



Central European Institute of Technology  
BRNO | CZECH REPUBLIC

# *Image analysis I*

*C9940 3-Dimensional Transmission Electron Microscopy  
S1007 Doing structural biology with the electron microscope*

**March 21, 2016**



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE



# Outline

## Image analysis I

- ◆ Fourier transforms
  - Why do we care?
  - Theory
  - Examples in 1D
  - Examples in 2D
- ◆ Digitization
- ◆ Fourier filtration
- ◆ Contrast transfer function
- ◆ Resolution

# *Fourier transforms*

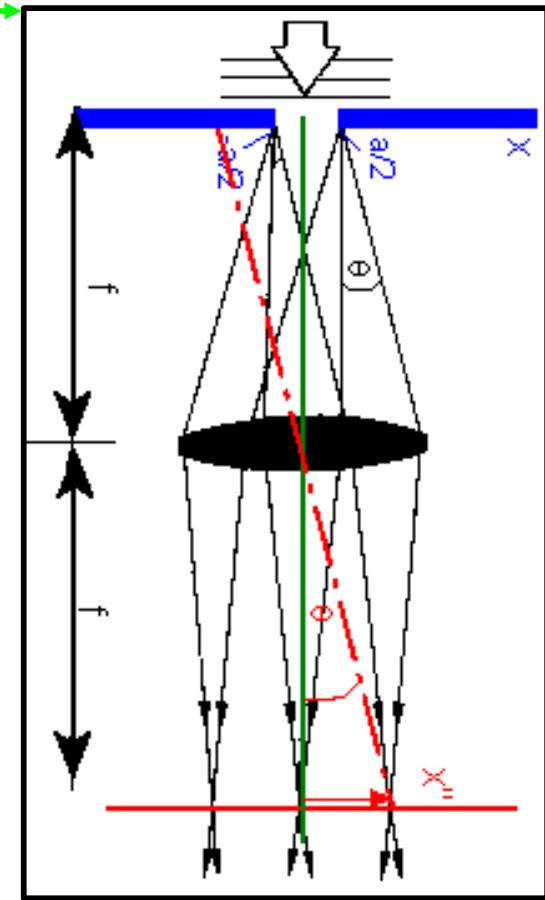
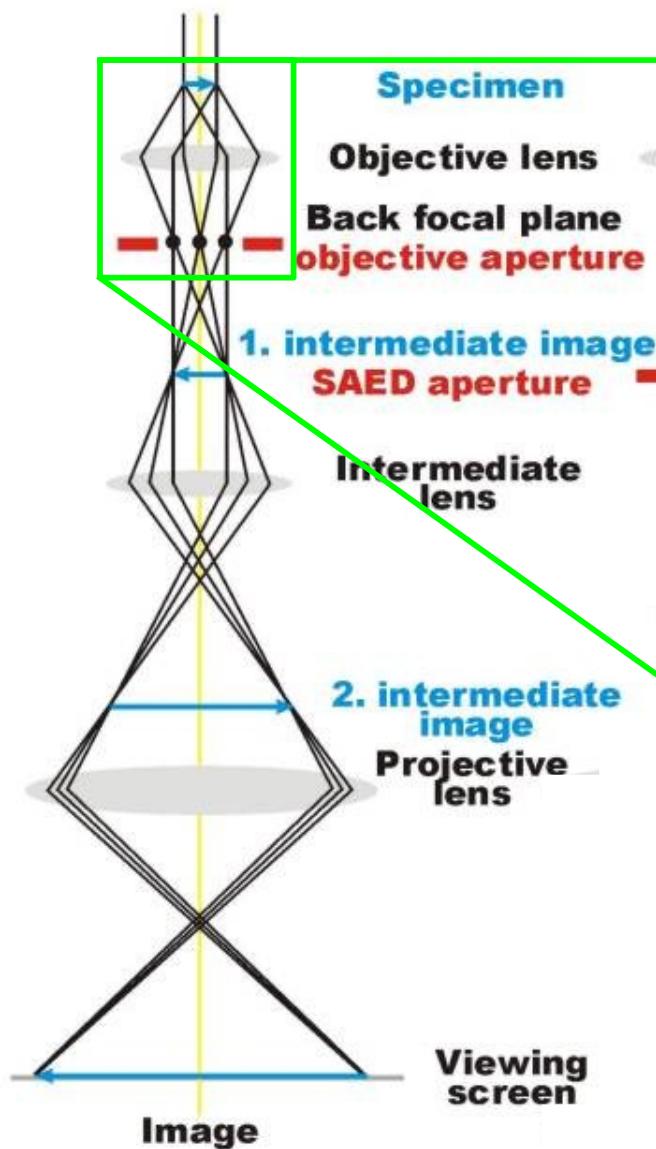
# Outline

## Image analysis I

- ◆ Fourier transforms
  - Why do we care?
  - Theory
  - Examples in 1D
  - Examples in 2D
- ◆ Digitization
- ◆ Fourier filtration
- ◆ Contrast transfer function
- ◆ Resolution

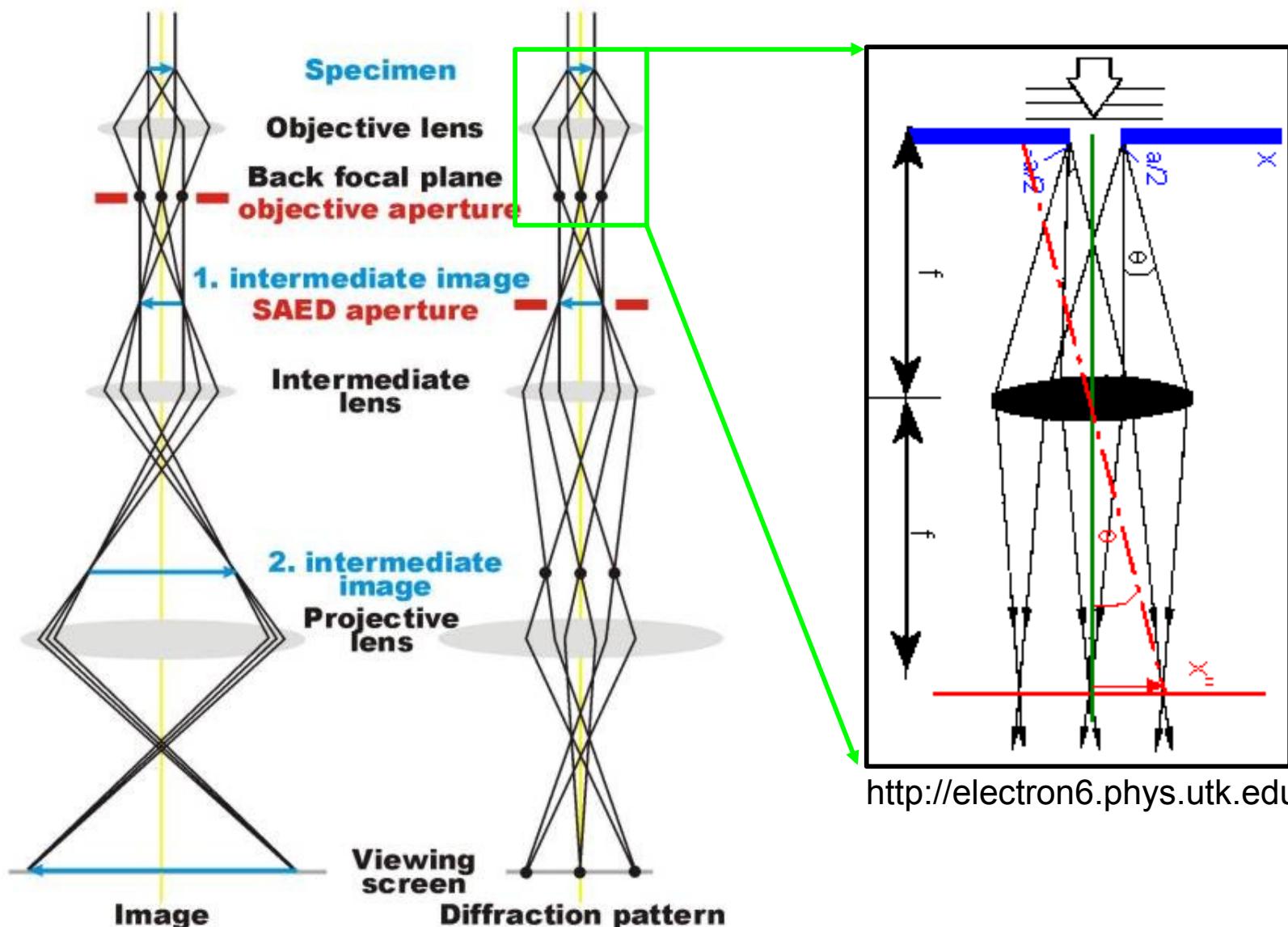
*A quiz*

# A quiz



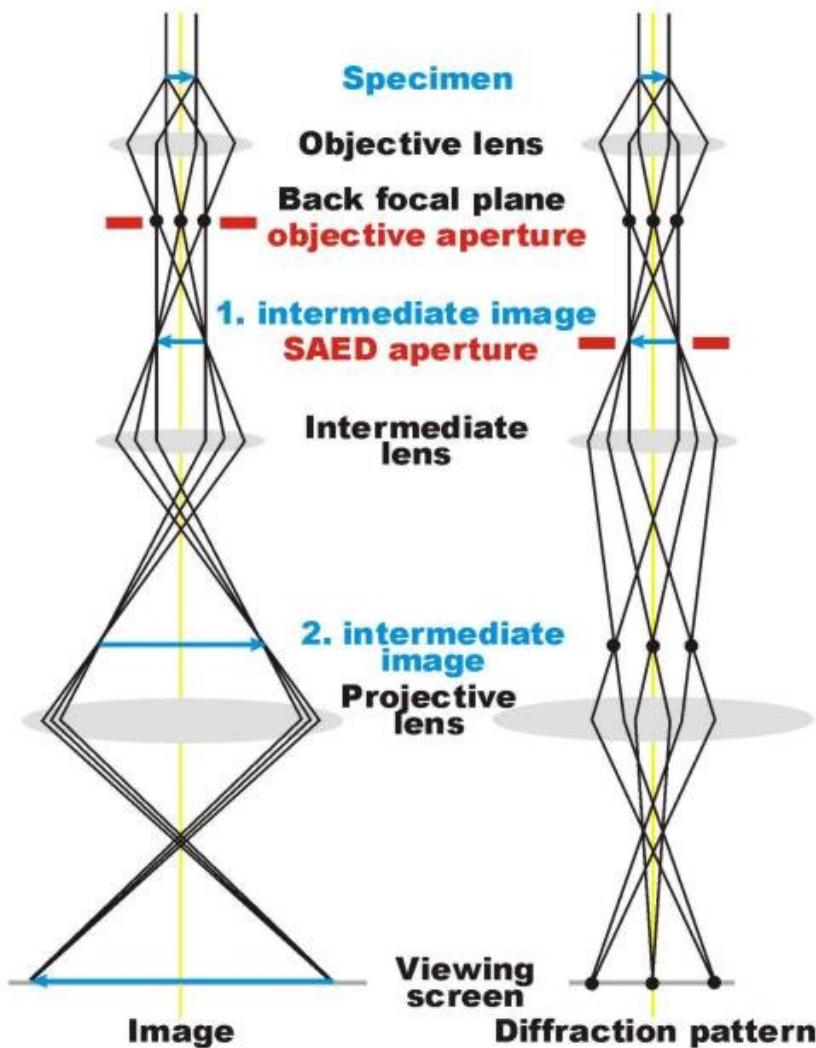
<http://electron6.phys.utk.edu>

# Relationship between imaging and diffraction

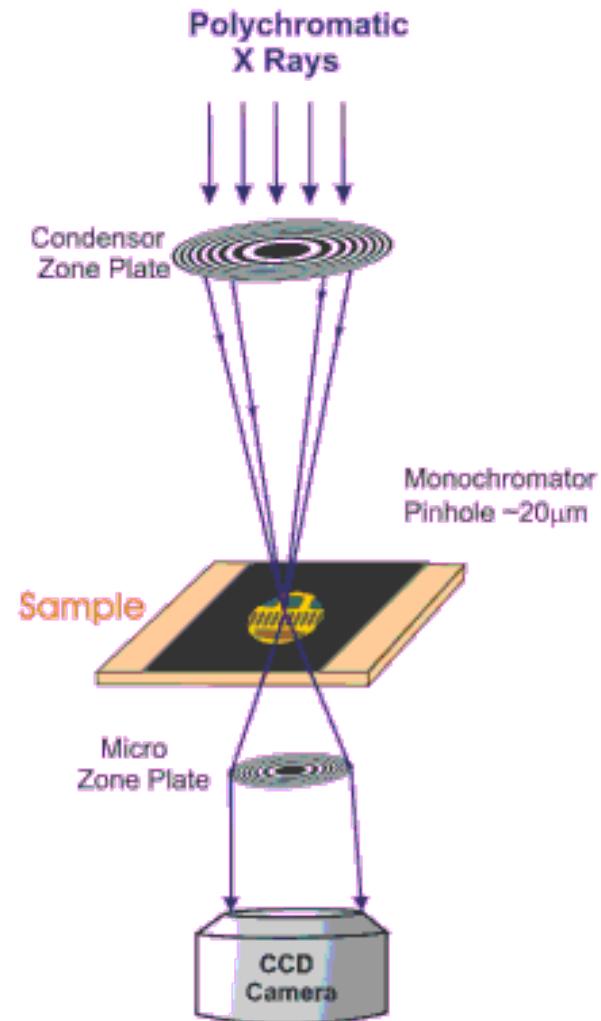


*The only difference between microscopy  
and diffraction is that, in microscopy,  
you can focus the scattered radiation  
into an image.*

# How do X-ray microscopes work?

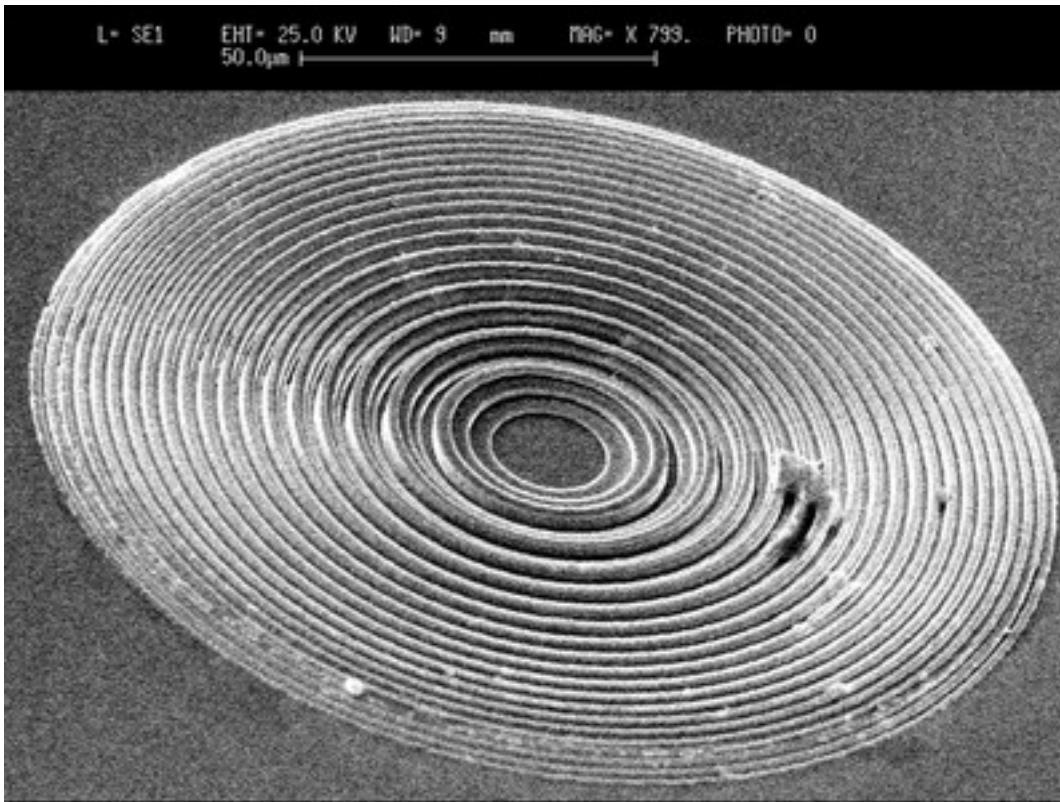


<http://www.microscopy.ethz.ch>



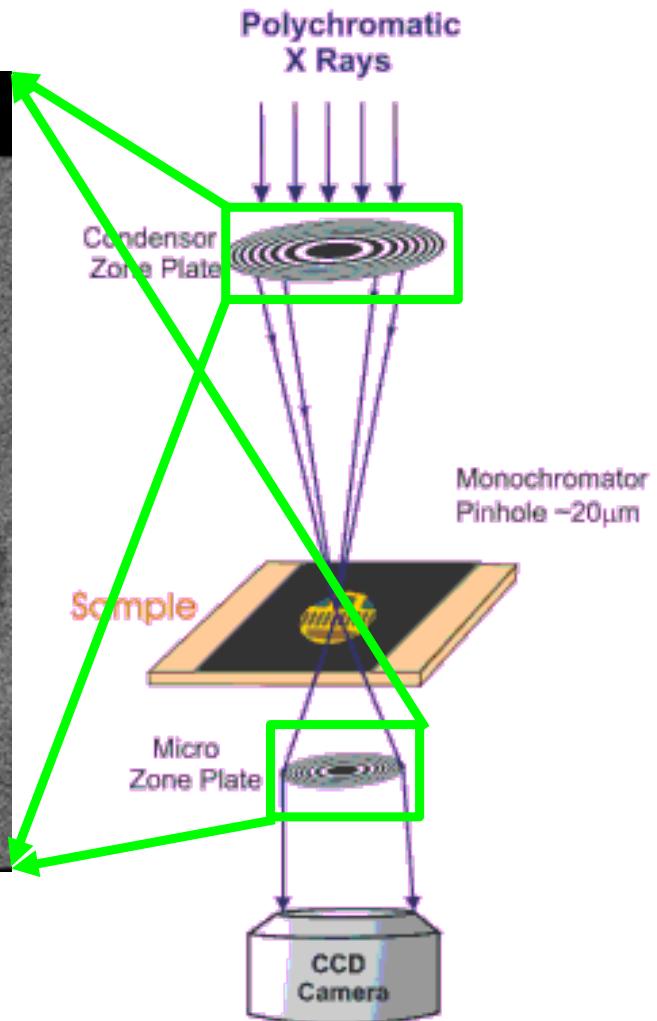
<http://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu>

# How do X-ray microscopes work?



Fabrizio...Barrett, 1999, Nature

Best resolution: ~20nm



<http://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu>

# Outline

## Image analysis I

- ◆ Fourier transforms
  - Relationship between imaging and diffraction
  - Theory
  - Examples in 1D
  - Examples in 2D
- ◆ Digitization
- ◆ Fourier filtration
- ◆ Contrast transfer function
- ◆ Resolution

# Relevance of Fourier transforms to EM

Fourier transform ~ diffraction pattern

see John Rodenburg's site, <http://rodenburg.org>

$$v = a/\lambda$$

# Fourier series

A Fourier series is an expansion of a periodic function  $f(x)$  in terms of an infinite sum of sines and cosines

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx)$$

# Fourier transforms: Exponential form

$$F(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{-2\pi i k x} dx$$

$f$ : function which we are transforming (1D)

$x$ : axis coordinate

$i$ :  $\sqrt{-1}$

$k$ : spatial frequency

$F(k)$ : Fourier coefficient at frequency  $k$

# Fourier transforms: Exponential form

$$F(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{-2\pi i k x} dx$$

Euler's Formula:  $e^{i\phi} = \cos \phi + i \sin \phi$

$$F(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cos(-2\pi kx) dx + i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \sin(-2\pi kx) dx$$

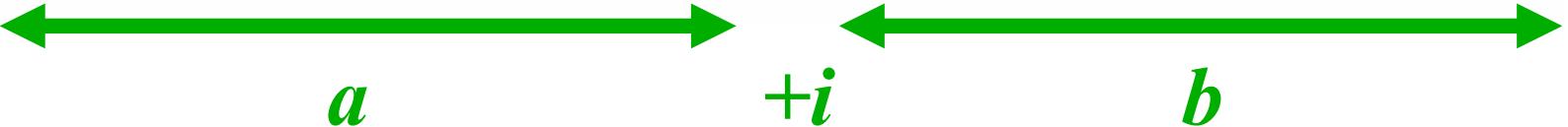

# Fourier transforms: Sines + cosines

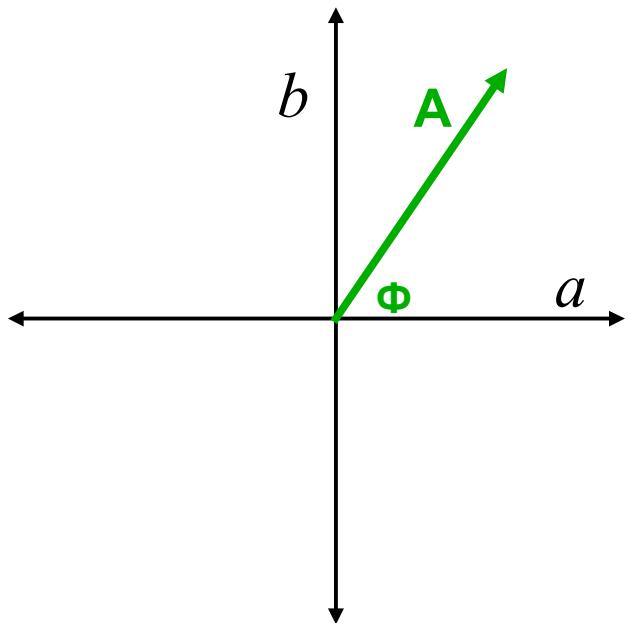
$$F(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{-2\pi ikx} dx$$

$$F(k) = a \cos(-2\pi kx) + ib \sin(-2\pi kx)$$

(NOTE: This isn't the same a & b from the previous slide.)

# Fourier transforms: Definition

$$F(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cos(-2\pi kx) dx + i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \sin(-2\pi kx) dx$$




Amplitude,  $A$ :  $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

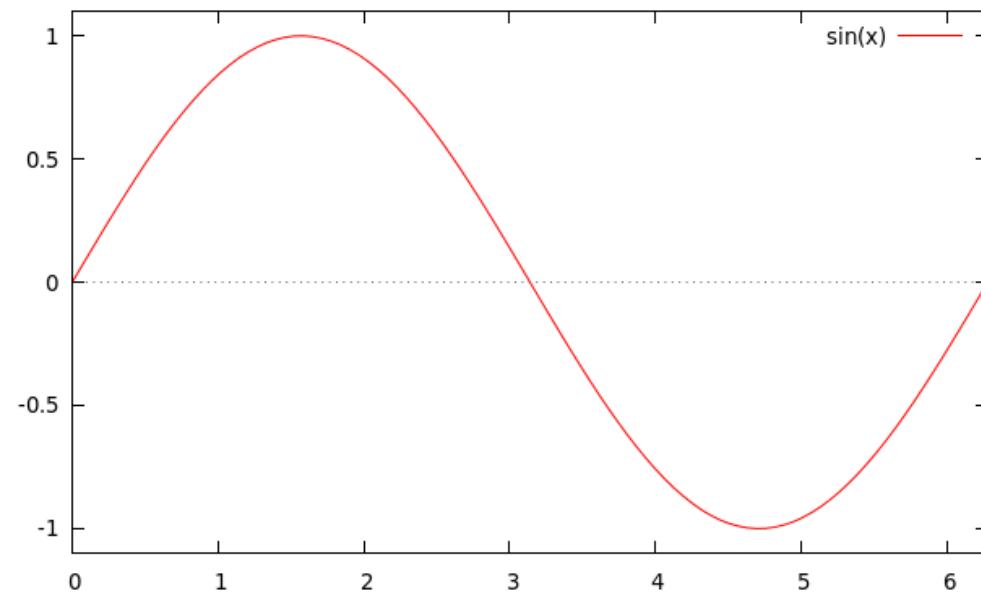
Phase,  $\Phi$ :  $\arctan \frac{b}{a}$

# Fourier coefficients, discrete functions

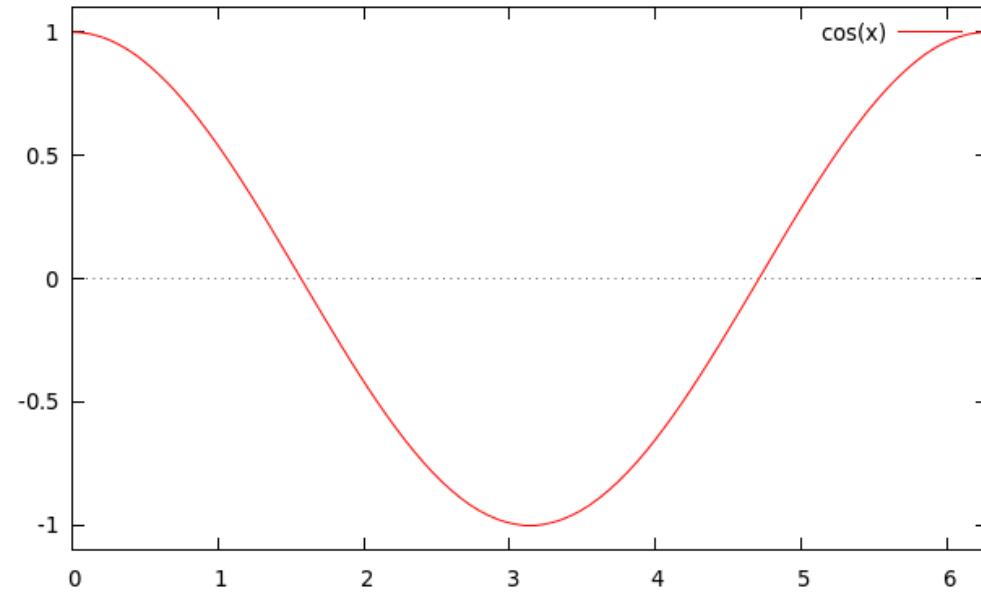
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx)$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx$$

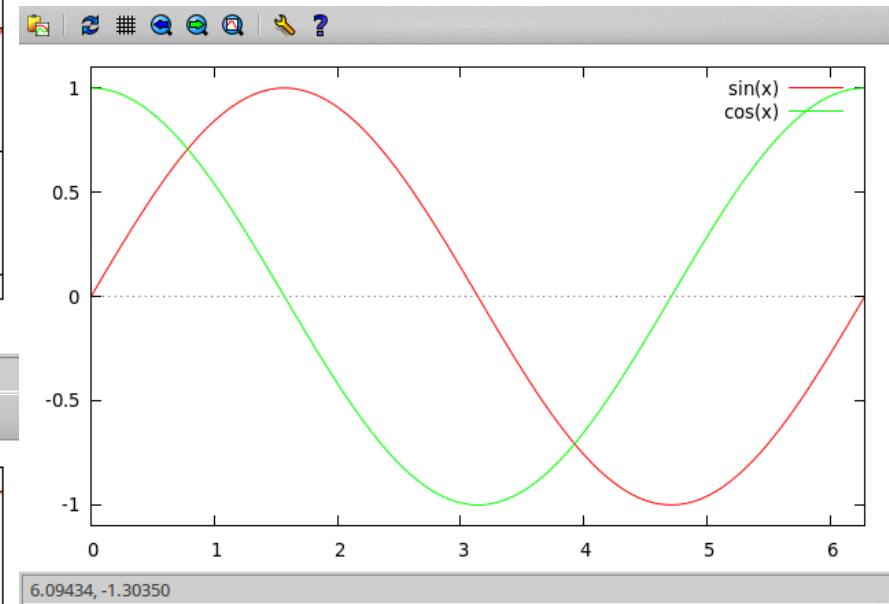
$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx$$



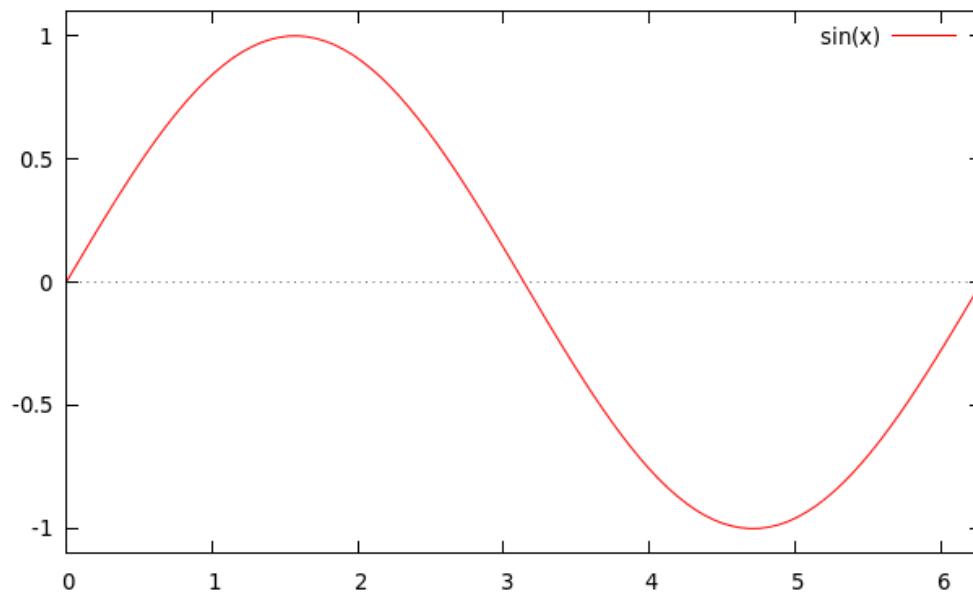
3.47611, -1.31667



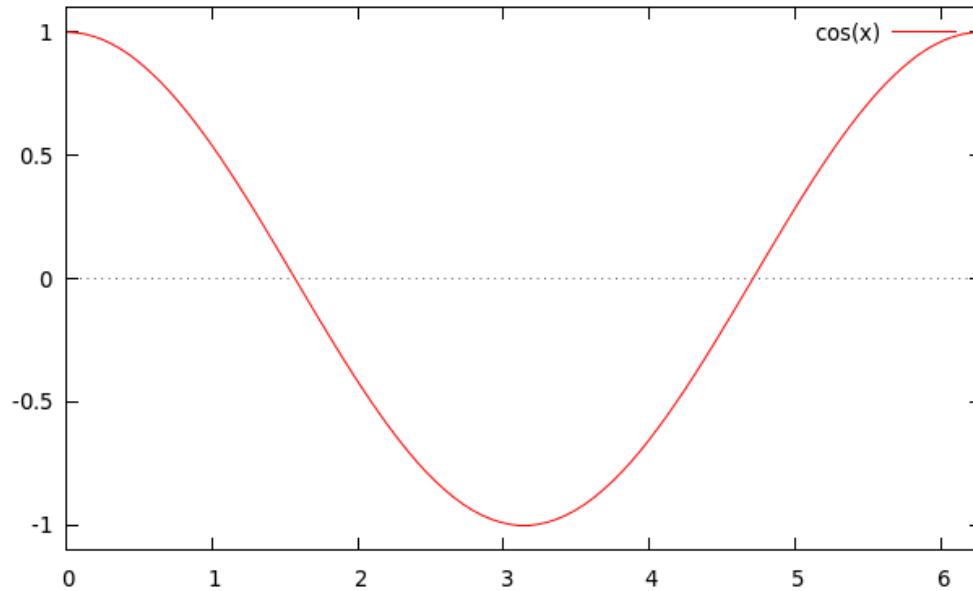
4.80194, -0.0982937



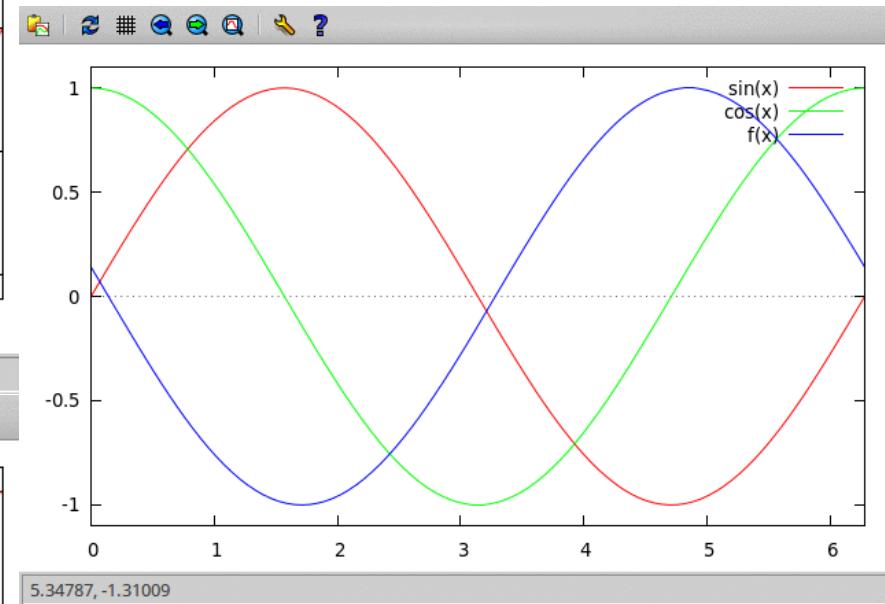
sine and cosine are orthogonal.  
The inner product of the two is zero.



3.47611, -1.31667

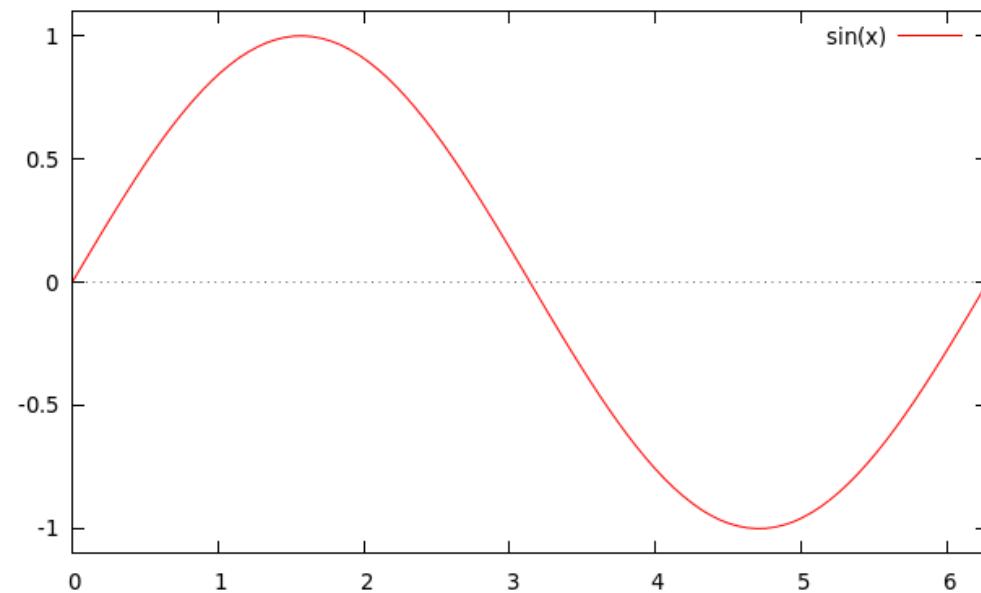


4.80194, -0.0982937

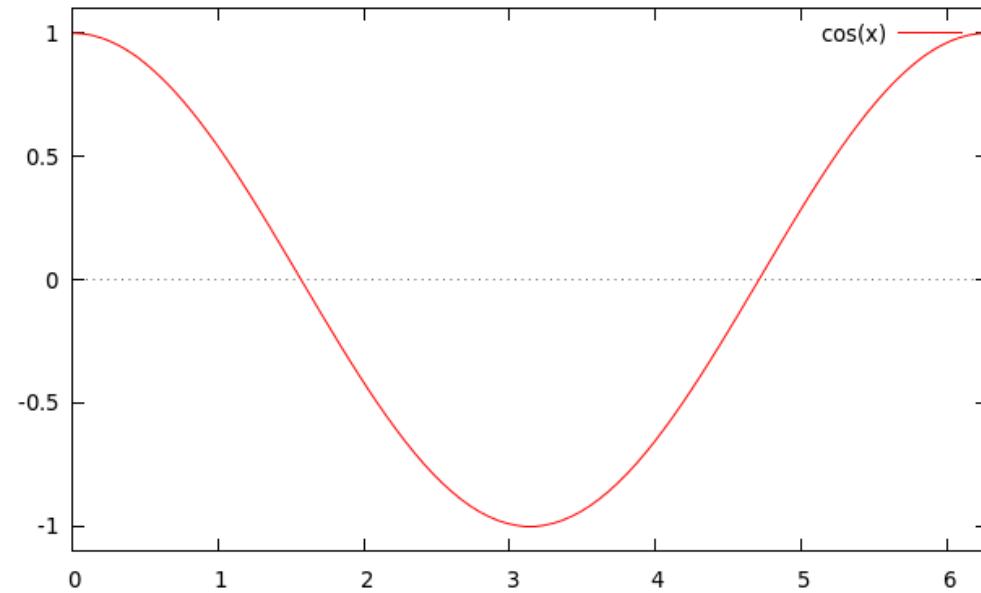


A function with the same frequency but with an offset will have some components of both sine and cosine.

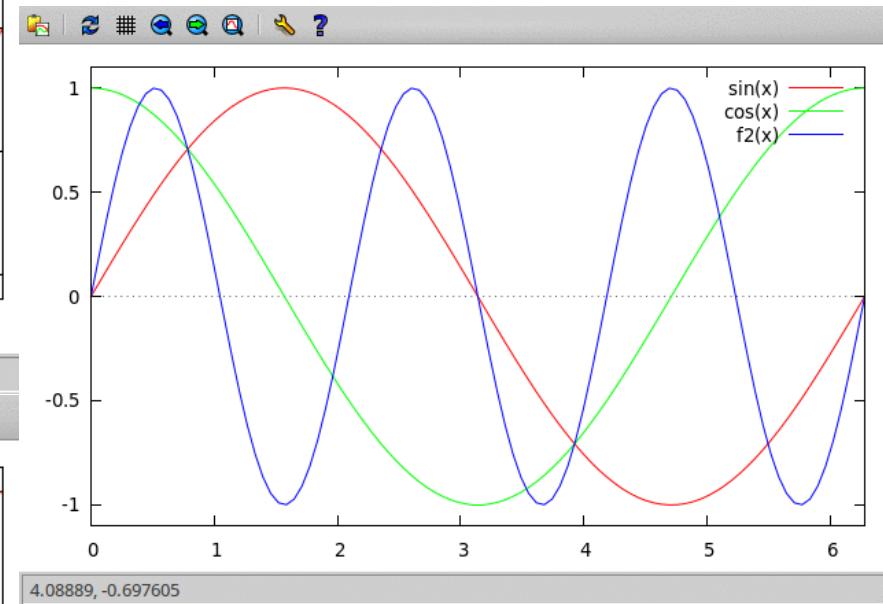
That is,  $a$  and  $b$  will be non-zero.



3.47611, -1.31667

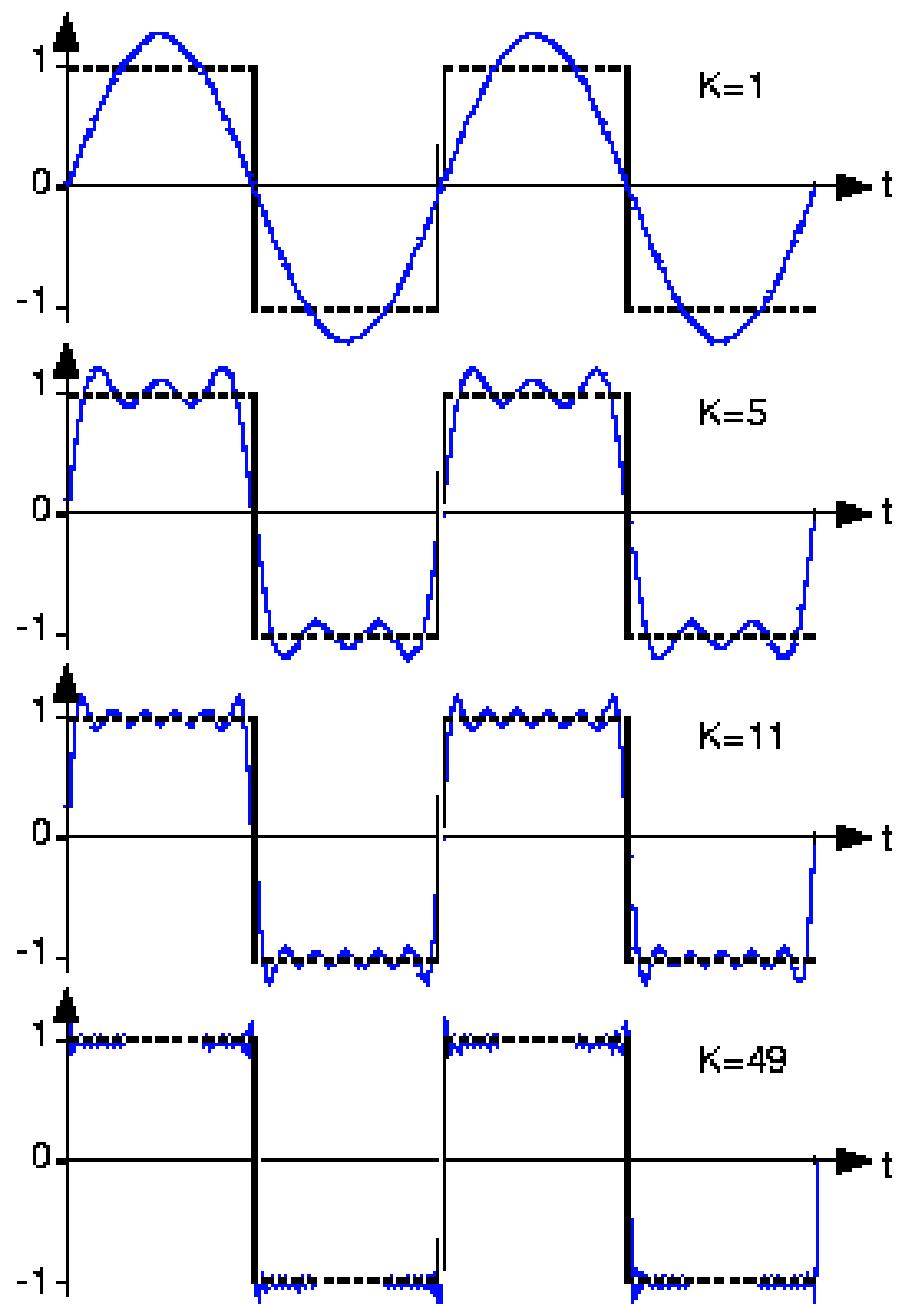


4.80194, -0.0982937



A function with a different frequency will have coefficients of zero.

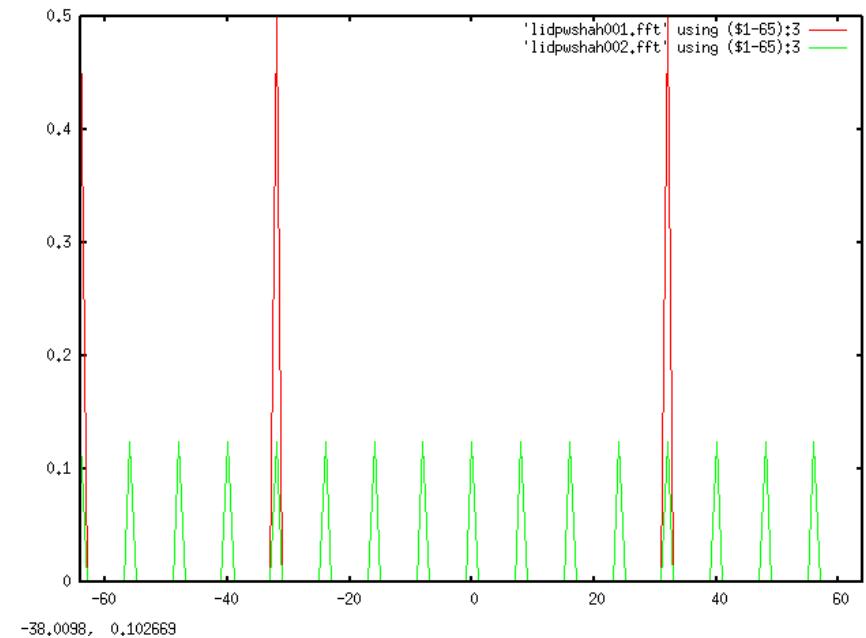
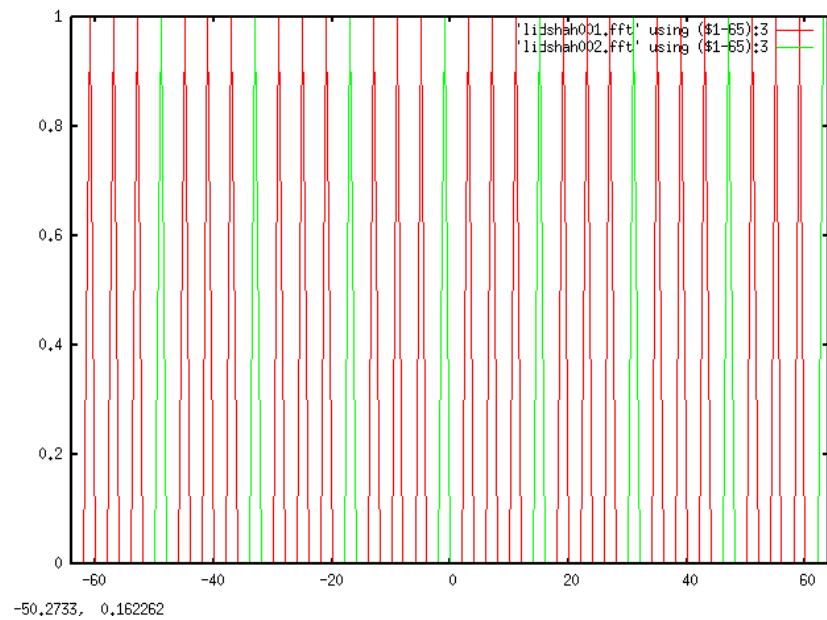
The higher the spatial frequencies (i.e., higher resolution) that are included, the more faithful the representation of the original function will be.



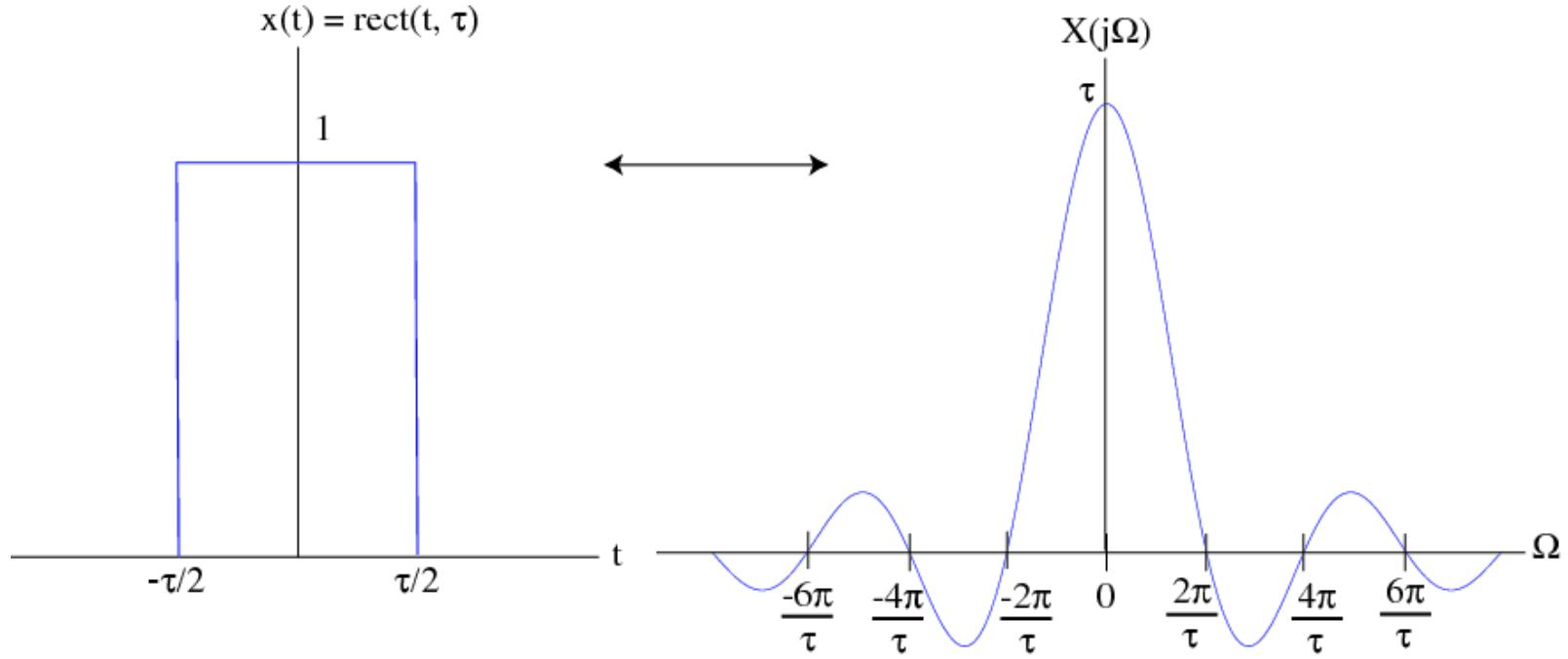
# Some properties

- As  $n$  increases, so does the spatial frequency, *i.e.*, the “resolution.”
  - For example,  $\sin(2x)$  oscillates faster than  $\sin(x)$
- Computation of a Fourier transform is a completely reversible operation.
  - There is no loss of information.
- Fourier terms (or coefficients) have amplitude and phase.
- The diffraction pattern is the physical manifestation of the Fourier transform
  - Phase information is lost in a diffraction pattern.
  - An image contains both phase and amplitude information.

# Some simple 1D transforms: a 1D lattice



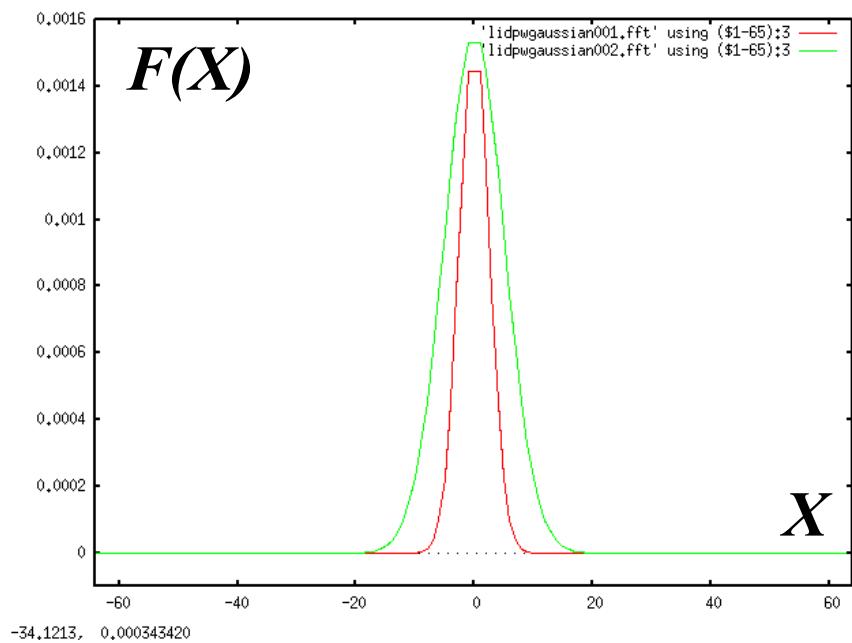
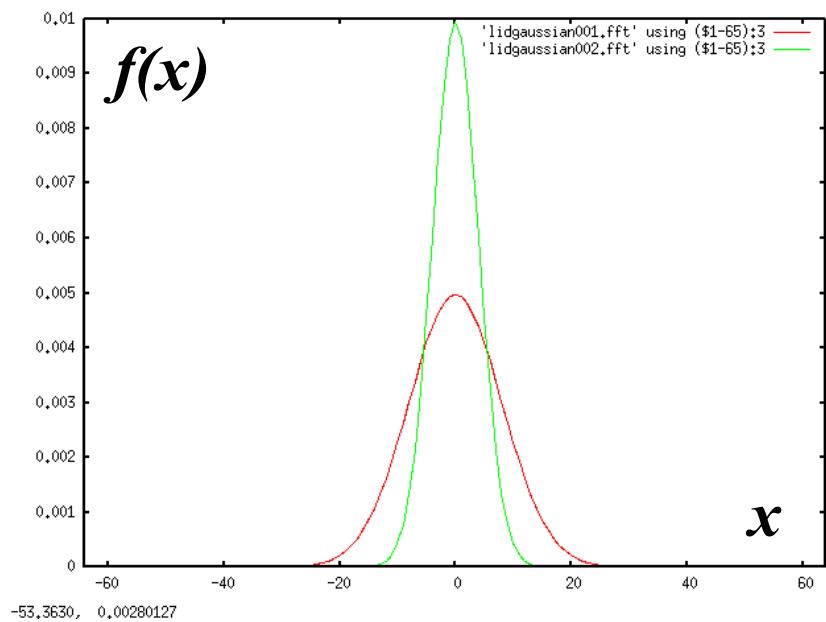
# Some simple 1D transforms: a box



<http://cnx.org>

Later, you will learn that multiplying a step function is bad,  
because of these ripples in Fourier space.

# Fourier transforms: plot of a Gaussian

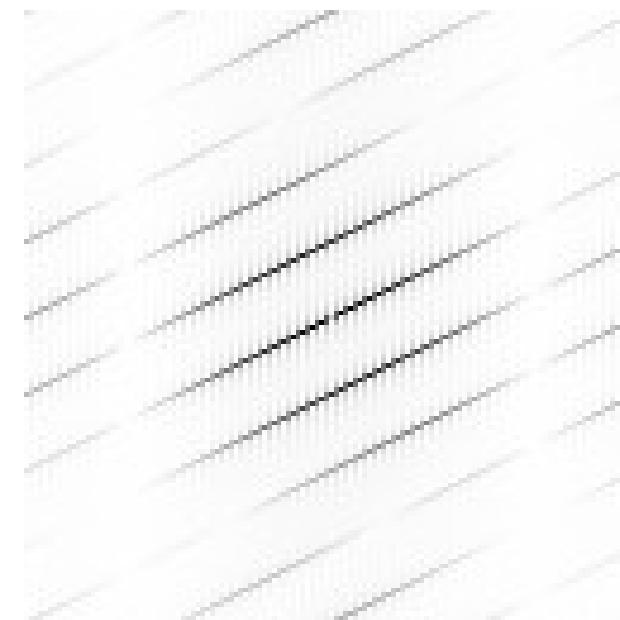
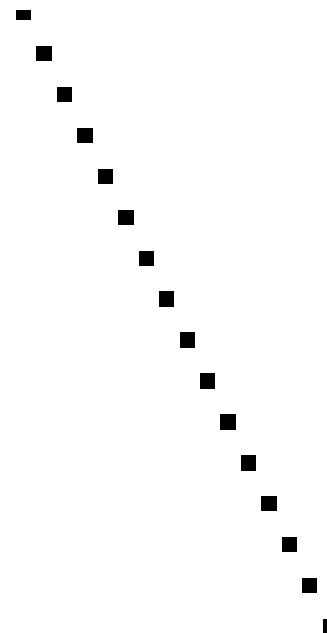


# Some simple 1D transforms: a sharp point (Dirac delta function)

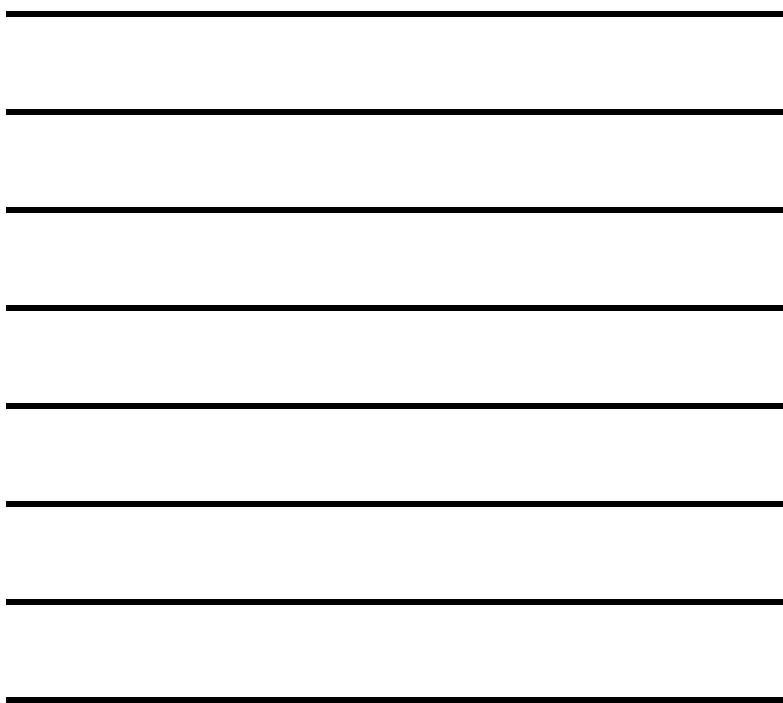


[http://en.labs.wikimedia.org/wiki/Basic\\_Physics\\_of\\_Nuclear\\_Medicine/Fourier\\_Methods](http://en.labs.wikimedia.org/wiki/Basic_Physics_of_Nuclear_Medicine/Fourier_Methods)

# Some simple 2D Fourier transforms: a row of points

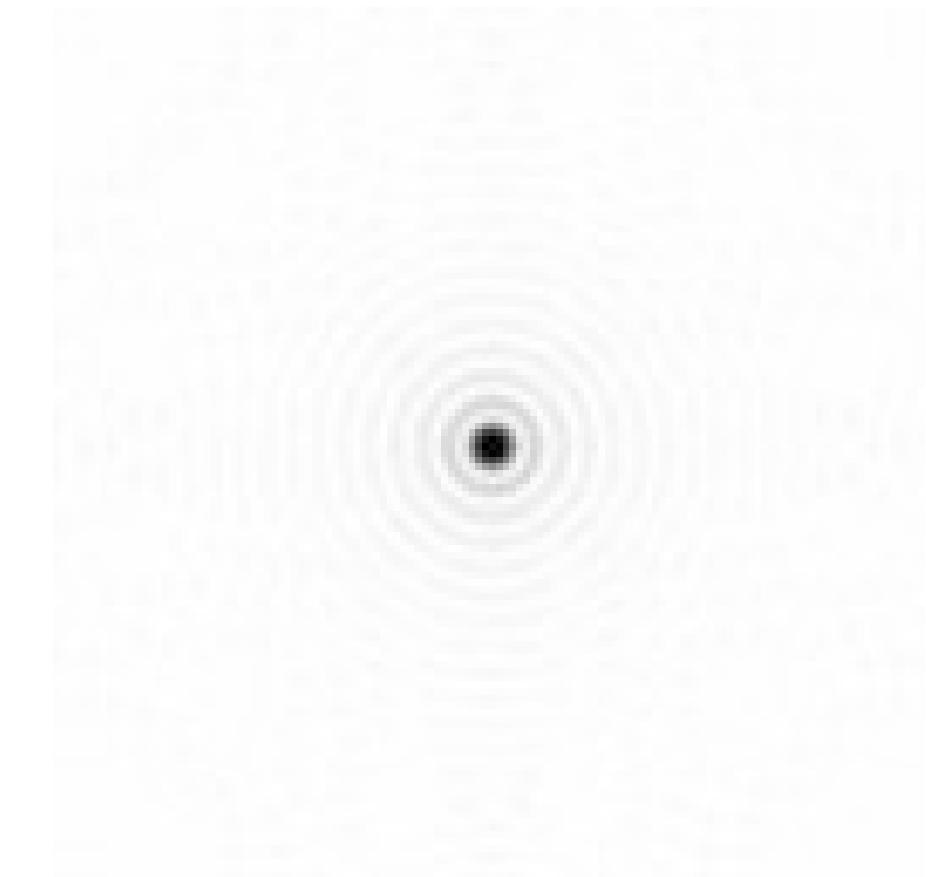
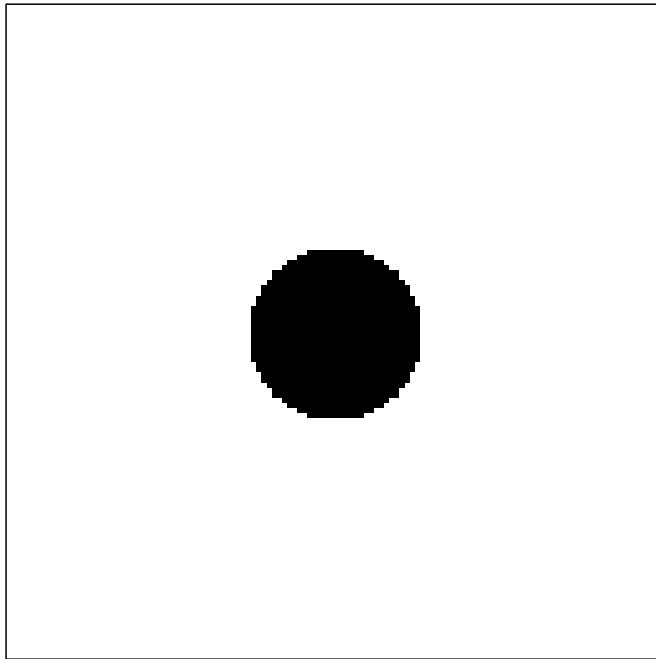


# Some simple 2D Fourier transforms: a series of lines

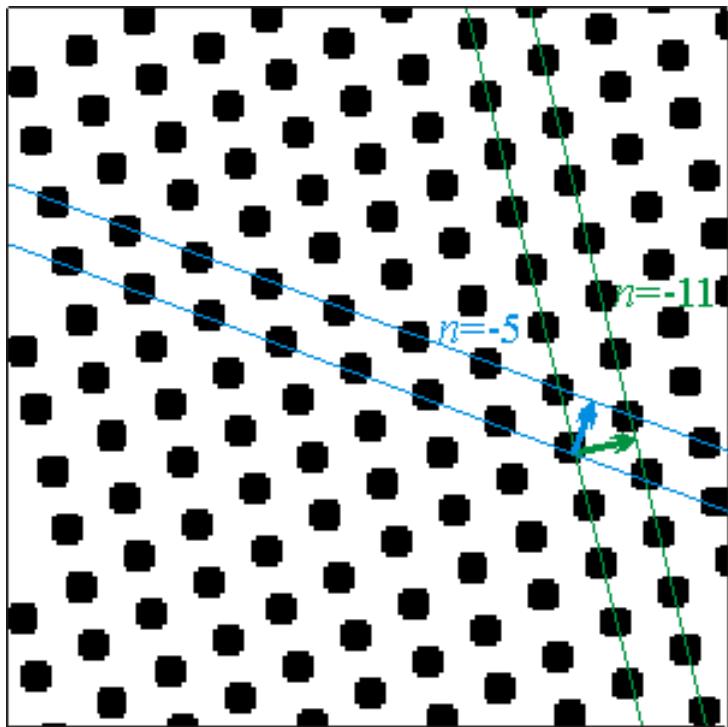


.....

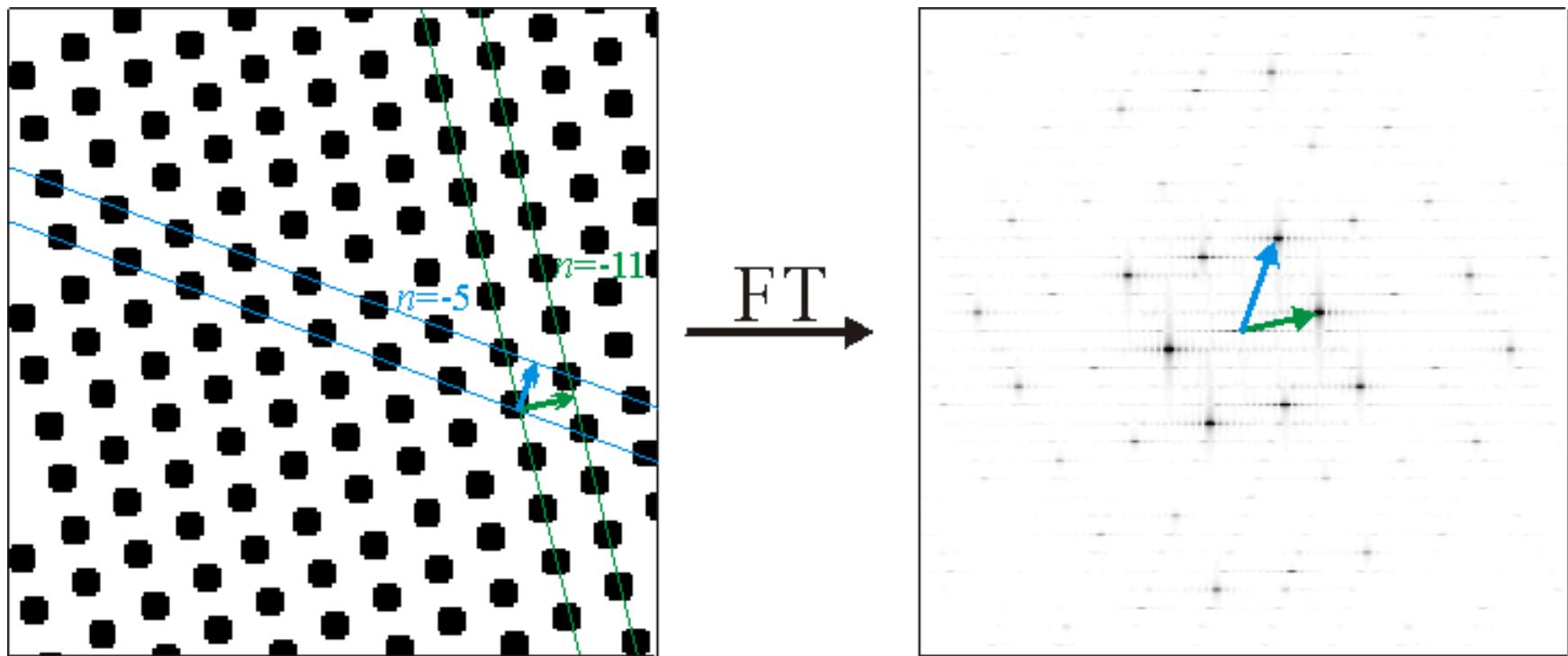
# Some simple 2D Fourier transforms: a sharp disc



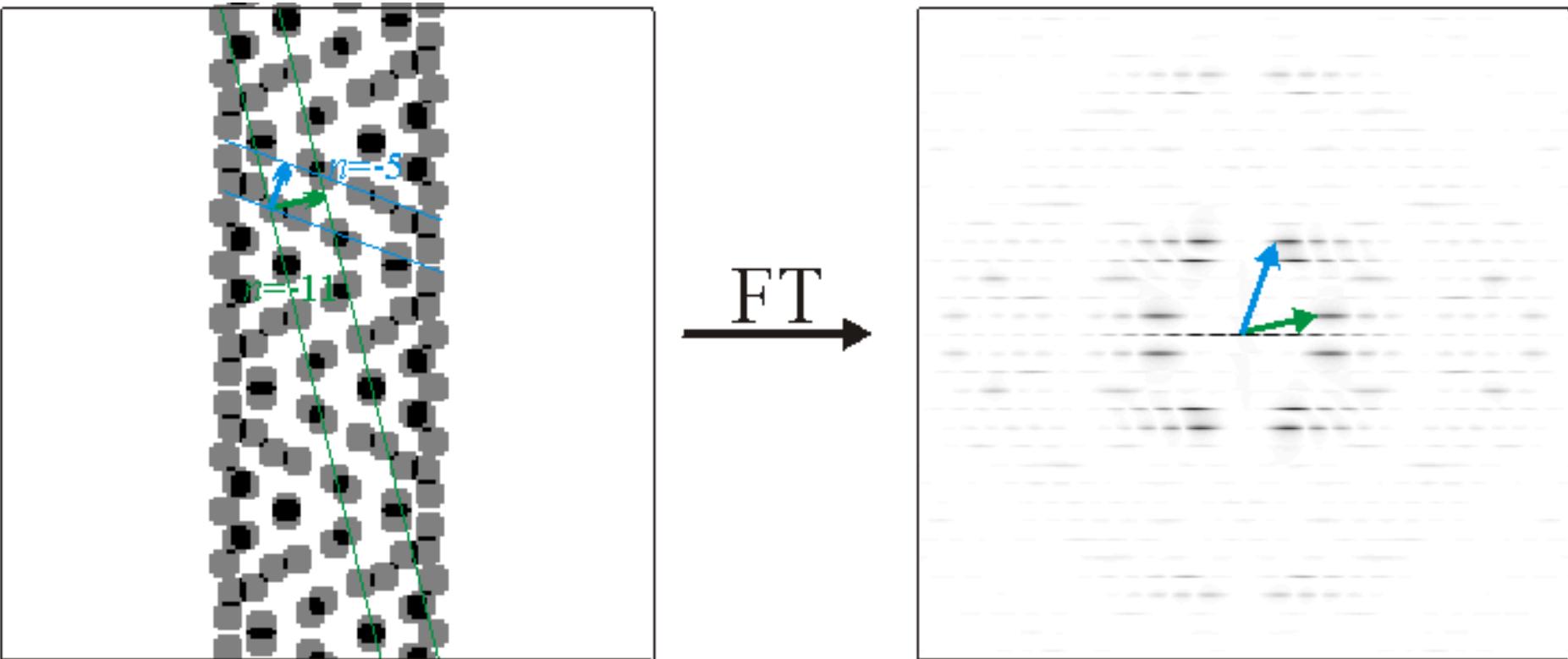
# Some simple 2D Fourier transforms: a 2D lattice



# Some simple 2D Fourier transforms: a 2D lattice



# Some simple 2D Fourier transforms: a helix

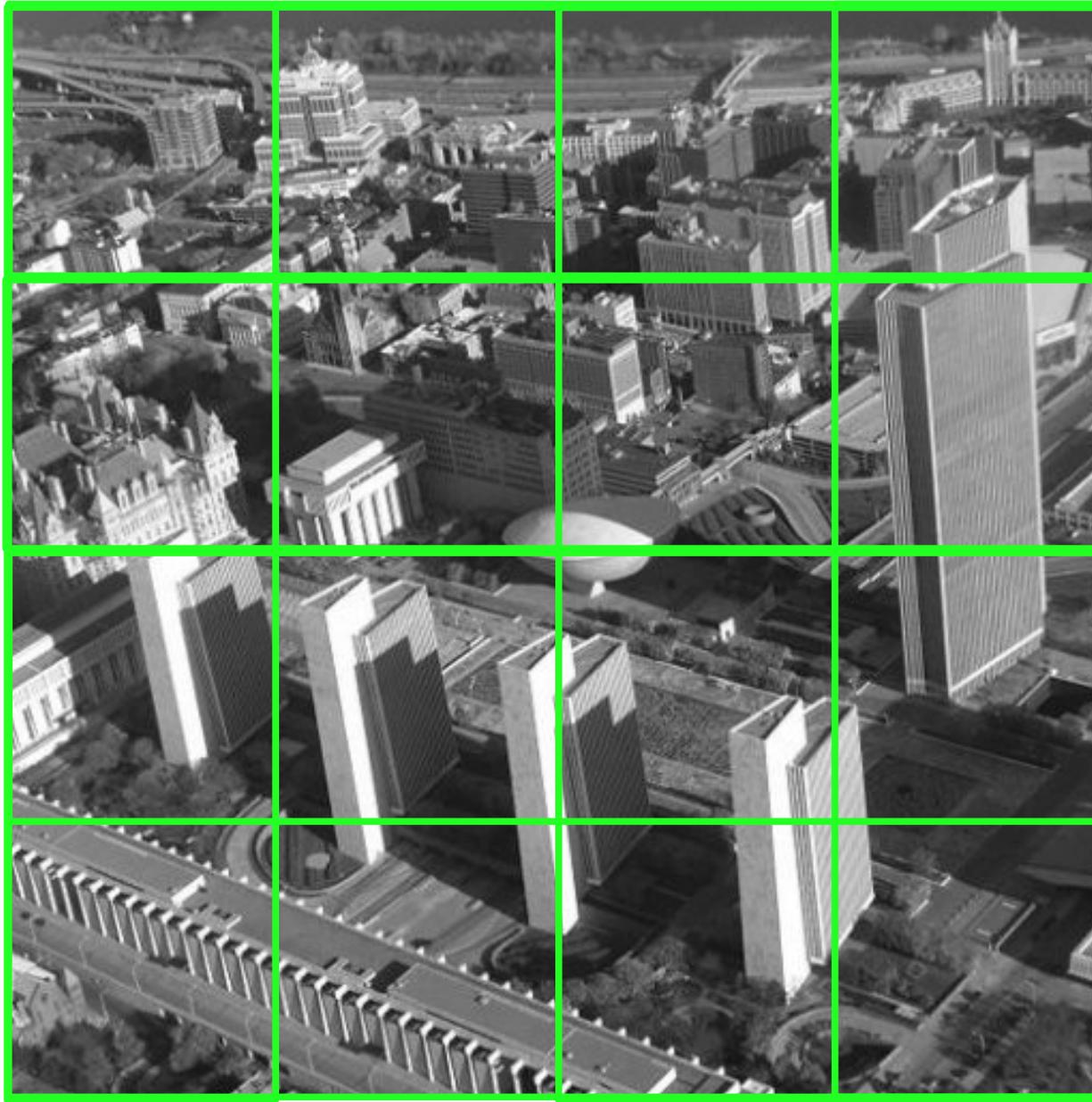


# Outline

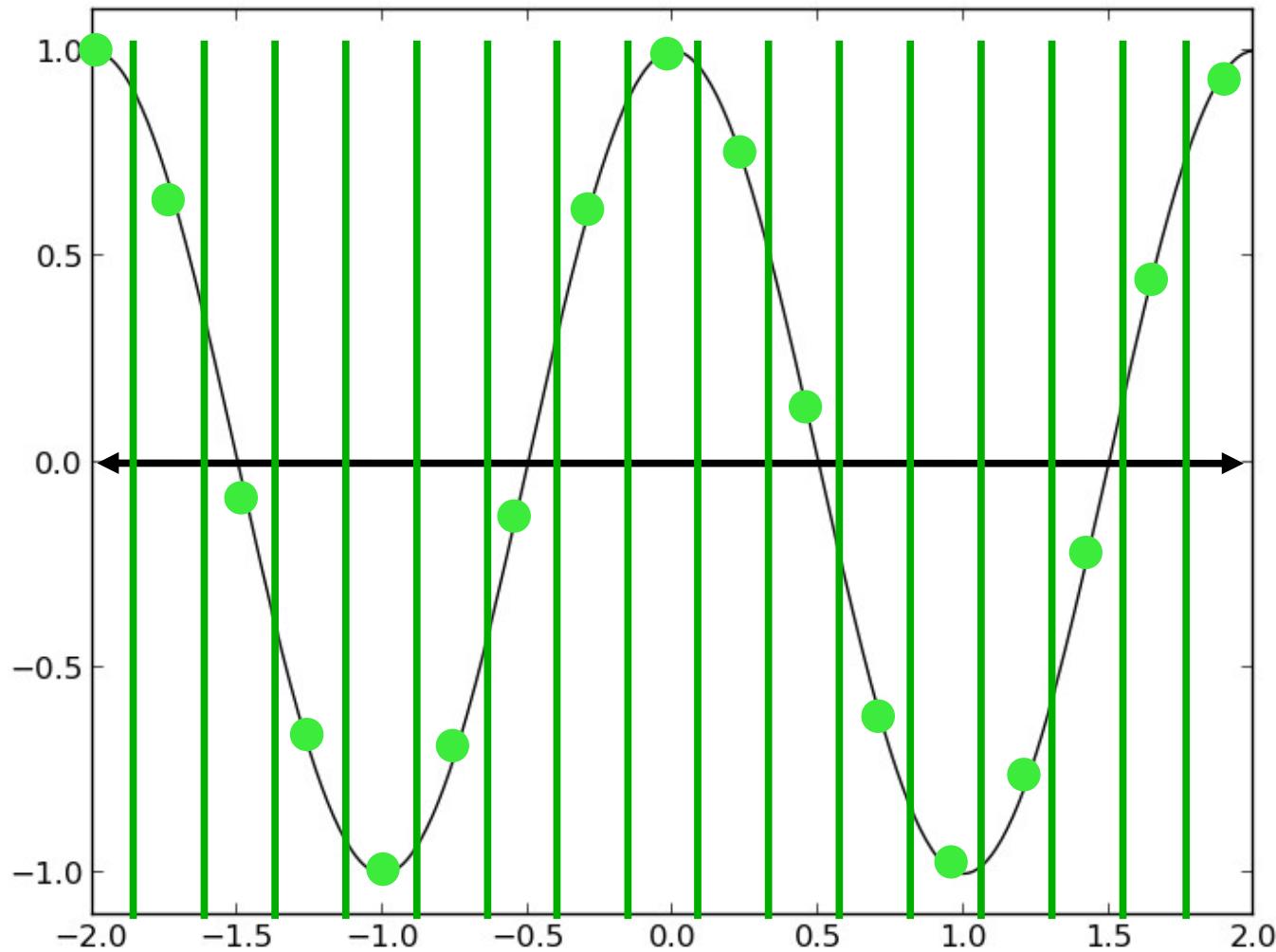
## Image analysis I

- ◆ Fourier transforms
  - Relationship between imaging and diffraction
  - Theory
  - Examples in 1D
  - Examples in 2D
- ◆ Digitization
- ◆ Fourier filtration
- ◆ Contrast transfer function
- ◆ Resolution

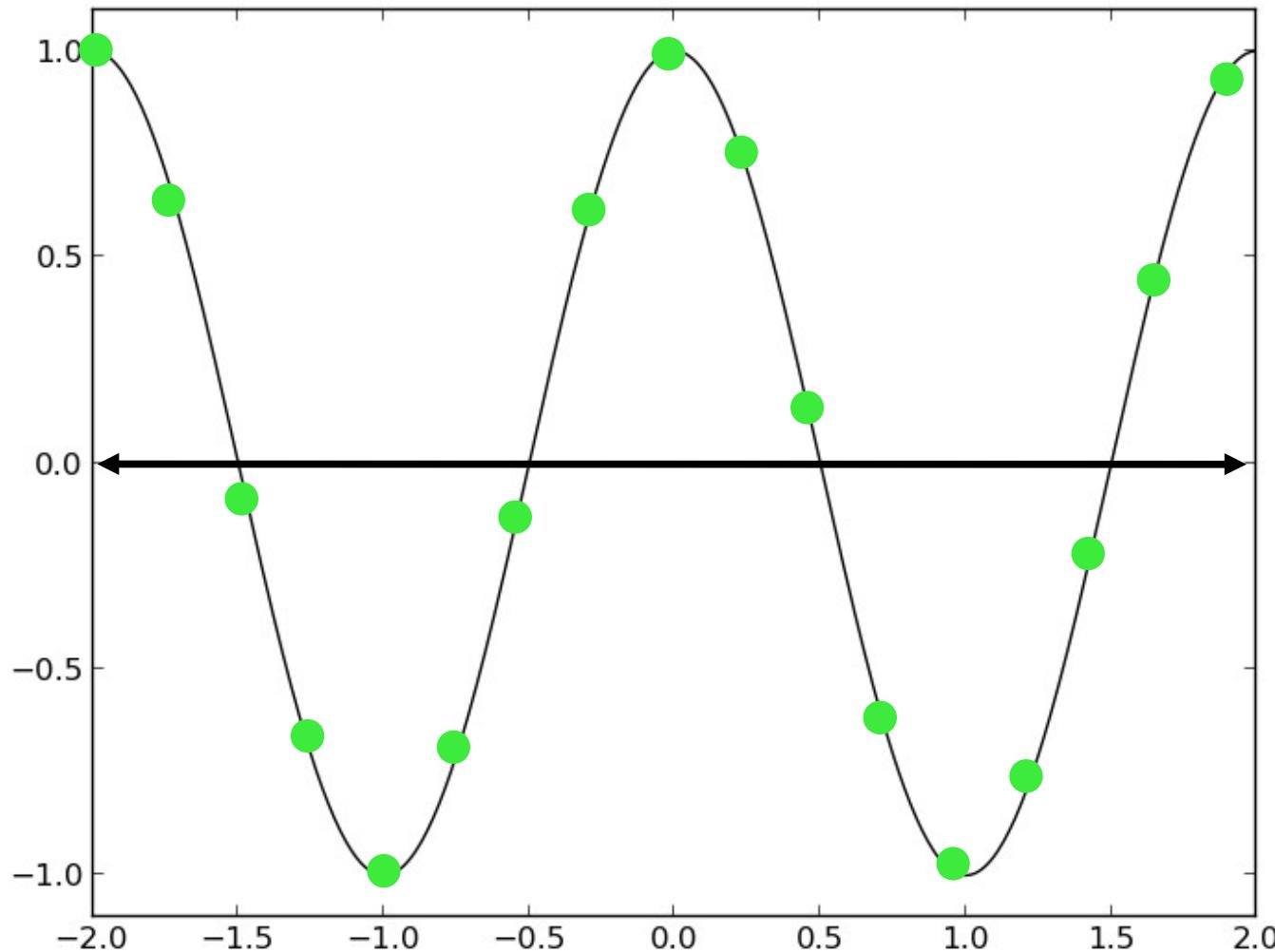
# Digitization in 2D



# Digitization in 1D: Sampling

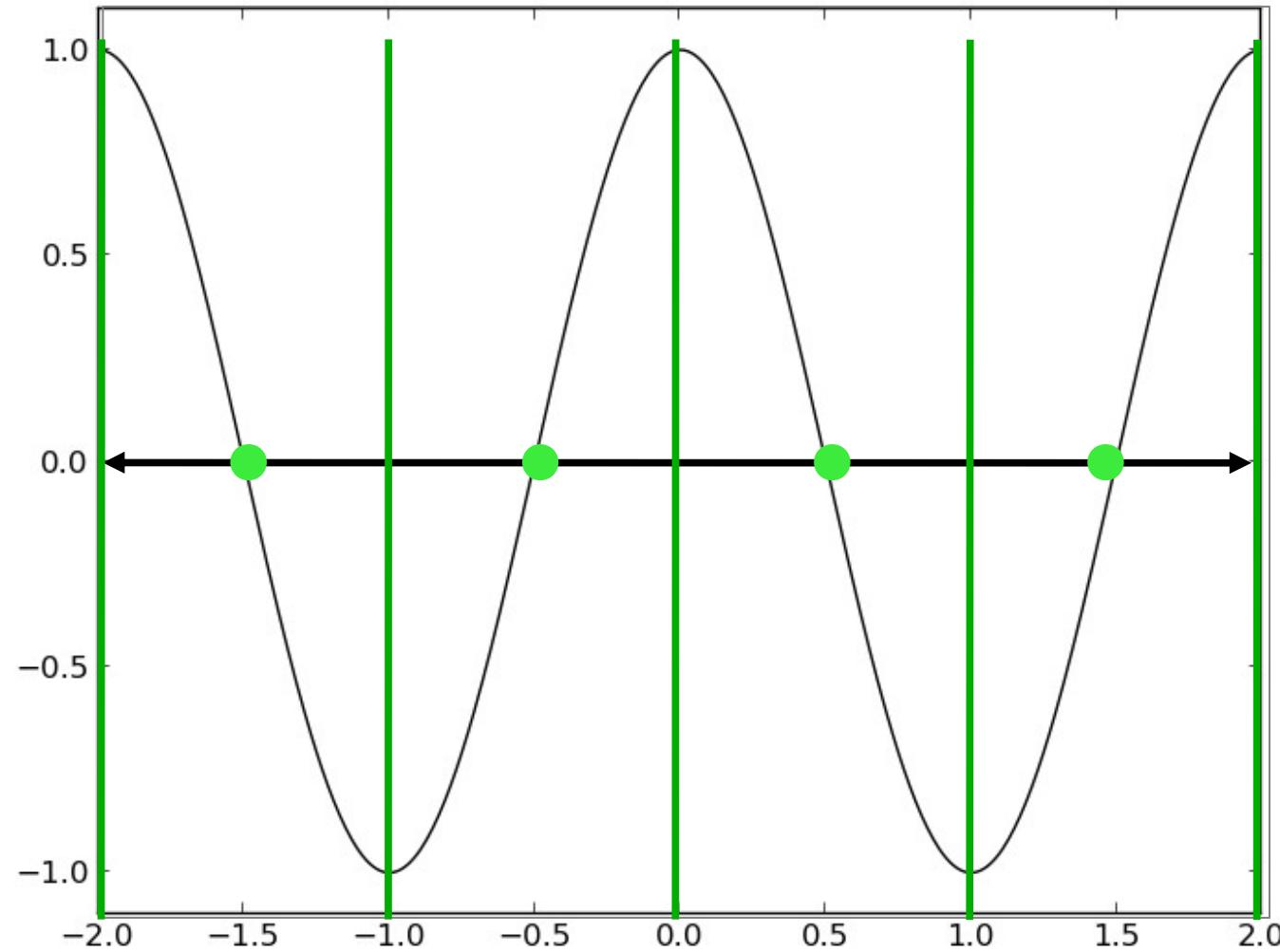


# Digitization: Is our sampling good enough?

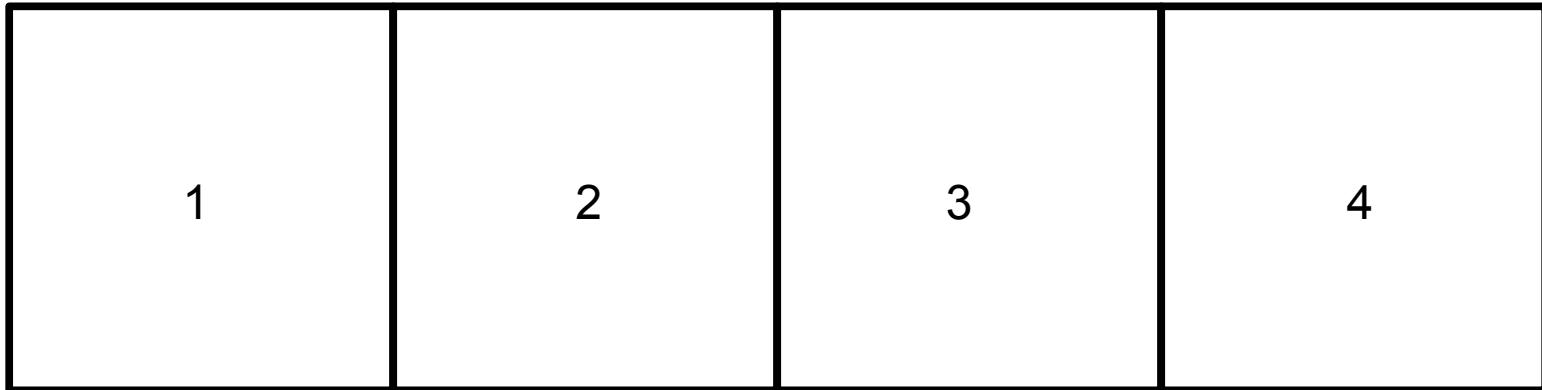


Here, our sampling is good enough.

# Digitization in 1D: Bad sampling



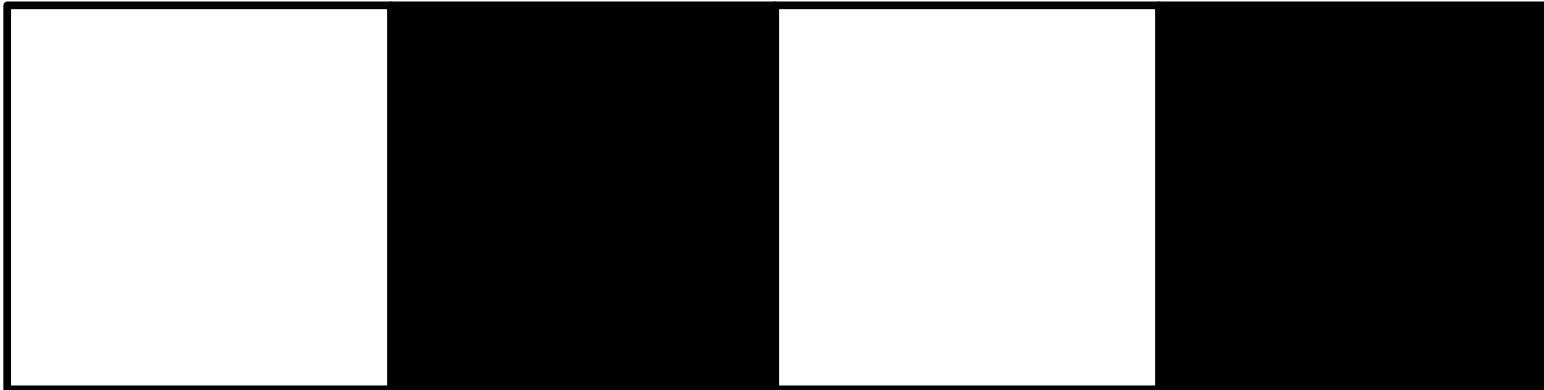
# What's the best resolution we can get from a given sampling rate?



A 4-pixel “image”

In other words, what is the most rapid oscillation we can detect?

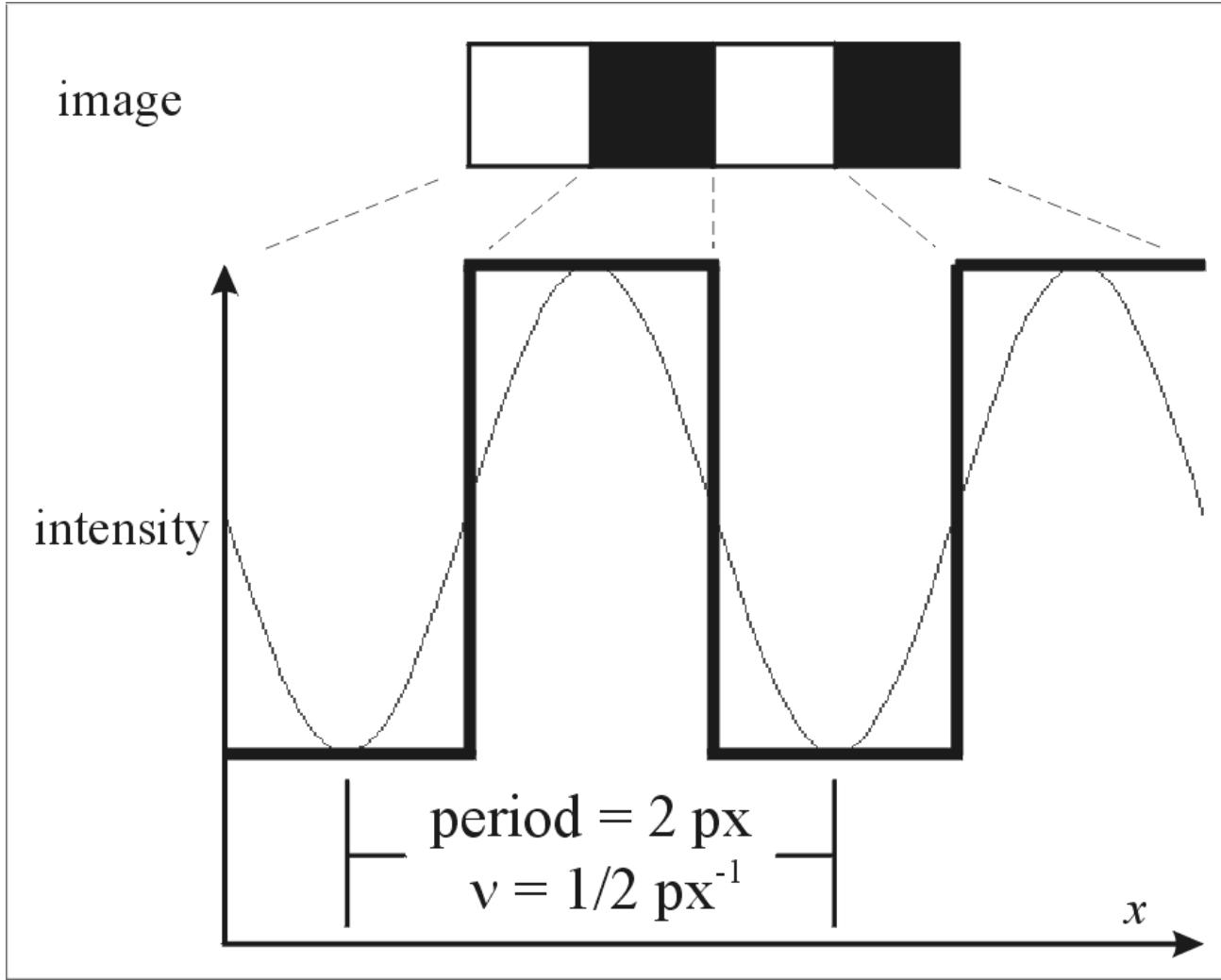
# What's the best resolution we can get from a given sampling rate?



A 4-pixel “image”

In other words, what is the most rapid oscillation we can detect?

ANSWER: Alternating light and dark pixels.



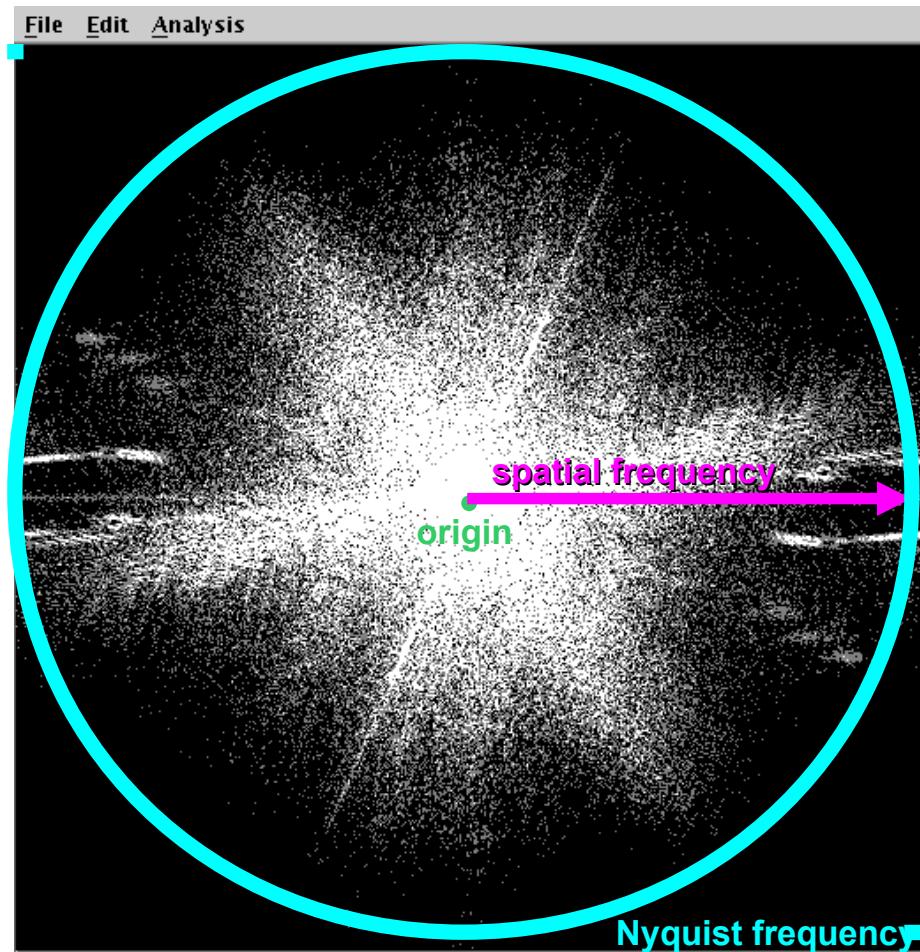
The period of this finest oscillation is 2 pixels.

The spatial frequency of this oscillation is  $0.5 \text{ px}^{-1}$ .

The finest detectable oscillation is what is known as “Nyquist frequency.”

The edge of the Fourier transform corresponds to Nyquist frequency.

# Nyquist frequency



The period of this finest oscillation is 2 pixels.

The spatial frequency of this oscillation is  $0.5 \text{ px}^{-1}$ .

The finest detectable oscillation is what is known as “Nyquist frequency.”

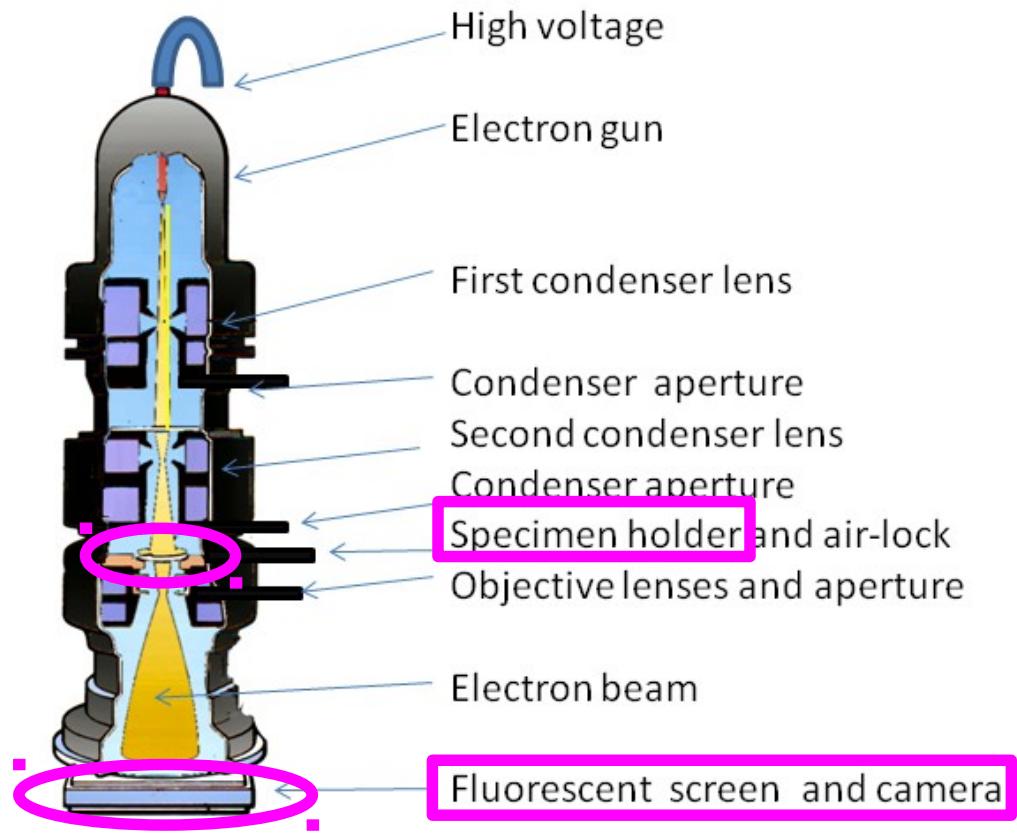
The edge of the Fourier transform corresponds to Nyquist frequency.

# What do we mean by pixel size?

Typical magnification: 50,000X  
Typical detector element: 15 $\mu$ m  
(pixel size on the camera scale)

Pixel size on the specimen scale:  
 $15 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}/\text{px} / 50000 =$   
 $3.0 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}/\text{px} = 3.0 \text{ \AA}/\text{px}$

In other words,  
the best resolution we  
can achieve (or, the  
finest oscillation we  
can detect) at 3.0  $\text{\AA}/\text{px}$   
is **6.0  $\text{\AA}$** .



Transmission Electron Microscope

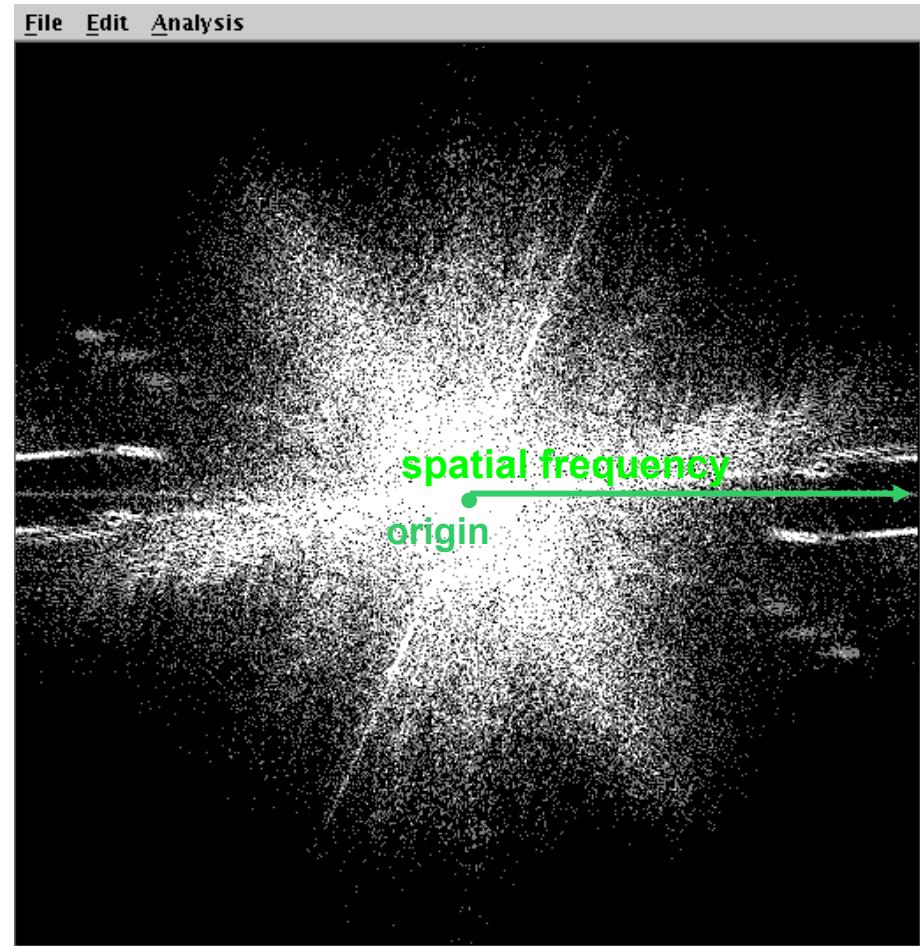
It will be worse due to interpolation,  
so to be safe, a pixel should be 3X  
smaller than your target resolution.

<http://www.en.wikipedia.org>

*What do we mean by spatial frequency?*

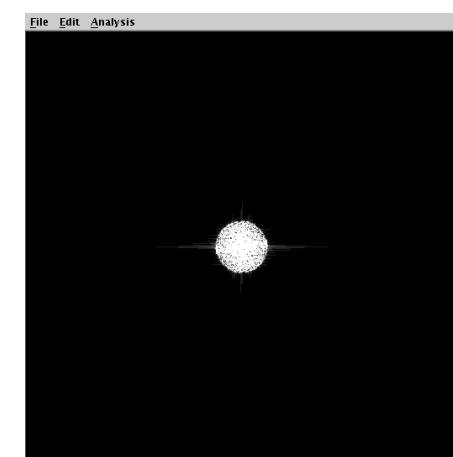
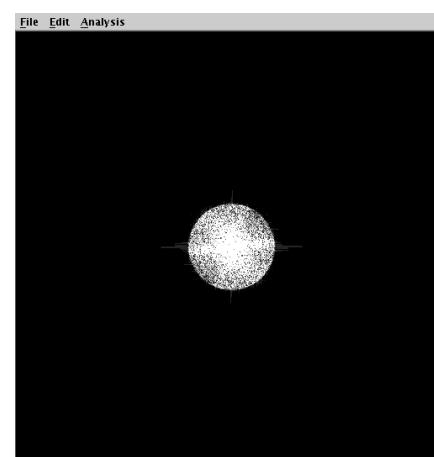
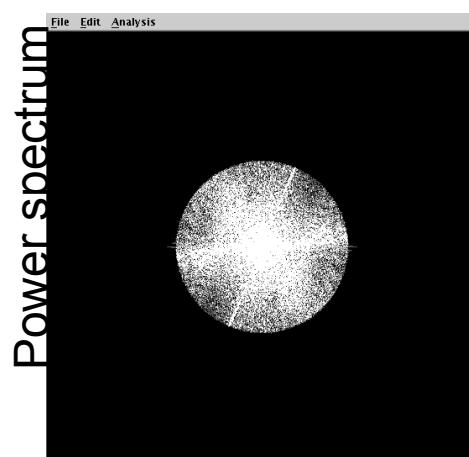
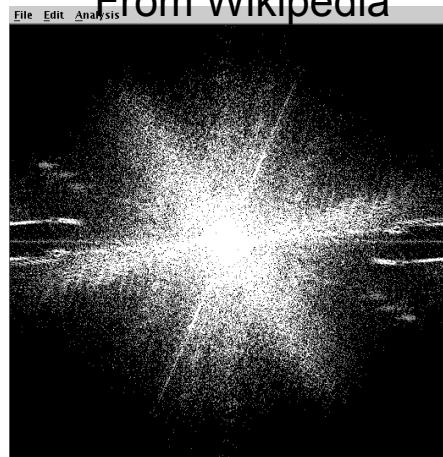


From Wikipedia



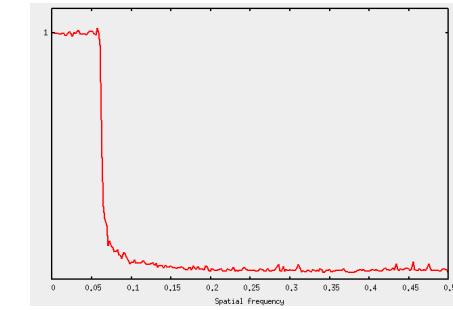
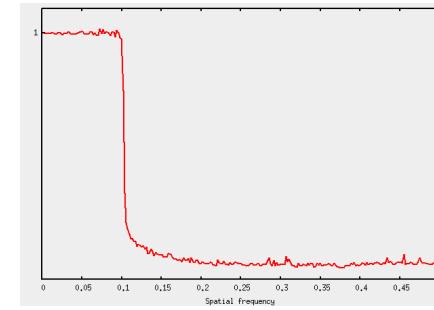
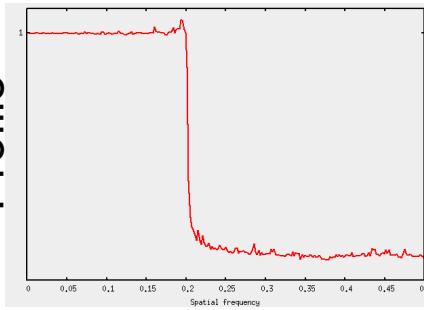


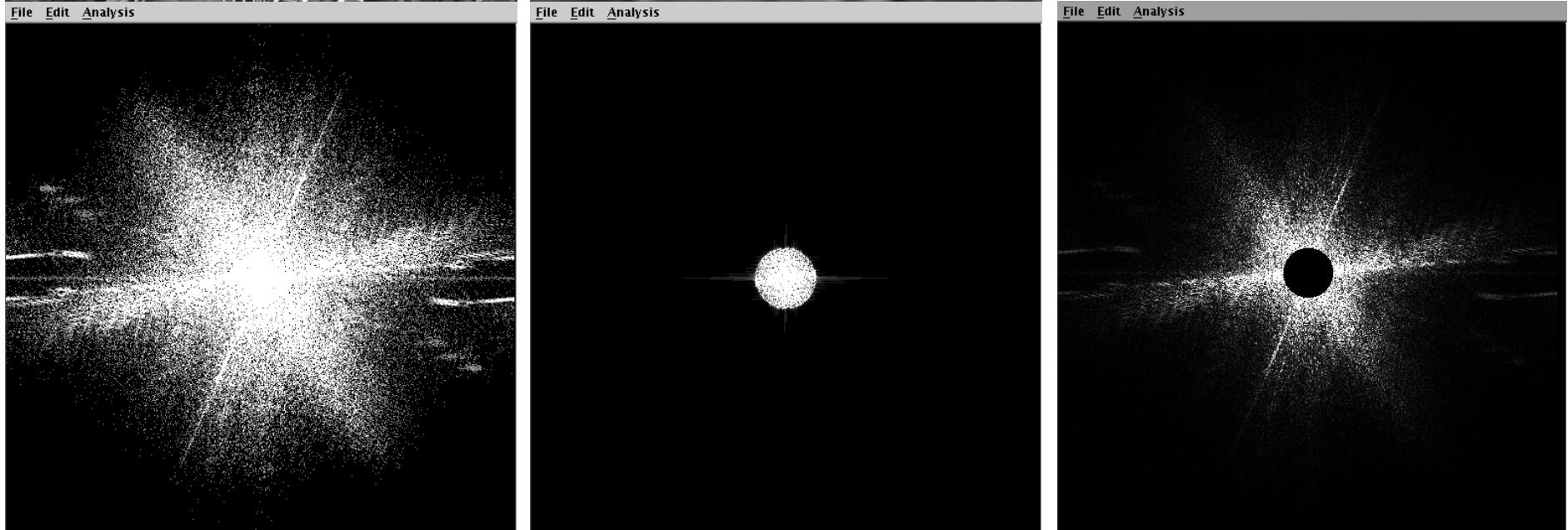
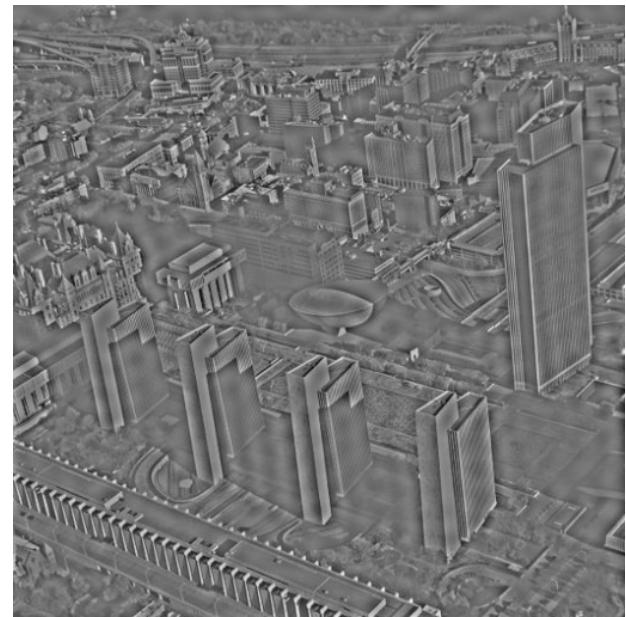
From Wikipedia



# Fourier filtration

Profile



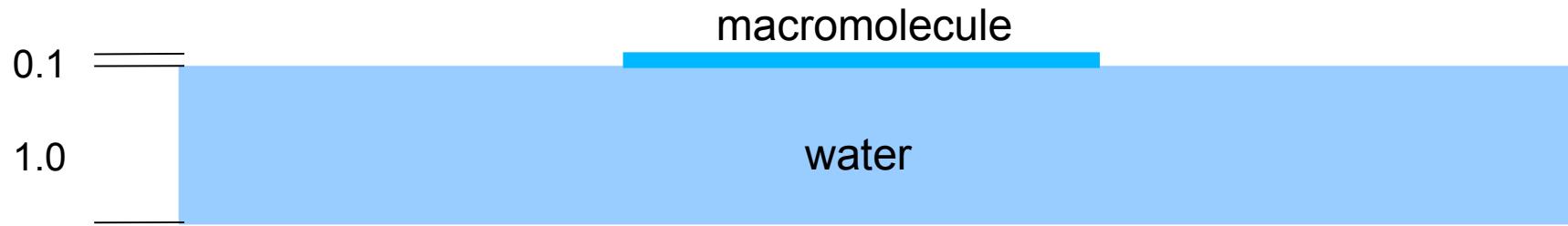


A “low-pass” filter

A “high-pass” filter

# *Contrast transfer function*

# Why do we defocus?



Typical amplitude contrast is estimated a 0.08-0.12  
(minus noise)

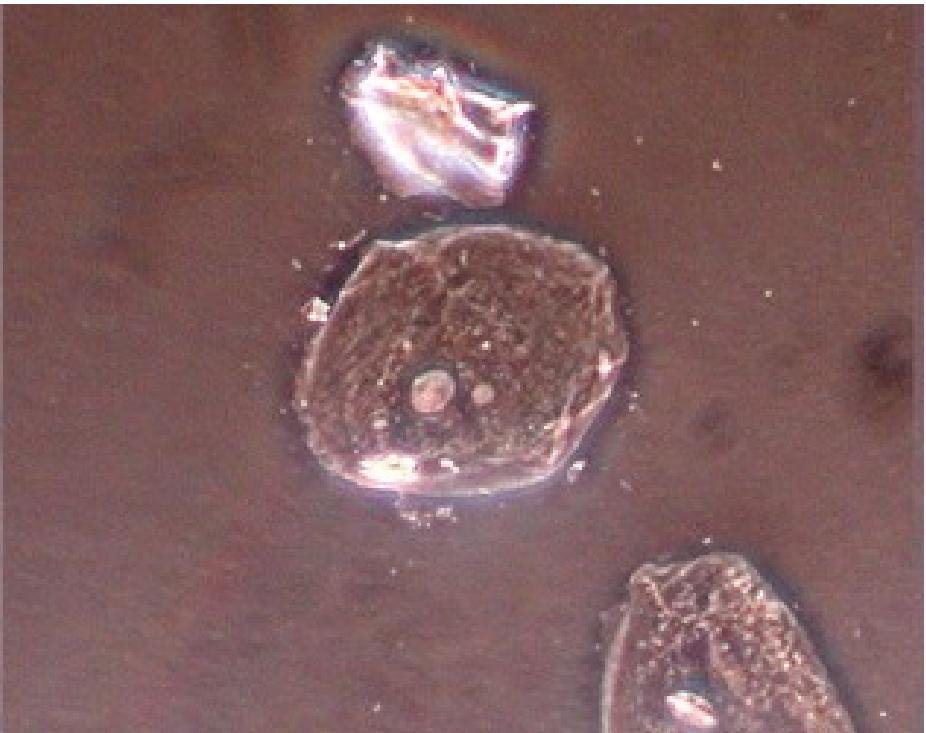
*Instead of amplitude contrast,  
we'll use phase contrast.*

# Phase contrast in light microscopy

Bright-field image



Phase-contrast image

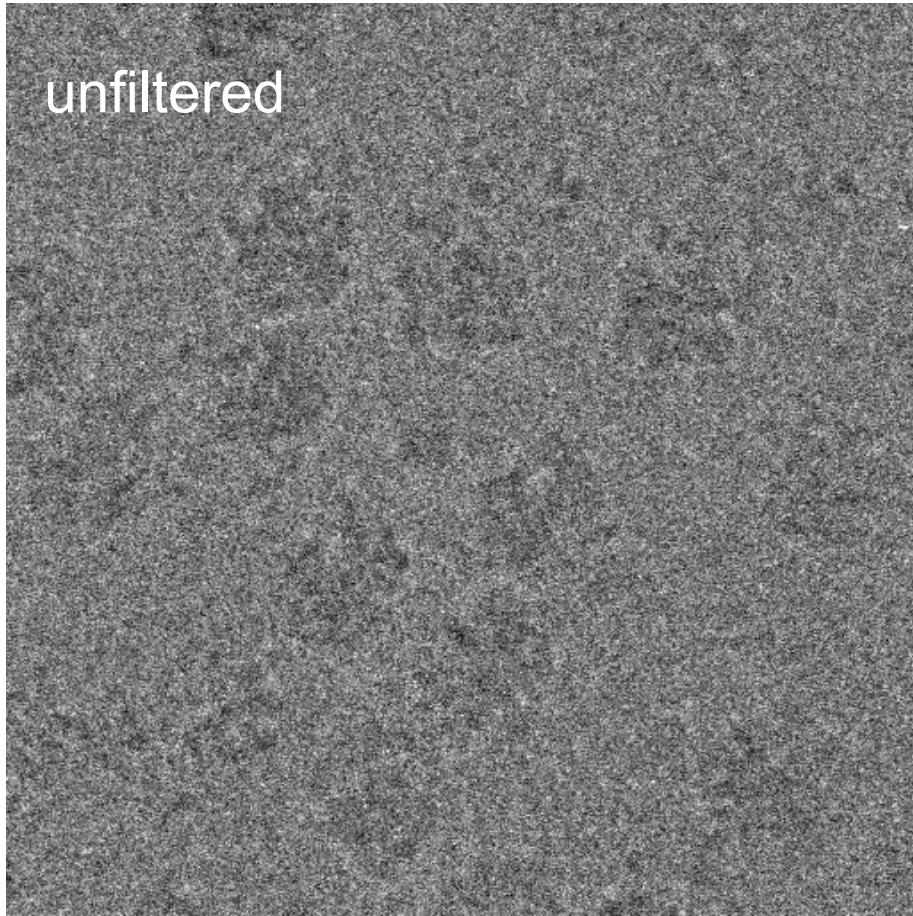


<http://www.microbehunter.com>

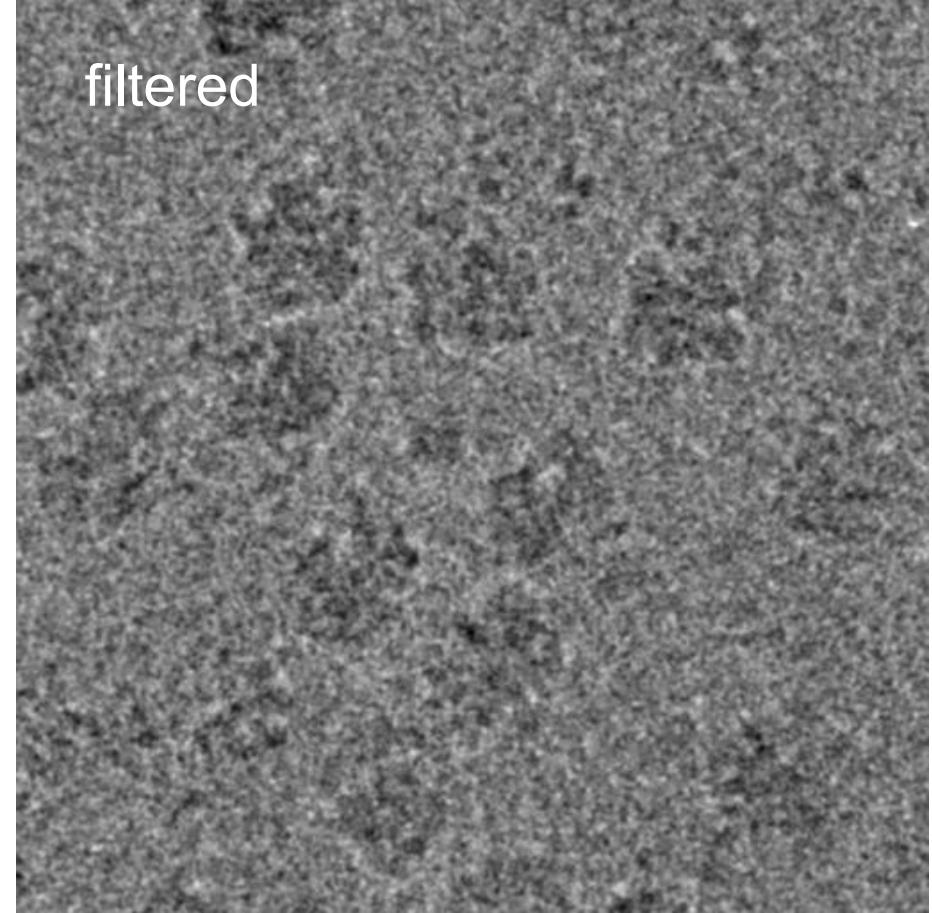
# In EM, even with defocus, the contrast is poor.

*E. coli* 70S ribosomes, field width  $\sim$ 1440Å.

unfiltered

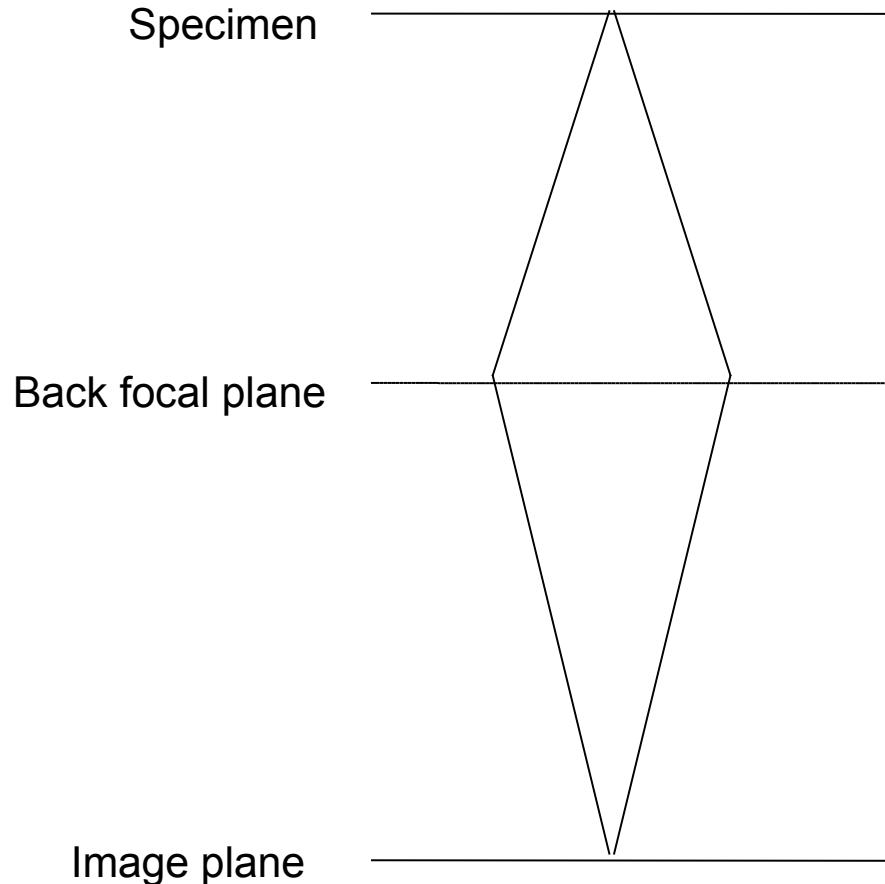


filtered



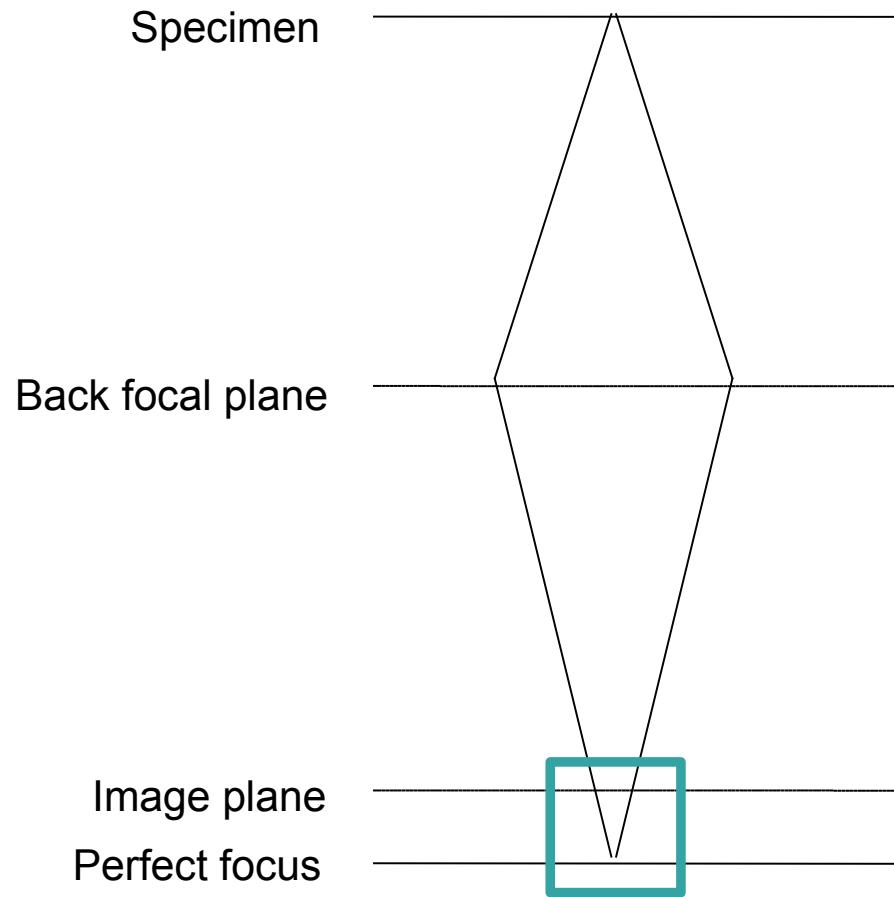
Signal-to-noise ratio for cryoEM typically given to be between 0.07 and 0.10.

# Optical path

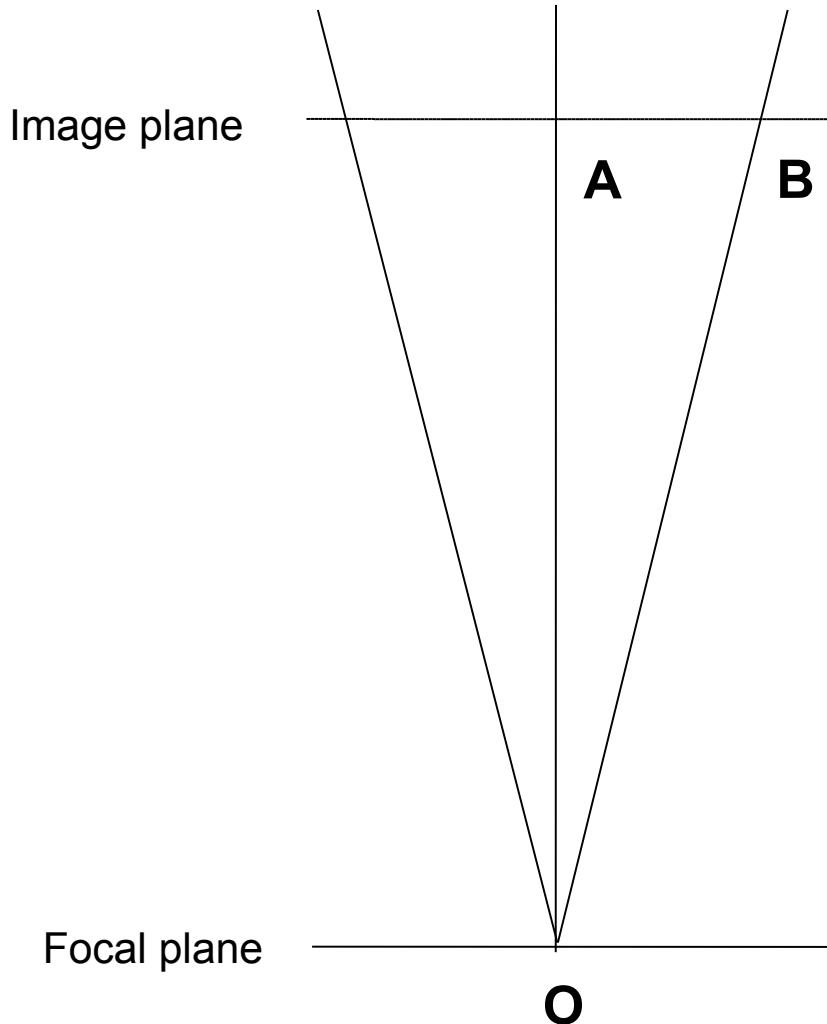


At focus, all we would see is amplitude contrast.

# Optical path with defocus



# Optical path with defocus



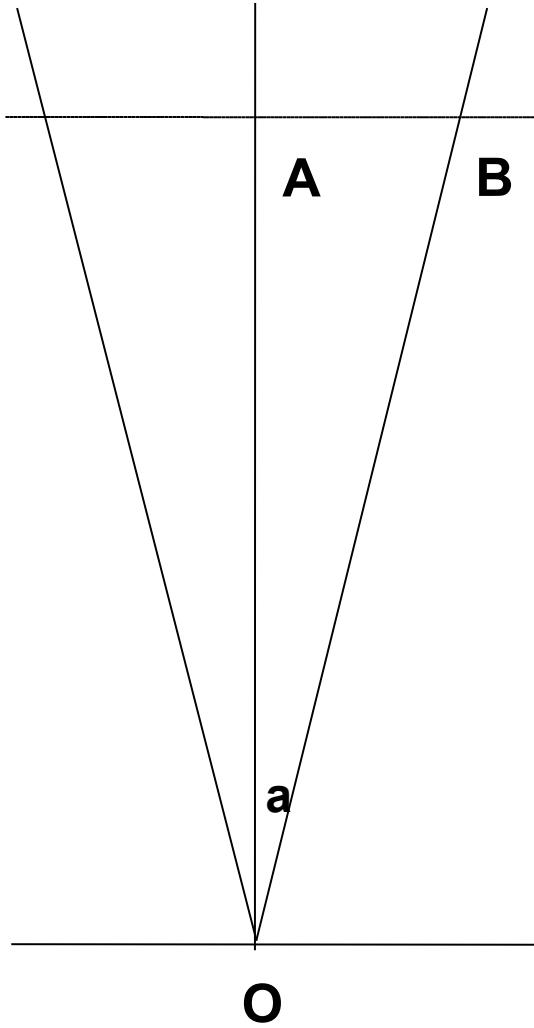
**OA** path of unscattered beam

**OB** path of scattered beam

The length **OA** is  
also the amount of defocus  $\Delta f$

What is the path difference between the scattered and unscattered beams?

# Path difference as a function of $\Delta f$



$$OB - OA$$

$$OB = OA/\cos(a)$$

$$\frac{OA}{\cos(a)} - OA$$

$$OA \times \left( \frac{1}{\cos(a)} - 1 \right)$$

Expressed in the number of wavelengths  $\lambda$

$$OA \times \left( \frac{\frac{1}{\cos(a)} - 1}{\lambda} \right)$$

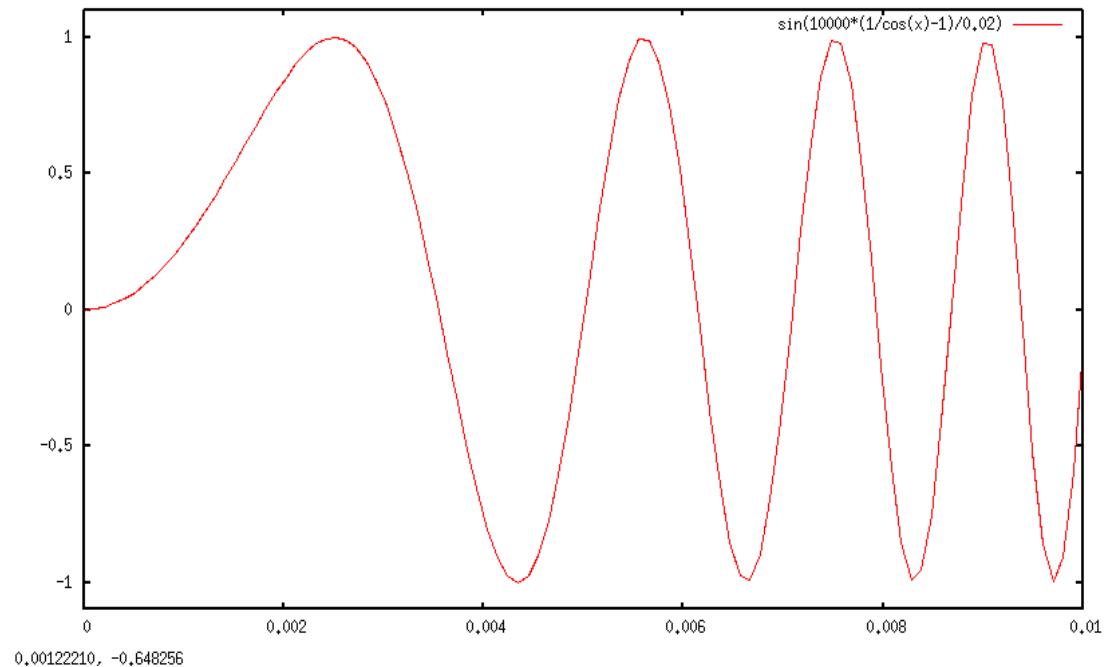
Phase difference is the sine

$$\sin \left( \frac{OA \times \left( \frac{1}{\cos(a)} - 1 \right)}{\lambda} \right)$$

# Some typical values

$$\sin\left(\frac{OA \times \left(\frac{1}{\cos(a)} - 1\right)}{\lambda}\right)$$

OA = Δf = 10,000 Å  
λ = 0.02 Å  
a < 0.01



A more precise formulation of the CTF can be found in Erickson & Klug A (1970). Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B. 261:105.

# Proper form the CTF

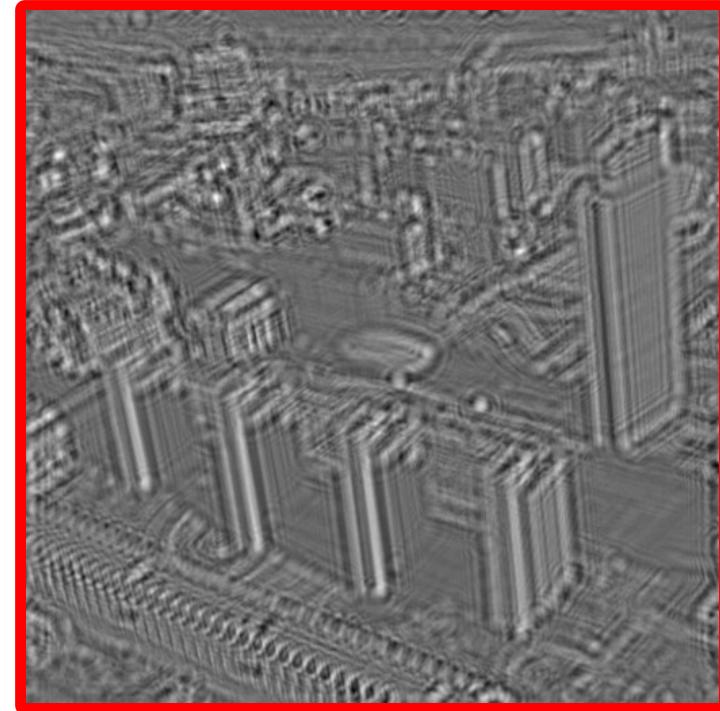
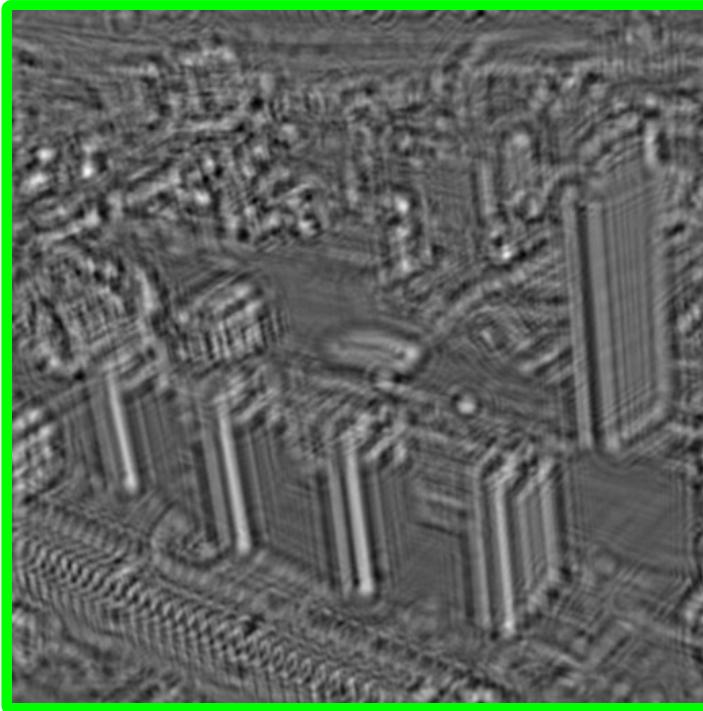
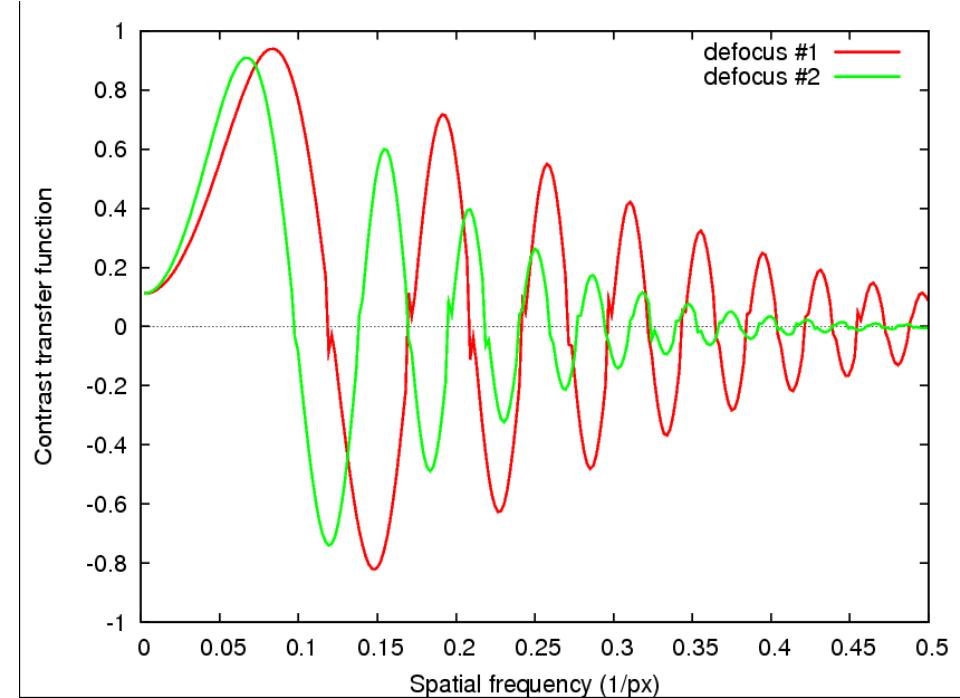
$$-\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}C_s k^4 + \pi \Delta f \lambda k^2\right)$$

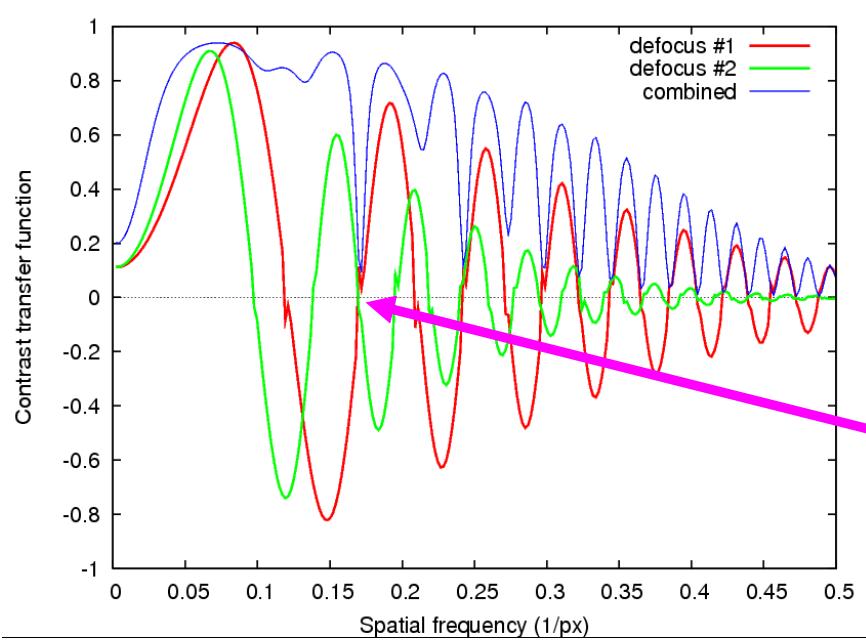
where:

- ◆  $C_s$ : spherical aberration
- ◆  $k$ : spatial frequency (resolution)

*How does the CTF affect an image?*

original





Still a zero present

combined



original

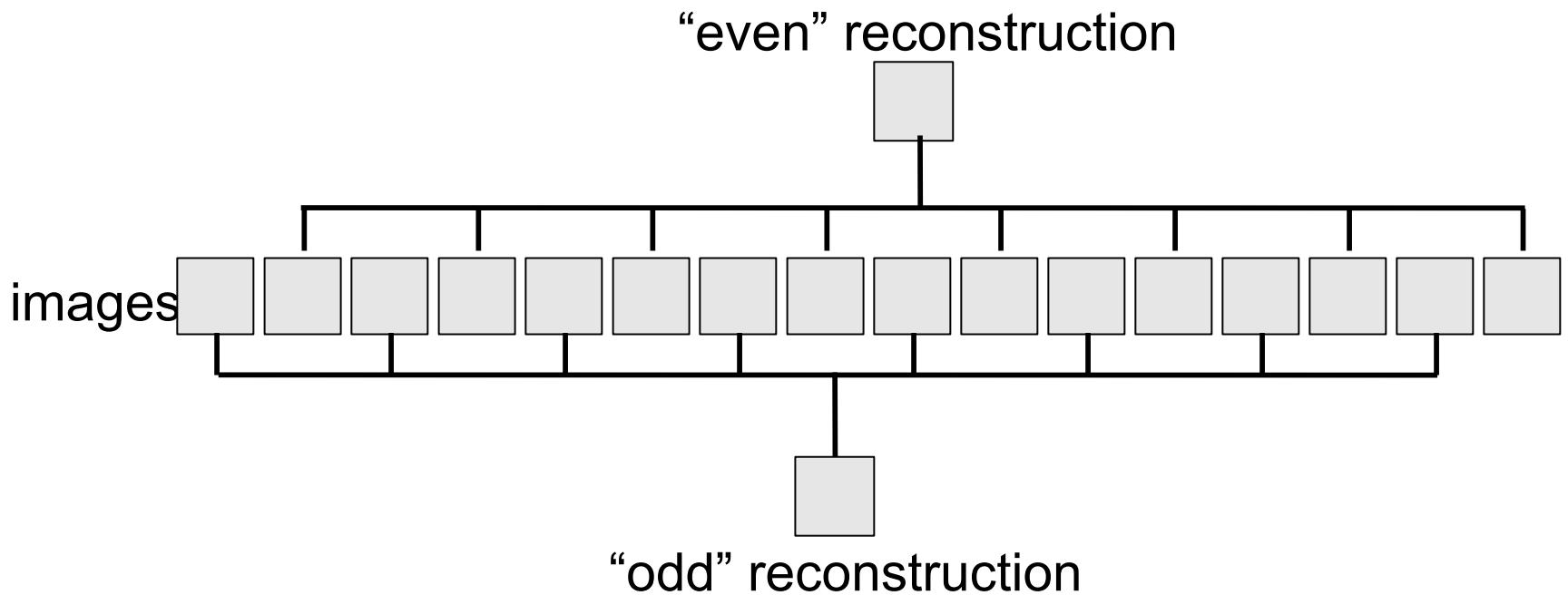
# Outline

## Image analysis I

- ◆ Fourier transforms
  - Relationship between imaging and diffraction
  - Theory
  - Examples in 1D
  - Examples in 2D
- ◆ Digitization
- ◆ Fourier filtration
- ◆ Contrast transfer function
- ◆ Resolution

# How do we evaluate the quality of a reconstruction?

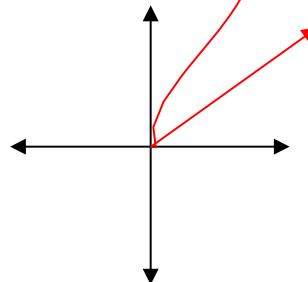
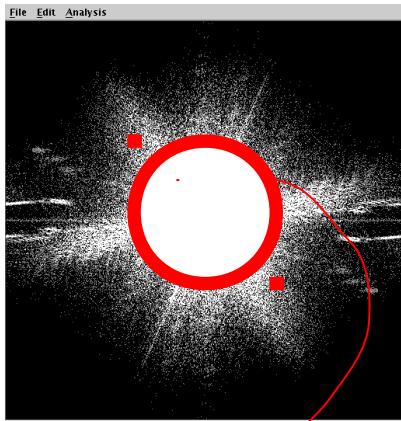
We split the data set into halves and compare them.



Now, how do we compare the two half-set reconstructions?

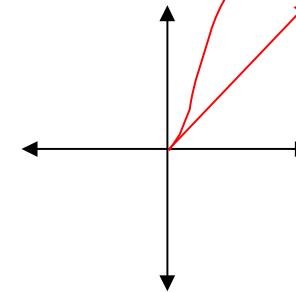
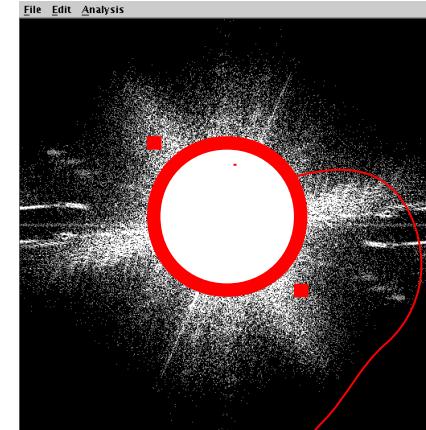
# Fourier Shell Correlation (FSC)

Reconstruction 1



term 1

Reconstruction 2

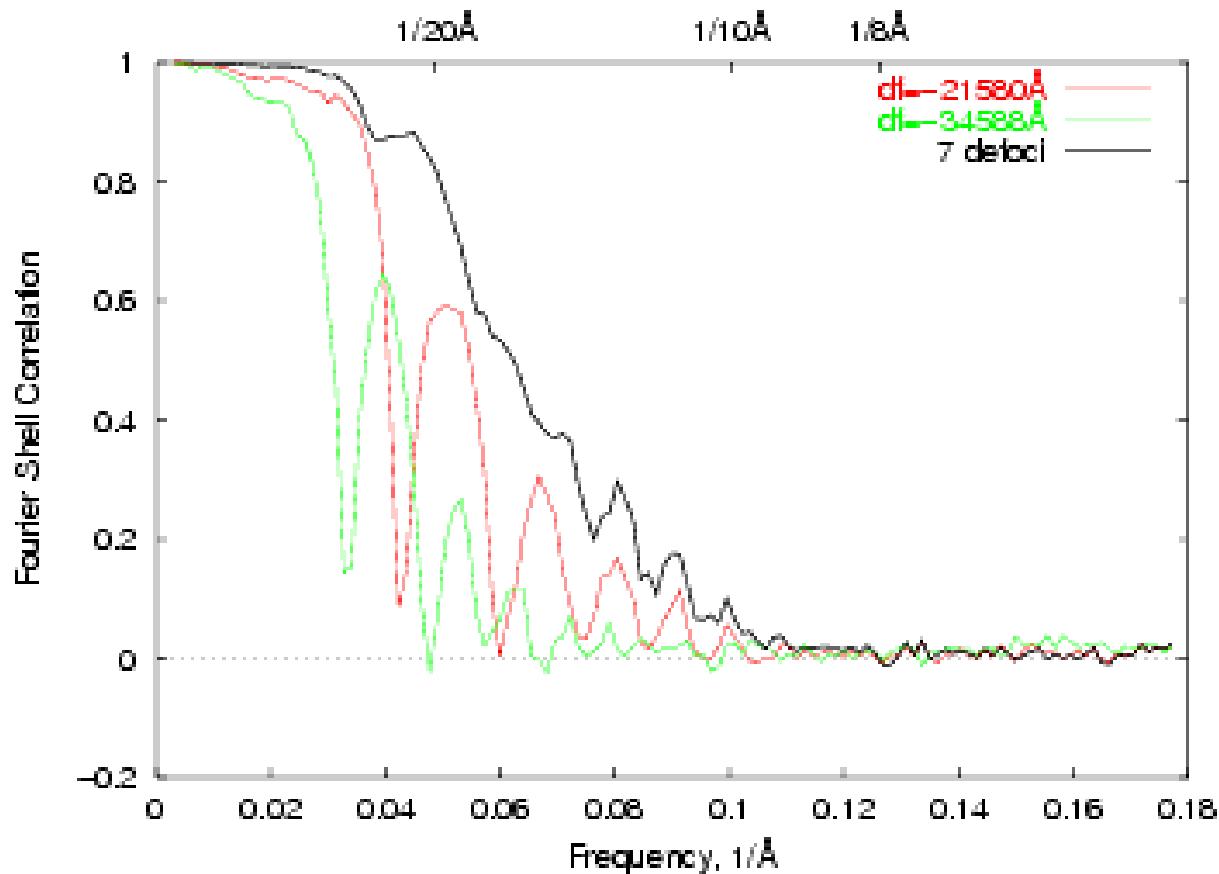


term 2

Properties:

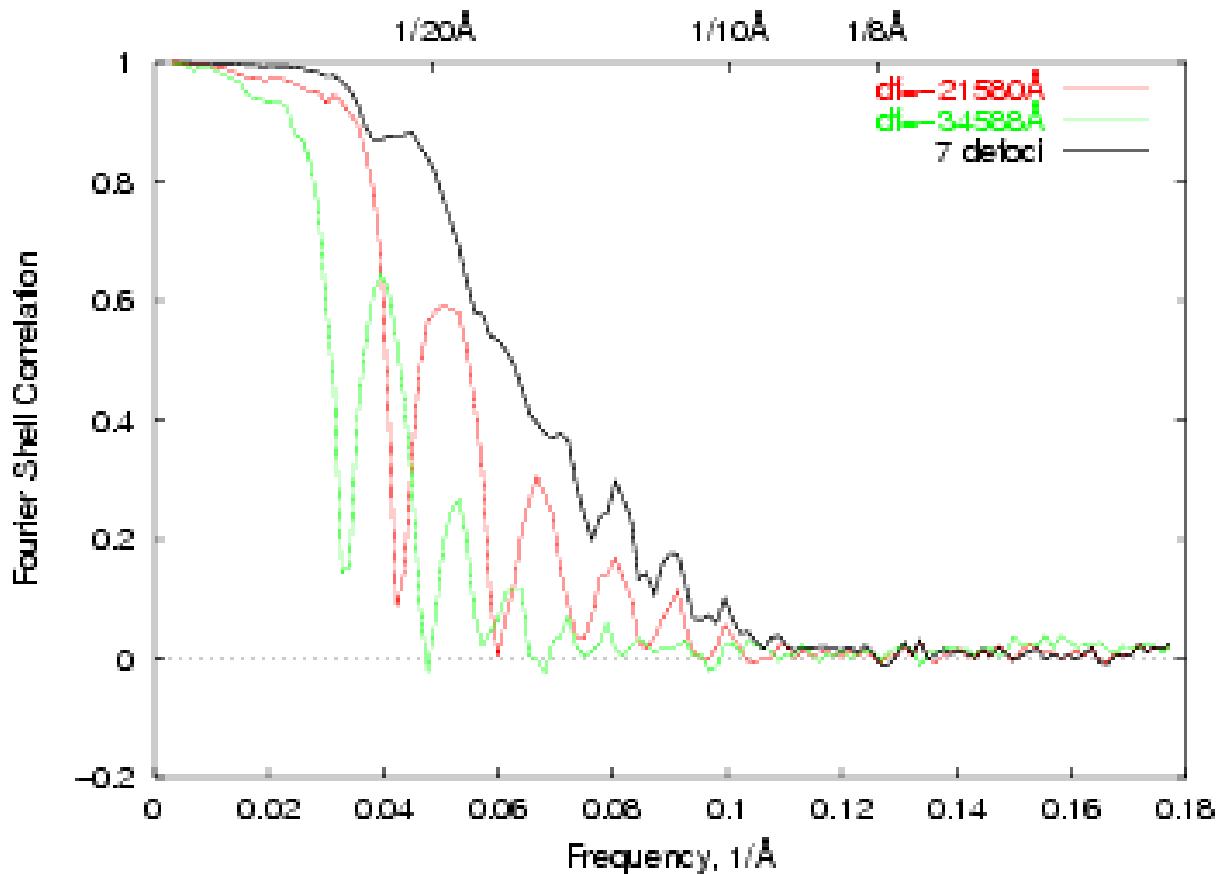
- Fourier terms have amplitude + phase.
- Correlation values range from -1 to +1.
- Noise should give an average of 0.
- The comparison is done as a function of spatial frequency (or “resolution”)

# Fourier Shell Correlation; A better example



It is controversial what single number to use to describe this curve, but a common practice is to report the value where the FSC=0.5 as the nominal resolution.

# Fourier Shell Correlation; A better example



The FSC is not a foolproof metric.  
You can “fool” your data, or be fooled, into an artifactually good FSC.

# Thank you for your attention



Central European Institute of Technology  
Masaryk University  
Kamenice 753/5  
625 00 Brno, Czech Republic

[www.ceitec.muni.cz](http://www.ceitec.muni.cz) | [info@ceitec.muni.cz](mailto:info@ceitec.muni.cz)



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

