

National Center for X-ray Tomography

University of California, San Francisco

&

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

National Center for Research Resources, NIH
Office of Biological and Environmental Research, DOE

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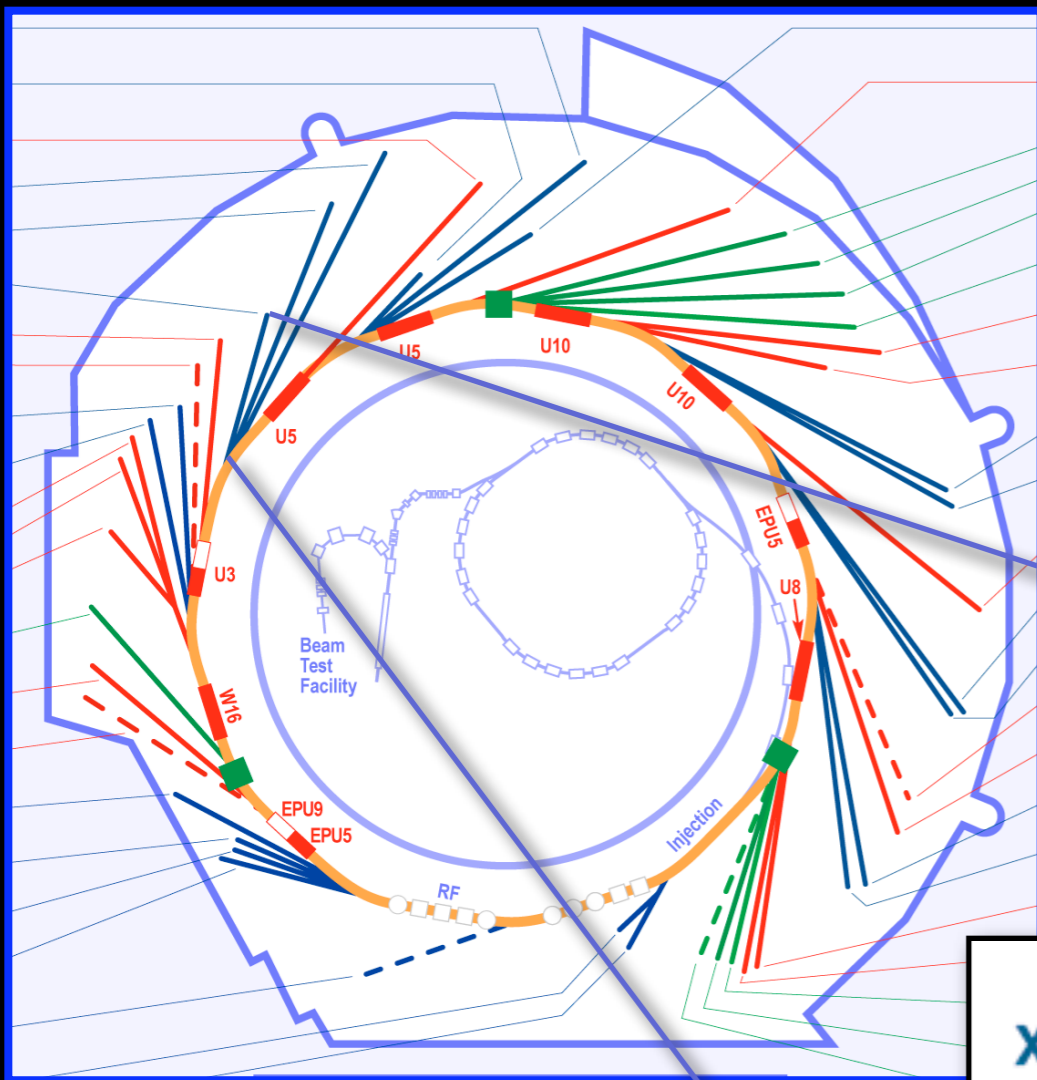
Mark A. Le Gros, Associate Director
MALegros@lbl.gov

<http://ncxt.lbl.gov>

Imaging Cells with Soft X-ray Microscopy

- Whole cells up to 10 μm thick
- Fully hydrated specimens
- Inherent contrast of organic material
- Quantitative - use linear absorption coefficient
- Localization of proteins and multi-protein complexes
- Better than 50 nm resolution - isotropic
- Fast - collect tomographic data set in < 5 min

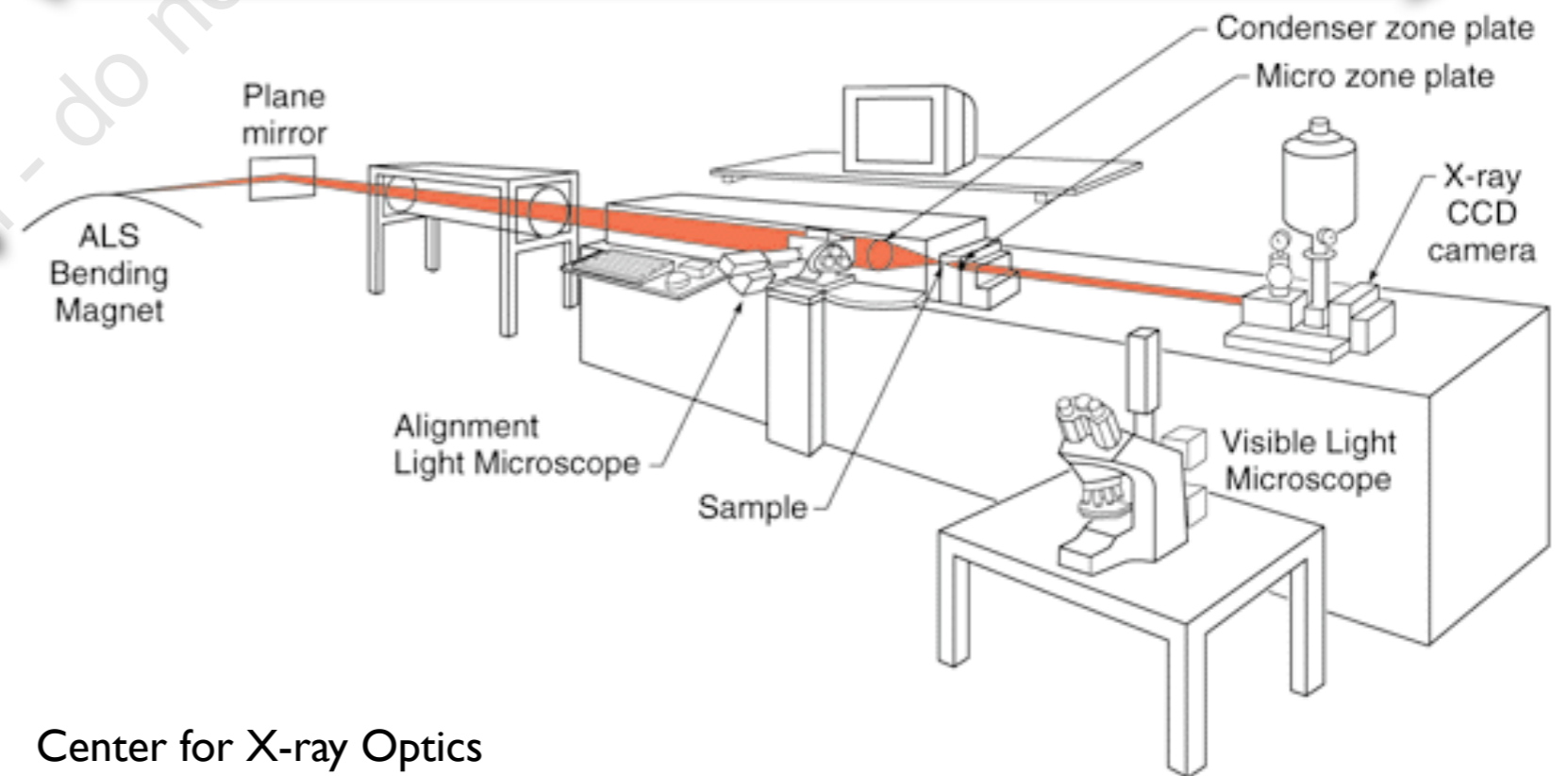
Soft X-ray Microscope



X-ray Microscope XM-1

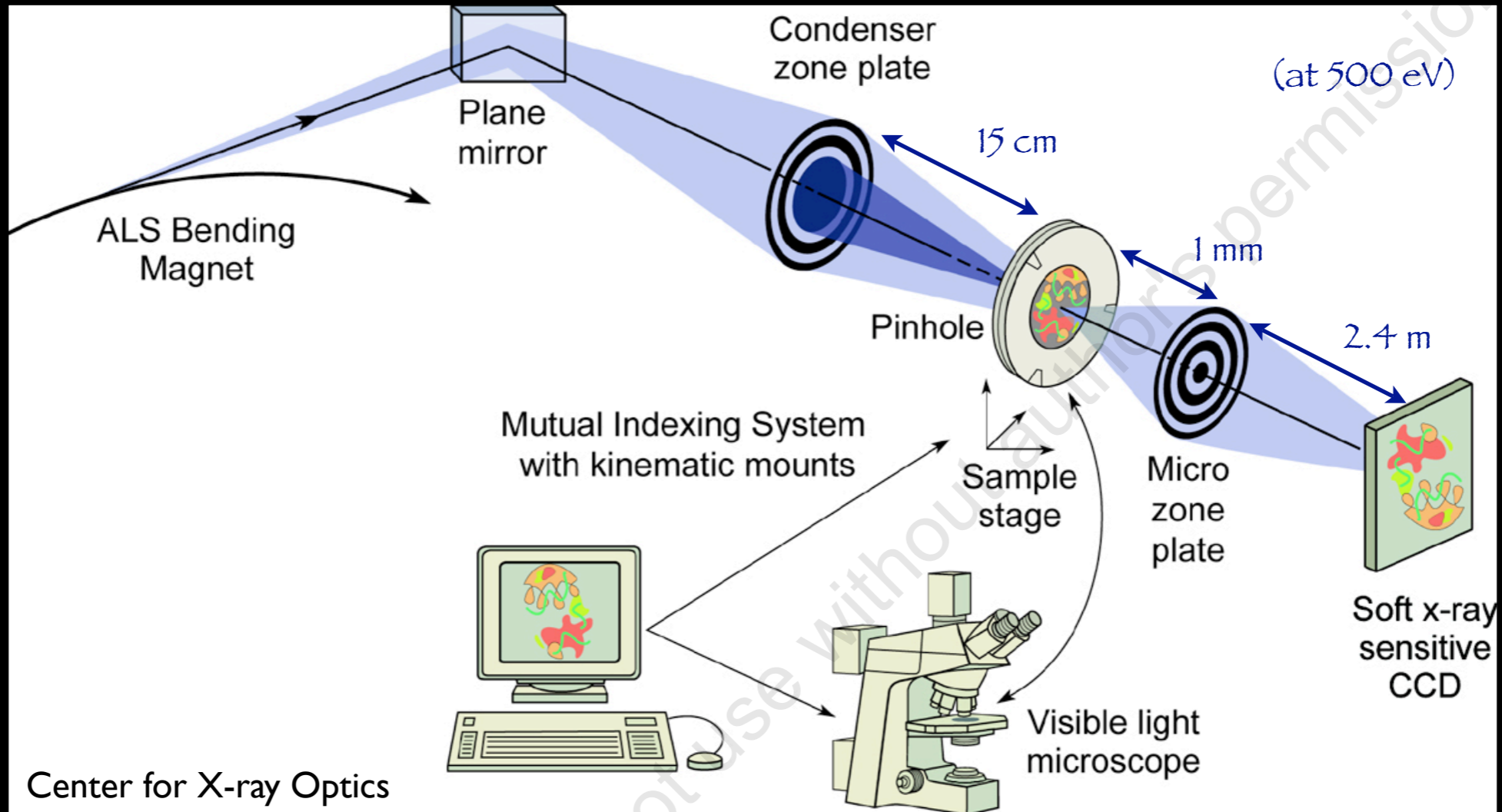


70 ft



2.4 nm λ
517 eV

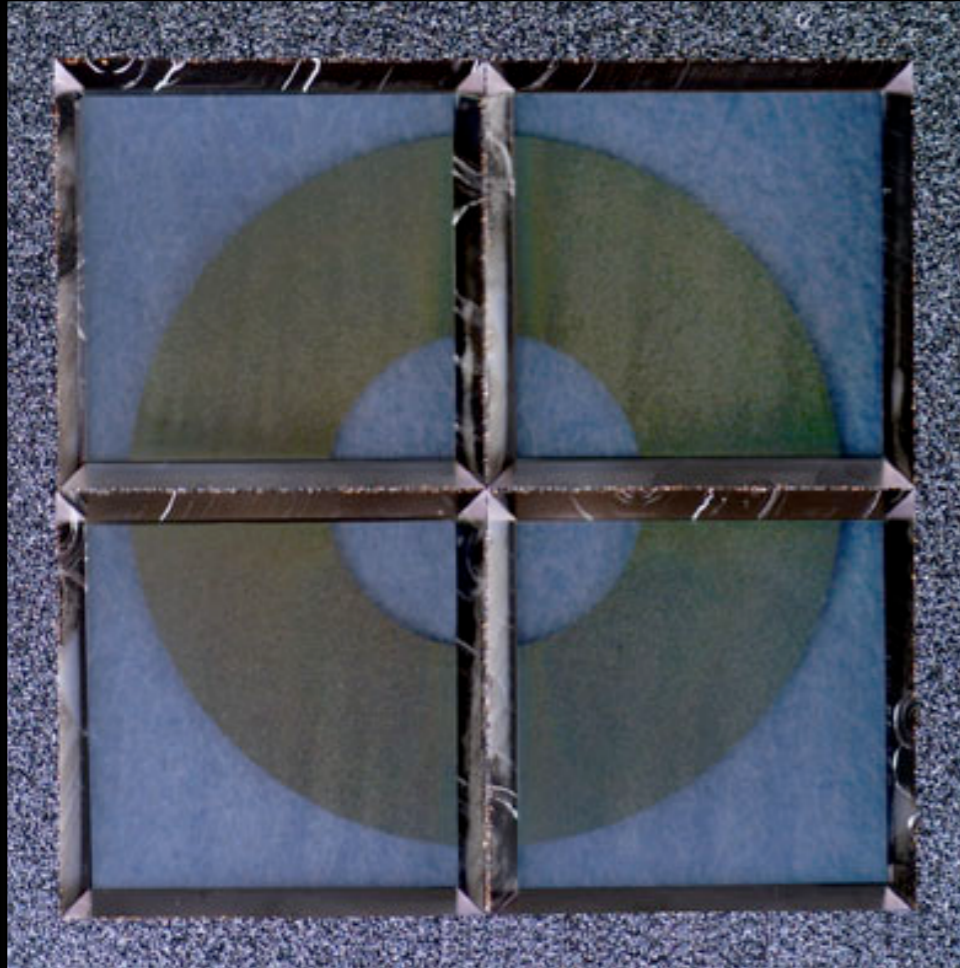
Center for X-ray Optics



- Condenser zone plate focuses source onto object
- Objective zone plate magnifies object onto CCD camera
- Focal length of the objective is ~ 1 mm
- CCD is ~ 2.4 meters away
- Magnification ~ 2400

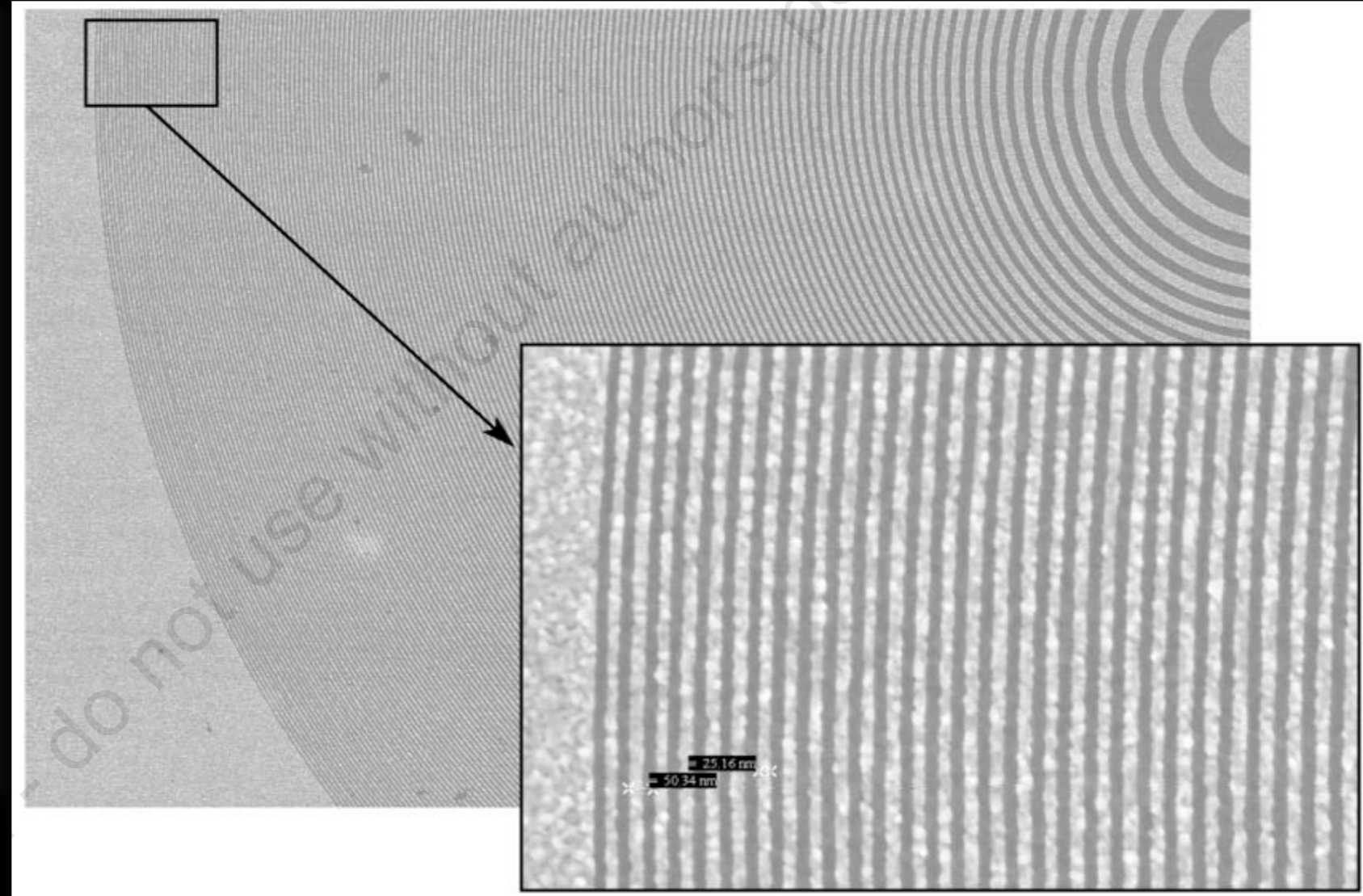
Zone Plate Lenses

Condenser Lens



diameter = 1 cm
No. of zones = 41,700
outer zone width = 60 nm
central stop diameter = 5 mm

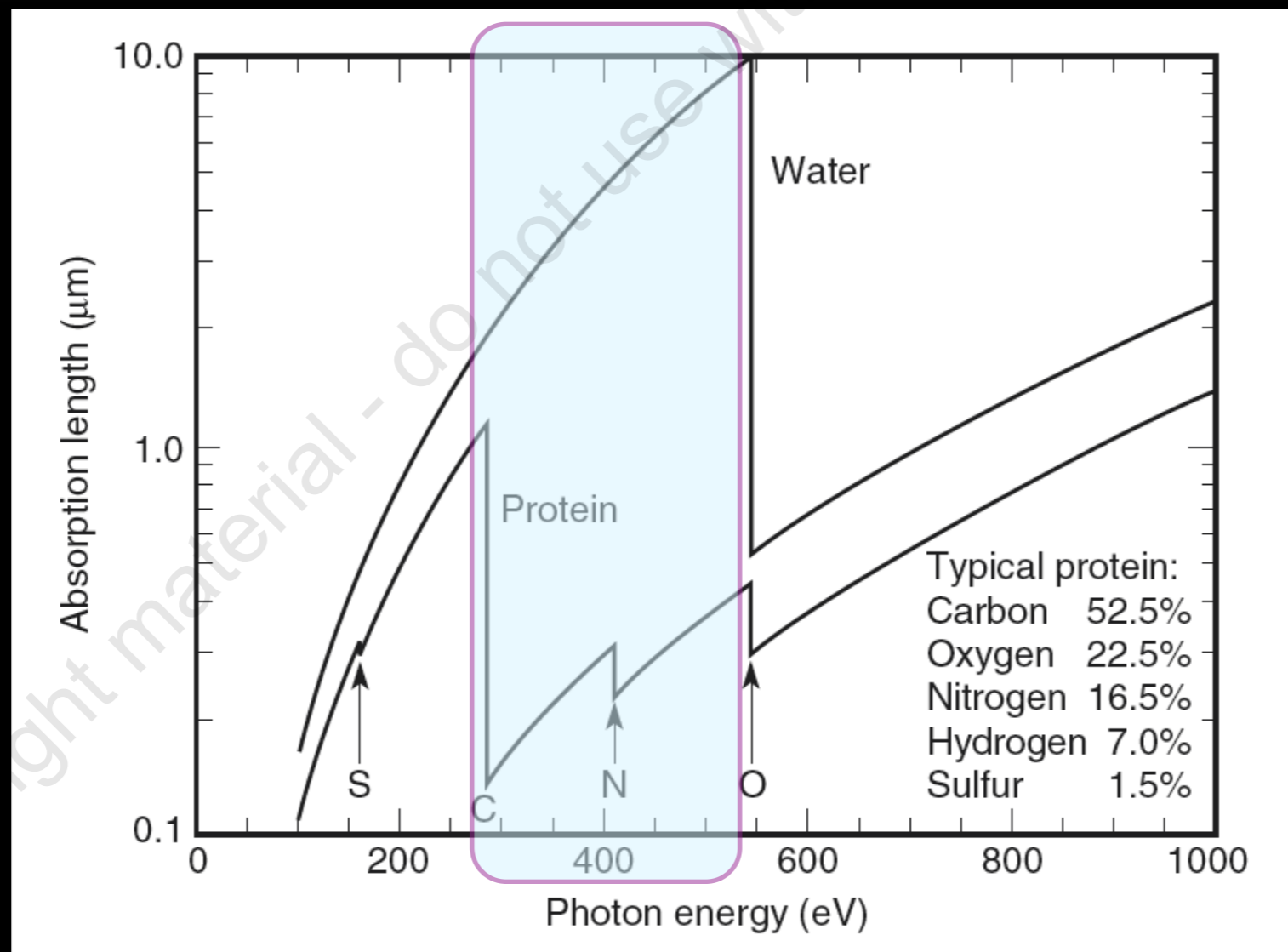
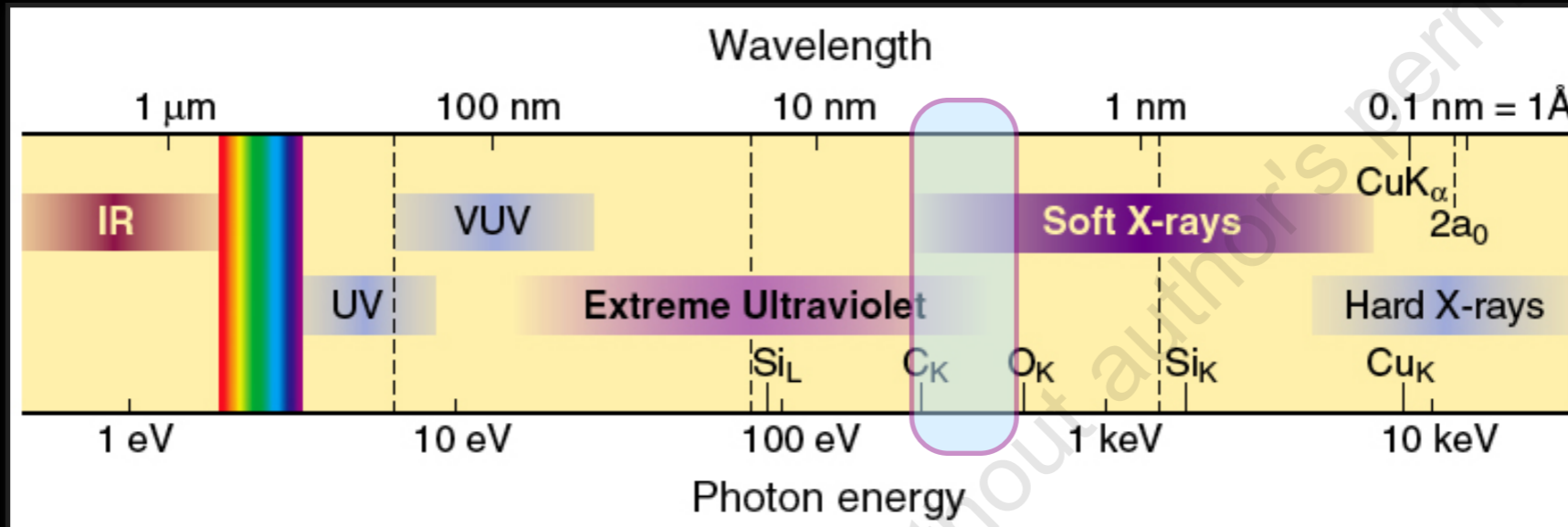
Objective Lens



diameter = 63 μm
No. of zones = 628
outer zone width = 25 nm
nickel plating

Image in Water Window - Natural Contrast

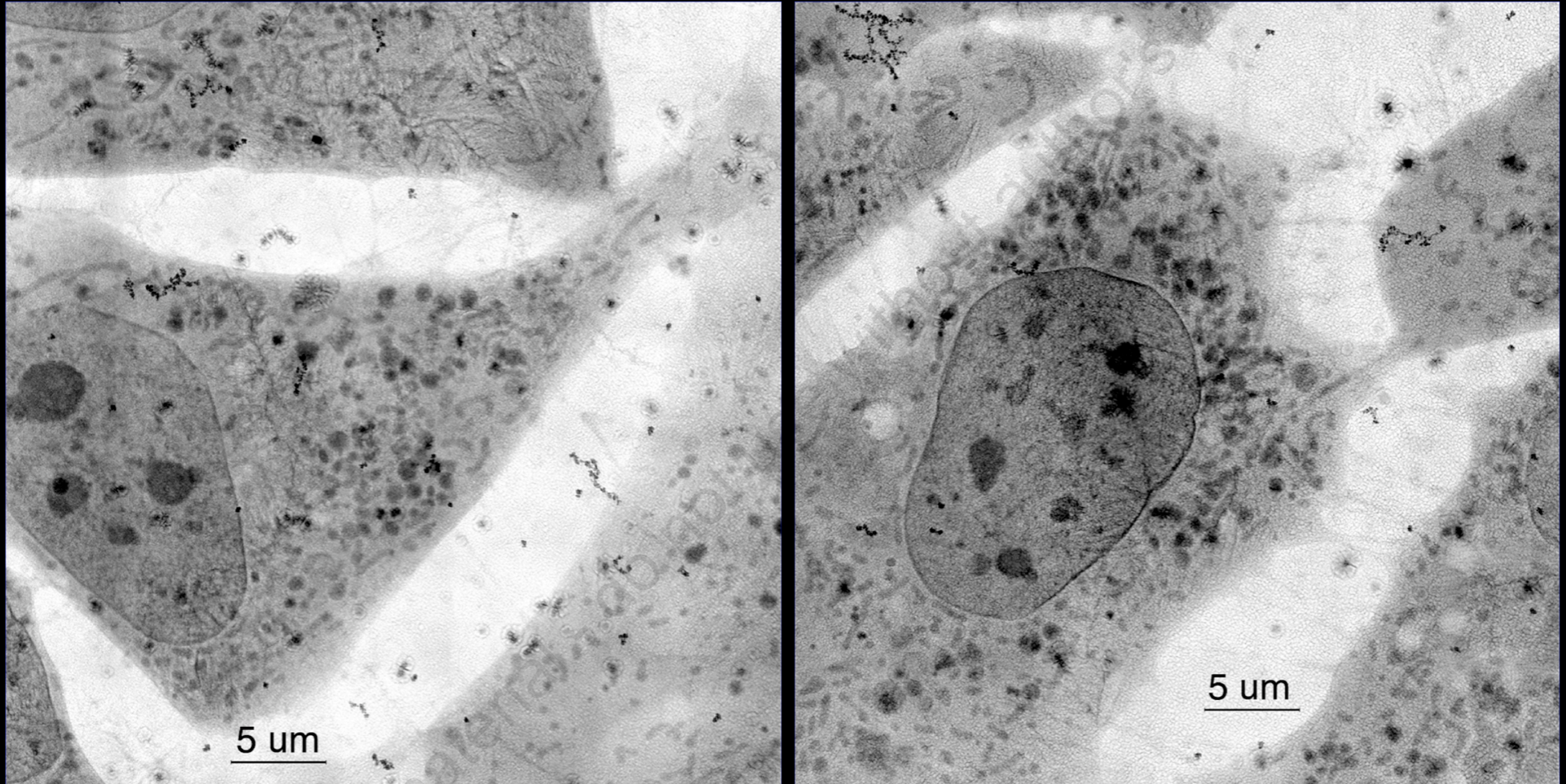
Between K shell absorption edges of oxygen (543 eV; 2.3 nm) and carbon (284 eV; 4.4 nm)



2.4 nm λ

517 eV

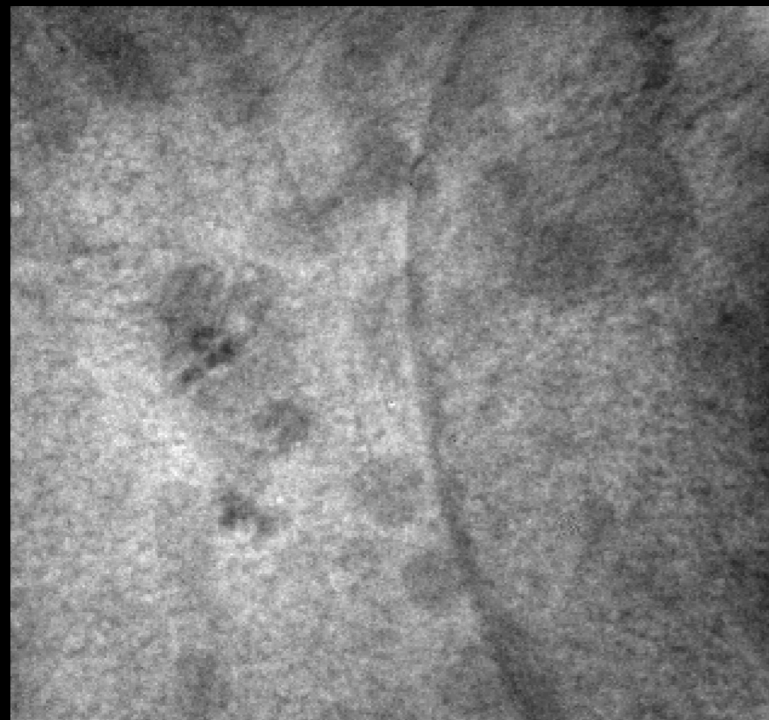
Cryo X-ray Microscopy of NIH 3T3 Fibroblasts



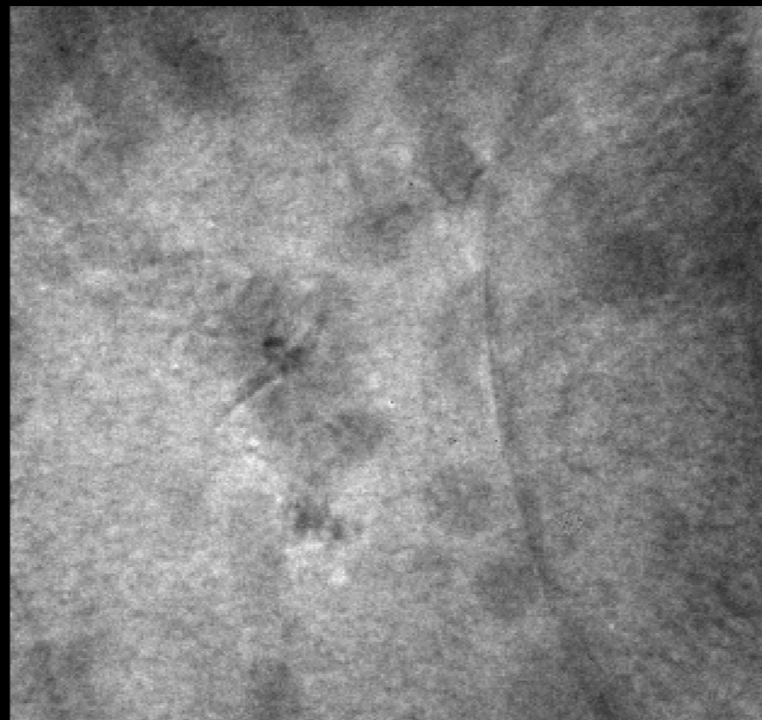
No chemical fixatives or contrast enhancement reagents

Meyer-Ilse, W., Hamamoto, D., Nair, A., Lelievre, S.A., Denbeaux, G., Johnson, L., Pearson, A.L., Yager, D., LeGros, M.A., and Larabell, C.A. (2001). J. Microscopy. 201, 395-403.

Nuclear envelope of NIH 3T3 fibroblast



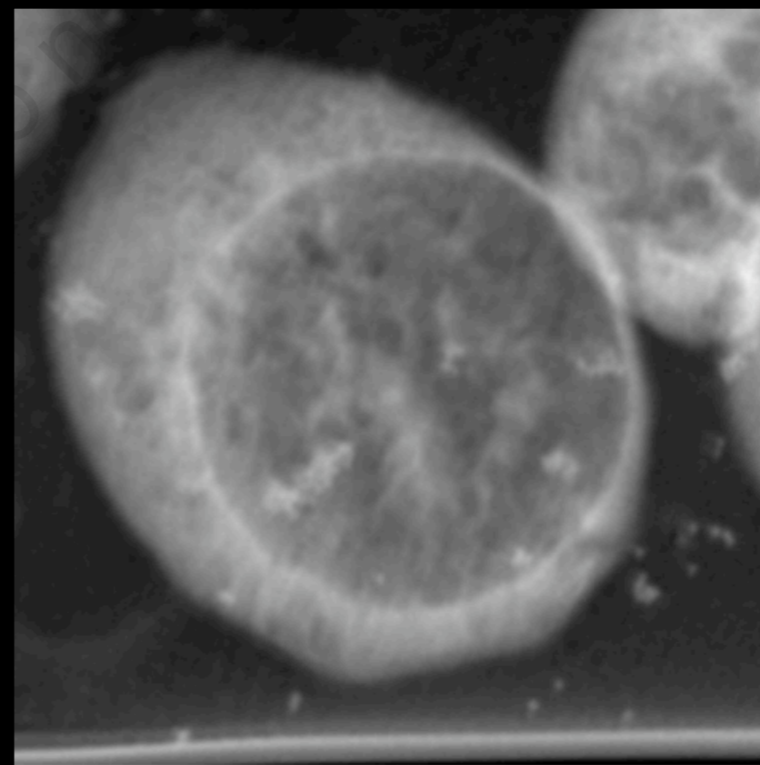
1 sec



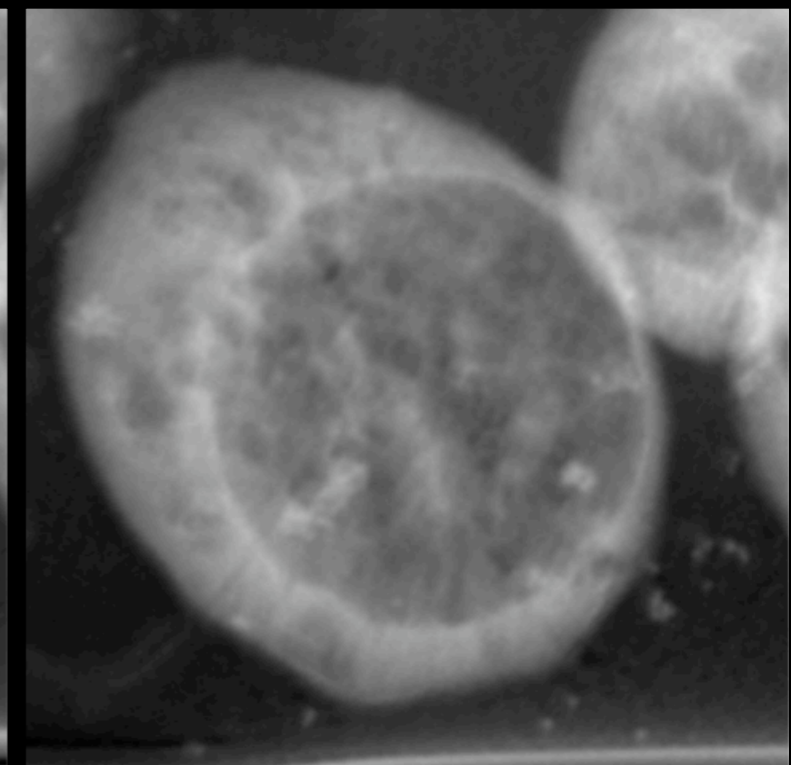
130 sec

- Specimen must be cryofixed to prevent radiation damage
- Must *maintain* low temperature (77 K) during data collection

Yeast



20 sec

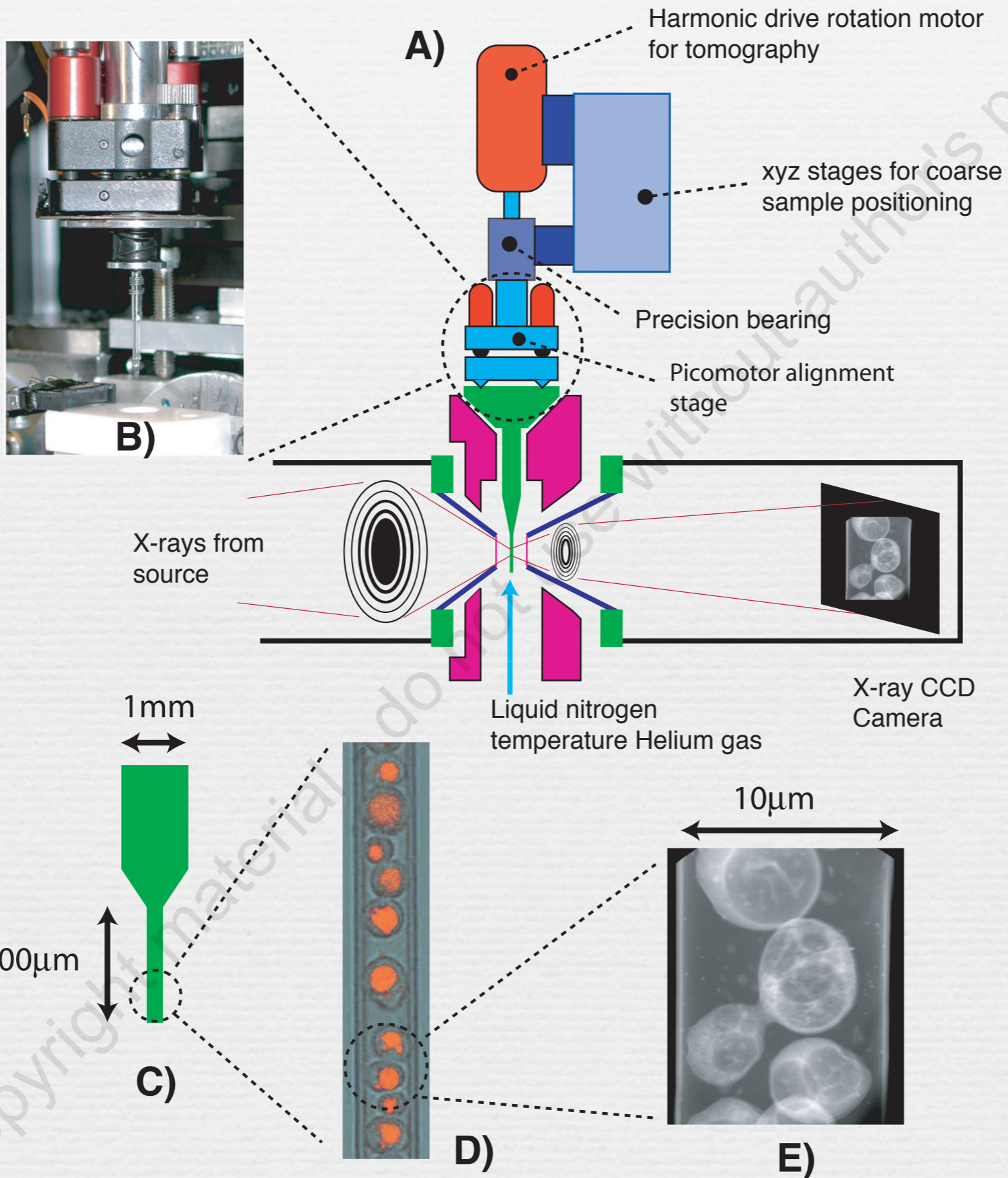


1,020 sec

Cryo-preserved specimens tolerate hundreds of images (1sec/image) without apparent radiation damage

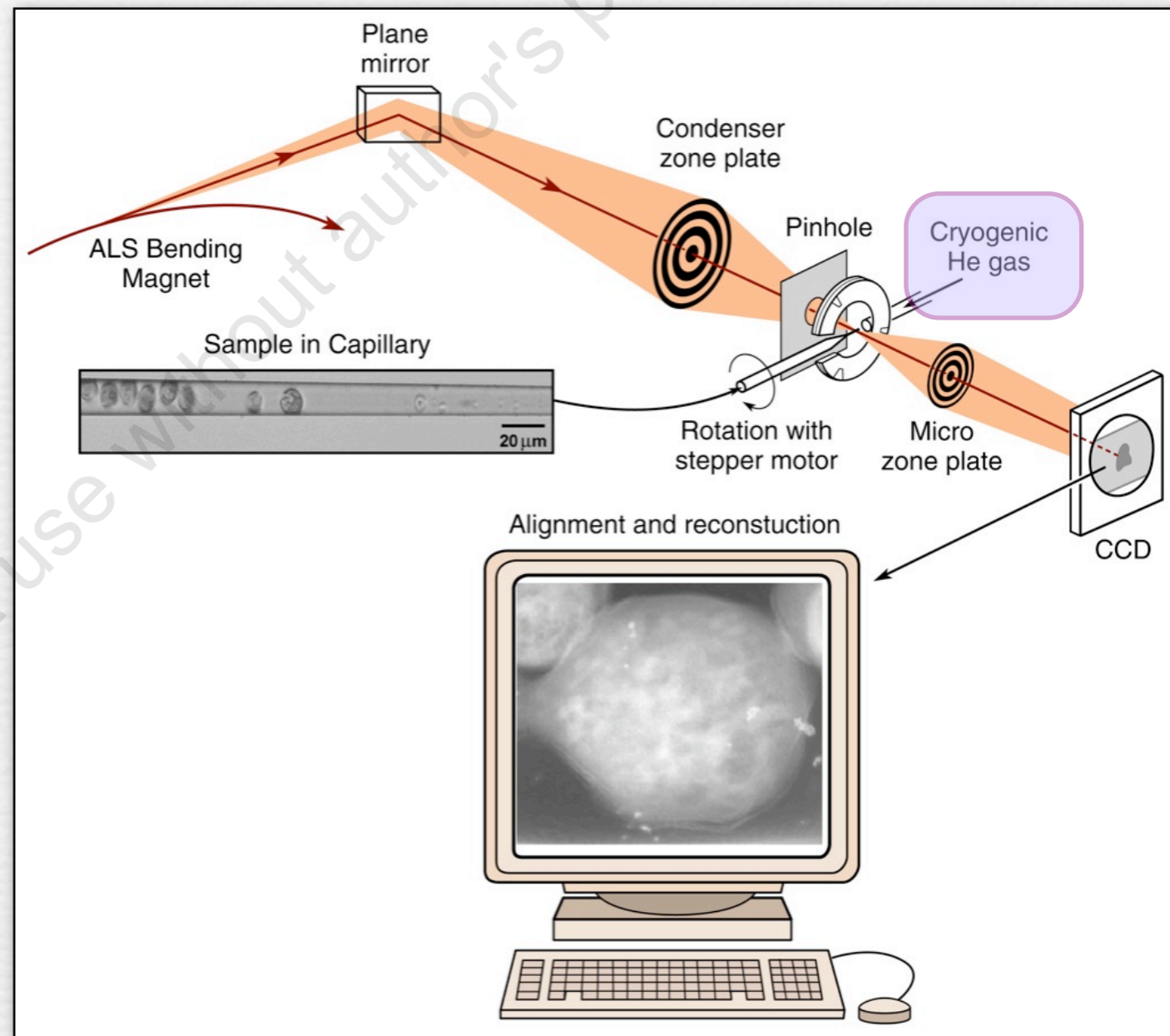
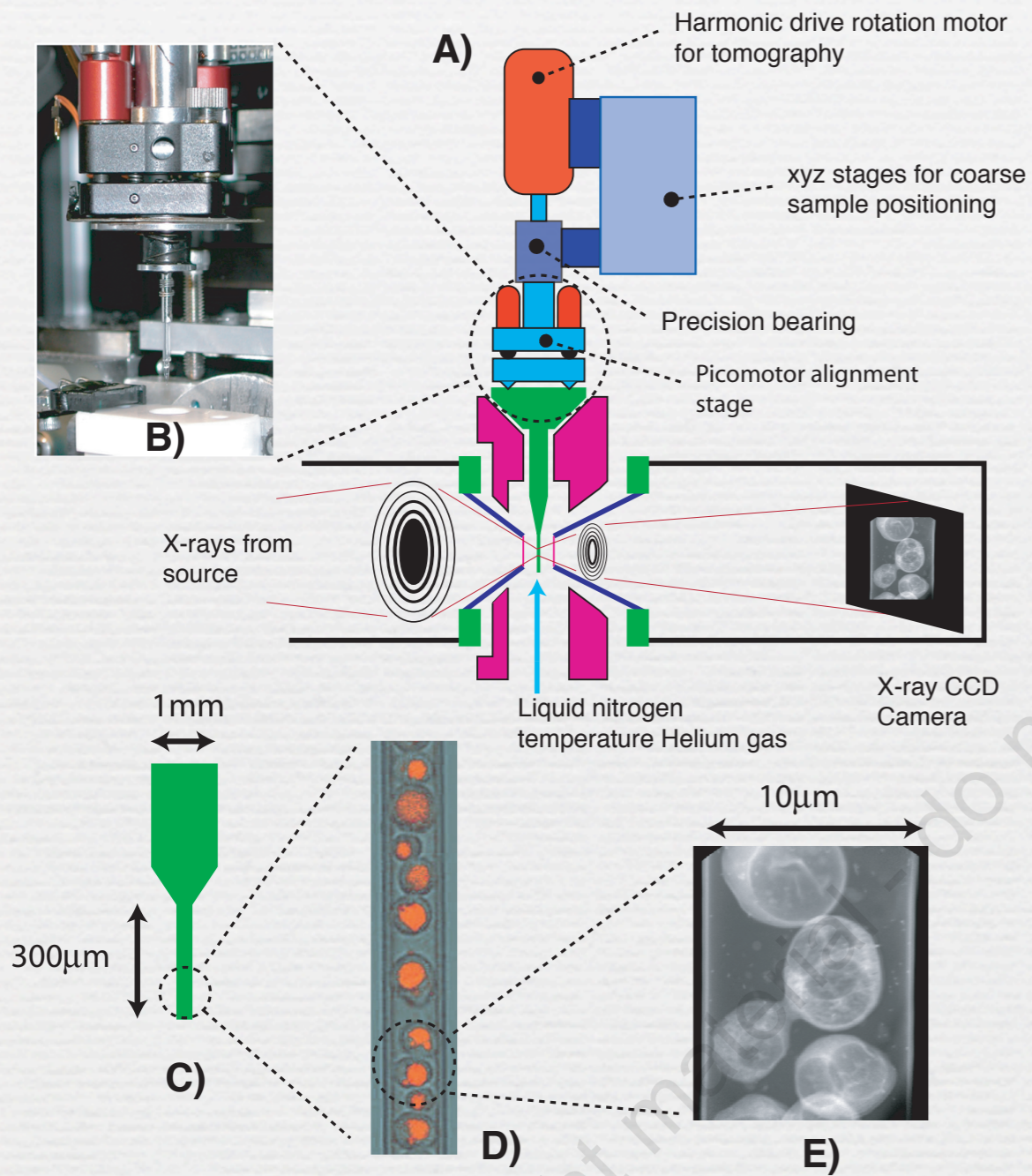
Cryo X-ray Tomography

Specimen at atmospheric pressure



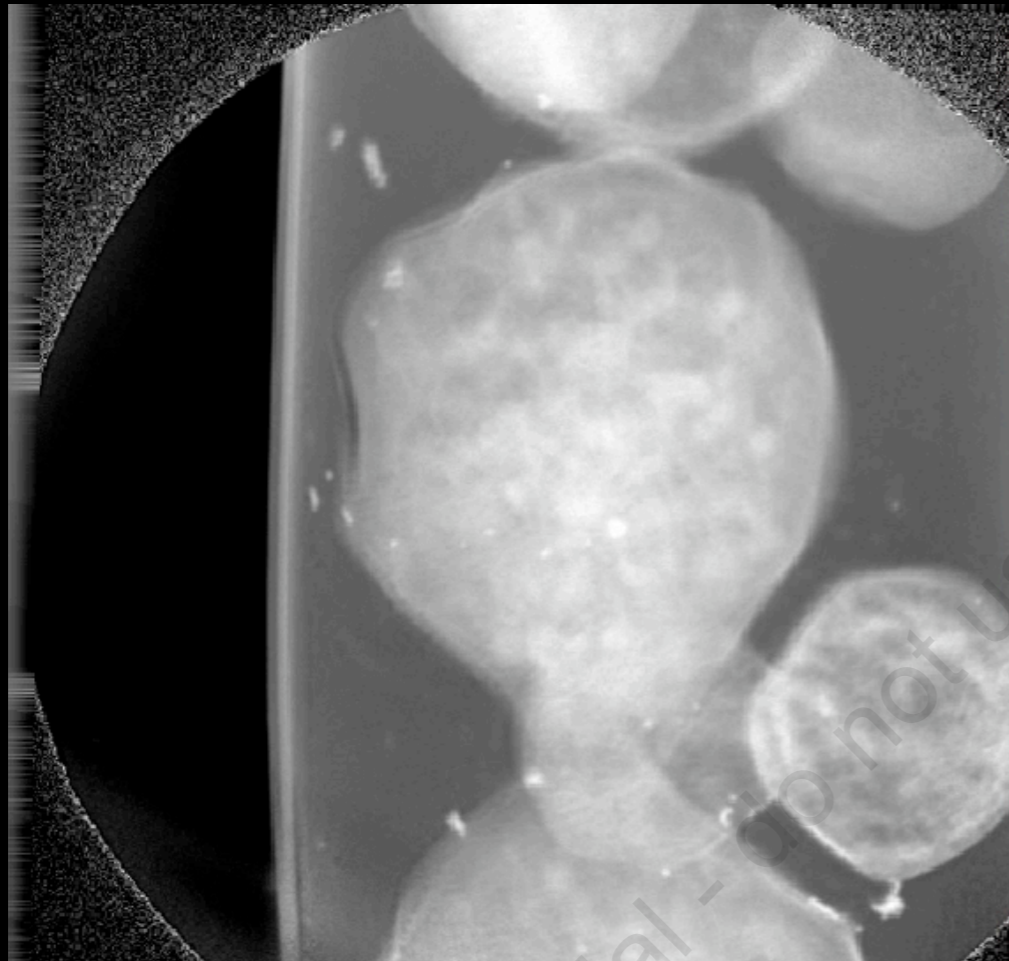
Mark Le Gros,
Gerry McDermott,
Carolyn Larabell;
Current Opinion in
Structural Biology. 2005,
15:1-8.

Cryo X-ray Tomography



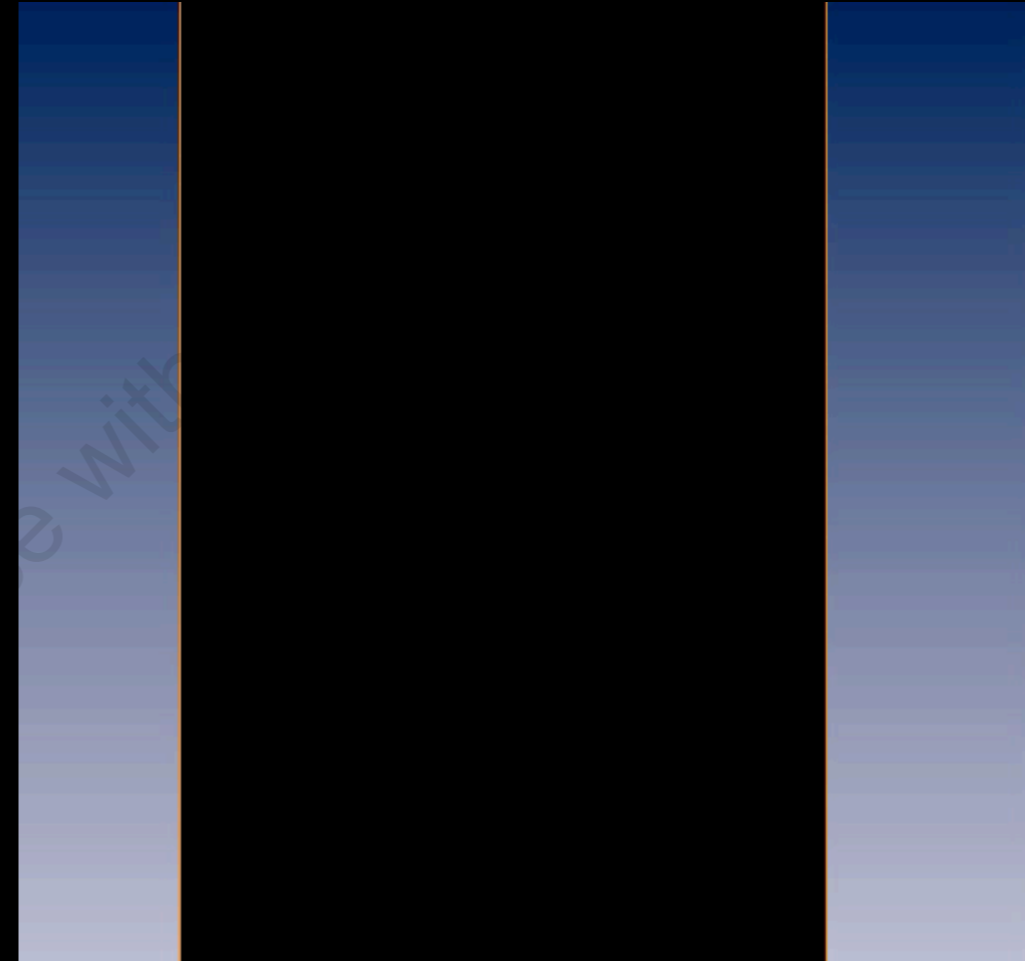
Saccharomyces cerevisiae

45 images collected at 4-degree intervals



Projection images

(60 nm gold balls as fiducial markers)

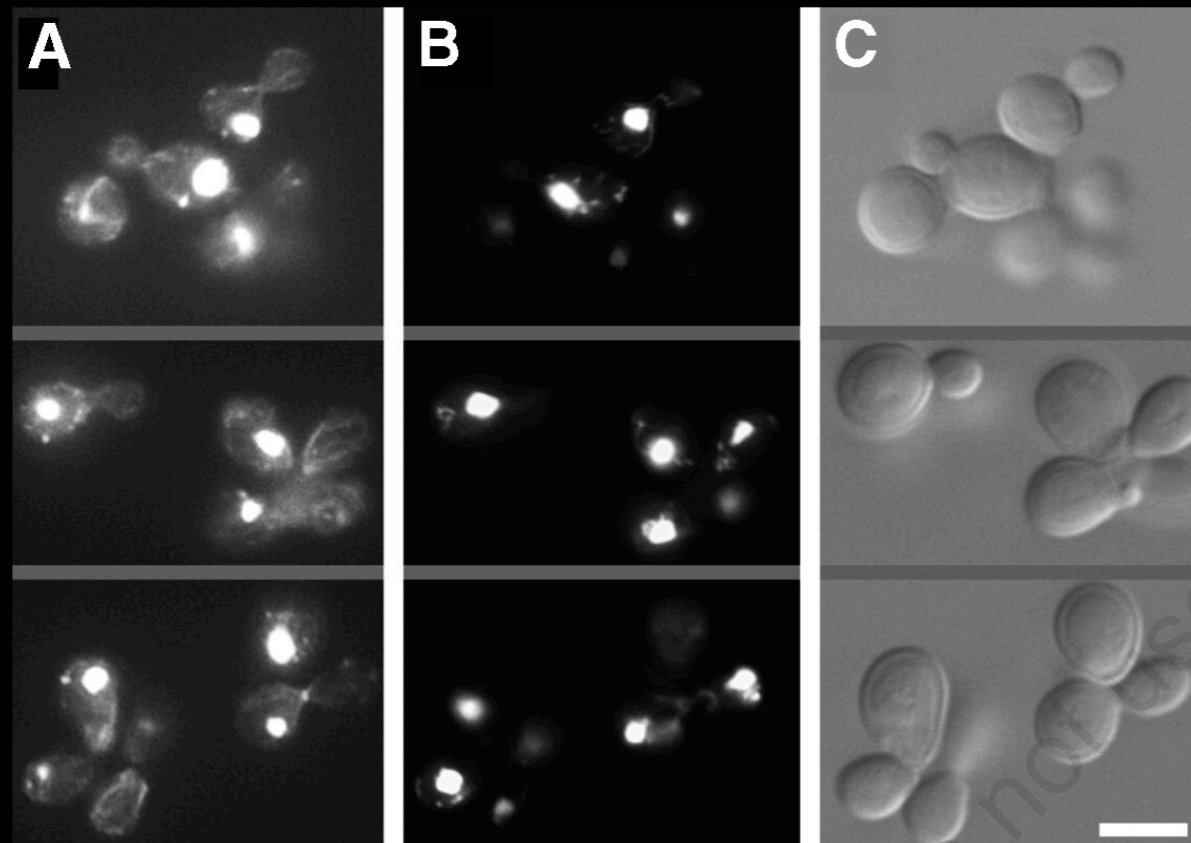


Sections through the
reconstructed data

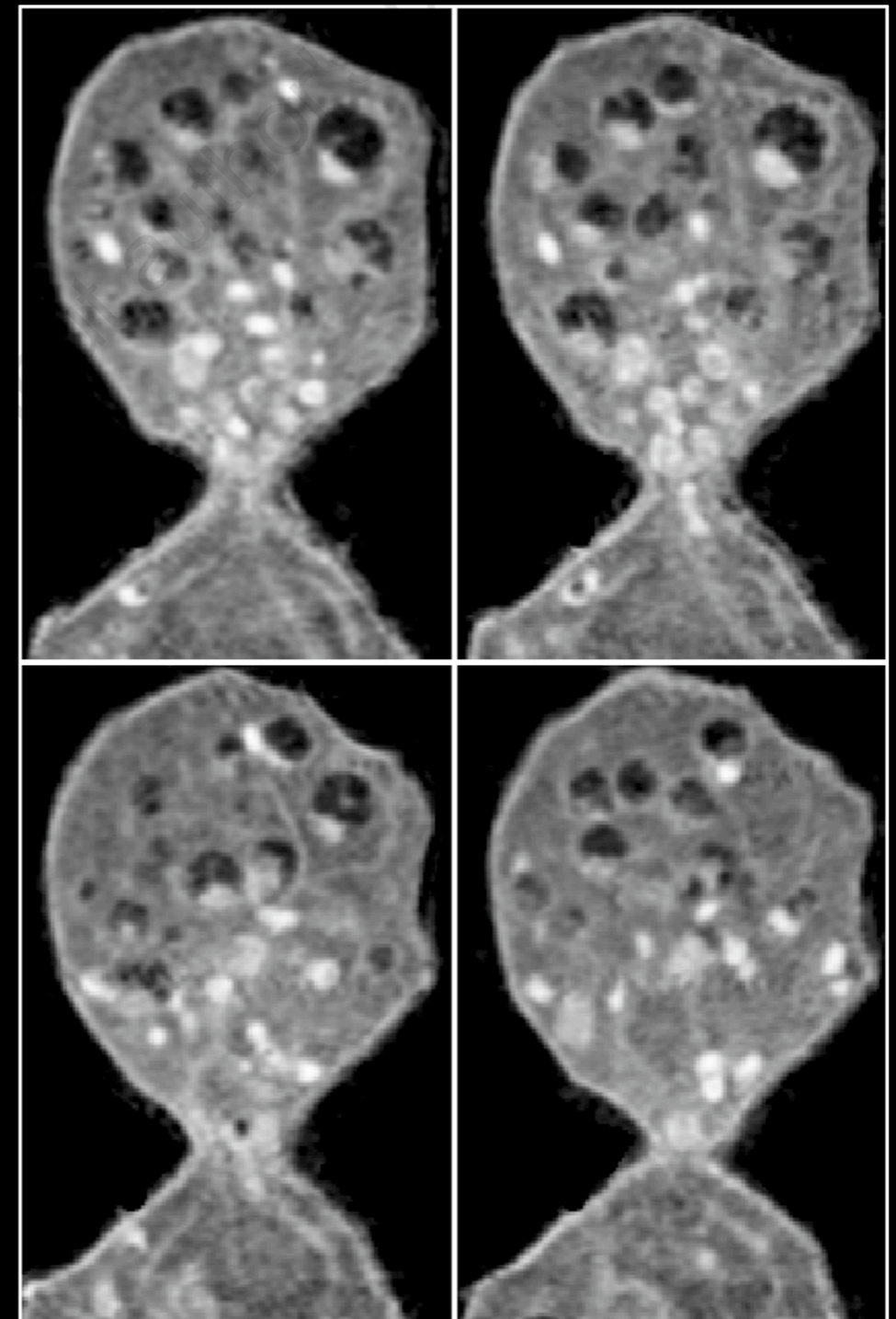
Yeast bud = 3 microns diameter

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Light Microscopy

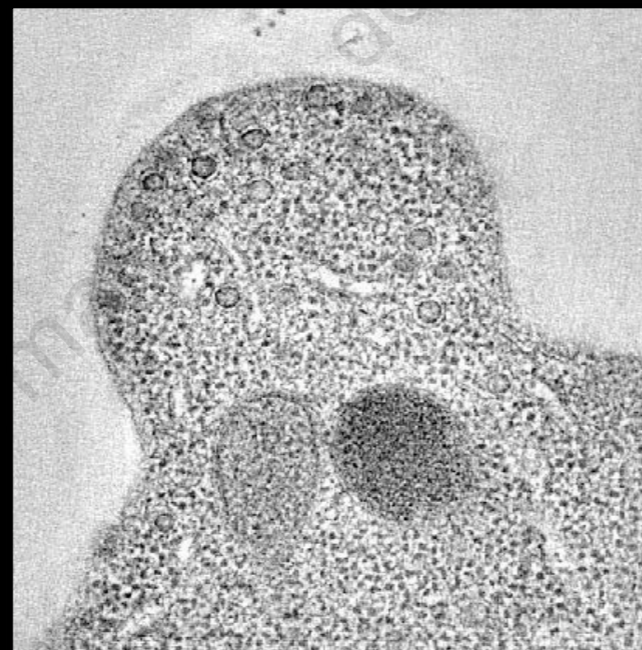


X-ray Tomography



Electron Tomography

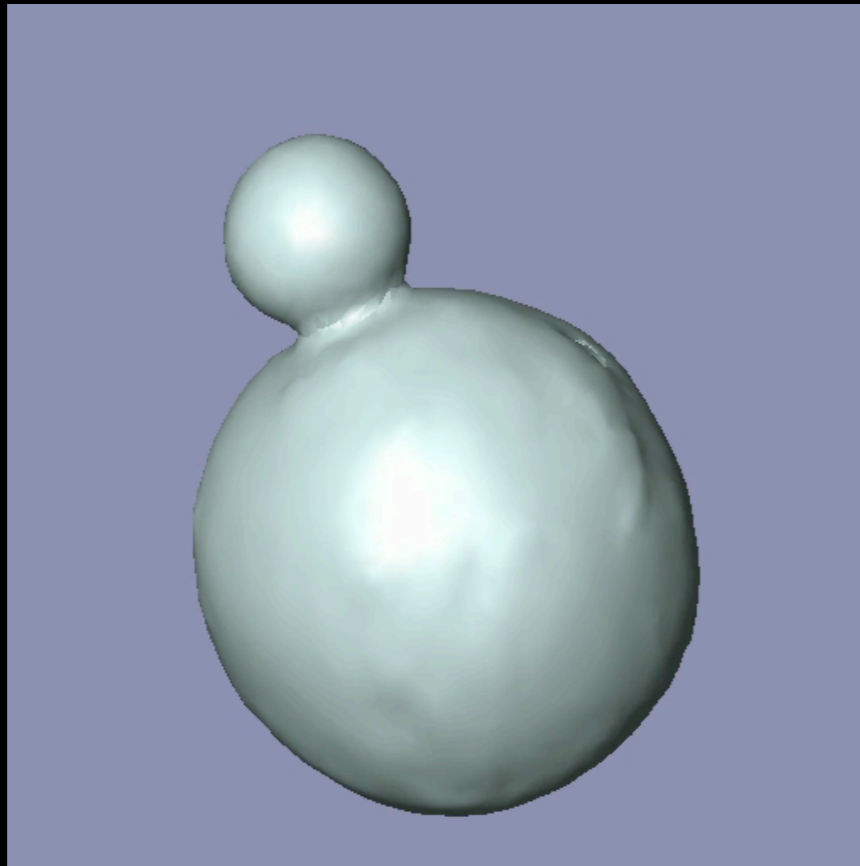
250 nm thick section



Yeast bud = 3 microns diameter

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

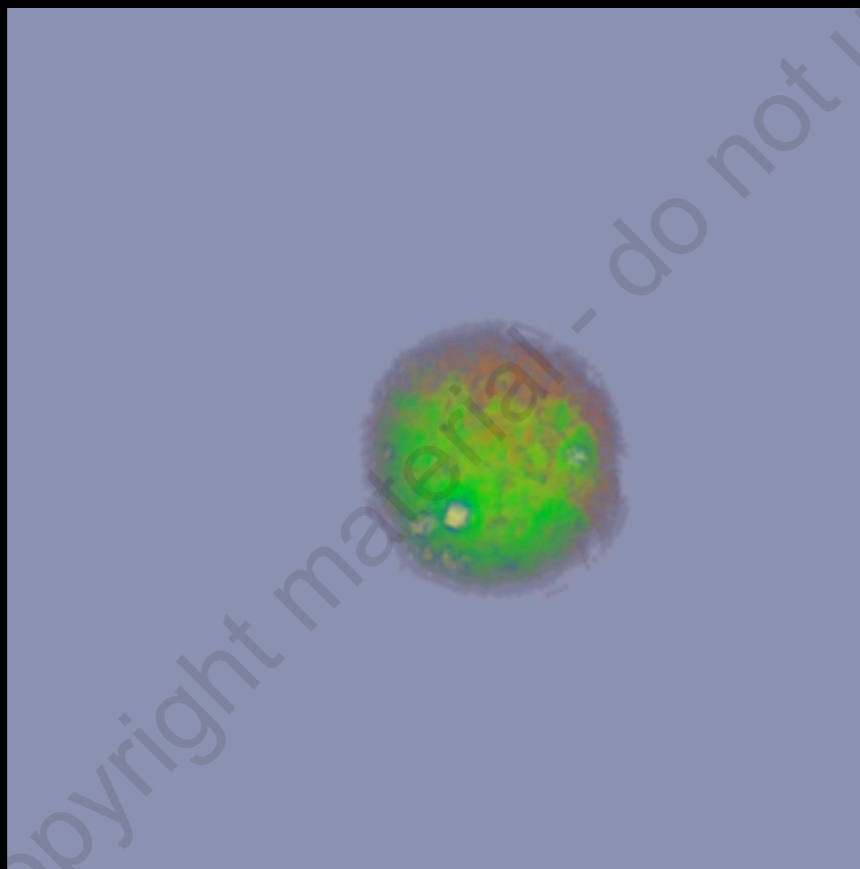
Opaque
surface



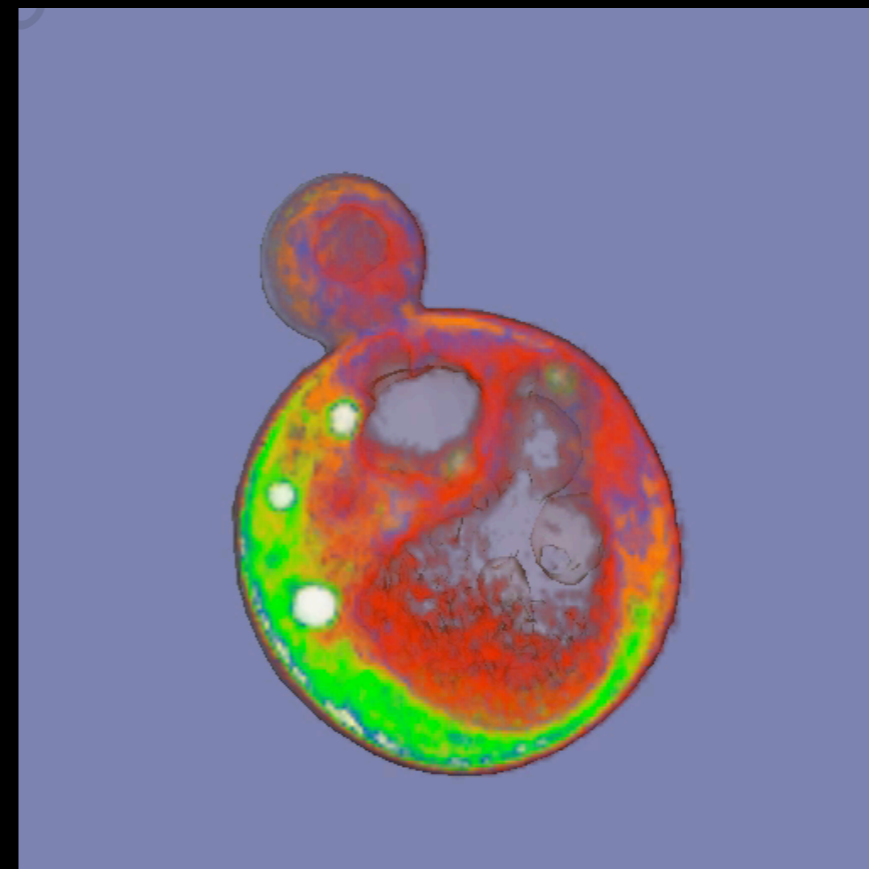
Transparent
surface



Volume
rendered,
color coded
using
absorption
coefficient

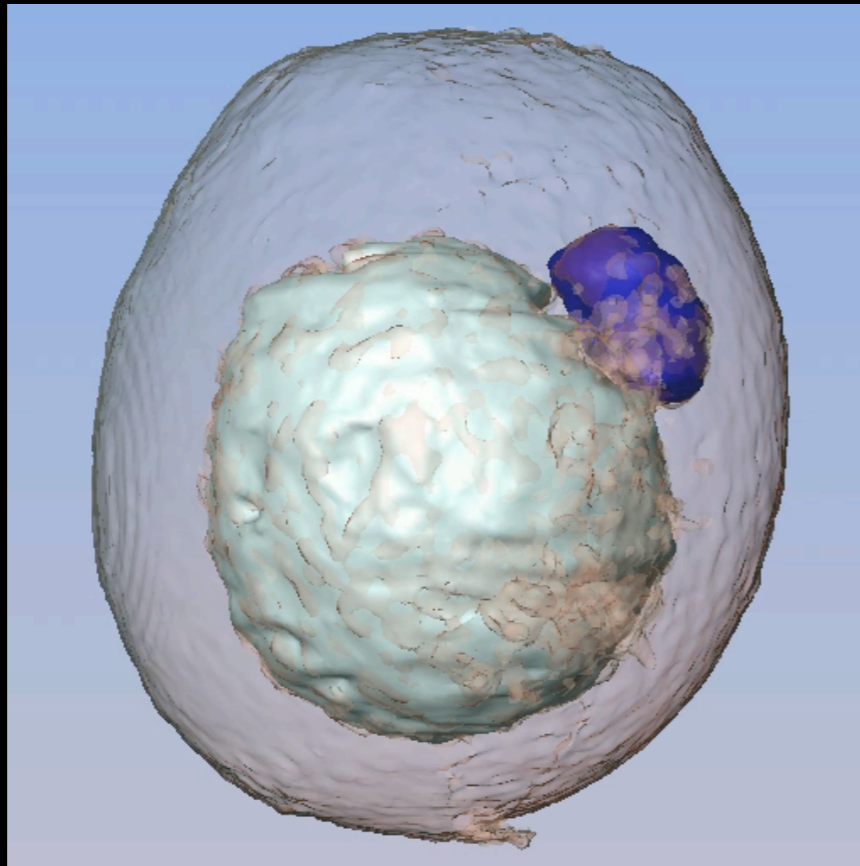


Absorption
coefficient
superimposed
on
transparent
surface view

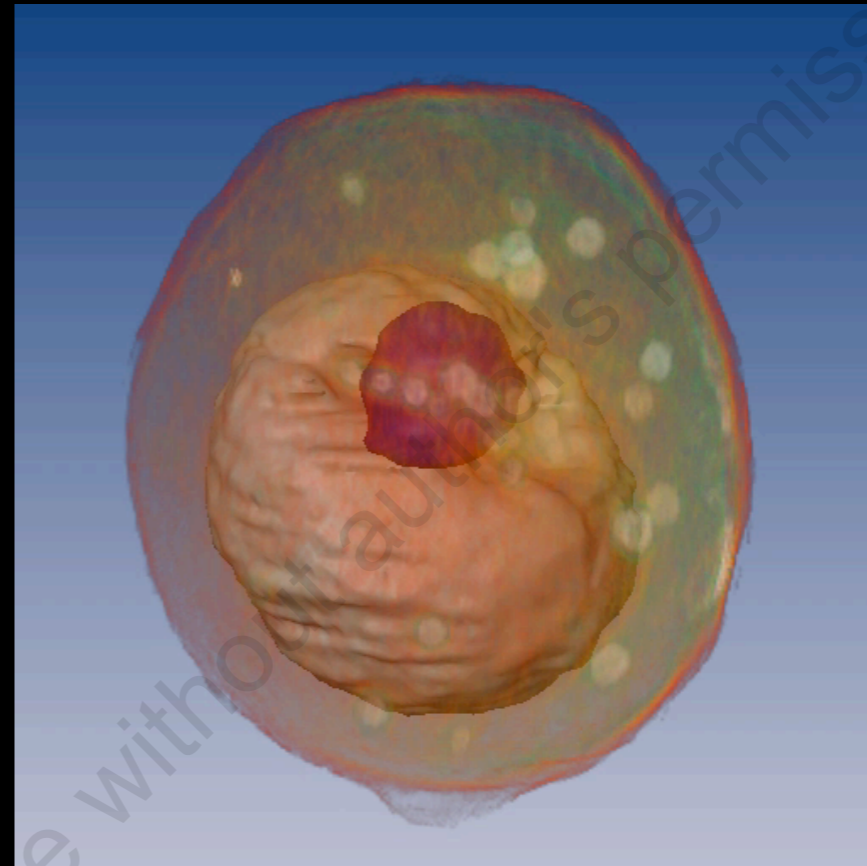


Saccharomyces cerevisiae

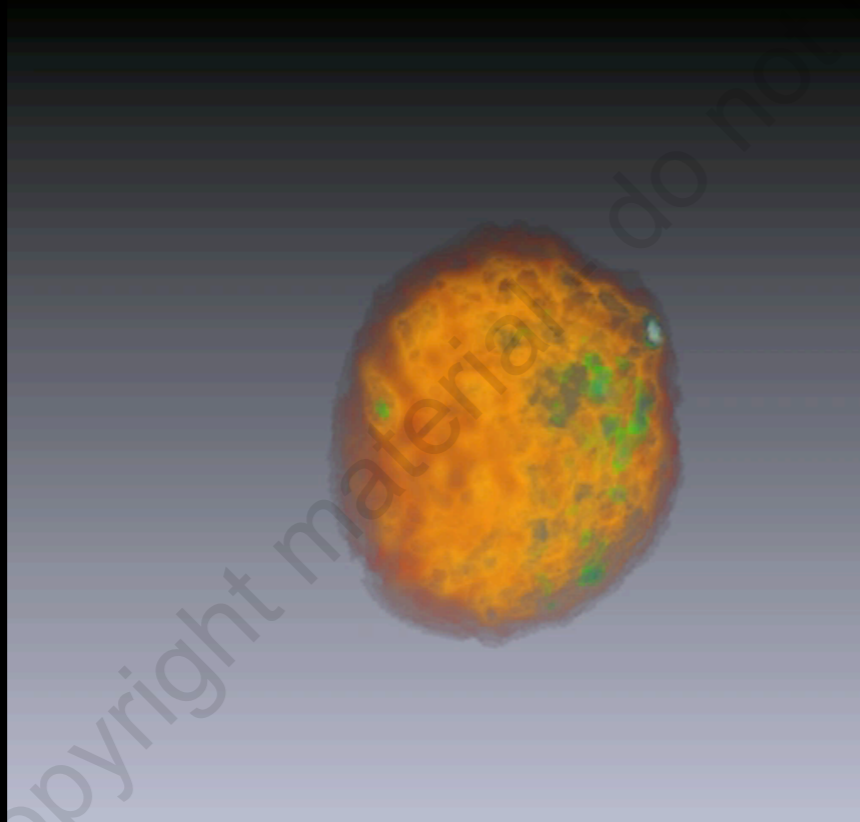
Translucent
outer surface,
opaque
surfaces show
internal
organelles;
blue = nucleus



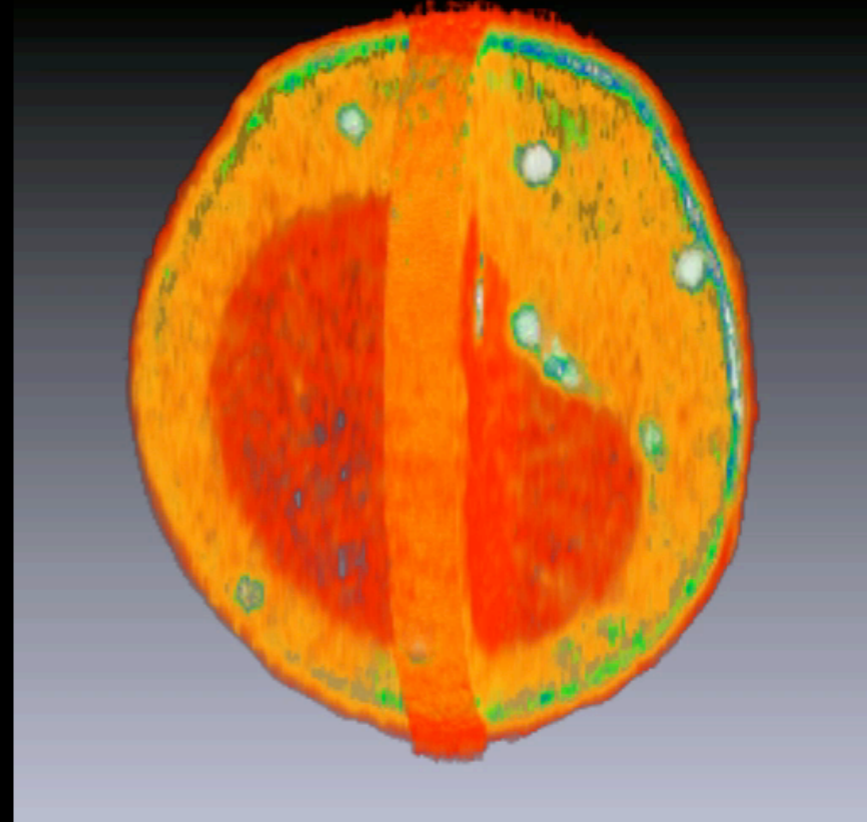
Volume
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Opaque surfaces
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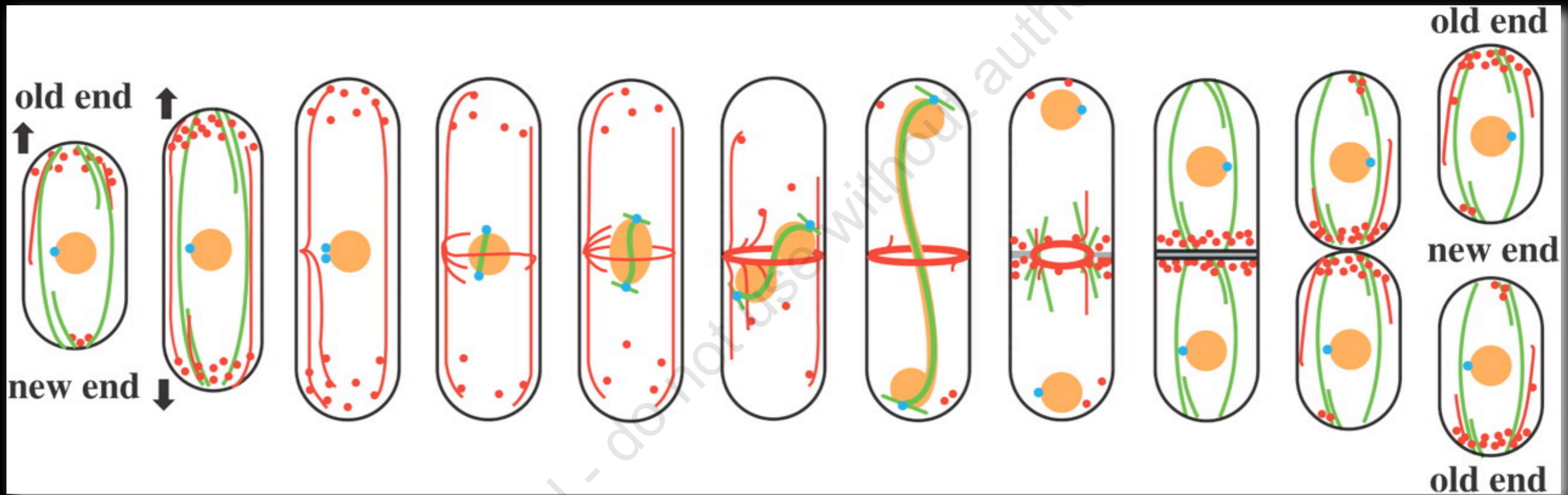
Volume
rendered;
Color-coded
using x-ray
absorption
coefficient



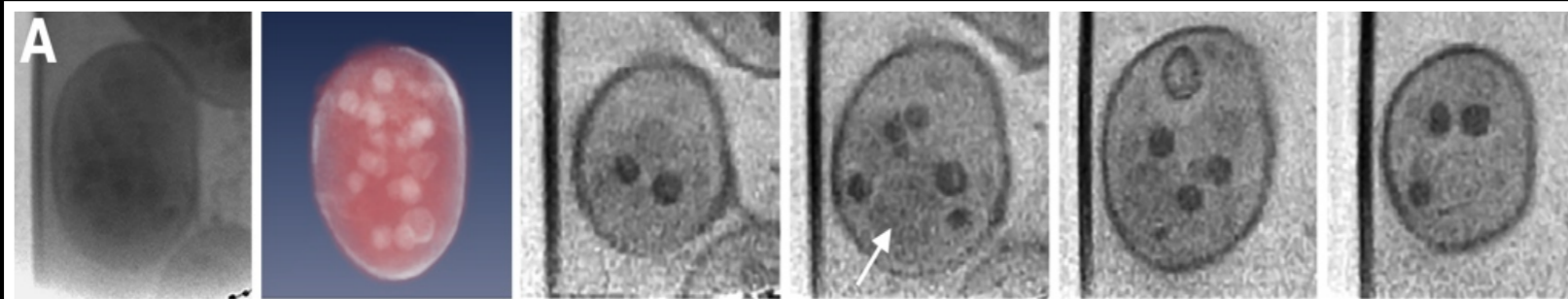
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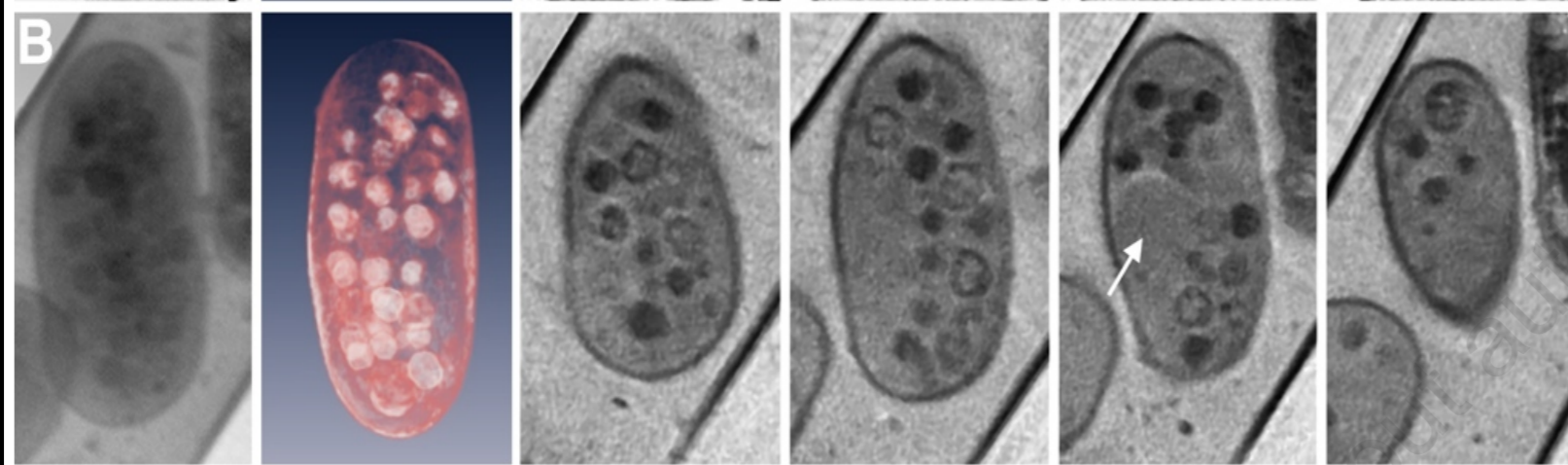
Schizosaccharomyces pombe



Osumi et al. (2006) Journal of Electron Microscopy 55(2), 75-88



New cell



Adult cell



Dividing cell
(early)

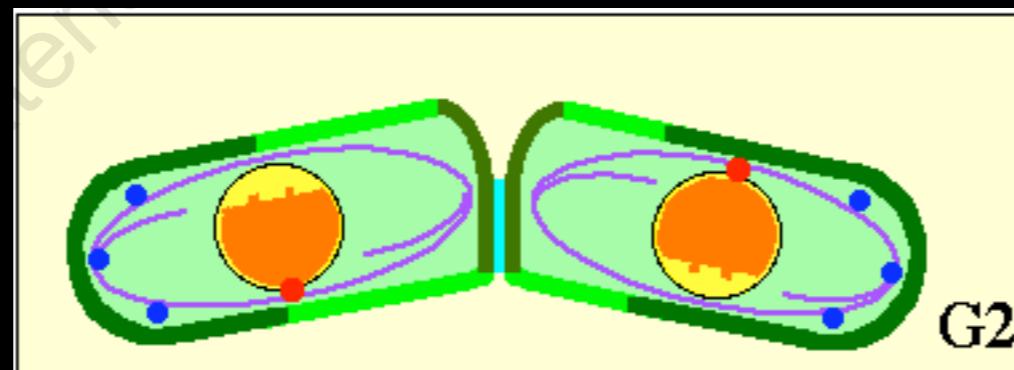
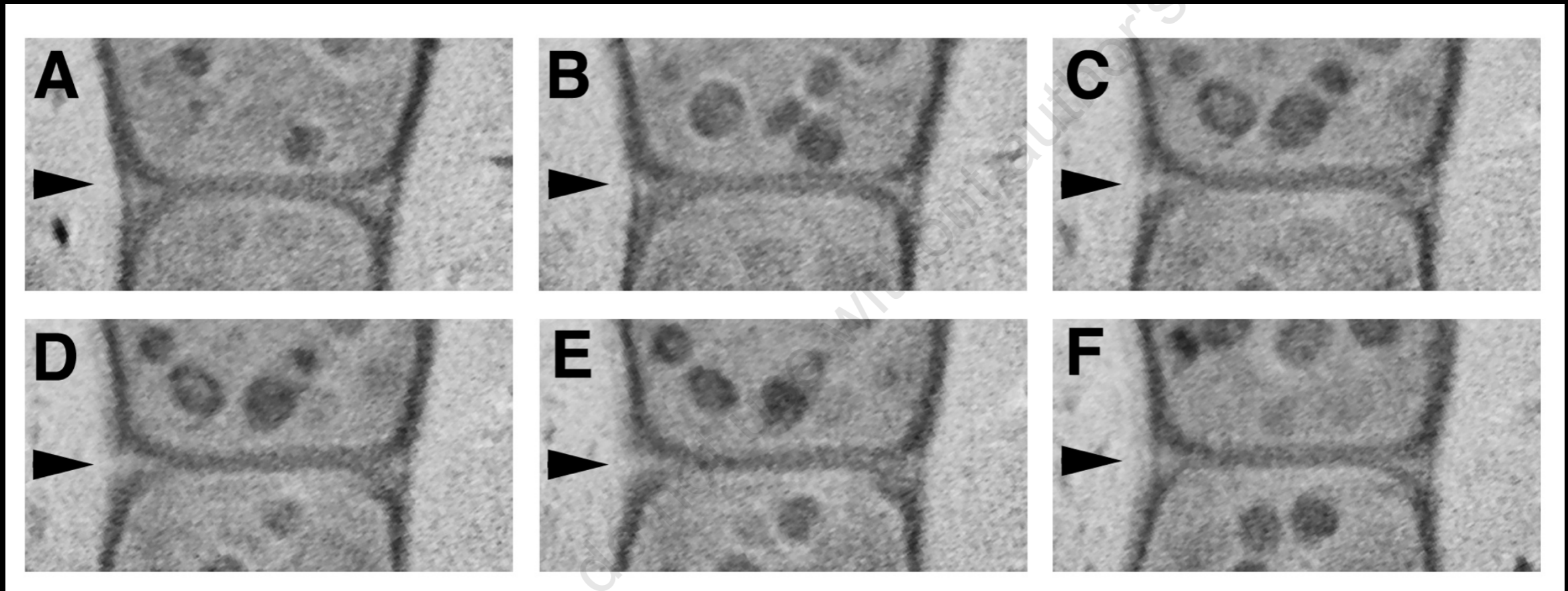


Dividing cell
(late)

W. Gu, L. D. Etkin, M.A. Le Gros,
and C.A. Larabell. (2007)
Differentiation. In press

Schizosaccharomyces pombe

Cell wall dissolution



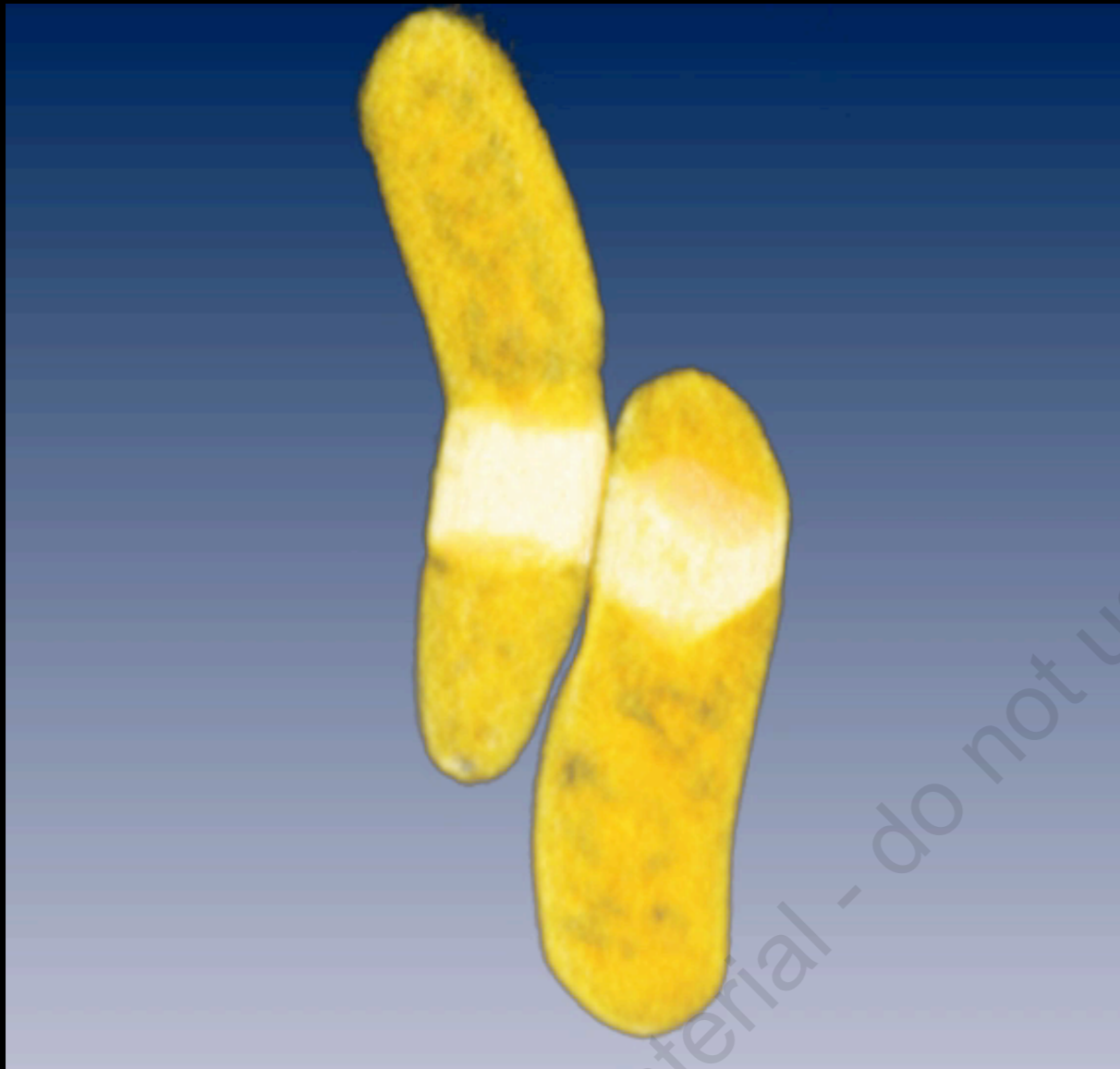
Microbial Communities

Caulobacter crescentus

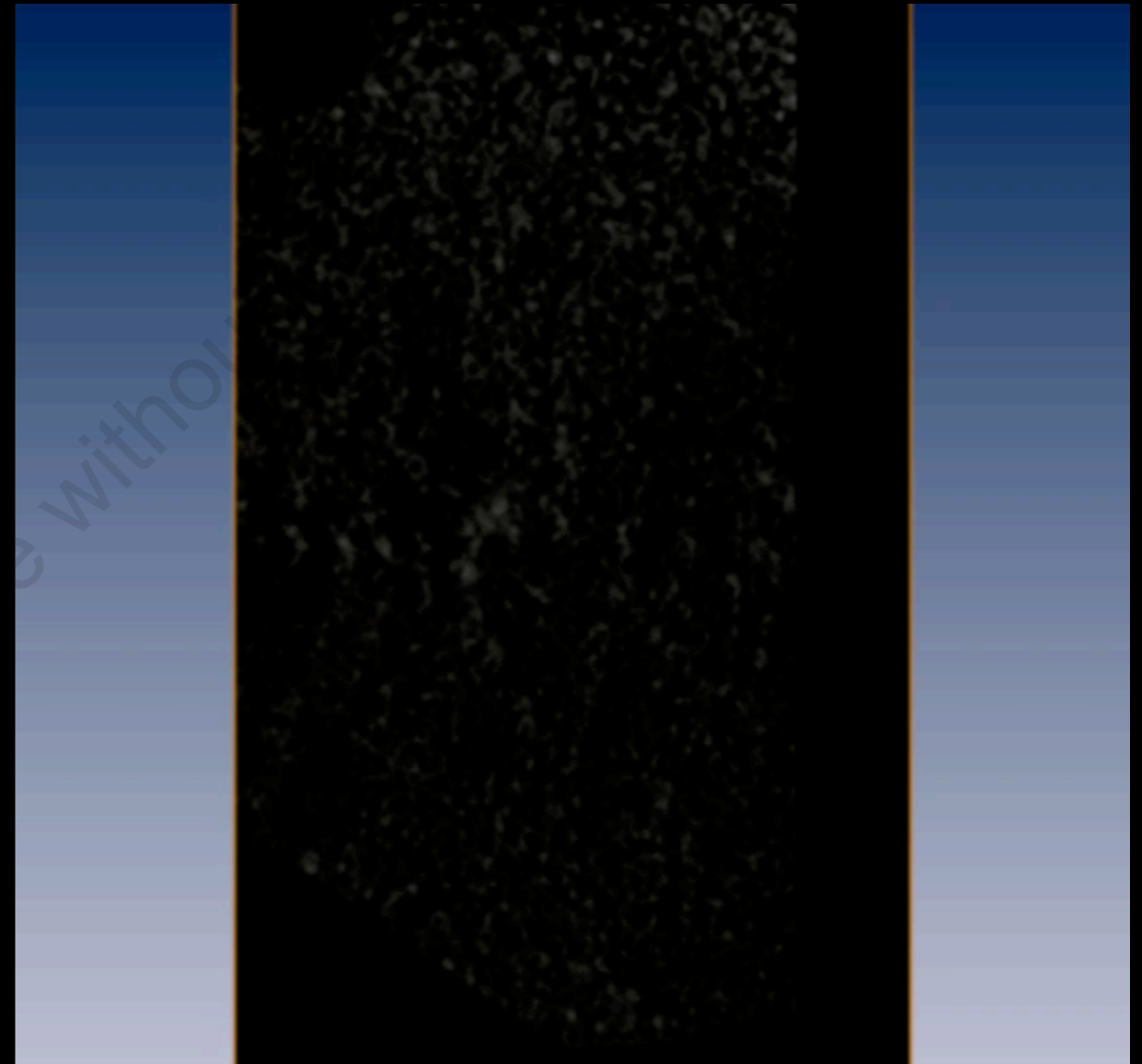


D.Y. Parkinson, M.A. Le Gros, and C.A. Larabell

E. coli



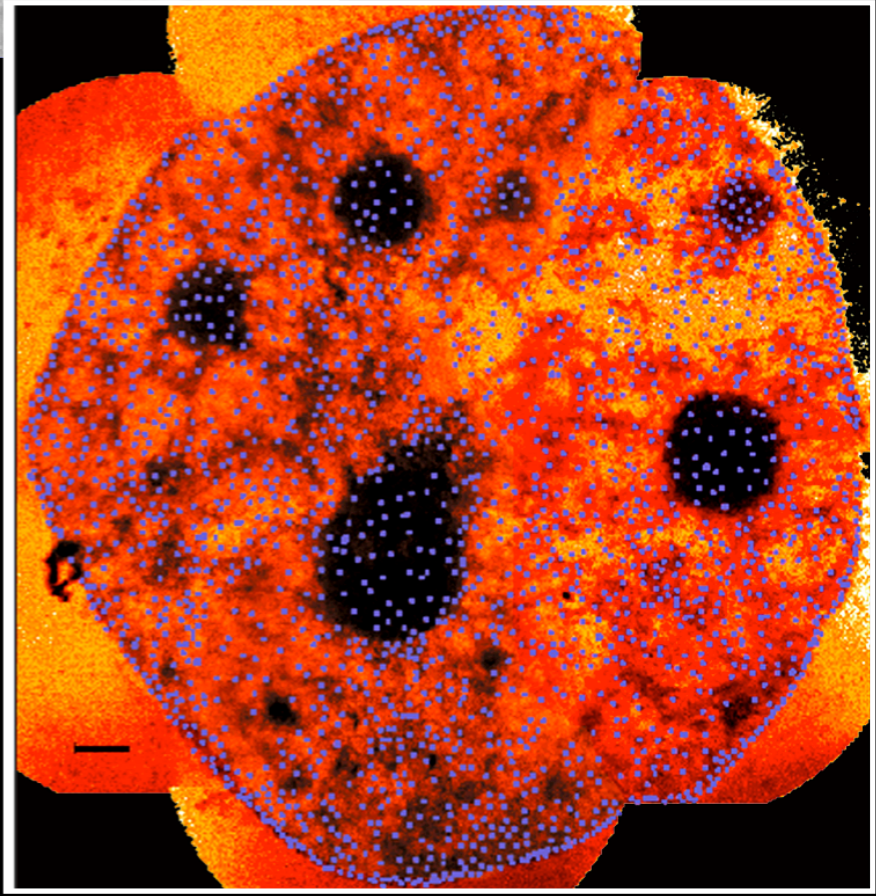
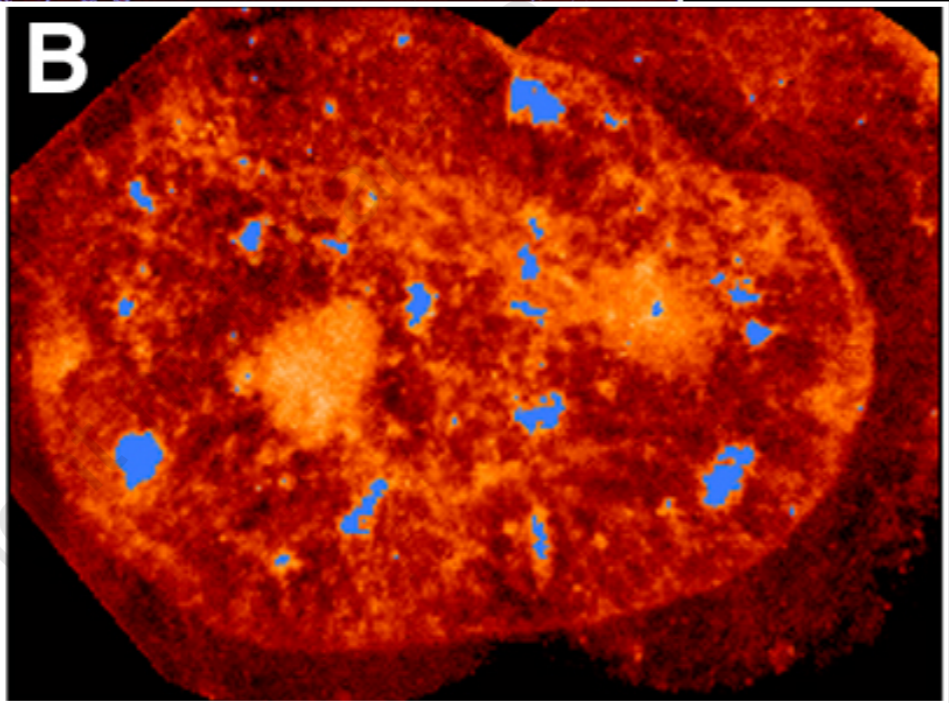
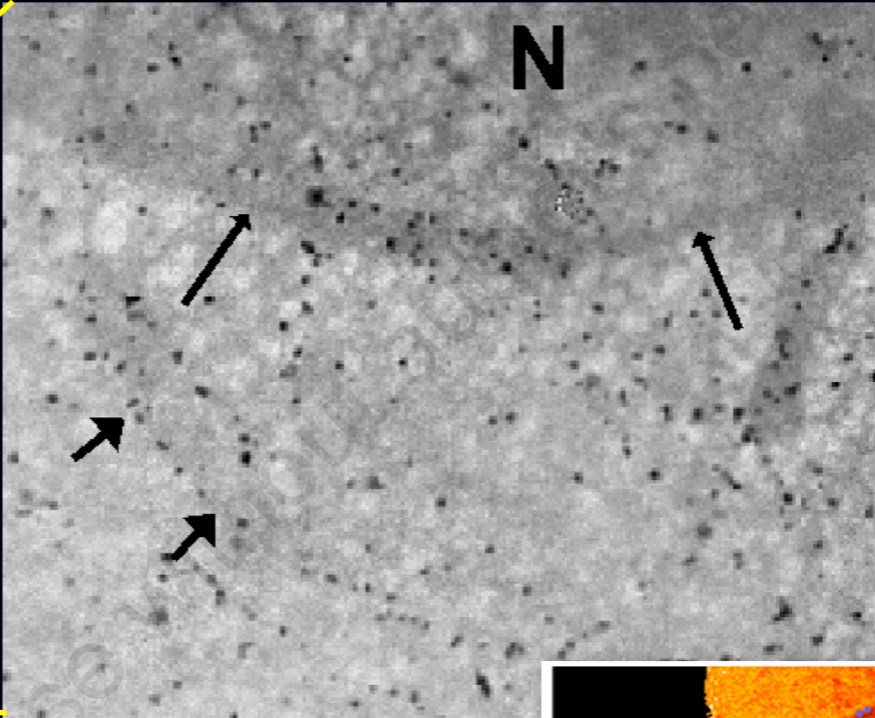
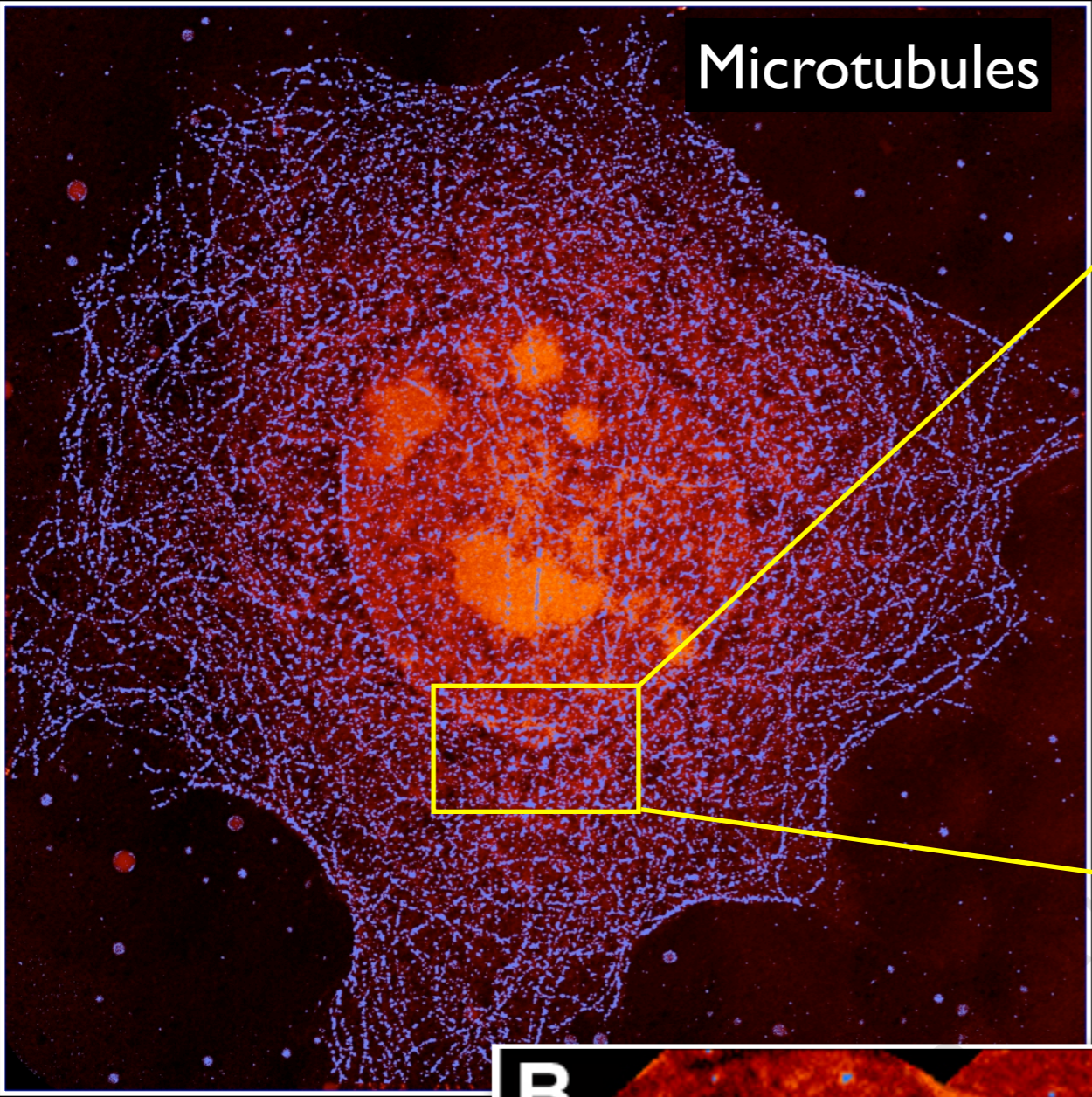
Volume rendered data set



Computer sectioning through
the reconstructed data

2 microns long
0.5 um diameter

Immunolocalization with 1.4 nm gold particles, enhanced with silver or gold



Nuclear Pore Complex

Achieving Better Resolution

- Automated cryo-rotation stage enables collection of hundreds of images - will yield better resolution
- Better resolution zone plates

nature

Vol 435|30 June 2005|doi:10.1038/nature03719

LETTERS

Soft X-ray microscopy at a spatial resolution better than 15 nm

Weilun Chao^{1,2}, Bruce D. Harteneck¹, J. Alexander Liddle¹, Erik H. Anderson¹ & David T. Attwood^{1,2}

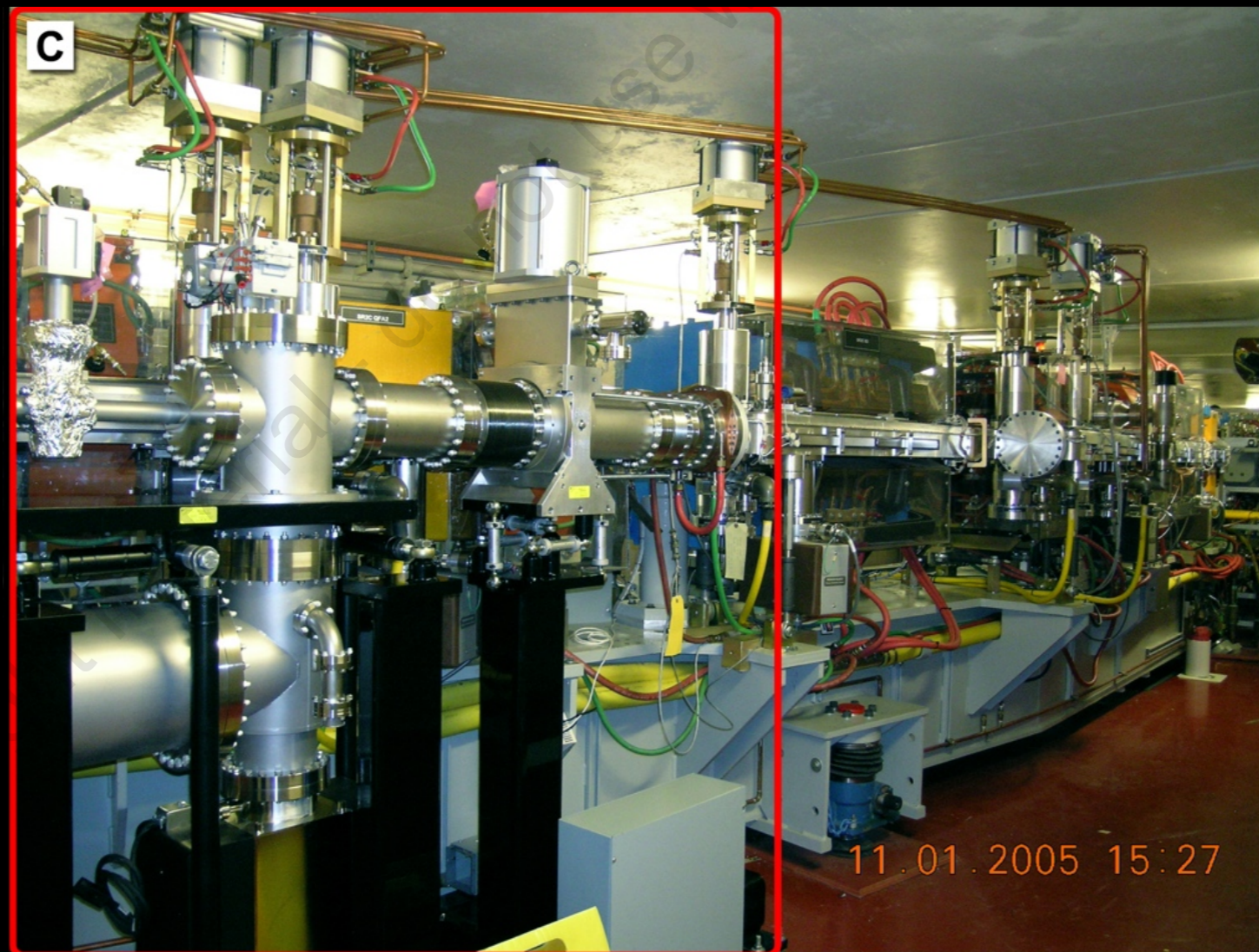
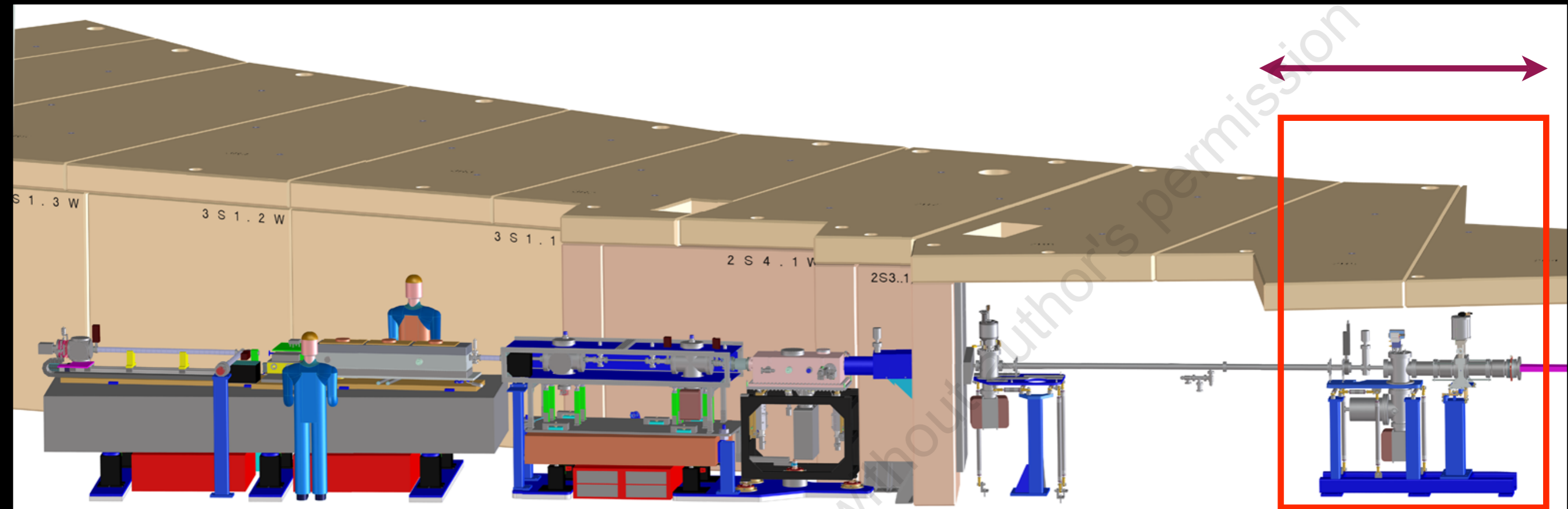
Imaging Cells with Soft X-ray Microscopy

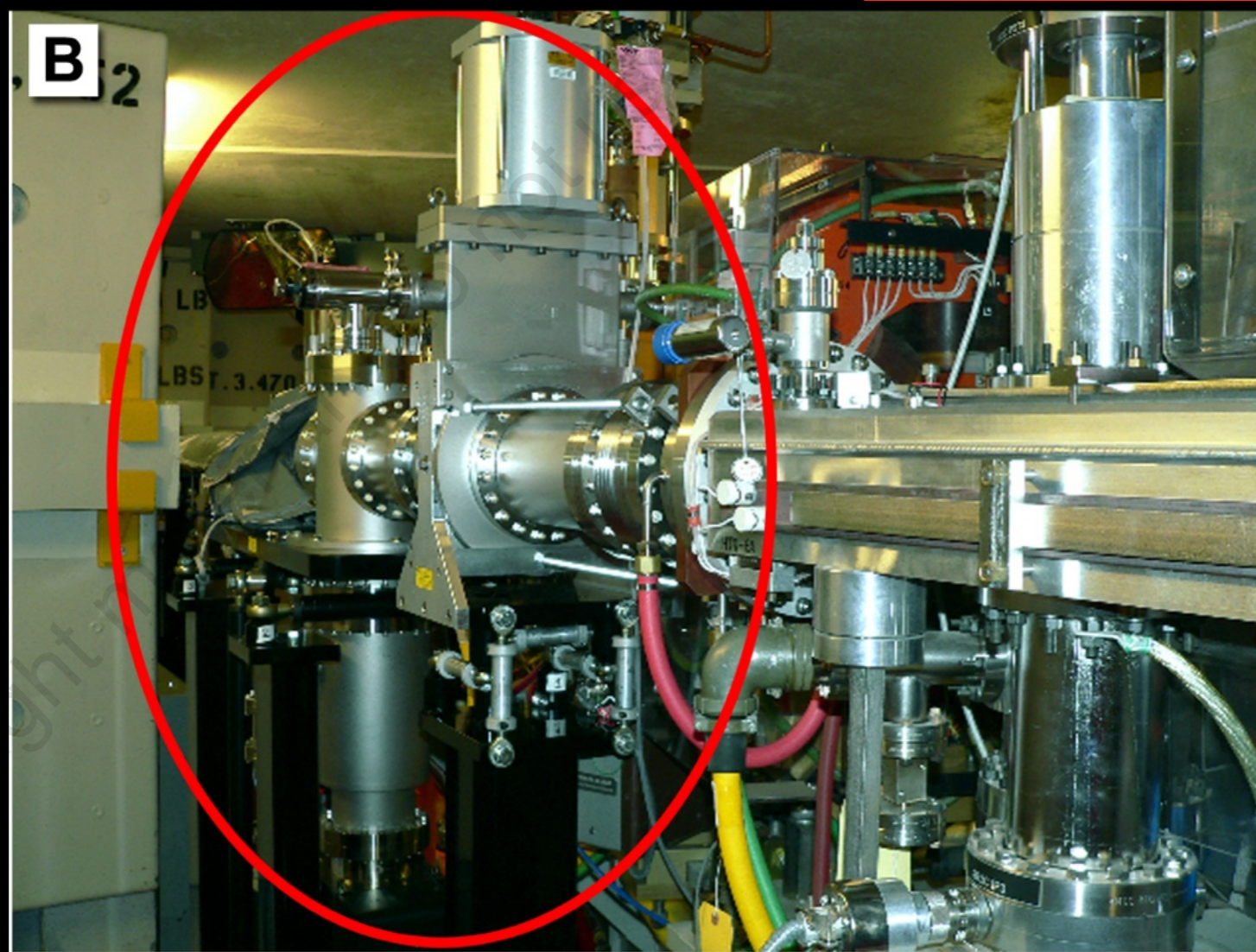
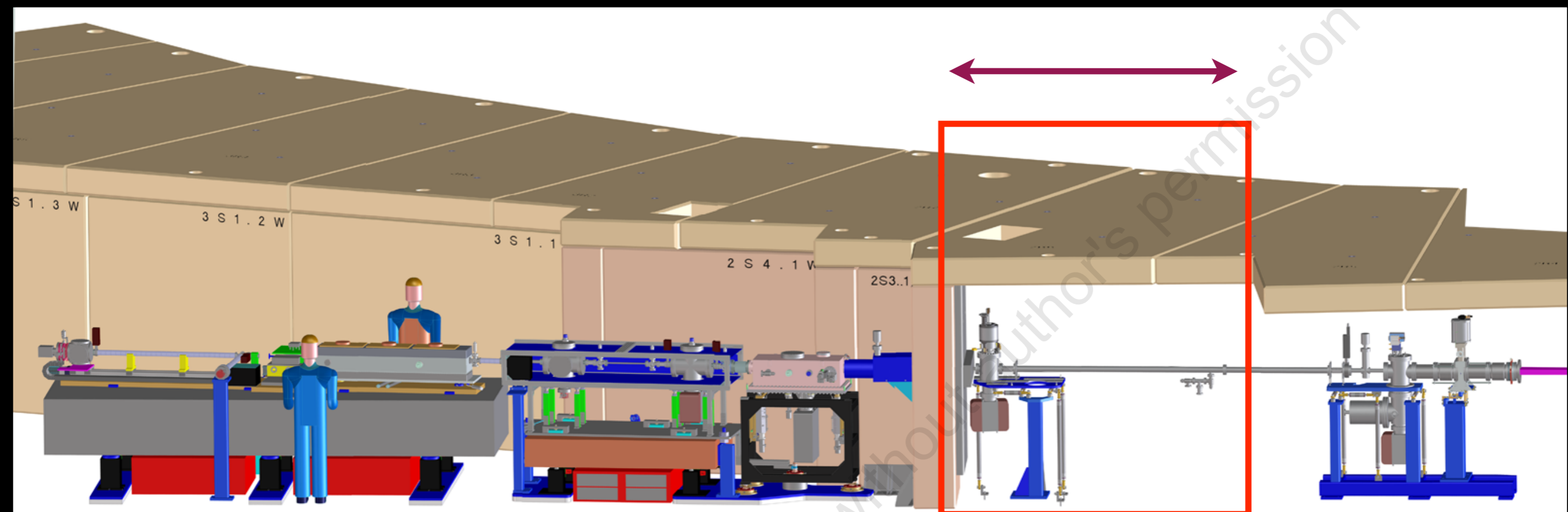
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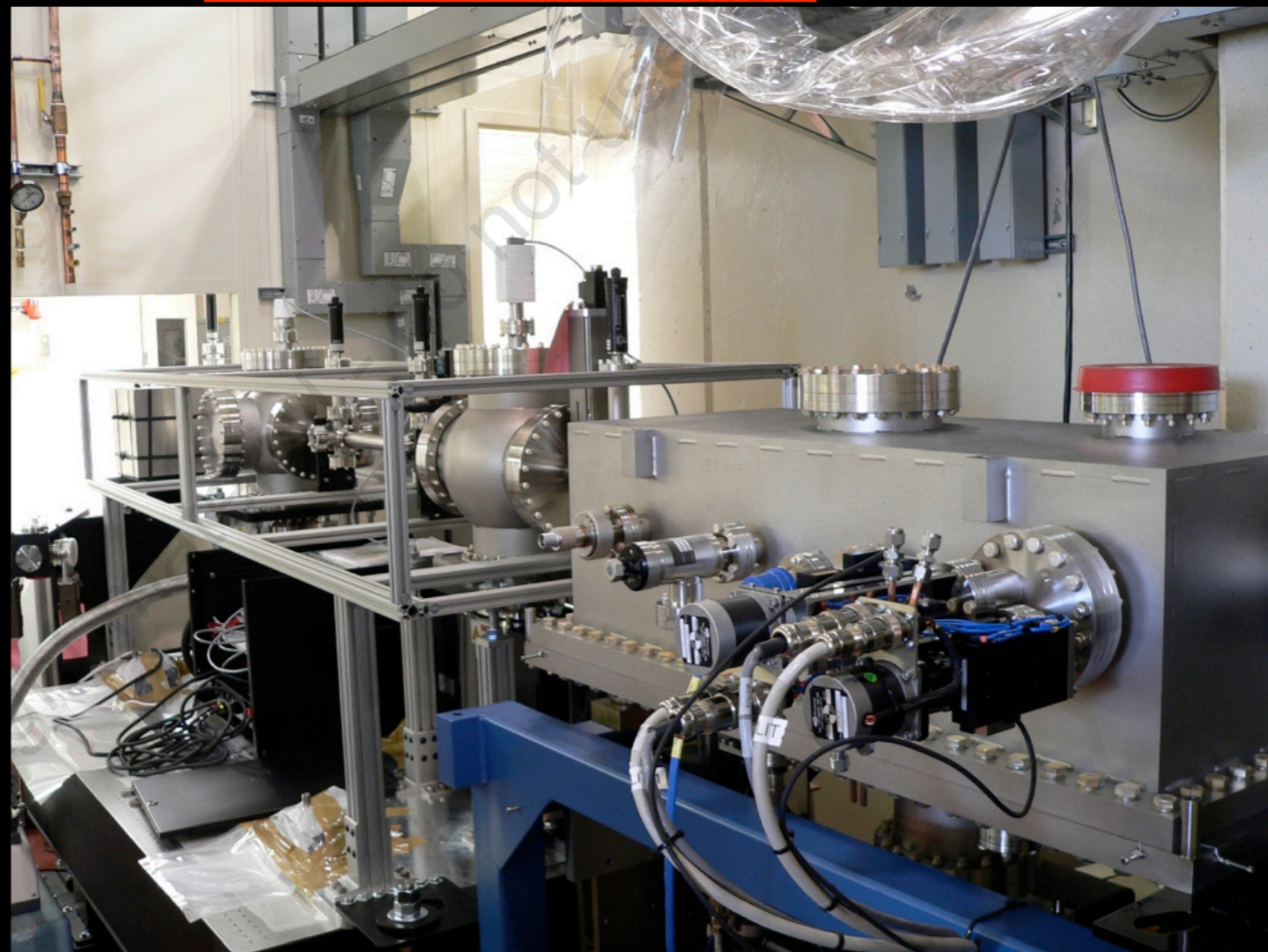
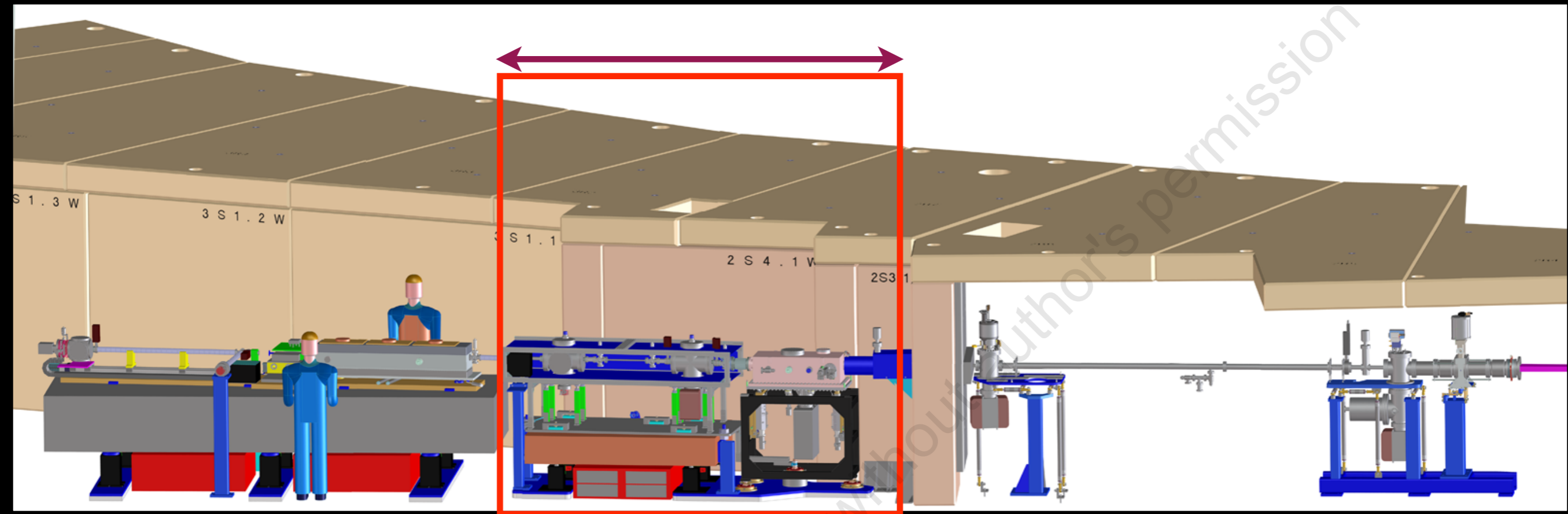
National Center for X-ray Tomography

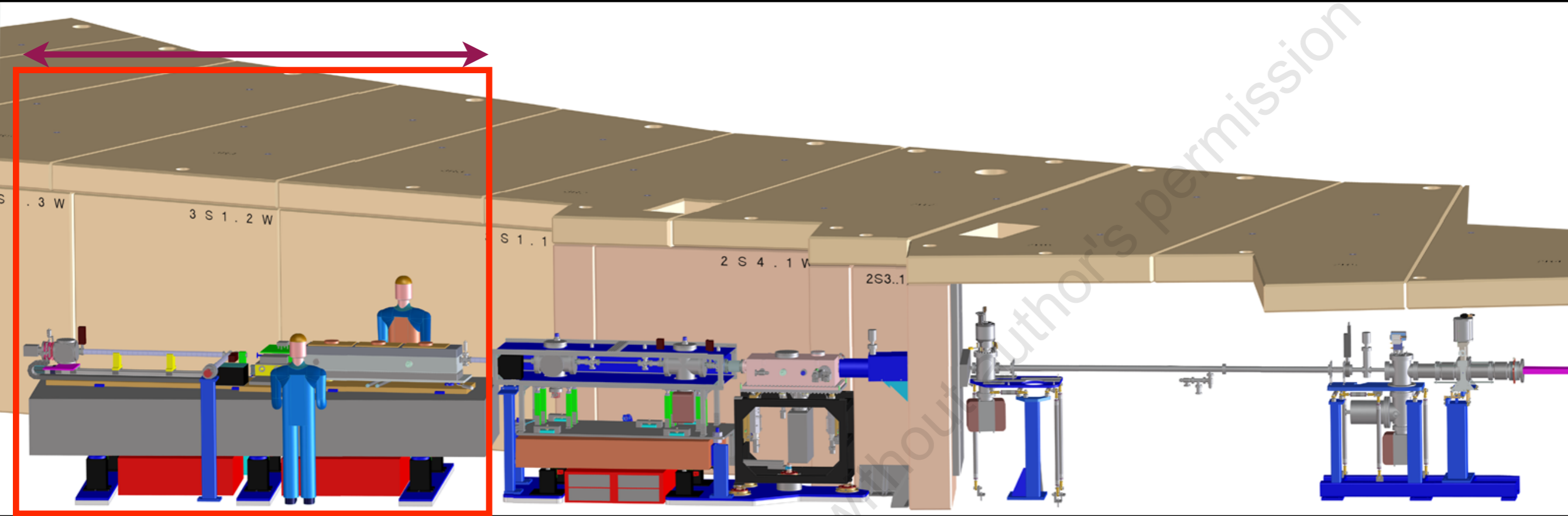


- Funded by NCRR/NIH and OBER/DOE
 - National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health
 - Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Department of Energy
- Construct new beamline and microscope: XM-2
- Development of x-ray tomography of biological cells
- Make available to scientific community









National Center for X-ray Tomography

Carlita Agbayani

Jared Ashcroft

Rosanne Boudreau

Weiwei Gu

Mark Le Gros

Andrew McDonnell

Christian Knoechel

Brendan Maguire

Mehnaz Malek

Gerry McDermott

Dula Parkinson

Zenny Serrano

Crystal Tonnessen

Visiting Scientists

Hong-Tae Kim

Eva Pereiro Lopez

Larry Etkin (1946-2006)

Center for X-ray Optics

David Attwood

Eric Anderson

Weilun Chao

Peter Fischer

Bruce Harteneck

Anne Sakdinawat

Werner Meyer-Ilse (1954-1999)

UCB/LBNL Materials Sciences

Paul Alivisatos

Aihua Fu

Office of Biological & Environmental Research, Department of Energy
National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health
National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health