

CHAPTER 04: SPECIFICATIONS AND ALLIED TECHNICAL DETAILS

Measuring modes: In air:

- Contact AFM
- Lateral Force Mode (LFM)
- Semicontact/Tapping Mode and noncontact AFM
- Phase Imaging with amplitude modulation
- Force Modulation
- Adhesion Force Imaging
- Magnetic Force Mode and Electrostatic Force Mode (MFM / EFM)
- AFM and STM spectroscopies
- Spreading Resistance Imaging (SRI)/ Conducting AFM
- Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM) (Approx. Current range 30pA to 50 nA)

Scanning types:

- Scanners must be piezo construction for highest resolution with facility for both solid and liquid samples
- The system should have facility for either Scanning-by-sample OR Scanning-by-probe

Scanners

Small Scanner

- Scanning range: Up to 10x10x2 um
- Non-linearity XY: 0.4% (fast direction), 0.8% (slow direction)
- Z noise RMS in 1000Hz bandwidth: <0.03nm
- Max sample size: up to 40mm in diameter, 15mm thick

Scanner with low noise capacitance sensors

- Scanning range : 100x100x12 um
- Non-linearity XY :0.1% peak to peak/2
- Non-linearity Z :1%
- XY RMS noise in 200 Hz bandwidth (with capacitance sensors): 0.1 nm
- XY RMS noise in 200 Hz bandwidth (without capacitance sensors): 0.01 nm
- Z capacitance sensor RMS noise in 1000 Hz bandwidth: 0.03 nm
- Z RMS noise in 1000 Hz bandwidth (with capacitance sensors): 0.05 nm
- Z RMS noise in 1000 Hz bandwidth (without capacitance sensors): 0.04 nm
- Drive resolution : 0.006 nm

XY sample positioning:

- Range of sample positioning: 5x5 mm
- Positioning accuracy: 2um

Tip Viewing

- AFM scanning cantilever/probe optical surface should be viewable on axis in real time via Direct Optical Video Access by CCD.
- There should be a zoom function with zoom range from 2X to 13x.
- The resolution of the device should be better than 2 microns.
- Horizontal field of view 1.2 to 0.4 mm or better

Vibration and acoustic isolation/ electric shielding:

An vibration isolation table / enclosure and acoustic enclosure which can also house the CCD / Video Access.

Accessories:

A set of soft and hard cantilevers containing minimum 100 nos. tips having different types like contact, non contact, MFM, EFM etc. A set of calibration standards like gratings etc. to be included.

Optional Items:

- Scanning Capacitance Imaging (SCI)
- Scanning Kelvin Probe Microscopy (SKM)
- Piezo Response Force Microscopy (PFM)
- Liquid cell for liquid imaging
- Electrochemical AFM/STM
- Temperature controller with temperature range between 4 to 180 deg C
- Humidity and environmental control chambers

Computer / controller and software

1. Latest computer system consist of latest Pentium processor, 4 GB DDR RAM 250 or more

GB HDD, 19 inch, LCD dual colour monitors x 2 for simultaneous data acquisition/image display and management/control, CD-RW drive, mouse, keyboard etc.

2. Controller should have the following minimum basic specifications

- a. Data transfer should be via USB link.
- b. Two Numbers of floating point Digital Signal Processors (DSPs) should be provided for scan and data.
- c. Special Lock-in amplifier with adequate frequency range, with true phase and
- d. amplitude imaging possibilities
- e. Five 16 bit DACs for X, Y, Z positioning.
- f. Five 16 bit data acquisition channels
- g. The controller should be latest - that allows free choice of data points up to 2000 X 2000 or higher for both high resolution imaging and zoom-in as well as for high resolution force spectroscopy.
- h. Should provide for customs scripting, customs spectroscopy, scripting capabilities, scripting examples and also scripting functions, so that one can easily design their experimental set up.

3. Software - Microsoft Windows operating system, supporting TCP/IP for networking. All standard options including user level scripting (C++) and image processing software.

4. Should have facility for self diagnostics

Upgradeability:

- Provision for upgradation for low current STM (10pA-5nA)
- Provision for upgradation with coupling of RAMAN and other spectroscopic techniques