

X rays, and curious characters

Chris Jacobsen

Advanced Photon Source
Argonne National Laboratory
Argonne, Illinois, USA

Department of Physics
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois, USA
Also: Chemistry of Life Processes
Institute, Applied Physics
Program

NU web page:
<http://xrm.phys.northwestern.edu>

Support: Basic Energy Sciences, US Department of Energy; National
Institutes of Health

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen

- In 1888, Röntgen took a position as Professor and Director of Physical Institute at Universität Würzburg - which had spurned his earlier inquiries about studies because he didn't know enough Latin and Greek!
- Second floor of building: private residential quarters including conservatory!
- Published 17 papers in six years on subjects including physics of gases and fluids



The era

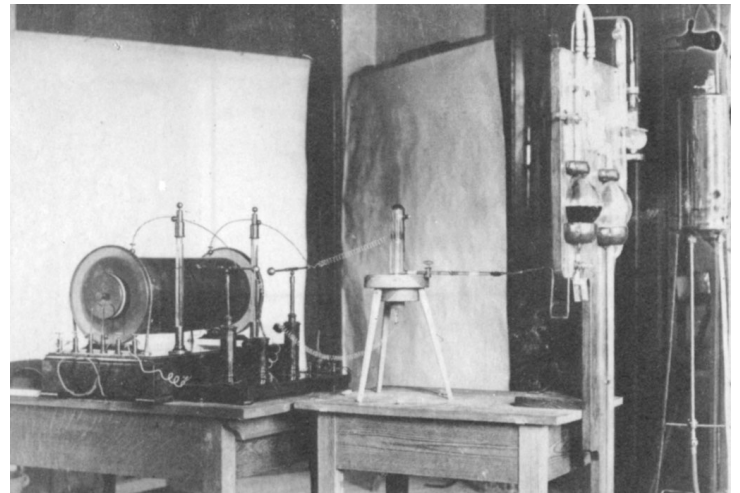
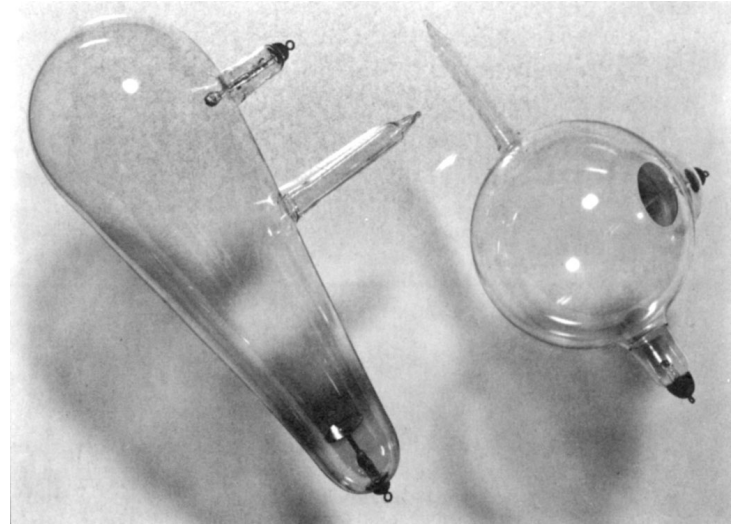
- James Clerk Maxwell: light is an electromagnetic wave (1862); unified theory of electromagnetism (1873)
- Heinrich Hertz: experiments with radio waves (1885-1889); experiments on cathode rays with Lenard (1888-1892). (J.J. Thomson later on showed that cathode rays were beams of electrons).
- Philipp von Lenard: thin aluminum window on cathode ray tubes to better allow the cathode rays to emerge from the tube (1894; Nobel Prize 1905). Led to Einstein's 1921 Nobel Prize for explaining the Photoelectric Effect!



During the Nazi era, Lenard promoted “German” physics over such “Jewish” physics ideas as those of Einstein, and became Chief of Aryan Physics under the Nazis.

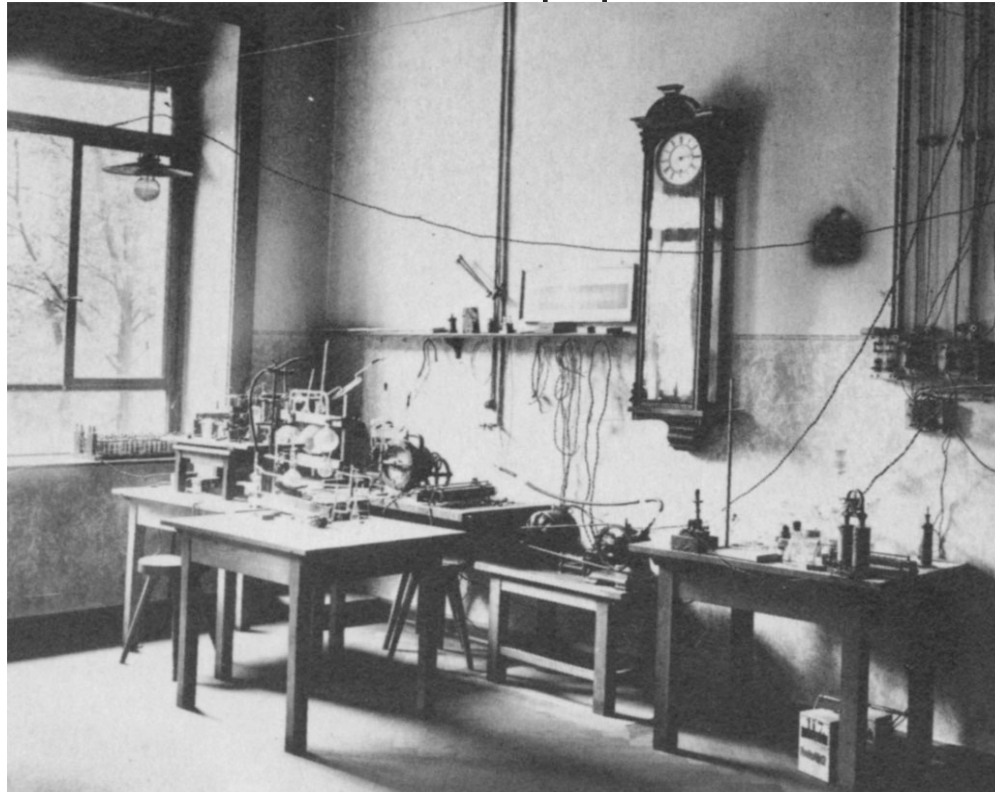
Röntgen: me too

- Had purchased Lenard tubes from a glassblower in Braunschweig in June 1894
- Became immersed in studies of cathode rays in October 1895
- Hittorf-Crookes tubes (thicker walls) for studying electrical discharges; Lenard tubes (thin windows) for studying cathode rays in air
- With Lenard tubes, one could see fluorescence on barium platinocyanide when placed close to thin window where cathode rays emerged into air



Late Friday afternoon, Nov. 8, 1895

- Maybe Hittorf-Crookes tubes also emit cathode rays?
- But must shield light from discharge inside tube! Black cardboard, darkened room
- Noticed a glow on a bench nearby. Seemed to flicker with fluctuations of tube discharge!
- Struck a match – it was barium platinocyanide screen – but some distance from tube, and with black paper in between



Yo, Bertha!

Put your hand here for 15 minutes. It will be really cool!



Share the curiosities

- Would others see the same effects?
- Saturday, December 28, 1895: submitted to Transactions of Würzburg Physical Medical Society, even though the results had not yet been presented at a meeting.
- Printed up by Wednesday, New Year's Day, 1896 – Röntgen mails copies and some photos to several respected physicists. “Now the devil will be to pay”

Ueber eine neue Art von Strahlen.
von W. C. Röntgen.
(Fortsetzung v. d. Mittheilung.)

1. Lässt man durch eine Litzky'sche Vacuumröhre, oder einen genügenden vacuirten Crookes'schen oder ähnlichen Apparat die Entladungen eines grösseren Ruhmkorff'schen Inducirapparats mit einem dünnen zug anliegenden Mantel aus dünnem schwarzen Carton, so sieht man in dem vollständig verdunkelten Zimmer wenn in die Nähe des Apparats gebracht, mit Platinumplatinum angestrichenen Pappschirmen bei jeder Entladung hell aufleuchtende, fluorescirende gleichzeitige, ob die angestrichene oder die andere Seite des Schirmes dem Inducirapparat zugewendet ist. Die Fluorescenz ist noch in 2 m Entfernung vom Apparat bemerkbar.

Man überzeugt sich leicht, dass die Ursache der Fluorescenz vom Zentrum des Inducirapparats und von keiner andern Stelle der Leitung ausgeht.

On a New Kind of Rays

A preliminary communication

132 Sitzungsberichte der physikal.-medizin. Gesellschaft. Jahrg. 1895.

früher Mitglieder der Gesellschaft lediglich deshalb nicht mehr im Personalverzeichnisse geführt wurden, weil sie bei ihrem Weggange aus Würzburg vergessen hatten, den entsprechenden Antrag zu stellen.

Herr von Kolliker stellt deshalb einen Antrag auf diesbezügliche Aenderung der Statuten. — Ueber denselben soll in der ersten Sitzung des nächsten Geschäftsjahres berathen werden.

Am 28. Dezember wurde als Beitrag eingereicht:

W. C. Röntgen: Ueber eine neue Art von Strahlen.

(Vorläufige Mittheilung.)

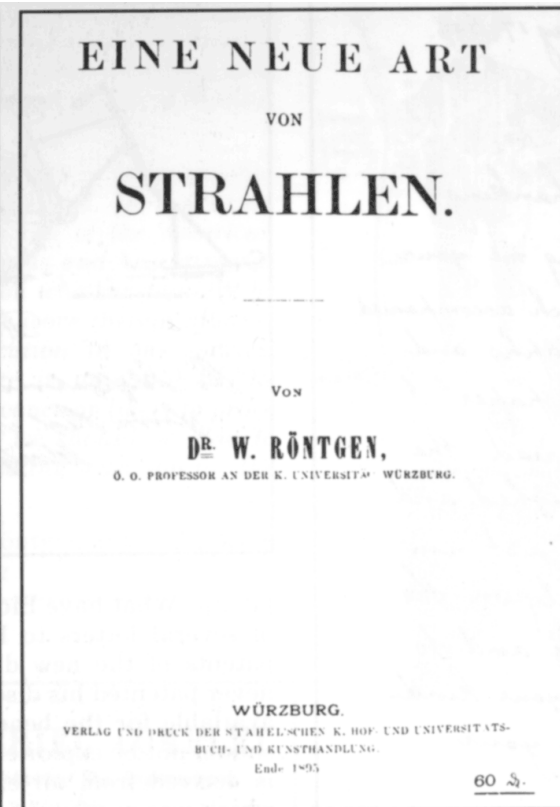
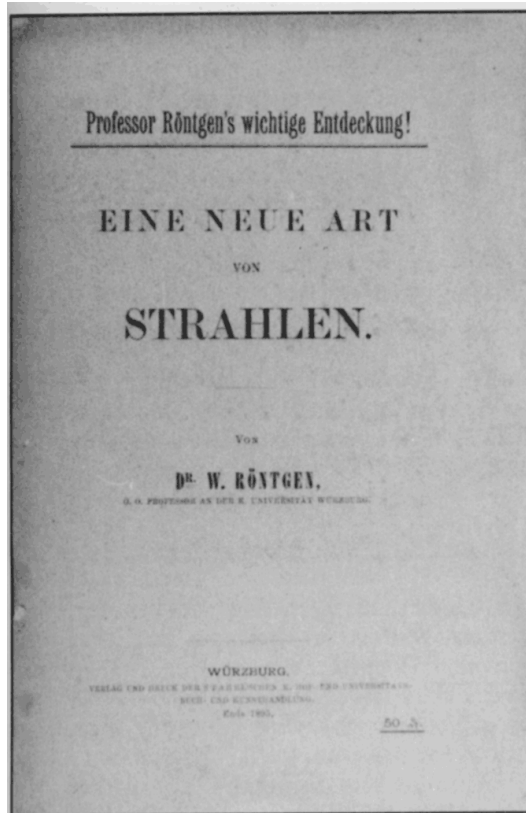
1. Lässt man durch eine *Hittorfsche* Vacuumröhre, oder einen genügend evacuirten *Lenard'schen*, *Crookes'schen* oder ähnlichen Apparat die Entladungen eines grösseren *Ruhmkorff's* gehen und bedeckt die Röhre mit einem ziemlich eng anliegenden Mantel aus dünnem, schwarzem Carton, so sieht man in dem vollständig verdunkelten Zimmer einen in die Nähe des Apparates gebrachten, mit Bariumplatinocyanür angestrichenen Papierschirm bei jeder Entladung hell aufleuchten, fluoresciren, gleichgültig ob die angestrichene oder die andere Seite des Schirmes dem Entladungsgesetz zugewendet ist. Die Fluorescenz ist noch in 2 m Entfernung vom Apparat bemerkbar.

Man überzeugt sich leicht, dass die Ursache der Fluorescenz vom Entladungsgesetz und von keiner anderen Stelle der Leitung ausgeht.

2. Das an dieser Erscheinung zunächst Auffallende ist, dass durch die schwarze Cartonhülse, welche keine sichtbaren oder ultravioletten Strahlen des Sonnen- oder des elektrischen Bogenlichtes durchlässt, ein Agens hindurchgeht, das im Stande ist, lebhaft Fluorescenz zu erzeugen, und man wird deshalb wohl zuerst untersuchen, ob auch andere Körper diese Eigenschaft besitzen.

Man findet bald, dass alle Körper für dasselbe durchlässig sind, aber in sehr verschiedenem Grade. Einige Beispiele führe ich an. Papier ist sehr durchlässig: 1) hinter einem eingebun-

1) Mit „Durchlässigkeit“ eines Körpers bezeichne ich das Verhältniss der Helligkeit eines dicht hinter dem Körper gehaltenen Fluorescenzschirmes zu derjenigen Helligkeit des Schirmes, welcher dieser unter denselben Verhältnissen aber ohne Zwischenschaltung des Körpers zeigt.



The explosion...

London *Daily Chronicle*, Monday, January 6: “The noise of the war’s alarm should not distract attention from the marvelous triumph of science which is reported from Vienna. It is announced that Prof. Routgen [*sic*] of the Wurzburg University has discovered a light which for the purpose of photography will penetrate wood, flesh, cloth, and most other organic substances. The professor has succeeded in photographic metal weights which were in a closed metal case, also a man’s hand which showed only the bones, the flesh being invisible.”

The fire spreads

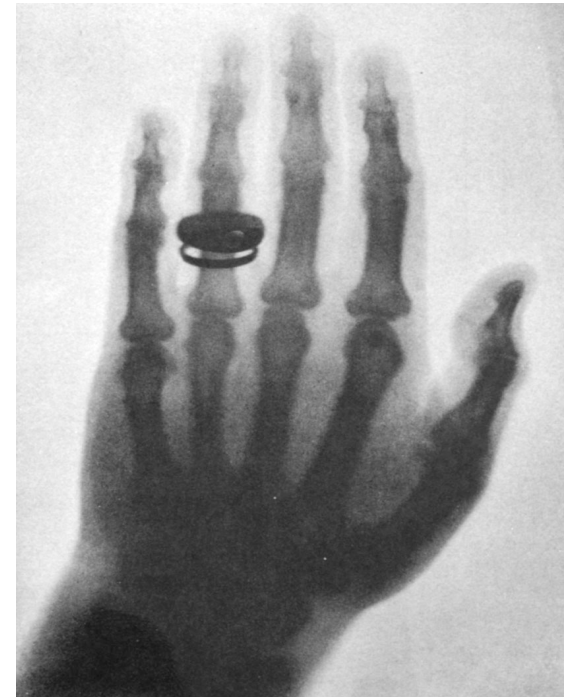
- Paris *Matins*, London *Standard*
- Scientific journals:
 - Wednesday, January 8: *New York Electrical Engineer*
 - Saturday, January 11: *New York Medical Record*, *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal*
 - Thursday, January 16: *Nature*
 - Late January: *Il Nuovo Cimento*

A private demonstration

- Summoned to appear in Berlin before Emperor Wilhelm II on Monday, January 13, 1896
- “I hope I shall have ‘Kaiser luck’ with this tube, for these tubes are very sensitive and are often destroyed in the very first experiment, and it takes about four days to evacuate a new one”
- Prussian Order of the Crown, II Class
- Declined an invitation to provide a demonstration to the Reichstag!

Röntgen's public lecture

- Thursday, January 23, 1896 at his Institute
- “I found by accident that the rays also penetrated black paper. I then used wood, paper, books, but I still believed I was the victim of deception. Finally I used photography, and the experiment was successfully culminated.”
- Photographed hand of anatomist Albert von Kölliker, who responded by leading three cheers and saying the rays should be called Röntgenstrahlung



Röntgen's labs more recently



Building is now the Fachhochschule
Würzburg – Schweinfurt, with a Röntgen
Curatorium

Michael Pupin, Columbia University/New York, Feb. 1896

“This is of the hand of a gentleman resident in New York, who, while on a hunting trip in England a few months ago, was so unfortunate as to discharge his gun into his right hand, no less than forty shot lodging in the palm and fingers. The hand has since healed completely; but the shot remain in it, the doctors being unable to remove them, because unable to determine their exact location. The result is that the hand is almost useless, and often painful.” - Cleveland Moffett, McClure’s Magazine, April 1896



A later, better image after Pupin put a phosphorescent coating on top of the film. Notice how the pellets moved!

Röntgen's followup

- March 9, 1896: “Since my work must be interrupted for several weeks, I should like to present at this time some new results in the following.”
 - Repeated experiments inside a zinc box to eliminate electrical interference as an artifact.
 - X-rays ionize air, and many other gases
- March 10, 1897
 - x-rays emitted by fluorescence from air.
 - Differences in penetration depending on method of generation.

Honors pour in

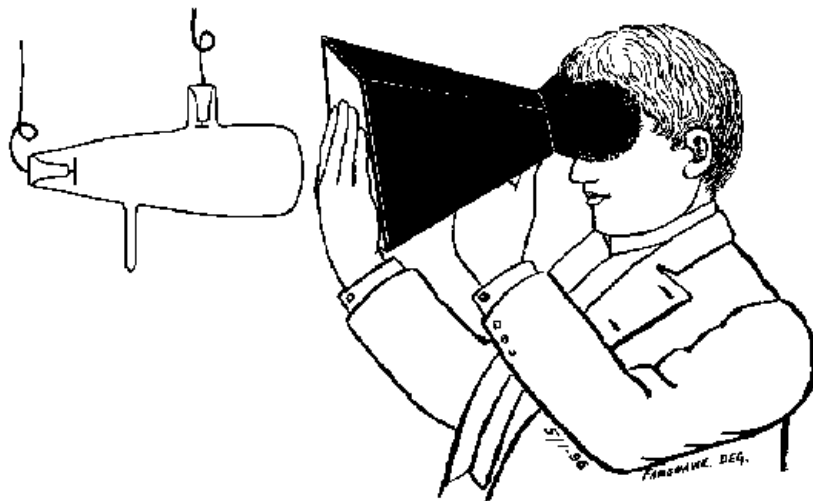
- Rumford medal, Royal Society of London
- Barnard medal, Columbia University
- Received first Nobel Prize in Physics, 1901 – but did not give a public lecture!
 - “In recognition of the extraordinary services he has rendered by the discovery of the remarkable rays subsequently named after him”



Going overboard



Mihran Kassabian, Philadelphia Hospital, 1903-1904: brain irradiation to treat epilepsy. Two patients died, but epilepsy was reduced...



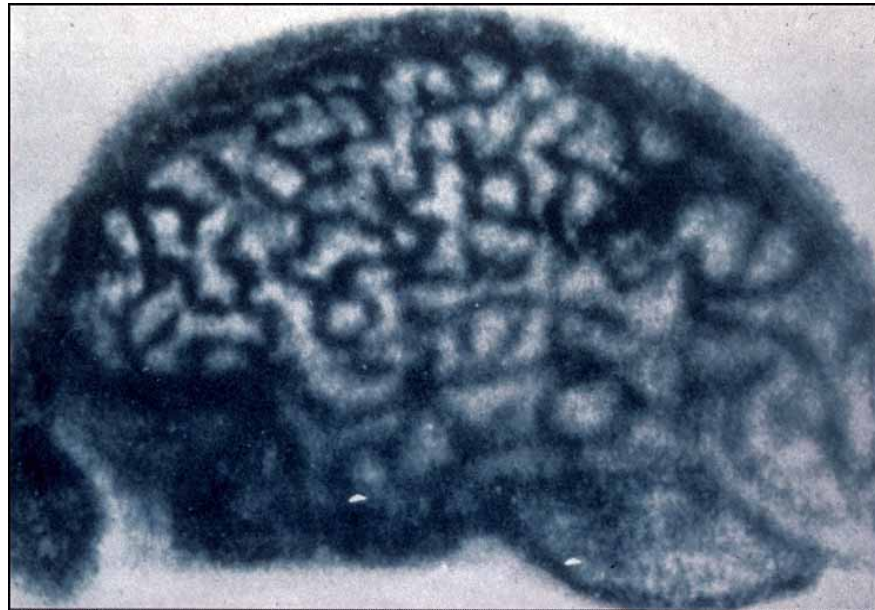
...and suffering the consequences



Hands of Kassabian soon before his death in 1910. So as not to discredit the use of X-rays in medicine, it is said that he used an assumed name when he checked into the hospital to have some fingers amputated [Brown, *Am. J. Roentgenology* **164**, 1285 (1995)]

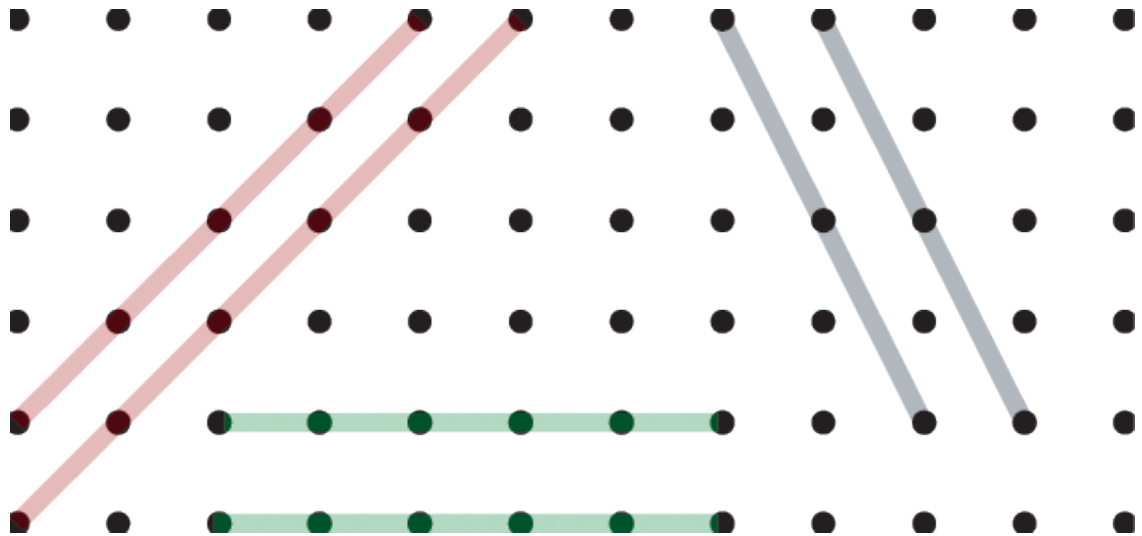
Deception

- N rays (1903-1904): Rene Blondot of University of Nancy. Even better than X rays! Debunked by R.W. Wood who secretly pocketed supposedly key pieces of apparatus during a demonstration
- X-ray of the human brain? No, photographic negative of cat intestines! Hilbert Falk, X-ray Shadowgraph Company of New Orleans, 1896



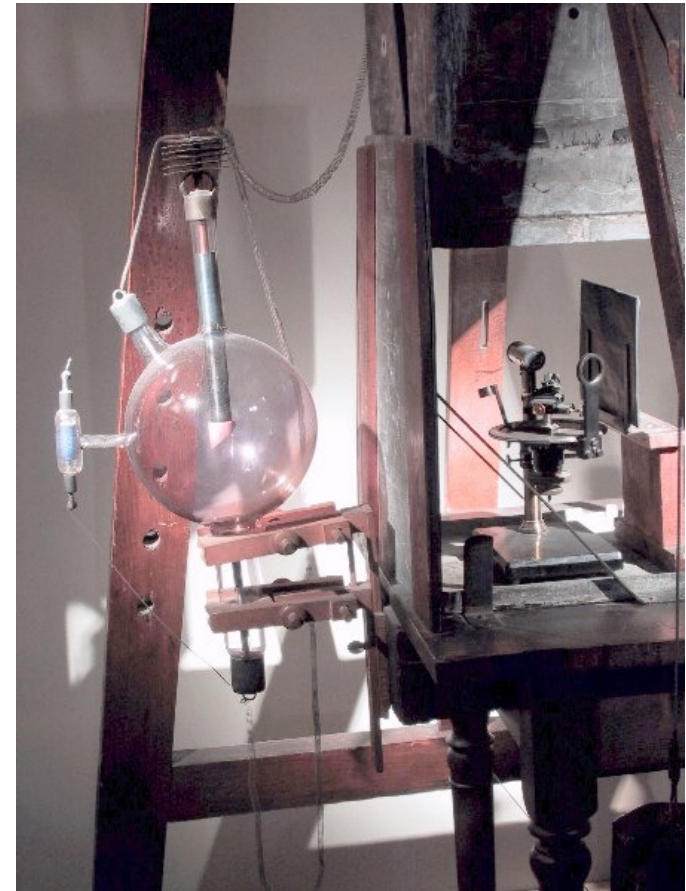
Röntgen, Munich, and von Laue

- Röntgen was lured away to Universität München (1900-1920).
- Recruited Arnold Sommerfeld, who recruited Max von Laue.
- In 1912, von Laue postulated that atomic planes in crystals might diffract X rays, and directed experiments of Friedrich and Knipping to try to see this. Röntgen would often stop by the lab but played no direct role.

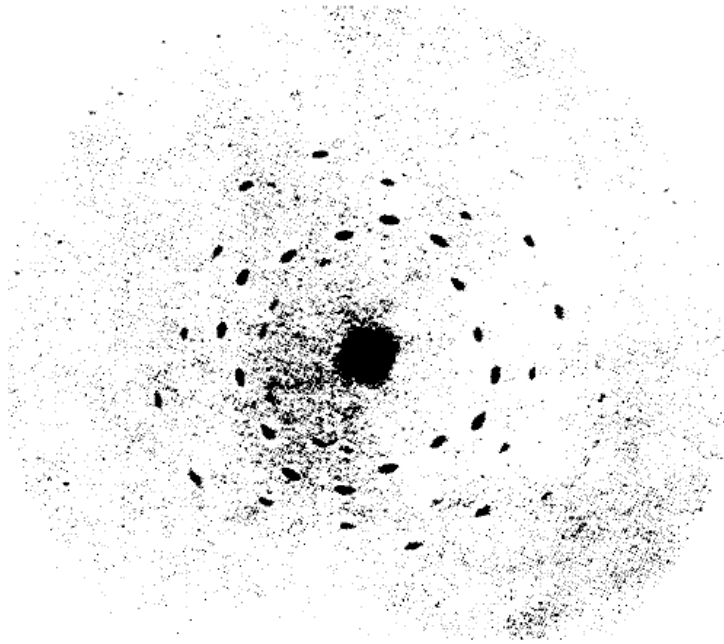


Von Laue's ideas realized

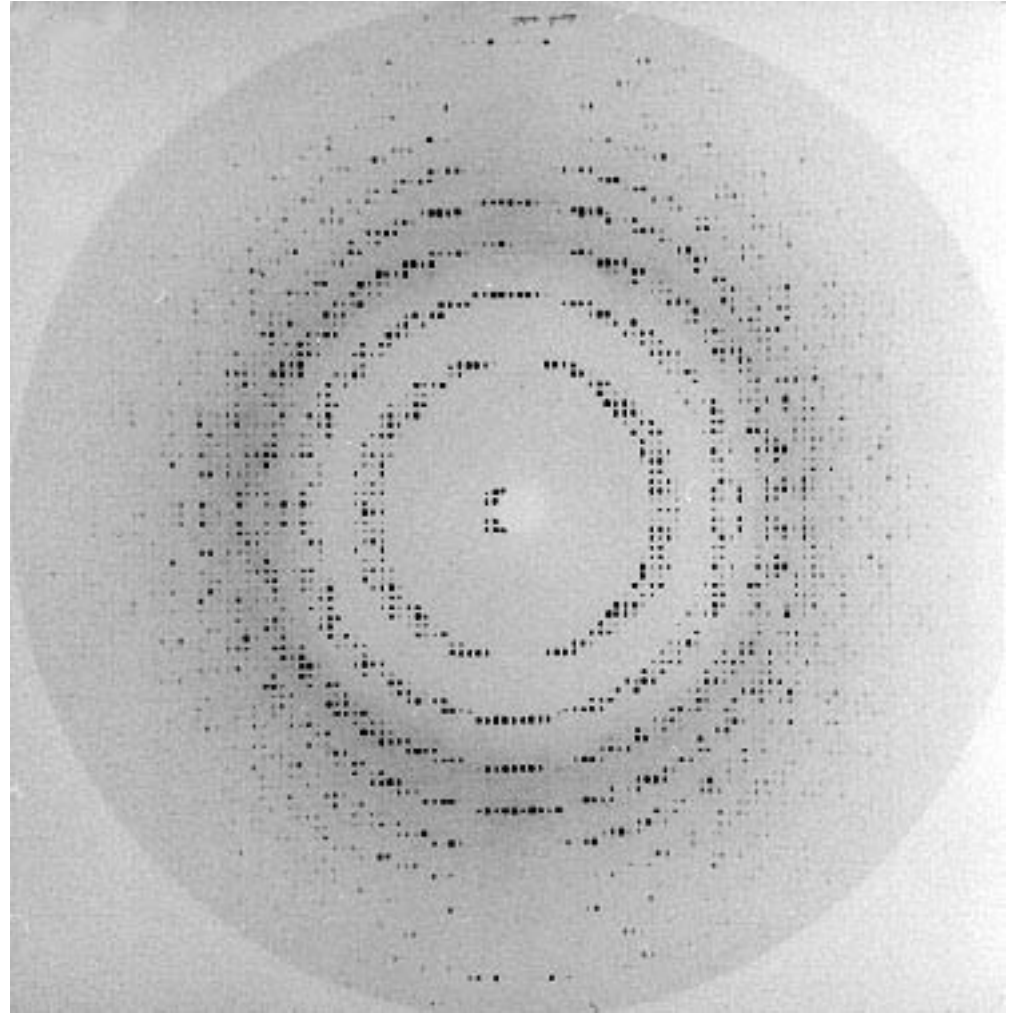
- In 1912, Friedrich and Knipping find diffraction spots from copper sulfate!
- X-ray wavelengths confirmed.
- Von Laue wins the 1914 Nobel Prize.



Crystal diffraction then and now



Copper sulfate

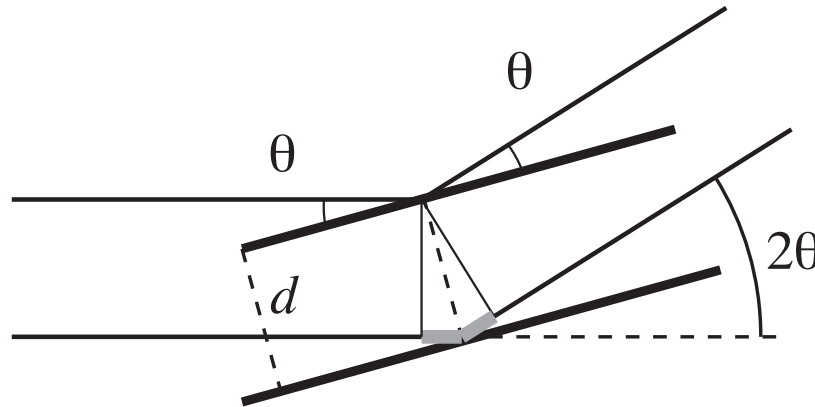


Lysozyme

Bragging rights for the explanation

- William Henry Bragg (1862-1942) and William Laurence Bragg (1890-1971) explain in 1913-1914 how crystal diffraction works:

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

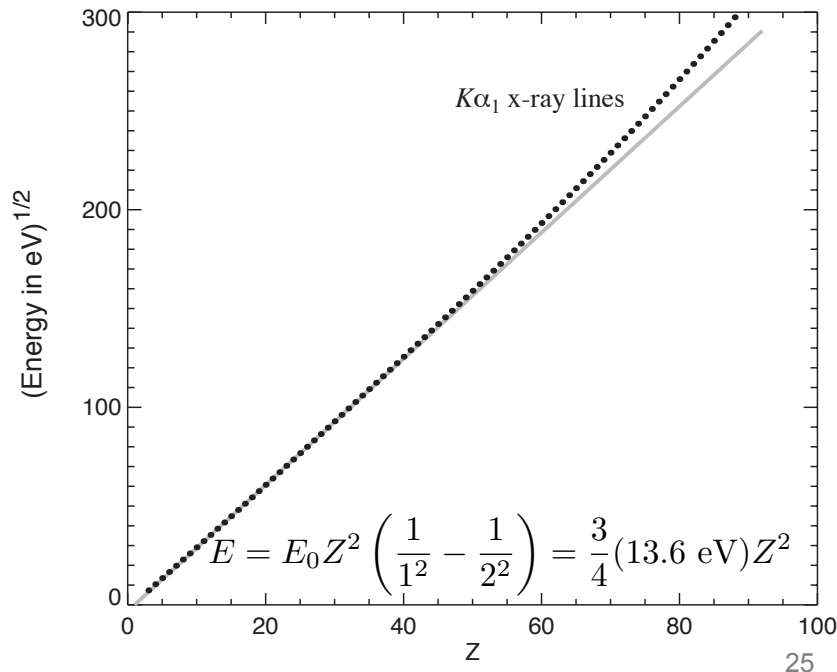


- Solved the structure of sodium chloride, potassium iodide, and other salts.
- Father and son receive the 1915 Nobel Prize.



Moseley's Law

- Henry Moseley worked in Ernest Rutherford's lab in Manchester, and during 1913 he used x-ray diffraction to measure the energies of x-ray emission lines from different materials. He found that the energy goes as Z^2 , and predicted the existence of elements 43, 61, 72, and 75.
- This was important to Niels Bohr, who was a visitor in Rutherford's lab in Manchester in April-July 1912, and who wrote a paper on his theory starting during his honeymoon in August 1912 leading to a first draft sent to Rutherford in March 1913.
- Moseley left Rutherford's lab in 1914 to go to Oxford, but WWI broke out in August 1914 and he enlisted in the army. He was killed by a sniper at Gallipoli, Turkey on Aug. 10, 1915.



Compton scattering

- Arthur Holly Compton (1892-1962) finds in 1922 that scattered X rays can undergo a systematic shift in wavelength.
- Relativity says photons carry a momentum of

$$p = E/c$$



- Conservation of energy and momentum then requires that inelastic scattering obey

$$\lambda' - \lambda_0 = \frac{h}{mc}(1 - \cos \theta)$$

- For many, this provided the final convincing proof of Einstein's theory of special relativity. Compton receives the Nobel Prize in 1927.

Paul Kirkpatrick and Albert Baez, 1948

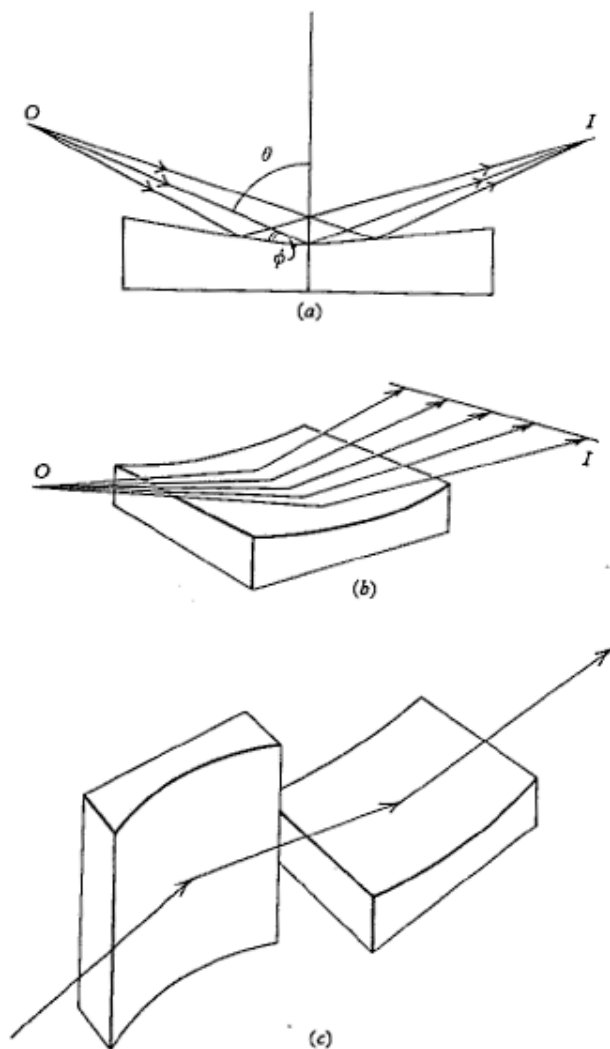


Fig. 1.2. Reflexion X-ray microscopy. (a) and (b) X-rays diverging from a source O are focused by a cylindrical surface to form an astigmatic image I ; (c) arrangement of two cylindrical mirrors for eliminating astigmatism. (Kirkpatrick & Pattee, 1953.)

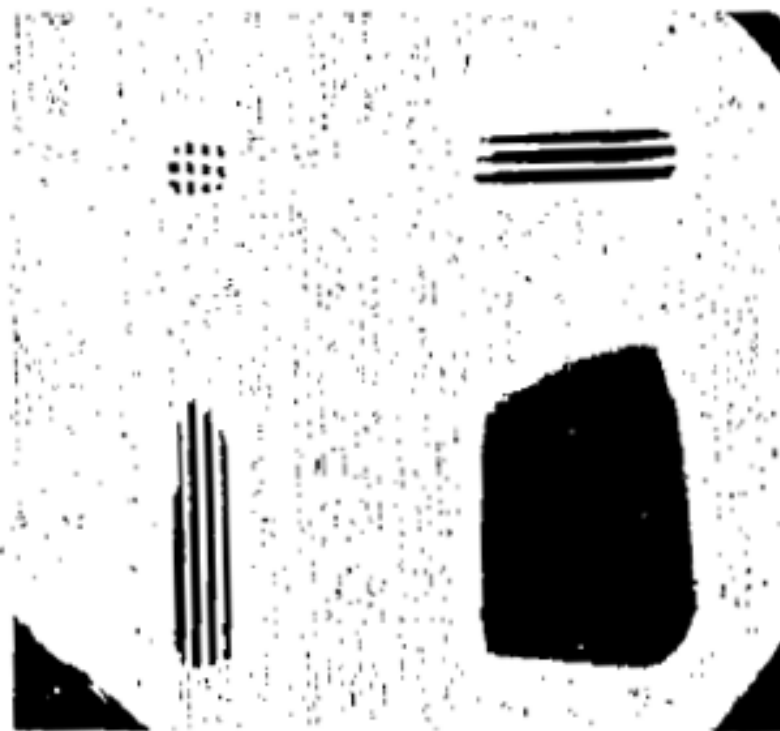


FIG. 12. Pattern produced by mirrors arranged as in Fig. 11. Object was a monel screen having 350 meshes per linear inch. In addition to the full image of the screen two partial images, each formed by one mirror, and a large spot caused by direct radiation appear above.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Established 1845

CONTENTS FOR MARCH 1949

VOLUME 180, NUMBER 3

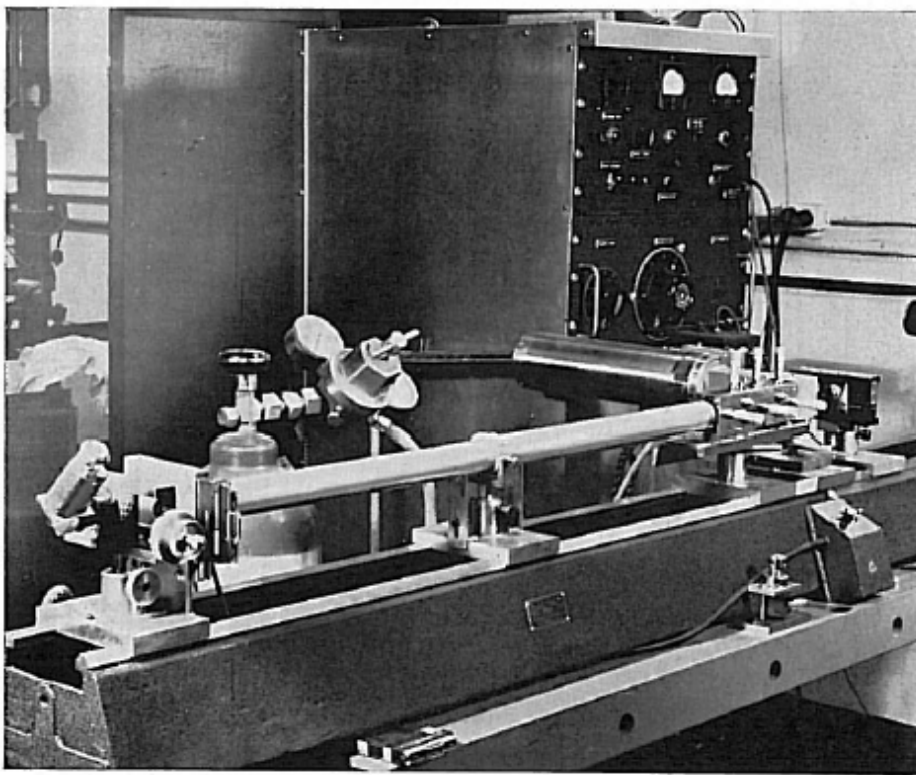
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THE X-RAY MICROSCOPE

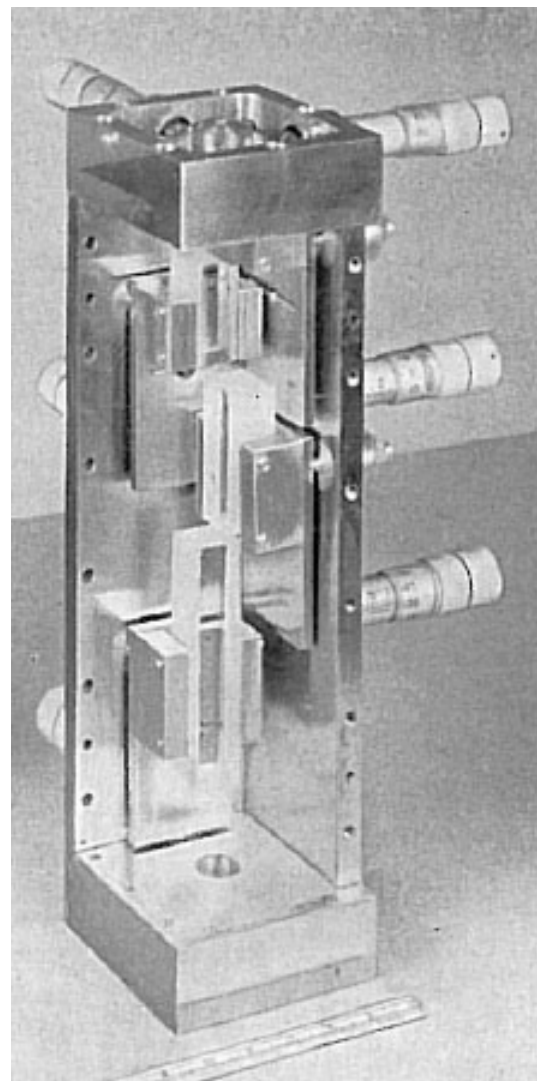
by Paul Kirkpatrick

It would be a big improvement on microscopes using light or electrons, for X-rays combine short wavelengths, giving fine resolution, and penetration. The main problems standing in the way have now been solved. 44

Kirkpatrick and Pattee, 1953



Reflexion X-ray microscope of Kirkpatrick and Pattee, incorporating two pairs of mirrors. (Kirkpatrick & Pattee, 1953.)



Exploiting diffraction

NATURE

May 15, 1948

A NEW MICROSCOPIC PRINCIPLE

By DR. D. GABOR

Research Laboratory, British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd.,
Rugby

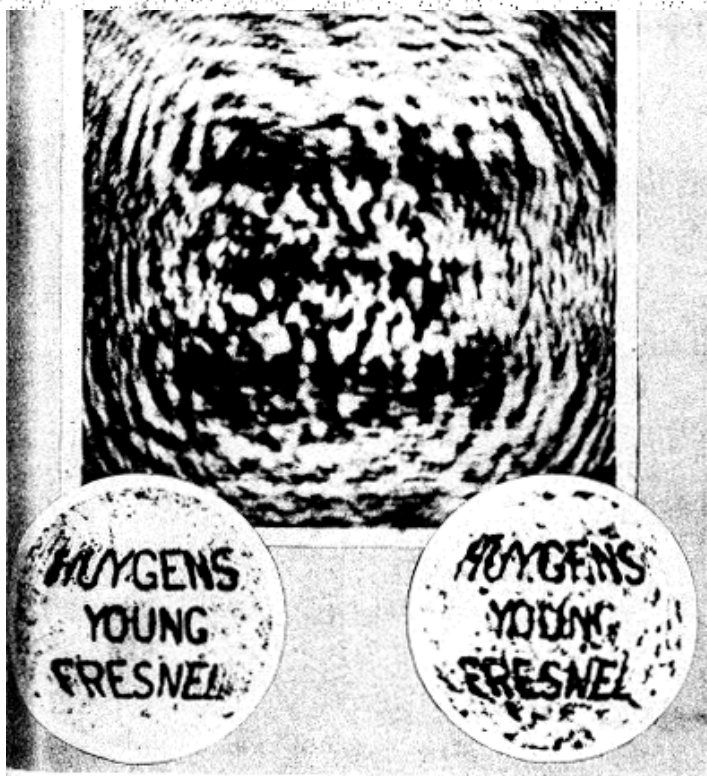


FIGURE 10. Optical reconstruction cycle. The original was a microphotograph of 1.5 mm. diam. Illuminated with $\lambda = 4358 \text{ \AA}$ through pinhole 0.2 mm. diam., reduced by a microscope objective to 5μ nominal diameter, at 50 mm. from object. Geometrical magnification 12. Effective aperture of lens used in reconstruction 0.025. Noisy background chiefly due to imperfections of illuminating objective.

No. 4214 August 5, 1950 NATURE

Gabor Diffraction Microscopy: the Hologram as a Generalized Zone-Plate

SINCE the publication of the papers of Gabor on diffraction microscopy^{1,2}, work has been going on in this Laboratory on the effect of varying the source-hologram distance and the hologram size on the position of the reconstituted image. It proves possible to represent the information obtained in a very simple way by the use of an instructive analogy.

It should be noted that a zone plate is a particular case of an artificially constructed hologram, corresponding to the introduction of a second coherent point source into the diverging beam from the first point source. A zone plate, moreover, when suitably arranged in front of a point source, duly reconstitutes the second point source, together with the symmetrically placed point on the far side of the original source. This follows from the fact that the zone plate has both a positive and a negative primary focal-length.

G. L. ROGERS

Carnegie Laboratory of Physics,
University College,
Dundee.
April 15.

Gabor: 1971 Nobel Prize

Albert Baez

JOURNAL OF THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA VOLUME 42, NUMBER 10 OCTOBER, 1952

A Study in Diffraction Microscopy with Special Reference to X-Rays

ALBERT V. BAEZ

*UNESCO Technical Assistance Mission, University College, Baghdad, Iraq**

(Received May 23, 1952)

“The possibility of constructing a single Fresnel zone plate for x-rays should be explored. The advantage...would be the great simplicity in focusing an object illuminated by x-rays from *any available* x-ray tube.”

NATURE June 18, 1960 VOL. 186

A Self-supporting Metal Fresnel Zone-plate to focus Extreme Ultra-violet and Soft X-Rays

ALBERT V. BAEZ

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Joan Baez



Point projection microscopes: VE Cosslett

- Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge: 1948, 1951 (the latter involving WC Nixon)
- Exploit developments in electron optics to make small x-ray spots on thin targets
- Point projection gives geometric magnification! $1 \mu\text{m}$!

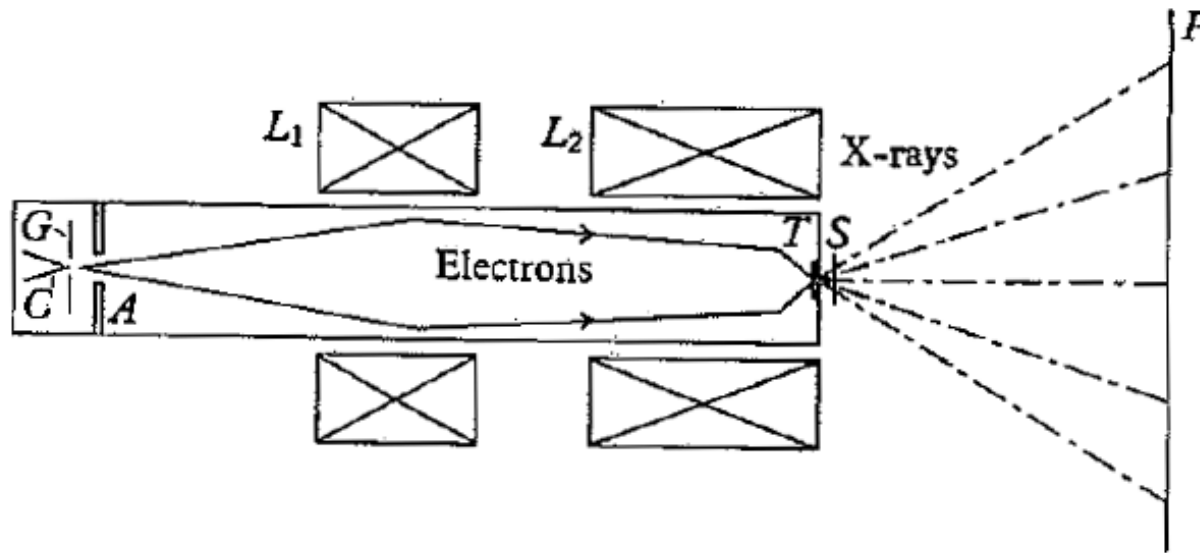


Fig. 1.3. Projection X-ray microscopy. The electron lenses $L_1 L_2$ form a reduced image at T of the cathode C ; the X-rays emitted from T project an image of a specimen S on to the screen (or plate) P .

Fruit fly head

Cosslett and Nixon, Nature 170, 436 (1952)

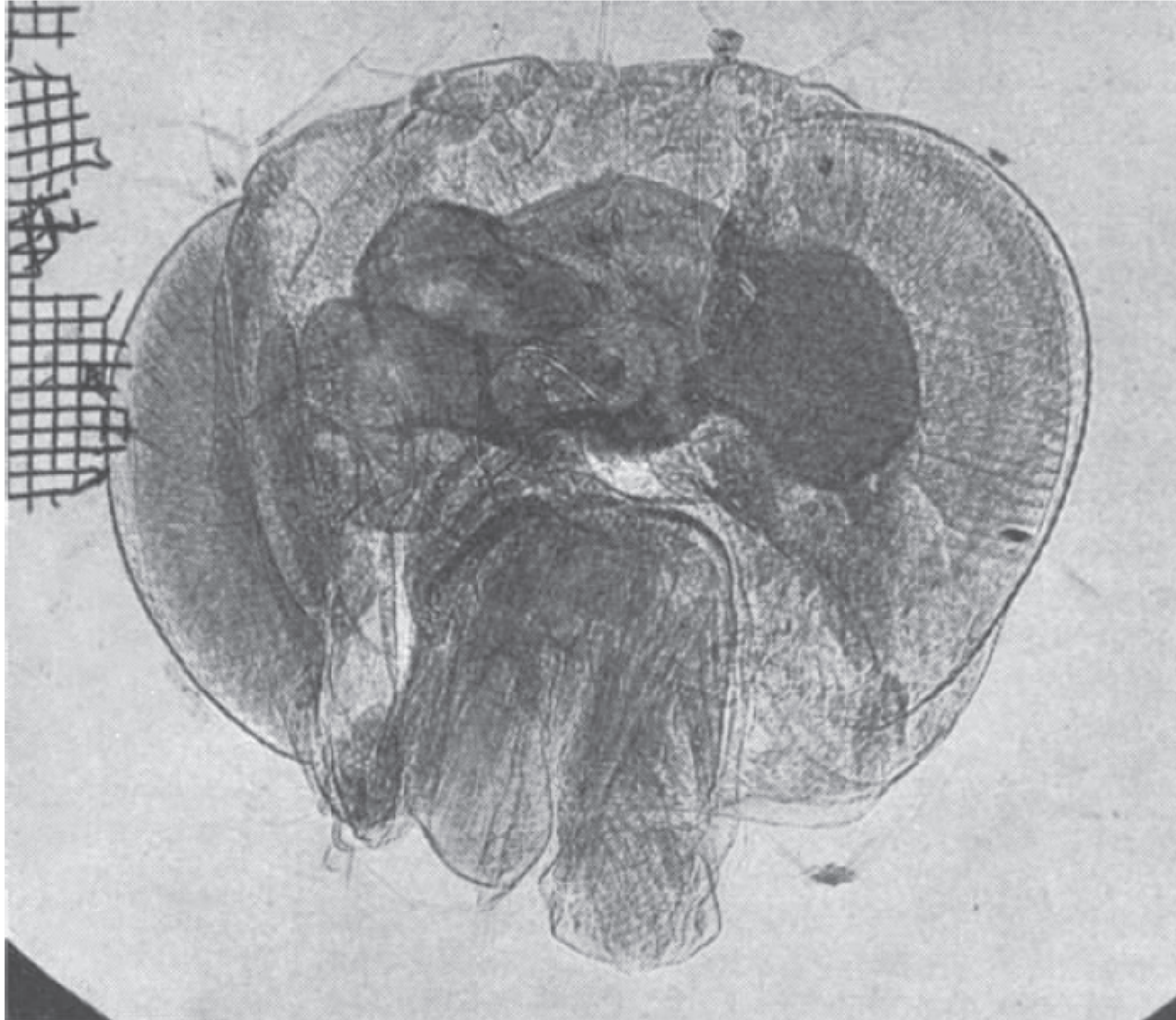
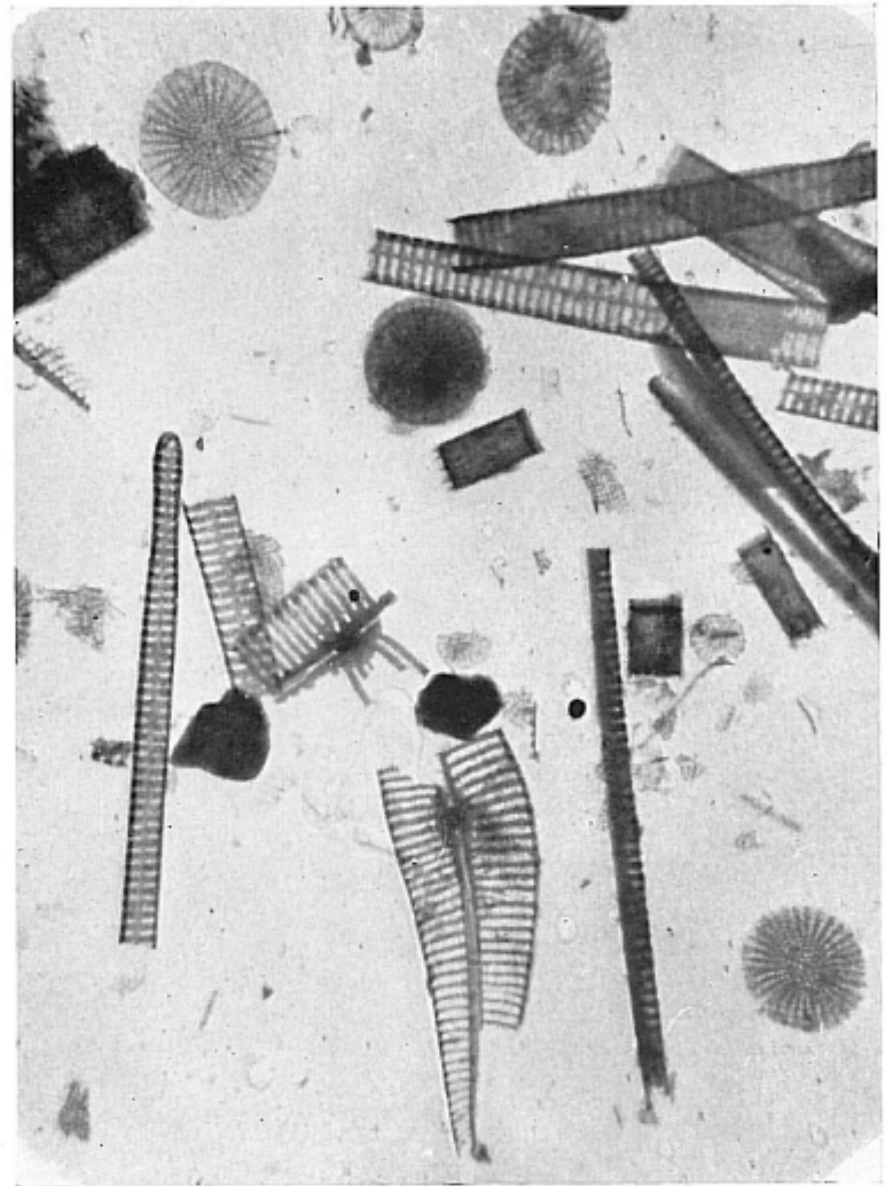


Fig. 3. Head of *Drosophila melanogaster*, freeze-dried, with 1,500 mesh reference grid.

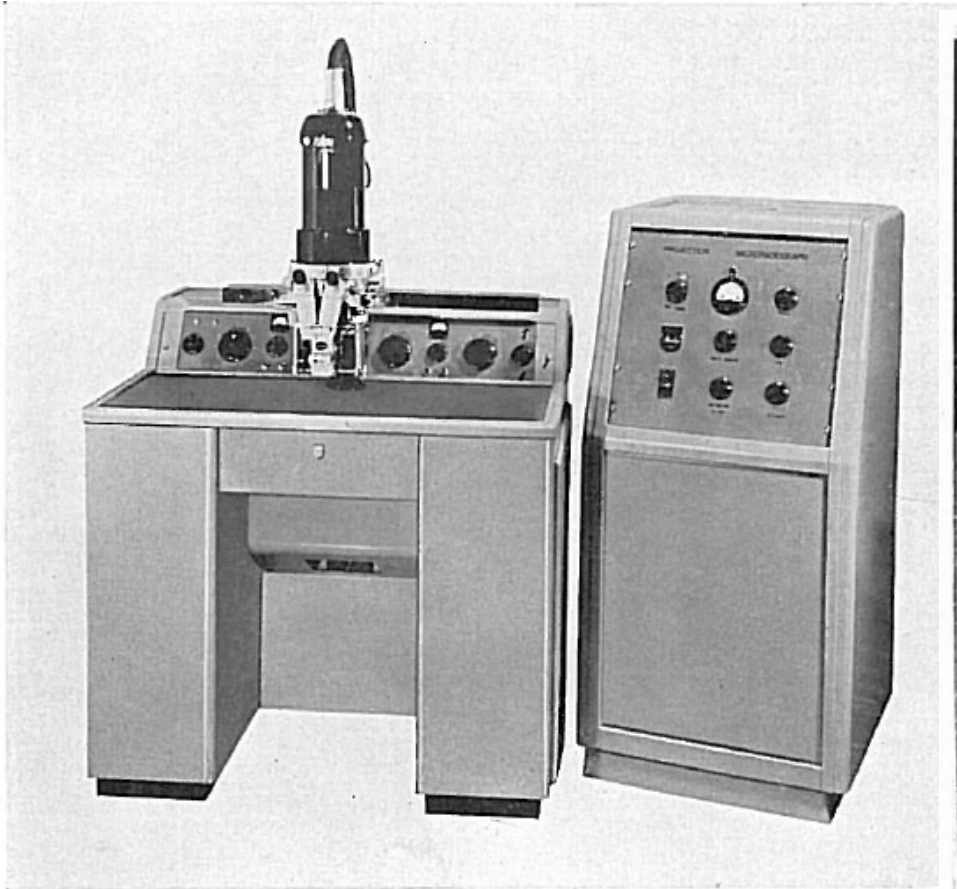
Diatoms!

Ubiquitous “first image”
specimens

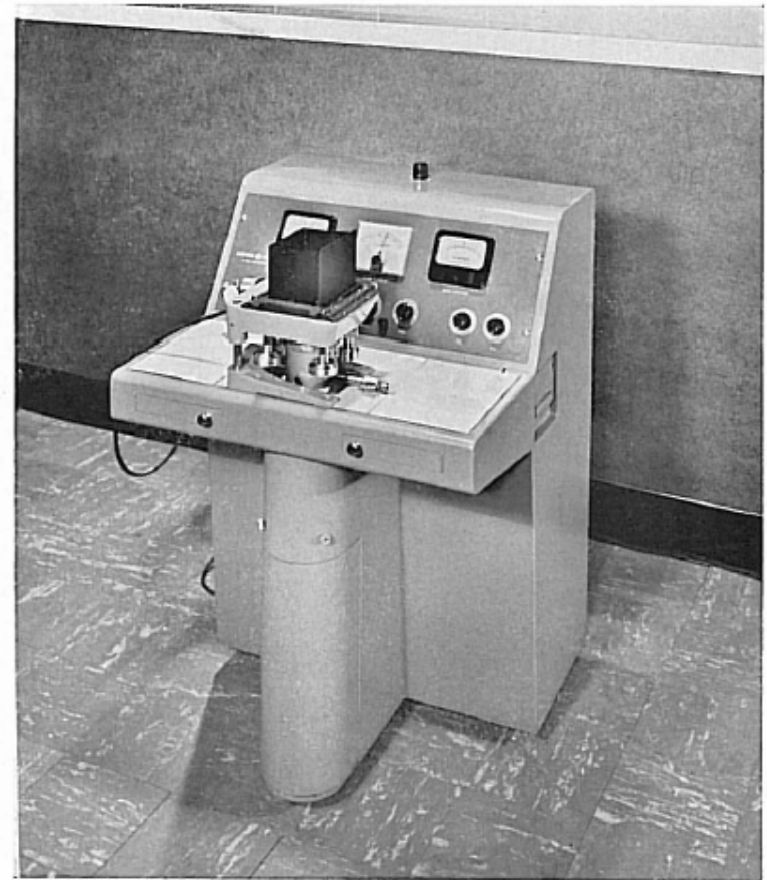


Diatoms imaged with the X-ray conversion microscope; exposure-time 3 min. (initial magnification, $\times 400$; reproduced at $\times 1,400$). (Huang, 1957.)

Commercial projection microscopes



Philips projection X-ray microscope, with magnetic lenses, a modification of the EM 75 electron microscope. (Bessen, 1957*a*.)



(b) General Electric projection X-ray microscope with electrostatic lenses. (Courtesy of General Electric Company, Milwaukee.)

Spies!

- Theodore Hall: ongoing activities in point projection x-ray microscopy. T. Hall, H. Rockert, and RdH Saunders, *X-ray Microscopy in Clinical and Experimental Medicine* (CC Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1972)
- Hall was supposedly the second spy (after Klaus Fuchs) for the USSR at Los Alamos! See J. Albright and M. Kunstel, *Bombshell: the secret story of America's unknown atomic spy conspiracy* (Crown, 1997).

Origins of the modern era

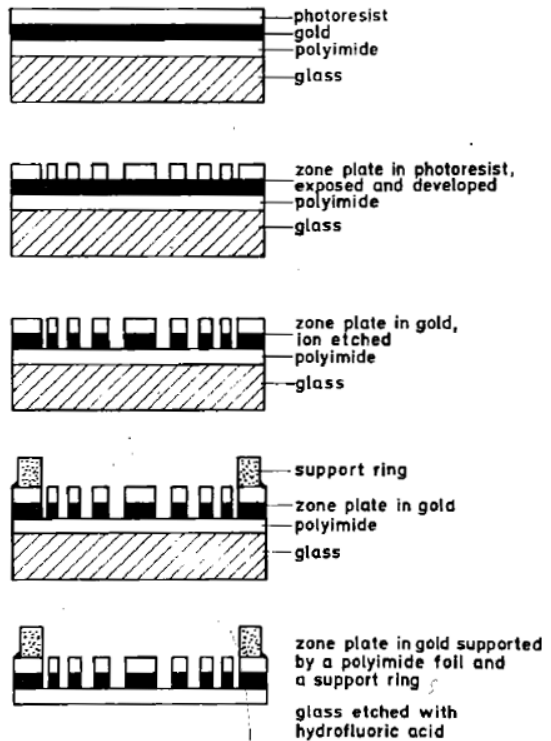
- Göttingen, Germany: Gunter Schmahl and Dietbert Rudolph
- Stony Brook, New York: Janos Kirz
- IBM Research: David Sayre (and Eberhard Spiller and Ralph Feder)



(XRM II, Long Island, 1986)

Schmahl and Rudolph: holographic zone plates

- Work begins by 1969. Eventually reached zone widths below 60 nm!
- Proposes x-ray microscope



preparation method for x-ray zone plates

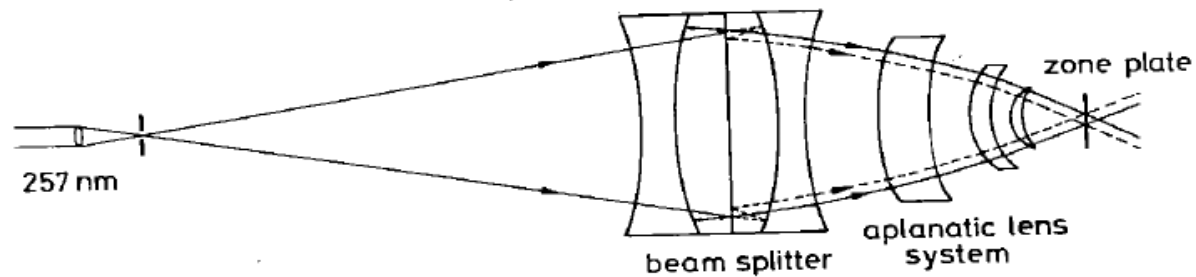
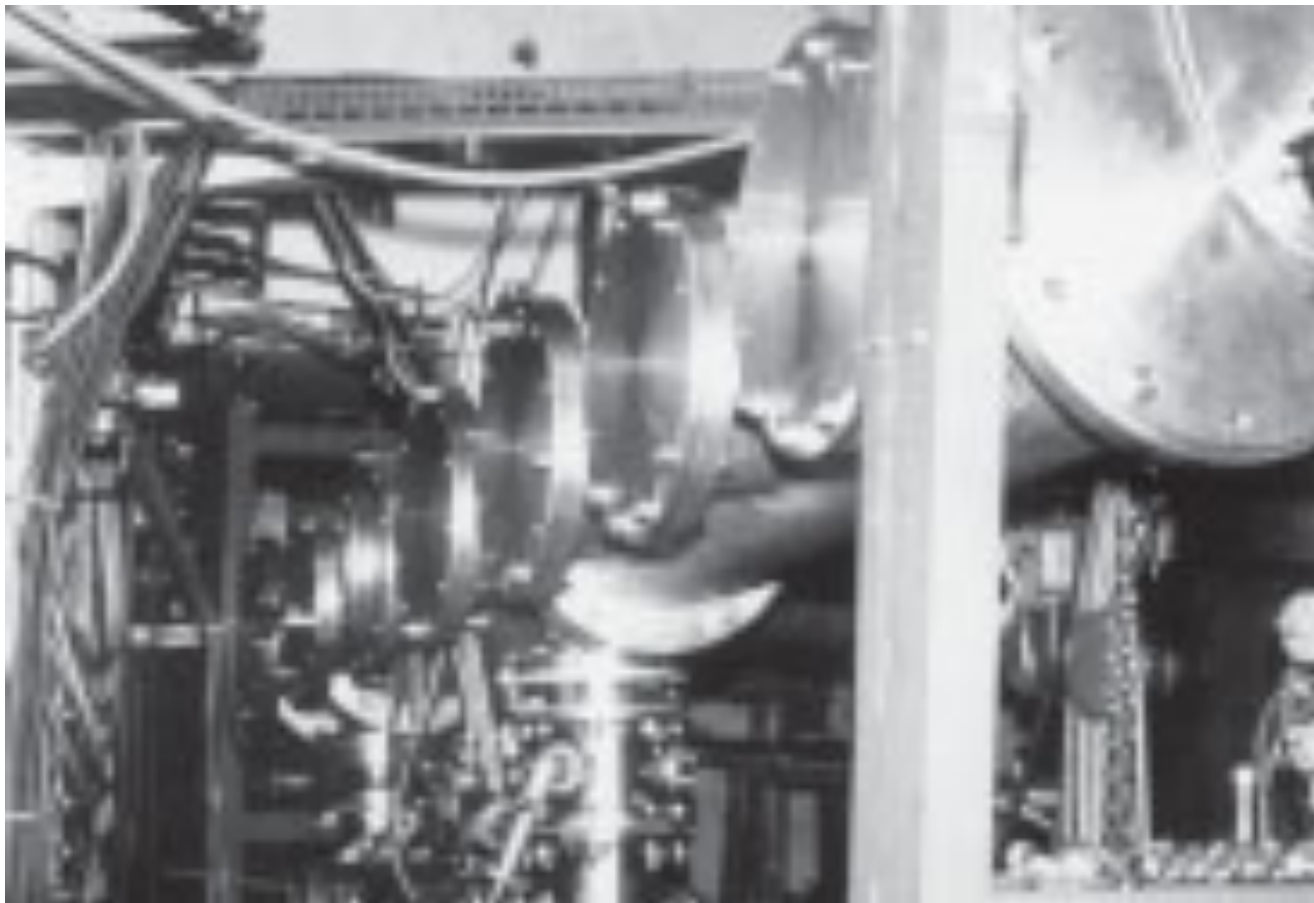


Fig. 7

Schmahl, Rudolph, and Basien Nieman

- Experiments (not yet successful) at DESY in 1976



First zone plate TXM: 1976

- Niemann, Schmahl, and Rudolph: ACO (Orsay). 4.6 nm wavelength, 0.5 μm resolution
- *Applied Optics* **15**, 1883 (1976)
- “A great advantage of x-ray microscopy is that biological objects can be examined directly in a living state without radiation damage.”

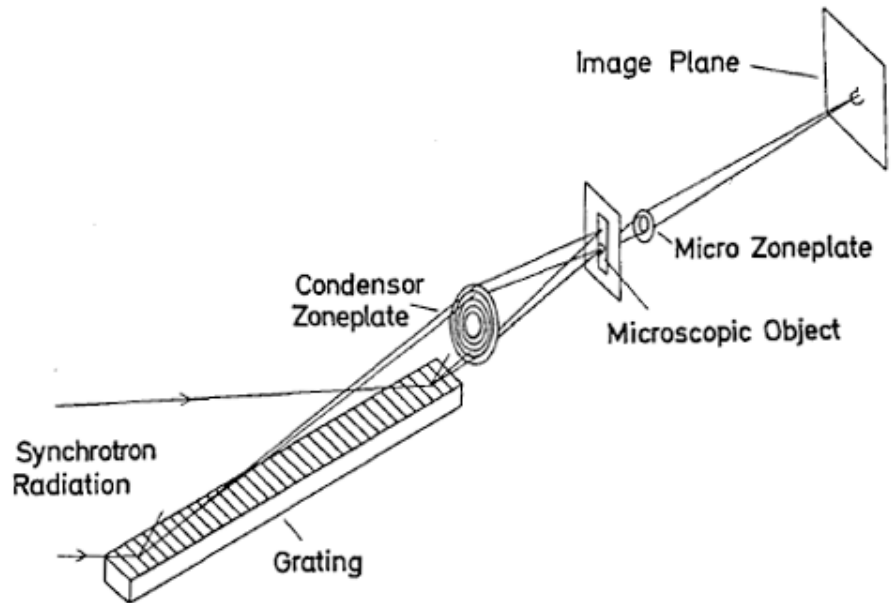


Fig. 1. The experimental arrangement.



Fig. 2. A 3- μm section of *Eremosphaera viridis*: x-ray magnification 15 \times , total 330 \times , $\lambda = 4.6$ nm.

David Sayre

- One of the originators of direct methods in x-ray crystallography
- Part of the team of a dozen or so people at IBM who developed FORTRAN
- Led team that developed the first virtual memory operating system (IBM 360)





IBM Research

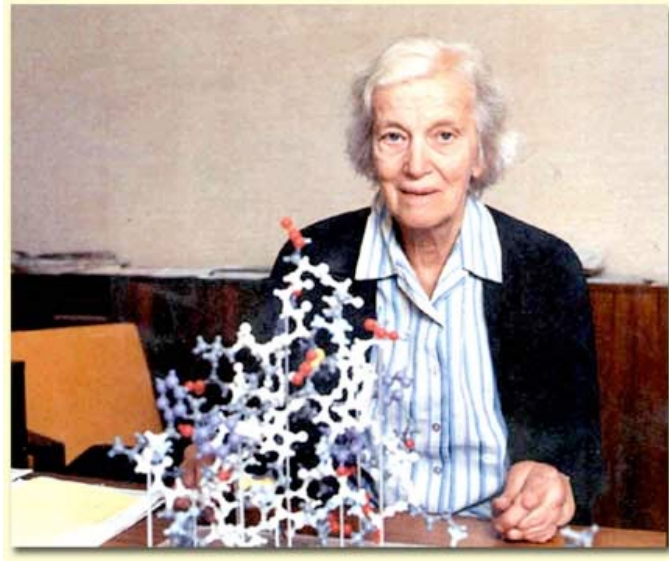
65 km
(120 km drive)

Stony Brook

St. James

Long Islanders meet in Oxford

- Dorothy Hodgkin (1910-1994): pioneering protein crystallographer at Oxford



- Visitors in 1972: Janos Kirz from Stony Brook, David Sayre from IBM
- Sayre: use long wavelength diffraction to get images. Kirz: zone plates as lenses.
- Contrast and dose estimates, trace element mapping, use e-beam lithography for zone plates, contact microradiography using polymers and SEM/TEM readout...

Cautionary tales: platelets

- R. Feder, V. Banton, D. Sayre, J. Costa, M. Baldini, and B.K. Kim, “Direct imaging of live human platelets by flash x-ray microscopy,” *Science* **227**, 63 (1985)
- Z-pinch pulsed x-ray source; contact microradiography using PMMA and SEM
- Mario Baldini, New England Deaconess Hospital

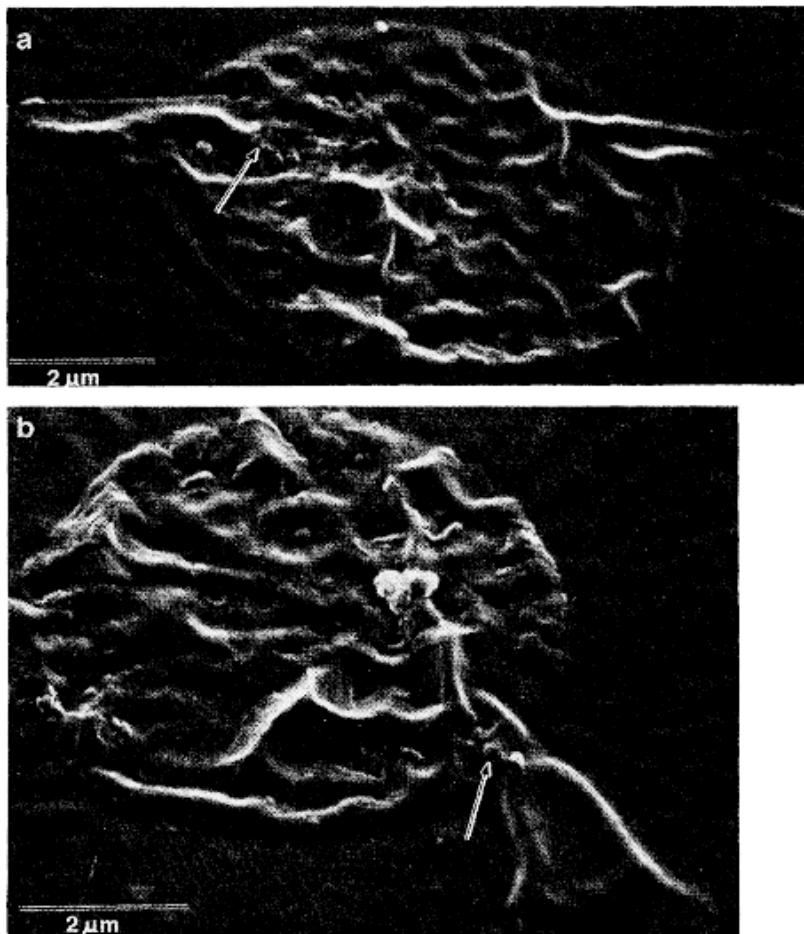


Fig. 2. (a) X-ray image of a wet, living blood platelet. The periphery lacks the continuous elevated rim that characterizes the air-dried platelet shown in Fig. 3. (b) X-ray image of another living blood platelet. Note variations in the contours of the rim and the early stage in pseudopod development (lower right portion of cell). Arrows, in (a) and (b), indicate flocculent material at the base of the pseudopod which is initiated from inside the platelet.

Scanning microscopy ca. 1980

- Kirz and Rarback: tests with a pinhole at Stanford

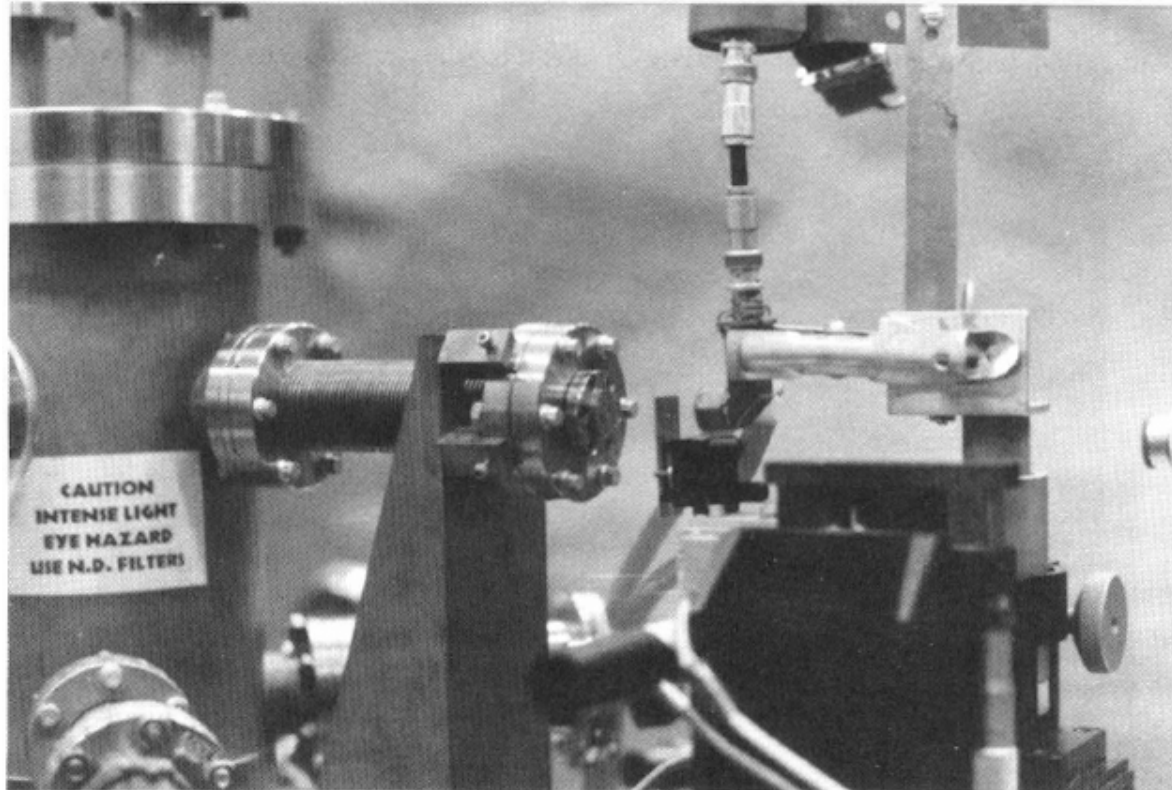


Fig. 1. Photograph of the apparatus. The pinhole is at the centre of the flange. X-rays transmitted by the specimen, mounted on the rectangular holder, are detected by the flow proportional counter.

The U-15 STXM

- Zone plate with 300 nm outermost zone width
- Rarback, Kenney, Kirz, NSLS, 1982-1987

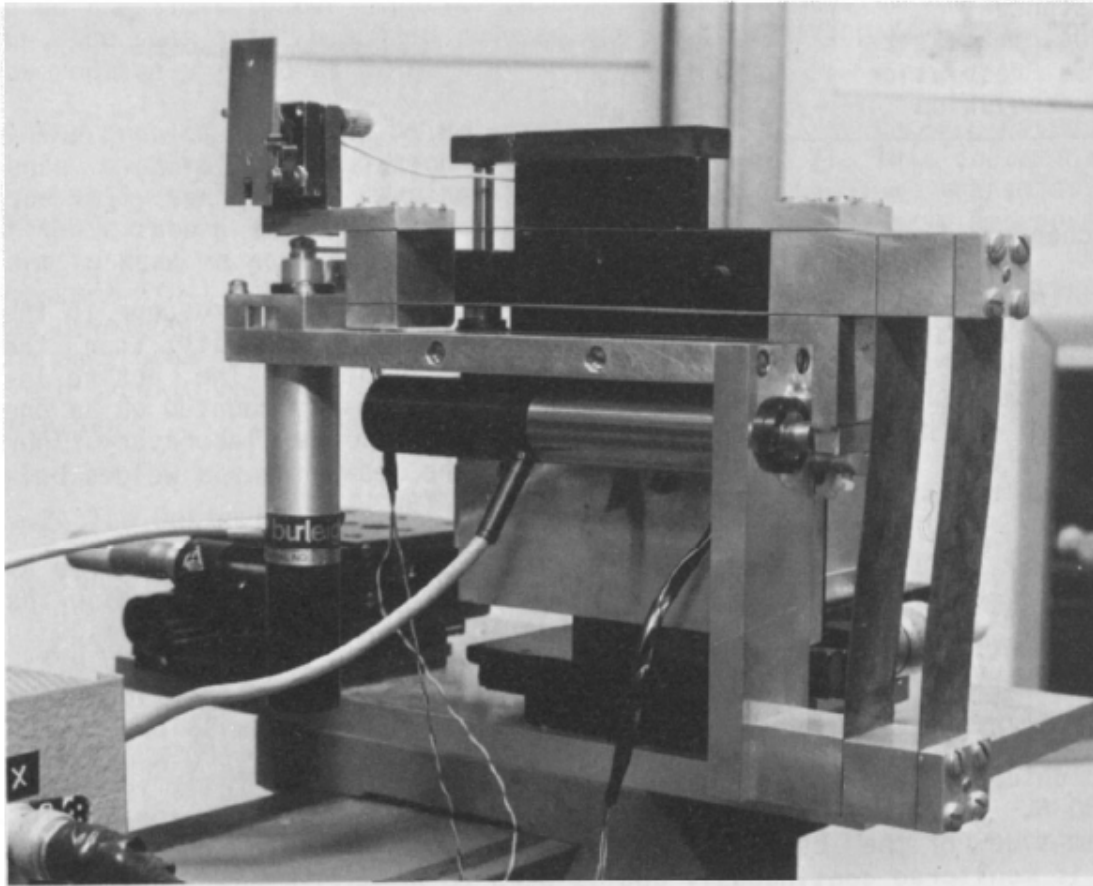
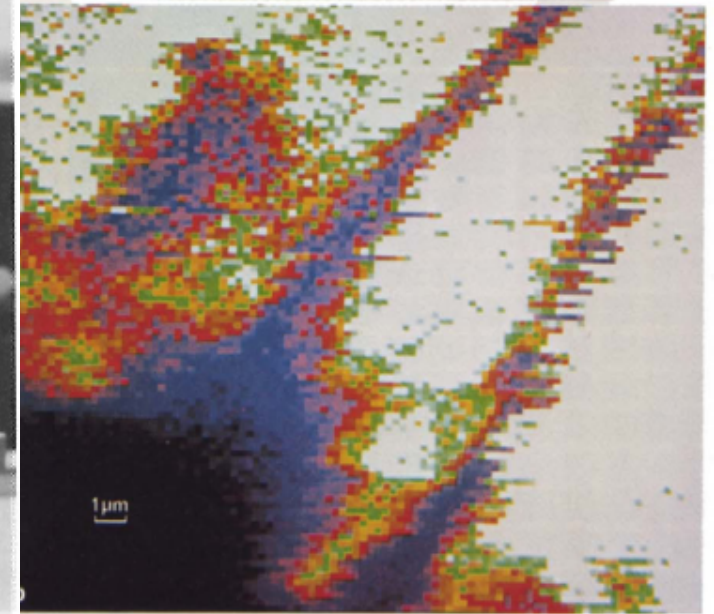
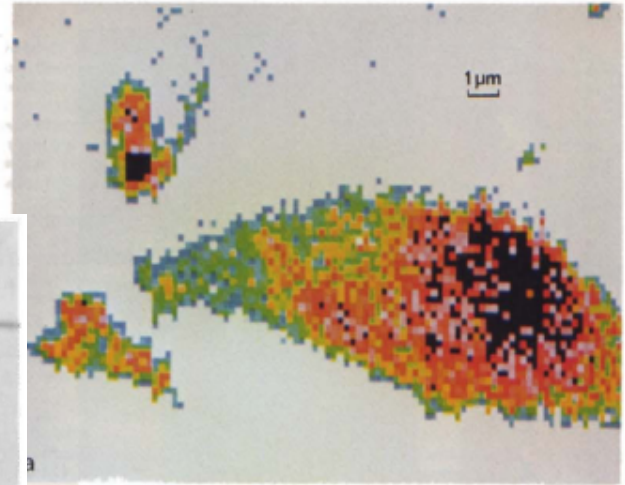


Fig.21.1 Scanning stage -- the specimen is at the top left



g.21.5(a) [Top] Image of a wet *Phaeodactylum alga*
g.21.5(b) [Bottom] Image of part of a neuron with processes

The modern age

- High resolution zone plates, “Permanent” microscopes at synchrotrons
 - Today’s research community takes off
- Conferences:
 - New York, 1980: Donald Parsons organizes “Ultrasoft X-ray Microscopy”
 - Then today’s series begins:
 - 1983: Göttingen, Germany
 - 1986: Brookhaven, New York
 - 1990: King’s College, London
 - 1993: Chernogolovka, Russia
 - 1996: Würzburg, Germany
 - 1999: Berkeley, California
 - 2002: Grenoble, France
 - 2005: Himeji, Japan
 - 2008: Zürich, Switzerland
 - 2010: Chicago, USA
 - 2012: Shanghai, China
 - 2014: Melbourne, Australia
 - 2016: Oxford, UK
 - 2018: Saskatoon, Canada

XRM I, Göttingen 1983



XRM 1993, Chernogolovka, Russia

- Conference: Sep. 20-24
- Boris Yeltsin dissolves Congress of People's Deputies and Supreme Soviet on Sep. 21; Congress votes to remove Yeltsin
- Rioting in the streets starts Sep. 28, and tanks shell Parliament on Oct. 3





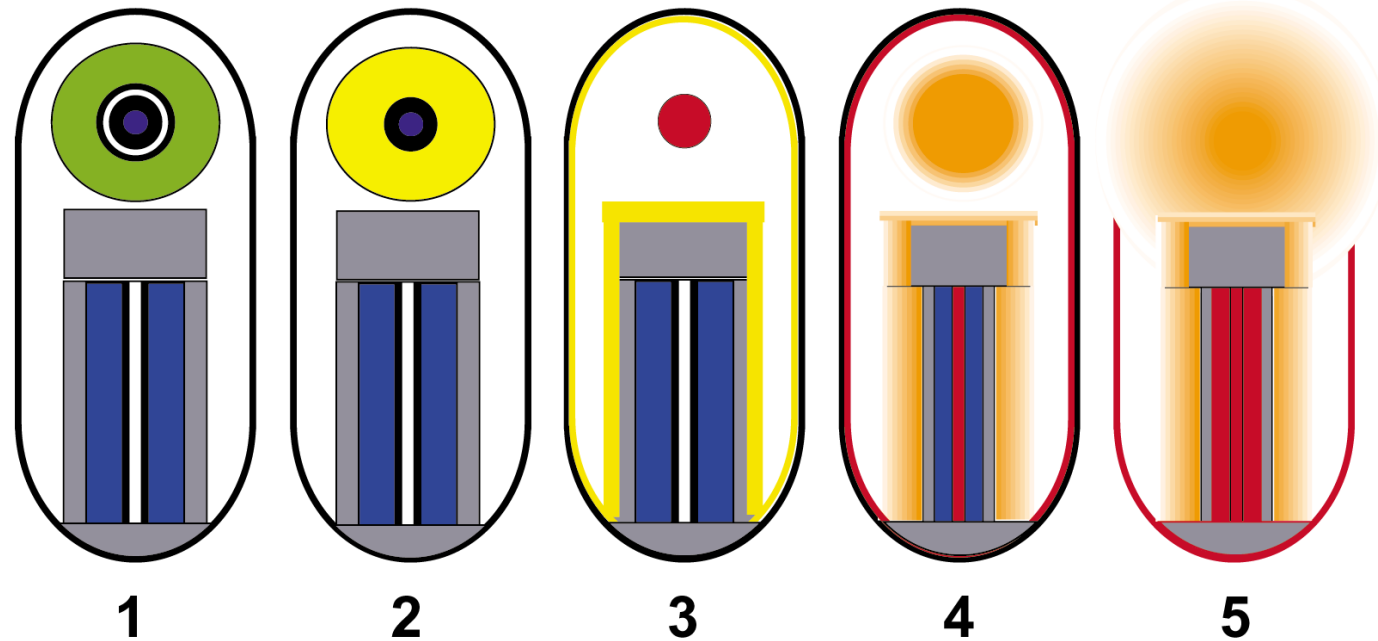
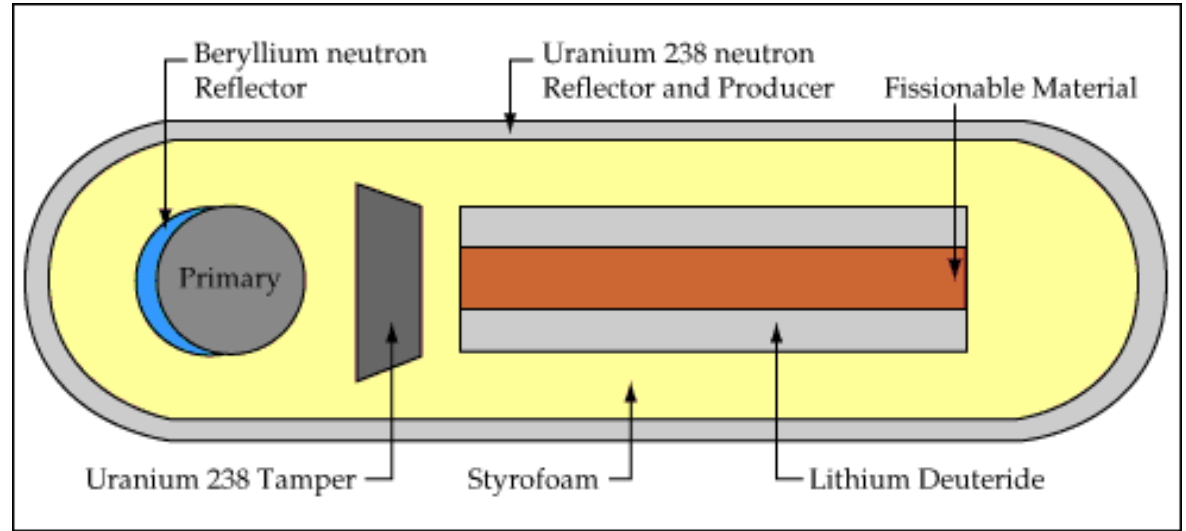
X rays and H bombs



Edward Teller



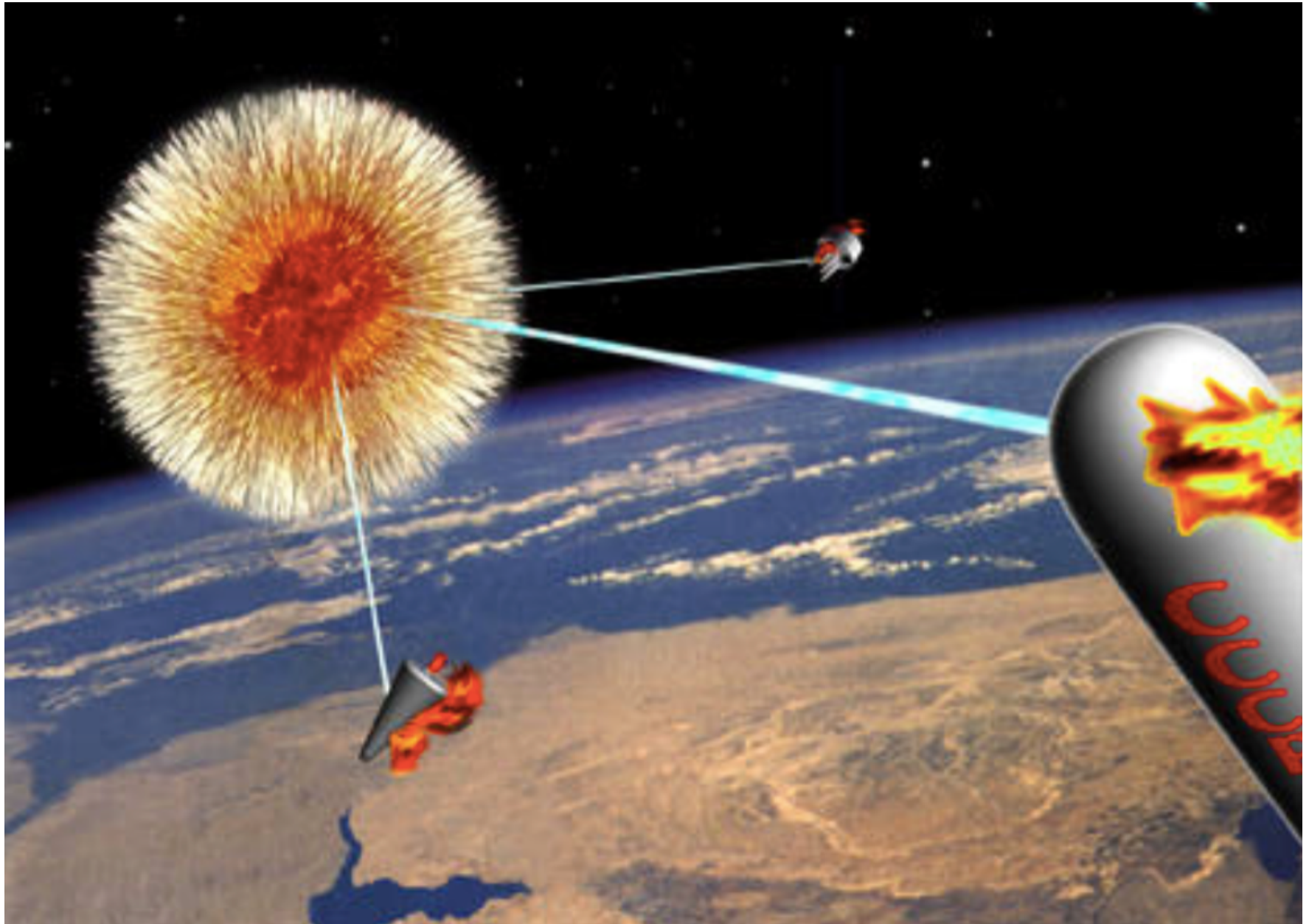
Stanislaw Ulam



“Imagine a single-shot x-ray laser” - George Chapline



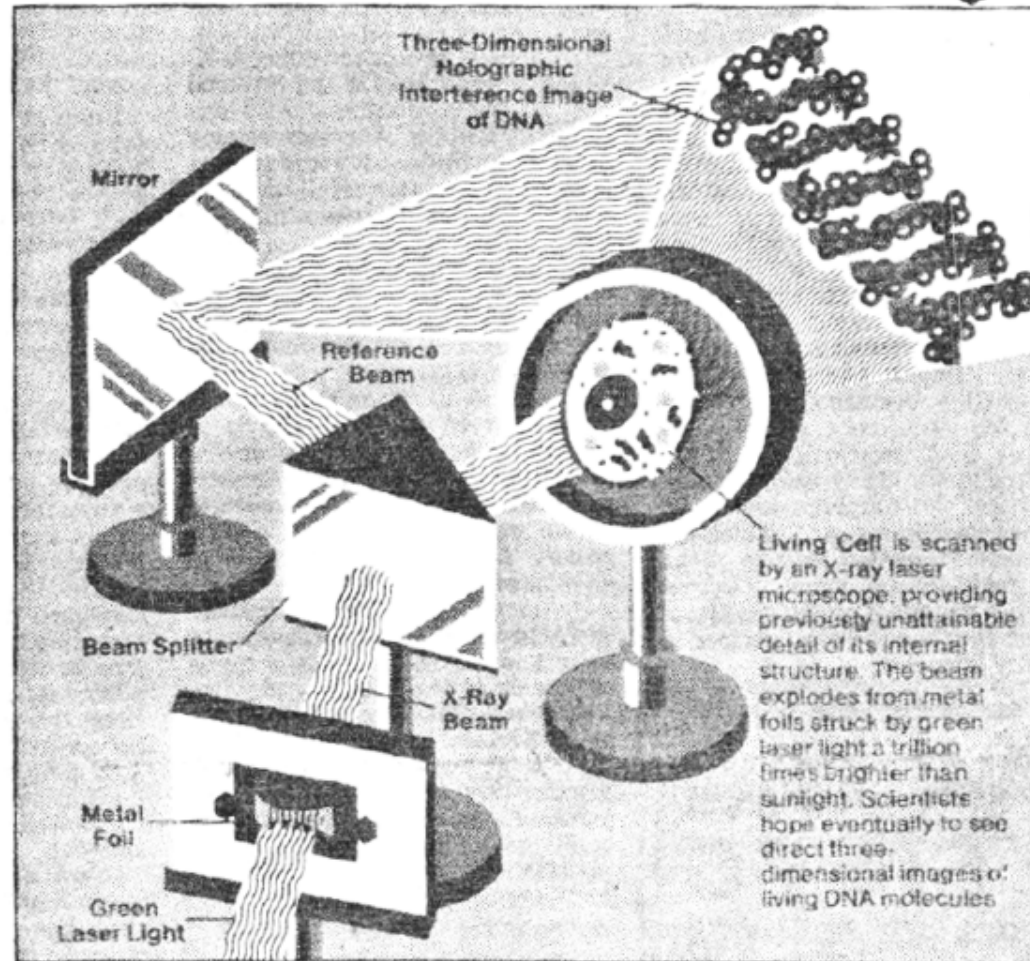
X-ray lasers and Star Wars



From “Star Wars” to microscopes at LLNL

- *New York Times*, April 2, 1985: ‘Star Wars’ Science Expected to Spawn Peaceful Inventions
- “But aside from its weapons applications, the X-ray laser has excited biologists, chemists and physicists because of its possible use in a super microscope, an instrument that will perhaps be capable of taking holographic three-dimensional movies of the genetic code of a living cell.”

Looking Inside a Living Cell



Scott MacNeill