

# Rebirth of Force Spectroscopy: HybriD AFM Mode

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NT-MDT Spectrum Instruments, Moscow, Russia*

**Introduction**

**HybriD (HD) mode working principle**

**Fast quantitative nanomechanical studies**

**New generation of HybriD mode control electronics**

**Recently developed HybriD-based modes:**

- Piezoresponse force microscopy (HD PFM)
- Scanning thermoelectric microscopy (HD SThEM)
- Scanning thermal microscopy (HD SThM)
- Conductivity studies (HD C-AFM)
- Vacuum and Liquid measurements (Vacuum HD & Bio HD)
- AFM+Optical: HD TERS and HD s-SNOM

**Conclusion**

U.S. Patent

July 20, 1993

Sheet 1 of 4

5,229,606

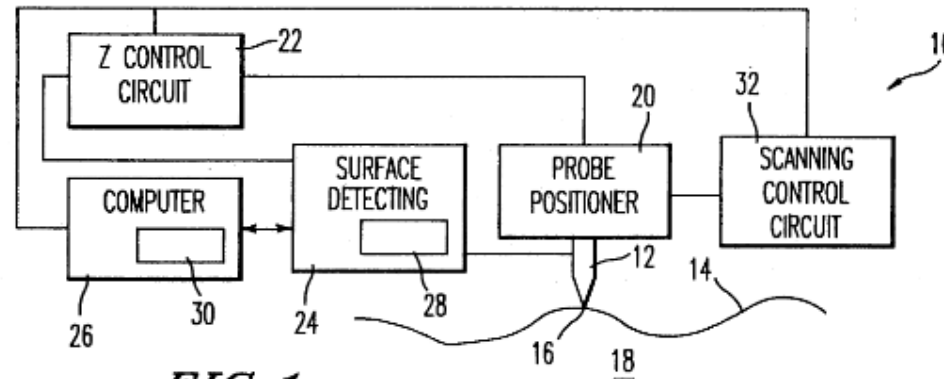


FIG. 1

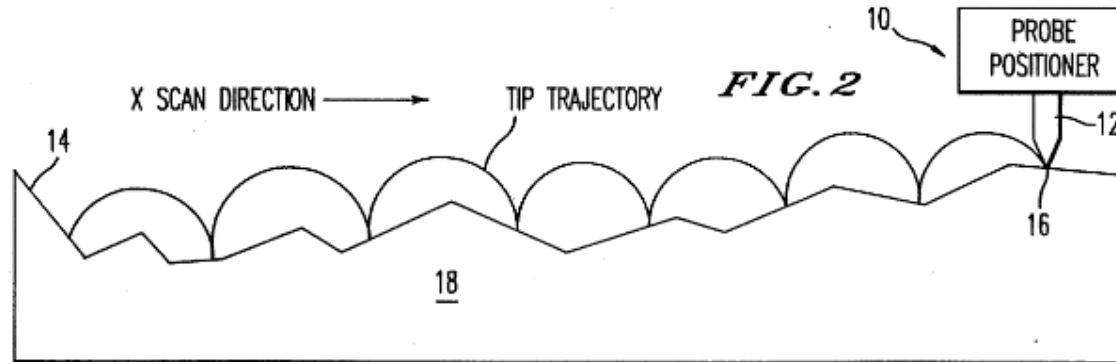
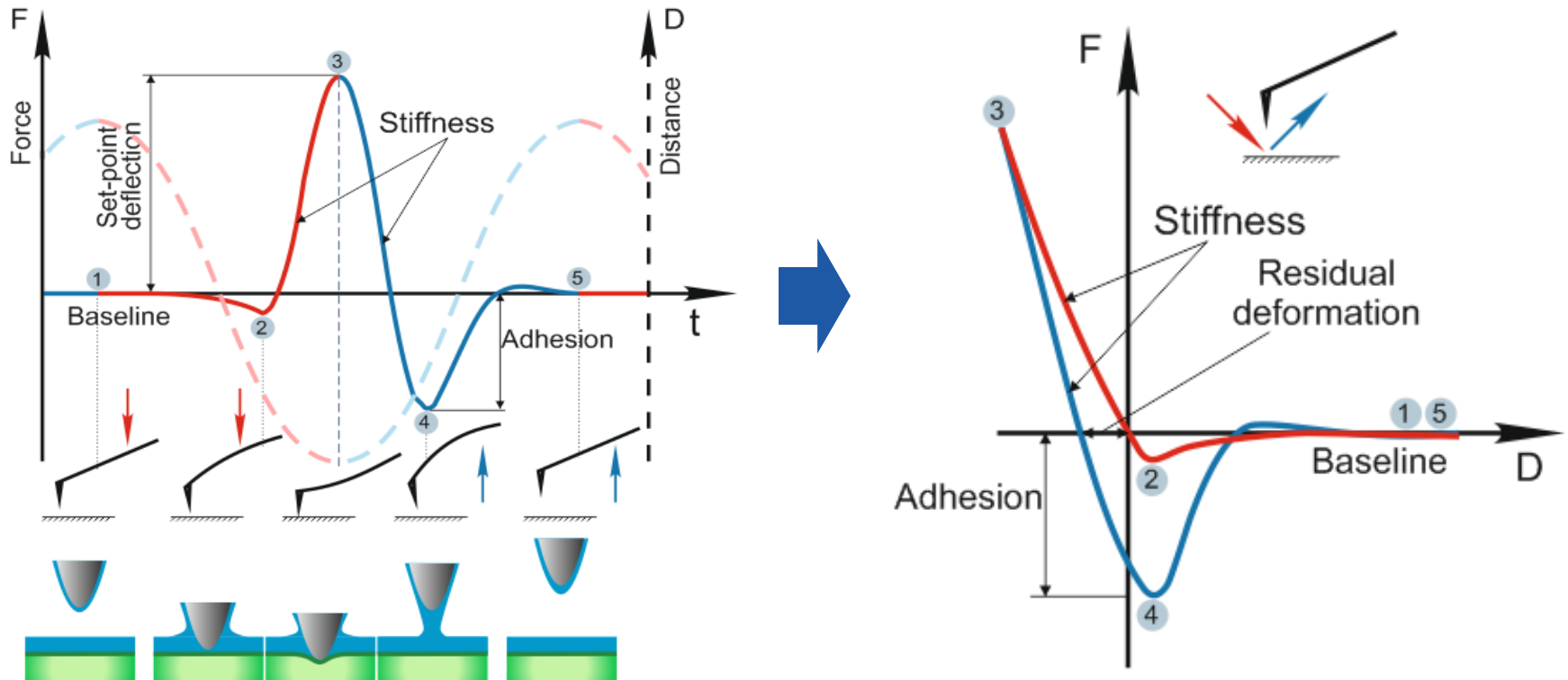


FIG. 2

*Patent US 5229606 "Jumping probe microscope"  
Applied in 1989 by Virgil B. Elings, John A. Gurley*

Hybrid mode (HD mode) – scanning technique based on fast force-distance curves measurements with real-time processing of the tip response.

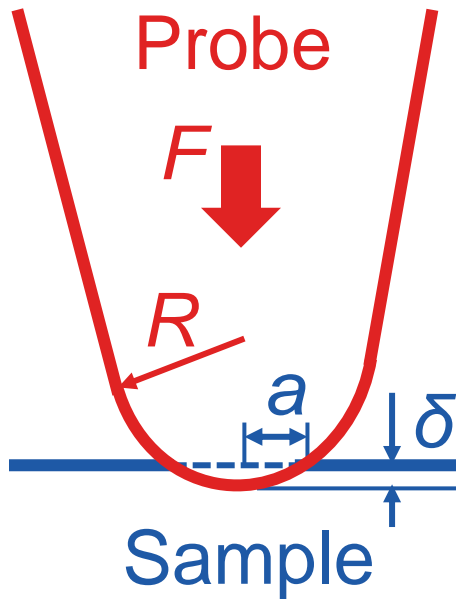


*Hybrid mode working principle*

## HD QNM

# Quantitative nanomechanical measurements

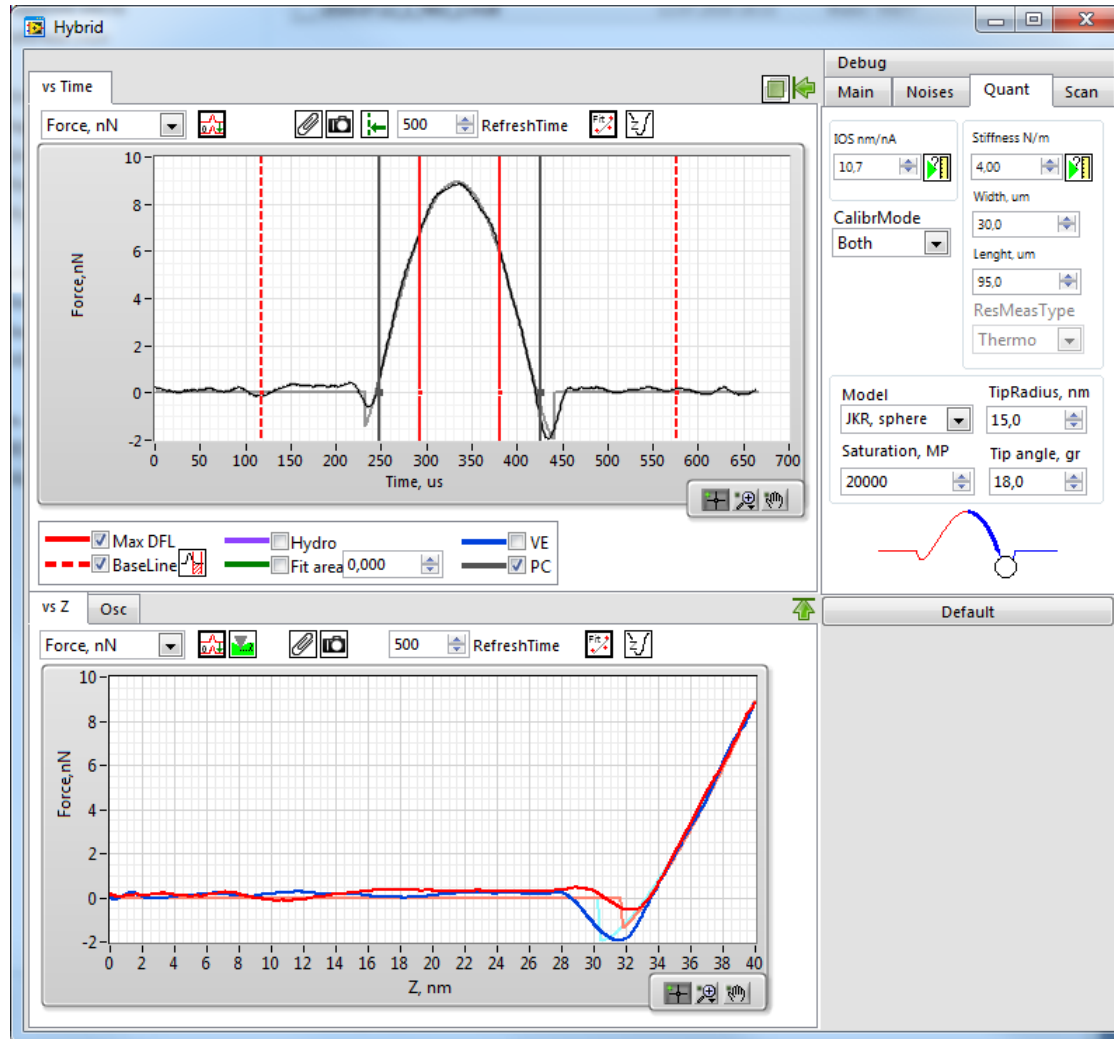
## Most used models of contact mechanics



*Tip-sample interaction model*

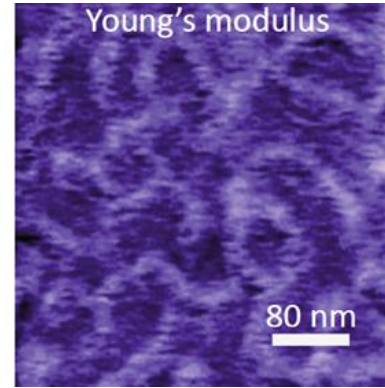
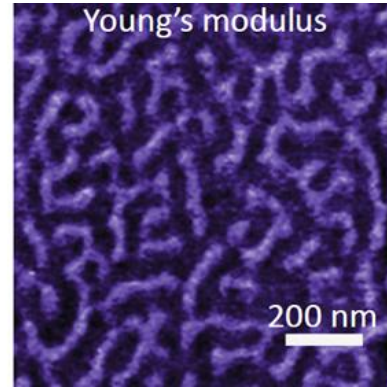
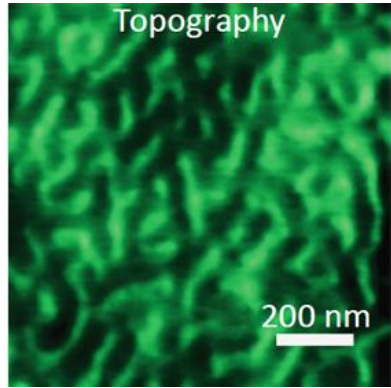
Model	Approximation
Hertz model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large tip radius (<math>a/R \ll 1</math>)</li> <li>• No adhesive and capillary forces</li> </ul>
Derjagin-Muller-Toropov model (DMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharp tip (<math>a \approx R</math>)</li> <li>• Low adhesive and capillary forces</li> <li>• Stiff samples</li> </ul>
Johnson-Kendall-Roberts model (JKR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large tip radius (<math>a/R \ll 1</math>)</li> <li>• High adhesion</li> </ul>

## Real-time approximation of the force curves



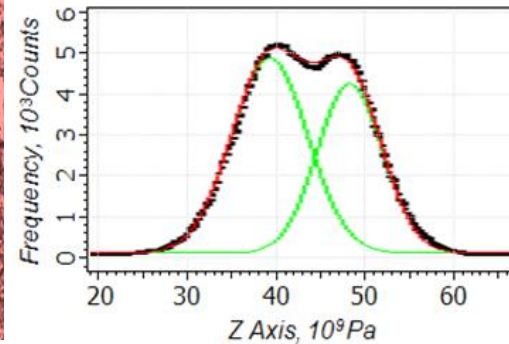
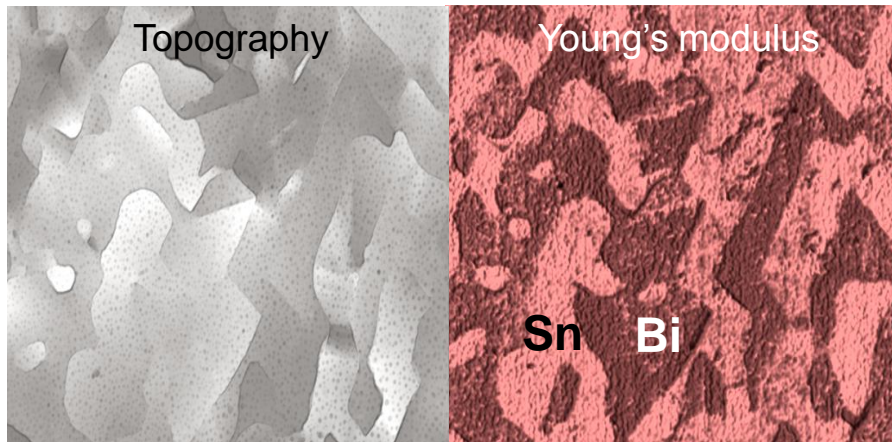
Hybrid mode software

## Ultimate spatial resolution



HD QNM study of PS-b-PMMA. Right image demonstrates around 10 nm spatial resolution.

## Braking the force limit



**Young's Modulus:**

Si: 70 GPa

Tin: 50 GPa

Bismuth: 32 GPa

HD QNM study of Tin-Bismuth alloy. Scan size:  $10 \times 10 \mu\text{m}$ .



## **HD 2.0**

**New generation of control electronics**

## New generation of control electronics for Hybrid mode



*2012: HD Control electronics*

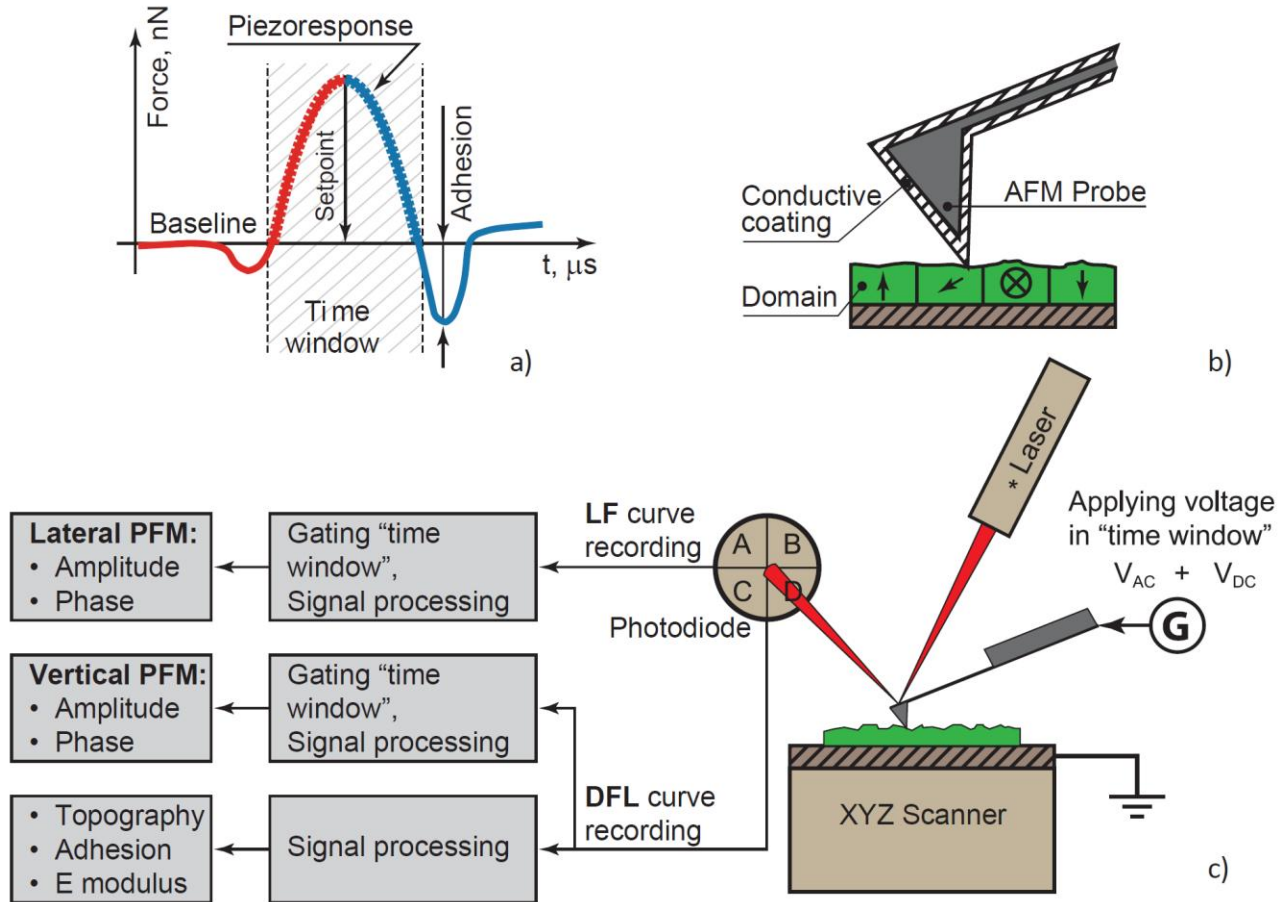


*2017: New HD 2.0 Control electronics*

- + 4x faster FPGA and DSP
- + 2x faster ADCs
- + High-speed digital LIAs and generators
- + Build-in 150V AC and DC voltage extension for PFM measurements

# HybriD Piezoresponse Force Microscopy

In HD PFM an AC voltage is applied to the conductive coating of the AFM cantilever when the tip comes in contact with the sample during each fast force spectroscopy cycle.

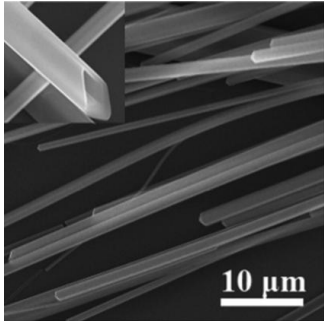


**HD PFM working principle: a) an idealized temporal deflection curve during an oscillatory cycle, b) tip-sample interaction in "time window", c) measurement scheme**

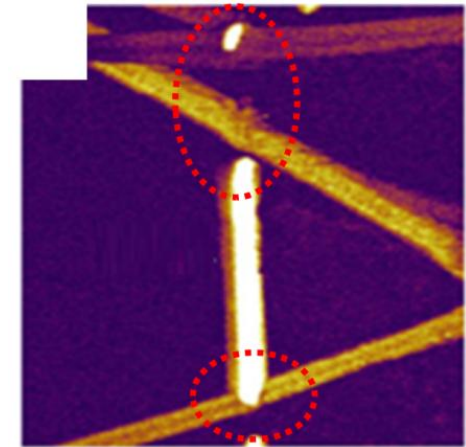
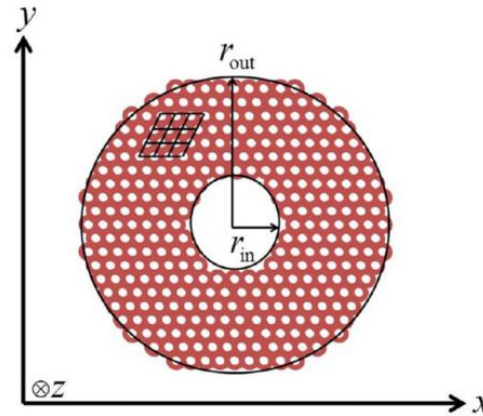
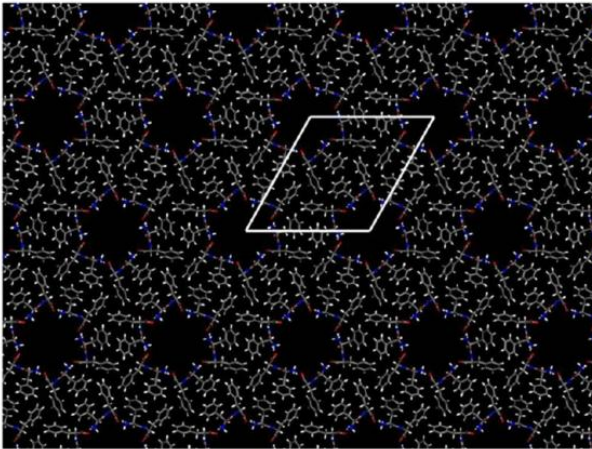
## Key advantages of HD PFM compared to the contact mode PFM:

- 1 The ability of piezoresponse study of soft, loose and fragile samples:** since the AFM tip retracts from the surface in each scanning point, the lateral tip-sample interaction force is significantly reduced in comparison to the conventional contact PFM technique.
- 2 Simultaneous Quantitative Nanomechanical measurements**
- 3 Simultaneous double-pass resonant electrostatic measurements: Kelvin Probe Microscopy or Electrostatic Force Microscopy.**
- 4 Automatic compensation of the thermal drift of the AFM probe at each scanning point for the real-time PFM studies under varying temperature.**

## Motivation for the development: diphenylalanine peptide nanotubes



$d_{15} = 60 \text{ pm/V}^1$   
E modulus = 19÷32 GPa



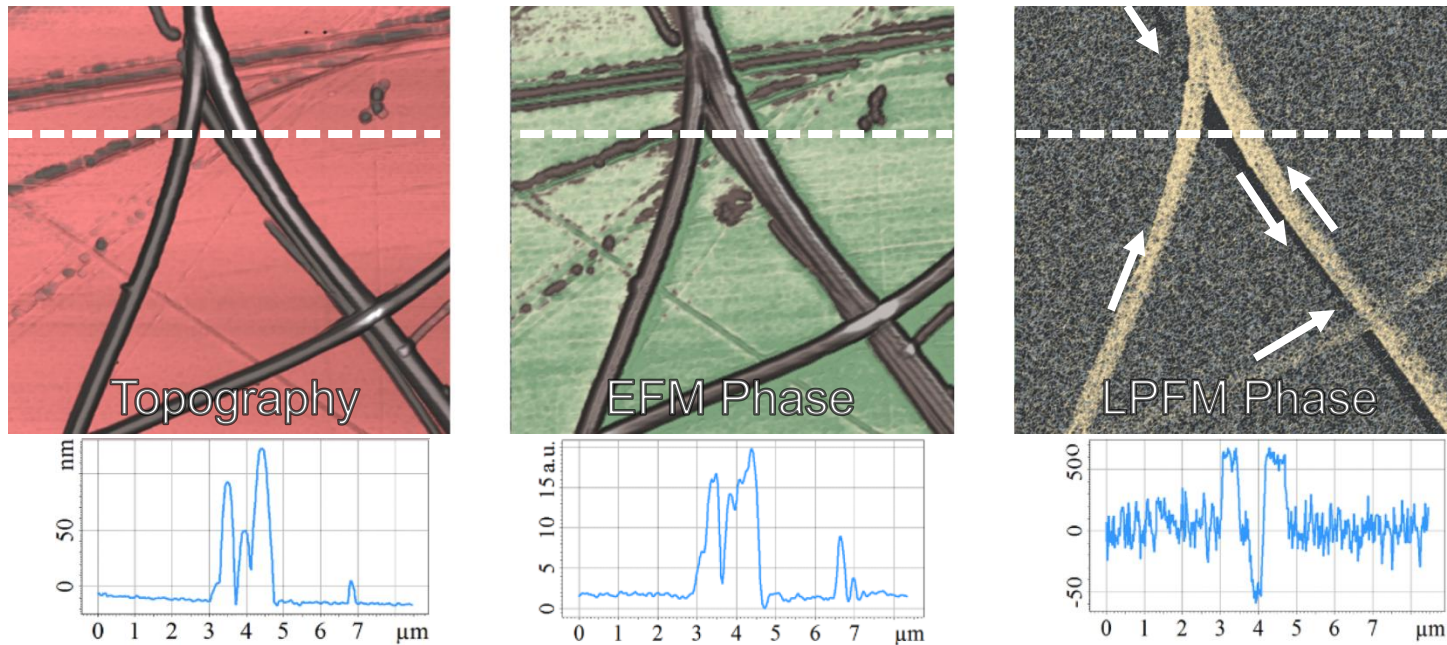
*Molecular structure of diphenylalanine peptide nanotubes<sup>1</sup>*

*Contact PFM image<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Kholkin, A., Amdursky, N., Bdikin, I., Gazit, E., & Rosenman, G. (2010) ACS nano, 4(2), 610-614.

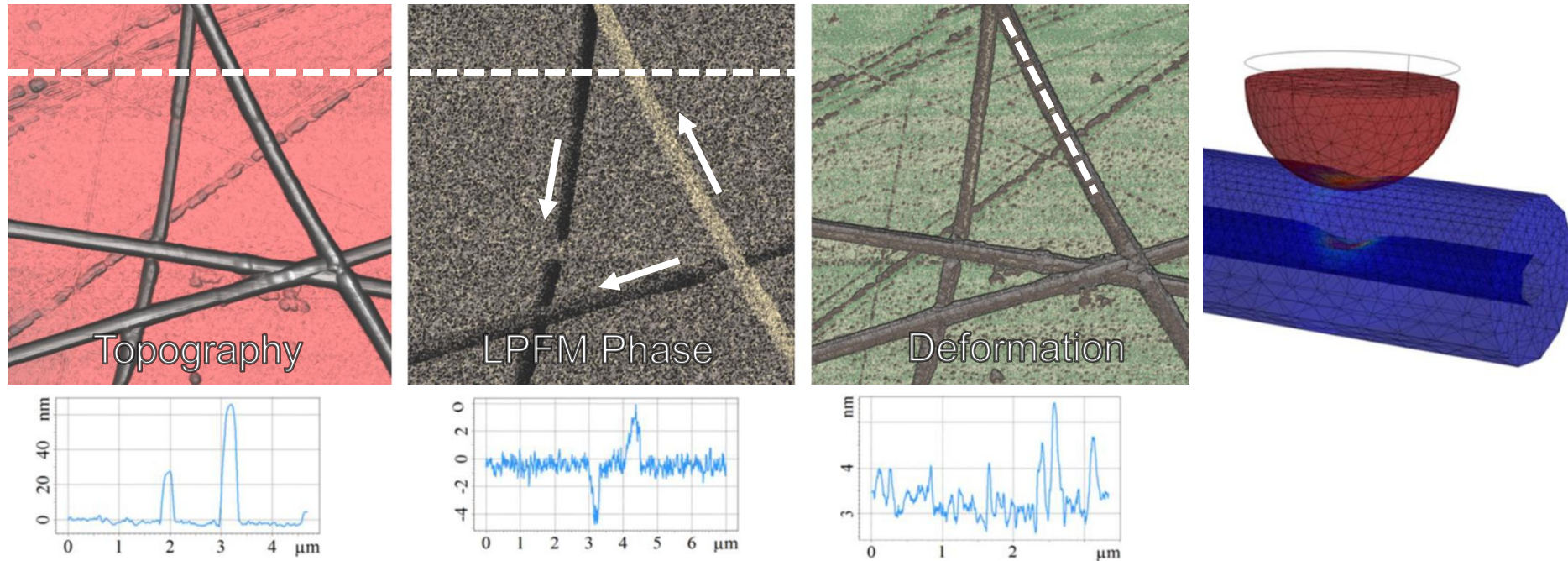
<sup>2</sup>Ivanov, M., Kopyl, S., Tofail, S. A., Ryan, K., Rodriguez, B. J., Shur, V. Y., & Kholkin, A. L. (2016) In Electrically Active Materials for Medical Devices (pp. 149-166).

For the first time HD PFM mode allowed non-destructive piezoresponse study of diphenylalanine peptide nanotubes – a very prospective material for biomedical applications.



*Non-destructive electromechanical study of diphenylalanine peptide nanotubes. Scan size: 8×8 μm, nanotubes diameter: 30±150 nm<sup>1</sup>. Sample courtesy: Dr. A. Kholkin, University of Aviero*

For the first time HD PFM mode allowed non-destructive piezoresponse study of diphenylalanine peptide nanotubes – a very prospective material for biomedical applications.



*Non-destructive electromechanical study of diphenylalanine peptide nanotubes. Scan size:  $7 \times 7 \mu\text{m}$ , nanotubes diameter:  $70 \div 100 \text{ nm}$ <sup>1</sup>. Sample courtesy: Dr. A. Kholkin, University of Aviero*

<sup>1</sup> A. Kalinin, V. Atepalikhin, O. Pakhomov, A. Kholkin, A. Tselev. An Atomic Force Microscopy Mode for Nondestructive Electromechanical Studies and its Application to Diphenylalanine Peptide Nanotubes. To be published in Ultramicroscopy



## Continuous PFM studies under varying temperature

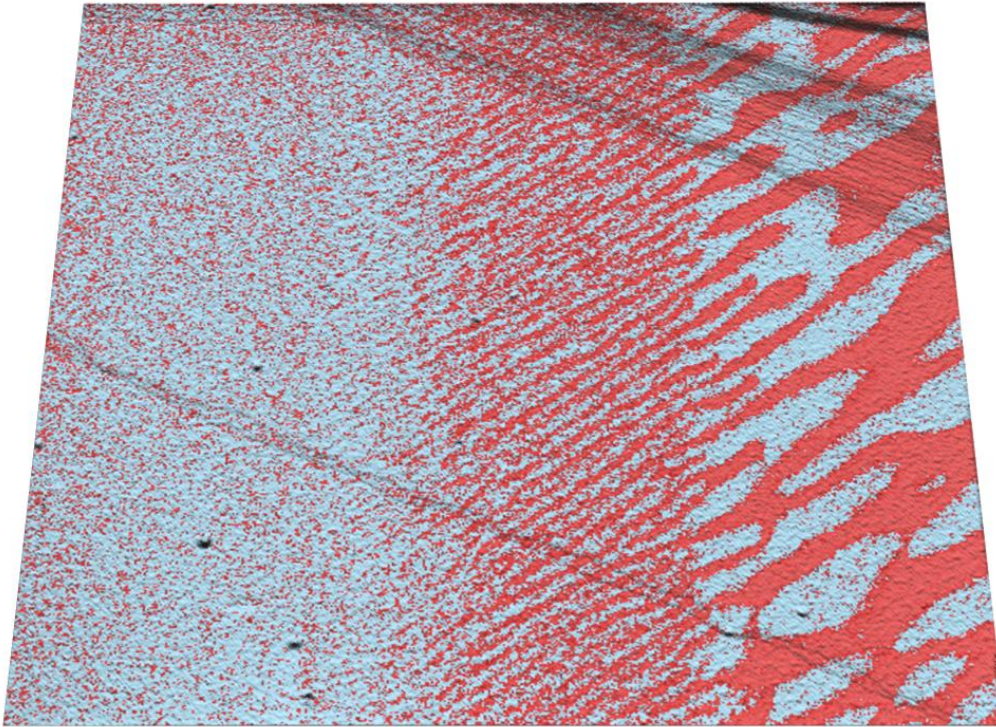
50 °C



49 °C



48 °C

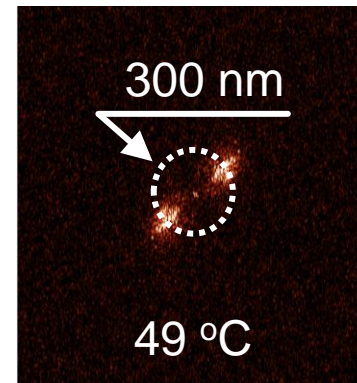


RT÷300 °C

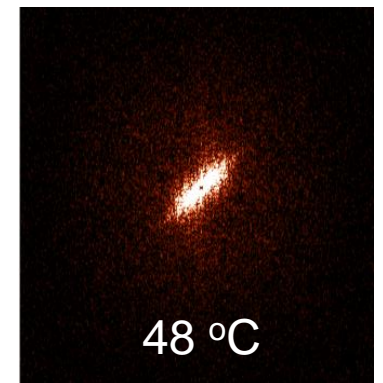


-30÷120 °C

*NT-MDT S.I. accessories for sample temperature control*



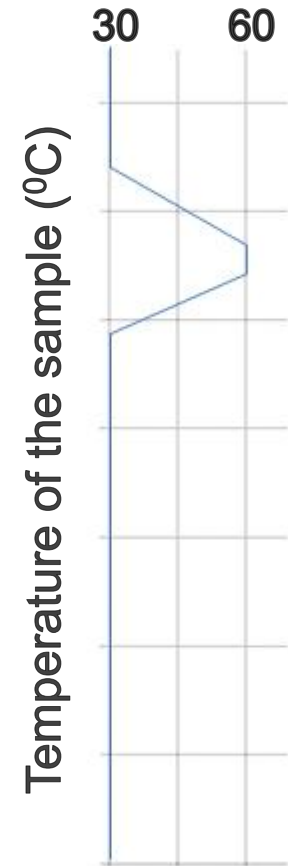
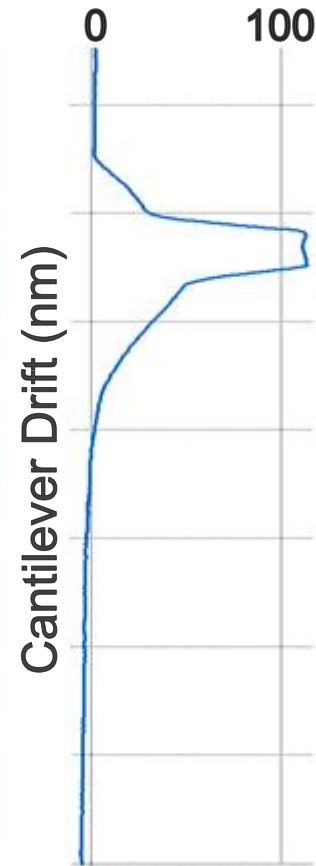
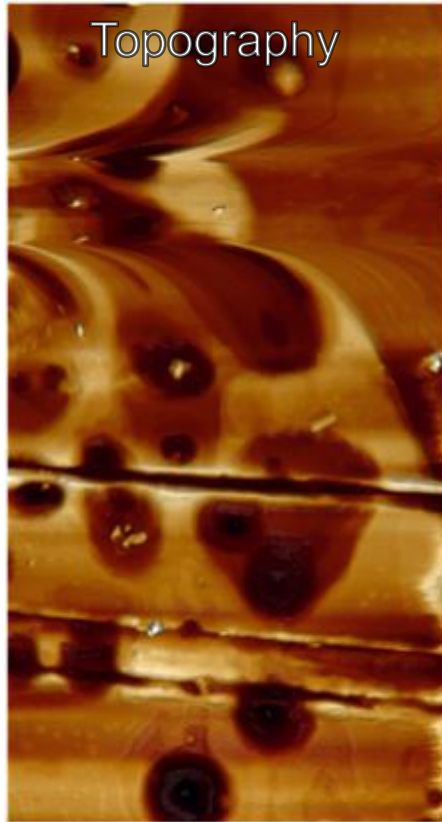
49 °C



48 °C

*In-situ HD PFM study of second-order phase transition of triglycine sulfate crystal. Scan size 15×15 μm. Sample courtesy: Dr. R. Gainutdinov, IC RAS*

## Continuous PFM studies under variable temperature >0.1 °C/sec temperature change



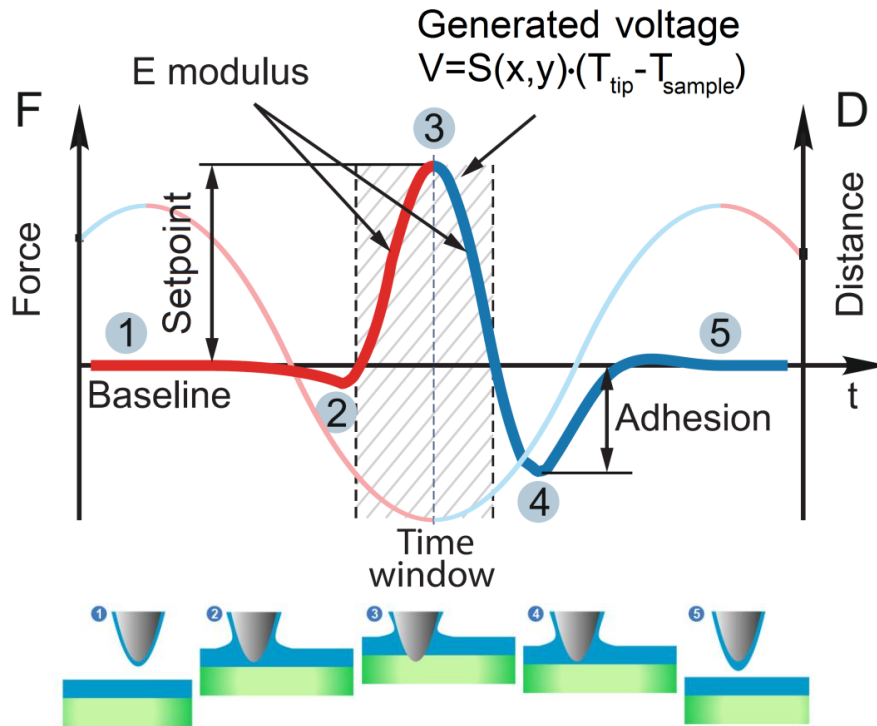
*In-situ HD PFM study of second-order phase transition of triglycine sulfate crystal. Scan size 15×15 μm. Sample courtesy: Dr. R. Gainutdinov, IC RAS*

## Key advantages of HD PFM compared to the contact mode PFM:

- 1 **The ability of piezoresponse study of soft, loose and fragile samples:** since the AFM tip retracts from the surface in each scanning point, the lateral tip-sample interaction force is significantly reduced in comparison to the conventional contact PFM technique.
- 2 **Simultaneous Quantitative Nanomechanical measurements**
- 3 **Simultaneous double-pass resonant electrostatic measurements: Kelvin Probe Microscopy or Electrostatic Force Microscopy.**
- 4 **Automatic compensation of the thermal drift of the AFM probe at each scanning point for the real-time PFM studies under varying temperature.**

# HybriD Scanning Thermoelectric Microscopy

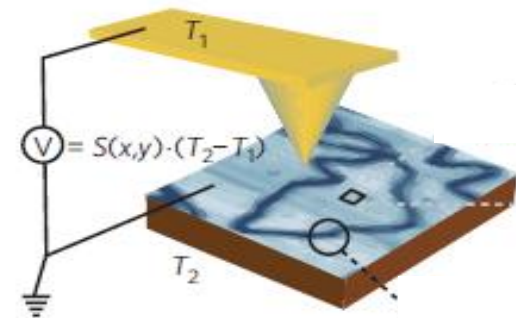
HD SThEM working principle is based on direct measurement of generated voltage when conductive tip and sample under different temperatures contact each other (Seebeck effect) during fast force spectroscopy measurements



HD SThEM working principle

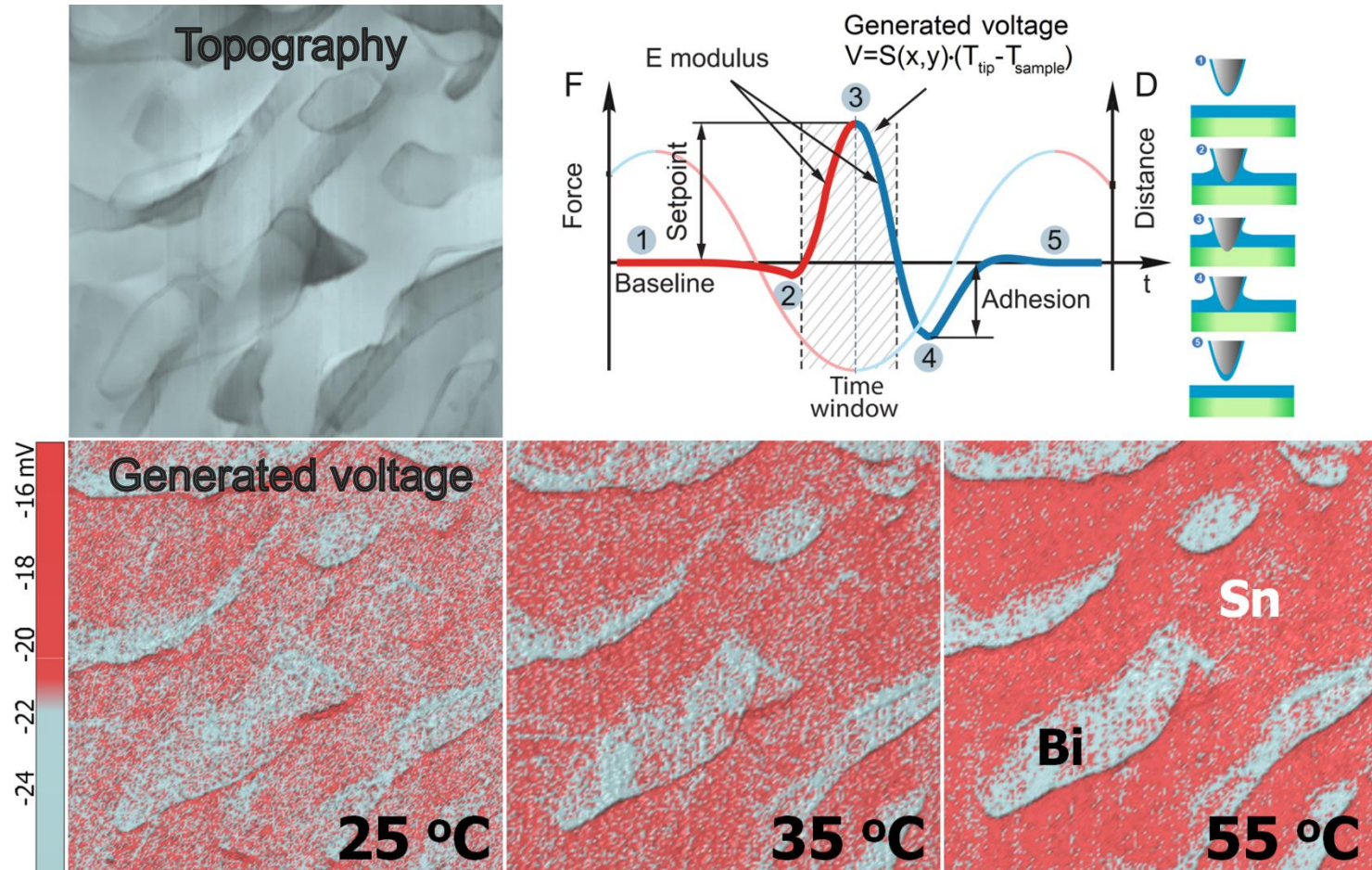


NT-MDT S.I. insert for SThEM measurement



S. Cho et al "Thermoelectric imaging of structural disorder in epitaxial graphene" Nature Materials, 2013.

HD SThEM working principle is based on direct measurement of generated voltage when conductive tip and sample under different temperatures contact each other (Seebeck effect) during fast force spectroscopy measurements



HD SThEM study of Tin-Bismuth alloy. Seebeck coefficient,  $S$ : Bi -72 mV/C, Sn -1.5 mV/C.

Scan size:  $7 \times 7 \mu\text{m}$ .

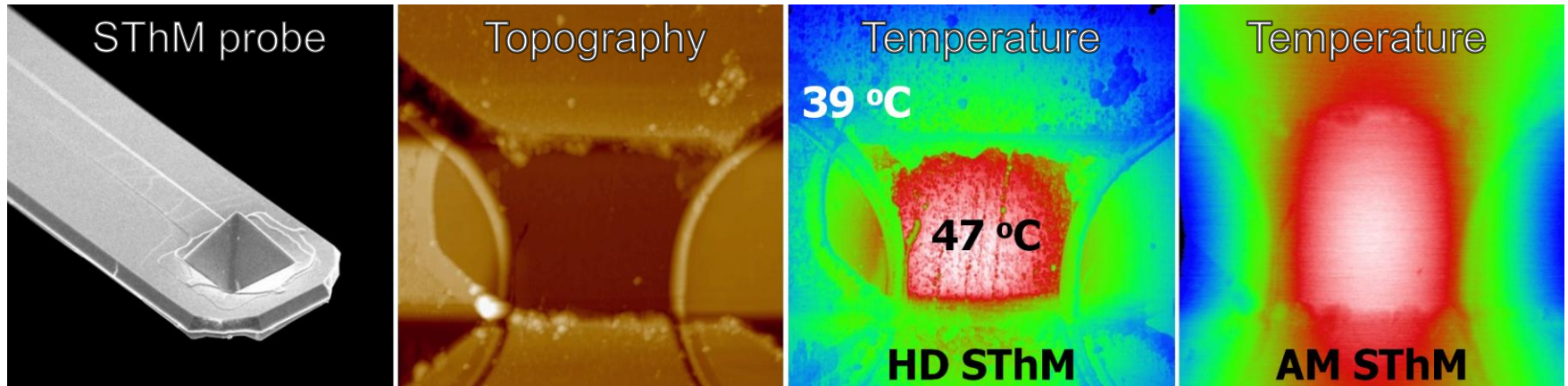
## Key advantages of HD SThEM:

- 1 The first commercially available SThEM equipment.
- 2 **The ability of thermoelectric study of loose and fragile samples:** since the AFM tip retracts from the surface in each scanning point, the lateral tip-sample interaction force is significantly reduced in comparison to the conventional contact PFM technique
- 3 **Simultaneous nanomechanical** and double-pass resonant electrostatic measurements: **Kelvin Probe Microscopy** or **Electrostatic Force Microscopy** studies.

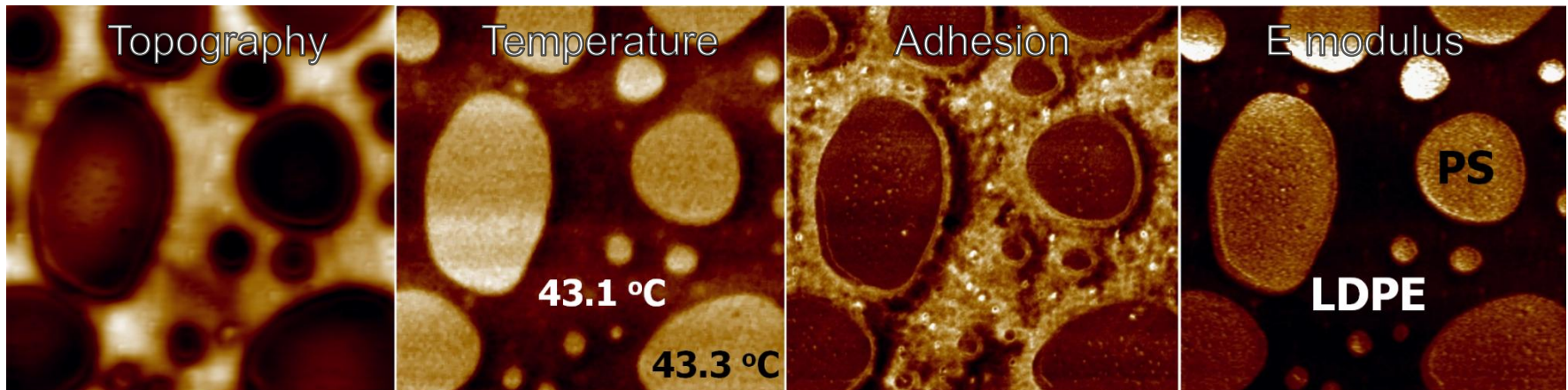
# HybriD Scanning Thermal Microscopy (HD SThM)



HD Scanning Thermal Microscopy (HD SThM) allows studying local thermal properties – temperature and thermal conductivity – simultaneously with QNM measurements.



SEM image of AppNano VertiSense™ thermocouple probe and comparison of HD SThM and AM SThM techniques. Scan size: 17×17 μm.



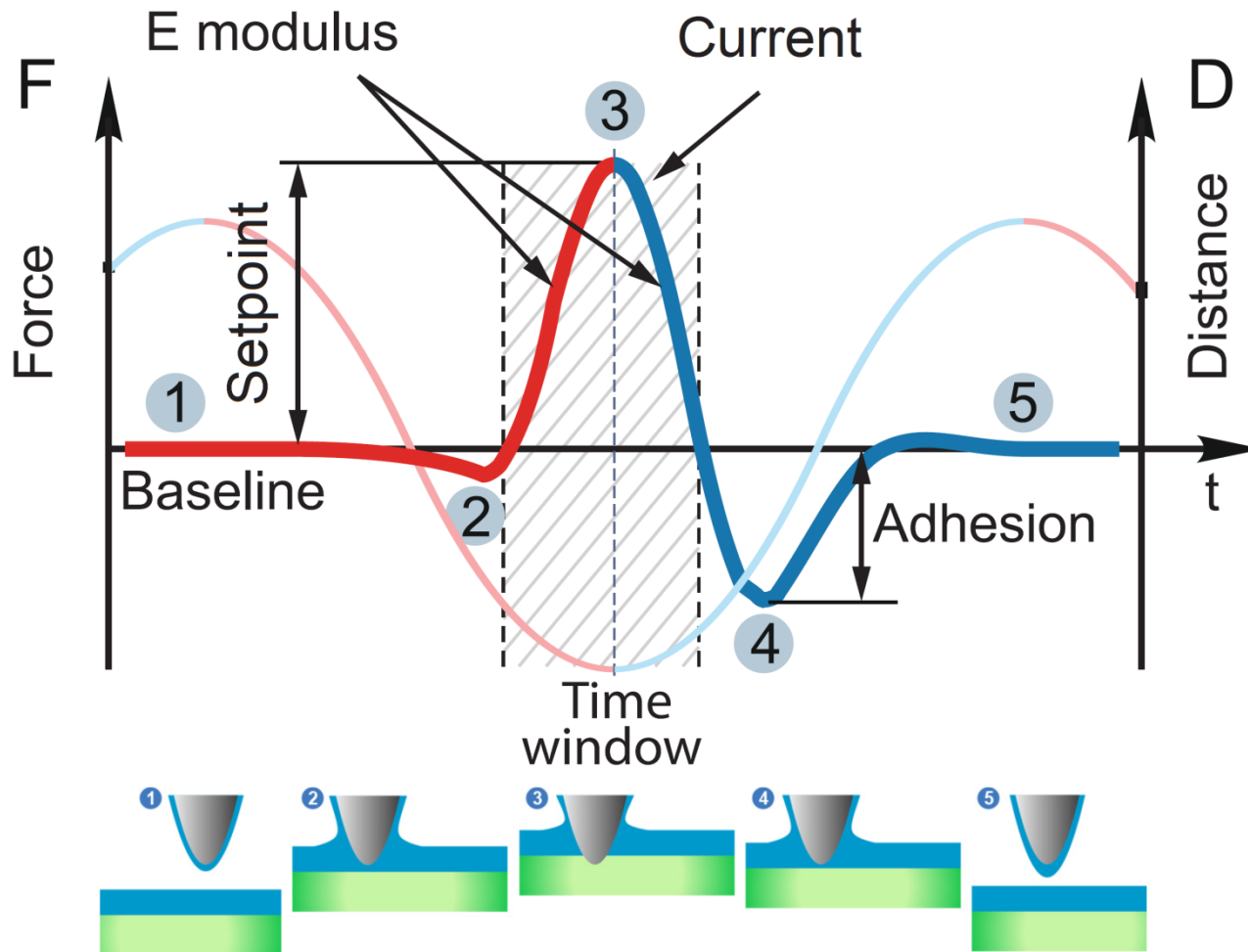
HD SThM study of PS-LDPE. Scan size: 10×10 μm.

## Key advantages of HD SThM:

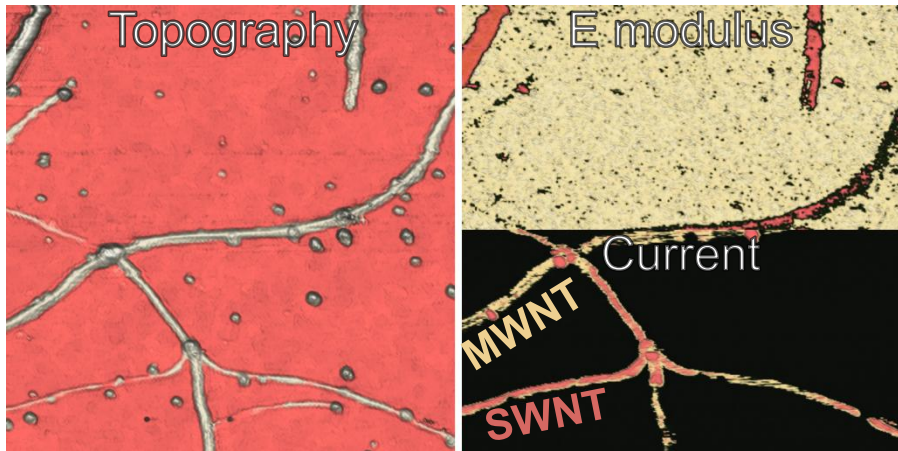
- ① **The ability of thermal studies of soft, loose and fragile samples:** since the AFM tip retracts from the surface in each scanning point, the lateral tip-sample interaction force is significantly reduced in comparison to the conventional contact SThM technique.
- ② **Increased spatial resolution** compared to AM SThM where tip-sample contact time is dramatically short.
- ③ **Simultaneous** nanomechanical studies.

# Hybrid Conductive-AFM

## Conductivity mapping while fast force spectroscopy measurements

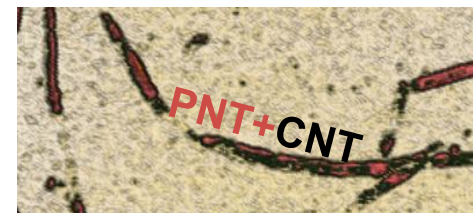
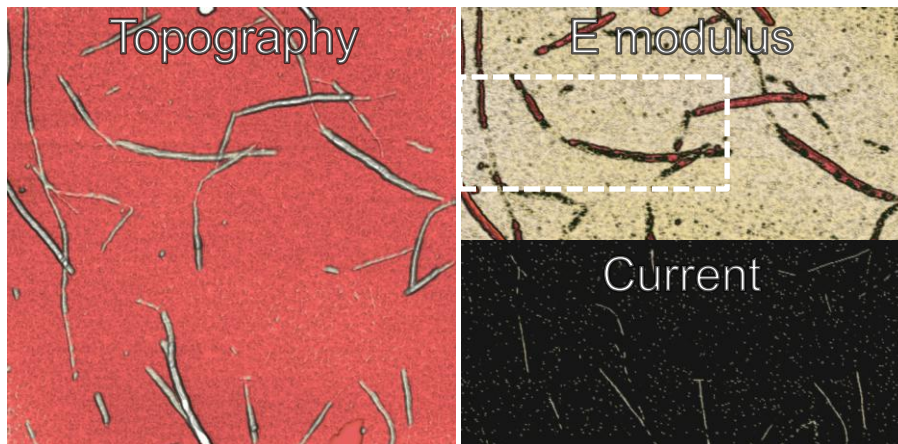


Hybrid Mode drastically decreases the impact of lateral forces and simplifies C-AFM experiments



*HD C-AFM study of carbon Nanotubes on Silicon.*

*Scan size: 1×1 μm.*

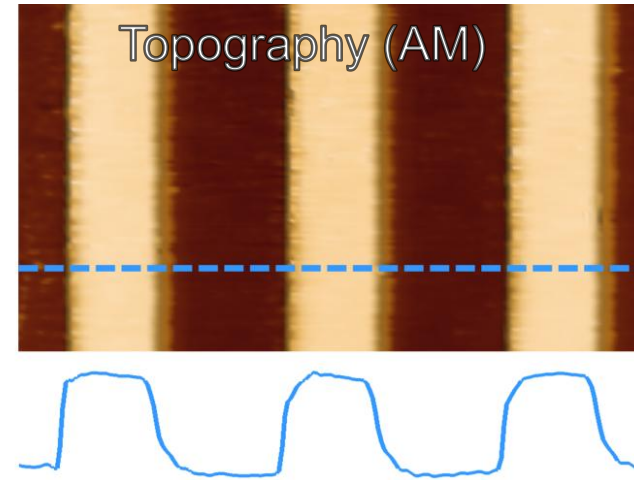
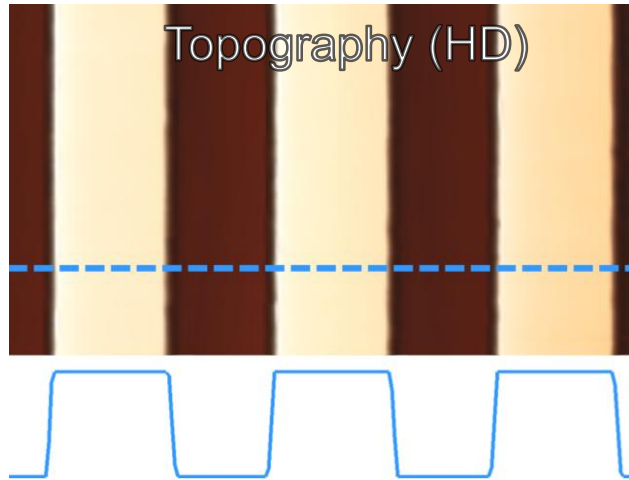


*HD C-AFM study of coupled carbon and peptide Nanotubes. Sample courtesy: Dr. J. Montenegro, University Santiago de Compostela. Scan size: 3×3 μm<sup>1</sup>.*

## Key advantages of HD C-AFM:

- 1 **The ability of conductivity studies of soft, loose and fragile samples:** since the AFM tip retracts from the surface in each scanning point, the lateral tip-sample interaction force is significantly reduced in comparison to the conventional contact SThM technique.
- 2 **Simultaneous** nanomechanical studies.

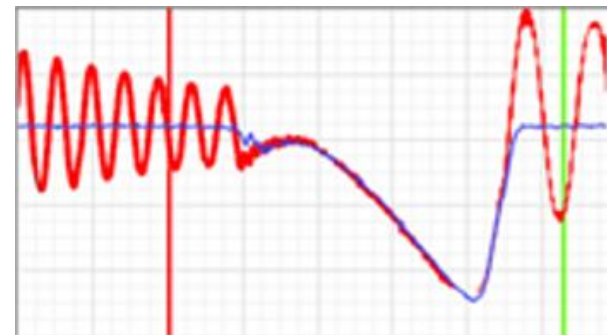
# **Advanced environmental studies: Vacuum HD, Bio HD**



*Topography of TGZ2 calibration grating measured in vacuum with use of HD and AM modes. Scanning speed is 1Hz. Grating period is 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , height is 100 nm.*

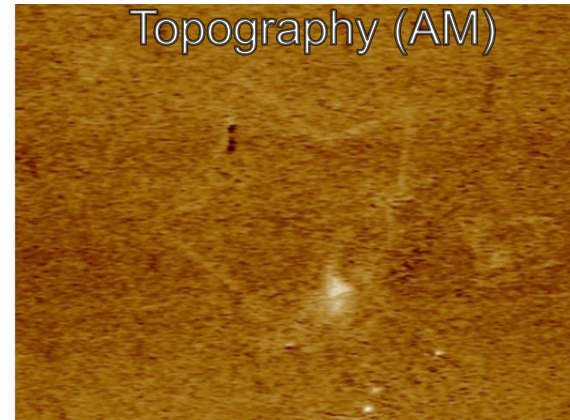
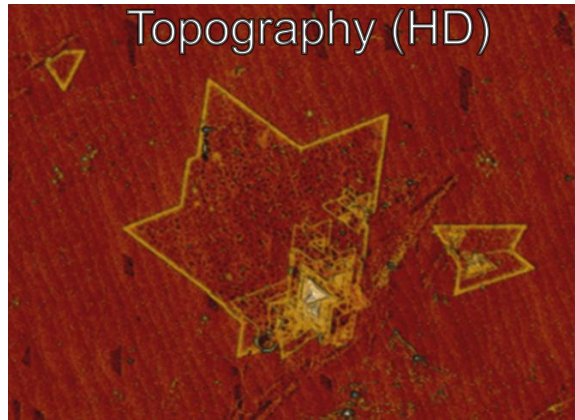


*Vacuum AFM  
NTEGRA Aura*



*Example of filter operation.  
Red – before, blue – after filter is applied*

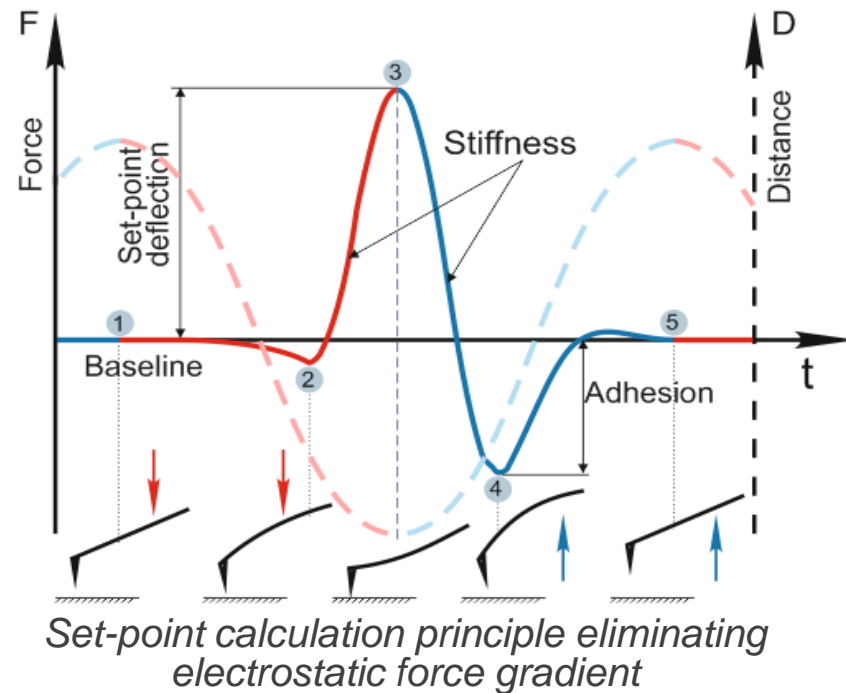




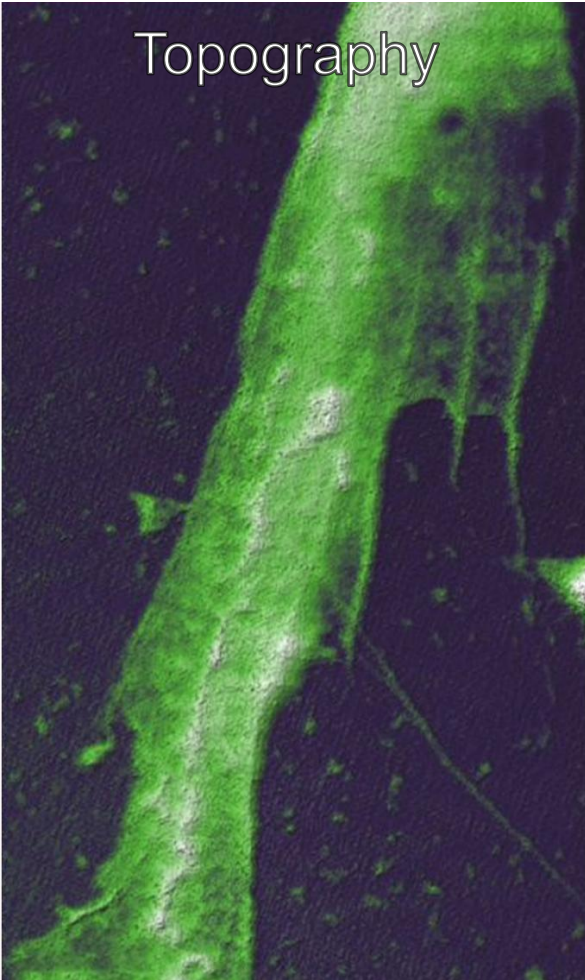
*WS<sub>2</sub> monolayers grown on epitaxial graphene measured in vacuum with use of HD and AM modes. The influence of electrostatic forces is demonstrated. Scan size: 14×14 μm*



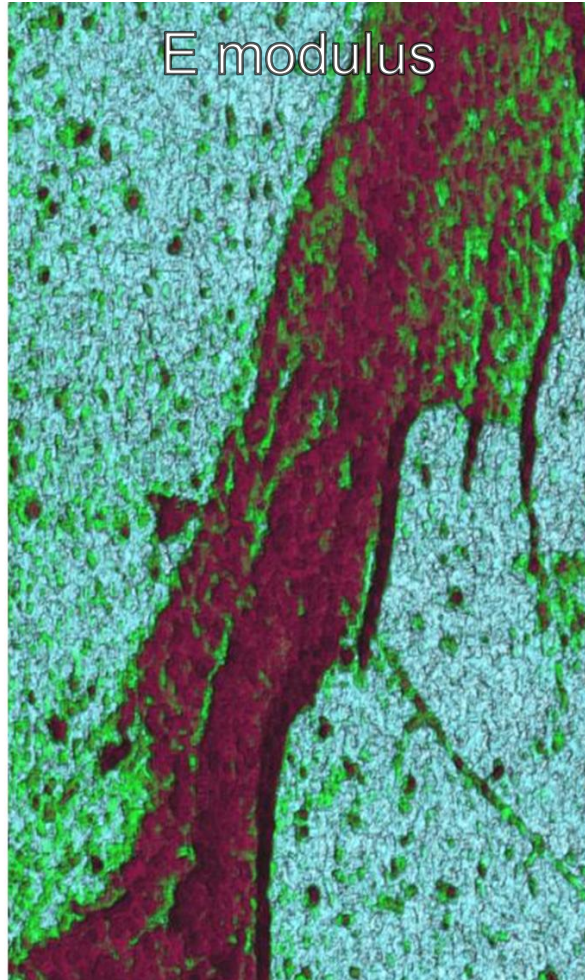
*Vacuum AFM  
NTEGRA Aura*



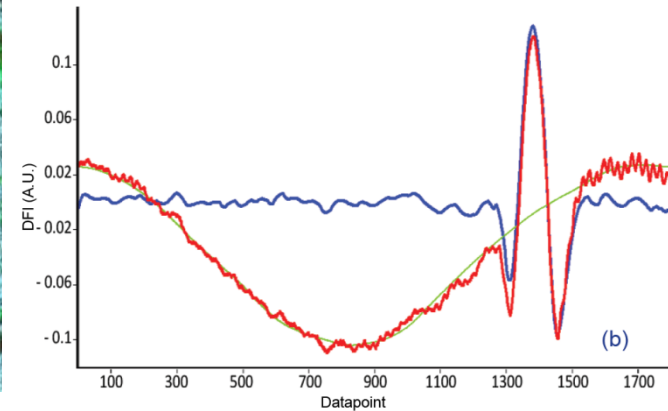
Topography



E modulus



NT-MDT S.I. accessories for liquid measurements

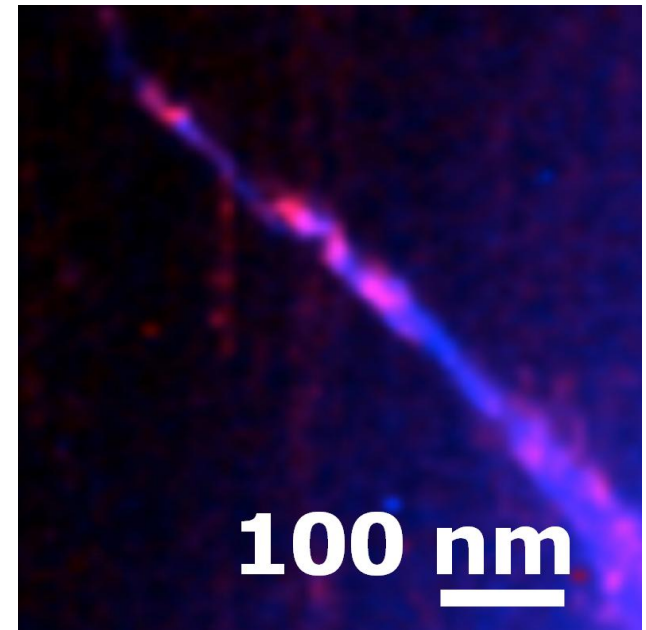
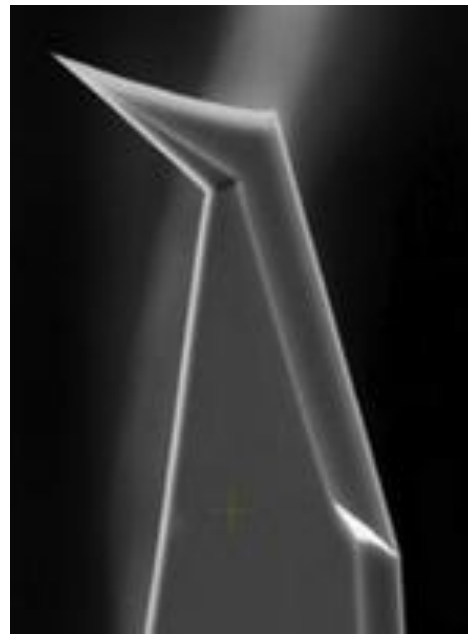


Example of filter operation

Bio HD study of Stem Cell fragment in Liquid. Elastic Modulus range: 0.2-1.5 kPa. Scan size: 18×30 μm

# **Advanced combined AFM-Optical modes: HD TERS, HD SNOM**

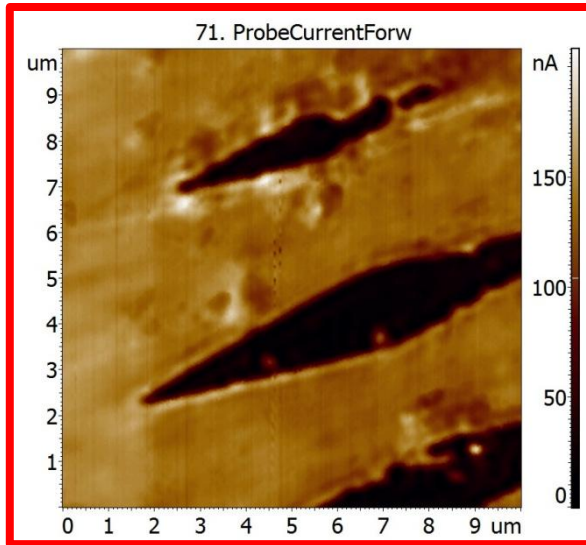
Using Hybrid mode for TERS imaging dramatically increases the life time of the probe and allows non-destructive studies



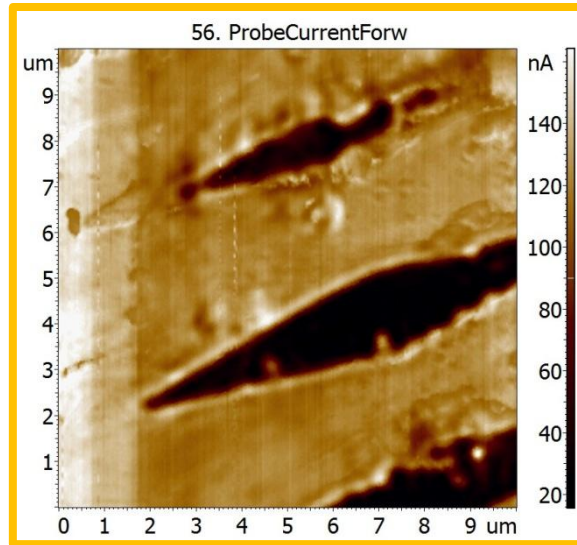
*Versatile automated AFM-Raman, SNOM and TERS system NTEGRA SPECRTA II*

*NT-MDT S.I. commercially available TERS probes*

*High resolution TERS map of carbon nanotubes on Au substrate. Resolution: ~10 nm. Overlay of G-band (blue) and D-band (red).*



*SNOM in contact*



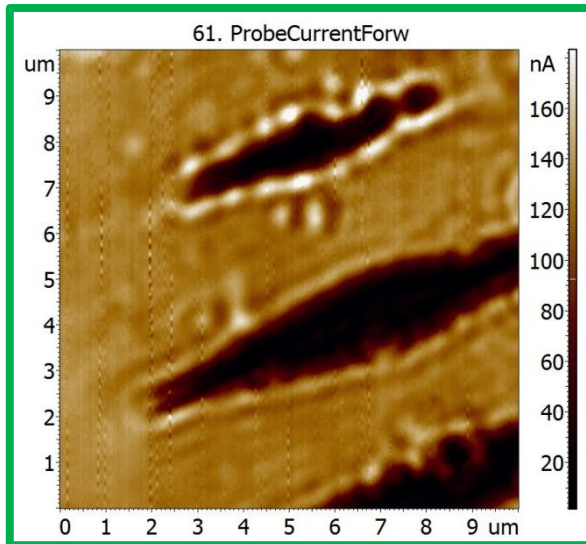
*SNOM at 100 nm from surface*



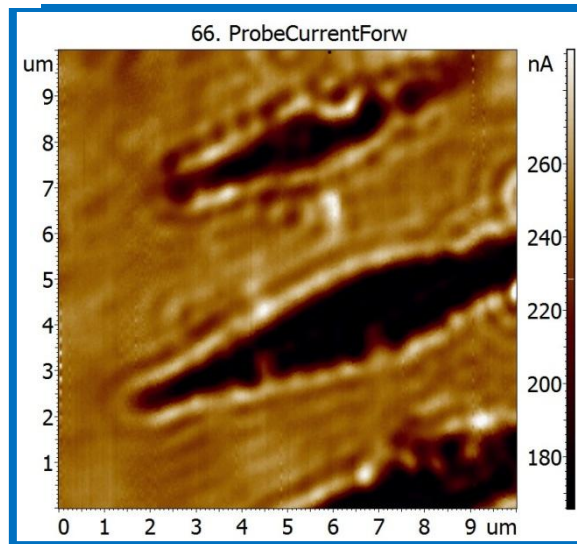
*Aperture AFM SNOM probe*



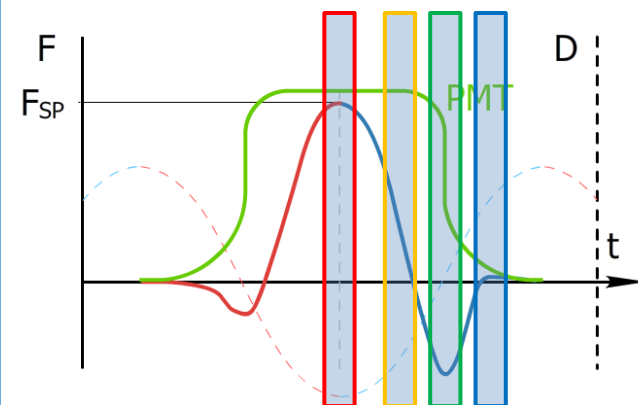
*PMT signal per one cycle*



*SNOM at 220 nm from surface*



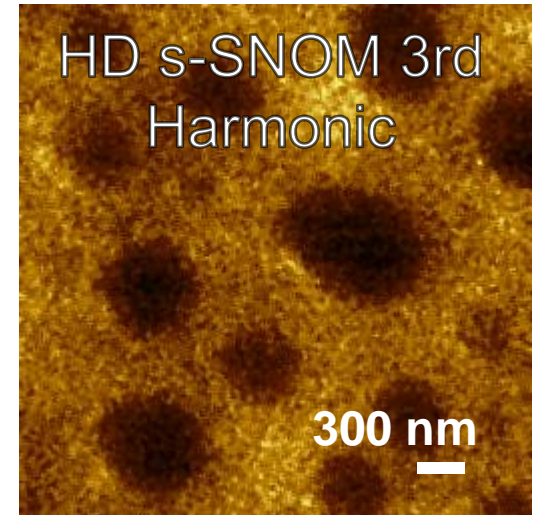
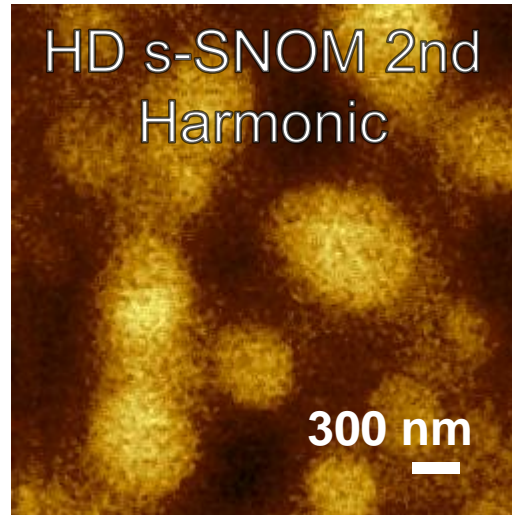
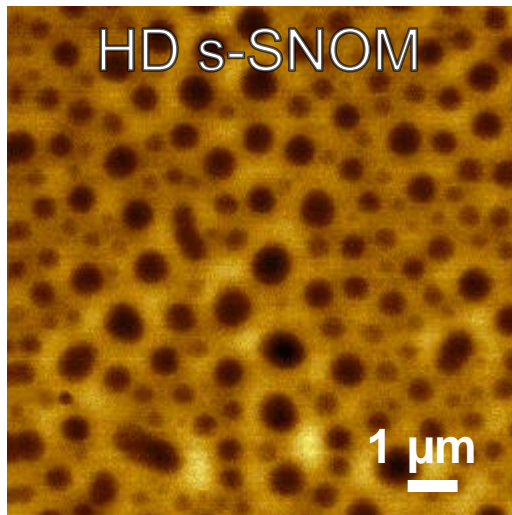
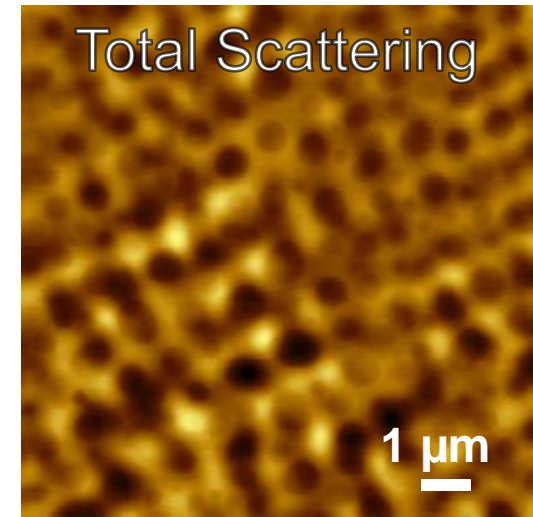
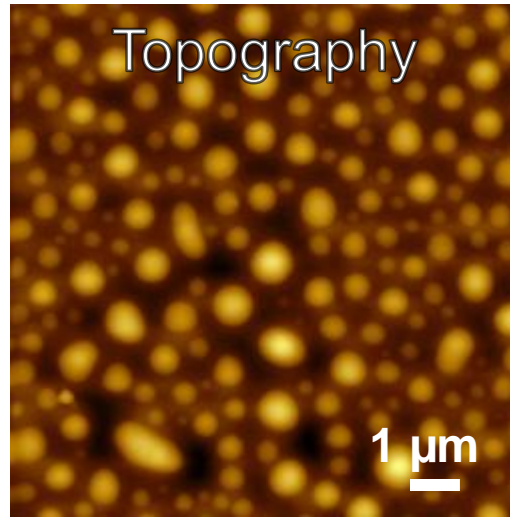
*SNOM at 290 nm from surface*



*Schematic force curve and optical curve*



*PMT signal per one cycle –  
"optical curve"*



*HD s-SNOM study of PS/PBD film demonstrating better than 100 nm optical resolution*

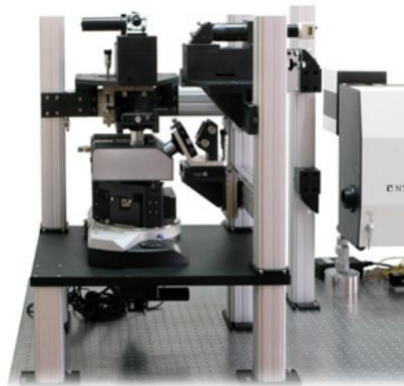
## Key advantages of HD TERS, HD SNOM:

- ① Non-destructive TERS imaging with use of commercially available cantilever-type probes
- ② Ability to separate far- and near-field component of optical response and measure s-SNOM at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> harmonics
- ③ Simultaneous nanomechanical measurement

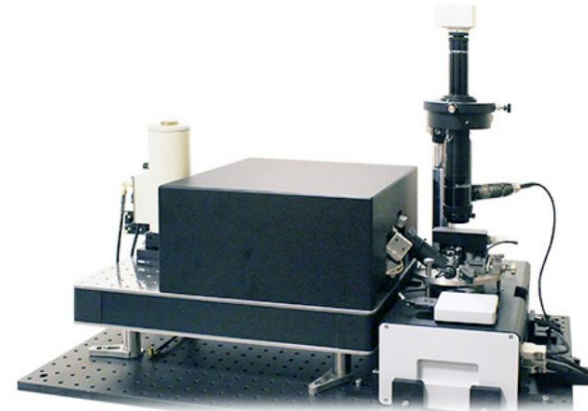
HybriD mode and HD 2.0 Control Electronics are compatible with all the product line of NT-MDT Spectrum Instruments



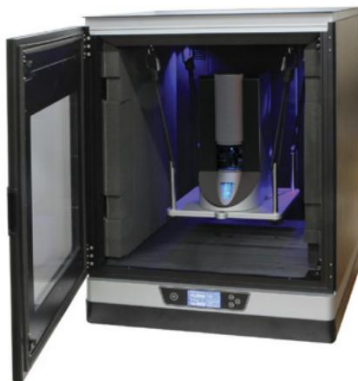
*Modular SPM  
NTEGRA*



*Automated AFM-Raman,  
SNOM and TERS system  
NTEGRA SPECRTA II*



*AFM-IR & sSNOM system  
NTEGRA Nano IR*



*Ultra-low-drift automated SPM  
Titanium*



*Practical AFM  
Solver NANO*



*Automated SPM  
NEXT*



*Automated large-sample  
AFM VEGA*



## Your questions

**Visit us at MRS FALL MEETING & EXIBITION!**

**November 26 - December 1, 2017**

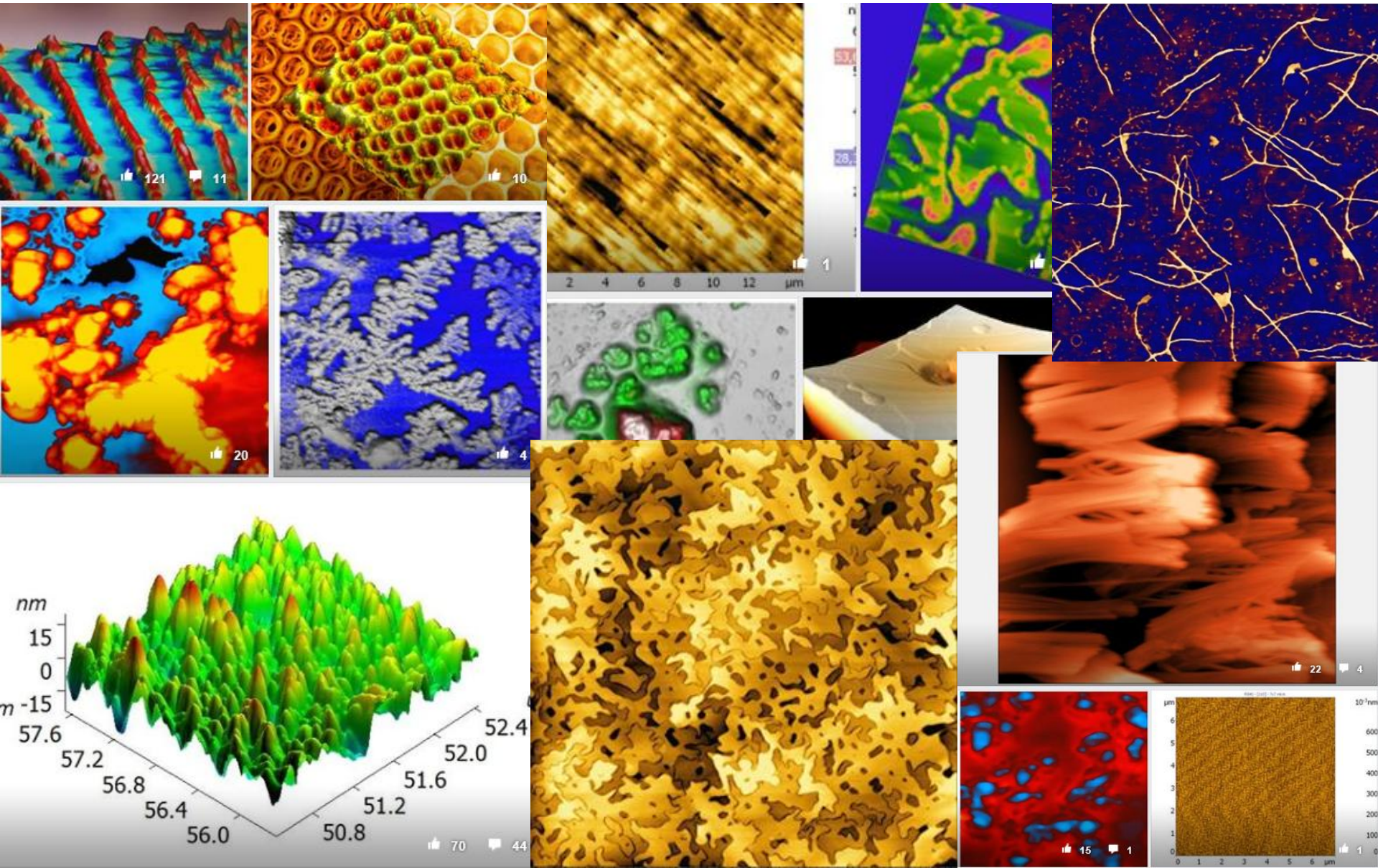
**Boston, Massachusetts**

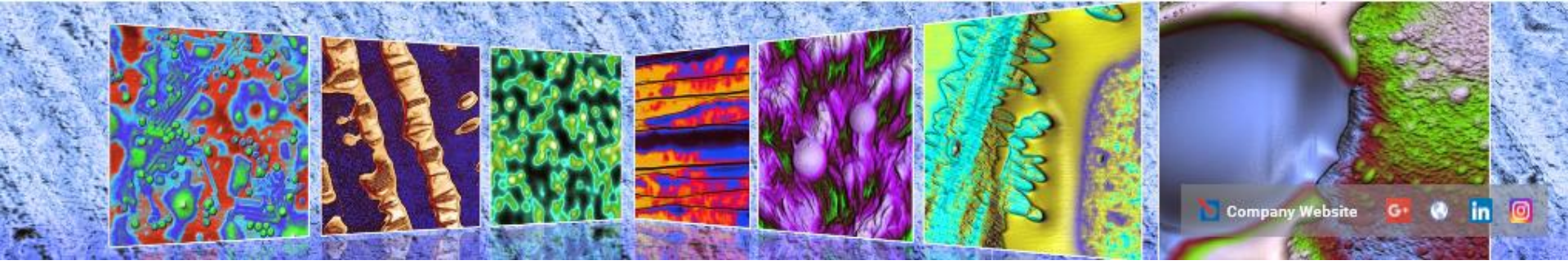


2017 **MRS**<sup>®</sup>  
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