

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910964091703321
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Titolo	Scanning Electron Microscopy, X-Ray Microanalysis, and Analytical Electron Microscopy : A Laboratory Workbook / / by Charles E. Lyman, Dale E. Newbury, Joseph Goldstein, David B. Williams, Alton D. Romig Jr., John Armstrong, Patrick Echlin, Charles Fiori, David C. Joy, Eric Lifshin, Klaus-Rüdiger Peters
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Springer US : , : Imprint : Springer, , 1990
ISBN	1-4613-0635-3
Edizione	[1st ed. 1990.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XI, 407 p.)
Disciplina	571.8
Soggetti	Developmental biology Materials - Analysis Developmental Biology and Stem Cells Characterization and Analytical Technique
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

During the last four decades remarkable developments have taken place in instrumentation and techniques for characterizing the microstructure and microcomposition of materials. Some of the most important of these instruments involve the use of electron beams because of the wealth of information that can be obtained from the interaction of electron beams with matter. The principal instruments include the scanning electron microscope, electron probe x-ray microanalyzer, and the analytical transmission electron microscope. The training of students to use these instruments and to apply the new techniques that are possible with them is an important function, which has been carried out by formal classes in universities and colleges and by special summer courses such as the ones offered for the past 19 years at Lehigh University. Laboratory work, which should be an integral part of such courses, is often hindered by the lack of a suitable laboratory workbook. While laboratory workbooks for transmission electron microscopy have been in existence for many years, the broad range of topics that must be dealt with in scanning electron microscopy and microanalysis has made it difficult for instructors to devise meaningful experiments. The present workbook provides a series of fundamental experiments to aid in "hands-on" learning of the use of the instrumentation and the techniques. It is written by a group of eminently qualified scientists and educators. The importance of hands-on learning cannot be overemphasized.