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Title: Exploring the Richtmyer-Meshkov instability in multiple fluid regimes

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Intended for: Talk at LANL, send out slides to those interested

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# Exploring the Richtmyer-Meshkov instability in multiple fluid regimes

Tiffany Desjardins



# The following work is all done as part of a larger team:

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Adam Pacheco, Mary Sandstrom,  
Wendy Vogan, Sam Vincent, Joel  
Heidemann (J-3)



# Outline of Talk

- Why are 'fluids' and shocks important?
- Brief overview of Shock Physics and RMI
- Experimental Facilities and measurements
- What we actually do with the data
- Summary



# Why are 'fluids' and shocks important?

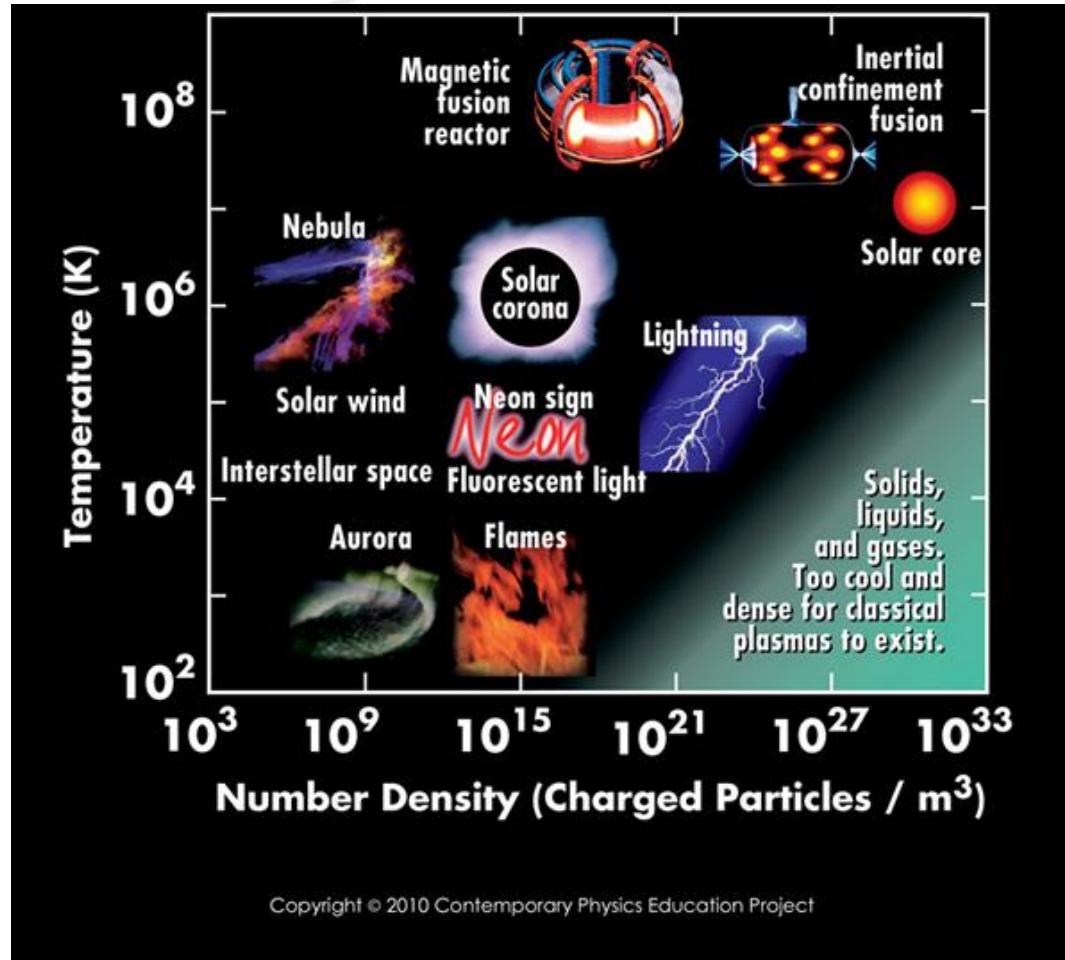
# A fluid is defined as a substance whose shape is variable with applied pressure



Traditional fluid experiments take place in fluids or gases, which are limited to low energy density (LED) regimes



# A plasma is an ionized gas consisting of positively charged ions and negatively charged electrons



## Three criteria to be considered a plasma:

- The size of the plasma,  $L$ , must be larger than the Debye length:

$$L \gg \lambda_d = \left( \frac{\epsilon_0 k T_e}{n e^2} \right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{quasi-neutrality})$$

- The number of particles in a Debye sphere must be much greater than 1

$$N_d = n \frac{4}{3} \pi \lambda_d^3 \gg 1 \quad (\text{collectivity})$$

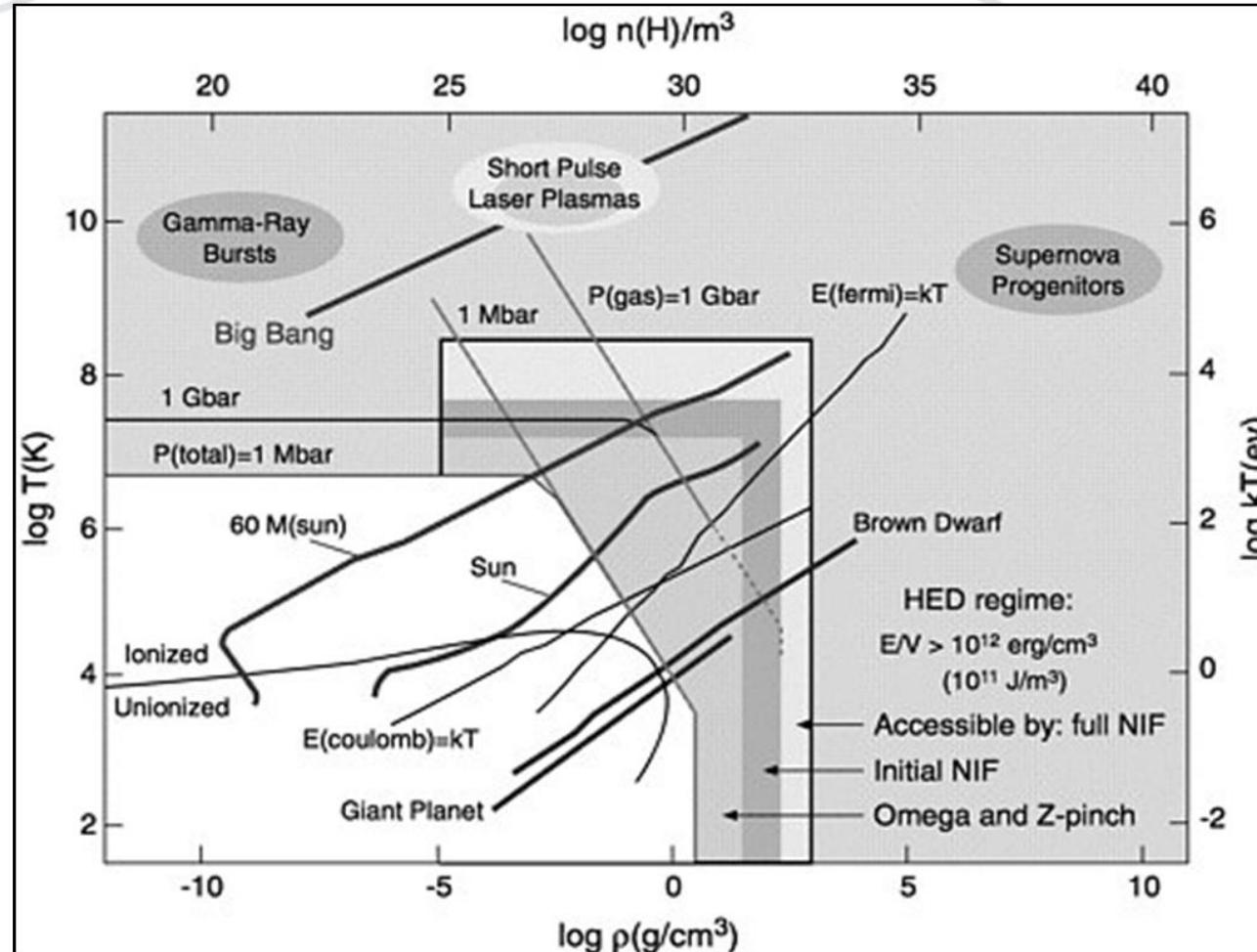
- Collisions must occur less frequently than typical plasma oscillations

$$\omega \tau > 1 \quad (\text{collisionality})$$

Plasmas are often treated as a fluid with additional affects, such as magnetic and electric fields

# High-energy-density systems are defined as systems having pressures above 1 Mbar or energy densities above 100 GJ/m<sup>3</sup>

1 Mbar = 1 million atmospheres



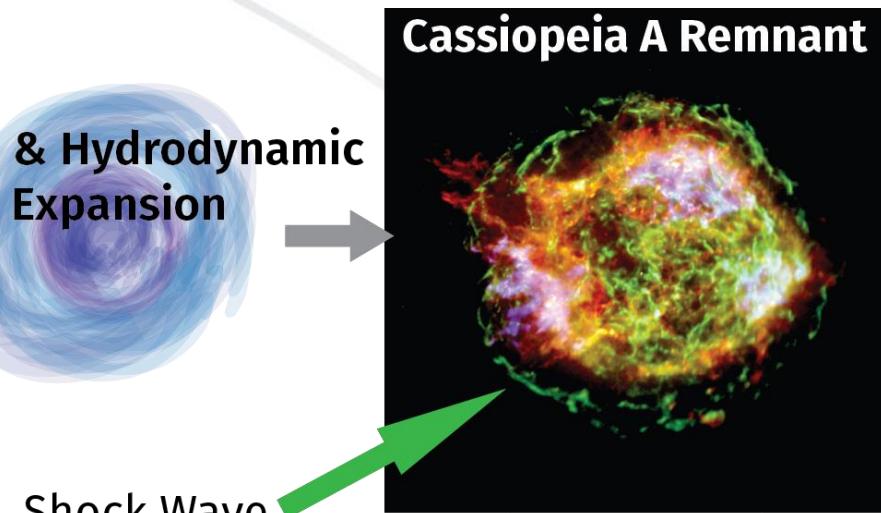
R.P. Drake,  
High-Energy-Density Physics

HED systems are technically a plasma, but are often treated and modeled as a traditional fluid

# Type Ia supernovae are “standard candles” that help determine the age of the universe



Convective Mixing (Rayleigh-Taylor)  
 Shear (Kelvin-Helmholtz)  
 Shock-driven (Richtmyer-Meshkov)



Shock Wave  
 10 light years diameter ( $10^{14}$  km)

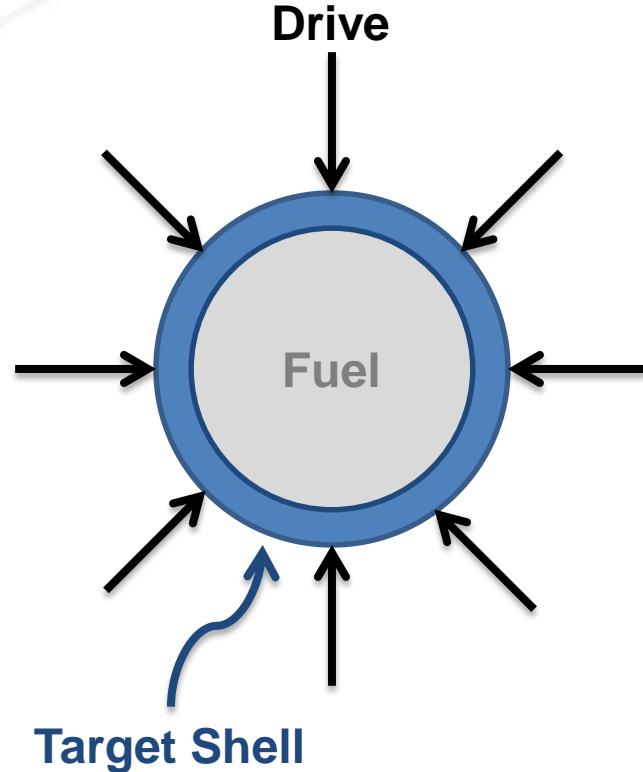
Instabilities are important in:

- Pre-ignition conditions
- Triggering ignition
- Final chemical structure

Image from NASA's Chandra  
 X-Ray Observatory  
[chandra.harvard.edu](http://chandra.harvard.edu)

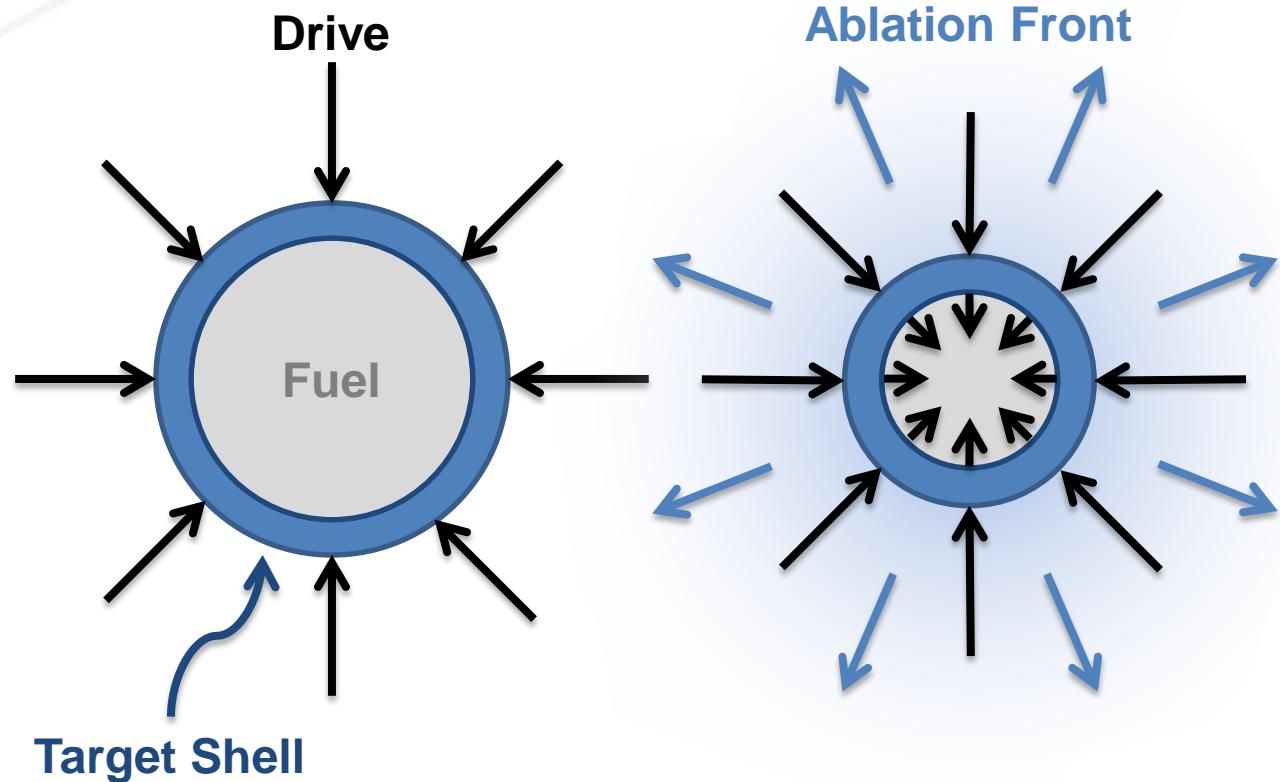
Slide courtesy of  
 Kathy Prestidge

# Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) seeks to use high power lasers to generate fusion by compressing DT fuel



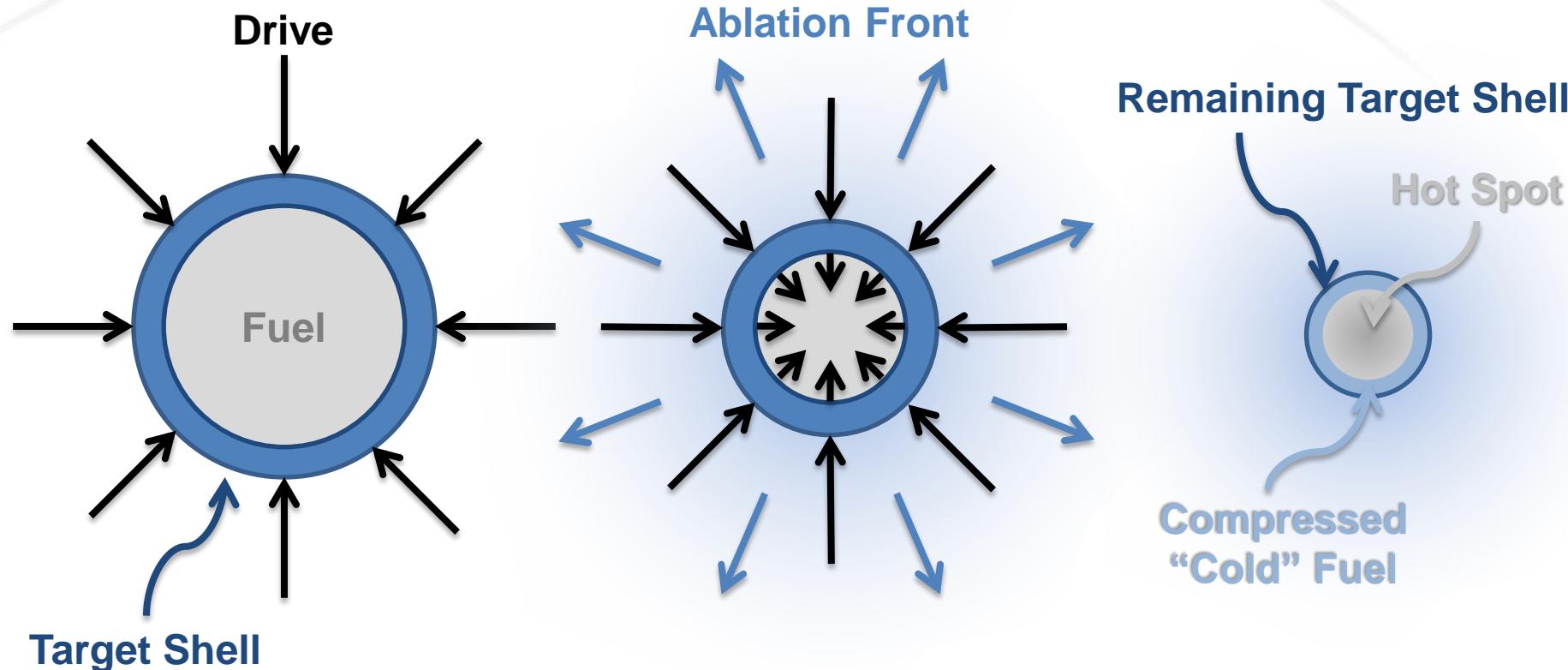
Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt

# Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) seeks to use high power lasers to generate fusion by compressing DT fuel



Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt

# Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) seeks to use high power lasers to generate fusion by compressing DT fuel



This is ideally how the process should work, but...

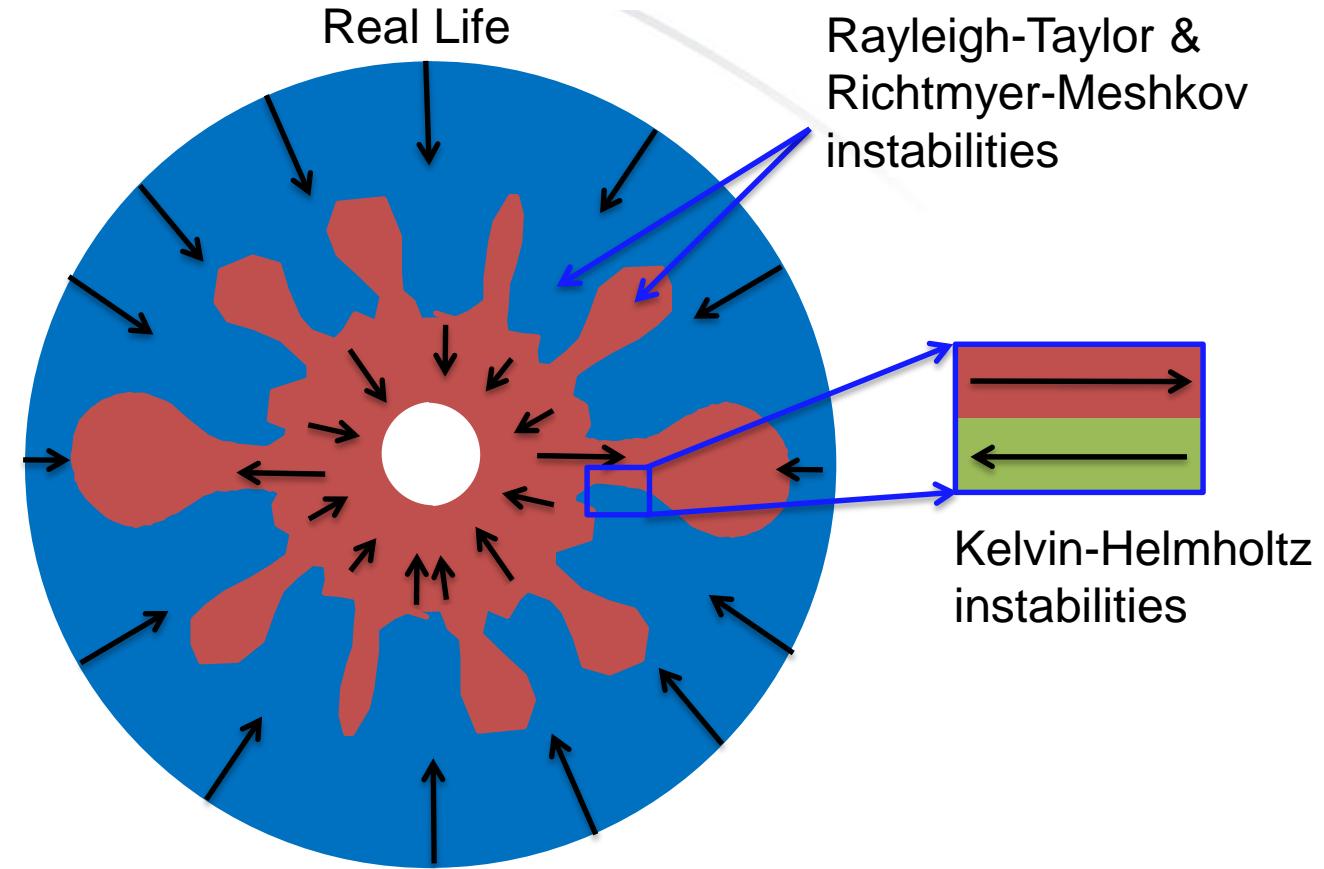
Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt

# ICF capsules are prone to instabilities at interfaces



- Different target layer densities
  - Rayleigh-Taylor
- Strong Shear flows
  - Kelvin-Helmholtz
- Multiple shocks
  - Richtmyer-Meshkov

Instabilities can mix ablator material into the fuel and degrade and/or prevent ignition

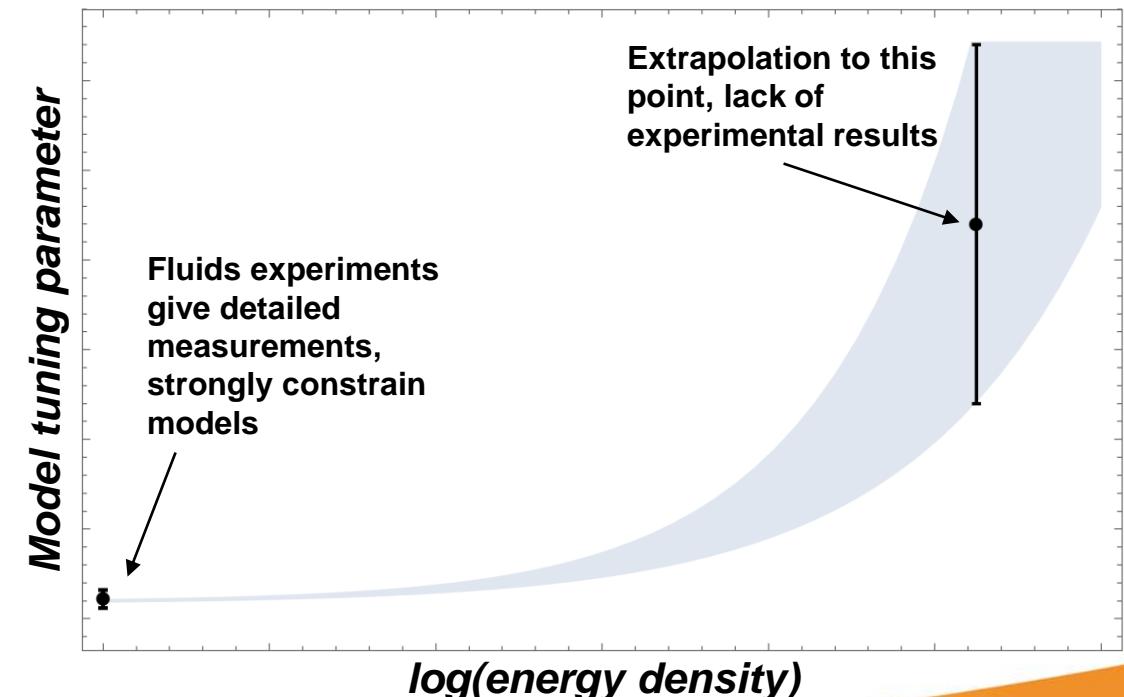


Slide courtesy of  
Kathy Prestridge and  
Elizabeth Merritt

# National labs are trying to extend low-energy density fluid experiments into the high-energy density regime

Experiments in the HED plasma regime are where fluid dynamics approximations may break down

- Relevant to mix in ICF capsules and astrophysics
- Used to benchmark hydrodynamics and advanced turbulence models
  - Widely benchmarked in low-energy-density (LED) fluid regimes e.g. aerospace
  - Do we need to include HED effects?



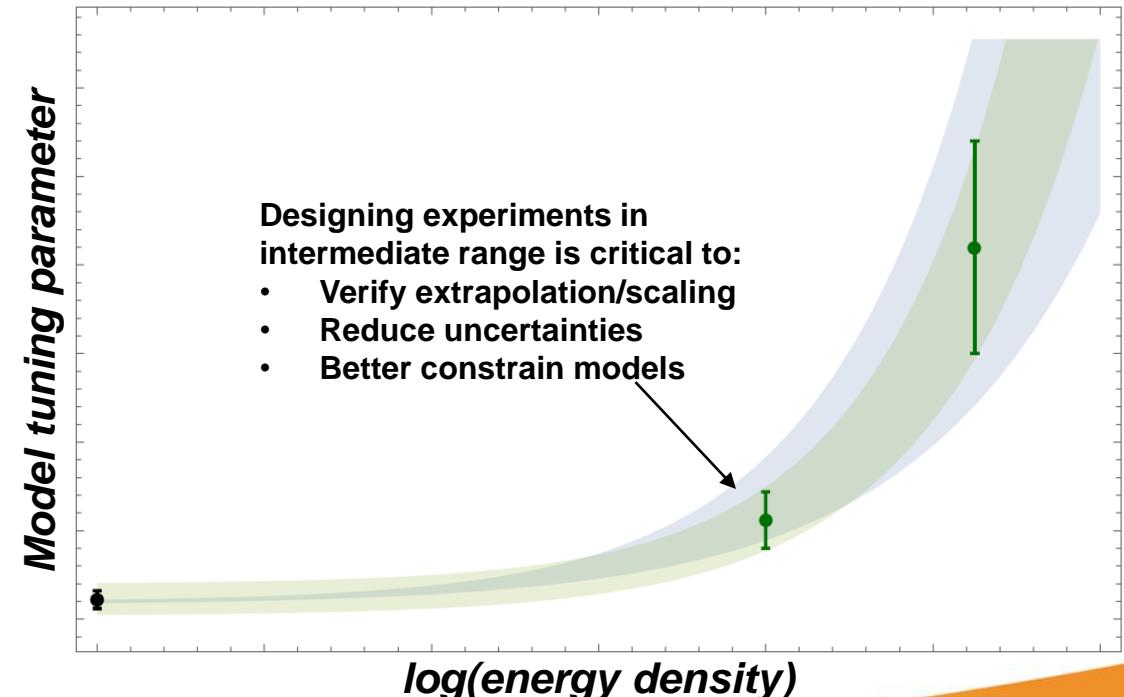
# National labs are trying to extend low-energy density fluid experiments into the high-energy density regime

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- Relevant to mix in ICF capsules and astrophysics
- Used to benchmark hydrodynamics and advanced turbulence models
  - Widely benchmarked in low-energy-density (LED) fluid regimes e.g. aerospace
  - Do we need to include HED effects?

National labs are some of the only institutions extending hydrodynamics and turbulences models beyond LED regimes

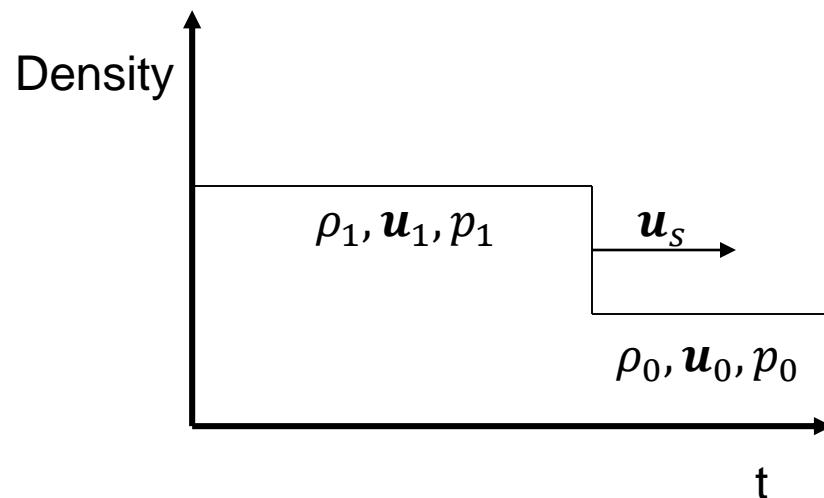
Doss *et al.*, *Phys. Plasmas* 20, 012707 (2013)  
 Doss *et al.*, *Phys. Plasmas* 20, 122704 (2013)  
 Doss *et al.*, *Phys. Plasmas* 23, 056303 (2015)  
 Flippo *et al.*, *JPCS* 688, 012018 (2016)





# Brief overview of Shock Physics and RMI

# A shock wave may be considered as a moving front that exhibits a sharp discontinuity in fluid properties



## Euler Conservation Laws:

Continuity

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u})$$

Momentum

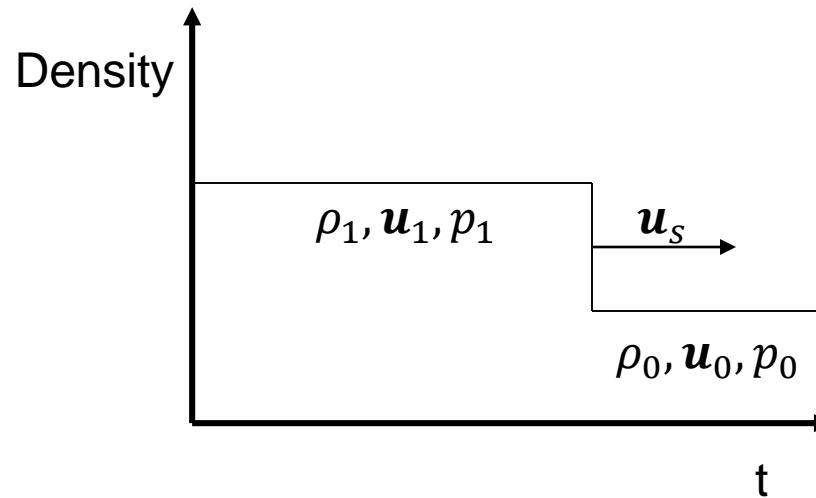
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho \mathbf{u}) = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) - \nabla p$$

Energy

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\rho u^2}{2} + \rho \epsilon \right) = -\nabla \cdot \left[ \rho \mathbf{u} \left( \epsilon + \frac{u^2}{2} \right) + p \mathbf{u} \right]$$

Conservation laws must be obeyed, even with the presence of a discontinuity

# In order to close the equations, an assumption has to be made about the relation between energy and pressure



## Euler Conservation Laws:

Continuity

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u})$$

Momentum

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho \mathbf{u}) = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) - \nabla p$$

Energy

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\rho u^2}{2} + \rho \epsilon \right) = -\nabla \cdot \left[ \rho \mathbf{u} \left( \epsilon + \frac{u^2}{2} \right) + p \mathbf{u} \right]$$

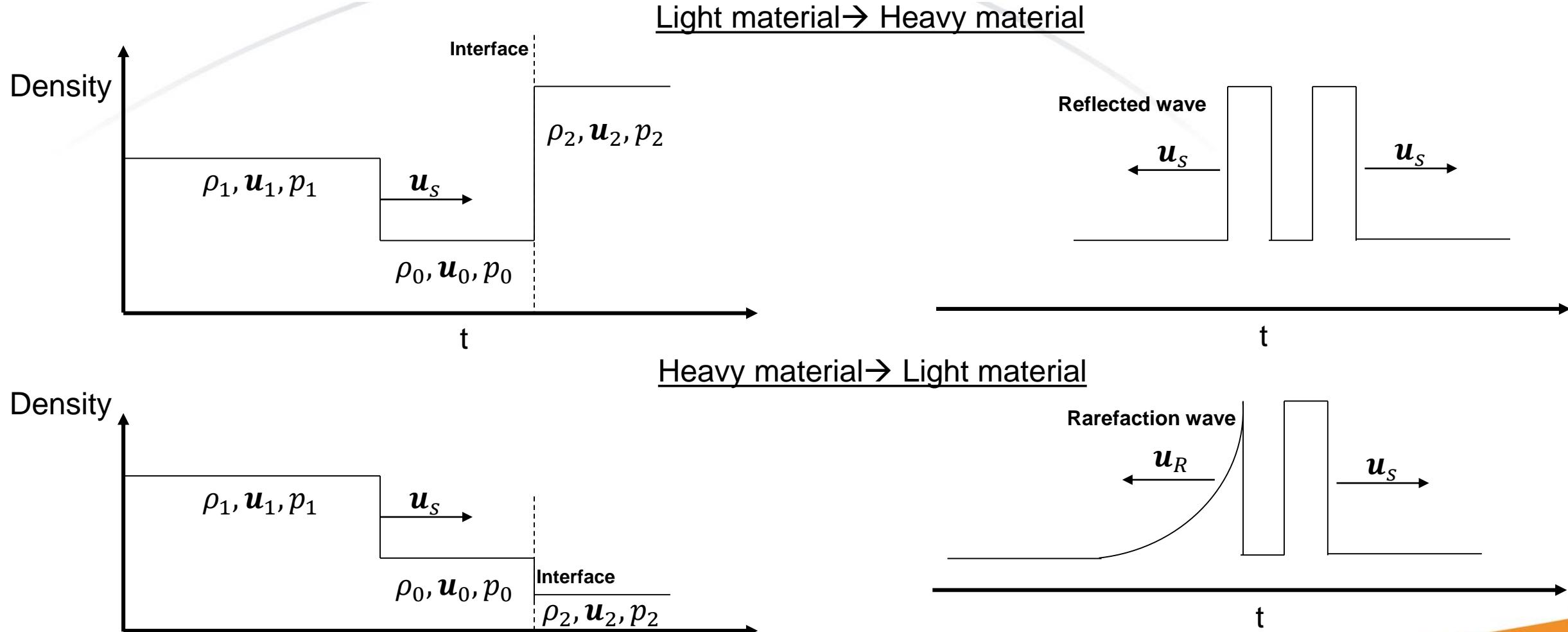
Polytropic gas

$$\rho \epsilon = \frac{p}{\gamma - 1}$$

$$\frac{p}{\rho^\gamma} = C$$

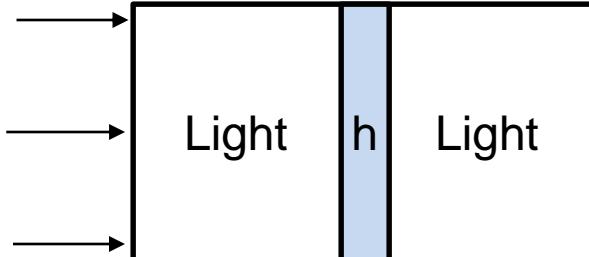
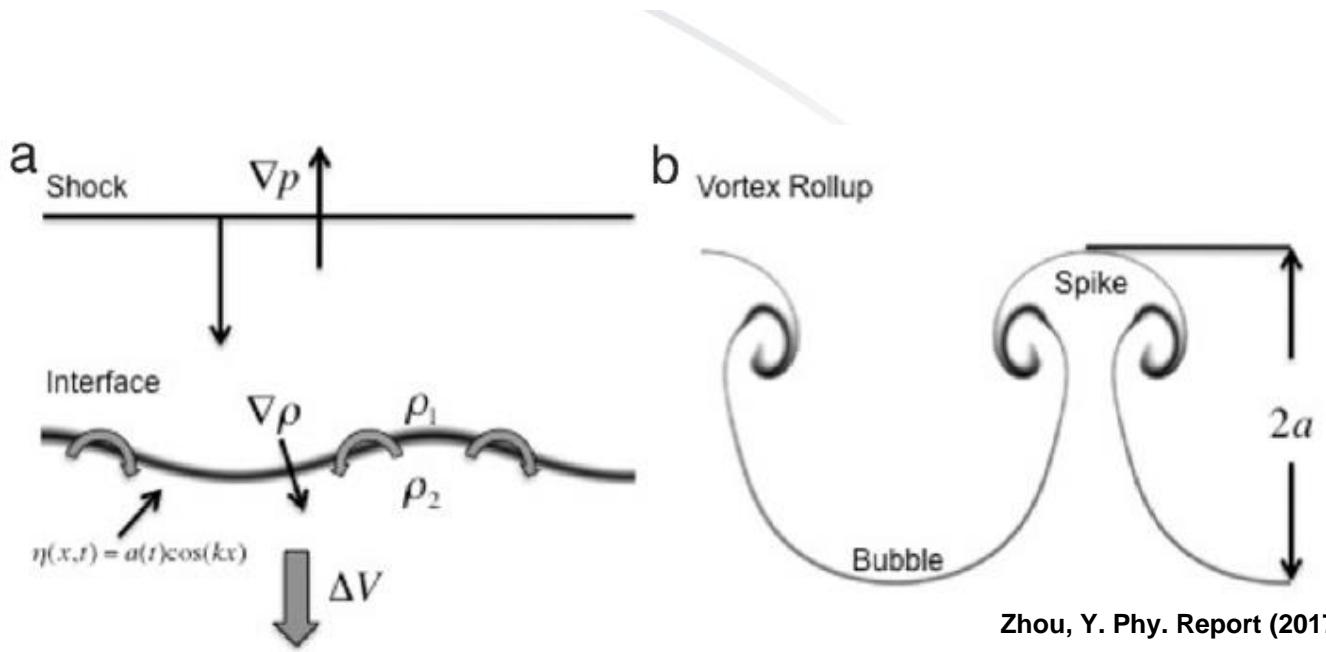
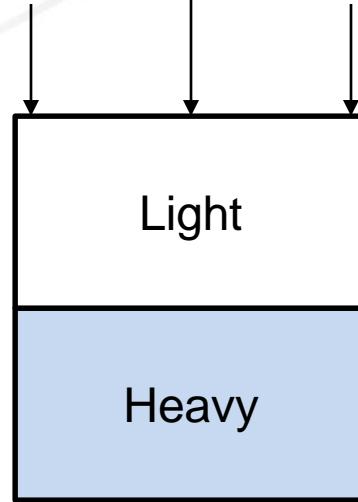
Shock waves are supersonic, which means the wave travels faster than information

# When a shock interacts with an interface, reflections and rarefactions can occur



Shocks and rarefactions move material, which can change the material properties, generate new interfaces and give rise to instabilities.

# The Richtmyer-Meshkov instability (RMI) is a shock driven instability at the interface of two disparate densities

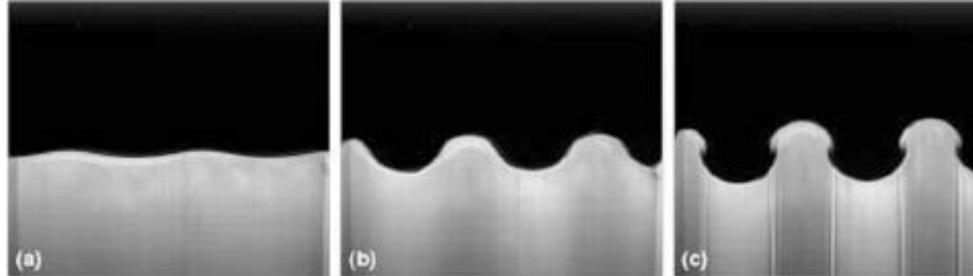


$$\frac{D\omega}{Dt} = \underbrace{\frac{\nabla\rho \times \nabla p}{\rho^2}}_{\text{Baroclinic production}} + \underbrace{\omega \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}}_{\text{Vortex stretching}} - \underbrace{\omega(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})}_{\text{Vortex dilation}}$$

Inviscid compressible vorticity equation

The deposition of baroclinic vorticity drives the RMI, which gives rise to bubbles and spikes that cause materials to mix

# Initially, RMI growth is linear, but can quickly become nonlinear



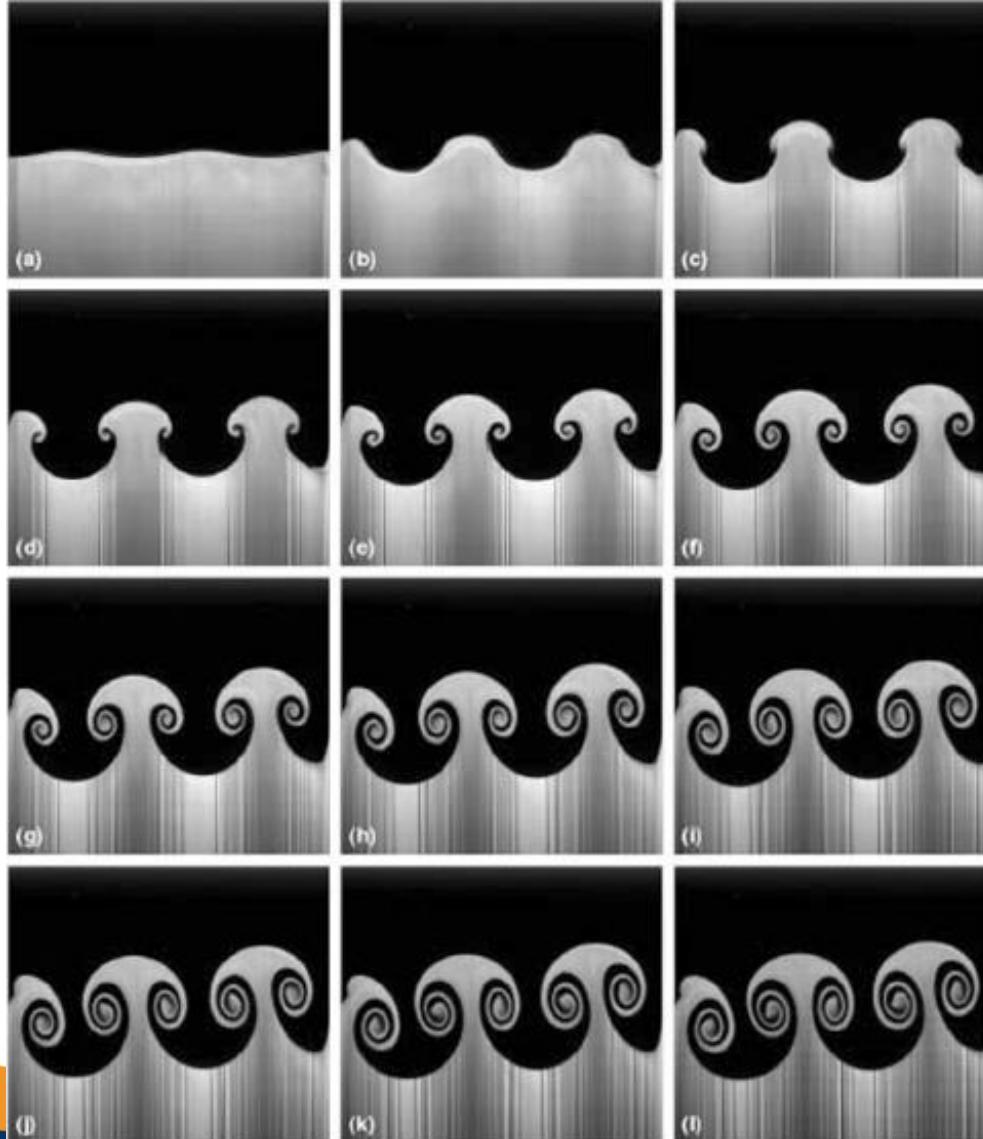
## Linear growth equation:

$$\frac{da(t)}{dt} = a_0 A k \Delta u$$

- Valid for  $a_0 k \ll 1$
- $a_0$  and  $A$  may be pre-shock, post-shock or averaged values



# Initially, RMI growth is linear, but can quickly become nonlinear



## Linear growth theory:

$$\frac{da(t)}{dt} = a_0 A k \Delta u$$

- Valid for  $a_0 k \ll 1$
- $a_0$  and  $A$  may be pre-shock, post-shock or averaged values

## Non-linear growth theory:

- There exist several formulations
- Bubble (+) and spike (-) growth handled separately
- Sadot *et al* (1998) found single formula to describe growth

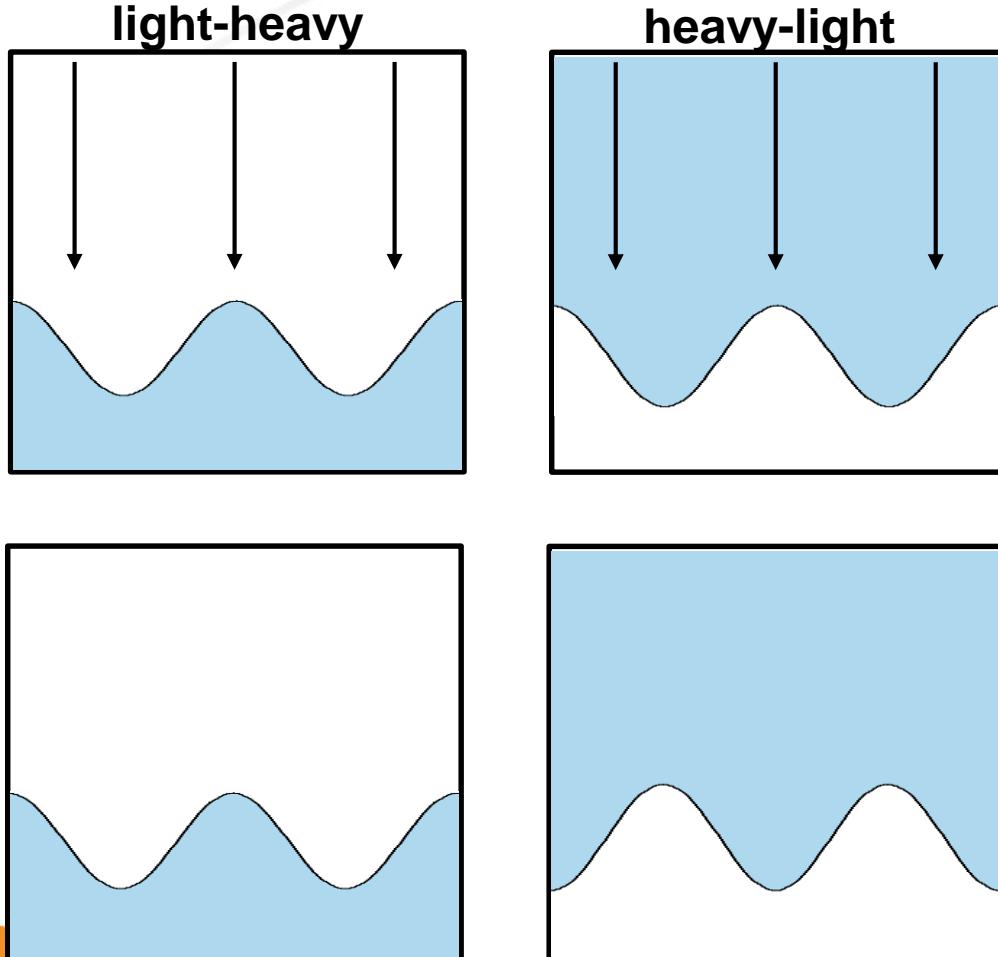
$$u(t) = u_0 \frac{1 + u_0 k t}{1 + D_{b,s} t + E_{b,s} t^2}$$

$$D_{b,s} = (1 \pm A) u_0 k$$

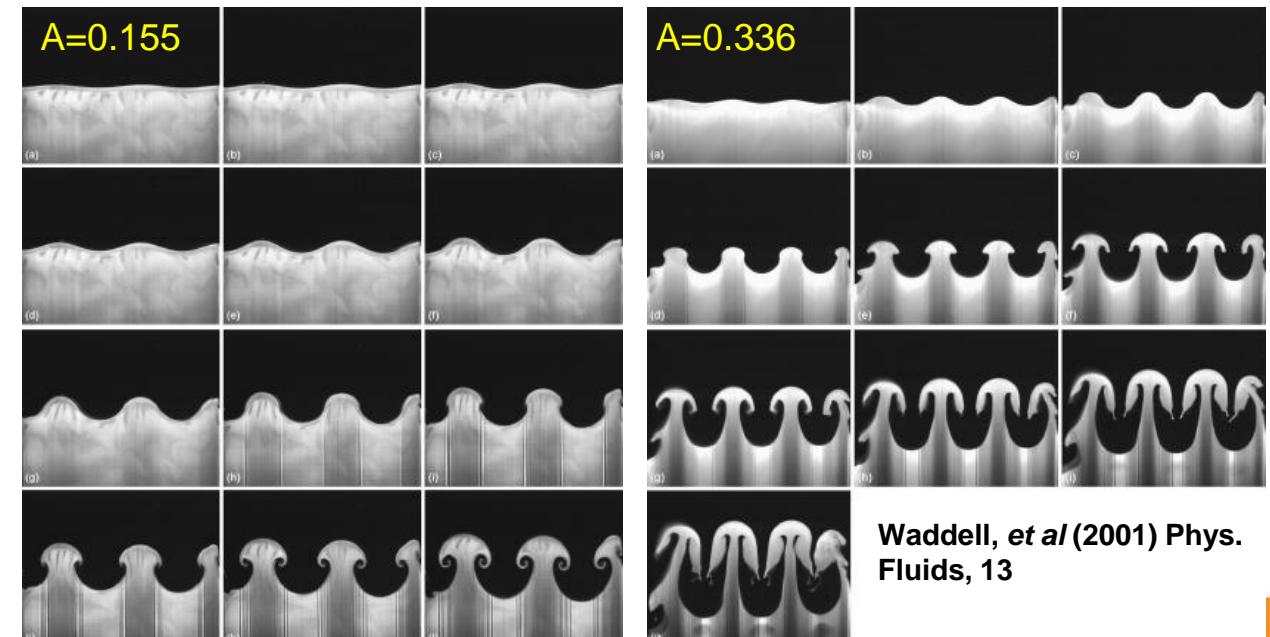
$$E_{b,s} = \frac{1 \pm A}{1 + A} \frac{u_0^2 k^2}{2 \pi C}$$

Equations shows that RMI growth is dependent on:

# Atwood number can affect the phase of the RMI growth, as well as asymmetries in bubble to spike growth

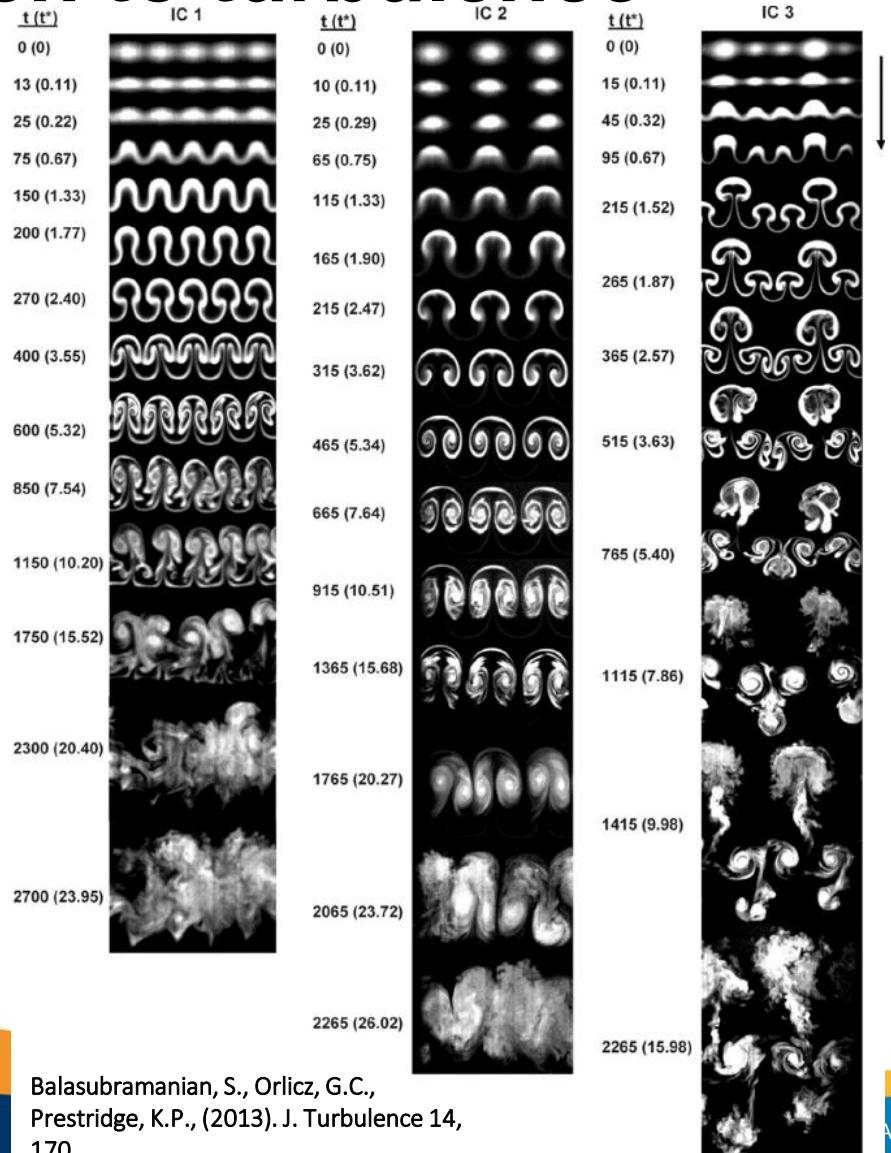


- Atwood number,  $A$
- $A = \frac{\rho_1 - \rho_2}{\rho_1 + \rho_2}$



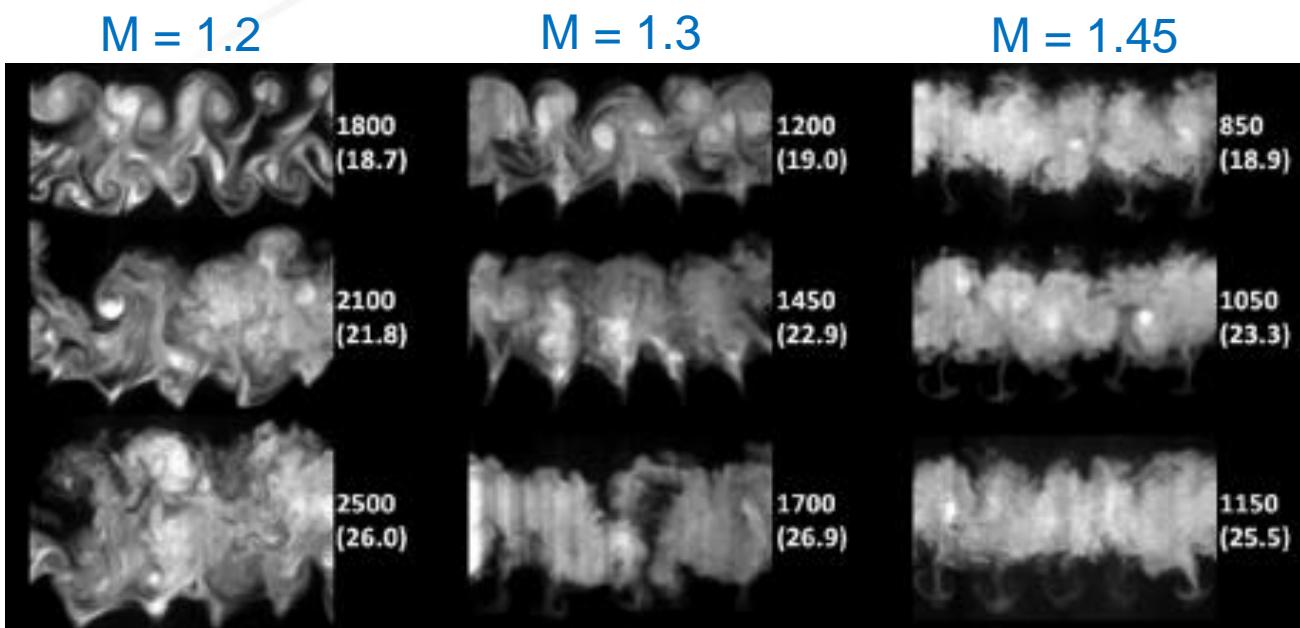
Waddell, et al (2001) Phys.  
Fluids, 13

# Initial conditions affect the rate at which the RMI transitions from linear to non-linear and even to turbulence



- Atwood number,  $A$ 
  - $A = \frac{\rho_1 - \rho_2}{\rho_1 + \rho_2}$
- Initial condition at the interface
  - $k$  = wavenumber
  - $a_0$  = amplitude of perturbation

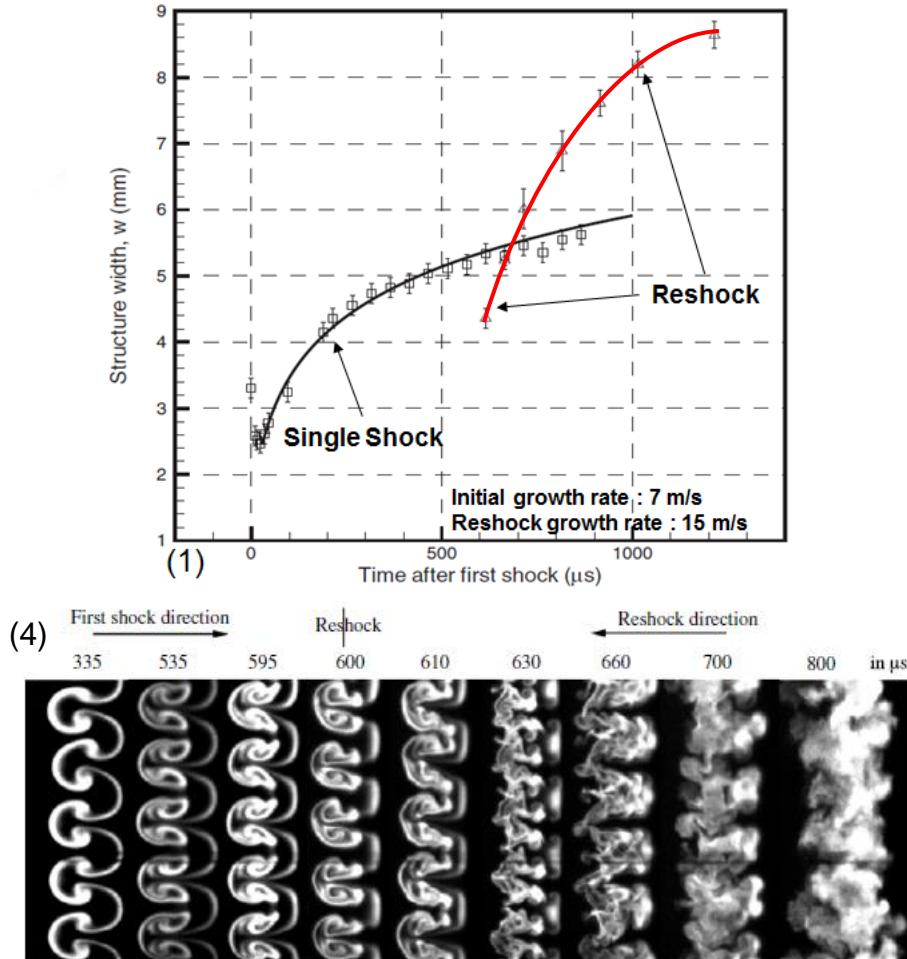
# Mach number has a similar effect as initial conditions, and affects the growth and mixedness of the layer



- Atwood number,  $A$ 
  - $A = \frac{\rho_1 - \rho_2}{\rho_1 + \rho_2}$
- Initial condition at the interface
  - $k$  = wavenumber
  - $a_0$  = amplitude of perturbation
- Mach number of the shock
  - $M = \frac{u}{c_s}$ ,  $c_s = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma p_0}{\rho_0}}$
  - $M < 1$ , subsonic
  - **$M > 1$ , supersonic**

Orlicz, S. Balasubramanian, Prestridge (2013) *Phys. Fluids*.  
 Orlicz, S. Balasubramanian, Vorobieff, Prestridge (2015) *Phys. Fluids*

# Fluid's experiments found that reshock increases instability growth rate and can lead to turbulence



- Without reshock, growth slows and stagnates
- With reshock, layer initially compresses before growing more quickly
- Growth after reshock dependent on:
  - Reshock  $\text{Mach}^2$
  - Growth/mix of layer at re-shock<sup>3</sup>
  - Atwood number
- Reshock has also been shown to drive RM turbulent<sup>4,5</sup>

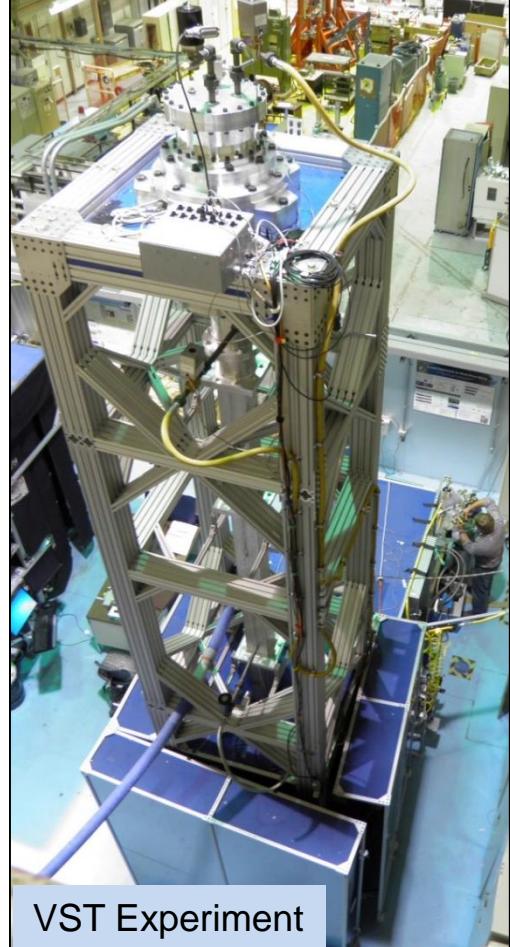
Growing RMI can be re-shocked by reflected waves or rarefactions, changing the instability dynamics and leading to additional mixing

1. Balakumar, B. J., et al. *Phys. Fluids* 20 (2008)
2. Leinov, E., et al. *J. Fluid Mech* 626 (2009)
3. Balasubramanian, S. et al, *Phys. Fluid* 24 (2012)
4. Tomkins, C. D., et al. *J. Fluid Mech.* (2013) 735
5. Balakumar, B. J., et al. *J. Fluid. Mech.* 696 (2012)



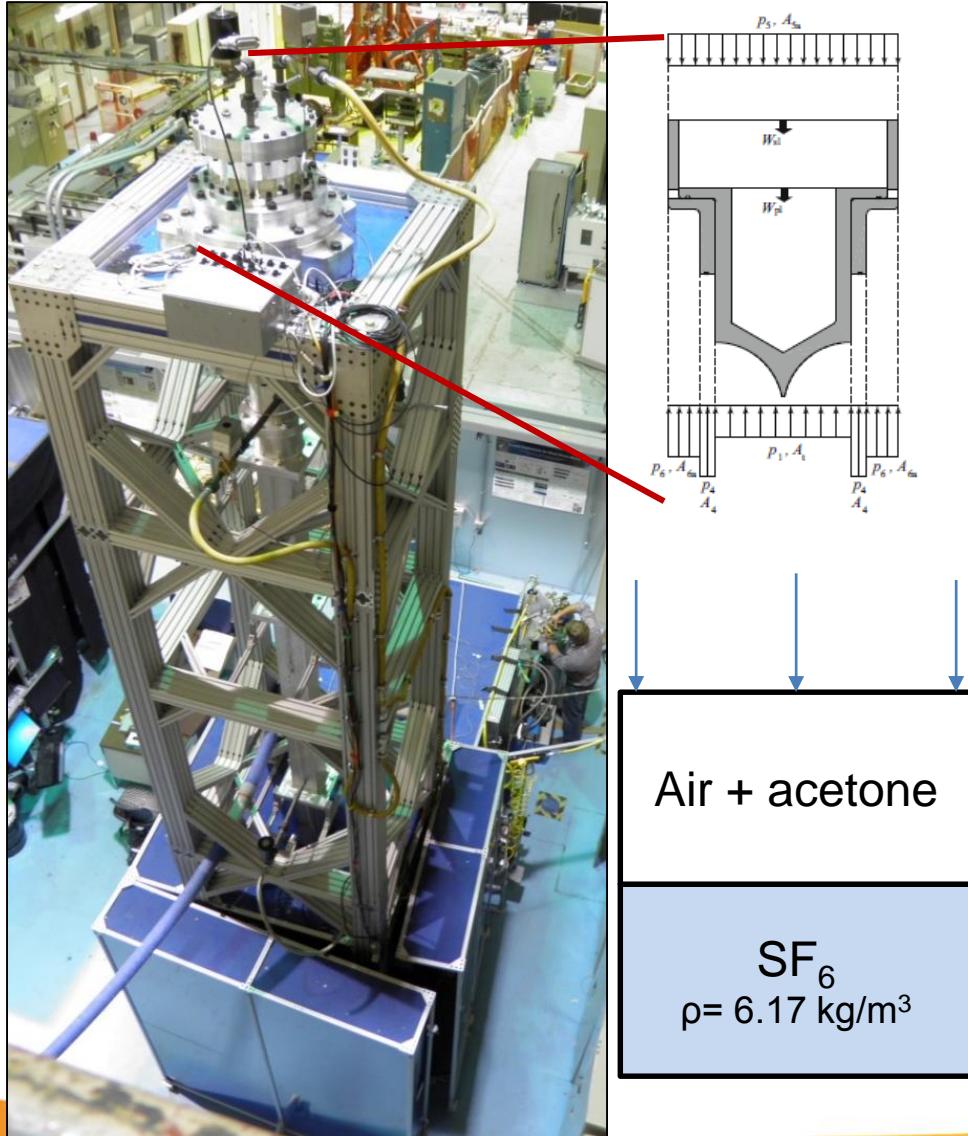
# Experimental Facilities and Measurements

# The Richtmyer-Meshkov instability is studied in multiple physical regimes at LANL



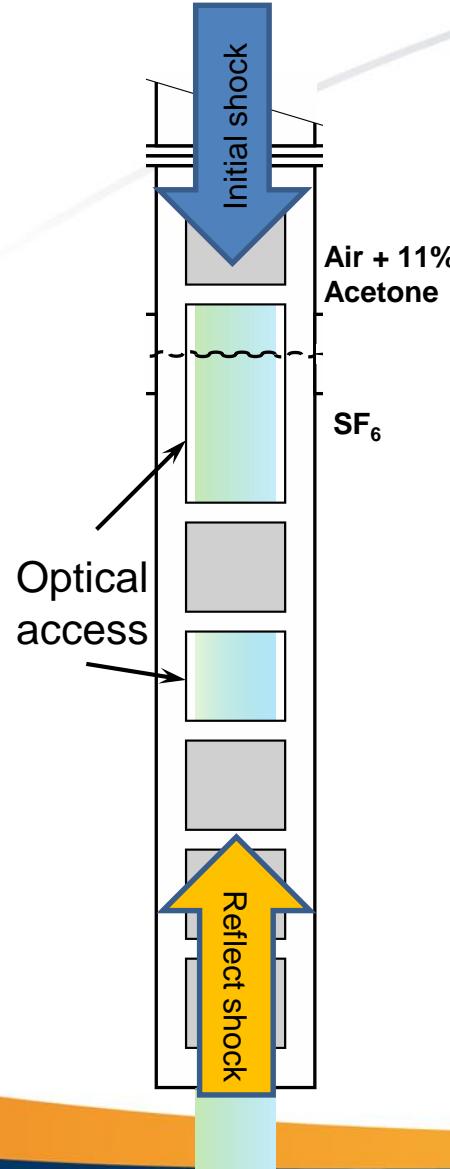
- **Vertical Shock Tube (VST):** Shocks gases, traditional fluid, Low Mach number
- **pRad:** Shocks gases, but at high Mach number
- **Mshock:** Shock plasmas

# VST studies RMI mixing dependence on initial conditions and Mach number

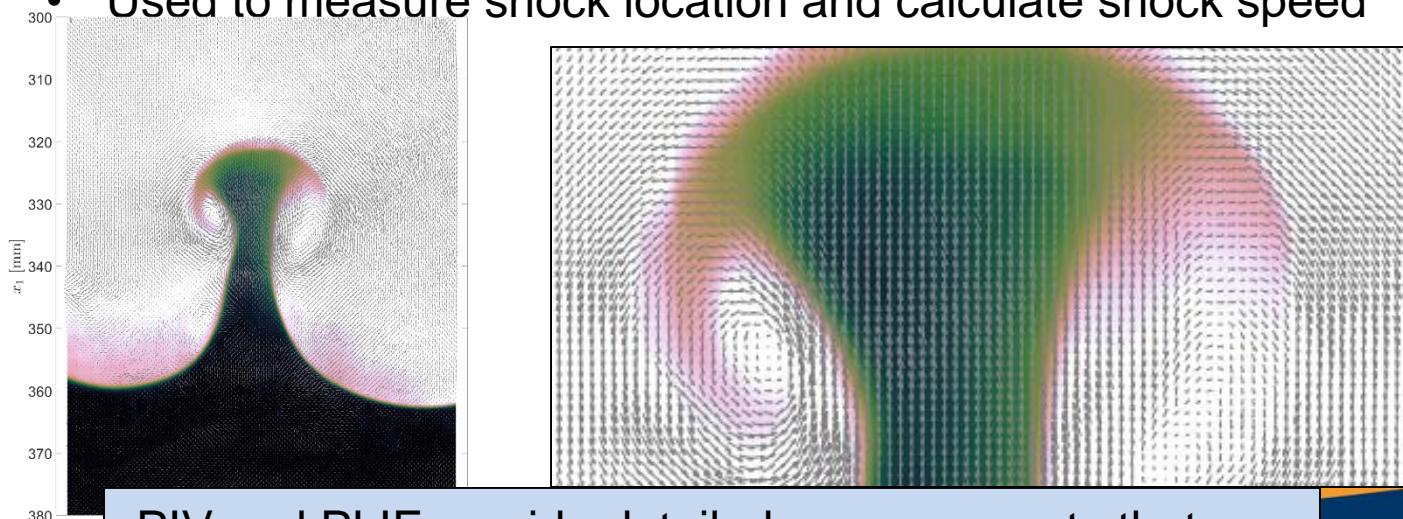


- Shock tube dimensions:
  - ~7 m tall shock tube
  - 5 x 5 inch rectangle
- Driven by piston
- Shock speeds:
  - M=1-1.5
  - New upgrades will allow M=2
- Shot rate
  - 20-30 shots/day
  - 2-4 images per shot
- Drives shocks with and in gases
  - Air
  - SF<sub>6</sub>

# Main diagnostics are PIV, PLIF and pressure transducers

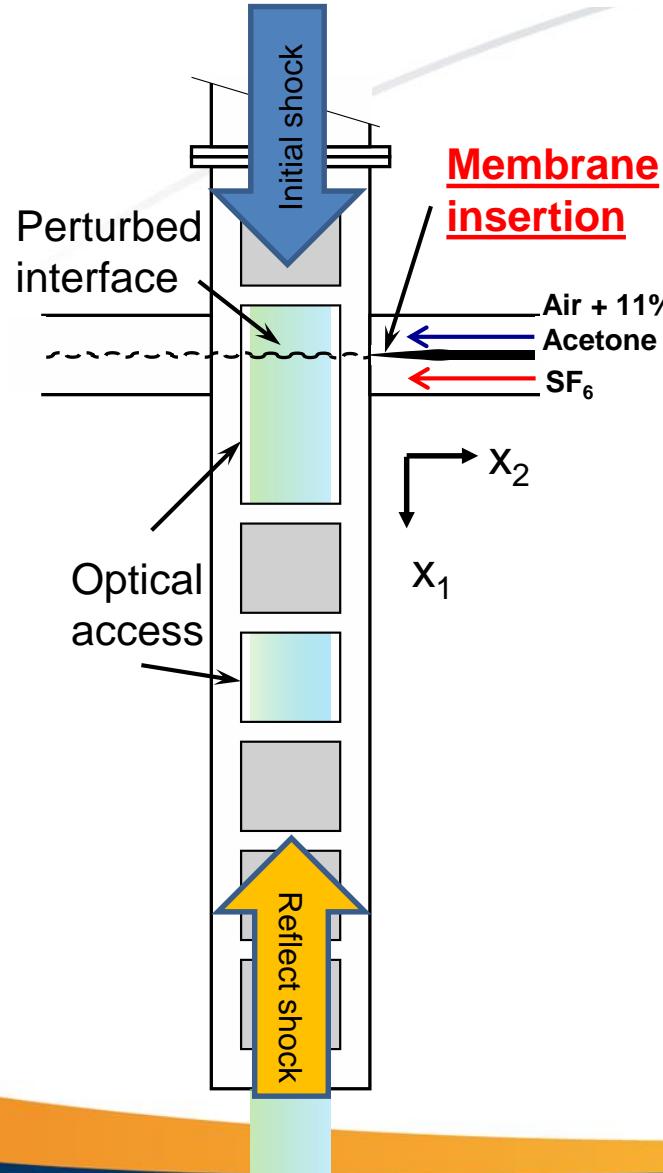


- PIV (Particle Image Velocimetry)
  - Seed particles (olive oil) scatter laser
  - Concurrent time images show changes due to flow
  - Measures velocity field
- Planar Laser-Induced Fluorescence (PLIF)
  - Sheet of laser light which illuminates tracer particles (acetone)
  - Measures concentration of particles
- Pressure transducers measure changes in pressure
  - Used to measure shock location and calculate shock speed

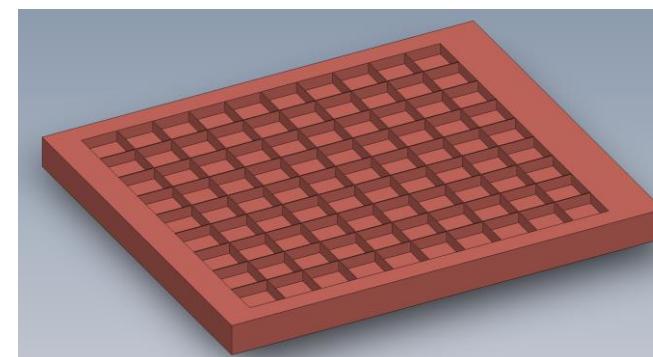


PIV and PLIF provide detailed measurements that can be used to highly constrain model

# Generating repeatable initial conditions is difficult

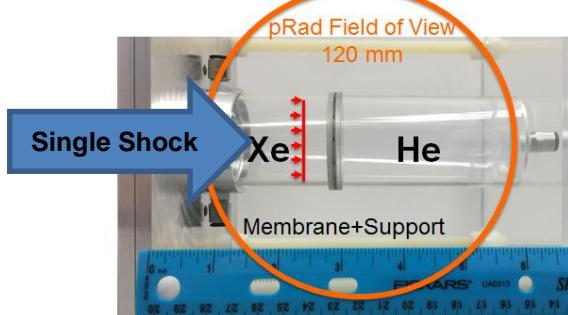
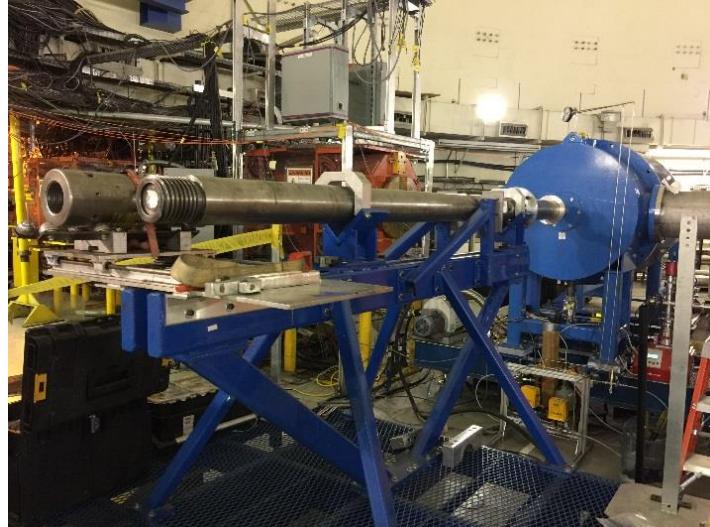


- Attempted to use a flapper plate with air and SF<sub>6</sub> feeding into chamber
  - Were able to set amplitude and frequency
  - Results were not reproducible
- Moving to membranes
  - How thin is thin enough?
  - How much does membrane breaking affect resulting instability?



Repeatable initial conditions are critical for achieving higher order statistics, while changing initial conditions are important for affecting the mix and testing models

# pRad offers a chance to examine RMI under high Mach number with variable initial conditions

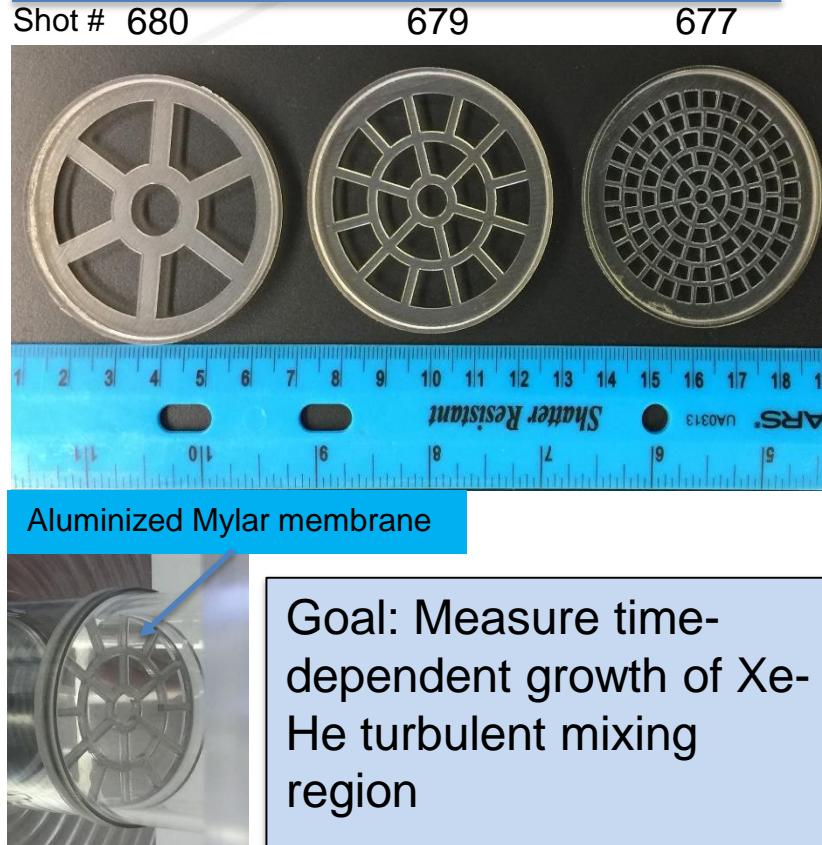


- Shock tube dimensions:
  - ~6 cm diameter
- Driven by powder gun
- Shock speeds:
  - $M= 8-11$
- Shot rate
  - 5-6 shots per year
  - ~30 images per shot
- Drives shocks in gases
  - Currently shock driven in Xenon
  - Interface separates from Helium

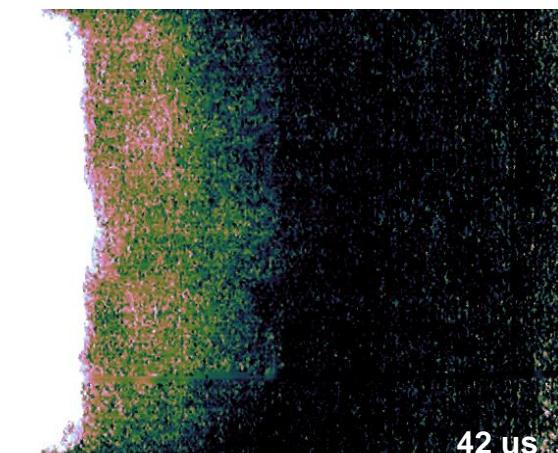
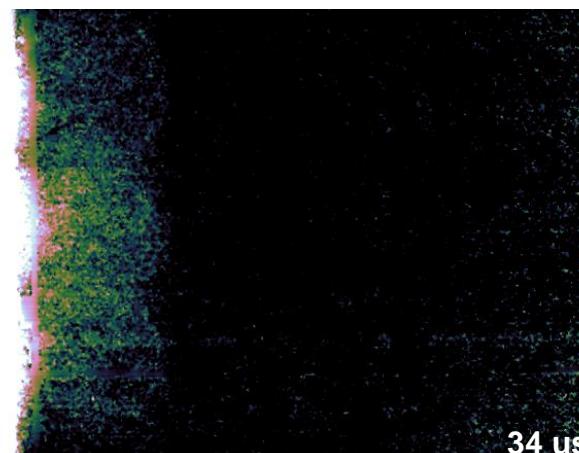
High Mach number tests our understanding of physics in a new regime and may provide a stepping stone to the HED/plasma regime



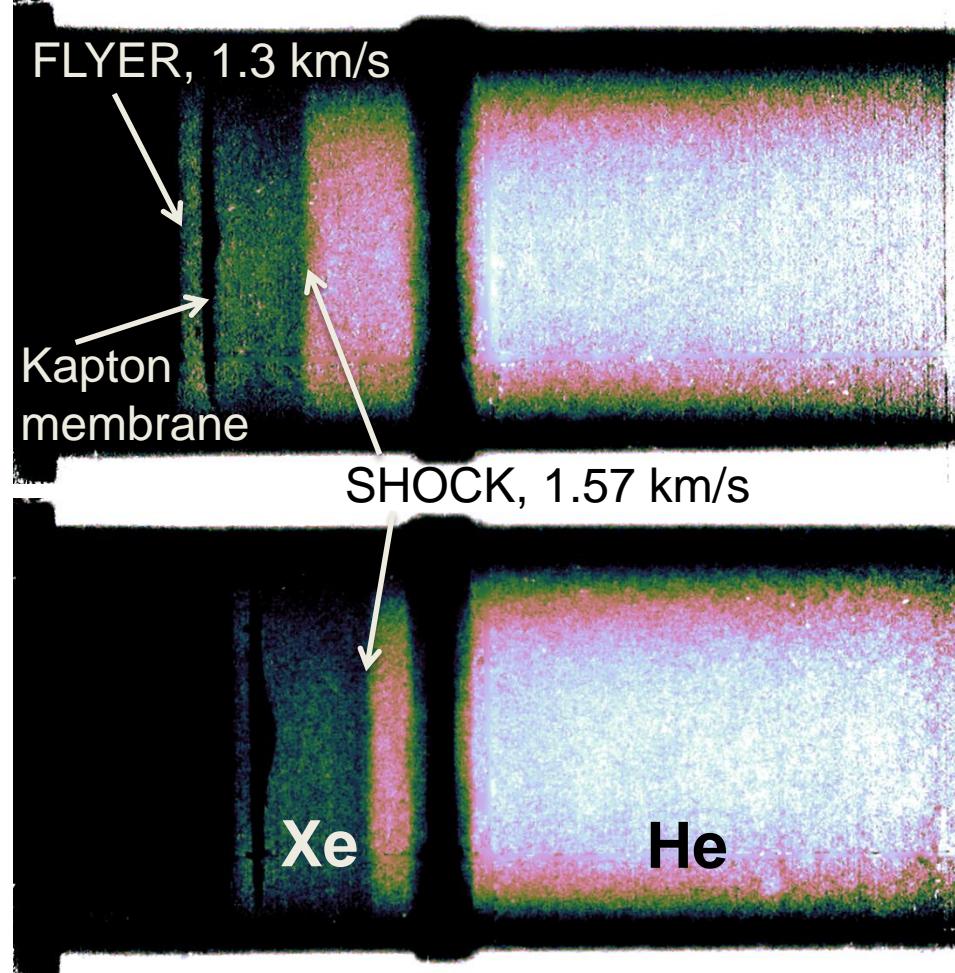
# Proton radiography is used to image the mix width induced by various initial conditions



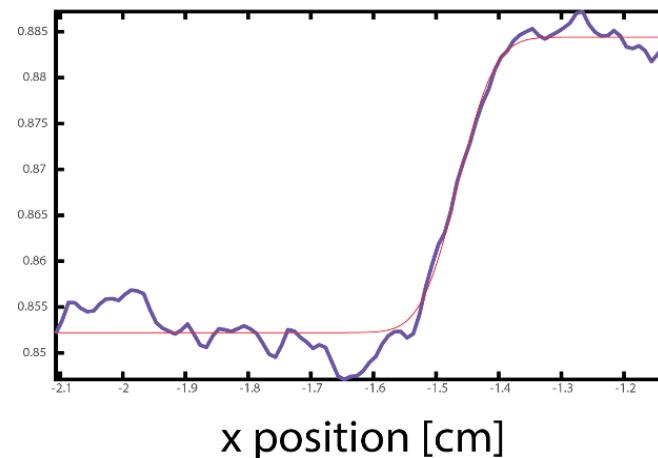
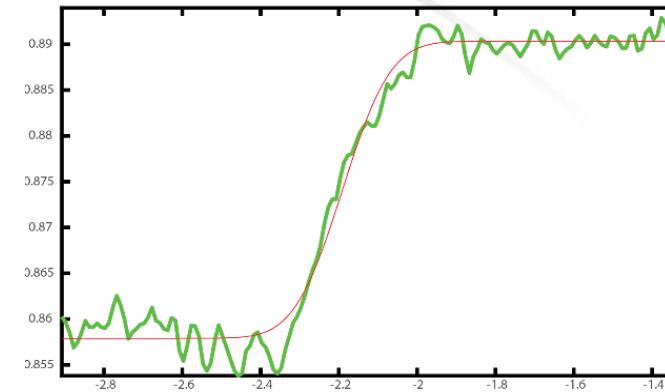
- Protons are absorbed by the xenon, but pass through helium
  - Provides contrast imaging between two gases
  - Highlights regions of mixing
- Initial conditions are set by membrane
  - 3D printed
  - Covered with Aluminized Mylar



# Proton Radiography (pRad) provides shock speed and density jump



Transmission lineouts to determine shock position & speed



$$\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} = \frac{(\gamma + 1)M^2}{2 + (\gamma - 1)M^2}$$

$$\gamma = 1.651$$

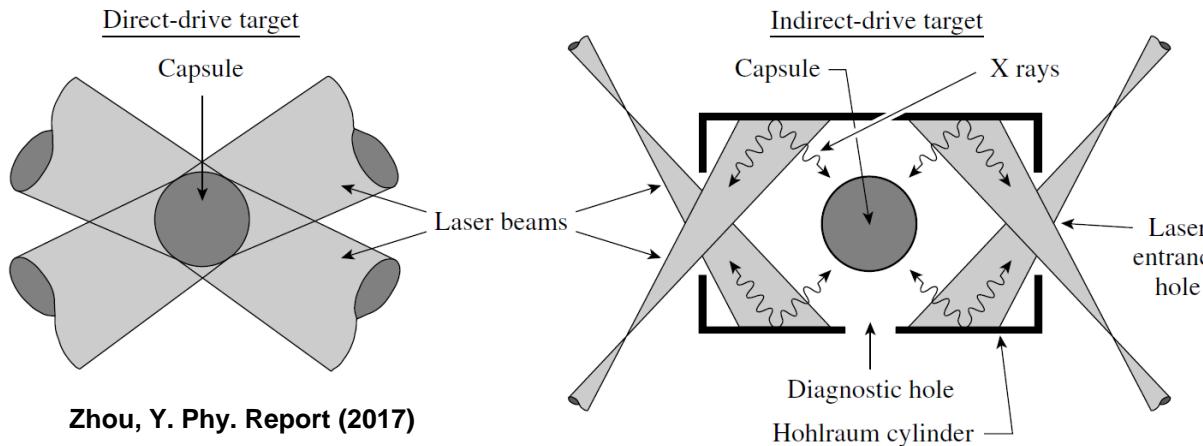
$$M = 8.78$$

$$\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} = 3.92$$

Slide courtesy of  
Kathy Prestridge

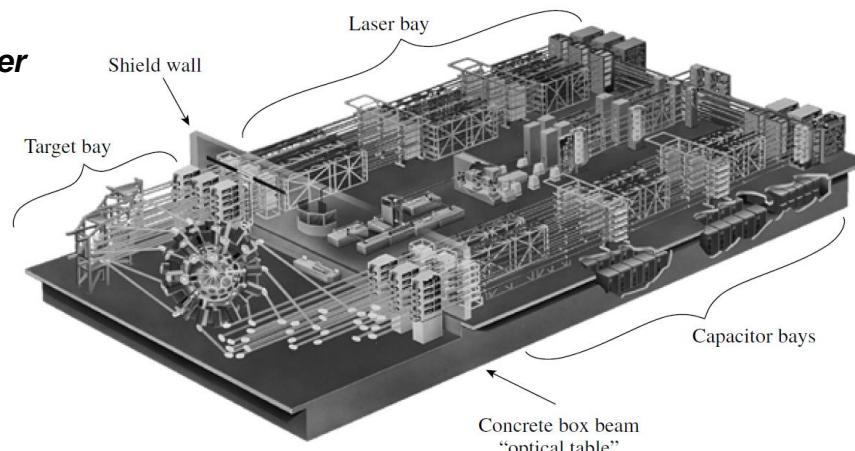
$\Delta t = 5 \mu\text{s}$ . pRad pulse width=200 ns

# HED physics uses high power lasers to drive shocks

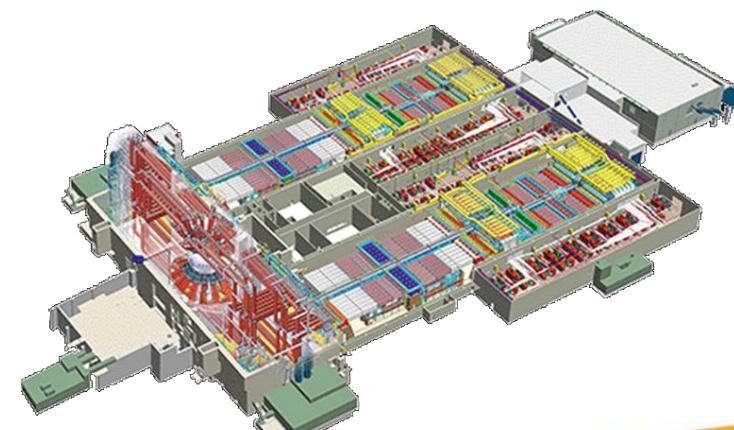


Zhou, Y. *Phy. Report* (2017)

OMEGA 60 uses direct drive to apply up to 30 kJ in a 1 ns pulse



NIF uses indirect drive with up to 192 laser to apply up to 2 MJ

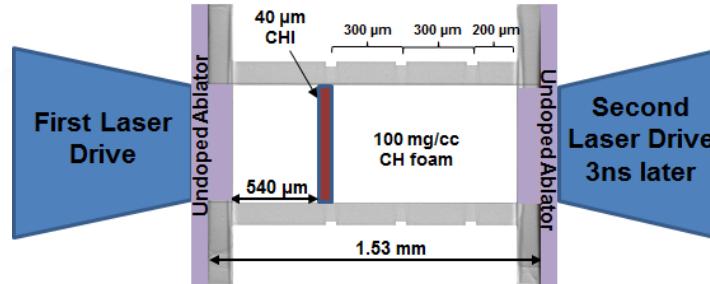


<https://lasers.llnl.gov/about/what-is-nif>

[www.lle.rochester.edu/](http://www.lle.rochester.edu/)

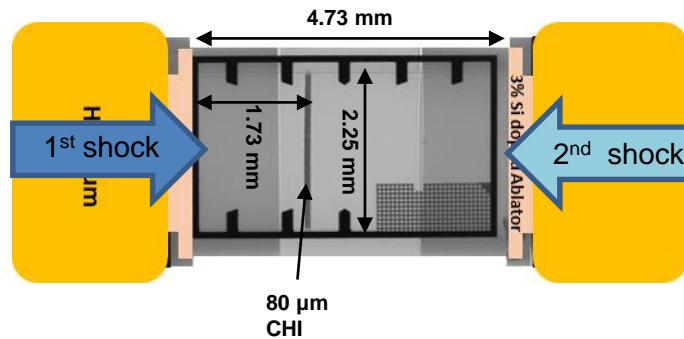
# Mshock is studying the RMI in an HED physics regime

Typical OMEGA Setup  
Experiment lasts ~16 ns



Current NIF Setup

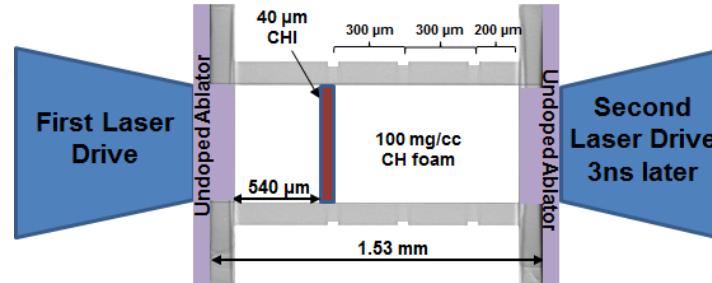
Experiment lasts ~30 ns



- Shock tube dimensions:
  - OMEGA: 0.5 mm diameter, 1.53 mm length
  - NIF: 2.25 mm, 4.73 mm length
- Driven two separate laser sources
  - High control of timing between shock and re-shock
- Shock speeds:
  - Mach number not well known (~10-20?)
- Shot rate
  - OMEGA:
    - 2-3 days/year,
    - 14 shots per day, 2 images each shot
    - Data low resolution
  - NIF:
    - 2-3 days/year,
    - 2-3 shots per day, 2 images per shot
    - Data high resolution
- Target begins as solid, laser drives turns into plasma

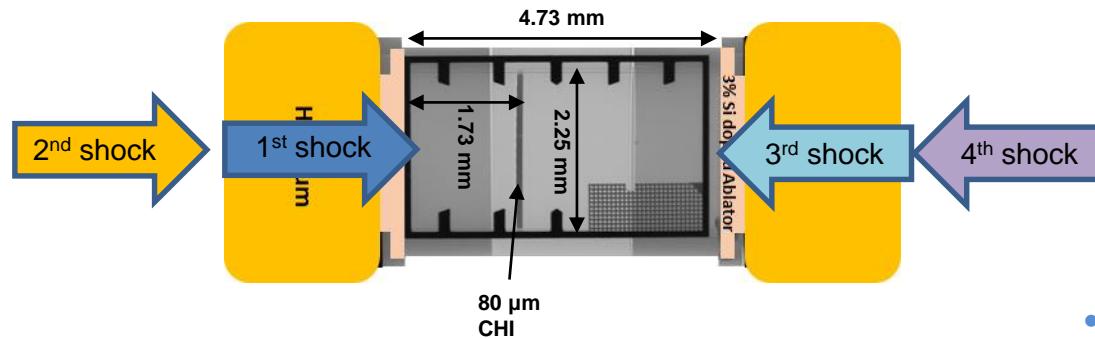
# Mshock is studying the RMI in an HED physics regime with two shocks

Typical OMEGA Setup  
Experiment lasts ~16 ns



Future NIF Setup

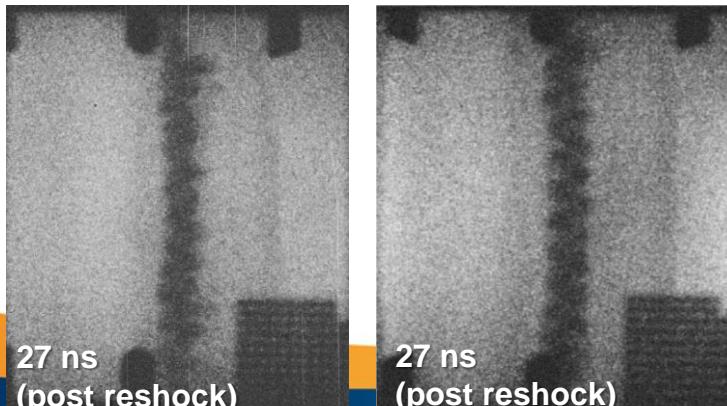
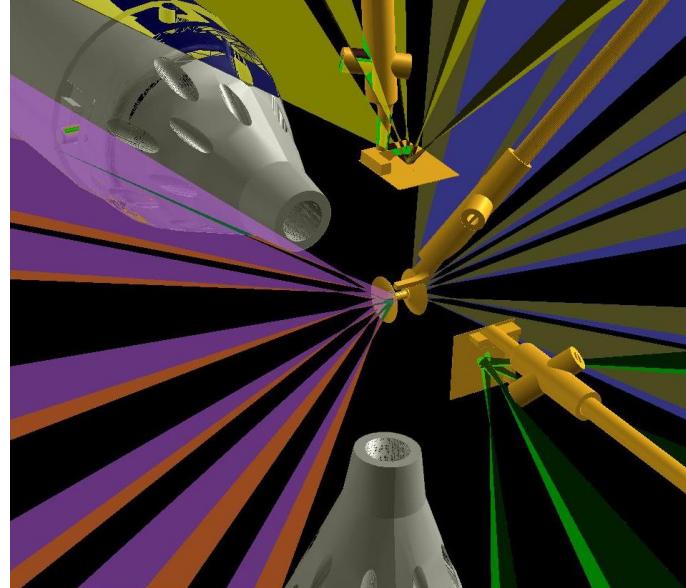
Experiment lasts ~30 ns



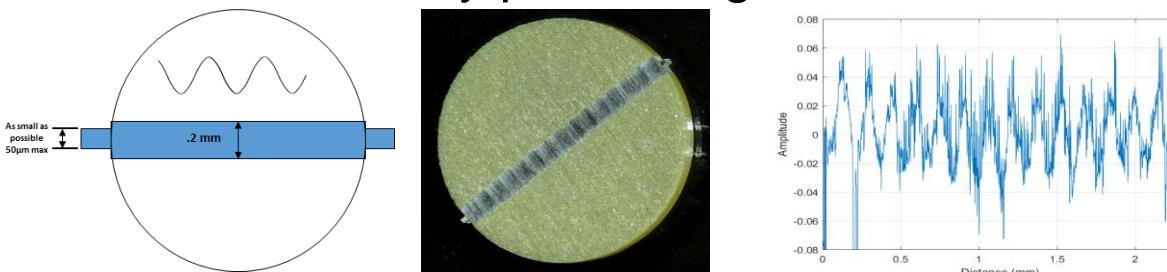
- Shock tube dimensions:
  - OMEGA: 0.5 mm diameter, 1.53 mm length
  - NIF: 2.25 mm, 4.73 mm length
- Driven two separate laser sources
  - High control of timing between shock and re-shock
- Shock speeds:
  - Mach number not well known
- Shot rate
  - OMEGA:
    - 2-3 days/year,
      - 14 shots per day, 2 images each shot
    - Data low resolution
  - NIF:
    - 2-3 days/year,
      - 2-3 shots per day, 2 images per shot
    - Data high resolution
- Target begins as solid, laser drives turns into plasma

Future NIF setup plans to launch multiple shocks (2 per side) to re-shock growing layer multiple times, which has not been tested or compared with simulations

# X-ray radiography is used to image the growth from initial conditions that are precision machined onto interface

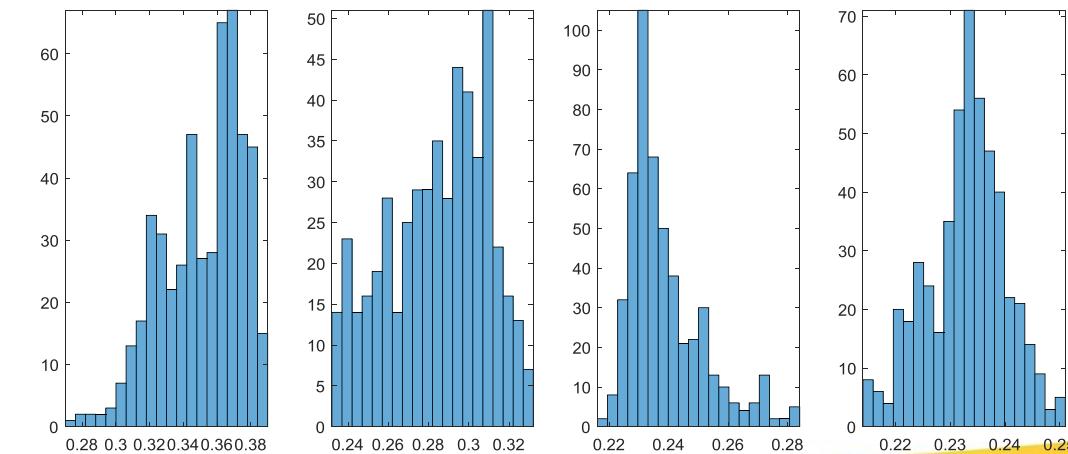
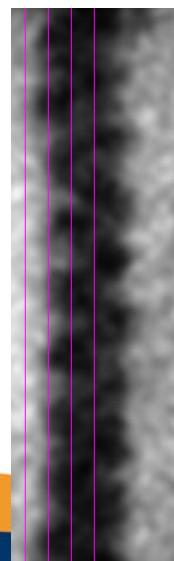
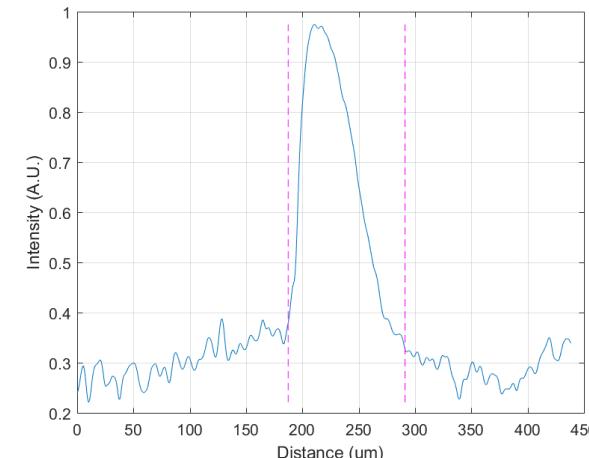
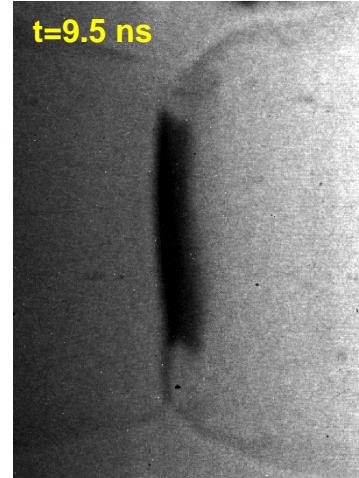


- X-rays are generated from a laser source interacting with a backlighter material
- Initial conditions are machined onto the interface between low density foams
  - Exact characterization is completed before target completion
  - Can be affected by preheating of the layer

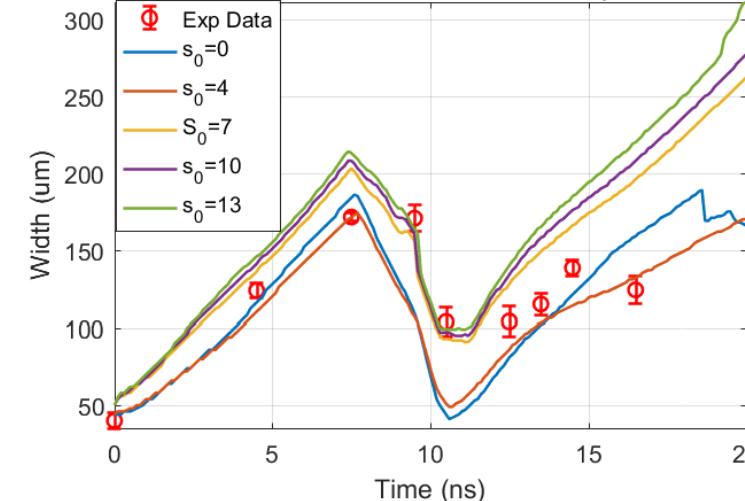


To improve feature resolution we utilize doping profiles to highlight mixing areas

# X-ray radiography gives measurements of the mix-width, but may also be able to give measure of the mixedness



Comparison of simulation results changing  $s_0$  initial condition



Variance in transmission  
may relate back to  
model parameters



# These experiments test our understanding of hydrodynamics over a wide parameter range

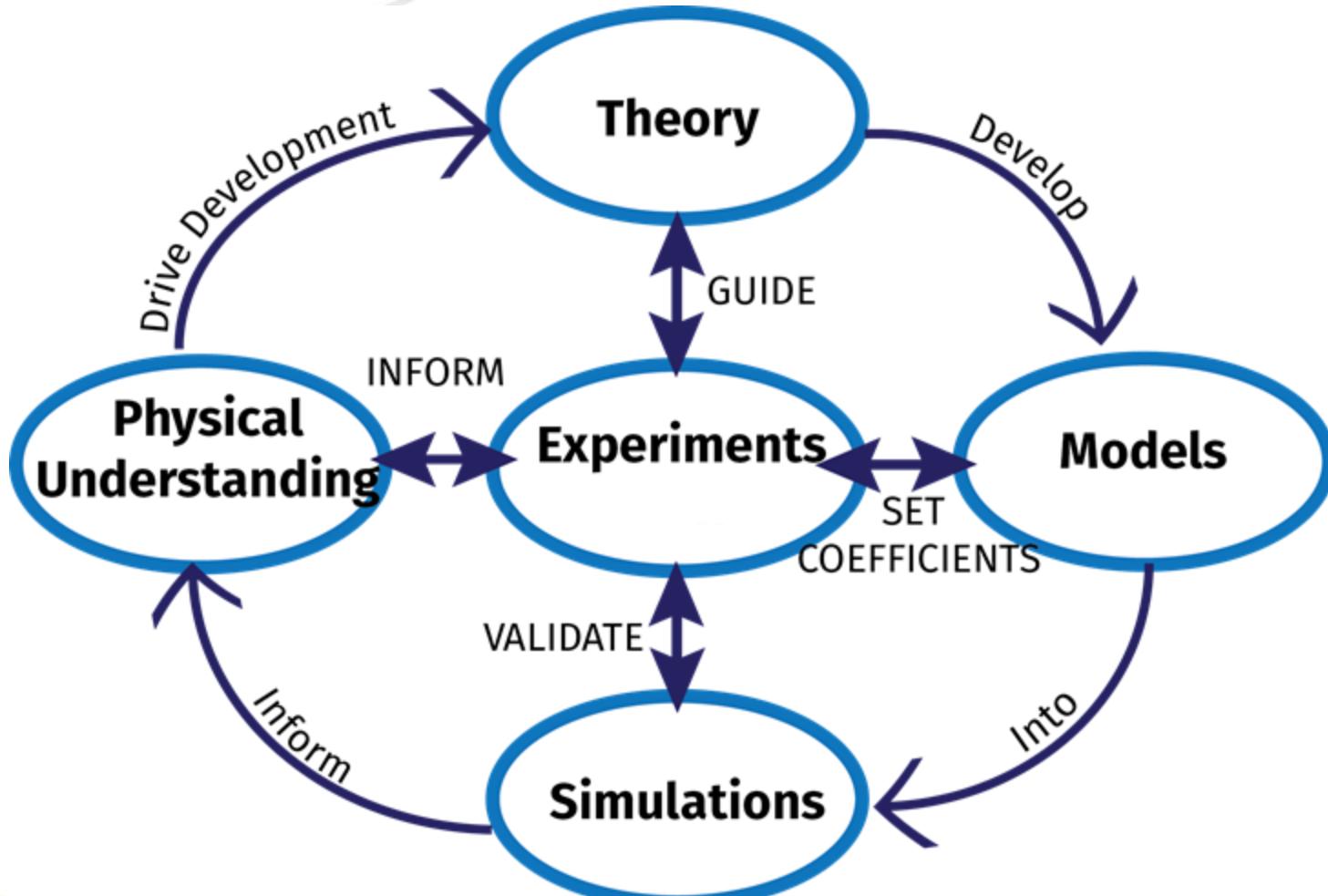
	VST	pRAD	Mshock
<b>Medium</b>	Gas	Gas	Plasma
<b>Shock tube dimensions</b>	5 mm x 5 mm square 7m height	6 cm diameter 14 cm length	0.5 – 2.25 mm diameter 1.5 – 4.7 mm length
<b>Time scale of experiment</b>	10's of milliseconds	50-60 microseconds	15-30 nanoseconds
<b>Driver</b>	Piston	Powder Gun	Laser
<b>Mach Number</b>	1-2	8-11	~10-20 ?
<b>Atwood Number</b>	0.67	0.99	Variable
<b>Measures</b>	Velocity Field Concentration	Mix width	Mix Width Transmission → Density?
<b>Initial conditions</b>	Difficult, membranes?	Uses membranes	Easily varied
<b>Number of shocks</b>	1 to 2 (reshock)	1 to 2 (reshock)	Current: 1 to 2 (reshock) Future: 2 to 4





# What we actually do with the data

# LANL has feedback system for developing fluid codes and mix-models



Using a mix-model simplifies the physics of 3D systems, while allowing additional physics of 1D and 2D systems to study turbulence



# LANL has developed the sophisticated BHR mix-model implemented in the RAGE fluid code

Academia → 1970s

2 Eqn model (energy + scale)

Turbulence scale

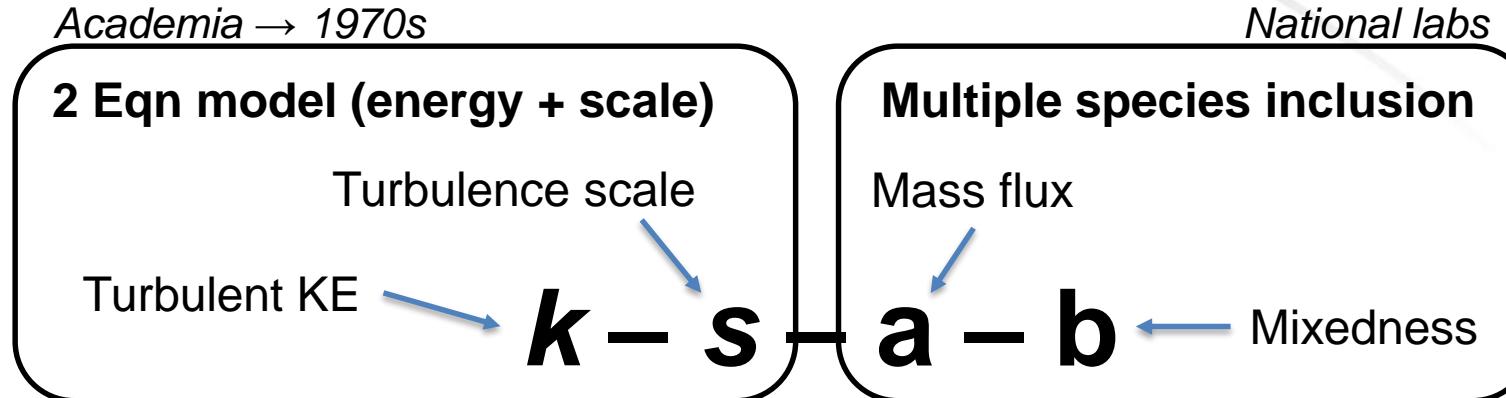
Turbulent KE

$$k - s$$

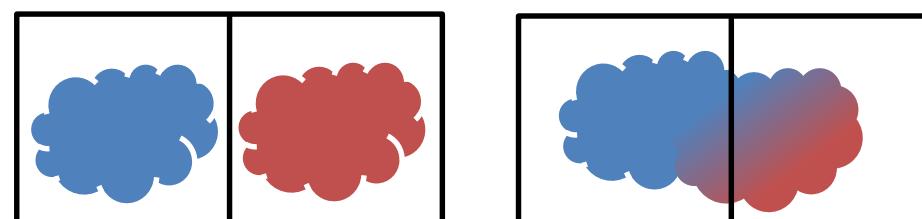
- Academia and industry use two equation model for single species
  - $k$  describes location of energy
  - $s$  describes size of material

Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt

# LANL has developed the sophisticated BHR mix-model implemented in the RAGE fluid code



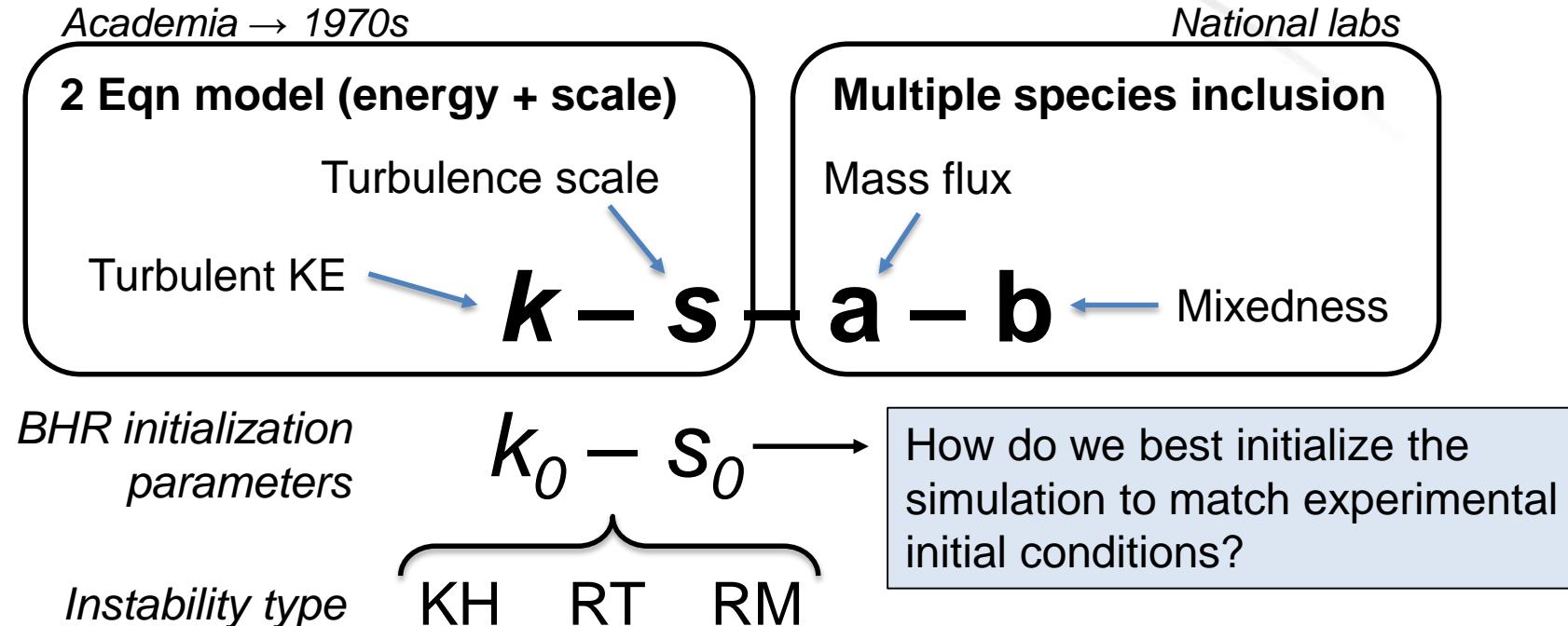
- Academia and industry use two equation model for single material
  - $k$  – location of energy
  - $s$  – size of turbulence
- National labs have expanded model to include multi-species
  - $a$  – movement of material
  - $b$  – mixedness



Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt

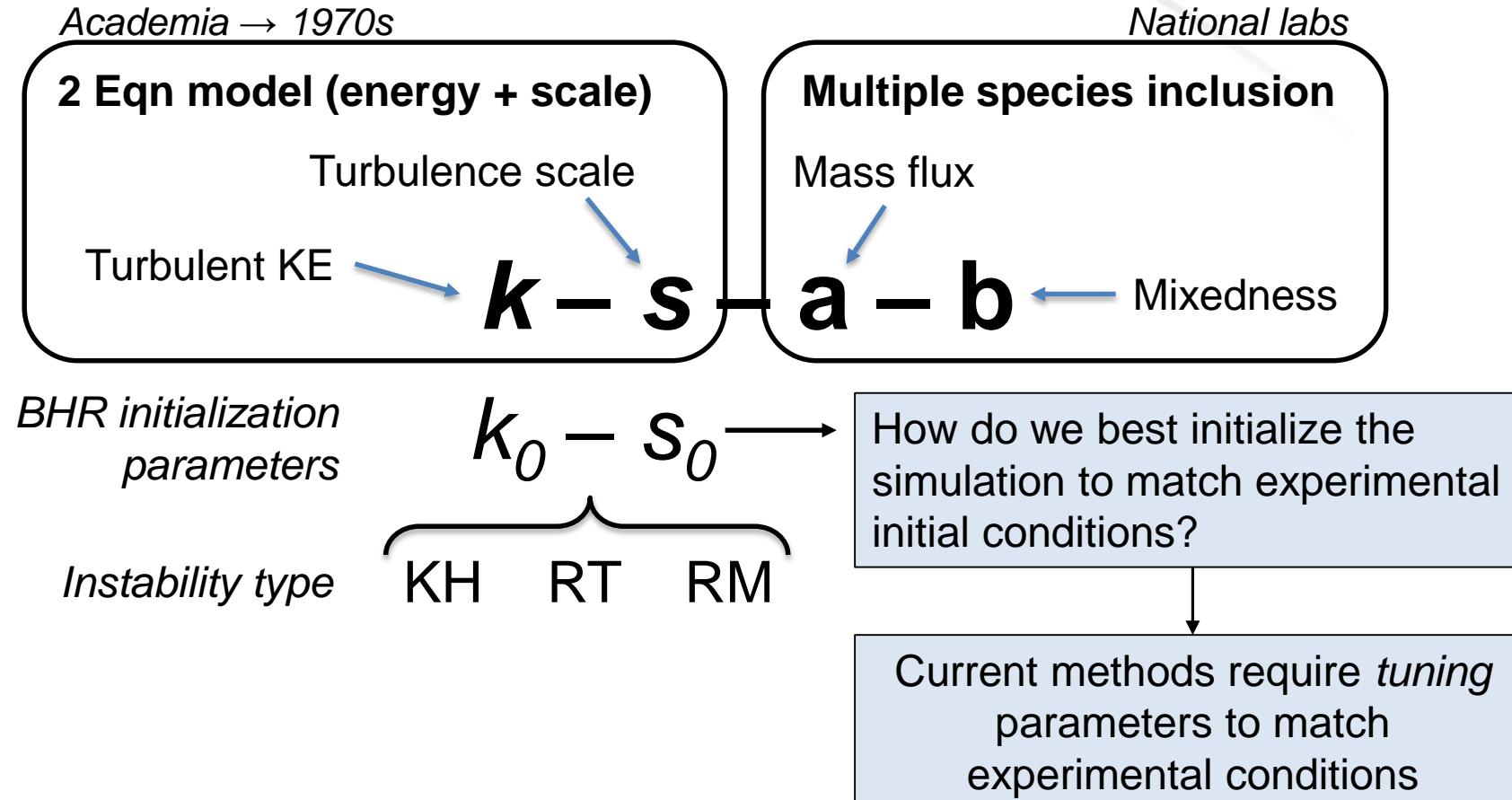


# LANL has developed the sophisticated BHR mix-model implemented in the RAGE fluid code



Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt

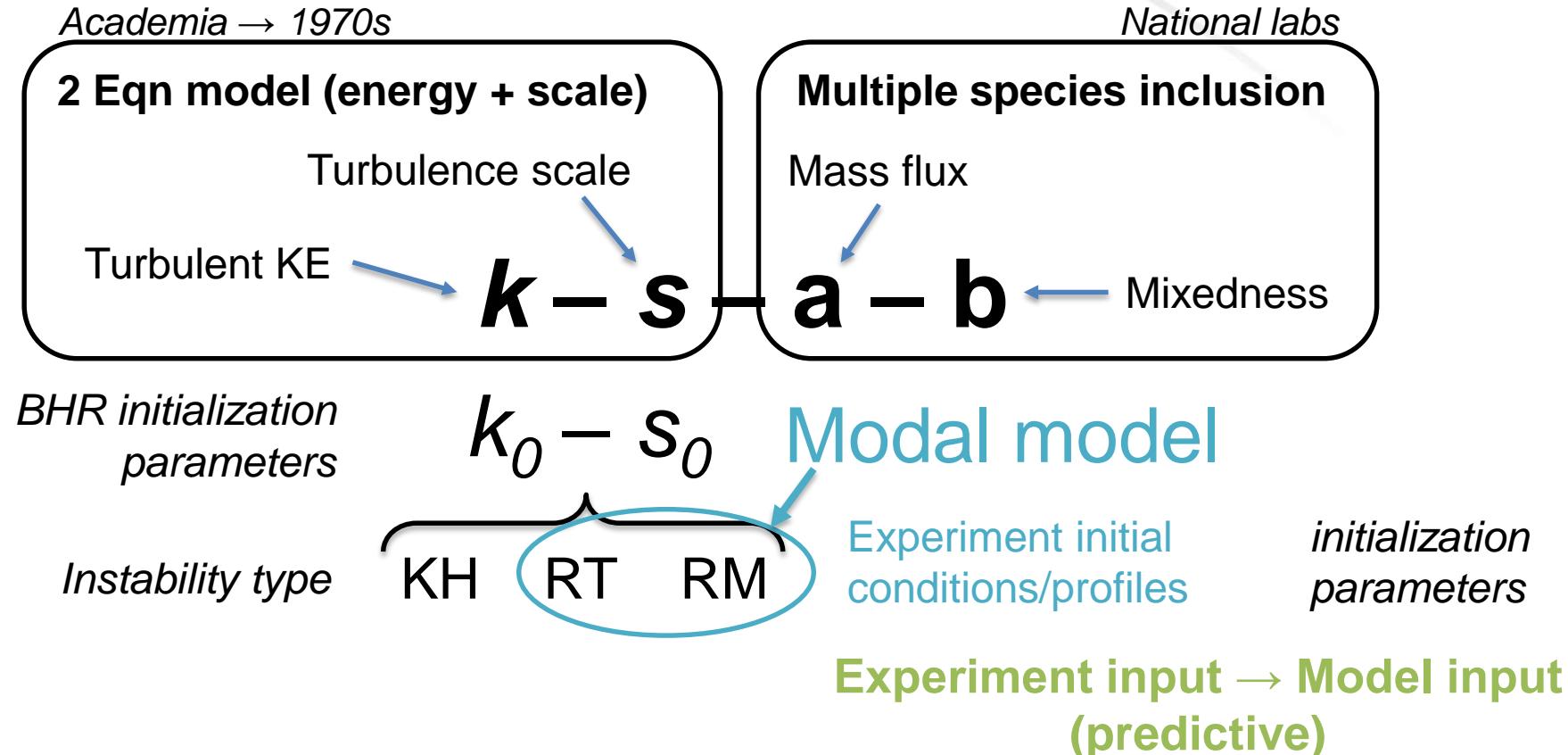
# LANL has developed the sophisticated BHR mix-model implemented in the RAGE fluid code



Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt



# LANL has developed the sophisticated BHR mix-model implemented in the RAGE fluid code



Slide courtesy of  
Elizabeth Merritt



# LANL has developed the sophisticated BHR mix-model implemented in the RAGE fluid code

Turbulent kinetic energy

$$\frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}\tilde{R}_{ij})}{\partial t} + (\bar{\rho}\tilde{u}_k\tilde{R}_{ij})_k = \underbrace{[a_i\bar{P}_{,j} + a_j\bar{P}_{,i}] - \bar{\rho}[\tilde{R}_{ik}\tilde{u}_{j,k} + \tilde{R}_{jk}\tilde{u}_{i,k}]}_{\text{Production}} \\ + \underbrace{C_r\left(\frac{S}{\sqrt{K}}\bar{\rho}\tilde{R}_{kn}\tilde{R}_{ij,n}\right)_{,k}}_{\text{Diffusion}} - \underbrace{C_{r3}\bar{\rho}\frac{\sqrt{K}}{S}\left(\tilde{R}_{ij} - \frac{1}{3}\tilde{R}_{kk}\delta_{ij}\right)}_{\text{Return to Isotropy}} \\ - \underbrace{C_{r1}[a_i\bar{P}_{,j} + a_j\bar{P}_{,i}] + C_{r2}\bar{\rho}[\tilde{R}_{ik}\tilde{u}_{j,k} + \tilde{R}_{jk}\tilde{u}_{i,k}]}_{\text{Rapid Distortion}} \\ - \underbrace{C_{r2}\frac{2}{3}\bar{\rho}\tilde{R}_{mk}\tilde{u}_{m,k}\delta_{ij} + C_{r1}\frac{2}{3}a_k\bar{P}_{,k}\delta_{ij}}_{\text{Rapid Distortion}} - \underbrace{\bar{\rho}\frac{2}{3}\frac{K\sqrt{K}}{S}\delta_{ij}}_{\text{Dissipation}}$$

BHR[3.1] evolves full Reynold's stress model

Turbulence scale

$$\frac{(\bar{\rho}S)}{\partial t} + (\bar{\rho}\tilde{u}_jS)_{,j} = -\underbrace{\frac{S}{K}\left(\frac{3}{2} - C_1\right)\bar{\rho}\tilde{R}_{ij}\tilde{u}_{i,j}}_{\text{Net Production}} + \underbrace{\frac{S}{K}\left(\frac{3}{2} - C_3\right)a_j\bar{P}_{,j} - \left(\frac{3}{2} - C_2\right)\bar{\rho}\sqrt{K}}_{\text{Dissipation}} + \underbrace{C_s\left(\frac{S}{\sqrt{K}}\bar{\rho}\tilde{R}_{kn}S_{,n}\right)_{,k}}_{\text{Diffusion}}$$

Mass flux

$$\frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}a_i)}{\partial t} + (\bar{\rho}\tilde{u}_k a_i)_k = \underbrace{b\bar{P}_{,i} - \tilde{R}_{ik}\bar{\rho}_{,k} - \bar{\rho}a_k\bar{u}_{i,k}}_{\text{Net Production}} + \underbrace{\bar{\rho}(a_k a_i)_{,k}}_{\text{Redistribution}} + \underbrace{\bar{\rho}C_a\left(\frac{S}{\sqrt{K}}\tilde{R}_{kn}a_{i,n}\right)_{,k}}_{\text{Diffusion}} - \underbrace{C_{a1}\bar{\rho}\frac{\sqrt{K}}{S}a_i}_{\text{Destruction}}$$

Mixedness

$$\frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}b)}{\partial t} + (\bar{\rho}b\tilde{u}_k)_{,k} = -\underbrace{2(b+1)a_k\bar{\rho}_{,k}}_{\text{Production}} + \underbrace{2\bar{\rho}a_k b_{,k}}_{\text{Redistribution}} + \underbrace{\bar{\rho}^2 C_b\left(\frac{S}{\bar{\rho}\sqrt{K}}\tilde{R}_{mn}b_{,n}\right)_{,m}}_{\text{Diffusion}} - \underbrace{C_{b1}\bar{\rho}\frac{\sqrt{K}}{S}b}_{\text{Destruction}}$$

Besnard, Harlow, Rauenzahn  
"Conservation and transport properties of turbulence with large density variations" LA-10911-MS

Schwarzkopf et al. *JoT* (2011),  
*Flow Turb. Comb* (2016)



# Summary: LANL is in a unique position to perform scaled hydrodynamic experiments

- Fluid, HED and shock physics are important for:
  - understanding astrophysical phenomena and ICF
  - furthering our understanding of hydrodynamics
- There are multiple hydrodynamics experiments at LANL to investigate similar physics
  - Vertical Shock Tube
  - pRad
  - P-24 work at OMEGA and NIF
  - Horizontal shock tube (see talk by Ankur Bordoloi on June 20<sup>th</sup> )
- Future work will focus on:
  - generating scaled experiments
  - Comparisons with BHR
  - Comparisons with modal model





**Thank you!**