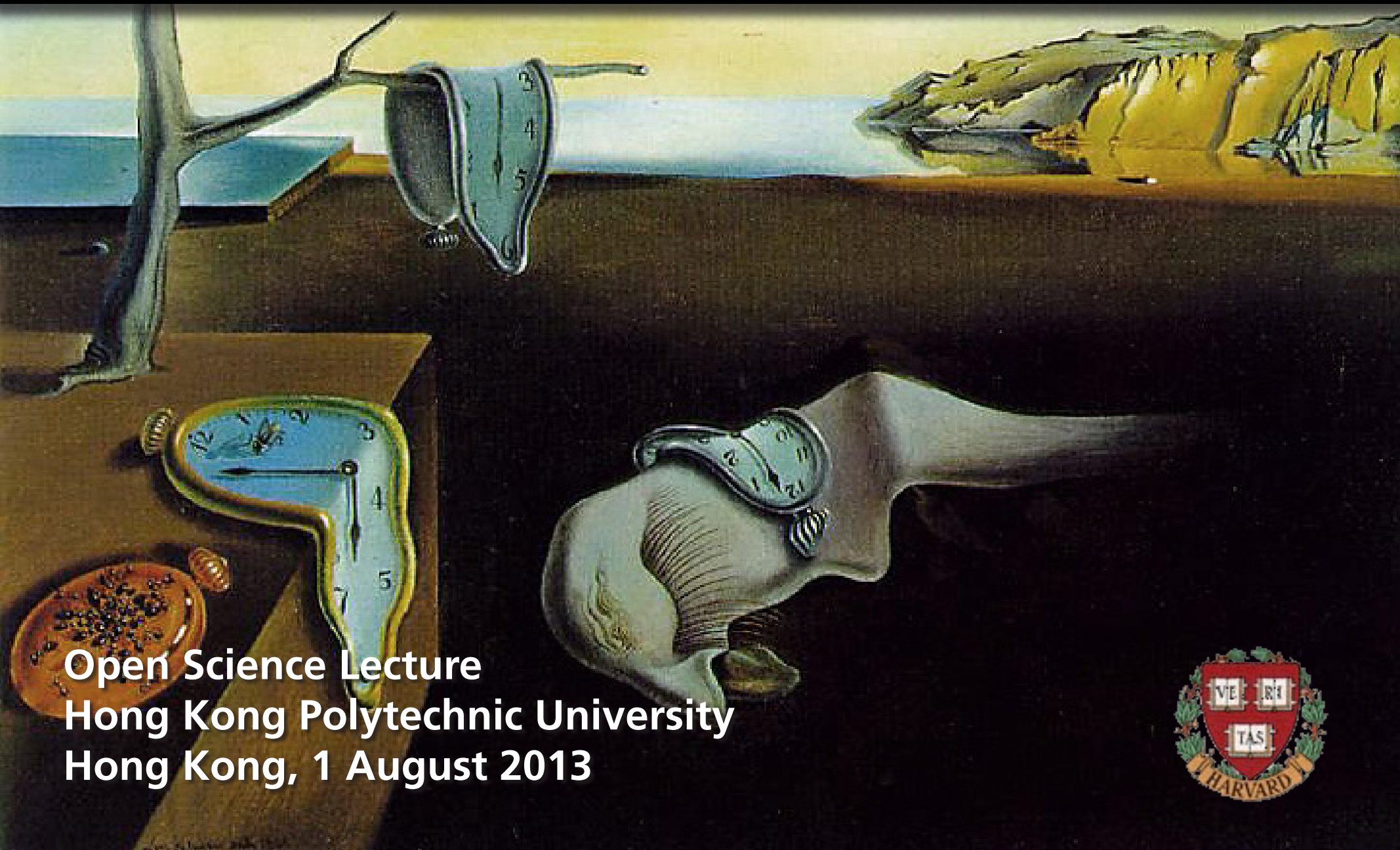


Stopping time



Open Science Lecture
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong, 1 August 2013







t

▶ **time**

▶ **time**

▶ **time**

▶ **time**

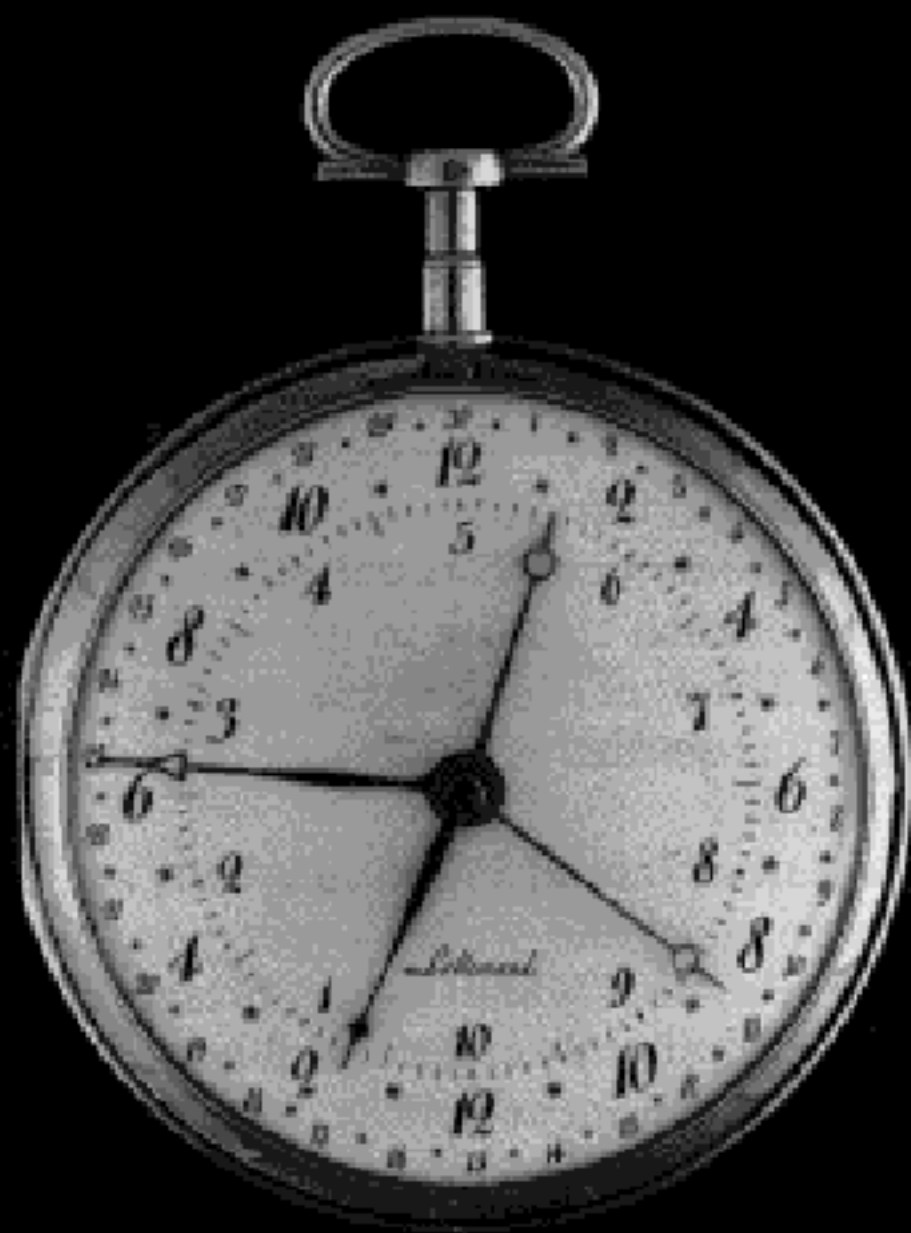
▶ **time**

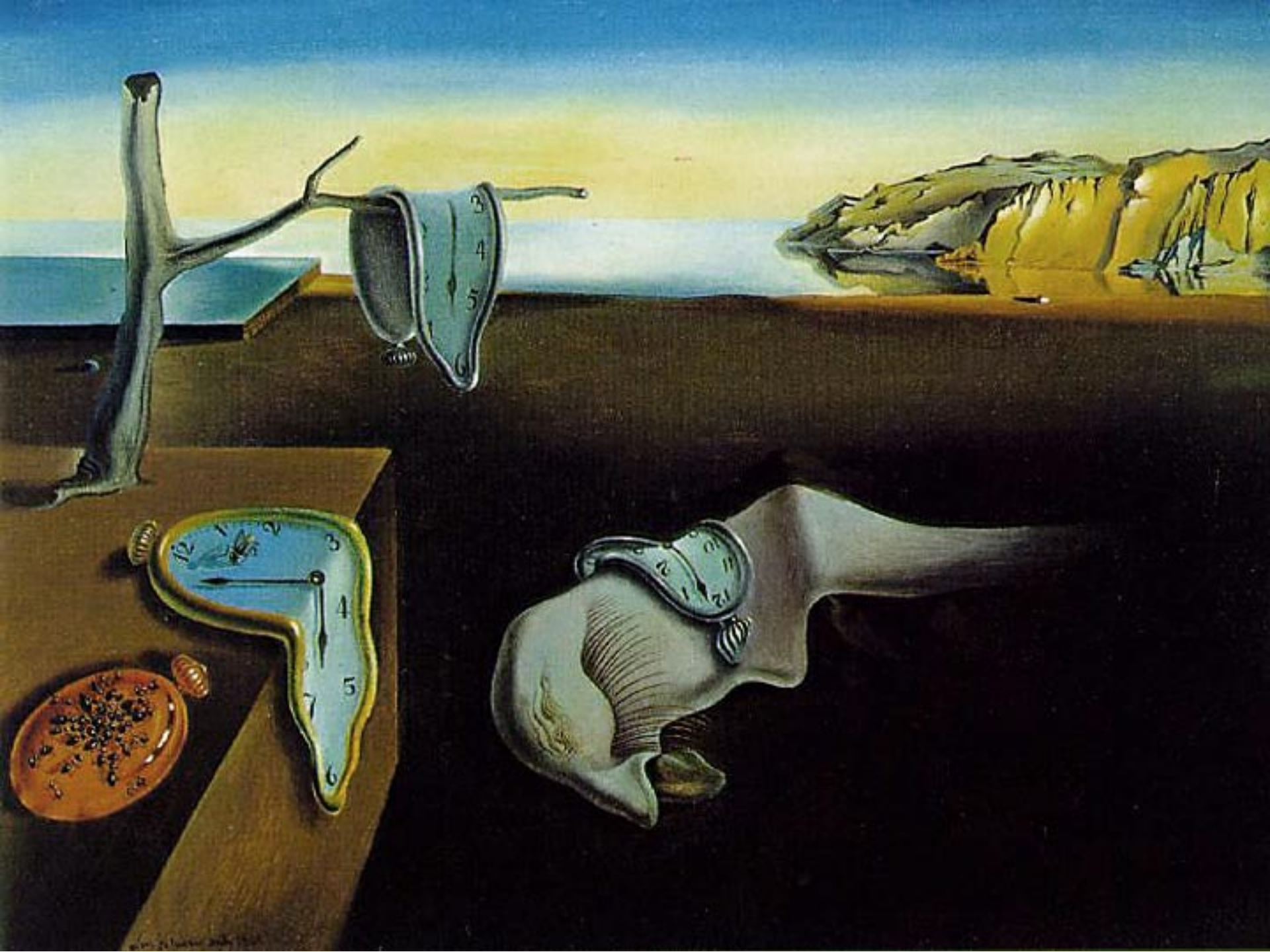
▶ **time**

- ▶ **time: the concept**
- ▶ **time**
- ▶ **time**

- ▶ **time: the concept**
- ▶ **time: stopping it**
- ▶ **time**

- ▶ **time: the concept**
- ▶ **time: stopping it**
- ▶ **time: the new frontier**





vorher angestellten Versuchen die warme Lufthülle,
welche die Kerzenflamme umschließt. Und der

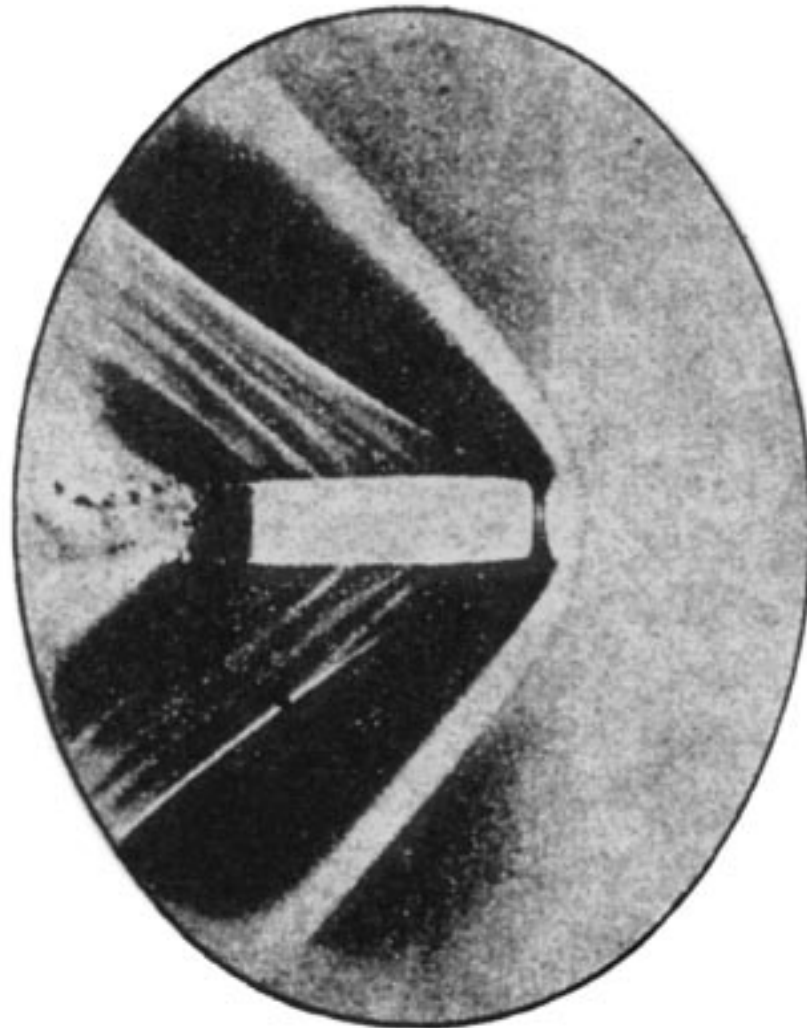
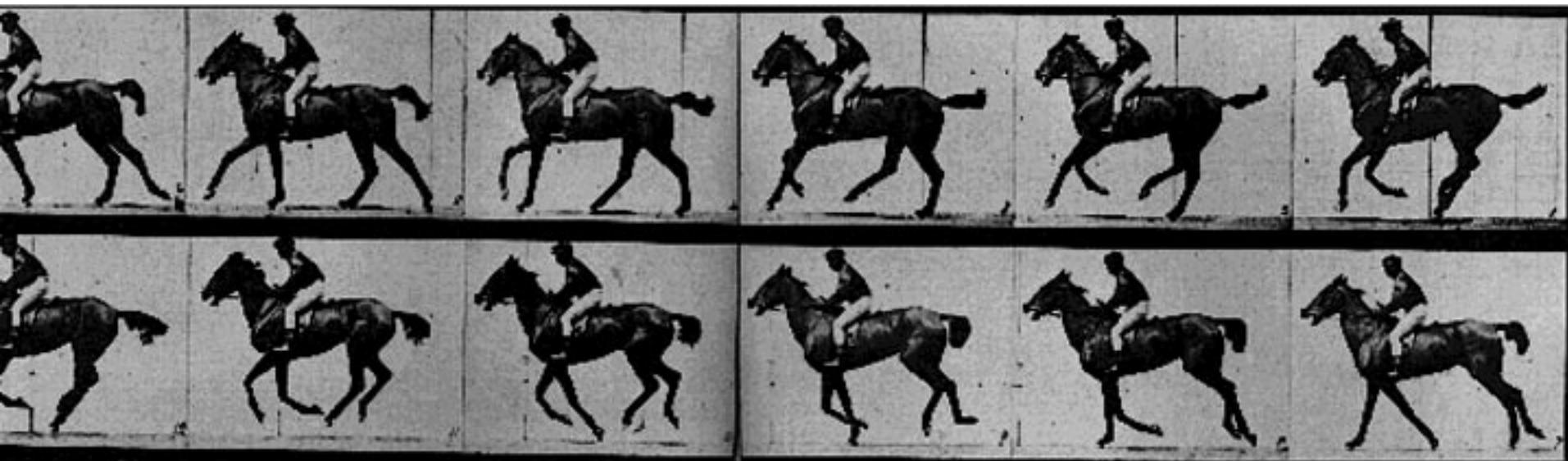
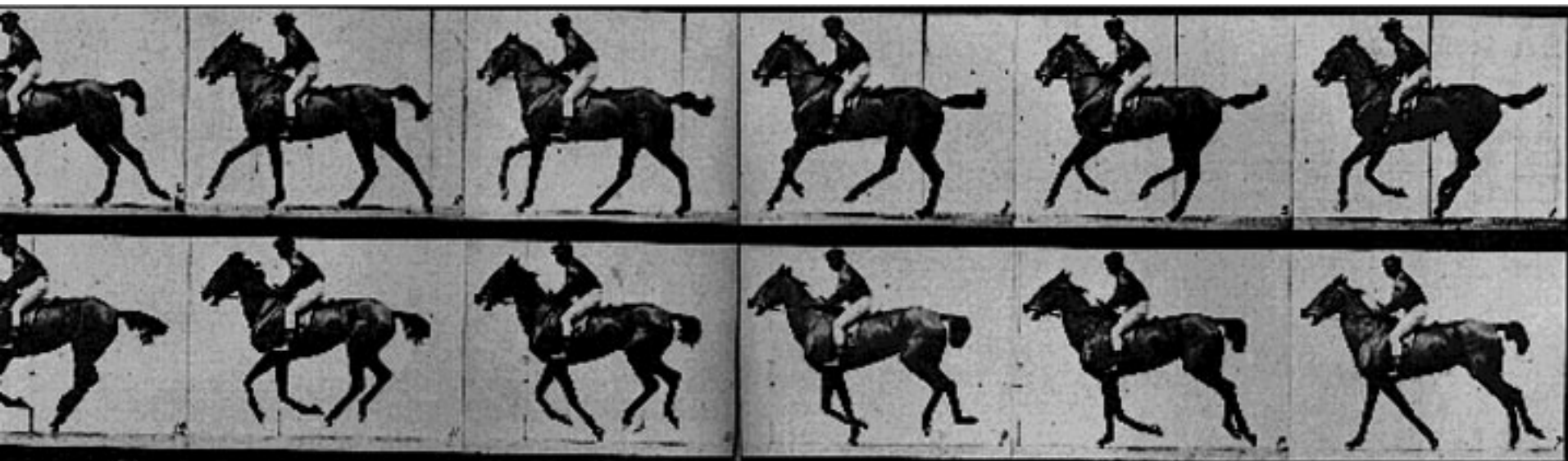
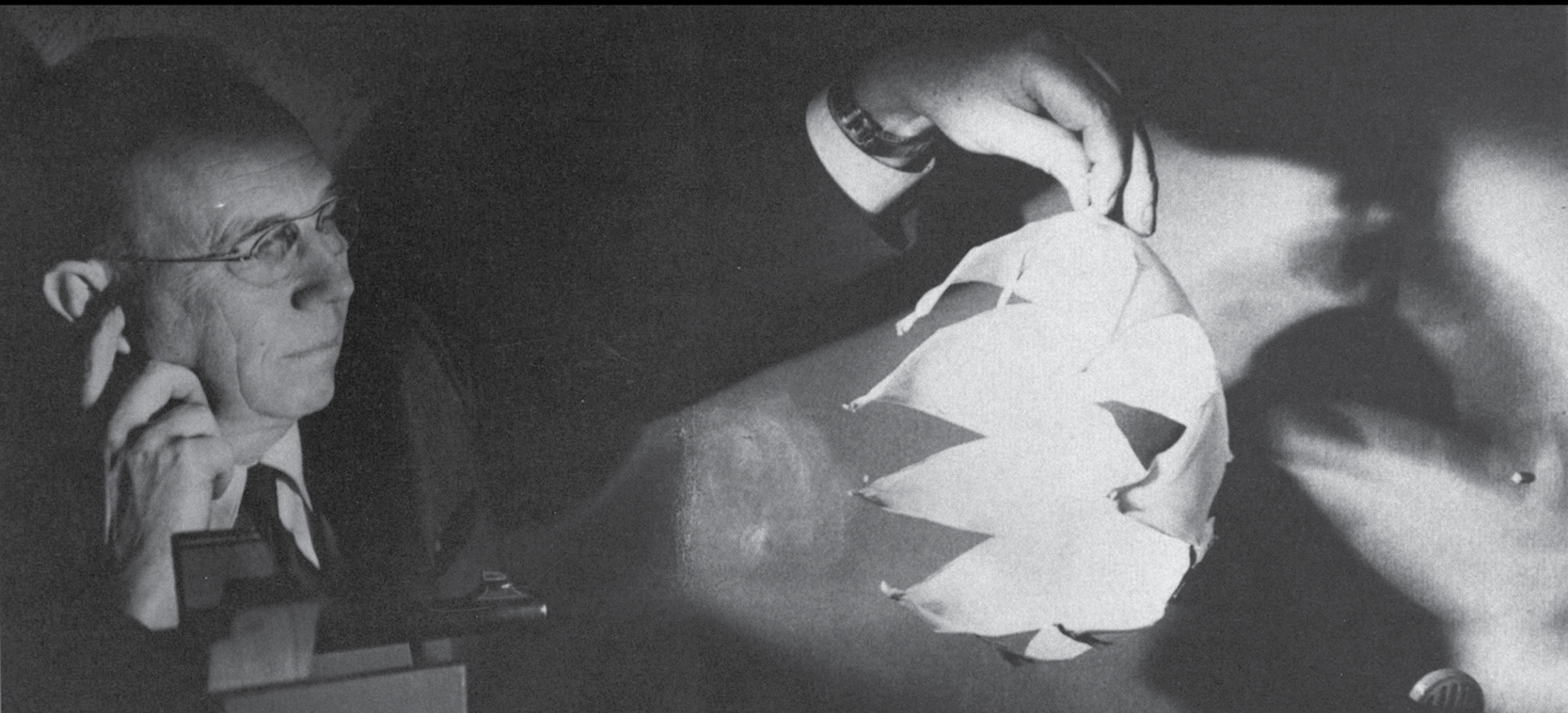


Fig. 52.

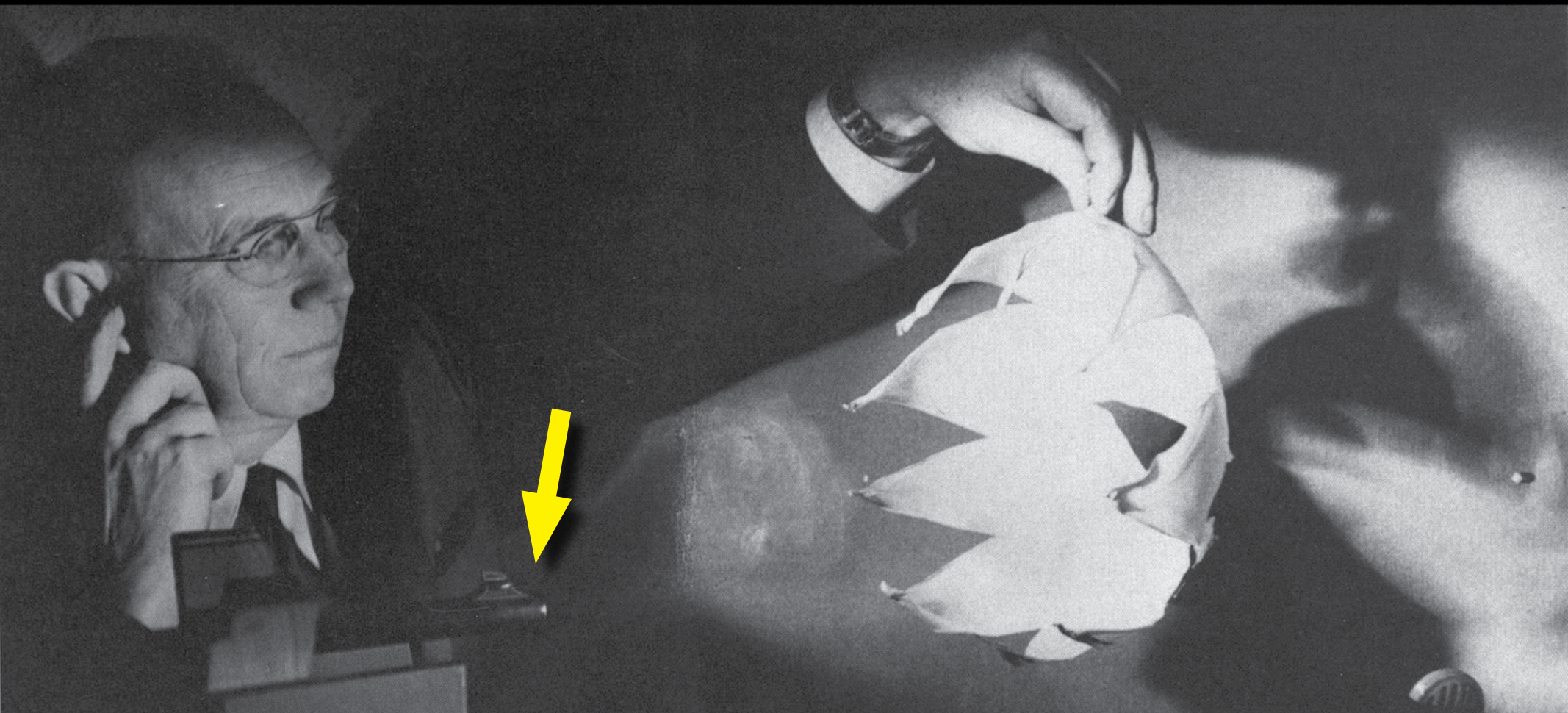
Zylinder aus durch Reibung erwärmter Luft, welche
das Projektil in Form von Wirbelringen abgestreift



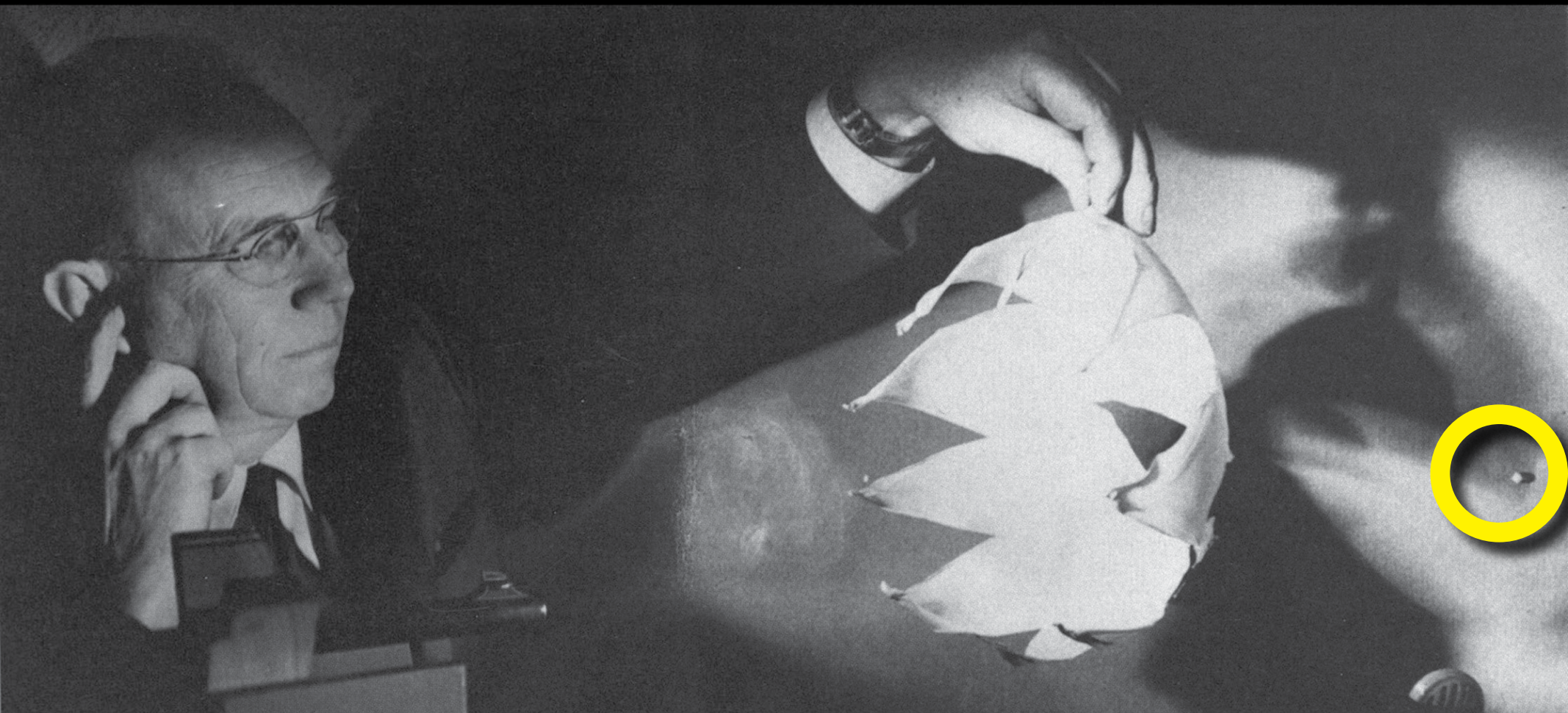




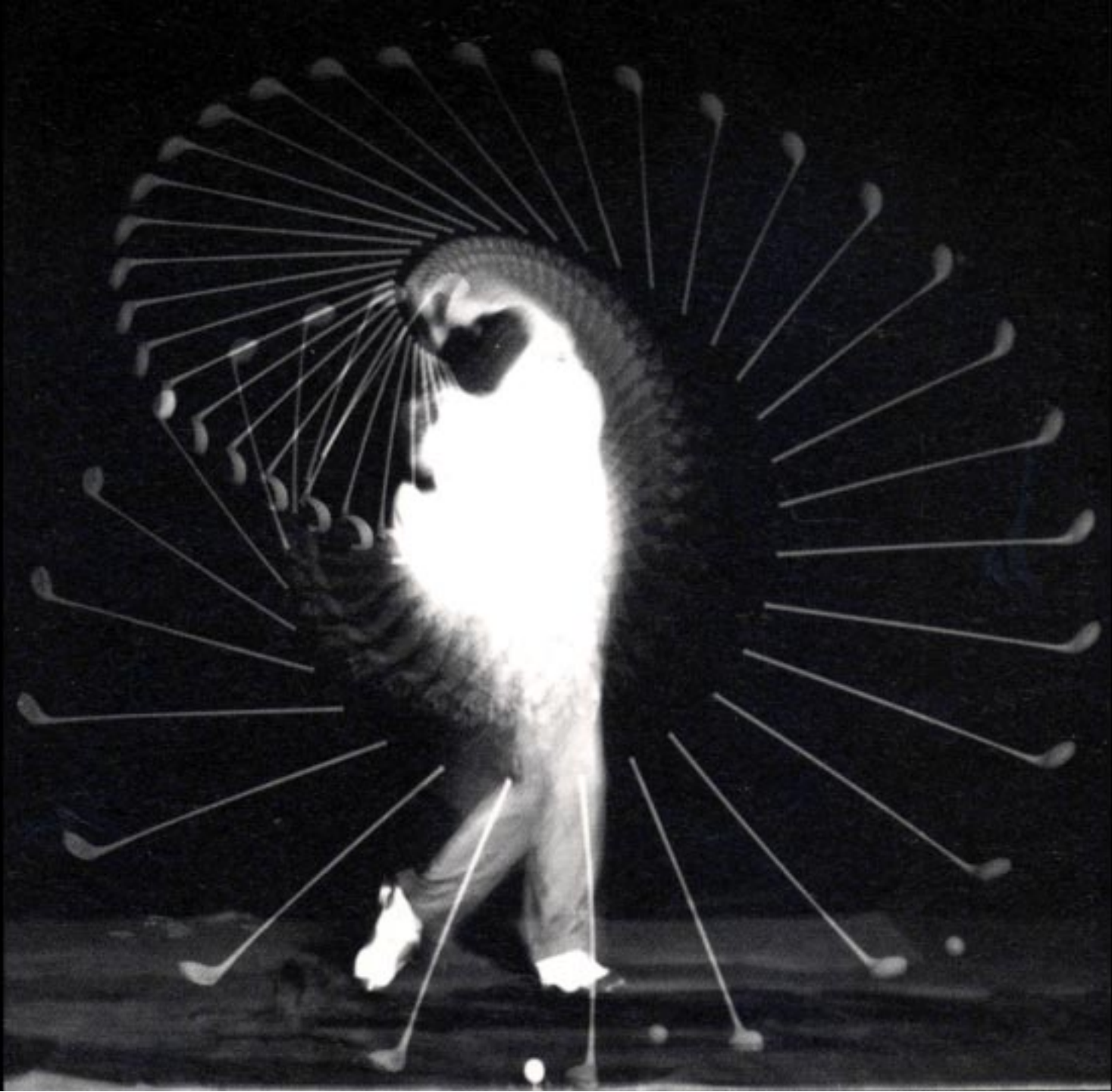
Harold Edgerton (1903 – 1990)



Harold Edgerton (1903 – 1990)



Harold Edgerton (1903 – 1990)



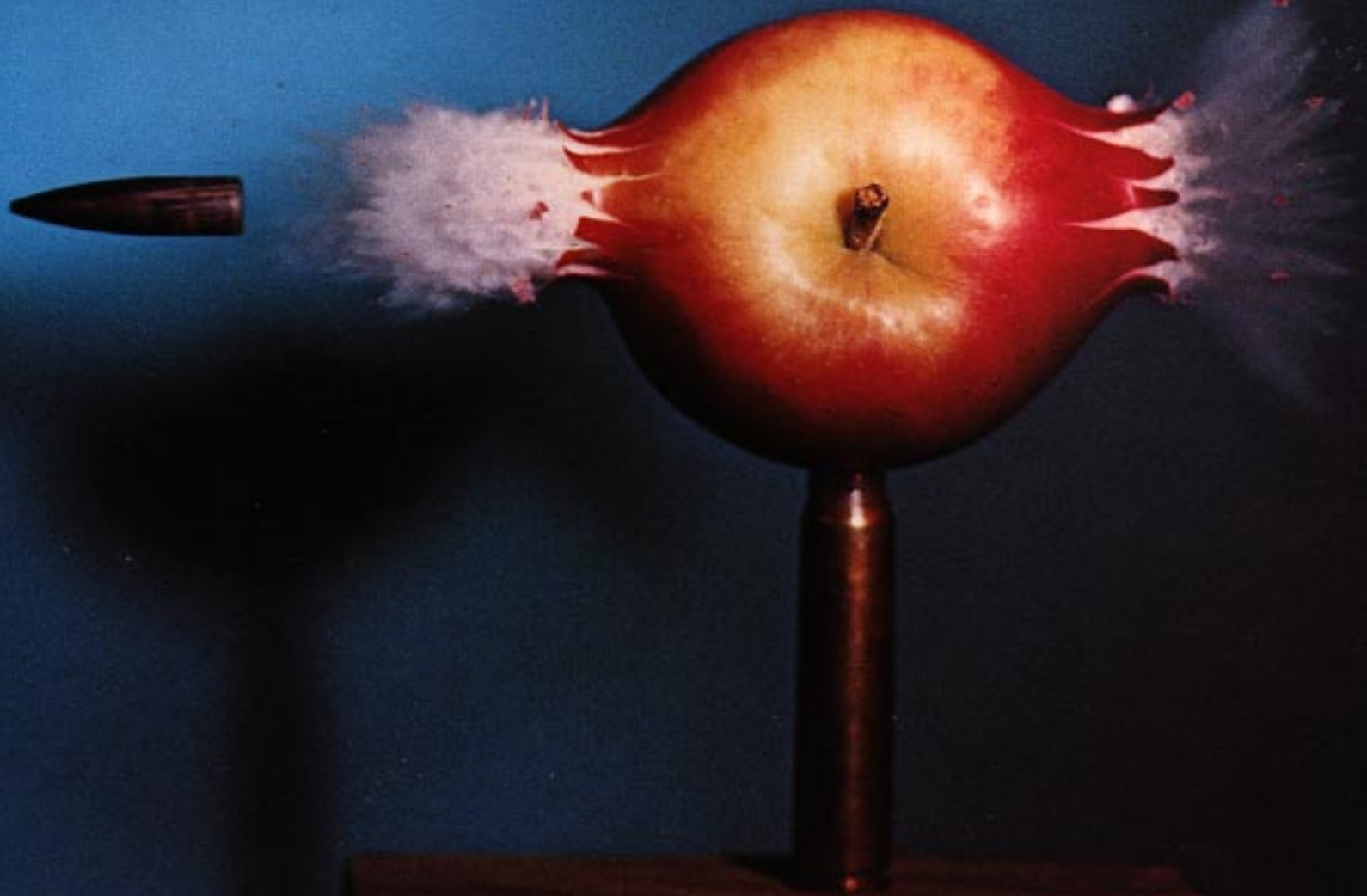




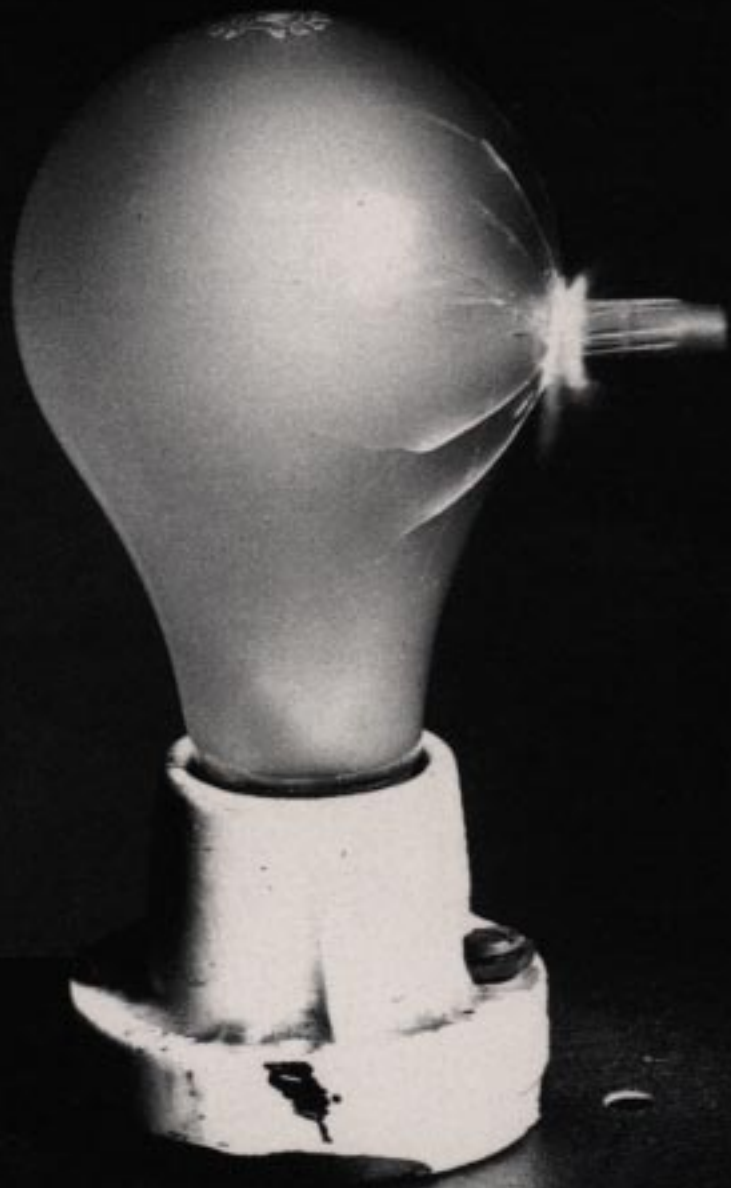
















moon

10^0 s



one second

moon

10^0 s



one second

moon

10^0 s



one second

moon

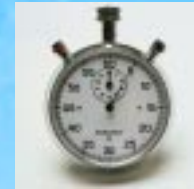
10^0 s



one second

moon

10^0 s



one second

10^1 s



10 seconds

10^1 s



10 seconds

10^1 s



10 seconds

10^1 s



10 seconds

10^1 s



10 seconds

10^2 s



one minute

10^2 s



one minute

10^2 s



one minute

10^2 s



one minute

10^2 s



one minute

RT to sun

10^3 s



17 minutes

RT to sun

10^3 s



17 minutes

RT to sun

10^3 s



17 minutes

RT to sun

10^3 s



17 minutes

RT to sun

10^3 s



17 minutes

Uranus

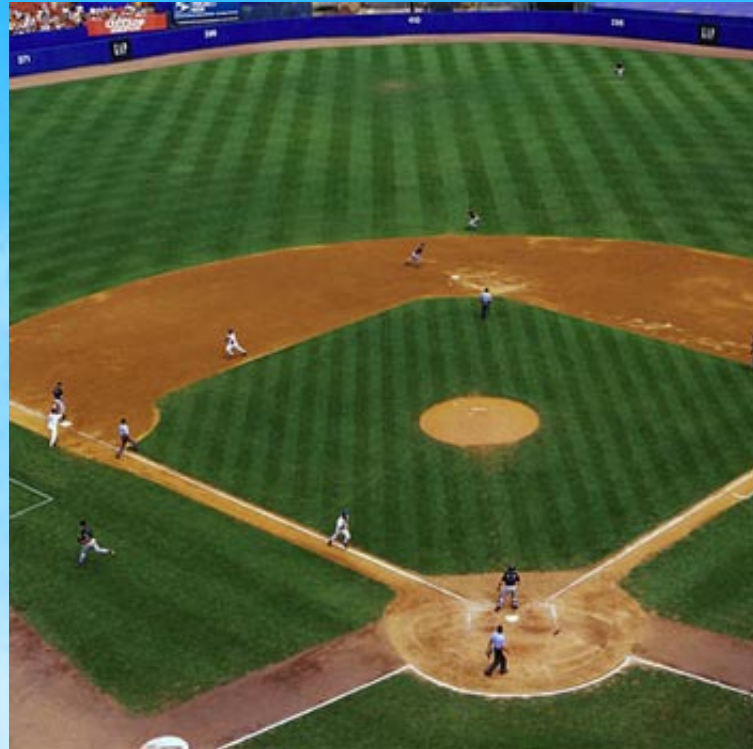
10^4 s



average baseball game

Uranus

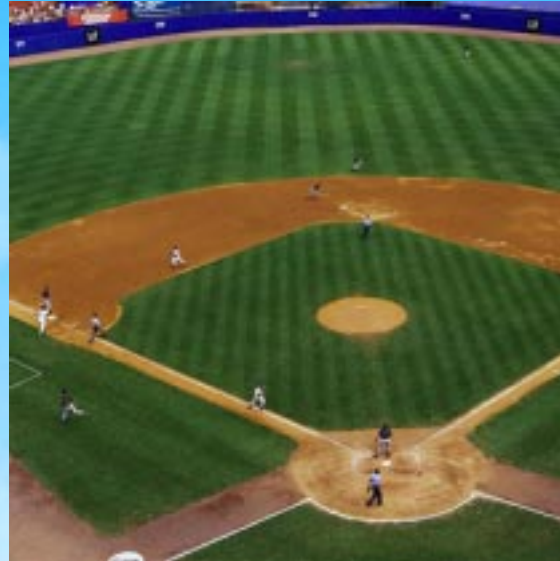
10^4 s



average baseball game

Uranus

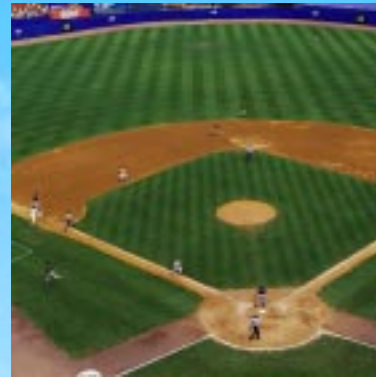
10^4 s



average baseball game

Uranus

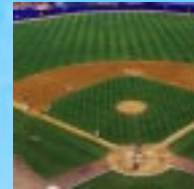
10^4 s



average baseball game

Uranus

10^4 s



average baseball game

10^5 s



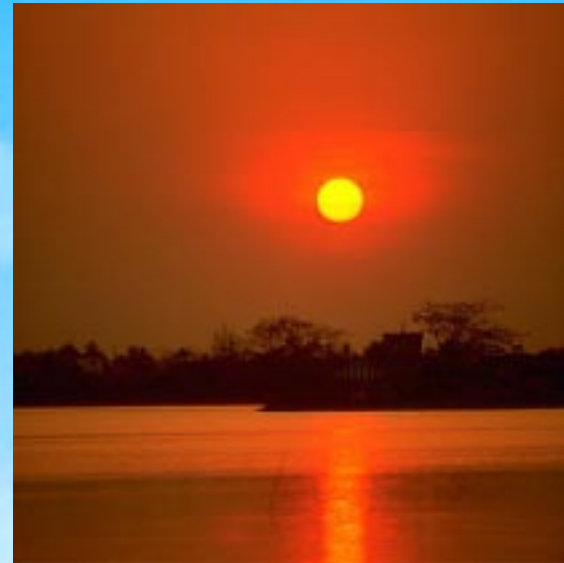
1 day

10^5 s



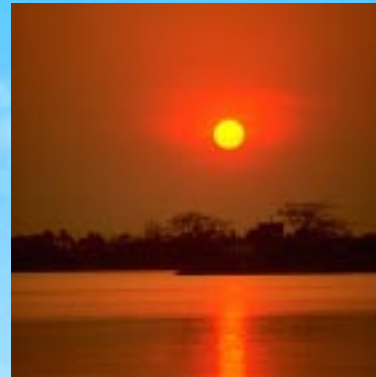
1 day

10^5 s



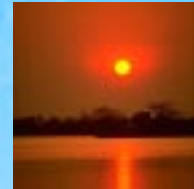
1 day

10^5 s



1 day

10^5 s



1 day

10^6 s



2 weeks

10^6 s



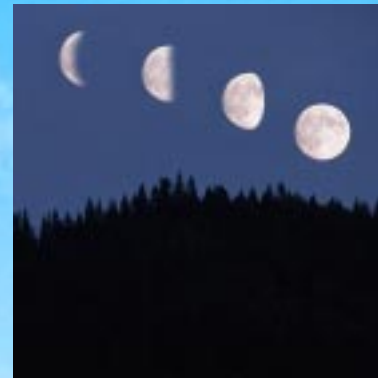
2 weeks

10^6 s



2 weeks

10^6 s



2 weeks

10^6 s



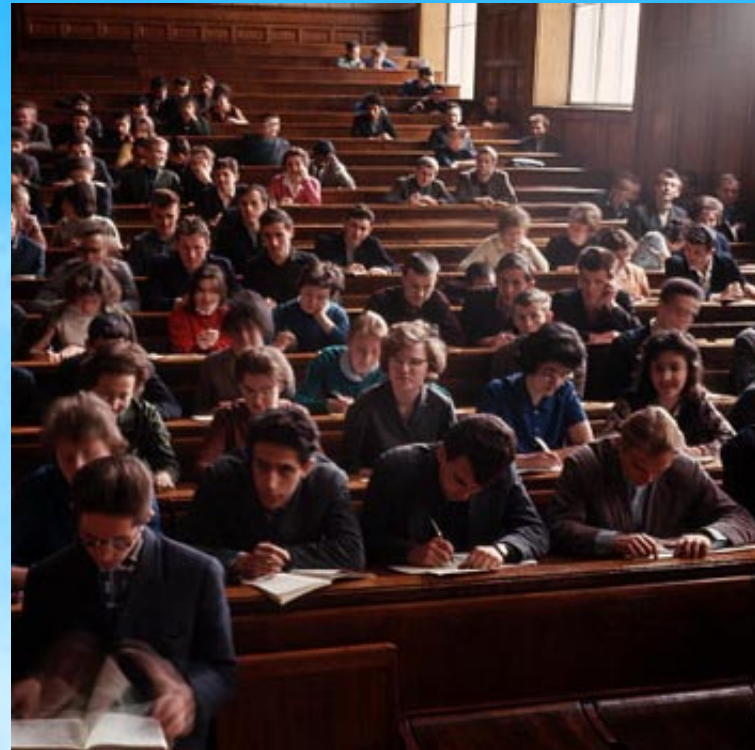
2 weeks

10^7 s



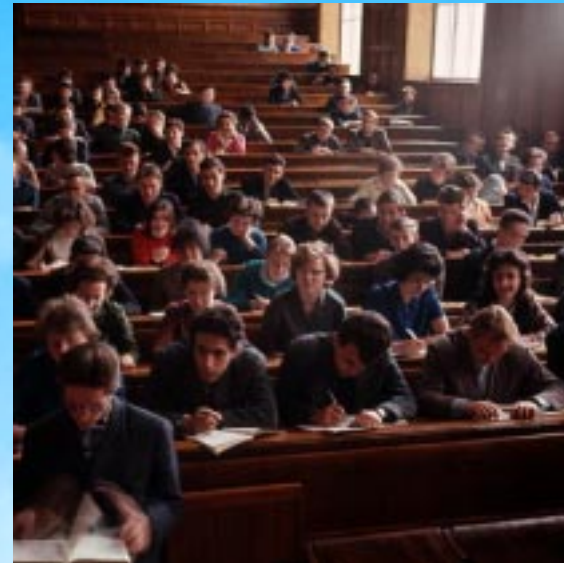
one semester

10^7 s



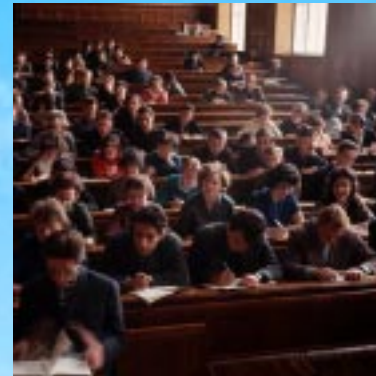
one semester

10^7 s



one semester

10^7 s



one semester

10^7 s



one semester

Proxima Centauri

10^8 s



3 years

Proxima Centauri

10^8 s



3 years

Proxima Centauri

10^8 s



3 years

Proxima Centauri

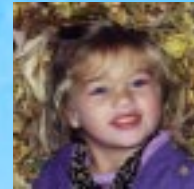
10^8 s



3 years

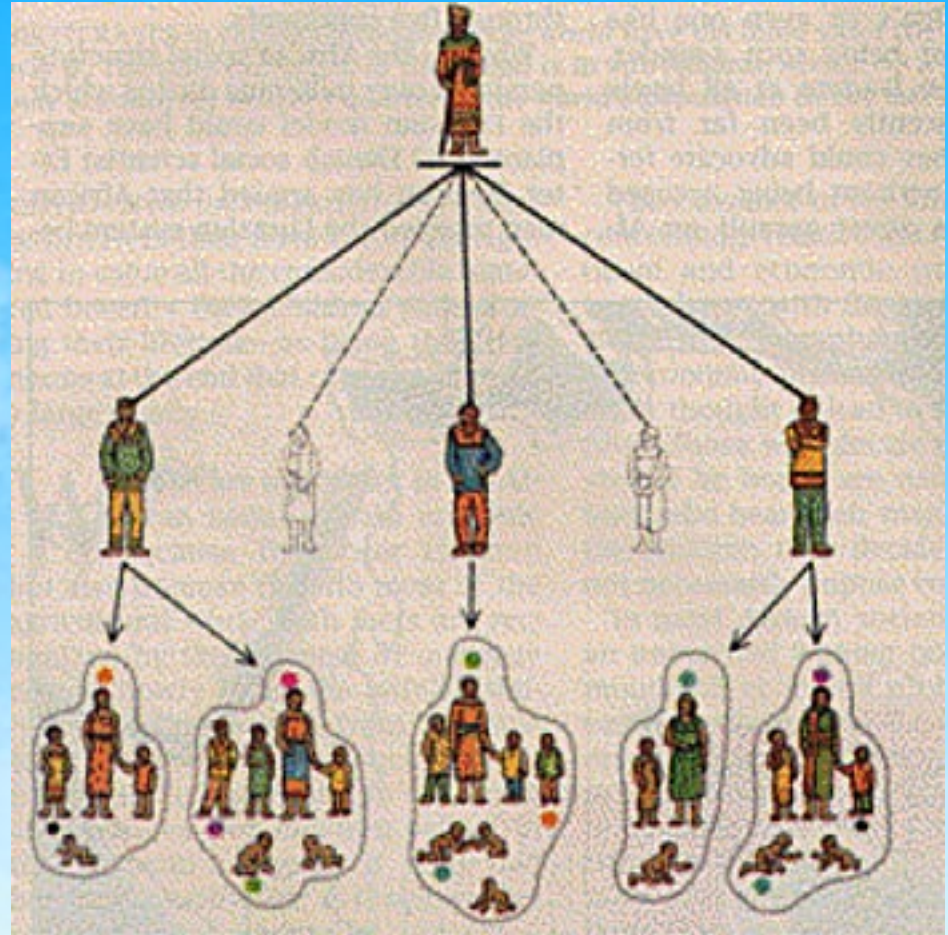
Proxima Centauri

10^8 s



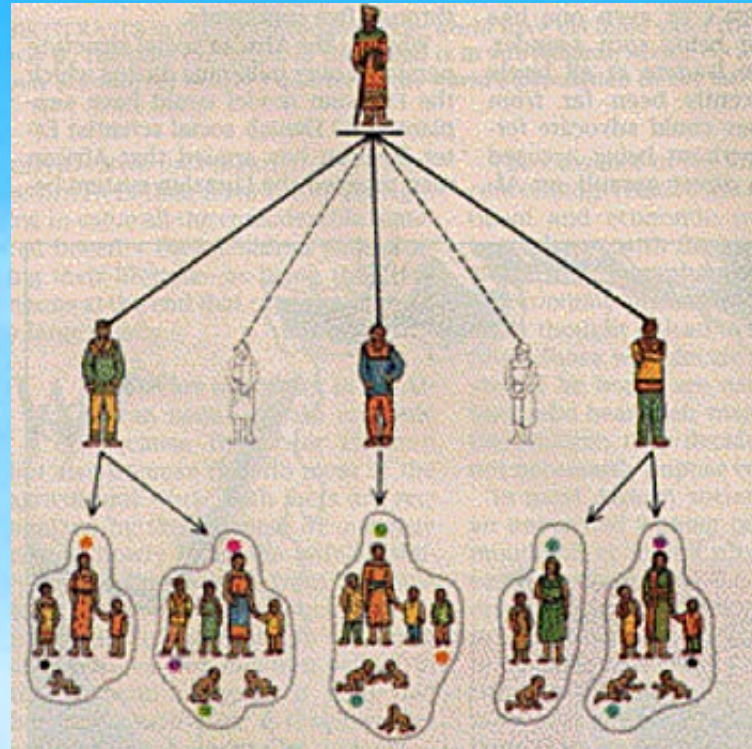
3 years

10^9 s



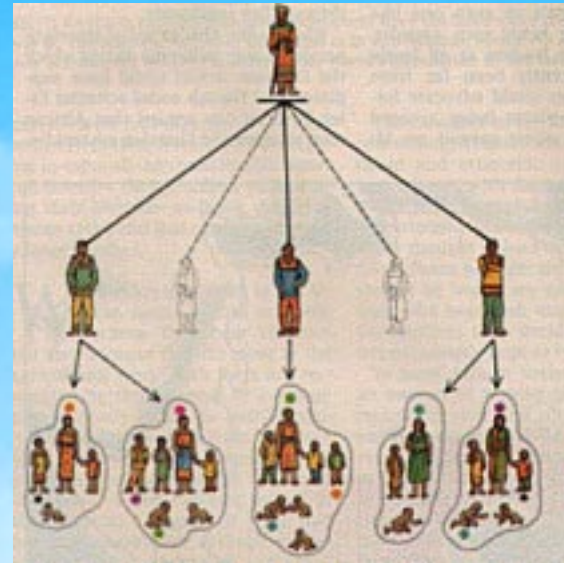
human generation

10^9 s



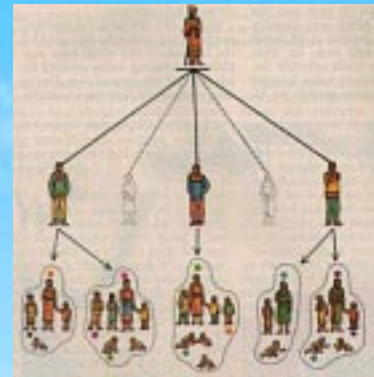
human generation

10^9 s



human generation

10^9 s



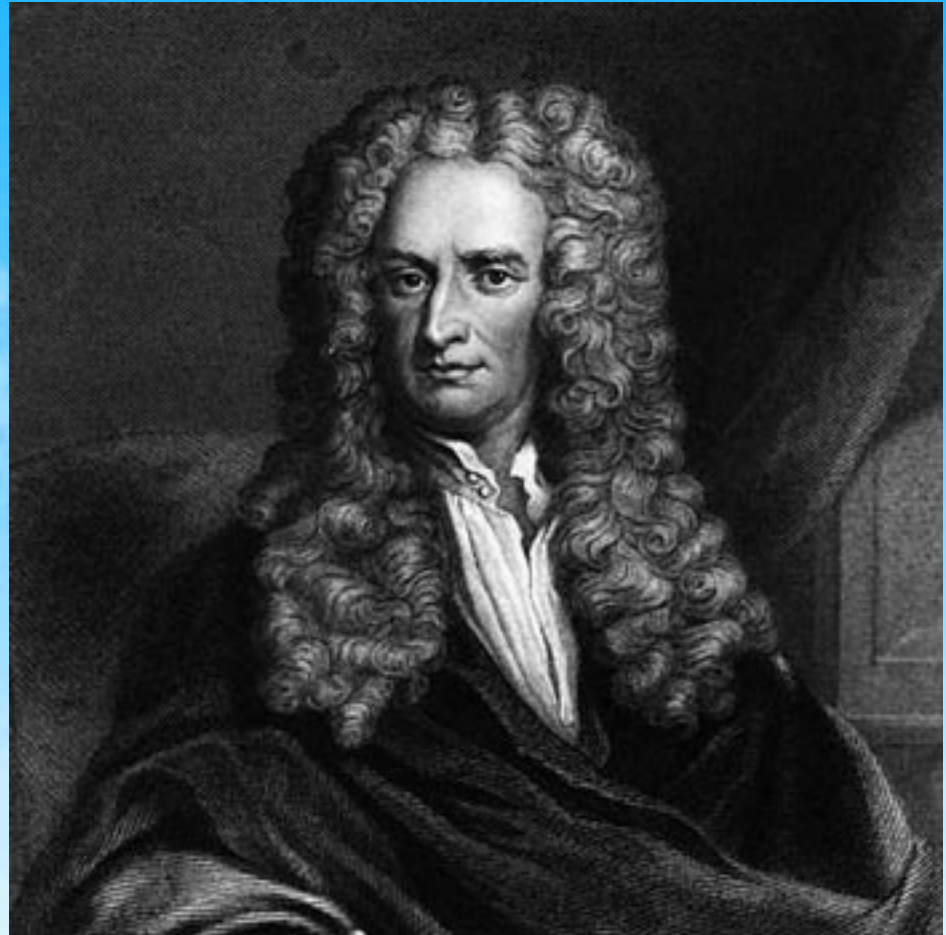
human generation

10^9 s



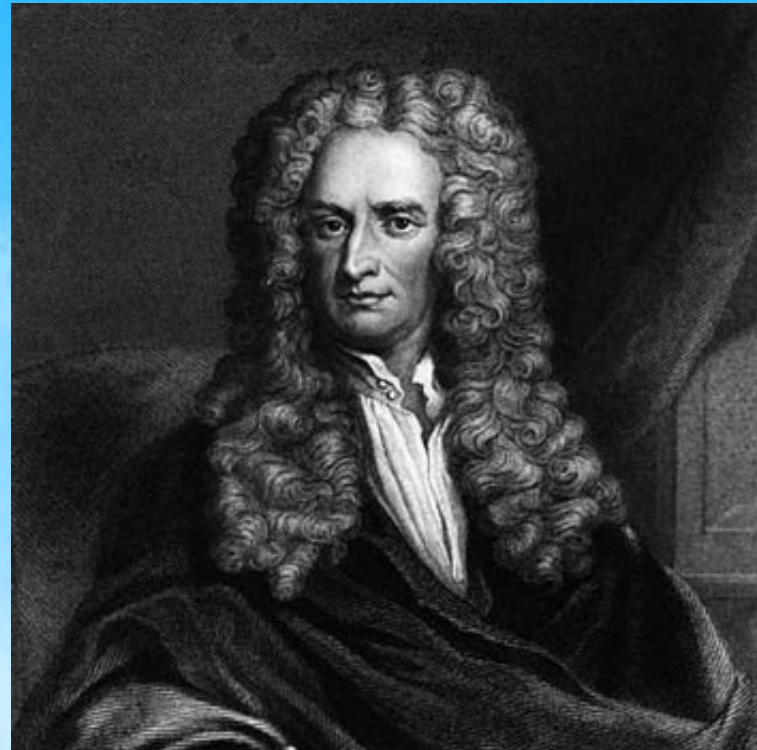
human generation

10^{10} s



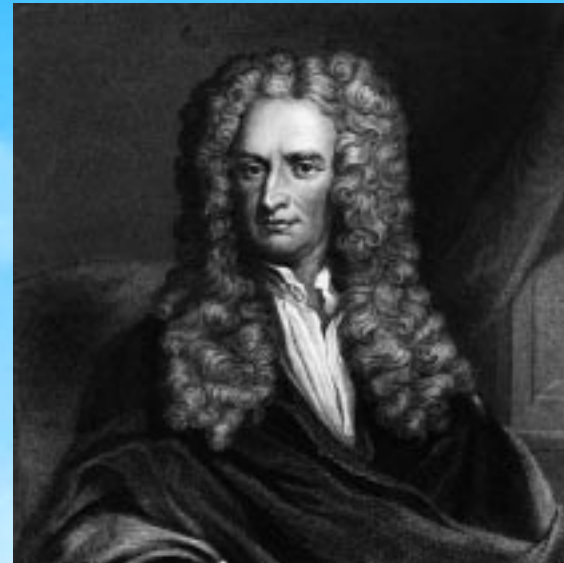
time since Newton

10^{10} s



time since Newton

10^{10} s



time since Newton

10^{10} s



time since Newton

10^{10} s



time since Newton

10^{11} s



ancient civilizations

10^{11} s



ancient civilizations

10^{11} s



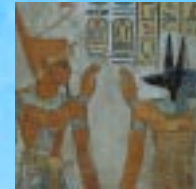
ancient civilizations

10^{11} s



ancient civilizations

10^{11} s



ancient civilizations

center of galaxy

10^{12} s



most recent ice age

center of galaxy

10^{12} s



most recent ice age

center of galaxy

10^{12} s



most recent ice age

center of galaxy

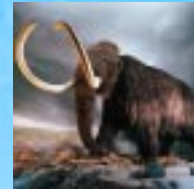
10^{12} s



most recent ice age

center of galaxy

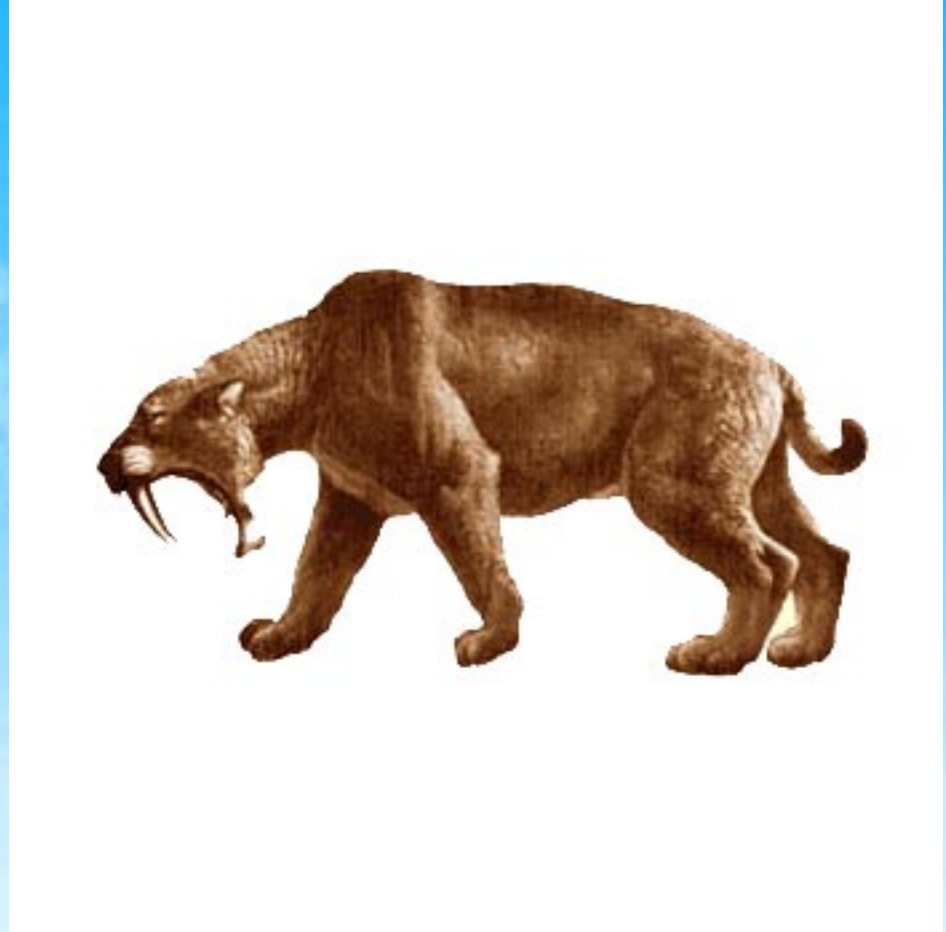
10^{12} s



most recent ice age

Andromeda galaxy

10^{13} s



300,000 years

Andromeda galaxy

10^{13} s



300,000 years

Andromeda galaxy

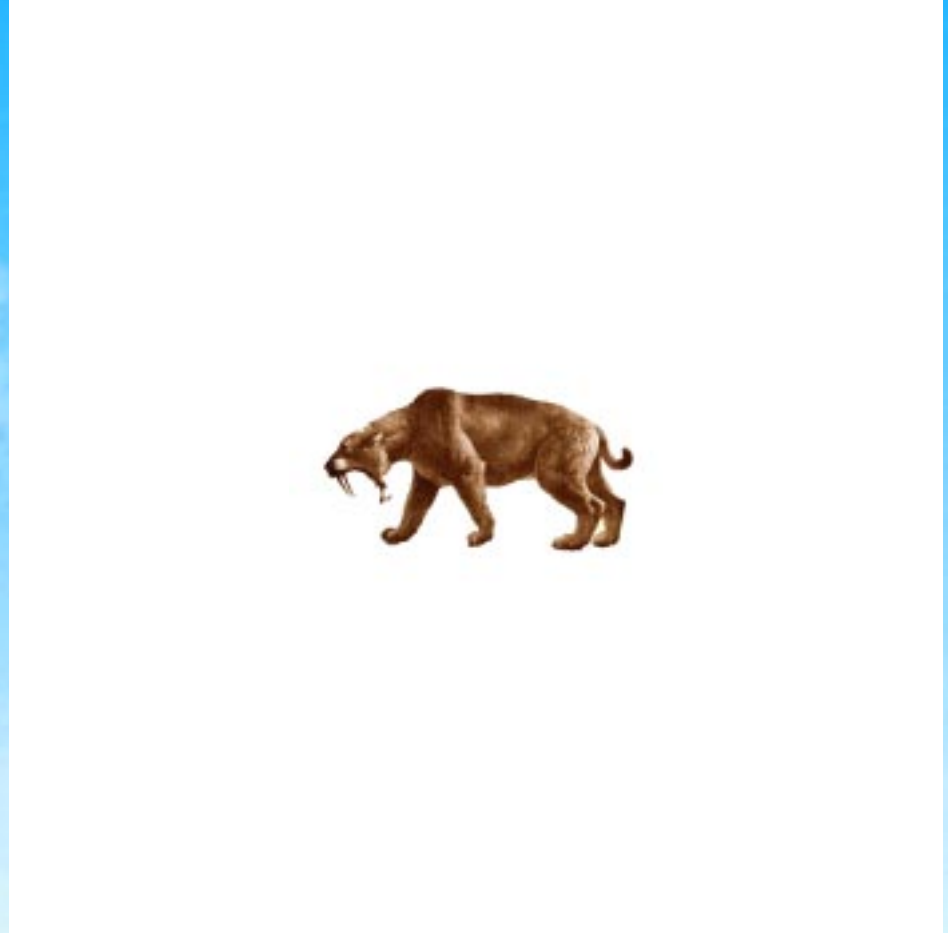
10^{13} s



300,000 years

Andromeda galaxy

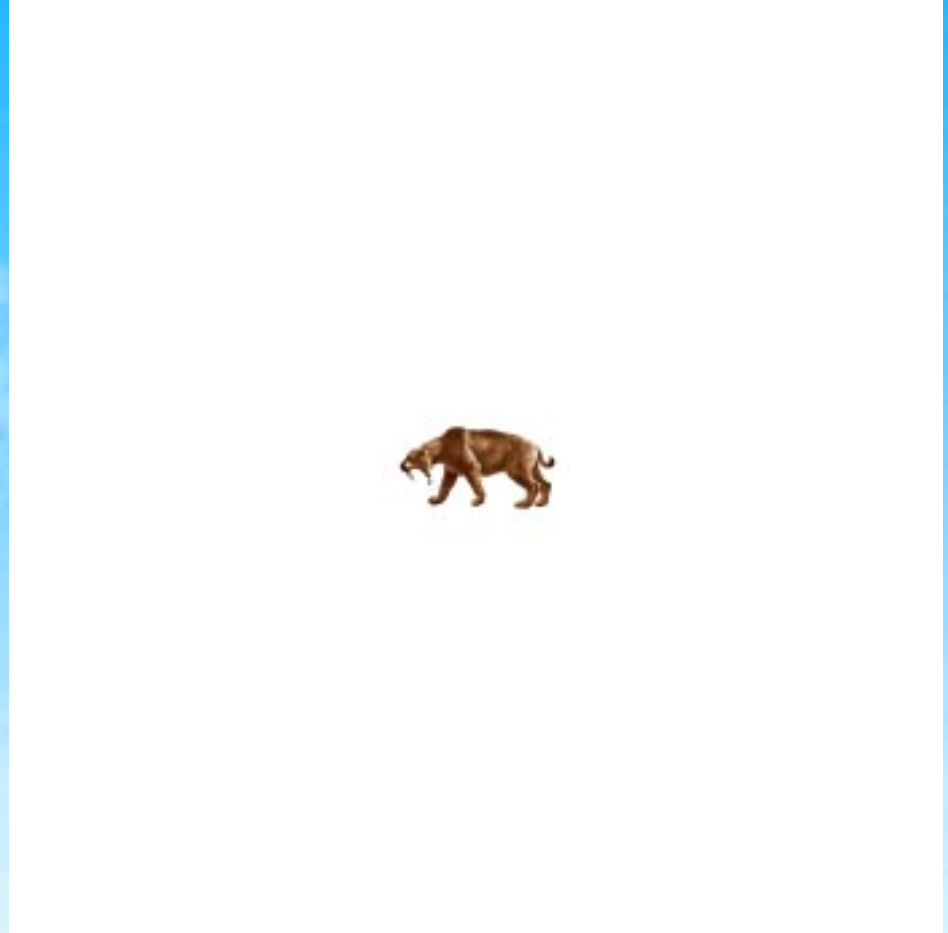
10^{13} s



300,000 years

Andromeda galaxy

10^{13} s



300,000 years

10^{14} s



earliest human

10^{14} s



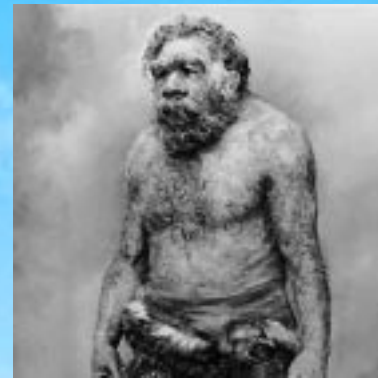
earliest human

10^{14} s



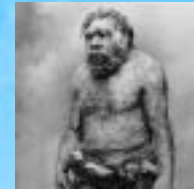
earliest human

10^{14} s



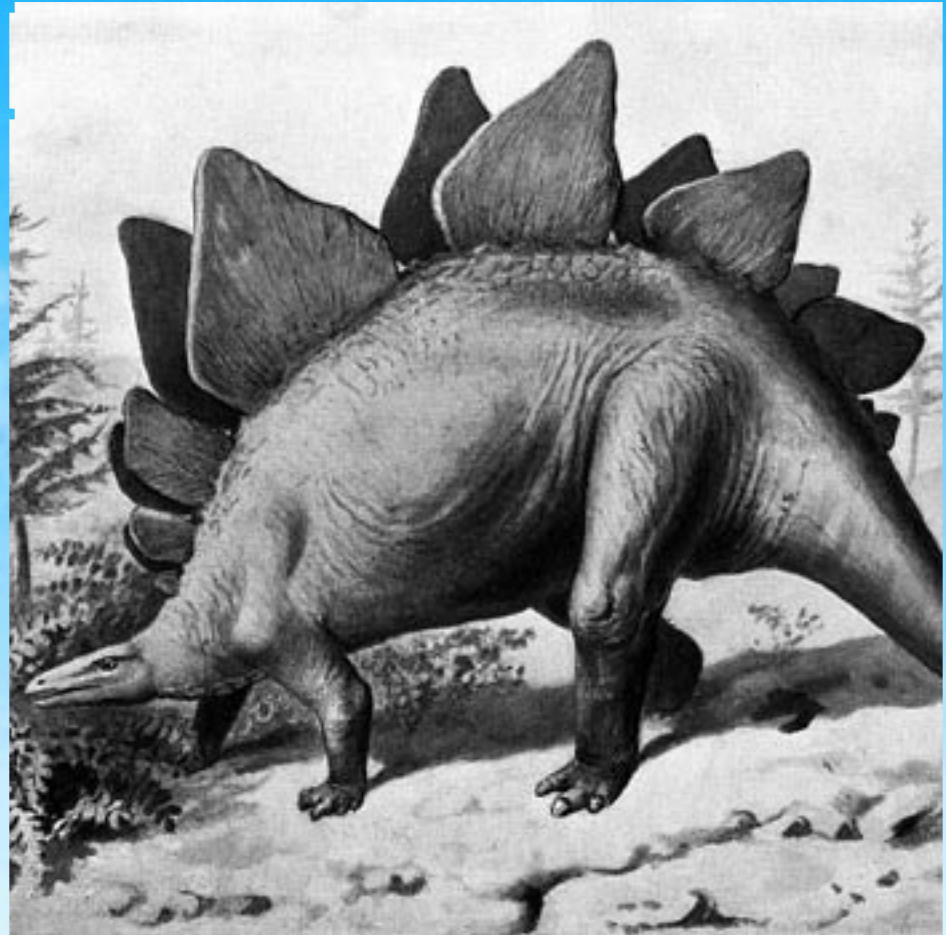
earliest human

10^{14} s



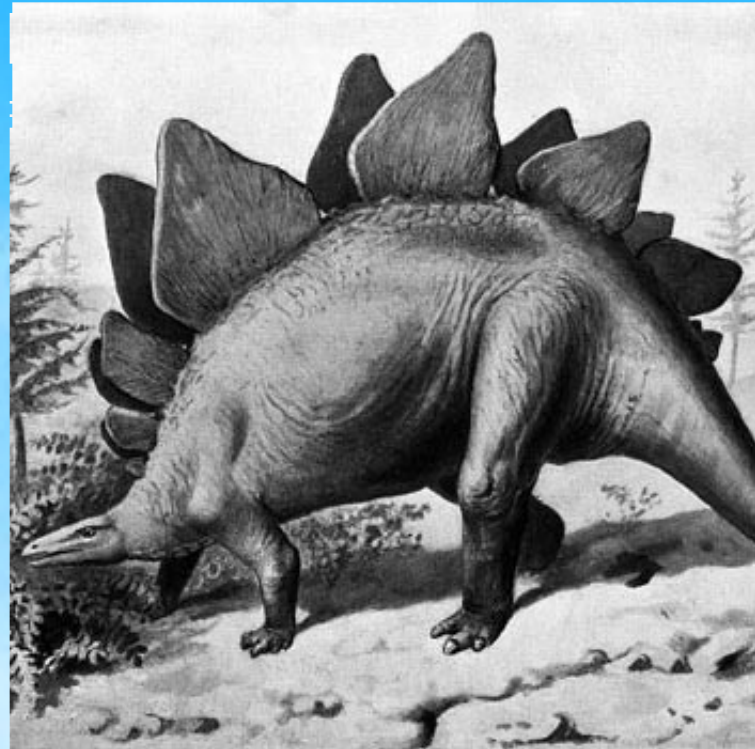
earliest human

10^{15} s



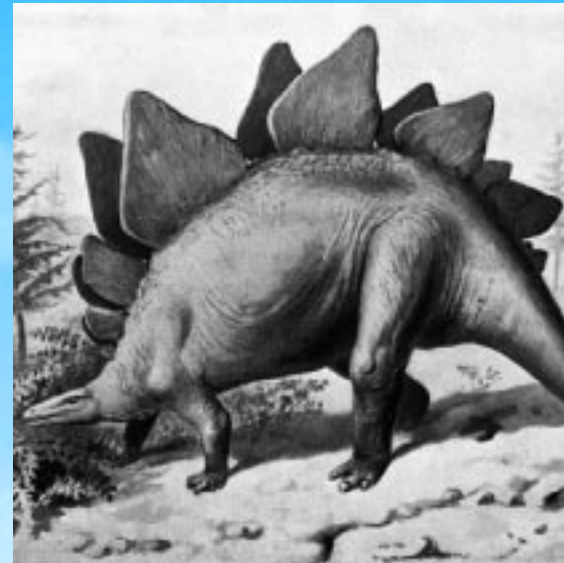
dinosaurs

10^{15} s



dinosaurs

10^{15} s



dinosaurs

10^{15} s



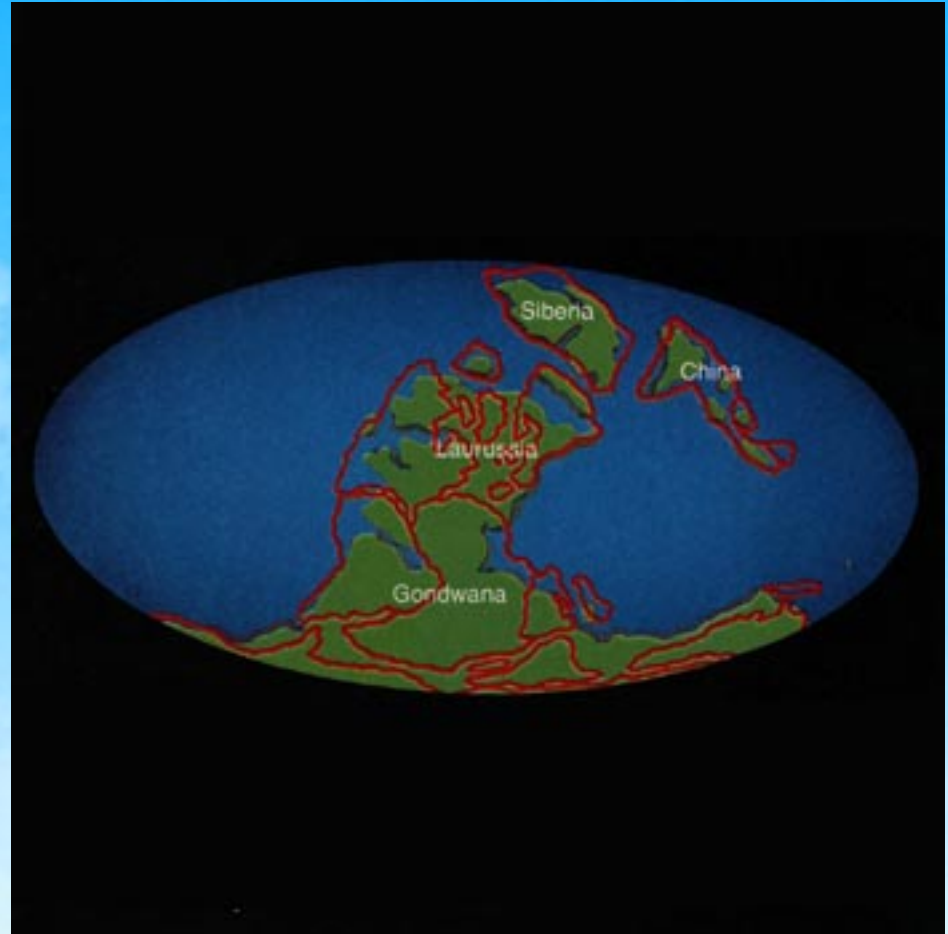
dinosaurs

10^{15} s



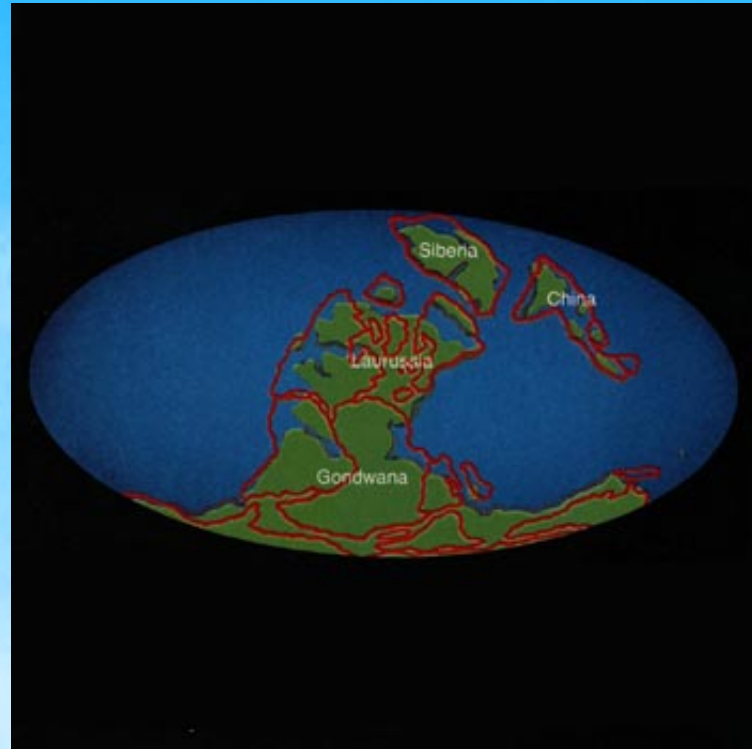
dinosaurs

10^{16} s



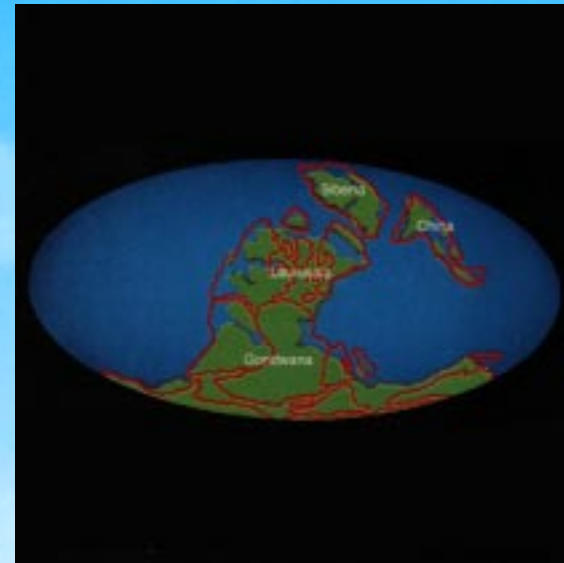
continental drift

10^{16} s



continental drift

10^{16} s



continental drift

10^{16} s



continental drift

10^{16} s



continental drift

10^{17} s



age of the solar system

10^{17} s



age of the solar system

10^{17} s



age of the solar system

10^{17} s



age of the solar system

10^{17} s



age of the solar system

edge of the universe

10^{18} s



age of known universe

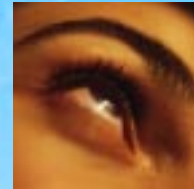
moon

10^0 s



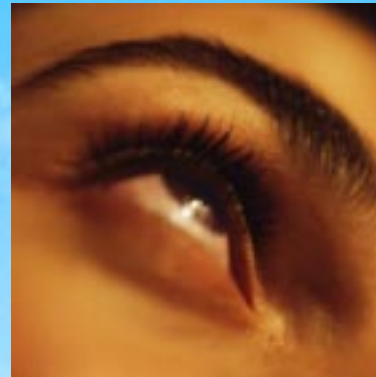
one second

10^{-1} s



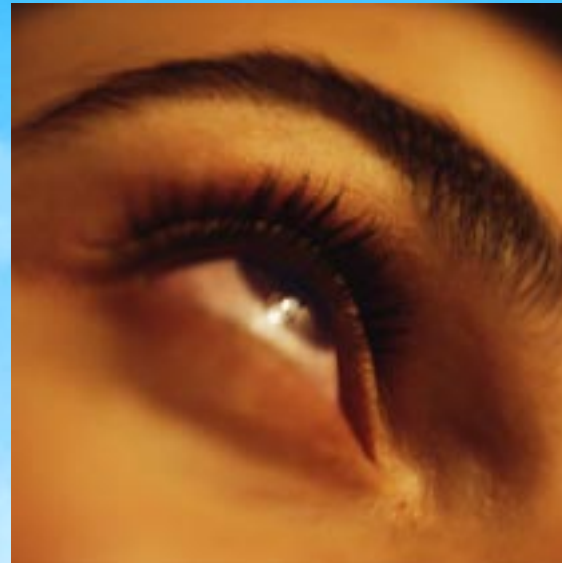
blink of an eye

10^{-1} s



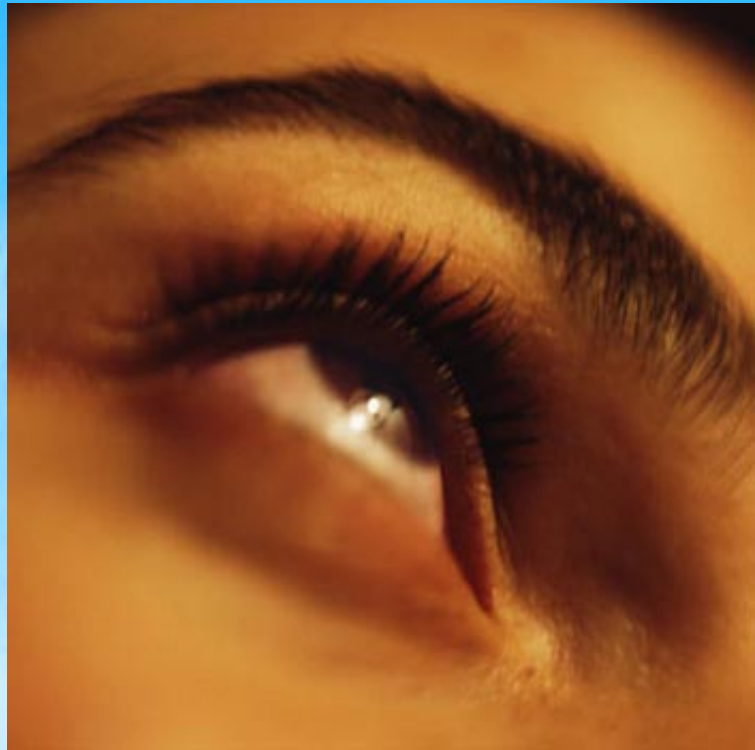
blink of an eye

10^{-1} s



blink of an eye

10^{-1} s



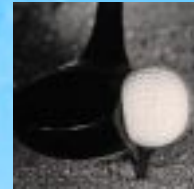
blink of an eye

10^{-1} s



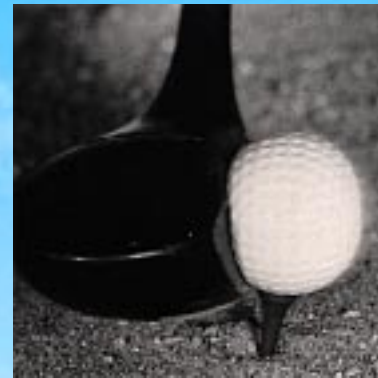
blink of an eye

10^{-2} s



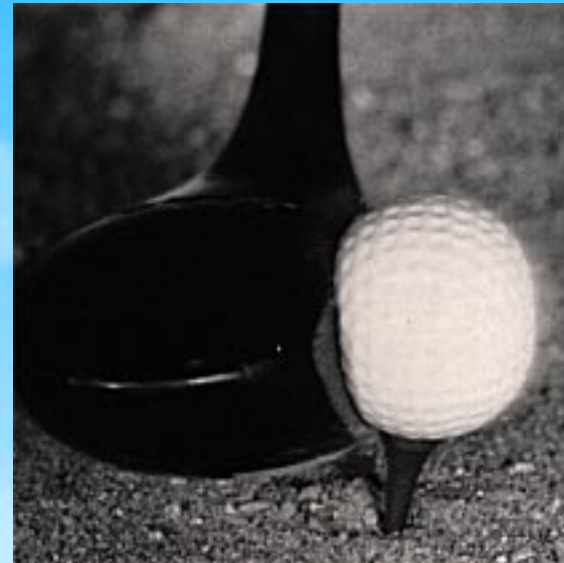
golf swing

10^{-2} s



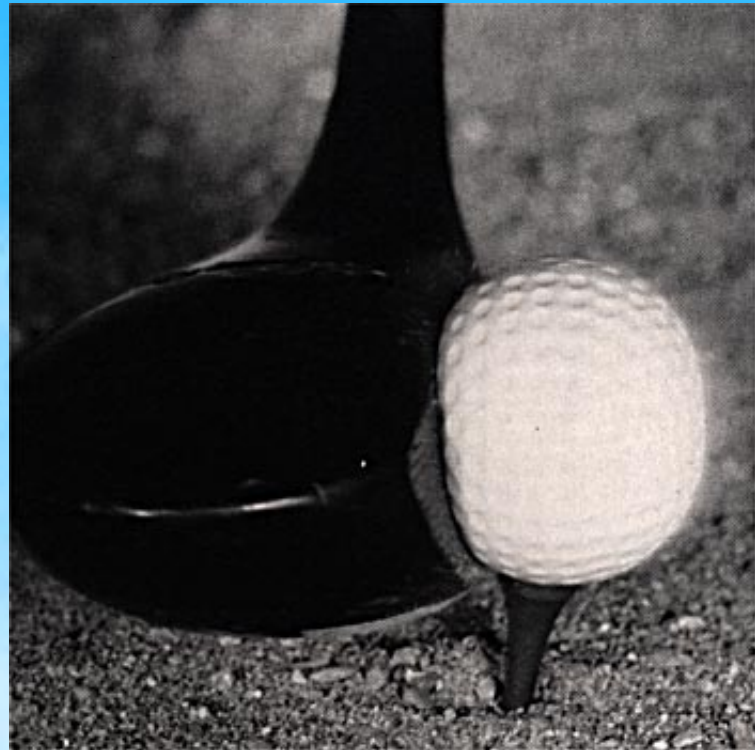
golf swing

10^{-2} s



golf swing

10^{-2} s



golf swing

10^{-2} s



golf swing

San Francisco

10^{-3} s



wingbeat of fly

San Francisco

10^{-3} s



wingbeat of fly

San Francisco

10^{-3} s



wingbeat of fly

San Francisco

10^{-3} s



wingbeat of fly

San Francisco

10^{-3} s



wingbeat of fly

10^{-4} s



lightning

10^{-4} s



lightning

10^{-4} s



lightning

10^{-4} s



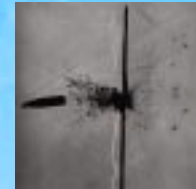
lightning

10^{-4} s



lightning

10^{-5} s



bullet through glass

10^{-5} s



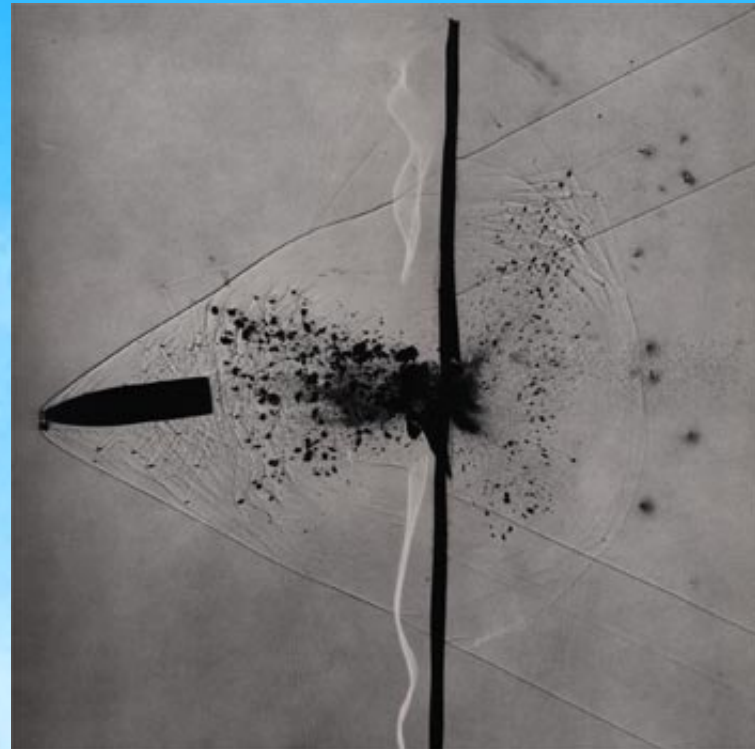
bullet through glass

10^{-5} s



bullet through glass

10^{-5} s



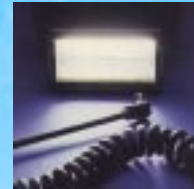
bullet through glass

10^{-5} s



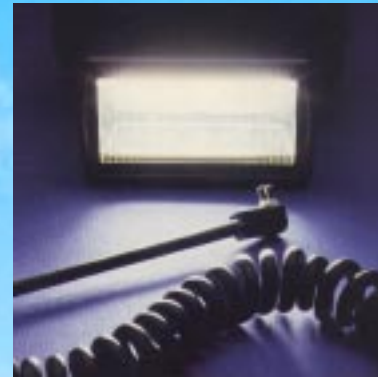
bullet through glass

10^{-6} s



strobe flash

10^{-6} s



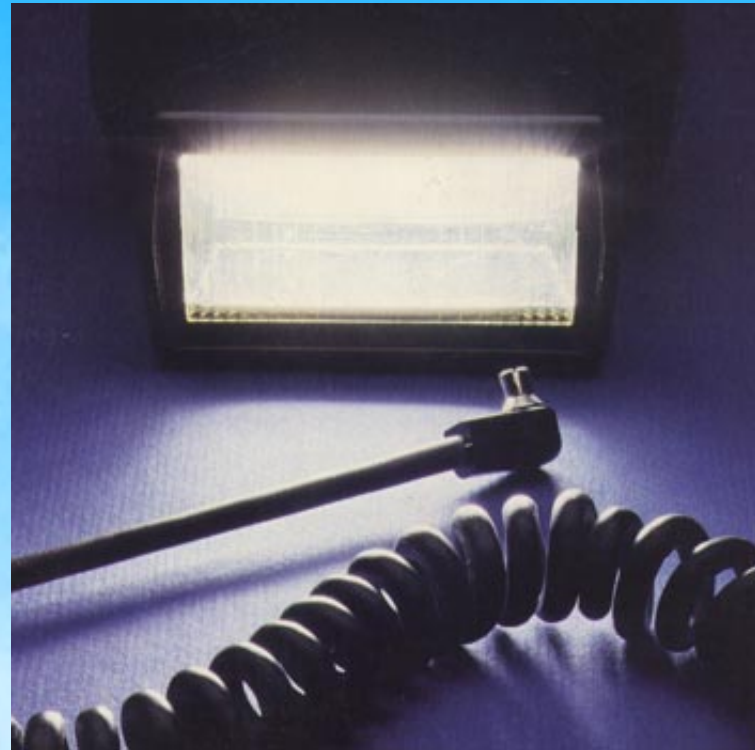
strobe flash

10^{-6} s



strobe flash

10^{-6} s



strobe flash

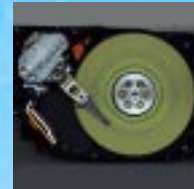
10^{-6} s



strobe flash

lecture hall

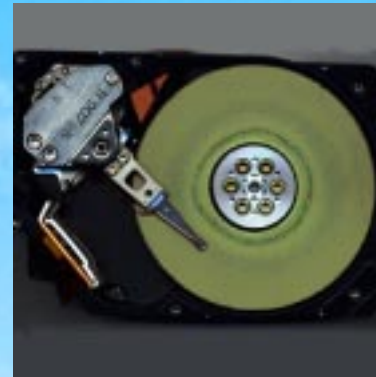
10^{-7} s



hard disk write time

lecture hall

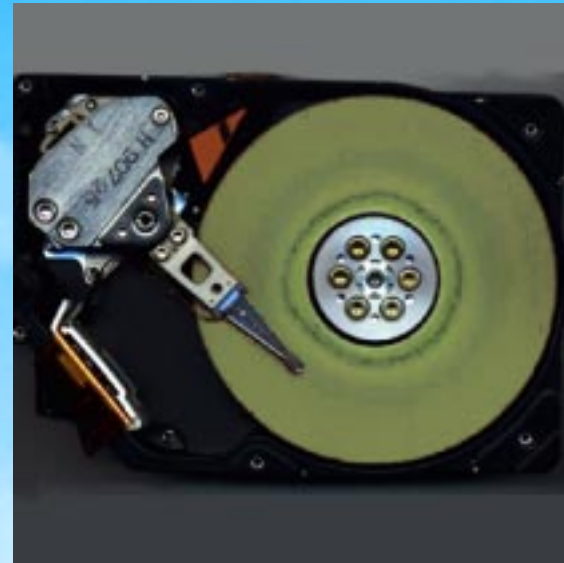
10^{-7} s



hard disk write time

lecture hall

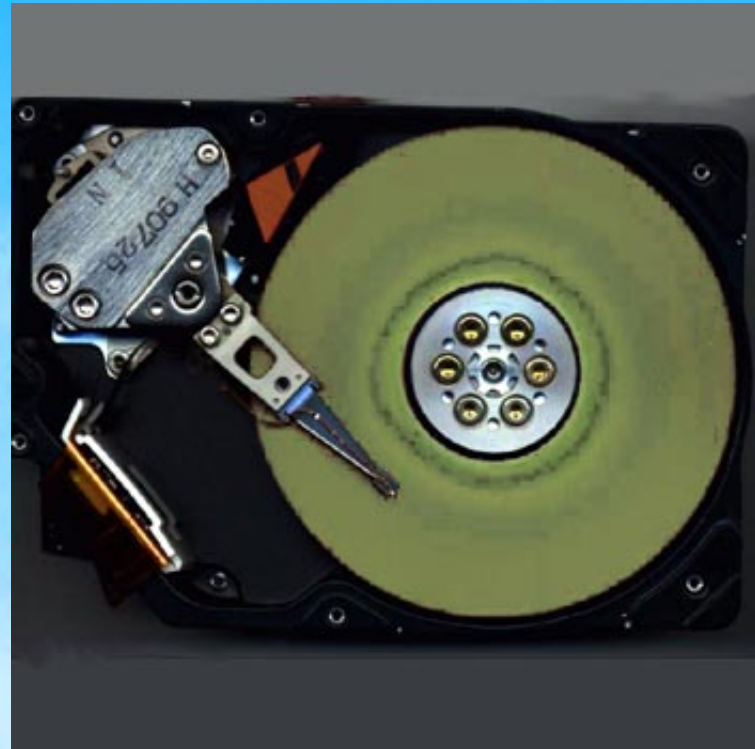
10^{-7} s



hard disk write time

lecture hall

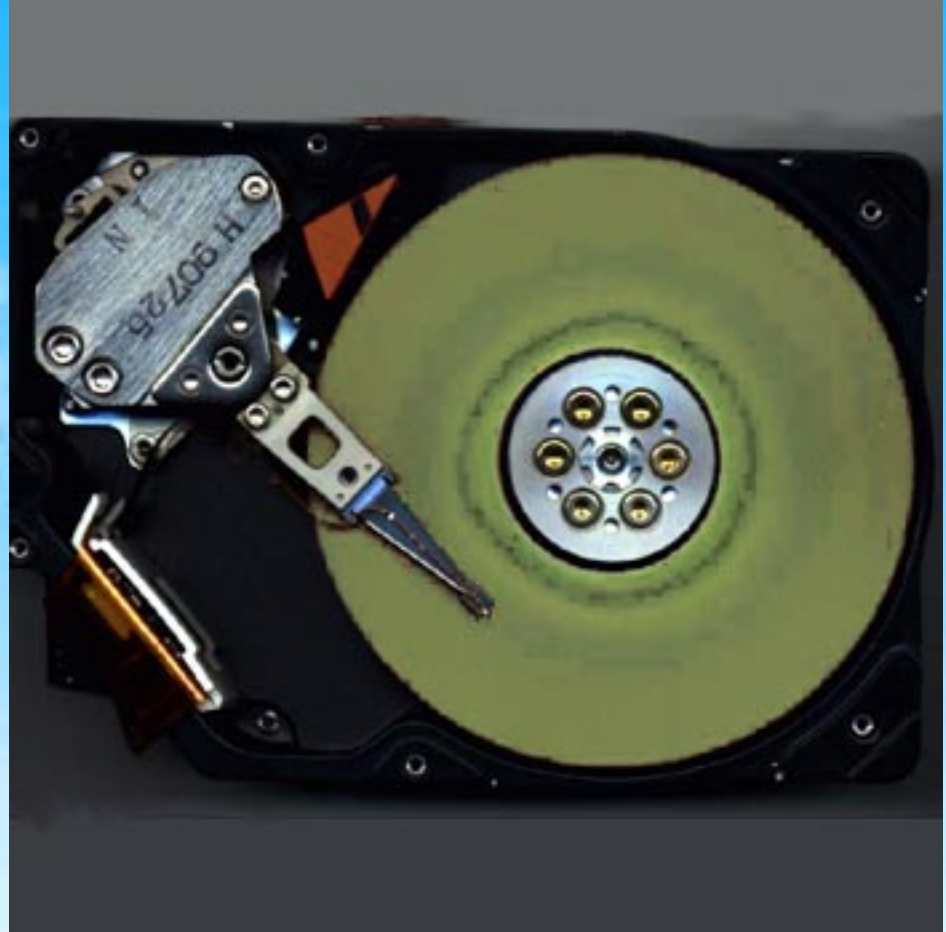
10^{-7} s



hard disk write time

lecture hall

10^{-7} s



hard disk write time

10^{-8} s



Deep Blue calculation

10^{-8} s



Deep Blue calculation

10^{-8} s



Deep Blue calculation

10^{-8} s



Deep Blue calculation

10^{-8} s



Deep Blue calculation

one foot

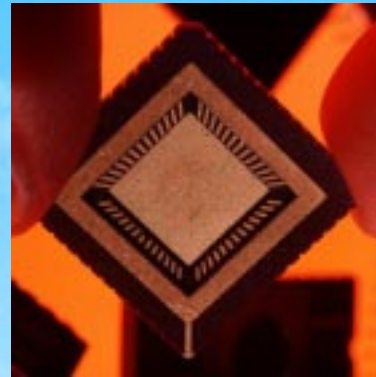
10^{-9} s



clock speed of chip

one foot

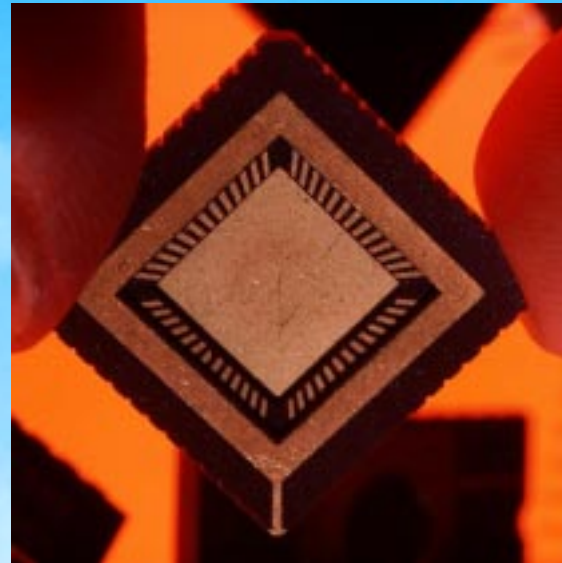
10^{-9} s



clock speed of chip

one foot

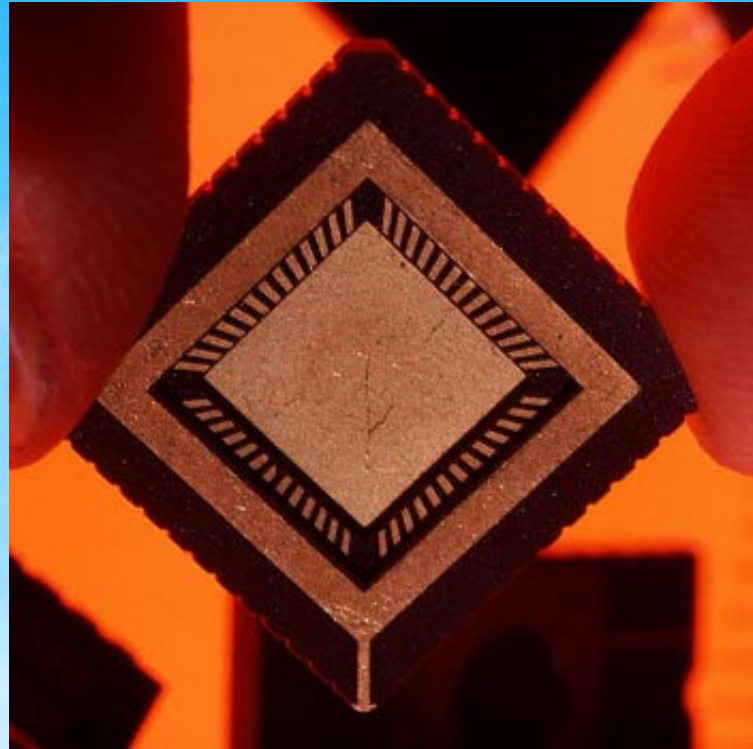
10^{-9} s



clock speed of chip

one foot

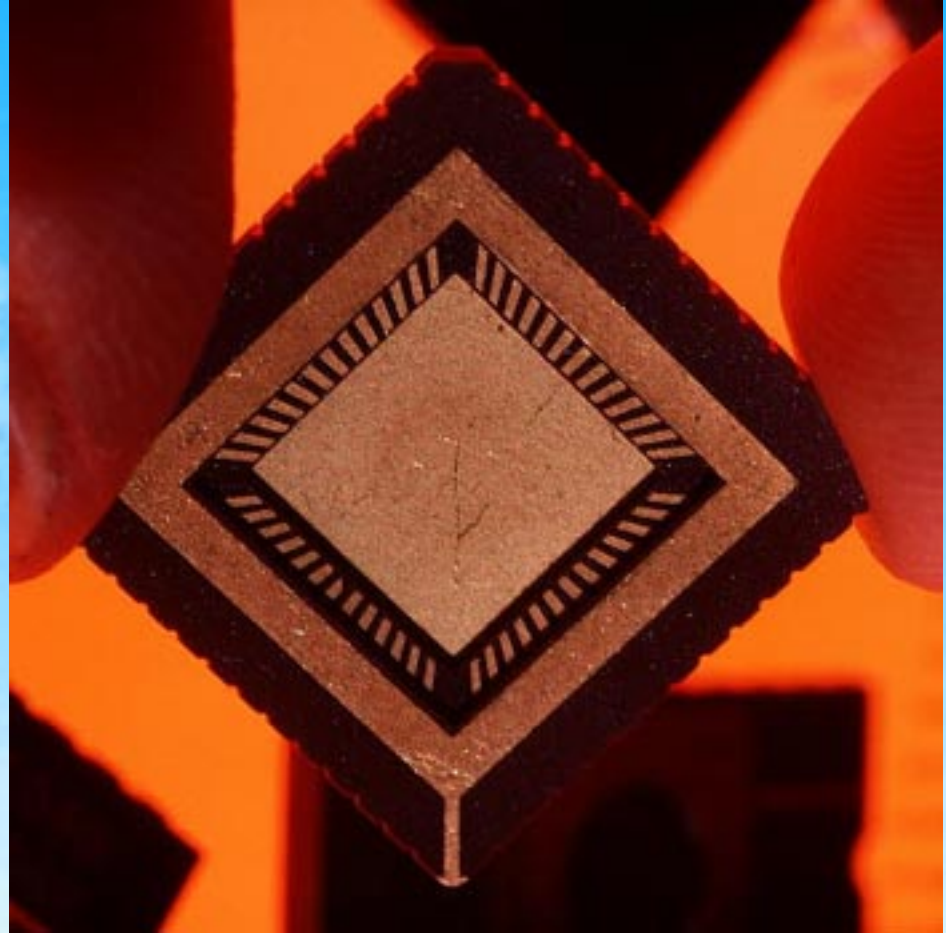
10^{-9} s



clock speed of chip

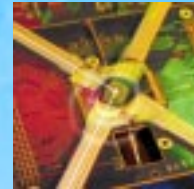
one foot

10^{-9} s



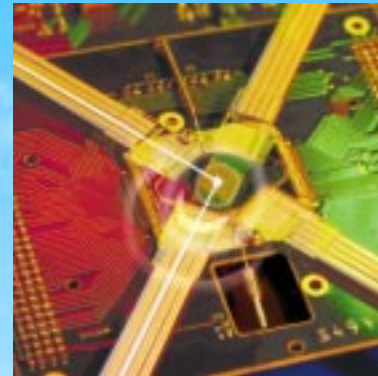
clock speed of chip

10^{-10} s



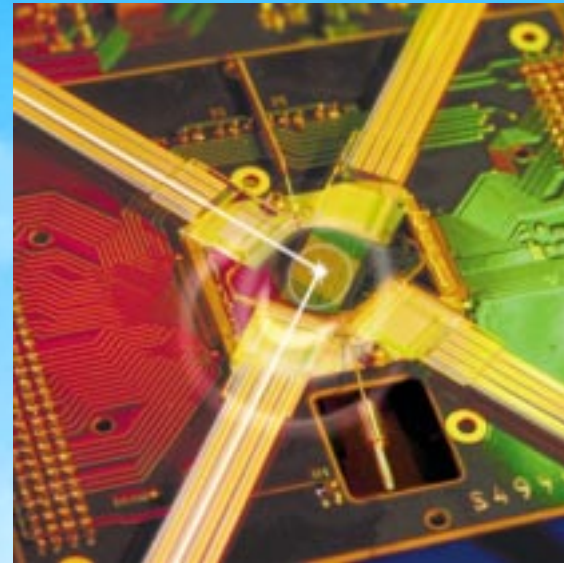
fastest electronic switch

10^{-10} s



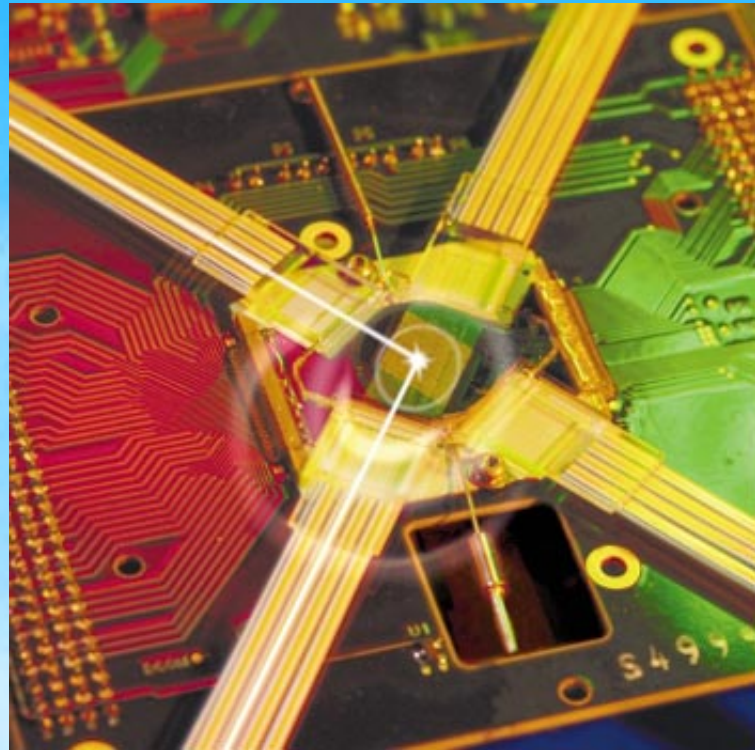
fastest electronic switch

10^{-10} s



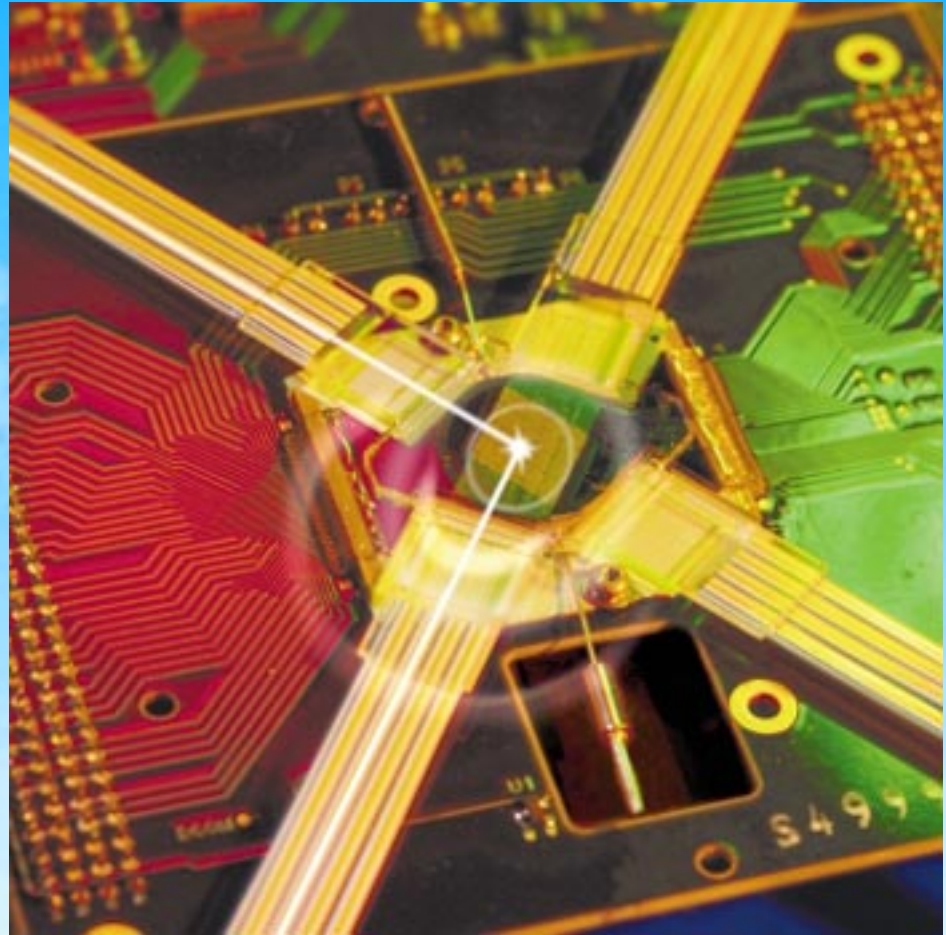
fastest electronic switch

10^{-10} s



fastest electronic switch

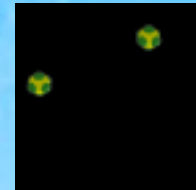
10^{-10} s



fastest electronic switch

window pane

10^{-11} s



molecular collision

window pane

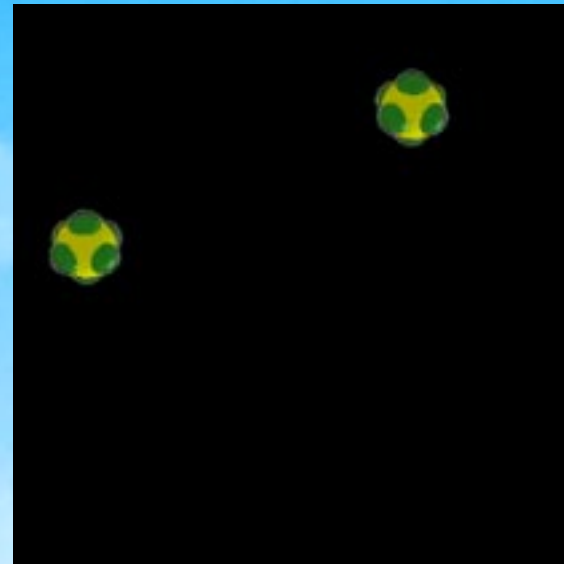
10^{-11} s



molecular collision

window pane

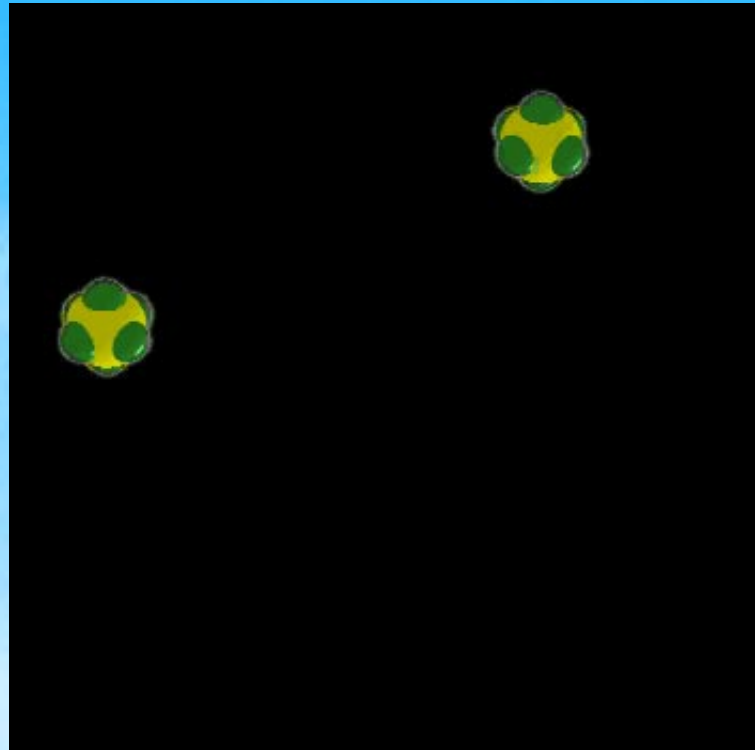
10^{-11} s



molecular collision

window pane

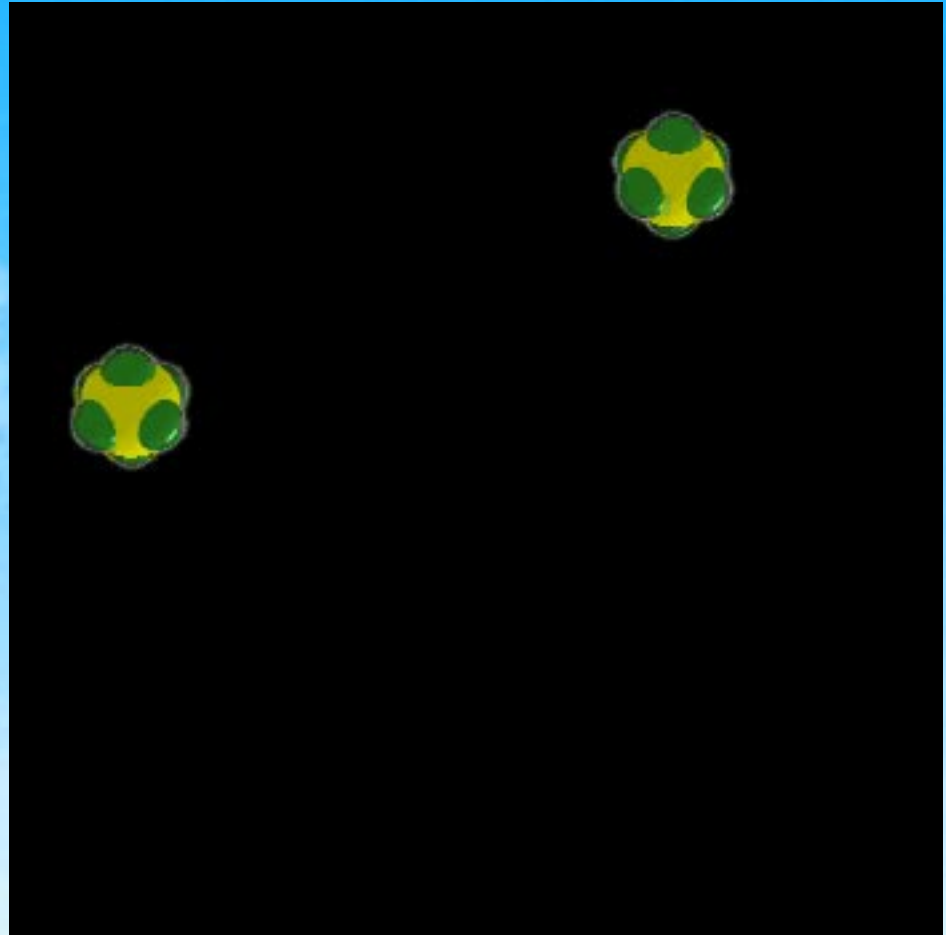
10^{-11} s



molecular collision

window pane

10^{-11} s



molecular collision

10^{-12} s



molecular rotation

10^{-12} s



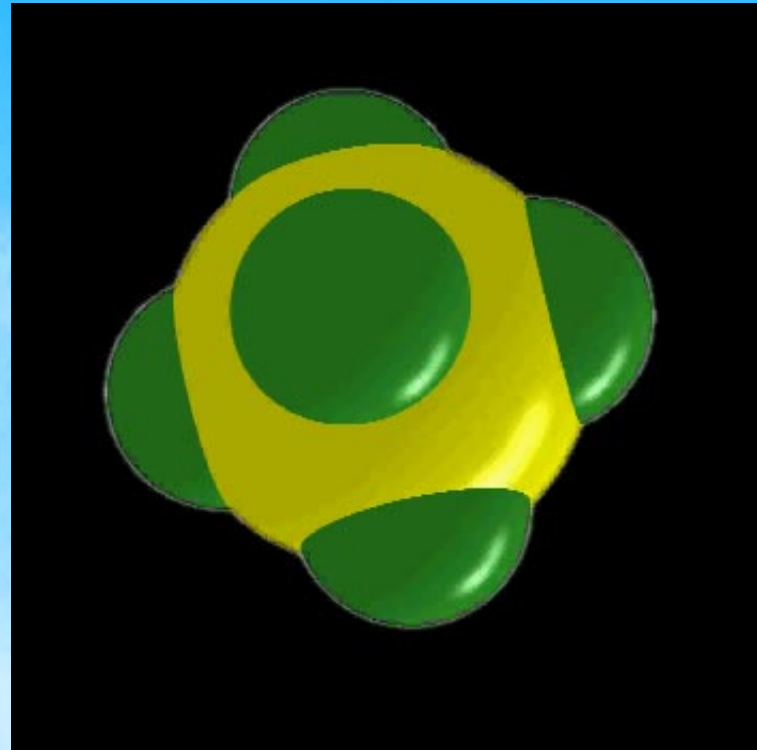
molecular rotation

10^{-12} s



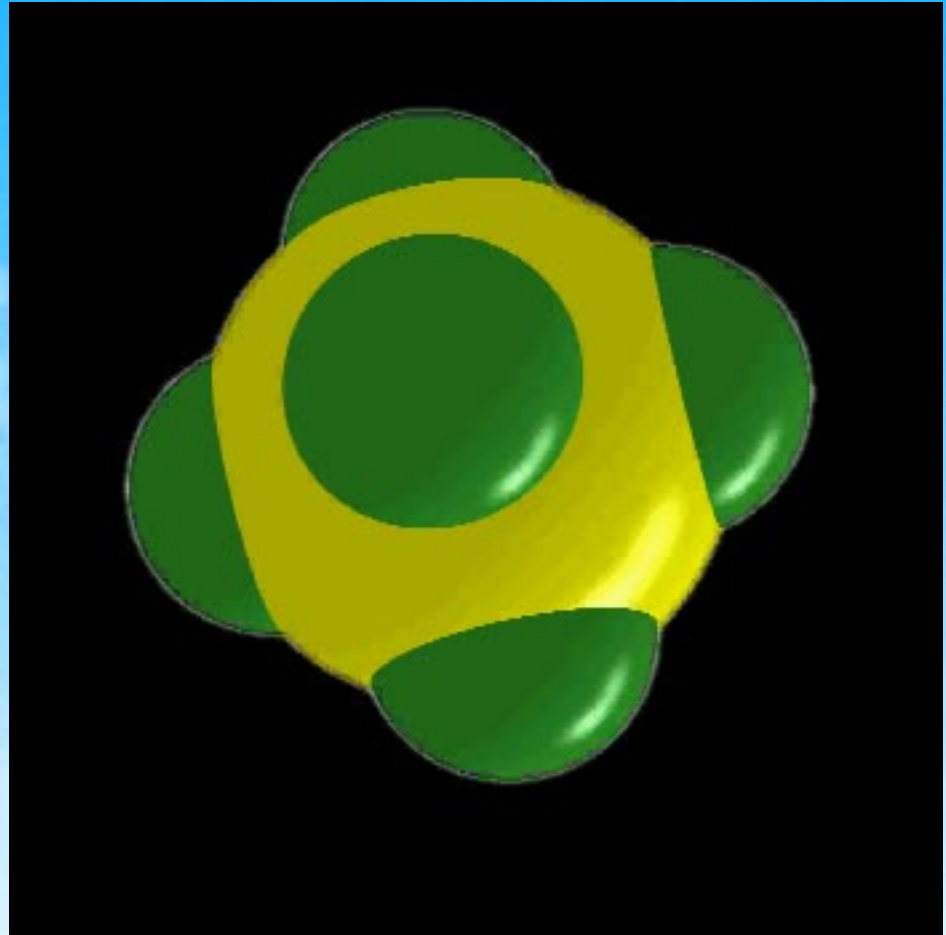
molecular rotation

10^{-12} s



molecular rotation

10^{-12} s



molecular rotation

width of human hair

10^{-13} s



molecular vibration

width of human hair

10^{-13} s



molecular vibration

width of human hair

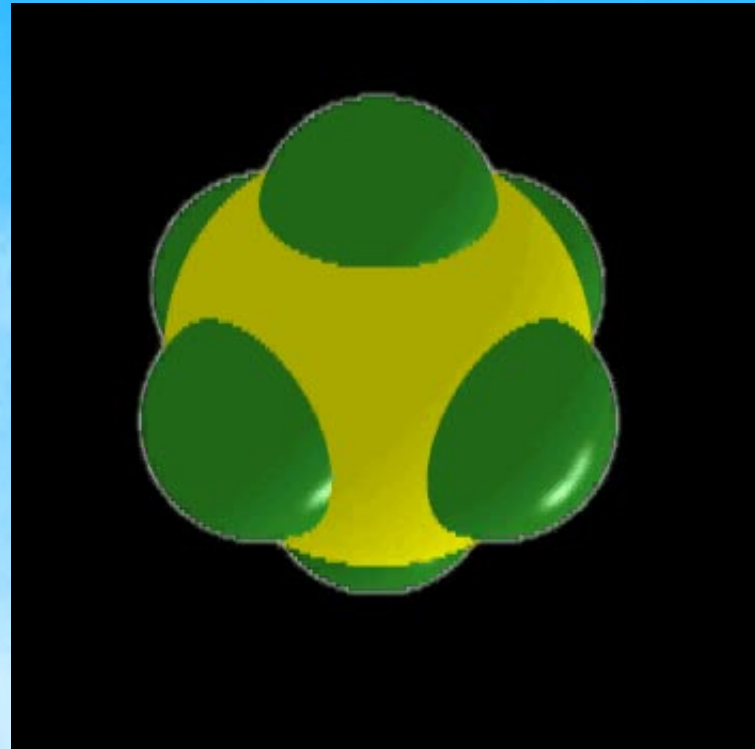
10^{-13} s



molecular vibration

width of human hair

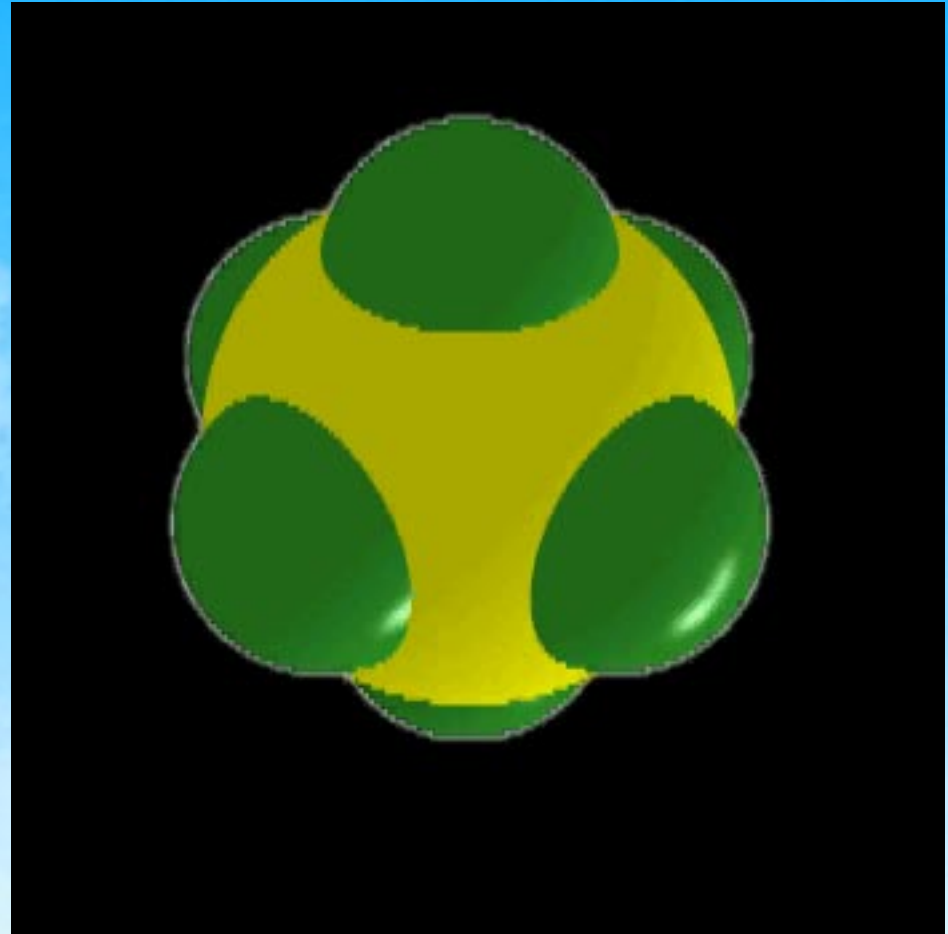
10^{-13} s



molecular vibration

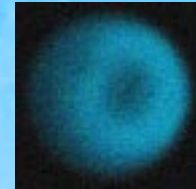
width of human hair

10^{-13} s



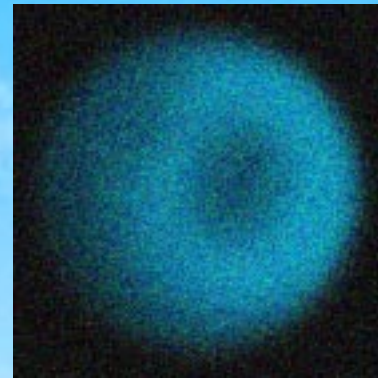
molecular vibration

10^{-14} s



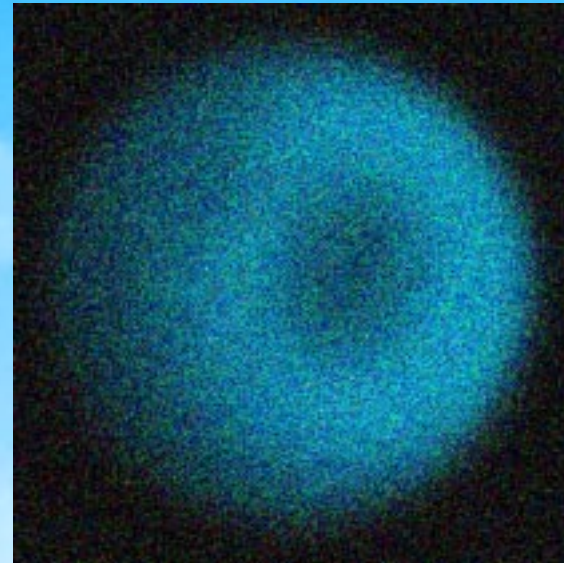
electronic collision

10^{-14} s



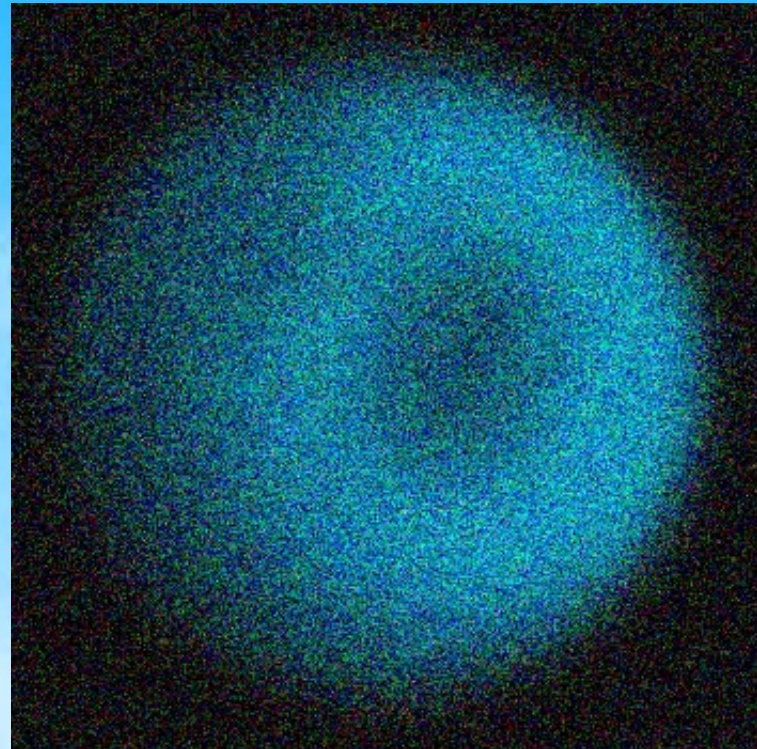
electronic collision

10^{-14} s



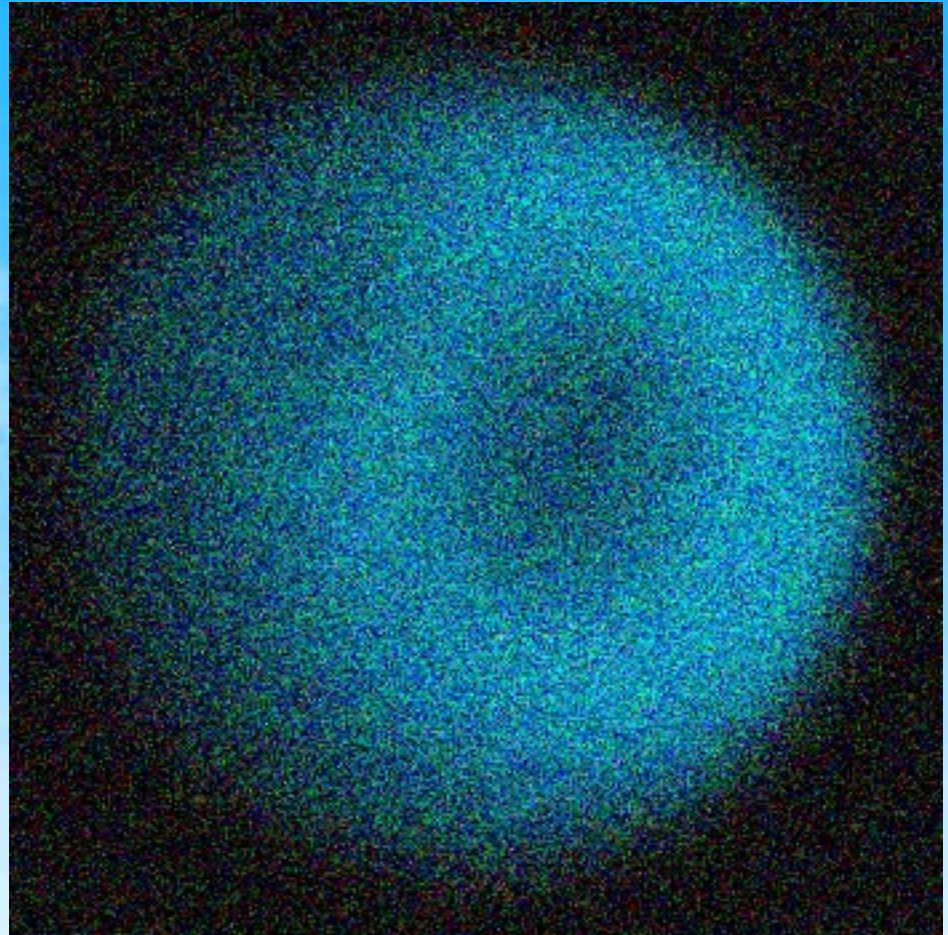
electronic collision

10^{-14} s



electronic collision

10^{-14} s

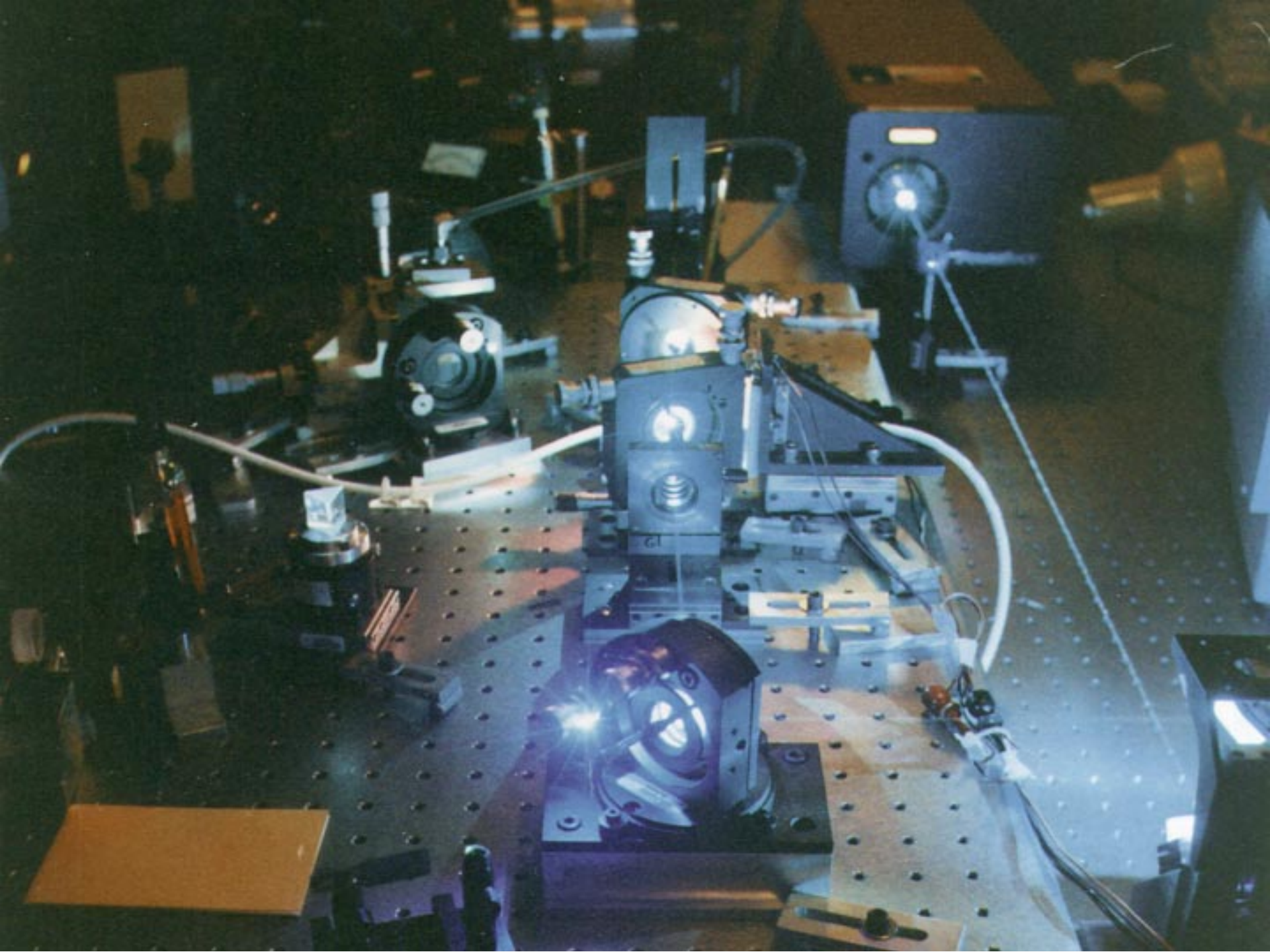


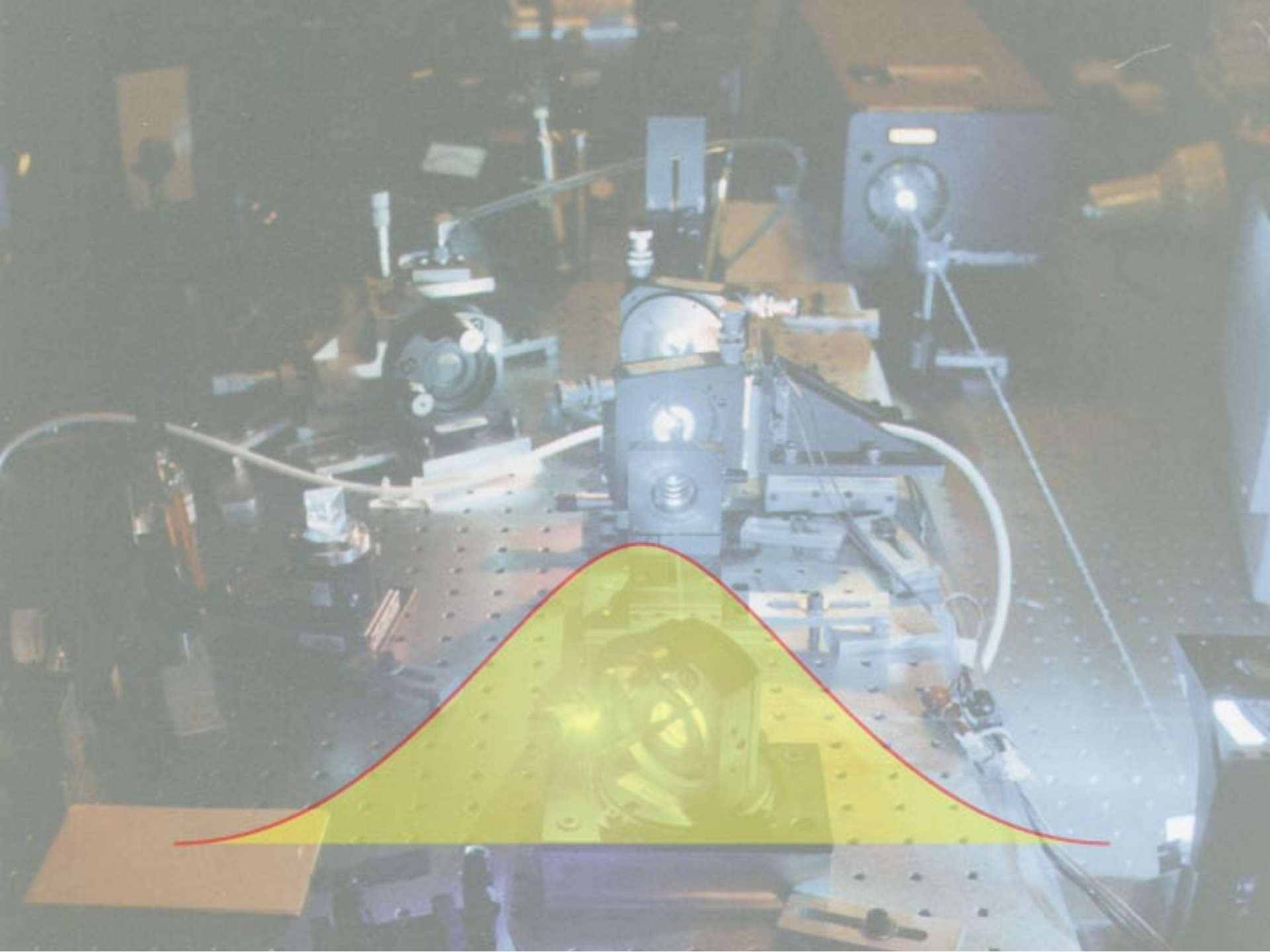
electronic collision

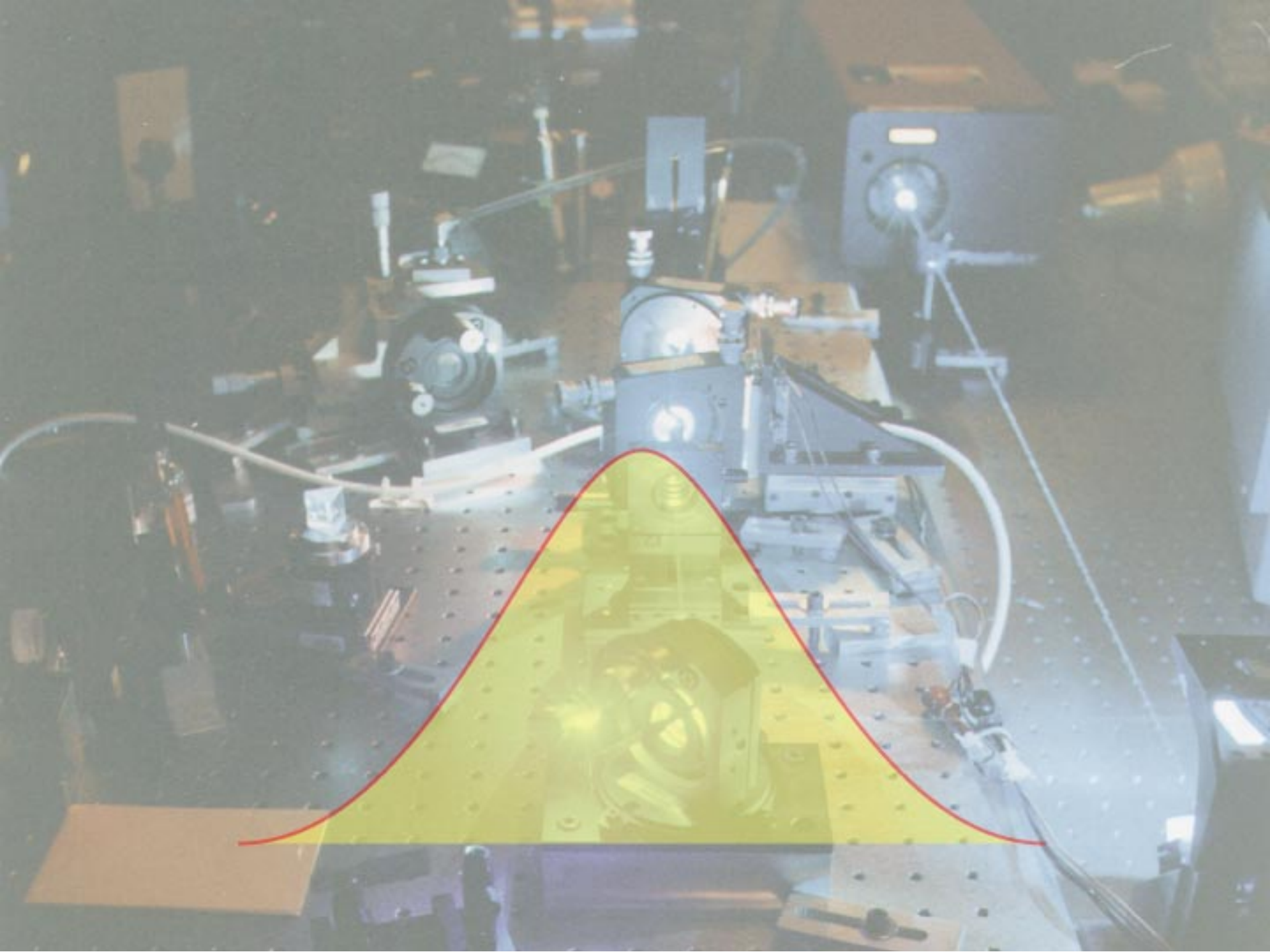
100 atomic layers

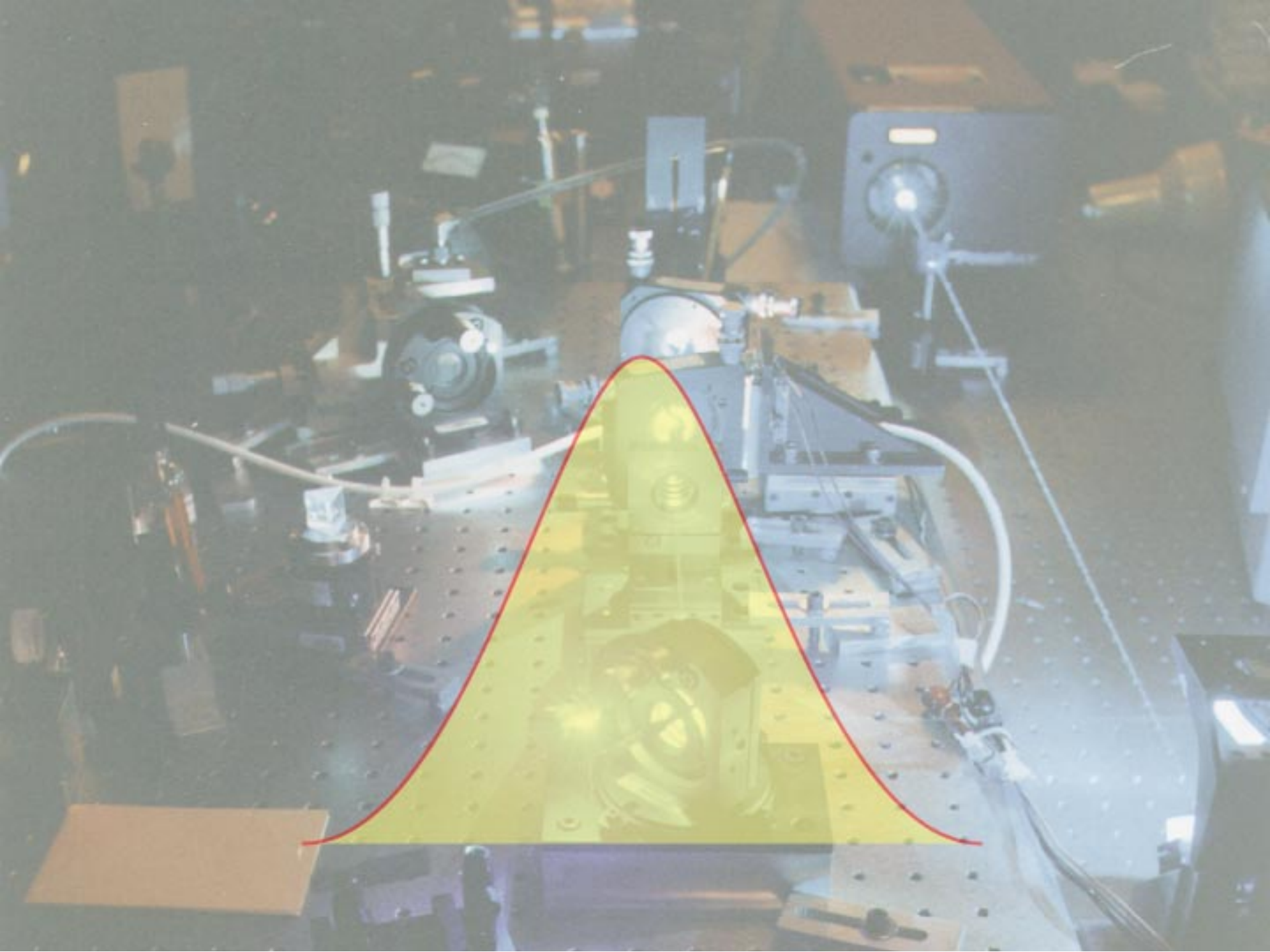
10^{-15} s

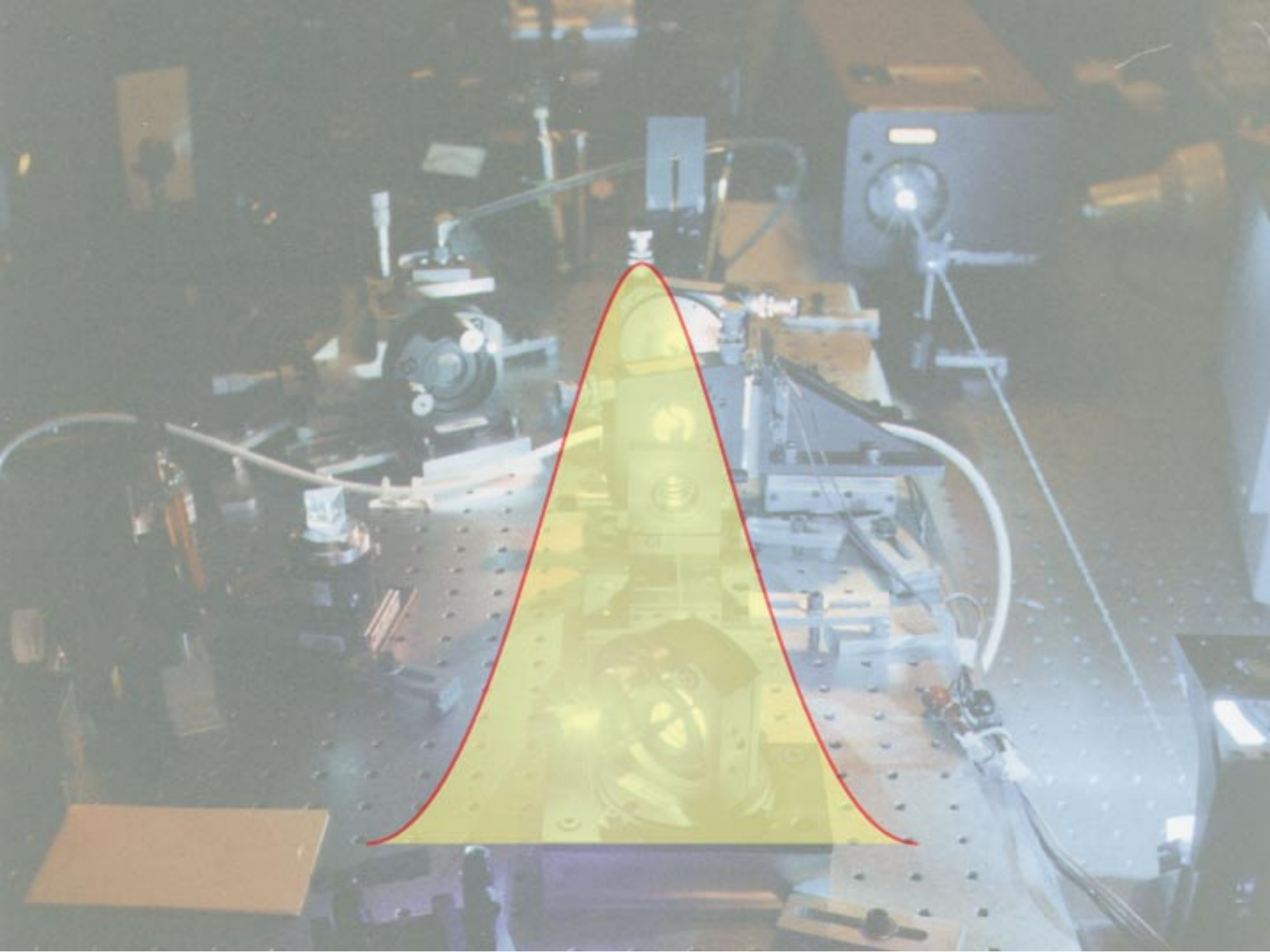
one "femtosecond"

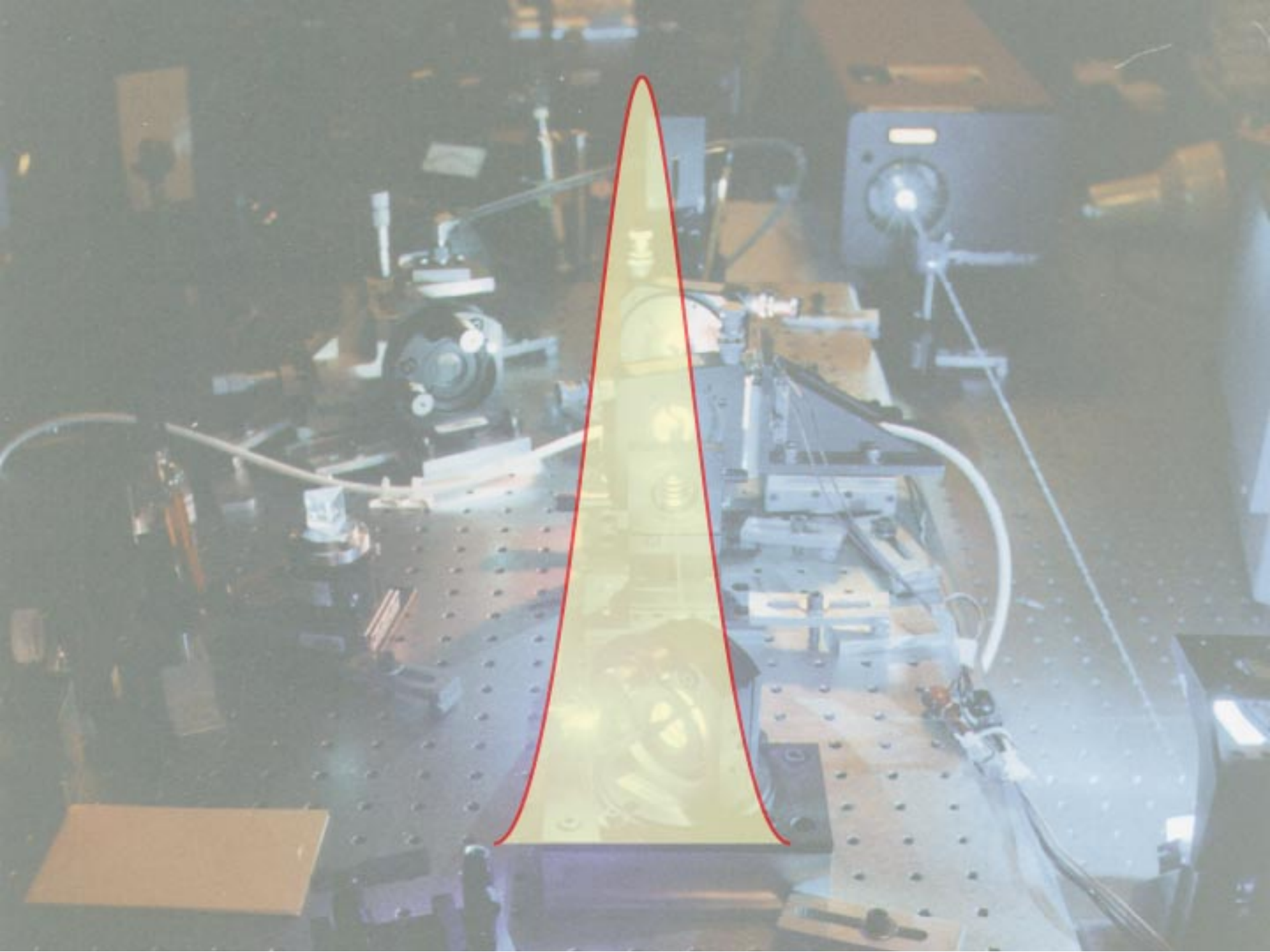


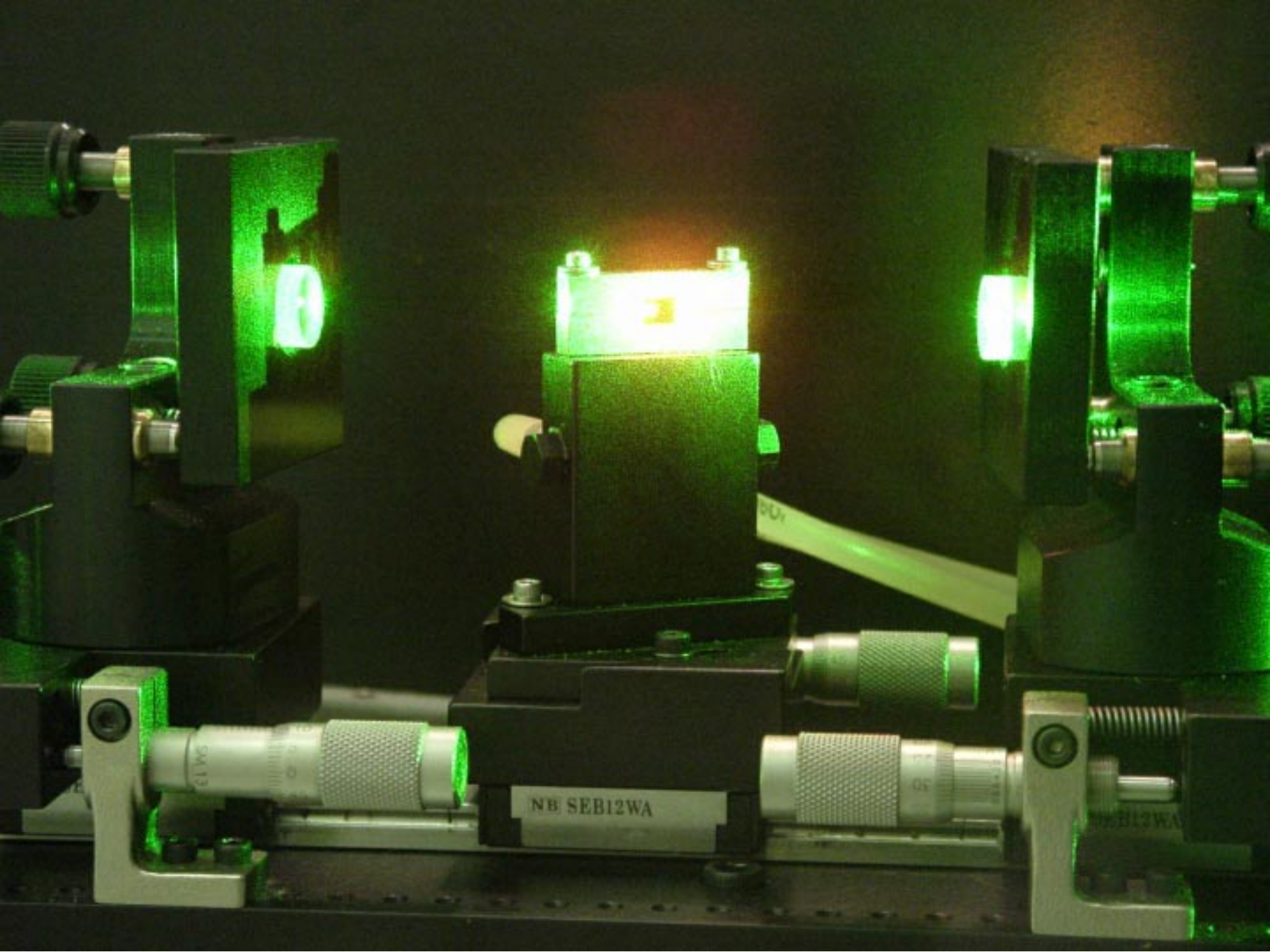






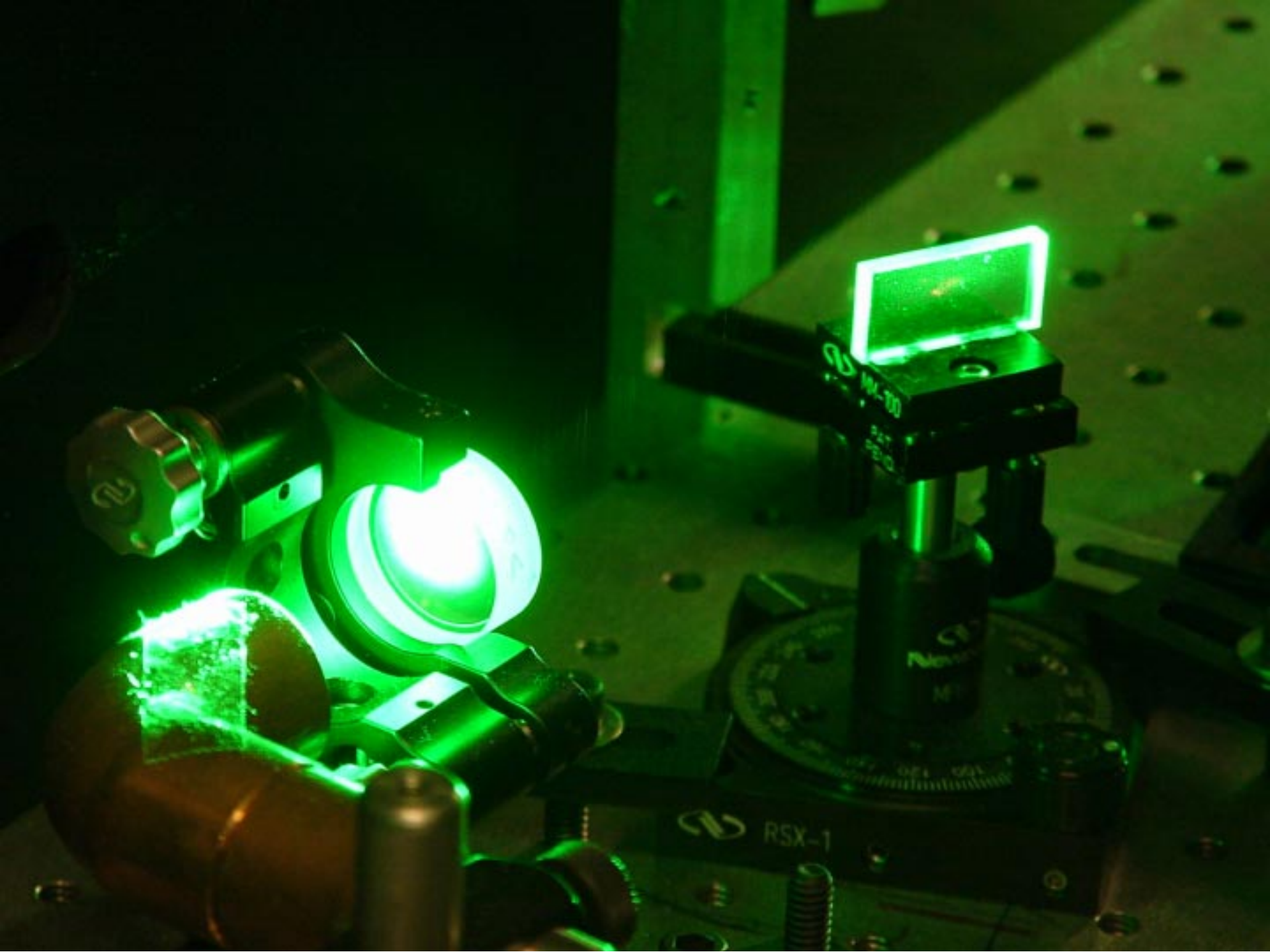


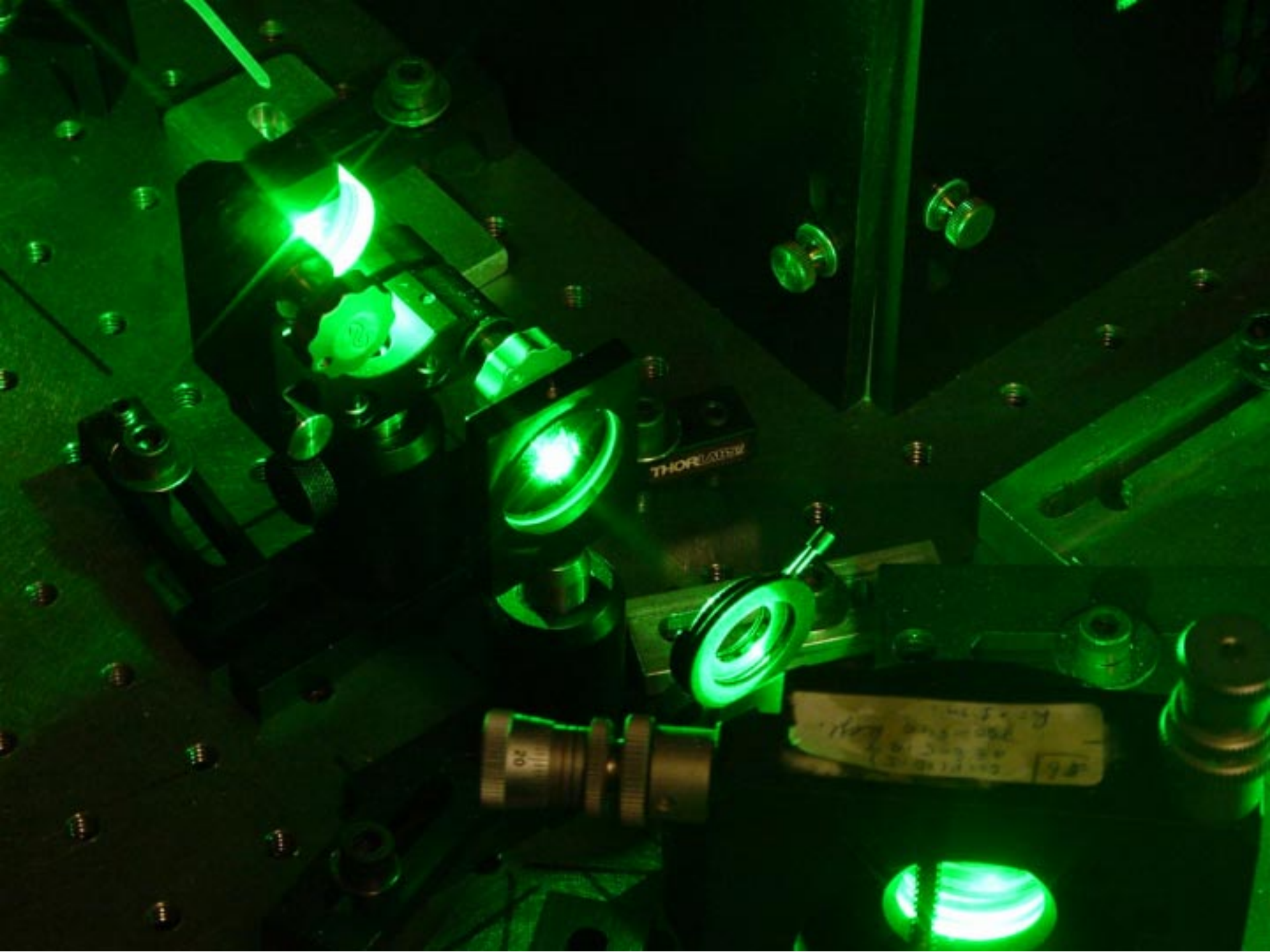




NB SEB12WA

NB SEB12WA

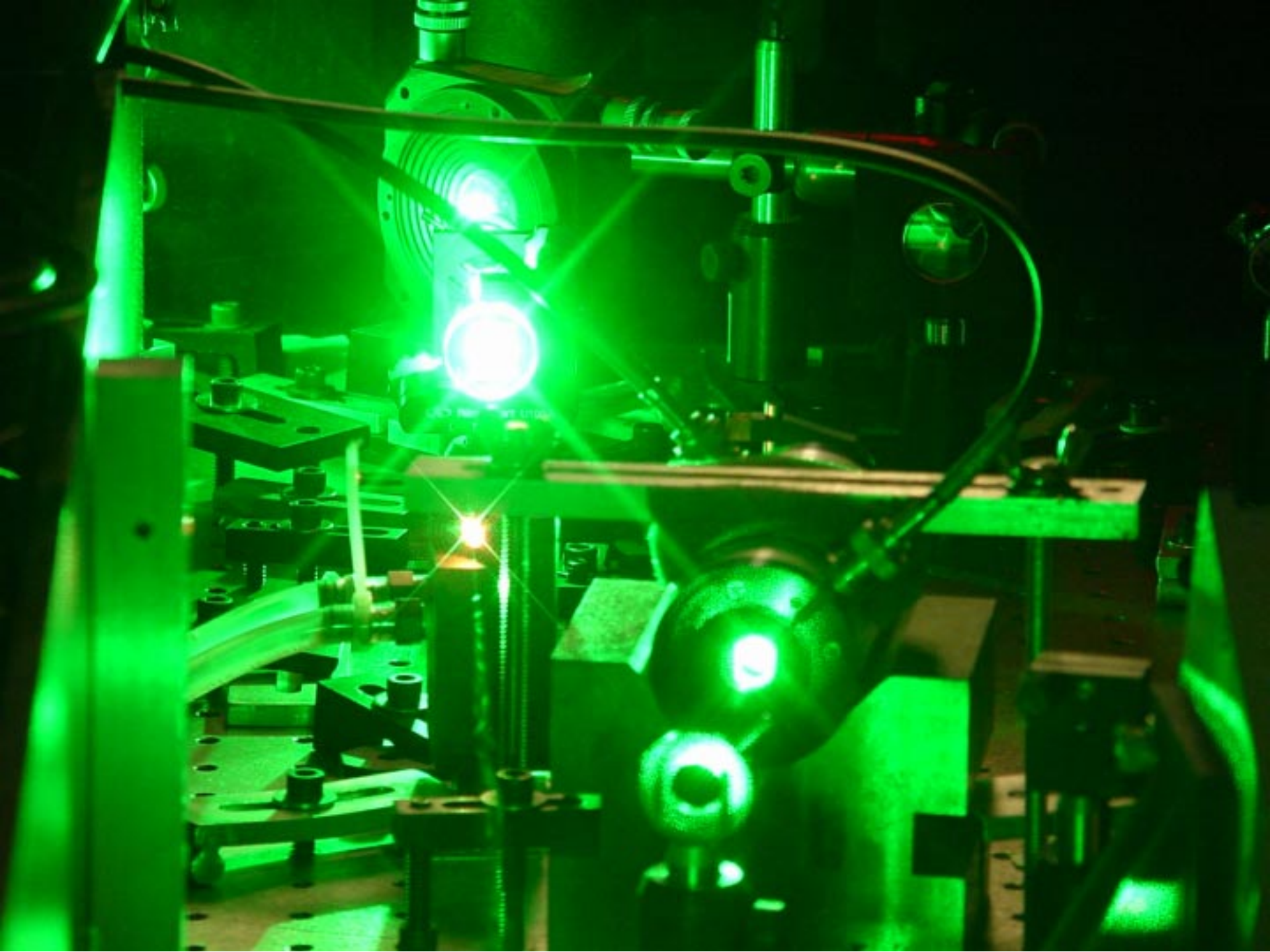


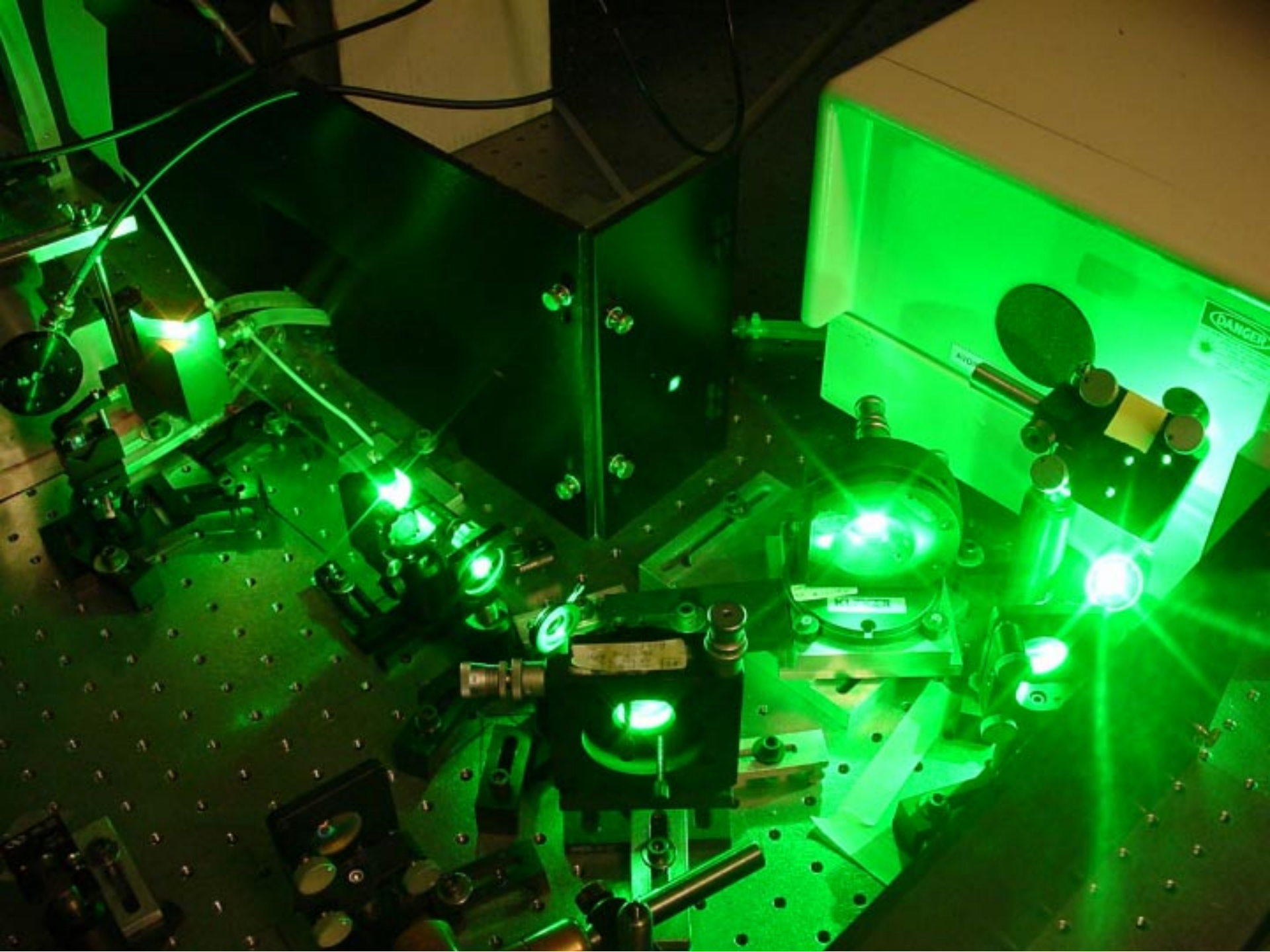


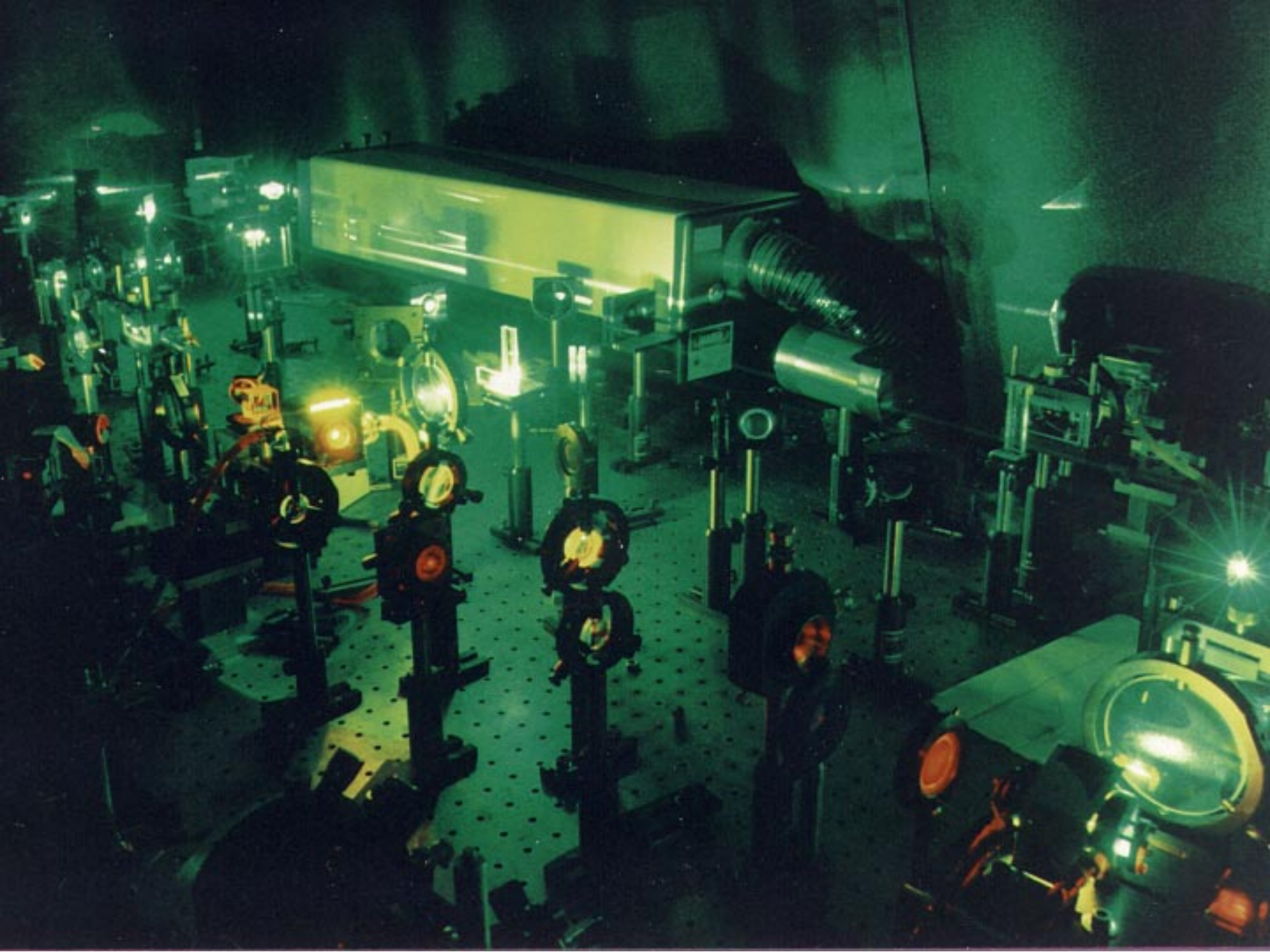
THORLABS

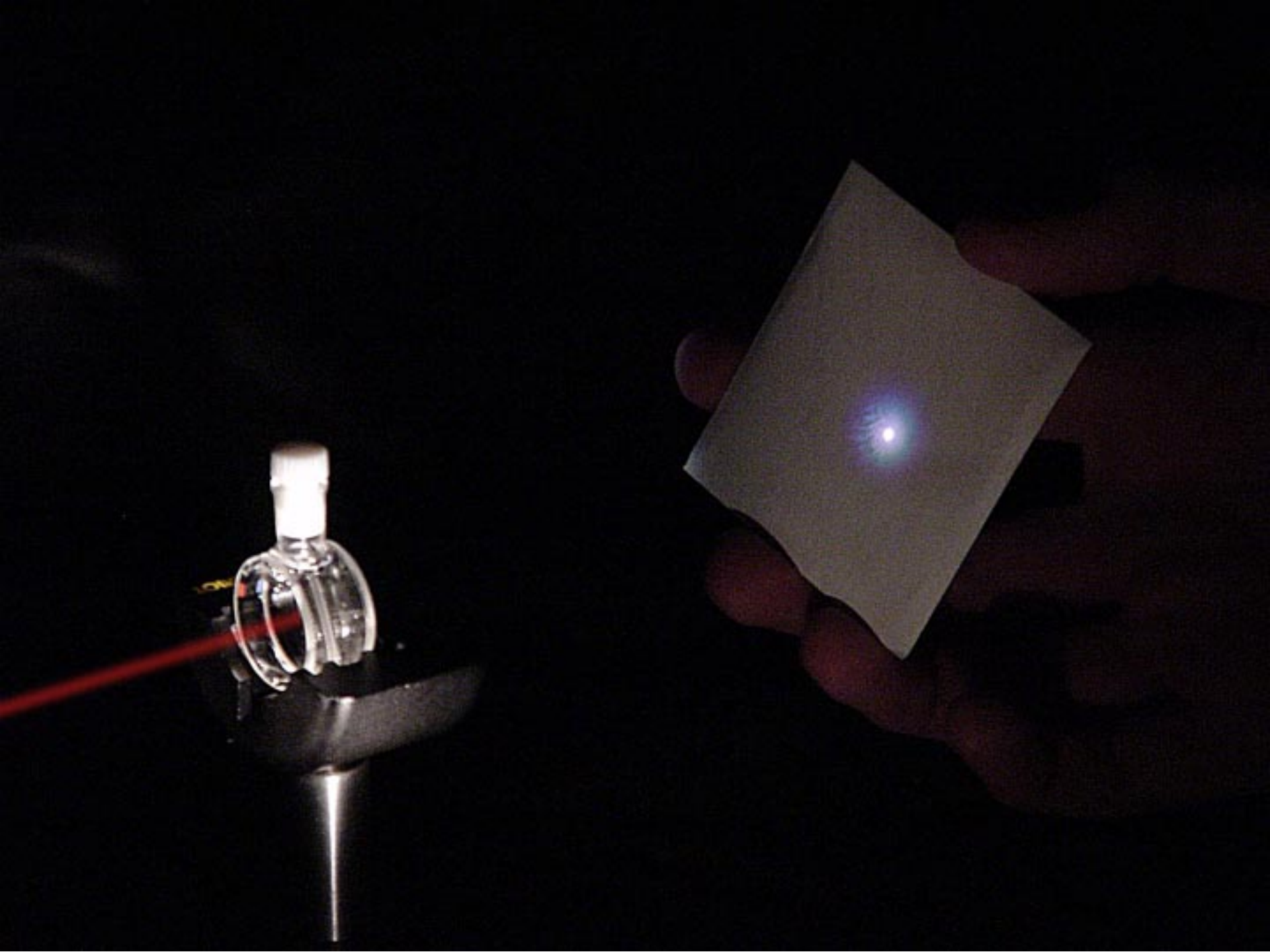
Handwritten text on a label, including a date and other markings.

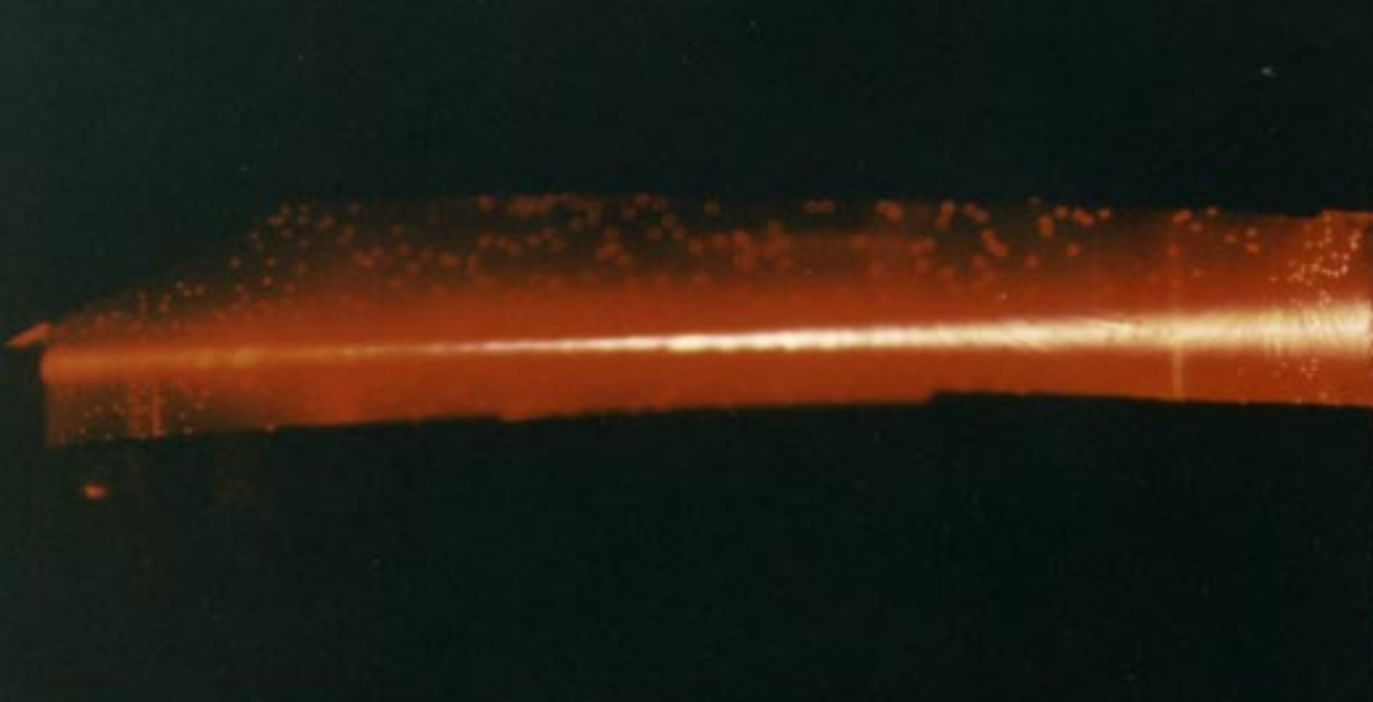
20

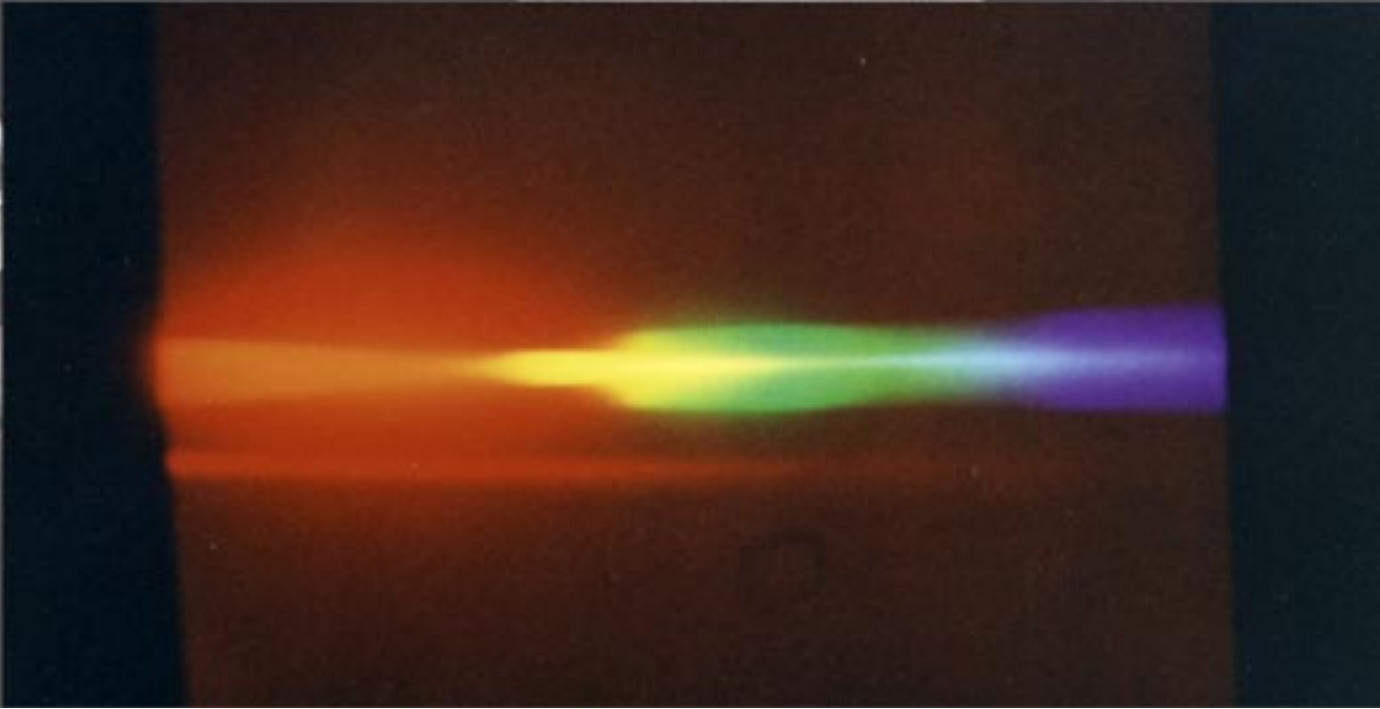




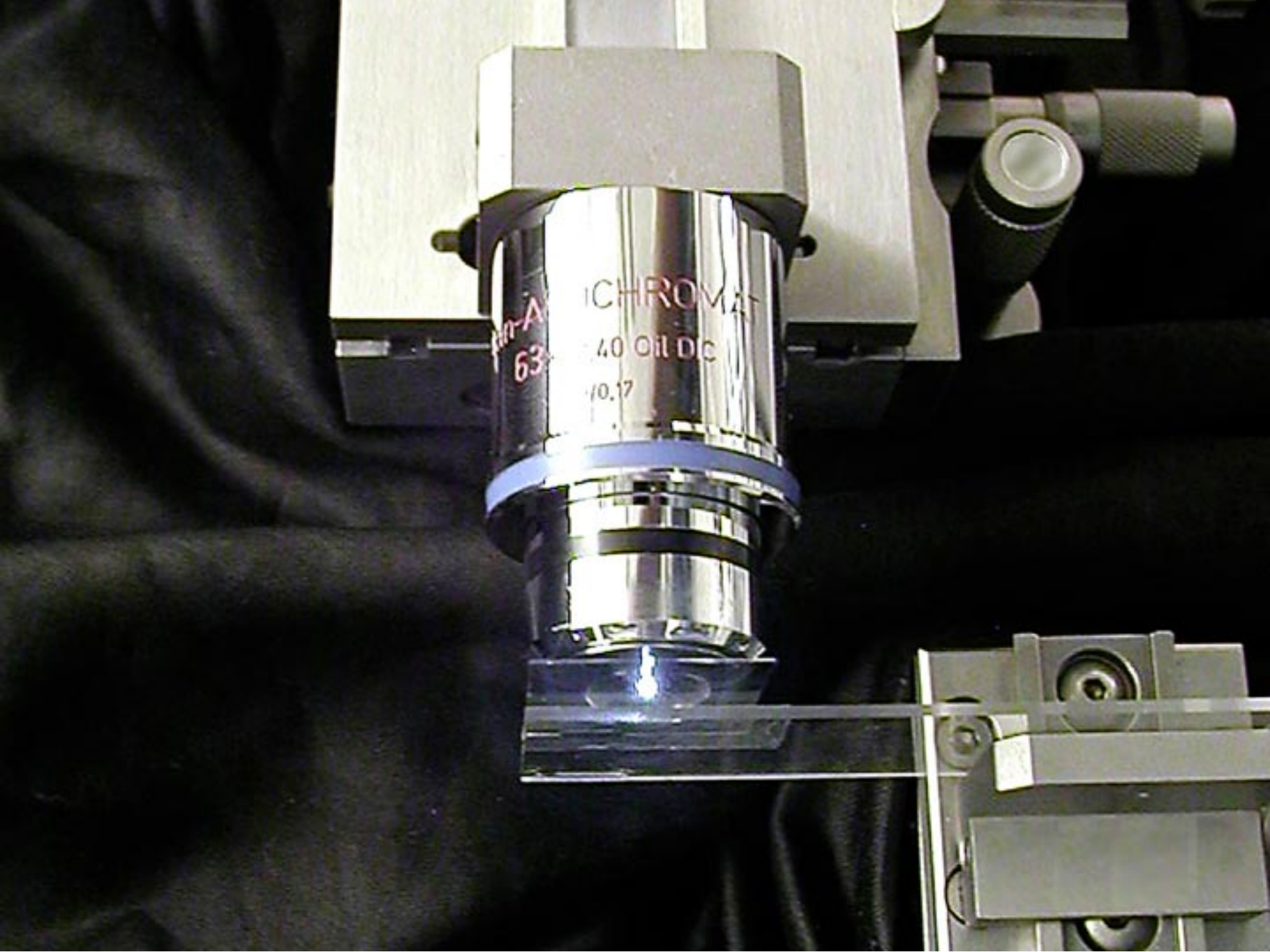




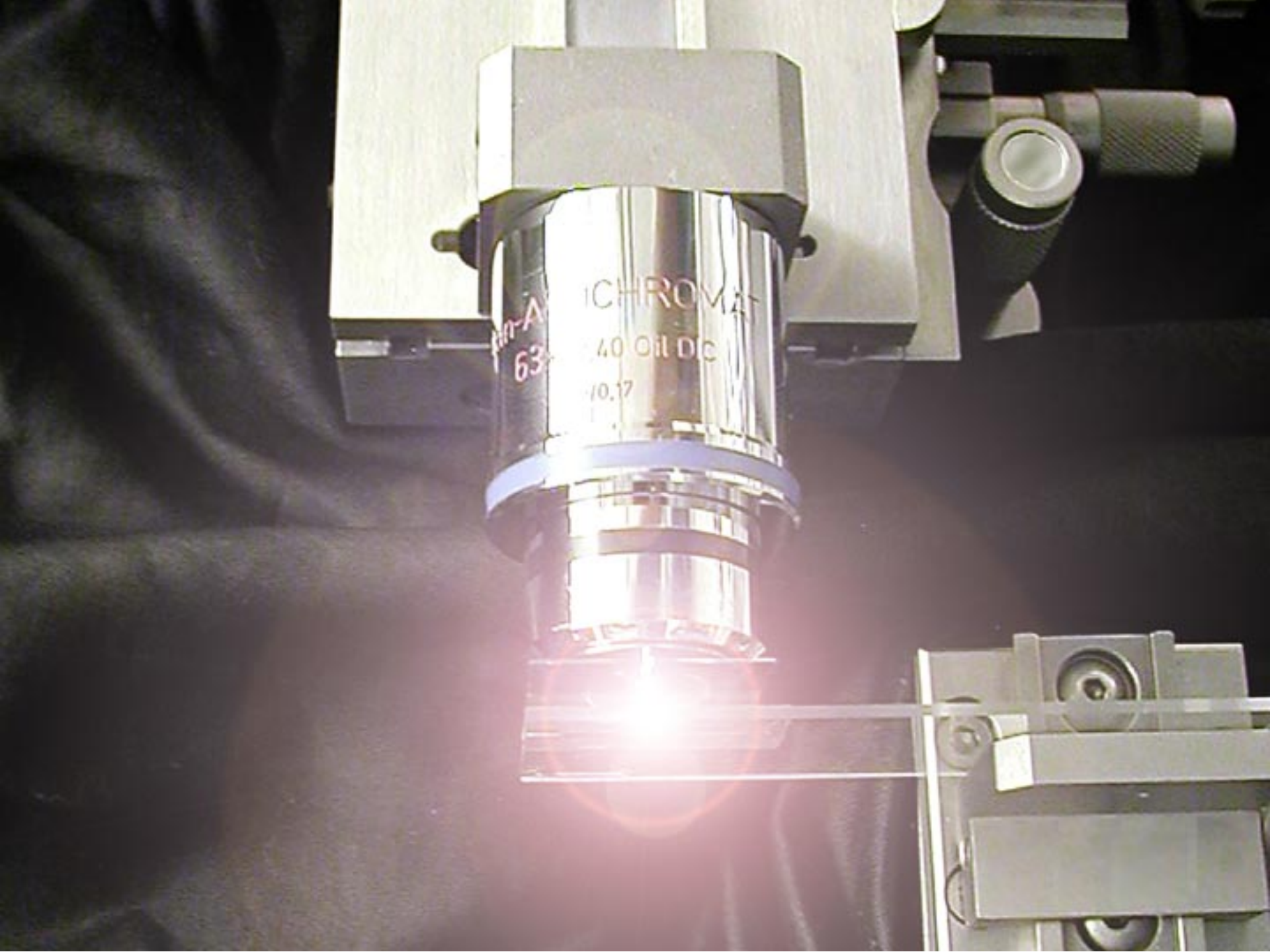






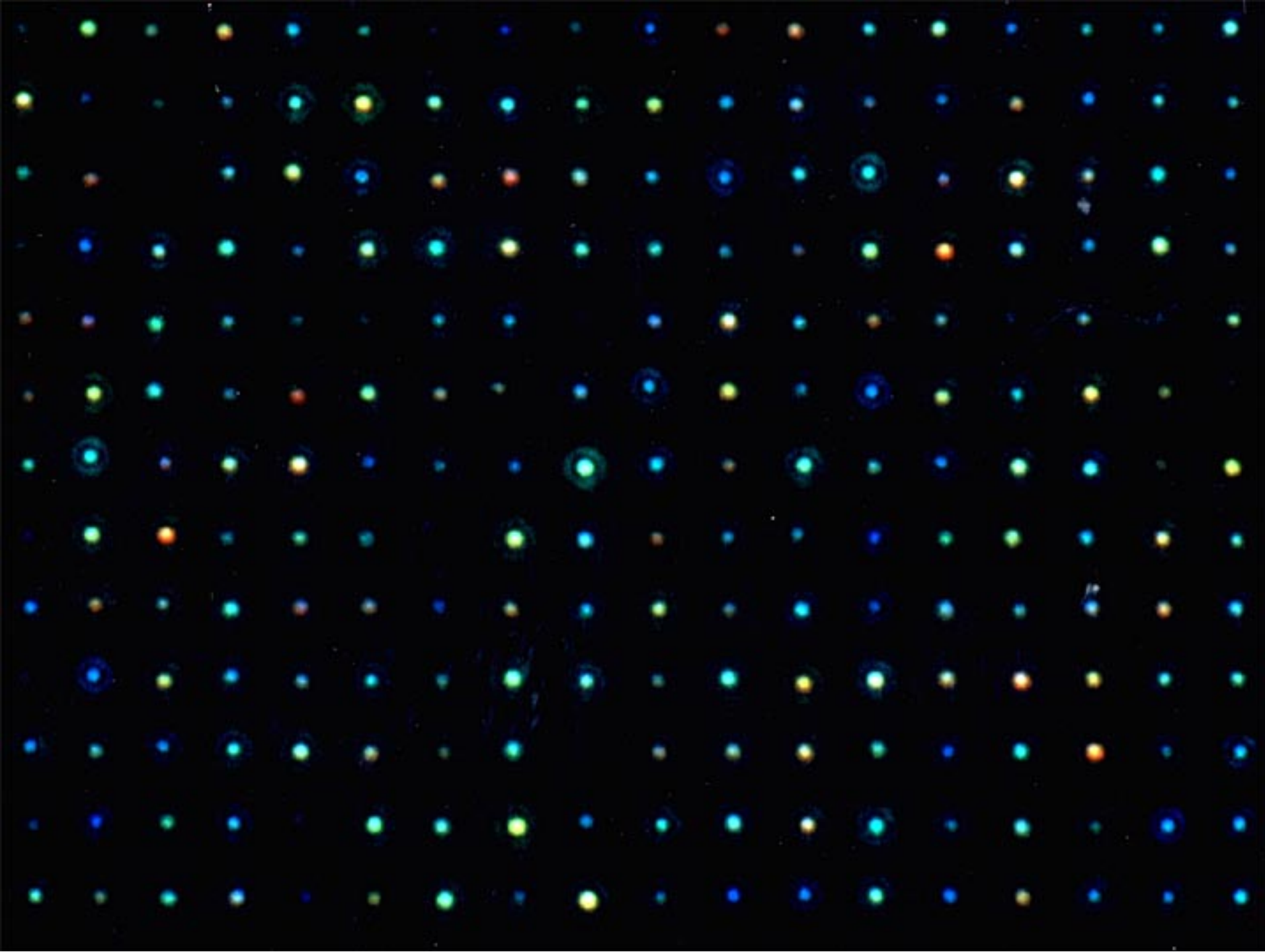


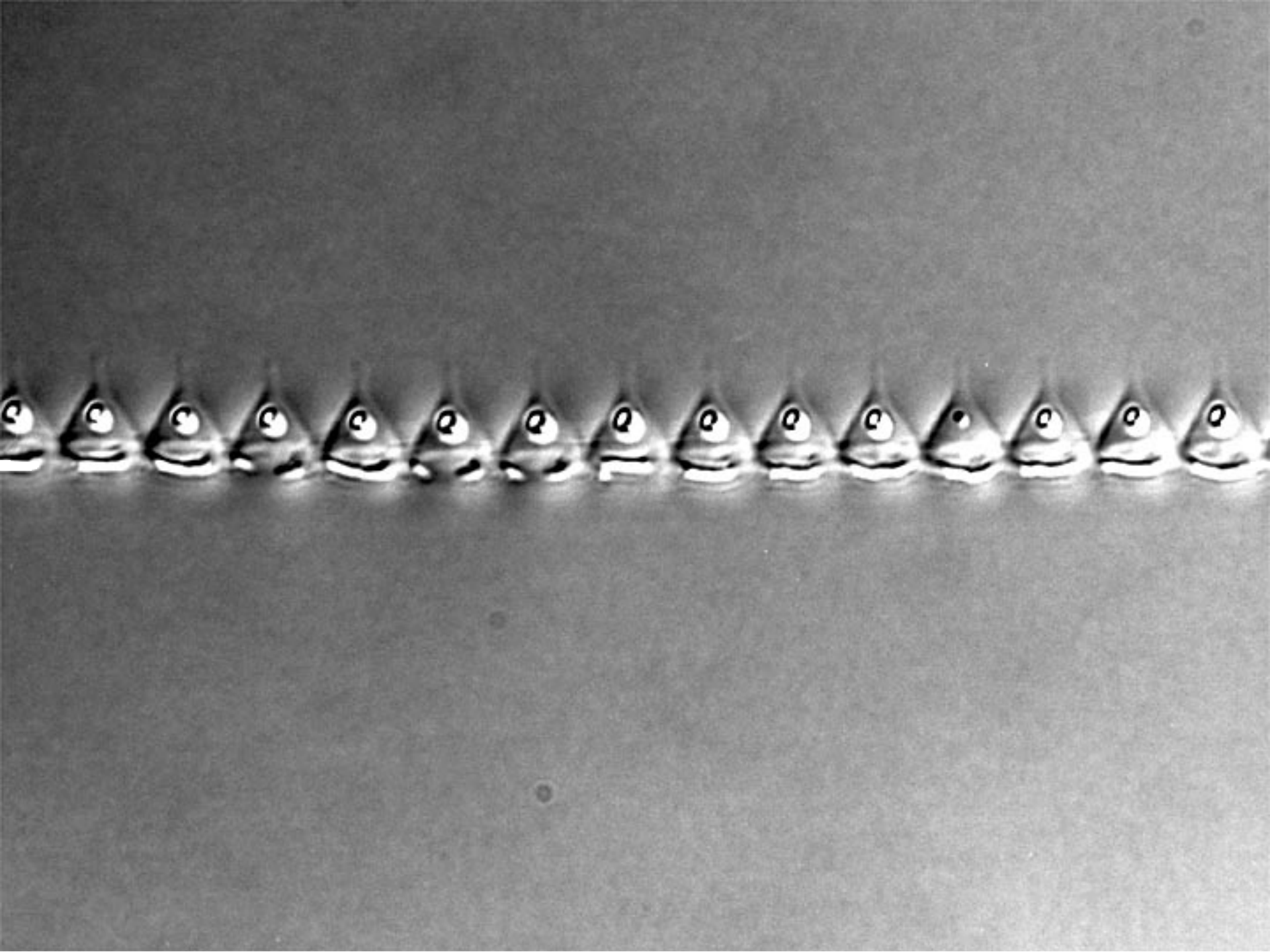
Mikro-A
63x
ACHROMAT
40 Oil DC
10.17

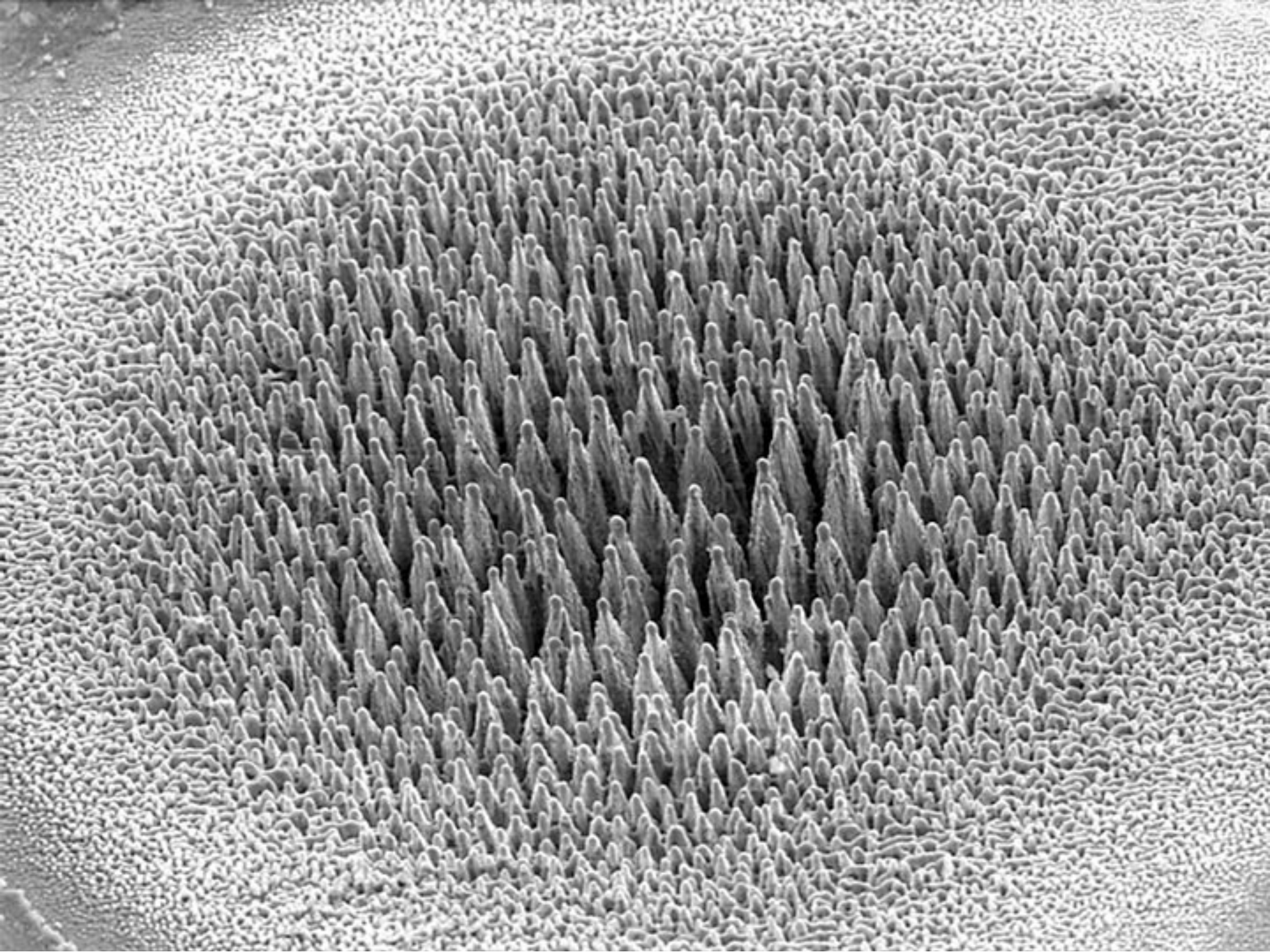


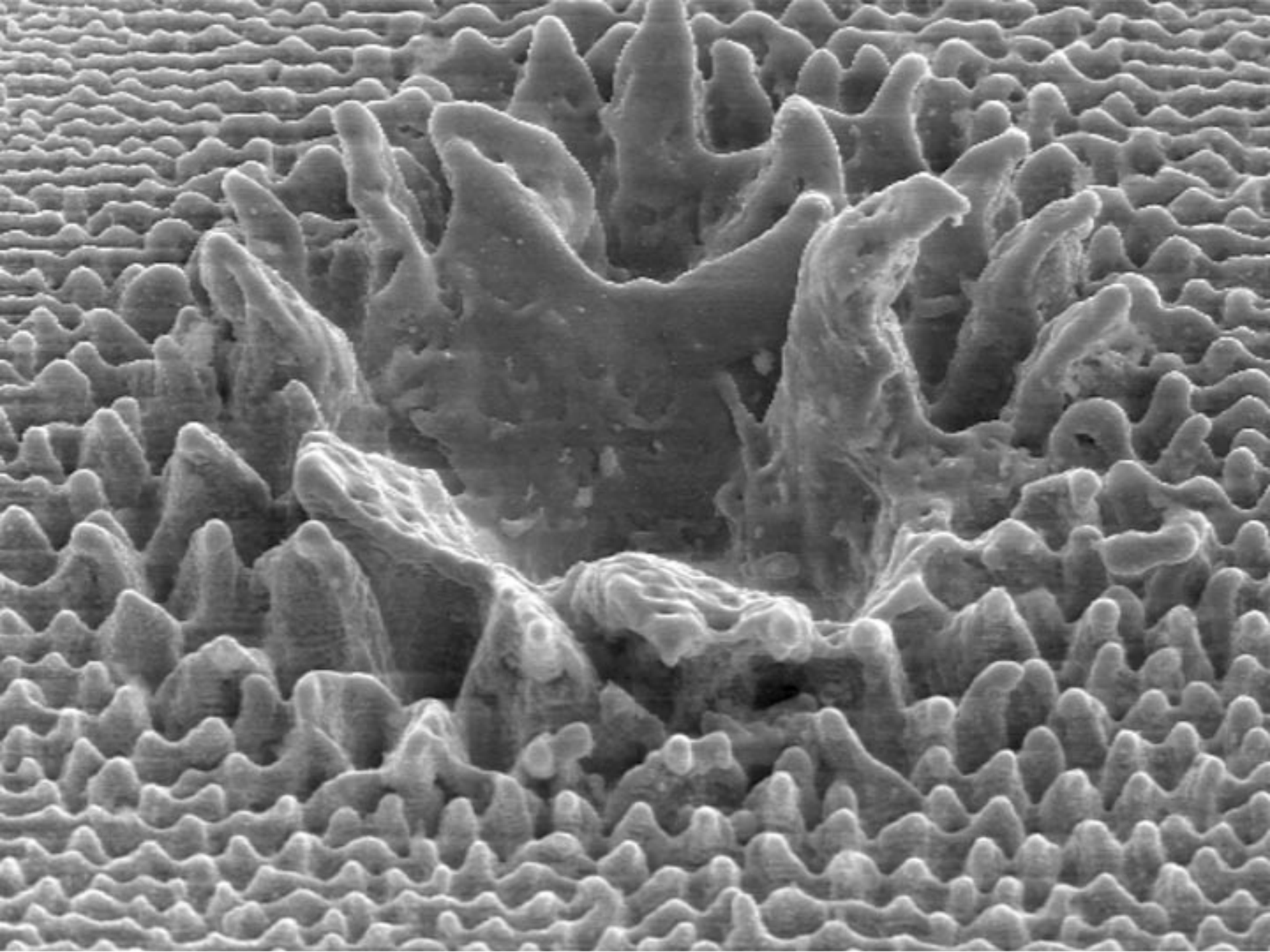
10x-A
63

ACHROMAT
40 Oil DC
10.17

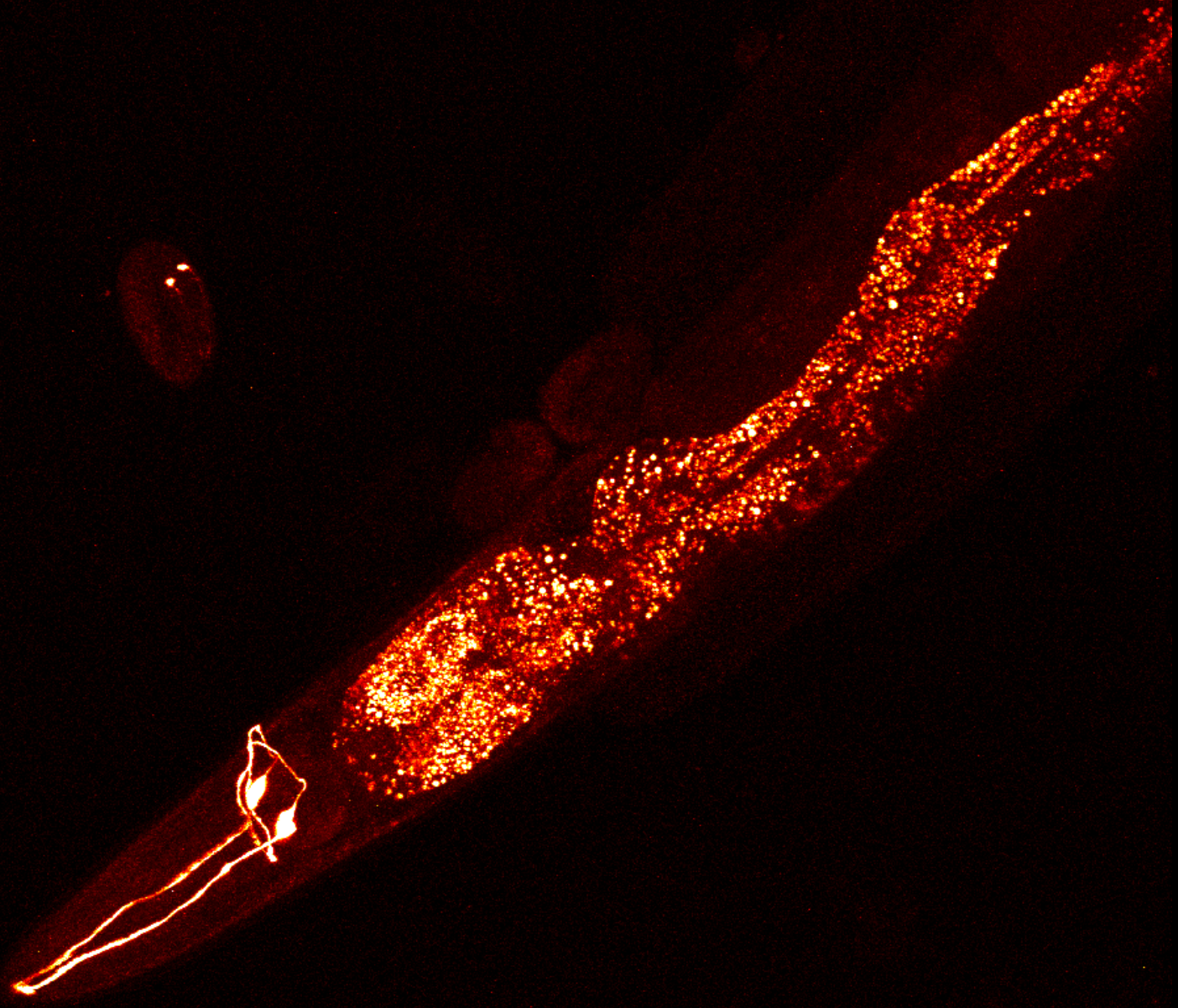




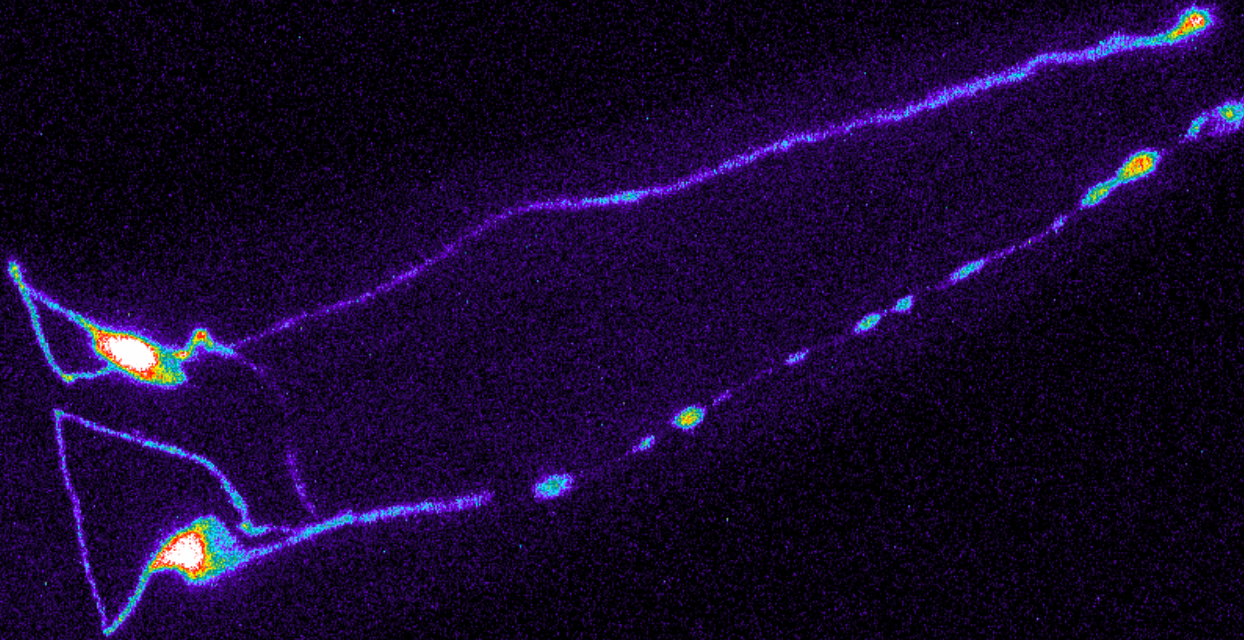


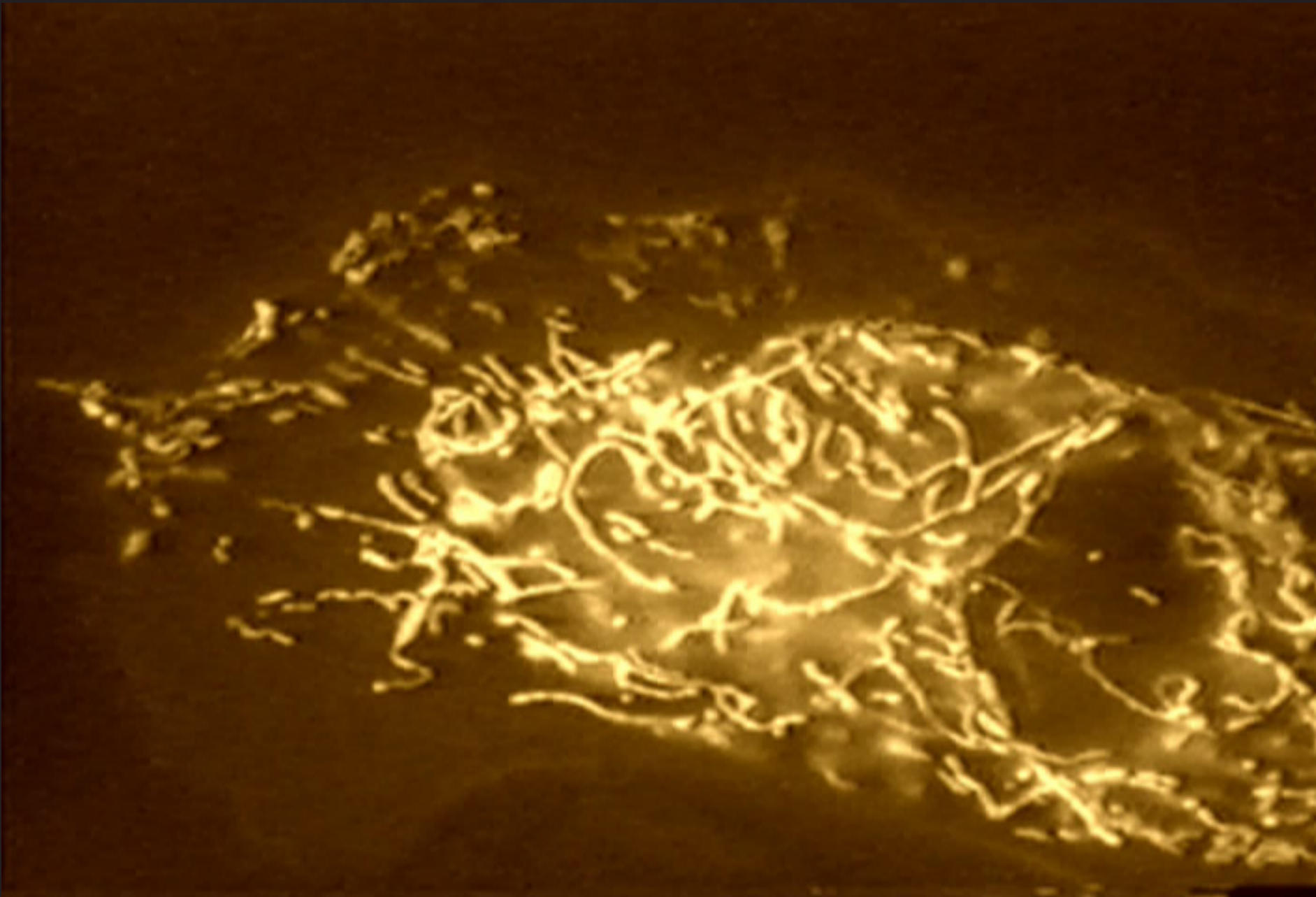


Nanoneurosurgery



Nanoneurosurgery





**Oh, Time, suspend your flight!
and you, auspicious hours,
suspend your course!
Let us savor the fleeting joy
of our most beautiful days!**

Alphonse de Lamartine (1817)

Plenty of unhappy ones down here

beg you; fly by for them!

Along with their days

take the worries that consume them;

Forget the happy ones!

Alphonse de Lamartine (1817)

**In vain I ask for a few more moments,
But time escapes and flees;
I say to this night: “Slow down,”
but dawn will dissipate the night.**

Alphonse de Lamartine (1817)

Special Thanks to:

Animations:

Chris Schaffer

Background research:

Helene Mazur Contamine
Bernice Buresh
Jeanne Satteley

Ideas:

Rino di Bartolo
Nico Bloembergen
Albert Altman

Photo research:

Jim Carey
Albert Kim
Chris Roeser
Rebecca Younkin
Chris Schaffer
Nan Shen
Angela Romijn
Shrenik Deliwala
Yakir Siegal
Anne Hoover
Eli Glezer
Walter Mieher
Juen Kai Wang



**For additional information
and a copy of this talk:**

<http://mazur-www.harvard.edu>