Coherent Diffraction Imaging

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For centuries, lens-based microscopy, such as light, phase-contrast, fluorescence, confocal and electron microscopy, has played an indispensable role in the evolution of modern science and technology. In 1999, a novel form of microscopy, *i.e.* coherent diffraction imaging (also termed coherent diffraction microscopy or lensless imaging), was developed and transformed our traditional view of microscopy, in which the diffraction pattern of a non-crystalline object or a nanocrystal is first measured and then directly phased to obtain an image. The well-known phase problem is solved by the oversampling method in combination with iterative algorithms. Since the first experimental demonstration, coherent diffraction imaging has been applied to study a wide range of materials science and biological samples such as nanoparticles, nanocrystals, biomaterials, cells, cellular organelles and virions using synchrotron radiation, high harmonic generation and soft X-ray laser sources, free electron lasers, and electrons. In this talk, I will present the principle of coherent diffraction imaging and illustrate its broad application in materials/nano-science and biology.

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