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Experimental and Numerical Characterization of Supersonic and Subsonic Gas Flows for Nuclear Spectroscopy Studies

Alexandra Zadvornaya
24 September 2019



Plan:

A. Stopping and transport of nuclear reaction products in subsonic helium flow

1. Multinucleon-transfer (MNT) reactions within Elemental Nucleosynthesis studies at University of Jyväskylä
2. Experimental and numerical characterization of efficiency of ion survival in subsonic helium flow
3. Outlook



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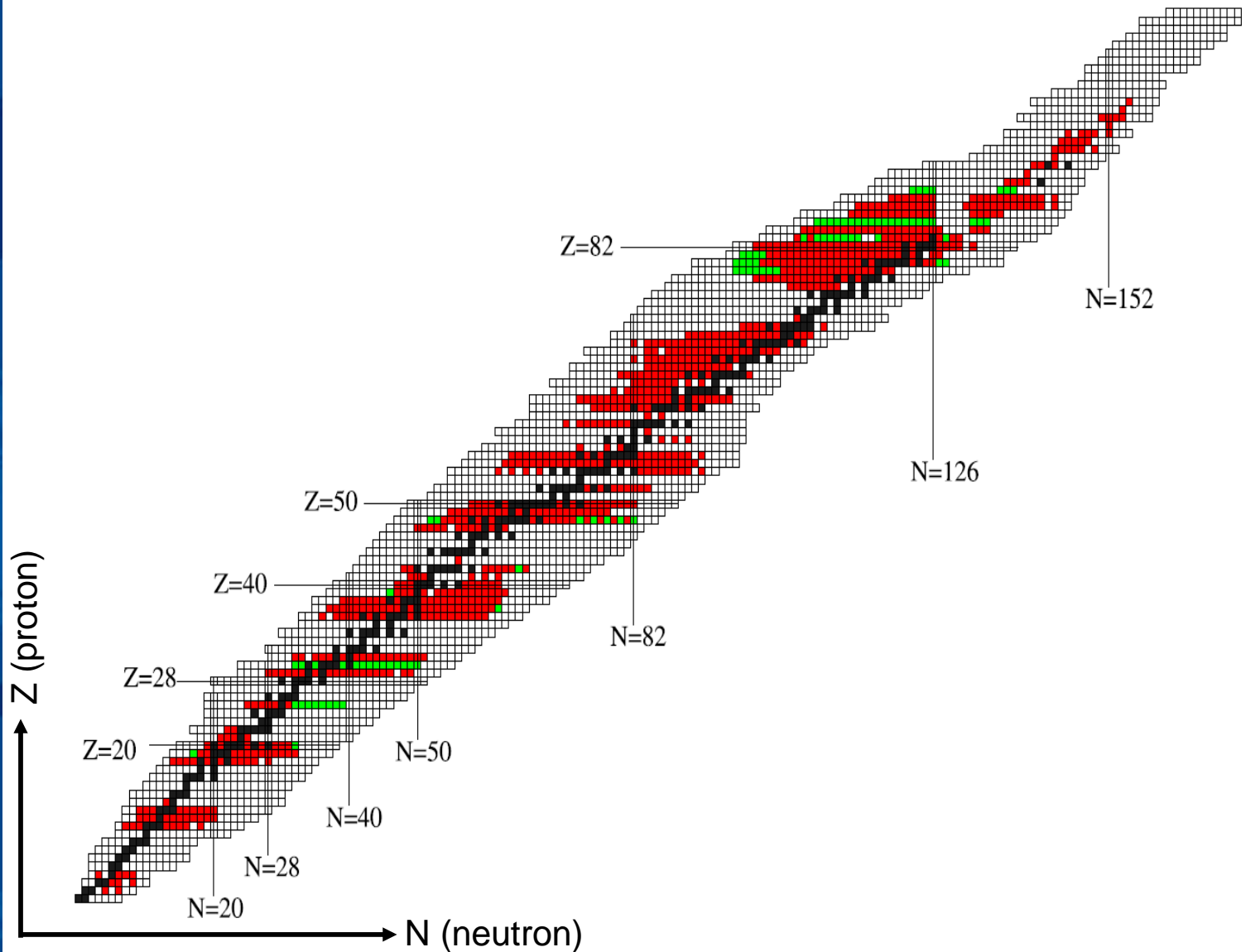
B. In-gas-jet laser ionization spectroscopy in supersonic argon jets

1. In-gas laser ionization spectroscopy in heavy element region
2. PLIF-spectroscopy experiments at KU Leuven
3. Results
 - Validation of PLIF-spectroscopy
 - Characterization of gas jets formed by de Laval nozzle
4. Conclusions



MAIDEN

Masses, Isomers and Decay studies for Elemental Nucleosynthesis

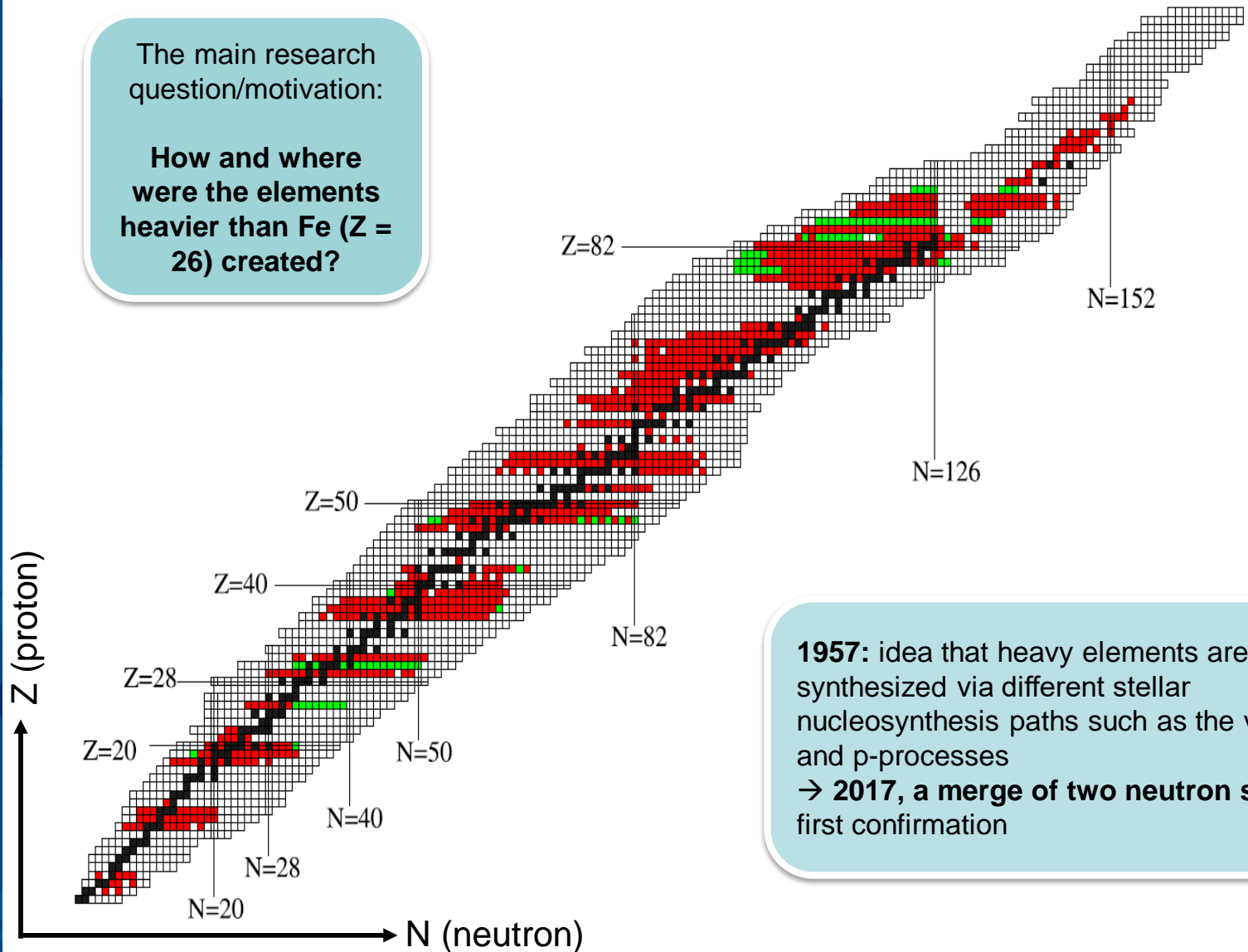


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Masses, Isomers and Decay studies for Elemental Nucleosynthesis

The main research question/motivation:

How and where were the elements heavier than Fe ($Z = 26$) created?



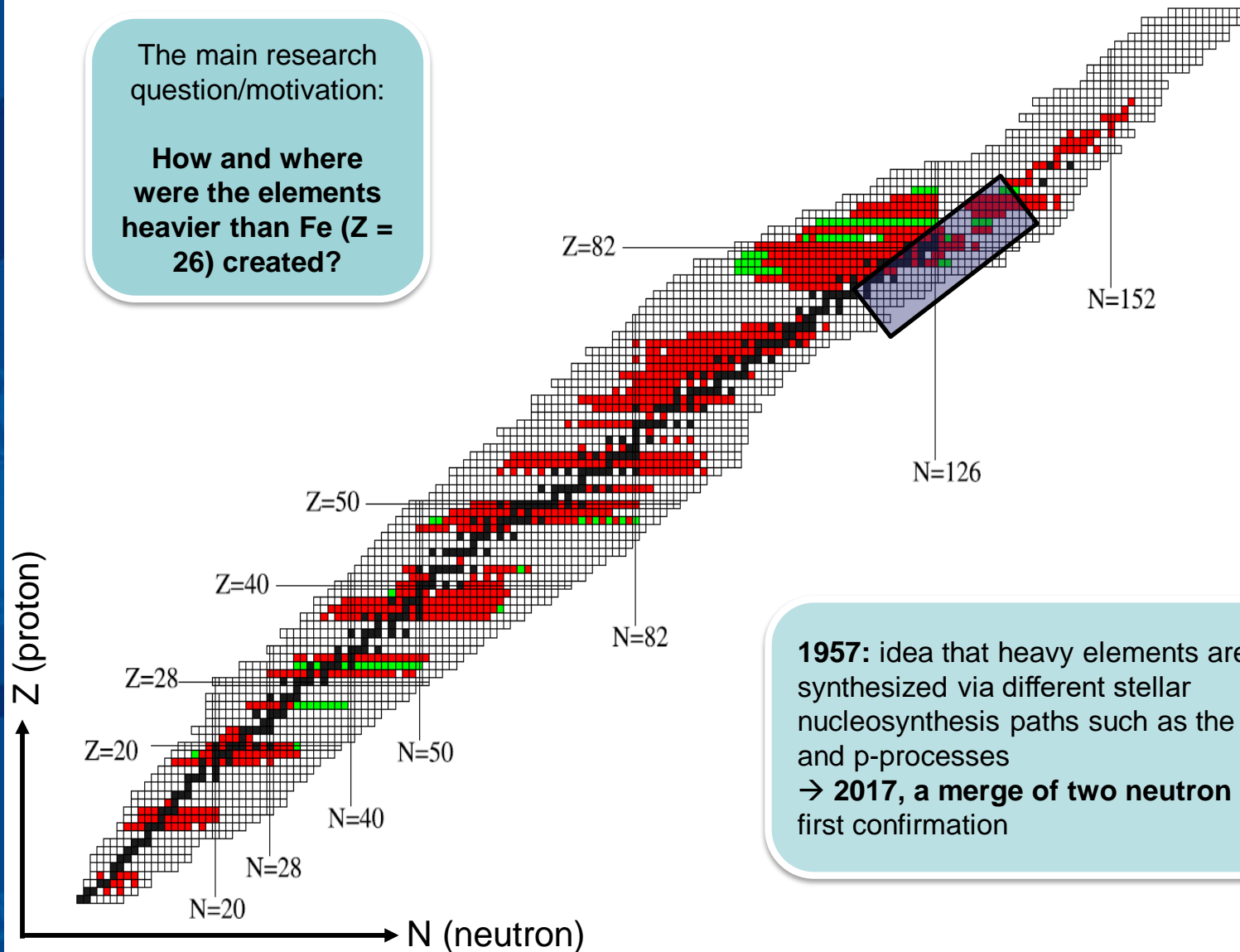
1957: idea that heavy elements are synthesized via different stellar nucleosynthesis paths such as the via r-, s- and p-processes
→ 2017, a merge of two neutron stars first confirmation

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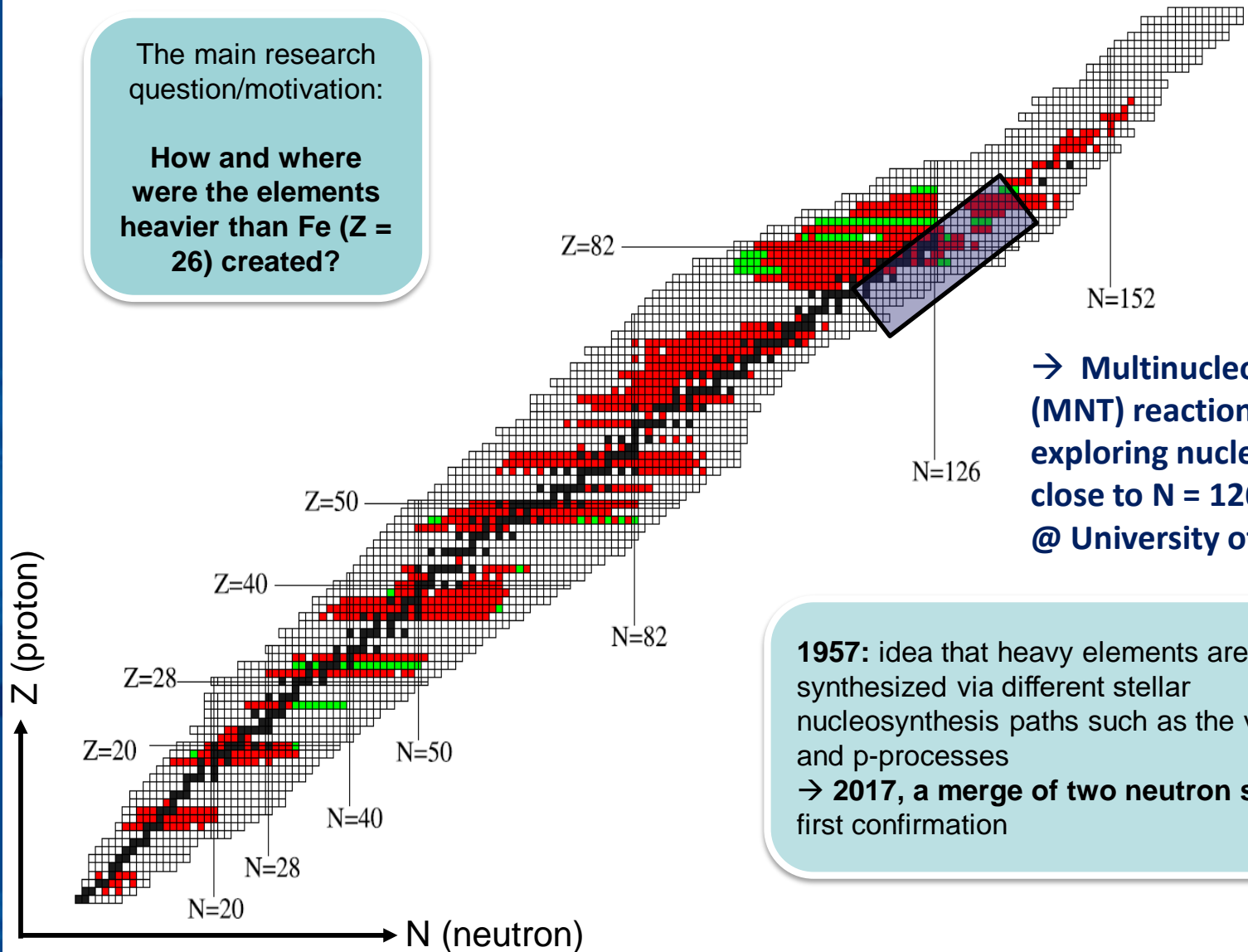
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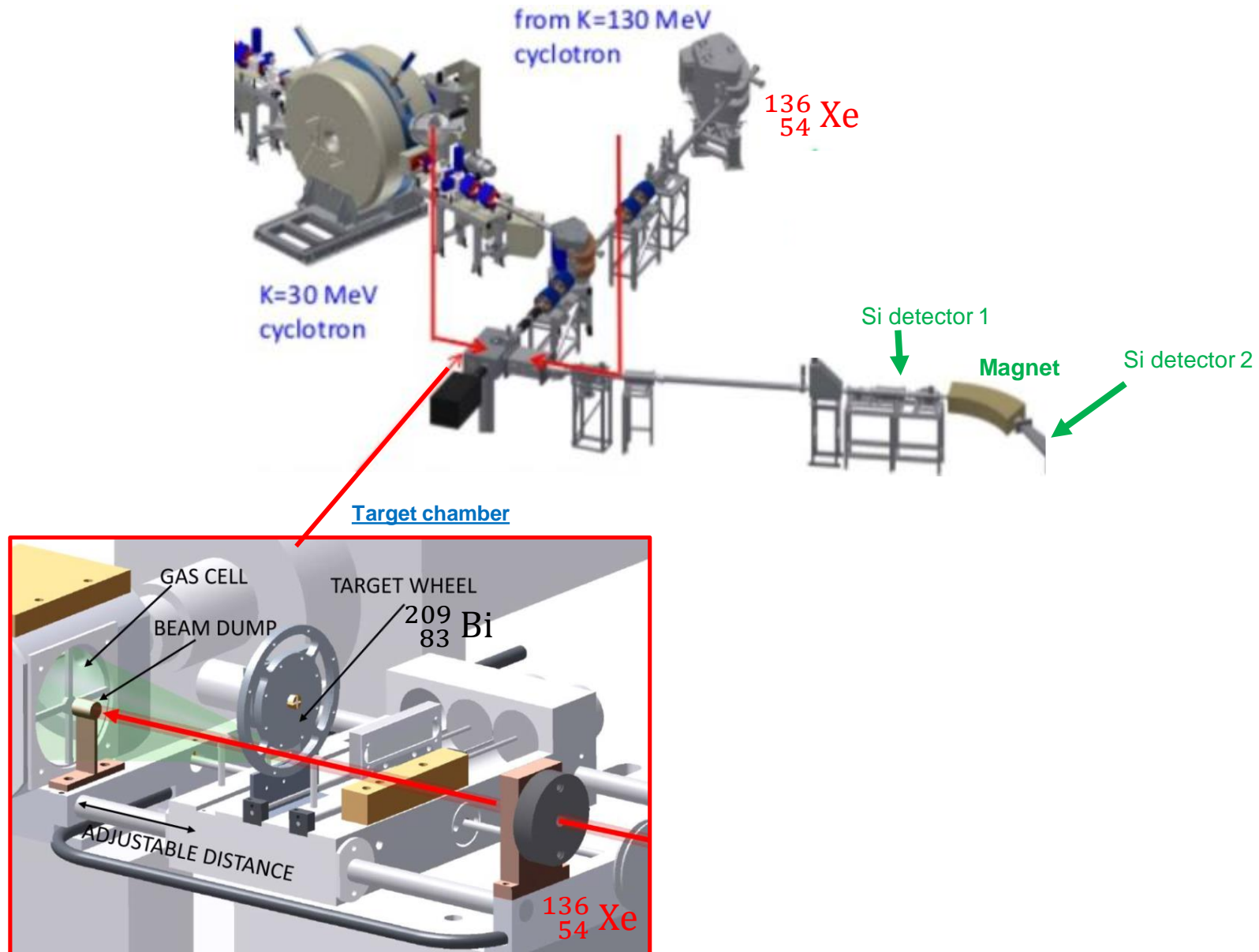
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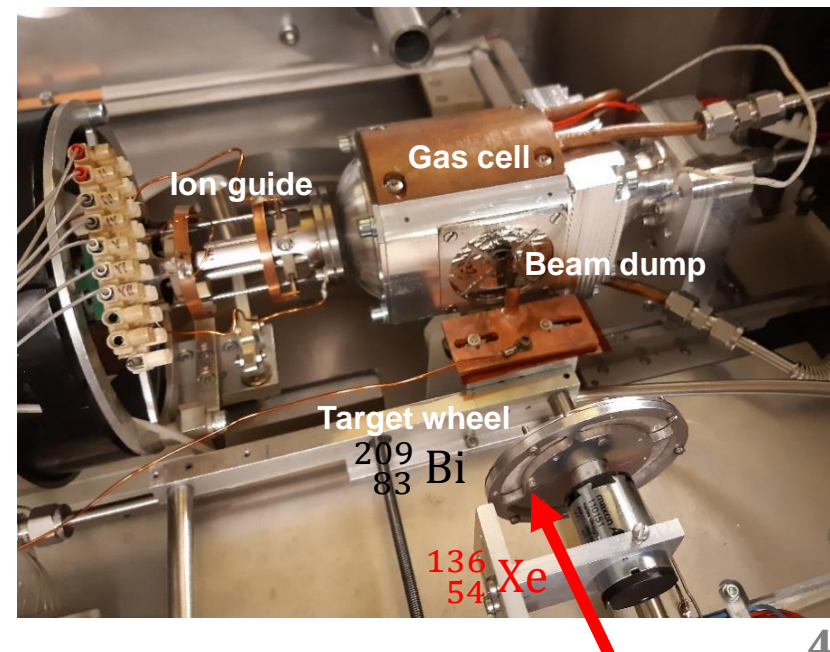
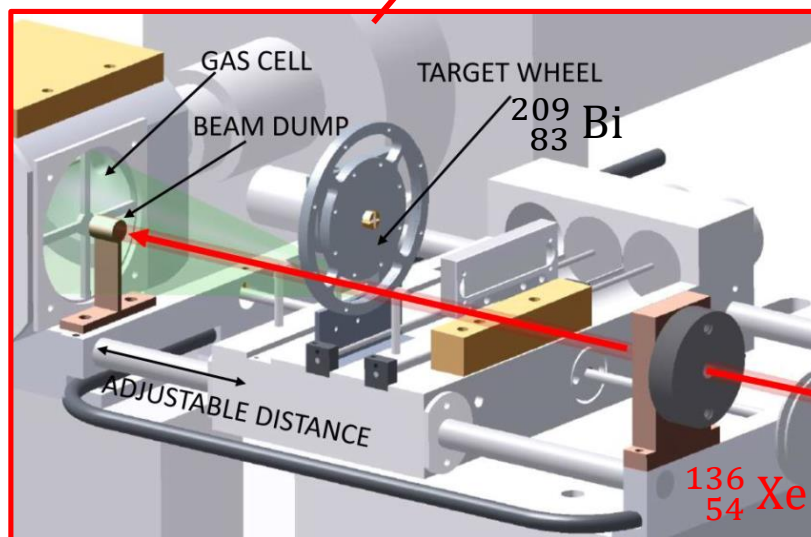
→ Multinucleon-transfer (MNT) reactions studies for exploring nuclear structure close to $N = 126$
@ University of Jyväskylä

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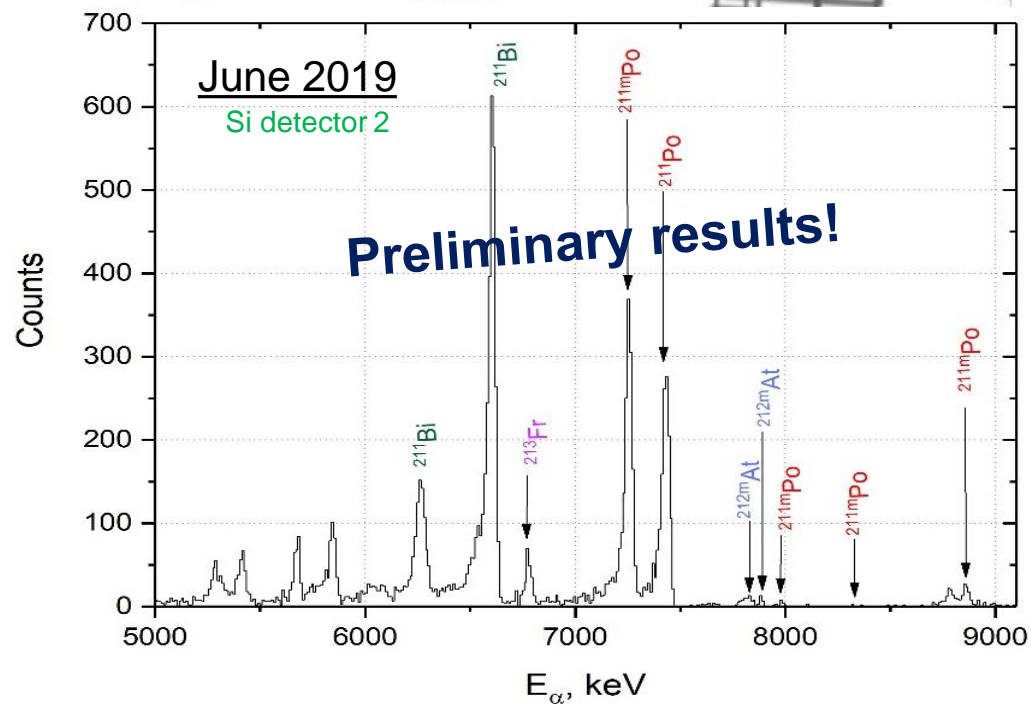
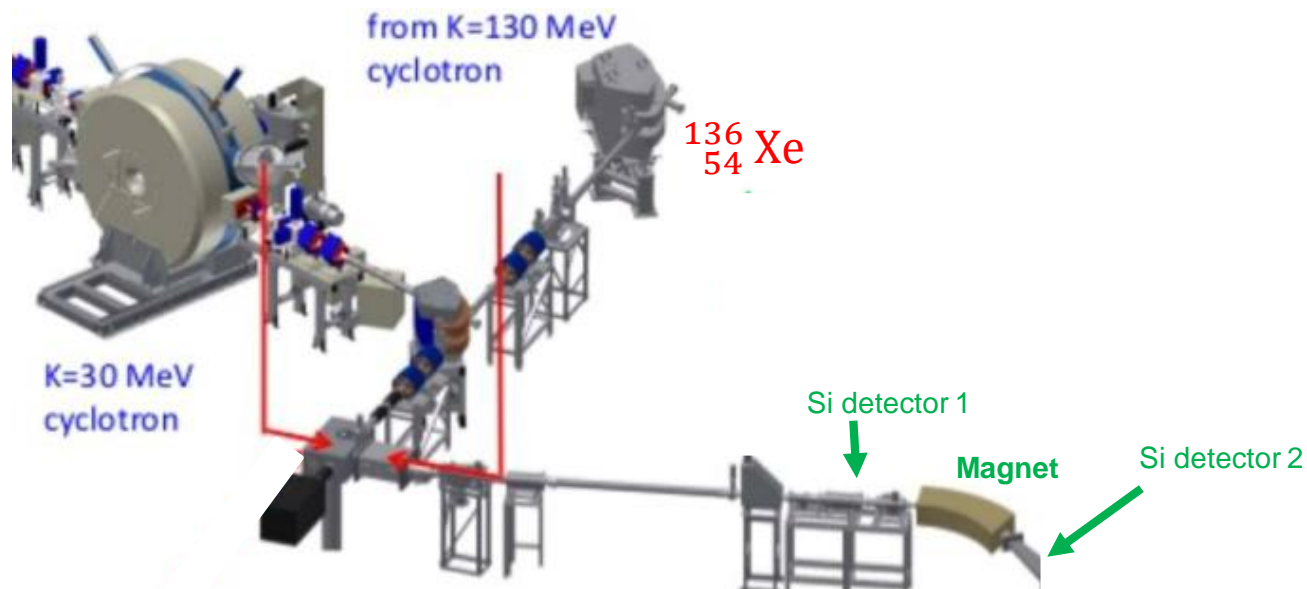
Multinucleon-transfer (MNT) reactions studies



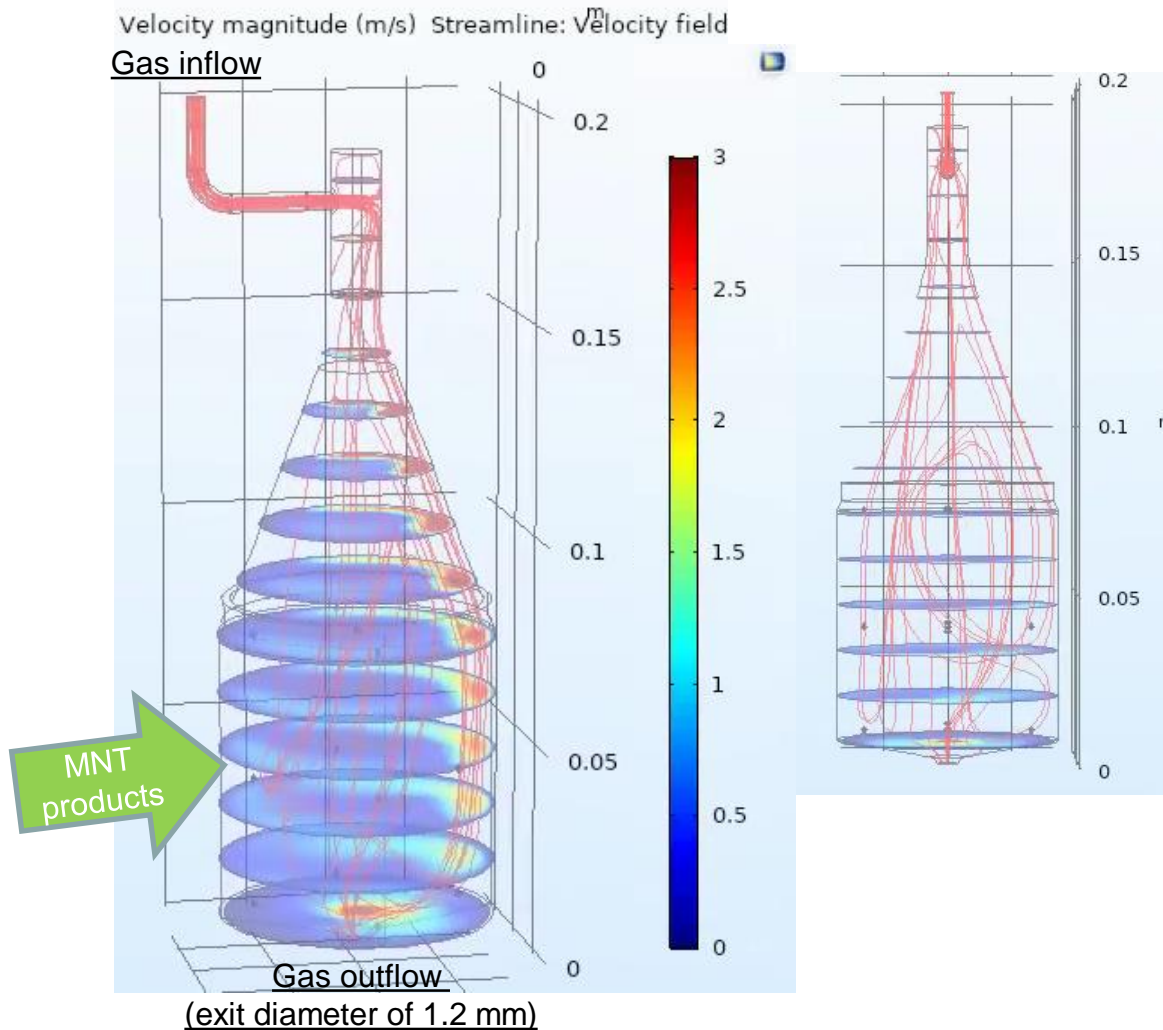
Multinucleon-transfer (MNT) reactions studies



Multinucleon-transfer (MNT) reactions studies



Initial gas cell design



CFD Module

Laminar Flow:

compressible flow;
boundary conditions – no slip.

Transport of Diluted Species:
convection and diffusion.

Helium

Temperature $T_0 = 300$ K

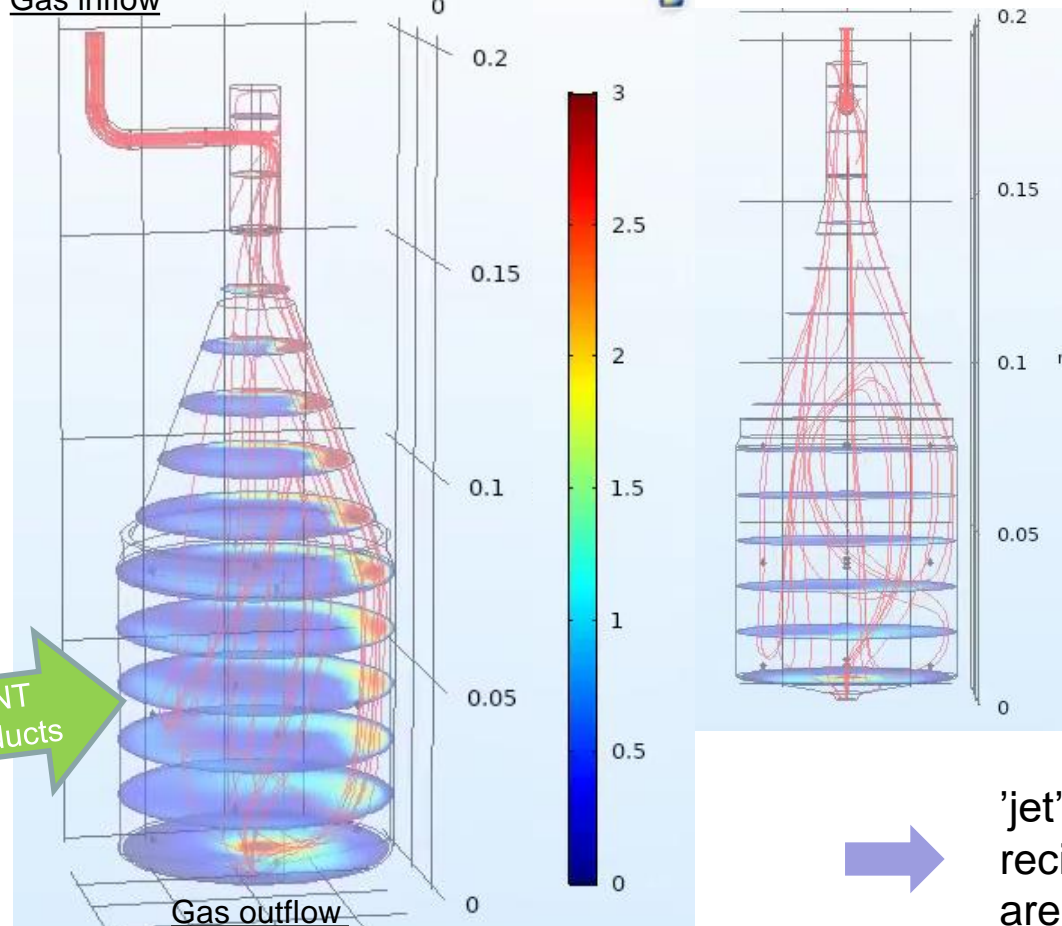
Exit diameter of 1.2 mm



Initial gas cell design

Velocity magnitude (m/s) Streamline: Velocity field

Gas inflow



MNT products

Gas outflow
(exit diameter of 1.2 mm)

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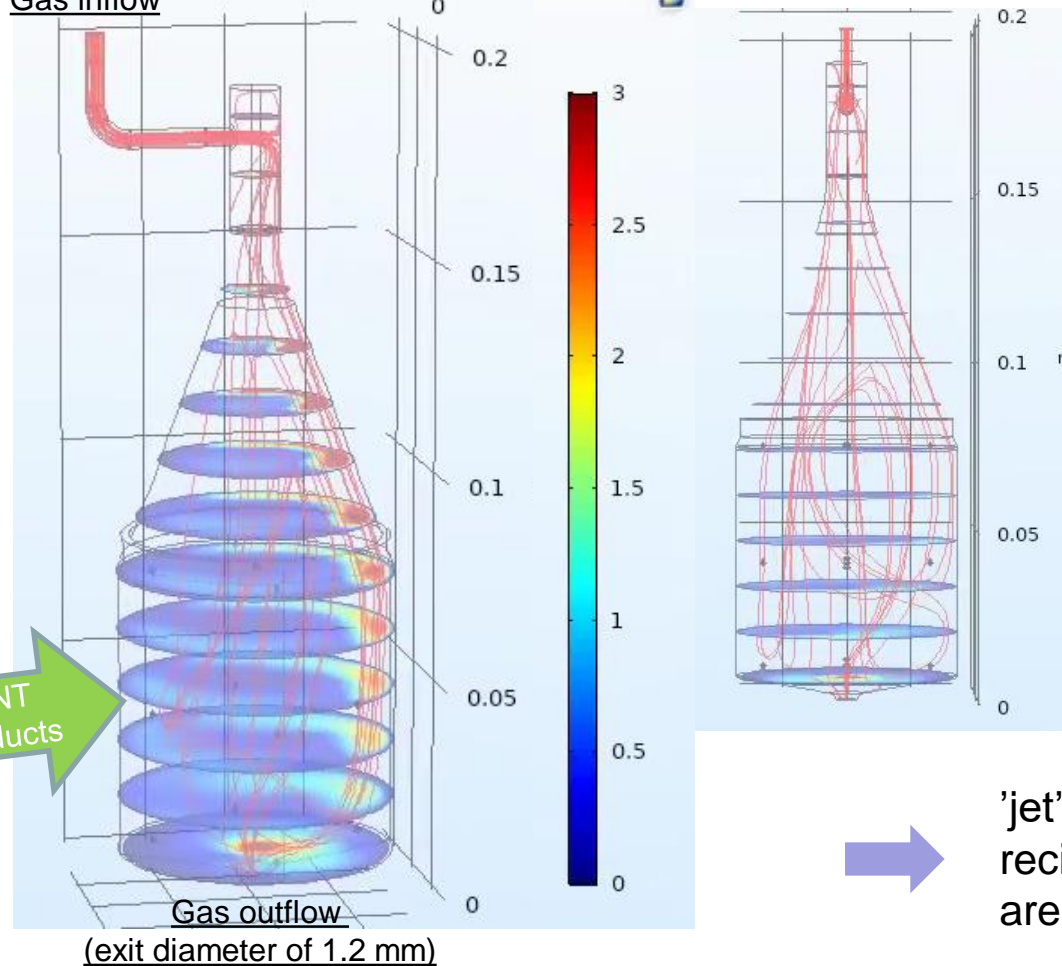
'jet'-like structure and
recirculation region
are visible



Initial gas cell design

Velocity magnitude (m/s) Streamline: Velocity field

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CFD Module

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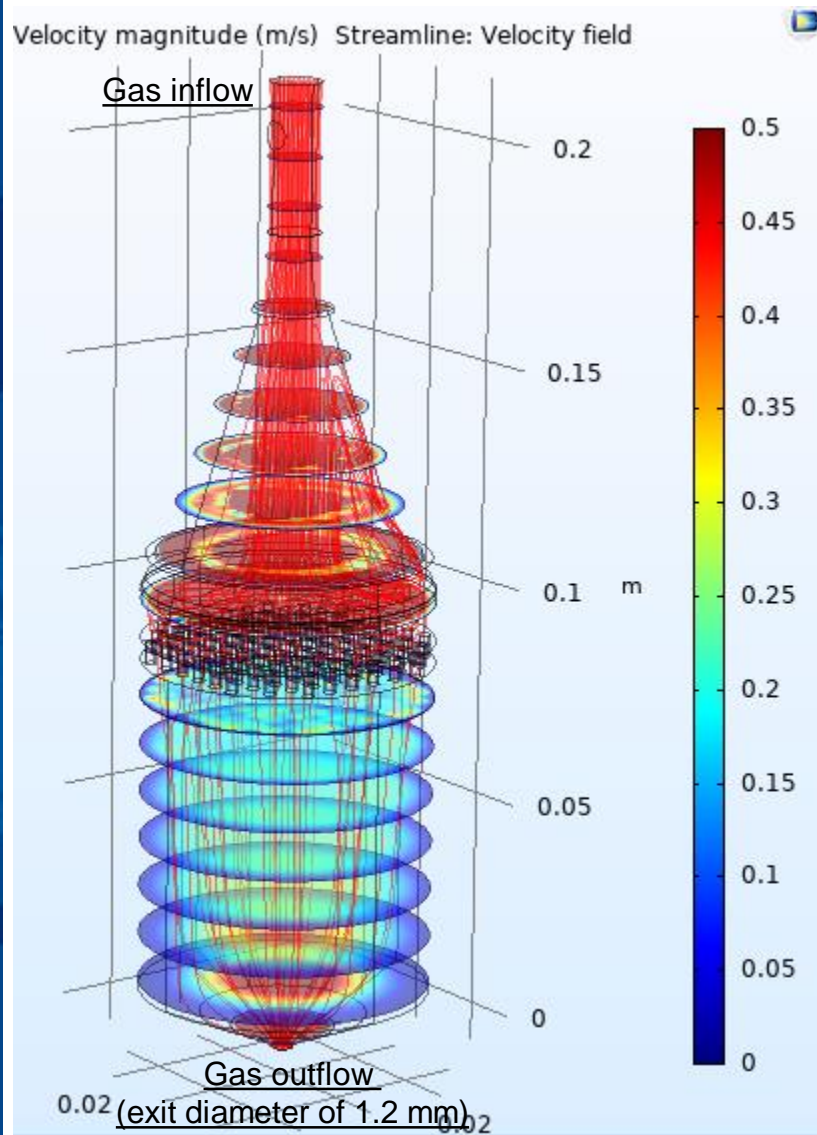
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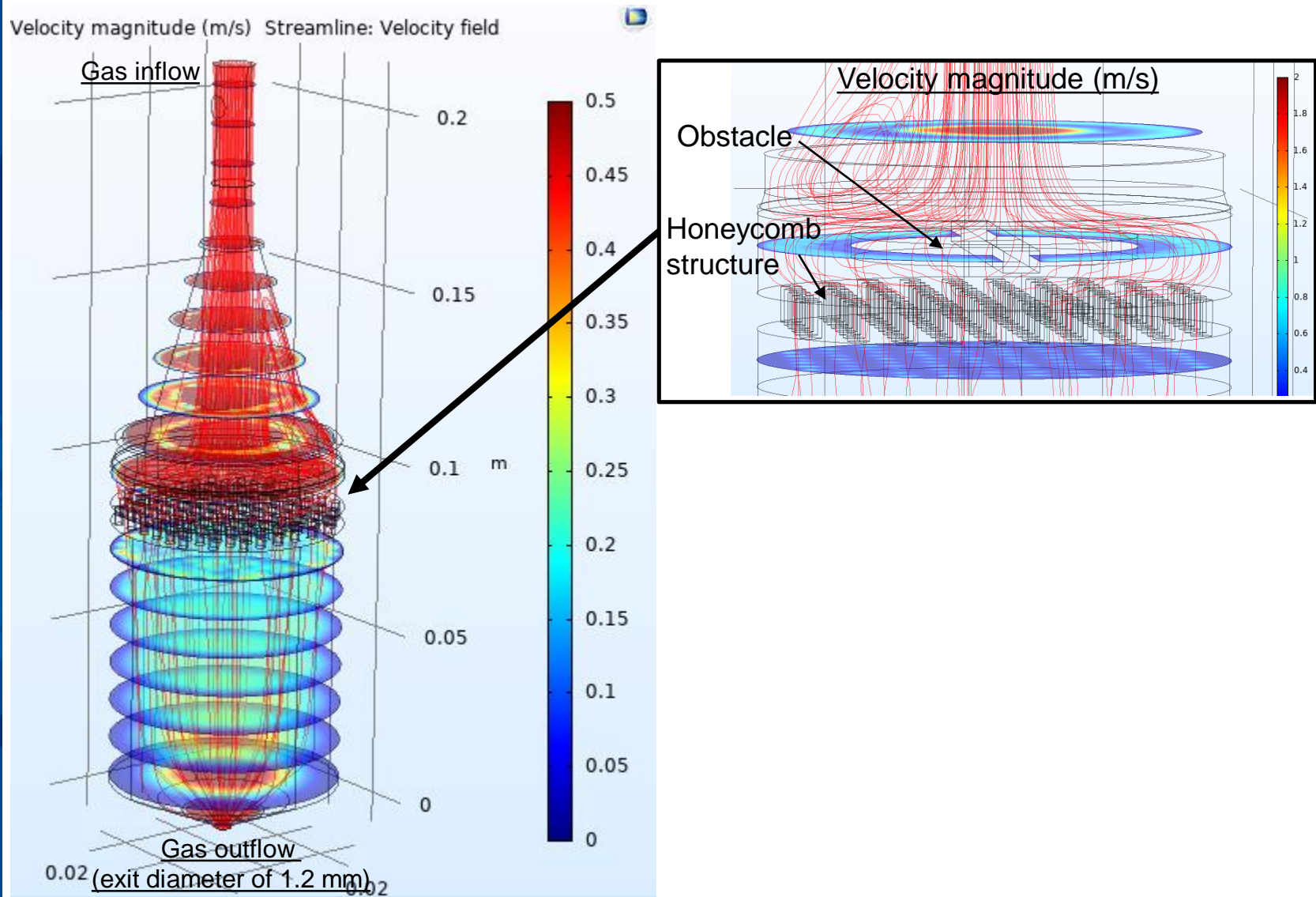
Gas cell design had to be optimized to enable more efficient and fast transportation



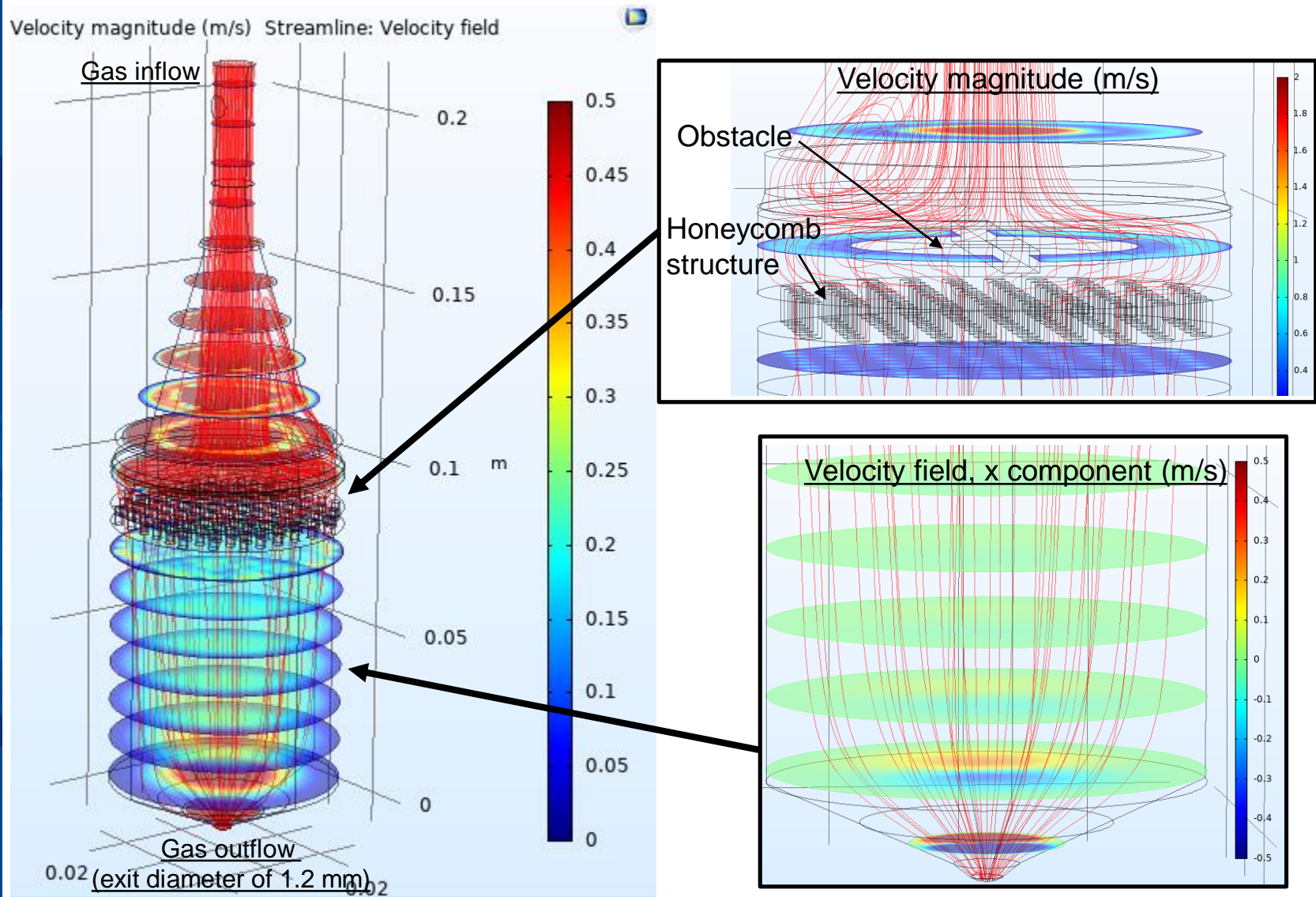
Optimization of gas cell design using CFD Module



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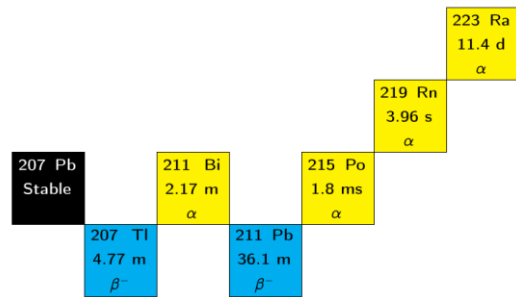


Optimization of gas cell design using CFD Module

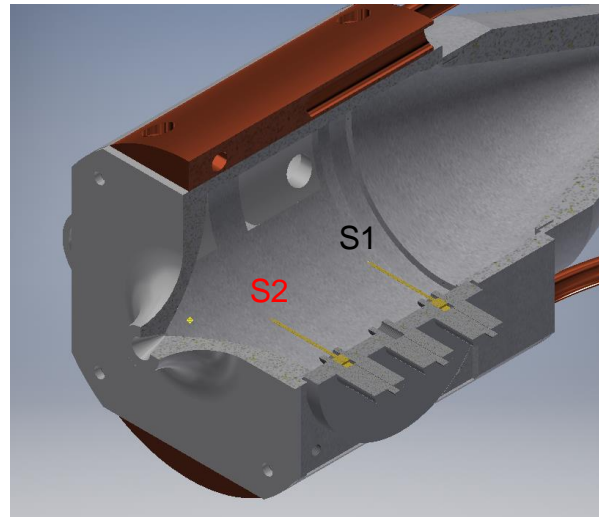


➔ More uniform flow structure

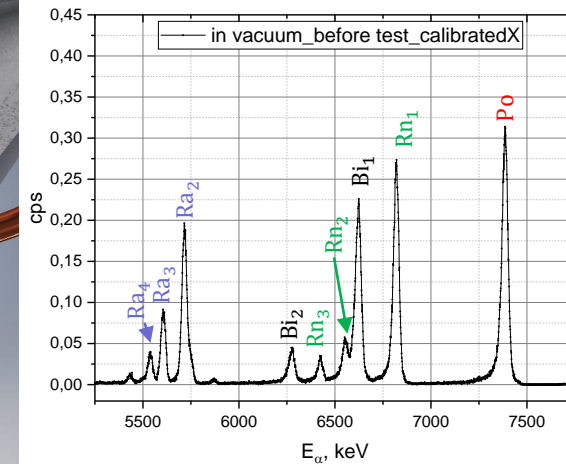
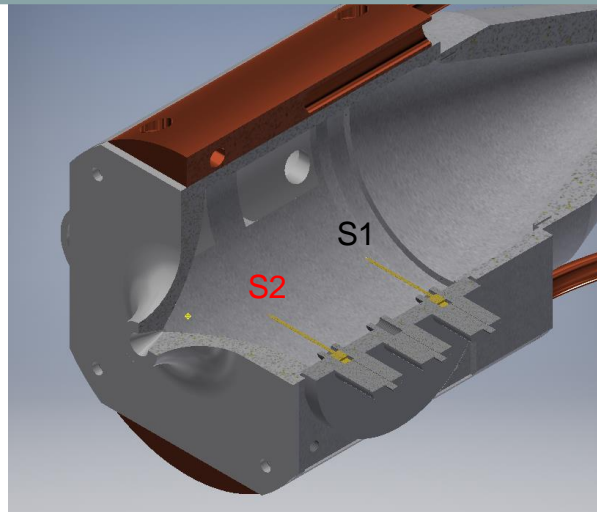
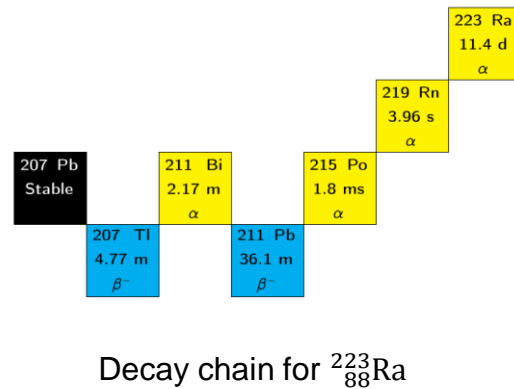
Experimental and numerical characterization of ion survival efficiency by using α -recoil $^{223}_{88}\text{Ra}$ source



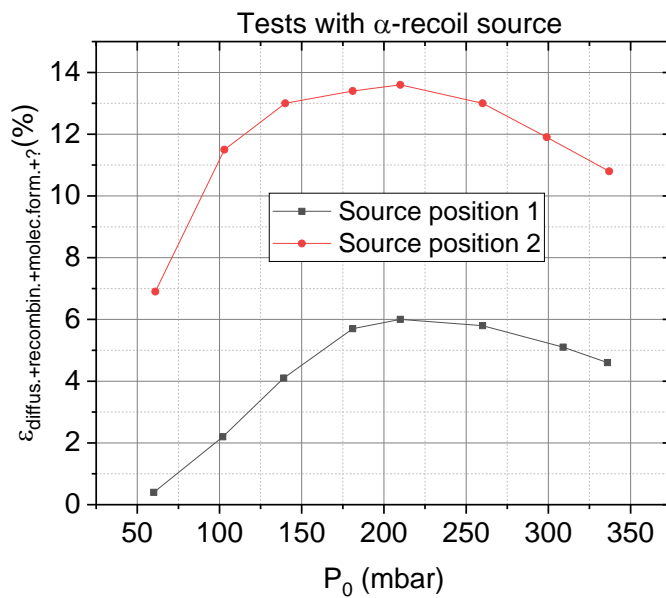
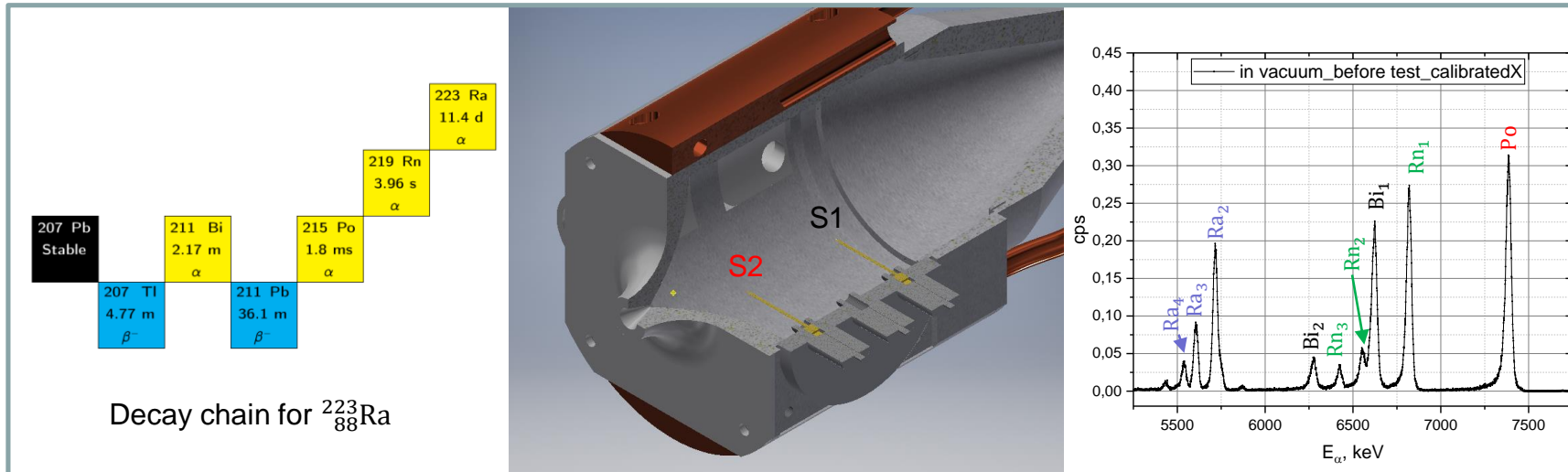
Decay chain for $^{223}_{88}\text{Ra}$



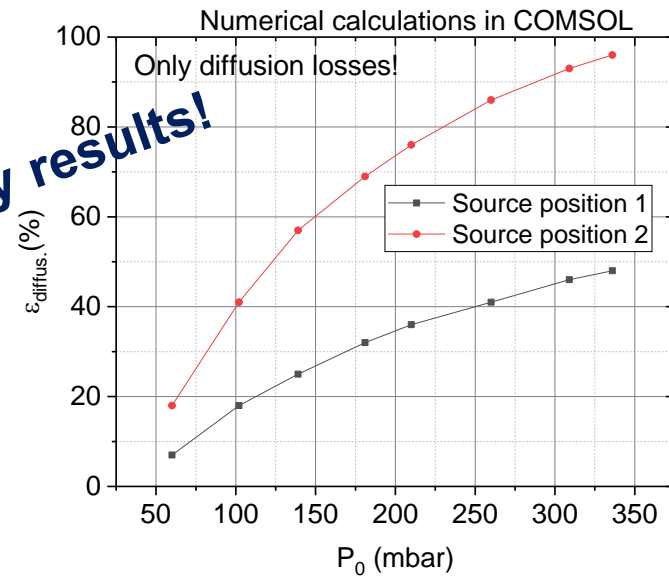
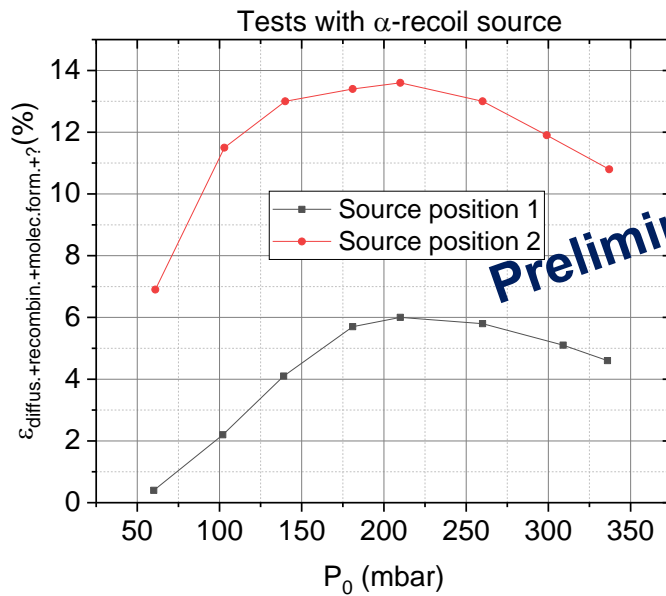
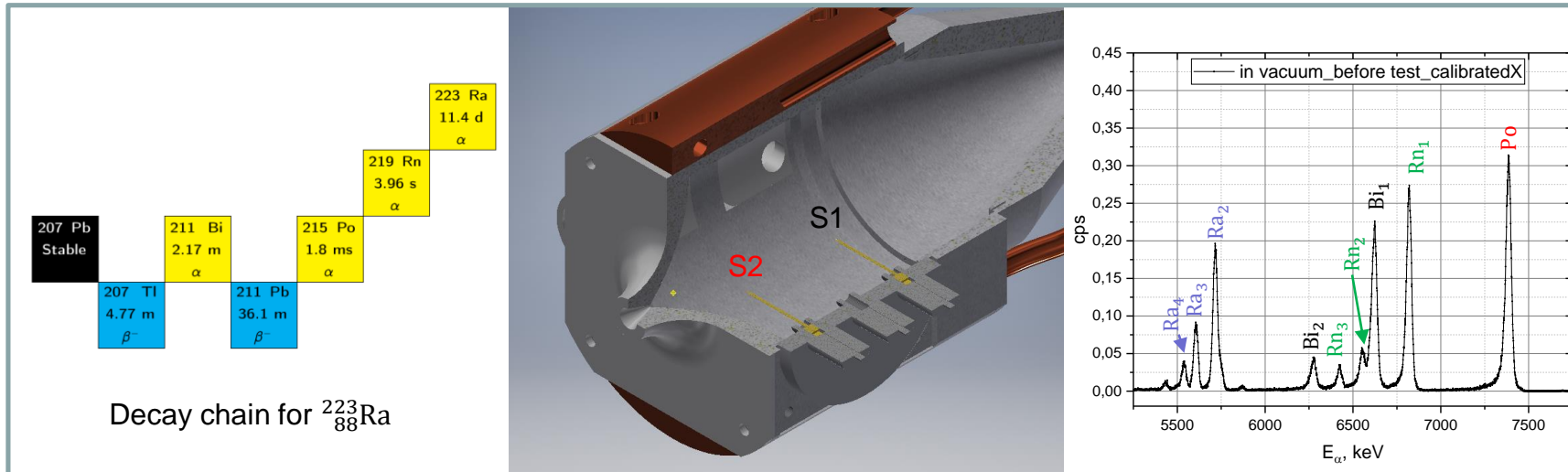
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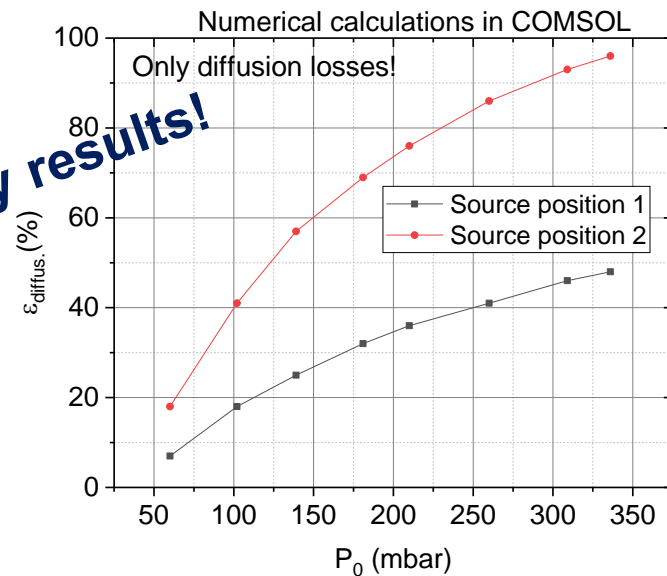
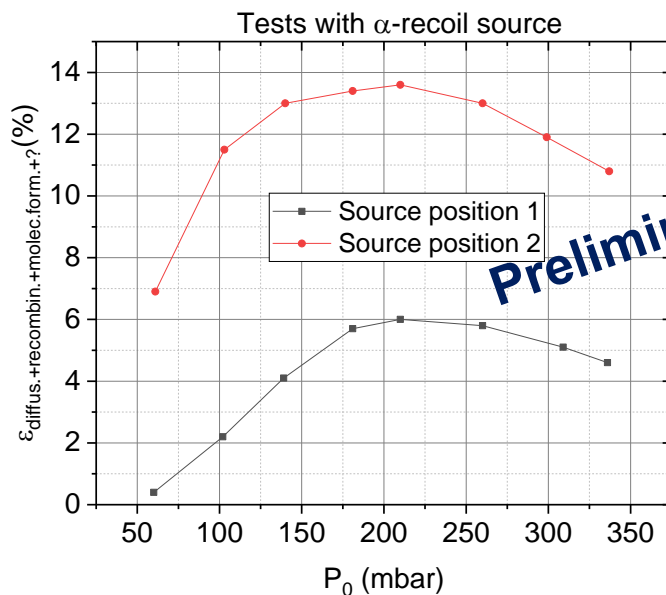
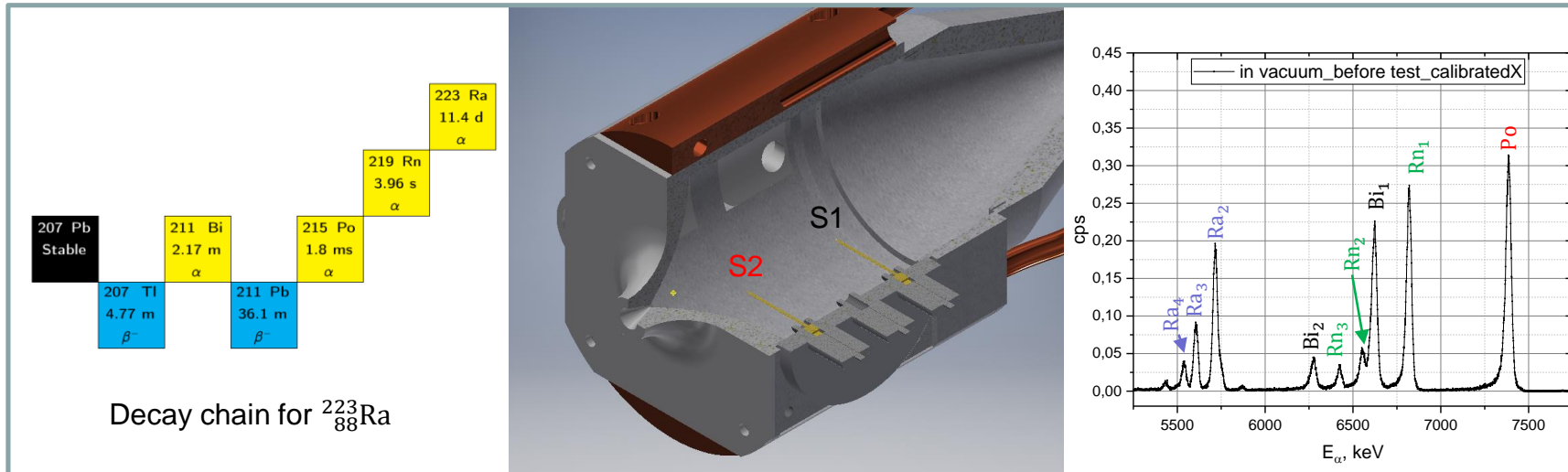
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Preliminary results!



Experimental and numerical characterization of ion survival efficiency by using α -recoil $^{223}_{88}\text{Ra}$ source



Other loss factors, aside of diffusion

- 1) Ion survival againsts recombination losses?
- 2) .. against molecular formation with gas impurities?



Outlook

1. Experimental and numerical characterization of efficiency of ion survival

More tests:

- cooling gas cell to cryogenic temperatures
- evacuation time measurements

More numerical calculations in CFD Module

- include other losses factors, e.g. ion losses due to recombination?
- evacuation time calculations



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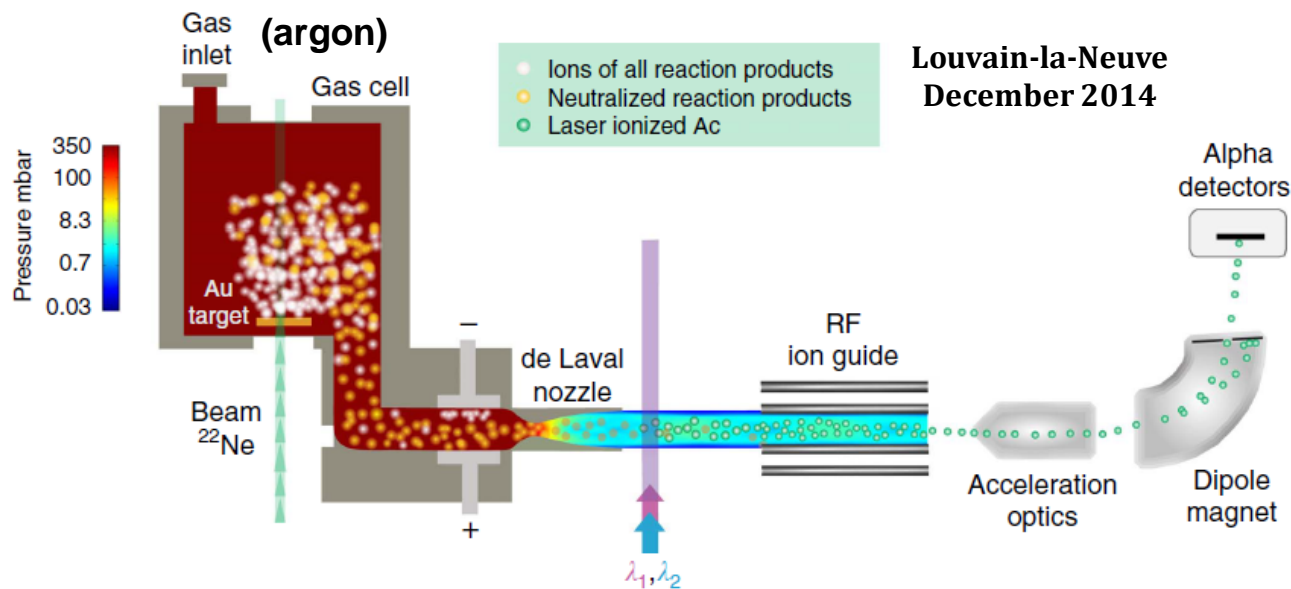
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Previous experiments

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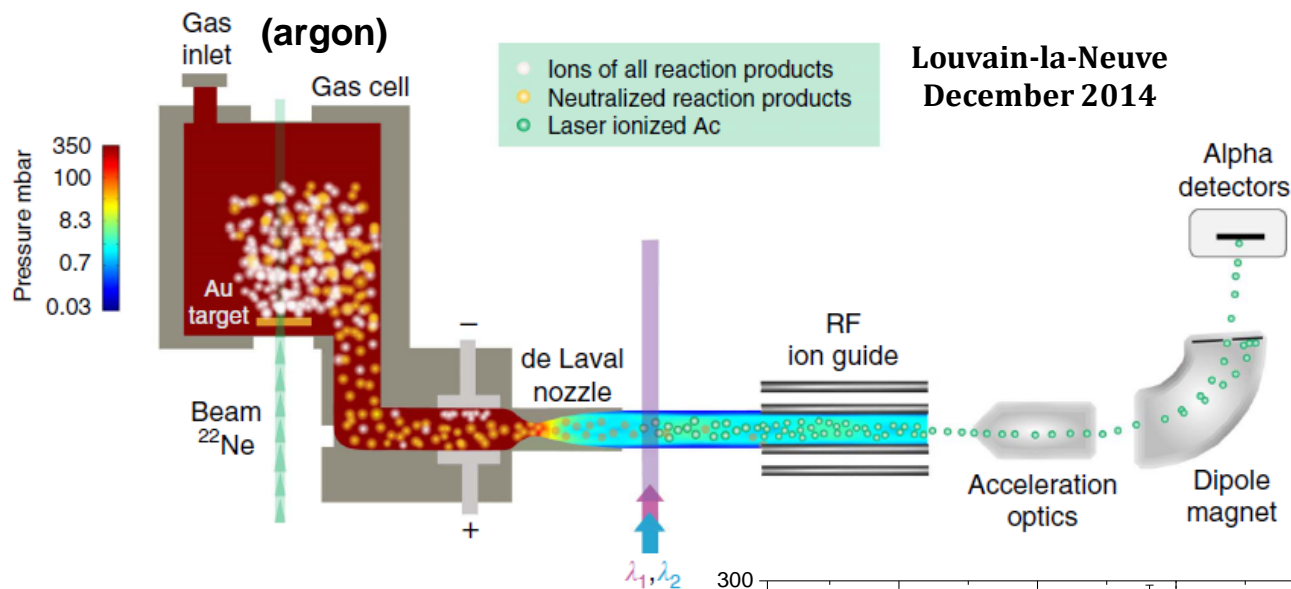


Challenges:

- Low production rates (< 0.1 p.p.s.) and short live-times (< 1 s) \rightarrow sensitive, efficient and fast technique is needed
- +
- High spectral resolution to unmask nuclear structure

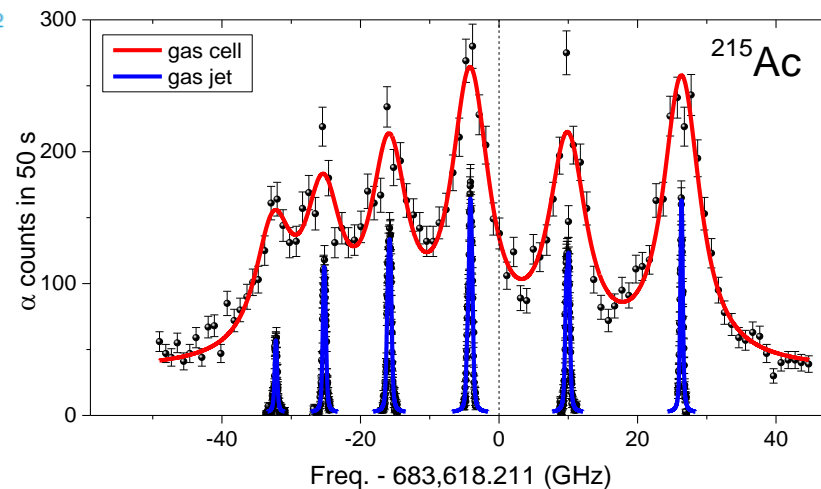
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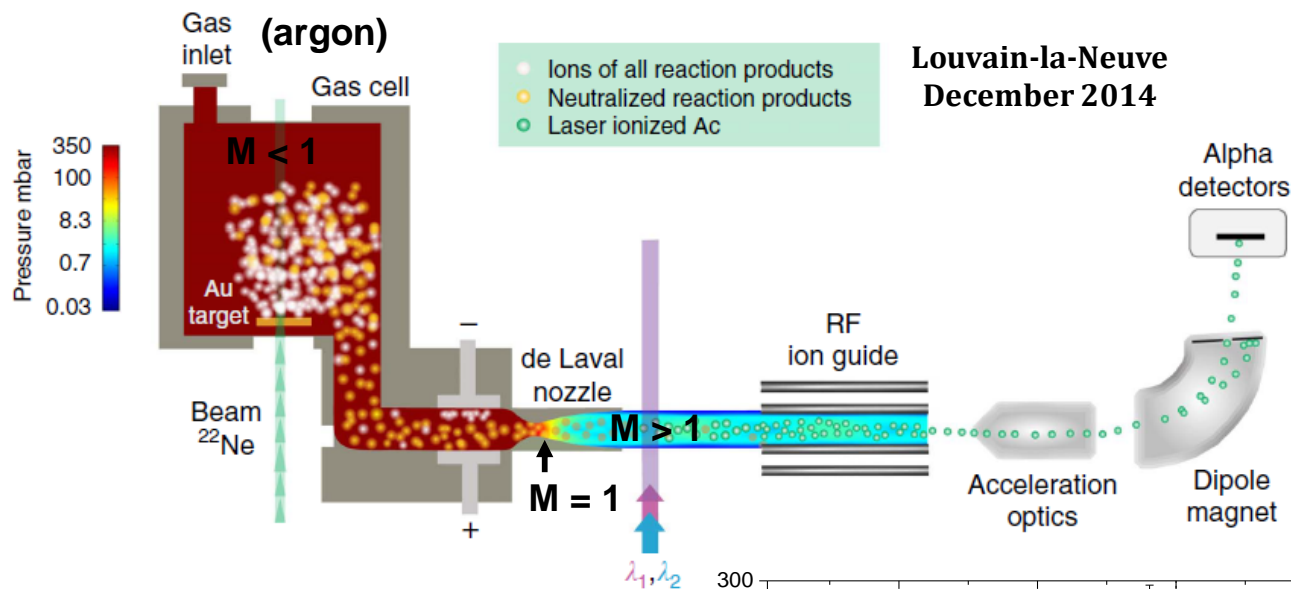
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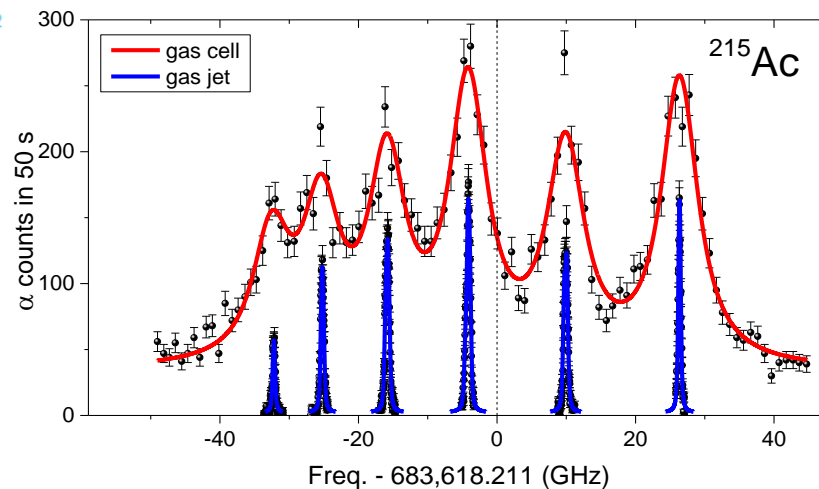


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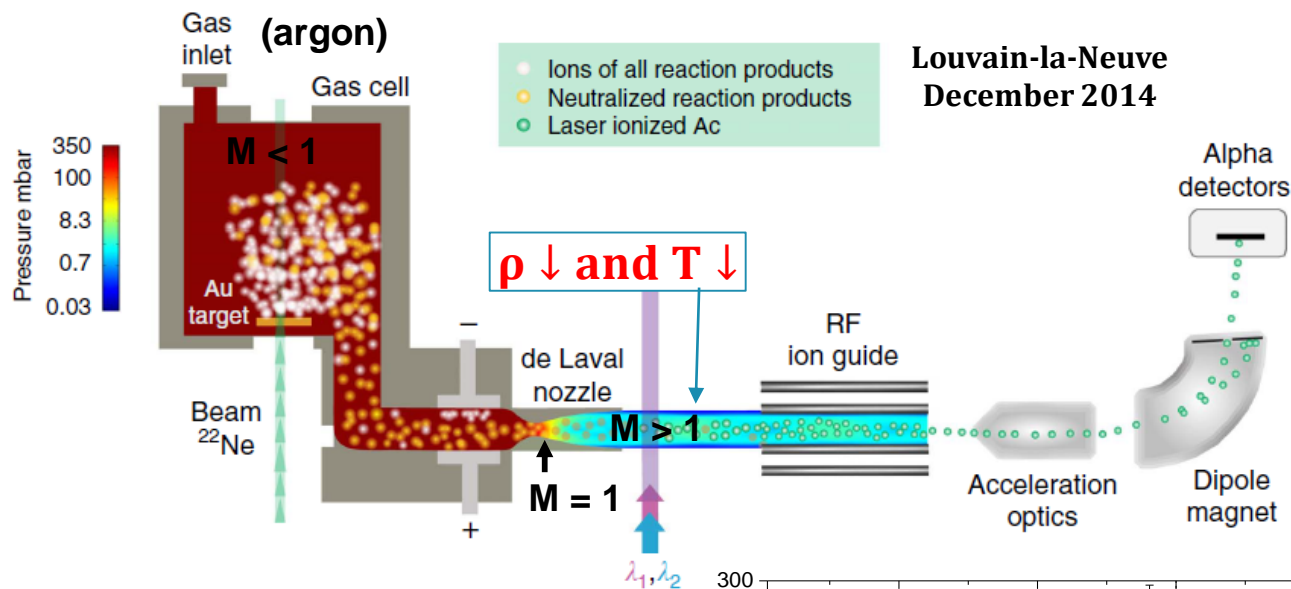
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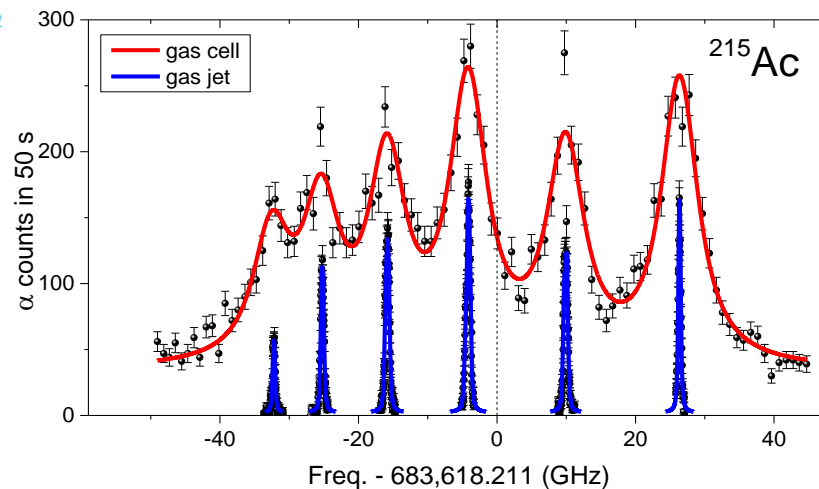
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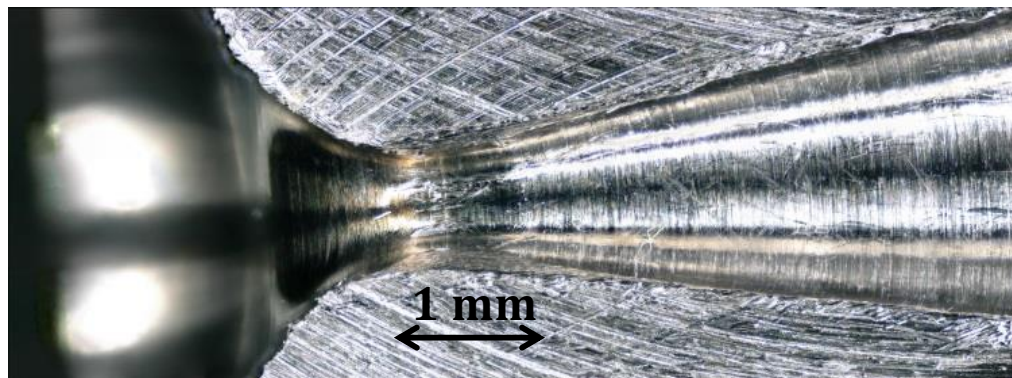


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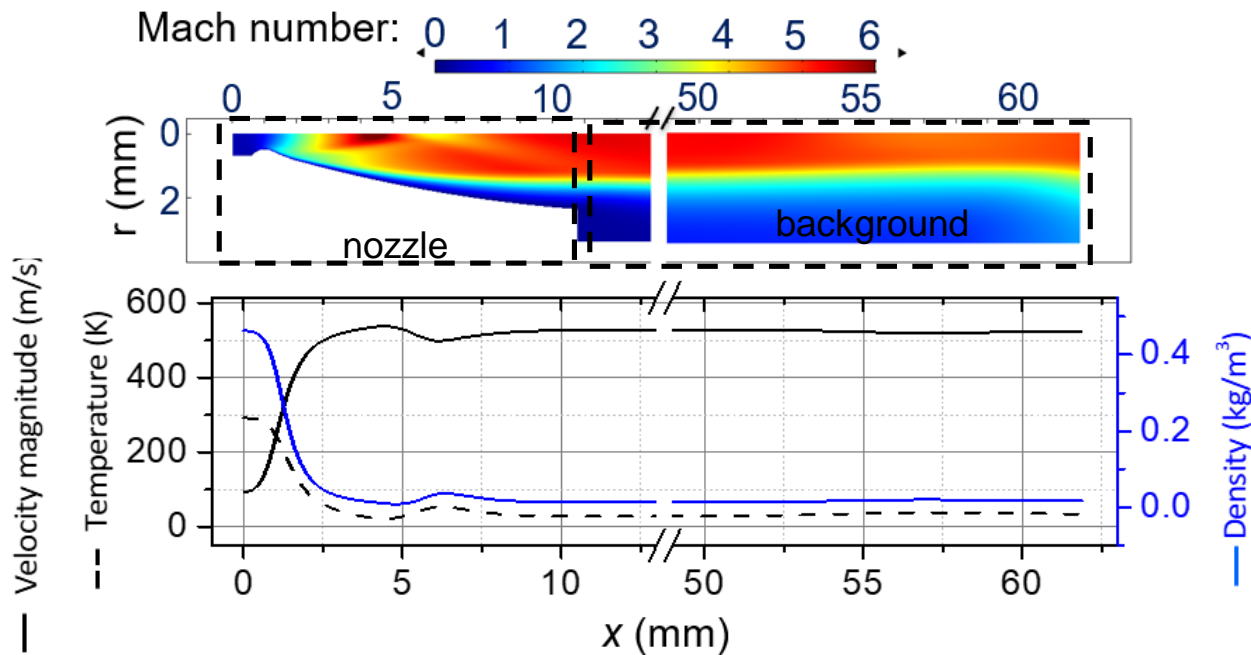
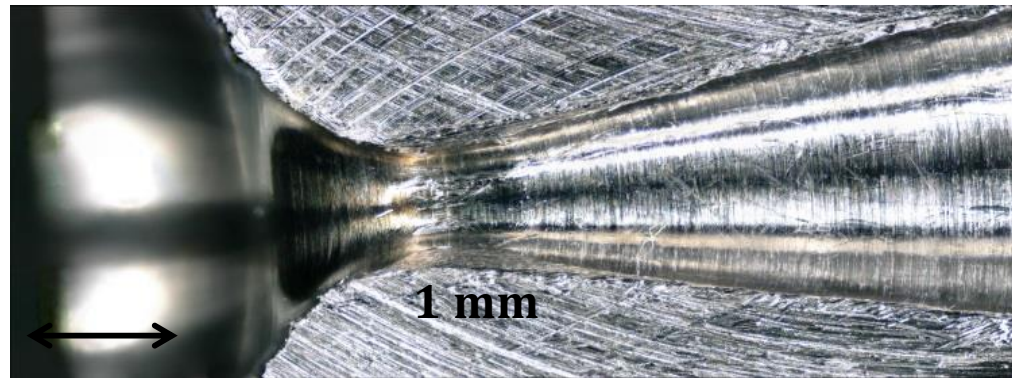
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Supersonic jets formed by de Laval nozzles



Supersonic jets formed by de Laval nozzles



CFD Module

High Mach Number Flow:

turbulence model type – none;
 boundary conditions – no slip;
 flow conditions for the outflow –
 supersonic.

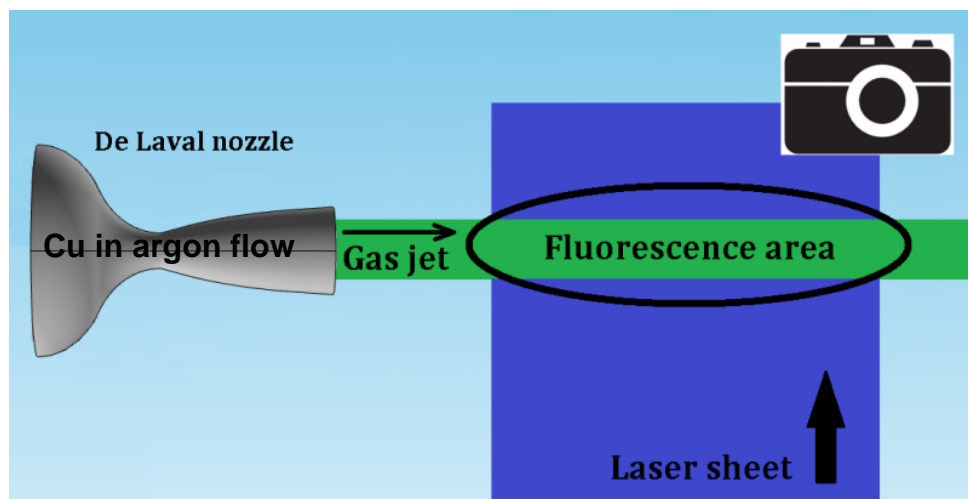
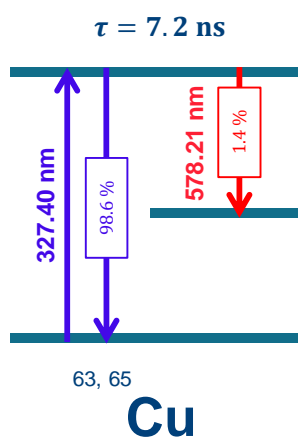
Argon

Temperature $T_0 = 300$ K

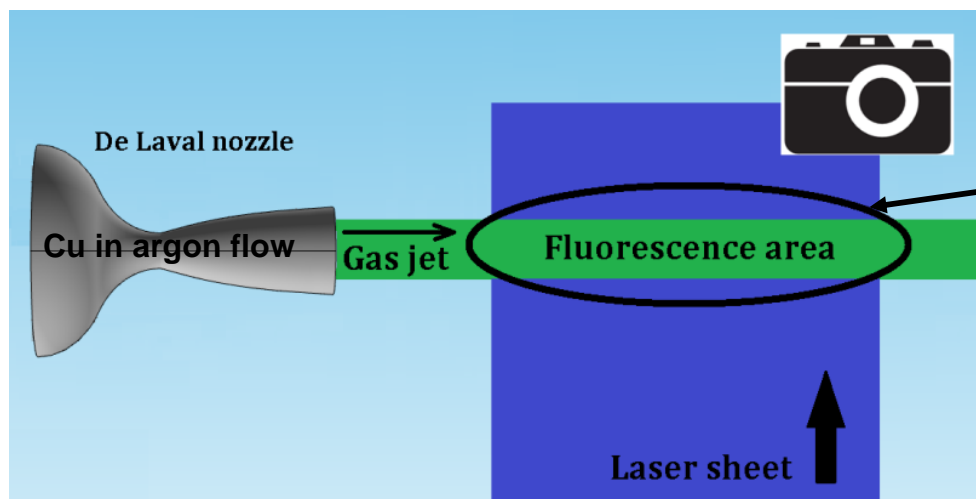
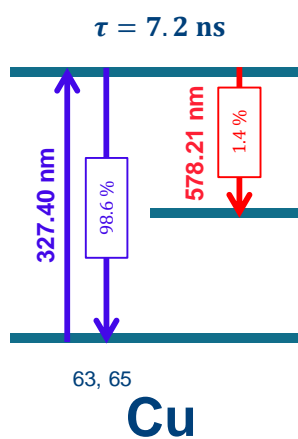
Pressure $P_0 = 300$ mbar

Nozzle throat diameter of 1 mm

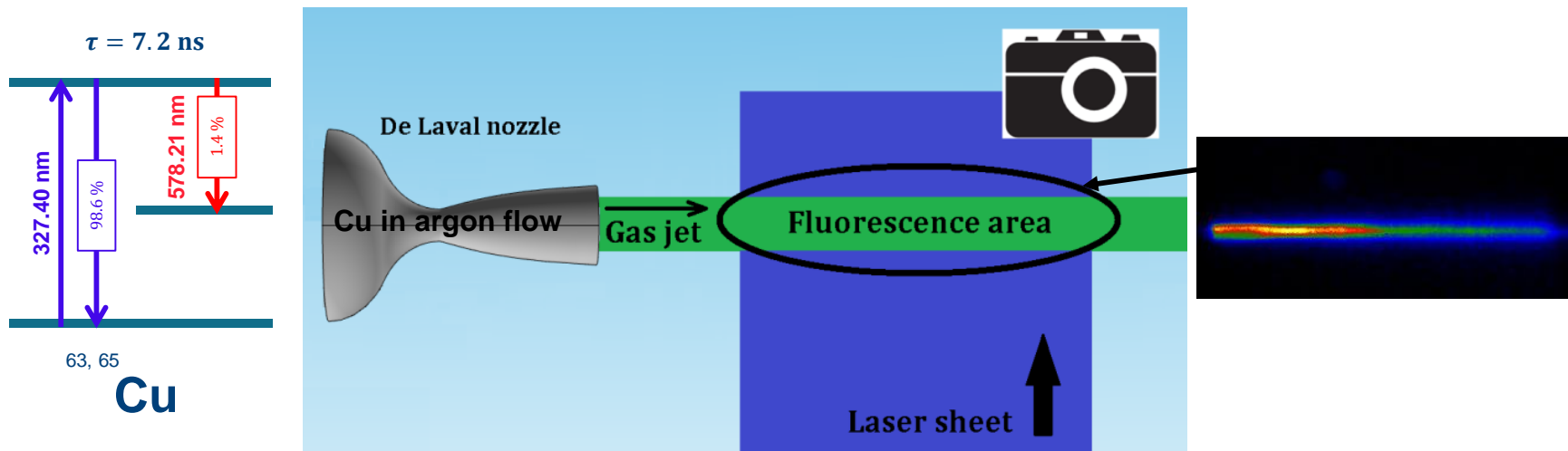
Planar Laser Induced Fluorescence (PLIF)-technique



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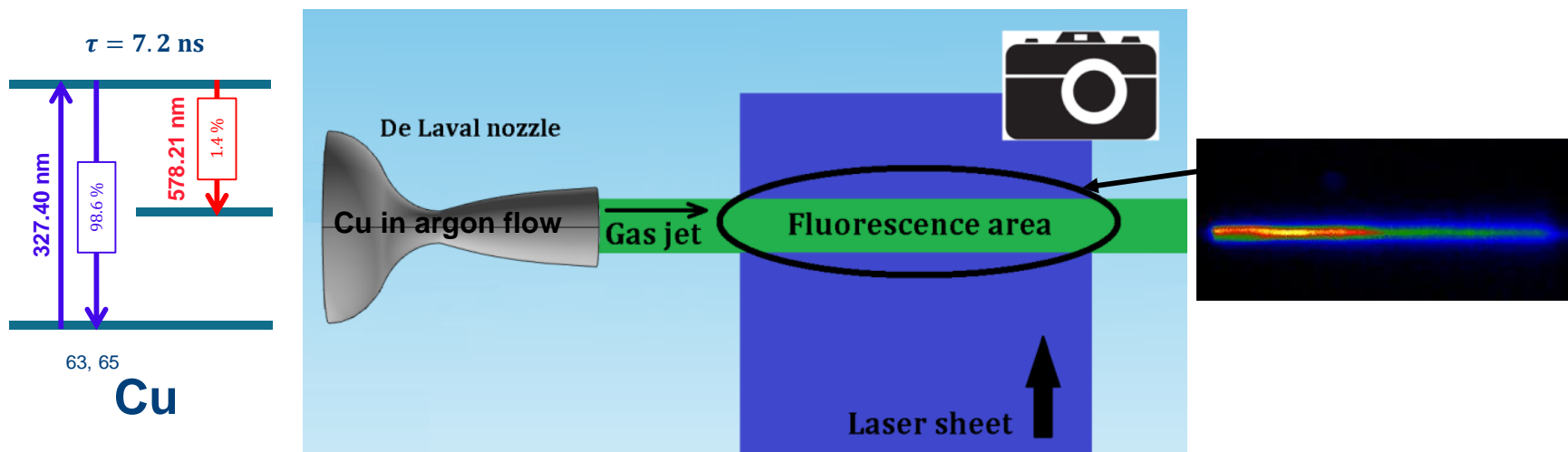


Planar Laser Induced Fluorescence (PLIF)-technique



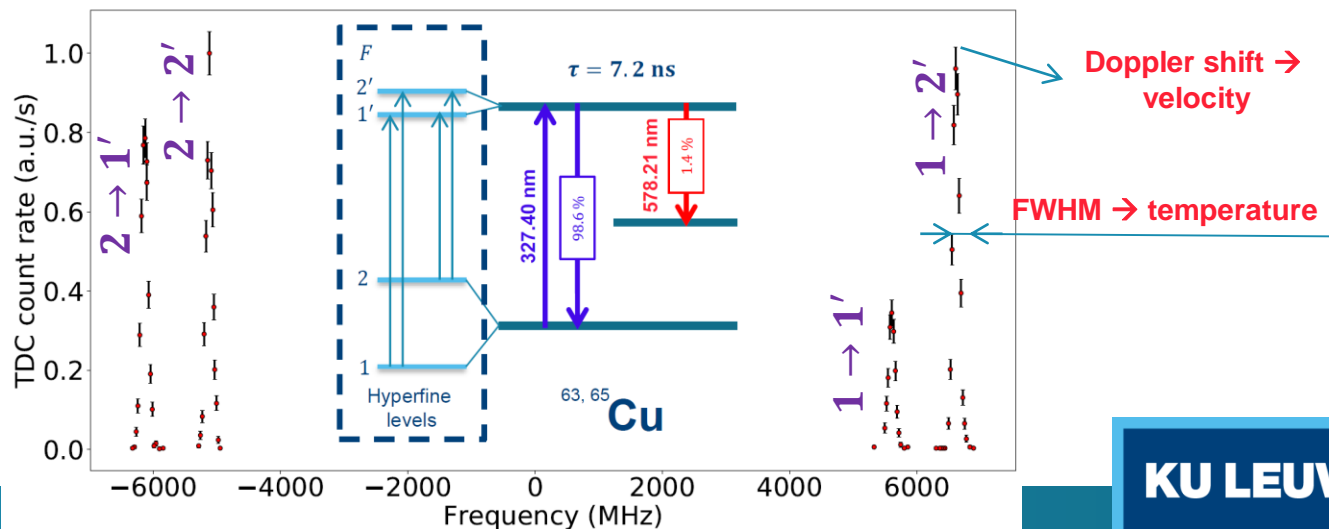
→ relative density from measurements with broadband laser

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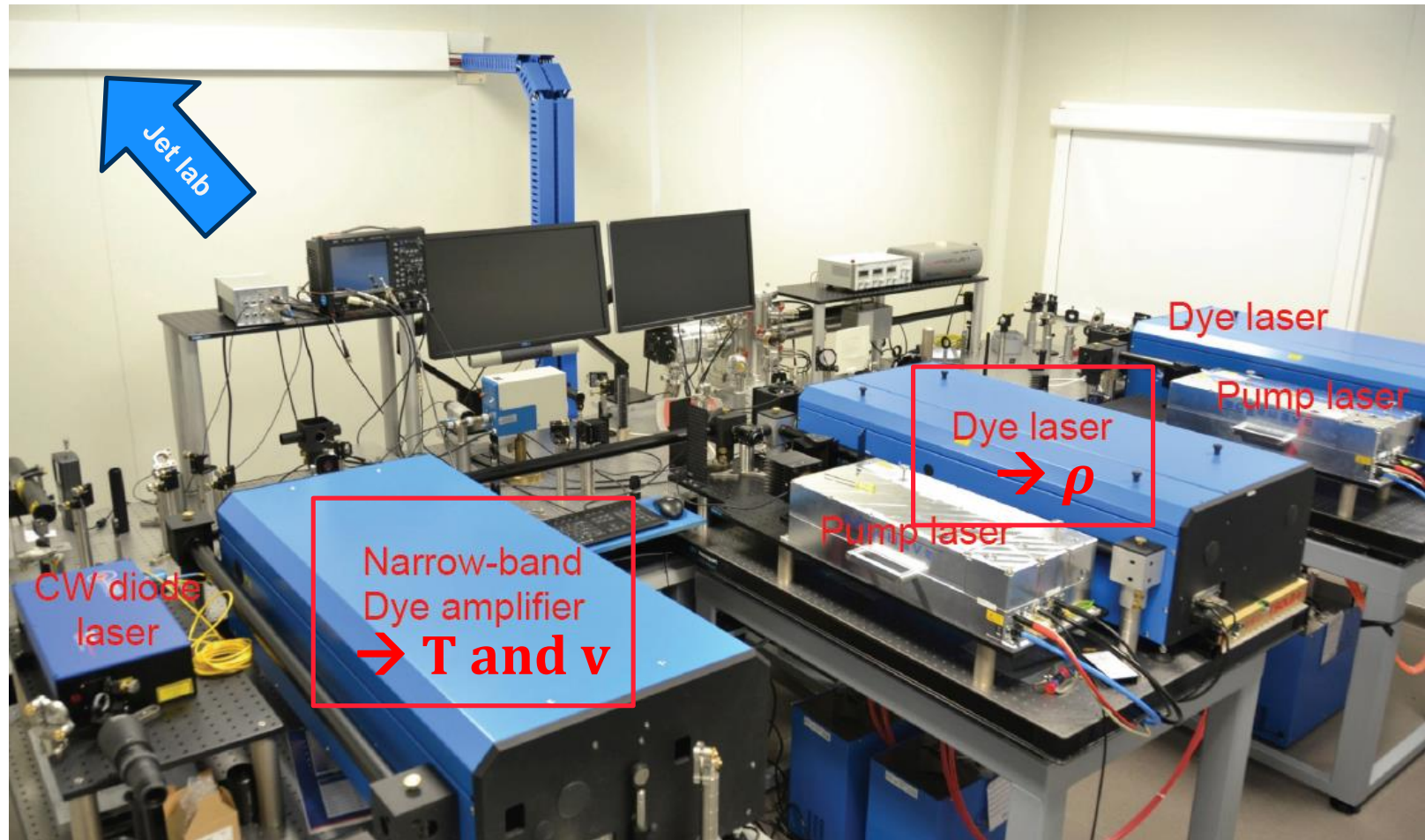


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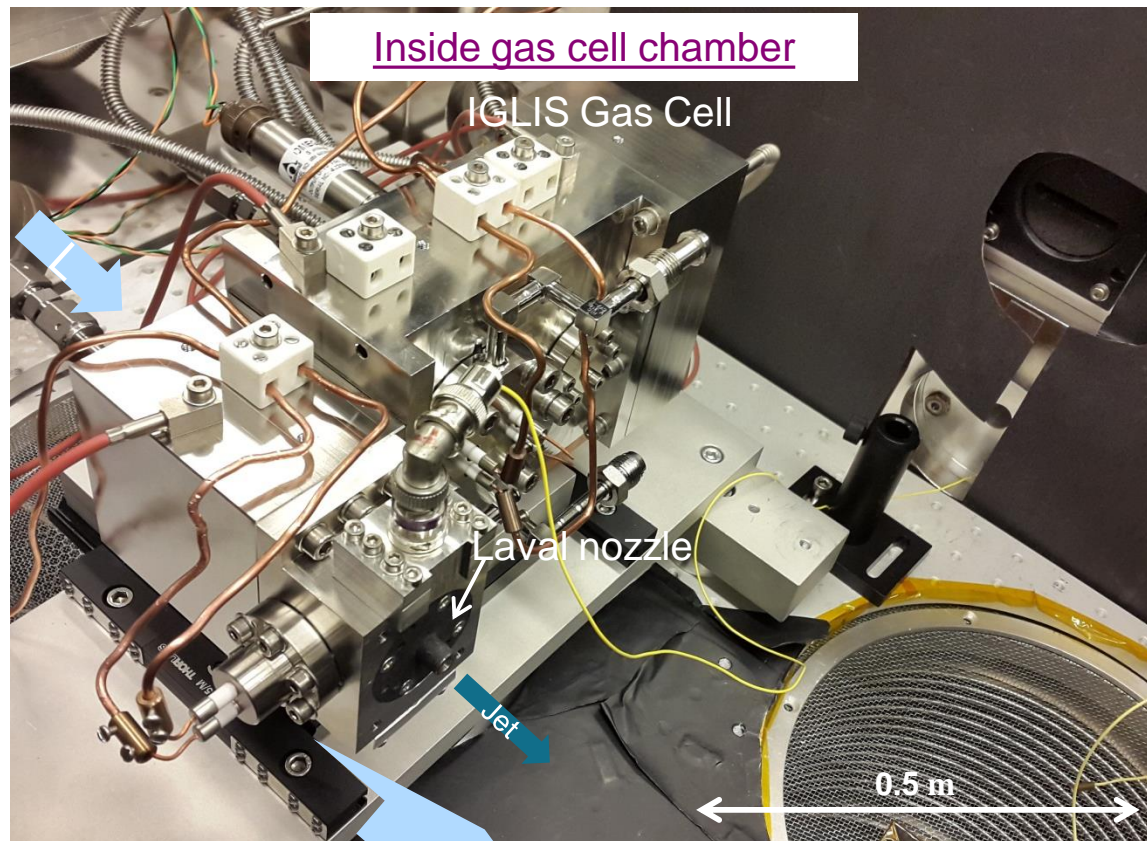
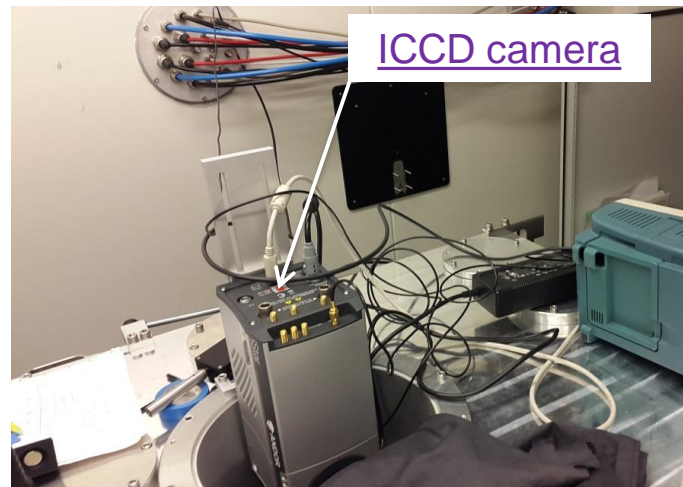
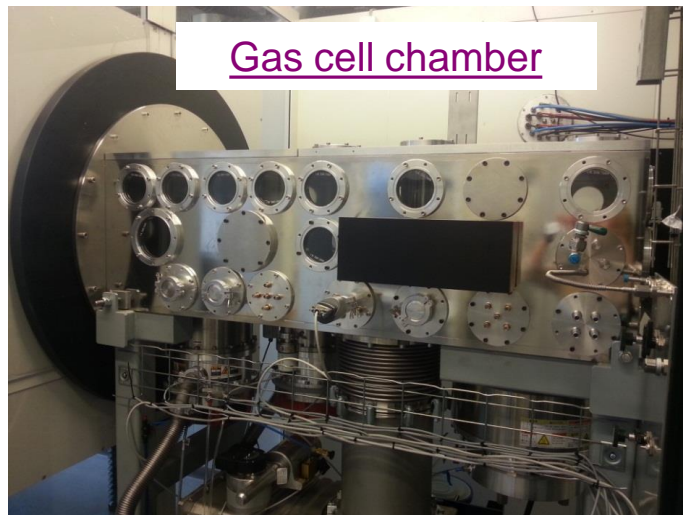
PLIF-spectroscopy



Laser laboratory

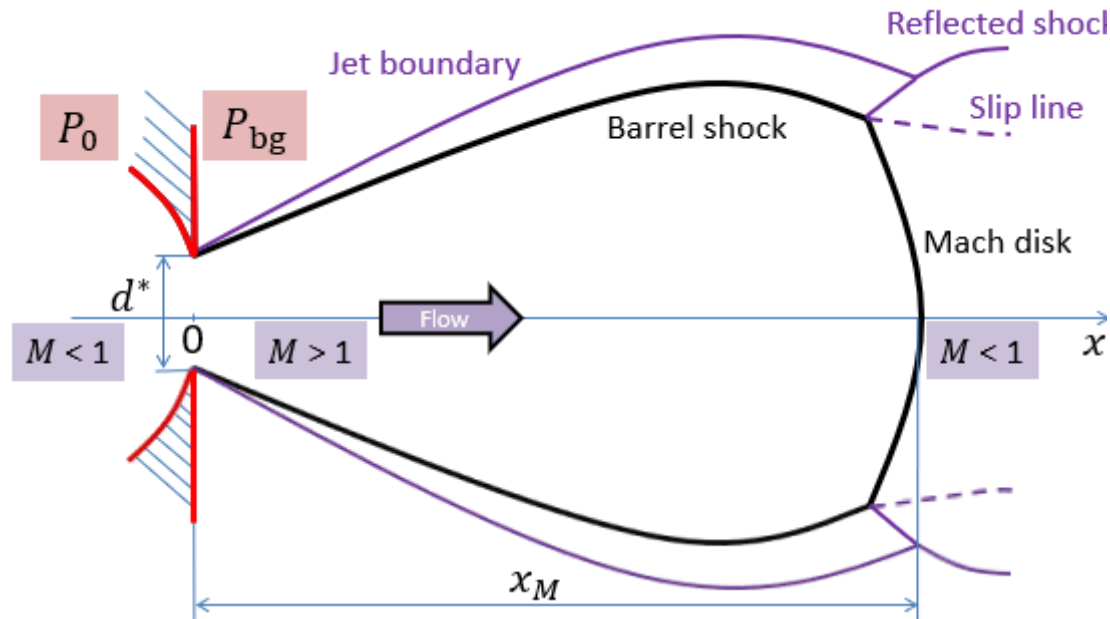


Jet laboratory



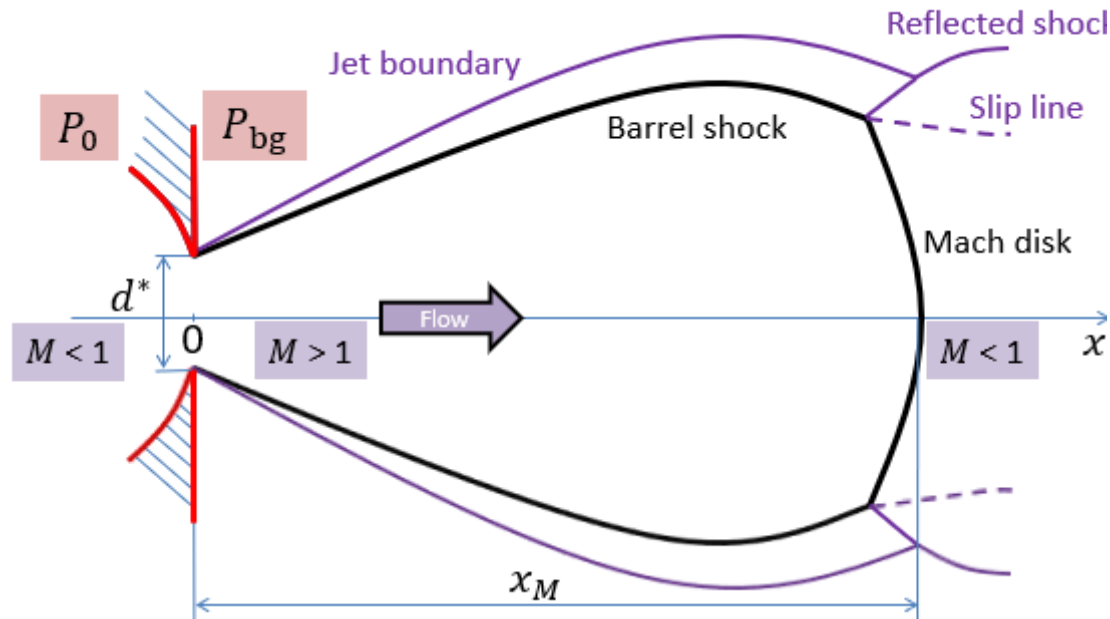
Validation of PLIF-spectroscopy

Mach disk position and density drop in the expansion zone



Validation of PLIF-spectroscopy

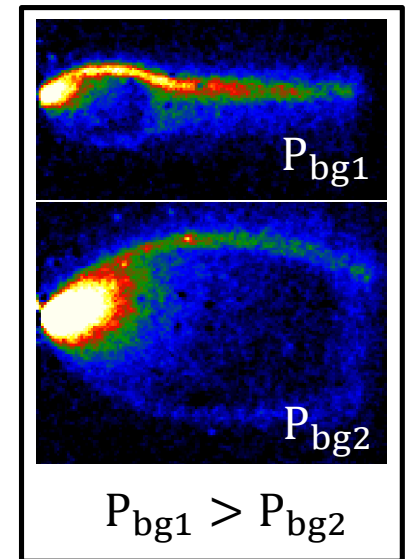
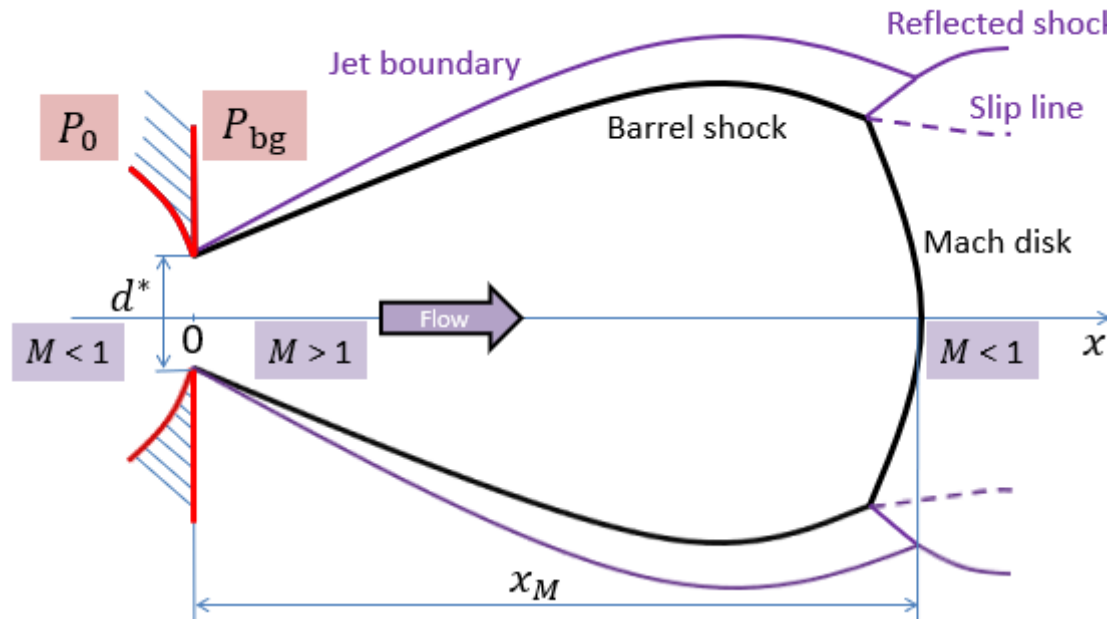
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$$1. \rho \propto \frac{1}{x^2}$$

Validation of PLIF-spectroscopy

Mach disk position and density drop in the expansion zone

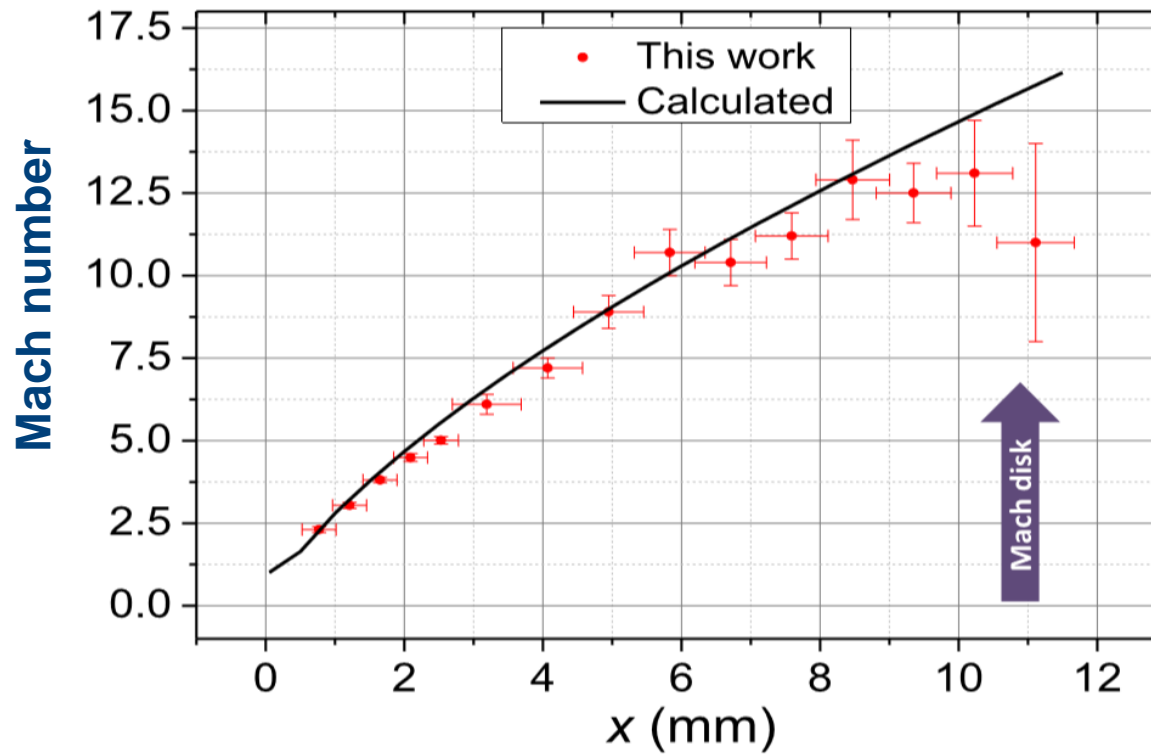


$$1. \rho \propto \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$2. \frac{x_M}{d^*} = 0.67 * \sqrt{\frac{P_0}{P_{bg}}}$$

Validation of PLIF-spectroscopy

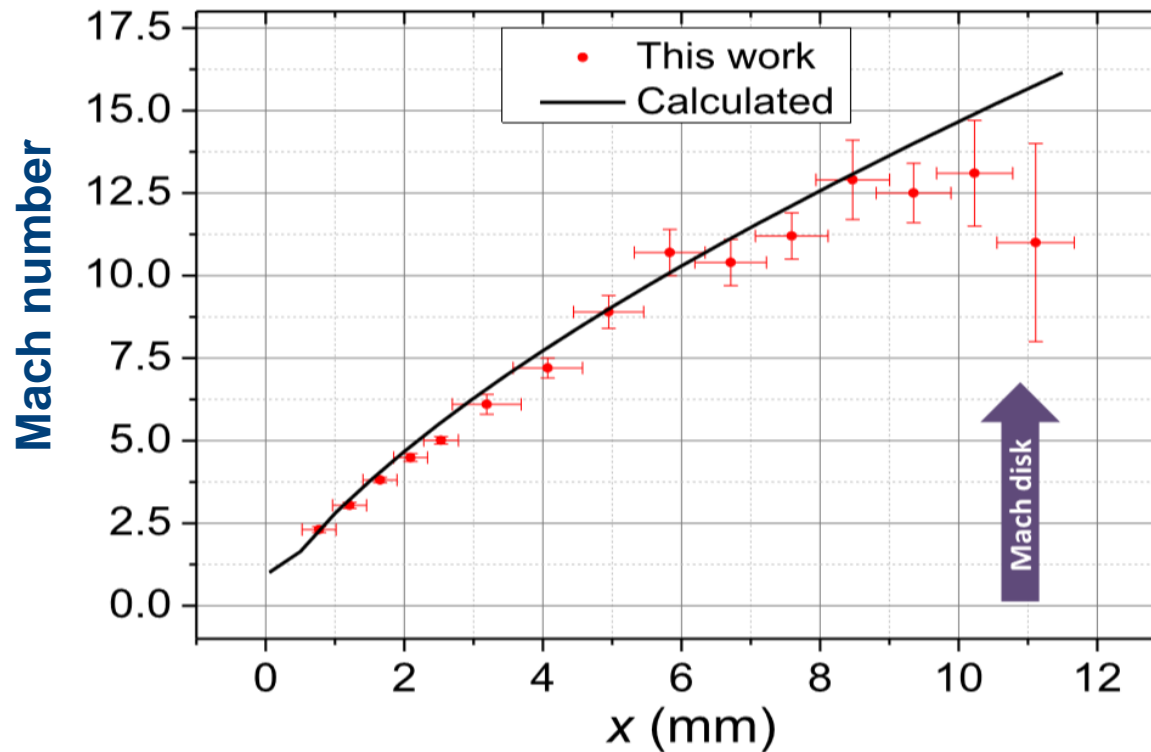
Narrowband PLIF-spectroscopy of $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$



$$M = \frac{\text{flow velocity}}{\text{velocity of sound}(\leftarrow \text{temperature})}$$

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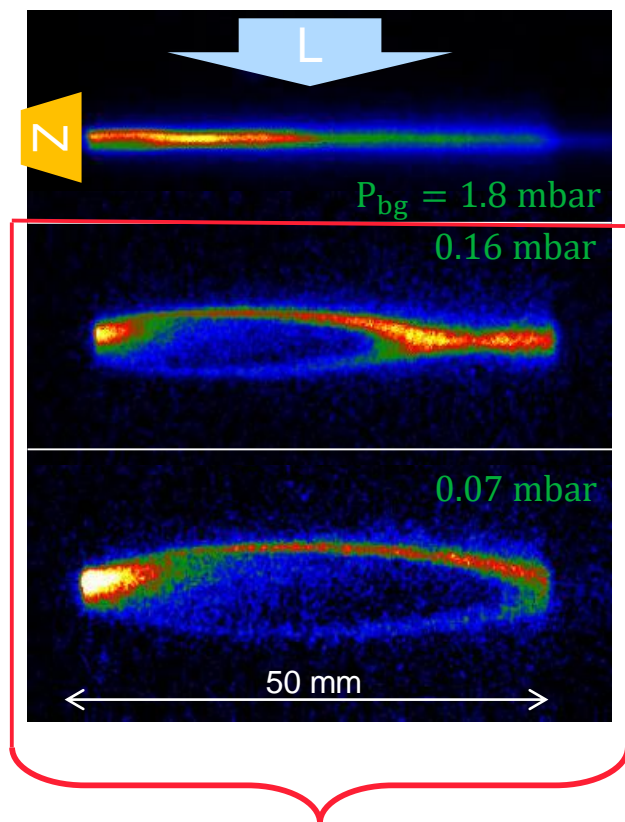
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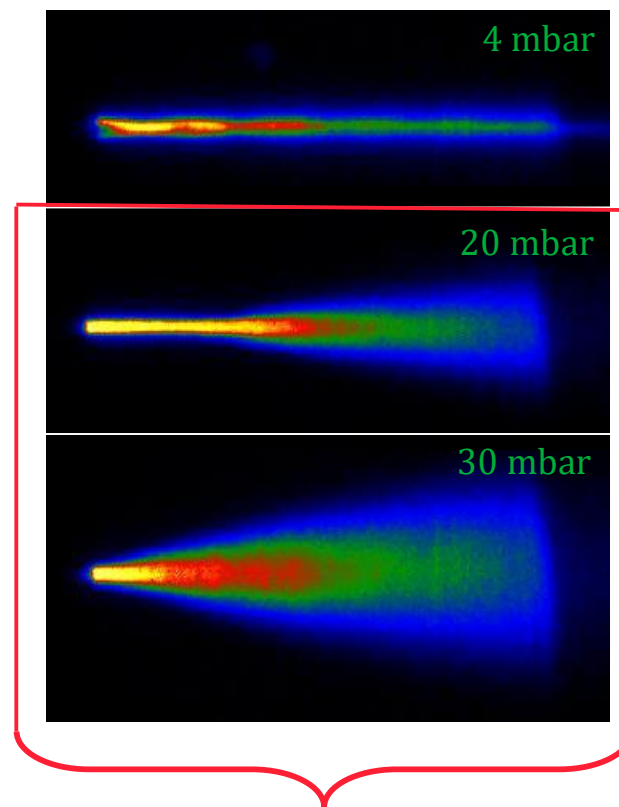
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→ good agreement between this work and previous experiments and analytical solutions

Jets formed by de Laval nozzle

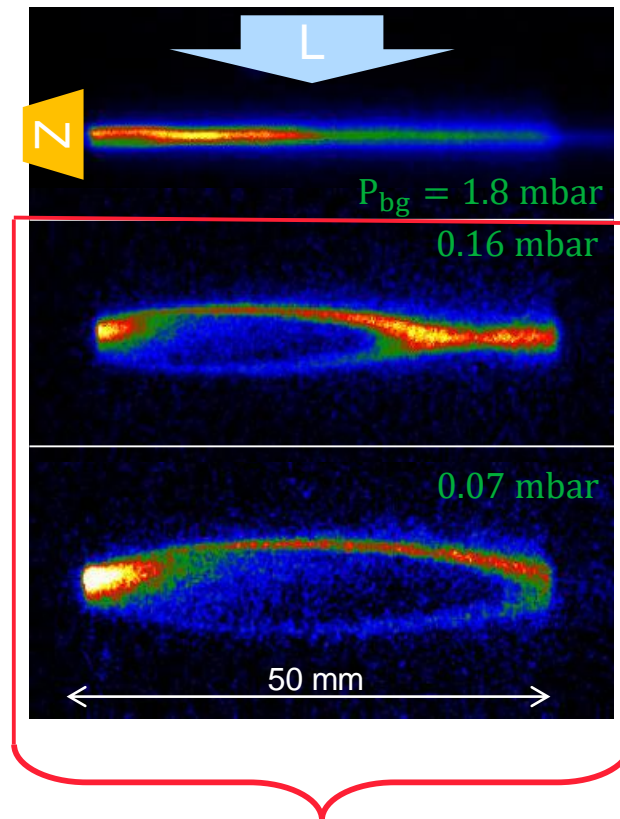


Underexpanded jet

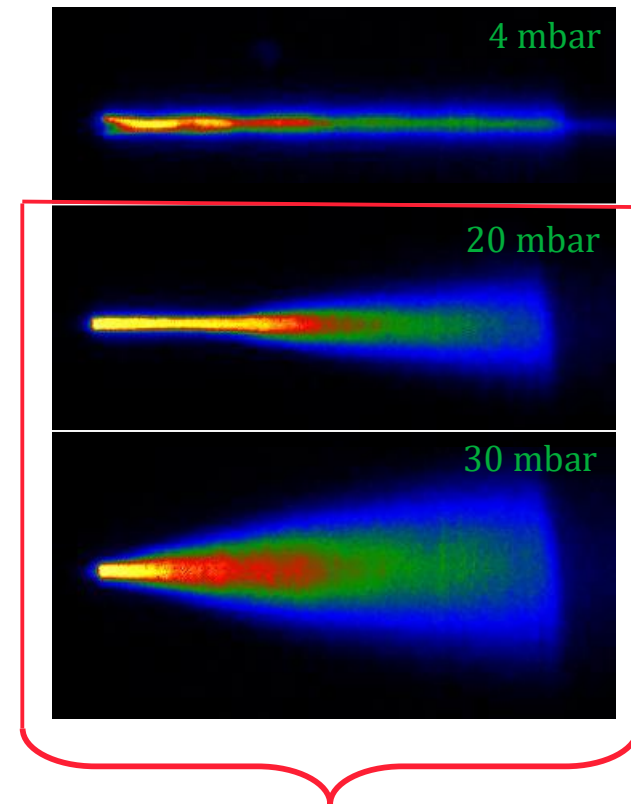


Overexpanded jet

Jets formed by de Laval nozzle



Underexpanded jet

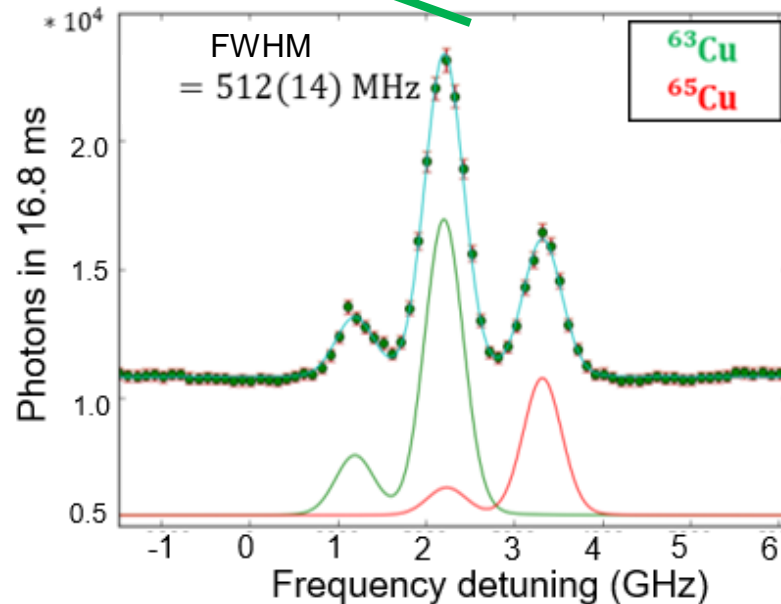
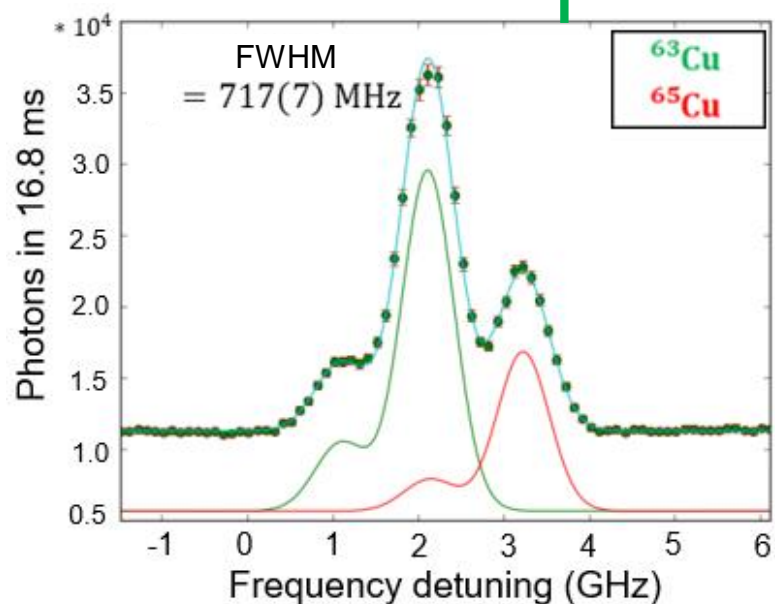
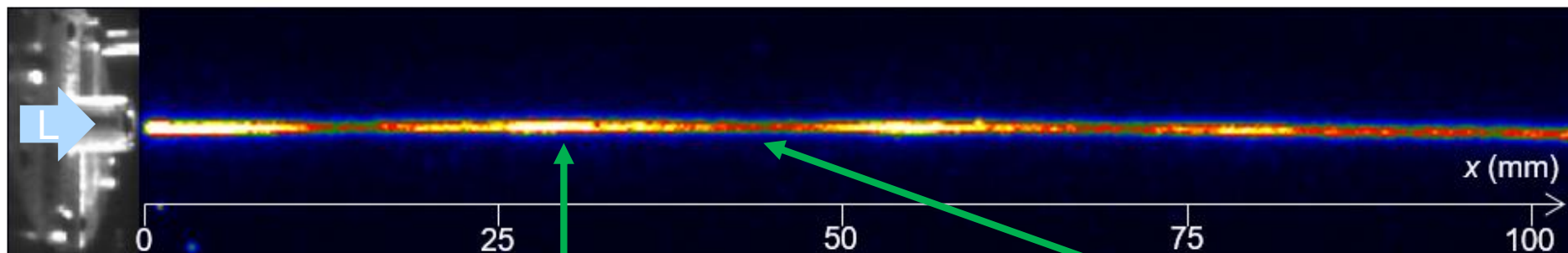


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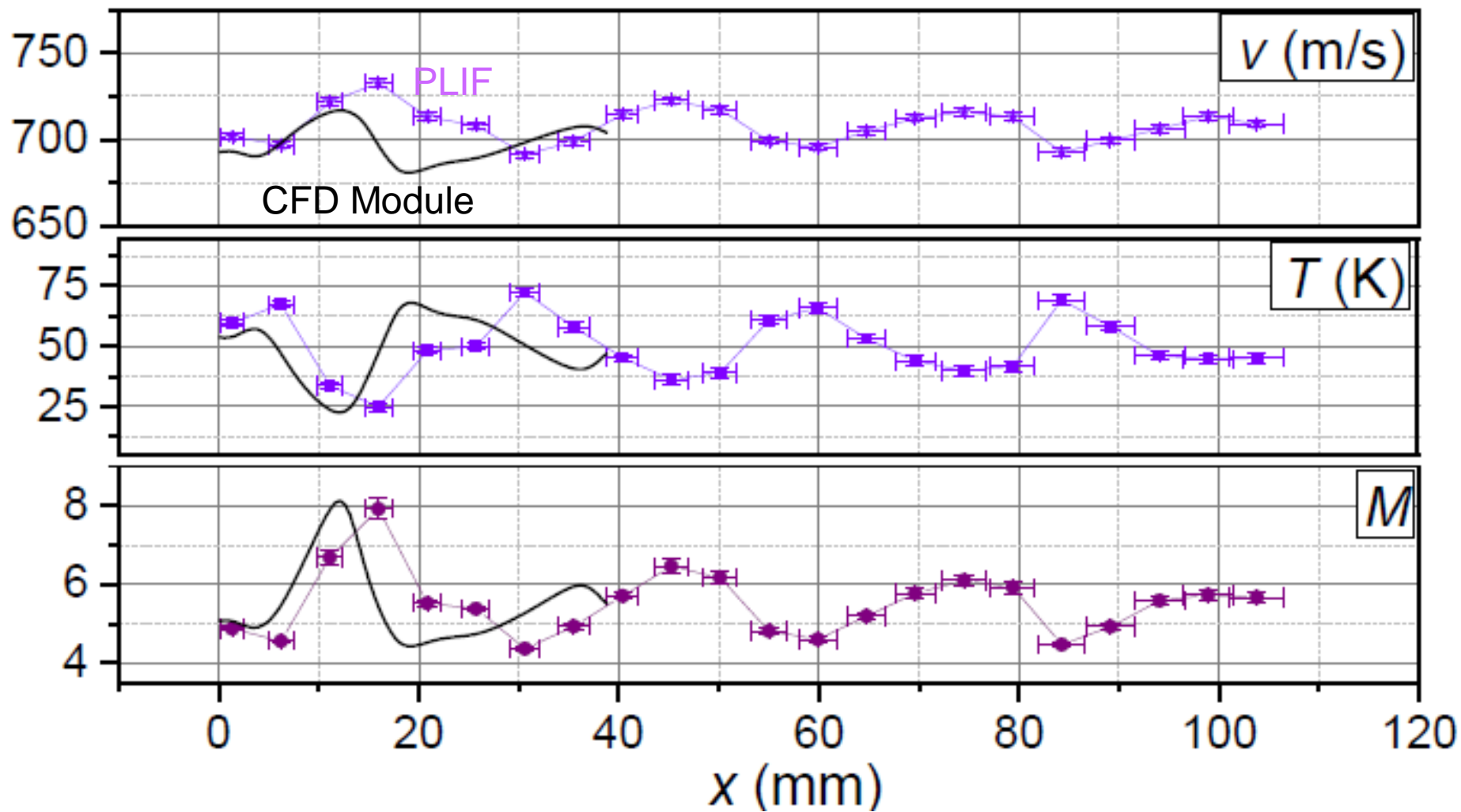
- At extreme cases of pressure mismatch, formation of long jets required for high-efficient in-jet ionization is not possible
- Diameter of non-uniform jet will vary along its length → higher requirements on laser energy

Jets formed by de Laval nozzle

Narrowband PLIF-spectroscopy of $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$
 Central line of underexpanded jet ($P_{\text{bg}} < P_{\text{opt}}$)



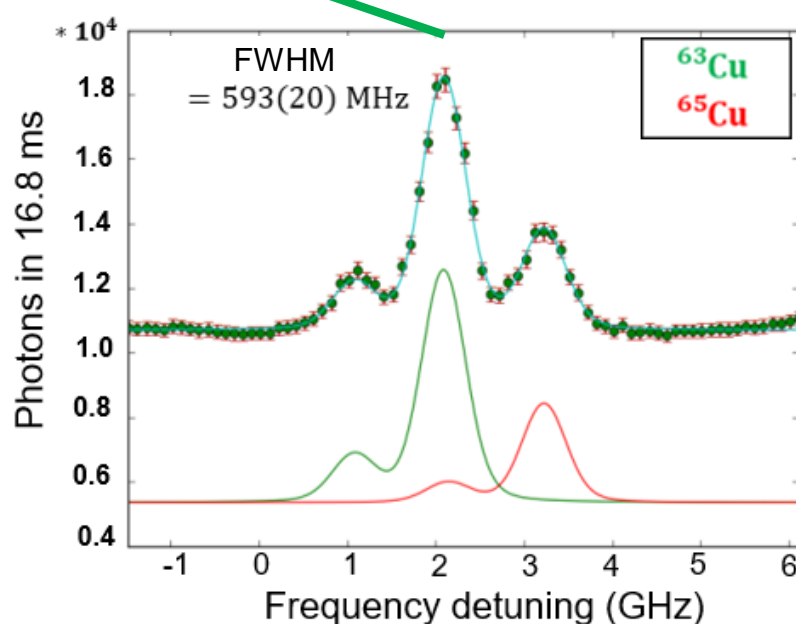
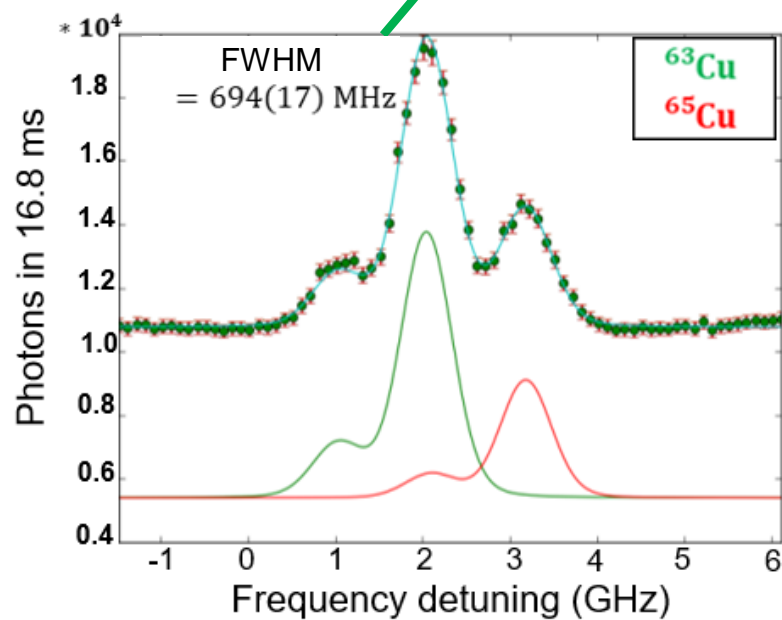
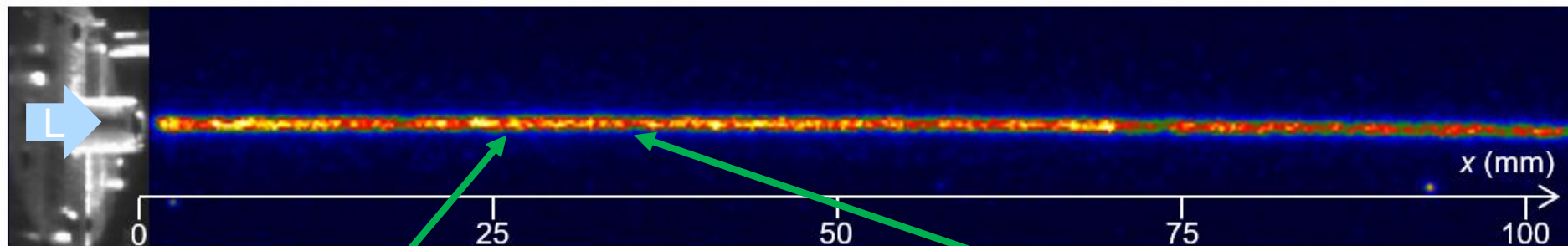
Underexpanded jet



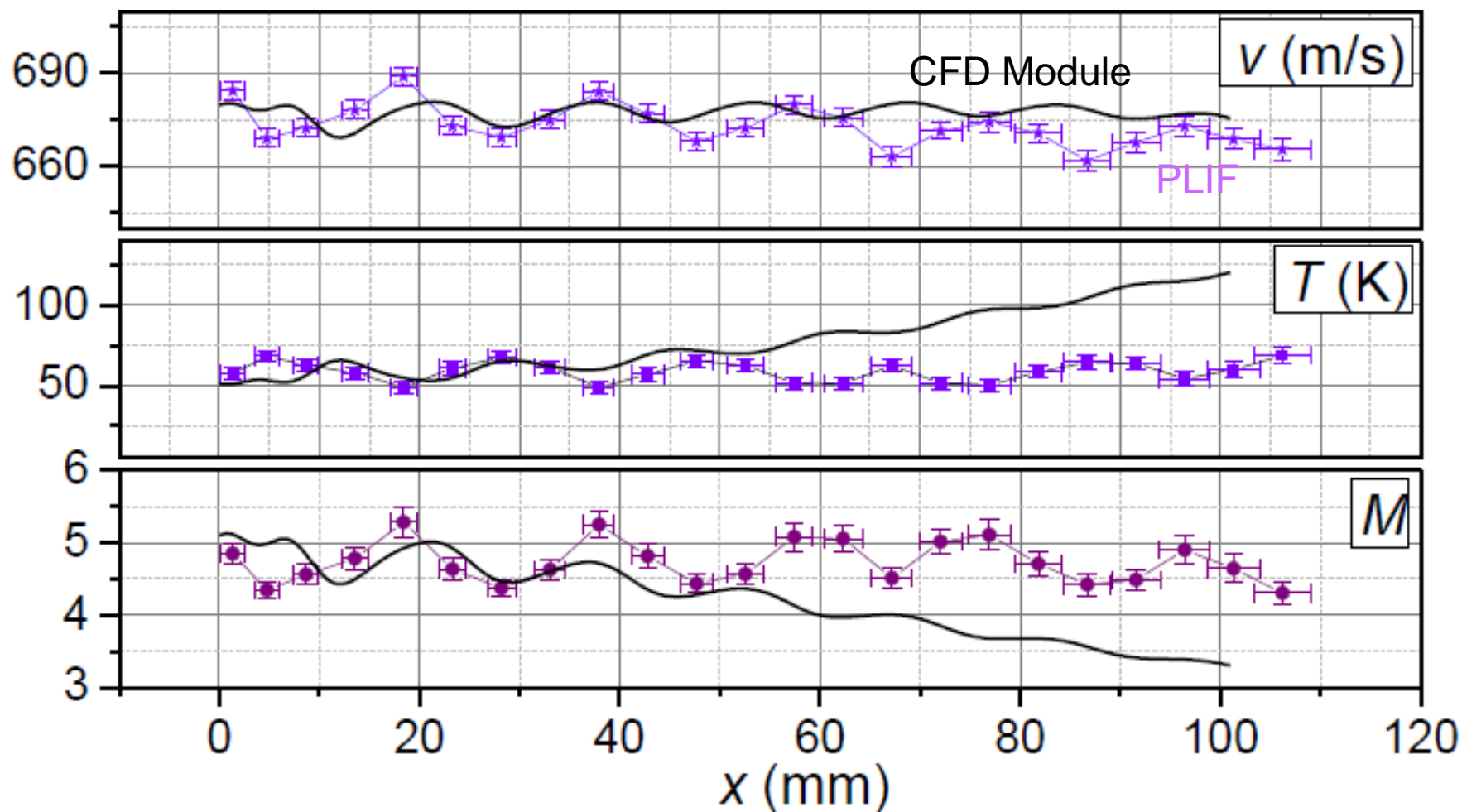
Jets formed by de Laval nozzle

Narrowband PLIF-spectroscopy of $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$

Central line of quasiuniform jet ($P_{\text{bg}} \approx P_{\text{opt}}$)



Quasiuniform jet



Conclusions

- ✓ Supersonic gas jets were characterized using PLIF-spectroscopy setup constructed at KU Leuven
- ✓ Partial agreement was reached between experimental results and numerical calculations in CFD Module for jet's flow parameters

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