

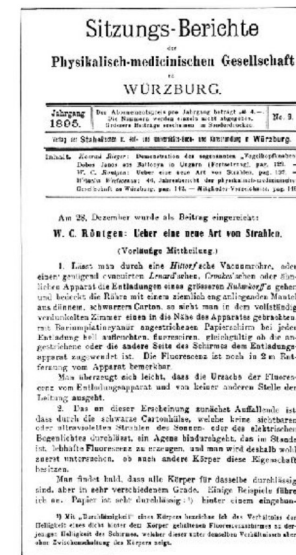
# Medical biophysics II

## X-ray

Generation, properties



Wilhelm Konrad  
Röntgen  
(1845-1923)  
Nobel prize, 1901



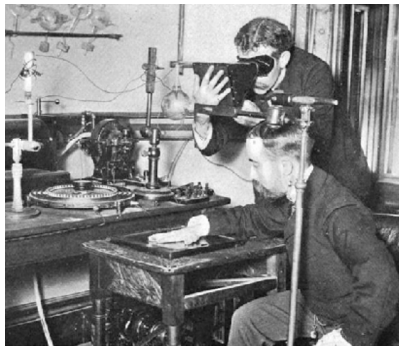
Hand mit Ringen (Hand with Ring): print of Wilhelm Röntgen's first 'medical' X-ray, of his wife's hand, taken on 22 December 1895 and presented to Professor Ludwig Zehender of the Physik Institut, University of Freiburg, on 1 January 1896. The dark oval on the third finger is a shadow produced by her ring.

# Medical biophysics II

- Generation and properties of X-ray
- Fundamentals of X-ray diagnostics
- Thermodynamics - equilibrium, change, laws
- Transport processes I: Diffusion, Brown-motion, Osmosis
- Transport processes II: Flow of fluids and gases. Blood as fluid
- Bioelectric phenomena
- Sound, ultrasound
- Biophysics of sensory organs. Vision and hearing
- Building blocks of life: water, macromolecules, supramolecular systems
- Biological motion. Biomechanics, biomolecular and tissue elasticity
- Methods of investigating biomolecular structure and dynamics: X-ray diffraction, mass spectrometry, infrared spectroscopy
- Methods of investigating biomolecular structure and dynamics. Radiospectroscopic methods, fundamentals of MRI.
- Blood circulation and cardiac function.
- Biophysics of pulmonary function. Physical examination

## X-ray

# Paper funnel radioscope



Late 1890s

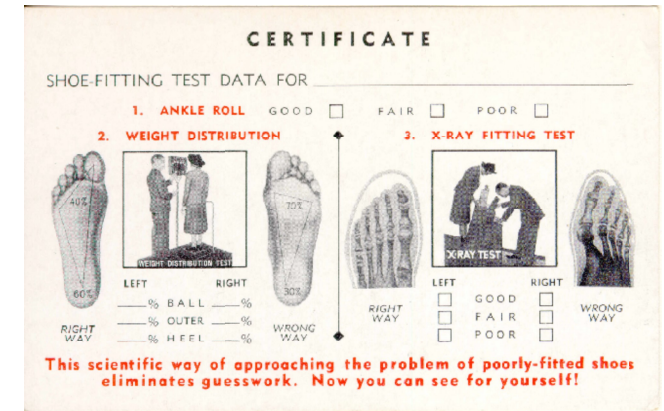


Free X-Ray Examination to Patients



I. World war

# Shoe-fitting fluoroscope (1930-50)



# Medical diagnostics



1940

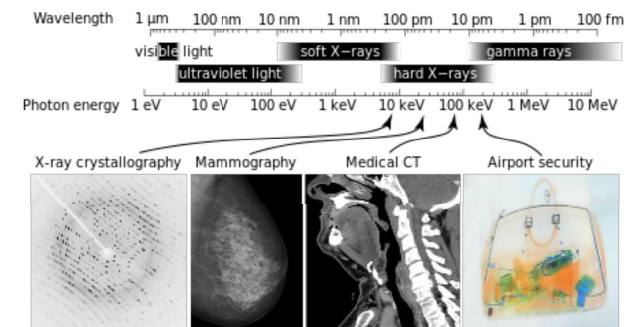


1950



today

# X-rays are electromagnetic waves



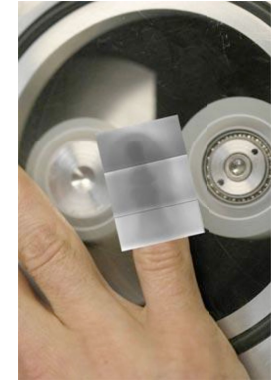
**Wavelength** 10 - 0.01 nm. **Frequency**  $30 \times 10^{15}$  -  $30 \times 10^{18}$  Hz. **Energy** 120 eV - 120 keV.  
(petahertz - exahertz)

# X-rays

- Generation of X-rays
- X-ray spectrum
- Interaction with matter 1: diffraction
- Interaction with matter 2: absorption
- X-ray absorption mechanisms:  
Photoelectric effect  
Compton scatter  
Pair production

## Generation of X-ray (non-conventional)

Triboluminescence: light emission evoked by scratching or rubbing. Francis Bacon, 1605.



Peeling away sticky tape emits light...

...and X-rays. (Nature News, October 2008)

## Generation of X-ray: in Cathode Ray Tube

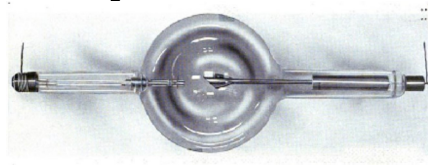
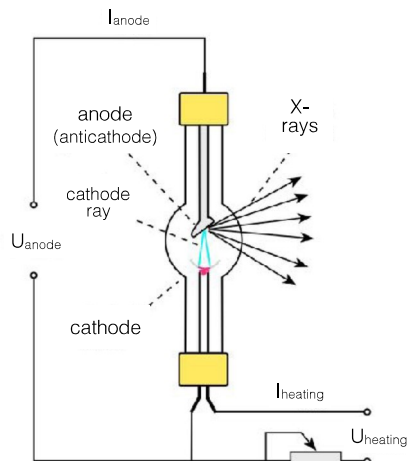
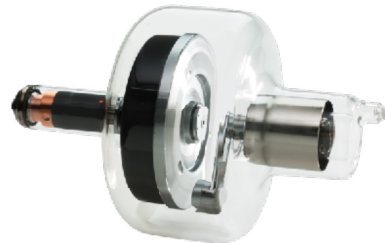
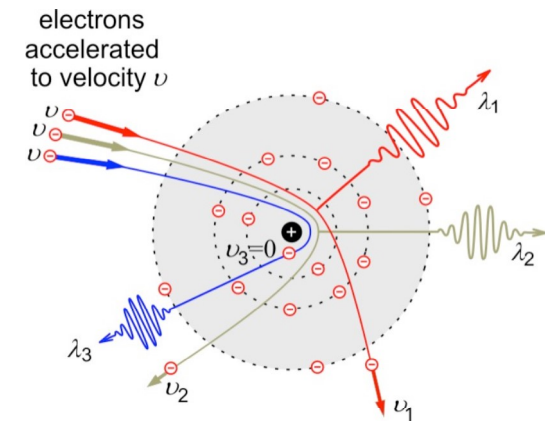


Photo of a Coolidge x-ray tube, from the early 1900s. The heated cathode is on the left, the anode target is on the right. The x-rays are emitted in a downward direction.



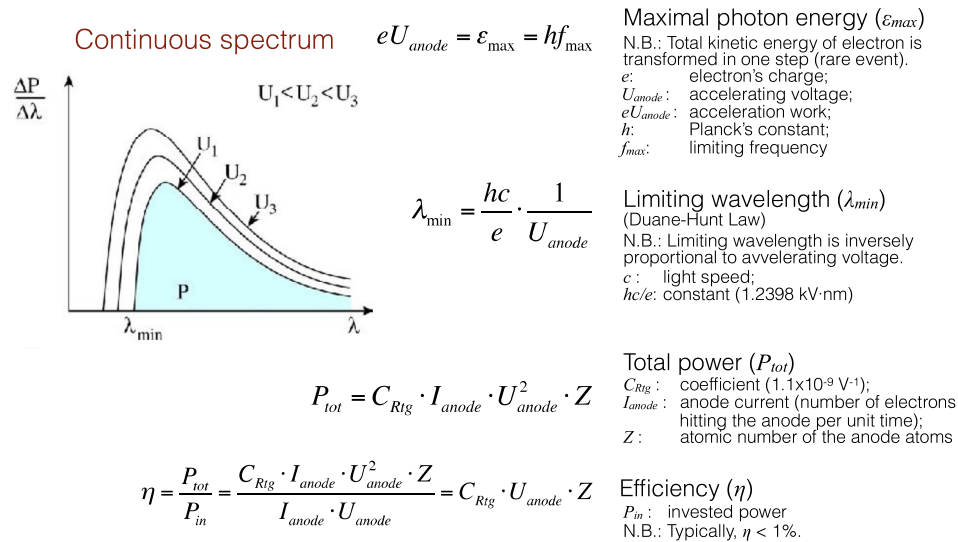
Rotating-anode X-ray tube. Anode rotation is used for cooling.

## “Bremsstrahlung”

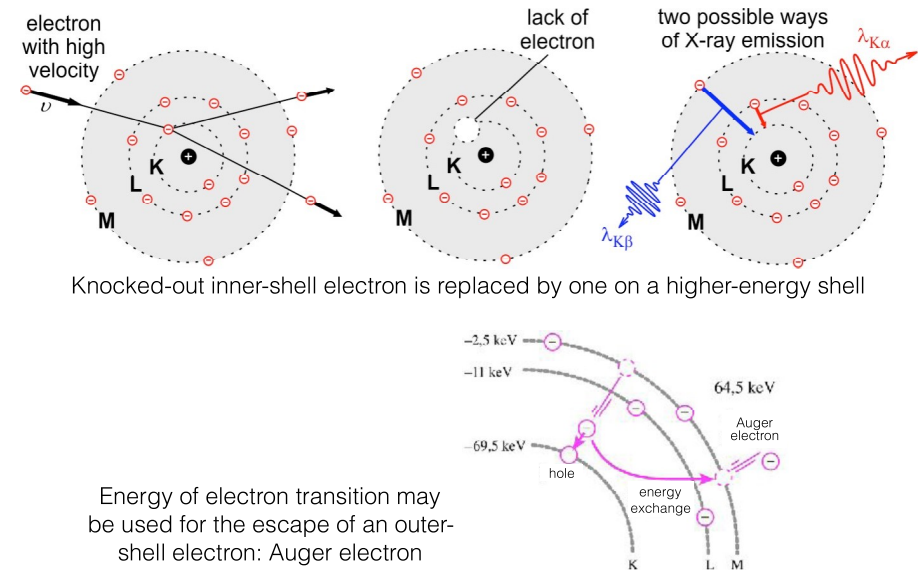


Electrons decelerate, thereby lose their kinetic energy, when interacting with the atoms of the anode (“braking radiation”).

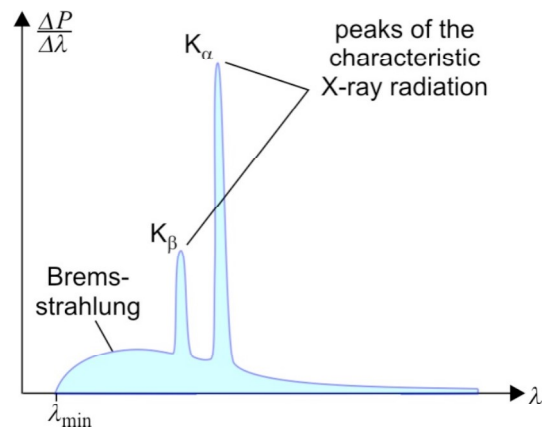
# Spectrum of Bremsstrahlung



# Characteristic X-ray



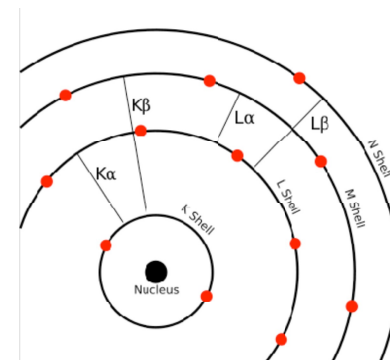
# Spectrum of characteristic X-ray



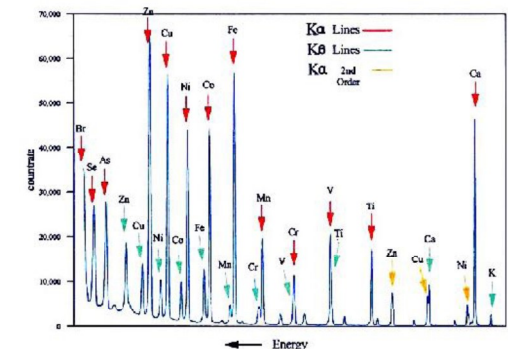
Line spectrum

# X-ray spectrum characterizes the atomic composition

Because inner-shell electrons participate in characteristic X-radiation, only the atomic (and not the molecular) properties are revealed



Electronic transitions in a calcium atom.

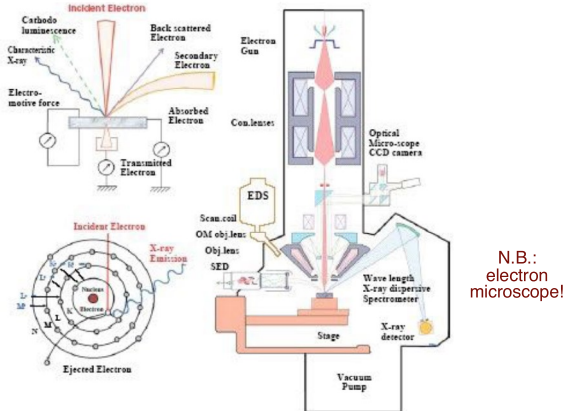


Energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrum.

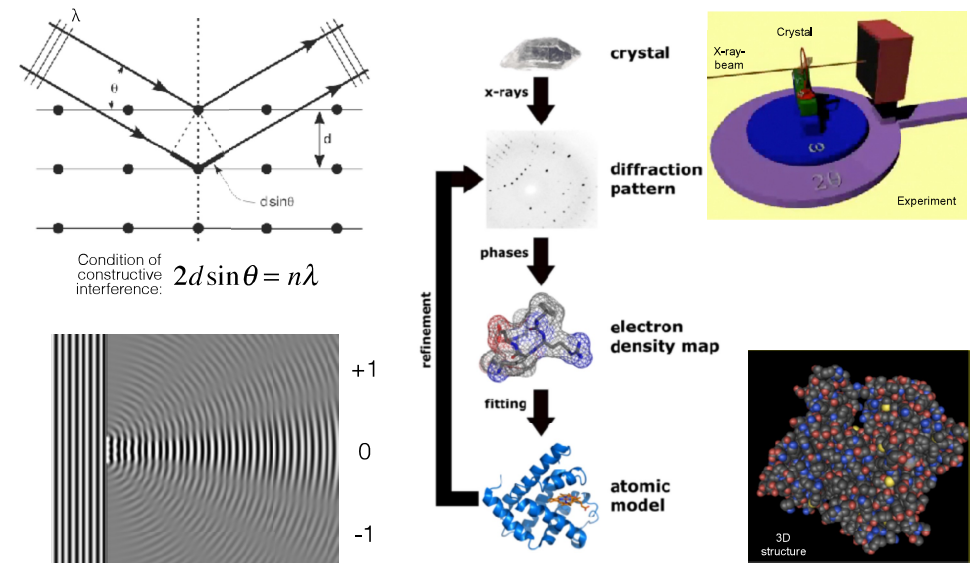


# Detection of characteristic X-ray

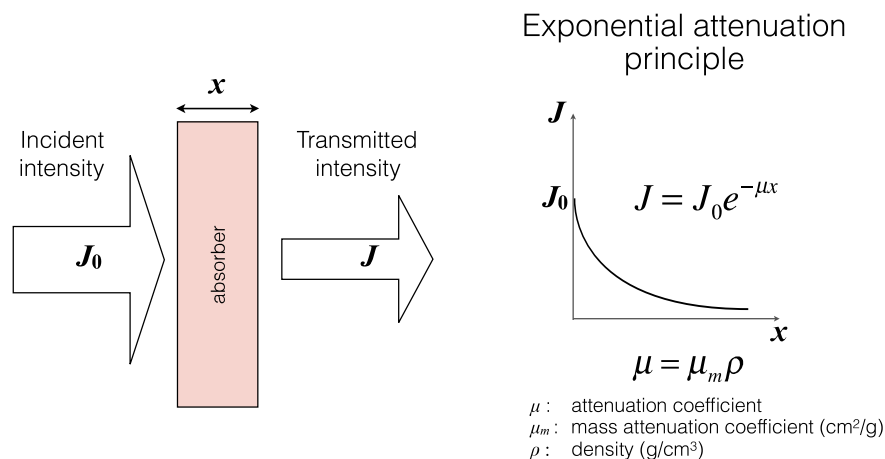
Electron probe microanalyzer



# X-ray diffraction

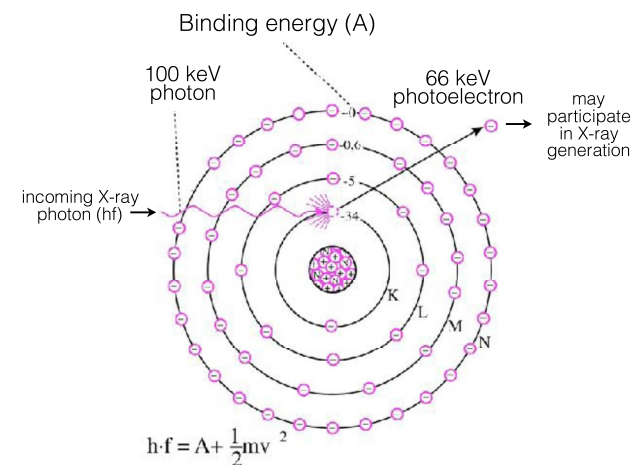


# X-ray absorption



$\mu_m$  is the sum of the mass attenuation coefficients of the different absorption mechanisms.

# X-ray photoeffect

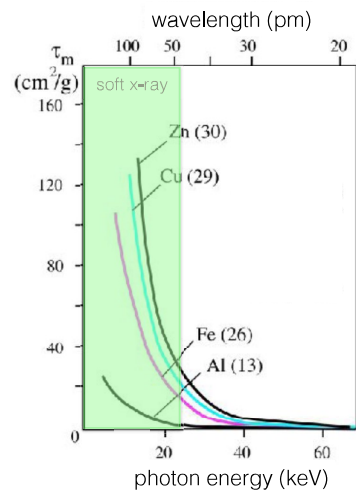


Main effect in diagnostic X-ray!

Photoeffect attenuation coefficient:

$$\tau = \tau_m \rho$$

## Photoeffect attenuation depends strongly on the atomic number



$$\tau_m = \text{const} \cdot \frac{Z^3}{\epsilon^3} = C \cdot \lambda^3 \cdot Z^3$$

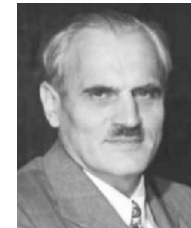
For multi-component system:  
"effective atomic number" ( $Z_{\text{eff}}$ )

$$Z_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt[n]{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i Z_i^3}$$

$\epsilon$  = photon energy  
 $Z$  = atomic number  
 $w$  = mole fraction  
 $n$  = number of components

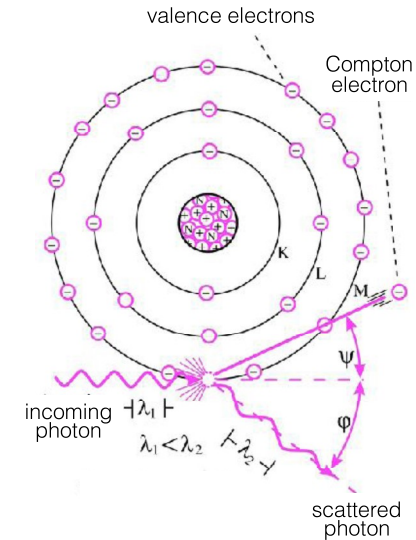
Material	$Z_{\text{eff}}$
Air	7.3
Water	7.7
Soft tissue	7.4
Bone	13.8

## Compton scatter

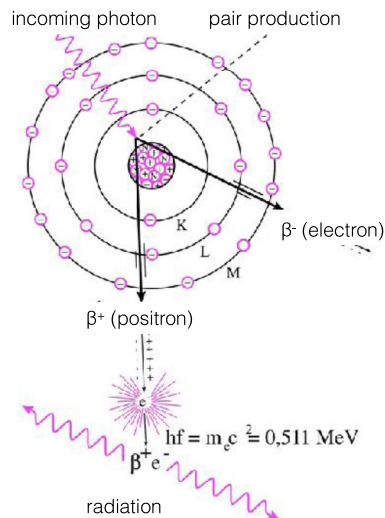


Arthur Holly Compton  
(1892-1962)

$$hf = A + hf_{\text{scatt}} + E_{\text{kin}}$$



## Pair production



(relevant only in therapeutic x-ray)

Energy balance:

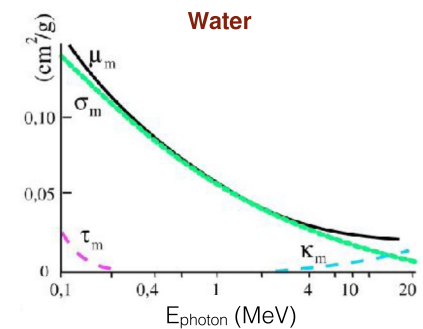
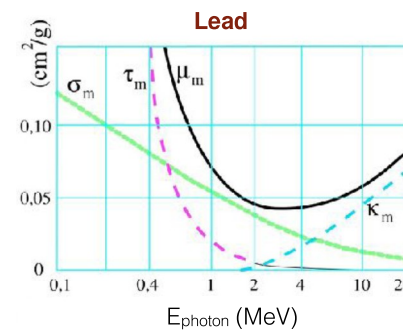
$$hf = 2m_e c^2 + 2E_{\text{kin}}$$

$m_e$  = mass of electron  
 $c$  = speed of light

Pair production relevant in high-energy X-ray photons,  $\gamma$ -radiation.

## Attenuation mechanisms

Dependence on photon energy and material



$$\mu = \tau + \sigma + \kappa$$

$\mu_m$  = mass attenuation coefficient  
 $\sigma_m$  = Compton effect mass attenuation coefficient

$\tau_m$  = photoeffect mass attenuation coefficient  
 $\kappa_m$  = pair production mass attenuation coefficient

# Summary of attenuation mechanisms

Mechanism	Photon energy ( $\epsilon$ ) dependence of the mass attenuation coefficient	Atomic number (Z) dependence of the mass attenuation coefficient	Relevant energy range in soft tissue
Rayleigh scatter	$\sim 1 / \epsilon$	$\sim Z^2$	1 - 30 keV
Photoeffect	$\sim 1 / \epsilon^3$	$\sim Z^3$	10 - 100 keV
Compton scatter	falls gradually with $\epsilon$	$\sim Z/A$ (A: mass number)	0.5 - 5 MeV
Pair production	rises slowly with $\epsilon$	$\sim Z^2$	> 5 MeV

Diagnostic X-ray:

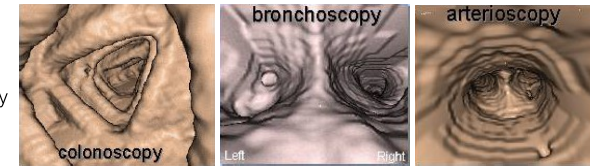
1. Contrast mechanism between soft tissue and bone: photoeffect ( $\sim Z^3$ )
2. Contrast mechanism within soft tissue: Compton-szórás ( $\sim \rho$ )

# Trends of X-ray applications

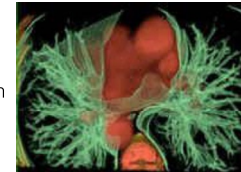
Spiral CT



Virtual endoscopy



3D reconstruction



Angiography

