

# Radiation and Fusion Experiments on Sandia's Z Facility

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*Radiation and Fusion Experiments*

*Sandia National Laboratories*

*presented by*

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*Sandia National Laboratories*

**International Conference on Matter  
and Radiation at Extremes**

**Chengdu, China**

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service  
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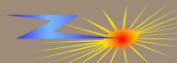
# Experiments on Z involve a large group of collaborators

- Sandia National Laboratories

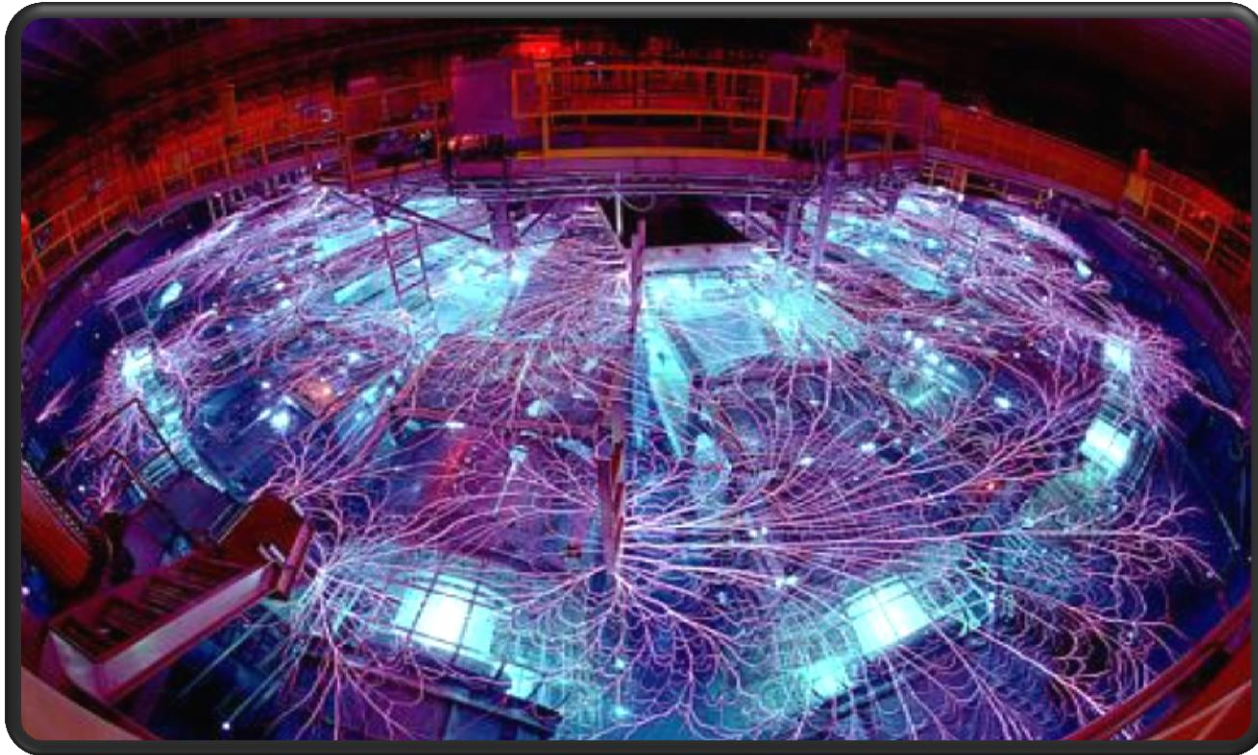
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- Many, many people who enable experiments on Z
  - Diagnostics, pulsed power development, system integration, machine turnaround, Load design, fabrication, assembly and installation

- Numerous Collaborators

- Naval Research Laboratory
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Weizmann Institute
- Imperial College
- Alameda Applied Science



The Z generator is a pulsed power generator capable of delivering up to 25 MA in  $\sim 100$  ns

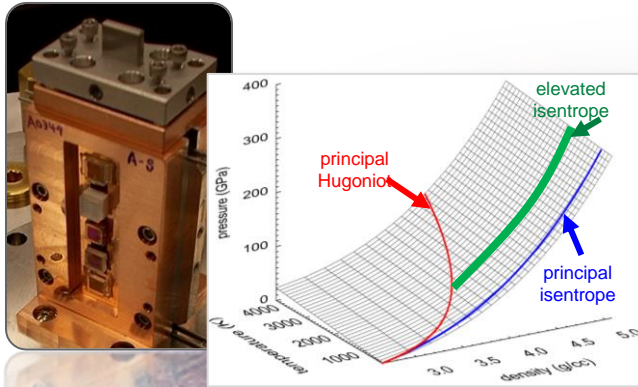




# Z produces extreme conditions in numerous ways

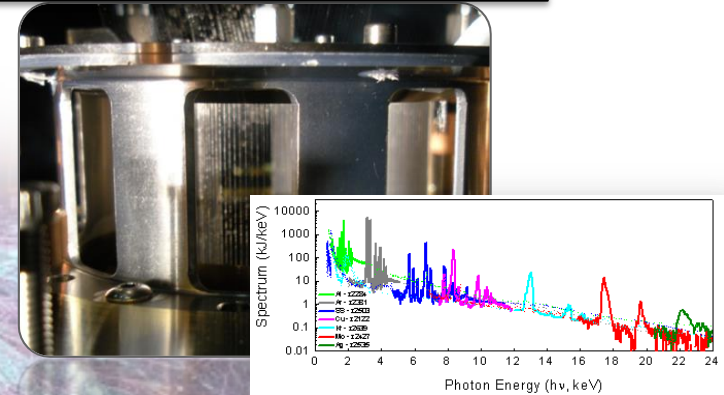
## Dynamic Materials

Compress materials to  $10^7$  Atm.



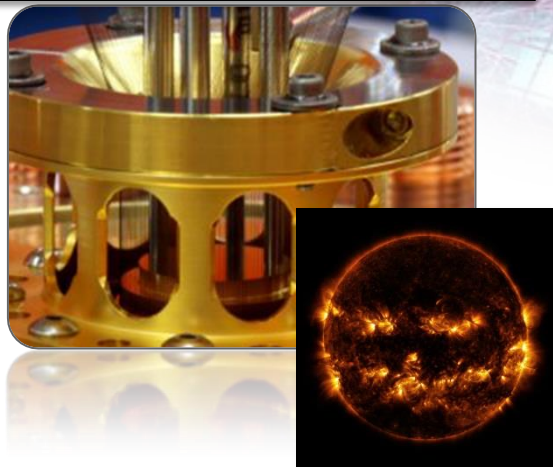
## K-shell x-ray sources

100's of kJ of multi-keV photons



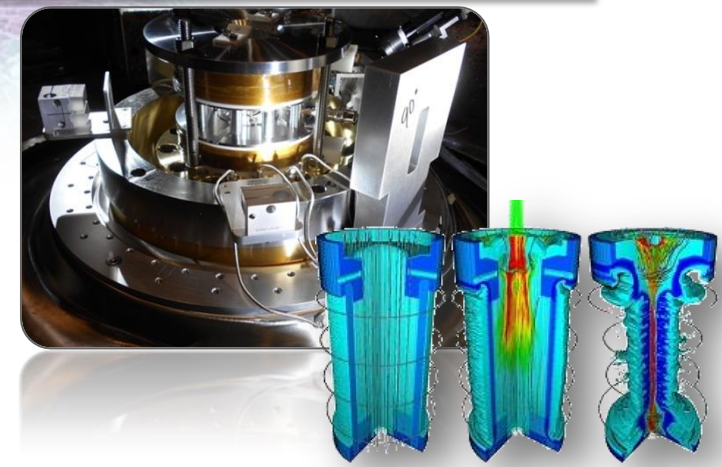
## Stellar Opacities

Temperature/density of convection zone



## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas

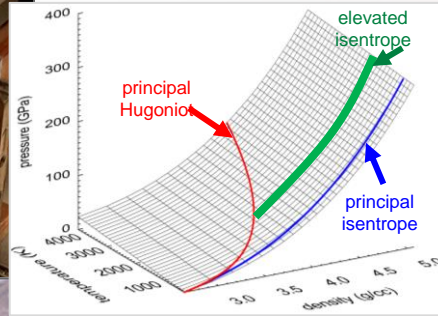
Fusion yields  $>10^{12}$  neutrons



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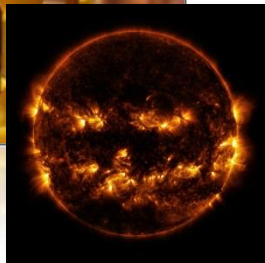
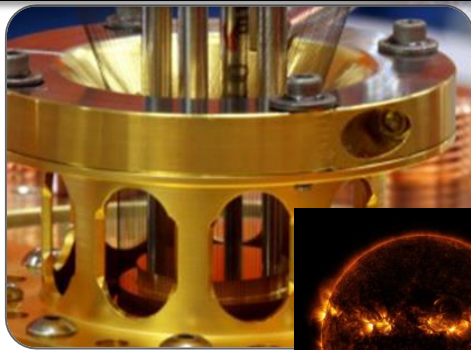
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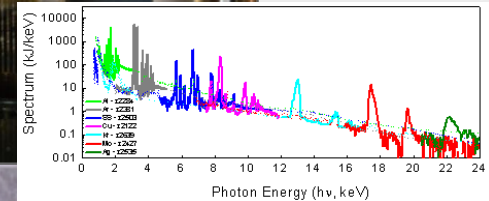
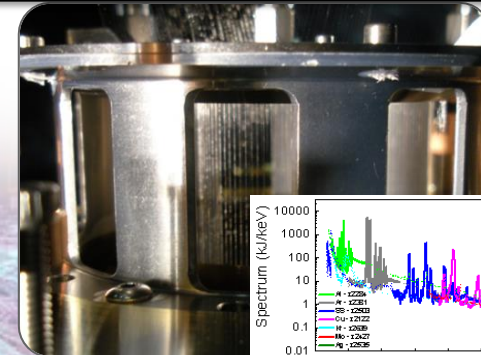
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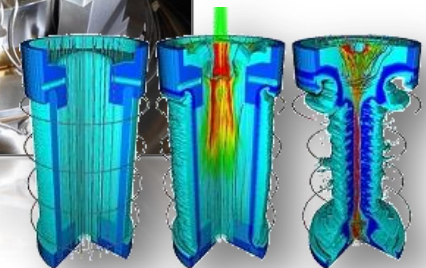
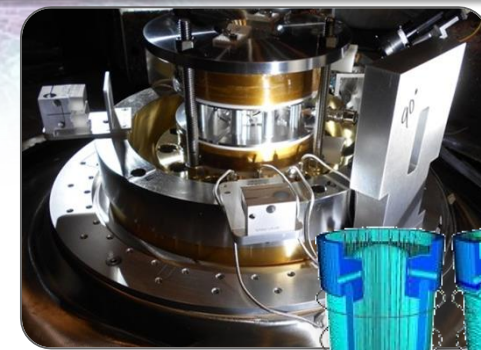
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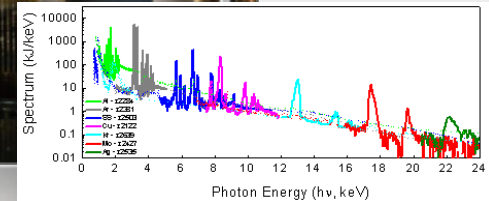
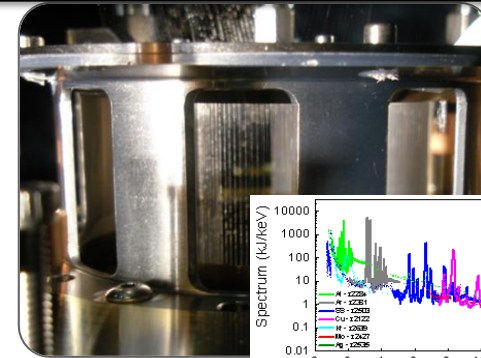


# Summary: MagLIF and wire arrays very different, very similar

- Significant overlap and contrast between multi-keV x-ray source experiments and MagLIF
  - Diagnostics similar
  - Same simulation tools used on each
  - Both challenging on the generator
- K-shell sources and MagLIF have made significant progress in last 4 years
  - K-shell sources
    - Previously only source for <10 keV,
    - Now 13 keV Kr gas puffs and 17-59 keV non-thermal sources
  - MagLIF
    - Initial experiments very promising
    - Physics and optimization experiments continuing

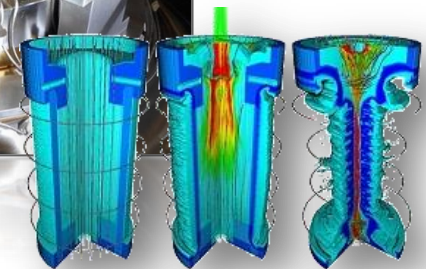
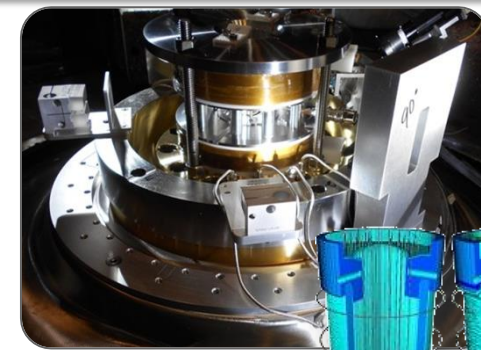
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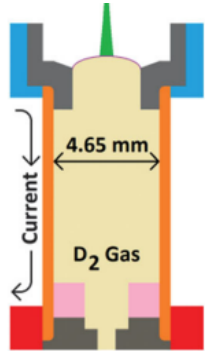
## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas

Fusion yields  $>10^{12}$  neutrons





# Experiments use liners, wire array and gas puff z pinches imploded on the Z generator



- **MagLIF**
  - Solid Be **liner**, Deuterium gas fill
  - ~100 mg/cm, 5.6mm initial diameter
  - Coating can be used to minimize instability seed

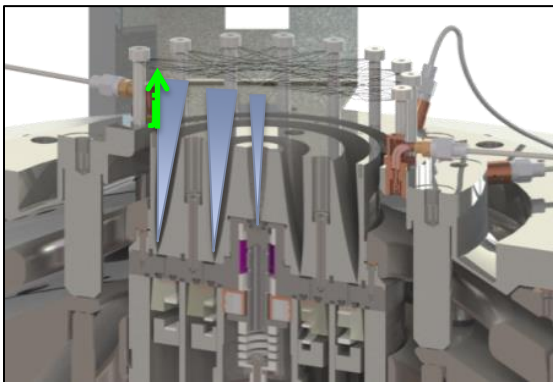
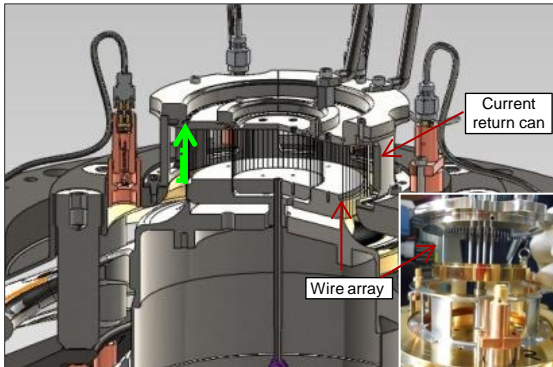
- **Wire arrays**

- ~100 wires
- ~1 mg/cm, 70mm initial diameter
- Nested wire arrays for stability
- Al, Stainless Steel, Cu, Mo, Ag

- **Gas puffs**

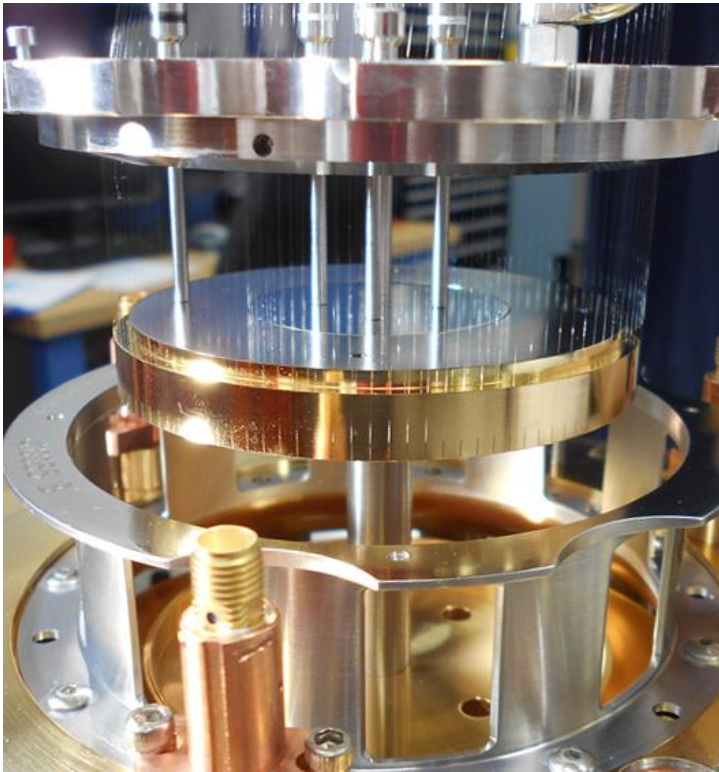
- Azimuthally symmetric gas shells
- ~1 mg/cm
- Shape density profiles for stability
- Ar, Kr, D<sub>2</sub>

- Initial diameters, masses and mass distribution define stagnation temperature, uniformity



# Scales and structure of different experiments vary significantly

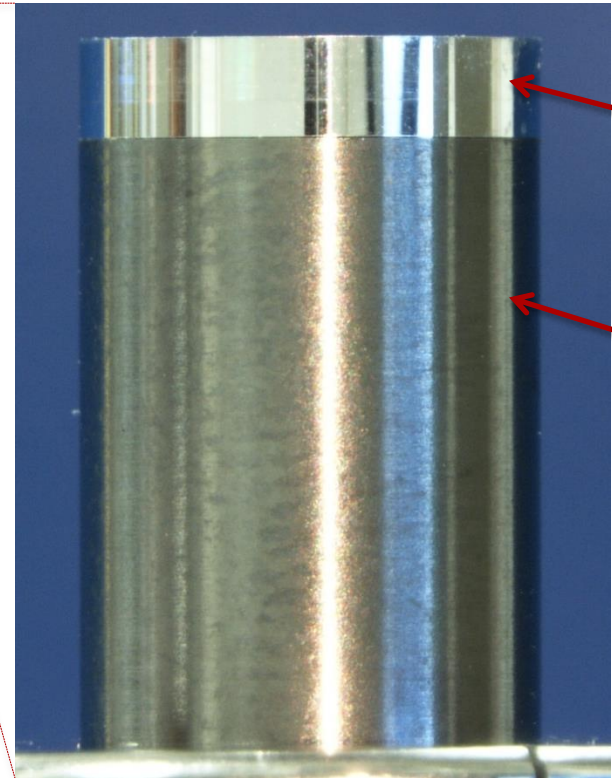
70 mm wire array



5.6 mm liner



10 x magnification



Endcap

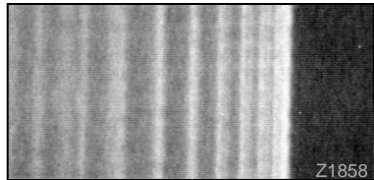
Be liner

- Diameters: few cm or few mm
- Azimuthally discrete wires or continuous liner
- $\mu\text{m}$  scale wires vs. 100s of  $\mu\text{m}$  thick liner

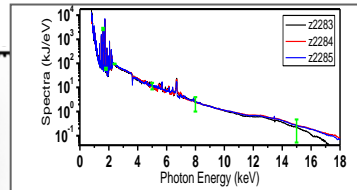
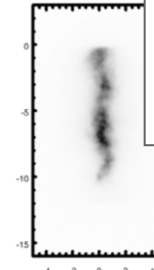
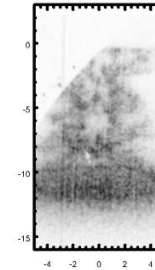
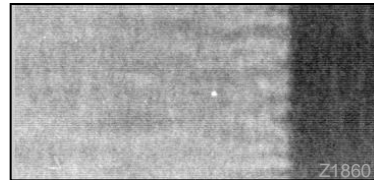


# Magnetically driven implosions undergo a multi-stage implosion, make hot plasma on the axis of symmetry

## Wire arrays



Wire  
ablation



## Dwell time

Initial location

## Initial motion

Correlated  
instabilities

## Final implosion

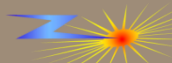
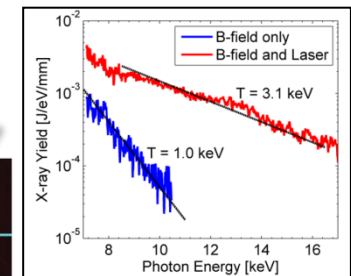
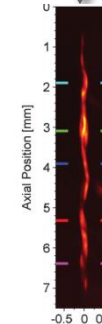
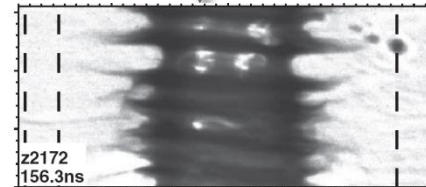
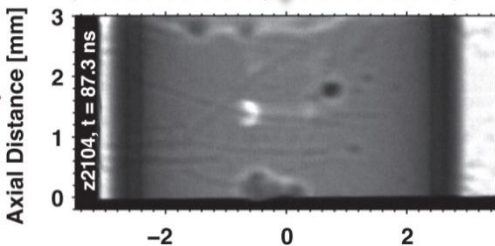
Large scale  
instabilities

## Stagnation

Structured column

## MagLIF

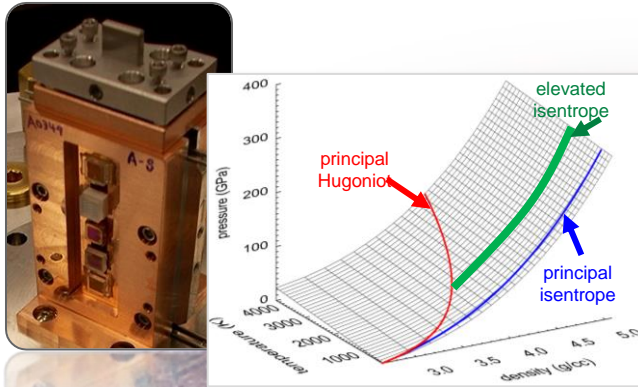
Shock  
propagation



# Z produces extreme conditions in numerous ways

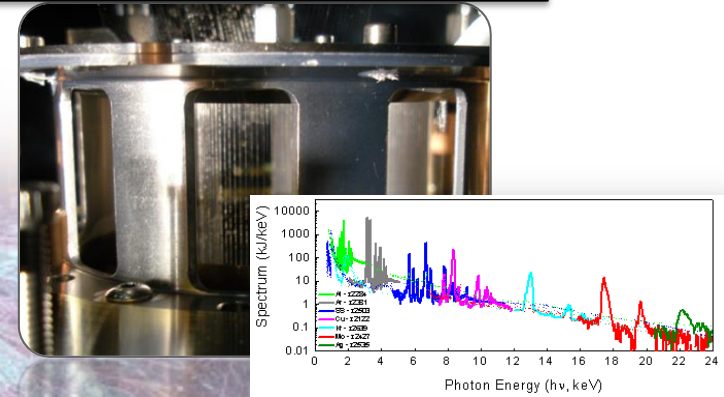
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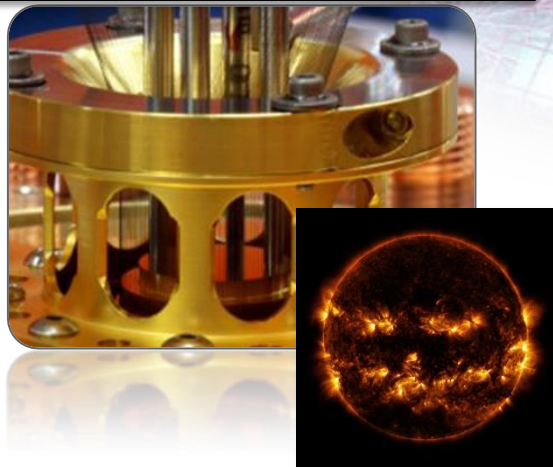
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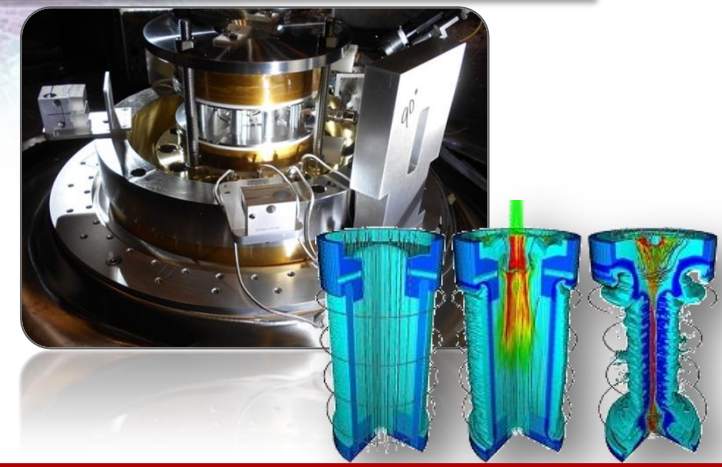
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Temperature/density of convection zone

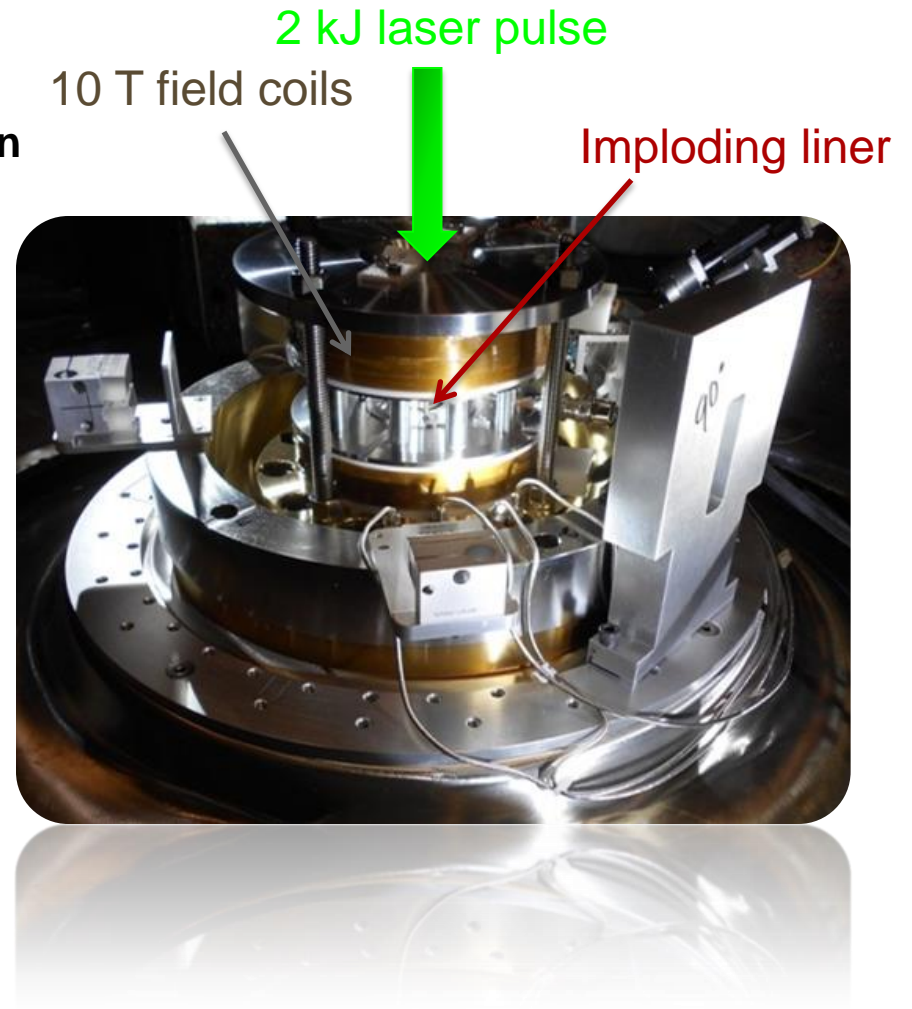
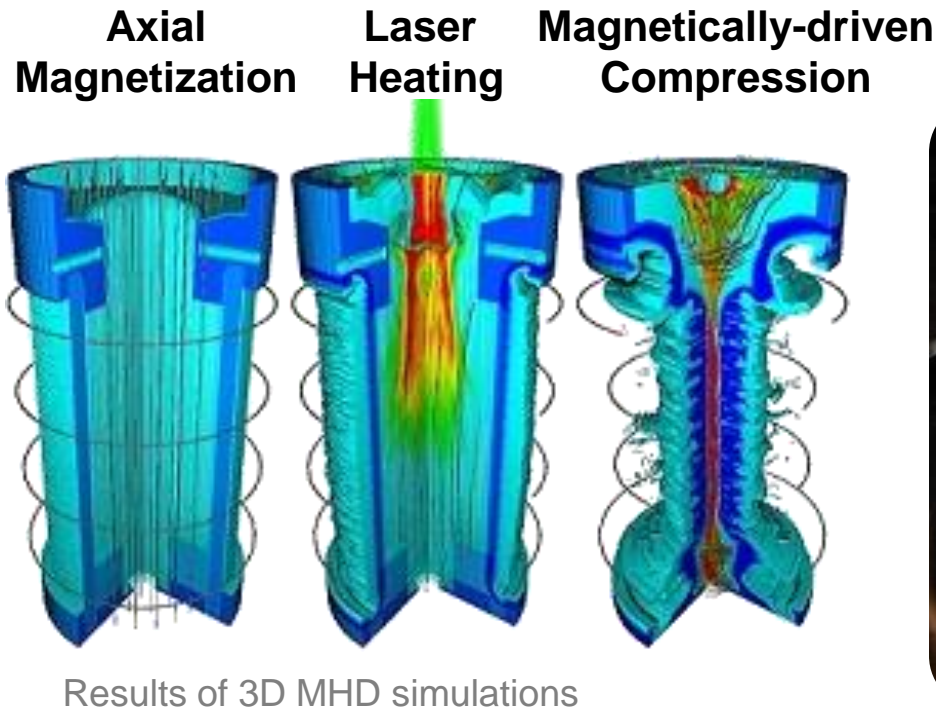


## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas

Fusion yields  $>10^{12}$  neutrons

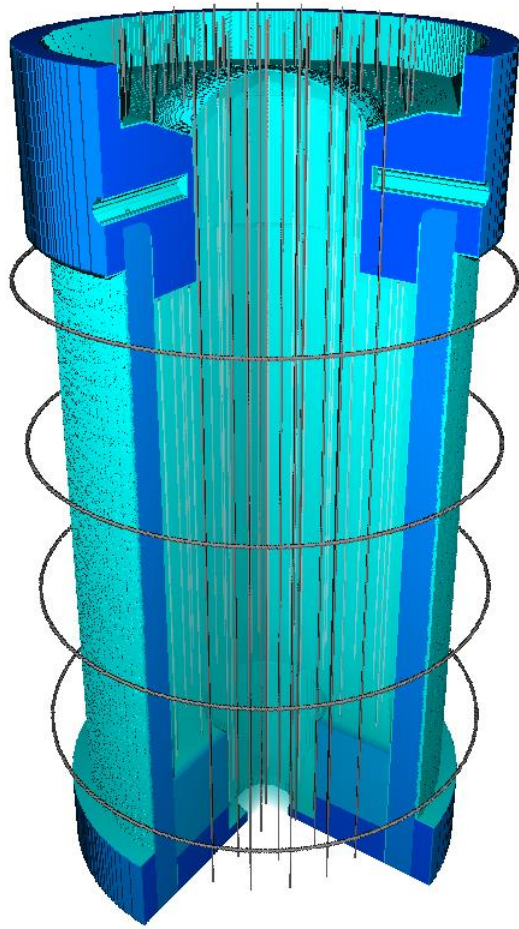


**MAG**netized Liner Inertial Fusion consists of imploding a pre-magnetized, pre-heated liner with the Z electrical pulse

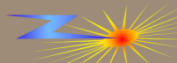




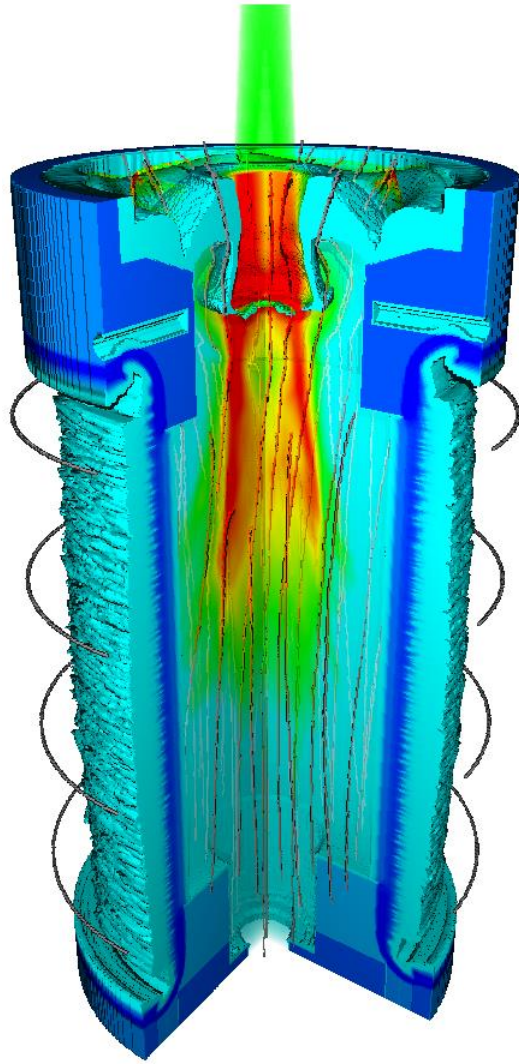
# MagLIF has three stages: Stage 1 is Magnetization



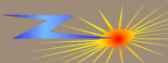
- Start with a thick metal liner (Be) containing gaseous fusion fuel (D2)
- A 10 Tesla axial magnetic field is applied slowly so the field can diffuse through conductors



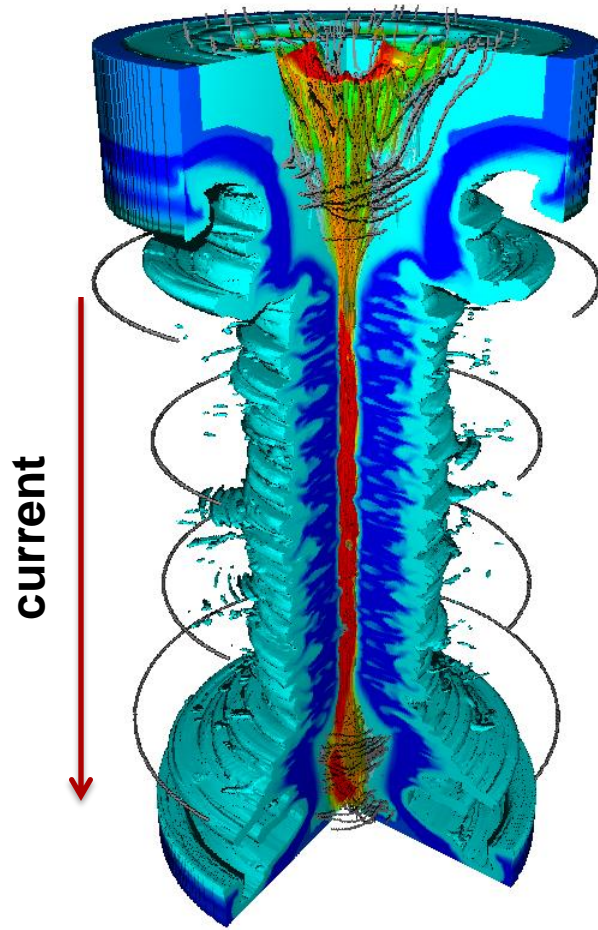
# MagLIF has three stages: Stage 2 is Laser heating



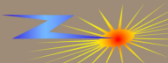
- A laser enters the target axially
  - $2\Omega$  light from ZBL laser
- The laser heats the fuel through inverse bremsstrahlung absorption
- The magnetic field insulates the warm gas from the cool liner



# MagLIF has three stages: Stage 3 is Compression

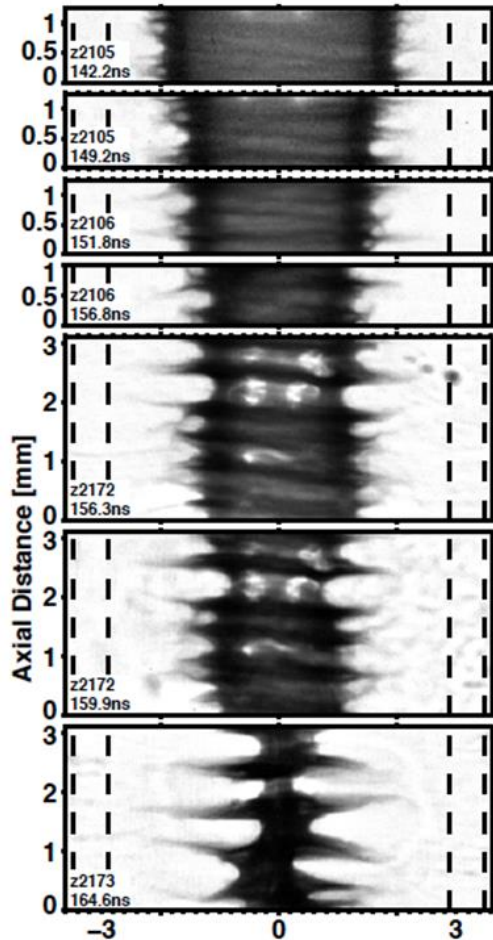


- Current flowing on the outside of the target squeezes the liner which compresses the fuel and magnetic field
  - Typically achieve 18 MA currents
- The fuel heats through near adiabatic compression to fusion relevant temperatures



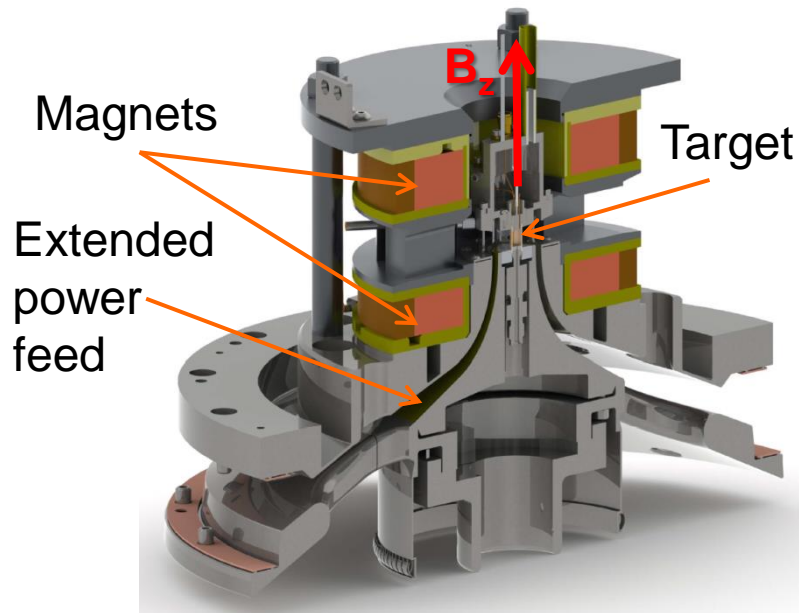
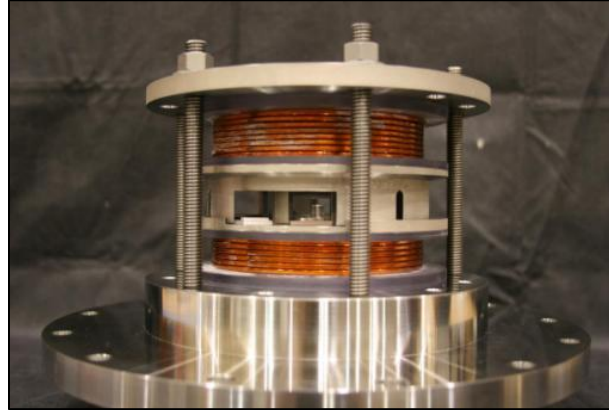


# Several experimental campaigns were conducted to investigate liner robustness



- In MagLIF, liner stability is critical because the liner provides confinement at stagnation
- Smooth beryllium liners were imploded and radiography was used to assess liner stability
- During the implosion, the magneto-Rayleigh-Taylor instability develops azimuthally correlated bubbles and spikes
- Based on experiments and simulations, aspect ratio 6 liners are at the limit of acceptable stability
  - Experiments are starting to explore thinner liners

# We developed the capability to apply uniform, pulsed magnetic fields to cm-scale targets



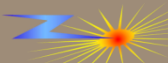
## Applied B-field on Z

Capacitor bank: 900 kJ, 8 mF, 15 kV

Full diagnostic access coils: up to 10 T

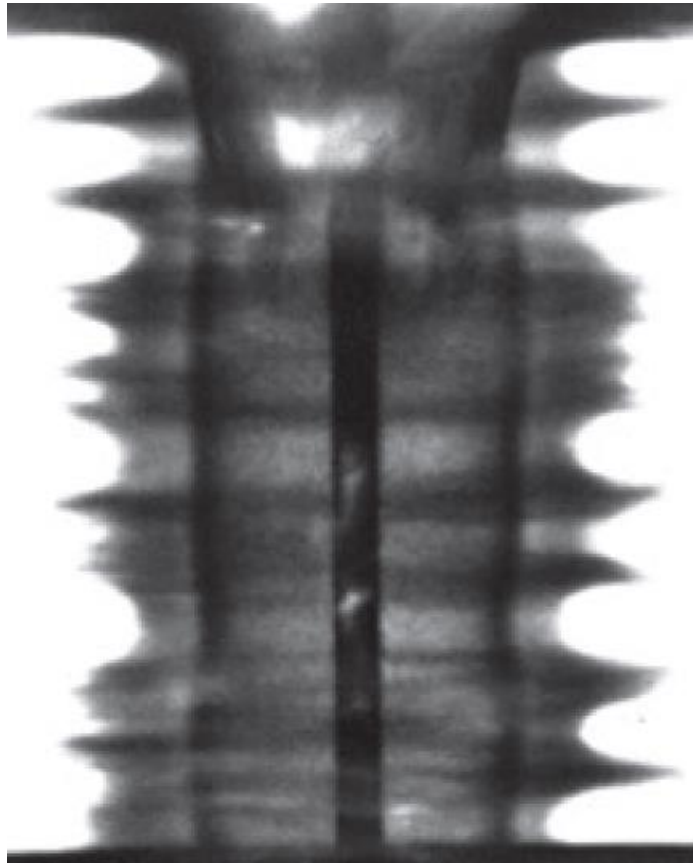
Limited diagnostic access coils: 15-20 T

No diagnostic access coils: 25-30 T



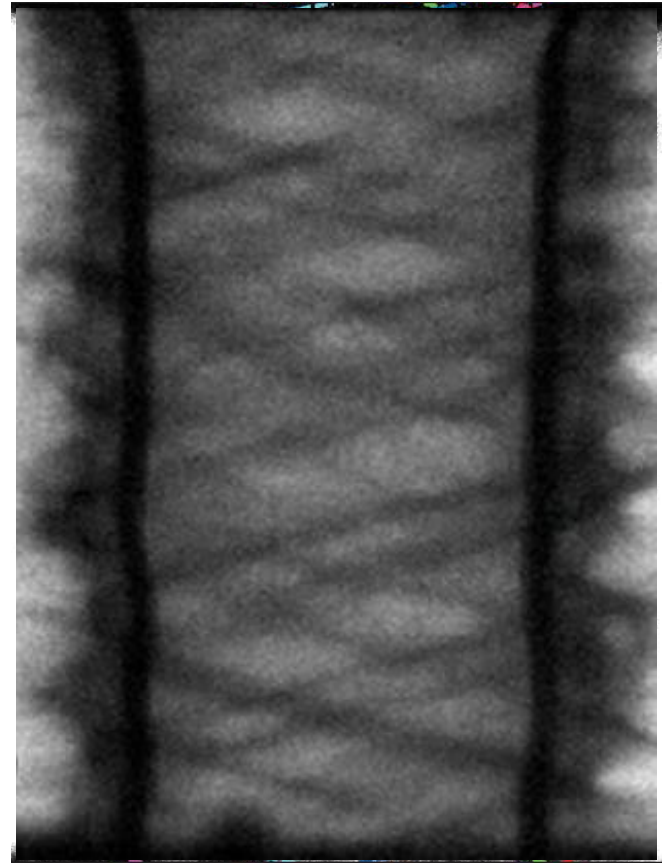
# Addition of the axial B-field dramatically modified instability growth

Without axial B-field

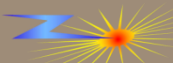


Azimuthal MRT structure

With axial B-field



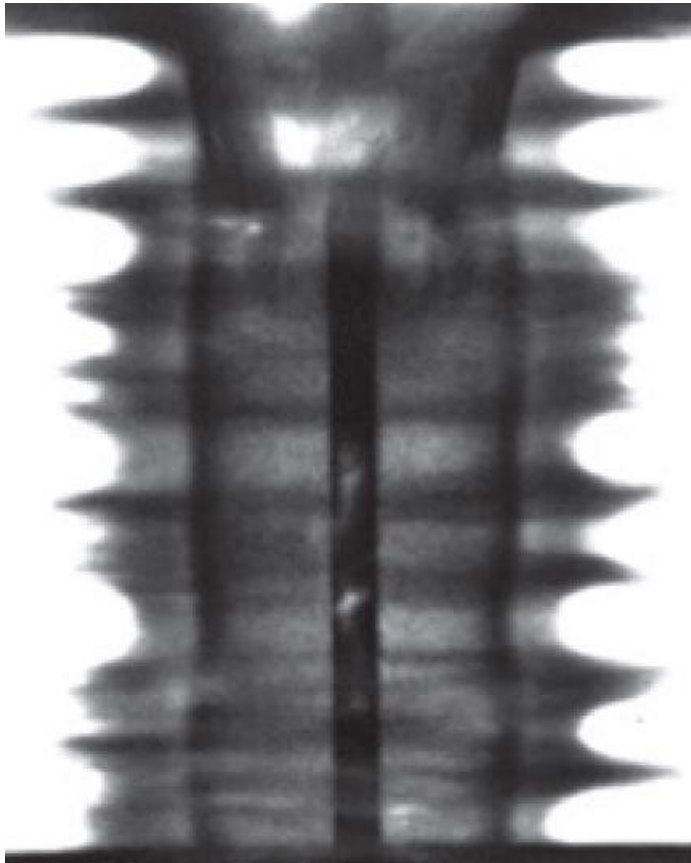
Helical MRT structure





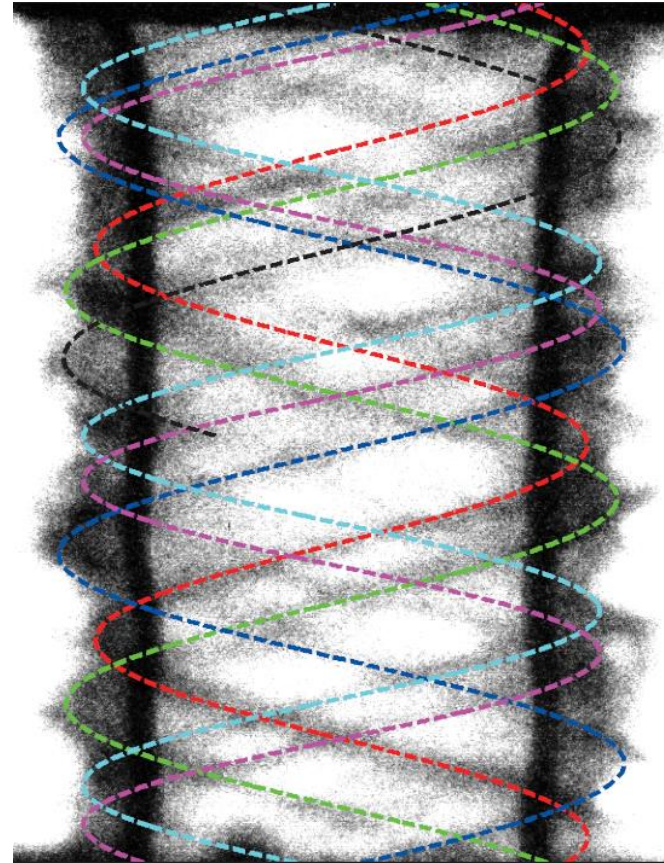
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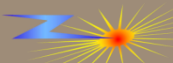


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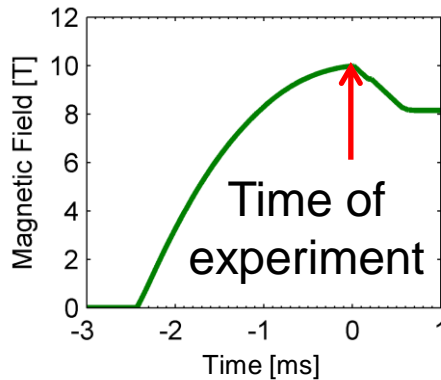


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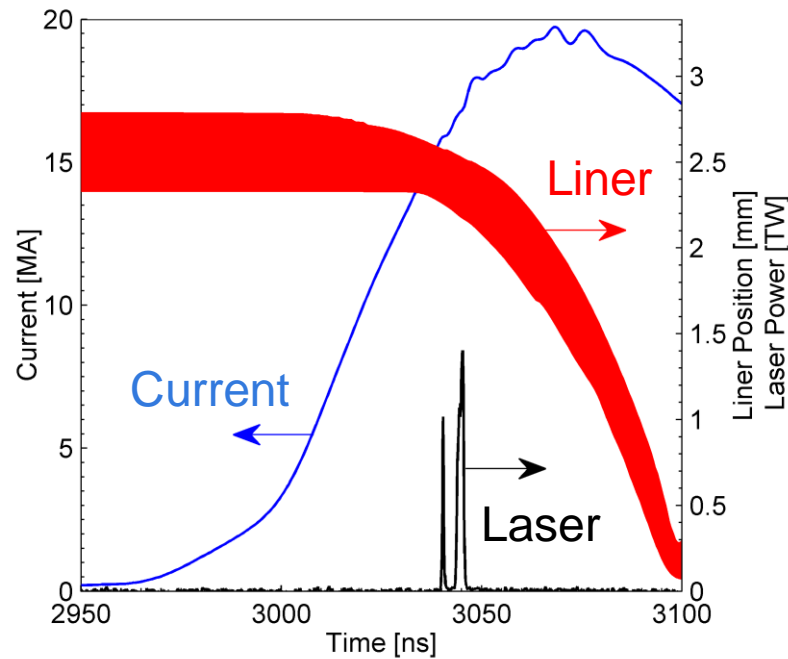
# The initial experiments used the maximum magnetic field, current, and laser energy available

**Magnetic field is 10 T**  
**Peak current is 19 MA**  
**Total laser energy is 2.5 kJ**

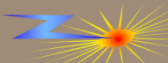
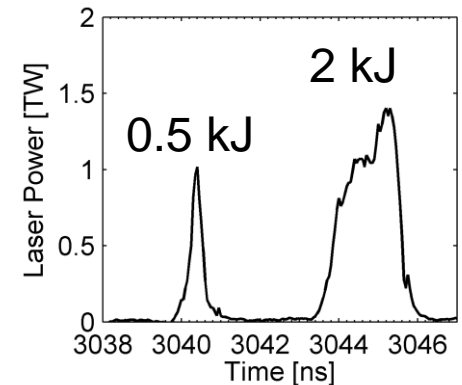


Magnetic field risetime is approximately 2 ms

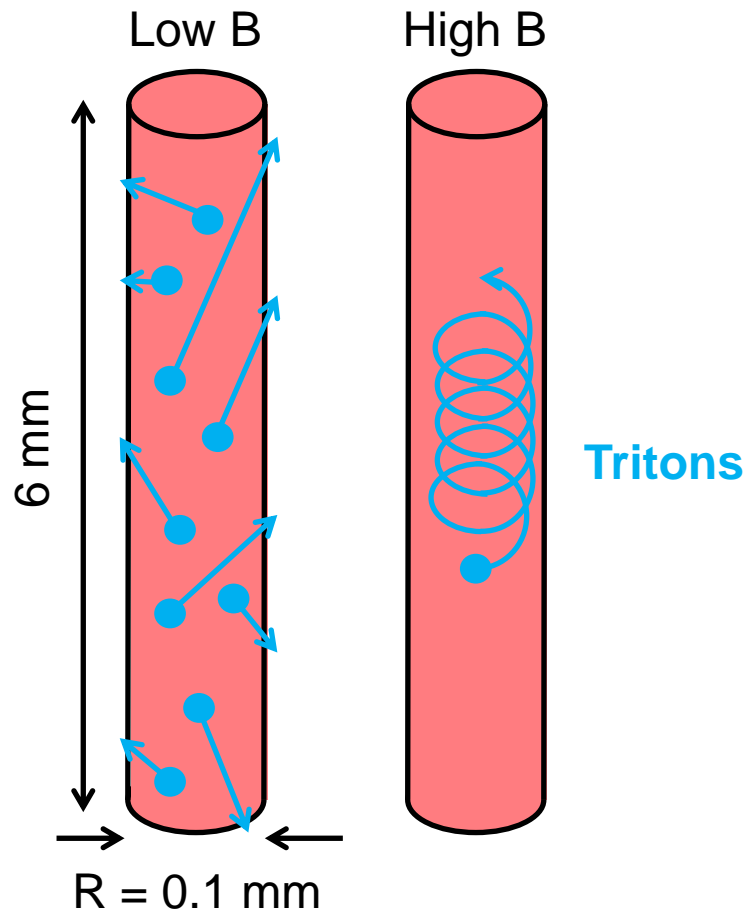
B is constant over the timescale of the experiment



Laser energy is split into 2 pulses:  
1<sup>st</sup> pulse intended to destroy LEH  
2<sup>nd</sup> pulse intended to heat fuel

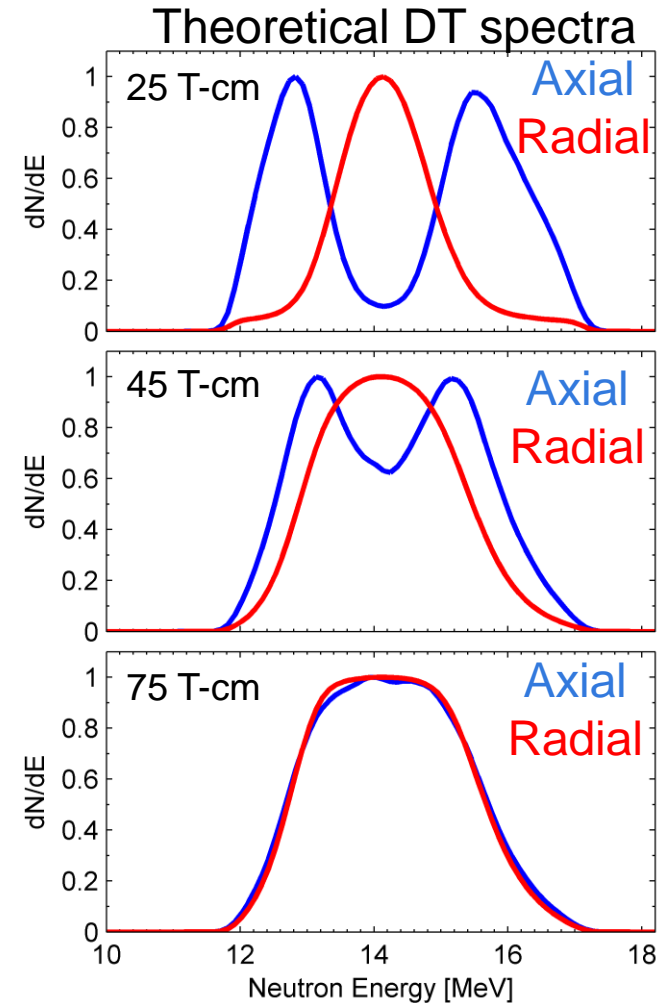


# Magnetic flux compression demonstrated through secondary neutron yield and spectra



DT spectra are very sensitive to BR in this regime

As BR increases the distance between peaks in the axial spectra decreases



**Measured DT/DD yield ratio and DT spectra are consistent with  $BR \approx 40 \pm 7 \text{ T-cm}$**

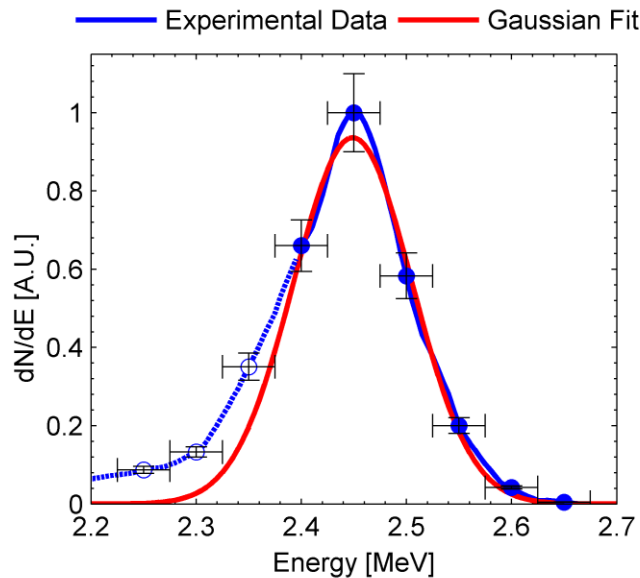
20





# MagLIF has successfully demonstrated key aspects of magneto-inertial fusion

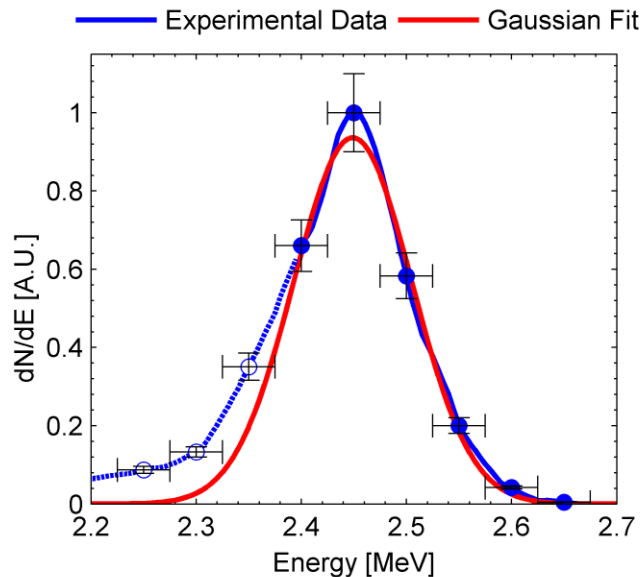
## Thermonuclear neutron generation



**Isotropic, Gaussian  
DD neutron spectra**

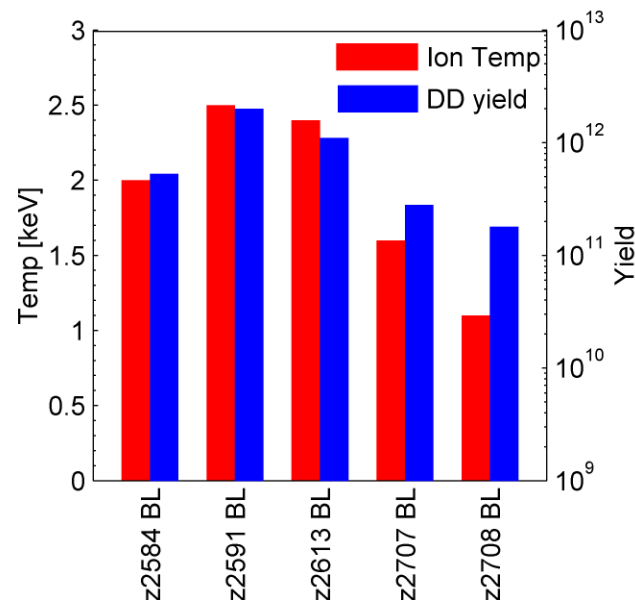
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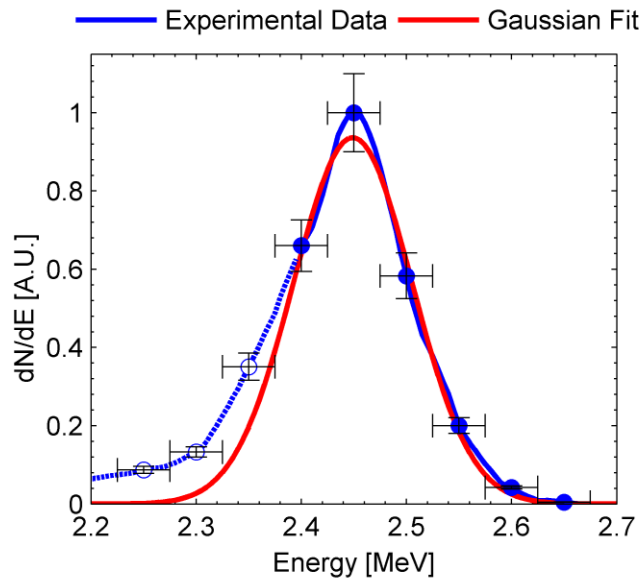
## High temperatures and yields



**Max yield = 3e12  
Max ion temp = 2.5 keV**

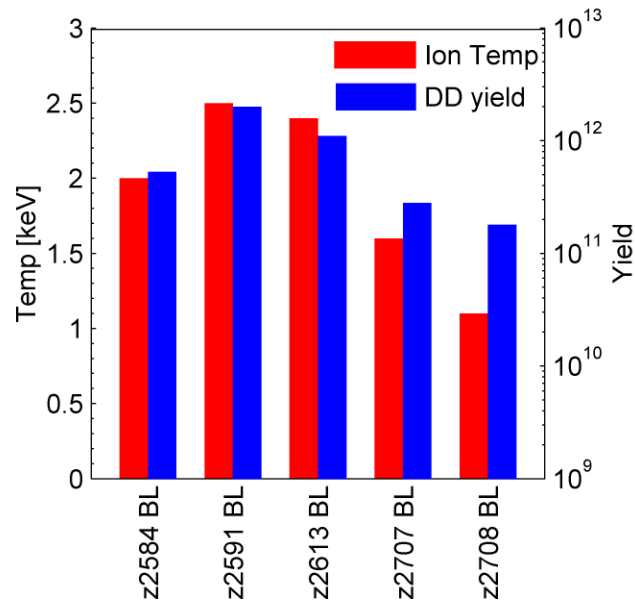
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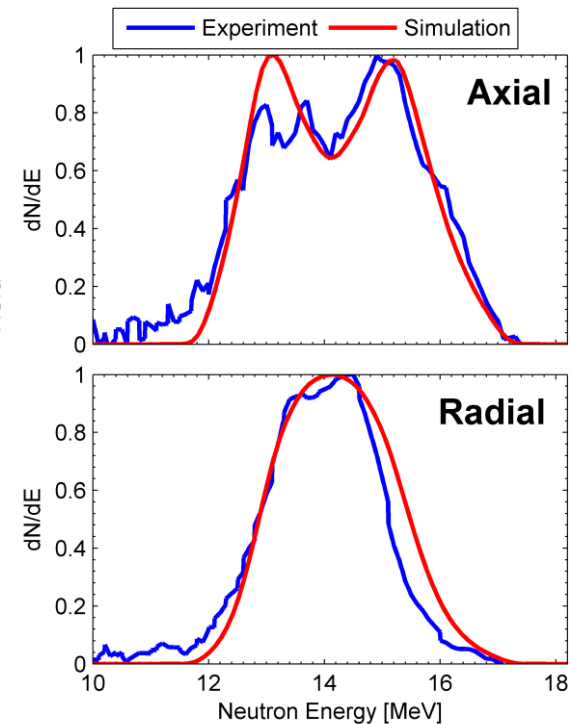
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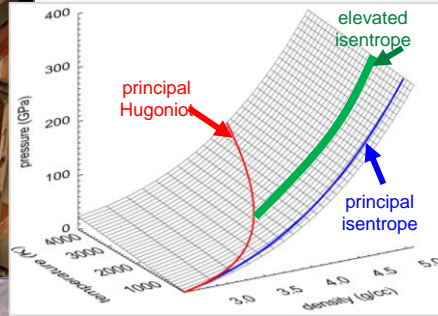


**BR = 30-40 T-cm**

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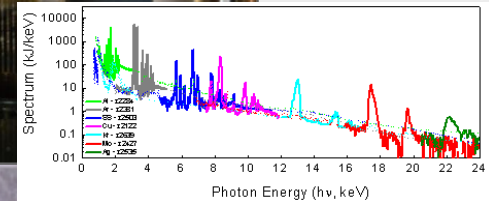
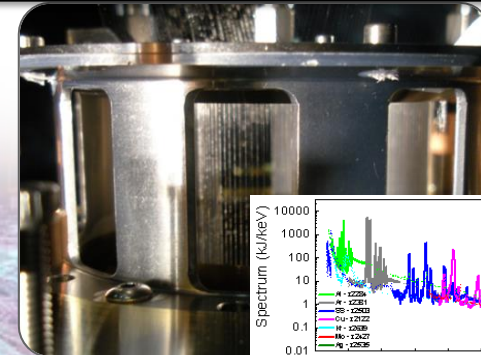
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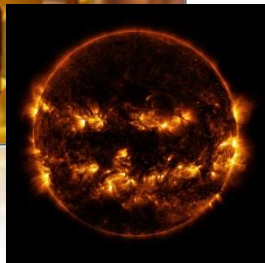
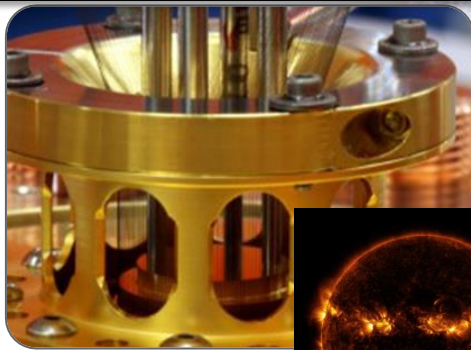
## K-shell x-ray sources

100's of kJ of multi-keV photons



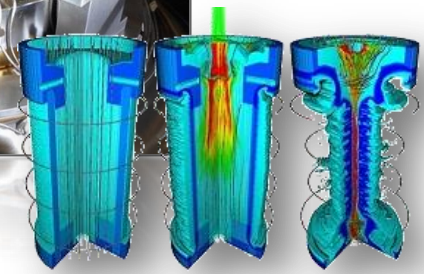
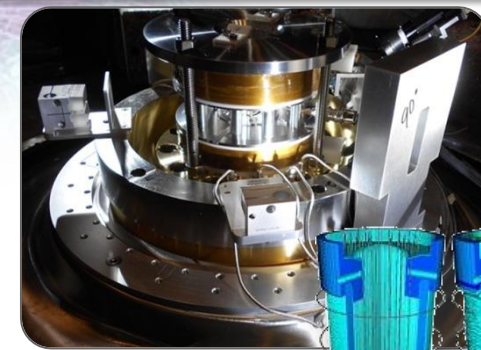
## Stellar Opacities

Temperature/density of convection zone



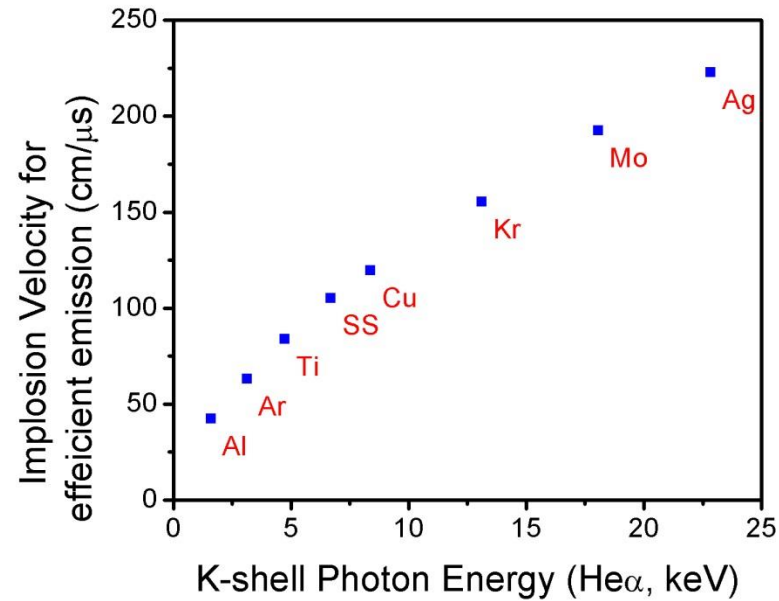
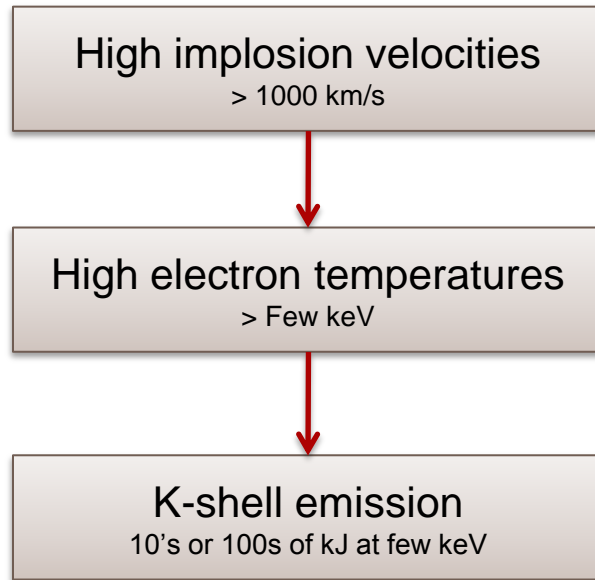
## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas

Fusion yields  $>10^{12}$  neutrons



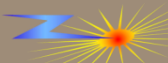


# K-shell line emission from z pinches is a very efficient source of multi-keV x-ray, but requires high velocities

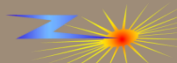
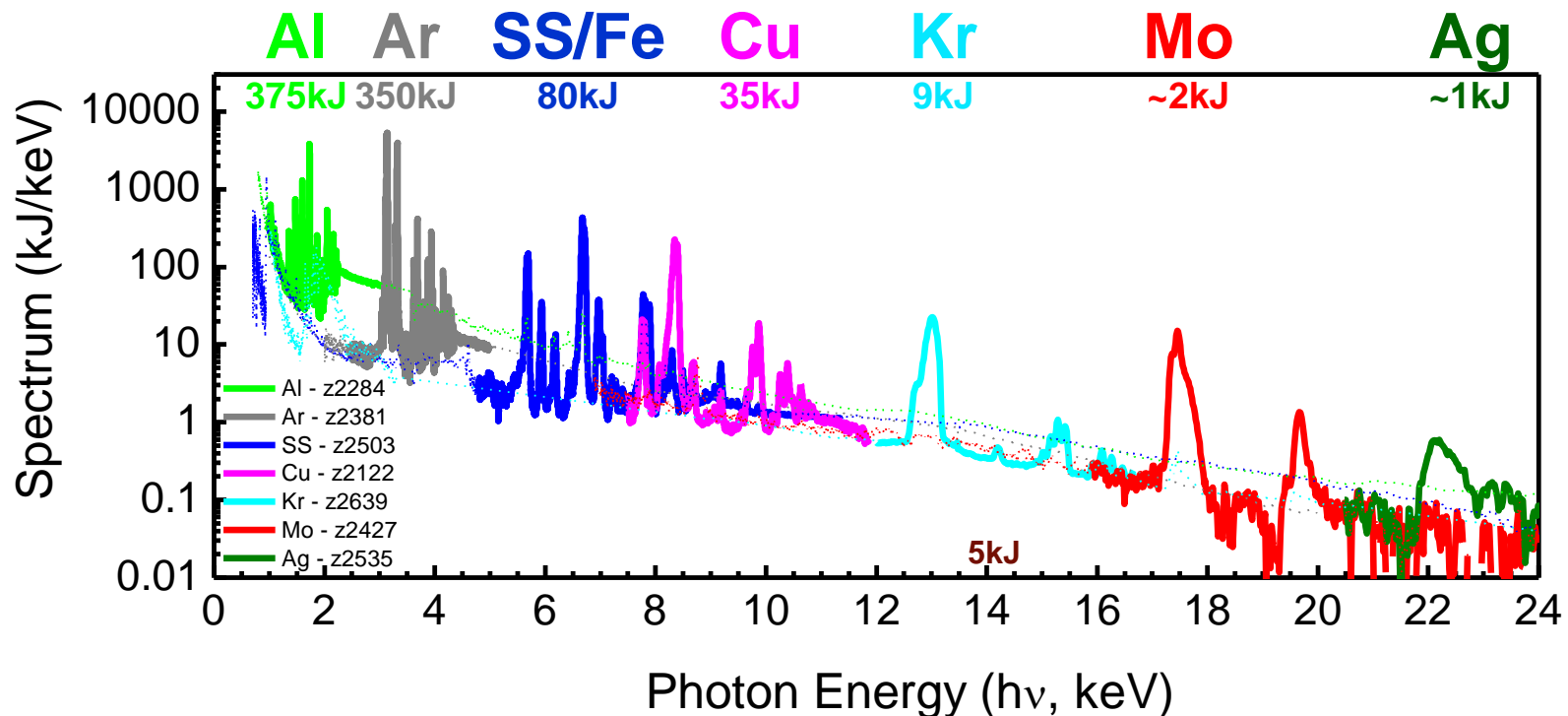


- Ionizing to the K-shell and producing bright K-shell line emission requires kinetic energy per ion and hence high velocities

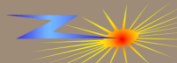
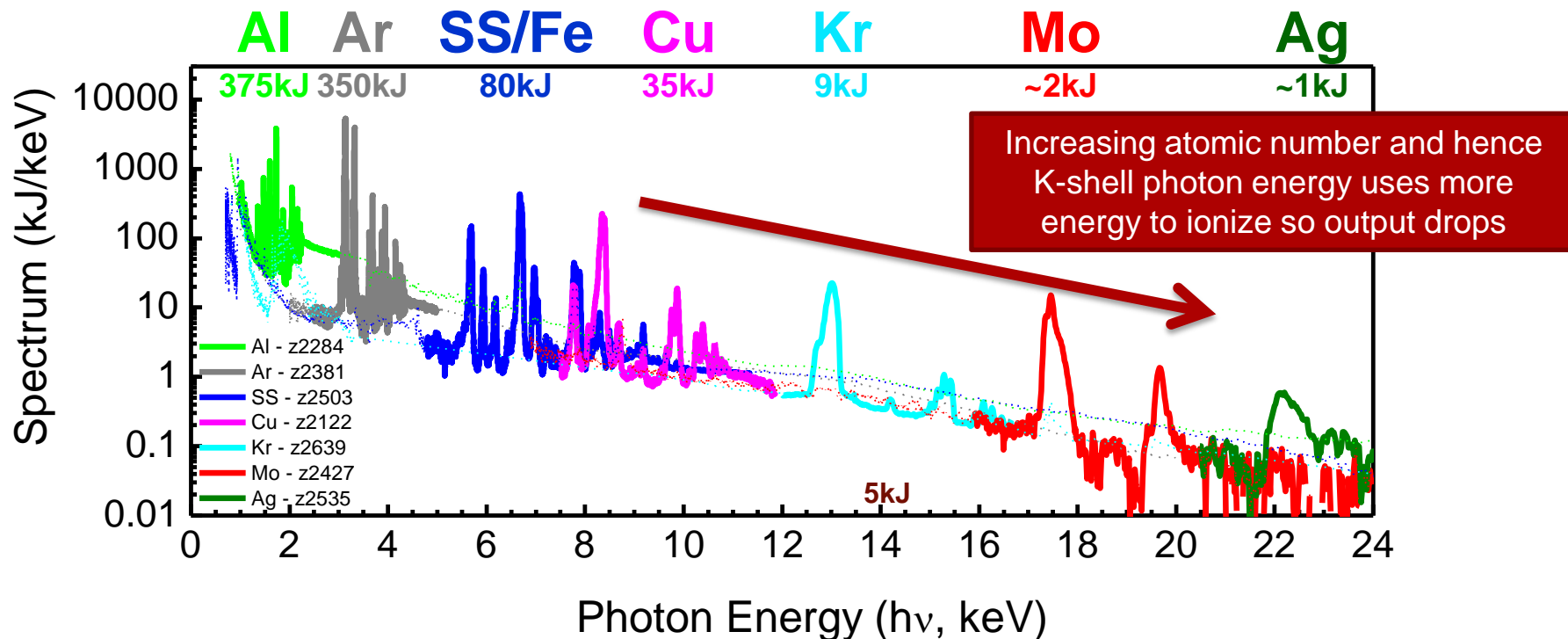
$$v \sim \sqrt{\frac{2\eta E_{min}}{m}} \sim \sqrt{\frac{2.024 \eta Z^{3.662}}{A}}$$



High velocity, low mass imploding Z pinches on the Z generator create extremely bright plasmas at various photon energies

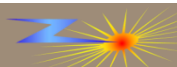
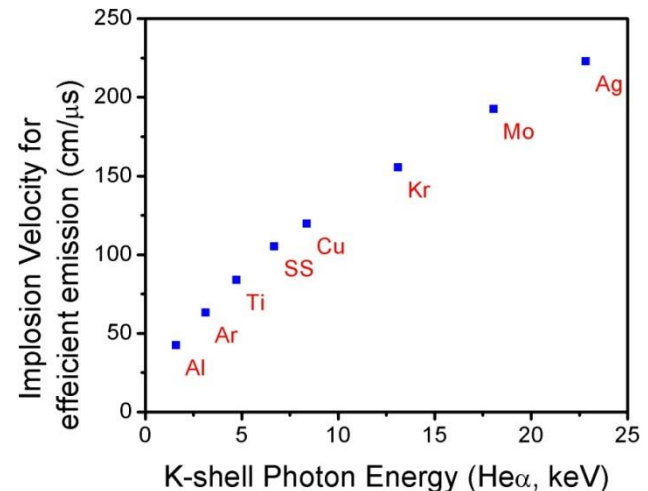
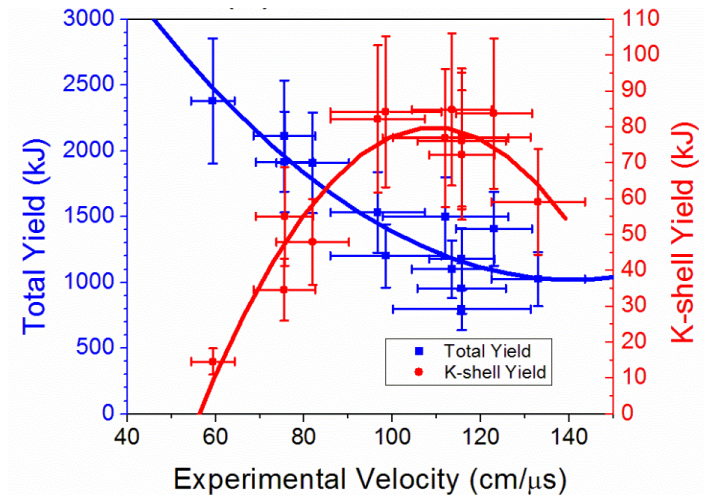


High velocity, low mass imploding Z pinches on the Z generator create extremely bright plasmas at various photon energies



# Experiments with Stainless steel demonstrate high implosion velocities needed for efficient K-shell emission

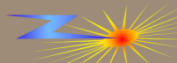
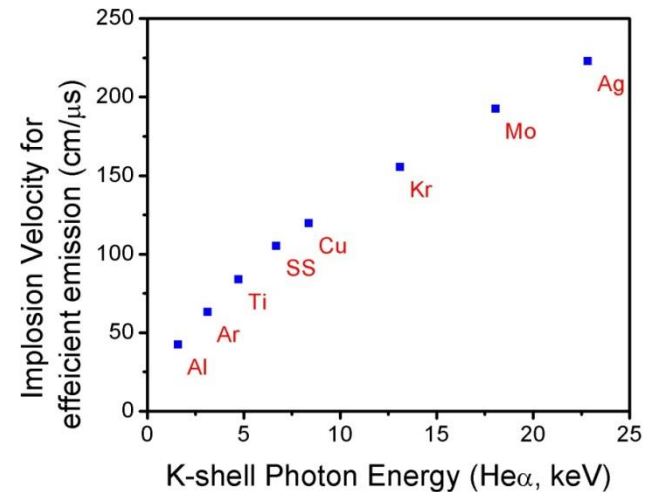
- Vary the initial wire array setup significantly varies implosion velocity
  - Total yield is highest for later/slower implosions, where more energy is coupled
  - K-shell yield is highest for  $\sim 110 \text{ cm}/\mu\text{s}$  implosions, consistent with analytic estimates
- For higher atomic number materials higher implosion velocities are required
  - Kr needs  $\sim 150 \text{ cm}/\mu\text{s}$  implosion velocities to provide 13 keV emission





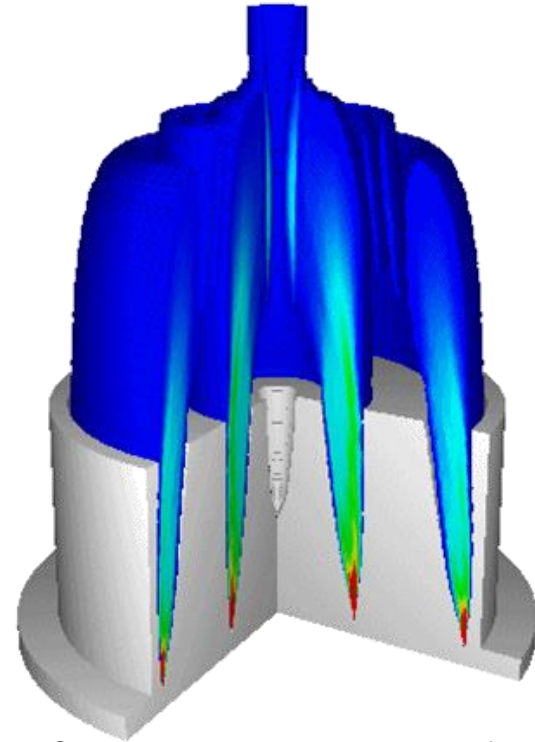
# Kr K-shell emission at 13 keV requires $>100$ cm/ $\mu$ s velocities

- To obtain high velocities on 100 ns generator start from very large diameters
  - 12 cm initial diameter!
- These velocities are very prone to instability growth
  - Work to mitigate instability growth



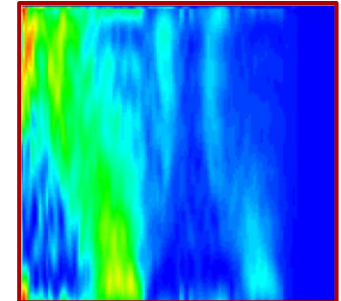
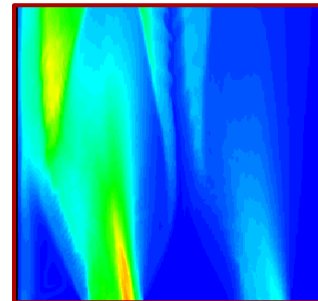
# Simulations of gas flow from supersonic nozzles can be used to design initial conditions for gas puff z pinches

- Hydrodynamic simulations of gas flow are used to study the initial conditions for the experiments
  - Cold gas flow simulation of flow before Z fires
- Interferometry used for validation



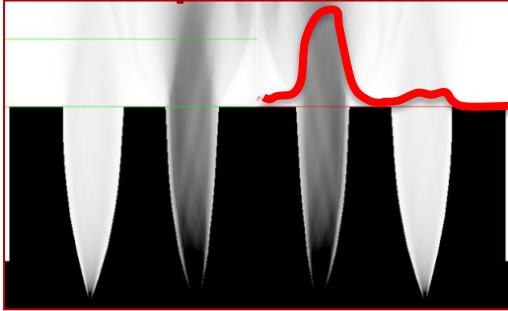
Simulation

Interferometer



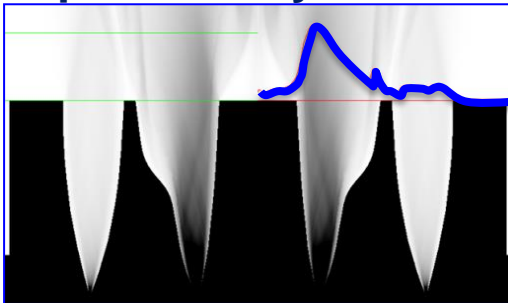
# Can use hydrodynamic simulations as a design tool and test with 3-dimensional MHD implosion simulations

## Shell-like profile

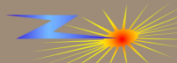
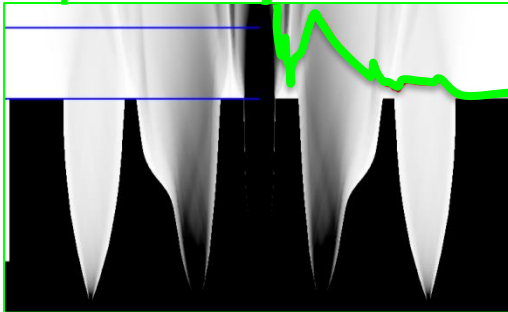


- To produce stable implosion want density continuously increasing towards the axis
- Constrains of real nozzles makes this harder
- Hydro simulations used to design various profiles from shell on shell through to near-ideal ramped with jet

## Ramped density



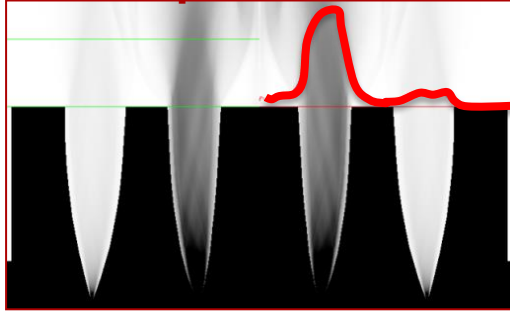
## Ramped with jet





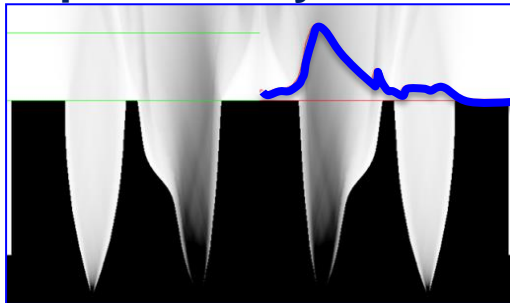
# Can use hydrodynamic simulations as a design tool and test with 3-dimensional MHD implosion simulations

## Shell-like profile

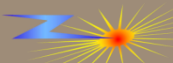
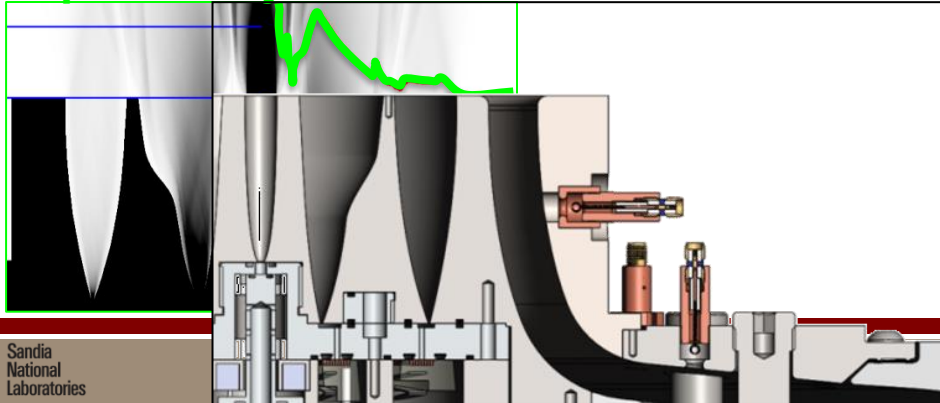


- To produce stable implosion want density continuously increasing towards the axis
- Constrains of real nozzles makes this harder
- Hydro simulations used to design various profiles from shell on shell through to near-ideal ramped with jet

## Ramped density

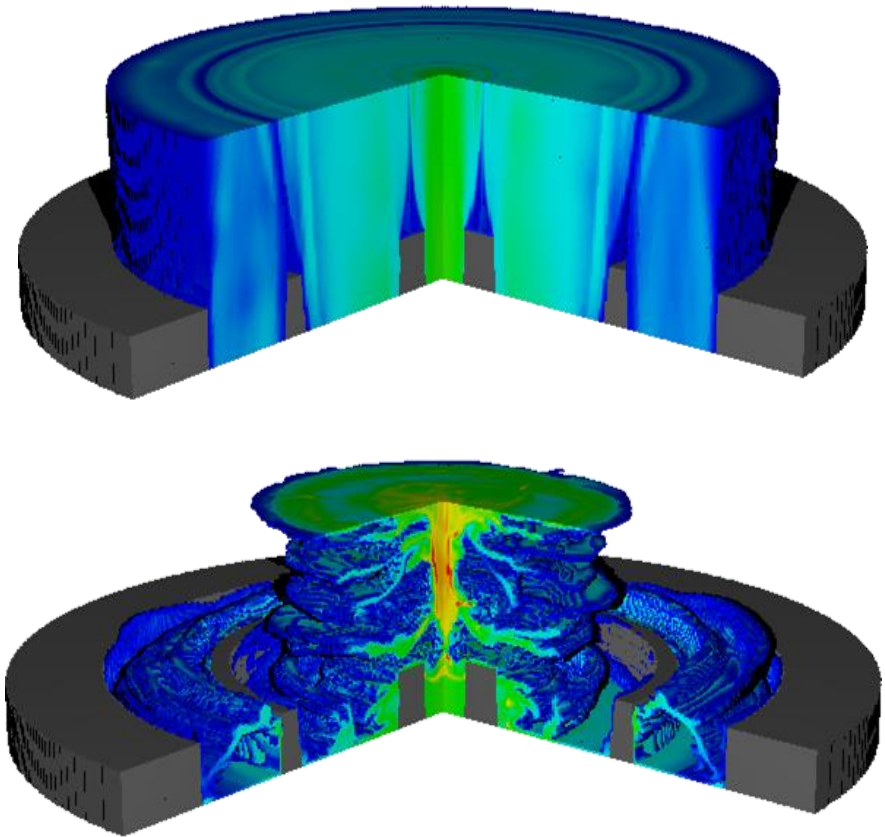


## Ramped with jet



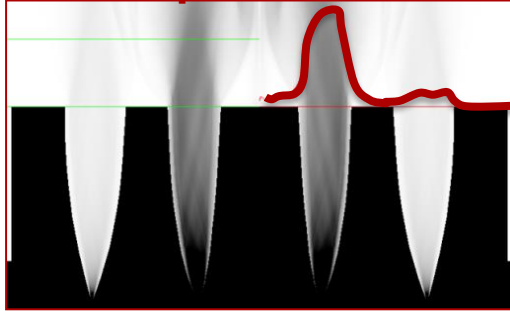
# Full 3D MHD simulations can be initiated with output from cold gas flow simulations

- 3D Gorgon simulations using initial conditions from gas flow simulations
- Resistive MHD simulations using tabulated K-shell emissivities
- Simulations enable exploration of different gas profiles

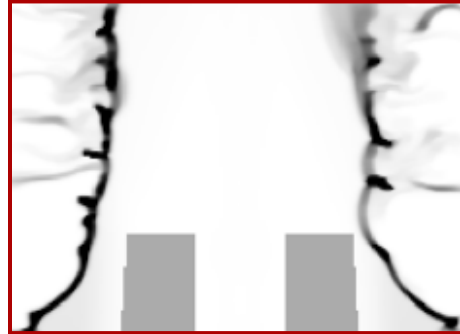


# Can use hydrodynamic simulations as a design tool and test with 3-dimensional MHD implosion simulations

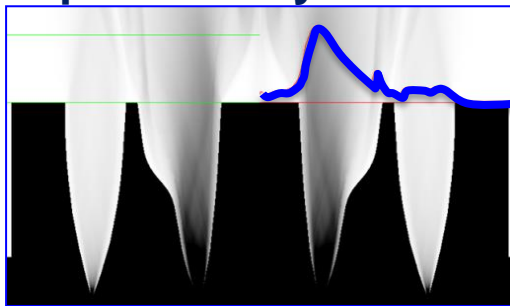
**Shell-like profile**



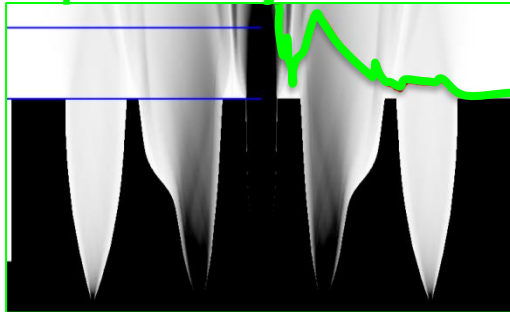
**Mid-implosion**



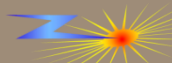
**Ramped density**



**Ramped with jet**

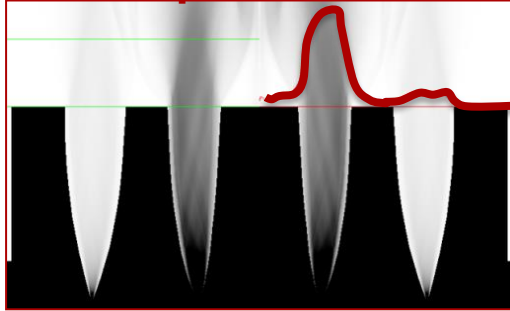


Implosion is more stable for more ideal initial profiles

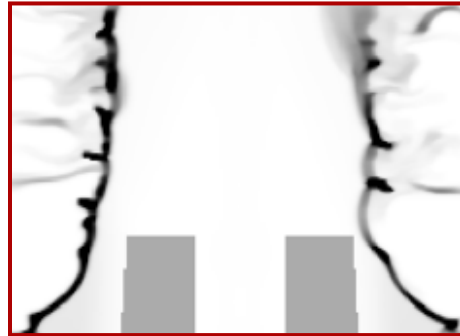


# Can use hydrodynamic simulations as a design tool and test with 3-dimensional MHD implosion simulations

## Shell-like profile



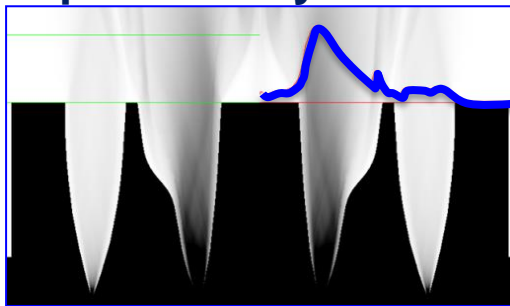
## Mid-implosion



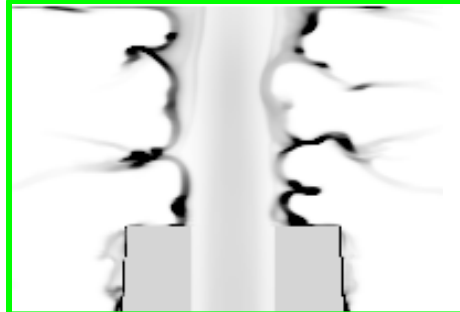
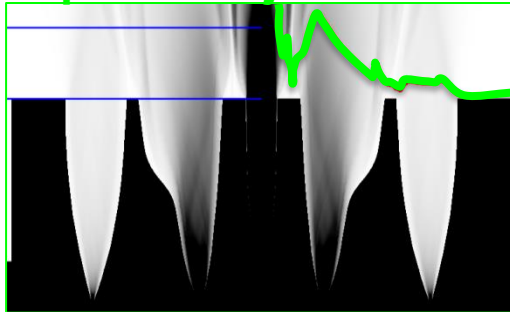
## Stagnation



## Ramped density



## Ramped with jet



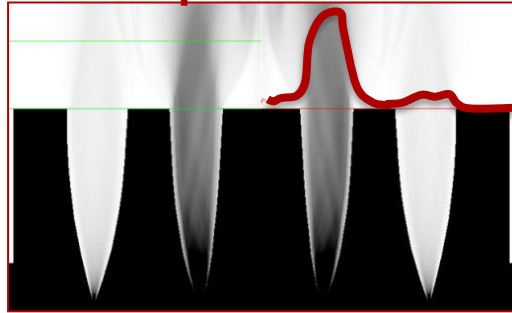
Stagnation is more stable for more ideal initial profiles

Better stability enables high temperatures in stagnated column

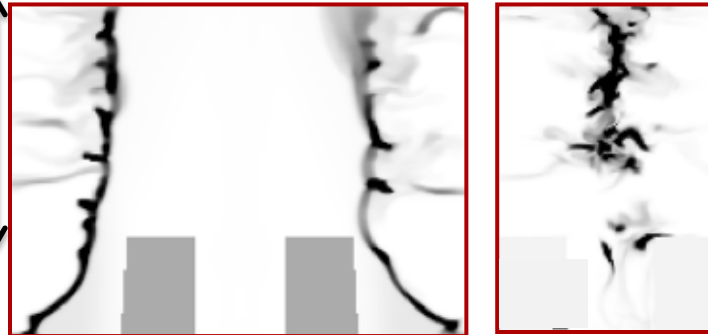


# Can use hydrodynamic simulations as a design tool and test with 3-dimensional MHD implosion simulations

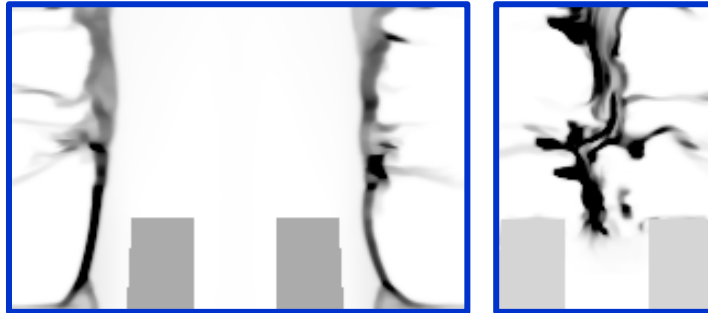
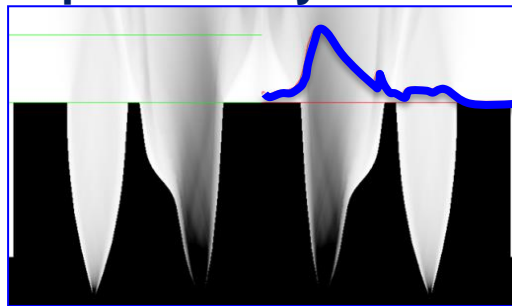
## Shell-like profile



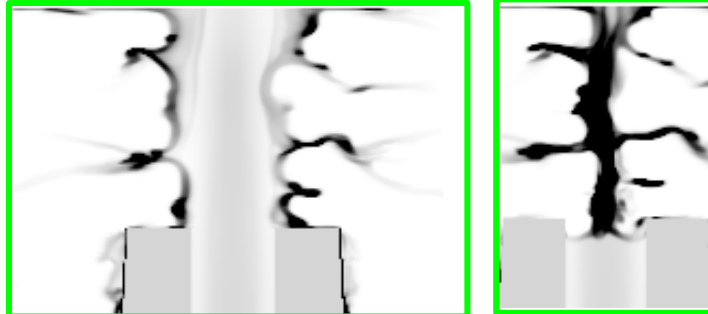
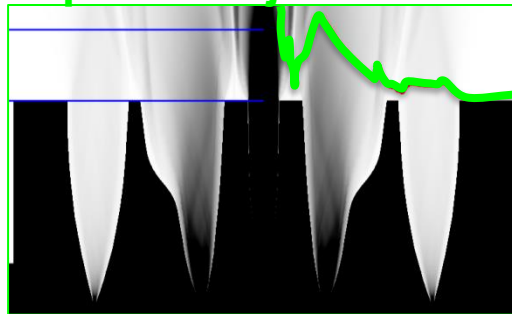
25mm pinch height



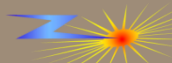
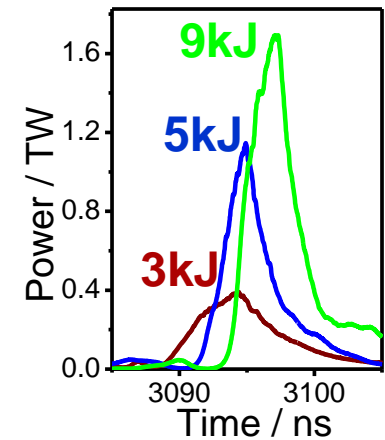
## Ramped density



## Ramped with jet

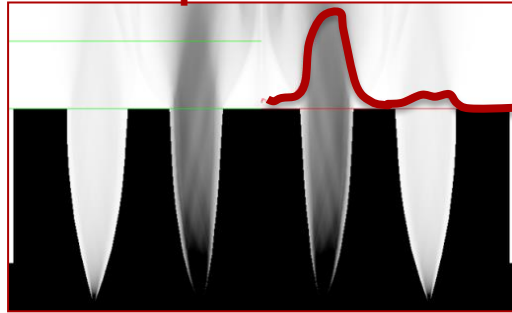


## Simulated powers and yield

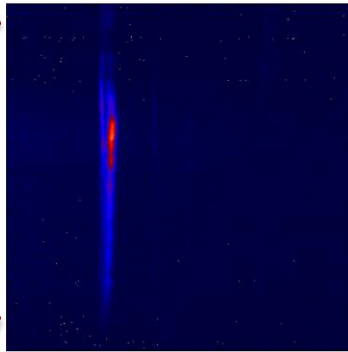


# In experiments axially resolved spectra show change of structure due to stability

## Shell-like profile

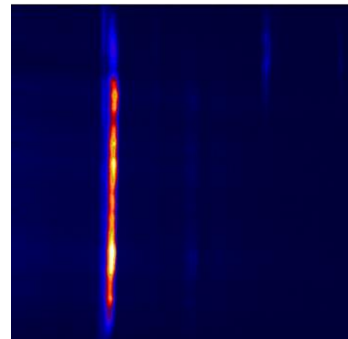
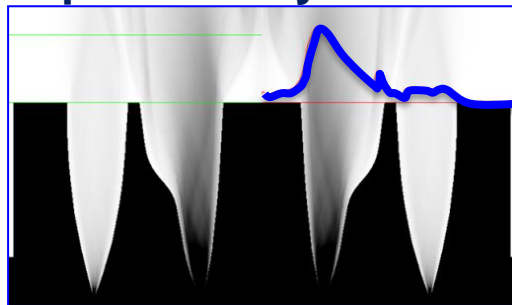


25mm pinch height



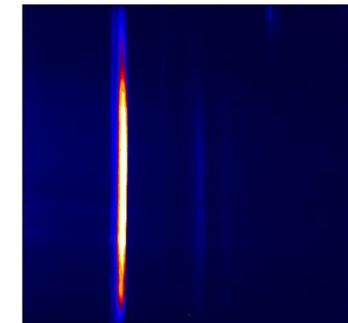
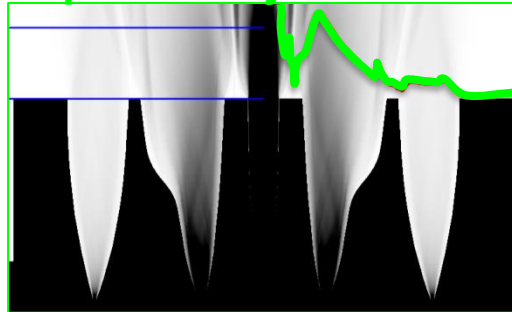
- Axially resolved spectra provide information of axial uniformity of emission

## Ramped density

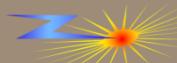


- Uniformity of emission increases considerably with theoretically more stable profiles

## Ramped with jet

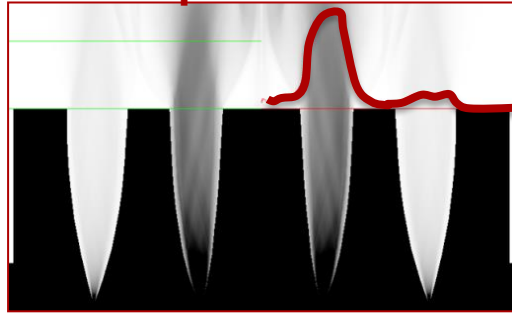


10 keV 15 keV 20 keV

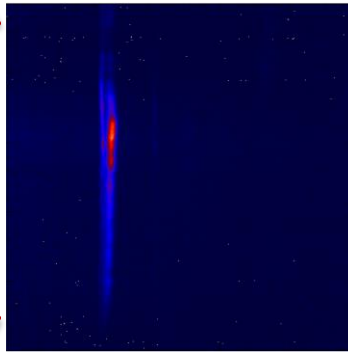


# In experiments axially resolved spectra show change of structure due to stability

## Shell-like profile

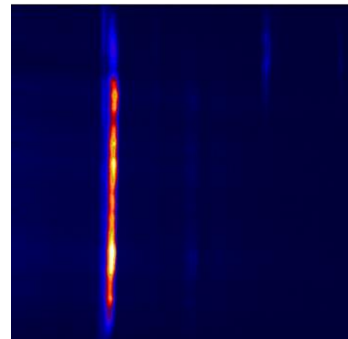
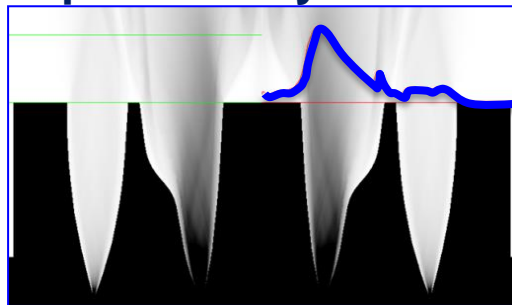


25mm pinch height

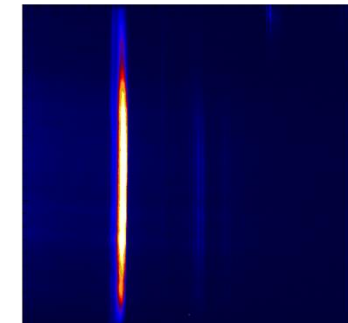
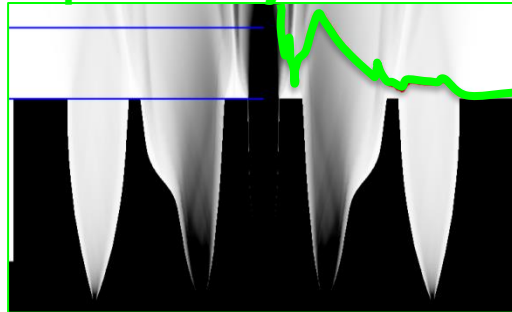


- Power pulses measured in experiments confirm importance of stability on radiated output

## Ramped density

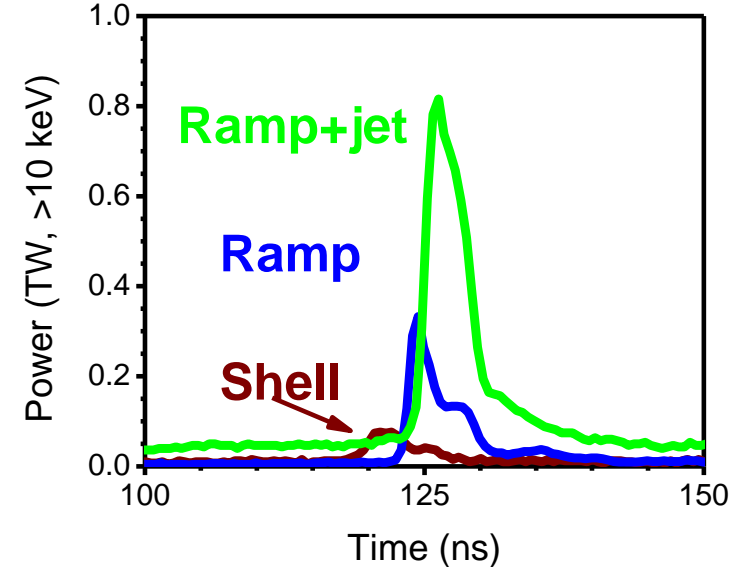


## Ramped with jet



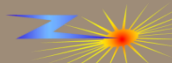
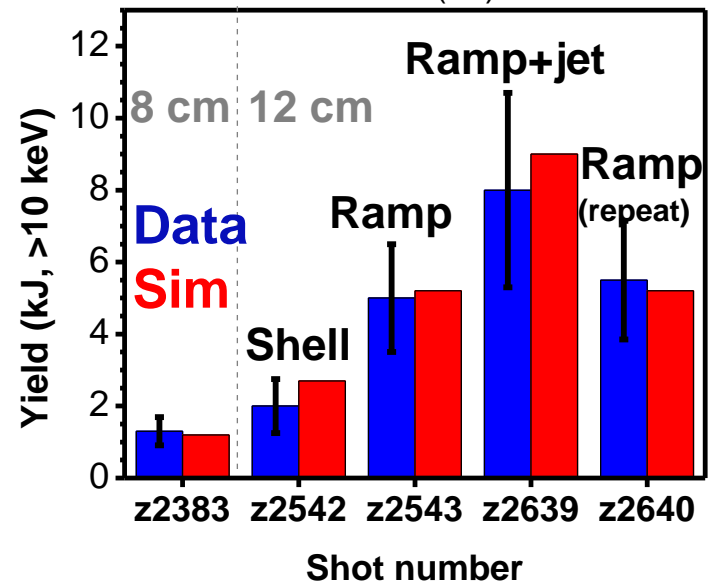
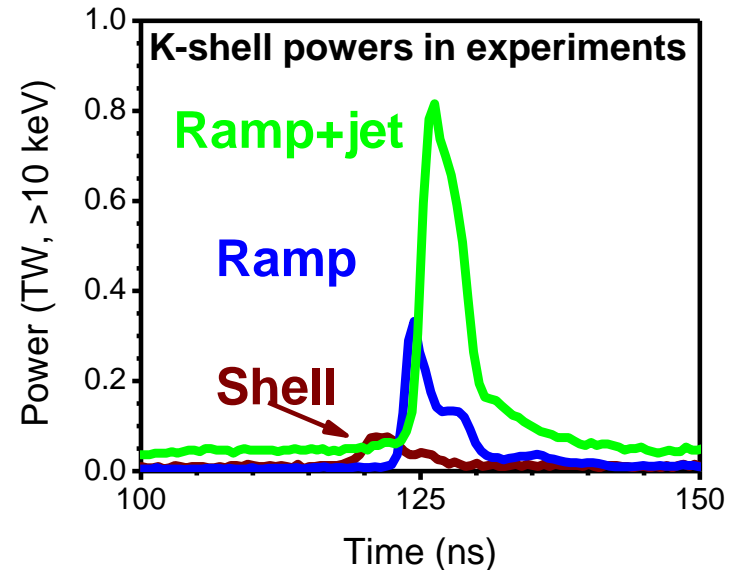
10 keV 15 keV 20 keV

## K-shell powers in experiments



# Experiments show that, with correct initial conditions can produce, 8 kJ of 13-keV Kr K-shell emission

- High velocity implosion that is stable is needed
- Output is very sensitive to initial gas profile
- Simulations correctly predict trends

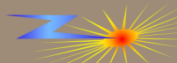
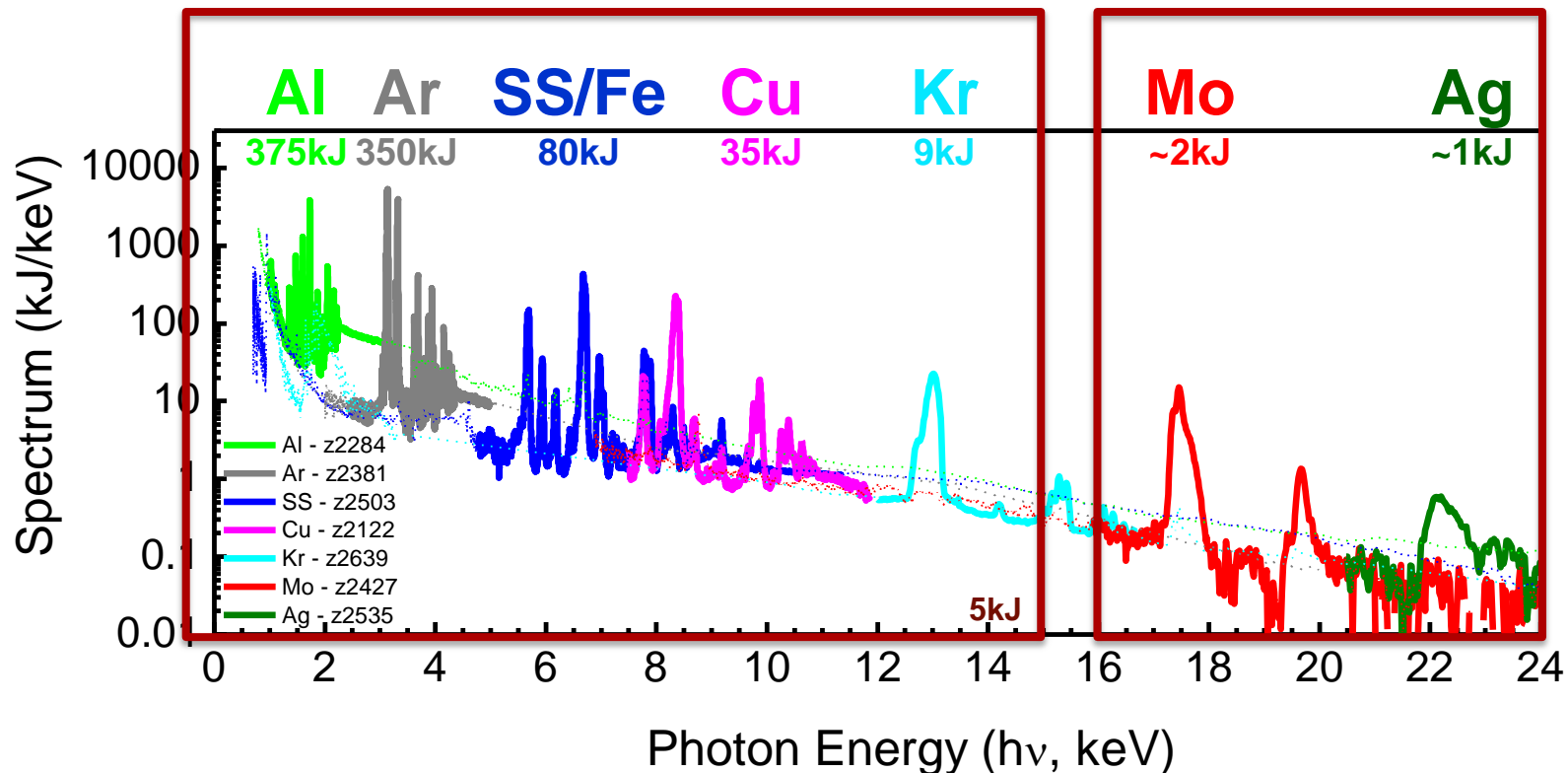




To go to higher photon energies not practical to keep increasing implosion velocities; recent experiments investigated non-thermal emission processes

Typical thermal x-ray sources

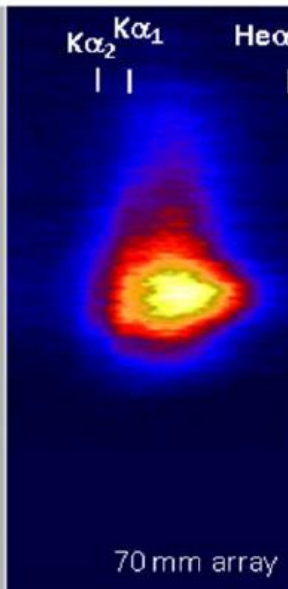
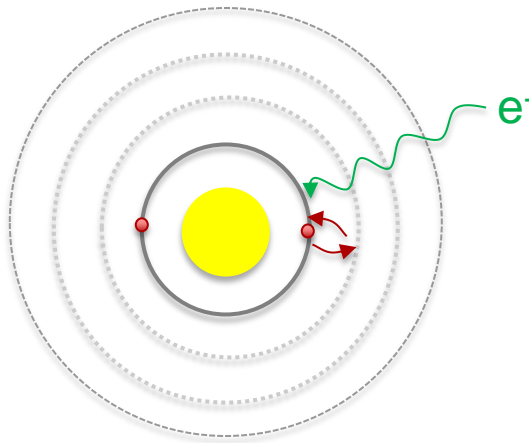
Non-thermal



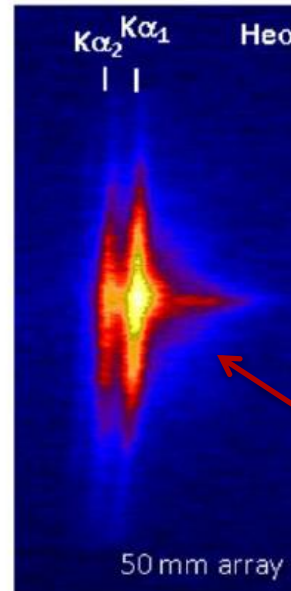
# For higher photon energies non-thermal inner shell ionization becomes a more effective emission mechanism

## ■ Thermal K-shell

- He-like and H-like lines
- Need to ionize to the K-shell

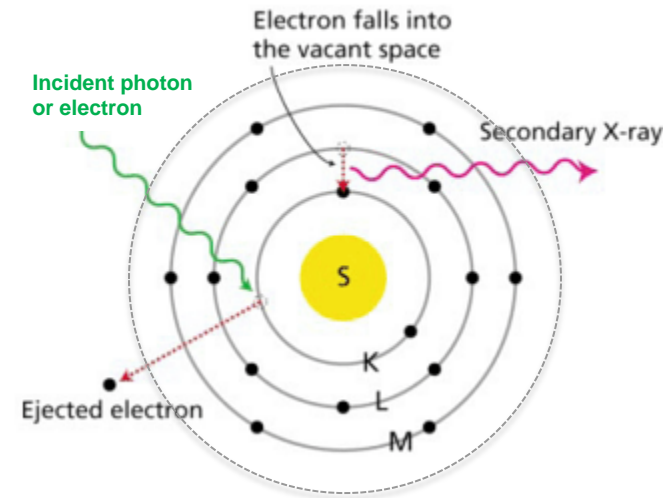


radius  
15 mm

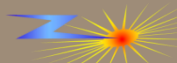


## ■ Non-thermal K-shell

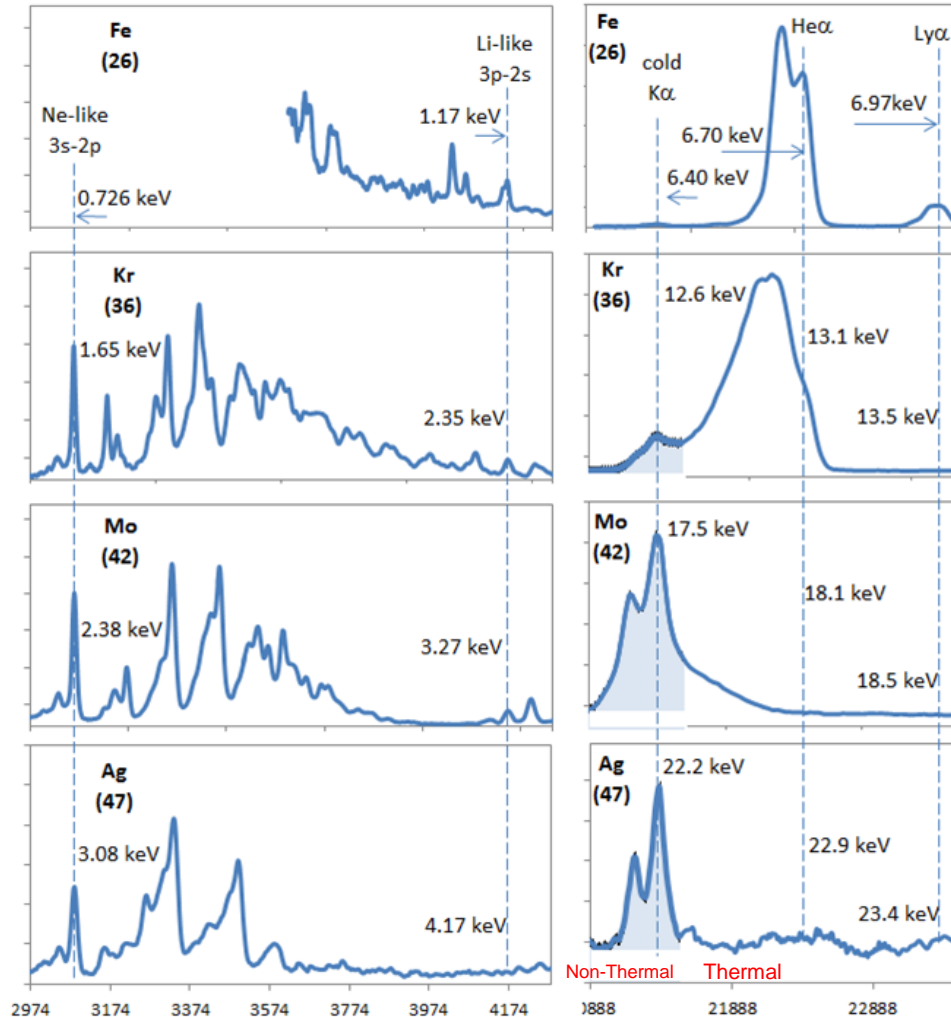
- Cold K-lines
- Need hot electrons/photons
- Don't need to ionize bulk plasma



High resolution spectroscopy resolves different in wavelength of  $He\alpha$  and cold  $K\alpha$  lines

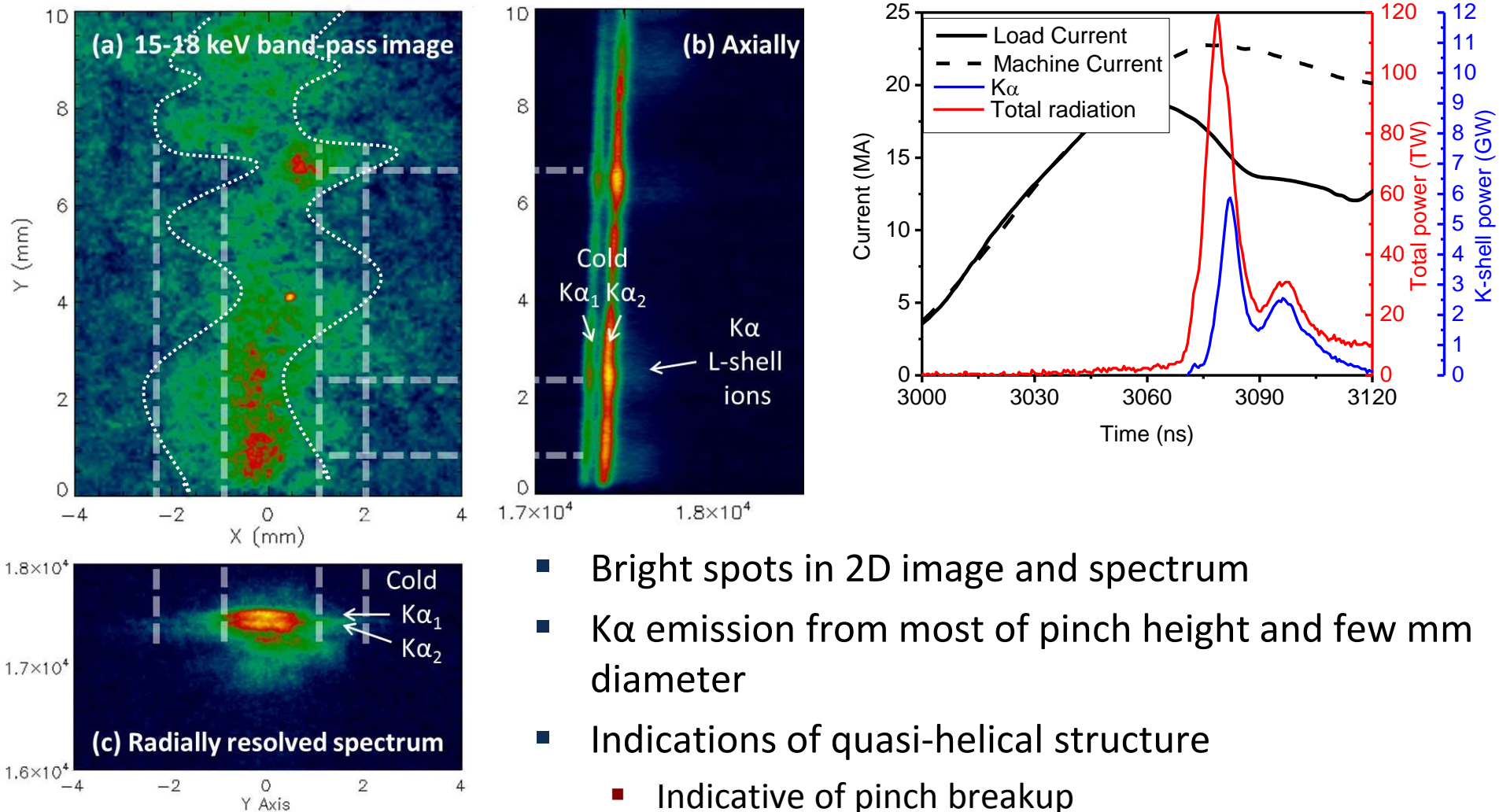


# Spectra from Z experiments using different materials shows transition from thermal to non-thermal emission

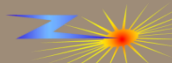


- As atomic number increases see transition from thermal K-shell (He $\alpha$ ) to non-thermal K-shell (cold K $\alpha$ )
  - Fe almost entirely He $\alpha$
  - Ag entirely cold K $\alpha$

# Using imaging and spectroscopy of $K\alpha$ line from a Mo wire array indicates $K\alpha$ linked to pinch disruption

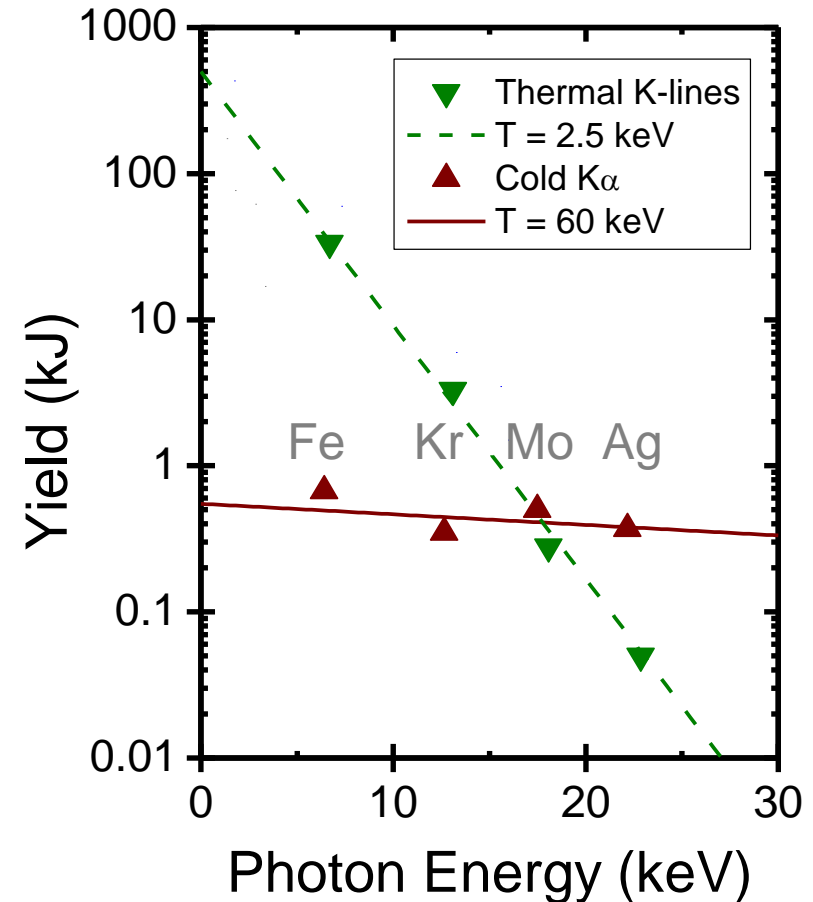
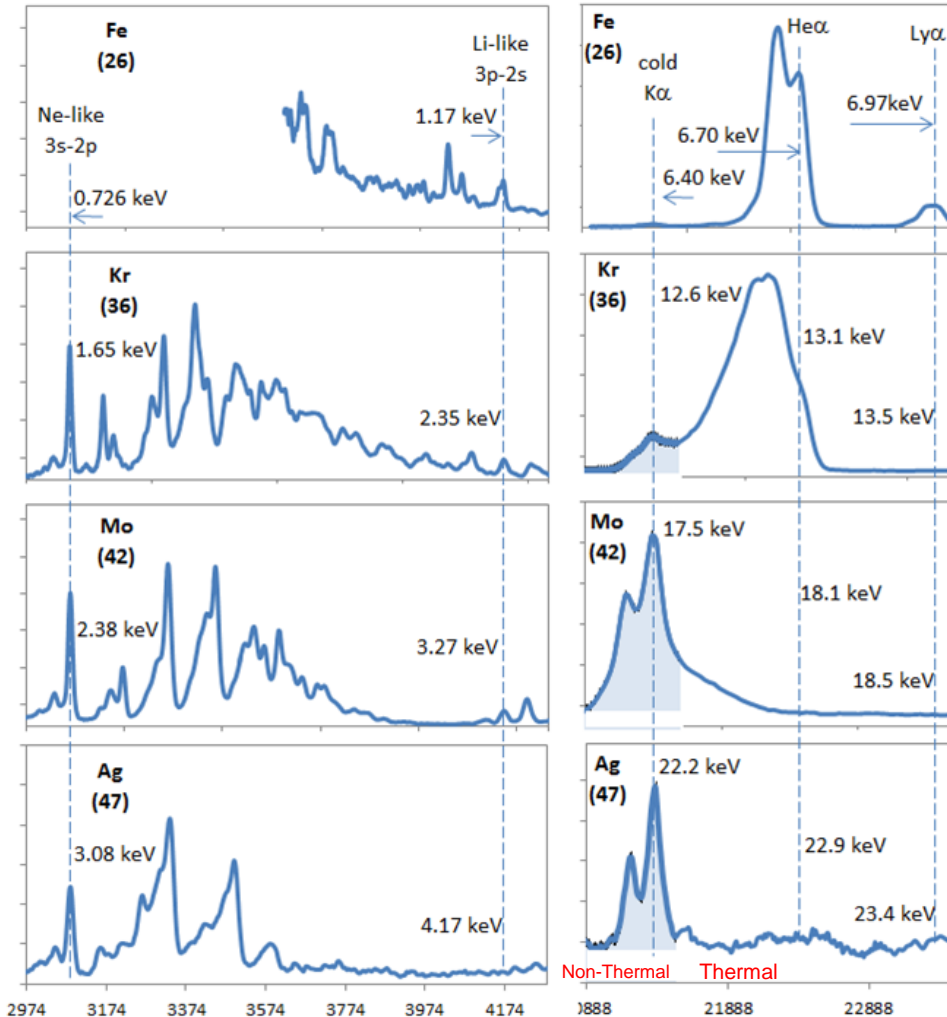


- Bright spots in 2D image and spectrum
- $K\alpha$  emission from most of pinch height and few mm diameter
- Indications of quasi-helical structure
  - Indicative of pinch breakup
  - Consistent with late time emission of  $K\alpha$





# Spectra from Z experiments using different materials shows transition from thermal to non-thermal emission



**Scaling to higher photon energies much better with cold  $K\alpha$**

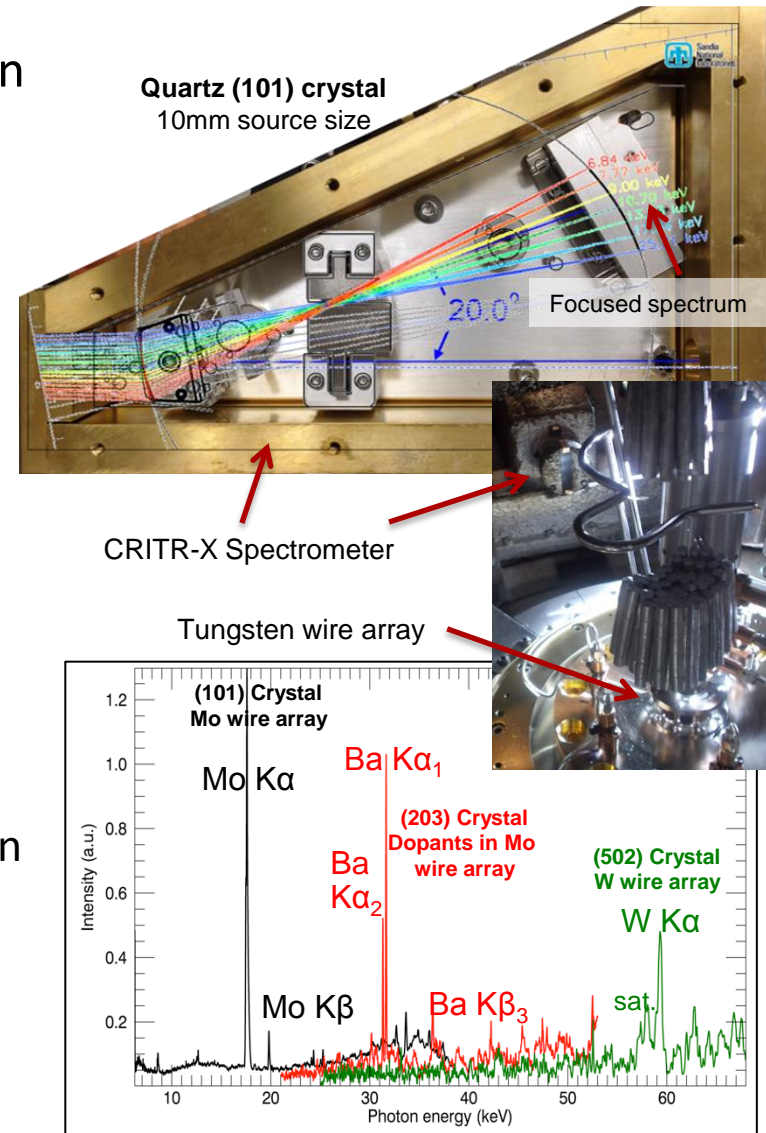


# A new spectrometer provides first absolute spectral measurements on Z at 7-80 keV for Radiation Science

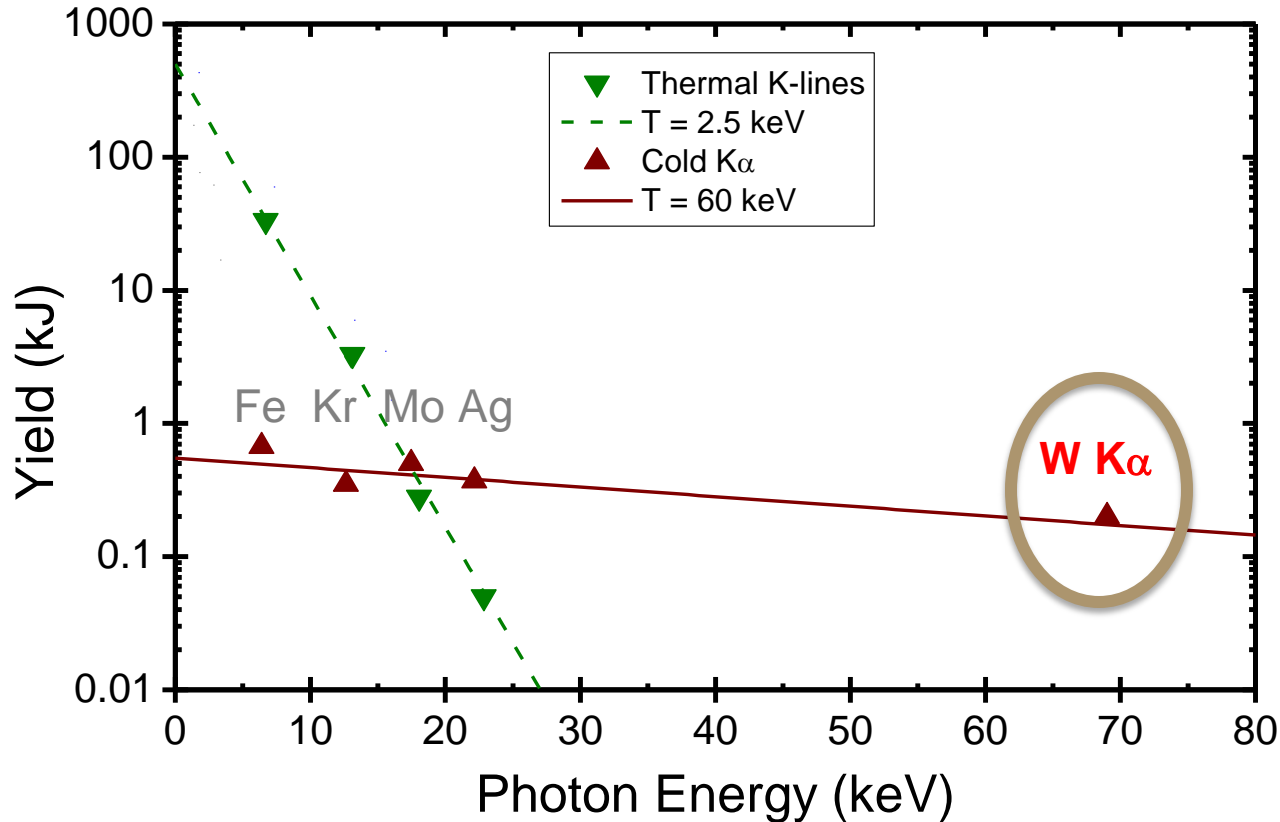
- New spectrometer (CRITR-X) developed based on existing housing
  - Improved signal to noise using baffling
  - Crystals sensitivity calibrated at NIST
  - New crystal options provide 7-80 keV coverage

Quartz cut (Miller indices)	2d lattice spacing (Å)	Spectral range (keV)
(101)	6.68	7-26
(203)	2.75	16-51
(502)	1.62	28-80

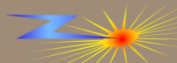
- On recent Z shots (z2891 & z2893) we obtained data with each of the three new crystal cuts.
  - Spectroscopic dopants provided numerous lines in the spectral range
  - First data spectrally resolving W K $\alpha$  in a z pinch
  - First calibrated data of line emission at >10 keV



# Recent experiments have demonstrated ability to generate 69 keV W emission



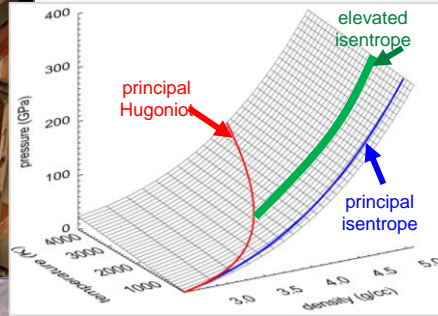
- Scaling to W cold K $\alpha$  at 69 keV consistent with lower energies
- First demonstration of W K $\alpha$  emission from a z pinch



# Z produces extreme conditions in numerous ways

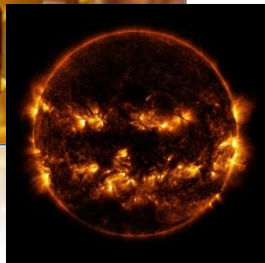
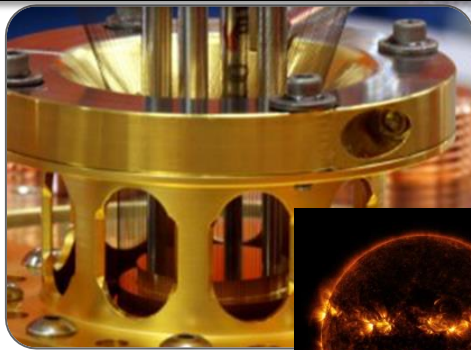
## Dynamic Materials

Compress materials to  $10^7$  Atm.



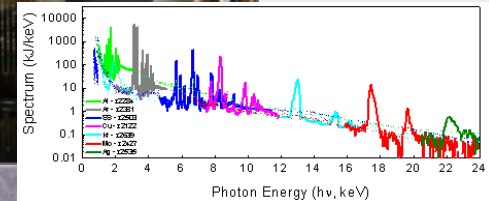
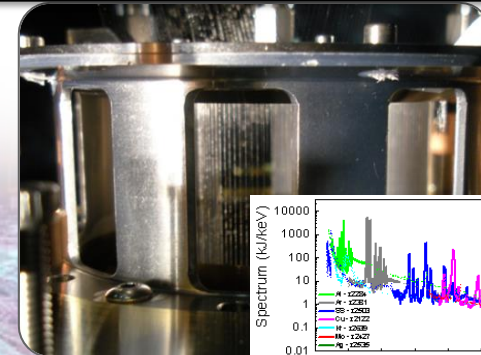
## Stellar Opacities

Temperature/density of convection zone



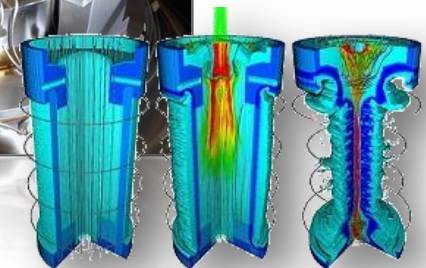
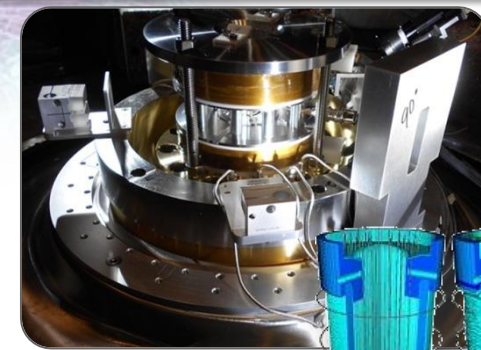
## K-shell x-ray sources

100's of kJ of multi-keV photons



## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas

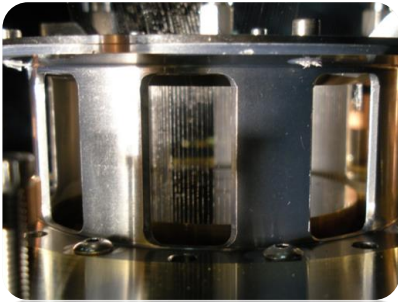
Fusion yields  $>10^{12}$  neutrons



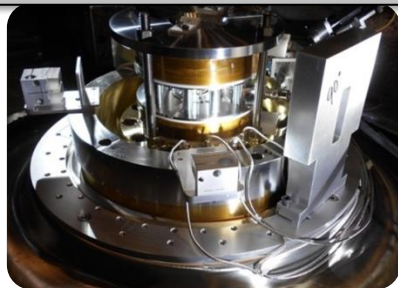


# The diagnostics used to study these experiments are similar

## K-shell x-ray sources

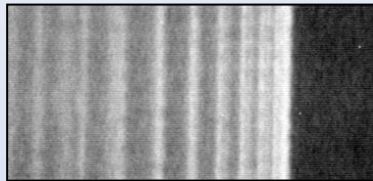


## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas



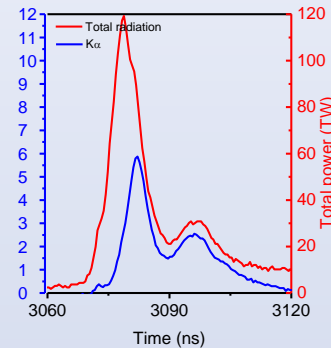
### Radiography

Monochromatic two-frame  
using ZBL laser



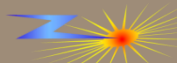
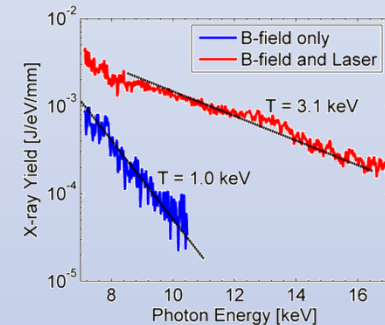
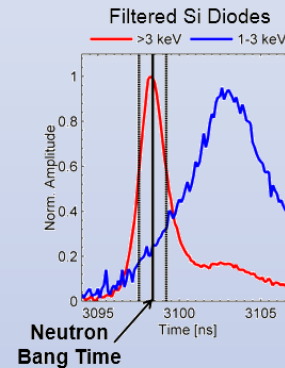
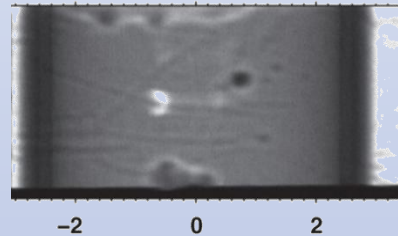
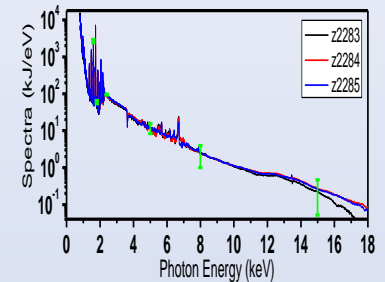
### X-ray time history

PCDs, SiDs, XRDs



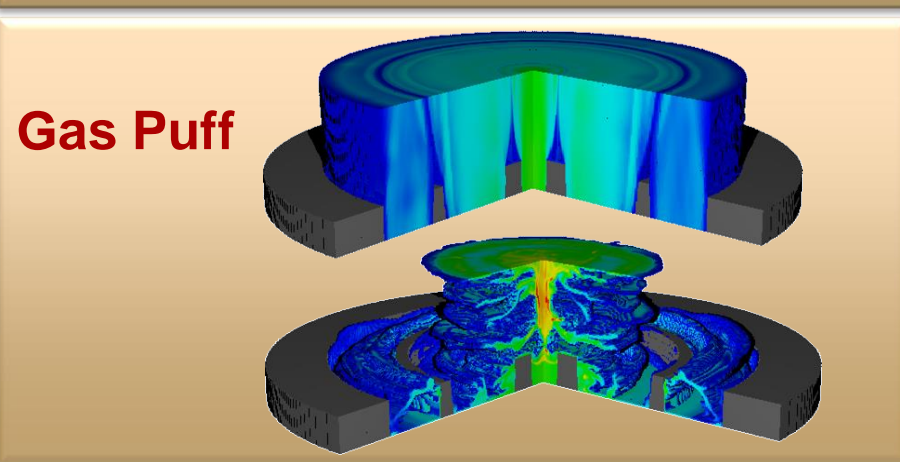
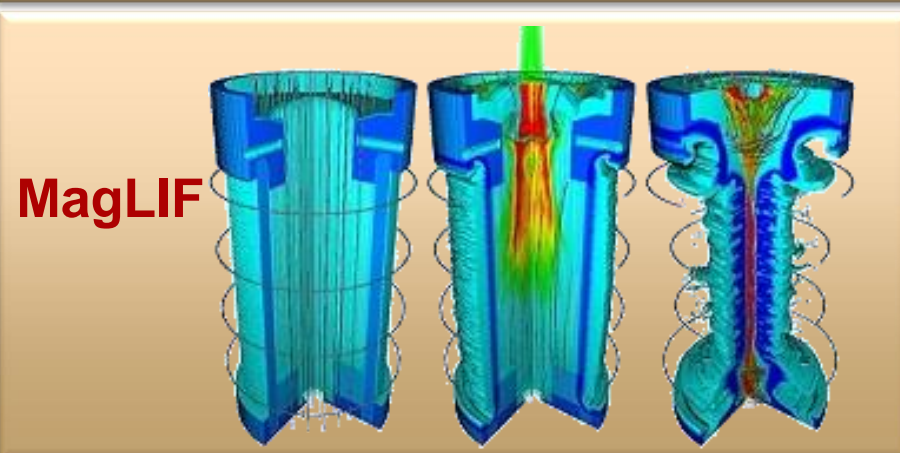
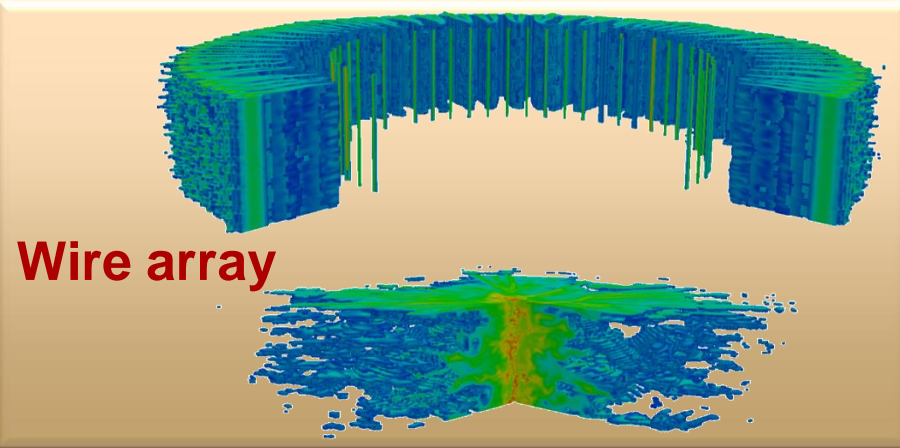
### Spectroscopy

Spatially resolved,  
various energies



The same codes are used to model radiation producing wire arrays and gas puffs as well as MagLIF plasmas

- Using same MHD codes used to model various magnetically driven implosions provides confidence in
  - Plasma dynamics models
  - Atomic physics models
  - Circuit model
- Gorgon 3D MHD simulations shown of all three systems

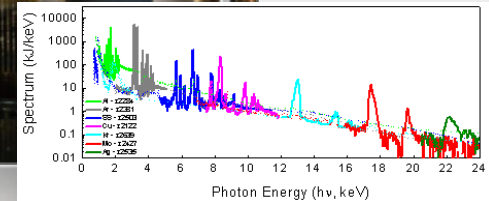
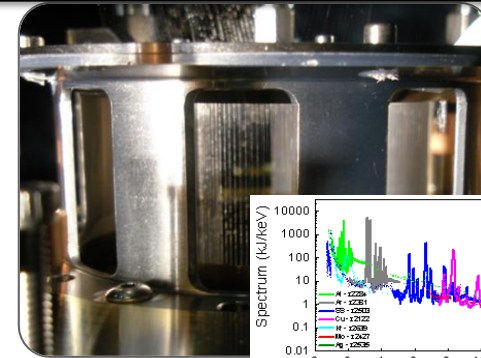


# Summary: MagLIF and wire arrays very different, very similar

- Significant overlap and contrast between multi-keV x-ray source experiments and MagLIF
  - Diagnostics similar
  - Same simulation tools used on each
  - Both challenging on the generator
- K-shell sources and MagLIF have made significant progress in last 4 years
  - K-shell sources
    - Previously only source for <10 keV,
    - Now 13 keV Kr gas puffs and 17-59 keV non-thermal sources
  - MagLIF
    - Initial experiments very promising
    - Physics and optimization experiments continuing

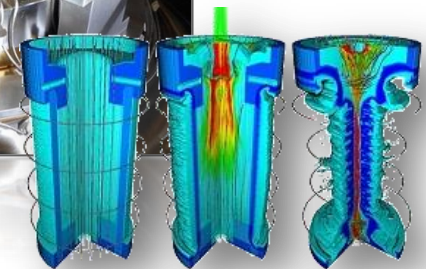
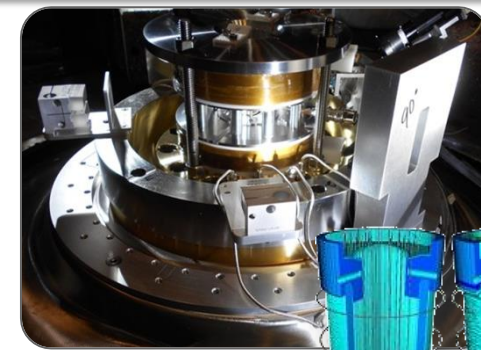
## K-shell x-ray sources

100's of kJ of multi-keV photons

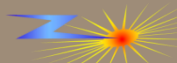


## MagLIF Fusion Plasmas

Fusion yields  $>10^{12}$  neutrons

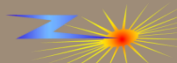


# Backup



Despite huge difference in scales, K-shell sources and MagLIF have similar implosion kinetic energies but produce similar pressures

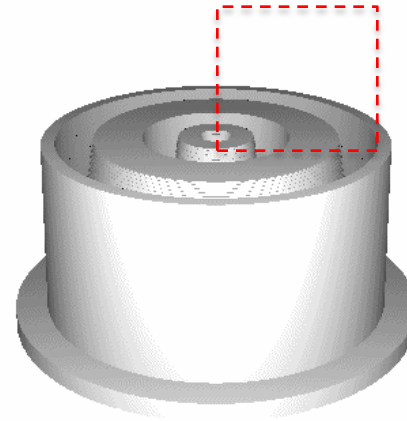
		MagLIF	K-shell
Velocity	cm/us	6	100
Atomic Number	Z (low)	1	13
	Z (high)	4	74
Mass	mg/mm	10	0.01
Number density	per cc	1.18E+23	2.00E+20
Stagnation Density	g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.4	0.0196
Stagnation Temp	eV	3000	6000
Kinetic Energy	Joules/cm	180	100
Stag Pressure (ZNkT)	Bar	1.13E+09	4.80E+07
	GBar	1.13E+03	4.80E+01
Temperature	(K)	3E+07	6E+07



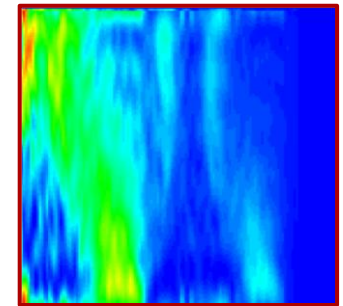
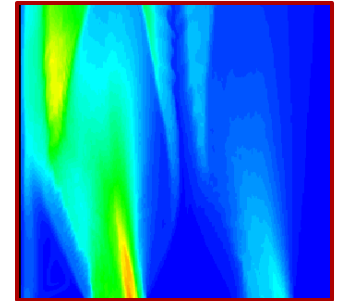


# For the higher electron temperatures (i.e. implosion velocities) required for Kr need more stabilization of MRT

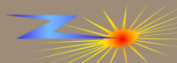
- Many tools have been developed to provide customizable gas profiles
  - Interferometry of profiles
  - Hydrodynamic simulations
  - Rapid-prototyping of nozzle parts
- Combined capabilities allows
  - Control of density distribution
    - Test implosion stability
  - Eliminate need for cathode grid
    - Better azimuthal symmetry
  - Self-consistent initiation of MHD



Simulation



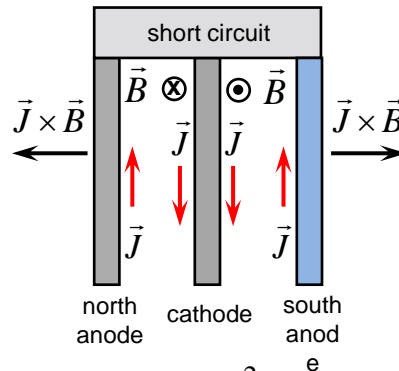
Interferometer



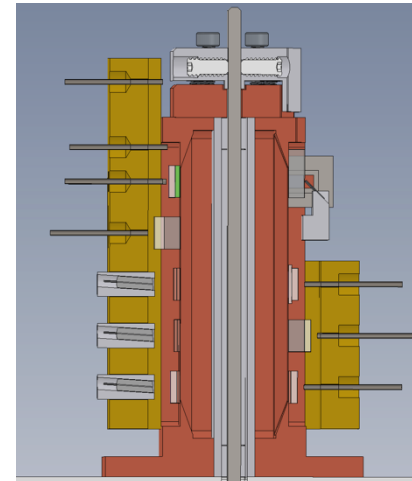
# Z-DMP planar experiments

## ■ Coaxial load

- Cathode stalk surrounded by anode panels
- Dual pressures possible on north and south panels
- Enclosed magnetic fields
- More sample locations
- Optimal for (flyer plate) shock compression

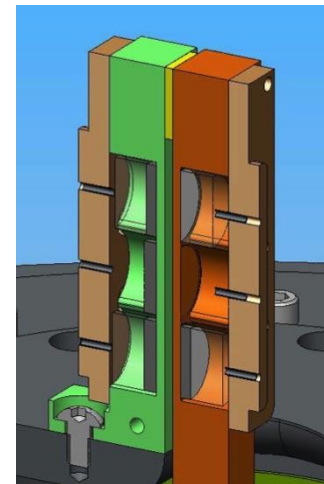
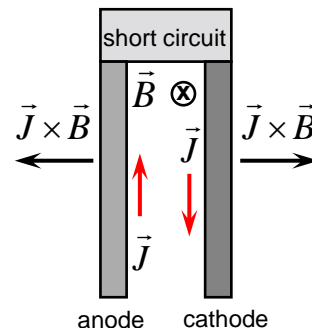


$$P = \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0}$$

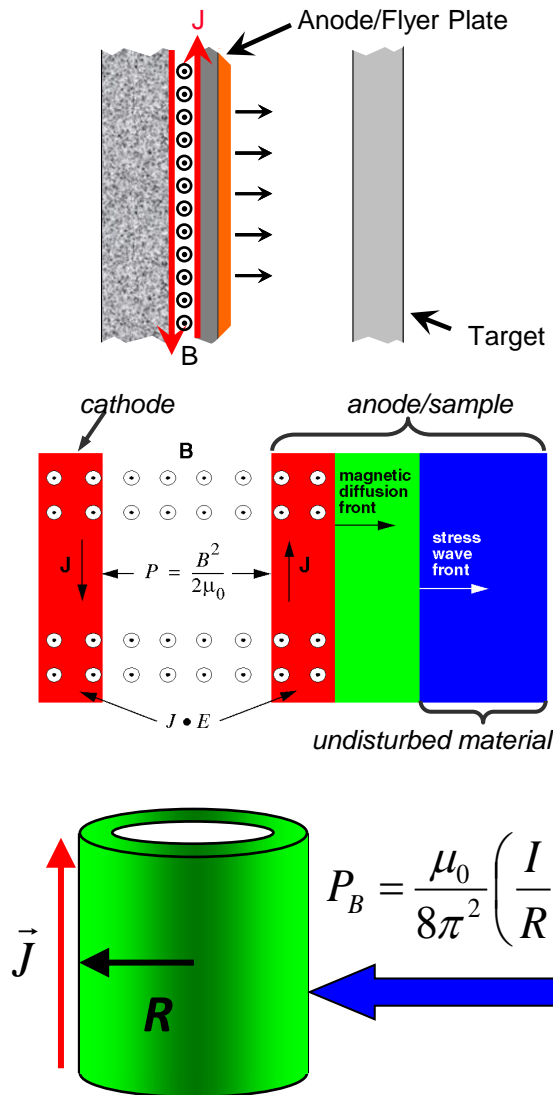


## ■ Stripline load

- Identical pressure on both cathode and anode panels
- Higher current density and pressure
- Open magnetic fields
- Optimal for high-pressure ramp compression



# Dynamic Material Properties (DMP) experiments on Z enable unique equation-of-state studies

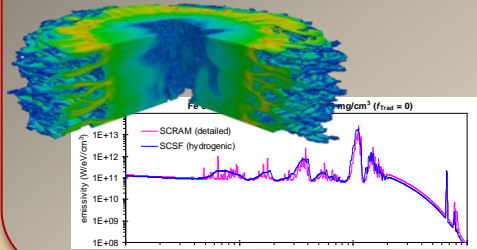


- Shock compression
  - Flyer impact velocities to  $\sim 40$  km/s
  - Hugoniot states to  $\sim 10$  Mbar;  $T \sim 10,000$ – $50,000$  K
- Ramp (quasi-isentropic) compression
  - Continuous compression to  $\sim 5$  Mbar
  - Lower strain rates  $\sim 10^6$ – $10^7$  /s;  $T \sim 1000$ – $5000$  K
- Shock-ramp compression
  - Complex loading path access off-Hugoniot states
  - Shock melt and ramp refreeze
- Cylindrical compression
  - Extreme pressure states: ramp to  $\sim 20$  Mbar
- Containment experiments
  - Restricted diagnostic access to load

# High velocity implosions on Z provide a rich test-bed for MHD and atomic physics codes

## Pre-shot design

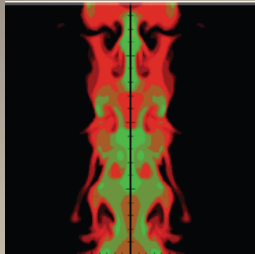
3D Gorgon MHD coupled to tabulated non-LTE emissivities



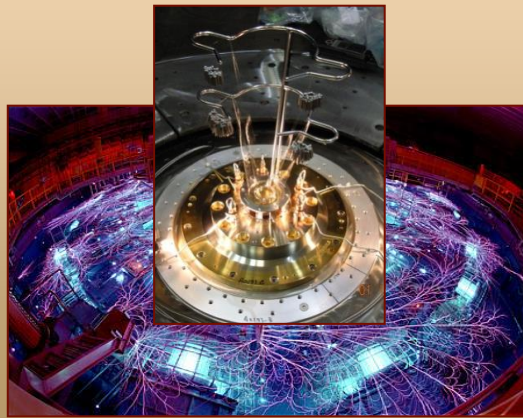
Energy balance arguments

$$v \sim \sqrt{\frac{2\eta E_{min}}{m}} \sim \sqrt{\frac{2.024 \eta Z^{3.662}}{A}}$$

2D rad-MHD  
Mach2 with DDTCRE



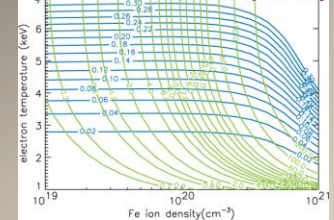
## Experiment



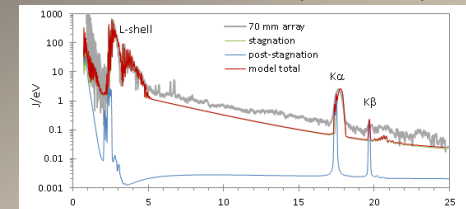
Feedback into  
design models

## Analysis

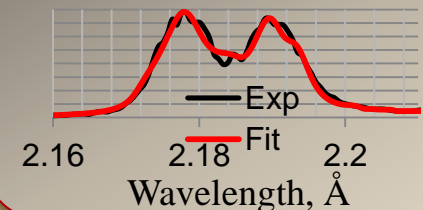
Static Collisional Radiative  
Equilibrium with opacity



Hybrid structure Collision  
Radiative model (SCRAM)



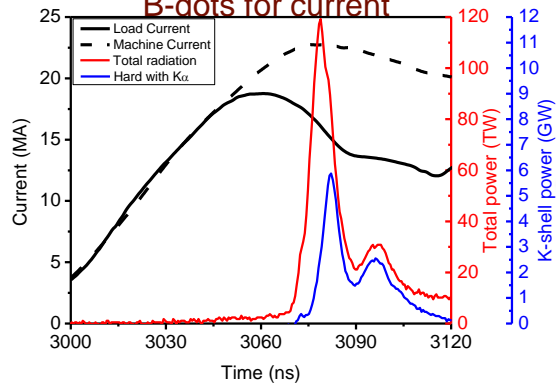
Collisional Radiative modeling  
of specific features



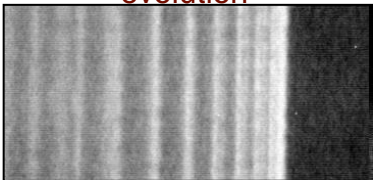
# GENERALIZE TO INCLUDE MAGLIF High velocity implusions on Z provide a rich dataset from spectral, imaging and current diagnostics

PCDs for K-shell power  
XRD/TEP/Bolo for total emission

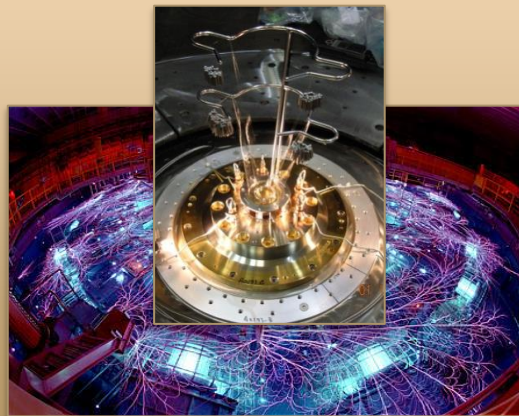
B-dots for current



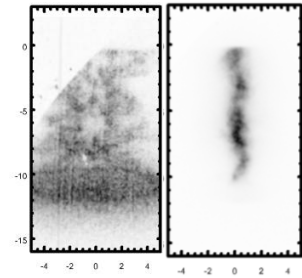
Radiography of early-time evolution



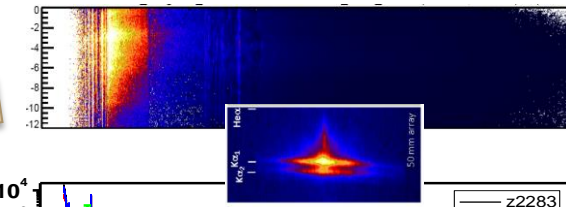
## Experiment



Time-resolved imaging of soft and K-shell emission



Broadband (0.8-24keV) time-integrated 1D-spatially-resolved self-emission spectra



Time-resolved 1D-spatially-resolved spectra

