

Microscopy AND Microanalysis

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HUMOR



Dear Abbe

Dear Abbe,

I've heard a lot about the use of femtosecond pulsed X-rays for the imaging of molecular interactions, even getting down to subatomic resolution. What is your opinion of this? Will we ever have an X-ray microscope that can see atomic particles?

Wondering in Wichita

Dear Wonderbread,

Every time I think about using X-rays to image something I am reminded of that unfortunate 1957 incident involving Superman and the Piscataway All-Girls School in New Jersey, but let's not dredge up ugly memories and revive old lawsuits. X-rays were given their unique name because we really have no idea what they are. As my good friend Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen would have told you "Setzen Sie nicht die Hand Ihrer Frau innen dort!" X-rays are as unpredictable as a rabid ferret in your swim trunks. You use them at your own peril. In my opinion if you are really intent on looking closely at subatomic particles get yourself a good old fashioned super-collider and a Leitz Wetzler camera. Then sit quietly and wait for something interesting to happen.

Dear Abbe,

I am having trouble finding the right person to interface with. I've tried various commercial options and OTC aroma attractants. I'm looking for a similar model as myself—serious about science and Star Trek conventions. What can I do to increase my statistical probability of finding a compatible partner?

Lonely in Livermore

Dear Lonely,

Quit your whining! There are plenty of nerds out there with similar programming. You just need to use the right approach and say those sweet nothings that will get their Bessel functions modulating at high frequency. Fortunately for you, I was quite the lady's man and have compiled a variety of pick up lines from various sources.

- According to Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle of QM, we may already be in love right now.
- Honey, you're sweeter than 3.14159
- I'm not being obtuse, but your acute guy.
- I wish I were a derivative so I could lay tangent to your curves.
- Your eyes have a perfect wavelength of 563.4 nm
- What's that great perfume? Vacuum grease?
- If I were an enzyme, I'd be DNA helicase so I could unzip your genes.
- You're more special than relativity.
- You must be a good benzene ring, because you are pleasantly aromatic.
- Your eyes are like limpid pools of primordial ooze — and I'm the amoeba who longs to swim in their depths.
- You're sweeter than glucose.
- You know, it's not the length of the vector that counts; it's how you apply the force.

It's a jungle out there. Herr Abbe has all the moves and can dispense advice like nobody's business. For answers to life, the universe, and everything, write to his personal assistant at jshields@cb.uga.edu