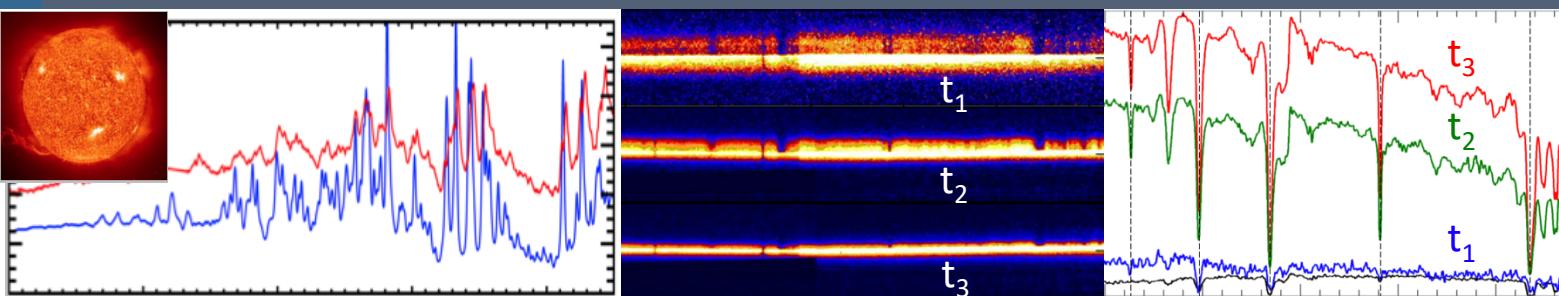


SAND2024-15653C

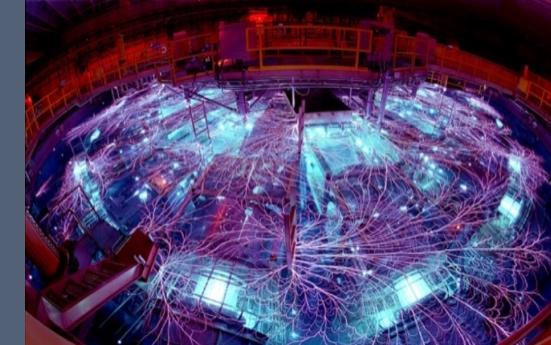


# Time-resolved spectroscopy for Z stellar opacity research



Guillaume Loisel on behalf of  
the Z opacity team

Dan Mayes  
Jim Bailey  
Taisuke Nagayama



20<sup>th</sup> RPDHM  
Nov 18-22  
Paris, France

Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

# Summary: Advancing stellar opacity testing with novel time-resolved spectroscopy on Z



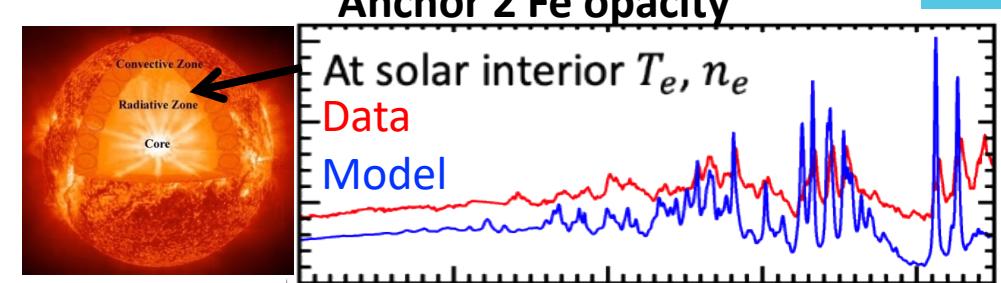
- **Puzzle:** the modeled and measured solar structure disagree

→ *Is calculated iron opacity underestimated?*  
 → *Initial Z experiments raised controversy*

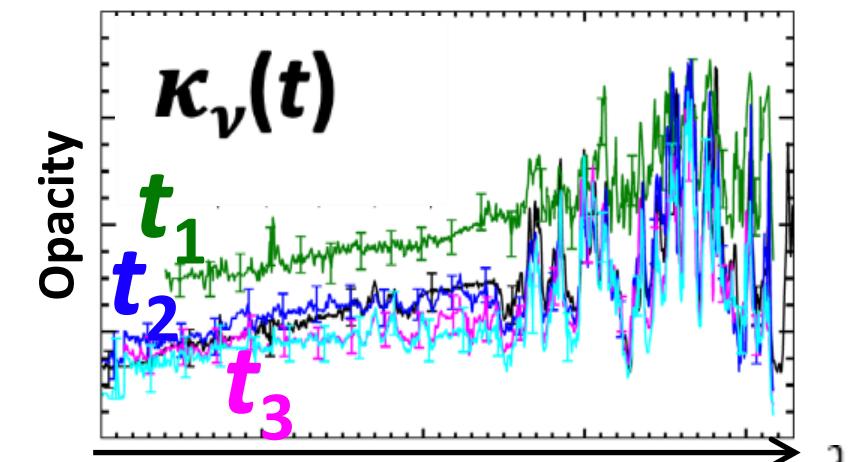
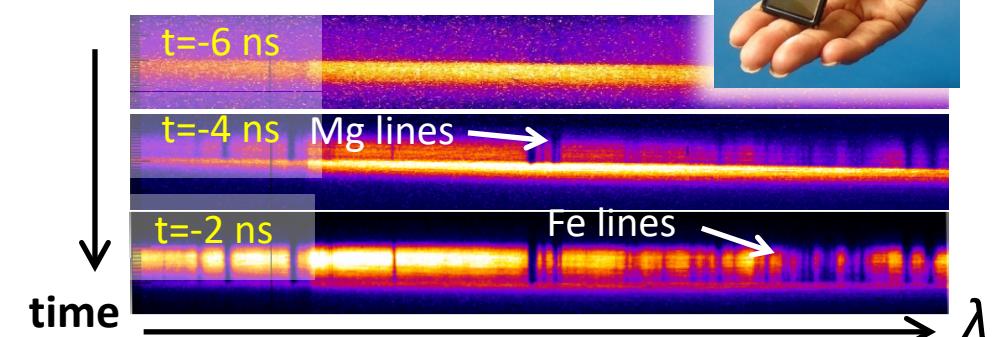
- **Experimental scrutiny:**

- **Refining data analyses**
  - $T_e, n_e$  analysis
  - Opacity analysis
- **Time resolved measurements**
  - Tested temporal gradient effects → **Found negligible**
  - Transform experiments in 4 significant ways
  - Progress towards absolute time-resolved opacity measurements

Continued experimental and theoretical scrutiny are underway to answer this astrophysical puzzle



### UXI ultra-fast detector



# The opacity collaboration includes investigators from US National labs, US university, the French CEA and private companies



G. Loisel, J. Bailey, T. Nagayama, G. Dunham, E. Harding, S. Hansen, G. Rochau, R. More, T. Gomez, P. Lake, A. Maestas, T. Orozco, R. Harmon, L. Molina, A. Edens, C. Aragon, B. Ritter, K. Seals, M. McCall, J. Mignon, J. Swalby, K. Leonard, P. Gard, Q. Looker, A. Edens, T. Colombo, R. Speas, M. Kimmel, J. Porter  
– **Sandia National Laboratories, NM**



C. Fontes, J. Colgan, D. Kilcrease and T. S. Perry  
– **Los Alamos National Laboratories, NM**



R. F. Heeter, C. Iglesias, B. Wilson, D. Aberg, P. Grabowski  
– **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, CA**



D. Mayes, T. Gomez, D.E. Winget, and M. Montgomery  
– **UT Austin, TX**



Ch. Blancard, Ph. Cossé, G. Faussurier, F. Gilleron, J.-Ch. Pain  
– **French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), France**



H. Huang, R. Paguio, C. Monton, R. Santana, J. Taylor  
– **General Atomic, CA**



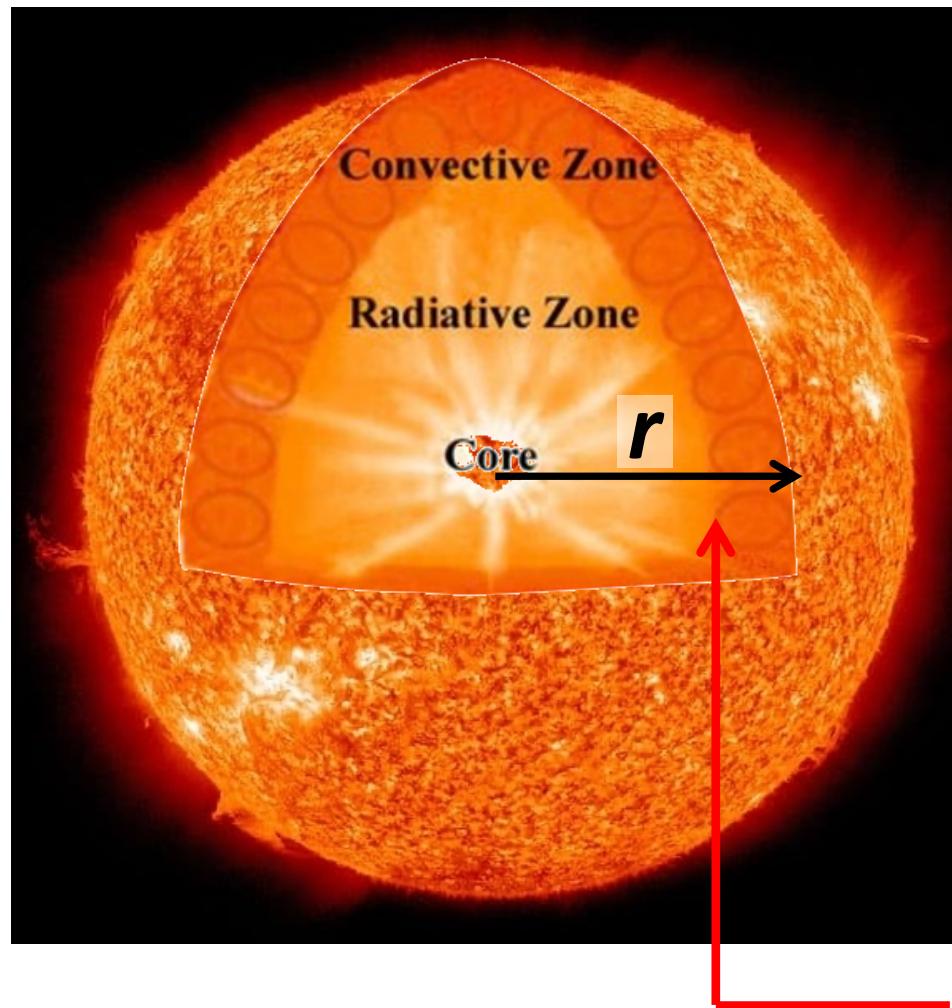
I. Golovkin, M. F. Gu  
– **Prism Computational Sciences, WI**



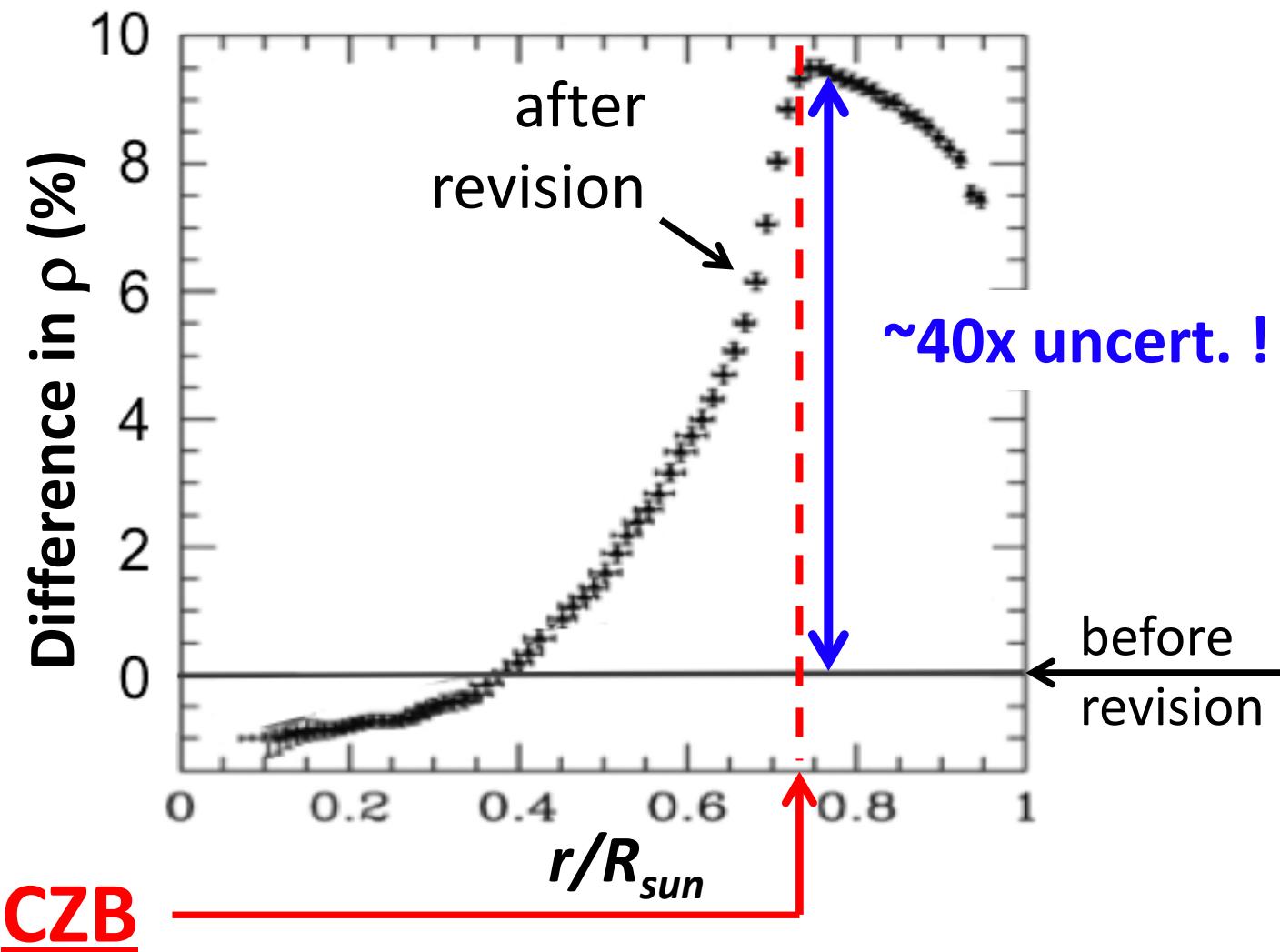
Wootton Center for Astrophysical Plasma Properties  
– **DOE NNSA Center of Excellence**



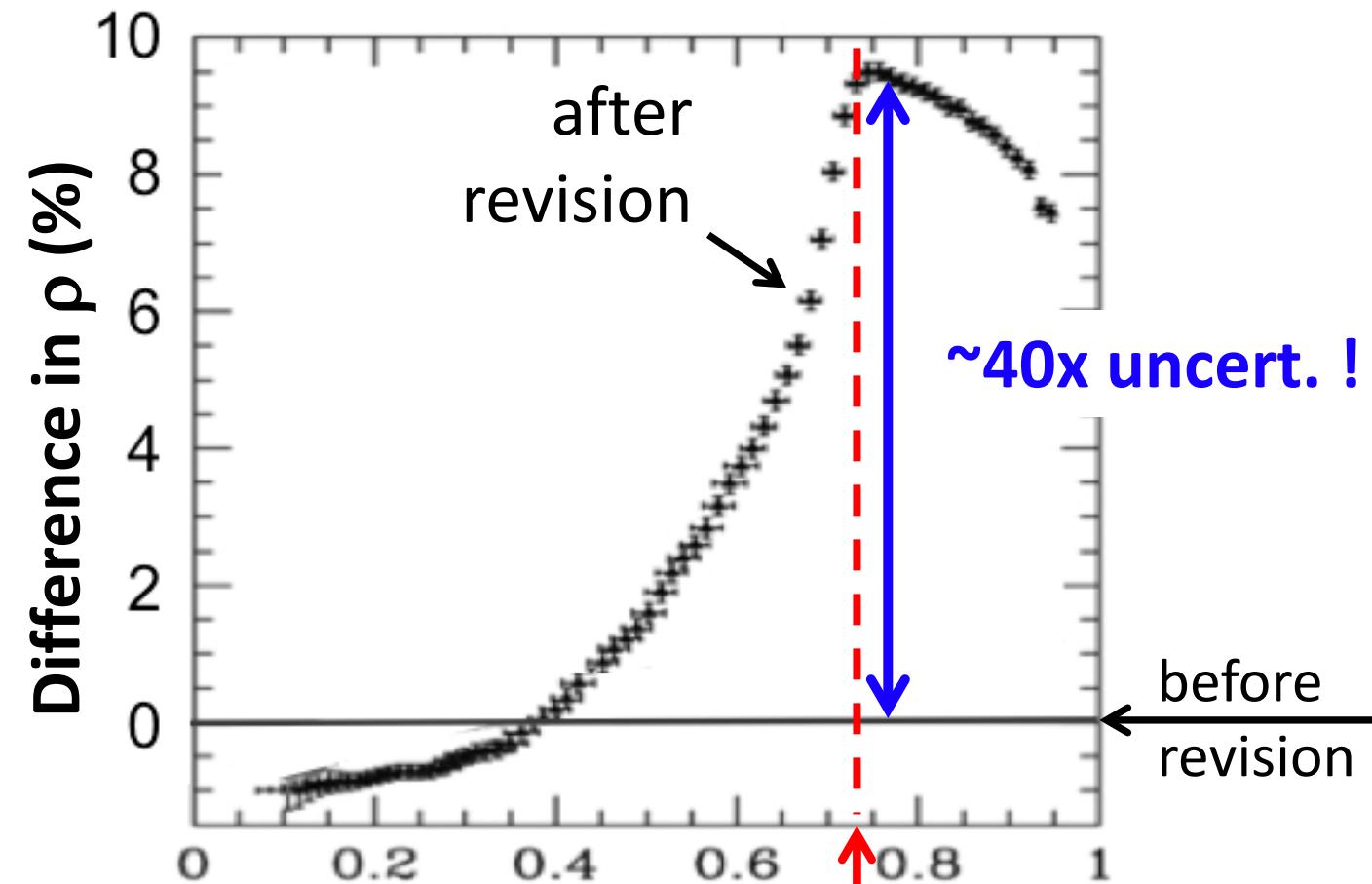
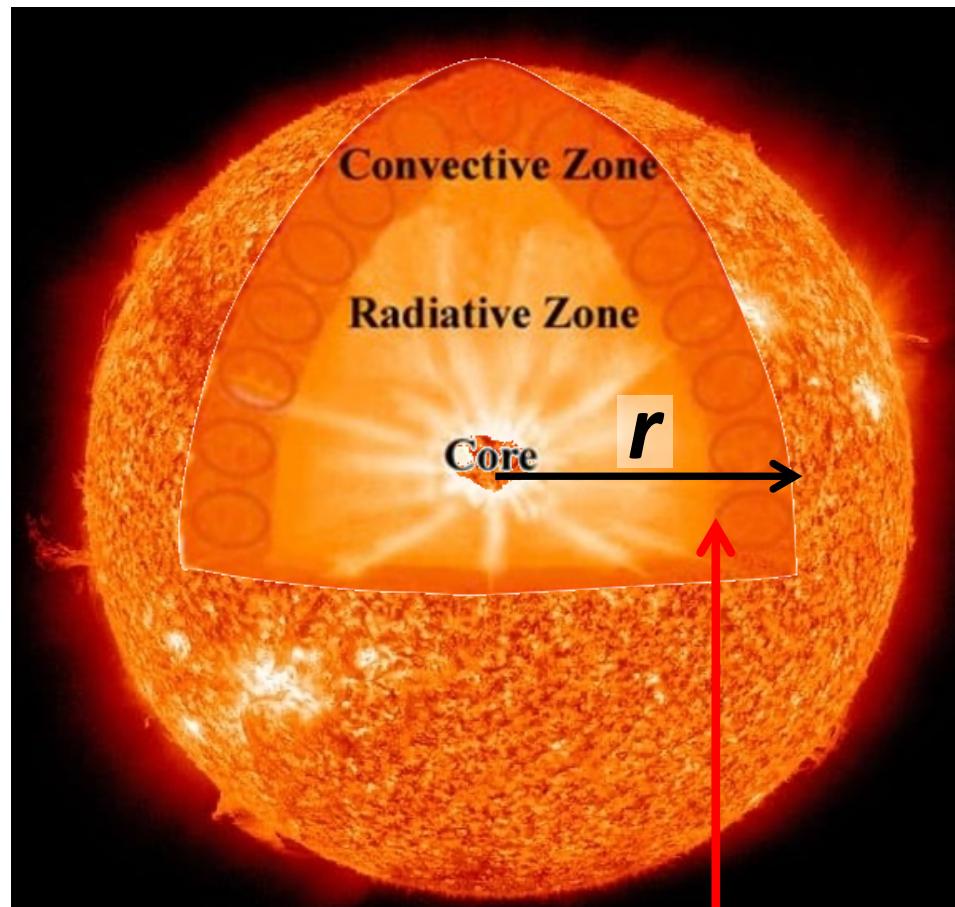
# An outstanding problem: structure disagree with models of the Sun after metal abundances were reduced two decades ago\*



$$T_e \simeq 182 \text{ eV}, n_e \simeq 9 \times 10^{22} \text{ e}^-/\text{cc}$$



# An outstanding problem: structure disagree with models of the Sun after metal abundances were reduced two decades ago



**Solar models need 10-30% higher mean opacity to resolve the structure problem [1]**

# Debate on abundances to solve the solar problem is still active after two decades!



A&A 653, A141 (2021)  
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202140445>  
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Astronomy  
 & Astrophysics

## The chemical make-up of the Sun: A 2020 vision

M. Asplund<sup>1</sup>, A. M. Amarsi<sup>2</sup>, and N. Grevesse<sup>3,4</sup>

...

**Conclusions.** Updated present-day solar photospheric and proto-solar abundances are presented for 83 elements, including for all long-lived isotopes. The so-called solar modelling problem – a persistent discrepancy between helioseismology and solar interior models constructed with a low solar metallicity similar to that advocated here – remains intact with our revised solar abundances, suggesting shortcomings with the computed opacities and/or treatment of mixing below the convection zone in existing standard solar models. The uncovered trend between the solar and CI chondritic abundances with condensation temperature is not yet understood but is likely imprinted by planet formation, especially since a similar trend of opposite sign is observed between the Sun and solar twins.

“Lower abundances are right!”

A&A 661, A140 (2022)  
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202142971>  
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Astronomy  
 & Astrophysics

## Observational constraints on the origin of the elements

### IV. Standard composition of the Sun

Ekaterina Magg<sup>1</sup>, Maria Bergemann<sup>1,5</sup>, Aldo Serenelli<sup>2,3,1</sup>, Manuel Bautista<sup>4</sup>, Bertrand Plez<sup>7</sup>, Ulrike Heiter<sup>6</sup>, Jeffrey M. Gerber<sup>1</sup>, Hans-Günter Ludwig<sup>8</sup>, Sarbani Basu<sup>9</sup>, Jason W. Ferguson<sup>10</sup>, Helena Carvajal Gallego<sup>11</sup>, Sébastien Gamrath<sup>11</sup>, Patrick Palmeri<sup>11</sup>, and Pascal Quinet<sup>11,12</sup>

...

**Results.** We find an unprecedented agreement between the new estimates of transition probabilities, thus supporting our revised solar oxygen abundance value. We also provide new estimates of the noble gas Ne abundance. In addition, we discuss the consistency of our photospheric measurements with meteoritic values, taking into account the systematic and correlated errors. Finally, we provide revised chemical abundances, leading to a new value proposed for the solar photospheric present-day metallicity of  $Z/X = 0.0225$ , which we then employed in SSM calculations. We find that the puzzling mismatch between the helioseismic constraints on the solar interior structure and the model can be resolved thanks to this new chemical composition.

A&A 669, L9 (2023)  
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202245448>  
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Astronomy  
 & Astrophysics

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Higher metal abundances do not solve the solar problem

G. Buldgen<sup>1,2</sup>, P. Eggenberger<sup>1</sup>, A. Noels<sup>2</sup>, R. Scuflaire<sup>2</sup>, A. M. Amarsi<sup>3</sup>, N. Grevesse<sup>2,4</sup>, and S. Salmon<sup>1</sup>

...

**Results.** When high-metallicity solar models are calibrated to reproduce the measured solar lithium depletion, tensions arise with respect to helioseismology and neutrino fluxes. This is yet another demonstration that the solar problem is also linked to the physical prescriptions of solar evolutionary models and not to chemical composition alone.

**Conclusions.** A revision of the physical ingredients of solar models is needed in order to improve our understanding of stellar structure and evolution. The solar problem is not limited to the photospheric abundances if the depletion of light elements is considered. In addition, tighter constraints on the solar beryllium abundance will play a key role improving of solar models.

“Abundances alone cannot resolve the problem!”

# Debate on abundances to solve the solar problem is still active after two decades!



A&A 653, A141 (2021)  
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Astronomy  
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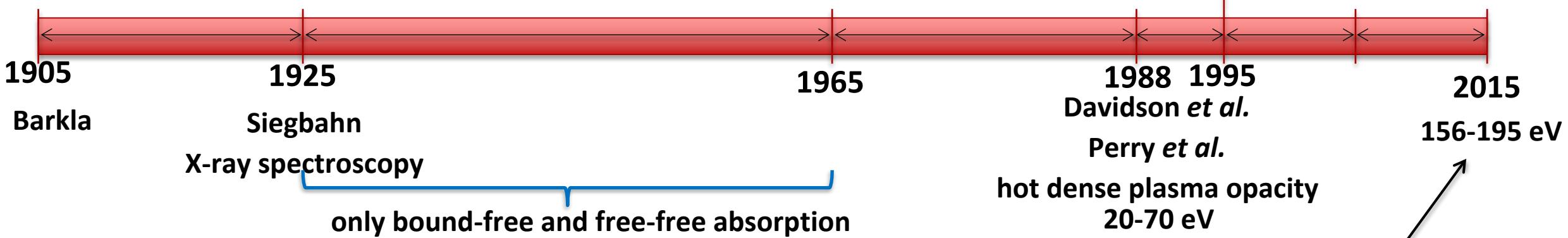
→ Benchmark HED opacities even more relevant

The first HED opacity measurements began in the 1980s, but measurements at solar interior conditions had to wait for the advent of MJ class HED facilities.



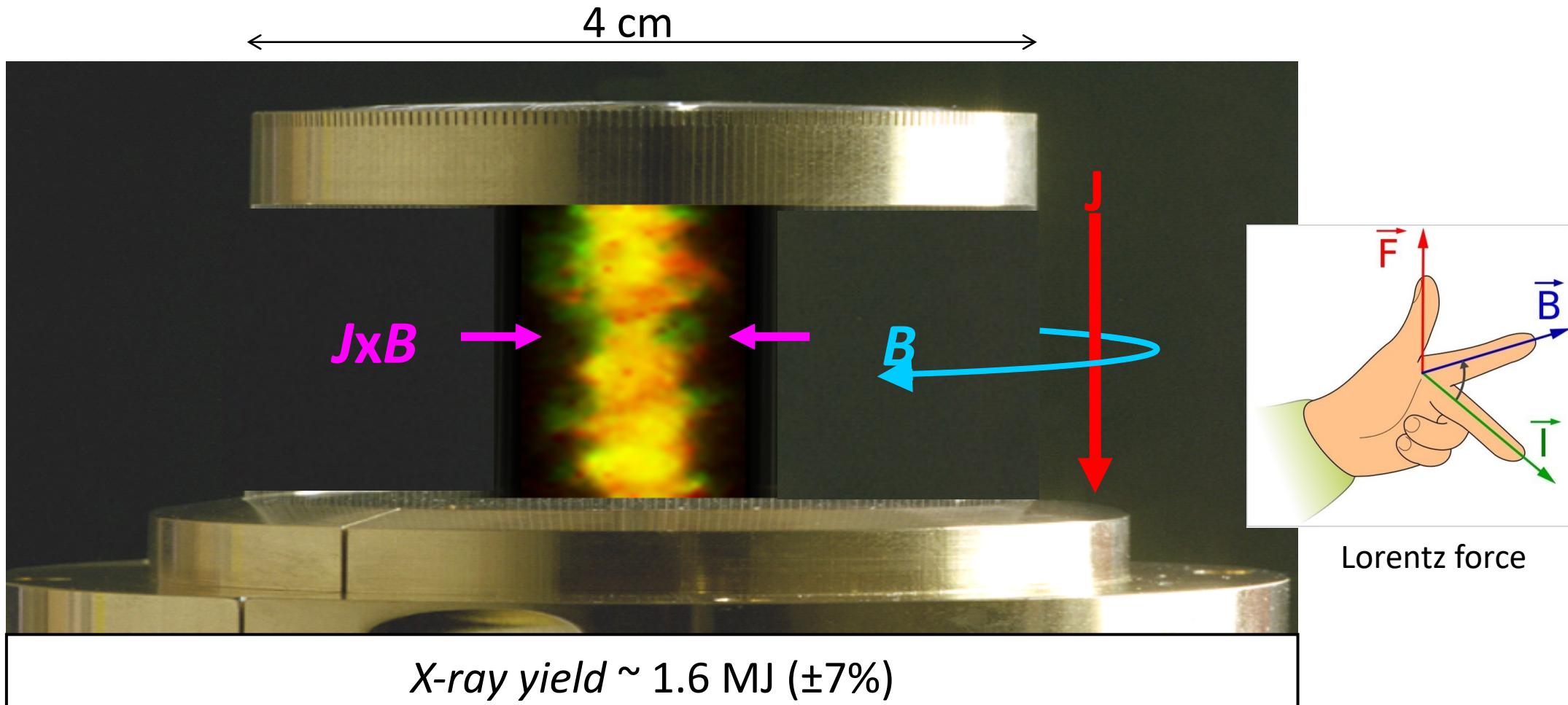
Eddington

“The Internal Constitution of the Stars”

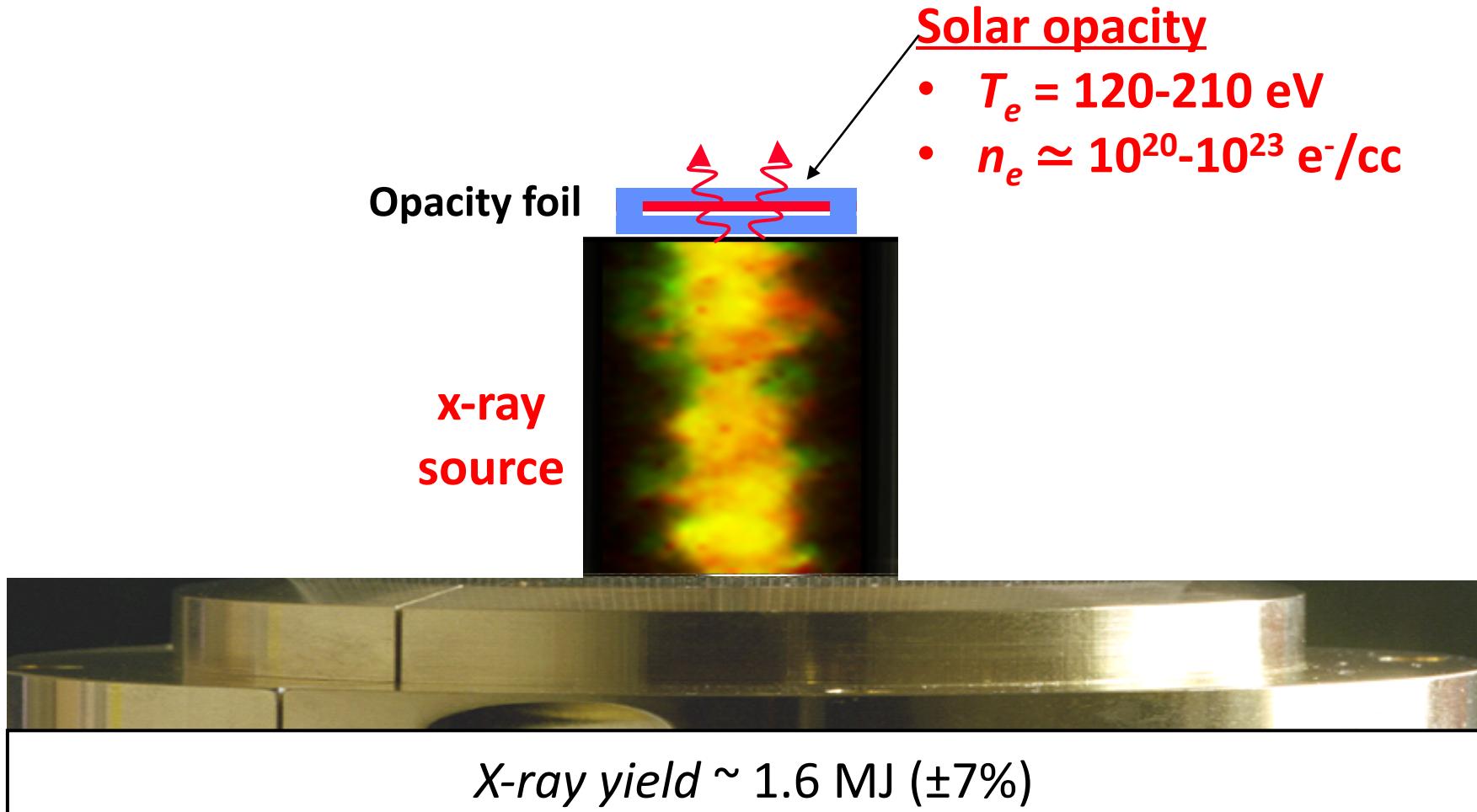


**Stellar interior opacity measurements are now possible for the first time**

# The Z machine uses 27 million Amperes to create x-rays

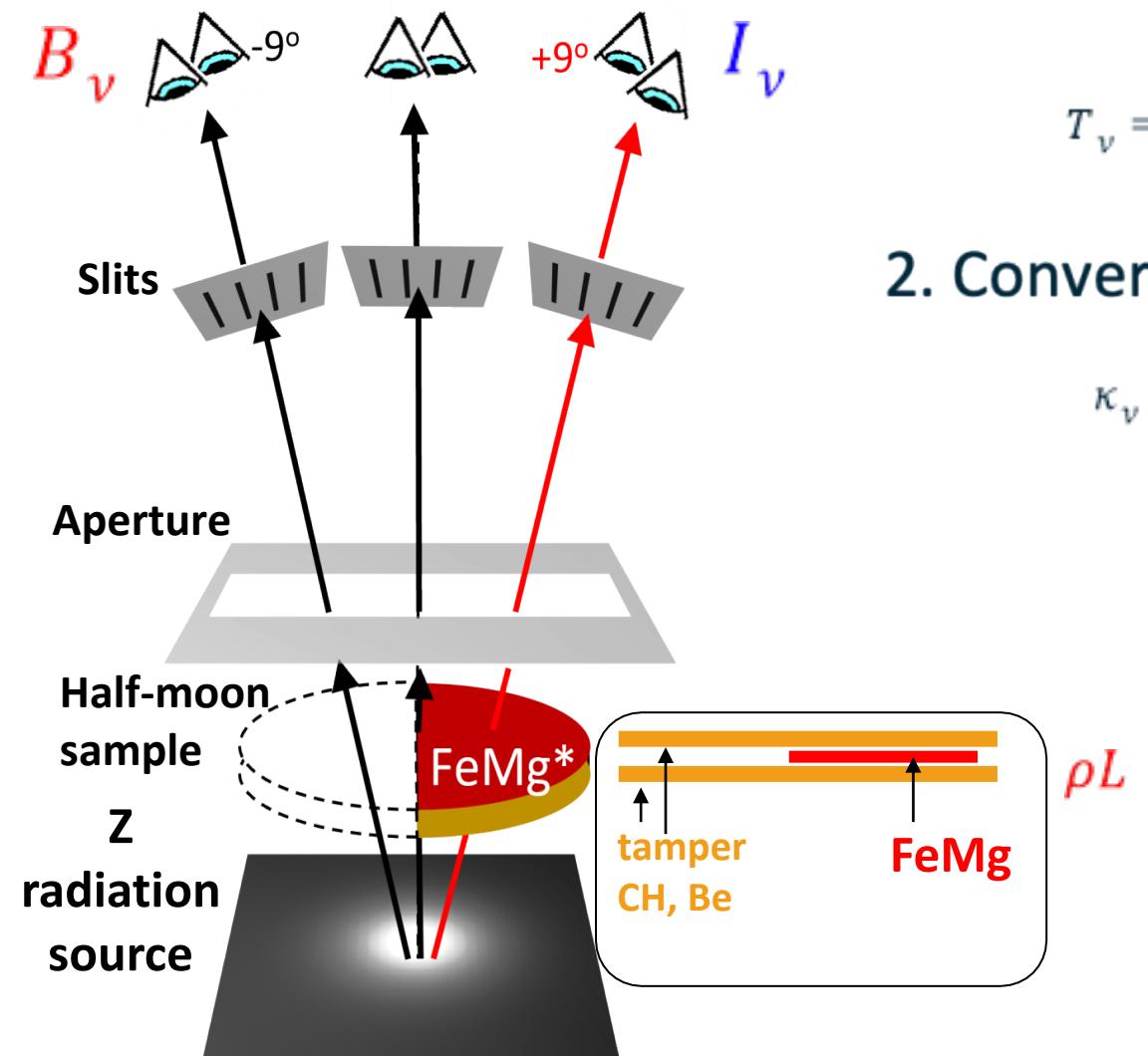


# The Z machine uses 27 million Amperes to create x-rays, and drive a sample to solar interior conditions



# We infer opacity by measuring transmission of a very bright backlight through a sample uniformly heated using six space-resolving spectrometers

Six crystal spectrometers



1. Determine transmission  $T_\nu$

$$T_\nu = \frac{I_\nu - \epsilon_\nu}{B_\nu - \epsilon_\nu}$$

2. Convert  $T_\nu$  to opacity  $\kappa_\nu$

$$\kappa_\nu = -\ln T_\nu / \rho L$$

## Sources of uncertainty

- Unattenuated  $B_\nu$
- Background  $\epsilon_\nu$
- Sample thickness  $\rho L$

## Requirements:

- Uniformly heat the sample to LTE
- Independent plasma diagnostics
- Bright backlight
- All sources of uncertainties need to be measured

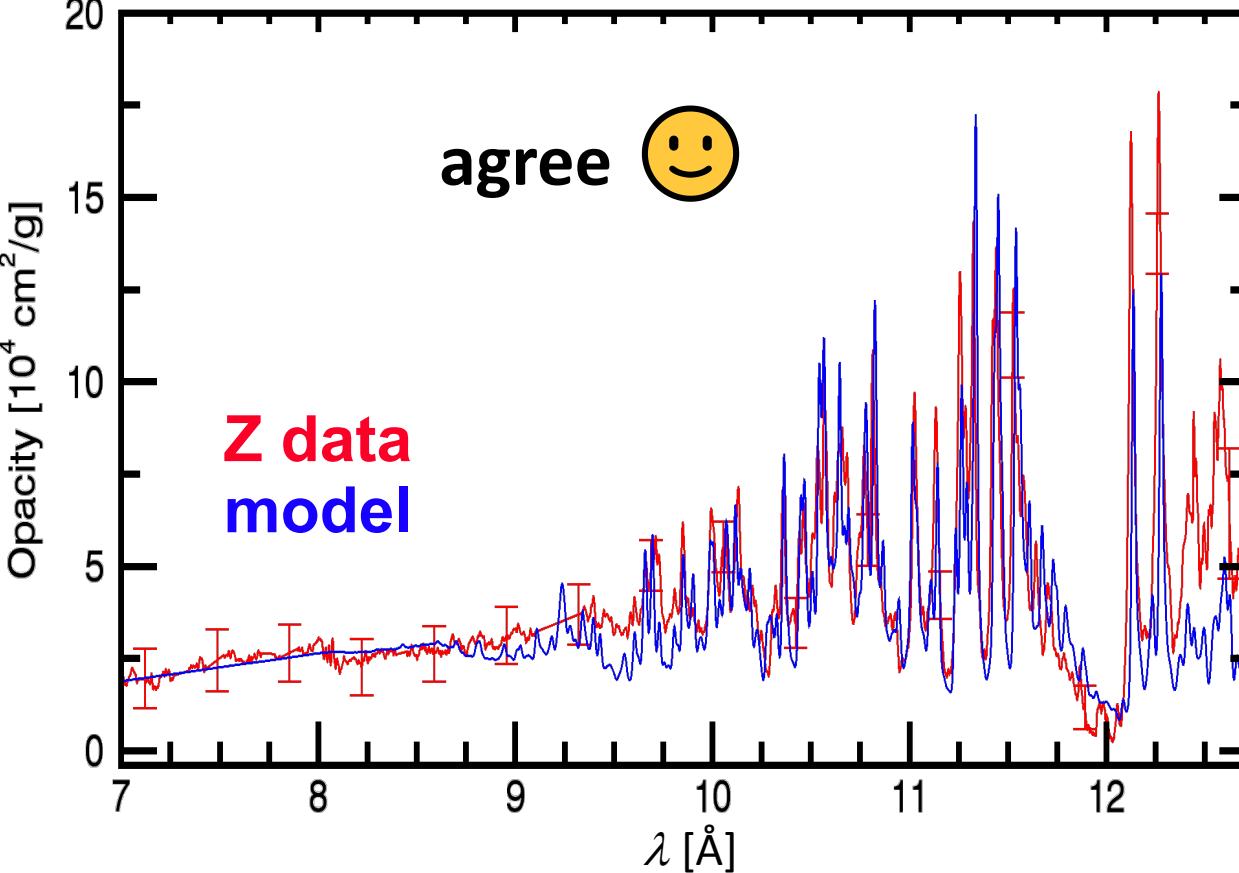
Modern best-effort models agree very well with the Z iron data at  
 $T_e \sim 156 \text{ eV (1.8MK)}, n_e = 7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



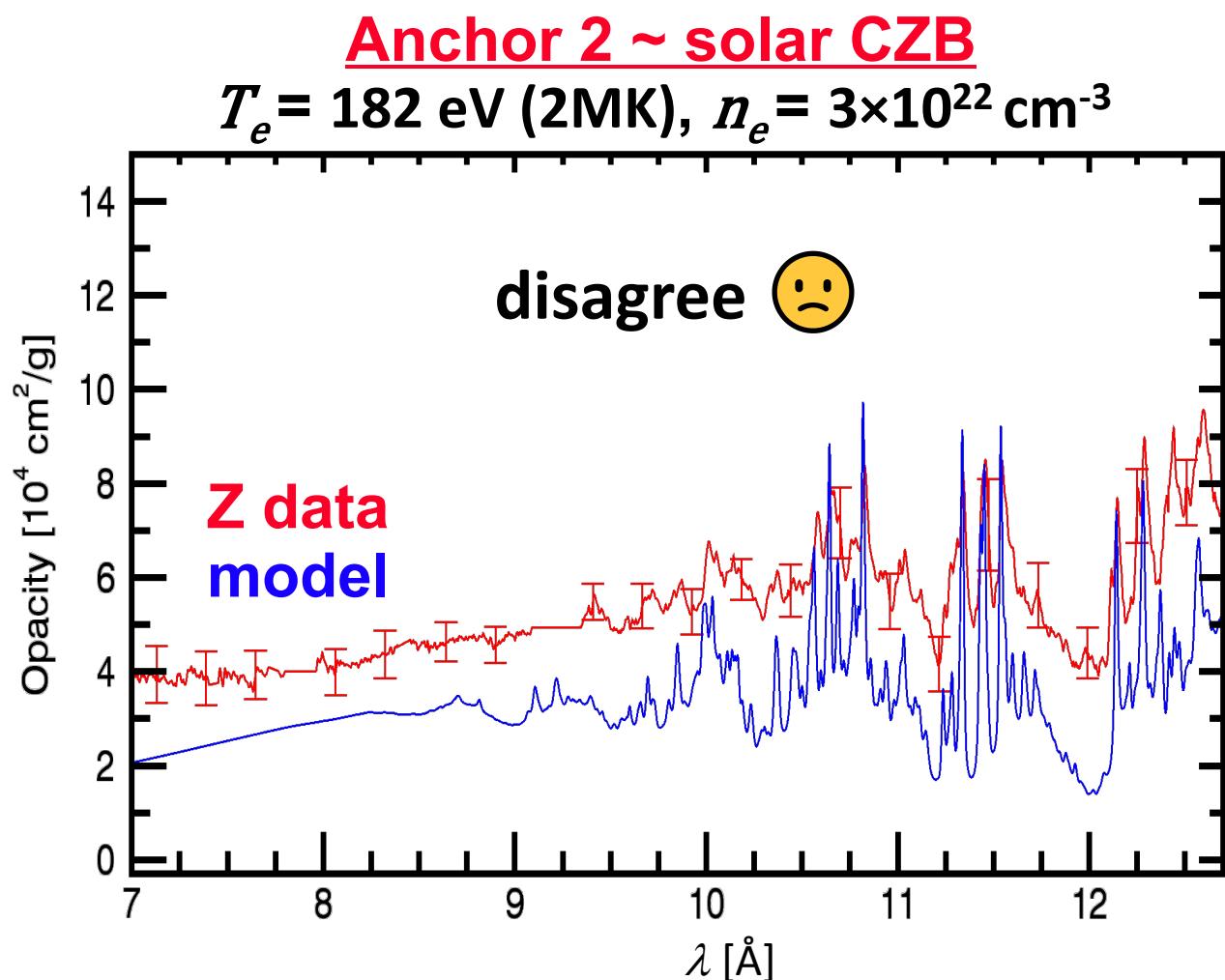
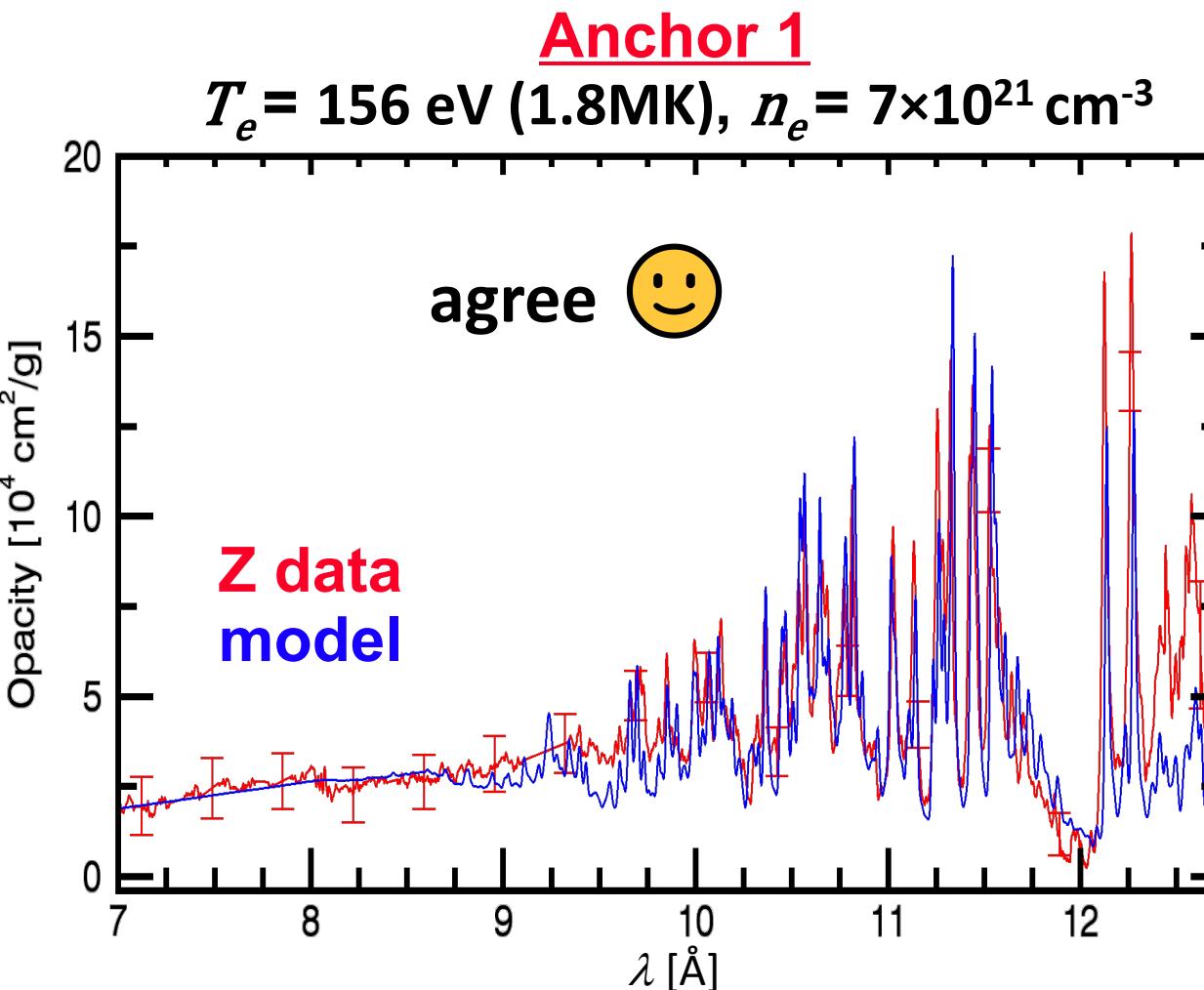
12

Anchor 1

$T_e = 156 \text{ eV (1.8MK)}, n_e = 7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



# ... but disagree at near CZB conditions



- The difference accounts for roughly half the opacity change needed (+7%) to solve the solar problem
- Is opacity theory inaccurate? Is opacity experiment flawed?

# The theory community has advanced and investigated several hypotheses to explain the discrepancy, but so far no widely accepted resolution is at hand.



## Two-photon absorption

High Energy Density Physics 24 (2017) 44–49

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
High Energy Density Physics  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/hedp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/hedp)



**SNL [USA]**

Opacity from two-photon processes\*

Richard M. More<sup>a,1</sup>, Stephanie B. Hansen<sup>b</sup>, Taisuke Nagayama<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> RMorePhysics, Pleasanton CA, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque NM, USA

High Energy Density Physics 31 (2019) 38–46

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
High Energy Density Physics  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/hedp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/hedp)



**LLNL [USA]**

Two-photon absorption framework for plasma transmission experiments

Michael K.G. Kruse\*, Carlos A. Iglesias  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, Livermore, CA 94550, USA

## Transient spatial localization

SCIENCE CHINA  
Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy



Article

March 2022 Vol. 65 No. 3: 233001  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11403-021-1812-1>

**U. Of Defense Technology [China]**

Electron localization enhanced photon absorption for the missing opacity in solar interior

JiaoLong Zeng<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Cheng Gao<sup>3</sup>, PengFei Liu<sup>1</sup>, YongJun Li<sup>3</sup>, CongSen Meng<sup>3</sup>,  
Yong Hou<sup>3</sup>, DongDong Kang<sup>3</sup>, and JianMin Yuan<sup>2,3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> College of Science, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou 310023, China;

<sup>2</sup> Graduate School of China Academy of Engineering Physics, Beijing 100093, China;

<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, National University of Defense Technology, Changsha 410073, China

## Simultaneous electron-photon absorption

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 125, 145002 (2020)

**Imperial College [UK]**

Calculating Opacity in Hot, Dense Matter Using Second-Order Electron-Photon and Two-Photon Transitions to Approximate Line Broadening

R. A. Baggott<sup>1,2</sup>, S. J. Rose<sup>1,3</sup>, and S. P. D. Mangles

Plasma Physics Group, Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom

## Satellite lines

**atoms**

**CEA [France]**



Article

Detailed Opacity Calculations for Astrophysical Applications

Jean-Christophe Pain\*, Franck Gilleron and Maxime Comet

CEA, DAM, F-91297 Arpajon, France; [franck.gilleron@cea.fr](mailto:franck.gilleron@cea.fr) (F.G.); [maxime.comet@cea.fr](mailto:maxime.comet@cea.fr) (M.C.)

## Line broadening

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 127, 235001 (2021)

**SNL, U Texas, LANL [USA, Australia]**

All-Order Full Coulomb Quantum Spectral Line Shape Calculations

T. A. Gomez<sup>1,\*</sup>, T. Nagayama<sup>1</sup>, P. B. Cho<sup>2</sup>, M. C. Zammit<sup>3</sup>, C. J. Fontes<sup>3</sup>, D. P. Kilcrease<sup>3</sup>,  
I. Bray<sup>4</sup>, I. Hubeny<sup>5</sup>, B. H. Dunlap<sup>2</sup>, M. H. Montgomery<sup>2</sup>, and D. E. Winget<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123, USA

<sup>2</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712, USA

<sup>3</sup> Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA

<sup>4</sup> Curtin Institute of Computation and Department of Physics and Astronomy, GPO Box U1987 Perth, Western Australia 6845, Australia

<sup>5</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721, USA

## Density

doi:10.3847

**Hebrew University [Israel]**

LINE BROADENING AND THE SOLAR OPACITY PROBLEM

M. KRIEF, A. FEIGEL, AND D. GAZIT

The Racah Institute of Physics, The Hebrew University, 91904 Jerusalem, Israel; [menahem.krief@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:menahem.krief@mail.huji.ac.il)

Received 2016 March 7; revised 2016 April 18; accepted 2016 April 21; published 2016 June 17

# Experimental scrutiny is also warranted to seek potentially missed systematic errors



## 1) Refinement of data analysis

- More accurate  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  (e.g. new line shapes)
- More accurate transmission analysis

## 2) Systematic L-shell opacity investigation

- Opacity of Cr (Z=24) and Ni (Z=28) powerful hypothesis constraints

T. Nagayama *et al.*, *PRL*, **122**, (2019)

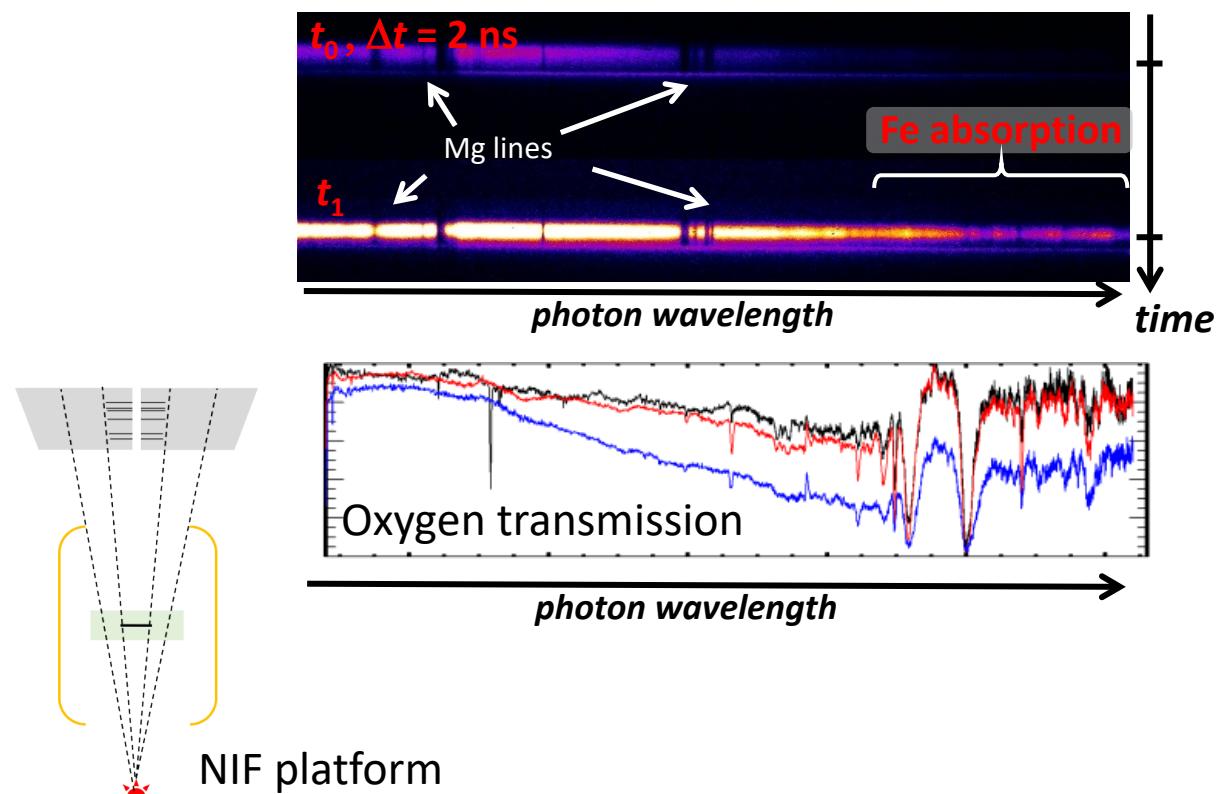
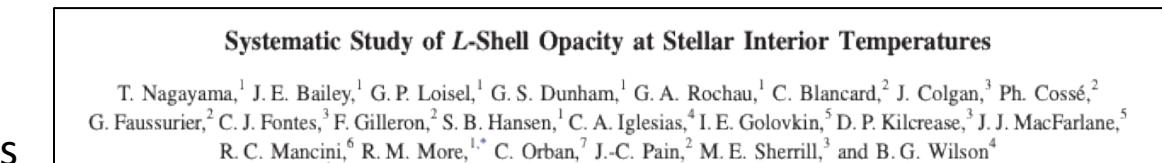
## 3) Time-resolved measurements

- Temporal gradients
- Achieve higher temperature and/or density
- Multiple plasmas conditions in a single experiment

## 4) Oxygen opacity

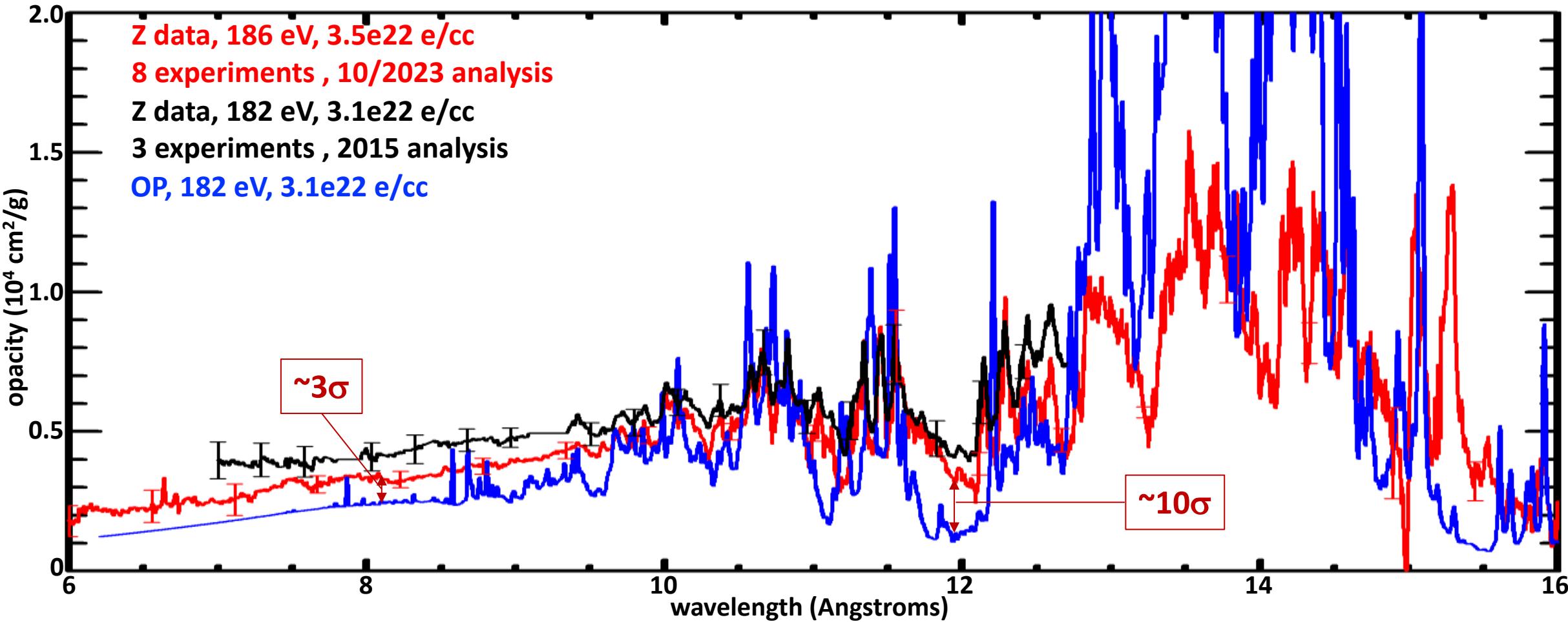
- Simpler K-shell absorption although un-tested at CZB
- Highest contributor to solar opacity at CZB
- Experiments and analyses are underway

## 5) Cross-comparison with opacity from NIF facility (Fe, O)

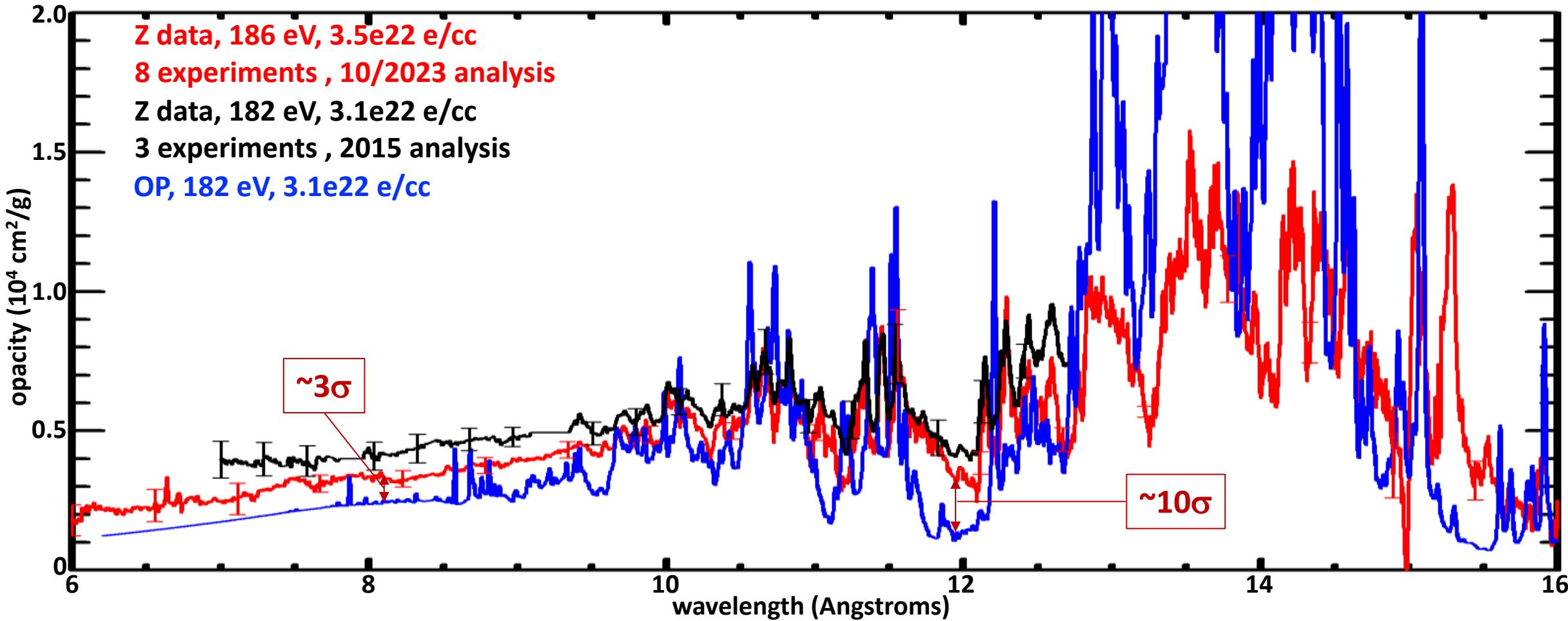


# Z iron opacity measurements have been refined over nearly a decade, but model-data discrepancies remain

16



# Z iron opacity measurements have been refined over nearly a decade, but model-data discrepancies remain



Scrutiny of both models and measurements must continue since this discrepancy affects all sun-like stars...  
... and exoplanet parameter inference too! (E.g. ESA Plato mission 2026)



# Temporal gradients are a potential source of systematic error on opacity measurements



## Potential systematic errors<sup>1</sup>:

- Error in  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  determination
- Sample areal density error
- Sample spatial gradients
- Sample self-emission
- Background determination
- ⋮

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **95**, 063206 (2017)

**Numerical investigations of potential systematic uncertainties in iron opacity measurements at solar interior temperatures**

T. Nagayama,<sup>\*</sup> J. E. Bailey, G. P. Loisel, and G. A. Rochau  
*Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185, USA*

J. J. MacFarlane and I. E. Golovkin  
*Prism Computational Sciences, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, USA*

(Received 23 February 2017; published 26 June 2017)

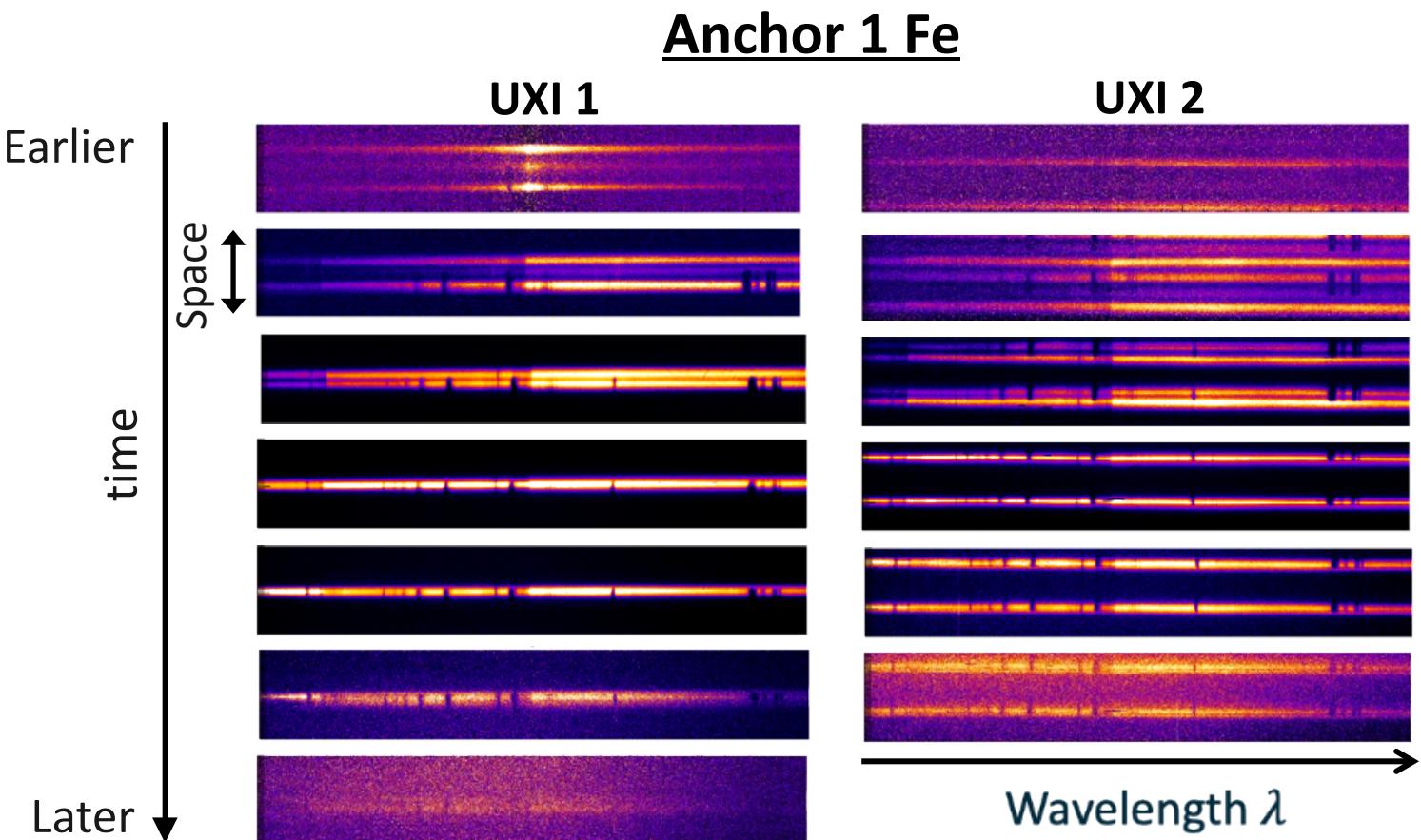
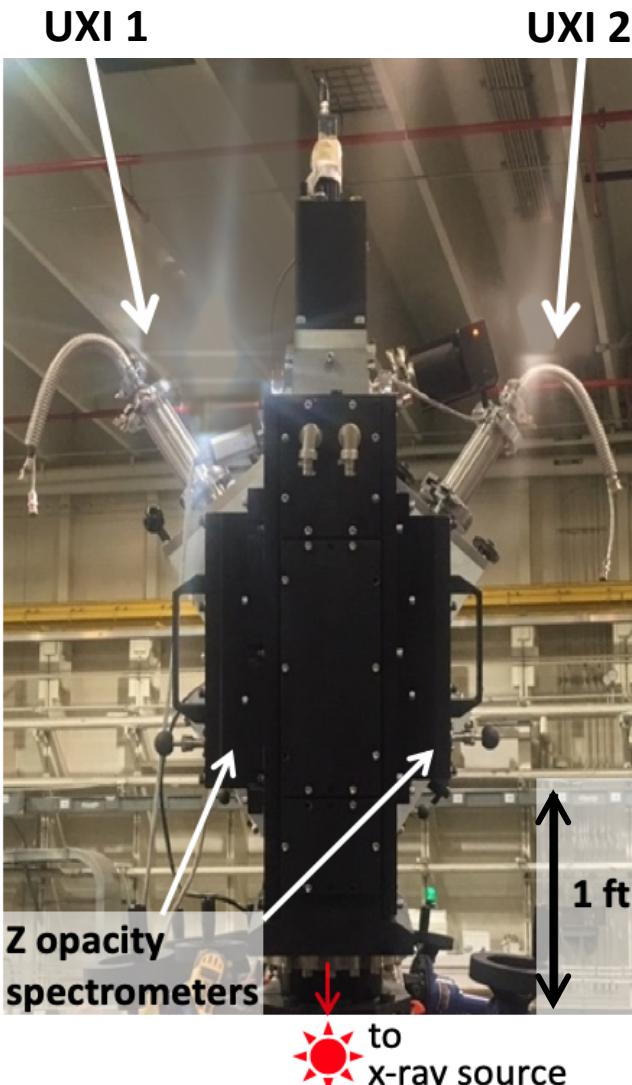
## Temporal gradients were studied with simulations but not measured until now

- Film-based spectra so far integrate 3.3 ns backscatter.
- *But,  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  change over that duration. Does that affect our film-based measurements?*

→ Field ultra-fast detector to assess the Z opacity sample evolution

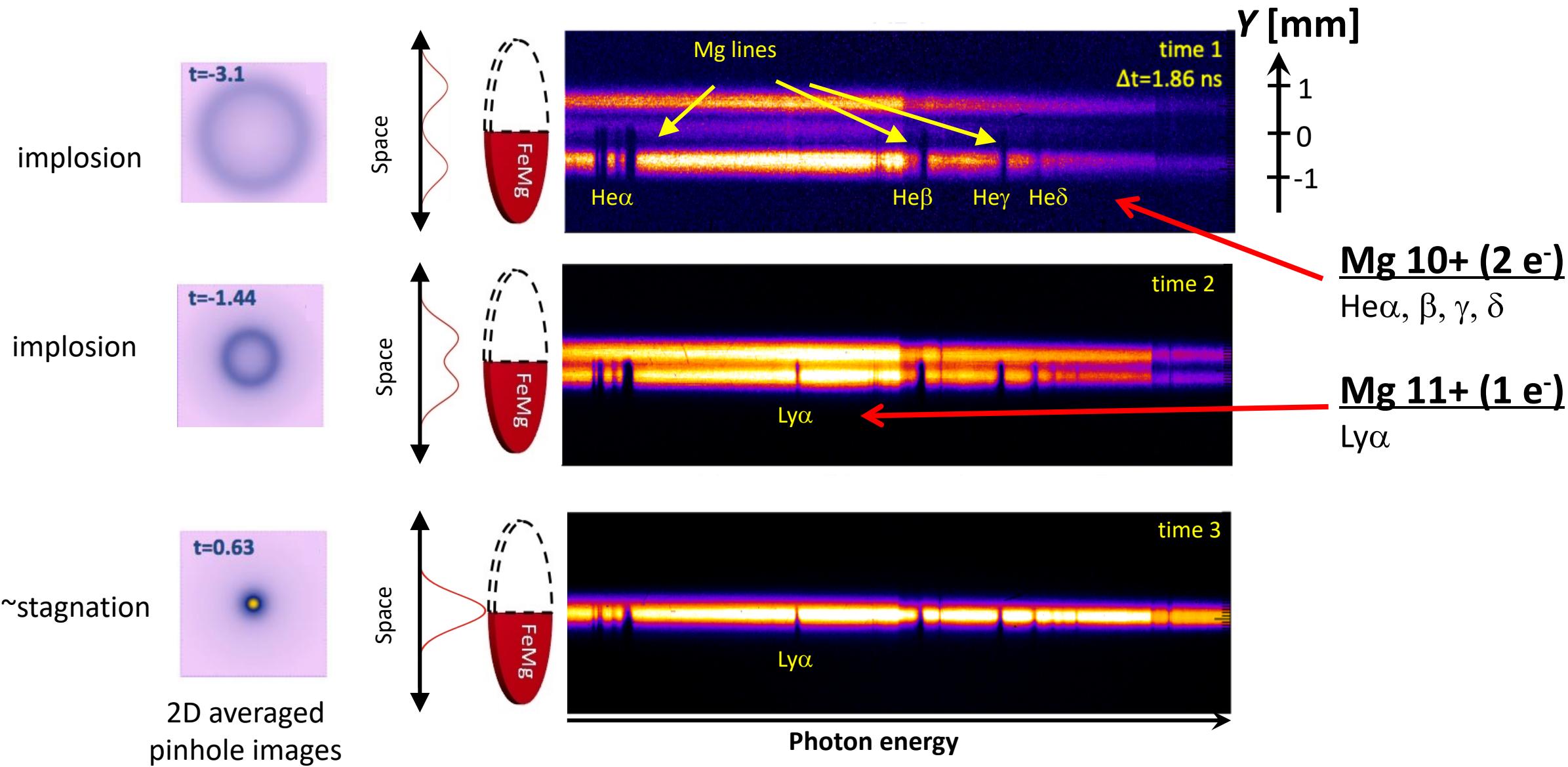
<sup>1</sup>Nagayama *et al.*, *PRE*, **95**, (2017), Nagayama *et al.*, *RSI*, **83**, (2012), H. Morris *et al.*, *PoP*, **24**, (2017)

# The Z spectrometers now returns nominal high-quality time-gated spectral images<sup>1</sup>



- Single photon detection → 12-14 ns of observations
- At peak ~50 signal-to-noise ratio

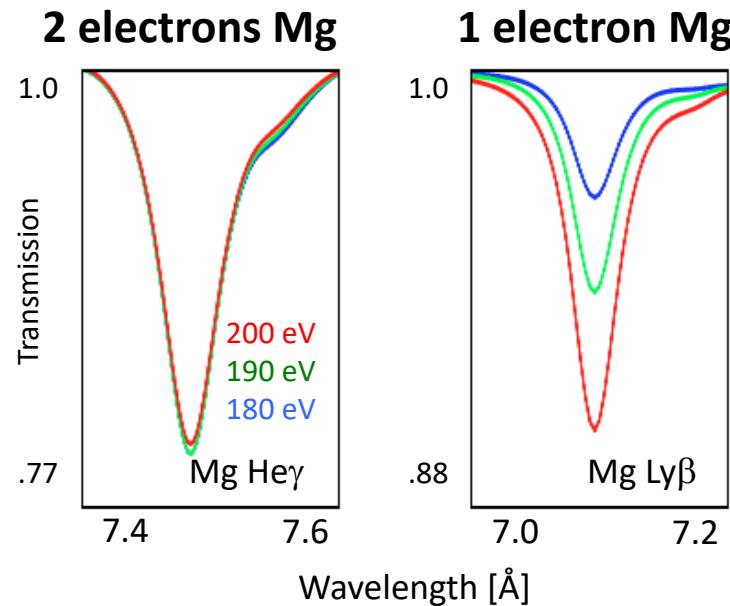
# These images are *temporally* and *spectrally* resolved ... and also *1-D spatially* resolved



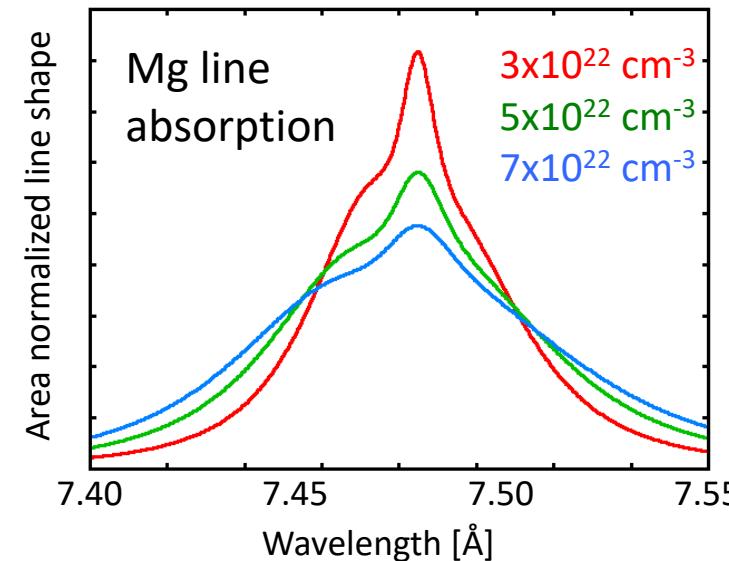
# $n_e$ and $T_e$ are inferred from measured magnesium (Mg, tracer) line absorption spectrum<sup>1</sup>



- Line ratio: sensitive to electron temperature,  $T_e$



- Line shape: sensitive to electron density,  $n_e$



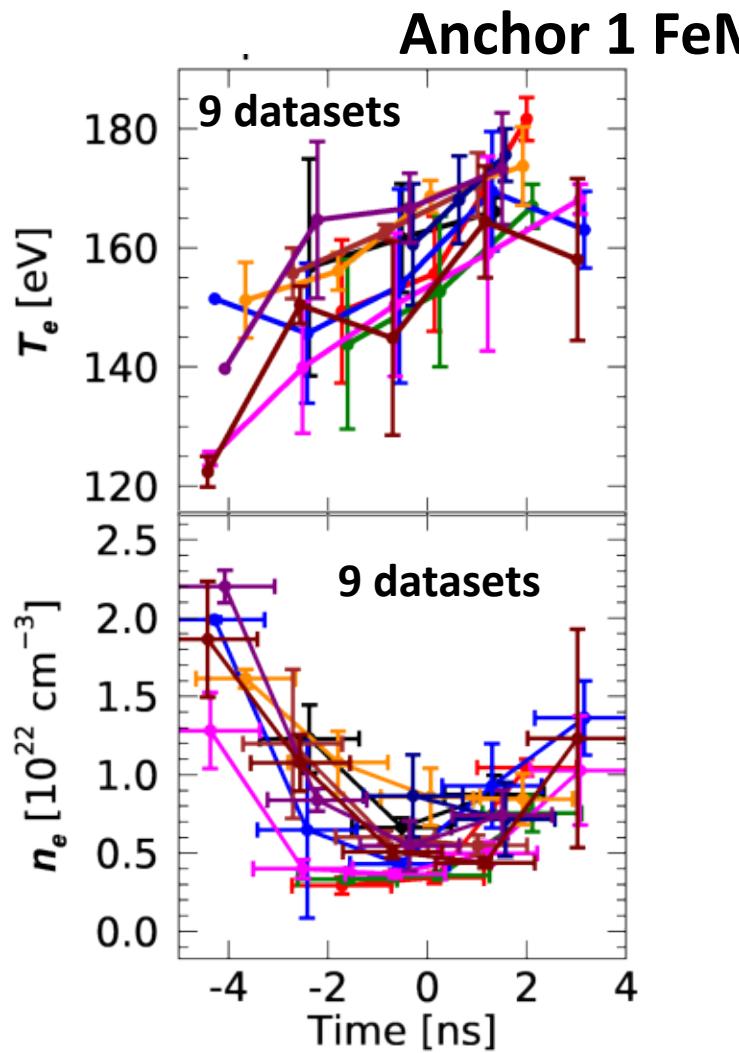
Plasma  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  can be extracted by reproducing measured spectra with spectral models

<sup>1</sup>Bailey, *et al.* *RSI* **79**, 3104 (2008), Nagayama *et al.*, *PoP* **21**, 056502 (2014), Nagayama *et al.* *HEDP* **20**, 17 (2016), R.C. Mancini, D.P. Kilcrease, *et al.*, *Comp. Phys. Com.* **63**, 314 (1991), C. Iglesias, H. DeWitt, *et. al.*, *PRA* **31**, 1698 (1985).

# Fe opacity sample evolution are now obtained routinely near established anchor 1, 2 ( $T_e$ , $n_e$ )



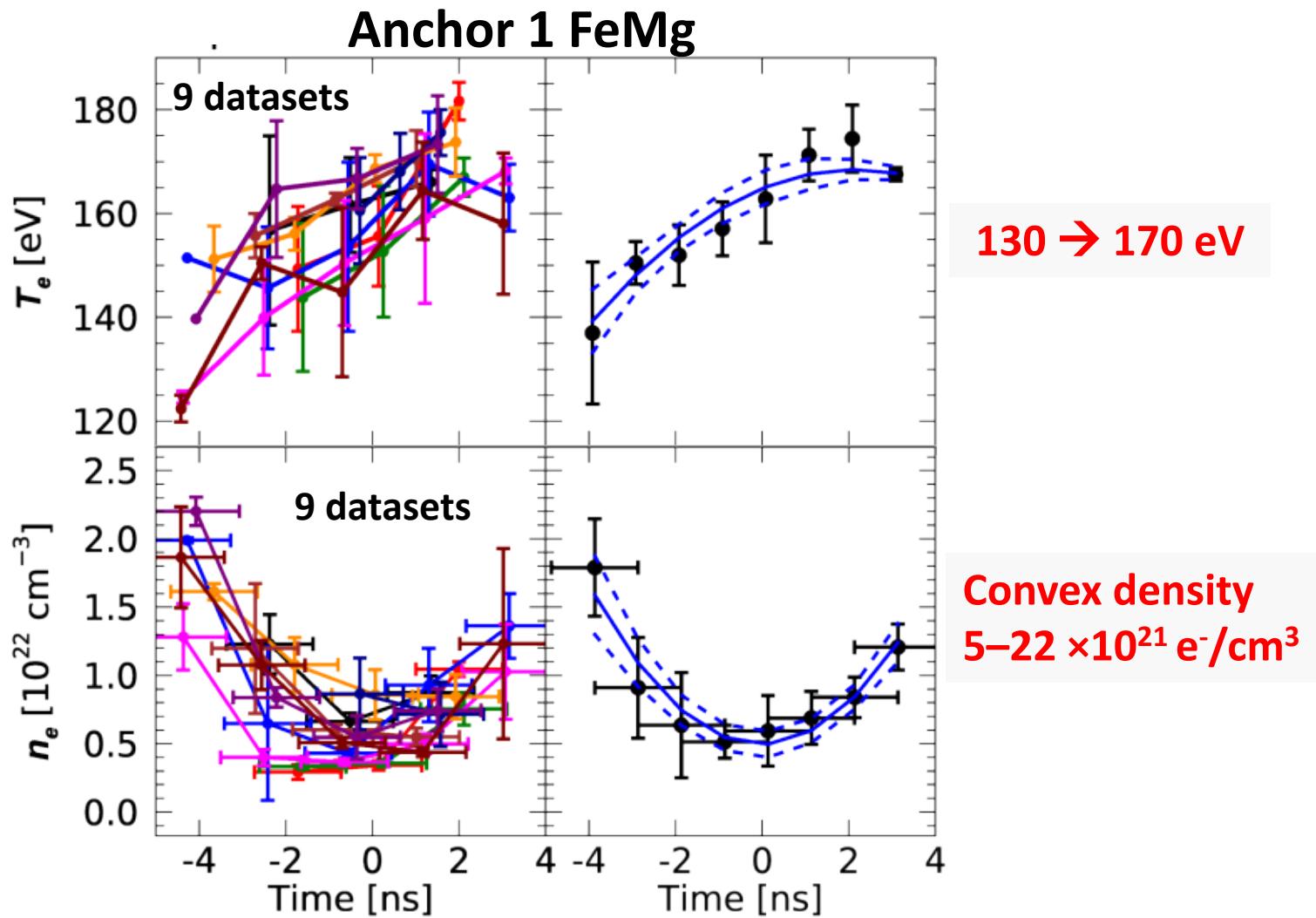
22



➤ Multiple datasets show reliable trends

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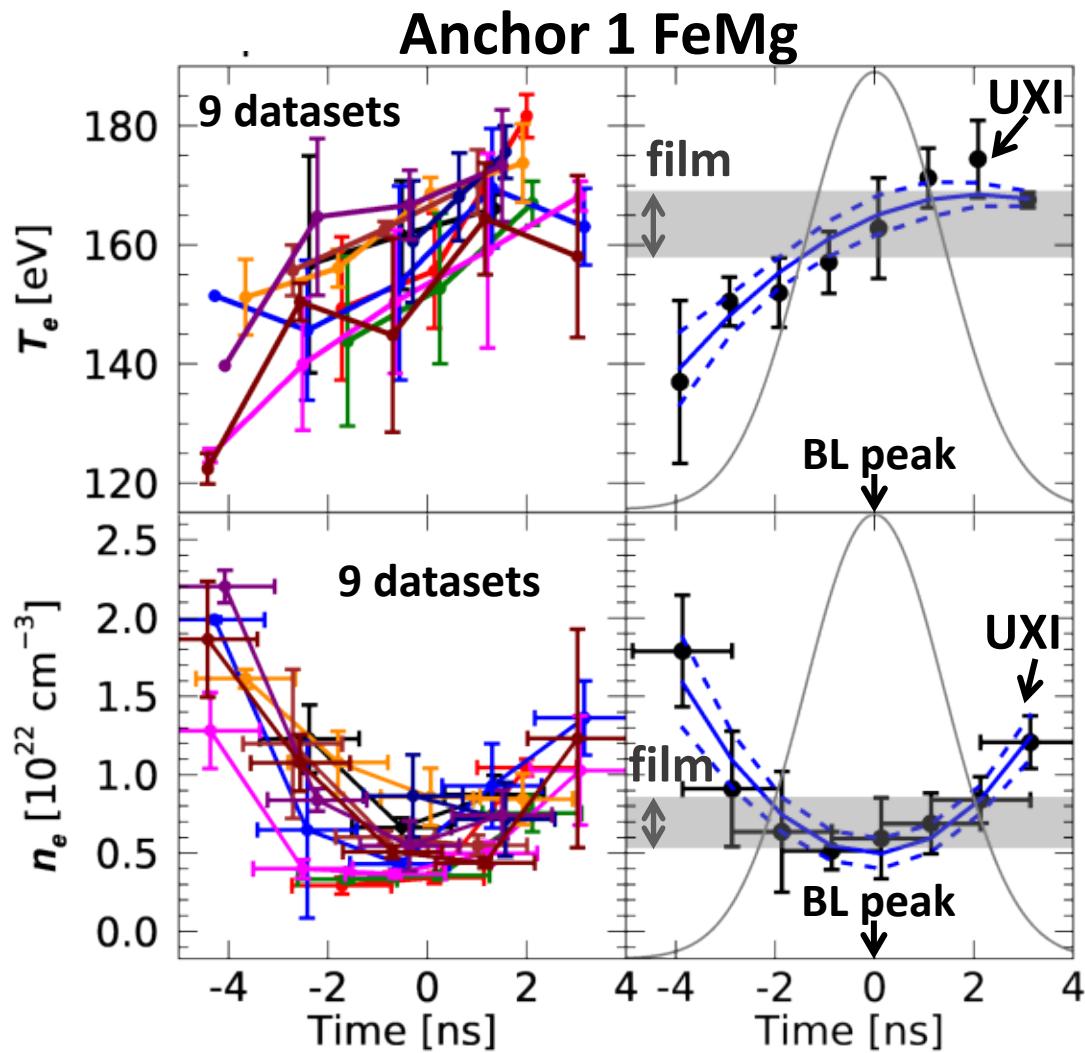
23



➤ Multiple datasets show reliable trends

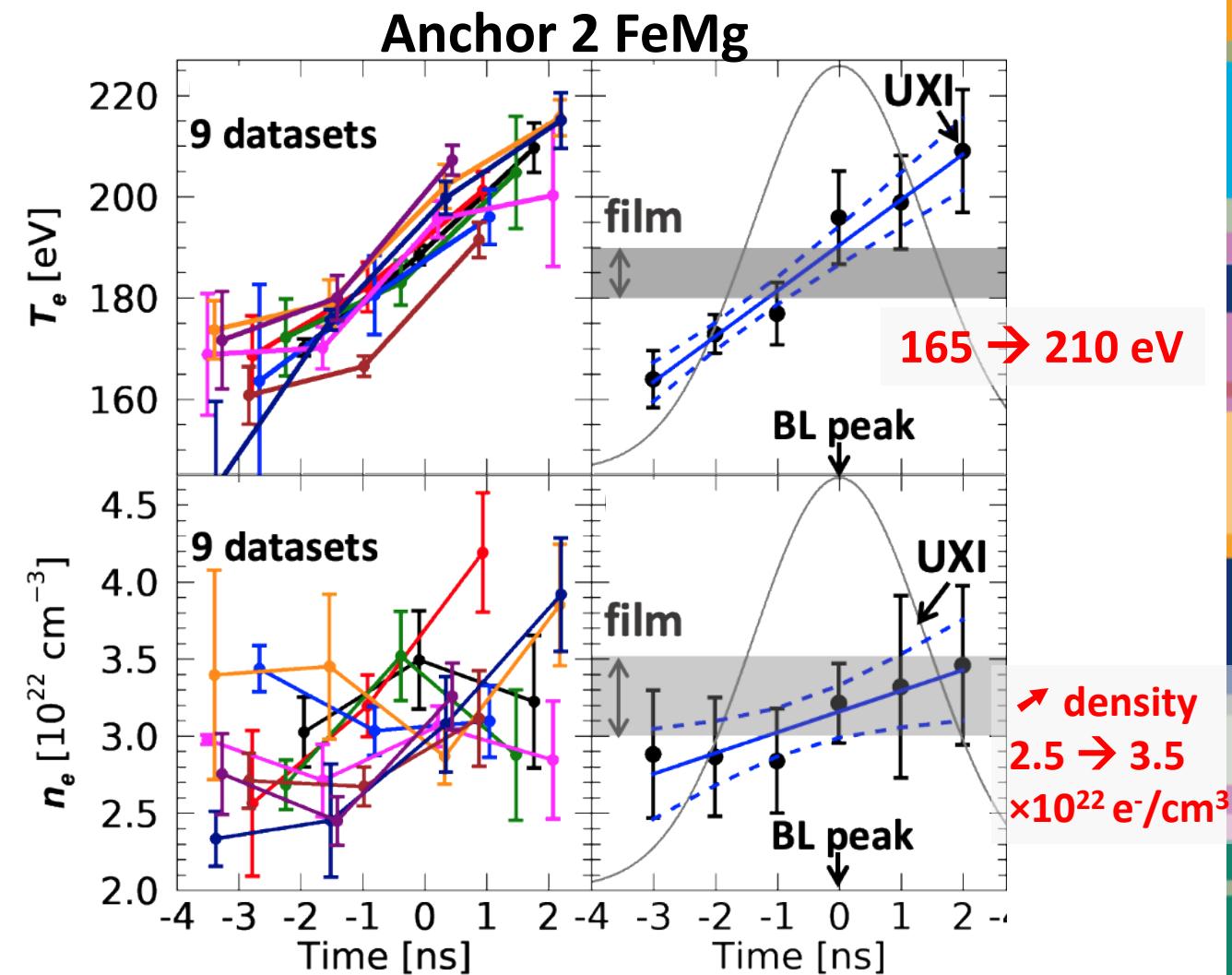
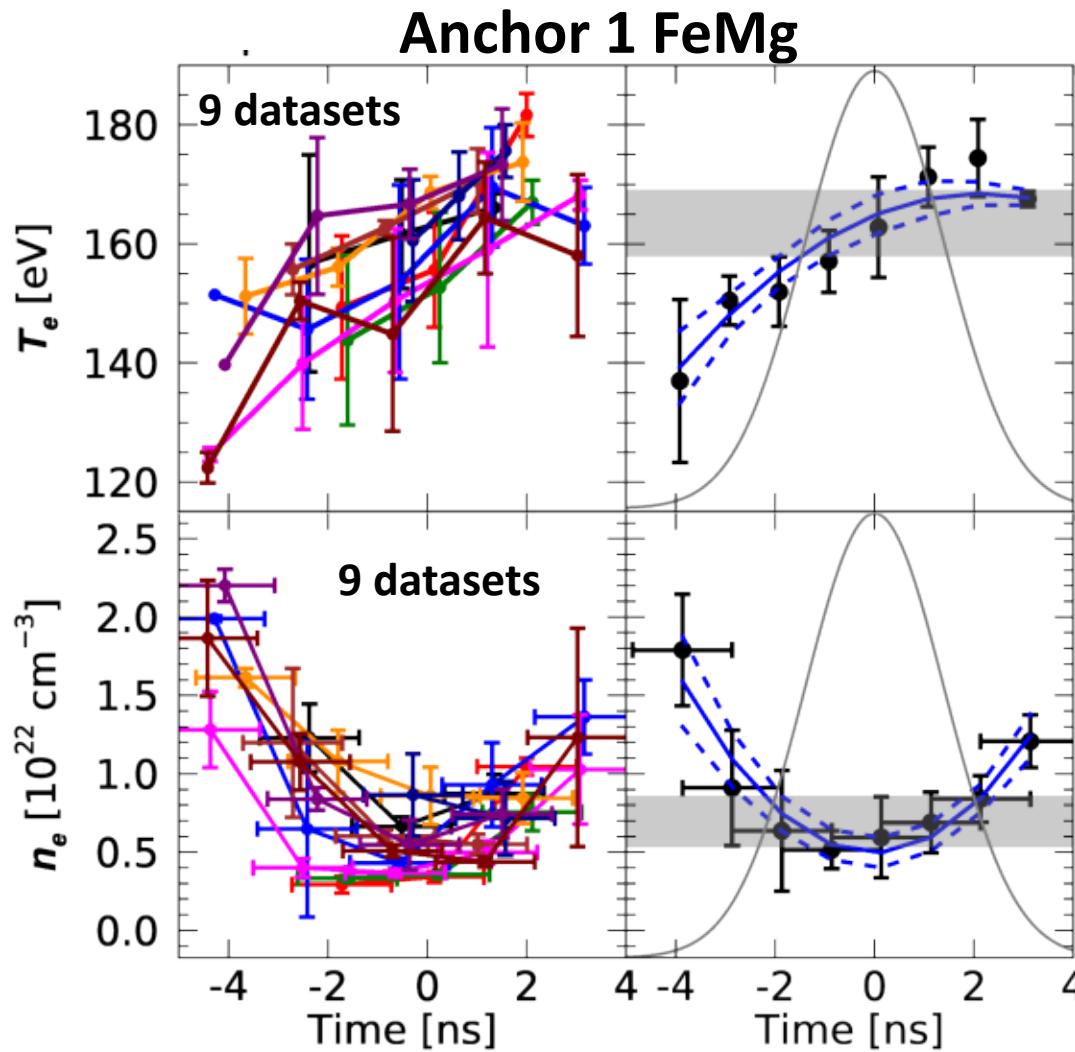
# Fe opacity sample evolution are now obtained routinely near established anchor 1, 2 ( $T_e$ , $n_e$ )

24

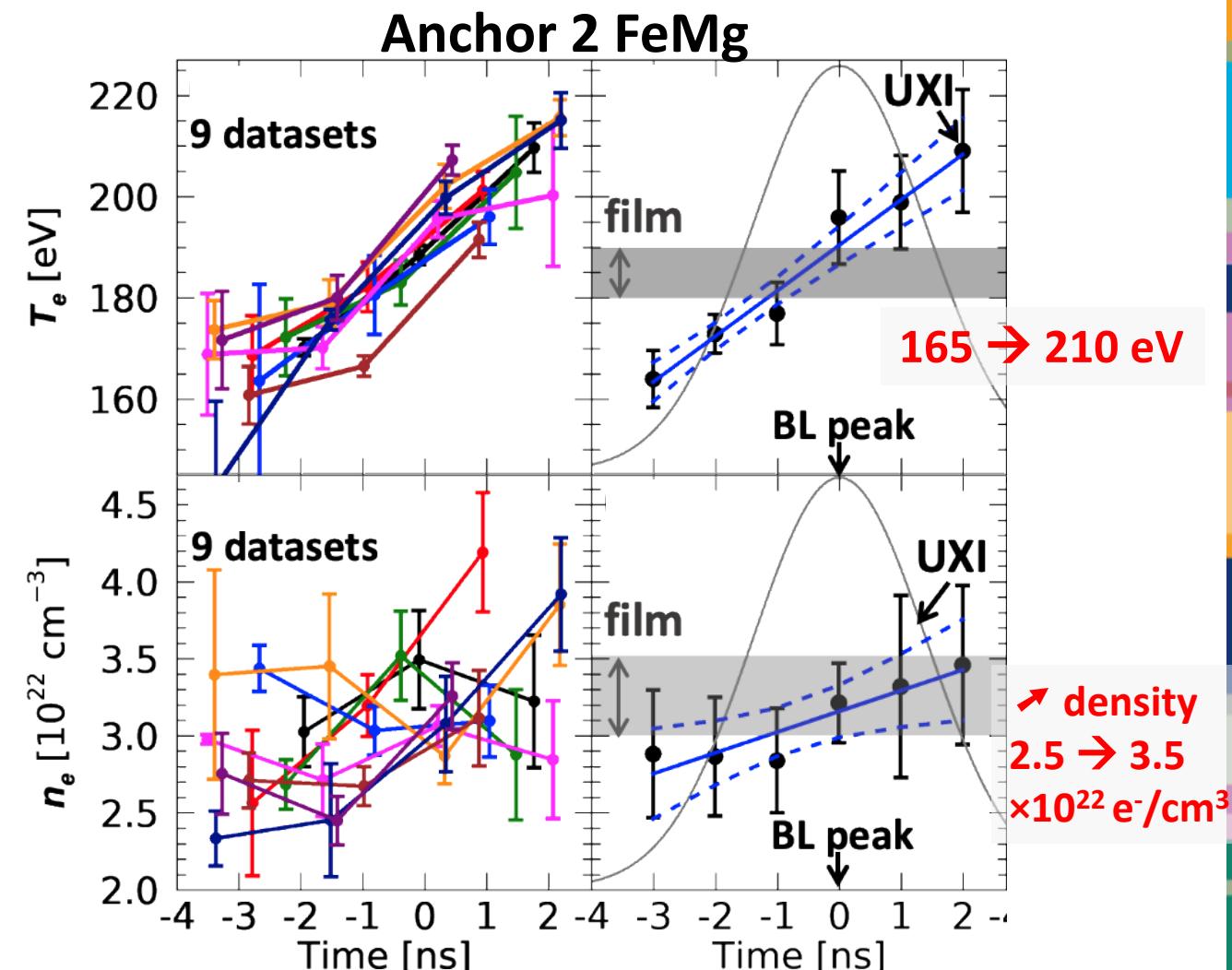
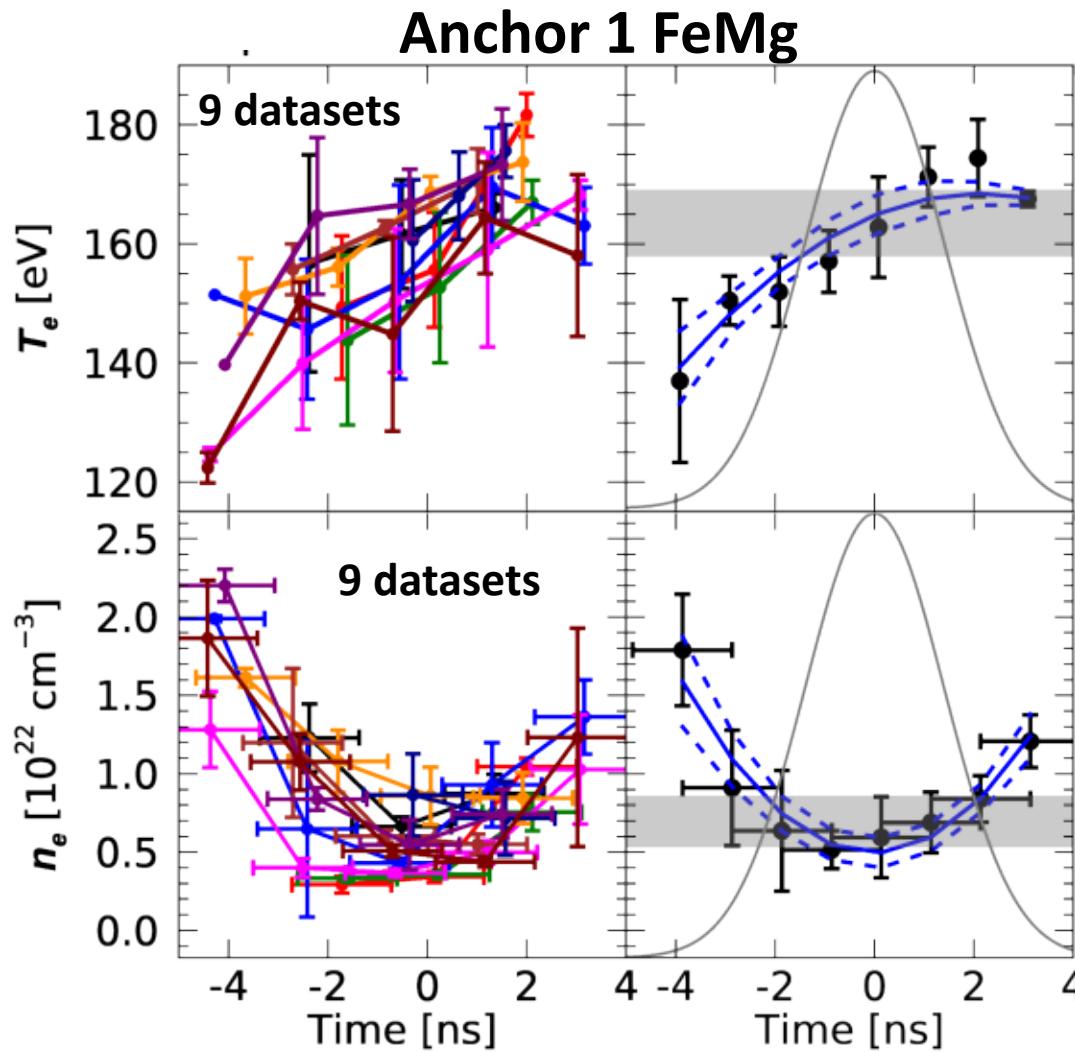


Film opacity = @ backscatterer peak

# Fe opacity sample evolution are now obtained routinely near established anchor 1, 2 ( $T_e$ , $n_e$ )



# Fe opacity sample evolution are now obtained routinely near established anchor 1, 2 ( $T_e$ , $n_e$ )



- $T_e$ ,  $n_e$  measurements independent from Fe opacity measurements (benchmark requirement)

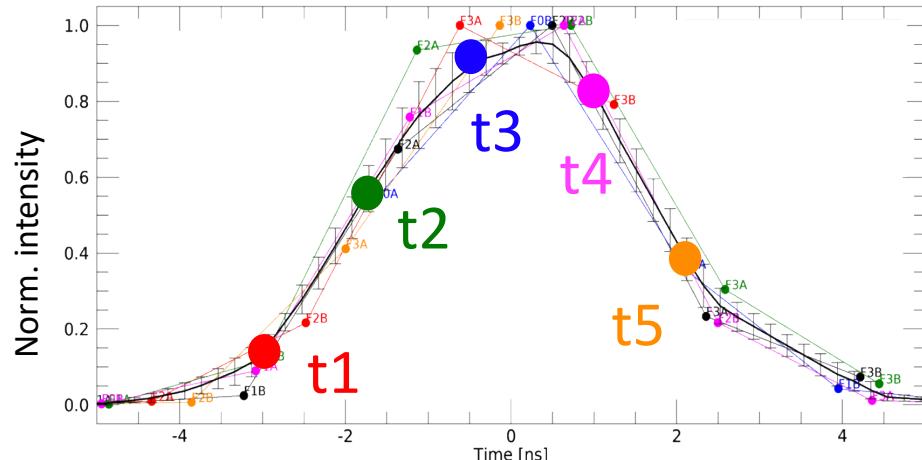
# Could the observed gradient explain the anchor 2 model-data discrepancy? Let's investigate!

27

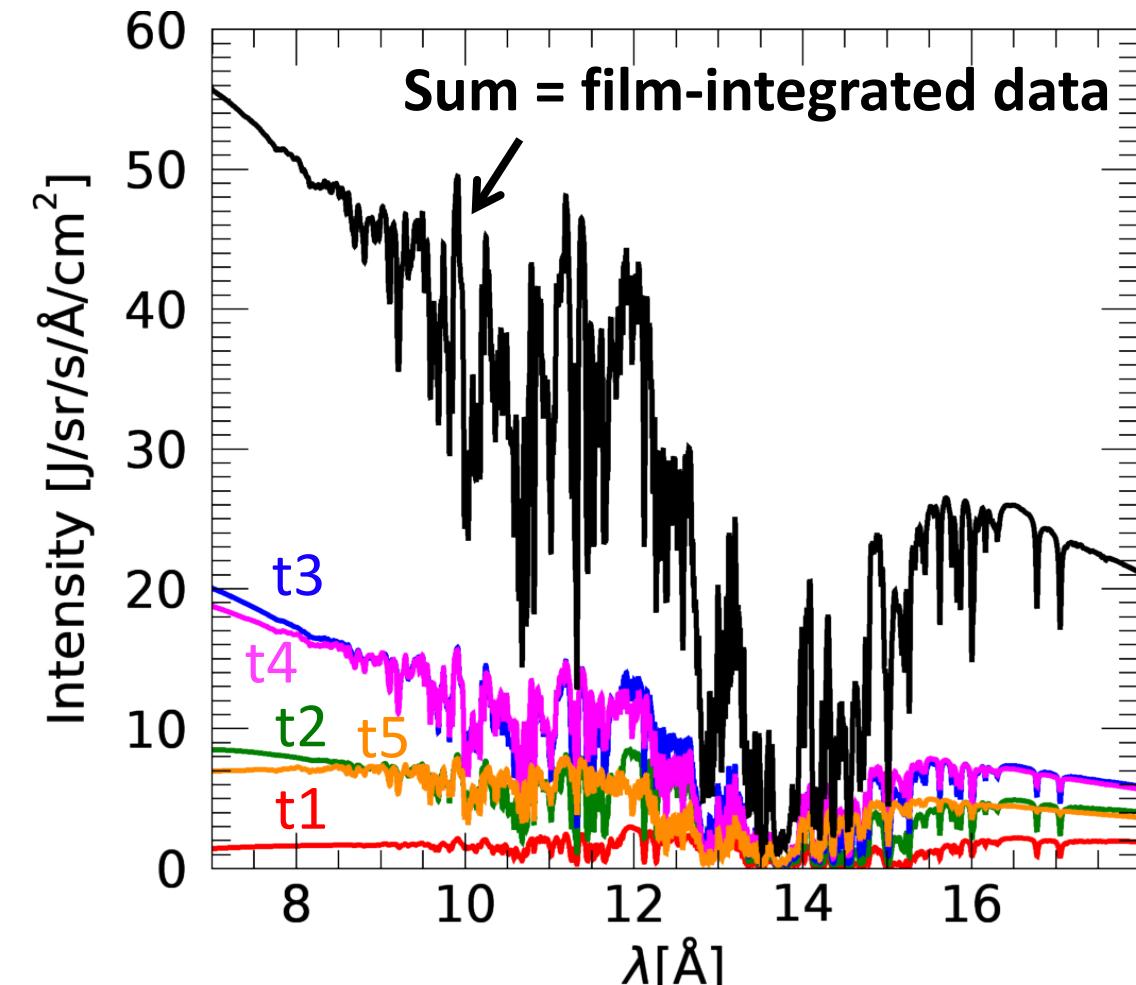
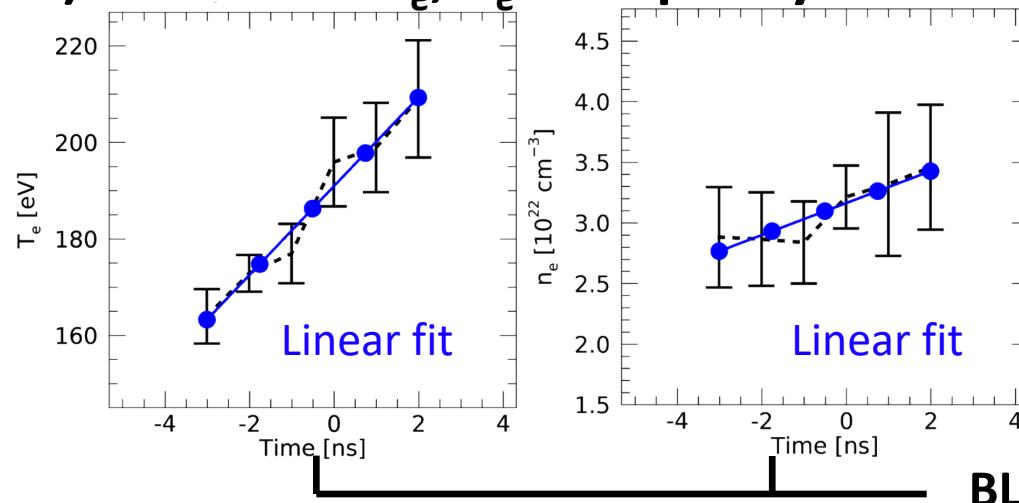


We need:

## 1) Measure BL history



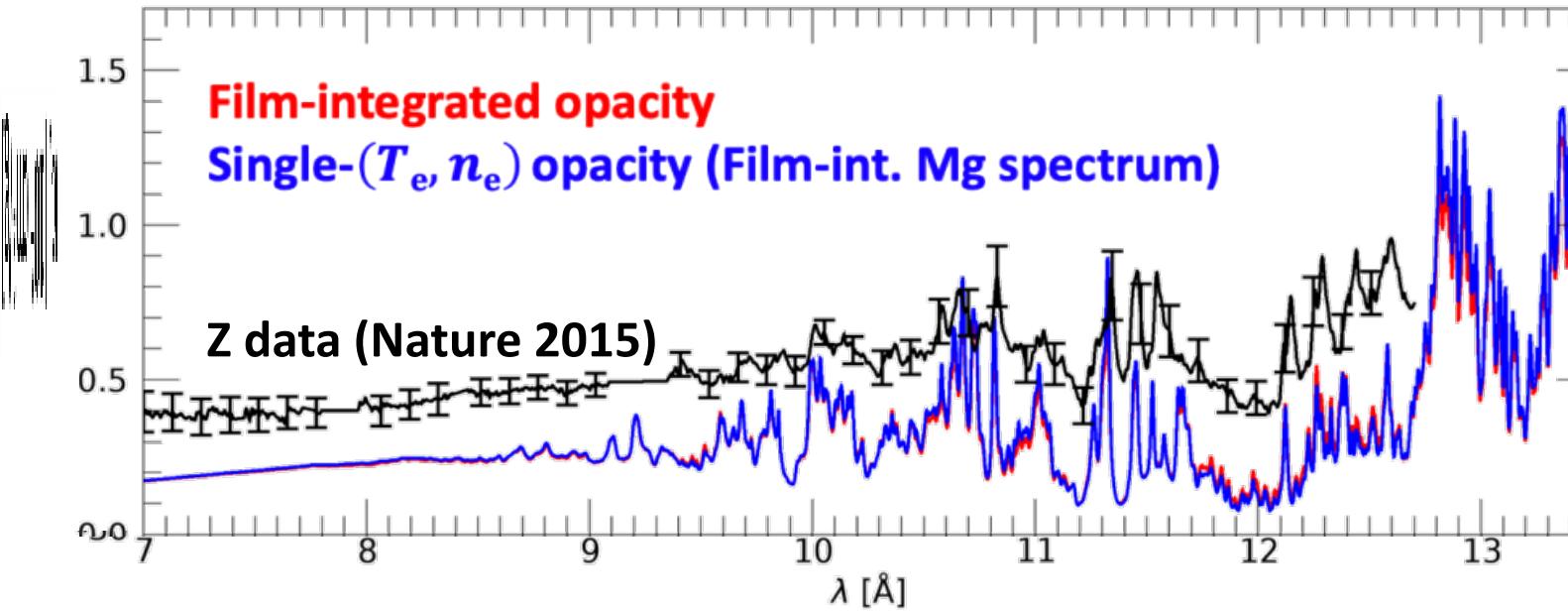
## 2) Measured $T_e$ , $n_e$ for opacity models



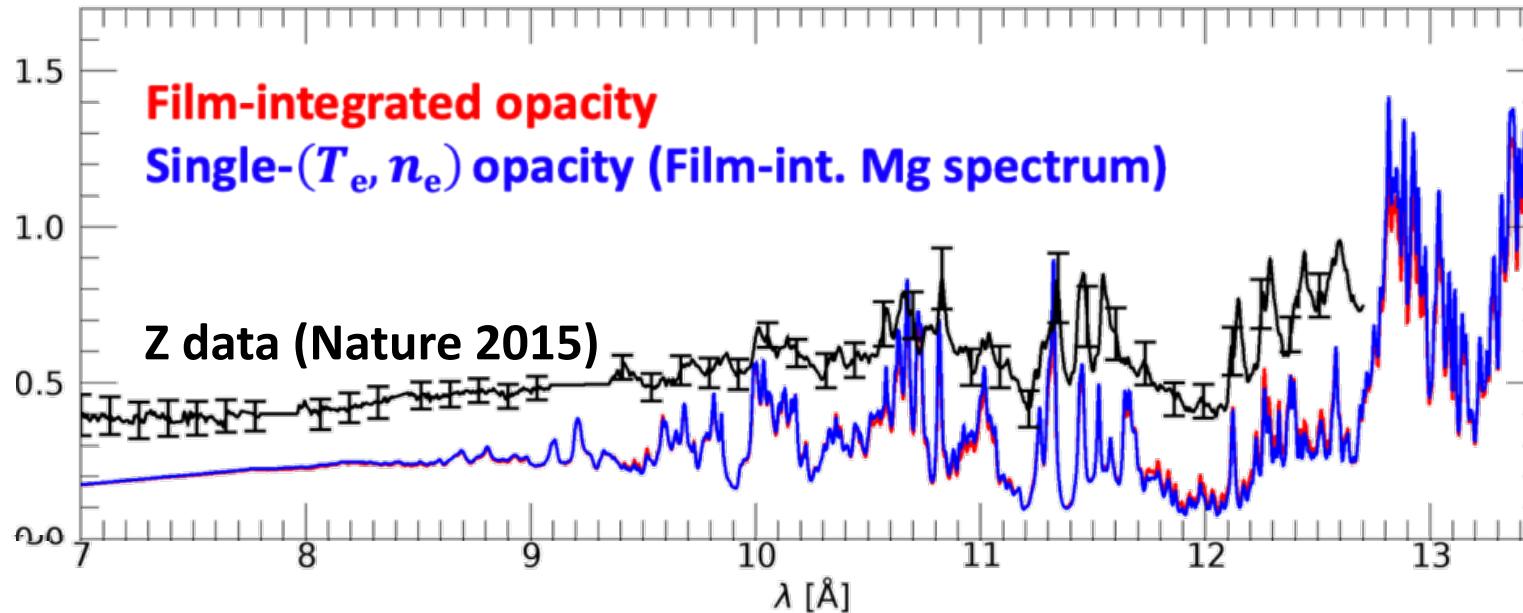
<sup>1</sup>Planckian shape assumed

<sup>2</sup>PrismSPECT, MacFarlane *et al.*, HEDP, (2007)

# Film-integrated opacity compared to single- $(T_e, n_e)$ opacity = temporal integration effects

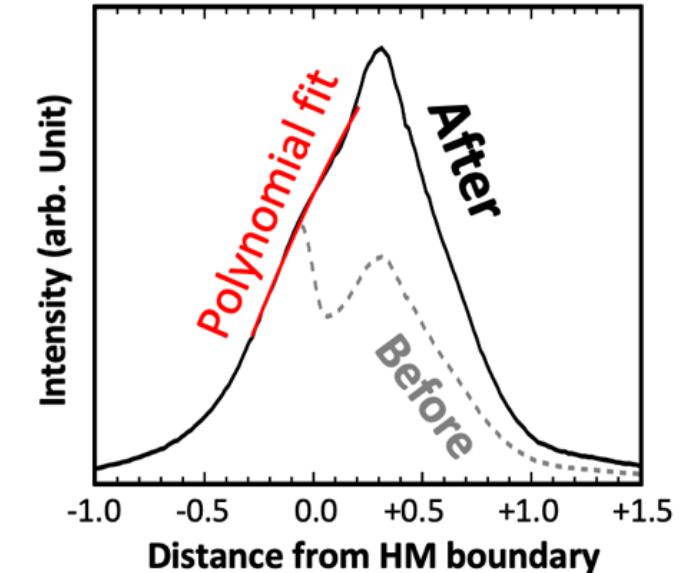
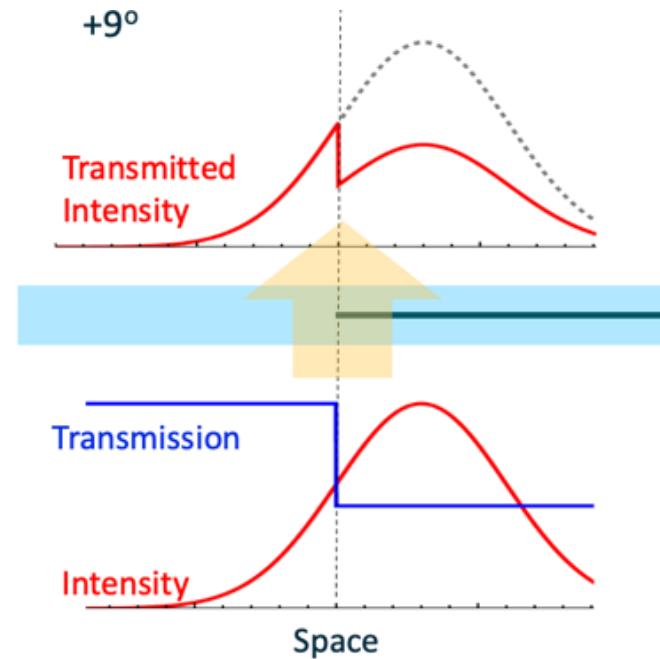
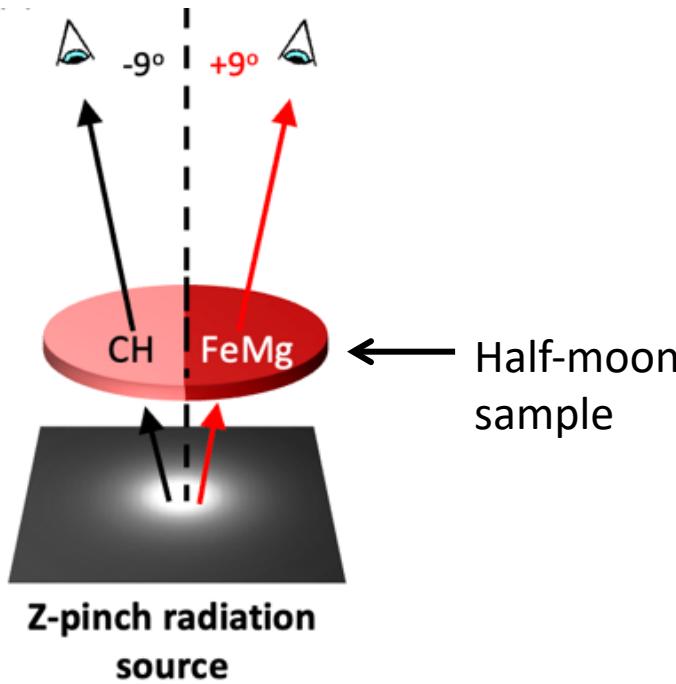


# Film-integrated opacity compared to single- $(T_e, n_e)$ opacity = temporal integration effects



- Less than 5% difference in quasi-continuum (reported discrepancy)
- Uses measured conditions and BL history *but modeled* opacity  
→ Need absolute opacity measurements to avoid this approximation (now!)

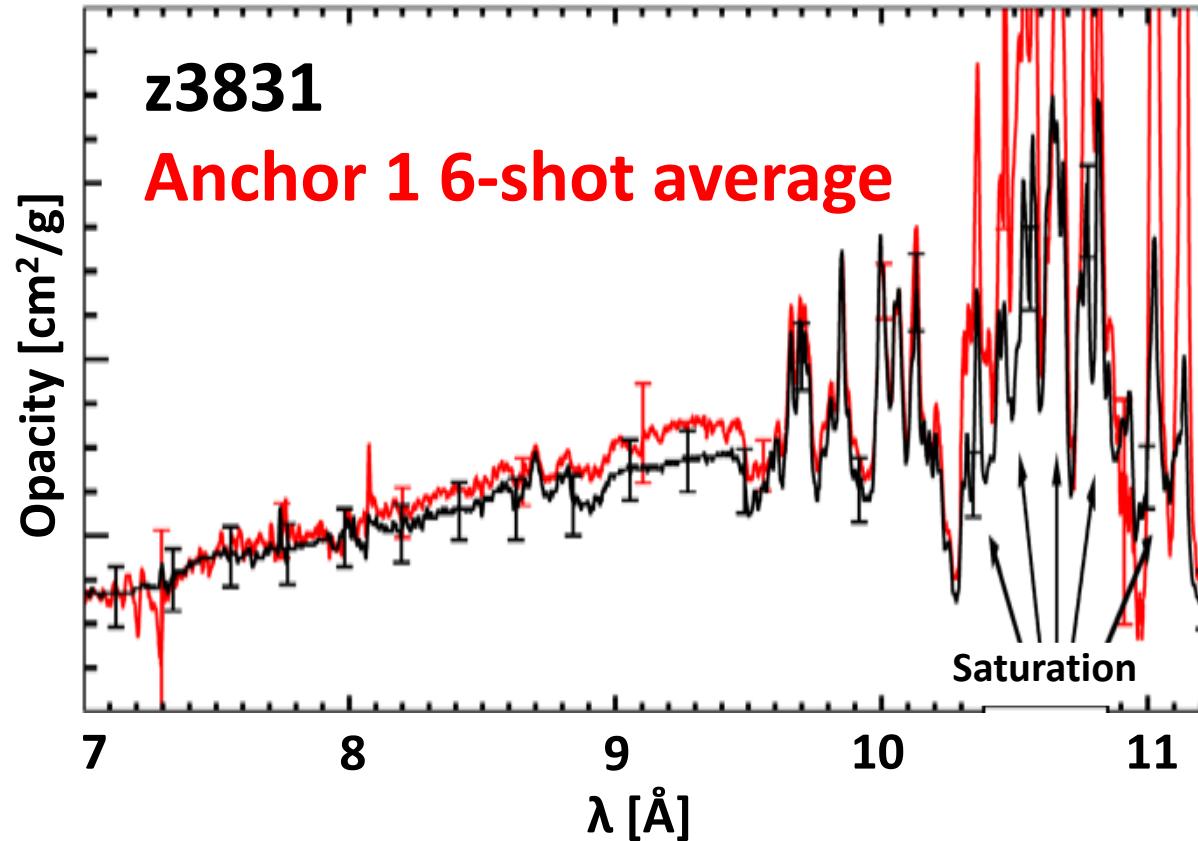
# First time-resolved opacity is obtained using a statistical method



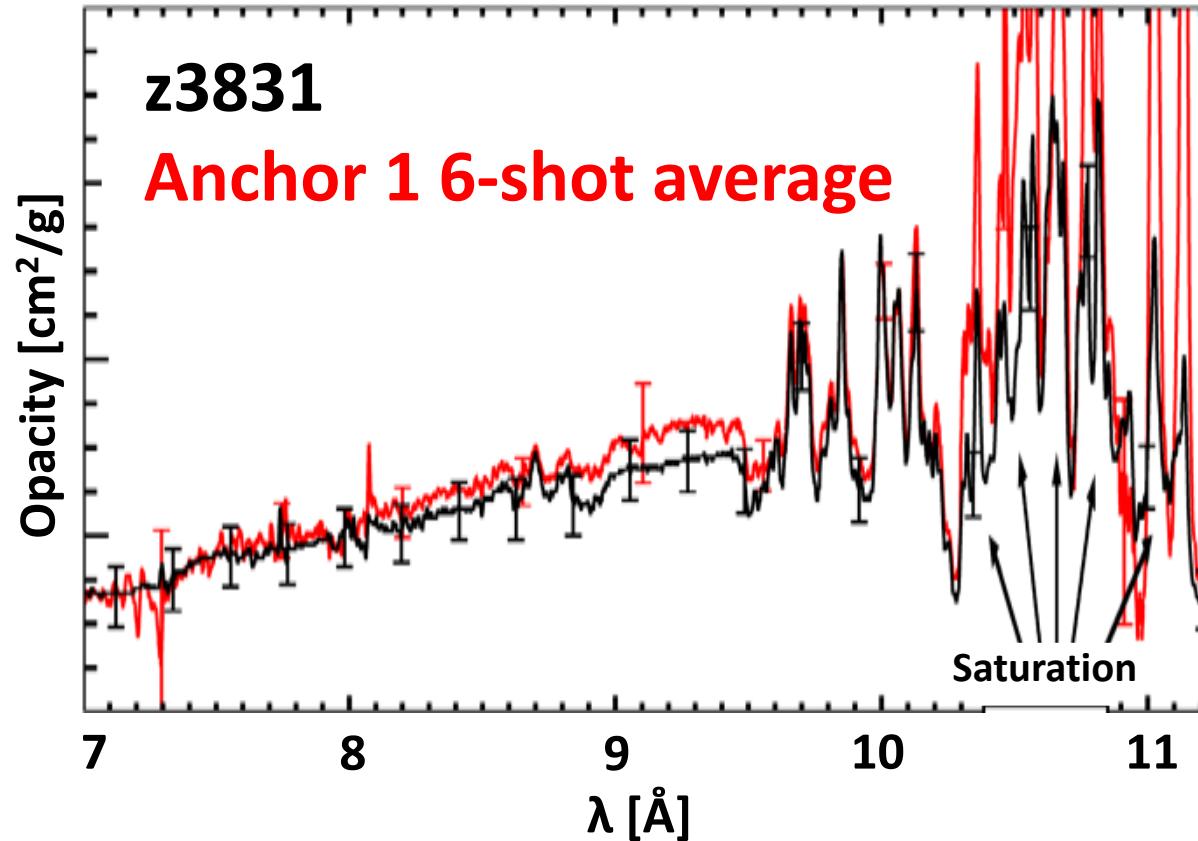
- Transmission is obtained through minimizing slope discontinuity across half-moon boundary

# First anchor 1 with time-resolution agrees very well with reported Anchor 1 measurements

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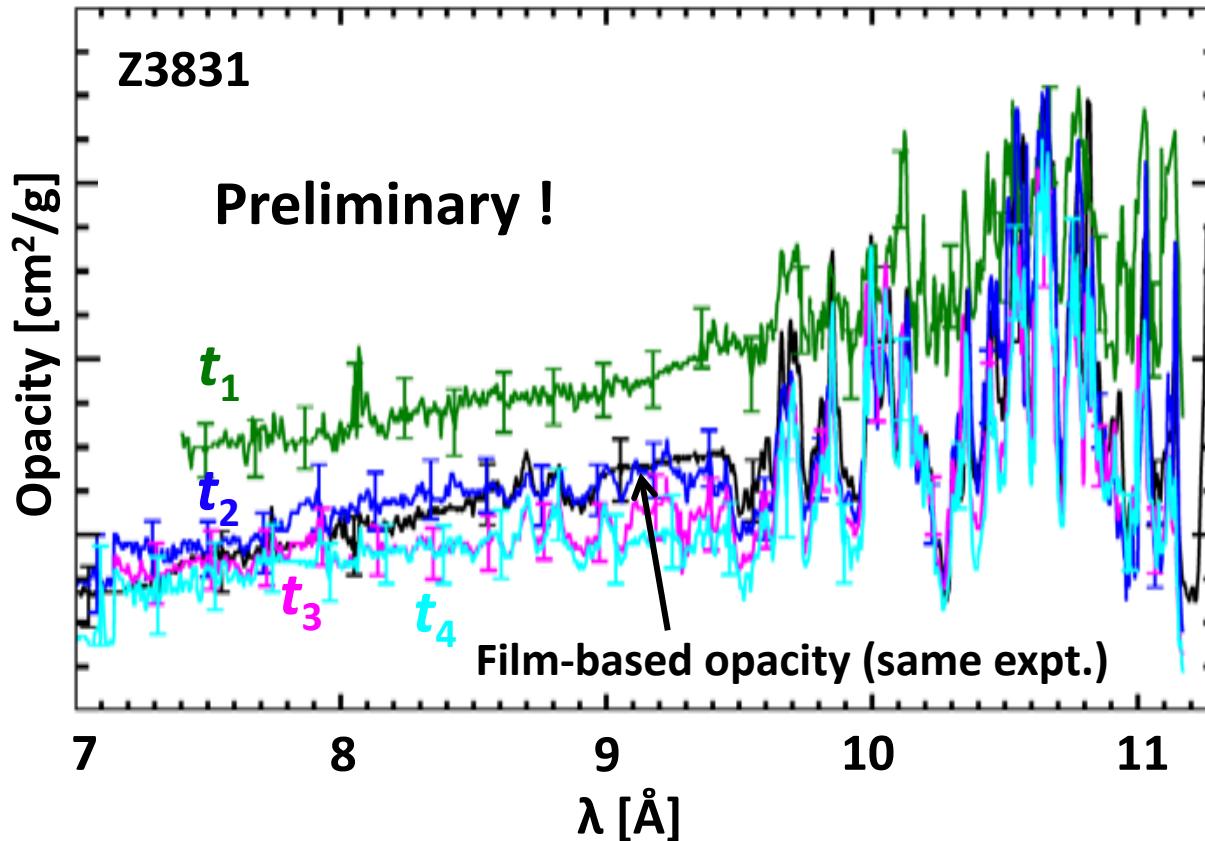


# First anchor 1 with time-resolution agrees very well with reported Anchor 1 measurements



- Anchor 1 is an opacity-calibration point for Z
- Support confidence in time-resolved measurements to benchmark models

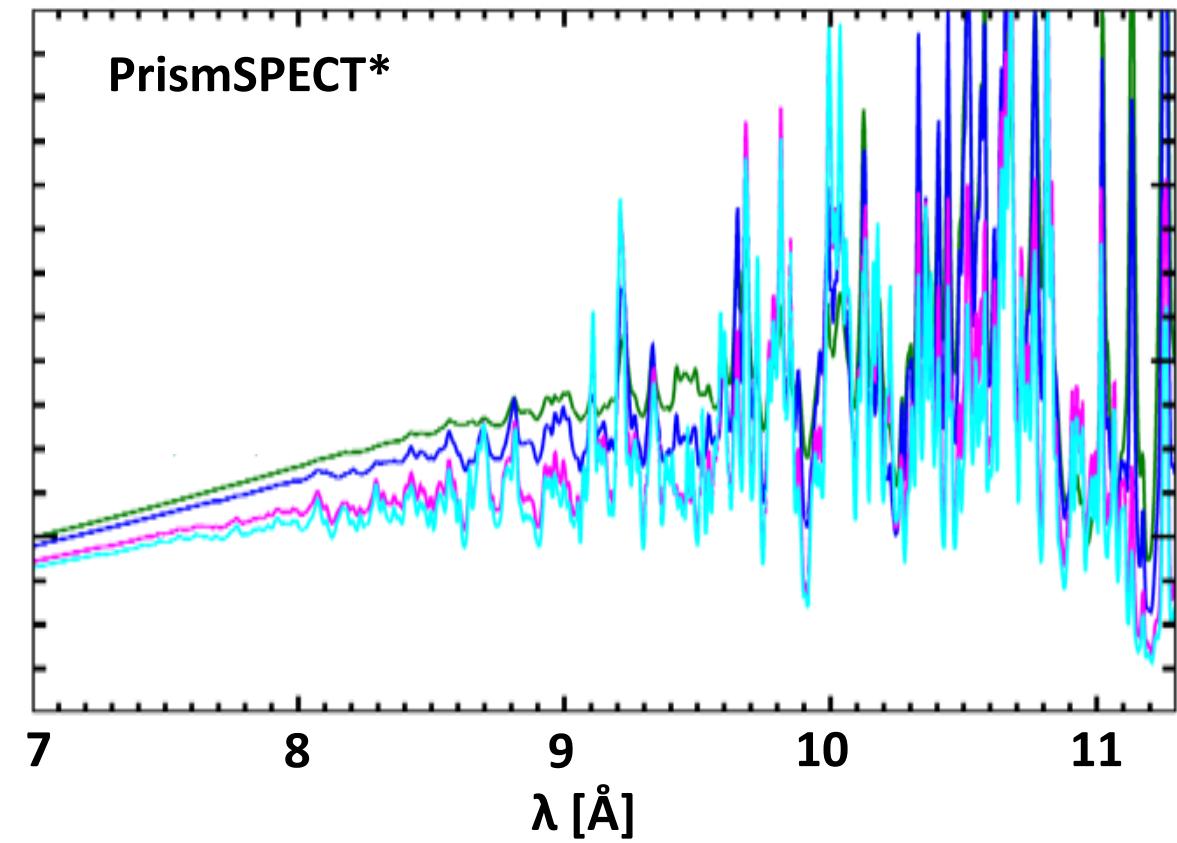
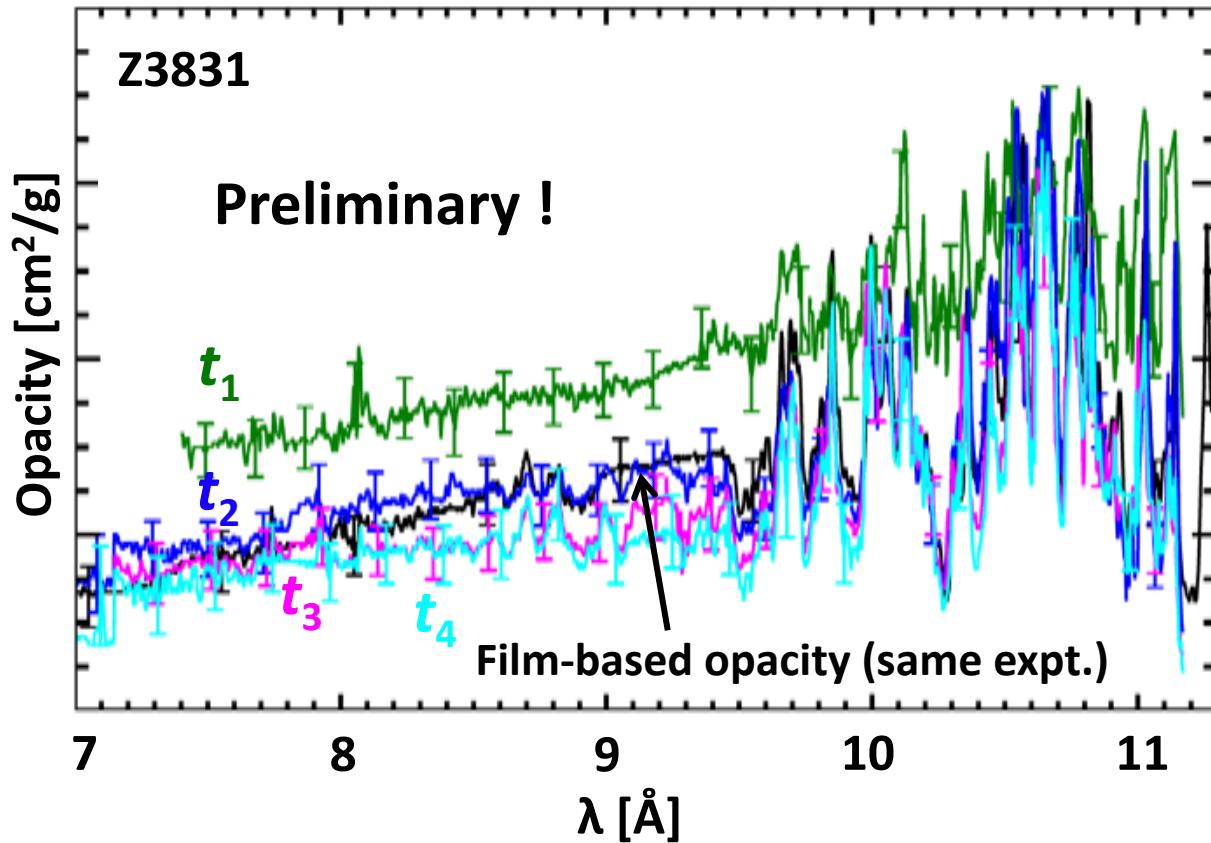
# We applied transmission-corrected profile technique at 4 separate times



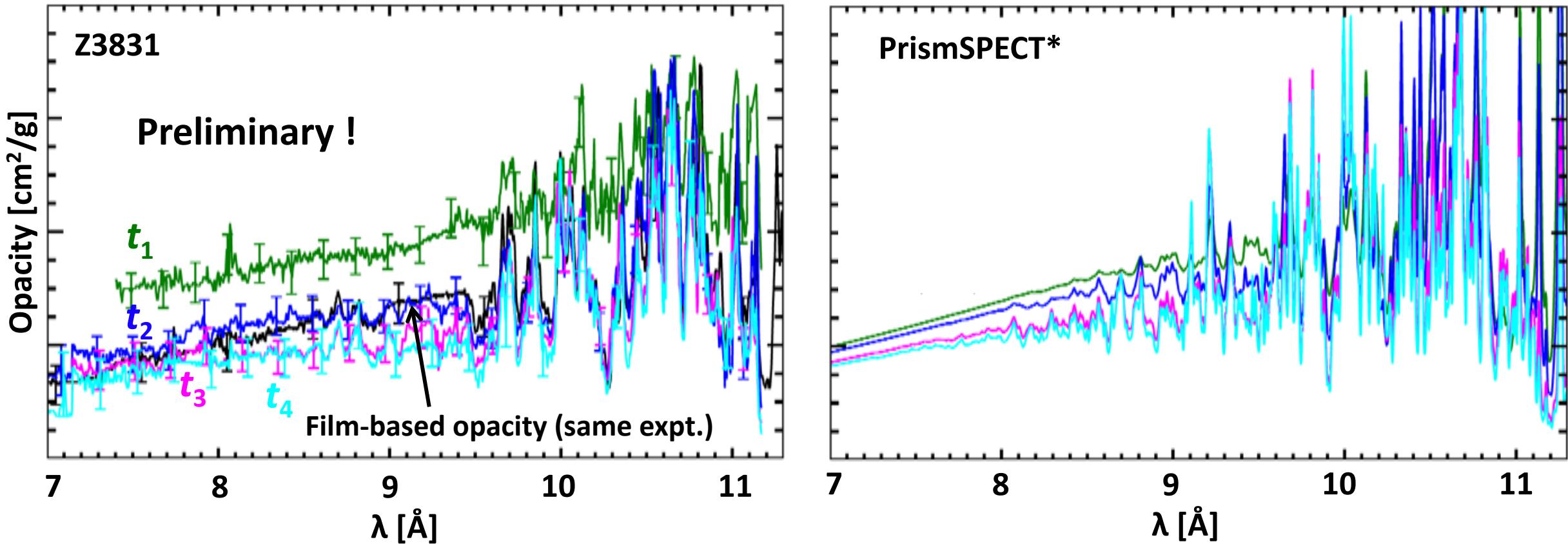
	$T_e(t)$ [eV]	$n_e(t)$ [10 <sup>22</sup> e <sup>-</sup> /cm <sup>3</sup> ]
$t_1$	151	1.6
$t_2$	156	1.1
$t_3$	171	0.9
$t_4$	174	0.8

This is the first *absolute* time-resolved opacity on Z

# Opacity model\* show similar trend vs time than Z data



# Opacity model\* show similar trend vs time than Z data



- But  $t_1$  opacity (high  $n_e$ , low  $T_e$ ) is much larger than model!
- Similarly observed previously for Anchor 1+ (150 eV,  $2 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ) on both Z & NIF, although not definitive



**Advancement 1:** Increase Z shot throughput

**Advancement 2:** Increase platform understanding

- Density low at early times
- Highest  $n_e$

**Advancement 3:** Better control of conditions

- Test single change in density
- Increased overlap with NIF

**Advancement 4:** Optimized design for hypothesis testing

- Reveal how density affects opacity

# Exciting future work: Time-resolution advances Z opacity research beyond hypotheses testing



## Advancement 1: Increase Z shot throughput

## Advancement 2: Increase platform understanding

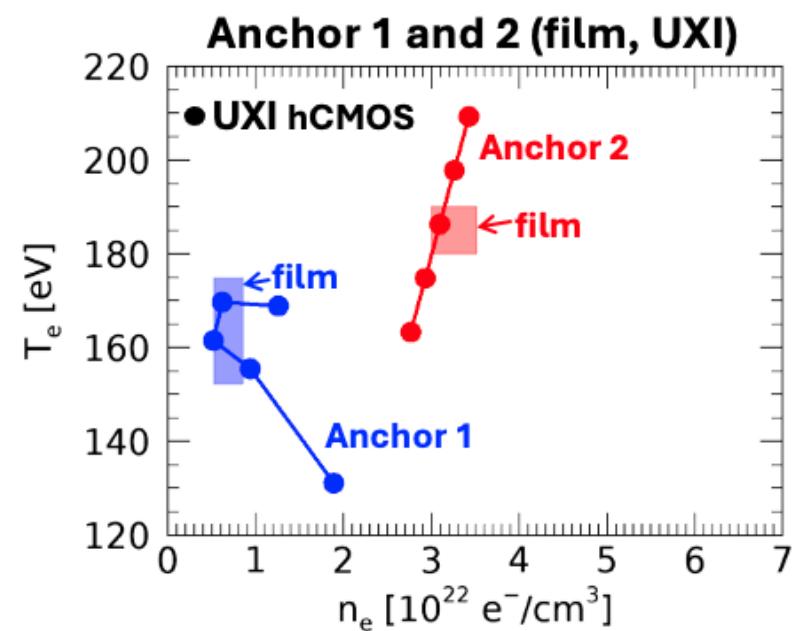
- Density low at early times
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## Advancement 3: Better control of conditions

- Test single change in density
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Advancement 1: Increase Z shot throughput

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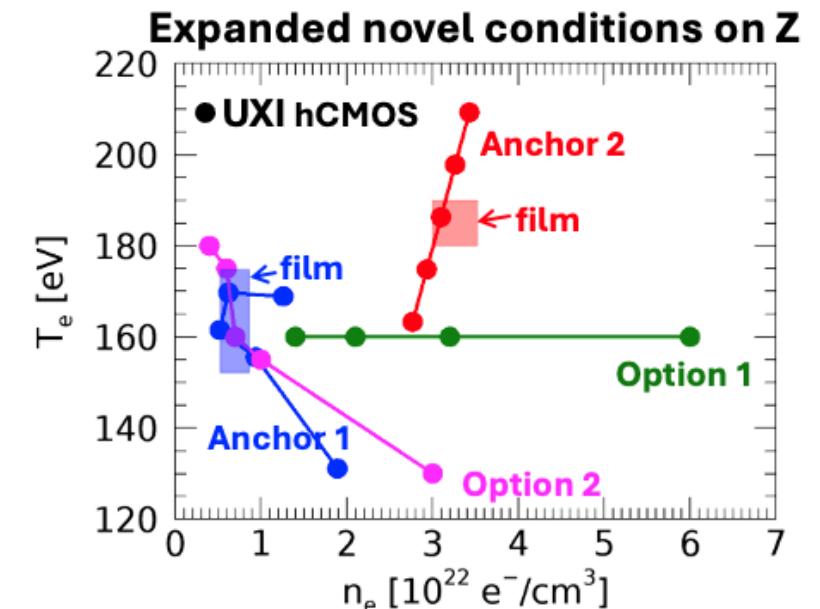
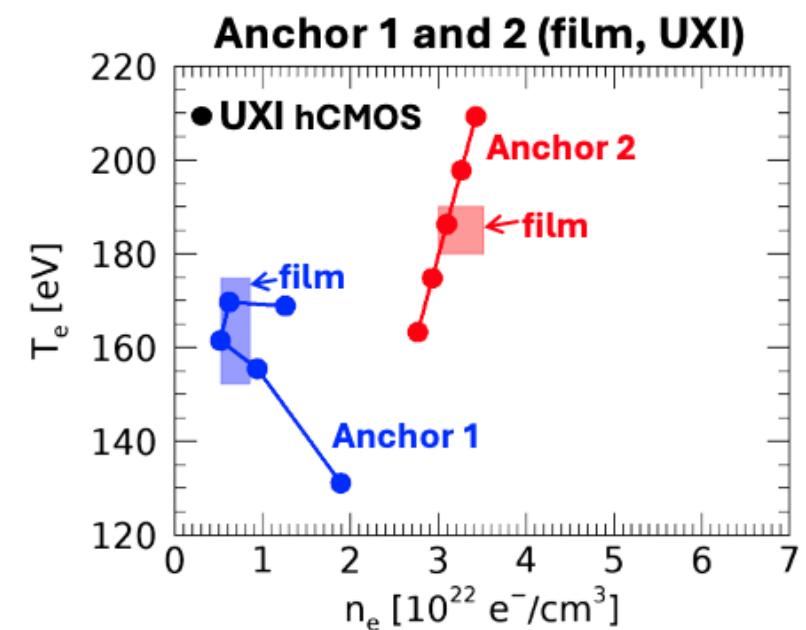
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# Exciting future work: Time-resolution advances Z opacity research beyond hypotheses testing



Advancement 1: Increase Z shot throughput

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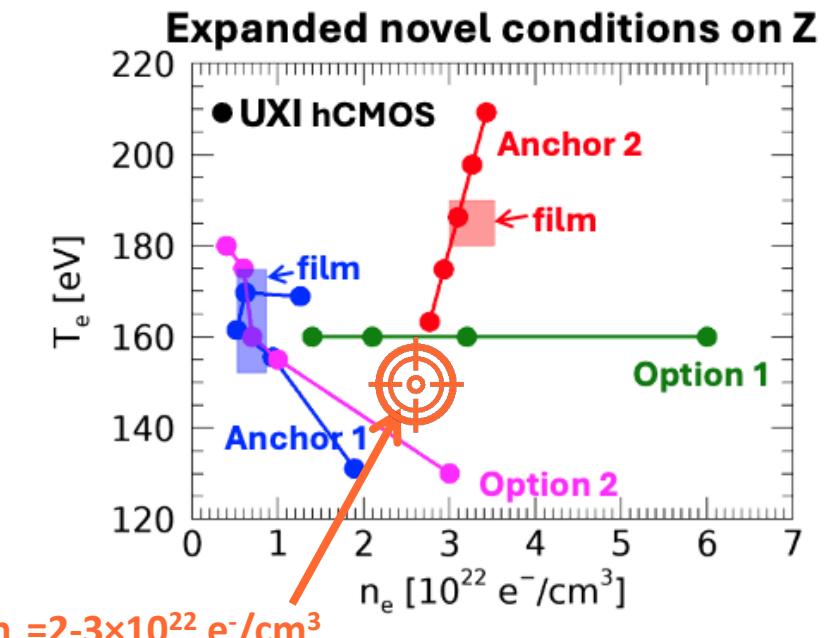
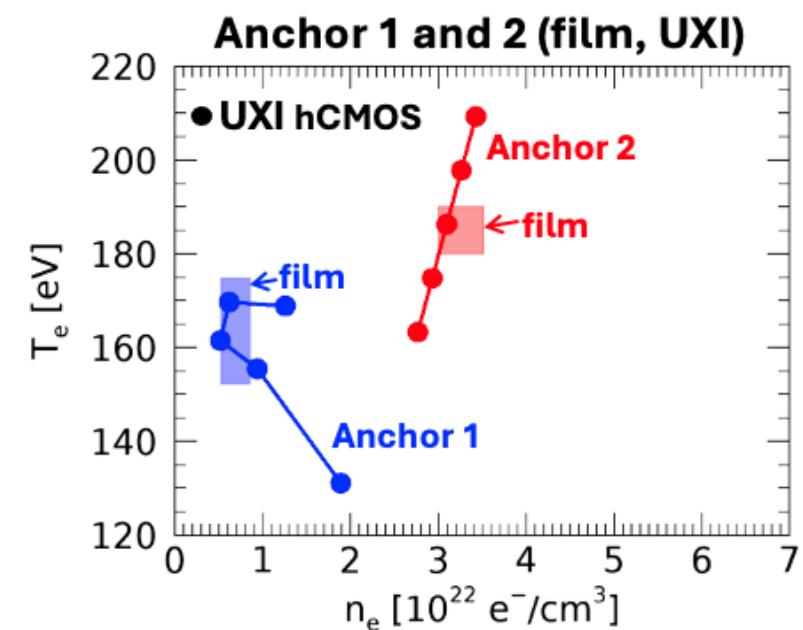
- Density low at early times
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Advancement 1: Increase Z shot throughput

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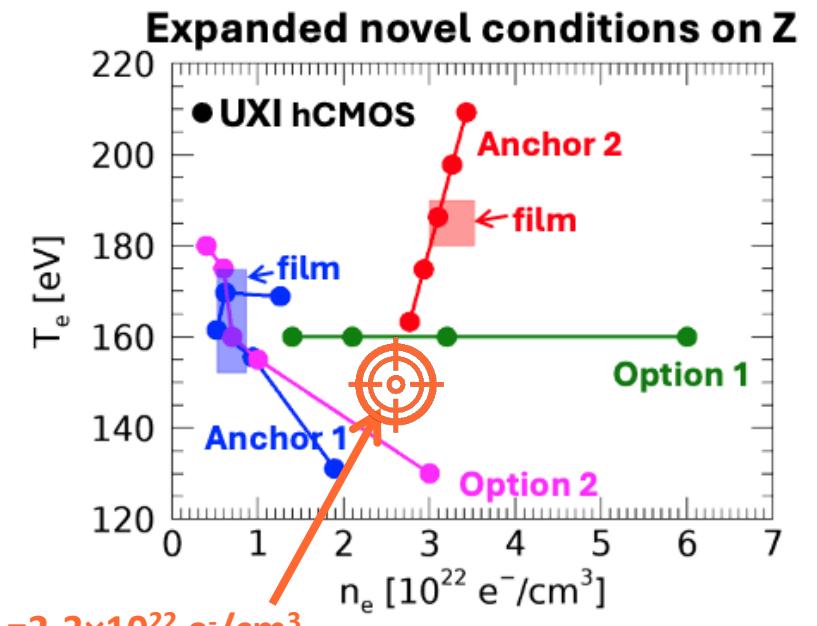
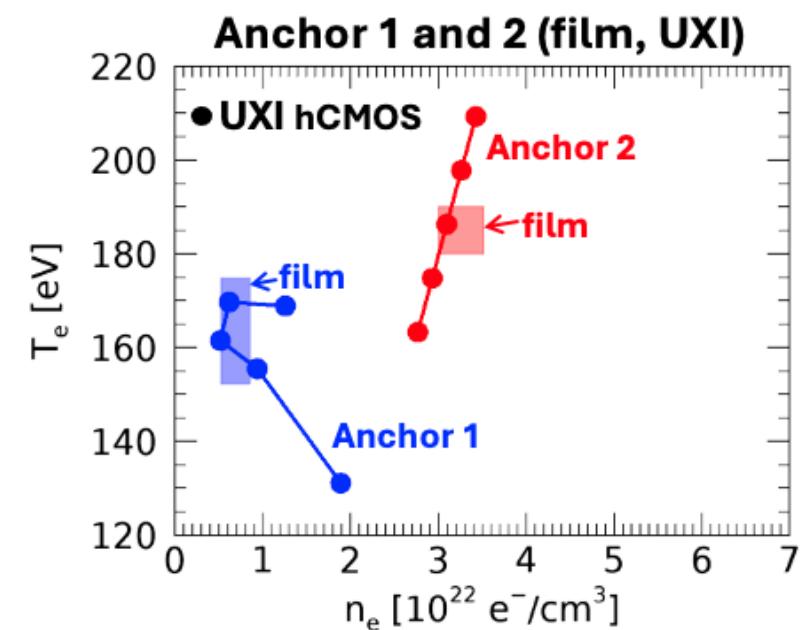
- Test single change in density
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Advancement 4: Optimized design for hypothesis testing

- Reveal how density affects oxygen opacity

Dan Mayes' talk

Anchor 1+  
 $T_e = 150-160\text{ eV}$ ,  $n_e = 2-3 \times 10^{22} \text{ e}^-/\text{cm}^3$



# Summary: Advancing stellar opacity testing with novel time-resolved spectroscopy on Z



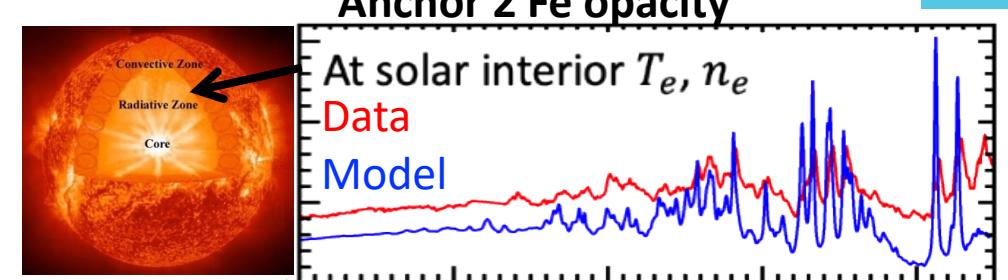
- **Puzzle:** the modeled and measured solar structure disagree

→ *Is calculated iron opacity underestimated?*  
 → *Initial Z experiments raised controversy*

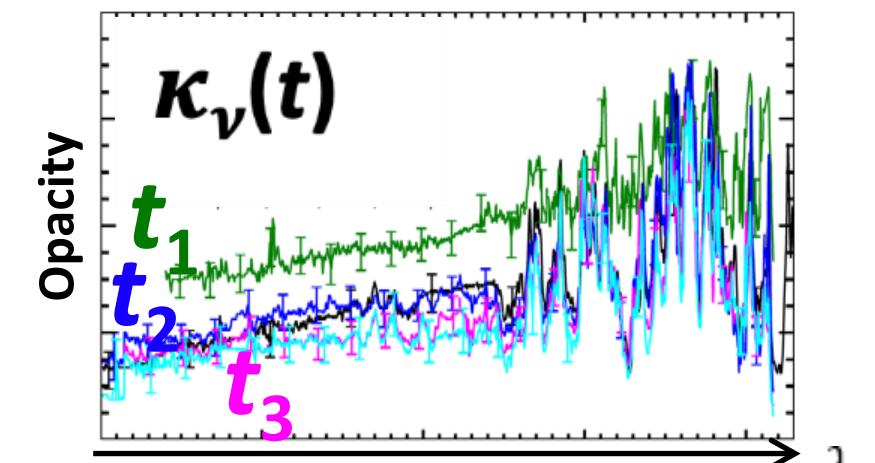
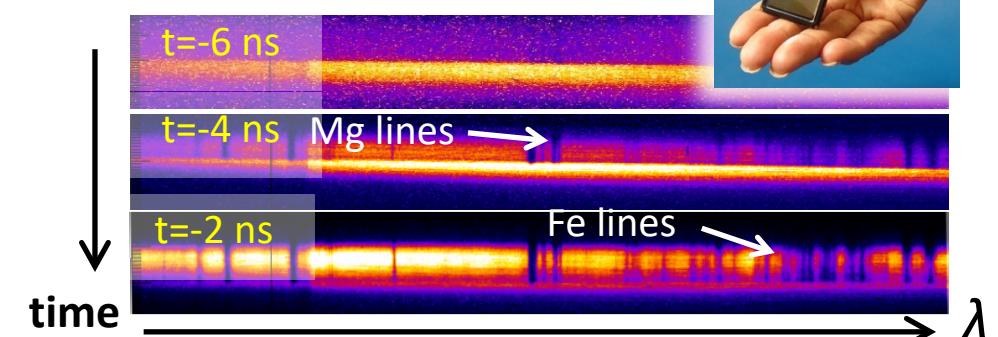
- **Experimental scrutiny:**

- **Refining data analyses**
  - $T_e, n_e$  analysis
  - Opacity analysis
- **Time resolved measurements**
  - Tested temporal gradient effects → **Found negligible**
  - Transform experiments in 4 significant ways
  - Progress towards absolute time-resolved opacity measurements

Continued experimental and theoretical scrutiny are underway to answer this astrophysical puzzle



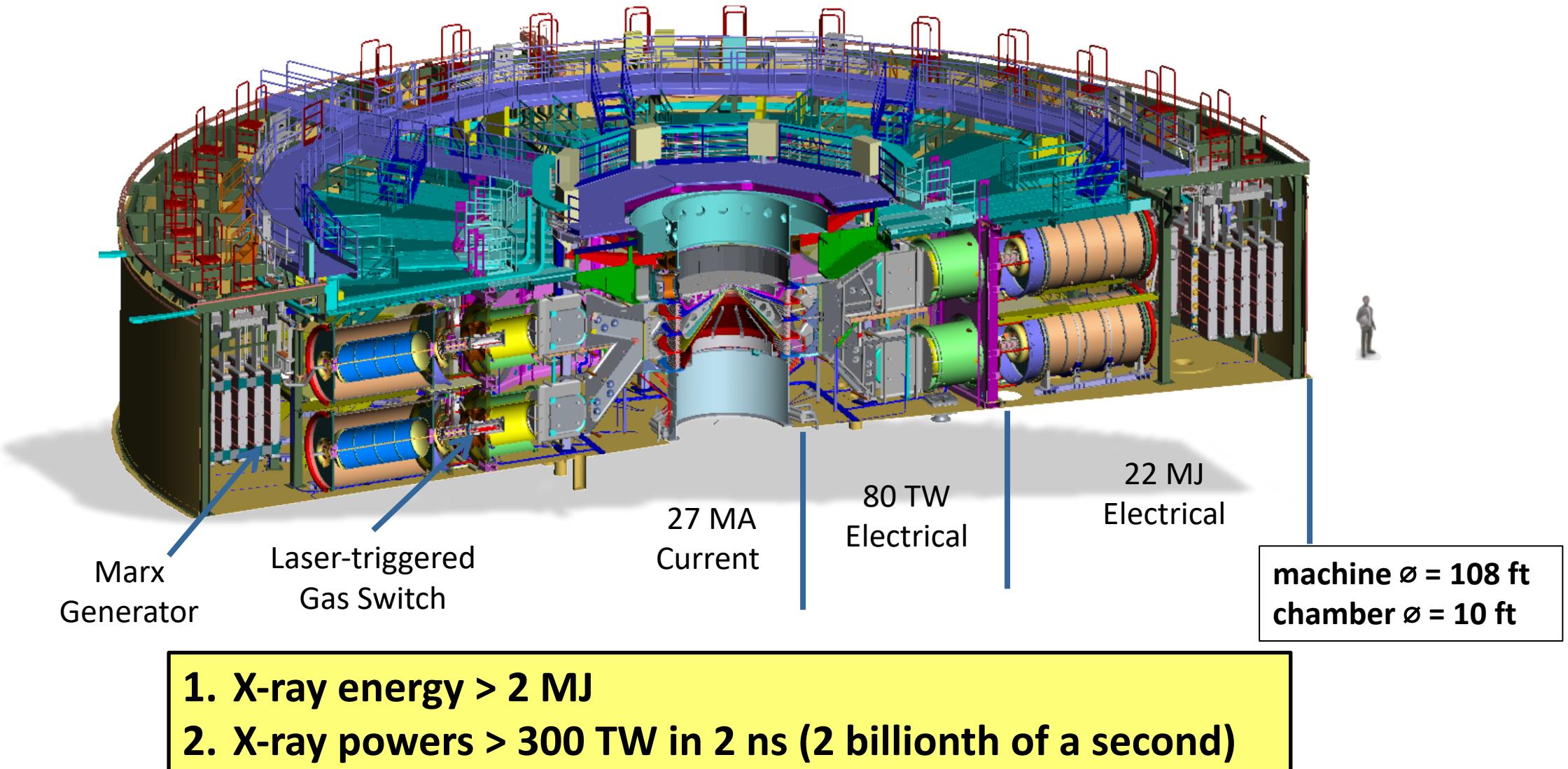
### UXI ultra-fast detector



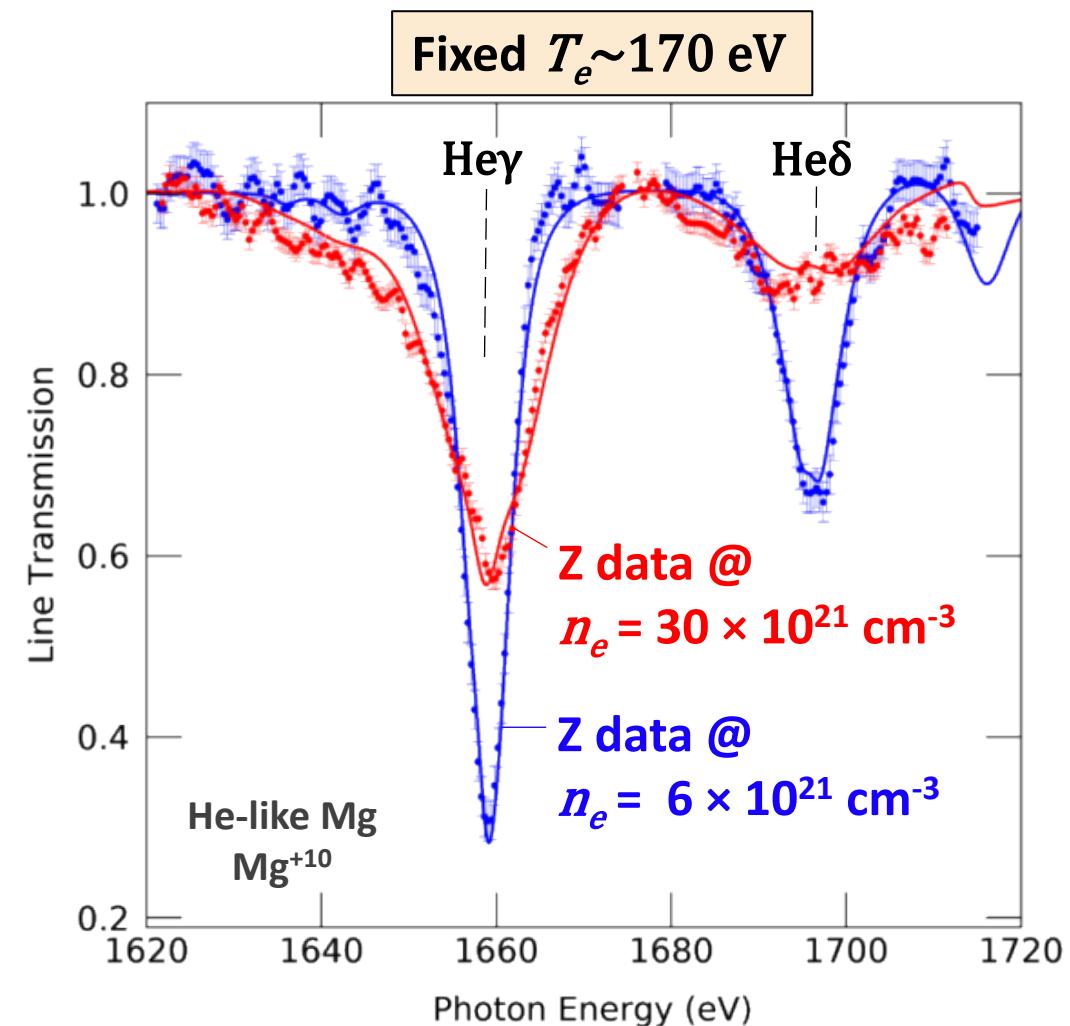
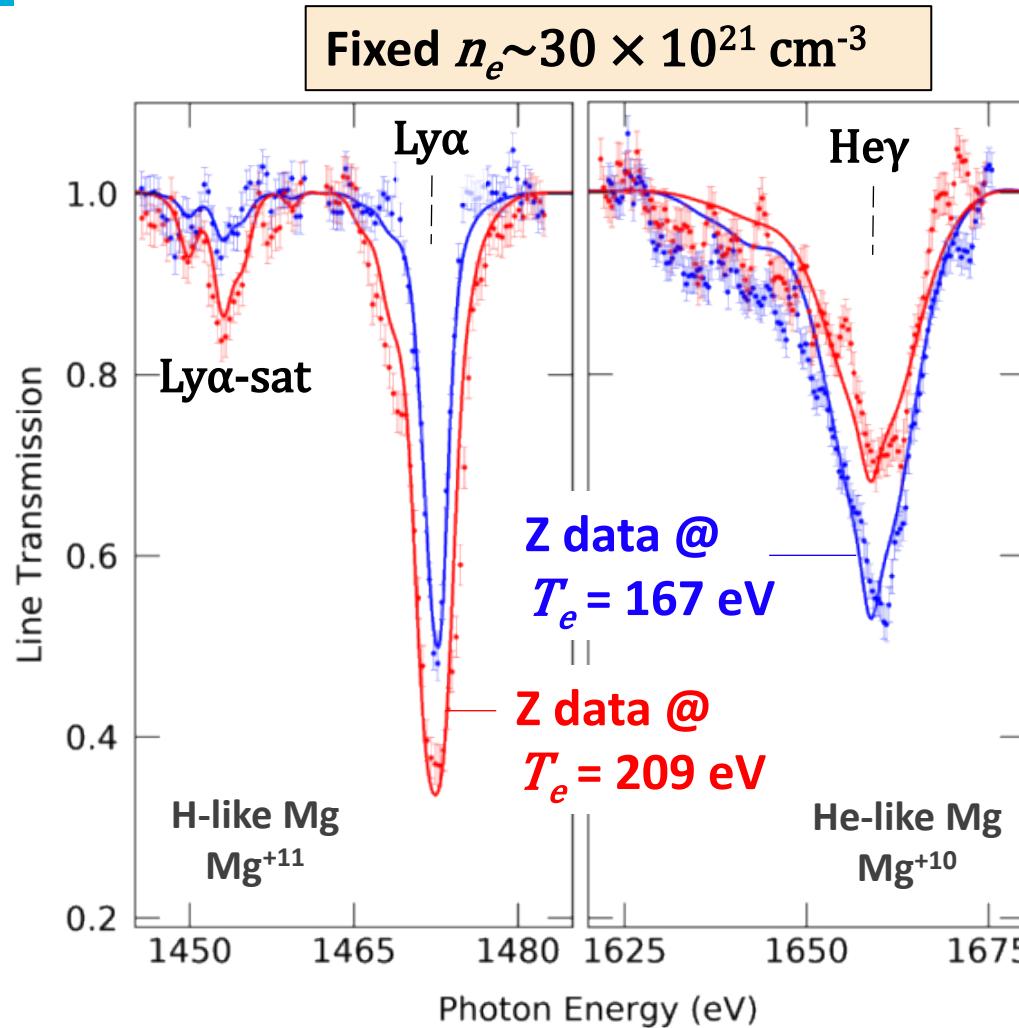
# Extra slides



# The Z facility at Sandia National Laboratories is the world's most powerful pulsed power machine



# Conditions were inferred successfully from UXI spectra



➤ Increased control in Z platform: single  $T_e, n_e$  can be varied at a time!