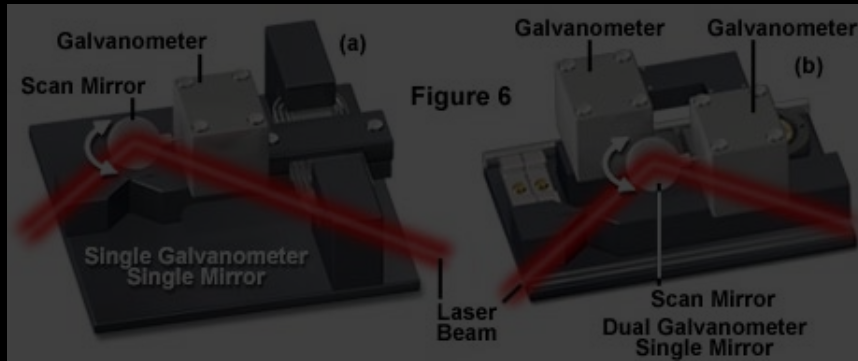
1. Laser Excitation Source
2. Reflected through dichroic mirror
3. Into lens (Objective)
4. Focussed to the point in specimen
5. Emitted light (from specimen)
6. Into same lens
7. Beam splitter
8. Detector (Photomultiplier)

# Confocal Microscope

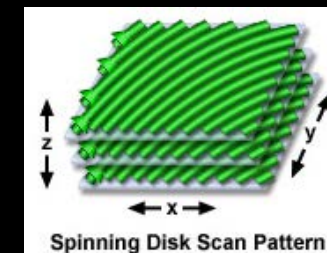
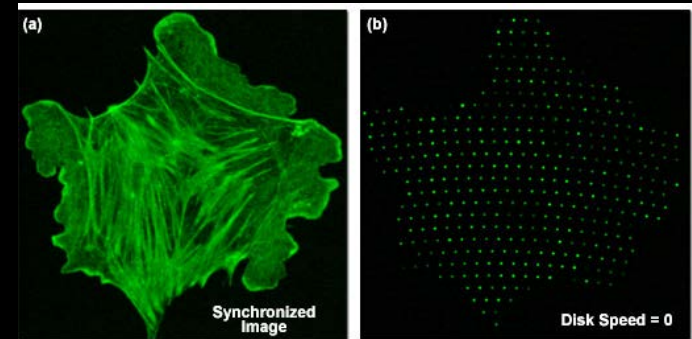
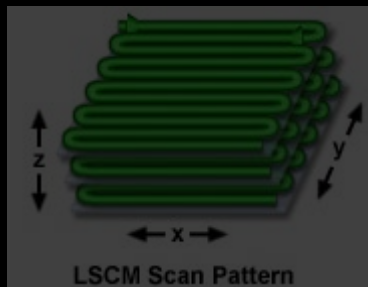
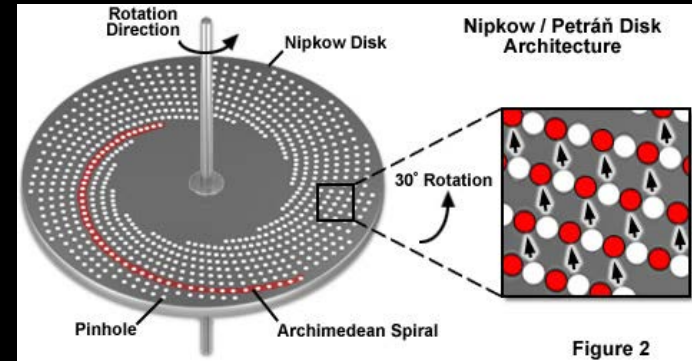


Mojmír Petráň  
Milan Hadravský

## Confocal Microscope Scanning System



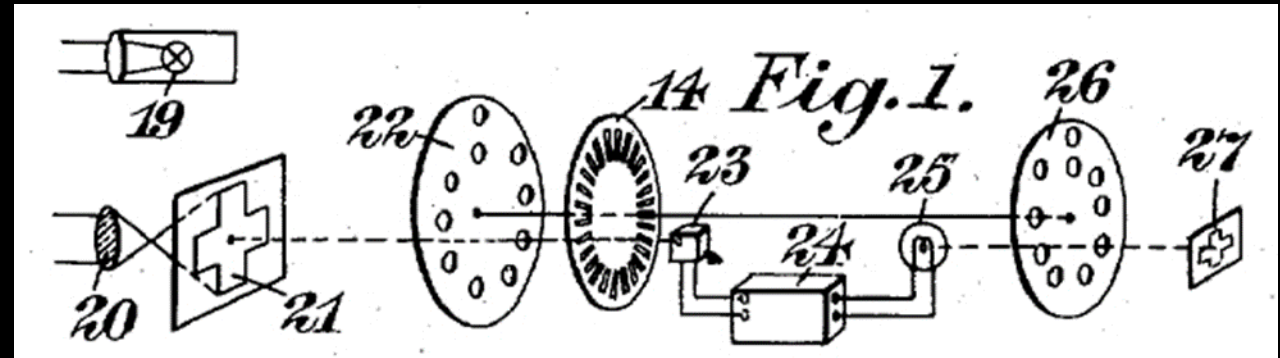
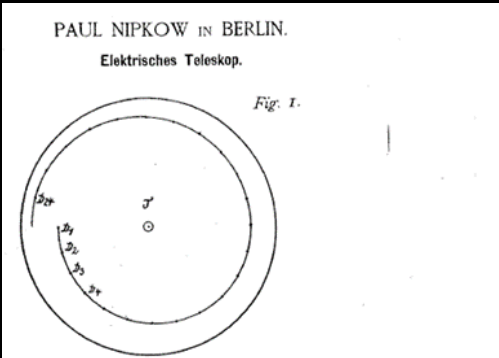
## Nipkow disk



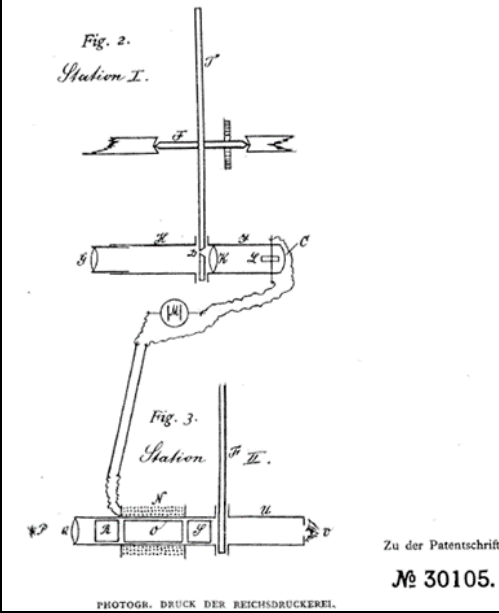


Mojmír Petráň  
Milan Hadravský

## Nipkow Disk



[https://www.juliantrubin.com/bigten/baird\\_nipkow\\_television.html](https://www.juliantrubin.com/bigten/baird_nipkow_television.html)



Zu der Patentschrift  
№ 30105.

John Baird mechanical television patent RE19169

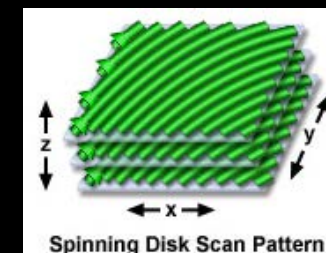
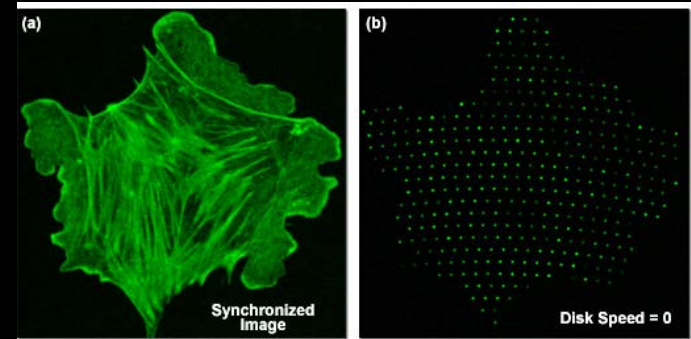
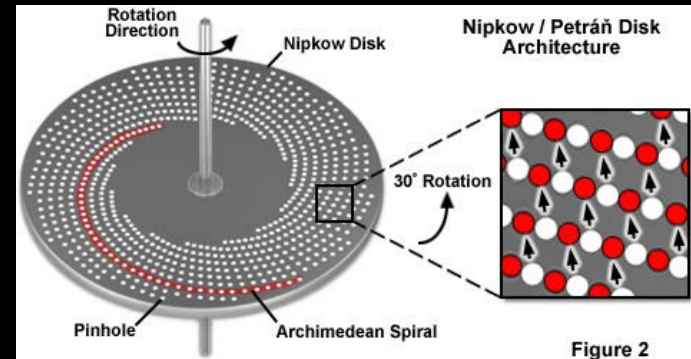
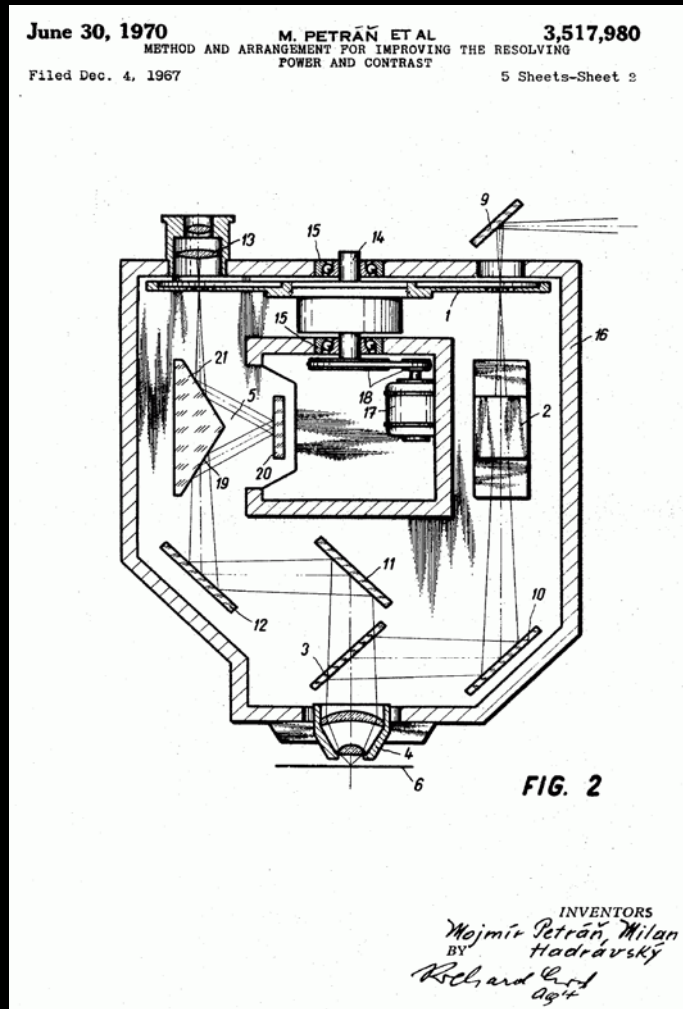
19=an arc-lamp in the infra-red spectrum for not blinding photographed people  
 20=lens that intensify the light (by 19) reflected from the transmitted object  
 21=the transmitted object light reflection (cross) passing a framing mask  
 22=spiral lenses mounted on a rotating disc for scanning the object  
 14=other possible scanning disk arrangements for different radiations or needs  
 23=photoelectric cell (selenium) for infrared light detection  
 24=line amplifier transmitting amplified electrical signals from the cell to the receiver  
 25=gas-discharge lamp (neon), converts the arriving varying electrical signals into light  
 26=a rotating disc for the detection of the arriving image  
 27=projection screen

# Confocal Microscope

## Nipkow Disk



Mojmír Petráň  
Milan Hadravský

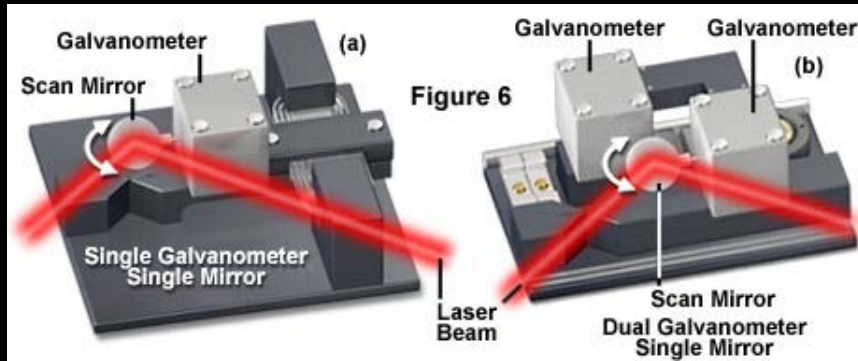


# Confocal Microscope

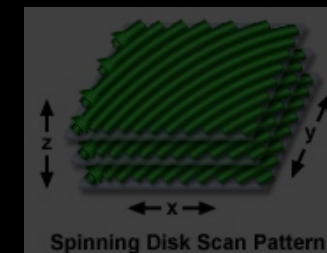
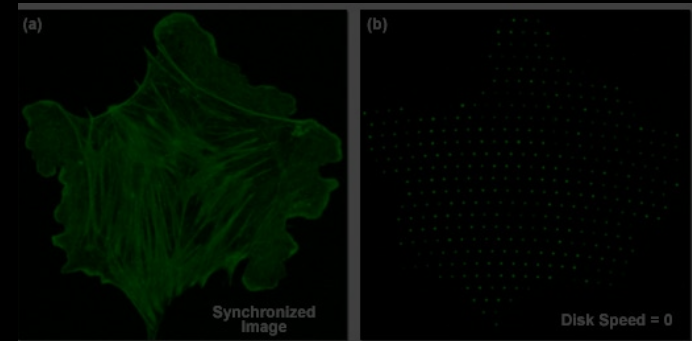
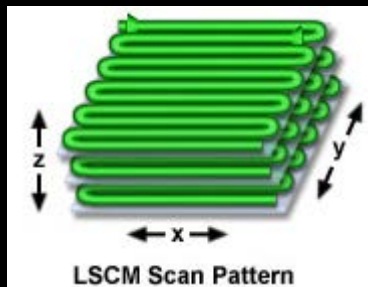
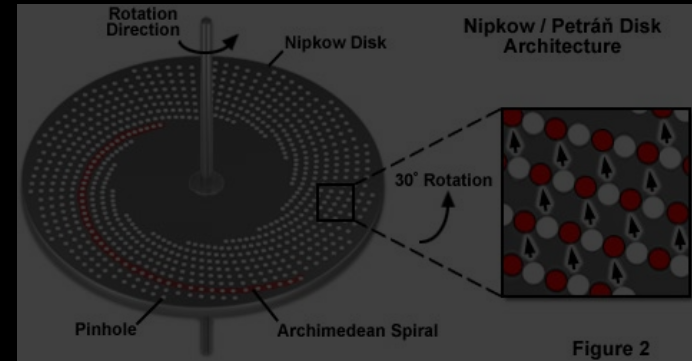


Mojmír Petráň  
Milan Hadravský

## Confocal Microscope Scanning System

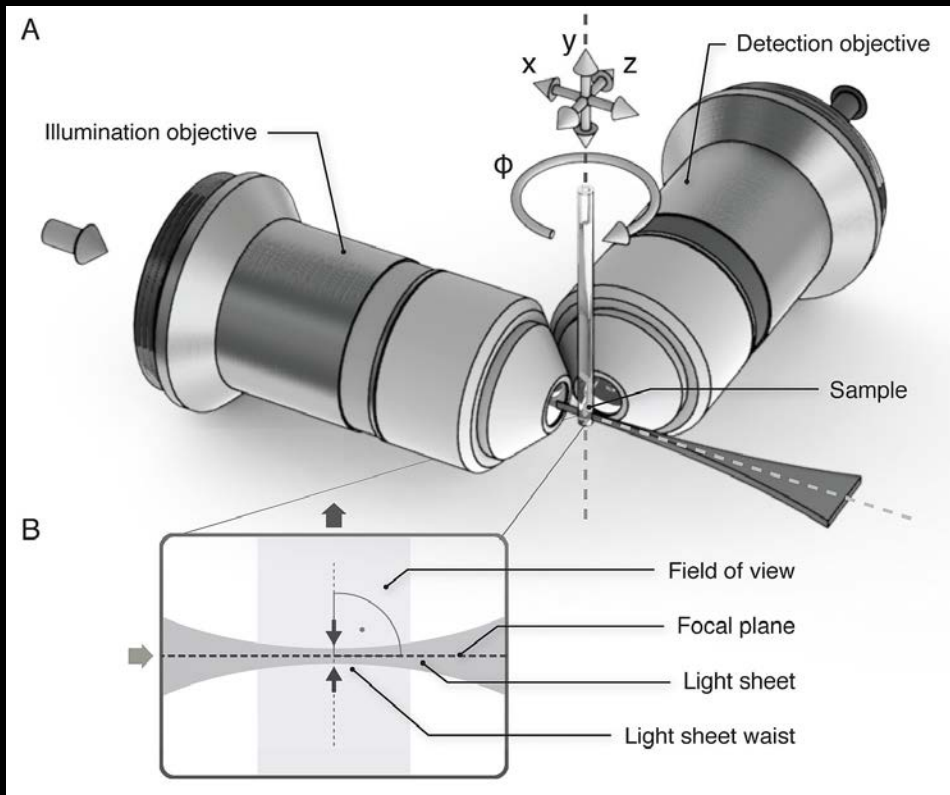


## Nipkow disk



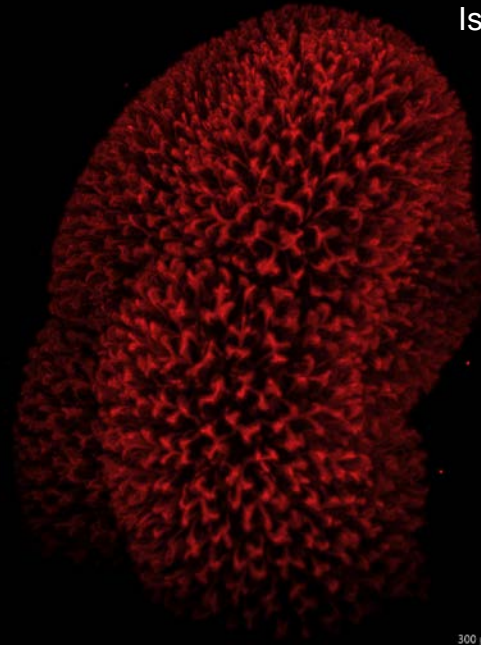


# Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy (LSFM)



Isaacson et al., 2018

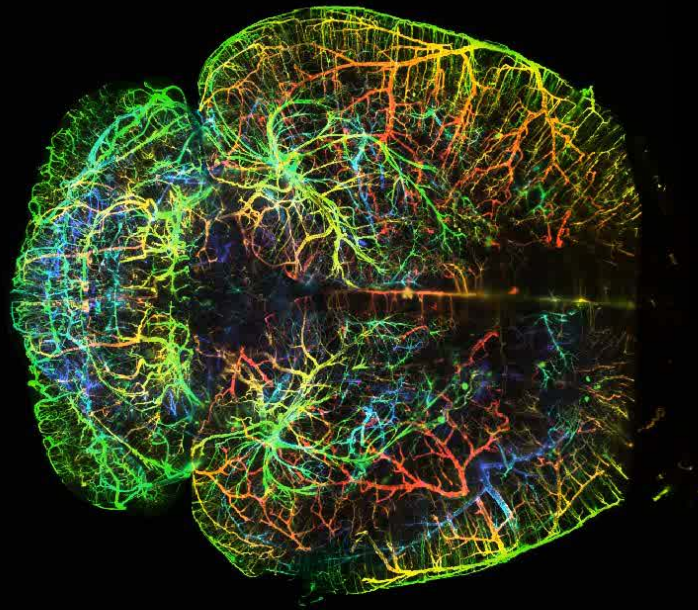
E-cadherin



<https://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/int/products/imaging-systems/light-sheet-microscope-for-lsfm-imaging-of-live-and-cleared-samples-lightsheet-7.html>

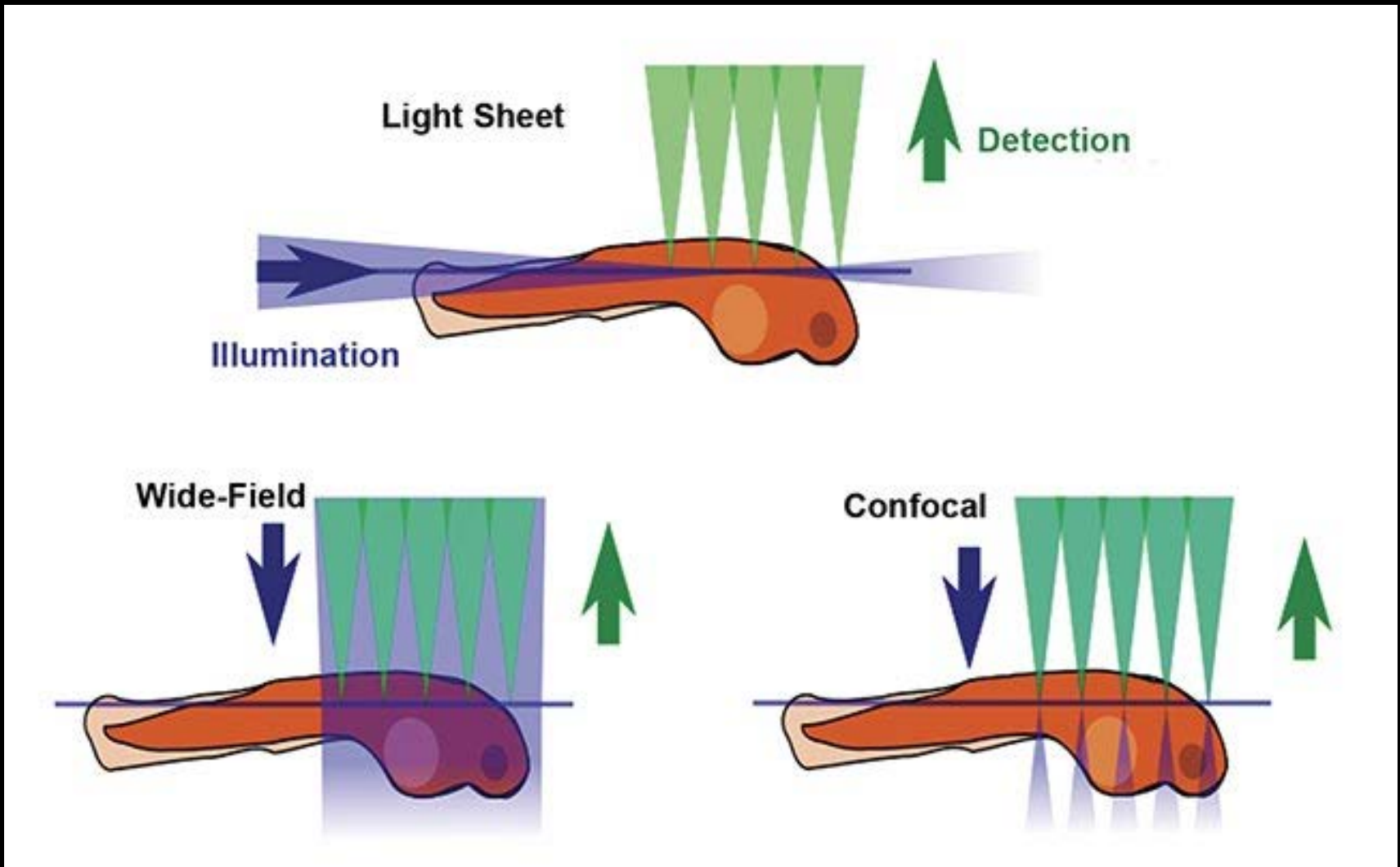
- splits fluorescence **excitation** and **detection** → two separate light paths
- camera-based detector → collect images faster  
→ less excitation light
- 3D imaging extremely fast → imaging samples = **millimeter scale**  
(developing organisms or large cleared tissue samples)

# Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy (LSFM)



[Video](#) | © Sample courtesy of E. Diel, D. Richardson, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

# Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy (LSFM)



# Super-resolution Microscopy at a Glance

Catherine G. Galbraith and James A. Galbraith

## Diffraction

The size that a point source appears in a conventional microscope  
**Lateral resolution:** 200–250 nm **Axial resolution:** 500–700 nm

**Diffraction limited**  
~200–250 nm

## Defining super resolution

Super resolution is defined as any method that improves resolution by a factor of two over diffraction. Two basic approaches have been used to achieve this goal: ensemble (SIM, STED) and single-molecule (PALM, IPALM, STORM, dSTORM) techniques.

## Super-resolution techniques

	Resolution improvement relative to diffraction	Method of illumination	Method of image generation	Probes
<b>Ensemble</b>				
SIM	Two fold	Patterned widefield	Multiple images combined in Fourier space	Conventional fluorescent proteins and dyes
STED, GSD	Several fold	Hardware-shaped excitation beam	Scanned excitation beam	STED, GSD photoswitchable probes
<b>Single molecule</b>				
PALM, IPALM	Order of magnitude	Stochastic fluorophore activation	Summed single-molecule frames	Photoactivatable fluorescent probes
STORM, dSTORM	Order of magnitude	Stochastic fluorophore activation	Summed single-molecule frames	Inorganic photoswitchable dyes

## PALM, IPALM, STORM, dSTORM

Single-molecule techniques turn on and localize individual molecules.

**Lateral resolution:** 10–50 nm  
**Axial resolution:** 500–700 nm wide field; 100 nm TIRF; 70 nm astigmatic lens; 10 nm interferometry

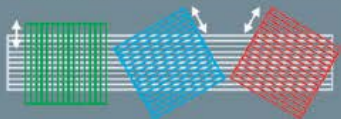


**PALM, IPALM, STORM, dSTORM**  
~10–55 nm

## SIM

A periodic illumination grid makes higher-frequency information available to the microscope.

**Lateral resolution:** 100–125 nm  
**Axial resolution:** 500–700 nm wide field; 250–350 nm 3D SIM



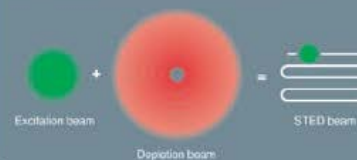
**SIM**  
~100 nm

**STED, GSD**  
~30–70 nm

## STED, GSD

A doughnut-shaped depletion beam decreases the effective size of the scanned excitation beam.

**Lateral resolution:** 30–60 nm  
**Axial resolution:** 500–700 nm wide field; 30 nm isoSTED



Electron microscopy measures the diameter of microtubules at ~25 nm. Light microscopy measures the diameter of microtubules from 25–250 nm, depending on the imaging technique used.

**fBALM**

**CLEM**

**SMLM**

**SIM**

**T-REX**

**RESOLFT**

**STED**

**STORM**

# **Super-Resolution Microscopy**

**FPALM**

**dSTORM**

**DyMIN STED**

**REDCue STED**

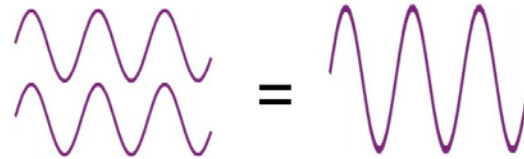
**PALM**

**SOFI**

# SIM (Structured Illumination Microscopy)

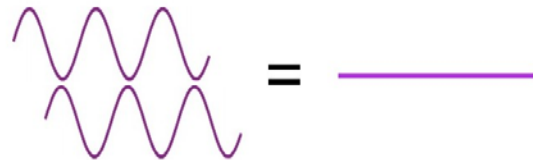
## Constructive vs. destructive interference; Coherent vs. incoherent interference

Waves that combine **in phase** add up to relatively high irradiance.



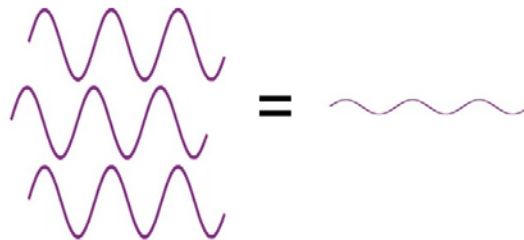
Constructive interference (**coherent**)

Waves that combine **180° out of phase** cancel out and yield zero irradiance.



Destructive interference (**coherent**)

Waves that combine with **lots of different phases** nearly cancel out and yield very low irradiance.



**Incoherent** addition

# SIM (Structured Illumination Microscopy)

Visualization of Spatial Information via Moiré Fringes

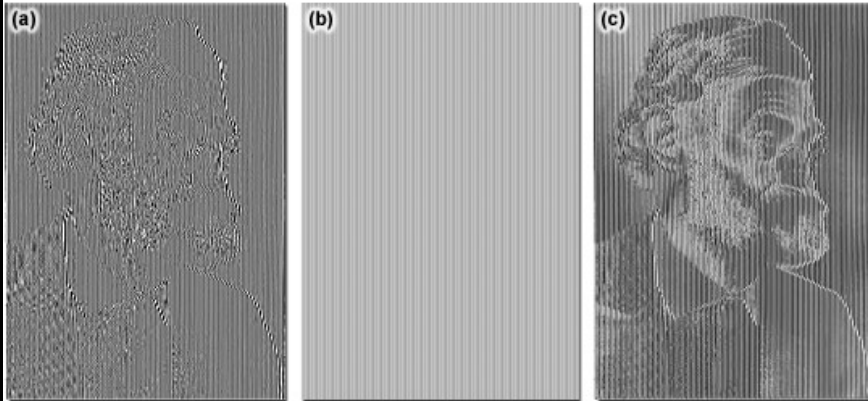


Figure 6

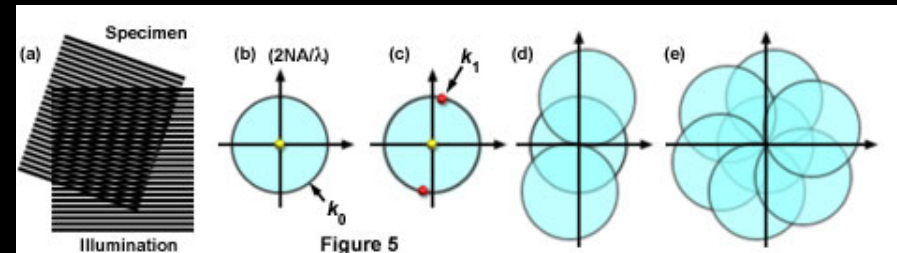
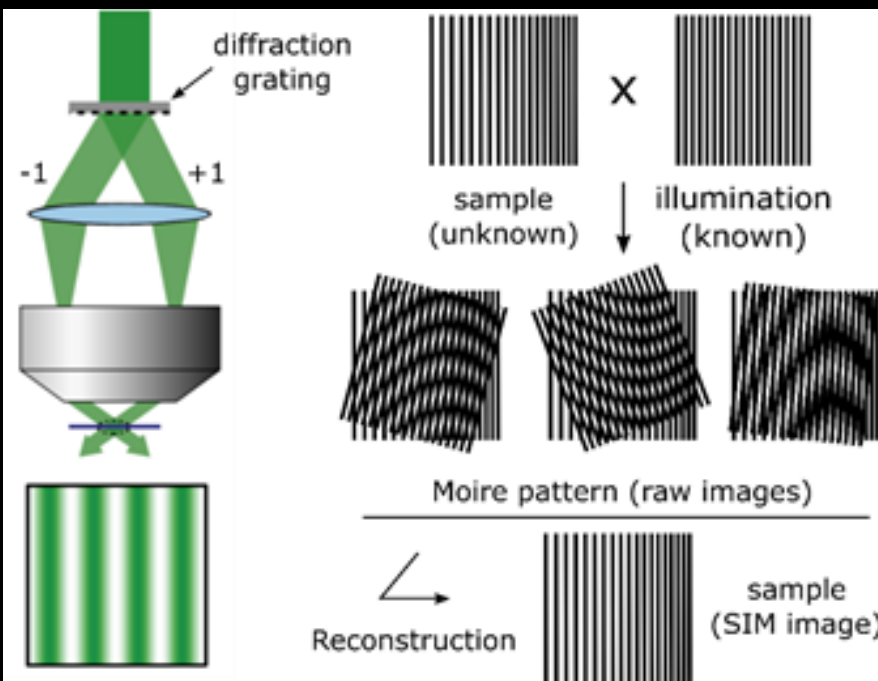


Figure 5

# SIM (Structured Illumination Microscopy)

## Advantages

- 2x increase in spatial resolution over wide-field microscopy → lateral (in xy) ~100 nm
- 3D imaging at fast frame rate
- labelling using conventional fluorophores
- up to 3 simultaneous colour imaging (other super-resolution microscopy modalities are often limited to 2)

## Disadvantages

- artefacts generated during image reconstruction
- sensitive to out-of-focus light and so difficult on thick or too densely labelled samples.



# Stimulated emission depletion (STED) microscopy



- super-resolution microscopy
- overcomes the diffraction limit of light microscopy



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014  
Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell, William E. Moerner

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## The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014



Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Eric Betzig**  
Prize share: 1/3



Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Stefan W. Hell**  
Prize share: 1/3

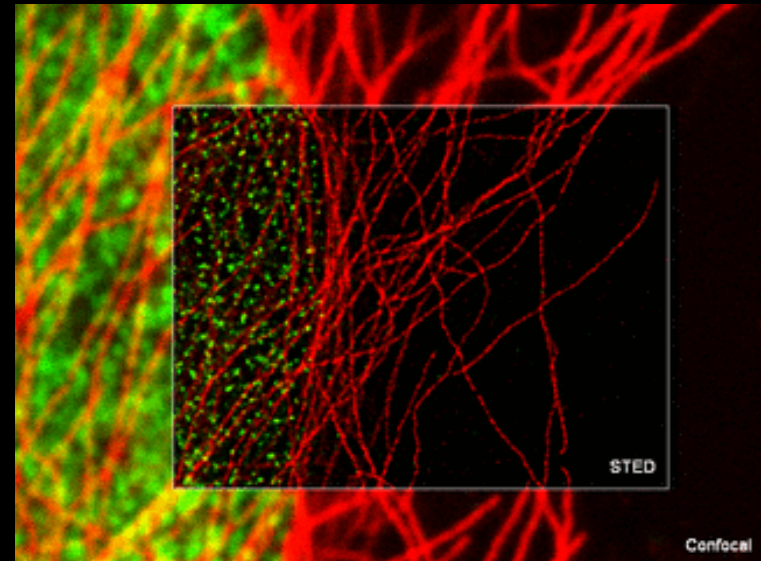
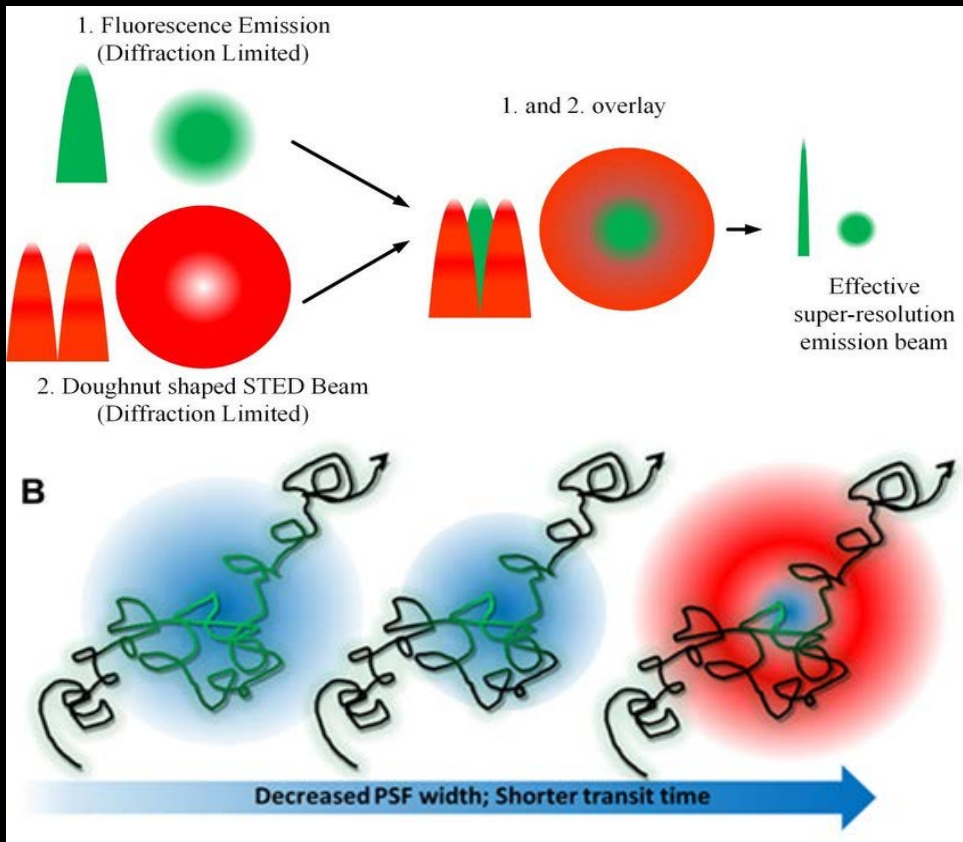


Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**William E. Moerner**  
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014 was awarded jointly to Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell and William E. Moerner "for the development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy".

# Stimulated emission depletion (STED) microscopy

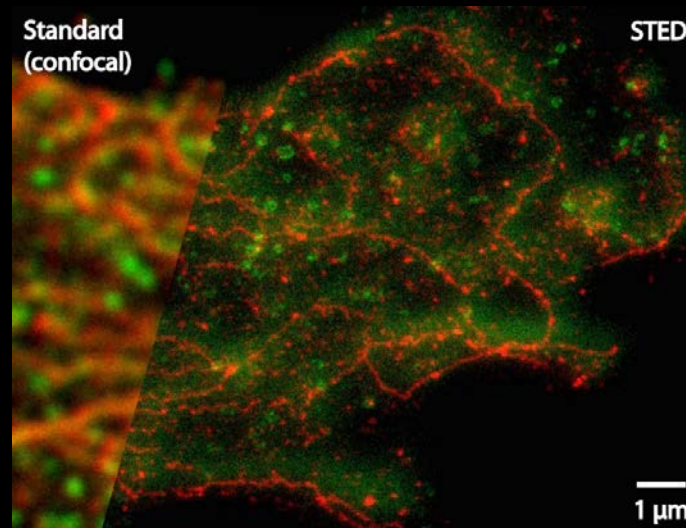
- switching off the fluorescence by intense laser light → in outer regions of diffraction limited excitation focus
- detected fluorescence in center excitation focus → high resolution images



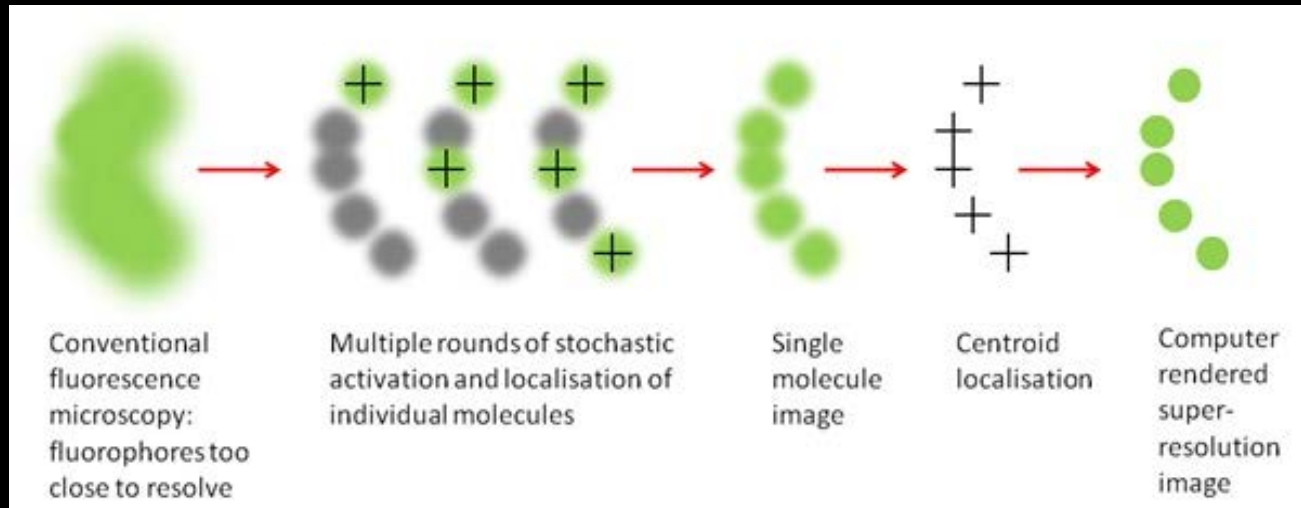
# Stimulated emission depletion (STED) microscopy

## Applications

- ❖ Structural analysis → instead of Electron Microscopy (EM)
- ❖ Correlative methods → combining AFM + STED
- ❖ Multicolor
- ❖ Live-cell (ONLY plasma membrane with organic dyes) → RECENTLY: multicolor live-cell STED (pulsed far-red laser)



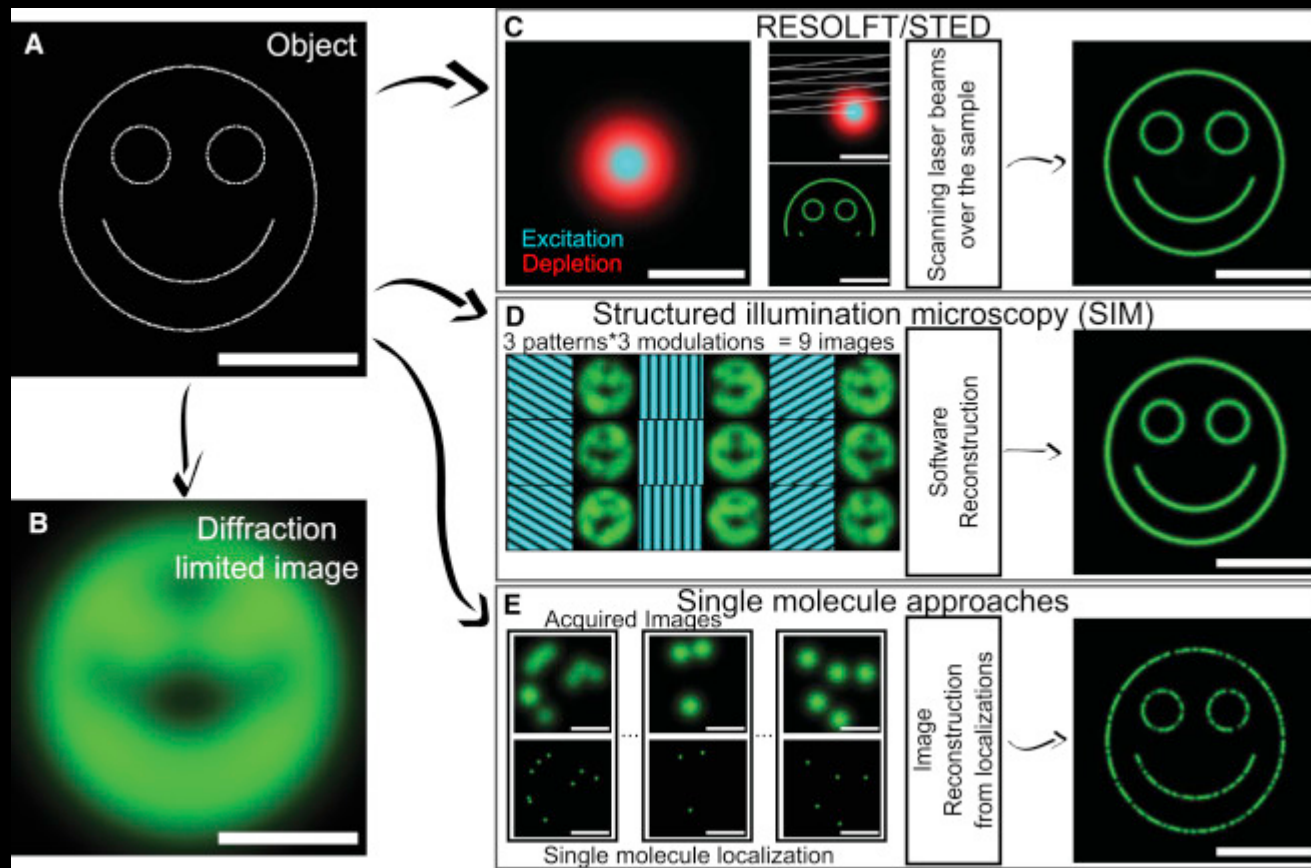
# Single-Molecule Localization Microscopy (SMLM)



Thorley et al., 2014



# Summary



Godin et al., 2014

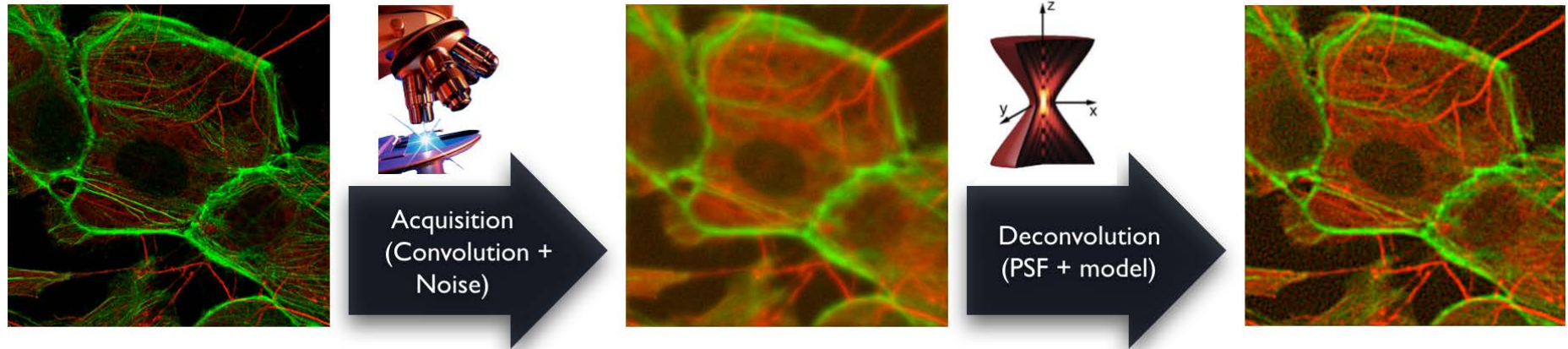
**STORM**

**PALM**

**dSTORM**

**FPALM**

# Deconvolution

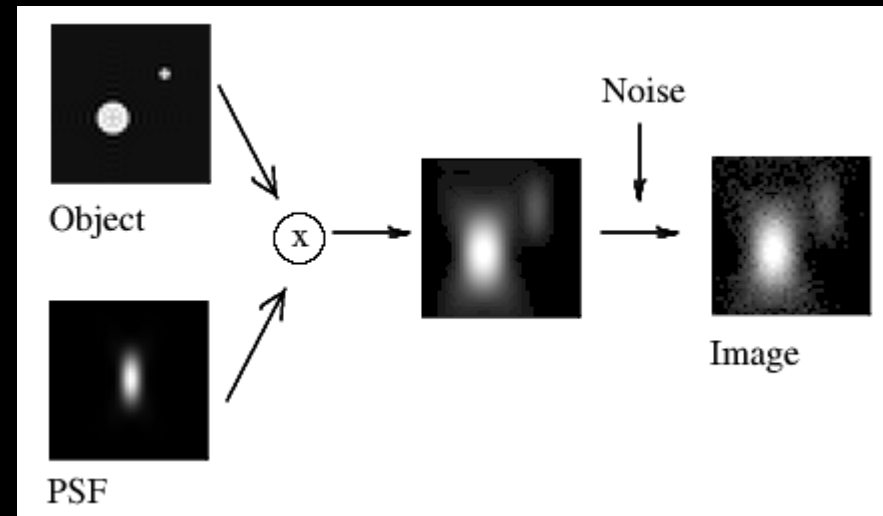


Convolution = Distortion

<http://bigwww.epfl.ch/deconvolution/>

## PSF

- point spread function (PSF) → response of an imaging system to a point source or point object
- the degree of spreading (blurring) of the point object → the quality of an imaging system



<https://svi.nl/Deconvolution>

# Deconvolution

## Point Spread Function (PSF)

### Experimental

- quantum dots or fluorescent beads
- resolution size limit
- isolated one, direct injection to sample
- use same setting all the time
- average PSF

### Theoretical

Rayleigh resolution:  $0.6 \cdot \lambda / \text{NA}$

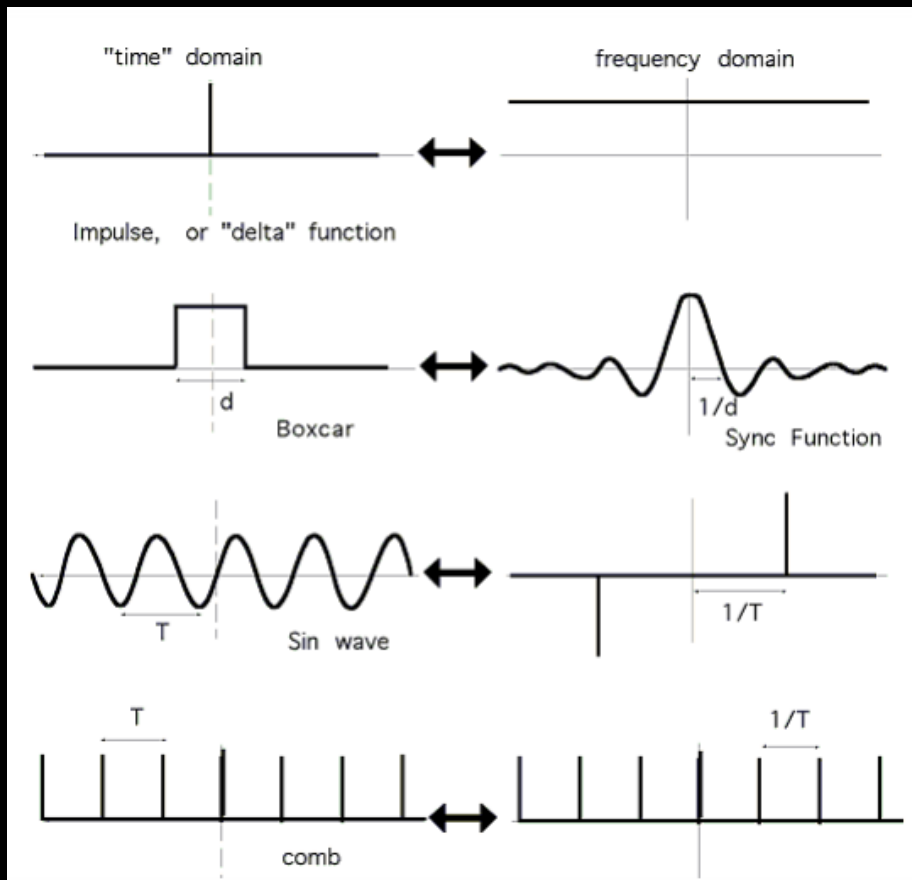
Index of refraction of the media	<input type="text" value="1.000"/>
Numerical Aperture, $n \cdot \sin(\theta)$	<input type="text" value="0.60"/>
Wavelength (perhaps in nm)	<input type="text" value="510.0"/>
Longitudinal Spherical Aberration at max. aperture, same units	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Image pixel spacing (x and y, same units) / magnification	<input type="text" value="3.000"/>
Slice spacing (z), same units	<input type="text" value="30.00"/>
Width, pixels	<input type="text" value="256"/>
Height, pixels	<input type="text" value="256"/>
Depth, slices	<input type="text" value="256"/>
Normalization	<input type="text" value="Sum of pixel values = 1"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="PSF"/>

**Noise FREE**

**Both approaches are advisable**

# Deconvolution

## Fourier transformation



## Deconvolution methods

No neighbors

Nearest neighbors

Linear methods

Wiener filter, inverse filtering

Linear least squares (LLS)

Constrained iterative

Jansson van Cittert

Nonlinear least squares

Statistical image restoration

Maximum likelihood

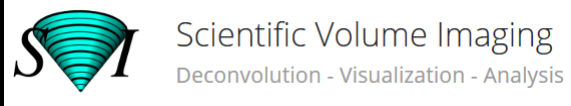
Maximum a posteriori

Maximum penalized likelihood

Blind deconvolution



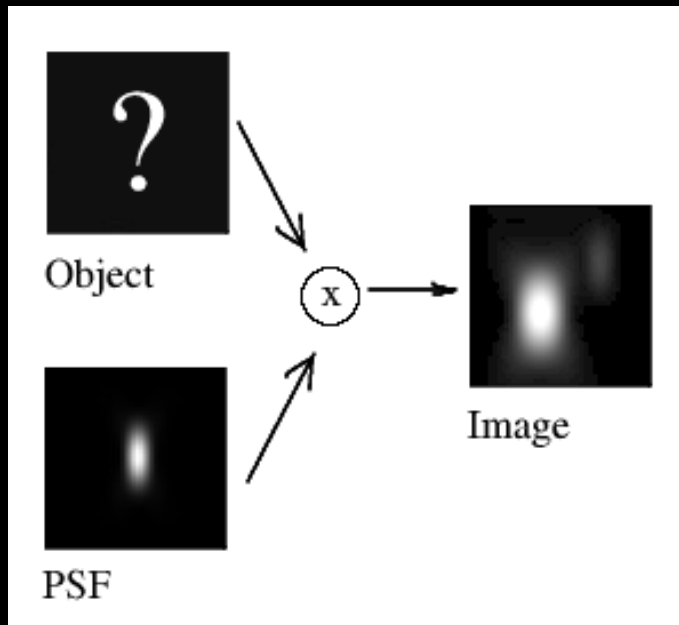
# Deconvolution



Huygens Deconvolution Software

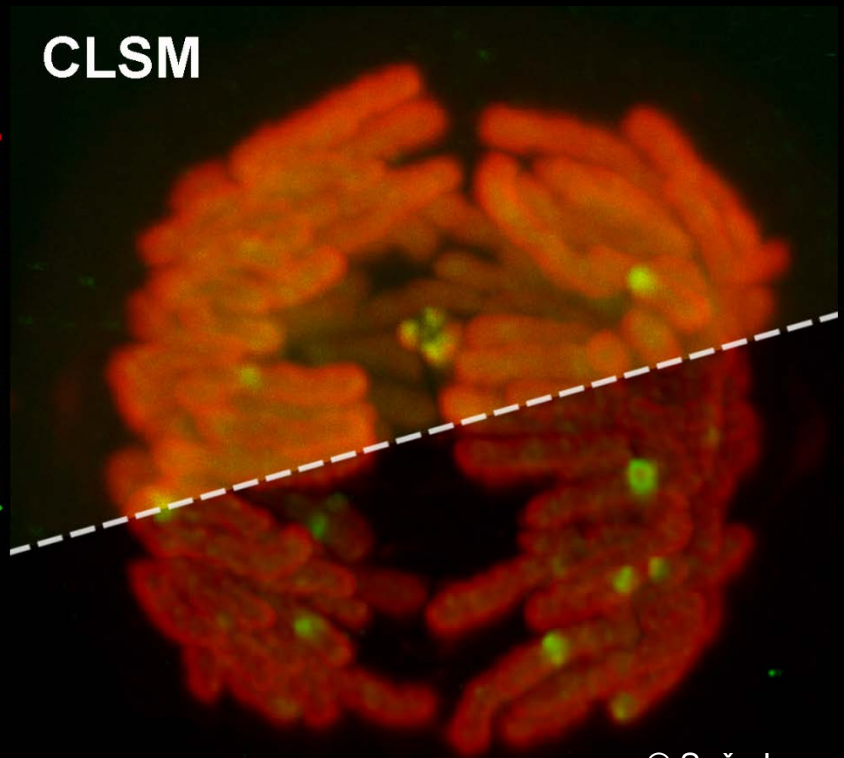


Lightning



<https://svi.nl/Deconvolution>

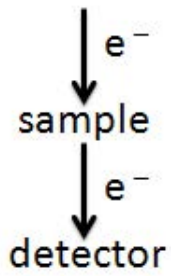
HeLa cells  $\gamma$ H2AX and H3S10ph



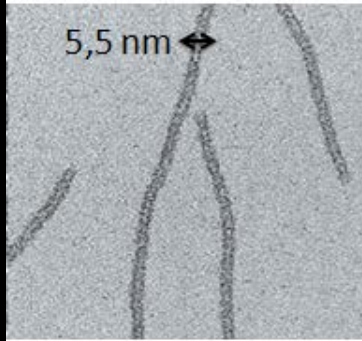
© Soňa Legartová

Deconvolution

<b>Electron Microscopes</b>	<b>Light Microscopes</b>
Maximum resolution is 0.5nm	Maximum resolution is 200nm
Useful magnification is up to 250,000x in TEM, 100,000x in SEM	Useful magnification is around 1000x (1500x at best)
Wavelength is 1.0nm.	Wavelength is between 400-700nm.
Highly detailed images, and even 3D surface imaging.	See reasonable detail, with true colours.
Can see organelles of cells, bacteria and even viruses.	Good for small organisms, invertebrates and whole cells.

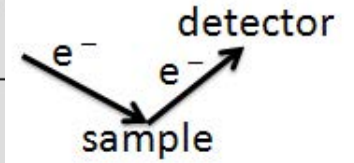


TEM

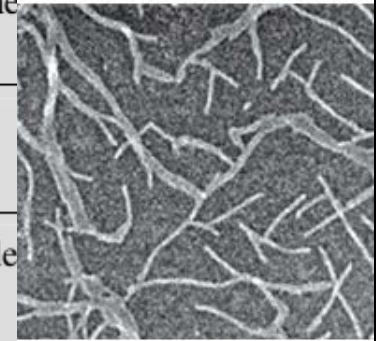


TEM	SEM
Electron beam passes through thin sample.	Electron beam scans over surface of sample.
Specially prepared thin samples are supported on TEM grids.	Sample can be any thickness and is mounted on an aluminum stub.
Specimen stage halfway down column.	Specimen stage in the chamber at the bottom of the column.
Image shown on fluorescent screen.	Image shown on TV monitor.
Image is a two dimensional projection of the sample.	Image is of the surface of the sample

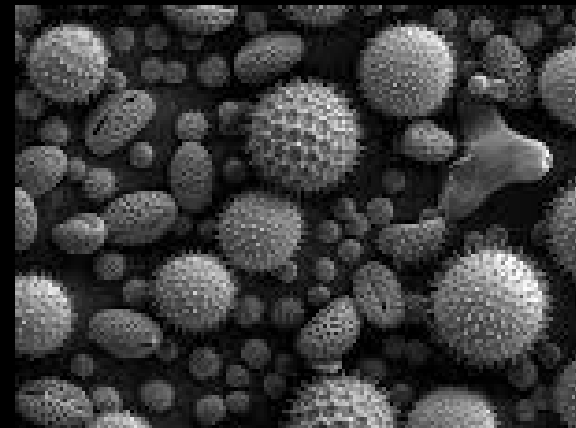
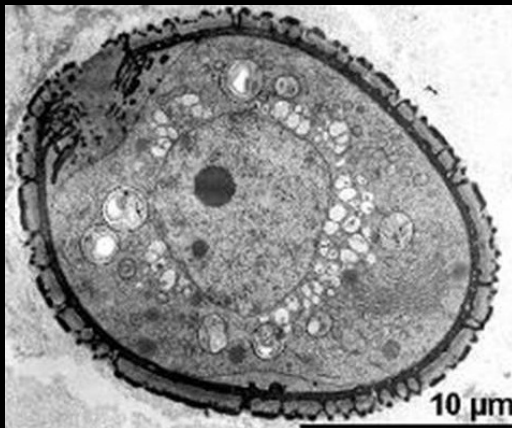
SEM



SEM



<https://www.majordifferences.com/2016/08/difference-between-sem-and-tem.html>



## Laboratory of Cellular Biophysics (2009)



## Leica TCS SP-5 X

## Leica TCS SP-8 SMD

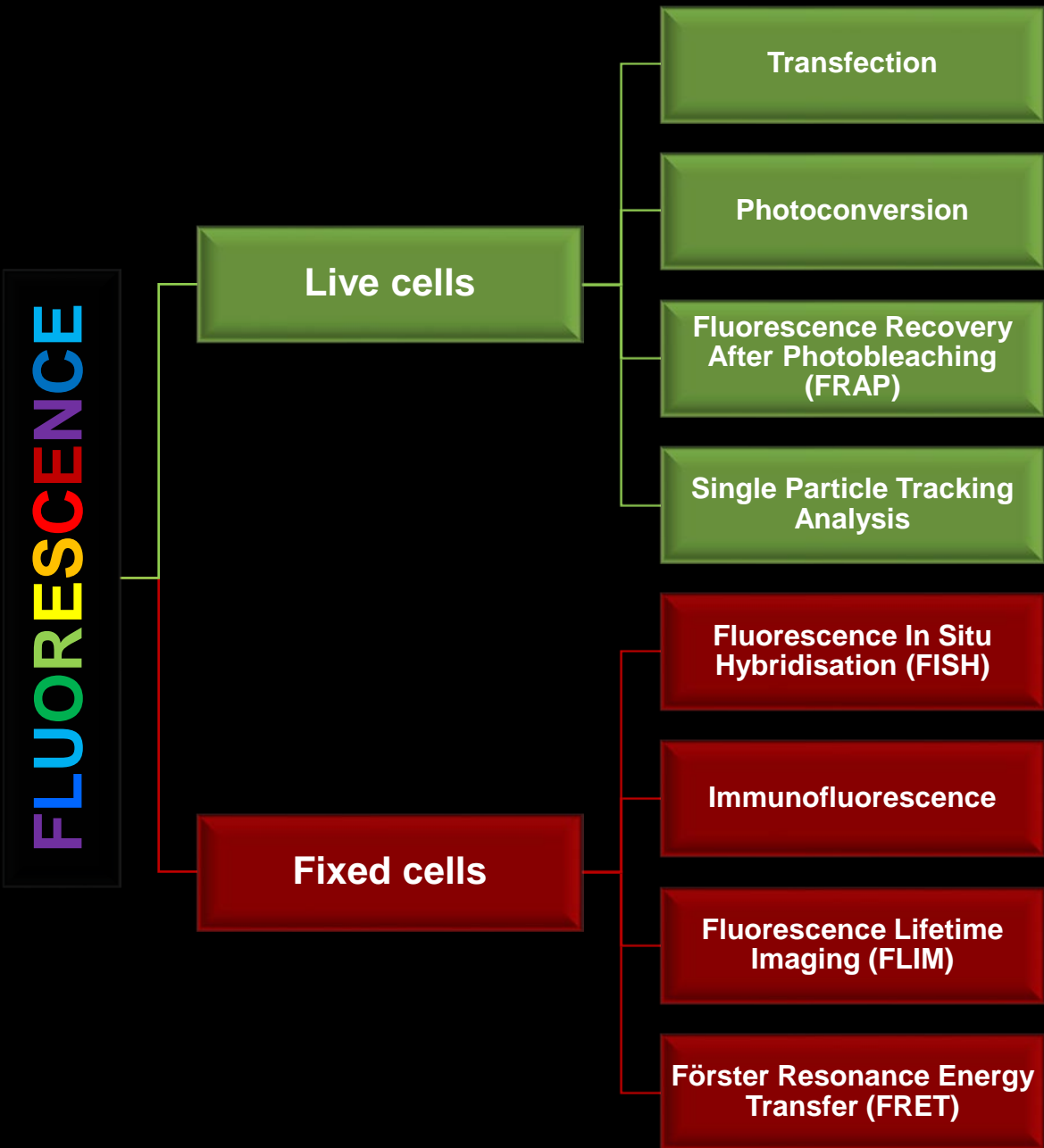


### Laser Scanning Confocal Microscope



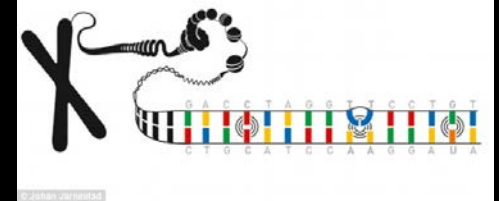
- cultivation chamber (5% CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature control, **Live cell experiments**)
- WLL (470-670 nm, **Image acquisition**)
- Argon laser (Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching, **FRAP**)
- UV-lasers (355 nm and 405 nm, **DNA repair studies**)

- cultivation chamber (5% CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature control, **Live cell experiments**)
- WLL (470-670 nm, **Image acquisition, FLIM-FRET**)
- Argon laser (Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching, **FRAP**)
- UV-laser (405 nm, **FLIM-FRET**)
- **FLIM-FRET**




# Methods

## DNA repair studies



**DNA repair** is a collection of processes by which a cell identifies and corrects damage to the DNA molecules that encode its genome.

1. an irreversible state of dormancy, known as senescence
2. cell suicide, also known as apoptosis (programmed cell death)
3. unregulated cell division, which can lead to the formation of a tumor that is cancerous

 The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015  
Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich, Aziz Sancar

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## The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015




Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Tomas Lindahl**  
Prize share: 1/3




Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Paul Modrich**  
Prize share: 1/3

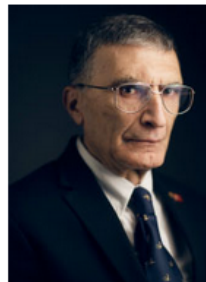
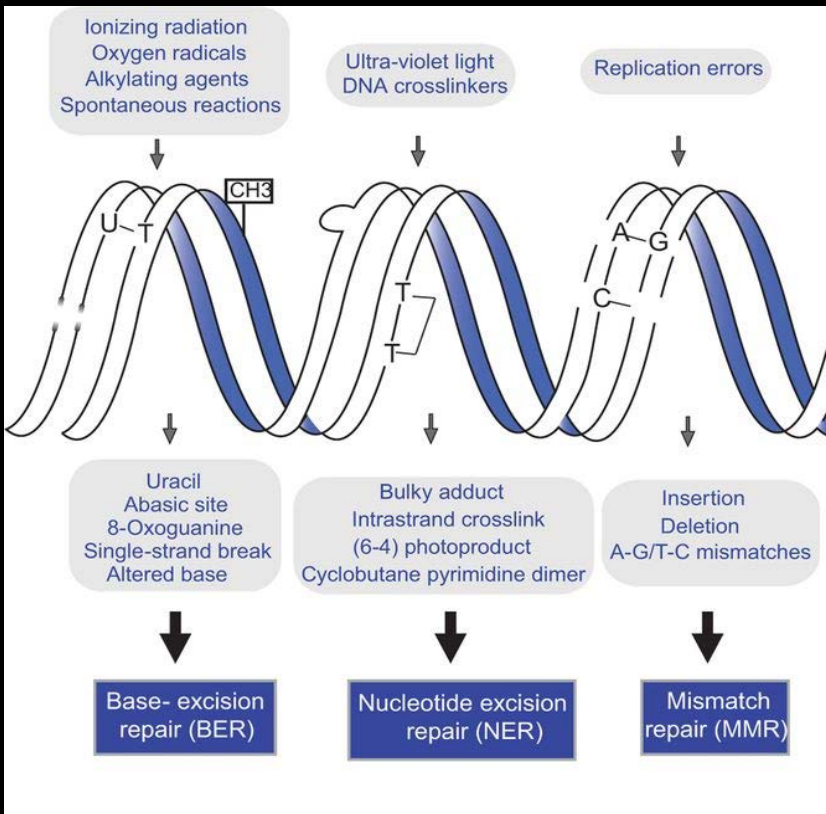


Photo: A. Mahmoud  
**Aziz Sancar**  
Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015 was awarded jointly to Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar *"for mechanistic studies of DNA repair"*.

# Methods

## DNA repair studies



Hoeymakers et al., 2001

## Single-strand damage

### Base Excision Repair (BER)

- repairs damage to a single base caused by oxidation, alkylation, hydrolysis, or deamination

### Nucleotide Excision Repair (NER)

- recognizes bulky, helix-distorting lesions such as pyrimidine dimers and 6,4 photoproducts

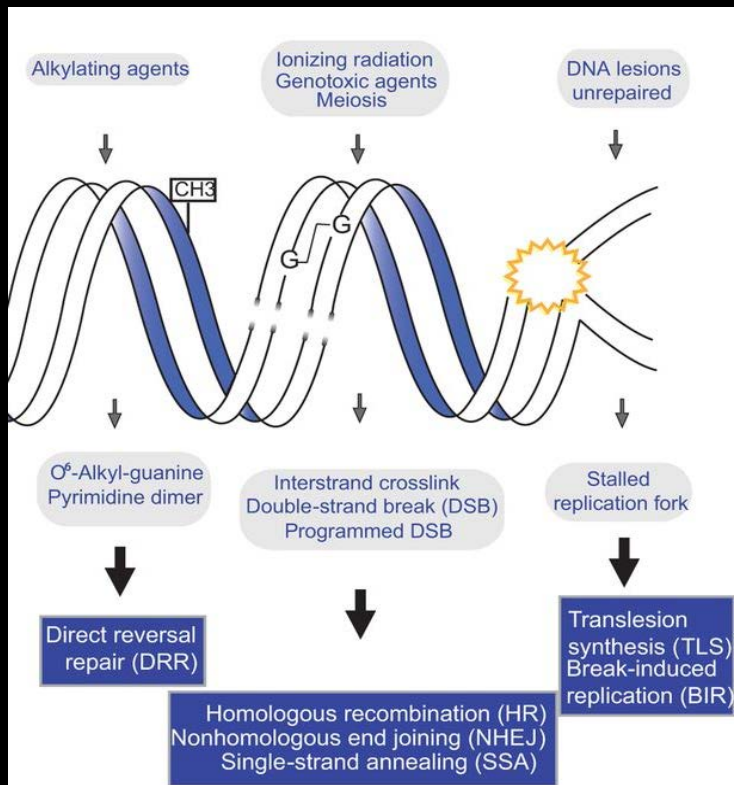
### Mismatch Repair (MMR)

- corrects errors of DNA replication and recombination that result in mispaired (but undamaged) nucleotides



# Methods

## DNA repair studies



Hoeijmakers et al., 2001

## Double-strand breaks

Non-Homologous End Joining (**NHEJ**)

Homologous Recombination (**HR**)

Microhomology-Mediated End Joining (**MMEJ**)

# Methods

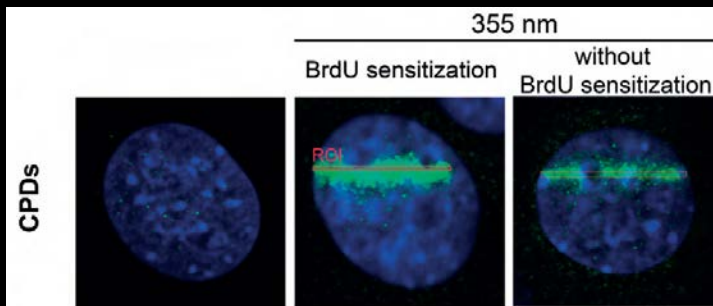
## DNA repair studies

- activation of DNA damage response (DDR) system

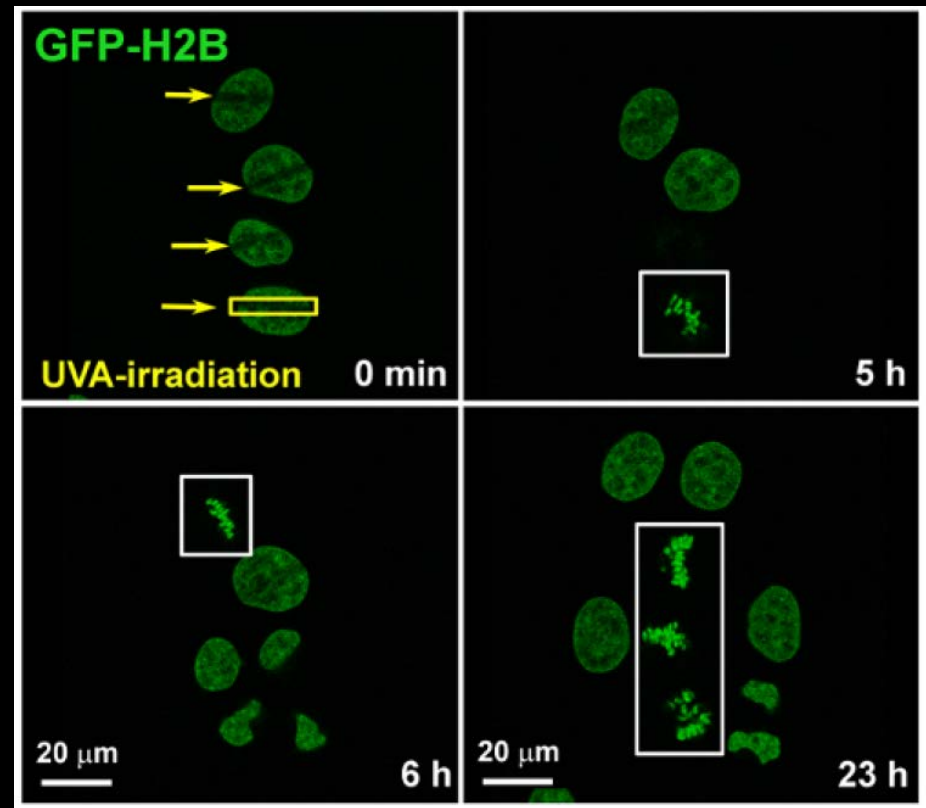
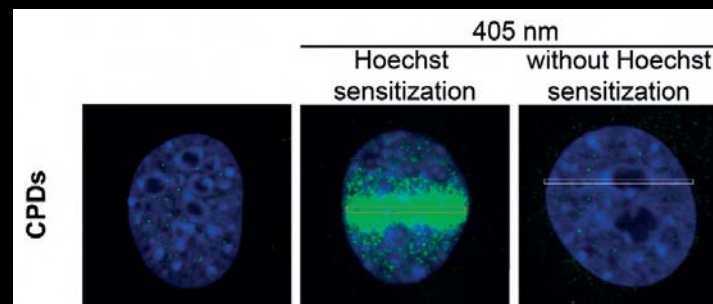
### Leica TCS SP-5 X

- Nucleotide excision repair
- cyclobutane pyrimidine dimers (CPDs)

### UV-laser 355 nm



### UV-laser 405 nm



# Methods

## DNA repair studies

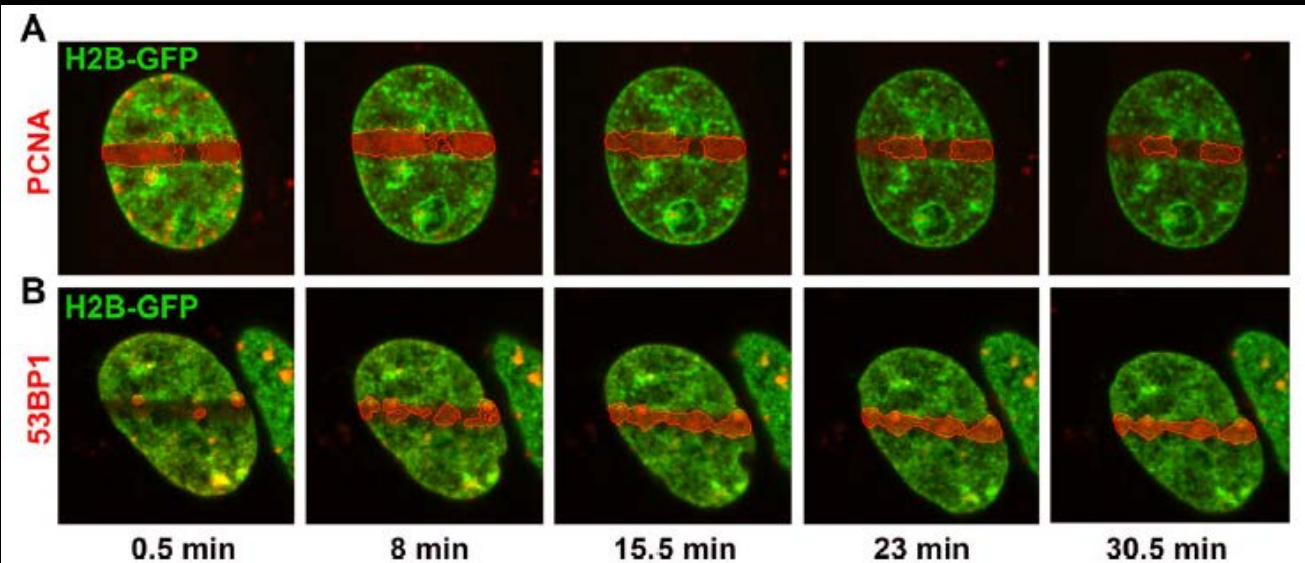
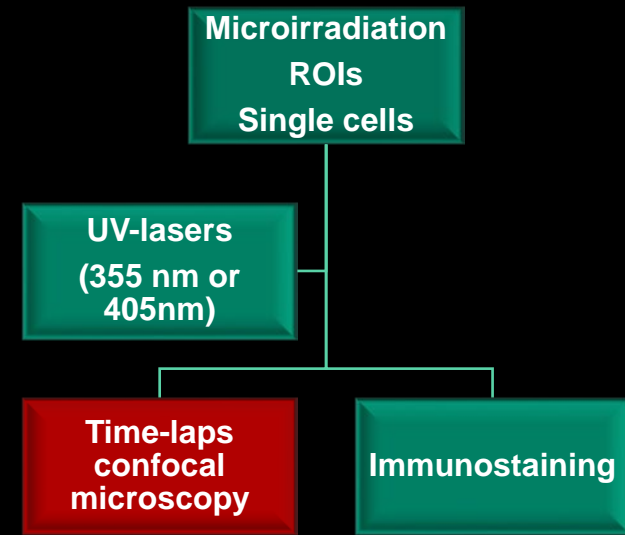
## Transfection

- transfer of non-viral genetic material into eucaryotic cells

Goal: to express a particular gene in the host cell

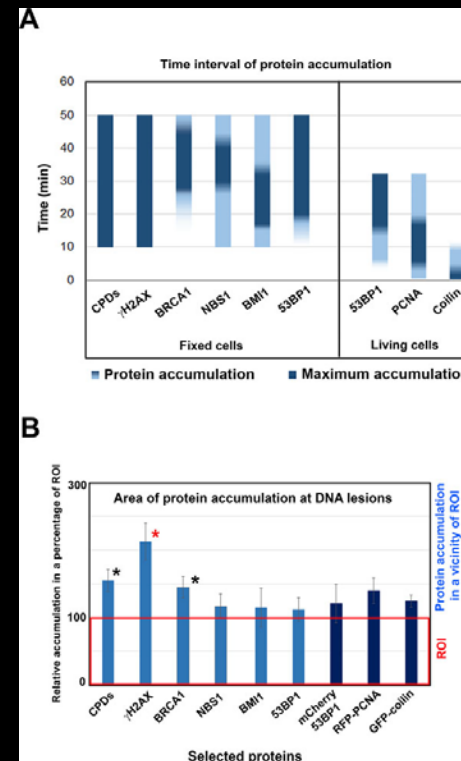
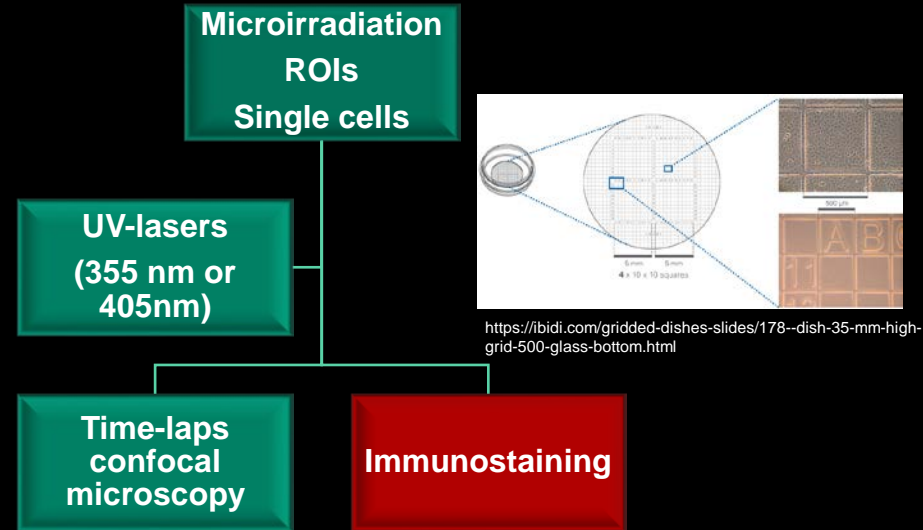
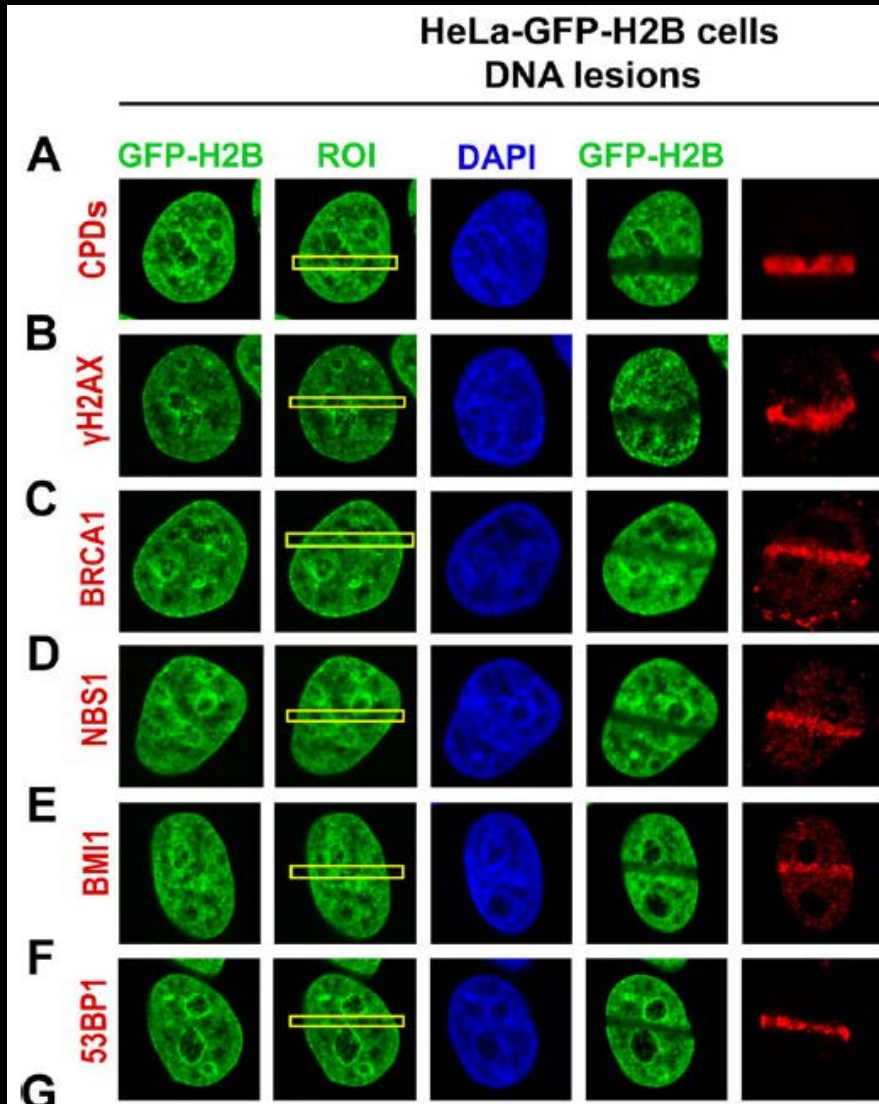
Used: to study gene expression regulation, protein function, gene silencing or gene therapy

- **Stable Transfection (H2B-GFP)**
- **Transient Transfection (PCNA or 53BP1-RFP)**



# Methods

## DNA repair studies

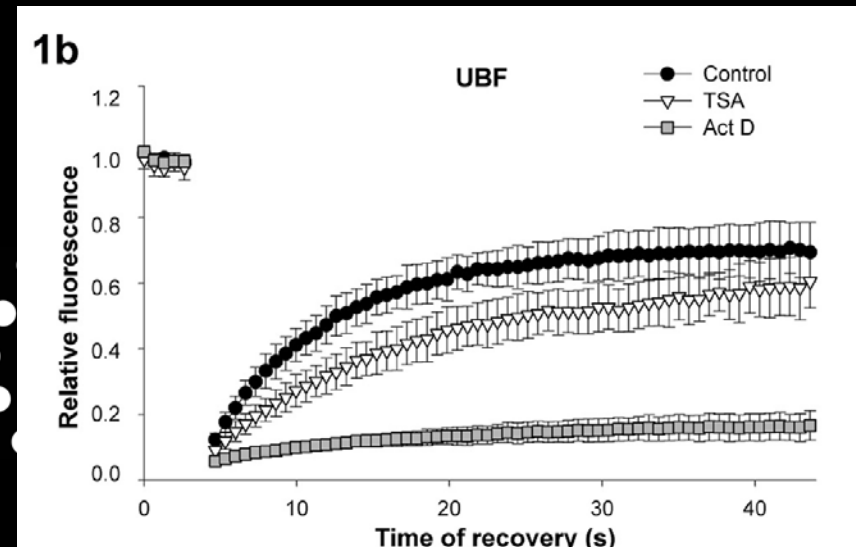
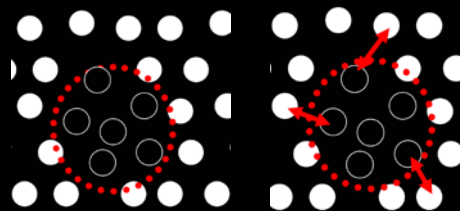


# Methods

## Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP)

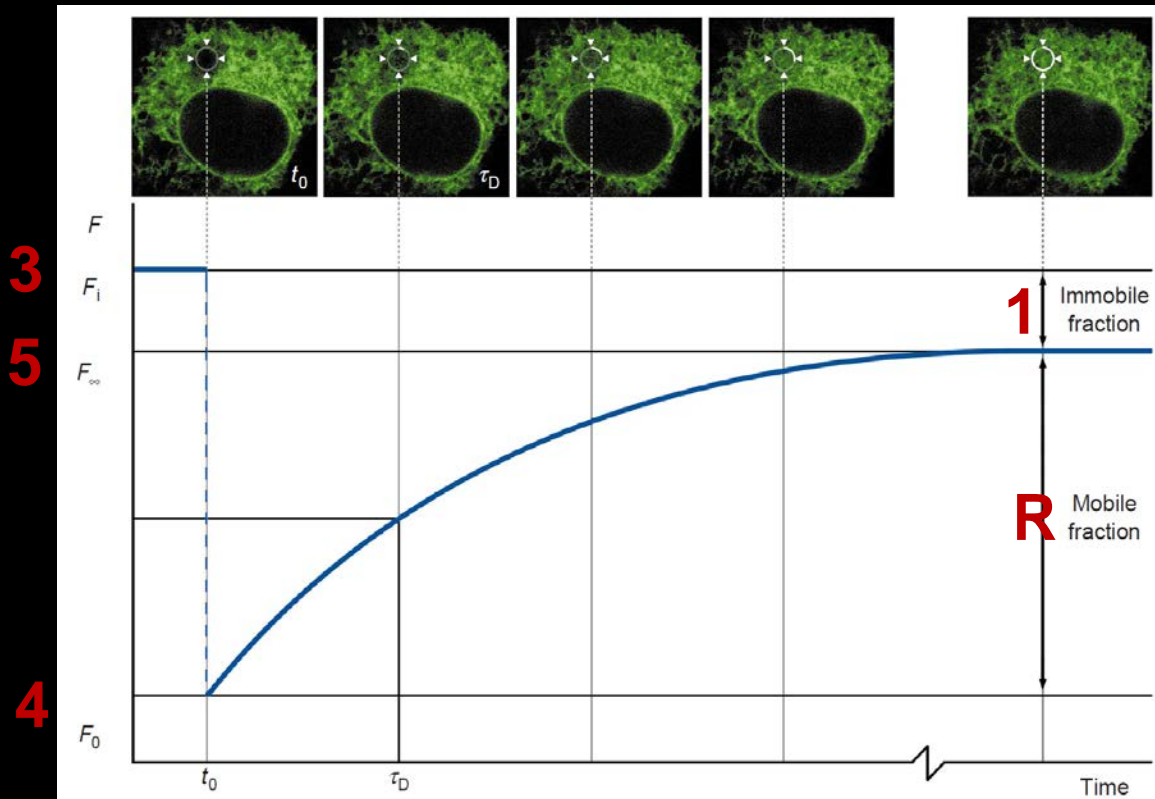
Movement (exchange (un)bleached) of molecules

- Diffusion
- Active transport



# Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP)

1. (Im)mobile fraction
2.  $\tau_D$  diffusion time
3.  $F_i$  fluorescence before bleaching
4.  $F_0$  fluorescence just after bleaching
5.  $F_\infty$  fluorescence in bleached region after full recovery
6. Mobility = diffusion coeff.  $D \rightarrow$  related to  $\tau_D$  diffusion time

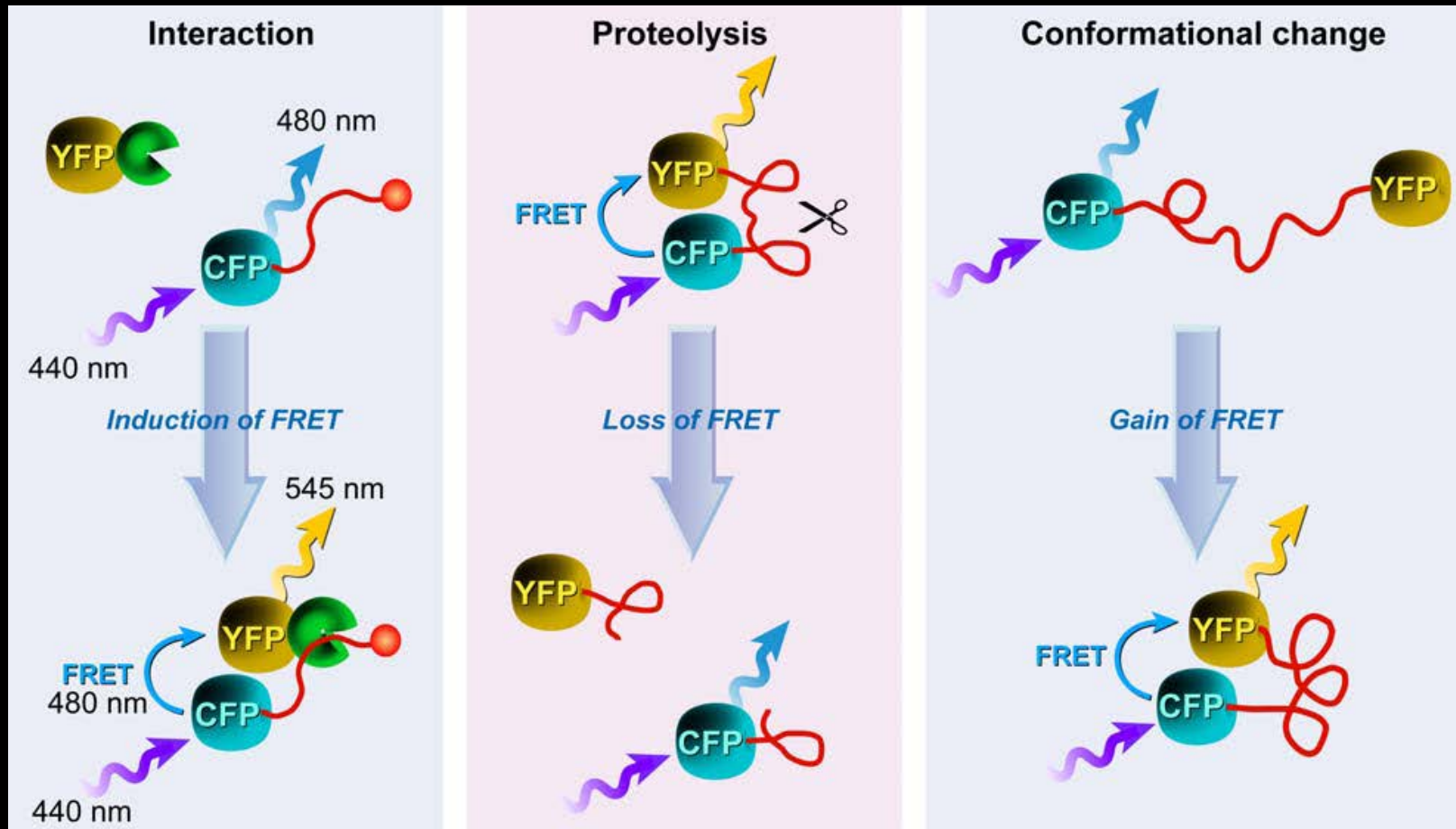


$$R = (F_\infty - F_0) / (F_i - F_0)$$

Reits and Neefjes, 2001

# Methods

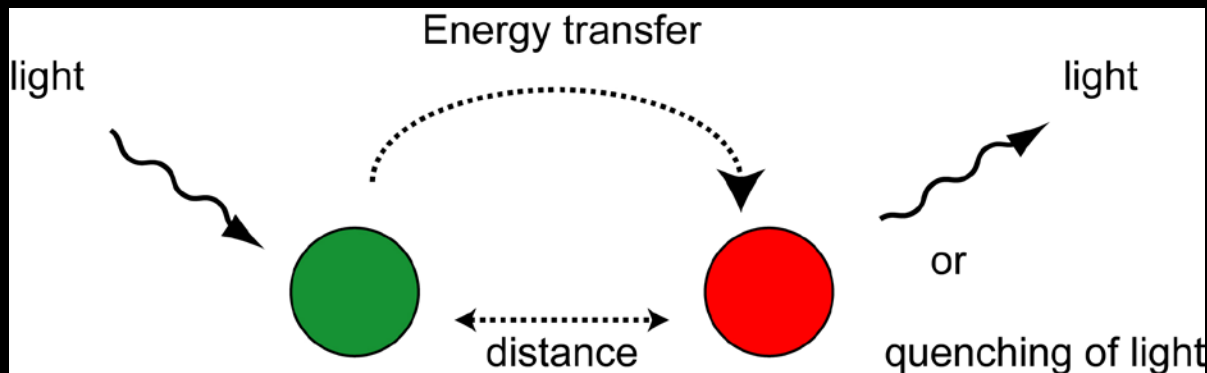
## Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)



# Methods

## Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

- a distance-dependent physical process by which energy is transferred nonradiatively from an **excited molecular fluorophore (the donor)** to another **fluorophore (the acceptor)** by means of intermolecular long-range dipole–dipole coupling (Förster, 1965).



[http://www.molecular-beacons.org/toto/Marras\\_energy\\_transfer.html](http://www.molecular-beacons.org/toto/Marras_energy_transfer.html)

$$FRET \text{ Efficiency} = \frac{k_{FRET(DA)}}{k_{FRET(DA)} + k_{other(D)}} = \frac{(1/r)^6}{(1/r)^6 + k_{other}} = \frac{R_0^6}{R_0^6 + r^6} \approx \frac{I_A}{I_A + I_D}$$

<http://research.chem.psu.edu/txlgroup/RESEARCH.html>



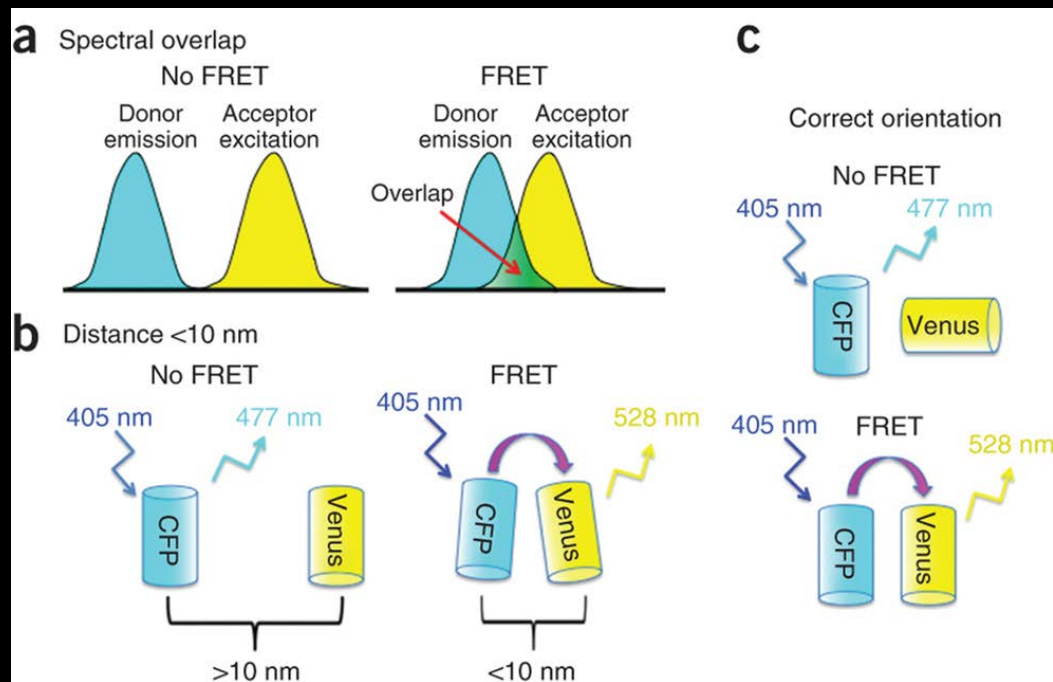
# Methods

## Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

### Fluorophore properties

#### A good fluorophore

- Large extinction coefficient ( $\sim 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$ )
- High fluorescence quantum yield ( $> 0.8$ )
- Large shift of the fluorescence vs. absorption (Stokes shift  $> 40 \text{ nm}$ )
- Low quantum yield of photobleaching ( $< 10^{-6}$ )



# Methods

## Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

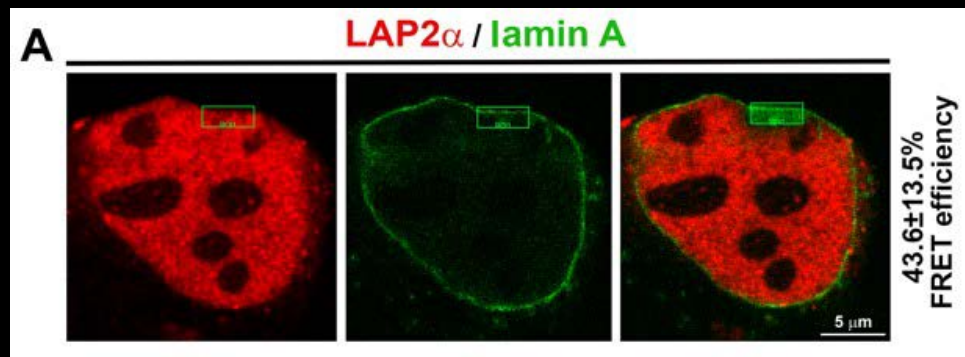
Leica TCS SP5 X

- protein-protein interactions

### FRET Acceptor Bleaching

- donor “de-quenching” in presence of an acceptor
- comparing donor fluorescence intensity in the same sample before and after destroying the acceptor by photobleaching

$$\text{FRET}_{\text{eff}} = (D_{\text{post}} - D_{\text{pre}}) / D_{\text{post}}$$



Legartova et al., 2014

# Methods

## Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

### Disadvantages of FRET

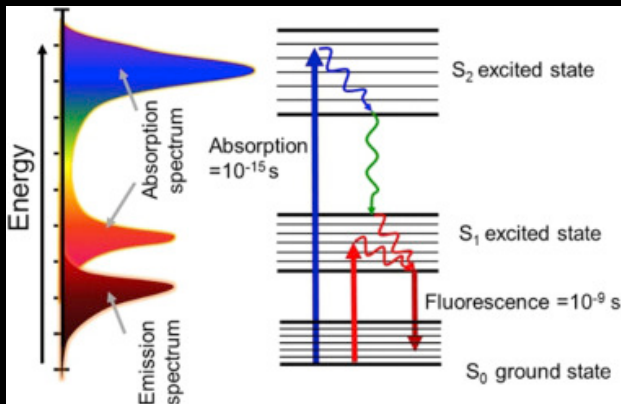
- fluorescent probes + molecule of interest → creation of fusion proteins = mutation and/or chemical modification of the molecules under study
- specimen movement (during the bleaching procedure)
- photo-bleaching once in sample
- donor fluorophore emission bleed through → acceptor emission channel

# Methods

## Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging (FLIM) - Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

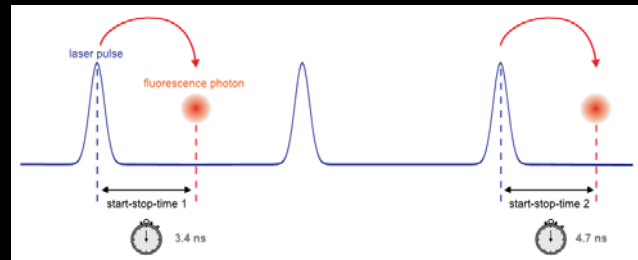
### Fluorescence Lifetime ( $\tau$ )

- average time a fluorophore remains in excited state before returning to the ground state by emitting photon

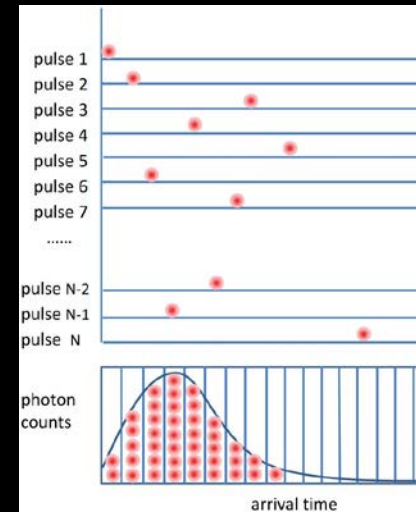


Dysli et al., 2017

1. Start the clock  $\rightarrow$  laser pulse (picosecond frequency)
2. Stop the clock  $\rightarrow$  1st photon that arrives at the detector
3. Reset the clock  $\rightarrow$  wait for start next signal



[www.picoquant.com](http://www.picoquant.com)



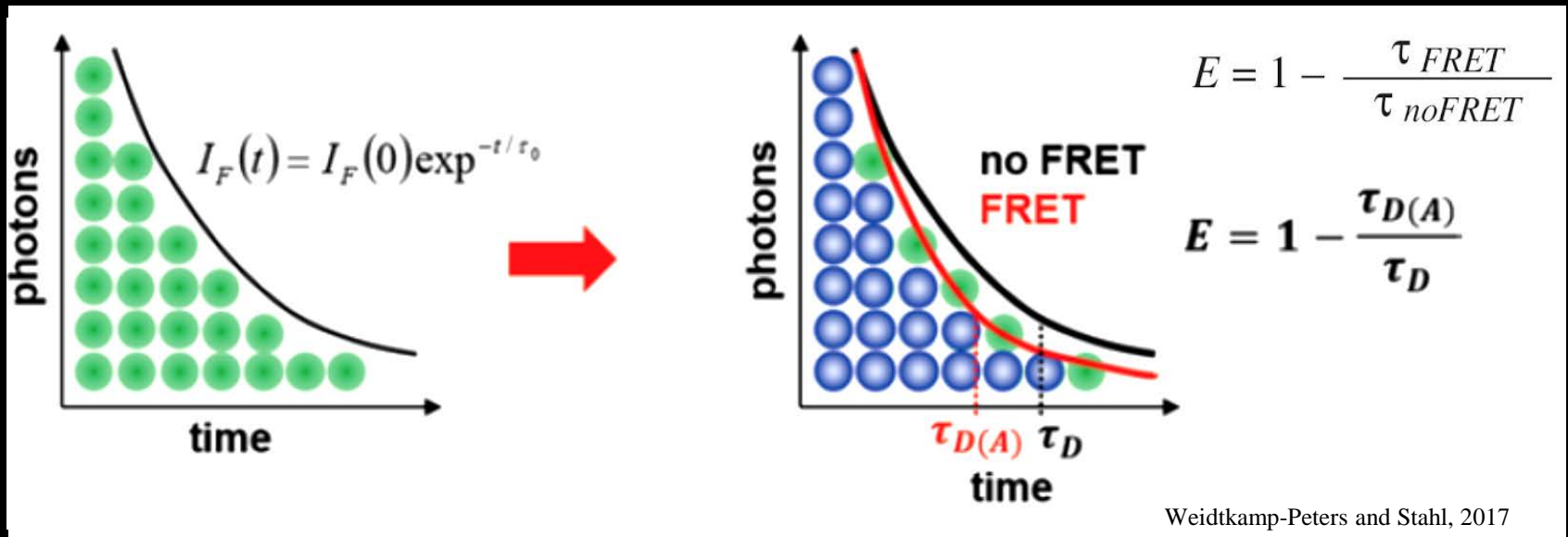
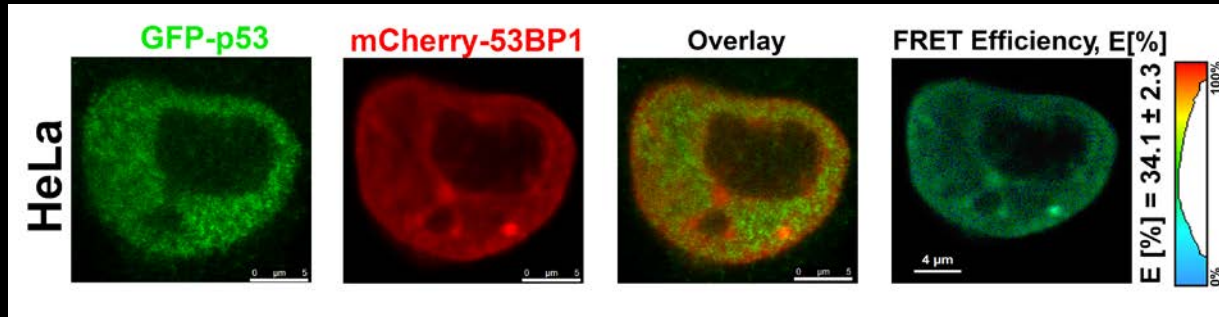
Yiang et al., 2015

- Fluorescence lifetime histogram
- Fit an exponential decay  $\rightarrow$  get the fluorescence lifetime (in ns)

# Methods

## Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging (FLIM) - Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

Donor (D)    Acceptor (A)

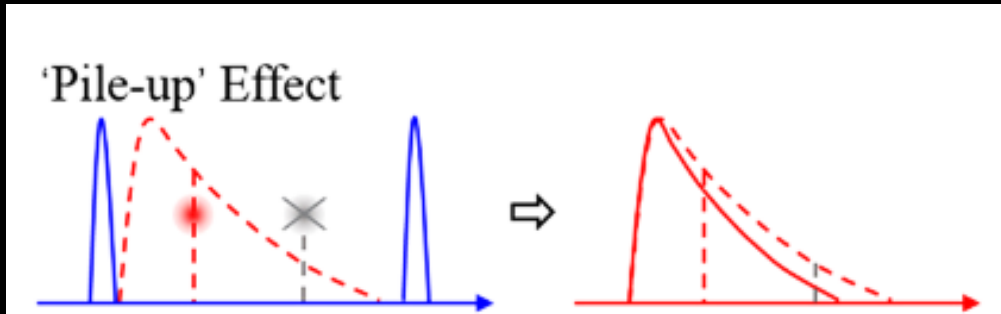


**FRET efficiency (E)** = proportion of the donor molecules that have transferred excitation state energy to the acceptor molecules

# Methods

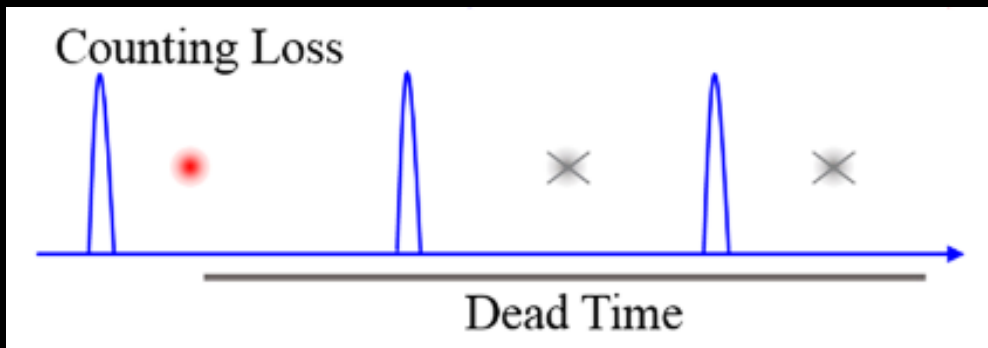
Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging (FLIM) - Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)

## Instrumental limitations



Liu et al., 2019

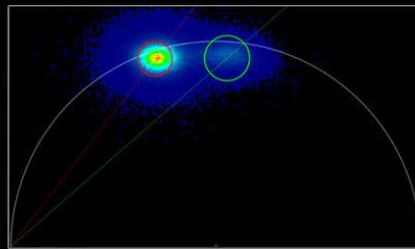
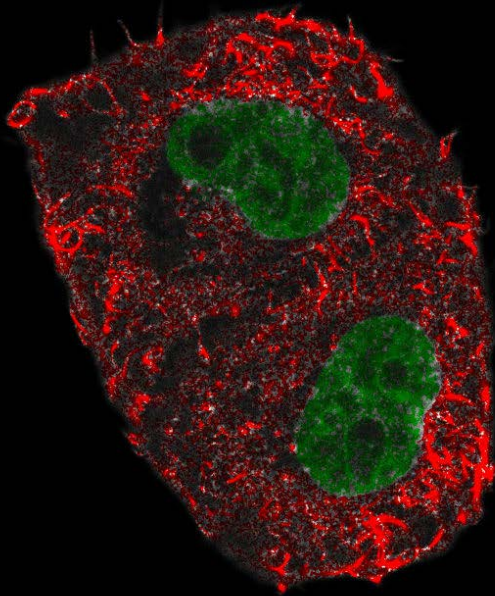
- **light intensity = high** → **loss of arriving photons/ pulse**
- ✓ **keep probability of detecting** → **one photon/ laser pulse**



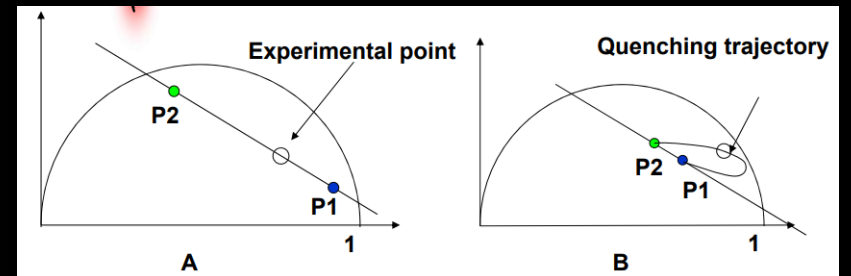
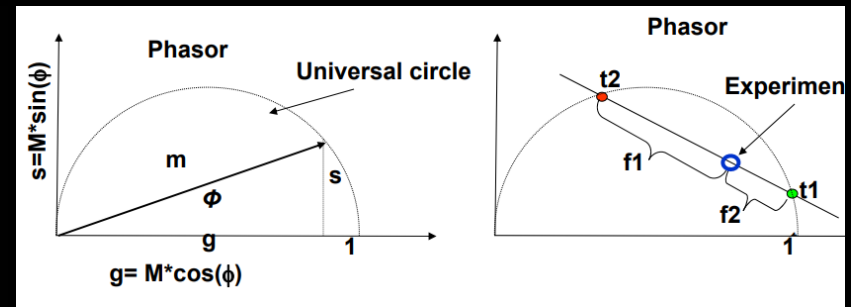
- **time a photon processed** → **no other photon recorded**

# Methods

## Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging (FLIM) - Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)



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Simple Rules for FRET:

- 1) If the experimental point lies on a straight line then it is **NOT** FRET
- 2) FRET efficiencies follow a "quenching trajectory"
- 3) Quantitative FRET efficiencies can be obtained from the position on the quenching trajectory

# The "F" words

FRET

FFS

FLIM

FCS

FIGS

FRAP

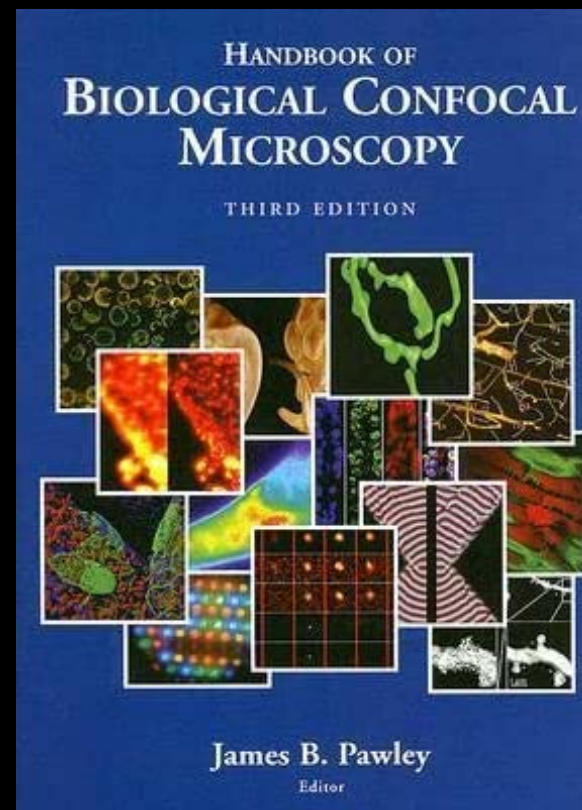
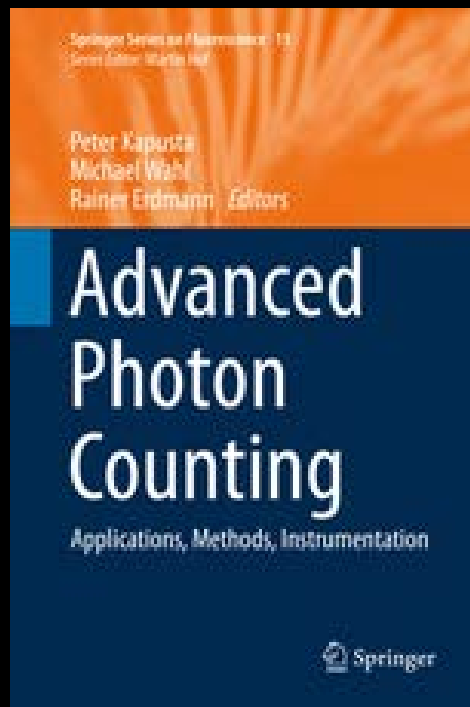
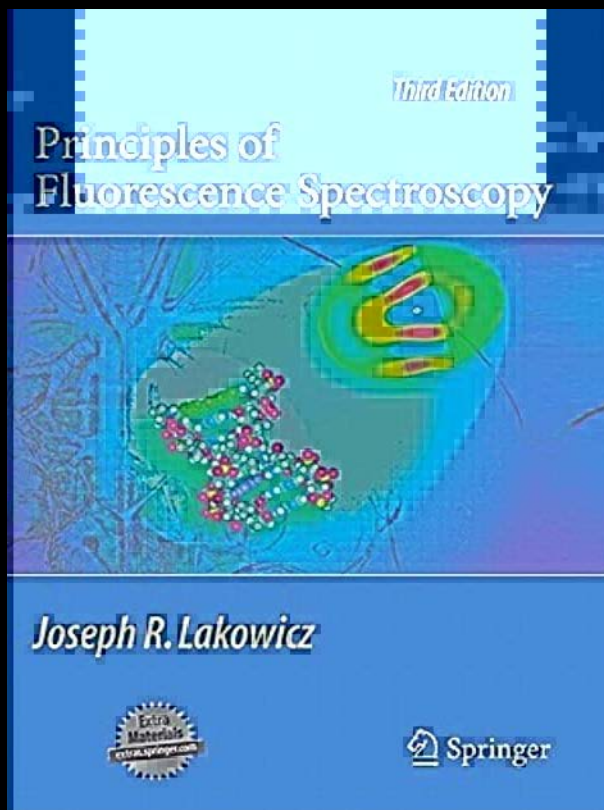
FLAM

FACS

FCCS

F L U O R E S S E N C E





*Molecules* **2012**, *17*, 4047–4132; doi:10.3390/molecules17044047

OPEN ACCESS

*molecules*

ISSN 1420-3049

[www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules)

Review

### **Advanced Fluorescence Microscopy Techniques—FRAP, FLIP, FLAP, FRET and FLIM**

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# SCIENCE STUDENT



How my friends see me



How my family sees me



How I see myself



How society sees me



How religious people see me



How it really is