

# Novel lab based CT for Hierarchical Framework Multiscale Imaging for Geomaterials

S. H Lau

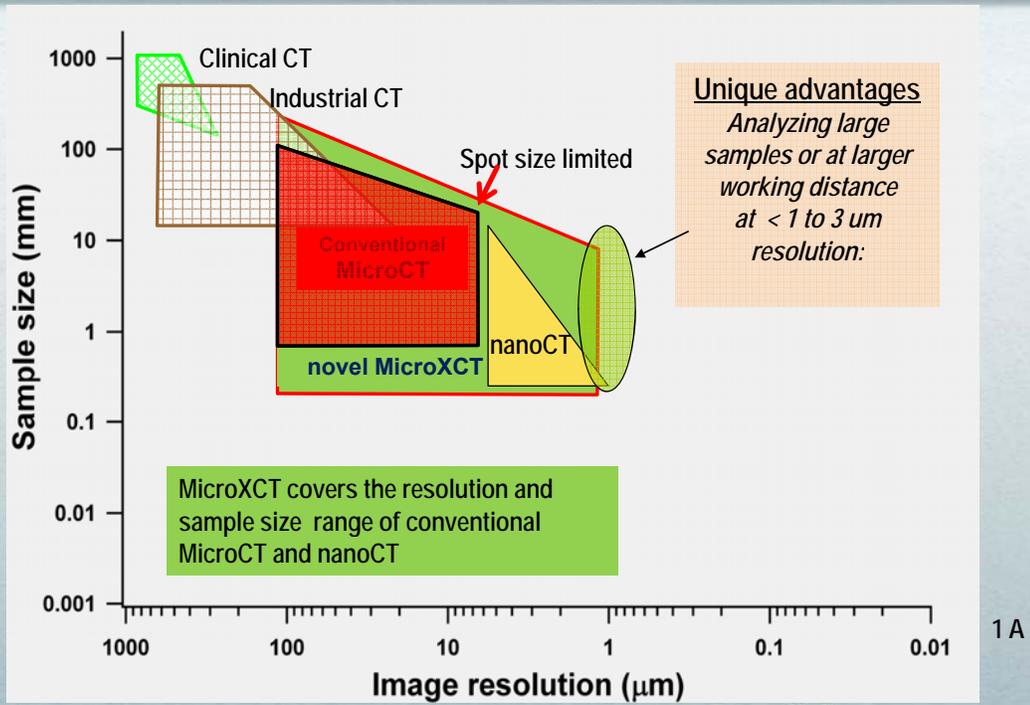
email: [shlau@xradia.com](mailto:shlau@xradia.com)



## Outline

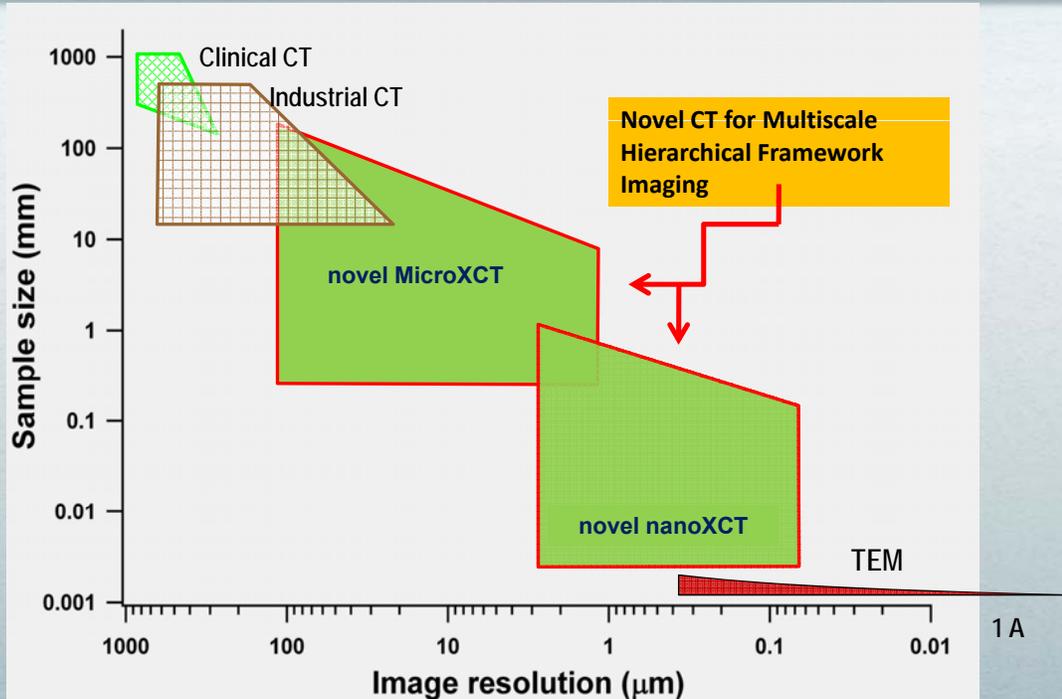
1. Concept of Hierarchical Framework/Multiscale imaging
2. X-ray imaging principles overview
3. Applications : for lab based submicron MicroXCT and nanoXCT
  - Soft materials, composites
  - Geomaterials
  - Multiscale examples

# Overview : Different CTs as function sample size & resolution



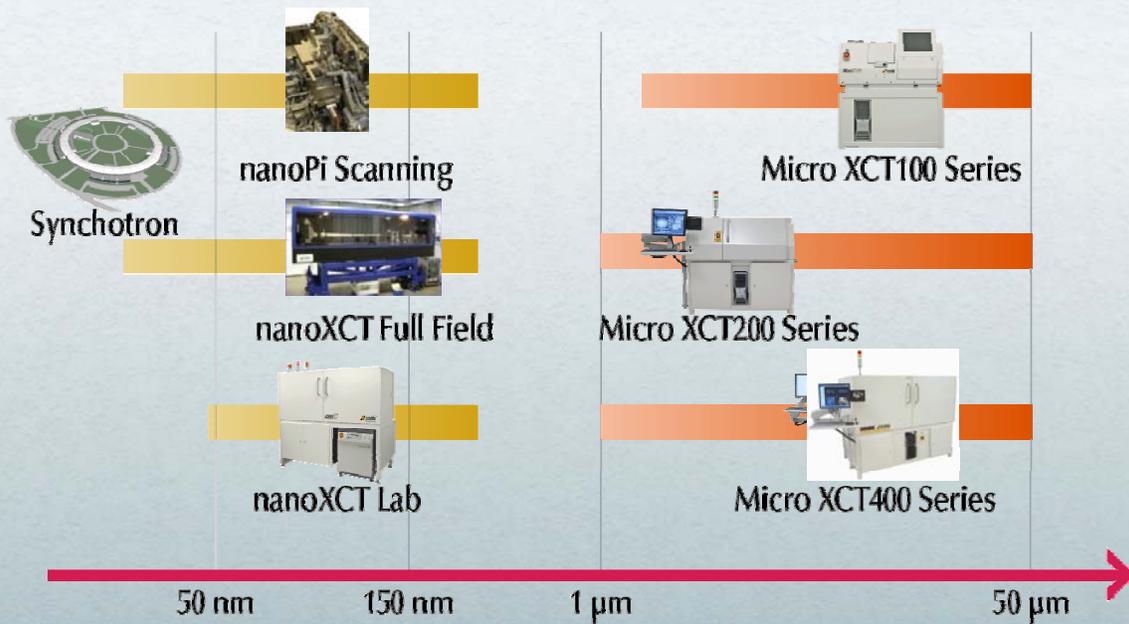
2

# Different CTs as function sample size and resolution

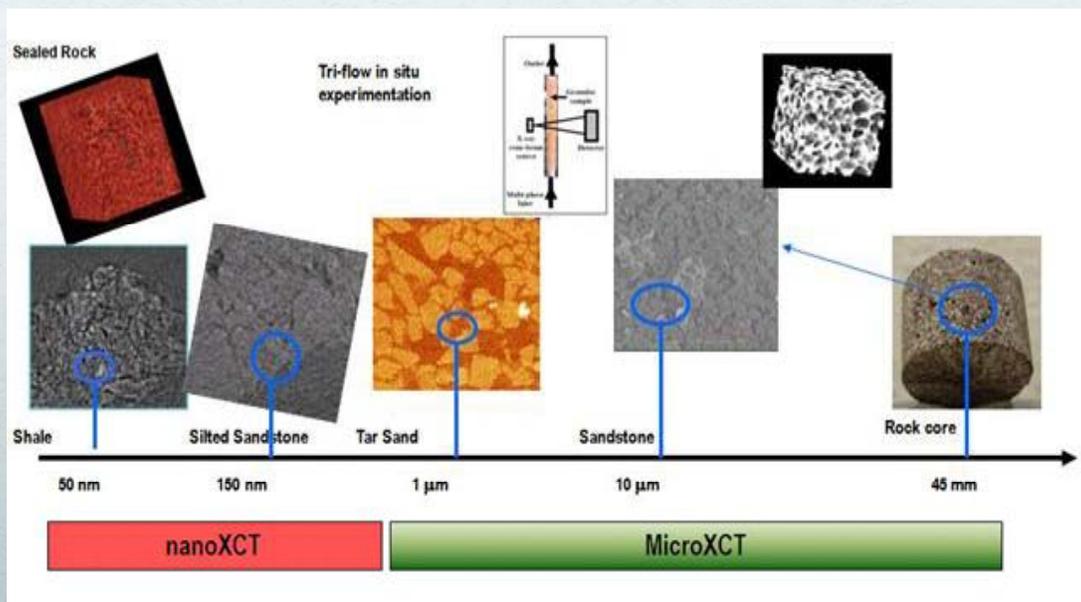


3

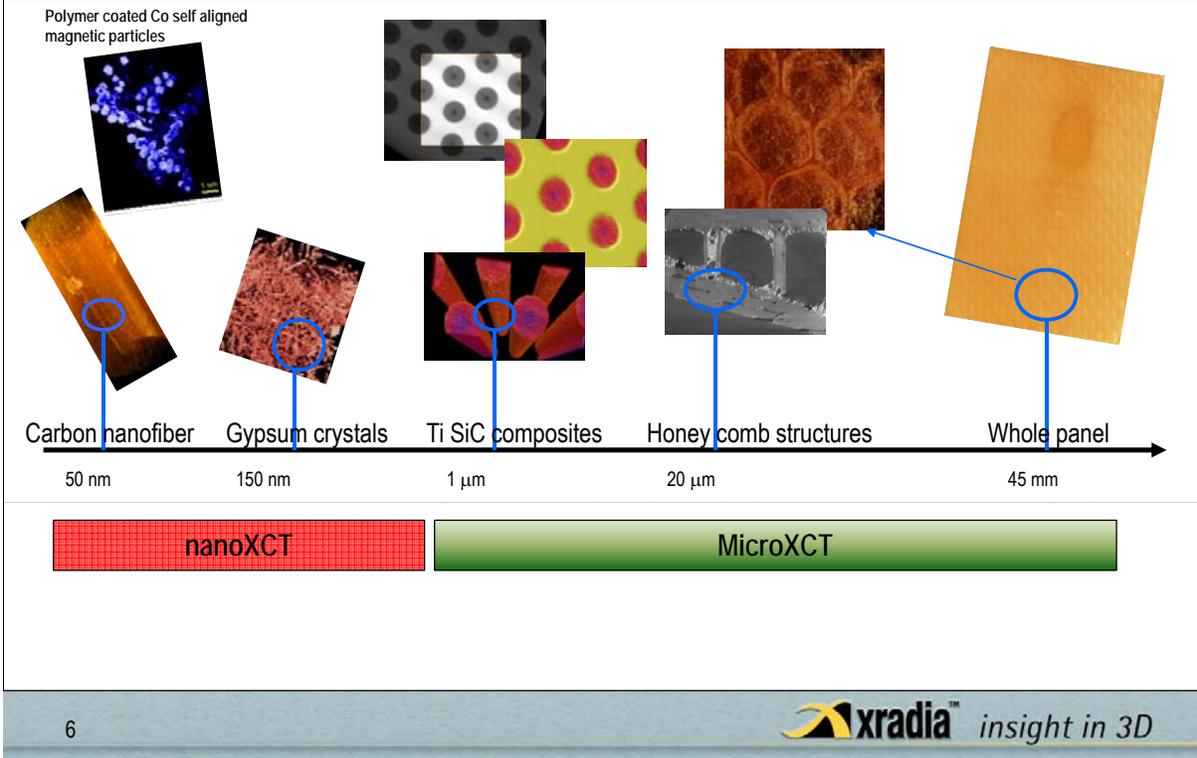
# Xradia Solution – from Synchrotron to laboratory



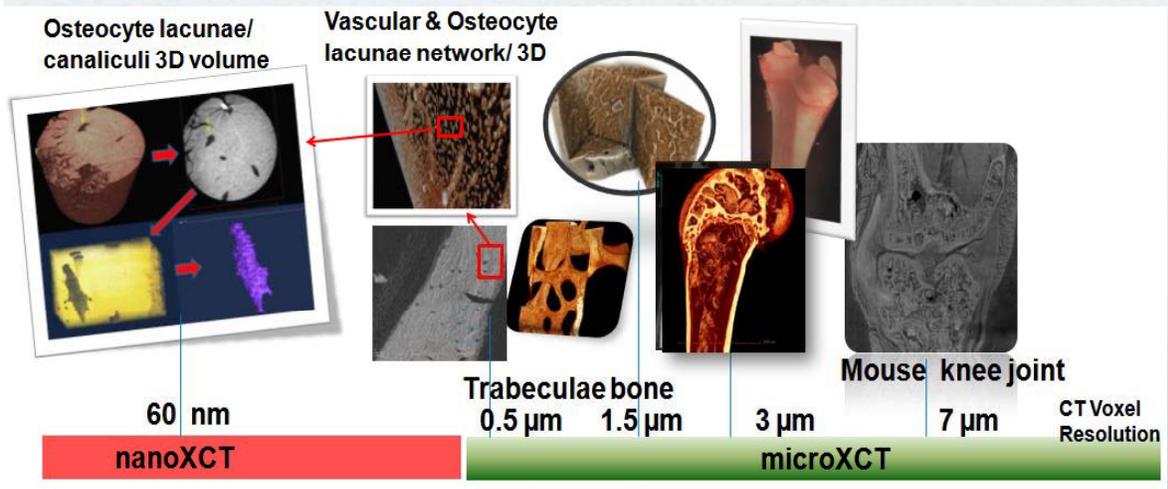
# Multi-Length Scale Capabilities : Oil and Gas



# Xradia Multi-Length Scale CT Solution



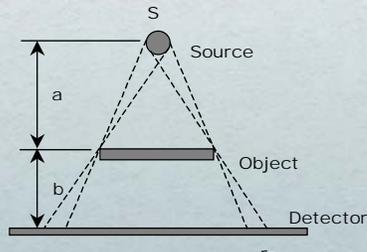
# Hierarchical Framework Multiscale Bioimaging: From whole mouse knee to Osteocyte Lacunae/Canaliculi



## Overview: Conventional X-Ray Imaging ( Projection Technique): Resolution/Spot Size/Sample Size Tradeoffs

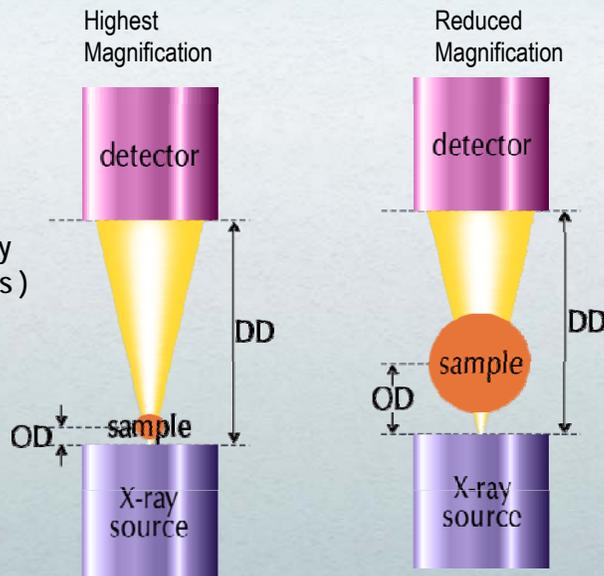
### ■ Highest Geometric Magnification Requires:

- ▶ Sample must be very close to source and be small
- ▶ X-ray spot size needs to be very small ( Microfocus -> nanofocus )



Resolution no better than spot size

$$\text{Magnification, } M = \frac{DD \text{ (detector distance)}}{OD \text{ (object distance)}}$$

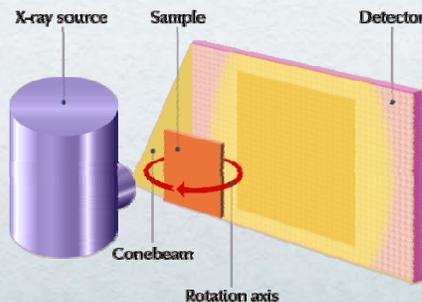


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## Unique *PhaseEnhanced* Detector Technology: Makes all the differences for range from 50 $\mu\text{m}$ to 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$

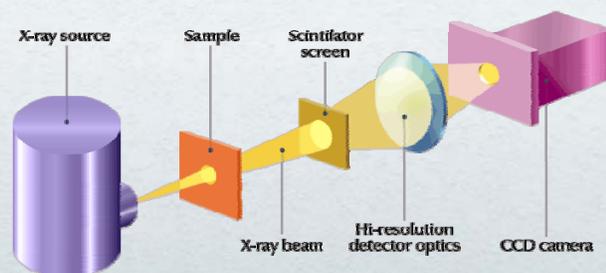
Resolution: Industrial CT ( 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to mm )  
MicroCT ( 5  $\mu\text{m}$  ) ; nanoCT ( 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  )



Projection based Micro CT or nanoCT

- 50 to 127  $\mu\text{m}$  pixels at detector
- Resolution limited to *source spot size, sample size, working distance*
- Contrast is poor for soft materials- polymer, carbon composites

Resolution :  
MicroXCT: Variable to Sub- $\mu\text{m}$



Novel MicroXCT- PhaseEnhanced Detector

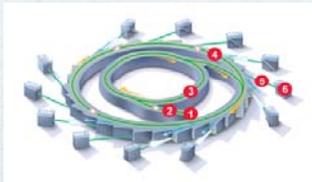
- High Resolution detector variable to sub  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel
- Resolution not limited to source spot size, sample size or sample working distance
- *PhaseEnhanced* detector : High contrast for soft materials, polymers, hydro carbon

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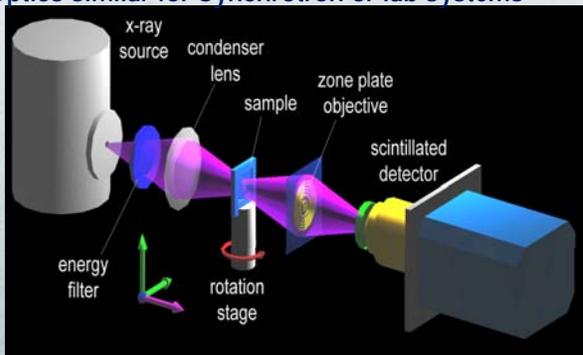
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# Nanotomography with lab x-ray source: nanoXCT ( Resolution to 50 nm )

Nanotomography available in synchrotron



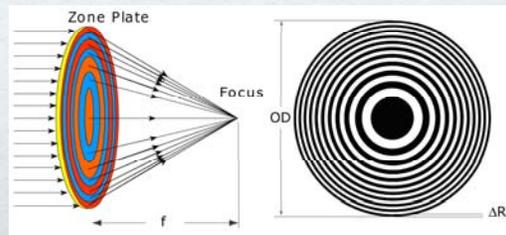
Optics similar for Synchrotron or lab systems



• 3-D resolution: <50nm

nanoXCT

## X-ray Optics: Fresnel Lens

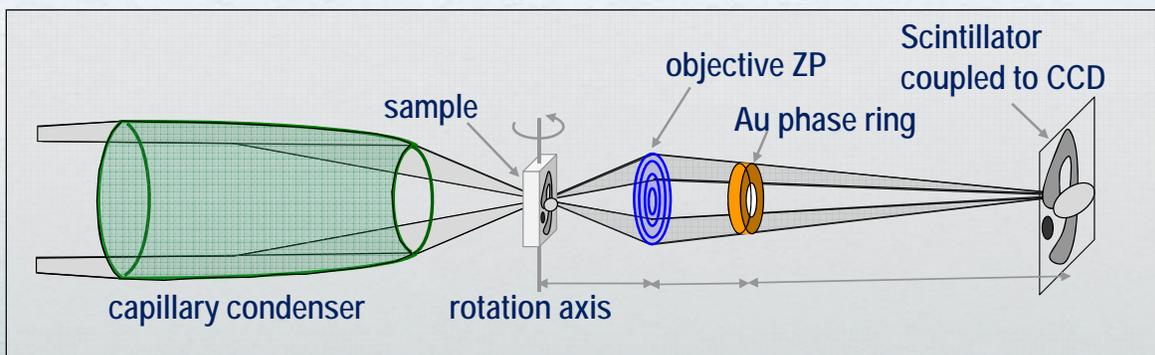


X-ray Lens  
Objective

$$f = \frac{OD \Delta R_N}{\lambda}$$



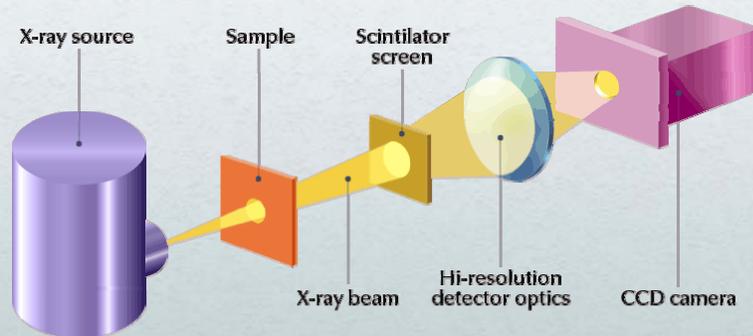
## X-ray Imaging with High-resolution Optics and Phase Contrast



### Key components:

- ▶ High efficiency, matched capillary condenser
- ▶ High-resolution objective zone plate
- ▶ Zernike phase contrast phase plate
- ▶ High-efficiency, high resolution x-ray detector

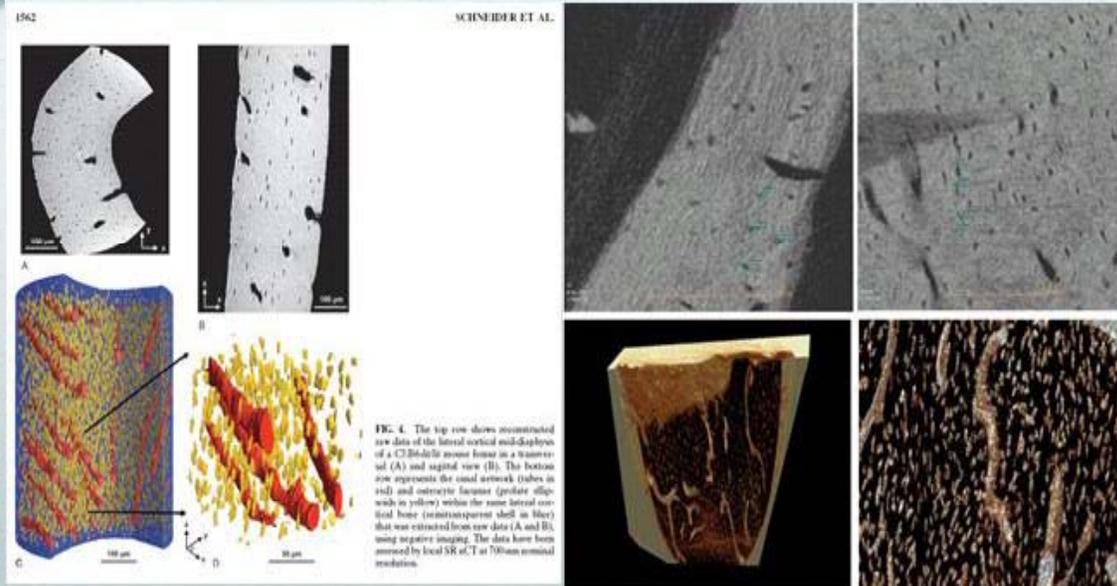
# Power of Phase Enhanced Detector: High Resolution with large samples



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# Synchrotron nanotomography @ 700 nm resolution



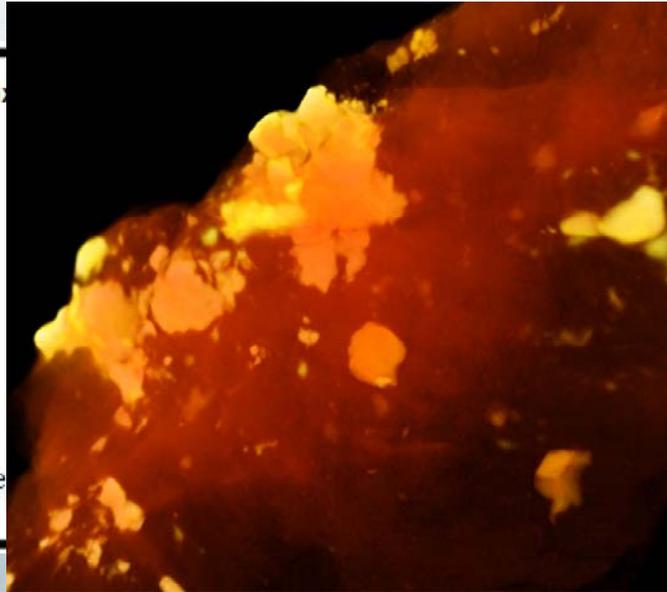
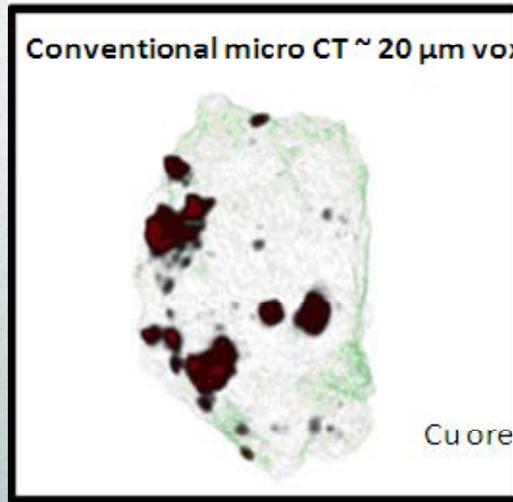
Osteocytes and vascular network in mouse bone  
Swiss light source: *Schneider JBMR 2007*

MicroXCT @ 500 nm resolution  
Lau et al; *ESB 2009*

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## Copper Ore : Higher resolution makes big difference

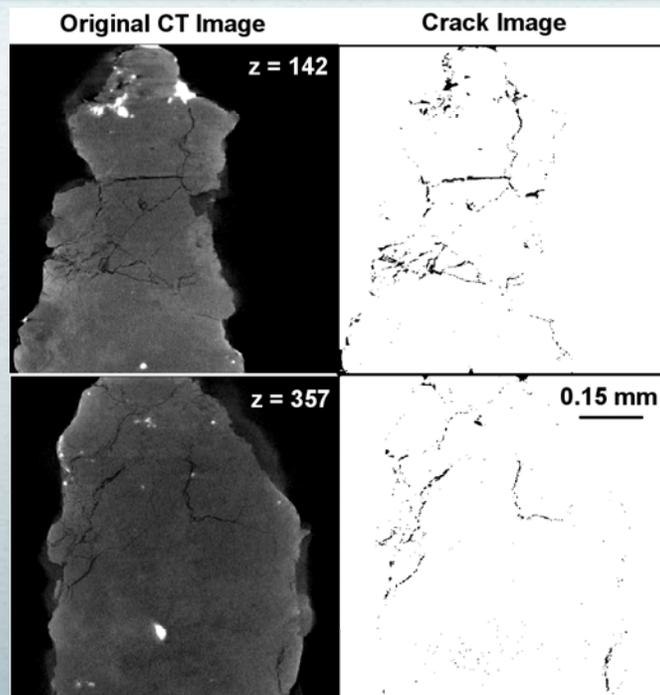


Copper Ore – (1.70x0.85 mm)

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## Isolation of Crack Surfaces with MicroXCT (Copper Ore , 1.70x0.85 mm)



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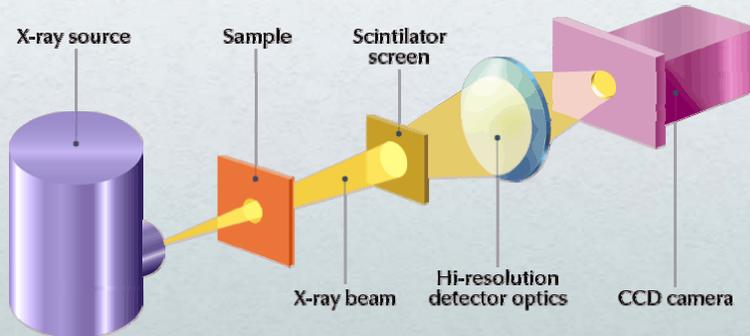
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# Power of Phase Enhanced Detector: High Resolution with large samples



## SAMPLE SIZE

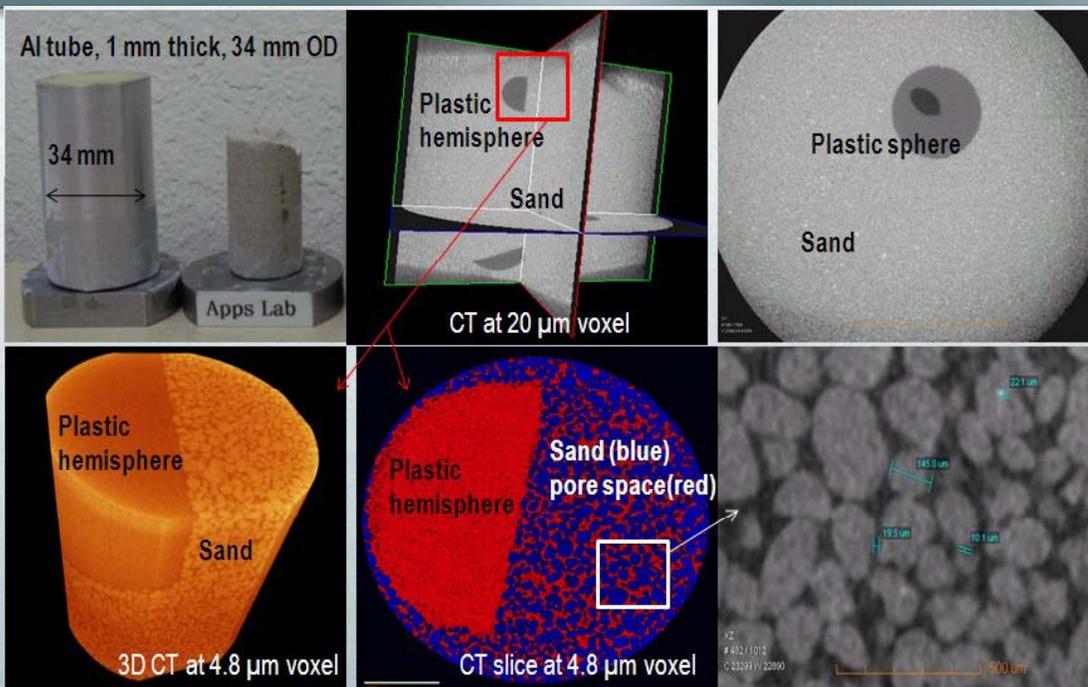
*Multiscale with  
High resolution*



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# In situ Imaging: Visualization of granular media within pressurized vessel, 34 mm diameter at multiscale resolution

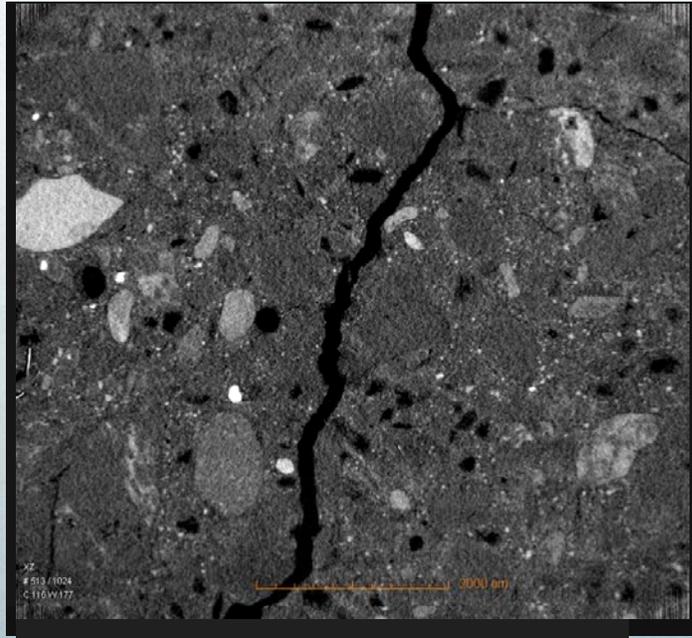
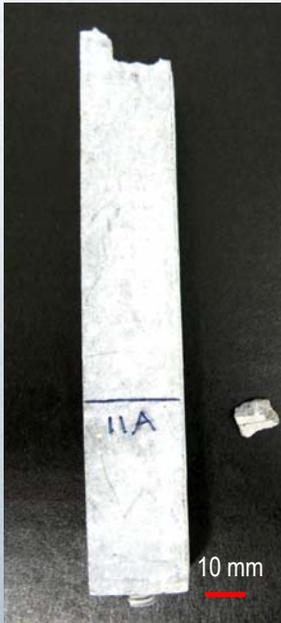


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Lau et al, GeoX 2010

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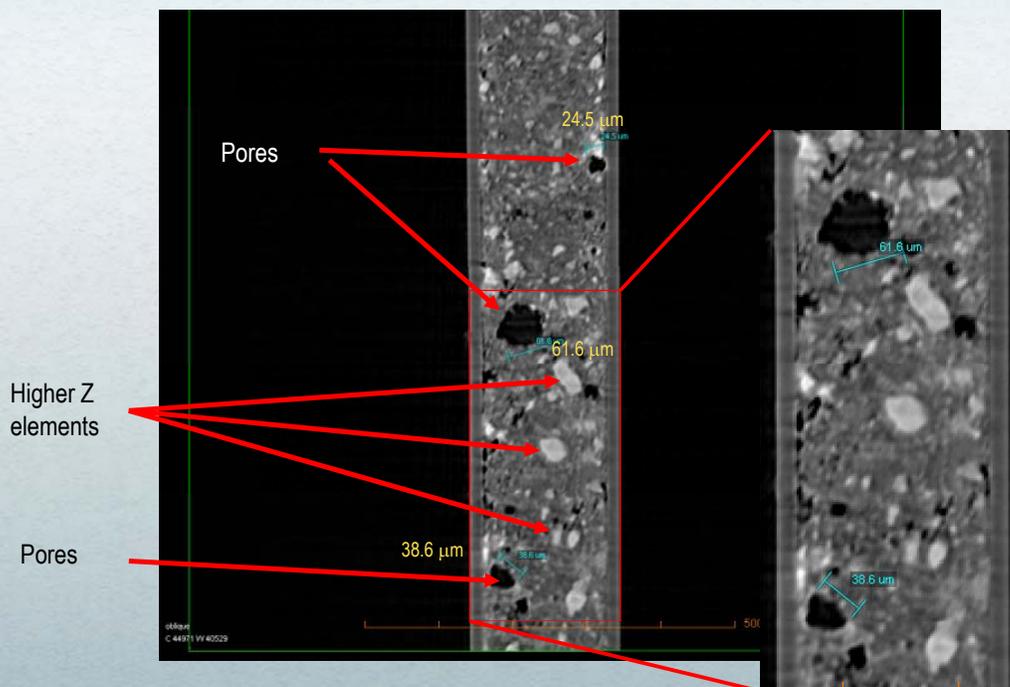
# Imaging Cracks in 20 mm concrete post @ 7 um voxel



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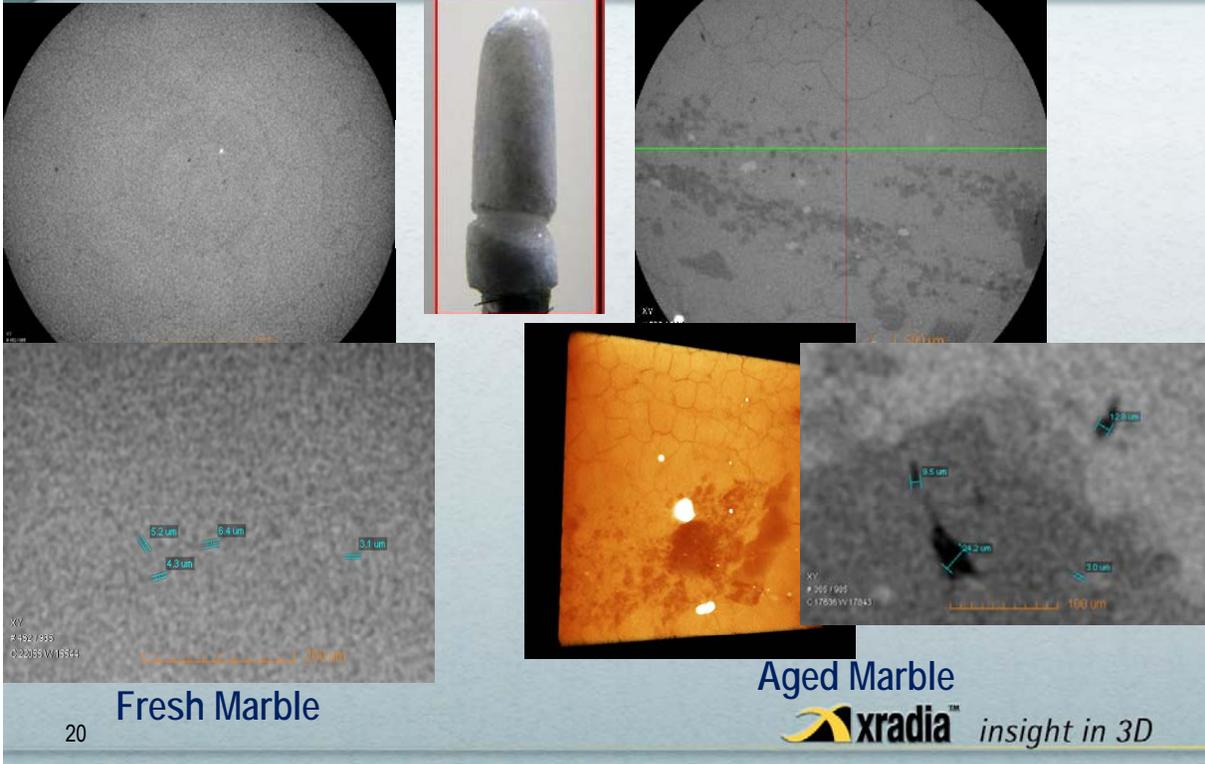
# Cement : Void Characterization @ 0.7 um pixel resolution



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# Comparison between fresh marble and aged marble @ 1.5 um voxel



# Diamond – inner beauty or flaws?

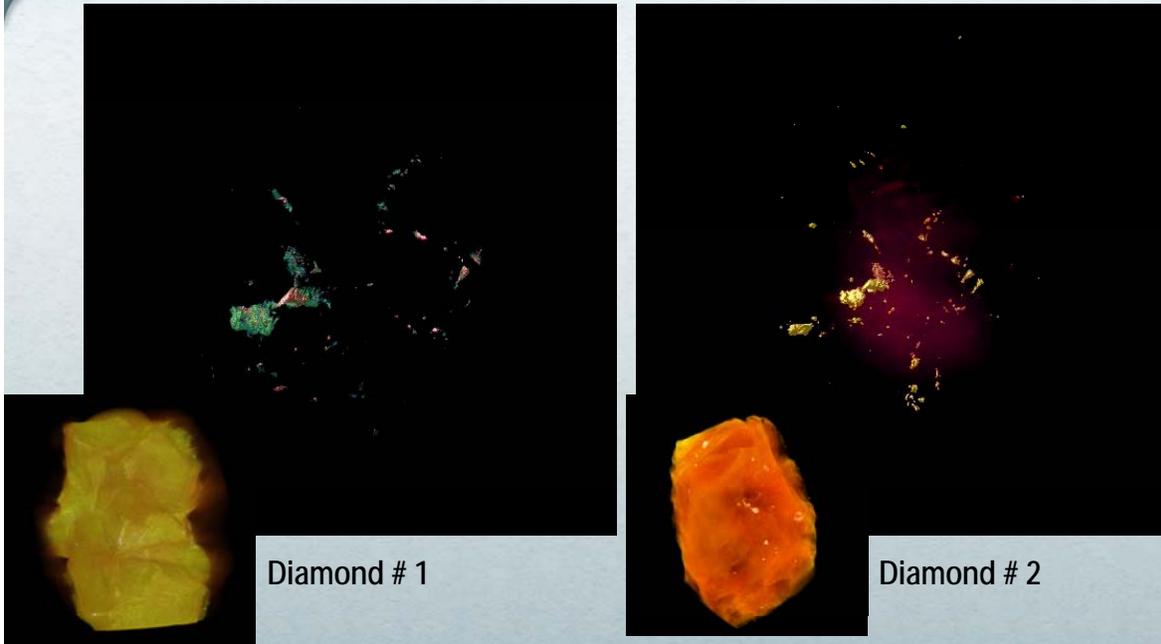


Diamond 1



Diamond 2

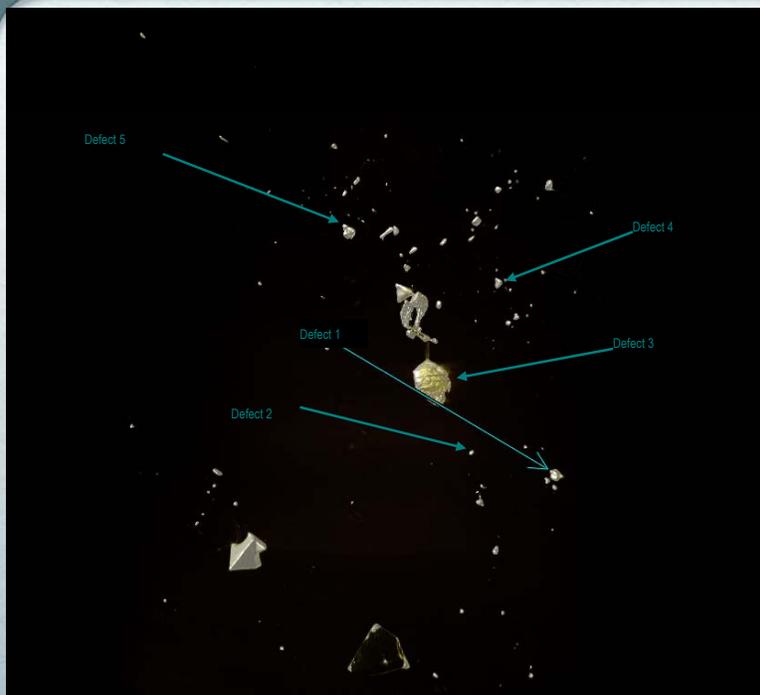
## Diamond- every one has a fingerprint



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## Defect Identification : Diamond 2



Defect	X (um)	Y (um)	Z (um)
1	1141	2267	733
2	1295	1873	802
3	1295	1687	1180
4	957	1950	1653
5	1205	1253	1930

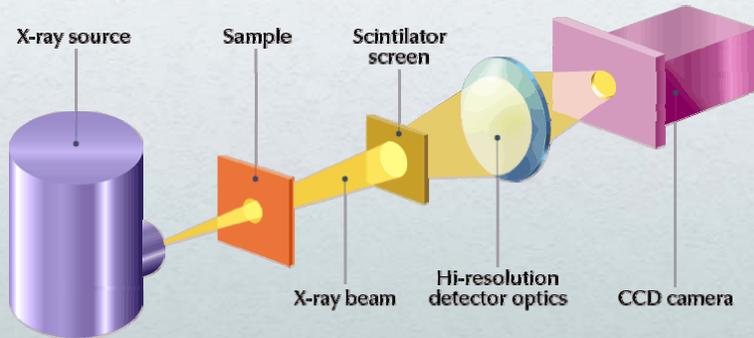
By locating the centers of internal features and recording their relative positions a "fingerprint" of the diamond can be created.

Special filtering is used to threshold the 3D image and highlight the internal structures

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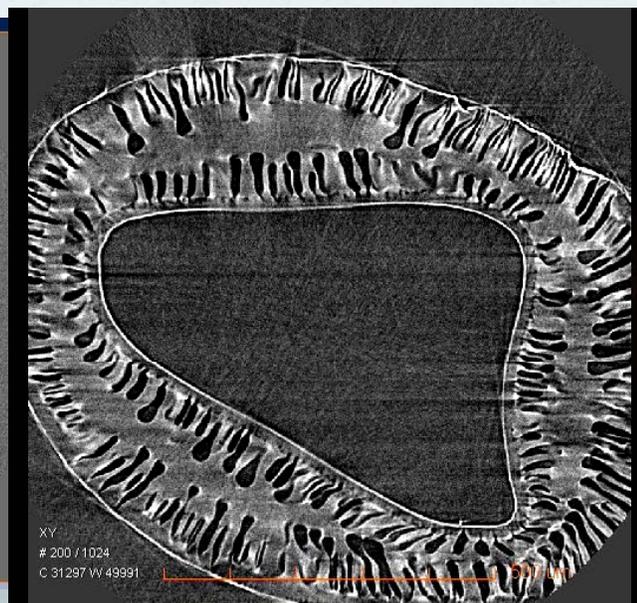
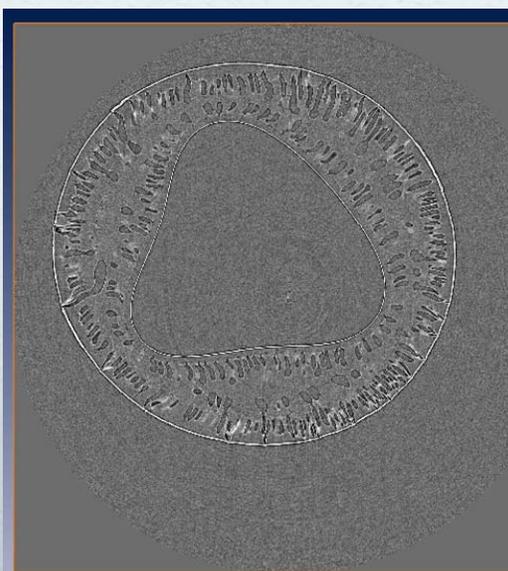
## Power of Phase Enhanced Detector: Superior Contrast



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## Environmental Filters: Synchrotron vs Lab MicroXCT



Synchrotron @ ESRF @ 0,7  $\mu\text{m}$  :  
Sample courtesy: Jean-Christophe Rémigy,  
Laboratoire de Génie Chimique, Toulouse  
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MicroXCT @ 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution

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# Paleontology: Synchrotron Phase contrast X-ray tomography (holotomography) @ ESRF

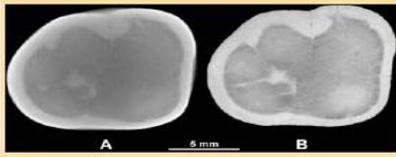


Figure 1. An industrial microtomographic slice through a fossil molar of a Miocene Thai ape (A) and (B) the same on ID19.

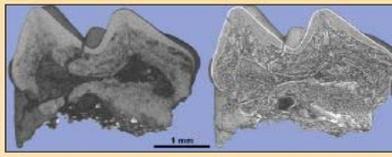


Figure 4. Comparison between absorption (A) and phase contrast (B) SR- $\mu$ CT on a fossil primate molar from Pakistan. The scans were done on ID19 with a  $6.7 \mu\text{m}$  voxel size.

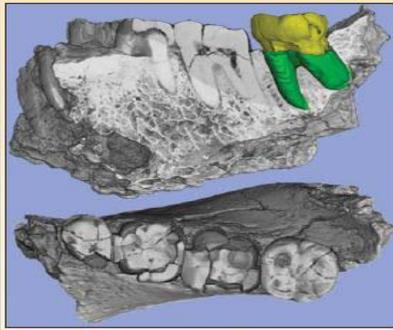


Figure 2. 3D rendering of a partial mandible of *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* on ID17 (voxel

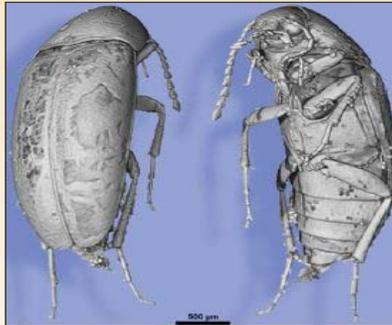
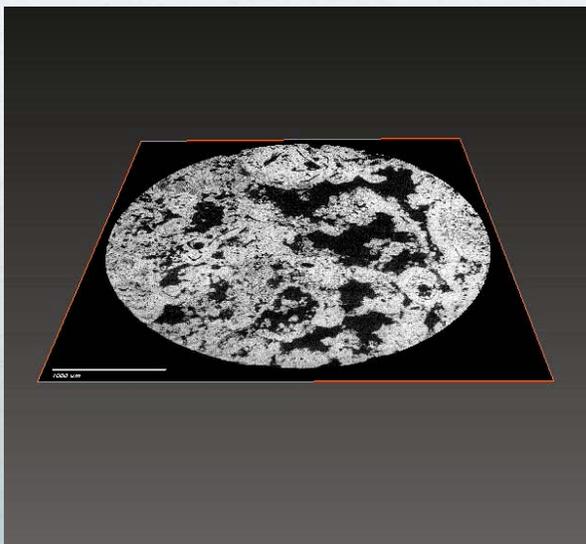


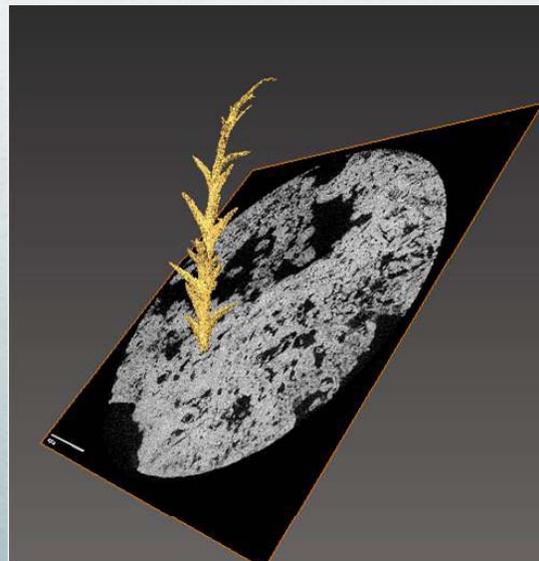
Figure 5. 3D rendering of a Cretaceous

ESRF Newsletter  
2005 Vol 42

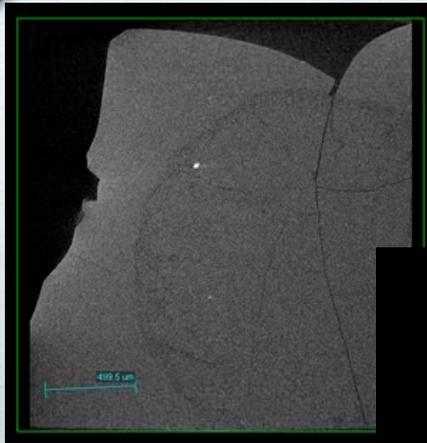
## Fossils within Rock: Tribolite and Coral



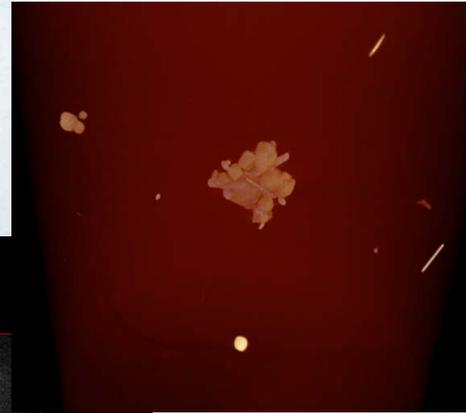
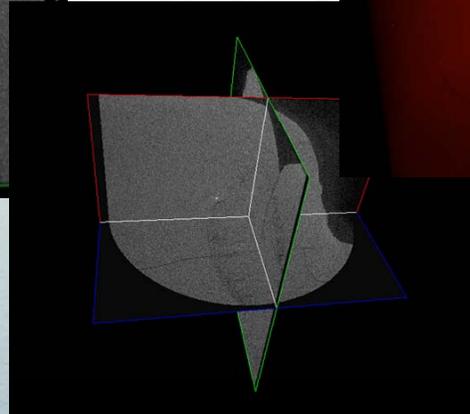
Carbonate Fossils uncovered in limestone; 10X;  
90kV 6W, 721 images, 30s/image



## Volcanic Rock: High resolution and contrast to detect phases & inclusions



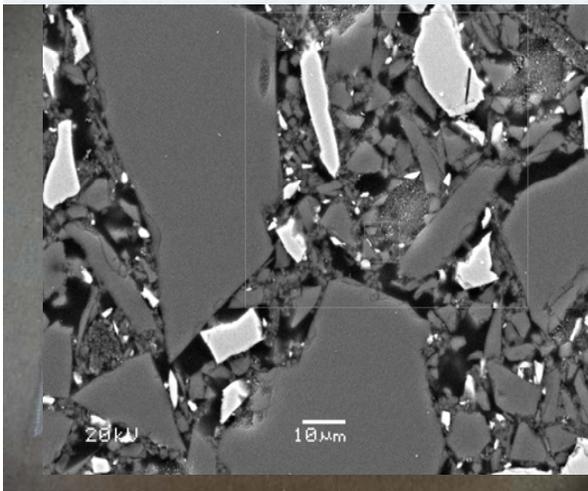
CT slice at 1.5 micro Resolution



3D of inclusion @ 0,75 micro Resolution

## Zirconia doped Alumina: Non invasive Characterization of Multiphases after Sintering or Thermal Cycling

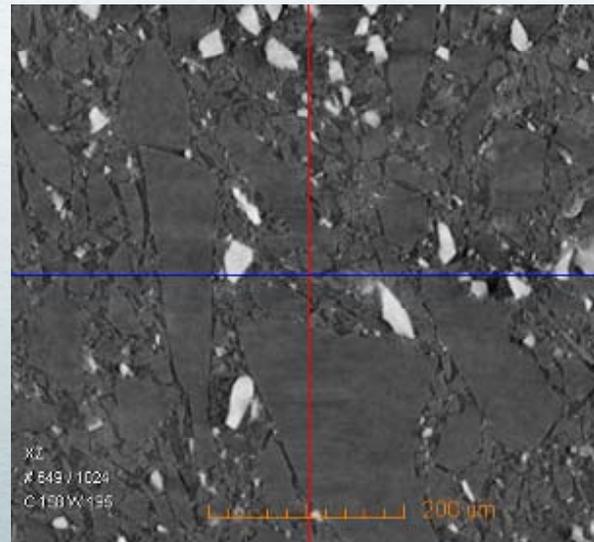
### Comparison between SEM & novel MicroXCT



SEM image ( 2D )

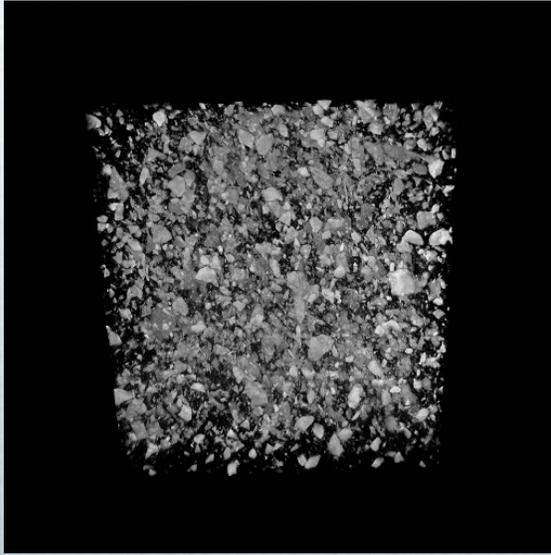
*Zirconia doped Alumina refractory turbines casting*

S H Lau et al, Proceedings, CMCEE 2008

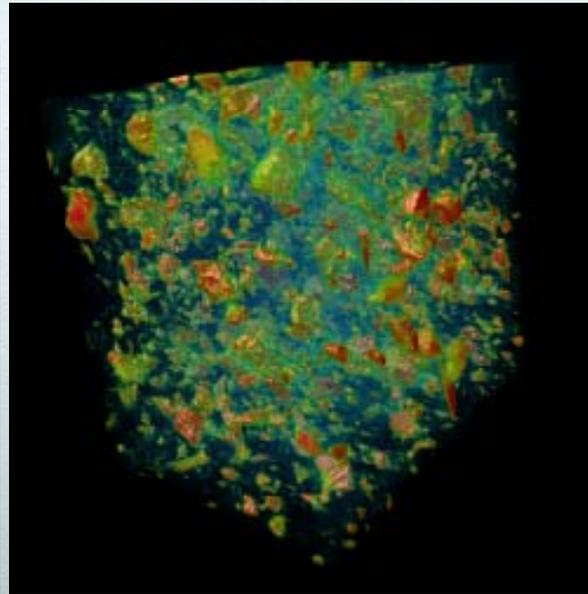


MicroXCT: CT slice @ 0,7 micron pixel resolution

## Zirconia doped Alumina: Non invasive 3D Characterization of Multiphases after Sintering or Thermal Cycling



MicroCT: Zirconia doped Alumina refractory @ 0,7 micron pixel resolution

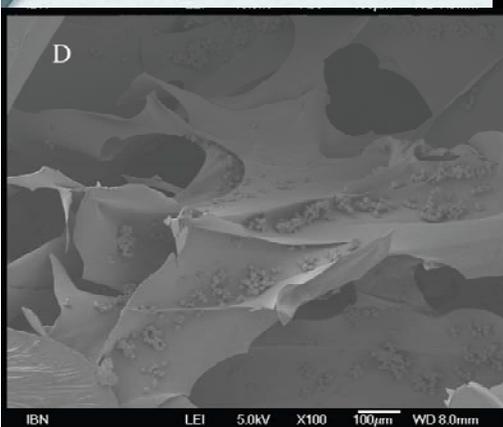


S H Lau et al, Proceedings, CMCEE 2008

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## Liver : Polycaprolactone-collagen (PCL-collagen) cultured with rat hepatocytes



SEM: Cellular distribution on collagen not uniformed



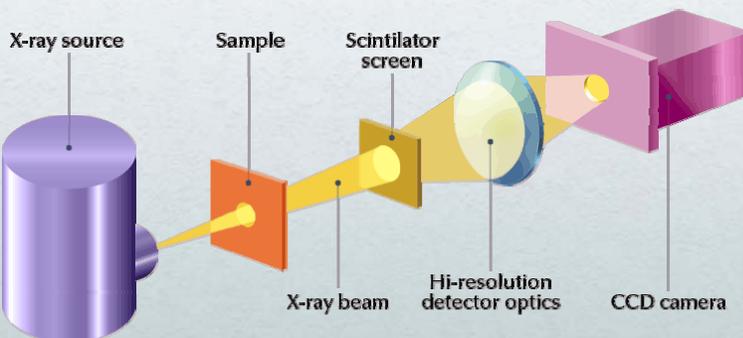
CT images (@ 0.7 µm resolution) showed cellular distribution in 3D is highly uniformed

Lau et al., ICMAT 2007

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## Power of Phase Enhanced Detector: Imaging Soft material in presence of high Z metals



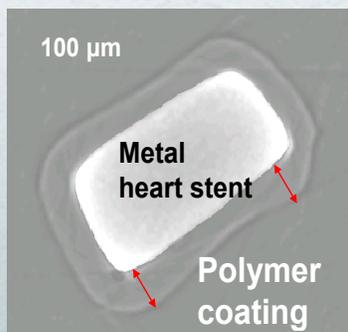
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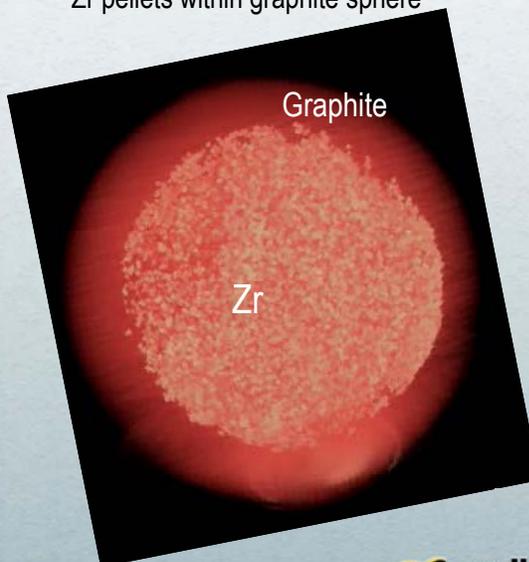
## Xradia Contrast advantages: Imaging Low Z materials in matrix of high Z with PhaseEnhanced Technology

### Power of PhaseEnhanced Detector

Polymer coated heart stent



Surrogate Nuclear Fuel  
Zr pellets within graphite sphere

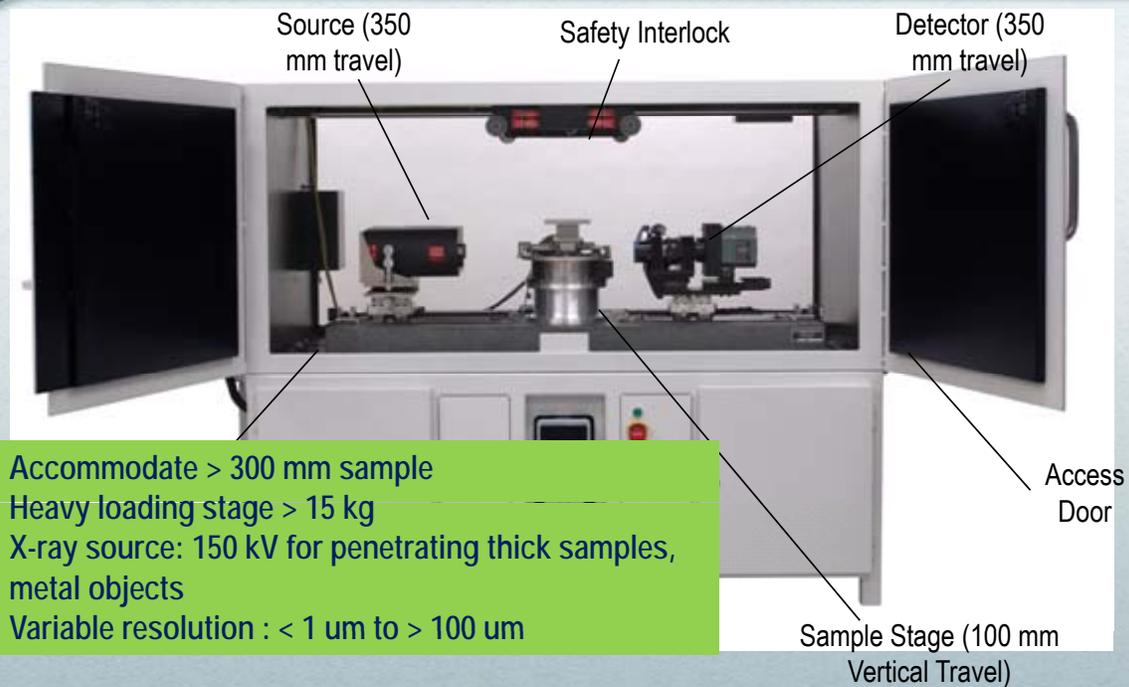


Low Z material  
in presence of  
high Z matrix

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## MicroXCT-400: large chamber for R+D



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## Modeling of flow mechanics, permeability, elastic moduli

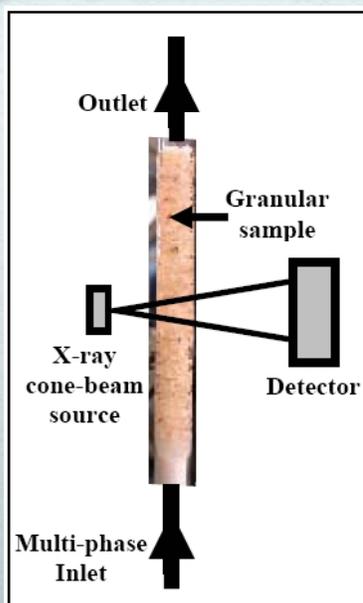


Figure 1: Experimental Schematic.

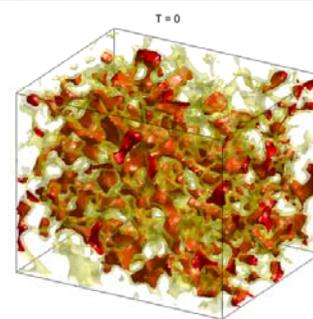
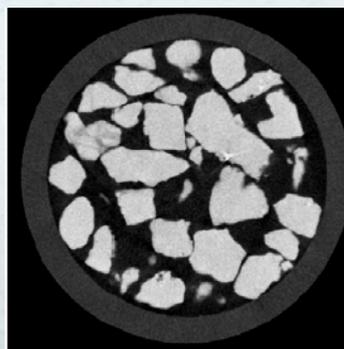


Table 1: Fluids Properties (Al-Wadahi, 1996).

Fluid	Density (g/cc)	Dynamic viscosity (cp)
Water	1.0377	1.1534
BA	1.0265	5.0563
Decane	0.7416	0.9659

Freddy E. Alvarado, Abraham S. Grader, Ozgen Karacan, Phillip M. Halleck.  
The Pennsylvania State University-Energy Institute and Department of Energy and Geo-Environmental Engineering

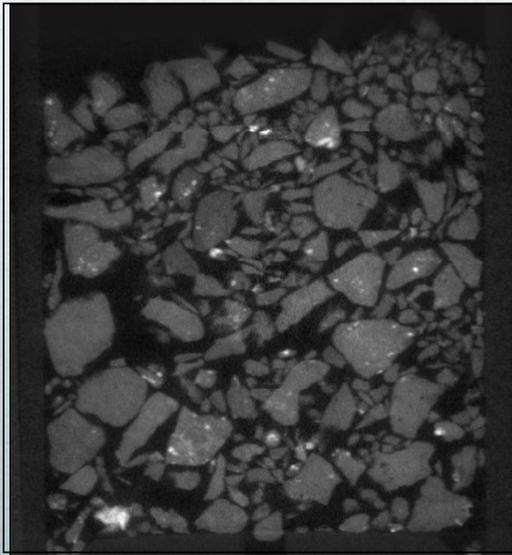
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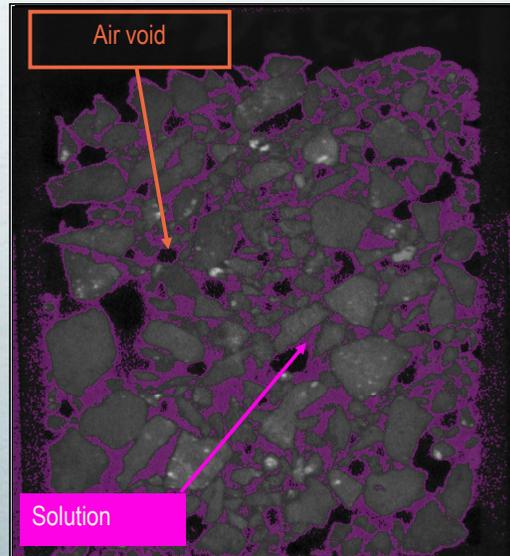


## Mini Column Leaching Testing

0 hours



14 hours



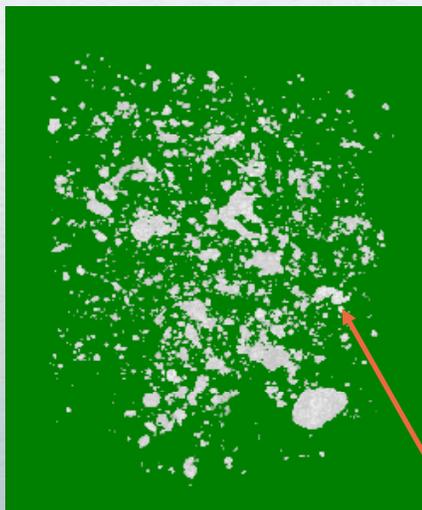
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J Miller, C L Lin, Mineral Processing Plant Design 2009

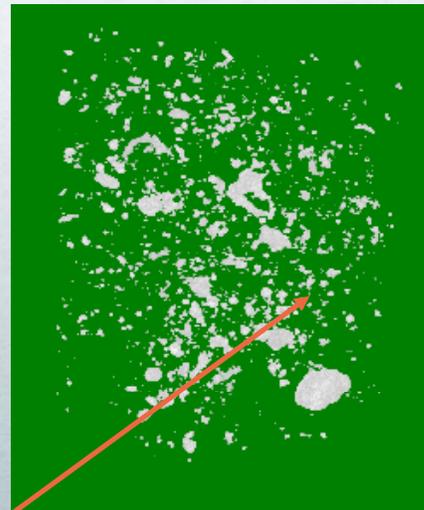
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## Mini Column Leaching Testing

1 Day



37 Days



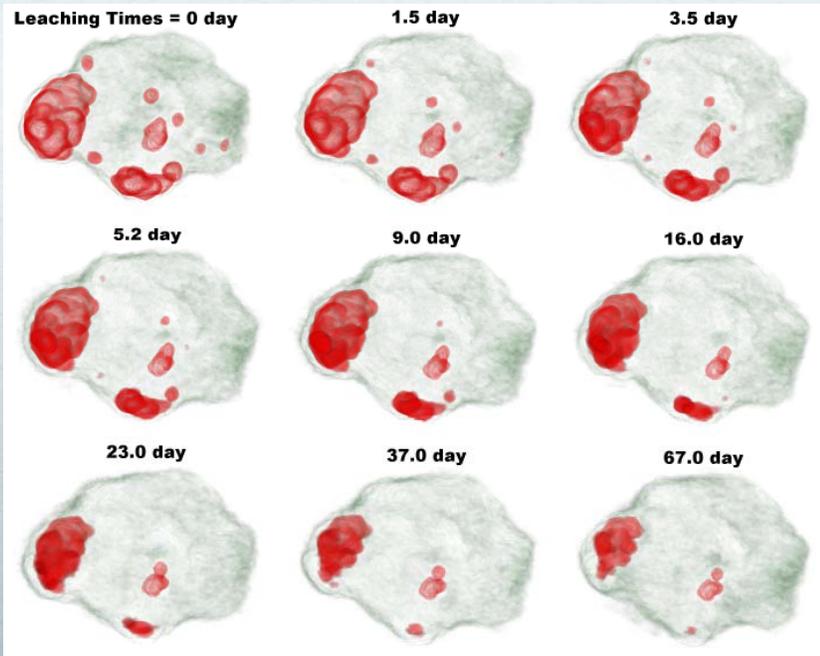
Dissolved Grains

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J Miller, C L Lin, Mineral Processing Plant Design 2009

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## Changes in High Density Mineral Grains

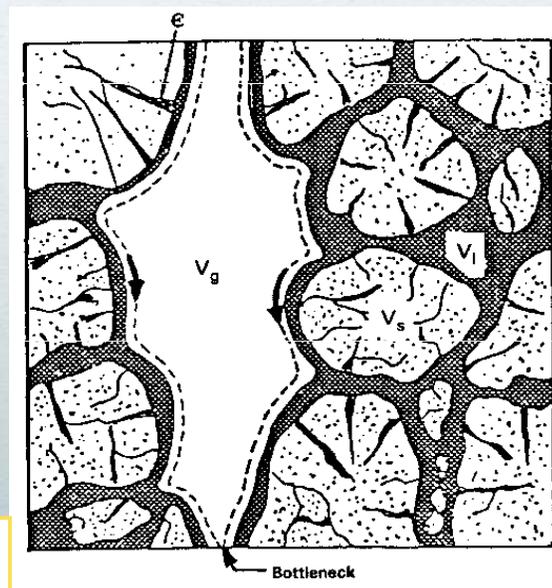
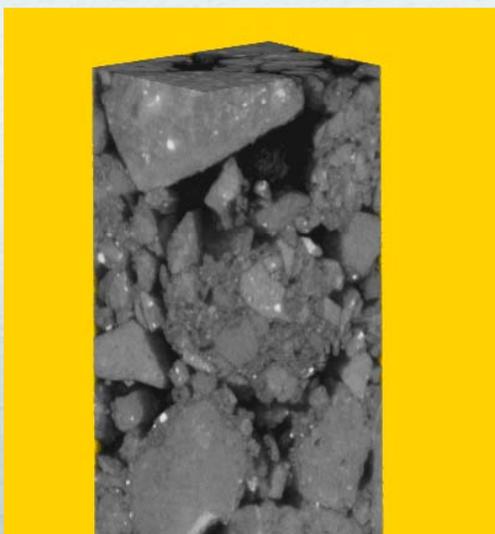


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J Miller, C L Lin, Mineral Processing Plant Design 2009

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## Pore Network Structure for Flow in Packed Particle Beds



- Rock space,  $V_s$  (~59%)
- Open porosity within rocks,  $\epsilon$  (~3%)
- Solution space,  $V_l$  (~20%)
- Air void,  $V_g$  (~18%)

W.J. Schlitt (1984) and R. W. Barlett (1998)

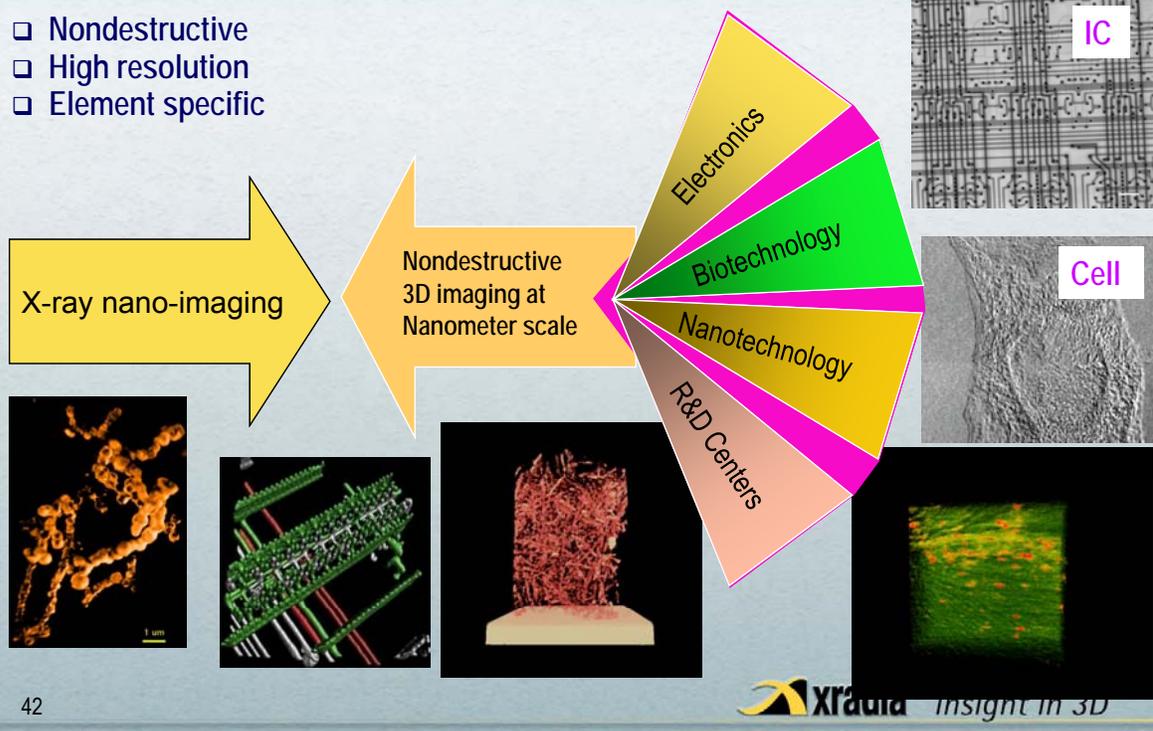
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J Miller, C L Lin, Mineral Processing Plant Design 2009

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# Nanoscience needs 3D nanoimaging (Seeing is believing): The X-ray imaging advantages

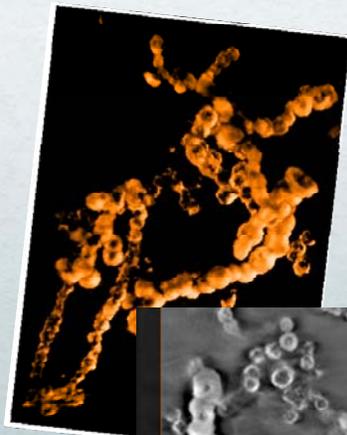
- ❑ Nondestructive
- ❑ High resolution
- ❑ Element specific



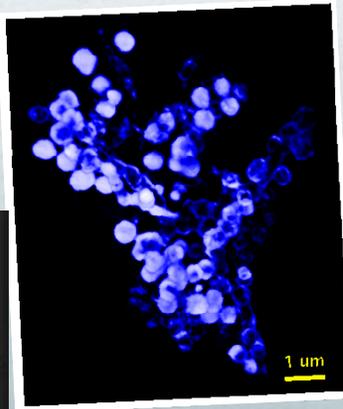
## Nanoscale 3D Imaging

# Nanotechnology and nano materials with nanoXCT

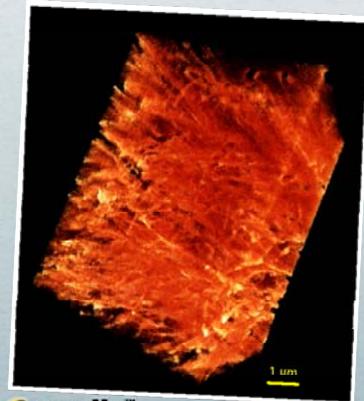
self assembled 0.2-0.8  $\mu\text{m}$   
magnetic particles



Cobalt spheres covered  
with polymer



polycarbonate

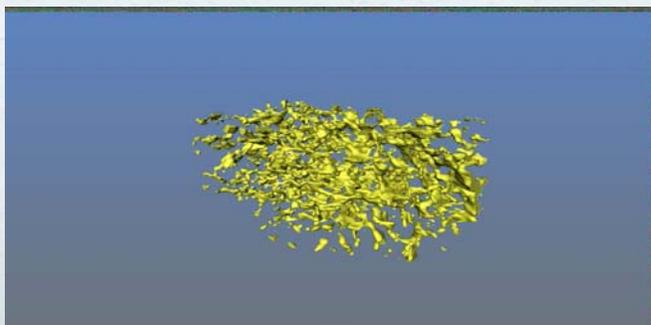


Sample courtesy Ziyu Wu,  
BSRF Beijing, China

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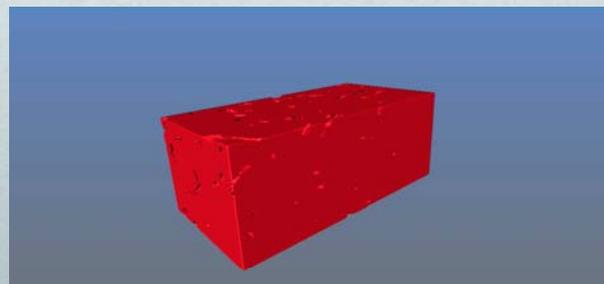
## SOFC. Porosity and Material Phase Characterization with nanoXCT at 60 nm voxel



**Solid Phase structure**  
of Ni-YSZ anode

Dimensions ~ 11 x 5 x 5  $\mu\text{m}$

**Pore Structure**  
of Ni-YSZ Anode



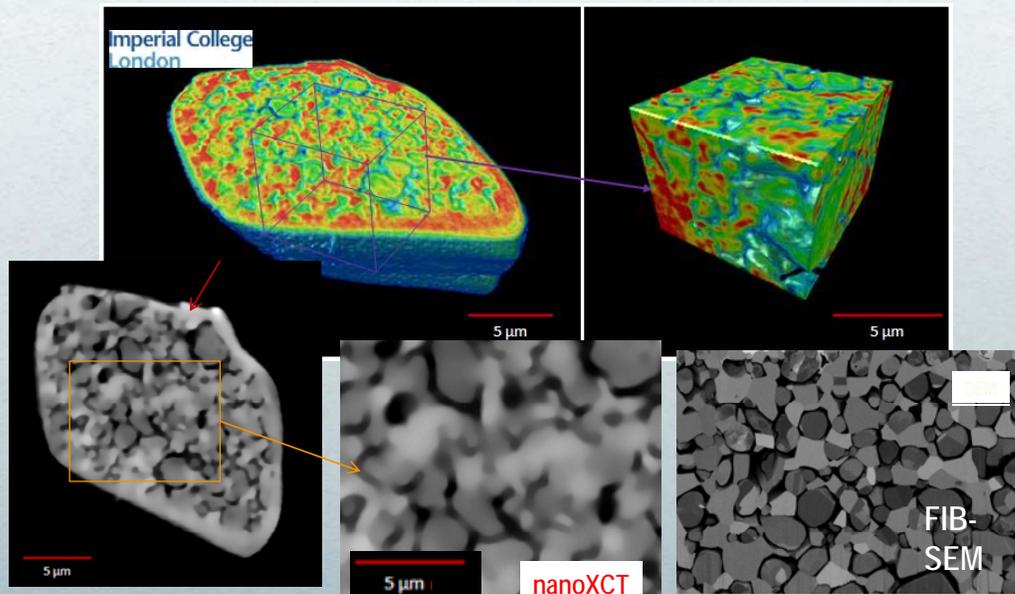
Paul Shering et al; ECS May 2009

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# Material Phase segmentation: nanoXCT vs FIB SEM

- nanoXCT: non-destructive characterization of SOFC material



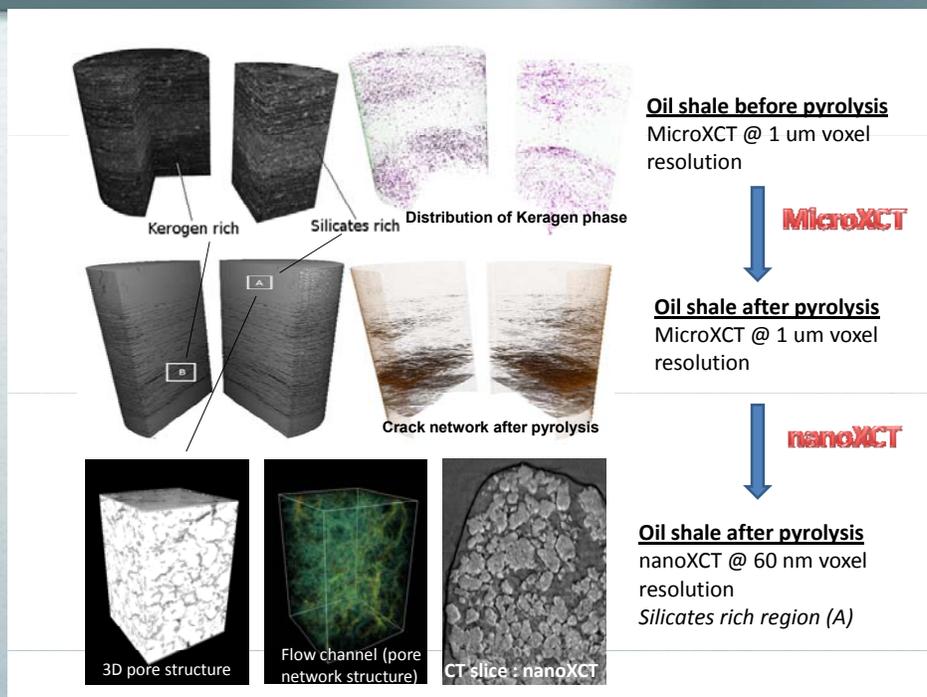
Imperial College London

Paul Shering et al;  
ECS May 2009

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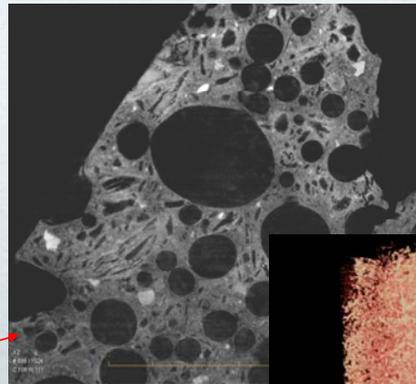
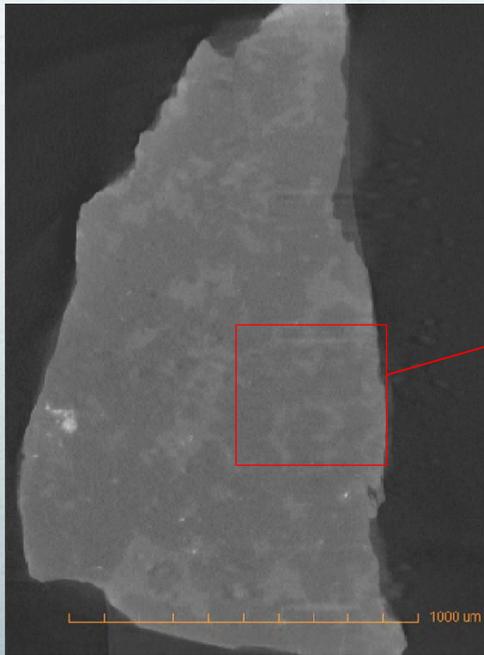
# Multiscale example : Oil shale



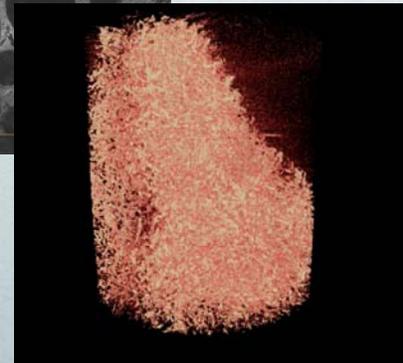
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## Gypsum : Resolution to 0.7 um and 60 nm



CT Slice at 0.7 um resolution



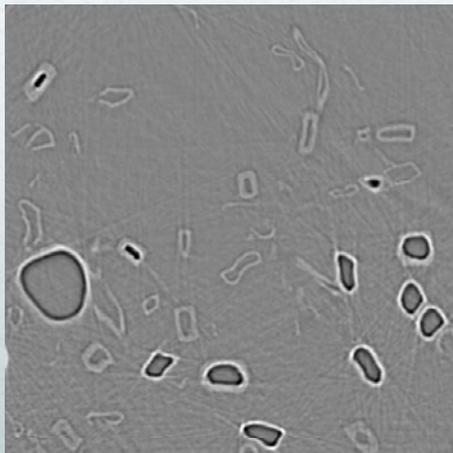
3D at 60 nm resolution voxel

48

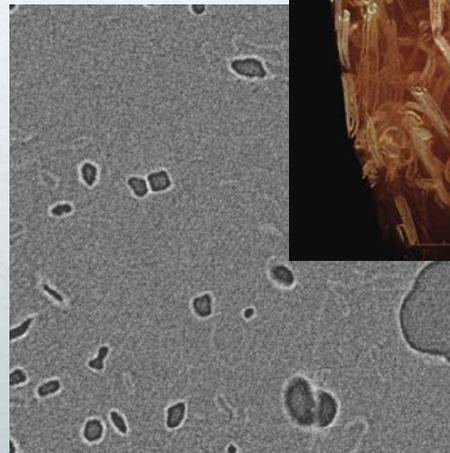
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## Paper fiber: Synchrotron 0.7 um vs Lab MicroXCT

Non-processed non-enhanced raw data



ESRF Grenoble 0.7 μm



MicroXCT 0.7 μm

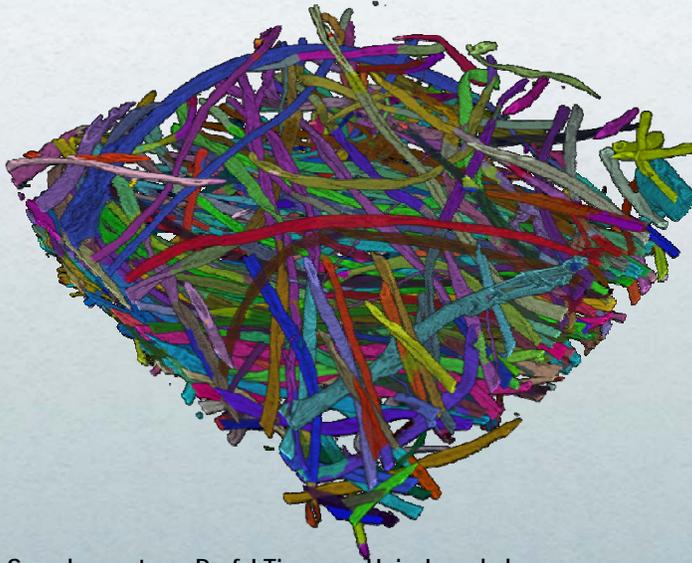


Sample courtesy: Prof J Timonen, Univ Jyvaskyla

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## Segmentation of individual fibers



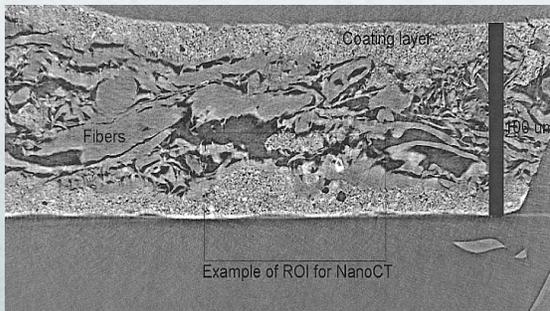
The individual fibers can be segmented from materials that have well-defined fibers. This will also allow an analysis of the bonding properties of the network.

Sample courtesy: Prof J Timonen, Univ Jyvaskyla

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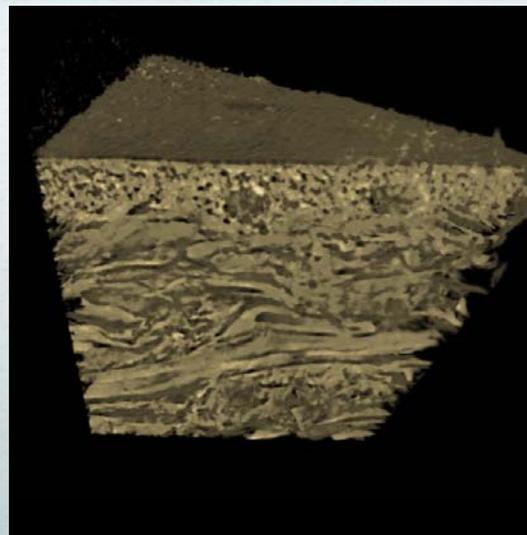
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## Coated paper with Calcium Carbonate; Synchrotron nanotomography vs lab nanoXCT



Coated Paper Sample; ESRF

*Courtesy of U. of Jyvaskyla*



60 x 60  $\mu\text{m}$  FOV, 150 nm resolution, 200X  
Zernike phase contrast  
70  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sample, Zernike phase contrast

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## Individual fiber imaging



Individual fiber scanned with Xradia nanoCT with a spatial resolution of 150 nm.

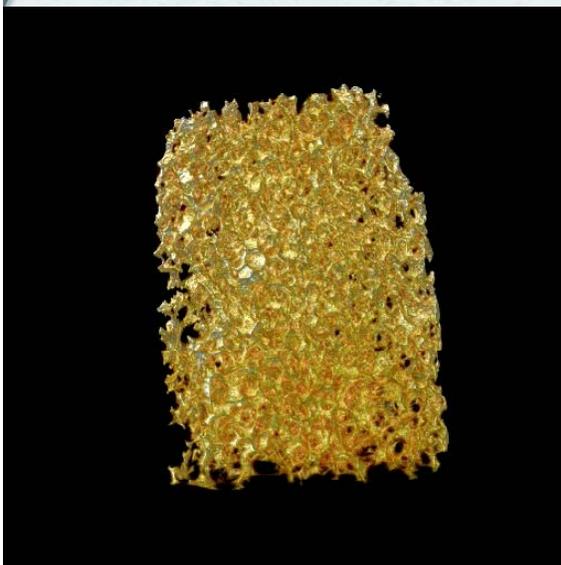
Gold coated.

Individual fiber scanned with Xradia microCT with a spatial resolution of  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$

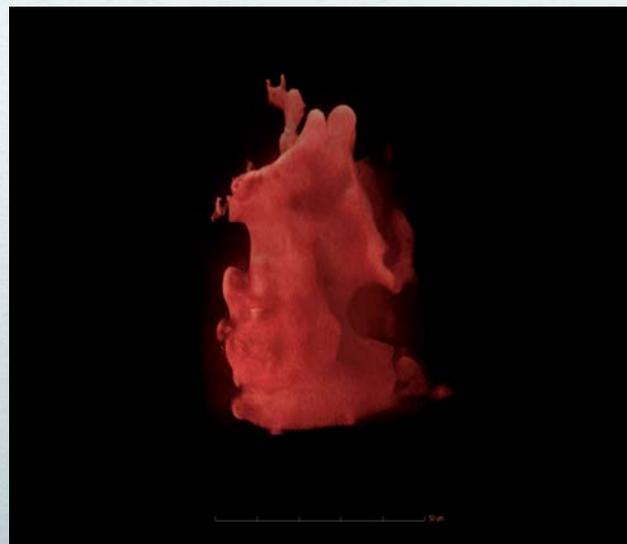
52 Sample courtesy: Prof J Timonen, Univ Jyvaskyla

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## TiO<sub>2</sub> Foam: Multiscale characterization



MicroCT 3D Rendered image @ 0.7 microns



nanoCT: 3D Rendered image @ 60 nm

53 Sample courtesy, Prof Withers, Univ Manchester

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## Advantages of novel Xradia MicroXCT



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## Summary

- ▣ Described non invasive 3D characterization of materials
- ▣ Technique requires little or no sample preparation
- ▣ Highly advantageous for pore characterization, failure evaluation, 3D buried structures
- ▣ Multiscale characterization solution from mm to 50 nm

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