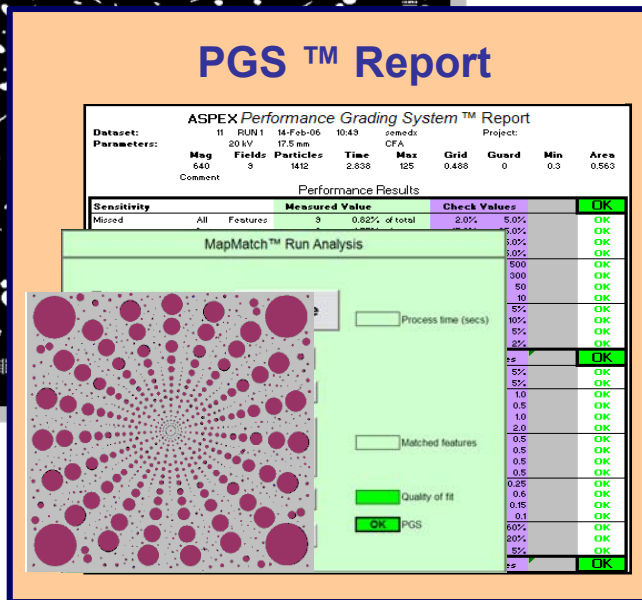
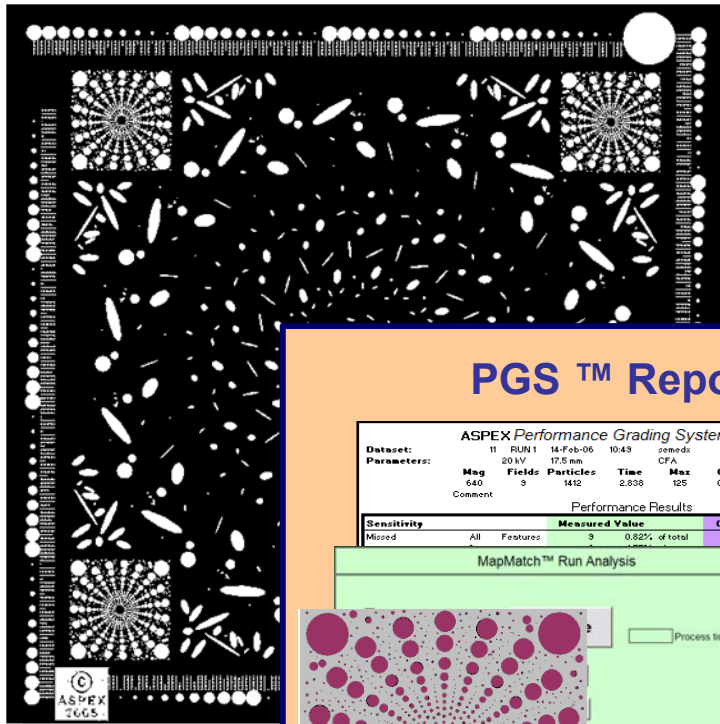


Performance Grading System™

Fred Schamber
Aspex Corporation, Delmont, PA



The Aspex PGS™ (Performance Grading System*) is the first practical method for routine checking of particle analyzer performance in the submicron particle range. A process was developed at the PSU NNIN to fabricate PGS specimens with thousands of precisely know micron- and nanometer-scale features. The PGS system is very easy to use, and within minutes produces detailed and precise metrics that summarize virtually every significant aspect of instrument performance. A key metric is its insensitivity to foreign material that might otherwise skew the results.