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Cryo-EM Essentials Lecture

EMAN Workshop

# NCMI

National Center for  
Macromolecular Imaging

National Center for Research Resources, NIH



National Center for  
Research Resources

# Research Focus at NCMI: Cryo-EM

- Develop **Cryo-Electron Microscopy** for structure determination of molecular machines in solution states without crystals at atomic resolution; and of frozen, hydrated cells/organelles at molecular resolution
- Collaborate with biological investigators on projects to drive the technology
- Share our experimental and computational methodologies and facilities freely with the global academic community



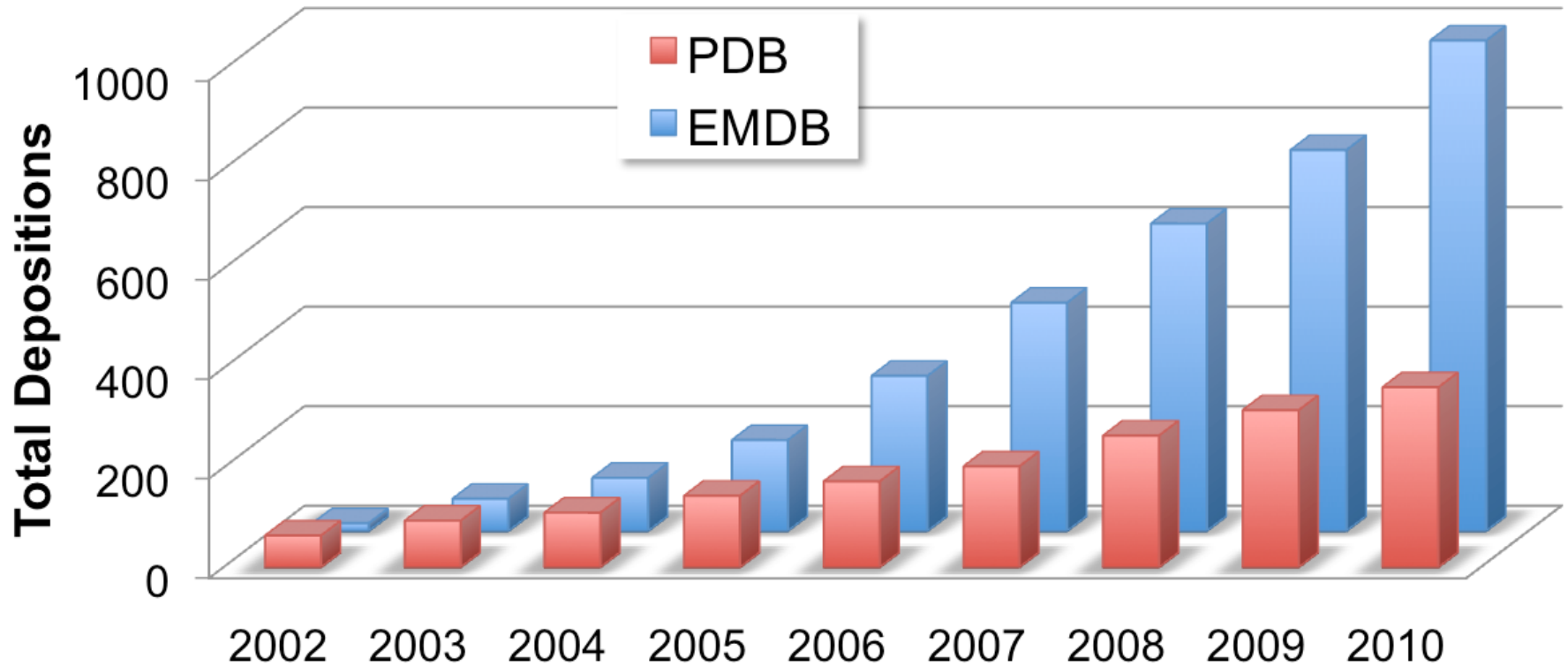




# Why Cryo-EM ?

- Can determine structures at different chemical or biological conformation states
- Can work with large complex of mixed/dynamic conformations
- Can determine Structure that cannot be tackled readily by NMR or crystallography
- Need only low concentration (<1mg/ml) in less than 100  $\mu$ l sample
- Resolution can be reached to  $\sim 3.5$  Å in favorable cases

# Growth of Cryo-EM Entries of Maps & Models

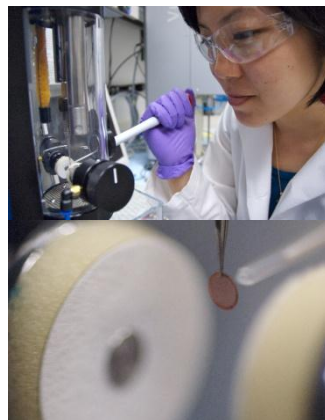


# Pipeline in Single Particle Cryo-EM

## Biochemical Preparation

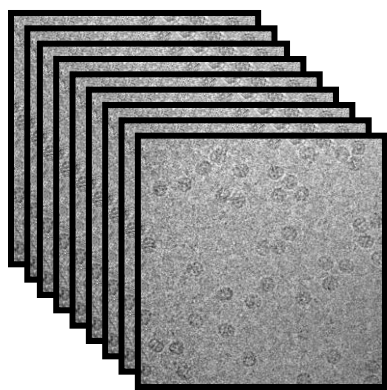
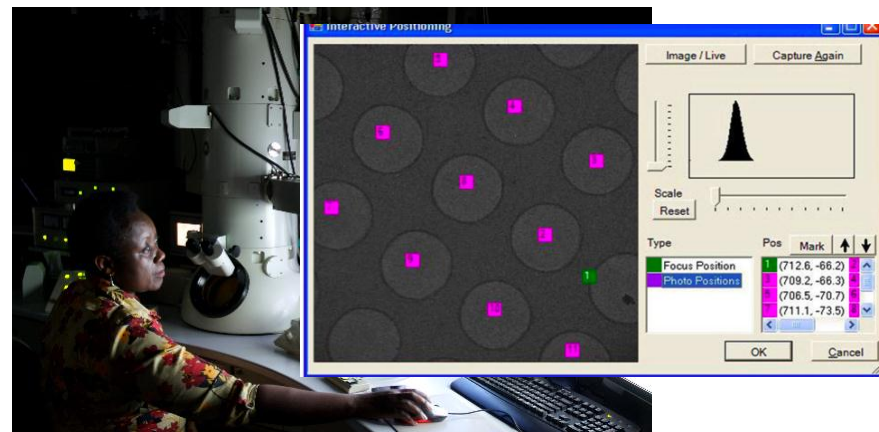


## Cryo-EM Sample Preparation

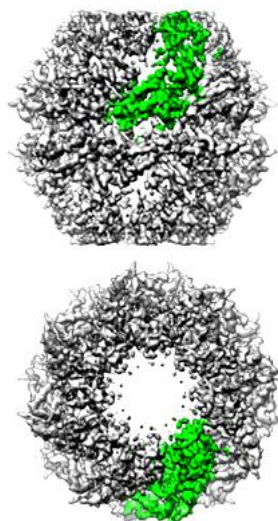


## High Resolution Automated Data Collection

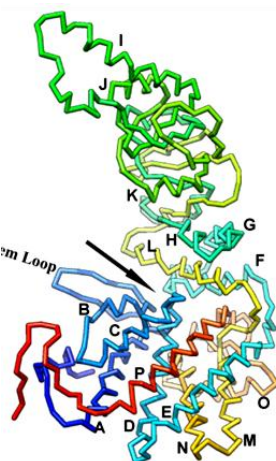
**JADAS**



Data Archiving & Processing  
**EMEN**



3D Reconstruction  
**EMAN**



Model Building & Validation  
**Gorgon**

WORLDWIDE  
**wwPDB**  
PROTEIN DATA BANK

Structure  
Deposition



# Basic Requirements for Vitrification Apparatus

## 1. Blotting mechanism

- manual, pneumatic or electronic

## 1. Blotting chamber

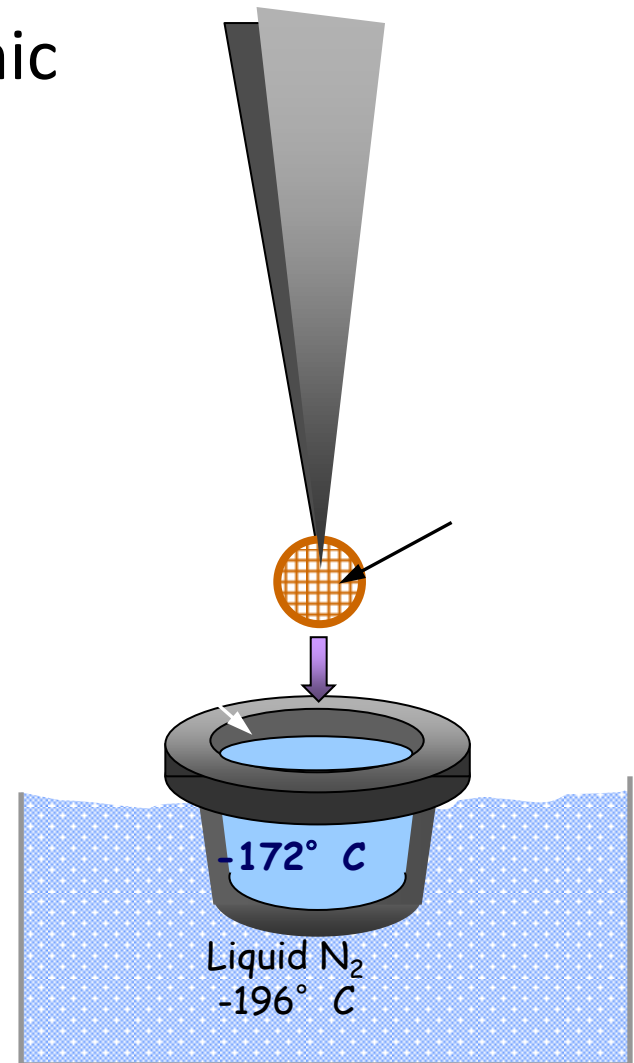
- high humidity

## 2. Plunging mechanism

- high entrance velocity

## 3. Cryogen

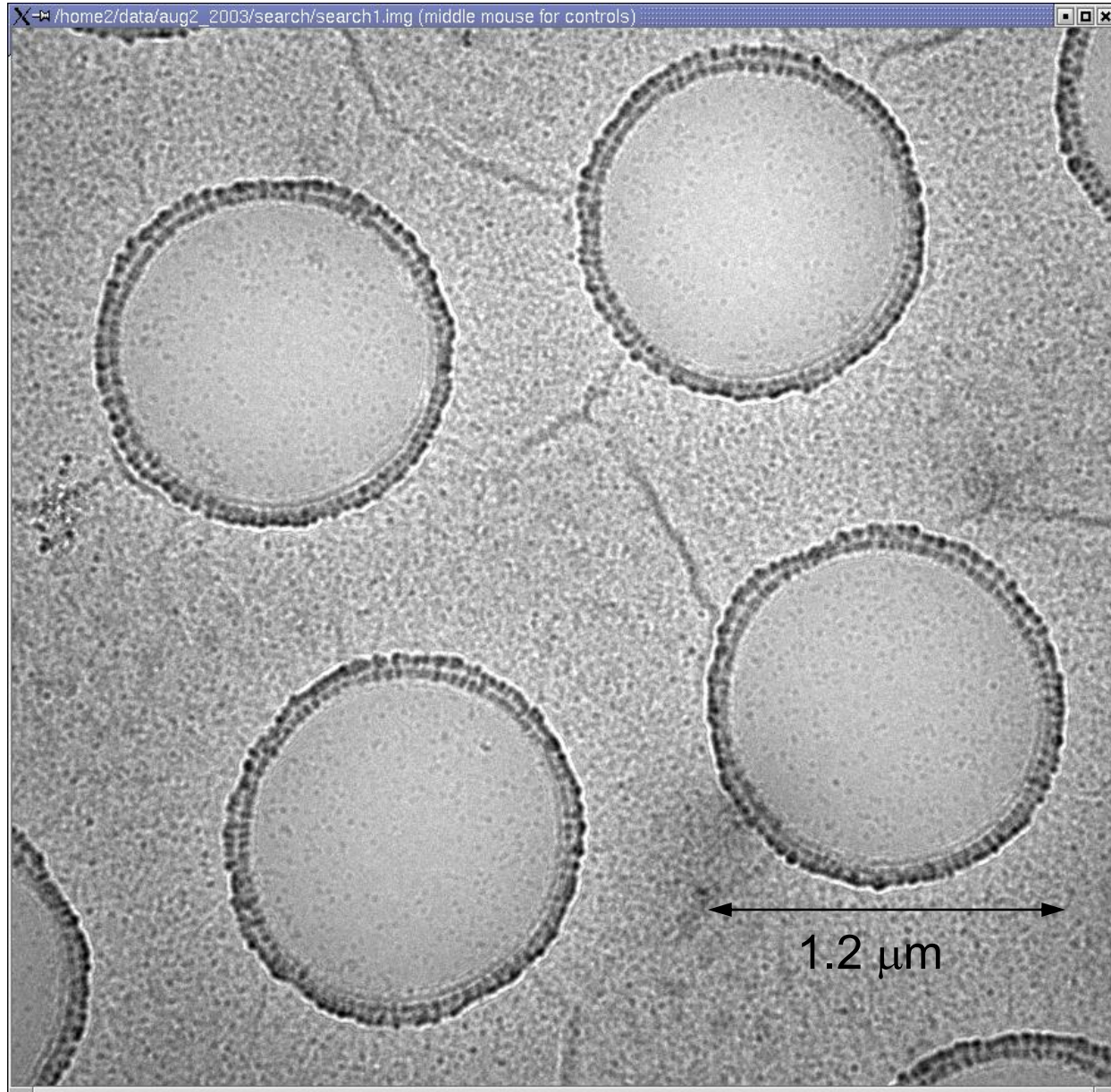
- high cooling efficiency



# Cryo-Specimen Preparation



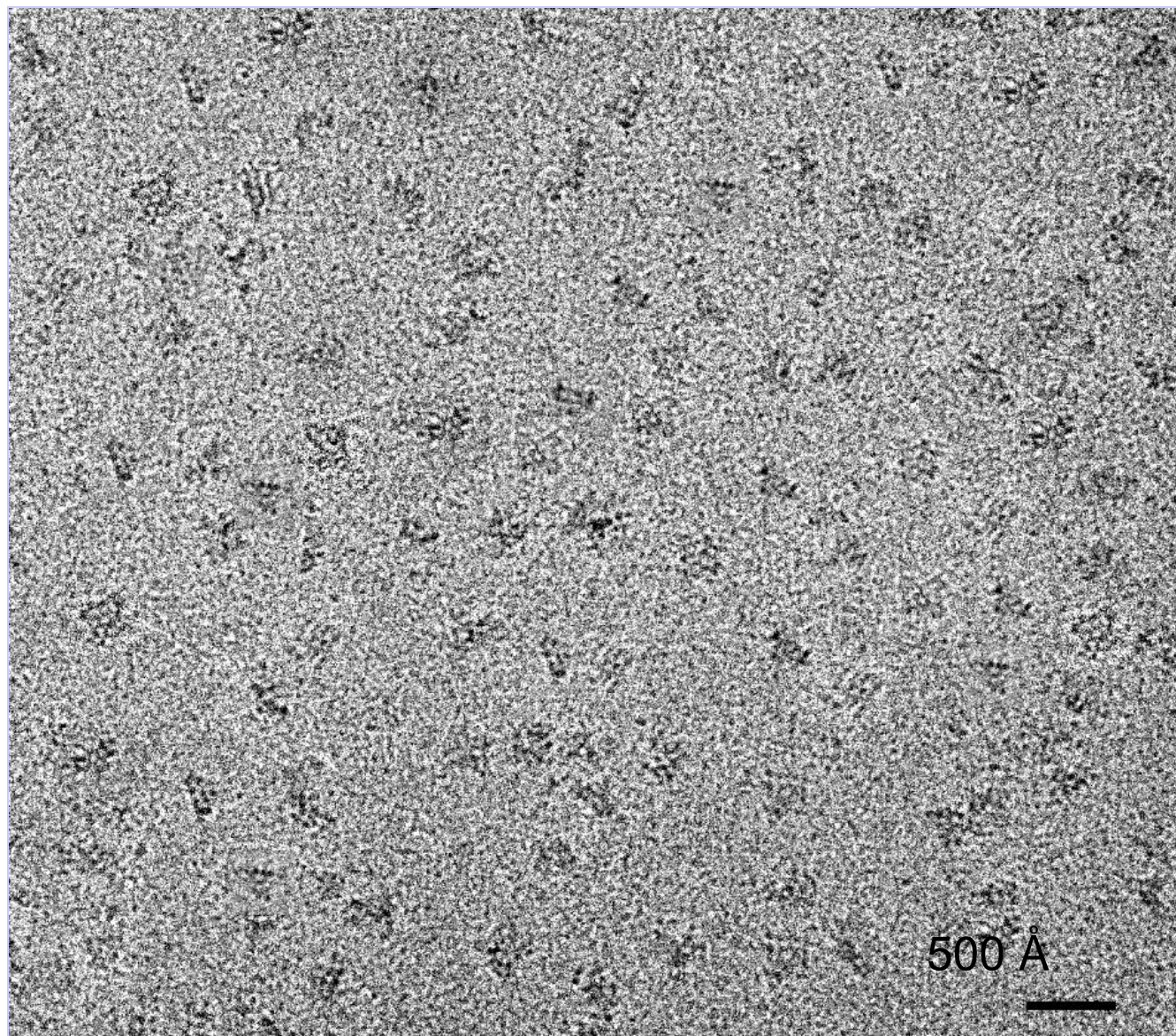
# Vitrified Sample in Search Mode



Courtesy of  
Dr. I Serysheva



# 200kV Image of Ice-Embedded Ion Channel



Courtesy of  
Dr. I Serysheva

500 Å  
—



# Electron Cryo-Microscopes at NCMi

JEM 2100

200 kV  
4k CCD Camera

JEM 2010 F

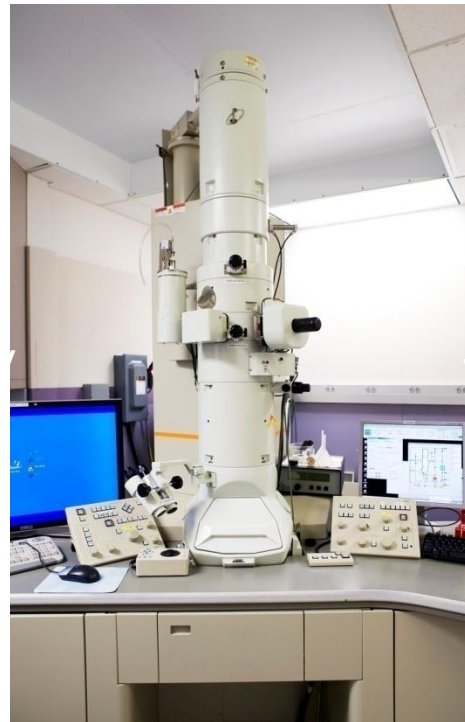
200 kV  
4k CCD Camera

JEM 2200 FS

200 kV  
4k CCD Camera  
Energy Filter  
Zernike Phase Plate

JEM 3200 FSC

300 kV  
10k CCD Camera  
Energy filter



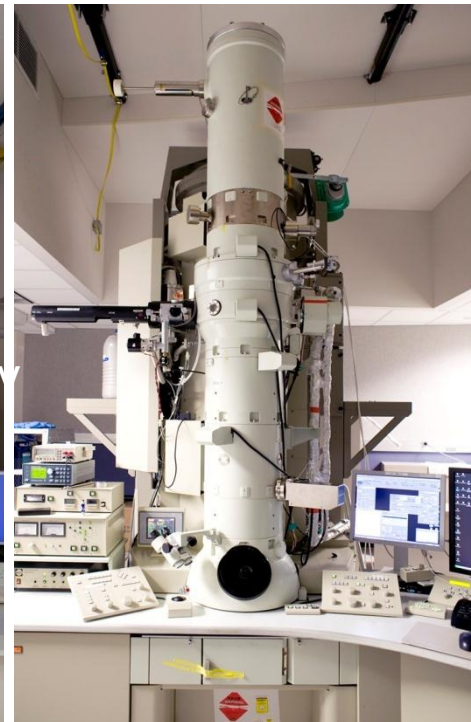
2007



2002



2009



2006

# Electron Microscope Detectors

- Photographic film
- CCD camera: scintillator-photomultiplier detector
- CMOS direct detection

# Gatan 4k CCD Performance at 300keV

Scope Mag	Detector Mag	Pixel size	Nyquist (Å)	2/3Nyquist (Å)
30,000	42,000	3.57	7.14	10.71
40,000	56,000	2.68	5.36	8.04
50,000	70,000	2.14	4.29	6.42
60,000	84,000	1.79	3.57	5.37
80,000	112,000	1.34	2.68	4.02
100,000	140,000	1.07	2.14	3.21
120,000	168,000	0.89	1.79	2.67
150,000	210,000	0.71	1.43	2.13

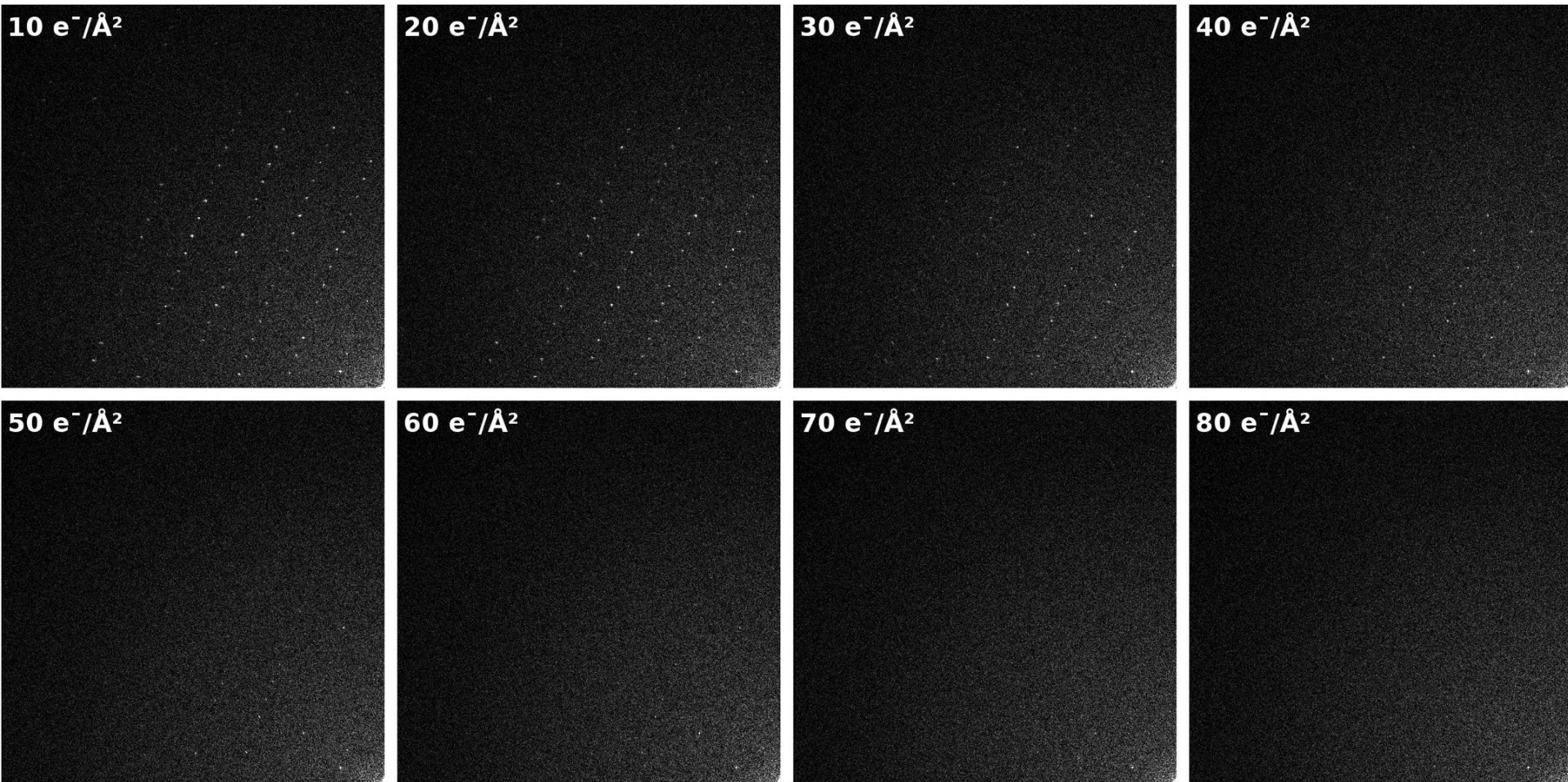
# Radiation Damage Assessment of Protein Crystals

- Record a series of 9-10 electron images or electron diffraction patterns from a single crystal
- Measure quantitatively the fading of the diffraction spot intensities as a function of cumulative exposure

P. N. Unwin and R. Henderson (1975) *JMB* **94**: 425-40.



# Radiation Damage Studies of Ice Embedded Catalase Crystal

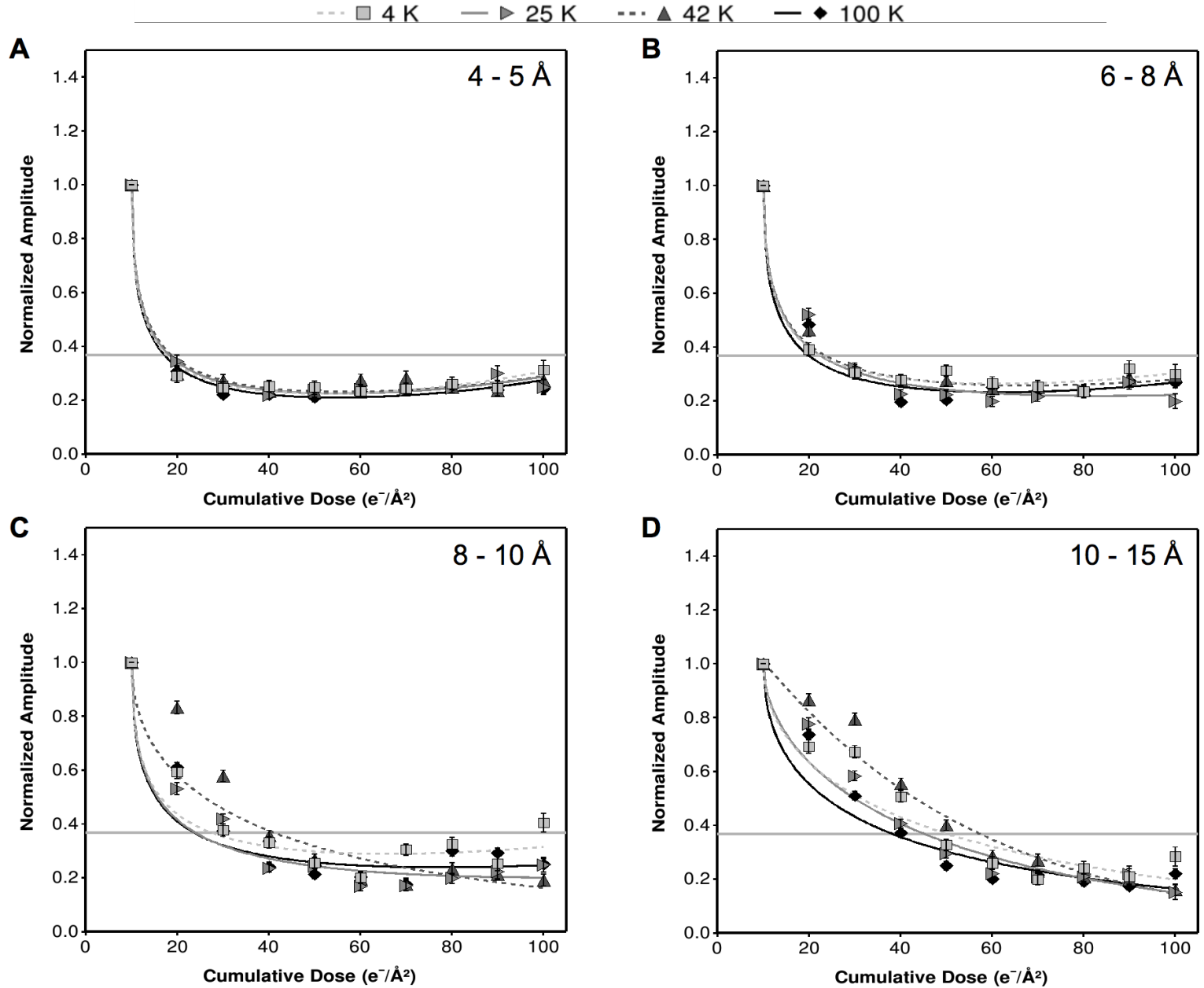


# Quantification of Damage

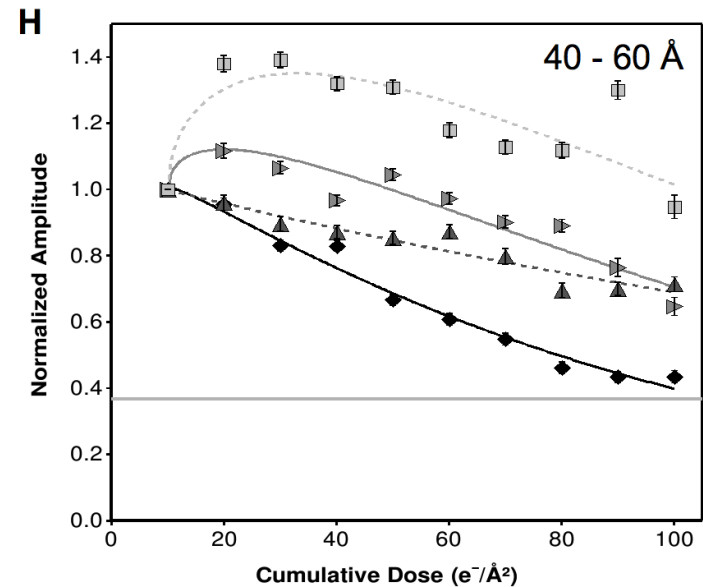
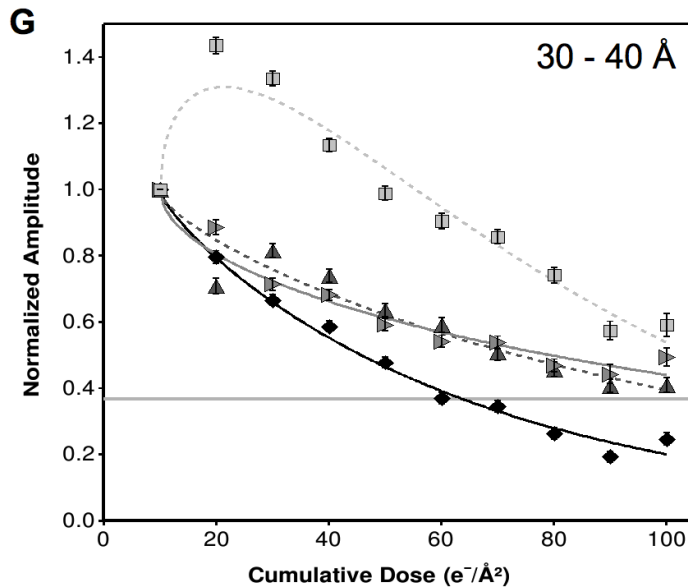
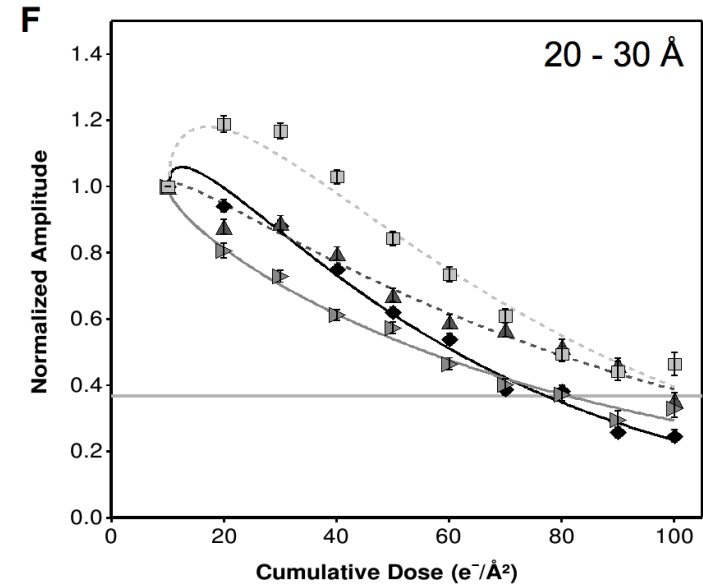
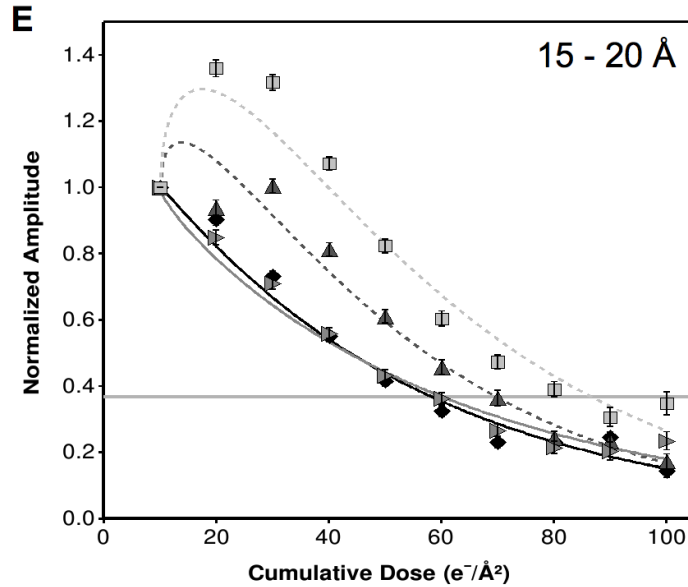
$N_e$  (1/e) decay dose

Dissimilarity factor

# Fading of Fourier Amplitudes at Different Temperatures



# Fading of Fourier Amplitudes at Different Temperatures

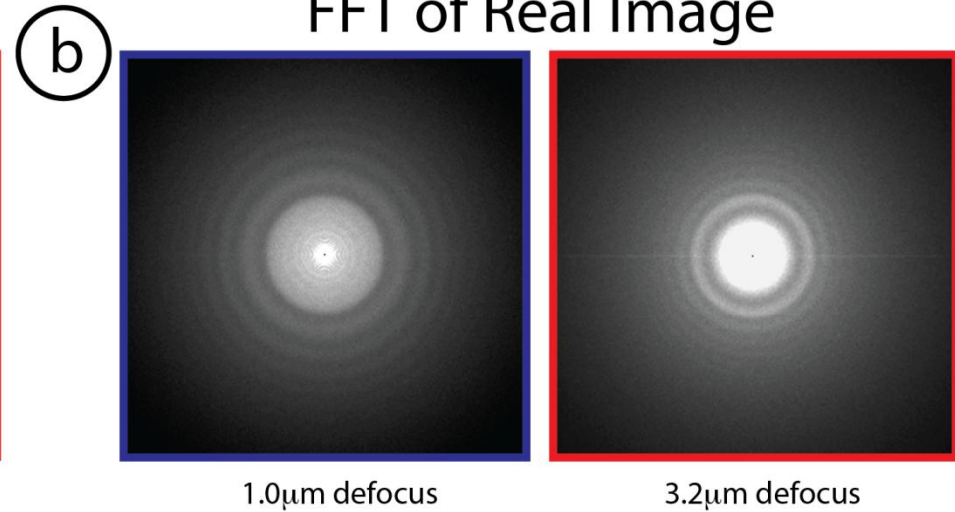
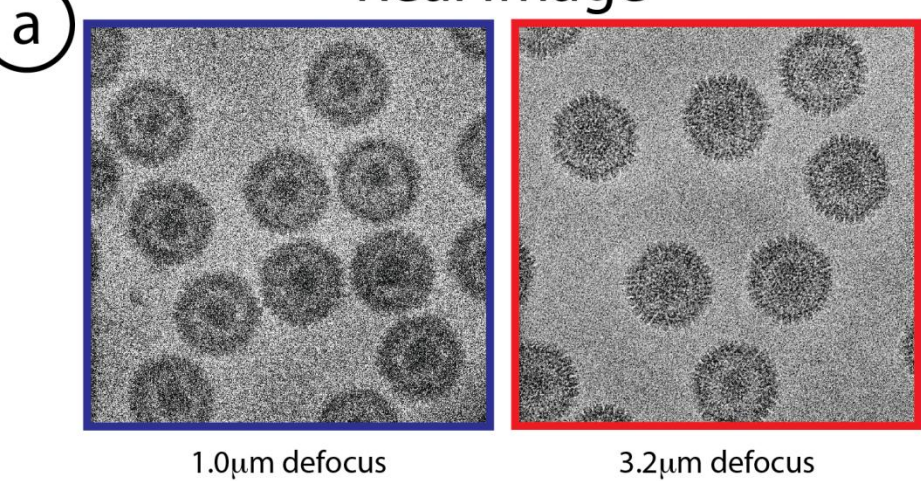


--- ◻ 4 K    — ◀ 25 K    ... ▲ 42 K    — ◆ 100 K



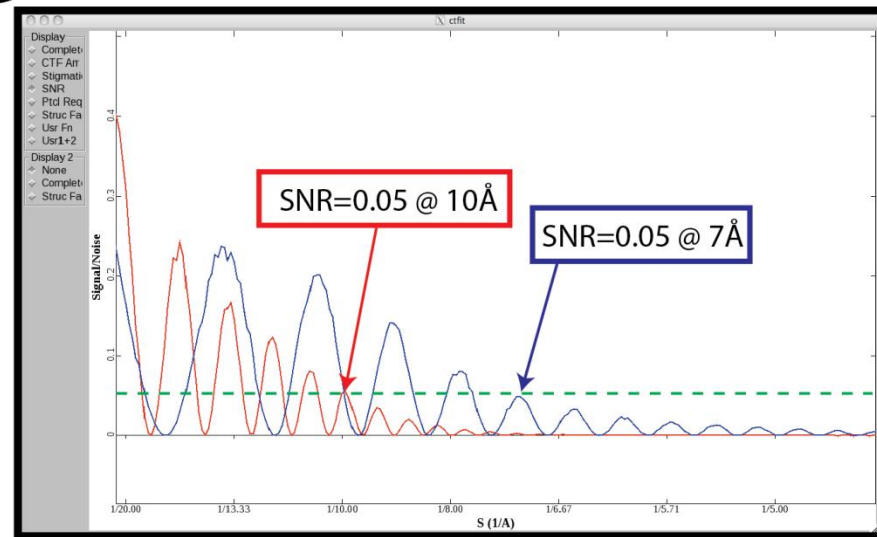
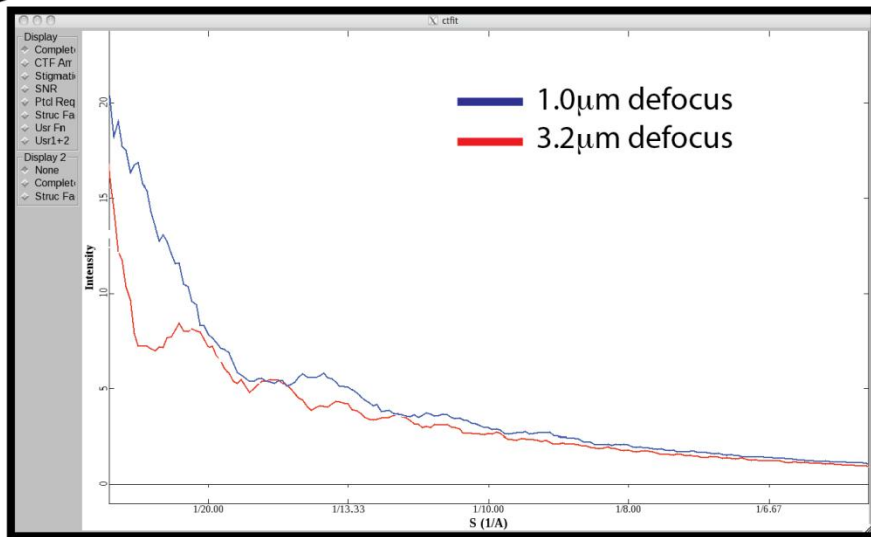
## Real Image

## FFT of Real Image



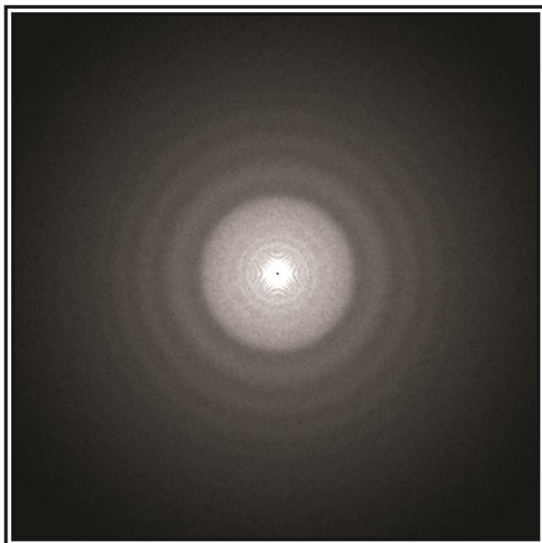
## Rotationally Averaged FFT

## SNR Plot



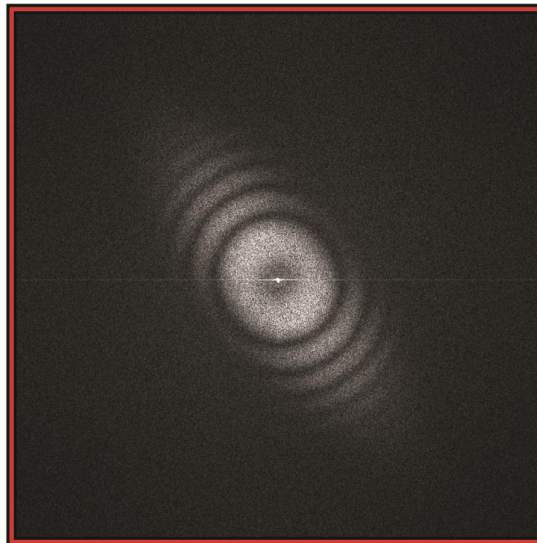
# Power Spectrum of Images of C-Film

(a)



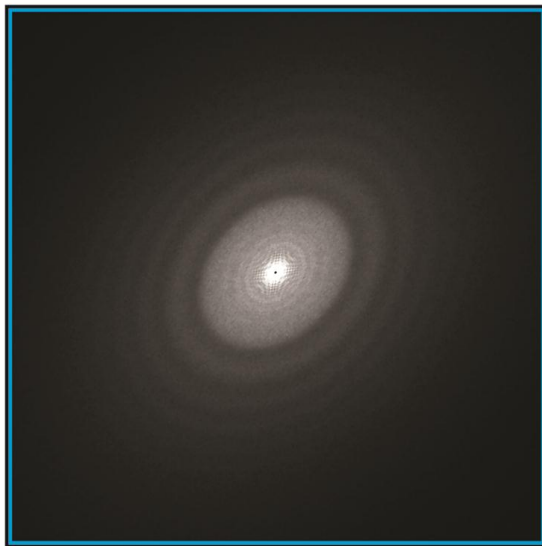
Normal

(b)



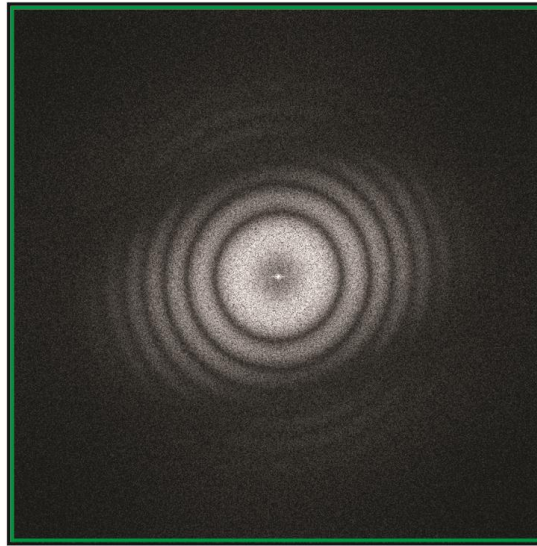
Drift

(c)



Astigmatism

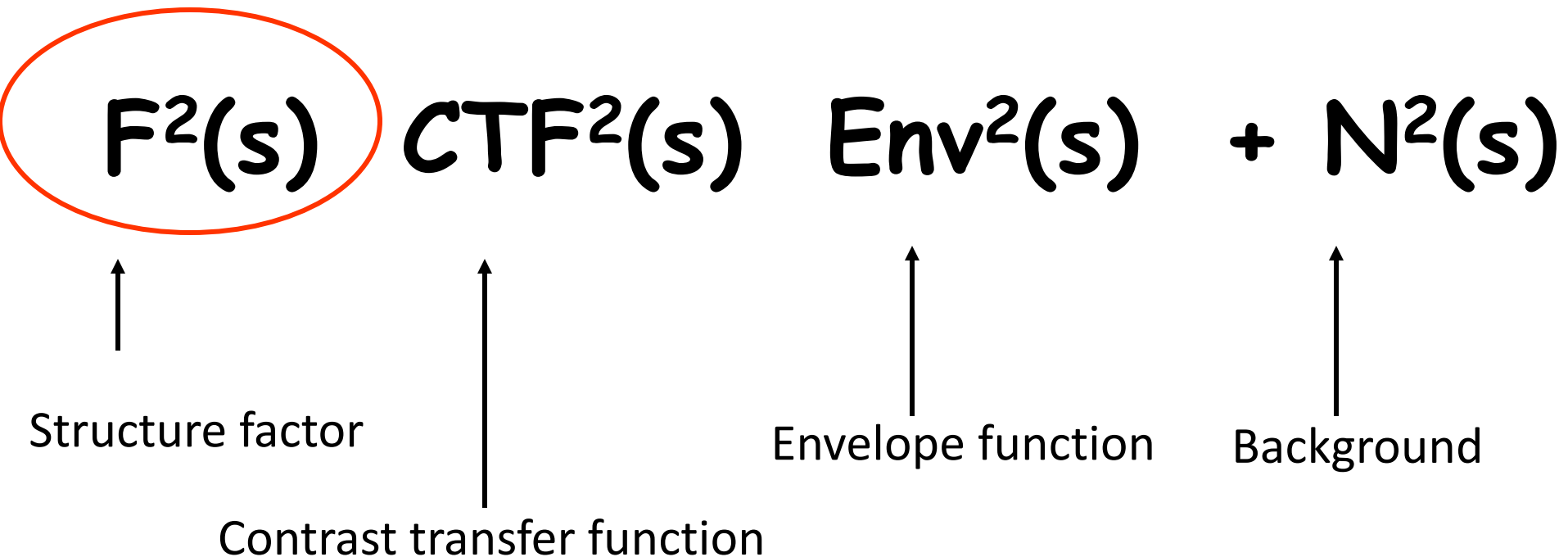
(d)



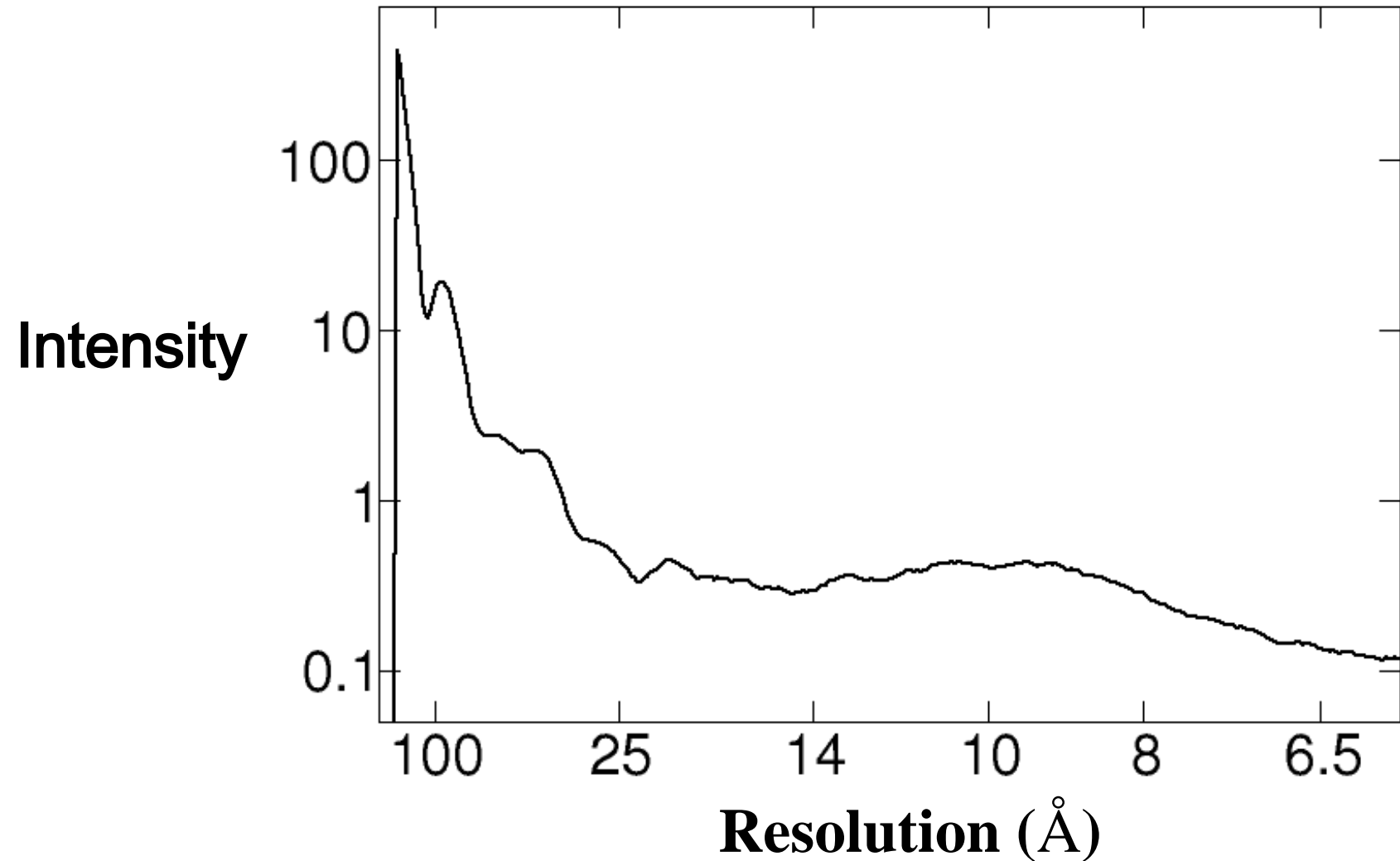
Vibration

R Rochat  
J Jakana

# Computed Diffraction Pattern



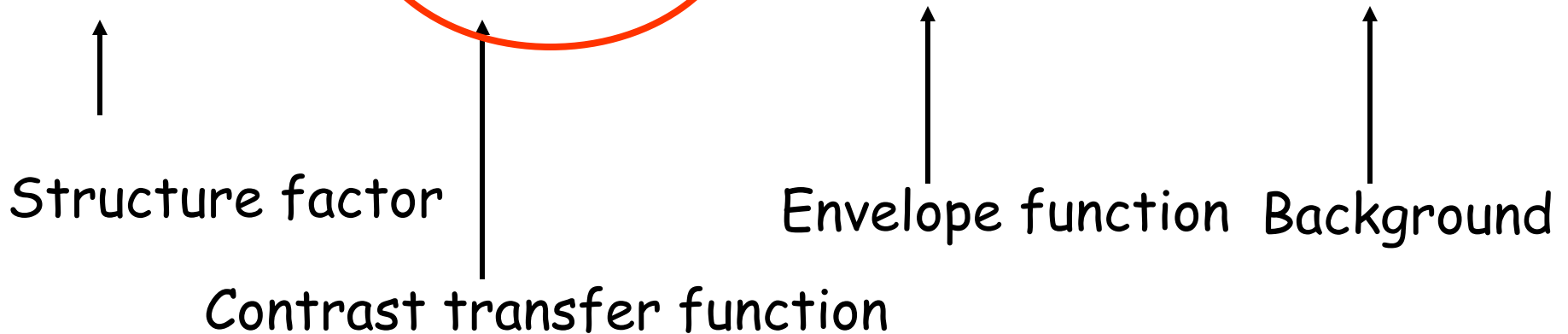
# X ray Scattering Intensity of GroEL





# Computed diffraction pattern

$$F^2(s) \quad \text{CTF}^2(s) \quad \text{Env}^2(s) \quad + \quad N^2(s)$$

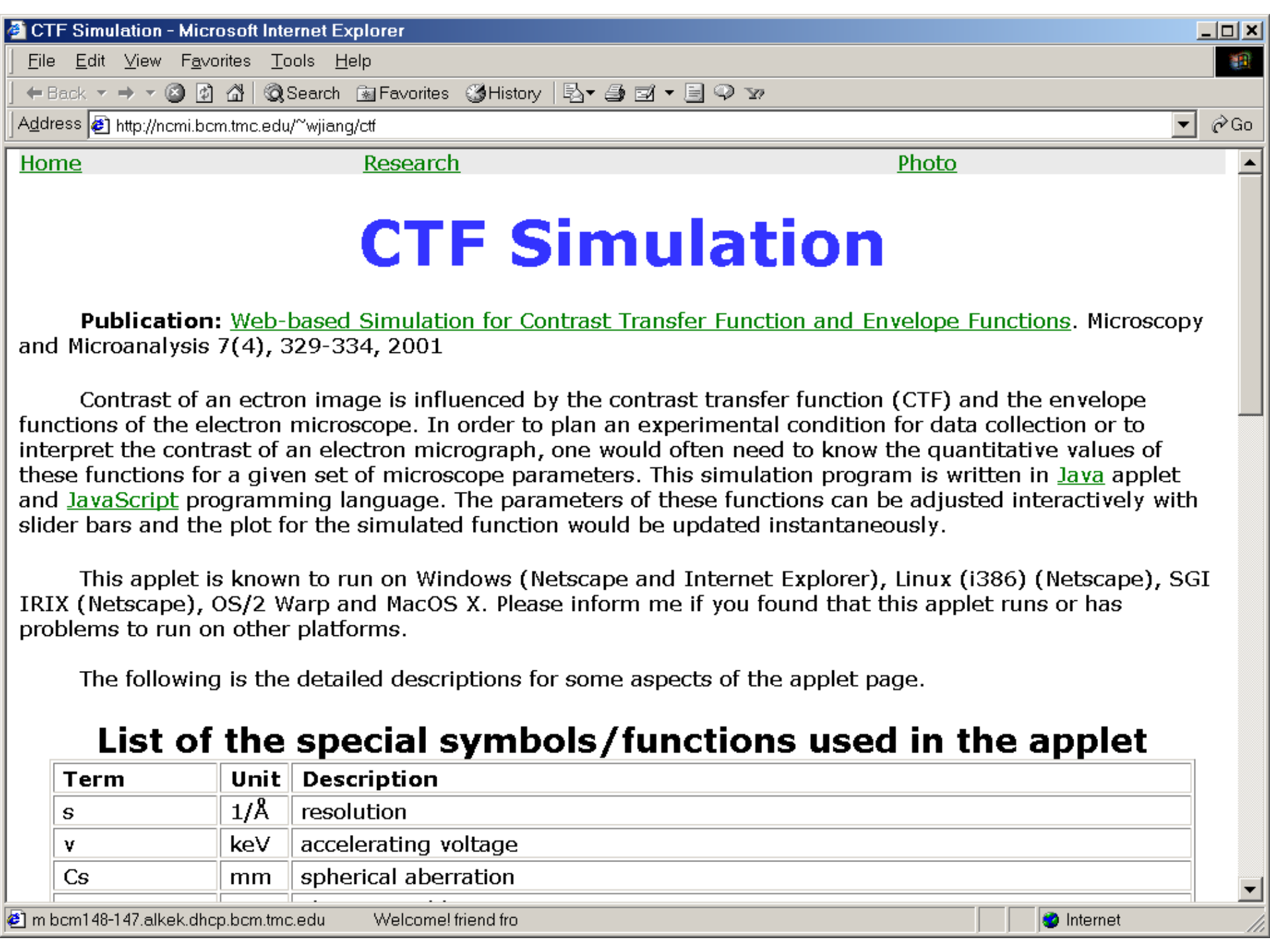


# Contrast Transfer Function

$$\text{CTF}(s) = -A [(1-Q^2)^{1/2} \sin(\gamma) + Q \cos(\gamma)]$$

$$\gamma(s) = -2\pi (C_s \lambda^3 s^4 / 4 - \Delta Z \lambda s^2 / 2)$$

$\Delta Z$  is vector dependent if there is an astigmatism



# CTF Simulation

**Publication:** [Web-based Simulation for Contrast Transfer Function and Envelope Functions](#). Microscopy and Microanalysis 7(4), 329-334, 2001

Contrast of an electron image is influenced by the contrast transfer function (CTF) and the envelope functions of the electron microscope. In order to plan an experimental condition for data collection or to interpret the contrast of an electron micrograph, one would often need to know the quantitative values of these functions for a given set of microscope parameters. This simulation program is written in [Java](#) applet and [JavaScript](#) programming language. The parameters of these functions can be adjusted interactively with slider bars and the plot for the simulated function would be updated instantaneously.

This applet is known to run on Windows (Netscape and Internet Explorer), Linux (i386) (Netscape), SGI IRIX (Netscape), OS/2 Warp and MacOS X. Please inform me if you found that this applet runs or has problems to run on other platforms.

The following is the detailed descriptions for some aspects of the applet page.

## List of the special symbols/functions used in the applet

Term	Unit	Description
s	1/Å	resolution
v	keV	accelerating voltage
Cs	mm	spherical aberration

Voltage(keV)

300

Cs(mm)

1.6

Cc(mm)

2.2

Energy spread(eV)

0.9

Lens current spread(ppm)

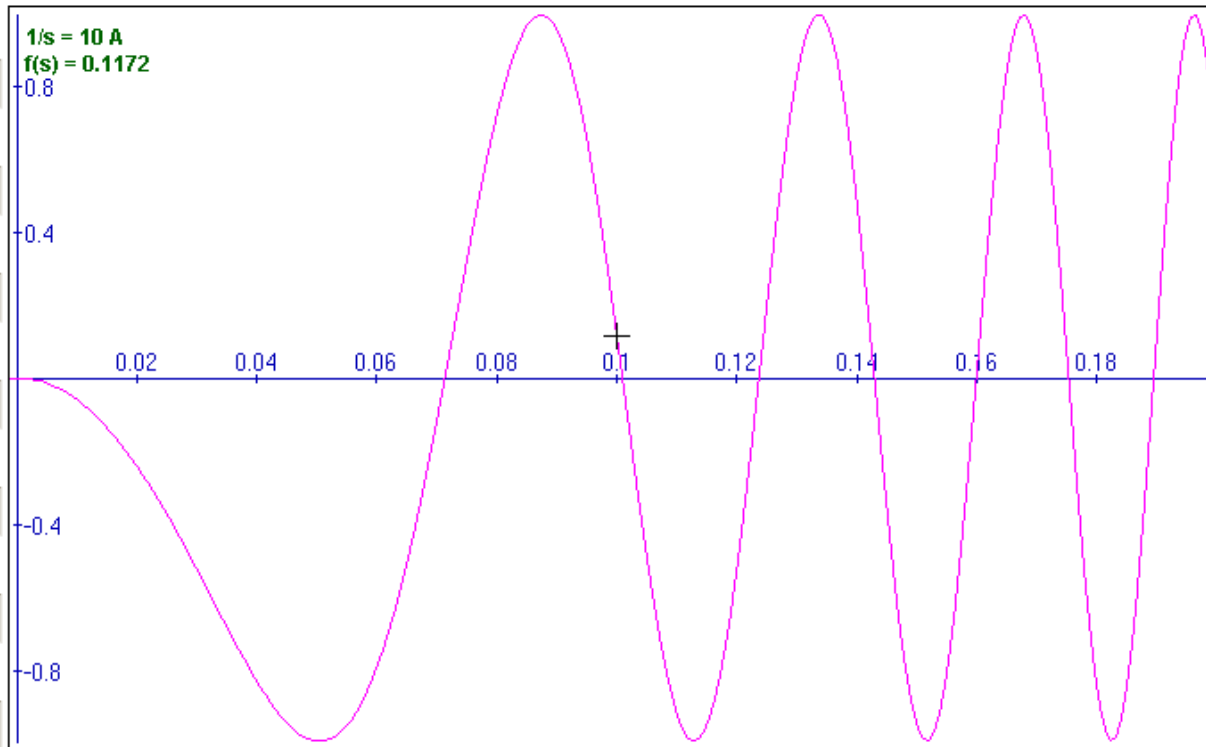
1

Vertical motion(Angstrom)

50

Drift(Angstrom)

0



xmin

0

xmax

0.2

ymin

-1

ymax

1

Set Limits

Restore Limits

dZ(angstrom)

10000

B(angstrom^2)

0

Amp Contrast

0

Angle(mrad)

0.1

s(1 /angstrom)

0.1

Enter a function f(s), which can use the variables(s,v,a,dZ,B,Cs,Cc,Q,dE,dI,dF,dR):

ctf(s,v,Cs,dZ,Q)

Plot

Voltage(keV)

Cs(mm)

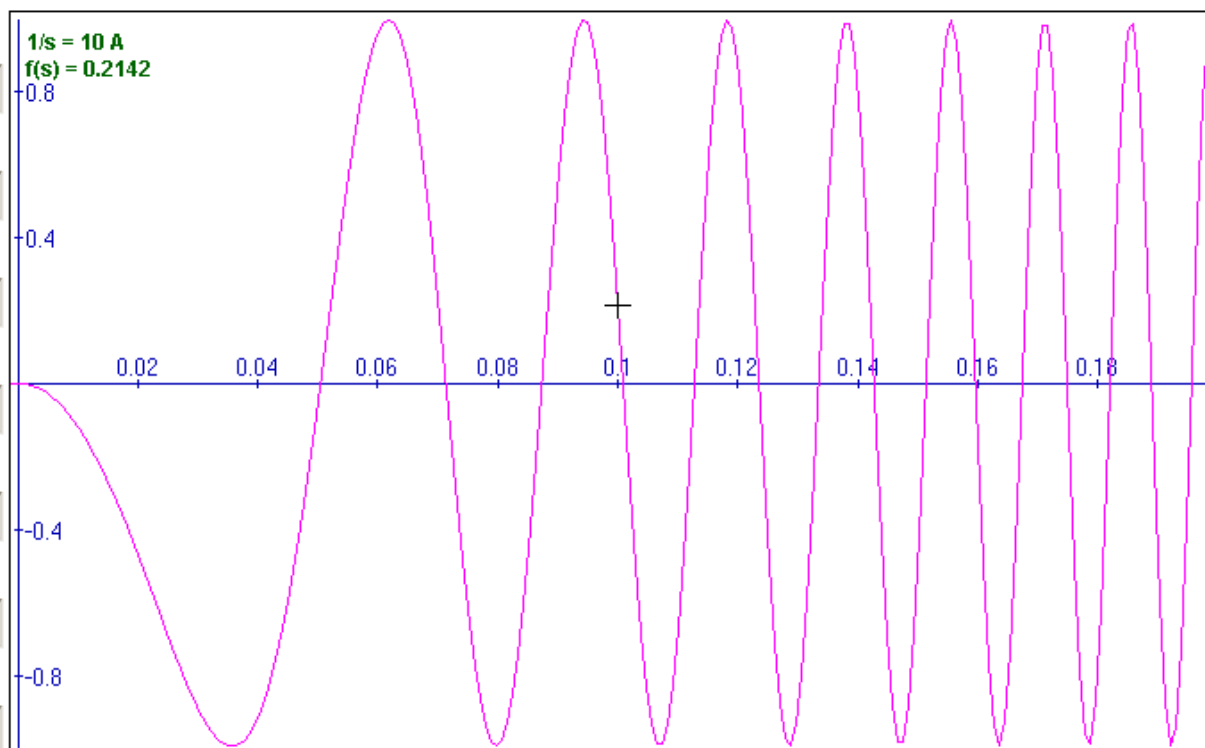
Cc(mm)

Energy spread(eV)

Lens current spread(ppm)

Vertical motion(Angstrom)

Drift(Angstrom)



xmin

xmax

ymin

ymax

Set Limits

Restore Limits

dZ(angstrom) B(angstrom^2) Amp Contrast Angle(mrad) s(1/angstrom) 

Enter a function f(s), which can use the variables(s,v,a,dZ,B,Cs,Cc,Q,dE,dl,dF,dR):

Plot

# Computed diffraction pattern

$$F^2(s) \quad CTF^2(s) \quad \text{Env}^2(s) \quad + \quad N^2(s)$$

↑  
Structure factor

↑  
Contrast transfer function

↑  
Envelope function

↑  
Background



# EM Envelope Functions : Env(s)

**Gaussian type source:**

$$G_{sc}(s) = \exp[-\pi^2 \alpha^2 (C_s \lambda^2 s^3 - \Delta Z s)^2]$$

**Gaussian type fluctuation:**

$$G_{tc}(s) = \exp\left[-\frac{\pi^2}{16 \ln 2} C_C^2 \lambda^2 \left(\frac{\Delta E}{E}\right)^2 s^4\right]$$

**Gaussian type fluctuation:**

$$G_{ol}(s) = \exp\left[-\frac{\pi^2}{4 \ln 2} C_C^2 \lambda^2 \left(\frac{\Delta I}{I}\right)^2 s^4\right]$$

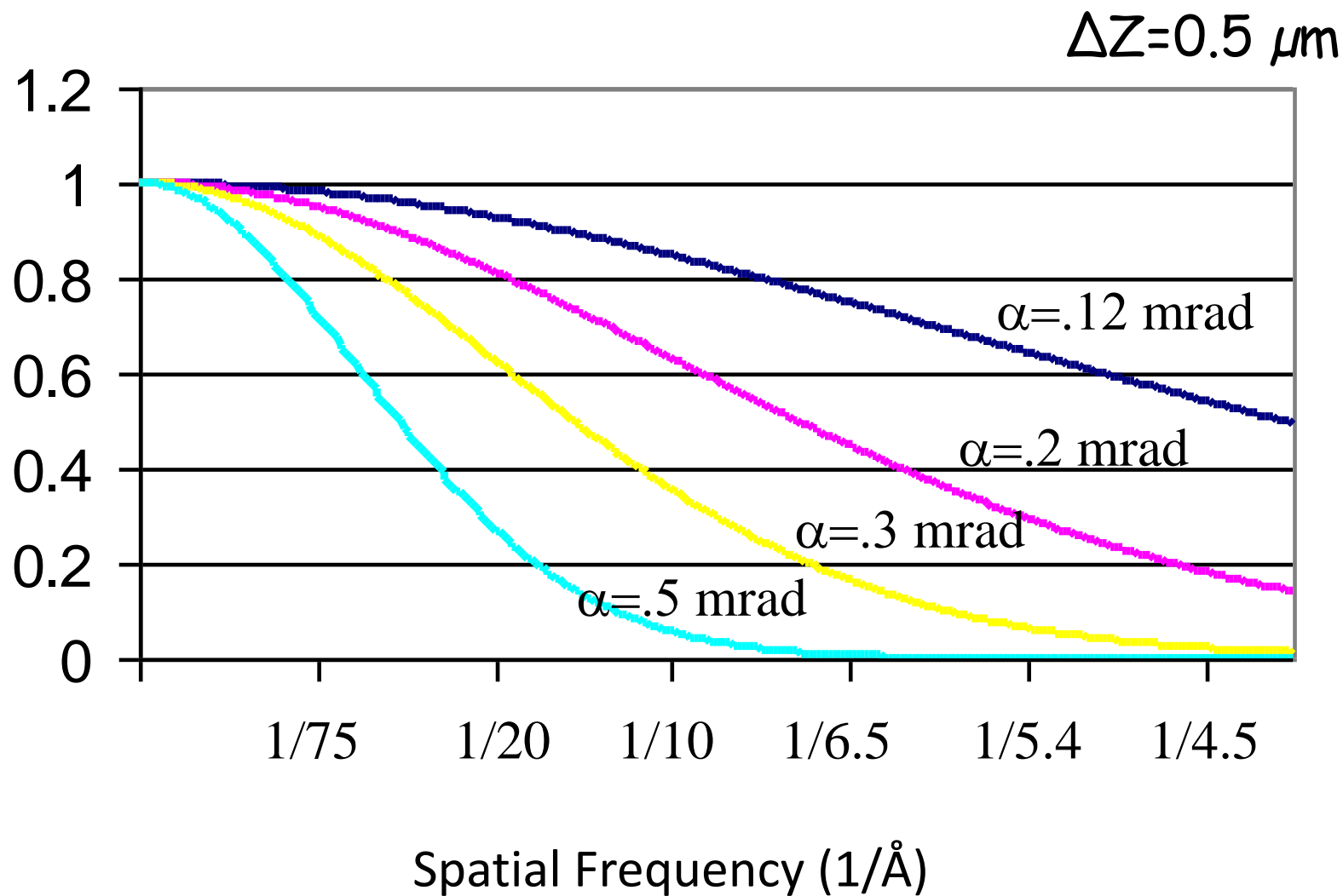
**Sinusoidal type fluctuation:**

$$G_{lm}(s) = J_0(\pi \Delta f \lambda s^2)$$

**Drift:**

$$G_{tm}(s) = \frac{\sin(\pi s \Delta r)}{\pi s \Delta r}$$

# Spatial Coherence Envelope Function



# Gaussian Approximation for Cumulative Envelope Function

$$\text{Env}^2(s) \sim \exp(-2Bs^2)$$

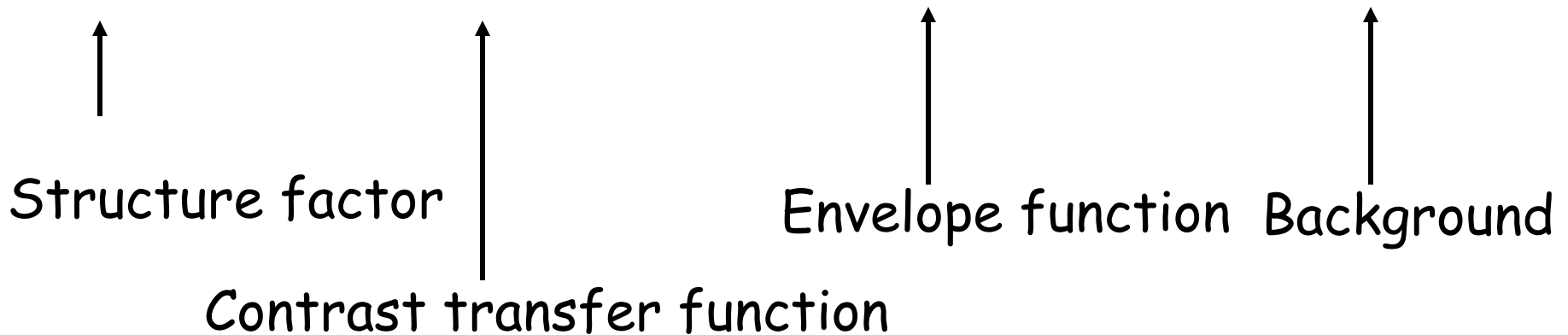
$$B = \frac{1}{4} B_{\text{cryst}}$$

**B = wah B factor = EMAN 1 B factor**

Henderson B factor =  $B_{\text{cryst}}$  = EMAN 2 B factor

# Computed diffraction pattern

$$F^2(s) \quad CTF^2(s) \quad Env^2(s) \quad + \quad N^2(s)$$



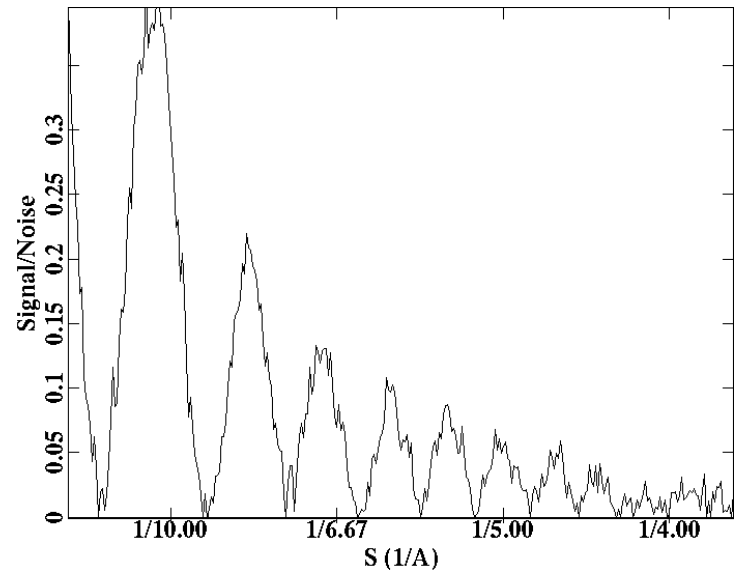
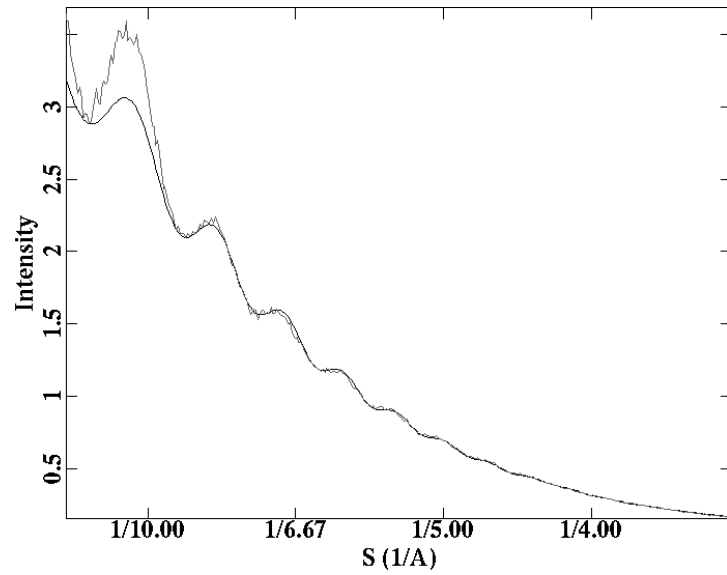
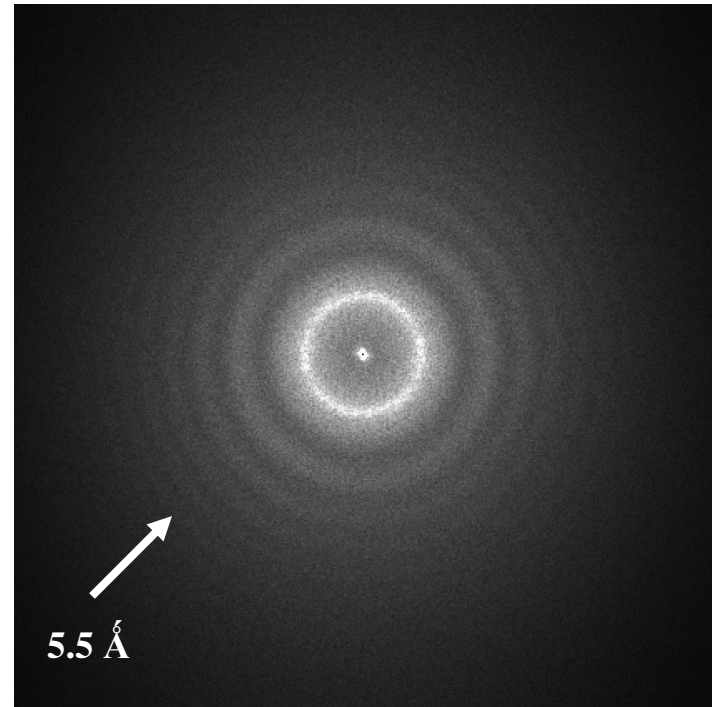
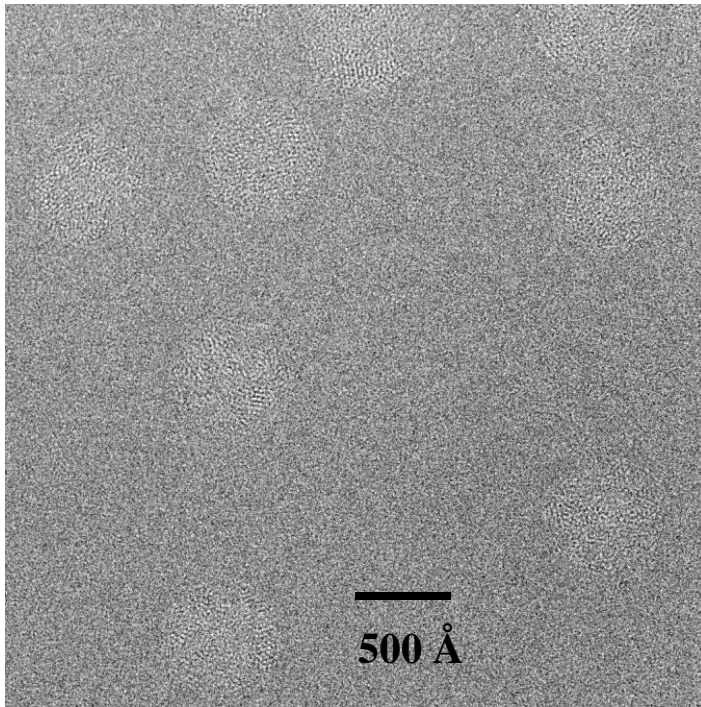
# Noise Function

$$N^2 (s) = n_1 \exp (n_2 s + n_3 s^2 + n_4 s^{1/2})$$

$$\text{Contrast} = (F^2 \text{ CTF}^2 E^2) / N^2$$



# Application



# Number of particles required for a 3-D reconstruction

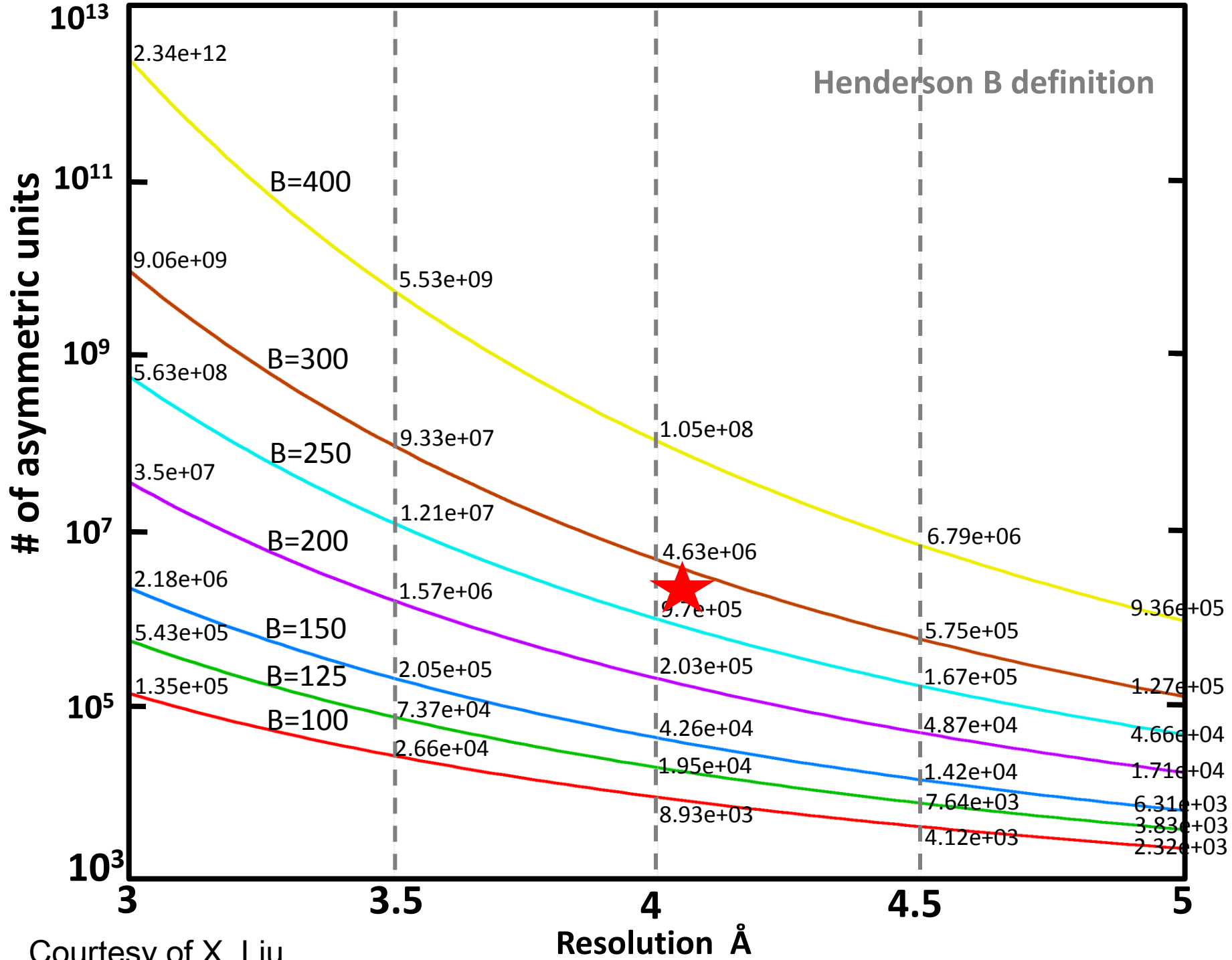
$$N_{asym-unit} = N_{ptcl} * N_{asym} = \frac{\langle S \rangle^2}{\langle N \rangle^2} \frac{30\pi}{N_e \sigma_e d} e^{B/2d^2}$$

Where  $\langle S \rangle^2 / \langle N \rangle^2 = 1/3$ ,  $N_e = 20 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^2$ ,  $\sigma_e = 0.04 \text{ \AA}^2$

Rosenthal and Henderson (2003) *JMB* 333, 721-745

Liu et al (2007) *J Struct Biol* 160:11-27

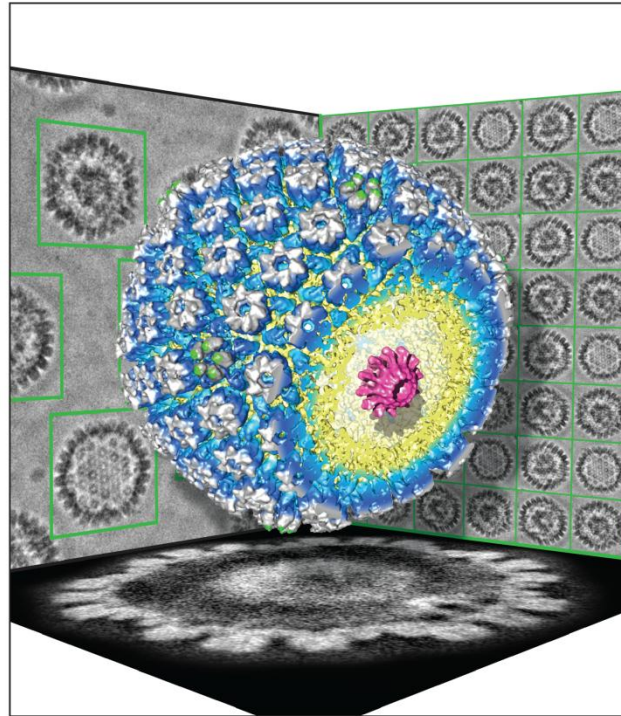
Murata et al. (2000) *Structure* 18:903-912



# Future Cryo-EM Technology

- Elimination of specimen movement
- Higher contrast image (phase plate)
- Improved detector (CMOS)
- Extend to smaller and larger particles
- Study particles of mixed conformations
- Map validation
- Model validation
- Standard for data deposition to PDB

# Zernike Phase Contrast Cryo-EM



Published \_\_\_\_\_  
Twice Monthly \_\_\_\_\_  
by the \_\_\_\_\_  
**American** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Society** \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_  
**Microbiology** \_\_\_\_\_

## Journal of Virology

# General Cryo-EM References

- Glaeser, R. M., Downing, K, DeRosier, D., Chiu, W. and Frank, J. (2007). *Electron Crystallography of Biological Macromolecules*, Oxford University Press, New York.
- Baker, M. L, Marsh, M. P. and Chiu, W. (2009). Cryo-EM of Molecular Nanomachines and Cells. *Nanotechnology*, ed. Viola Vogel, Wiley VCH, Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA Weinheim. **5:91-111**.
- Rochat, R. H. and Chiu, W. (2011). Cryo-Electron Microscopy and Tomography of Virus Particles. *Comprehensive Biophysics*. ed. E. Egelman, Elsevier Publ. Amsterdam, in press.



