

Physics and Instrumentation of Brillouin microscopy

Giuliano Scarcelli

scarc@umd.edu

Fischell Department of Bioengineering
Maryland Biophysics Program
University of Maryland College Park

www.umdoptics.com



University of Maryland
Fischell Dept. of Bioengineering
Forza Bari

Mechanical properties in Biomedicine

Organs

Musculoskeletal system, Circulatory system, Respiratory system



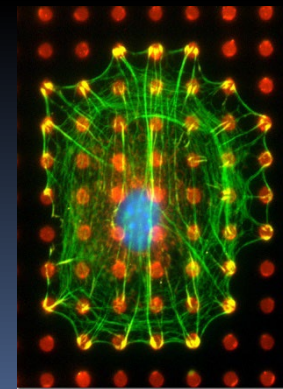
Tissue Biomechanics

Disease diagnosis, Morphogenesis, Tissue engineering



Cell Biomechanics

Lineage specification, Tumor progression



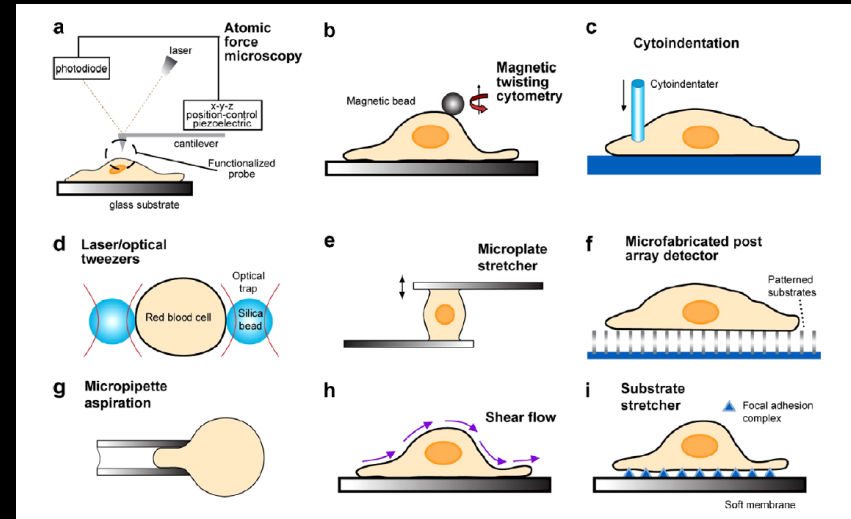
How do we measure mechanical properties?

Instron Machine



tainstruments

Rheometer

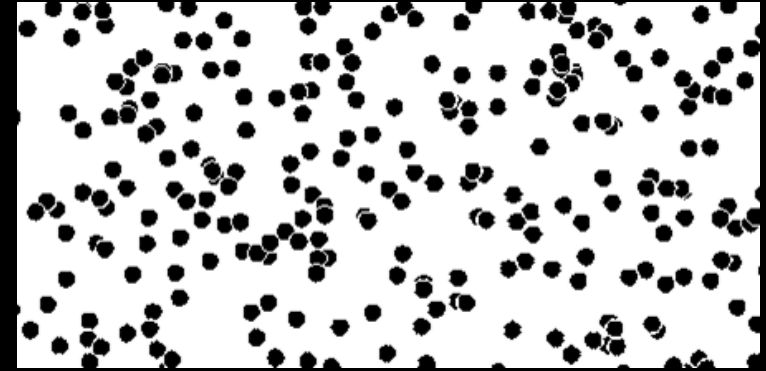


Bao Suresh, Nature materials (2007)

***Our goal:
Measuring mechanical properties
with an optical microscope***

Phonons

Molecules everywhere in the universe move due to their non-zero temperature



This motion can be decomposed as superposition of oscillations



- Propagating along 3 axis: X-Y-Z
- On 3 modes: 1 longitudinal and 2 transverse
- Of an infinite number of frequencies

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{u}_0 e^{-i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \Omega t) - \Gamma \mathbf{q}^2 t}$$

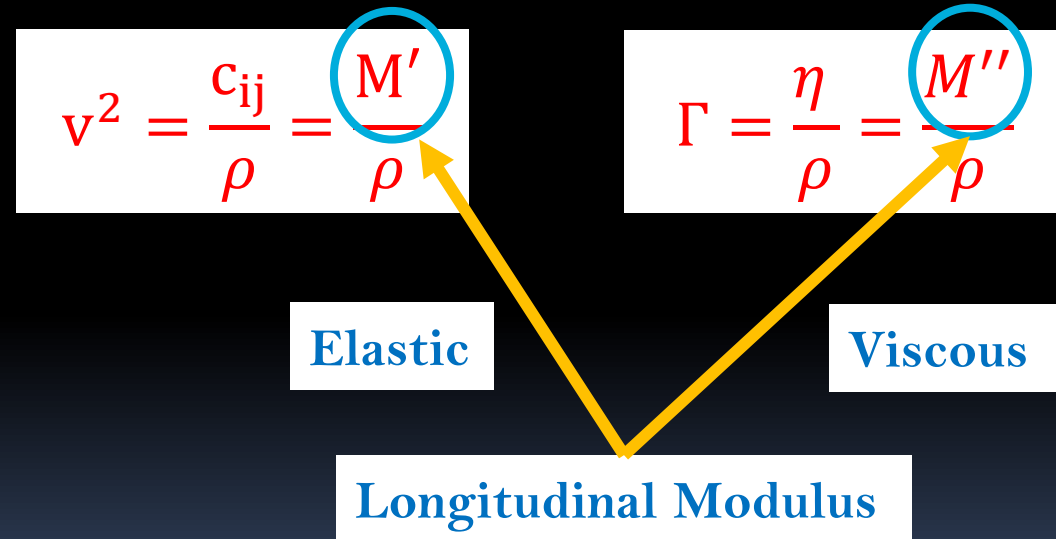
Every one of these traveling waves is a thermal acoustic phonon

Phonons

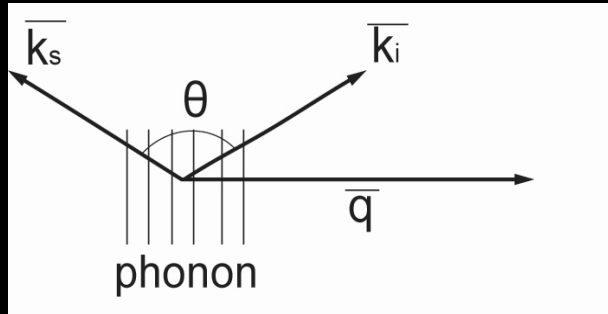
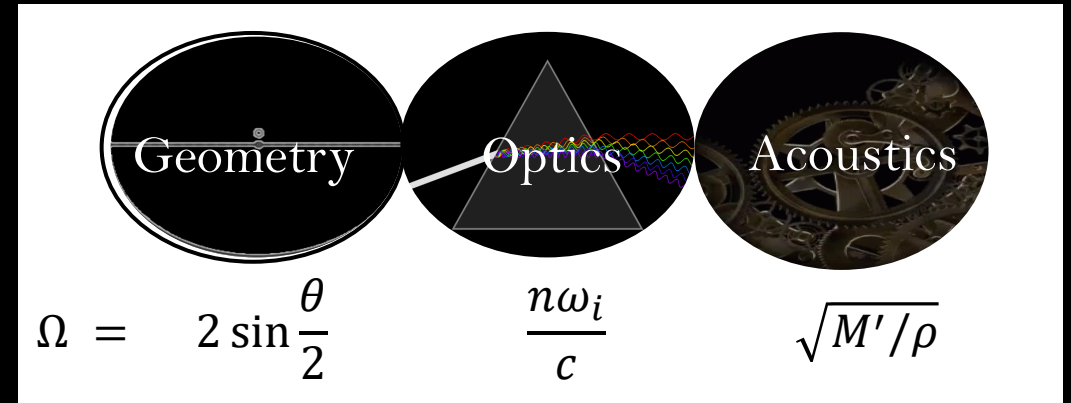
The phonon dispersion relationship links the phonon propagation and attenuation to the medium properties: $\Omega = qv - i\Gamma q^2$



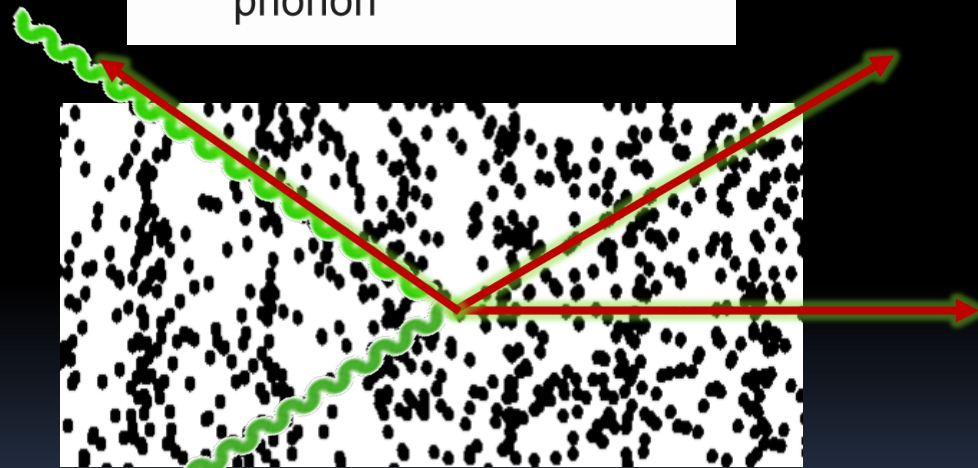
$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{u}_0 e^{-i(\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r} - \Omega t) - \Gamma q^2 t}$$



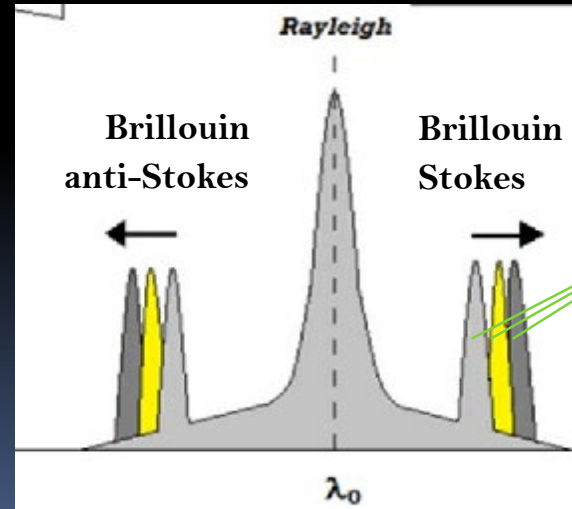
Brillouin scattering



$$\vec{k}_s = \vec{k}_i \pm \vec{q}$$



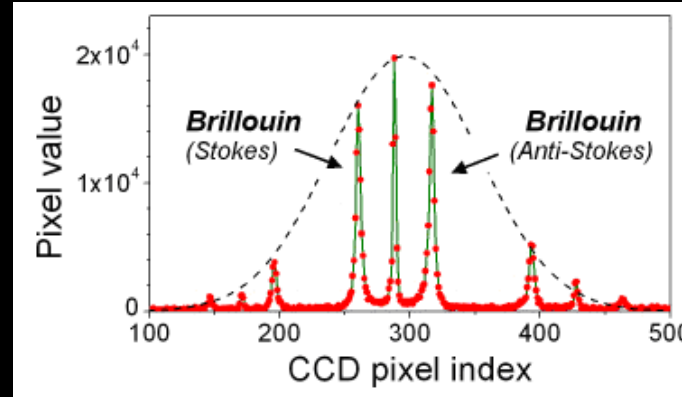
Bragg Diffraction
+ Doppler Shift



M^*, n, ρ

- Frequency
- Temperature
- Pressure
- Concentration
- Chemical composition
- Water content
- ...

Brillouin scattering spectroscopy



Brillouin shift $\sim 2\text{-}8$ GHz (3 – 10 pm)

frequency shift \rightarrow longitudinal modulus

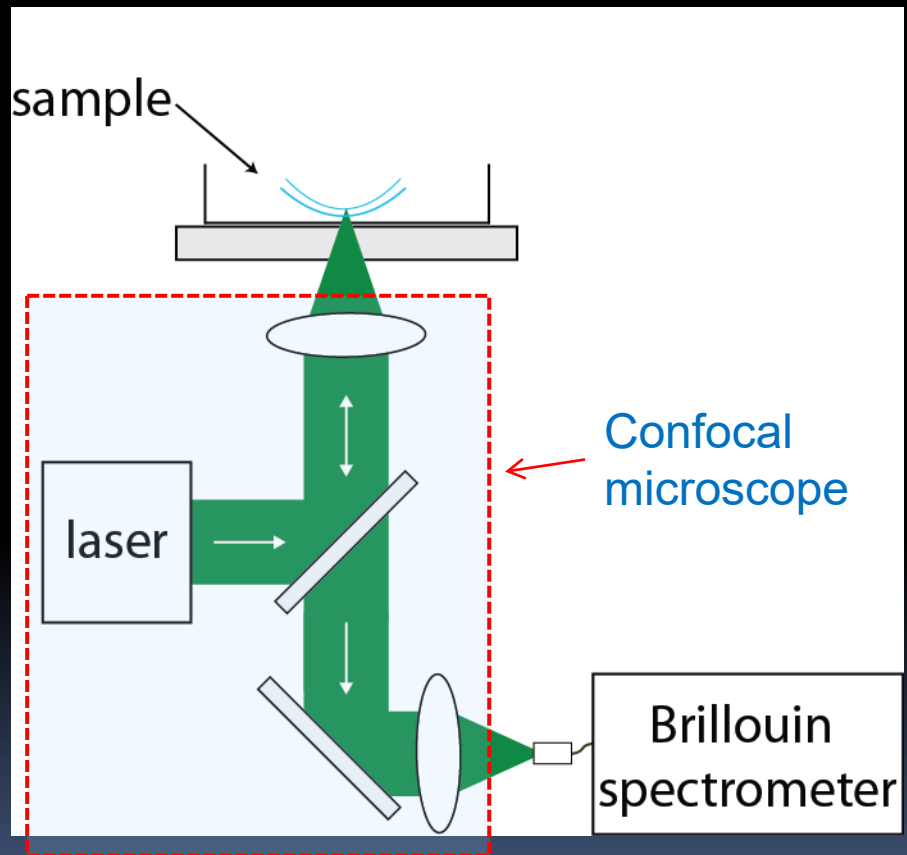
linewidth \rightarrow viscosity

$$v = \frac{2n}{\lambda} \sqrt{\frac{M'}{\rho}} \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\Delta v = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{M}{\rho}}$$

Our plan....

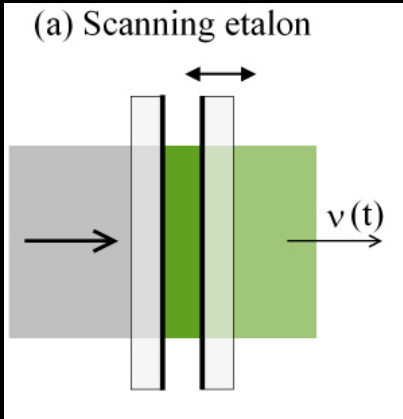
Brillouin Spectroscopy + Optical Microscopy



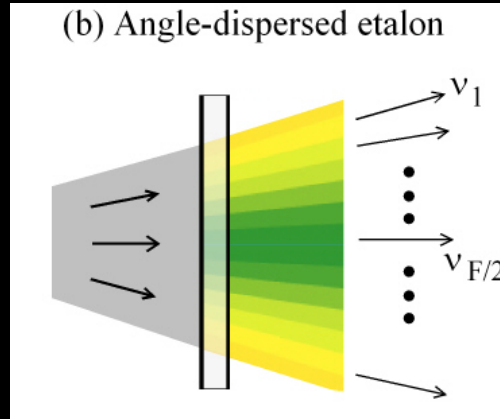
Challenges

- spectral resolution ($< 0.001 \text{ nm}$)
- weak ($< 10^{-9}$)
- spectral extinction ($\gg 60 \text{ dB}$)

Speed challenge

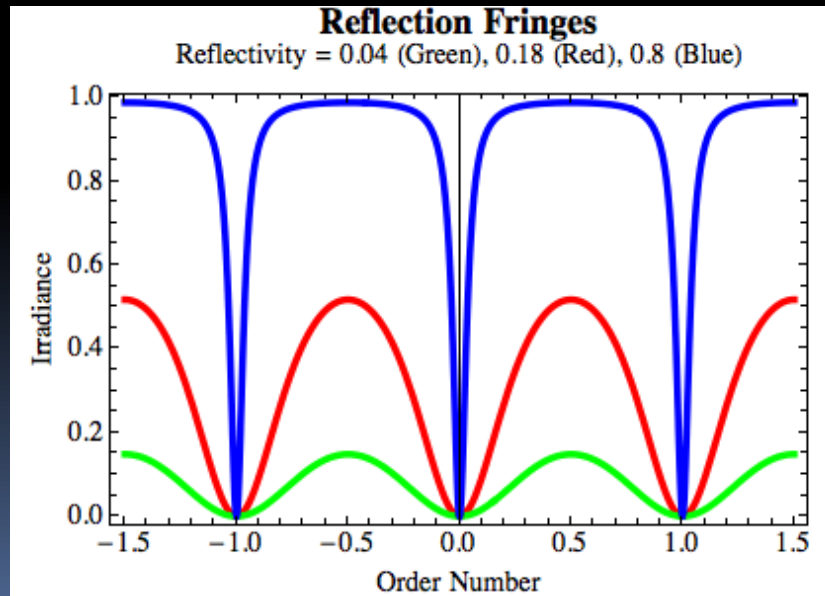
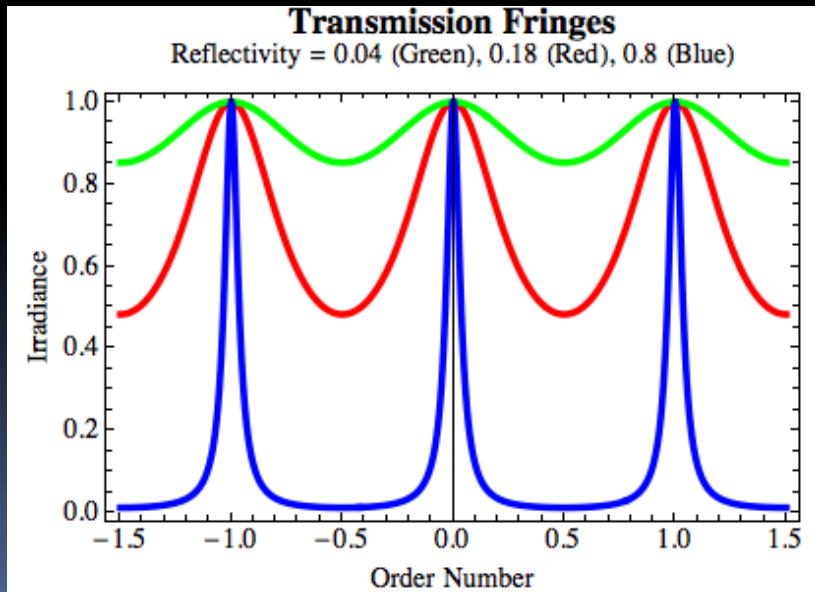


Sandercock

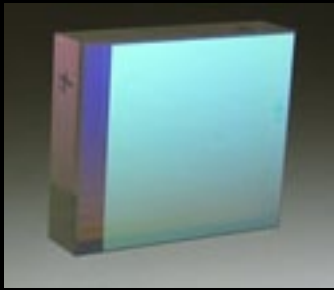


Itoh + Koski-Yarger

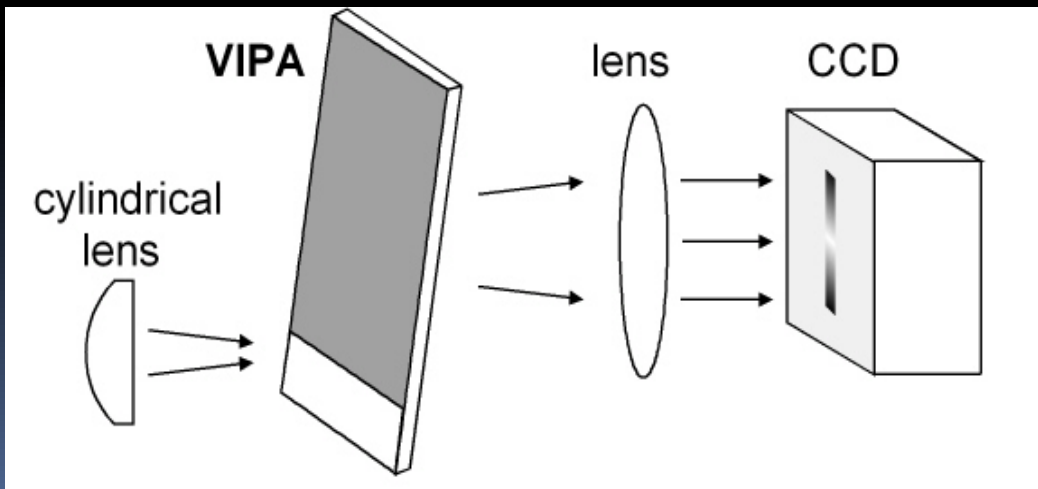
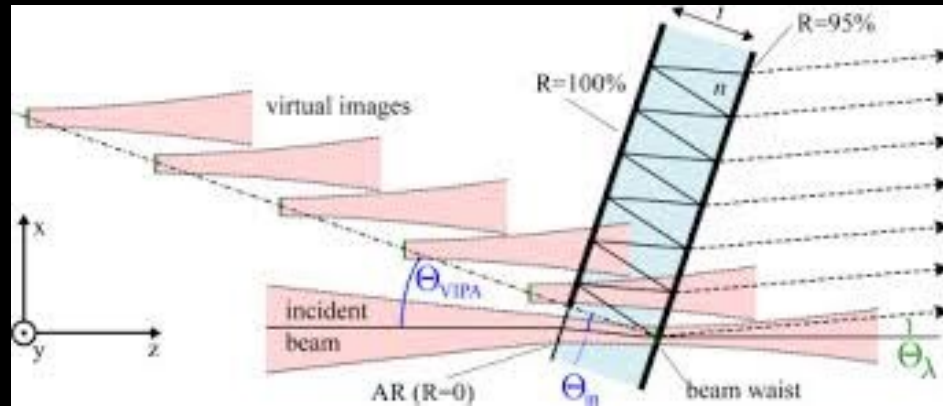
Single shot
Same losses



Our throughput solution: VIPA Virtual Image Phased Array

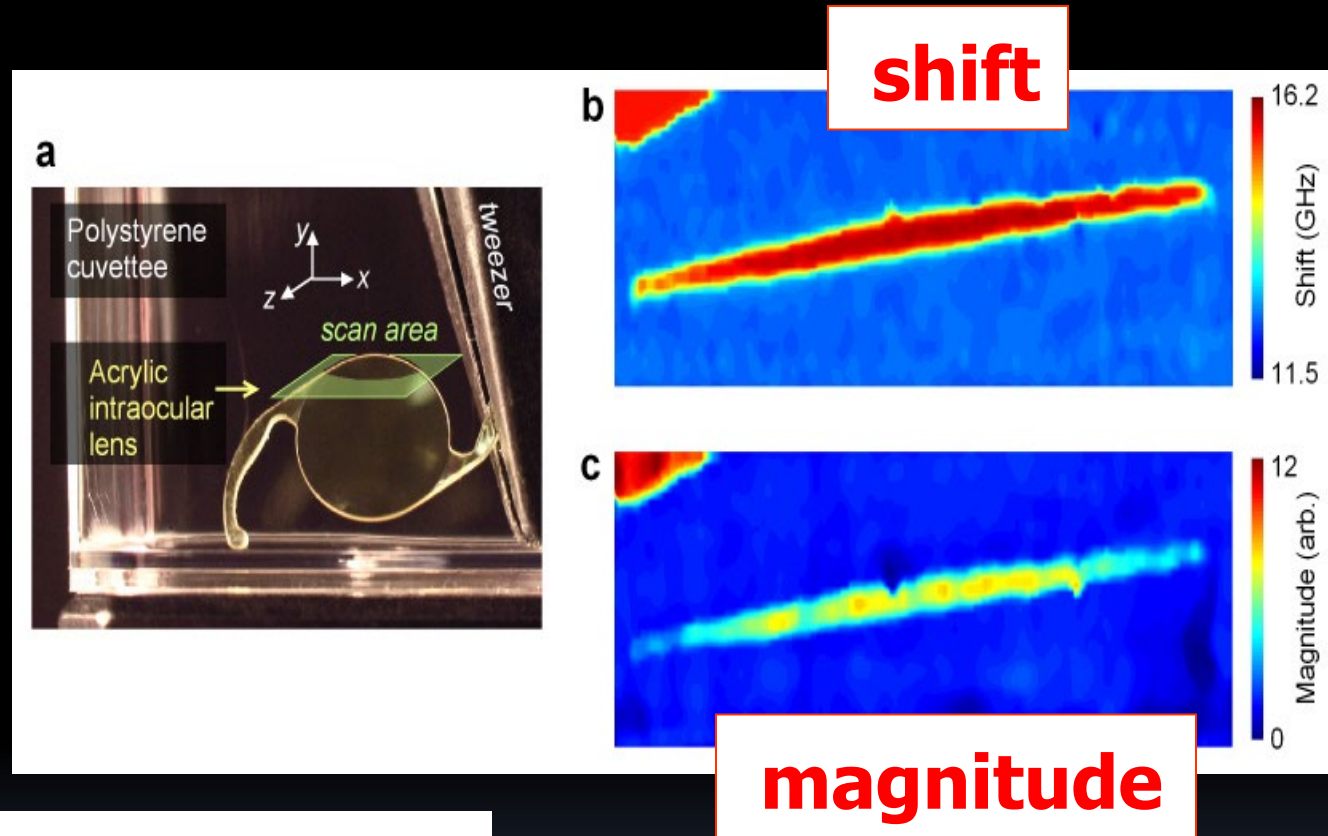


Shirasaki, Weiner



- “equivalent” to FP
- Higher throughput \propto *Finesse*

Brillouin imaging



LETTERS

Confocal Brillouin microscopy for three-dimensional mechanical imaging

GIULIANO SCARCELLI^{1,2} AND SEOK HYUN YUN^{1,2*}

¹Wellman Center for Photomedicine, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, 55 Fruit Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA

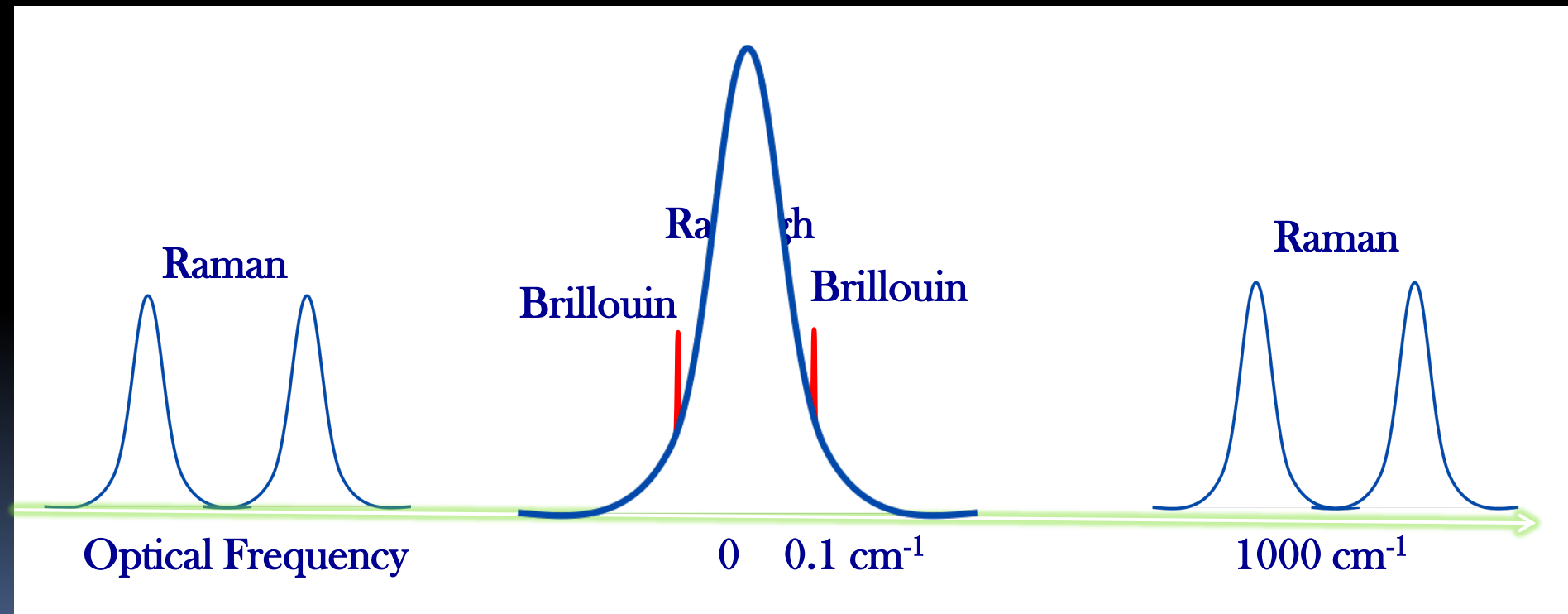
²Department of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA

*e-mail: syun@hms.harvard.edu

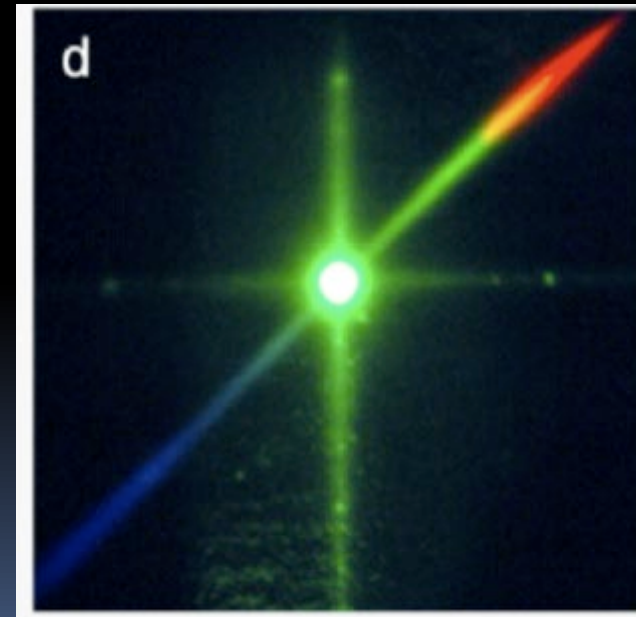
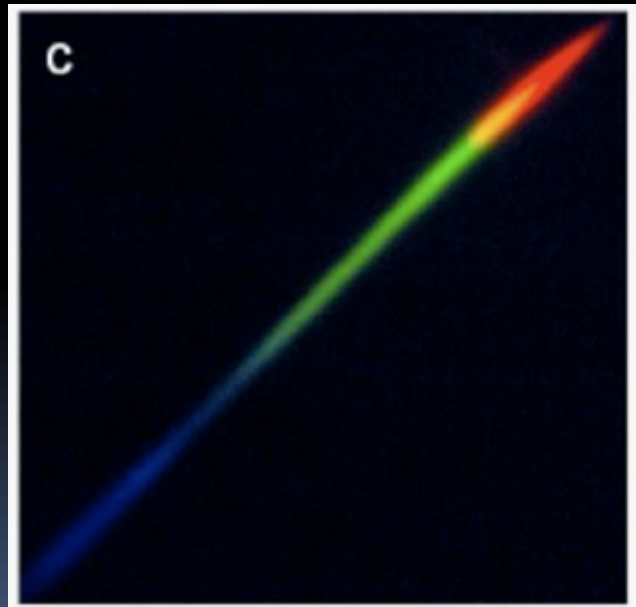
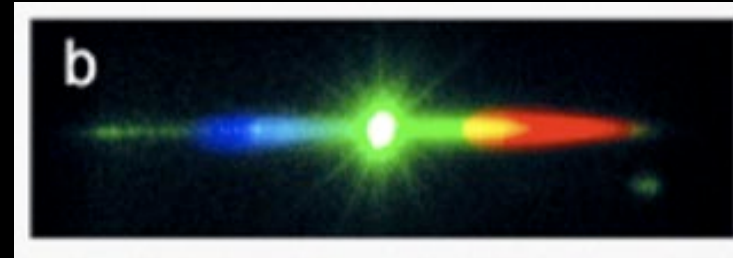
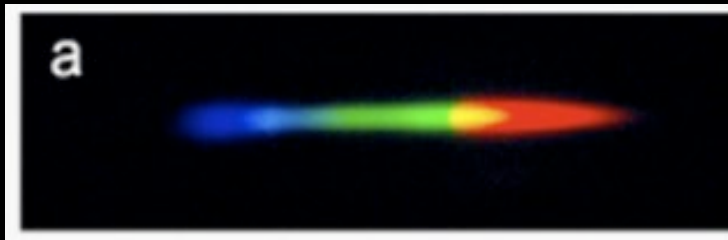
Extinction/contrast challenge...

Rejecting elastic scattering

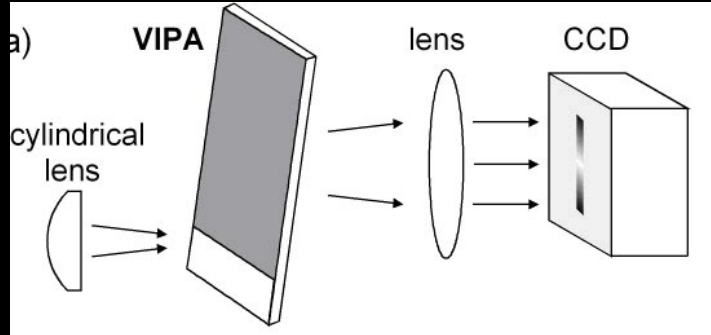
- 1- Cross-Axis Cascade
- 2- Apodization
- 3- Coronagraphy



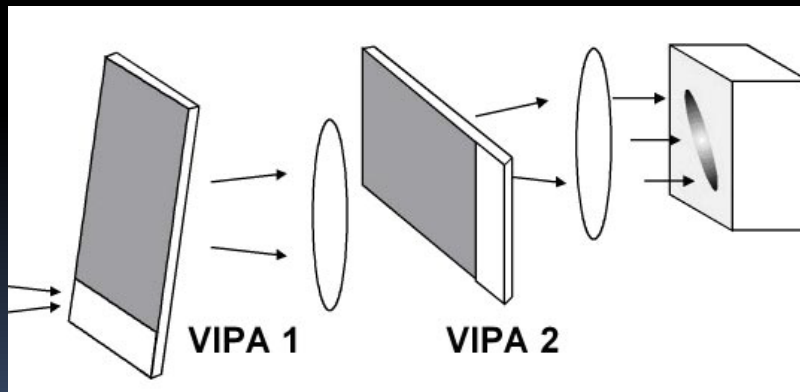
Cross-Axis Configuration



Cross-axis spectroscopy

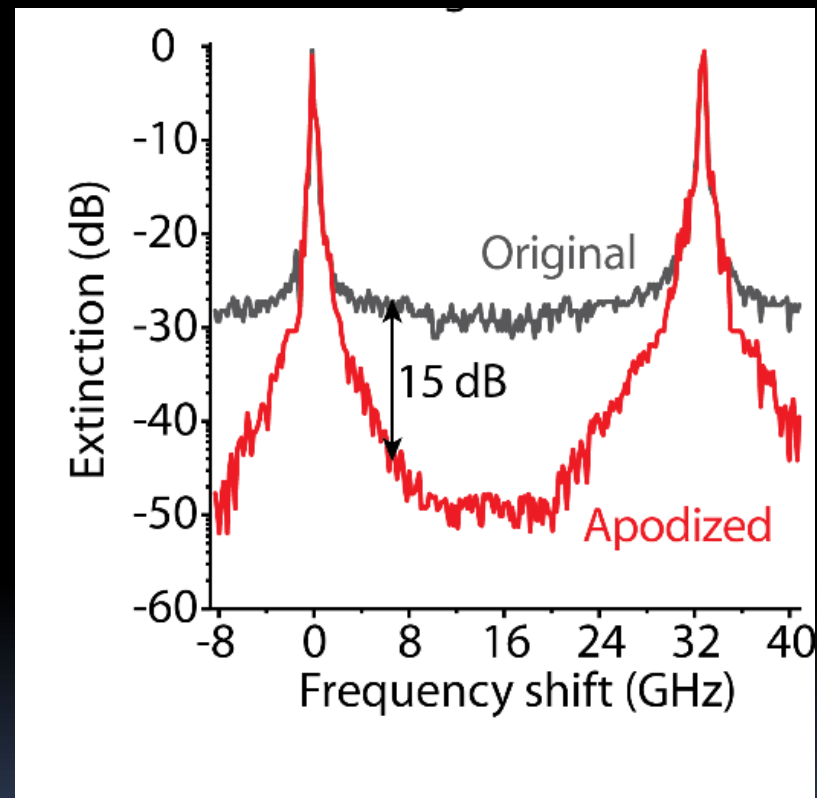
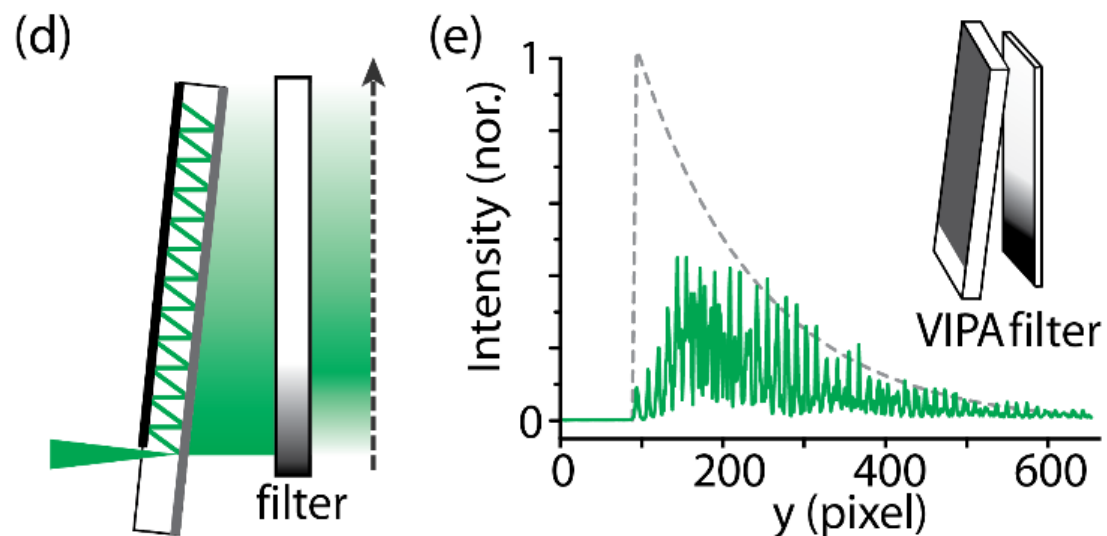
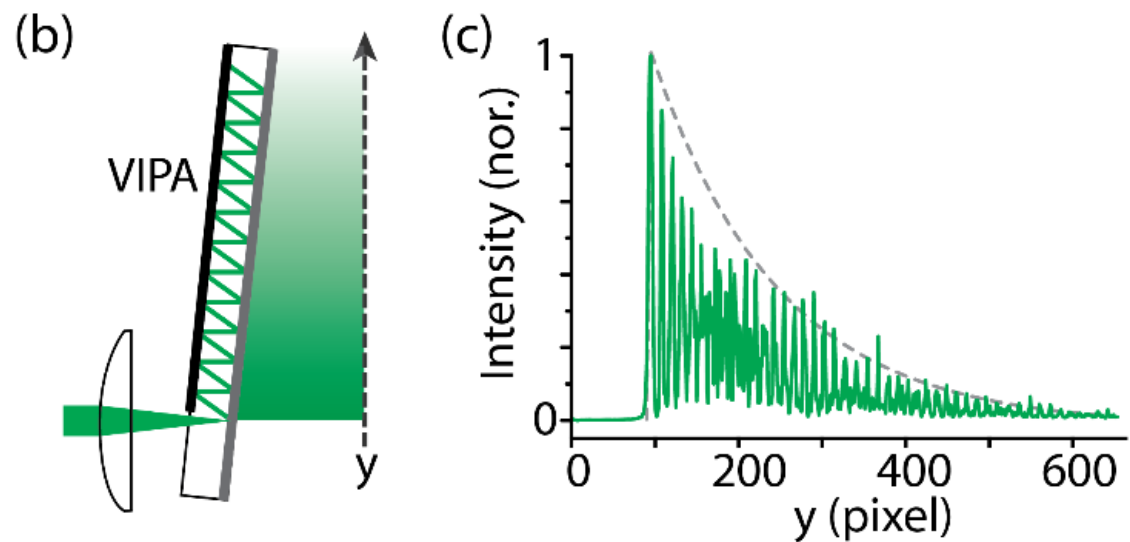


~30 dB



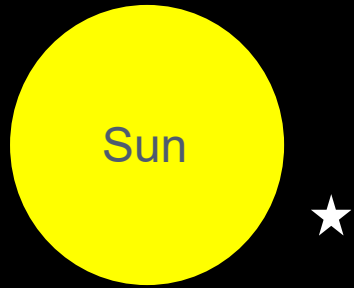
~60 dB

Apodization



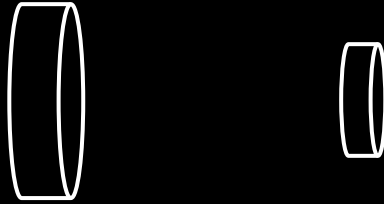
Coronagraphy

Direct imaging of planets

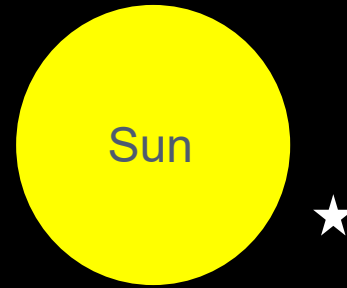


Contrast ratio: $\sim 10^9$

Object plane

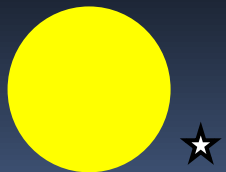


Telescope



Imaging plane

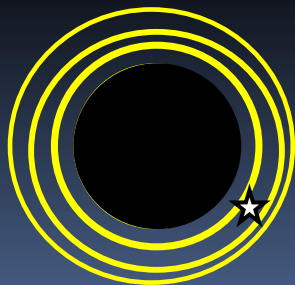
Lyot coronagraph (Bernard Lyot, 1939)



Object plane



Telescope



First imaging plane,
masked center



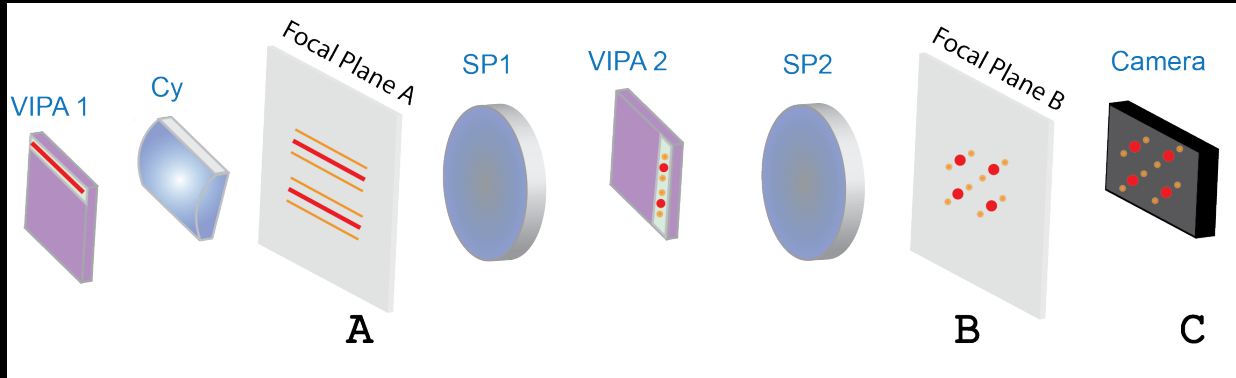
Fourier plane with
"Lyot stop"



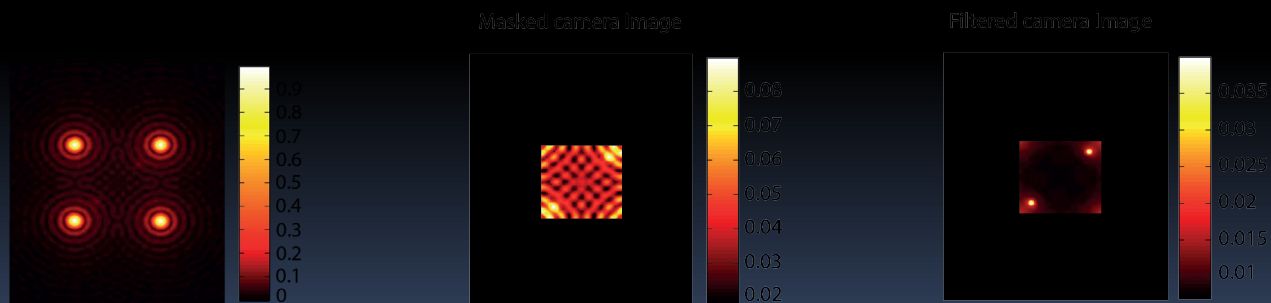
Final imaging plane

The spectral analog of planet imaging

Double stage VIPA spectrometer



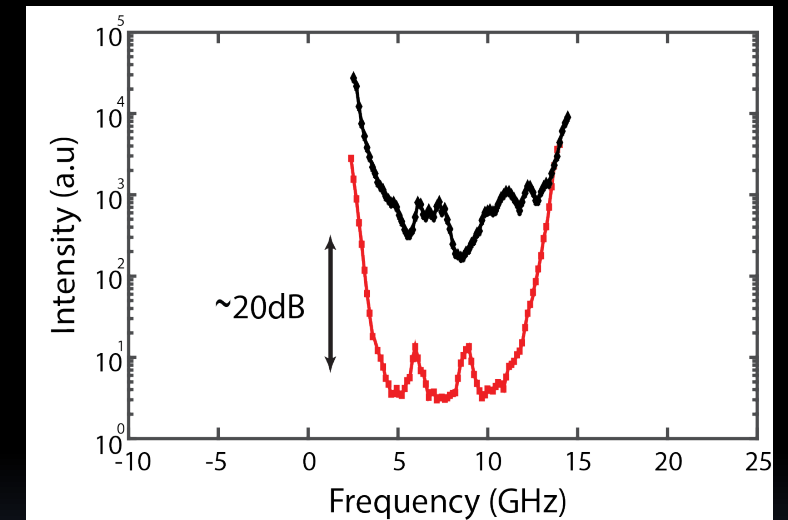
The output of the spectrometer (illustration):



Airy patterns surrounding the high intense peaks

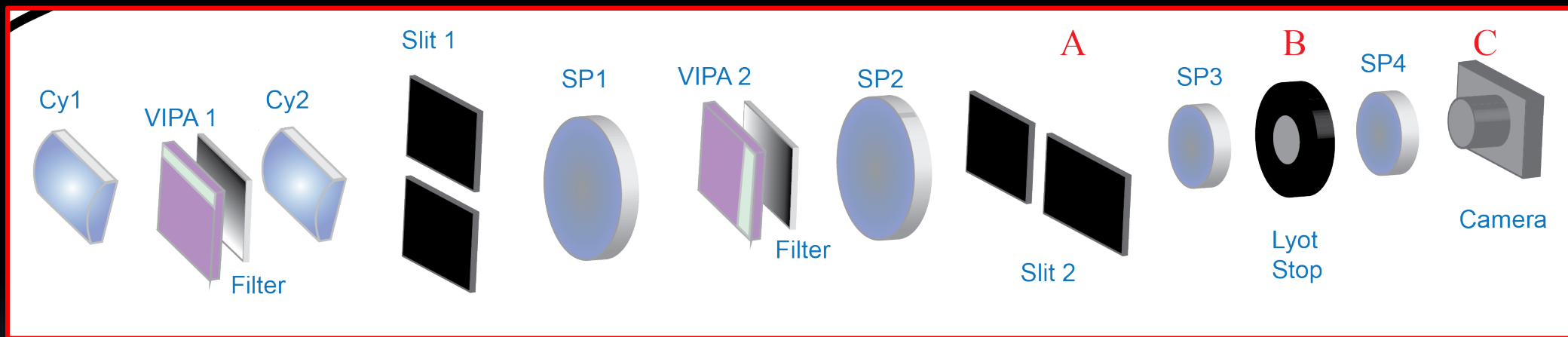
Covering the peaks doesn't remove the Airy patterns

High frequency removal by the Lyot coronagraph



Full spectrometer

**Two orthogonal
VIPA-stages**



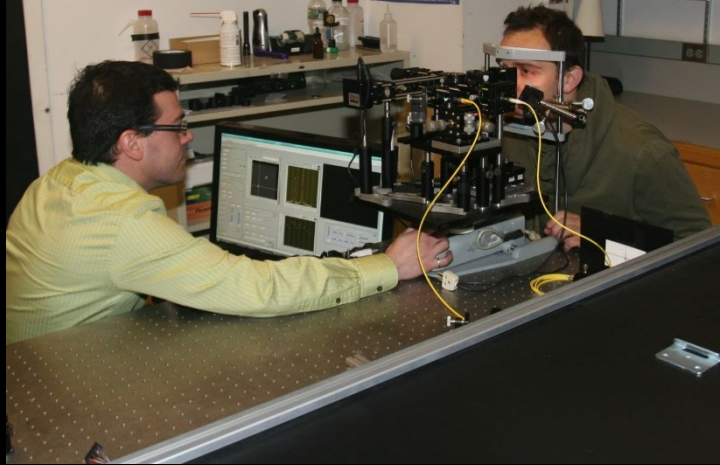
Two Apodizations

Coronagraphy

Brillouin Instruments (+ disclosures)

Brillouin ophthalmoscope

- Start-up: Intelon



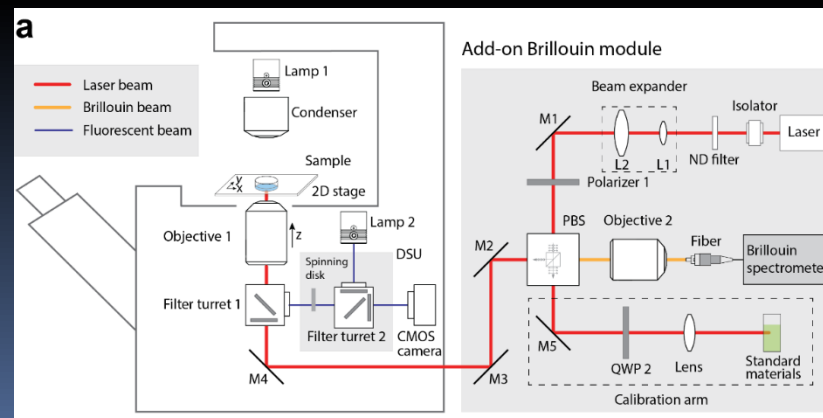
Scarcelli, Besner, Pineda, Yun *JAMA Opth.* 133, 480 (2015)



Brillouin flow cytometer



Add-on Brillouin module for confocal microscopes

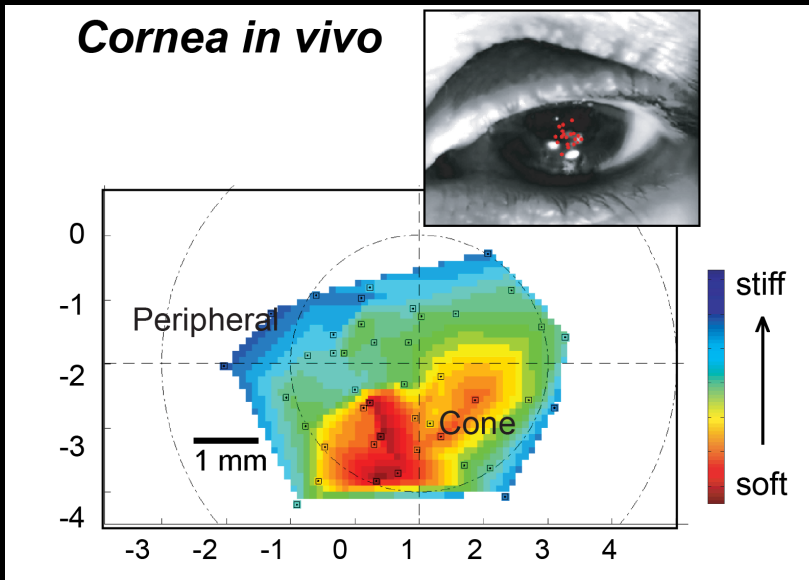


Zhang et al., *Lab on Chip*, 17, 571 (2017)

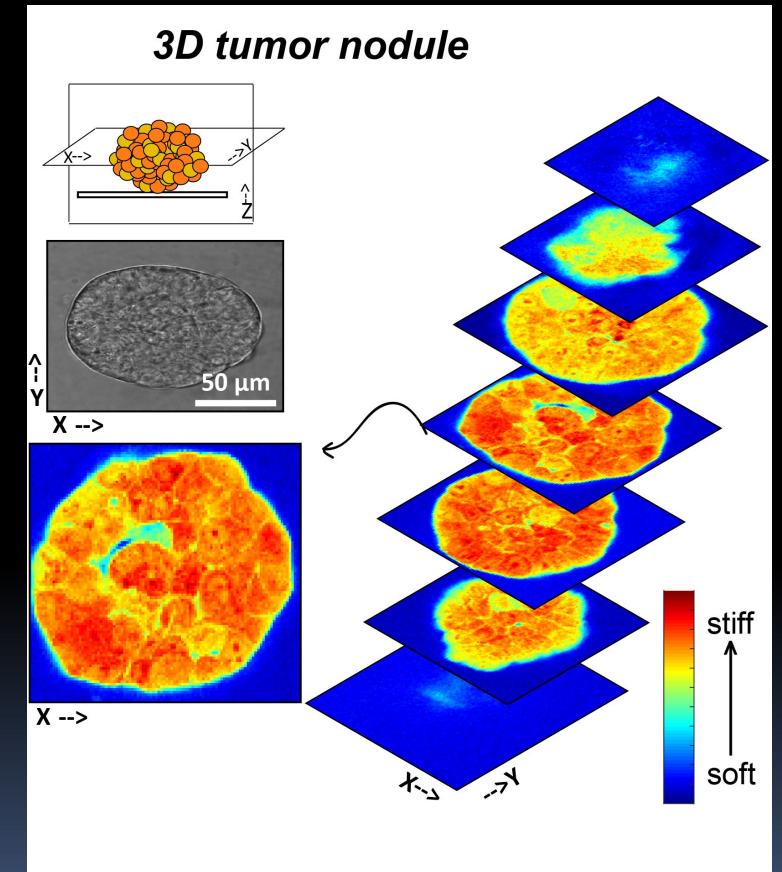
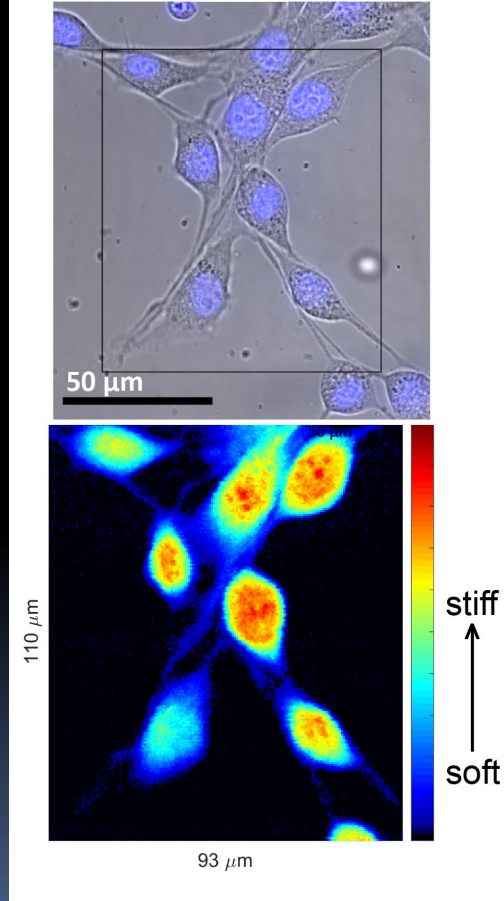
Zhang and Scarcelli, *Nature Protocols*, 16, 1251 (2021)

Confocal Brillouin microscopy.....

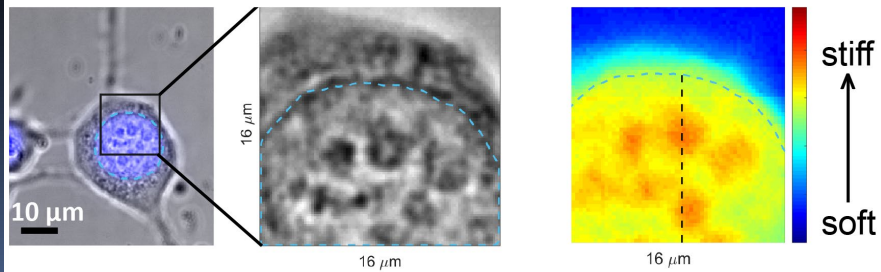
10 mW...20ms...10 MHz



Cell modulus mapping

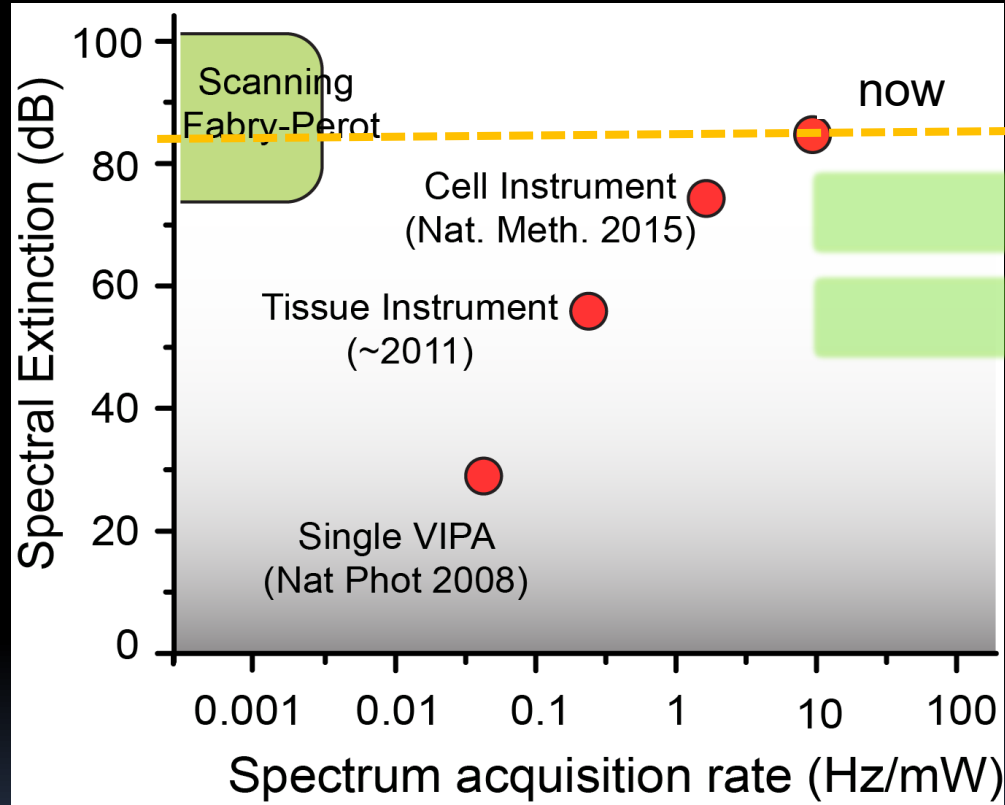


Inside cell nucleus



Summary

How non-transparent sample can be?



Shot-noise limit in tissue

Fiore et al. APL(2016)

live-cell imaging 2014 -

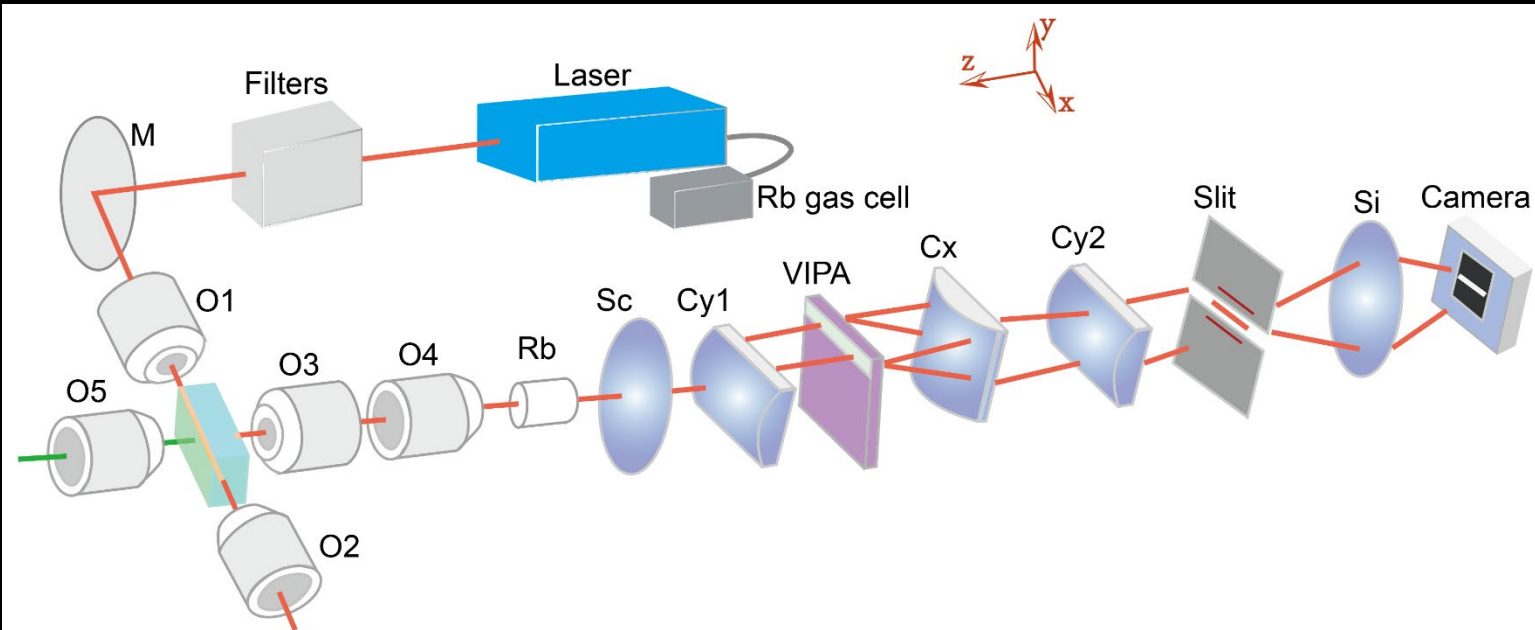
Safe in vivo human ocular tissue 2011 -

How fast can we go ?

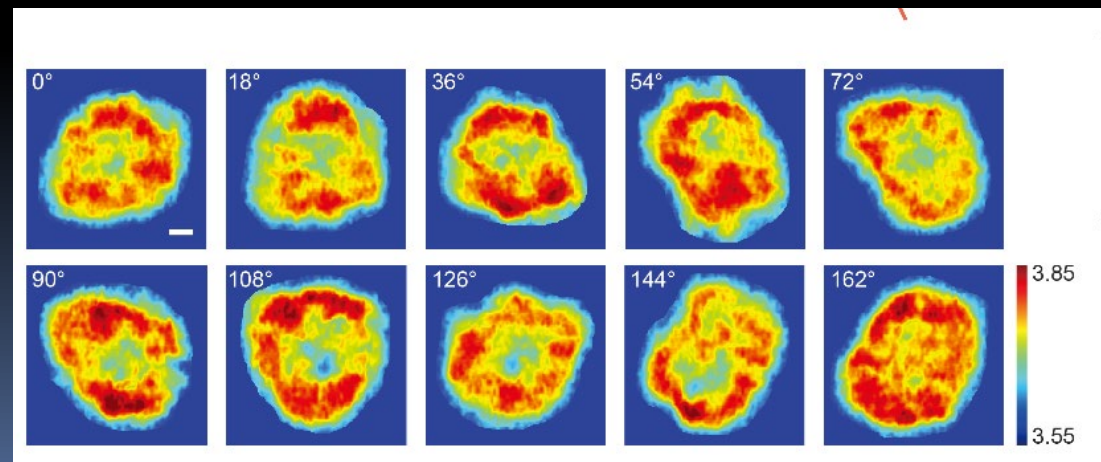
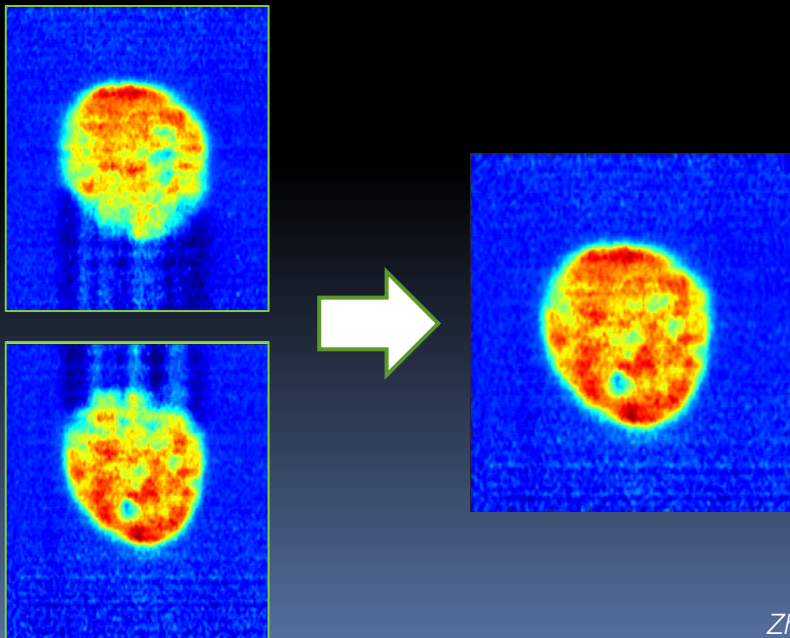
- Edrei and Scarcelli, Applied Physics Letters, 119, 243602, (2018)
- Edrei, Gather and Scarcelli, Optics Express 25 6895 (2017)
- Zhang, Fiore, Yun, Kim and Scarcelli, Scientific Reports 6, 35398 (2016)
- Shao, Besner, Zhang, Scarcelli and Yun, Optics Express 24, 22232 (2016)
- Berghaus, Zhang, Yun, Scarcelli, Optics Letters, 40, 4436 (2015).
- Scarcelli and Yun, Optics Express 20, 9197-9202. (2012).
- Scarcelli and Yun, Optics Express 19, 10913; (2011).
- Scarcelli, Kim and Yun, Optics Letters 33, 2979; (2008).

Towards high-throughput

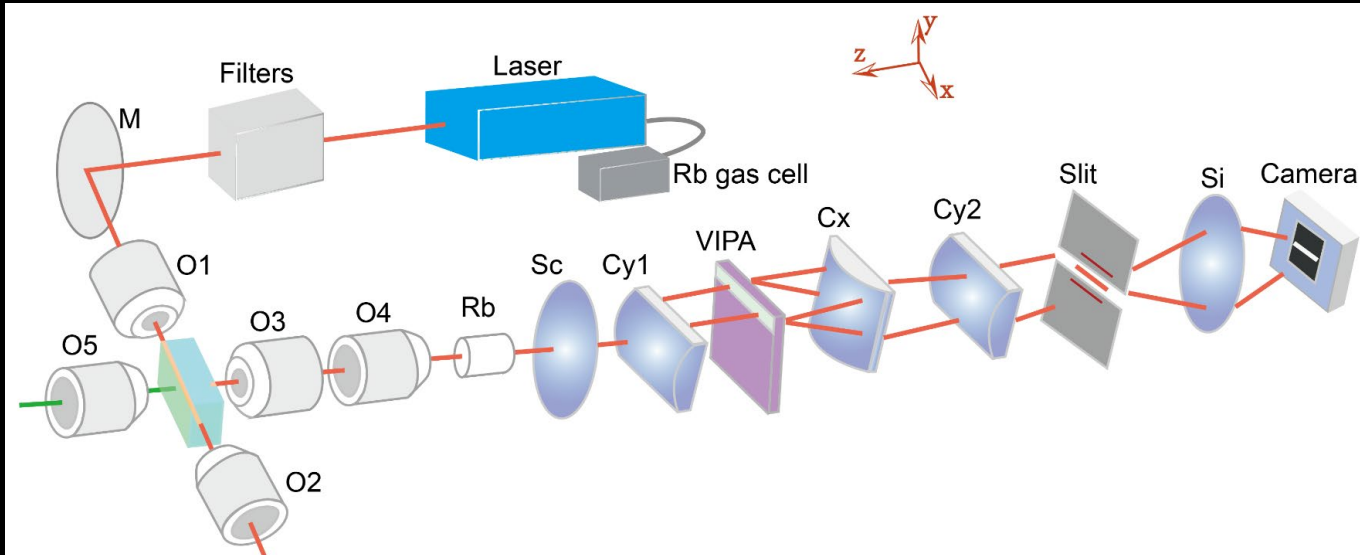
Dual Linescan...



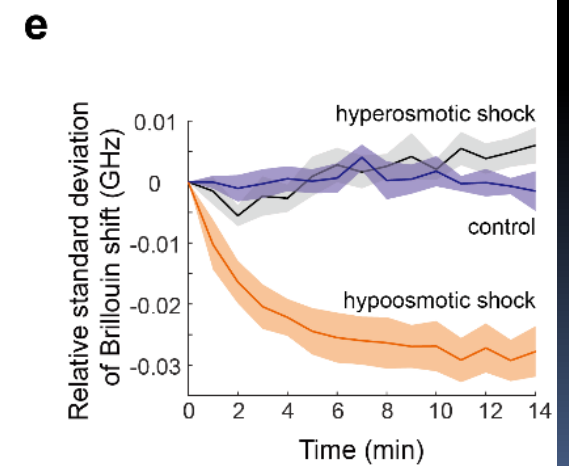
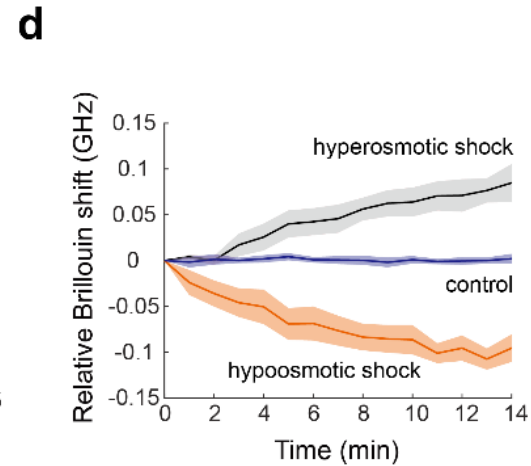
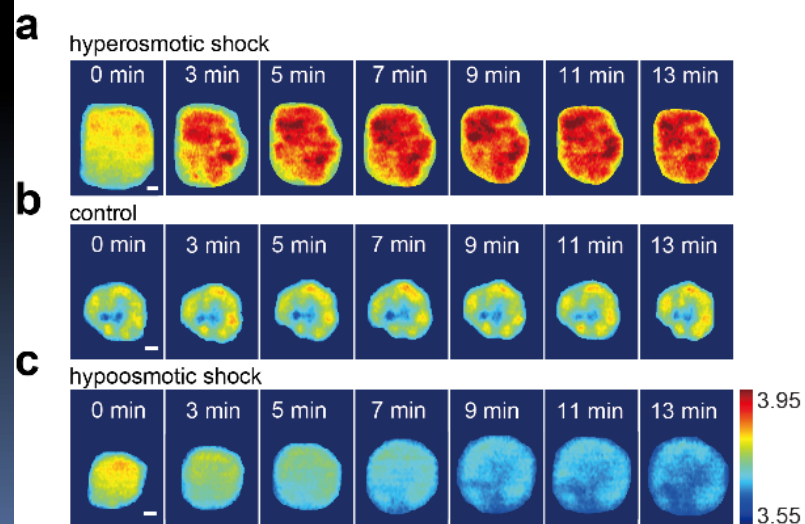
1 ms/pixel
10x less light-dose



Dual Linescan...

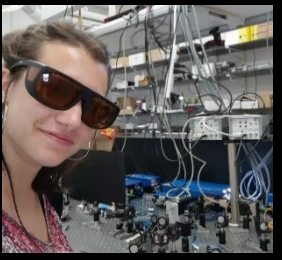


Osmotic shock



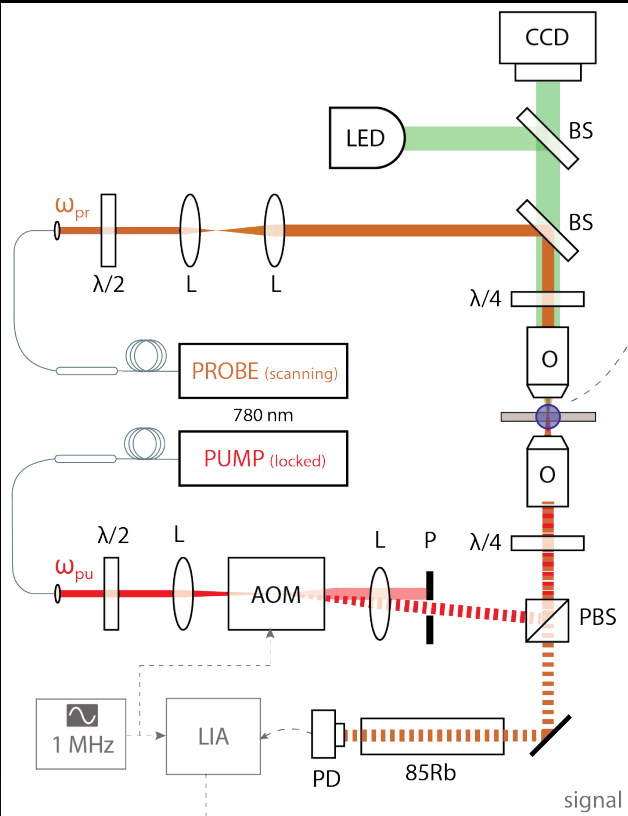
Stimulated...

Localization-based detection

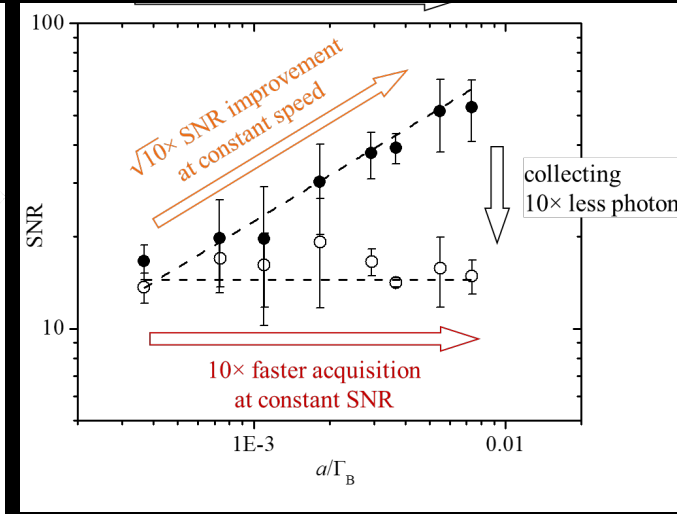
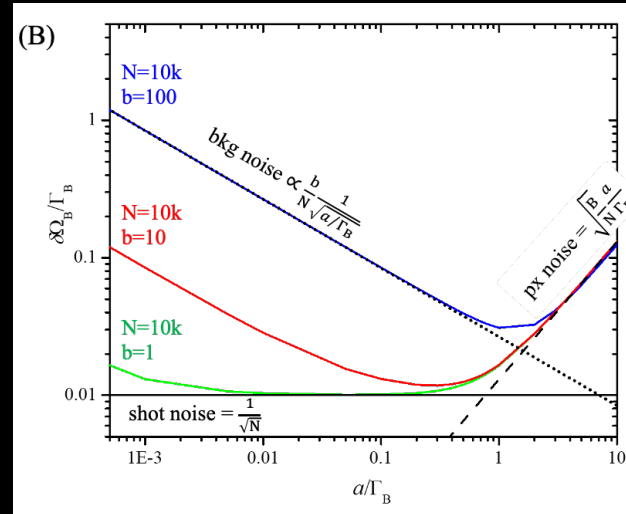


Dr. Giulia Zanini

10x speed-up



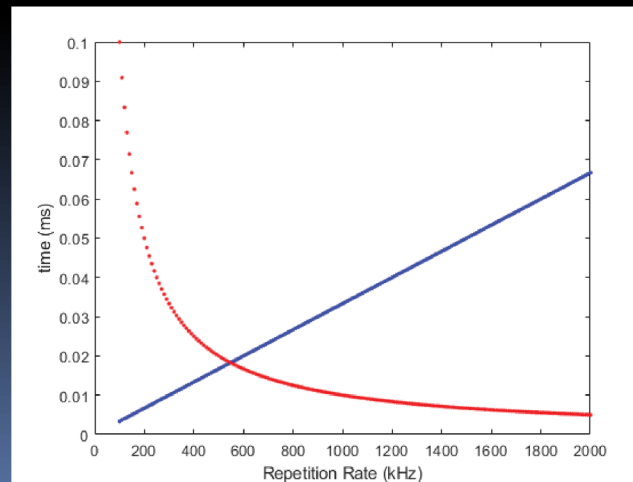
Remer & Bilenca. *Nature Methods* (2020)



Zanini & Scarcelli, *APL Photonics* 7, 056101 (2022)

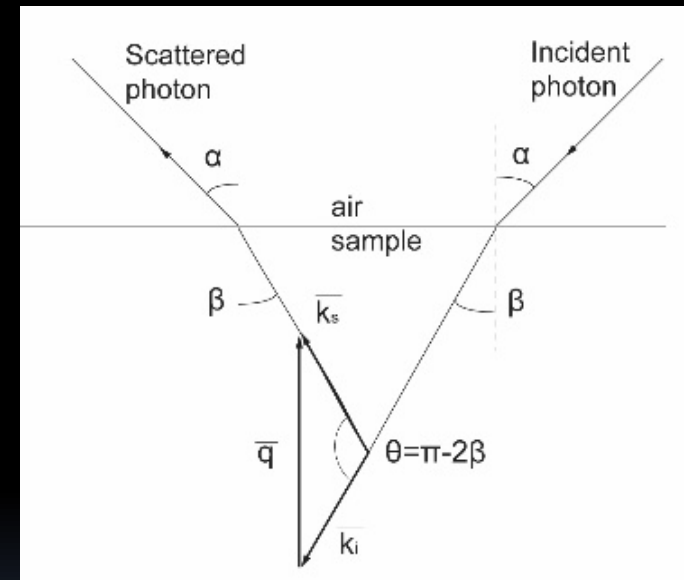
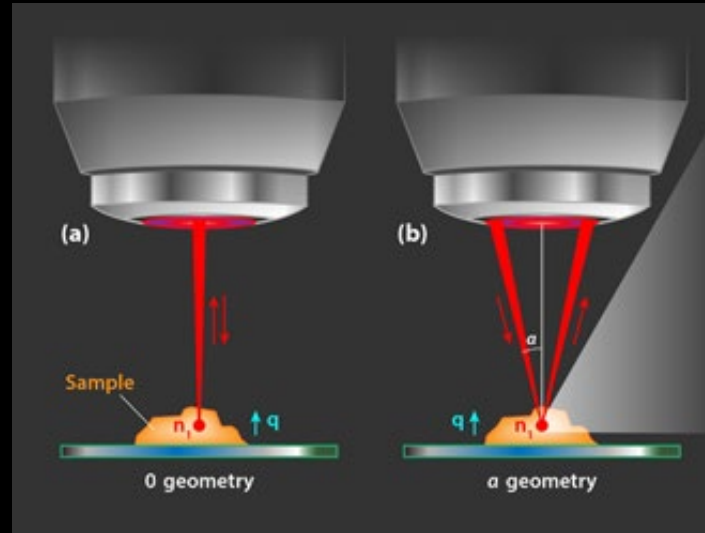
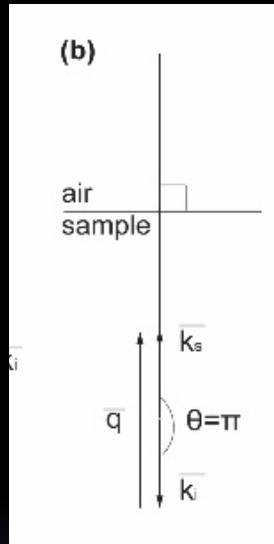
Pulsed SBS (with B. Redding, NRL)

CW....



Photon-phonon label-free contrast mechanisms

Dual-geometry Brillouin measurements



PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **122**, 103901 (2019)

Editors' Suggestion

Featured in Physics

Potential of dual-geometry Brillouin interaction



Antonio
Fiore

OPTICAL DISPERSION

$$\mathbf{k} = \frac{\omega}{c} \mathbf{n} = \frac{\omega}{c} [\mathbf{n}_1(\omega) + i\mathbf{n}_2(\omega)]$$

ACOUSTIC DISPERSION

$$\mathbf{q} = \frac{\Omega}{v(\hat{\mathbf{q}}, \Omega)} + i \frac{\Gamma(\hat{\mathbf{q}}, \Omega) \mathbf{q}^2}{2v(\hat{\mathbf{q}}, \Omega)}$$

shift

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow n_1(\omega_i) &= \left(\frac{\sin^2 \alpha}{1 - R^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \rightarrow v(\hat{\mathbf{q}}) &= \frac{\Omega_0 c}{2\omega_i} \left(\frac{\sin^2 \alpha}{1 - R^2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Index (real part)

Acoustic speed

linewidth

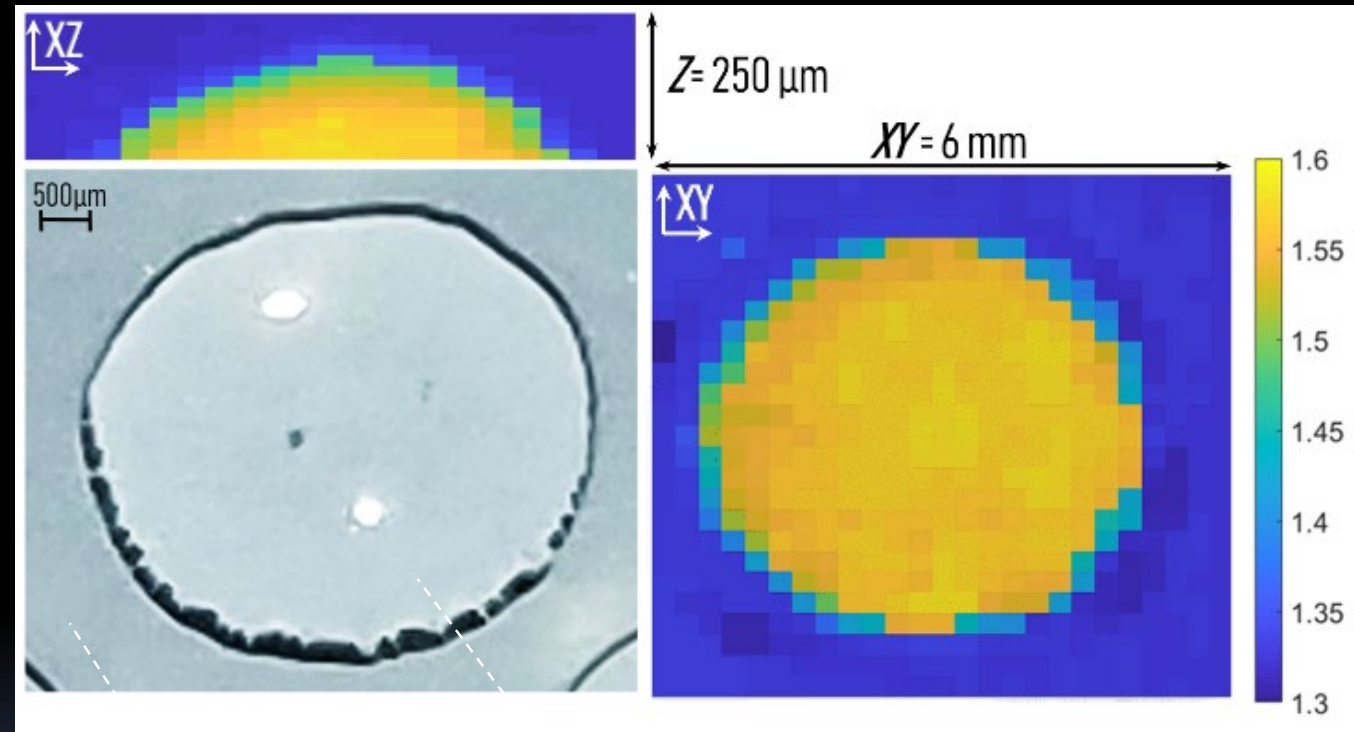
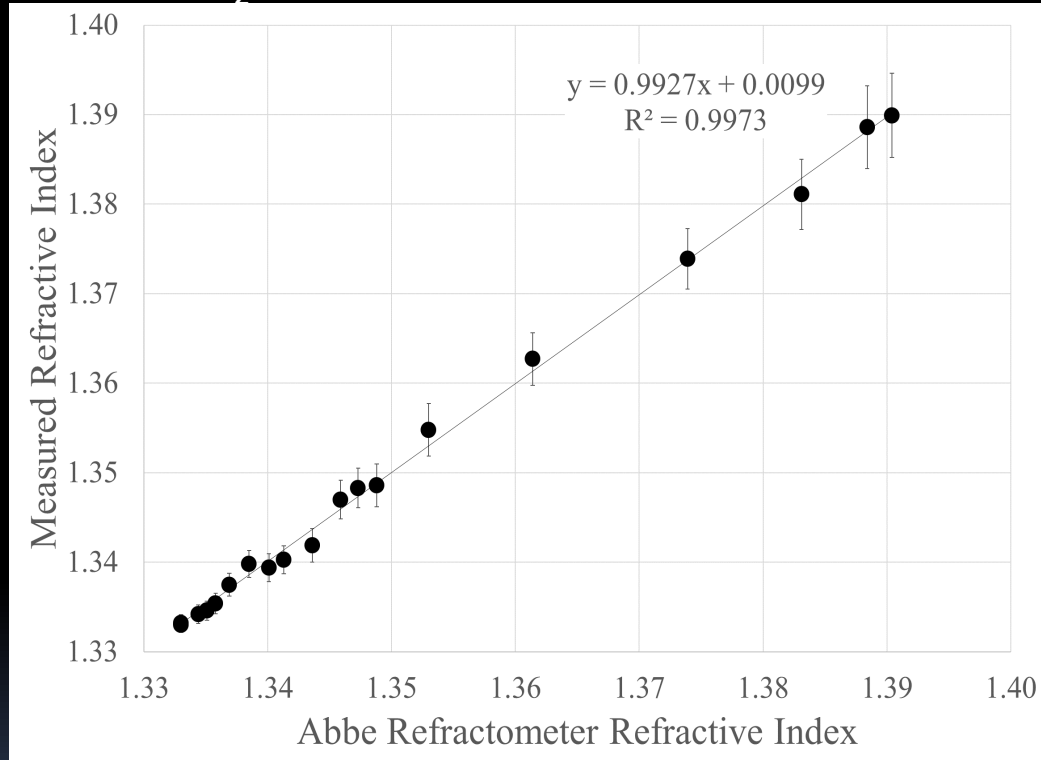
$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow n_2(\omega_i) &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin^2 \alpha}{1 - R^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\Delta\Omega_\alpha - \Delta\Omega_0}{\Omega_\alpha - \Omega_0} \\ \rightarrow \Gamma(\hat{\mathbf{q}}) &= \frac{c^2}{4\omega_i^2} \left(\frac{\sin^2 \alpha}{1 - R^2} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{\Omega_\alpha \Delta\Omega_0 - \Omega_0 \Delta\Omega_\alpha}{\Omega_\alpha - \Omega_0} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Index
(imaginary part)

Viscosity

3D Refractive index mapping in epi-detection

n of H₂O-NaCl solution at different concentrations



CH₂OH (n=1.329)

NOA61 (n=1.56)