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The TwinMic spectromicroscopy beamline at Elettra: recent achievements and future perspective

Alessandra Gianoncelli

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- Brief beamline description
- End-station description
- Life science applications: a few brief examples
- Other application: Material Science and New Imaging Techniques
- Future Upgrades

Open to users in late 2007



The team of the TwinMic project (EC FP5; 2001 – 2004):

ESRF: J. Susini, M. Salome and O. Dhez (F)

SLS: C. David, T. Weitkamp, F. van der Veen (CH)

TASC/ INFM: E. Di Fabrizio, S. Cabrini and D. Cojoc (I)

KCL: G. R. Morrison, P. Charalambous, A. Gianoncelli (UK)

RAC: T. Wilhein and U. Vogt (D)

UNI Goettingen: J. Thieme (D)

IJS: J. Kovac (SLO)



The team that build the TwinMic BL at ELETTRA:

D. Cocco, D. Bacescu, A. Bianco, G. Sostero and D. Lonza

The team that implemented low-energy X-ray emission:

A. Gianoncelli, B. Kaulich (Elettra)

A. Longoni, R. Alberti, T. Klatka et al. (Politecnico Milano)

G. Margaritondo, V. Gajdosik, C. Poitry-Yamate et al.
(EPFL Lausanne)

And many many others ...

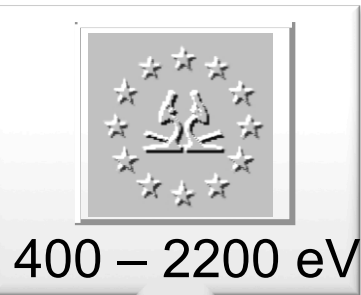
TwinMic: Integration of both imaging modes into a single instrument

Spectromicroscopy:
XANES, LEXRF, AEI

Kinetics, dynamics,
3D

STXM

TXM



Brightfield
Darkfield
Differential PC
(simult.)
Nomarski DIC

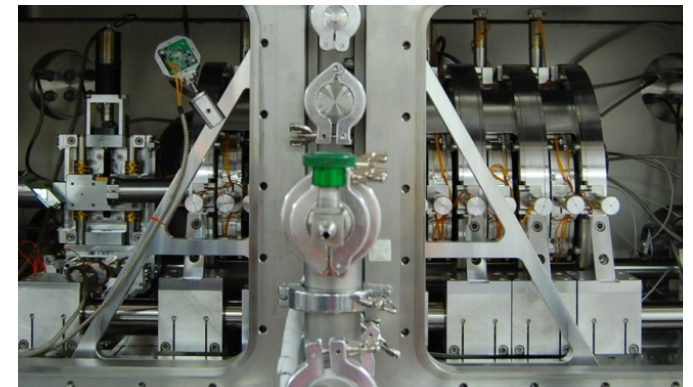
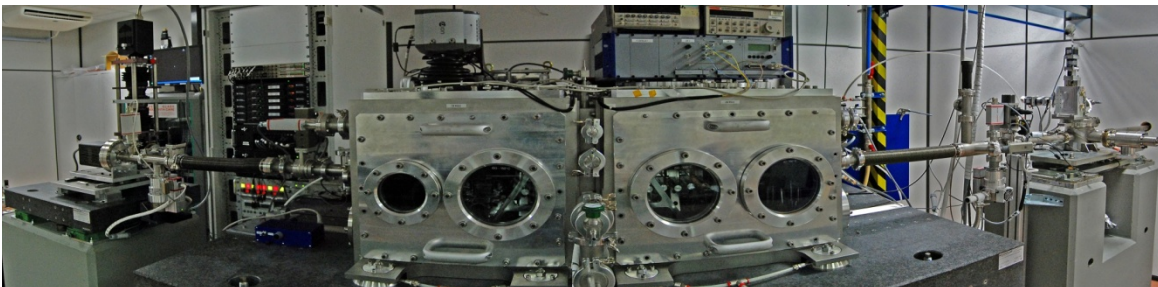
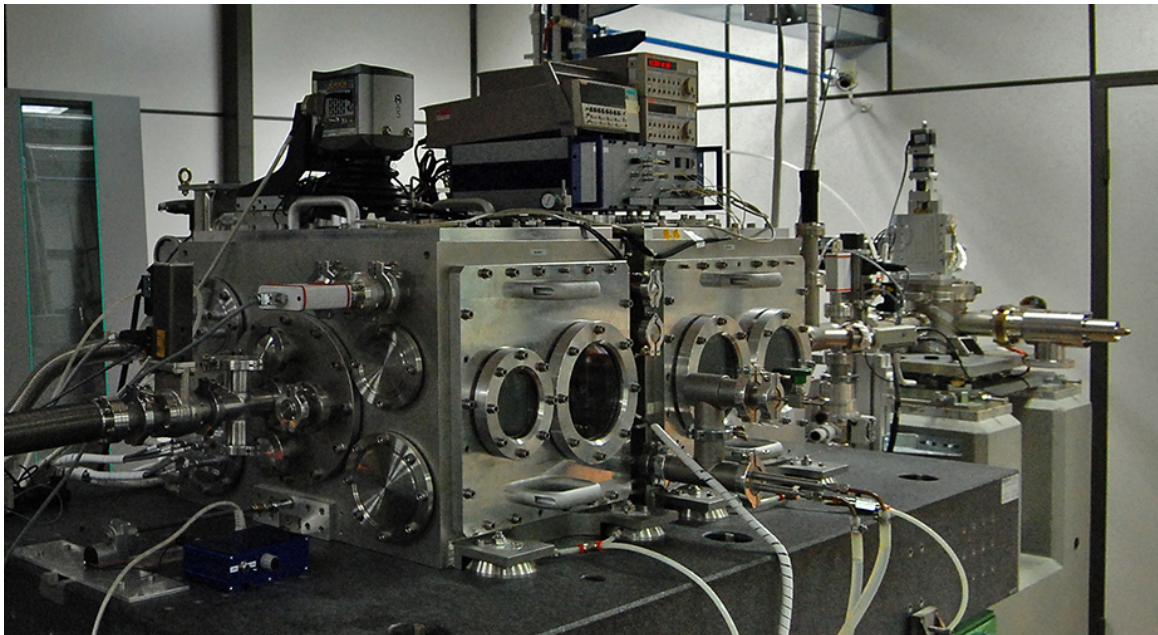
Brightfield
Darkfield
Differential PC
Nomarski DIC



The European team that initiated the project

- Morphological analysis, XANES and AAEI
- Different contrasts incl. brightfield, differential phase and interference contrast, darkfield, etc
- Versatile specimen environment

TwinMic – Combination of scanning and full-field imaging in a single instrument

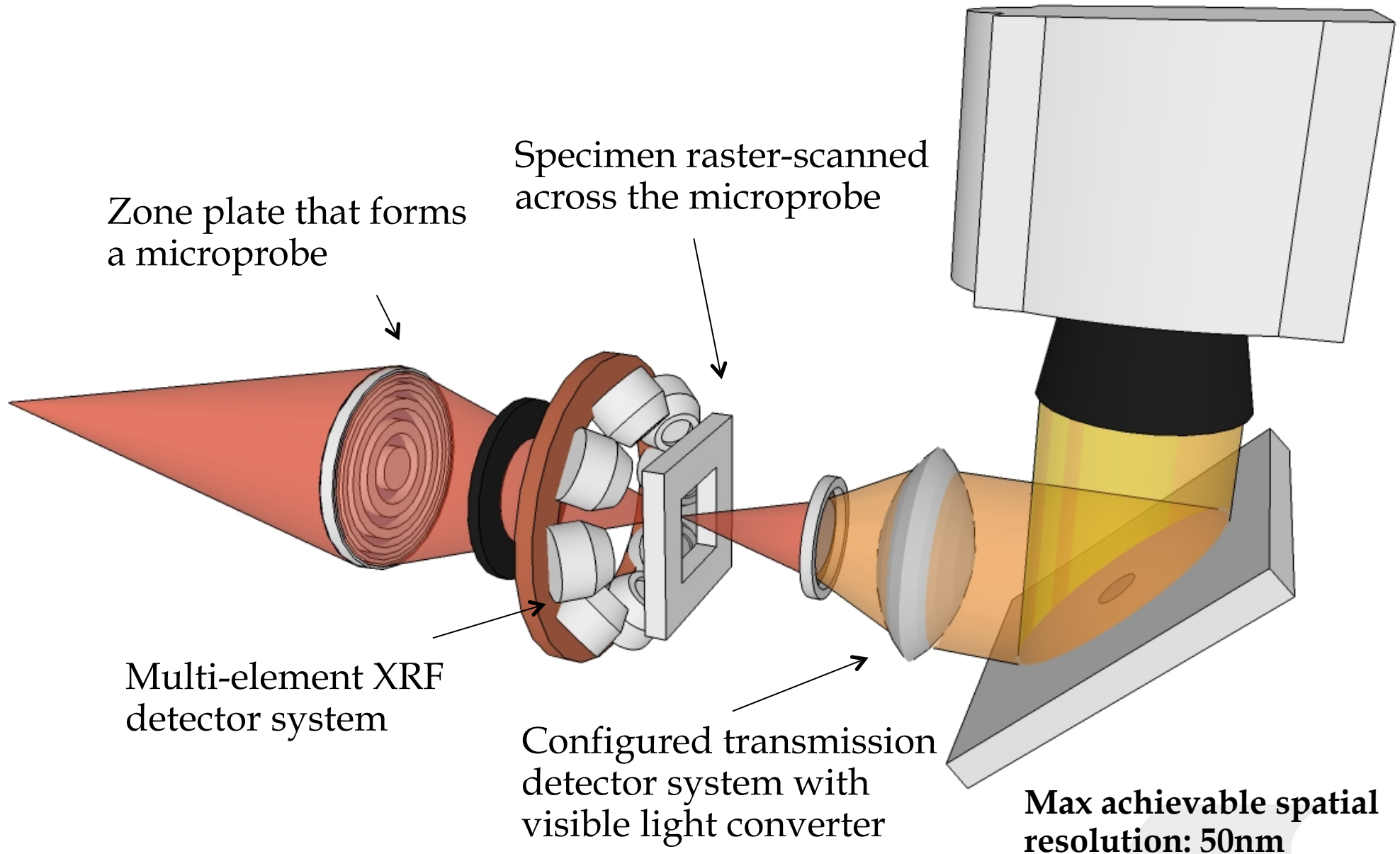


- Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology
- Environment
- Geochemistry
- Food Science
- Medicine
- Pharmacology
- Cultural Heritage
- New Materials

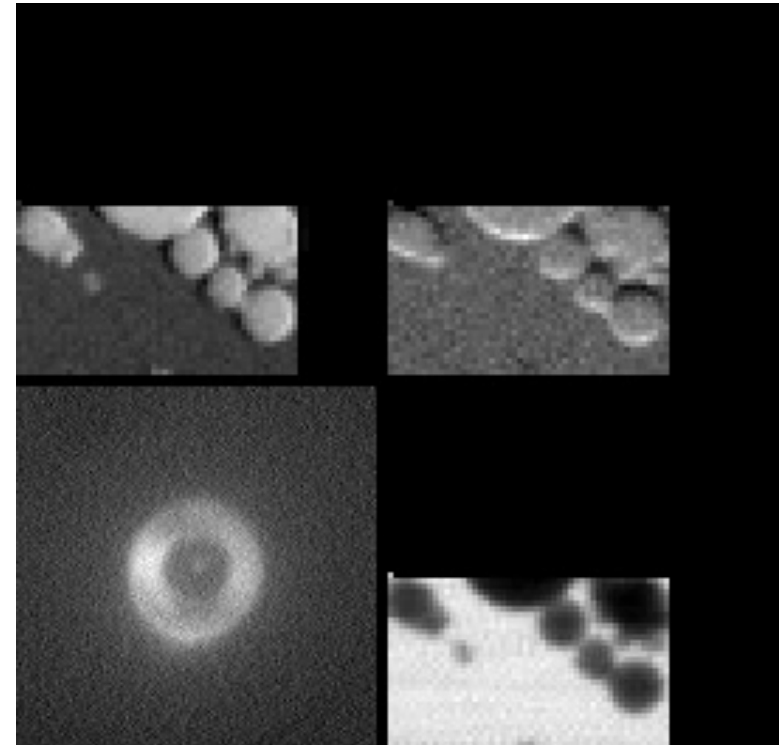
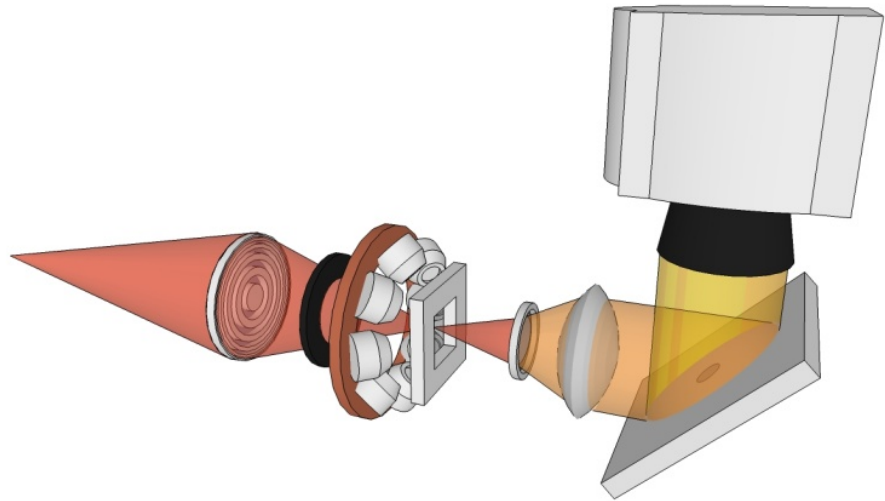


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Scanning X-ray microscope (STXM)



Differential phase contrast with a fast read-out CCD camera

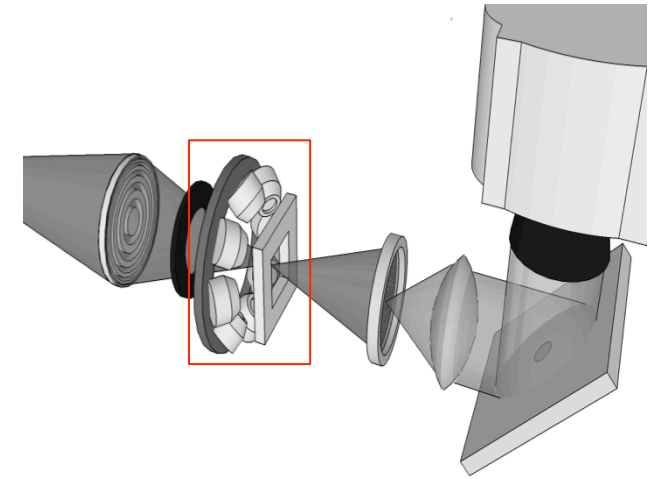
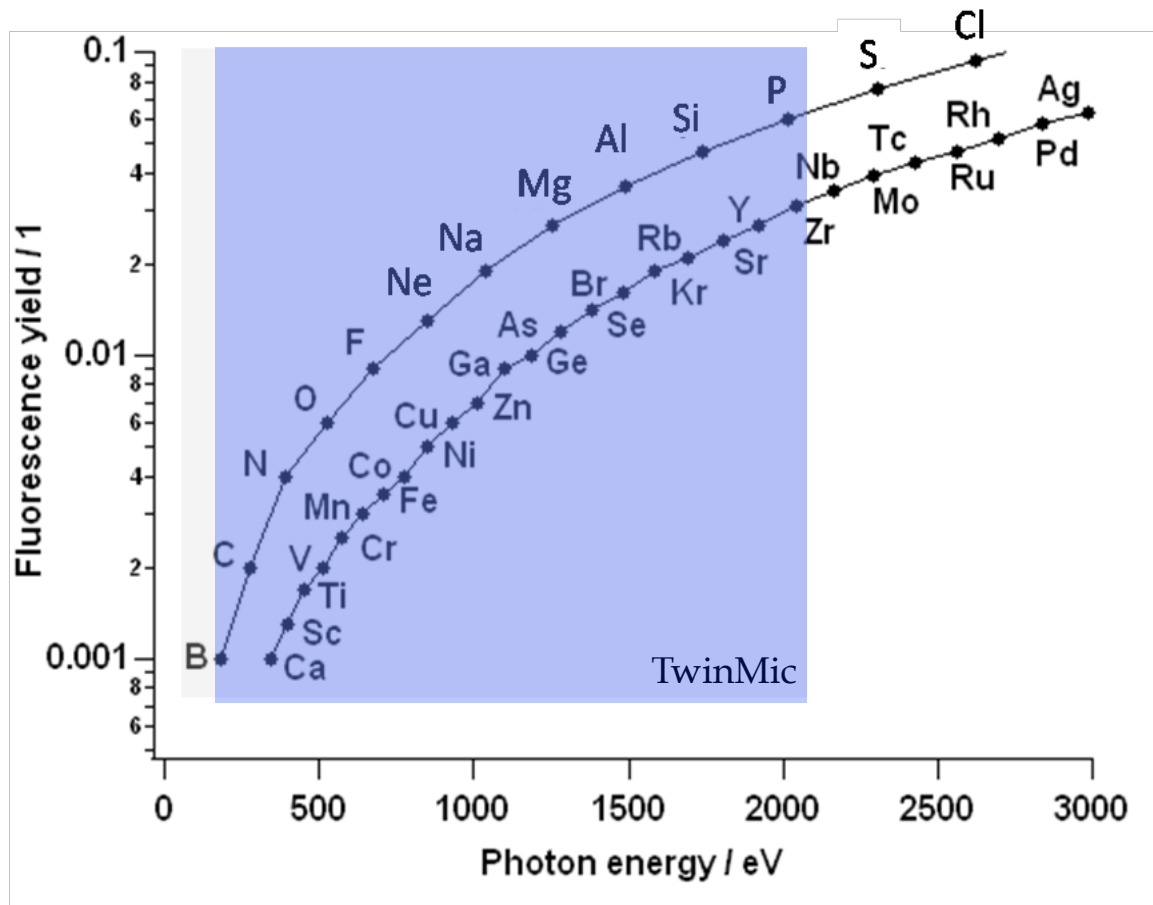


Simultaneous acquisition of:

- Absorption or transmission
- Differential phase contrast
- Darkfield images



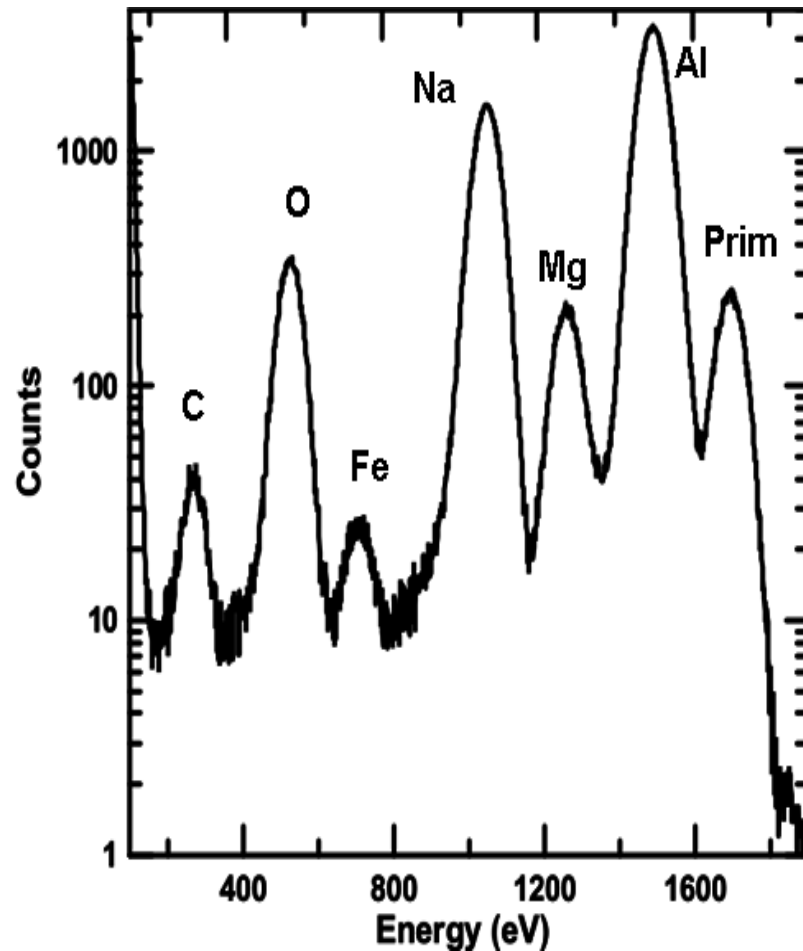
Low-energy X-ray fluorescence for elemental analysis:



Detecting trace elements:
X-ray fluorescence: ~1000x
better sensitivity than
electrons for trace elemental
mapping (ion concentrations
etc.).

Low fluorescence yields for
soft X-rays!!

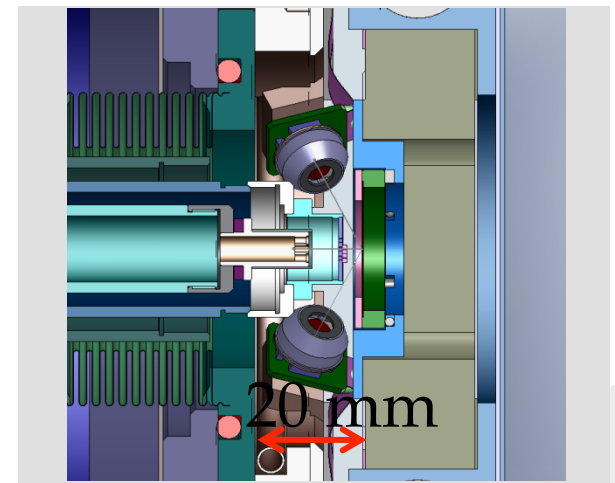
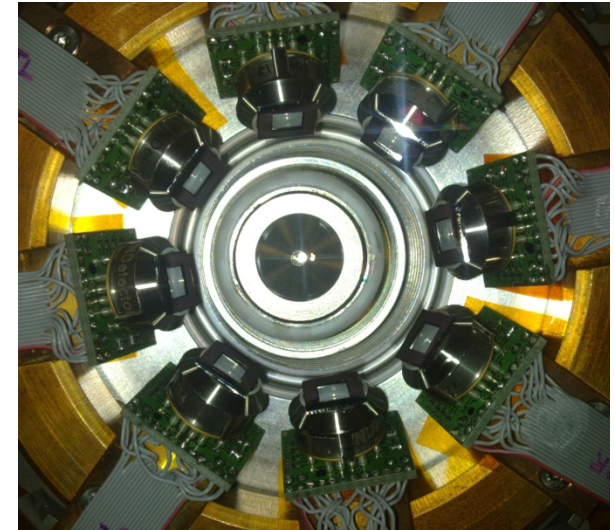
Low-energy X-ray fluorescence:



TwinMic LEXRF spectrum with unfocused beam of a test organic matrix on a metal shim

Dynamic range: up to 30 kcounts/s

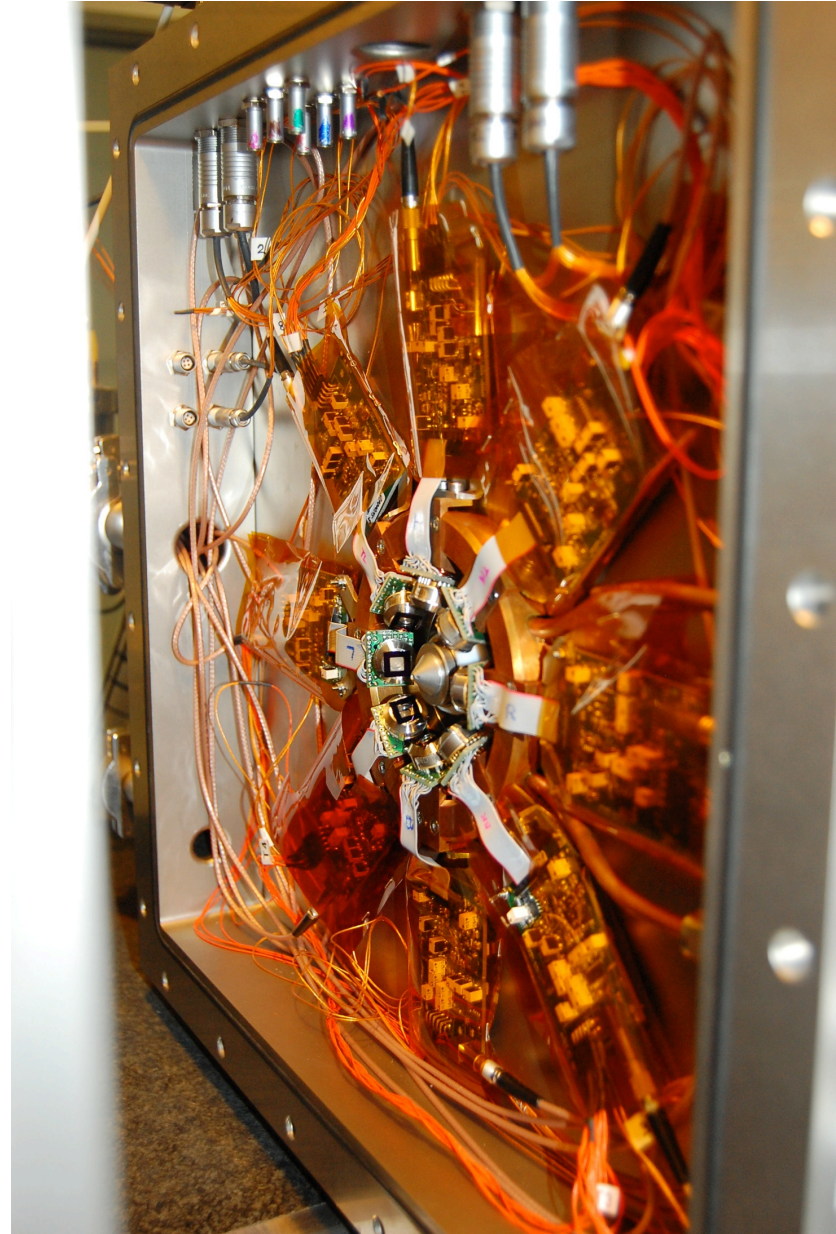
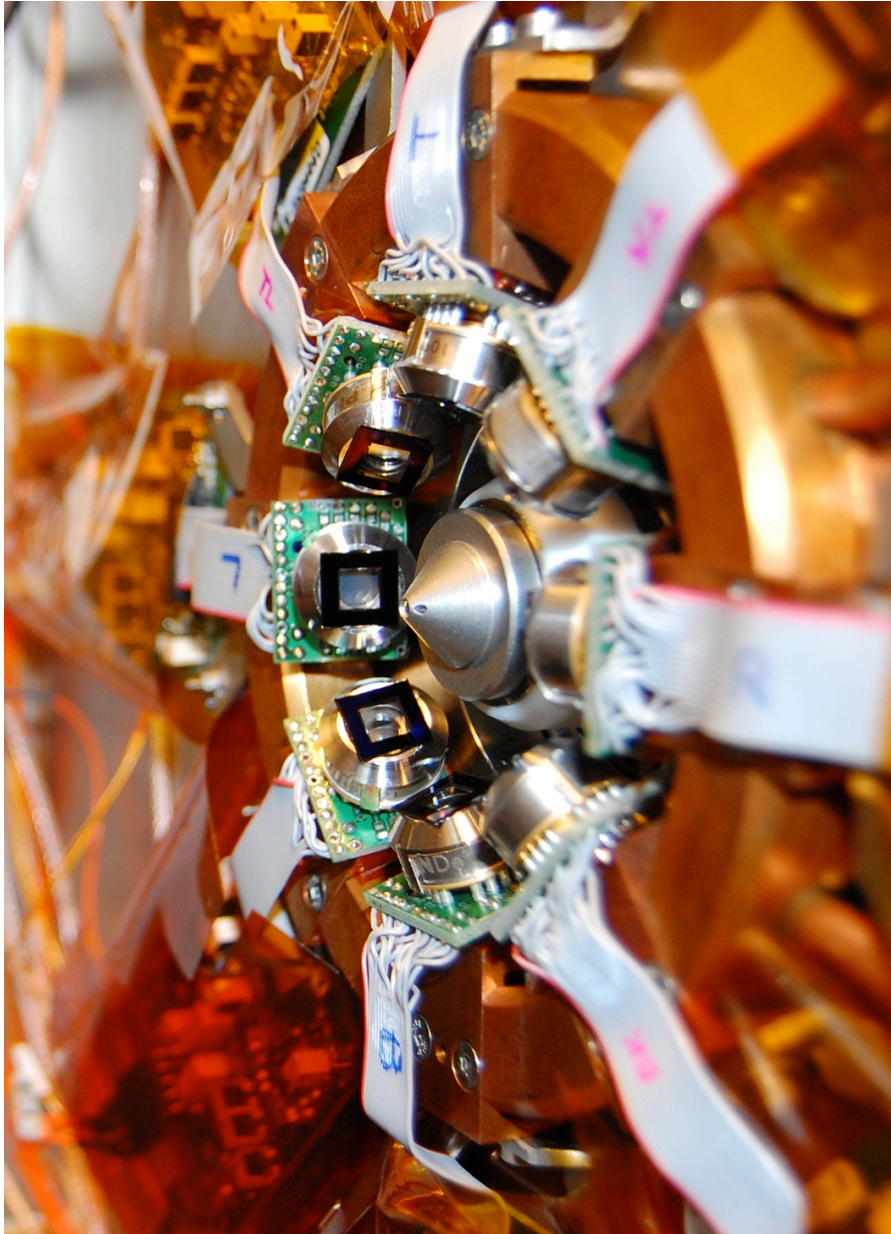
Average FWHM energy resolution @ C- K edge: 69 eV





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LEXRF

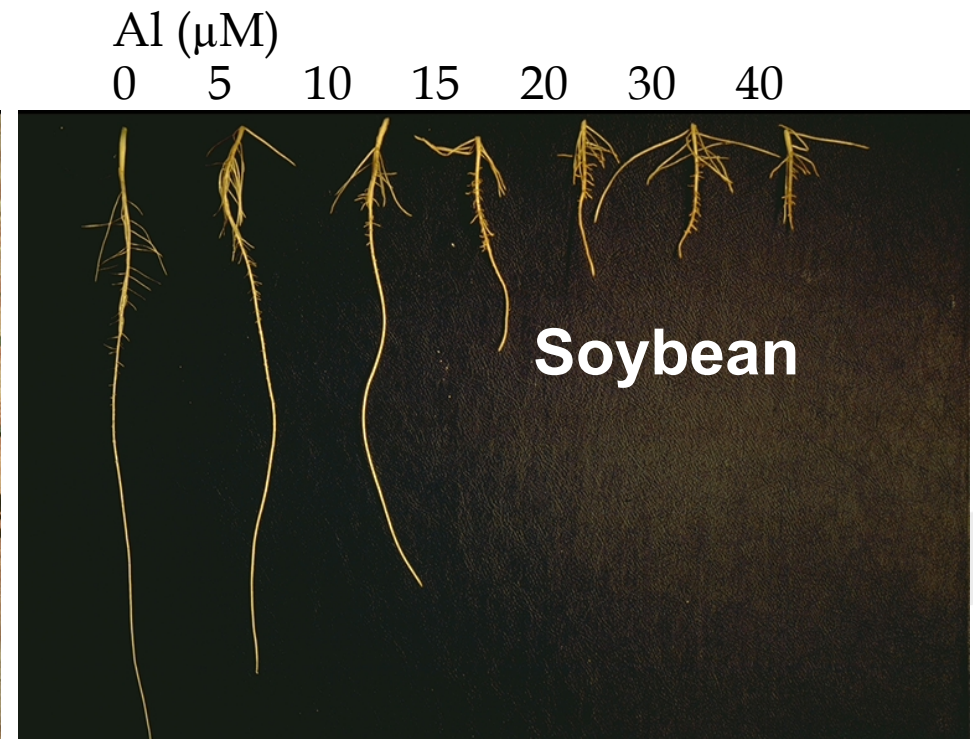


Aluminium toxicity

Soluble Al – “the most important growth-limiting factor for plants in most strongly acid soils and mine spoils” **Foy (1984)**

Acid soils occupy ~ 40 billion hectares (~ 30 %) of the world's ice free land area
von Uexküll and Mutert (1995)

In Australia alone, acid soils cost \$1.5 billion p.a. in lost productivity

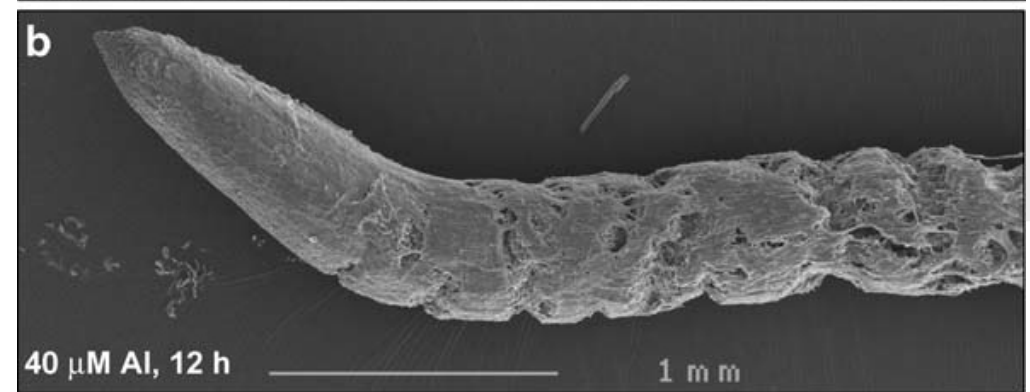
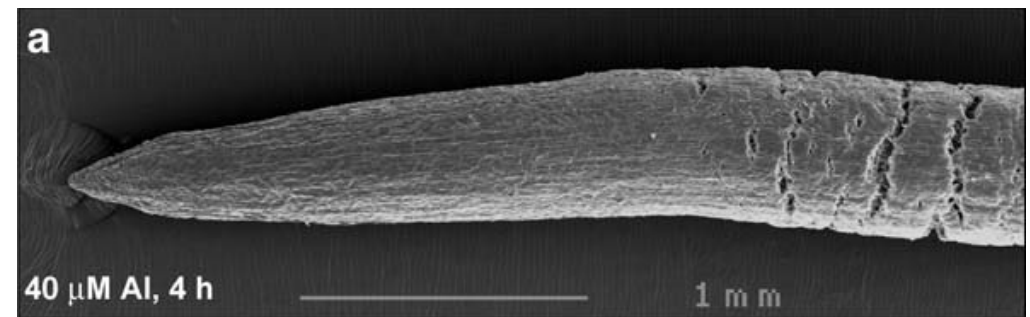
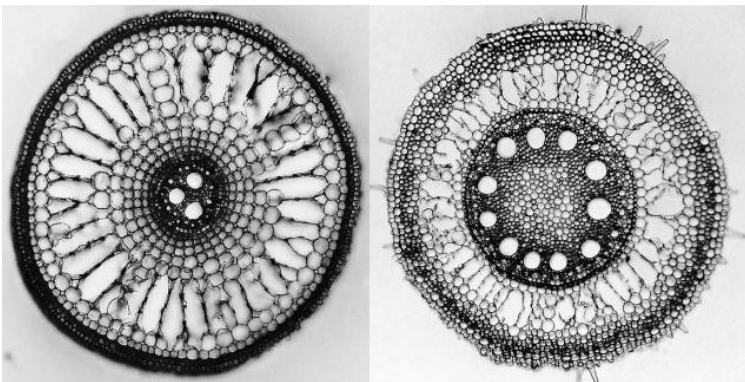


Aluminium toxicity

Soluble Al – “the most important growth-limiting factor for plants in most strongly acid soils and mine spoils” Foy (1984)

Although known since 1904 that Al is the primary factor causing a reduction in plant root growth in acid soils, the mechanism by which Al is toxic remains unclear

Recent research (2014) has shown that Al exerts its toxic effects very quickly, reducing root growth in ≤ 30 min. Therefore, a crucial step in elucidating how Al exerts its toxic effects is to examine where the Al is accumulating within the roots

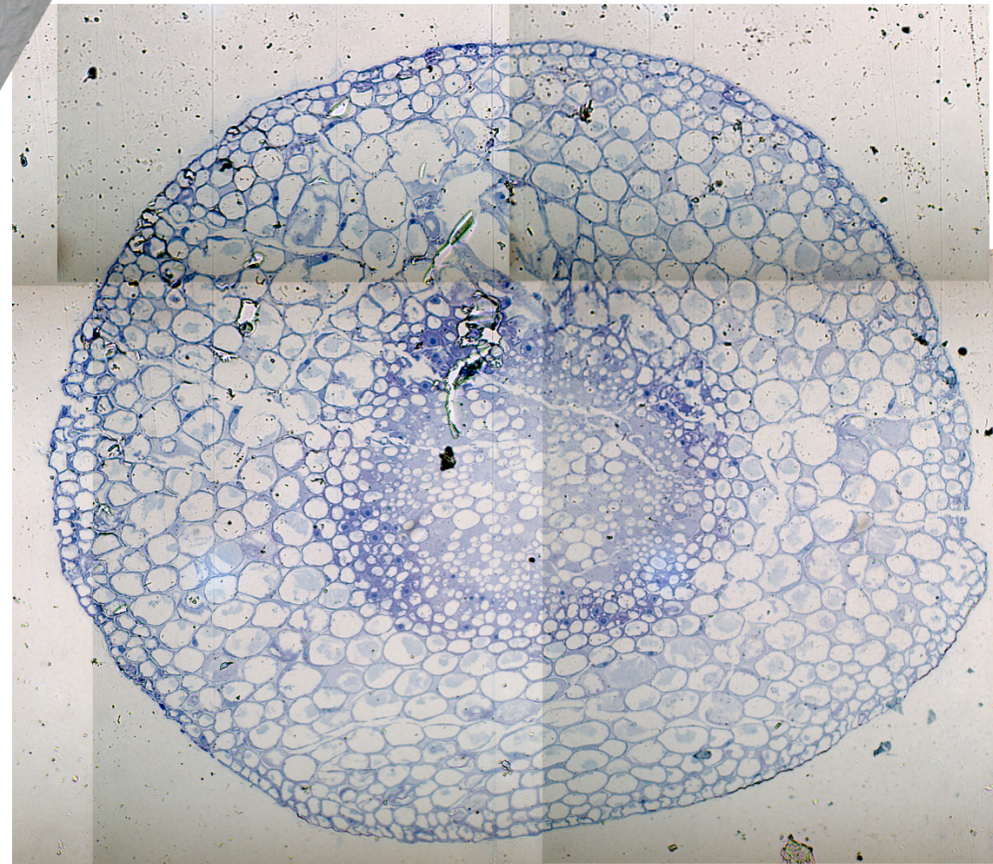
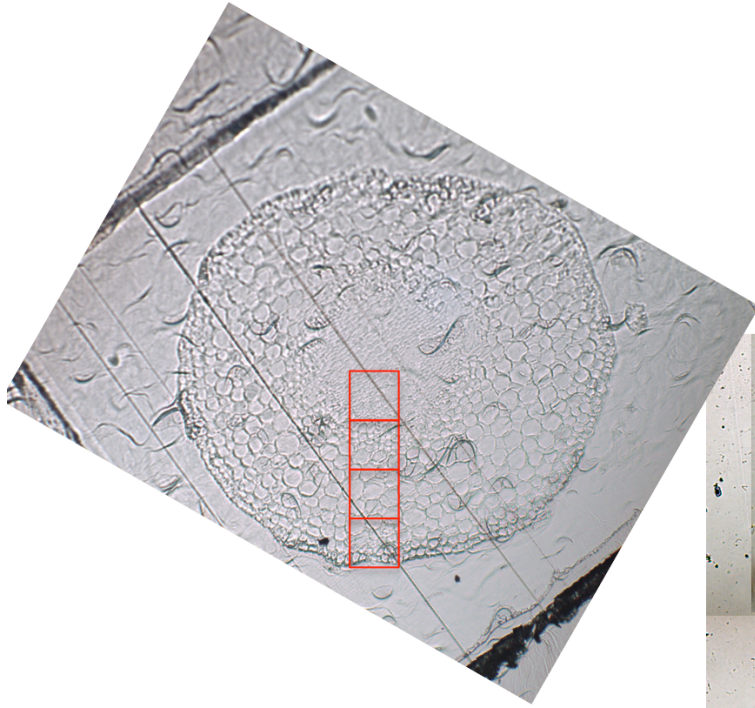




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Aluminum toxicity

30 minutes, 6 mm, Sample 1





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7 μm -thick transverse cross section of soybean roots

Exposed to 30 μM Al for 0.5 h.

20 μm

(a)

25 μm

(b)

20 μm

(c)

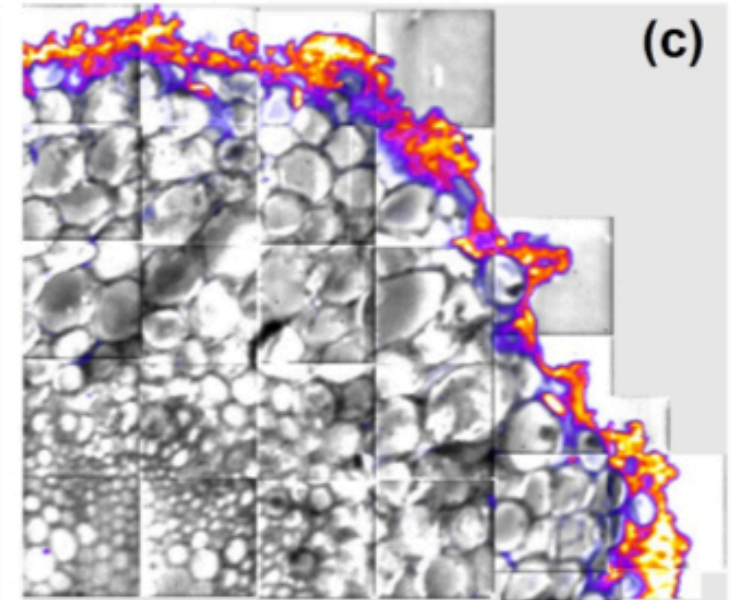
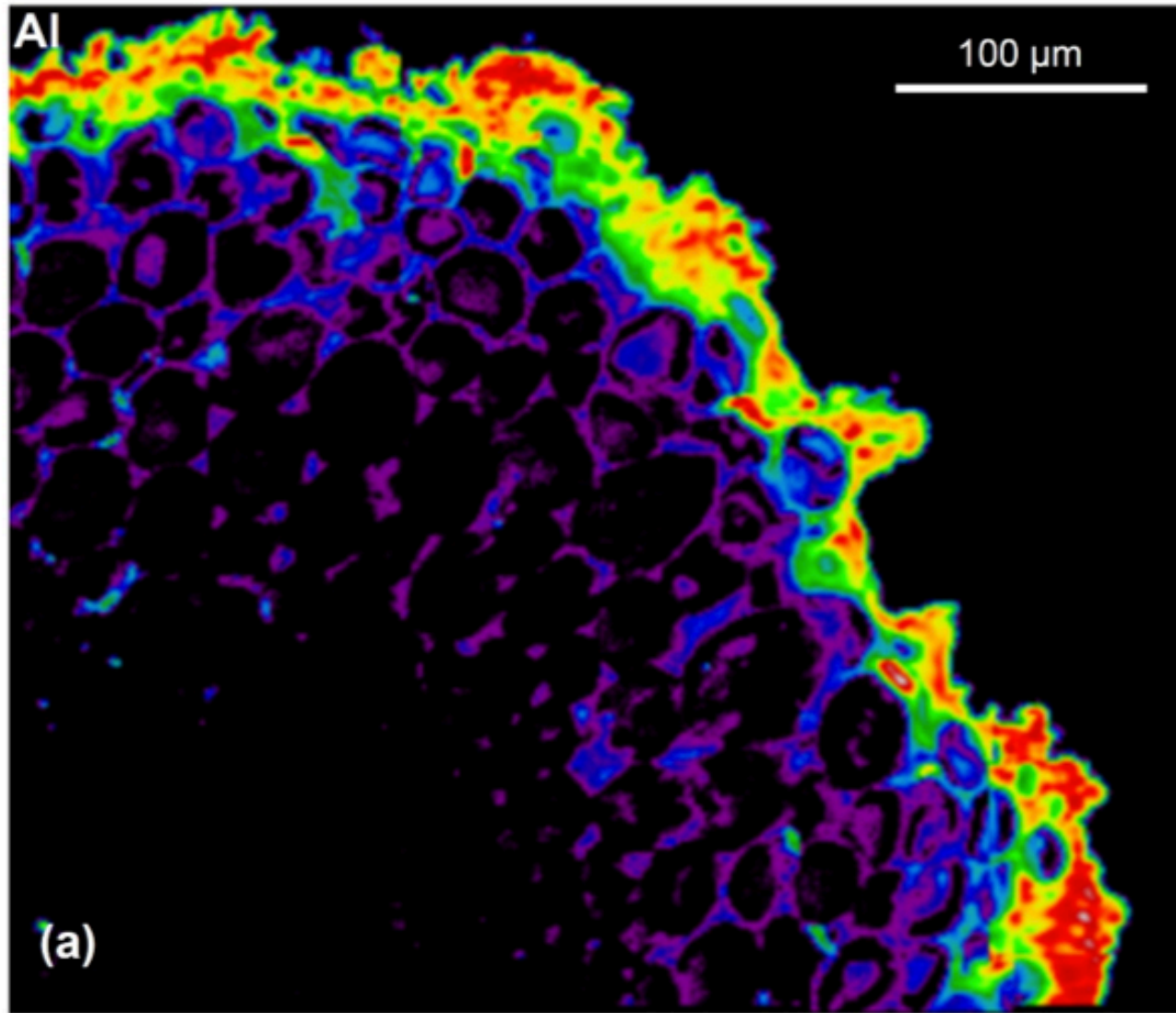
30 μM Al
0.5 h

c) 6mm from apex

b) 2mm from Apex

a) 0.5 mm from Apex

Soybean roots exposed to 30 μM Al for 0.5 h

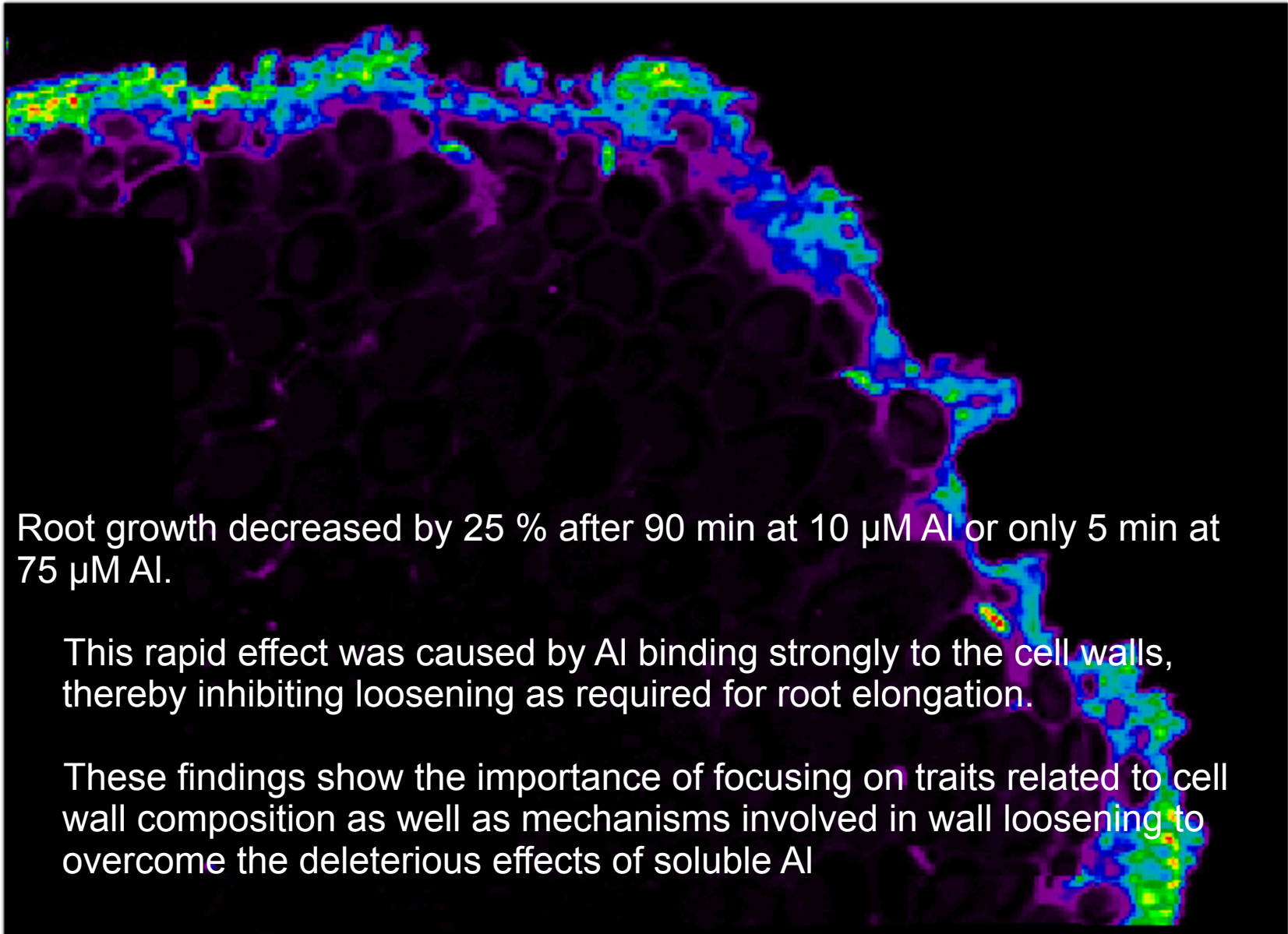




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Soybean roots exposed to 30 μM Al for 0.5 h

Al



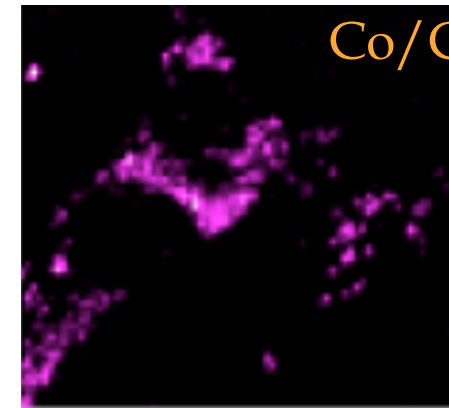
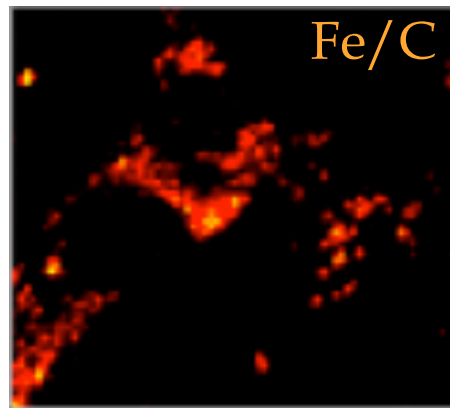
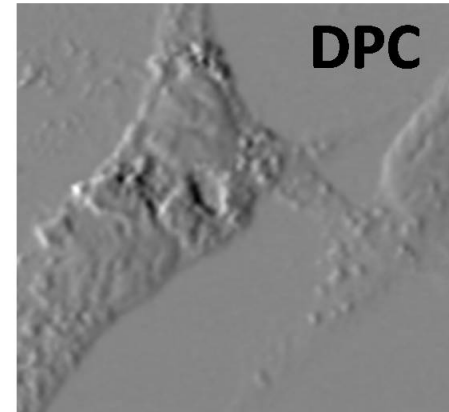
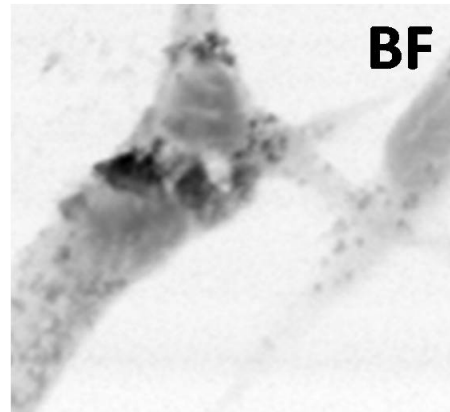
Root growth decreased by 25 % after 90 min at 10 μM Al or only 5 min at 75 μM Al.

This rapid effect was caused by Al binding strongly to the cell walls, thereby inhibiting loosening as required for root elongation.

These findings show the importance of focusing on traits related to cell wall composition as well as mechanisms involved in wall loosening to overcome the deleterious effects of soluble Al

Cellular distribution and degradation of CoFe_2O_4 NPs in Balb/3T3 Fibroblast cells

Localization of engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) inside a cell and on the possible effects on the cell metabolic behaviour

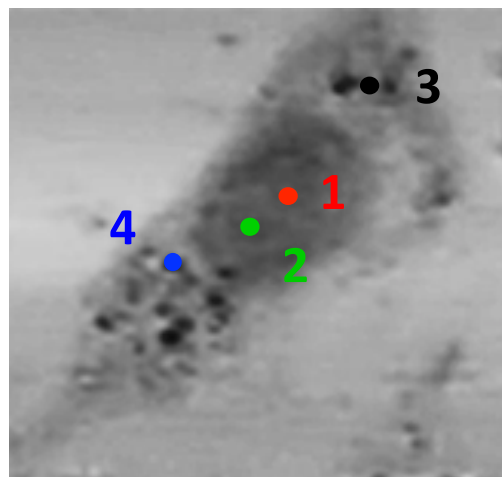


CoFe_2O_4 in mouse 3T3 fibroblast cells, $E=2019$ eV, $60\mu\text{m} \times 60 \mu\text{m}$

G. Ceccone,
P. Marmorato et al.,
EC Joint Research
Center, Ispra, I

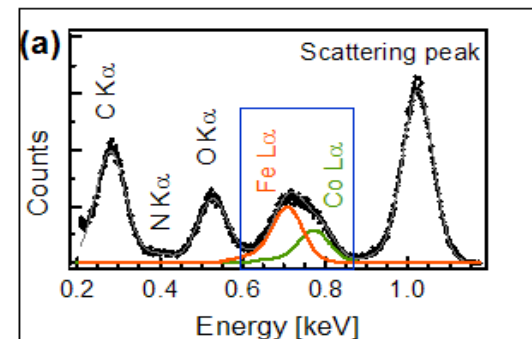
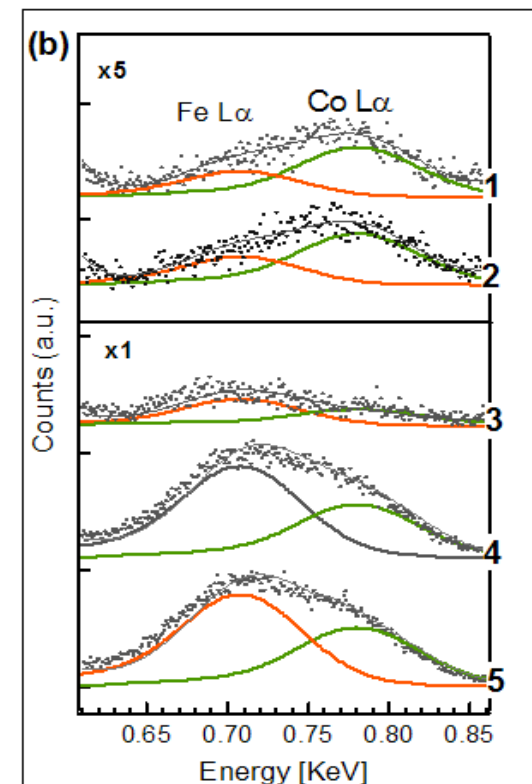
Balb/3T3 exposed to 1000mM

Fe/Co~0.8



Fe/Co~1.5

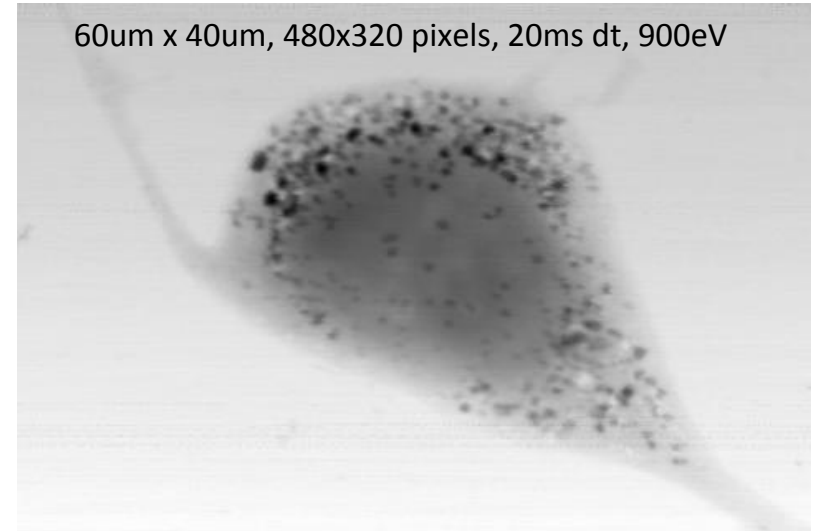
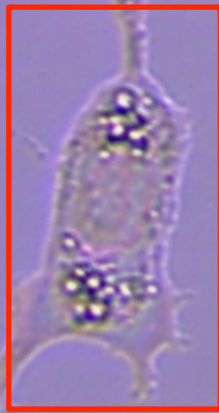
Similar behaviour (but less evident) in the nuclear region for 500μM concentration



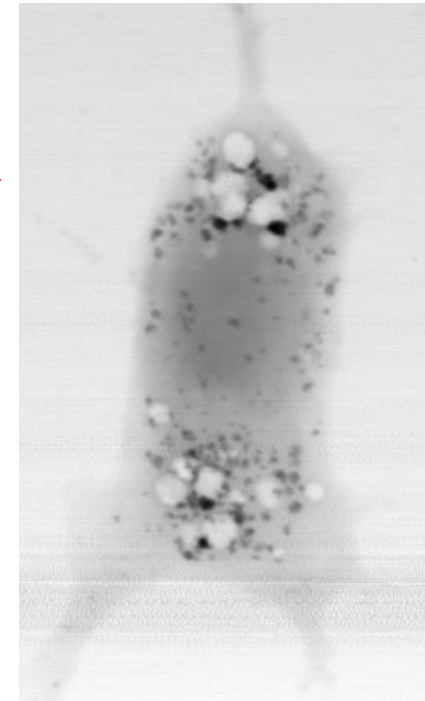


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Fibroblast cells
exposed to
 CoFe_2O_4 NPs



32um x 60um, 256x480 pixels, 20ms dt, 900eV

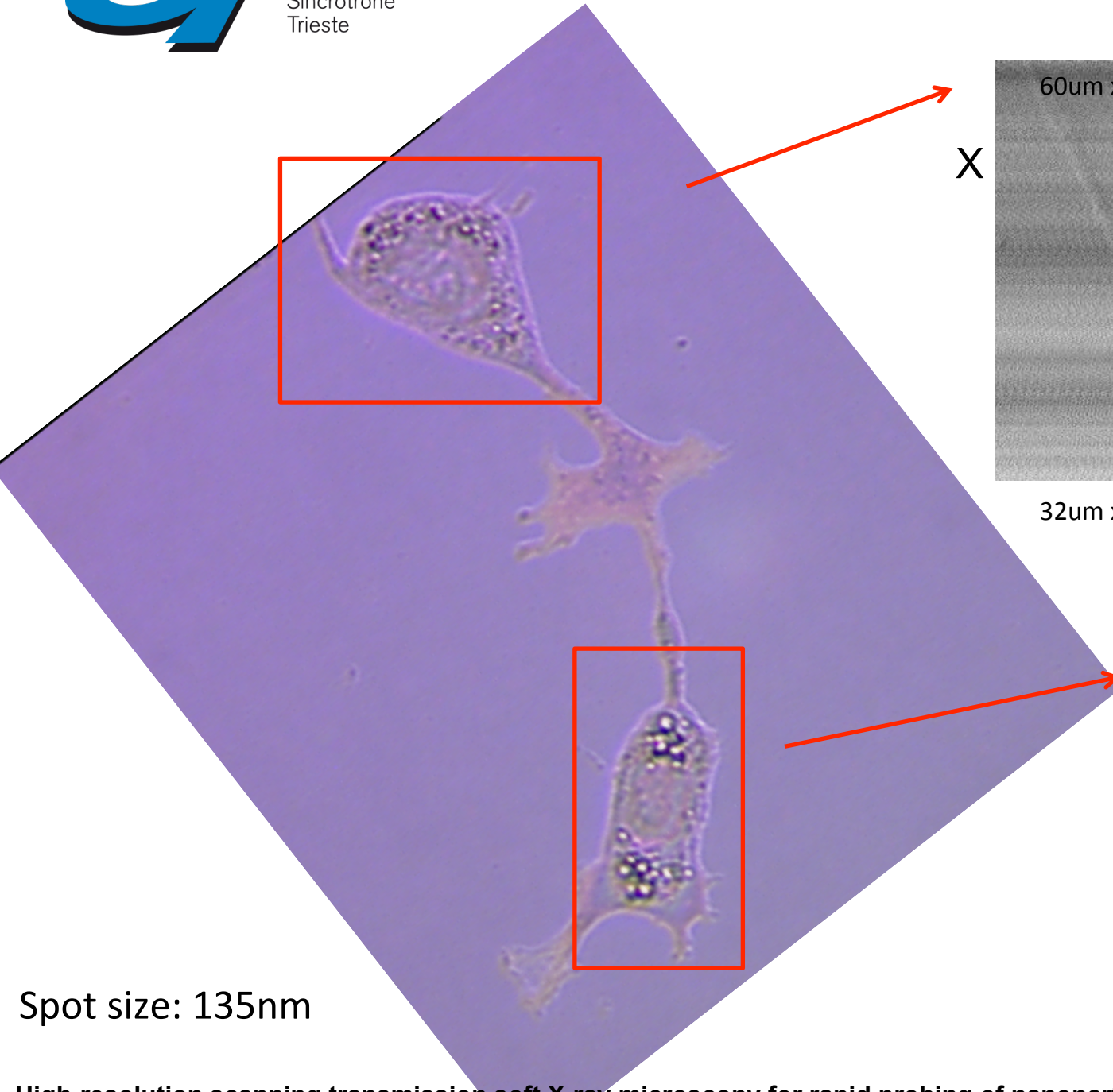


Spot size: 135nm

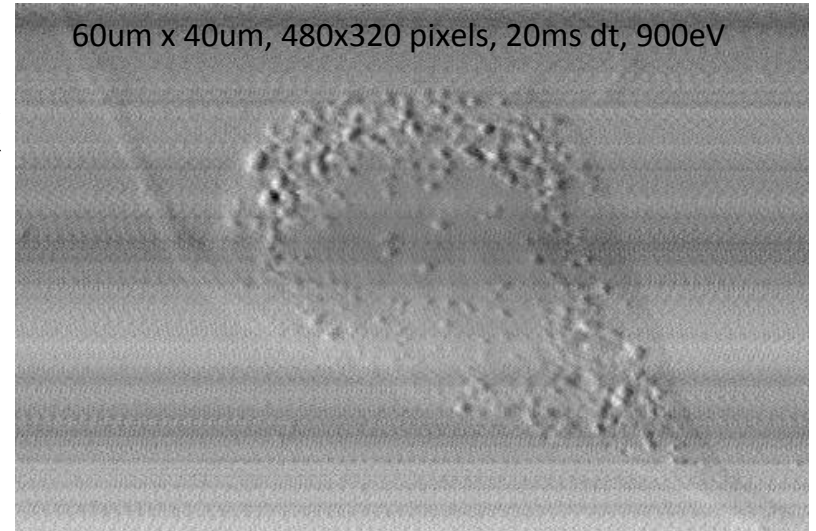
High-resolution scanning transmission soft X-ray microscopy for rapid probing of nanoparticle distribution and sufferance features in exposed cells Kourousias G, Pascolo L, Marmorato P, Ponti J, Ceccone G, Kiskinova M, Gianoncelli A *X-Ray Spectrometry* (2015)



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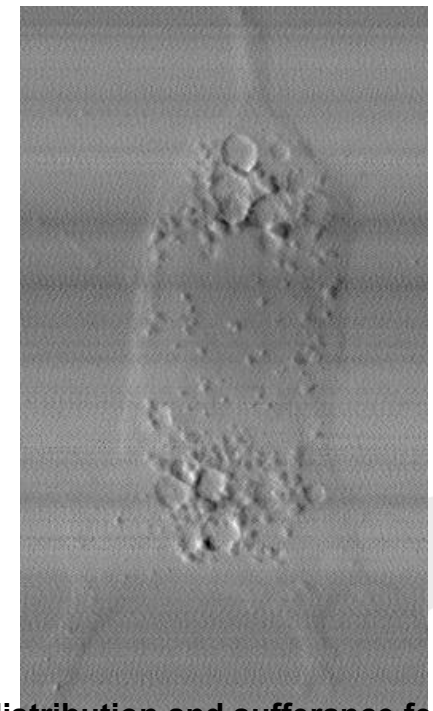
X



60um x 40um, 480x320 pixels, 20ms dt, 900eV

32um x 60um, 256x480 pixels, 20ms dt, 900eV

X



Spot size: 135nm

High-resolution scanning transmission soft X-ray microscopy for rapid probing of nanoparticle distribution and sufferance features in exposed cells Kourousias G, Pascolo L, Marmorato P, Ponti J, Ceccone G, Kiskinova M, Gianoncelli A *X-Ray Spectrometry* (2015)

Red oil specifically stains lipids

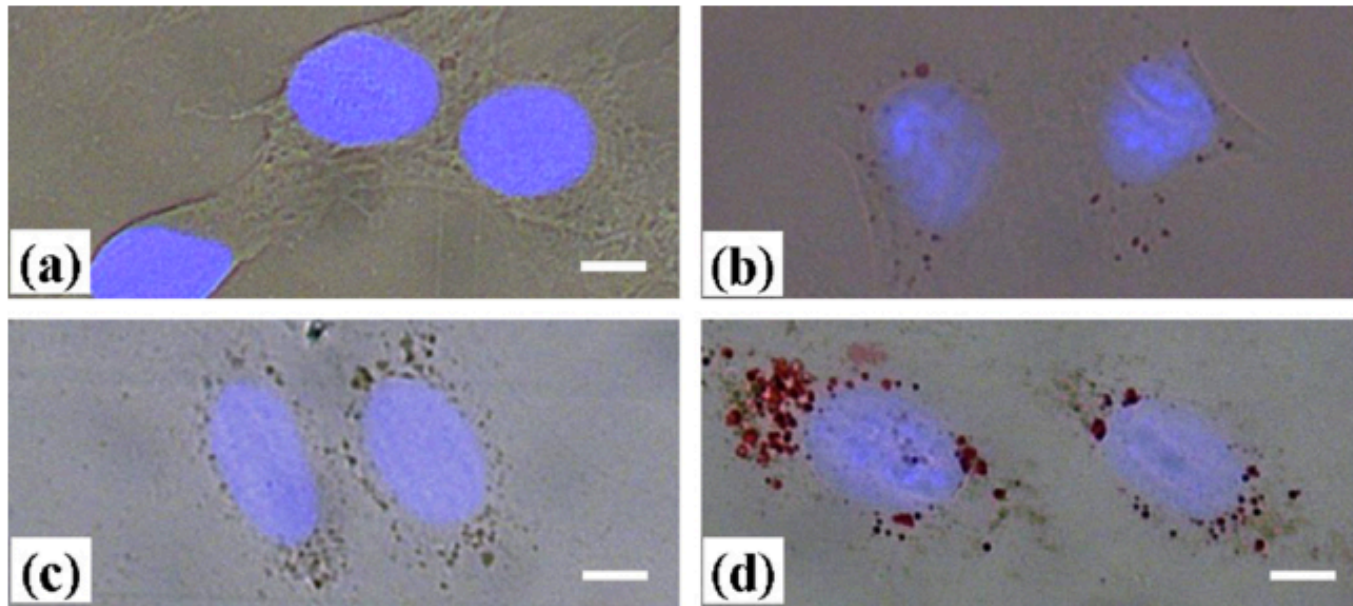
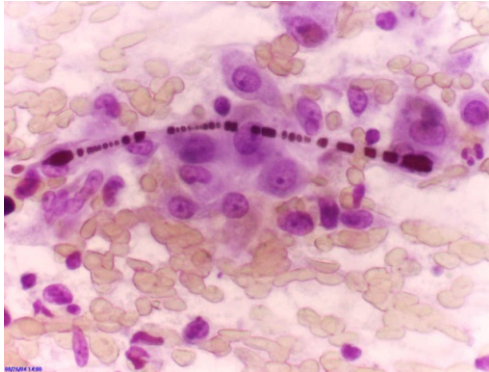
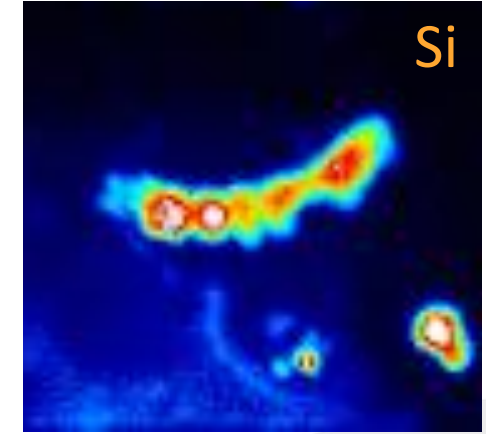
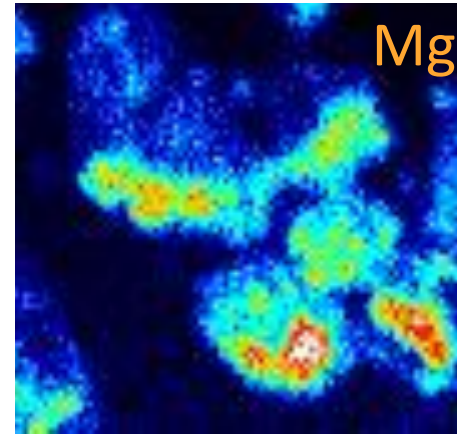
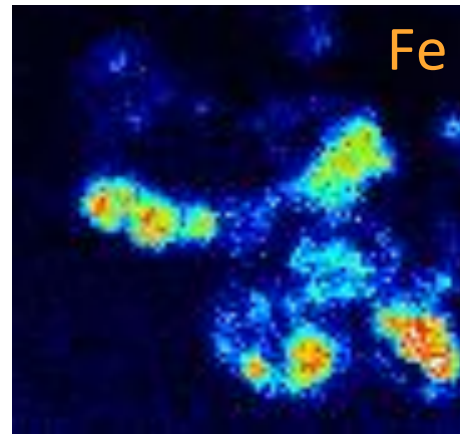
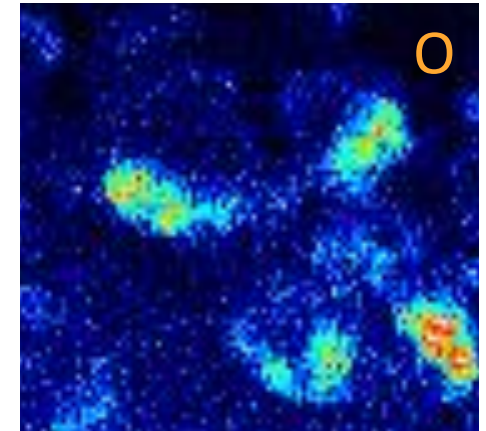
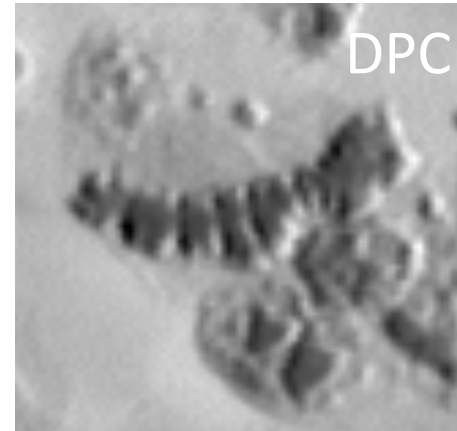
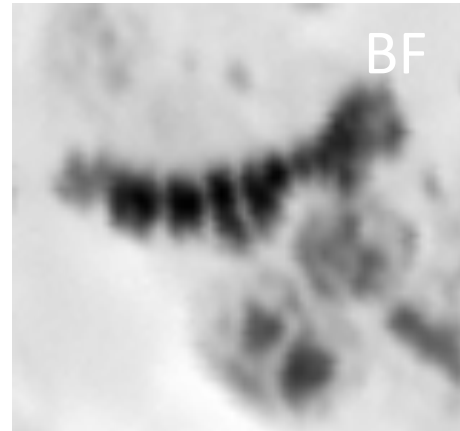


Fig. 6. Optical images of Balb/3T3 control cells (a and b) and incubated for 24 h with 500 μM CoFe_2O_4 NPs suspension (c and d). Red spots represent lipids stained by Red Oil O solution (b and d) whilst nuclei are stained in blue by Hoechst. Bar = 10 μm . (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of the article.)

Exposure to Asbestos



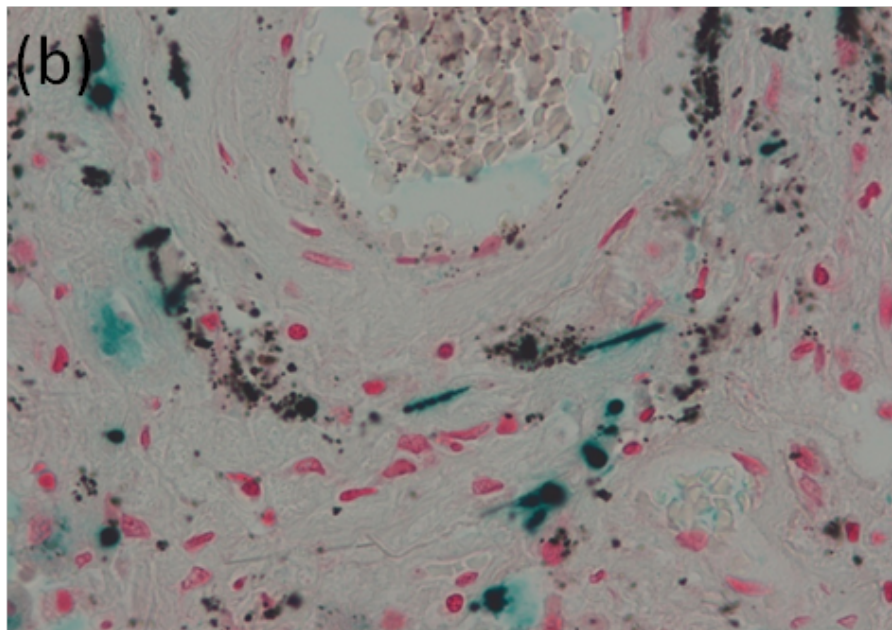
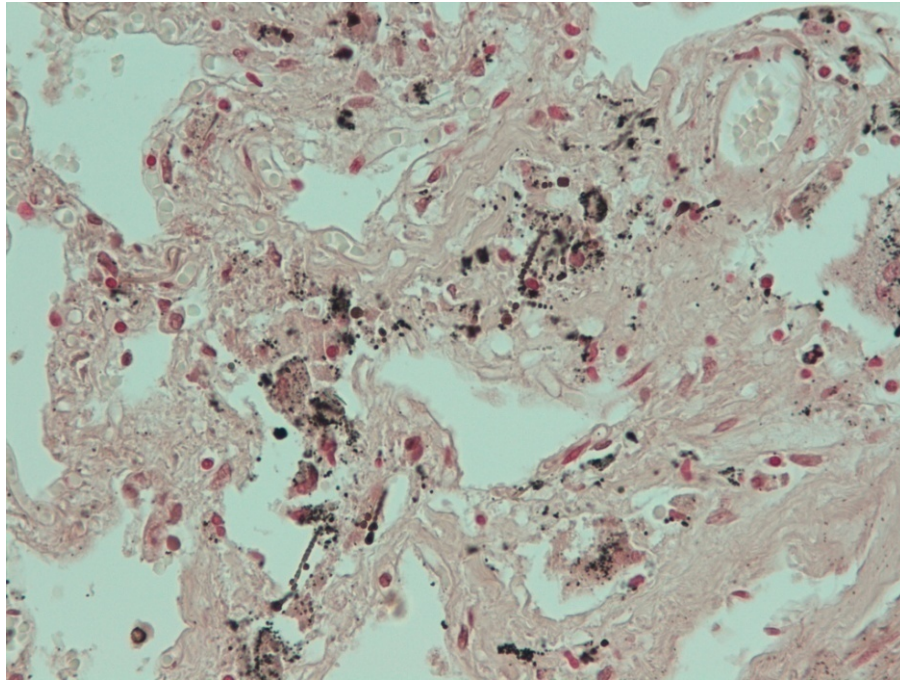
*L. Pascolo, M. Melato,
Burlo Hospital, Trieste,
Italy*



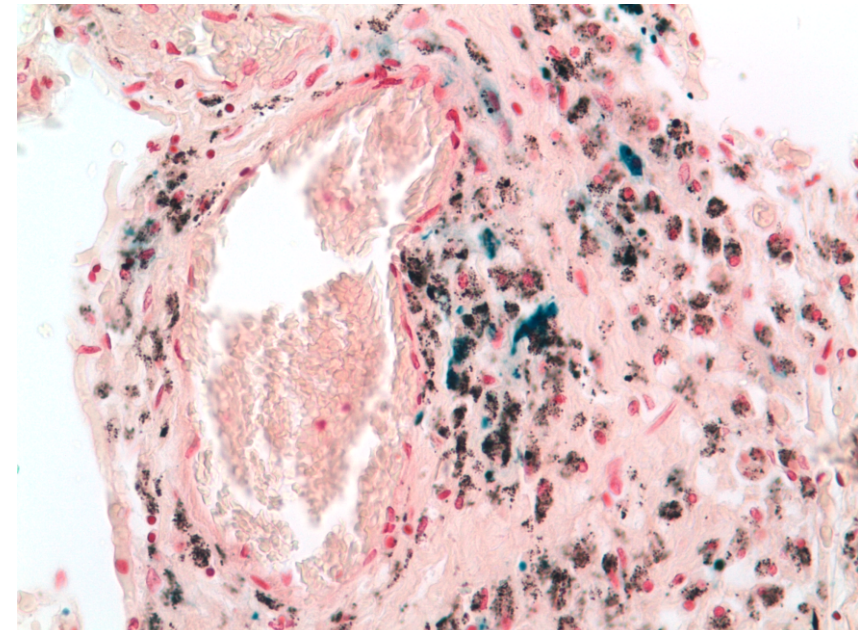
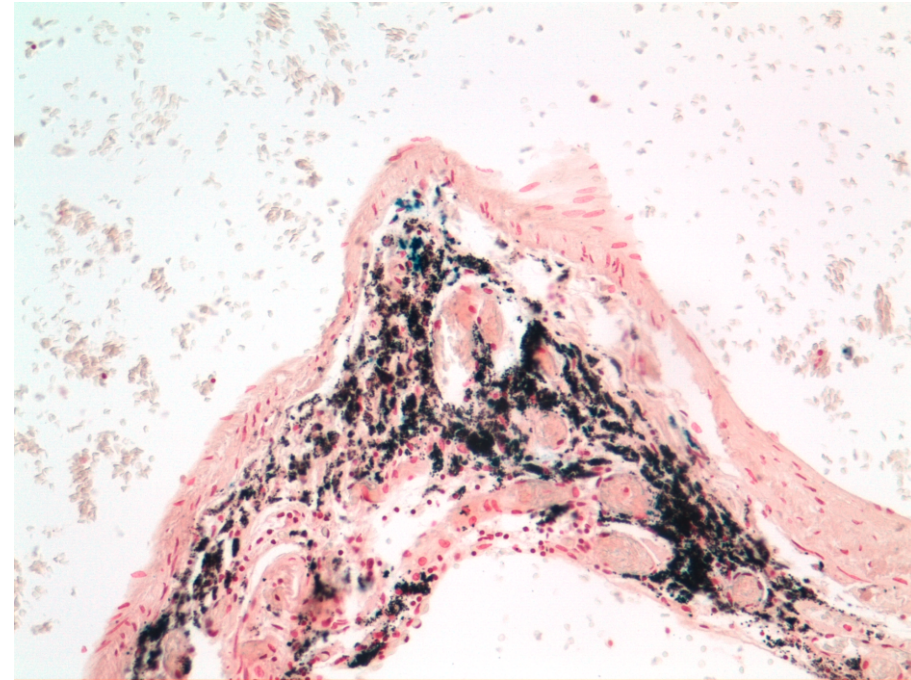
Mesothelioma and
differentiation of lung
tissue due to
asbestos;
the role of Mg

E=2019 eV, 50mm x 50 mm, 100 x 100 pixels, 15s/pixel LEXRF,
4 SDDs

Asbestos and anthracosis

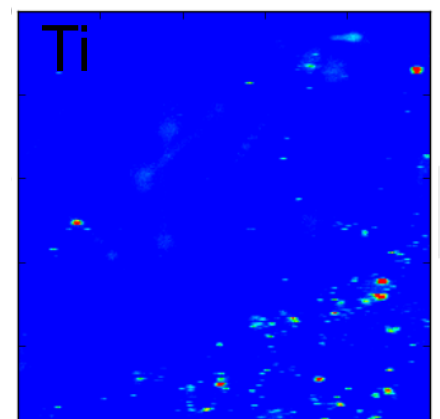
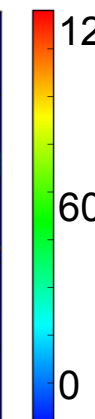
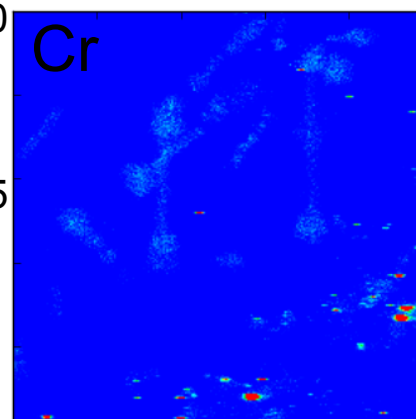
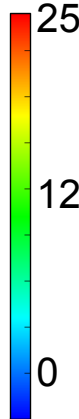
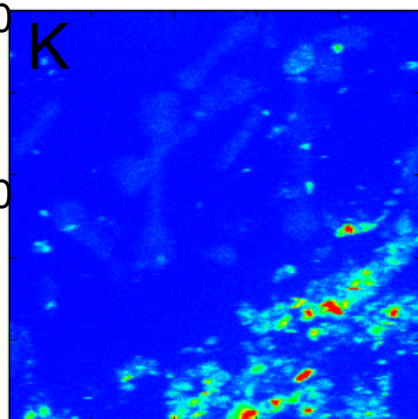
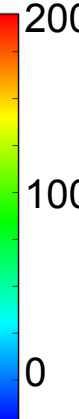
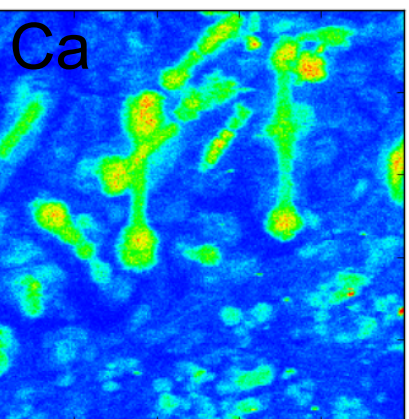
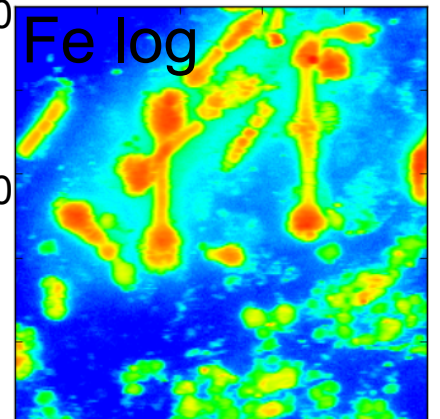
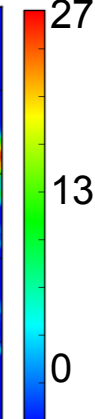
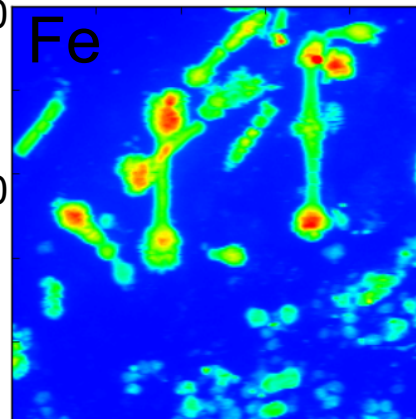
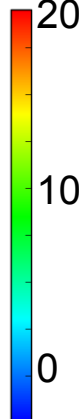
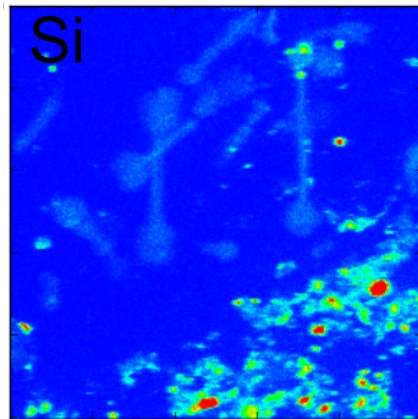
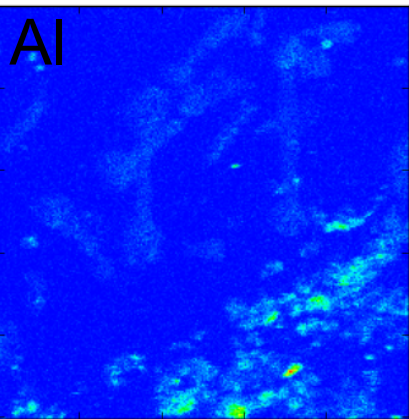
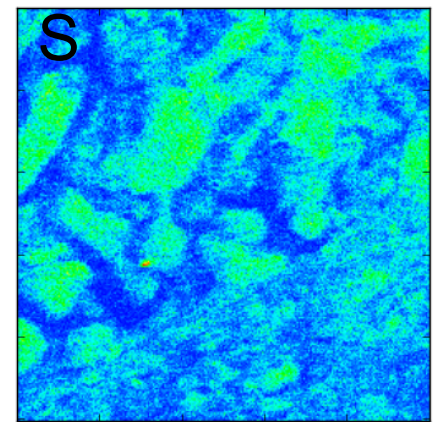
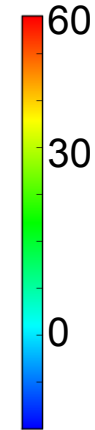
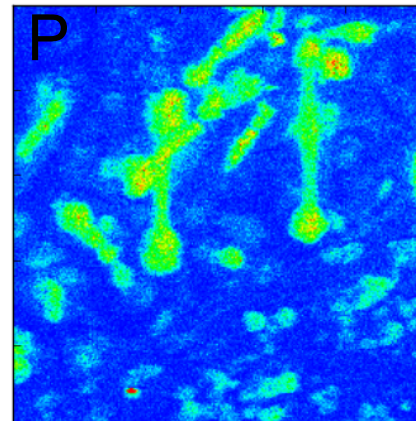
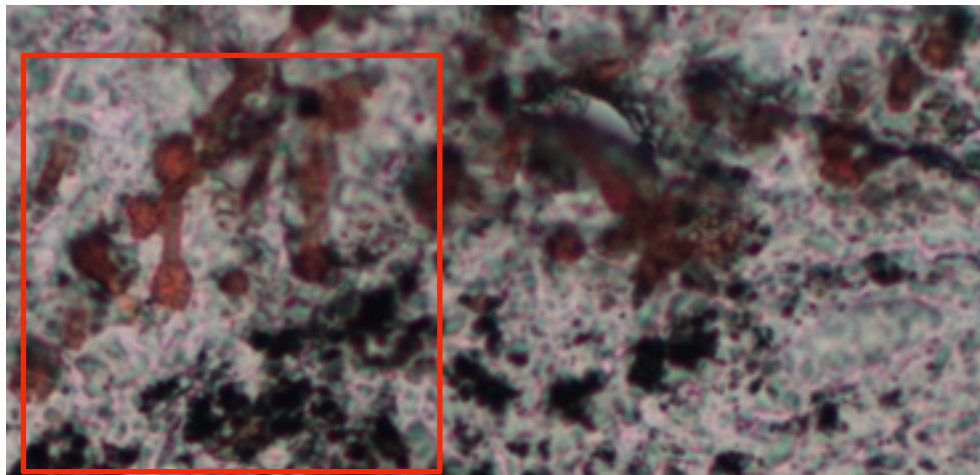


Anthracosis



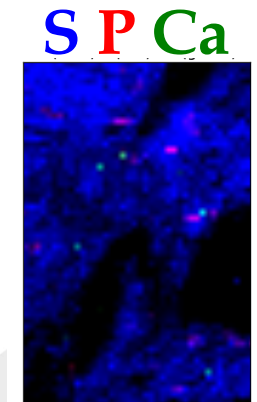
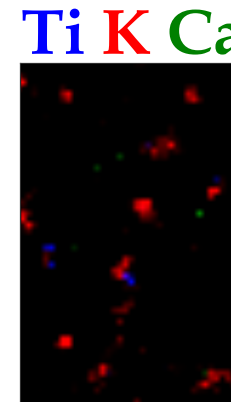
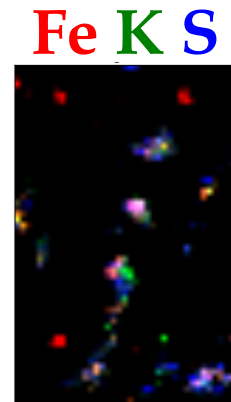
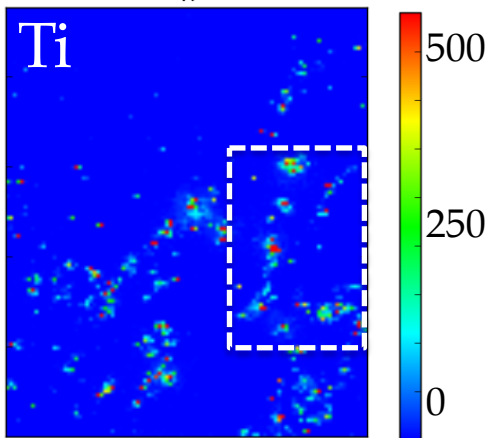
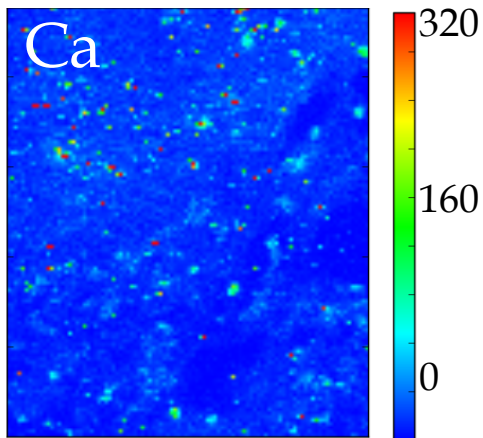
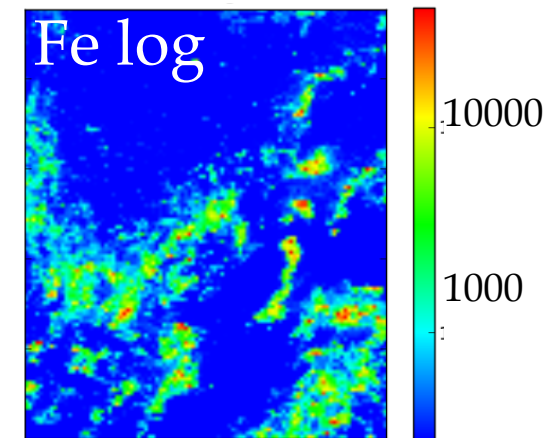
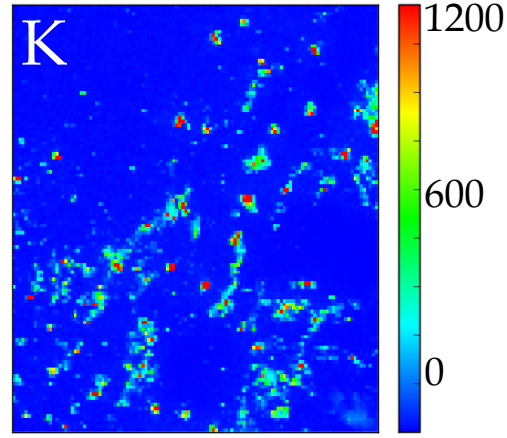
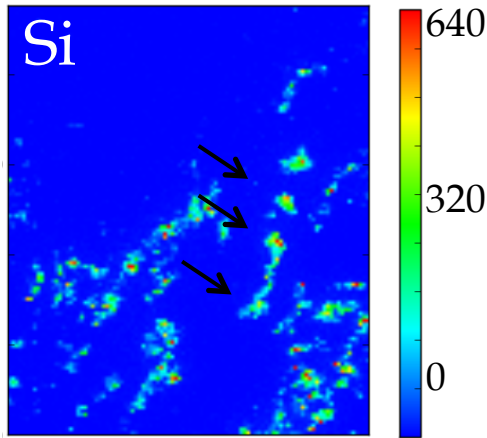
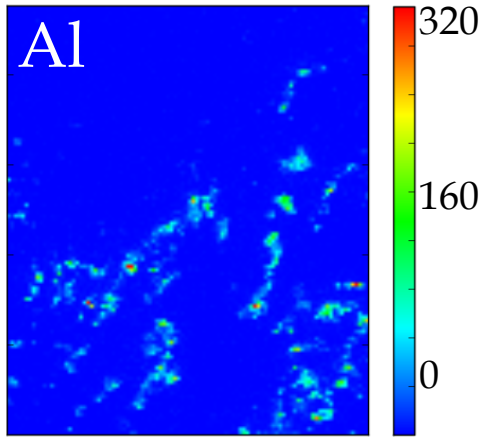
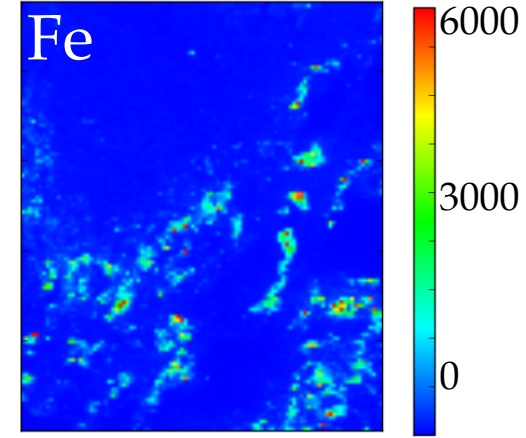
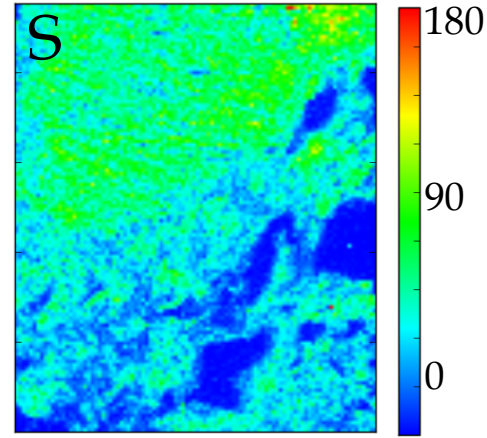
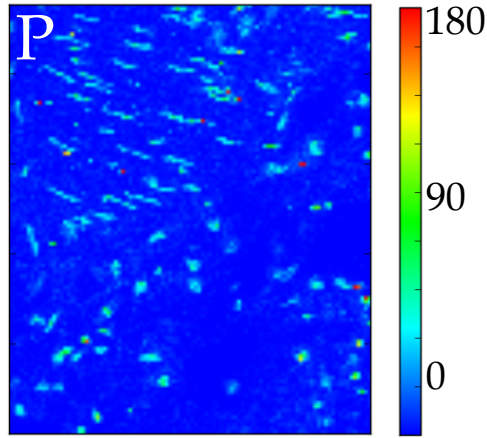
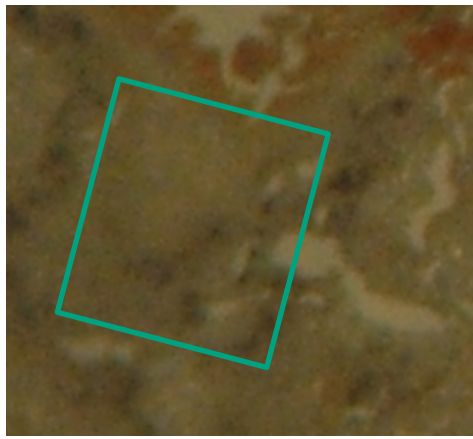
100x100μm

Asbestos and anthracosis

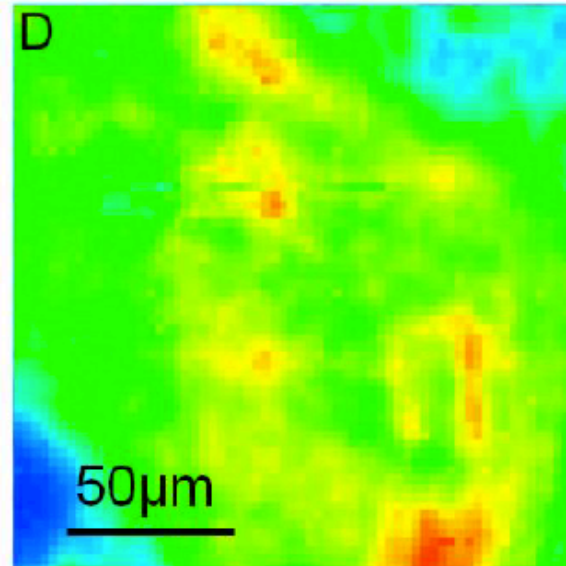
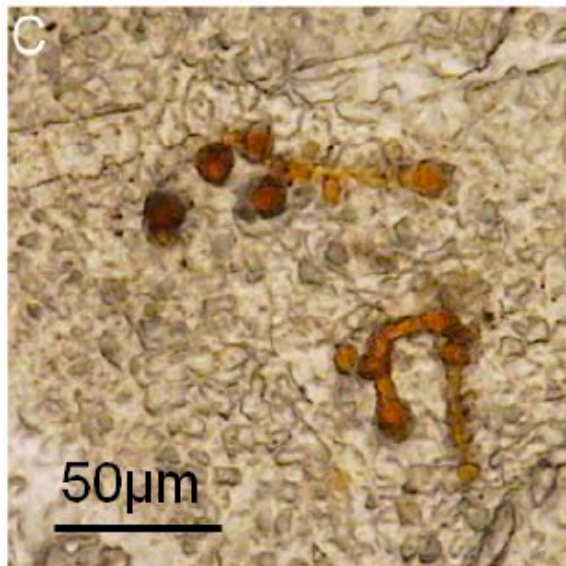
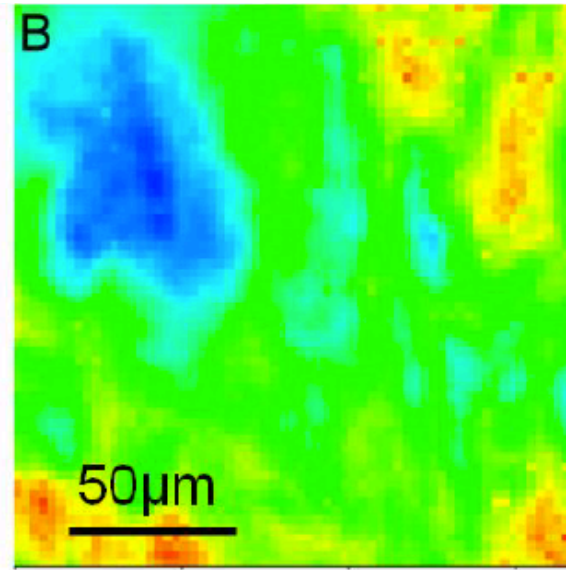
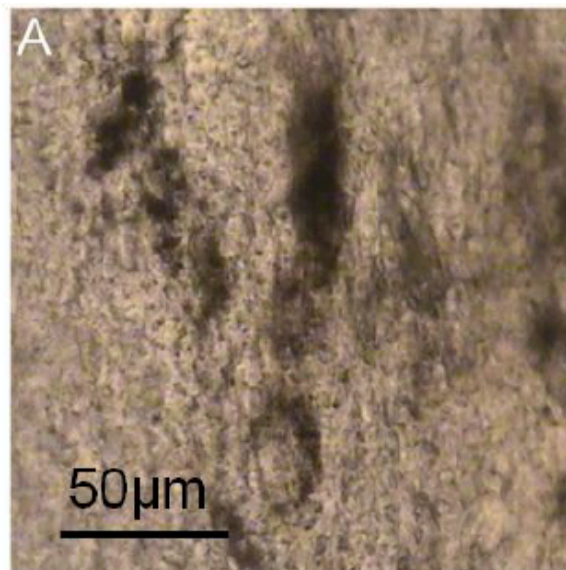


Anthracosis

200x230 μ m



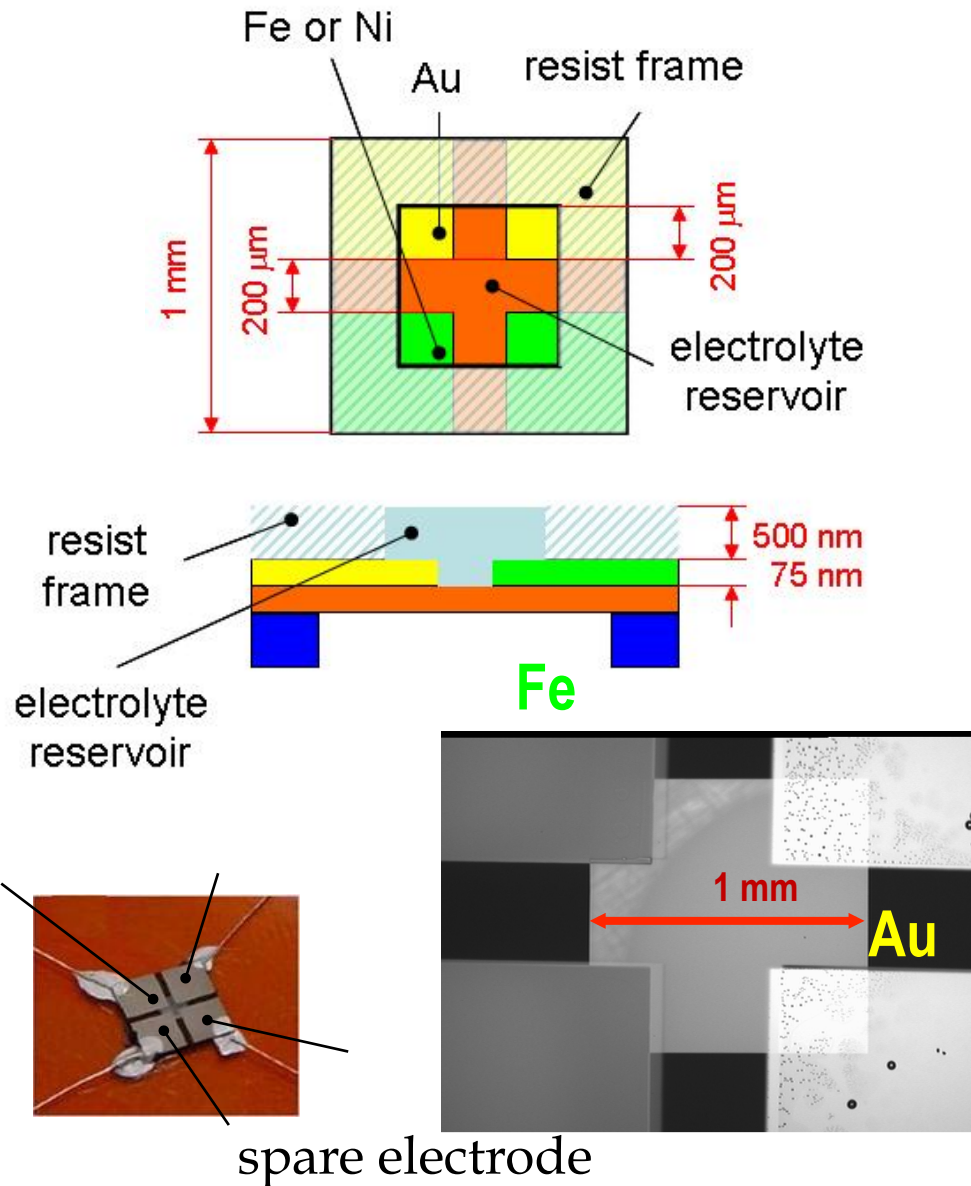
FTIR spectro-microscopy



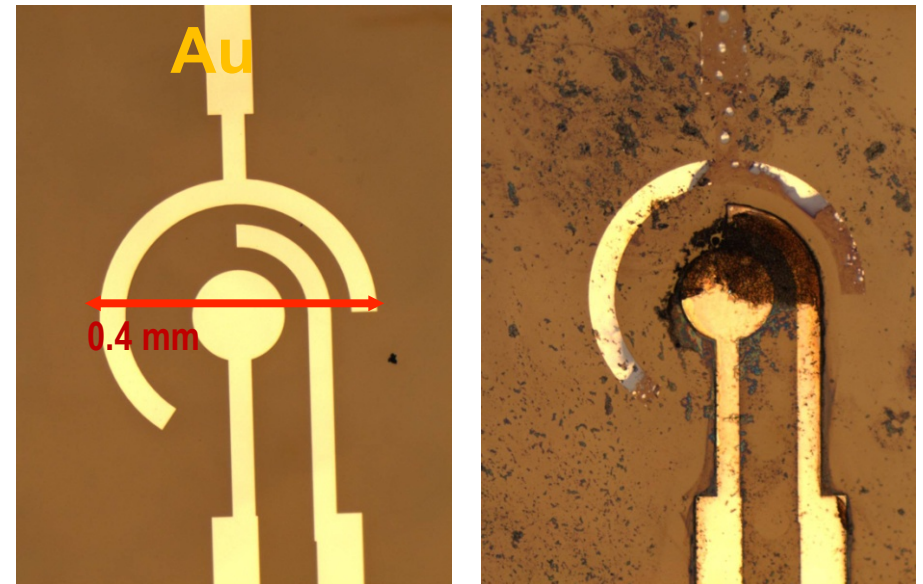
Sensitive, label-free and non-damaging technique for the characterization of biomolecules

Particularly useful for the study of proteins, the so called Amide I ($\sim 1700-1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$) and Amide II ($\sim 1580-1480\text{ cm}^{-1}$) bands, from the C=O stretching and N-H bending vibrations of the peptide backbone

Through-mask evaporation

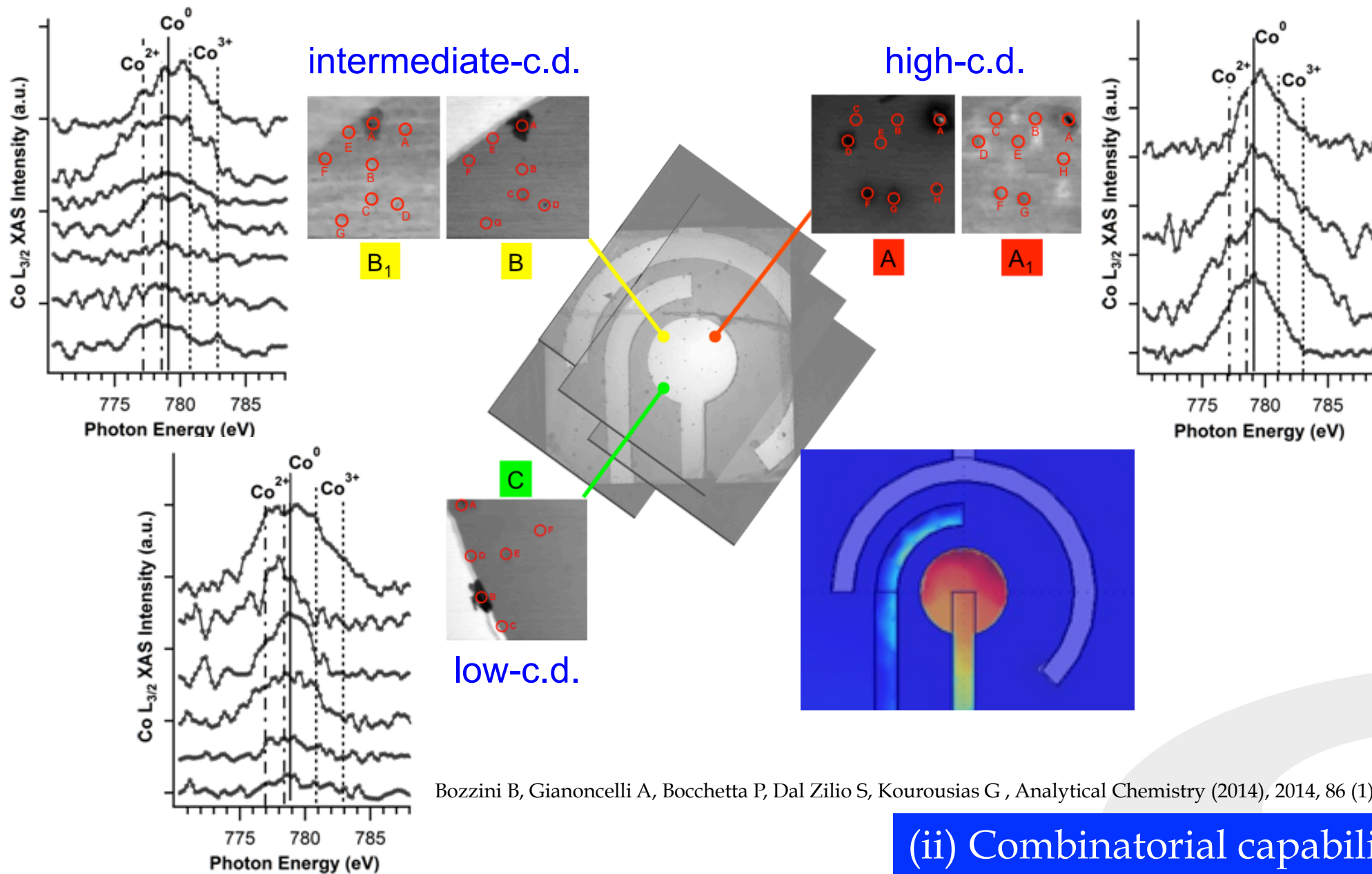


Electron-beam lithography



- 1) Improve the current density distribution
- 2) Localisation of the electrochemical processes

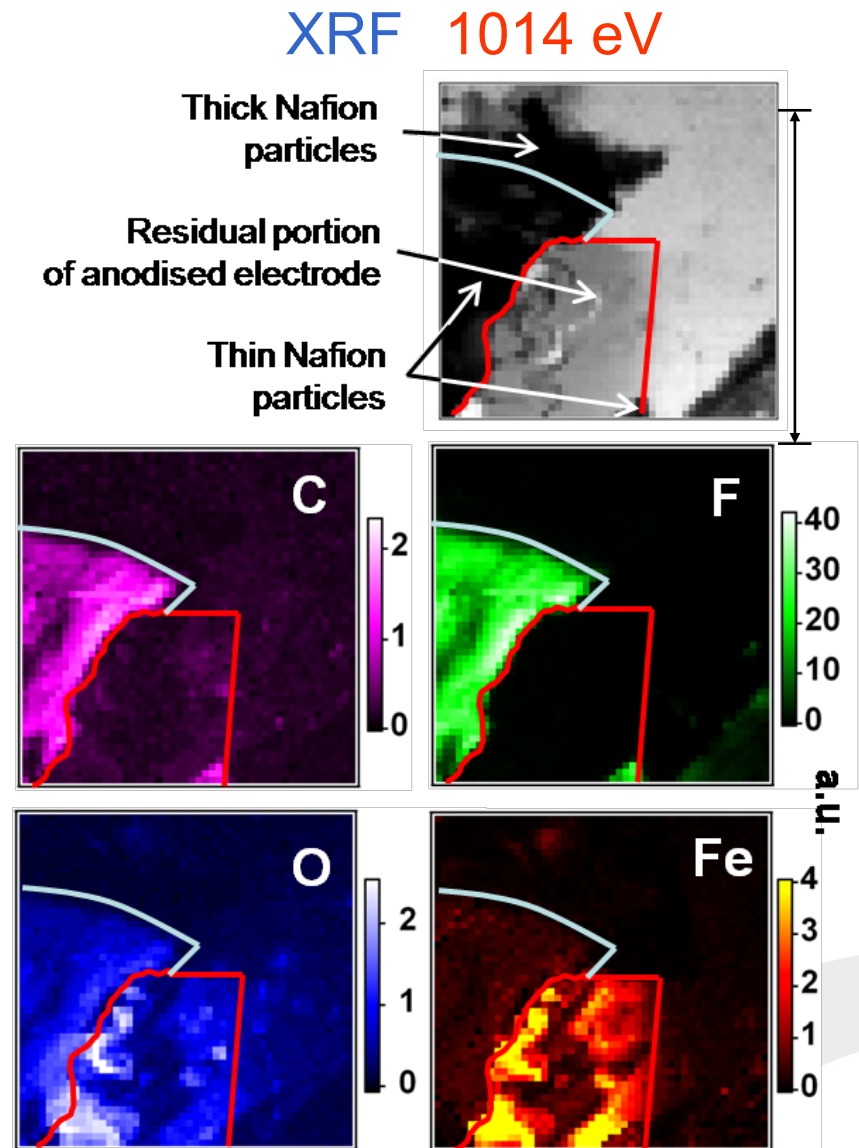
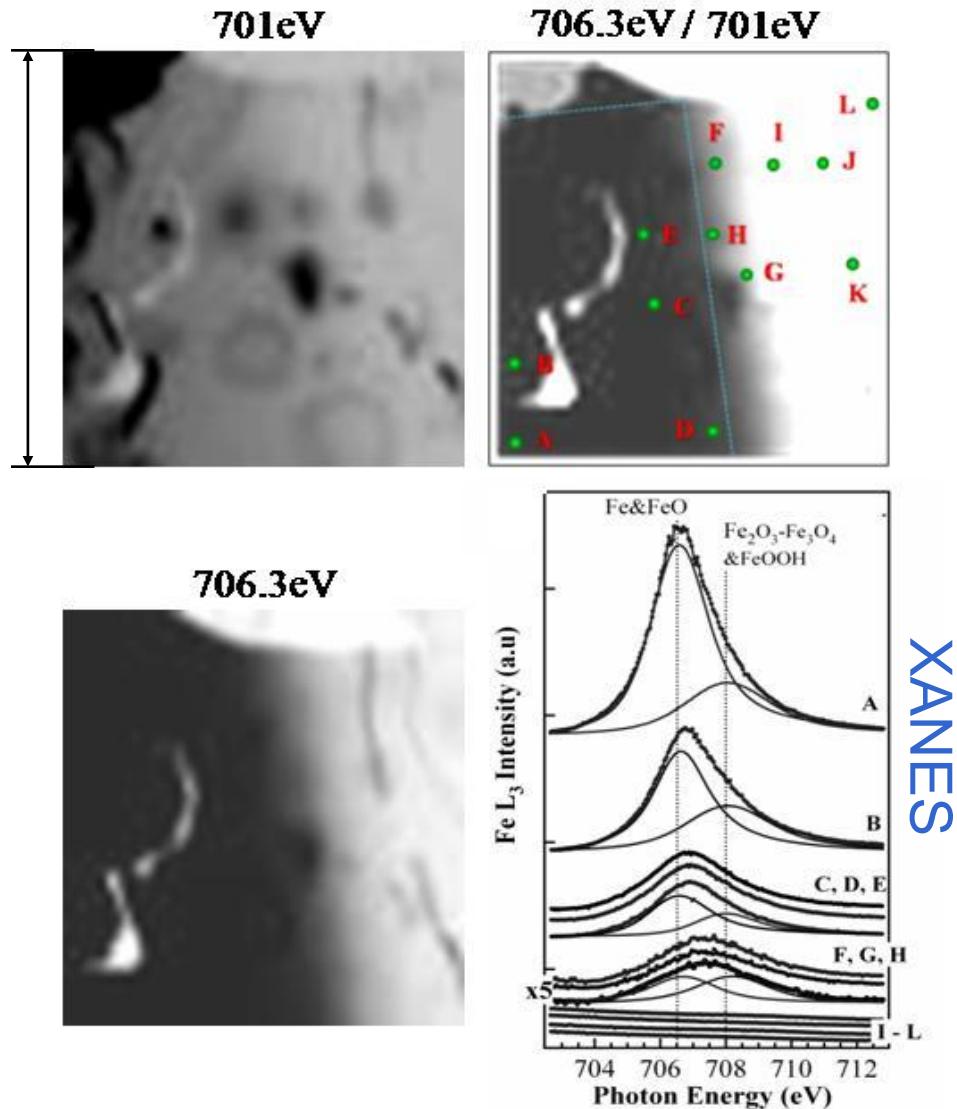
Definition of Co chemical state and distribution: micro-XAS



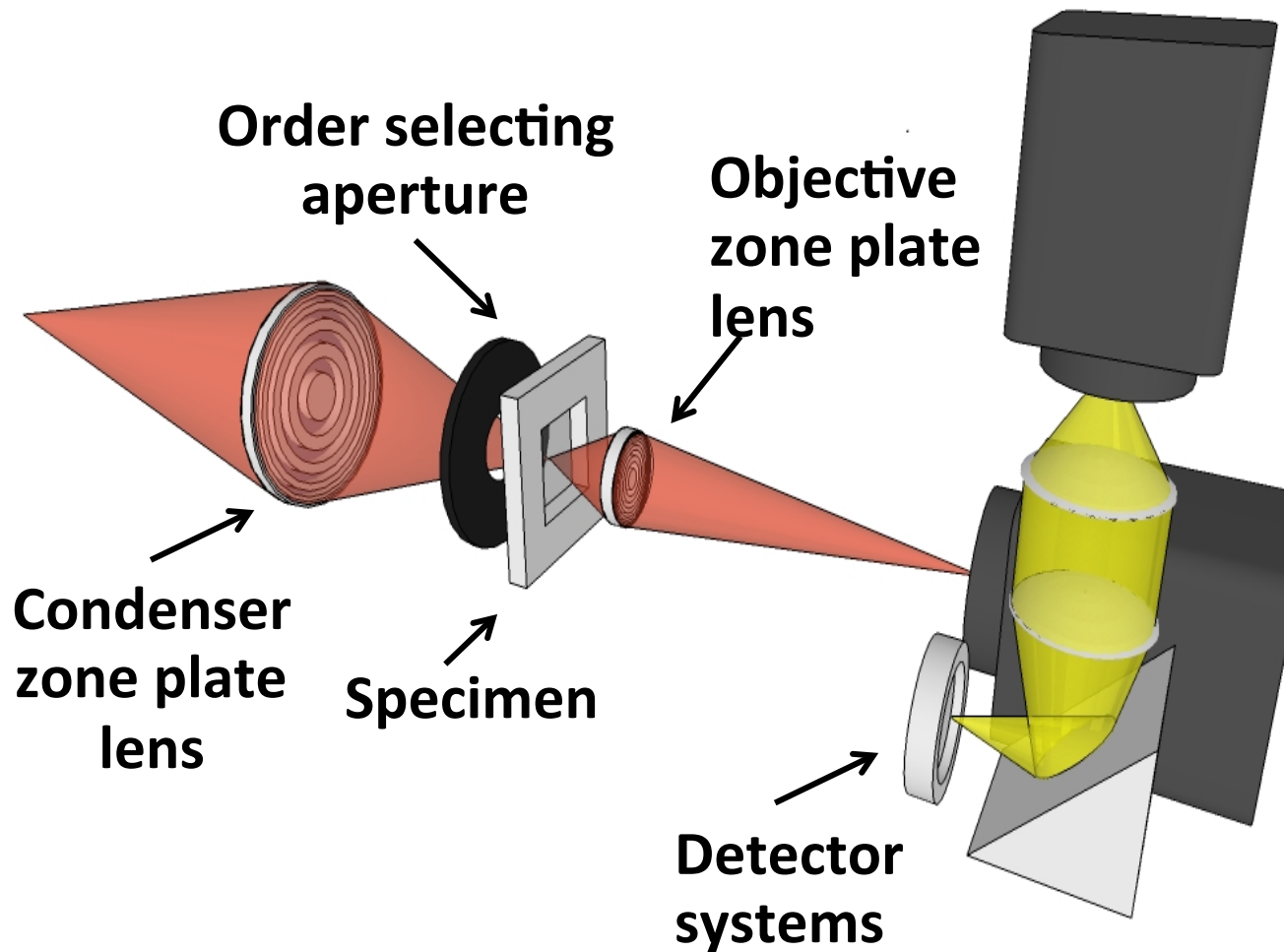
Bozzini B, Gianoncelli A, Bocchetta P, Dal Zilio S, Kourousias G, Analytical Chemistry (2014), 2014, 86 (1), 664

(ii) Combinatorial capability

FC durability - Bipolar plate (Fe) corrosion and Nafion poisoning

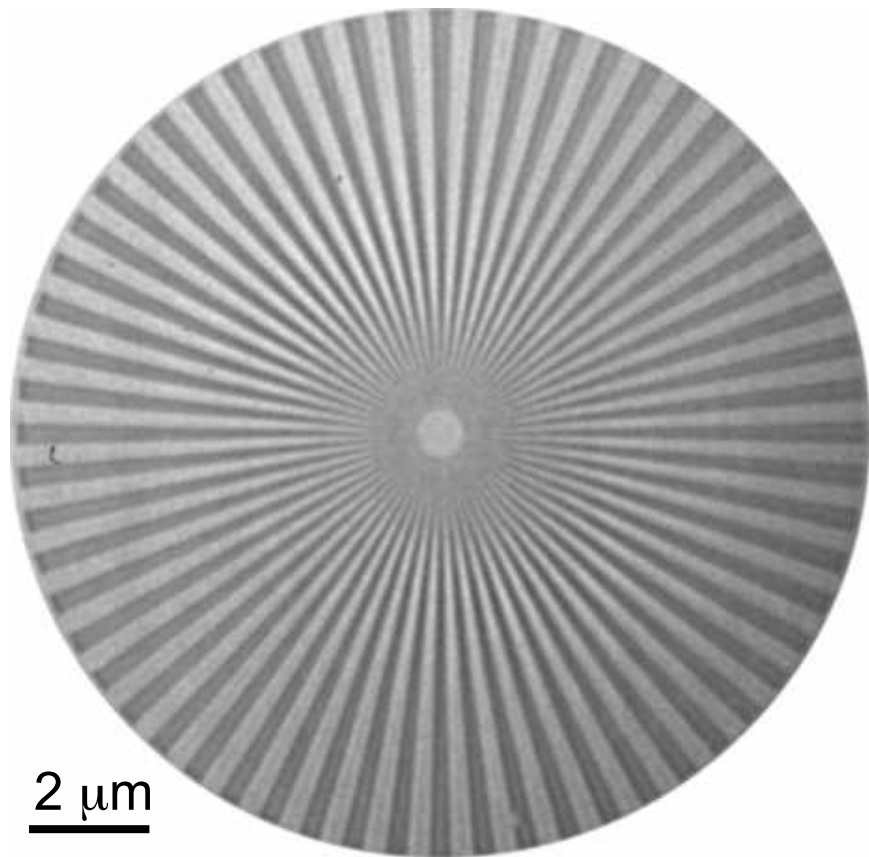


Full field Imaging mode

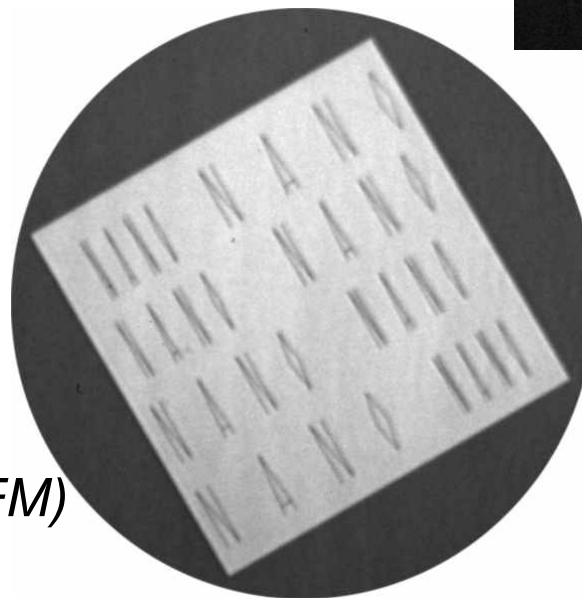
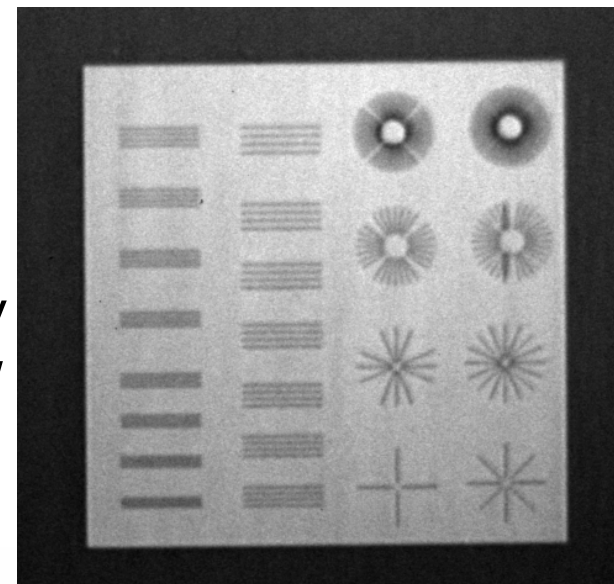


- Similar to conventional visible light microscope
- Analysis of morphology in transmission
- Fast imaging, dynamics, microtomography

Resolution tests in full-field imaging mode:



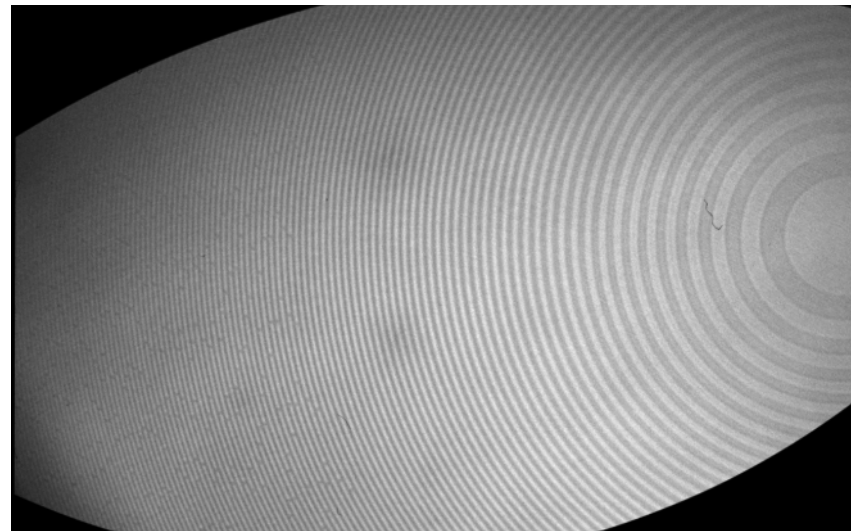
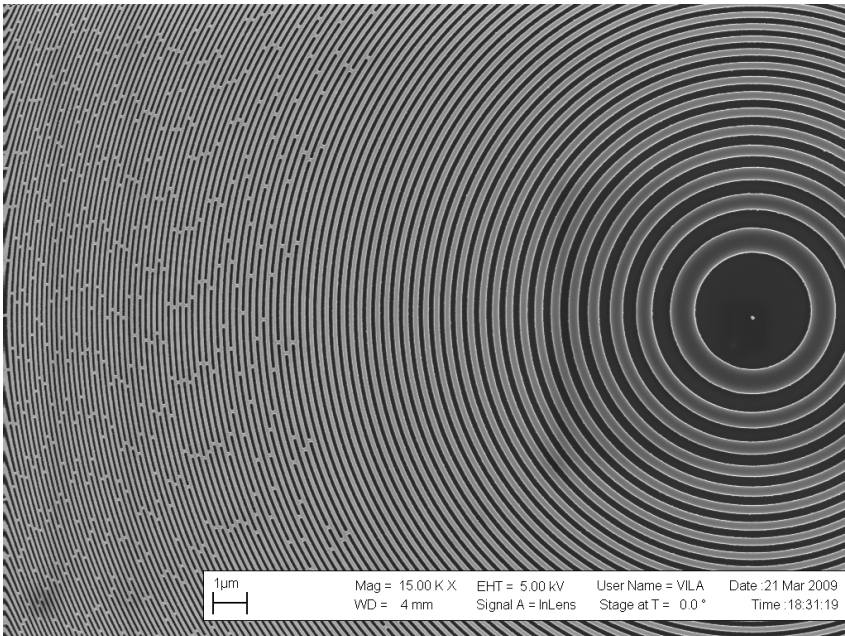
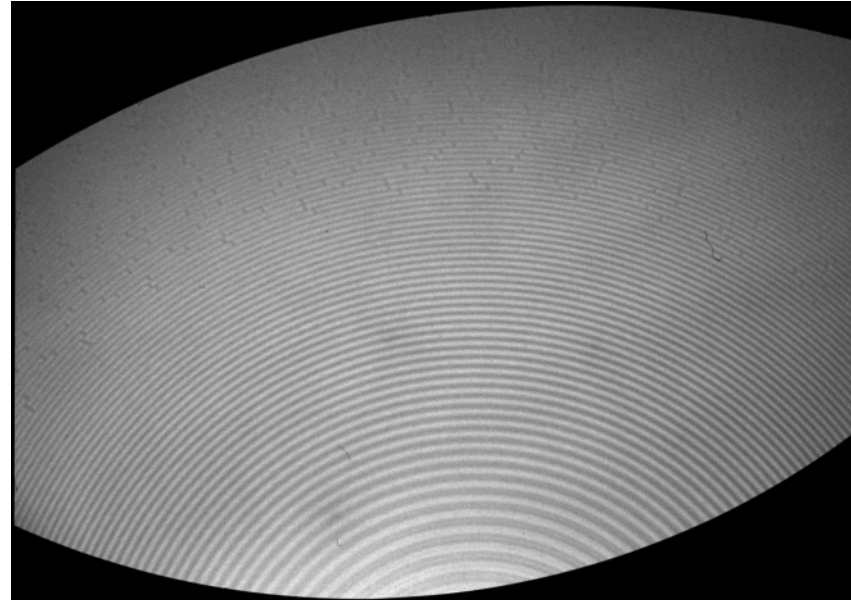
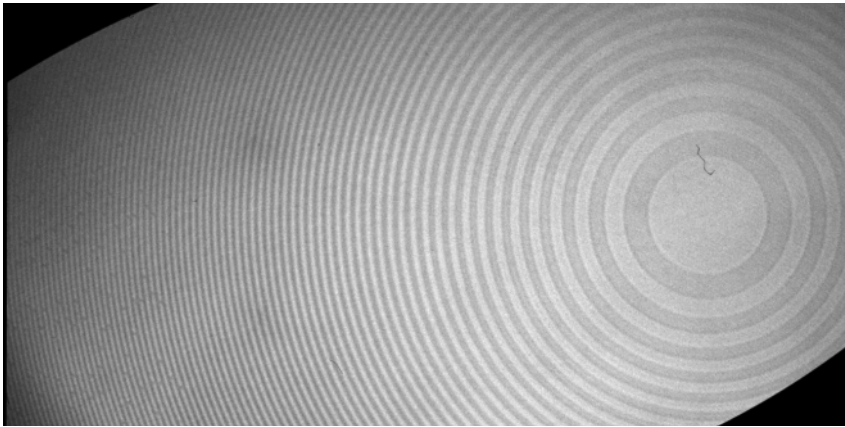
ZP parameters:
110 μm diameter
50 nm outer zones
f=3.2 mm @ 720 eV
fabricated by TASC/
INFM



Test pattern with
30 nm features
(fabricated by
TASC/ INFM)

*Experiment performed by
M. Prascioli and D. Cojoc, TASC/ INFM)*

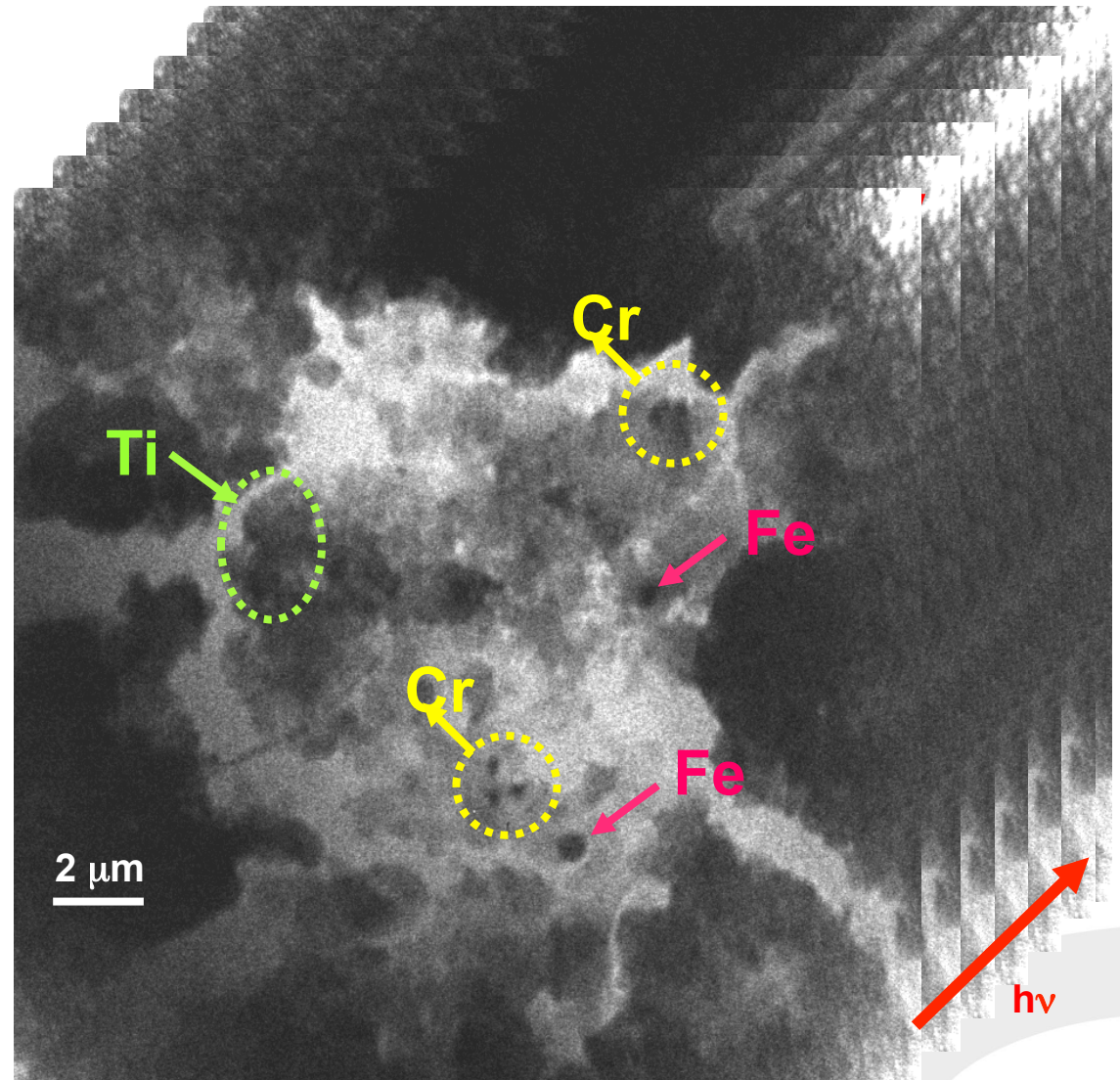
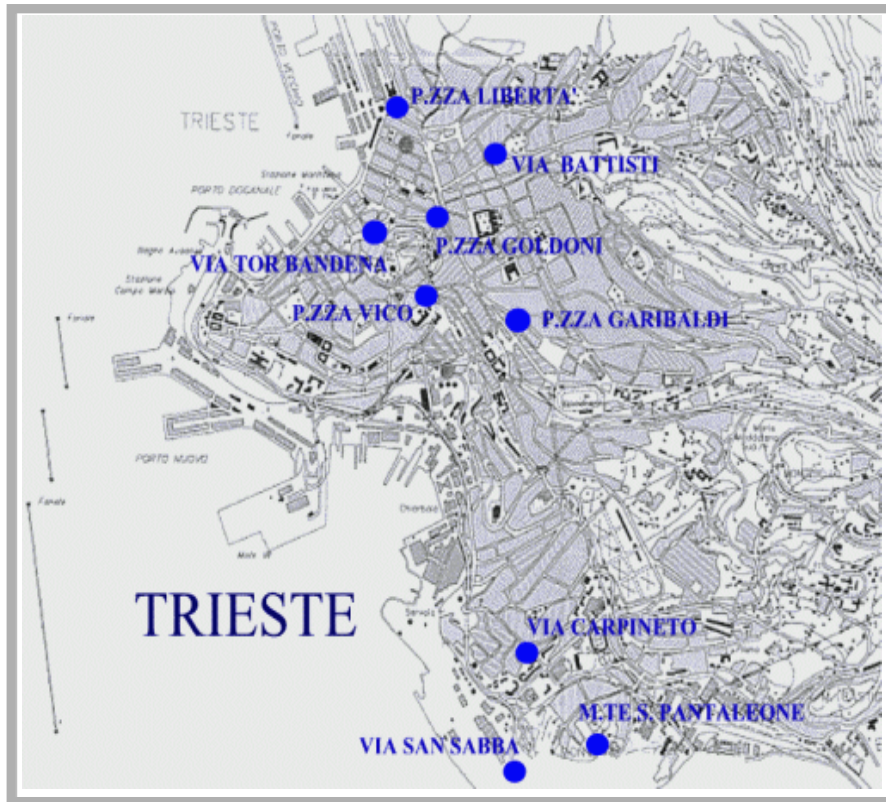
Resolution tests in full-field imaging mode:





Environmental science: Analysis of air particulate matter

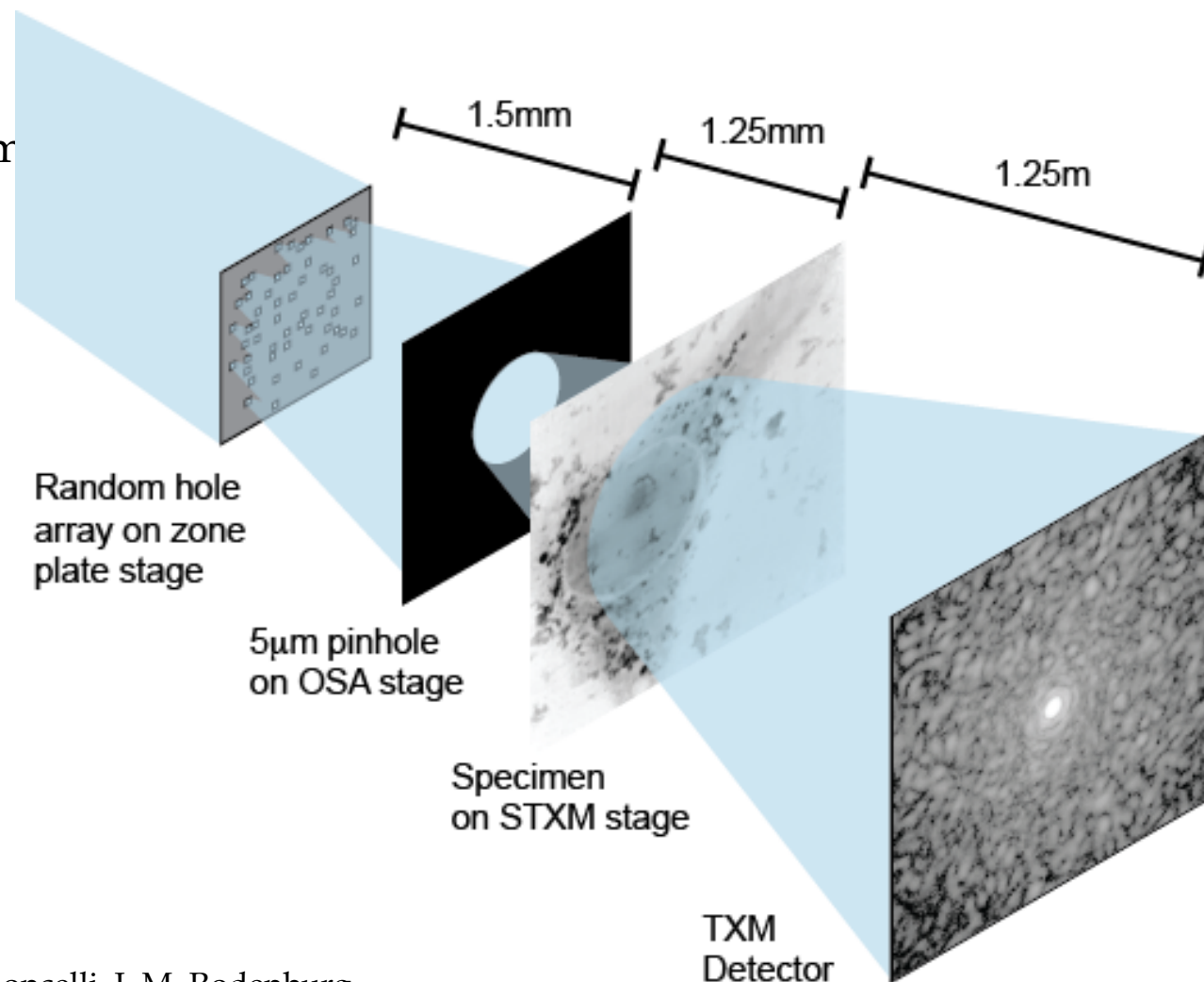
Elettra
Sincrotrone
Trieste



*P. Barbieri et al.,
Dept. of Chem., Univ. Trieste, I*

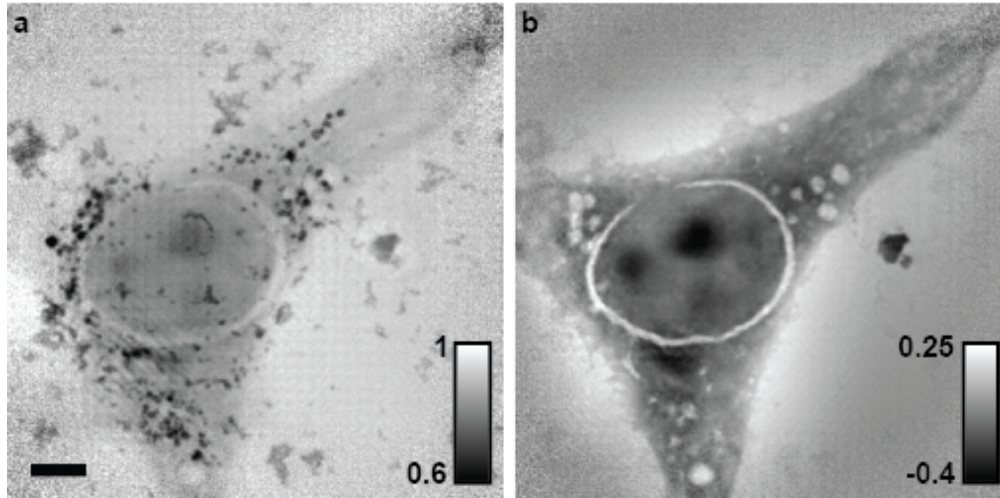
Soft X-ray spectromicroscopy using ptychography with randomly phased illumination

- Illuminated area defined by a $5\ \mu\text{m}$ pinhole
- Sample was scanned with raster steps $\sim 1\ \mu\text{m}$



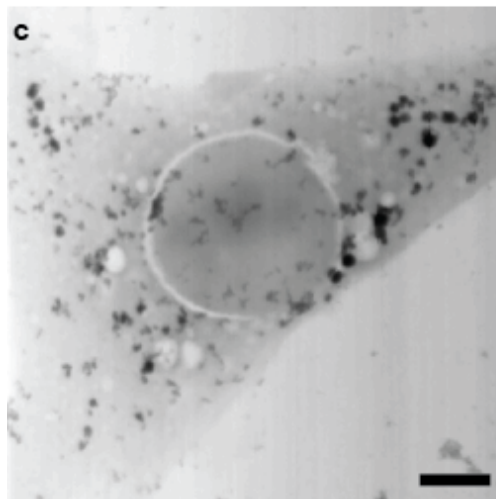
To spread the illumination across the detector

Soft X-ray spectromicroscopy using ptychography with randomly phased illumination



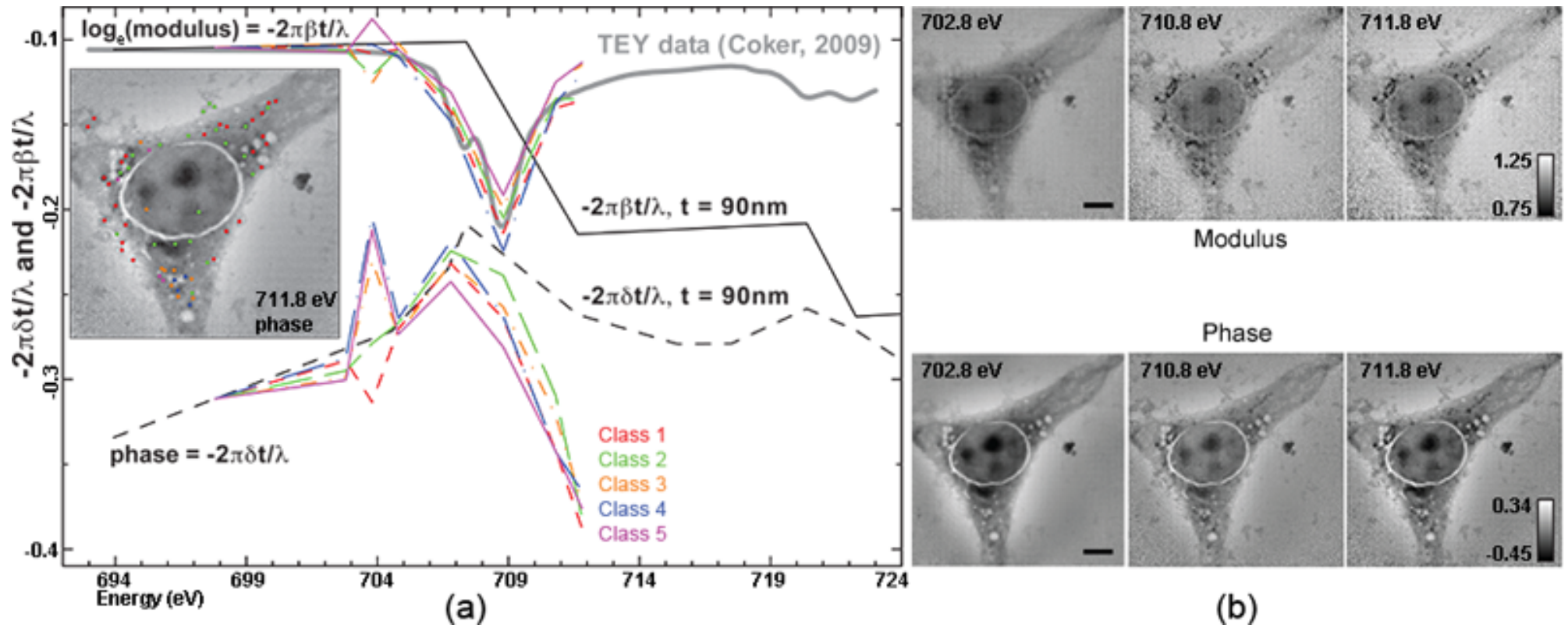
Balb/3T3 mouse fibroblast cells that had been exposed to cobalt ferrite (CoFe_2O_4) nanoparticles

Ptychography reconstruction using the ePIE algorithm (Uni of Sheffield)



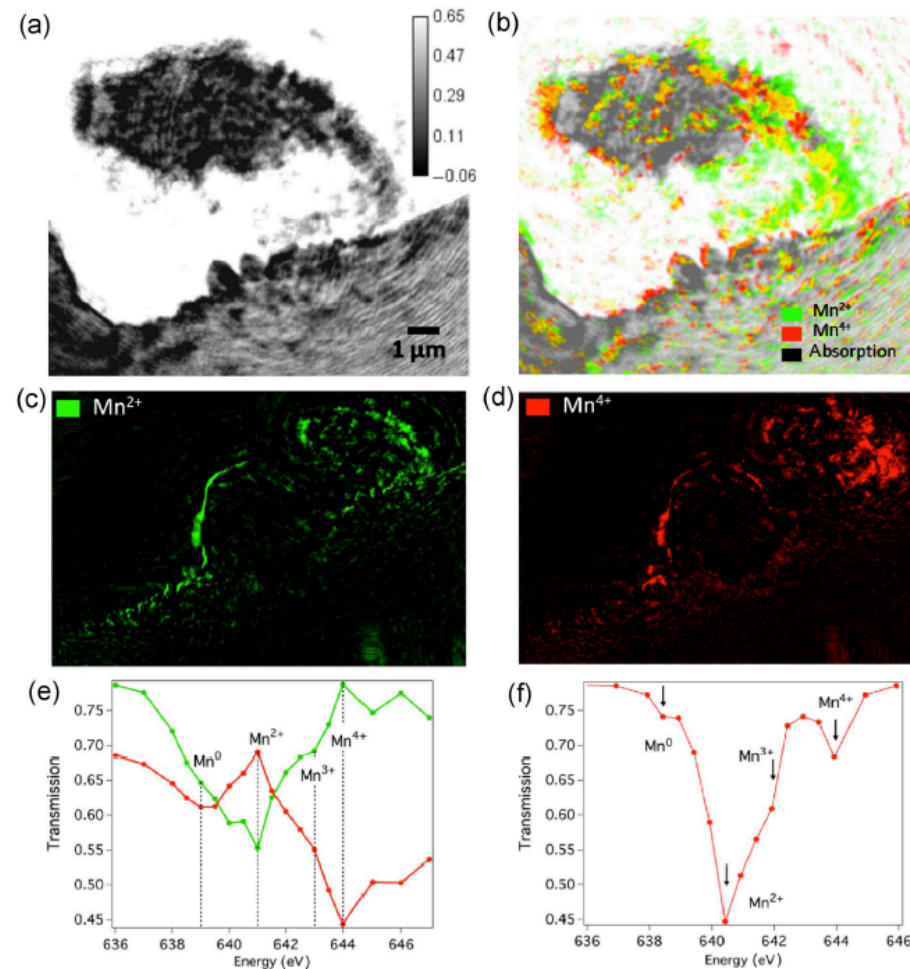
STXM absorption image

Soft X-ray spectromicroscopy using ptychography



First direct measurements from cobalt ferrite nanoparticles of the phase variations across the iron L₃ edge, with the phase variations showing stronger and clearer features than the modulus data provided

The cell was monitored in its pristine state and after biasing, across Mn and Co edge, elements present in the electrolyte solution



As in classical scanning X-ray transmission microscopy, ptychography can provide elemental and chemical information by recovering the phase and amplitude functions from two images obtained using photon energies above and below the absorption edges

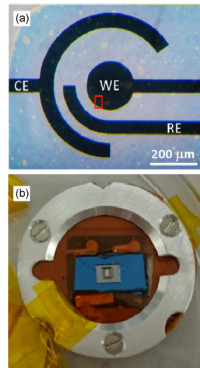
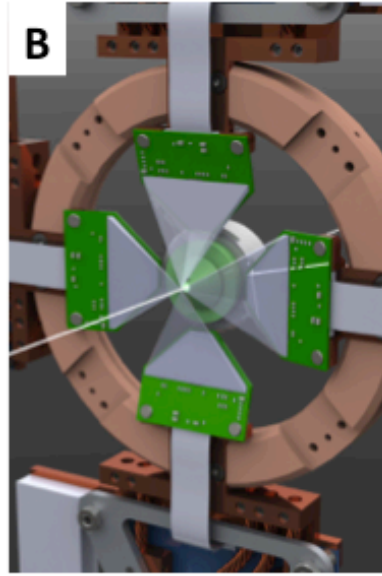
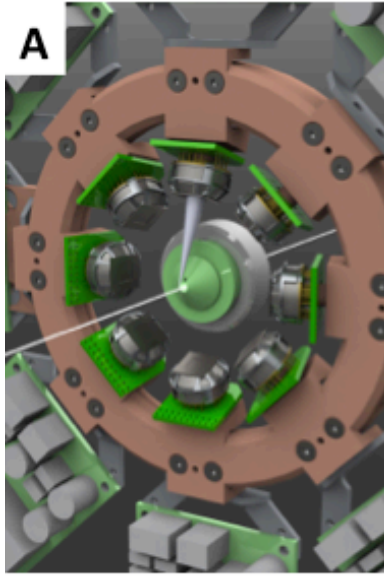


Figure 6 Spectroscopic analysis of the WE/electrolyte interface highlights the spatially resolved Mn species. (a) Absorption image acquired at 636 eV (below the Mn L absorption edge) for a sub-region of the WE electrode. (b) The same area where the distribution of the Mn²⁺ and Mn⁴⁺ states are indicated by red and green, overlapping the absorption contrast dominated by Mn species. The results are based on scans at 18 different energies, ranging from 636 to 647 eV. (c) and (d) show the same information as (b) over a larger electrode area. (e) shows the average absorption spectra for the region where the Mn²⁺ state dominated (green plot) compared with that where Mn⁴⁺ state dominated (red plot), and (f) shows the average absorption spectrum collected over the entire area shown in (a).

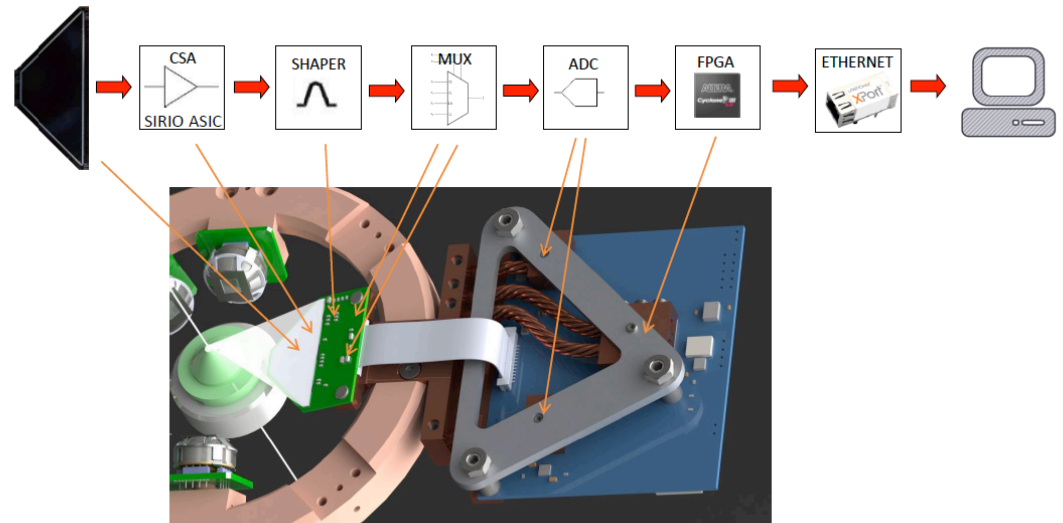


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LEXRF new detector



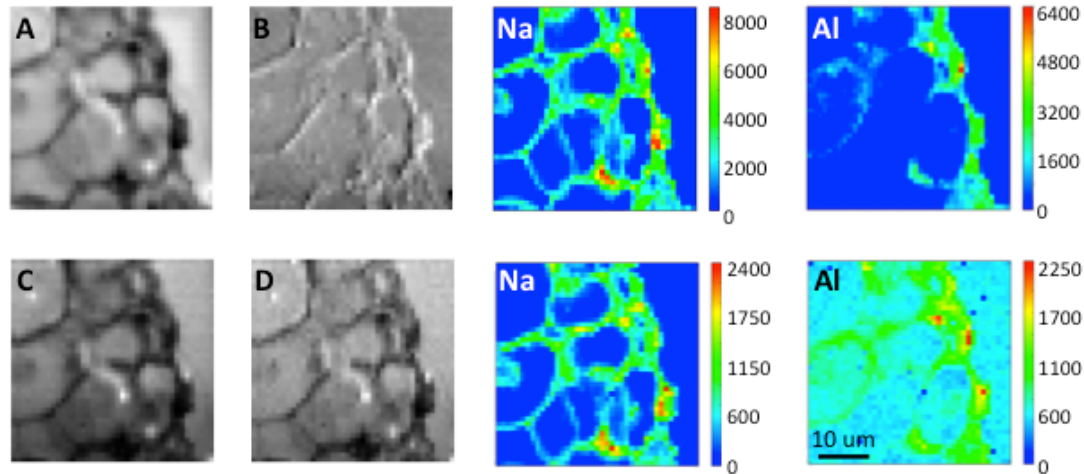
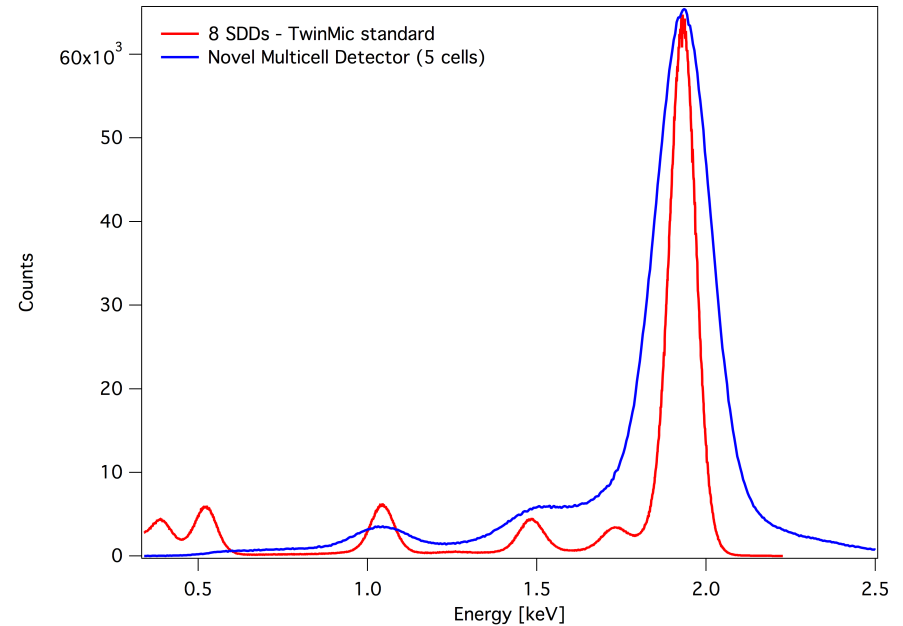
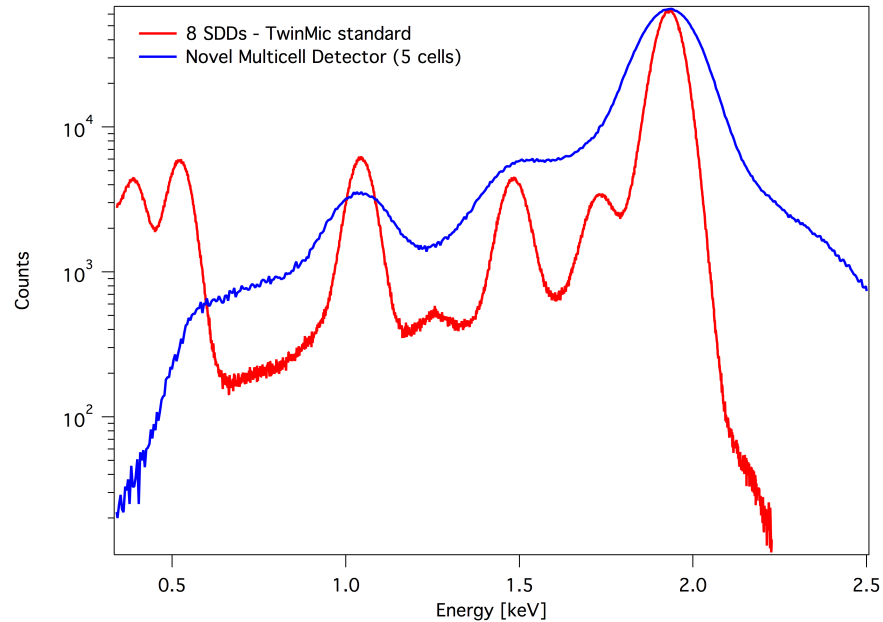
- Based on SDDs
- Bigger solid angle



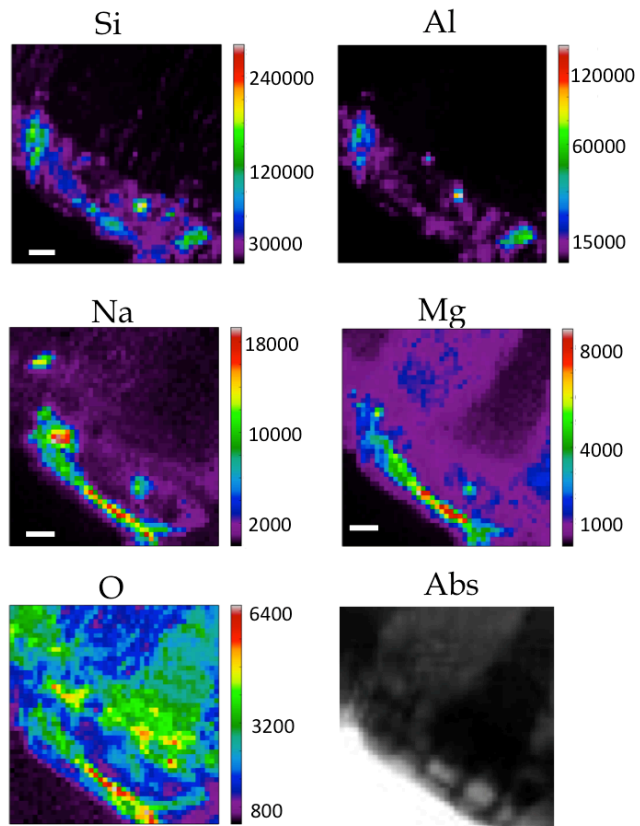
A. Gianoncelli, J. Bufon, M. Ahangarianabhari, P. Bellutti, G. Bertuccio, S. Carrato, G. Cautero, S. Fabiani, G. Giacomini, D. Giuressi, G. Kourousias, R. Hendrik Menk, C. Piemonte, I. Rashevskaya, A. Rachevski, A. Stolfa, R. Borghes, M. Altissimo, G. Zampa, N. Zampa, A. Vacchi: "A new Detector System for Low Energy X-ray Fluorescence coupled with Soft X-ray Microscopy: first Tests and Characterization A new Detector System for Low Energy X-ray Fluorescence coupled with Soft X-ray Microscopy: first Tests and Characterization" *in preparation*

Spectra comparison

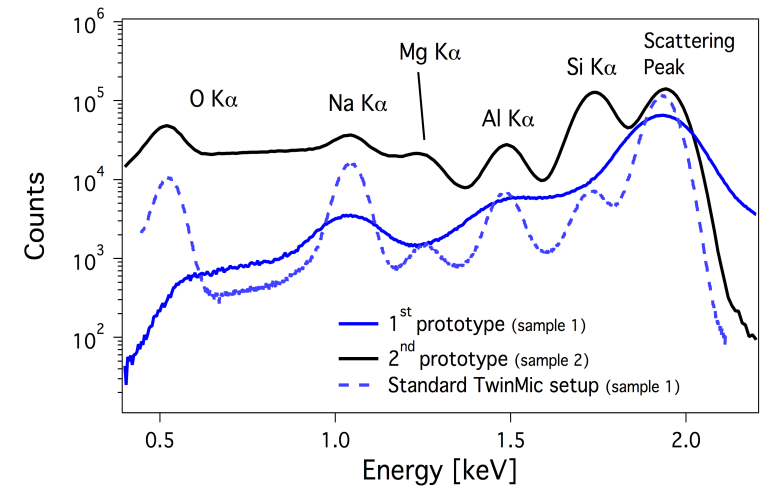
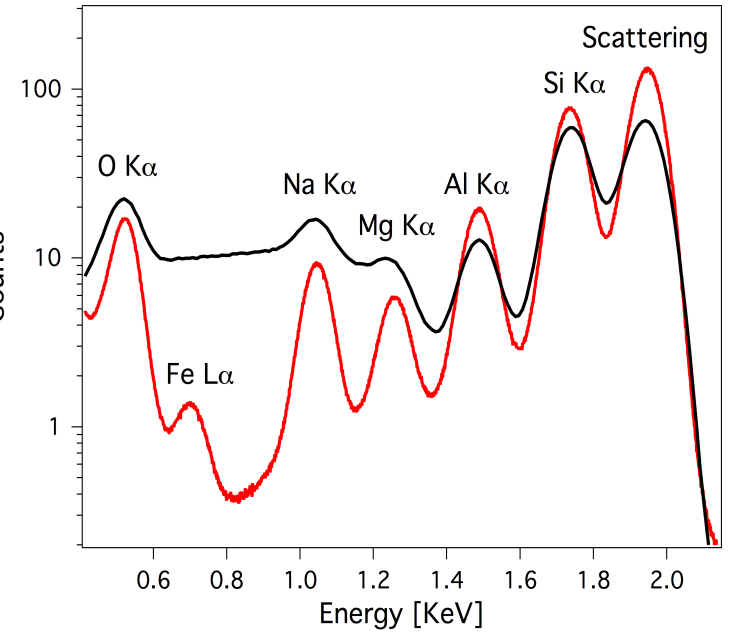
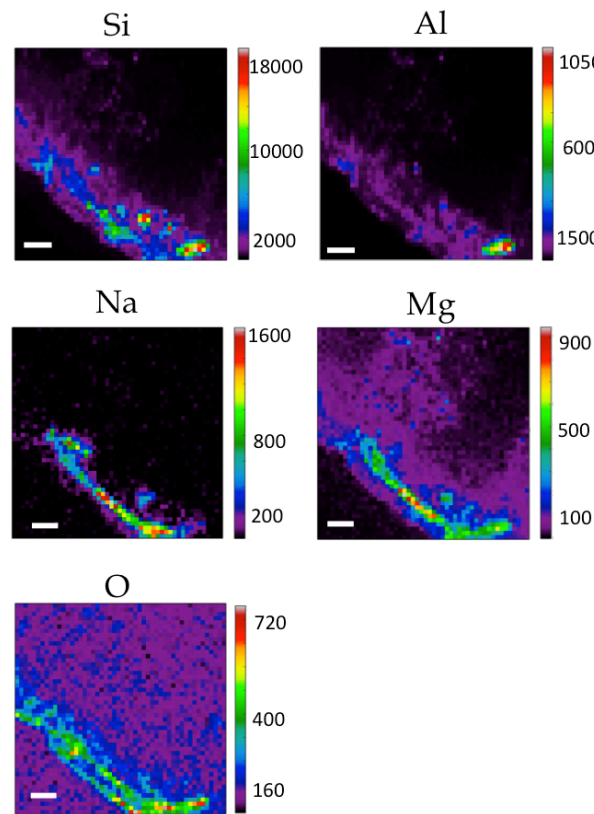
(acquired on soybean root)



Standard TwinMic set up



New detector set up



- Simultaneous soft X-ray transmission and emission microscopy can be a suited complementary tool especially for life science applications
- X-ray spectro-microscopy has proven to be a valuable tool for exploring morphologically complex matter, including biosystems at cellular & sub-cellular level
- **In situ** SXM with resolution **~100 nm** proved able to probe **morphological** and **chemical** effects of electrochemistry, in some cases, dynamically. We developed **microfabricated cells** with nm-thick electrodes and electrolytes: sealed for aqueous electrolytes; open with spun IL-based electrolytes

Possibility of **dosing electroactive gases** in the analysis chamber.

Correlative research is essential (FTIR, PIXE, EM, lab-related bulk analysis...)

All of this can be achieved only through continuous techniques and technology developments:

- Evaluation of the possibility of a monolithic array of XRF detectors
- New efficient X-ray Optics



ICXOM24

24th International Congress on X-ray Optics and Microanalysis
Trieste, Italy | 25-29 September 2017



[Home](#) [Program](#) [Sponsors](#) [Satellite Workshop CH MA-XRF](#) [Registration](#) [Abstract Submission](#) [Venue](#) [Accommodation](#) [Contact](#)

The ICXOM conference series is an international symposium for the discussion of new developments and advances in instrumentation, methods and applications in the fields of X-ray micro- and nano-analysis.

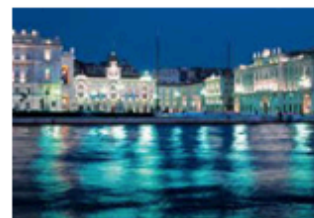
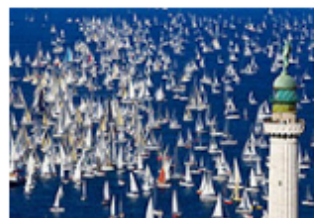
This conference series started in 1956 in Cambridge, UK, in response to the need for physical scientists, instrument developers and those using X-ray microscopes and electron probe analysers to come together every three (and now two) years to exchange experiences, learn about new developments in the field and gain new ideas for further research.

Following the trend of the last decade, the conference is focused on synchrotron radiation. Recent developments in laboratory instrumentation are also highly welcome. Besides micro-beam X-ray fluorescence and absorption spectroscopy, different methods based on diffraction and full-field imaging are covered, together with their applications in Life Sciences, Material Science, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Cultural heritage.

Topics Include

- Optics for Microanalysis
- Scanning Microscopy
- Full-field Imaging
- Coherent Diffractive Imaging
- Microdiffraction
- X-ray Fluorescence
- Absorption spectroscopy
- Data Analysis
- Detectors

This edition of ICXOM conference series will include a [satellite workshop](#) on MA-XRF (Macro-XRF) applied to Cultural Heritage on Monday 25th of September



Andrea Stolfa

Majid Kazemi

David Jezersek

M. Altissimo

H-J Shin

D. Bedolla

L. Merolle

Acknowledgements:

G. De Giudici, D. Medas, University of Cagliari, Italy
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K. Vogel-Mikus, M. Debeljak et al. (Josef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Si)
E. Lombi, Uni of South Australia
P. Kopittke, Uni of Queensland
L. Pascolo (Ospedale Burlo, Trieste)
E. Malucelli, S. Iotti, S. Lagomarsino (Uni Bologna, Italy)
C. Poitry-Yamate (EPFL, Switzerland)
M. Jones, G. Van Riessen, M. Junker et al, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia
G.R. Morrison et al (University College London, UK)
B. Bozzini et al (Universita' del Salento, Lecce, Italy)
G. Ceccone, P. Marmorato et al. (JSRC, Ispra)
D. Paterson, M de Jonge, Australian Synchrotron, Melbourne, Australia

and many many others.



B. Kaulich
Diamond Light Source



M. Kiskinova
ELETTRA



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Thank you!





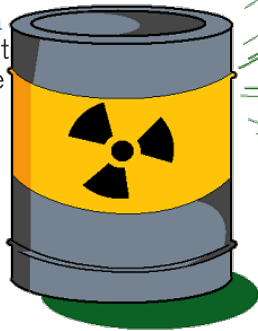
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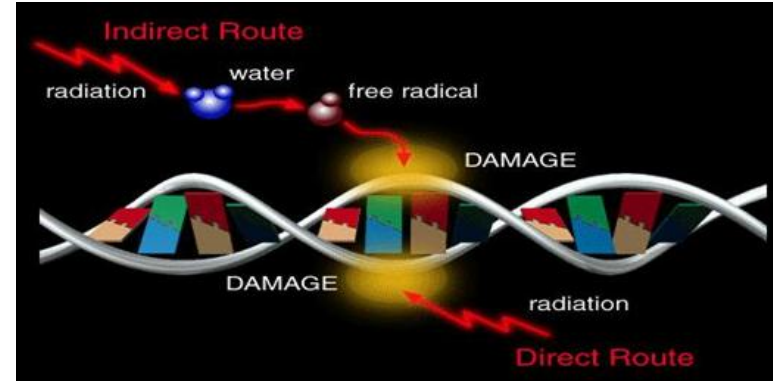
www.elettra.eu



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X-ray Radiation Damage



with SISSI and CNR-IOM

AFM

Morphology

FTIRM

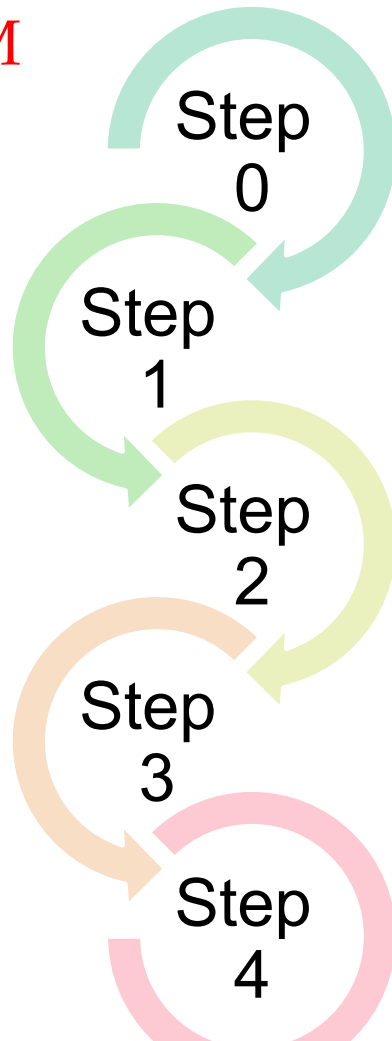
Biochemistry

X-ray microscopy

Density

XRF

Elemental analysis



Cell growth on 50 nm Si_3N_4 membranes
Cell fixation with PFA 4% and air drying

Cell drying in vacuum @ TwinMic
(PRESSURE 10^{-5} mbar) for 1:30 hour

LD STXM mapping @ TwinMic, 1 keV
Estimated dose: $2 \cdot 10^6$ Gray

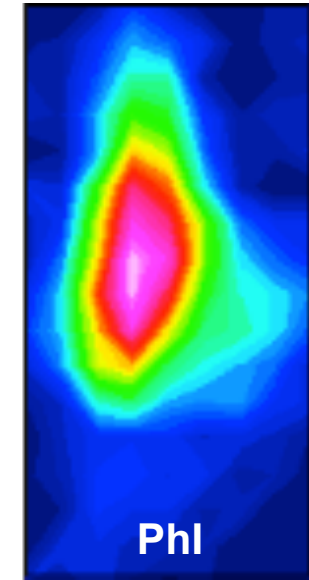
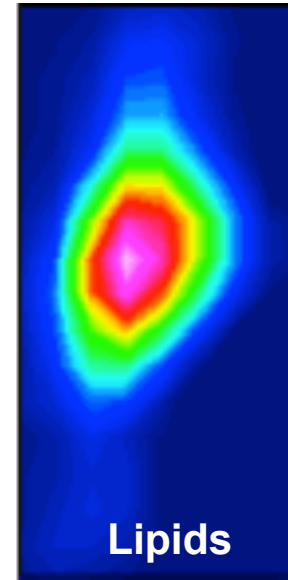
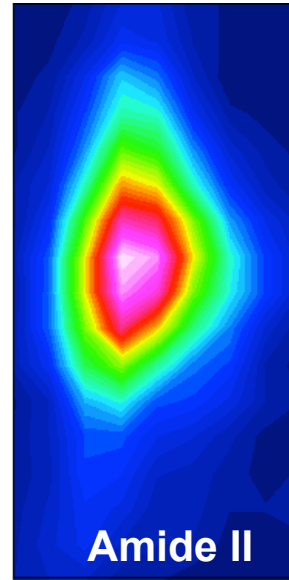
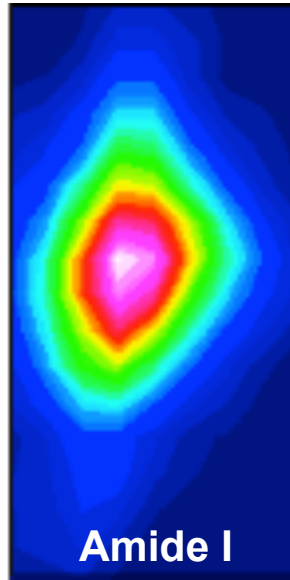
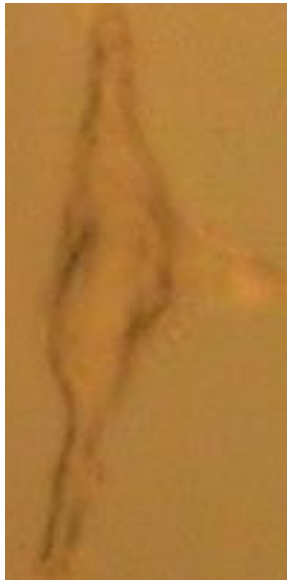
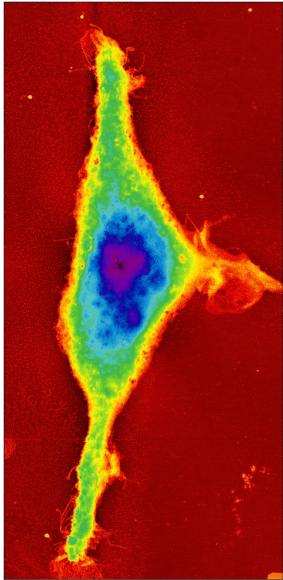
HD STXM mapping @ TwinMic, 1 keV
Estimated dose: $2 \cdot 10^7$ Gray
Cumulative dose: $2.2 \cdot 10^7$ Gray

XRF mapping @ TwinMic, 1 keV
Estimated dose: $6 \cdot 10^8$ Gray
Cumulative dose: $6.2 \cdot 10^8$ Gray

Vis

FTIRM

Step 0



Min



Max

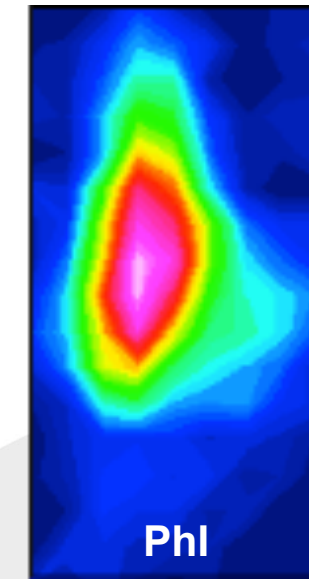
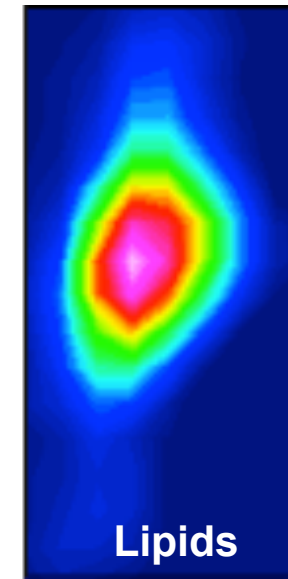
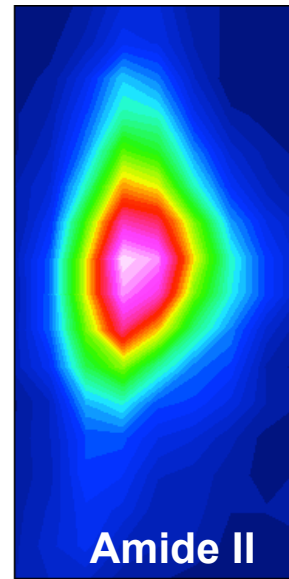
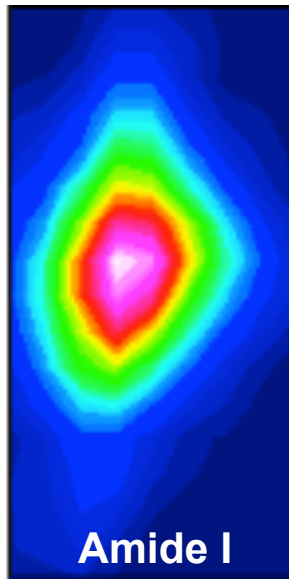
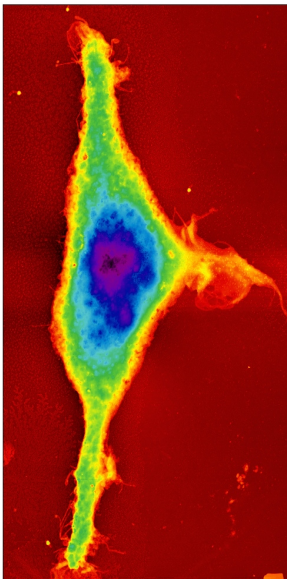
Amide I

Amide II

Lipids

Phi

Step 1



Amide I

Amide II

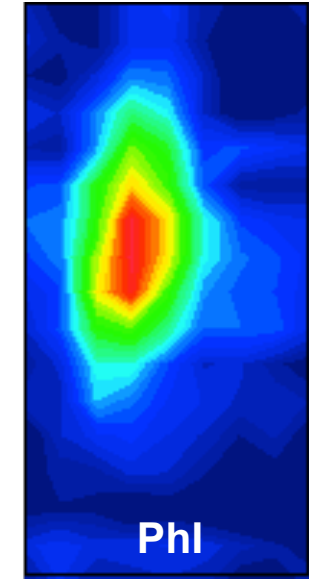
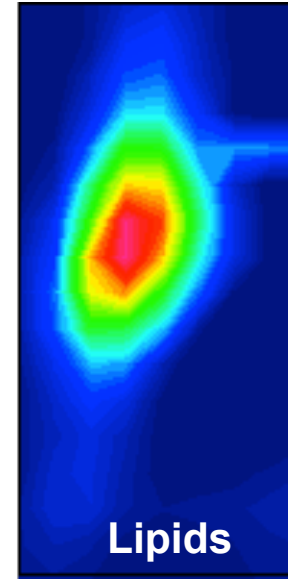
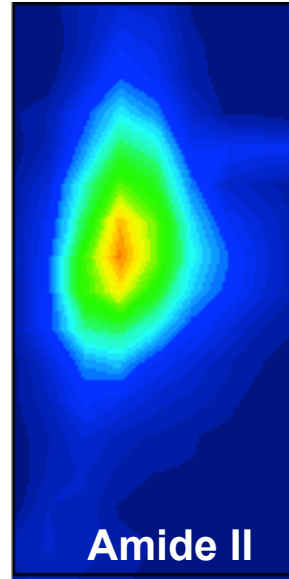
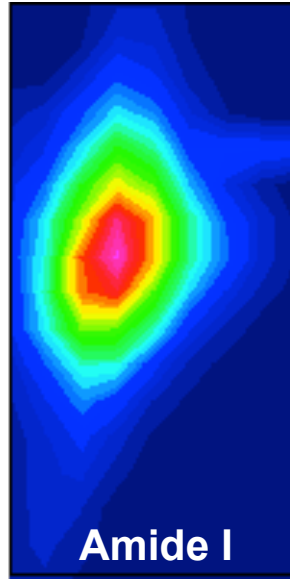
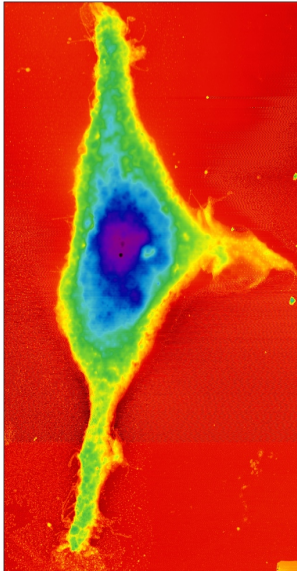
Lipids

Phi

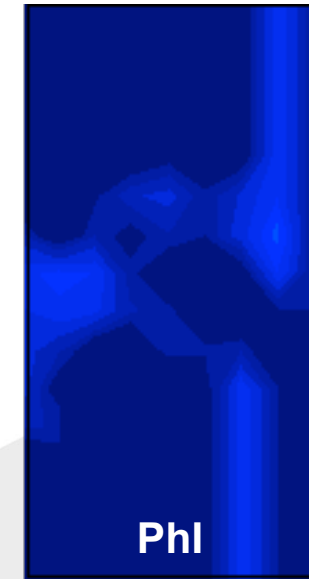
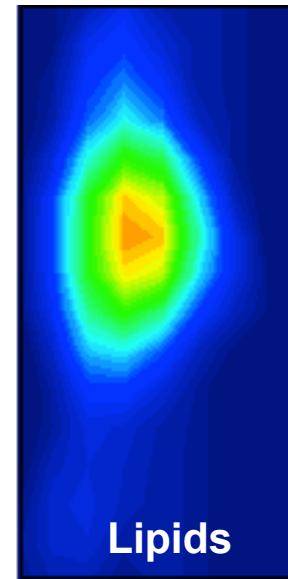
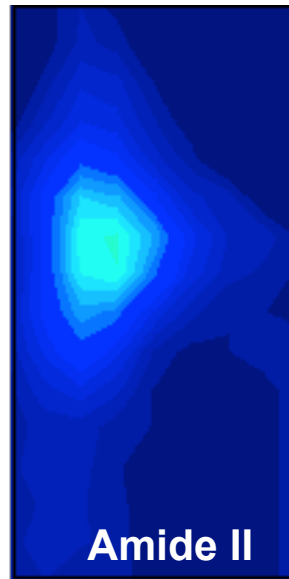
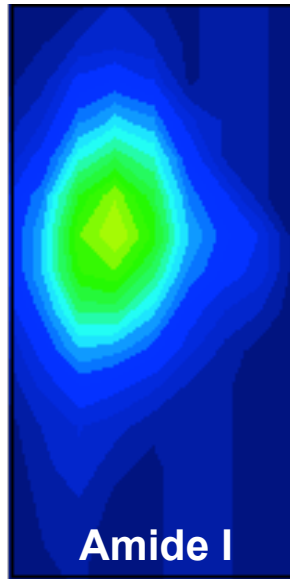
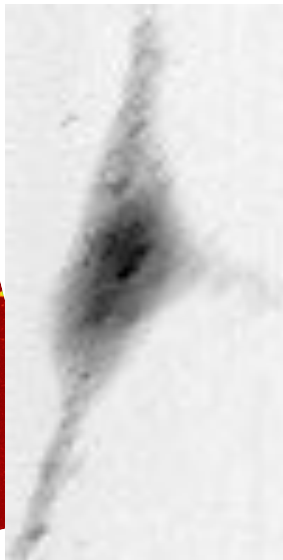
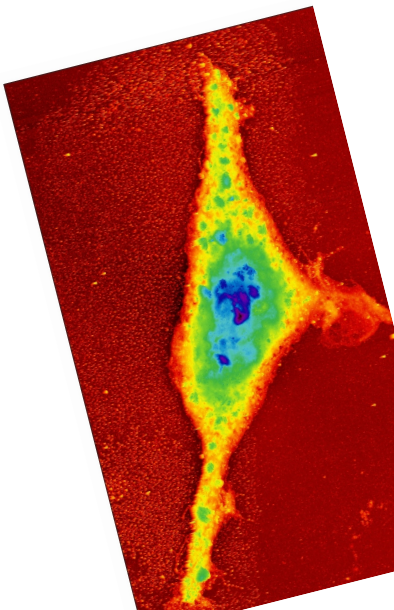
STXM

FTIRM

Step 2

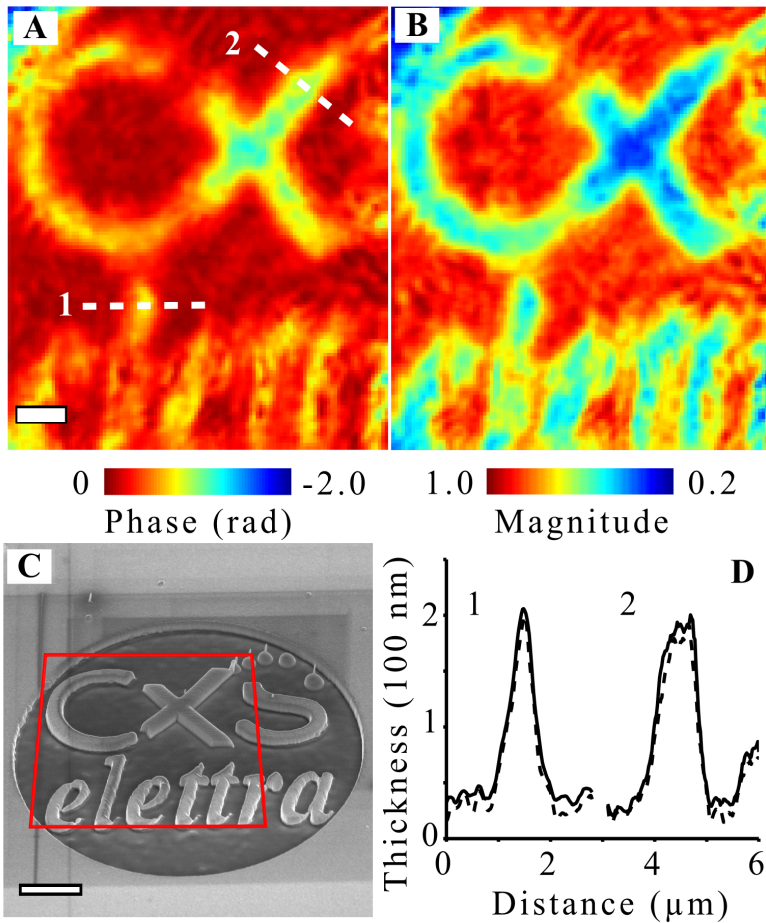


Step 3



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CXS - ELETTRA test pattern



Blood cells infected with the malaria parasite *P. falciparum*

