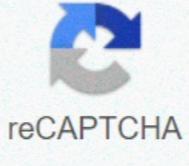




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What is the difference between electron microscope and compound microscope

The difference between light and electron microscope is mainly due to the two properties like one is the source of illumination, and the second is the type of lens. Source of illumination: It is the property of a microscope that ensures the clear visibility of the object or specimen and adds brightness to it. Lens: It is used in the microscope, which can vary with different types of microscope available, and its primary function is to magnify the image. The light microscope uses a direct source of light waves to form the image, whereas the electron microscope uses a beam of an accelerated electron. In the light microscope, the glass-based lens is used, and it has a combination of eye-piece, objective and condenser lens. In the electron microscope, the electromagnetic lens is used, and it has a combination of condenser, objective and projector lens. Here, we will discuss the key differences along with the comparison chart between the light and electron microscope. Content: Light Vs Electron Microscope Comparison Chart PropertiesLight microscopeElectron microscope DiscoveryGiven by Zoonchira Janssen in 1590Given by Ernst Ruska and Max Knoll in 1931 Source of illuminationLight raysBeam of electron Lens usedEye-piece, objective and condenser lensCondenser, objective and projector lens Lens typeLens are of glass materialLens are of electromagnetic material Magnifying power100X to 1,00,000X Resolving power0.2 μm0.01 μm Viewing screenImage is viewed directly through eye-pieceImage is viewed on fluorescent screen Power supplyRequires low power supplyRequires high power supply Cooling systemAbsentPresent Sample preparationSimpleComplex WorkingEasy to operateRequires technical skills TypesMainly of four types: Bright field, Dark field, Phase contrast and Fluorescence microscopeMainly of three types: SEM, TEM and STEM Vacuum systemAbsentPresent CostCheapExpensive MagnificationLow, detailed structure cannot be studiedHigh, gives 3D structure of an object Specimen used5 μm thick specimen can be easily visualizedOnly thin specimen up to 0.1 μm can be visualized Image obtainedColouredBlack and white Filament usageAbsentTungsten filament is used as an electron source Radiation leakageAbsentPresent For contrast of the imageSpecimen is stained with dyesSpecimen is coated with heavy metals What is a Microscope? A microscope is a device, which comprises a set of lenses that allow us to see the magnified view of an object or a specimen. This device helps us to study the internal and external structures of the specimen that would not be possible without the use of a microscope. As from the name microscope, it is obvious that micro is a term used for minute things, and scope is a term used to look out things. Therefore, the microscope is an instrument that allows us to look or to see the microorganisms that are invisible to the naked eye. The study of the organisms under the microscope is called Microscopy. Definition of Light Microscope It is also called a compound microscope. A light microscope is an optical microscope, which uses a ray of light to view the image where a condenser collects the light and diverges it to the specimen. It has comparatively a low-resolution and magnification power than the electron microscope, which is about 0.2 μm and 500 - 1000 X, respectively. Definition of Electron Microscope It is an optical microscope, which uses a beam of an accelerated electron from a source of heated tungsten filament that transmits the electron to the specimen. It results in a high-resolution image of 0.001 μm resolving power, i.e. 250 times more than the light microscope and high magnifying power of 10,00,000 X. Diagram of a Light Microscope It consists of several components like: Eyepiece lens: It is nearest to the eye of the observer. This lens is made of one or more lens. Observer observes the image that is first magnified by the objective lens, which is further magnified through the eyepiece. Its principle function is to convert the very intermediate enlarged image formed by the objective lens to the enlarged view image. Lens tube: It is the tube that holds an eyepiece and its length is about 160 mm but can vary with different types of microscope. Objective revolver: It holds multiple objective lenses with different magnifying power or capacity. One can spin or rotate this by one's desire for the magnification of the specimen. Objective lens: This lens is nearest to the specimen or object, and it magnifies the image by collecting the light rays, then reflect it to the numerical aperture and finally gives a distinct view of the object. Clip: It holds the glass slide containing the specimen sample. Microscope stage: It provides a surface area, by which one can move the object slide to one's desire or according to the part of the specimen one want to study or visualize. Condenser: It collects the light that incidents on it, which it projects back to the specimen for proper visibility. Fine and coarse focus: Both of these regulate the distance between the object and objective by moving the microscope stage. For the sharpness of the image, one can adjust both fine and coarse focus afterwards. Diaphragm: It adjusts the diameter of the light by preventing the image from overshine. Light source: For this, the light microscope uses light bulb-like LED. Stand or body: It holds all the components of the microscope. Base: It provides stability to the microscope. Diagram of an Electron Microscope It has several elements which are as follows: Electron gun: It generates the beam of accelerated electron mainly through the tungsten filament by heating it to 100-1000 kV. Condenser lens: There is two magnetic condenser lens, which converges the light to the specimen. Objective lens: Magnetic objective lens focus the electron into an object and form the first real magnified intermediate image up to 2000 times. Projector lens: It further magnifies the real intermediate up to 240,000 or more times. Viewing screen: The electron microscope uses a zinc sulphate fluorescent screen or photographic plate to view the image. Camera: It is the charged coupled device that is located below the viewing screen. Specimen holder: Specimen is kept in a thin carbon film or collodion that holds by the metal grid. One of the characteristic difference is that a light microscope uses a light source whereas an electron microscope uses a beam of an electron. The light microscope shows low magnifying and resolving power of 1000X and 0.2μm, respectively. In contrast, an e- microscope shows high magnifying and resolving power of 10, 00,000X and 0.001μm. The object is directly visible through the eyepiece in the light microscope. In contrast, the electron microscope makes the use of a fluorescent screen to see the enlarged view of the object. Electron microscope needs more power supply and technical skills to operate because of its complex construction, while a light microscope requires less power supply and its operation is easy. Vacuum system, tungsten filament, cooling system and radiation leakage is present in an electron microscope and absent in a light microscope. Sample preparation is easy in a light microscope in comparison to the electron microscope. Thick specimen up to 5 μm can be easily visualized in a light microscope, whereas only thin specimen up to 0.1 μm can be visualized in the electron microscope. The chemical dyes that are used for the staining of the specimens add contrast to the microscopic image and result in the coloured specimen. On the contrary, a specimen is coated with heavy metals that attract the beam of an electron, and it results in a black and white specimen in case of an e- microscope. A light microscope is broadly classified into a bright field, darkfield, phase contrast and fluorescent field microscope. An e- microscope is subdivided into TEM (Transmission Electron Microscope), SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) and STEM (Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope) types of microscopes. Conclusion So finally, we have discussed the difference in properties, structure and components of both the light and electron microscope. Therefore, we can conclude that both the light and e- microscope works on the different principles, in which one uses a light source, and the other uses the electron to form the image. The construction and operation of both the microscopes are different, where a light microscope is easy to handle, and the electron microscope requires technical skills to operate. Type of microscope with electrons as a source of illumination A modern transmission electron microscope Diagram of a transmission electron microscope Electron microscope constructed by Ernst Ruska in 1933 An electron microscope is a microscope that uses a beam of accelerated electrons as a source of illumination. As the wavelength of an electron can be up to 100,000 times shorter than that of visible light photons, electron microscopes have a higher resolving power than light microscopes and can reveal the structure of smaller objects. A scanning transmission electron microscope has achieved better than 50 pm resolution in annular dark-field imaging mode[1] and magnifications of up to about 10,000,000× whereas most light microscopes are limited by diffraction to about 200 nm resolution and useful magnifications below 2000×. Electron microscopes use shaped magnetic fields to form electron optical lens systems that are analogous to the glass lenses of an optical light microscope. Electron microscopes are used to investigate the ultrastructure of a wide range of biological and inorganic specimens including microorganisms, cells, large molecules, biospy samples, metals, and crystals. Industrially, electron microscopes are often used for quality control and failure analysis. Modern electron microscopes produce electron micrographs using specialized digital cameras and frame grabbers to capture the images. History Diagram illustrating the phenomena resulting from the interaction of highly energetic electrons with matter In 1926, Hans Busch developed the electromagnetic lens. According to Dennis Gabor, the physicist Leo Szilárd tried in 1928 to convince him to build an electron microscope, for which he had filed a patent.[2] The first prototype electron microscope, capable of four-hundred-power magnification, was developed in 1931 by the physicist Ernst Ruska and the electrical engineer Max Knoll at the Berlin Technische Hochschule or Berlin Technical University.[3] The apparatus was the first practical demonstration of the principles of electron microscopy.[4] In May of the same year, Reinhold Rudenberg, the scientific director of Siemens-Schuckertwerke, obtained a patent for an electron microscope. In 1932, Ernst Lubcke of Siemens & Halske built and obtained images from a prototype electron microscope, applying the concept described in Rudenberg's patent.[5] In the following year, 1933, Ruska built the first electron microscope that exceeded the resolution attainable with optical (light) microscope.[4] Four years later, in 1937, Siemens financed the work of Ernst Ruska and Bodo von Borries, and employed Helmut Ruska, Ernst's brother, to develop applications for the microscope, especially with biological specimens.[4][6] Also in 1937, Manfred von Ardenne pioneered the scanning electron microscope.[7] Siemens produced the first commercial electron microscope in 1938.[8] The first North American electron microscope was constructed in 1938, at the University of Toronto, by Eli Franklin Burton and students Cecil Hall, James Hillier, and Albert Prebus. Siemens produced a transmission electron microscope (TEM) in 1939.[clarification needed][9] Although current transmission electron microscopes are capable of two million-power magnification, as scientific instruments, they remain based upon Ruska's prototype.[citation needed] Types Transmission electron microscope (TEM) Main article: Transmission electron microscope Play media Operating principle of a transmission electron microscope The original form of the electron microscope, the transmission electron microscope (TEM), uses a high voltage electron beam to illuminate the specimen and create an image. The electron beam is produced by an electron gun, commonly fitted with a tungsten filament cathode as the electron source. The electron beam is accelerated by an anode typically at +100 keV (40 to 400 keV) with respect to the cathode, focused by electrostatic and electromagnetic lenses, and transmitted through the specimen that is in part transparent to electrons and in part scatters them out of the beam. When it emerges from the specimen, the electron beam carries information about the structure of the specimen that is magnified by the objective lens system of the microscope. The spatial variation in this information (the "image") may be viewed by projecting the magnified electron image onto a fluorescent viewing screen coated with a phosphor or scintillator material such as zinc sulfide. Alternatively, the image can be photographically recorded by exposing a photographic film or plate directly to the electron beam, or a high-resolving phosphor may be coupled with a lensed optical system or a fibre optic light guide to a digital camera. The image detected by the digital camera may be displayed on a monitor or computer. The resolution of TEMs is limited primarily by spherical aberration, but a new generation of hardware correctors reduces the spherical aberration to increase the resolution in high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) to below 0.5 angstrom (50 picometres).[1] enabling magnifications above 50 million times[10] The ability of HRTEM to determine the positions of atoms within materials is useful for nanos technologies research and development.[11] Transmission electron microscopes are often used in electron diffraction mode. The advantages of electron diffraction over X-ray crystallography are that the specimen need not be a single crystal or even a polycrystalline powder, and also that the Fourier transform reconstruction of the object's magnified structure occurs physically and thus avoids the need for solving the phase problem faced by the X-ray crystallographers after obtaining their X-ray diffraction patterns. One major disadvantage of the transmission electron microscope is the need for extremely thin sections of the specimens, typically about 100 nanometers. Creating these thin sections for biological and materials specimens is technically very challenging. Semiconductor thin sections can be made using a focused ion beam. Biological tissue specimens are chemically fixed, dehydrated and embedded in a polymer resin to stabilize them sufficiently to allow ultrathin sectioning. Sections of biological specimens, organic polymers, and similar materials may require staining with heavy atom labels in order to achieve the required image contrast. Serial-section electron microscopy (sSEM) One application of TEM is serial-section electron microscopy (sSEM), for example in analyzing the connectivity in volumetric samples of brain tissue by imaging many thin sections in sequence.[12] Scanning electron microscope (SEM) Play media Operating principle of a scanning electron microscope Main article: Scanning electron microscope Image of Bacillus subtilis taken with a 1960s electron microscope The SEM produces images by probing the specimen with a focused electron beam that is scanned across a rectangular area of the specimen (raster scanning). When the electron beam interacts with the specimen, it loses energy by a variety of mechanisms. The lost energy is converted into secondary electrons and high-energy backscattered electrons, light emission (cathodoluminescence) or X-ray emission, all of which provide signals carrying information about the surface properties of the specimen surface, such as its topography and composition. The image displayed by an SEM maps the varying intensity of any of these signals into the image in a position corresponding to the position of the beam on the specimen when the signal was generated. In the SEM image of an ant shown below and to the right, the image was constructed from signals produced by a secondary electron detector, the normal or conventional imaging mode in most SEMs. Generally, the image resolution of an SEM is lower than that of a TEM. However, because the SEM images the surface of a sample rather than its interior, the electrons do not have to travel through the sample. This reduces the need for extensive sample preparation to thin the specimen to electron transparency. The SEM is able to image bulk samples that can fit on its stage and still be maneuvered, including a height less than the working distance being used, often 4 millimeters for high-resolution images. The SEM also has a great depth of field, and so can produce images that are good representations of the three-dimensional surface shape of the sample. Another advantage of SEMs comes with environmental scanning electron microscopes (ESEM) that can produce images of good quality and resolution with hydrated samples or in low, rather than high, vacuum or under chamber gases. This facilitates imaging unfixed biological samples that are unstable in the high vacuum of conventional electron microscopes. An image of an ant in a scanning electron microscope Reflection electron microscope (REM) In the reflection electron microscope (REM) as in the TEM, an electron beam is incident on a surface but instead of using the transmission (TEM) or secondary electrons (SEM), the reflected beam of elastically scattered electrons is detected. This technique is typically coupled with reflection high energy electron diffraction (RHEED) and reflection high-energy loss spectroscopy (RHEELS).[citation needed] Another variation is spin-polarized low-energy electron microscopy (SPLEEM), which is used for looking at the spin of magnetic domains.[13] Scanning transmission electron microscope (STEM) Main article: Scanning transmission electron microscope The STEM rasterst a focused incident probe across a specimen that (as with the TEM) has been thinned to facilitate detection of the various components of the specimen that can be seen clearly and compared. Optionaly, the standard secondary electron image can be merged with the one or more compositional channels, so that the specimen's structure and composition can be compared. Such images can be made while maintaining the full integrity of the original signal, which is not modified in any way. Sample preparation An insect coated in gold for viewing with a scanning electron microscope Materials to be viewed under an electron microscope may require processing to produce a suitable sample. The technique required varies depending on the specimen and the analysis required: Chemical fixation - for biological specimens aims to stabilize the specimen's mobile macromolecular structure by chemical crosslinking of proteins with aldehydes such as formaldehyde and glutaraldehyde, and lipids with osmium tetroxide. Negative stain - suspensions containing nanoparticles or fine biological material (such as viruses and bacteria) are briefly mixed with a dilute solution of an electron-opaque solution such as ammonium molybdate, uranyl acetate (or formate), or phosphotungstic acid. This mixture is applied to a suitably coated EM grid, blotted, then allowed to dry. Viewing of this preparation in the TEM should be carried out without delay for best results. The method is important in microbiology for fast but crude morphological identification, but can also be used as the basis for high-resolution 3D reconstruction using EM tomography methodology when carbon films are used for support. Negative staining is also used for observation of nanoparticles. Cryofixation - freezing a specimen so rapidly, in liquid ethane that the water forms vitreous (non-crystalline) ice. This preserves the specimen in a snapshot of its solution state. An entire field called cryo-electron microscopy has branched from this technique. With the development of cryo-electron microscopy of vitreous sections (CEM/VTs), it is now possible to observe samples from virtually any biological specimen close to its native state.[citation needed] Dehydration - or replacement of water with organic solvents such as ethanol or acetone, followed by critical point drying or infiltration with embedding resins. Also freeze drying. Embedding biological specimens - after dehydration, tissue for observation in the transmission electron microscope is embedded so it can be sectioned ready for viewing. To do this the tissue is passed through a transition solvent such as propylene oxide (epoxypropane) or acetone and then infiltrated with an epoxy resin such as Araldite, Epon, or Durcupan.[19] tissues may also be embedded directly in water-miscible acrylic resin. After the resin has been polymerized (hardened) the sample is thin sectioned (ultrathin sections) and stained - it is then ready for viewing. Embedding, materials - after embedding in resin, the specimen is usually ground and polished to a mirror-like finish using ultra-fine abrasives. The polishing process must be performed carefully to minimize scratches and other polishing artifacts that reduce image quality. Metal shadowing - Metal (e.g. platinum) is evaporated from an overhead electrode and applied to the surface of a biological sample at an angle.[20] The surface topography results in variations in the thickness of the metal that are seen as variations in brightness and contrast in the electron microscope image. Replication - A surface shadowed with metal (e.g. platinum, or a mixture of carbon and platinum) at an angle is coated with pure carbon evaporated from carbon electrodes at right angles to the surface. This is followed by removal of the specimen material (e.g. in an acid bath, using enzymes or by mechanical separation[21]) to produce a surface replica that records the surface ultrastructure and can be examined using transmission electron microscopy. Sectioning - produces thin slices of the specimen, semitransparent to electrons. These can be cut on an ultramicrotome with a glass or diamond knife to produce ultra-thin sections about 60-90 nm thick. Disposable glass knives are also used because they can be made in the lab and are much cheaper. Staining - uses heavy metals such as lead, uranium or tungsten to scatter imaging electrons and thus give contrast between different structures, since many (especially biological) materials are nearly "transparent" to electrons (weak phase objects). In biology, specimens can be stained "en bloc" before embedding and also later after sectioning. 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