

# Lecture M2 - Bespoke Microscopes

Ian Dobbie

[ian.dobbie@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ian.dobbie@bioch.ox.ac.uk)

# Overview

- Image formation and airy rings
- Beads and spherical aberration
- Super fast acquisition
- Bespoke microscope design - pro's and cons

# What is a microscope image

- The microscope produces a magnified, but also distorted, image
- Record the light intensity on a camera.

# Microscopic imaging in mathematical terms.

- Take your sample
- Multiply it at every point by the imaging process in the microscope (convolve the PSF with the object).
- Produce the image.



# The most important things to think about.

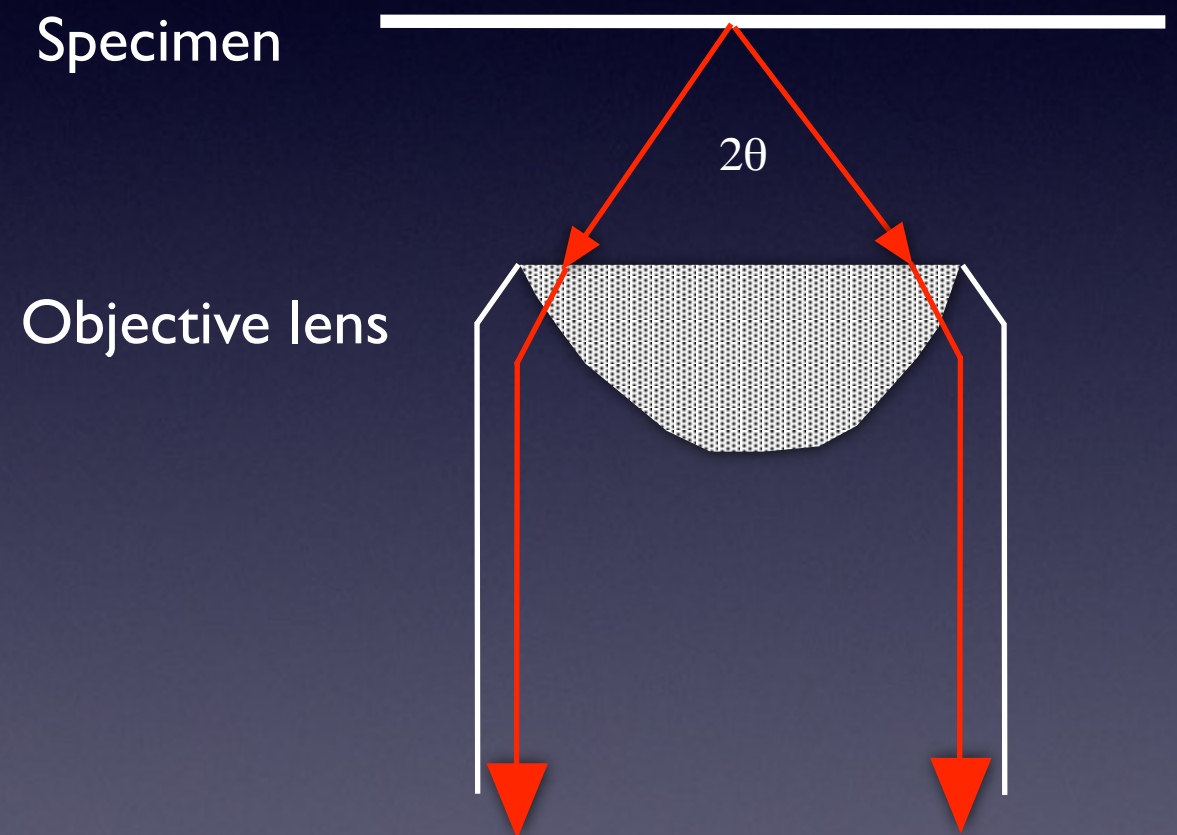
Contrast :- What is the difference between what you want to see and everything else?

Resolution :- How small things can you see?

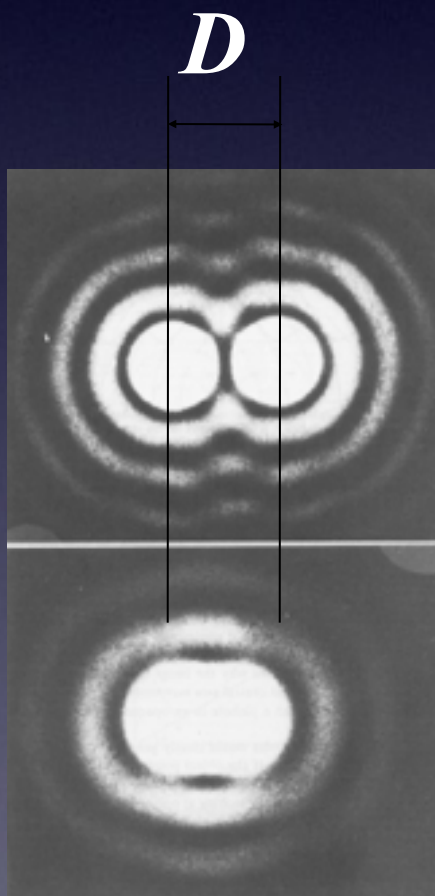
Nothing else

# Microscope Resolution

- No lens has perfect resolution, even in theory
- Resolution depends on the angle ( $\theta$ ) of the cone of light that the objective can collect from the specimen.
- Rule of thumb:  
Resolution limit  $\sim \lambda/2$



# Resolution: A technical definition, the Rayleigh Criterion



$D$ , the distance of two  
closest points that can be  
distinguished

$$D = 1.22 \lambda / (NA_{\text{obj}} + NA_{\text{cond}})$$

Epi-Fluorescence:  $NA_{\text{cond}} = NA_{\text{obj}}$   
so  $D = 1.22 \lambda / 2NA$

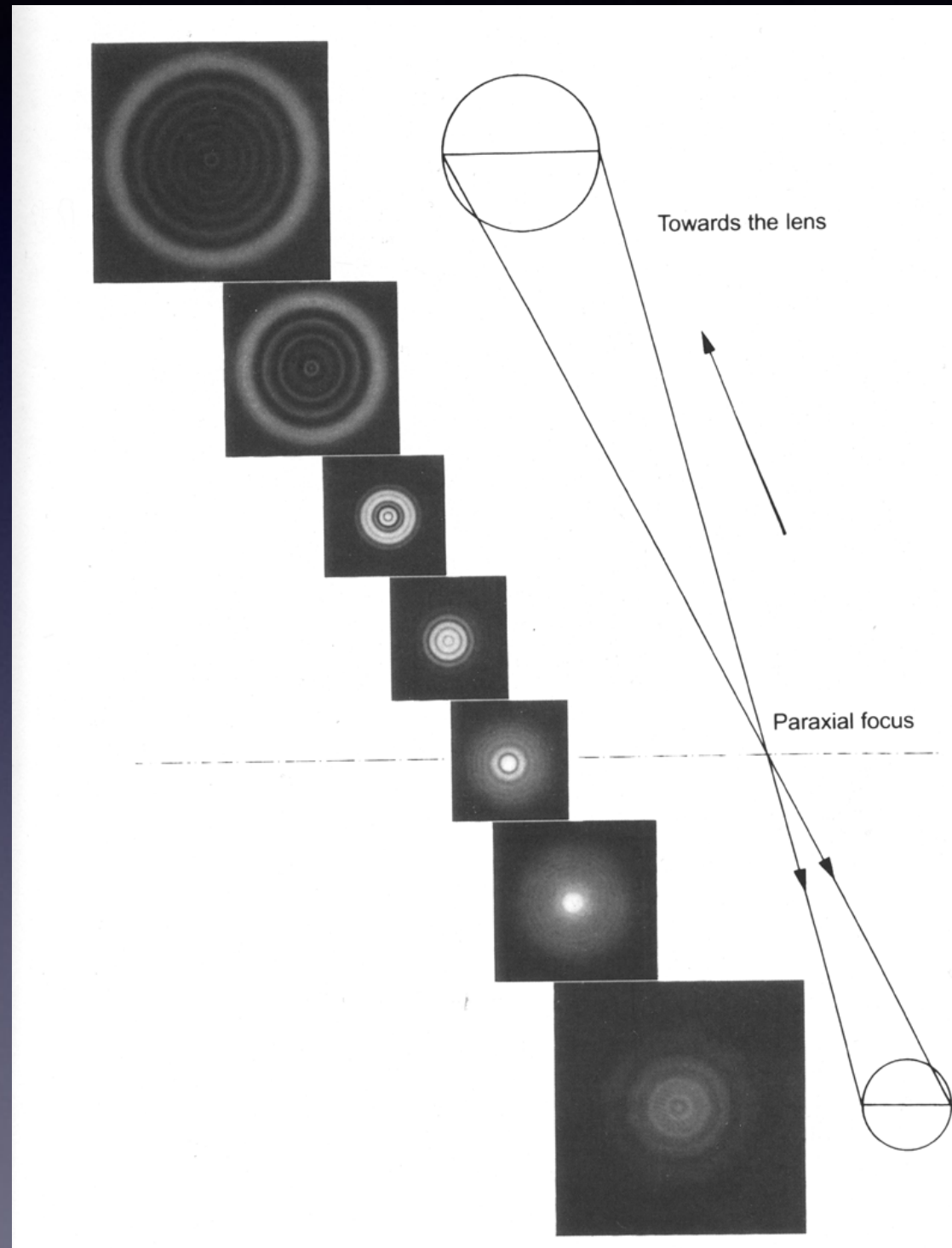
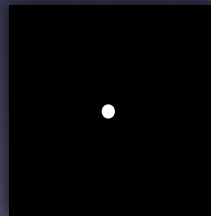
# The Point Spread Function - PSF

- The image of an infinitely small point.
- Limited by resolution
- 3D structure also very important.



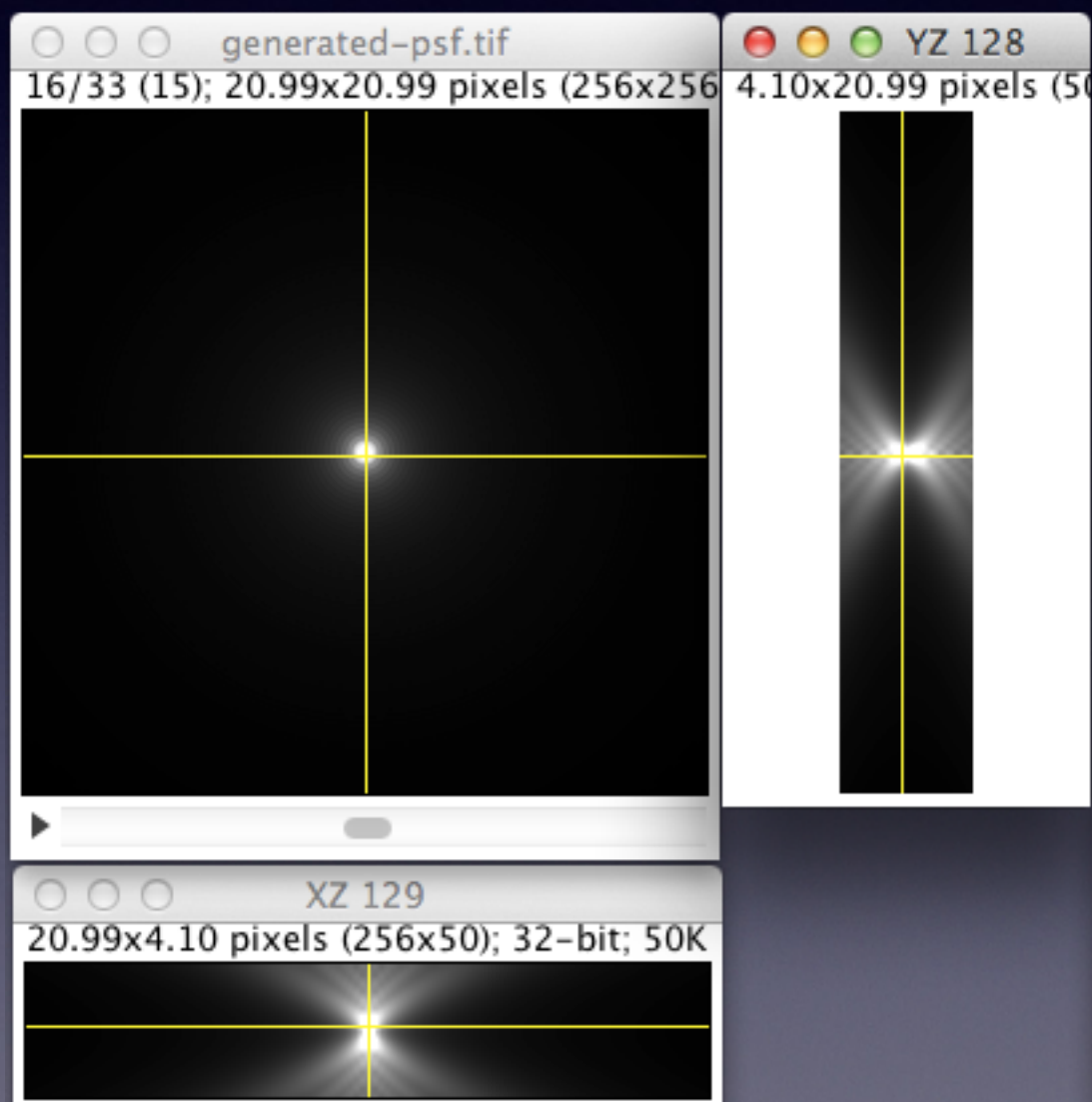
# Image quality- the problem of "out-of-focus light" point spread function and airy rings

Sample object: a "sub-resolution"  
fluorescent bead

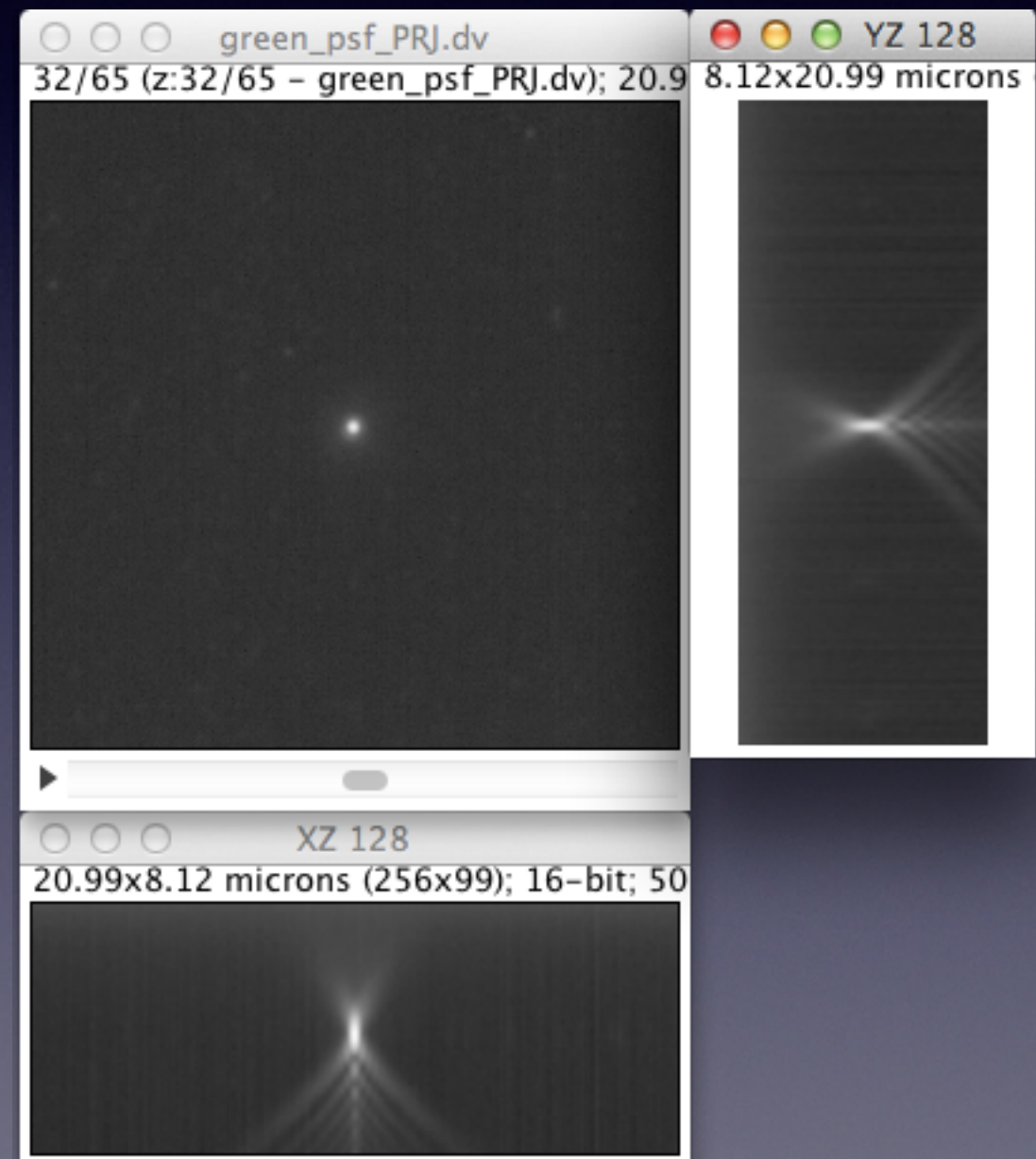


# Theoretical and measured PSF

## Orthogonal views

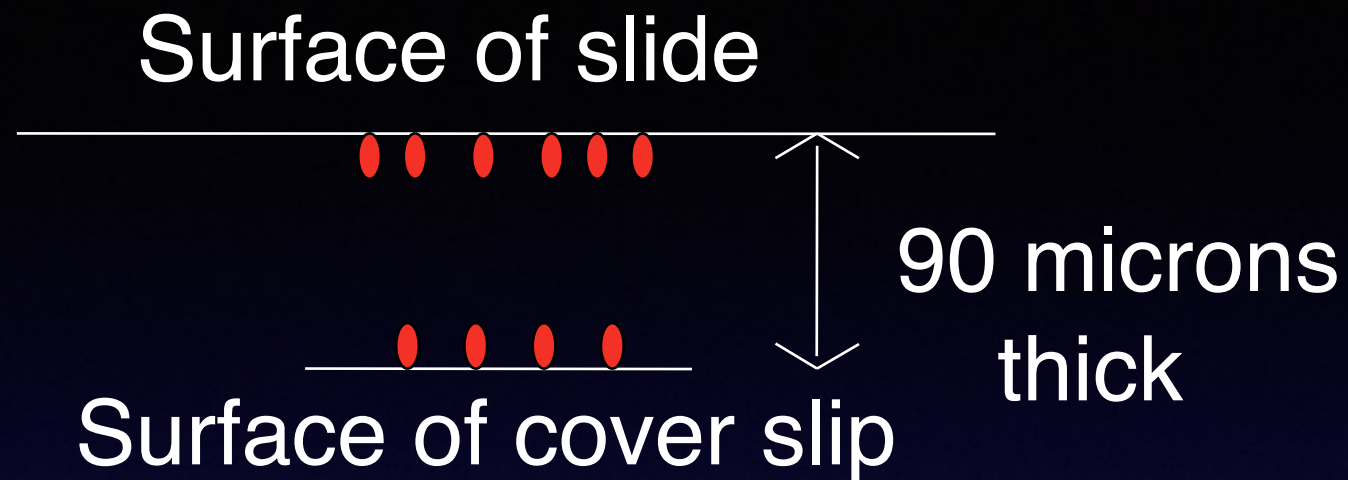


Generated PSF



Real PSF

# Bead slide



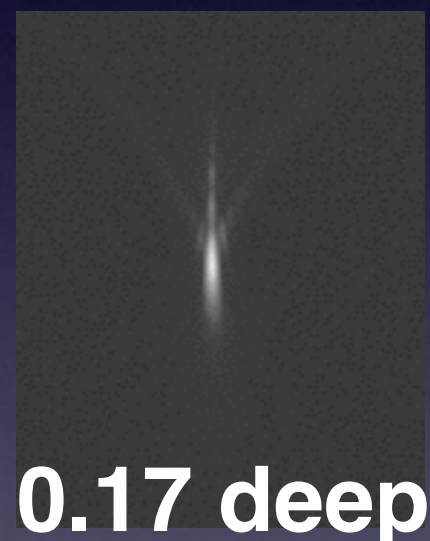
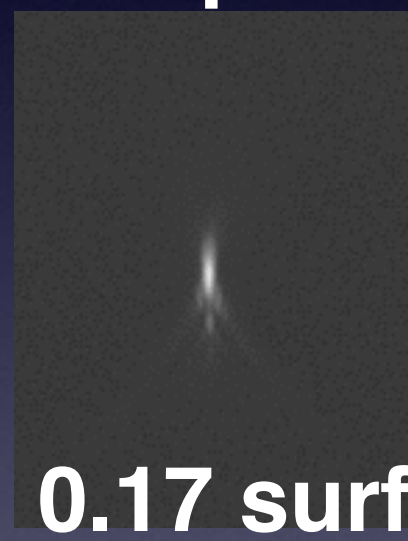
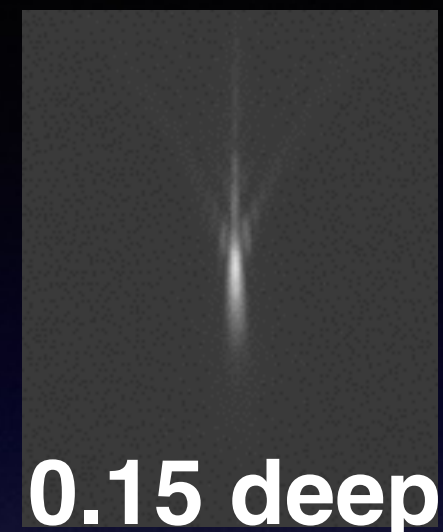
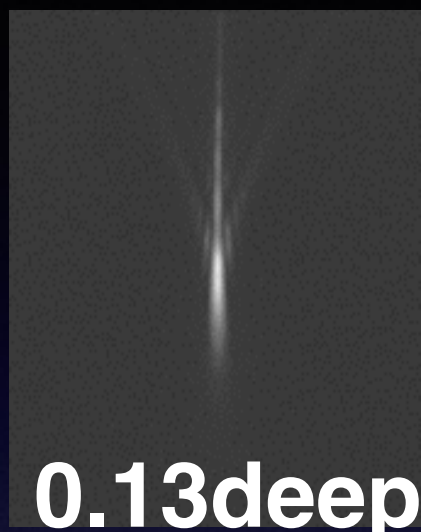
**Tetraspeck beads:** chromatic registration  
DAPI/FITC/Rhodamine/Cy5

**Beads (PS Spec):** Single fluorochrome  
Brighter -better for generating  
point spread functions for deconvolution

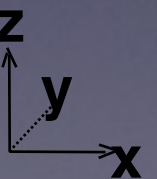
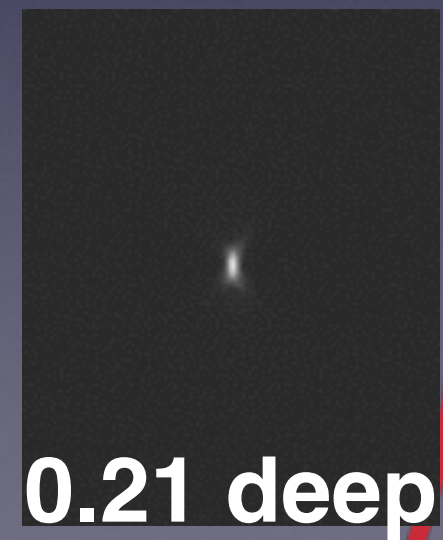
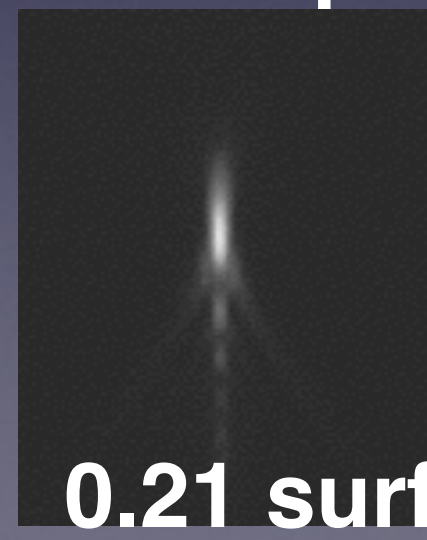
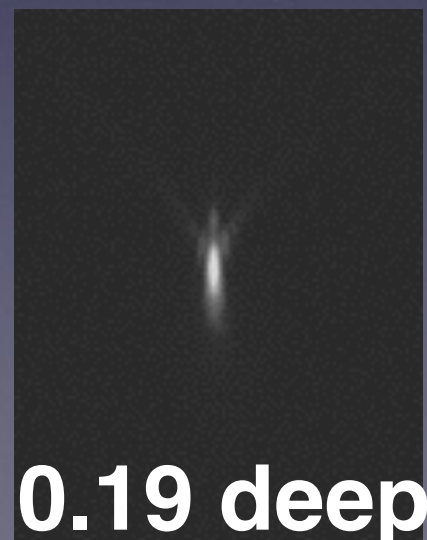
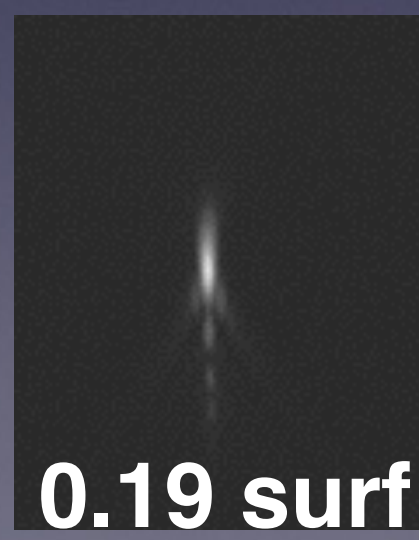
**Inspeck** Intensity beads: Measure dynamic range



# Affects of deep imaging ( $90\mu\text{m}$ ) and collar settings on spherical aberration and psf of 60X/NA1.2w

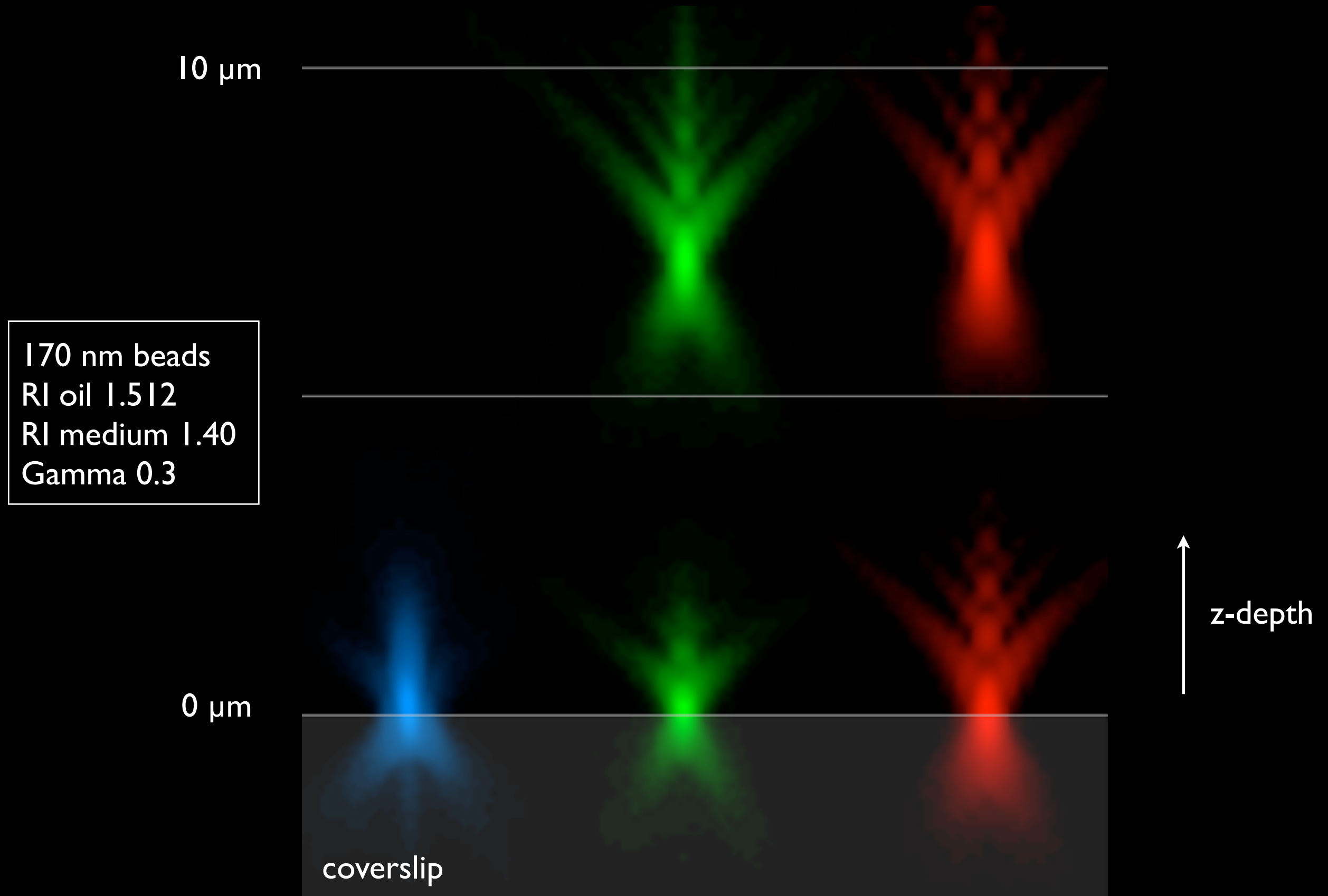


Data from  
Alejandra Clark

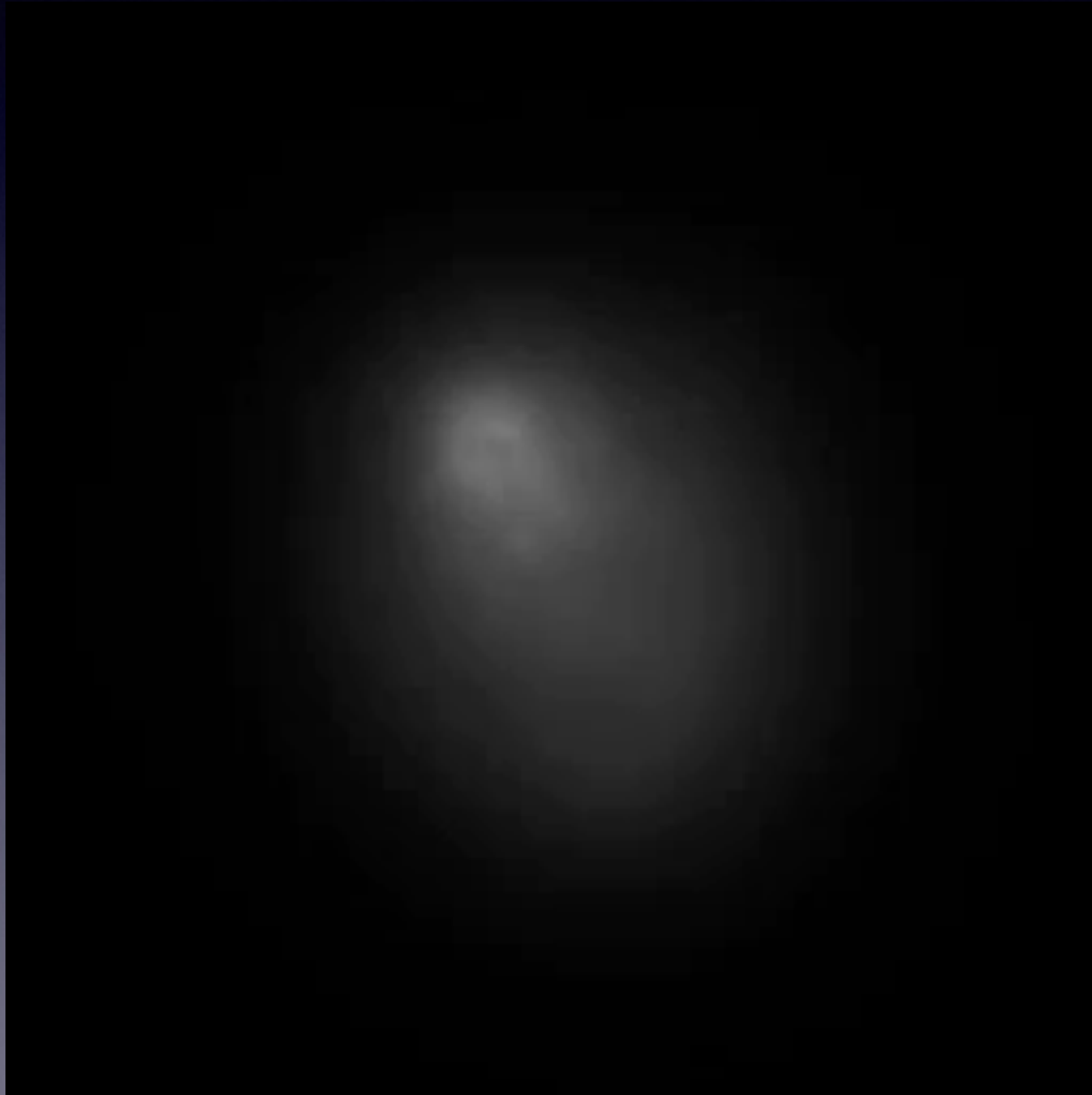




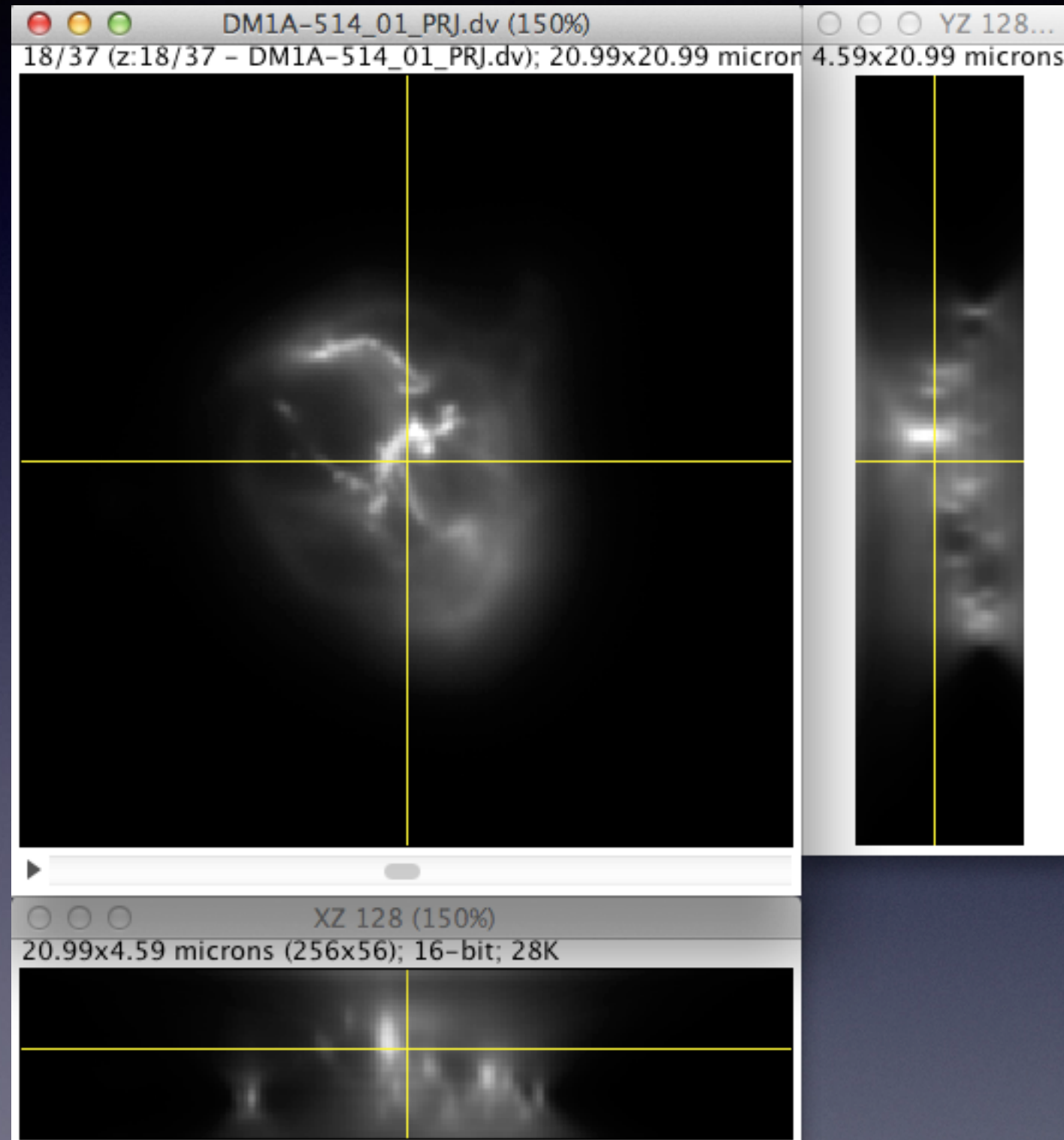
# Spherical aberration dependent on wavelength, depth, RI



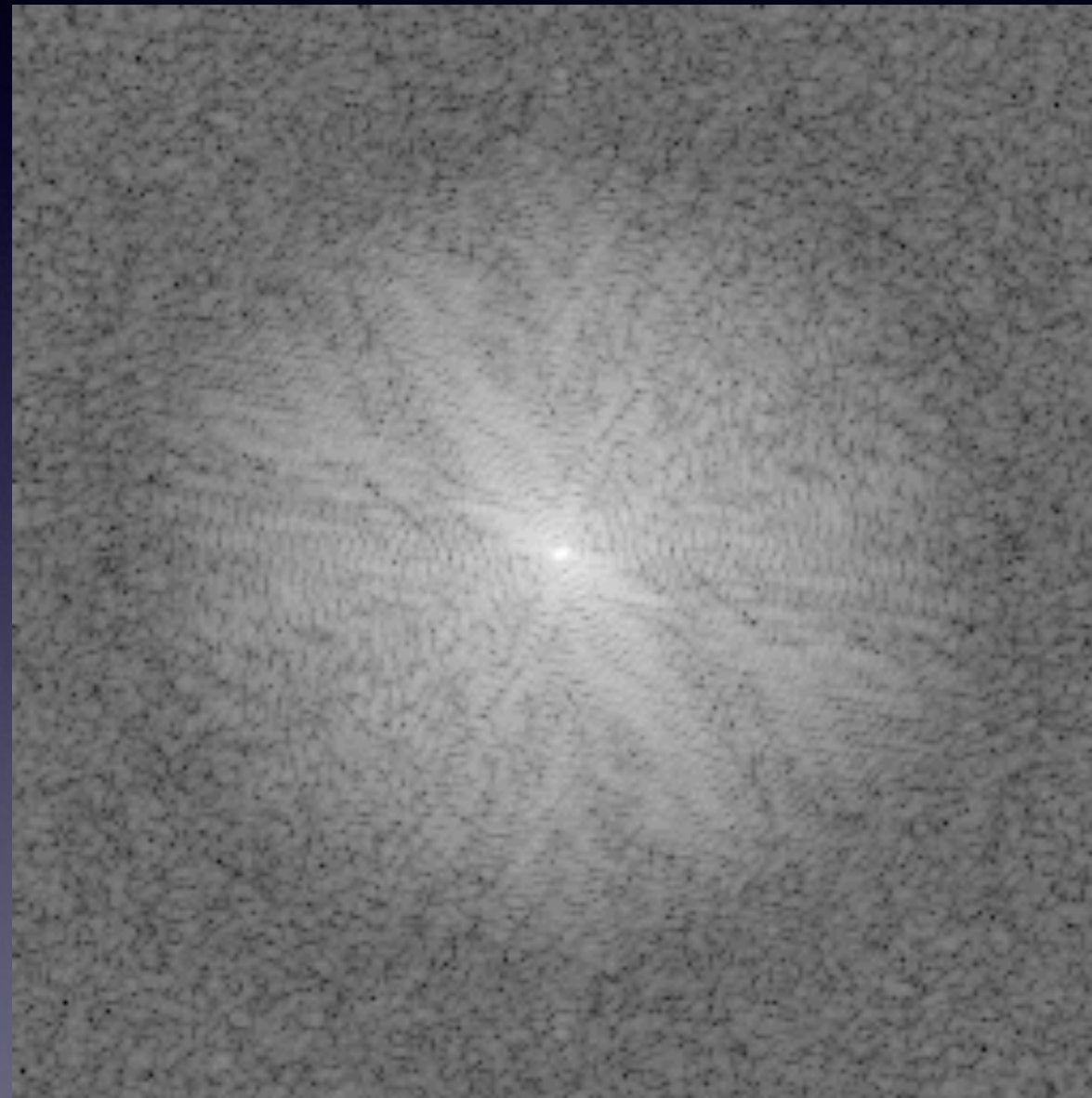
# Conventional Epi-Fluorescence Image



# Orthogonal views



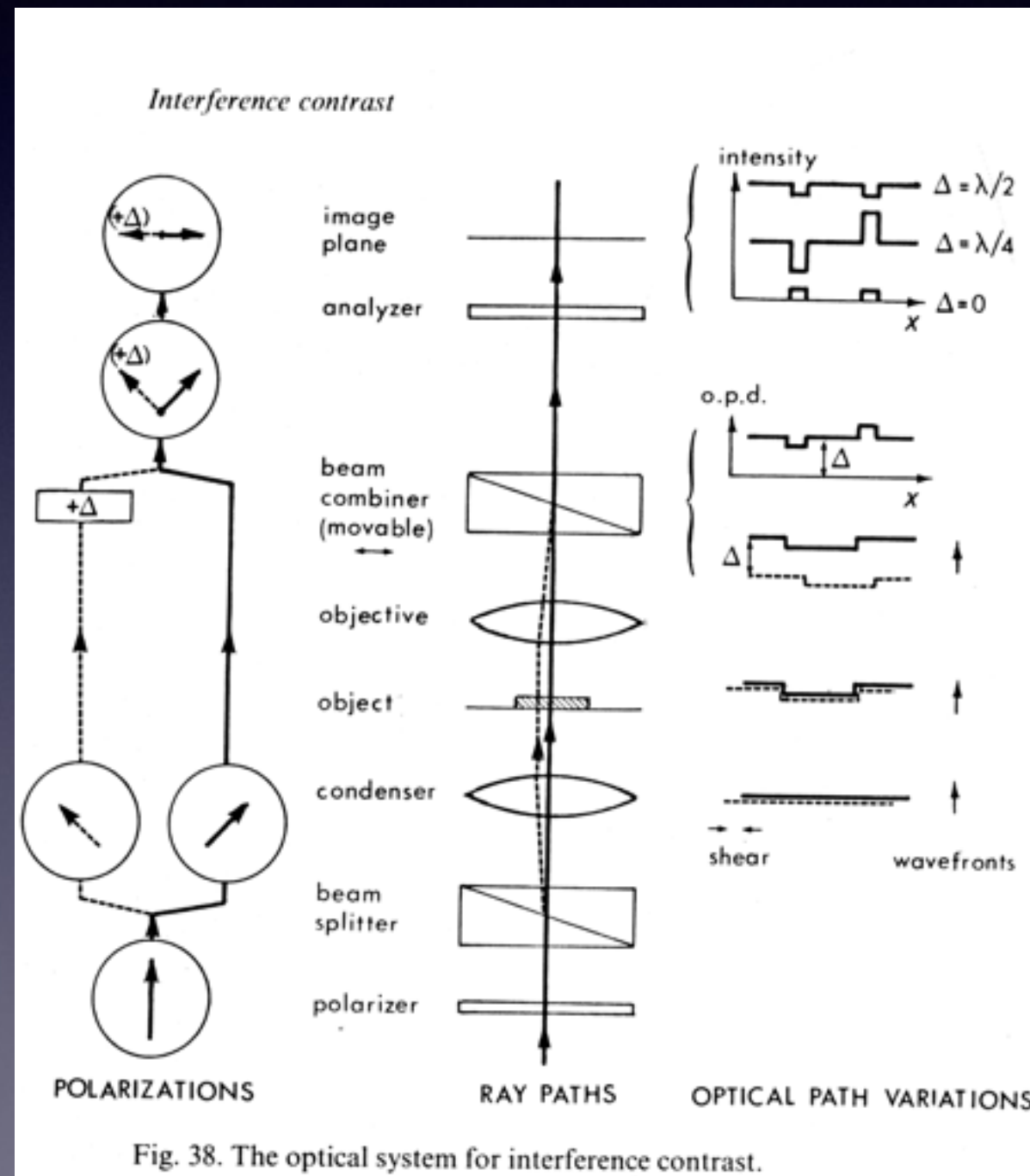
# Fourier Transform



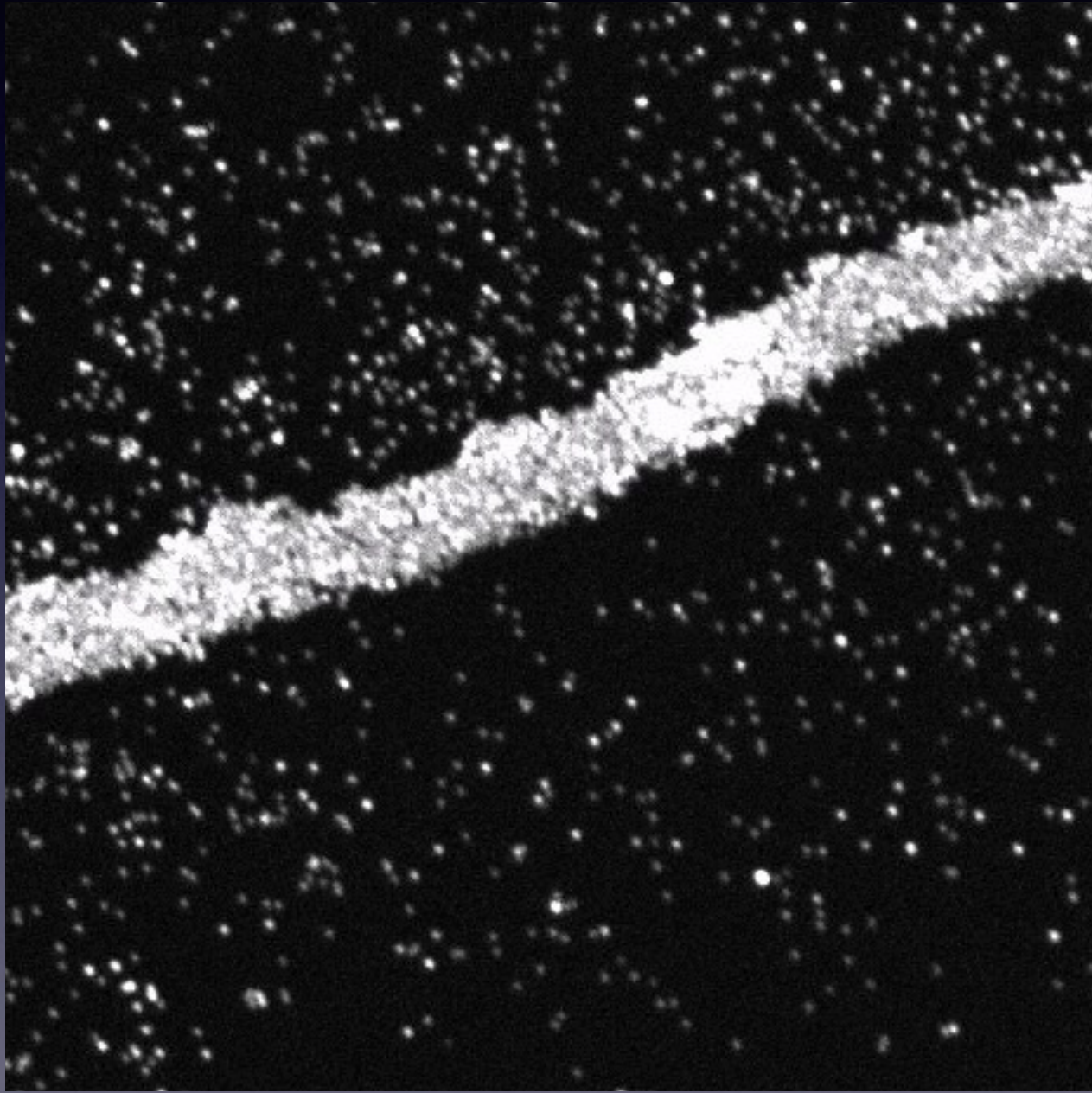
FFT of a single slice (Z plane) of  
image stack



# How a DIC prism effects fluorescence imaging

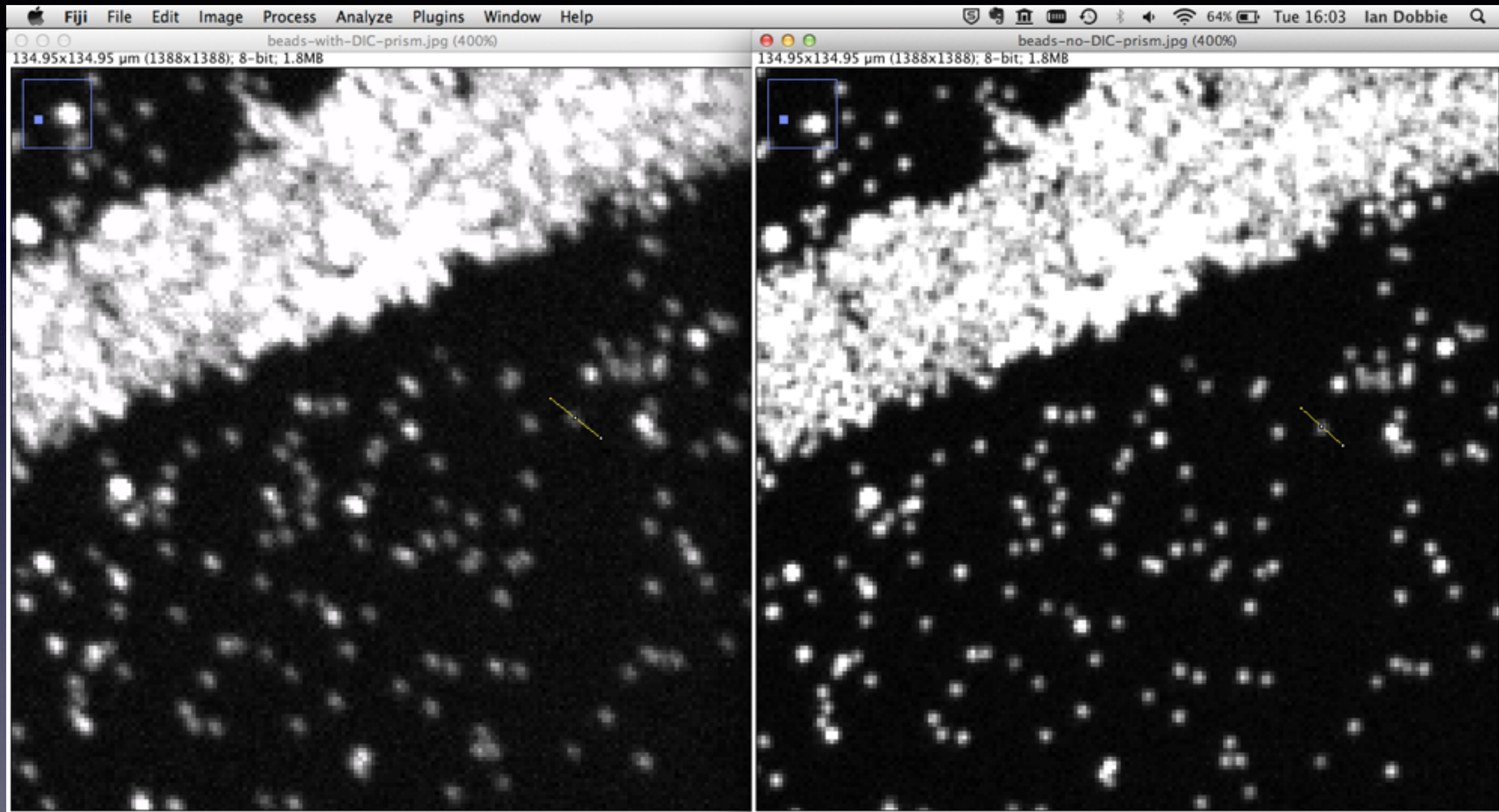


# With/without DIC prism

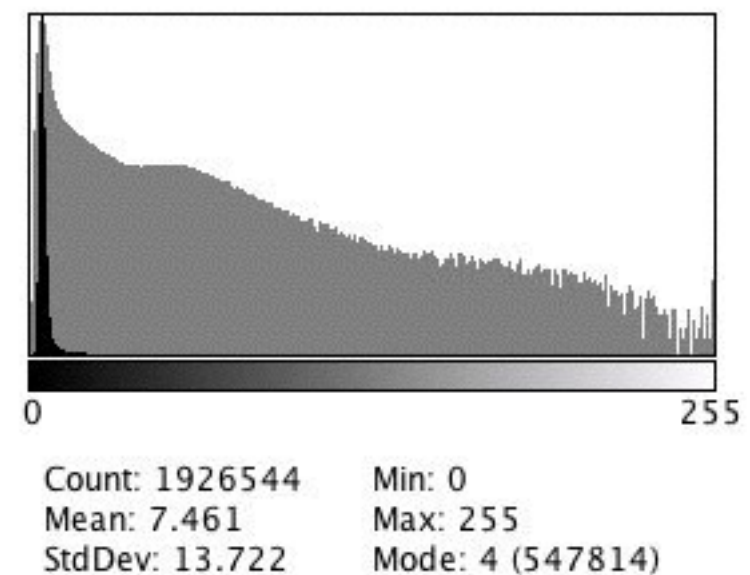
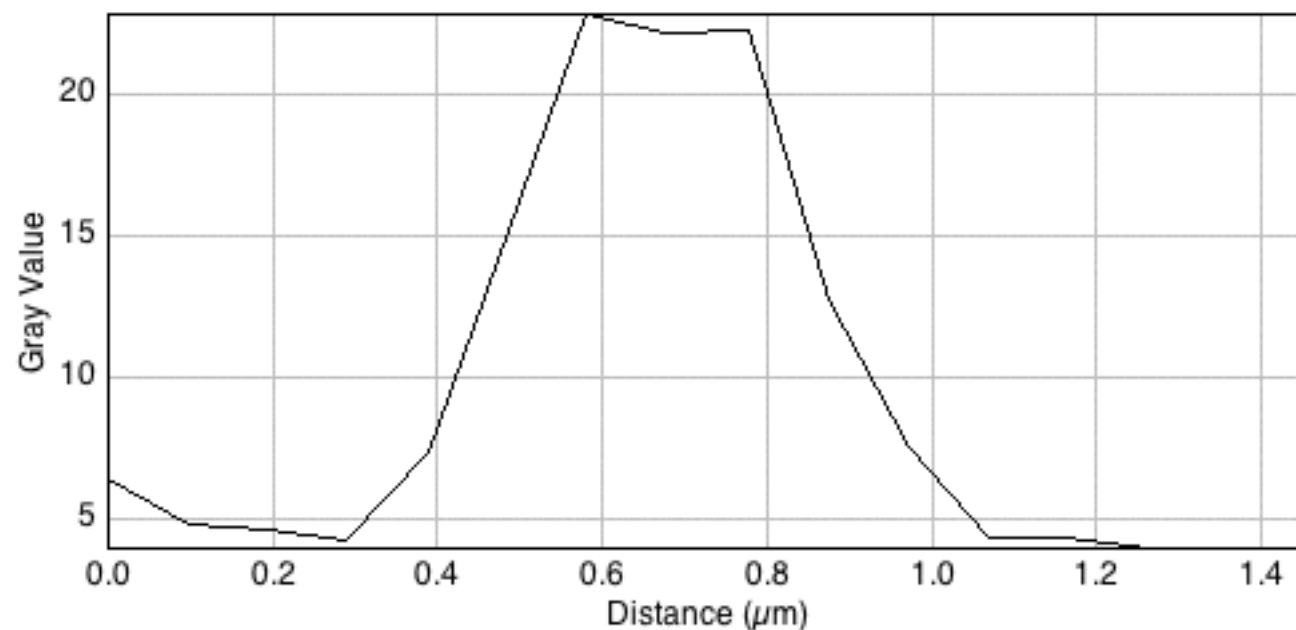
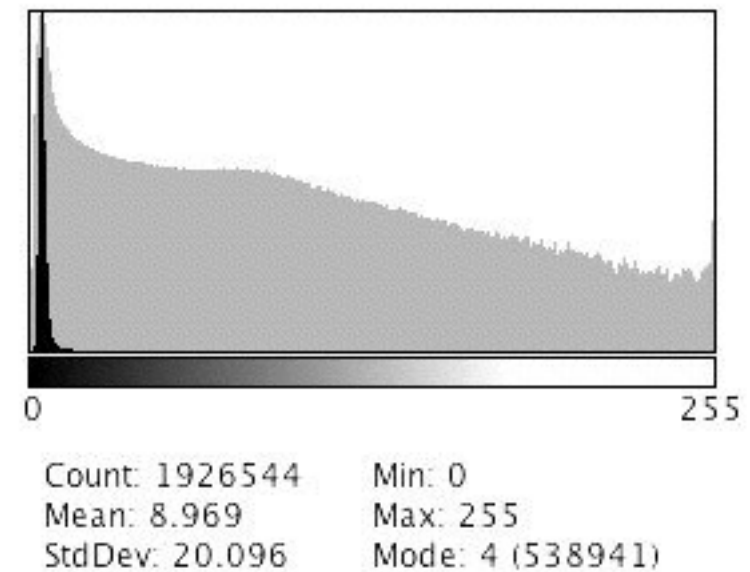
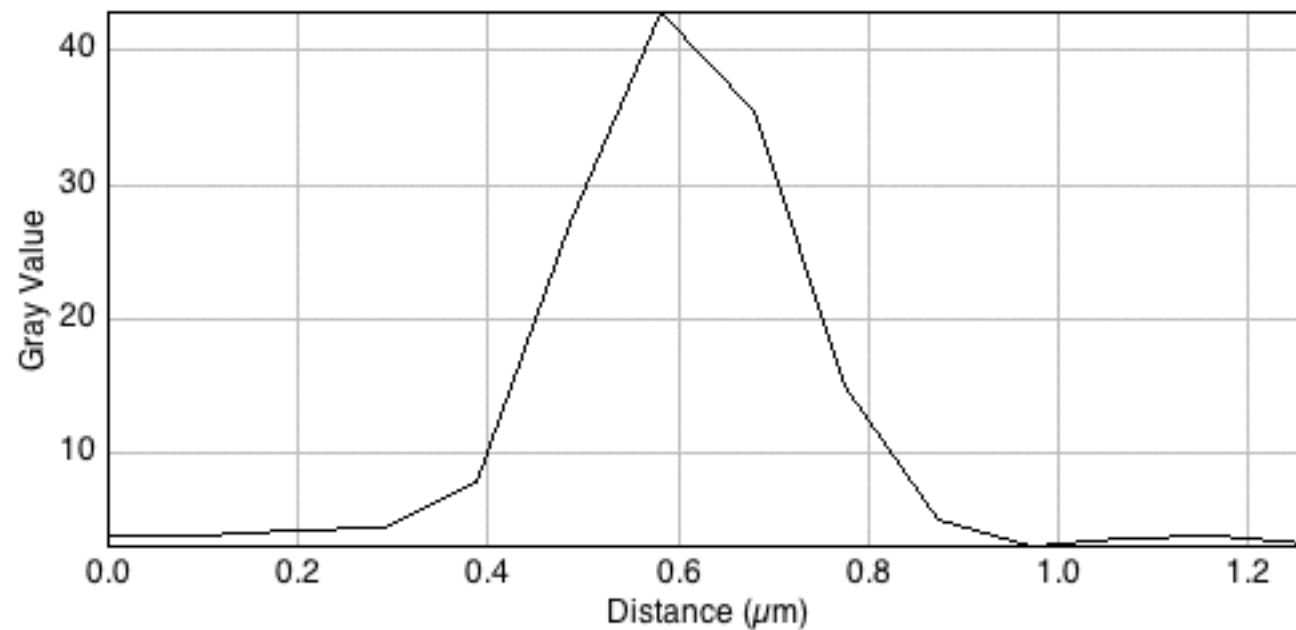




# With/without DIC prism

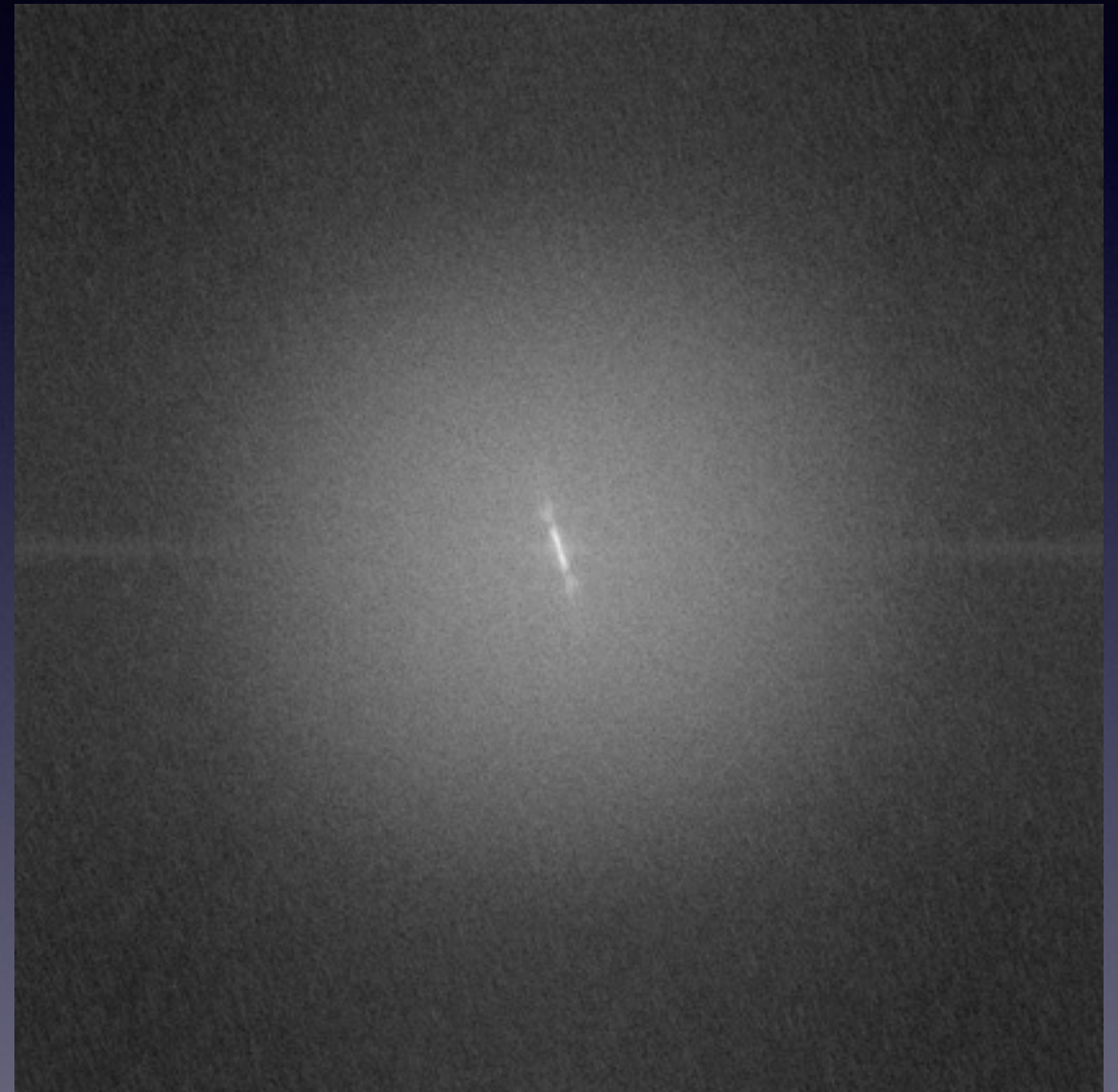
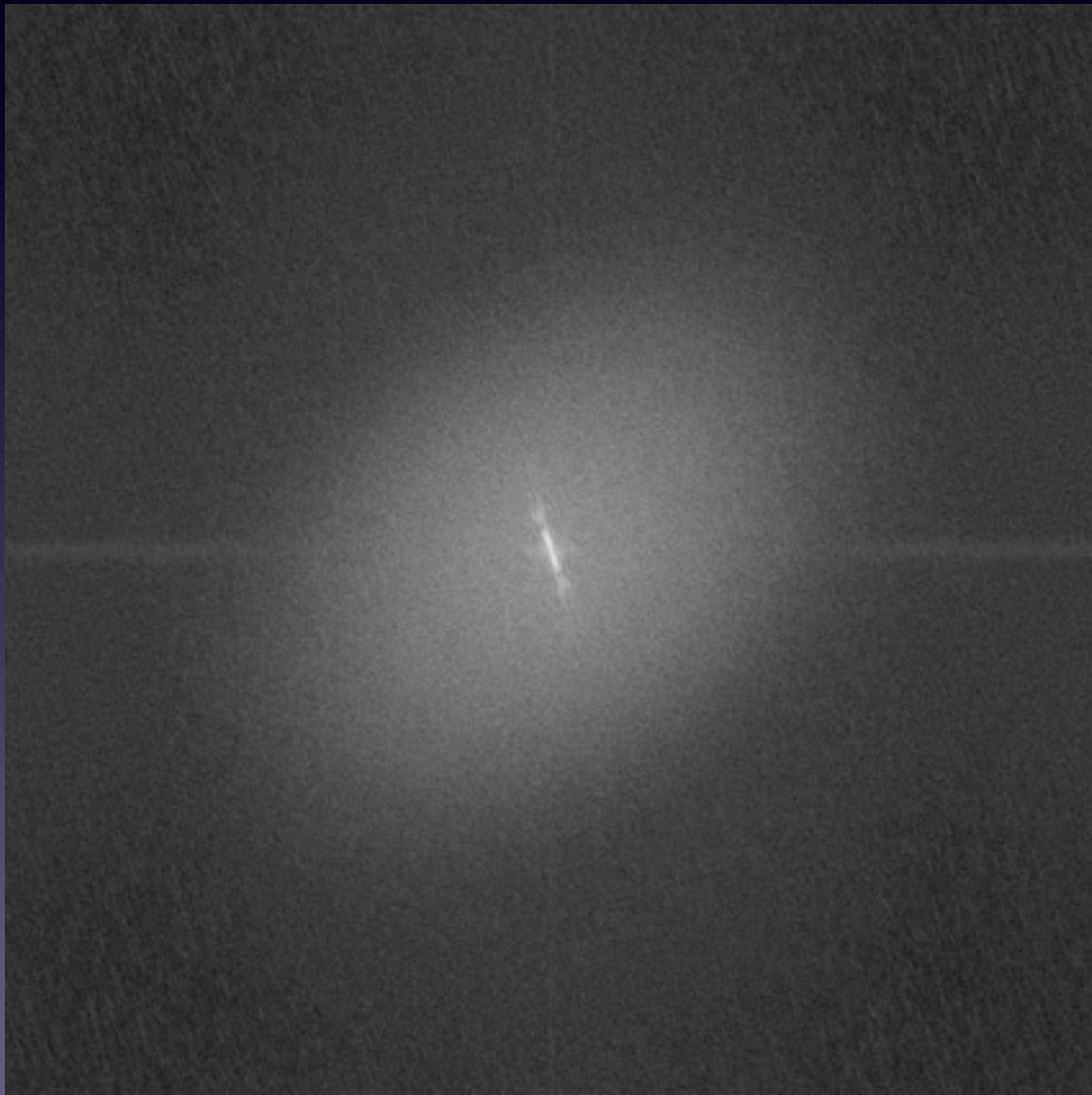


# Line scans and histograms





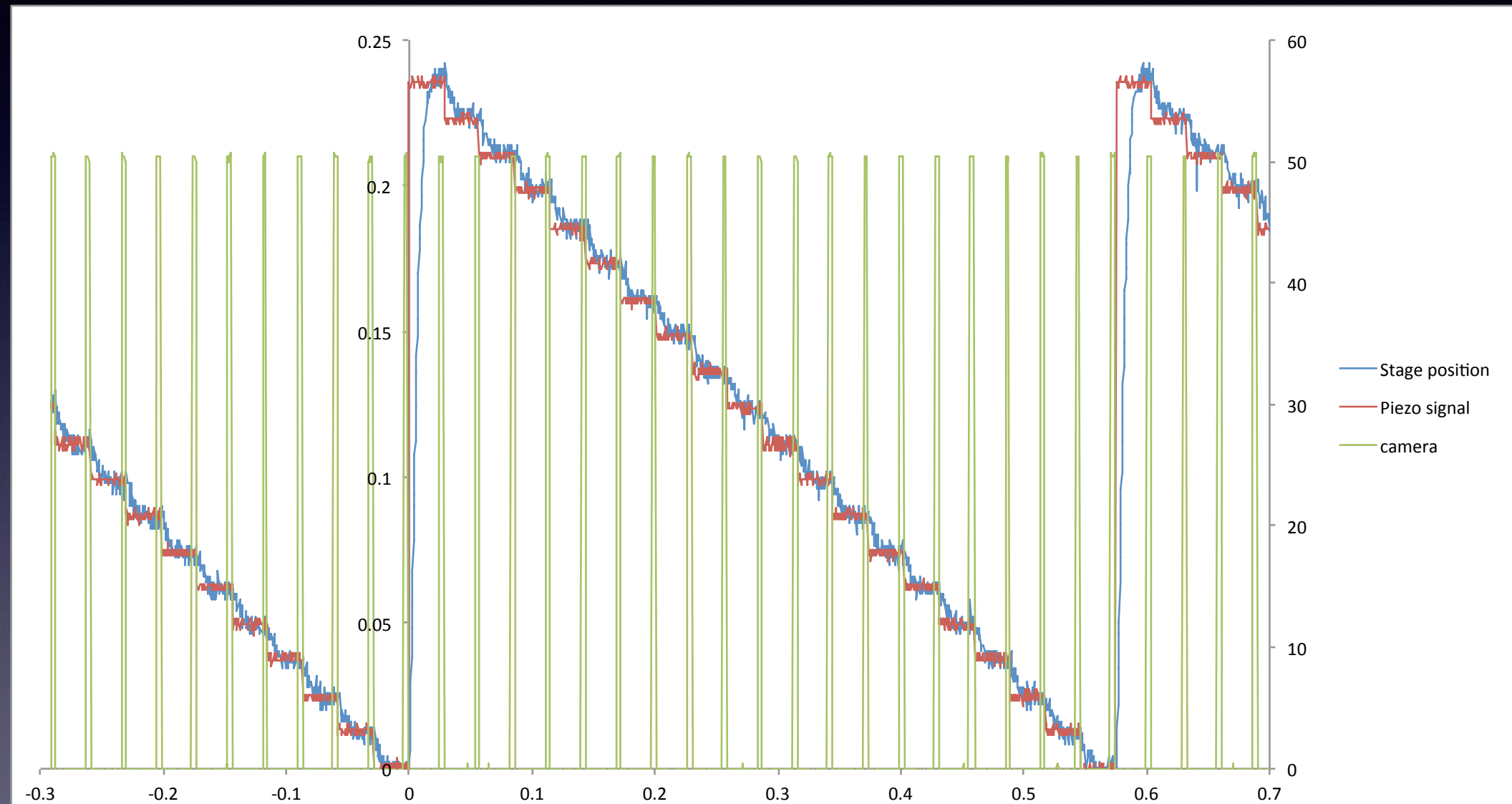
# FFTs with/without DIC prism



# Super Fast Acquisition (FastZ)

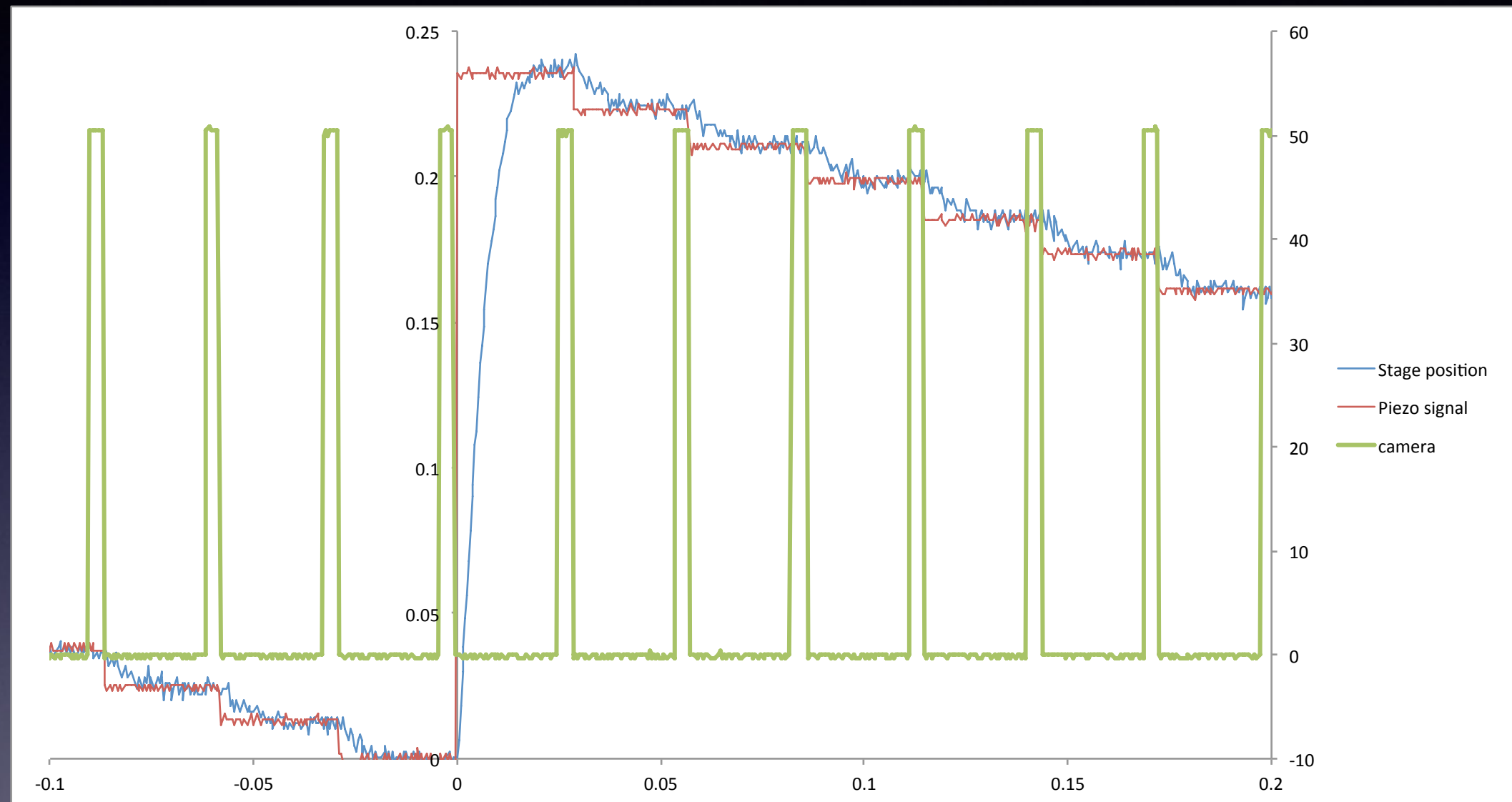
- Ramp the Z position instead of stepping it
- Take images as fast as possible during ramp
- Delay between stacks to allow stage to return to initial position

# Conventional widefield Z stack



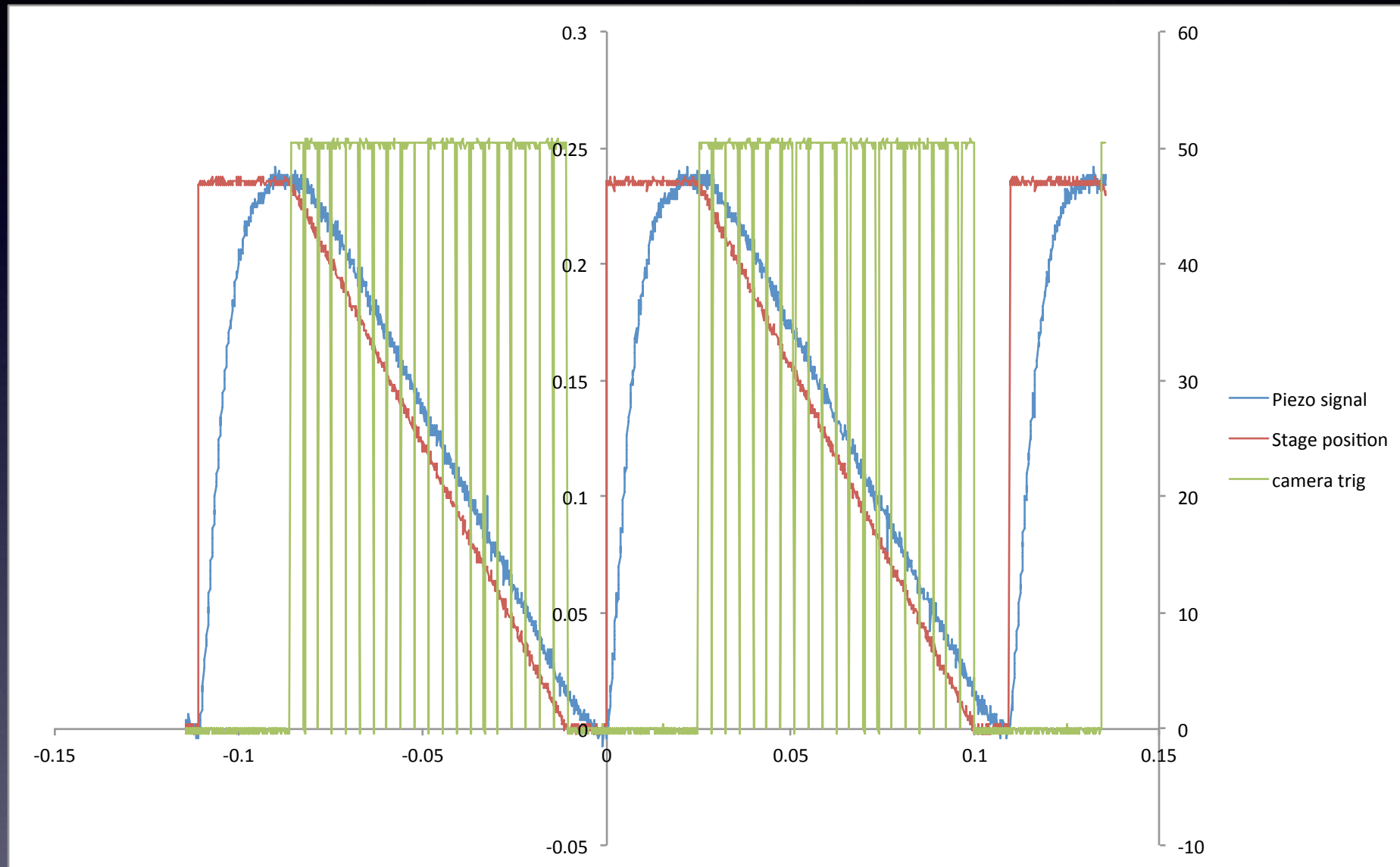
20 Z planes as fast as possible

# Coventional Z stack

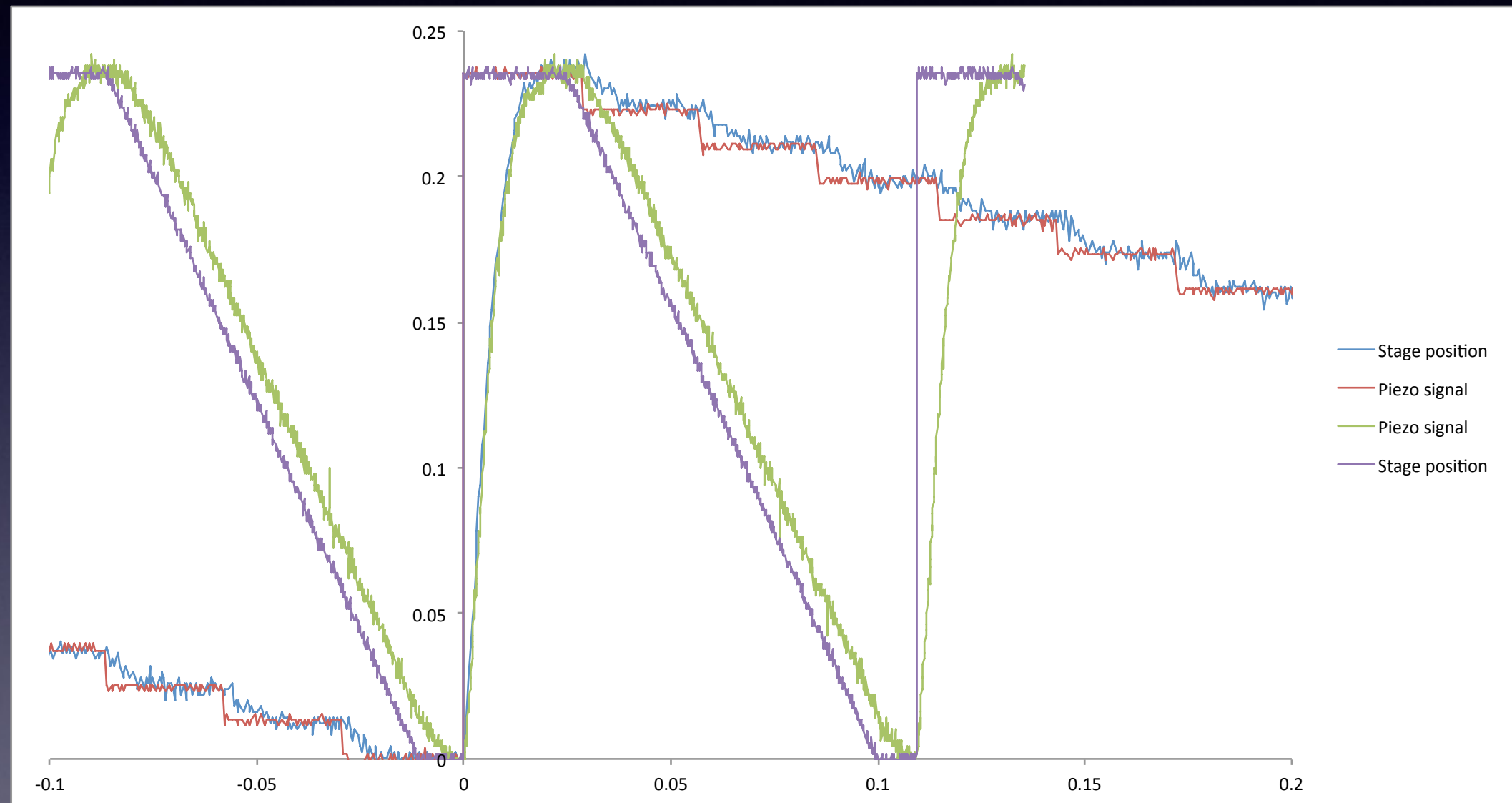




# Ramp Z stack



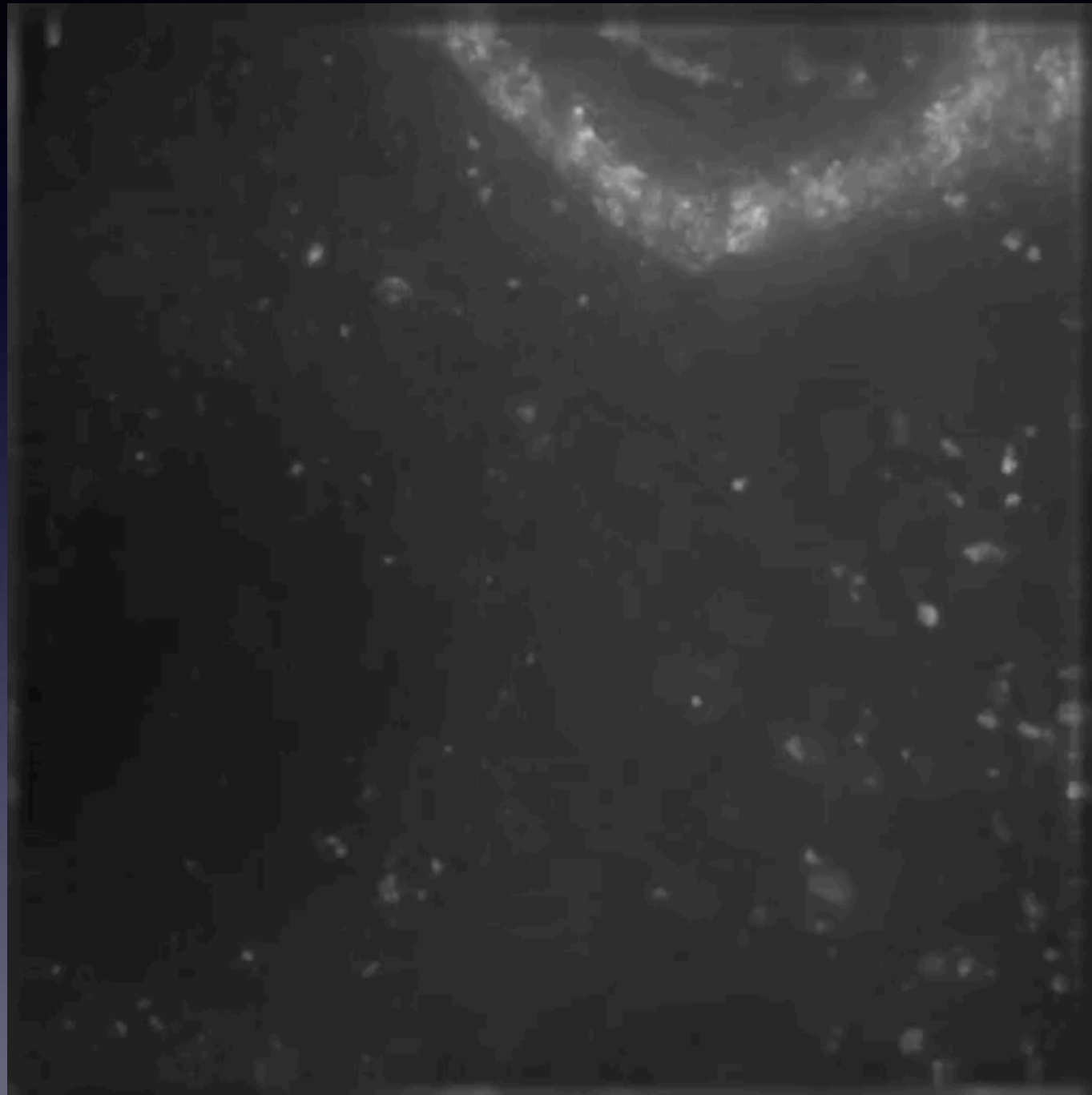
# Comparison: FastZ to normal



# Speed increases

- Depends on stack height, image size, exposure time.
- Test sample, 512x512 pixel images, 1 ms exposure 20 Z slices of 200 nm.
- Conventional cycle time = 575 ms
- FastZ cycle time = 109 ms

# FastZ - Results

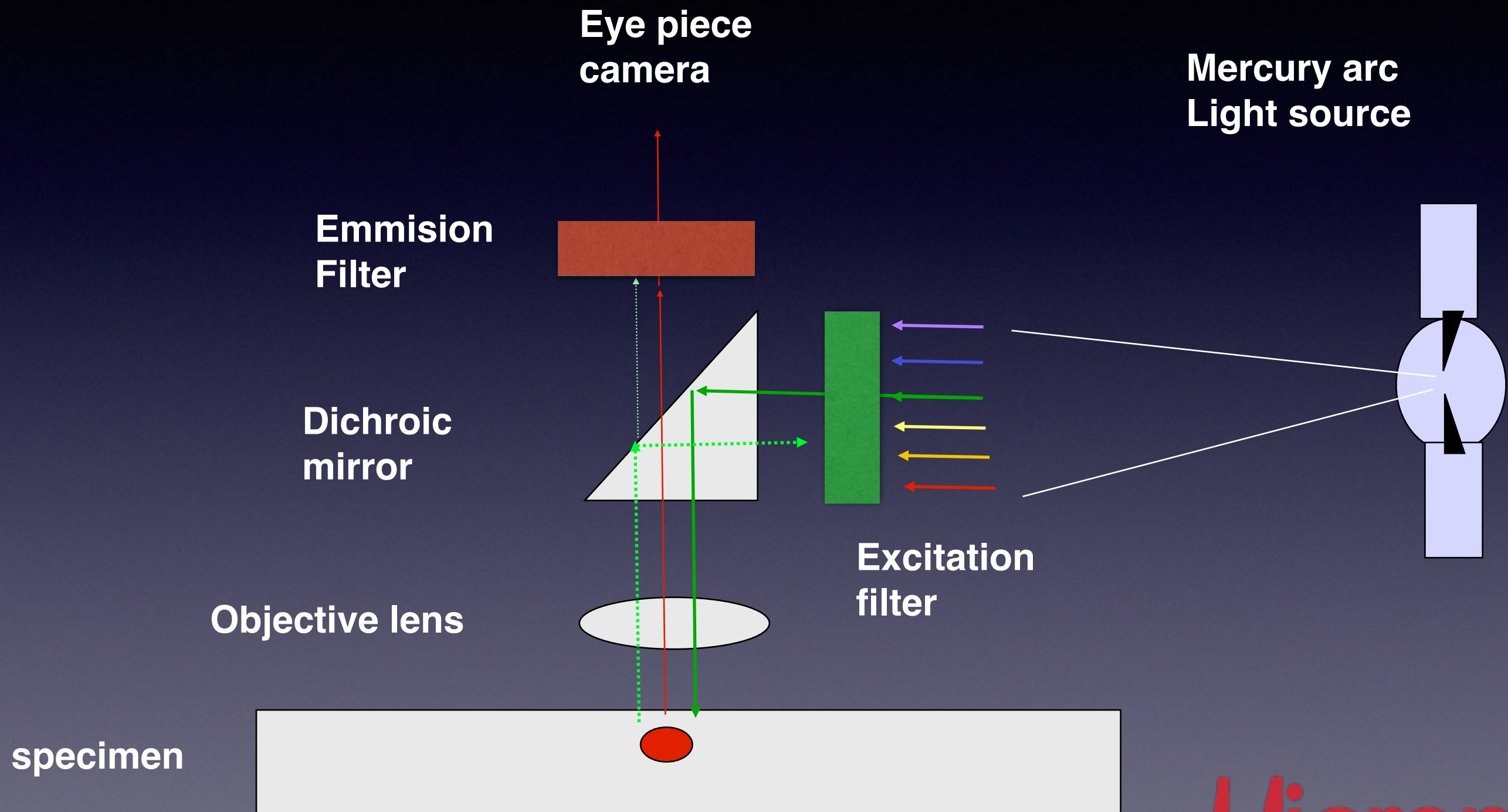


Me31B-GFP Drosophila oocyte  
25-slices, 8 stacks/s - 200 frames/s

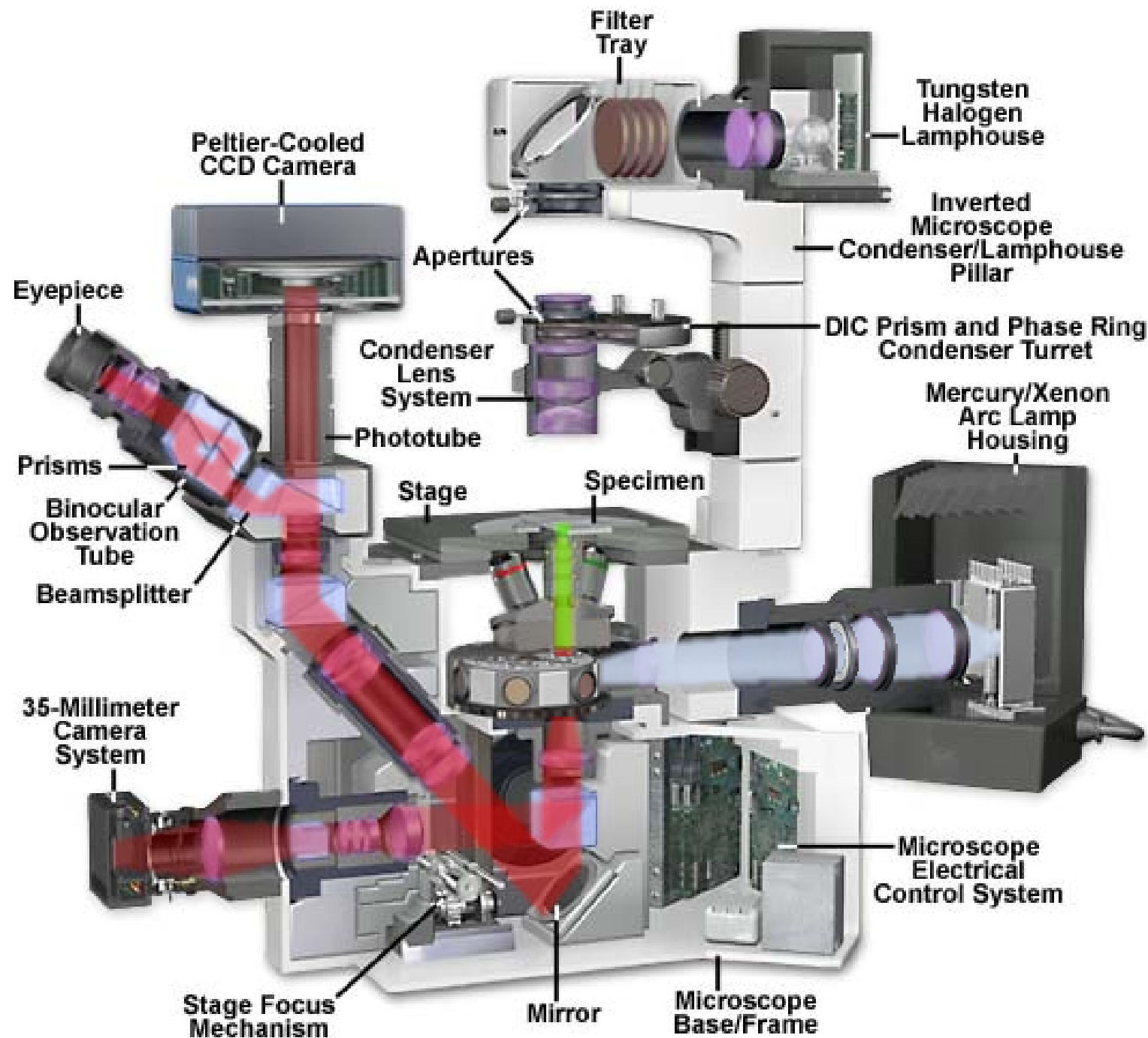


# Reminder

## How do fluorescence microscopes work ?



# Problem: the design of all conventional microscope stands

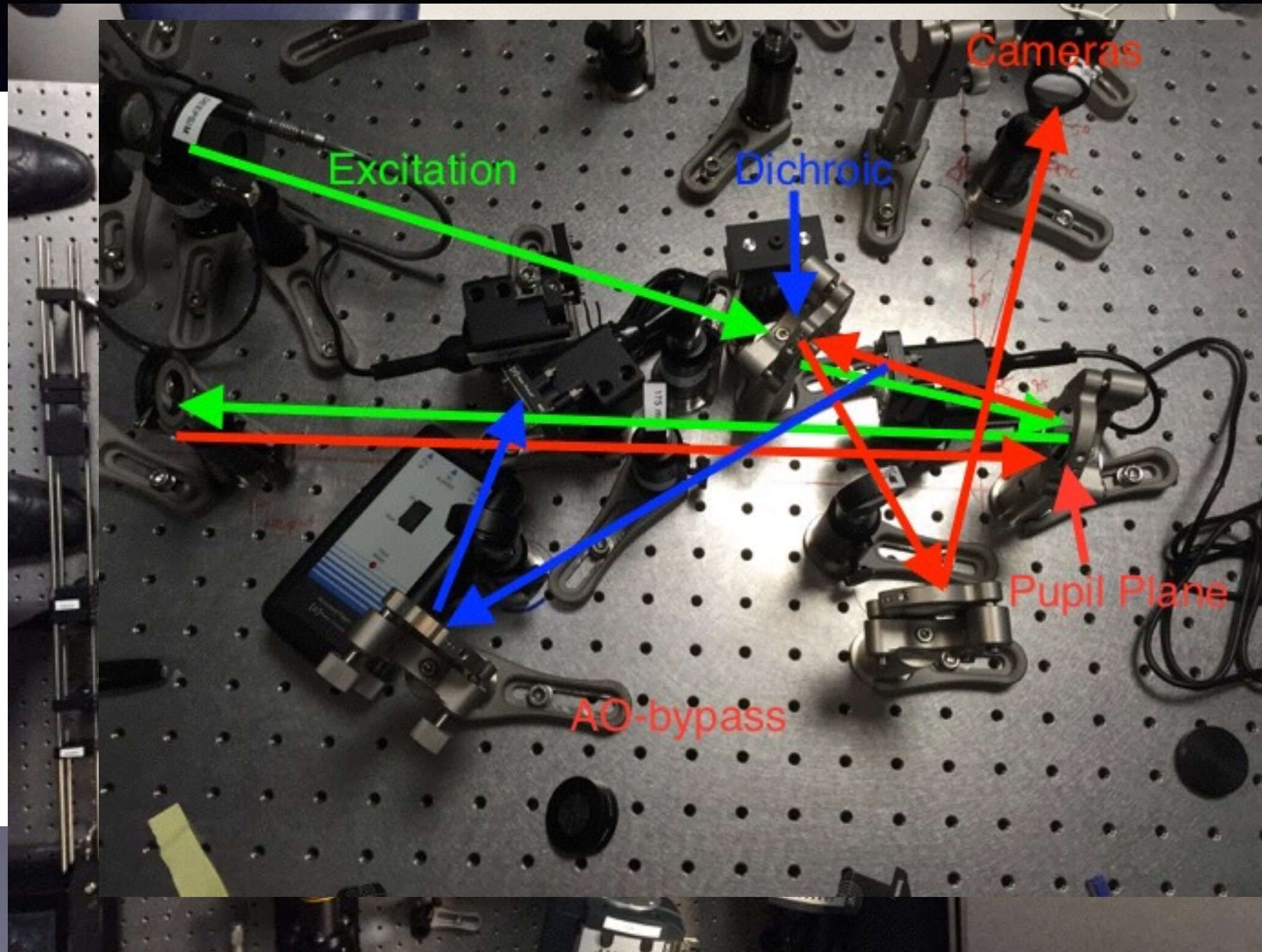


**How can we improve the basic design of widefield microscopes?**

**By dispensing with the normal microscope stand and building your own microscope from optical components on a breadboard**



# The solution -build your own bespoke microscope





# Bespoke Microscopes

**Why bother?**

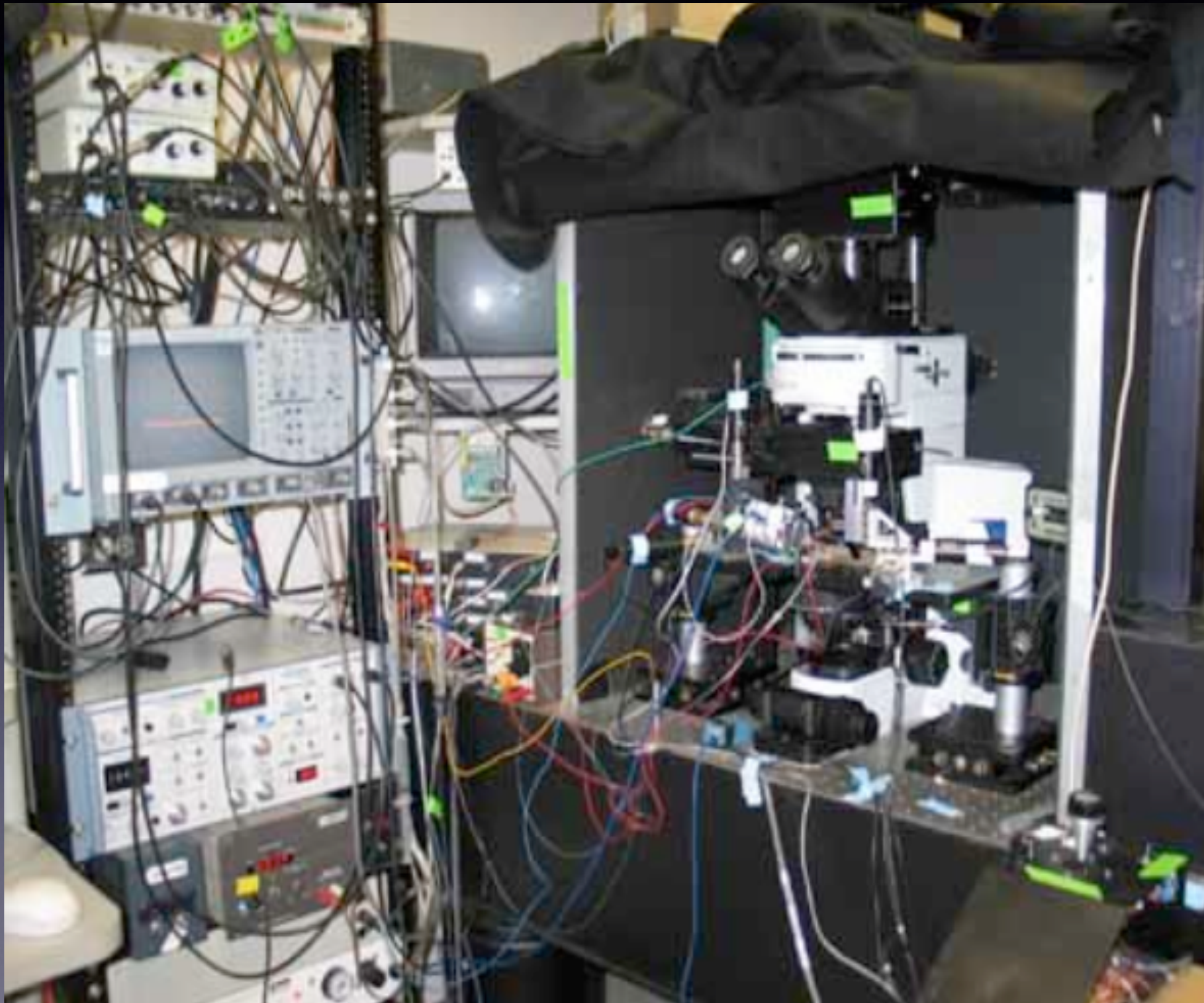
**Specific applications -better than commercial  
microscopes**

**Flexibility**

**Cost**

# Popular bespoke microscope

## Multiphoton for neuroscience work





# Bespoke Microscopes

## Why NOT to bother?

- Salary of physicist/engineer required
- Long building time required (it's hard)
- Not supported by a company  
(repairs are costly and lengthy)
- Not always easy to use by biologists

# Example of Bespoke Microscopes

## OMX-T microscope

Designed and built by John Sedat and Dave Agard,  
UCSF

## Live PALM microscope

Designed and built by Stephan Uphoff and Achillefs  
Kapanidis, Micron Oxford

## WOSM

Designed and built by Nick Carter and Rob Cross,  
Warwick University

## Openspim

Designed and built by Pavel Tamacek and his team  
at Dresden MPI

## DeepSIM

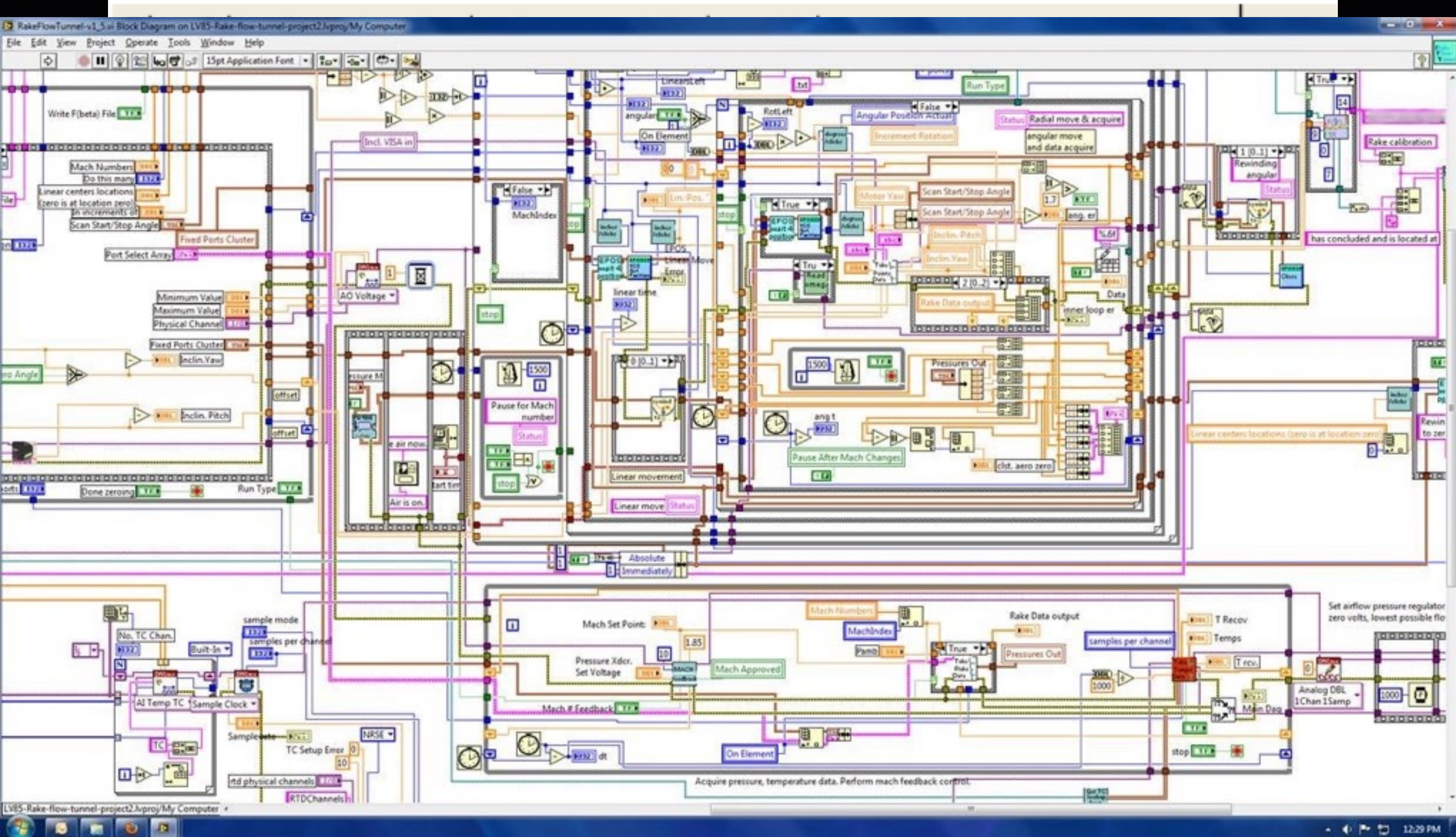
Antonia Göhler, Mick Phillips, Mantas Zurauskas,  
Micron Oxford

# Software options

- LabView
- Micromanager(semi open source java)
- Cockpit (open source python code)
- DIY: SDKs - C++, Python, Visual basic



# Lab view example





# Micromanager

<http://valelab.ucsf.edu/~MM/MMwiki/>

**µManager**  
THE OPEN SOURCE MICROSCOPY SOFTWARE

OVERVIEW • DOWNLOADS • DOCUMENTATION • DEVICES • PROGRAMMING • SUPPORT • EVENTS • CREDITS • LOG IN

welcome to  
micro-manager!



News

- ▶ Micro-Manager Programmer Job Opening!
- ▶ ImageJ Conference
- ▶ [Open SPIM]
- ▶ Micro-Manager 1.4 Released
- ▶ Recap of Micro-Manager at 2011 ASCB meeting
- ▶ New Getting Started ScreenCast
- ▶ [Watch Micro-Manager in Action]
- ▶ Support for Nikon and Canon DSLRs

## Micro-Manager Open Source Microscopy Software



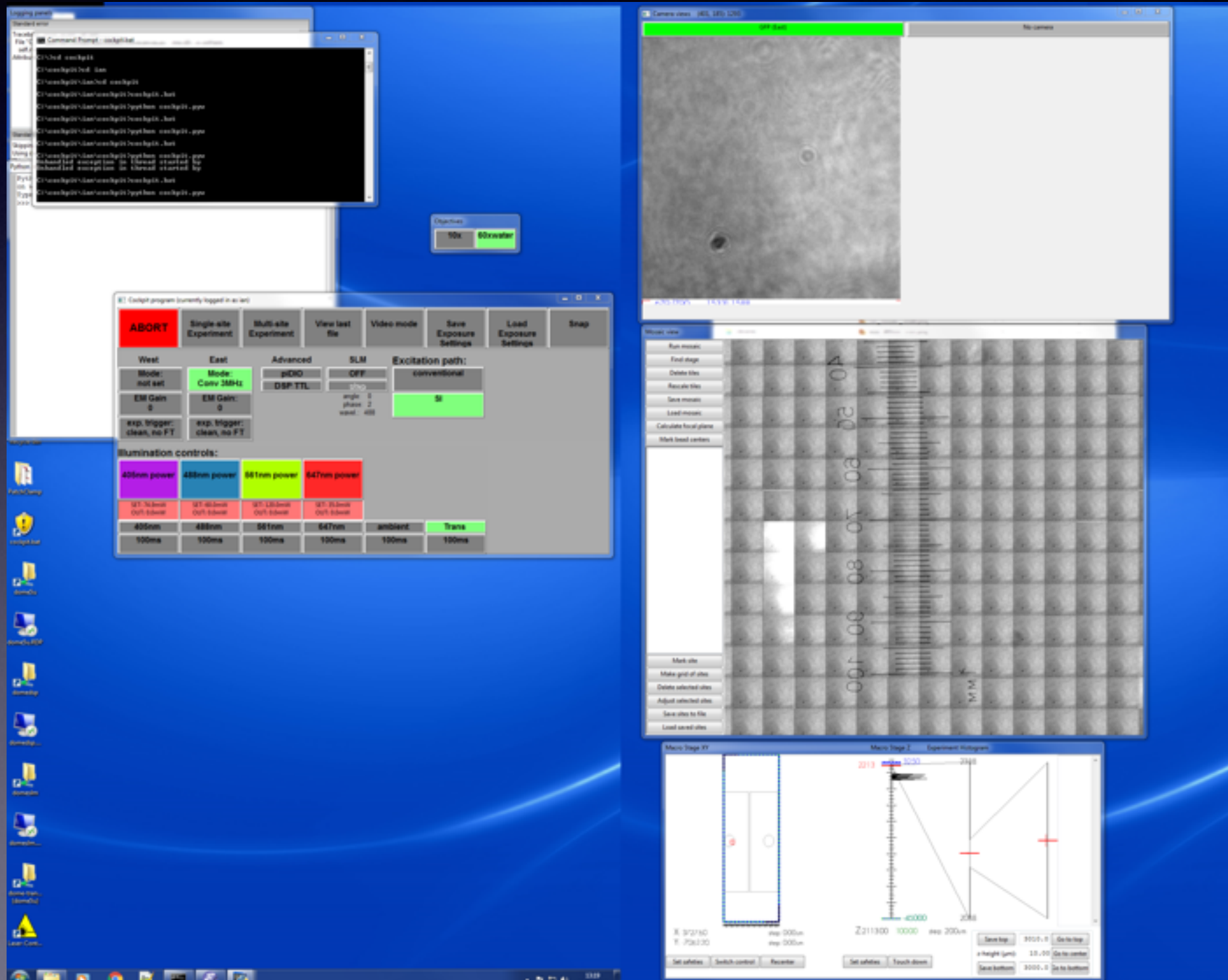
µManager is a software package for control of automated microscopes. Together with the image processing application **ImageJ**, µManager provides a comprehensive, freely available, imaging solution.

**Download** the most recent version (1.4) from our website. Also check out our **ScreenCast** for a quick tour on getting started.



µManager has a simple and clean user interface, through which it lets you execute common microscope image acquisition strategies such as time-lapses, multi-channel imaging, z-stacks, and combinations thereof. µManager works with microscopes from all four major manufacturers (Leica, Nikon, Olympus and Zeiss), most scientific-grade cameras and many scientific filters.

# Cockpit



# Some rules of thumb

- Clean and dust free environment
- Oscilloscope and soldering iron - you will need them!
- Good tools and spare parts
- Important to think about user interface
- Important to think about continuity of the project and workflow of experiments
- Important to think about data analysis



# Justification for Bespoke Systems

- Often necessary for specific specialised problems.
- Easily optimised for several parameters, speed, sensitivity etc...
- Can provide extremely flexible systems

**BUT** think hard as it is likely to be harder, longer and more expensive than at first thought.



# How expensive is it?

**Building costs**

**Hardware ~£100-250k**

**Salaries 1-3 years (~£50-£150k)**

**Total cost ~£150-400k**

**Commercial OMX system ~£400k**

# Summary

- Recap on image formation
- Fluorescent beads showing aberrations
- Bespoke microscope building projects pro's and cons.