

Automation I: Data Collection

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NRAMM
CryoCourse
11/2005

THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

National Resource for Automated Molecular Microscopy
<http://nramm.scripps.edu>

NRAMM CryoCourse
November 2-10, 2005



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Step 1 Sample Requirements



0.6 or 1.6ml Eppendorf Tubes



10:20 AM Delivery

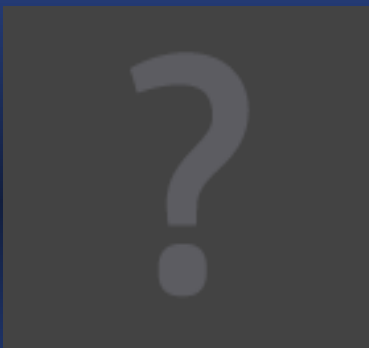
- Clean Preparation
- Protein concentration at or above 1 mg/ml.
- Buffer and salt concentration below 100mM.
- Biological pH range.
- No glycerol. If not possible, can it be dialyzed out and how long is the protein stable?
- Low concentration of sugar(s), less than 50mM.
- Low concentration of detergent(s).
- 50-100 μ l of sample + 1-5 mls of dilution buffer.

Step 2



10:30 AM

Step 3 Examine Map



1:10 PM

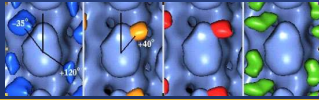
Step 4 Structure Determination



4:50 PM

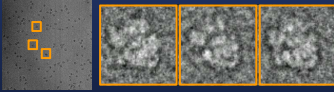
Why do we need automation in molecular microscopy?

Multiple conformational states



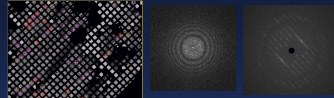
lots of experiments

Low SNR
Need averaging



lots of data

Systematic evaluation and improvement of techniques



lots of luck

Screening trials



lots of patience

Challenging technique



lots of skill

Automated Pipeline for Molecular Microscopy

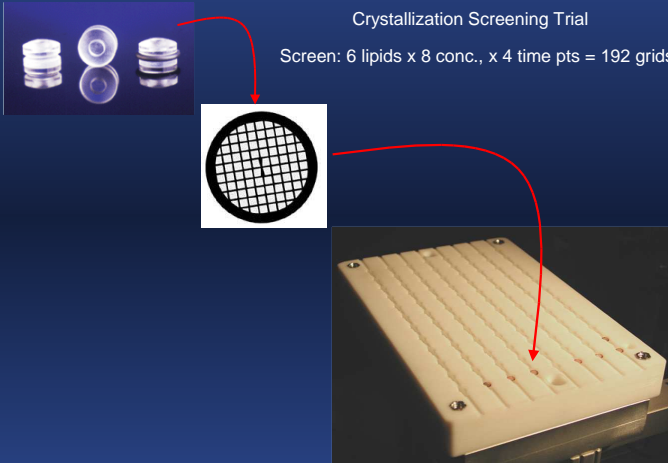


Adapted from a slide courtesy of: Peter Kuhn, Scripps-PARC Institute for Advanced Biomedical Sciences, TSRI

Specimen Screening :

Crystallization Screening Trial

Screen: 6 lipids x 8 conc., x 4 time pts = 192 grids



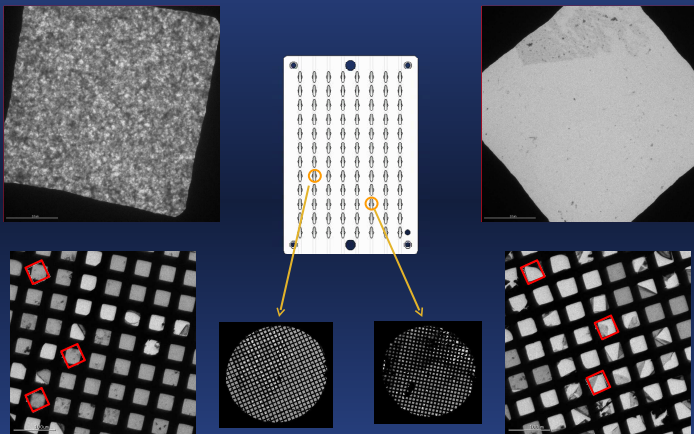
Robotic screening



Stain not ice!
Throughput goal: ~100 grids per day
Potter, et al. JSB, 2004

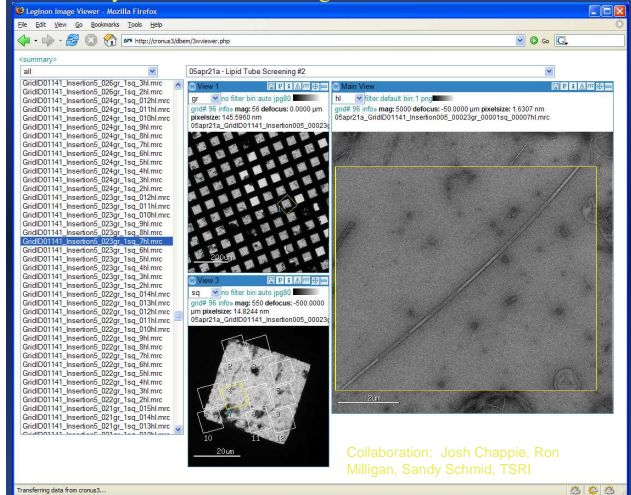
2D Crystallization Screening Trials

Screen: 6 lipids x 8 conc., x 4 time pts = 192 grids



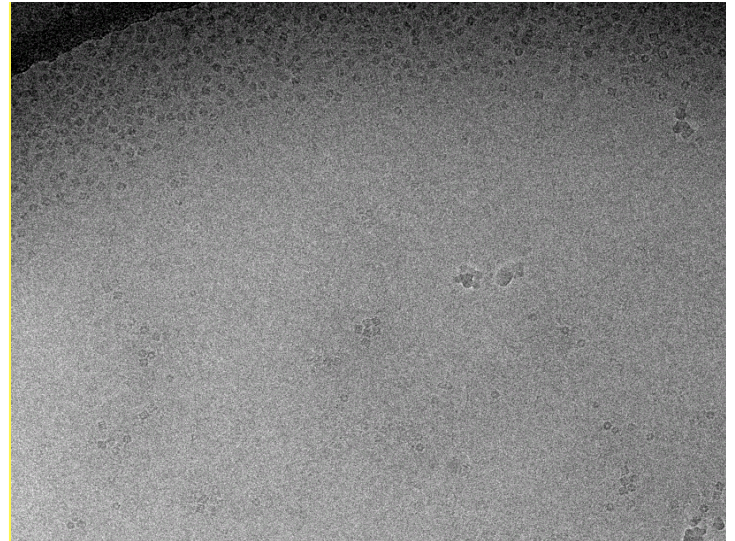
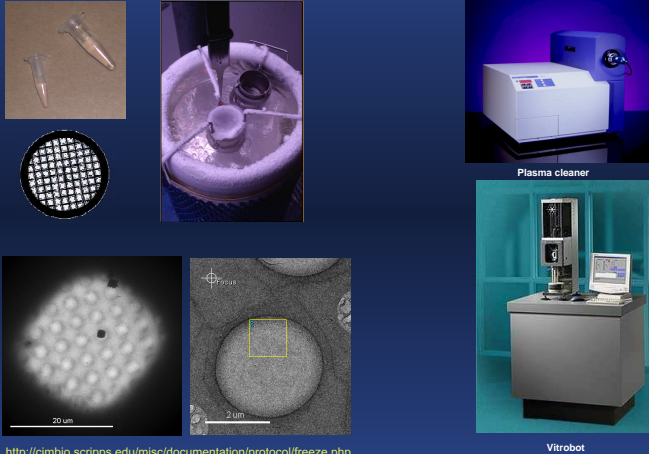
Collaboration: Holly Heaslet and David Stout, TSRI

Helical Crystallization Screening Trial



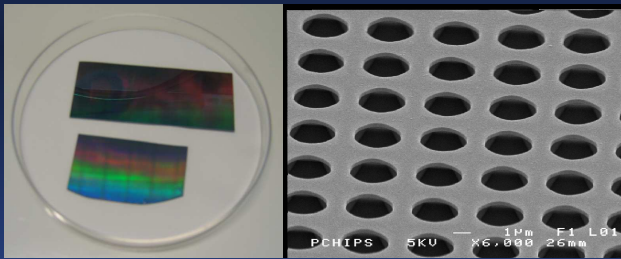
Collaboration: Josh Chappie, Ron Milligan, Sandy Schmid, TSRI

Specimen Preparation

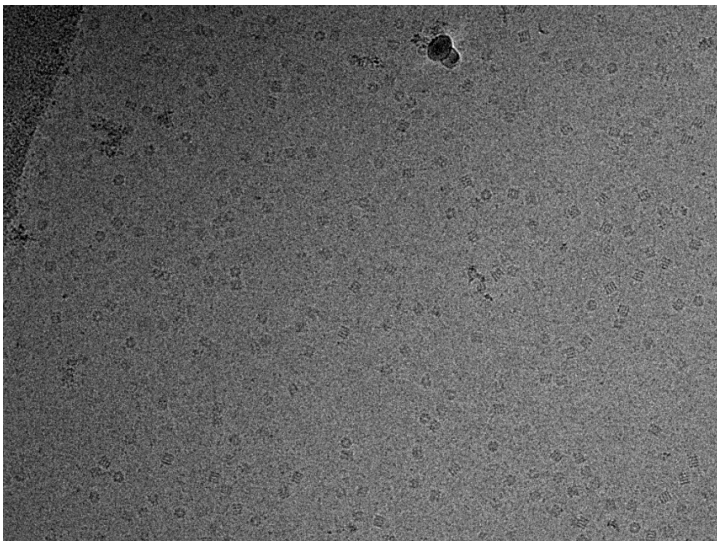
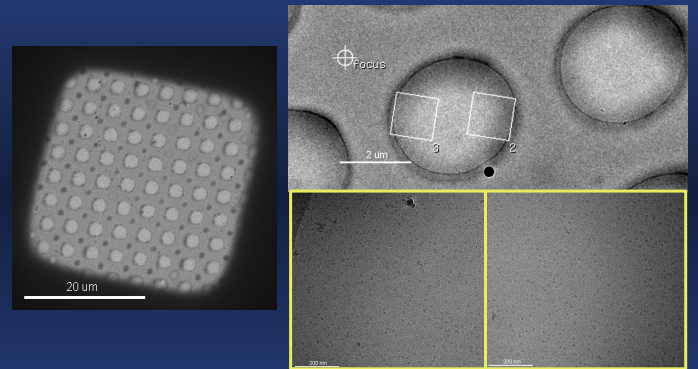


New technique for making an array of holey carbon film

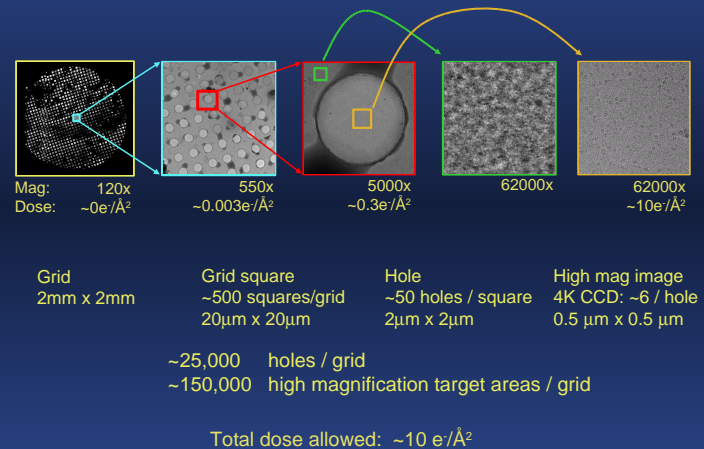
- Use a silicon-nitride template with regularly spaced wells. Developed by the Protochips Co. We are currently working with a template similar to the R2/4 from Quantifoil, but many different arrays and holes can be made.
- Make a carbon replica of the template using Victawet as a releasing agent.

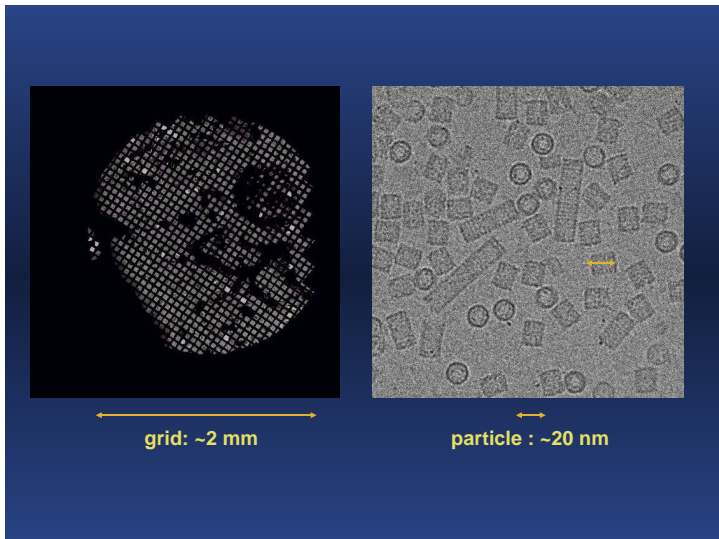


Vitreous ice across JAHC's



Automated image acquisition: A multiscale targeting problem





Accurate targeting across a magnification range of ~600 requires accurate and stable calibrations, precisely defined relationships between preset magnification settings, and well defined targeting parameters.

Calibrations:	Presets:
Magnification/Pixel Size	Atlas
Dose rate	Square
Goniometer	Hole
Image/beam tilts and shifts	Focus
Focus	Image

Calibrations: Magnification/Pixel Size @ Specimen

Calibration standards:

Crystals (catalase / TMV)	Diffraction gratings
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Wrigley, N. G. The lattice spacing of crystalline catalase as an internal standard of length in electron microscopy. *J Ultrastruct Res* 24, 454-64 (1968).

Mag*1*Cal Standard

* Good catalase crystal prep protocol at <http://www.itg.uiuc.edu> under tech reports.

Example of calculating pixel size from known diffraction spot:

Given: TMV LL3 (23A) diffraction is 295 pixels from LL0. Filament has a length of 3072 pixels.

-> Pixel size at specimen= 23Å (295/3072)= 2.21Å

Microscope Nominal Magnification Setting: 62,000X

Camera pixel size is 24µm.

-> Measured magnification is 109,000X (24µm/2.21Å)

Additional post magnification of ~1.7X due to camera extension flange.

Calibrations: Dose -> Beam Intensity

measured at the specimen
 dose in e-/Å²
 dose rate in e-/Å²/sec
 1 amp = 6.25x10¹⁸ e-/s

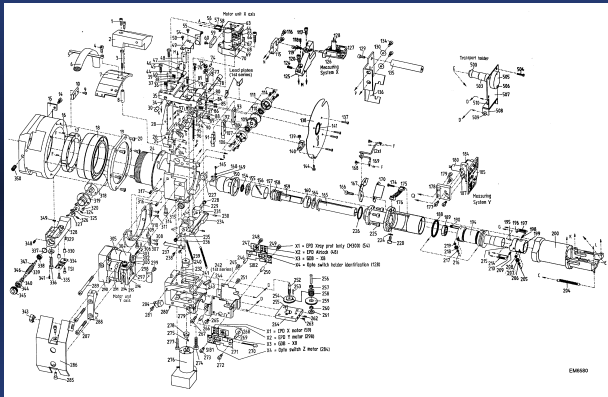
Analytical Holder w/ Faraday Cup
 Screen Current

Measure dose rate from screen current:
 Dose rate (e-/Å²/s) = (K* B) / A

K = 6.25x10¹⁸ e-/s
 B = beam current (amps)
 A = Area on screen (m²)
 B = C * (measured screen current)
 C = correction factor (1.04 on our T1)

Dose measurements are critical!!

FEI CompuStage

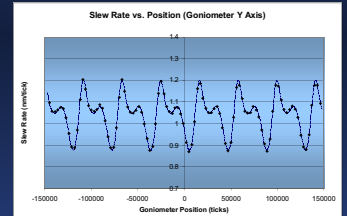


Characterization of Goniometer Slew Rate

- Measured piecewise slew rate (nm/tick) over range of goniometer (CompuStage) using image cross correlation.
- Results: 18% periodic variation over range of goniometer.
- Slew rate for X and Y axis a function of position:



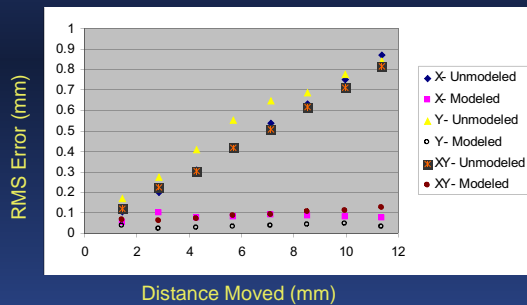
X axis (period = 61.9 mm)



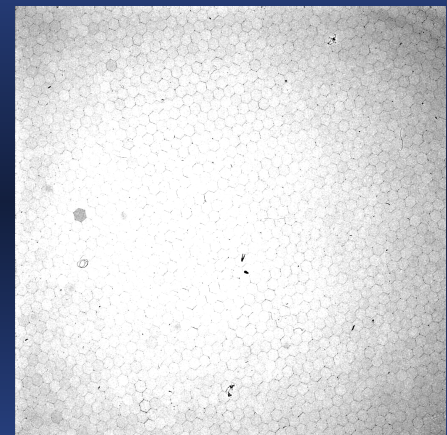
Y axis (period = 41.6 mm)

Goniometer Modeling: Results

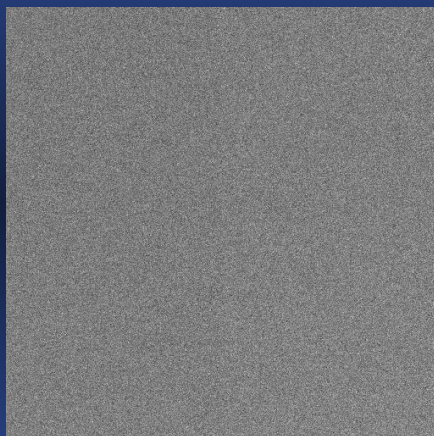
- 2 CompuStages characterized with similar results.
- Slew rate for X and Y modeled with Fourier Series
- Validation: RMS error as a function of distance moved over range of goniometer:
- Pulokas et al., J. of Struct. Biology, 128, p.250-256 (2000)



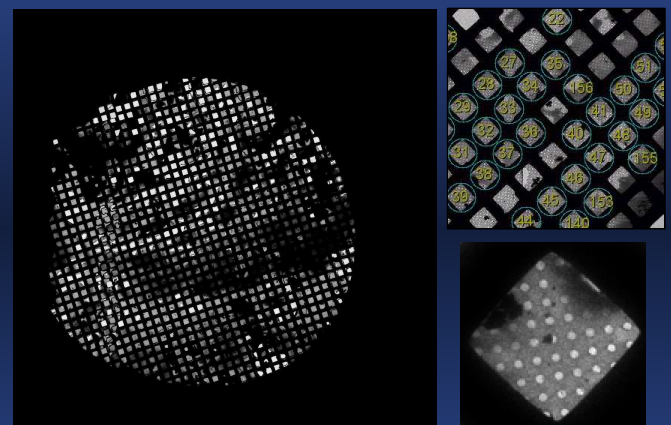
Calibrations: Gain Normalization and Flat Fielding of CCD camera



Calibrations: Gain Normalization and Flat Fielding of CCD camera



1. Constructing a grid atlas (~60x) and targeting "good" squares

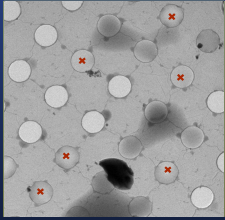


Atlas typically constructed of a mosaic of 25 images (180nm / pixel)

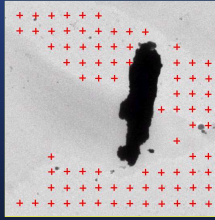
Full resolution

Dose accumulated: $\sim 0 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^2$

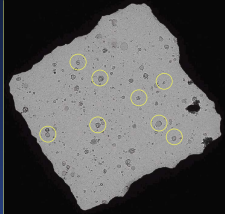
2. Finding targets at low magnification (~600x)



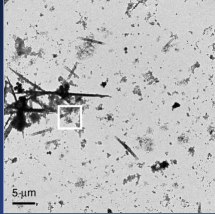
TMV



RNA PolIII



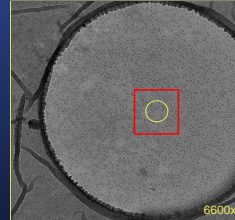
Rhodopsin



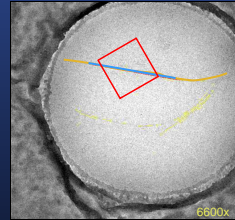
Connexin

Dose: $\sim 0.003 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^2$

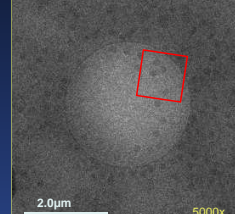
3. Finding targets at intermediate magnification (~6000x)



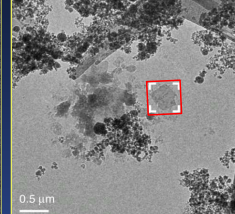
Hemocyanin



Microtubules



Large virus

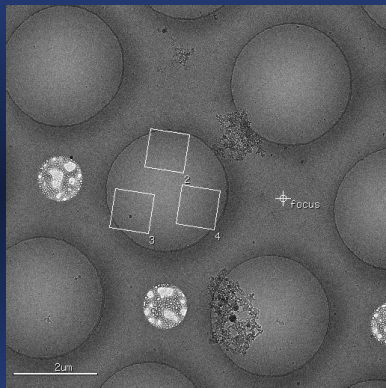


Connexin

Area of acquired image at $\sim 60,000\times$ on 4K CCD ($\sim 2 \text{ \AA}/\text{pixel}$)

Dose: $\sim 0.3 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^2$

4. Low dose drift check and focus



Drift check

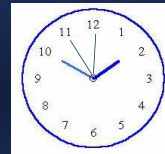
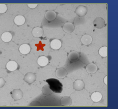


Image1(time1)

Image2(time2)

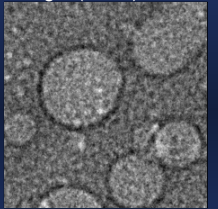
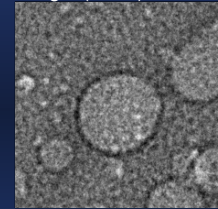


Image displacement

Image displacement(time) \propto (drift)

Focus and astigmatism measure

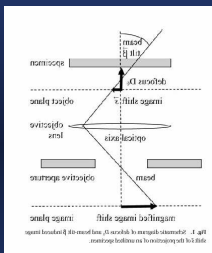
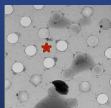


Image1(tilt1)

Image2(tilt2)

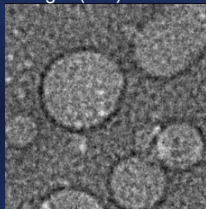
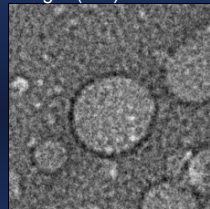


Image displacement

Image displacement(beam tilt) \propto (defocus)

Ziese et al, J. Microsc. 211, 179 (2003)

Koster and de Ruijter, Ultramicroscopy, 40, 89 (1992)

Drift measurement using cross correlation

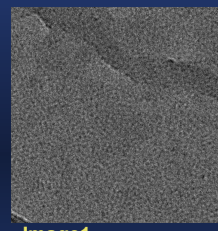


Image1

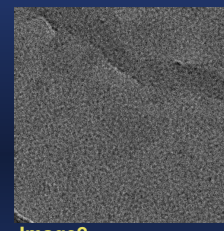
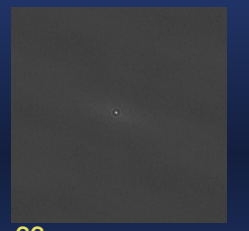


Image2



CC

Typical drift tolerance: $< 2 \text{ \AA}/\text{s}$ w/ 0.5 s exposure

Autofocus Technique:

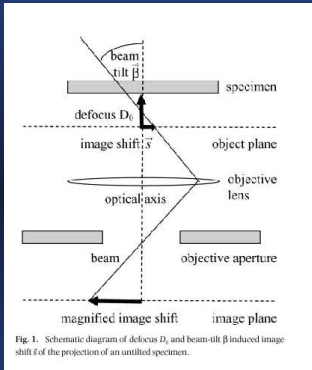


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of defocus D_0 and beam-tilt β induced image shift s of the projection of an untilted specimen.

Ziese et al., J. Microscopy 211, 179-185 (2003)

Determine defocus by measuring the image shift that is given by the cross correlation of two images acquired with different beam tilts.

$$S = D_0 \cdot \tan(\beta)$$

Reference:

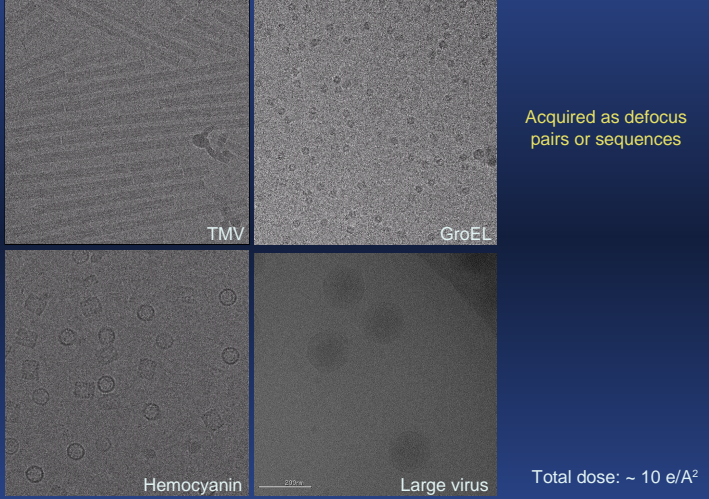
Koster and de Ruijter, Ultramicroscopy, 40, 89-107 (1992)

Autofocus accurate to within ~150nm

$$\text{Defocus} = 2.1 \pm 0.13 \mu\text{m}$$

05may19a

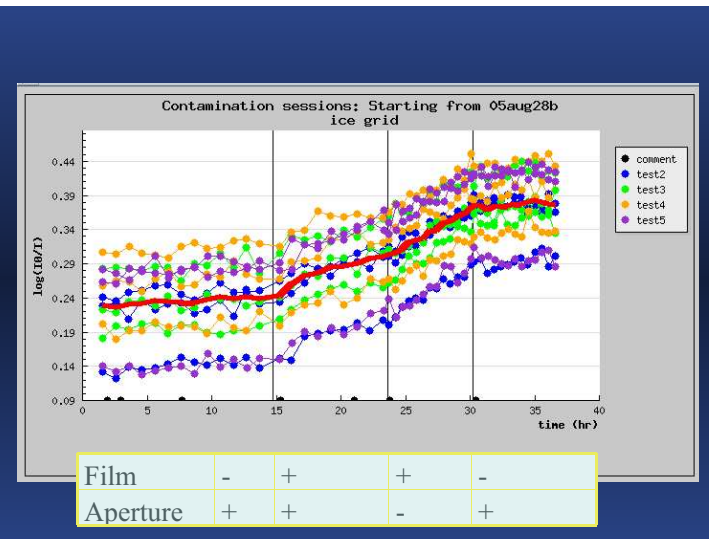
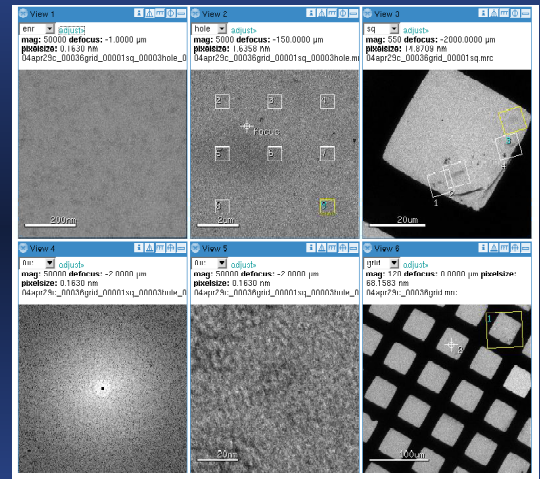
5. High magnification images (~60,000x)



Acquired as defocus pairs or sequences

Total dose: ~ 10 e/A²

Leginon Observer Interface (LOI)



Leginon Database: Images and Acquisition Parameters

- Multi-scale: Keeps track of relationships between scales.

