

Sandia National Laboratories

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# Current-adder pulsed power generators for high-pressure dynamic material studies

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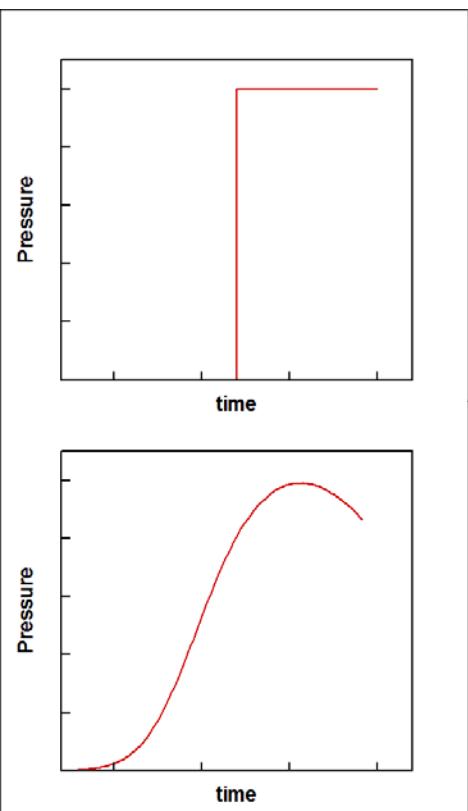
**Presented at**  
**Megagauss 2016**



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# Shock and isentropic compression experiments access different material regimes

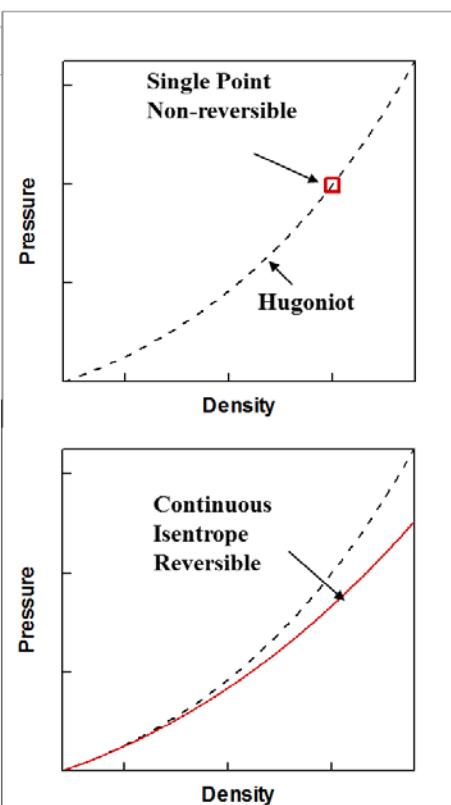
## Pressure Input



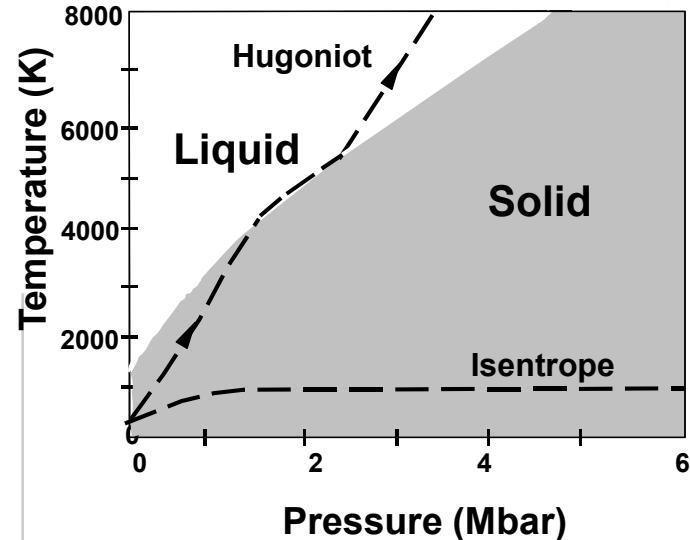
Hugoniot  
Jump  
Conditions

Differential  
Conservation  
Equations

## Stress-density (EOS)



## Aluminum phase diagram



- Shock compression: higher-temperature, high-pressure
- Isentropic compression: low-temperature, high-pressure
- Valuable for Equation of State (EOS) studies

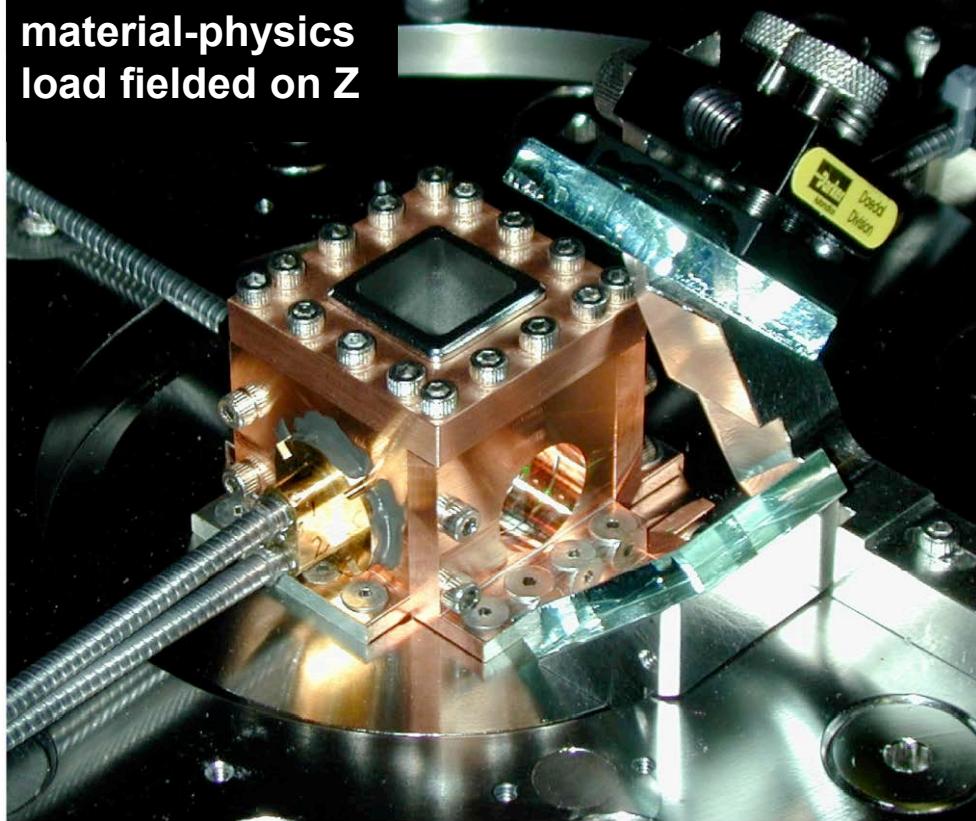
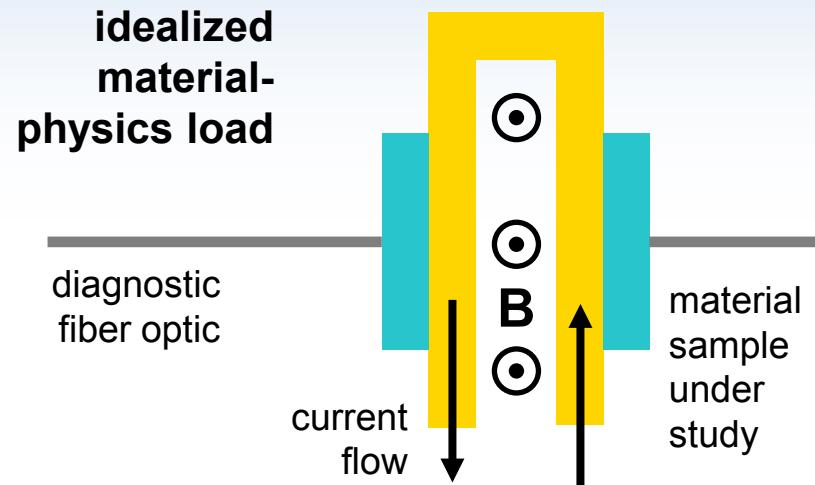
# Z and other pulsed-power machines are used to drive material-physics experiments.

- The magnetic pressure generated within a short-circuit load drives the experiment.
- A smooth pressure profile can be guaranteed by the circuit
- Velocity measurements are used to determine the isentrope

$$P_{\text{magnetic}} = \frac{\mu_0 I^2}{2 w^2}$$

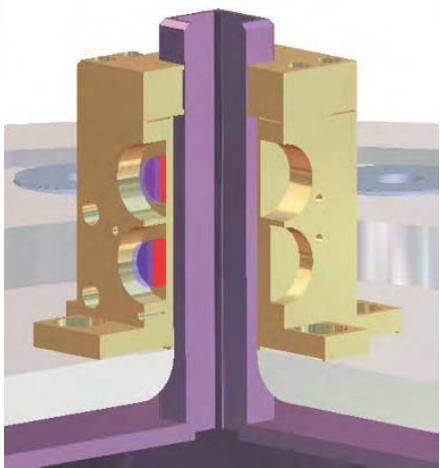
$I$  = current

$w$  = width of the conductor

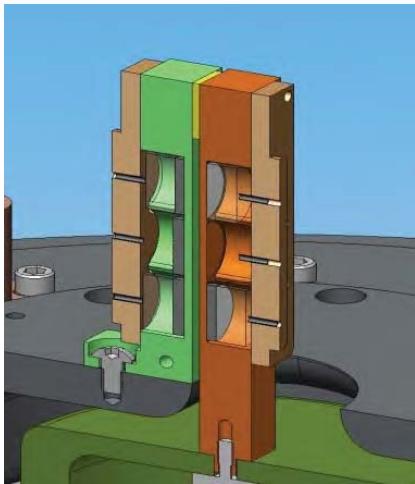


# ICE on ZR have been performed on a variety of materials

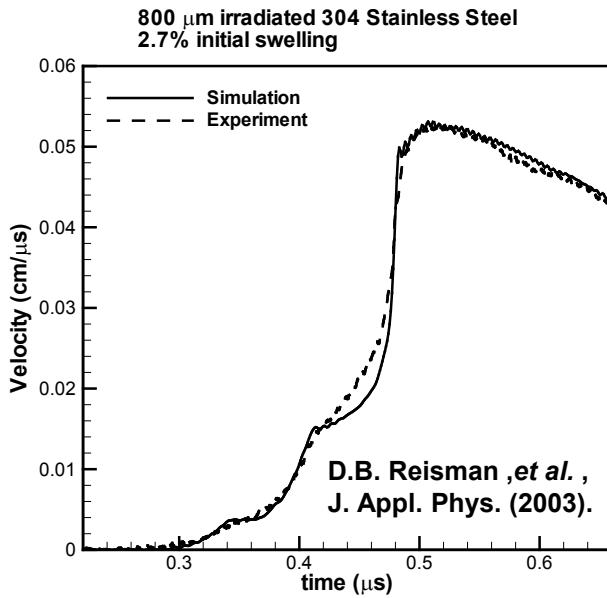
Square Short



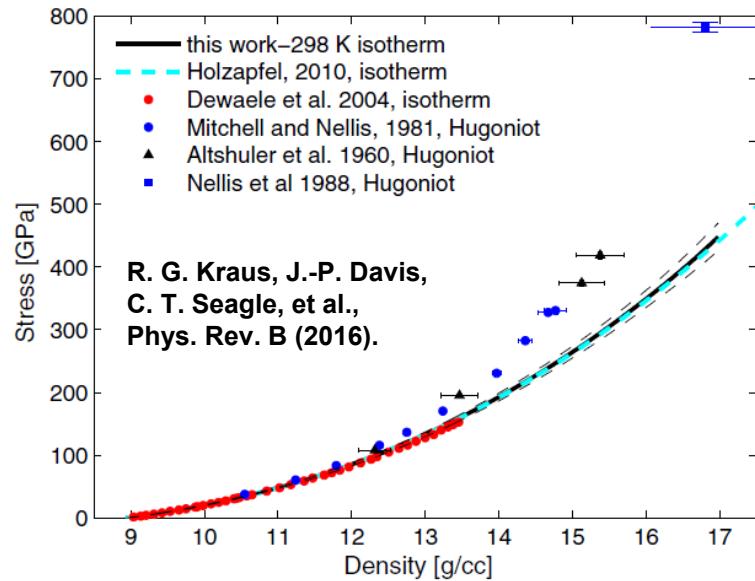
Stripline



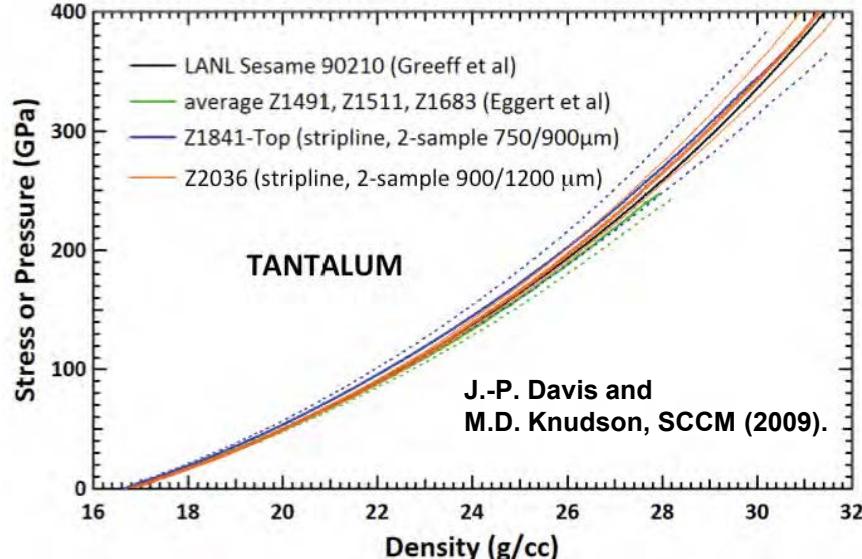
Validated Void-Collapse Model



Copper: 5 Mbar reduced isotherm

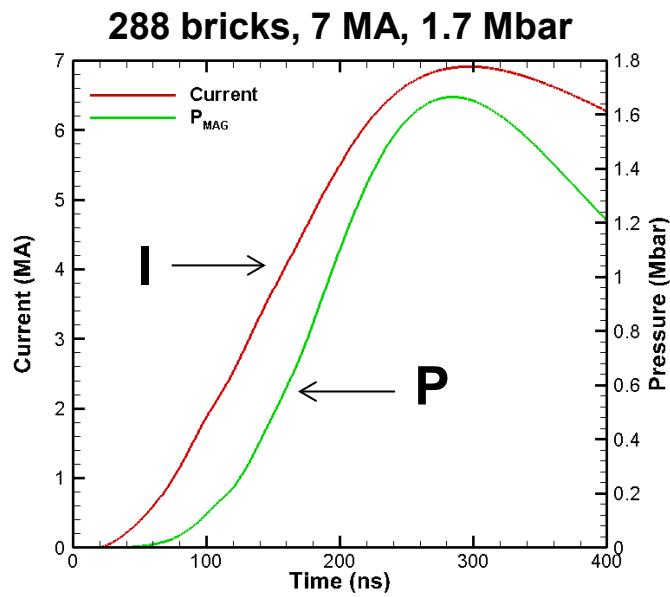


Tantalum: quasi-isentrope to 4 Mbar

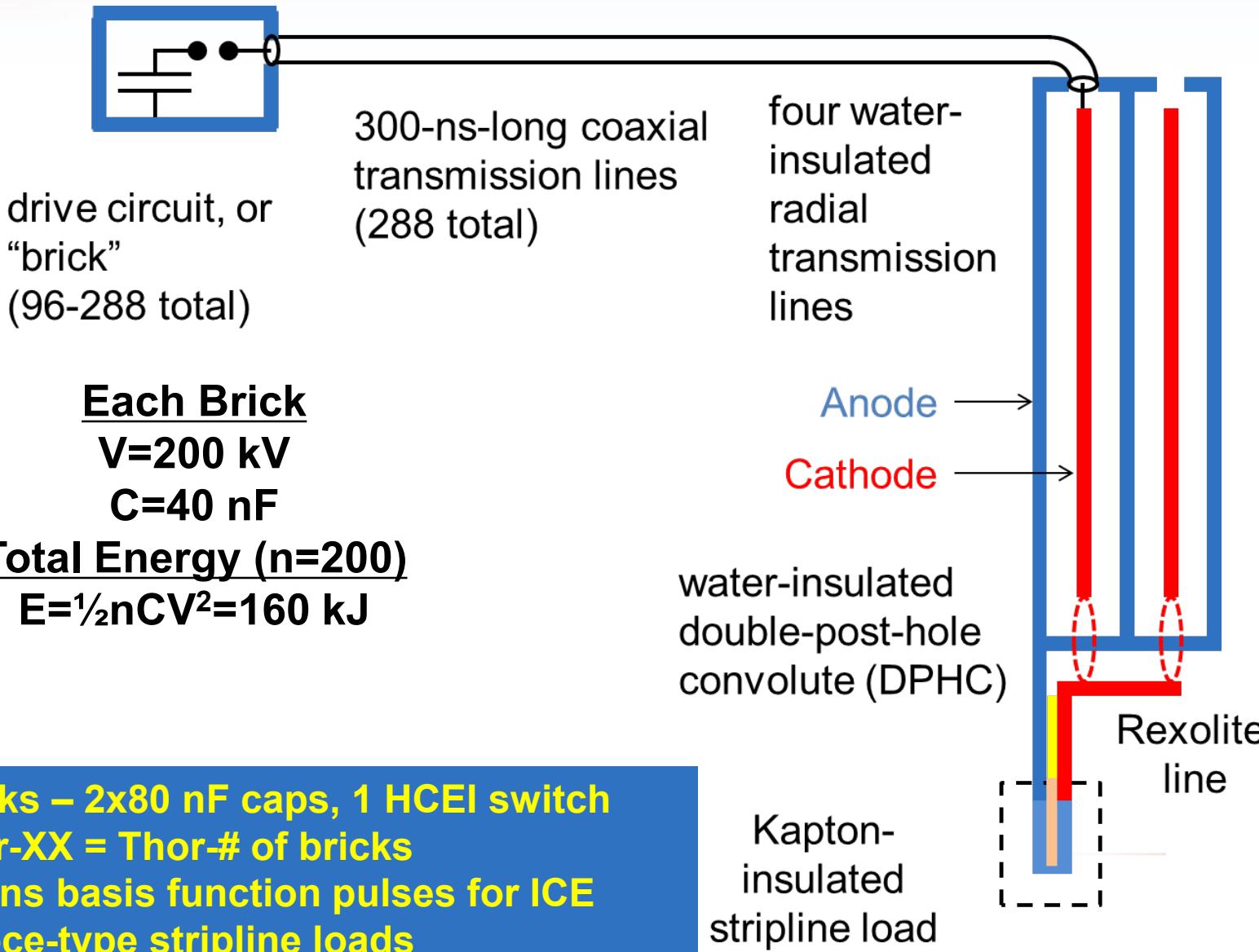


# Thor Specifications for a Megabar-class pulsed power accelerator

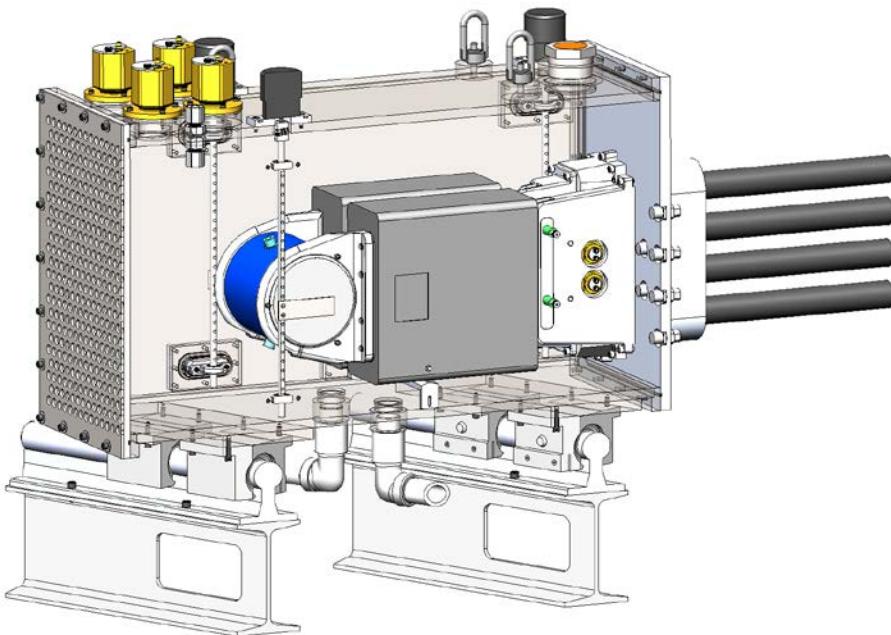
- Peak current: 7 MA
- Current rise time: 200-500 ns
- Pulse shaping through independent, de-coupled switches
- Megabar+ (100 GPa) peak magnetic pressures
- Enables a variety of experiments:
  - Soft Materials: Cerium, Lithium
  - Flat Top Pulse: Strength
  - Shock-Ramp: Iron
- High throughput – 2+ shots per day
- Cost-effective university-scale machine
- Conditions relevant to geophysics



# The Thor concept meets the requirements for a compact, megabar-class ICE driver



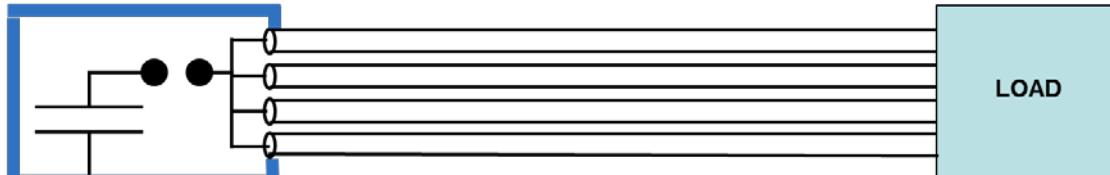
# Each Thor brick consists of two capacitors and a switch



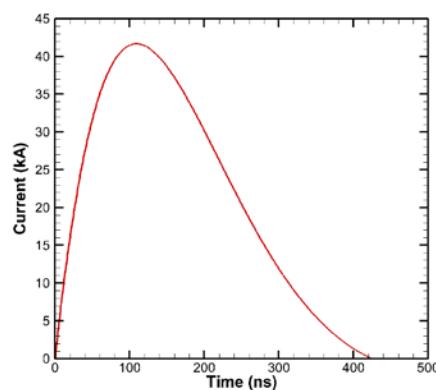
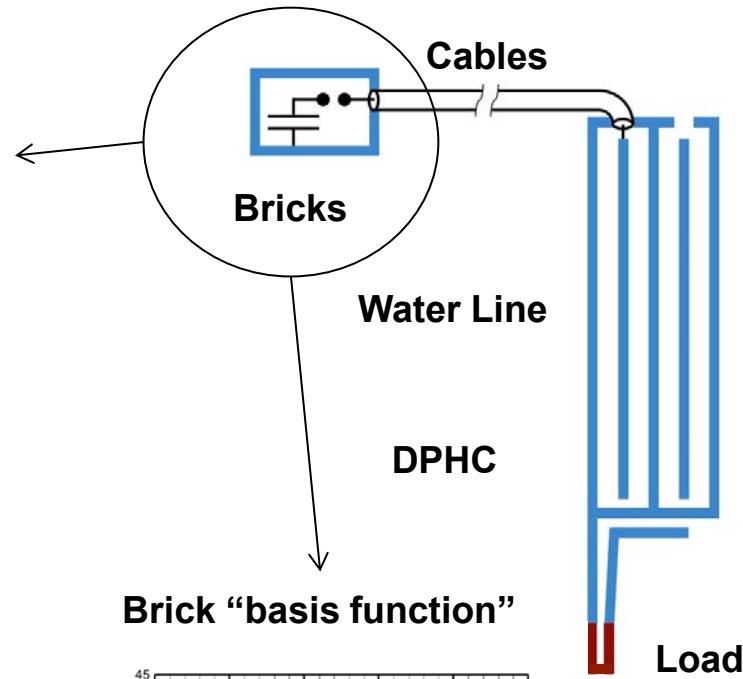
Cables are impedance-matched to bricks

$C=40 \text{ nF}$ ,  $L=240 \text{ nH}$ ,  $R=0.37 \Omega$

$$Z = 1.1 \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} + 0.8R = 3.00\Omega$$

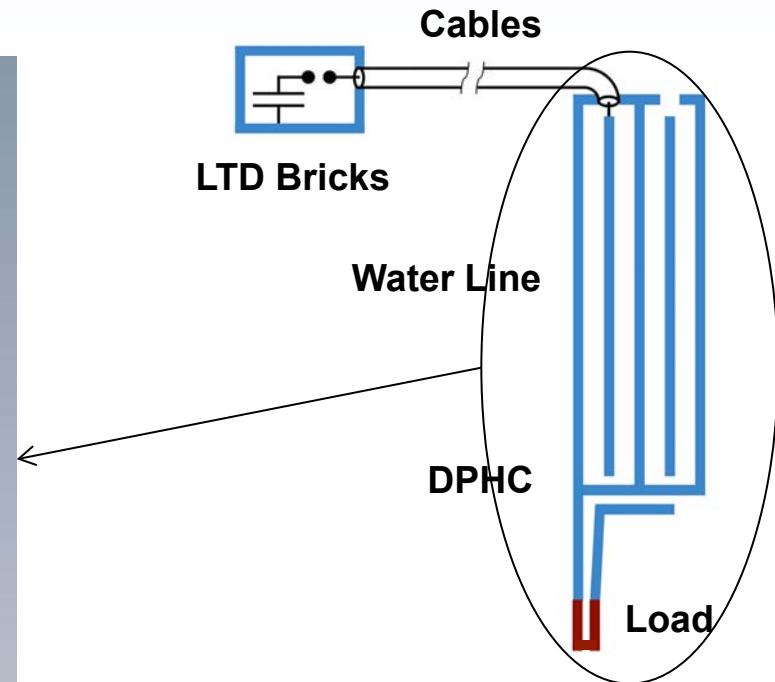
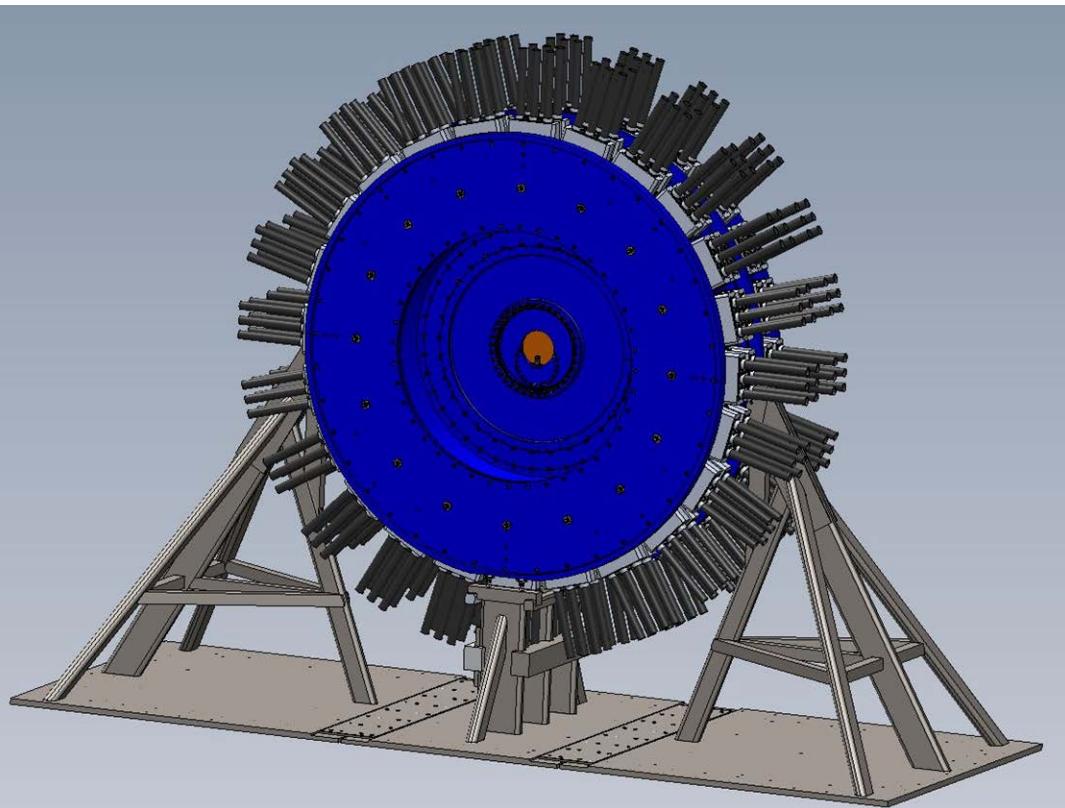


4 x 200 ft.  $11.2 \Omega$  Cables  
DS-X 1.25 in diameter  
 $Z=2.8 \Omega$



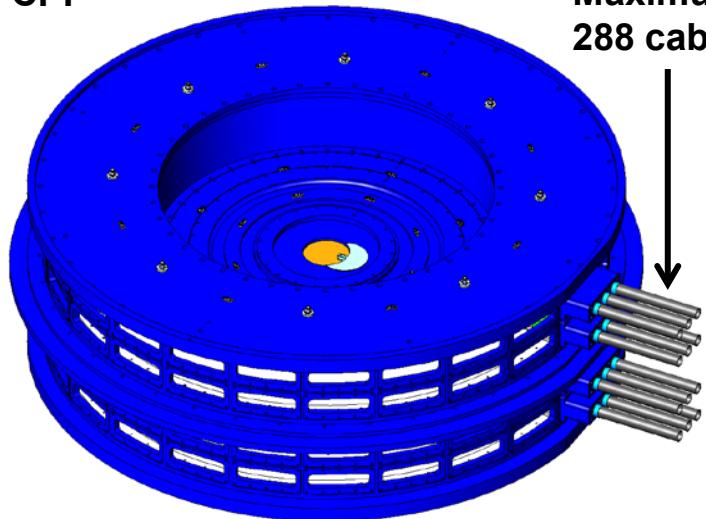


**The central power flow (CPF) section is 2 meters in diameter**

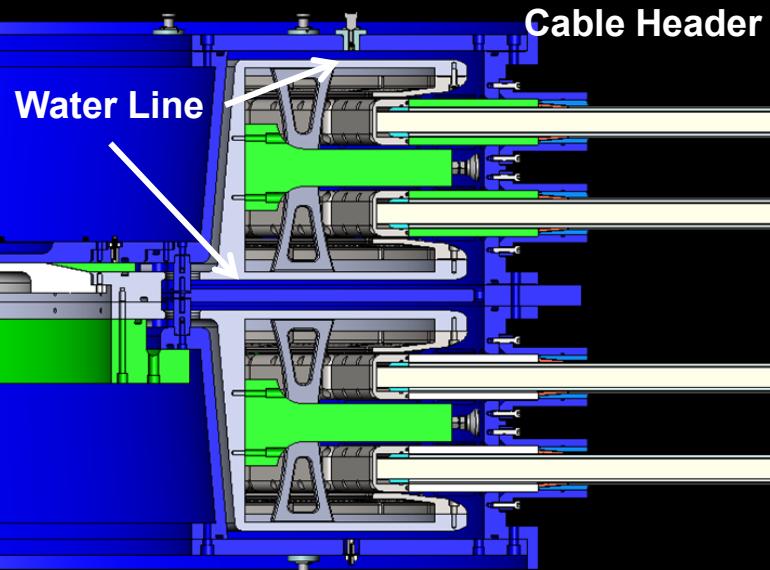


# The central power flow (CPF) combines current from the cables into transmission lines

CPF

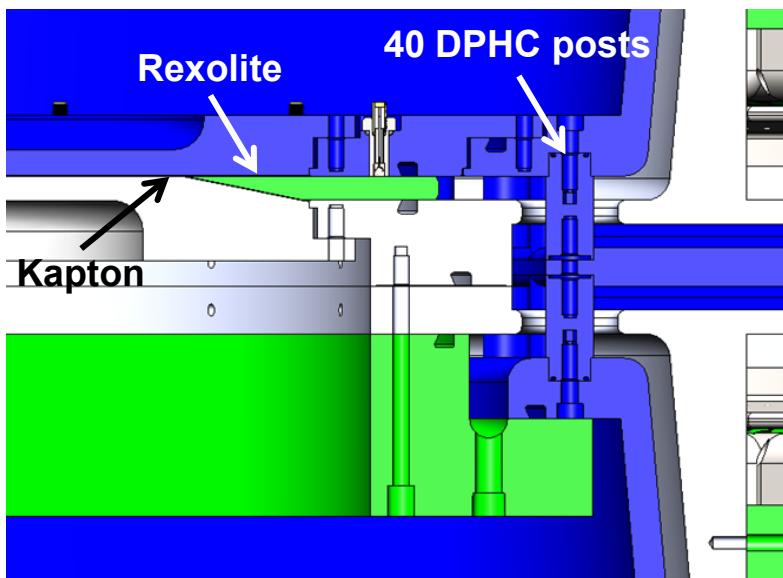


Maximum  
288 cables

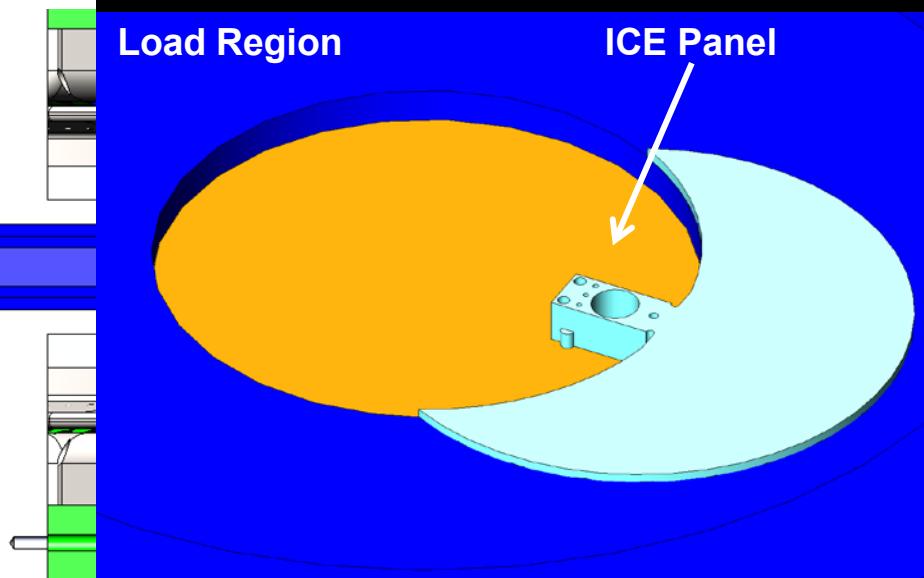


Cable Header

Water Line



Kapton

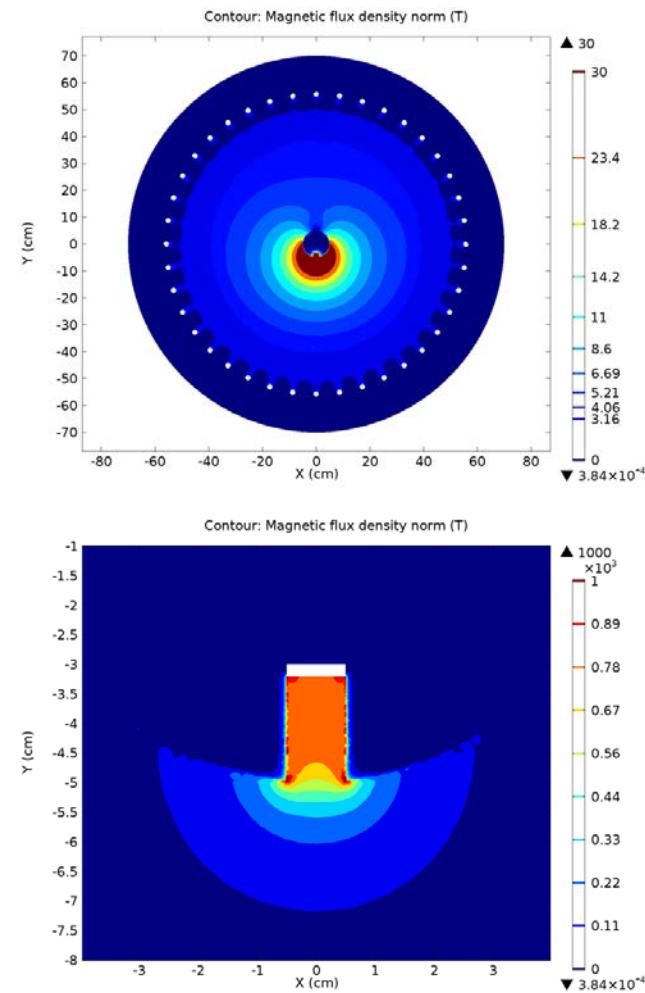


ICE Panel

Load Region

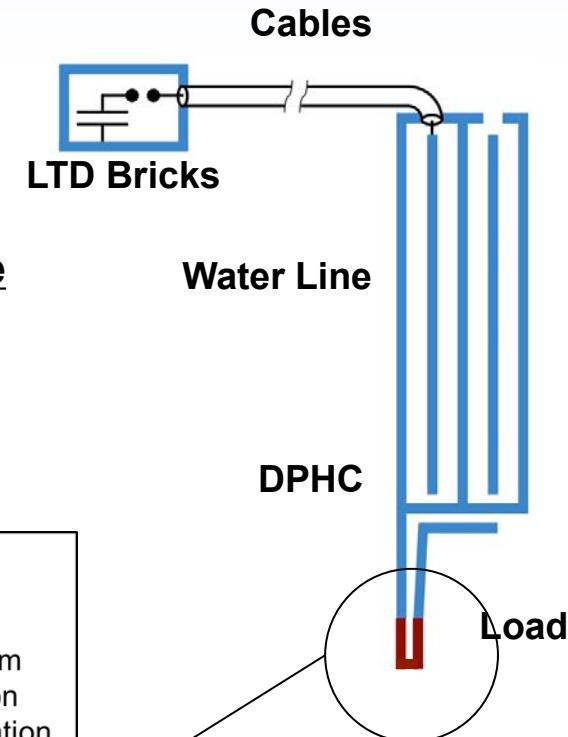
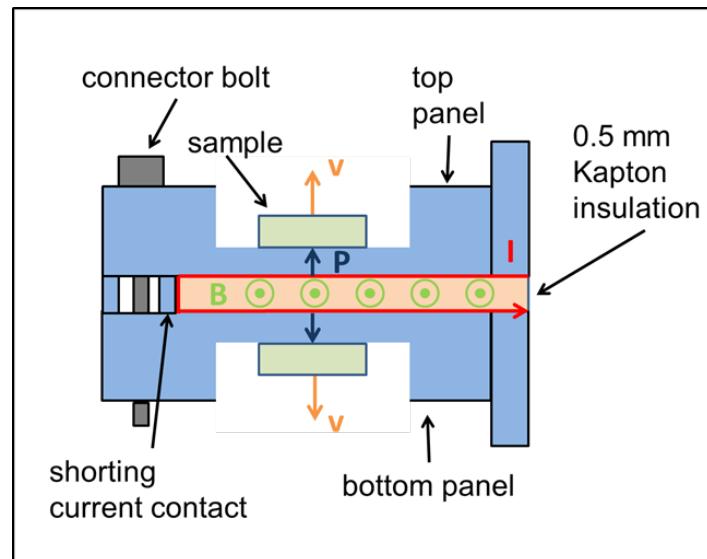
# Current is delivered to a strip-line ICE load to maximize magnetic pressure for ICE

## Panel on plate



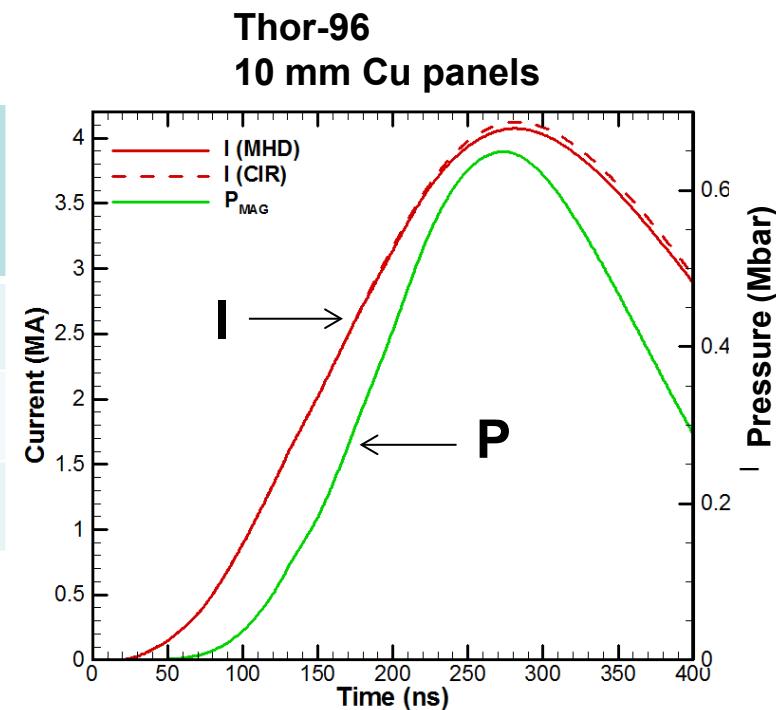
## B concentrated into stripline

$$P \sim \left( \frac{I}{w} \right)^2$$



# Thor can produce pressures of well over a Mbar

Brick #	Cables per brick	Etot (kJ)	Peak I (MA)	Peak P (Mbar)	Eload (kJ)	Eff. (%)
96	3	76.8	4.1	0.65	27.0	35
144	2	115	5.4	1.1	56.1	49
288	1	230	6.9	1.7	111	48



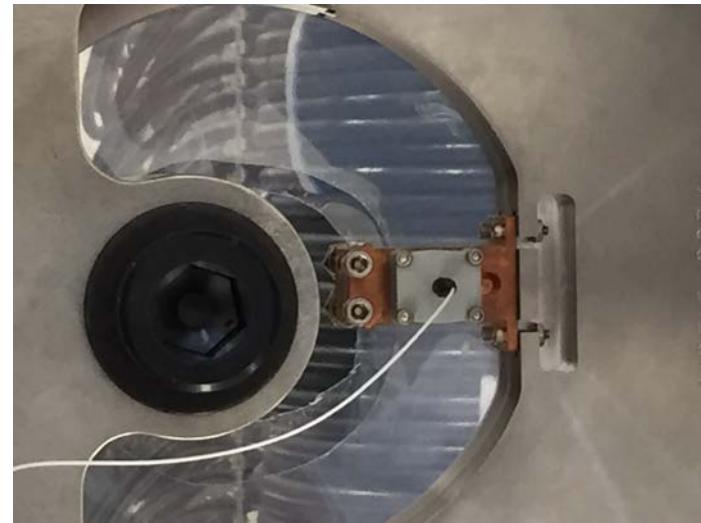
- 4 triggers spaced 50 ns apart
- Current rise time  $\sim$  200 ns
- 10 mm X 20 mm (WxL) Cu panels

# Thor-24 was commissioned in September

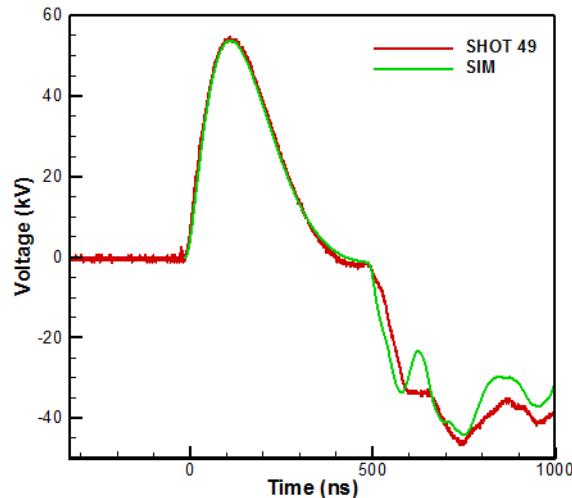
CPF



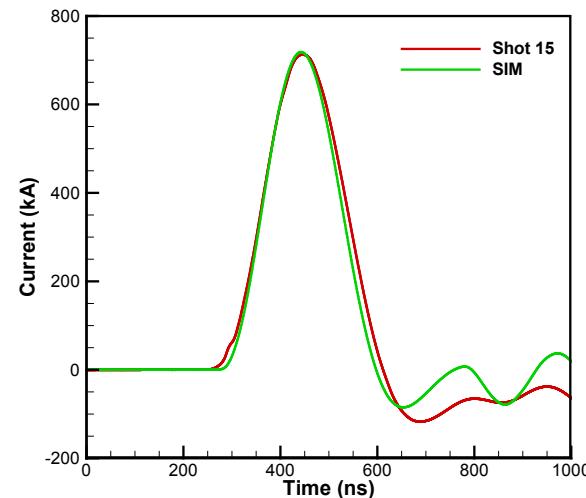
Load region



Brick Voltage ( $\pm 50$  kV Charge)

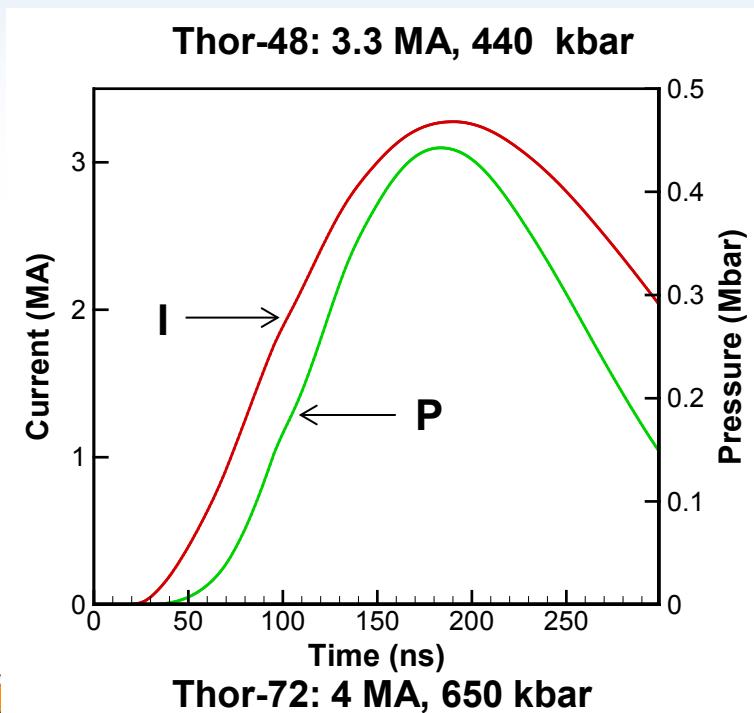
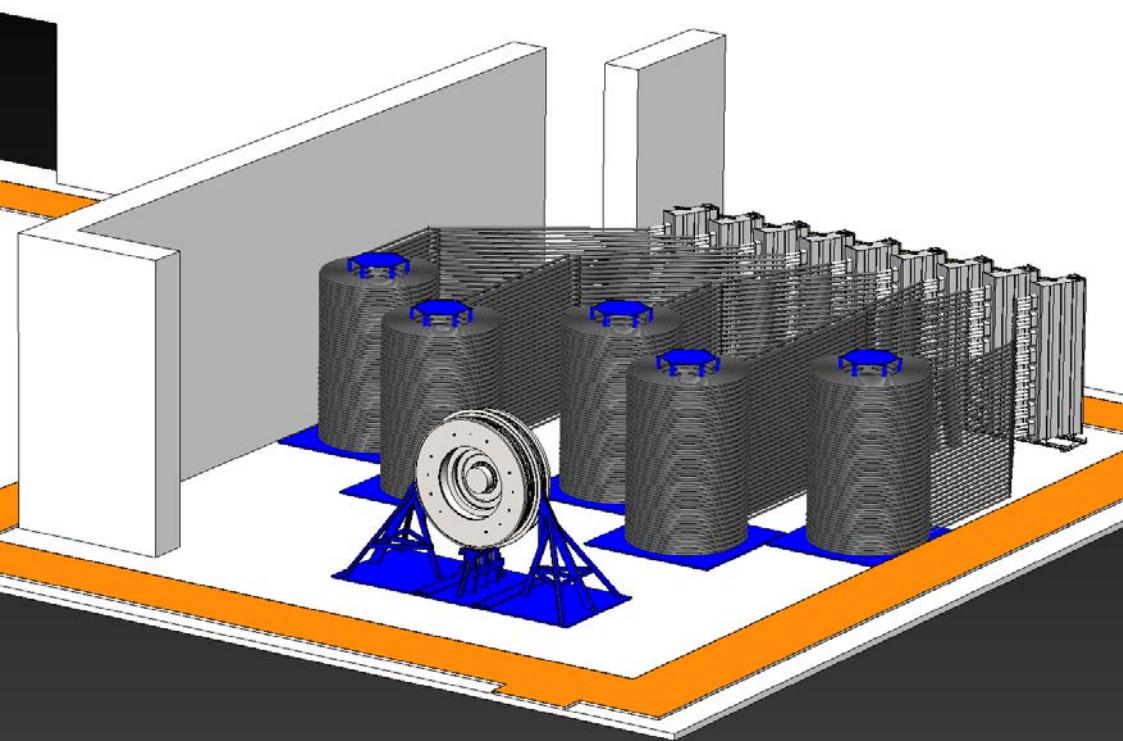


Load Current ( $\pm 50$  kV Charge)



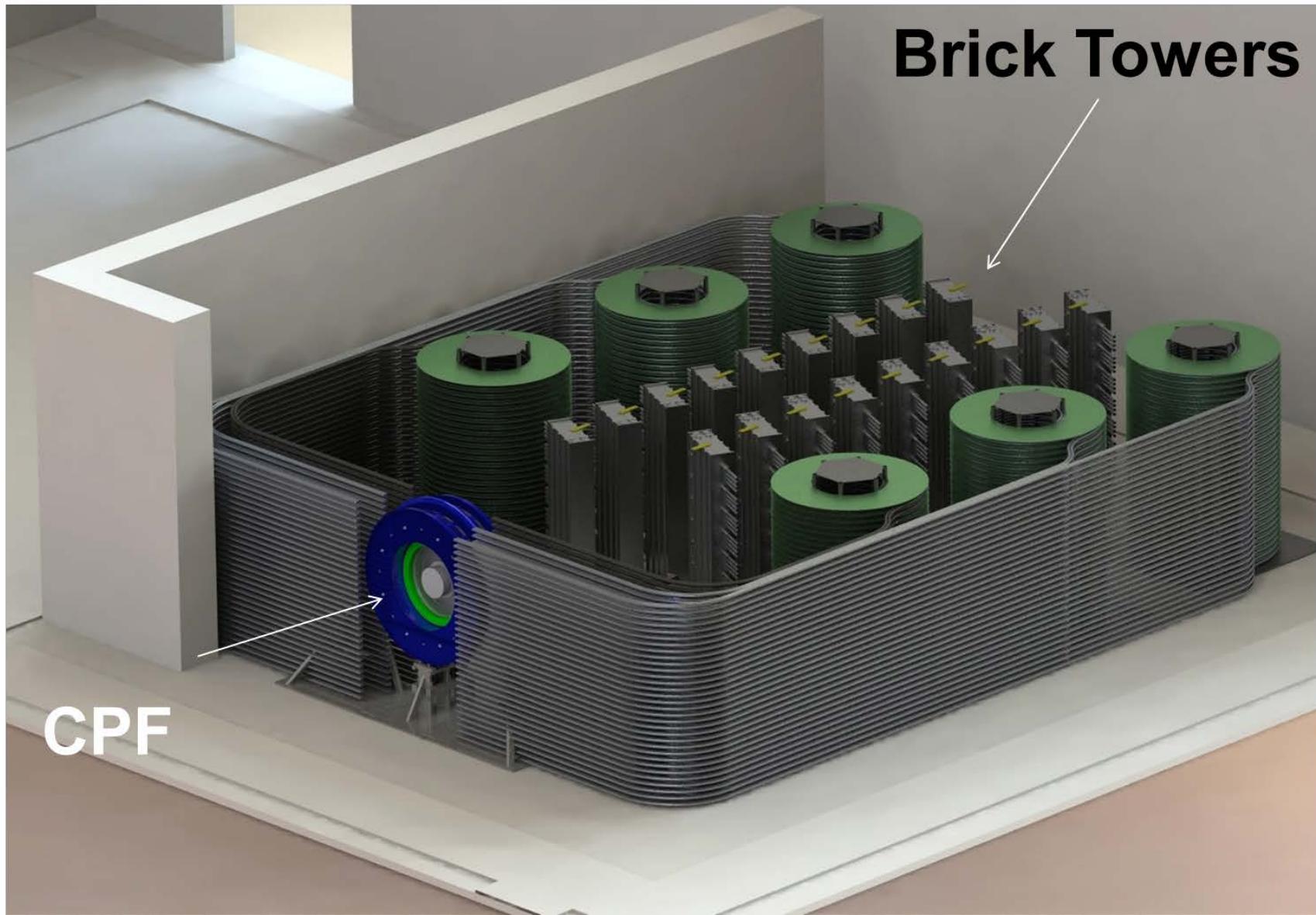


# Thor-48 will be commissioned in FY17

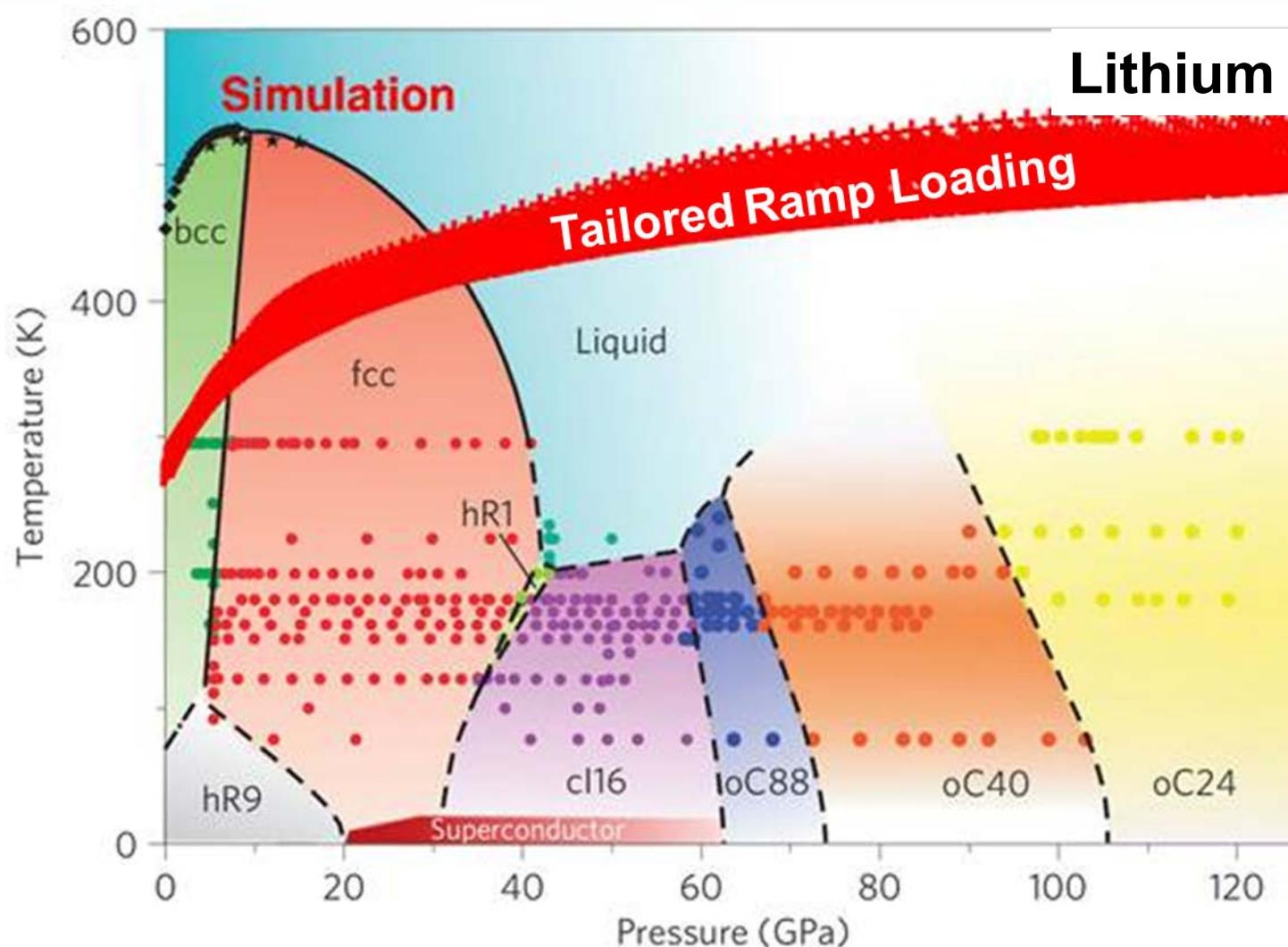




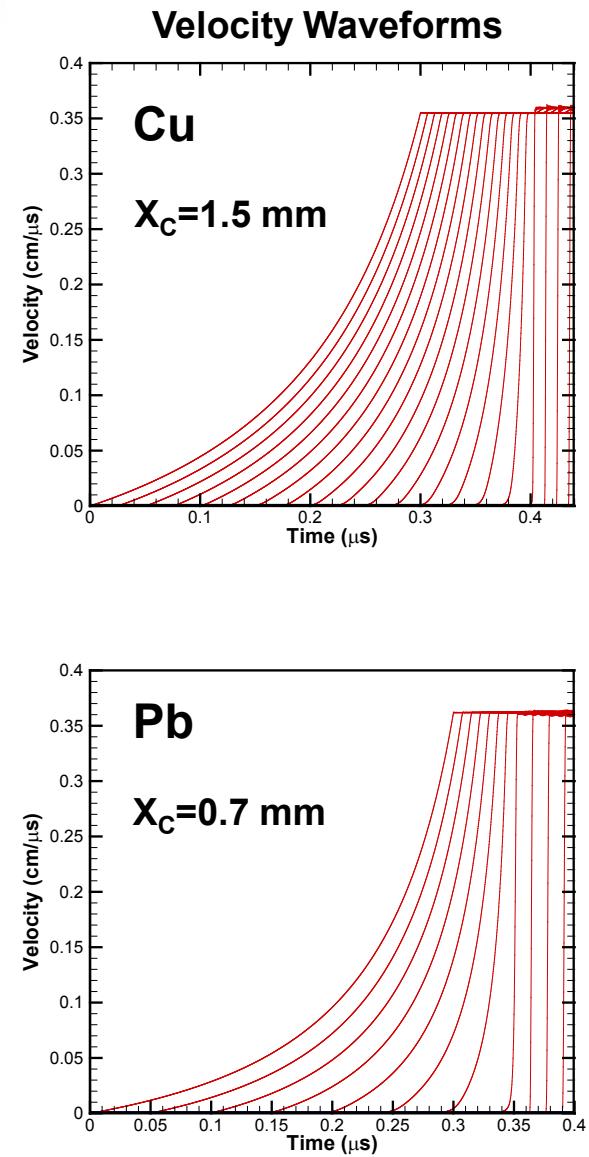
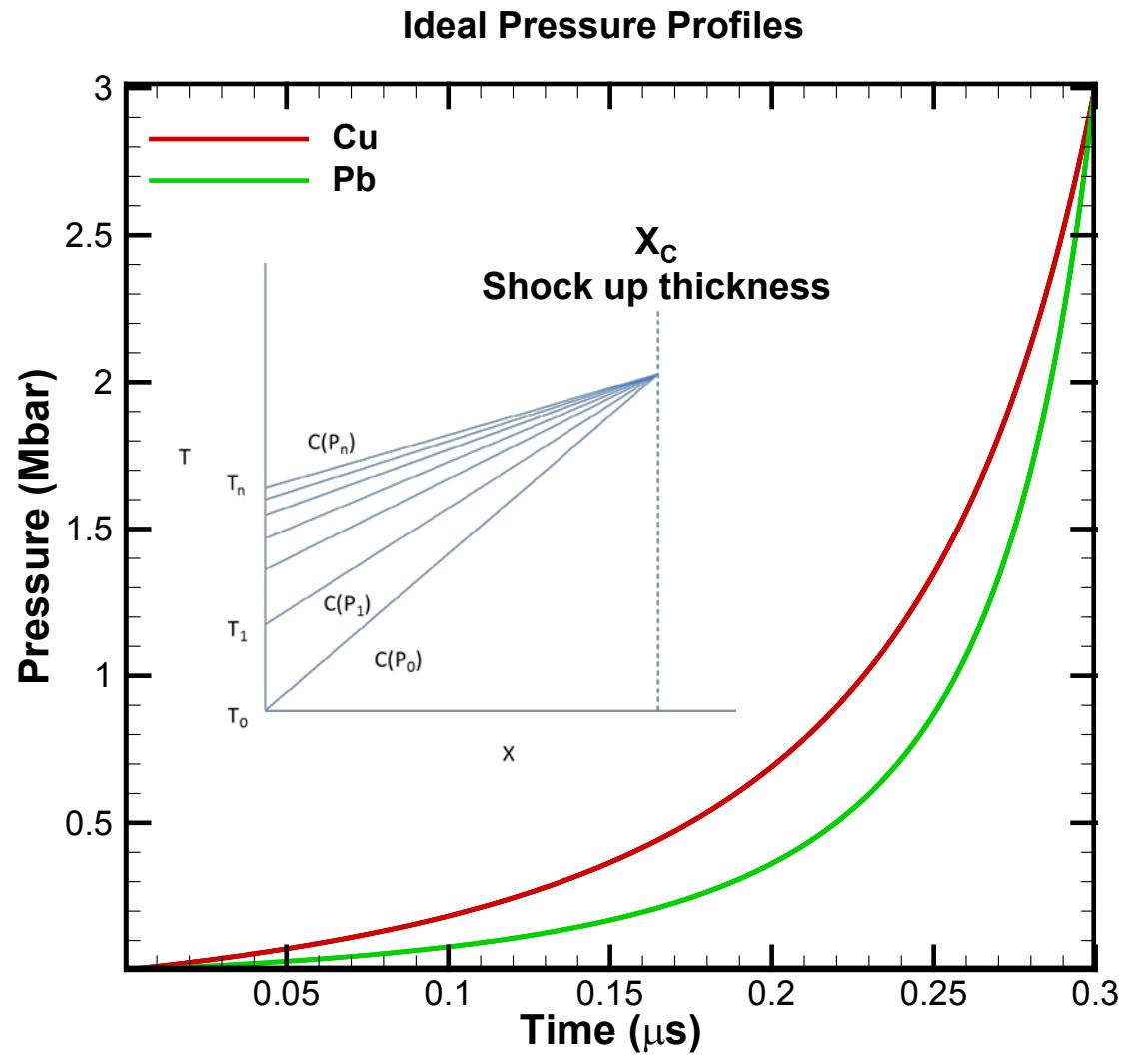
**Thor-144 will fit comfortably within the building 961 high bay at Sandia**



# Pressure pulse tailoring enables study of many materials of interest in relevant regimes

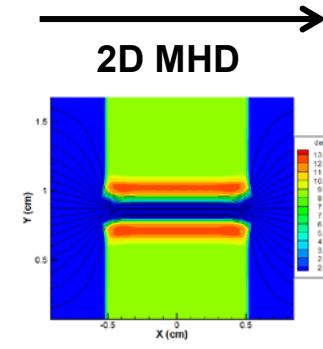
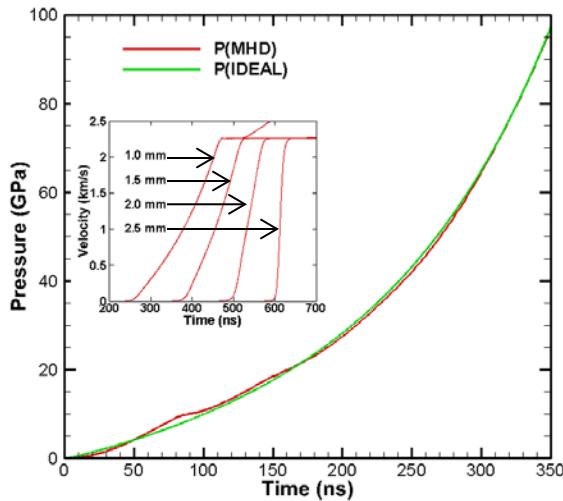


# Pulse tailoring is required to maintain shockless loading

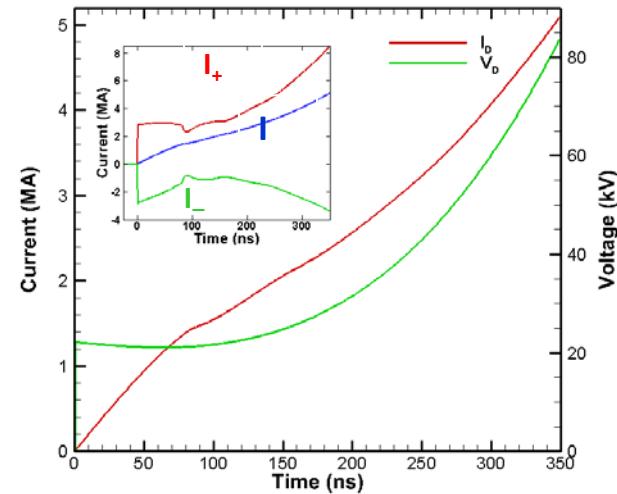


# We have developed a circuit-free method to tailor the current pulse

Ideal pulse for Cu/LiF Window:  $X_c=2400 \mu\text{m}$



Find desired current and voltage



$$I_{0+} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{V_D + L_C \dot{I}_D}{Z} + I_D \right]$$

$$I_+ = \sum_{k=1}^N i_k (t - \tau_k)$$

$$F(\vec{\tau}) = \int_0^T dt [I_+(t) - I_{0+}(t)]^2$$

Form forward-going current

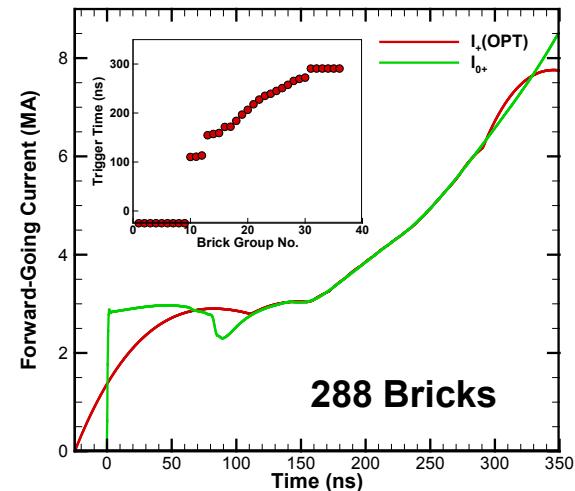
Express current as brick sum\*

Optimize to find trigger times:

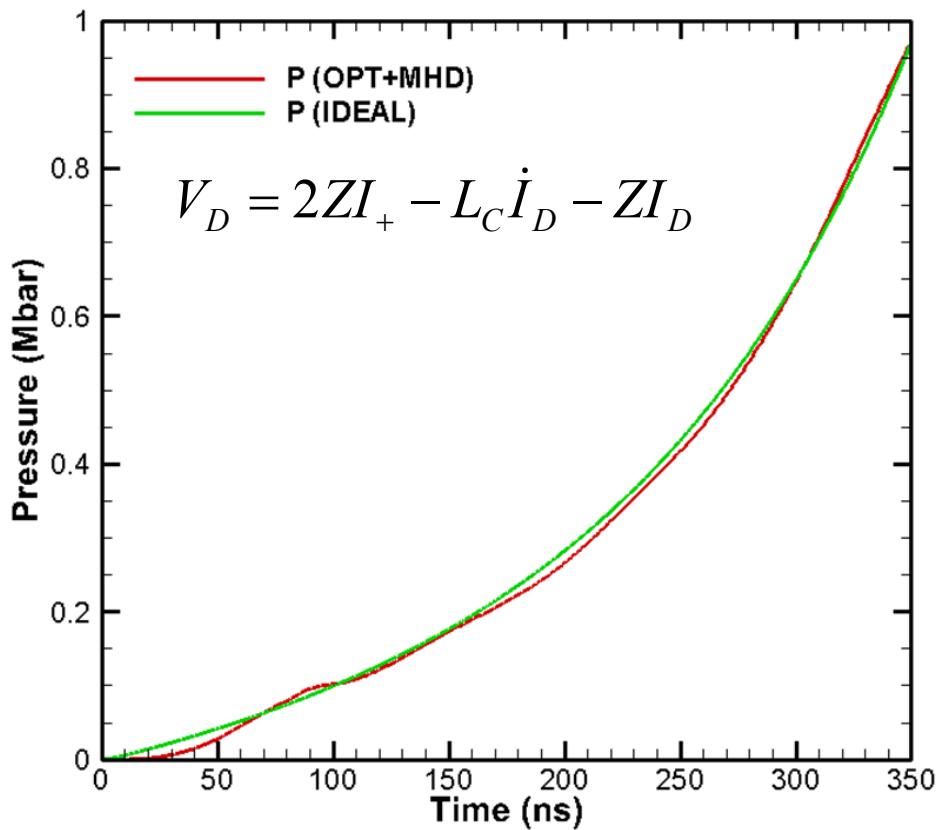
$$\vec{\tau} = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n)$$

\*Result of transit-time isolated transmission lines

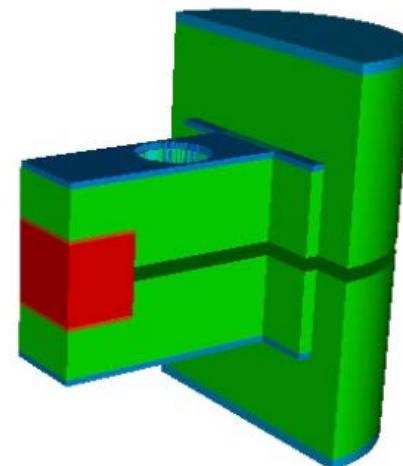
Find optimized forward-going current  $I_+$



# Optimization results are verified with the MHD code

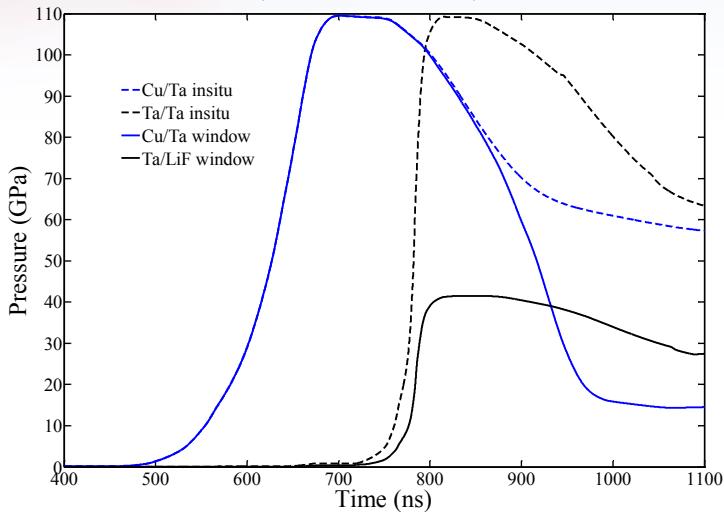


- Use open circuit voltage to drive load:
  - $V_{OC} = 2ZI_+$
- Circuit model can be expressed as LR series circuit
- We are now using this approach in ALEGRA 3D MHD modeling

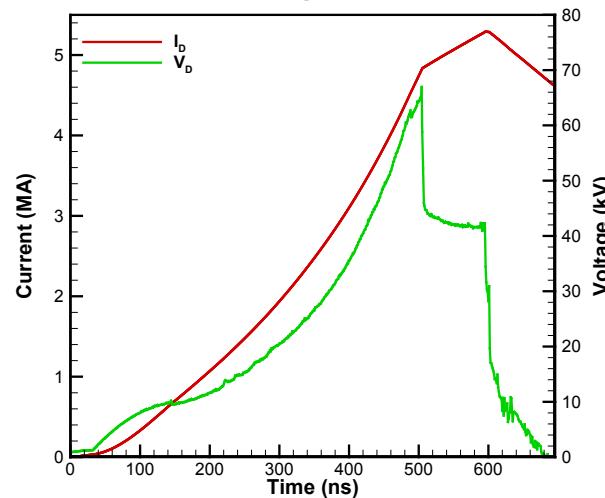


# Optimization procedure is used to design 1.1 Mbar Cu/Ta strength experiments

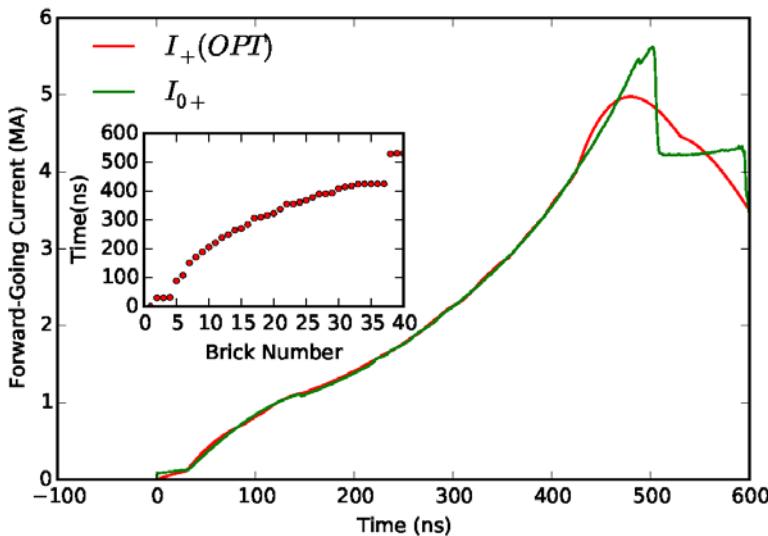
1.5 mm Cu, 0.8 mm Ta, 4 mm LiF



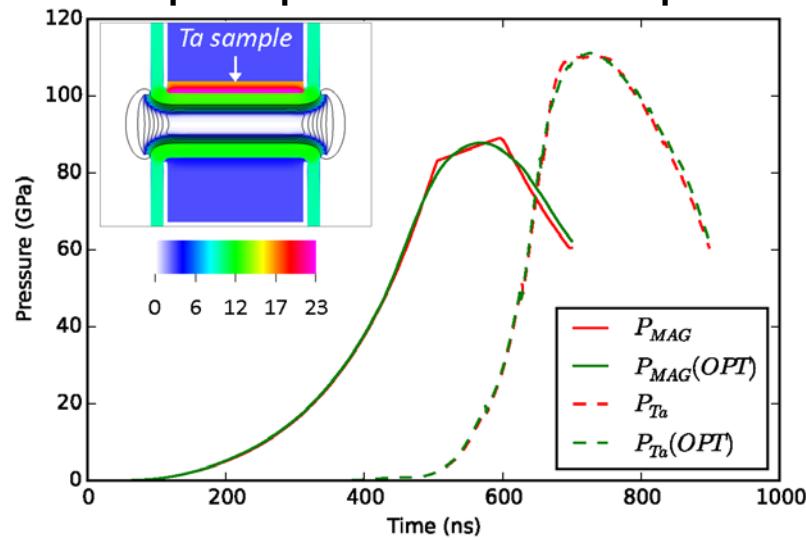
Desired voltage and current



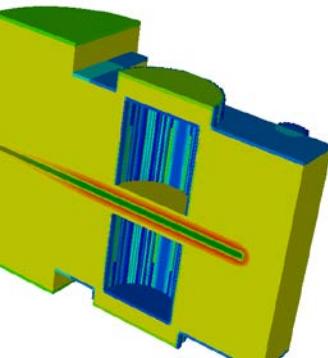
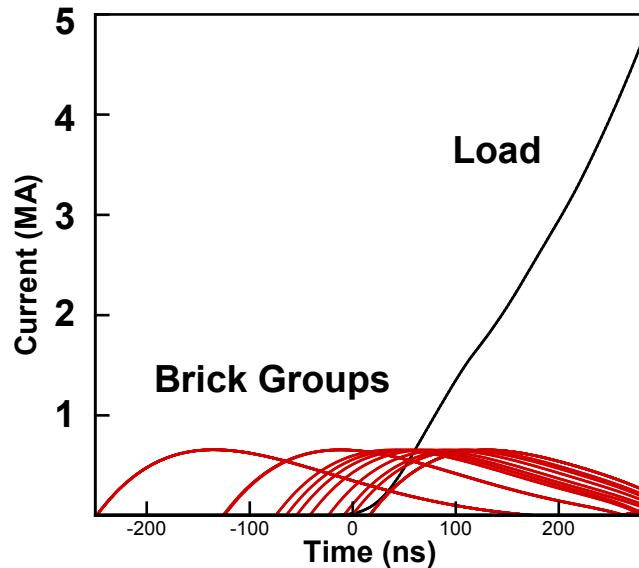
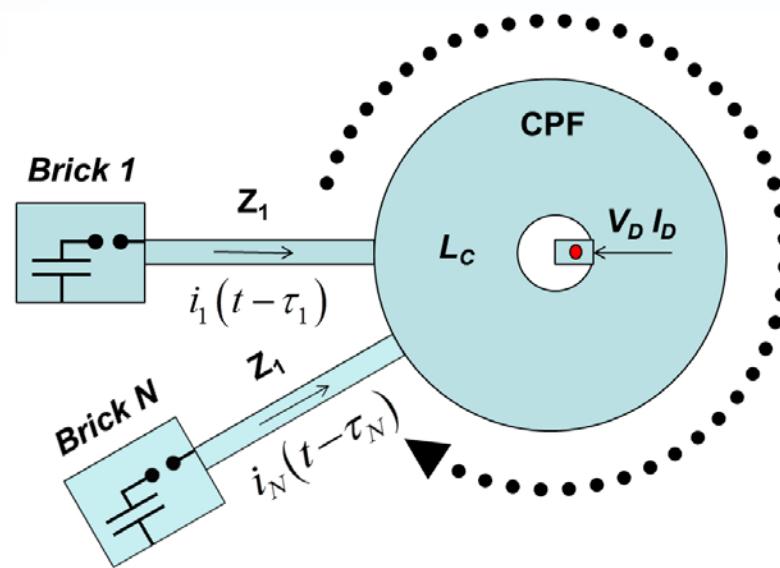
Optimization to determine triggering



Compare optimized and desired pressures



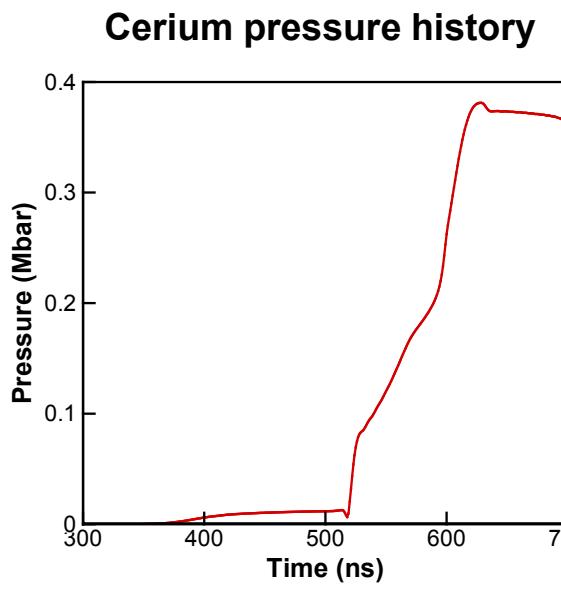
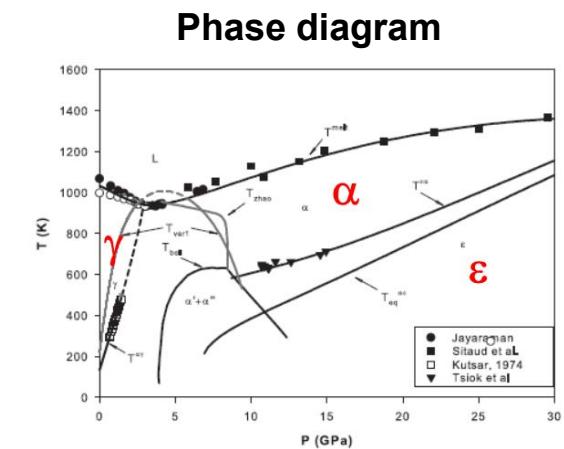
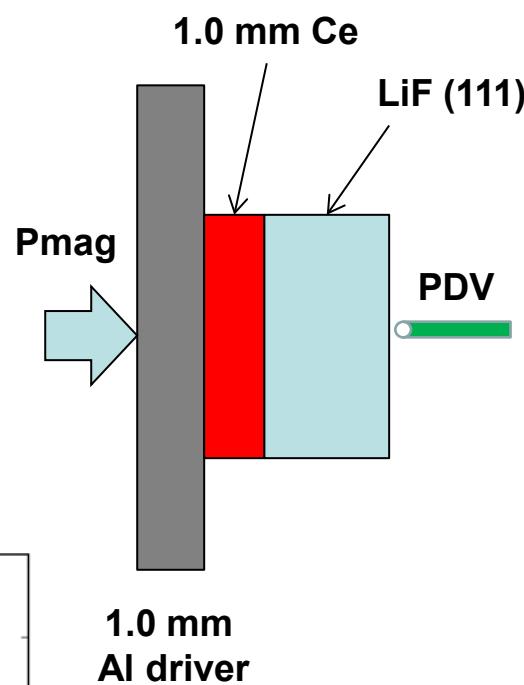
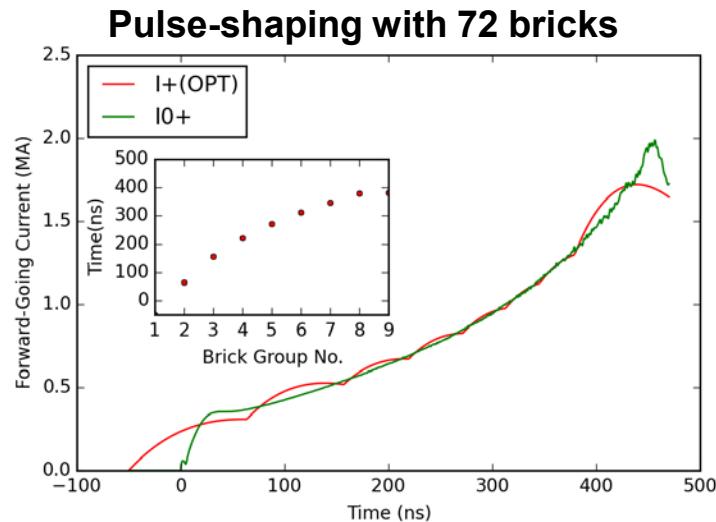
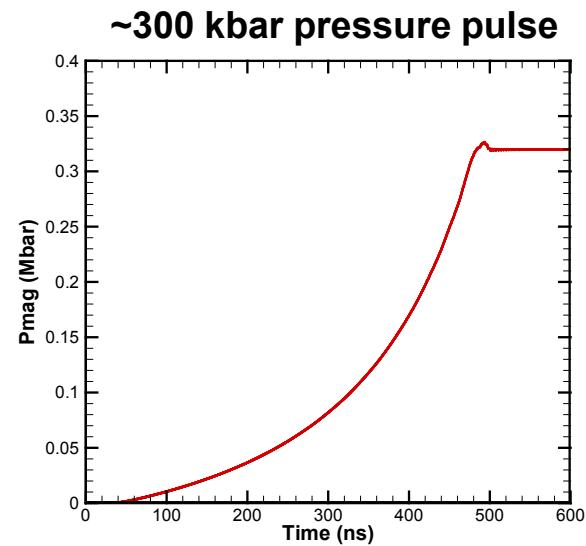
# We are able to design Thor “virtual experiments” using the circuit/MHD capability of ALEGRA 3D



3D Stripline

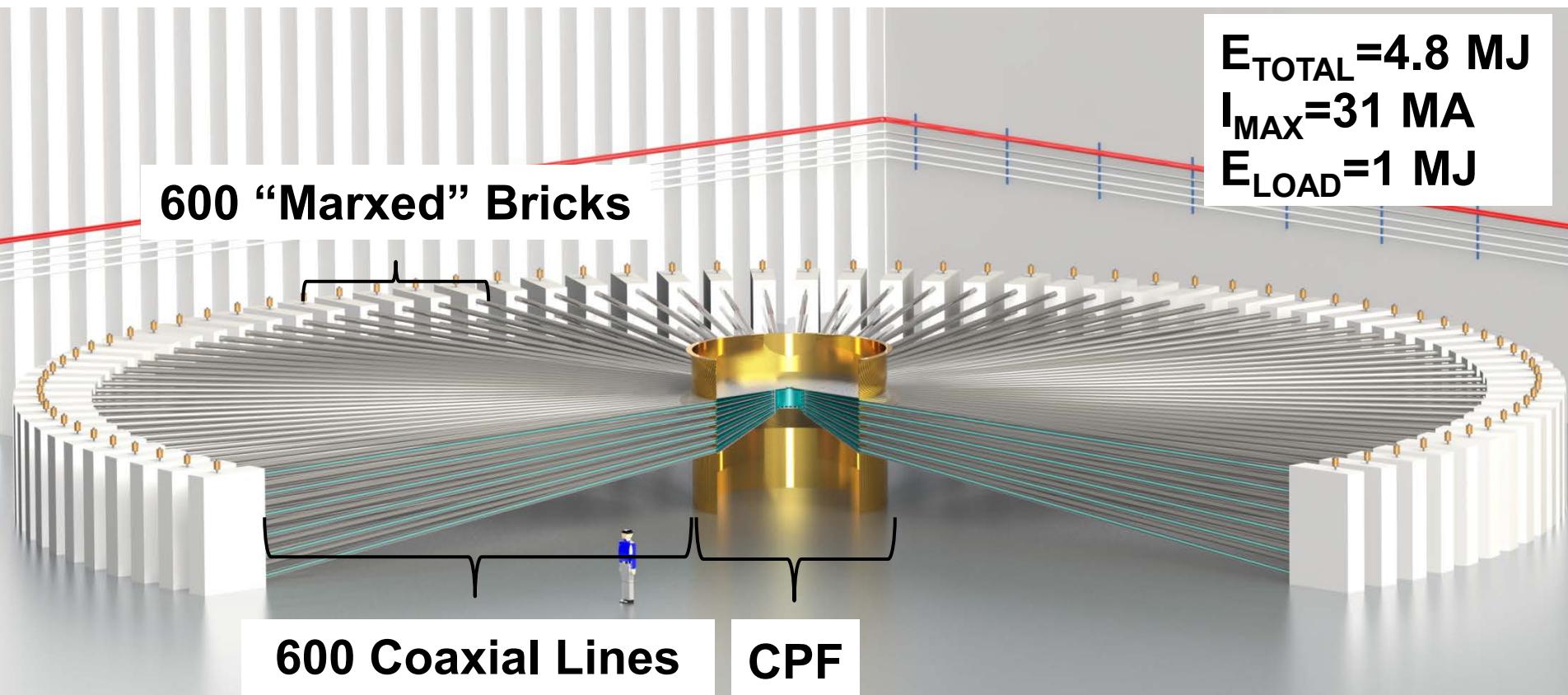
- All circuit elements are modeled, down to the brick level
- Circuit is self-consistently coupled to the 3D MHD simulation
- Simulation performed with brick timing  
 $\vec{\tau} = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n)$
- Allows us to accurately predict ICE load performance with a single physics code

## Thor-72 point design for Cerium: pulse tailoring

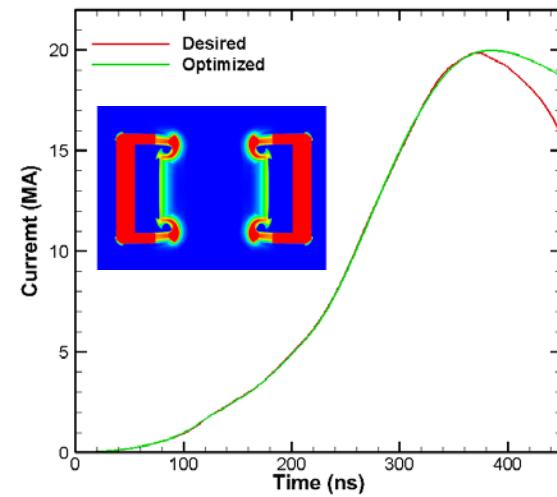
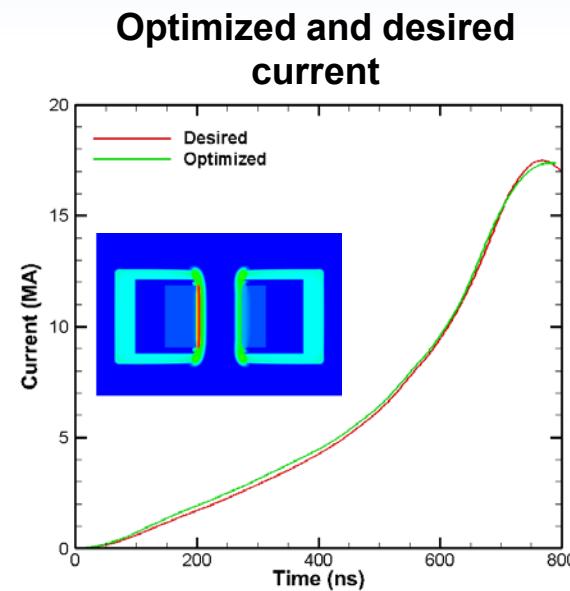
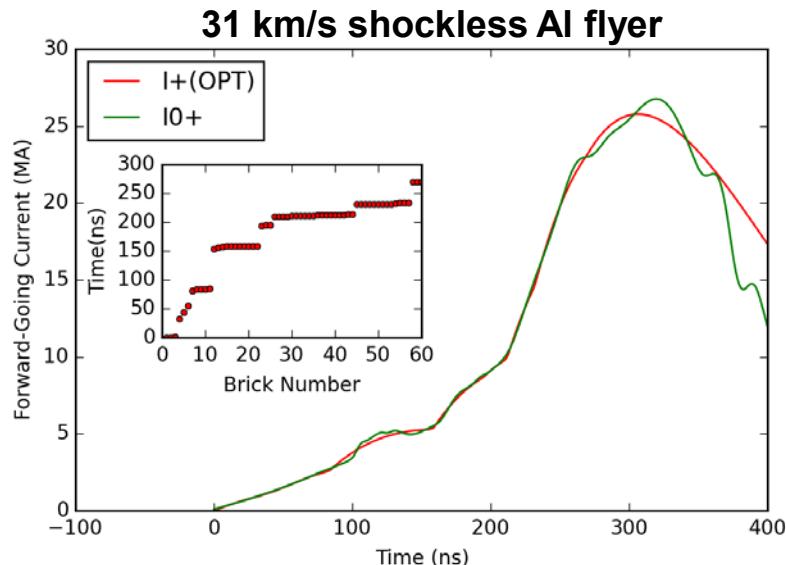
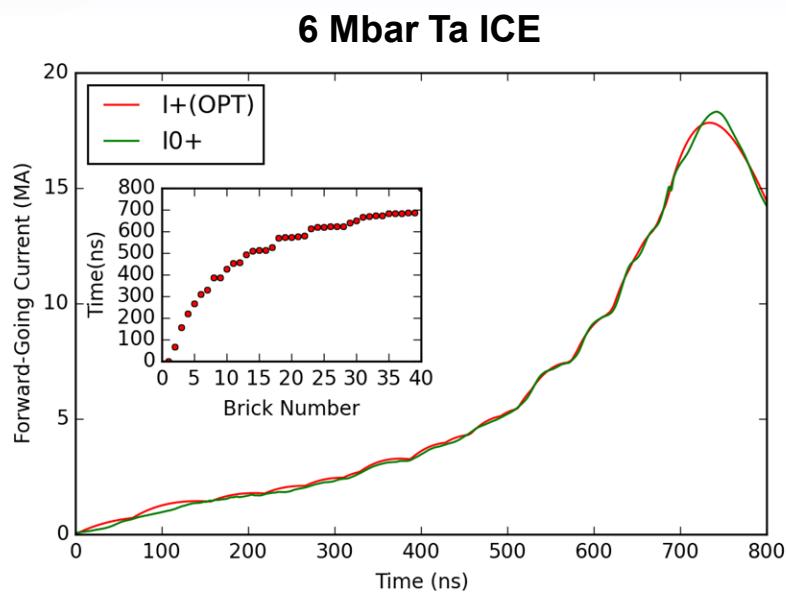




We have extend the current-adder architecture to the megajoule-class Neptune machine

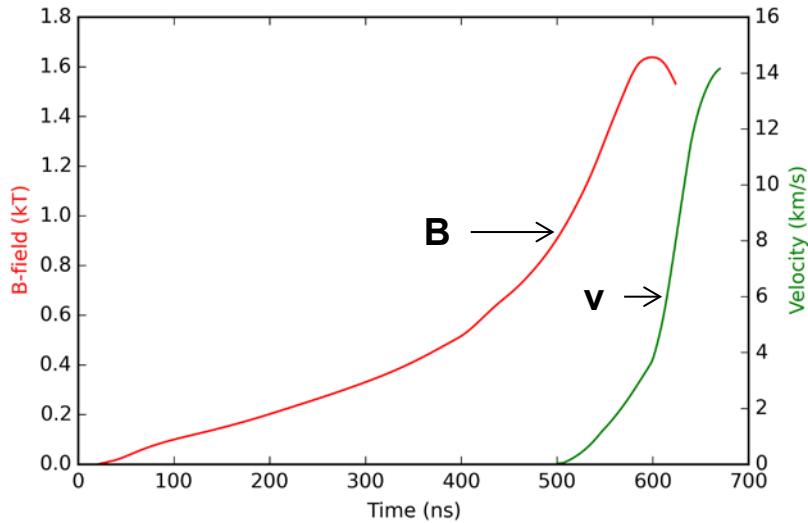


# Neptune can reproduce ZR performance

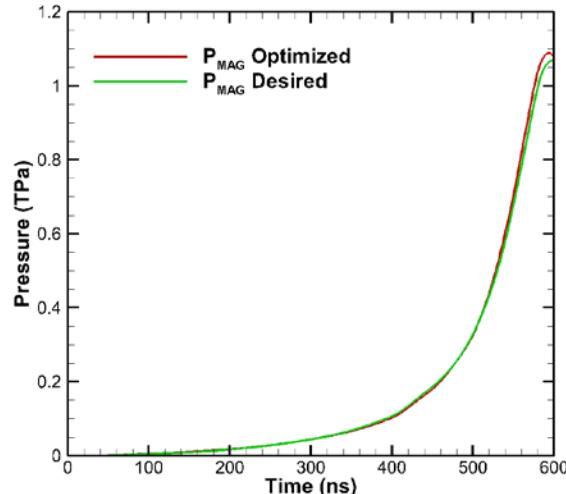


# Neptune can reach 1 TPA (10 Mbar) for ICE

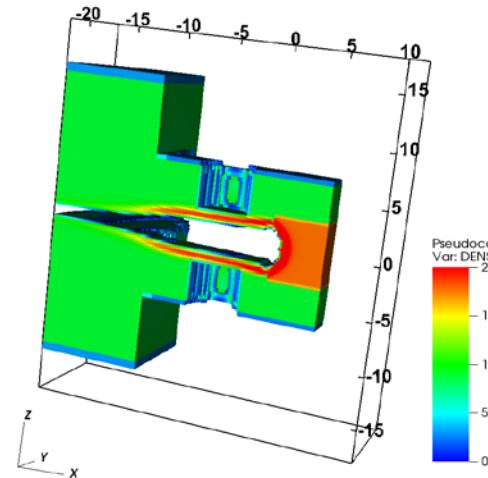
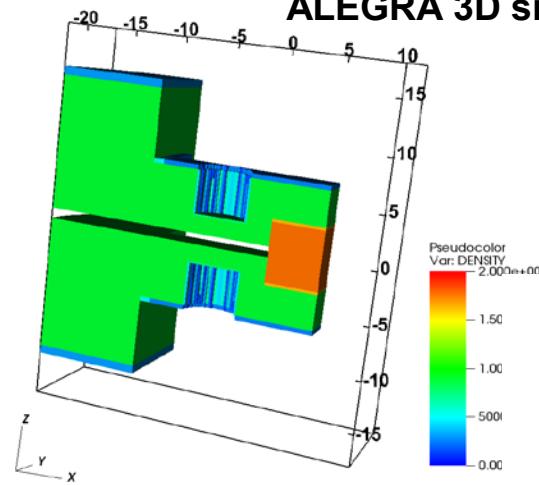
## Magnetic Field and FS velocity for 1.8 mm Cu



## Over 1 TPa (10 Mbar) pressure



## ALEGRA 3D simulation





## Conclusions

- We have developed a compact, low-cost platform for performing dynamic material experiments in the megabar (100 GPa) regime
  - Precise pulse tailoring with gradient-based optimization technique
  - Ability to explore shockless-loading regime for equation of state (EOS), dynamic strength, and phase transition studies
  - Capability for XRD being developed
- A physics campaign on Thor will be conducted in FY17. This will include:
  - Validation of ICE on Thor
  - Pulse tailoring
  - First pulsed power driven X-ray diffraction experiments
  - Flyer plate experiments
- We have developed the Neptune machine
  - 1 TPA (10 Mbar) ramp wave experiments possible in a variety of materials (Cu, Ta, Pb).

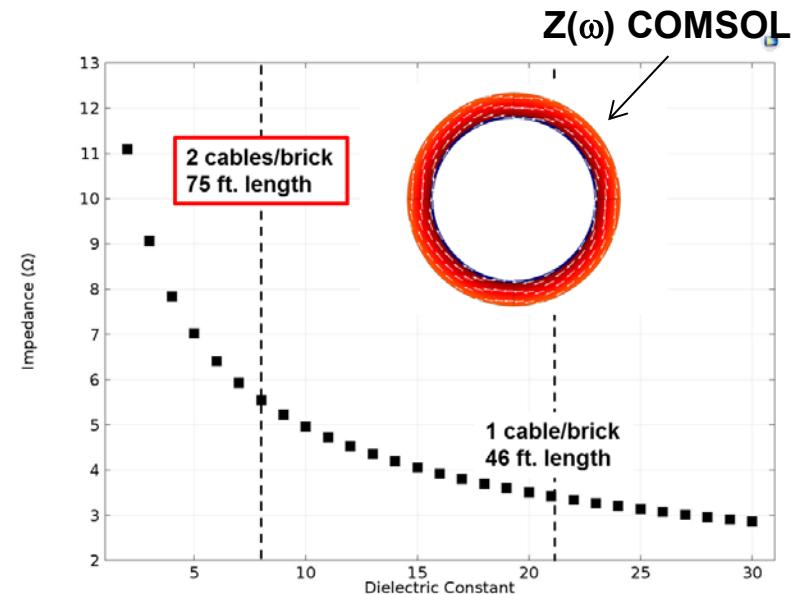
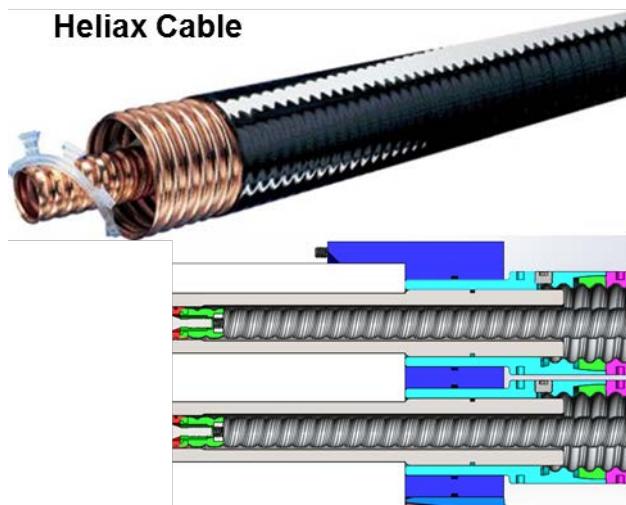


# Bonus Slides



# The ultimate performance of Thor depends on the number and type of coaxial cable

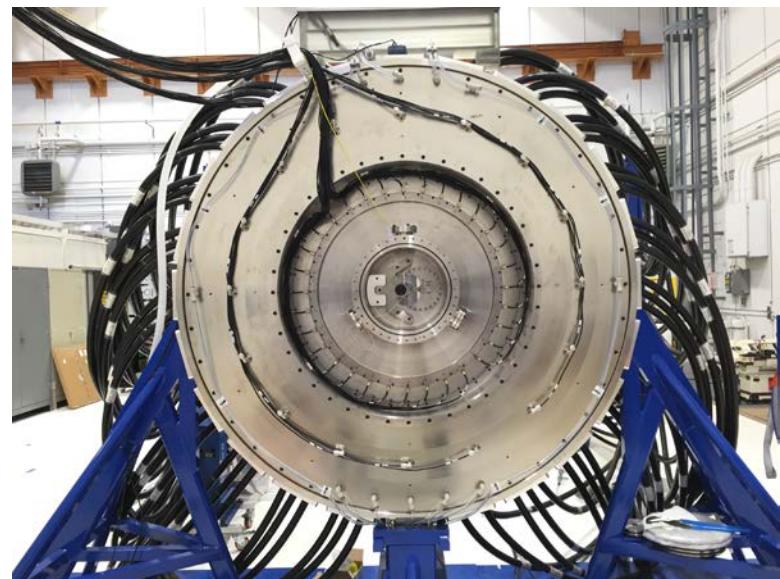
- The Thor CPF can accommodate 288 cables
- With the present cable (4 cables/brick), this limits the number of bricks to 72
- An effort is underway to reduce cable number and length
  - Increase dielectric constant  $\epsilon_r$  → reduce Z and c → reduce no. of cables and length
  - Nano-ceramic-poly: 1 (2) cable/brick, 46 (75) foot length, 144 (288) brick system
  - Water (DI) cable: 2 cables/brick, 30 foot length, 144 brick system
- We will be manufacturing a high-epsilon cable next year





# There are compelling reasons why Thor/ICE is important to the materials community

- **Sample size – cm scale width, mm scale in thickness, many grains across propagation direction**
- **Strain rate –  $10^6$  –  $10^7$**
- **Ability to tailor pulses – required to avoid shocks, tunable for different phase paths.**
- **A standard driver – A validated technique for high pressure measurement, valuable to the high-pressure community:**
  - “Dynamic compression of copper to over 450 GPa: A high-pressure standard”, R. G. Kraus, J.-P. Davis, C. T. Seagle, *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. B* 93, 134105 (2016)
- **Capable of obtaining dynamic XRD data with a compact source:**
  - “Single-pulse x-ray diffraction using polycapillary optics for in situ dynamic diffraction”, B.R. Maddox, *et al.*, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* 87 (2016)
- **Vertical orientation allows placement at a synchrotron facility.**



# Thor-24 shot series in September: copper at 200 kbar

