



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS**  
I.C.T.P., P.O. BOX 586, 34100 TRIESTE, ITALY, CABLE: CENTRATOM TRIESTE



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**College on Medical Physics:  
Radiation Protection and Imaging Techniques**

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*Film Screen Combination Analysis*

**M. de Denaro**

**Unita' Sanitaria Locale  
Servizio di Fisica Sanitaria  
Trieste, Italy**

# **EFFECTIVE QUALITY OF THE RADIOGRAPHIC SENSITIZED MATERIALS**



***WHICH FILM-SCREEN COMBINATION ?***



**FILM SCREEN COMBINATION ANALYSIS**

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

1895 - Roentgen discovery of X-rays.

1896 - Edison tested different fluorescent substances and recommended calcium tungstate ( $\text{CaWO}_4$ ) as intensifying screen.

1913 - Cellulose nitrate base coated on one side with the emulsion.

1918 - First film designed for radiographic purpose : high speed emulsion on both sides of the support.

1924 - Acetate base

1948 - Barium lead sulfate phosphor screen ( $\text{BaPbSO}_4$ ).

1964 - Polyester base.

Early 1970' - Rare-earth phosphors.

1983 - Flat, tabular, silver halide crystals.

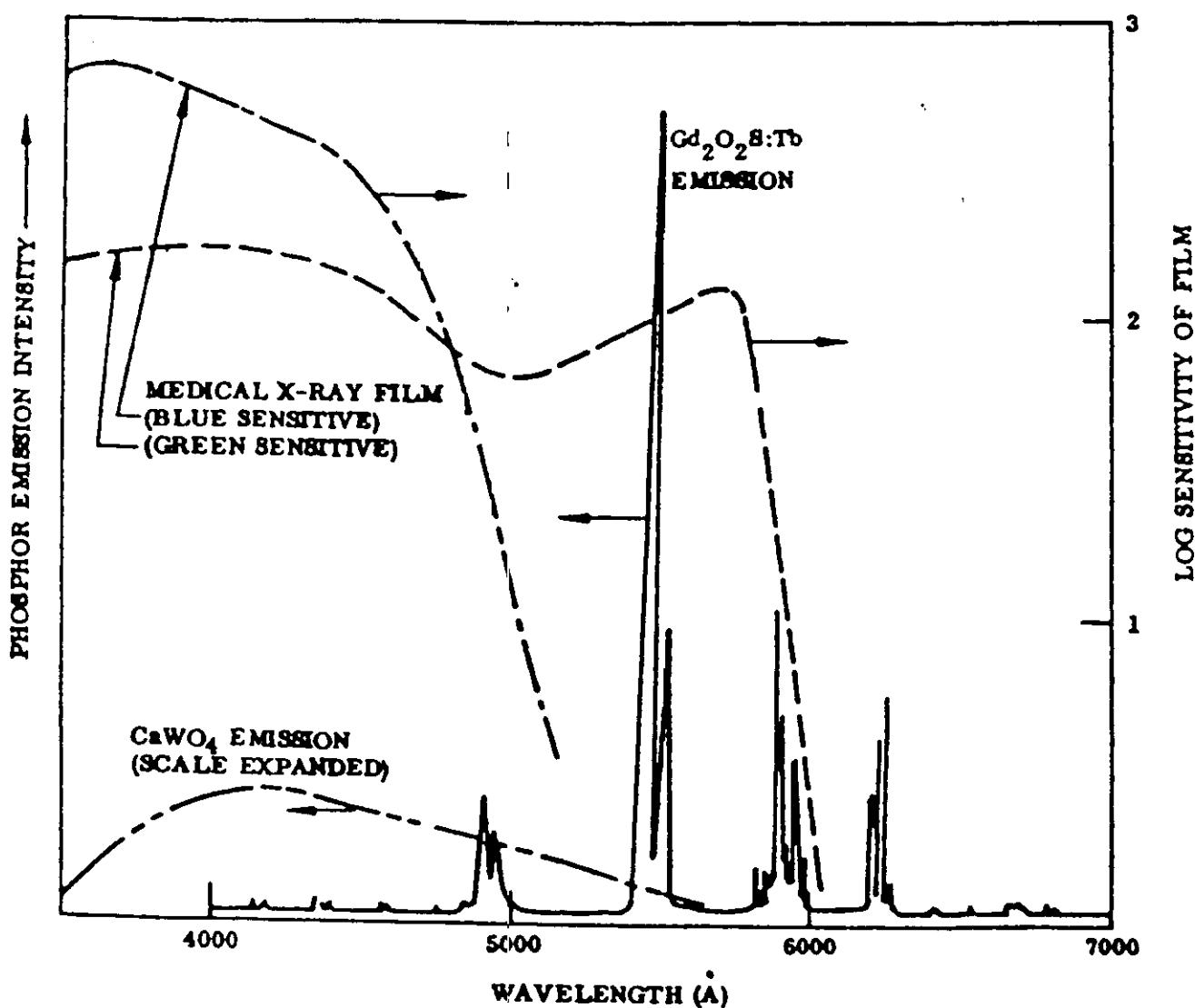
# PROGRESS IN THE SCREEN

## CONVERSION EFFICIENCY

PHOSPHOR	Z	K-edge Energy (keV)	DENSITY g/cc	n %	LIGHT EMISSION SPECTRUM RANGE (nm)
Calcium Tungstate ( $\text{CaWO}_4$ )	74	69.5	6.06	3.5	340-540
Gadolinium Oxysulfide ( $\text{Gd}_2\text{O}_2\text{S:Tb}$ )	64	50.2	7.34	15	400-650
Lanthanum Oxysulfide ( $\text{La}_2\text{O}_2\text{S:Tb}$ )	57	38.9		12	480-650
Yttrium Oxysulfide ( $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_2\text{S:Tb}$ )	39	17.0		18	370-630
Lanthanum Oxybromide( $\text{LaOBr}$ )	57	38.9	6.30	13	360-620
Barium Strontium Sulfate ( $\text{BaSO}_4:\text{Eu}$ )	56	37.4	4.00	6	330-430
Barium Fluorochloride ( $\text{BaFCl:Eu}$ )	56	37.4	4.70	13	350-450
Zinc Cadmium Sulfide ( $\text{Zn,Cd})\text{S:Ag}$	30/48	26.7/9.6	4.43	18	450-650
Cesium Iodide ( $\text{CsI}$ ): Na	55/53	36/33.2	4.50	10	White
Barium Lead Sulfate ( $\text{BaPbSO}_4$ )	56	37.4	4.50		300-500

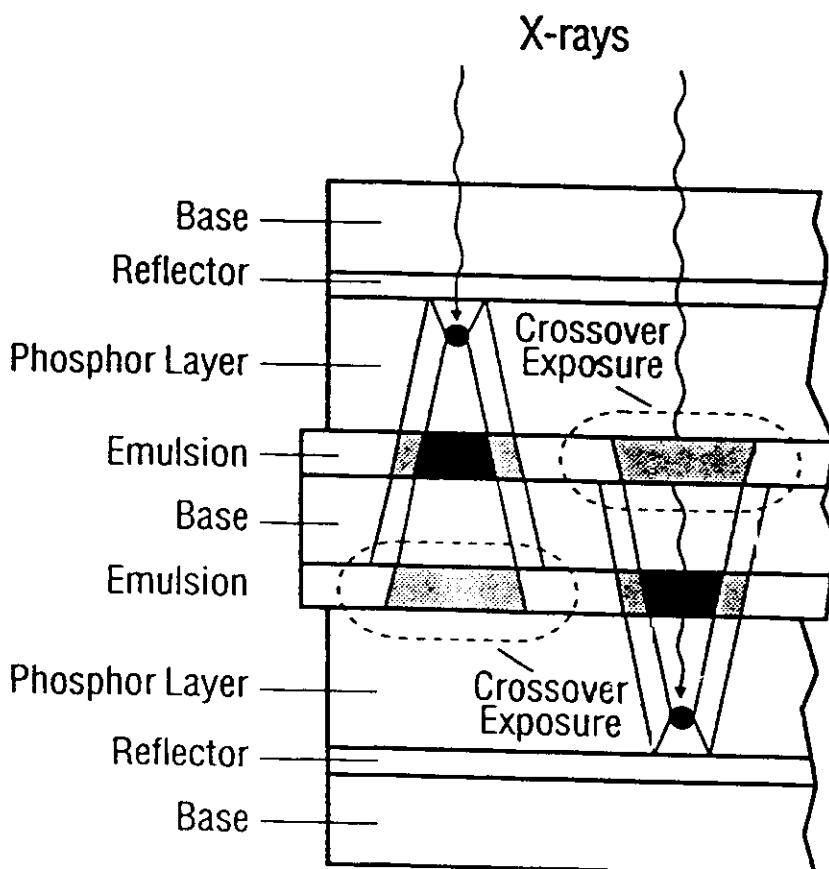
## PROGRESS IN THE SCREEN

### MATCH BETWEEN SPECTRAL RESPONSE OF THE FILM AND LIGHT EMISSION OF THE SCREEN



# PROGRESS IN THE FILM

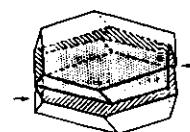
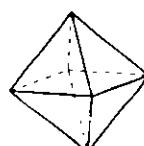
## CROSSOVER EFFECT



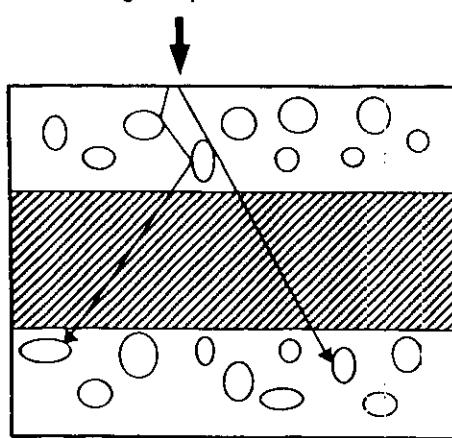
# PROGRESS IN THE FILM

## SILVER HALIDE GRAINS

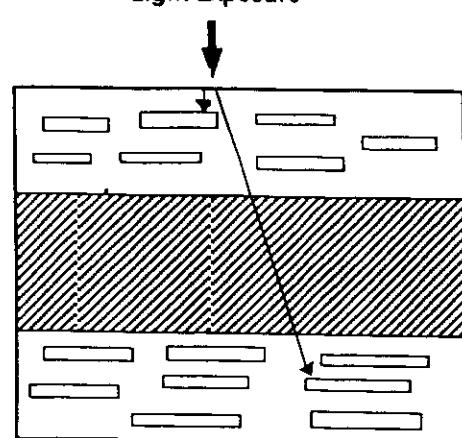
*regular 3-dimensional (left) and tabular (right)*



Light Exposure



Light Exposure



# **FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICAL PARAMETERS WHICH DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF A FILM -SCREEN SYSTEM**

- **IMAGE QUALITY**
  - Characteristic curve
  - Spatial resolution
  - Noise
- **PATIENT DOSE**
  - Sensitivity

## SPECIFIC CLINICAL TASK

### EXAMPLES

**General purpose ==> medium-high sensitivity**

**Extremities      ==> high resolution**

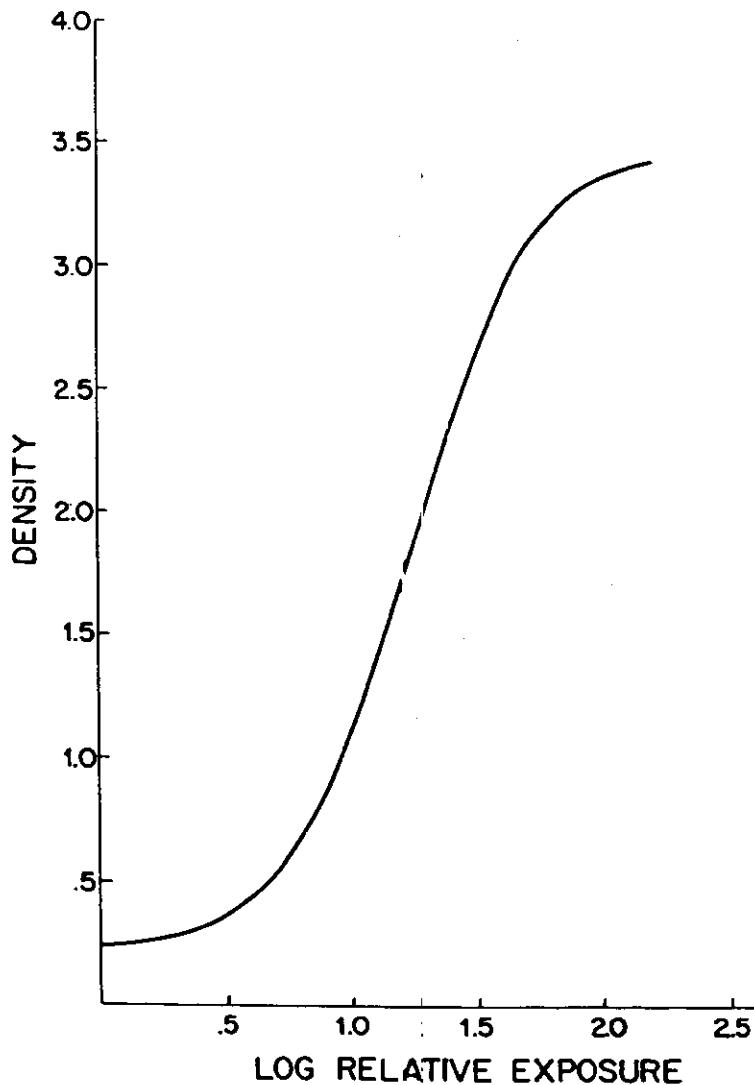
**Chest            ==> high latitude**

**Mammography ==> high resolution, low sensitivity**

### ACCEPTANCE GRID

CLASSES	SENSITIVITY	CONTRAST	FOG
General purpose	350 - 500	2.2 - 3.1	< 0.25
Chest	250 - 500	1.3 - 2.5	< 0.25
Mammography	10 - 30	2.8 - 3.6	< 0.25

# CHARACTERISTIC CURVE



**CONTRAST** =  ${}^1 \text{Derivative of characteristic curve}$

$$\text{GAMMA} = \frac{D_2 - D_4}{\log E_2 - \log E_4}$$

$$\text{LATITUDE} = E_2 - E_4$$

## **SPATIAL RESOLUTION**

**Spatial resolution means the capability of a receptor to reproduce small size, high contrast detail.**

**If the system is isoplanar and linear**



**MTF (Modulation Transfer Function)**

**is the parameter most commonly used to describe the spatial resolution.**

**It is a monodimensional function which represents the contrast dependence on spatial frequency.**

# **NOISE**

## **QUANTUM NOISE**

*local statistical variation in the number of x-ray photons*

## **STRUCTURAL NOISE**

*not uniformity size of grains of the screen and of the film*

## **INTRINSIC NOISE**

*film granularity*

## **OTHER SOURCES NOISE**

*manufacturing and developing process*

\* **INCOMPLETE DESCRIPTION**      *standard deviation*

\* **DETAILED ANALYSIS**      *Wiener spectrum*

## **SENSITIVITY**

***The reciprocal of exposure required to obtain an optical density of 1 (above the base plus fog level)***

### **NOTE**

***It is commonly used the parameter SPEED instead of sensitivity:***

$$\text{Sensitivity}(mR) = 128 / \text{Speed}$$

**IMAGE QUALITY :**

**SYNTHESIS OF VARIOUS PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**  
*(non mutually independent)*

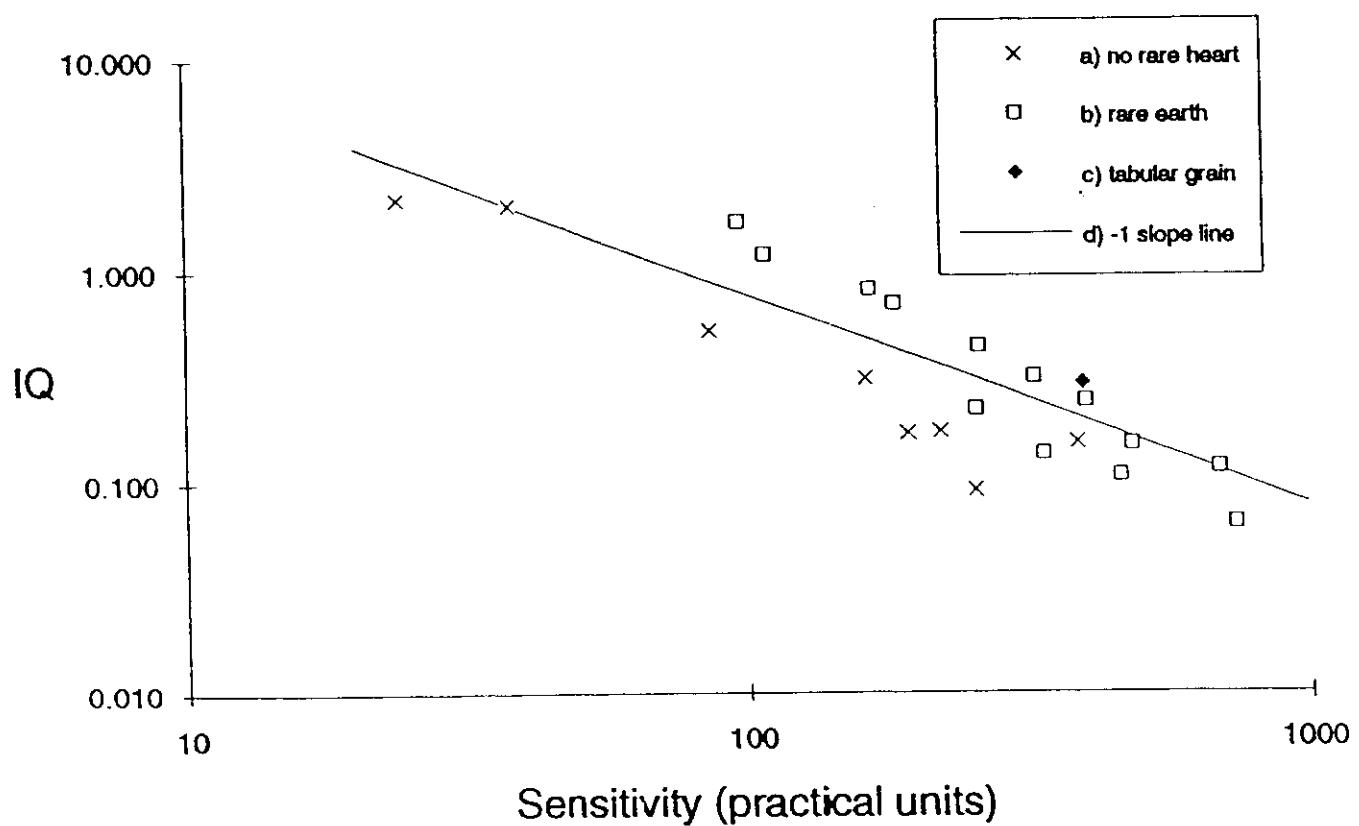


**SINGLE QUALITY INDEX**

$$IQ = G^2 \frac{M^2(f_0)}{V}$$

Global quality ("the technological level")

$$Q = IQ \cdot S$$



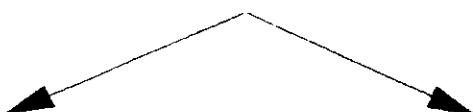
## **CHARACTERISTIC CURVE**

***does not depends on light emission spectra of the screen***

**SHAPE**      *depends on: Intrinsic property of the film  
developing conditions*

**ABSOLUTE POSITION (sensitivity)**      *depends on the radiant energy  
absorbed by the film*

## **METHOD FOR OBTAINING THE CURVE**



**Sensitometer**      **Direct x-ray exposure**

# **SENSITOMETER**



Density	Log relative exposure	Relative exposure
.21	0.0	1.00
.22	0.1	1.26
.23	0.2	1.39
.25	0.3	2.00
.28	0.4	2.51
.31	0.5	3.16
.37	0.6	3.96
.47	0.7	5.02
.59	0.8	6.31
.75	0.9	7.95
.97	1.0	10.0
1.26	1.1	12.6
1.57	1.2	15.9
1.91	1.3	20.0
2.27	1.4	25.1
2.57	1.5	31.6
2.80	1.6	39.8
2.96	1.7	50.2
3.11	1.8	63.1
3.21	1.9	79.5
3.25	2.0	100.0
3.29	2.1	125.8
3.32	2.2	158.5

## **ADVANTAGE**

**easy  
quick**

## **DISADVANTAGE**

***useful only to obtain the shape***

**(QUALITY CONTROL OF DEVELOPING PROCESS)**



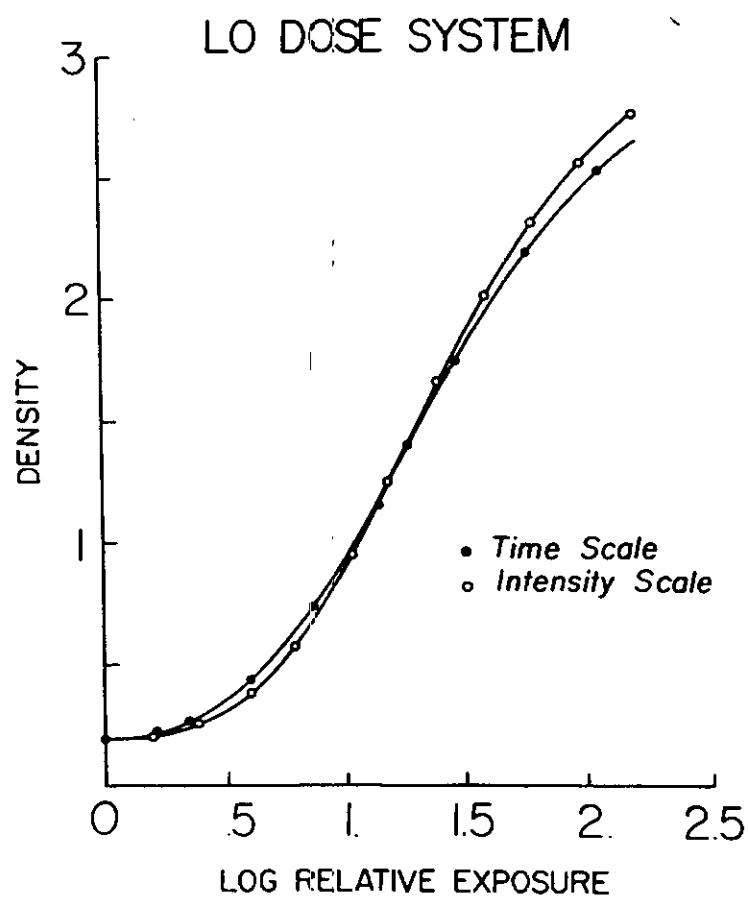
## **DIRECT X-RAY EXPOSURE**

### **TIMING SCALE**

**INTENSITY SCALE:** - *metal step wedge*

- **bootstrap technique**

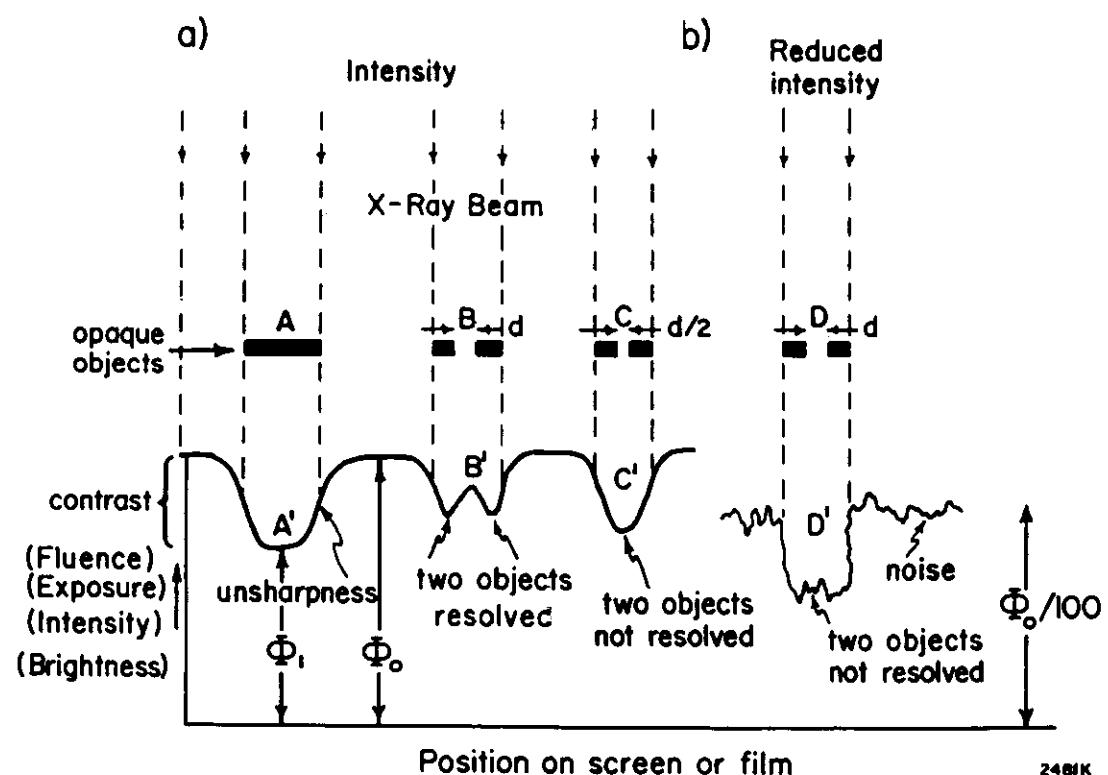
- **recording system placed at various distance from the source**



# SPATIAL RESOLUTION

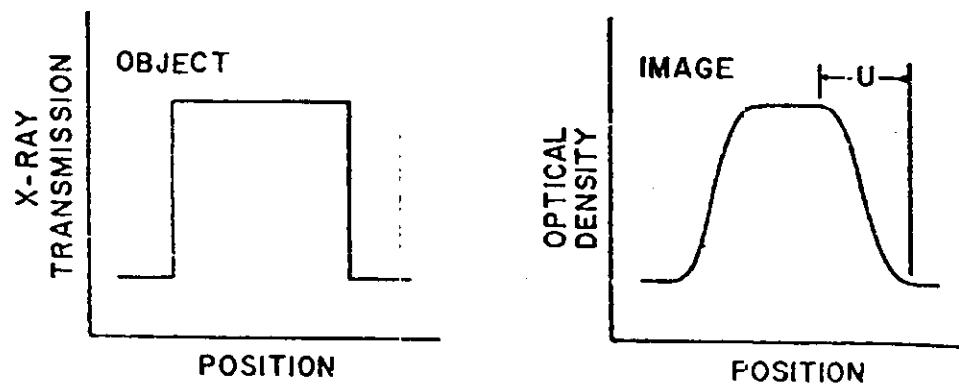
## RESOLVING POWER

*The ability of a photographic material to maintain in the developed image the separate identity of parallel bars when their relative displacement is small*



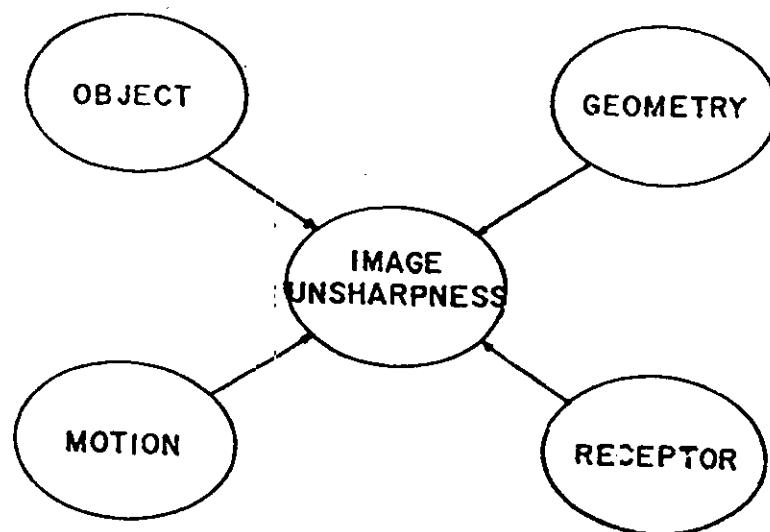
# **UNSHARPNESS**

ONE OBJECT WITH SHARP EDGES PRODUCES AN IMAGE WITH BLURRED EDGE

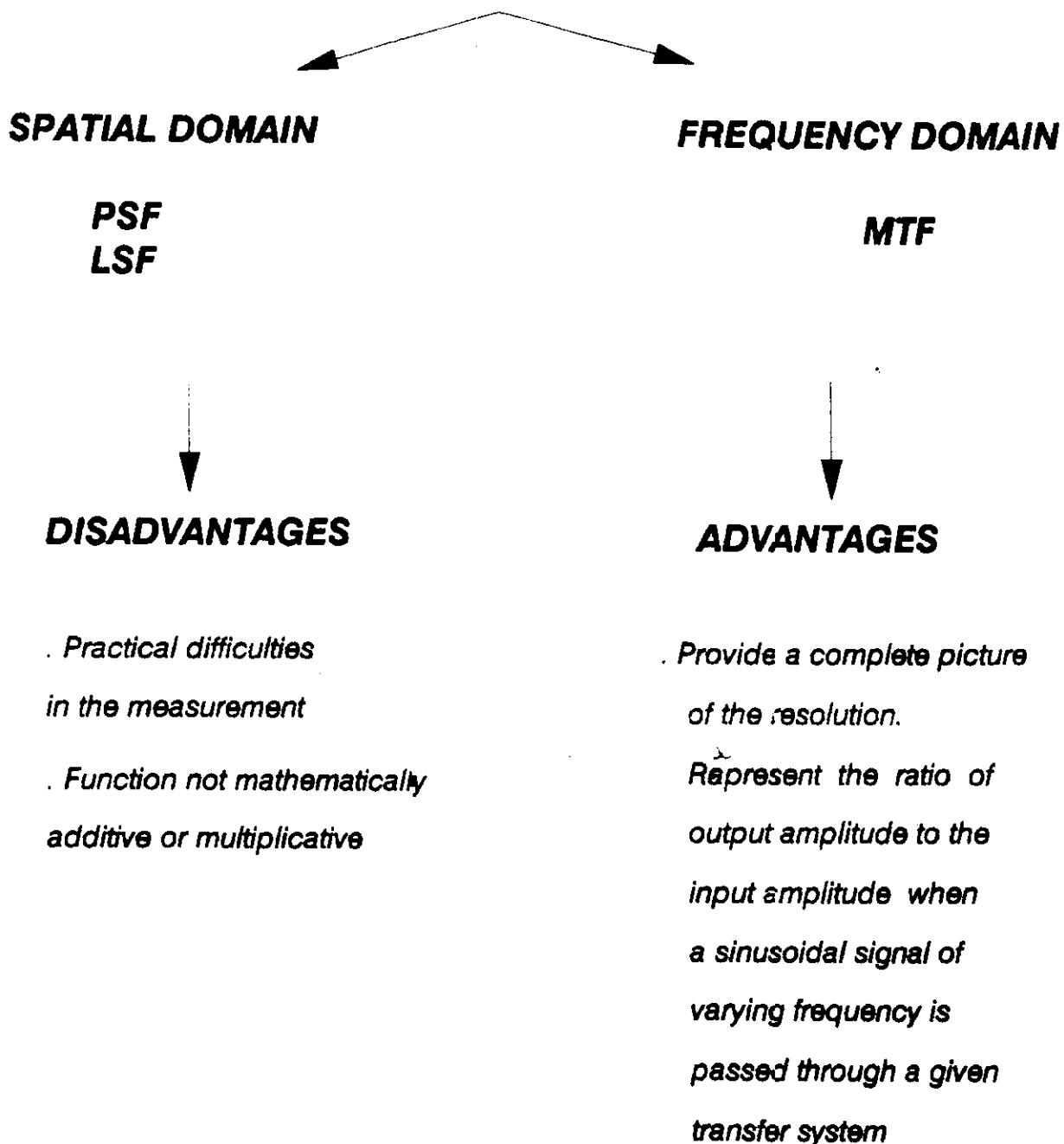


## **FACTORS AFFECTING UNSHARPNESS :**

- SIZE OF THE FOCAL SPOT
- MOTION OF THE OBJECT DURING EXPOSURE
- GEOMETRIC BLURRING
- BLURRING IN THE SCREEN-FILM COMBINATION



# **MEASUREMENT OF RESOLVING POWER**

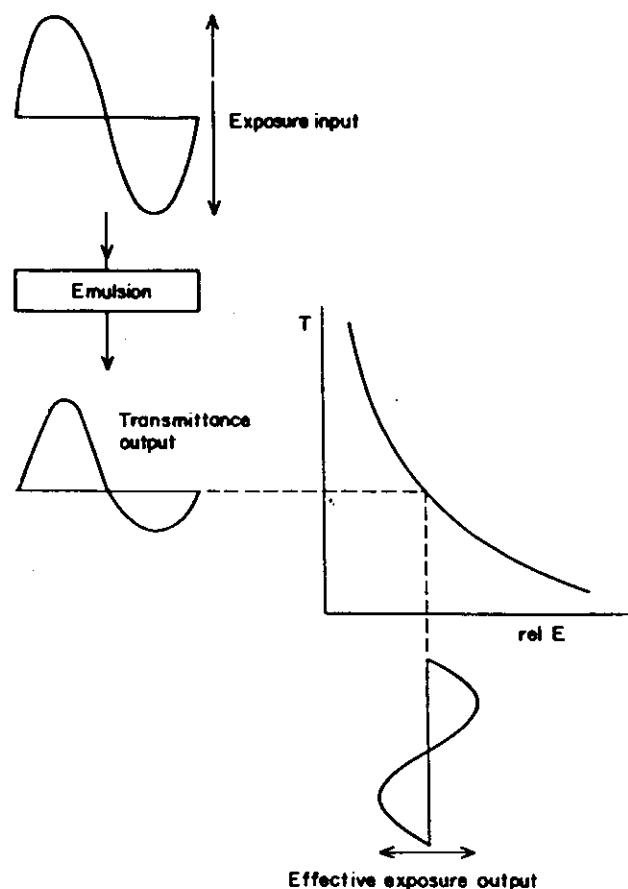


# MODULATION TRANSFER FUNCTION ( MTF )

## MODULATION TRANSFER FACTOR

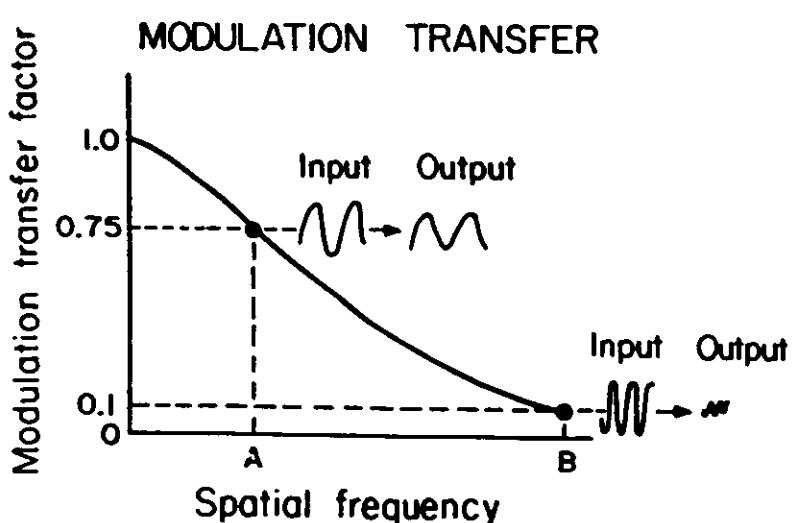
The ratio of the effective exposure modulation to the input exposure modulation

$$MT = \frac{\text{Modulation of Output Signal} = M}{\text{Modulation of Input Signal} = M'} = \frac{M}{M'}$$



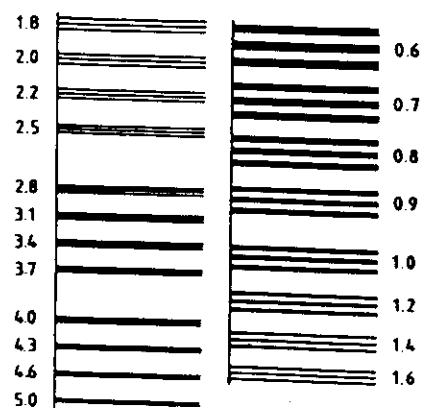
An MTF specifies at each spatial frequency the fraction of input modulation which will be imaged

$$MTF(f) = \frac{M(f)}{M(0)}$$

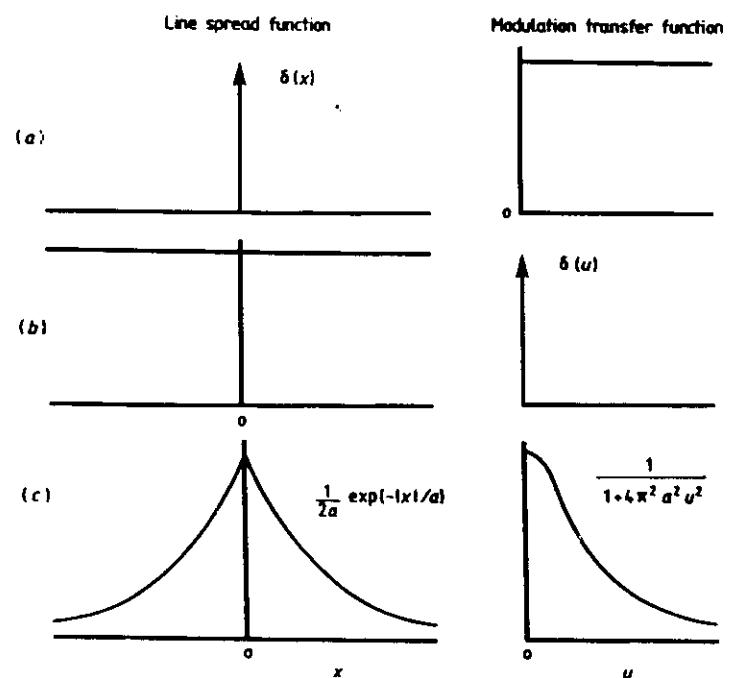


# **MEASUREMENT OF MTF**

**DIRECT MEASUREMENT OF  
PERIODIC PATTERN TEST  
OBJECT**



**FOURIER TRANSFORM  
OF THE MEASURED LSF**



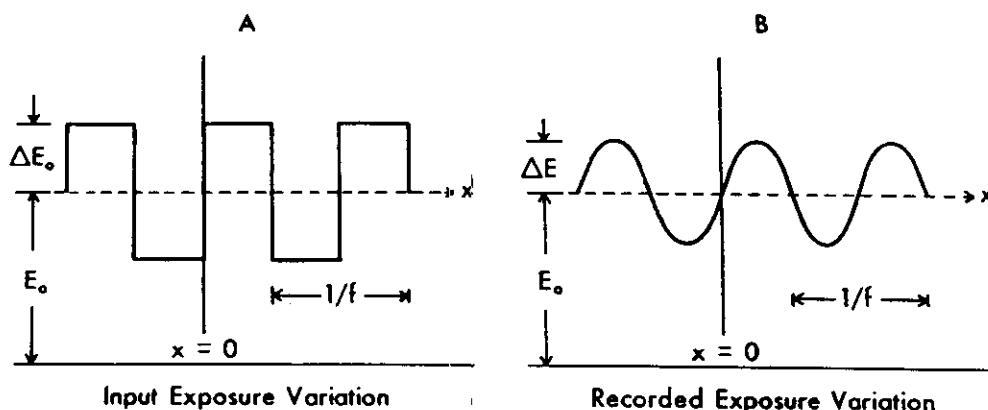
# USE OF BAR PATTERN TEST OBJECT

*Difficulties to obtain a test object which gives sinusoidal input exposure variation*

## SQUARE-WAVE RESPONSE FUNCTION (SWRF)

*Modulation Transfer Factor of a square-wave response*

$$S(f) = dE(f) / dE_e$$



## COLTMAN EQUATION

*Gives the mathematical relationships between the SWRF and MTF*

$$\begin{aligned} MTF(f) = \frac{\pi}{4} & [S(f) + \frac{S(3 \cdot f)}{3} - \frac{S(5 \cdot f)}{5} + \frac{S(7 \cdot f)}{7} \\ & + \frac{S(11 \cdot f)}{11} - \frac{S(13 \cdot f)}{13} - \frac{S(15 \cdot f)}{15} + \frac{S(17 \cdot f)}{17} \\ & : \quad + \frac{S(19 \cdot f)}{19} \dots] \end{aligned}$$

SCANSIONE DELLA MIRA DI FUNCK

DIMENSIONE DEL PIXEL : 10X499 micron

DENSITA'

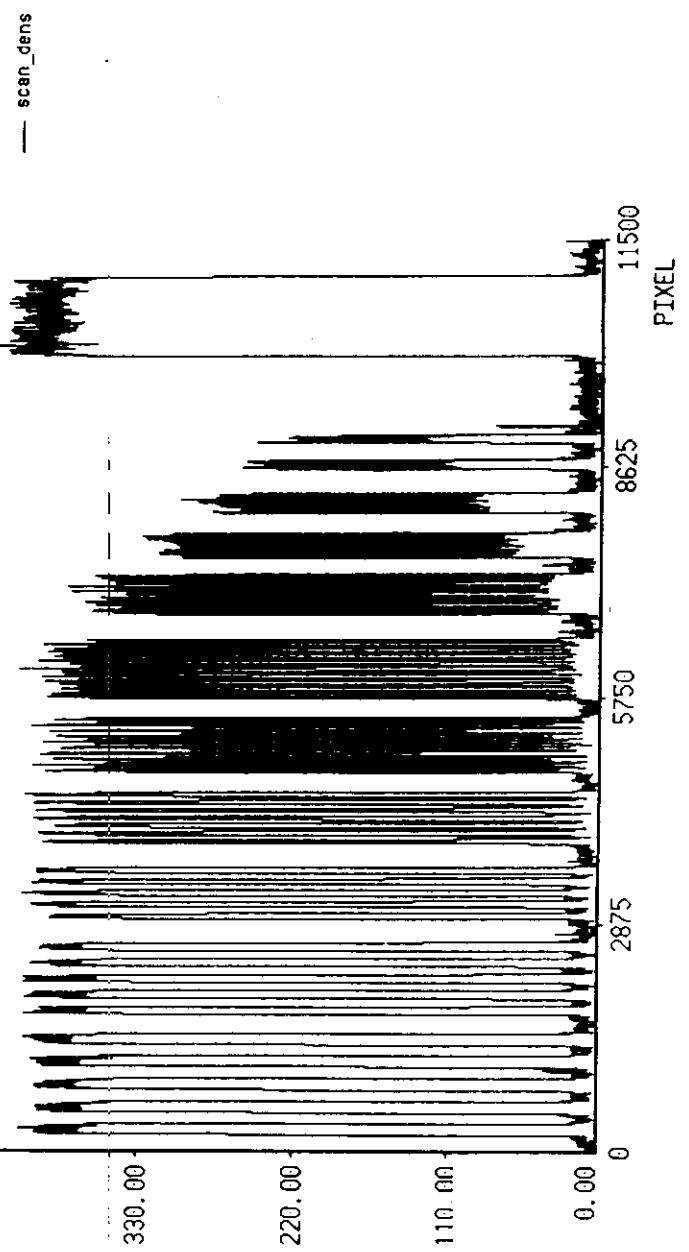
440.00

330.00

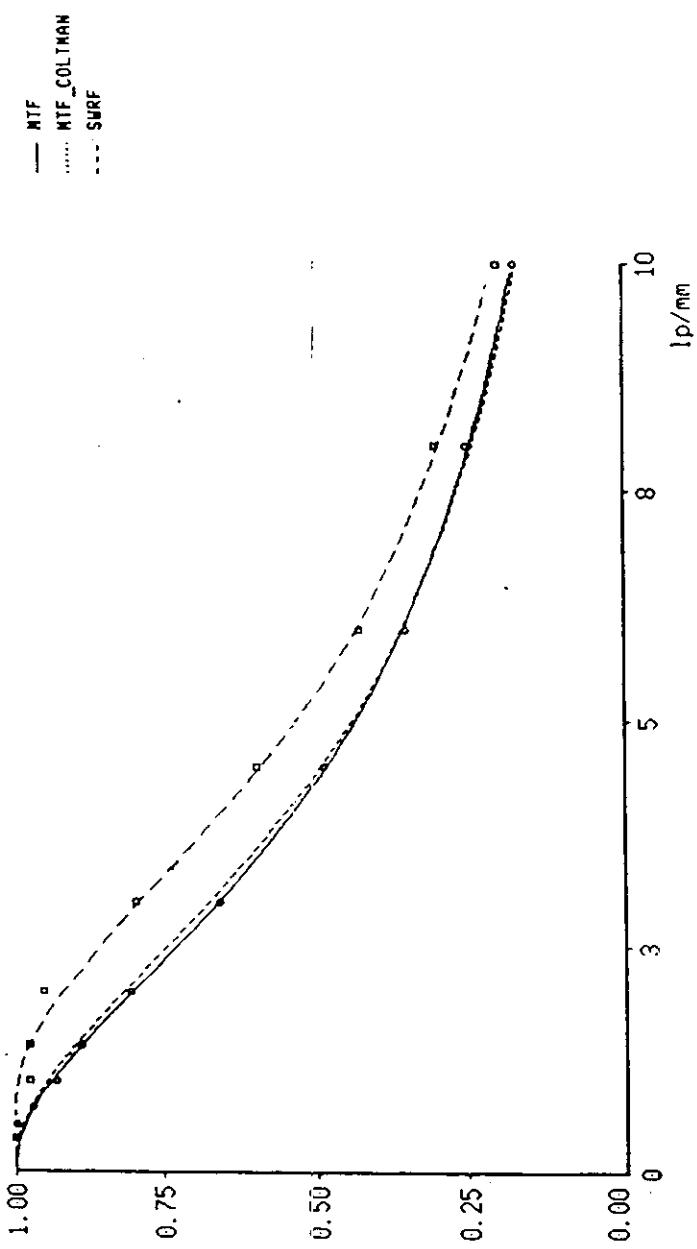
220.00

110.00

0.00



FORMULA DI COLTMAN  
(SVILUPPO CON 100 TERMINI)



# FOURIER TRANSFORM OF THE LSF

$$MTF(u) = \int_0^{\infty} LSF(x) \cos 2\pi u x \, dx / \int_0^{\infty} LSF(x) \, dx$$

## COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

### THE SAMPLING THEOREM

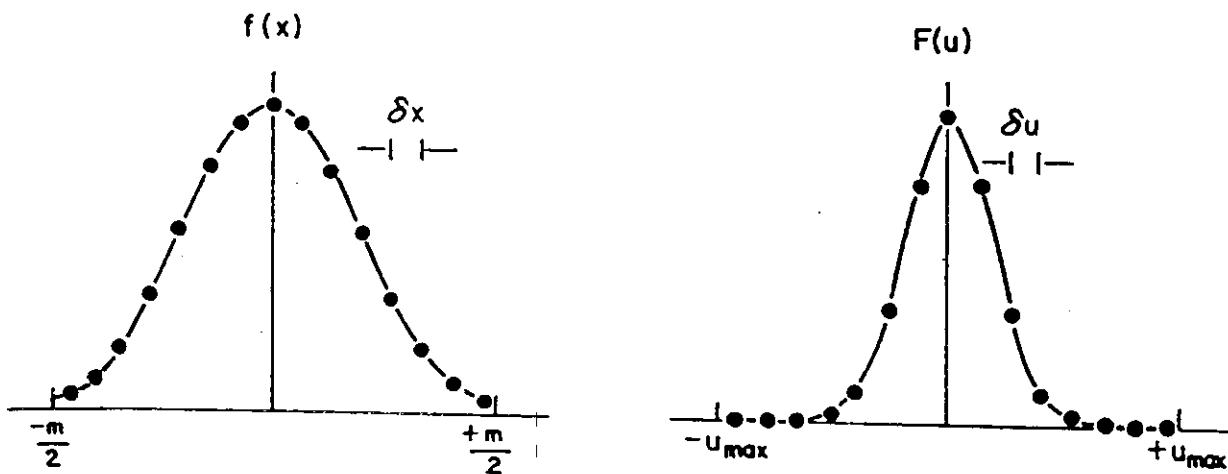
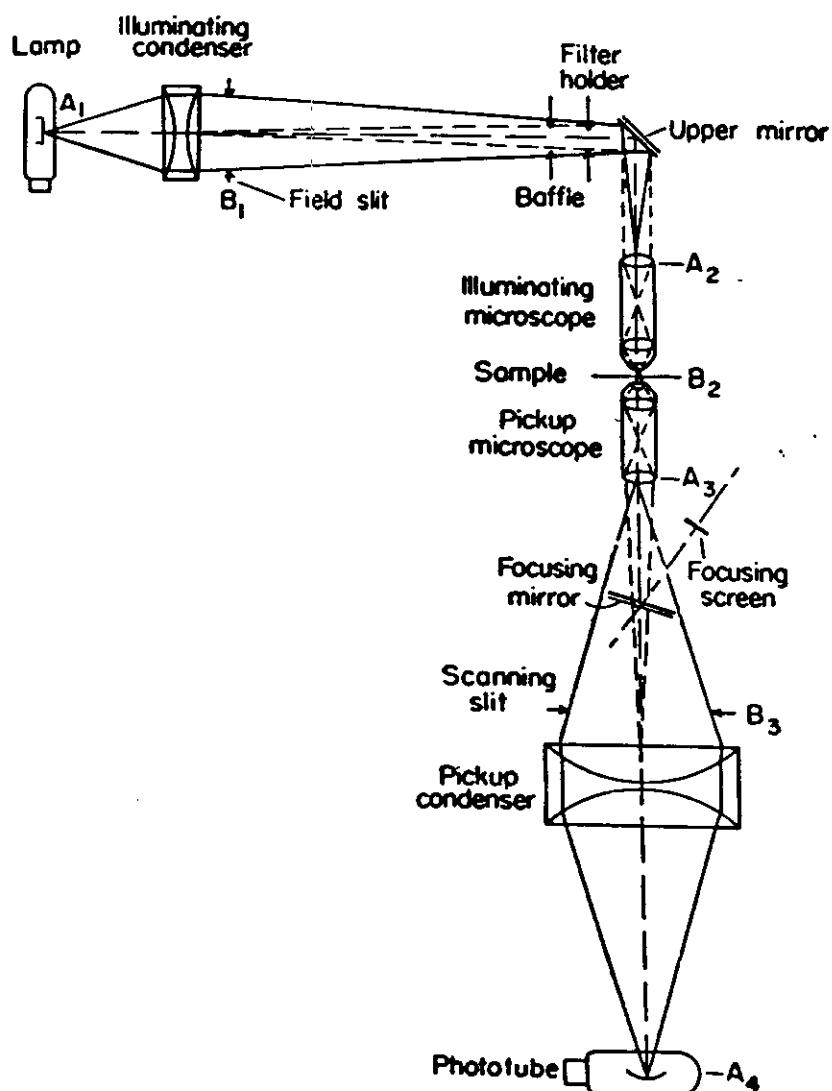


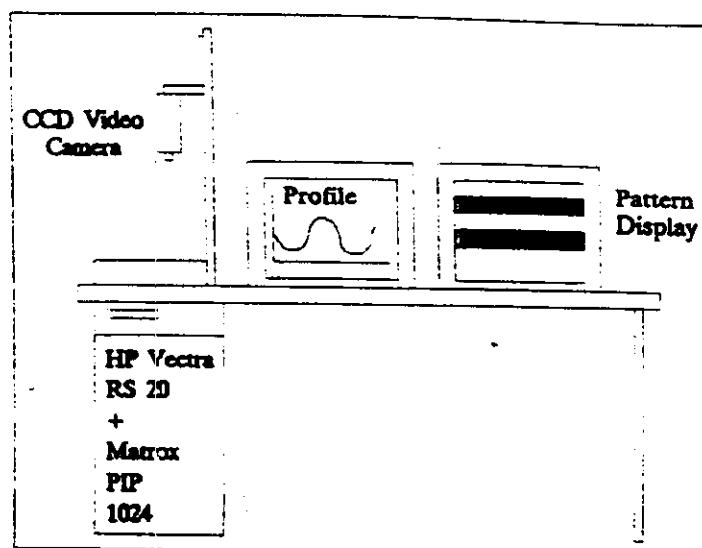
Illustration of the sampling theorem. If  $f(x)$  is defined within the range  $m$ , then  $F(u)$  is fully described by points  $\delta u = \frac{1}{m}$  apart. Conversely, if the range of interest of  $F(u)$  is  $2u_{max}$ , then  $f(x)$  may be sampled at intervals not greater than  $\delta x = \frac{1}{2u_{max}}$ .

# INSTRUMENTATION

## MICRODENSITOMETER



## TV-CAMERA DIGITIZER



# **NOISE**

*The noisy appearance (RADIOGRAPHIC MOTTLE) of a uniformly exposed X-Ray film is due to the spatial variation of the film density*

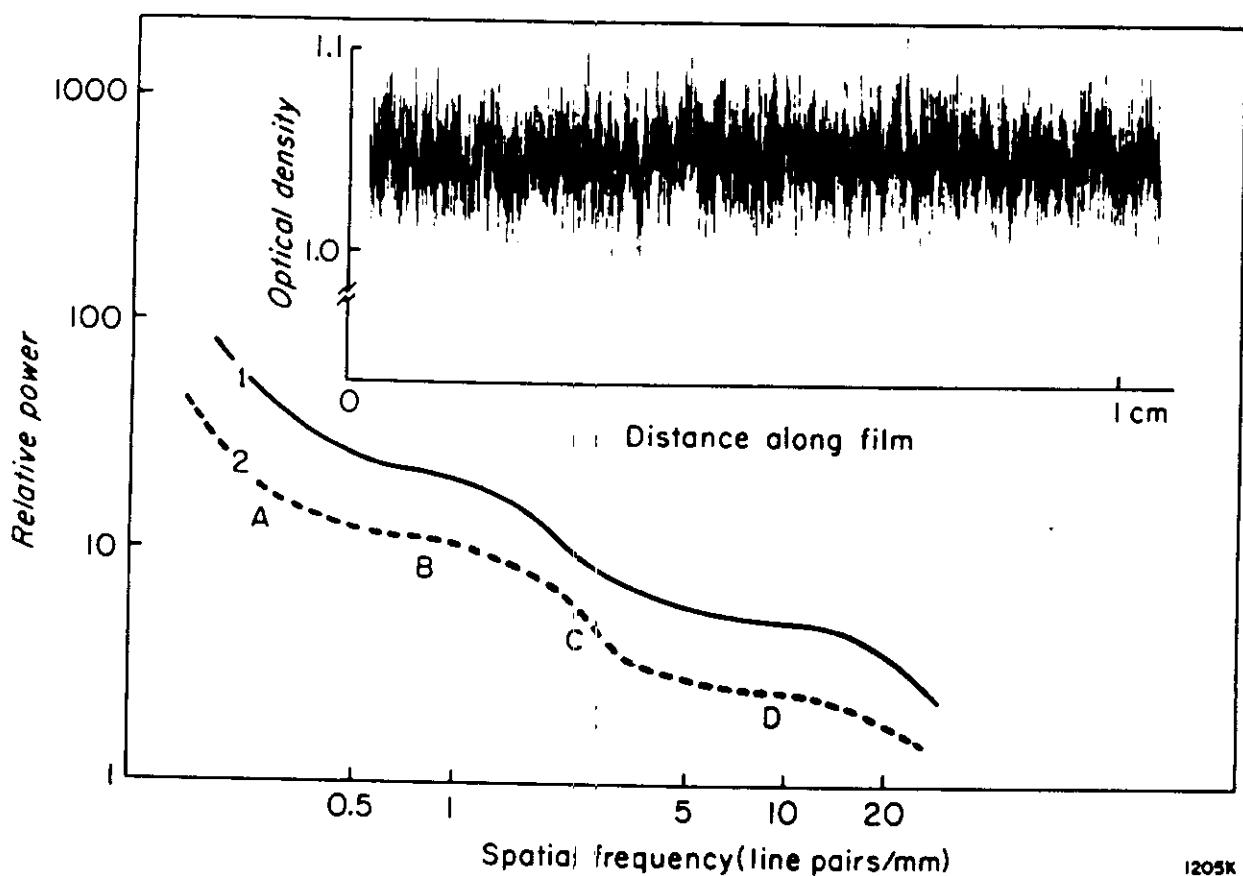
*A number of studies have demonstrated that the density  $D_A$  as measured with an aperture of area A should follow a Gaussian distribution*

## **MEASURE OF RADIOGRAPHIC NOISE**



**AUTOCORRELTION  
FUNCTION**

**WIENER SPECTRUM**



**A) Structural noise**

**B) White noise**  
**(due to quantum mottle)**

**C) Decrease of MTF**

**D) White noise**  
**(due to grain structure)**

	50 KV	60-70 KV			
<b>T-MAT G</b> <small>Prodotto di bassa latitudine</small>	<b>80</b>  indicata per la radiografia delle estremità. Alto contrasto, ottima risoluzione.	<b>100</b>  Per radiografia generale e delle estremità. Alto contrasto, assima risoluzione.	<b>300</b>  Per radiografia generale. Alto contrasto, eccezionale risoluzione.	<b>400</b>  Per radiografia generale e pediatrica. Rapida elevata, alto contrasto, ottima risoluzione, eccezionale per una vasta gamma di esami.	<b>600</b>  indicata su in radiografia generale su in radiografia specialistica. Rapida molto elevata, alto contrasto, ideale per tecniche mirate.
<b>T-MAT L</b>	<b>80</b>  Per la radiografia delle estremità. Ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto, ottima risoluzione, eccezionale definizione del tessuto osseo, con possibilità di lettura delle aree di tessuti molli.	<b>100</b>  Per radiografia generale e delle estremità. Ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto, eccezionale risoluzione.	<b>300</b>  Per radiografia generale. Ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto, ottima risoluzione.	<b>400</b>  Per radiografia generale. Rapida elevata, ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto, ottima risoluzione; ideale per un'ampia gamma di esami.	<b>600</b>  Per radiografia generale e specialistica. Altissima rapida, ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto, buona risoluzione.
<b>T-MAT C</b> <small>Prodotto di bassa latitudine</small>	—	—	<b>300</b>  Per la radiografia del torace. Ottima risoluzione, ampia latitudine di esposizione che permette di registrare il massimo numero di informazioni dei polmoni e del mediastino.	<b>400</b>  Per la radiografia del torace. Eccezionale risoluzione, latitudine di esposizione più ampia per un'ottima lettura delle aree corrispondenti ai polmoni ed al mediastino, riduzione della dose.	<b>600</b>  Adatta per esami con m.d.c. Il contrasto definira prevale sulle forti differenze di densità.
<b>T-MAT H</b> <small>Prodotto di bassa latitudine</small>	—	—	<b>600</b>  Rapida elevata, indicata per radiografia generale e specialistica, inclusa angiografia con ingrandimento. Alto contrasto, buona risoluzione.	<b>800</b>  Rapida elevata, indicata per radiografia generale e specialistica, inclusa angiografia con ingrandimento. Alto contrasto, buona risoluzione.	<b>1200</b>  Ideale per angiografe con ingrandimento ed altre tecniche particolari. Altissima rapida, alto contrasto e buona definizione.
<b>ORTHO G</b>	<b>80</b>  Per la radiografia delle estremità. Alto contrasto, eccellente resa dei dettagli.	<b>100</b>  Per radiografia generale e delle estremità. Alto contrasto, eccellente resa dei dettagli.	<b>300</b>  Per radiografia generale. Alto contrasto, ottima resa dei dettagli.	<b>400</b>  Per radiografia generale. Rapida elevata, alto contrasto, ideale per un'ampia gamma di esami.	<b>600</b>  Rapida molto elevata. Studiata per impiego in radiografia generale e specialistica.
<b>ORTHO L</b>	<b>80</b>  Per radiografia delle estremità. Ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto, eccellente resa dei dettagli delle ossa e lettura anche dei tessuti molli.	<b>100</b>  Per radiografia generale e delle estremità. Ampia latitudine di esposizione, medio contrasto.	<b>250</b>  Per radiografia generale. Ampia latitudine, contrasto moderato, eccellente definizione.	<b>400</b>  Per radiografia generale. Rapida elevata, medio contrasto, ideale per una vasta gamma di esami.	<b>600</b>  Altissima rapida, per impiego in radiografia generale.
<b>ORTHO C</b>	—	—	<b>250</b>  Per radiografia del torace. Ampia latitudine di esposizione, eccellente definizione, sia nell'area dei polmoni che del mediastino.	<b>400</b>  Per radiografia del torace. Ampia latitudine di esposizione. Massimo numero di informazioni nell'area dei polmoni e del mediastino, riduzione della dose.	—
<b>ORTHO H</b>	—	—	<b>500</b>  Per radiografia generale. Contrasto elevato, ottima definizione dei dettagli delle ossa, riduzione dell'effetto cinetico.	<b>800</b>  Rapida elevata. Per radiografia generale e specialistica compresa l'angiografia con ingrandimento.	<b>1200</b>  Rapida massima e contrasto elevato. Per radiografia in cui l'effetto cinetico e le dose al paziente devono essere ridotti al minimo.
<b>ORTHO M ORTHO MA</b>	<b>Schermo singolo</b>	<b>40</b>  Per mammografia e radiografia ad altissima definizione. Altissimo contrasto, ottima definizione e buona resa delle tracheole ossee.	—	—	—
	<b>20</b>  Per mammografia e radiografia ad alta definizione. Ottima resa dei dettagli, medio contrasto, eccellente visualizzazione dei tessuti molli.				
<b>NMB</b>	<b>25</b>  Per radiografia ad alta definizione. Medio contrasto, registra anche i più fini dettagli.	—	—	—	—