

Spinning disk microscopy

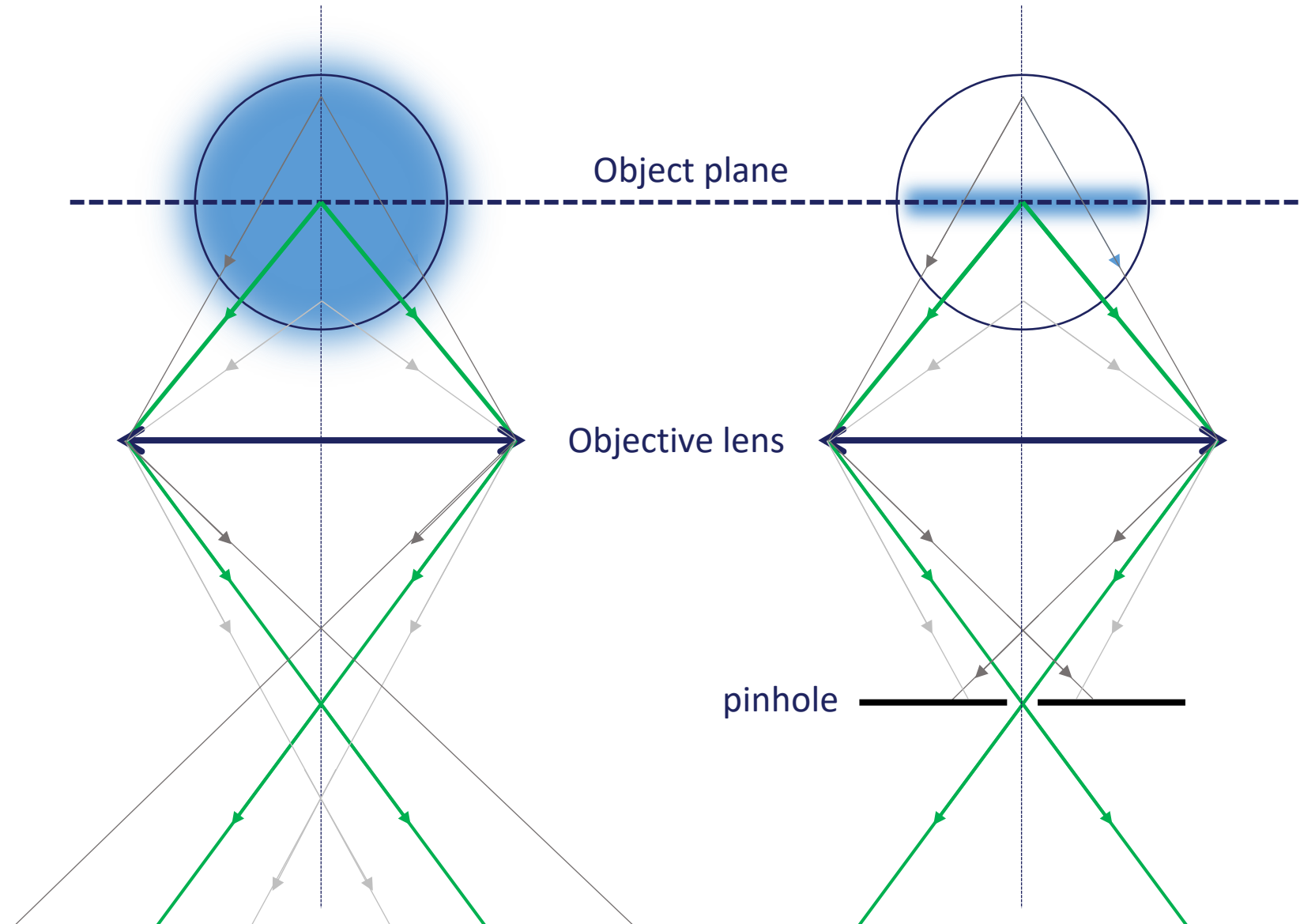
Michaela Blažíková

michaela.blazikova@img.cas.cz



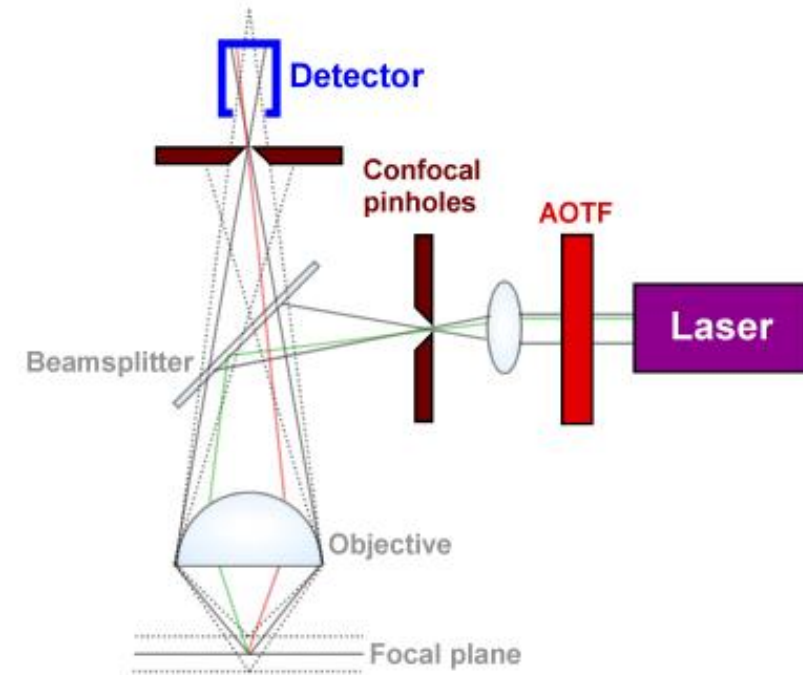
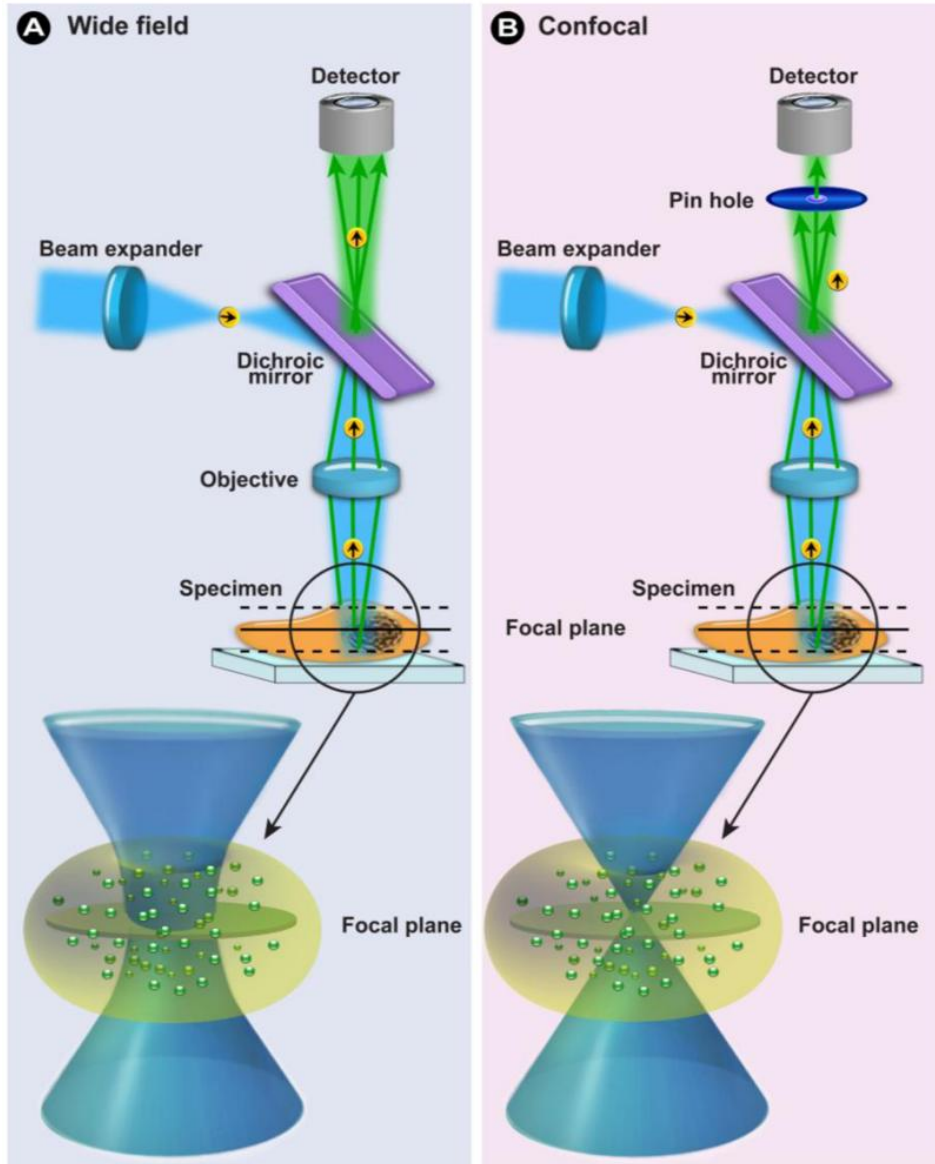
- Confocal microscopy
 - Laser scanning confocal
 - Spinning disk confocal
- Advantages/disadvantages
- Conclusion

Widefield vs. Confocal microscopy



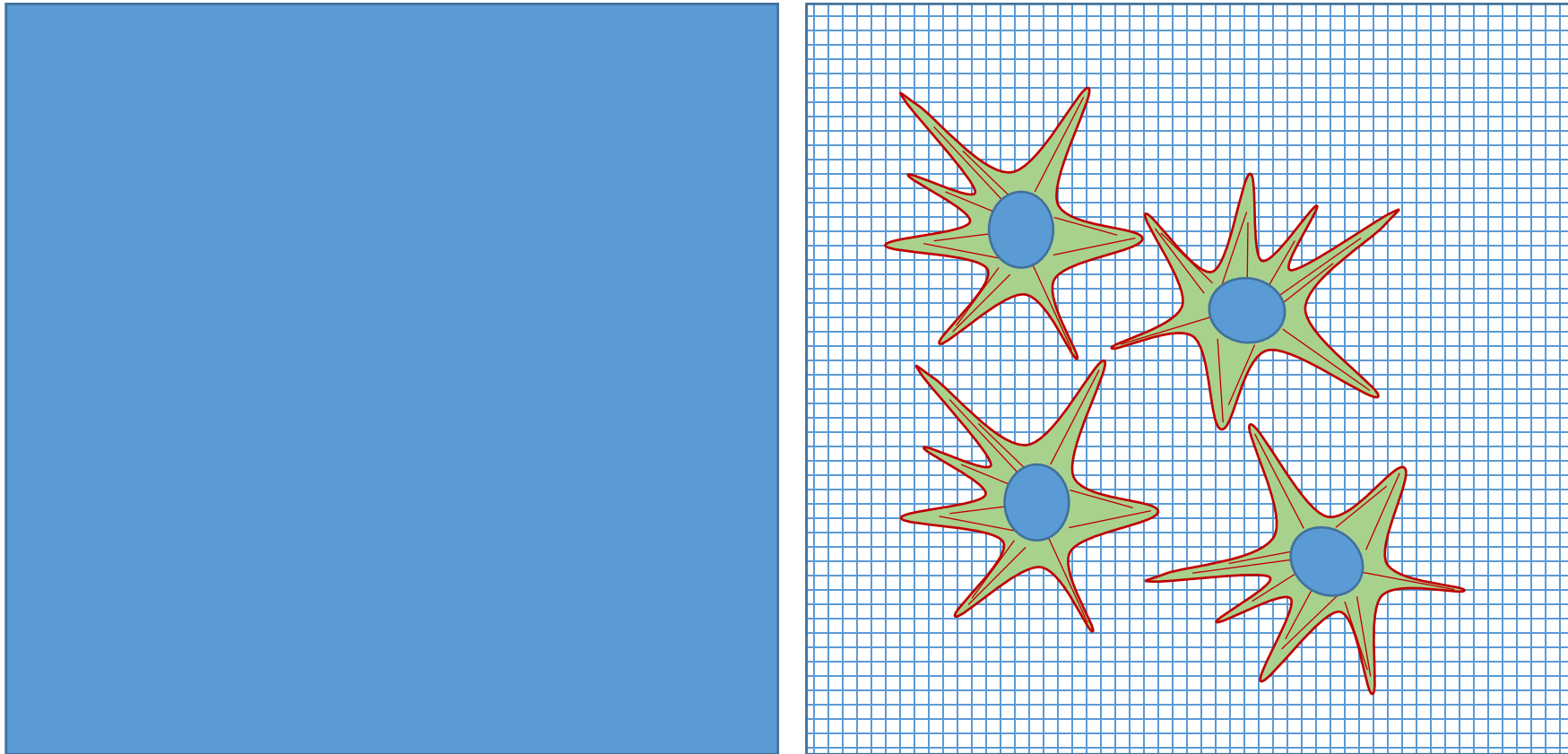
Courtesy of Ivan Novotný, LMCF, IMG CAS

Widefield vs. Confocal microscopy

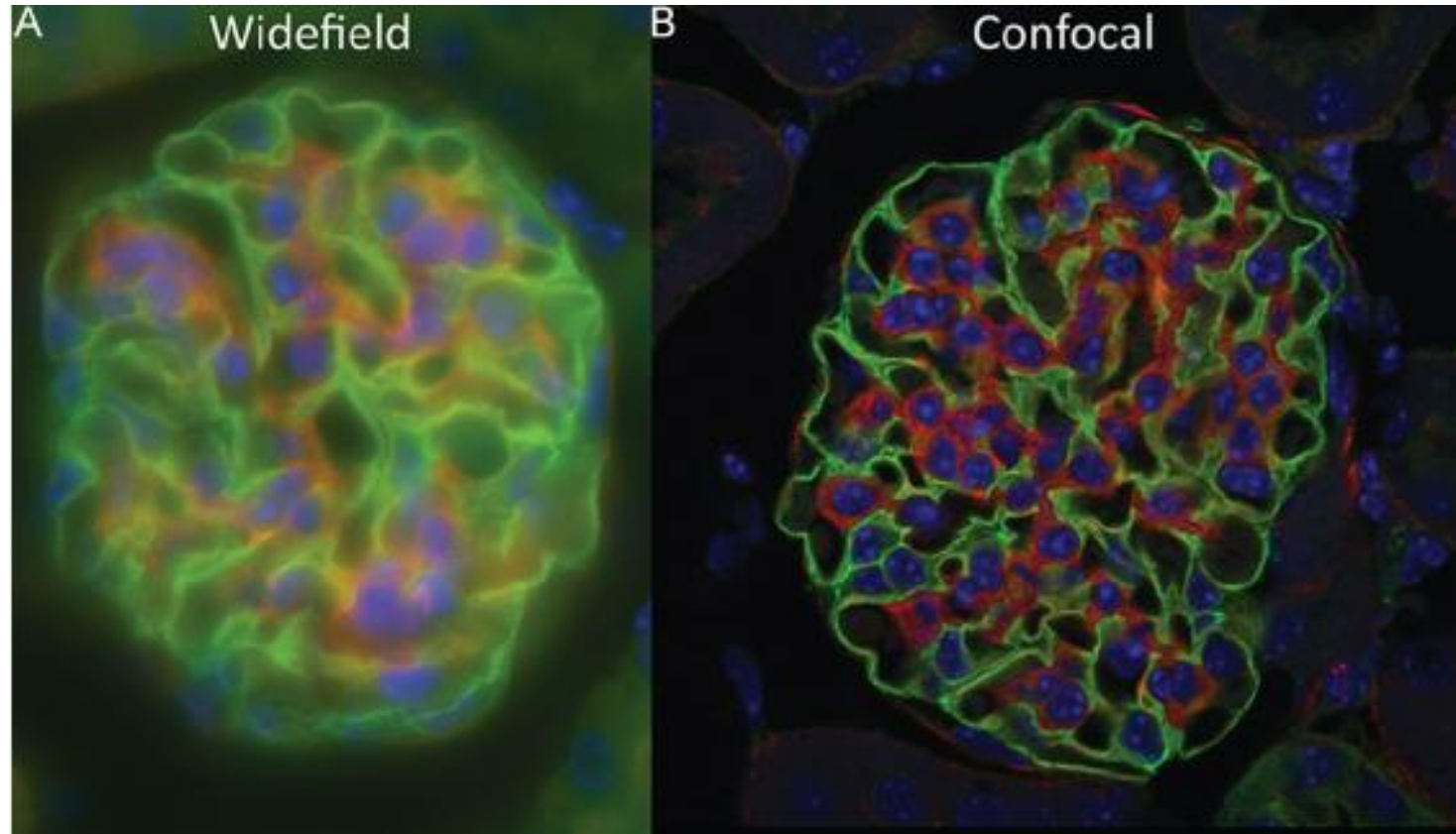


- dramatically increased contrast by removal of *out-of-focus* haze
- optical sectioning by confocal microscope

Widefield vs. Confocal microscopy

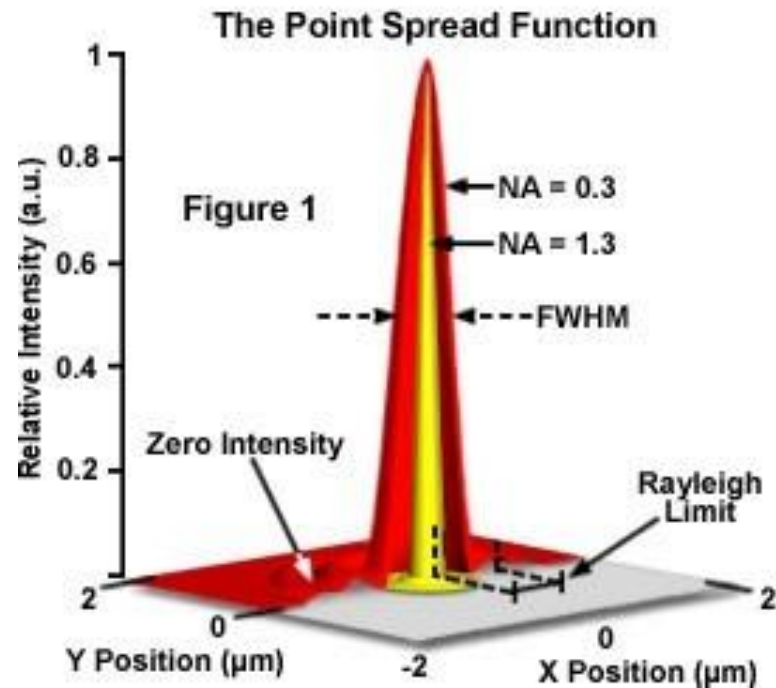


Widefield vs. Confocal microscopy



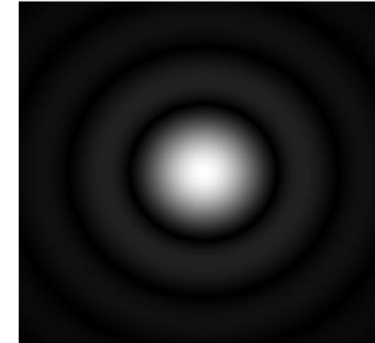
Confocal microscopy

Point spread function (PSF) describes the response of an imaging system to a point source or point object



- viewed in the x-y plane

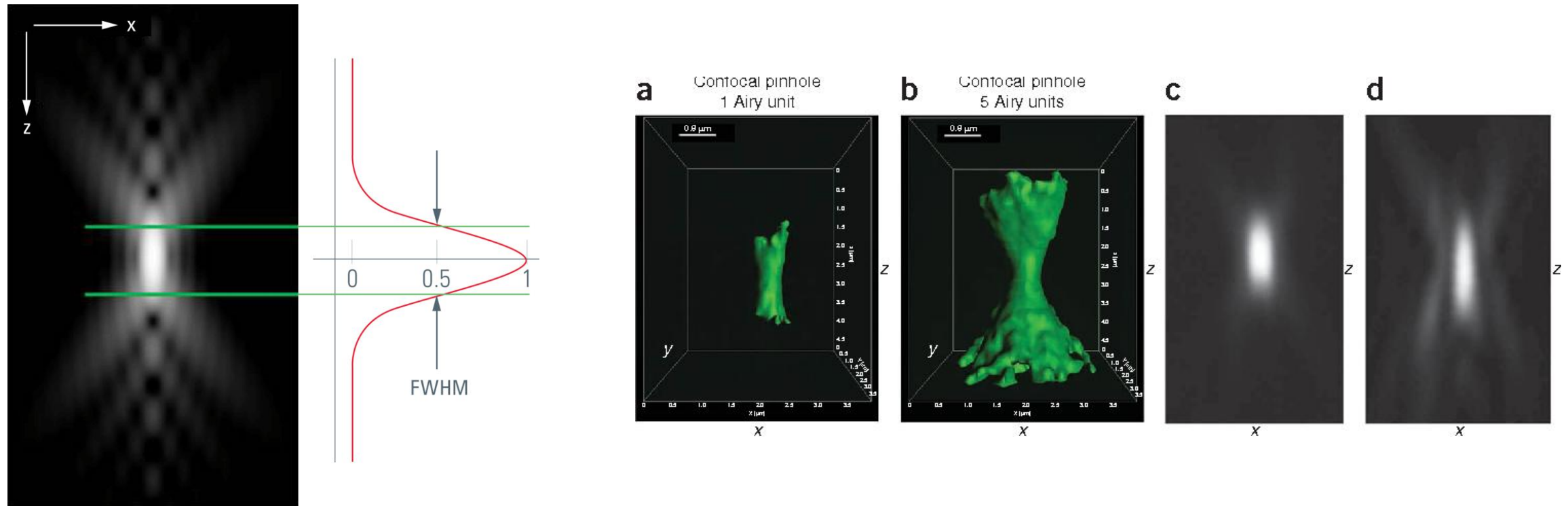
- lateral resolving power of an objective lens can be evaluated by measuring the size of the Airy disk (FWHM)



- different shapes in z depending on the instrument used -> **axial resolution**

Confocal microscopy

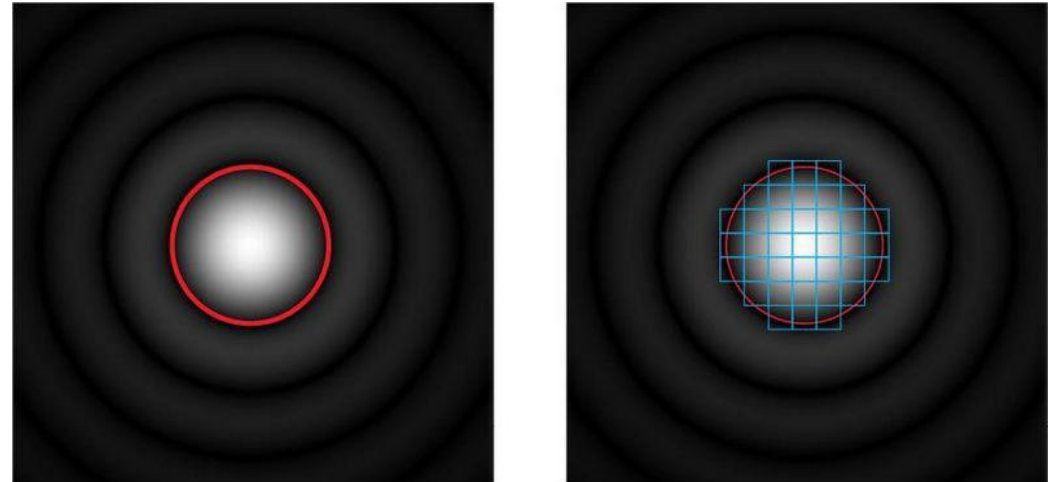
Point spread function (PSF) describes the response of an imaging system to a point source or point object



Confocal microscopy

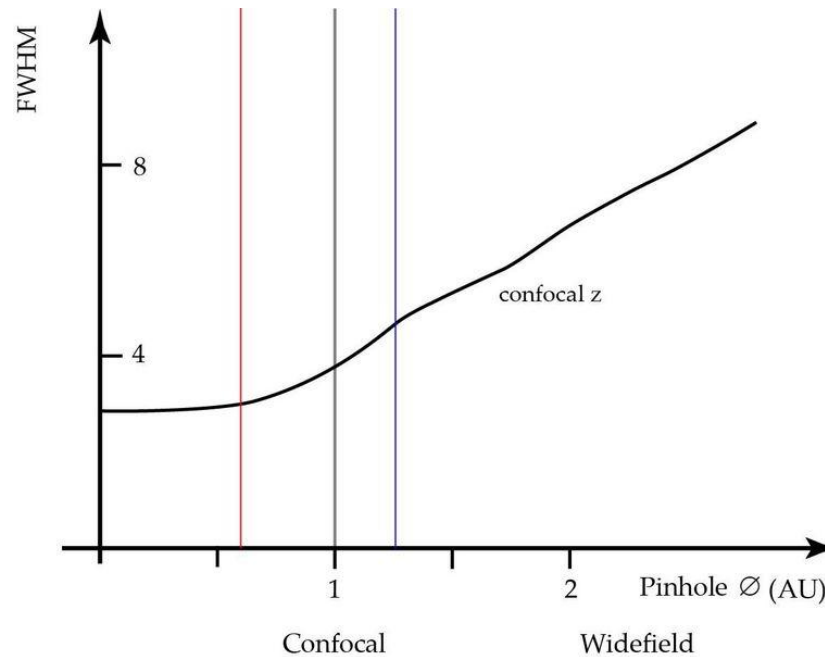
Pinhole – light source is projected onto a tiny aperture (excitation)
– detection pinhole (emission) – *blocks out-of-focus signal*

- Confocal imaging – transmits Airy disc
 - *Closing of the pinhole is measured in Airy units, 1 Airy unit = diameter of the pinhole that passes the Airy disk*
 - *Depends on:*
 - wavelength λ
 - numerical aperture NA
 - magnification of the objective lens
 - magnification of internal optics of the microscope



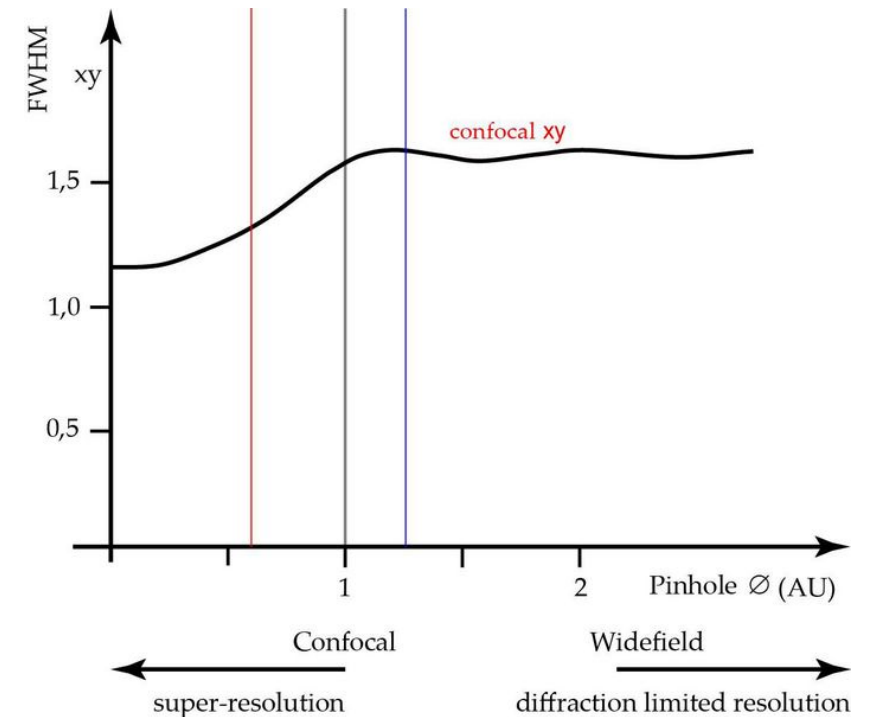
Confocal microscopy

- Pinhole** – light source is projected onto a tiny aperture (excitation)
– detection pinhole (emission) – *blocks out-of-focus signal*



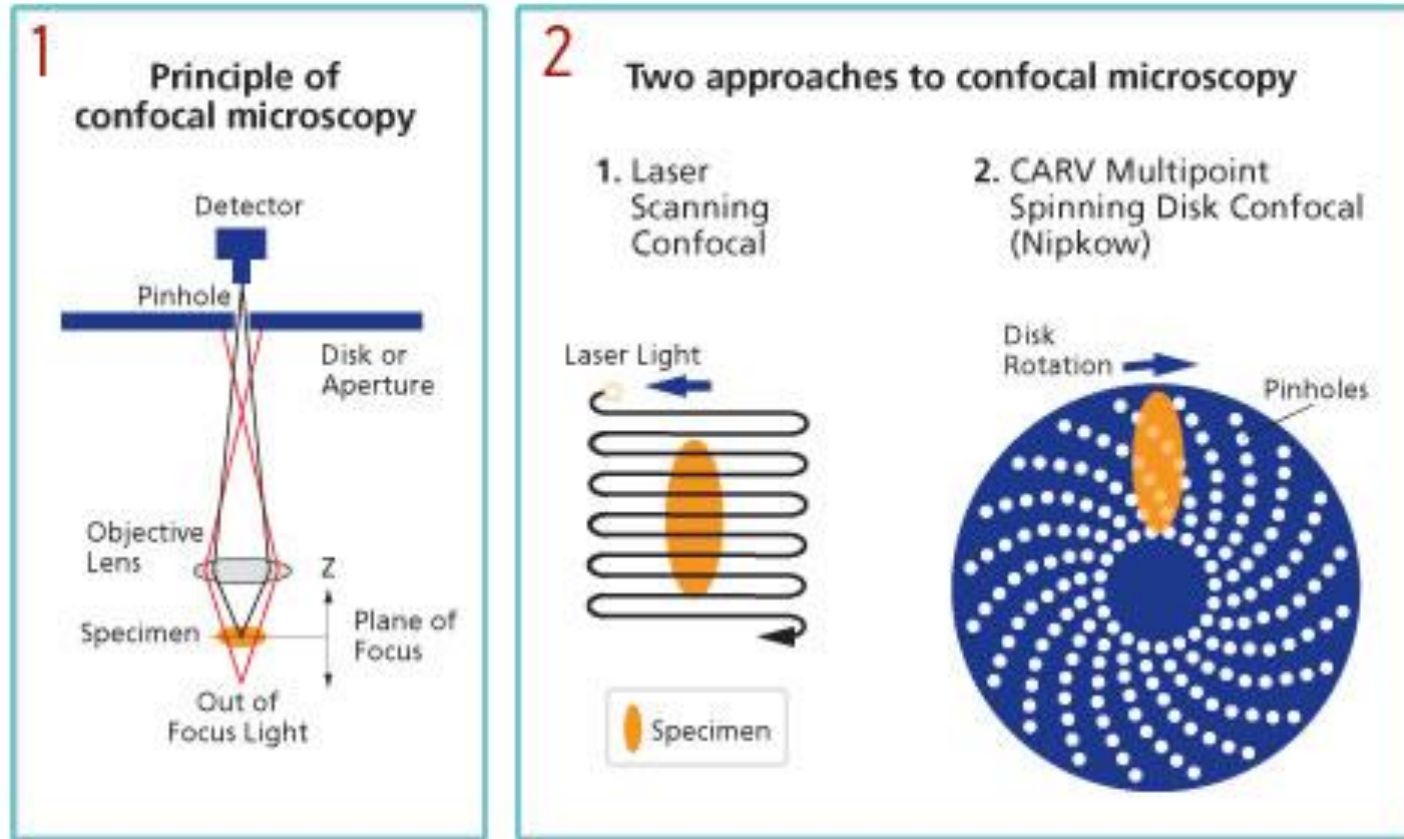
Larger pinhole – better SNR
– more extrafocal contributions

Smaller pinhole – better lateral resolution
– lower SNR



Confocal microscopy

Laser scanning confocal microscopy (LSCM) vs. Spinning disk confocal microscopy

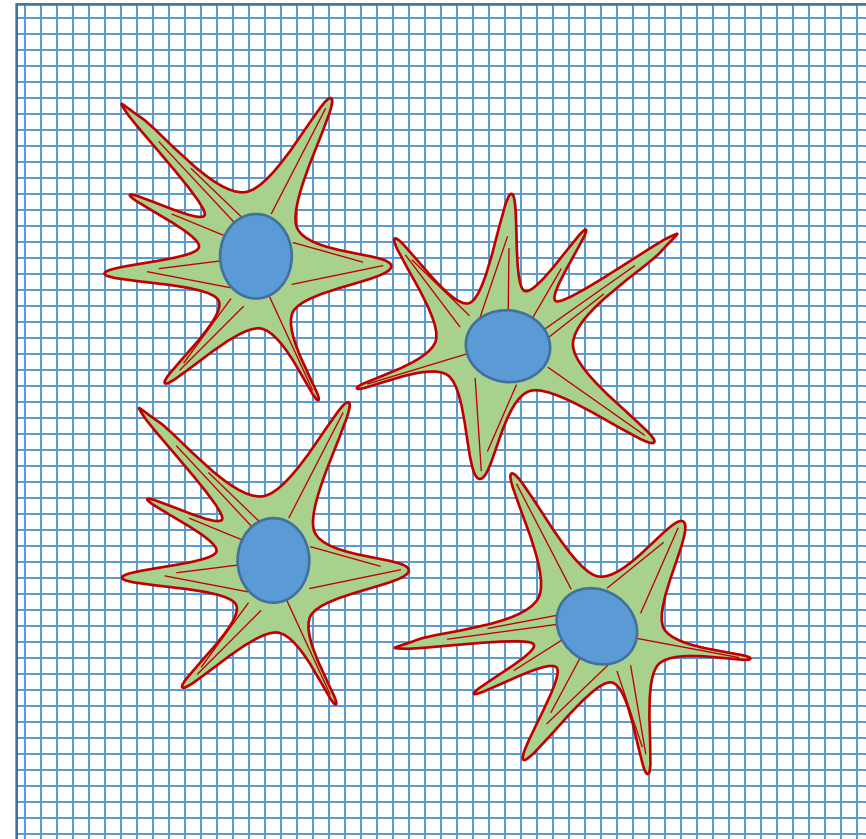
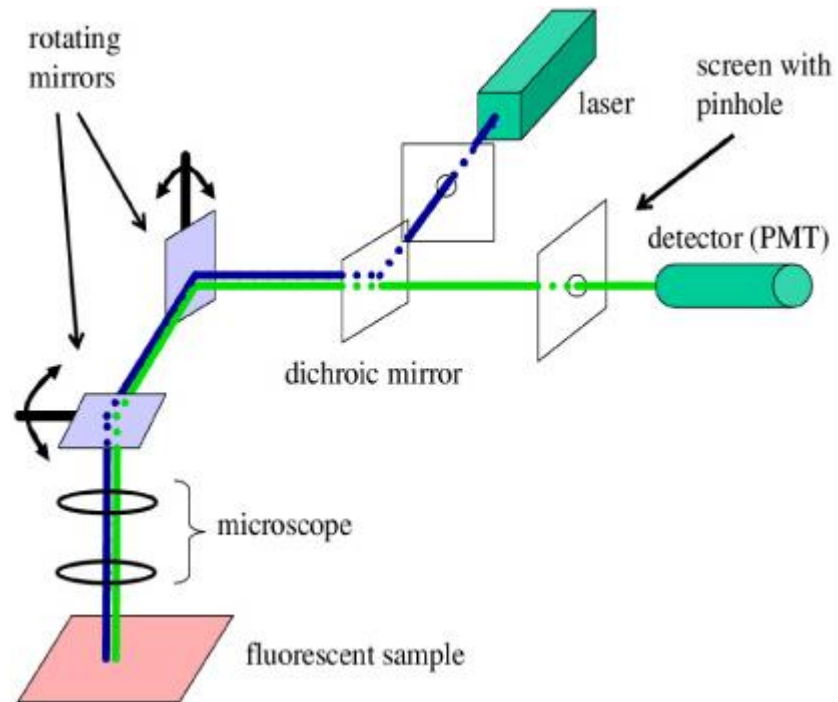


Confocal microscopy

Resolution

- **geometry of the detection pinholes or slits**
- objective numerical aperture
- wavelength of emission light
- refractive index of the imaging medium between the specimen and the objective front lens
- *characteristics and thickness of the specimen*
 - issue in spinning disk microscopy - heavily stained, thick specimens
 - larger pinhole diameters for sufficient signal-to-noise ratio in the final confocal image, lower axial resolution than LSCM

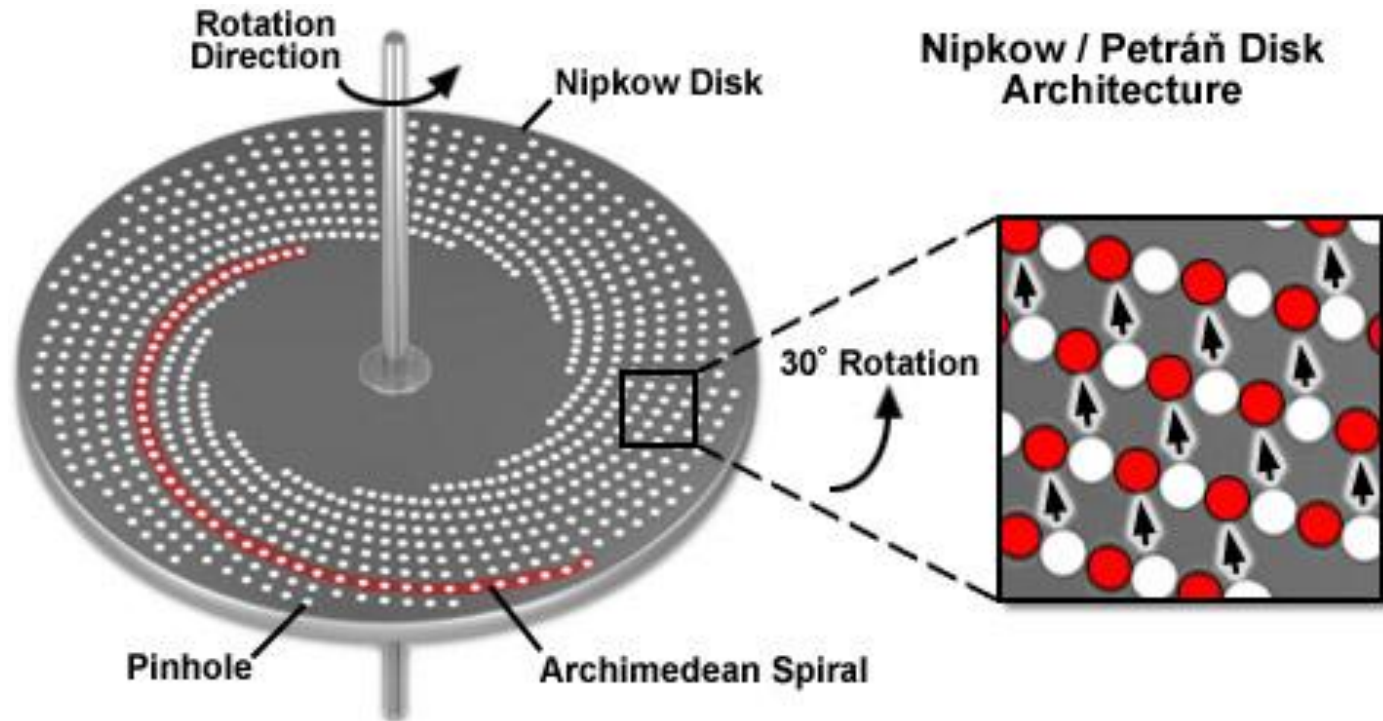
Laser scanning microscope



Scanning of the sample point by point using the galvo scanning mirrors

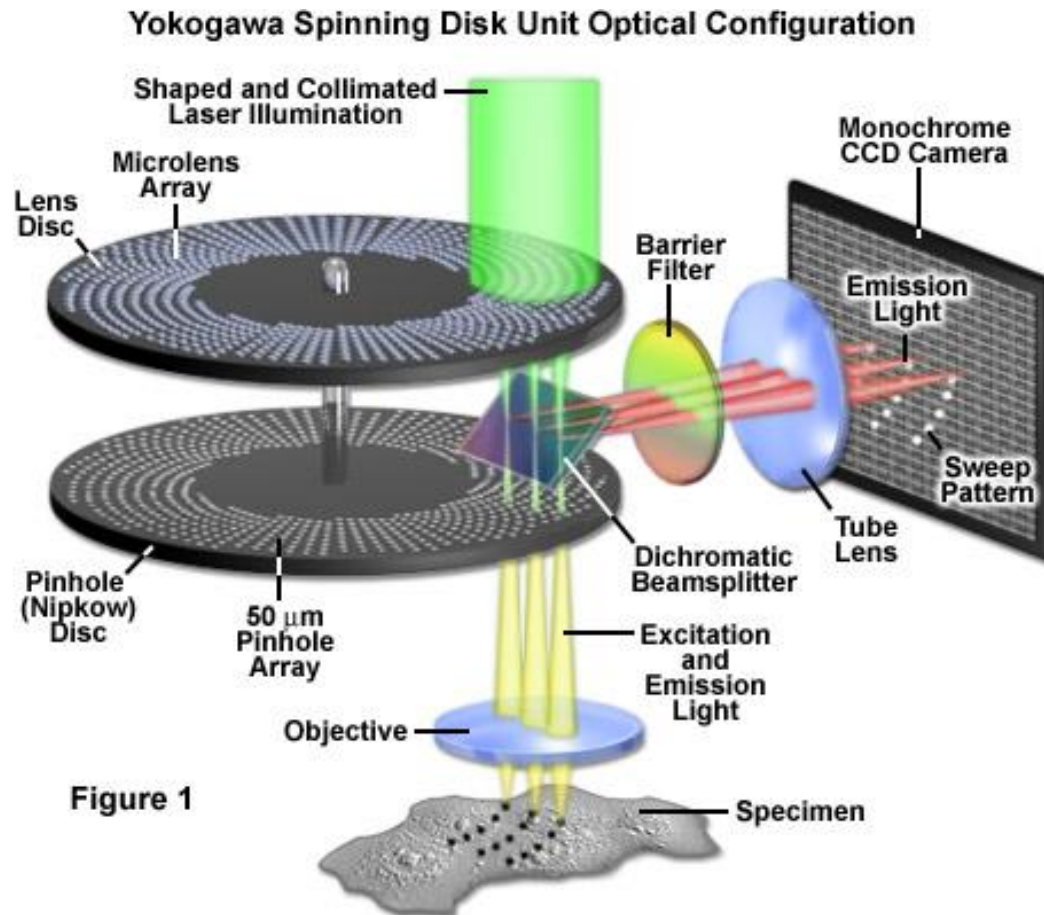
Spinning disk microscope

- Nipkow disk (Paul Nipkow, 1884)
 - pinholes arranged in an Archimedean spiral
 - approximately 1,000 pinholes being illuminated and returning an image at a time



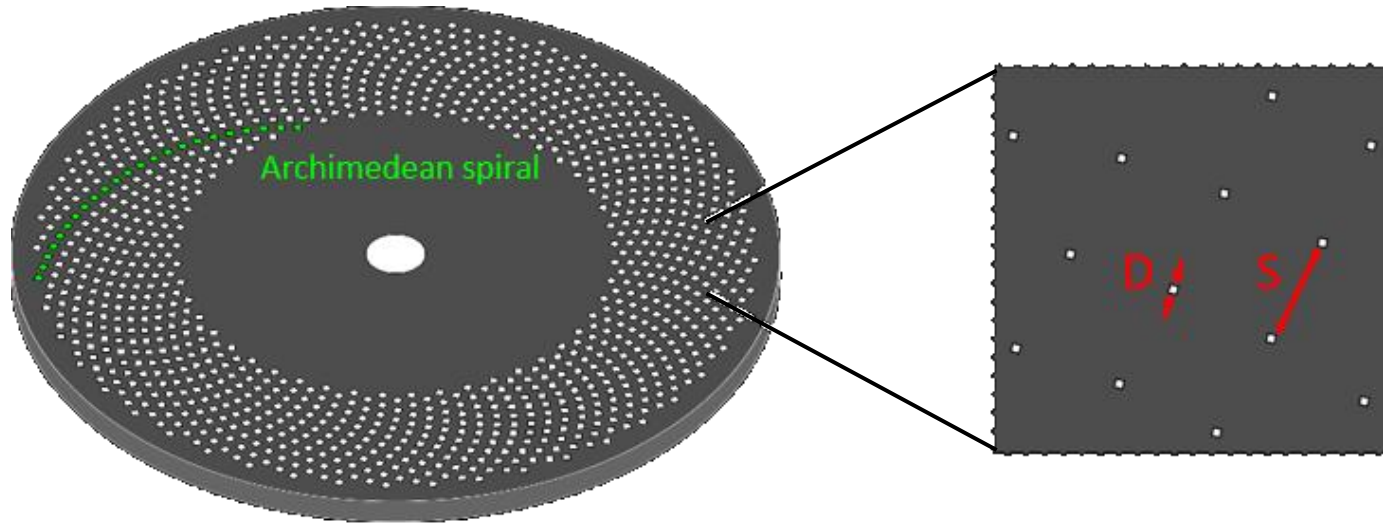
Spinning disk microscope

- Spinning disk microscope design



- microlens disk
- Nipkow disk (pinholes)
- light throughput approaches 40 to 60 %
- image is created with each 30° rotation of the disc
- up to 2000 images per second
- *pinhole size and spacing - a tradeoff between generating enough light to successfully image the specimen and maintaining a high degree of confocality (usually 2 sets of pinholes)*

Nipkow disk



D - pinhole diameter

S – pinhole spacing

$$T = (D/S)^2$$

Transmittance - proportion of incident light that passes through a disk
(typically only few %)

D – determines thickness of vertical section

S – pinhole cross-talk

Example: $D = 50 \mu m$, $S = 250 \mu m$

-> pinholes will transmit 4 % of incident light

Nipkow disk

Optimal pinhole size

$$D_{opt} = 1.2 \frac{M_{obj} \lambda_{em}}{NA_{obj}}$$

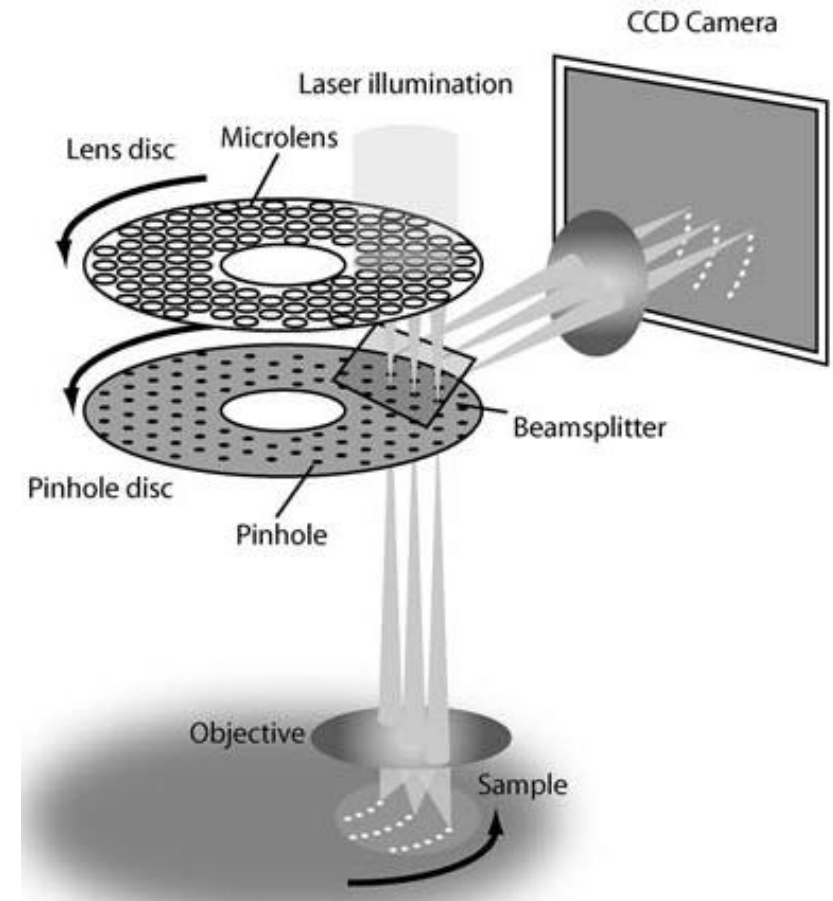
- first minimum of the Airy disk from a point source
- too high – reduces axial resolution
- too low – reduces image contrast, blocks emission light

*Example: GFP ($\lambda_{em} = 509 \text{ nm}$), 60x 1.4NA oil objective -> 26.2 μm
100x 1.4NA oil objective -> 43.6 μm*

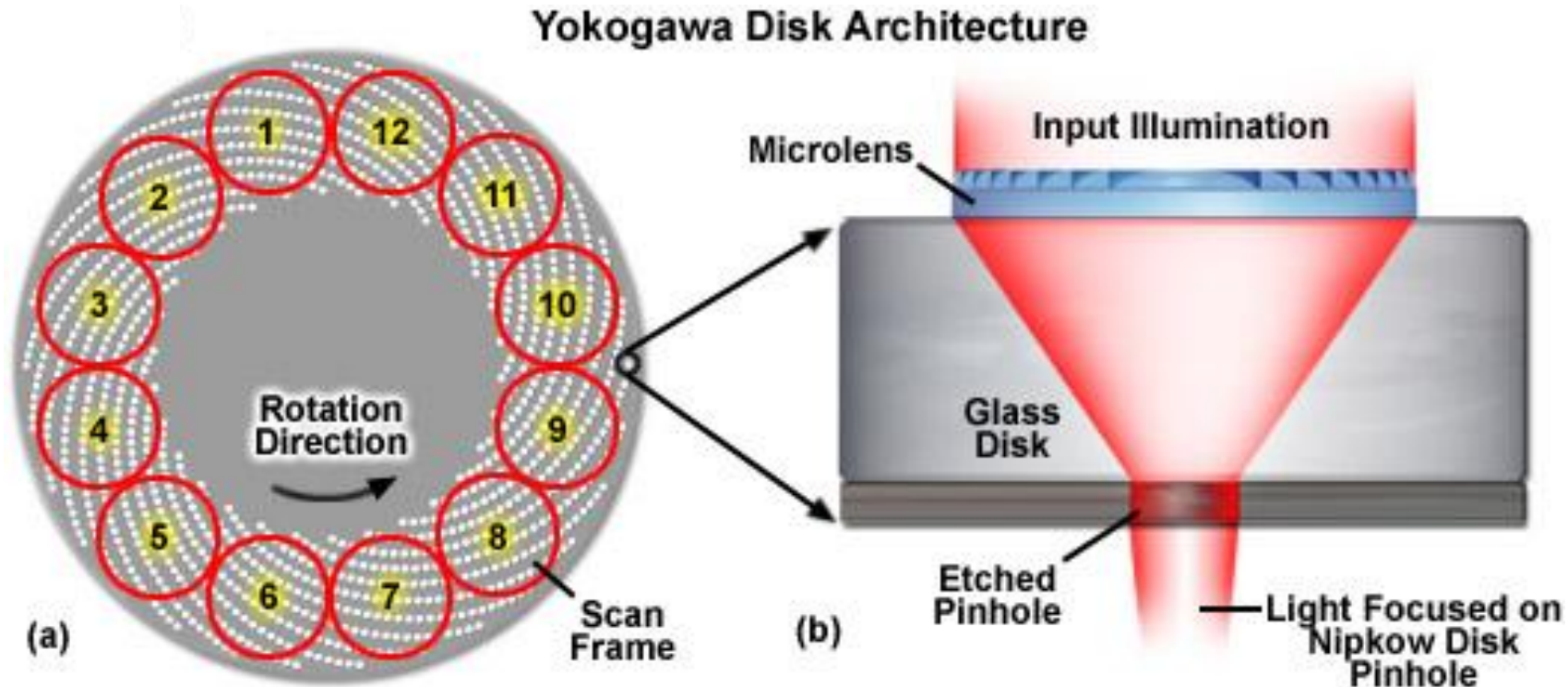
Microlens disk

Disk with microlenses in the place of pinholes

- focuses illumination light through the pinholes of the primary disk
- transmittance may be improved by an order of magnitude



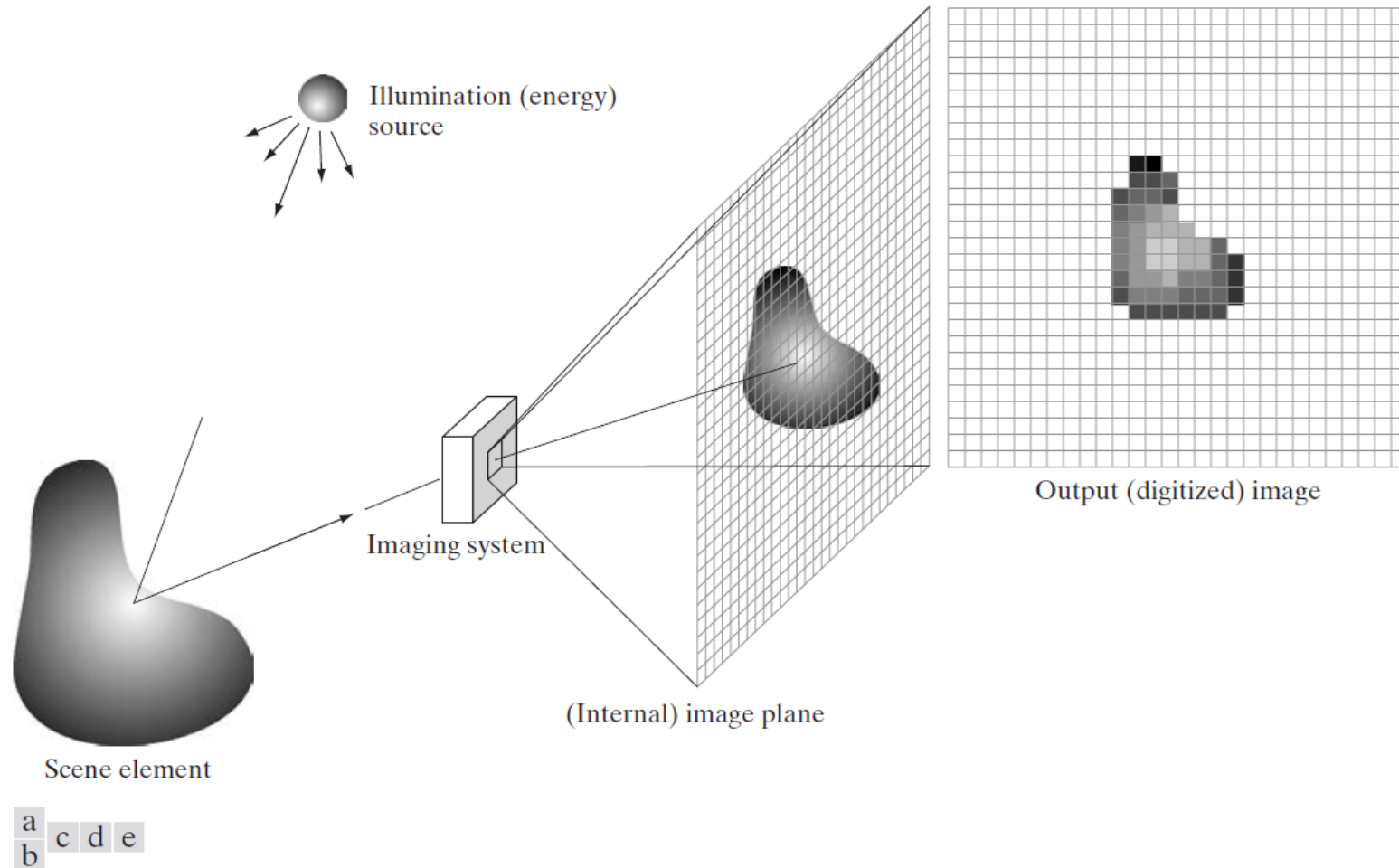
Microlens disk



- single scan of the specimen - every 30-degree rotation
- 360-degree rotation of the disk = 12 frames, or 2,000 images per second at the highest disk speeds

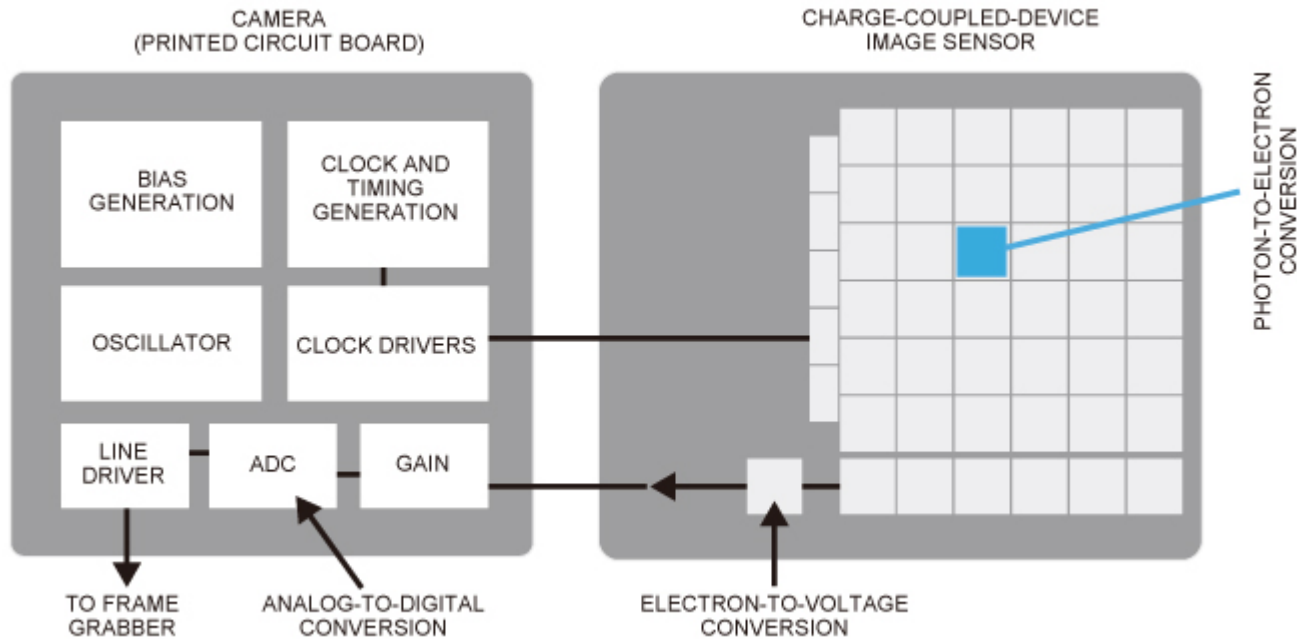
Cameras

- Sensor arrays in digital cameras
- In sensor arrays each picture element consists of a **photodetector**



Cameras

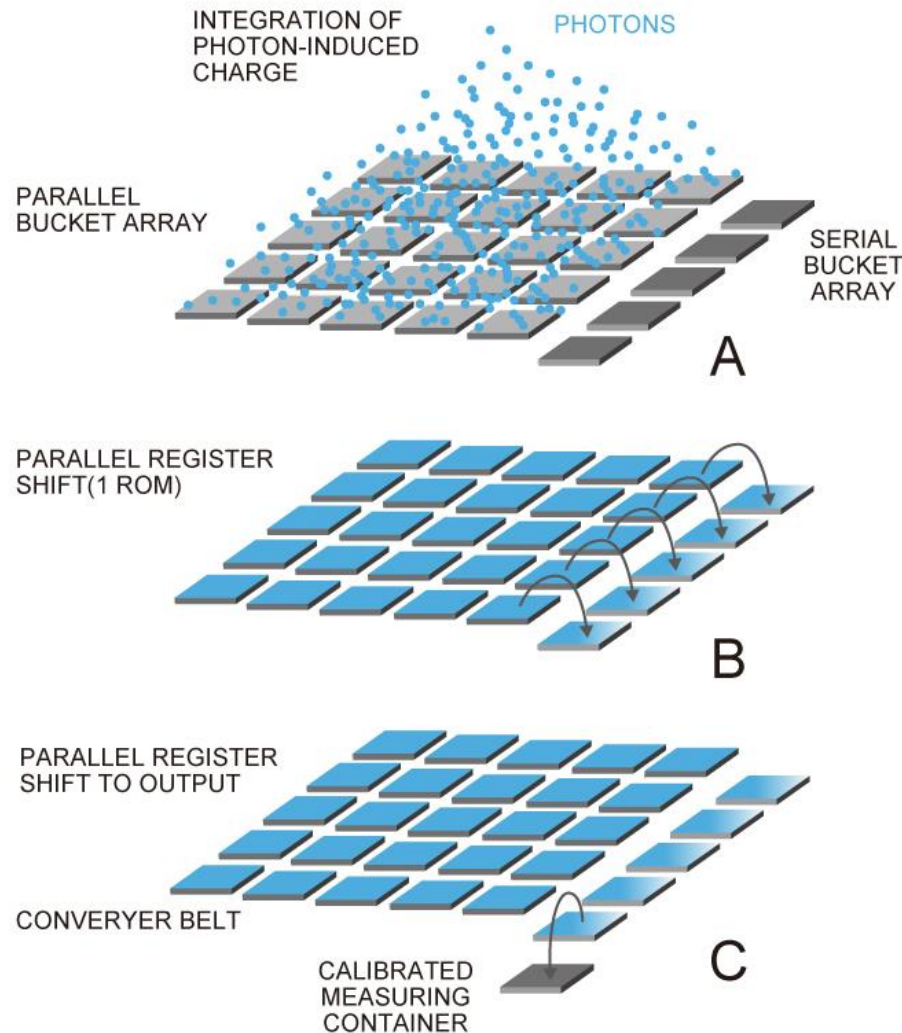
- *Charge-coupled device (CCD)* - photoelectric sensor array



- Each pixel is composed of *photodiode and potential well*
- Light hitting the sensor is converted into electric charge

Cameras

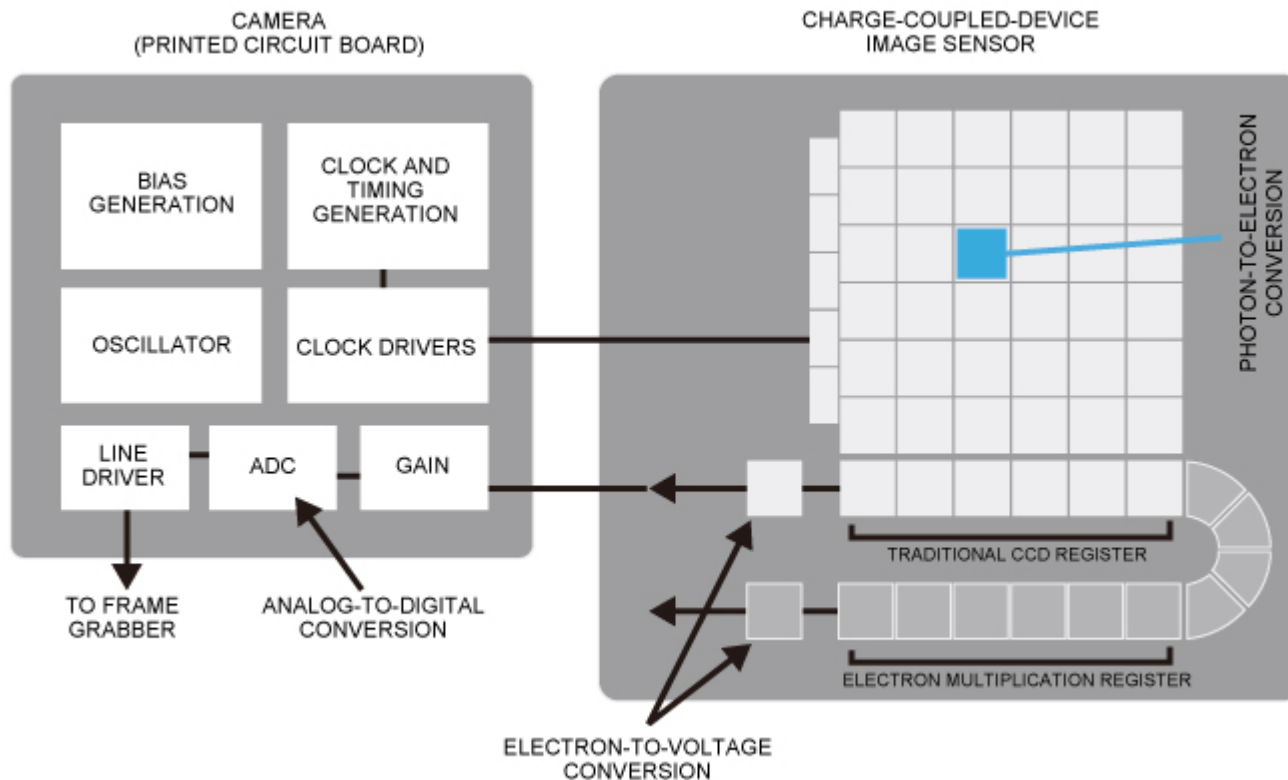
- *Charge-coupled device (CCD)* - photoelectric sensor array



- Each pixel is composed of *photodiode and potential well*
- Light hitting the sensor is converted into electric charge
- A control circuit causes each capacitor to transfer its contents to its neighbor (operating as a **parallel shift register**)
- The charge is gathered pixel-by-pixel—**serially**—into a container at the end of the relay, conversion into voltage -> sequence of voltages
- The speed of image acquisition is limited

Cameras

- *Charge-coupled device (CCD)* - photoelectric sensor array

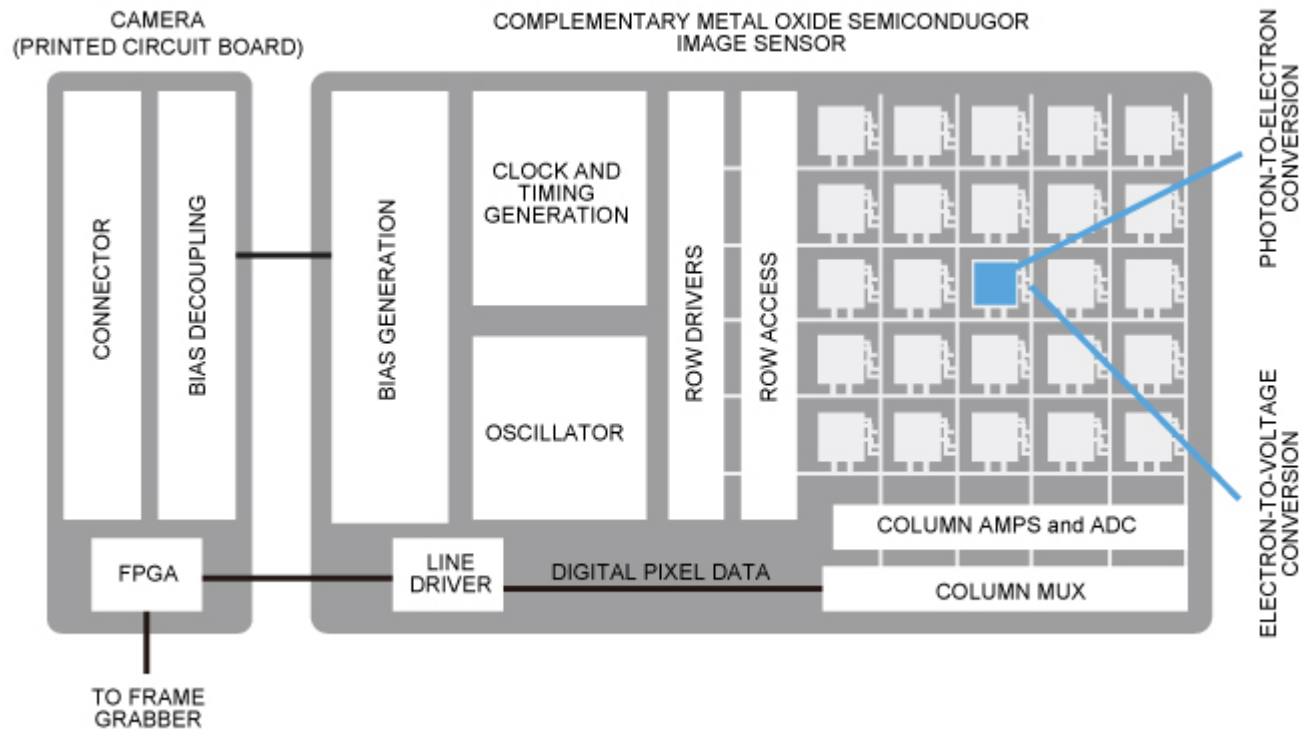


- **EM-CCD** (electron multiplying CCD) sensors have an additional component - the multiplication register, that multiplies the photoelectrons before the readout of the sensor
- Additional source of noise, lower quantum efficiency
- Back-illuminated > 95% QE

-> *High sensitivity, advantageous for low light conditions*

Cameras

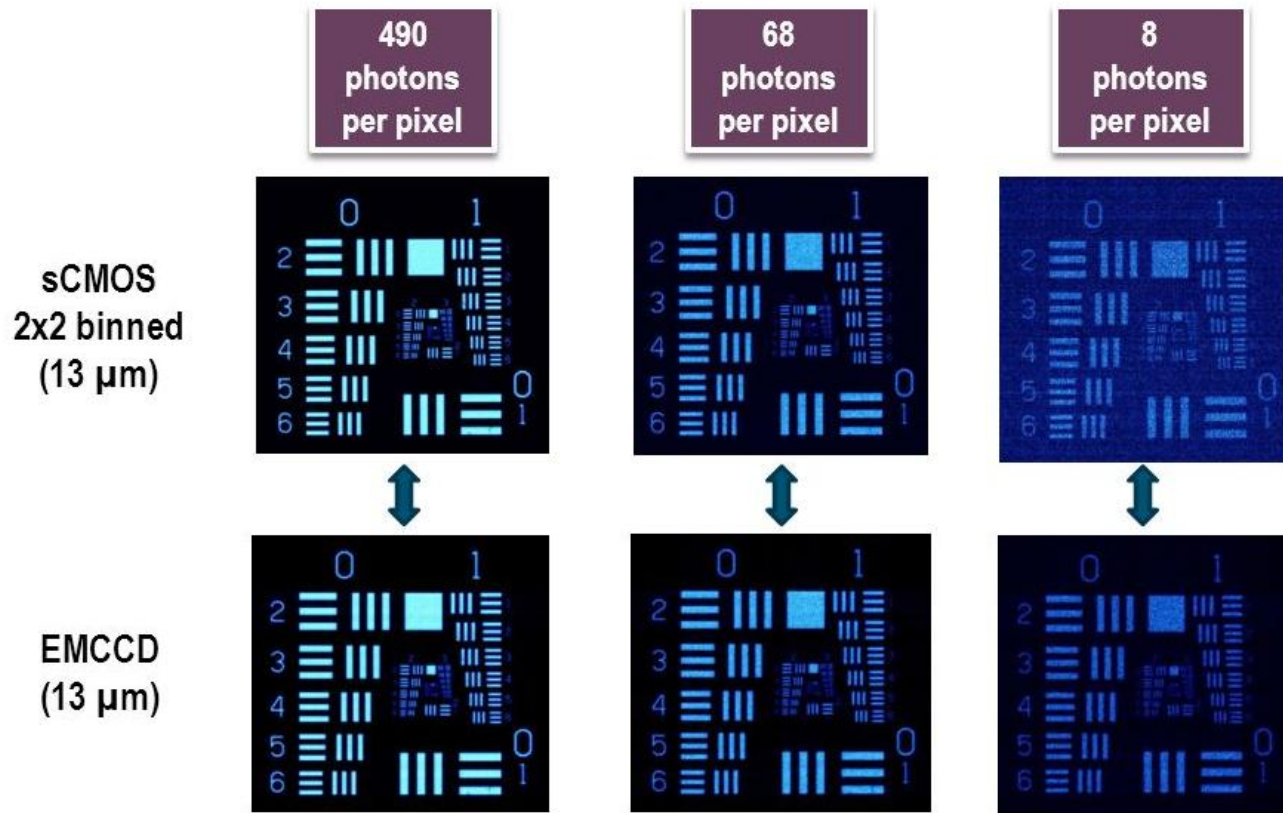
- *Complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS)* – photoelectric sensor array



- Each pixel of a CMOS image sensor is composed of a *photodiode-amplifier pair*
- Light hitting the CMOS sensor is converted into photoelectrons, photoelectrons are converted into voltage at each pixel **in parallel**
- Typically captures a row at a time (rolling shutter), or entire sensor array simultaneously (global shutter)

Cameras

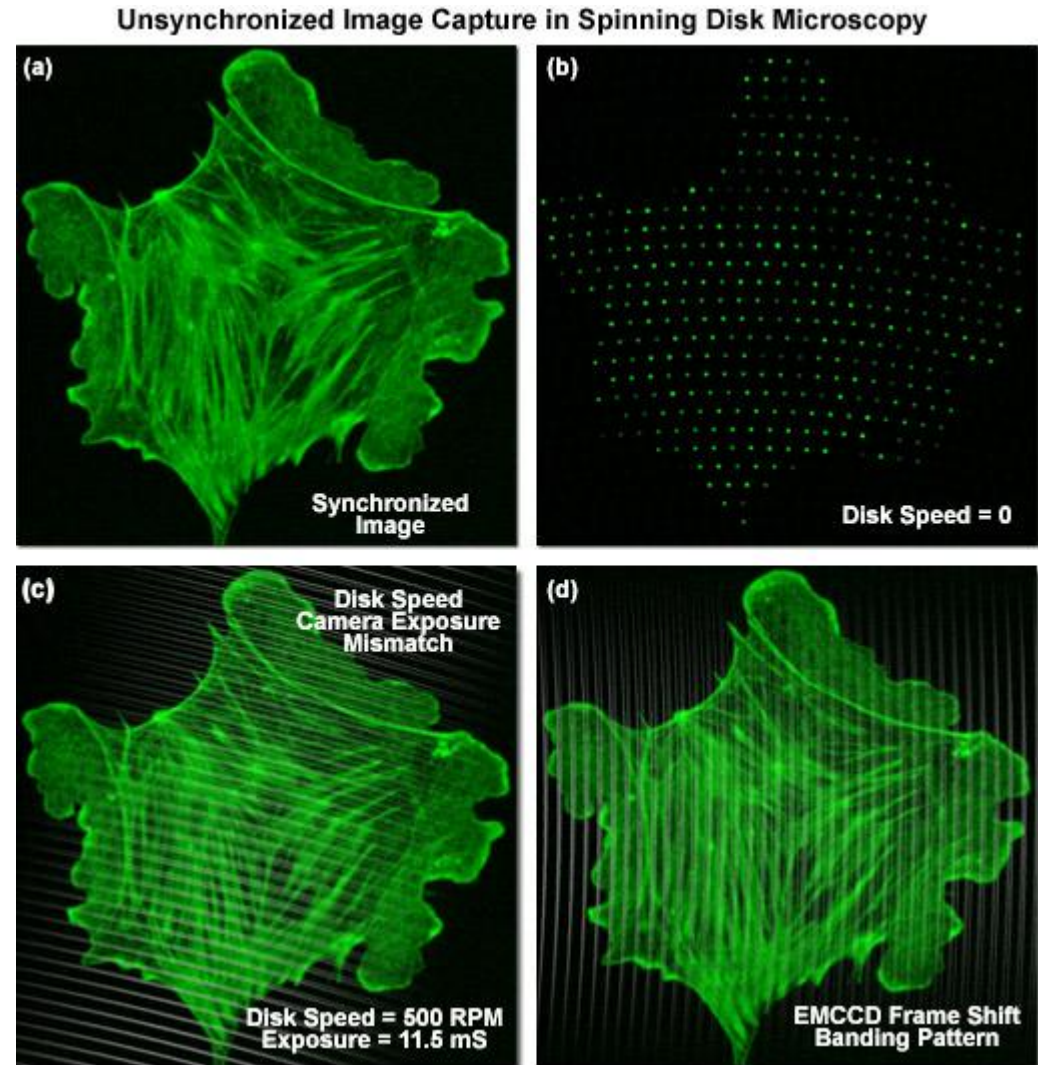
- *Complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS)* – photoelectric sensor array



- **sCMOS** (scientific CMOS) next-generation sensors
 - Low noise, high quantum efficiency
 - Can capture data in a global-shutter mode over all the pixels or rectangular subsets of pixels, and can also operate in a rolling-shutter mode
 - Back-illuminated: 95% QE
- > *Better temporal resolution due to higher acquisition frame rates*
- > *Larger fields of view due to larger chip sizes*
- > *Better spatial resolution due to smaller pixel sizes*

Spinning disk microscope

- Lightsource – lasers (not necessarily)
- Detector – cameras (EMCCD, sCMOS)
 - the disk rotation speed must be adjusted to match the camera exposure time (problem for very short exposure times)
 - the frame shift of accumulated charge during EMCCD readout might conflict with the disk rotation speed
 - Usually two cameras – dual color imaging



Spinning disk microscope

Dragonfly 500

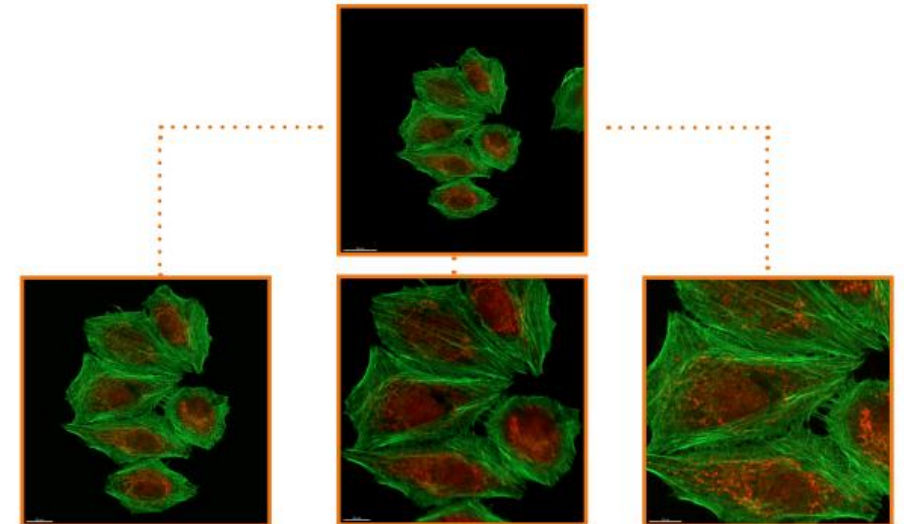


Spinning disk microscope

Dragonfly 500

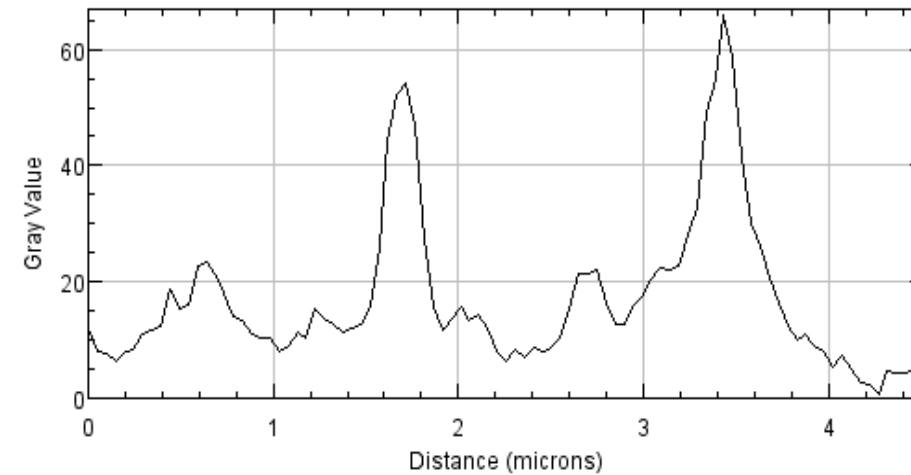
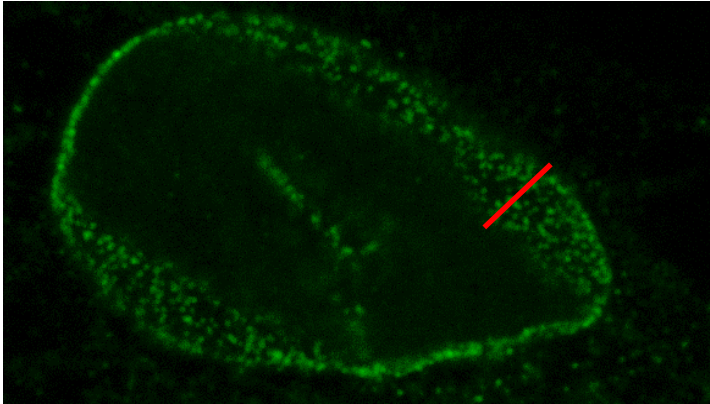
Laser Range	Confocal Speed	Aperture	Camera Zoom	Illumination Zoom	Pinholes Ø
400 - 800 nm	400 fps	22 mm	1x 1.5x 2x	1x 2x 4x 6x	40 µm 25 µm

- Microlens enhanced dual disk
- 2 cameras
 - Zyla 4.2 sCMOS (up to 400 confocal fps 2048x128, pixel size 6.5 µm)
 - iXon 888 EMCCD (single photon sensitive, pixel size 13 µm)
- Borealis – patented illumination (multimode fibre and correction optics)
 - High degree of uniformity
- Camera zoom
 - Enables to reach Nyquist sampling with high NA objectives



Spinning disk microscope

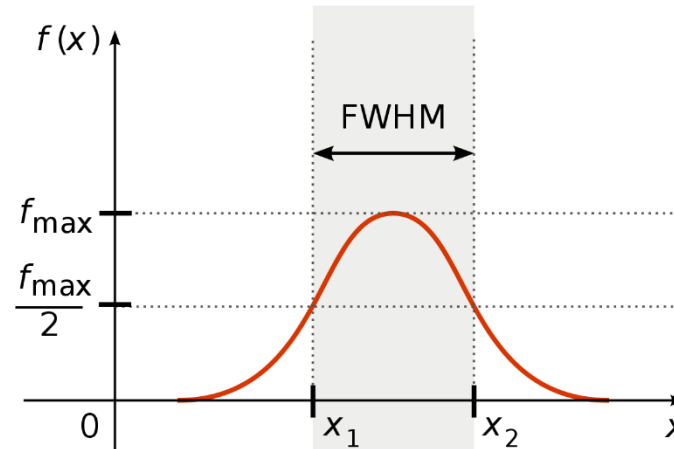
Dragonfly 500



- Confocal resolution

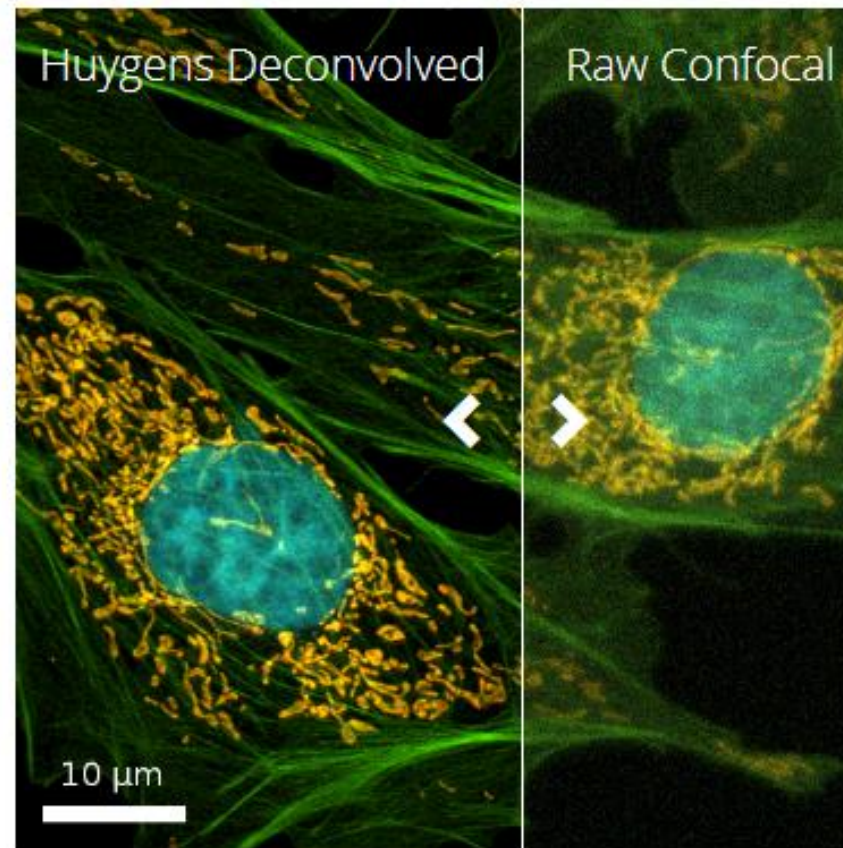
*Lateral **238 nm** (typical FWHM)*

*Axial **523 nm** (typical FWHM)*

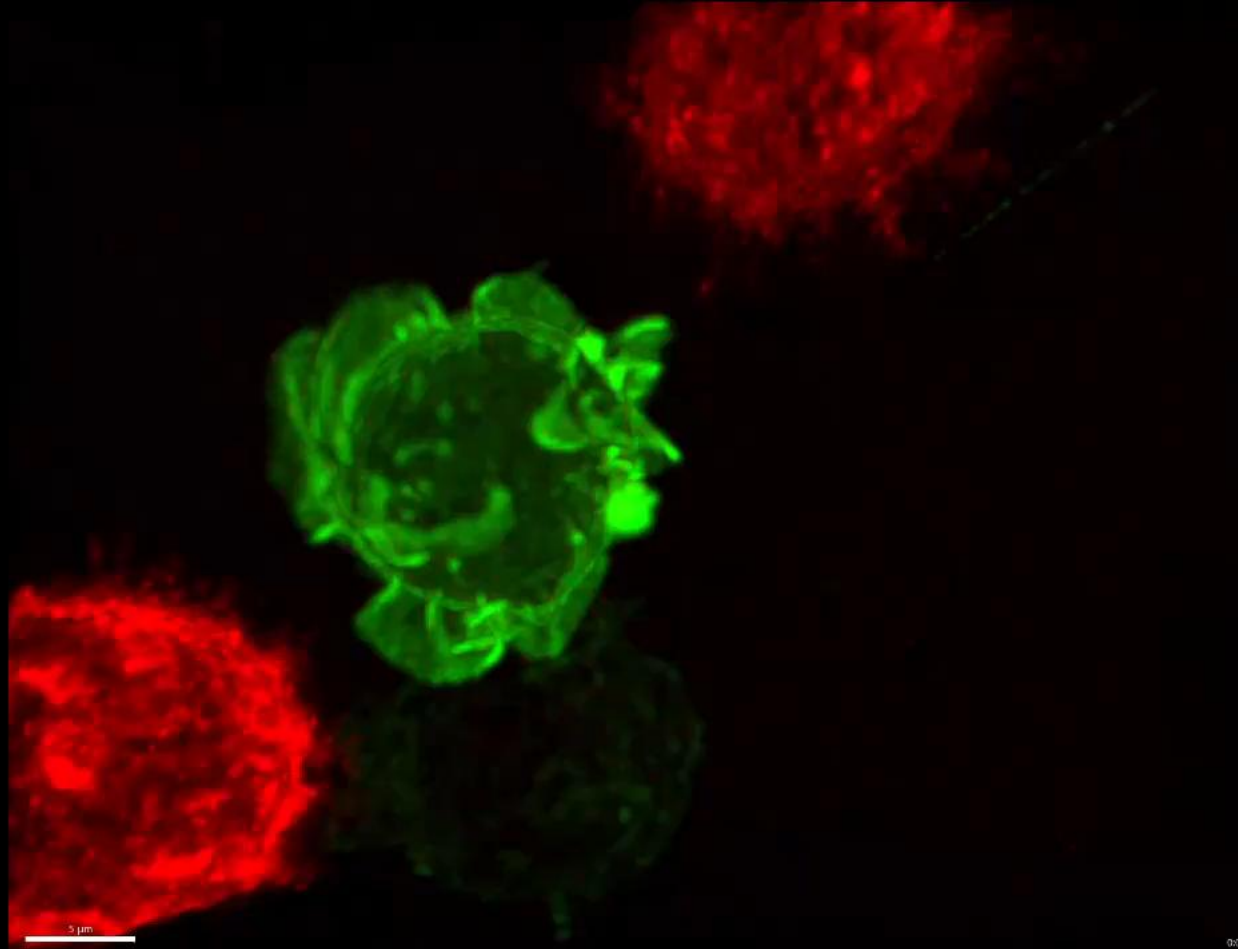


Deconvolution

- Image restoration – recovery of an image that is degraded by convolution (optical system)
 - corrects systematic error of blur (loss of contrast in smaller features)



Spinning disk microscope

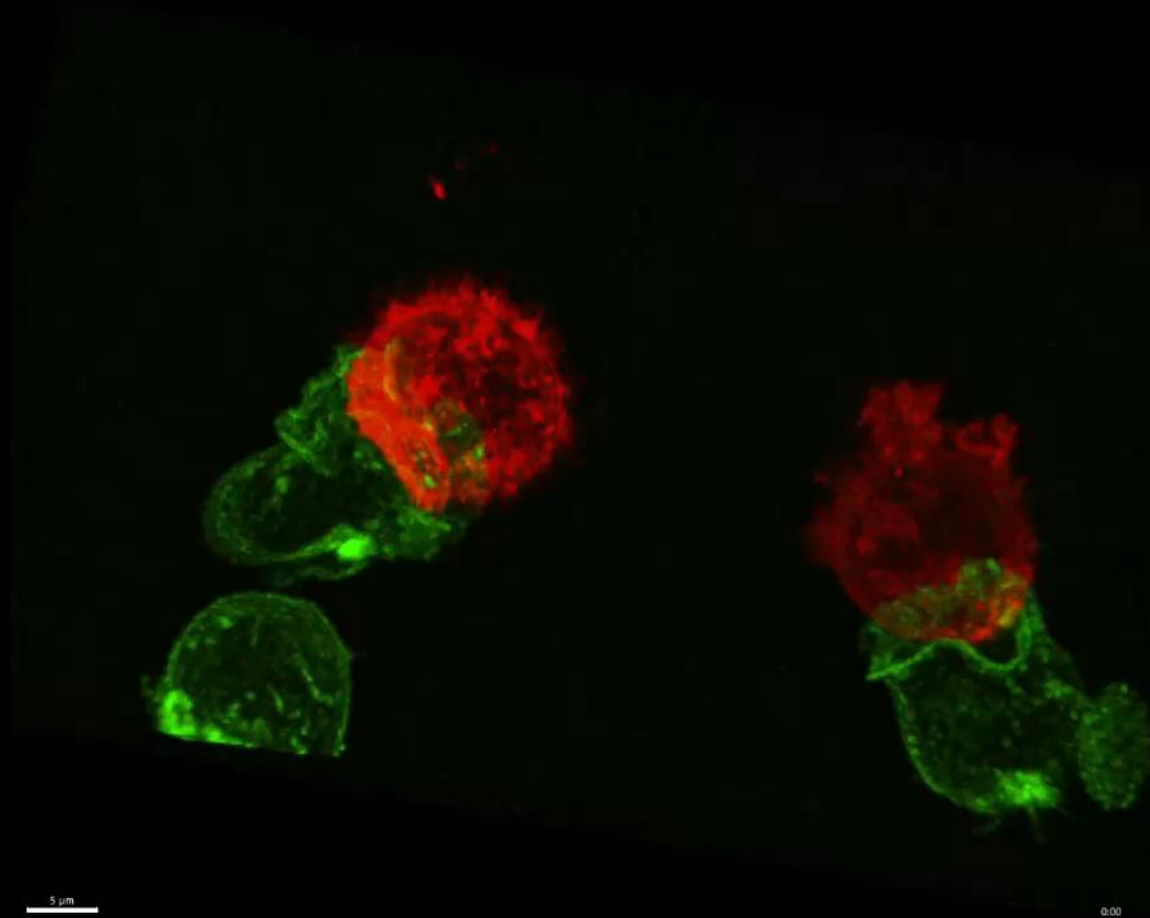


G: Jurkat T-cells

R: Raji B-cells

Courtesy of Ondřej Ballek, LMCF, IMG CAS

Spinning disk microscope



G: Jurkat T-cells

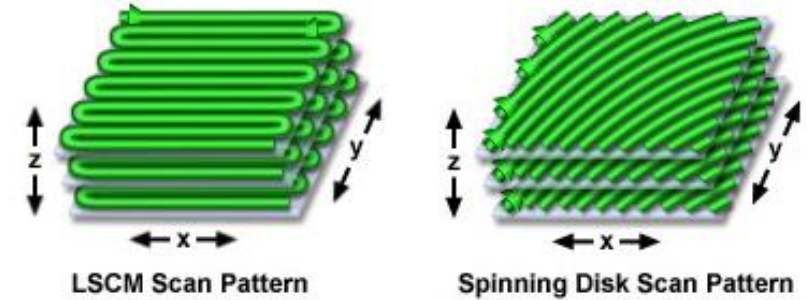
R: Raji B-cells

Conclusion

Advantages/disadvantages



- Speed (fast scanning, cameras, ~1000 pinholes at once)
- Photobleaching (lower illumination intensity)
- Pixel dwell time (higher, better image quality)
- Illumination (no strict requirement for lasers)

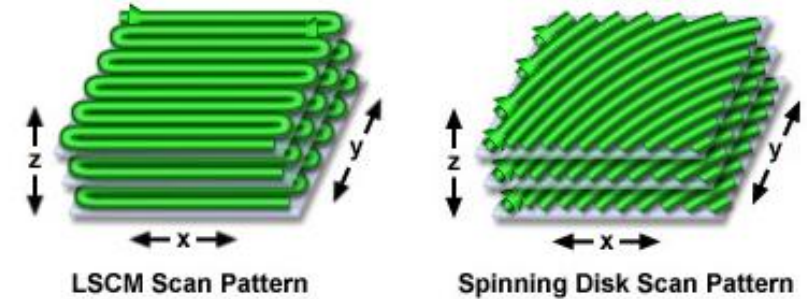


Conclusion

Advantages/disadvantages

+

- Speed (fast scanning, cameras, ~1000 pinholes at once)
- Photobleaching (lower illumination intensity)
- Pixel dwell time (higher, better image quality)
- Illumination (no strict requirement for lasers)



-

- Pinhole size (not adjustable – can use magnifying tube lens, usually lower axial resolution)
- Pinhole crosstalk (out-of-focus light through adjacent pinholes, reduces axial resolution)
- Level of light transition (lower, light throughput 40 - 60%)
- Field uniformity (usually lower, requires correction)

Thank you for your attention!

