

MICROSCOPIA OTTICA IN BIOLOGIA CELLULARE [675SM]

MICROSCOPY IN CELL BIOLOGY –

aa 2023/2024, 2nd semester

Aula ex-CLA, ed C1, 15-18

Agnes Thalhammer
agnes.thalhammer@units.it



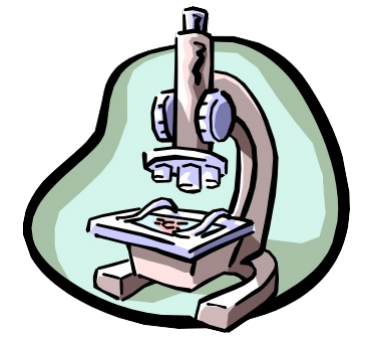
MICROSCOPIA OTTICA IN BIOLOGIA CELLULARE [675SM]

date	lesson/lab	aula	time
06/03/24	intro	Aula Ex-Cla, C1	15-16
13/03/24	lesson1	Aula Ex-Cla, C1	15-18
20/03/24	Lesson2+lab	sala microscopia F2, C1	15-18
27/03/24	lesson3	Aula Ex-Cla, C1	15-18
10/04/24	lesson4	Aula Ex-Cla, C1	15-18
17/04/24	lesson5	Aula Ex-Cla, C1	15-18
24/04/24	Lesson6+lab2	Aula Ex-Cla, C1	15-18
08/05/24	lab2	sala microscopia F2, C1	15-18
15/05/24	lab3	CIMA center, groupI	15-17
22/05/24	lab3	CIMA center, groupII	15-17

12 h lab + 16 h lessons

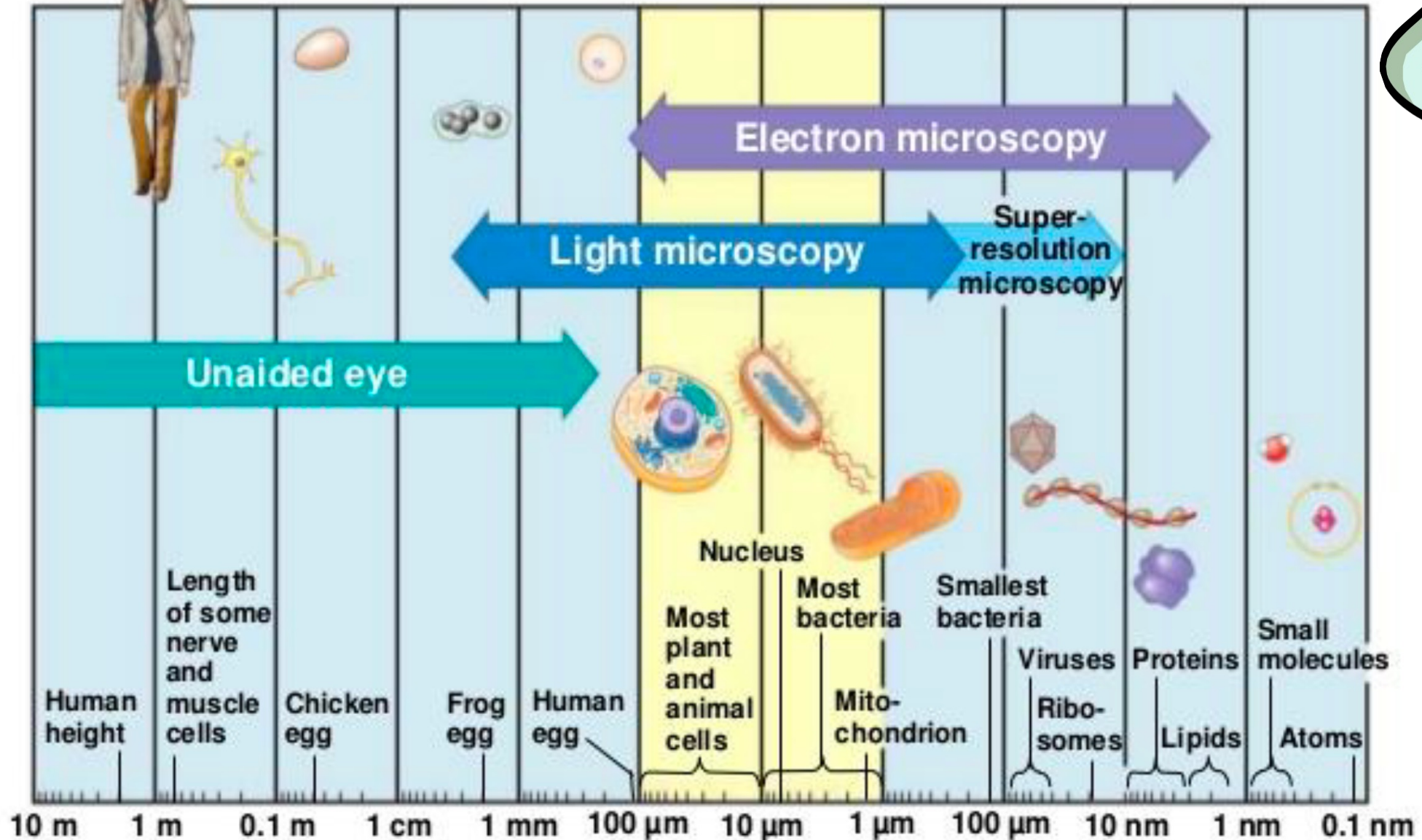
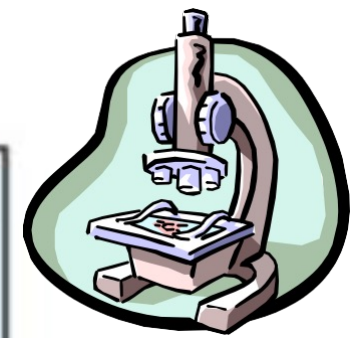


OPTICAL MICROSCOPY

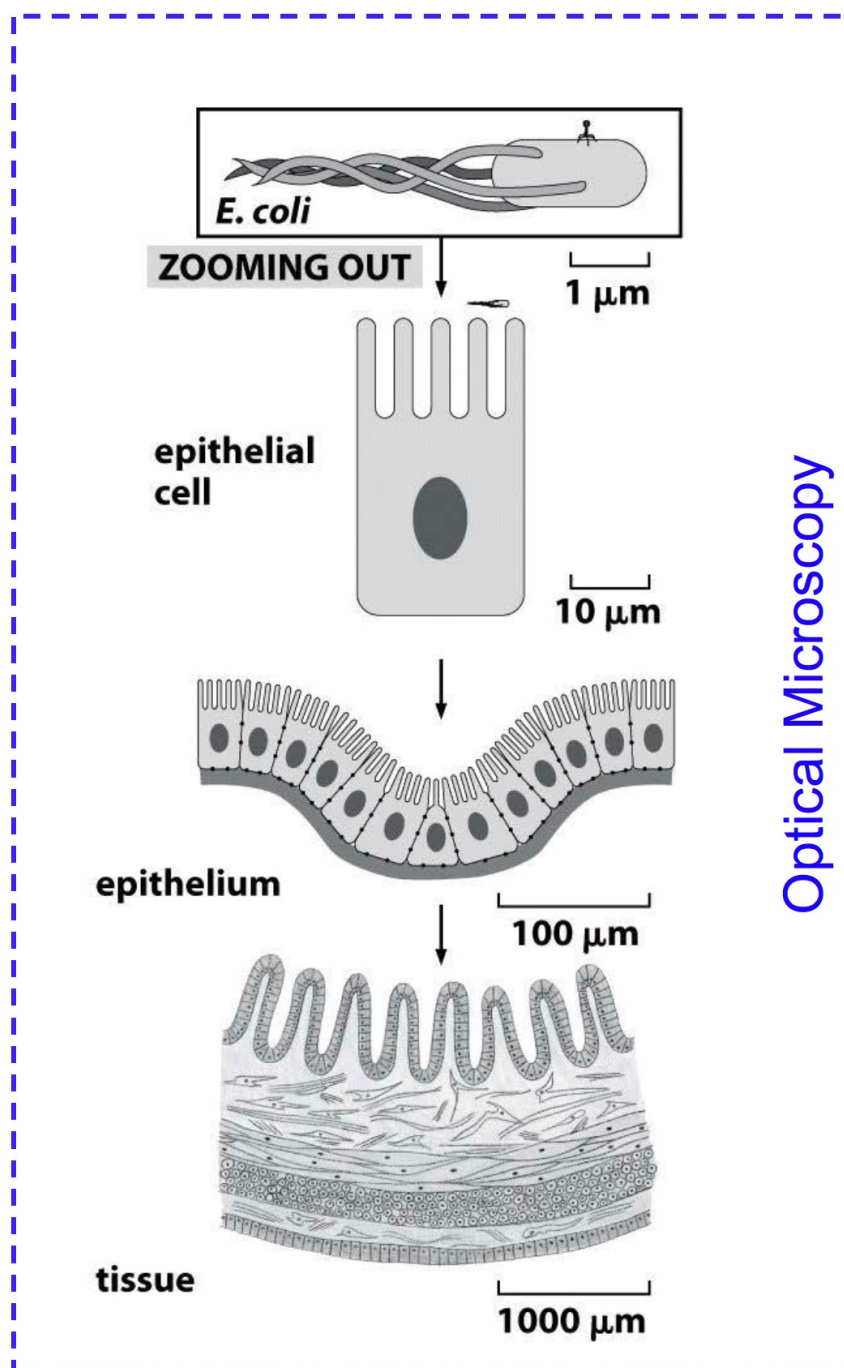
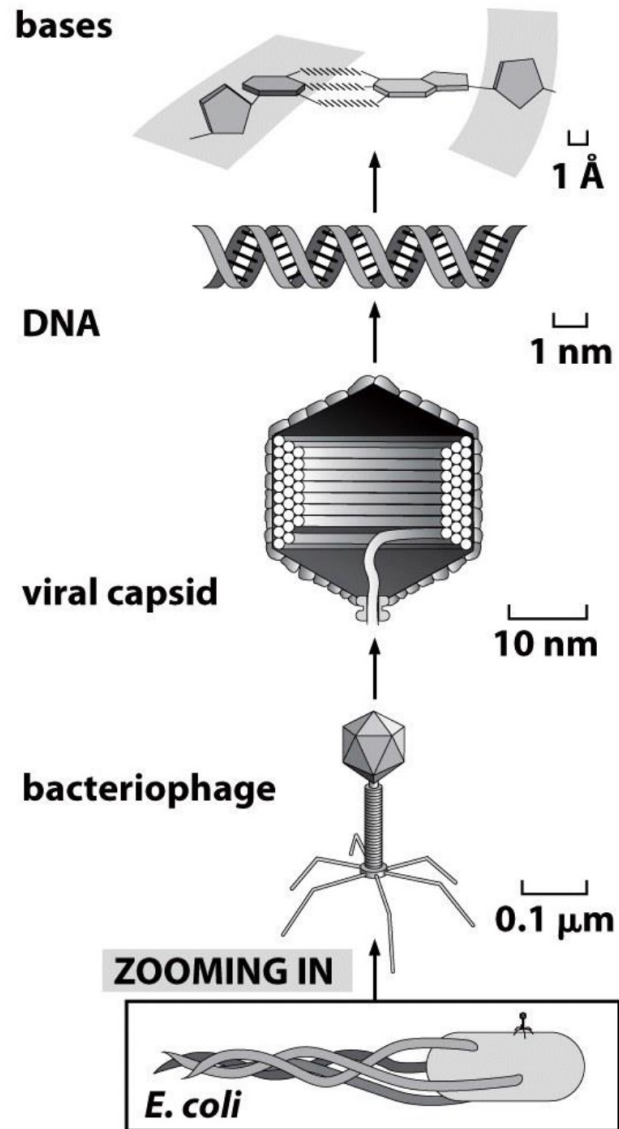


1. How a microscope works
2. Magnification vs resolution
3. Numerical aperture and working distance
4. Objectives
5. Point-spread function and Airy disk
6. Optical aberrations

What can be seen with a light microscope?

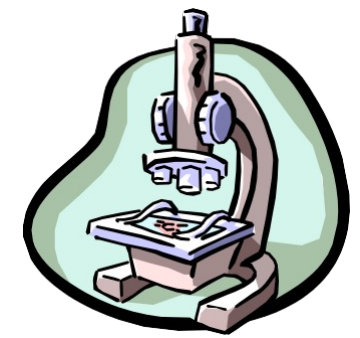


Biological Scale and Size



Optical Microscopy

HOW A MICROSCOPE WORKS



Ocular Lens
(magnifies image)

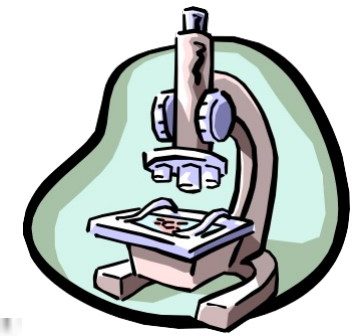
Body Tube
(focuses image)



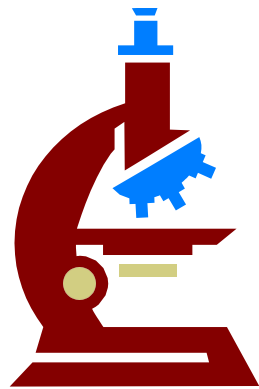
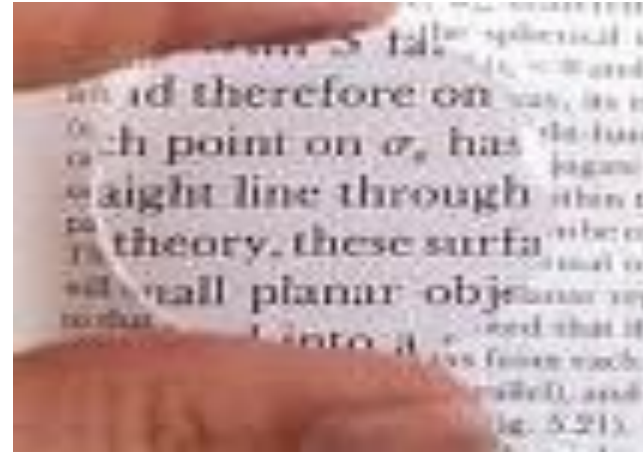
Objective Lens
(gathers light; magnifies and focuses image inside body tube)

Bending Light: The convex lens of the objective magnifies and focuses (bends) the image inside the body tube and the convex lens of the ocular magnifies it (again).

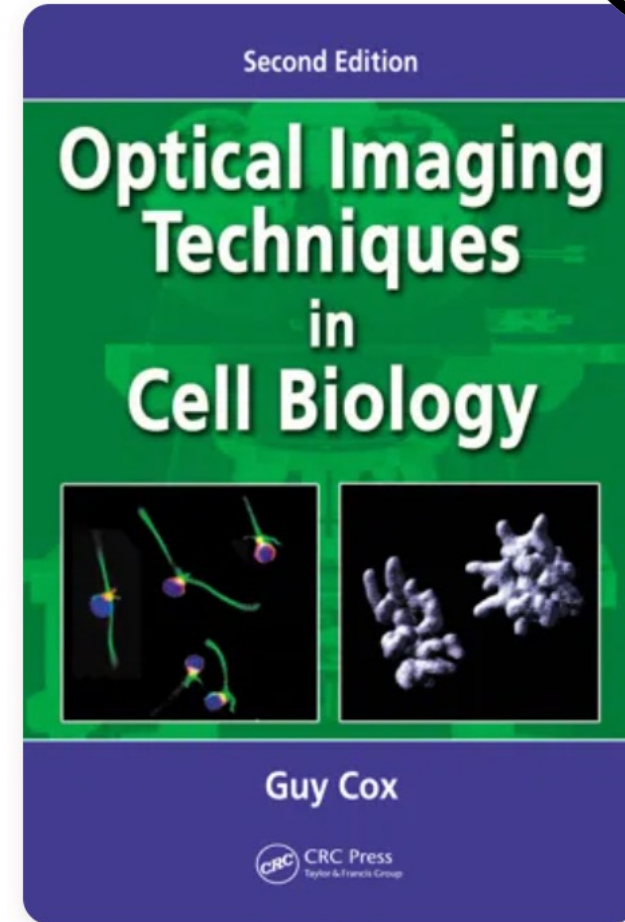
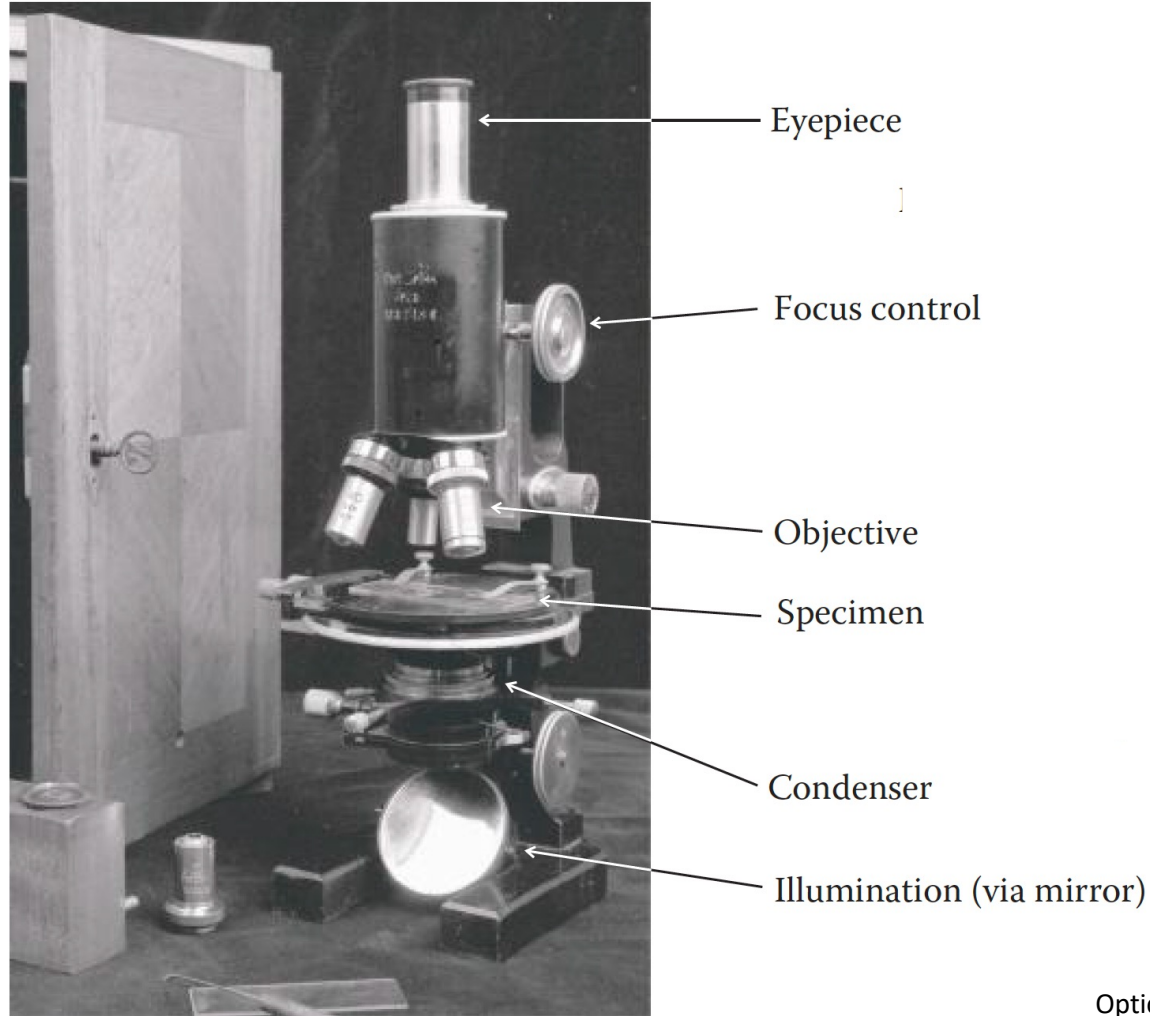
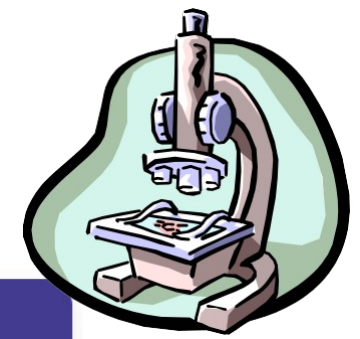
HOW A MICROSCOPE WORKS



Convex Lenses are curved glass pieces used to make microscopes (and glasses etc.)



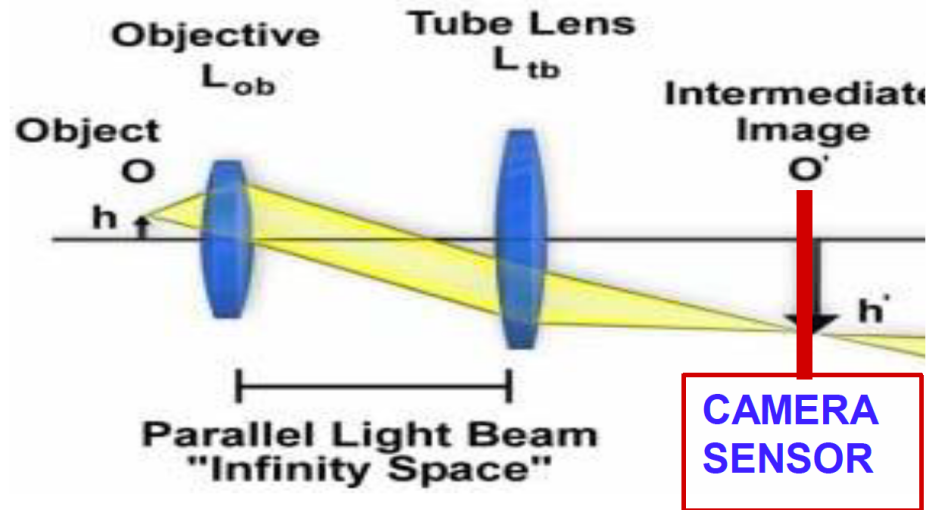
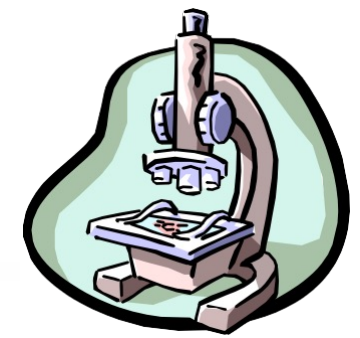
HOW A MICROSCOPE WORKS



Optical imaging techniques in cell biology

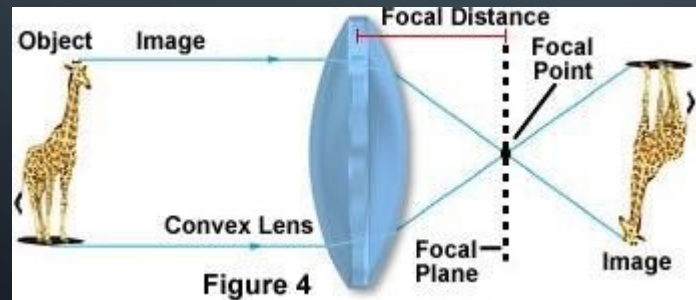
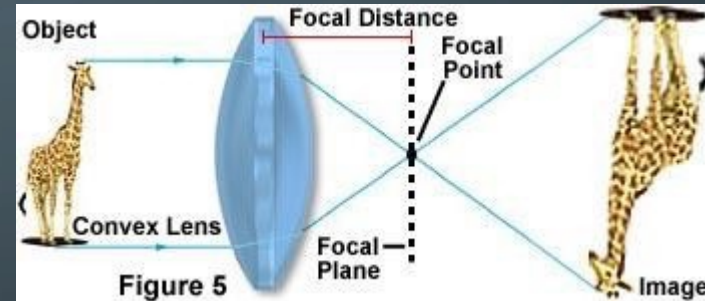
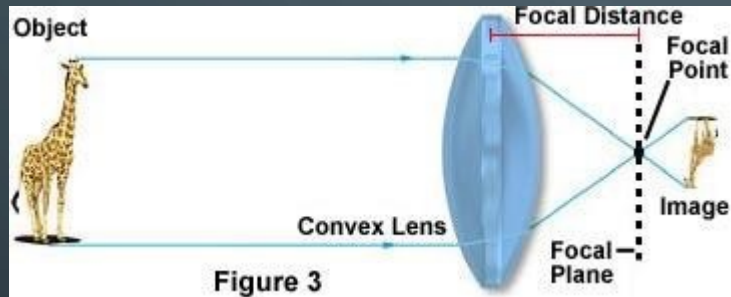
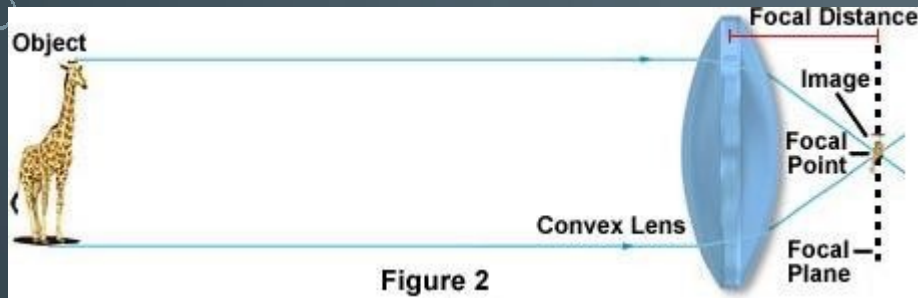
HOW A MICROSCOPE WORKS

Image formation in the optical microscope

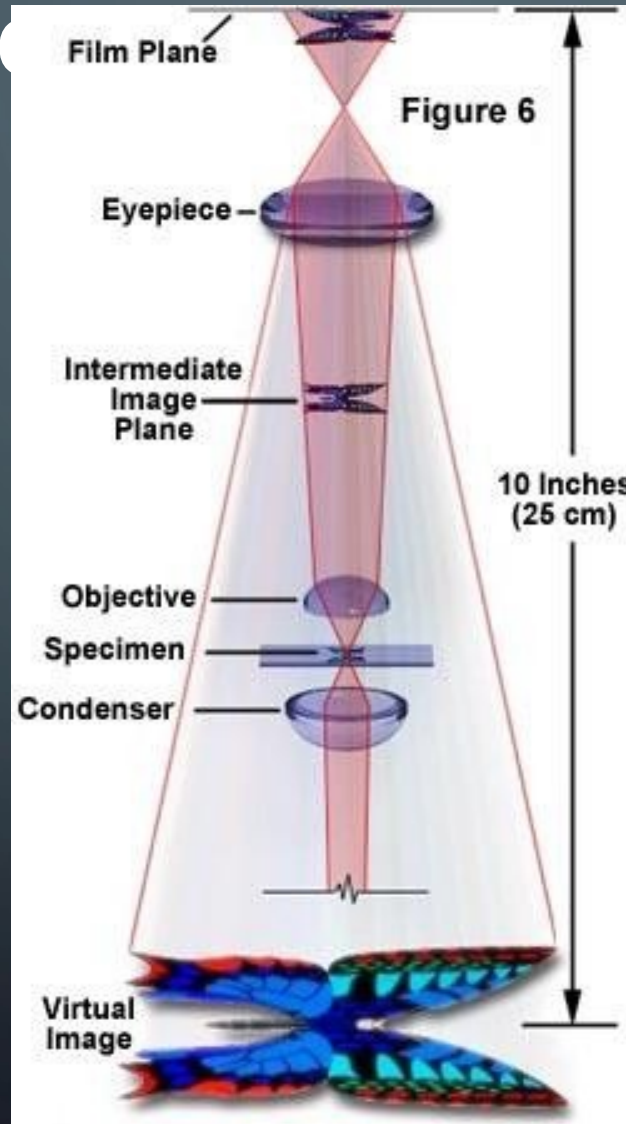


- The object is positioned in the focal plane of the **OBJECTIVE**, hence its image (through the objective) is projected to infinity.
- The **TUBE LENS** 'brings' this image from infinity to its focal plane, forming a magnified image, called intermediate image. in its focal plane.
- The intermediate image can be observed through the EYEPIECE or it is directly captured by a CAMERA SENSOR and displayed on a monitor.

Image Formation



Lenses and Image Formation



Microscope Imaging



<http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/tutorials/index.html>

<http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/tutorials/basics/transmittedlightopticalpathway/indexflash.html>

- **Absorption**

When light passes through an object the intensity is reduced depending upon the color absorbed. Thus the selective absorption of white light produces colored light.

- **Refraction**

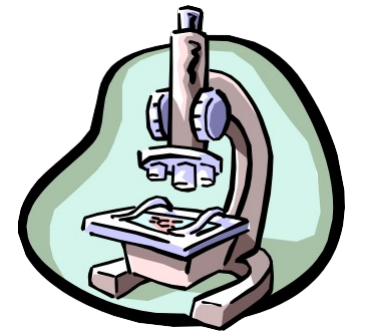
Direction change of a ray of light passing from one transparent medium to another with different optical density. A ray from less to more dense medium is bent perpendicular to the surface, with greater deviation for shorter wavelengths

- **Diffraction**

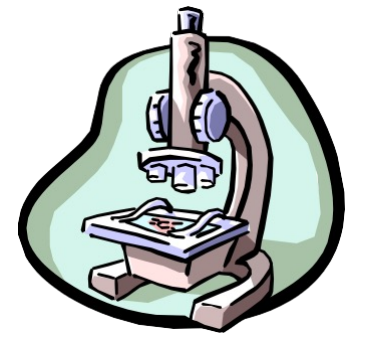
Light rays bend around edges - new wavefronts are generated at sharp edges - the smaller the aperture the lower the definition

- **Dispersion**

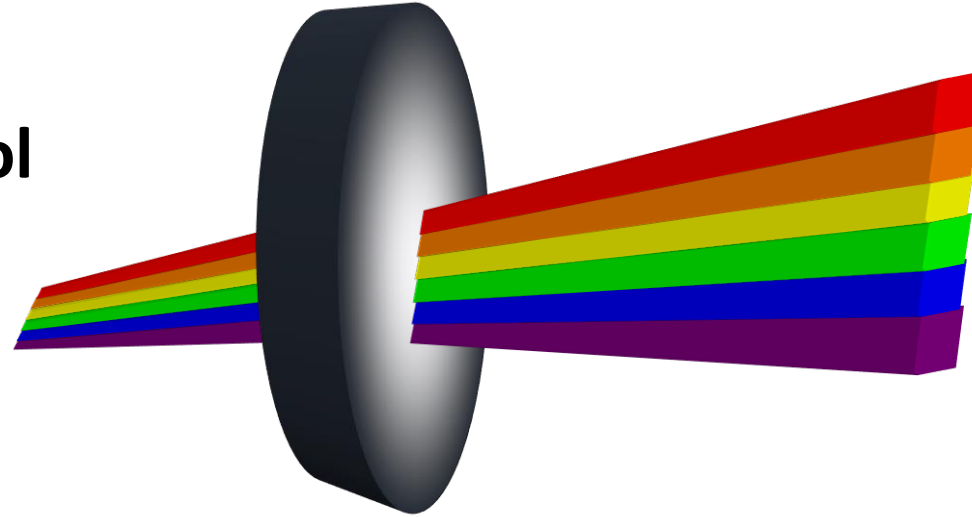
Separation of light into its constituent wavelengths when entering a transparent medium - the change of refractive index with wavelength, such as the spectrum produced by a prism or a rainbow



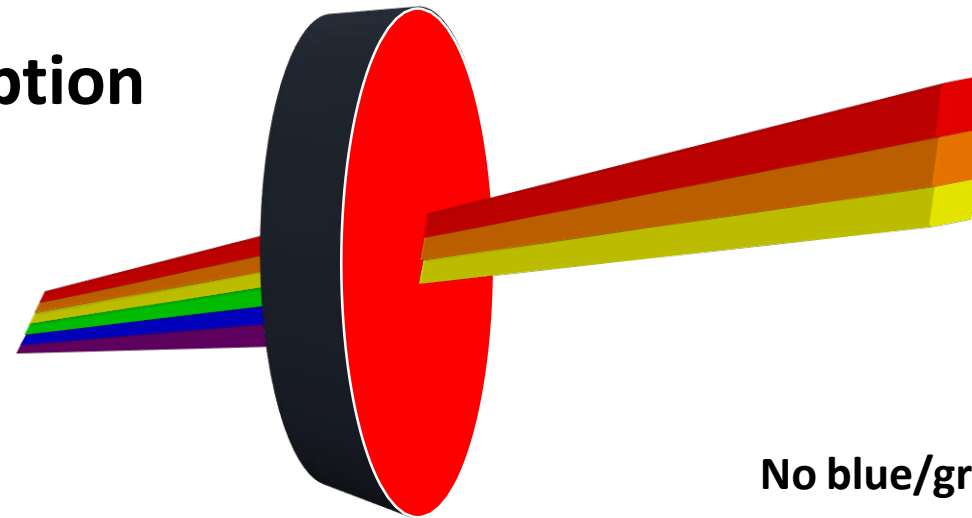
ABSORPTION



Control



Absorption



No blue/green light

red filter

- **Absorption**

When light passes through an object the intensity is reduced depending upon the color absorbed. Thus the selective absorption of white light produces colored light.

- **Refraction**

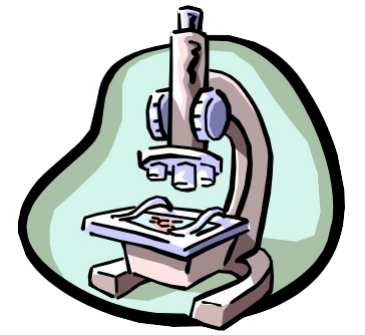
Direction change of a ray of light passing from one transparent medium to another with different optical density. A ray from less to more dense medium is bent perpendicular to the surface, with greater deviation for shorter wavelengths

- **Diffraction**

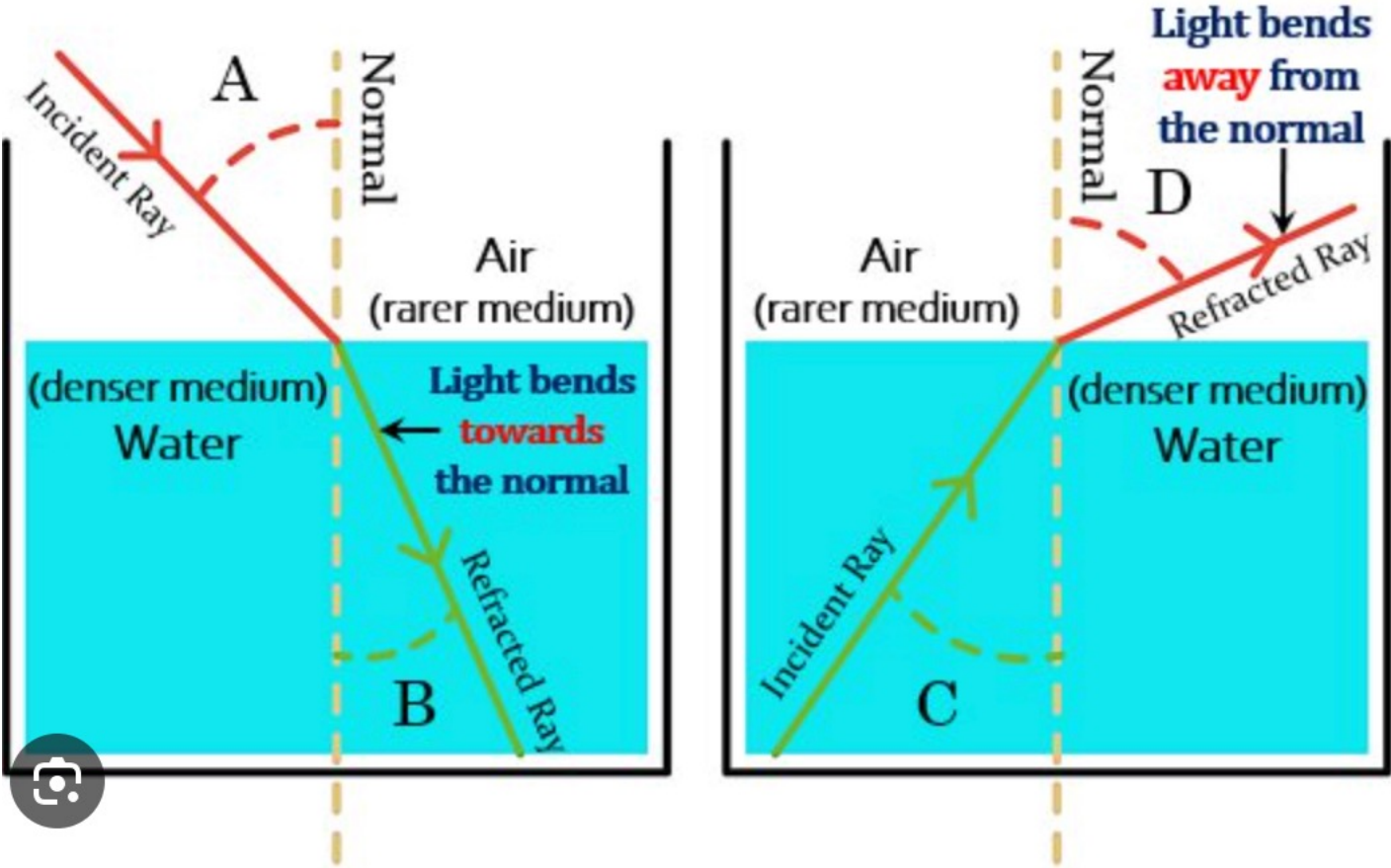
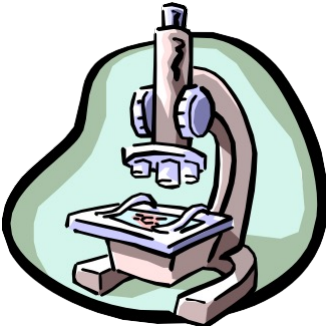
Light rays bend around edges - new wavefronts are generated at sharp edges - the smaller the aperture the lower the definition

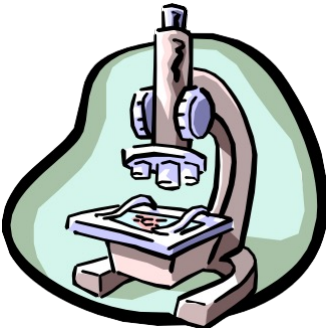
- **Dispersion**

Separation of light into its constituent wavelengths when entering a transparent medium - the change of refractive index with wavelength, such as the spectrum produced by a prism or a rainbow

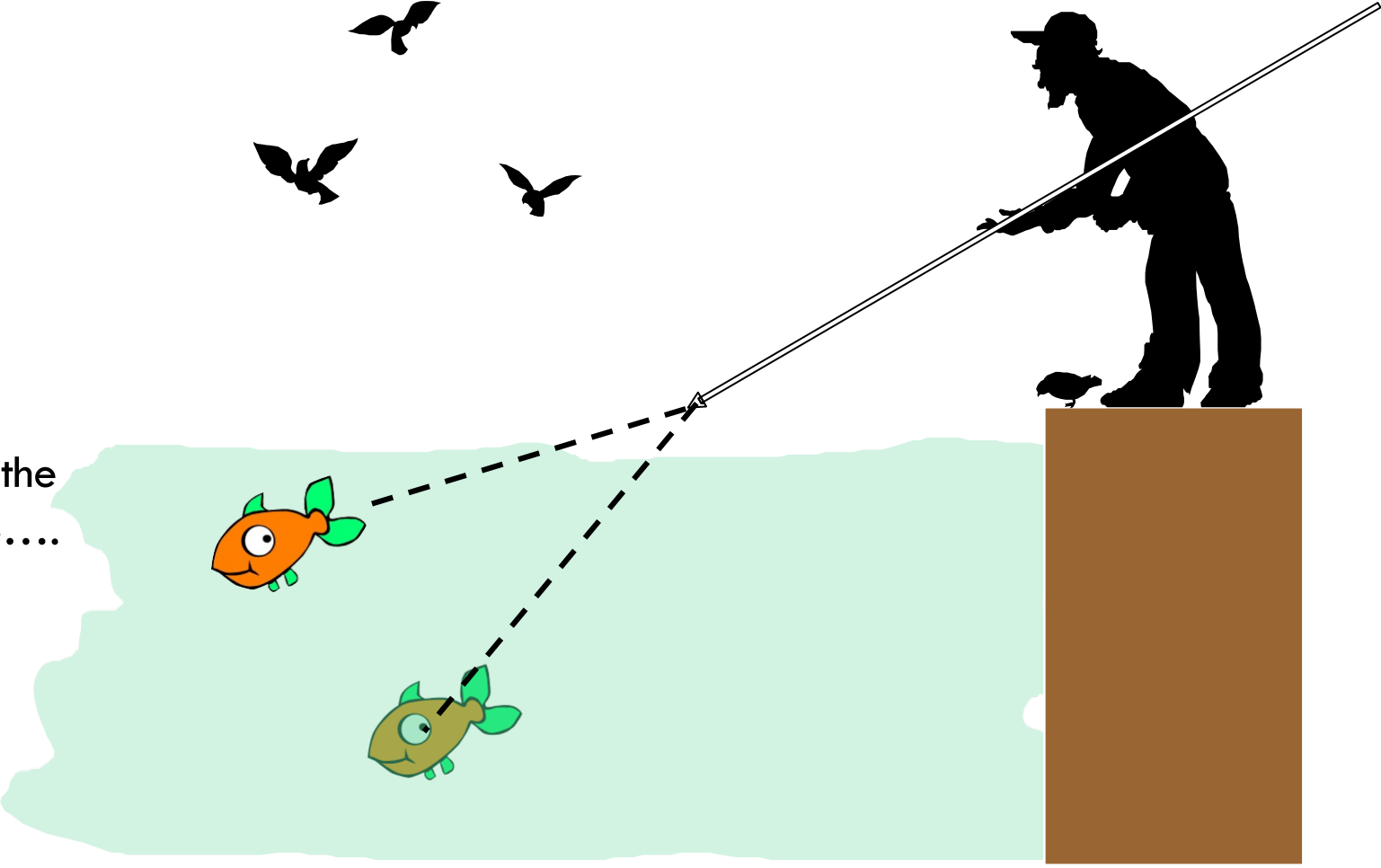


REFRACTION





He sees the fish here....



But it is really here!!

- **Absorption**

When light passes through an object the intensity is reduced depending upon the color absorbed. Thus the selective absorption of white light produces colored light.

- **Refraction**

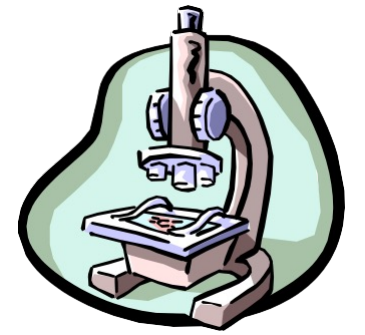
Direction change of a ray of light passing from one transparent medium to another with different optical density. A ray from less to more dense medium is bent perpendicular to the surface, with greater deviation for shorter wavelengths

- **Diffraction**

Light rays bend around edges - new wavefronts are generated at sharp edges - the smaller the aperture the lower the definition

- **Dispersion**

Separation of light into its constituent wavelengths when entering a transparent medium - the change of refractive index with wavelength, such as the spectrum produced by a prism or a rainbow

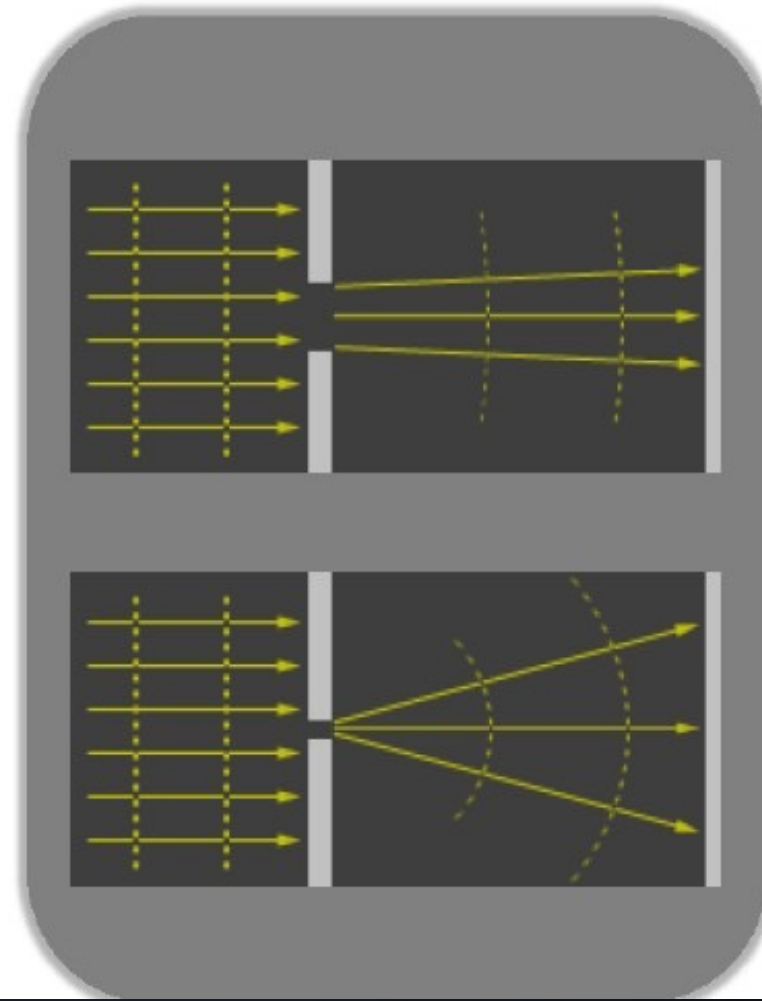


DIFFRACTION



Diffraction: Rays

- Parallel rays incident on an aperture, say rays from a point source at infinity, begin to diverge.
- The smaller the aperture, the larger the divergence.
- This can be explained if we consider light as a wave phenomenon



- **Absorption**

When light passes through an object the intensity is reduced depending upon the color absorbed. Thus the selective absorption of white light produces colored light.

- **Refraction**

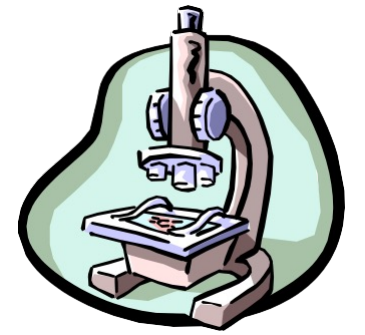
Direction change of a ray of light passing from one transparent medium to another with different optical density. A ray from less to more dense medium is bent perpendicular to the surface, with greater deviation for shorter wavelengths

- **Diffraction**

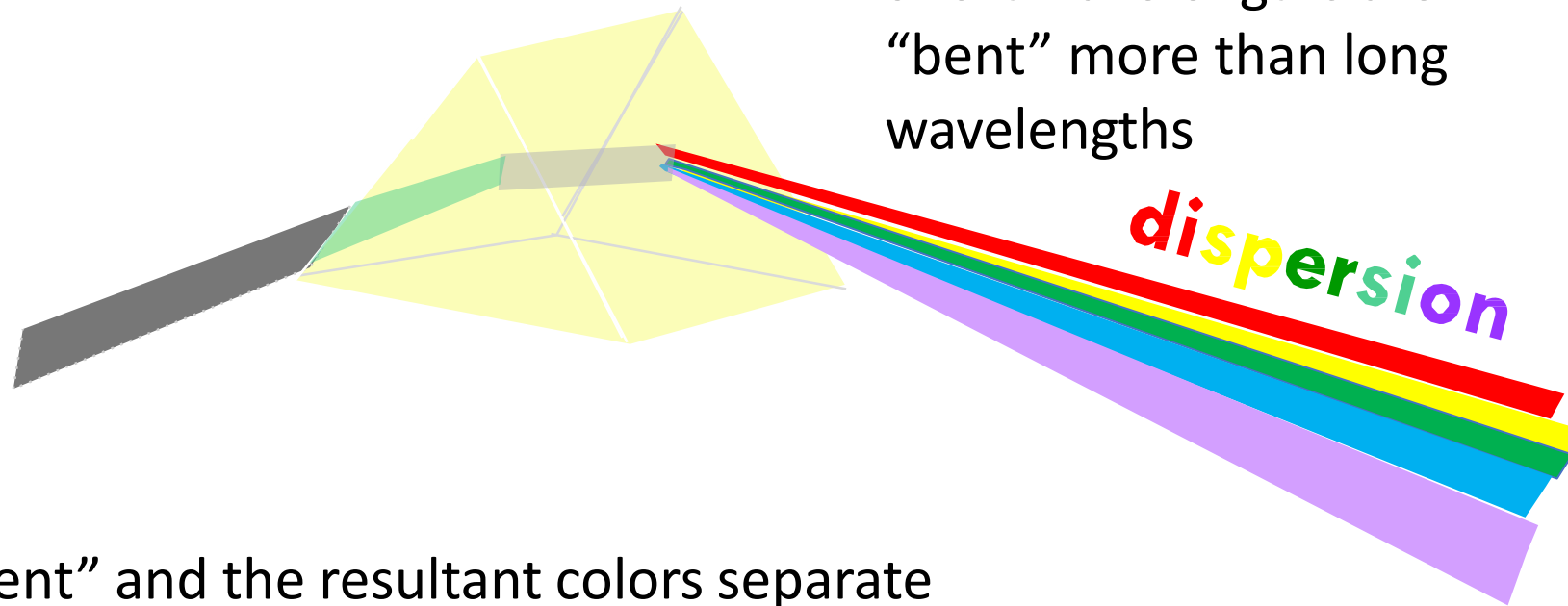
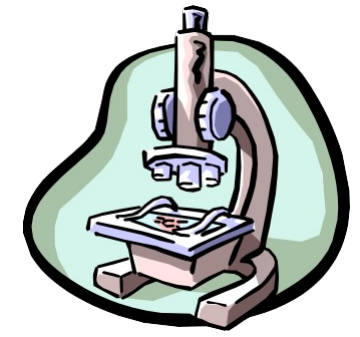
Light rays bend around edges - new wavefronts are generated at sharp edges - the smaller the aperture the lower the definition

- **Dispersion**

Separation of light into its constituent wavelengths when entering a transparent medium - the change of refractive index with wavelength, such as the spectrum produced by a prism or a rainbow



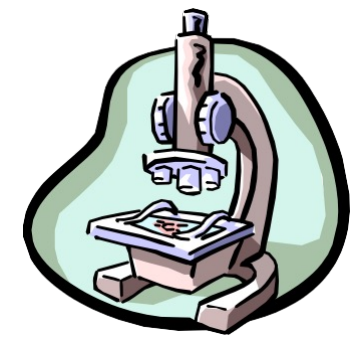
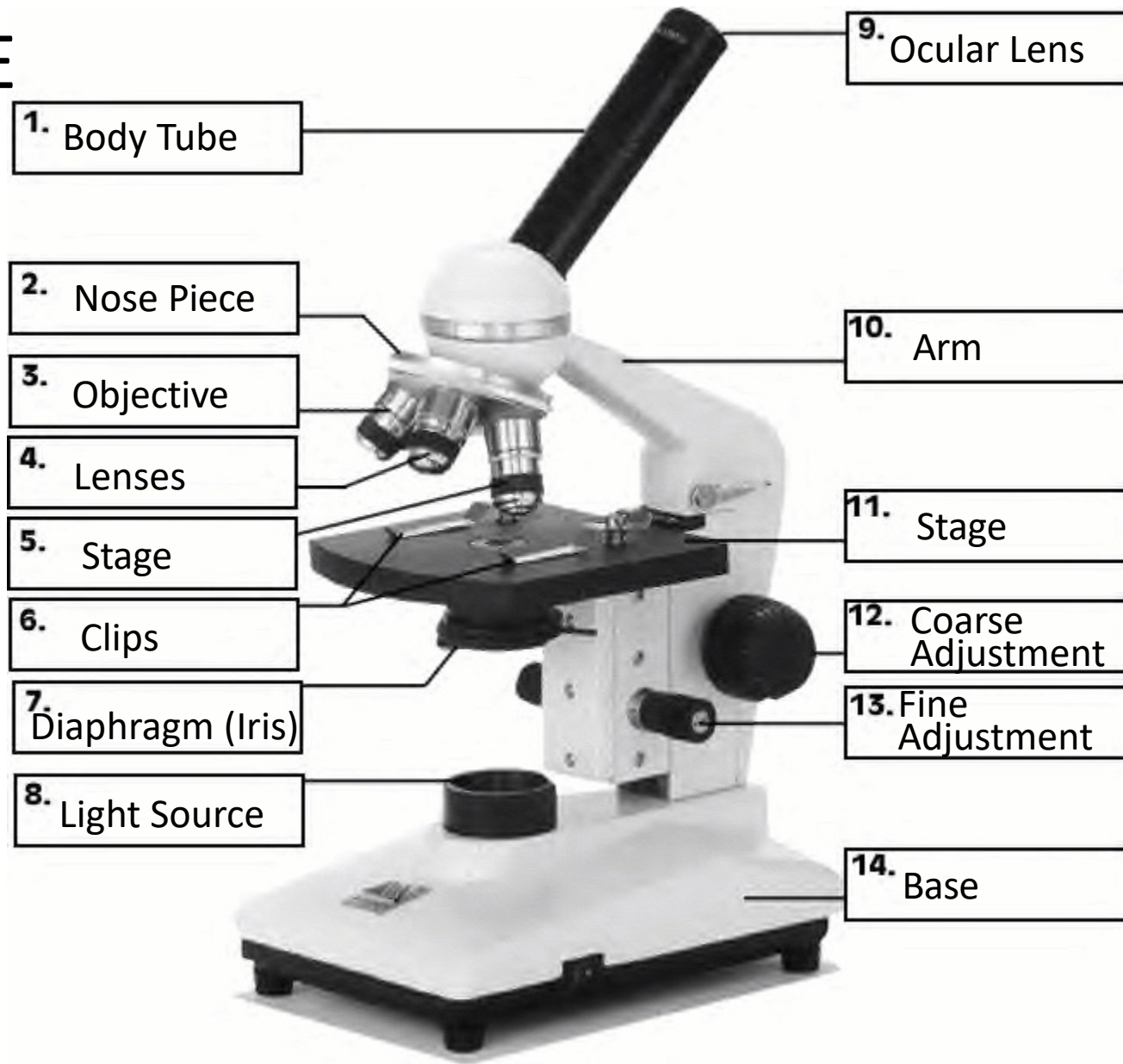
REFRACTION & DISPERSION



Short wavelengths are
"bent" more than long
wavelengths

Light is "bent" and the resultant colors separate (dispersion). Red is least refracted, violet most refracted.

MICROSCOPE



MICROSCOPE – upright, transmitted light

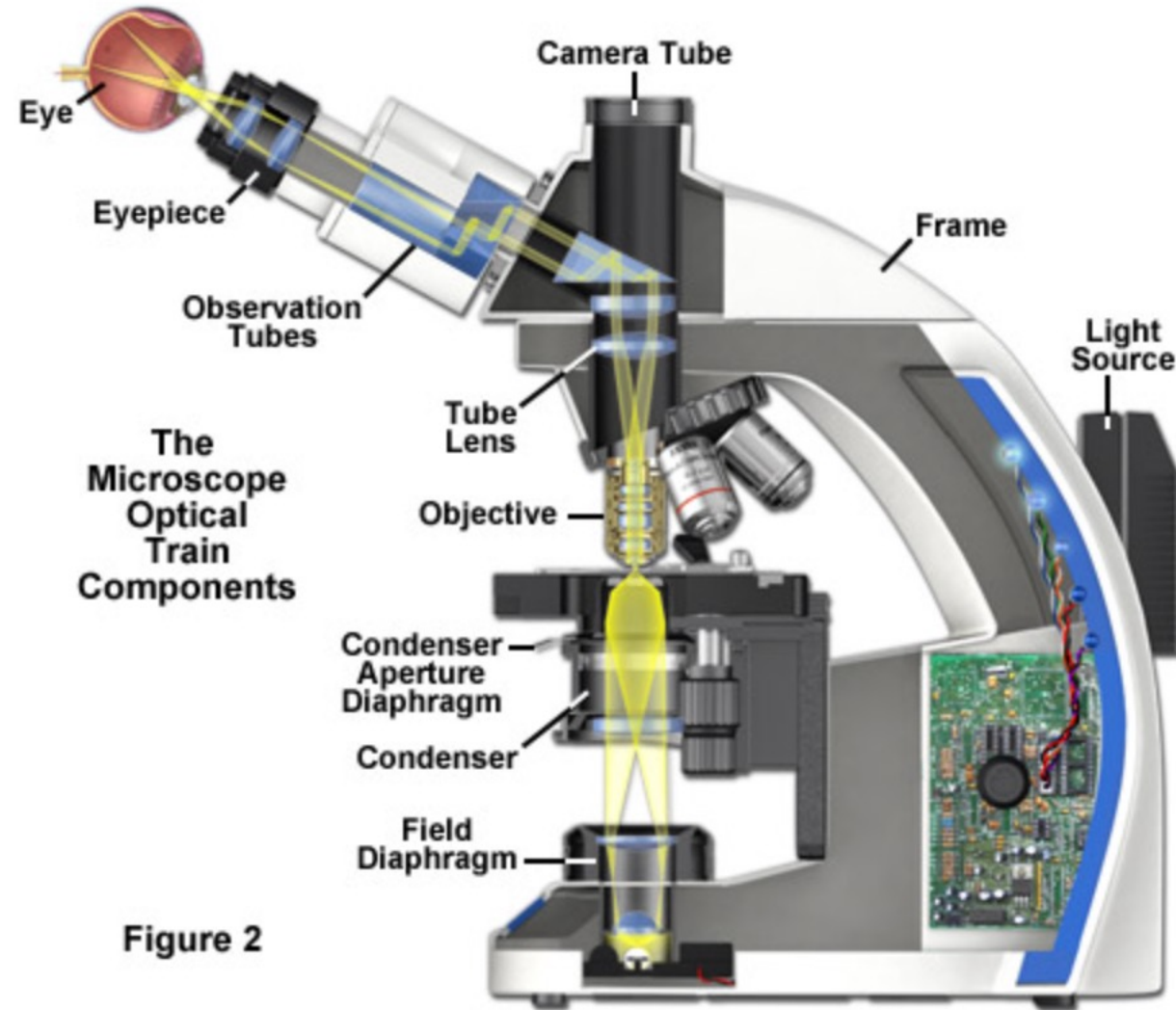
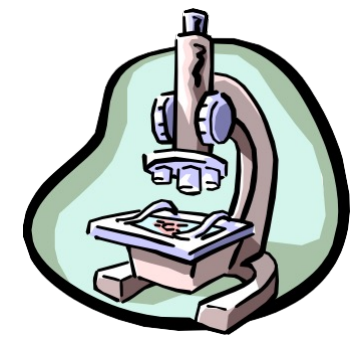
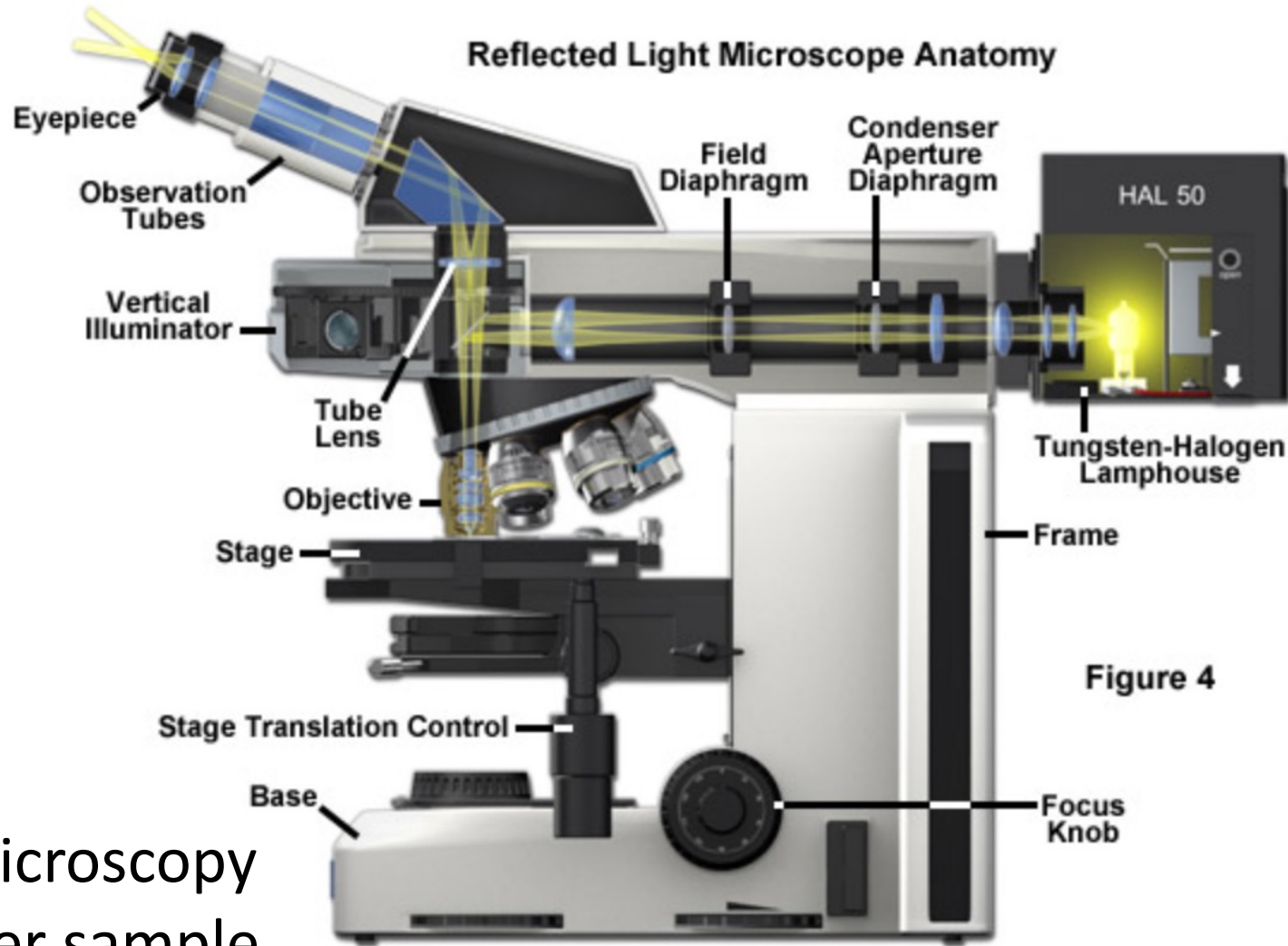
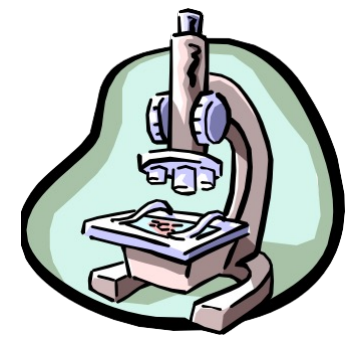


Figure 2

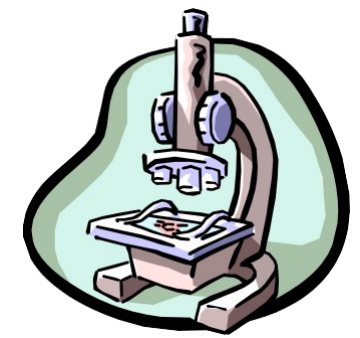
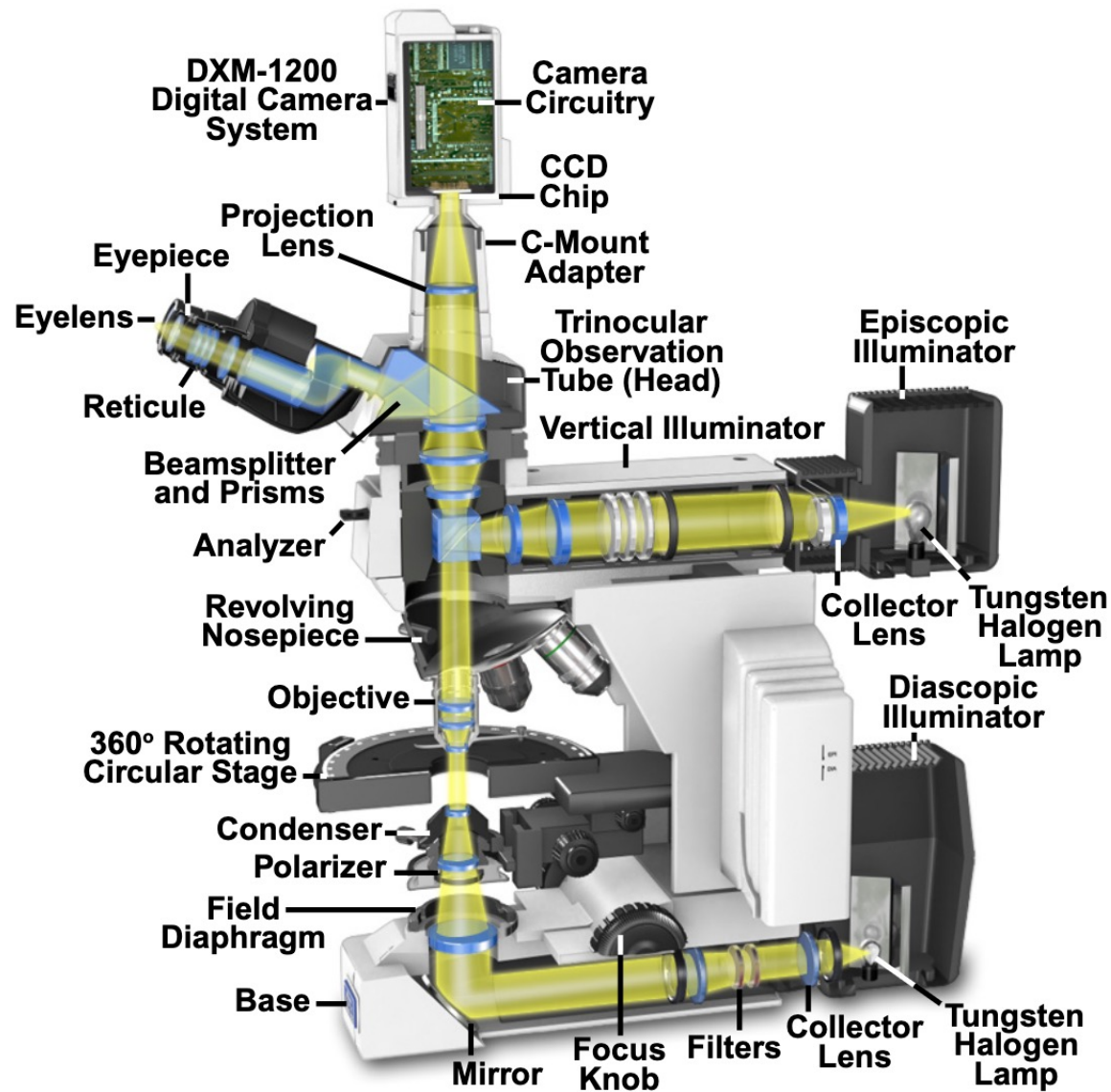
MICROSCOPE – upright, reflected light



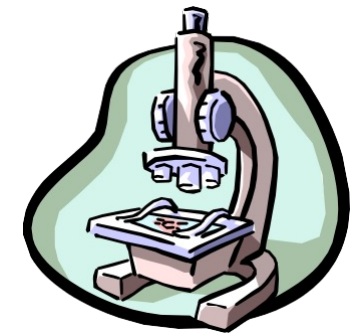
- Fluorescent microscopy
- Opaque, thicker sample

MICROSCOPE

Figure 1 - The Microscope Optical Train

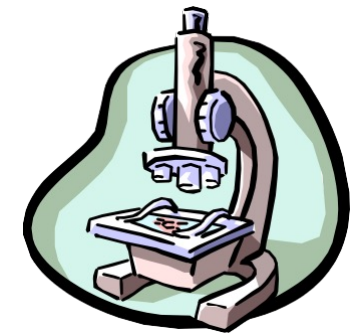


MAGNIFICATION vs. RESOLUTION



- **Magnification:** increase of an object's apparent size
- **Resolution:** power to show details clearly
- Both are needed

MAGNIFICATION



Objective magnification

4X – 120 X

Microscope magnification

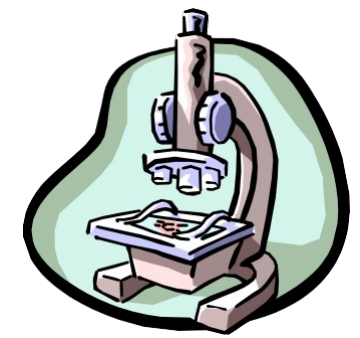
$$M_M = M_{OB}M_{EY}$$

50 X – 2000 X

EY – Eyepiece; DC – Digital Camera

$$M_M = M_{OB}M_{DC}$$

MAGNIFICATION



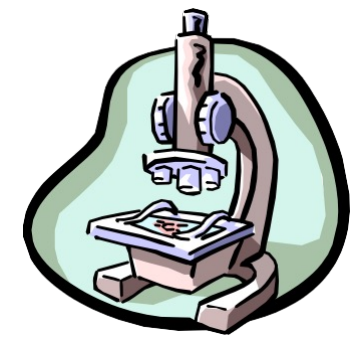
naked eye



20x magnification

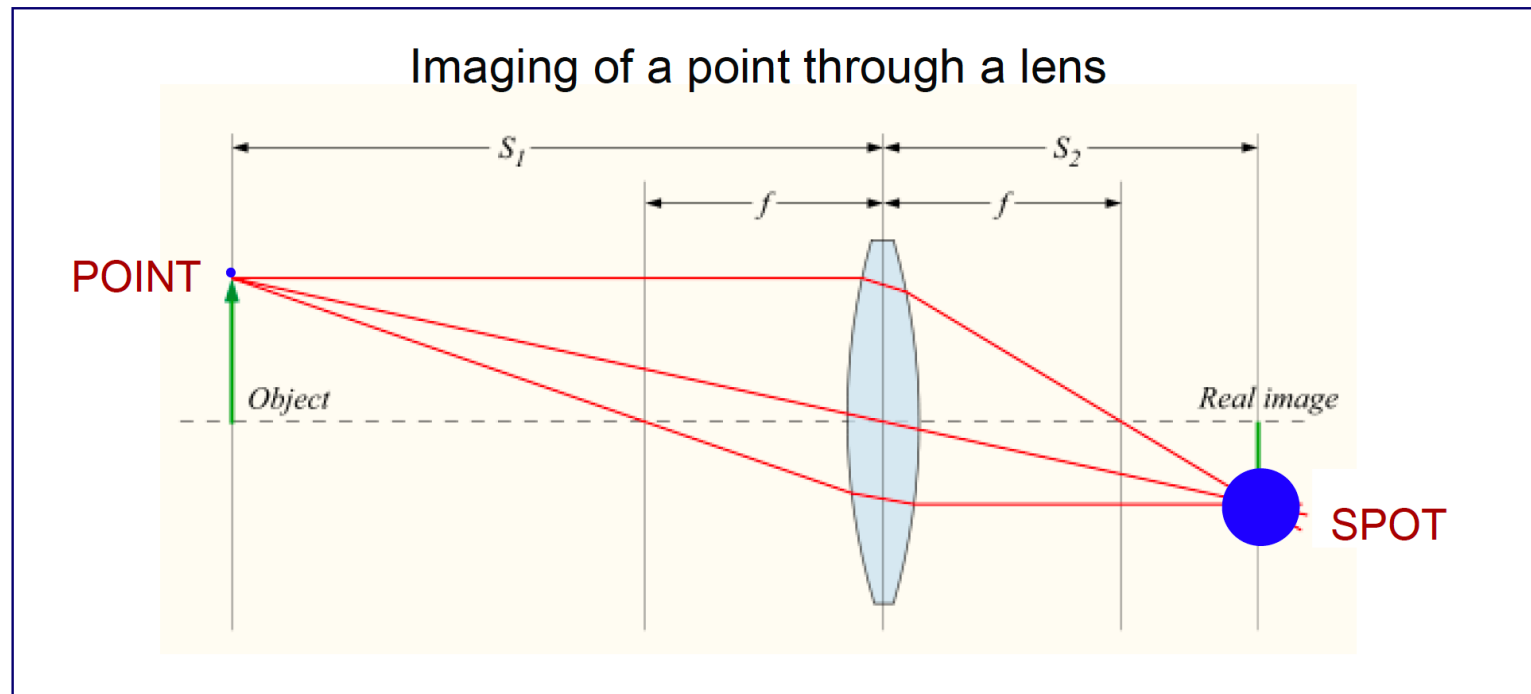
Magnification is NOT ALWAYS related with resolution

RESOLUTION



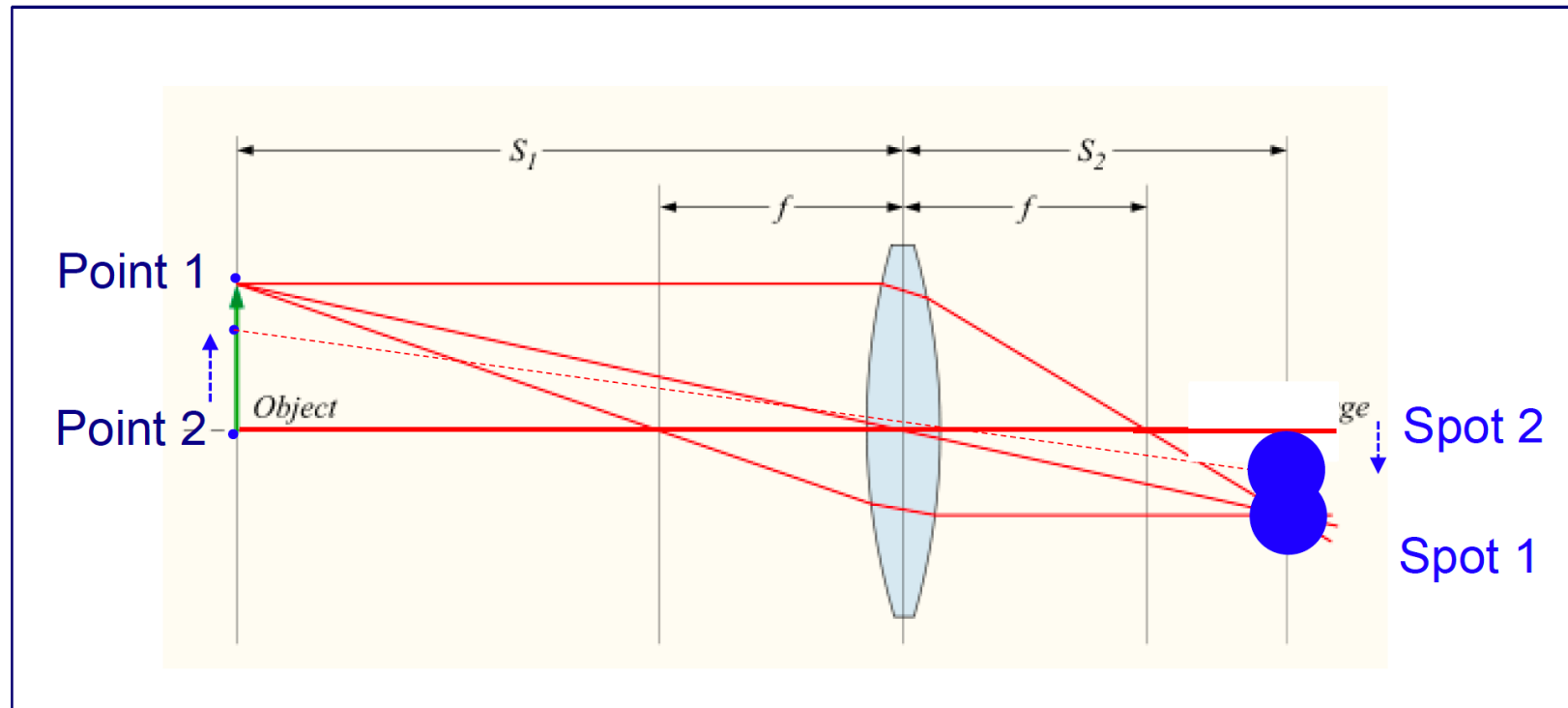
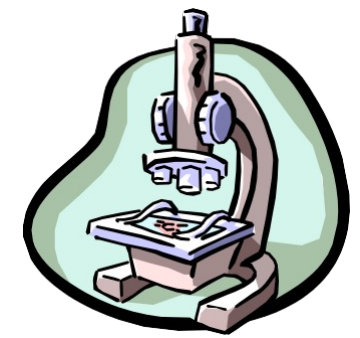
Resolution describes the ability of an optical system to **resolve details** of the object that is being imaged.

Due to the diffraction of light through an optical system with finite size, a **POINT** object is imaged into a **SPOT** rather than a point.



LARGER the LENS, SMALLER the SPOT !
SMALLER the SPOT, BETTER the RESOLUTION !

RESOLUTION of two points



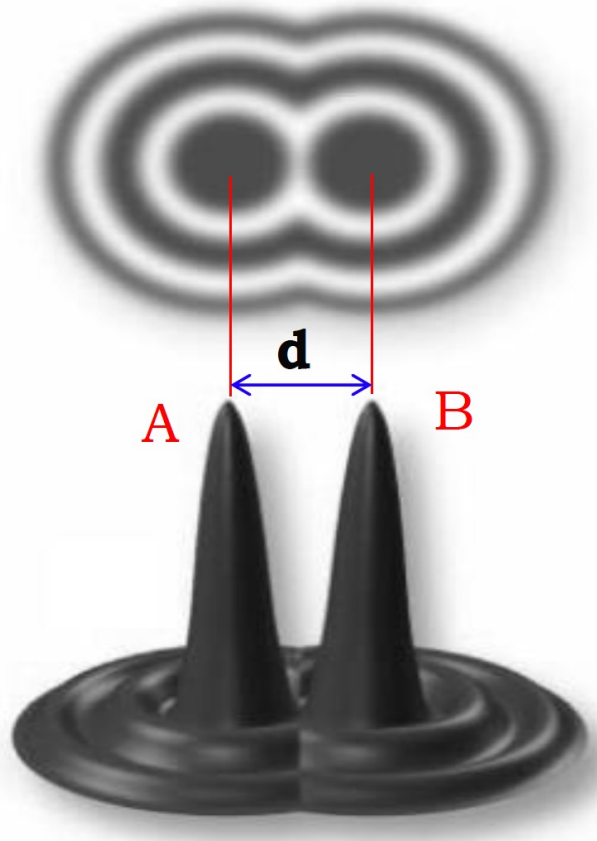
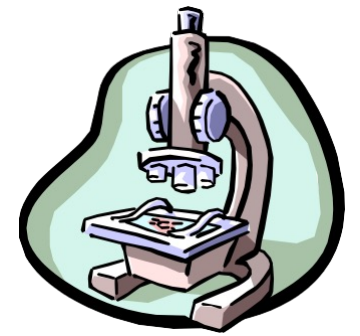
When the two points are close each other, their images (two spots) overlap and hence they can not be separated (resolved)!

RESOLVING POWER

- Is the ability to distinguish two adjacent points as distinct and separate
- Mere increase in size without the ability to distinguish structural details is not beneficial. The largest magnification produced by a microscope may not be the most useful because the image obtained may be unclear or fuzzy.
- The more lines or dots per unit area that can be seen separately, the greater is the resolving power.
- It is a function of the wavelengths of lights used & the numerical aperture of the lens system.

RESOLUTION CRITERION

The resolution, r , is defined as the shortest distance between two points on a specimen that can still be distinguished by the observer or camera sensor as separate entities.



Rayleigh criterion

$$r = 0.61 \frac{\lambda}{NA}$$

NA- Numerical Aperture

Estimating the lateral resolution
of a microscope objective (lens):

$$NA = 1.5, \lambda = 400 \text{ nm}$$

$$\rightarrow r \sim 200 \text{ nm}$$

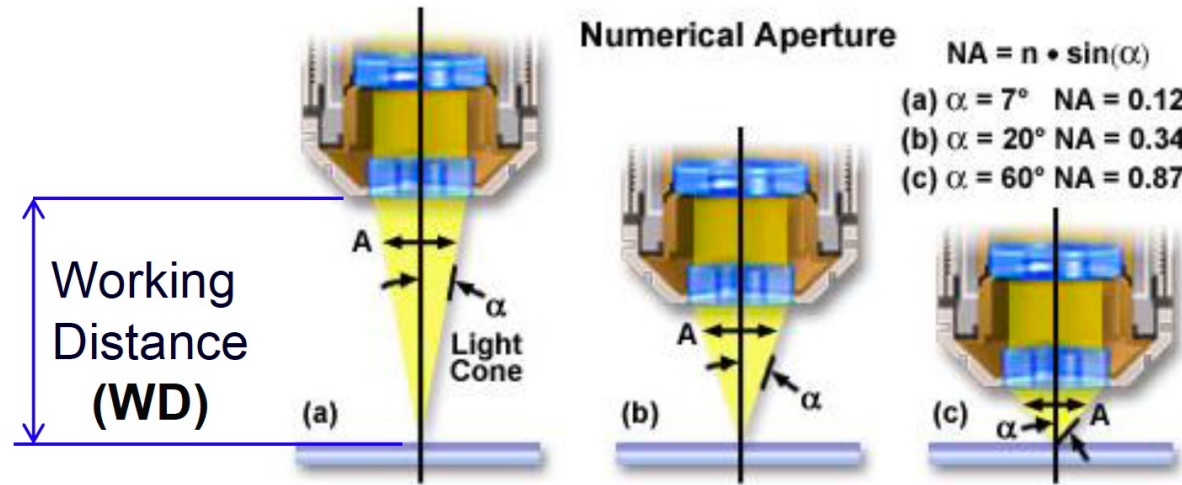
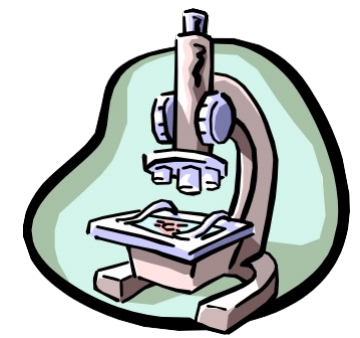
A and B are separated if: $d > r$

NUMERICAL APERTURE

- In optics, the numerical aperture (NA) of an optical system is a dimensionless number that characterizes the range of angles over which the system can accept or emit light.
- The sine value of half-aperture angle multiplied by the refractive index n of the medium gives the numerical aperture (NA)
- Thus,

$$NA = n \sin \theta$$

NUMERICAL APERTURE & WORKING DISTANCE



$$NA = n \cdot \sin \alpha$$

n = refractive index

α = angle of incident illumination

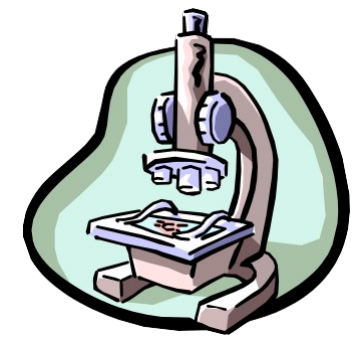
Immersed objectives $NA > 1$

Oil ($n=1.515$), Glycerin ($n=1.47$) or Water ($n=1.33$)

Higher NA \rightarrow better lateral Resolution

Note: WD decreases when NA increases !!!

OBJECTIVES

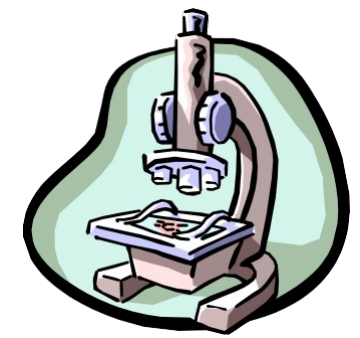


Oil-Immersion Infinity-Corrected Apochromat Objective



Figure 1

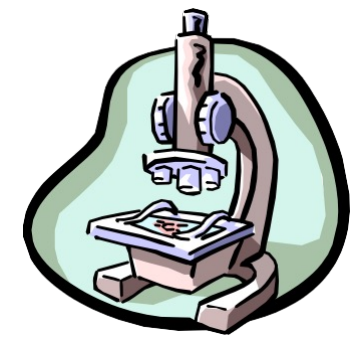
OBJECTIVE SPECIFICATIONS



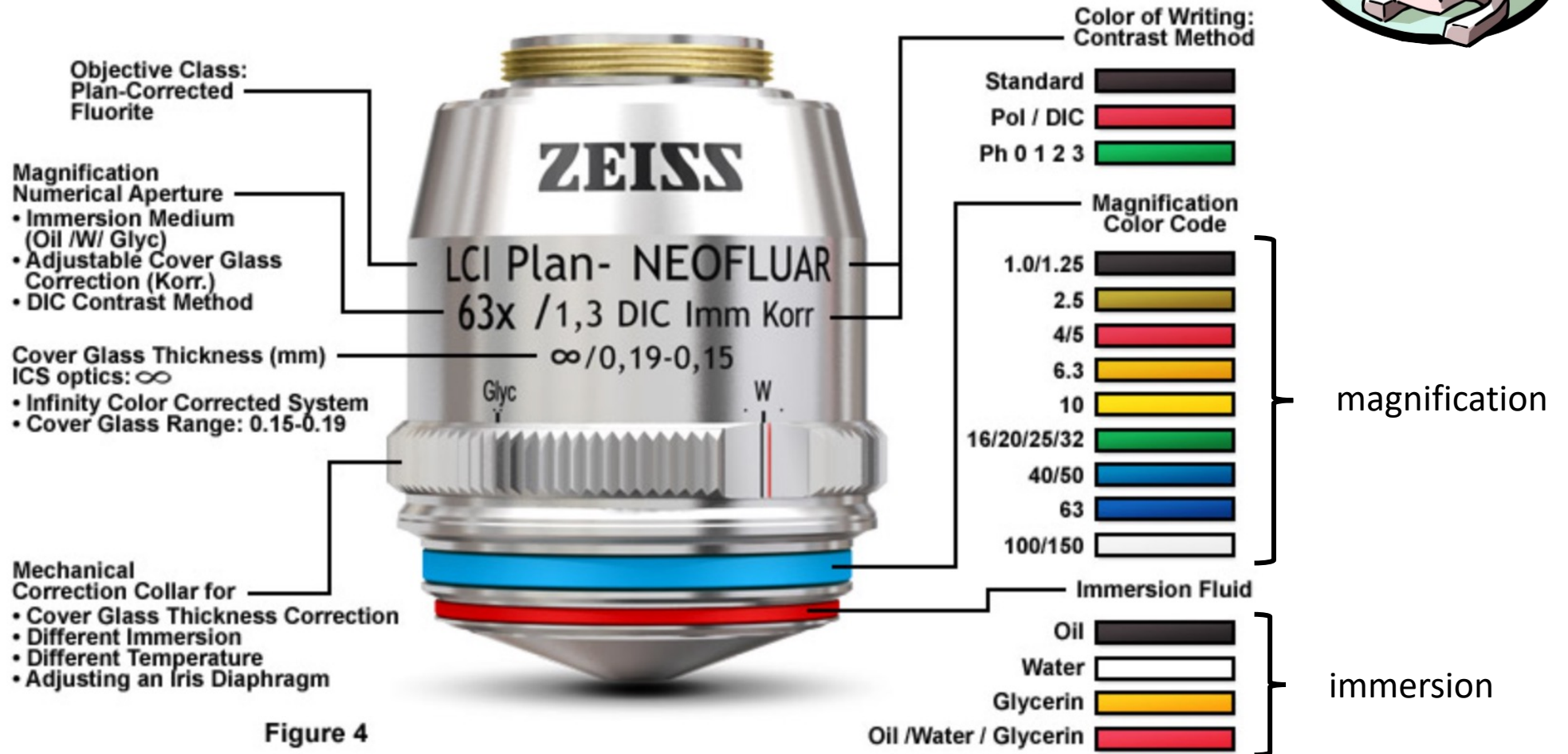
60x Plan Achromat Objective



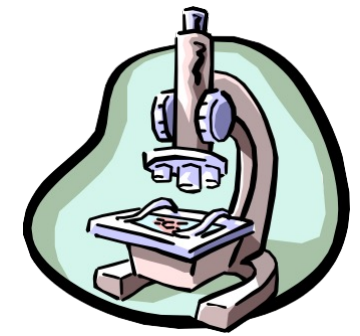
OBJECTIVE SPECIFICATIONS



Deciphering Microscope Objective Specifications



OBJECTIVE TYPES



- CP-Achromat

Good colour correction – exactly for two wavelengths. Field flatness in the image center, refocusing also covers the peripheral areas. For fields of view up to \varnothing 18 mm. Versions for phase contrast.

- Achroplan

Improved Achromat objectives with good image flatness for fields of view with \varnothing 20 or even 23 mm. Achroplan for transmitted light and Achroplan Ph for phase contrast.

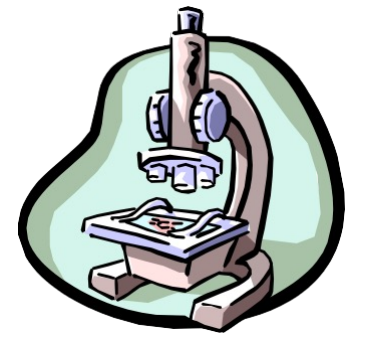
- Plan-Neofluar

Excellent colour correction for at least three wavelengths. Field flattening for the field of view with \varnothing 25 mm. Highly transmitting for UV excitation at 365 nm in fluorescence. All methods possible, special high-quality variants are available for Pol and DIC.

- Plan-Apochromat

Perfect colour rendition (correction for four wavelengths!). Flawless image flatness for fields of view with \varnothing 25 mm. Highest NAs for a resolving power at the very limits of the physically possible.

OBJECTIVES



<http://zeiss-campus.magnet.fsu.edu/tutorials/basics/transmittedlightopticalpathway/indexflash.html>

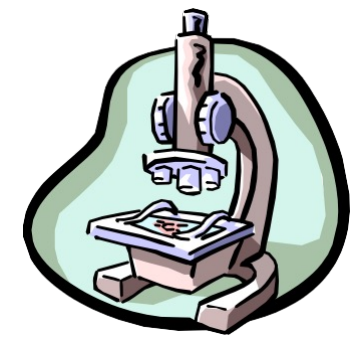
<http://www.microscopyu.com/tutorials/java/objectives/nuaperture/index.html>

<http://www.microscopyu.com/tutorials/java/objectives/immersion/index.html>

<http://www.microscopyu.com/tutorials/java/aberrations/slipcorrection/index.html>

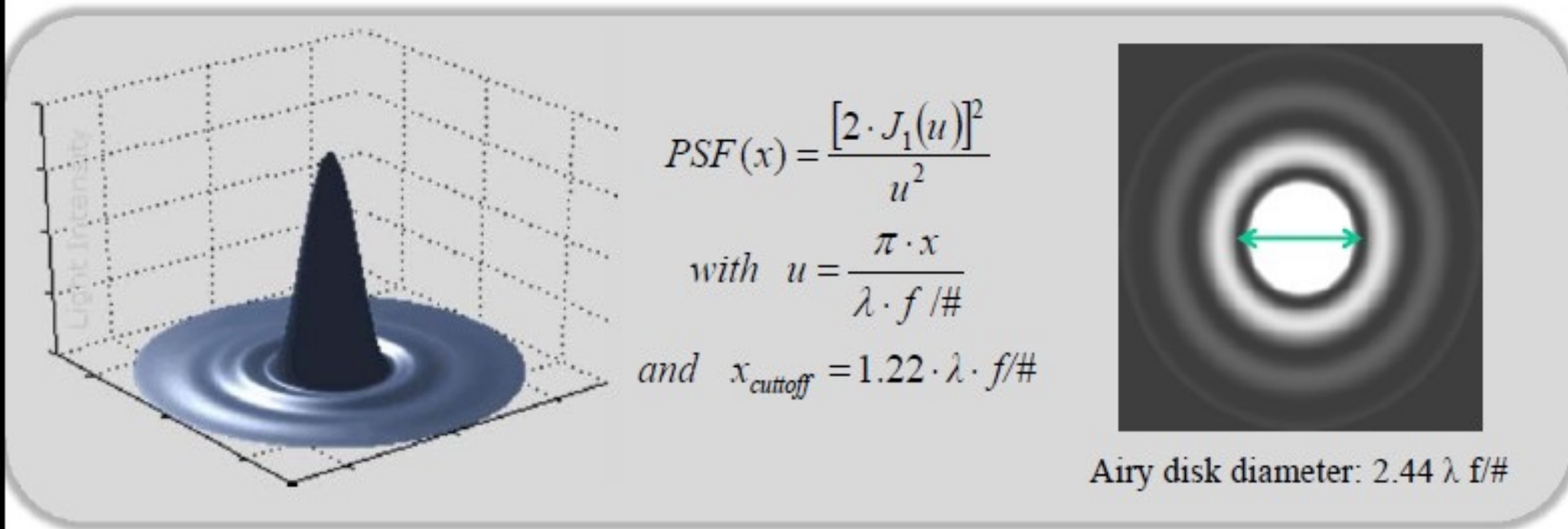
<http://www.microscopyu.com/articles/optics/index.html>

POINT SPREAD FUNCTION

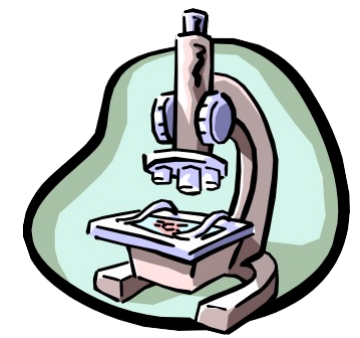


Diffraction is the explanation for why an object point-source spreads out to form a finite image spot

For an optical system with circular aperture the finite image spot forms an Airy Disk (Point Spread Function)



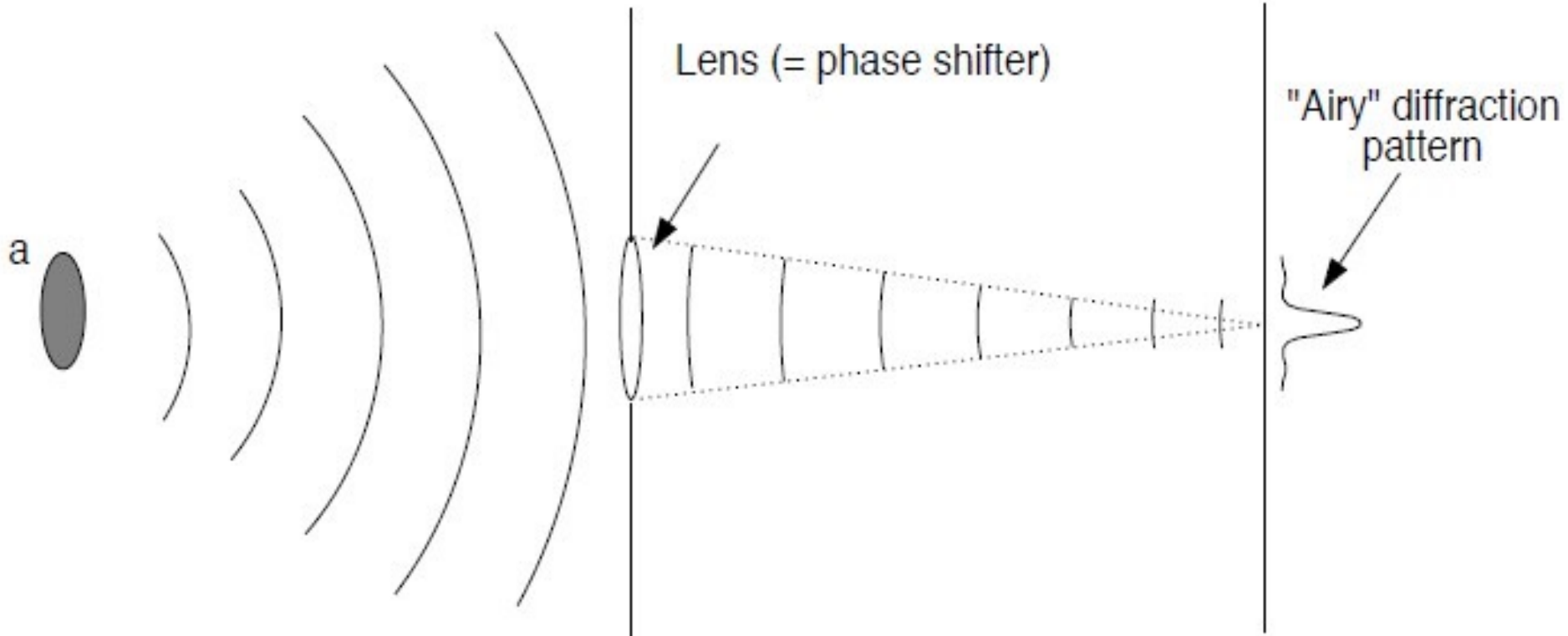
POINT SPREAD FUNCTION



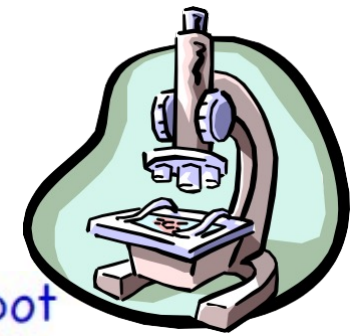
Source

Aperture stop

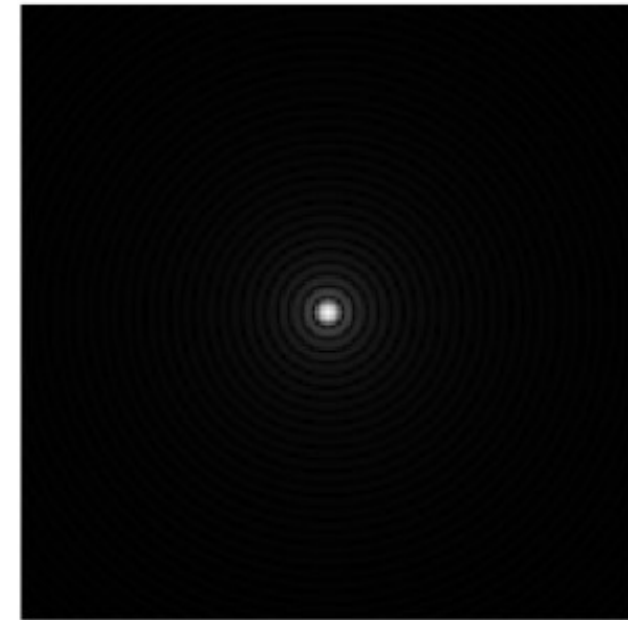
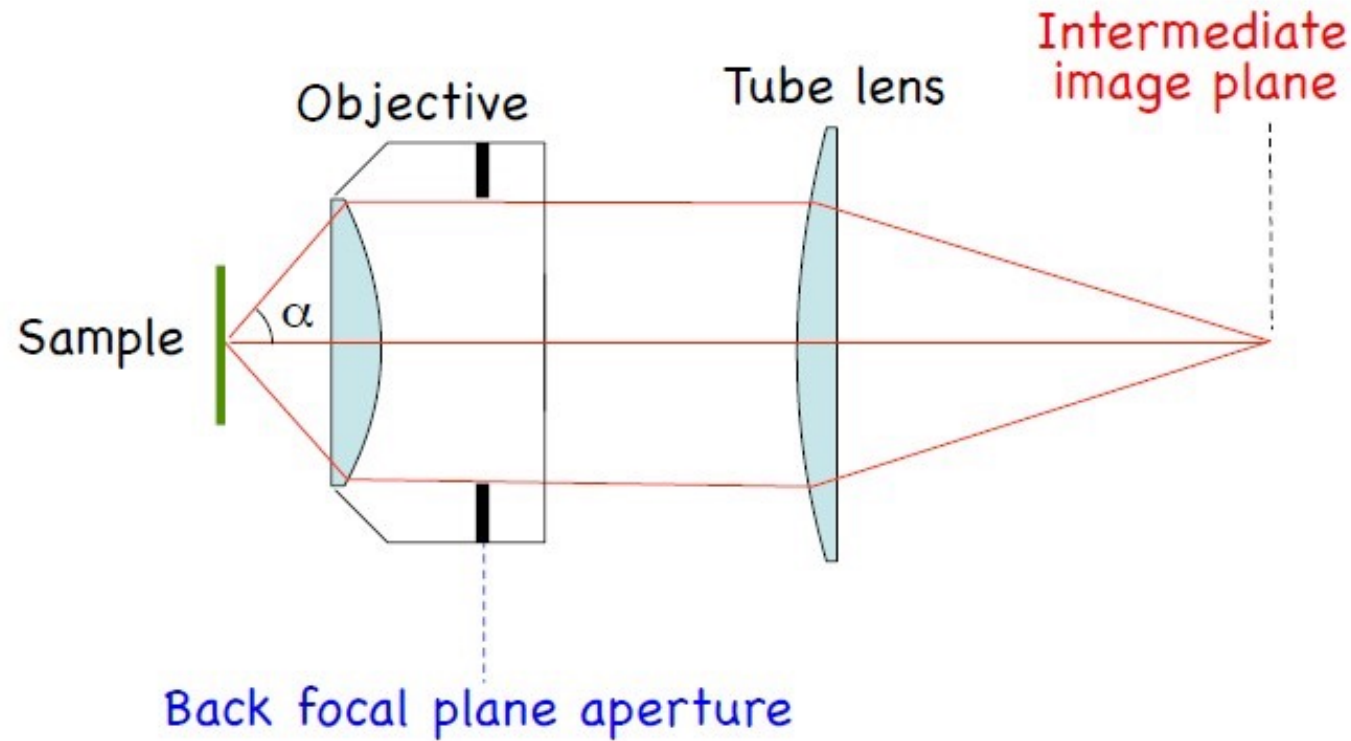
Screen



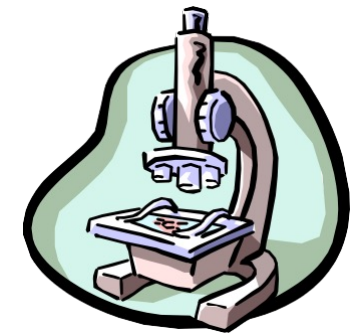
POINT SPREAD FUNCTION



Diffraction spot
on image plane
= *Point Spread Function*



POINT SPREAD FUNCTION

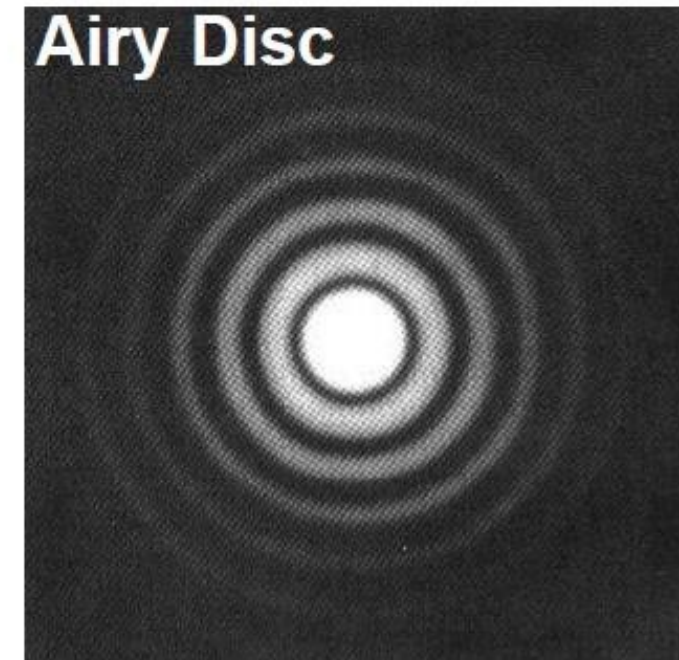


It is called the Airy disc.

The Point Spread Function

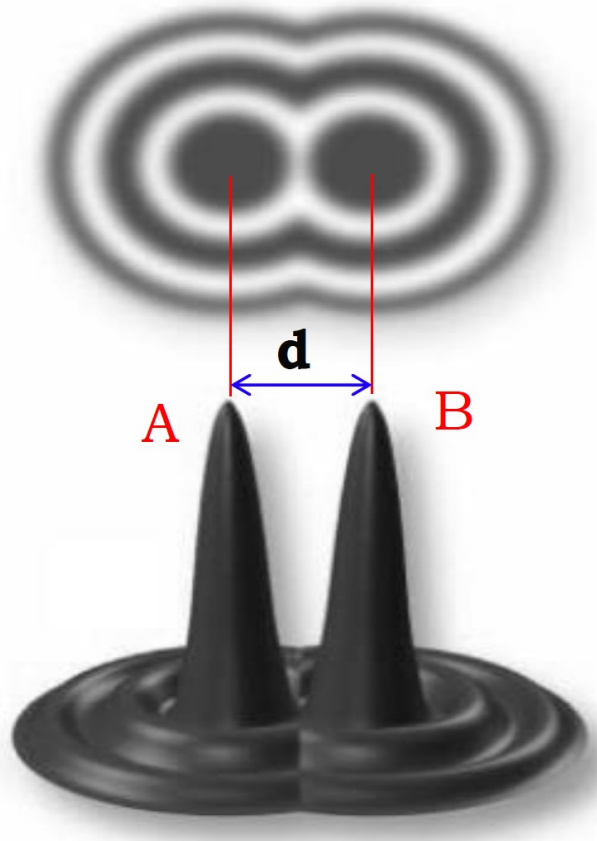
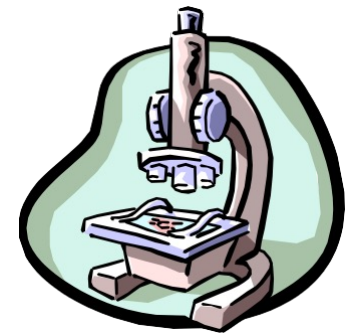
The PSF for a perfect optical system is not a point, but is made up a core surrounded by concentric rings of diminishing intensity

It is called the Airy disc.



RESOLUTION CRITERION

The resolution, r , is defined as the shortest distance between two points on a specimen that can still be distinguished by the observer or camera sensor as separate entities.



Rayleigh criterion

$$r = 0.61 \frac{\lambda}{NA}$$

NA- Numerical Aperture

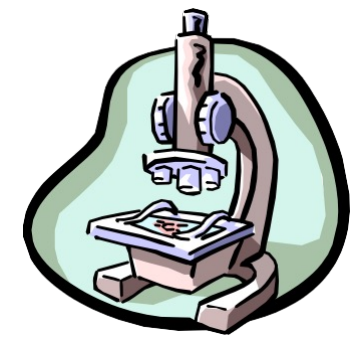
Estimating the lateral resolution
of a microscope objective (lens):

$$NA = 1.5, \lambda = 400 \text{ nm}$$

$$\rightarrow r \sim 200 \text{ nm}$$

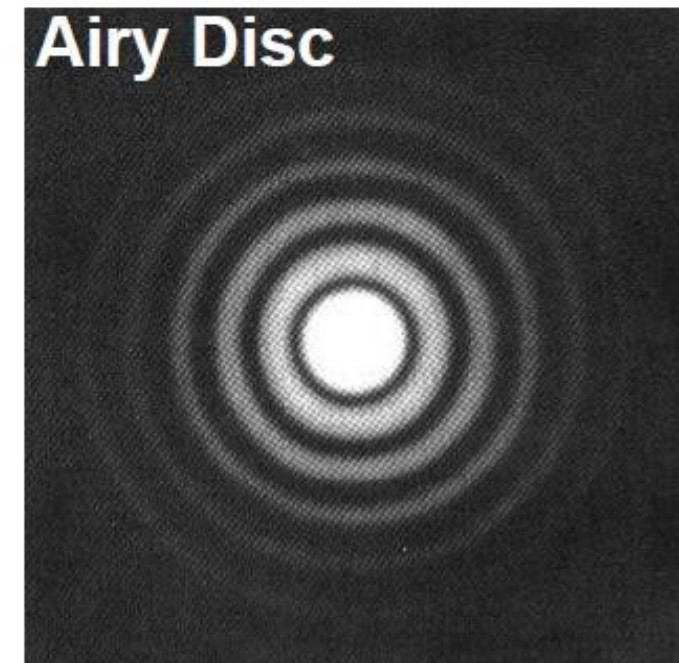
A and B are separated if: $d > r$

POINT SPREAD FUNCTION (PSF)



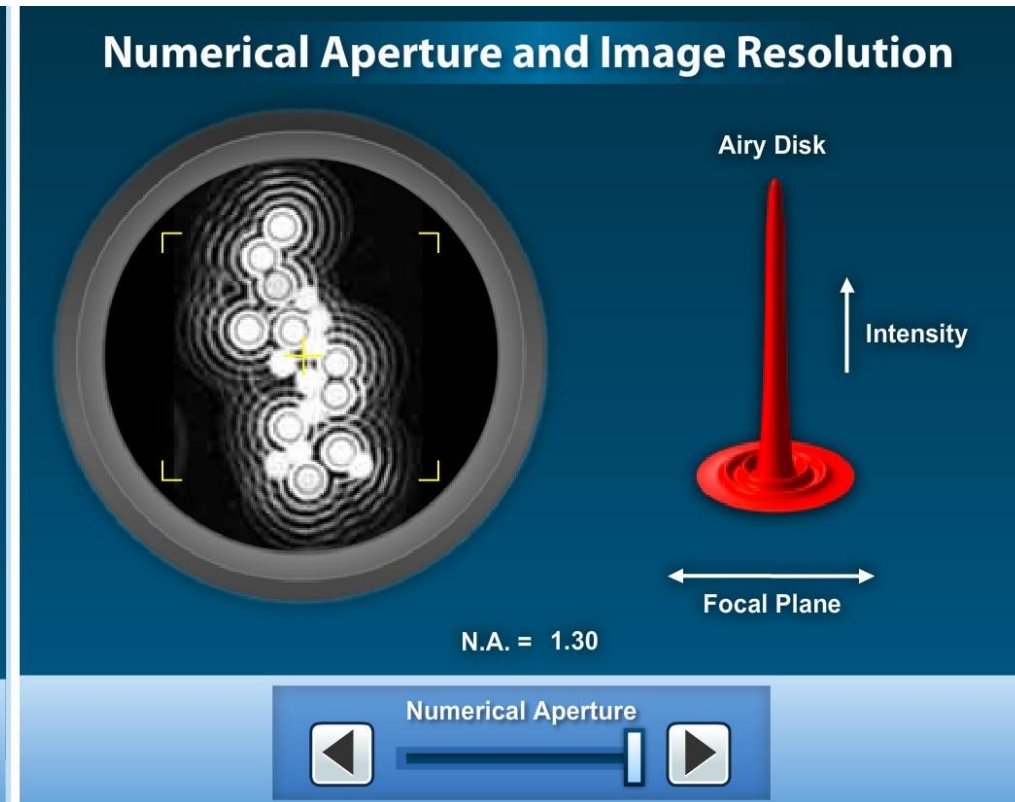
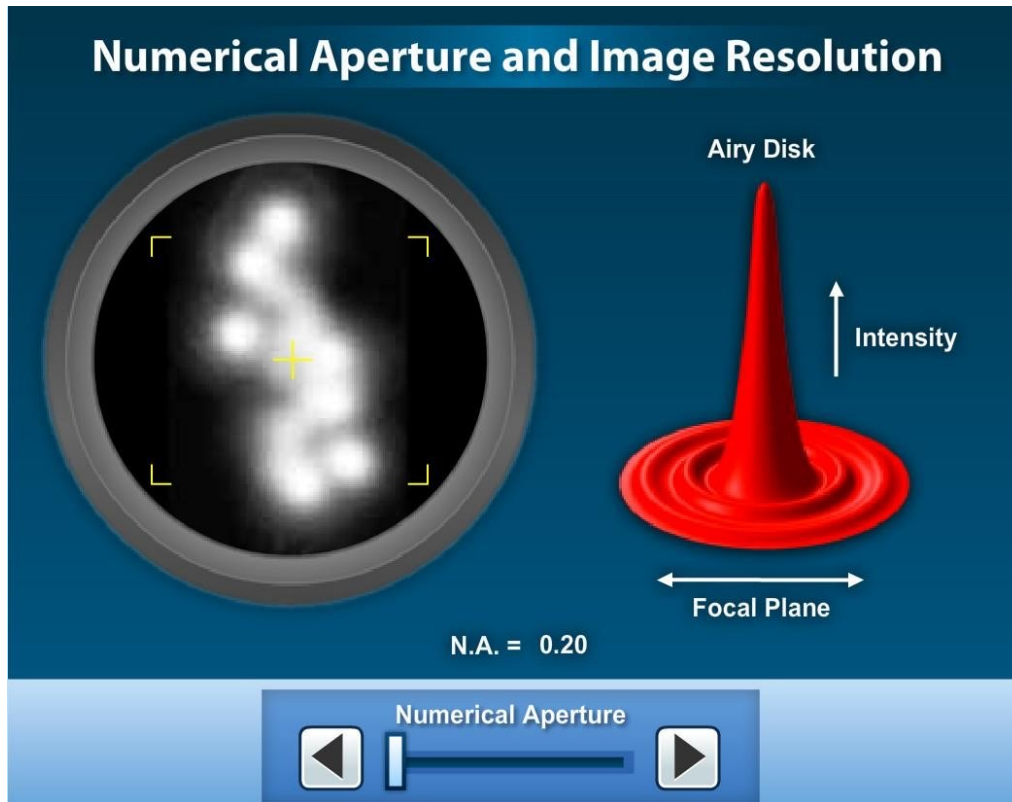
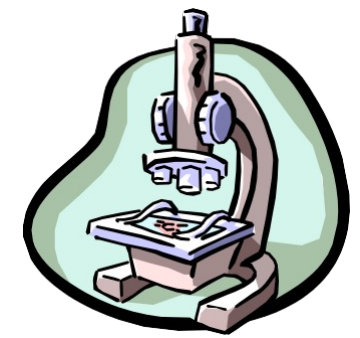
It is called the Airy disc.

The PSF for a perfect optical system is not a point, but is made up a core surrounded by concentric rings of diminishing intensity

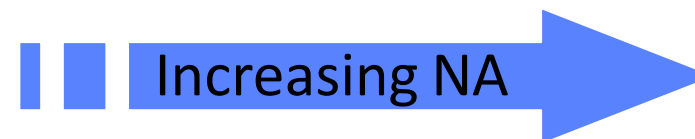
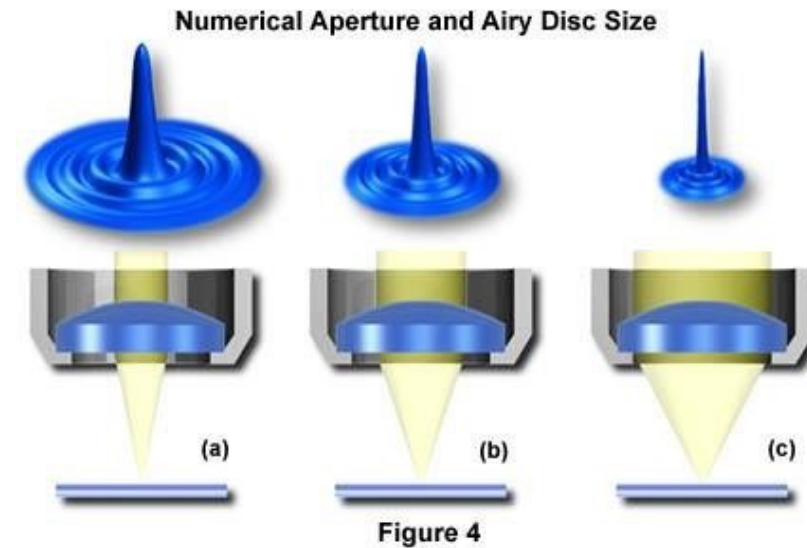
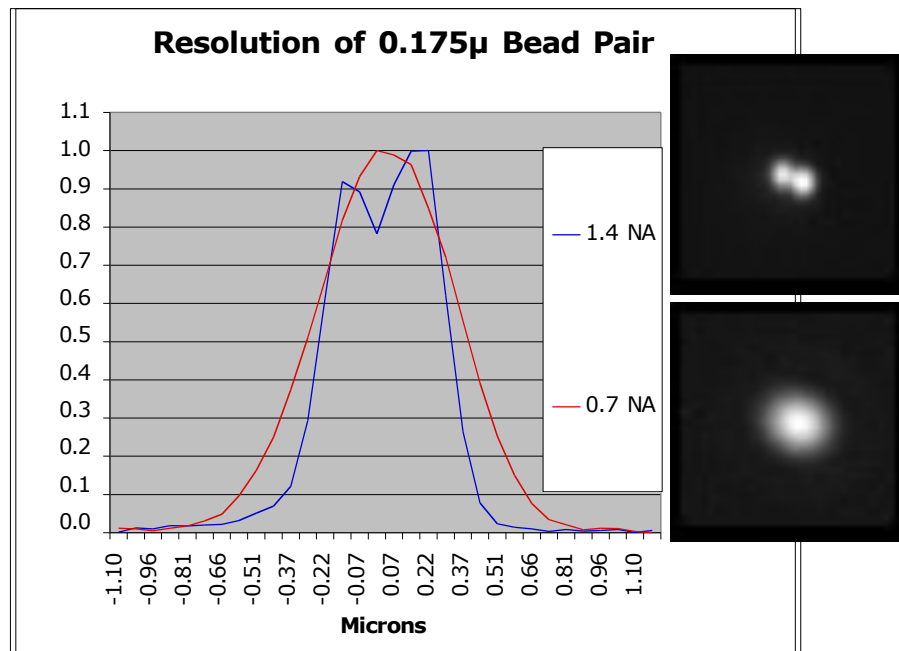
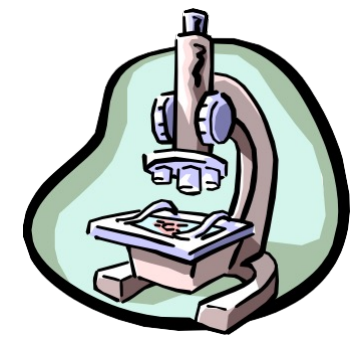


The size of the airy disk depends on the size of the objective lens

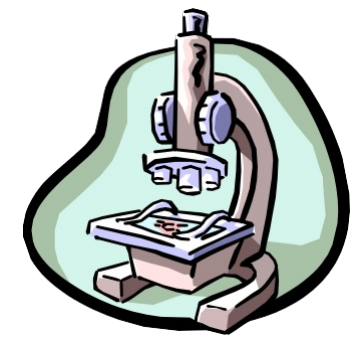
NUMERICAL APERTURE AND IMAGE RESOLUTION



Numerical aperture, NOT magnification determines resolution!



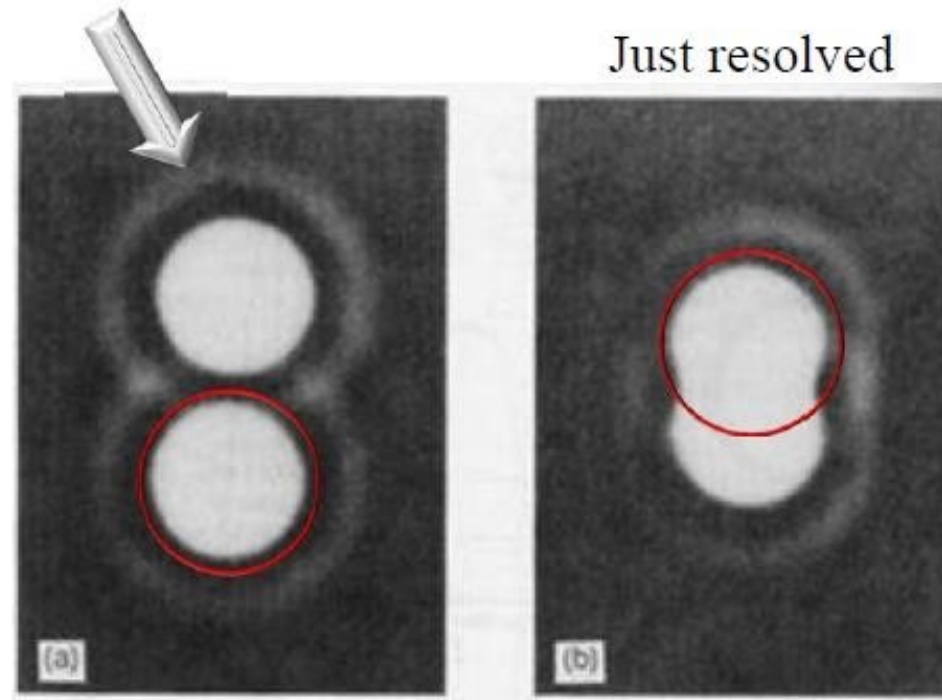
A lens with a larger NA will be able to visualize finer details and will also collect more light and give a brighter image than a lens with lower NA.



Angular resolution criterion for diffraction

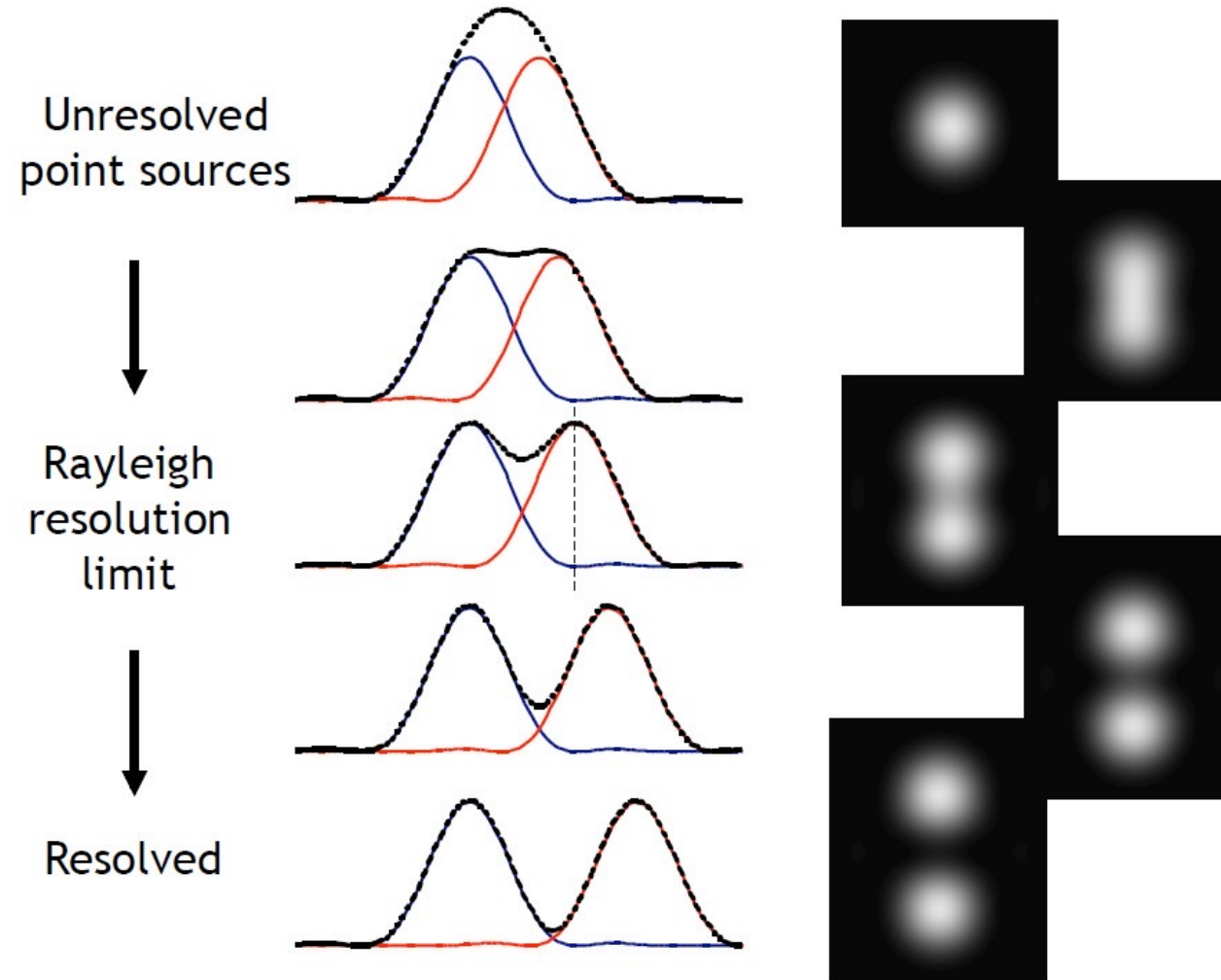
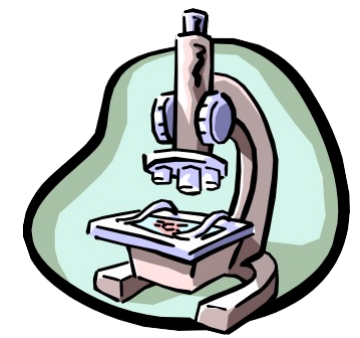
- **Rayleigh criterion** is a measure of spatial resolution
- Two point sources are “just resolved” when the diffraction maximum of one image coincides with the first minimum of the other

Airy disk



Just resolved

NUMERICAL APERTURE AND IMAGE RESOLUTION



RESOLVING POWER

- Is the ability to distinguish two adjacent points as distinct and separate
- Mere increase in size without the ability to distinguish structural details is not beneficial. The largest magnification produced by a microscope may not be the most useful because the image obtained may be unclear or fuzzy.
- The more lines or dots per unit area that can be seen separately, the greater is the resolving power.
- It is a function of the wavelengths of lights used & the numerical aperture of the lens system.

NUMERICAL APERTURE

- In optics, the numerical aperture (NA) of an optical system is a dimensionless number that characterizes the range of angles over which the system can accept or emit light.
- The sine value of half-aperture angle multiplied by the refractive index n of the medium gives the numerical aperture (NA)
- Thus,

$$NA = n \sin \theta$$

MAGNIFICATION

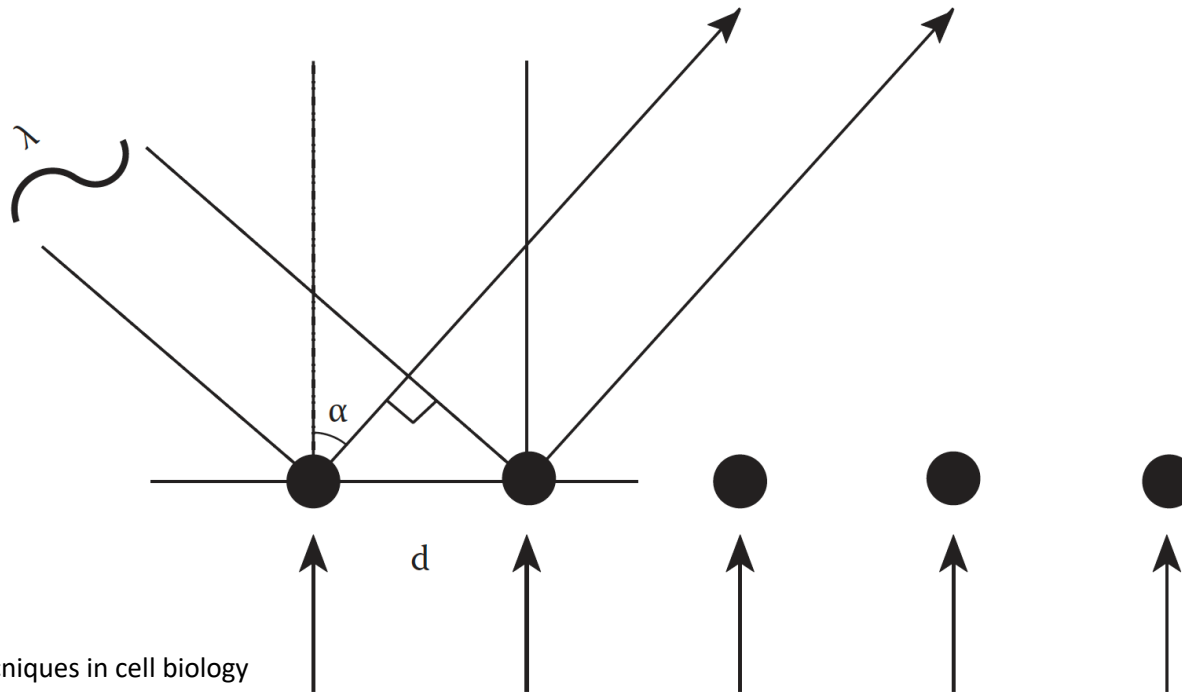
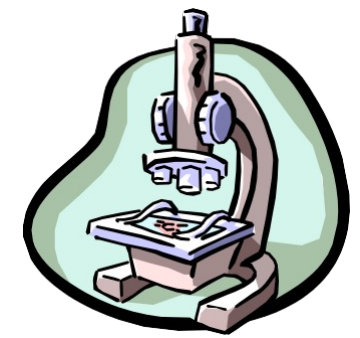
- Magnification beyond the resolving power is of no value since the larger image will be less distinct in detail & fuzzy in appearance.
- The situation is analogous to the of a movie screen: If we move closer to the screen the image is larger but is also less sharp than when viewed from distance.
- Most laboratory microscopes are equipped with three objectives, each capable of a different degree of magnification.
- The total magnification of the system is determined by magnification of the objective and by that of eyepiece.

THE LIMIT OF RESOLUTION

- is the smallest distance by which two objects can be separated and still be distinguished as two separate objects.
- The greatest resolution in optical microscopy can be obtained with the shortest wavelength of visible light and an objective with maximum NA.
- The relationship between NA and the limit of resolution can be expressed as follows:

$$d = \lambda / 2NA$$

ABBE'S LAW

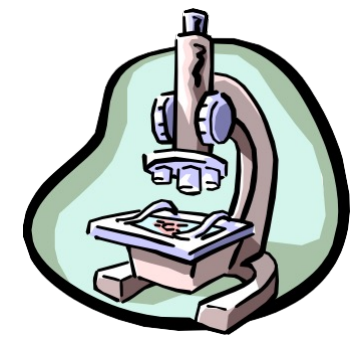


$$d = \frac{\lambda}{2 n \sin \theta}$$

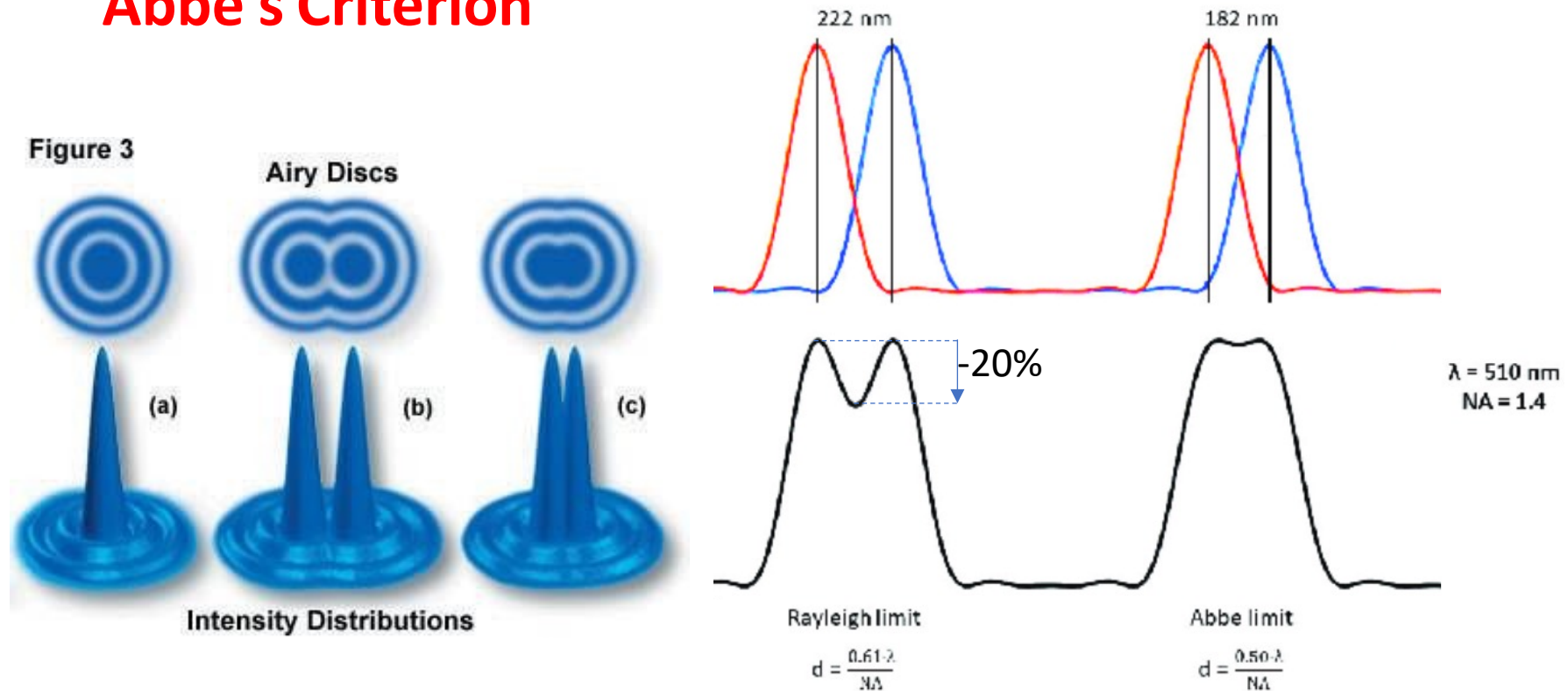
Optical imaging techniques in cell biology

“minimum resolving distance (d) is related to the wavelength of light (λ) divided by the Numeric Aperture, which is proportional to the angle of the light cone (θ) formed by a point on the object, to the objective”.

RESOLUTION CRITERION



Abbe's Criterion



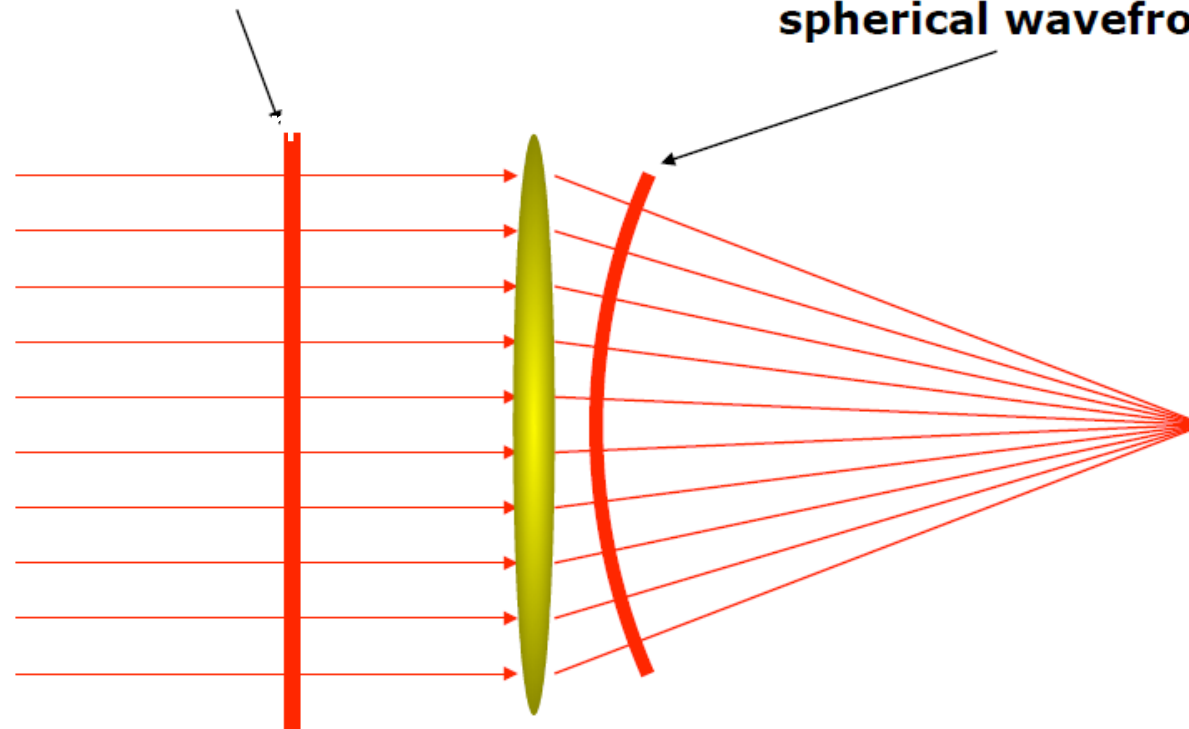
Lenses and Image Formation



What is the Wavefront?

parallel beam
=
plane wavefront

converging beam
=
spherical wavefront

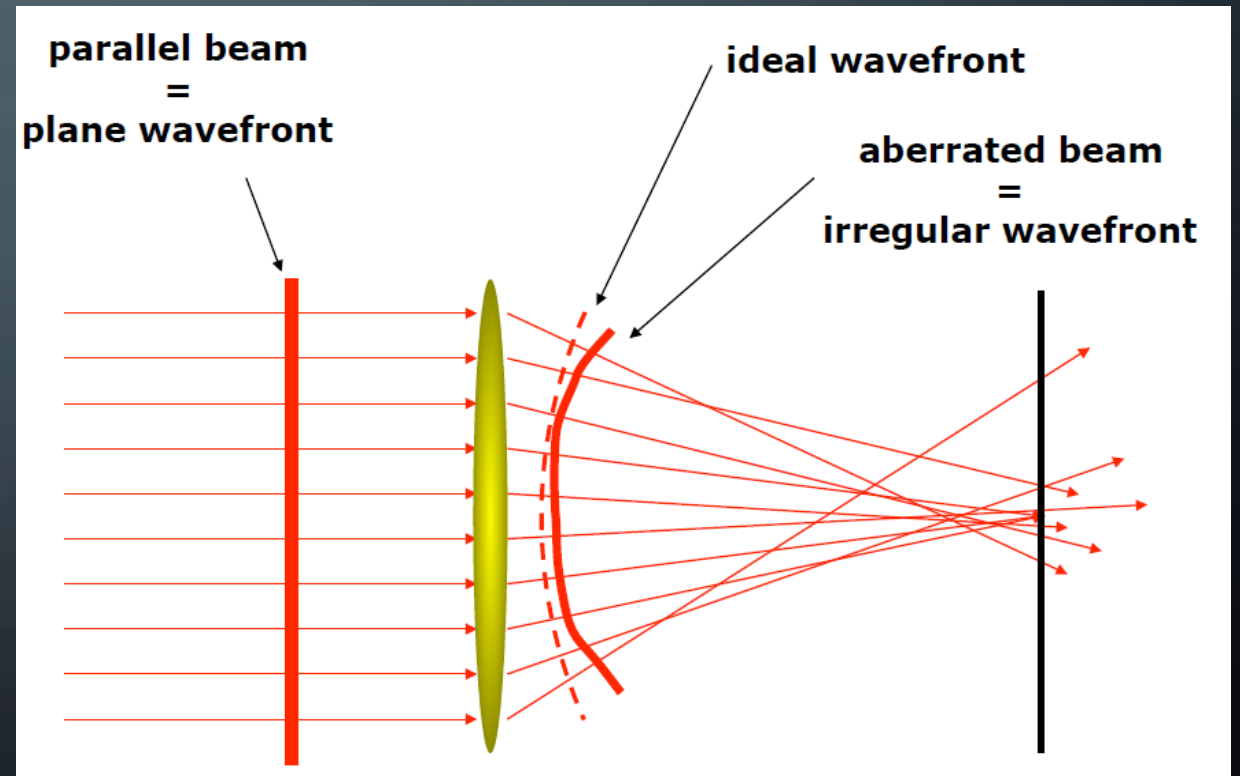
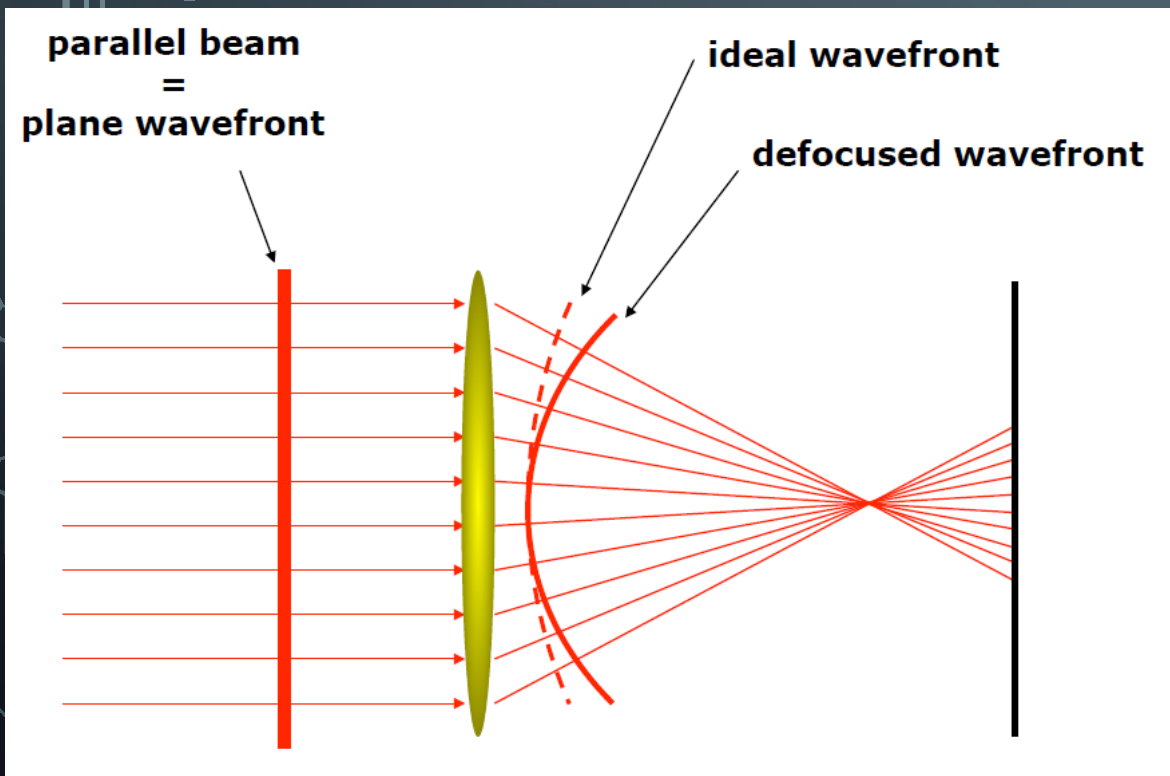


Lenses and Image Formation



OUT of focus

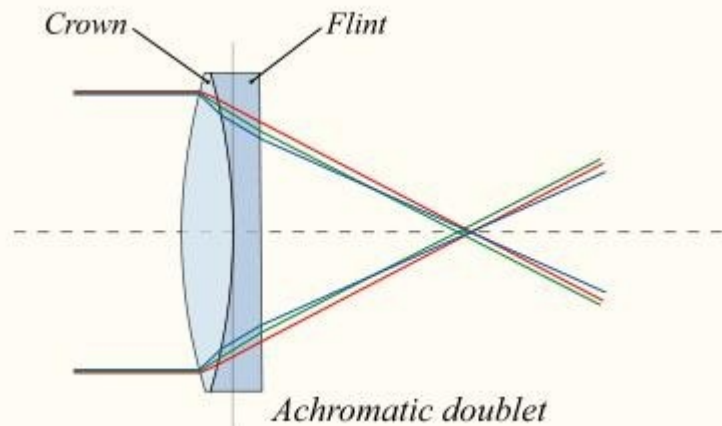
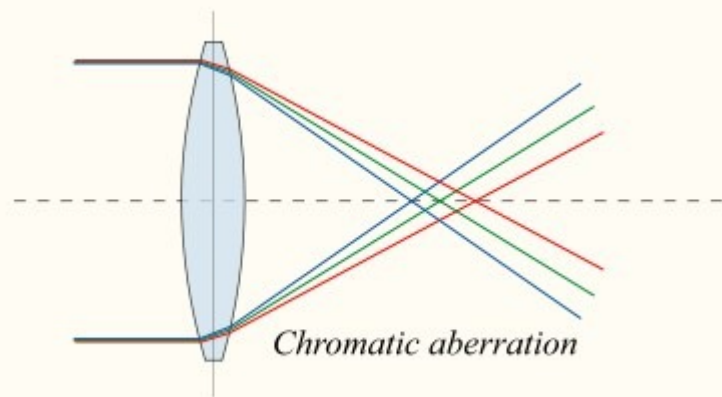
Aberrations



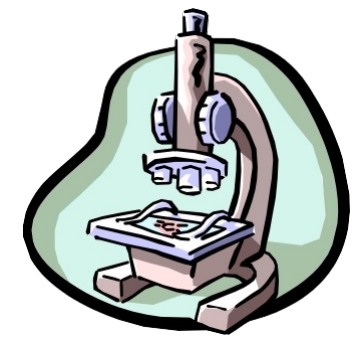
CHROMATIC ABERRATION



- Chromatic aberration is caused by a lens having different refractive indexes for different wavelengths.
- Since the focal length of a lens is dependent on the refractive index, different wavelengths will be focused on different positions in the focal plane.
- Chromatic aberration is seen as fringes of colour around the image.

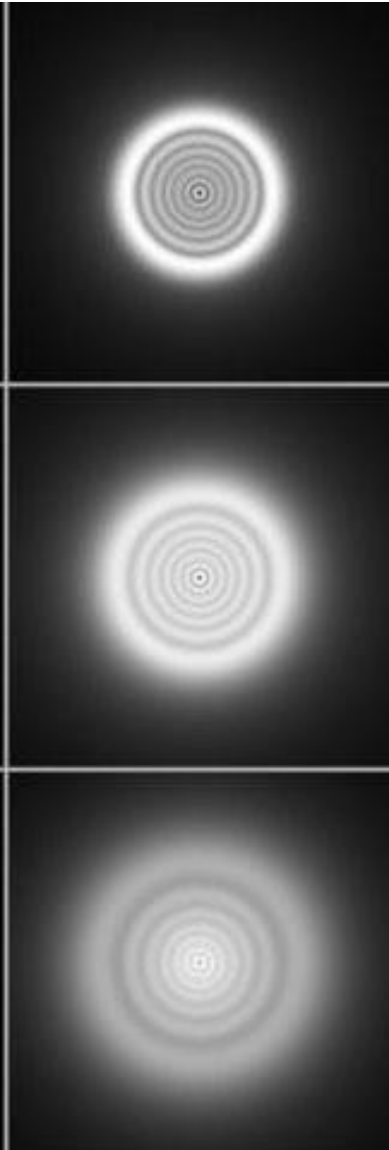
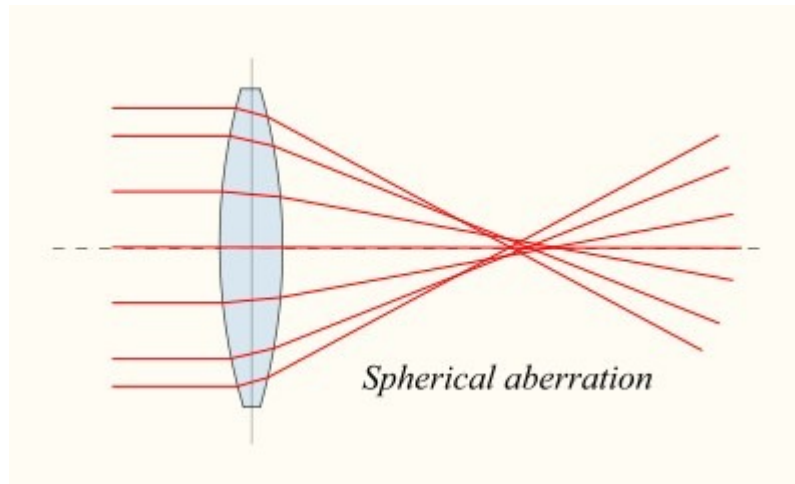


It can be minimised by using an achromatic doublet (=achromat) in which two materials with differing dispersion are bonded together to form a single lens.

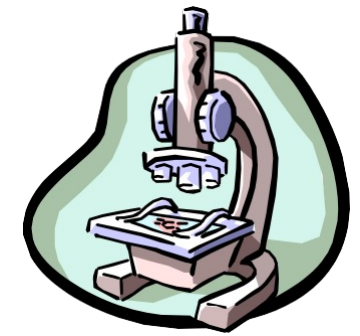


SPHERICAL ABERRATION

- Spherical aberration causes beams parallel to but away from the lens axis to be focussed in a slightly different place than beams close to the axis. This manifests itself as a blurring of the image.



OBJECTIVE TYPES



- CP-Achromat

Good colour correction – exactly for two wavelengths. Field flatness in the image center, refocusing also covers the peripheral areas. For fields of view up to \varnothing 18 mm. Versions for phase contrast.

- Achroplan

Improved Achromat objectives with good image flatness for fields of view with \varnothing 20 or even 23 mm. Achroplan for transmitted light and Achroplan Ph for phase contrast.

- Plan-Neofluar

Excellent colour correction for at least three wavelengths. Field flattening for the field of view with \varnothing 25 mm. Highly transmitting for UV excitation at 365 nm in fluorescence. All methods possible, special high-quality variants are available for Pol and DIC.

- Plan-Apochromat

Perfect colour rendition (correction for four wavelengths!). Flawless image flatness for fields of view with \varnothing 25 mm. Highest NAs for a resolving power at the very limits of the physically possible.