

FERMILAB-SLIDES-22-088-AD

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## R&D Program for HEP High-Power Targets at Fermilab

**Frederique Pellemoine**

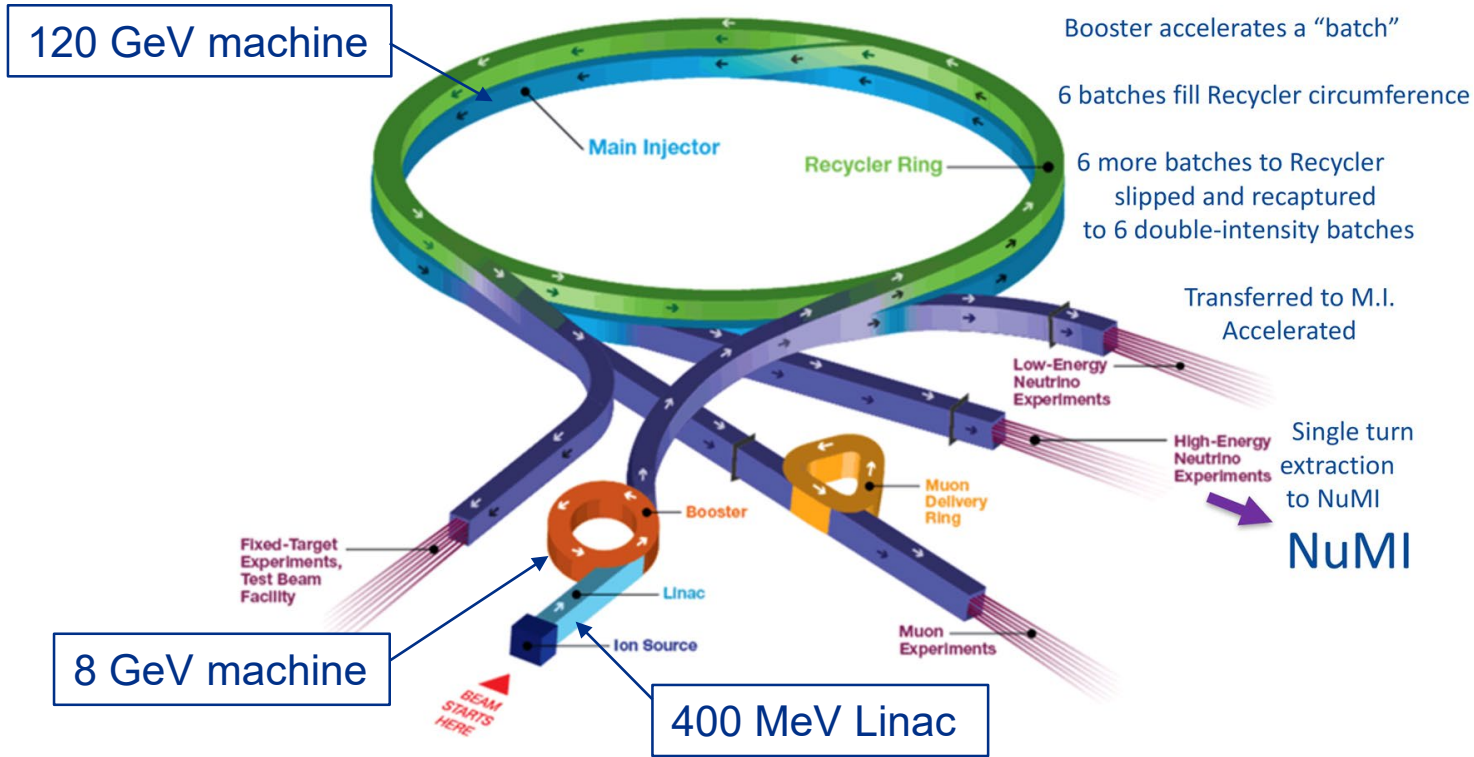
Seminar at GANIL

July 5, 2022

# Outline

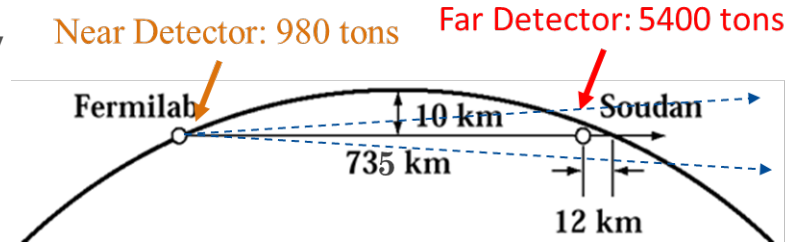
- Introduction
  - Overview of Fermilab accelerator complex and neutrino beamline
  - Neutrino targets
- High Power Targetry (HPT) scope and challenges
  - Radiation damage and thermal shock
  - Autopsy and analysis of failed components
- HPT R&D program and collaborations
  - RaDIATE collaboration
  - Current research approach and results
  - Development of alternative methods
  - Novel materials development
- Summary

# Fermilab Accelerator Complex

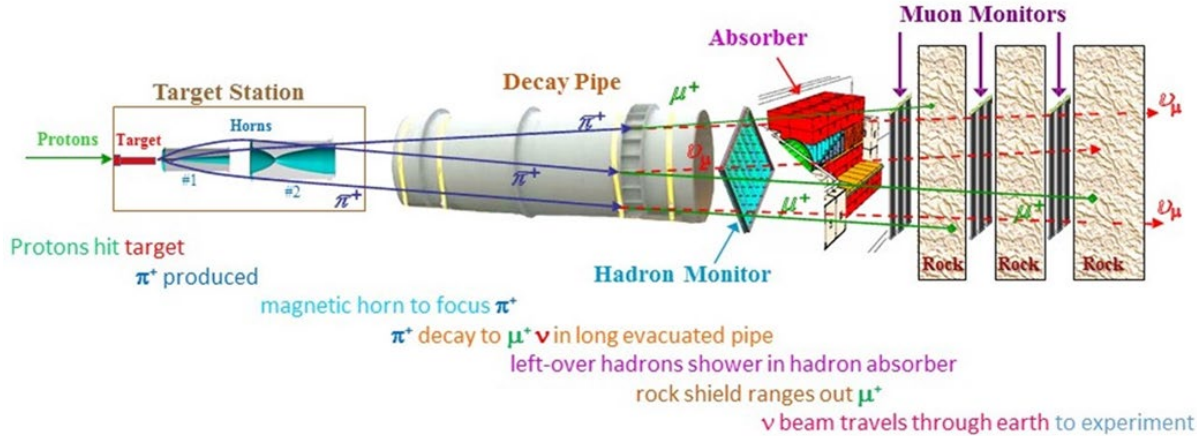


# Accelerator Neutrino Program at Fermilab

- Scientists at Fermilab create a muon neutrino beam by slamming protons from the main injector accelerator into a graphite target. Several experiments (MINOS, NOvA, MINERvA) at the laboratory count on the high-intensity beam of neutrinos to unravel the mysterious properties of these ghost-like particles and their role in the evolution of the Universe
- Main injector supplies 25–50 trillion 120-GeV protons every 1.33 seconds (700 kW)



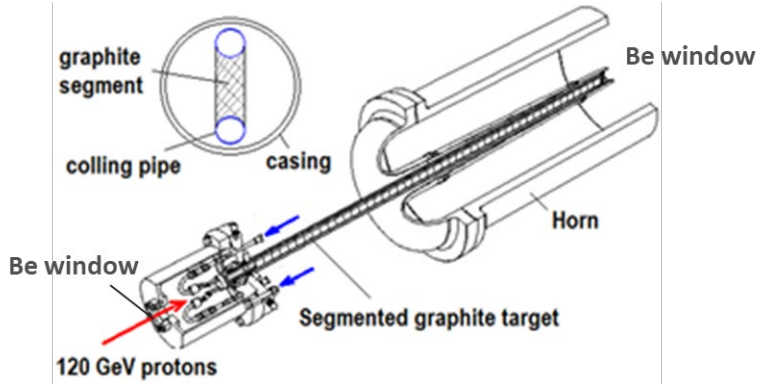
# Neutrinos at the Main Injector (NuMI)



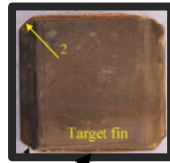
Target station able to operate with 1-MW proton beam since FY21

- Main injector proton beam (120 GeV/c) smashes into a 1.2 m long graphite target to create charged pions and kaon.
- The pions are focused by magnetic horns and decay into muons and muon neutrinos in a 700-m long decay pipe, allowing time for pions of various momenta to decay and produce the desired neutrinos.
- Beam detectors downstream of the decay pipe monitor the neutrinos produced and residual charged particles for the experiments.

# Neutrino target – MINOS (400 kW)

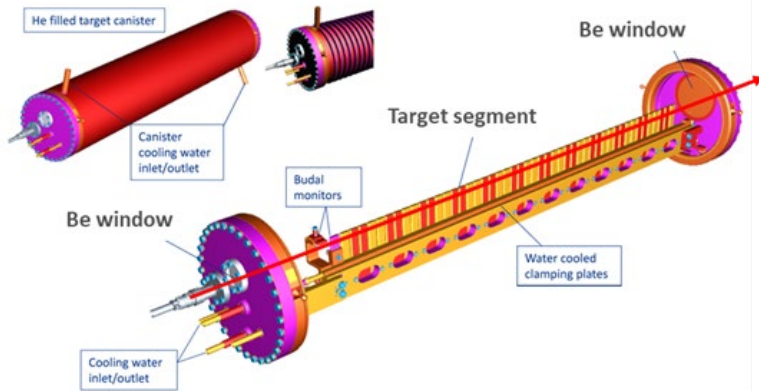
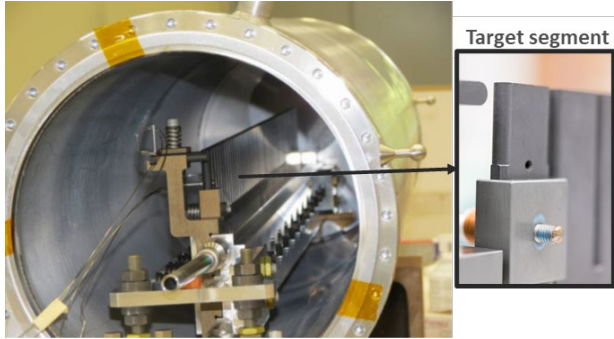


- Helium atmosphere
- Beryllium windows
- Water cooled graphite core



| MINOS             |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Graphite fins     | 47 x 20 mm x 6.6 mm |
| Beam energy [GeV] | 120                 |
| p/pulse           | 3.37E+13            |
| Power [kW]        | 340                 |
| $\sigma$ [mm]     | 1.1                 |
| Peak Temp. [°C]   | 330                 |
| QS Temp [°C]      | 60                  |
| POT               | 6.55E+20            |
| Peak dpa          | 0.63                |
| Peak He [appm]    | 2270                |

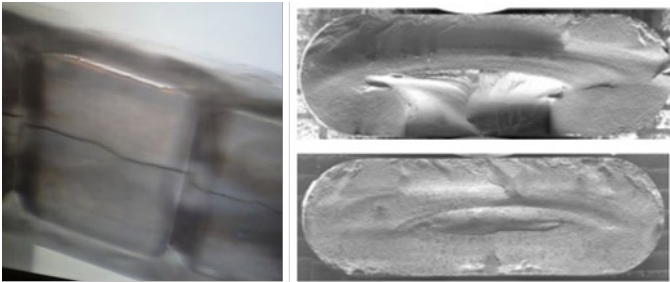
# Neutrino target – NOvA AIP (0.7 – 1 MW)



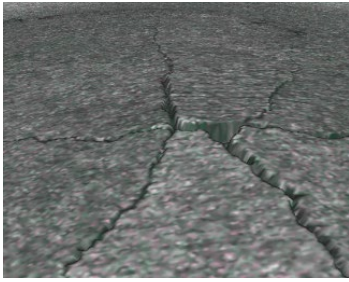
|                   | NOvA                | AIP               |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Graphite fins     | 50 x 24 mm x 7.4 mm | 50 x 24 mm x 9 mm |
| Beam energy [GeV] | 120                 | 120               |
| p/pulse           | 4.90E+13            | 6.50E+13          |
| Power [kW]        | 700                 | 1000              |
| $\sigma$ [mm]     | 1.3                 | 1.5               |
| Peak Temp. [°C]   | 670                 | 1000              |
| QS Temp [°C]      | 390                 | 890               |
| POT               | 1.10E+21            | 1.28E+21          |
| Peak dpa          | 1.10                | 0.96              |
| Peak He [appm]    | 5580                | 3600              |

- Helium atmosphere
- Beryllium windows
- Water cooled aluminum pressing plates
- Graphite core

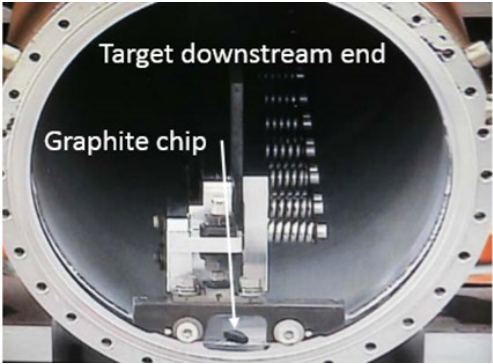
# What we want to avoid...



MINOS NT-02 target failure: radiation-induced swelling (FNAL)



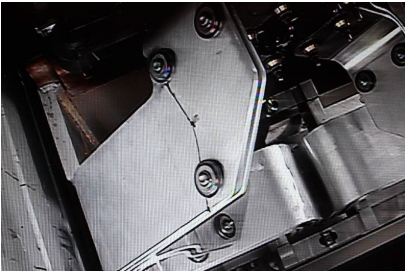
Be window embrittlement (FNAL)



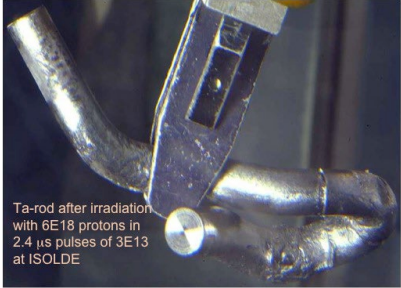
NOvA MET-01 target fin fracture (FNAL)



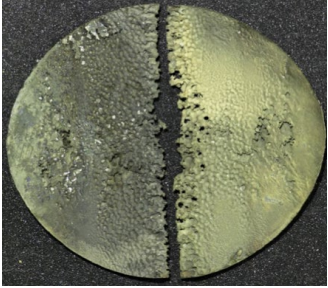
MINOS NT-01 target containment water leak (FNAL)



Horn stripline fatigue failure (FNAL)



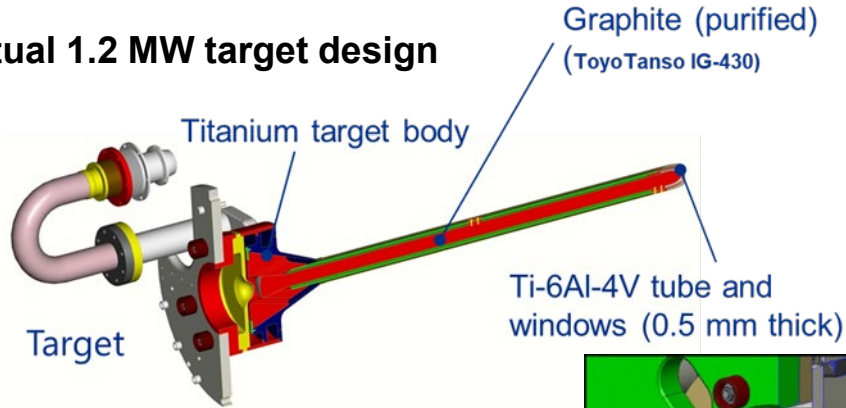
ISOLDE target (CERN)



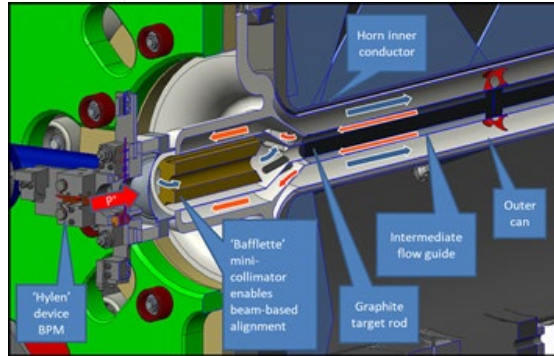
Target containment vessel cavitation (ORNL - SNS)

# Future Neutrino Target – LBNF-DUNE (1.2 – 2.4 MW)

## Conceptual 1.2 MW target design



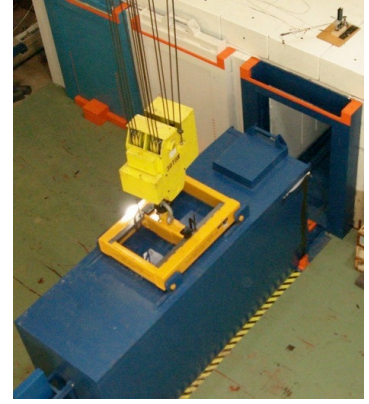
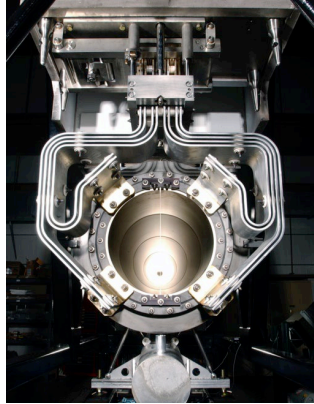
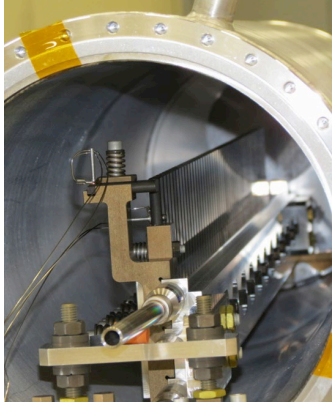
- Helium atmosphere
- Titanium target containment windows
- Helium gas cooled graphite core



|                   | DUNE      |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Graphite fins     | TBD       |
| Beam energy [GeV] | 60-120    |
| p/pulse           | 7.50E+13  |
| Power [kW]        | 1200-2400 |
| $\sigma$ [mm]     | 2.67      |
| Peak Temp. [°C]   | TBD       |
| QS Temp [°C]      | TBD       |
| POT               | 2.54E+21  |
| Peak dpa          | 0.73      |
| Peak He [appm]    | 400       |

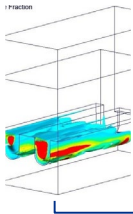
**2.4 MW target will require significant R&D to guide design and material choice**

# High Power Targetry Scope



- Target
  - Solid, Liquid, Fixed, Rotating
- Facility requirements for safe operation
  - Remote Handling
  - Shielding & Radiation Transport
  - Air Handling
  - Cooling System
- Other beam-intercepting devices
  - Collimators
  - Collection optics (horns, solenoids)
  - Monitors & Instrumentation
  - Beam windows
  - Absorbers

# High Power Targetry Challenges



Heat removal



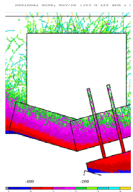
Thermal shock



Physics performance



Radiation damage



Operational safety



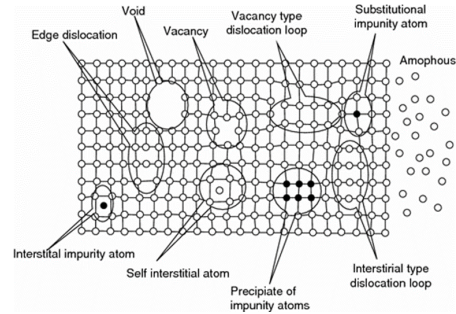
Storage and disposal

**Thermal Shock and Radiation Damage** identified as most cross-cutting challenges of high-power target facilities

# Radiation Damage & Thermal Shock

**Radiation Damage:** Displacements in crystal lattice expressed as Displacements Per Atom (DPA)

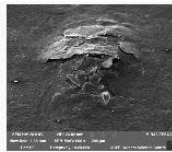
- Hardening and embrittlement
- Creep and swelling
- Fracture toughness reduction
- Thermal/electrical conductivity reduction
- Coefficient of thermal expansion
- Modulus of elasticity
- Transmutation products (H, He gas production can cause void formation and embrittlement)



D.L. Porter and F. A. Garner, J. Nuclear Materials, **159**, p. 114 (1988)

**Thermal Shock:** Sudden energy deposition from pulsed beam

- Fast expansion of the material surrounded by cooler material generates localized area of compressive stress
  - 1 MW target: ~250 K in 10  $\mu$ s pulse ( $2.5 \times 10^7$  K/s)
- Stress waves move through the material at sonic velocities
- Plastic deformation, cracking and fatigue failure can occur



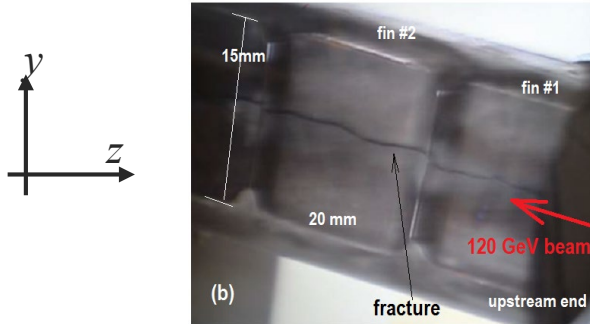
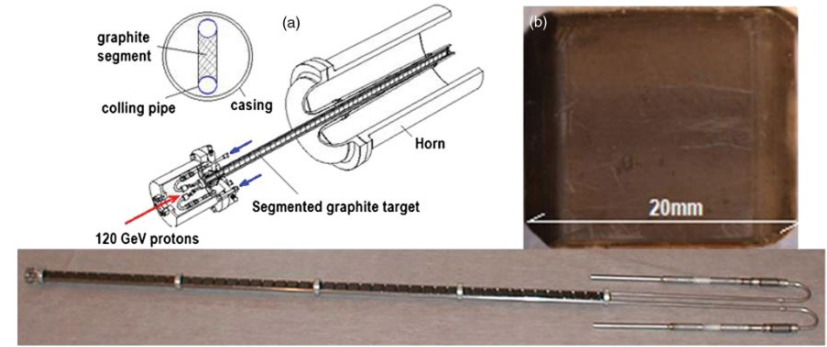
Iridium (left) and Sigraflex (right) targets tested at CERN's HiRadMat facility

# First Approach to Study Targets and Windows Failed in Service

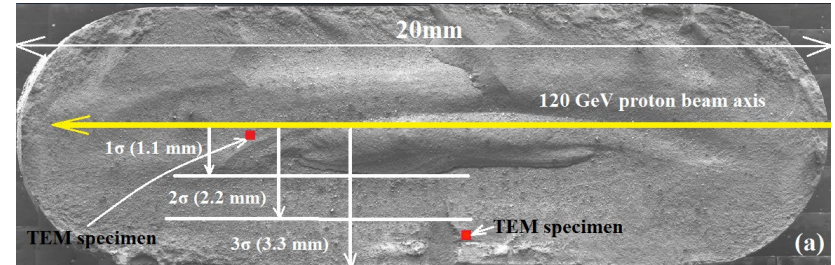
Observation of gradual decline in neutrino yield towards the end of the target's life – attributed to radiation damage

## NuMI target (NT-02) autopsy and examination

- Estimated peak DPA: 0.63
- Detailed Post Irradiation Examinations at PNNL show bulk swelling leading to dimensional changes, and build up of internal stresses in graphite

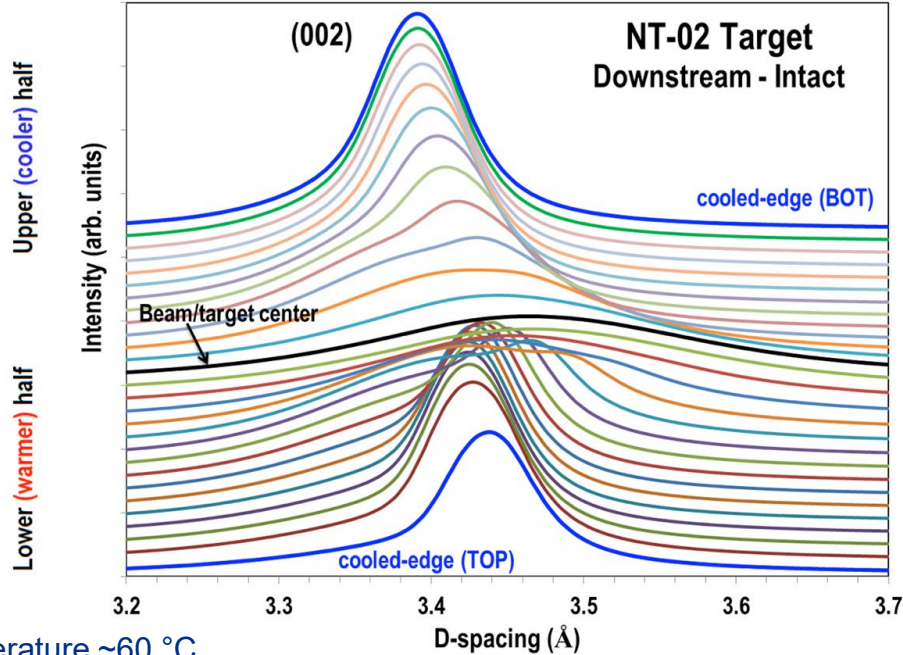
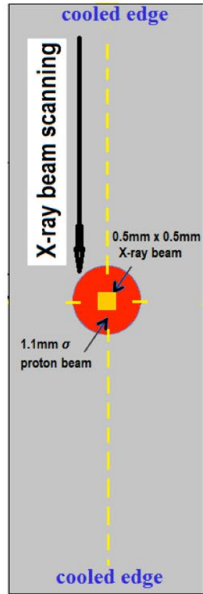


## Detailed PIE at PNNL

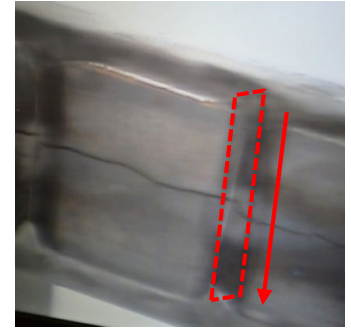


Bulk swelling of ~4%

# X-Ray Diffraction of NuMI Graphite Fin at NSLS-II



N. Simos et al., PRAB, 22 (2019)



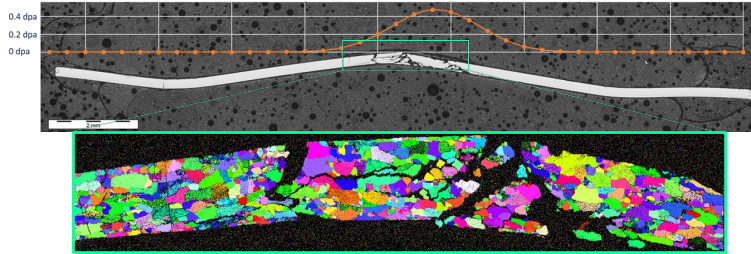
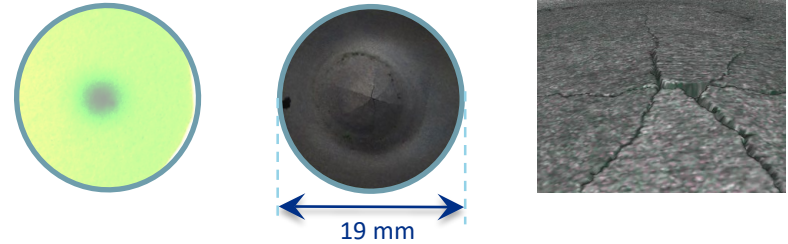
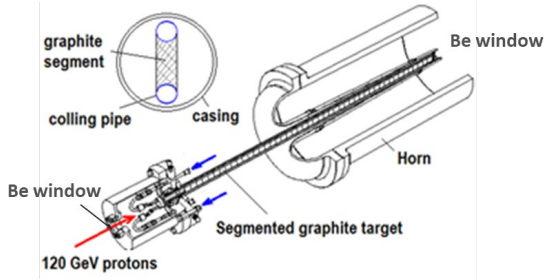
XRD shows lattice growth (swelling) and amorphization at the beam center

Irradiation temperature ~60 °C  
(330 °C during pulse)

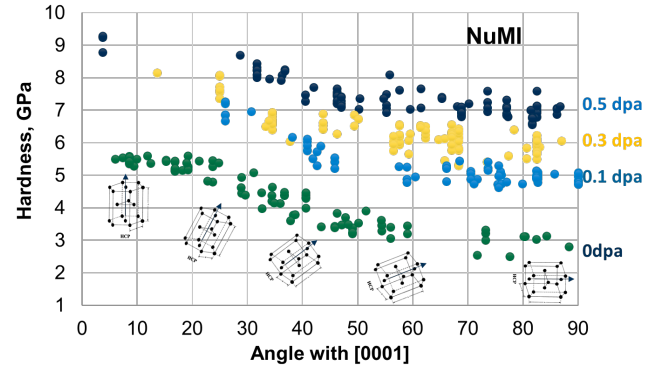
Additional simulation work together with these findings shows that radiation damage was indeed the cause of failure for the NT-02 target

# NuMI Beryllium Window Analysis

- 120 GeV proton beam
- $1.54 \times 10^{21}$  POT (0.5 peak DPA)
- $T \sim 50^\circ\text{C}$



- Observed transition from transgranular fracture to grain boundary/mixed mode fracture in irradiated Be



- Significant hardening even at 0.1 DPA
- Hardness of irradiated Be less anisotropic
- Increased hardness means less ductility (more brittle)



V.Kuksenko et al. J. Nuclear Materials, 490, pp.260-271 (2017)

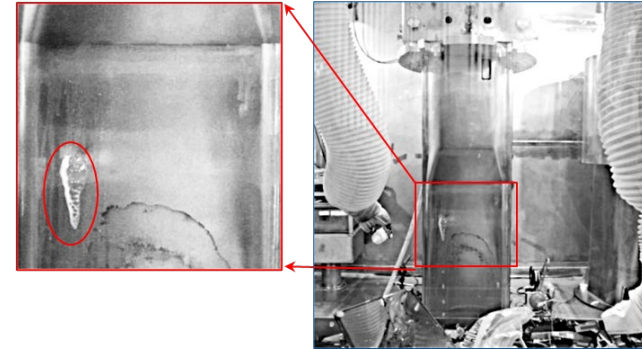
# Robust High-Power Targets Critical in Maximizing the Efficiency of Secondary Particle Production

Recently, major accelerator facilities have been limited in beam power not by their accelerators, but by target survivability concerns

- NuMI-MINOS, FNAL (2010-11)
  - Reduced beam power (-10% to -40%)
  - Target failures attributed to faulty welds
- MLF, J-PARC (2015-16)
  - Early replacement of target
  - Limited to 200 kW when resuming ops
- SNS, ORNL
  - Reduced beam power (-15%) frequently in 2013-14
  - Target vessel failures attributed to faulty welds and dynamic stresses



MINOS NT-01 target (FNAL)



SNS target vessel (ORNL)

## Next-generation multi-MW accelerator target facilities present even greater challenges

LBNF DUNE 1.2-2.4 MW, Hyper-K 1.3 MW, Future neutrino facilities 4 MW+

### Target R&D essential to:

- Avoid compromising particle production efficiency by limiting beam parameters
- Maintain reliable operation and accurately predict component lifetime

# Radiation Damage in Accelerators

| Irradiation Source             | DPA rate (DPA/s)   | He gas production (appm/DPA) | Irradiation Temp (°C) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mixed spectrum fission reactor | $3 \times 10^{-7}$ | $1 \times 10^{-1}$           | 200-600               |
| Fusion reactor                 | $1 \times 10^{-6}$ | $1 \times 10^1$              | 400-1000              |
| High energy proton beam        | $6 \times 10^{-3}$ | $1 \times 10^3$              | 100-800               |

- Use of data from nuclear materials research is limited, cannot be directly utilized but give us some insight of radiation damage trends
- Could develop some methods to overcome issues and challenge to simulate protons with neutrons or other alternative methods

n  $\neq$  p  
1-14 MeV      100+ MeV



# R a D I A T E Collaboration

## Radiation Damage In Accelerator Target Environments

RaDIATE collaboration created in 2012, with Fermilab as the leading institution

### Objective:

- Harness existing expertise in nuclear materials and accelerator targets
- Generate new and useful materials data for application within the accelerator and fission/fusion communities

### Activities include:

- Analysis of materials taken from existing beamline as well as new irradiations of candidate target materials at low and high energy beam facilities
- In-beam thermal shock experiments

Program manager: [Dr. Frederique Pellemoine](#) (FNAL)



Department of Engineering Physics  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### Future Collaborators



University of BRISTOL



UK Atomic Energy Authority



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Science and Technology Facilities Council



# High Power Target Materials R&D

Examine targets and beam window materials behavior under prototypic multi-MW proton beam conditions

- **Graphite** (target core) studies:
  - Beam-induced swelling and fracture studies
  - High-dose ion irradiation of graphite
- **Beryllium** (beam window) studies:
  - NuMI beam window analysis & Helium ion implantation
  - Post-irradiation examination of BLIP-irradiated specimens
  - In-beam thermal shock testing at CERN's HiRadMat facility
- **Titanium** (beam window) studies:
  - Tensile testing of BLIP-irradiated specimens
  - Low-energy ion irradiation and nano-indentation
  - World first high-cycle fatigue testing of irradiated titanium at FNAL
- **Novel materials** studies:
  - Electro-spun nanofibers, high-entropy alloys, metal foams, MoGr, highly-ductile TFGR tungsten

# Research Approach - Prototypic irradiation to closely replicate material behavior in accelerator target facilities



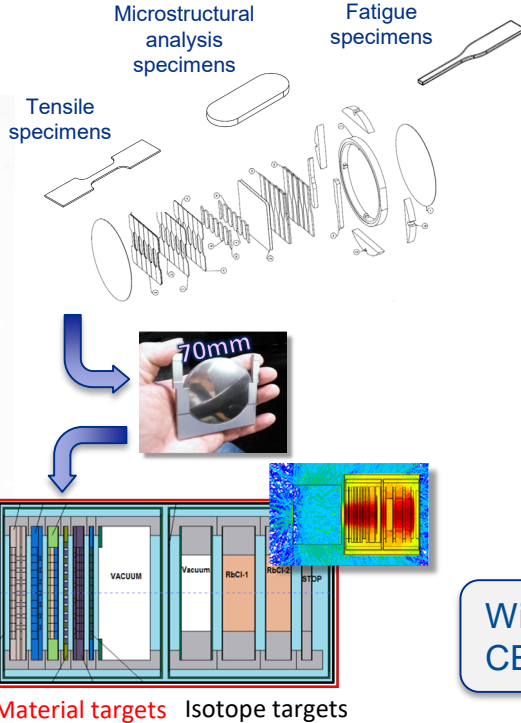
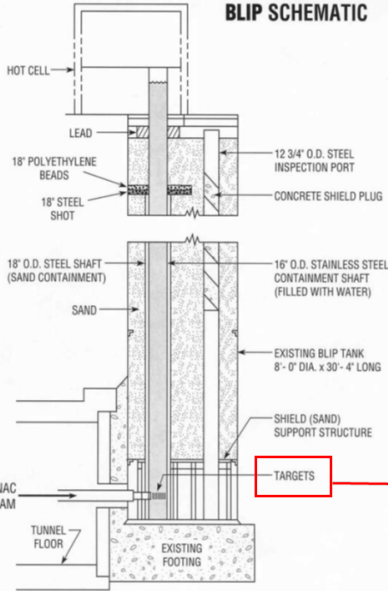
- **High-energy proton irradiation** of material specimens at BNL-BLIP facility in partnership with the RaDIATE collaboration
  - 1<sup>st</sup> irradiation campaign completed in 2017/2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> irradiation planned in 2024-2025
- **Post-Irradiation Examination (PIE)** conducted at participating institution equipped with hot-cell facilities (PNNL)
- **In-beam thermal shock experiment** at CERN's HiRadMat facility that includes both pre-irradiated (BLIP) and non-irradiated specimens
  - Completed experiments in 2015 and 2018. **Currently preparing for upcoming test in Oct. 2022**

# High Energy Proton Irradiation at BNL's BLIP Facility

- Unique facility for material irradiation in tandem with medical isotope production
- High energy protons: 66 – 200 MeV with 165  $\mu\text{A}$  peak current



**BLIP SCHEMATIC**



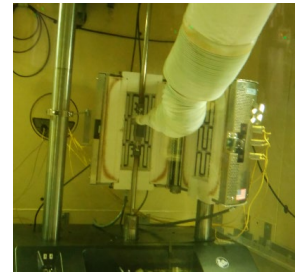
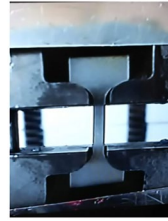
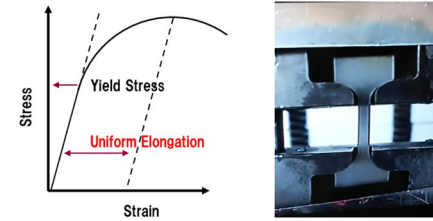
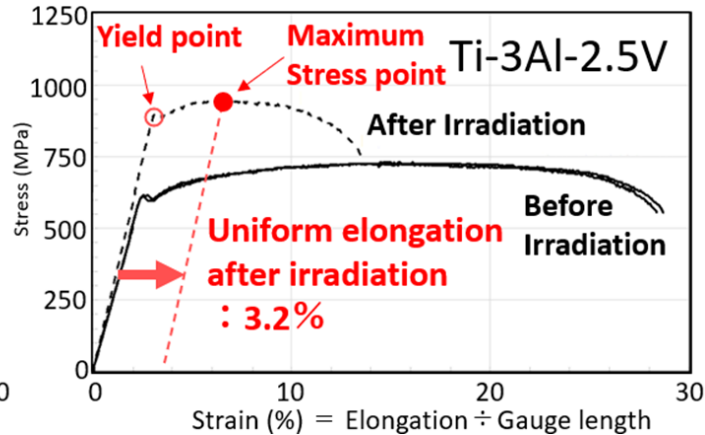
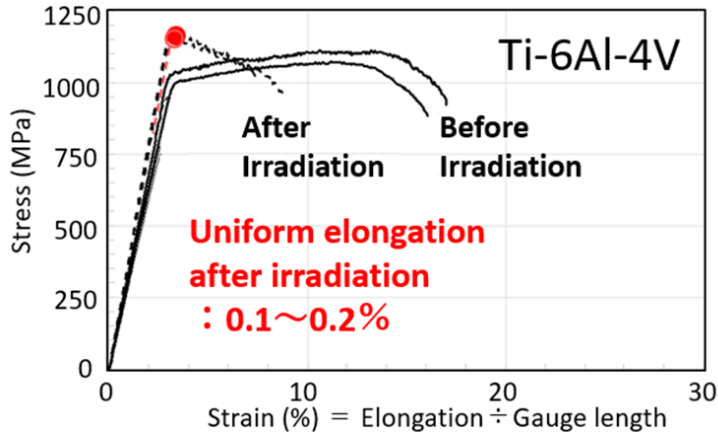
- **RaDIATE multi-material irradiation campaign**
- 181 MeV p irradiation for 8 weeks
  - Over 200 specimens from 6 RaDIATE collaborators
- Participants: BNL, PNNL, FRIB, ESS, CERN, J-PARC, STFC, Oxford, FNAL
- Completed irradiation in 2018
  - $4.5 \times 10^{21}$  accumulated protons on target
  - **Peak DPA: 0.95 (Ti alloy)**
- Post-Irradiation Examination ongoing
  - Mechanical/Thermal testing
  - Microstructural analysis

Will benefit many facilities including LBNF, T2K, BDF at CERN, FRIB, and HL-LHC collimators



# BLIP Ti Alloy Tensile Testing

Stress-strain curves for Ti-6Al-4V (left) and Ti-3Al-2.5V (right)

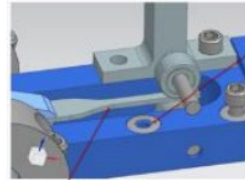
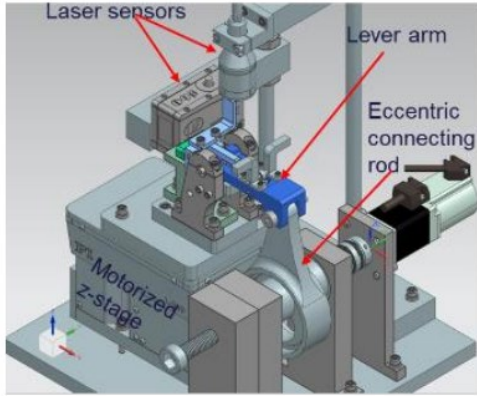


Testing done in hot cell

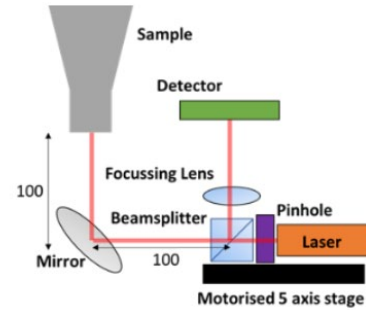
- Ti-6Al-4V loses almost all of its uniform elongation (UE) after irradiation
  - Important to retain UE in a target material as it allows for plastic deformation without rapid growth of cracks and sudden failure
- Evidence that Ti-3Al-2.5V alloy is more radiation-tolerant

# High-Cycle Fatigue Testing of Irradiated Ti alloys

- Proton-irradiated fatigue life data crucial in evaluating component lifetime

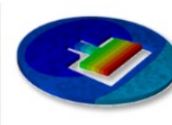


## Ultrasonic mesoscale Fatigue Rig (UFR) at the UKAEA-MRF



20 kHz =  $10^8$  cycles in 1.5 h

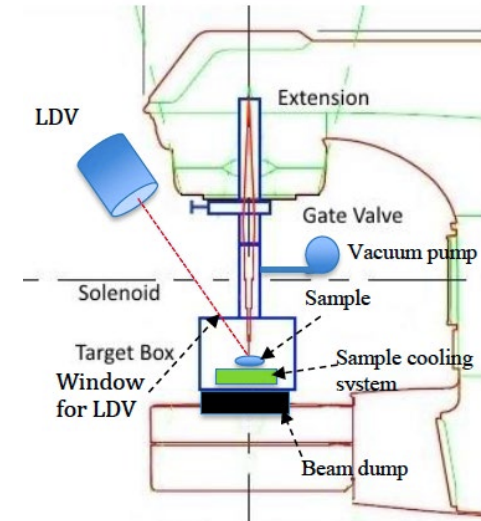
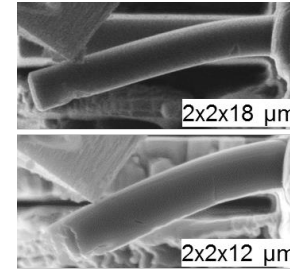
- World first high-cycle fatigue testing of irradiated titanium at FNAL
- Design of 3<sup>rd</sup> generation fatigue testing machine has been completed



Meso-fatigue foil during extraction in PNNL hot cell

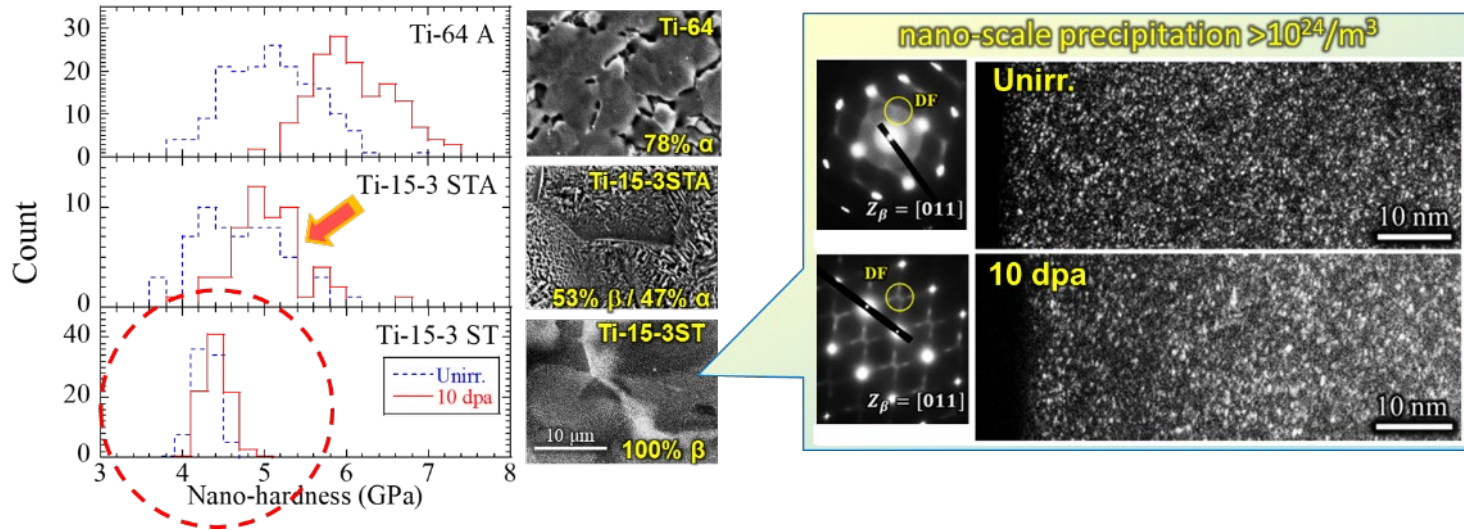
# Alternative to High Energy Proton Beam

- High energy proton irradiation
  - Highly activated material  $\Rightarrow$  need hot cells and specific characterization equipment
  - High energy  $\Rightarrow$  Low dpa rate  $\Rightarrow$  long irradiation time (order of months)  $\Rightarrow$  Expensive
- Alternative radiation damage method
  - Low-energy ion irradiation
    - Lower cost, high dose rate without activating the specimen
    - Narrow penetration depth
      - Micro-mechanics and meso-scale testing
    - Doesn't reproduce the gas (H and He) production
      - He implantation in Graphite at Michigan Ion Beam Lab
  - Very few heavy ion irradiation facilities around the world  $\Rightarrow$  Need more development of such facilities
- Alternative thermal shock method
  - Use of electron beams, lasers, or other techniques could reduce the cost and length of R&D cycles compared to proton beam-line tests
- Ab initio and MD modeling could help to guide the development of alternative techniques
  - e.g. understanding the differences between radiation damage effects from HE protons vs. LE ions or other alternative methods





# Ion Beam Irradiation to High DPA



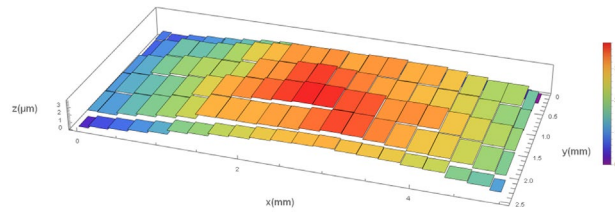
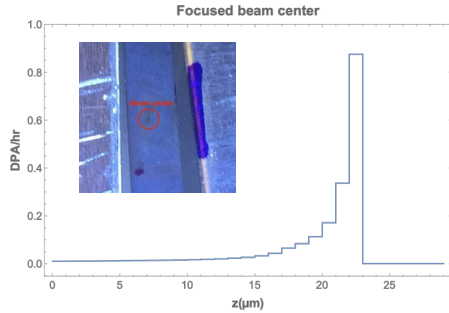
- The single metastable  $\beta$  phase Ti-15-3 alloy exhibits high radiation damage tolerance, that does not undergo irradiation hardening **up to 10 dpa at room temperature**
  - Dense nano-scale precipitates (precursors of the athermal  $\omega$ -phase) that act as effective “sink sites” to absorb irradiation defects
- Ti-15-3 is typically aged at  $\sim 500$  °C to precipitate  $\alpha$ -phase that enables higher temperature operation
  - $\alpha$ -phase precipitates are too coarse and can weaken sink strength and degrade radiation damage tolerance
  - **Clear irradiation hardening (but less than Ti-64 A)**

# Graphite Irradiation Studies with Heavy Ions

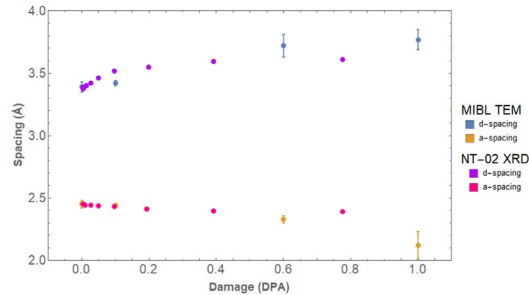
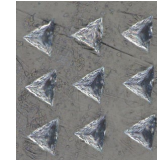
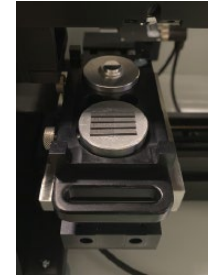
A. Burleigh and Prof. J. Terry (IIT)

• 4.5 MeV He<sup>++</sup> ions at MIBL

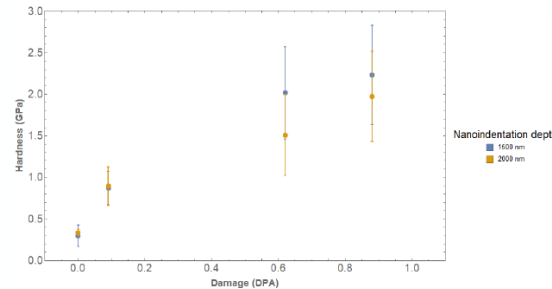
• 1 MeV/A <sup>36</sup>Ar<sup>10+</sup> at IRRSUD



AFM measurements show bulk swelling of ~3.8 μm in the irradiated region

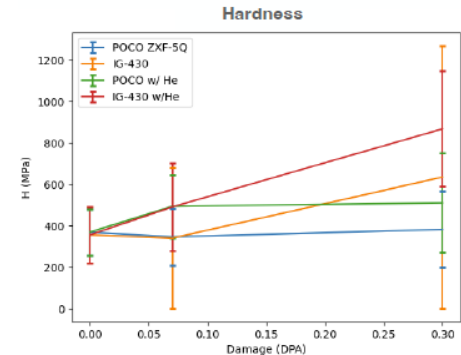


TEM: similar behavior of HI irradiated graphite compared to failed NT-02 target

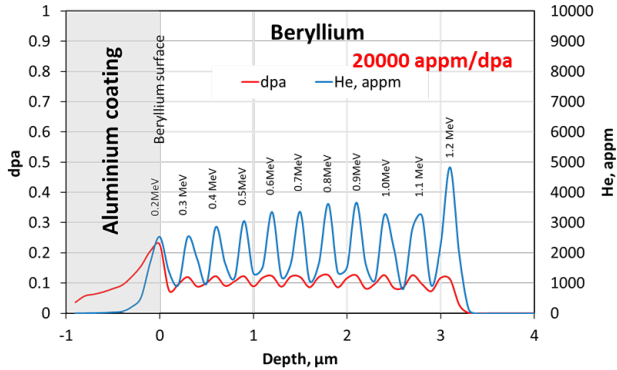


Nano-indentation of graphite irradiated up to 0.9 DPA at MIBL

## Preliminary results

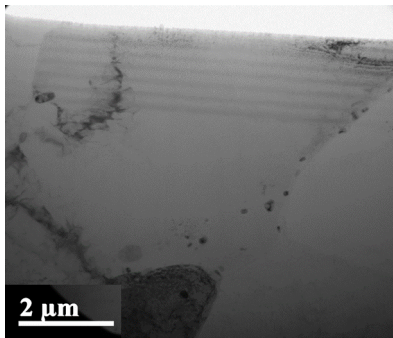


# Helium Implantation in Beryllium



3  $\mu\text{m}$  damage layer  
 $T_{\text{irrad}}$ : 50 and 200  $^{\circ}\text{C}$   
 0.1 DPA, 2000 appm He

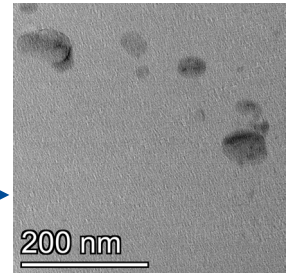
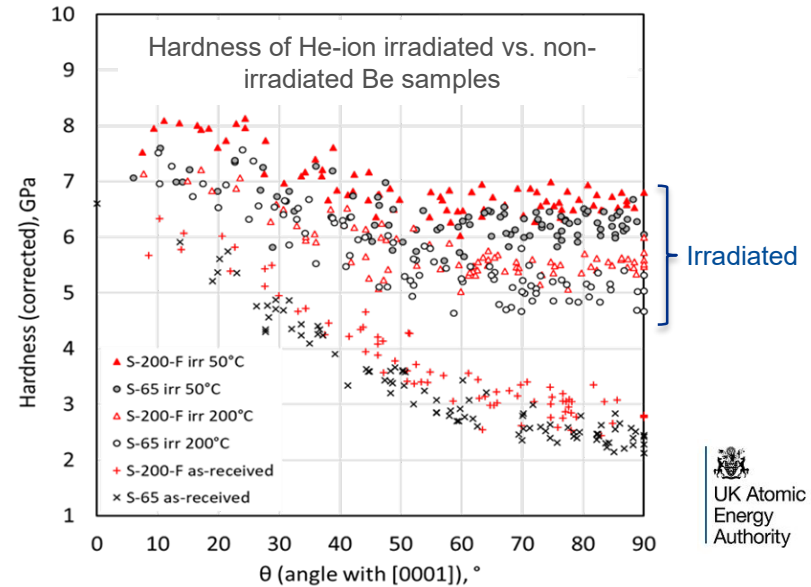
S. Kuksenko et al., J. Nuclear Materials, vol. 555, 15130, 2021



S. Kuksenko, RaDIATE Collaboration Meeting, 2019

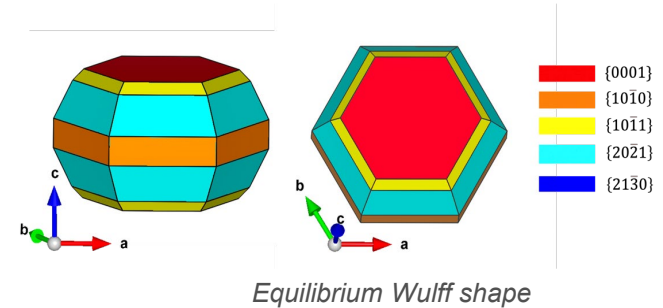
He implantation peaks

- Helium produced at high rates in Be with high energy proton beams (~3000 appm/DPA)
- At low temperatures, He atoms do not diffuse while at high temperatures, He atoms become mobile and can fill vacancy clusters to form damaging He bubbles
- He bubbles observed in NuMI Be window after **annealing** at 360  $^{\circ}\text{C}$
- However, **higher temperatures are generally desired to anneal displacement damage** (see hardness plot above)



# Ab Initio and Molecular Dynamics Material Modeling

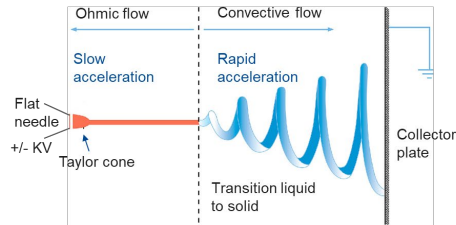
- Ab initio and molecular dynamics (MD) modeling are still not yet mature enough to model atomistic changes to micro-structural evolution to macro-properties of real-world materials.
- However: Prediction of fundamental response of various material classes to irradiation helps steer material choices and experiment design for future irradiation studies
- Collaboration with Computation Materials Group at University of Wisconsin
  - Modeling of He gas bubbles in Beryllium
- Need experimental data from irradiation station (proton, Heavy ion, ...) to validate our models



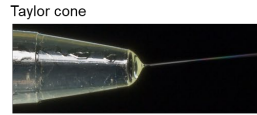
# Novel Targetry Materials: Electrospun Nanofibers and HEAs

## Nanofiber electro-spinning at Fermilab

- Nanofiber continuum is discretized at the microscale to allow fibers to absorb and dampen thermal shock, and discontinuity prevents stress wave propagation
- Evidence of radiation damage resistance due to nanopolycrystalline structure of the material

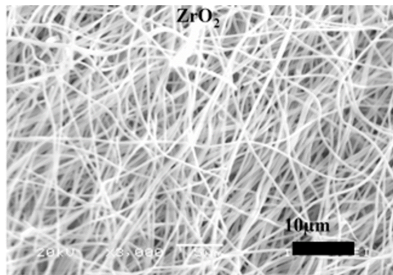
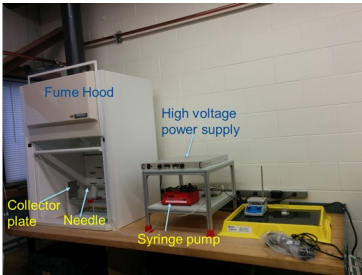


Electrostatically driven electrospinning process



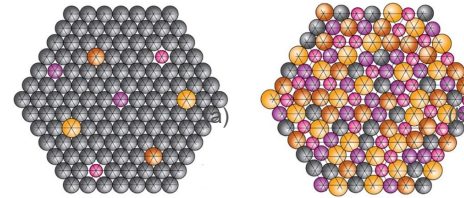
Electro-spinning set-up at Fermilab

SEM image of Zirconia nanofibers

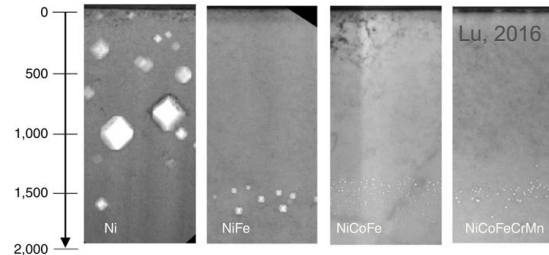


## High-Entropy Alloy (HEA) development at UW-M

- Alloys consisting of 3 or more principal elements
- Excellent inherent properties including enhanced radiation damage resistance



(a) Conventional alloy, (b) High-entropy alloy (Miracle & Senkov, 2016)



Reduction in irradiation-induced void distribution in nickel and multi-component HEAs after 3-MeV Ni<sup>+</sup> ion irradiation at 773 K



# Summary

- Future high-power beams present critical target facility challenges
  - Understanding material behavior under intense multi-MW beams is high priority
    - Radiation damage effects from lattice disruptions and gas transmutations
  - Beam-induced thermal shock limit of materials
- Materials R&D essential to help design robust targetry components and maximize primary beam power on target and secondary particle production
  - Globally coordinated R&D activities are producing useful results
  - Alternative irradiation facilities, material testing and characterization methods essential to support R&D program
  - Explore Novel material to support future high-power Targetry components

# Thank you for your attention

- Acknowledgements



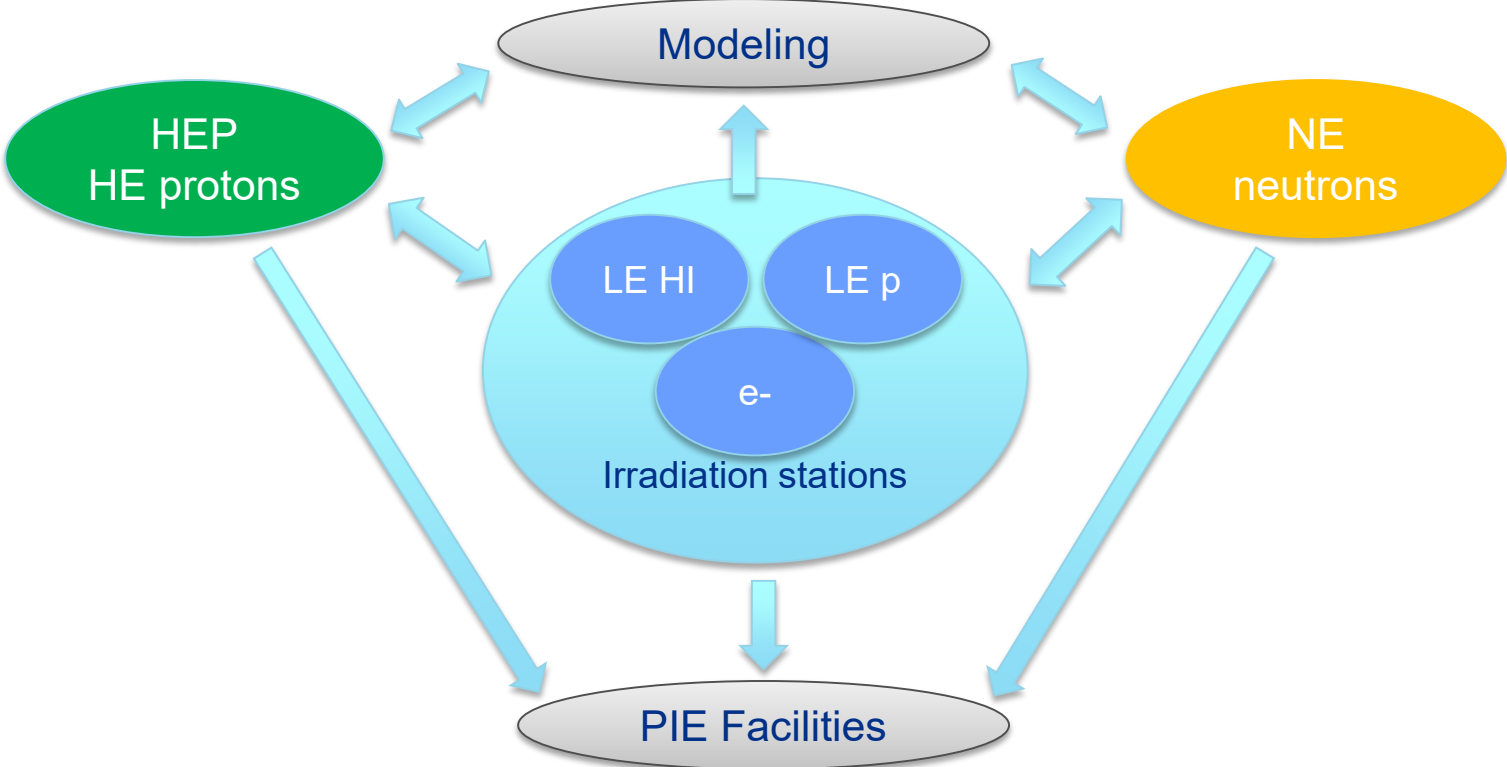
## RADIATE Collaboration

Radiation Damage In Accelerator Target Environments





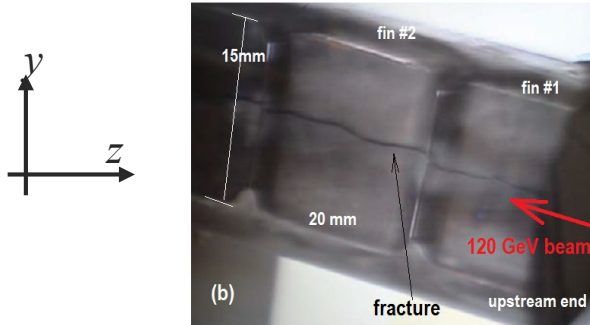
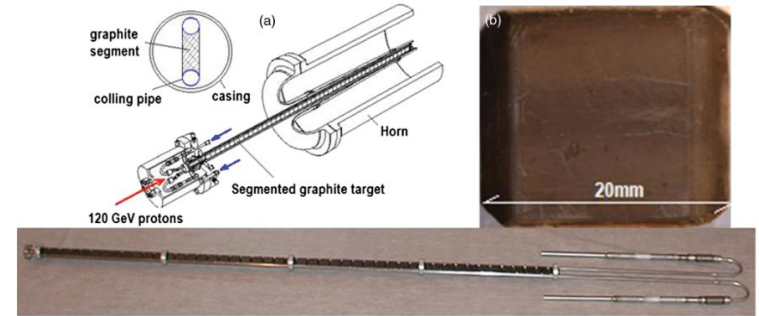
# Use Alternative to Understand Radiation Damage



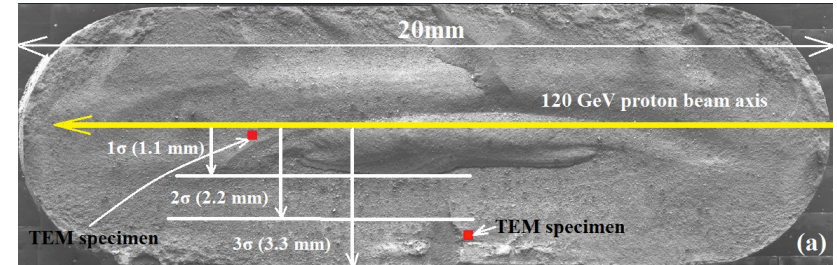
# First Approach to Study Targets and Windows Failed in Service

## NuMI target (NT-02) autopsy and examination

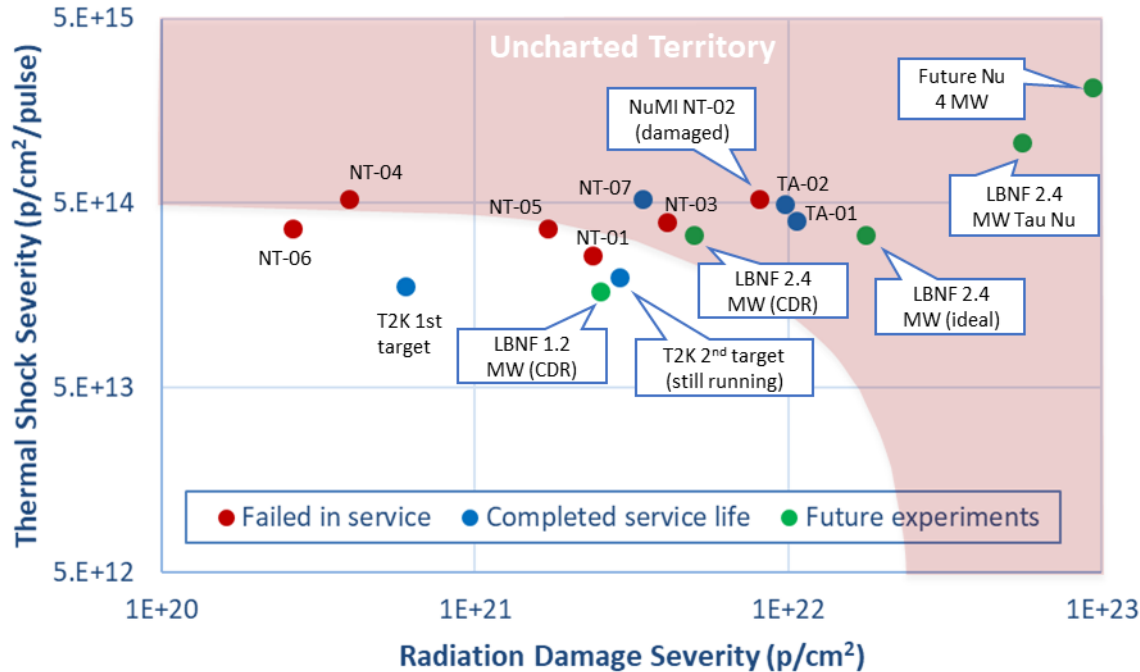
- Peak fluence:  $8 \times 10^{21}$  p/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Beam energy: 120 GeV
- Spill duration: 10  $\mu$ s,  $4 \times 10^{13}$  protons/pulse
- Duty cycle: 1.87 s
- Estimated peak DPA: 0.63



## Detailed PIE at PNNL



# Neutrino HPT R&D Materials Exploratory Map



10 x increase in accumulated proton fluence expected in future multi-MW facilities

## Materials of interest

- **Graphite** (target)
- **Beryllium** (beam window and target)
- **Titanium alloys** (primary beam and target containment windows)
- **Novel materials**: electro-spun nanofibers, high-entropy alloys, metal foams, MoGr, glassy carbon, highly ductile TFGR tungsten, etc.

# NSUF Facilities of Interest

- 48 NSUF Partner Facilities offer world-class capabilities to researchers for investigating research aligned with the DOE-NE mission and its programmatic interests
- 18 NSUF Partner Institutions. At least 11 are of interest for HPT R&D
  - Idaho National Laboratory
  - Argonne National Laboratory (IVEM-Tandem Facility)
  - Brookhaven National Laboratory (National Synchrotron Light Source II)
  - Los Alamos National Laboratory (Tarik Saleh for RUS, Resonant Ultrasound Spectroscopy)
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Pr. Short, Transient Grating Spectroscopy)
  - Oak Ridge National Laboratory (LAMDA)
  - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (D. Senior)
  - Sandia National Laboratories (Khalid Hattar, Ion Beam Laboratory)
  - Westinghouse
  - University of Wisconsin (Adrien Couet)
  - University of Michigan (Gary Was, MIBL)