



Photoionization Fronts on the Z-Machine

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Collaborators



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National
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- Roberto Mancini



University of Texas at Austin

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- Dan Mayes
- Michael Montgomery
- Don Winget

Funding

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Photoionization (PI) Fronts Overview

PI Fronts on Z-Machine

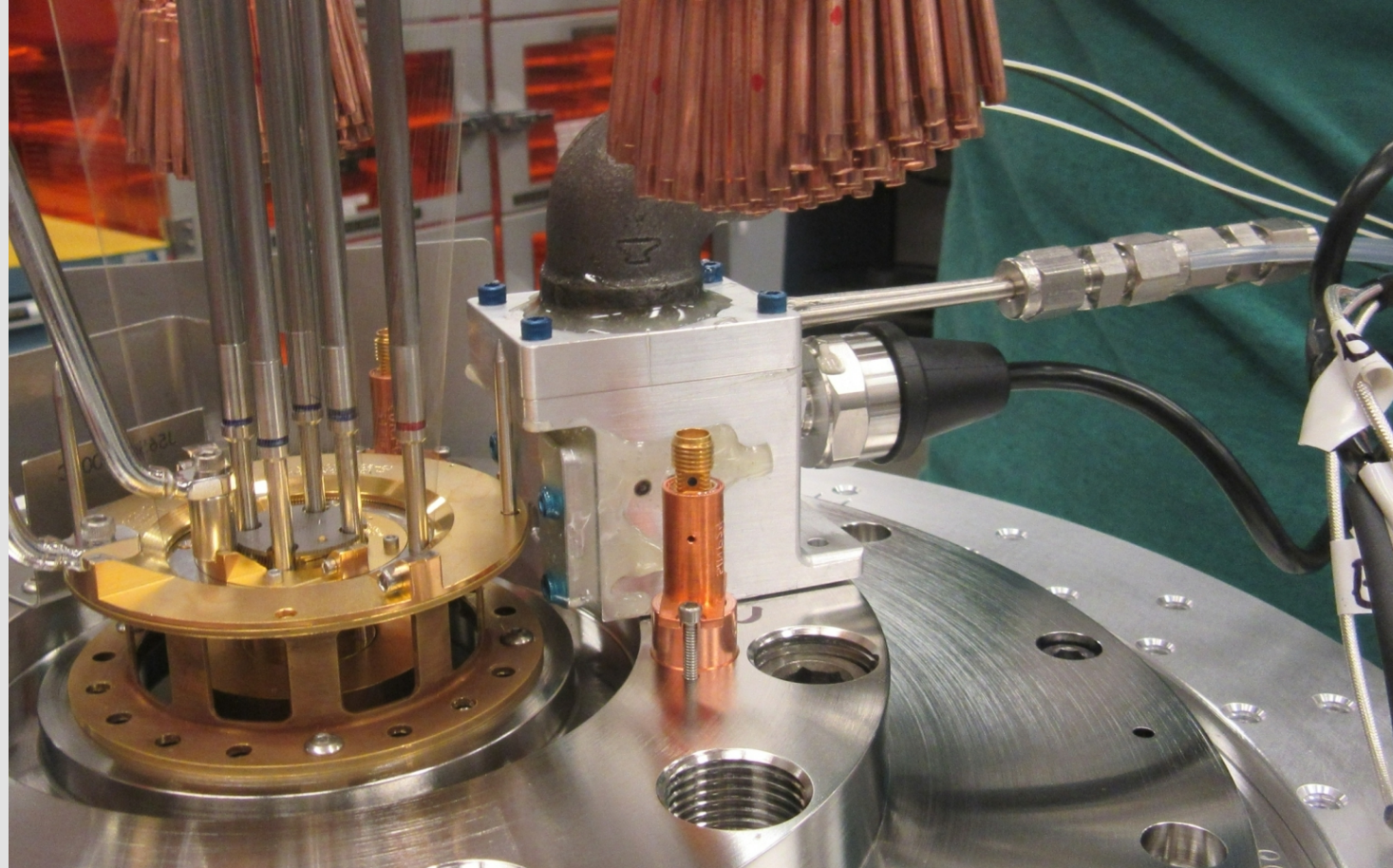
- Astro Motivation
- Z-Machine
- ZAPP Platform

SHARK Experiment

- SHARK Design
- Diagnostics

Future Work

- Gas Composition
- MAIZE



Z-Machine Experimental Setup

Eagle Nebula has Photoionization Fronts in the Elephant Trunks

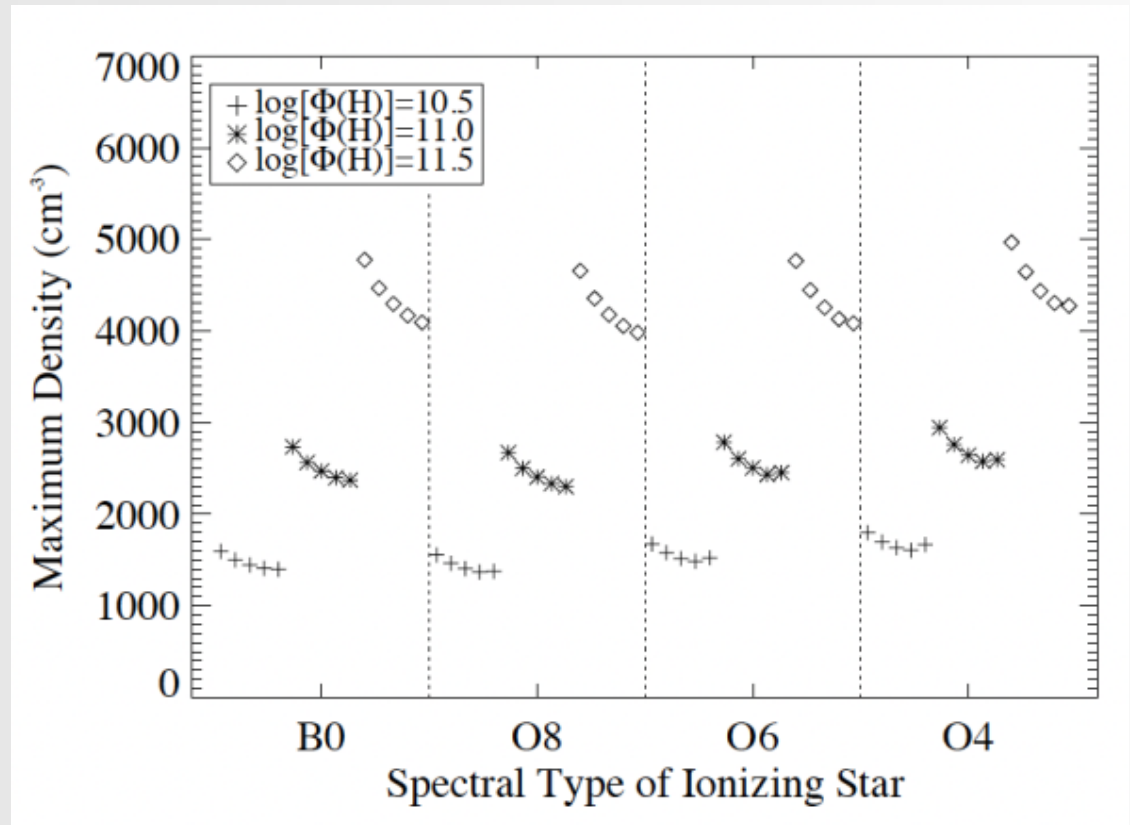
Elephant Trunks located 2,000pc away in M16 Region

- Radiation source distance: 2pc
- $\sim 10^{50}$ photons/s from O3-6 Stars



Density of Photoionization Front Dependent on

- Radiation Intensity
- Radiation Spectra
- Elemental Abundance



Sandia Z - Machine

- 26MA Pulsed Power machine
- Large amounts of energy compressed into small volume
- High Power: 85kV, 26Ma, 80TW (electrical)
- High Energy Density Regime ($P \sim 100\text{Mbar}$)
- Astrophysical Experiments
 - Supernova
 - Accretion Disk



Sandia Z - Machine

PI Experiment on Z Astrophysical Plasma Properties (ZAPP) Platform

Cylindrical Wire Array

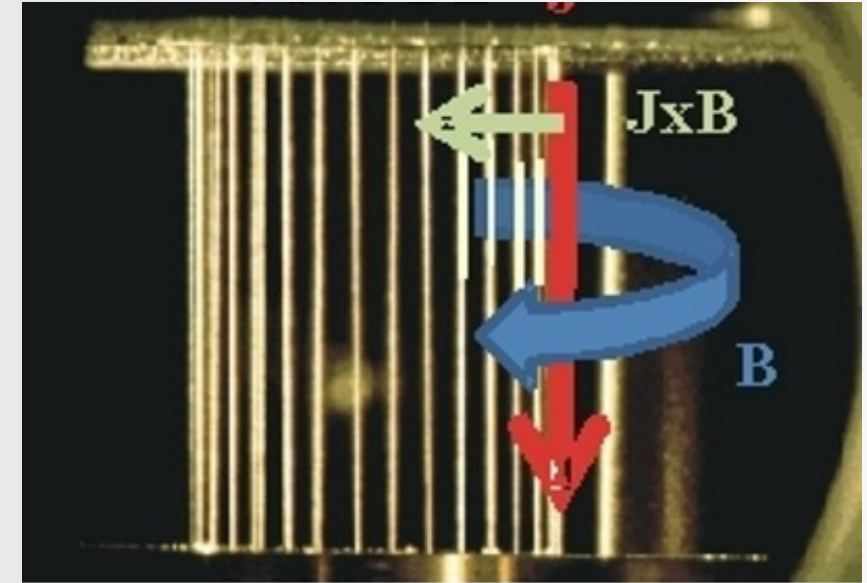
- Radially inward Lorentz Force

Z-Pinch Dynamic Hohraum (ZPDH)

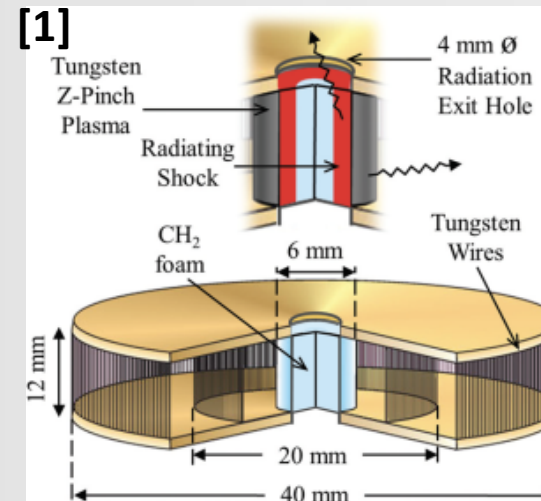
- 240 outer W wires ($\varnothing = 11.4\mu\text{m}$ at $r = 40\text{mm}$)
- 120 inner W wires ($\varnothing = 11.4\mu\text{m}$ at $r = 20\text{mm}$)
- Plastic core (14.5mg/cc CH_2)
- Marx Charge: 20.3MJ
- Current: 25.8MA

X-Ray Emission

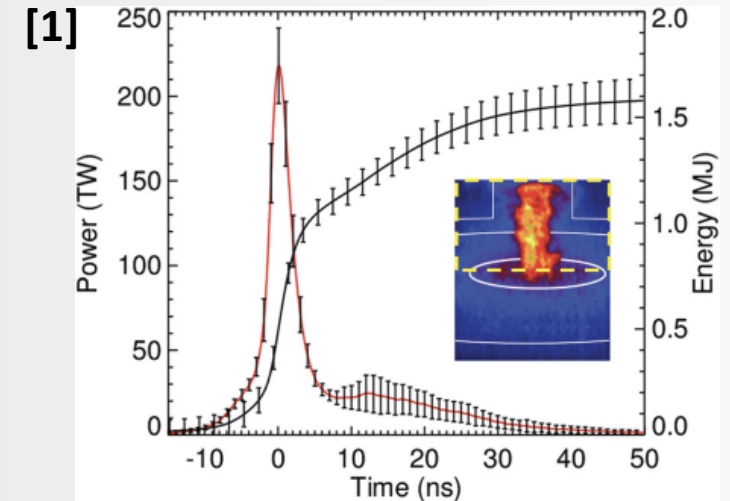
- Total X-ray Energy: 1.57MJ
- Duration: 3.5ns FWHM
- X-ray Power: 218TW



Wire Array (F.Beg UCSD)



Z-Pinch Dynamic Hohraum



ZPDH X-ray Power

[1]

[ZAPP: The Z Astrophysical Plasma Properties collaboration^{a\)}](#)

G. A. Rochau,^{1,b)} J. E. Bailey,¹ R. E. Falcon,¹ G. P. Loisel,¹ T. Nagayama,¹ R. C. Mancini,² I. Hall,² D. E. Winget,³ M. H. Montgomery,³ and D. A. Liedahl⁴

Photoionization (PI) Fronts Overview

PI Fronts on Z-Machine

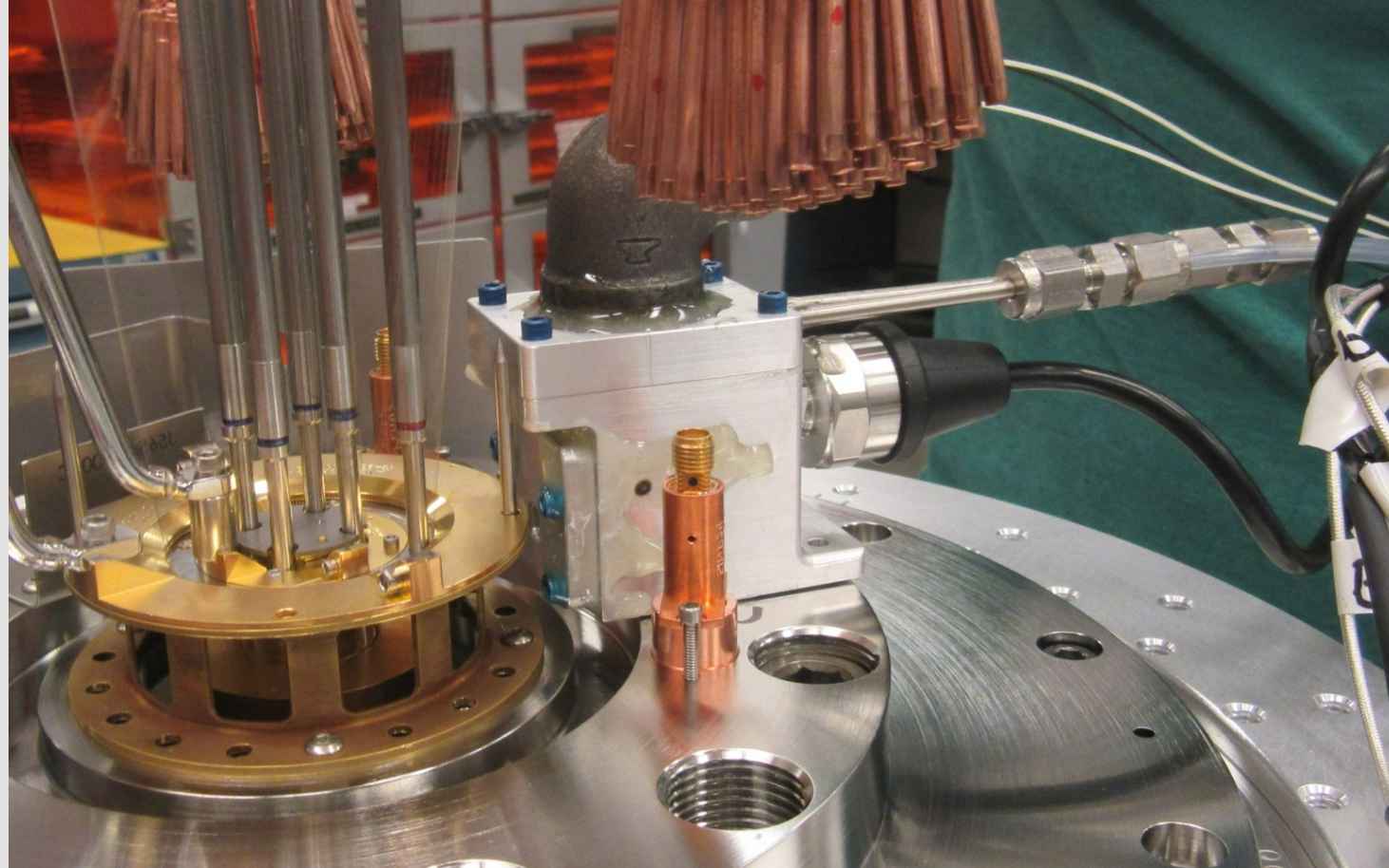
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SHARK Experiment

- SHARK Design
- Diagnostics

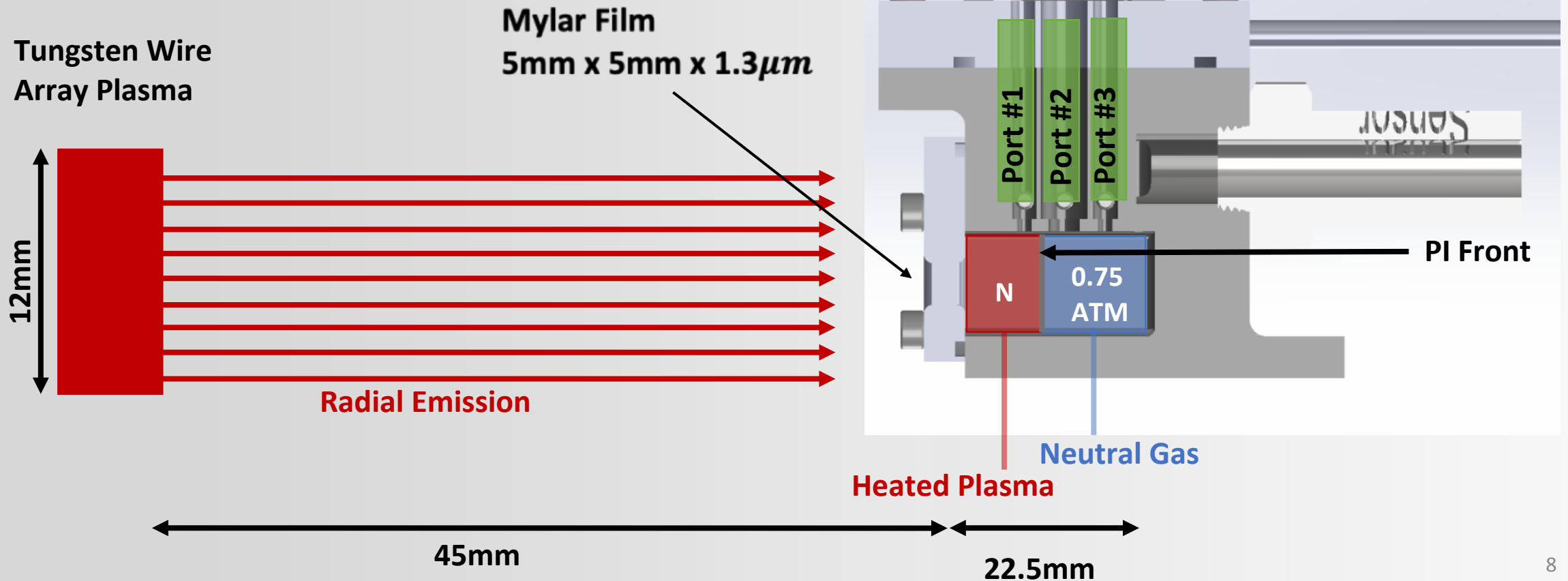
Future Work

- Gas Composition
- MAIZE



Z-Machine Experimental Setup

SHARK: Nitrogen Gas Cell Target



SHARK Setup on Z-Machine

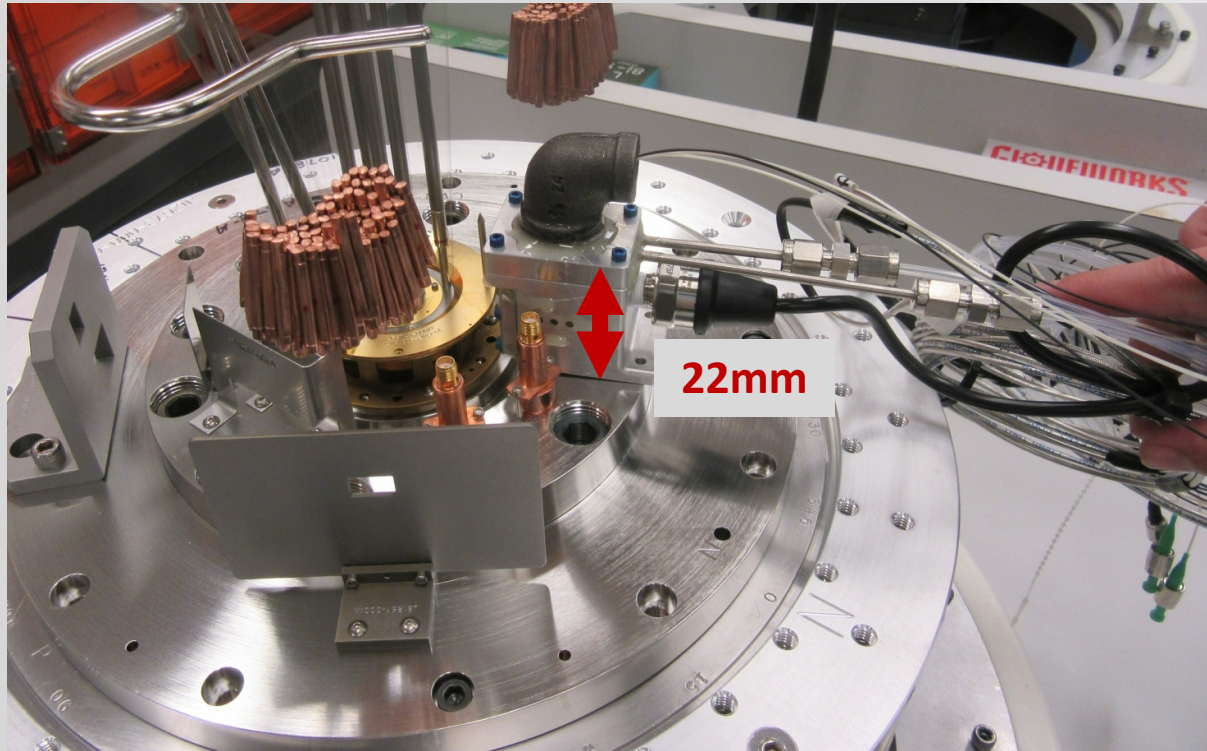


Figure 7a. SHARK on Anode A1078B (Top View)

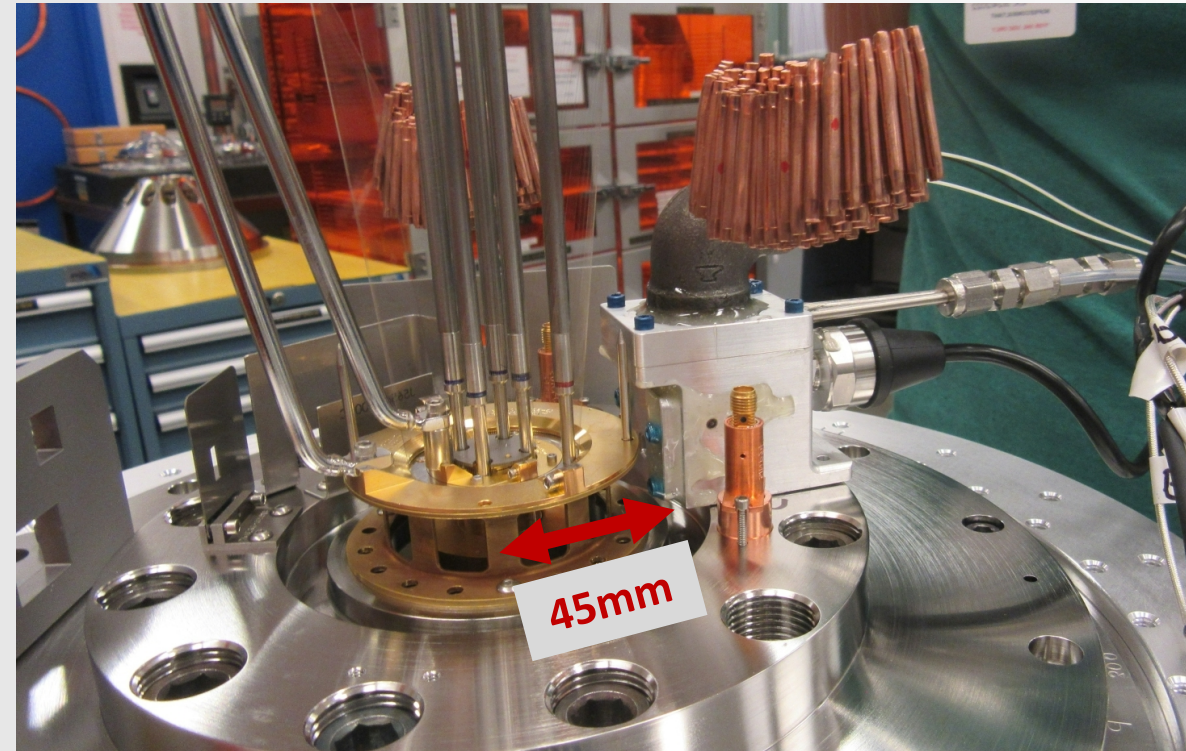


Figure 7b. SHARK on Anode A1078B (Side View)

Shot's unable to be performed due to Z-Machine oil quality issues

Photon Doppler Velocimeter (PDV) Measures PI Front Velocity

Goal: Measure velocity of PI Front

- Measures Apparent Velocity (*v) based on change of index of refraction (n)
- Two Perpendicular PDV Sensors Port 1 & 3

Ionization State:

$$Z \cong 0.63\sqrt{T_{e,eV}}$$

Plasma Electron Frequency:

$$\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{n_e e^2}{\epsilon m_e}}$$

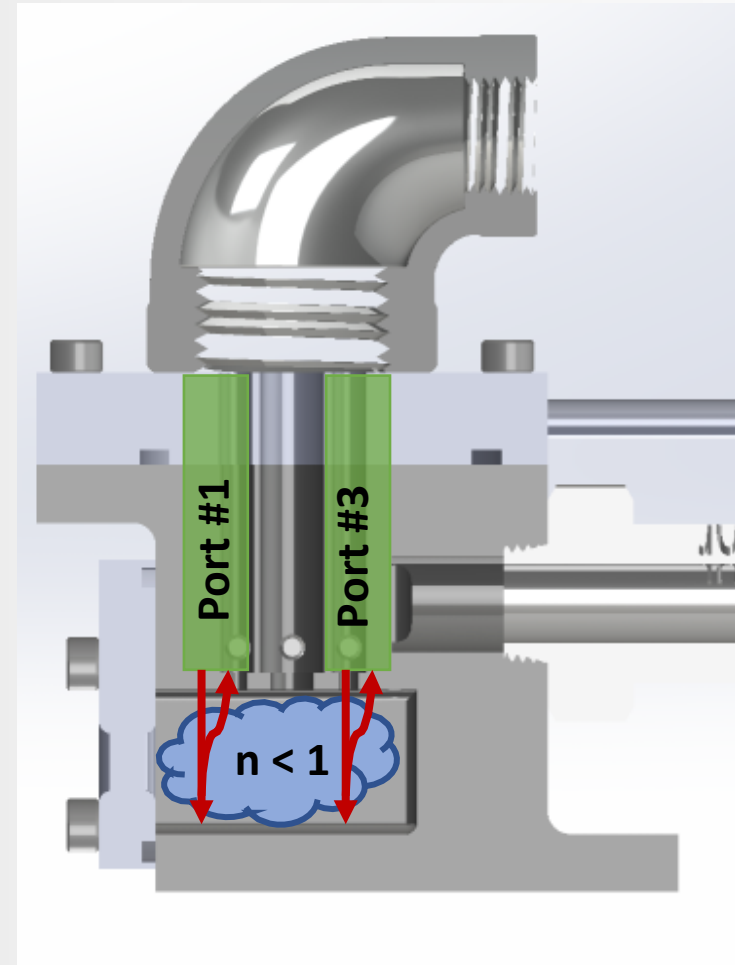
Index of Refraction:

$$n = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_2^2}\right)}$$

Apparent Velocity:

$$v^* = -\frac{d}{dt} \int n(x, t) dx$$

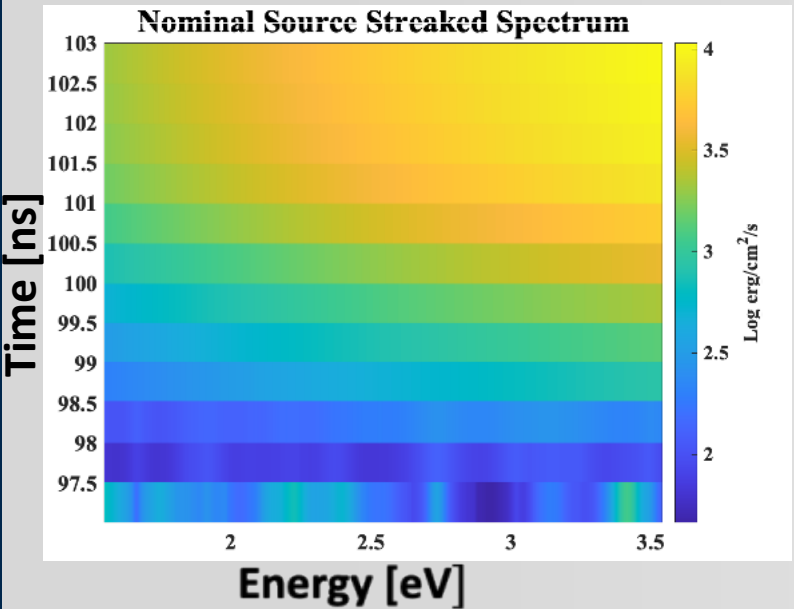
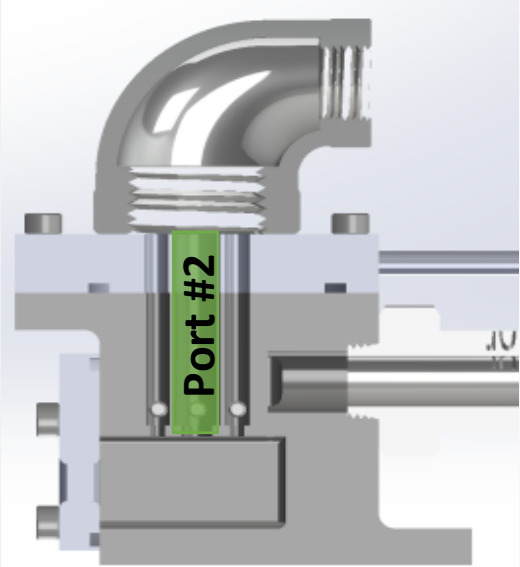
- PI Front Velocity of $\sim 2,100 \mu\text{m/ns}$ will propagate for $\sim 6.5\text{ns}$



Streaked Visible Spectrometer (SVS) Measures Plasma Parameters

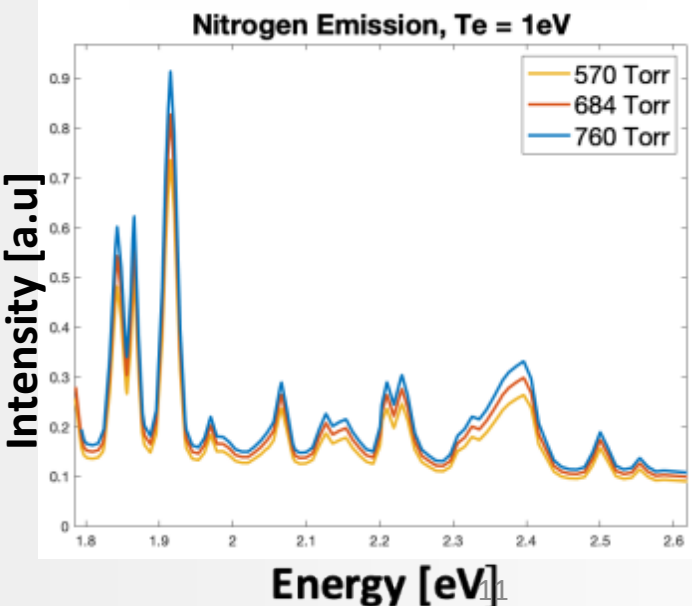
Goal: Determine Plasma Density and Temperature

- One Perpendicular SVS Sensor in Port #2
- Emission Spectra from Nitrogen
 - Line Emission Early
 - Continuum Emission Late
 - Line Ratios to determine plasma parameters



Simulated SVS Output

Wavelength [nm]	Intensity	Probe
410.8	Standard	Density
454.3	Strong	Density / Temperature
522.1	Standard	Temperature
647.4	Weak	Temperature



Visible Nitrogen Emission Spectra

Photoionization (PI) Fronts Overview

PI Fronts on Z-Machine

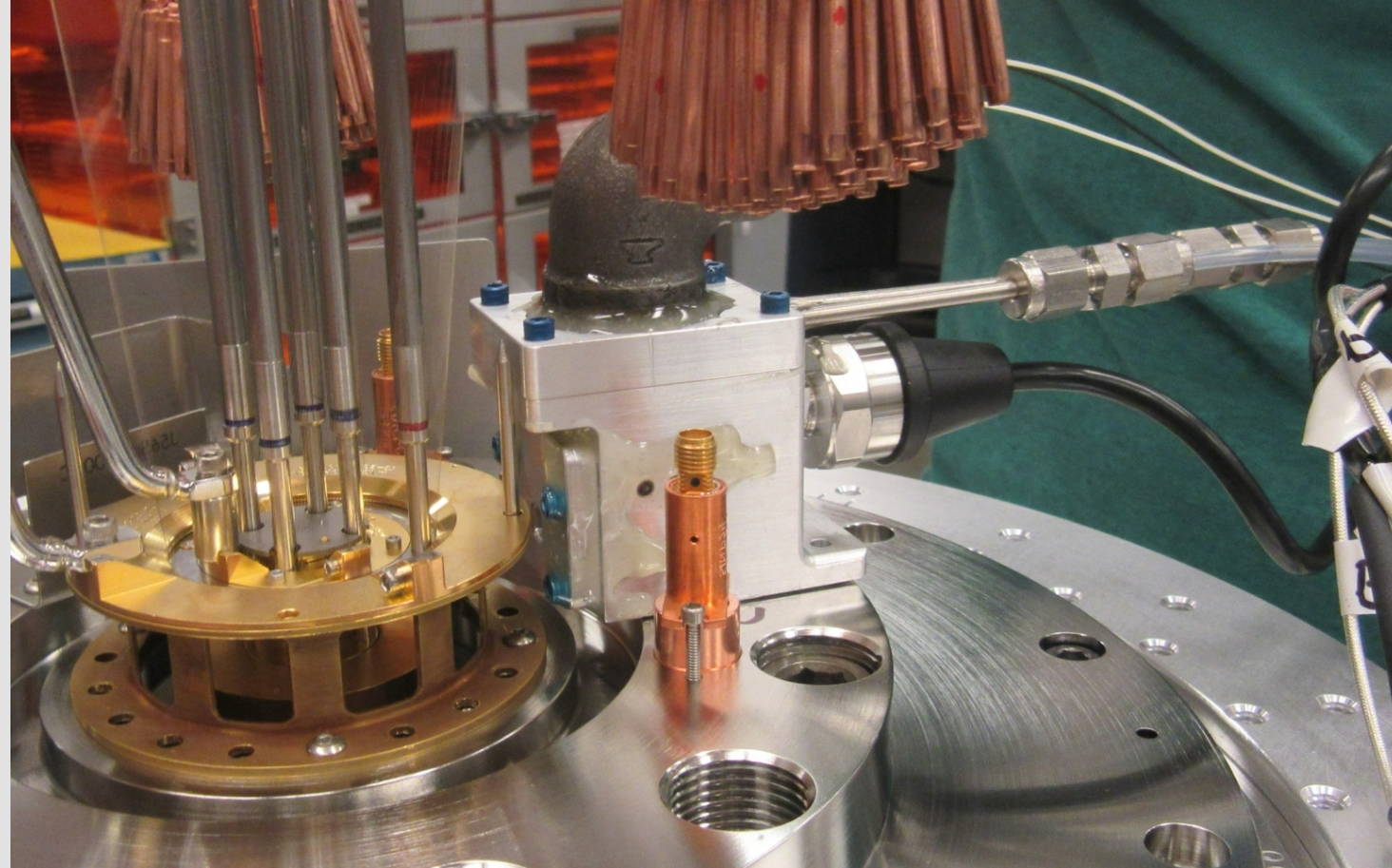
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Z-Machine Experimental Setup

Future Work

Continue Collaboration on ZAPP Platform

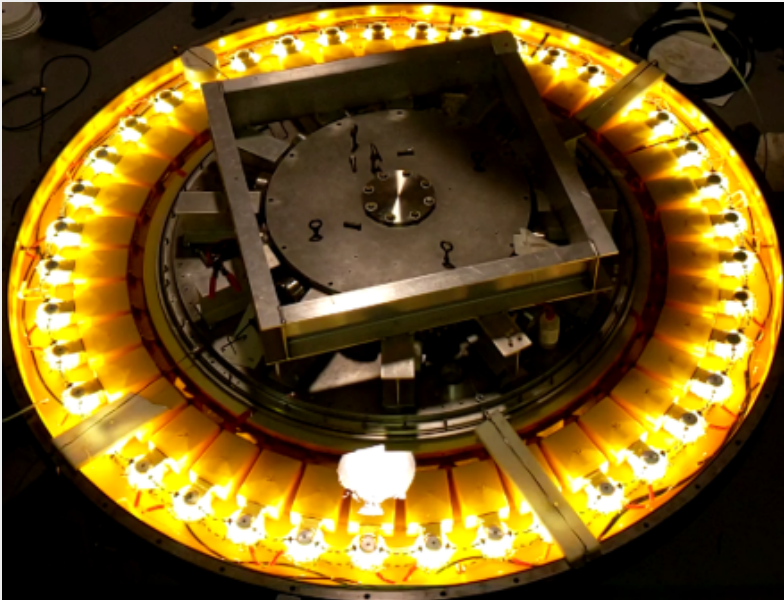
- Refine PI front platform – Less Noise
- High pressure – Sharper PI Front
- Vary Gas– Change atomic mass
- Dopants – Brighter line emission

Additional Measurements

- Transmission/ radian
- Radiation Energy Coupling

MAIZE

- Small Scale
- Photon Flux scaling study

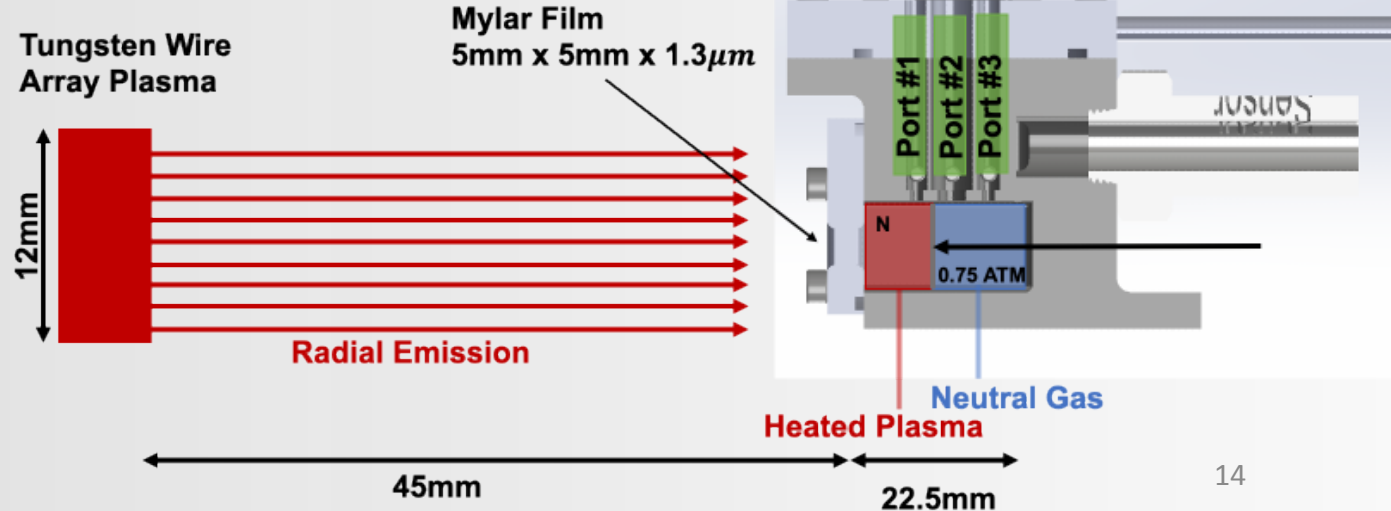
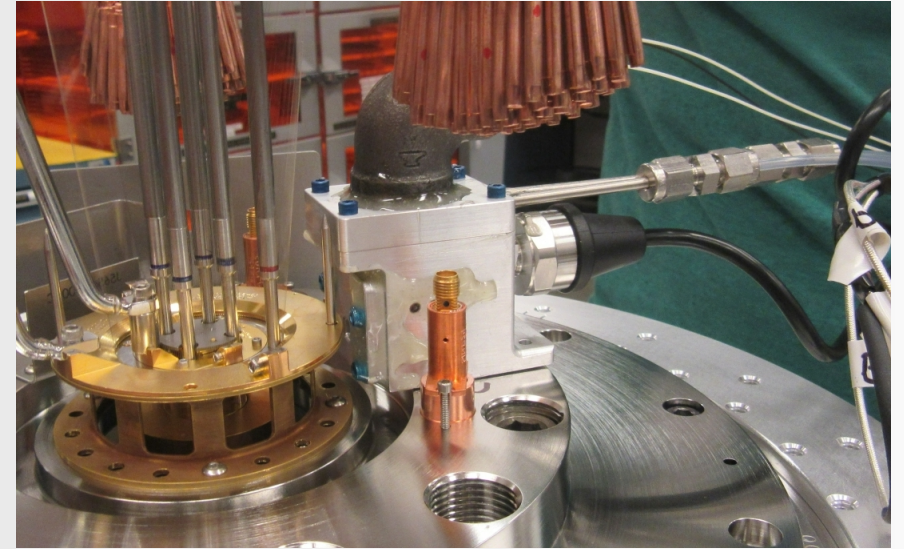


University of Michigan’s MAIZE

Facility	Z-Machine	MAIZE
Peak Current	26 MA	0.25 – 1 MA
Photon Energy	200eV	200eV
Radiative Power	200,000 GW	75 – 300 GW
Standoff Distance	45mm	11 - 22mm
Total Number of photons	4.9 * 10 ²² photons	2.8 – 5.8 * 10 ²⁰ photons
Electron Density	7.8 * 10 ¹⁸ [e ⁻ /cc]	4.6 – 9.8 * 10 ¹⁶ [e ⁻ /cc]
Gas Pressure	570 Torr	23 – 48 Torr

Executive Summary

- The ZAPP Platform on Sandia's Z-Machine offers a unique opportunity to investigate radiation dominated physics
- The SHARK experiment is designed to observe the propagation on a radiation driven heat front through nitrogen gas
- A PI front platform will open many avenues of future research



Questions