

# Magnetism and Microstructure at Relevant Length Scales

## Complementary Measurements with Electron and Photon Probes

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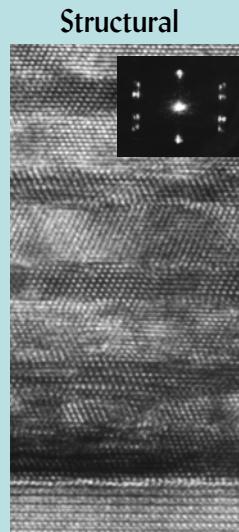
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M. E. Gomez and I. Schuller - UCSD  
G. Denbeaux and A. Young - ALS/LBNL

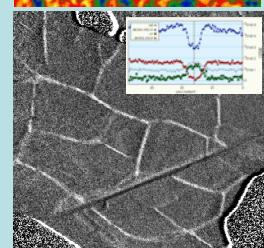
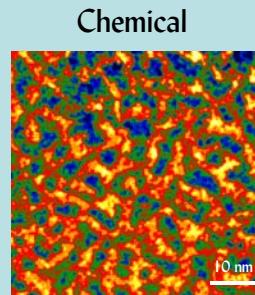
Funding: DoE/BES, Max Kade Foundation, IBM, Campbell Endowment at UW

Invited Talk: INTERMAG Meeting, Amsterdam, April 2002

## Relevant Microstructural Length Scales & Issues

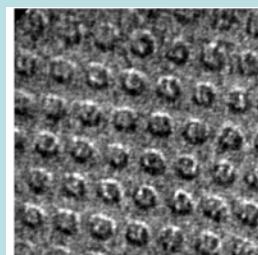


Thin Films & Multilayers  
Interface Roughness  
Segregation, Mixing etc.



Complex Microstructures  
Grain Isolation, Second phase  
Intergranular coupling etc.

### Magnetic



In situ dynamics  
Magnetic reversal  
Temperature and applied fields

## Magnetic Materials

### Interactions & Characteristic Length Scales

● Exchange:

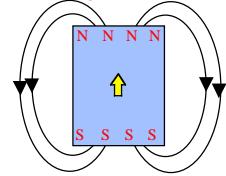
$$E_{ij} = -2 J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j = J_{ij} |\mathbf{S}|^2 \theta^2 \quad \text{for small } \theta$$

● Magnetocrystalline

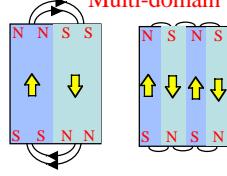
$$E_{mc}^{\text{uniaxial}} = K_o + K_{u1} \sin^2 \theta + K_{u2} \sin^4 \theta$$

● Magnetostatic

Single-domain



Multi-domain



Important Length Scales
Exchange correlation length
$I_{\text{ex}} \sim (A/\langle M_s^2 \rangle)^{1/2}$
$I_{\text{ex}} (\text{Co}) = 30 \text{ \AA}$
Domain wall width
$\delta = \pi (A/K)^{1/2}$
$\gamma_{\text{wall}} = 2 K \delta$
Critical size for single domains
$R_c \sim \frac{\gamma_{\text{wall}}}{M_s^2}$
Superparamagnetic limit
$R_c \sim \left( \frac{k_B T}{K} \right)^{1/3}$

## Relevant Length Scales

New & Interesting  
Behaviour

Processing

Magnetic Phenomena

Processing

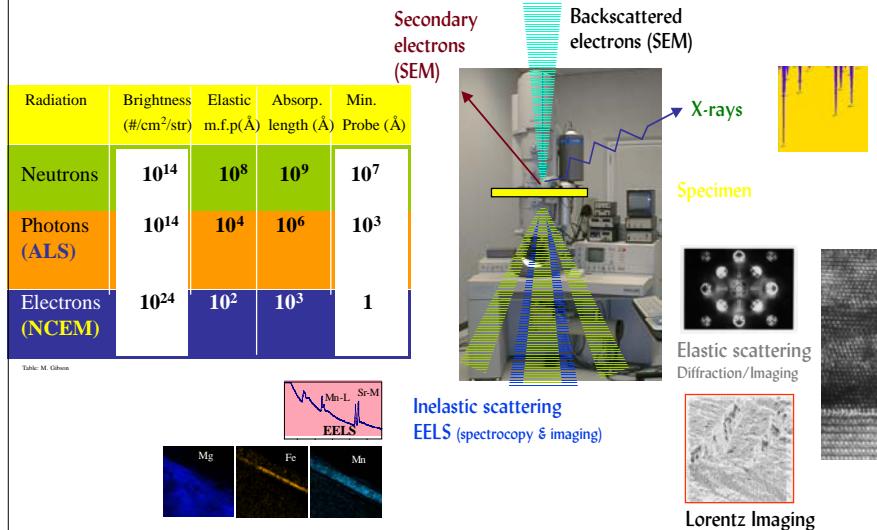
Characterization  
(Probe)

Meaningful Interpretation

Review: KrishnanKM in "Magnetic storage systems beyond 2000", NATo/ASI, G. Hadjipanayis ed., Kluwer 2001, pp 251-270

## Transmission Electron Microscopy

### Beam-specimen Interactions and Signals

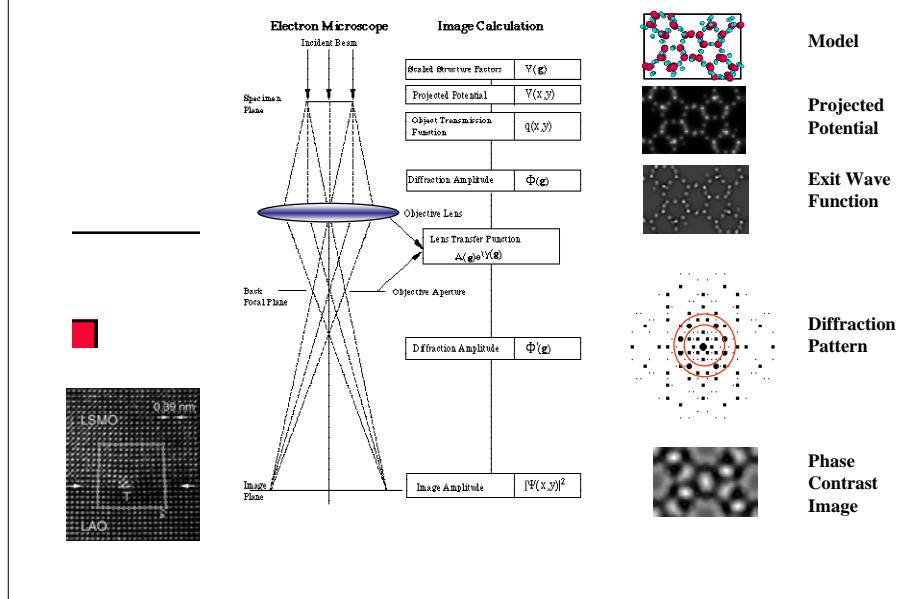


**Unsurpassed spatial resolution; Complementary probes - photons and electrons; Buried Interfaces**

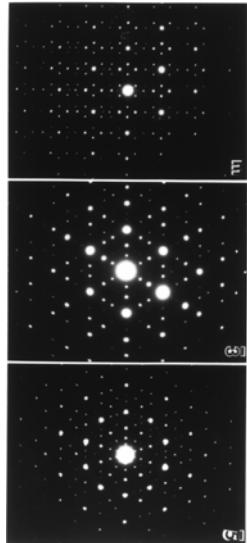
Varela et al, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **86**, 5156 (2001); Grogger et al, *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, **80**, 1165 (2002); Lebedev et al, *Phil Mag*, **A80**, 673 (2000); Kusinski et al, *Jour. Appl. Phys.*, **87**, 6376 (2000)

## High Resolution Electron Microscopy

### (Phase Contrast Imaging)

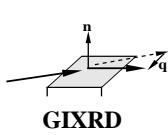


## Electron Diffraction in a TEM

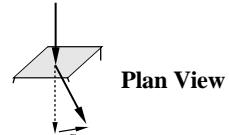


*Scattering Geometries:*

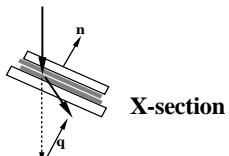
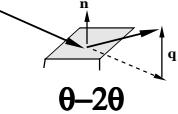
X-ray



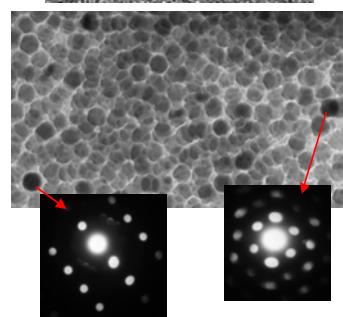
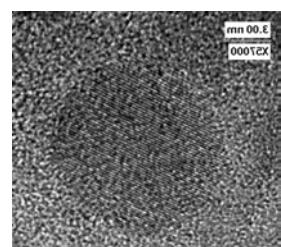
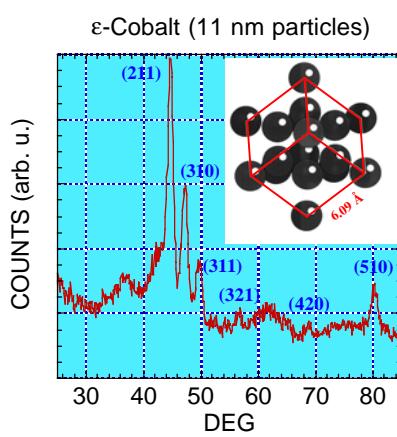
TEM



Complementary information for thin films

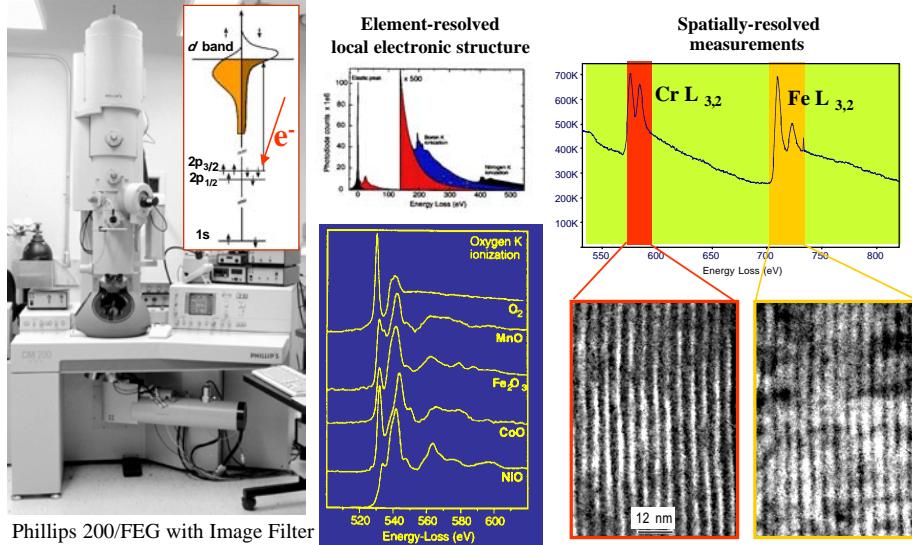


## Structure of Co Nanoparticles



## High Resolution EELS Studies in a TEM

Element-specific spectroscopy and imaging at high spatial resolution



Dipole Selection Rule  $\Delta l = \pm 1$  apply

## Fine structure in core-loss EELS

Core-level ionization principally determined by a matrix element

$$\langle \Psi_f | \exp(i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}) | \Psi_i \rangle$$

where

$\Psi_i$  is the initial core electron state  
 $\Psi_f$  is the final ionized electron state  
 $\mathbf{q}$  is the momentum transfer

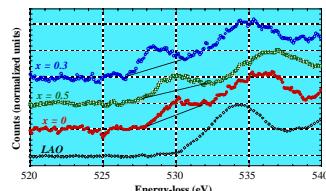
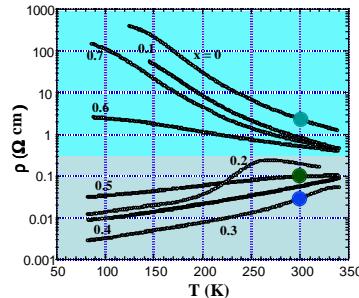
In EELS the scattering is forward peaked, i.e.  $\mathbf{q}$  is small and the main contribution to the scattering is the linear term

$$\langle \Psi_f | i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r} | \Psi_i \rangle$$

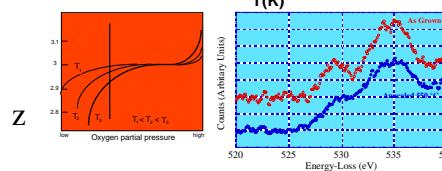
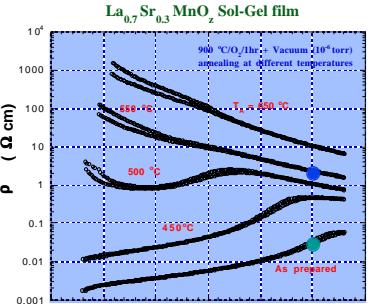
Dipole selection rules  $\Delta l = \pm 1$  apply

## Electronic Structure of Sol-Gel derived LSMO - EELS Studies

### Effect of divalent doping

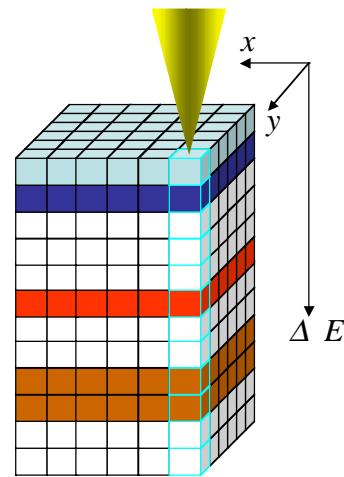
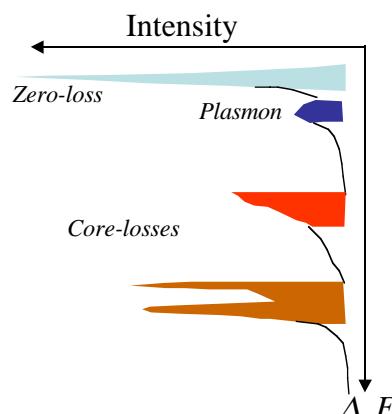


### Controlled Oxidation by Annealing

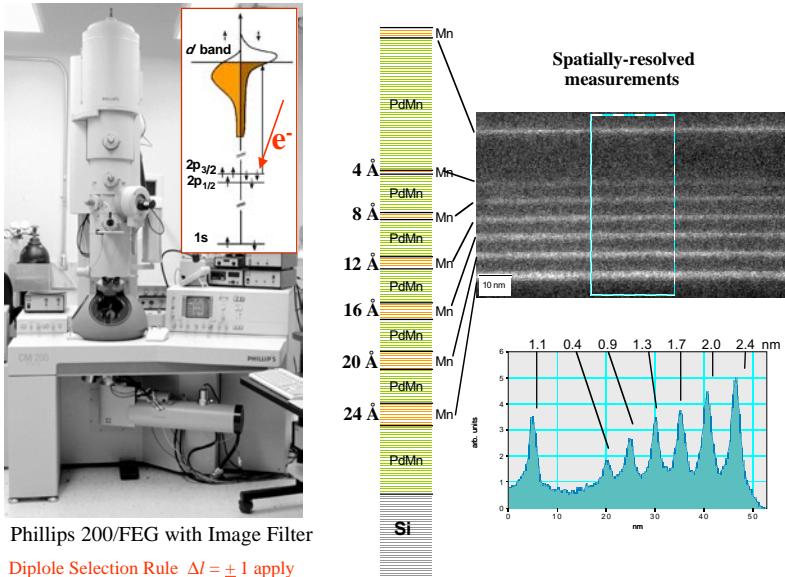


- O<sub>2p</sub> hole density makes significant contribution to CMR

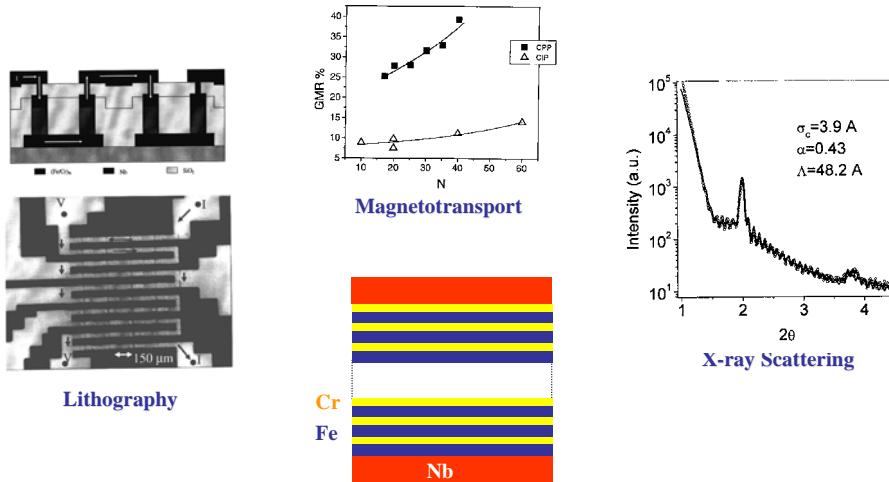
## Energy-loss Spectroscopy and Filtered Imaging



## Energy-filtered Imaging in a TEM: Detection Limits

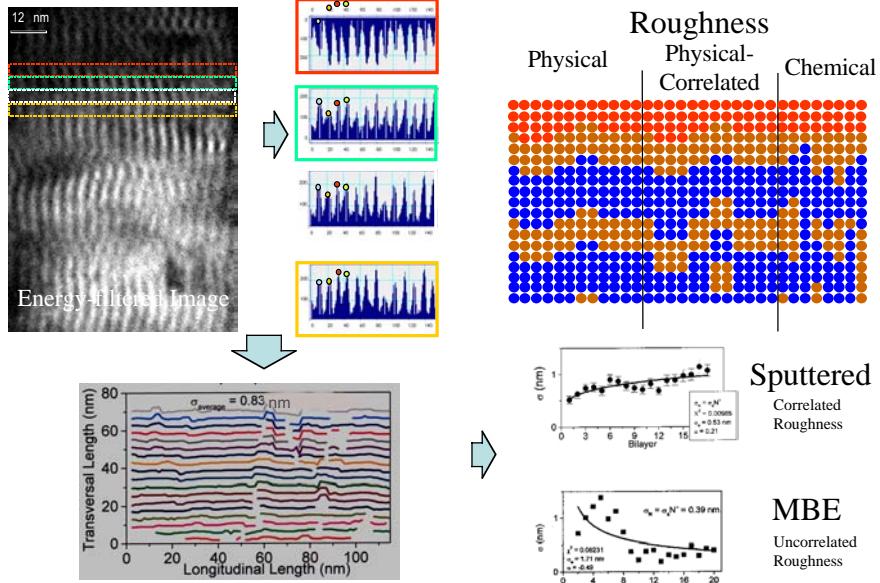


## Fe /Cr Multilayers: GMR and Structure

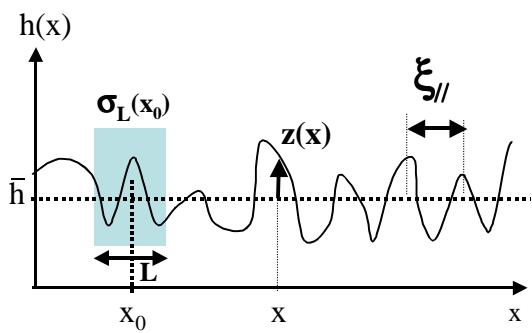


Collaboration: I. Schuller group (UCSD)

## Interface Roughness and GMR in Fe/Cr Multilayers



## Definitions: Rough interface with various characteristic length scales



Interface Profile  $h(x)$   
Average Value  $\langle h(x) \rangle$  or  $\bar{h}$   
Height Deviation  $z(x) = h(x) - \bar{h}$

Interface width  $\sim$  rms roughness  
 $\sigma(L) \sim \langle \sigma_L(x_0) \rangle_x$   
 where the averaging is done over all points  $x$  within  $L$  and

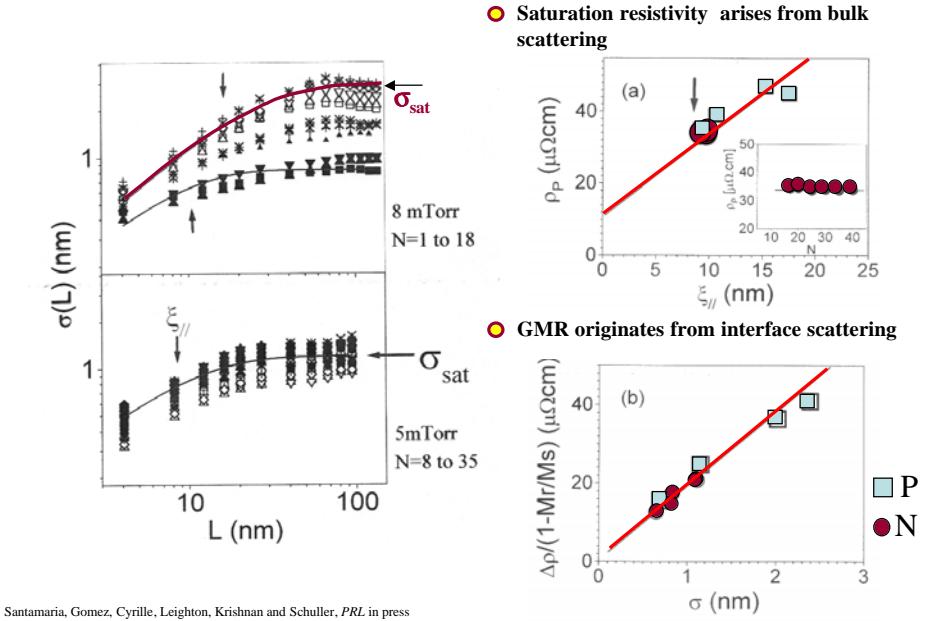
$$\sigma_L(x_0) = \langle |z(x) - z_{av}(L)|^2 \rangle_L^{1/2}$$

$z_{av}(L)$  is  $z(x)$  averaged over  $L$

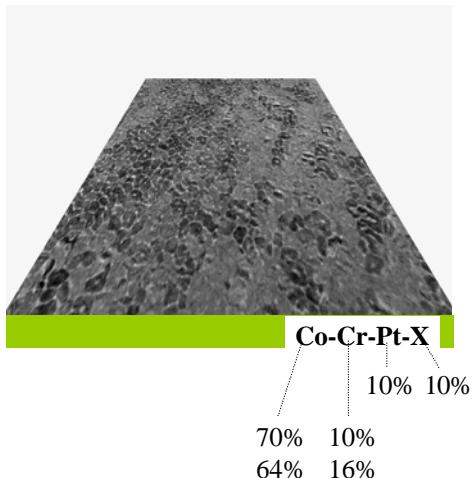
Correlation length,  $\xi_{\parallel}$  is extracted by fitting

$$\sigma(L) \sim \sigma_{sat} [1 - \exp(-L/\xi_{\parallel})]$$

## Interface dominated GMR in Fe/Cr Multilayers



## Quantitative measurements of Cr Segregation



### Magnetic & Recording Characteristics

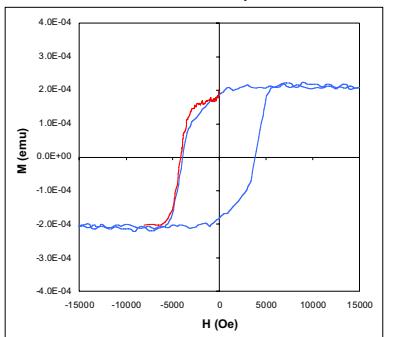
Cr %	16%	10%
$H_c$ (Oe)	4790	4200
SNR(dB)	16.6	12.4
$M_t t$ (emu/cm <sup>2</sup> )	0.47	0.69
$S^*$	0.94	0.93

### Quantitative Measurement of Cr Segregation in Magnetic Recording Media Using Energy-Filtering TEM

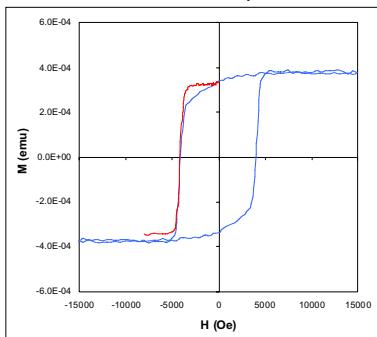
2/3

	SMNR (dB)	dSMNR (dB)	Hcr (Oe)	S*r	SFDr	Ms (emu/cm <sup>3</sup> )
16% Cr	17	+5	4090	0.762	0.26	300
10% Cr	12	0	4120	0.912	0.08	370

16% Cr sample



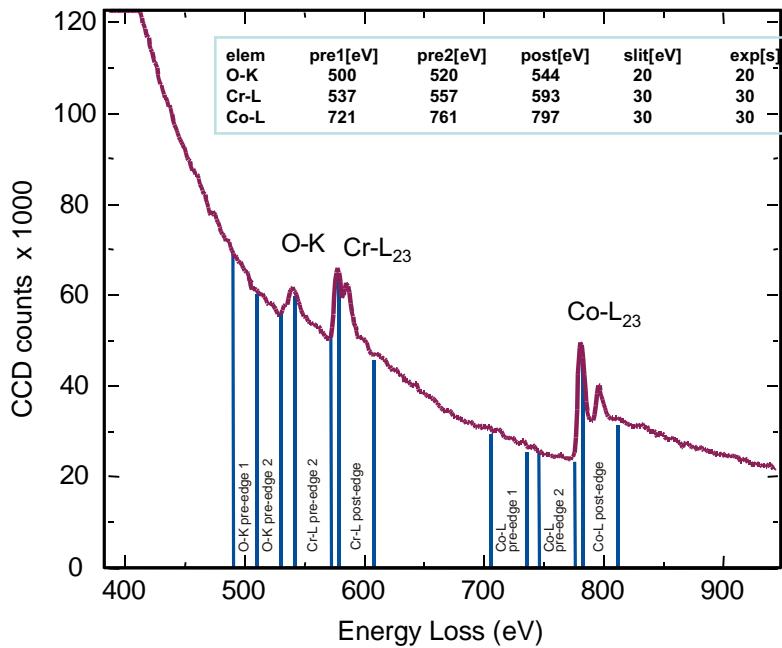
10% Cr sample

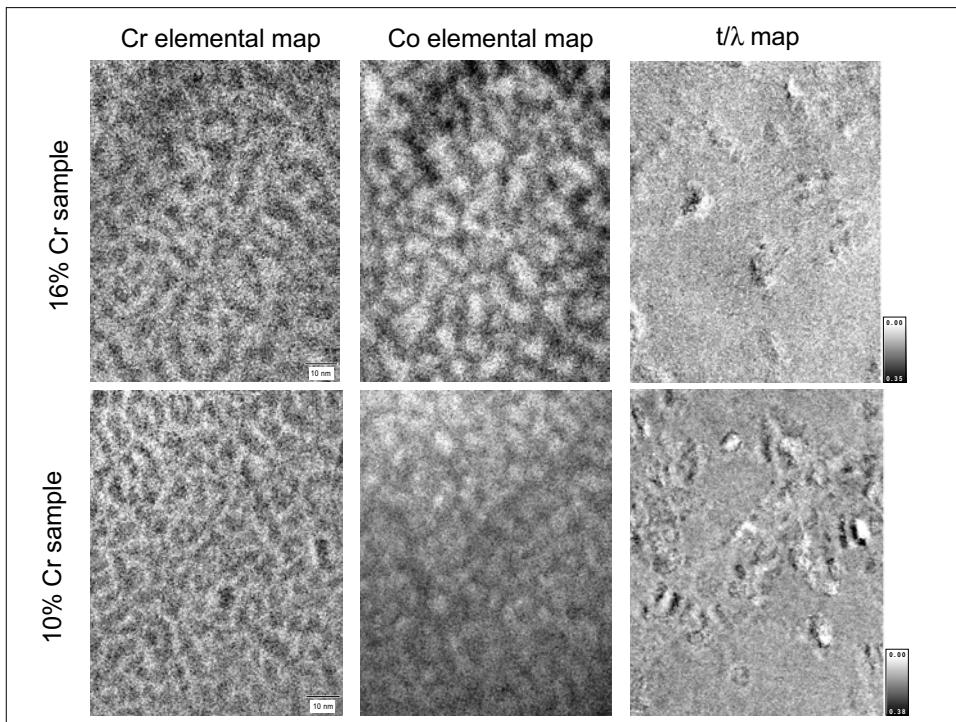


Hysteresis loops (—) and DCD curves (—)

Magnetic data of two CoCrPtX alloys (Co-16Cr-10Pt-10X and Co-10Cr-10Pt-10X). Note the better performance characteristics (e.g. SMNR) for the 16% Cr sample.

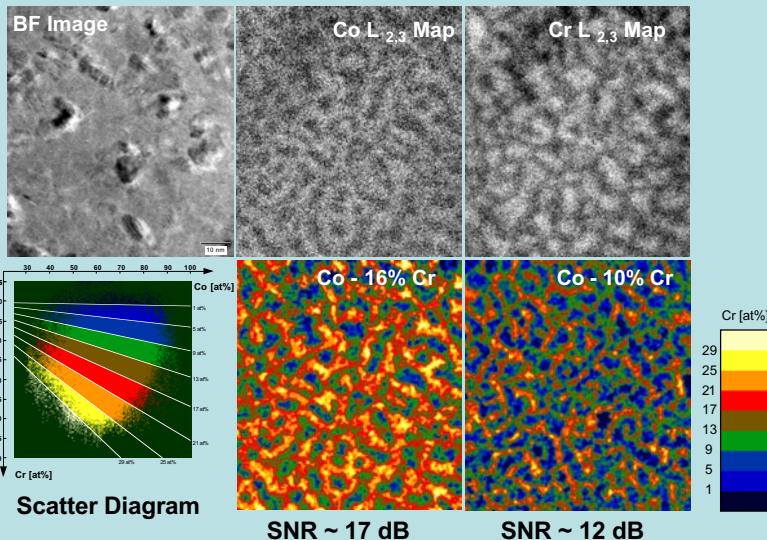
EEL spectrum of CoCr layer





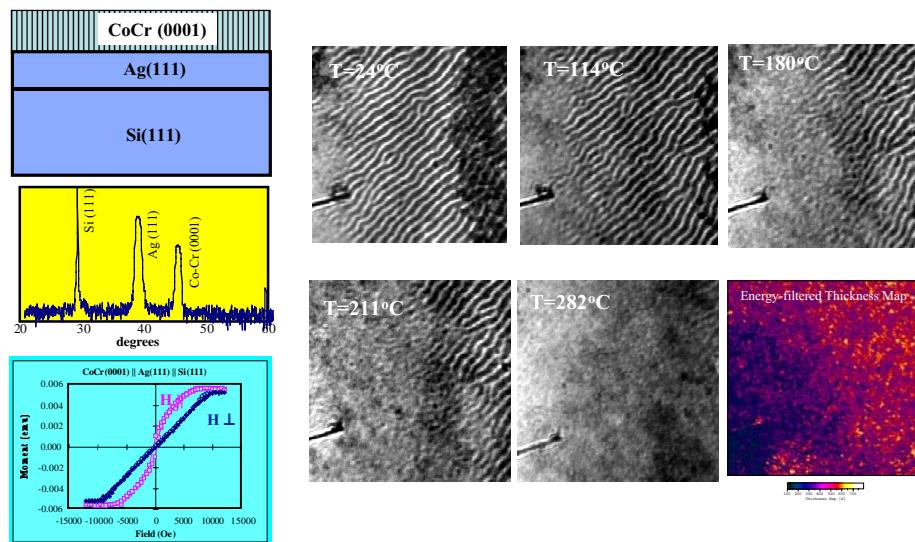
## Scatter Diagram Analysis

## Quantitative Measurement of Cr Segregation in Magnetic Recording Media Using Energy-Filtering TEM



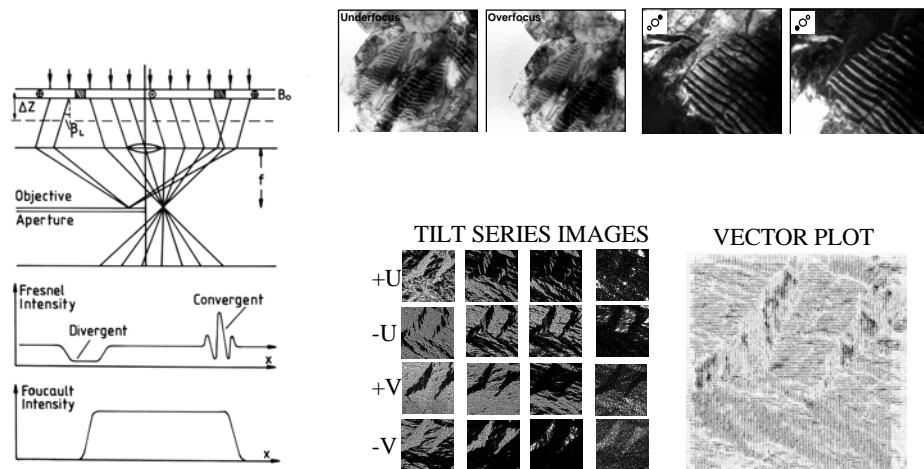
Groger, Krishnan et al. *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 80, 1165 (2002)

## Epitaxial c-axis oriented Co-Cr films on Si(111): Temperature- & thickness-dependent spin reorientation transitions



Kusinski, Krishnan & Thomas, JAP (in press)

## Magnetic Imaging in a TEM

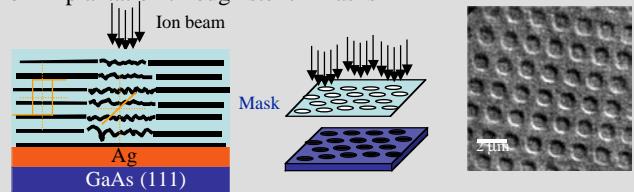


## Patterned Media

### Features

Each bit is a single domain  
In theory, stability (volume) scales as  $1/N$   
Competitive at 100 Gbits/in<sup>2</sup>, bit size ~ 75-100 nm  
Conventional Lithography Very Expensive

Ion-implantation through stencil masks



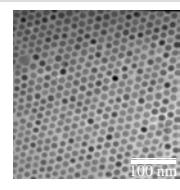
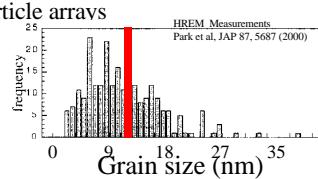
### Issues

Ion-beam solid interaction  
Details of magnetic reversal  
Edge effects

Kusinski et al

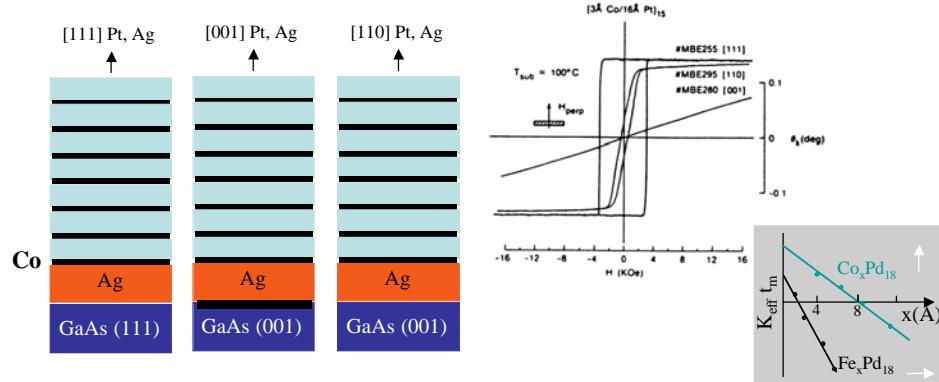
Chemical synthesis of nanoscale particle arrays

Size distribution (narrow)  
Shape (control)  
Self-assembly  
Bulk and Surface structure

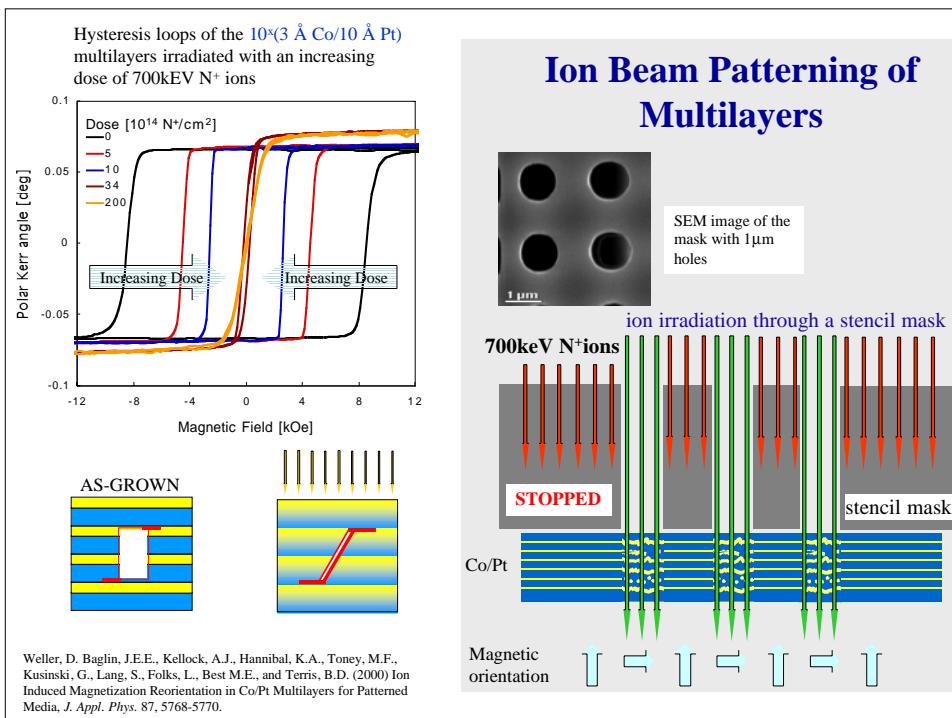


## Surface, Interface and Thin Film Anisotropy

$$E_{\text{an}} = K_{\text{eff}} \sin^2 \Theta \quad K_{\text{eff}} = -2 \pi M_s^2 + \frac{2 K_s}{t_M} + K_v$$

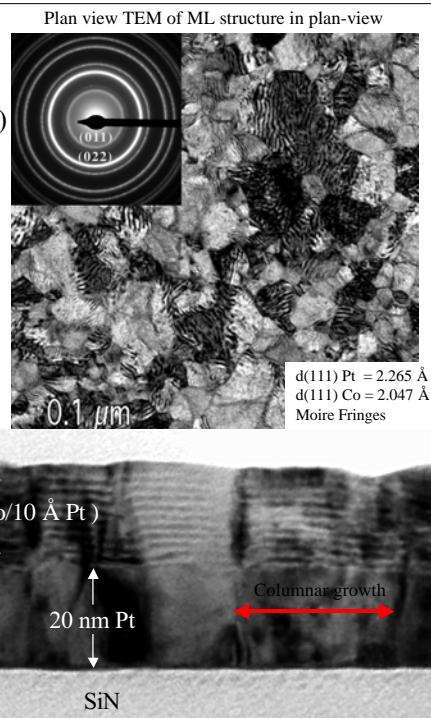
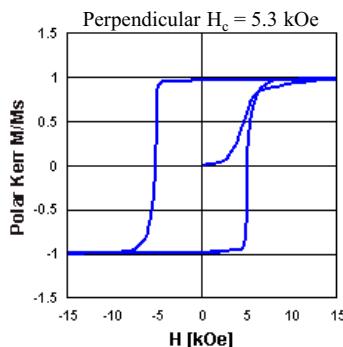


Interface is key to understanding such anisotropy.

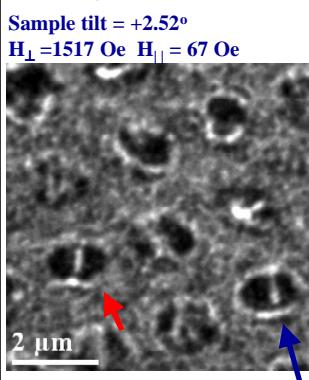
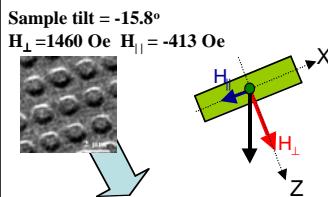


## Co/Pt Multilayers

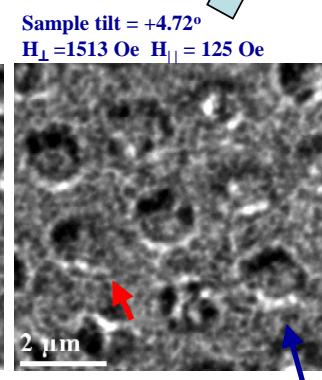
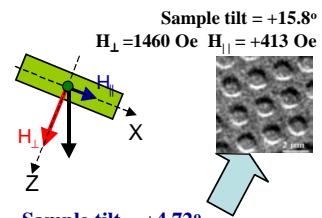
- Electron beam evaporated on SiN (windows)
- 200 Å Pt / 10\*(3 Å Co/ 10 Å Pt)
- Columnar growth, (111) textured.
- Wide grain size distribution:  $50 \text{ nm} \pm 17$
- Perpendicular Magnetic Anisotropy



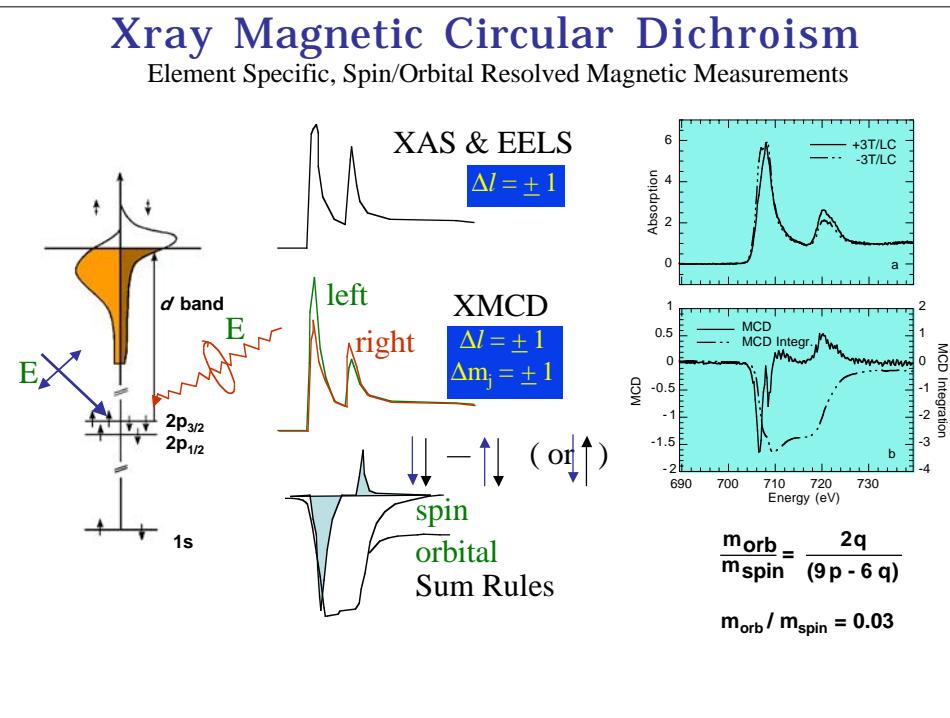
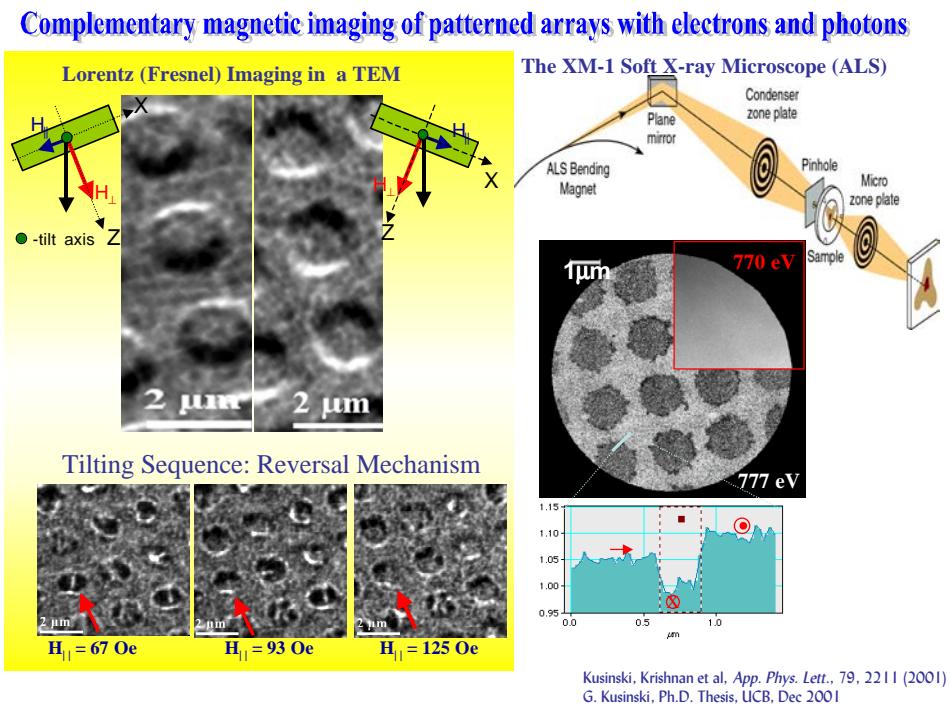
## Lorentz (Fresnel) Imaging in a TEM Under Applied Fields



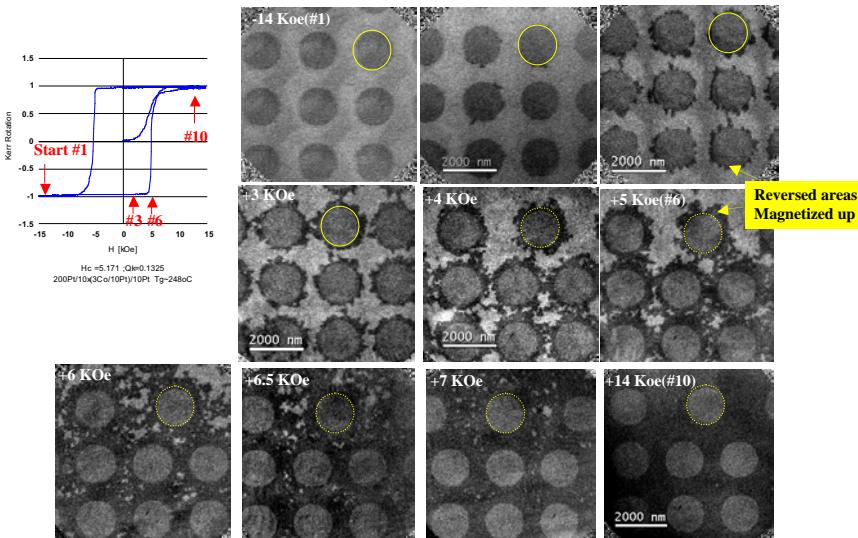
Sample tilt =  $+3.5^\circ$   
 $H_\perp = 1515 \text{ Oe}$   $H_{||} = 93 \text{ Oe}$



Kusinski, Krishnan et al. *App. Phys. Lett.*, 79, 2211 (2001)



## Magnetization Reversal Mechanism: Out of Plane

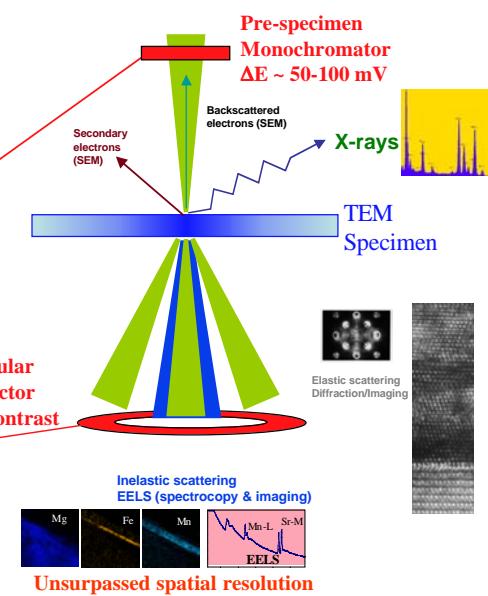
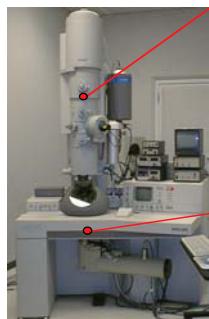


Kusinski et al, *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, **79**, 2211 (2001)

## Next Generation Transmission Electron Microscopes

A Veritable “Synchrotron Beamline” with  $1\text{\AA}$  resolution in your laboratory

Radiation	Brightness (#/cm <sup>2</sup> /str)	Elastic m.f.p(Å)	Absorp. length (Å)	Min. Probe (Å)
Neutrons	<b><math>10^{14}</math></b>	<b><math>10^8</math></b>	<b><math>10^9</math></b>	<b><math>10^7</math></b>
Photons	<b><math>10^{14}</math></b>	<b><math>10^4</math></b>	<b><math>10^6</math></b>	<b><math>10^3</math></b>
Electrons	<b><math>10^{24}</math></b>	<b><math>10^2</math></b>	<b><math>10^3</math></b>	<b>1</b>



Unsurpassed spatial resolution

Inspecim 2002

## Acknowledgements

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Ji Xiang (9/02-)

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H. Sant  
J. Kaminecek

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Dr. H. L. Ju  
Dr. N. Thangaraj

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N. Cheng  
J.D. Wright  
M. Varela  
M. E. Gomez

H. Yuen  
K. Millaninia

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X. Batlle (U.Barcelona)  
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M. Gibbs (Sheffield)  
D. Fiorani (Rome)

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