

Smart Materials

TEM simulator

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In this activity we use a simulator of a TEM microscope to visualize some nanoparticles, a mineral, a metal, and a zebra fish. All of the visualization images are generated by transmitting a beam of electrons through an ultra-thin sample. Areas of the sample that are denser or thicker scatter more electrons (appear darker), while thinner or less dense regions allow more electrons to pass through (appear brighter). This results in a high-resolution, black-and-white amplitude contrast image that can reveal details down to the atomic level, such as crystal lattices and individual atoms.

After that, the diffraction pattern for the nanoparticles, minerals and metals samples are shown. On the other hand, the zebra in the simulator we can not get the diffraction pattern or more detail visualizations. This might be because biological samples are largely amorphous and lack long-range, highly ordered atomic arrangement.

The diffraction pattern of the rest of the samples resembles a diffraction pattern of a crystalline lattice structure. After that we can see a high resolution of the surface of the samples. Then the bright and dark field of the STEM visualization mode are shown. A bright-field (BF) image is created by gathering direct, unscattered, or weakly scattered beams. Dark areas in a BF-STEM image indicate that many electrons were scattered away (e.g., by thicker or heavier atoms), resulting in less signal reaching the detector. A dark-field (DF) image, specifically the typical high-angle annular dark-field (HAADF) mode, is created by collecting electrons scattered at high angles. These high-angle scatterings are dependent on the atomic number (Z). Hence, these visualizations tell us the density of the sample. Finally, the atomic structures are shown for the 3 samples.

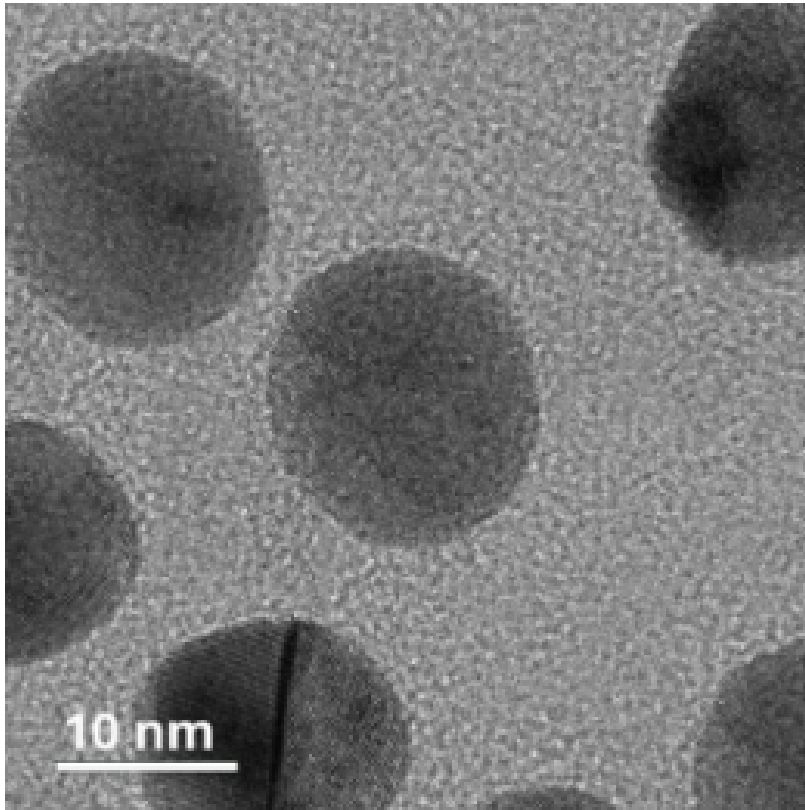


Figure 1: Visualization of the morphology of nanoparticles.

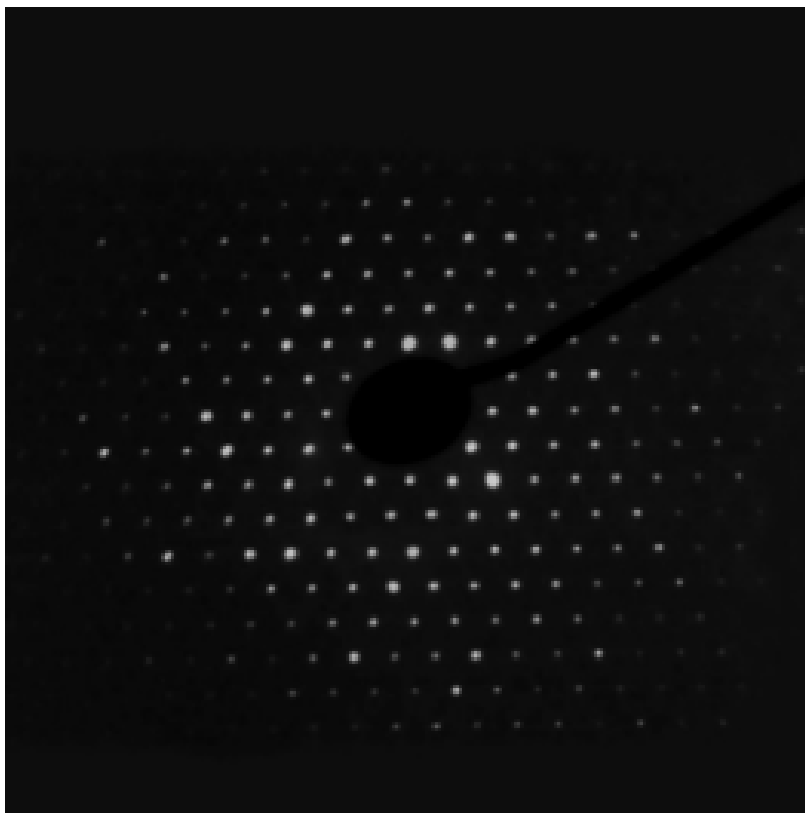


Figure 2: Pattern of diffraction of nanoparticles.

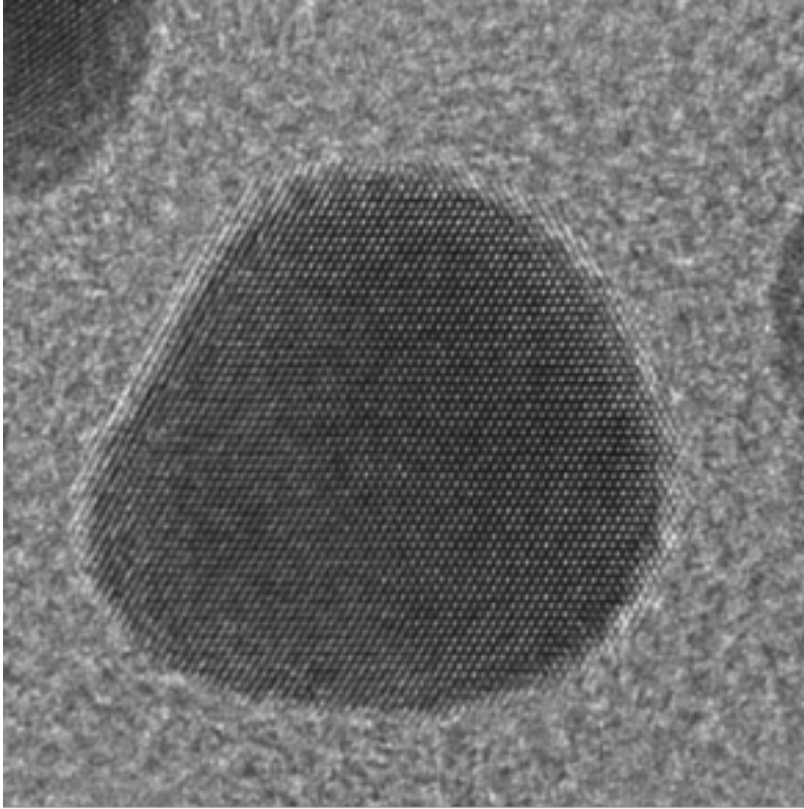


Figure 3: High resolution image of the nanoparticle.

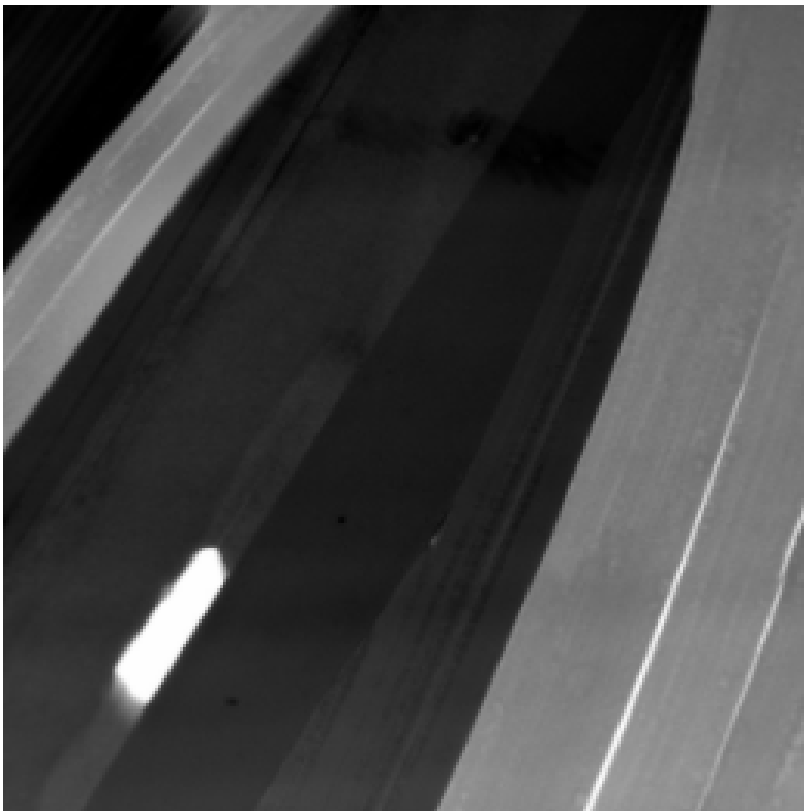


Figure 4: Bright field of the STEAM mode.

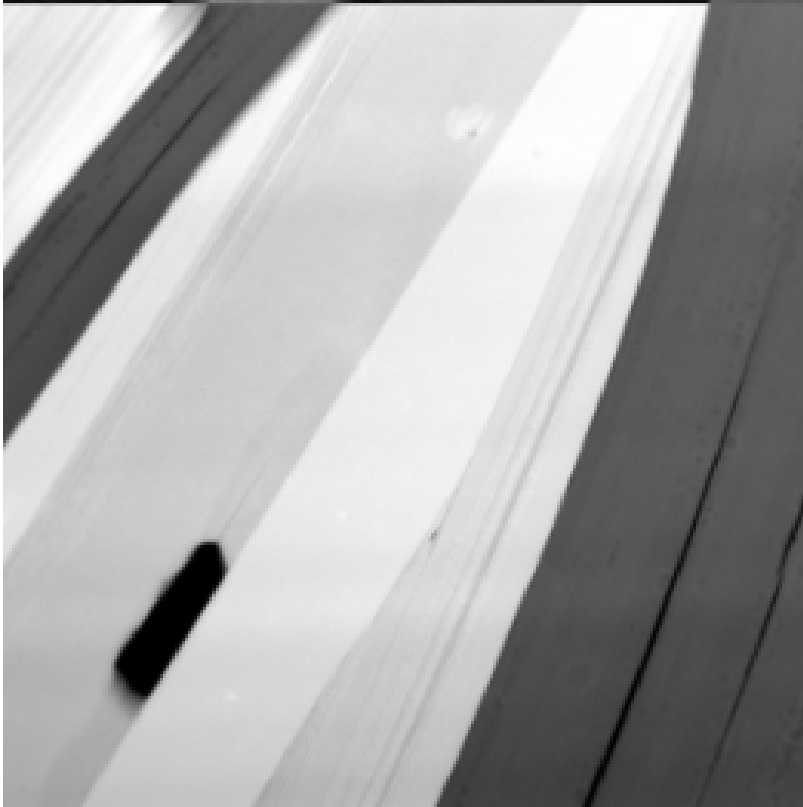


Figure 5: Dark field of the STEAM mode.

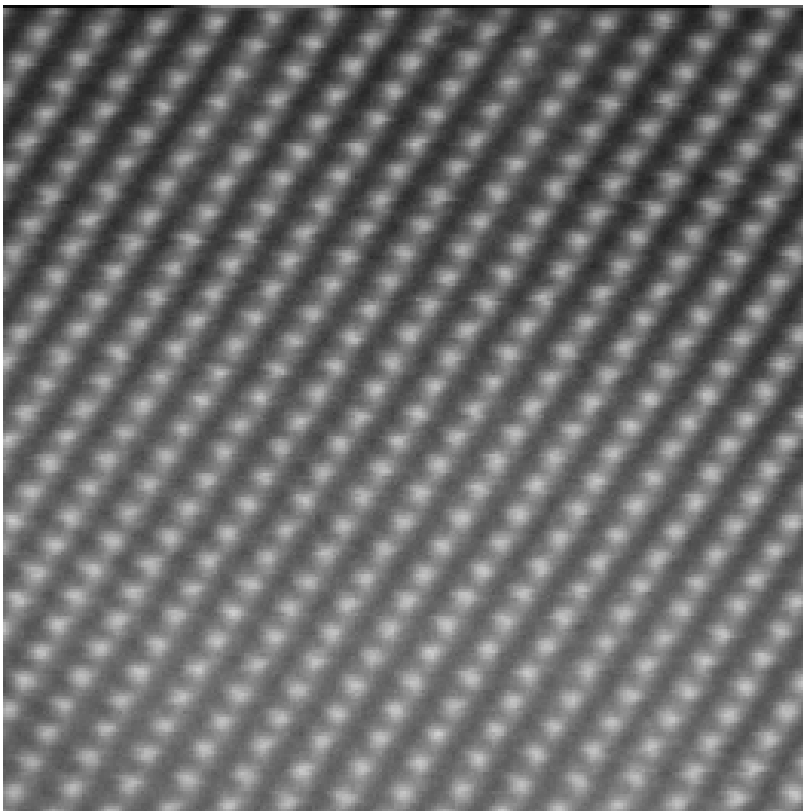


Figure 6: Atomic configuration of one nanoparticle.

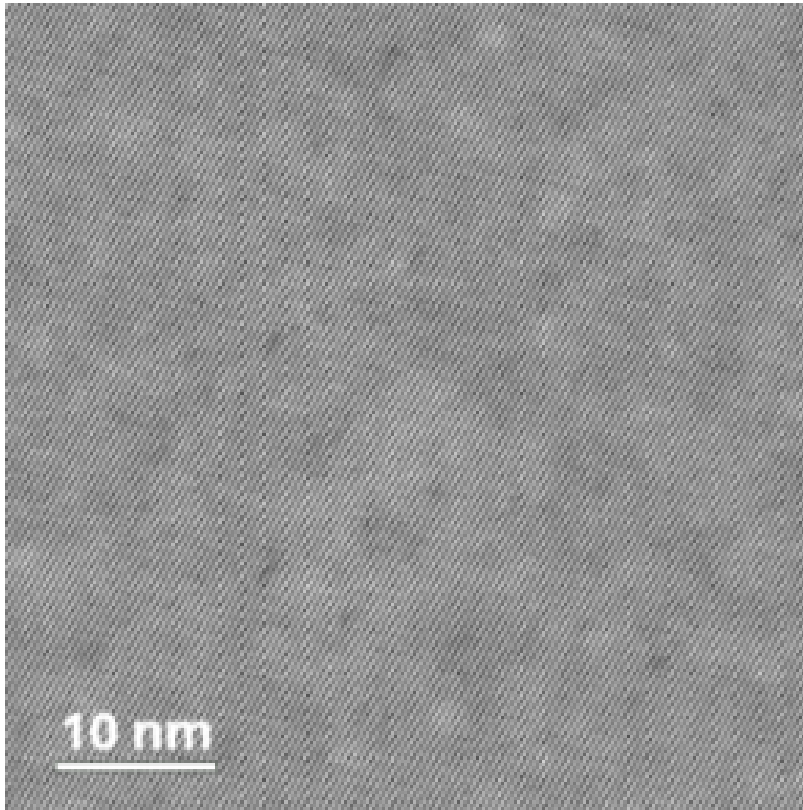


Figure 7: Visualization of the morphology of a mineral.

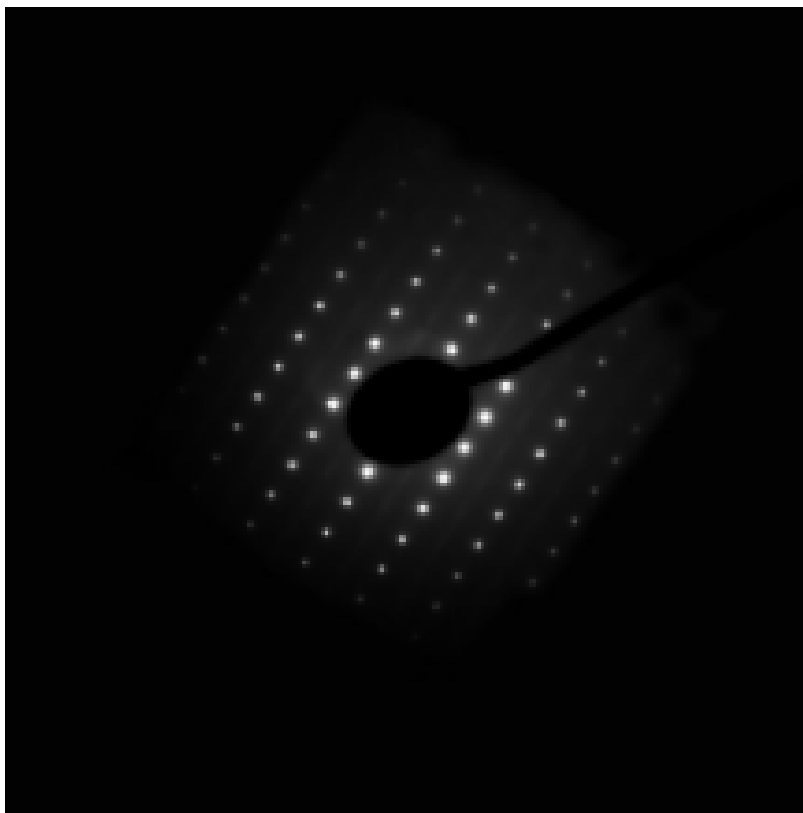


Figure 8: Pattern of diffraction of a mineral.

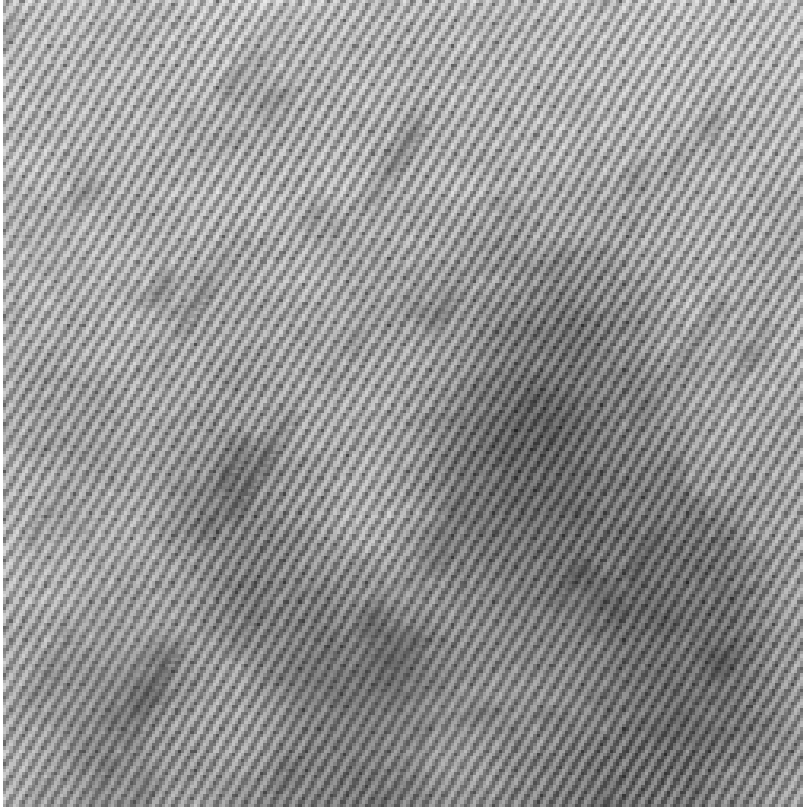


Figure 9: High resolution image of the mineral.

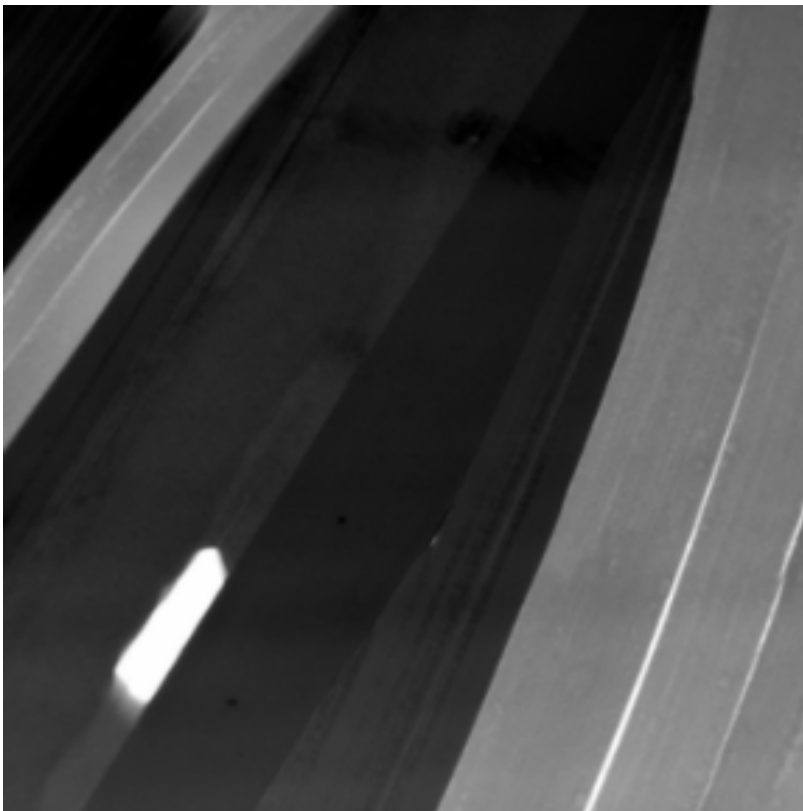


Figure 10: Bright field of the STEAM mode.

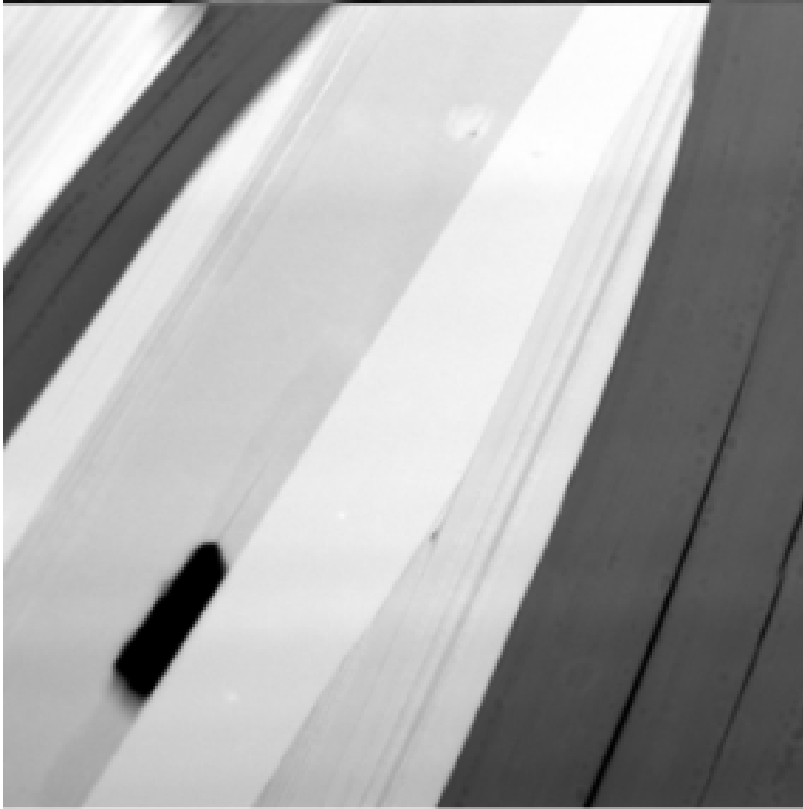


Figure 11: Dark field of the STEAM mode.

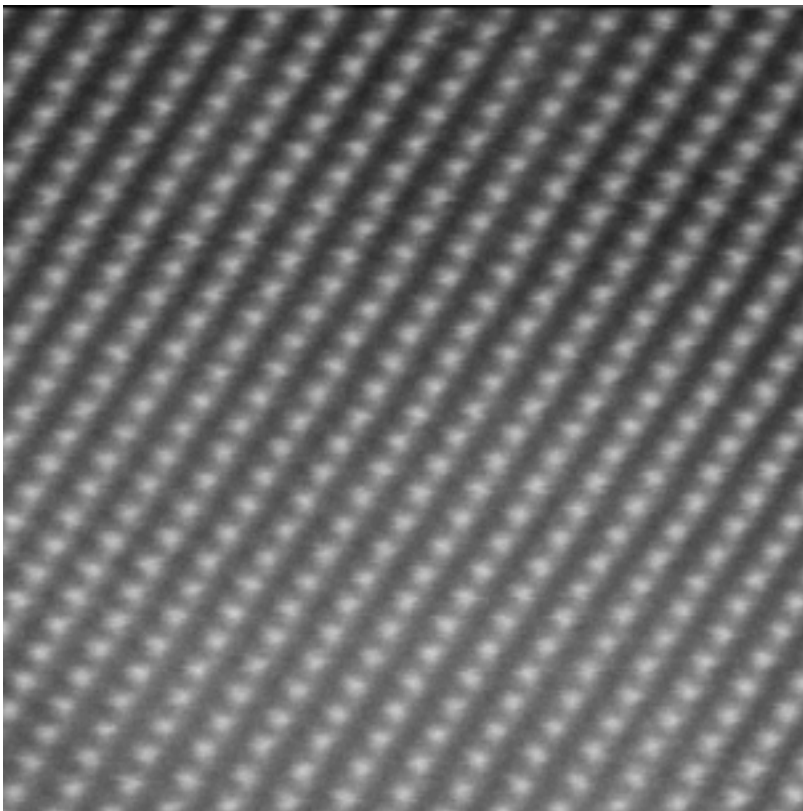


Figure 12: Atomic configuration of a mineral.

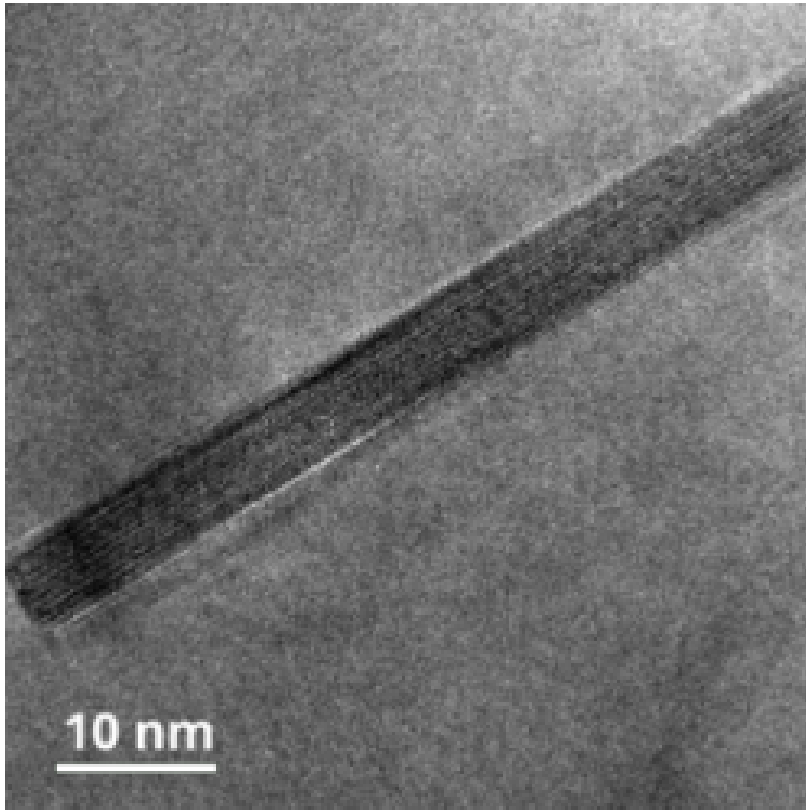


Figure 13: Visualization of the morphology of a metal.

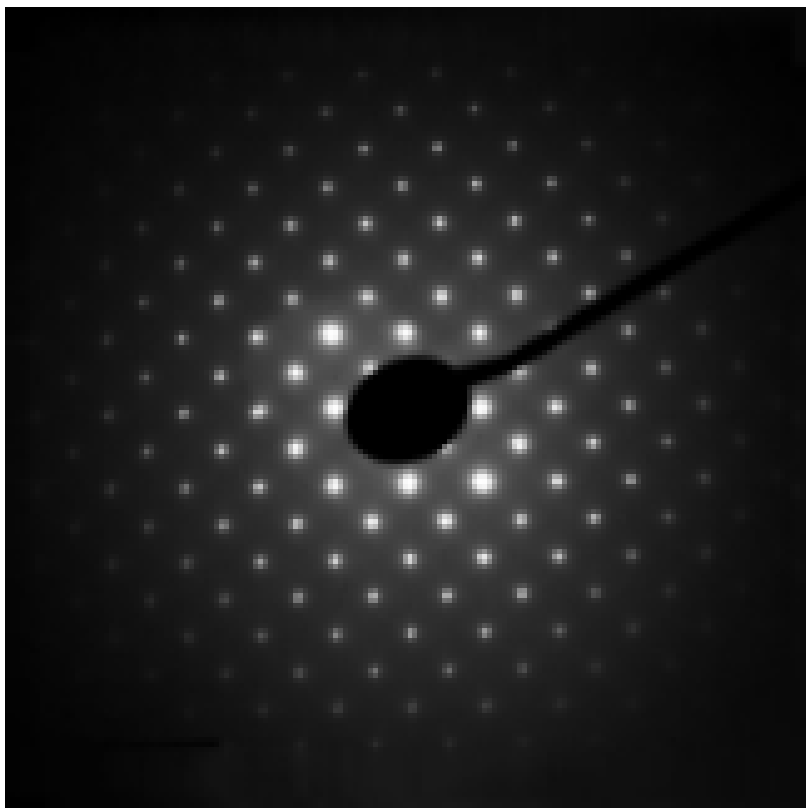


Figure 14: Pattern of diffraction of a metal.

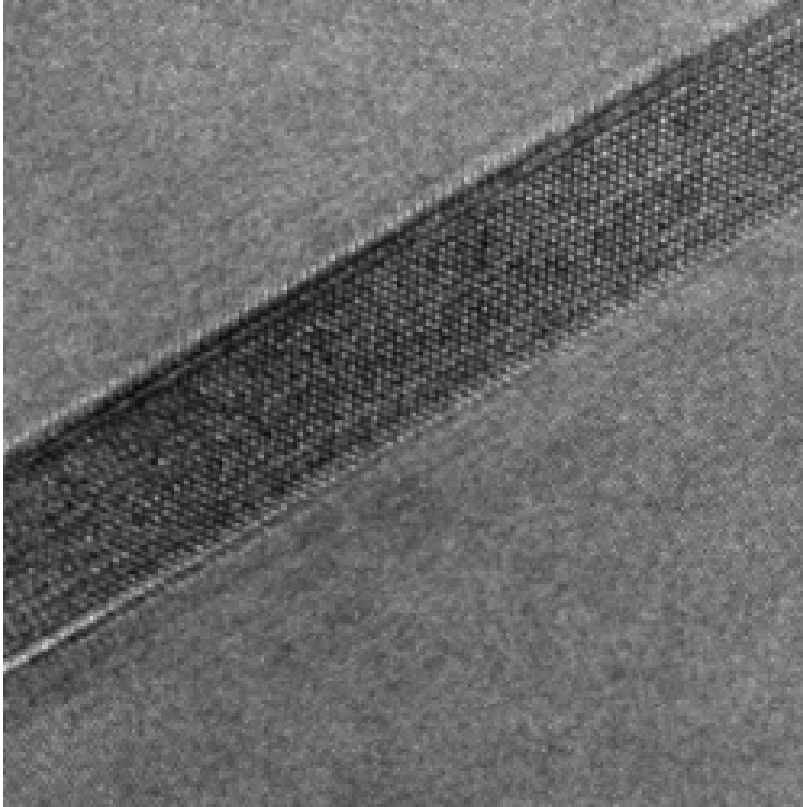


Figure 15: High resolution image of the metal.

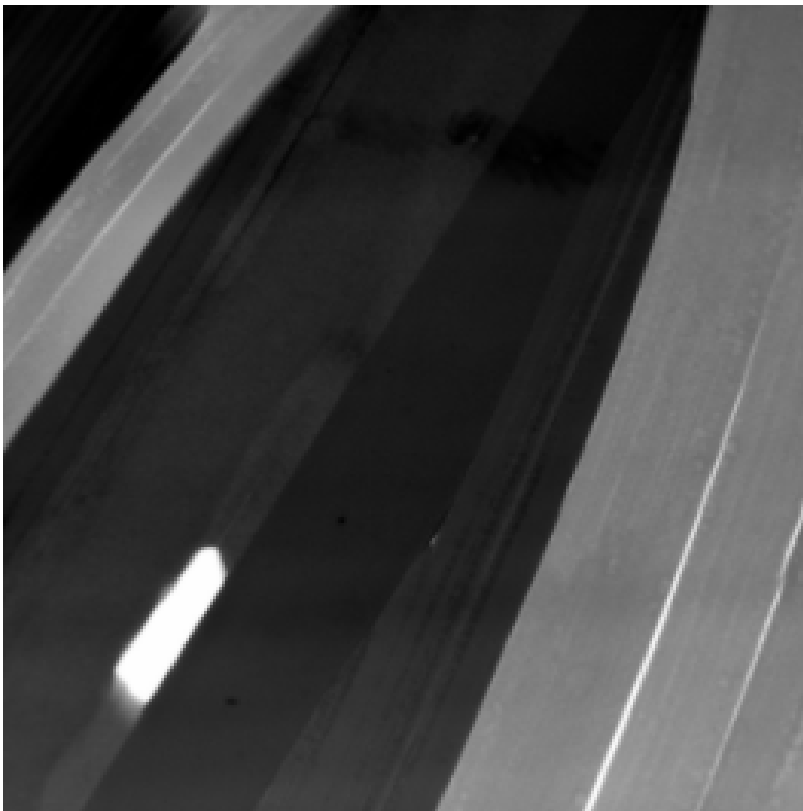


Figure 16: Bright field of the STEAM mode.

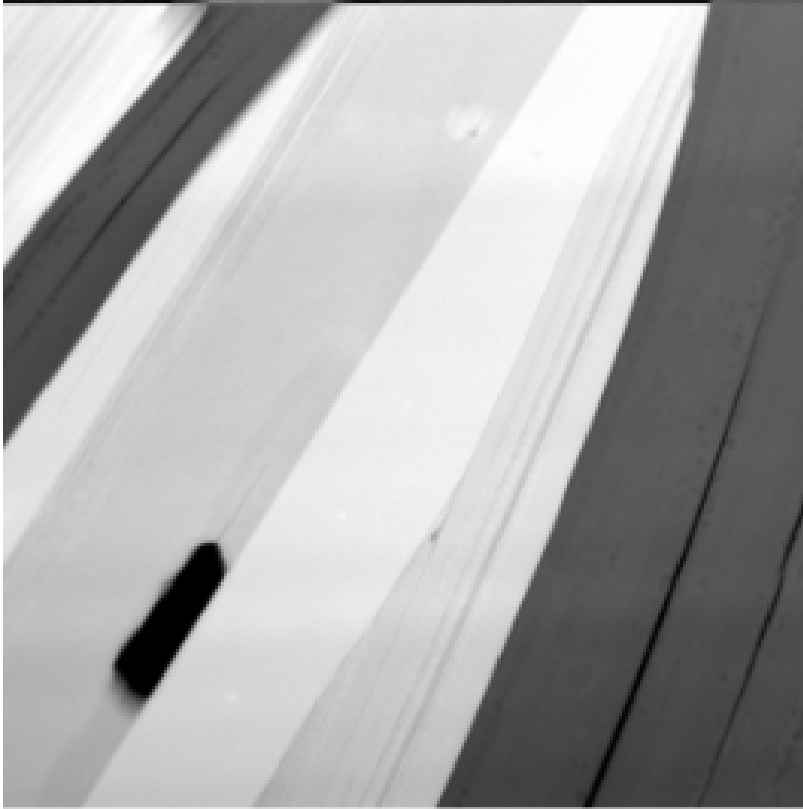


Figure 17: Dark field of the STEAM mode.

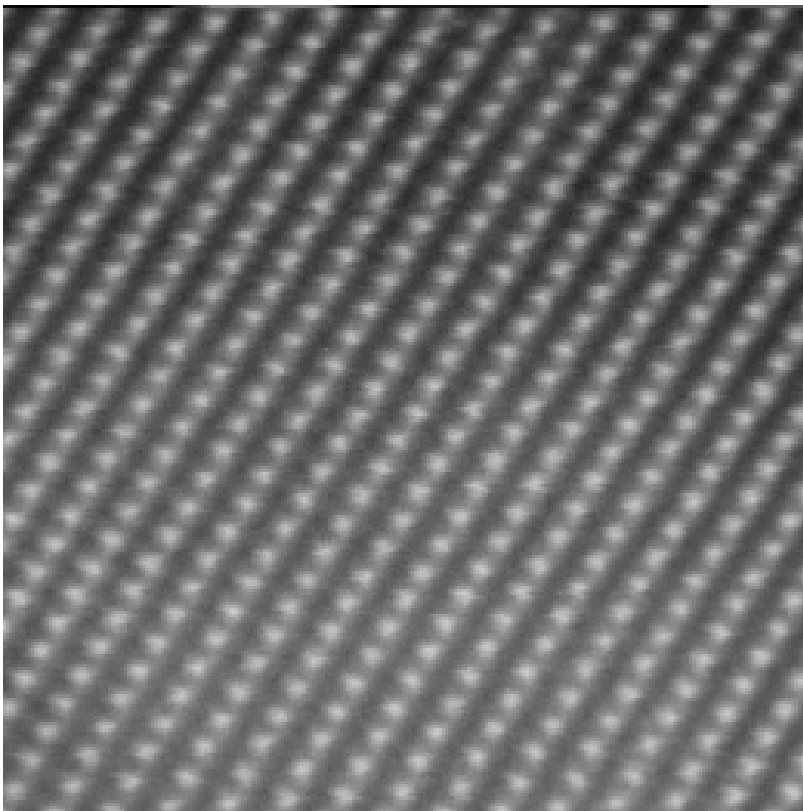


Figure 18: Atomic configuration of a metal.

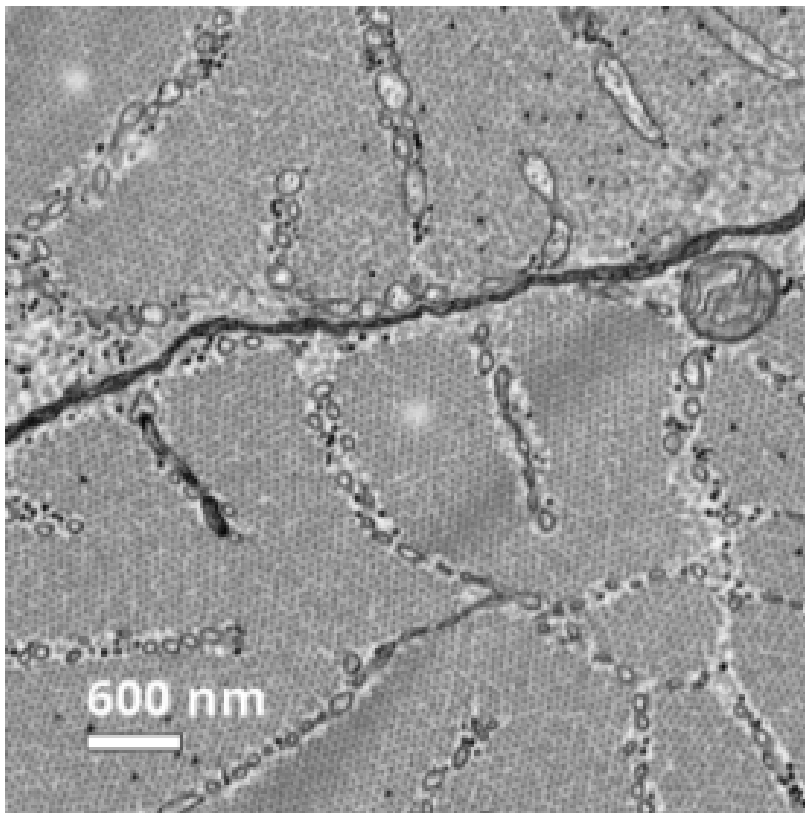


Figure 19: Visualization of the morphology of a zebra fish.