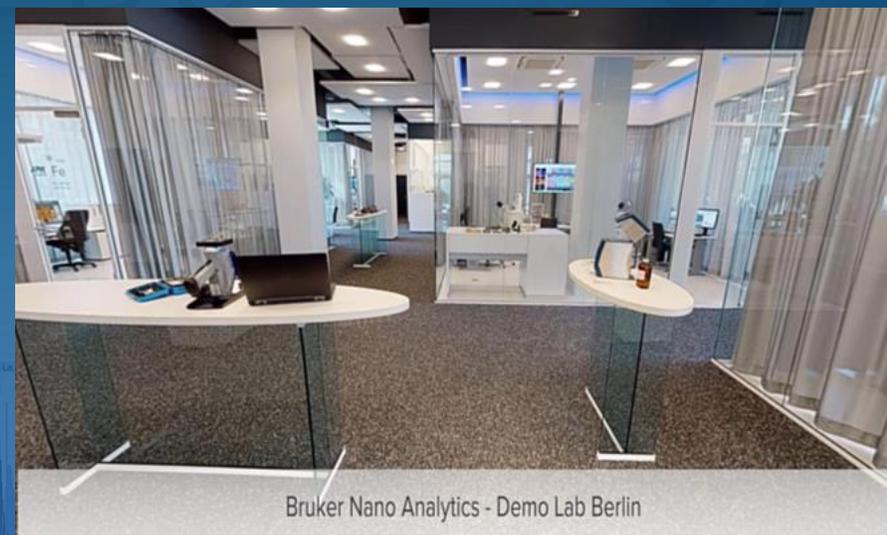


XFLASH® 7 DETECTOR WEBINAR SERIES PART II

# Achieving sub-10 nm EDS spatial resolution on bulk specimen in SEM

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# Presenters

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**Dr. Igor Németh**

Application Scientist, Bruker Nano Analytics

**Purvesh Soni**

Application Scientist, Bruker Nano Analytics

# Outline

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- Introduction XFlash® 7 for SEM
  - Fast signal processing
  - Data/spectrum quality at high speeds
  - **Esprit LiveMap**: real time chemical imaging



XFLASH® 7 DETECTOR WEBINAR SERIES PART I  
**Improving Efficiency with the XFlash® 7 EDS  
Detector Family**

On-demand session downloadable from  
[www.bruker.com](http://www.bruker.com)

- Achieving sub-10 nm EDS spatial resolution on bulk specimen in SEM
  - Spatial resolution in SEM: Influencing factors, beam diameter, kV, optimal pixel size
  - Optimal mapping settings for high resolution measurement. What to consider?
  - Application examples:
    - semiconductor structures (FinFET)
    - Ni-based single crystal superalloy

# XFlash® 7

Fast. Precise. Reliable.



XFlash® 7 - the detector  
for SEM and FIB-SEM

XFlash® 7T - the detector  
for TEM and STEM

## XFlash® 7 – Be faster!

With up to **1,000,000 cps** the XFlash® 7 offers the highest real **analytical throughput** on the market for EDS detectors, meaning:

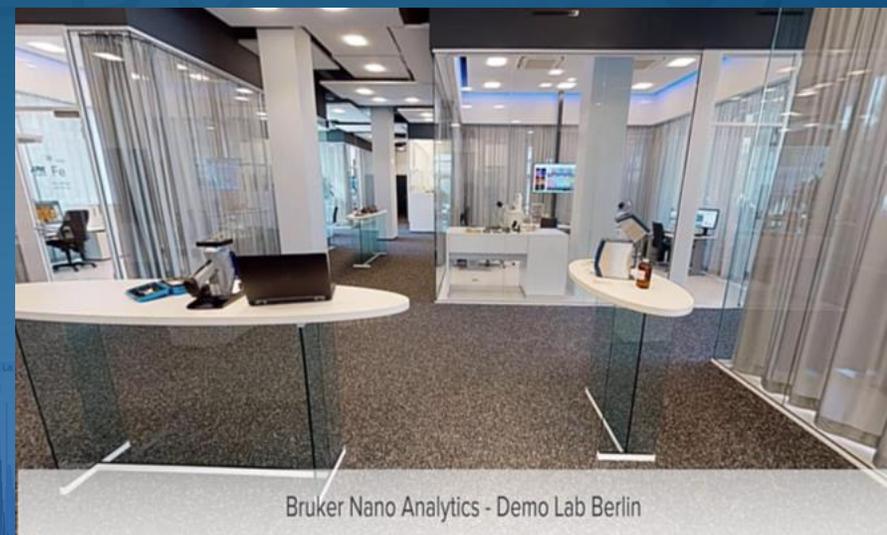
- Get best results in the shortest time
  - Fast survey maps
  - Fast particle analysis
- No risk of signal loss caused by slow read-out electronics
- Maximize your sample throughput without compromising quality
- **ESPRIT LiveMap** for real-time chemical imaging: use chemical information instead of BSE image signal to navigate on your sample



XFLASH® 7 DETECTOR WEBINAR SERIES PART II

# Achieving sub-10 nm EDS spatial resolution on bulk specimen in SEM

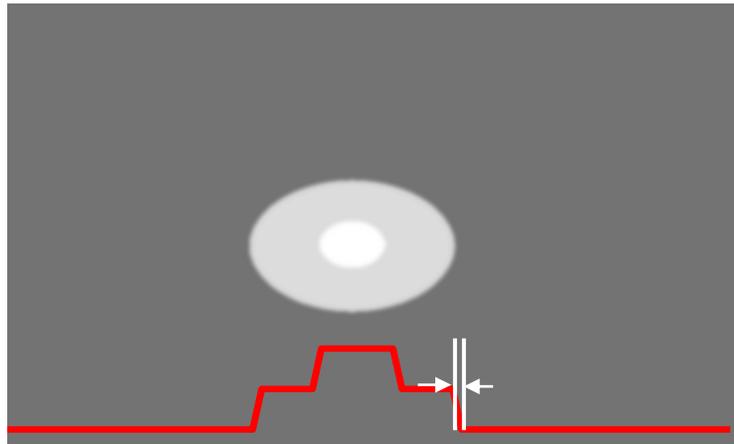
Bruker Nano GmbH  
Am Studio 2D  
12489 Berlin, Germany  
[applications.bna@bruker.com](mailto:applications.bna@bruker.com)



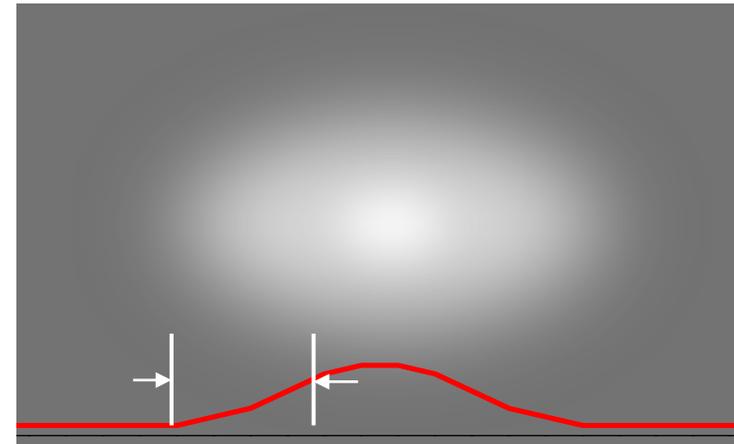
## Spatial resolution

---

- Discern or separate distinct two features -> Spatial resolution
- Separate fine scale features -> High spatial resolution
- Fine scale/High magnification? -> Application

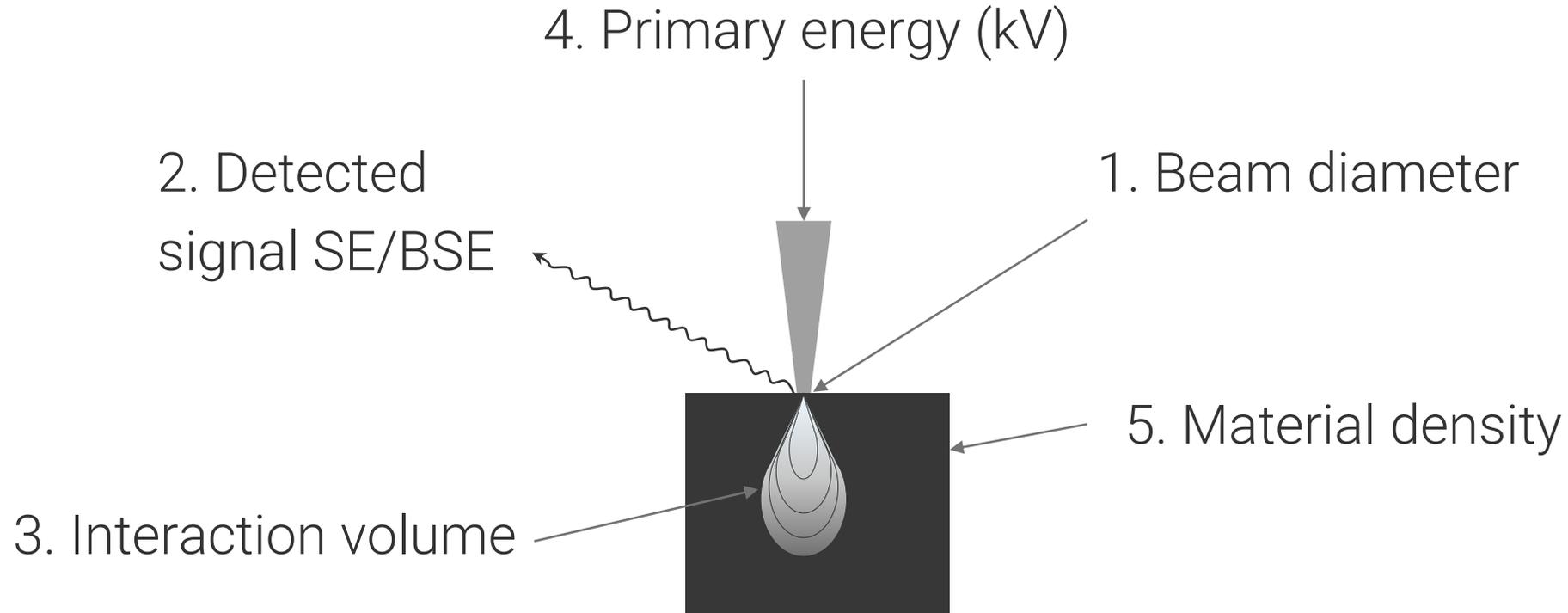


Sharp features – good spatial resolution

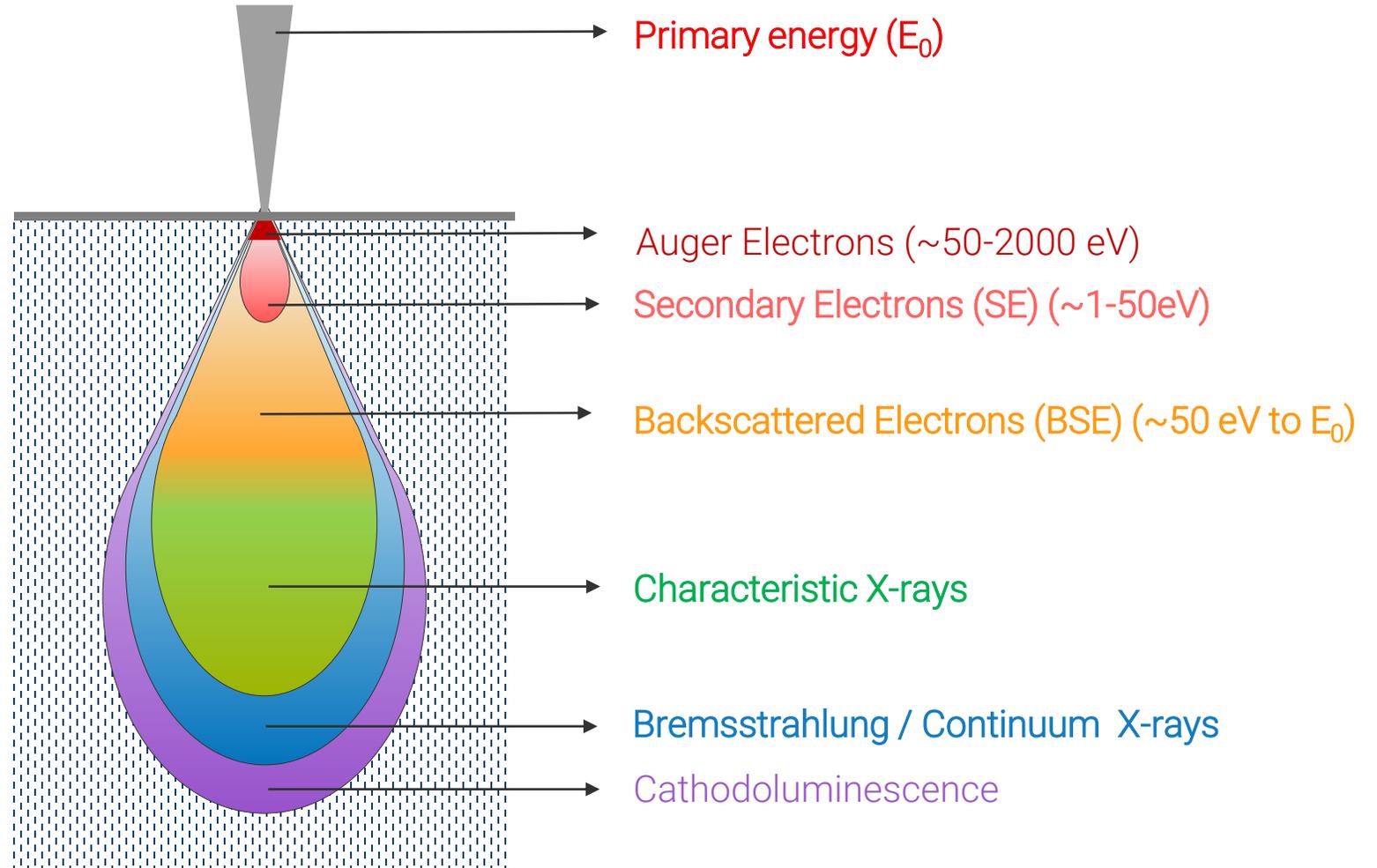
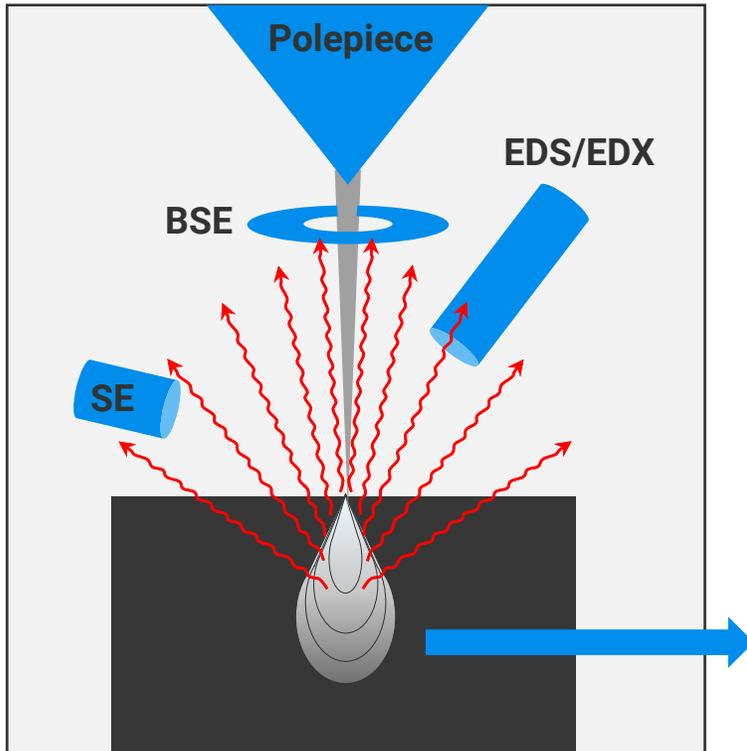


Blurred features – bad spatial resolution

# Spatial resolution in SEM



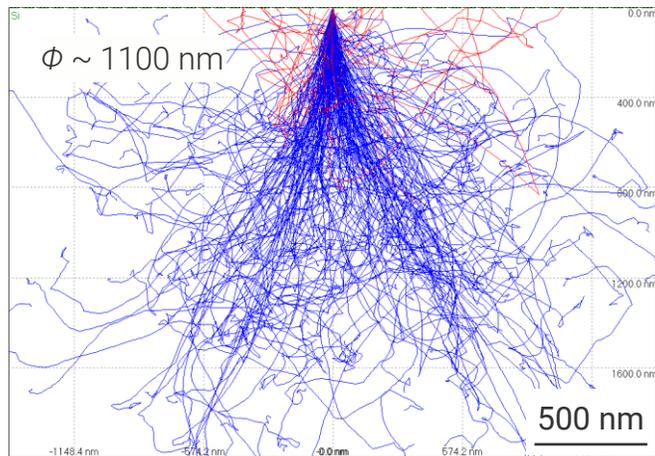
# Interaction volume – signal generation



## Interaction volume – different materials

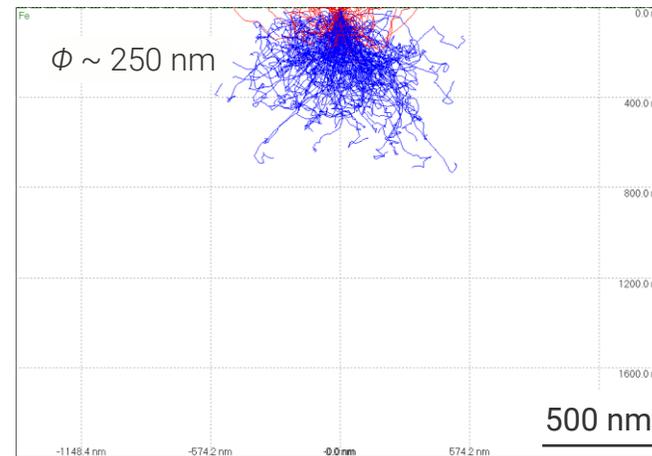
- Signal generation depth (interaction volume) at 15 kV for different materials

Si - 15 kV



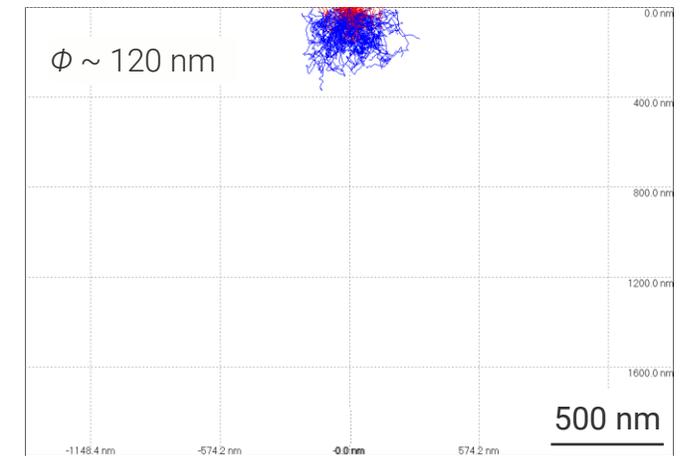
Z = 14       $\rho = 2.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$        $K\alpha = 1.74 \text{ keV}$

Fe - 15 kV



Z = 26       $\rho = 7.86 \text{ g/cm}^3$        $K\alpha = 6.40 \text{ keV}$

W - 15 kV

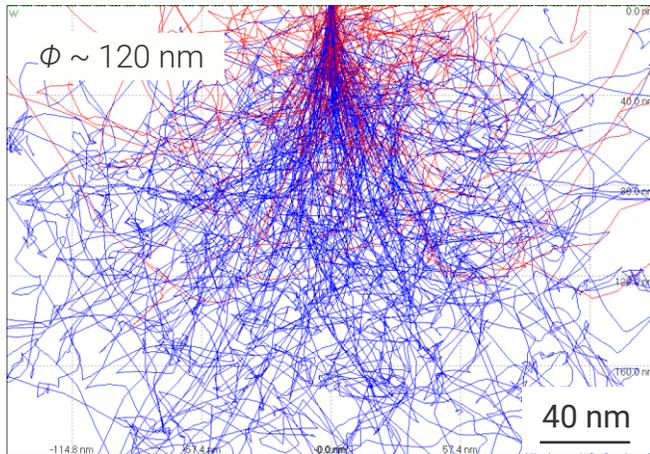


Z = 79       $\rho = 19.3 \text{ g/cm}^3$        $L\alpha = 9.70 \text{ keV}$

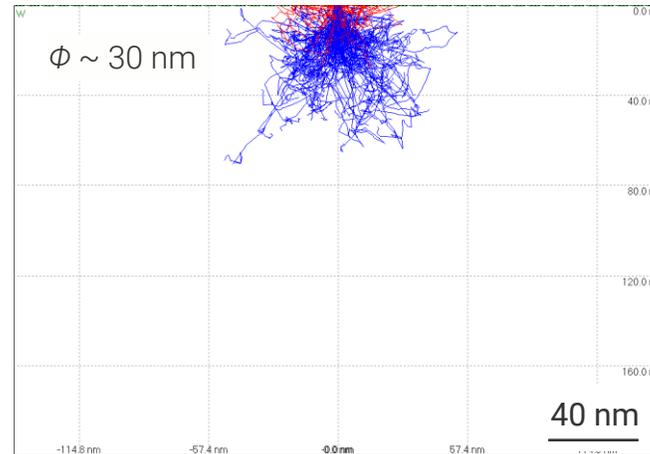
## Interaction volume – different kVs

- Signal generation depth (interaction volume) for W at different primary energies

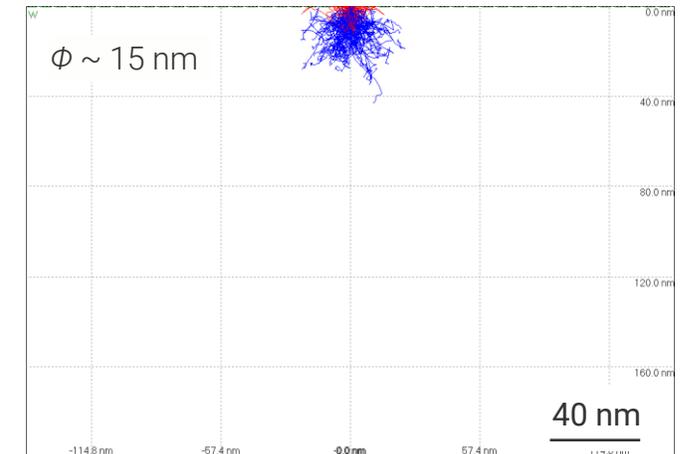
W - 15 kV



W - 5 kV



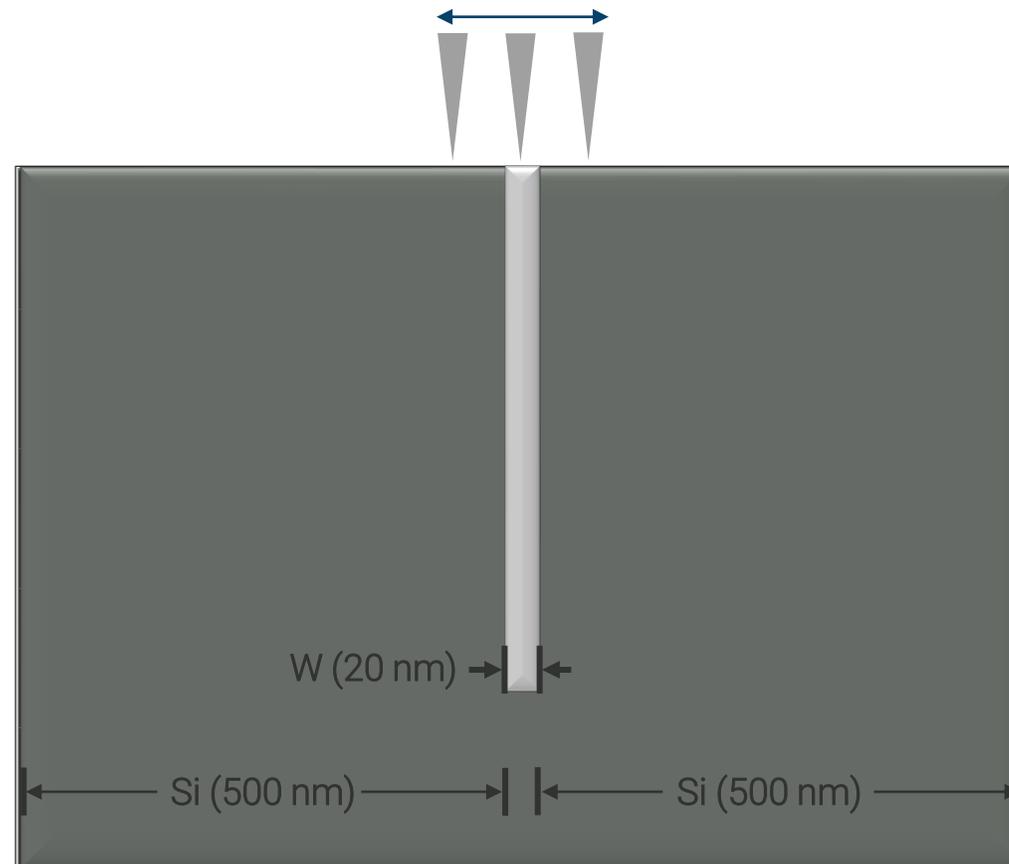
W - 3 kV



$Z = 74$        $\rho = 19.3 \text{ g/cm}^3$        $\text{La} = 8.39 \text{ keV}$

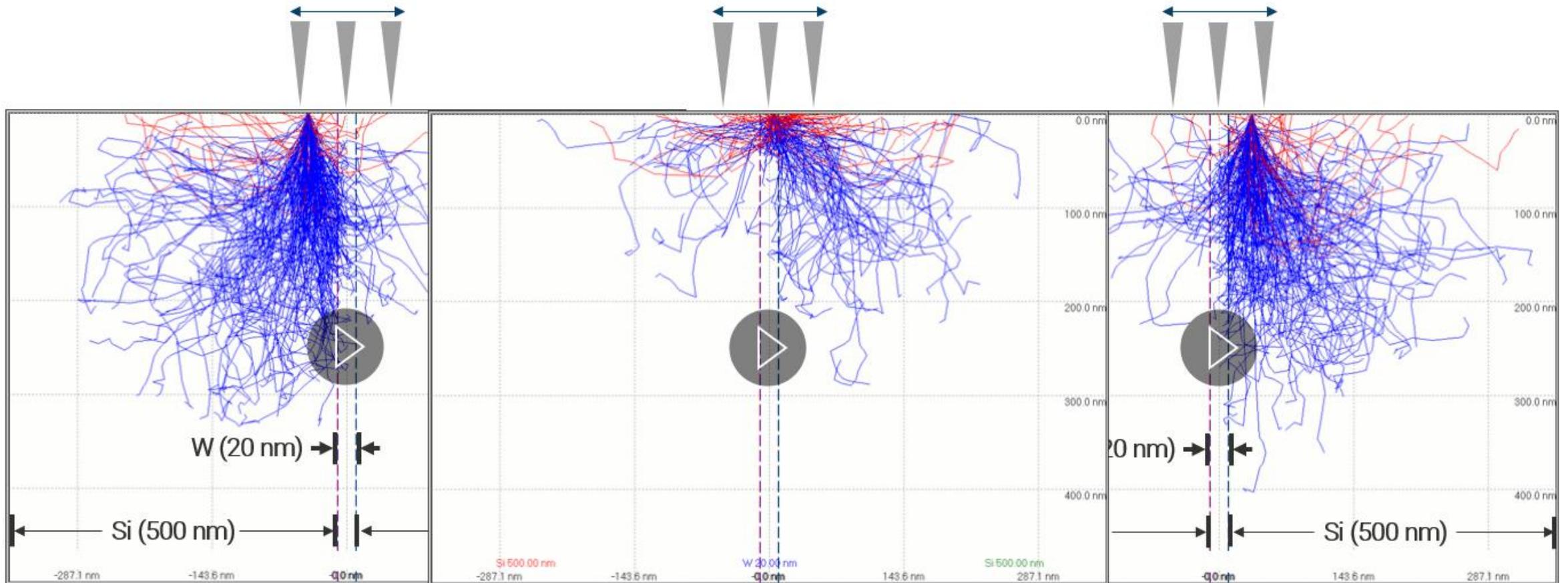
## Interaction volume generation Si – W – Si

- 5 kV beam scanning across a 20 nm tungsten (W) layer in Silicon (Si)



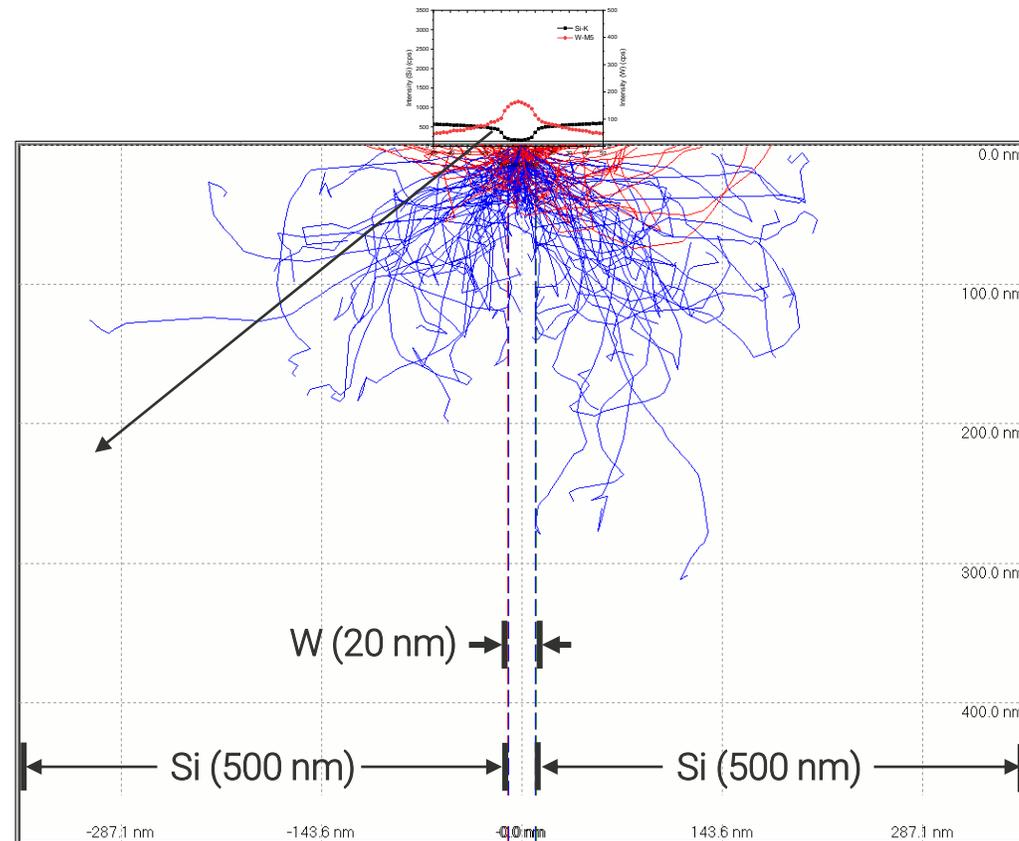
## Interaction volume generation Si – W – Si

- 5 kV beam scanning across a 20 nm tungsten (W) layer in Silicon (Si)



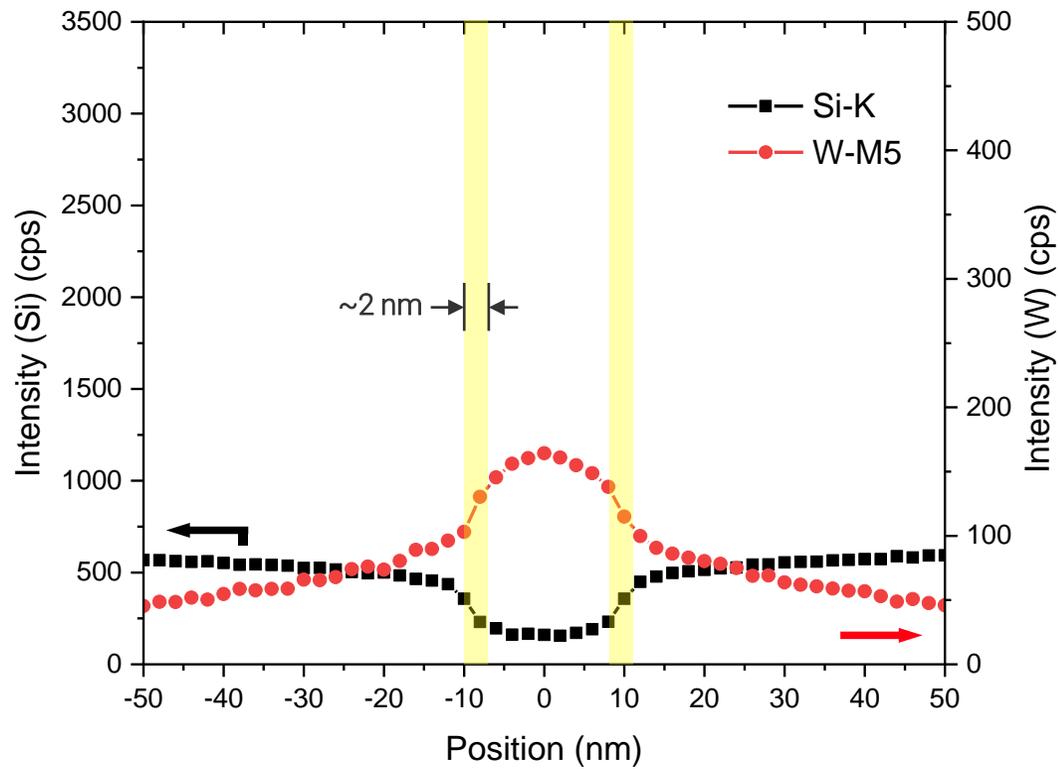
## Intensity of X rays generated across Si – W – Si

- 5 kV beam scanning across a 20 nm tungsten (W) layer in Silicon (Si)

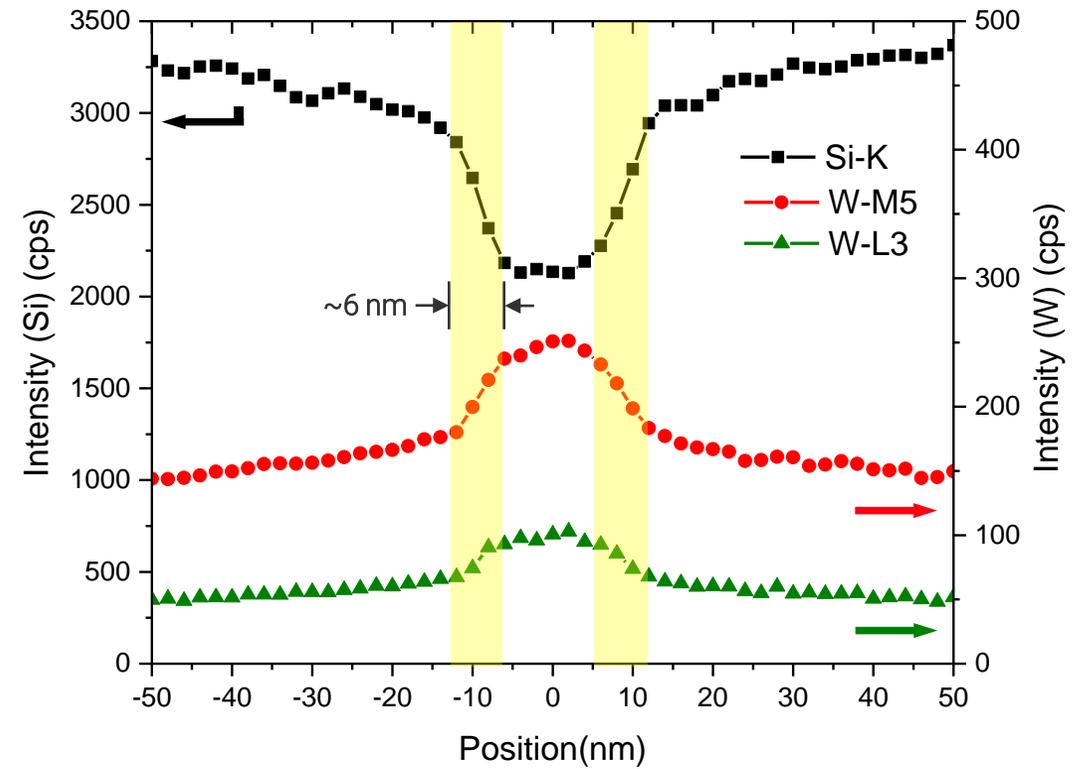


# Intensity of X rays generated across Si – W – Si

5 kV



20 kV

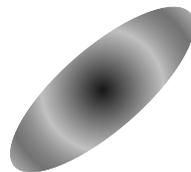


# Radial distribution of x-ray intensity vs. Beam diameter

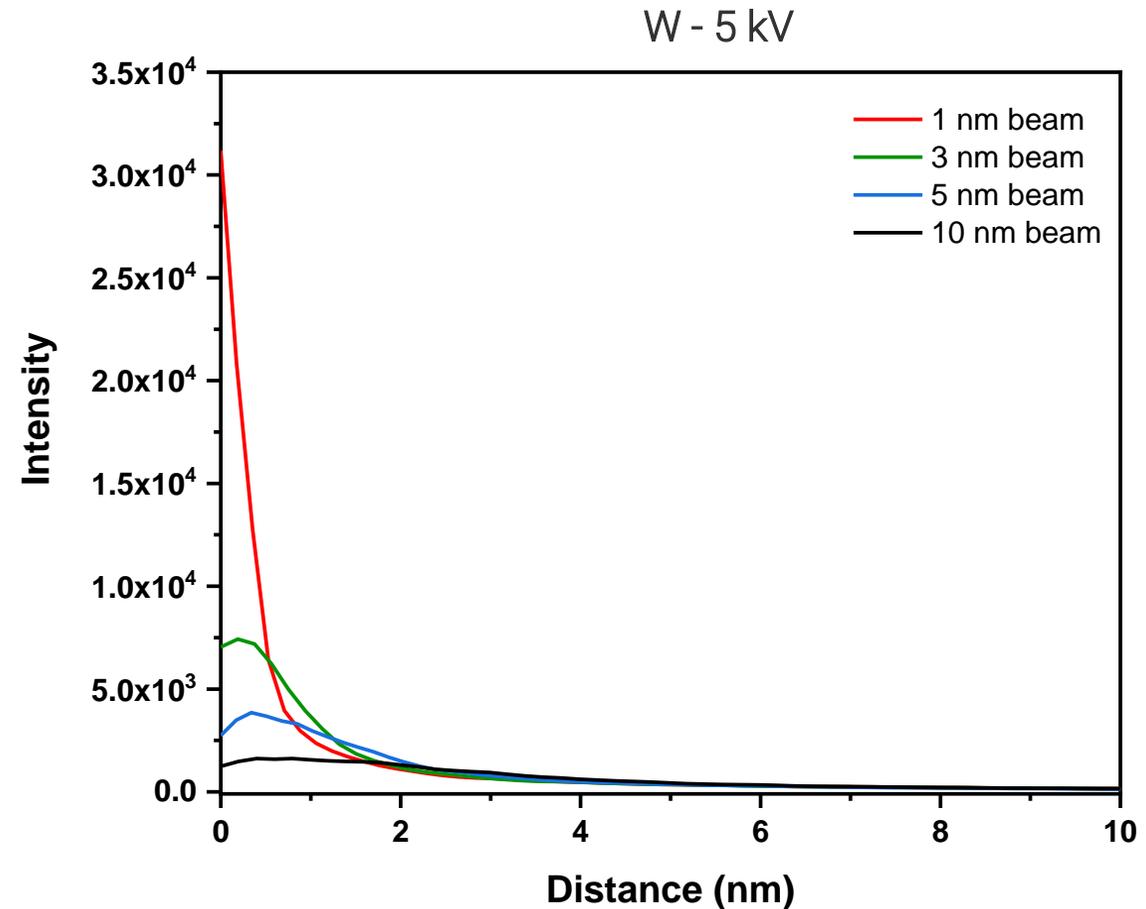
## Importance of beam focusing

- Intensity of generated x rays is higher for smaller beam diameter – lower noise around signal

Well focused beam –  
Sharp interfaces

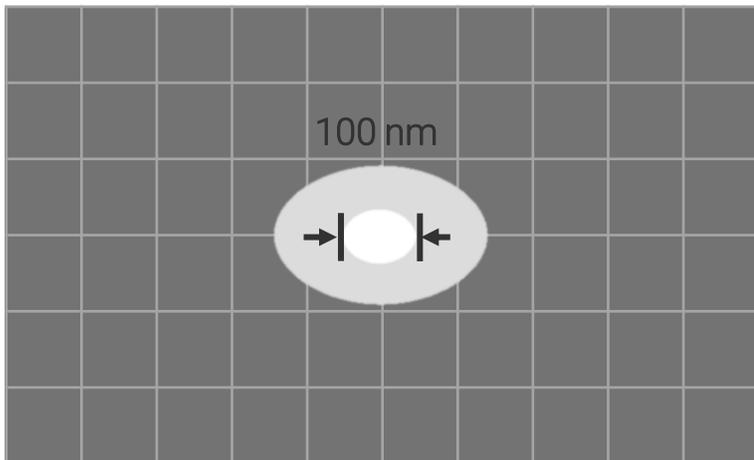


Distorted beam –  
more noise in map



# Pixel size

Image res:  $10 \times 6$  pixels, pixel size = 100 nm

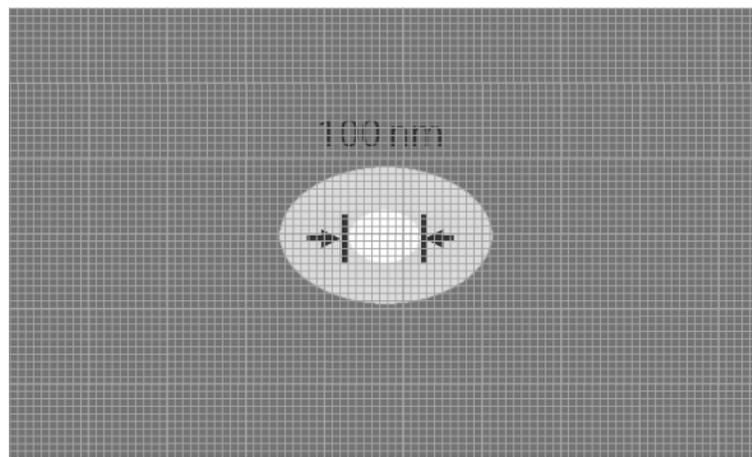


Map = 60 pixels (Under sampling)

Map counts = 200,000

Mean = 3333 counts/pixel

Image res:  $200 \times 120$  pixels, pixel size = 5 nm

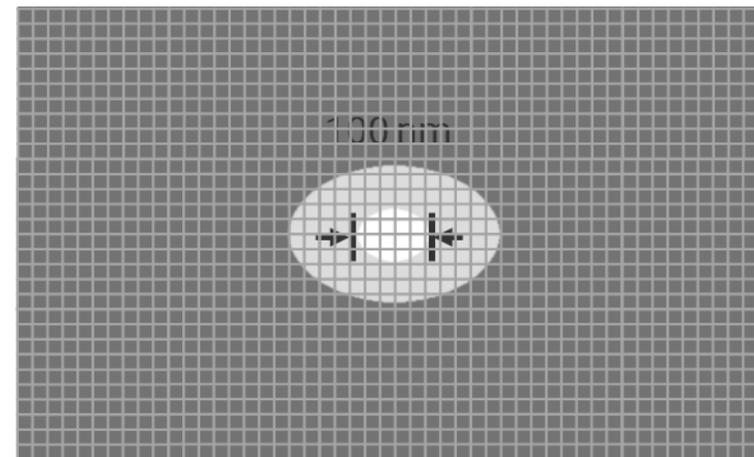


Map = 24000 pixels (Oversampling)

Map counts = 200,000

Mean = 8.33 counts/pixel

Image res:  $50 \times 30$  pixels, pixel size = 20 nm



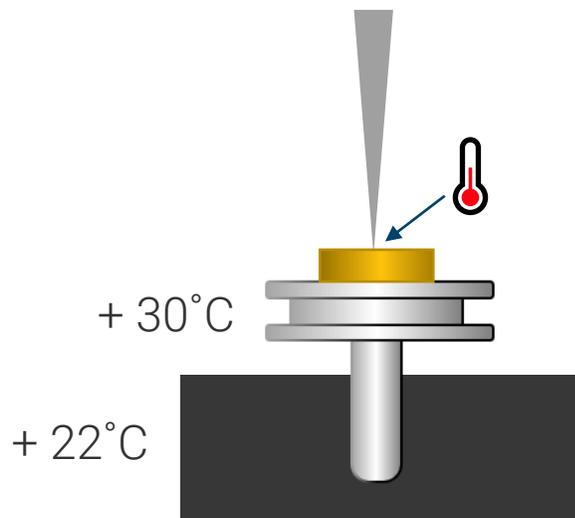
Map = 1500 pixels (reasonable sampling)

Map counts = 200,000

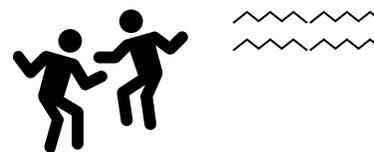
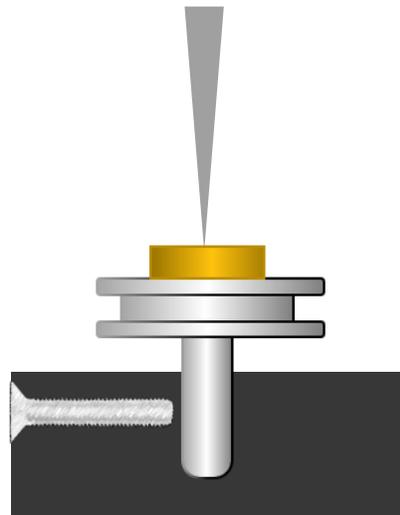
Mean = 200 counts/pixel

# Image drift in SEM – Types

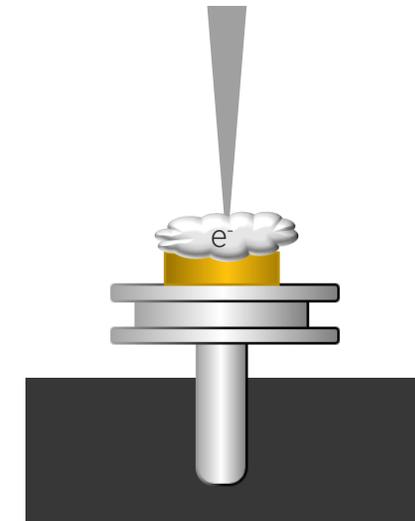
Thermal drift



Mechanical drift



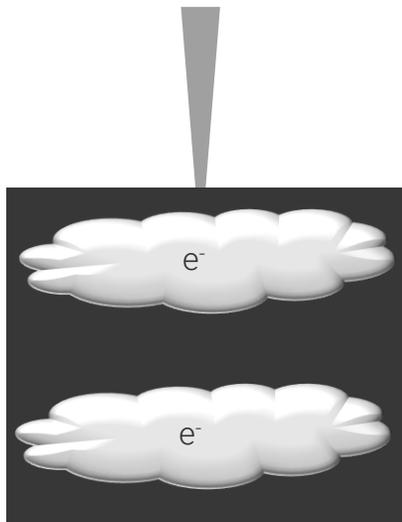
Charge accumulation drift



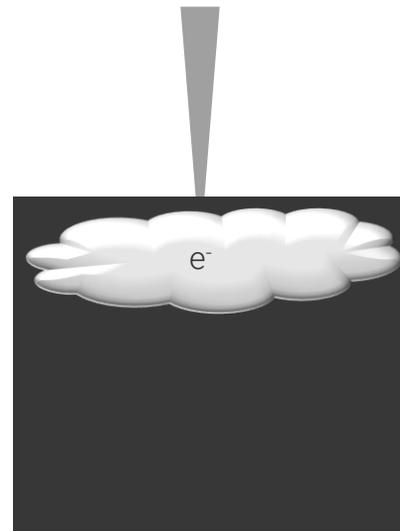
- Beam conditions
- Pixel dwell time

# Charge accumulation drift – Beam conditions

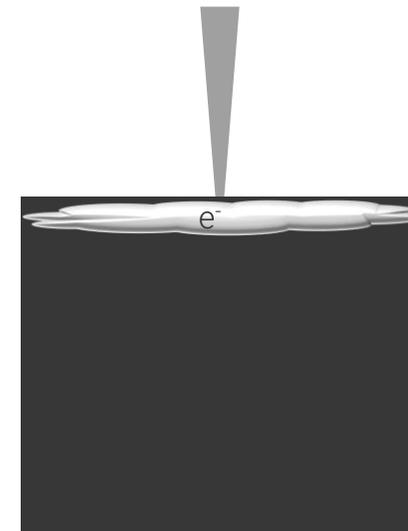
High kV  
Low/mod. beam current



Low kV  
High beam current

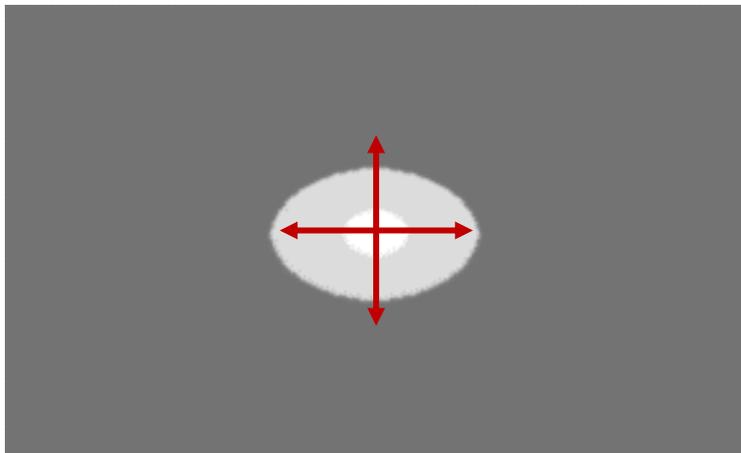
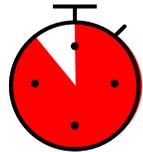


Low kV  
Low beam current

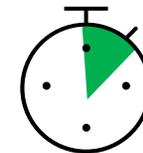


## Charge accumulation drift – Pixel dwell time/scan speed

- Longer dwell time (Higher charge accumulation)
- Shorter dwell time ( Lower charge accumulation)



more sample drift

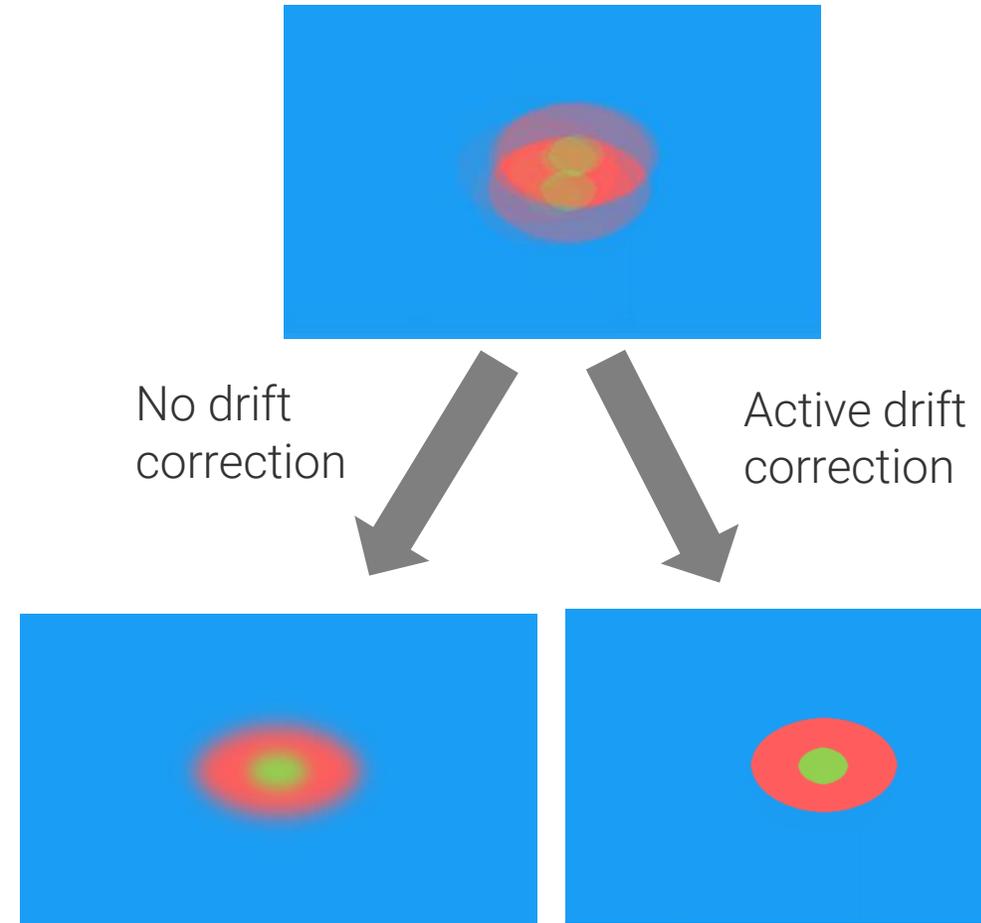


less sample drift

## Drift Co. – a must!

### Drift compensation and SEM image shift

- Image drift is corrected using the SEM image overlay compensation.
- Pixel XY position retained on a feature or interface
- In-lens detector input can also be used (SE contrast is too low)
- Reduced area mapping – better drift correction range



## Additional precautions

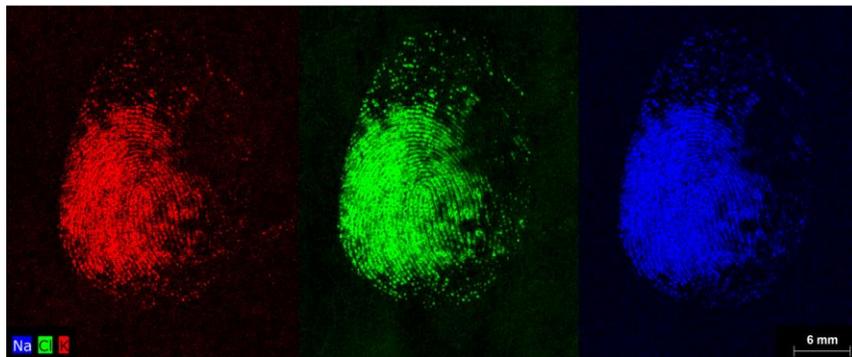
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- Sample mounting must be strong/stiff/steady
- Let stage and beam stabilize for 20 min
- Vibration damping system
- Evening measurements (low disturbance)
- C coating ( ~10 nm) for charging samples

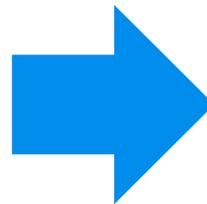
## High spatial resolution EDS measurements - Checklist

---

- Diameter of primary electron beam
- Pixel and map size – avoiding oversampling
- Charging samples – Starting with low kV and low beam current settings
- Drift correction
  
- **Clean sample, holders and stage**



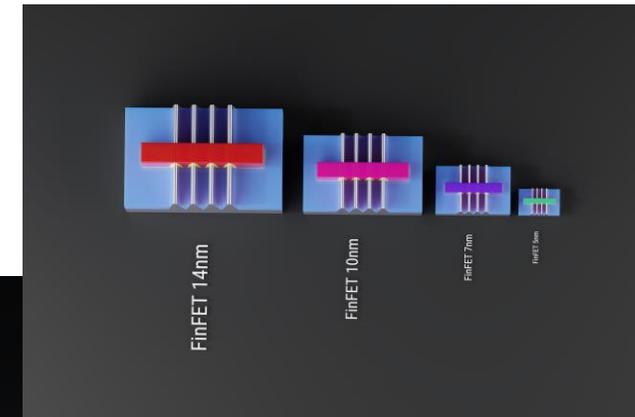
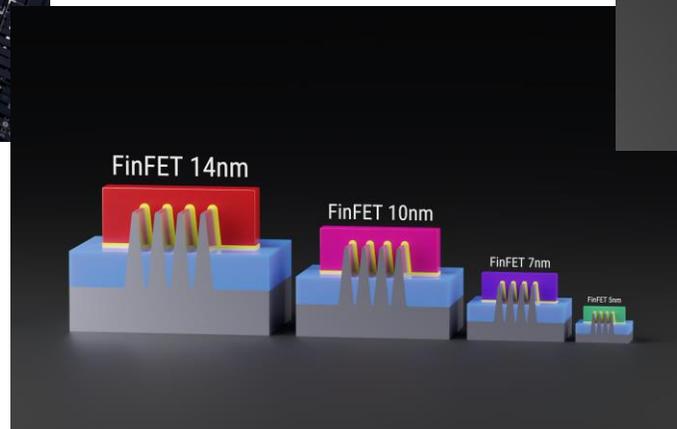
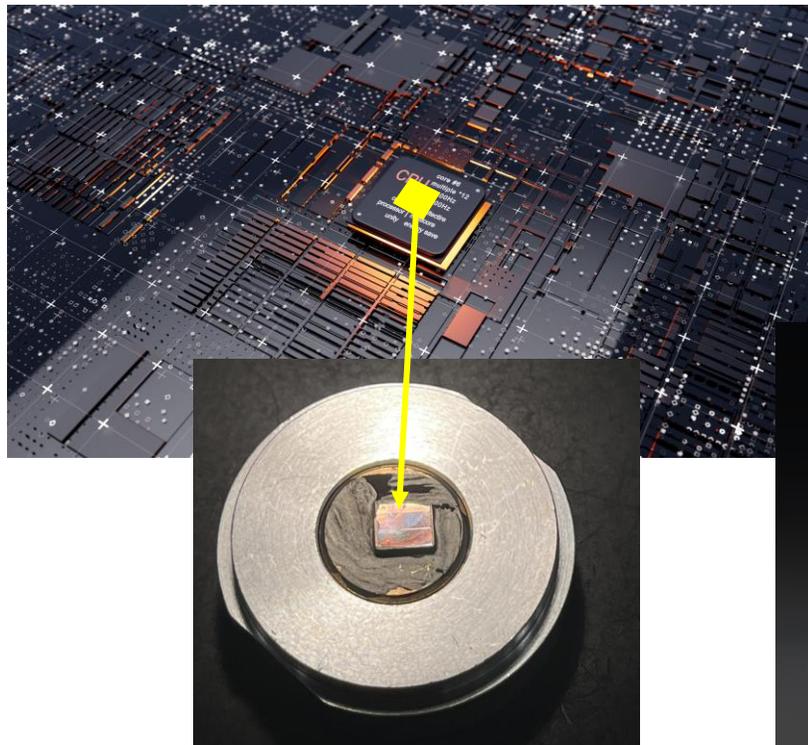
micro-XRF map of a fingerprint



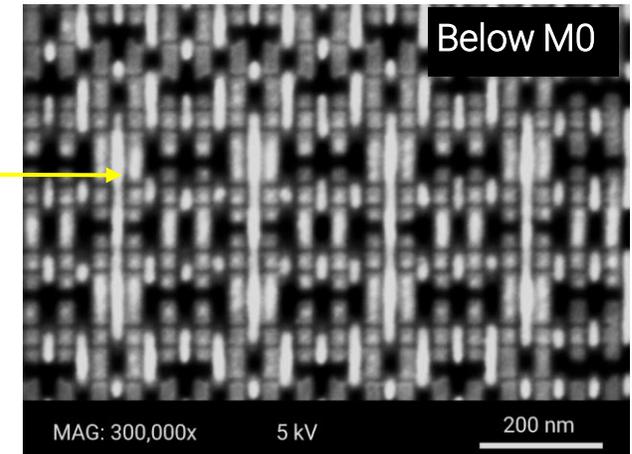
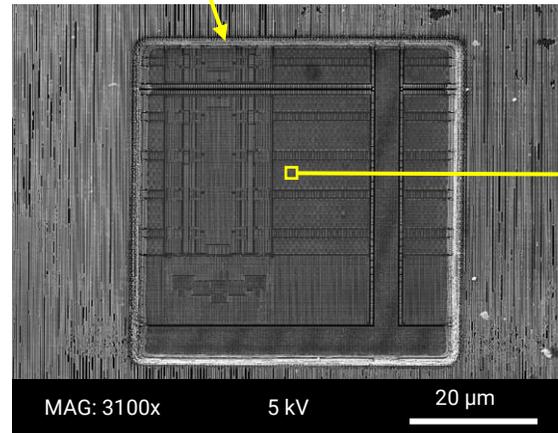
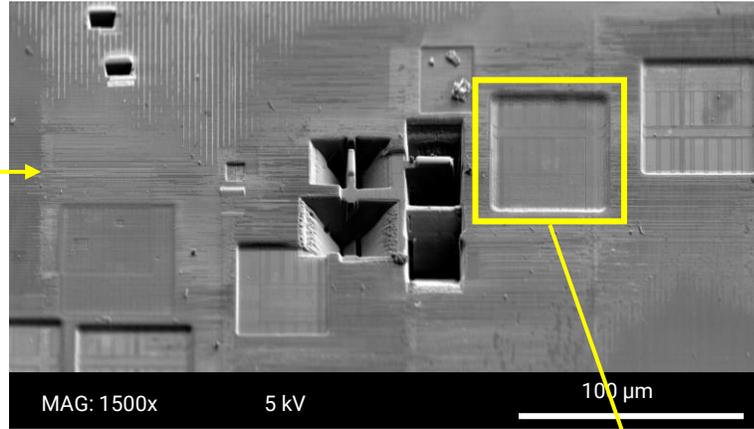
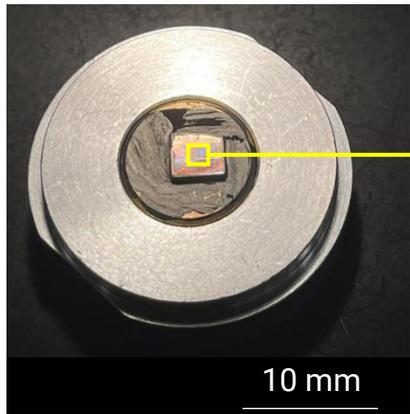
**Minimize beam/carbon  
contamination on the samples!!**

# Application examples

## 1. CPU (FinFET)

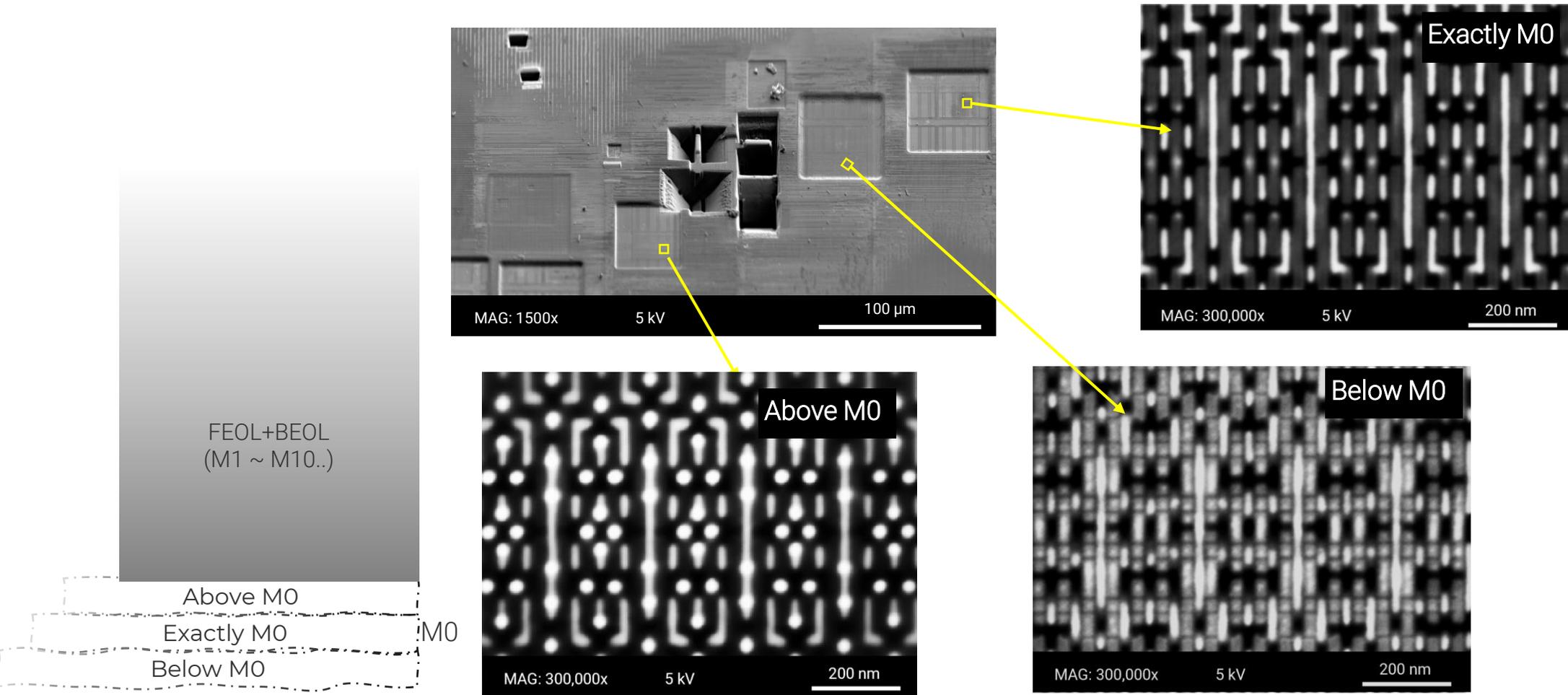


# Deprocessed CPU (FinFET) – PFIB delayering



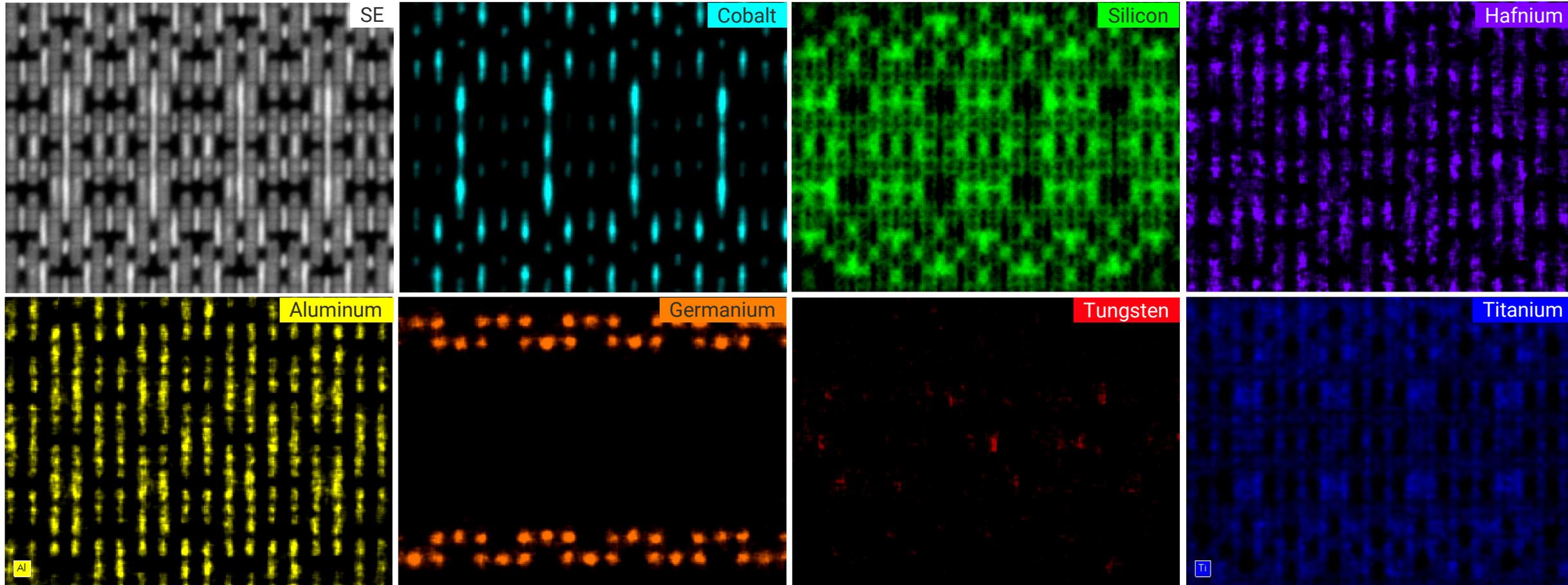
Sample courtesy: Dr. Andrey Denisyuk, TESCAN ORSAY HOLDING, a.s, Brno, CZ

# Deprocessed CPU (FinFET) – PFIB delayering



Sample courtesy: Dr. Andrey Denisyuk, TESCAN ORSAY HOLDING, a.s, Brno, CZ

# 5 kV, 300kx MAG, Below M0

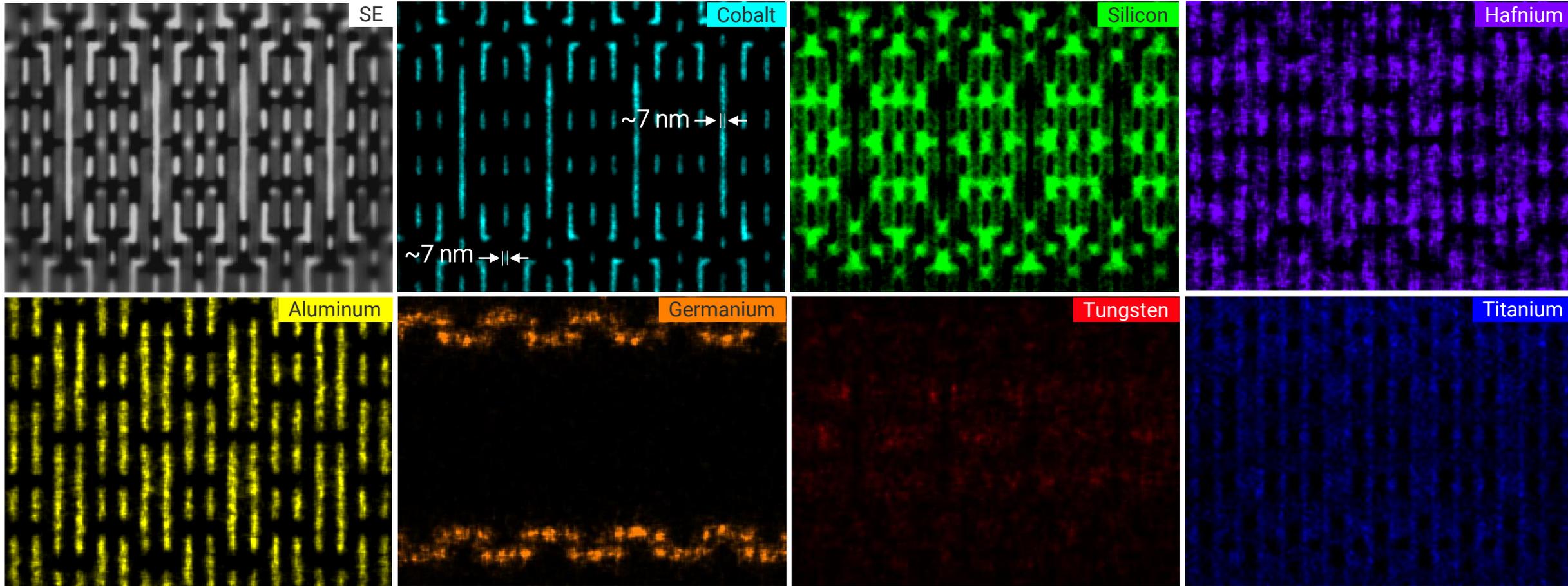


MAG: 300,000x

HV: 5 kV

500 nm

# 5 kV, 300kx MAG, Exactly M0

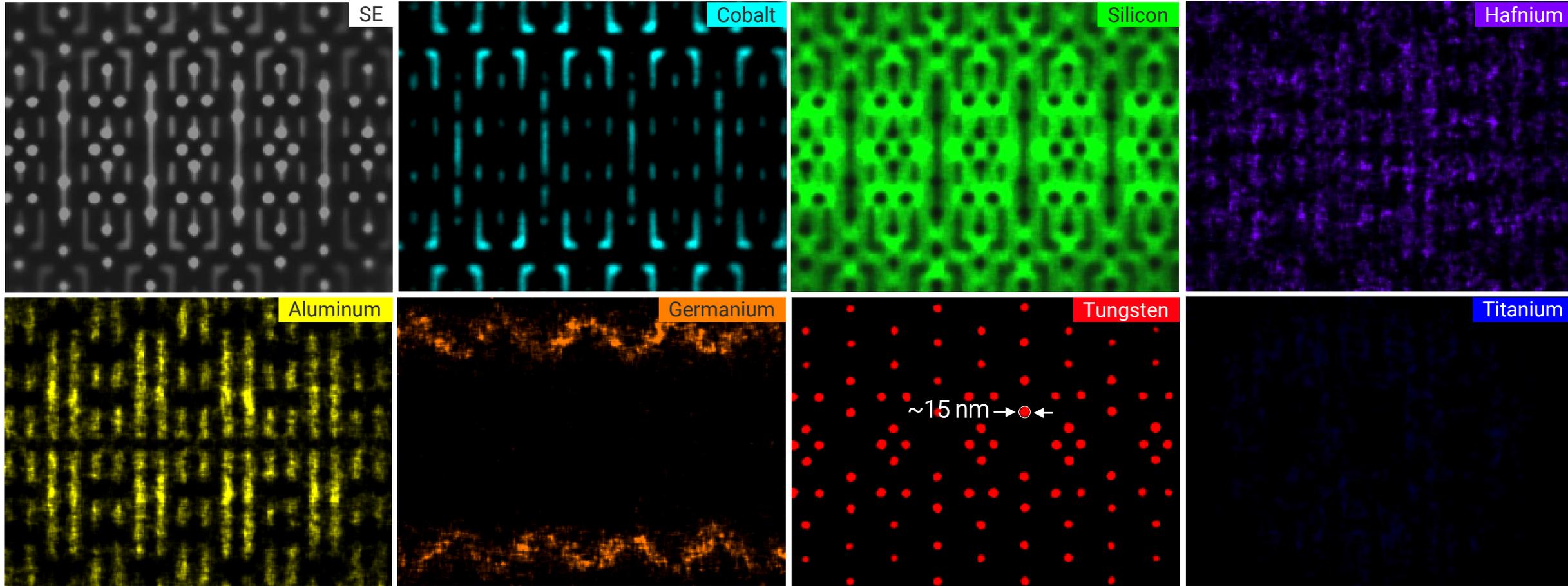


MAG: 300,000x

HV: 5 kV

500 nm

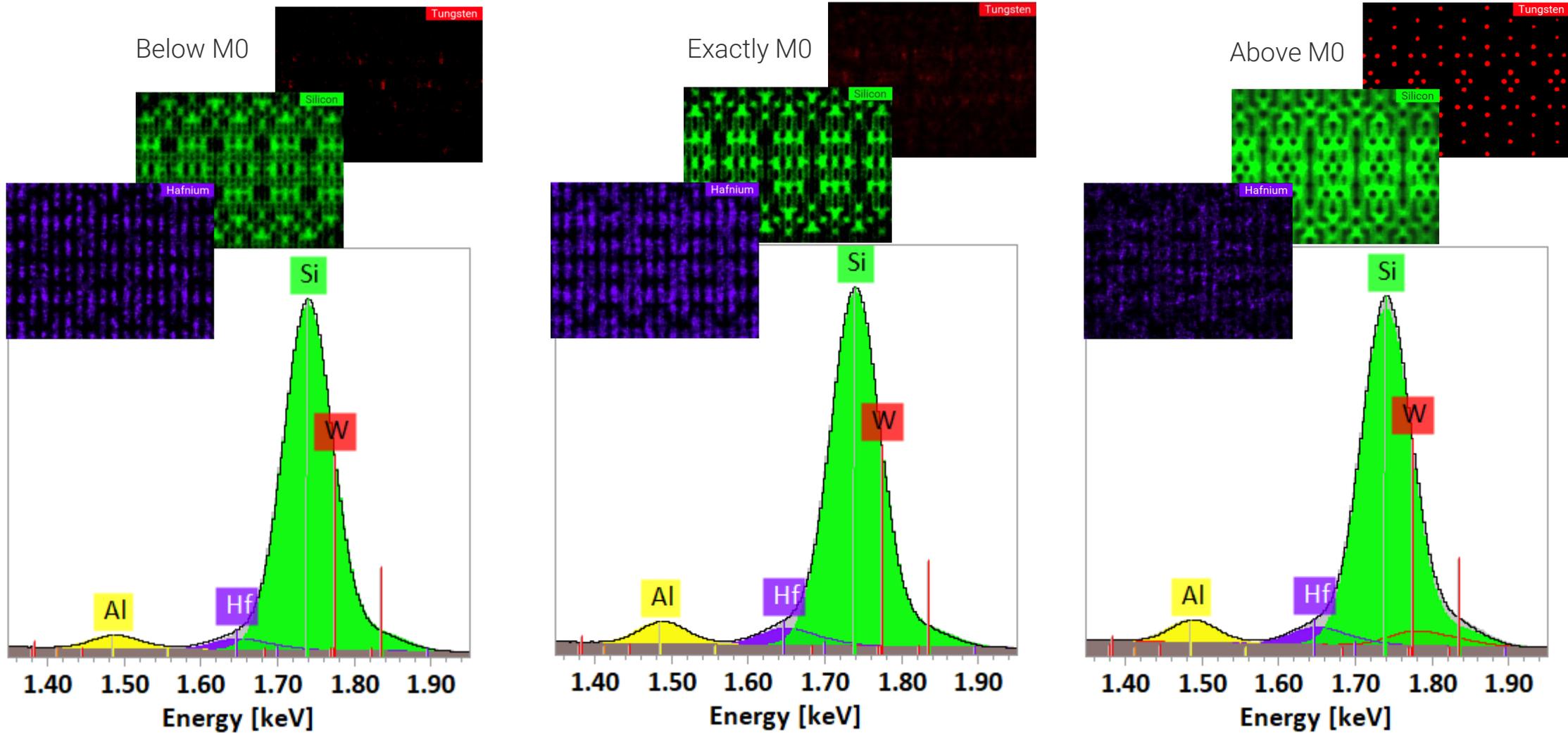
# 5 kV, 300kx MAG, Above M0



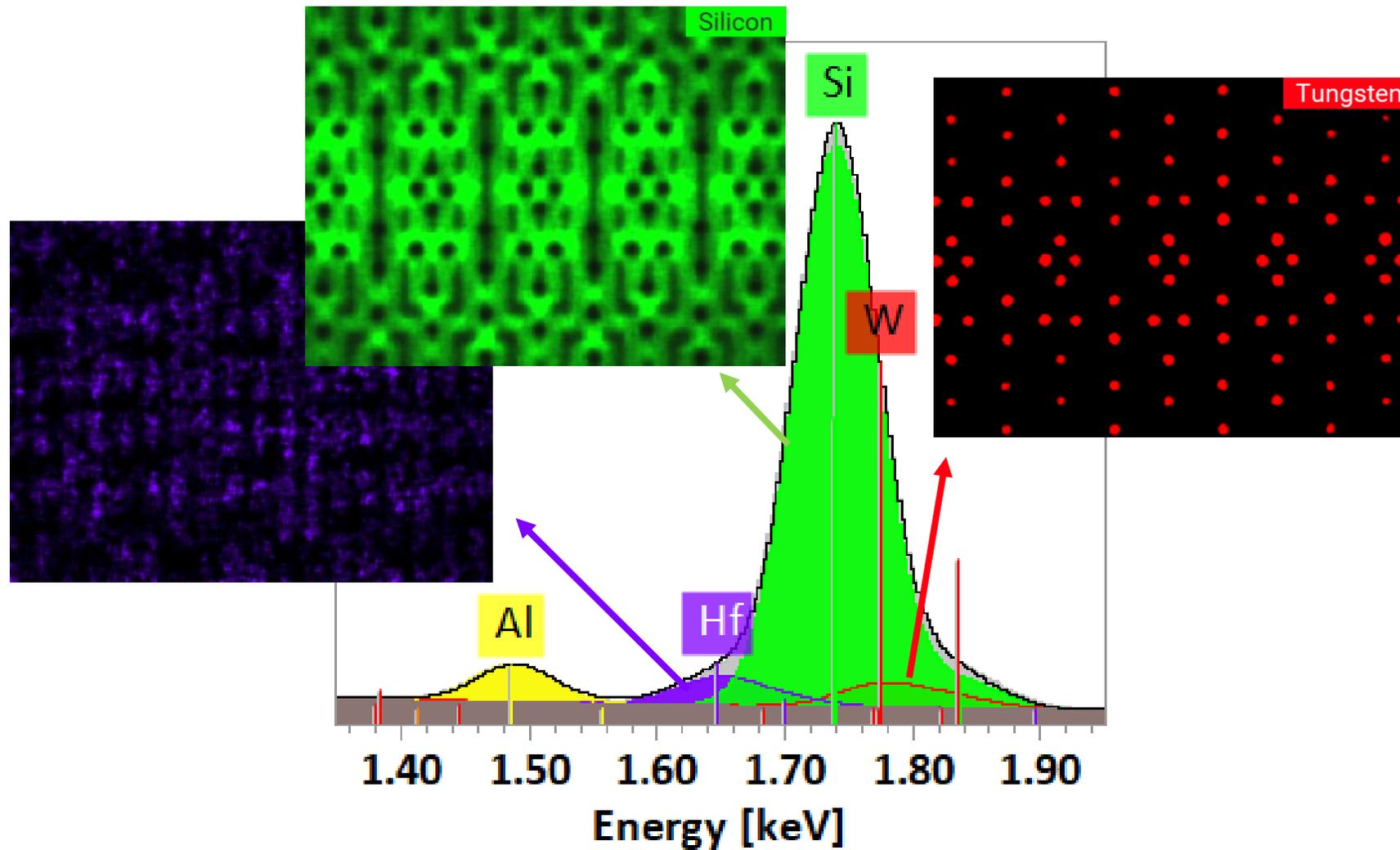
MAG: 300,000x HV: 5 kV

500 nm

# Automatic peak deconvolution



# Automatic peak deconvolution – Above M0



# Measurement parameters

Below M0

## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	60 min
Count rate	15500 cps
Probe current	380 pA
Dead time	18%
Total counts	4.6E+7 (46M)
H-FOV	1000 nm
Map size	300 x 225 px

Exactly M0

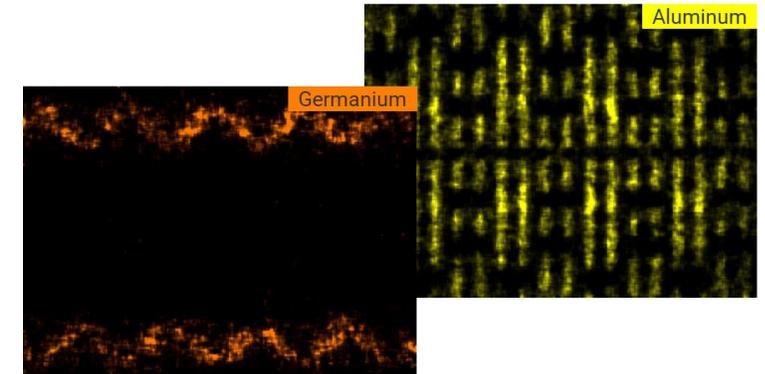
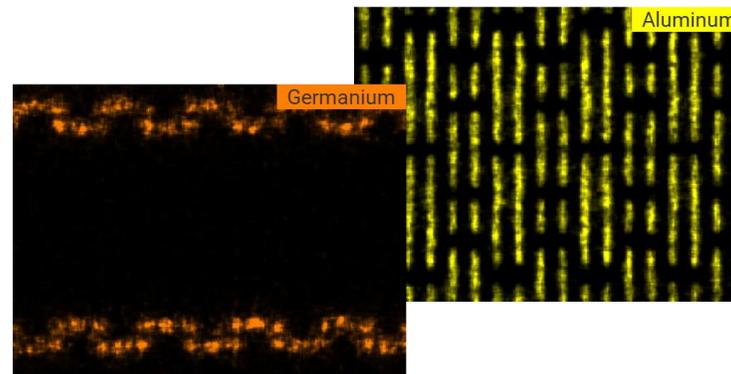
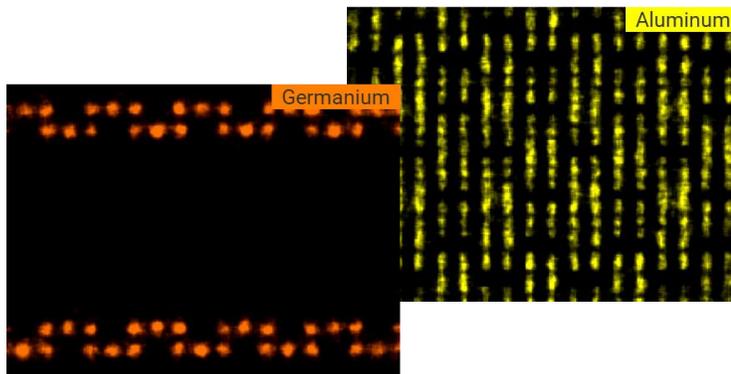
## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	55 min
Count rate	15200 cps
Probe current	350 pA
Dead time	17%
Total counts	4.2E+7 (42M)
H-FOV	1000 nm
Map size	300 x 225 px

Above M0

## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	60 min
Count rate	15600 cps
Probe current	390 pA
Dead time	18%
Total counts	4.6E+7 (46M)
H-FOV	1000 nm
Map size	300 x 225 px



# Drift correction

The screenshot illustrates the drift correction workflow in the Bruker XFLASH software. The main interface shows a Co map with a 0.2 µm scale bar. Two 'DRIFT CORRECTION STATE' dialog boxes are overlaid, each displaying a graph of drift over cycles (0-1400) and a 'Quality' bar. The background shows various software controls like 'Sample', 'Standards', 'Microscope', 'Scan', 'EBSD', and 'Map display settings'.

# Drift correction

The screenshot illustrates the drift correction workflow in the Bruker XFLASH software. The main interface shows a Co map with a 0.2 µm scale bar. Two 'DRIFT CORRECTION STATE' dialog boxes are overlaid, showing 'ShiftX' and 'ShiftY' graphs over 1400 cycles. The 'ShiftY' graph shows a significant peak around cycle 1000. A spectrum plot is visible at the bottom center, and a 'Map display settings' panel is on the left.

**DRIFT CORRECTION STATE (Left):**

- Start Img. Comp. Img. Log
- Display:  ShiftX  ShiftY  Quality
- Graph: Y-axis from -20 to 20, X-axis (Cycle) from 200 to 1400.
- Quality: [Progress bar]
- Close

**DRIFT CORRECTION STATE (Right):**

- Start Img. Comp. Img. Log
- Display:  ShiftX  ShiftY  Quality
- Graph: Y-axis from -20 to 20, X-axis (Cycle) from 200 to 1400.
- Quality: [Progress bar]
- Close

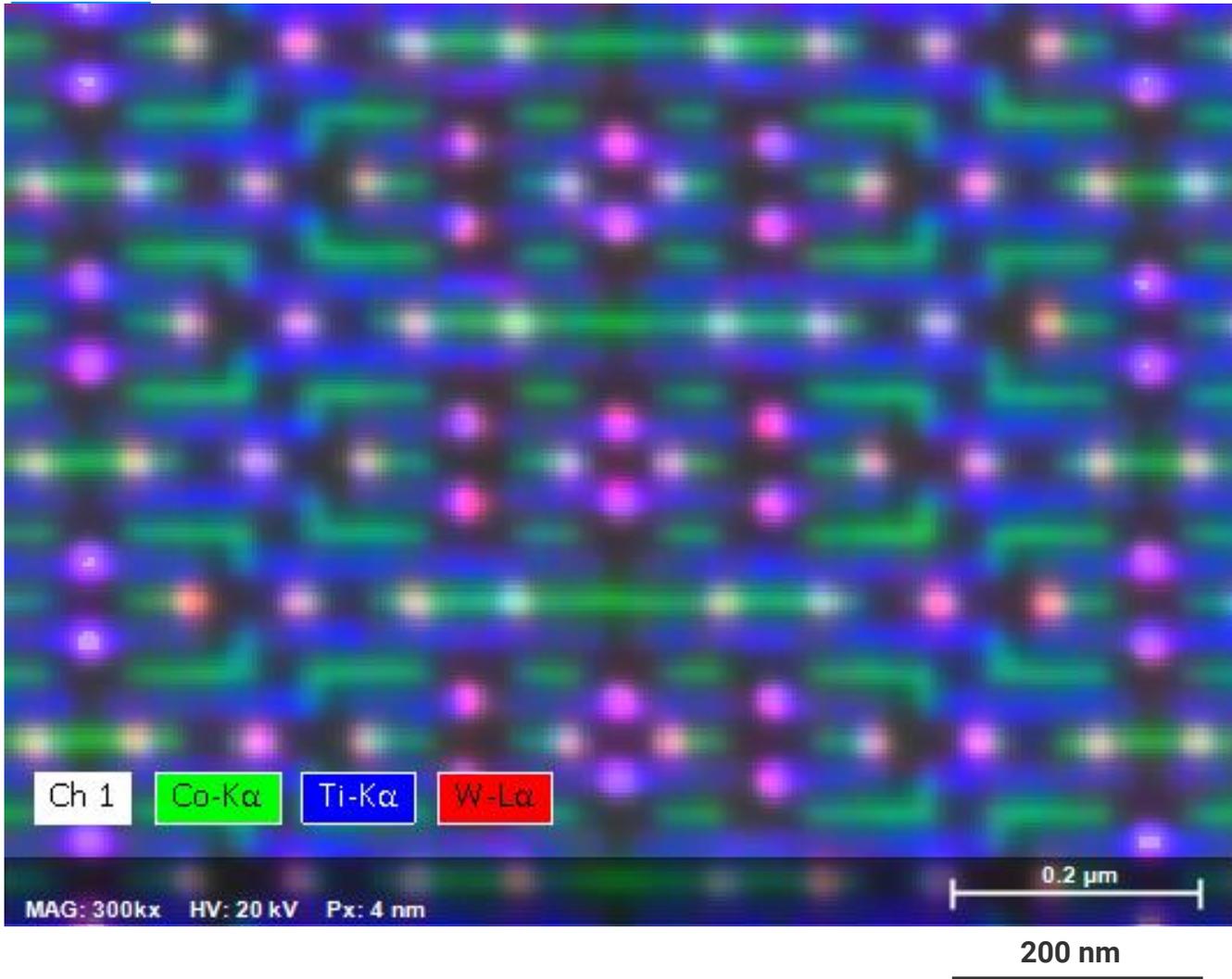
**Map display settings:**

- Image filter:  None,  Smooth,  Sharpen
- Map filter:  None,  Average,  Smooth,  Automatic
- Result types: Counts
- Color control: \* -0.07, 1.00, 1.00
- Map color mixing:  Standard,  Enhanced

**Map result list:**

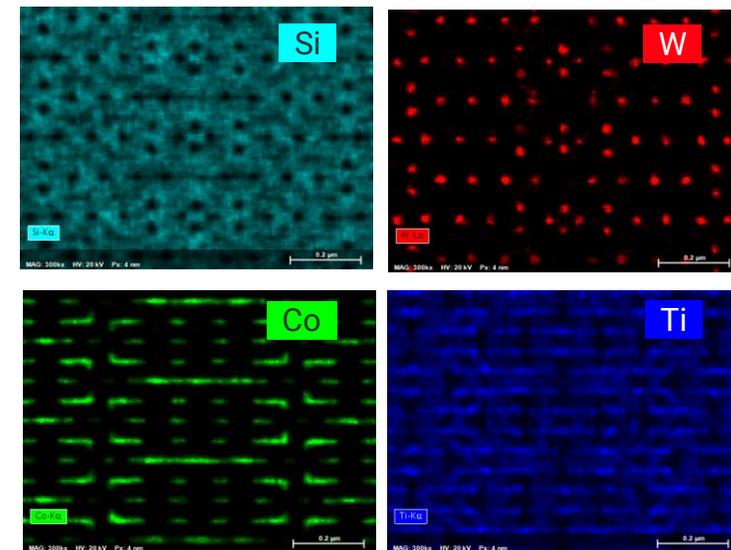
Si-Kα	1.00	Co-L	0.77	Al-K	1.00	Ge-L	1.00	Hf-Mαβ	1.00	Ti-L	1.00
-------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------	------	------	------

# 20 kV, 300kx MAG, Above M0

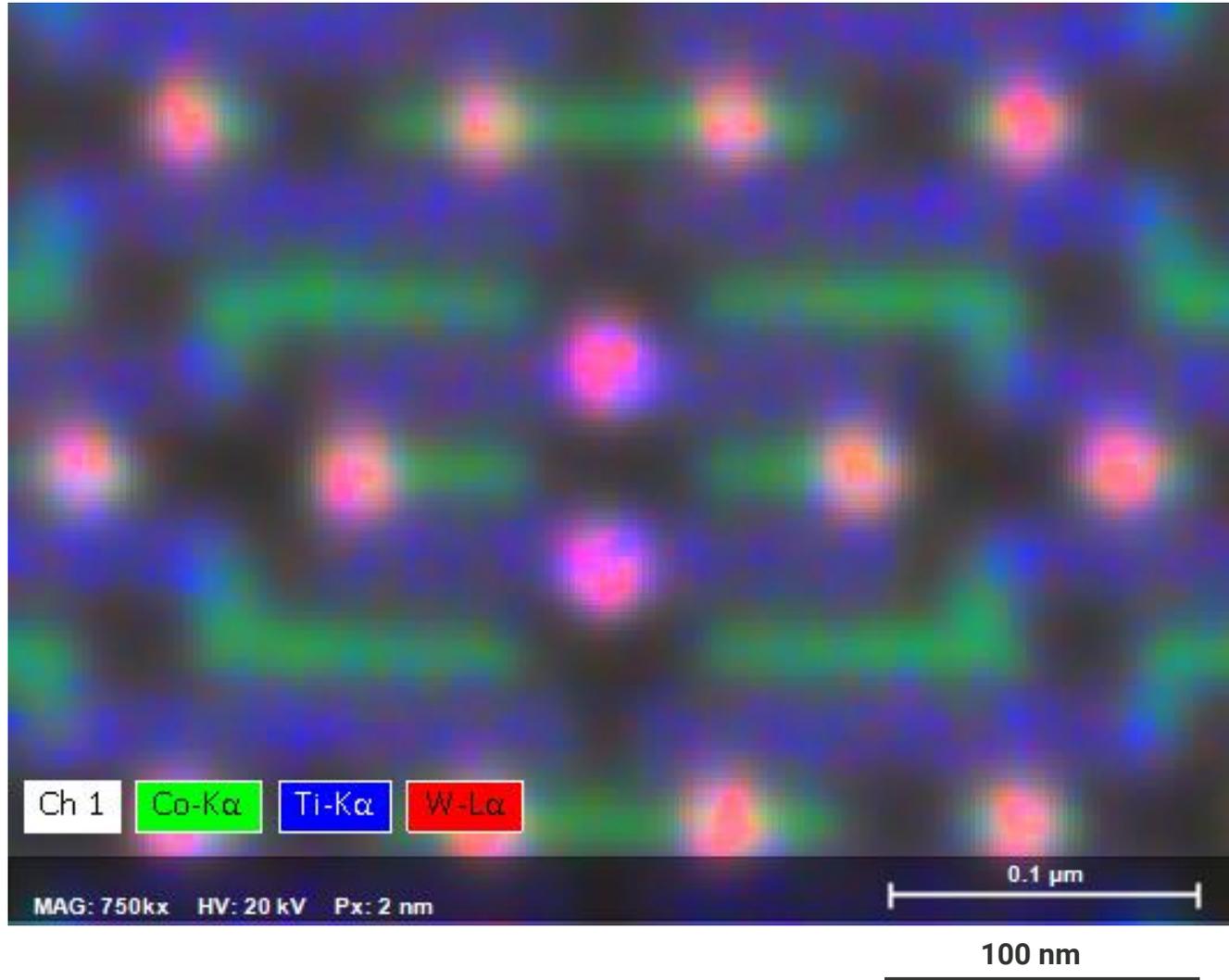


## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	30 min
Count rate	50700 cps
Probe current	290 pA
Dead time	27%
Total counts	6.6E+7 (66M)
H-FOV	1000 nm
Map size	250 x 187 px

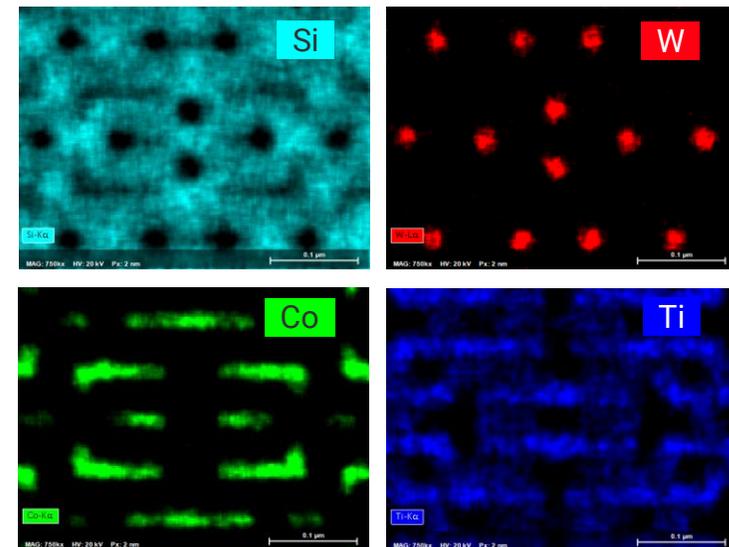


# 20 kV, 750kx MAG, Above M0

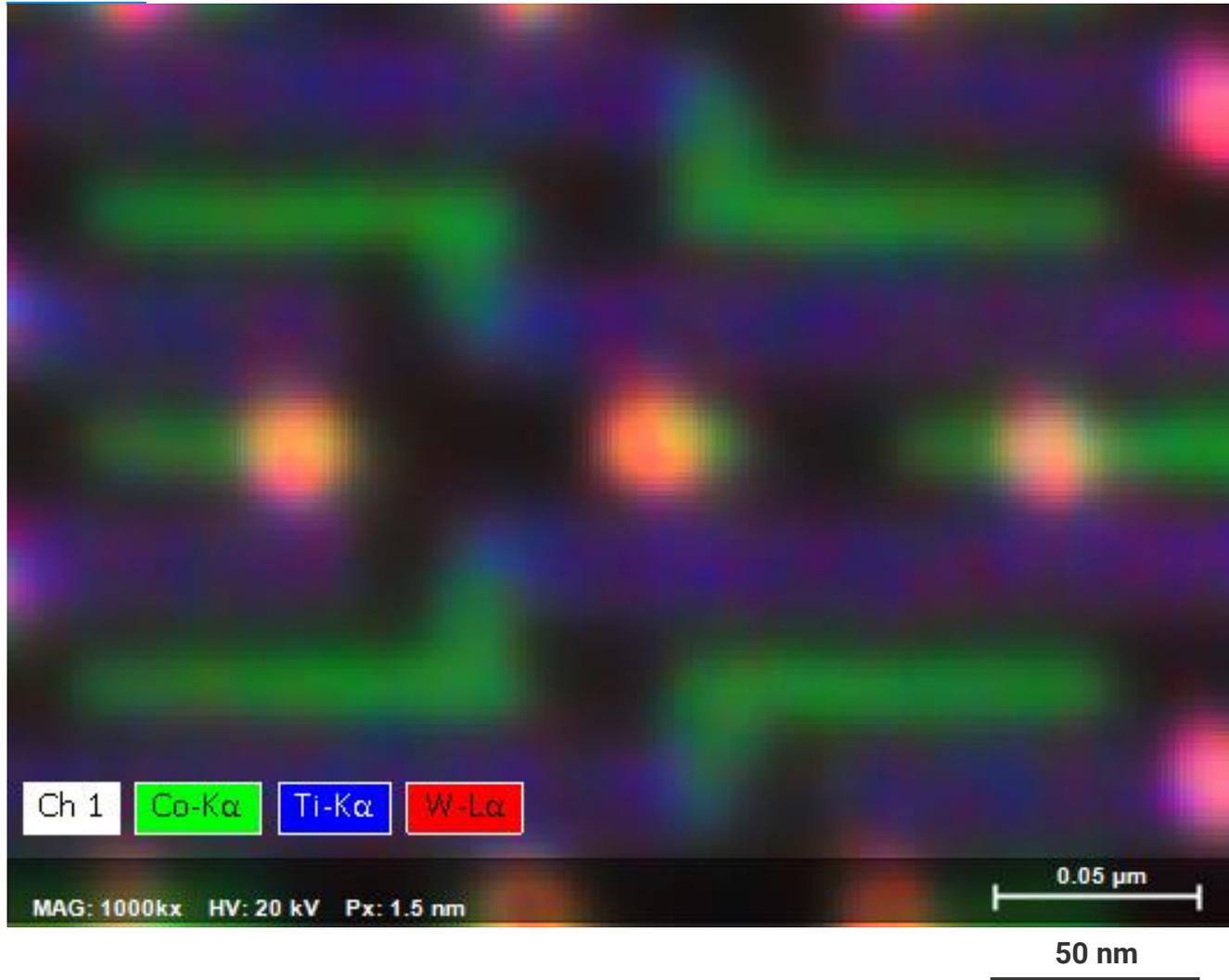


## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	21 min
Count rate	50500 cps
Probe current	220 pA
Dead time	27%
Total counts	3.7E+7 (37M)
H-FOV	1000 nm
Map size	250 x 187 px

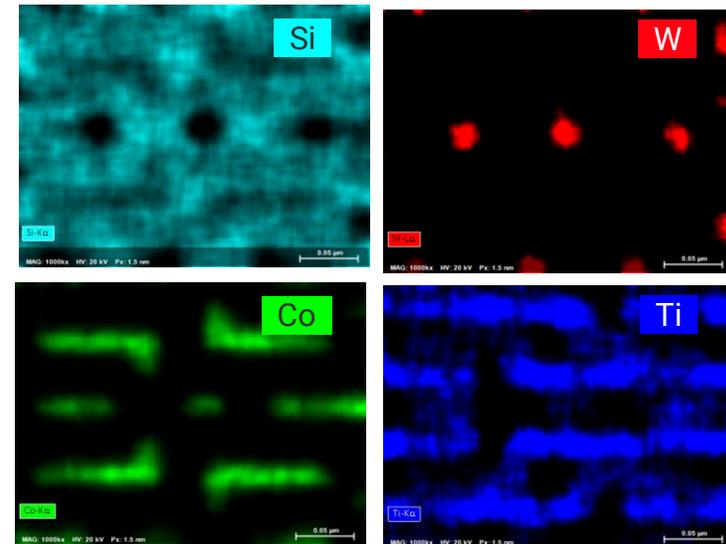


# 20 kV, 1Mx MAG, Above M0

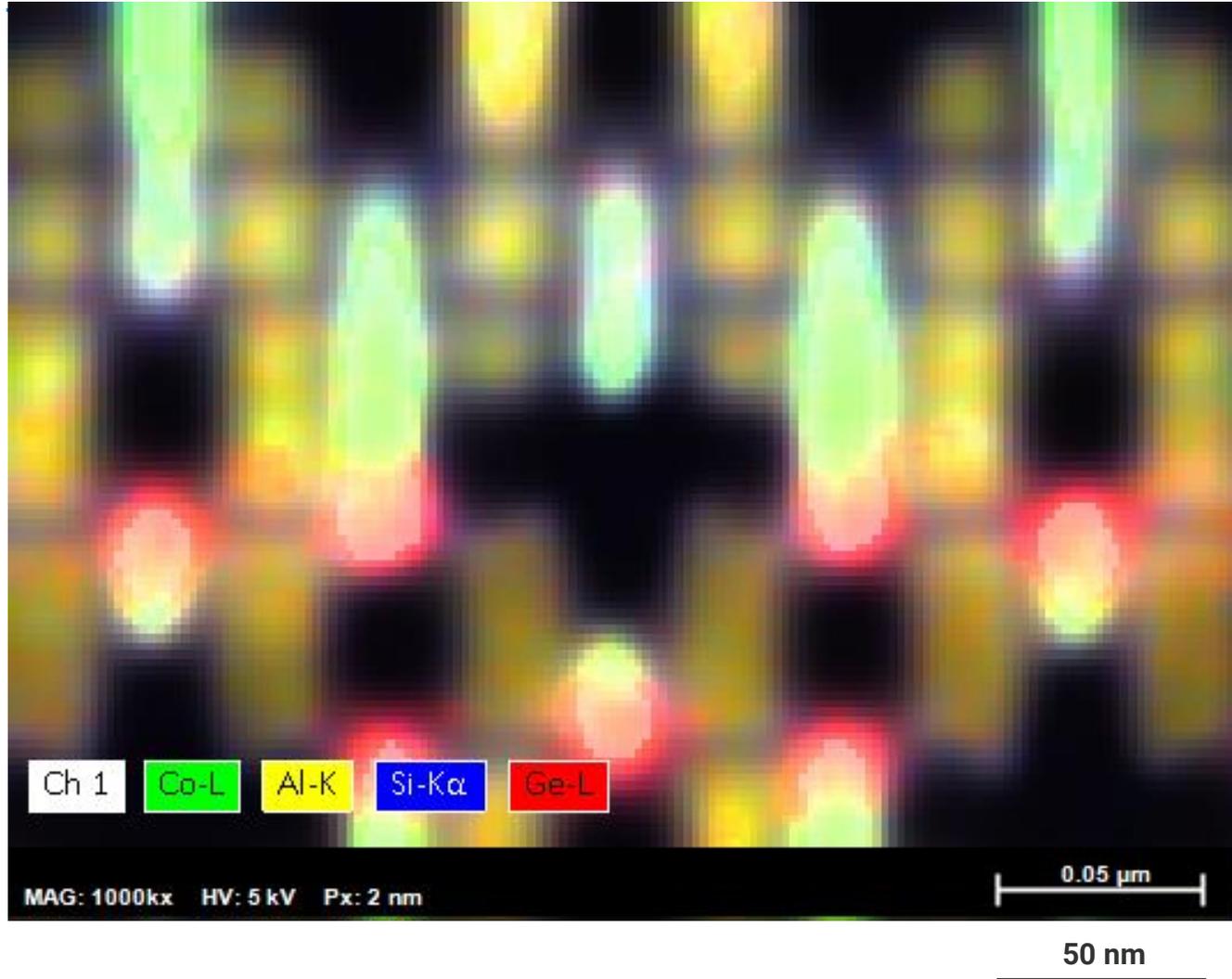


## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	577 s
Count rate	50900 cps
Probe current	210 pA
Dead time	27%
Total counts	2.1E+7 (27M)
H-FOV	300 nm
Map size	200 x 150 px

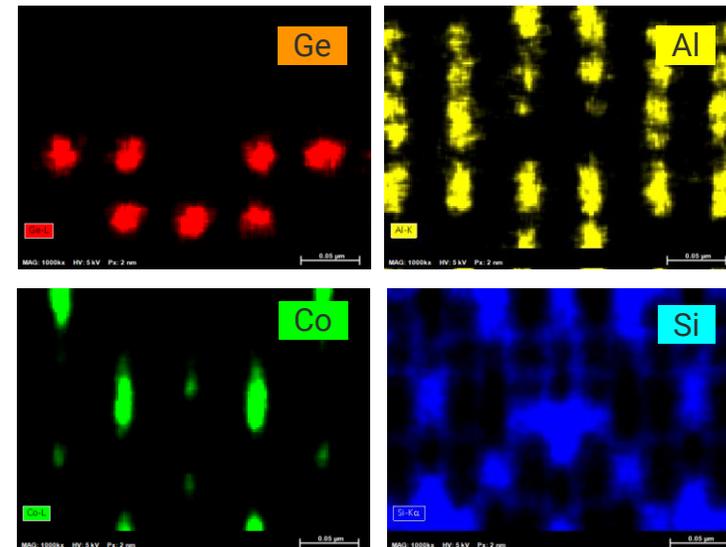


# 5 kV, 1Mx MAG, Below M0



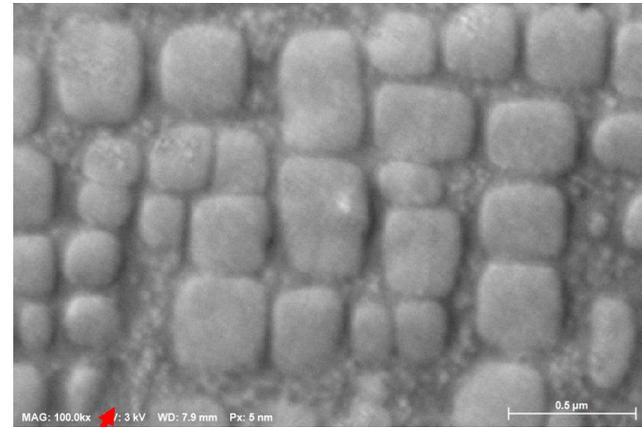
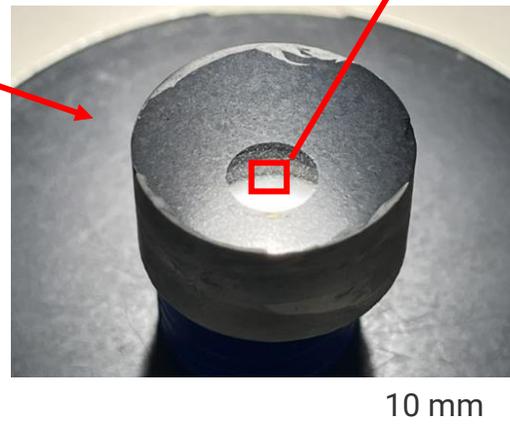
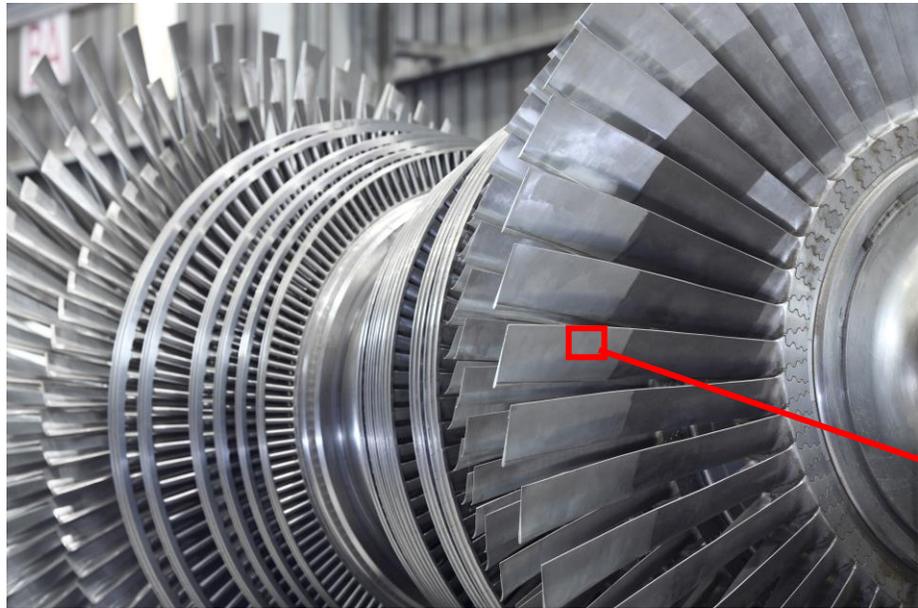
## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	545 s
Count rate	15600 cps
Probe current	390 pA
Dead time	18%
Total counts	7E+6 (7M)
H-FOV	300 nm
Map size	200 x 150 px



# Application examples

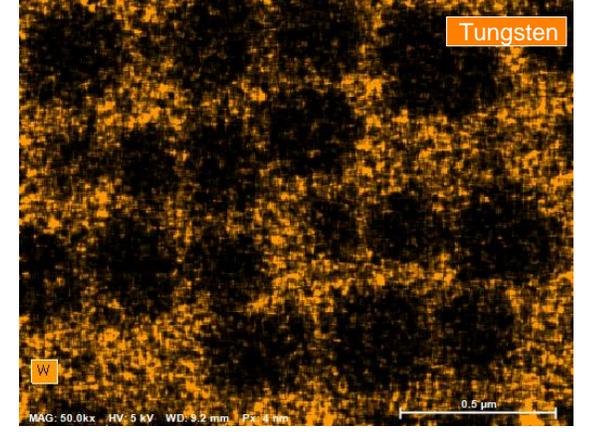
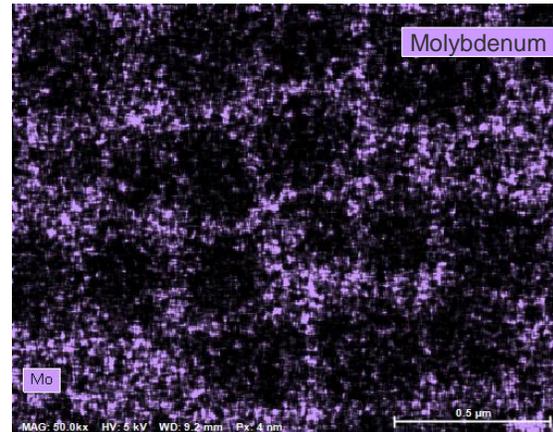
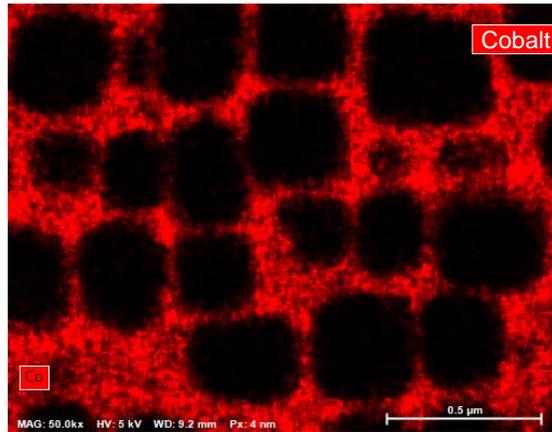
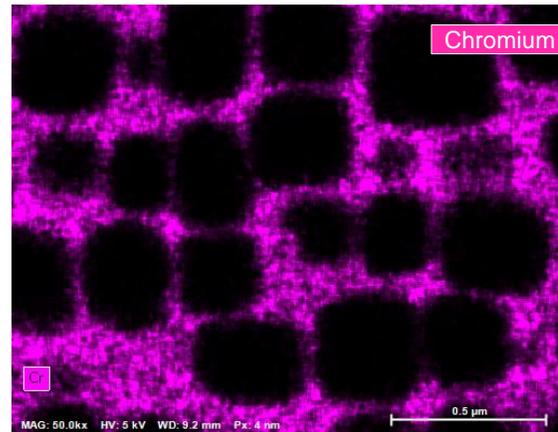
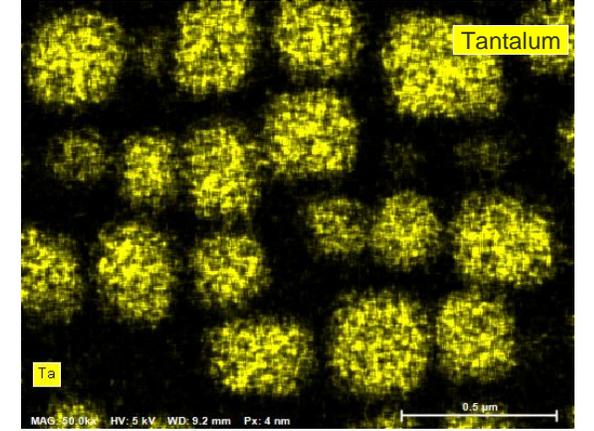
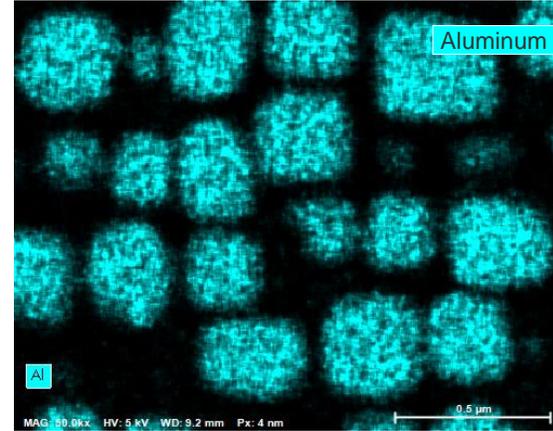
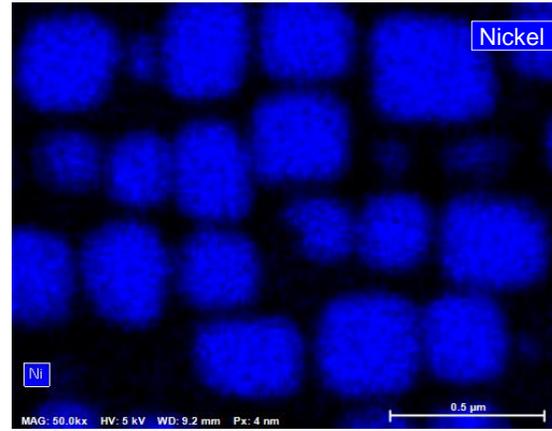
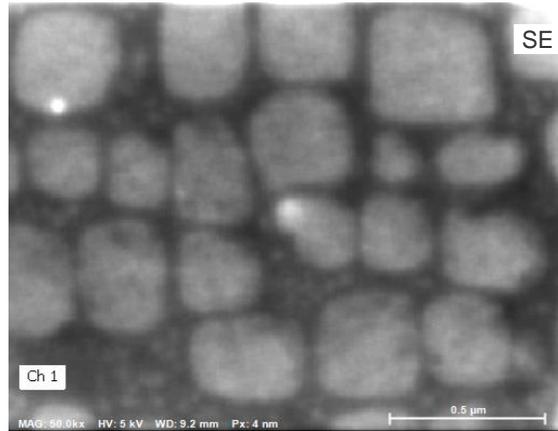
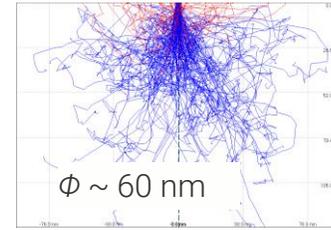
## 2. Ni based single crystal super alloy



1,00,000x

500 nm

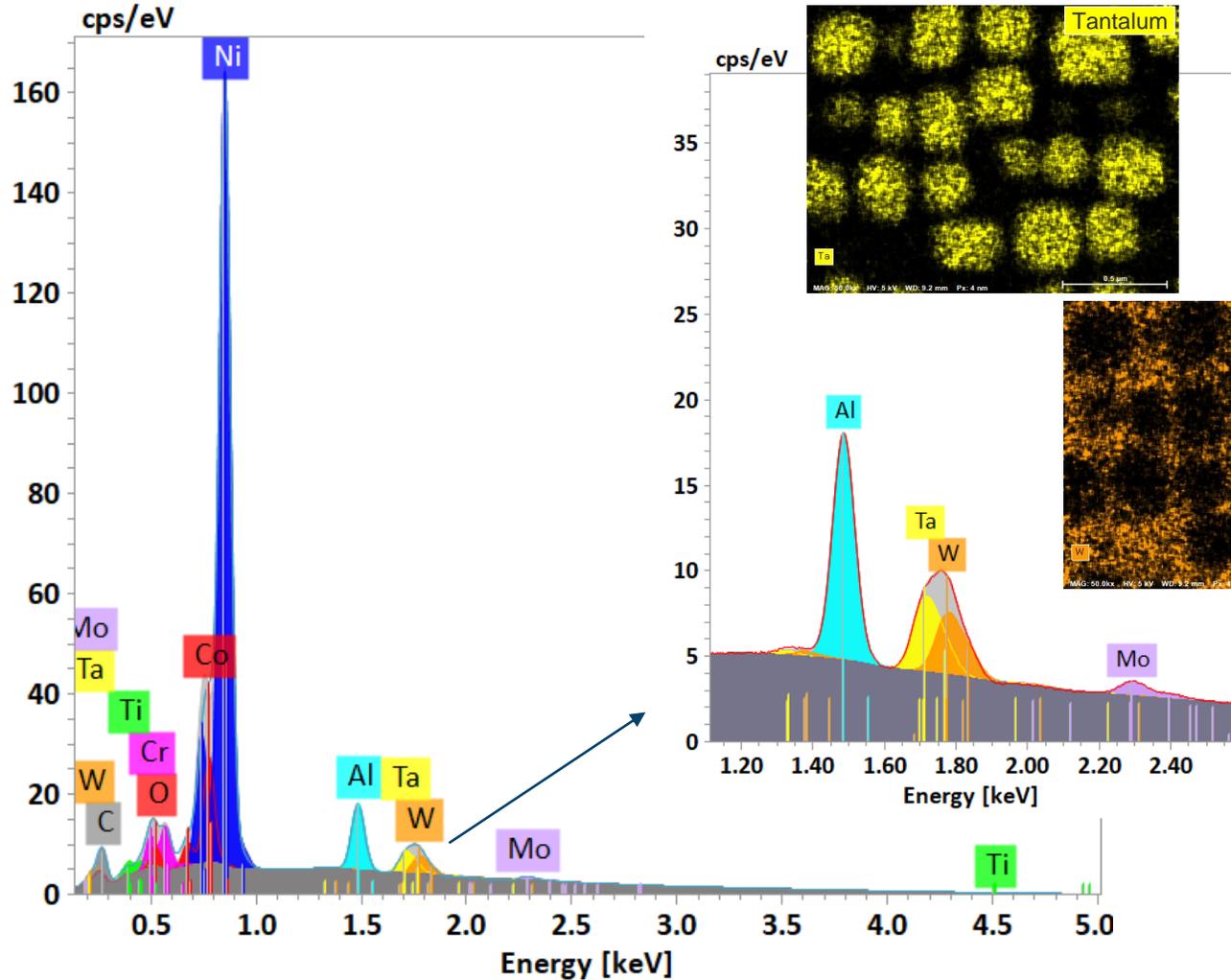
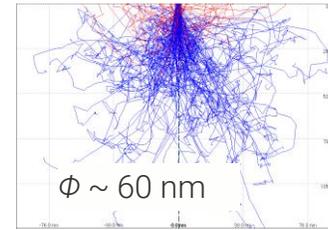
# 5 kV measurement at 50,000x magnification



MAG: 50,000 x HV: 5 kV

500 nm

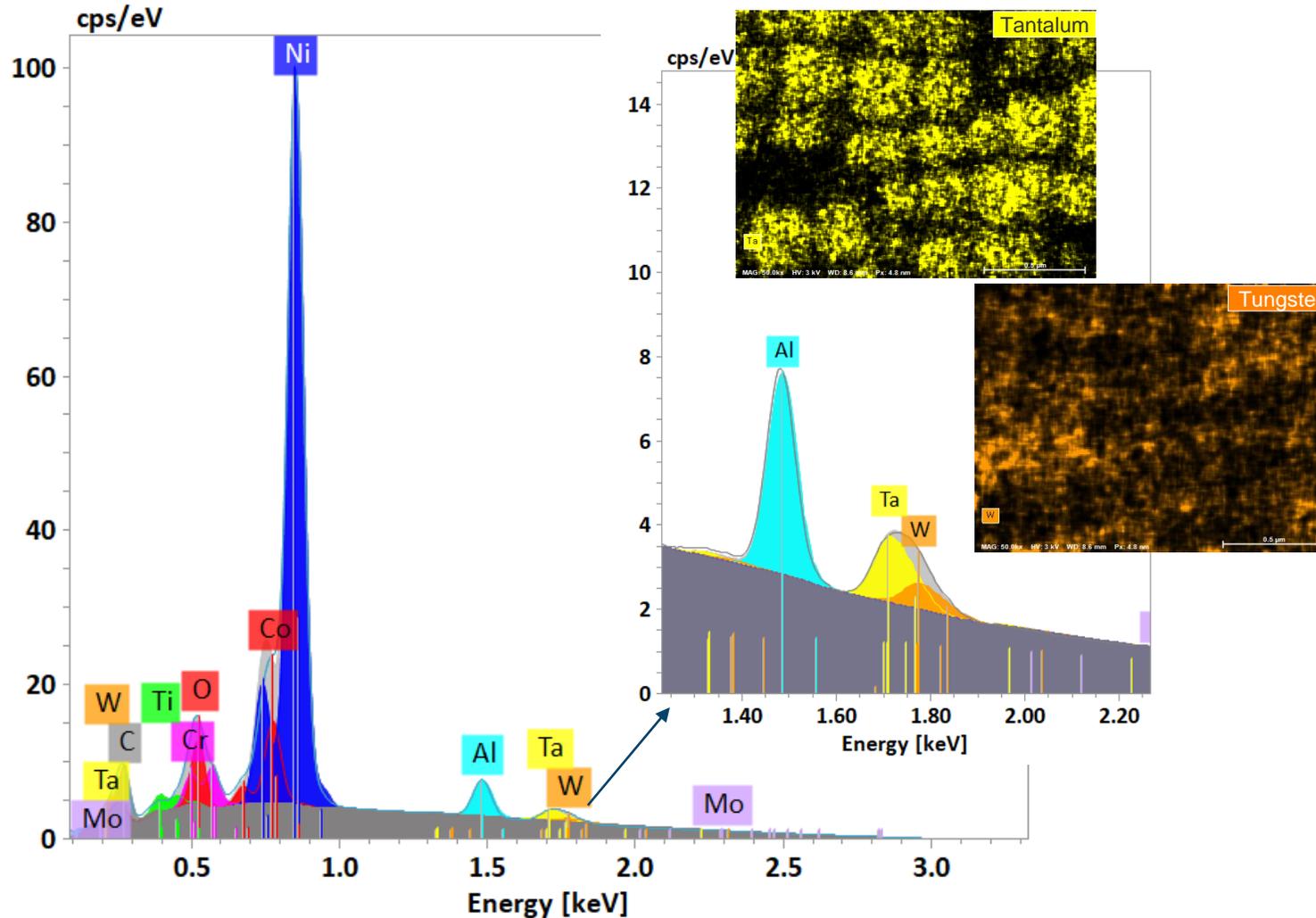
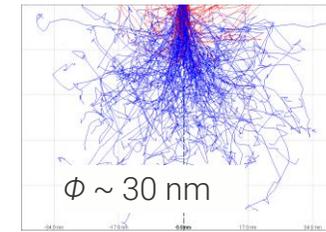
# 5 kV measurement at 50,000x magnification



## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	15 min
Count rate	39000 cps
Dead time	23%
Total counts	3.6E+7 (36M)
Magnification	50,000 x (FOV 2.4 μm)
Map size	600 x 450 px

# 3 kV measurement at 50,000x magnification

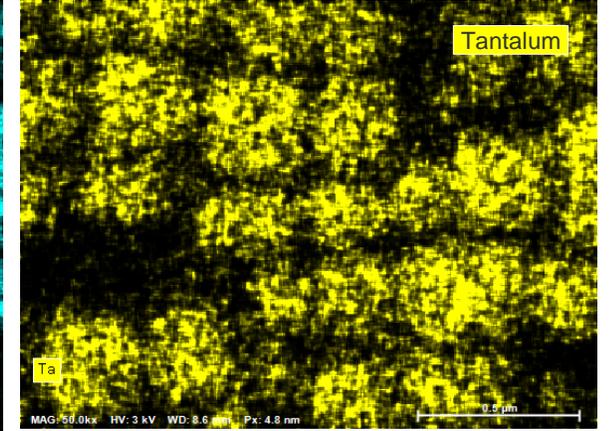
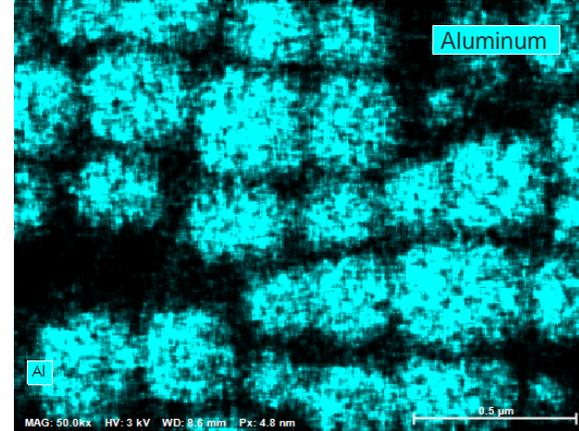
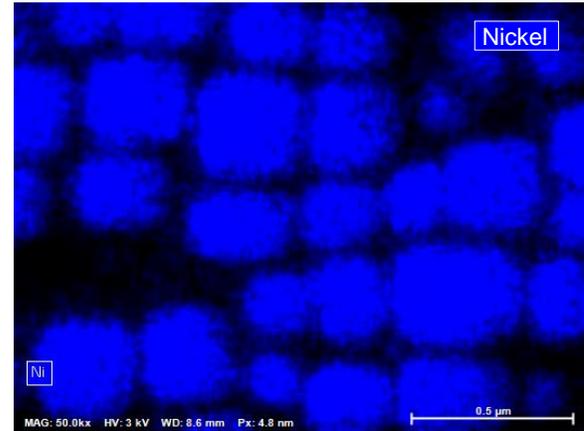
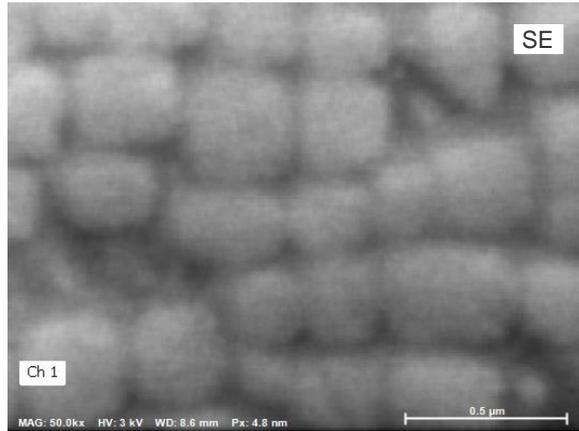


## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	35 min
Count rate	20,000 cps
Dead time	12%
Total counts	3.4E+7 (34M)
Magnification	50,000 x (FOV 2.4 μm)
Map size	500 x 375 px

# 3 kV maps: FEG-SEM 1 vs. FEG-SEM 2

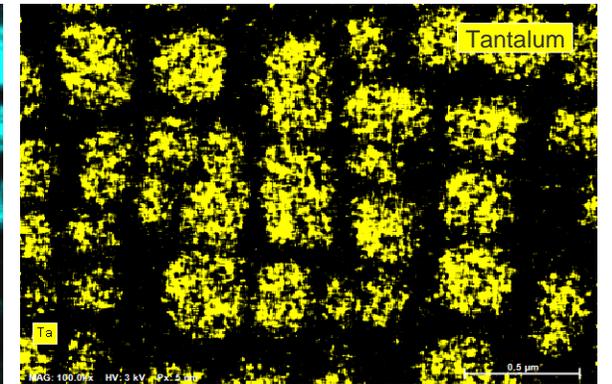
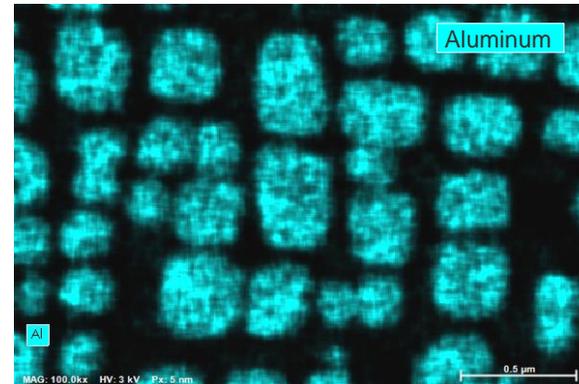
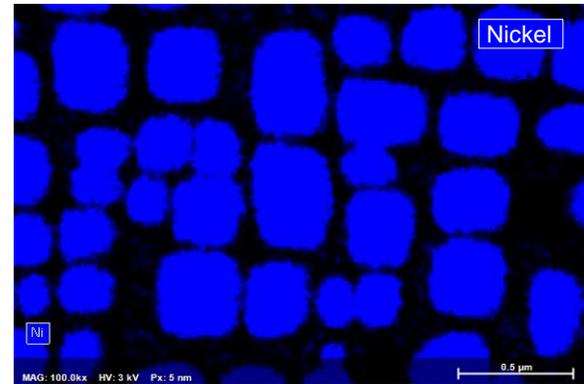
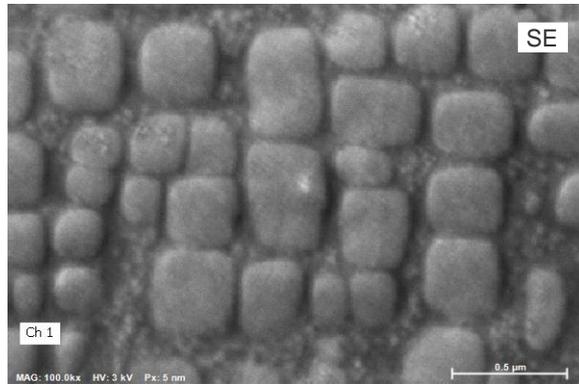
FEG-SEM 1



MAG: 50,000 x HV: 3 kV

500 nm

FEG-SEM 2

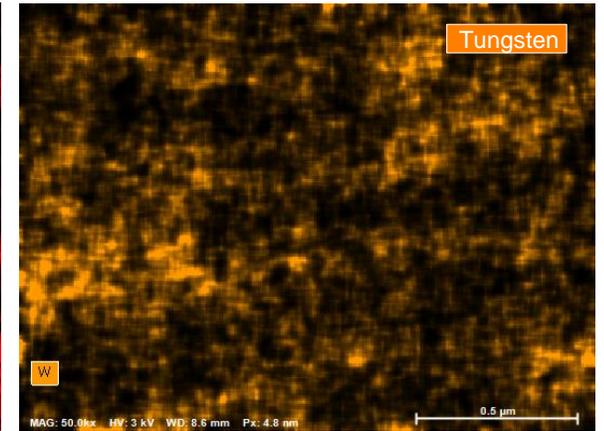
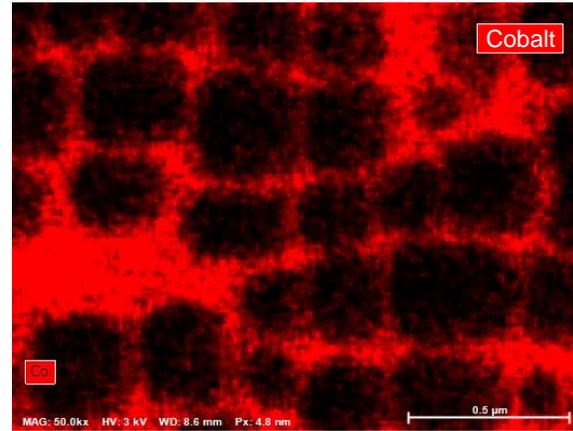
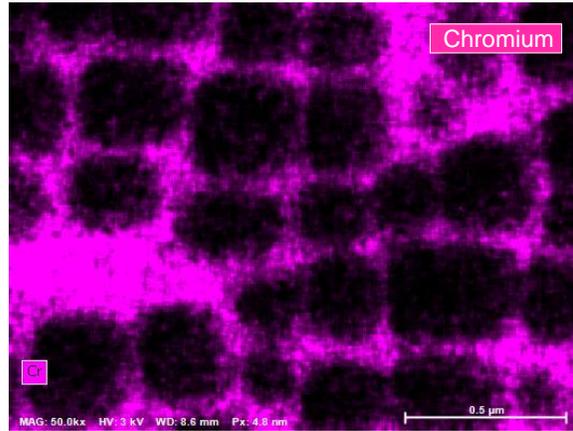
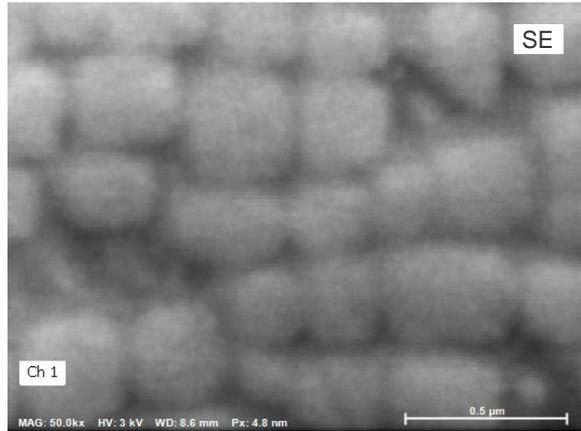


MAG: 100,000 x HV: 3 kV

500 nm

# 3 kV measurement at 50,000x magnification

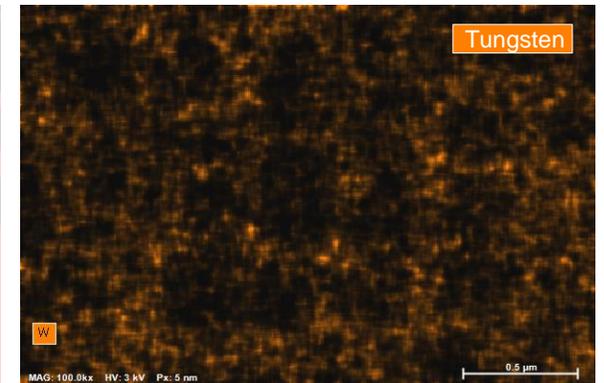
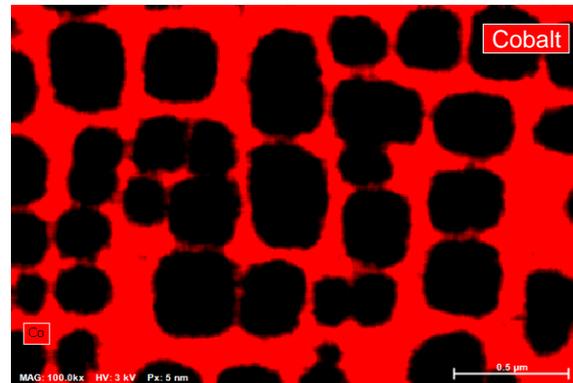
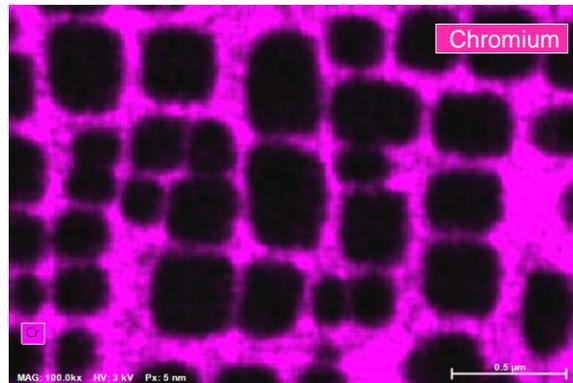
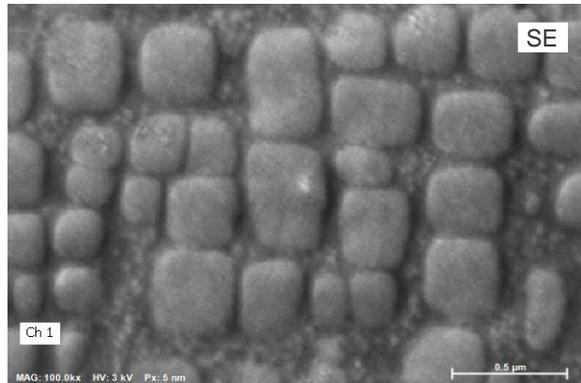
FEG-SEM 1



MAG: 50,000 x HV: 3 kV

500 nm

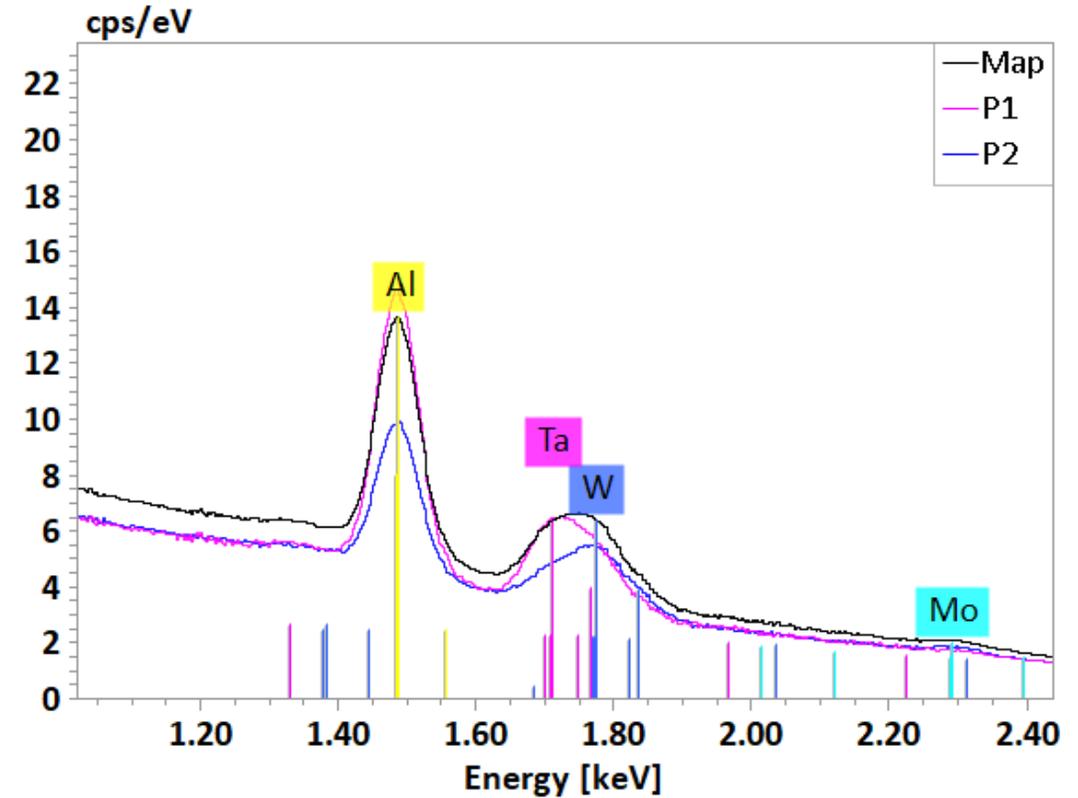
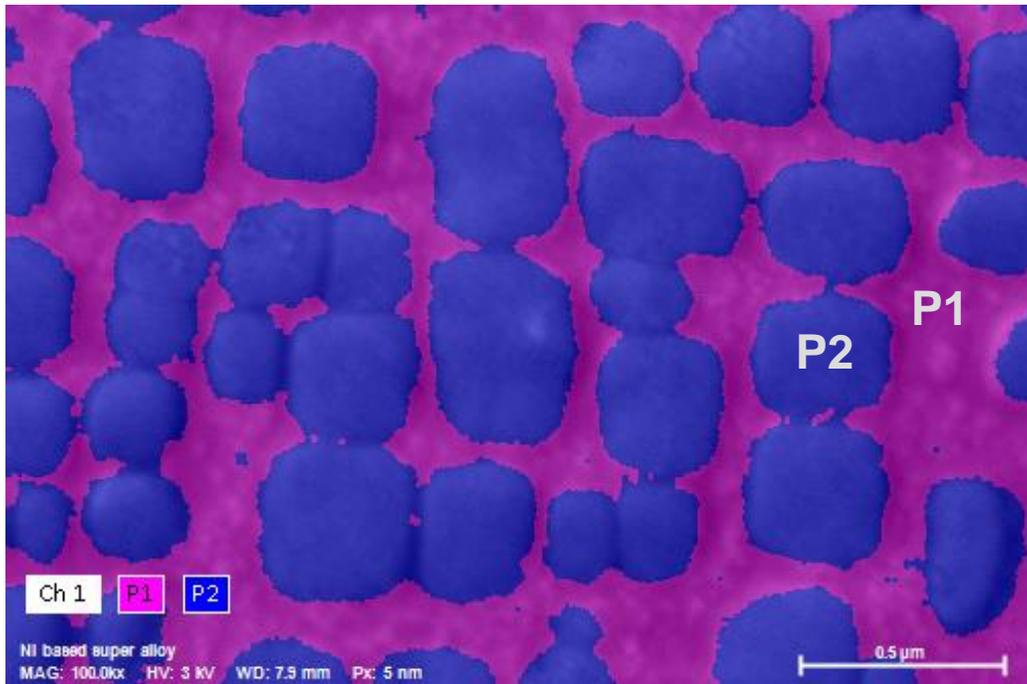
FEG-SEM 2



MAG: 100,000 x HV: 3 kV

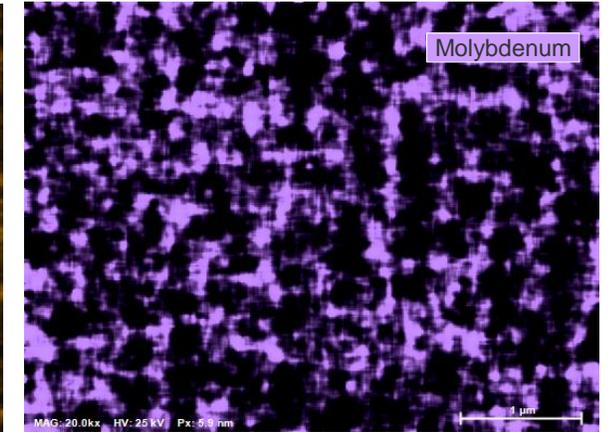
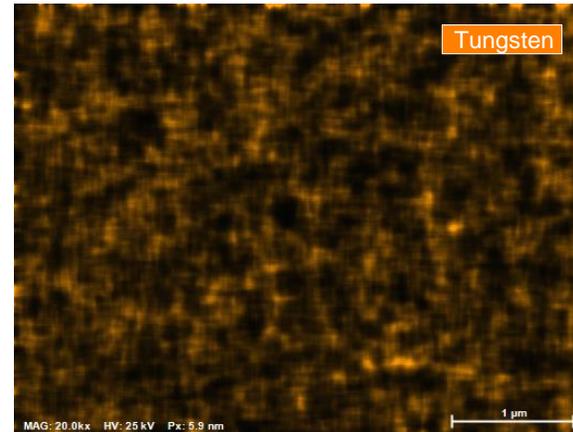
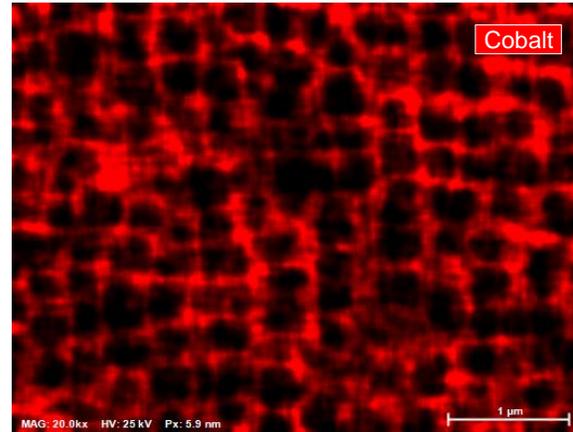
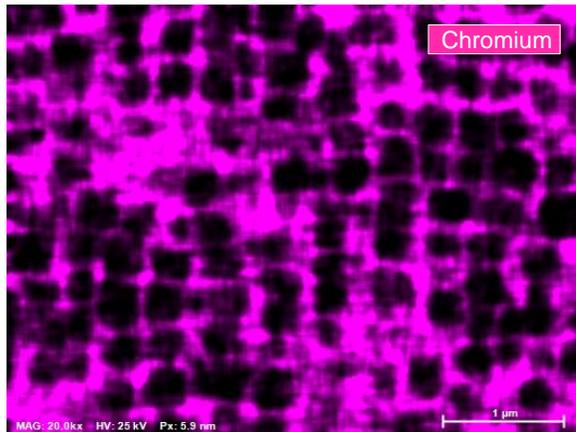
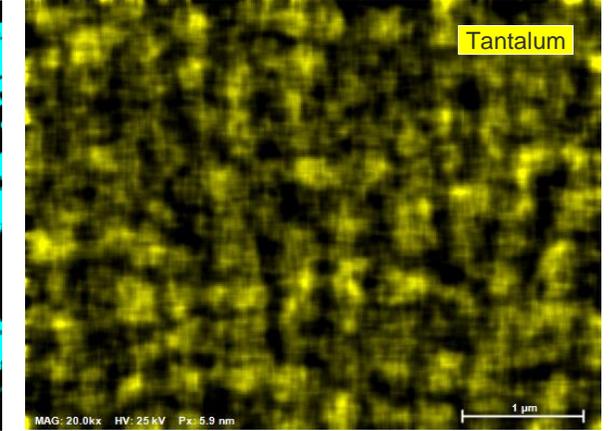
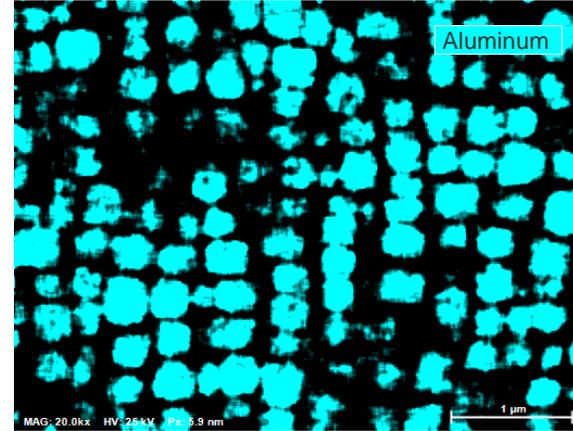
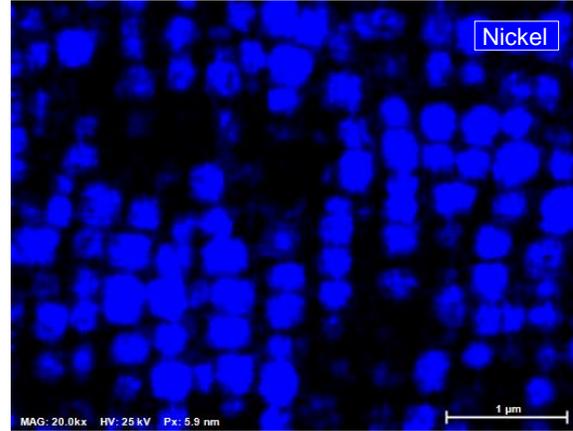
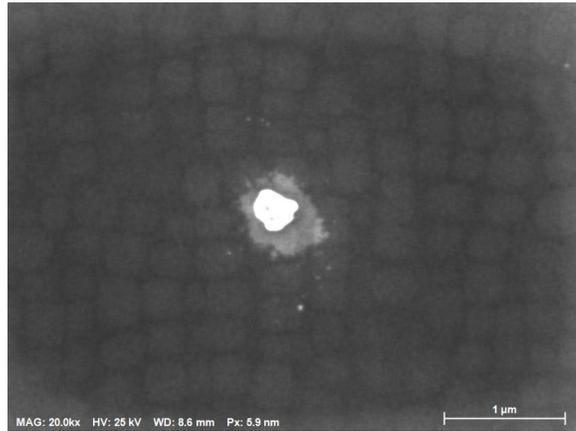
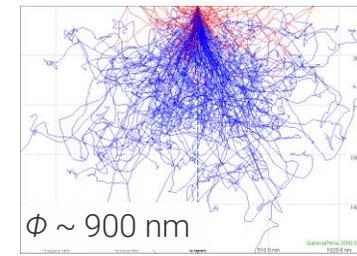
500 nm

# 3 kV measurement at 100,000x magnification (FEG-SEM 2)



Gamma - P1  
 Gamma prime - P2

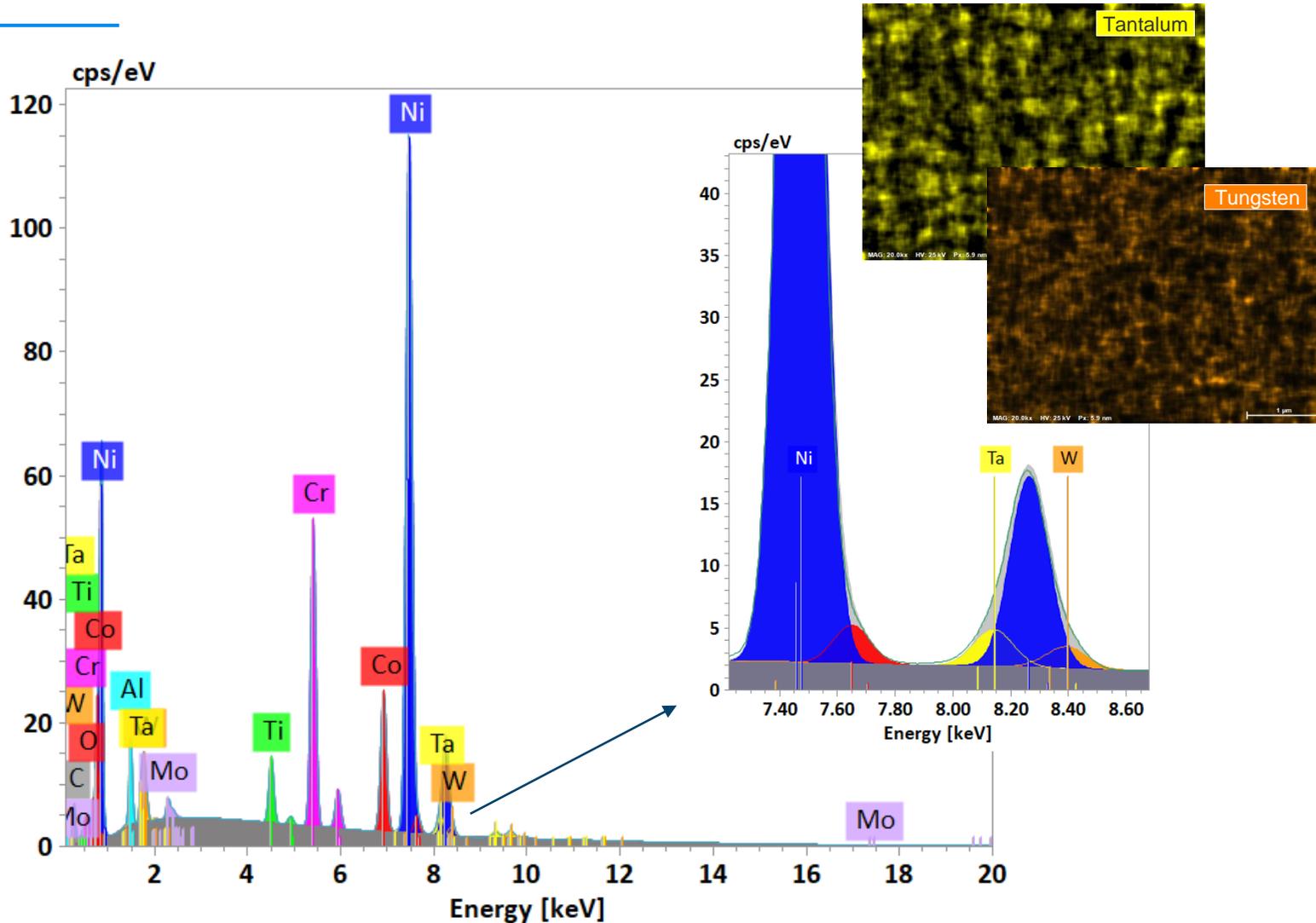
# 25 kV measurement at 20,000x magnification



MAG: 20,000 x HV: 25 kV

1 μm

# 25 kV measurement at 20,000x magnification



## EDS MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

Measurement time	30 min
Count rate	119,000 cps
Dead time	32%
Total counts	1.46E+8 (146M)
Magnification	20,000 x
Map size	1000 x 750 px

## Detector used?

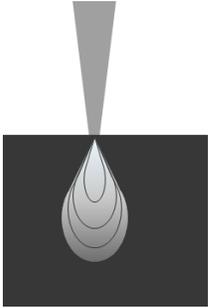


### EDS/SEM SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

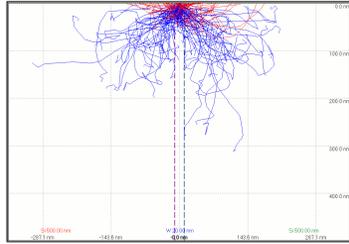
Detector type	Bruker 7 <sup>th</sup> Gen XFlash
Resolution	126 eV @Mn Ka
Window	SLEW AP3.3

Results from windowless 100 mm<sup>2</sup> RaceTrack detector?

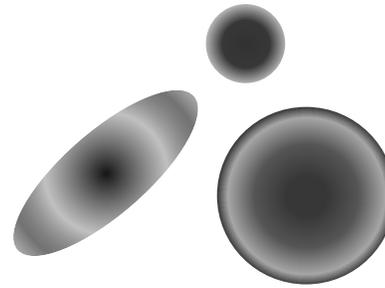
# Summary - I



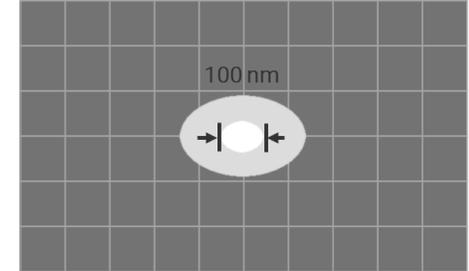
Interaction volume



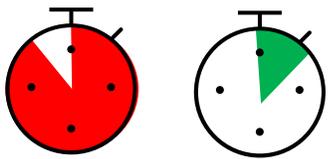
Material density



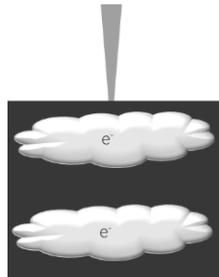
Beam footprint



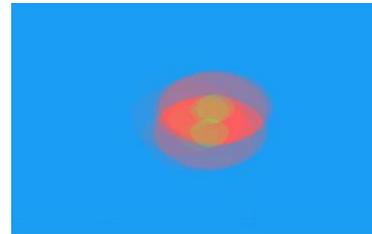
Pixel/map size



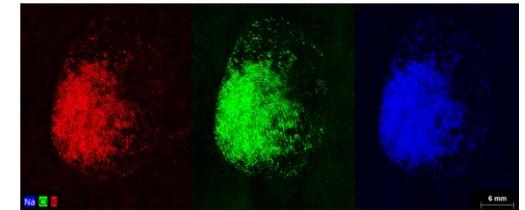
Charging due to higher dwell time



Charging due to beam conditions

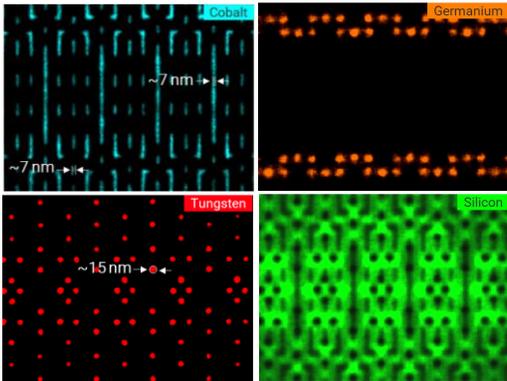


Active drift correction

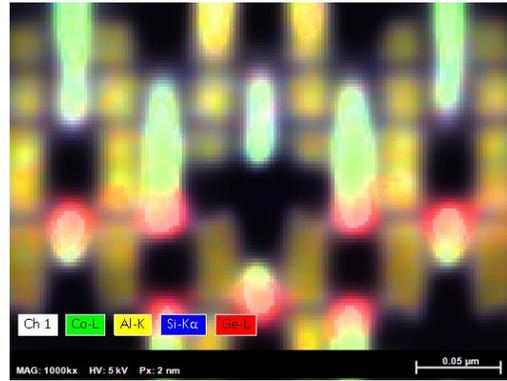


Avoid contamination

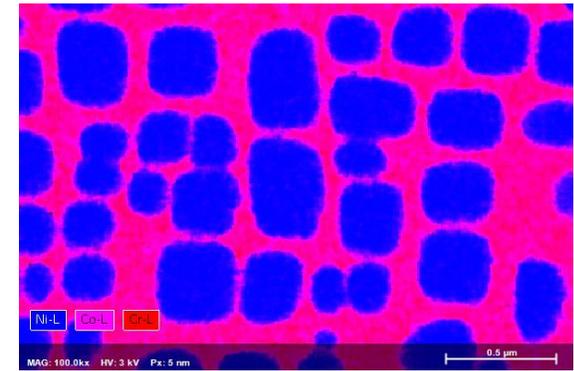
# Summary - II



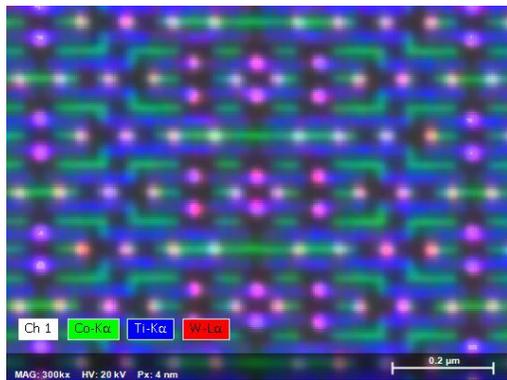
5 kV – 300,000x



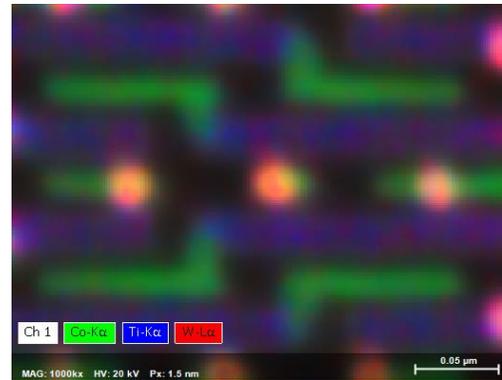
5 kV – 1,000,000x



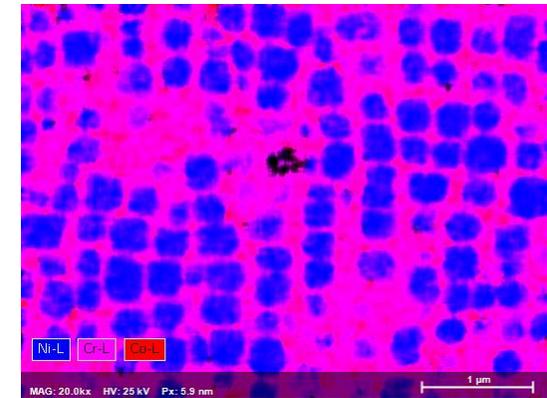
5 kV – 100,000x



20 kV – 300,000x



20 kV – 1,000,000x



25 kV – 20,000x



**Thank you!**

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## Q&A

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# Questions?

Please type in the questions  
in the **Q&A box** and press ***Send***.