

## New Opportunities for the Development of Education at the Technical University of Liberec

Specific objective A2: Development in the field of distance learning, online learning and blended learning

**NPO\_TUL\_MSMT-16598/2022**



## **KNT\_TNA\_Characterization of nanometrials**

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Funded by  
the European Union  
NextGenerationEU



**CZECH  
RECOVERY  
PLAN**

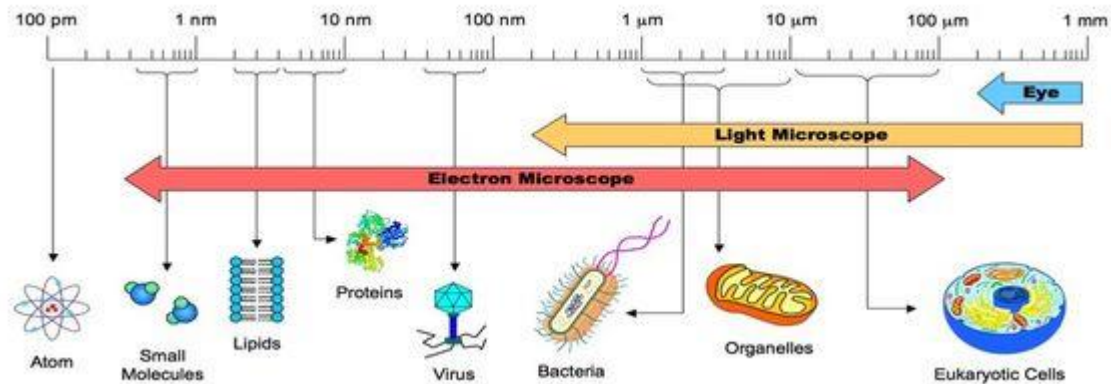
**MSMT**  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
YOUTH AND SPORTS

# Electron microscopy

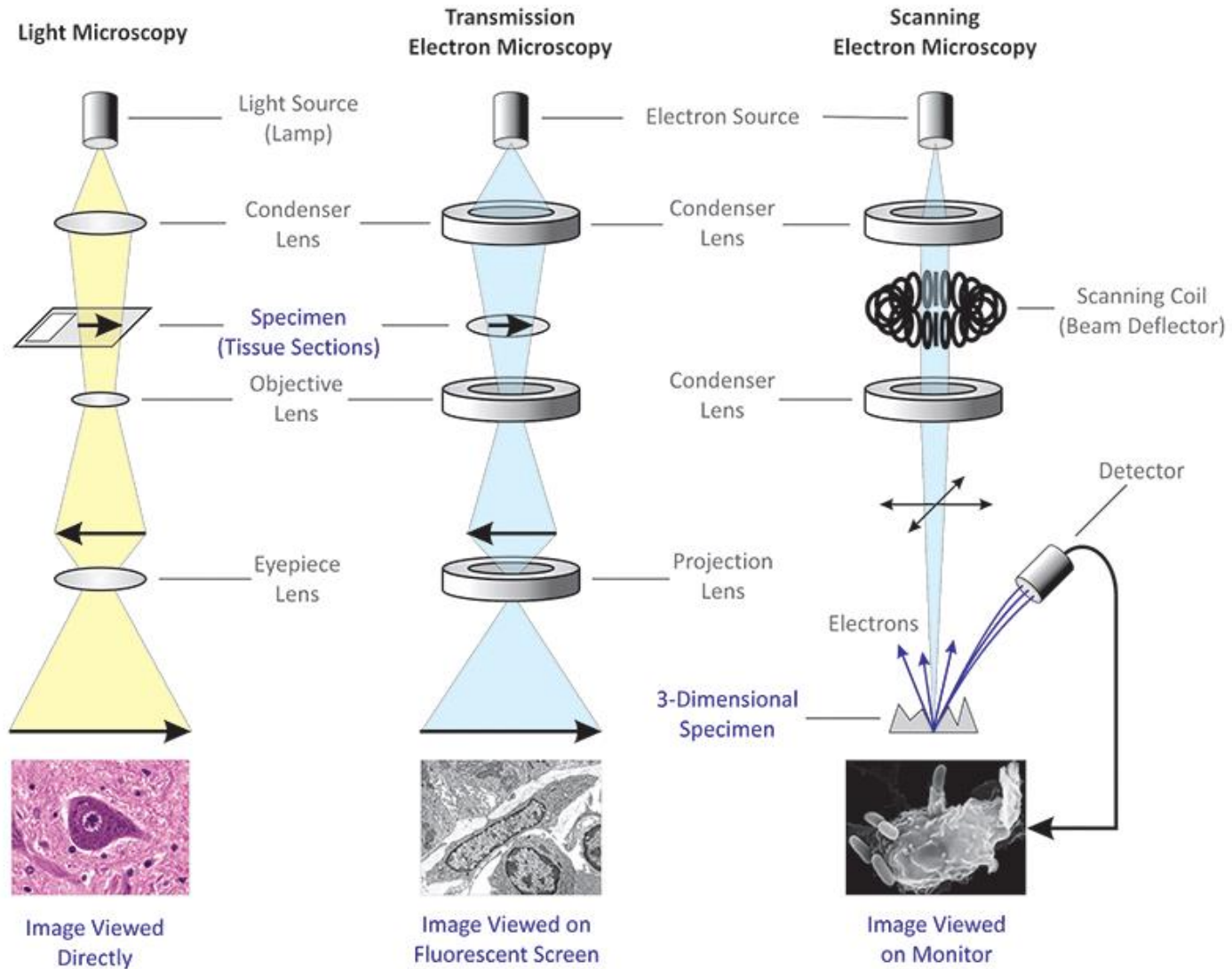
- It works with a stream of electrons in a vacuum
- Indirect electron beam observation:

TEM – transmission electron microscopy

SEM – scanning electron microscopy



# The difference between light and electron microscopy

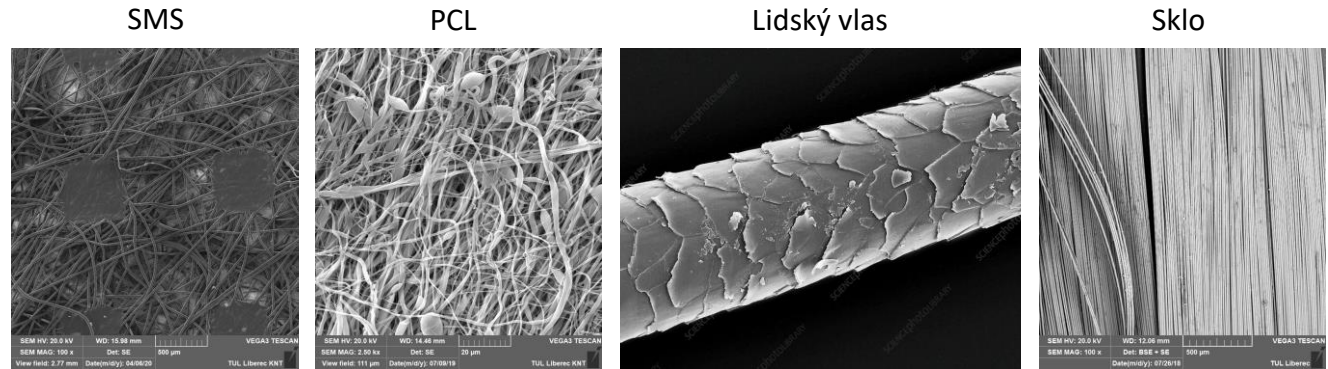


# TEM

- Observation of samples up to a thickness of 100 nm at high magnification and with high resolution
- Uses a stationary electron beam
- Detection of electrons passing through the sample
- For:
  - Lateral sizes of objects
  - Morphology
  - Visualization of surface layers and modifications
  - Determination of phase composition
  - Confirmation of crystalline / amorphous character



# SEM



- Designed for observing the surfaces of samples
- It uses a moving electron beam
- Imaging the surface of the sample using reflected secondary electrons
- Advantage: in the interaction of accelerated electrons with the mass of the specimen, in addition to the secondary signal, X-rays, Auger electrons, cathodoluminescence are generated - they carry additional information about the specimen (elemental composition, quantitative representation of individual elements can be determined)

# Comparison of TEM and SEM

- The basic difference between SEM and TEM is the location and properties of the preparation ("Massive" - SEM, "Thin" - TEM)
- SEM - electrons are primarily reflected back from the specimen
- TEM - electrons primarily pass through the specimen

# Atomic force microscopy - AFM

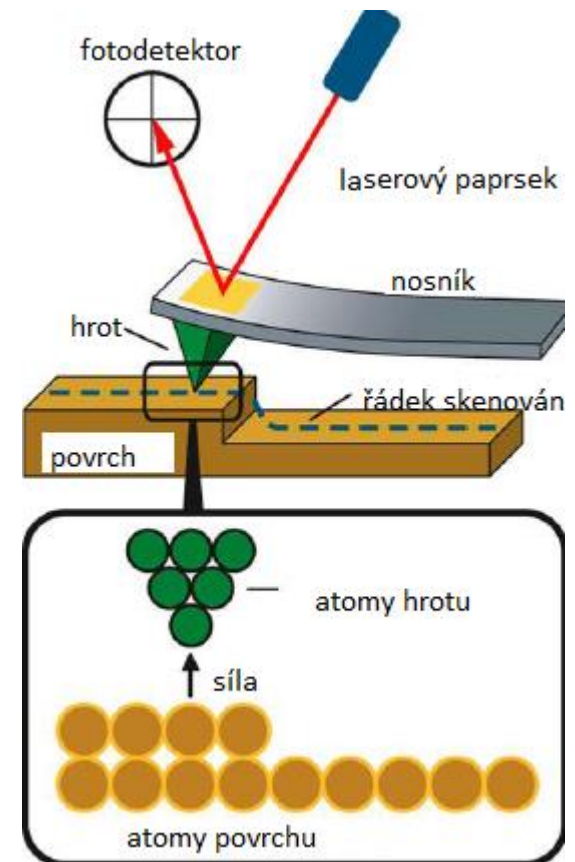
- Three-dimensional imaging of surfaces
- Very high resolution (hundreds of micrometers to nanometers)
- Use:
  - display
  - creation of structures



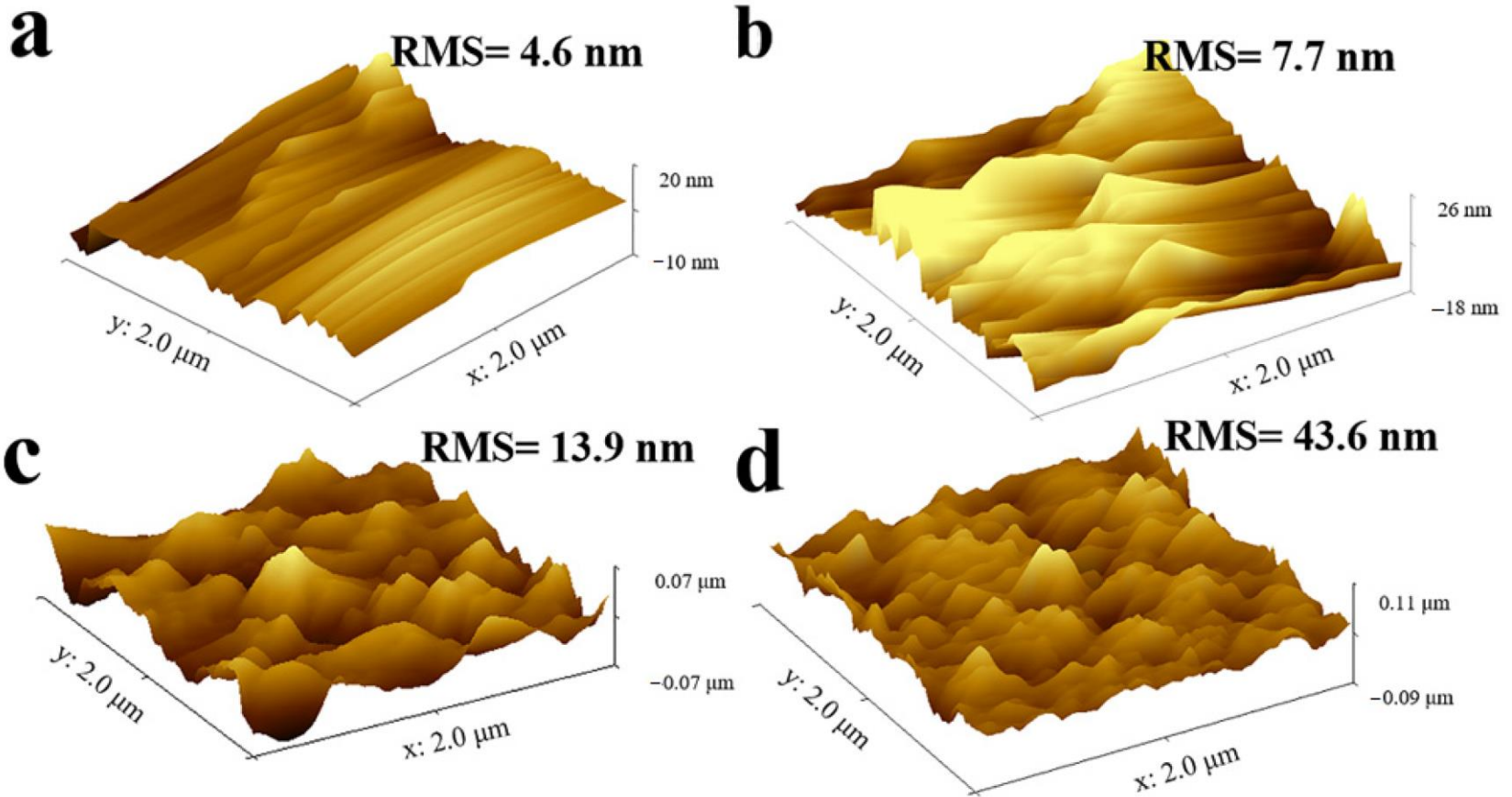


# Principle of AFM

- Detection of probe tip movement as it passes over the sample
- Maps the distribution of atomic forces on the sample surface
- The forces are caused by the close approach of the tip to the surface → the emergence of an attractive / repulsive force → causes the tip arm to bend
- Arm fluctuations are monitored by laser
- Advantage - possibility to study conductive and non-conductive samples



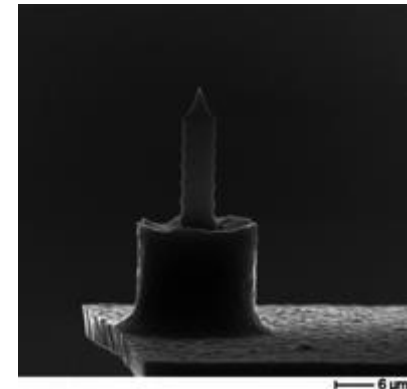
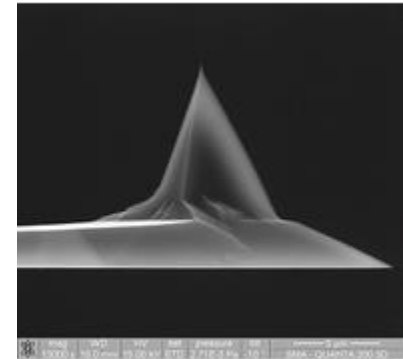
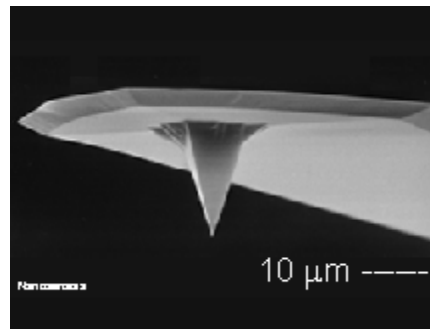
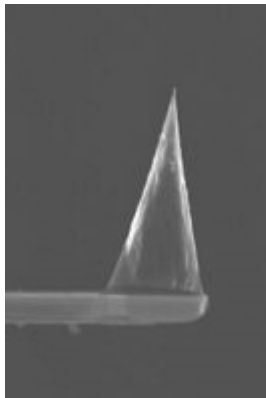
# AFM



Atomic force microscopy (AFM) images of the fabrics: (a) pristine fabric, (b) PDMS-coated fabric, (c) PDMS/STA-coated fabric, and (d) PDMS/STA/SiO<sub>2</sub>-coated fabric.

# Principle of AFM

- The main element - the arm with the tip
- Tip length: several  $\mu\text{m}$
- Tip radius: 10 - 50  $\mu\text{m}$
- Tip: silicon, silicon nitride
- Arm: important flexibility



# AFM properties

- Scanning of small samples
- Electrically non-conductive samples can also be studied
- Displays the surface, not the volume structure
- Does not require sample adjustment
- Scanning is slow (min.)
- Large dispersion of usable environments (air, gas, solutions, magnetic field)

# Differential scanning calorimetry - DSC

- Basic method of thermal analysis
- Investigation of thermal properties of material
- It is used to determine melting point, glass transition and crystallization
- Thermal processes are studied as a function of time or temperature during a defined temperature process
- Standard temperature range of the device: -100 - 600 °C



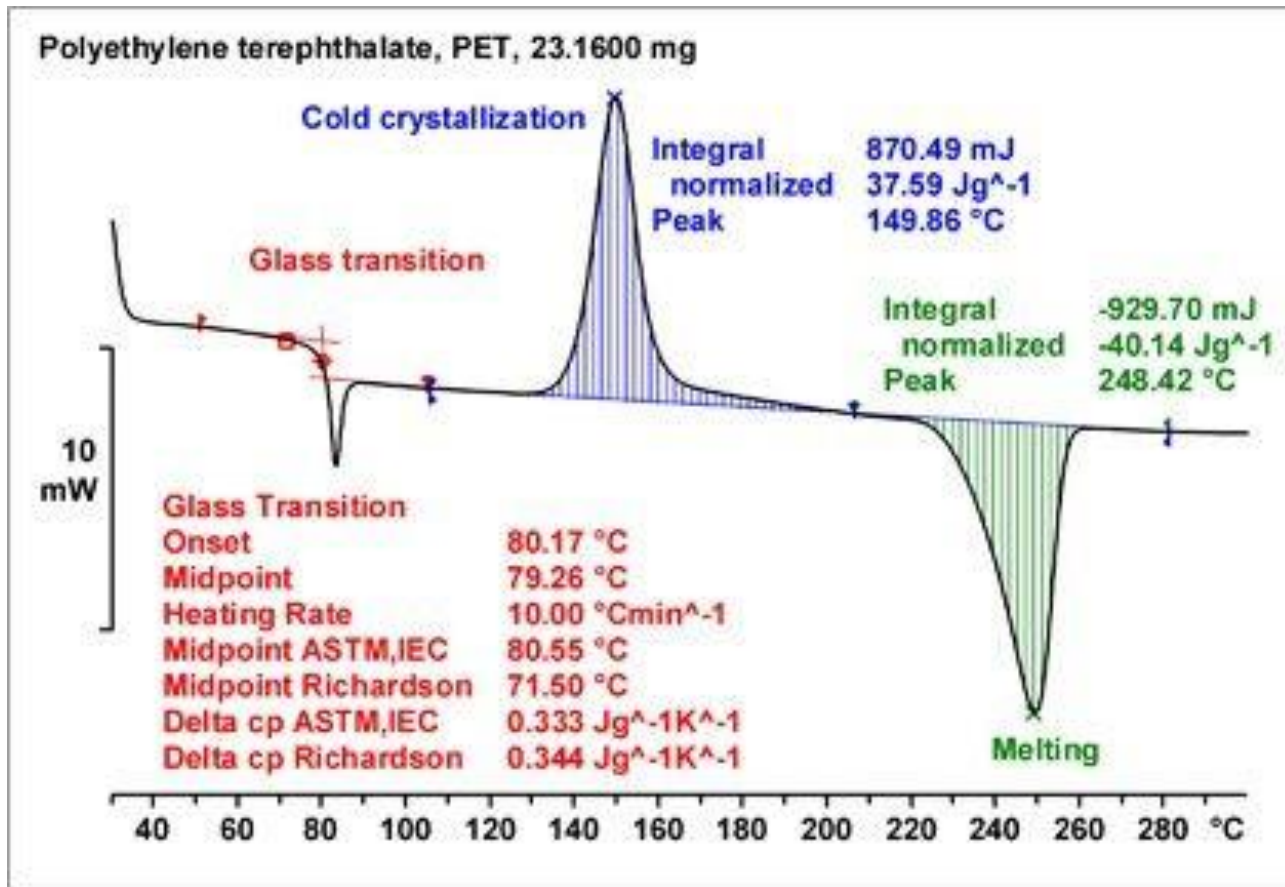
# Principle of DSC

- DSC with power compensation
- Maintaining a zero temperature difference between the measured and the reference sample
- 2 separate measuring cells and 2 heat sources
- We measure the electrical power required to maintain a constant temperature of both samples
  
- DSC with heat flux
- We measure the temperature difference of the measured and comparative sample
- Both samples are in a common cell and are connected by a thermal bridge
- If we know the thermal resistance between the furnace, the measured sample and the reference sample, the heat flow from or to the sample is proportional to the temperature difference

# Principle of DSC measurement

- The measured sample in the crucible is placed on a thermocouple in a calorimetric cell together with a reference sample which is placed on another thermocouple
- We choose: weight, temperature program, furnace atmosphere (N, H, Ar, O,...)
- Exothermic process - the heating of the measured sample slows down
- Endothermic process - the heating of the studied sample is accelerated
- Higher heating rate increases sensitivity, but reduces the possibility of event resolution

# DSC





# Thermogravimetric analysis - TGA

- Basic method of thermal analysis - dynamic analytical method
- It studies changes in weight as a function of temperature
- Determination of material



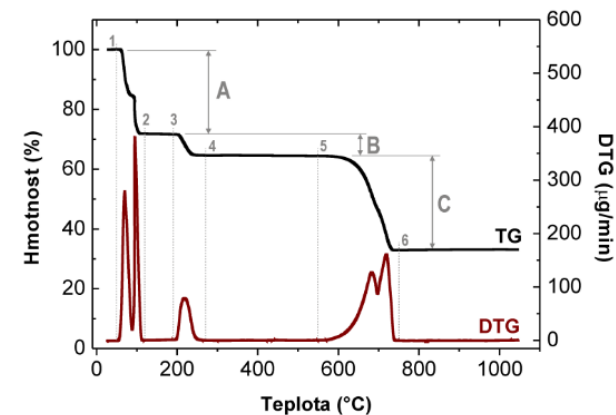
# TGA measurement principle

- The sample in the crucible is placed on the thermal scales in the oven of the thermal analyzer
- We choose: sample weight, temperature program, furnace atmosphere and flow
- Thermogravimetric curve:
- Determination of partial and total weight loss of thermal decomposition
- Determination of decomposition temperature of substances
- Study of reaction kinetics of individual processes of thermal decomposition



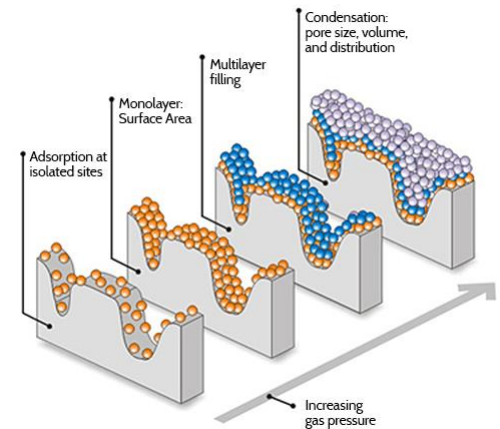
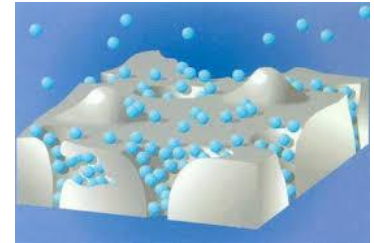
# TG curve

- Loss of crystal-bound molecules of water and other solvents
- Sublimation
- Drying
- Evaporation of volatile components
- Desorption and absorption of gases
- Oxidation of metals
- Thermal decomposition in an inert atmosphere
- Heterogeneous chemical reaction



# Determination of specific surface area by BET method

- Adsorption - the accumulation of particles (atoms, molecules) of a gas, liquid or solid on the surface (phase interface) by the effect of interfacial attractive forces
- Physisorption - gas or liquid molecules are bound to the surface of a solid by physical forces (van der Waals)



# Principle of BET

- Determination of the dependence of the adsorbed amount of gas on the equilibrium pressure
- After heating in vacuo, small portions of gas are gradually added
- The amount of gas adsorbed on the surface is measured
- When creating a molecular monolayer, the specific surface area can be calculated - knowledge of the area occupied by one molecule and the number of adsorbed molecules
- Further adsorption - formation of multilayers
- After complete filling of the pores, the total pore volume can be determined (knowledge of adsorbate density)
- Hysteresis evaluation - determination of pore shape

# X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy XPS

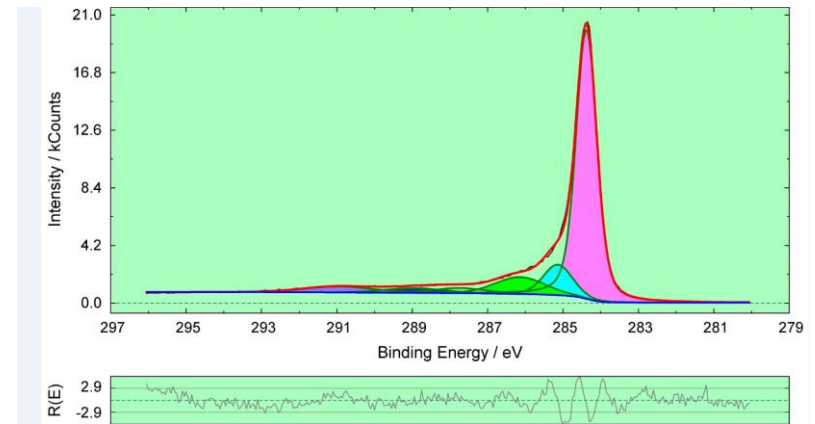
- It examines the chemical composition and surface condition of solids
- Relatively simple technique with easy evaluation of results
- The method is non-destructive (the sample can be used repeatedly)

# Principle of XPS



- The examined sample is irradiated with X-rays, causing the emission of photoelectrons from the surface of the sample
- Photoelectrons undergo both elastic and inelastic collisions with atoms in the sample
  - Inelastic collision - the photoelectron continues to fly in the original direction, but loses its energy
  - Elastic collision - energy does not change, the direction of flight changes
- The photoelectrons that leave the sample are detected in the appropriate direction by the analyzer - they measure the intensity of the photoelectrons depending on their kinetic energy

# XPS



- The result is a photoelectron spectrum - the dependence of intensity on energy (kinetic / binding)
- Spectral lines (peaks) - identification of elements in the sample
- It is possible to determine chemical compounds in which the binding energy of the photoelectron changes
- Quantitative analysis - relative concentrations of elements and compounds in the sample

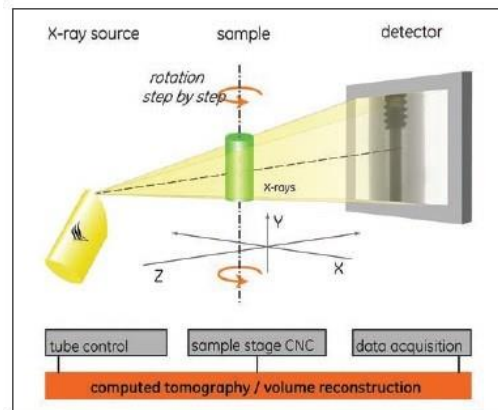


# XPS

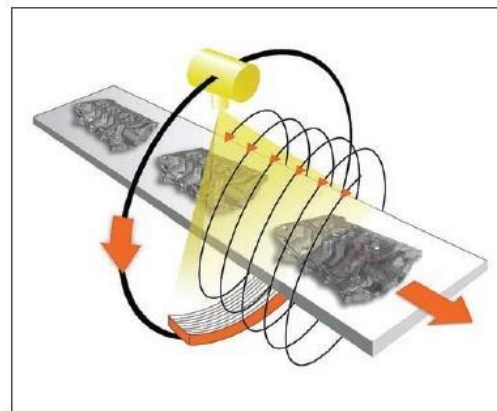
- All elements except H and He can be measured
- Photoelectrons are released only if they are emitted at a depth of up to about 10 nm
- Problem when measuring non-conductive samples  
- charging
- Industrial applications - polymer surface modification, catalysis, corrosion, adhesion,...

# Computed tomography - CT

- Measurement of X-ray absorption by a measured object using many projections and computer image processing
- The industry mainly uses cone beam scanning
- In medical practice - helical scanning



Obr. 1 CT – kuželový svazek

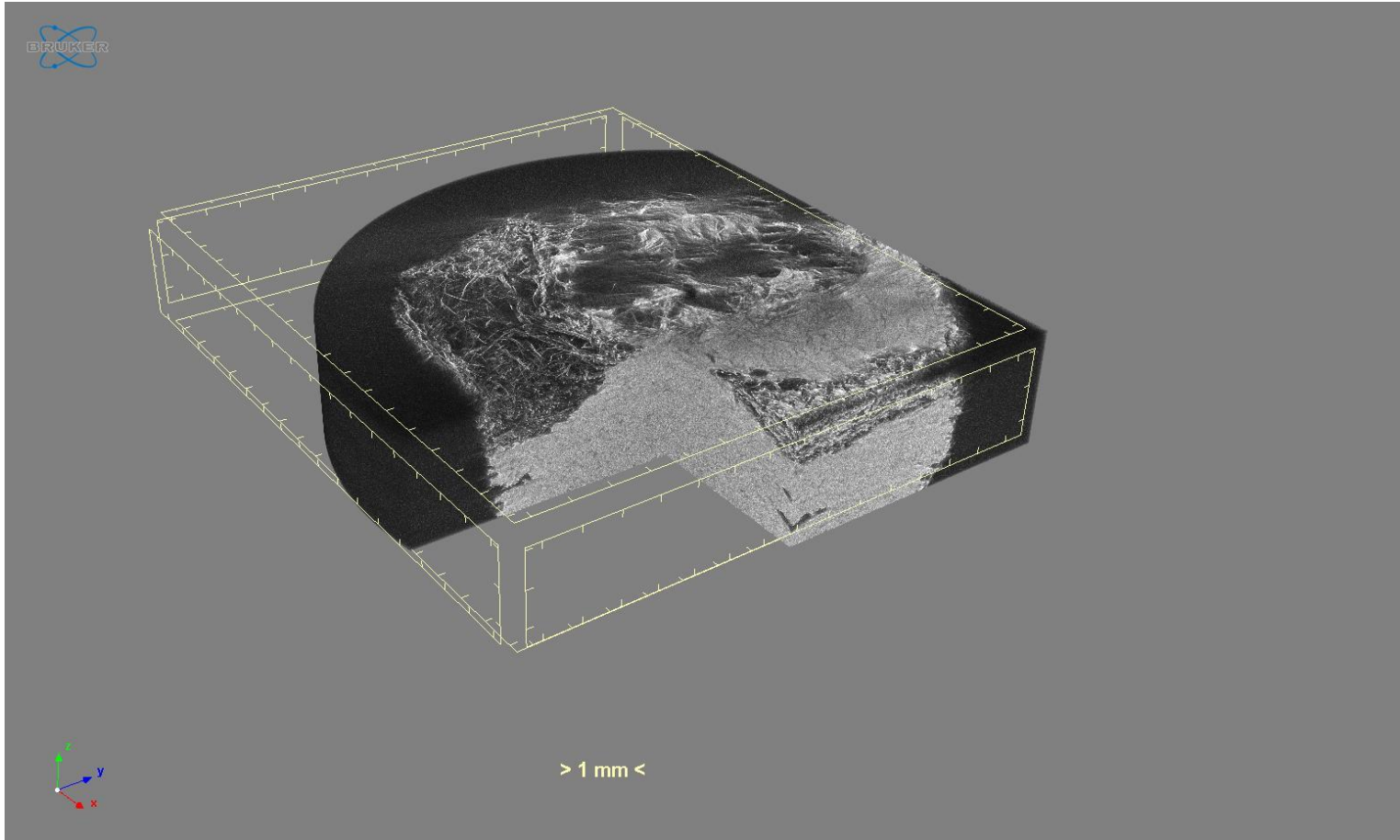


Obr. 2 CT – snímání po šroubovici

# Principle of CT

- The X-ray machine emits a narrowly collimated beam of radiation in the shape of a fan, which passes through the examined object and is registered by a set of detectors that convert the passed quantum of X-rays into an electrical signal, which is digitized and further processed.
- Within 1 cycle ( $360^\circ$ ), the system obtains 400 - 700 projection measurements of the absorption of a given object from different angles
- Computed tomography is a method presenting an image of a specific layer of the examined object with a predefined thickness, which is given by the collimation of the primary beam.

# CT



Thank you for your attention!

# TEST

- Explain the difference between scanning and transmission electron microscopy.
- What is the purpose of atomic force microscopy (AFM)?
- Draw and describe the curve from the DSC measurement.
- Describe the principle of computed tomography (CT)?