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## PAPERS FROM THE 4TH JOINT CONGRESS OF THE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH MICROSCOPY SOCIETIES

Density Functional Theory Modeling of Low-Loss Electron Energy-Loss Spectroscopy in Wurtzite III-Nitride Ternary Alloys

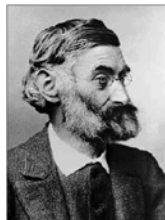
*Alberto Eljarrat, Xavier Sastre, Francesca Peiró, and Sónia Estradé*

A Complete Overhaul of the Electron Energy-Loss Spectroscopy and X-Ray Absorption Spectroscopy Database: eelsdb.eu

*Philip Ewels, Thierry Sikora, Virginie Serin, Chris P. Ewels, and Luc Lajaunie*

Microstructural Characterization of Aluminum-Carbon Nanotube Nanocomposites Produced Using Different Dispersion Methods

*Sónia Simões, Filomena Viana, Marcos A. L. Reis, and Manuel F. Vieira*



## Dear Abbe

### Dear Abbe,

An ongoing hair-pulling dispute continues between me, the microscopist, and, like, almost every fraternity/sorority member doing research: “Why do you take so many images for each sample? Wouldn’t, like, 2 or 3 pictures be just as good as the 5 to 10 you took? I [the investigator] still like totally can’t get over you embedding 6 blocks and sectioning all those blocks as semi-things!” How do you handle this scenario? How do you demonstrate that more in EM is actually better!?

### Alopecic in Amherst

### Dear Hairless,

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there were many smart people who pondered, “How much is too many, and what are we doing in these ridiculous lab coats?” We got together to discuss this at long-winded meetings that included alcoholic beverages and decided that lab coats were cool. Especially lab coats with many pockets and an impressive logo on the upper left. We also realized that there can be many potential images to be created by sample processing, just as there are many versions of Shakespeare by Hairy Monkeys. Also, depending on your state of consciousness while preparing the samples and mounting, you could have created many alternative realities, but which samples were real? To decide this, we invented photomicrography so we could study the results later in a local Kneipe. Then we had to decide how many samples we had to look at, and just what was a “sample” anyway. This made the Zöllner happy, and we eventually came up with the only correct answer: Lots! So be reassured that you are following in the footsteps of great microscopists: me and a few others.

### Dear Abbe,

I think the gold-palladium target on my sputter coater might be getting close to needing a replacement. How can I be sure?

### Cautious in Caracas

### Dear Cautious,

Hasenpfeffer! It’s usually not that hard. Once you notice that seeing the purple haze requires more mind-altering drugs (my method of choice), then it’s probably time. The other alternative sounds quite sketchy (and probably illegal in Kansas) as suggested by Fred Monson in the Microscopy Listserv. It required gloves, a dark room, a viewing apparatus, and something about an “anulus.”

*No one likes to be caught with their equipment in disrepair, or holes in their excuses! Need a good scapegoat or viable story? Herr Abbe can provide some doozies. Just contact his questionably sane assistant at [jpsshield@uga.edu](mailto:jpsshield@uga.edu) to have him give it a try.*