

Resolution Roll Call: Optical Sectioning System Overviews



Principles and
Comparisons of
Fluorescence-Based
High-Resolution
Imaging Modalities

Matt Curtis
3D Imaging Specialist

Jamie Scott
Account Manager

University of Illinois
January 2019



Outline of Discussion

High Resolution Optical Sectioning



- 1 Basic Aspects of Resolution in X, Y, and Z
- 2 Modalities for Enhancing Axial Resolution
- 3 Advanced Approaches for Exceeding the Resolution Limit
- 4 Summary of Techniques
- 5 Questions

Outline of Discussion

High Resolution Optical Sectioning



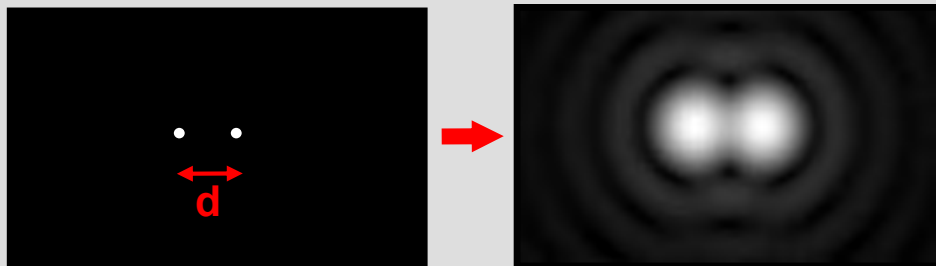
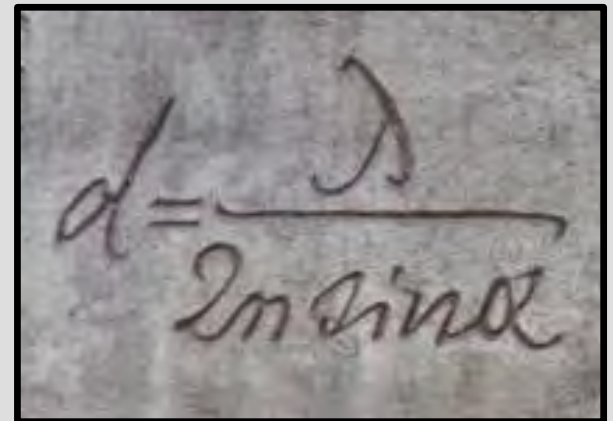
- 1 Basic Aspects of Resolution in X, Y, and Z**
- 2 Modalities for Enhancing Axial Resolution
- 3 Advanced Approaches for Exceeding the Resolution Limit
- 4 Summary of Techniques
- 5 Questions

Aspects of Resolution

Defining the Limits



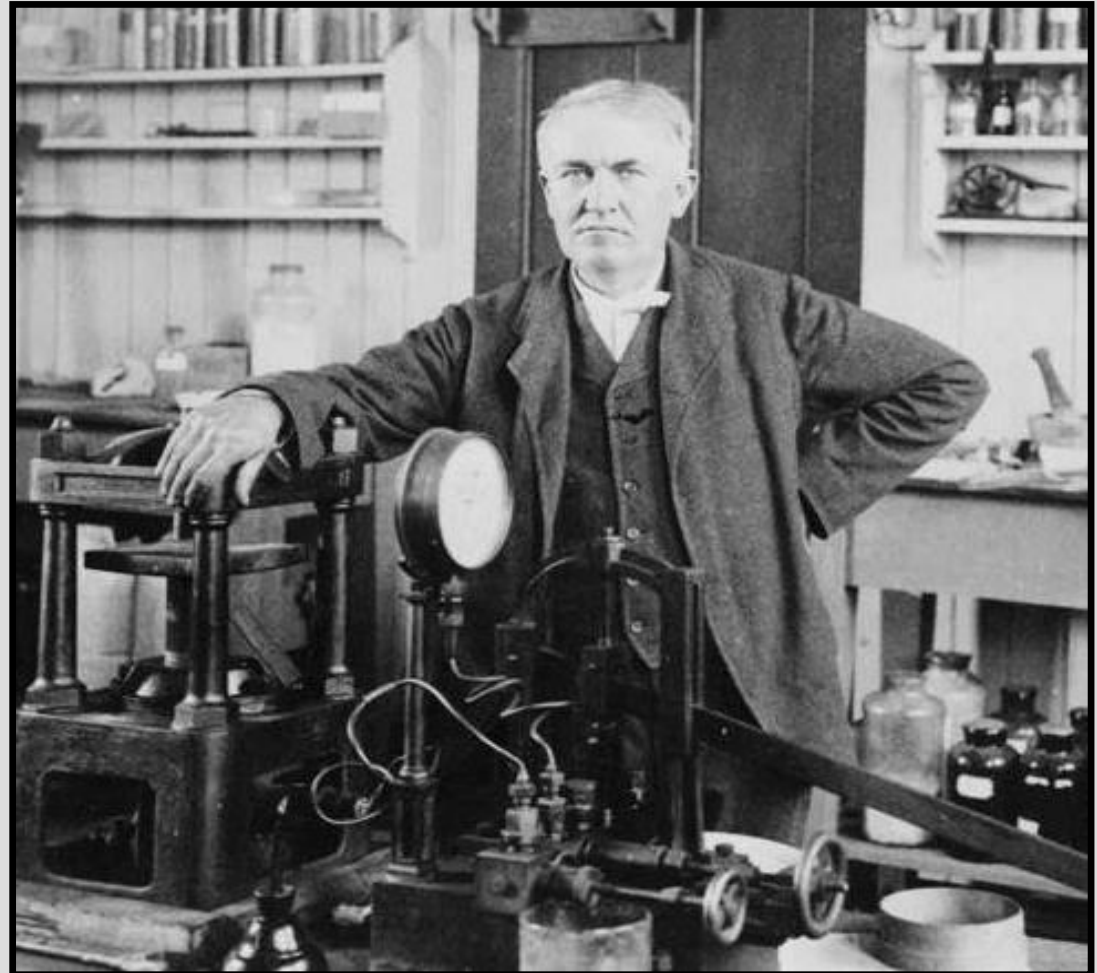
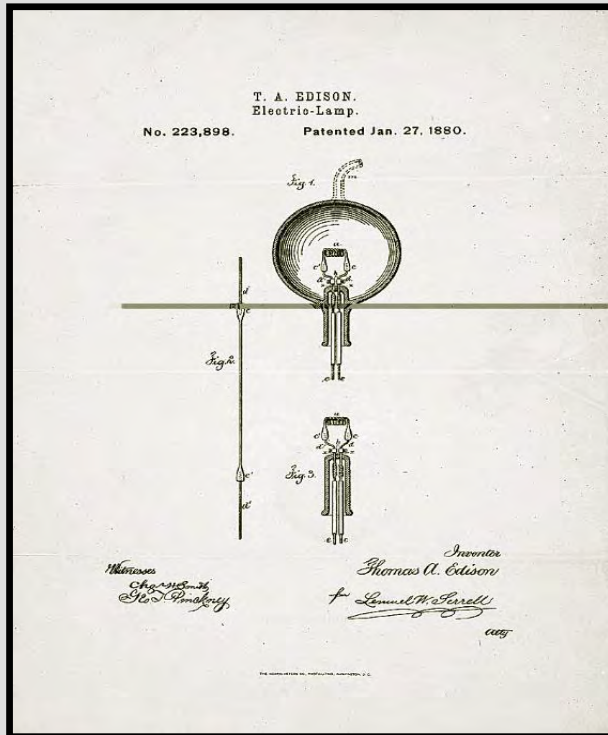
- Ernst Abbe deduced the **“resolution limit”** of lenses at Carl Zeiss’ Jena workshop in 1873
 - Expanded concepts of optical imaging using wave properties of light
- Resolution defined as the **minimum distance (d) necessary to distinguish two point-like objects** in lateral space



Aspects of Resolution

Historical Context

- Thomas A. Edison's electric lamp (1880)

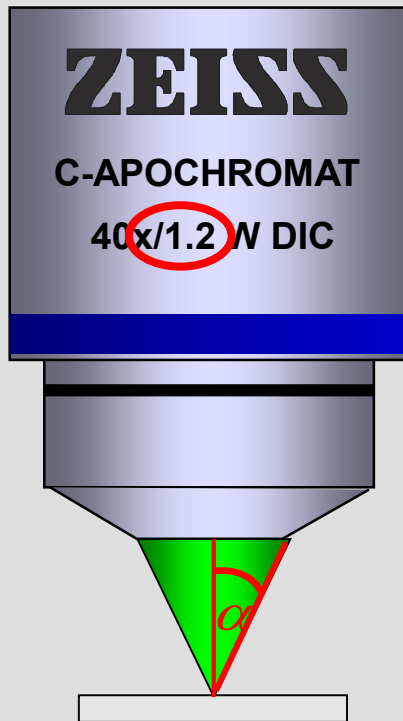


Aspects of Resolution

Defining the Limits



- Numerical aperture (**NA**) is the defining characteristic for resolution



$$NA = n \sin \alpha$$

n = refractive index of immersion media
(describes how light propagates relative to vacuum)
 α = half angle; acceptance cone of light

- Resolution criteria is dependent on both wavelength and NA (**not magnification**)

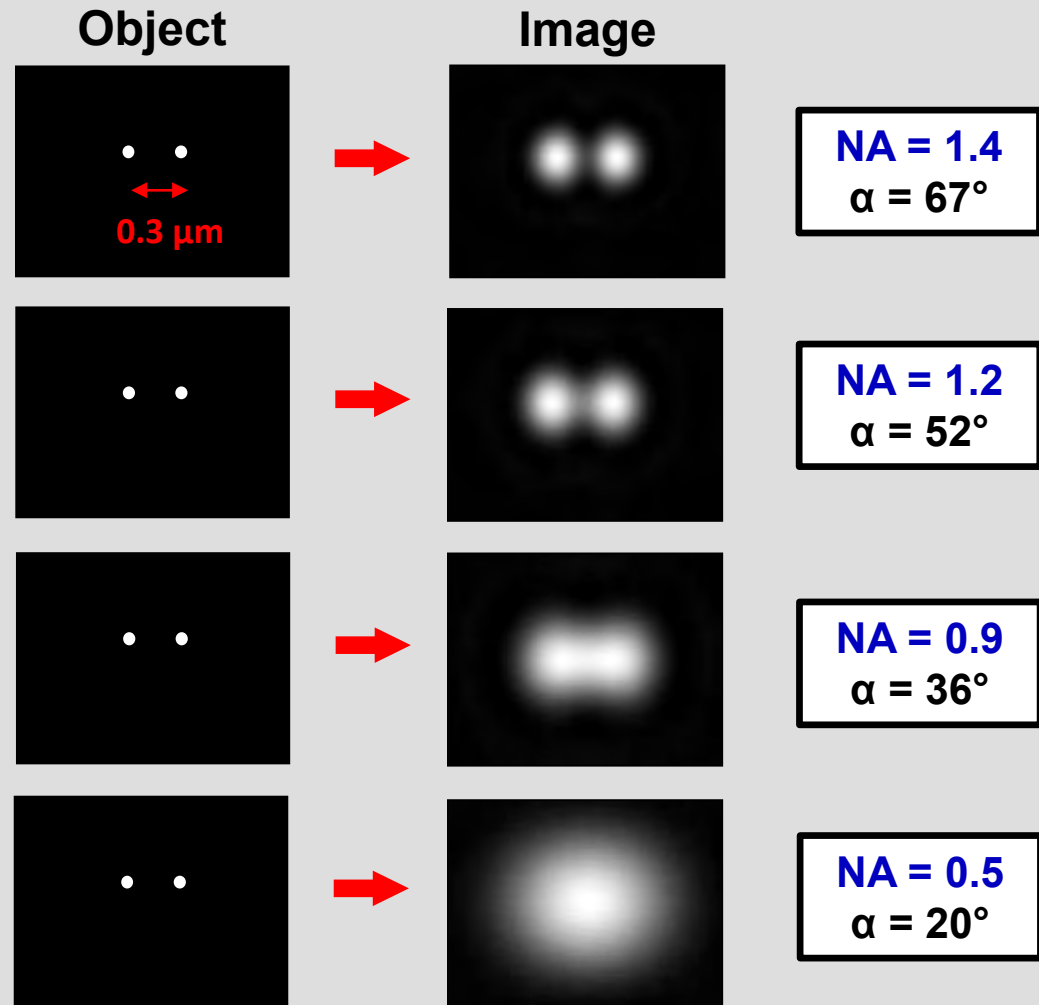
$$d_{xy} = \frac{\lambda}{2(n \sin \alpha)} = \frac{0.5 \lambda}{NA}$$

Aspects of Resolution

Comparing Numerical Aperture



- All other things constant, changes in NA influence the image resolution
- In practical terms, this has significance in all **applications involving structural or molecular localization**
- *One object/puncta or actually several?*



Aspects of Resolution

Comparison of Example Objectives



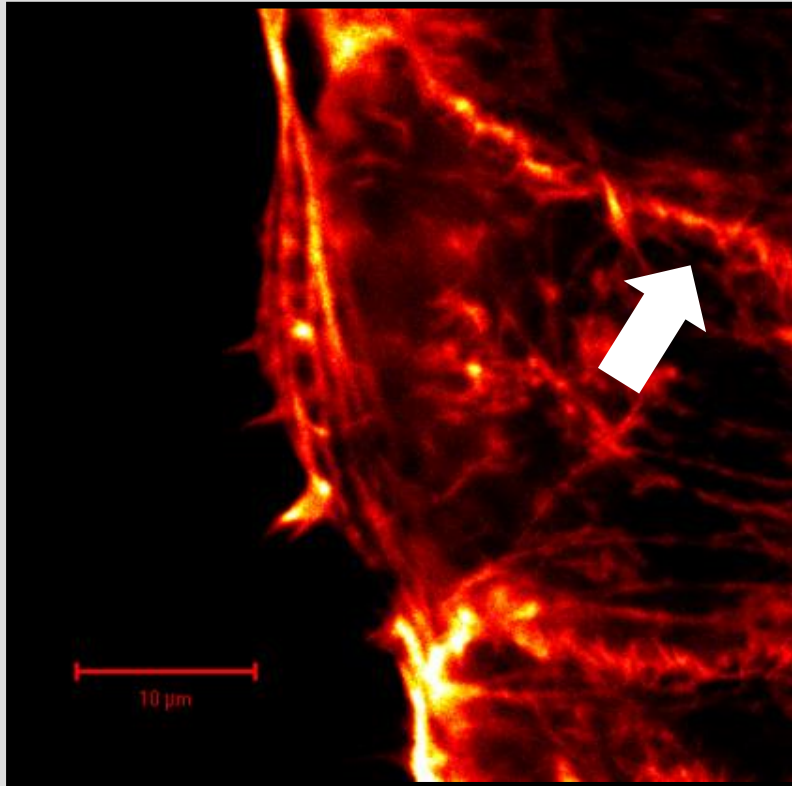
Magnification	NA	Resolution (XY)
4x	0.10	2.75 μm
4x	0.20	1.375 μm
10x	0.25	1.10 μm
10x	0.45	0.61 μm
20x	0.40	0.69 μm
20x	0.75	0.37 μm
40x	0.65	0.42 μm
40x	1.40	0.20 μm
63x	0.75	0.37 μm
63x	1.30	0.25 μm
100x	1.25	0.22 μm
100x	1.40	0.20 μm

Aspects of Resolution

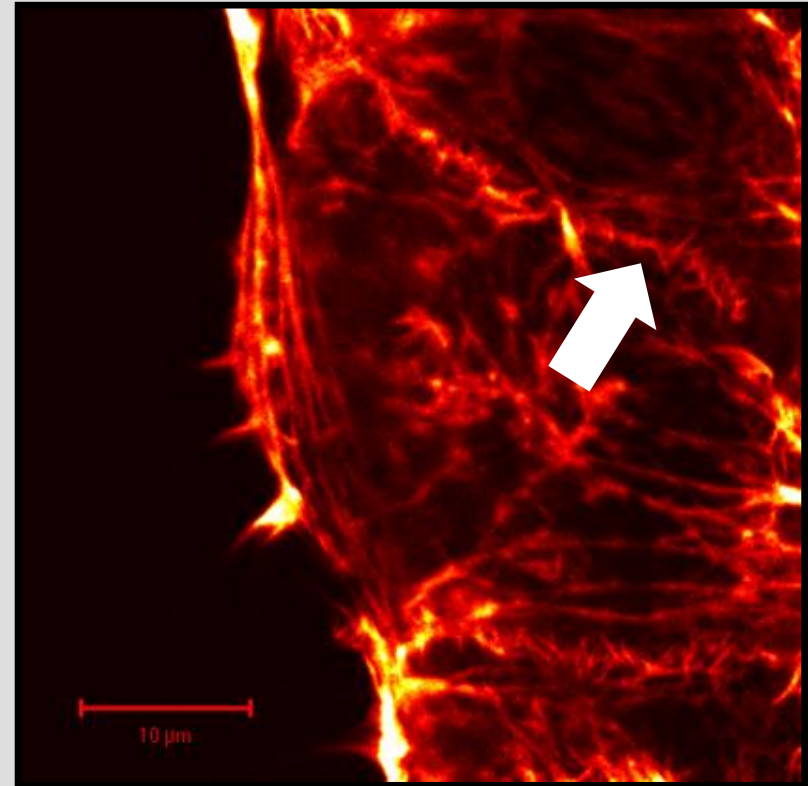
Comparison of Example Objectives



Plan-Apochromat 63x/1.4 Oil



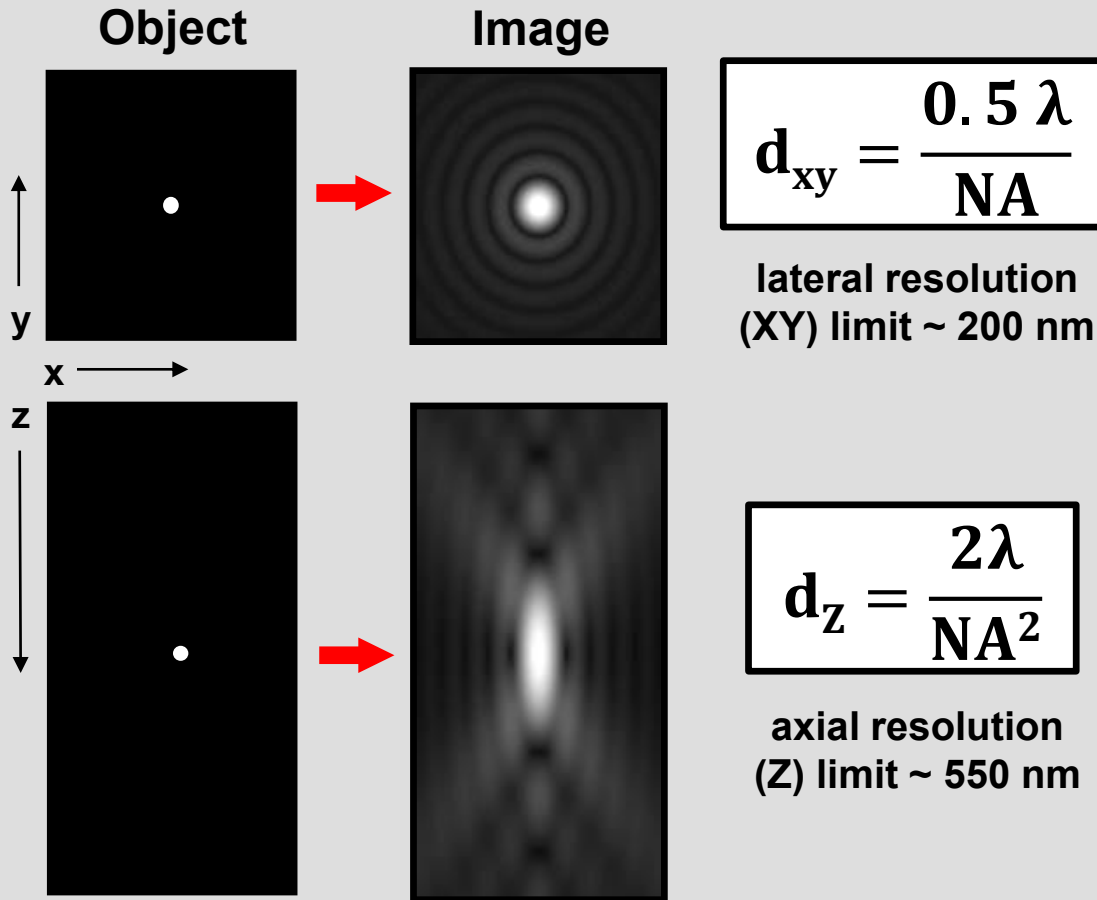
Alpha-Fluar 100x/1.45 Oil



- Even small increases in NA can yield key improvements in imaging

Aspects of Resolution

Limits in the Z Dimension



- The same principles of resolution extend into the **axial (Z) dimension**
 - For widefield imaging system, **minimum resolved distance in Z is larger than in XY**

WHY WORSE IN Z?

- Out-of-focus light interference in sample
- Non-symmetrical wavefront from lens along the optical axis

Aspects of Resolution

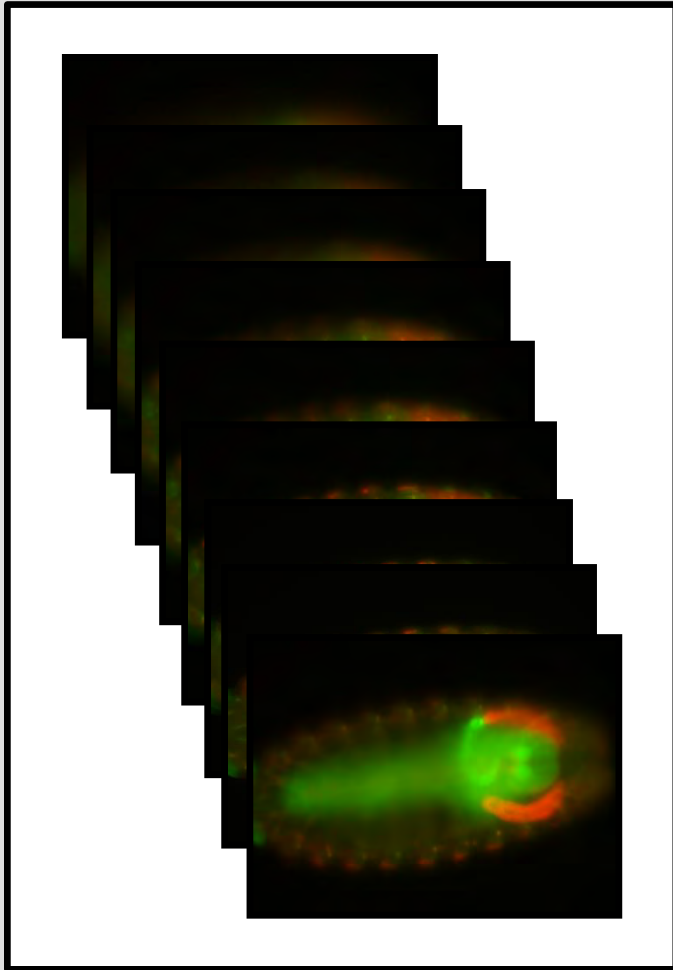
Comparison of Example Objectives



Magnification	NA	Resolution (XY)	Resolution (Z)
4x	0.10	2.75 μm	110 μm
4x	0.20	1.375 μm	27.5 μm
10x	0.25	1.10 μm	17.6 μm
10x	0.45	0.61 μm	5.43 μm
20x	0.40	0.69 μm	6.87 μm
20x	0.75	0.37 μm	1.95 μm
40x	0.65	0.42 μm	2.60 μm
40x	1.40	0.20 μm	0.56 μm
63x	0.75	0.37 μm	1.95 μm
63x	1.30	0.25 μm	0.65 μm
100x	1.25	0.22 μm	0.70 μm
100x	1.40	0.20 μm	0.56 μm

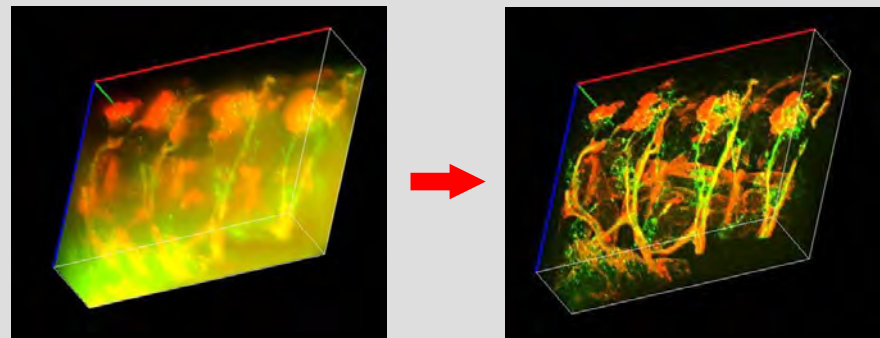
Aspects of Resolution

Enhancing Axial Resolution



REQUIREMENTS:

- Collect images with Z step sizes smaller than the target resolution
 - Motorized focus drive
- Imaging method that results in a clearer “slice” of the source signal
 - **Optical sectioning technique**



Outline of Discussion

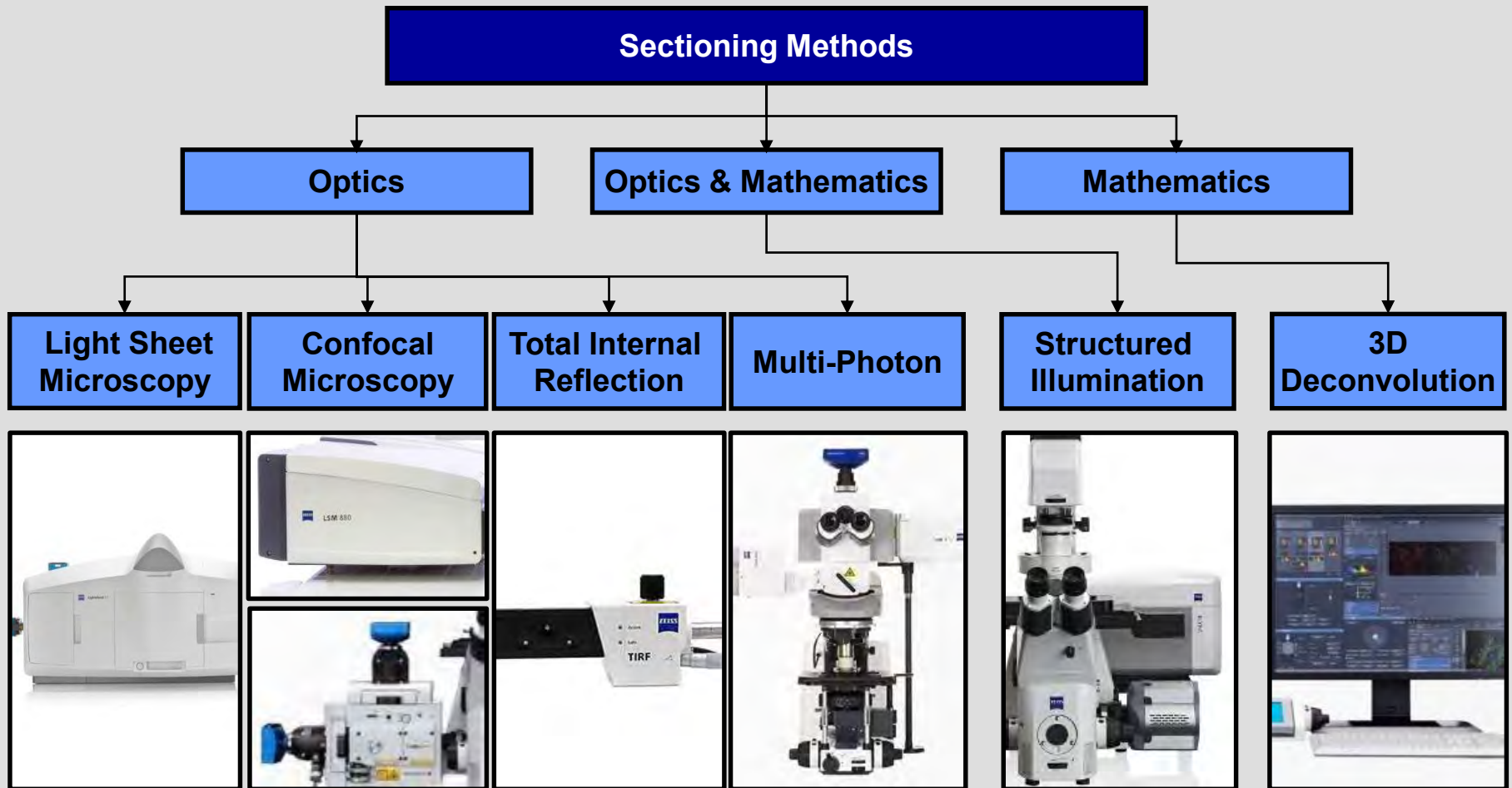
High Resolution Optical Sectioning



- 1 Basic Aspects of Resolution in X, Y, and Z
- 2 **Modalities for Enhancing Axial Resolution**
- 3 Advanced Approaches for Exceeding the Resolution Limit
- 4 Summary of Techniques
- 5 Questions

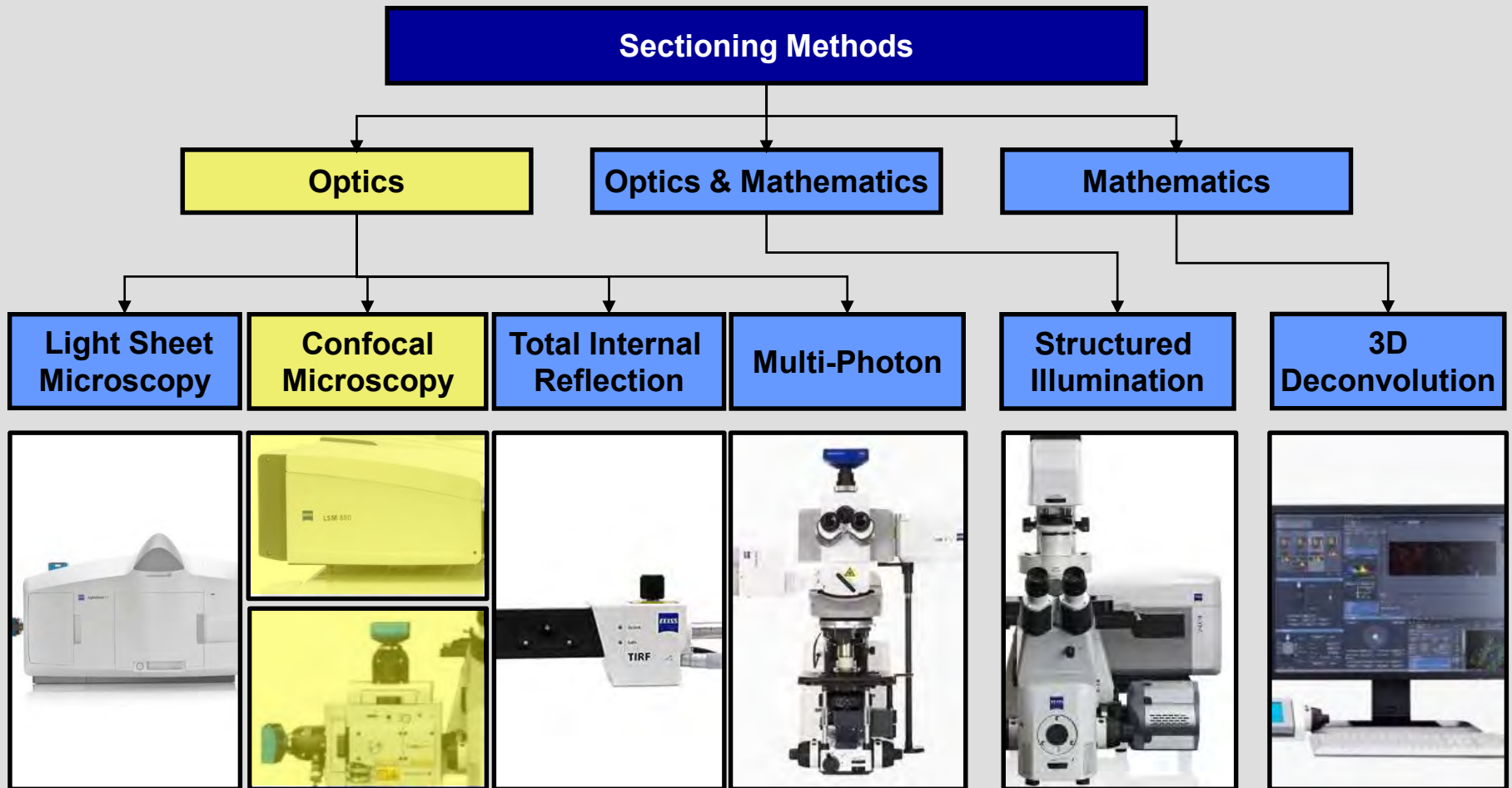
Optical Sectioning Techniques

Hierarchy of Common Approaches



Optical Sectioning

Confocal Microscopy

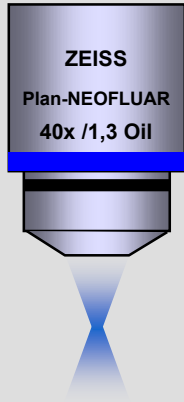


Confocal Microscopy

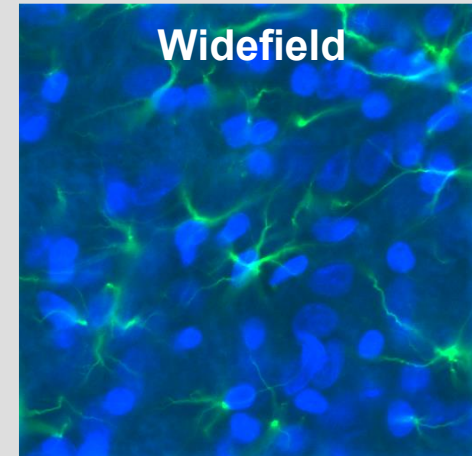
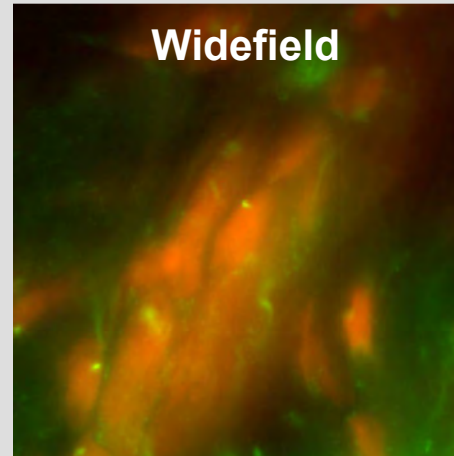
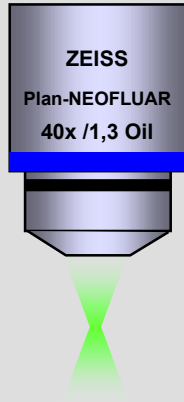
Rejection of Out-of-Focus Signal



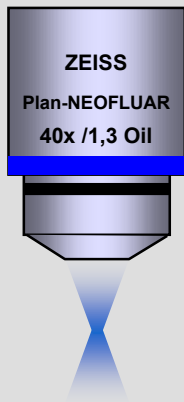
Excitation



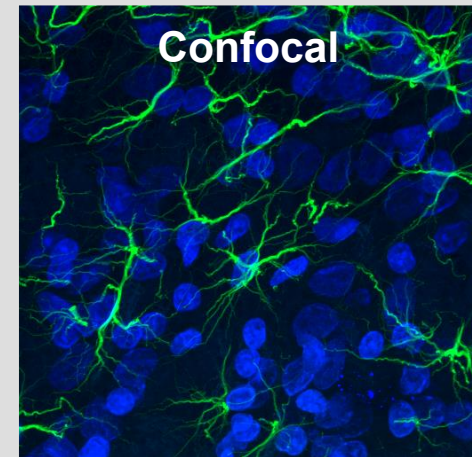
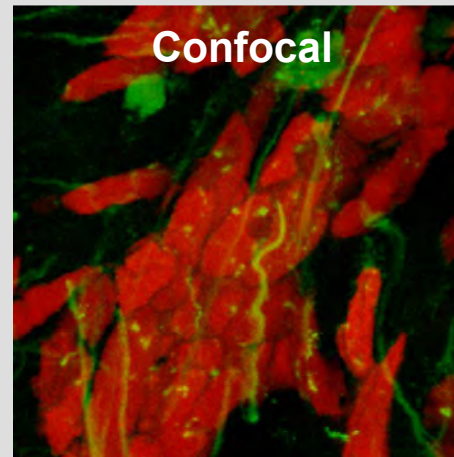
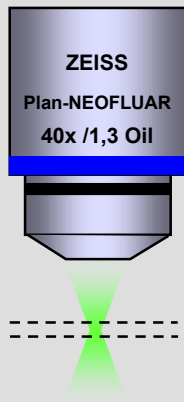
Emission



Excitation



Emission

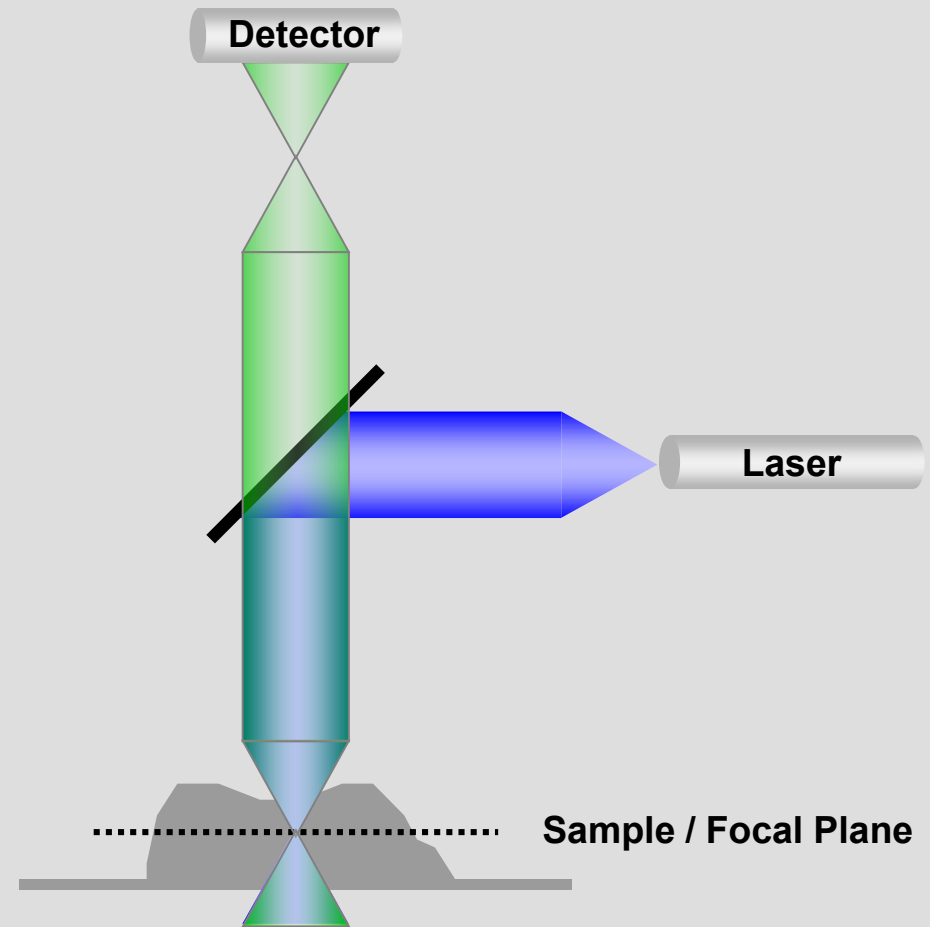


Confocal Microscopy

Rejection of Out-of-Focus Signal



- Laser excitation and sample emission separated by **dichroic**

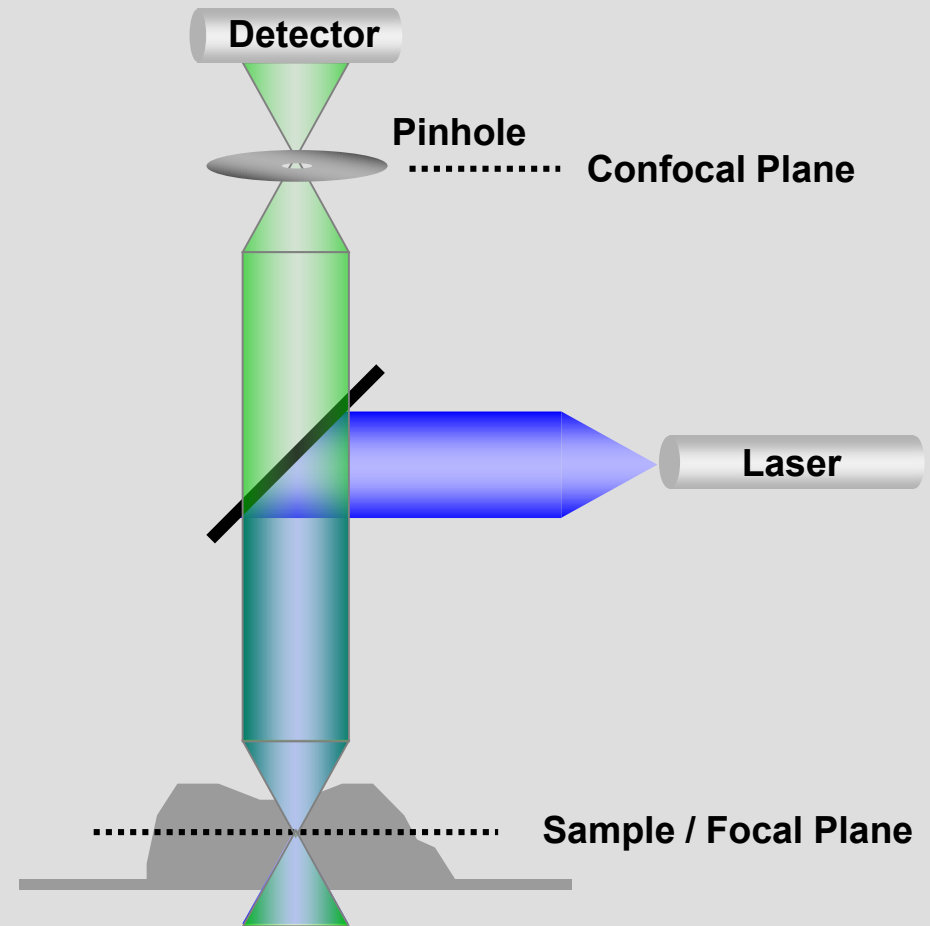


Confocal Microscopy

Rejection of Out-of-Focus Signal



- Laser excitation and sample emission separated by **dichroic**
- The **pinhole(s)** prevent detection of out-of-focus signal
 - Diaphragm situated in conjugate focal plane

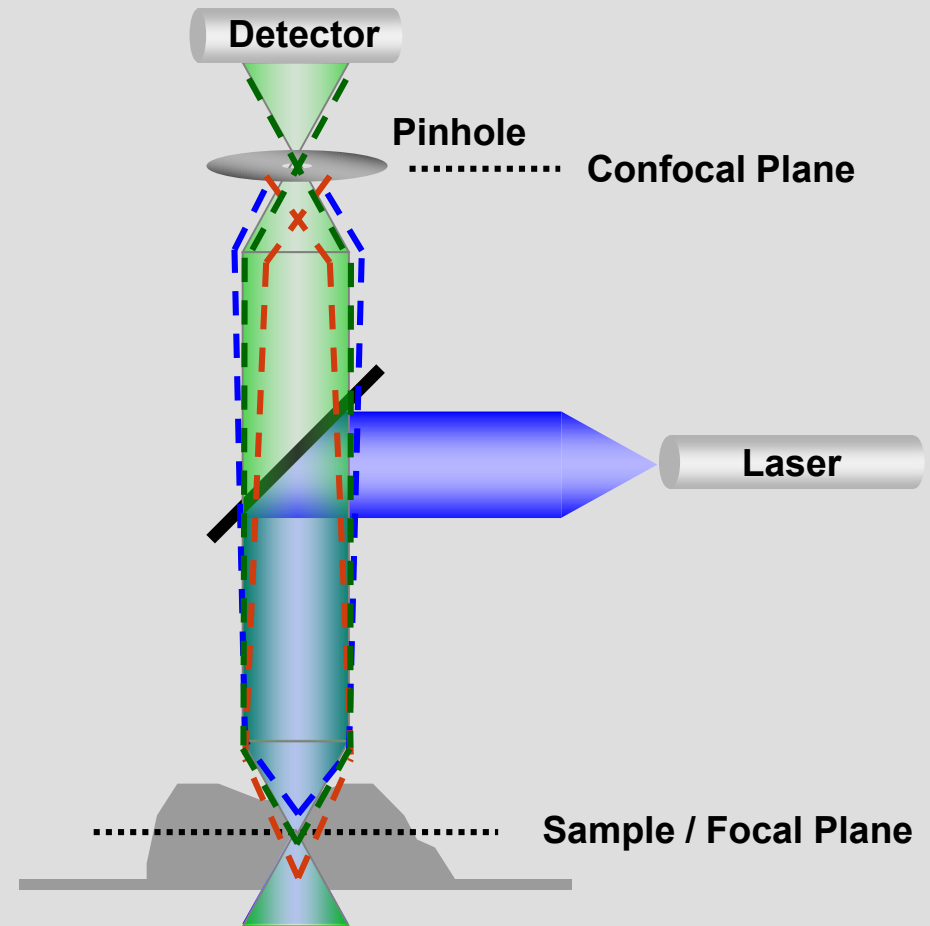


Confocal Microscopy

Rejection of Out-of-Focus Signal



- Laser excitation and sample emission separated by **dichroic**
- The **pinhole(s)** prevent detection of out-of-focus signal
 - Diaphragm situated in conjugate focal plane
- Thickness of resulting optical section is influenced by:
 - Numerical aperture of lens
 - Wavelength of excitation light
 - The **shape, spacing, and diameter of the pinhole**

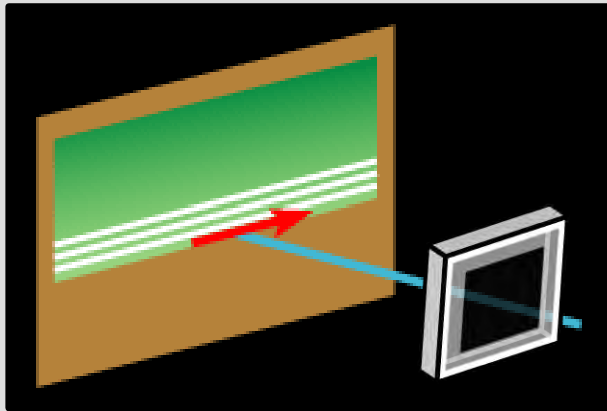


Confocal Microscopy

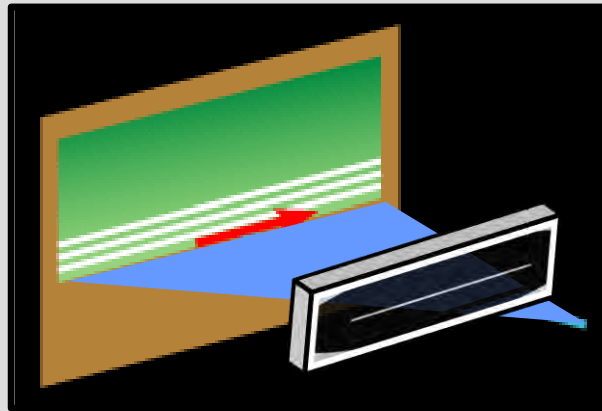
Methods for Scanning



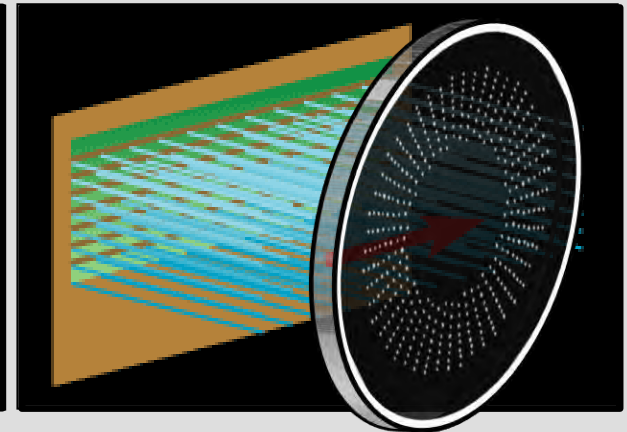
- Increased scanning speeds are possible by **multipoint approaches**
 - Such approaches sacrifice **pinhole versatility** at emission side and thus have less control over the optical section thickness



Point Scanning Confocal
(single point at a time)



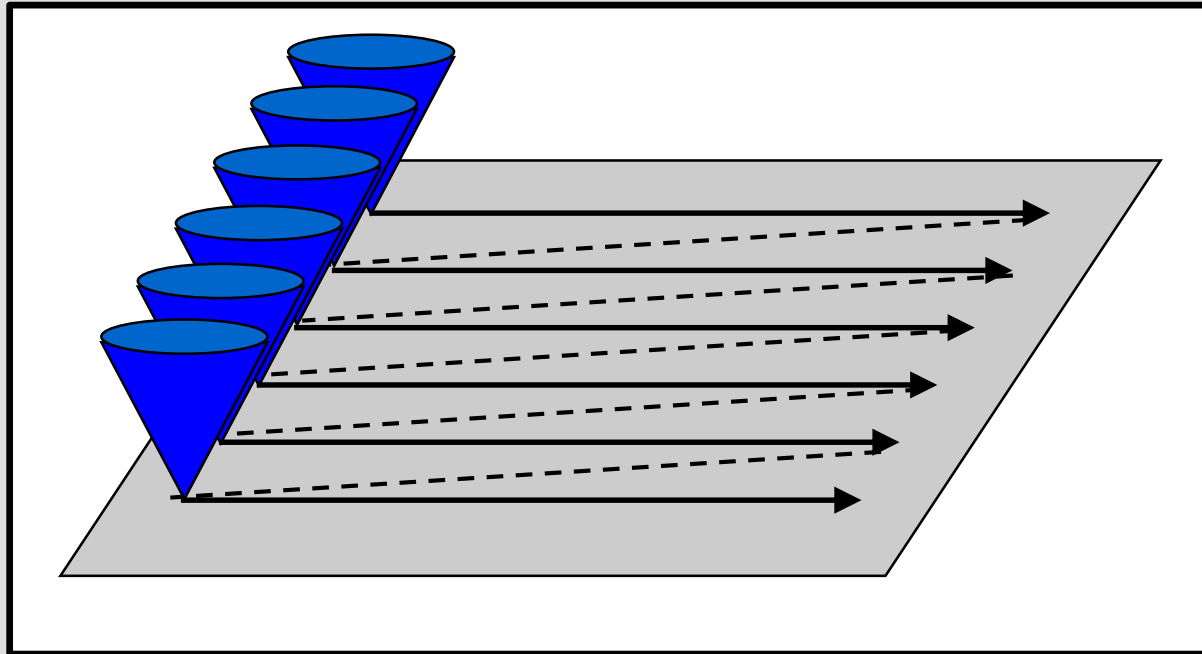
Line Scanning Confocal
(single line or slit at a time)



Spinning Disk Confocal
(~1000 points at a time)

Point-Scanning Confocal

Basic Principles



- A **diffraction-limited laser spot** is moved across the sample via two independent scanning mirrors
 - The resulting image is generated a **single point at a time**

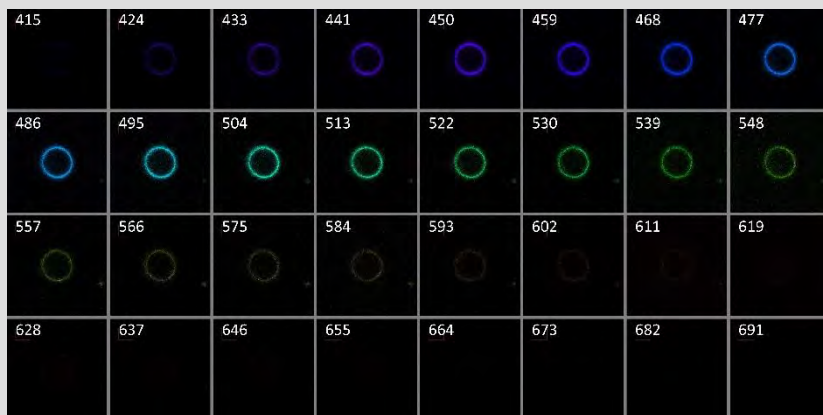
Point-Scanning Confocal

Common/Unique Applications

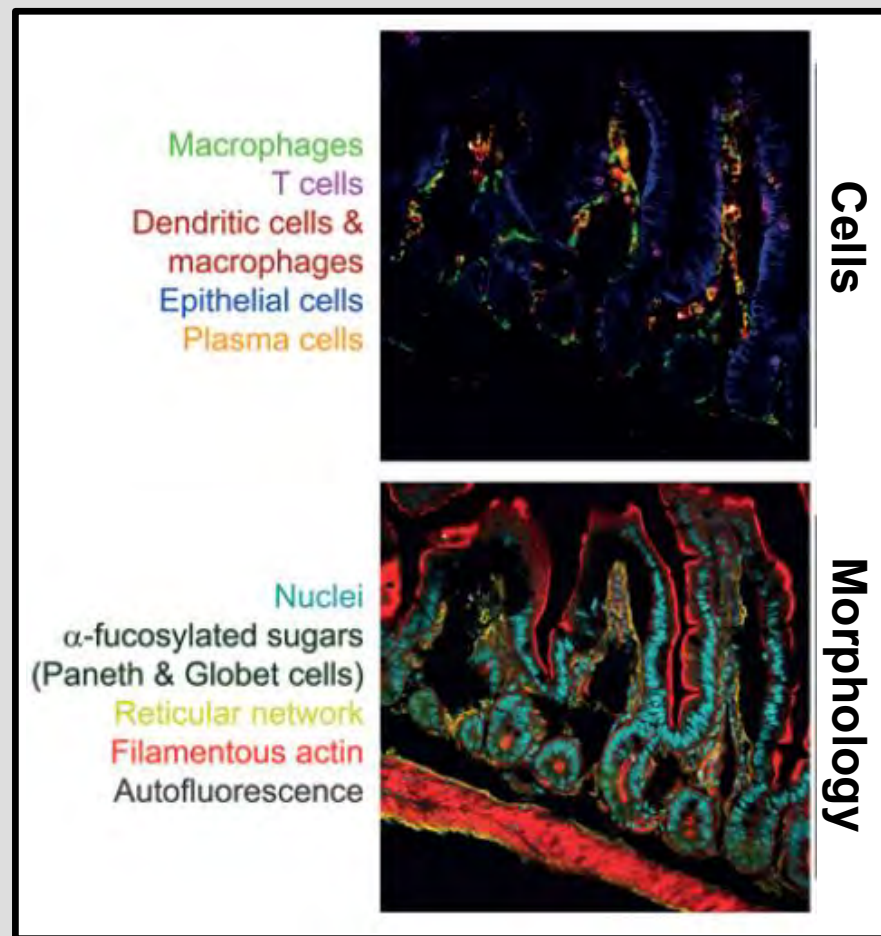


WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Easy-to-implement simultaneous detector layout enables true **spectral imaging**
 - Separation of closely-overlapping fluorophores, identification of autofluorescent populations



32-channel spectral readout of giant unilamellar vesicle (GUV) labelled with laurdan



Visualization of gut immune cell populations
Hugues Lelouard et al (Aix Marseille Univ, France)

Point-Scanning Confocal

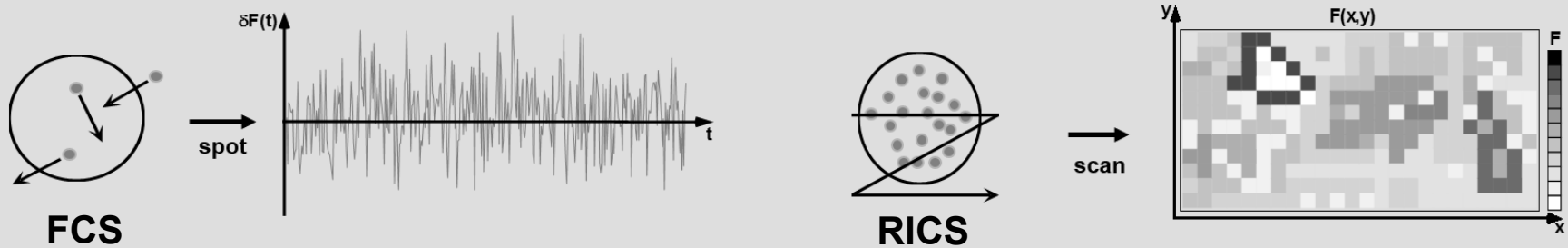
Common/Unique Applications



WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Control of pointwise illumination with nanosecond-scale photon readout permits **measurement/modeling of molecular dynamics**
 - **FRAP** → *mobility (parameters of diffusion, viscosity, size), transport kinetics*
 - **FCS** → *diffusivity, concentration, transport and binding kinetics*
 - **RICS** → *spatial maps of diffusivity, concentration(s)*
 - **N&B** → *concentration, oligomerization*

Detailed characterization of any aqueous compartment or environment via fluorescence!



Point-Scanning Confocal

Typical System Footprint – ZEISS LSM 880



LSM 880 scanhead; 34-channel (GaAsP)

Transmitted light detector (“T-PMT”)

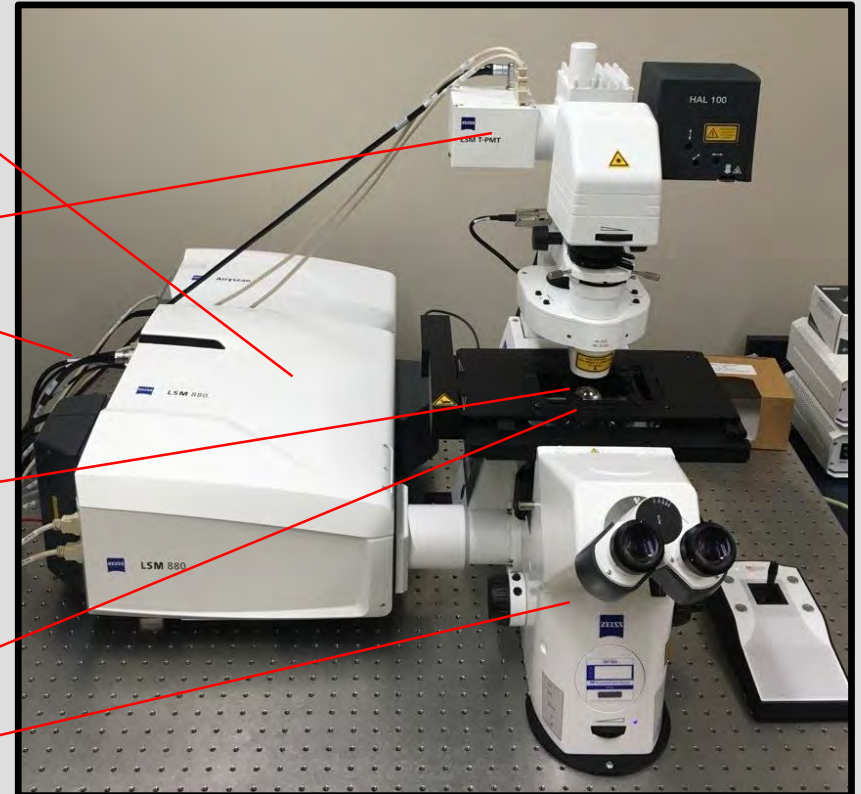
Laser lines: 405, 458, 488, 514, 561, 633 nm

Objectives:

10x/0.3	40x/1.3 oil
25x/0.8 oil/W	63x/1.4 oil
40x/1.2 W	100x/1.46 oil

Motorized XY stage + Z-piezo insert

Observer inverted microscope



Point-Scanning Confocal

Practical Perspective

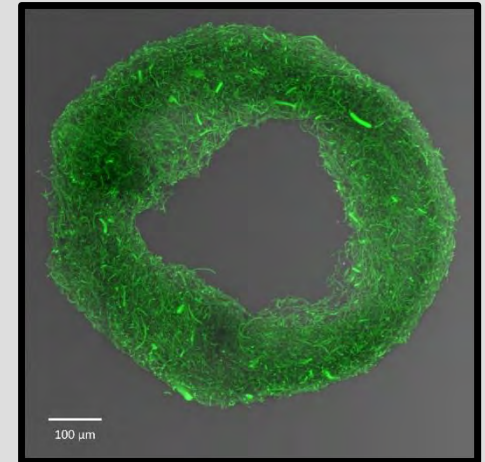


ADVANTAGES:

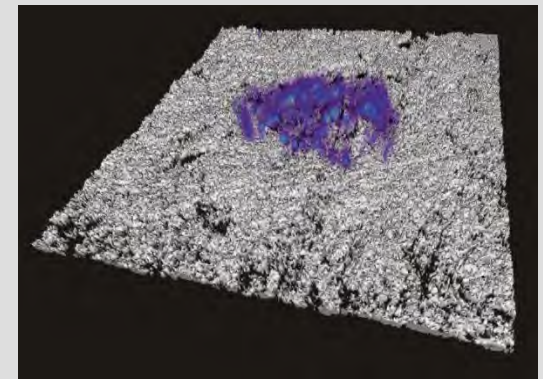
- Nearly **ubiquitous** 3D modality
- Easy to combine multiple **channels in parallel** (spectral imaging)
- Precise **pixel photomanipulation possible**
- Works with **reflected mode imaging** (non-fluorescent structures)

DISADVANTAGES:

- Relatively **slow point-by-point acquisition**
- High **laser powers may cause photobleaching** or photodamage
- Photocathode-based **detectors are less sensitive than cameras**



FITC electrospun fiber scaffold
(Xie Lab, Univ. Nebraska Med.)



Fluorescent flake on paper (reflection)

Spinning Disk Confocal

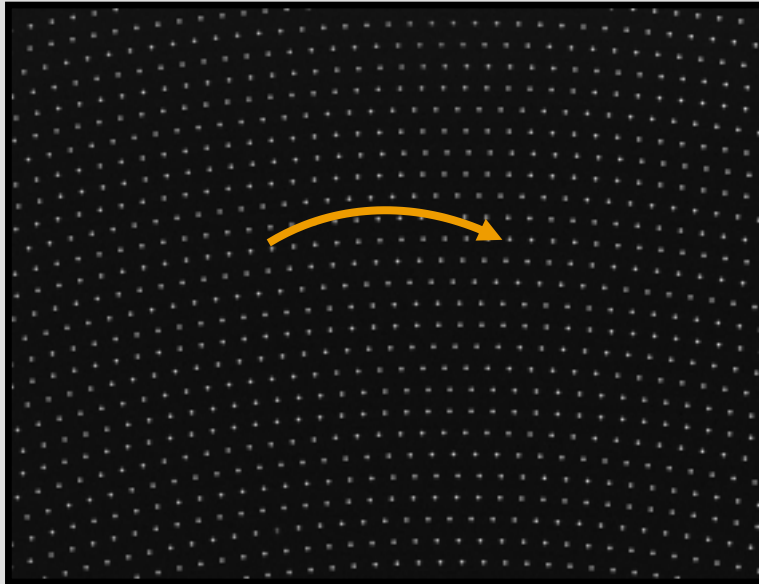
Basic Principles



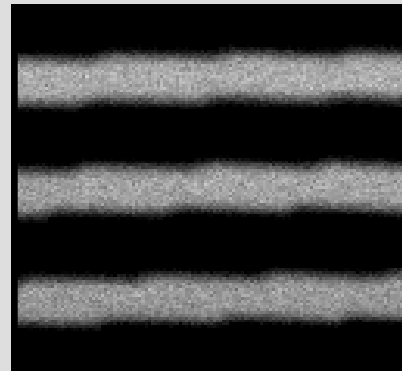
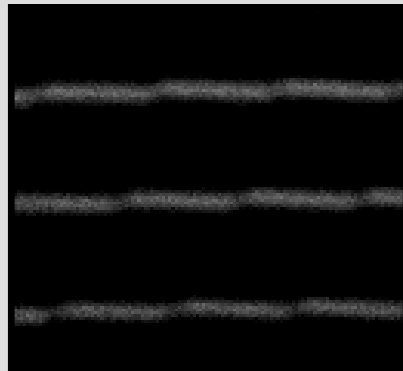
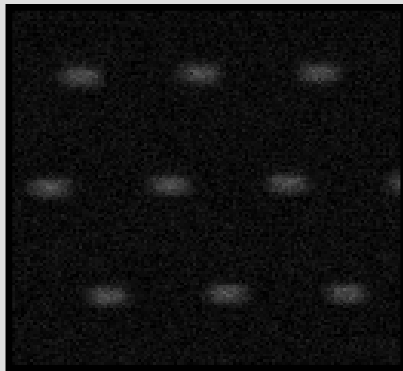
- A single **rotating disk** containing **hundreds of pinholes** scans laser light across the sample
 - Rotation **speed is adjustable** (~1500 – 5000 RPM)
- Paul Nipkow patented concept in 1884, later became basis for mechanical television in 1920s

Spinning Disk Confocal

Basic Principles



- Pinholes are arranged along slightly curved line (**Archimedean spiral**)
- Over a set exposure time, these **lines assemble into one full scan** of the field of view
 - 12 scans per complete rotation, **50 μm pinhole diameter**, 250 μm apart



- To evenly scan, **rotation speed** and **exposure time** are synchronized

Spinning Disk Confocal

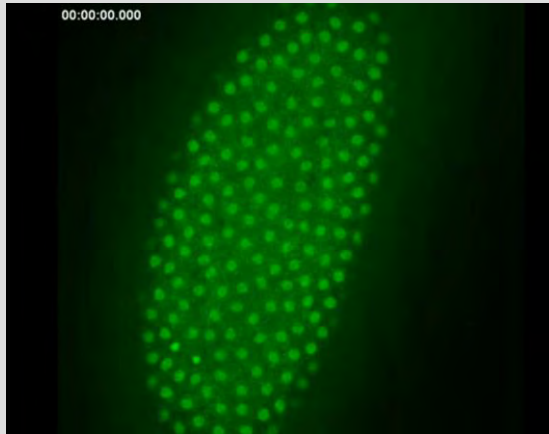
Basic Principles



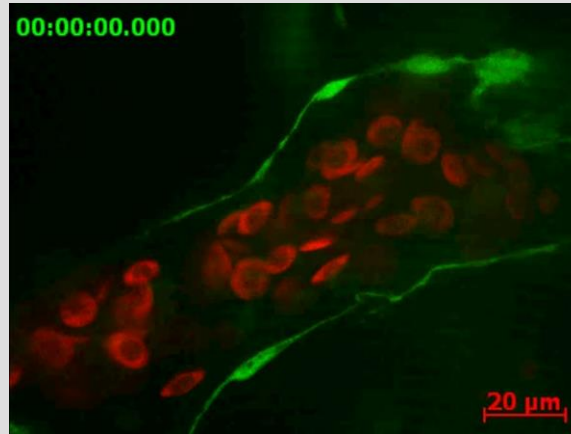
- Pinholes **illuminated by laser** (via focusing of microlens array)
 - Projected onto sample
- Emission collected through objective;
passes pinhole array
 - Only in-focus signals
- Beamsplitter passes **fluorescence to area detector** (e.g. – CCD)
 - High-speed confocal

Spinning Disk Confocal

Common/Unique Applications



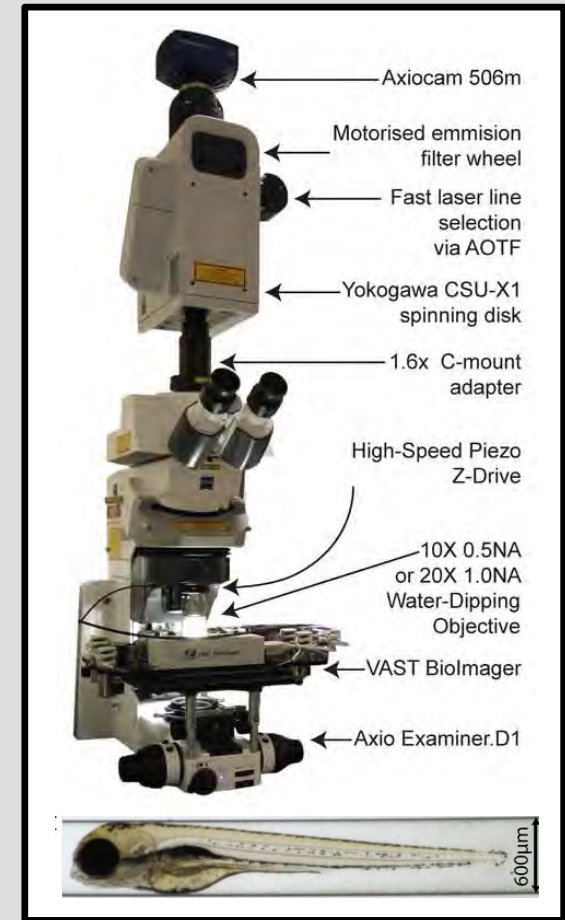
Drosophila embryo (projection)



Zebrafish red blood cells

WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Projects requiring **high-throughput 3D imaging**, up to 2 simultaneous channels
- Increasingly central to **screening studies** (e.g. – Zebrafish sorting VAST Biolumager; automated iPS cell screening)



Automated high-resolution screen (Zebrafish)
Jason Early et al (*Univ. Edinburgh, UK*)

Spinning Disk Confocal

Typical System Footprint – ZEISS Cell Observer SD



**Yokogawa CSU-X1A 5000
spinning disk scanhead**

Laser lines (50 mW)

Laser-safety incubator chamber

**Temperature, CO₂ and
humidity controllers**

**2x Evolve 512 EMCCD cameras
(dual configuration)**

**Observer inverted stand
(with motorized XY stage)**

**Objectives:
40x/1.2 W
63x/1.4 oil
100x/1.46 oil**



DirectFRAP photomanipulation unit

Spinning Disk Confocal

Practical Perspective



ADVANTAGES:

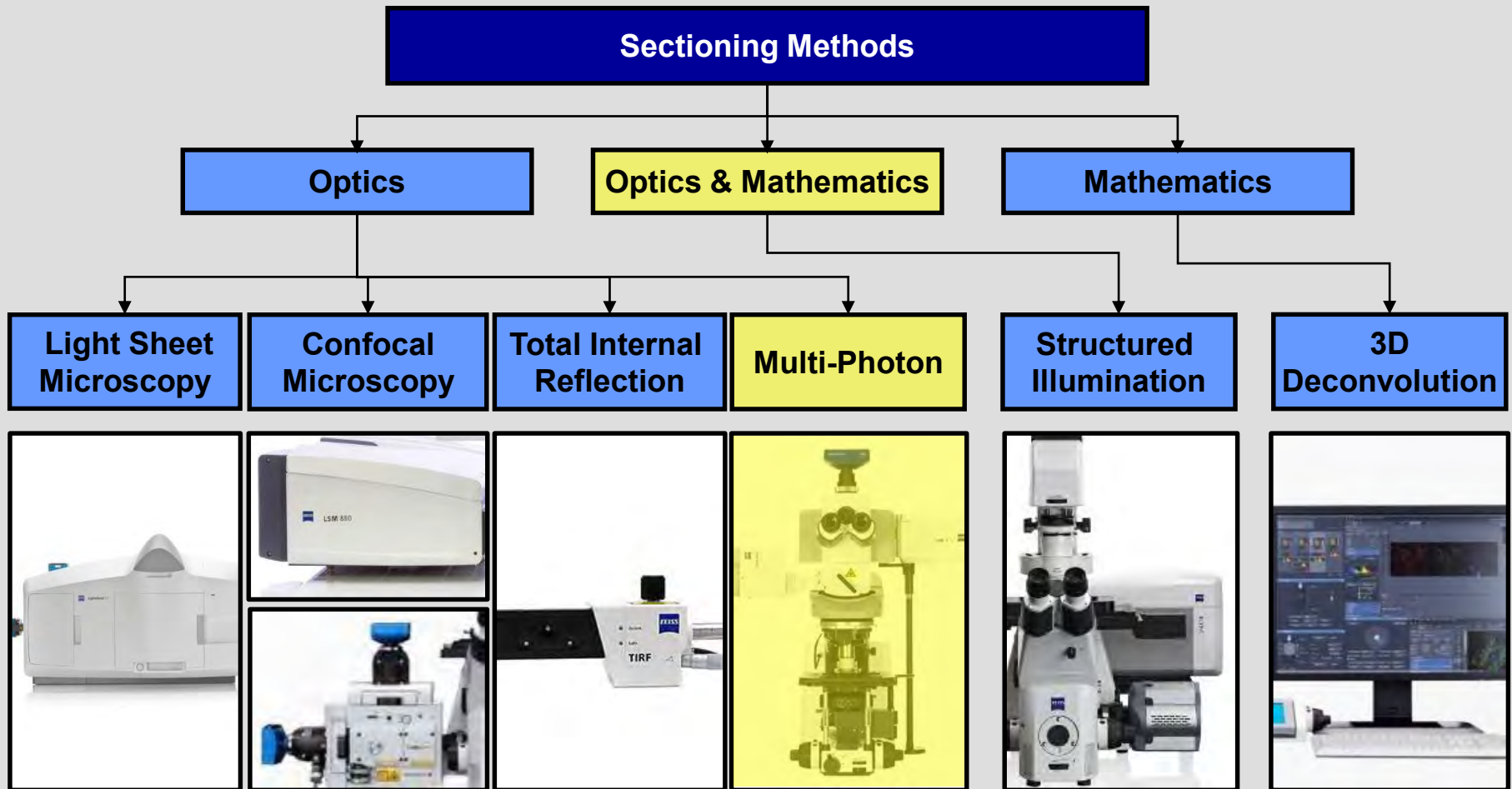
- High speed acquisition **ideal for live cell/tissue dynamics**; capture rate is typically limited only by camera(s)
- Excitation spots are constantly moving; generally accepted as one of the **most gentle confocal imaging strategies**; low photobleaching
- Robust, relatively inexpensive setup that **offers scalability**

DISADVANTAGES:

- Confocal **pinhole diameter is fixed** and optimized only for a subset of magnifications; **lower resolution** than point-scanning confocals
- Thick, **scattering samples** lead to pinhole crosstalk, results in increased background

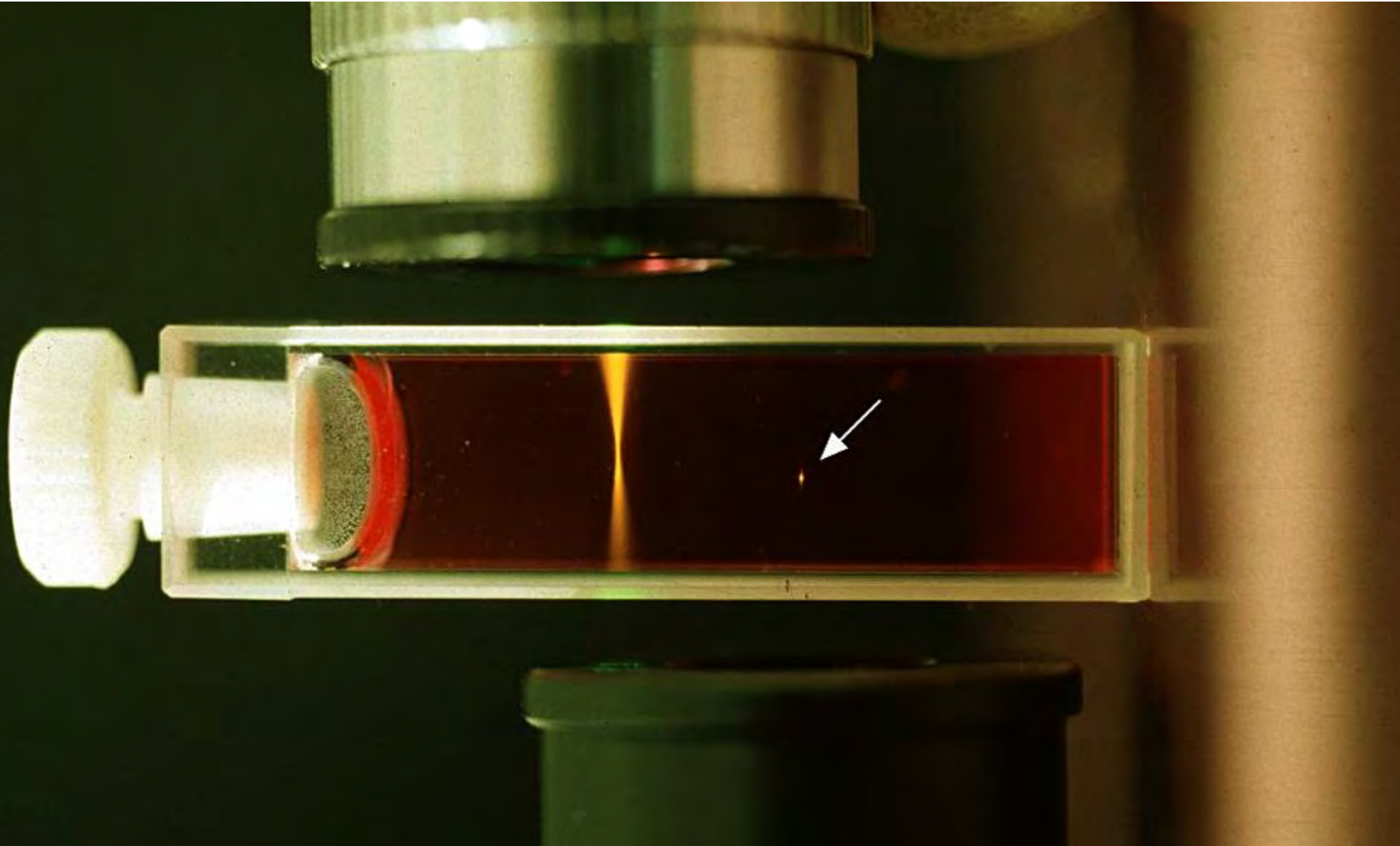
Optical Sectioning Techniques

Multi-Photon Microscopy



Multi-Photon Microscopy

Principles of the Two-Photon Effect



Multi-Photon Microscopy

Principles of the Two-Photon Effect

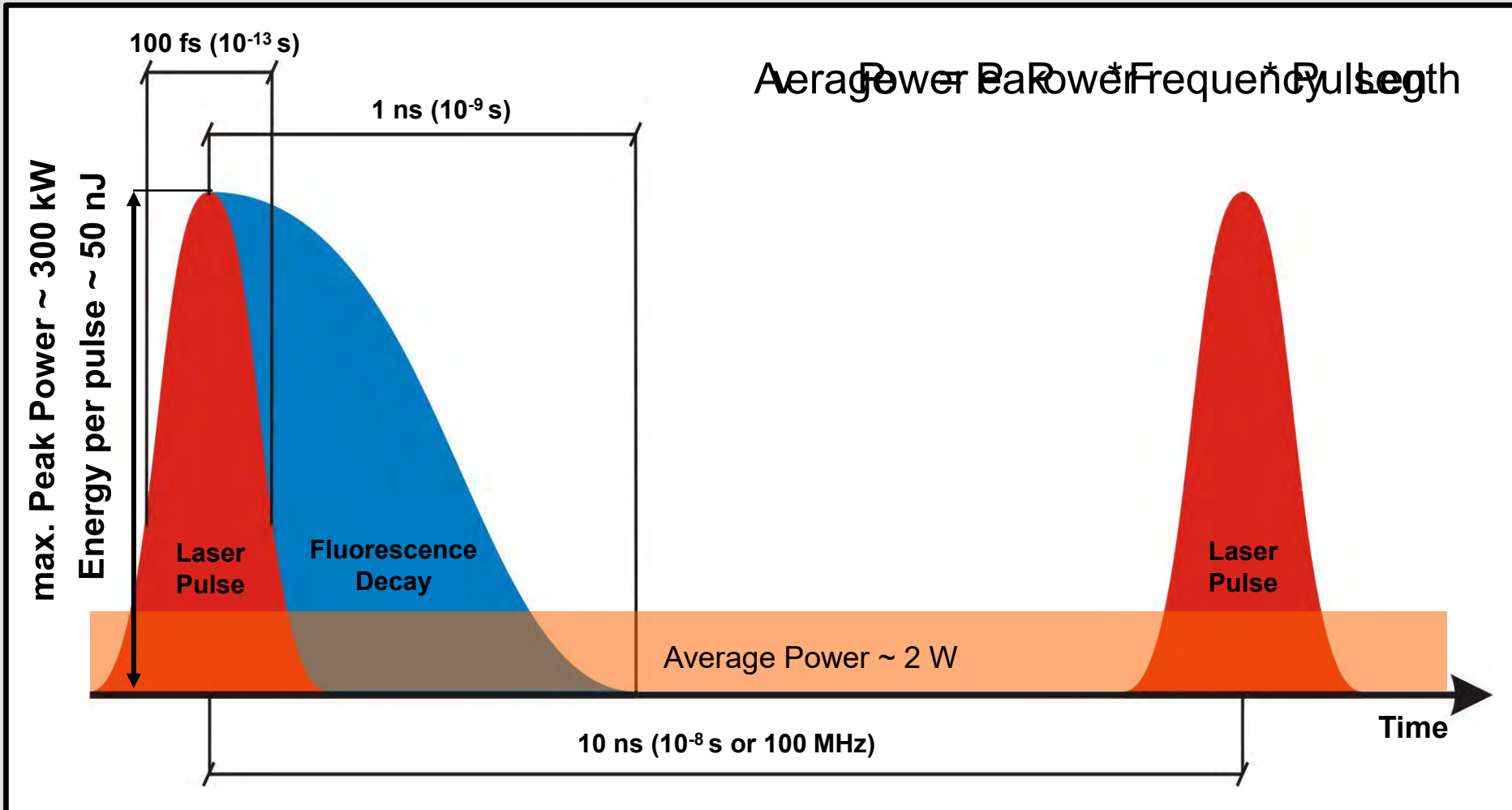


- Multi-photon excitation requires that the fluorophore **simultaneously absorbs two (or more) photons**
 - This process requires an extremely **high photon density** (*i.e.* – the focal volume of the objective lens)
- A **single-photon** instrument is known as a “linear” imaging technique
 - Excitation of fluorophore is **directly proportional to the laser intensity**
- A **multi-photon** system is known as a “non-linear” technique (**NLO**)
 - Excitation of fluorophore is dependent on the **square of the laser intensity**
 - No confocal pinhole required; excitation only **probable** near focal plane

HOW IS THE HIGH PHOTON DENSITY OBTAINED?

Multi-Photon Microscopy

Excitation by a Pulsed IR Laser

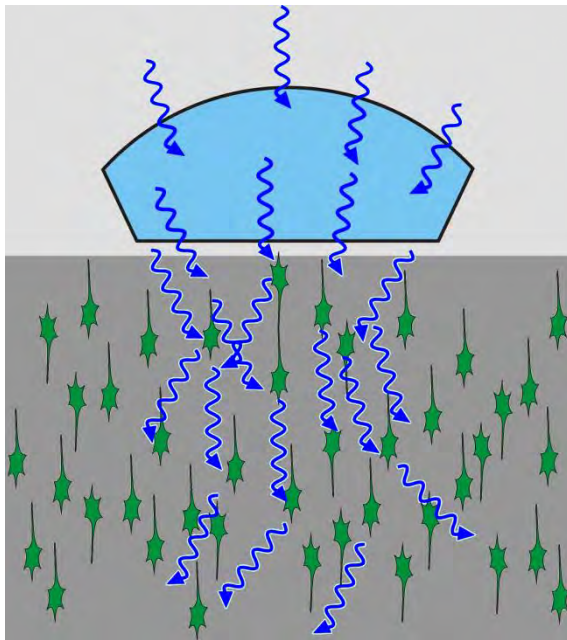


Multi-Photon Microscopy

IR Laser Yields Increased Penetration



Short Wavelength Light (visible light)

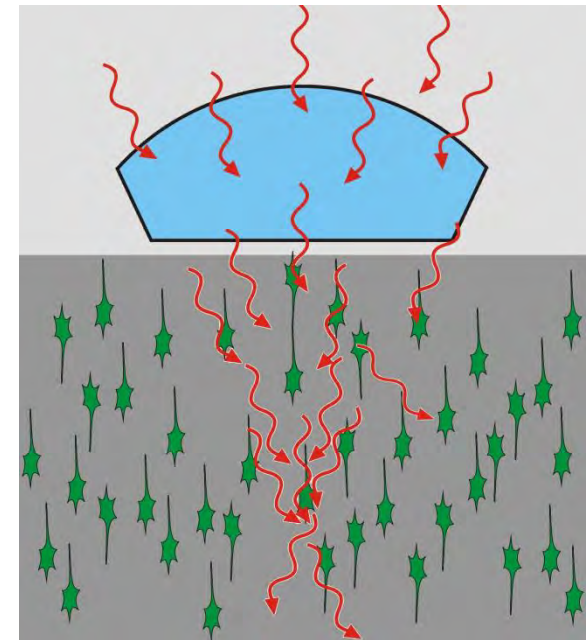


Low penetration depth:
Scattering of photons compromises the focusing of light

Objective Lens

Thick Tissue
(e.g. - brain)

Long Wavelength Light (near infrared)



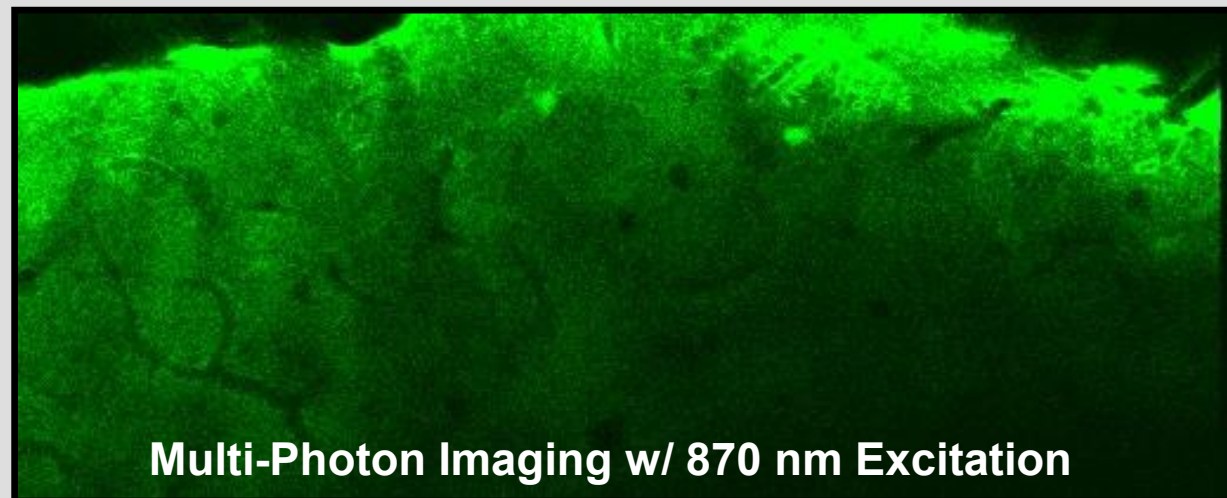
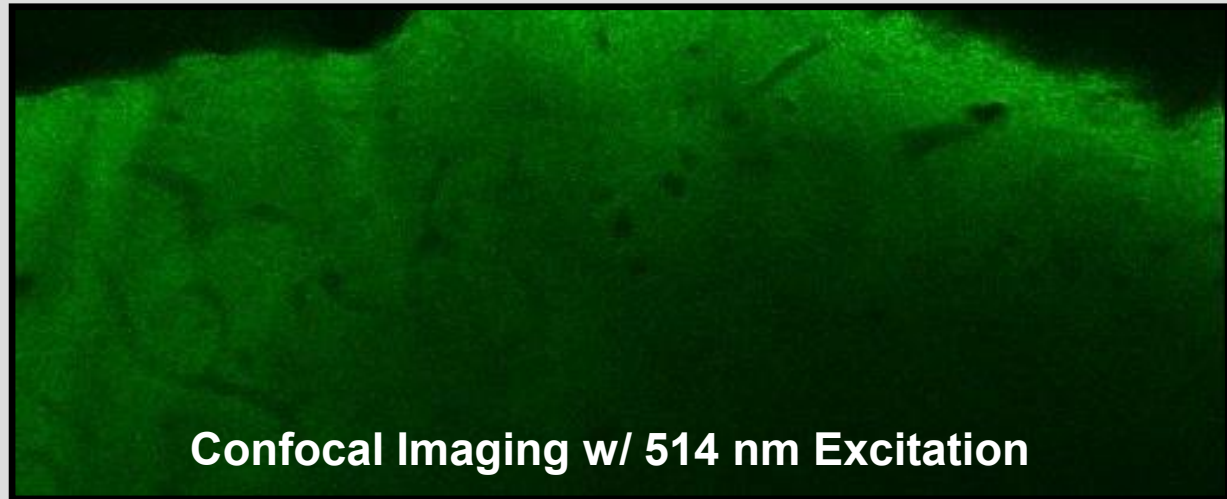
Increased penetration depth:
More efficient focusing due to reduced scattering of photons

Multi-Photon Microscopy

Depth Considerations



**Mouse brain:
YFP-labelled
tissue; 80 μm
deep**



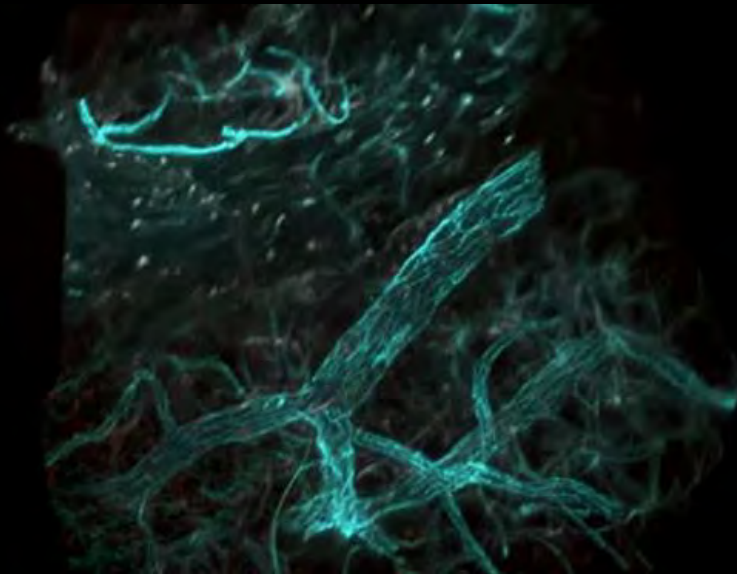
Multi-Photon Microscopy

Common/Unique Applications



WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Label-free imaging of collagen, myosin, starch via second harmonic generation (**SHG**)



Mesenterium, SHG collagen (cyan, 800 nm), endothelial cells (white), F. Kiefer (MPI Munster)



Mouse brain cleared with Scale
Hiroshi Hama et al (RIKEN BSI, Wako, Japan)

- High depth (>5 mm) imaging of **optically-cleared** tissues and organs

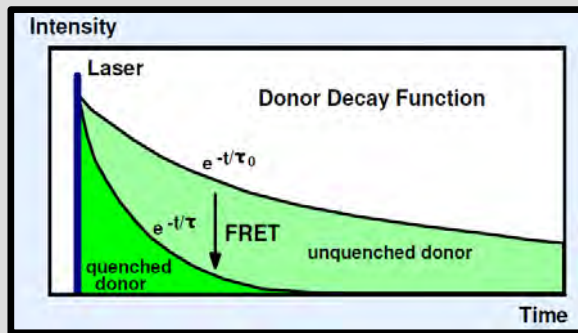
Multi-Photon Microscopy

Common/Unique Applications

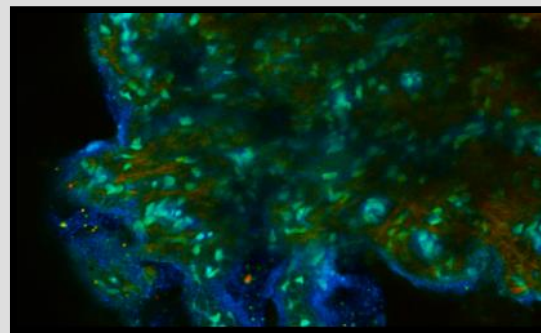


WHAT ARE THE USES?

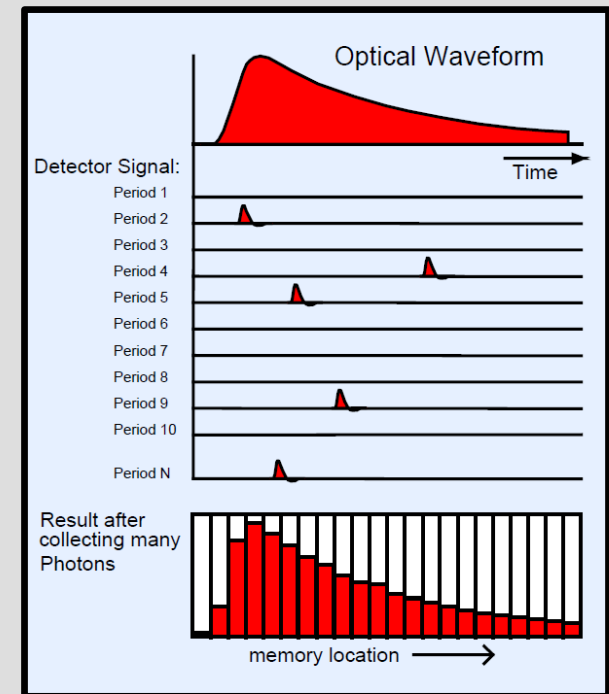
- Pulsed lasers can enable measurement of fluorescence lifetime (**FLIM**)
 - Photon counting is used to plot **temporal** distribution of the excited state (~100s of ps)
 - Repeating counts at each scan pixel reveals **spatial** distribution of lifetimes
 - Lifetimes are **sensitive to microenvironment** (FRET, pH, ion concentration, binding, etc)



Presence of FRET (protein-protein interaction) reduces donor lifetime



Skin (pig) stained with ethylene blue; 1100 nm ex. lifetime image



Principle of time-correlated single photon counting (TCSPC), via B&H

Multi-Photon Microscopy

Typical System Footprint – ZEISS LSM 880 NLO



LSM 880 scanhead; 34-channel (GaAsP)

VIS laser lines: 458, 488, 514, 561, 633 nm

IR laser: Coherent Discovery dual beam
Output A: 690-1010 nm + 1070-1300 nm
Output B: 1040 nm

Incubation accessories (temperature, CO₂)

Objectives:

20x/0.8

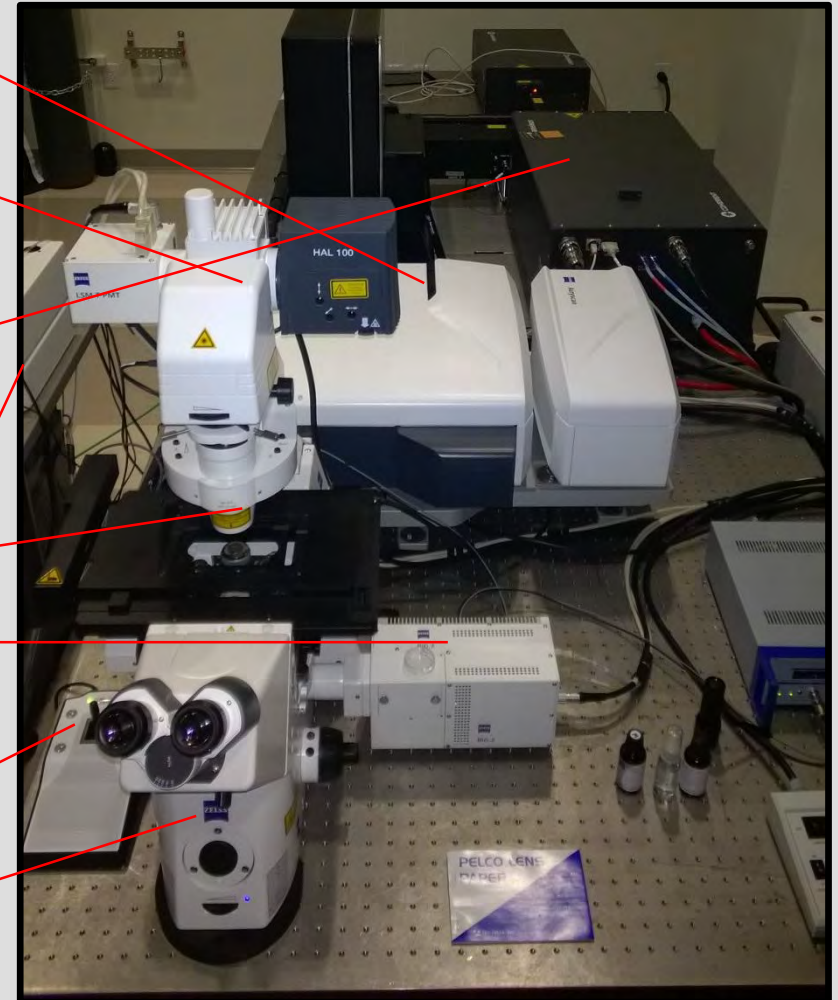
40x/1.2 W

40x/1.3 oil

**External NDD,
reflected light
(2-channel GaAsP)**

Motorized XY stage + Z-piezo insert

**Observer inverted microscope
(with Definite Focus)**



Multi-Photon Microscopy

Practical Perspective



ADVANTAGES:

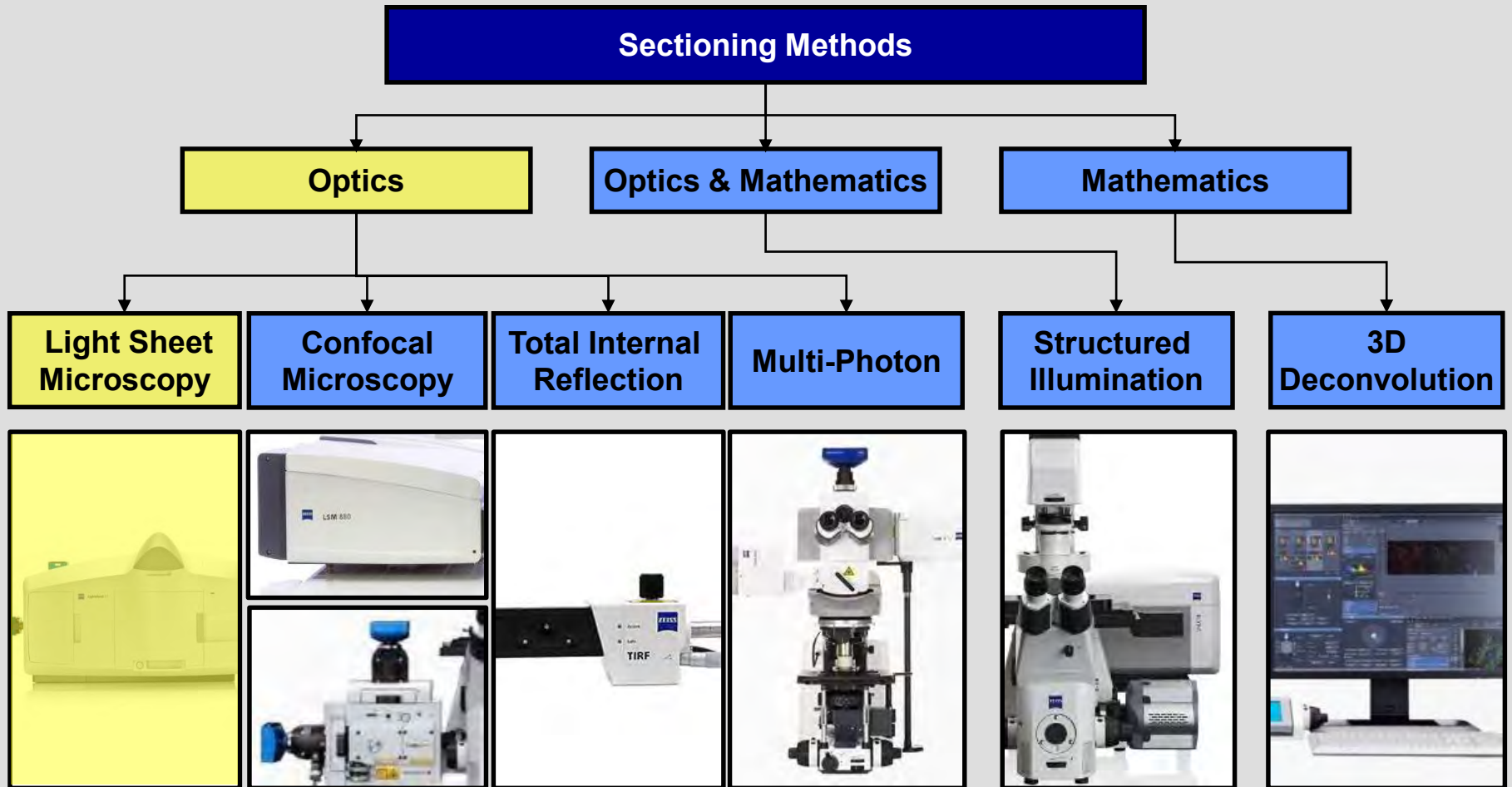
- Permits **deep imaging of tissue or whole animal** due to low scattering of IR light and non-descanned detection (no pinhole)
- IR **light less toxic to live** cells/organisms
- Optical sectioning occurs entirely through excitation; **limits bleaching to the focal plane only**

DISADVANTAGES:

- Not useful or recommended for thin samples; IR wavelength and power **can boil sample** (where water dominant absorber)
- Broad fluorophore absorption cross-section; **multi-labeling tricky**
- No ability to adjust optical slice thickness (*e.g.* – for weak samples)
- IR pulsed lasers render the system **expensive, large footprint**

Optical Sectioning Techniques

Light Sheet Microscopy



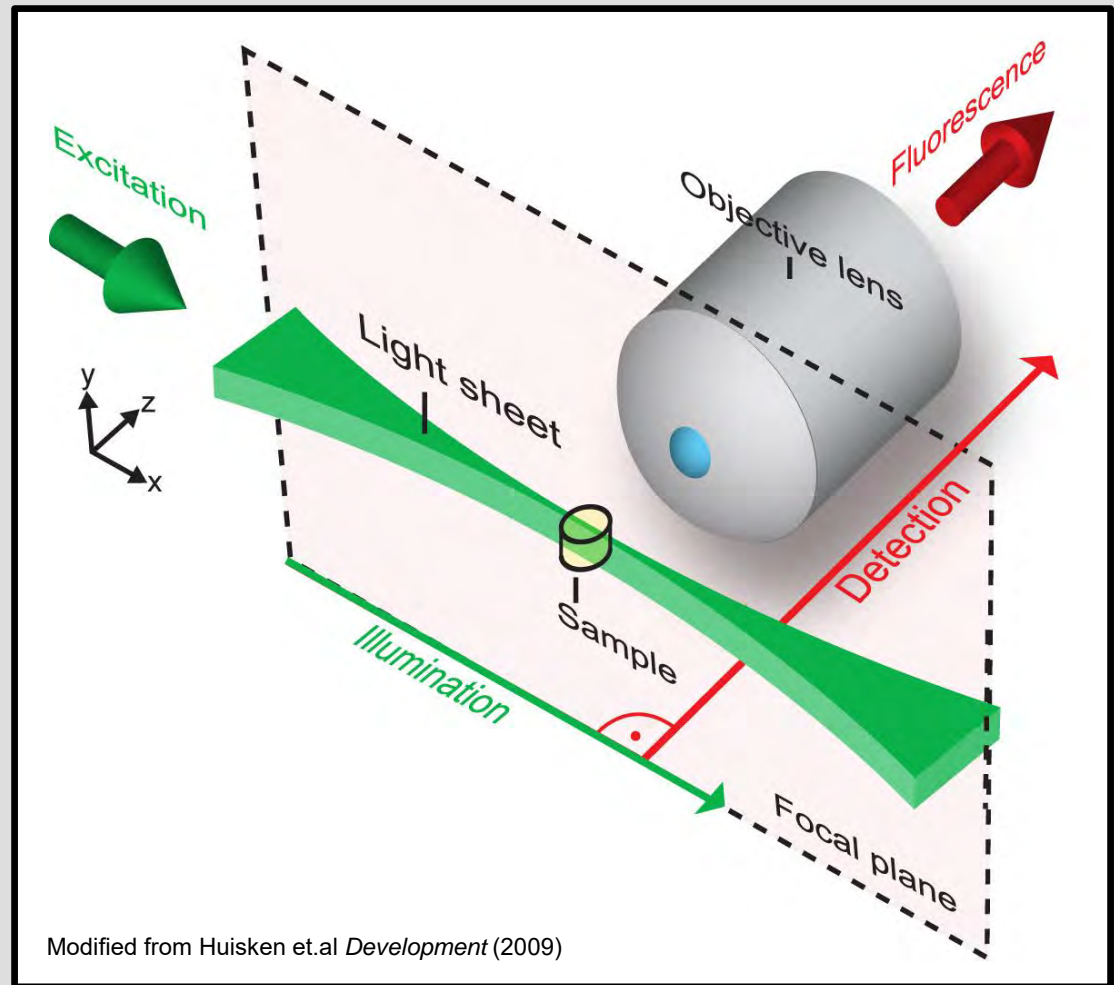
Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Fundamental Characteristics of LSM



PRINCIPLES

- Orthogonal light paths for illumination and detection
- Horizontal microscope configuration
- Whole field of view illuminated; camera-based collection

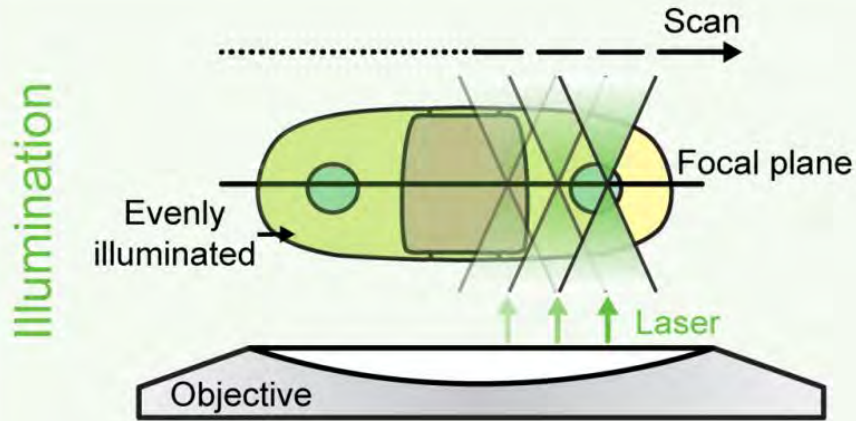


Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

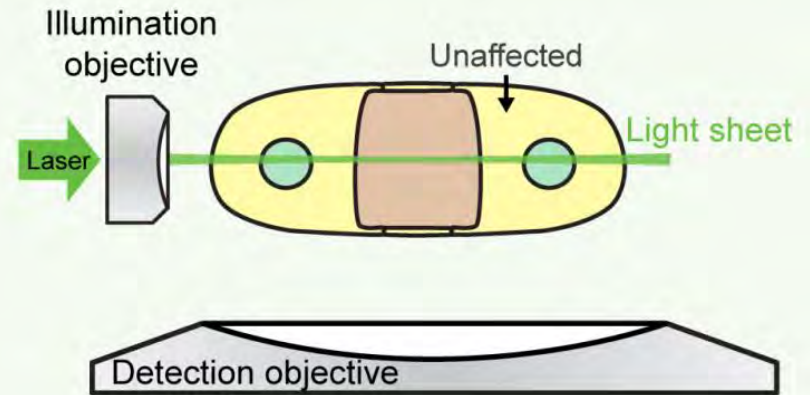
Comparison to Confocal Microscopy



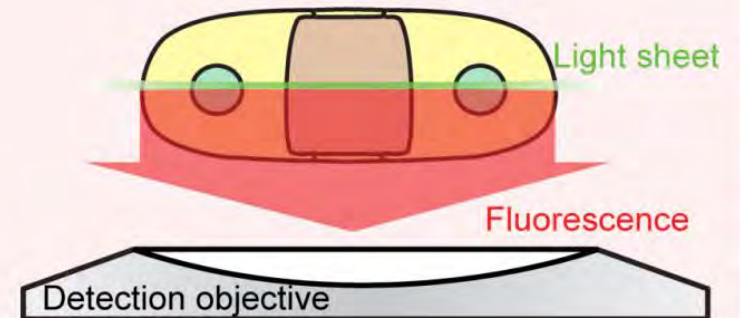
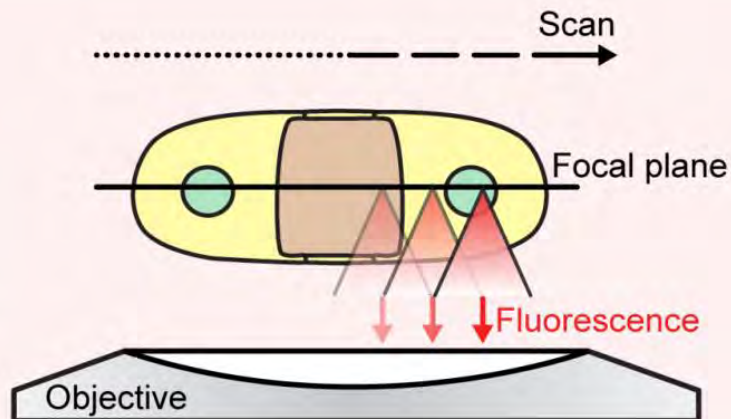
Confocal microscopy



Light sheet microscopy



Detection

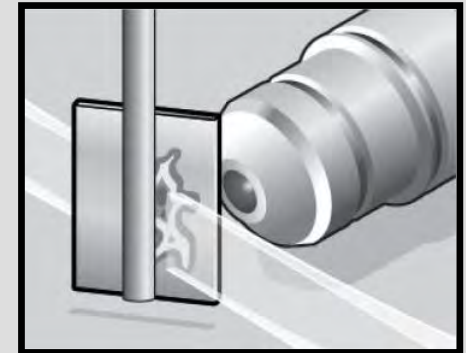
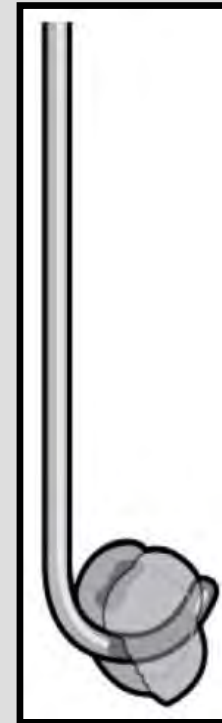
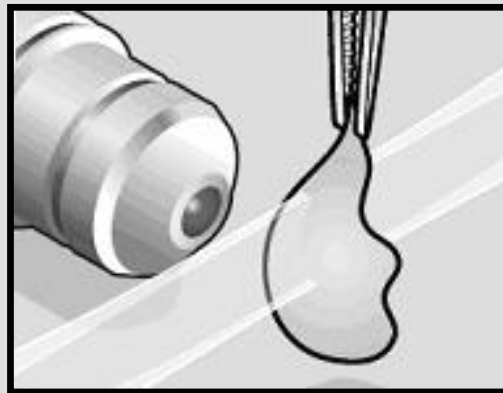
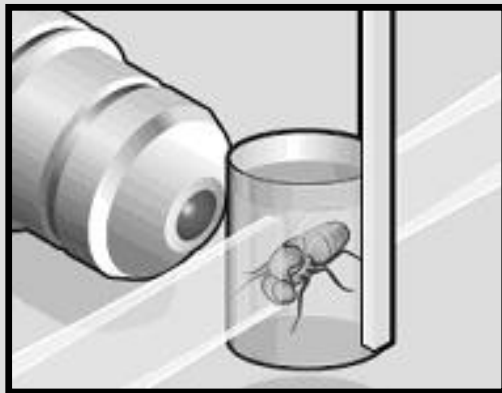
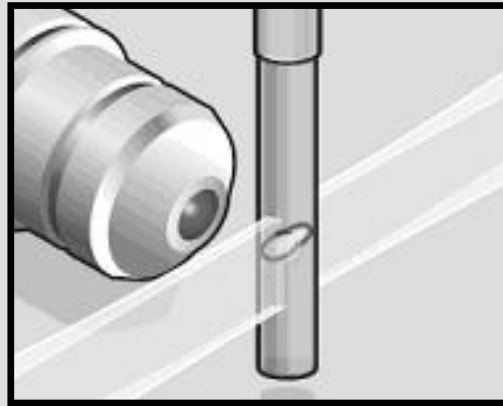
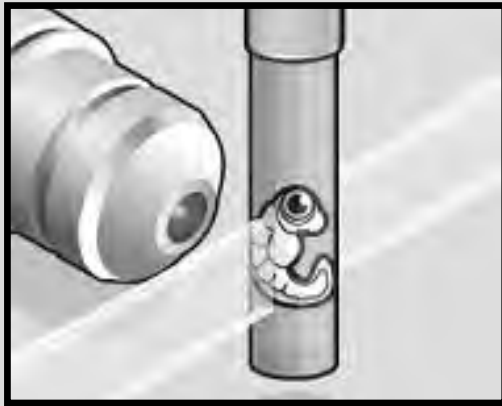


Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Samples Types and Preparation



Reynaud et al., HFSP J. (5) 2008



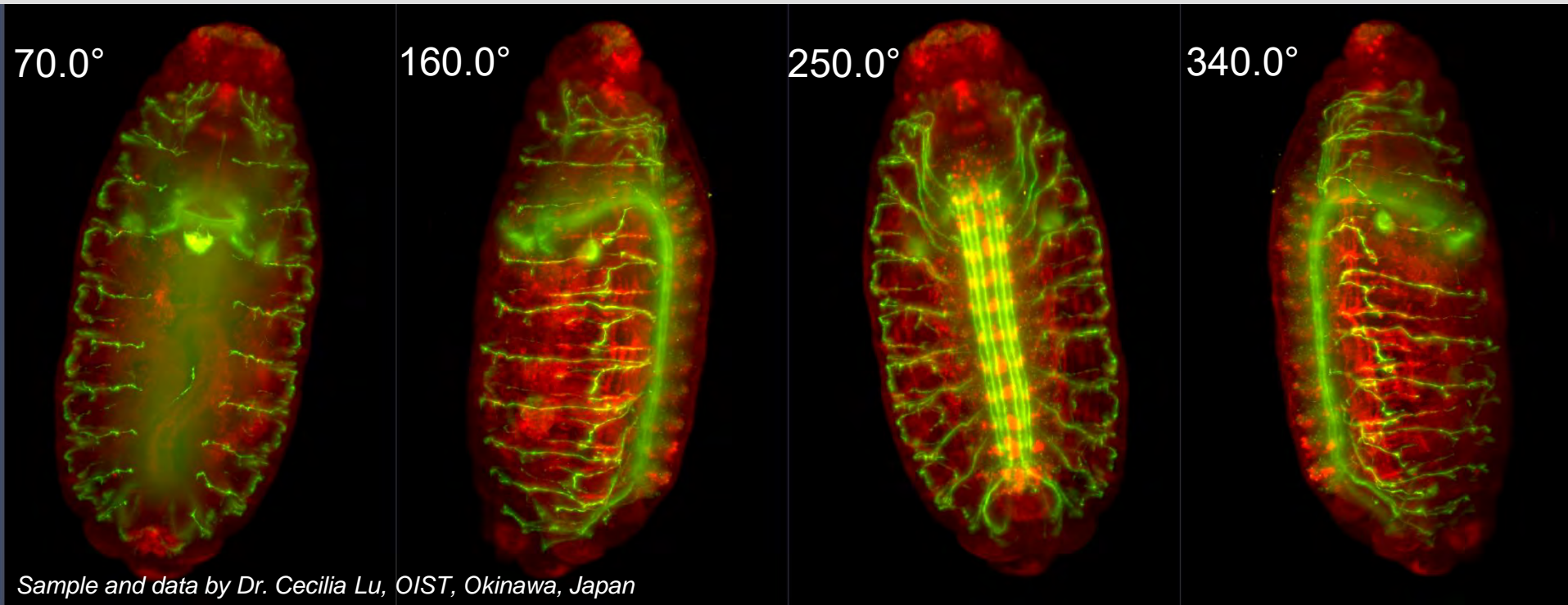
(Compromised solution for coverslipped samples)

Adapted agarose capillaries, cups, hooks, clamps, and adhesives permit a variety of sample formats

Multiple configurations ideal for medium-sized to **large living specimens** in an aqueous solution

Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Multiview Imaging



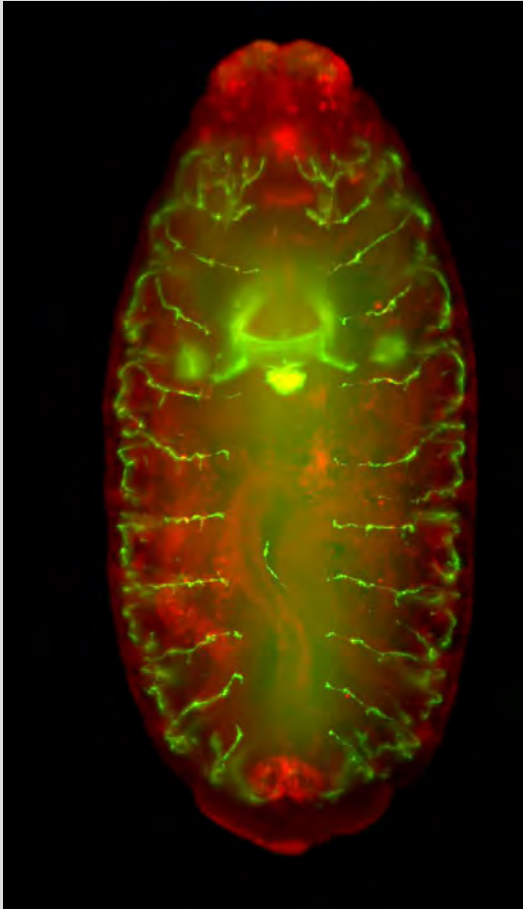
- Larger samples benefit from applying illumination features (e.g. – two-sided illumination, pivot scanning) to different rotational views
 - Complementary information from **unique viewing angles**; **resolution gain**

Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Multiview Imaging – Fusion



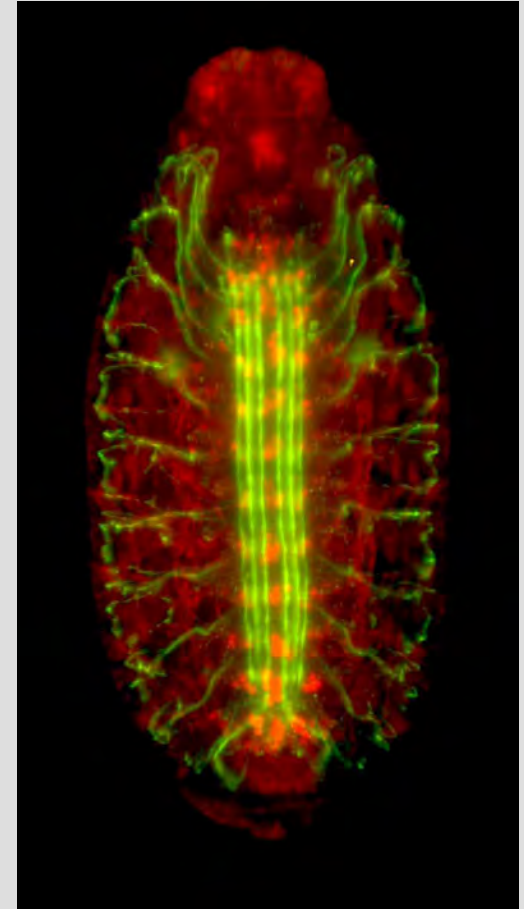
Z-Stack View 1



Registration + Fusion



Z-Stack View 2



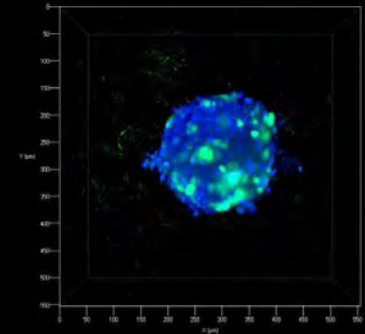
Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Common/Unique Applications



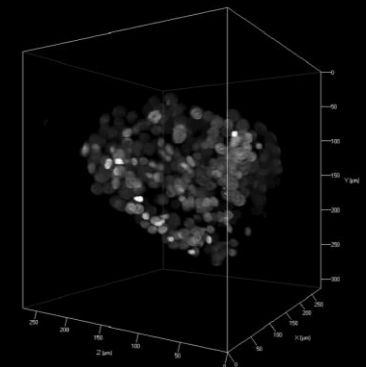
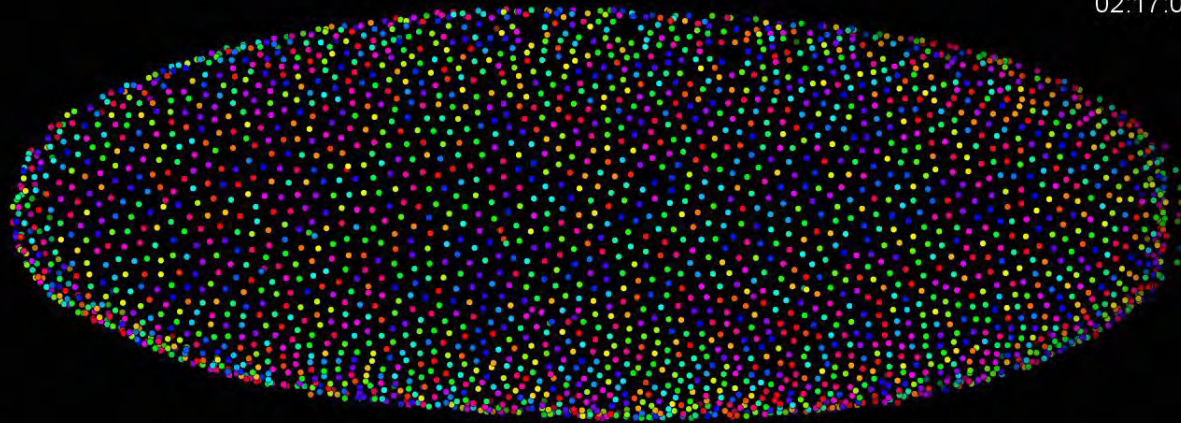
WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Tracking and invasion of cells in unperturbed **3D culture** models (spheroids, seeded scaffolds, invasion assays) and intact organisms



02:17:00

Spheroid cultures



Drosophila embryo lineage reconstruction (H2A), 30 s interval over 11 hr, 10 frame avg
Amat et al. (*Nature Methods* 2014)

Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

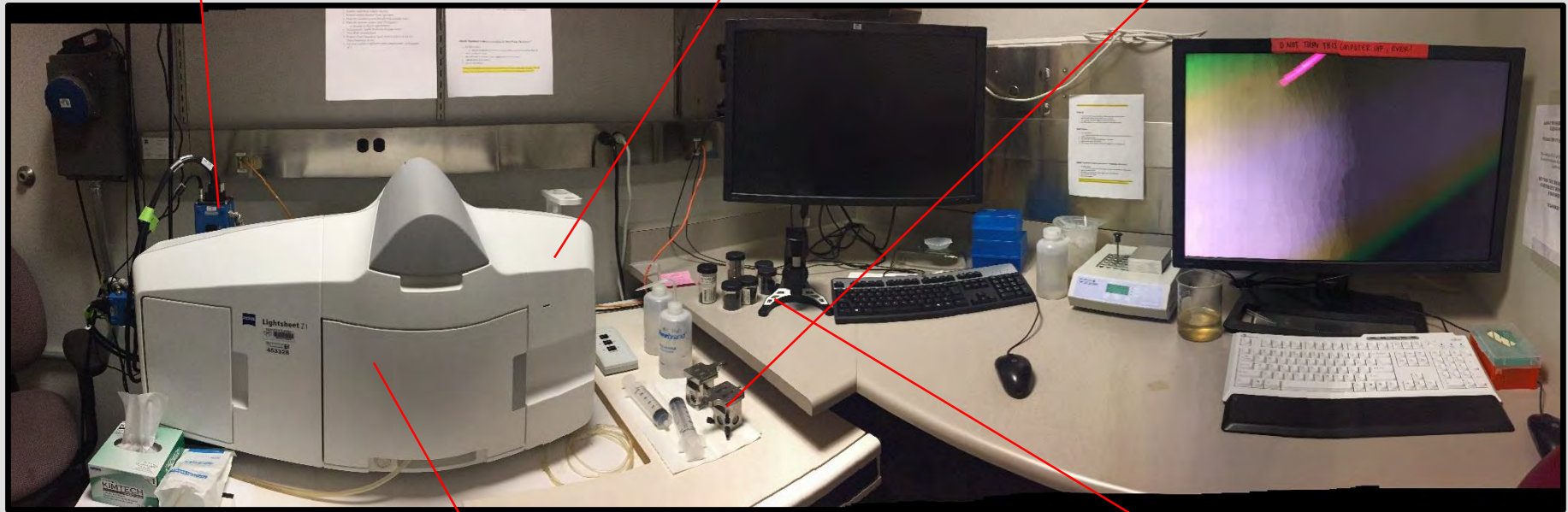
Typical System Footprint – ZEISS Lightsheet Z.1



2x PCO.edge CMOS cameras
(dual configuration)

Laser lines (50 mW)

Additional sample chambers

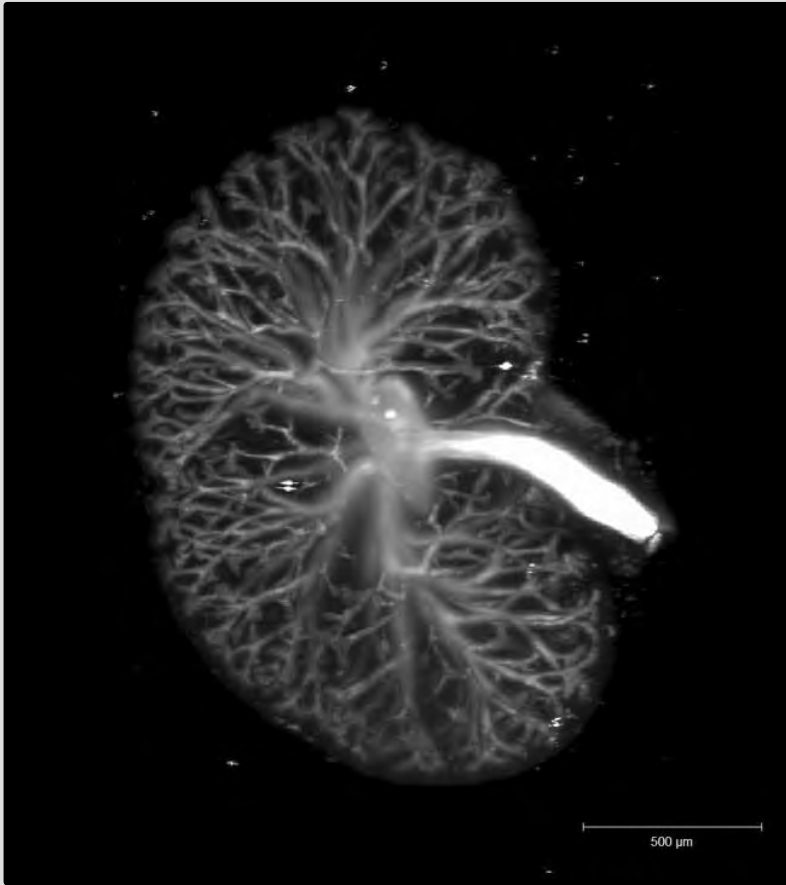


Lightsheet Z.1 unit (with
temperature controllers)

Objectives:
5x/0.16
20x/1.0 water
40x/1.0 water

Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Practical Perspective



E15.5 mouse kidney cleared with glycerol
(blood vessels, eGFP)
Renata Prunskaitė-Hyyryläinen (*Univ. Oulu, Finland*)

ADVANTAGES:

- Fast and **gentle** optical sectioning
- Multiview positioning allows for **more efficient light delivery at high depths**
- Enables **large format cleared tissue imaging**

DISADVANTAGES:

- Light sheet thickness ranges from 1 to 10 microns thick; **subcellular resolution possible but lower** than confocal imaging
- High throughput requires considerations for **large datasets**

Outline of Discussion

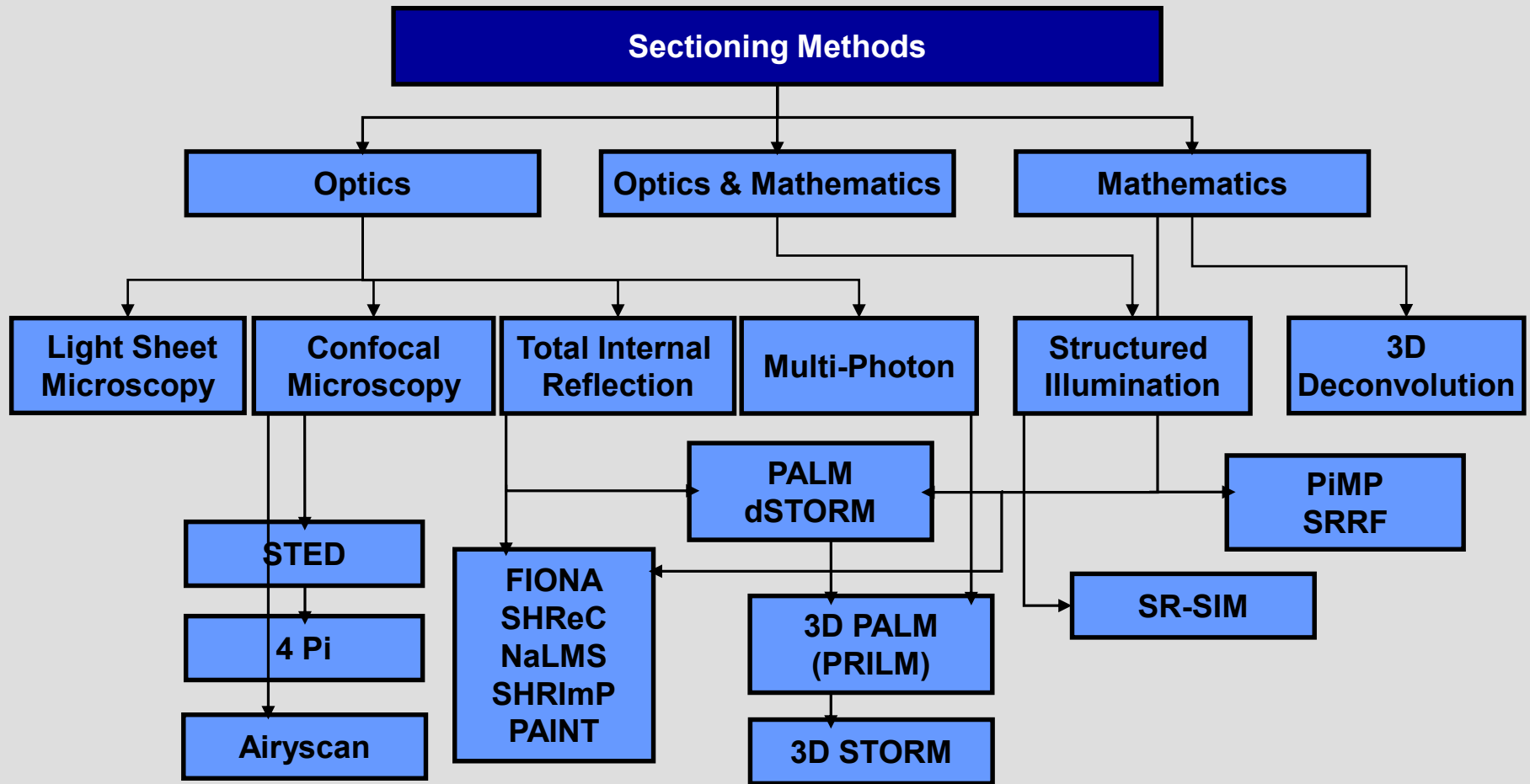
High Resolution Optical Sectioning



- 1 Basic Aspects of Resolution in X, Y, and Z
- 2 Modalities for Enhancing Axial Resolution
- 3 Advanced Approaches for Exceeding the Resolution Limit**
- 4 Summary of Techniques
- 5 Questions

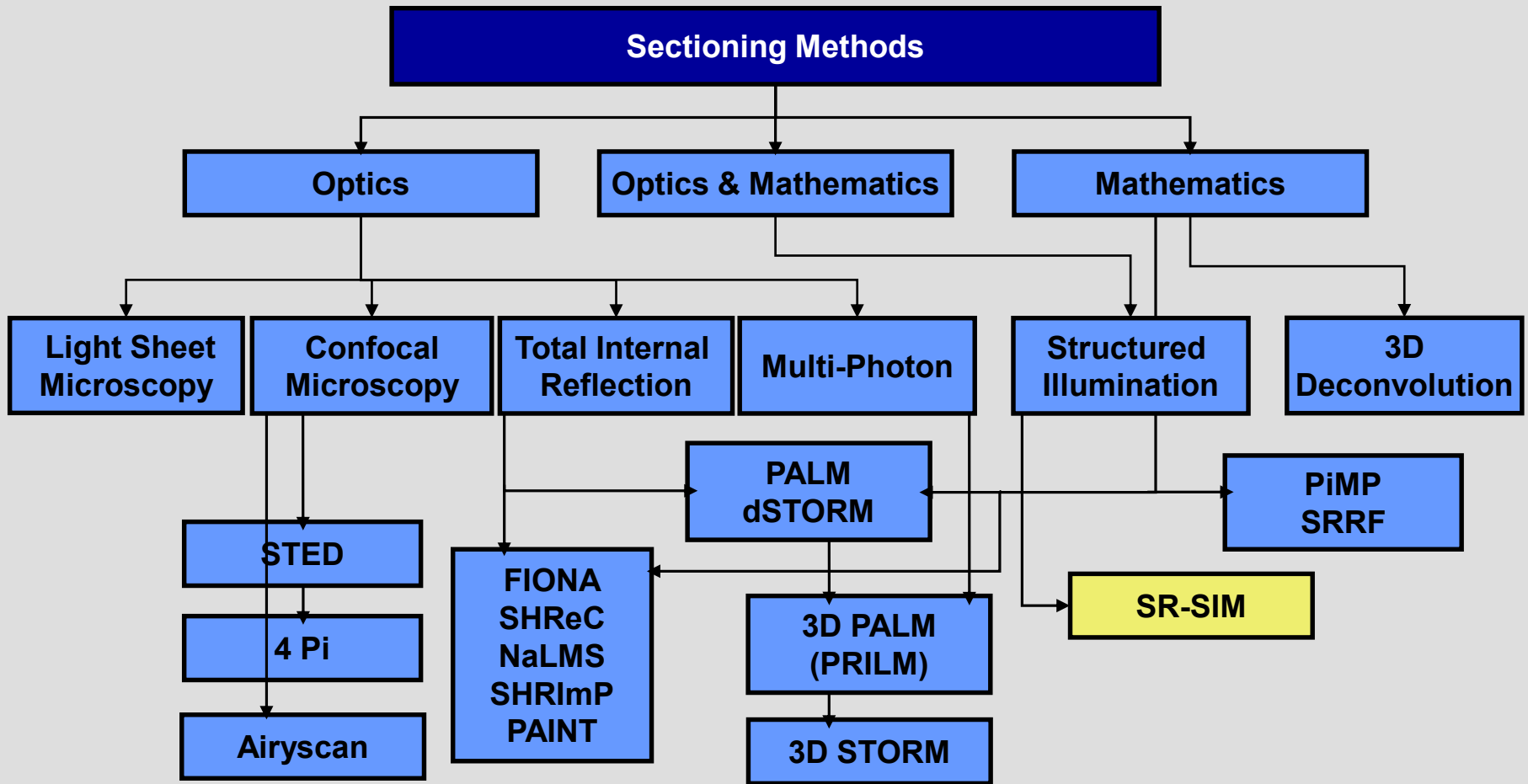
Optical Sectioning Techniques

Common Superresolution Approaches



Optical Sectioning Techniques

Common Superresolution Approaches

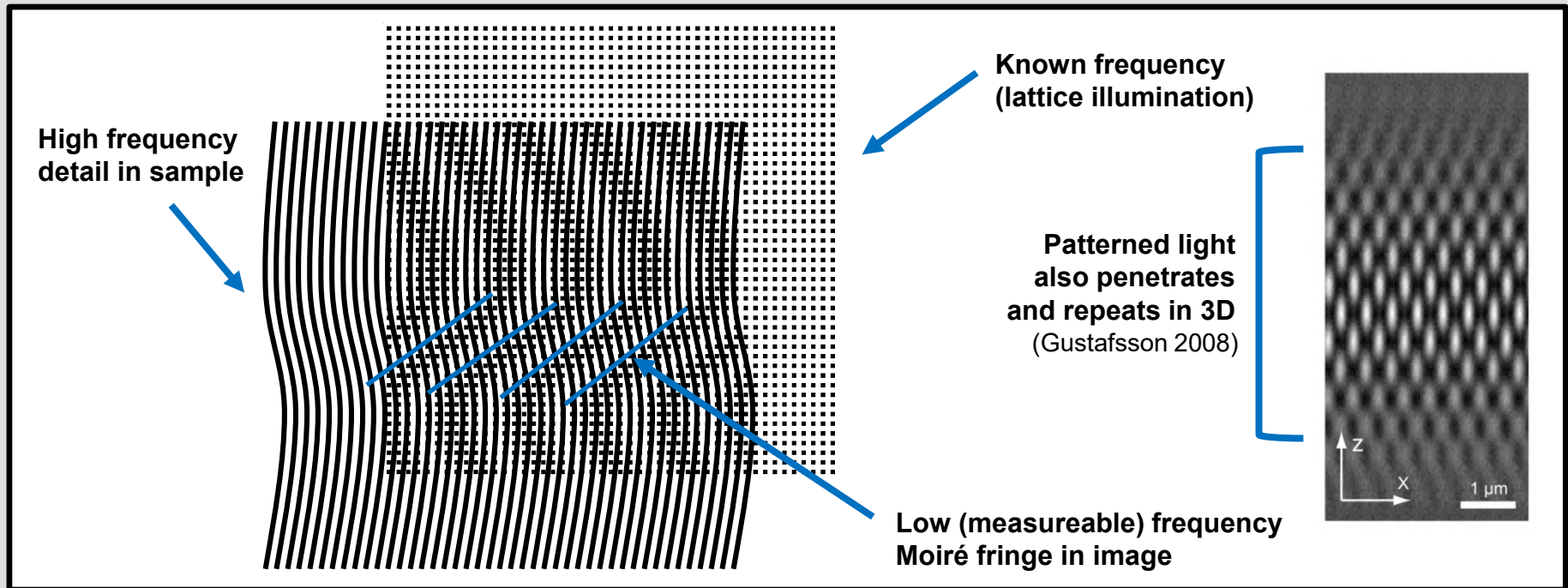


Structured Illumination Microscopy

Basic Principles

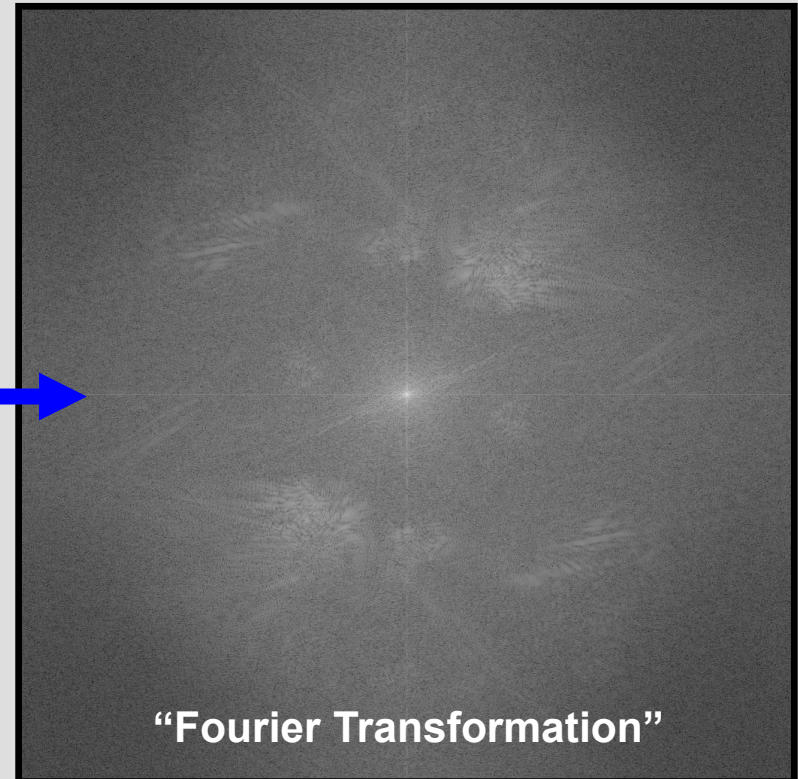


- Method of casting patterned light in highly-controlled manner to yield composite images with **double resolution in X,Y, and Z**
 - Use of **grid or lattice** illumination reveals Moiré patterns with lower frequencies that are not hindered by the resolution limit of an objective



Structured Illumination Microscopy

Understanding Frequency Space

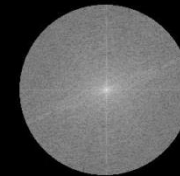


Structured Illumination Microscopy

Fourier Spectrum – Objective Limit



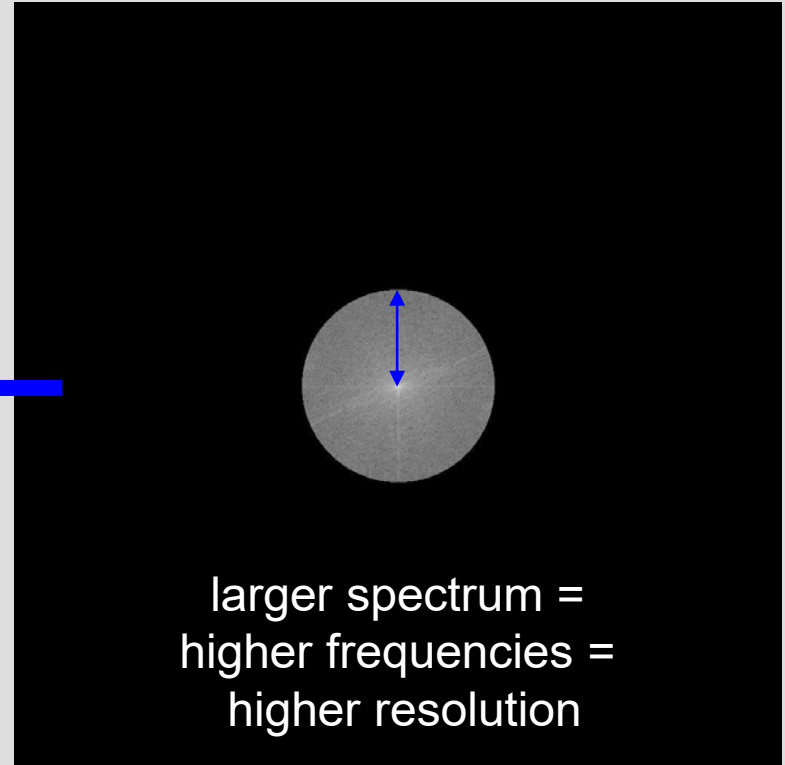
Optical system always performs its own *inverse* Fourier transformation from back focal plane to image plane
(Note limited radius of objective)



smaller spectrum =
lower frequencies =
lower resolution

Structured Illumination Microscopy

Fourier Spectrum – Objective Limit

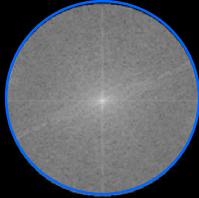


Structured Illumination Microscopy

Fourier Spectrum – Objective Limit



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



Extending resolution beyond limits means finding a way to detect higher frequencies outside of this region

Structured Illumination Microscopy

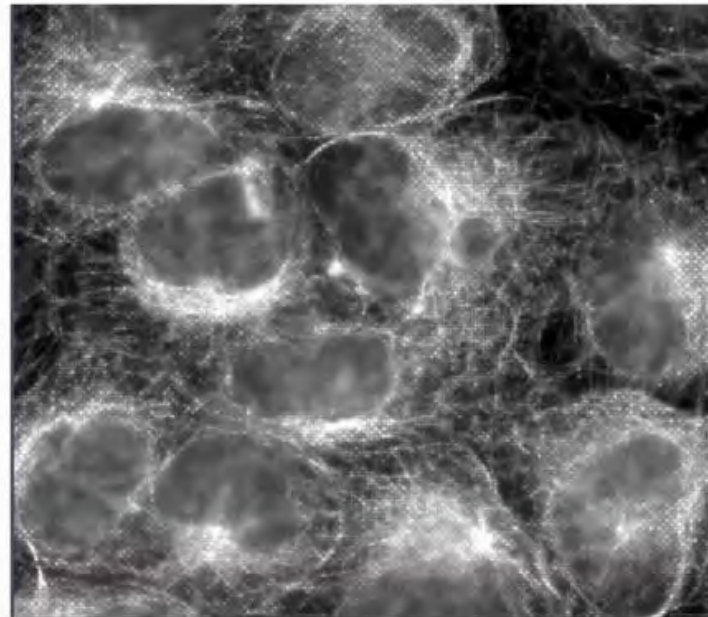
Acquisition Process



Lattice Illumination



Live Image (Raw)



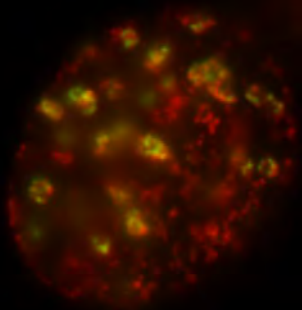
- Final image is reconstructed from ~15 images, each with different **phase (position)** of the lattice light pattern
 - High speeds are possible via rapid sweeping of lattice + camera readout

Structured Illumination Microscopy

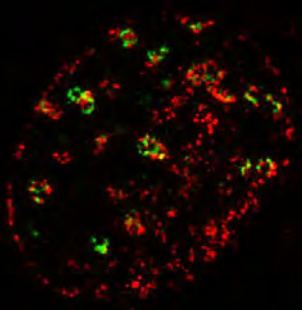
Common/Unique Applications



Widefield



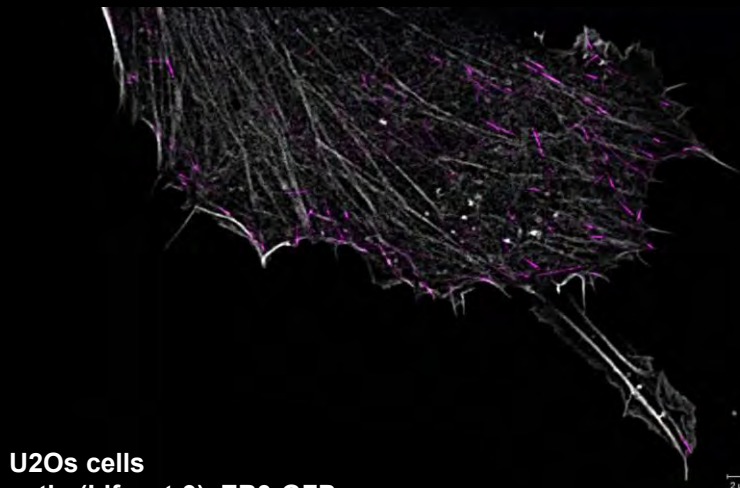
SR-SIM



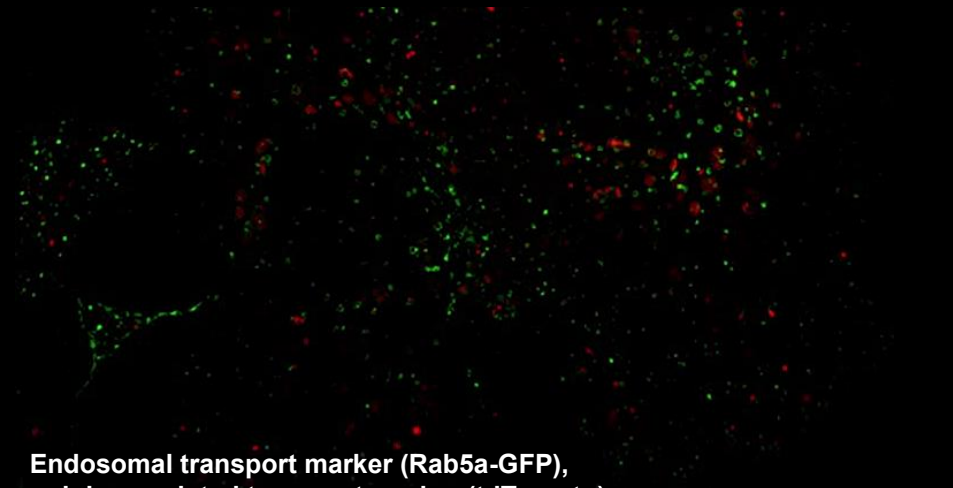
Myoblast C2C12, BrdU + Dnmt1
Schermelleh lab (LMU Munich)

WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Resolved capture of vesicle trafficking, membrane ruffling, and dynamic processes
 - 110-120 nm XY, 300 nm Z
- Minimal sample prep often triggers renewed assessments of colocalization



U2Os cells
actin (Lifeact-9), EB3-GFP



Endosomal transport marker (Rab5a-GFP),
golgi-associated transport marker (tdTomato)

Structured Illumination Microscopy

Typical System Footprint – ZEISS Elyra 7 (SIM)



Laser lines (100 mW)

Elyra 7 beam path module



Objectives:
63x/1.2 W
63x/1.4 oil
100x/1.46 oil

Darkening chamber

Observer inverted stand
(with motorized XY stage)

PCO.edge CMOS camera (SIM)

Structured Illumination Microscopy

Practical Perspective

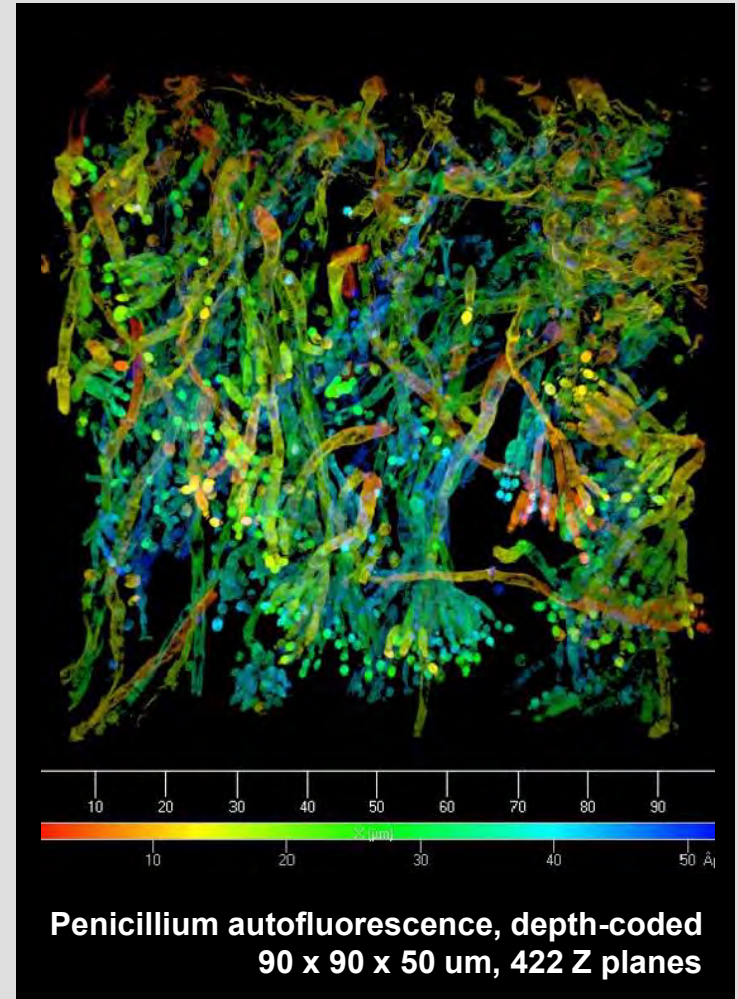


ADVANTAGES:

- Relatively easy entry to superresolution; **low learning curve**
- Maintains a **large field of view**
- Demodulation processing **retains quantitative information**
- Concepts **can be easily tailored for live cell experiments** (up to 255 frames/sec with lattice SIM)

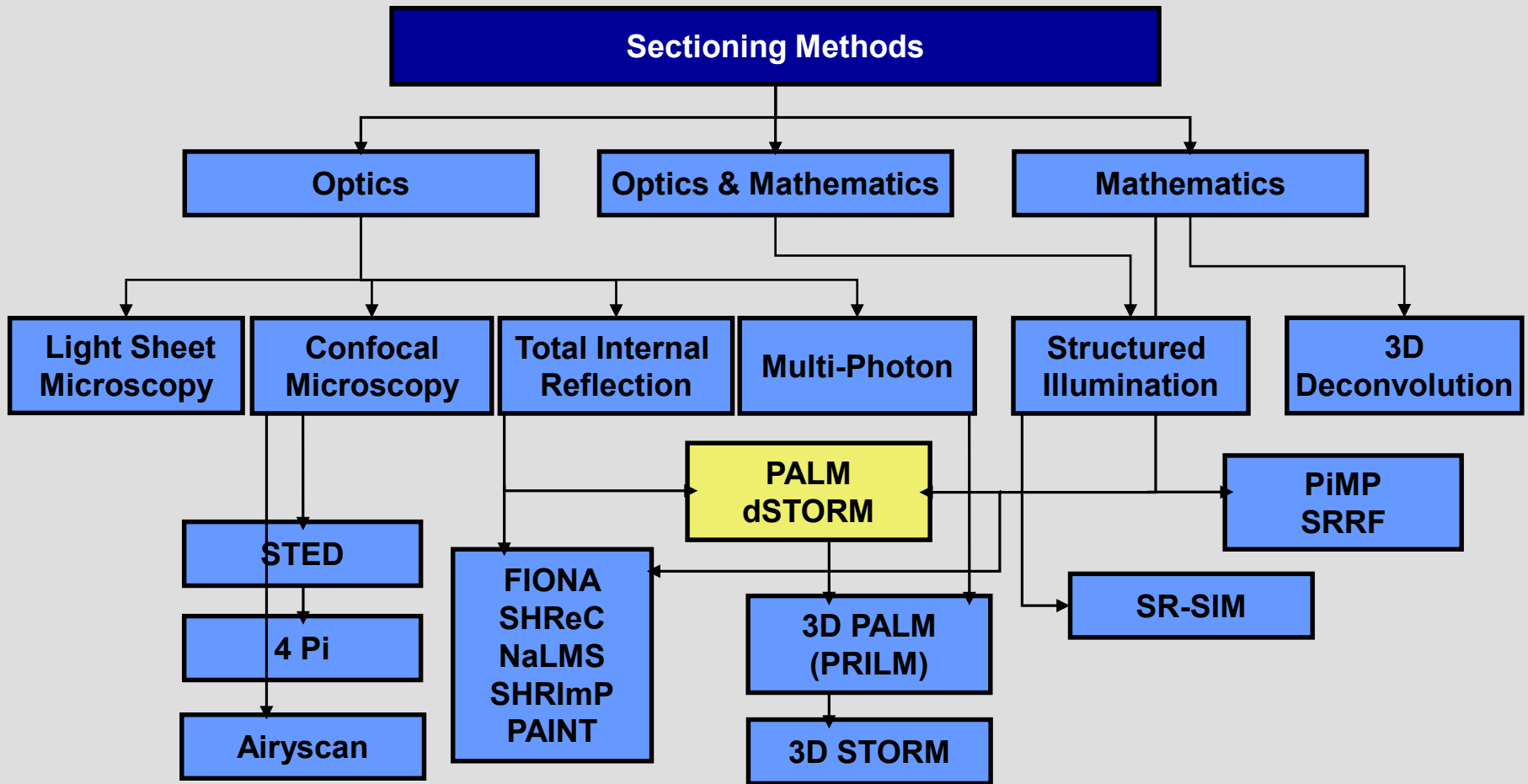
DISADVANTAGES:

- Largely **incompatible with thicker (>50 micron) samples** due to scattering and loss of patterned illumination with depth



Optical Sectioning Techniques

Common Superresolution Approaches

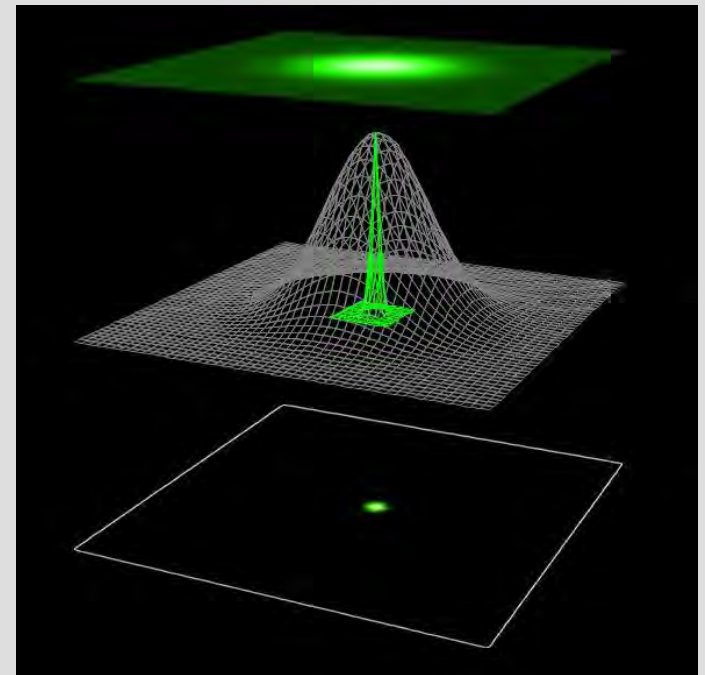


Localization Microscopy

Basic Principles

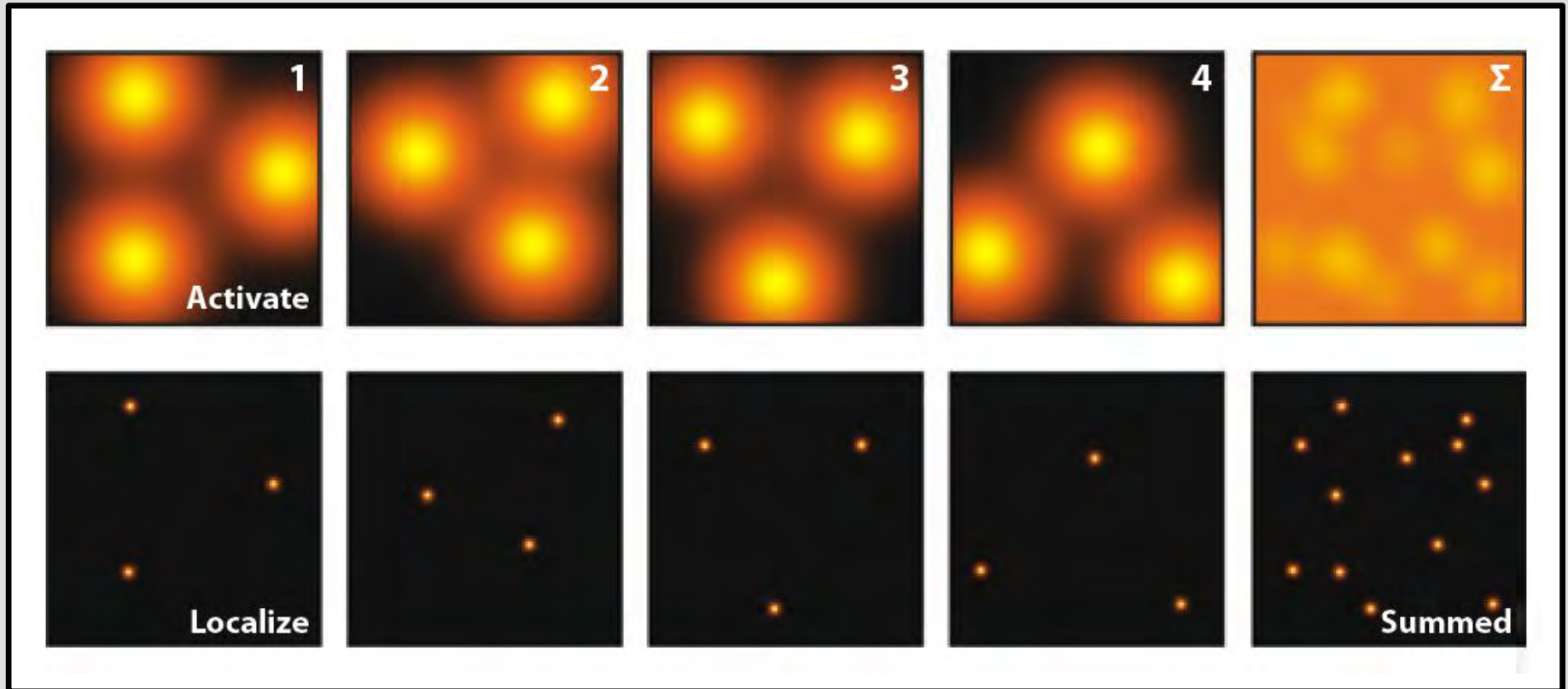


- Refers to a number of conceptually similar time-sensitive techniques
 - Photoactivated Localization Microscopy (**PALM**)
 - direct Stochastic Optical Reconstruction Microscopy (**dSTORM**)
- Use of emission-limiting conditions, weighting algorithms to pinpoint (or “localize”) individual fluorescent molecules
- Lateral resolution up to 10 times greater than widefield imaging
- TIRF-based illumination yields excellent Z-resolution (~ 100 nm)



Localization Microscopy

Single Molecule Localization

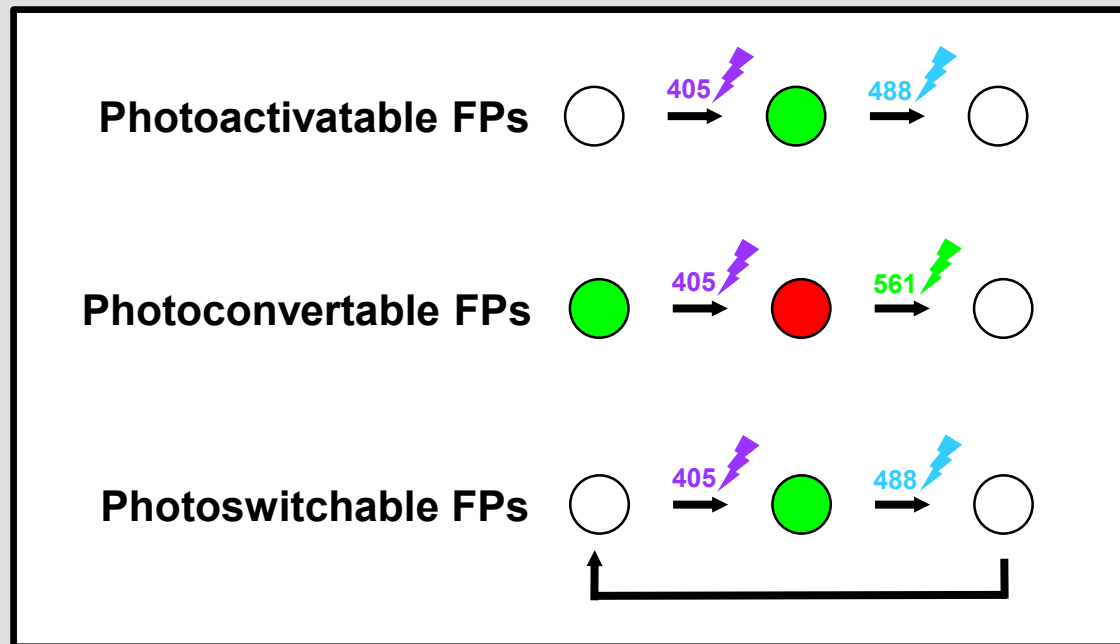


Localization Microscopy

PALM Experiment Design



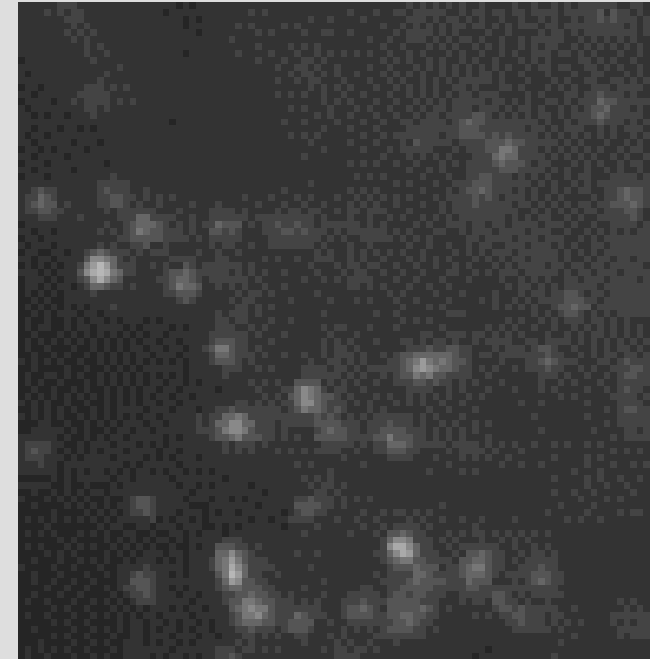
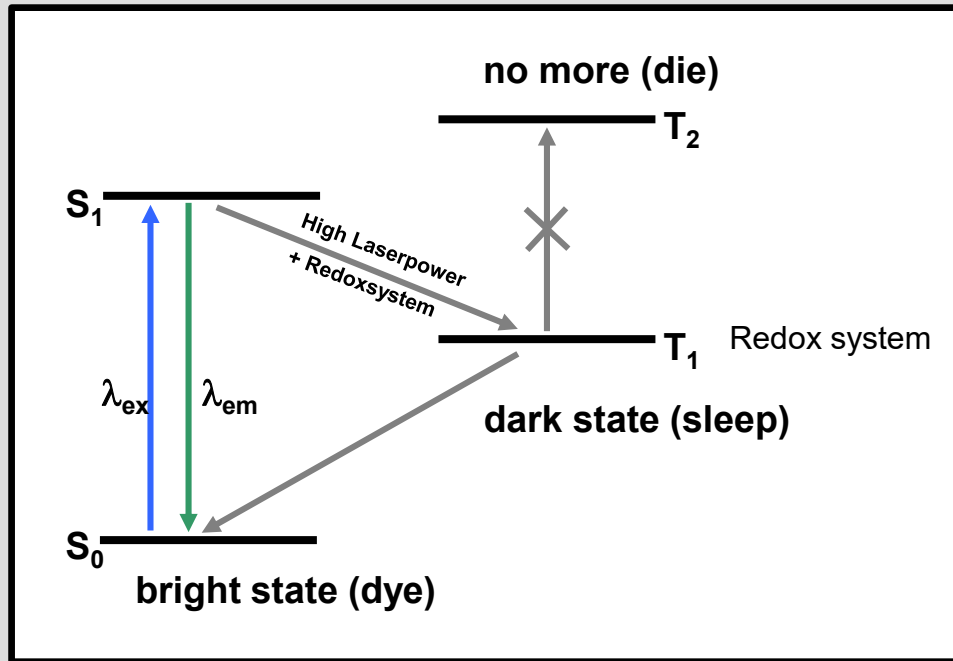
- PALM relies on fluorochromes that can be either **photoactivated**, **photoconverted**, or reversibly **photoswitched** to control emission over time



Dendra		1 (2006)
Dronpa		2 (2004)
EosFP		3 (2004)
Kaede		4 (2002)
KFP1		5 (2003)
KikGR		6 (2005)
Padron		7 (2008)
PA-GFP		8 (2002)
PA-mCherry		9 (2009)
PA-mRFP1-1		10 (2005)
PS-CFP2		11 (2004)
rsCherry		12 (2008)
rsCherryRev		12 (2008)
rsFastLime		13 (2007)

Localization Microscopy

dSTORM: Dye, to Die, to Sleep?



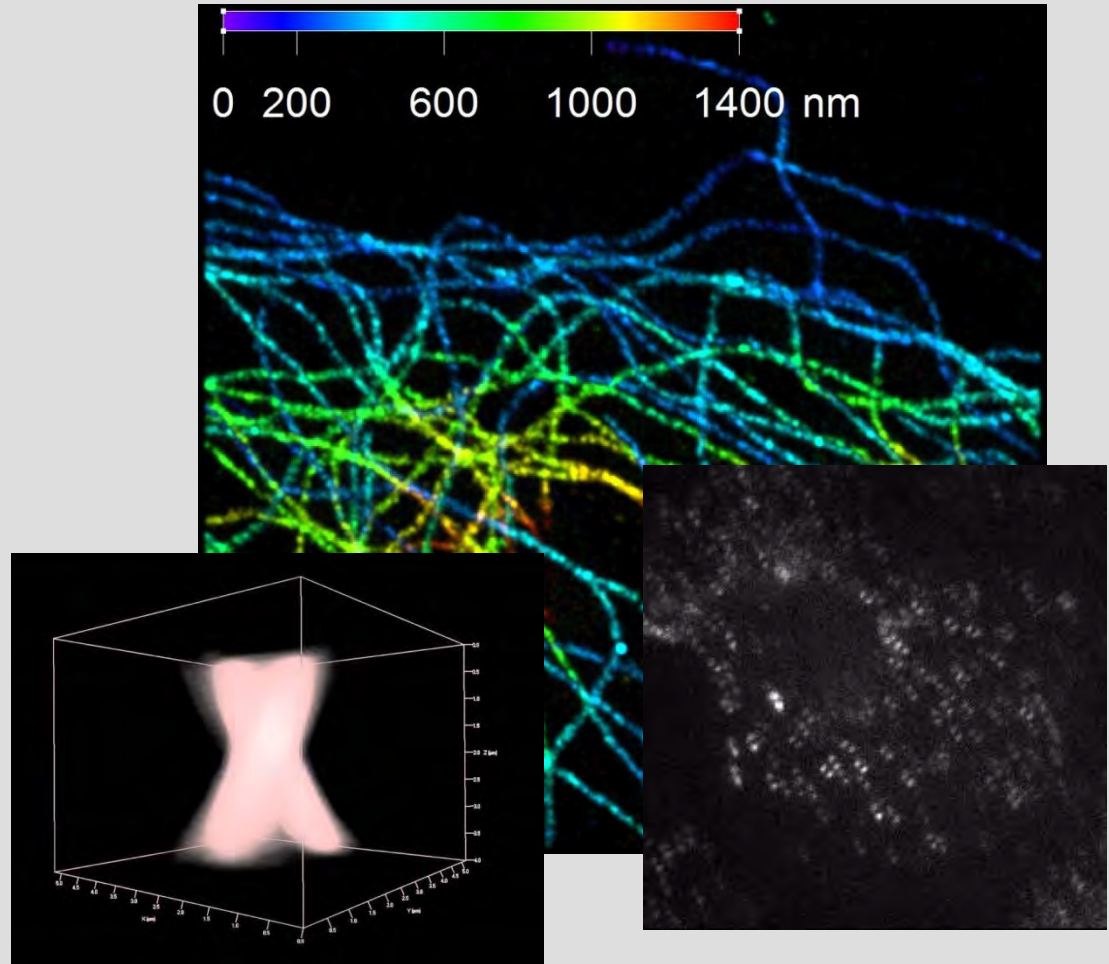
- Instead of using fluorescent proteins, high laser powers (with a specialized reducing cocktail to prevent bleaching) can be used to keep conventional fluorescent dyes in a **dark state**, from which they wake up stochastically

Localization Microscopy

Extending High Resolution into 3D



- Extended Z capture range (up to 1.4 micron) is possible using approaches of **PSF engineering**
- Double phase ramp within back aperture of objective creates a double helix pattern for each emitter
 - Allows for **pinpointing of Z position** for single molecules



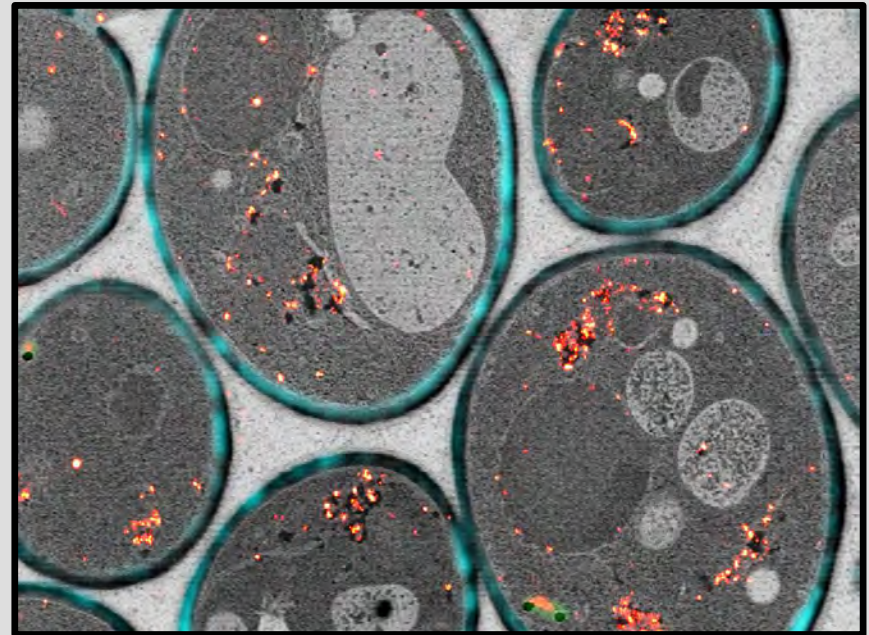
Localization Microscopy

Common/Unique Applications

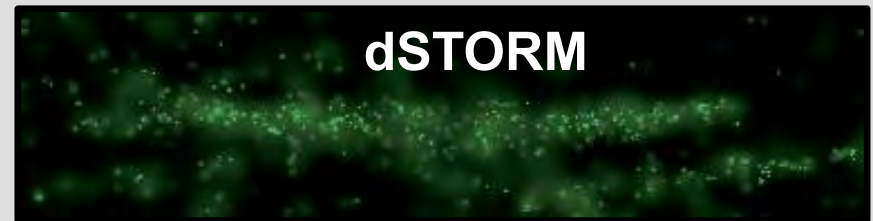


WHAT ARE THE USES?

- Understanding clustering, aggregation at the nanoscale
- Precise correlation of function (fluorescent labelling) with ultrastructure (electron microscopy)
 - Correlative Light and Electron Microscopy (**CLEM**)



Ultrathin *S. cerevisiae* overlay SIM, dSTORM (hA1ar), FE-SEM
J. Caplan, K. Czymmek (*Delaware Biotech. Instit.*)



Focal adhesion complexes (Alexa 488), Martin Bastmeyer (*Univ. Karlsruhe, Germany*)

Localization Microscopy

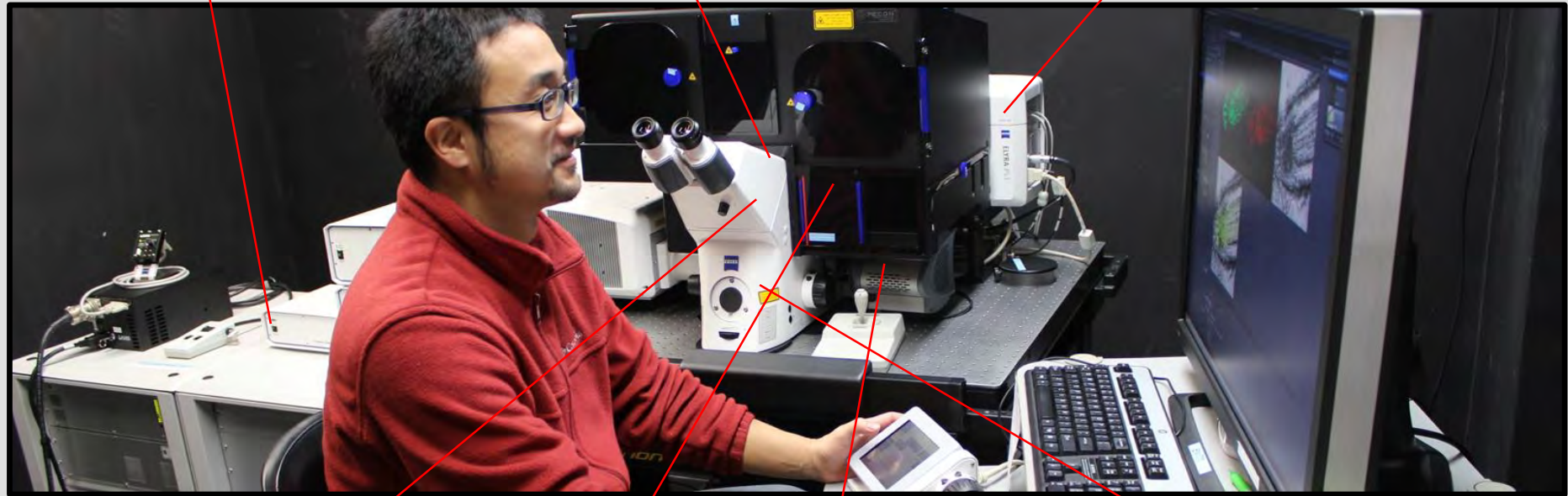
Typical System Footprint – ZEISS Elyra 7 (SMLM)



Laser lines (200 mW)

3D PALM beam path mechanism

Elyra 7 module



Objectives:
100x/1.46 oil

Darkening chamber

Observer inverted stand
(with motorized XY stage)

Andor iXon EMCCD camera
(PALM/dSTORM)

Localization Microscopy

Practical Perspective

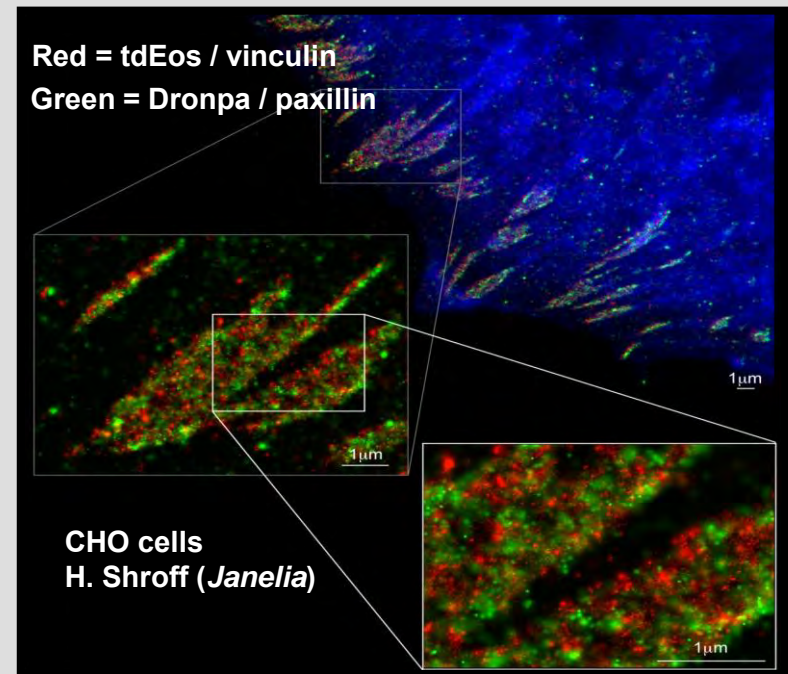


ADVANTAGES:

- Provides **highest resolution available** for fluorescence approaches
- Light path is **always optimized for TIRF**, providing additional out-of-the-box versatility

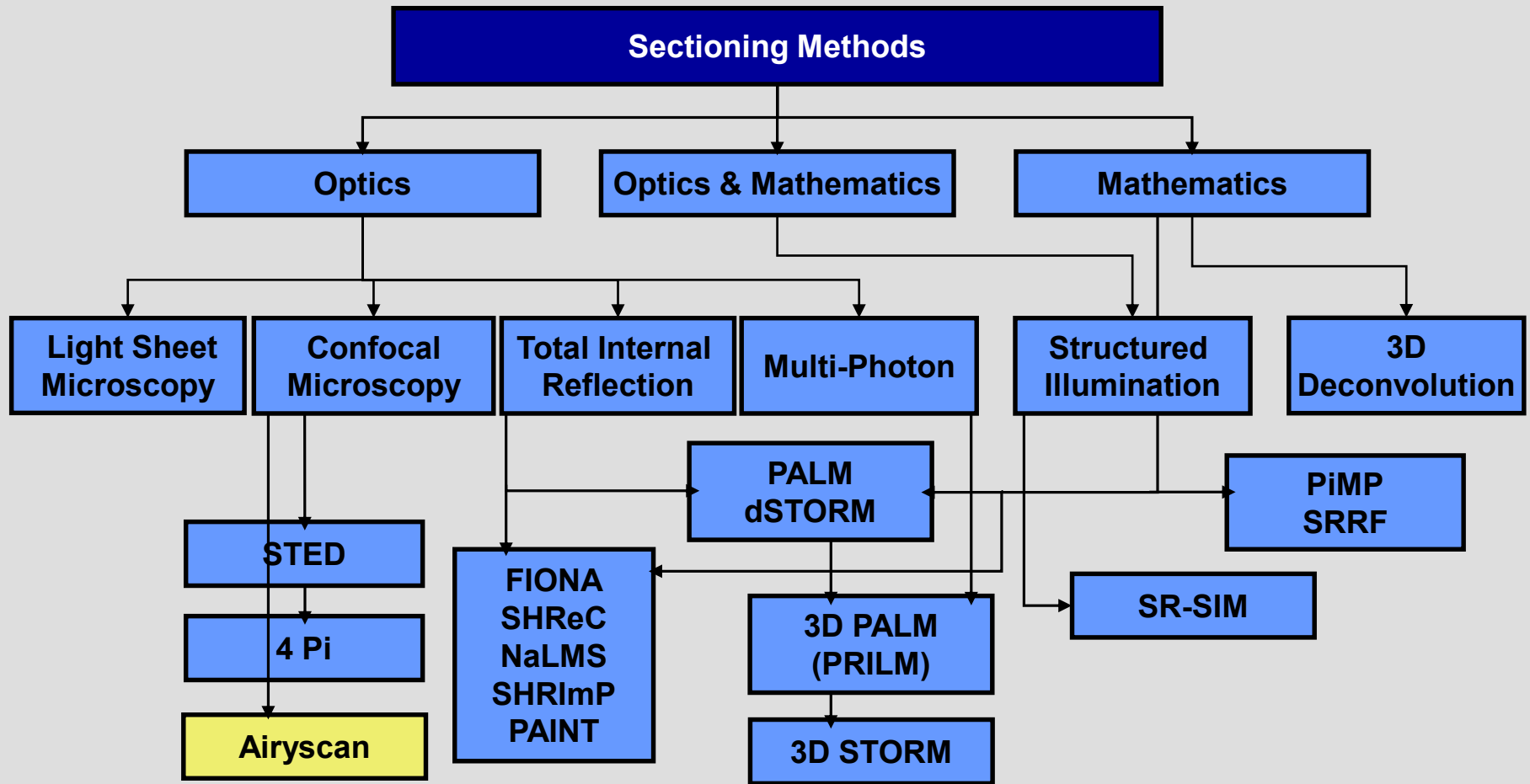
DISADVANTAGES:

- Optimizing blinking, fluorophore concentration, and imaging buffers requires **expertise, trial-and-error**
- Extending to **multi-color imaging doubles complexity** of acquisition and experiment design
- Even with 3D-based tools, **depths are generally limited to <10 microns**



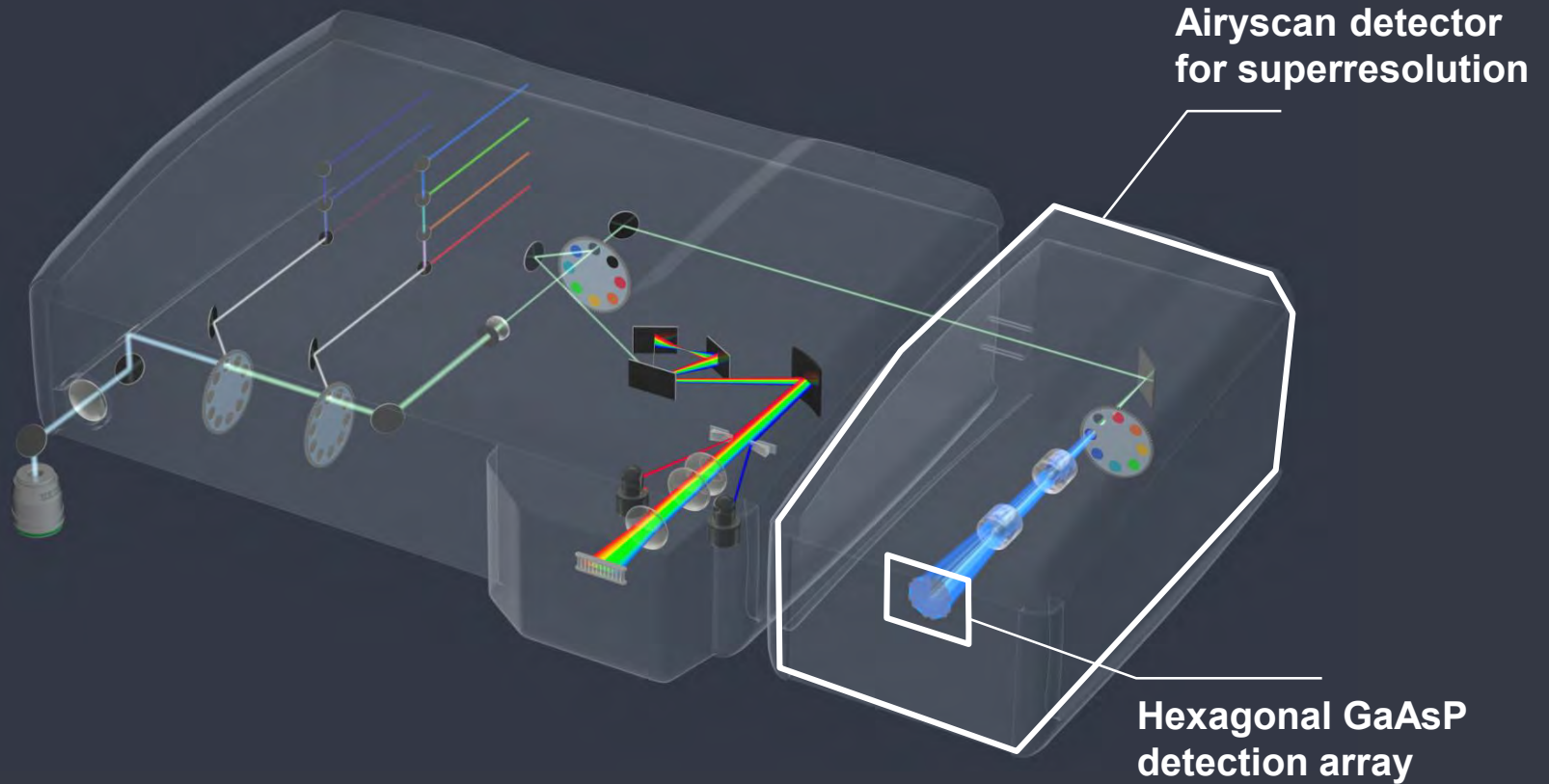
Optical Sectioning Techniques

Common Superresolution Approaches



Airyscan

Dedicated Superresolution Detector

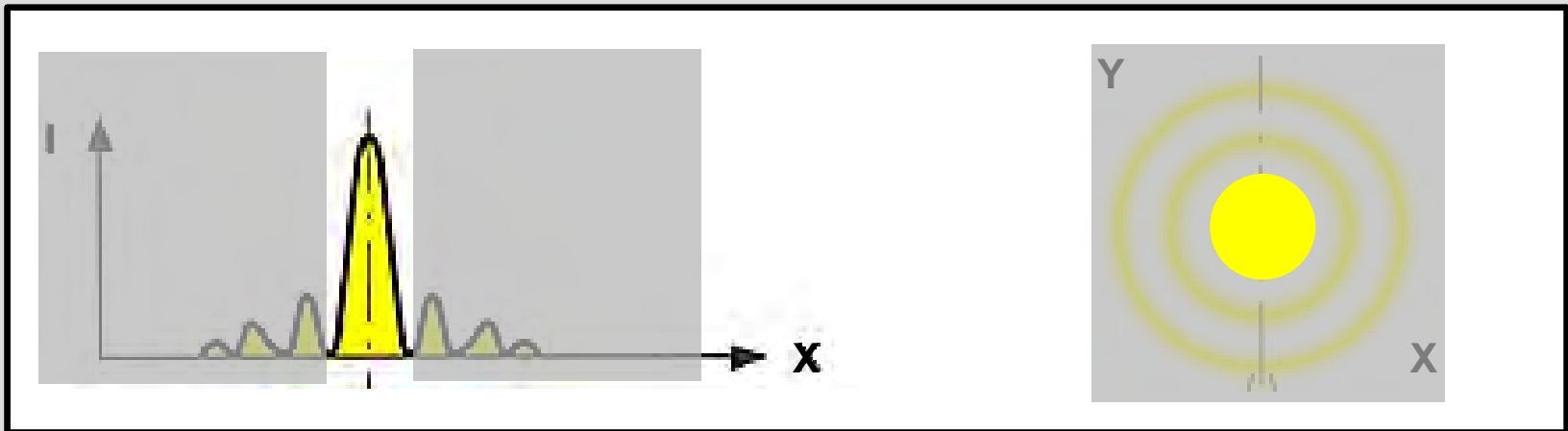
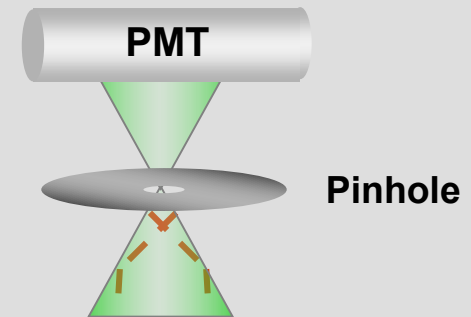


Airyscan

Basic Principles

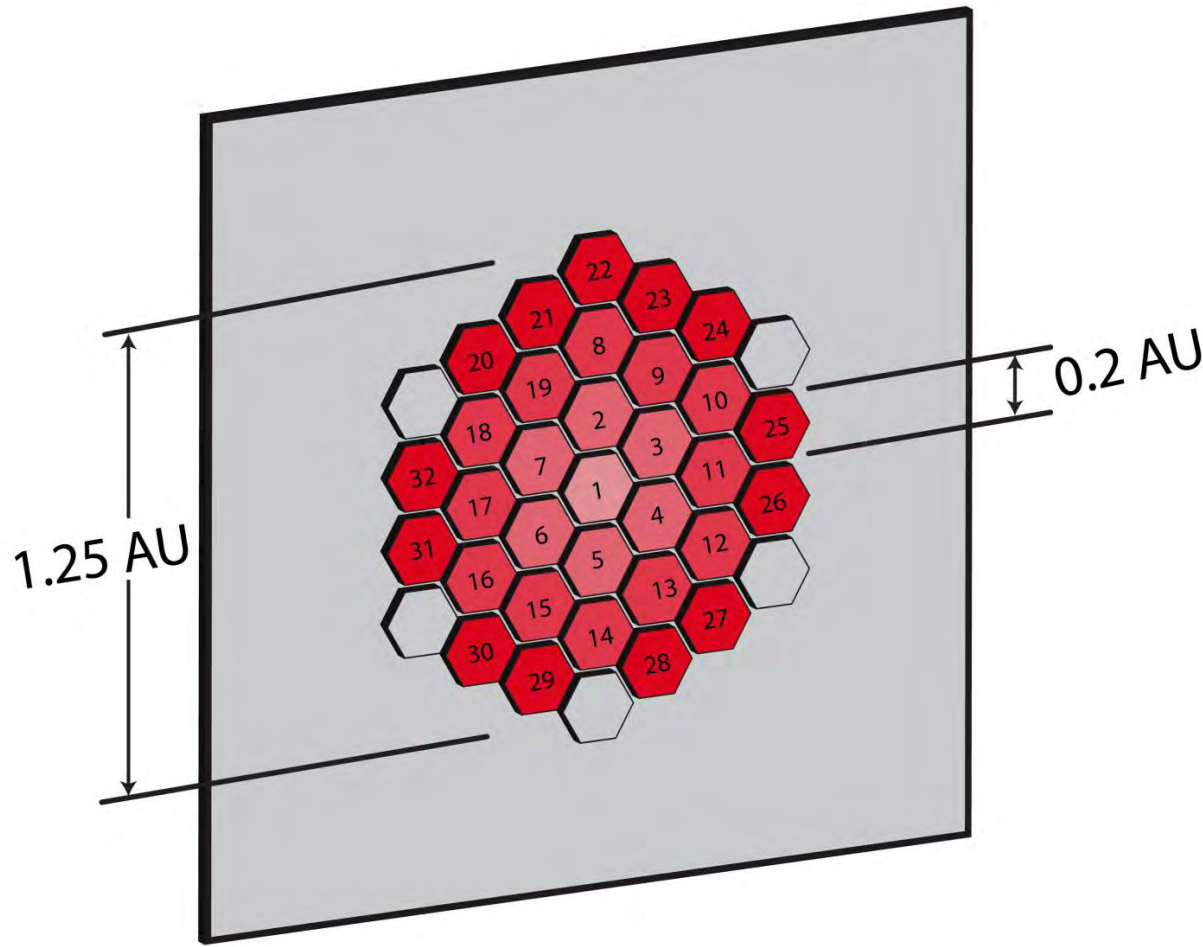


- Mechanical pinhole is rejecting emitted photons based on diameter
- 1 Airy Unit (“AU”) often acts as an ideal compromise between thin optical sections and reasonable signal levels



Airyscan

Basic Principles



- 32 GaAsP detectors in hexagonal lattice
- Each detector approximately 0.2 AU in diameter
- Total detection area approximately 1.25 AU in diameter
- **Simultaneous improvement in resolution and signal**

Sheppard, C.J., Super-resolution in confocal imaging. *Optik*, 1988. 80(2): p. 53-54

First theorized about pinhole plane image detection and reassignment

Proposed reassignment to position halfway between excitation/detection positions for improving resolution

With identical PSFs, this reassigned position corresponds to the most probable position of an emitter

Muller, C.B. and J. Enderlein, Image scanning microscopy. *Phys Rev Lett*, 2010. 104(19): p. 198101

First to implement Sheppard's concept using a camera as an area detector

A full camera image was captured for each laser spot position moving across an object

Pixels with a greater displacement from the given optical axis yield narrower effective PSFs [at those pixels]

Sheppard, C.J., S.B. Mehta, and R. Heintzmann, Superresolution by image scanning microscopy using pixel reassignment. *Opt Lett*, 2013. 38(15): p. 2889-2892

Argued that an off-axis detector can improve resolution up to 1.53-fold (assuming no Stokes shift)

(Normalized transverse coordinate $vd = 0$ yields 1.39-fold resolution for zero pinhole; $vd = 2.75$ yields 1.45-fold)

York, A.G., et al., Resolution doubling in live, multicellular organisms via multifocal structured illumination microscopy. *Nat Methods*, 2012. 9(7): p. 749-754

Parallelized the image scanning microscopy procedure using illumination patterns via a digital micromirror device

Multifocal pattern (e.g. – spinning disk) is shifted after each image, followed by postprocessing (2x scaling, summing)

Resulting resolution reached ~145 nm laterally and 400 nm axially (at 480 x 480 pixels, ~1 final 2D per second)

Roth, S., Sheppard, C.J., Wicker, K., and R. Heintzmann, Optical photon reassignment microscopy (OPRA). *Optical Nanoscopy*, 2013. 2(5): p. 1-6

First to implement hardware-based pixel reassignment by introducing a re-scanning unit in the detection path

Expanded the beam in pupil plane by a certain factor, which shrinks the corresponding image on the detector

Confocal sectioning possible by combining a pinhole in the detection path prior to rescanning

York, A.G., et al., Instant super-resolution imaging in live cells and embryos via analog image processing. *Nat Methods*, 2013. 10(11): p. 1122-1126

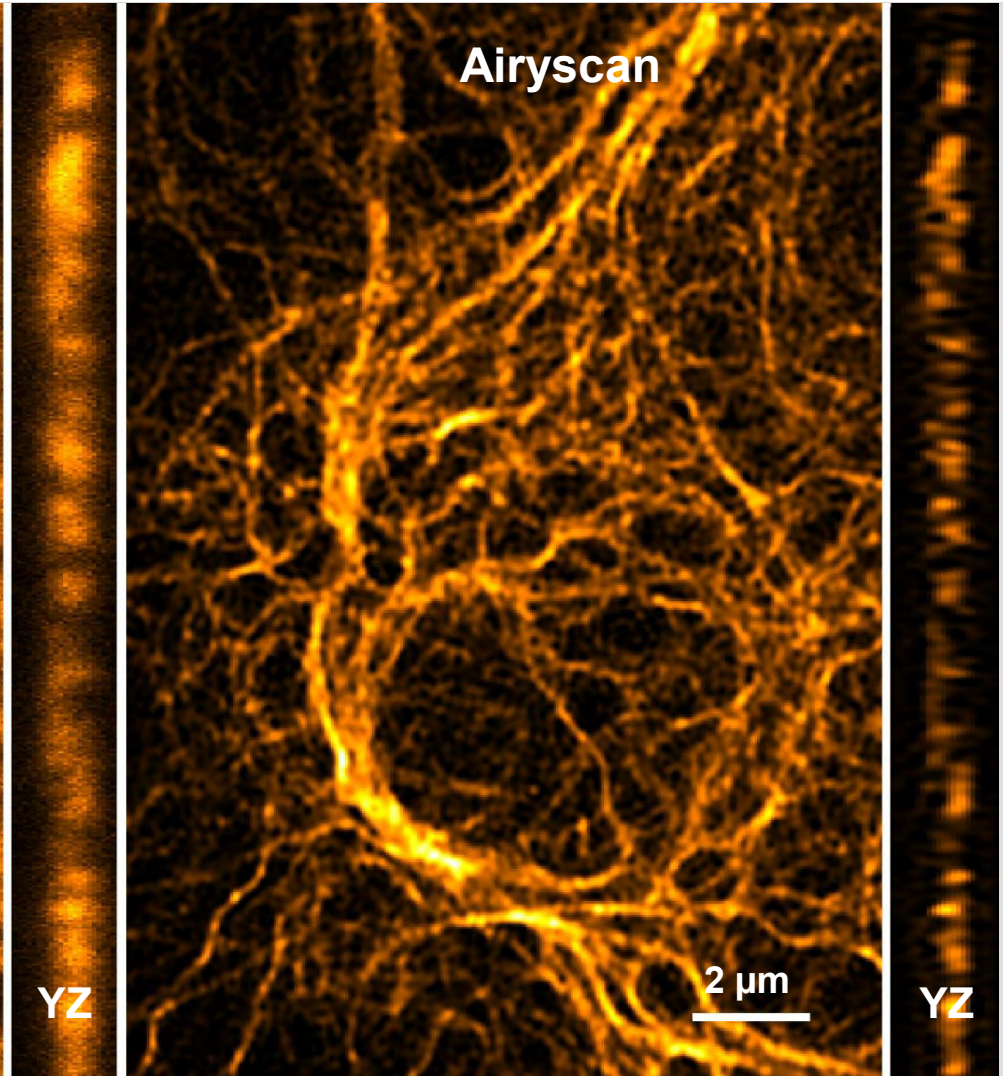
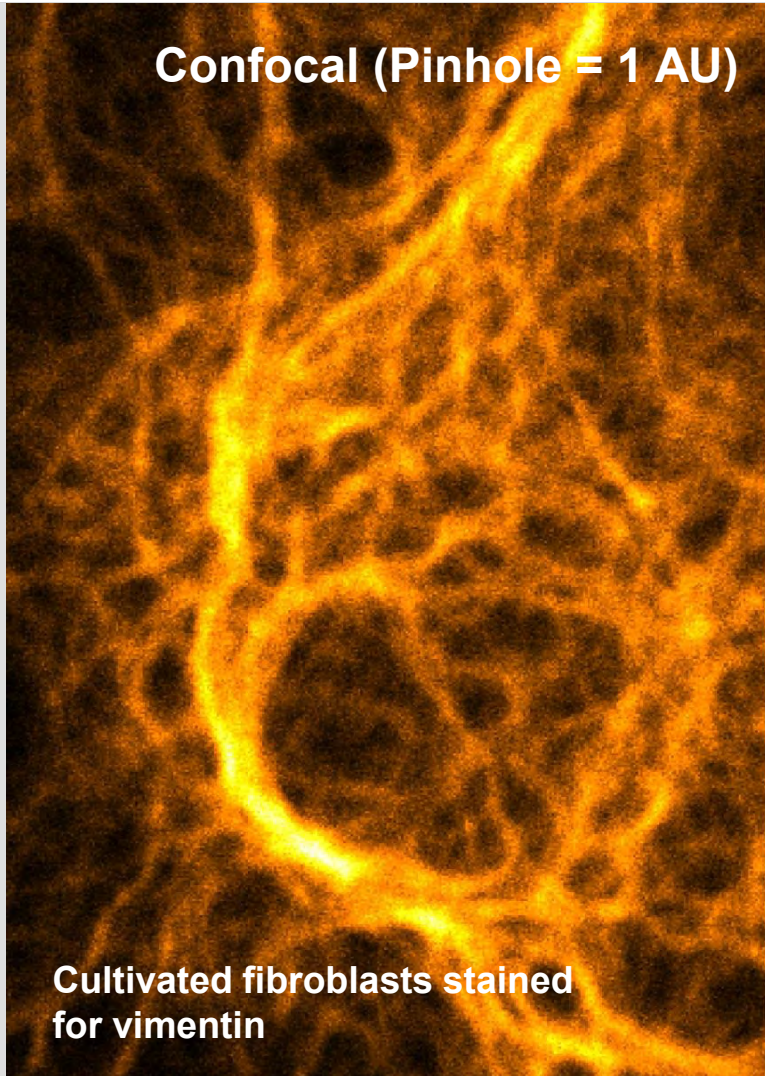
Parallelized the re-scan approach using microlens and pinhole array, coupled with second microlens array

Second microlens array used to locally contract each pinholed emission; galvo scan to sum over camera exposure

Claim lateral resolution of ~145 nm and axial resolution of ~350 nm, albeit with fixed pinholes

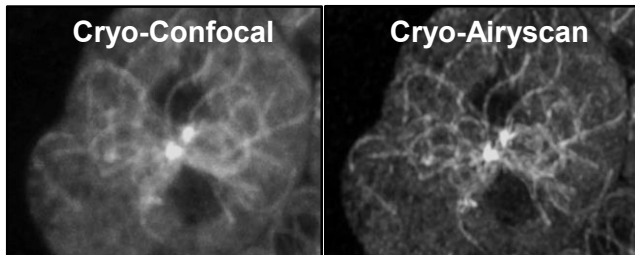
Airyscan

Isotropic Resolution Improvements (2-fold)



Airyscan

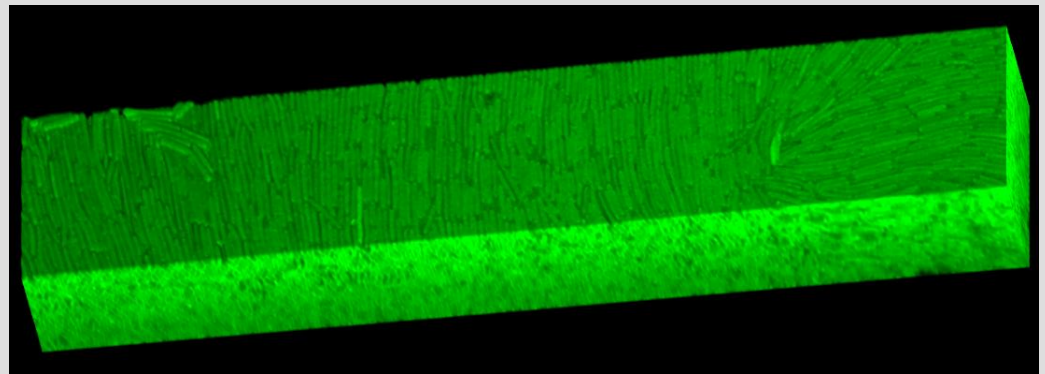
Common/Unique Applications



Dictyostelium discoideum (slime mold)
Plunge-freezing on EM support; tubulin-mRFP

WHAT ARE THE USES?

- New benchmark in point-scanning resolution for **thicker specimens**



Biofilm (3D render), collected with Airyscan, 63x/1.4 oil

- High(er) resolution **cryo imaging** of vitrified specimens (plunge freezing)
 - Compatibility with cryo-EM

Airyscan

Typical System Footprint – (Confocal Upgrade)



Airyscan superresolution detector (GaAsP)

LSM 880 scanhead; 34-channel (GaAsP)

Transmitted light detector (“T-PMT”)

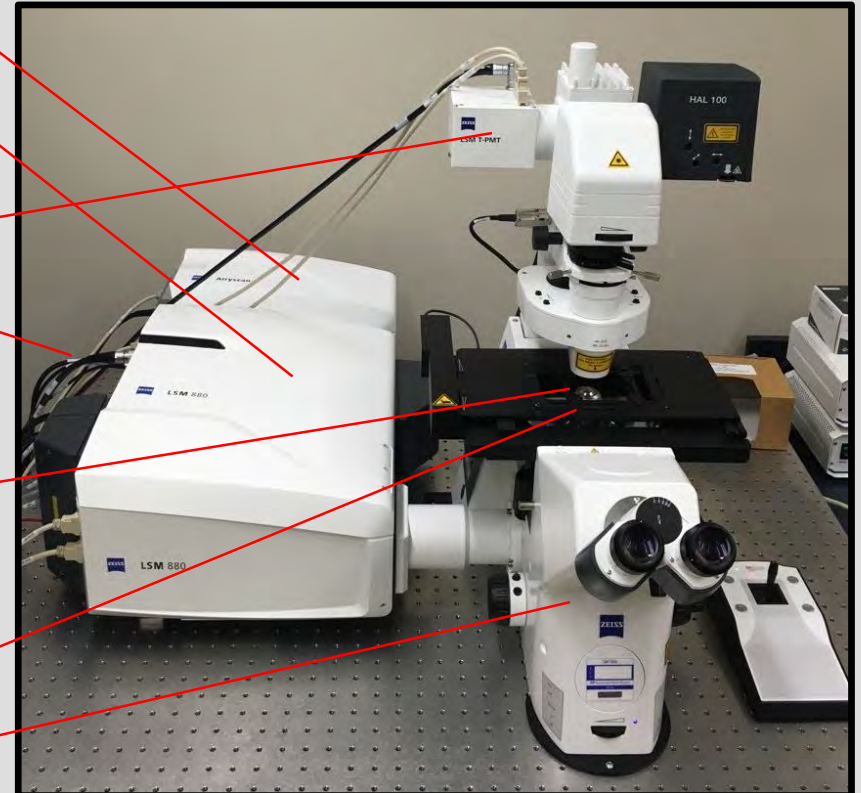
Laser lines: 405, 458, 488, 514, 561, 633 nm

Objectives:

10x/0.3	40x/1.3 oil
25x/0.8 oil/W	63x/1.4 oil
40x/1.2 W	100x/1.46 oil

Motorized XY stage + Z-piezo insert

Observer inverted microscope



Airyscan

Practical Perspective

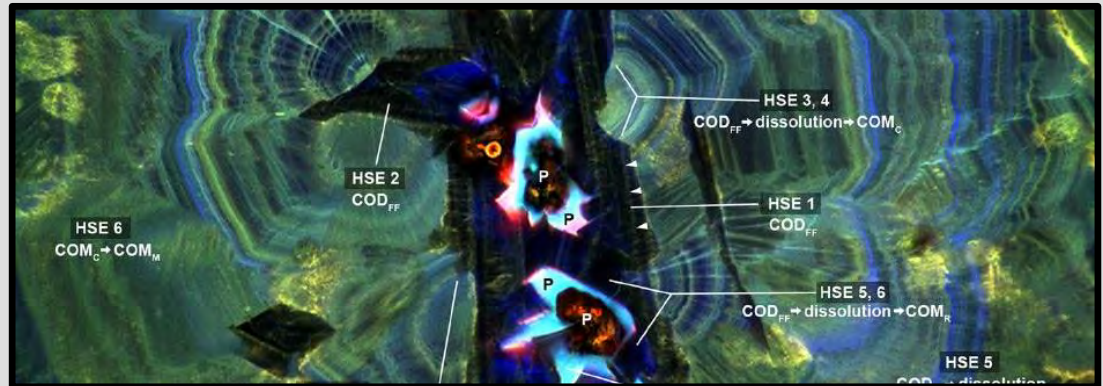


ADVANTAGES:

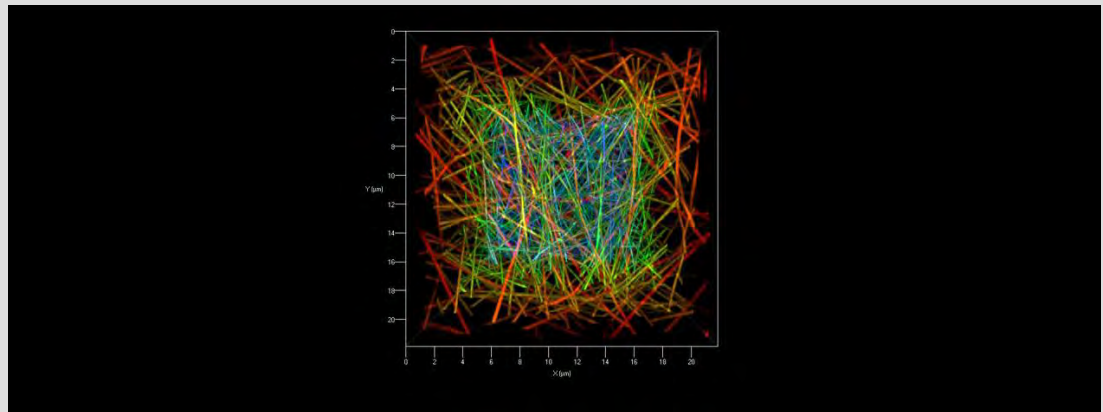
- Relatively versatile **superresolution tool at high depths**
- No specific sample preparations required

DISADVANTAGES:

- Oversampling initially yields **larger file sizes**
- Airyscan concept **requires a complete point-scanning confocal system**



Autofluorescence, calcium oxalate crystals in kidney stone
(Sivaguru *et al*, *Nature Scientific Reports* 2018)



Collagen network, depth color-coded (100 microns thick, 633 nm ex.)

Outline of Discussion

High Resolution Optical Sectioning



- 1 Basic Aspects of Resolution in X, Y, and Z
- 2 Modalities for Enhancing Axial Resolution
- 3 Advanced Approaches for Exceeding the Resolution Limit
- 4 **Summary of Techniques**
- 5 Questions

Summary

The Right Tool for the Job?



- No aforementioned tool/technique is inherently better than another



- Selecting the **wrong imaging modality** is likely to have a **far greater consequence** than any performance differences between competitor systems with the same class
 - The “best” point-scanning confocal is about **3x** more sensitive than “worst”
 - For study of development in 3D, even the “worst” light sheet system will be **50-100x** more gentle than the “best” point-scanning confocal

Summary

Comparison of Techniques



Optical Sectioning Technique	Example ZEISS System	Performance Specifications						
		Depth Penetration	Maximum Speed	Out-of-Foc. Discrim.	Lateral Resolution	Axial Resolution	Spectral Flexibility	Simplicity
PALM / dSTORM	Elyra 7 (SMLM)	●	●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●	●
Structured Illumination	Elyra 7 (Lattice)	●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●	●●
Light Sheet	Lightsheet Z.1	●●●●	●●●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●●
Spinning Disk	Cell Observer SD	●●●	●●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	●●●
Line Scanning	Airyscan Fast	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●	●●●
Single Point Scanning	LSM 880	●●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●
	Airyscan	●●●●	●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●	●●●
Multi-Photon	LSM 880 NLO	●●●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●

Outline of Discussion

High Resolution Optical Sectioning



- 1 Basic Aspects of Resolution in X, Y, and Z
- 2 Modalities for Enhancing Axial Resolution
- 3 Advanced Approaches for Exceeding the Resolution Limit
- 4 Summary of Techniques
- 5 Questions**



We make it visible.