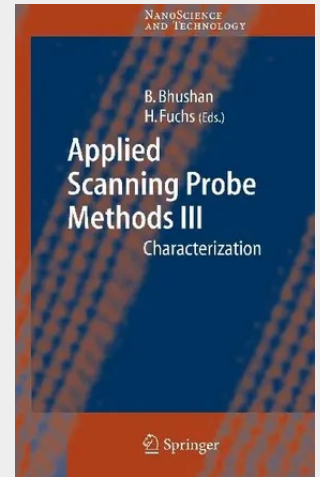


Applied Scanning Probe Methods III

Characterization

The Nobel Prize of 1986 on Scanning Tunneling Microscopy signalled a new era in imaging. The scanning probes emerged as a new instrument for imaging with a precision sufficient to delineate single atoms. At first there were two – the Scanning Tunneling Microscope, or STM, and the Atomic Force Microscope, or AFM. The STM relies on electrons tunneling between tip and sample whereas the AFM depends on the force acting on the tip when it was placed near the sample. These were quickly followed by the Magnetic Force Microscope, MFM, and the Electrostatic Force Microscope, EFM. The MFM will image a single magnetic bit with features as small as 10nm. With the EFM one can monitor the charge of a single electron. Prof. Paul Hansma at Santa Barbara opened the door even wider when he was able to image biological objects in aqueous environments. At this point the sluice gates were opened and a multitude of different instruments appeared. There are significant differences between the Scanning Probe Microscopes or SPM, and others such as the Scanning Electron Microscope or SEM. The probe microscopes do not require preparation of the sample and they operate in ambient atmosphere, whereas, the SEM must operate in a vacuum environment and the sample must be cross-sectioned to expose the proper surface. However, the SEM can record 3D image and movies, features that are not available with the scanning probes.

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