

## Outline of the lecture

# X-radiation and its interaction with matter

Ádám Orosz

Department of Biophysics and Radiation Biology  
Semmelweis University

- *Discovery of X-rays*
- *Properties of X-radiation*
- *Production of X-rays*
- *Bremsstrahlung and characteristic X-ray*
- *Interaction of X-radiation with matter*
- *X-ray diffraction*
- *X-ray diagnostics*
- *Particle accelerators*

Textbook chapters: II/3.1.; II/3.2.6.; VIII/3.1. X/6.

Related laboratory practices: X-ray, CT Scan (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

## Discovery of X-rays (1895)



Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen  
1845-1923



Crookes tube



„Hand mit Ringen“  
1895. dec. 22.



## Properties of X-ray radiation

Elektromágneses hullám

$f \approx 10^{15} - 10^{18}$  Hz (penta-exahertz)

$\lambda \approx 10 \text{ nm} - \text{pm}$

$\epsilon \approx 100 \text{ eV} - 20 \text{ MeV}$

diagnostics: 30-200 keV; therapy: 5-20 MeV

$$\epsilon = h \cdot f = h \cdot \frac{c}{\lambda}$$

Wavelength      1 μm      100 nm      10 nm      1 nm      100 pm      10 pm      1 pm      100 fm

visible light      soft X-rays      gamma rays

ultraviolet light

hard X-rays

Therapeutic X-rays

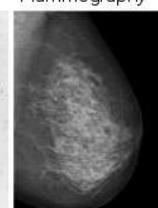
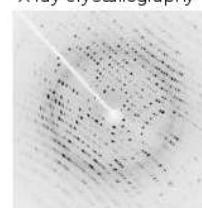
Photon energy      1 eV      10 eV      100 eV      1 keV      10 keV      100 keV      1 MeV      10 MeV

X-ray crystallography

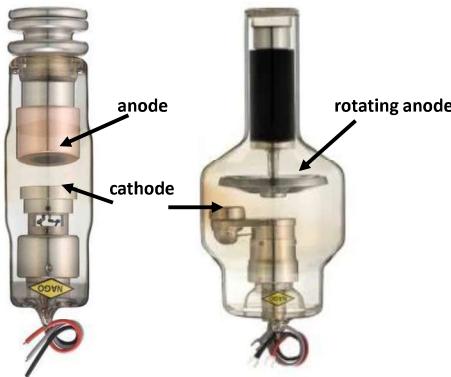
Mammography

Medical CT

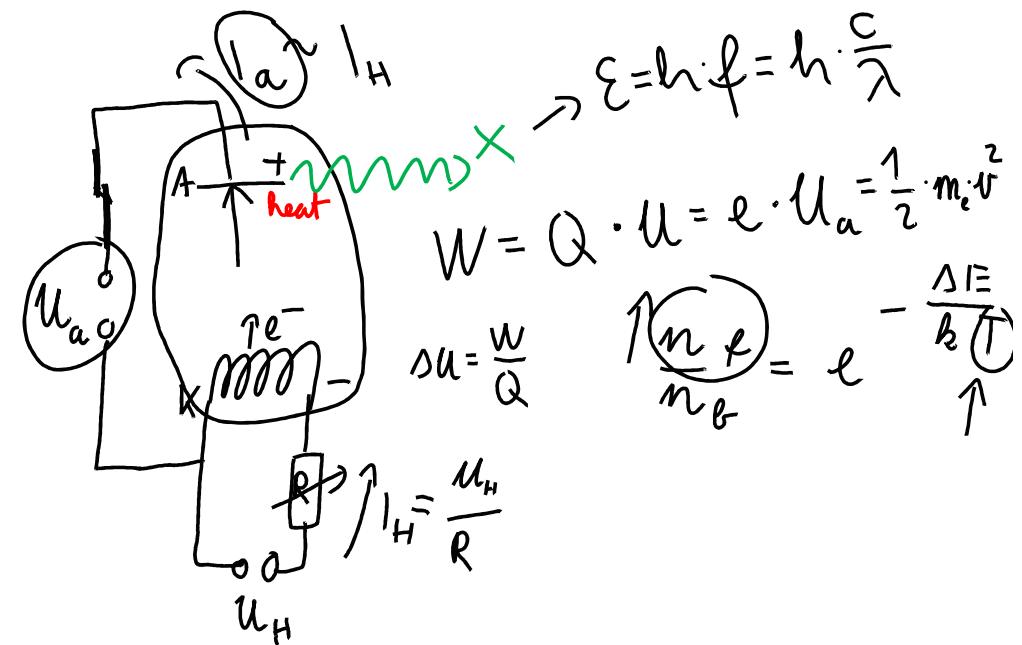
Airport security



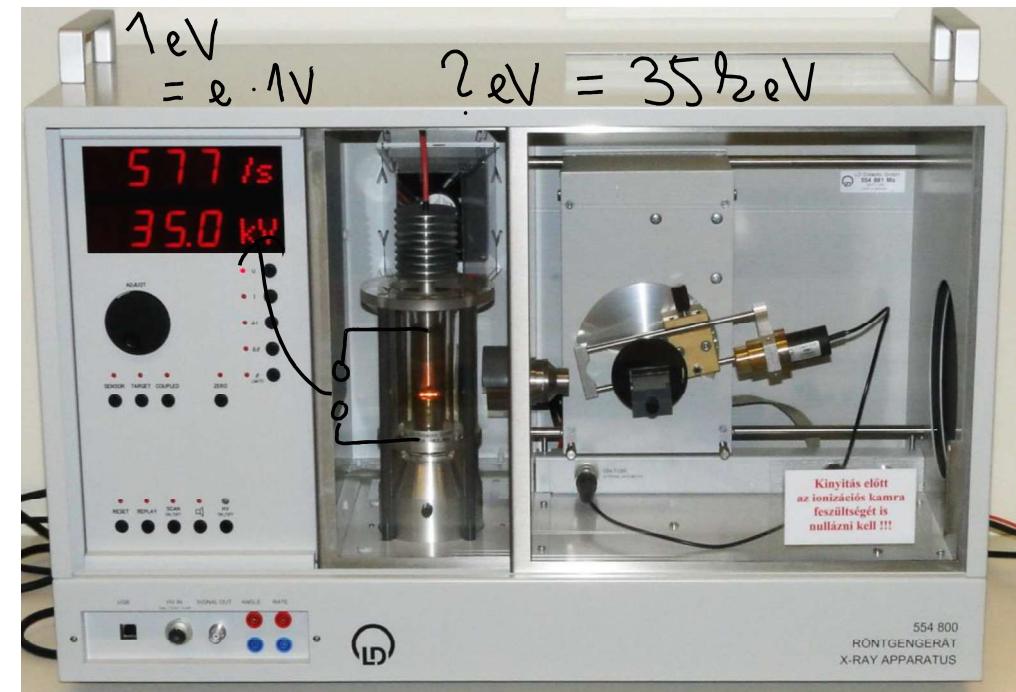
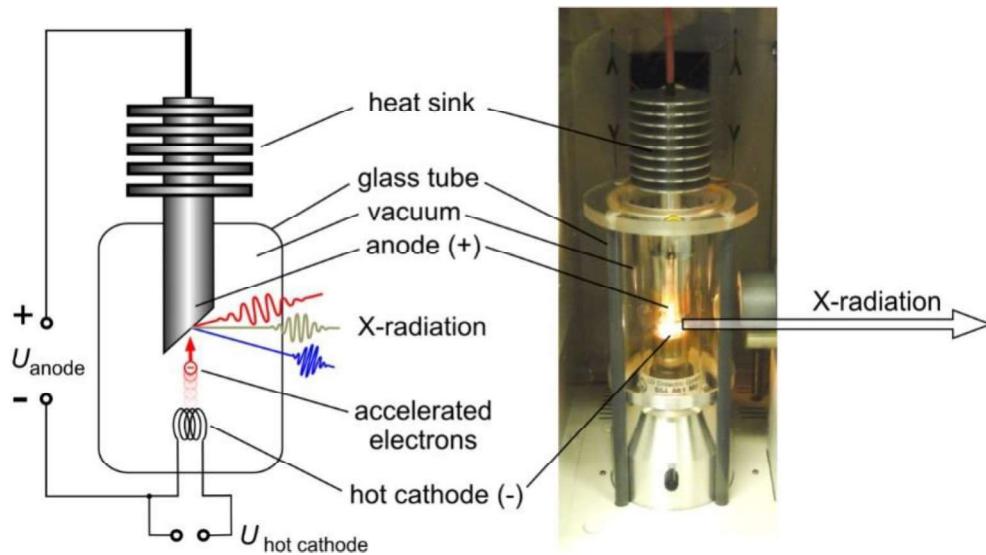
## Production of X-rays



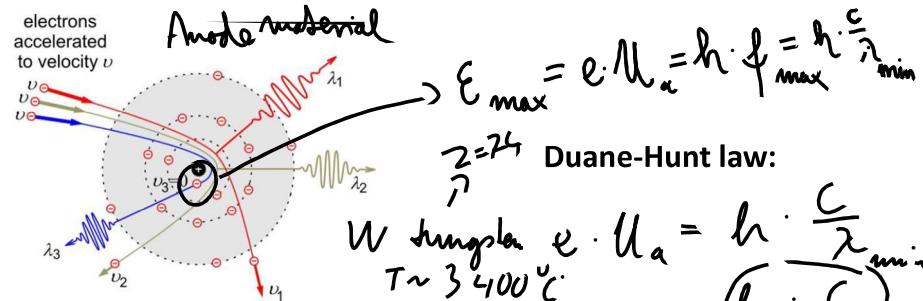
## Schematic structure of the X-ray tube



## Schematic structure of the X-ray tube



## Bremsstrahlung: „braking radiation“



Total emitted power:

$$P_x = C_x \cdot U_a^2 \cdot Z \cdot I_a$$

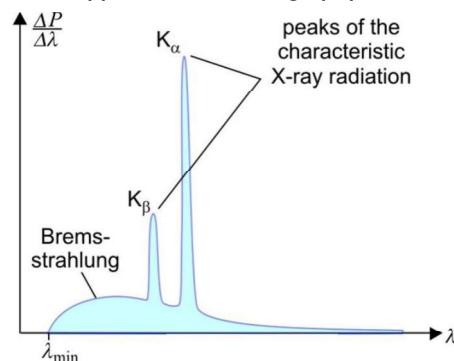
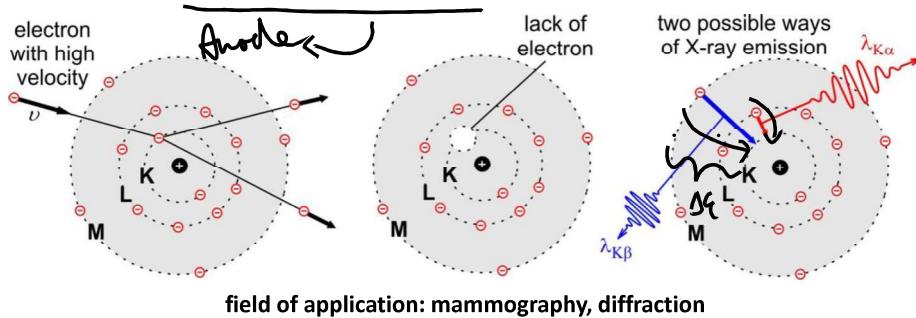
$M_0 \cdot Z = 42$

Radiation production efficiency: 1%

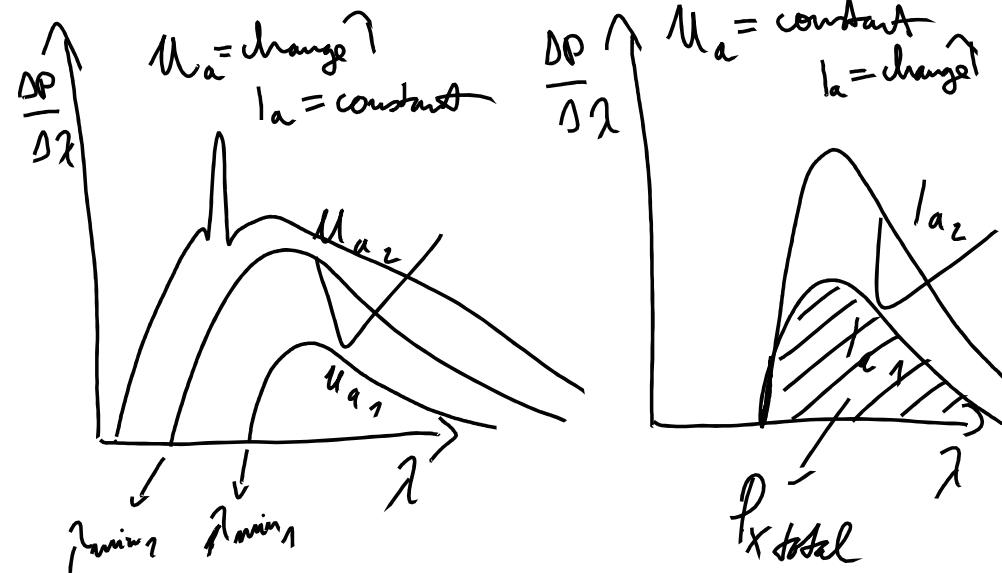
$$\eta = \frac{P_x}{P_{\text{in}}} = \frac{C_x \cdot U_a^2 \cdot Z}{M \cdot t} = C_x \cdot U_a \cdot Z$$

$b = 1230 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{pm}$

## Characteristic X-radiation



## Bremsstrahlung – spectral changes



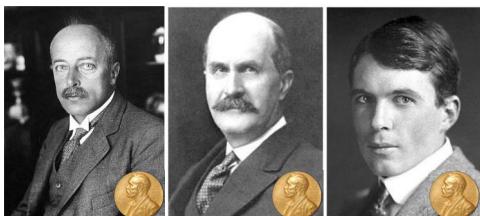
## Interaction of X-radiation with matter

1. Diffraction – elastic scattering, or reflection  
crystallography – determining crystal structure

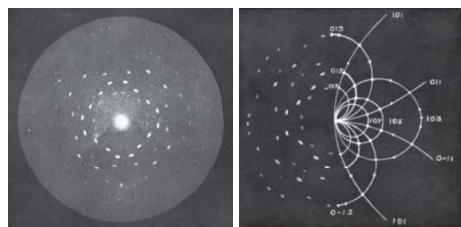
2. Absorption  
medical diagnostics and therapy

## Interaction of X-radiation with matter I.

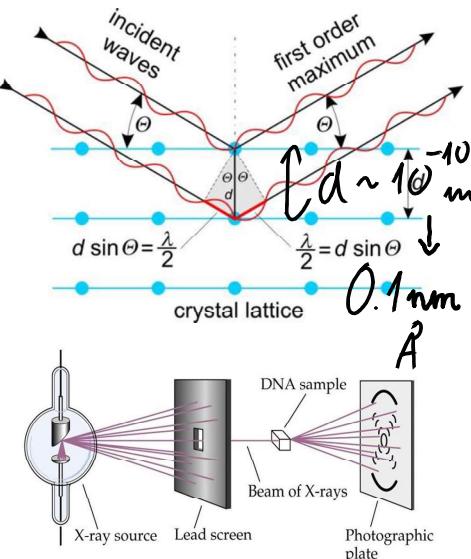
### X-ray diffraction



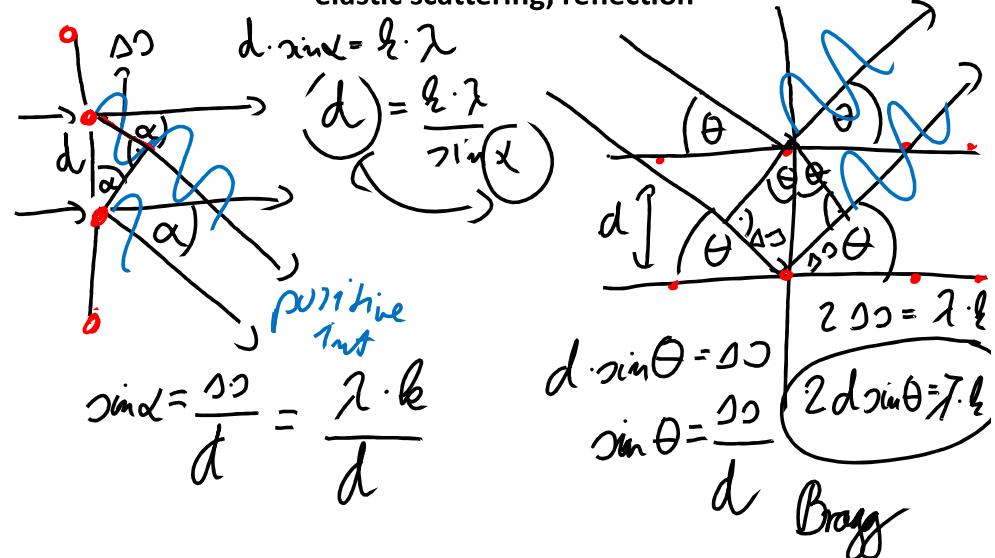
Max von Laue    William Henry and Lawrence Bragg



X-ray diffractogram of a crystal and L. Bragg's calculations

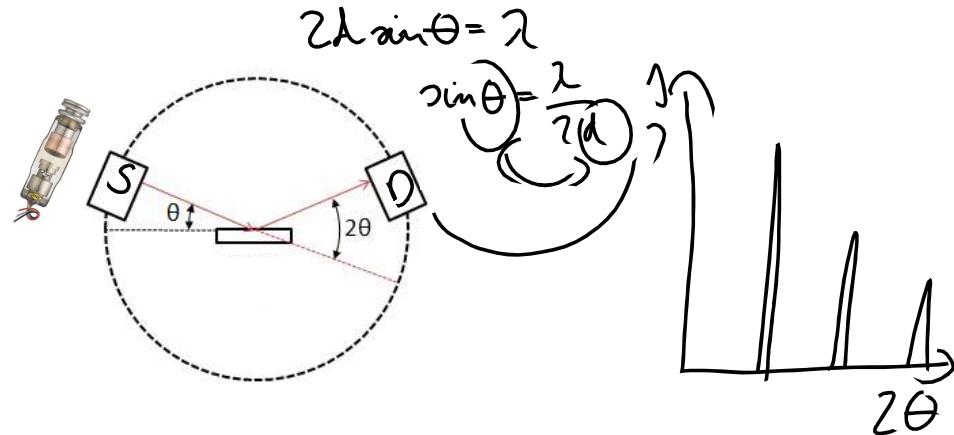


### X-ray diffraction Interaction of X-radiaton photons with the matter – elastic scattering, reflection

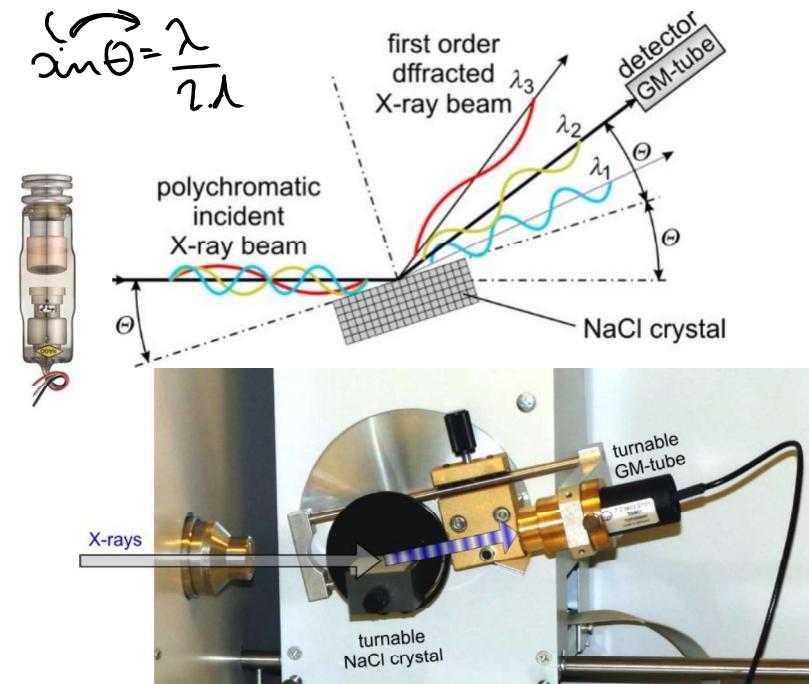


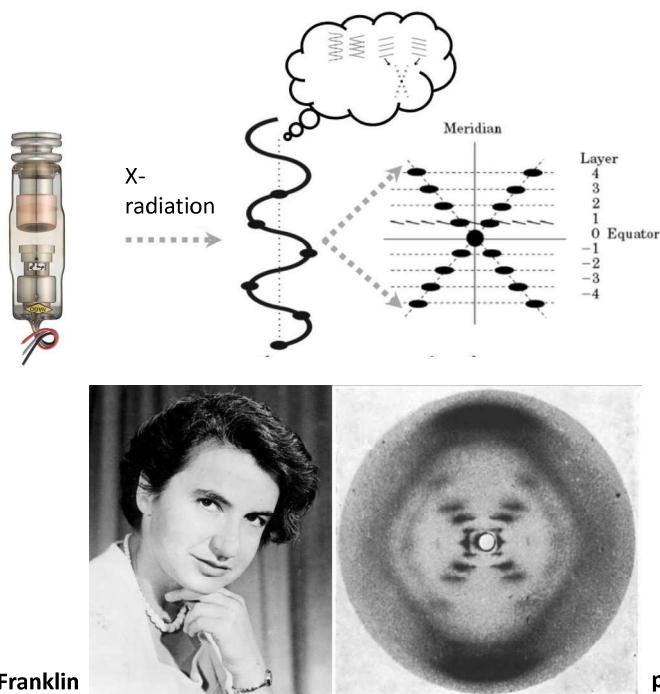
## X-ray diffractometry - XRD

monochromatic X-radiation – use of characteristic X-ray peaks



## Registering the spectrum of X-radiation





Rosalind Franklin

picture 51

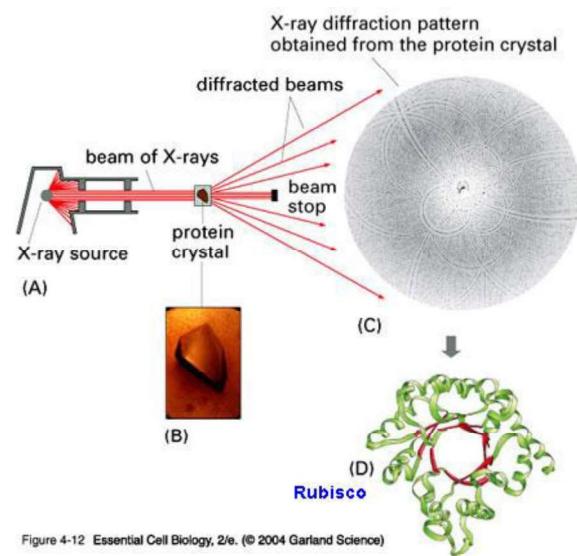
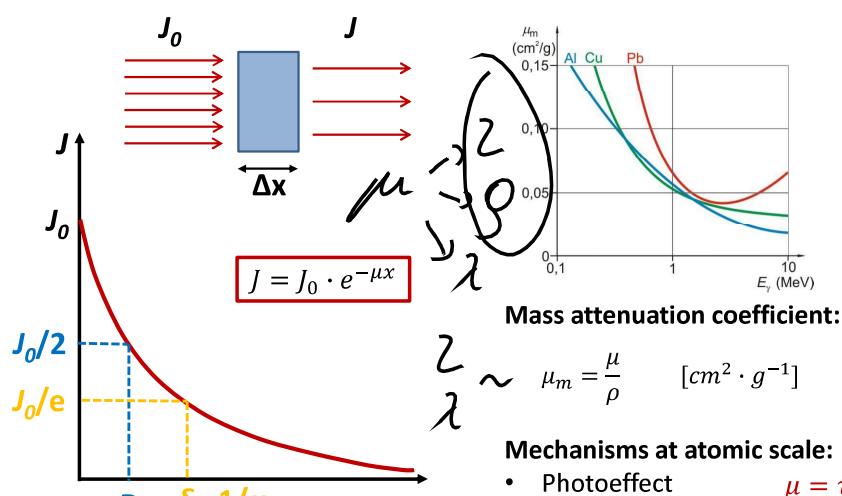


Figure 4-12 Essential Cell Biology, 2/e. © 2004 Garland Science

## Interaction of X-radiation with matter II.

### Absorption – general principles

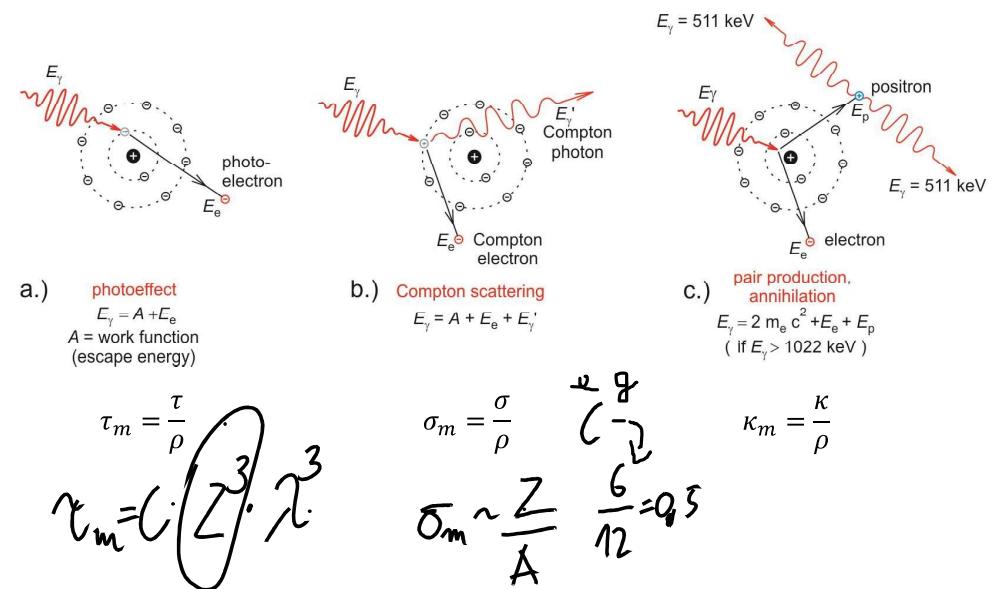


### Mechanisms at atomic scale:

- Photoeffect  $\mu = \tau + \sigma + \kappa$
- Compton scattering
- Pair production (in radiotherapy)

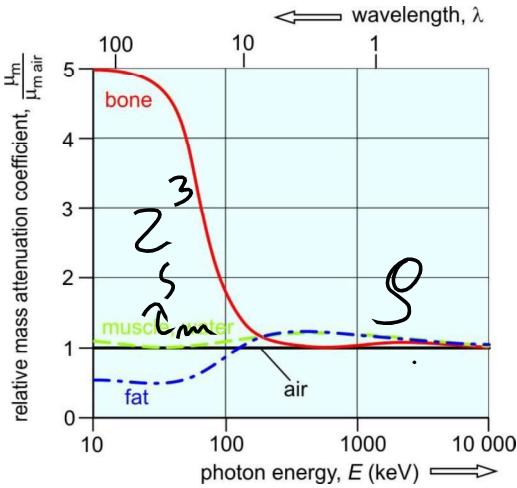
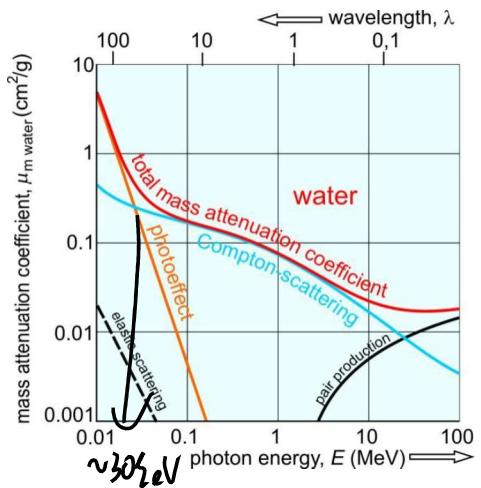
## Interaction of X-radiation with matter II.

### Atomic scale absorption processes



## X-ray diagnostics

### Absorption processes and diagnostics



## X-ray diagnostics

- Shadow image
- Based on absorption
- static: X-ray films, dynamic: fluoroscopy
- Summation image: 2D representation
- Tomography (sectioning): CT (CAT scan), 3D



$$J = J_0 \cdot e^{-\mu_m \cdot \rho \cdot x}$$

mass attenuation coefficient      density

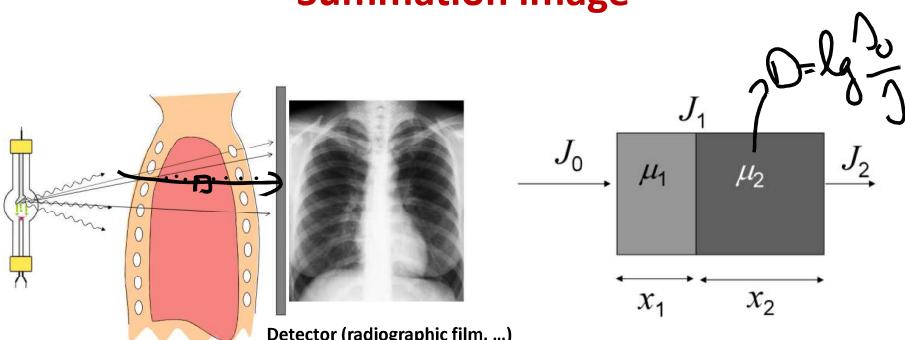
$$\mu_m = \tau_m + \sigma_m$$

$\tau_m = C \cdot \lambda^3 \cdot Z^3$

$$\sigma_m = C \cdot Z/A$$

medium	$Z_{\text{eff}}$	$\rho [\text{g}/\text{cm}^3]$
air	7.3	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-3}$
water	7.7	1
soft tissue	7.4	1
bone	13.8	1.7-2

### Summation image



$$J_1 = J_0 \cdot e^{-\mu_1 \cdot x_1}$$

$$J_2 = J_1 \cdot e^{-\mu_2 \cdot x_2} = J_0 \cdot e^{-\mu_1 \cdot x_1} \cdot e^{-\mu_2 \cdot x_2}$$

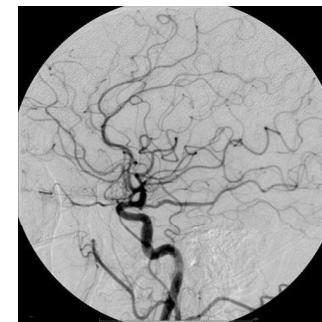
$$J_2 = J_0 \cdot e^{-(\mu_1 \cdot x_1 + \mu_2 \cdot x_2)}$$

## X-ray diagnostics

### Contrast agents



double contrast: BaSO<sub>4</sub> (+) and air (-)



cerebral angiography with KI contrast (+)



BaSO<sub>4</sub> (+) swallow – fluoroscopic image

#### Positive contrast agents

more absorption

$$\mu \uparrow \quad \mu_m \uparrow \quad Z_{\text{eff}} \uparrow$$

iodine (veins),  
barium  
(gastrointestinal)

#### Negative contrast agents

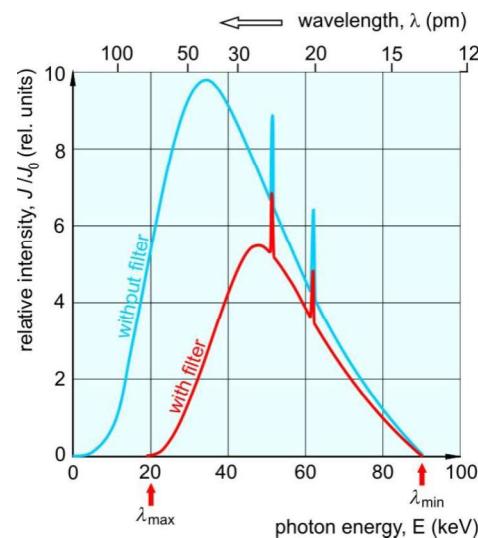
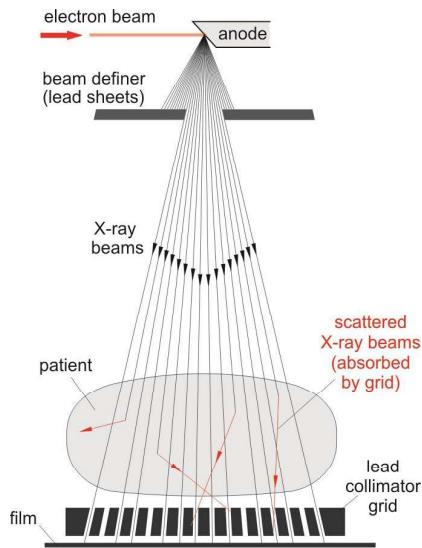
less absorption

$$\mu \downarrow \quad \rho \downarrow \quad \mu_m - Z_{\text{eff}} -$$

air, CO<sub>2</sub> (gastrointestinal)

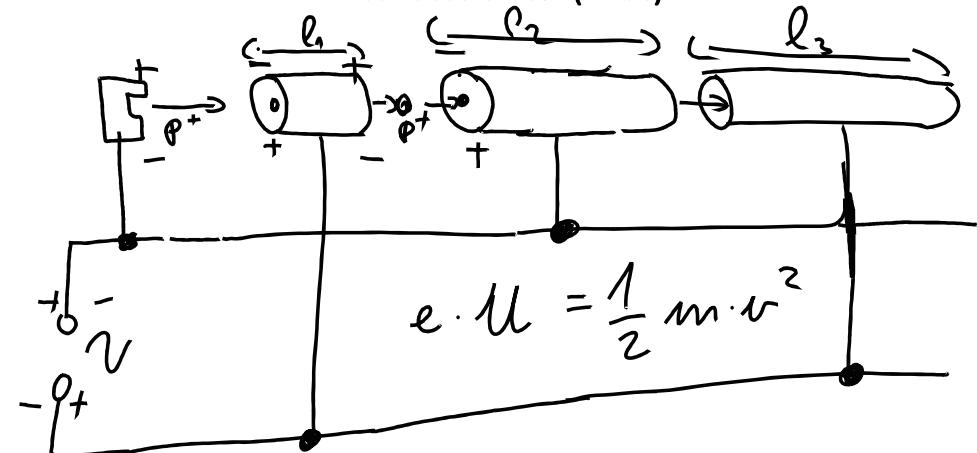
## X-ray diagnostics

### collimator, filtering



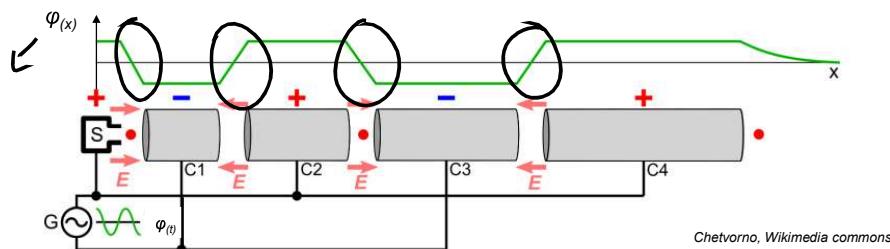
## Particle accelerators

### Linear accelerator (Linac)



## Particle accelerators

### Linear accelerator (Linac)



Chetvorno, Wikimedia commons

