

# **Theory and demonstration of plasma measurement using Langmuir probe**

## **電漿量測之蘭摩爾探針原理與實作**

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**2021 winter break**

**1/18(Mon.) – 1/22(Fri.) 14:00-17:40**

**<http://capst.ncku.edu.tw/PGS/index.php/teaching/>**

**Lecture 2**

# Course Outline



## 1. Introduction to plasma

- a. What is Plasma?
- b. How to generate plasma
- c. Applications of plasma

## 2. Theory of Langmuir probe

- a. Sheath
- b. Single Langmuir probe
- c. Double Langmuir probe
- d. Triple Langmuir probe

## 3. Demonstration of Langmuir probe

- a. Building vacuum systems
- b. Building Langmuir probes
- c. Measuring temperatures and densities of plasma

Day 1~3

Day 4~5:  
Experiments

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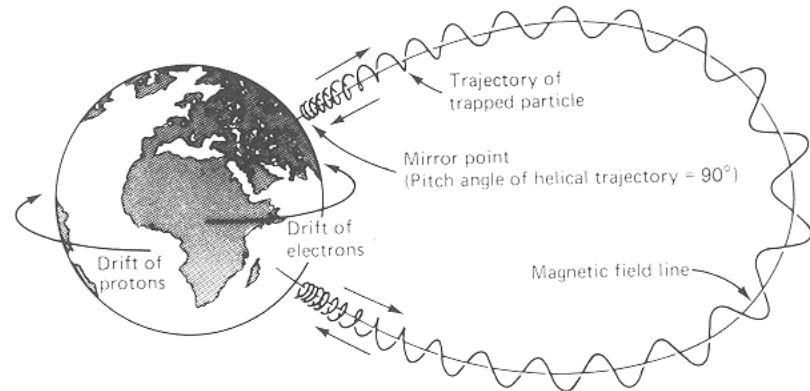
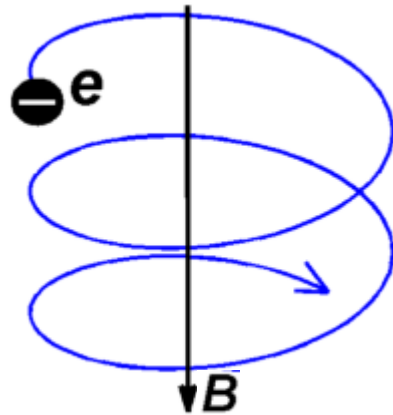
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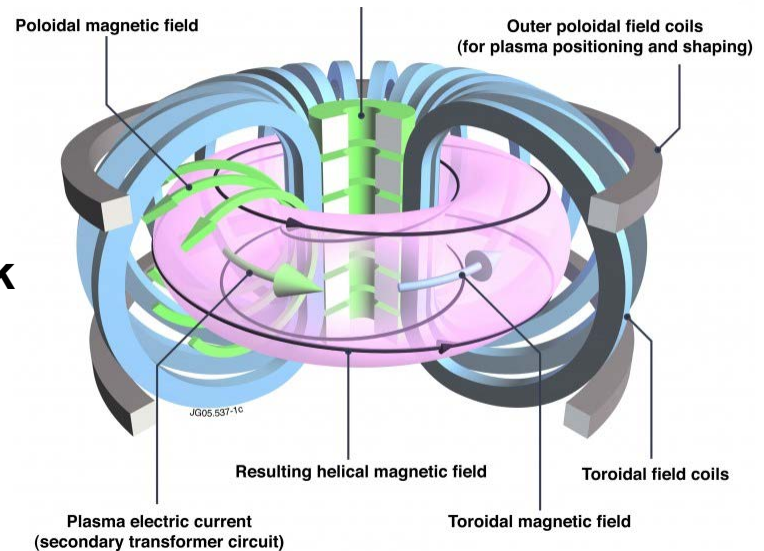
**Day 1~3**

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# Charged particles gyro around magnetic field lines



## Tokamak

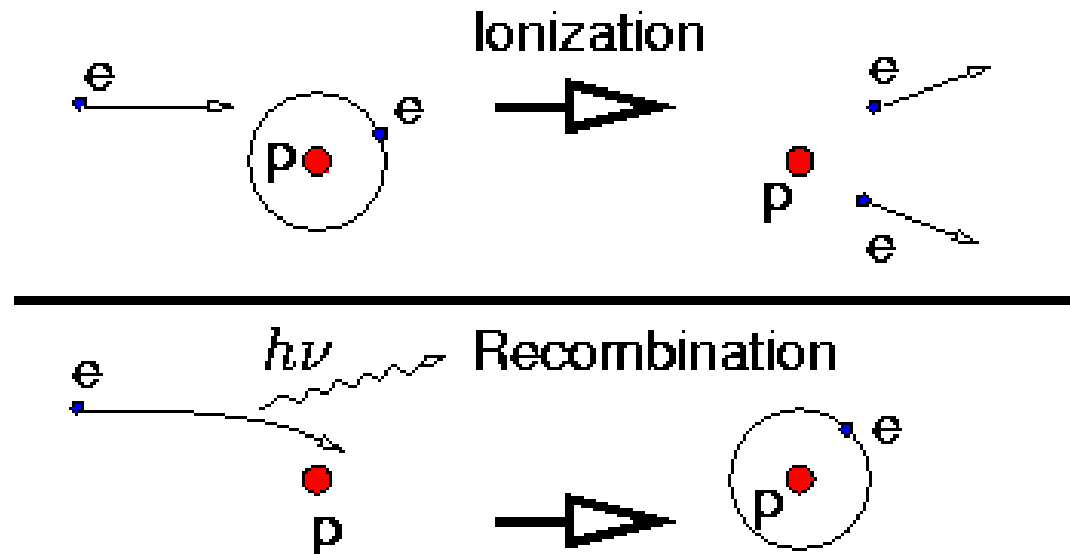


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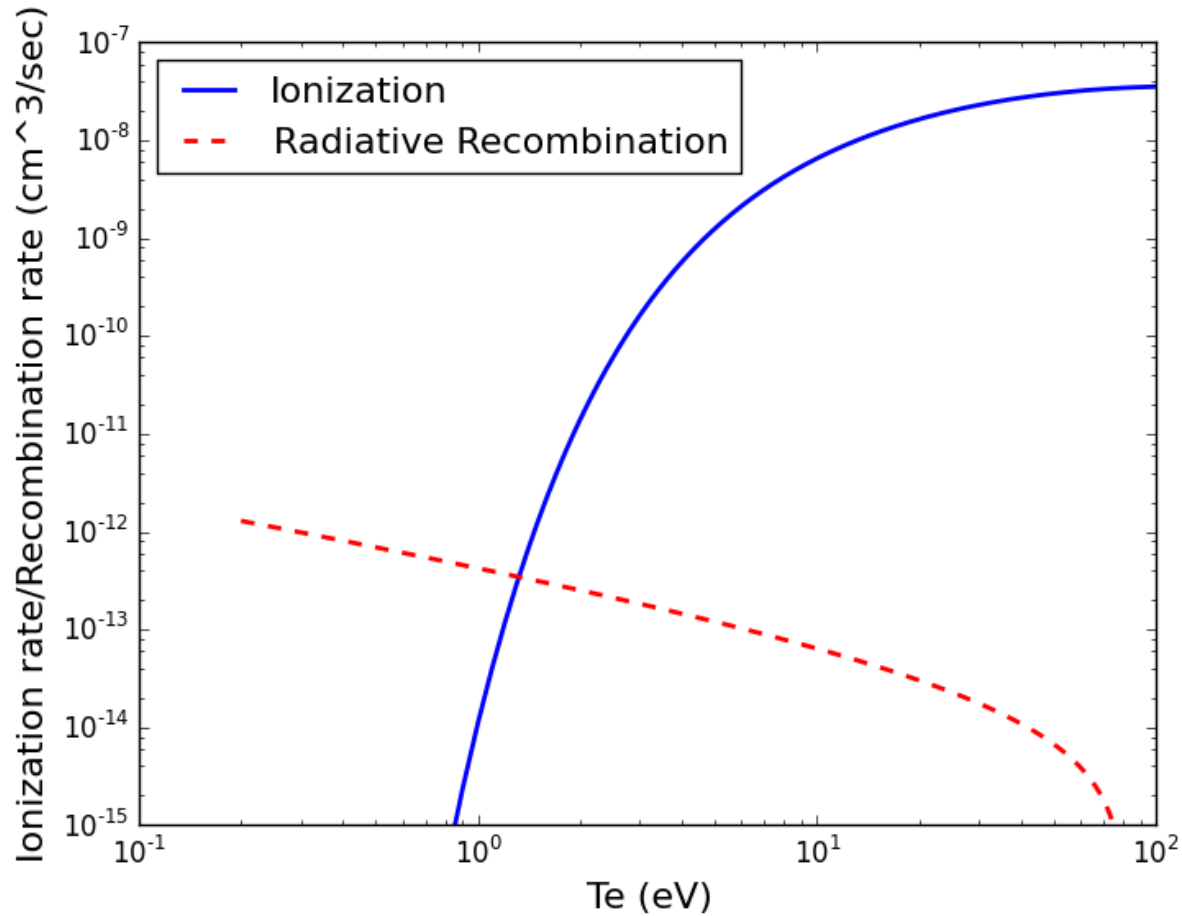
<http://www.ssg.sr.unh.edu/tof/Smart/Students/lees/periods.html>

<https://www.euro-fusion.org/2011/09/tokamak-principle-2/>

**A plasma is a gas in which an important fraction of the atoms is ionized so that the electrons and ions are separated freely**



# A plasma can be created when the ionization rate is higher than the recombination rate

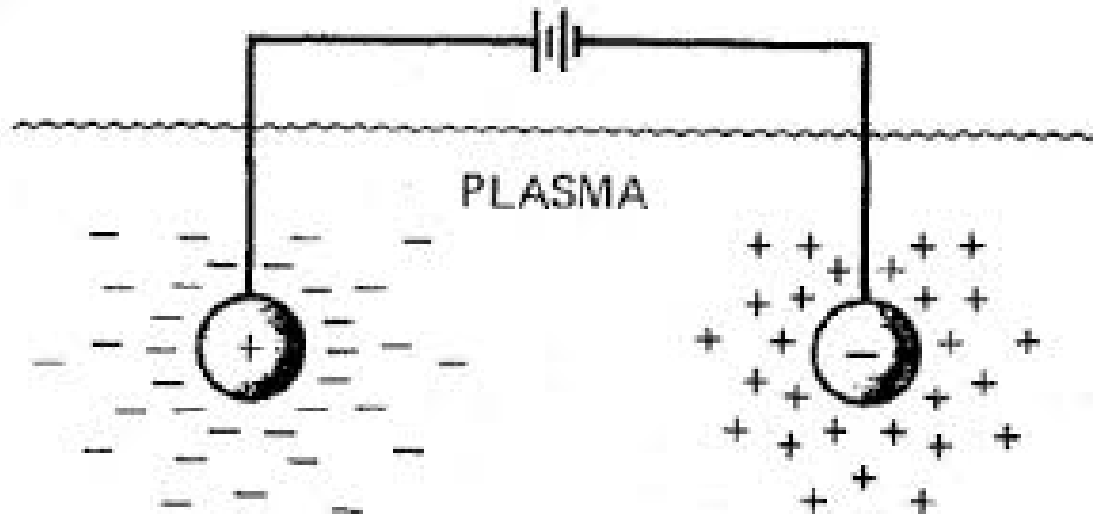


# There are several Important plasma parameters that need to be considered

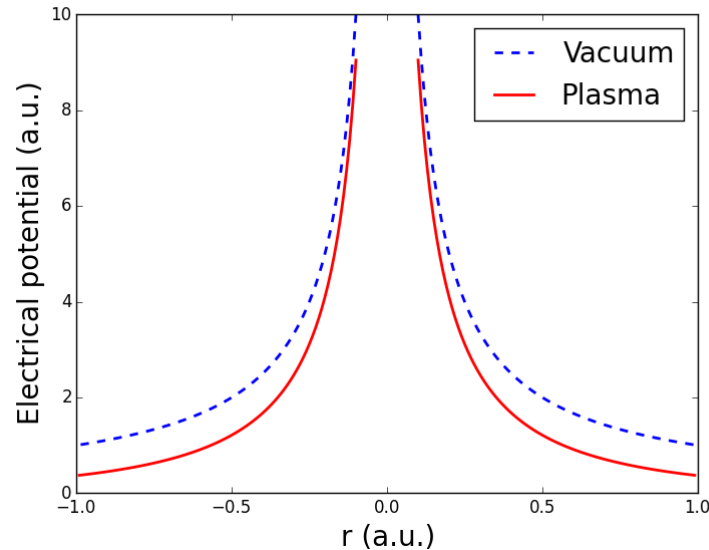


- Debye length  $\lambda_D \equiv \left( \frac{KT_e}{4\pi n e^2} \right)^{1/2}$
- Plasma parameter  $\Lambda \equiv n \frac{4\pi}{3} \lambda_D^3$
- Plasma frequency  $\omega_{pe} \equiv \left( \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e} \right)^{1/2}$
- Collision time  $\tau_e \equiv \frac{3\sqrt{m_e}(KT_e)^{3/2}}{4\sqrt{2\pi n} \ln \Lambda}$
- Hall parameter  $\chi \equiv \omega_{ce} \tau_e$ , where  $\omega_{ce} \equiv \frac{eB}{m_e c}$  is the electron gyrofrequency
- Plasma beta  $\beta \equiv \frac{P}{P_B}$ , where  $P_B \equiv \frac{B^2}{8\pi}$  is the magnetic pressure

# A test ion in the plasma gathers a shielding cloud that tends to cancel its own charge



# Debye shielding is a phenomenon such that the potential due to a test charge in a plasma falls off much faster than in vacuum



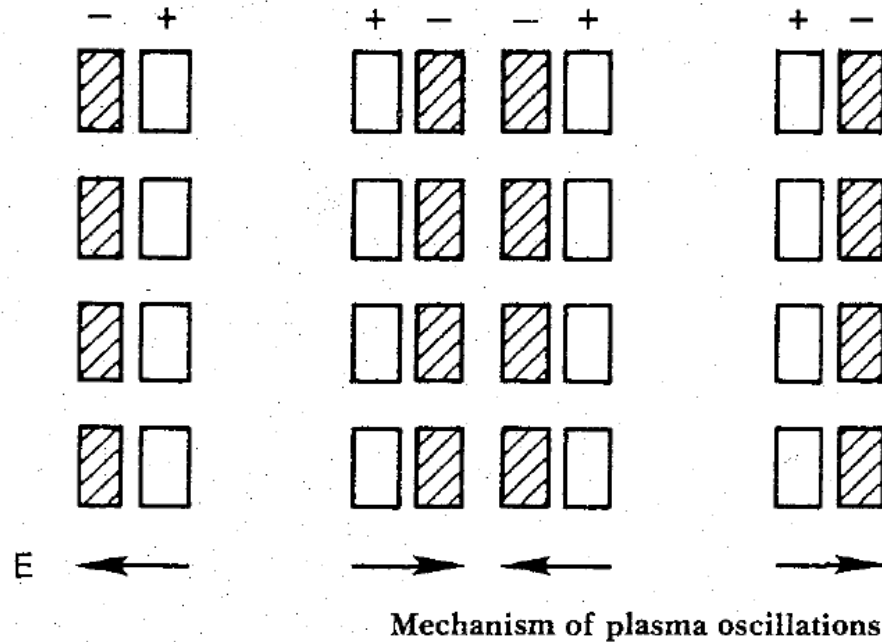
- Vacuum potential:

$$\phi = \frac{\phi_0}{r}$$

- Potential in a plasma

$$\phi = \frac{\phi_0}{r} \exp\left(-\frac{r}{\lambda_D}\right) \quad \lambda_D \approx \left(\frac{KT_e}{4\pi ne^2}\right)^{1/2}$$

# Electron plasma frequency is the characteristic frequency such that electrons oscillate around their equilibrium positions



- Plasma frequency:

$$\omega_{pe} \equiv \omega = \left( \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e} \right)^{1/2}$$

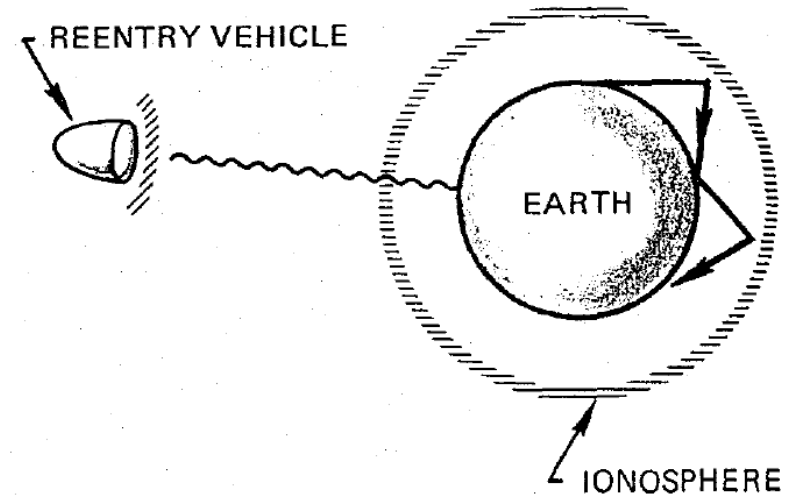
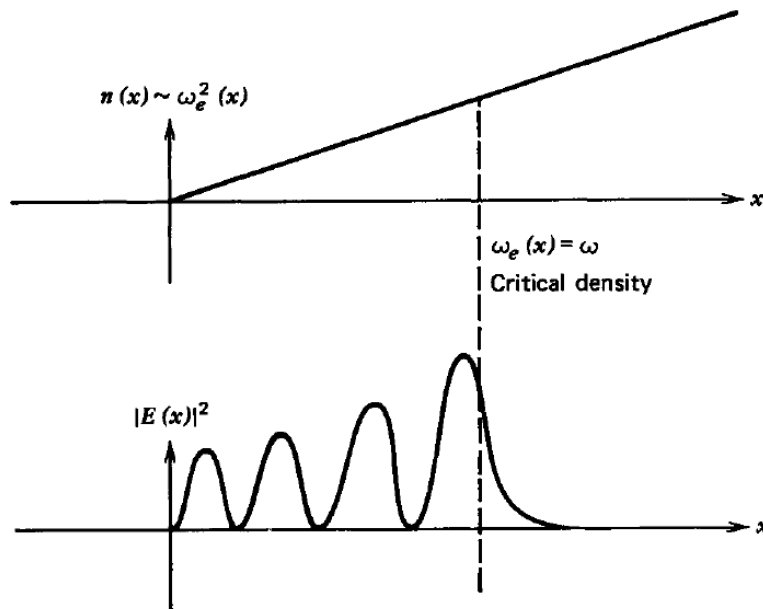
- Wave number  $k$  becomes imaginary when  $\omega < \omega_e$  .

$$E = E_0 e^{i(kx - \omega t)} = E_0 e^{-k_I t} e^{i(k_R x - \omega t)}$$

# The cutoff of the electromagnetic wave is important in laser fusion and in the interaction of radio waves with the ionosphere



$$\omega_{pe} \equiv \omega = \left( \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e} \right)^{1/2}$$



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# Methods of plasma production

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- **DC electrical discharges**
  - Dark electrical discharges in gases
  - DC electrical glow discharges in gases
  - DC electrical arc discharges in gases
- **AC electrical discharges**
  - RF electrical discharges in gases
  - Microwave electrical discharges in gases
  - Dielectric-barrier discharges (DBDs)
- **Other mechanism**
  - Laser produced plasma
  - Pulsed-power generated plasma

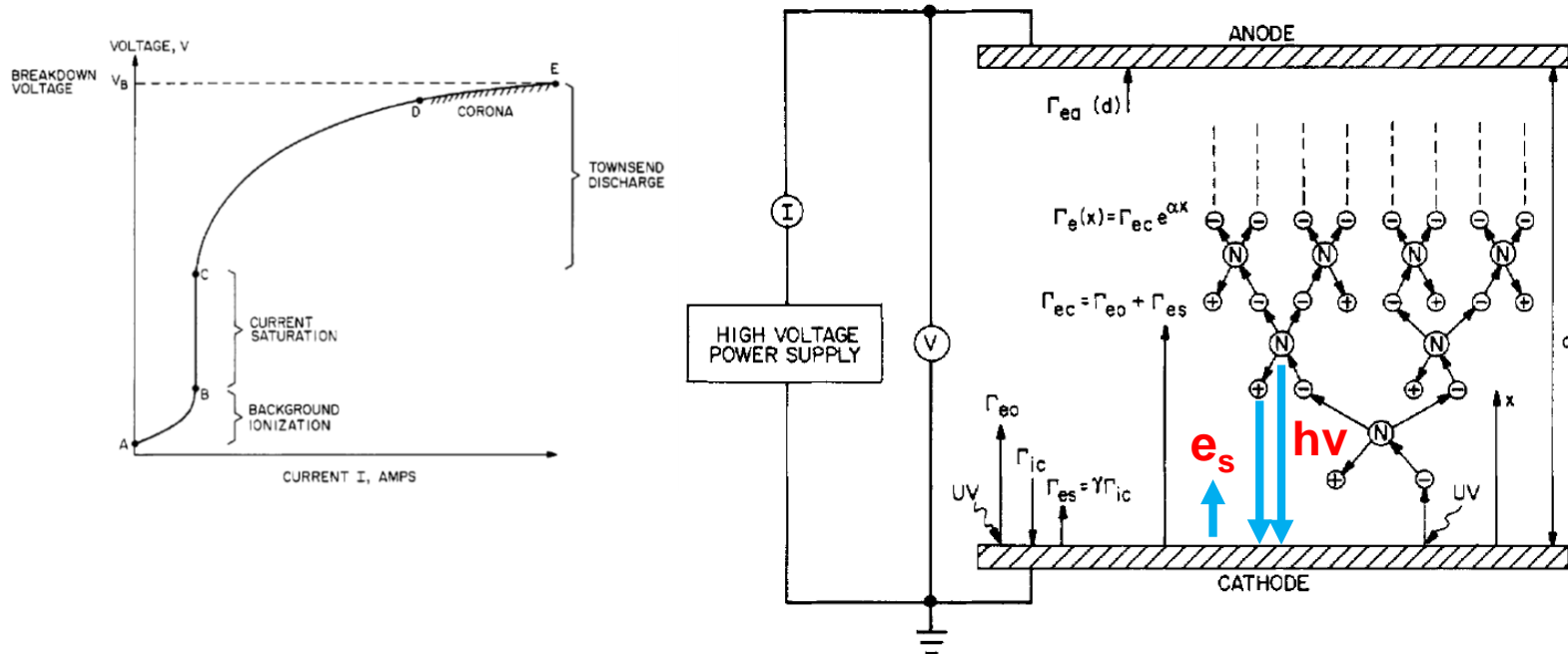
# Methods of plasma production

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# The region where the current exponentially increases is called the Townsend discharge

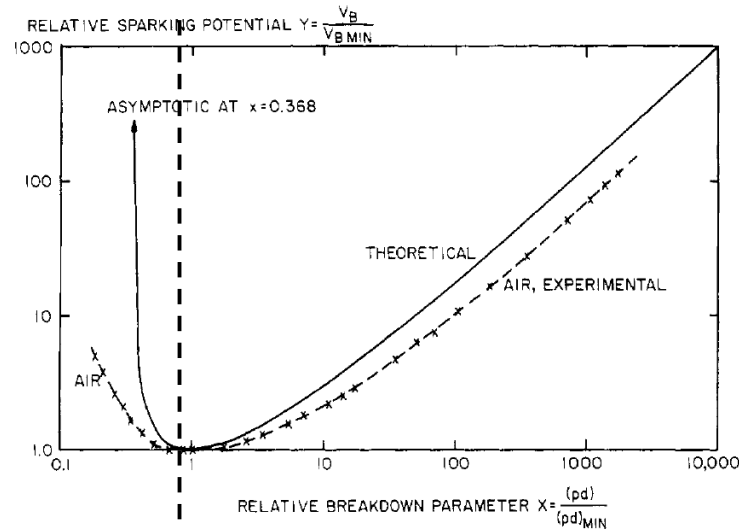


- **Primary electrons:** electrons from the cathode due to photoemission, background radiation, static charges, or other processes.
  - **Secondary electrons:** electrons emitted from the cathode per incident ion or photon created from ionization in gas.
- **Electrical breakdown occurs when applied voltage is greater than the breakdown voltage**

# Collision frequency and electron energy gained from electric field are both important to electrical breakdown



## Paschen curve

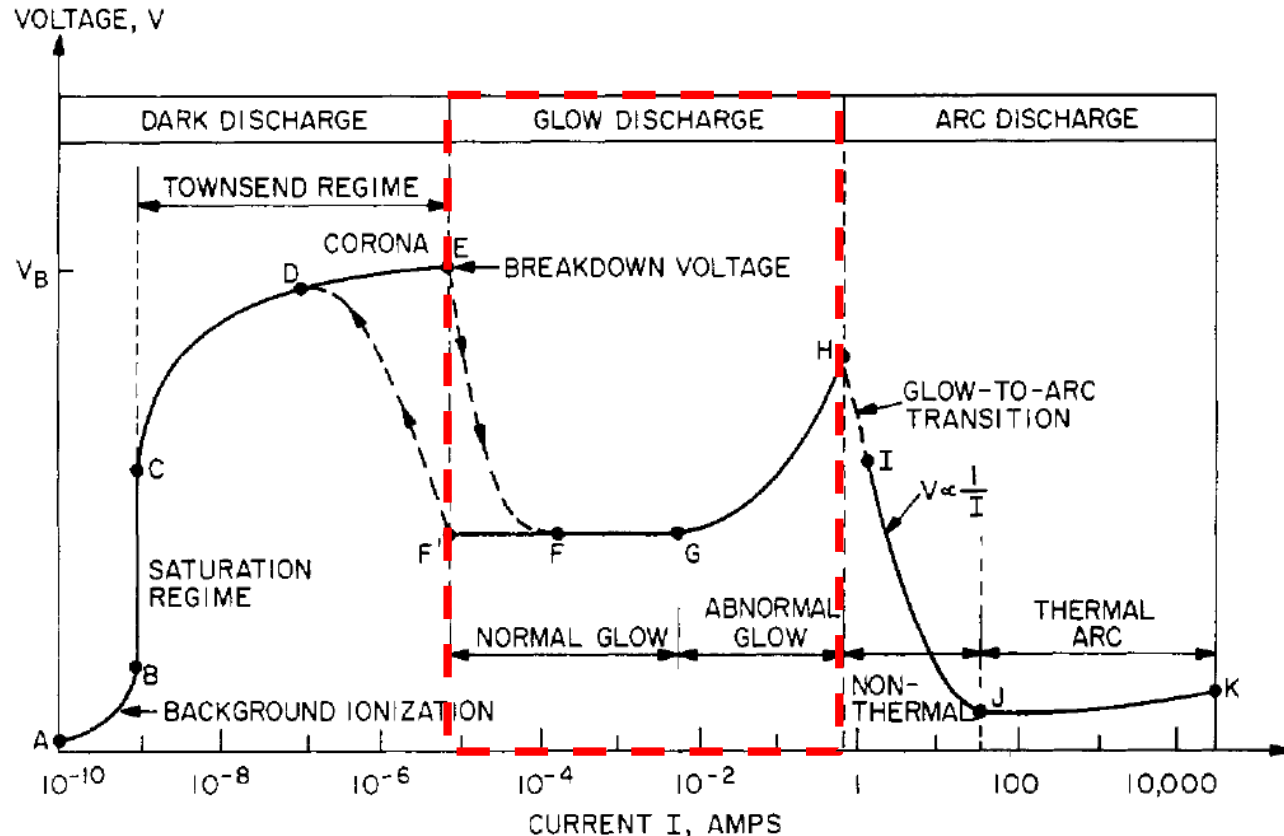


- Collision is not frequent enough even the electrons gain large energy between each collision.
- Electrons do not gain enough energy between each collision even collisions happen frequently.
- The minimum of the Paschen curve corresponds to the Stoletow point, the pressure at which the volumetric ionization rate is a maximum.

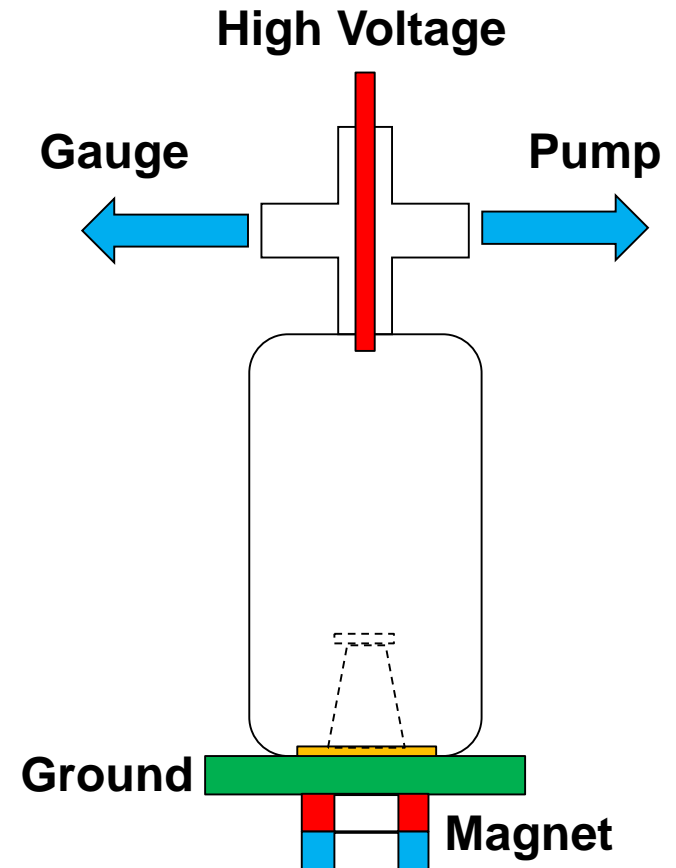
# DC electrical glow discharges in gases



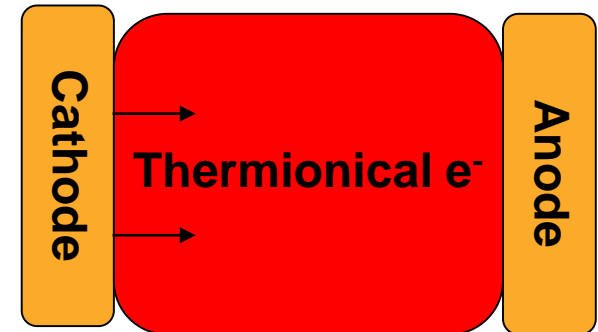
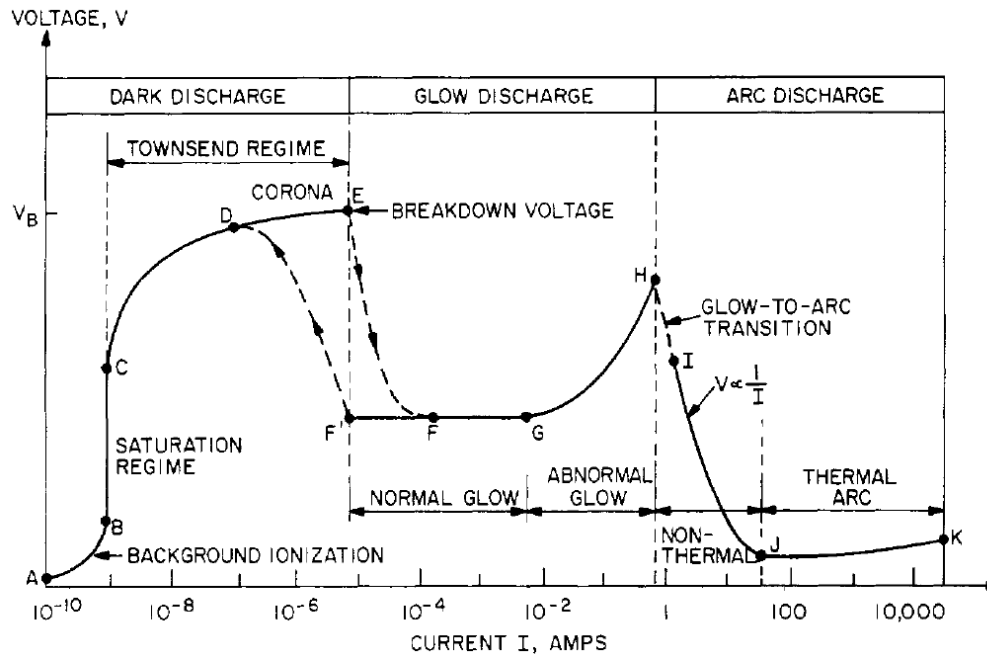
- The internal resistance of the power supply is relatively low, then the gas will break down at the voltage  $V_B$ , and the discharge tube will move from the dark discharge regime into the low pressure normal glow discharge regime.



# Glow discharge in a glass jar

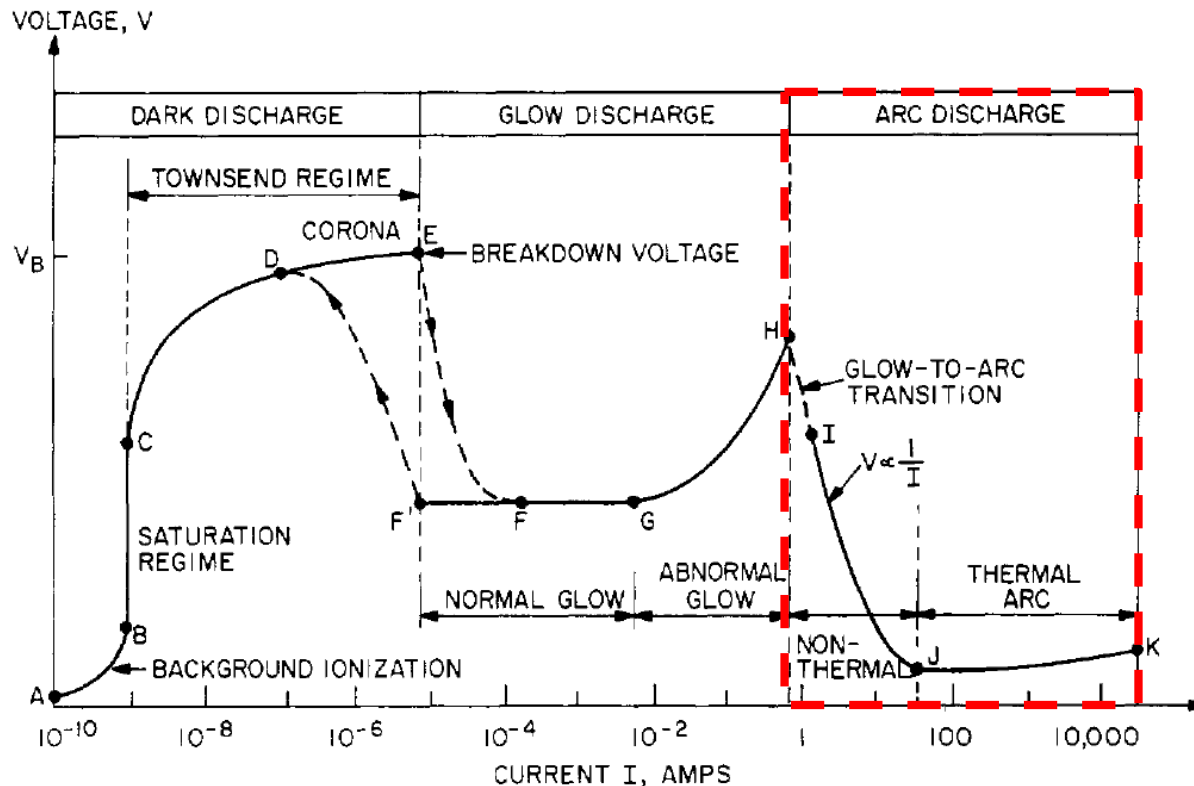


# Discharge may enter glow-to-arc transition region if the cathode gets hot enough to emit electrons thermionically



- If the cathode gets hot enough to emit electrons thermionically and the internal impedance of the power supply is sufficiently low, the discharge will make a transition into the arc regime.

# DC electrical arc discharges in gases



- An arc is highly luminous and is characterized by high currents ( $> 1 \text{ A}$ ) and current densities ( $\text{A}/\text{cm}^2 \gtrsim \text{kA}/\text{cm}^2$ ).
- Cathode voltage fall is small ( $\leq 10 \text{ V}$ ) in the region of high spatial gradients within a few mm of the cathode.

# AC electrical discharges deliver energy to the plasma without contact between electrodes and the plasma

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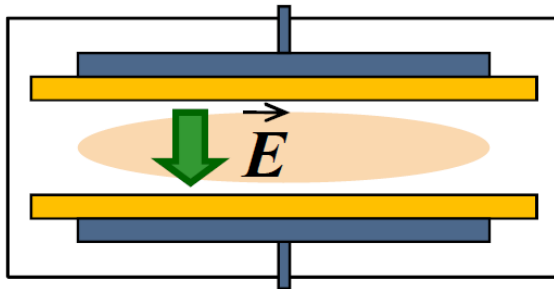
- DC electrical discharge – a true current in the form of a flow of ions or electrons to the electrodes.
- AC electrical discharge – the power supply interacts with the plasma by displacement current.
  - **Inductive radio frequency (RF) electrical discharges**
  - Capacitive RF electrical discharges
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- Optical (laser) produced plasma

# RF can interact with plasma inductively or capacitively

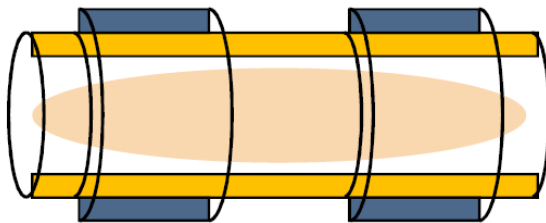


## Capacitively coupled

planar

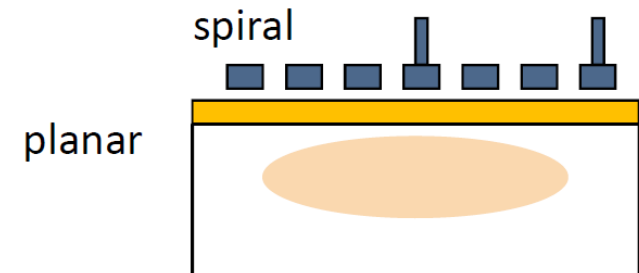
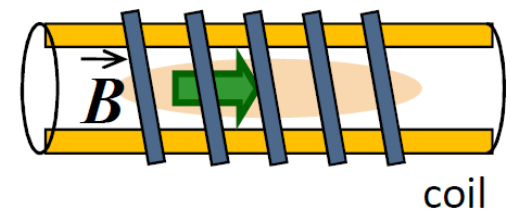


coaxial

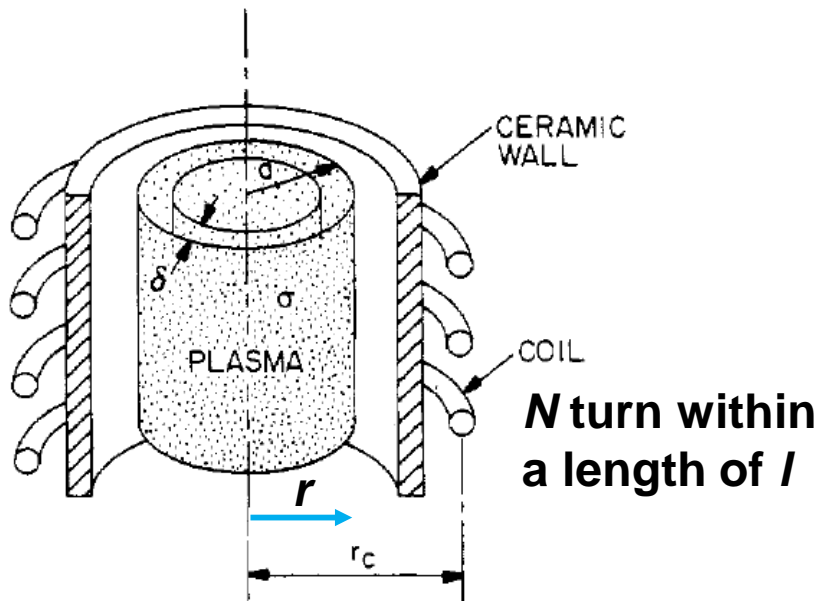


## Inductively coupled

coaxial



# The plasma is generated by the induced electric field from the oscillating magnetic field



$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\int (\nabla \times \vec{E}) \cdot d\vec{A} = \int \left( -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \right) \cdot d\vec{A}$$

$$2\pi r E = -\pi r^2 \frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$$

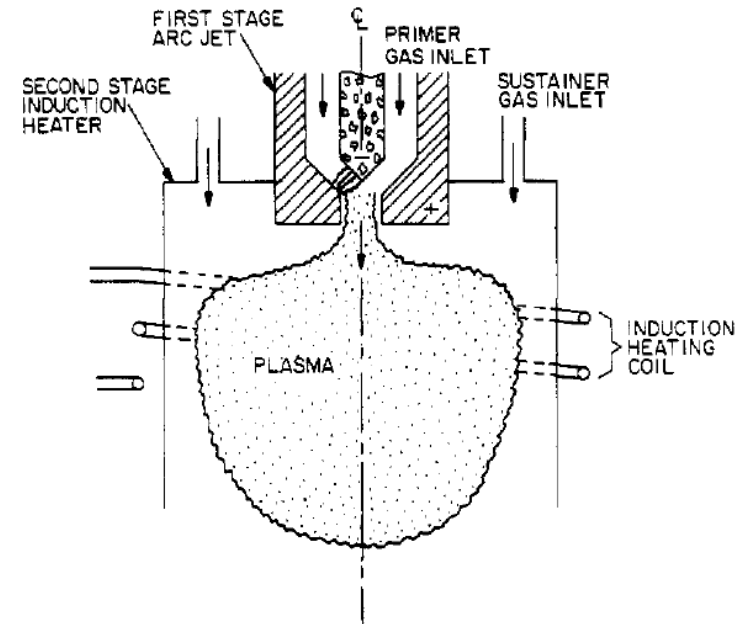
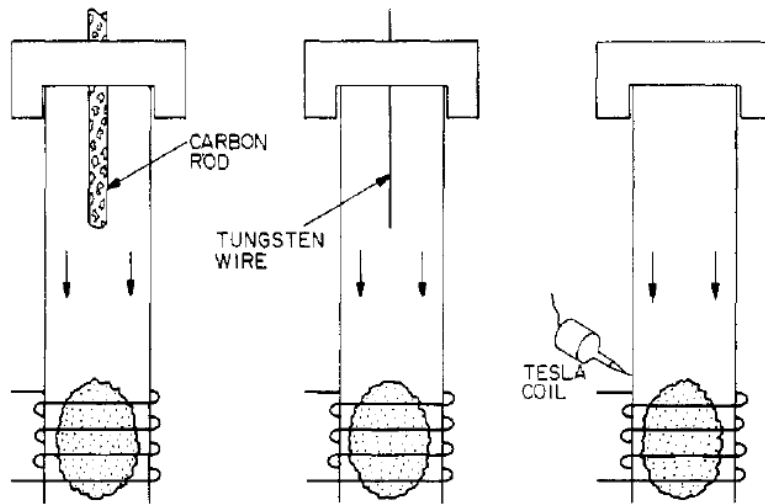
$$E = -\frac{r}{2} \frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$$

$$B \times l = \mu_0 N I$$

$$E = -\frac{r}{2} \mu_0 \frac{N}{l} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

$$|E| = \frac{r}{2} \mu_0 \frac{N}{l} \omega I$$

# High voltage initiation is usually required for inductive RF plasma torches



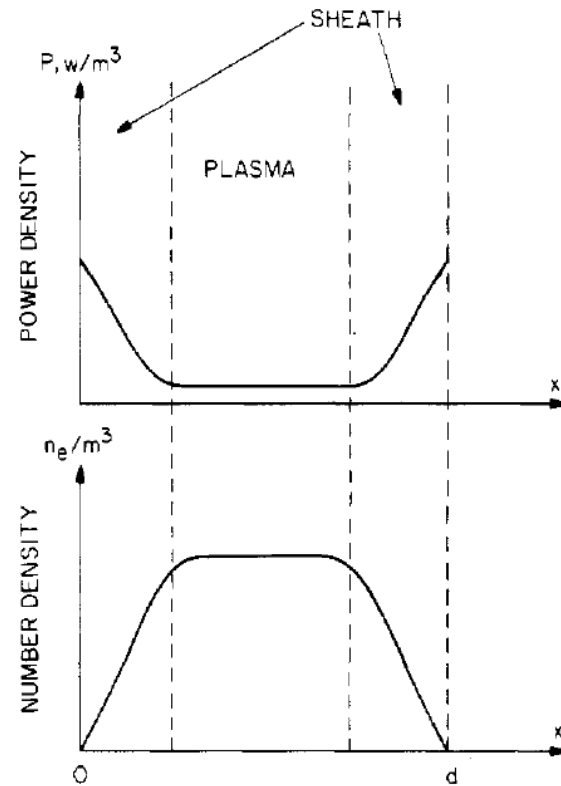
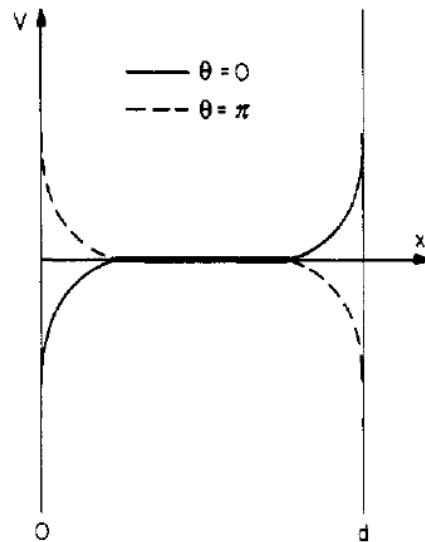
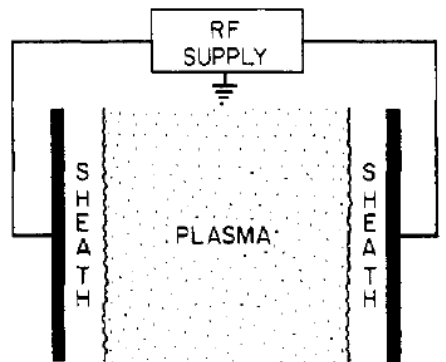
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  - **Capacitive RF electrical discharges**
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# Symmetrical capacitive RF discharge model



# AC electrical discharges deliver energy to the plasma without contact between electrodes and the plasma

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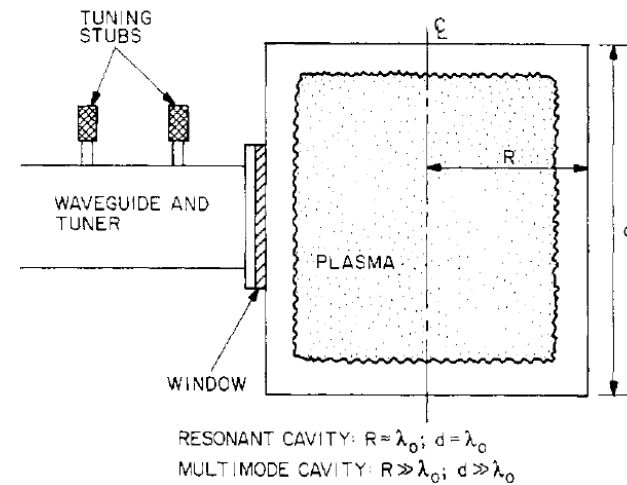
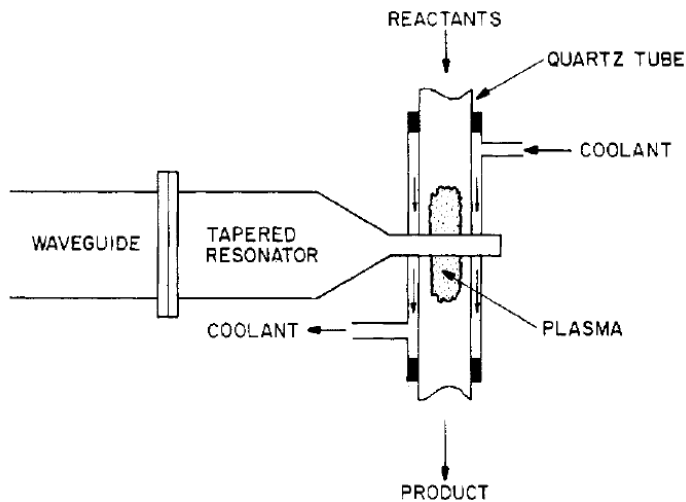


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# Microwave plasma reactor configurations



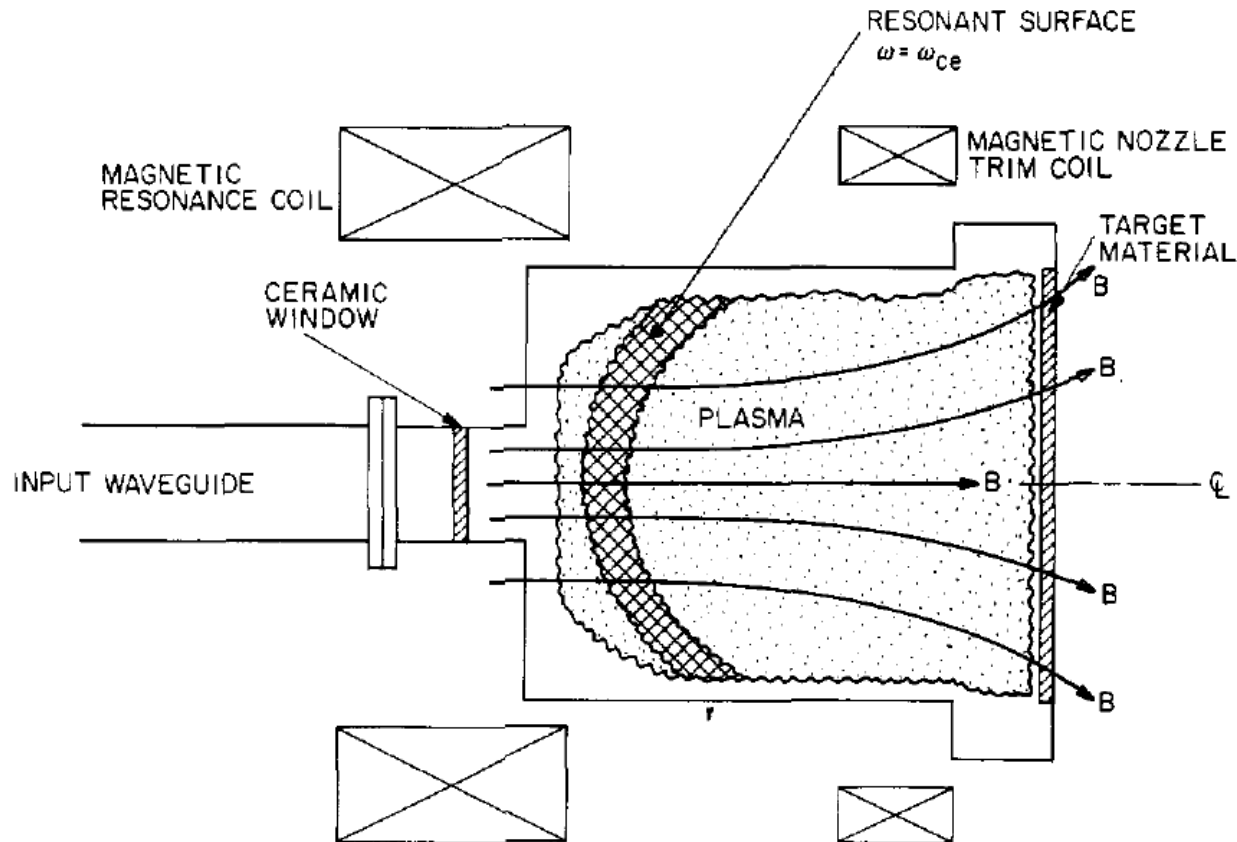
- **Waveguide coupled reactor**
- **Resonant or multimode cavity –**  
if the impedance matching is good, more energy can be fed into the cavity.



# Strong absorption occurs when the frequency matches the electron cyclotron frequency



- Electron cyclotron resonance (ECR) plasma reactor



# Electron cyclotron frequency depends on magnetic field only



$$m_e \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = -\frac{e}{c} \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

- Assuming  $\vec{B} = B\hat{z}$  and the electron oscillates in x-y plane

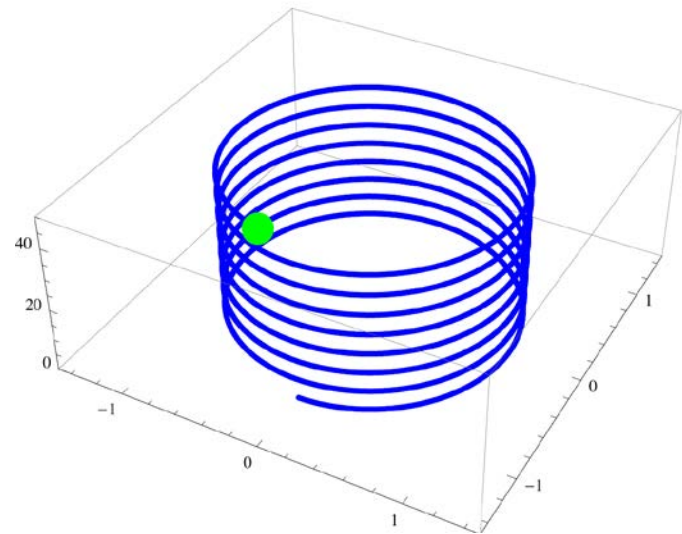
$$\begin{aligned} m_e \dot{v}_x &= -\frac{e}{c} B v_y & m_e \dot{v}_z &= 0 \\ m_e \dot{v}_y &= \frac{e}{c} B v_x \end{aligned}$$

$$\ddot{v}_x = -\frac{eB}{m_e c} \dot{v}_y = -\left(\frac{eB}{m_e c}\right)^2 v_x$$

$$\ddot{v}_y = -\frac{eB}{m_e c} \dot{v}_x = -\left(\frac{eB}{m_e c}\right)^2 v_y$$

- Therefore

$$\omega_{ce} = \frac{eB}{m_e c}$$



# Electrons keep getting accelerated when a electric field rotates in electron's gyrofrequency



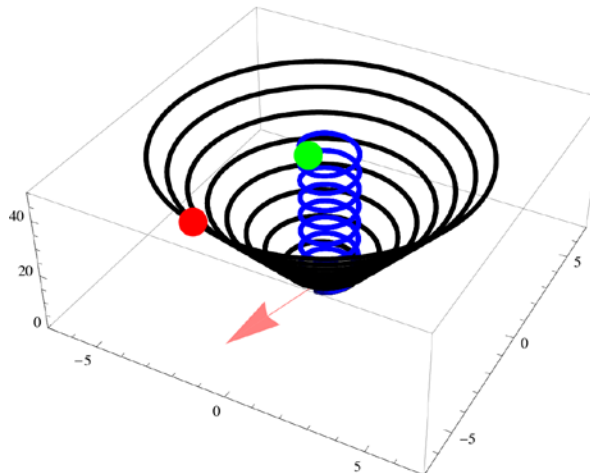
$$m_e \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = -\frac{e}{c} \vec{v} \times \vec{B} - e \vec{E} \quad \vec{B} = B_0 \hat{z} \quad \vec{E} = E_0 [\hat{x} \cos(\omega t) + \hat{y} \sin(\omega t)]$$

$$m_e \dot{v}_x = -\frac{e}{c} B v_y + E_0 \cos(\omega t) \quad m_e \dot{v}_y = \frac{e}{c} B v_x + E_0 \sin(\omega t) \quad m_e \dot{v}_z = 0$$

$$\ddot{v}_x = -\frac{eB}{m_e c} \dot{v}_y - \frac{E_0}{m_e} \omega \cos(\omega t) = -\omega_{ce}^2 v_x - \frac{E_0}{m_e} (\omega_{ce} + \omega) \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\ddot{v}_y = -\frac{eB}{m_e c} \dot{v}_x + \frac{E_0}{m_e} \omega \sin(\omega t) = -\omega_{ce}^2 v_y + \frac{E_0}{m_e} (\omega_{ce} + \omega) \sin(\omega t)$$

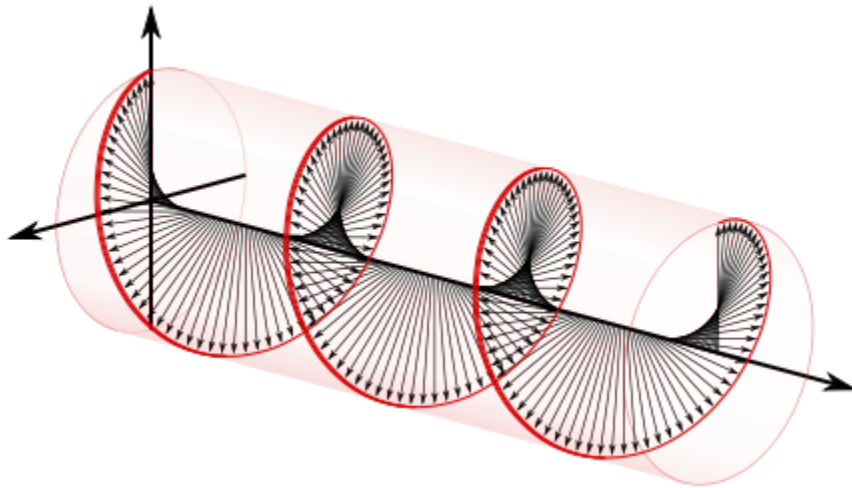
$$\omega_{ce} = \frac{eB}{m_e c}$$



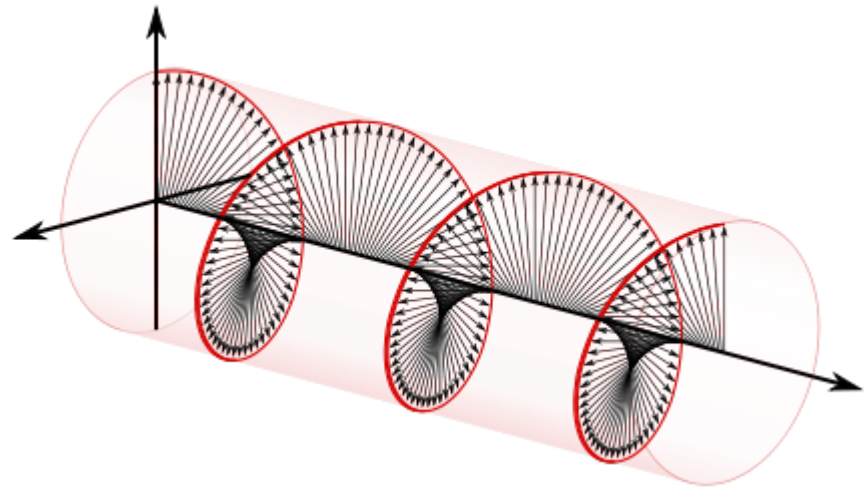
# Electric field in a circular polarized electromagnetic wave keeps rotating as the wave propagates



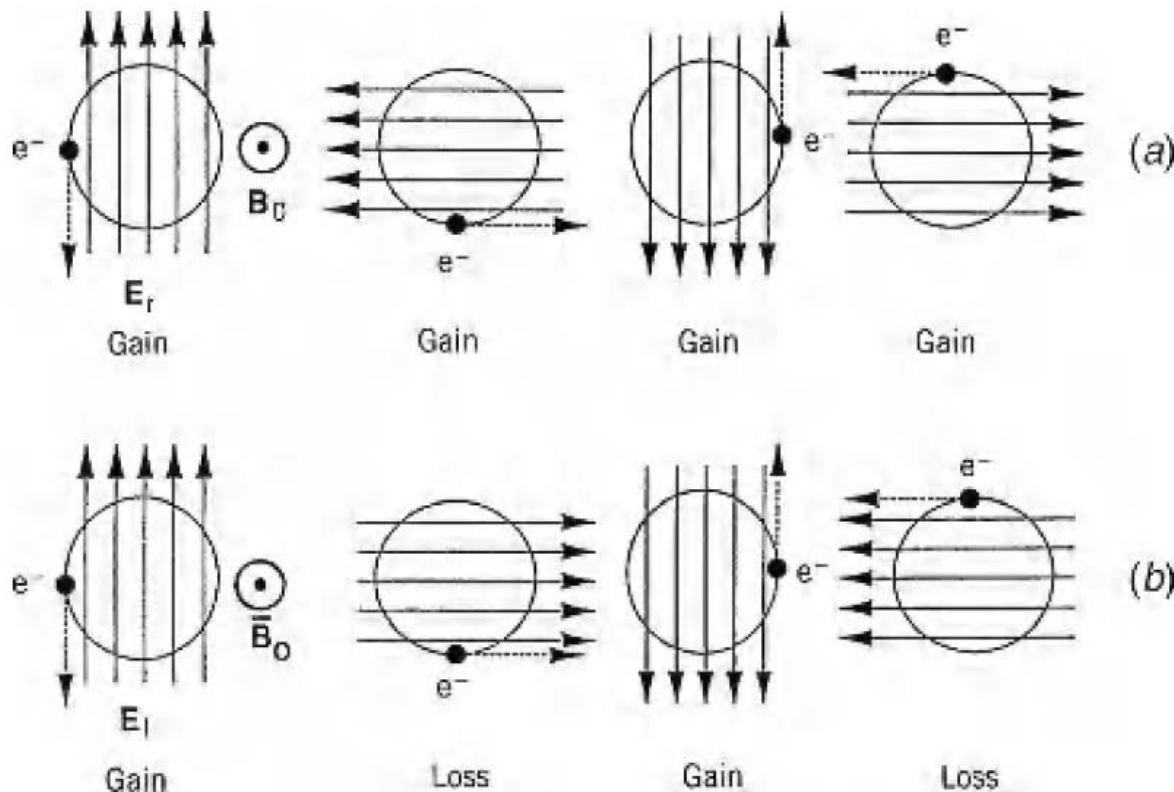
- Right-handed polarization



- Left-handed polarization



# Only right-handed polarization can resonance with electron's gyromotion

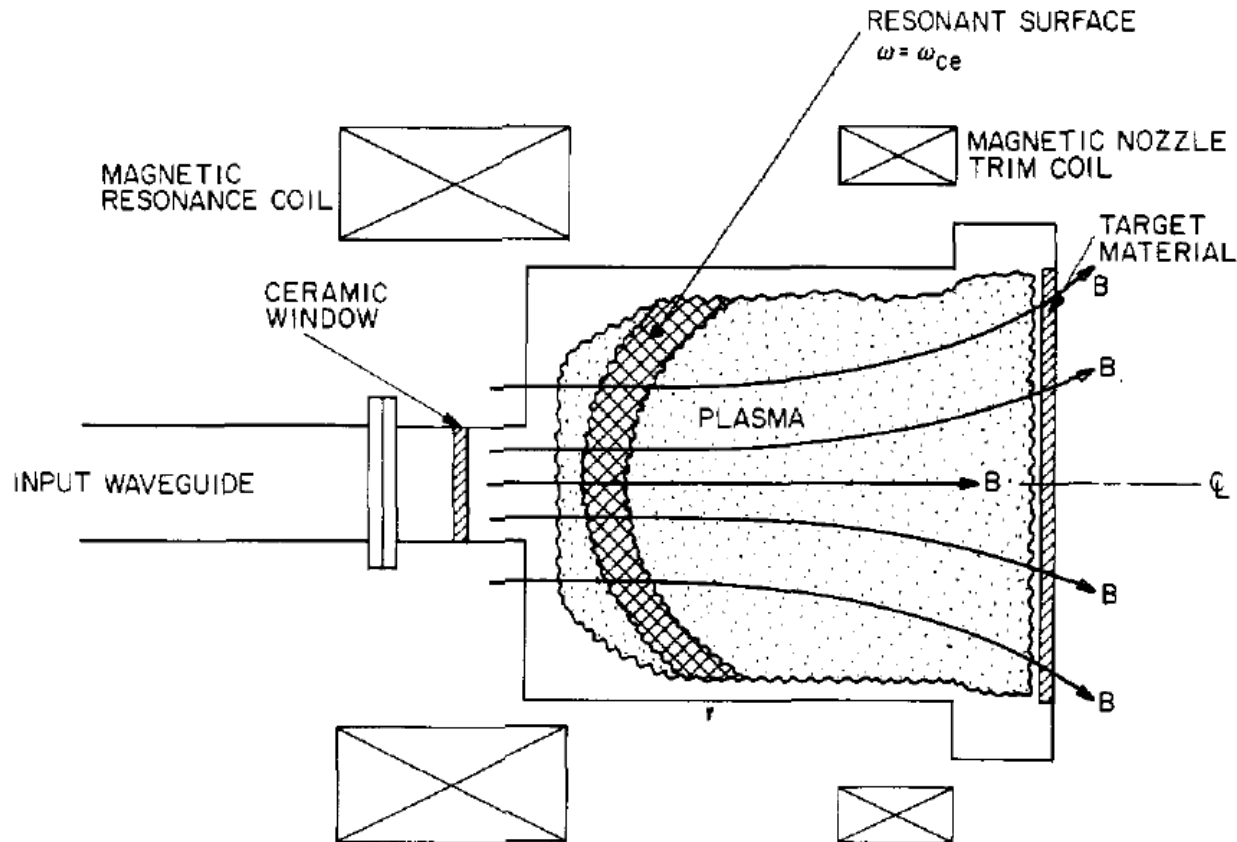


**FIGURE 13.5.** Basic principle of ECR heating: (a) continuous energy gain for right-hand polarization; (b) oscillating energy for left-hand polarization (after Lieberman and Gottscho, 1994).

# Strong absorption occurs when the frequency matches the electron cyclotron frequency



- Electron cyclotron resonance (ECR) plasma reactor



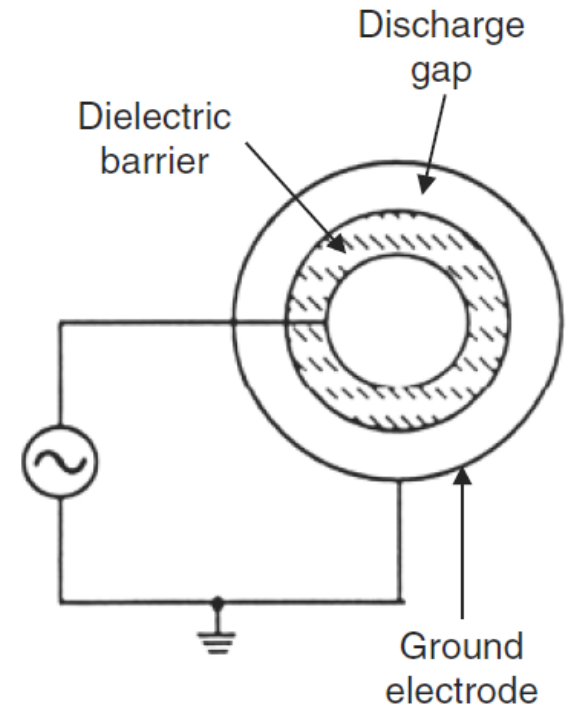
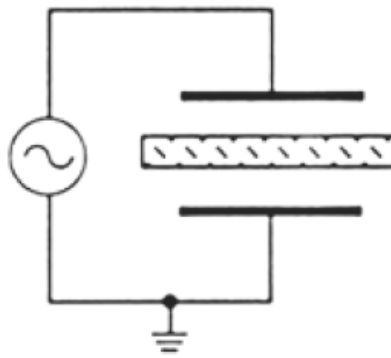
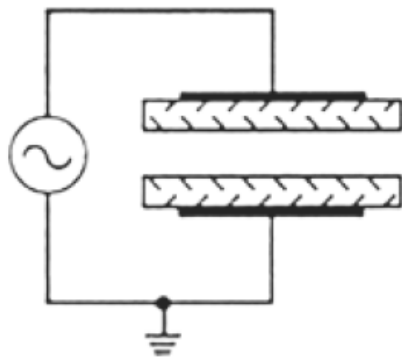
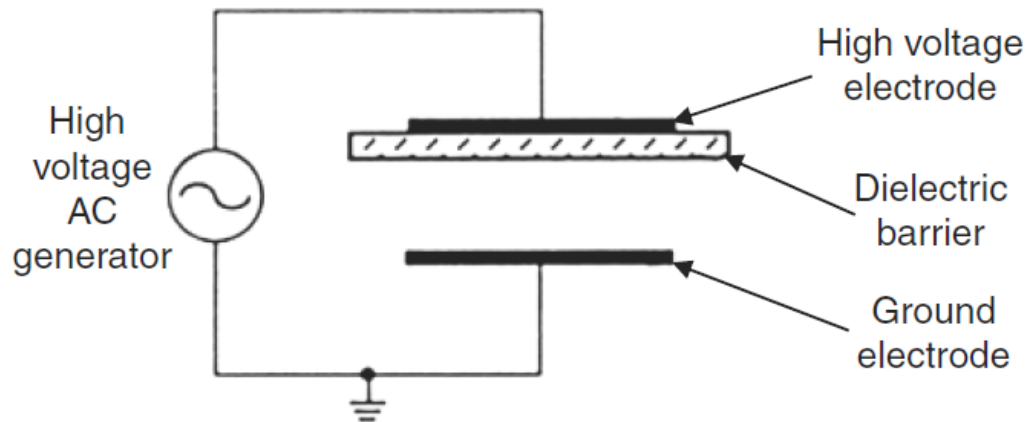
# AC electrical discharges deliver energy to the plasma without contact between electrodes and the plasma

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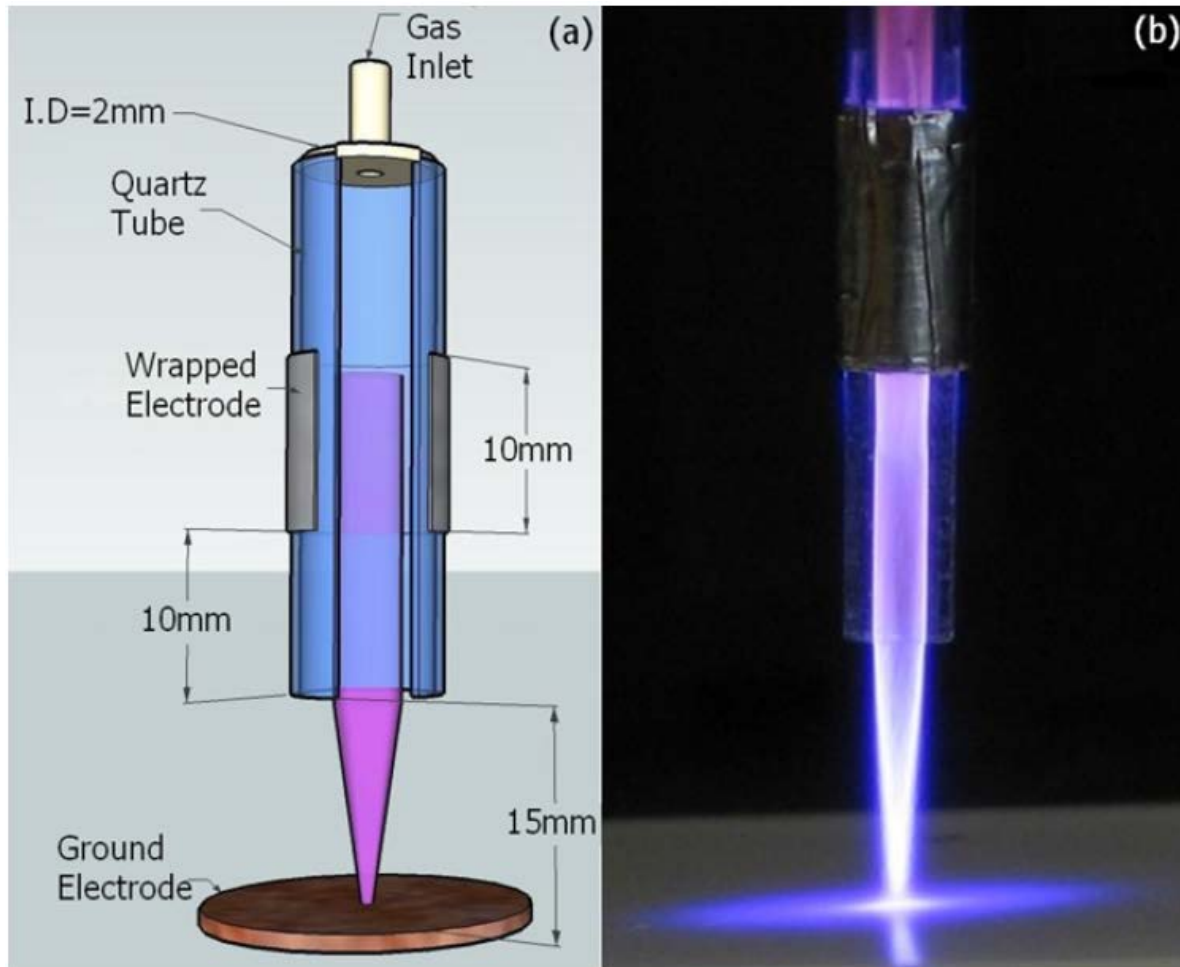


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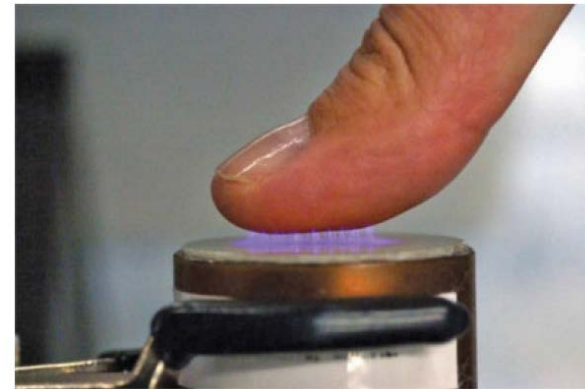
# Dielectric-barrier discharges (DBDs)



# Atmospheric-pressure cold helium microplasma jets



# Atmospheric-Pressure Plasma



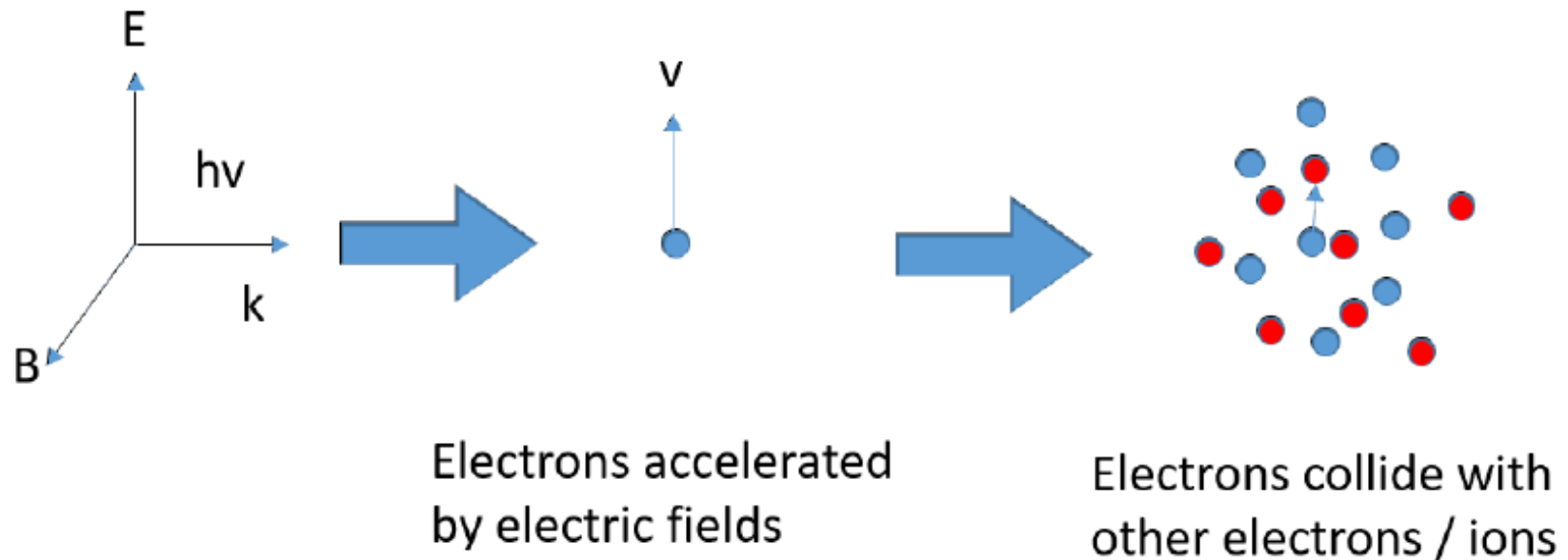
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# Laser is absorbed in underdense plasma through collisional process called inverse bremsstrahlung



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# Applications of plasma

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- 1. Material Processing**
- 2. Plasma in space**
- 3. Biomedical application**
- 4. High energy particle accelerator**
- 5. Electric propulsion**
- 6. Controlled thermonuclear fusion**

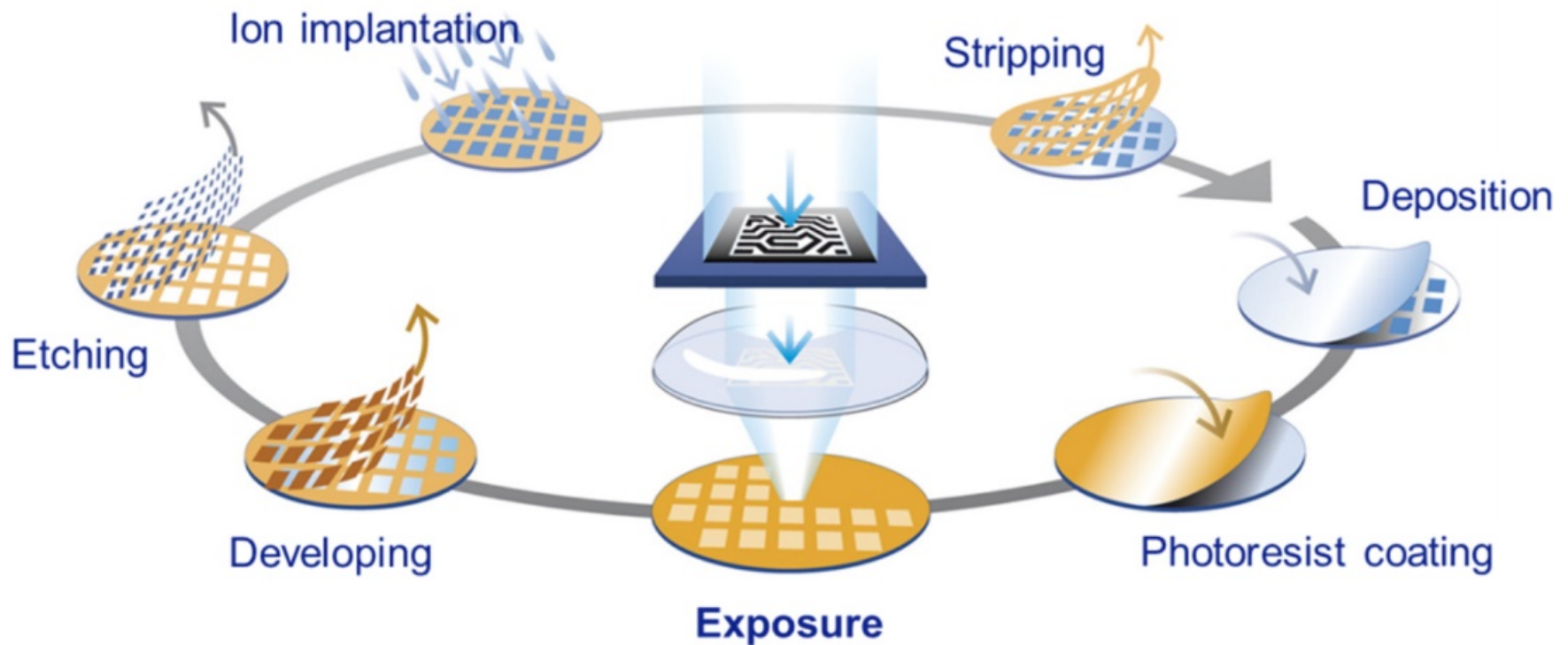
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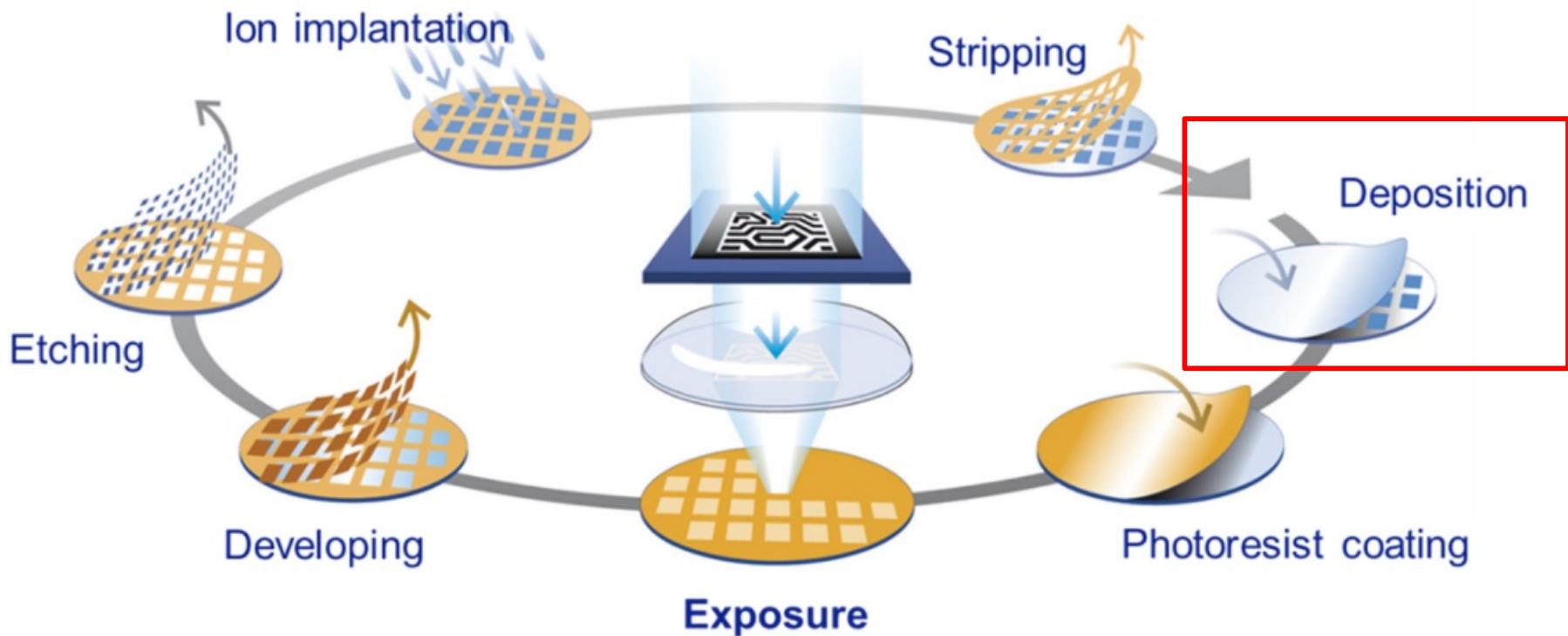


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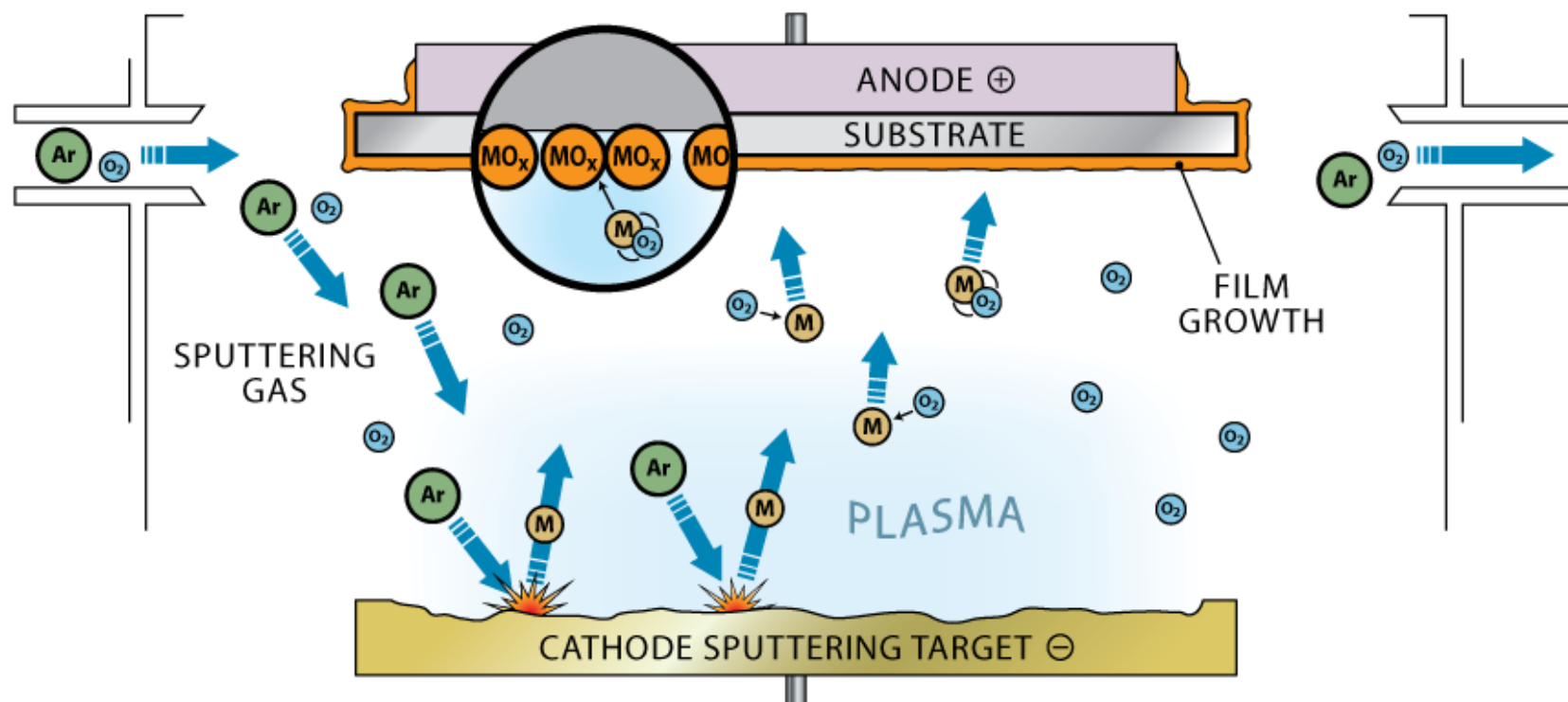
# A semiconductor device is fabricated by many repetitive production process



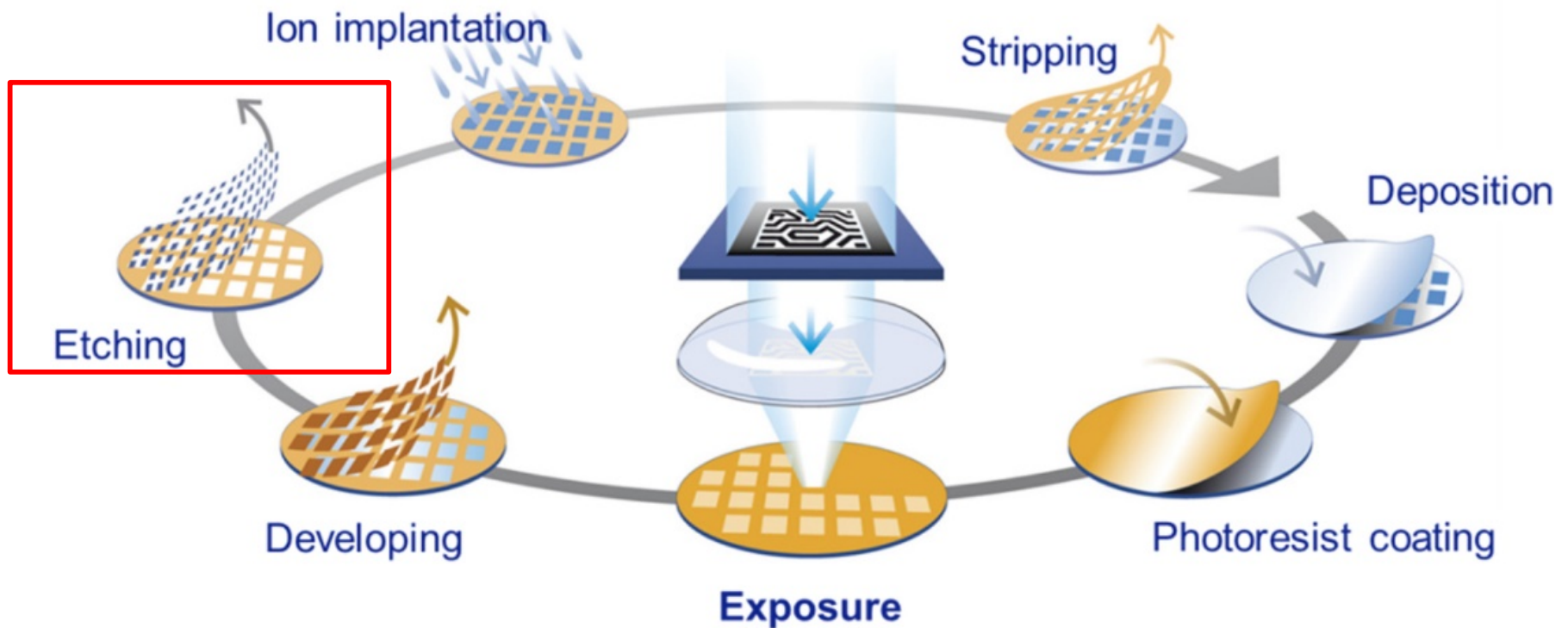
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# Sputtering deposition



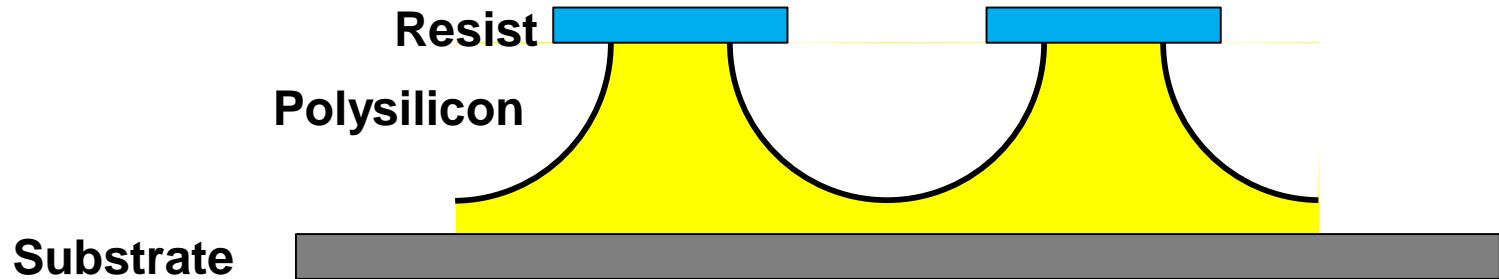
# A semiconductor device is fabricated by many repetitive production process



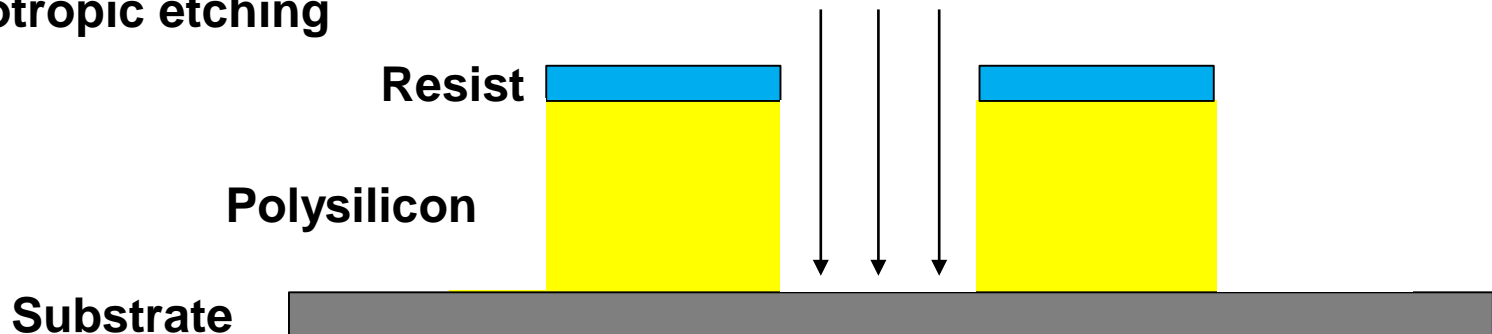
# There are two types of etching: isotropic vs anisotropic



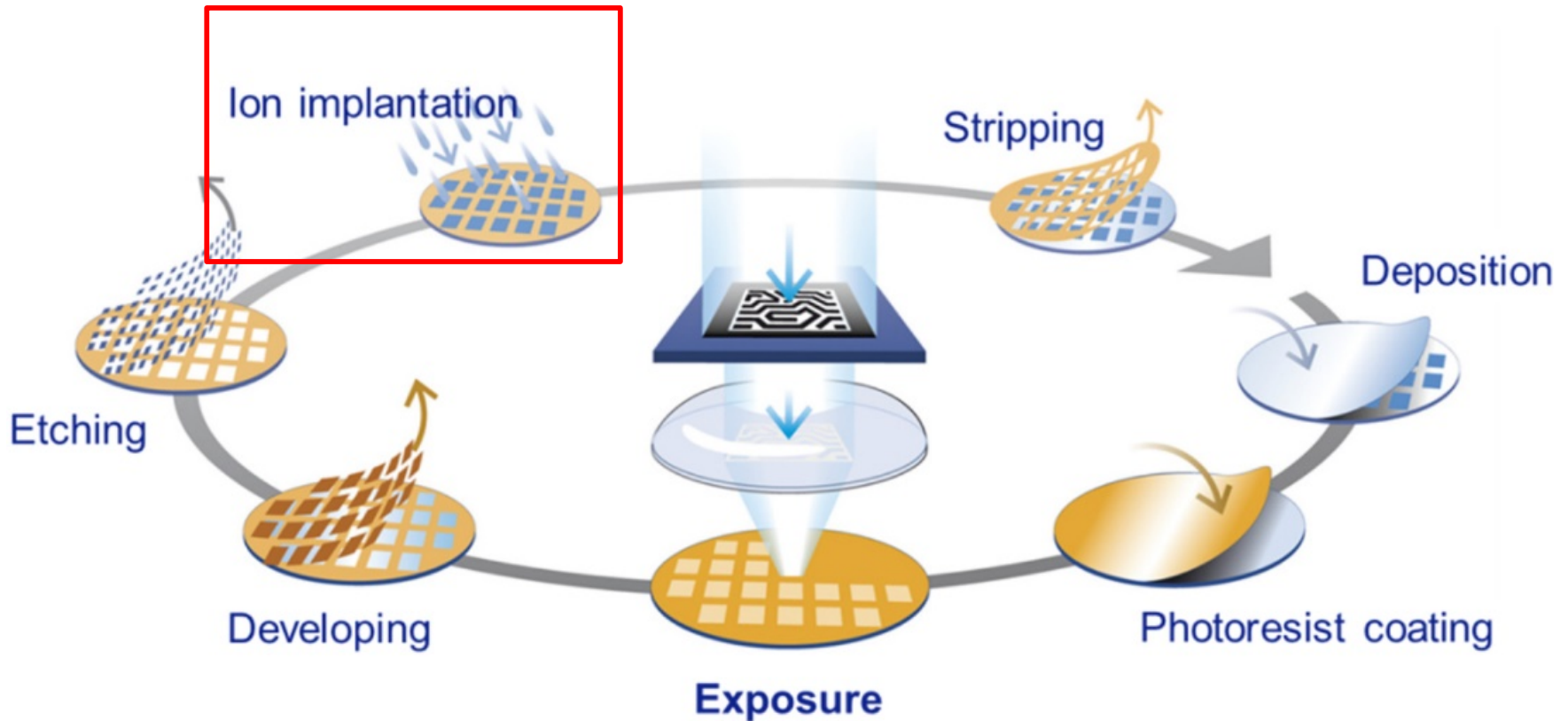
- Isotropic etching



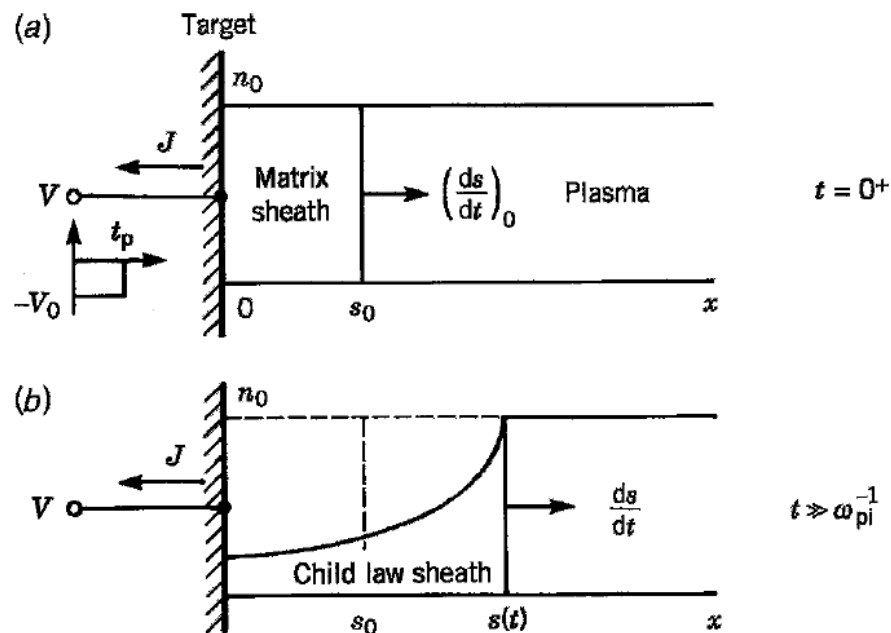
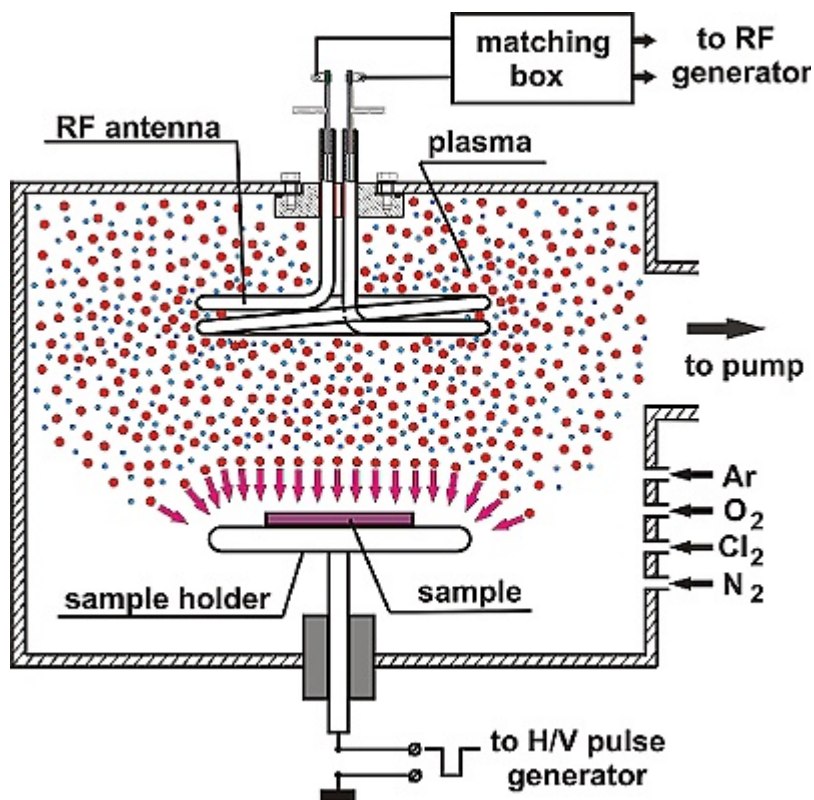
- Anisotropic etching



# A semiconductor device is fabricated by many repetitive production process

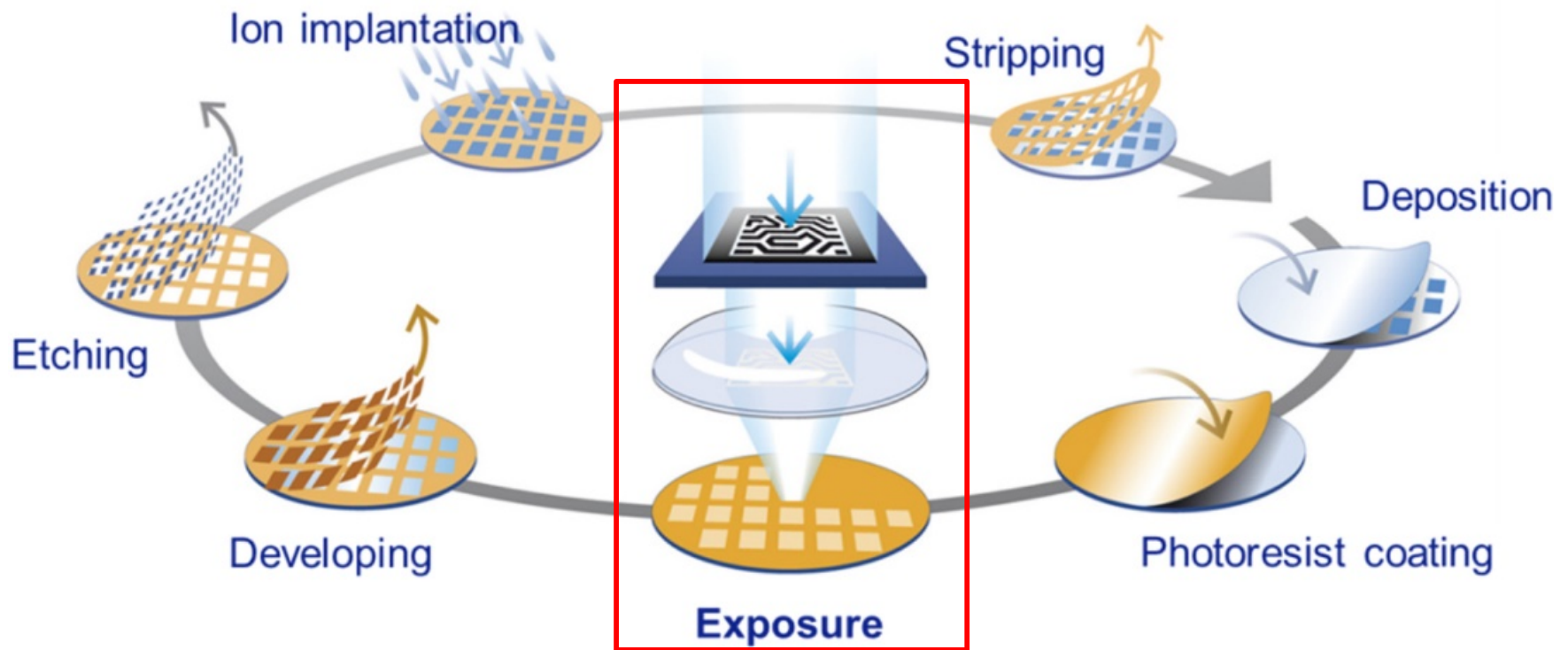


# Plasma-immersion ion implantation (PIII)



- Silicon doping – ions such as B, P, As are implanted
- Surface hardening of metals – N, C are implanted

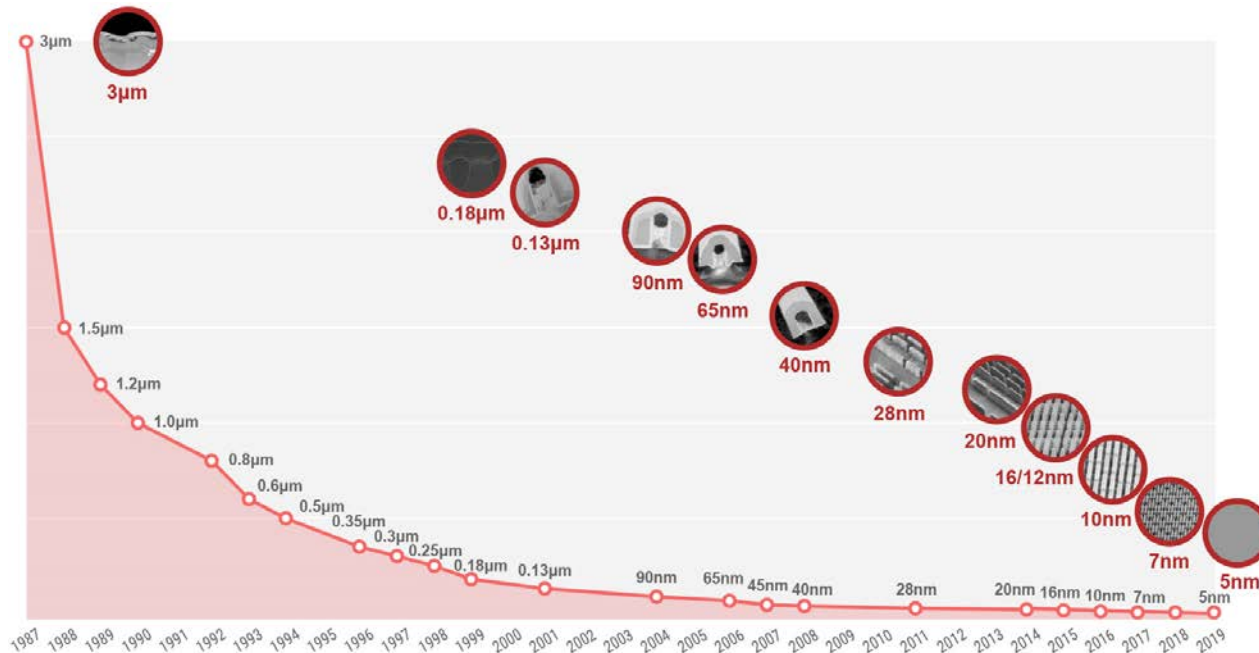
# A semiconductor device is fabricated by many repetitive production process



# Ultraviolet lithography (EUVL) is one of the key technologies in semiconductor manufacturing nowadays



- The process technology of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited (TSMC):



- Optical diffraction needs to be taken into account.
- Shorter wavelength is preferred.

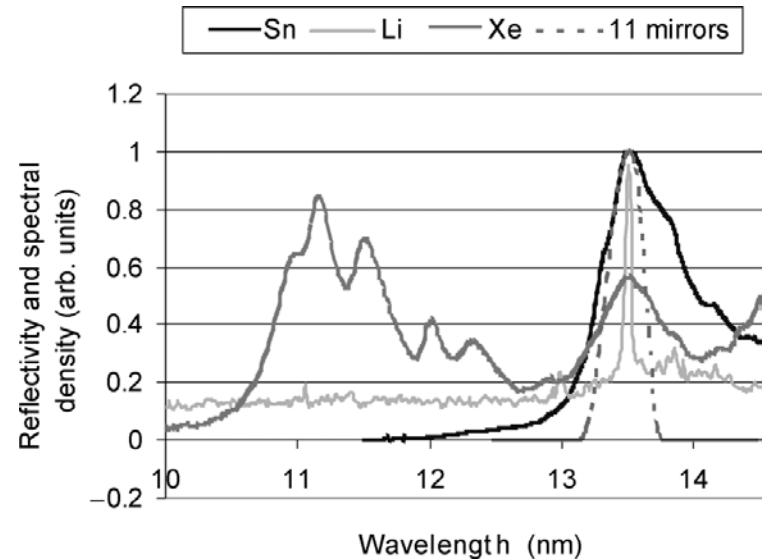
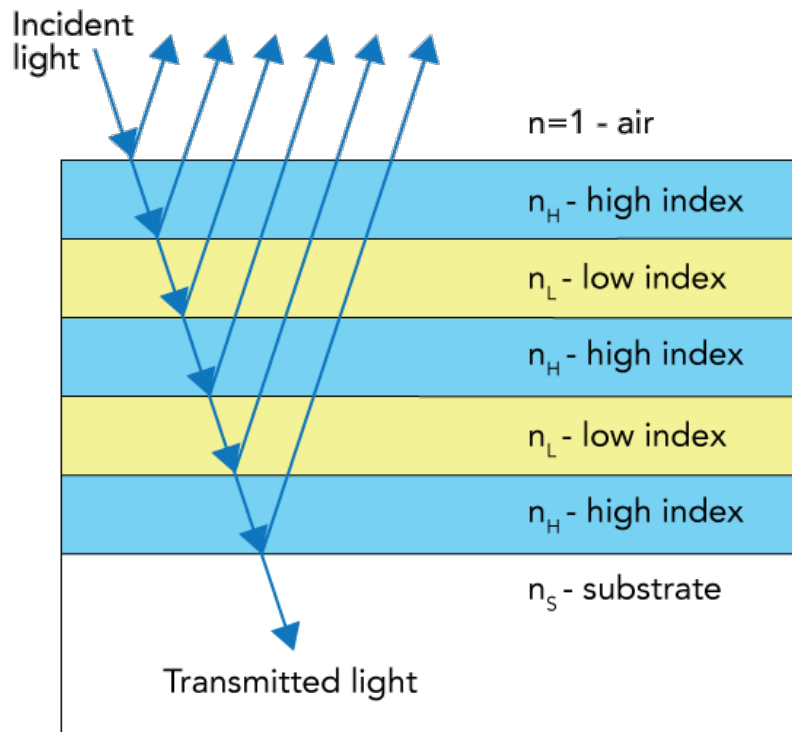
- Light source with a center wavelength of 13.5 nm is used.

# EUV light with $\lambda=13.5$ nm is used

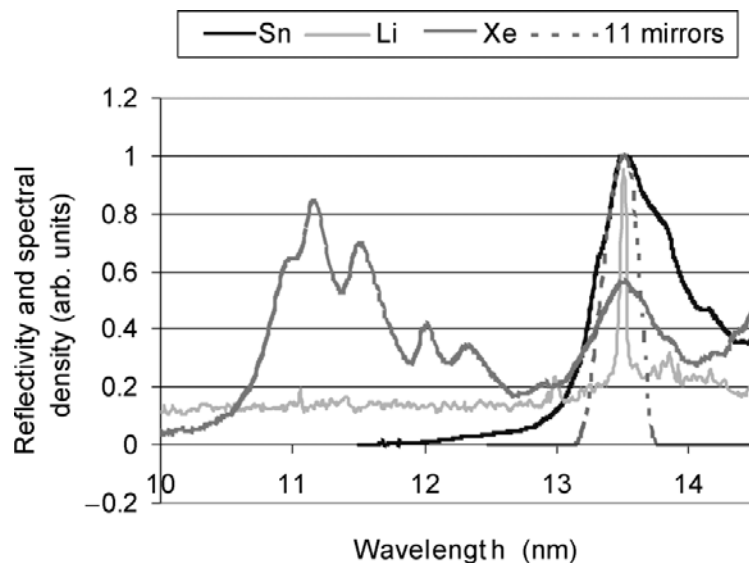


- Multilayer mirrors is needed for reflecting EUV light.

Reflected Light: Combination of 6 Beams

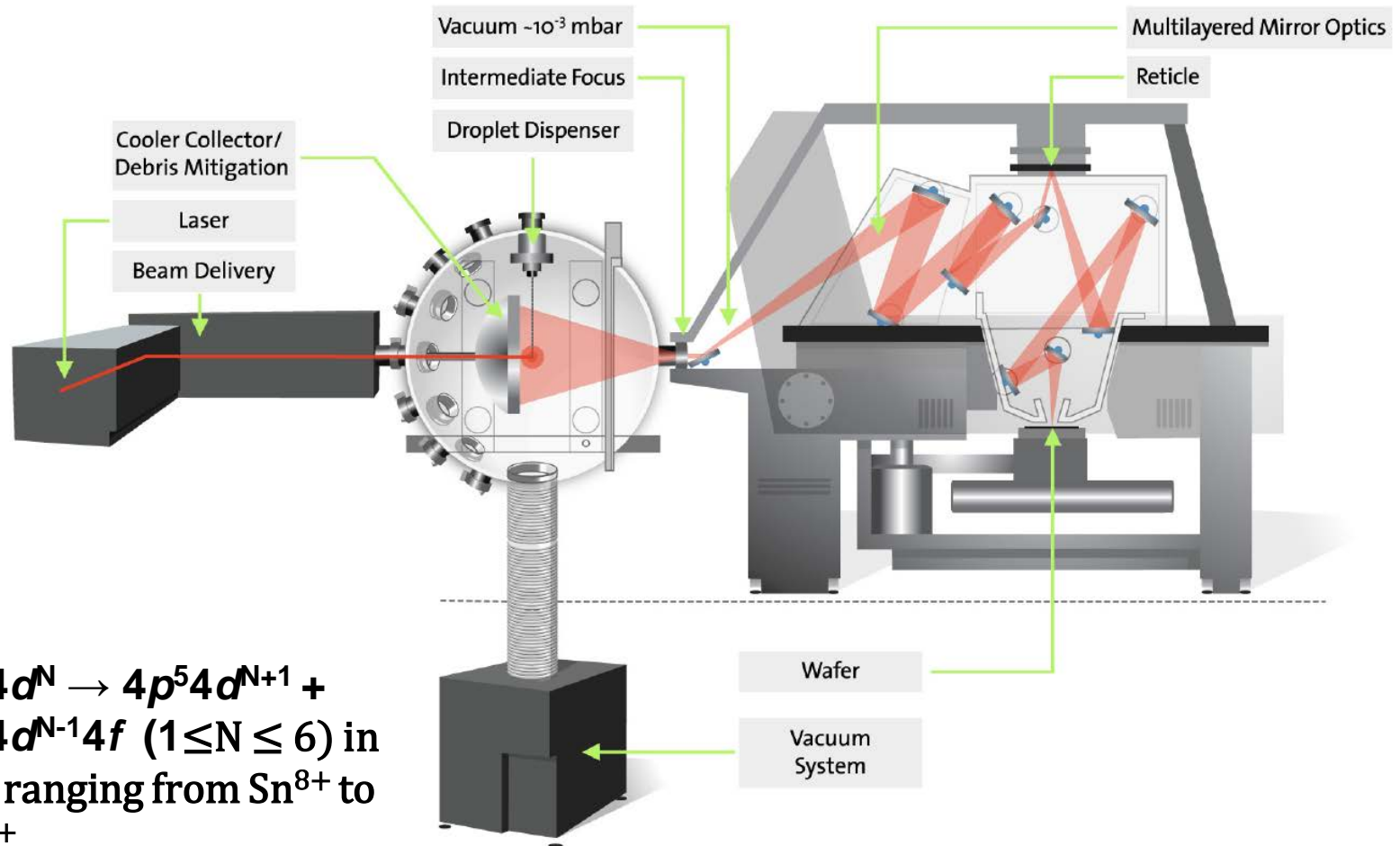


# EUV light is generated when material is heated to 35~40 eV (~450,000 K)



- At  $T=35\text{-}40\text{ eV}$  ( $\sim 450,000\text{ K}$ ), in-band emission occurs.
- Xenon:
  - $4p^6 4d^8 \rightarrow 4p^6 4d^7 5p$  from single ion stage  $\text{Xe}^{10+}$
  - UTA @ 11 nm
- Tin:
  - $4p^6 4d^N \rightarrow 4p^5 4d^{N+1} + 4p^6 4d^{N-1} 4f$  ( $1 \leq N \leq 6$ ) in ions ranging from  $\text{Sn}^{8+}$  to  $\text{Sn}^{12+}$
  - UTA @ 13.5 nm
- UTA: unresolved transition array

# EUV light sources from laser-produced plasma (LPP)



- Tin:
  - $4p^6 4d^N \rightarrow 4p^5 4d^{N+1} + 4p^6 4d^{N-1} 4f$  ( $1 \leq N \leq 6$ ) in ions ranging from  $\text{Sn}^{8+}$  to  $\text{Sn}^{12+}$
  - UTA @ 13.5 nm

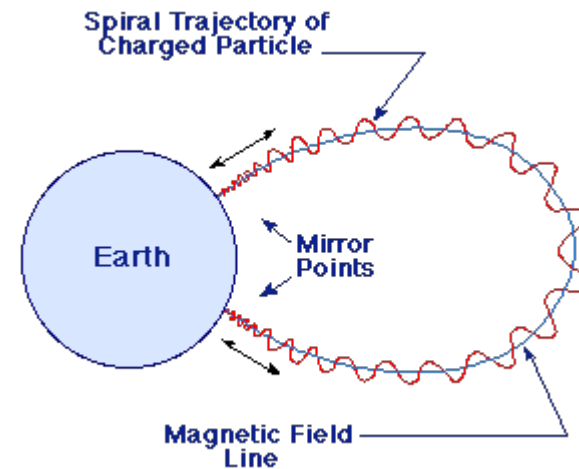
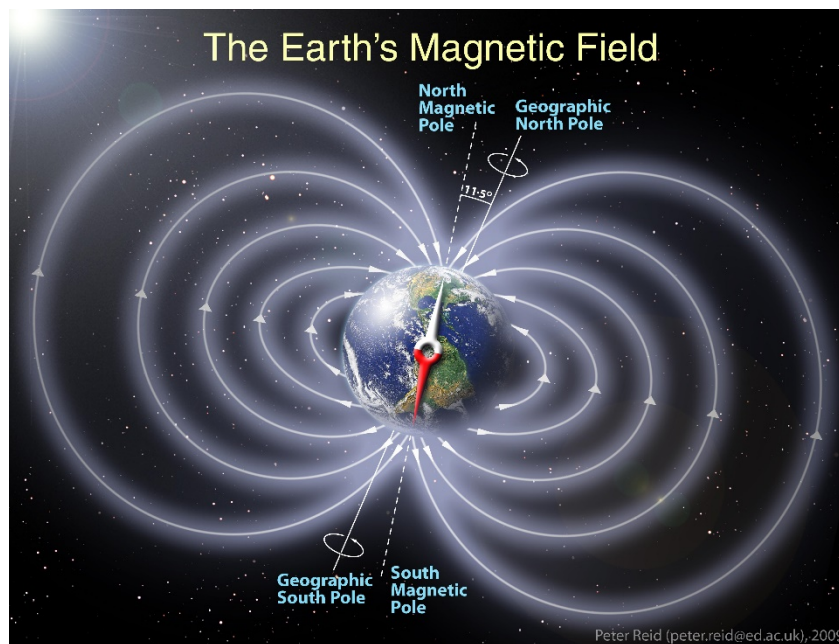
# Applications of plasma

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1. Material Processing
- 2. Plasma in space**
3. Biomedical application
4. High energy particle accelerator
5. Electric propulsion
6. Controlled thermonuclear fusion

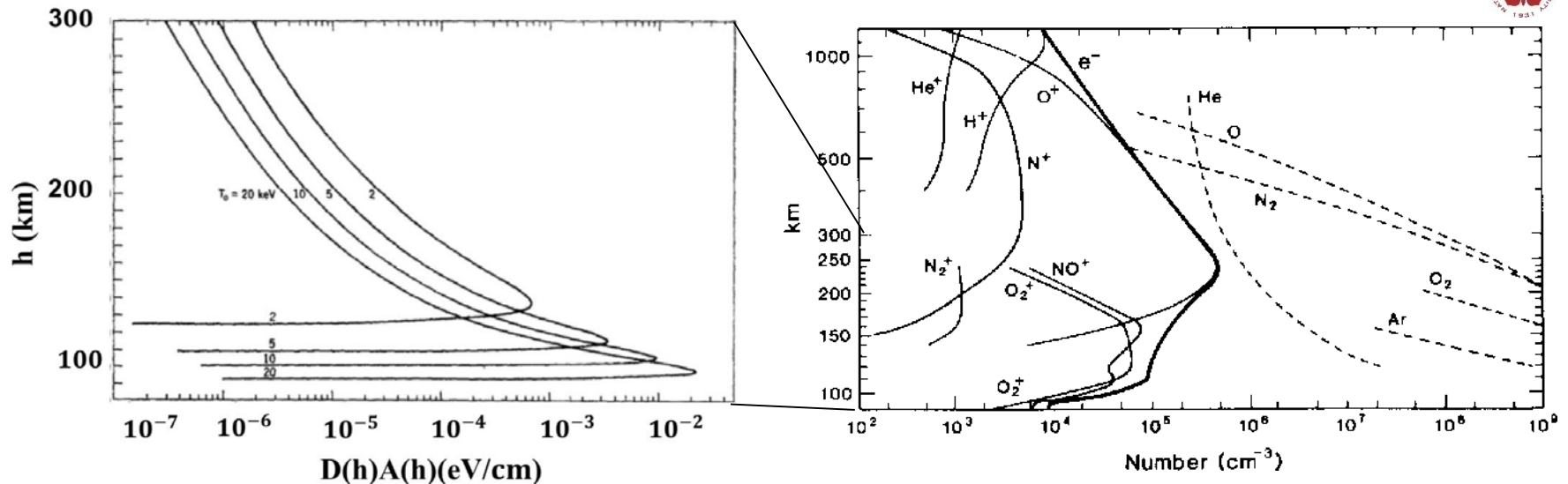
# Earth's magnetic field



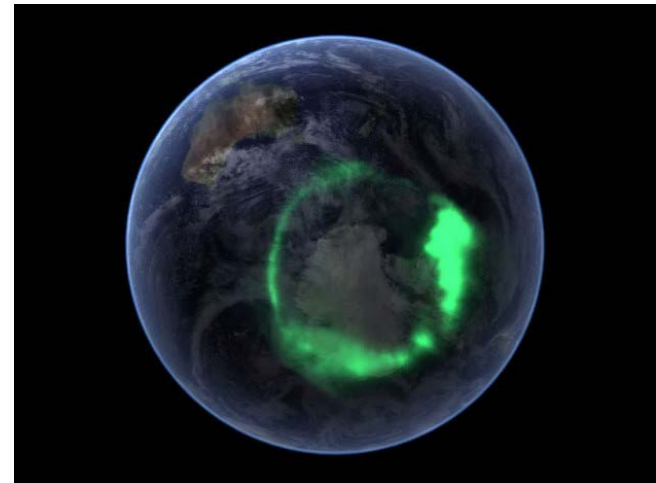
[https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/sunearth/news/gallery/Earths-magneticfieldlines-dipole.html](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sunearth/news/gallery/Earths-magneticfieldlines-dipole.html)

<http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~blackman/ast104/emagnetic.html>

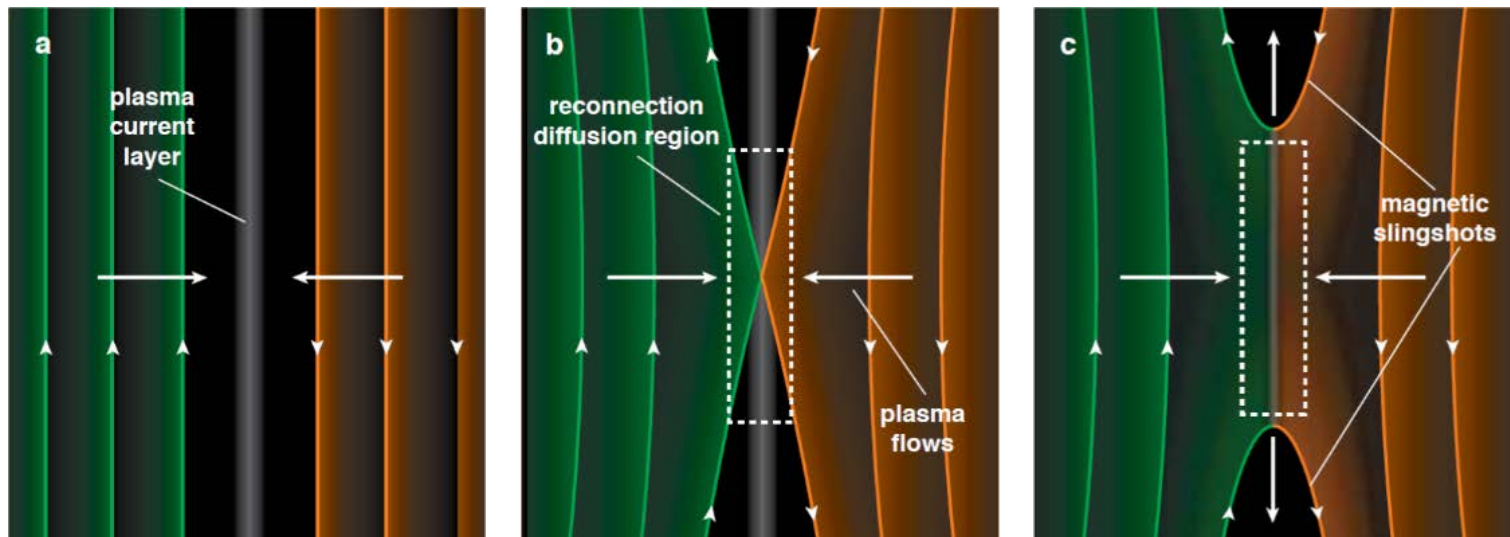
# Aurora occurs when energetic electrons penetrating into atmosphere in the pole regions



- $O_2$ : green or dark red
- $N_2$ : blue or purple

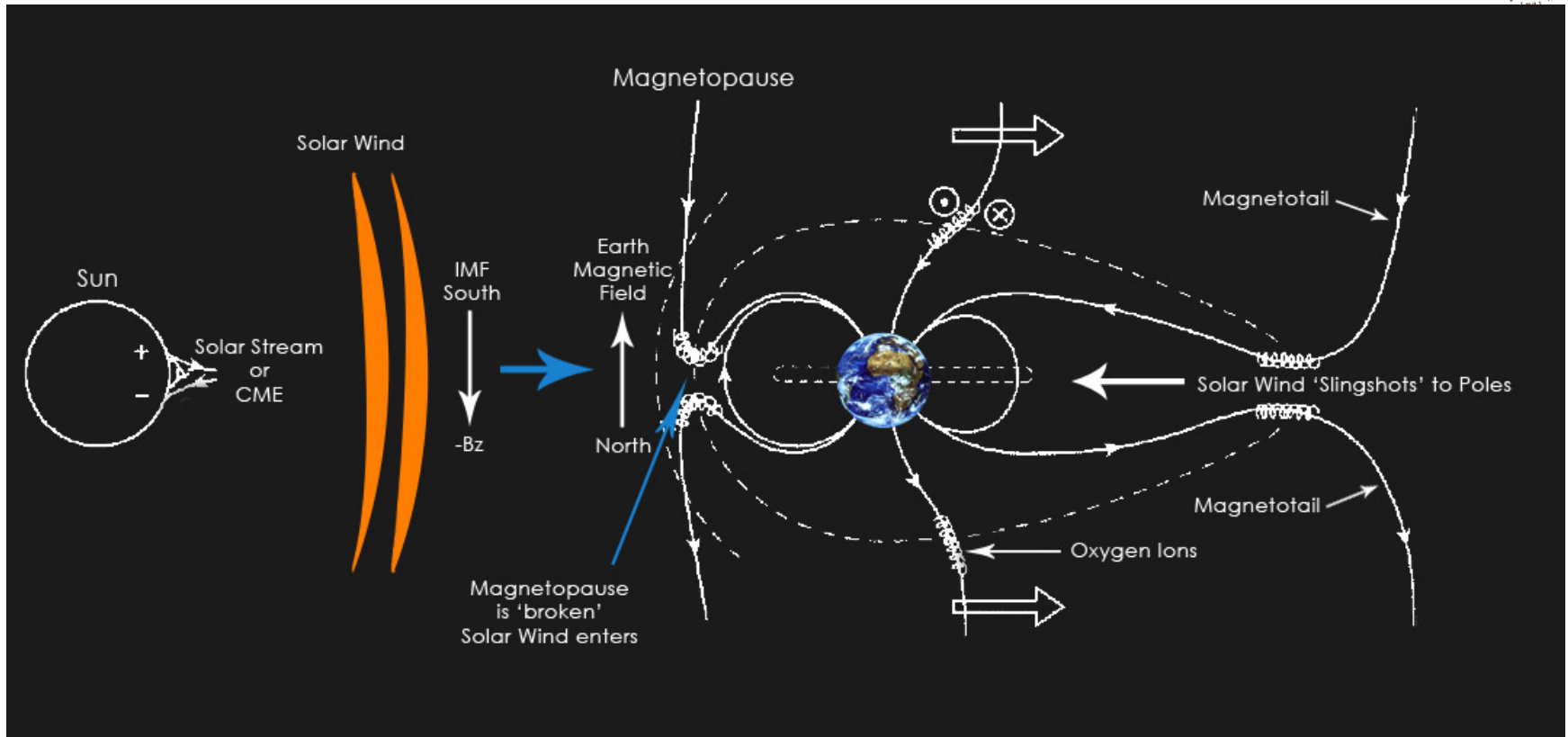


# Reconnection



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sS3Lpzh0Zw>

# Reconnections occur in many locations



- The Aurora Borealis:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT3J6a9p\\_o8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT3J6a9p_o8)

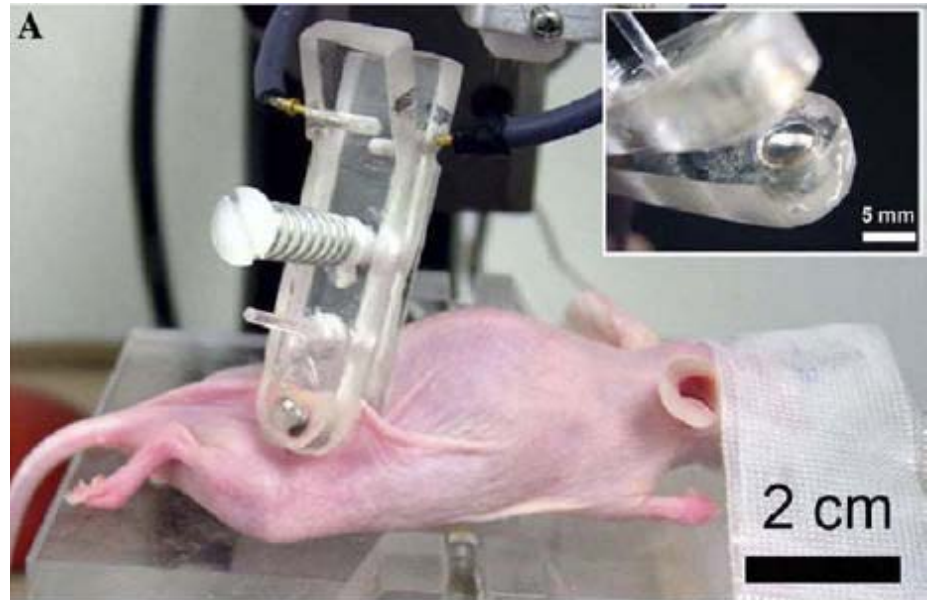
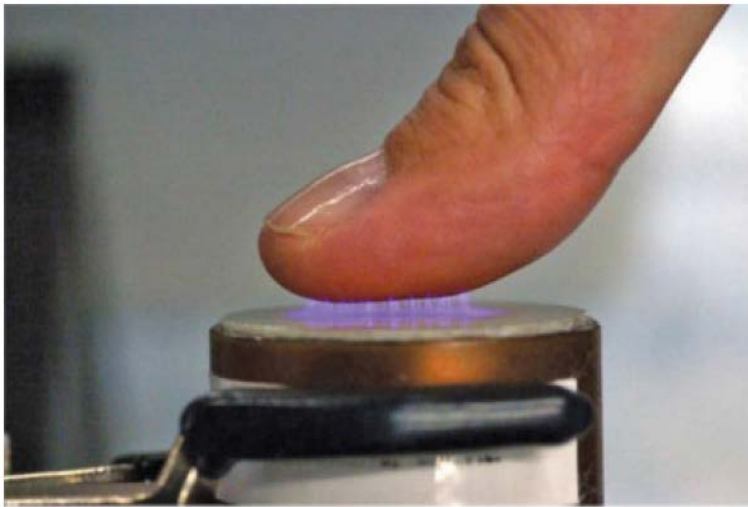
# Applications of plasma

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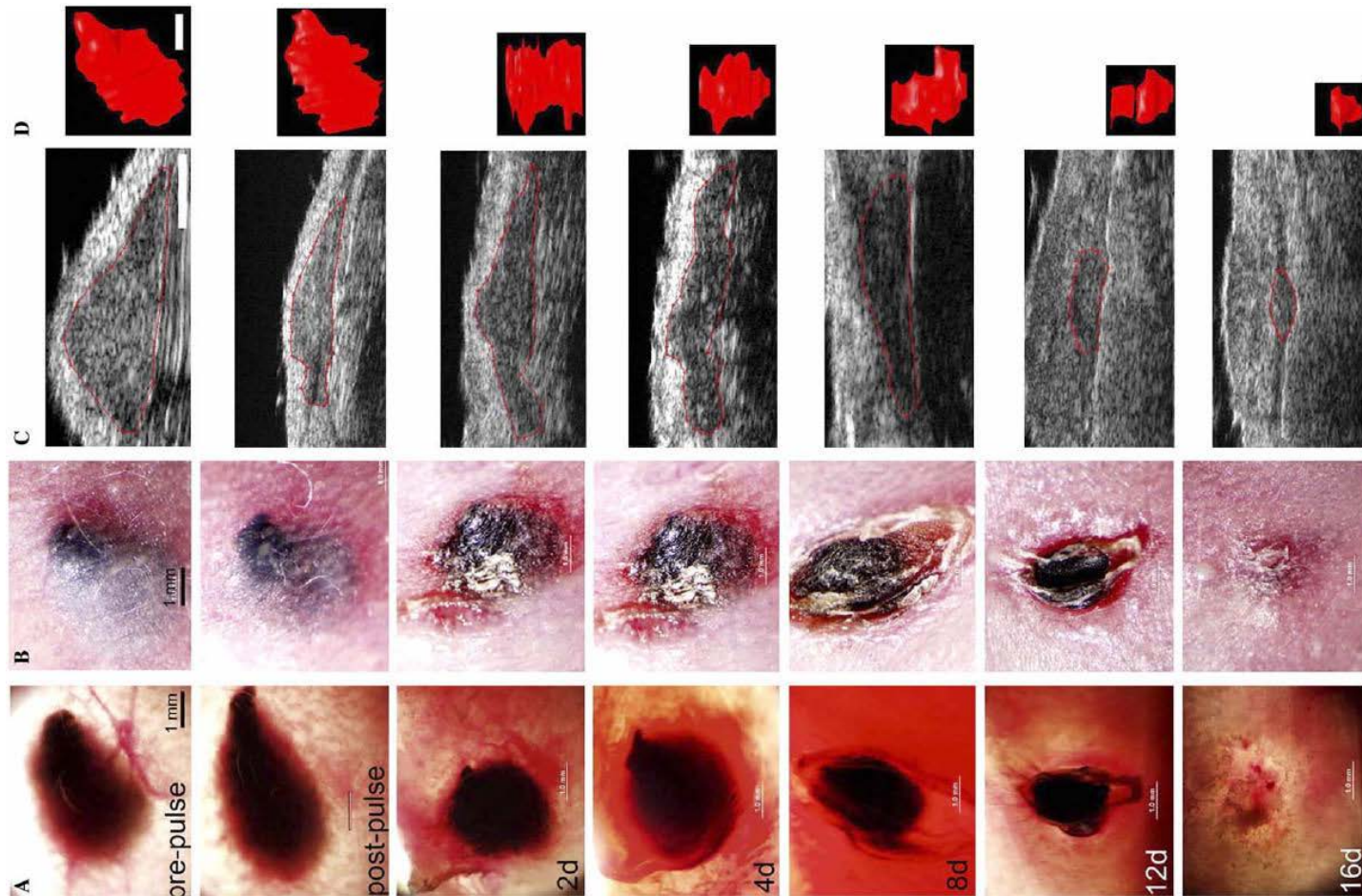
1. Material Processing
2. Plasma in space
- 3. Biomedical application**
4. High energy particle accelerator
5. Electric propulsion
6. Controlled thermonuclear fusion

# Biomedical applications of low temperature plasma



Plasma medicine, by Alexander Fridman and Gary Friedman  
Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2006 May 5; 343(2): 351–360.

# Melanoma shrinks after the treatment



- Day 0-3: 3 applications of 100 pulses (300 ns, 40 kv/cm, 0.5 Hz), 30 min apart
- Day 4: single application using 5 mm diameter parallel plate electrode

# Applications of plasma

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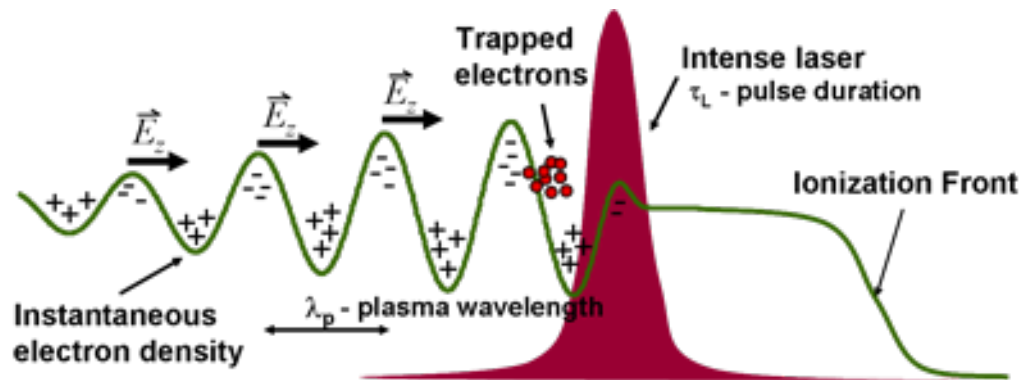
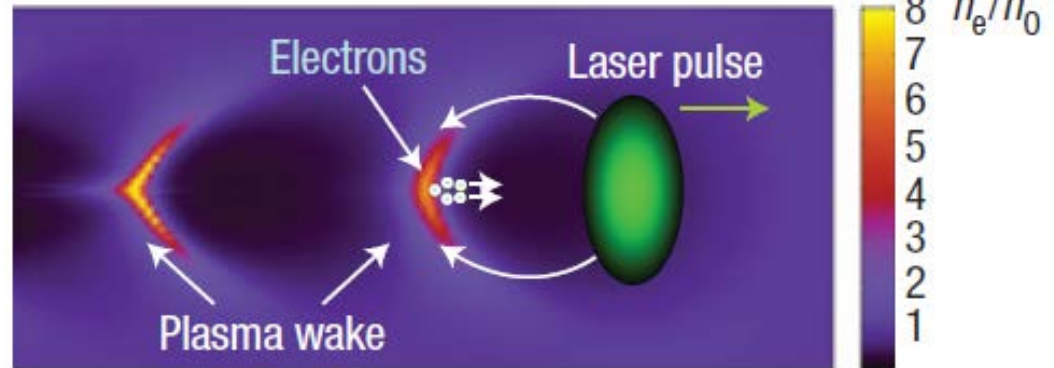
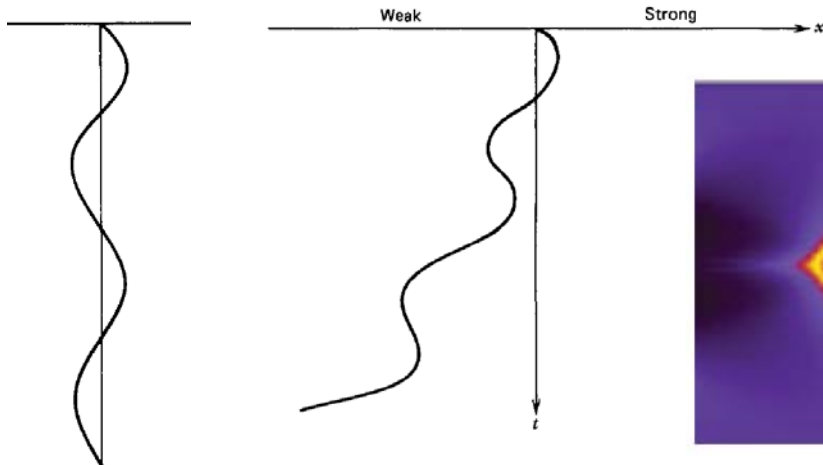
1. Material Processing
2. Plasma in space
3. Biomedical application
- 4. High energy particle accelerator**
5. Electric propulsion
6. Controlled thermonuclear fusion

# Electrons can be accelerated by a plasma wake generated by a short pulse laser



$$\frac{dE_0}{dx} = 0$$

$$\frac{dE_0}{dx} > 0$$

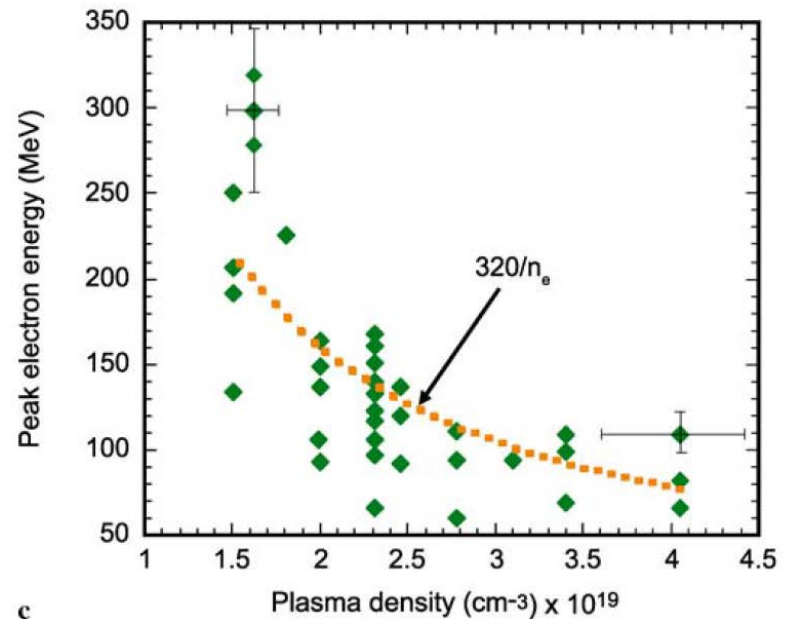
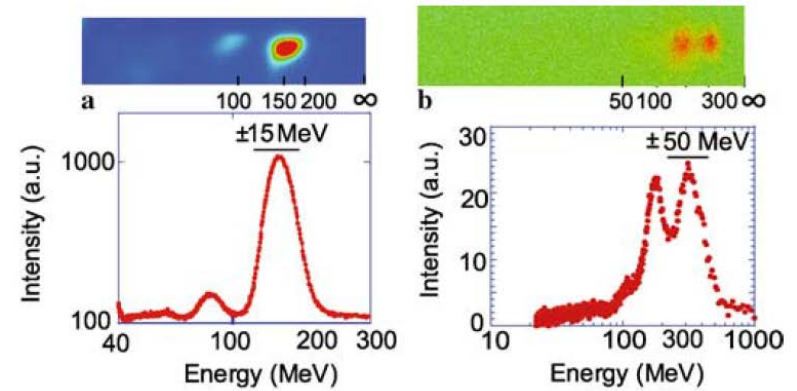
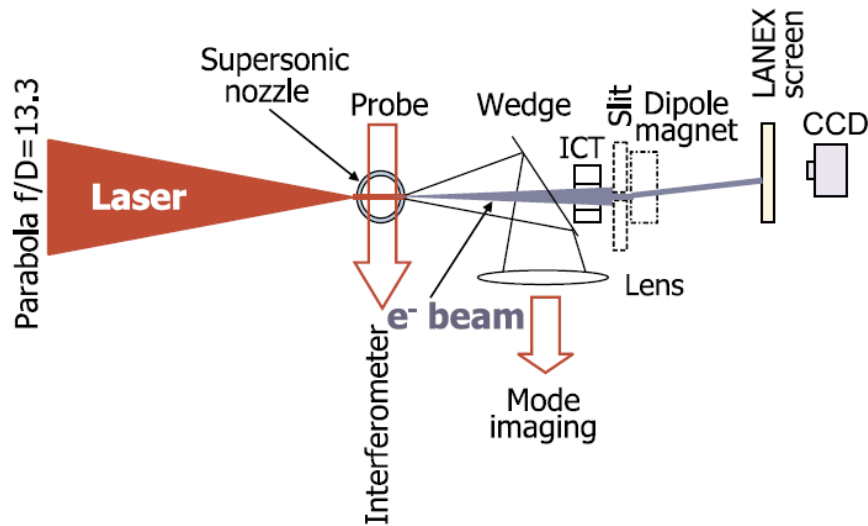


V. Malka, et al., Nature Physics 4, 447 (2008)

<http://cuos.engin.umich.edu/researchgroups/hfs/research/laser-wakefield-acceleration/>

<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/CA-SDf1wvTQ/maxresdefault.jpg>

# Electrons with a maximum energy of 320 MeV are generated



# Applications of plasma

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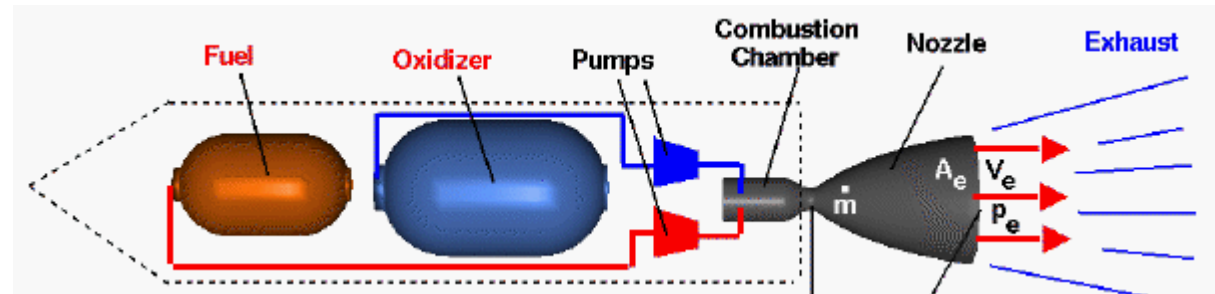
1. Material Processing
2. Plasma in space
3. Biomedical application
4. High energy particle accelerator
- 5. Electric propulsion**
6. Controlled thermonuclear fusion

# Comparison between liquid rockets and ion thrusters



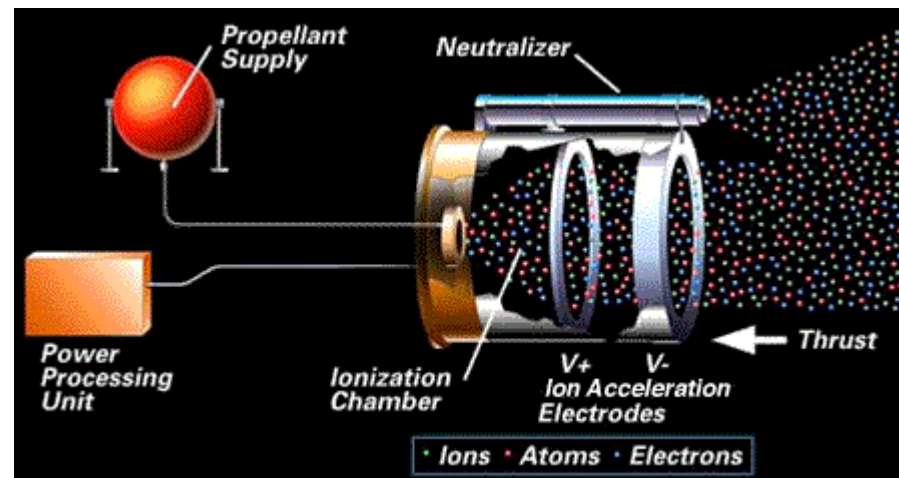
- Liquid rockets

- $u \sim 4500 \text{ m/s}$
- $I_{sp} \sim 450 \text{ s}$
- Energy  $\sim 100 \text{ GJ}$
- Power  $\sim 300 \text{ MW}$
- Thrust  $\sim 2 \times 10^6 \text{ N}$



- Ion thrusters

- $u \sim 30000 \text{ m/s}$
- $I_{sp} \sim 3000 \text{ s}$
- Energy  $\sim 1000 \text{ GJ}$
- Power  $\sim 1 \text{ kW}$
- Thrust  $\sim 0.1 \text{ N}$



<https://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/K-12/airplane/lrockth.html>

<https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/isro-to-test-electric-propulsion-on-satellites.411176/>

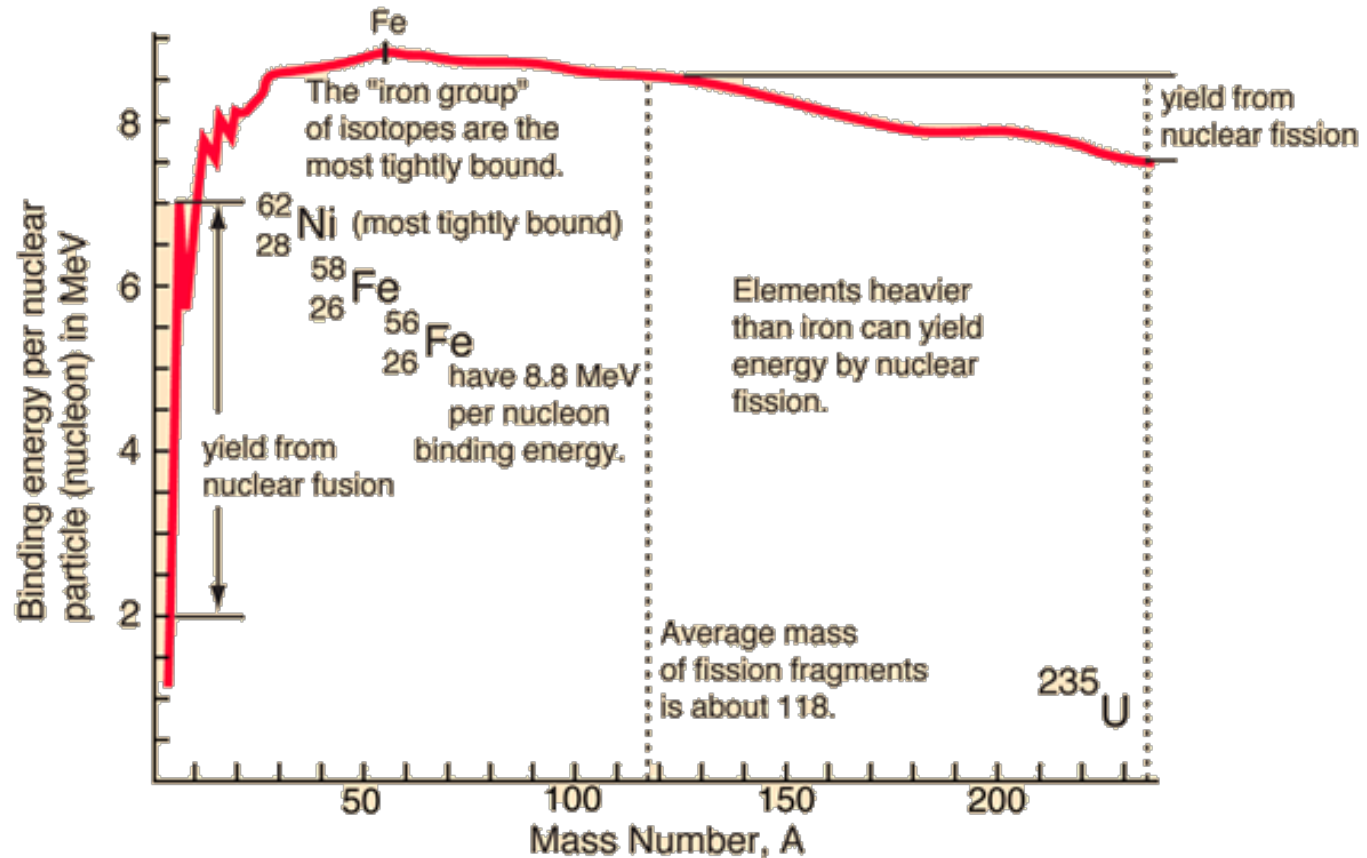
# Applications of plasma

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1. Material Processing
2. Plasma in space
3. biomedical application
4. high energy particle accelerator
5. Electric propulsion
6. **Controlled thermonuclear fusion**

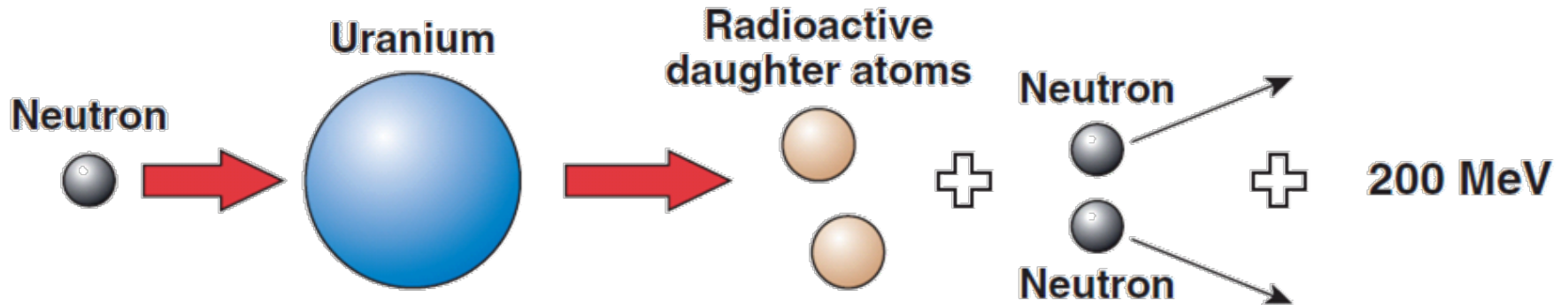
# The “iron group” of isotopes are the most tightly bound



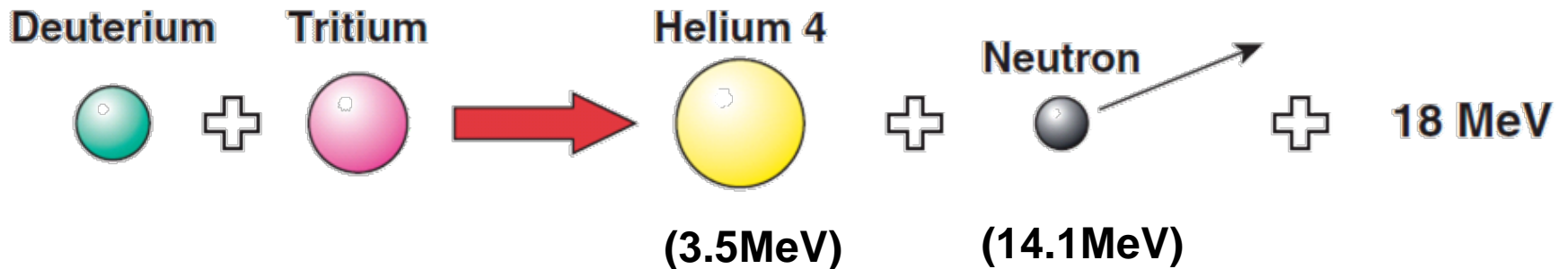
# Nuclear fusion and fission release energy through energetic neutrons



## Fission



## Fusion



# Nuclear fusion provides more energy per atomic mass unit (amu) than nuclear fission



Fusion of  $^2\text{H} + ^3\text{H}$ : 
$$\frac{Q}{A} = \frac{17.6 \text{ MeV}}{(3 + 2) \text{ amu}} = 3.5 \frac{\text{MeV}}{\text{amu}}$$

Fission of  $^{235}\text{U}$ : 
$$\frac{Q}{A} = \frac{200 \text{ MeV}}{236 \text{ amu}} = 0.85 \frac{\text{MeV}}{\text{amu}}$$

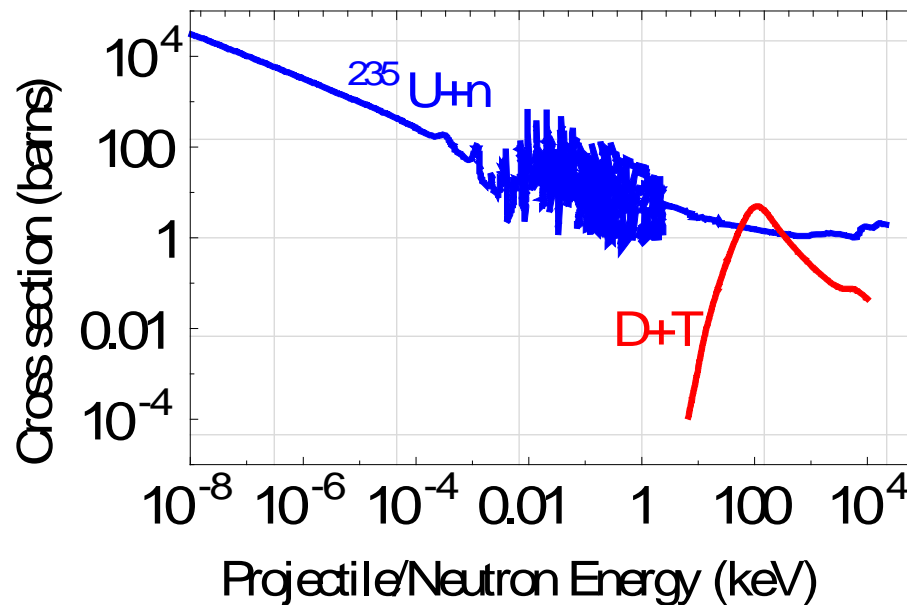
	Half-life (years)
U235	$7.04 \times 10^8$
U238	$4.47 \times 10^9$
...	
Tritium	12.3

# Fusion is much harder than fission

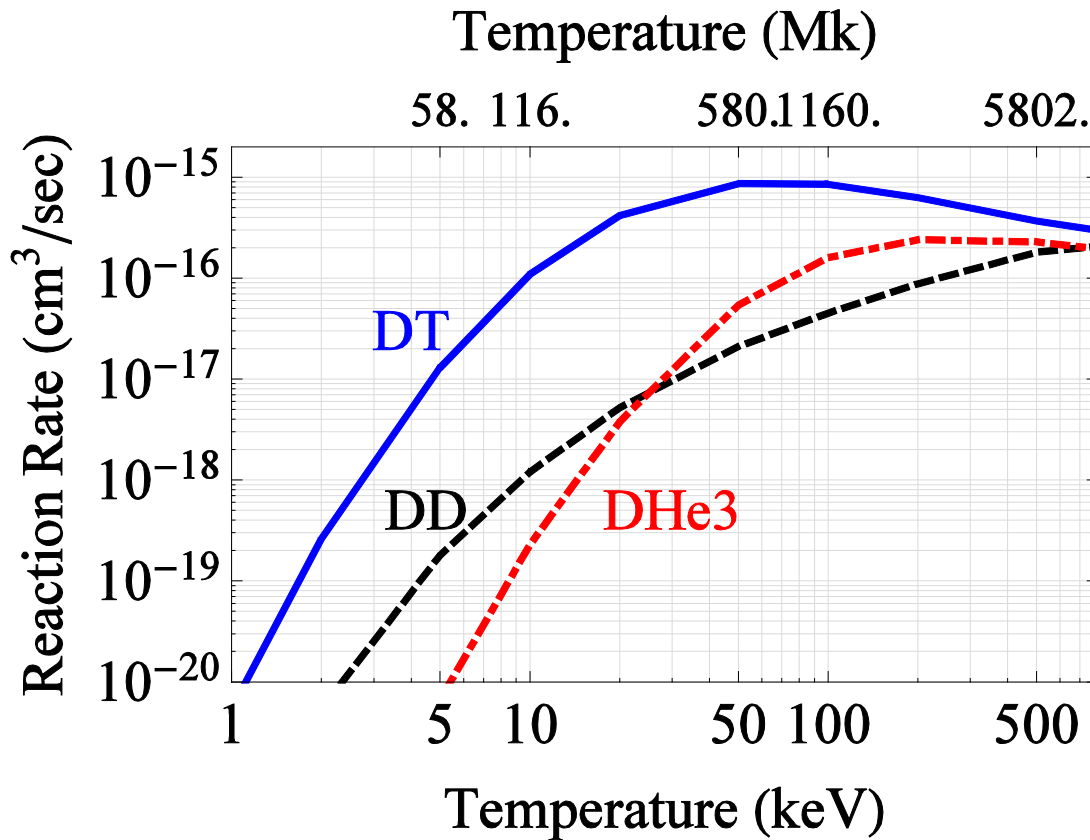


• **Fission:**  $n + {}^{235}_{92}\text{U} \rightarrow {}^{236}_{92}\text{U} \rightarrow {}^{144}_{56}\text{Ba} + {}^{89}_{36}\text{Kr} + 3n + 177\text{ MeV}$

• **Fusion:**  $D + T \rightarrow \text{He}^4 (3.5\text{ MeV}) + n (14.1\text{ MeV})$



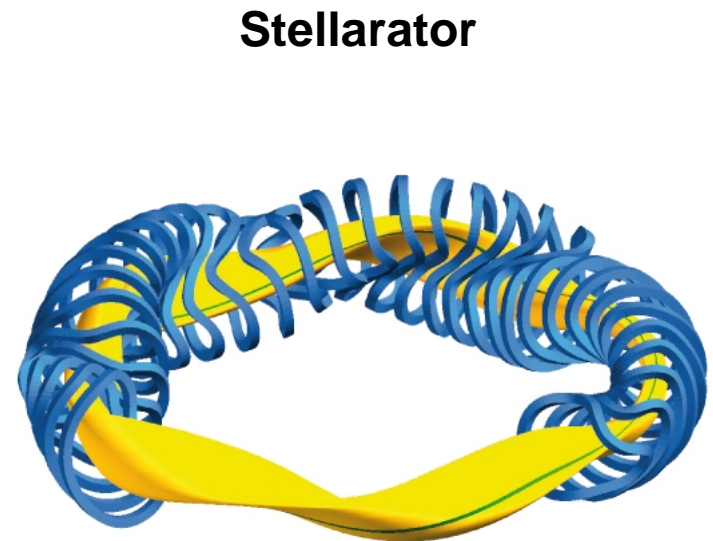
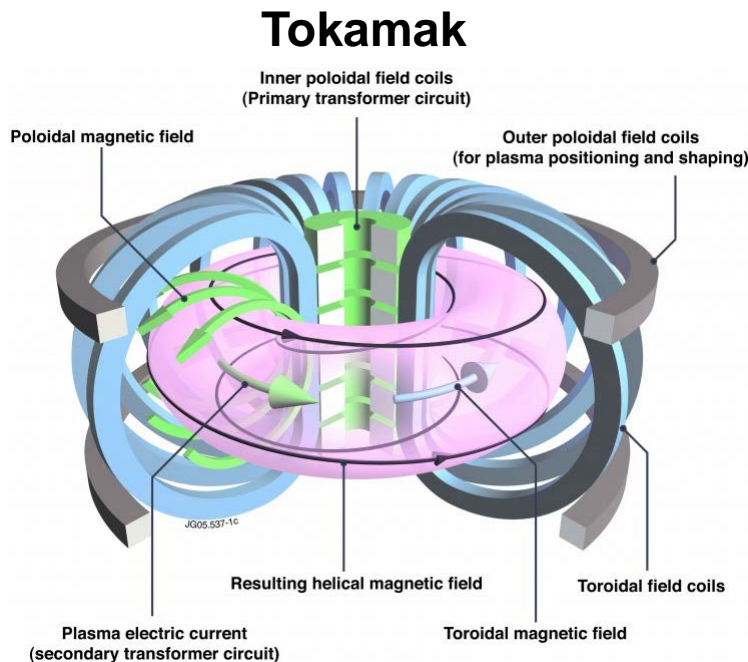
# Fusion doesn't come easy



# The plasma is too hot to be contained



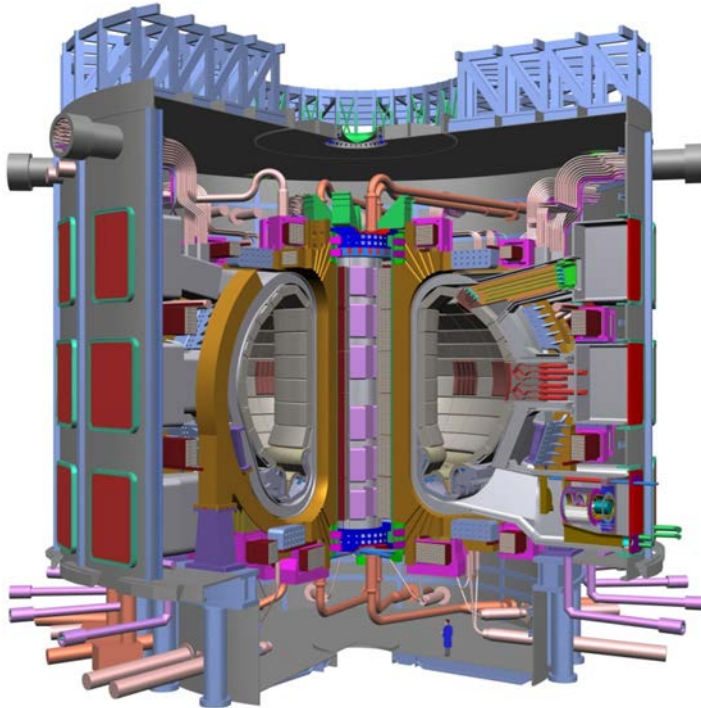
- **Solution 1: Magnetic confinement fusion (MCF), use a magnetic field to contain it.  $P \sim \text{atm}$ ,  $\tau \sim \text{sec}$ ,  $T \sim 10 \text{ keV}$  ( $10^8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ )**



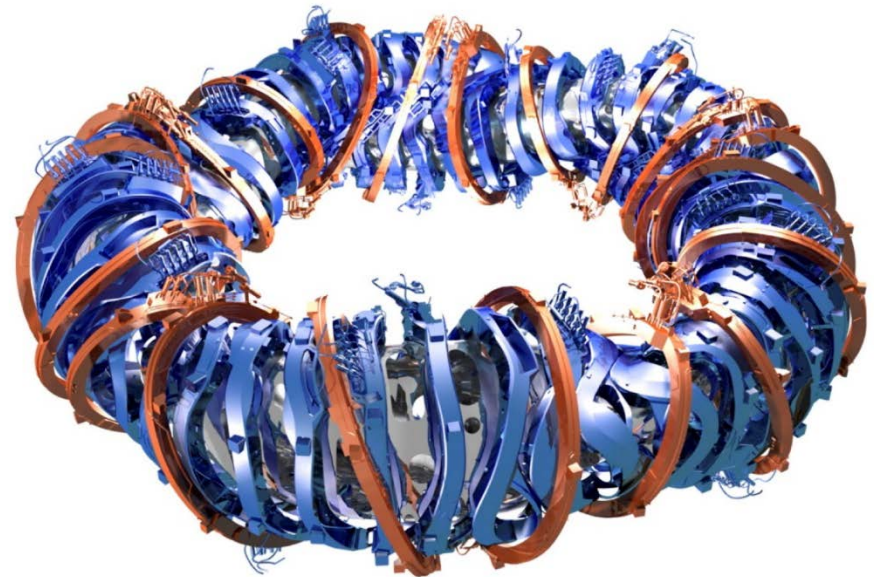
# There is a long way to go, but we are on the right path...



- **ITER**



- **Wendelstein 7-X**



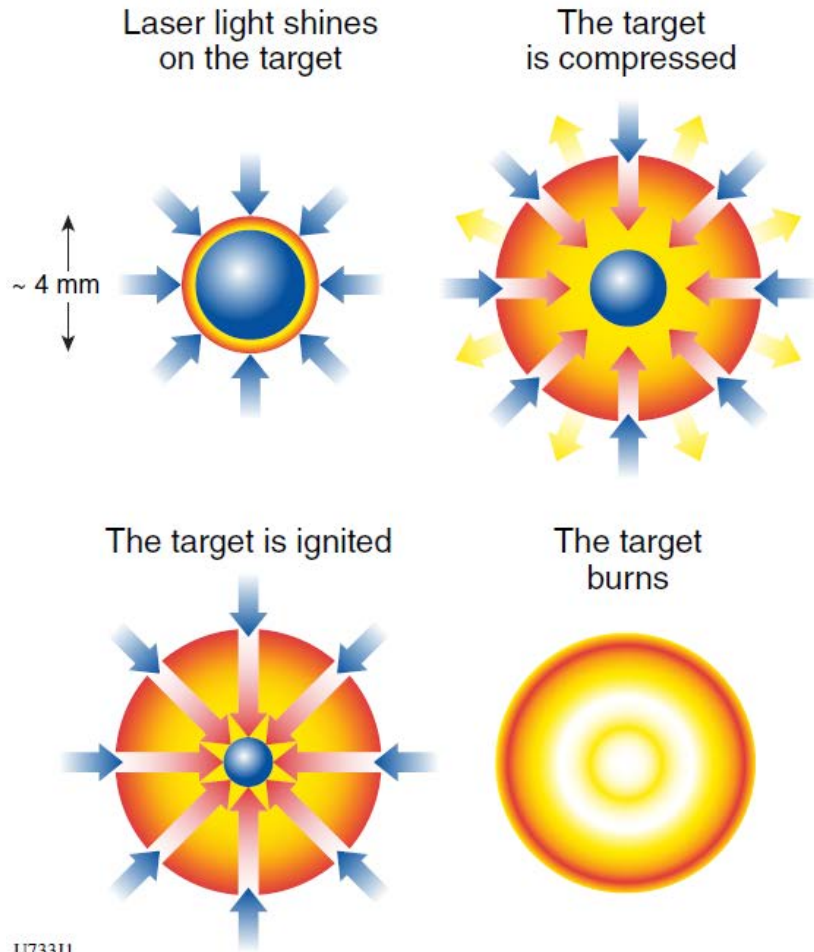
- **Schedule of ITER:**

- **Dec 2025**
- **2035**

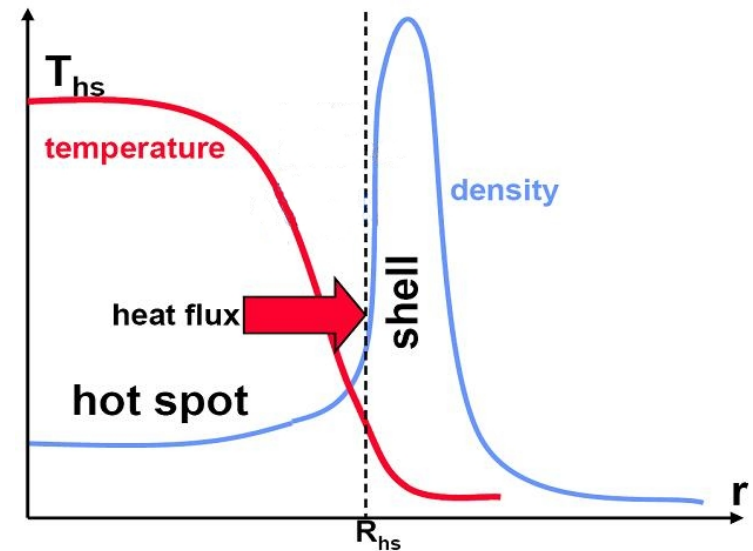
**First Plasma**

**Deuterium-Tritium Operation begins**

# Plasma is confined by its own inertia in inertial confinement fusion (ICF)



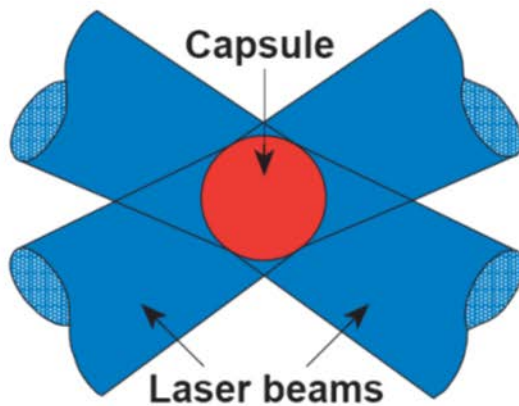
## Spatial profile at stagnation



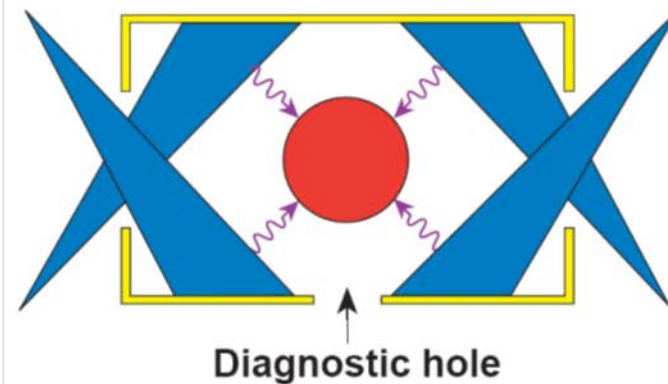
# A spherical capsule can be imploded through directly or indirectly laser illumination



Direct-drive target



Indirect-drive target

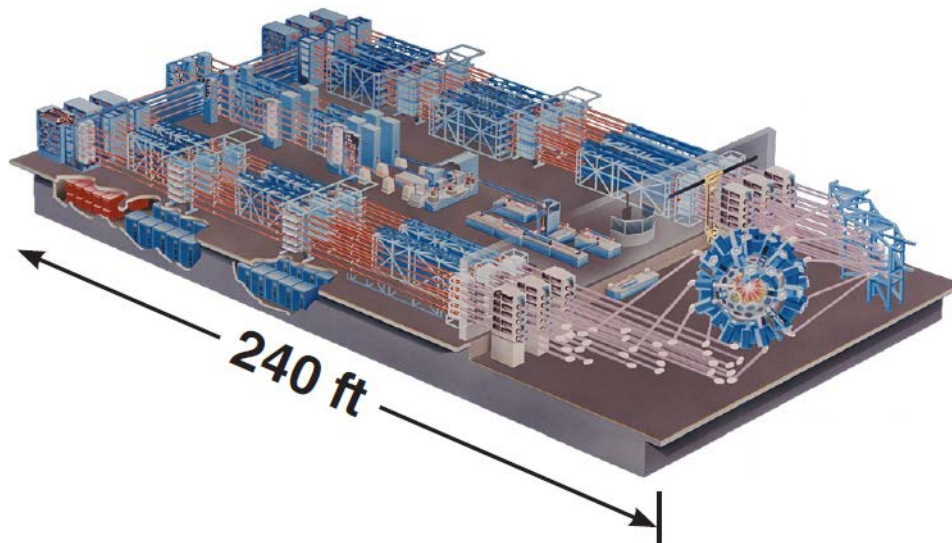


*Hohlraum* using  
a cylindrical high-Z case

# Laboratory for Laser Energetics, University of Rochester is a pioneer in laser fusion

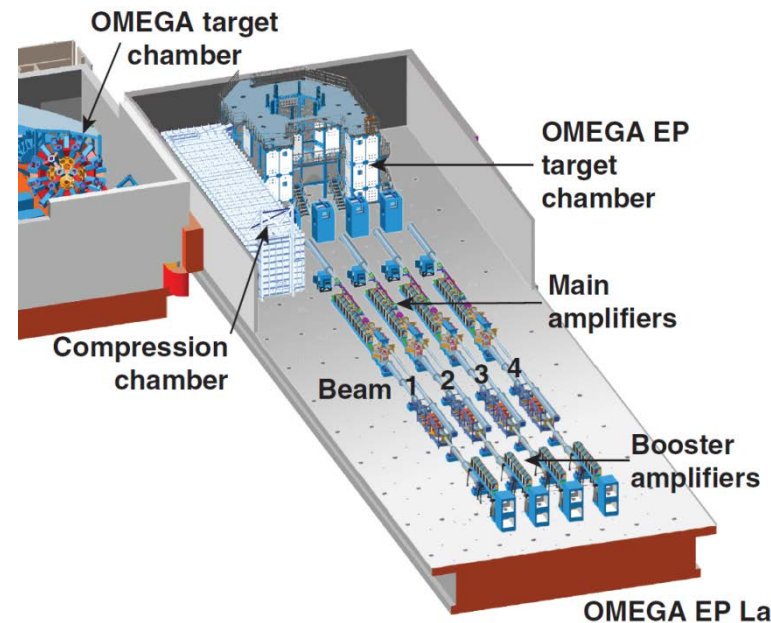
- **OMEGA Laser System**

- 60 beams
- >30 kJ UV on target
- 1%~2% irradiation nonuniformity
- Flexible pulse shaping



- **OMEGA EP Laser System**

- 4 beams; 6.5 kJ UV (10ns)
- Two beams can be high-energy petawatt
  - 2.6 kJ IR in 10 ps
  - Can propagate to the OMEGA or OMEGA EP target chamber



# The OMEGA Facility is carrying out ICF experiments using a full suite of target diagnostics

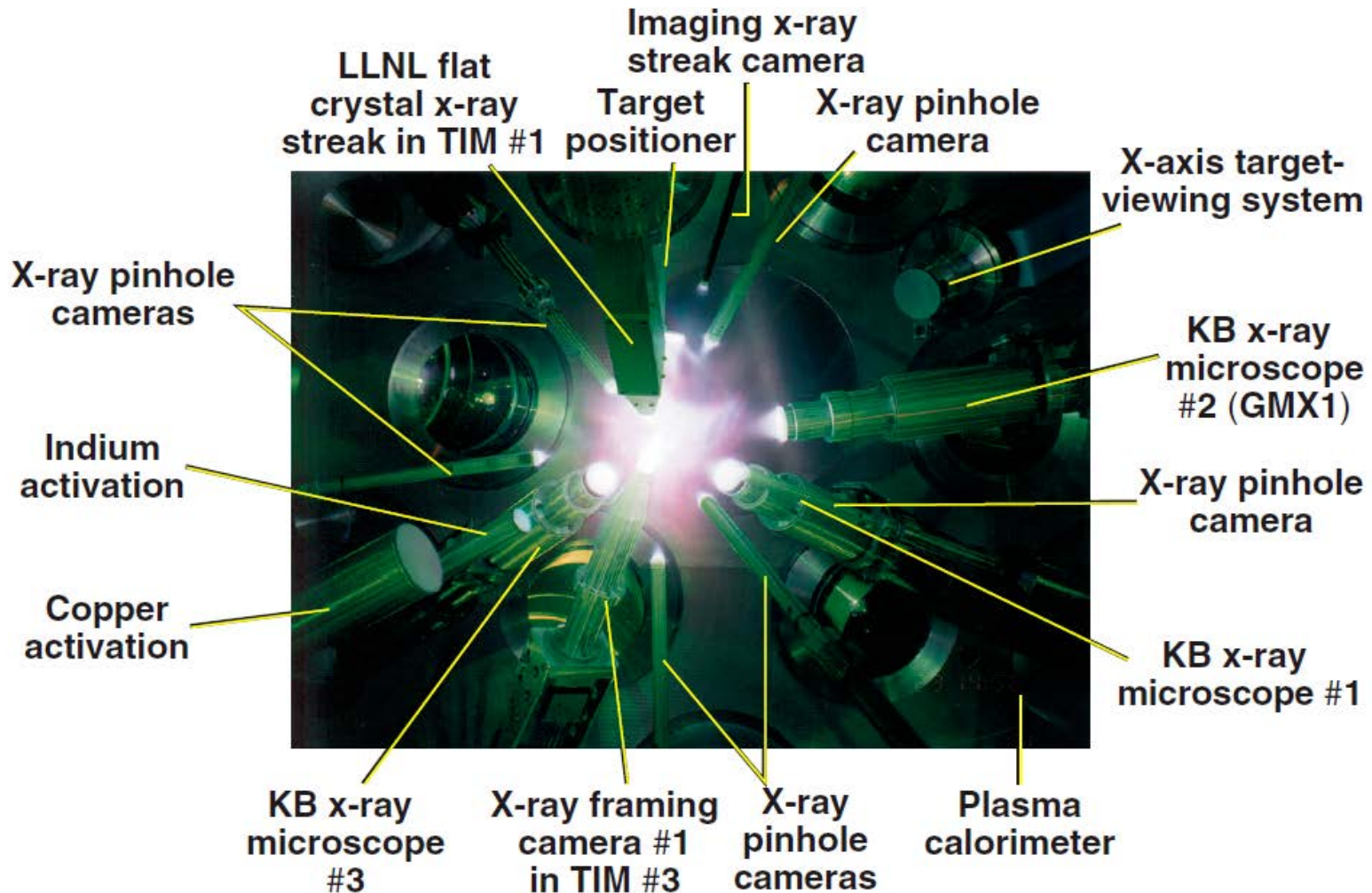
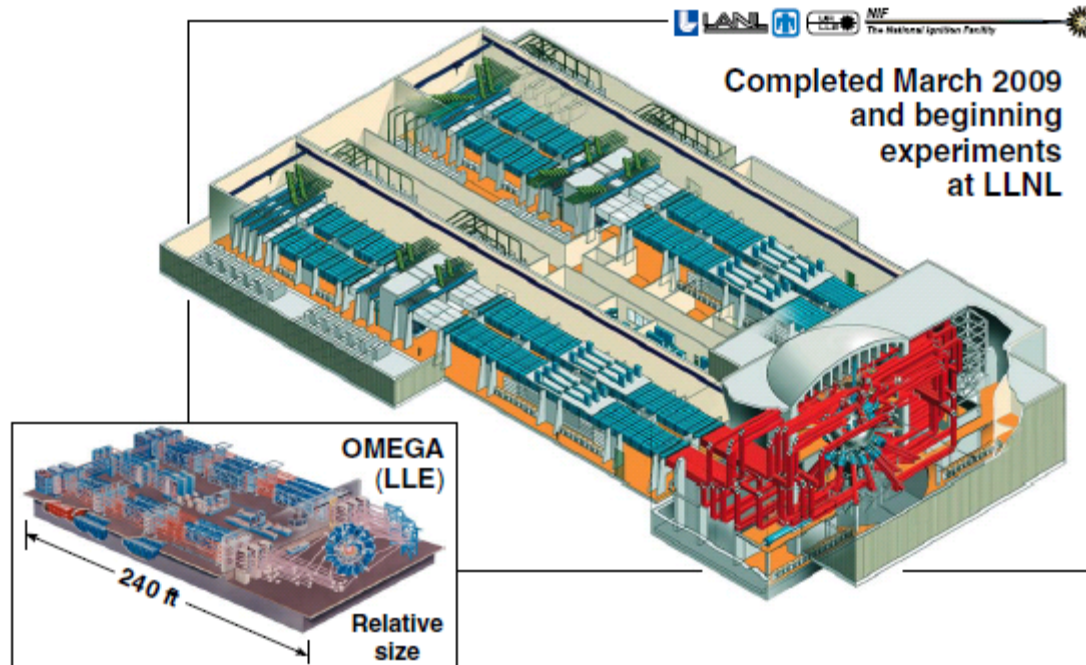


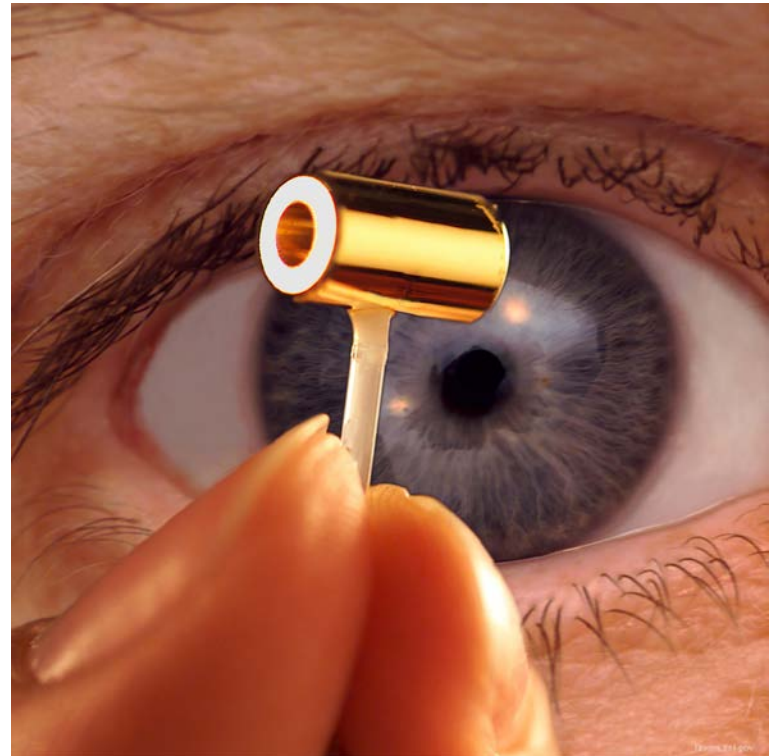
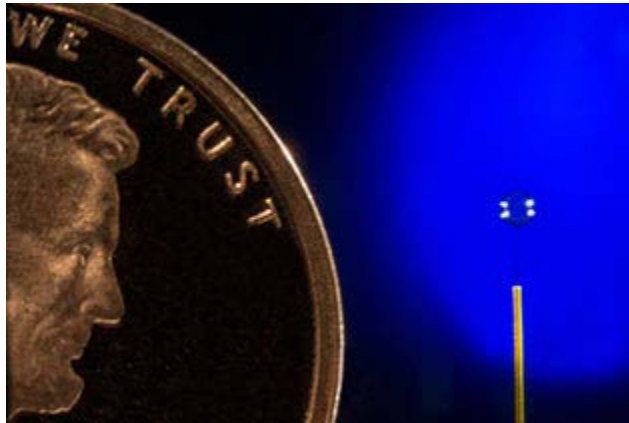
Photo taken from port H11B

# The 1.8-MJ National Ignition Facility (NIF) will demonstrate ICF ignition and modest energy gain

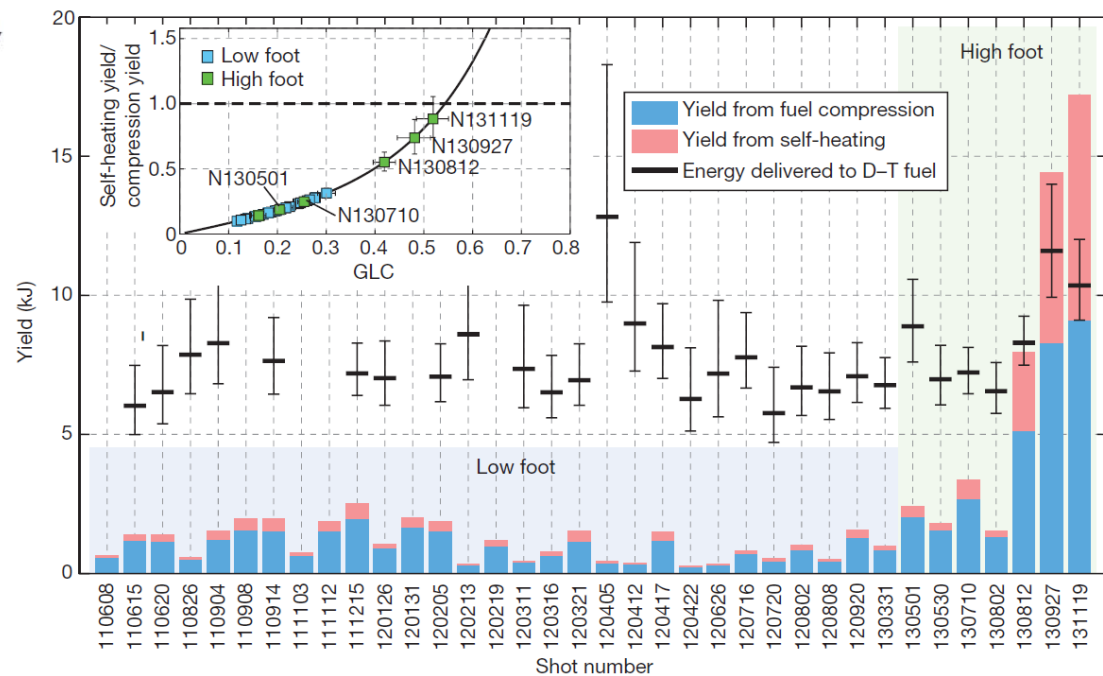
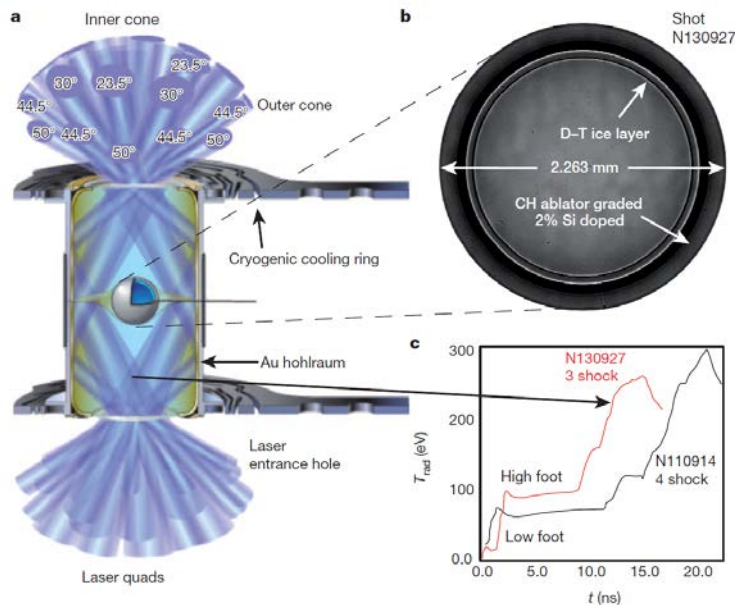


**OMEGA experiments are integral to an ignition demonstration on the NIF.**

# Targets used in ICF

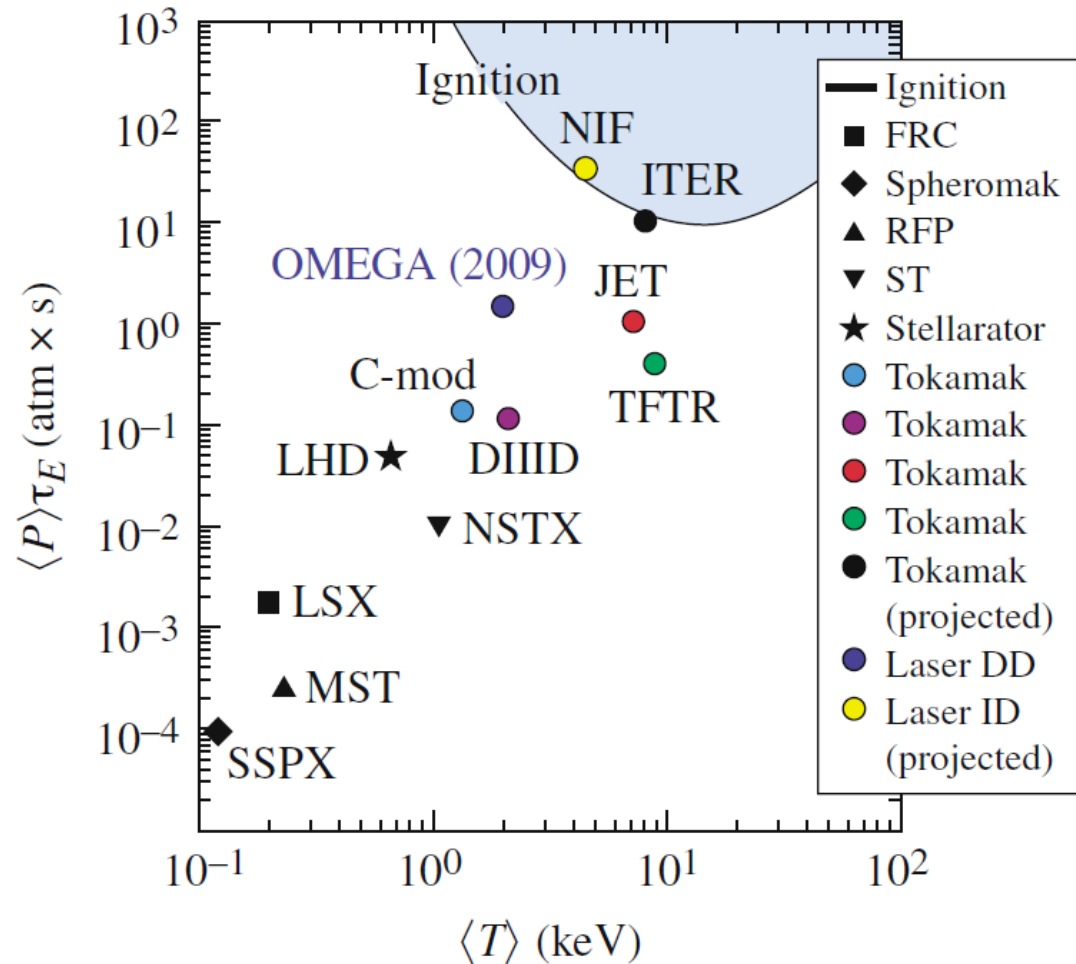


# Nature letter “Fuel gain exceeding unity in an inertially confined fusion implosion”



- Fuel gain exceeding unity was demonstrated for the first time.

# We are really closed!



# Course Outline



## 1. Introduction to plasma

- a. What is Plasma?
- b. How to generate plasma
- c. Applications of plasma

## 2. Theory of Langmuir probe

- a. Sheath
- b. Single Langmuir probe
- c. Double Langmuir probe
- d. Triple Langmuir probe

## 3. Demonstration of Langmuir probe

- a. Building vacuum systems
- b. Building Langmuir probes
- c. Measuring temperatures and densities of plasma

Day 1~3

Day 4~5:  
Experiments