



Pulsed power, Z-pinches, and Applications

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With special thanks to:

**Mike Cuneo, Mark Herrmann, Greg Rochau, Dan Sinars, Ryan McBride,
Tom Awe, Kyle Peterson, Steve Slutz, Keith Matzen, Bill Stygar,
Sasha Velikovich, Marcus Knudson, Ray Lemke, and Sarah Stewart
for material and viewgraph contributions**



About me (1 of 2)

- I was a SULI/NUF student in the summer of 2000.
- My research project that summer was on a tokamak at MIT for **magnetic confinement fusion** (MCF). -- *low density, long time scale*
- I also spent two summers at LLNL working on indirect-drive **inertial confinement fusion** (ICF). -- *high density, short time scale*
- Having been bitten by the fusion “bug”, I went to graduate school at Princeton and had an office at PPPL.
- My dissertation research was on a sub-field of ICF called Heavy Ion Fusion (replaces the lasers with intense charged particle beams).
- The overall goal of my research career is to improve the predictive capability of simulation codes for plasma science. I consider myself a computational physicist who does numerical experiments.



About me (2 of 2)

- After earning a Ph.D., I became a scientist at **Sandia National Laboratories** and designed the first successful Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion (MagLIF) experiments you will hear about today.
- In 2016, I became a professor at the **University of Rochester** in New York. I also am a scientist at the **Laboratory for Laser Energetics**.
- In addition to laser-driven ICF, I also work on an innovative MCF concept called the Field Reversed Configuration (FRC) at PPPL (remotely).
- Three interesting facts about me:
 - I have conducted fusion research on all “mainline” approaches presently supported today by the US Dept. of Energy
 - I have designed experiments for the Z Machine (Sandia), NIF (LLNL), OMEGA (LLE), and many other accelerators and lasers.
 - I have lived in all four states whose names begin with the word “New”
- My group is The TriForce Center for Multiphysics Modeling, and we are accepting new graduate students. (It is being updated, but...) Please visit:

<https://haiim.rochester.edu/me/sites/sefkow/index.html>

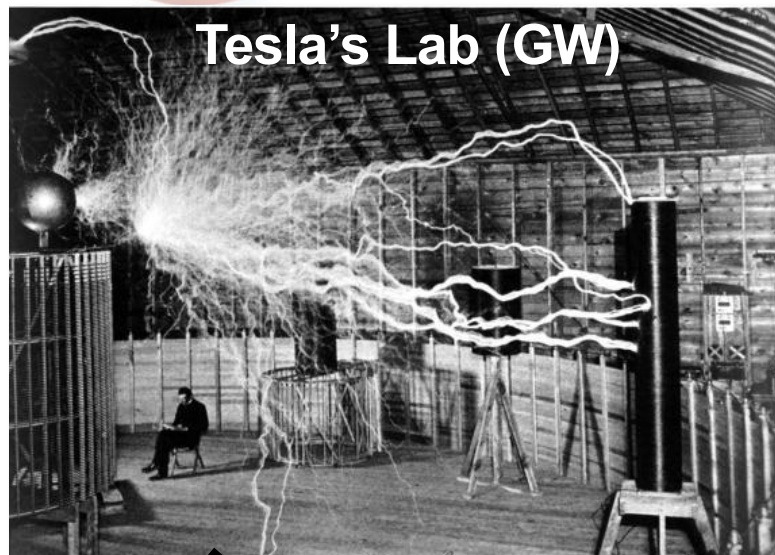


Outline

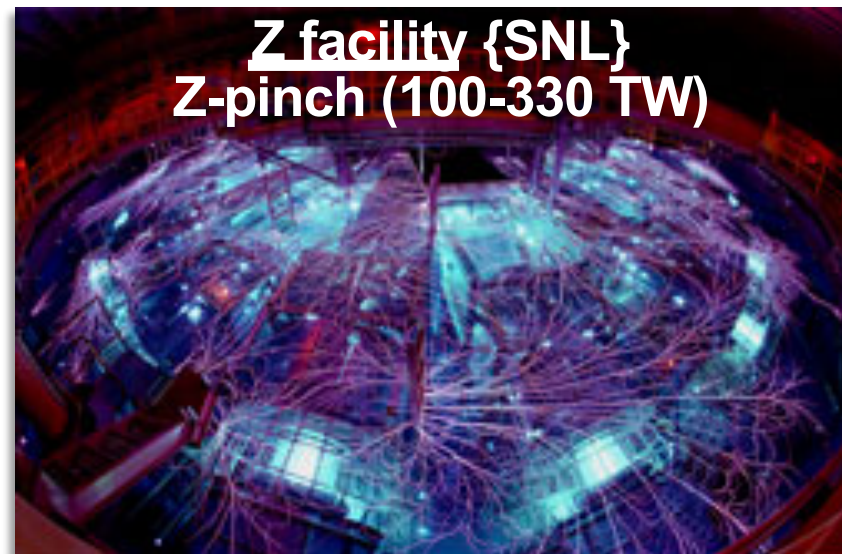
- Pulsed-power technology produces large currents (15-27 MA) in a short pulse (100-600 ns) on the Z machine
- Large currents generate large magnetic fields
= tremendous pressure
- Large pressures enable access to
High Energy Density regimes ($> \sim 10^{11} \text{ J m}^{-3}$, or $> \sim 1 \text{ Mbar}$)
- There are many interesting applications



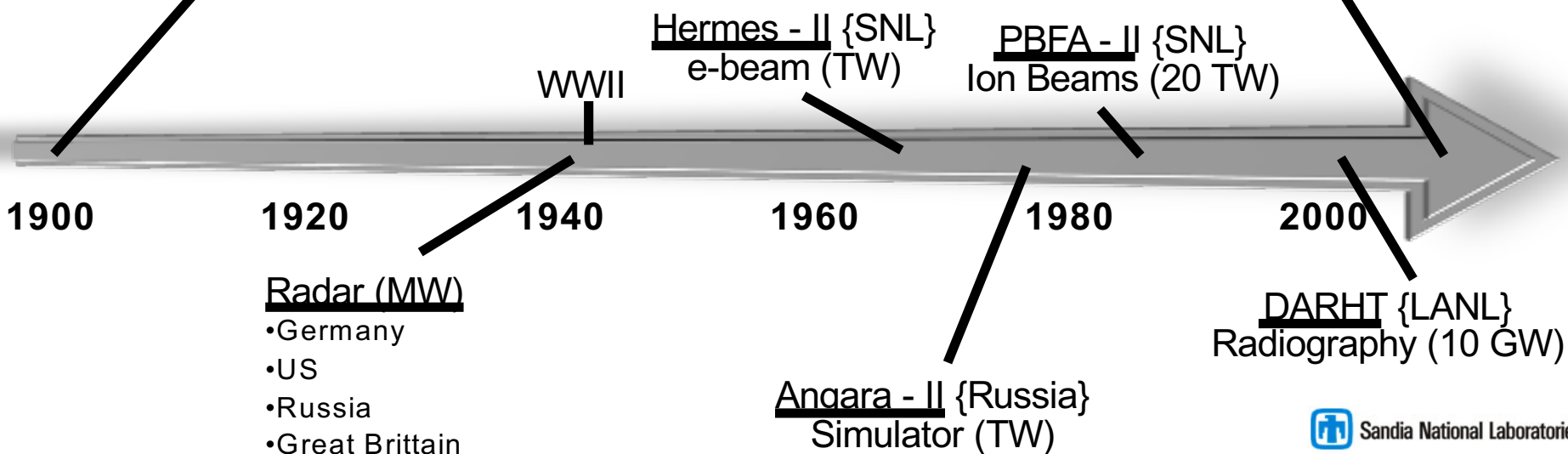
The accumulation and transmission of electromagnetic energy, called “pulsed power”, has been investigated for over a century



Tesla's Lab (GW)



Z facility {SNL}
Z-pinch (100-330 TW)



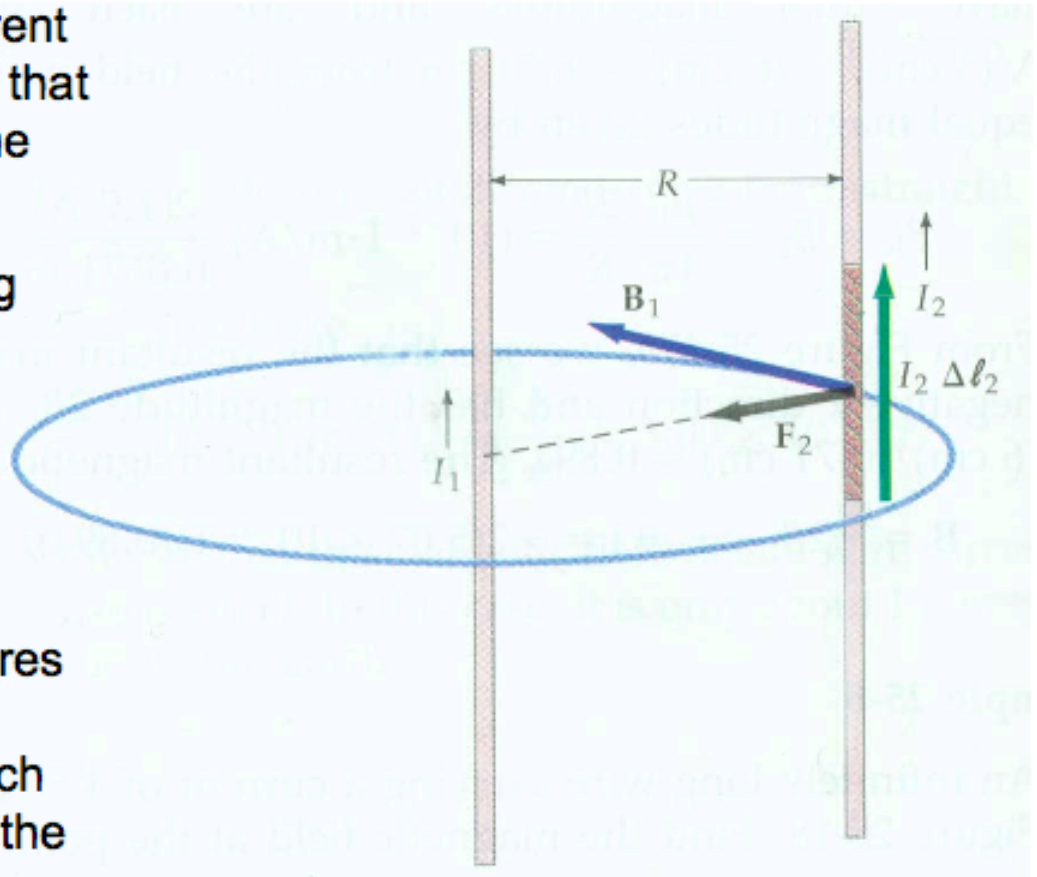


1st year physics refresher

A single wire carrying current produces a magnetic field that encircles it according to the right-hand rule

Two parallel wires carrying current along the same direction will attract each other (Biot-Savart Law, “ $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$ force”)

Definition of an Ampere:
If two very long parallel wires 1 m apart carry equal currents, the current in each is defined to be 1 A when the force/length is 2×10^{-7} N/m





We can incorporate the effect of magnetic fields into our plasma fluid equations as an effective pressure

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} = 0$$

mass conservation

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right) = \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} - \nabla P$$

momentum conservation
(F=ma) cgs

For slowly varying fields we can approximate: $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi \mathbf{J}}{c}$ (Ampere's law, ignoring displacement current)

We re-write $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$ as: $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{c}{4\pi} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B} = -\frac{c}{4\pi} \mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})$

From vector identities: $\mathbf{B} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) = \frac{1}{2} \nabla (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \nabla \left(\frac{B^2}{2} \right) - \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}$

So $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$ becomes: $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \left(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} - \nabla \left(\frac{B^2}{2} \right) \right)$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right) = \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} - \nabla P = \underbrace{\frac{1}{4\pi} \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}_{\text{magnetic tension}} - \nabla \left(\underbrace{P}_{\text{fluid pressure}} + \underbrace{\frac{B^2}{8\pi}}_{\text{magnetic pressure}} \right)$$

In the case of an axisymmetric z-directed current (B_θ field), the magnetic tension is zero

Plasma momentum is affected by magnetic fields



Large currents and the corresponding magnetic fields can create and manipulate high energy density (HED) matter

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right) = \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} - \nabla P \approx \frac{1}{4\pi} \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} - \nabla \left(P + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right)$$

HED Matter $P > 1$ Mbar, $B > 5$ Megagauss

Magnetic fields have some unique advantages when creating HED plasmas:

- Magnetic fields are very efficient at creating HED matter, enabling large samples and energetic sources
- Magnetic fields have very interesting properties in converging geometry

Magnetic fields have interesting contrasts with other ways of generating HED:

- Magnetic fields can create high pressures without making material hot
- Magnetic fields can be generated over long time scales with significant control over the time history

Magnetic fields change the way particles and energy are transported in a plasma



How strong is this pressure?

$N = kg\ m\ s^{-2}$ (mks) versus $dyne = g\ cm\ s^{-2}$ (cgs)

So $1\ N = 10^5\ dyne$, and, in pressure units:

$$1\ N\ m^{-2}\ (Pa) = 10\ dyne\ cm^{-2} = 10^{-5}\ bar$$

A typical refrigerator magnet is 100 gauss \sim 400 dyne/cm²

A 5000 G (0.5 T) magnetic field \sim 1 atmosphere \sim 1 Bar

A 5×10^6 G (500 T) magnetic field \sim 1 Million atmospheres = 1 Megabar (MB)=
High energy density physics (“HEDP”)

A 5×10^9 G (500 kT) magnetic field \sim 1 Trillion atmospheres = 1 Terabar (TB) >
pressure in the center of the sun

Note that high explosives have pressure \sim 100,000-300,000 atmospheres
 \sim 0.1-0.3 Mbar (not “HEDP”) \sim equivalent \sim 50-150 T or 5×10^5 - 1.5×10^6 G



Large currents can create large B fields!

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi\mathbf{J}}{c}$$

$$\oint_C \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \iint_S \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \quad \text{Ampere's law}$$

For an axial current I :

$$2\pi r B_\theta = \frac{4\pi}{c} I$$

$$B_\theta = \frac{2}{c} \frac{I}{r} \quad (cgs)$$

$$B_\theta (G) = \frac{I(A)}{5 r(cm)} \rightarrow$$

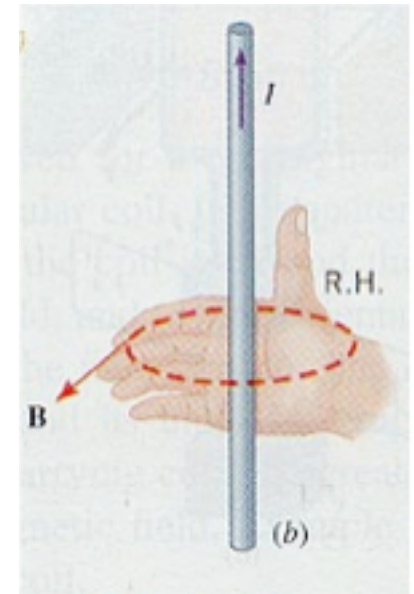
$$P_{\text{mag}} \sim B^2 \sim I^2 r^{-2}$$

100 A at 2 mm radius is 100 G

1.0×10^7 A (**10 MA**) at **4 mm** radius is 5×10^6 G = **1 MBar** of pressure!

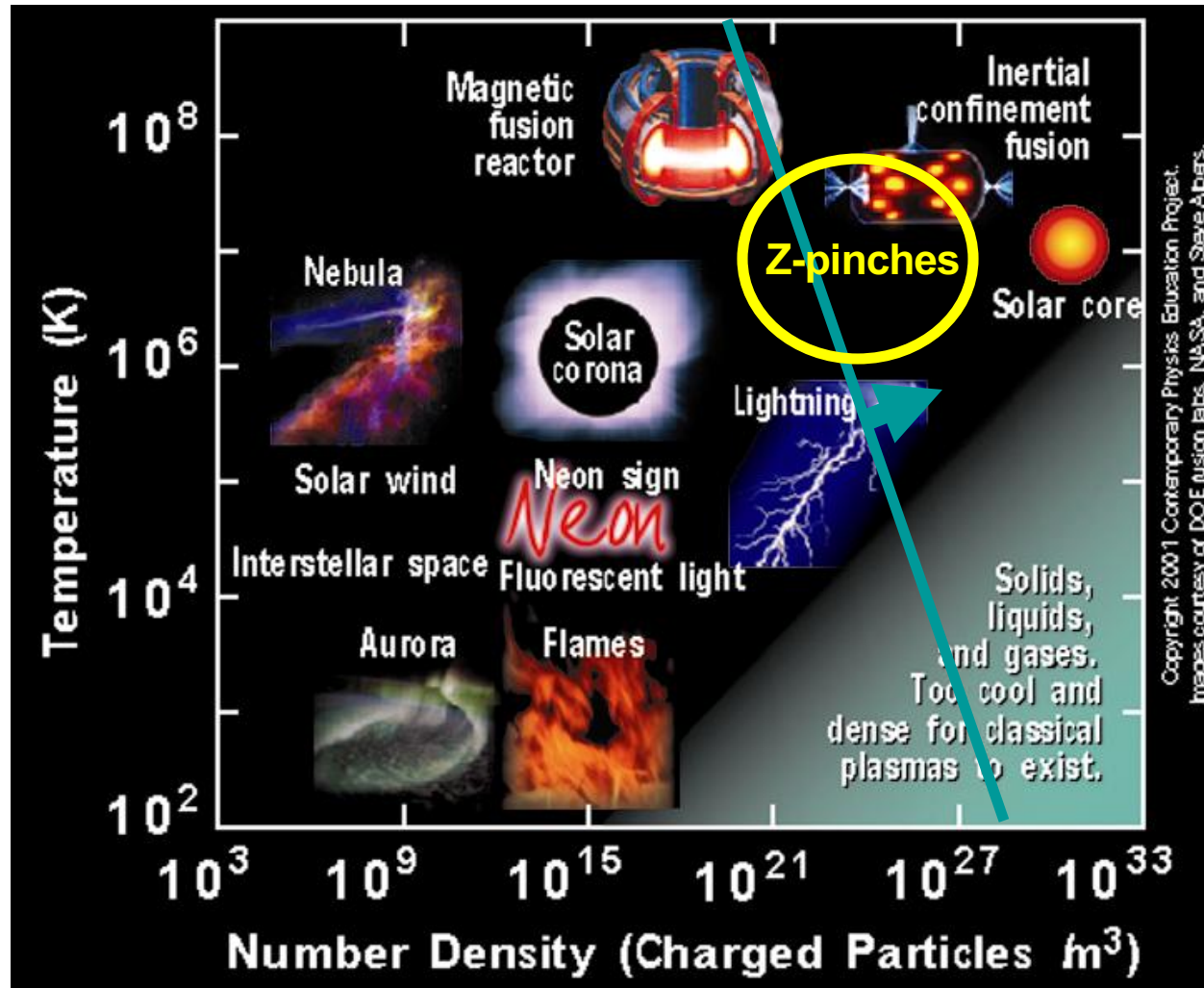
2.5×10^7 A (**25 MA**) at **1 mm** radius is 5×10^7 G = **100 MBar** of pressure!! **← Z Machine**
(~1000x more than high explosives)

LARGE CURRENTS → LARGE MAGNETIC FIELDS → LARGE PRESSURES!





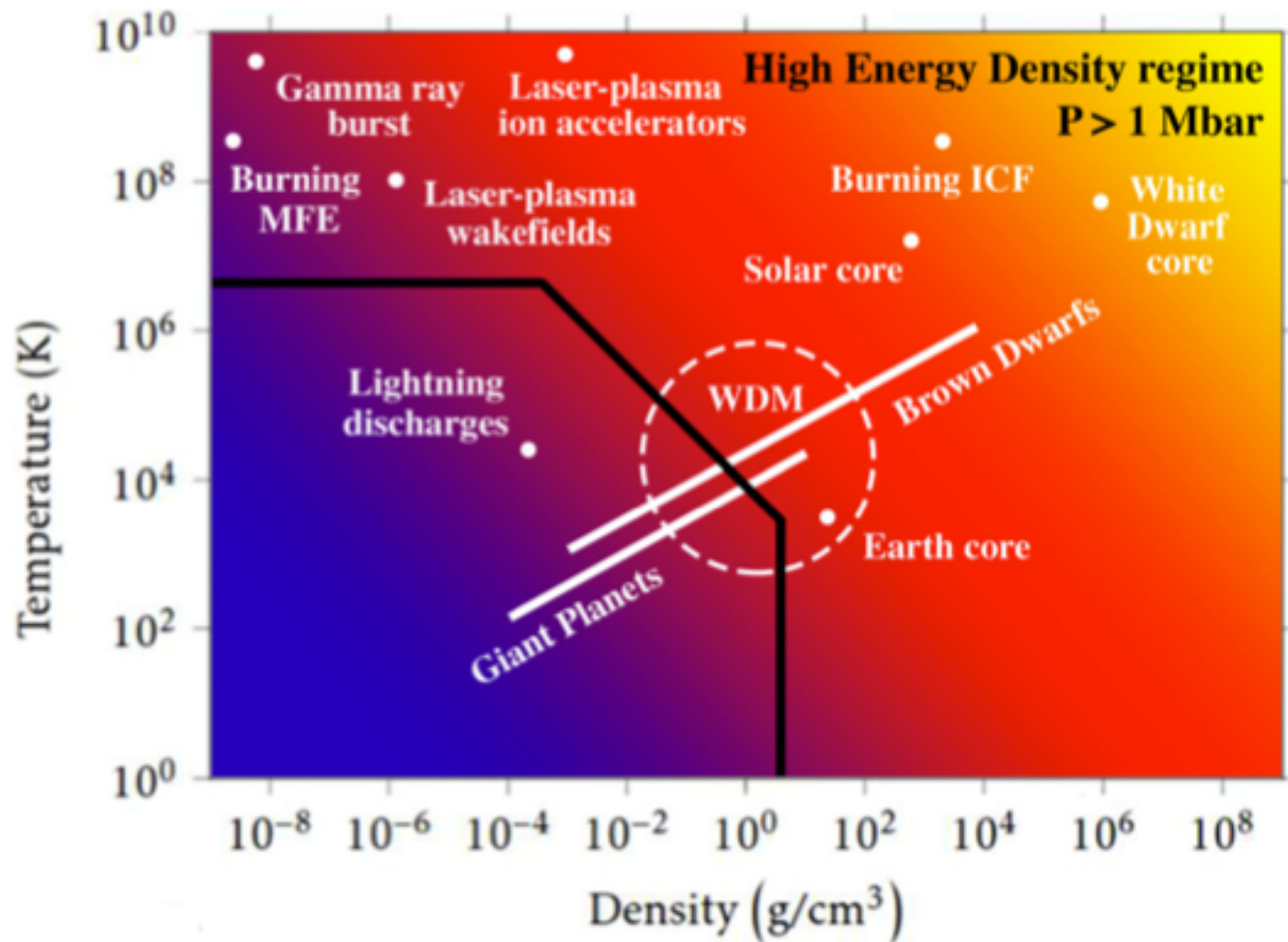
Regimes of high energy density are typically associated with energy density $10^{11} \text{ J/m}^3 = 1 \text{ Mbar}$



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Images courtesy of DOE fusion labs, NASA, and Steve Ables.

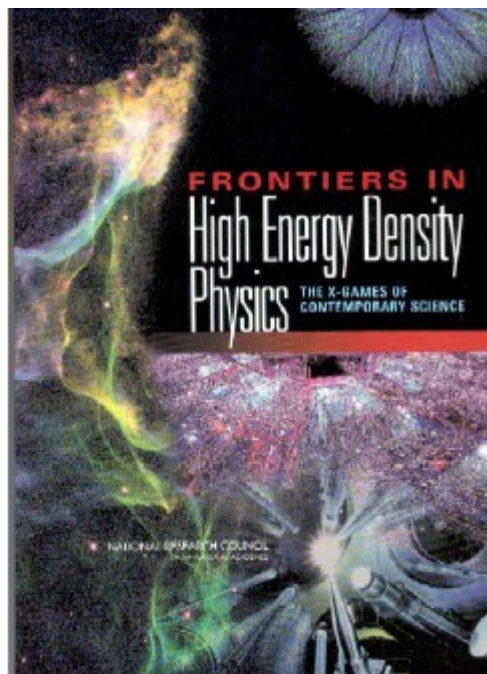


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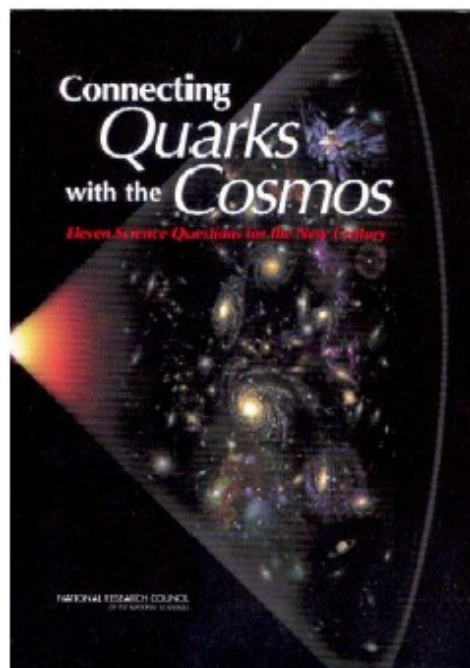




Several studies have highlighted High Energy Density Science



**“Frontiers in High Energy Density Physics”,
R. Davidson et al.**



**“Connecting Quarks with the Cosmos: Eleven Science Questions for the New Century”,
M Turner et al.**



Science and Applications of Ultrafast, Ultraintense Lasers



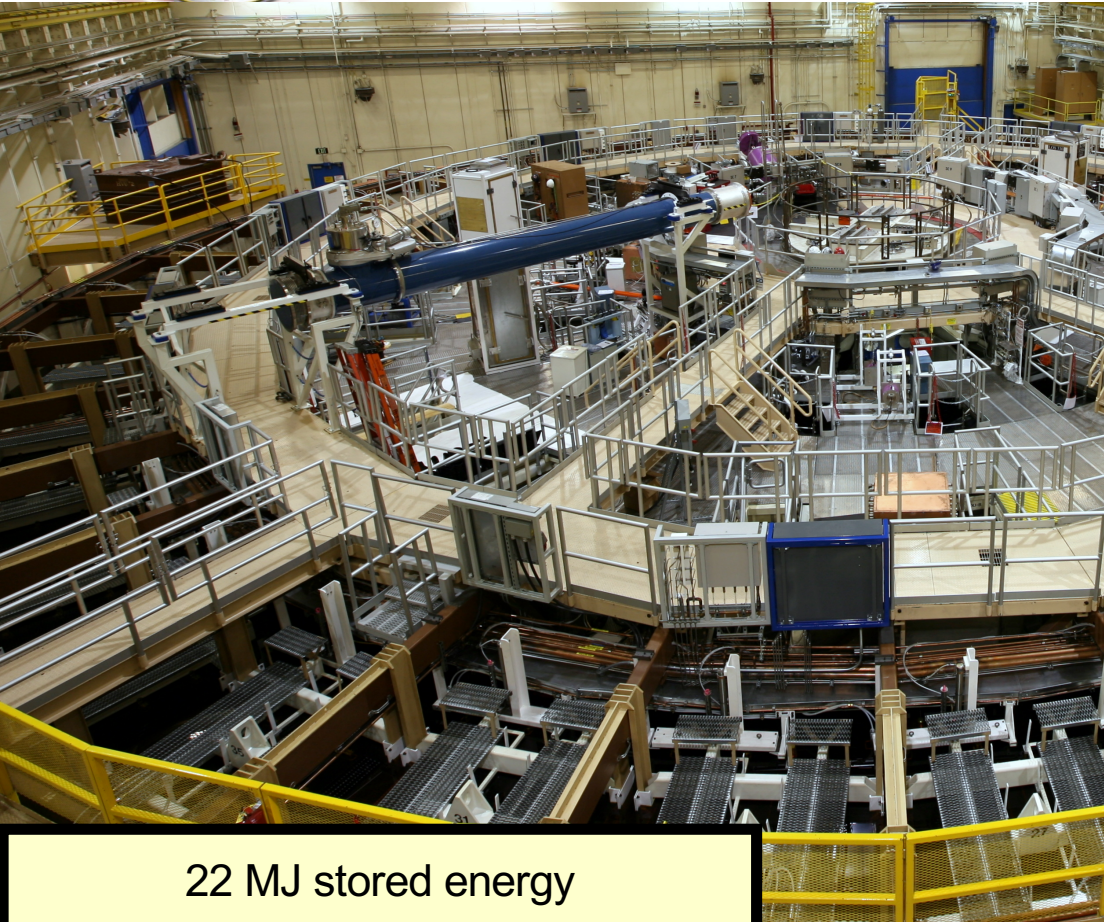
Scales of energy density

- 0.001 MJ/kG water at 100 m dam height
- 0.5 MJ/kG Li ion battery
- 1.968 MJ/kG water
- 7.5 MJ/kG stick of dynamite
- 33 MJ/kG Low Earth Orbit
- 45 MJ/kG gasoline
- 310,000 MJ/kG typical z-pinch implosion at 27 MA
- 3.5 million MJ/kG fission of 3.5% enriched U-235
- 337 million MJ/kG DT fusion
- 645 million MJ/kG hydrogen fusion (Sun)
- 89.9 billion MJ/kG ($E=mc^2$, antimatter-matter annihilation)



"Z" is the world's largest pulsed-power facility

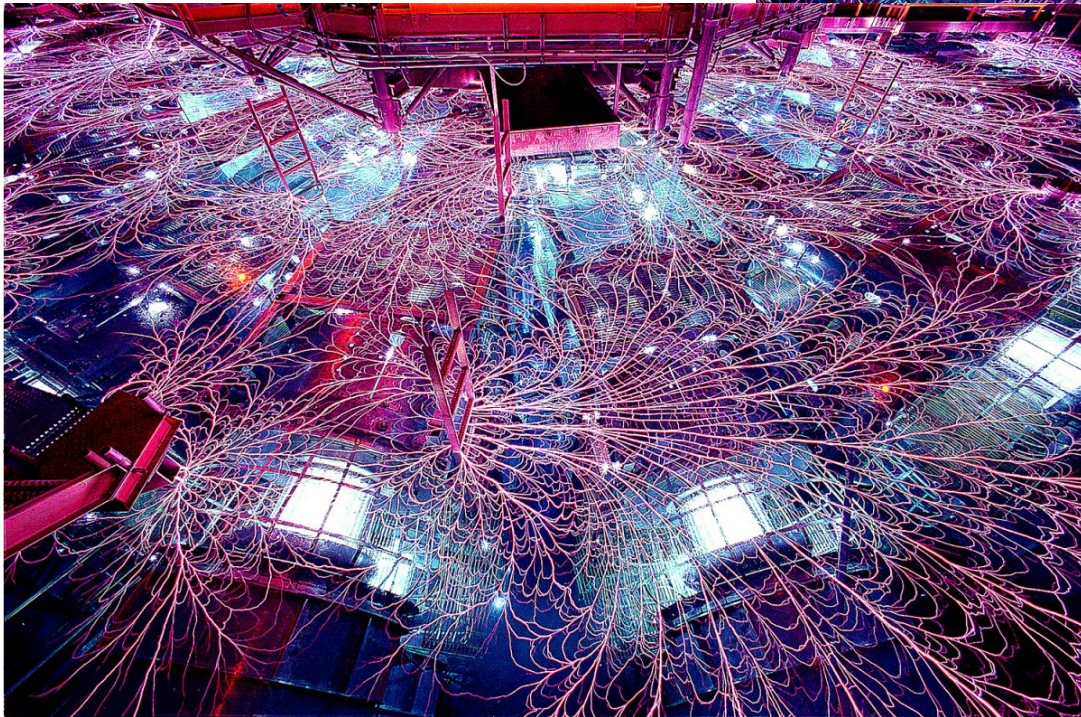
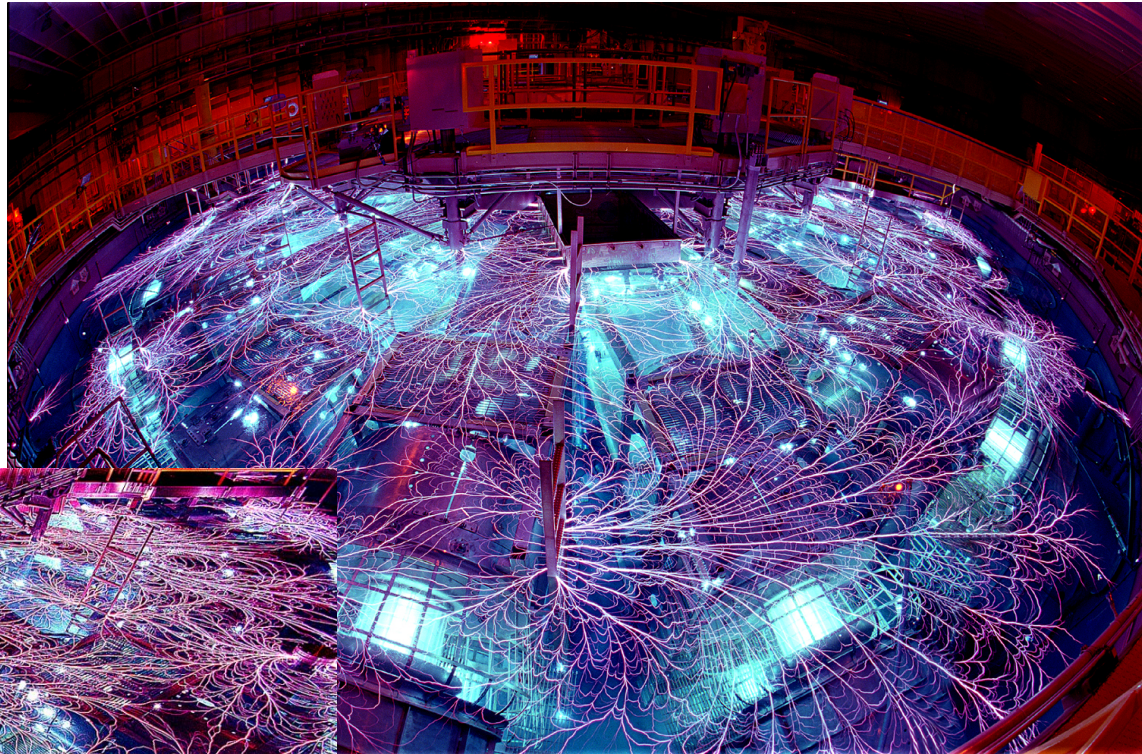
Tank ~10,000 ft²



22 MJ stored energy
3MJ delivered to the load
27 MA peak current
5 – 50 Megagauss (1-100 Megabar)
100-600 ns pulse length



“Z” is the world’s largest pulsed-power facility

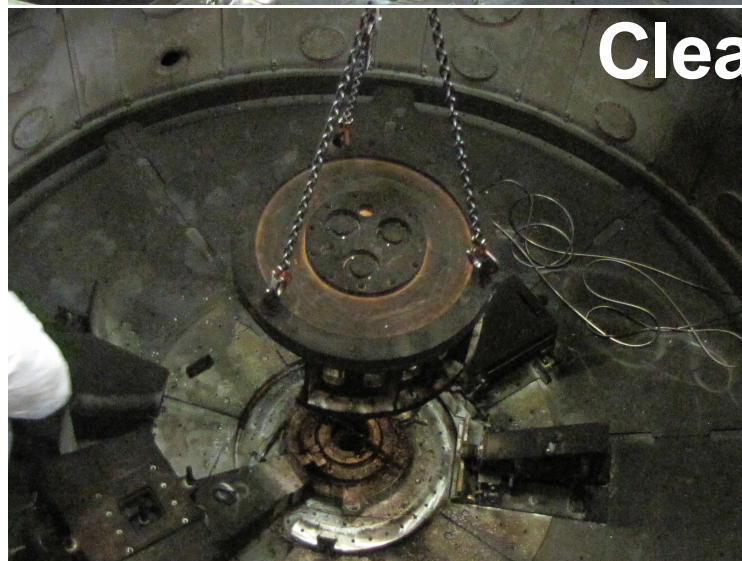




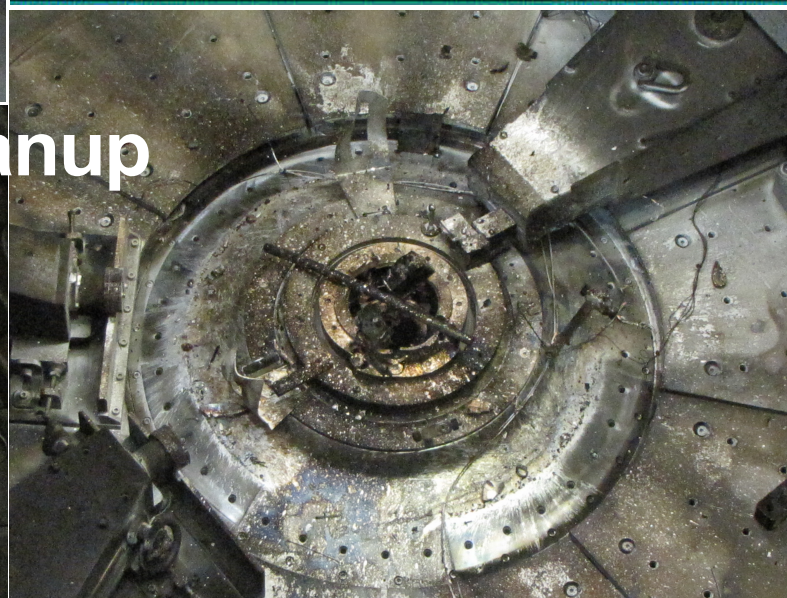
Setup



Fire!



Cleanup





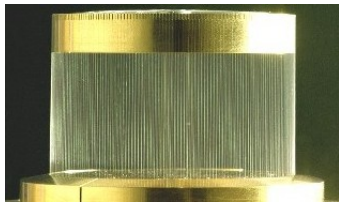
We can use high currents to push plasmas in different ways for different applications

High Current

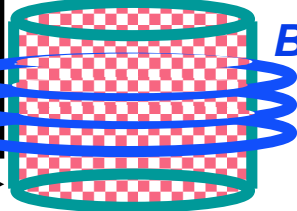
Z-pinch X-ray sources

Planar magnetic pressure

wire array

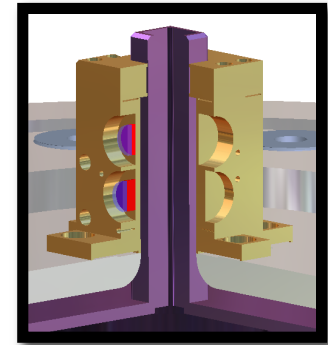
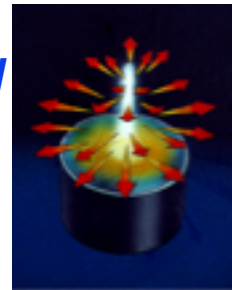


Current

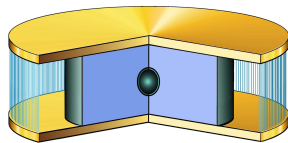
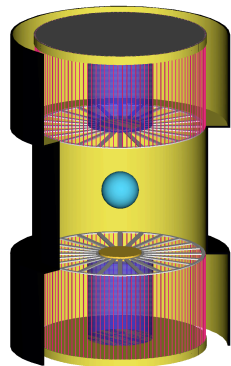


B-Field

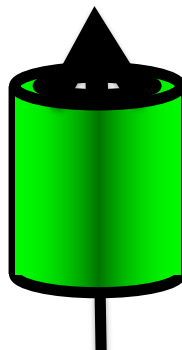
$J \times B$ Force



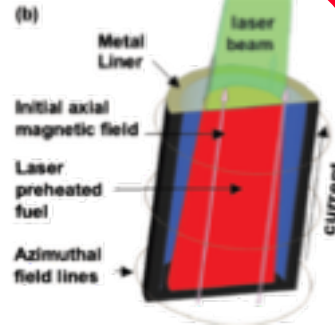
Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)



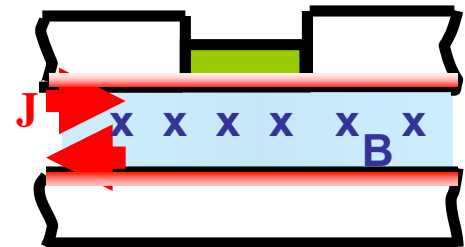
Indirect-drive
(x-rays)



Direct-drive
(magnetic field)

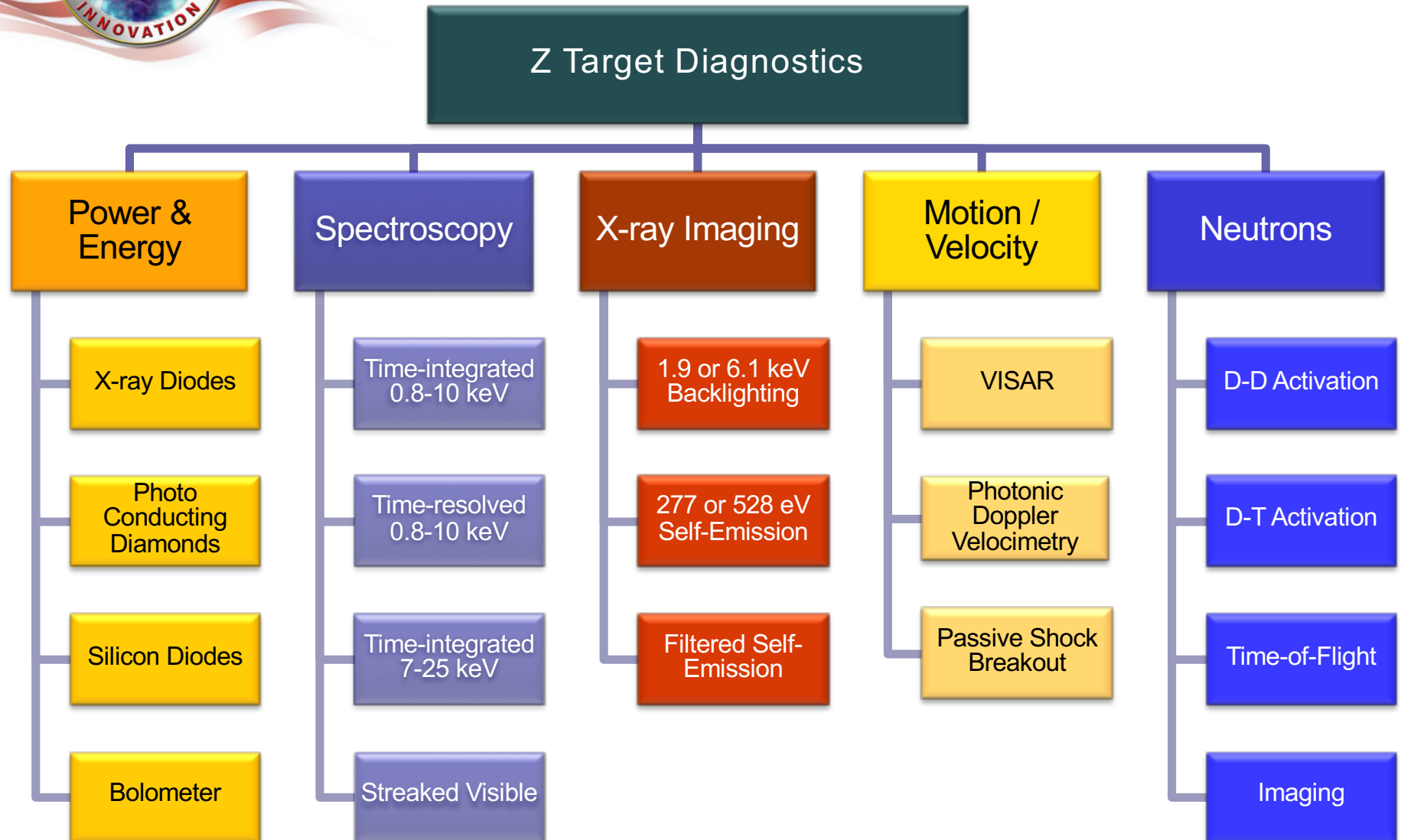


Material Properties





Experiments are well-diagnosed

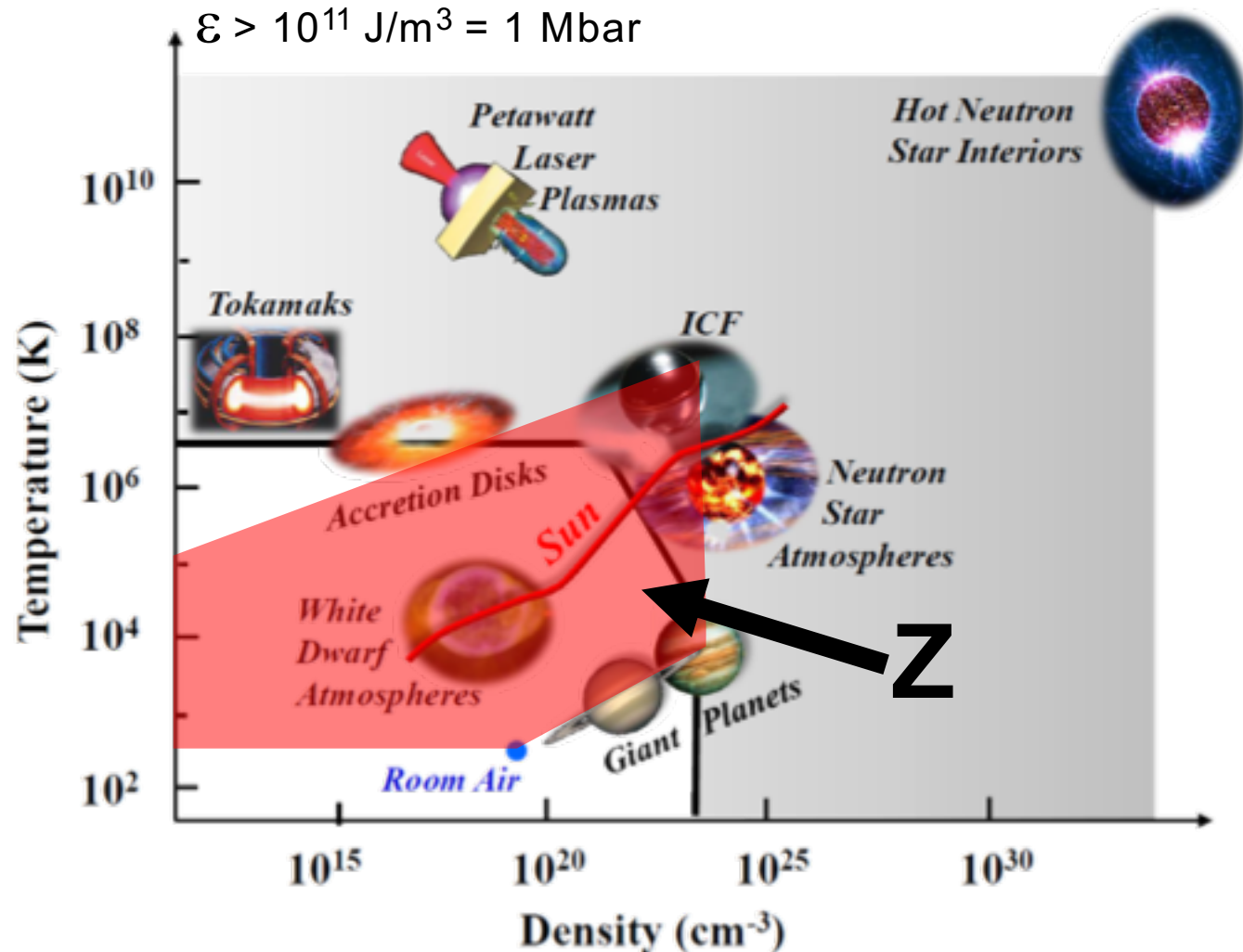




Experiments on Z access a large region of the energy density phase-space

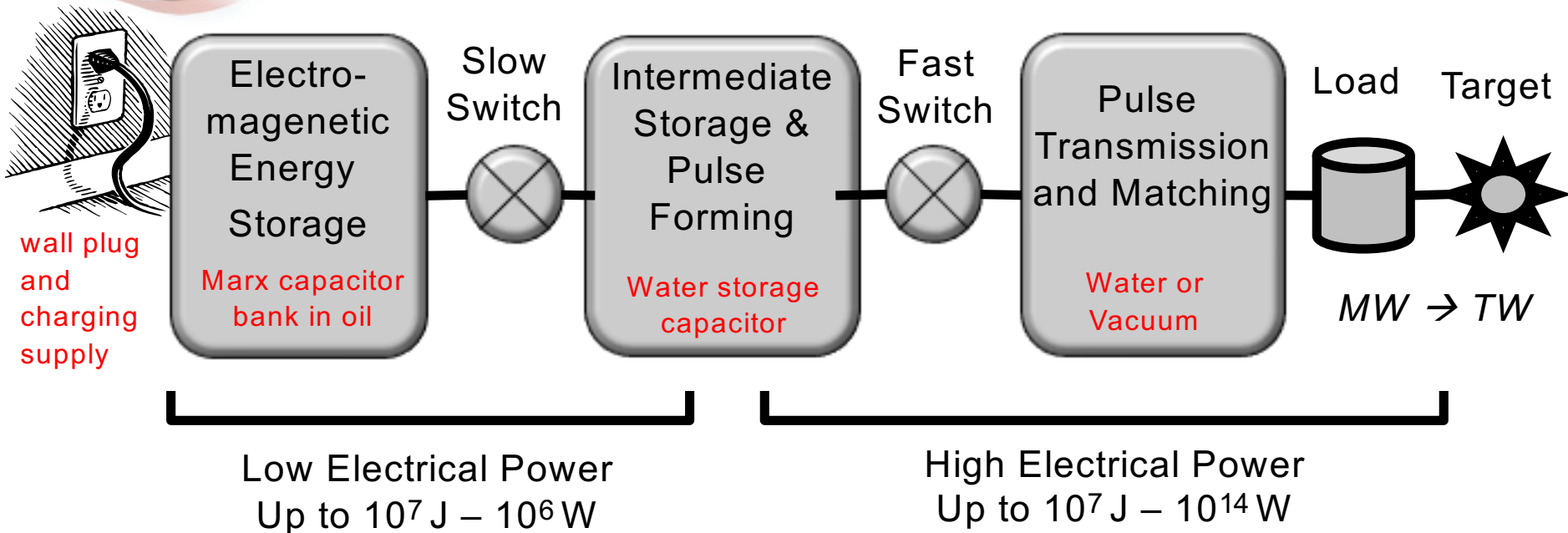
High Energy Density Regime

$$\epsilon > 10^{11} \text{ J/m}^3 = 1 \text{ Mbar}$$

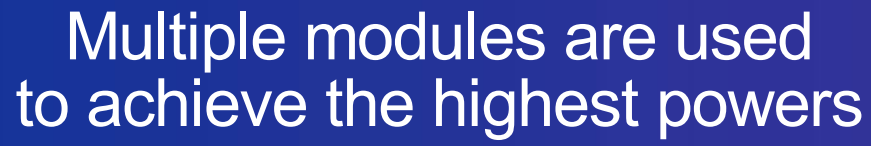




Pulsed-power technology produces high electrical power using fast switching and pulse compression

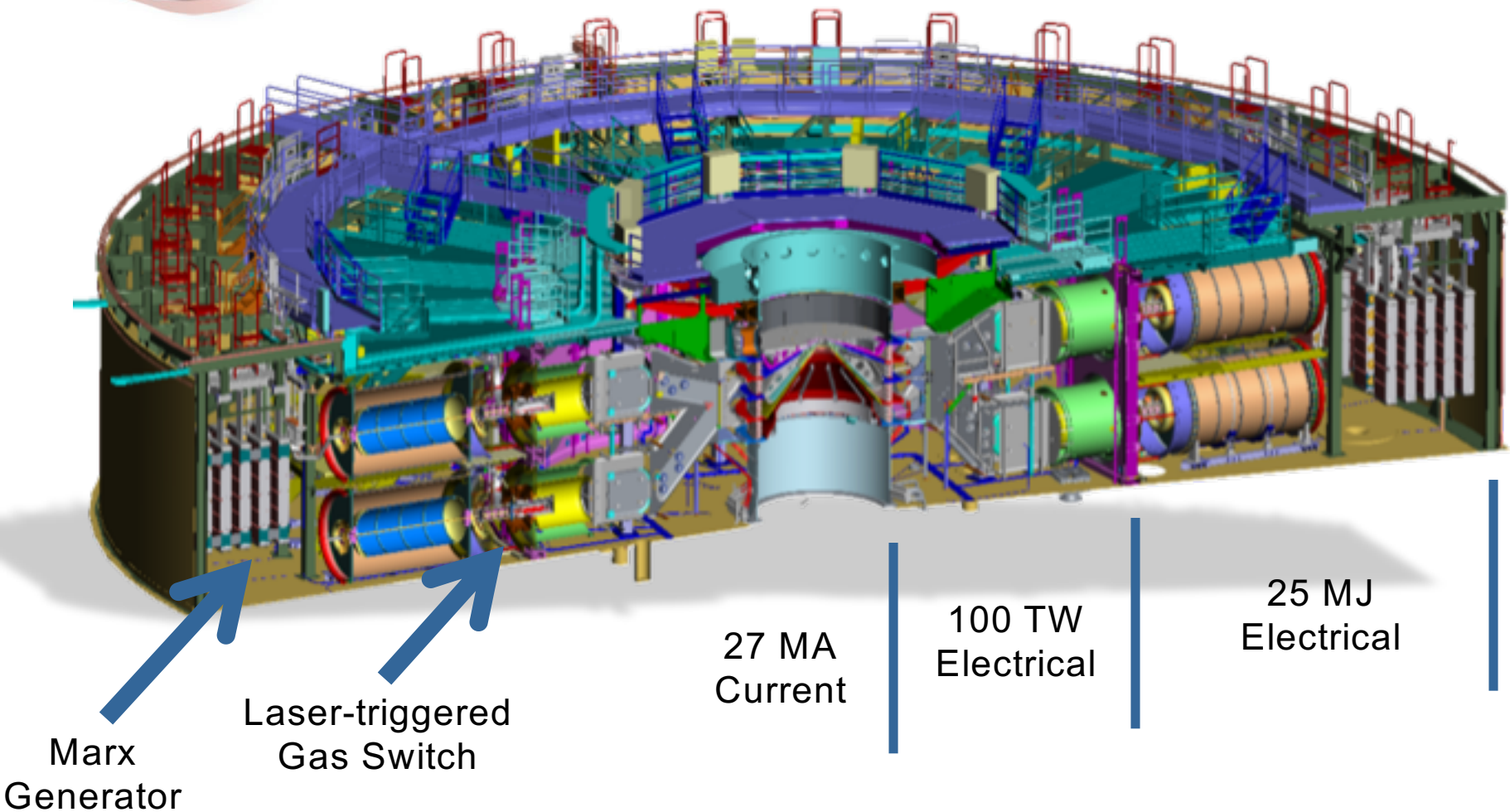


- Typically the pulse is compressed in both space and time
- The load produces the last step in pulse compression and power gain
- You can think of this as a complicated circuit
(whose load is destroyed with each shot)



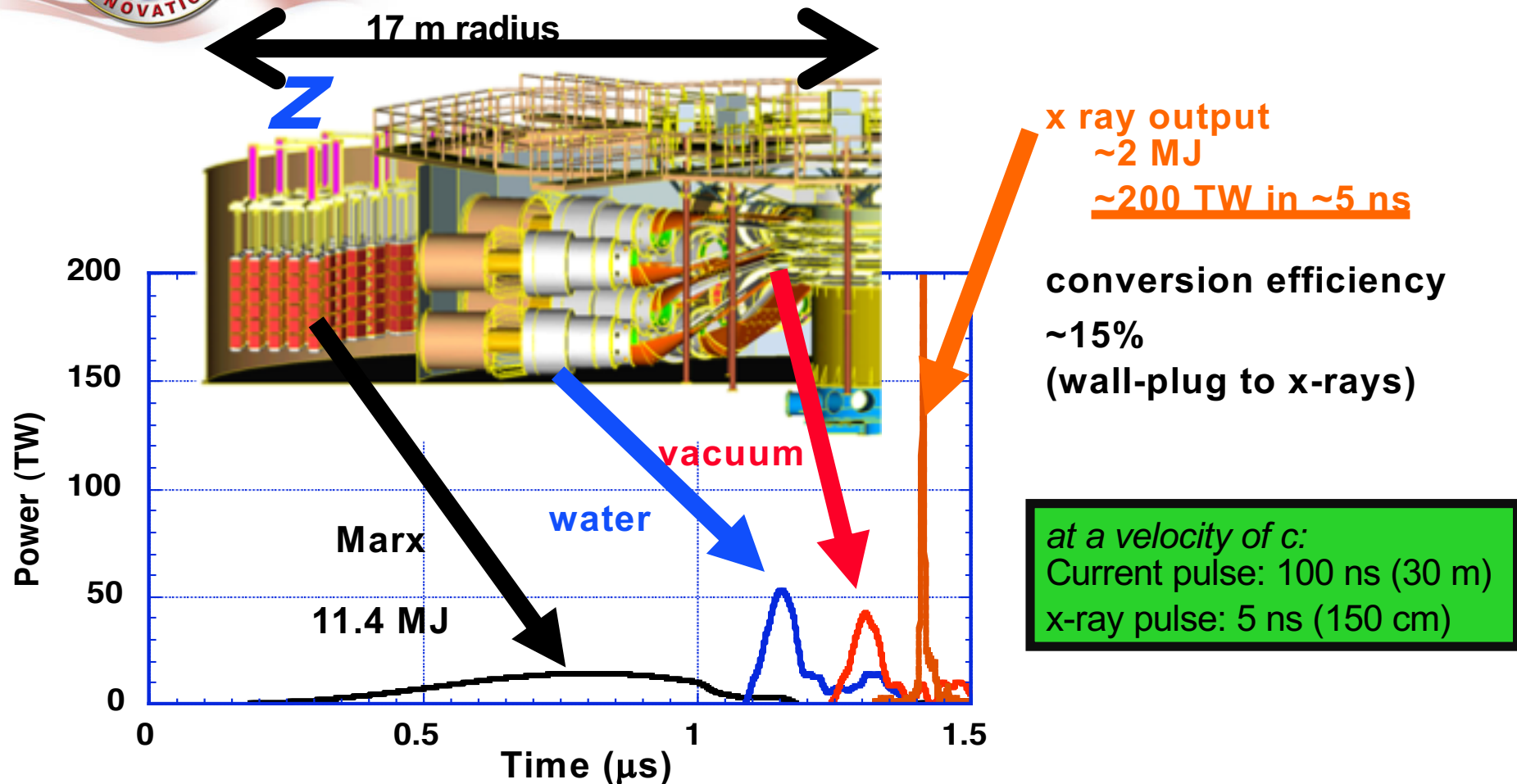


Cross section of the Z facility at Sandia National Laboratories





Pulsed-power provides compact, efficient, power amplification



This is akin to taking the equivalent electrical energy consumption in one evening's operation of a TV set (a few MJ) and compress it into more electrical power than provided by all the power plants in the world combined (~13-15 TW).



We employ kinetic energies of ~ 1 MJ in every day objects



An energy of 1 MJ:

- Kinetic energy of F150 at ~ 60 mph
- 0.48 x energy in a stick of dynamite
- 100 W light bulb uses 1 MJ in 2.8 hours

A velocity of $50 \text{ cm}/\mu\text{sec}$:

- $\sim 1,100,000$ miles per hour
- Princeton to LA in ~ 8 seconds
- $1/600$ speed of light

- $m_{\text{F150}} = 2950 \text{ kg}$
- $v_{\text{F150}} = 94 \text{ km/hour}$ (58 mph)
- $E = 1 \text{ MJ}$
- In a typical z-pinch, this 1 MJ is released in 5 ns



We compress energy in space *and* time on Z

- Compression in height X 625
 - 625 cm tank Marx height to 1.0 cm load height
- Compression in radius X 1375
 - 1650 cm in Marx tank radius to 1.2 cm load radius
- Compression in time X 2.4×10^{10}
 - 2 minute Marx charge to 5 ns pinch output
 - Total power density compression factor $\sim 8 \times 10^{15}$
 - ($\eta \times \text{area} \times \text{time}$, $\eta \sim 0.4$)



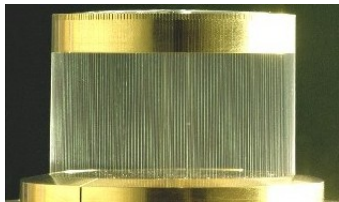
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High Current

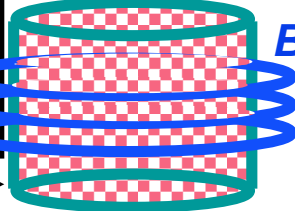
Z-pinch X-ray sources

Planar magnetic pressure

wire array

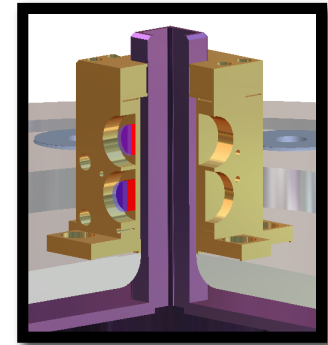
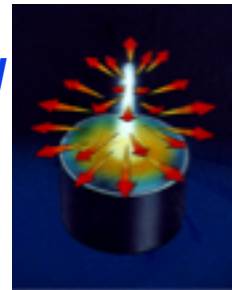


Current

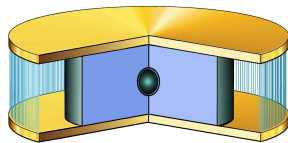
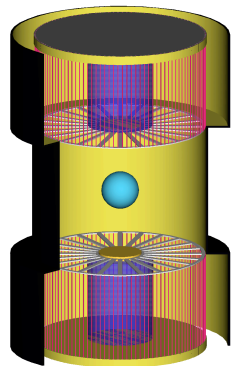


B-Field

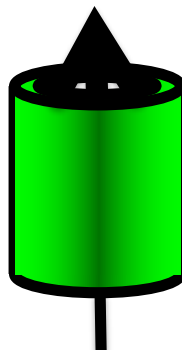
$J \times B$ Force



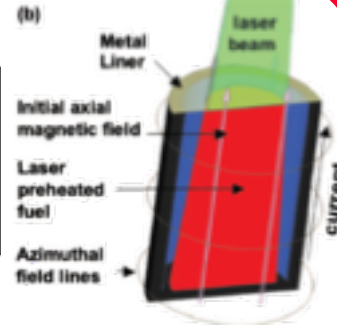
Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)



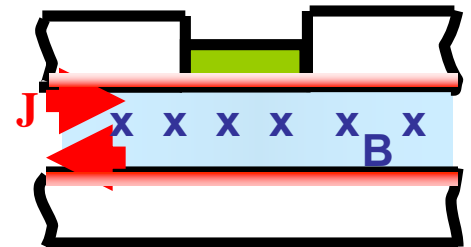
Indirect-drive
(x-rays)



Direct-drive
(magnetic field)



Material Properties



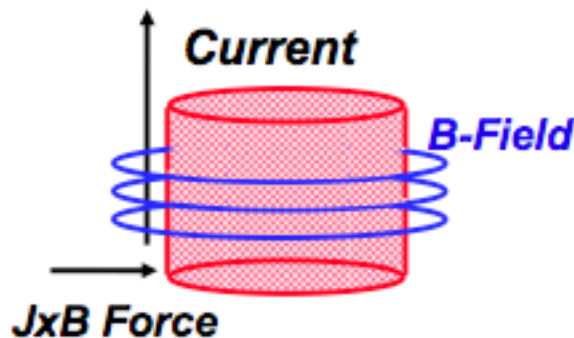
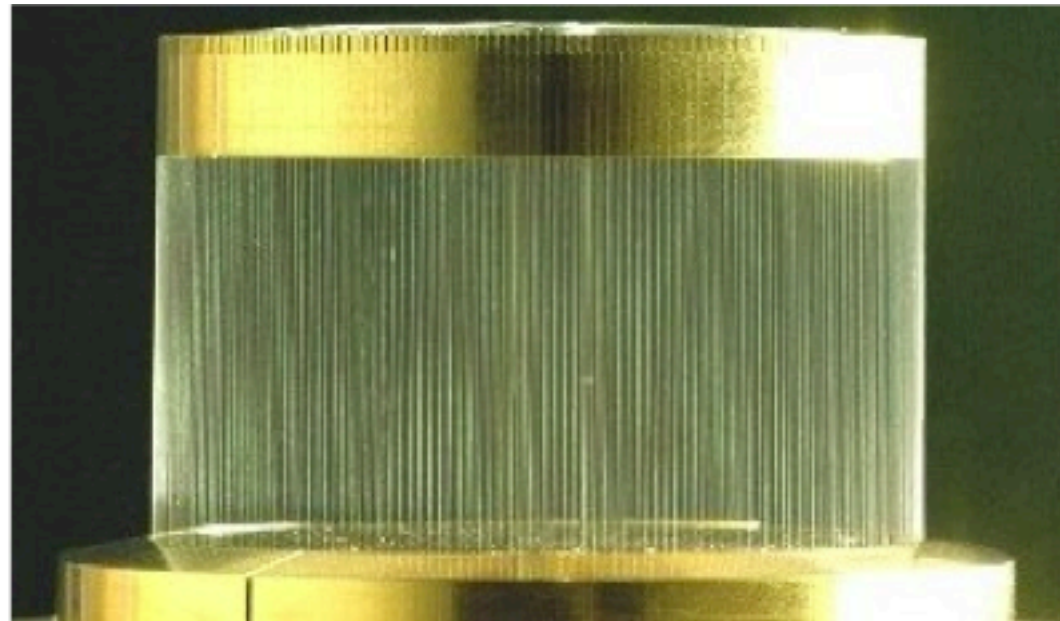


Wire arrays are a “simple” extension of the two wire problem

Instead of 2 wires, use ~300 wires in a cylindrical array. The $J \times B$ force accelerates the wires toward the array axis.

Instead of 1 mA or 1 A, use 20,000,000 Amperes of current in the array, delivered in a ~100 ns current pulse.

The result is the creation of soft x rays (~0.1-10 keV) with 10-15% efficiency from the stored electrical energy

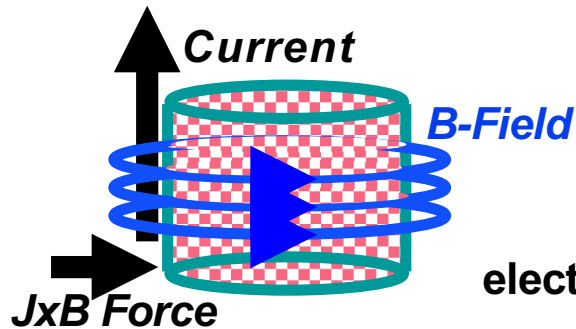


Z-pinch loads:

Wire Array
Gas Puffs
Foil/Liner
Foam



Magnetically-driven fast z-pinch implosions efficiently convert electrical energy into radiation



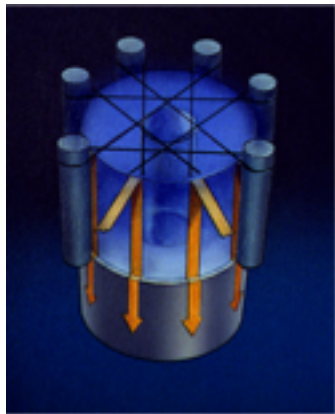
kinetic and magnetic energy

electrical energy

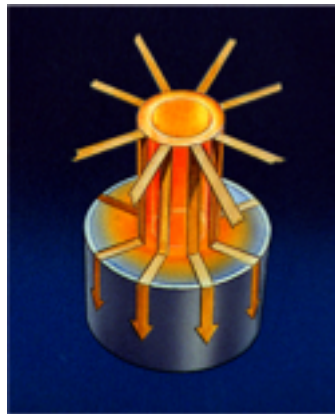
internal energy

kinetic energy

x rays



Ablation



Implosion



Stagnation

Fast wire z-pinch loads:

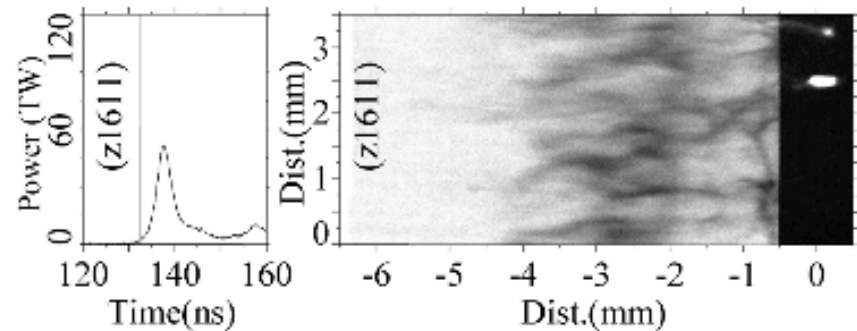
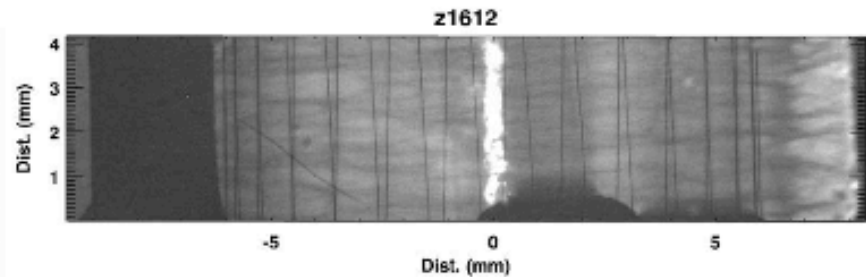
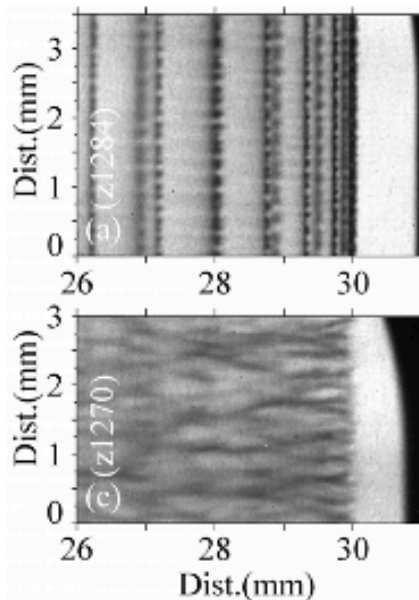
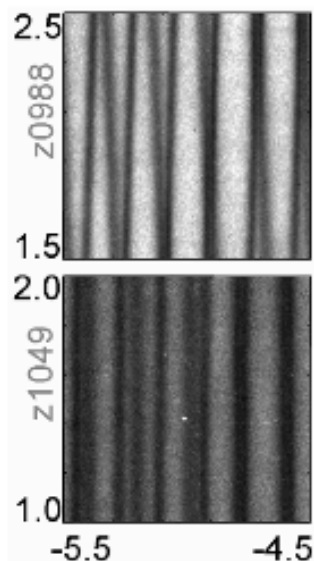
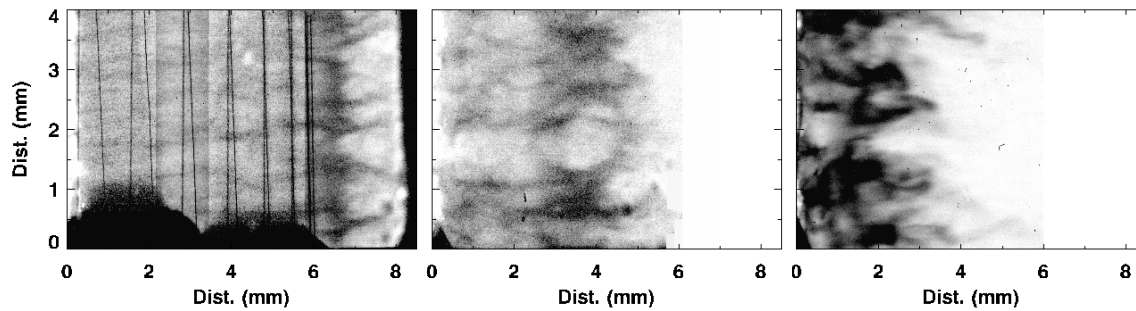
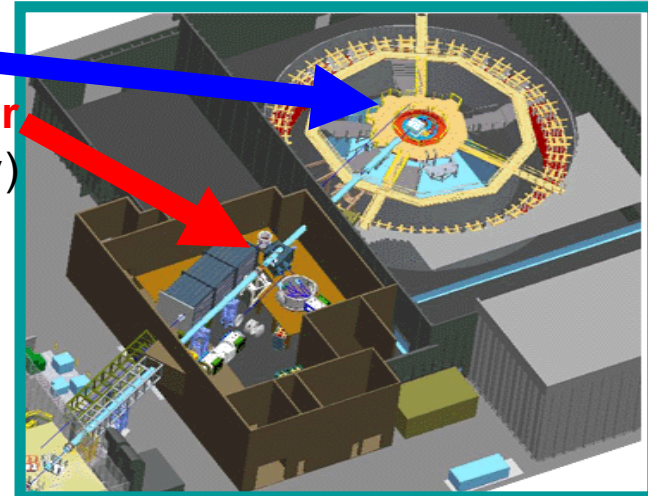
- Z-pinchs are imploded in 60-120 ns, and radiate x-rays in 5 ns
- Energy: x-ray ~ 15% of stored electrical



Magneto-Rayleigh-Taylor (MRT) instability limits the quality of the implosion

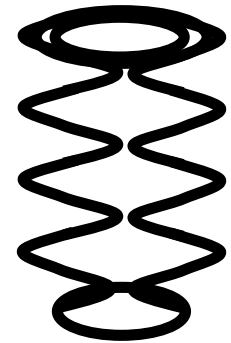
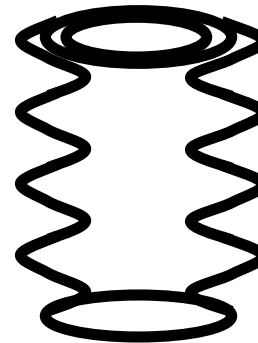
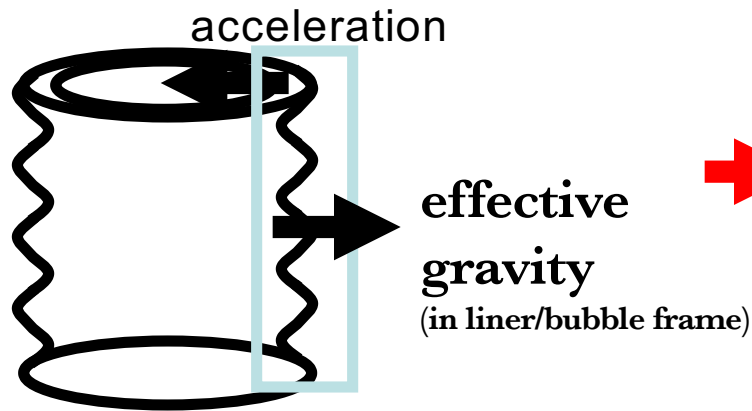
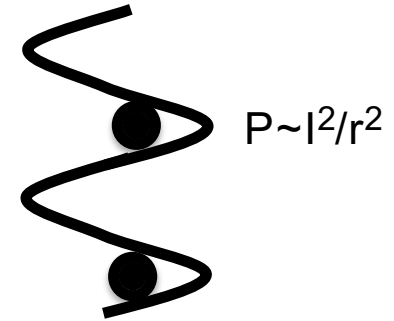
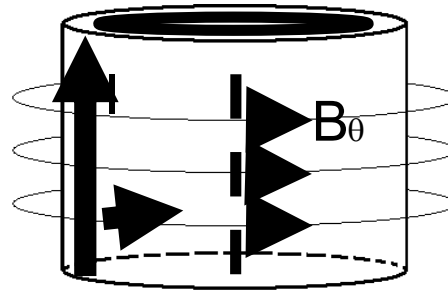
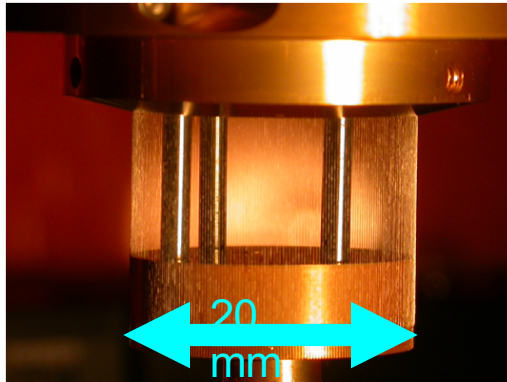
Xray images of a wire array during its implosion!

Z Machine
Z Beamlet laser
(for radiography)





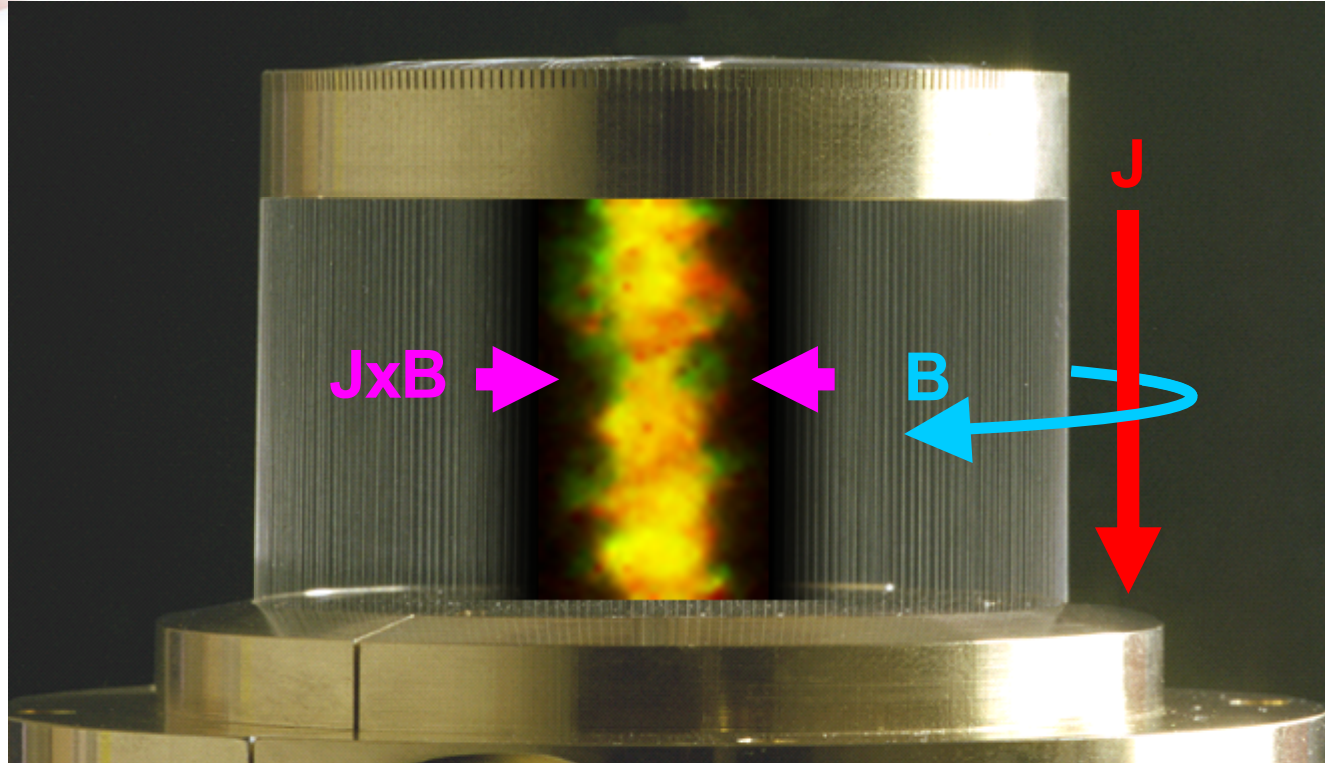
The plasma is the heavy fluid and the B field is the light fluid \rightarrow *unstable* to the MRT



- Our z-pinches are termed “fast” because only the MRT grows during implosion



Summary: $J \times B$ force pinches wire array into a dense, radiating plasma column



Z-pinch wire array x-ray source summary:

$E_{\text{rad}} \sim 2 - 3 \text{ MJ}$, $\sim 15\%$ wall plug efficiency

$P_{\text{rad}} \sim 100\text{-}330 \text{ TW}$ (~ 330 million million Watts)

$T_{\text{rad}} \sim 200 \text{ eV} \sim 2,300,000^\circ \text{ K}$



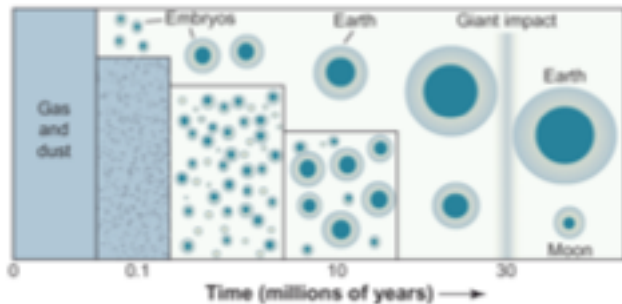
A power of 330 TW

- 25 x global annual power consumption [2008]
- 104 x US annual power consumption

- BUT, remember, it's just on for 5 ns.....light will only travel 4.9 feet in 5 ns



Sandia has a fundamental science program on Z and awards time to university users



Earth formation

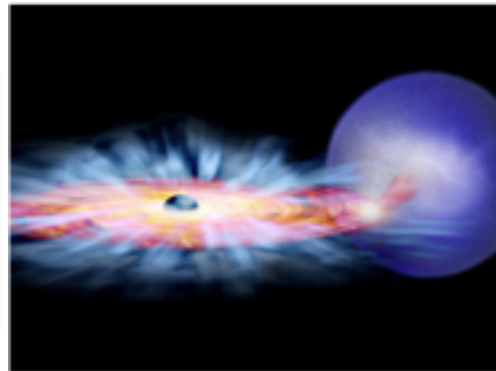
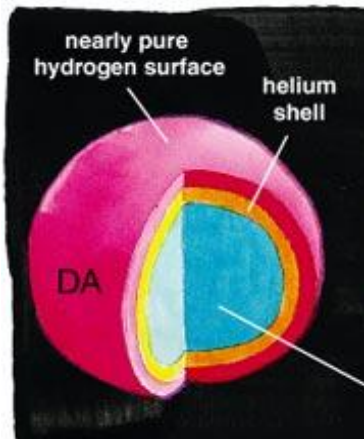
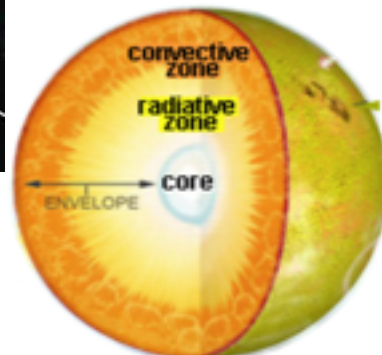


Photo-ionized plasmas

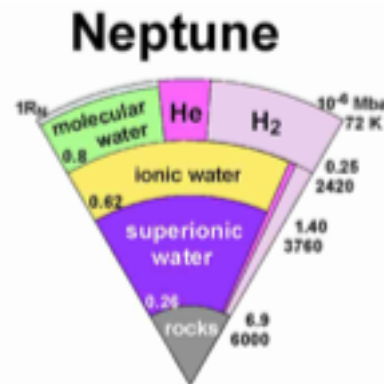
- We use high magnetic pressures and intense x-ray bursts to create unique matter and plasmas that can help address astrophysical questions
- Proposals address exciting scientific issues:
 - Do we understand the structure of the sun?
 - Can we use white dwarfs as cosmic chronometers?
 - How does the accretion disk around a black-hole behave?
 - What is the structure of the planets in our solar system (and beyond)?
 - How did the Earth and the Moon form?



White Dwarfs



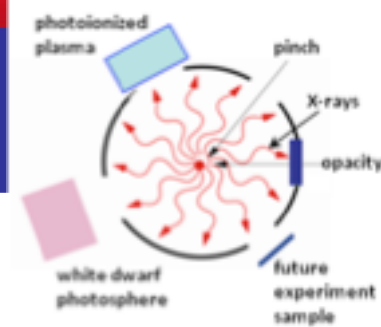
Solar Opacities



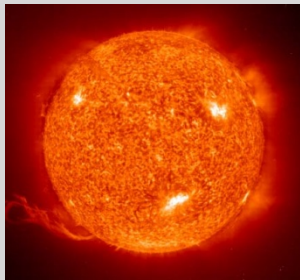
Planetary structure



Z Astrophysical Plasma Properties (ZAPP) project



Solar Opacity



Collaborator:
Ohio State University

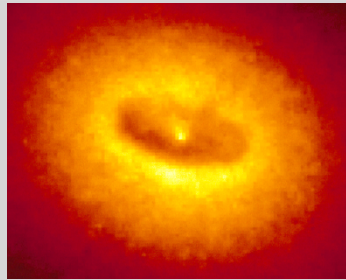
Purpose:

Test Fe opacity models at conditions relevant to the convection zone boundary in the Sun.

Required Conditions:

$T_e \sim 180 \text{ eV}$, $n_e \sim 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Photoionized Plasma



Collaborators:
UNR / LLNL

Purpose:

Test photo-ionization models and atomic physics at conditions relevant to black hole accretion disks.

Required Conditions:

$T_e \sim 15 \text{ eV}$, $n_e \sim 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

White Dwarf Line-Shapes



Collaborator:
University of Texas

Purpose:

Test line-broadening theory of H at conditions relevant to White Dwarf photospheres.

Required Conditions:

$T_e \sim 1\text{-}4 \text{ eV}$, $n_e \sim 10^{17\text{-}19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

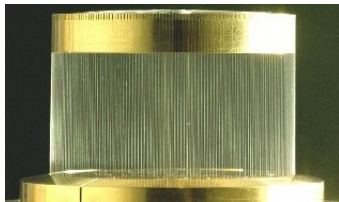


We can use high currents to push plasmas in different ways for different applications

High Current
Z-Pinch X-ray Sources

Planar magnetic pressure

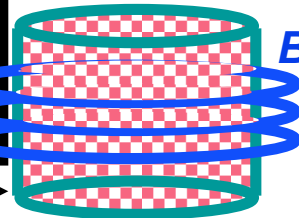
wire array



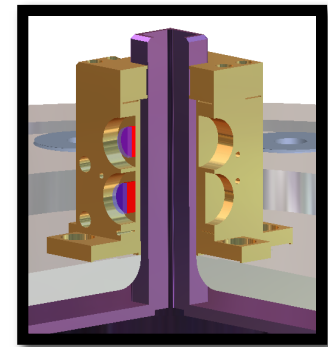
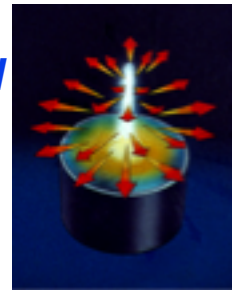
Current



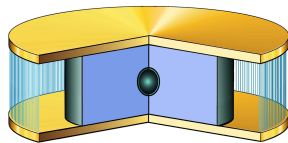
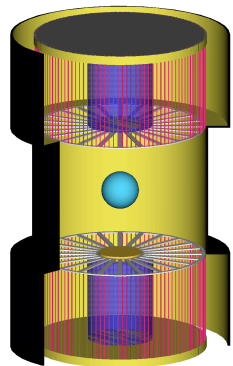
$J \times B$ Force



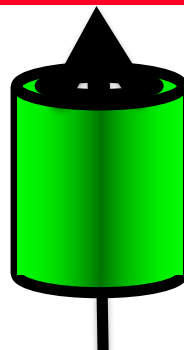
B-Field



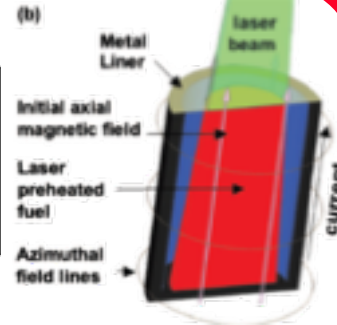
Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)



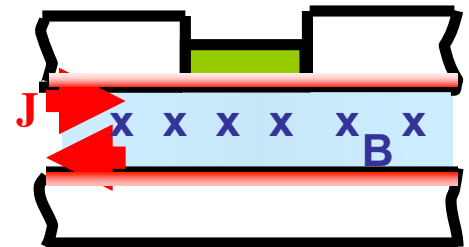
Indirect-drive
(x-rays)



Direct-drive
(magnetic field)



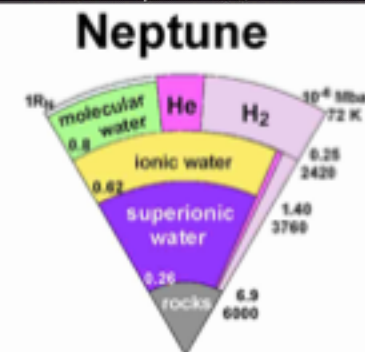
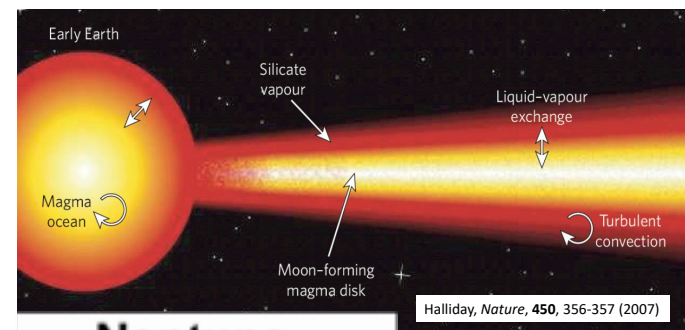
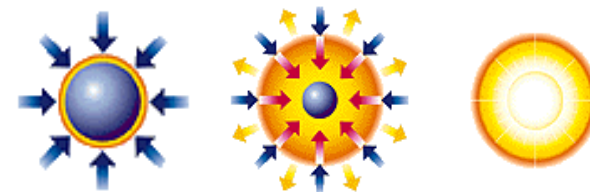
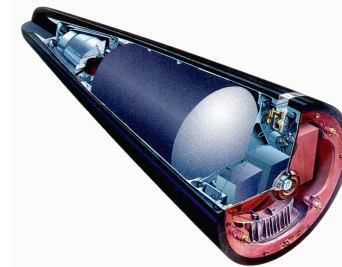
Material Properties





Understanding material properties at high pressure is important for Stockpile Stewardship, ICF, and understanding planets

- Nuclear weapons materials
 - Behavior of plutonium, uranium, etc.
- Inertial confinement fusion (ICF) materials
 - Behavior of hydrogen, plastics, beryllium, diamond, etc.
- Planetary science
 - Giant impacts (e.g. Moon Forming Event)
 - Earths and super-earths
 - Equation of state of Mg , Fe , Si , C , O , etc.
 - Giant Planets (e.g. Uranus & Neptune and exo ice-giants)
 - High-pressure mixtures of H , He , C , O , N

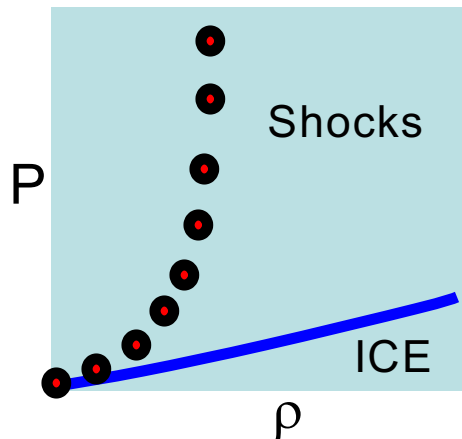
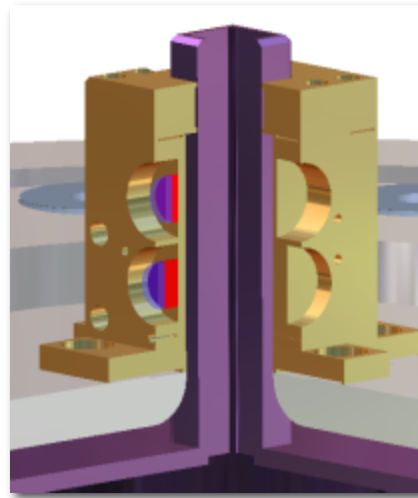
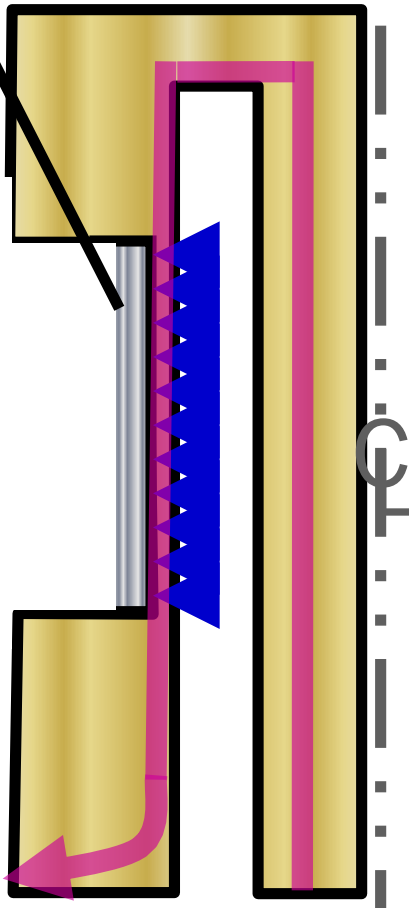




Isentropic compression and shock wave experiments map different regions of phase space

Sample

$P > 4$ Mbar

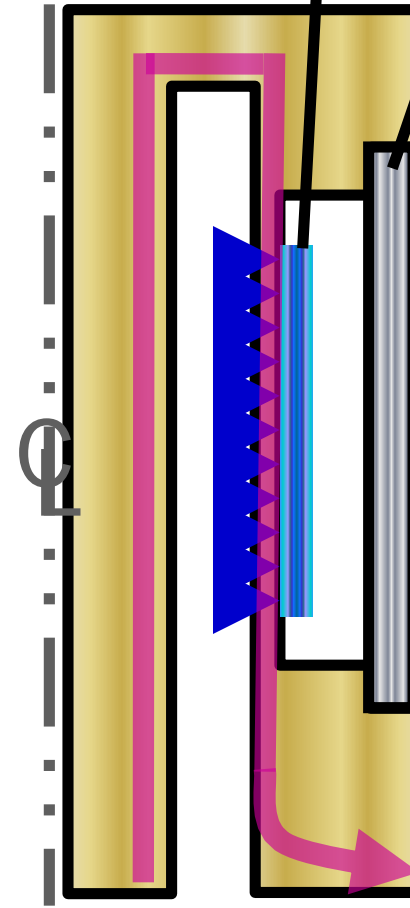


Flyer Plate

v up to 40 km/s

Sample

$P > 10$ Mbar



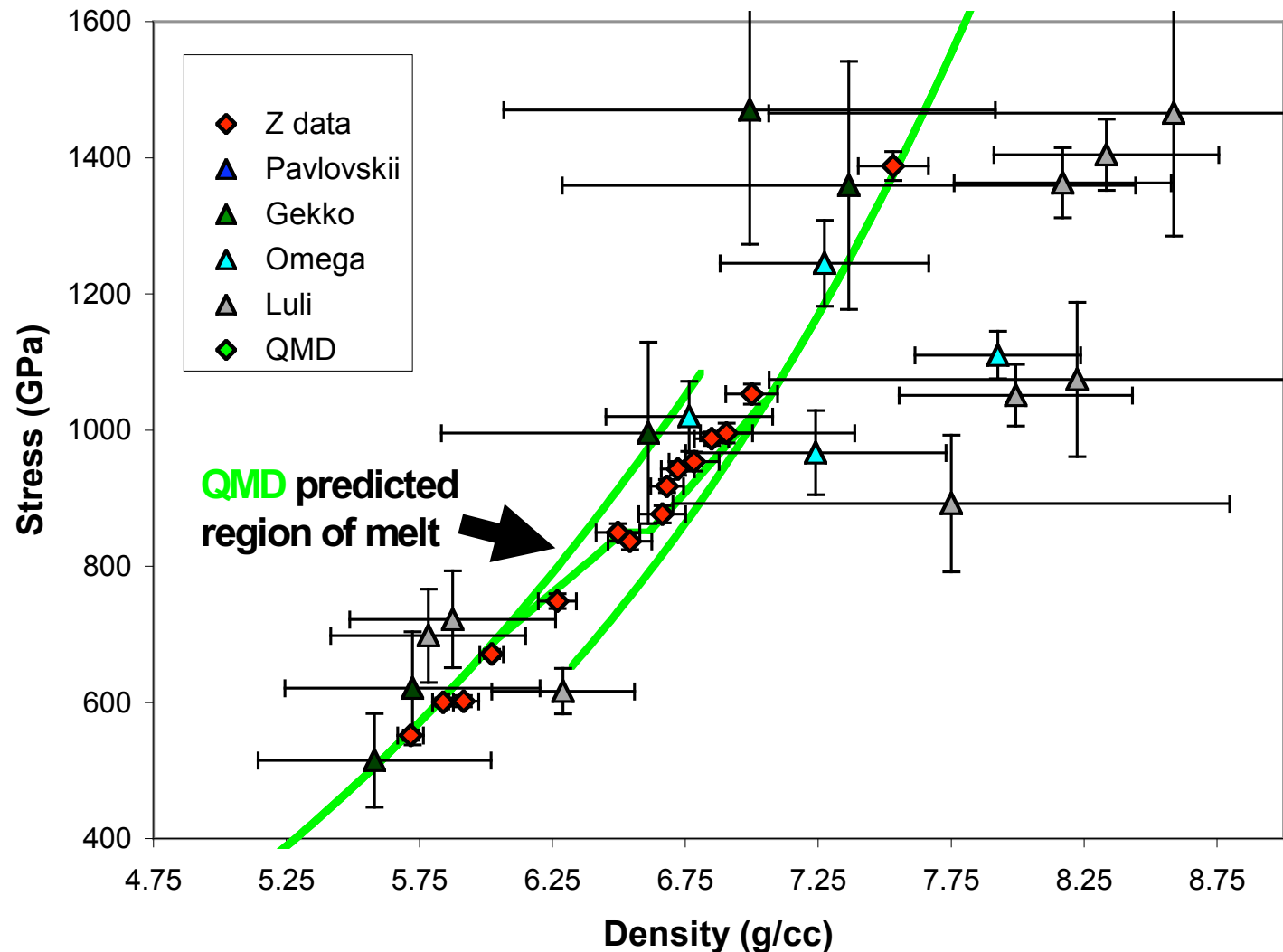
Isentropic Compression Experiments:
gradual pressure rise in sample

Shock Hugoniot Experiments:
shock wave in sample on impact



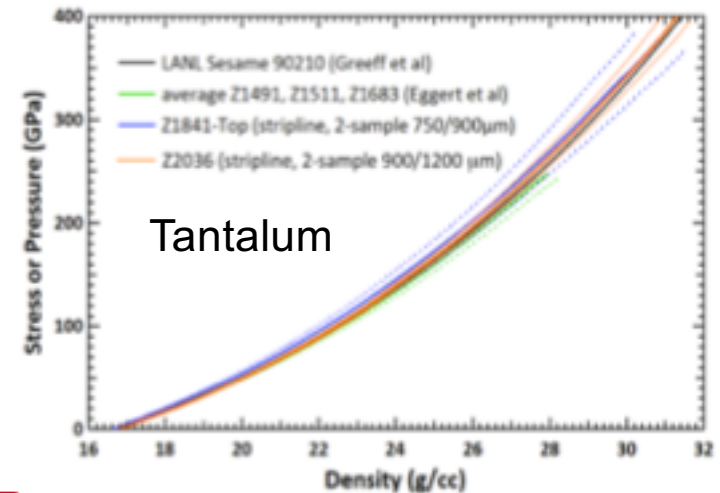
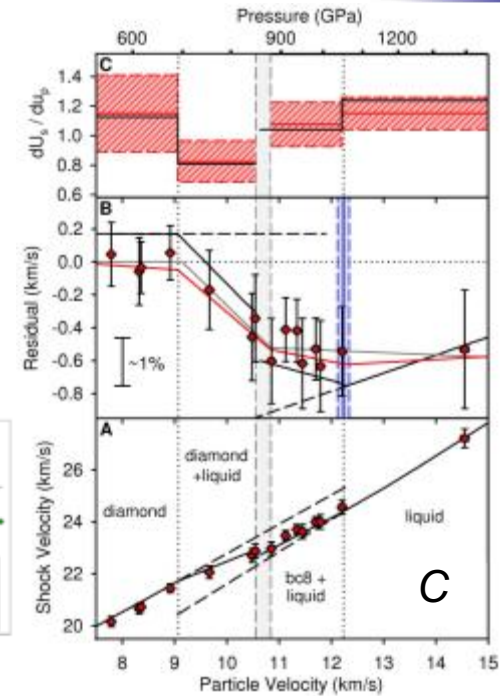
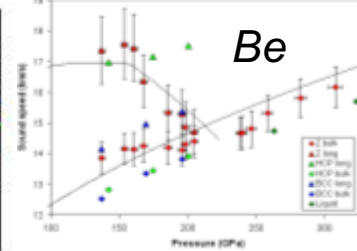
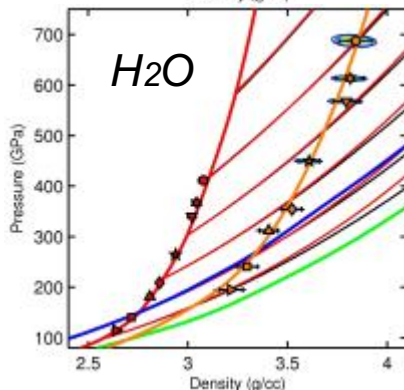
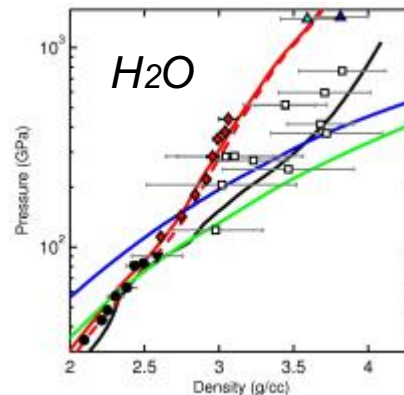
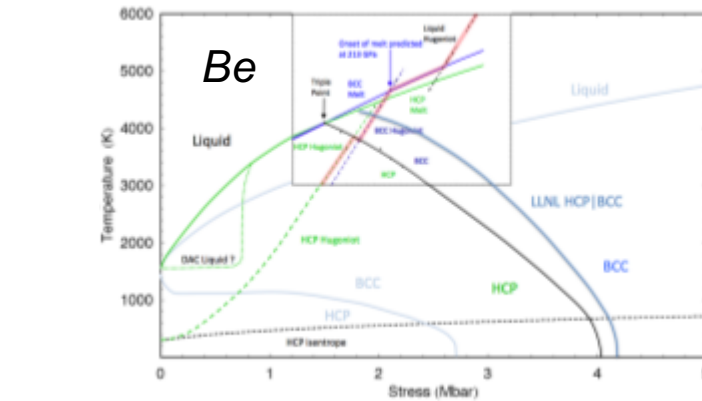
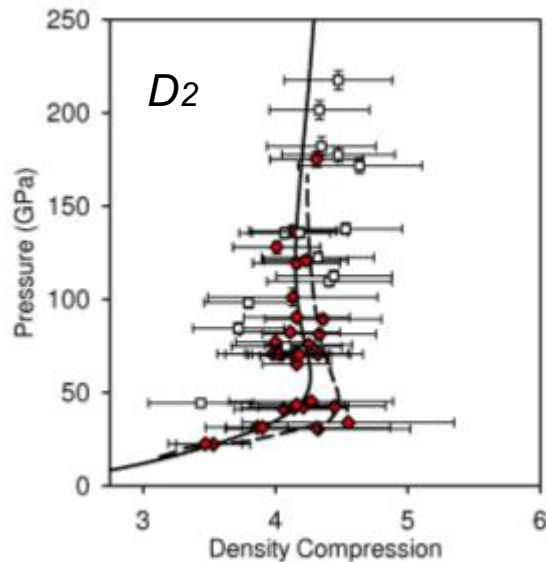
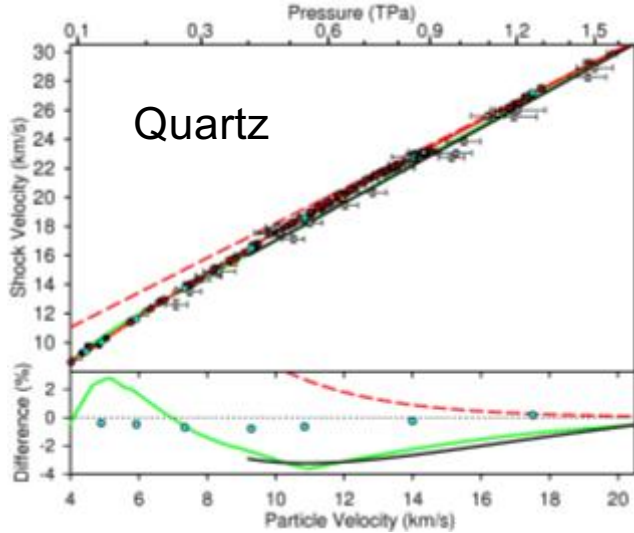
Z answered important questions about the properties of diamond at high pressure

stress versus density for diamond



- The Z data was obtained in 1 week
- Measurements on Z have an accuracy of $\leq 1\%$

Z has been used to study material properties in the multi-Mbar regime for many materials





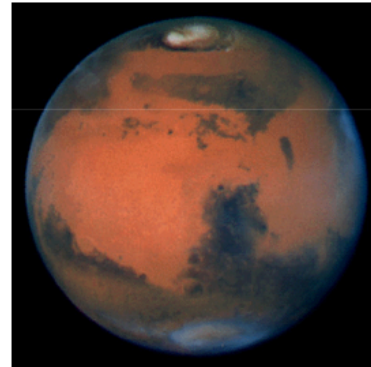
Giant Impacts: unlocking the mysteries of satellites and planets



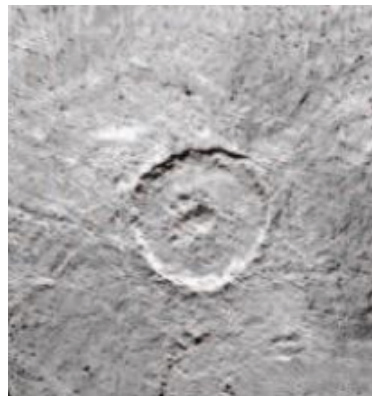
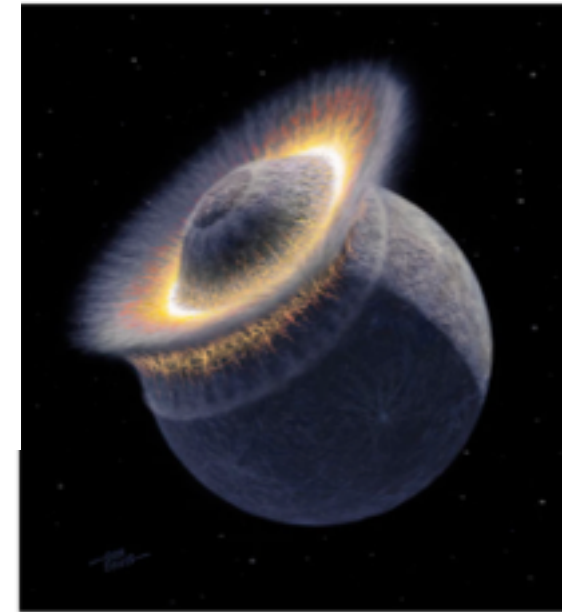
Europa

Ganymede

Callisto



Mars



2.5 s

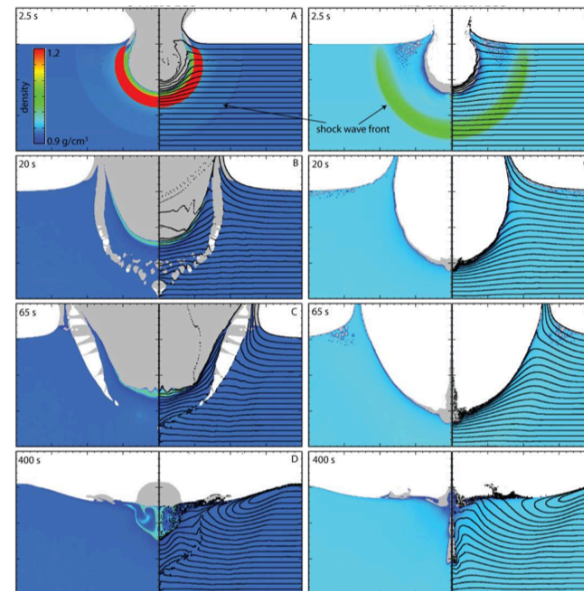
20 s

65 s

400 s

5-Phase EOS

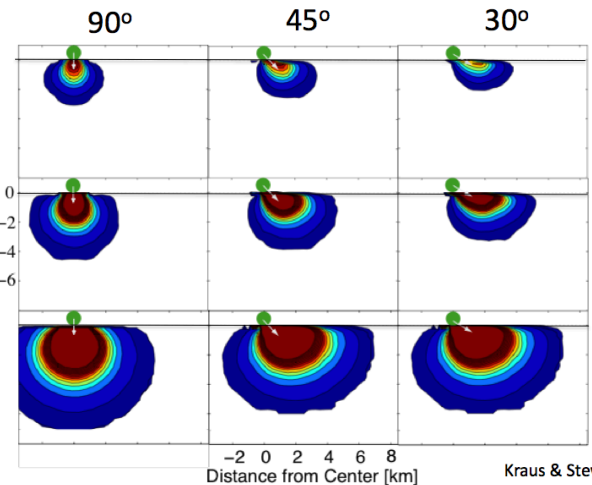
Simple single phase EOS



Pressure
[GPa]



Depth [km]



Kraus & Stewart, in prep.

Credit: S. Stewart (Harvard)



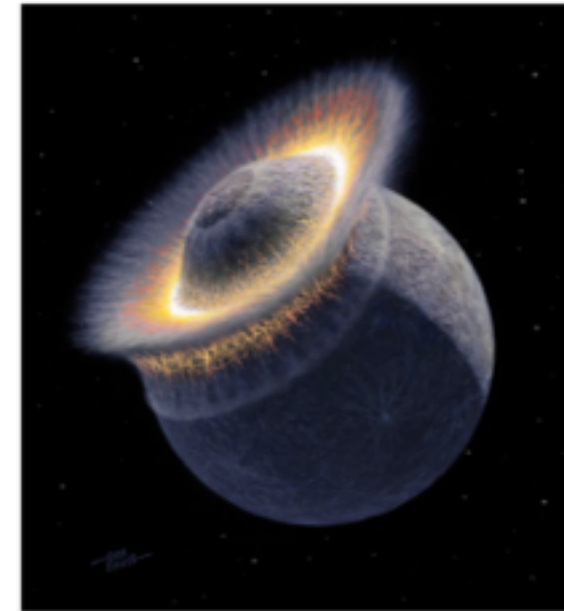
Giant Impacts: unlocking the mysteries of satellites and planets

Giant impacts:

- affect final physical and dynamical properties of a planet
- are invoked to explain the large core of Mercury, spin of Venus, crust asymmetry on Moon and Mars, etc.
- result in a diversity of features from possible outcomes

Physical properties of the planets and moons, and collisions among them, depend on thermodynamics models:

→ EOS (T , ρ , P , S), phase changes, mixtures, strength



The goals are to understand:

- planet and satellite formation, structure, and evolution
- effects of collisions on planets and satellites
- cratering mechanics and morphology

We use flyer plates on the **Z machine to gather shock data on relevant materials, such as *MgO* and *Fe*, in support of this research**



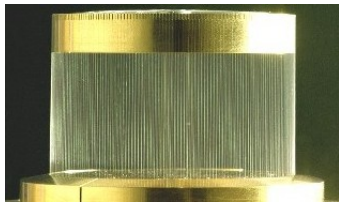
We can use high currents to push plasmas in different ways for different applications

High Current

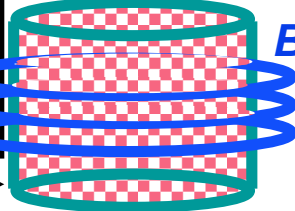
Z-pinch X-ray sources

Planar magnetic pressure

wire array

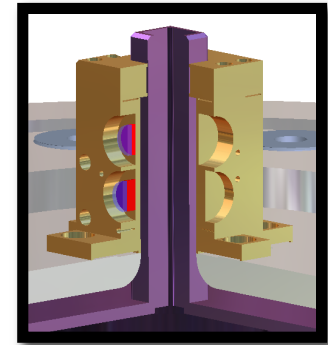
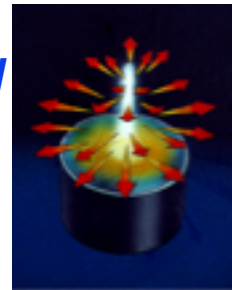


Current

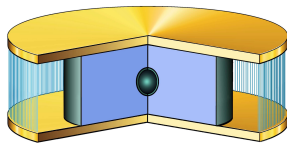
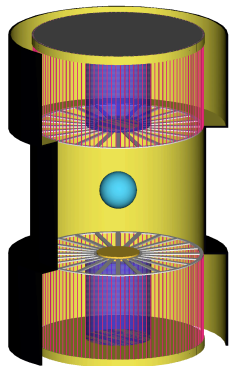


B-Field

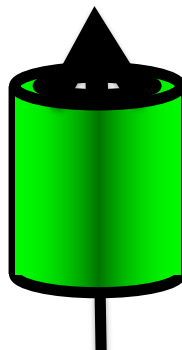
$J \times B$ Force



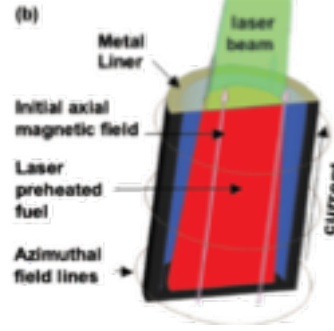
Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)



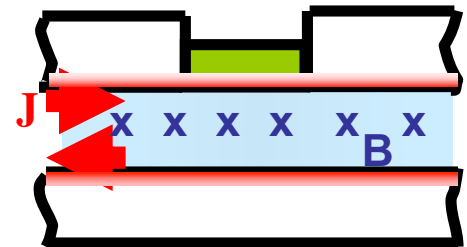
Indirect-drive
(x-rays)



Direct-drive
(magnetic field)



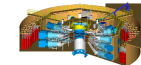
Material Properties



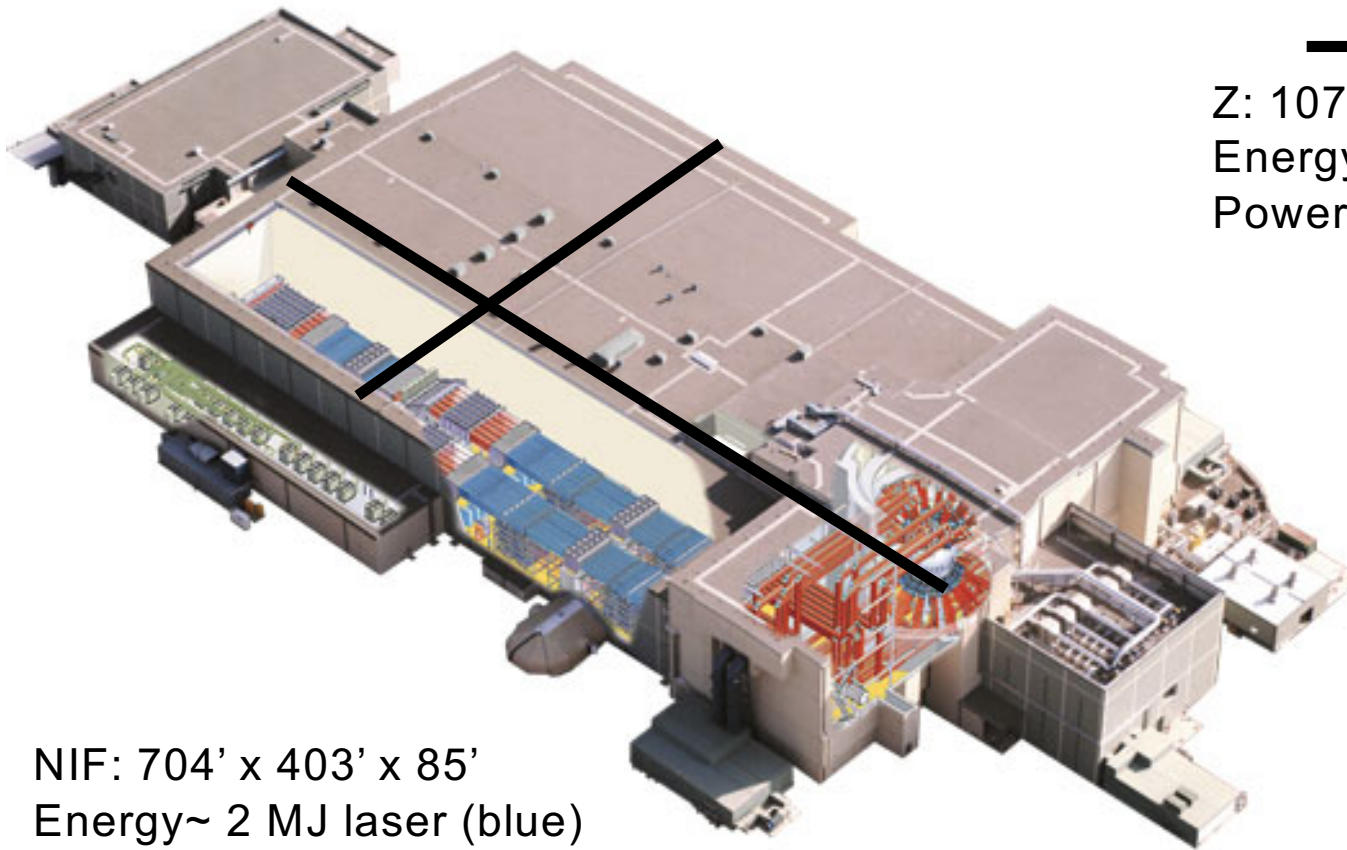


Pulsed power is a compact and efficient driver for high energy density physics experiments

The cost effectiveness and efficiency of pulsed power is evident from a size comparison of Z and NIF



Z: 107'diam x 20' high
Energy ~2 MJ x-rays
Power~100-330 TW



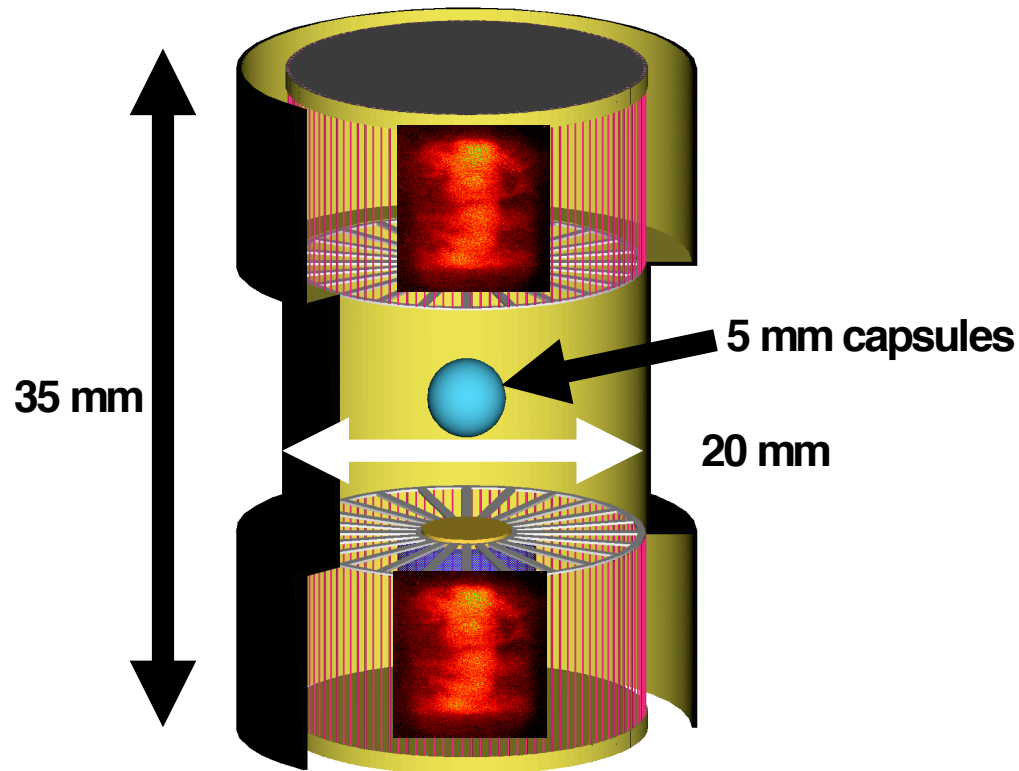
NIF: 704' x 403' x 85'
Energy~ 2 MJ laser (blue)
Power~ 500 TW

HOWEVER:



While Z pinches are more efficient radiators,
they need more energy to reach ICF conditions...

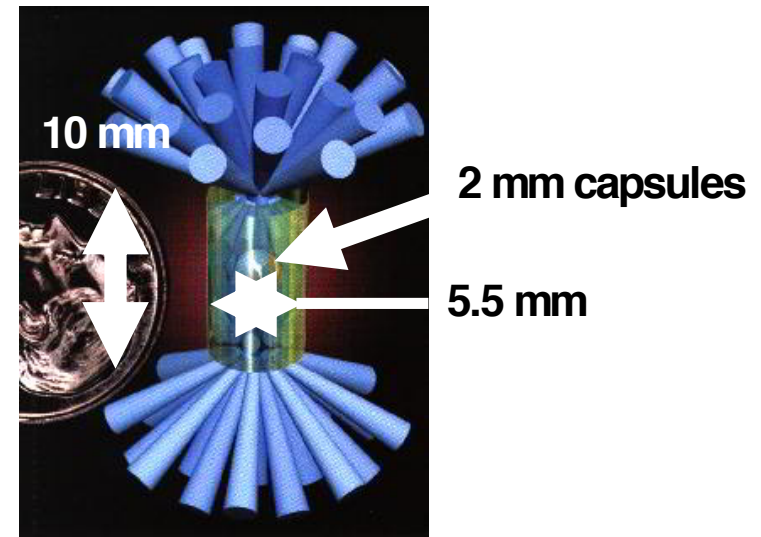
.... because they radiate in *bigger volumes*



Z-pinch driven hohlraum (2 Z-pinches)

Z: 2 MJ X-ray source

High Yield requirement ~ 16 MJ x-ray source



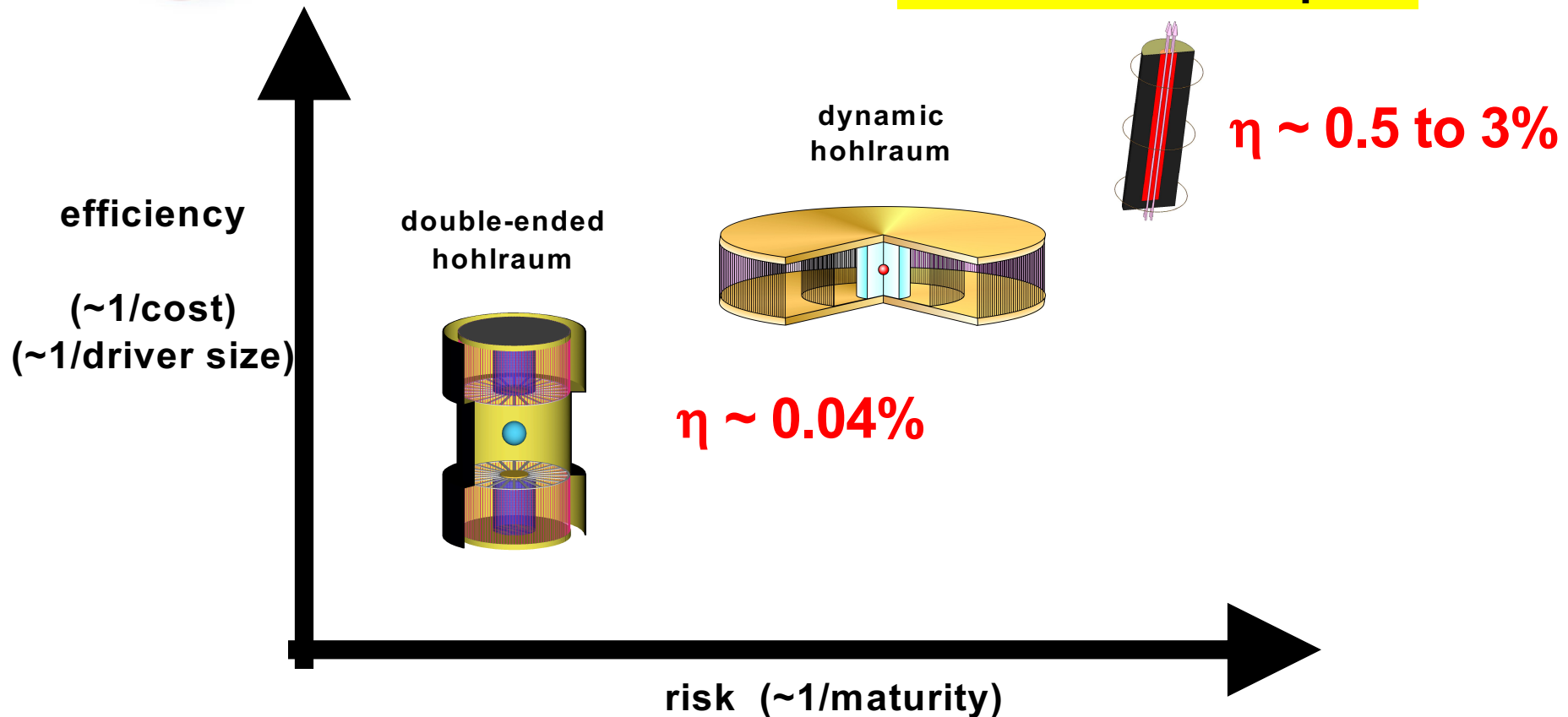
NIF Laser (192 laser beams)

1-2 MJ X-ray source



Are there more efficient pulsed power methods for heating and compressing fusion fuel?

advanced concepts



- Pulsed power can flexibly drive many target types
- **Direct fuel compression** and heating with the magnetic field could be ~20-50 times more efficient than x-ray indirect drive



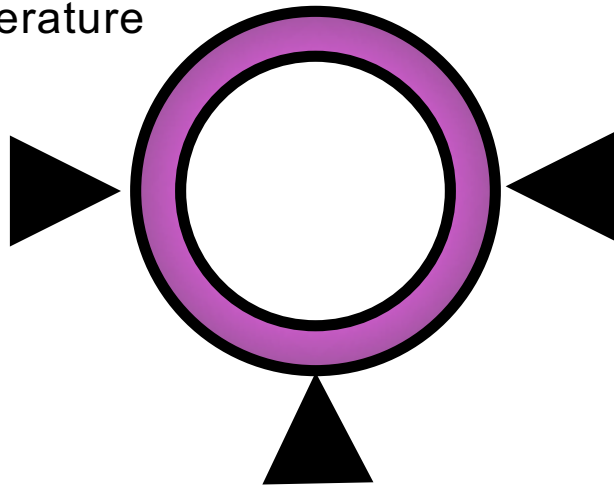
Magnetic direct-drive implosions generate high pressures just like radiation indirect-drive implosions

Radiation-driven spherical implosion (spherical rocket), **indirect drive**

$$P = \frac{(2/5)(1-\alpha)\sigma T_r^4}{C_s} = 3e-7 * T_r[eV]^{3.5} \text{ MBar}$$

140 MBar
at $T_r = 300 \text{ eV}$

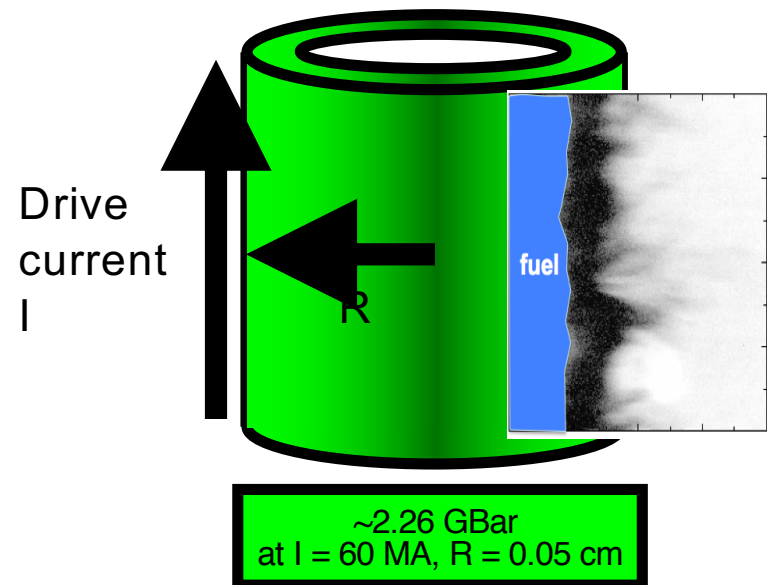
X-ray drive
temperature
 T



Magnetically-driven cylindrical implosion, **direct drive**

$$P = \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} = 1.57e-3 \left(\frac{I_{MA}}{R_{cm}} \right)^2 \text{ MBar}$$

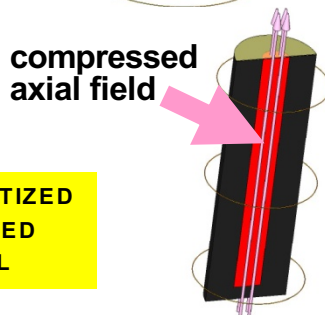
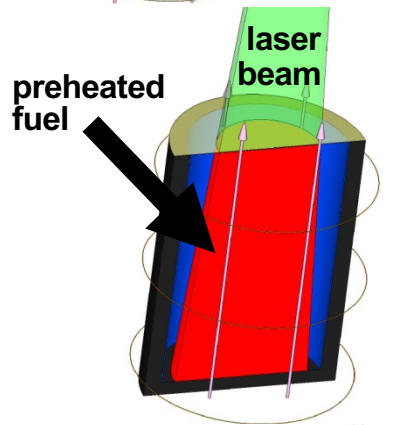
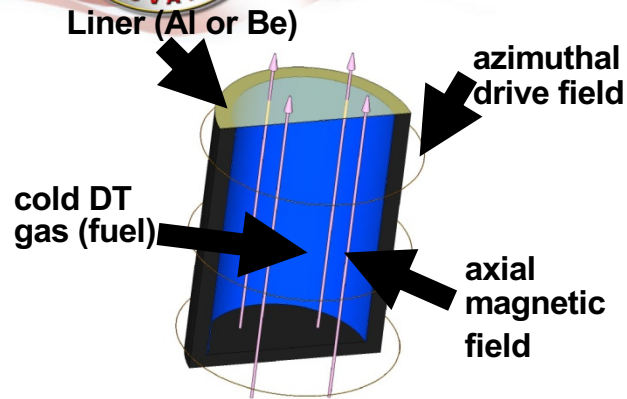
~458 MBar
at $I = 27 \text{ MA}$, $R = 0.05 \text{ cm}$



Need fuel pressures of ~100s Gbar and fuel ρr of ~1 g/cm² for ignition



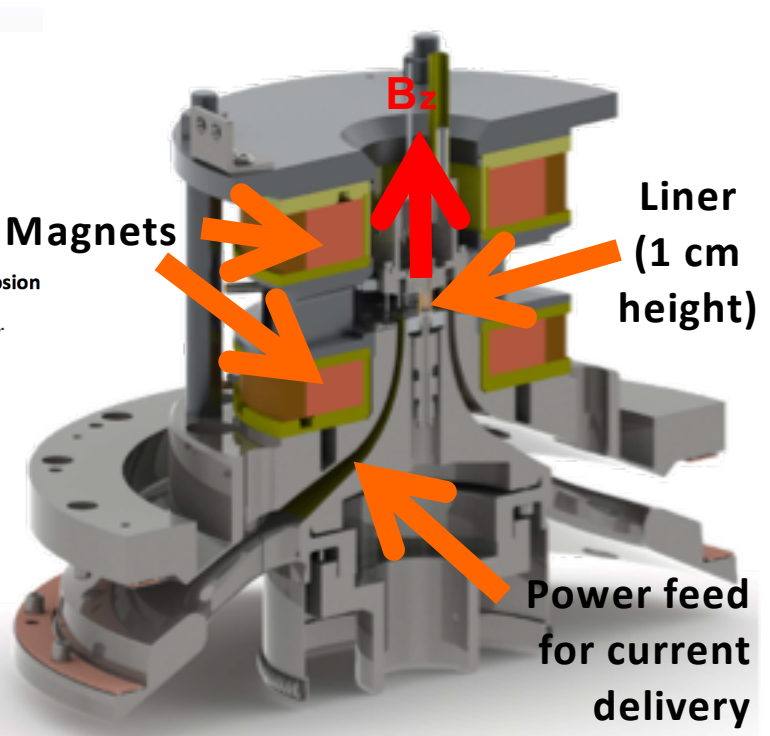
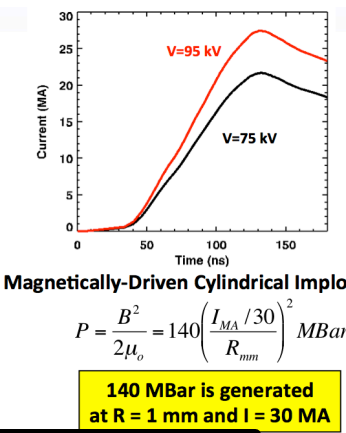
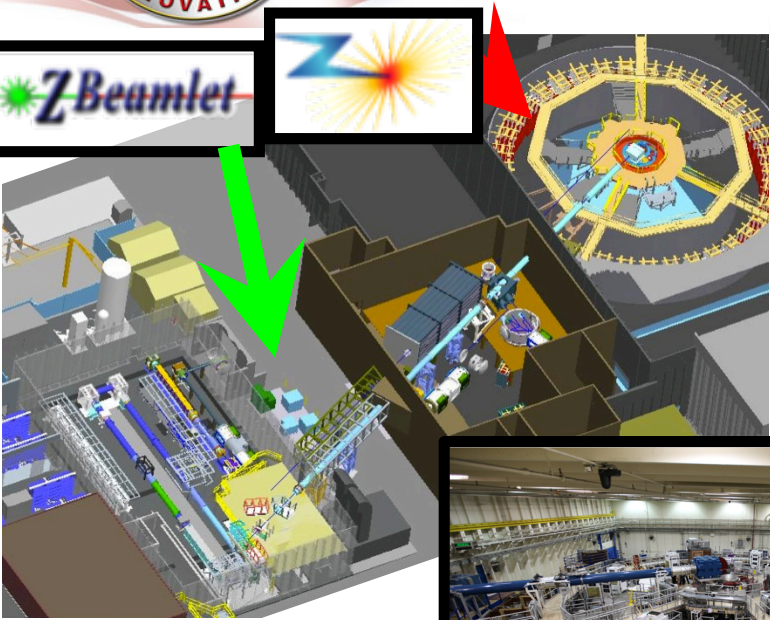
The ICF program is evaluating a direct-drive concept called Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion (MagLIF)



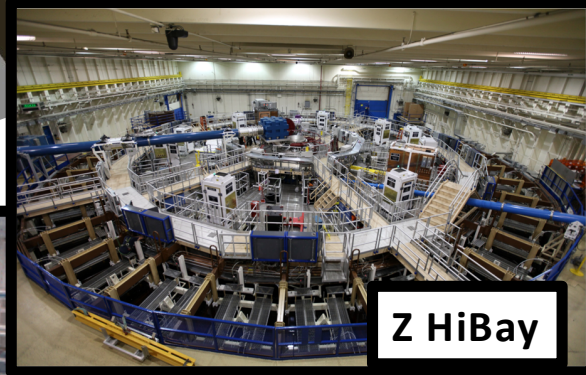
IMPLODE MAGNETIZED
AND PREHEATED
FUSION FUEL

- An initial $B_z \sim 10\text{-}50$ T magnetic field is applied
 - Inhibits thermal conduction losses
 - Enhances alpha particle energy deposition
 - May help stabilize implosion at late times
- During implosion, the fuel is heated using the Z-Beamlet laser (up to 10 kJ needed)
 - Preheats fuel to 100 – 500 eV
 - Reduces the compression needed to obtain ignition temperatures to 20-30 on Z
 - Reduces the necessary implosion velocity to 100 km/s (slow for ICF)
- Z provides pressure to implode at ~ 100 km/s and compress B_z field to ~ 100 MG
- Scientific breakeven may be possible on Z (fusion yield = energy into fusion fuel)

MagLIF uses the Z facility to compress a liner containing pre-magnetized and pre-heated D_2 gas



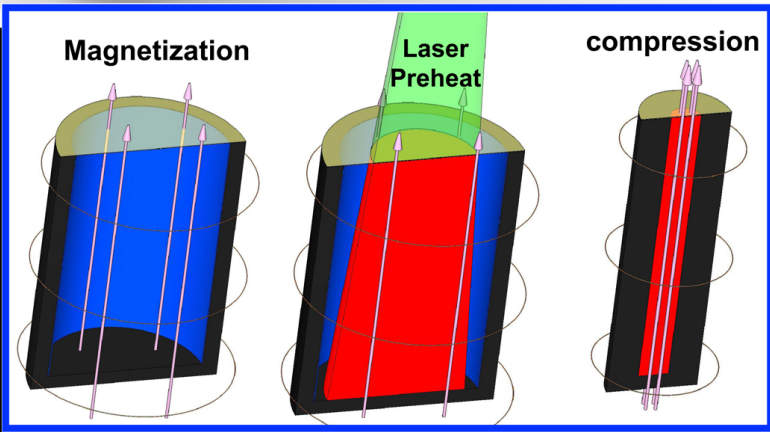
Z-Beamlet HiBay



Z HiBay



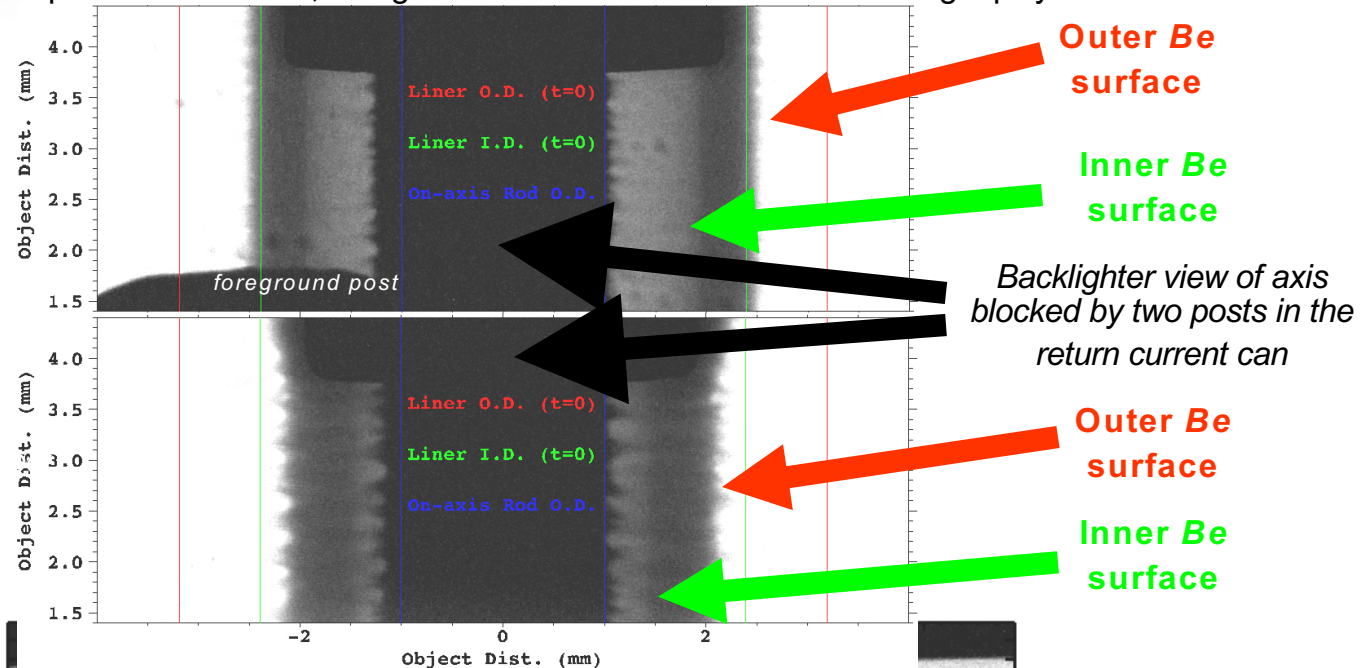
Applied-B Capacitors





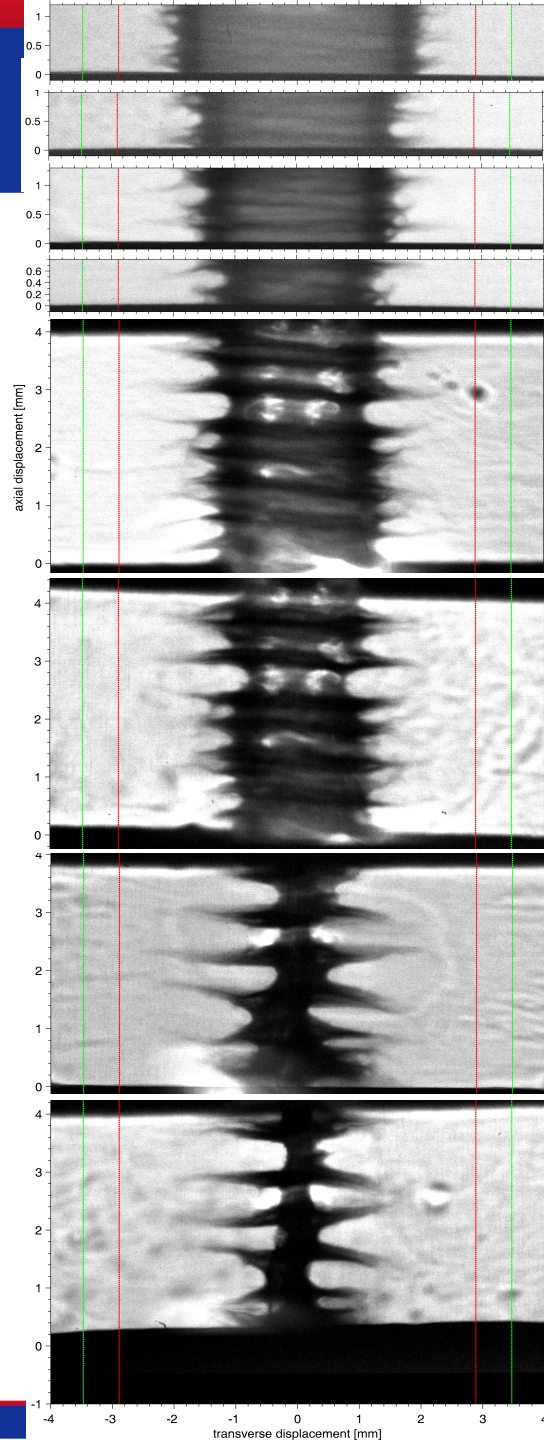
The inner surface of a thick Be liner is observable with 6 keV x-rays generated by the Z-Beamlet laser

Aspect ratio 4 liner, imaged with 2-frame 6.151 keV radiography



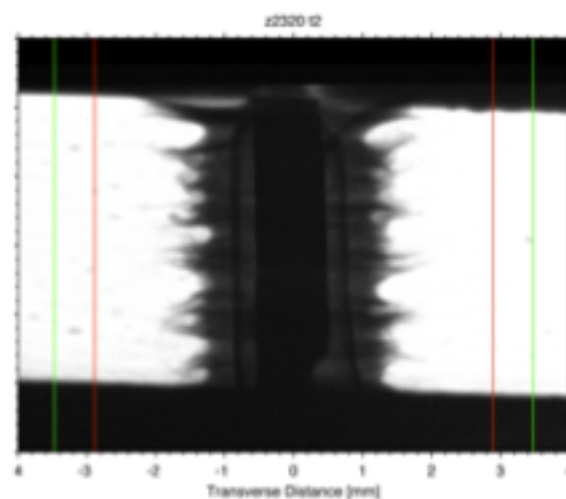
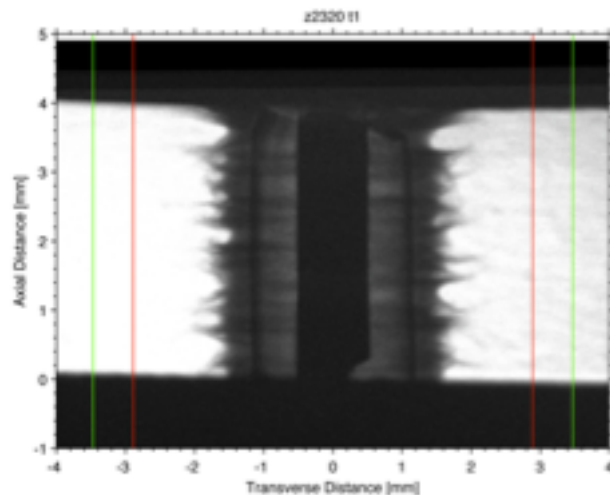
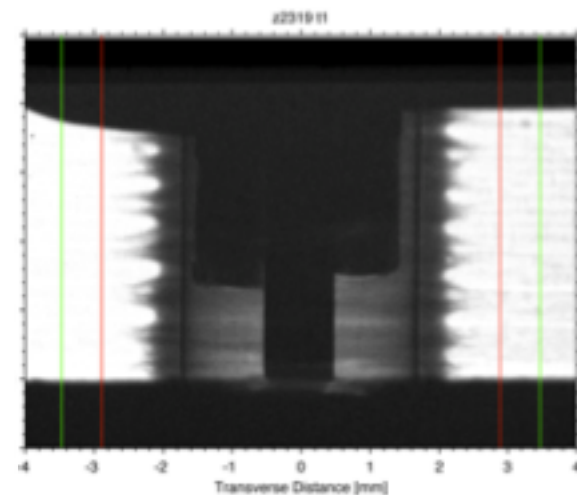
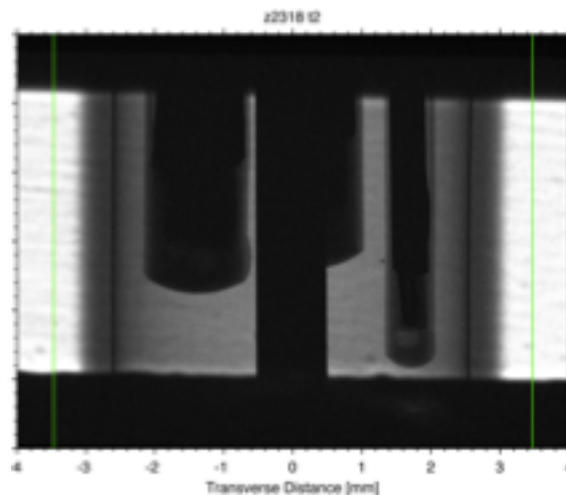
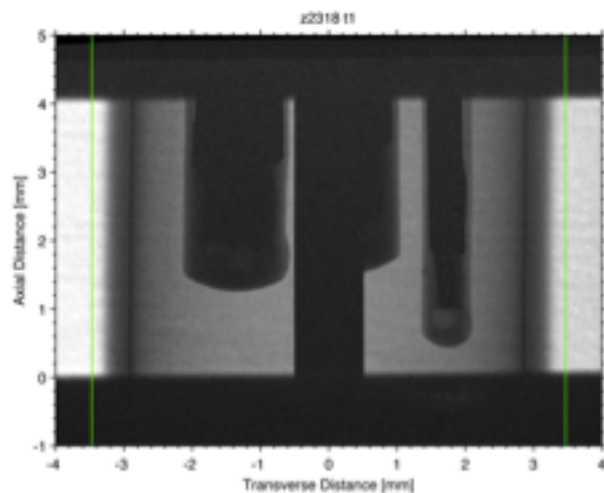
Aspect Ratio 6 liner

return current
can posts
and on-axis rod
removed



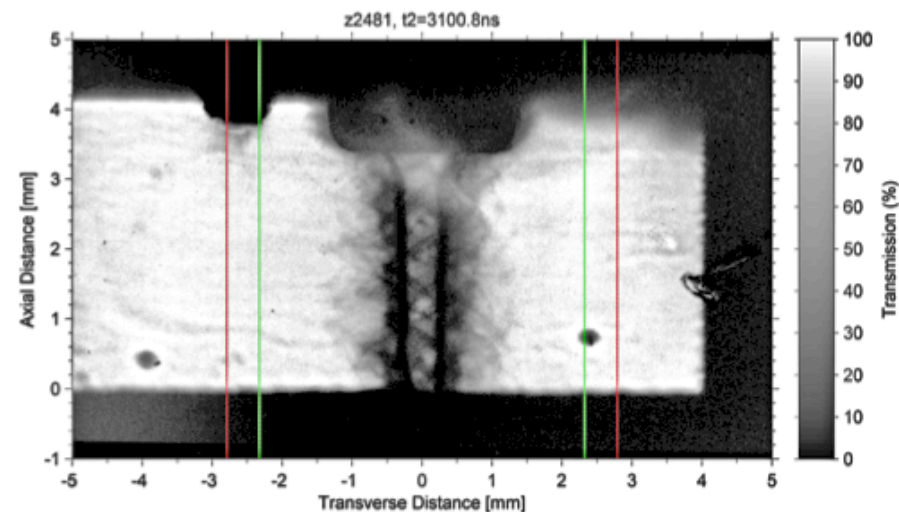
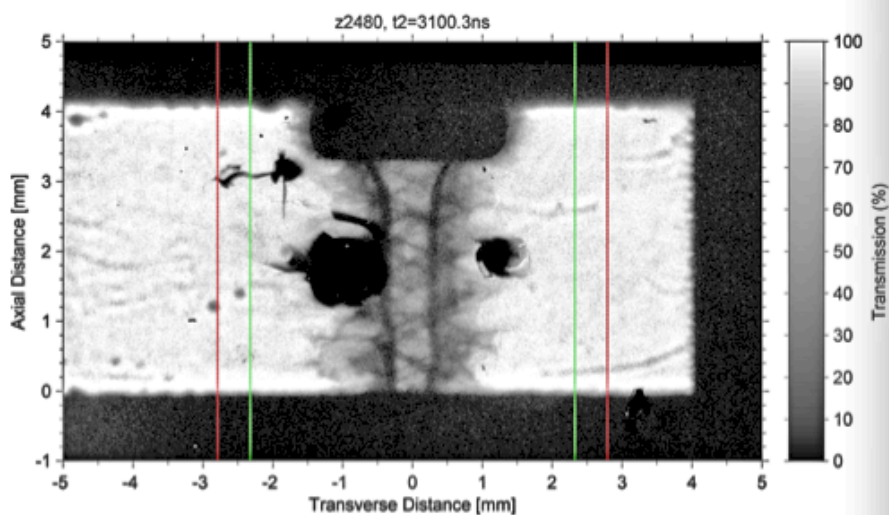
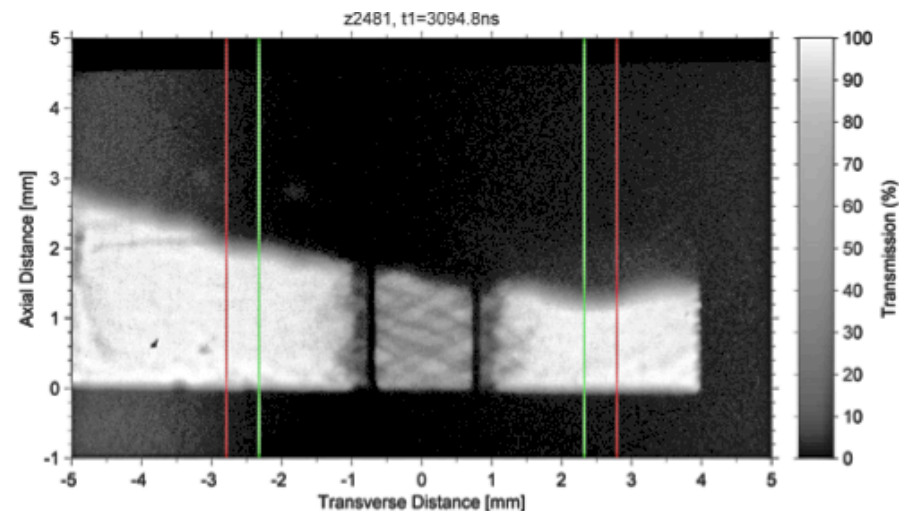
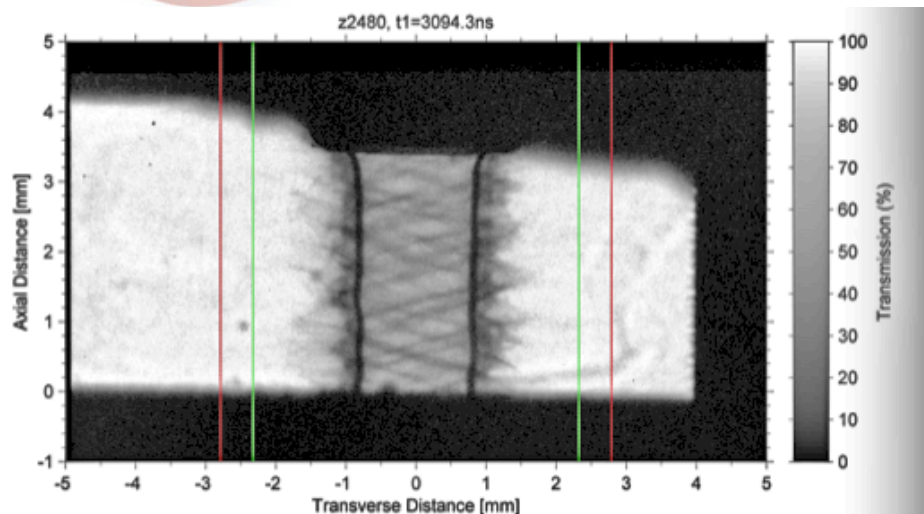


Recent studies examined a thin *Al* sleeve placed inside a *Be* liner to study the integrity of the inner surface





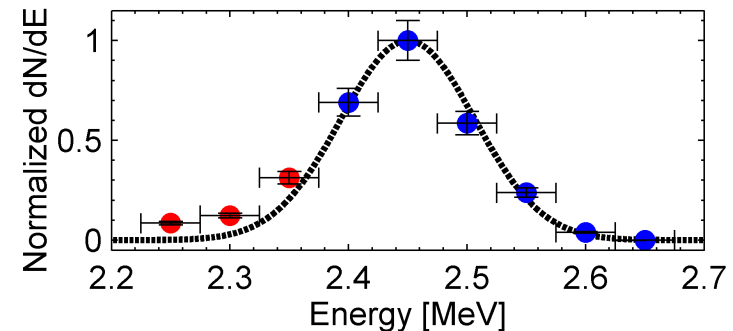
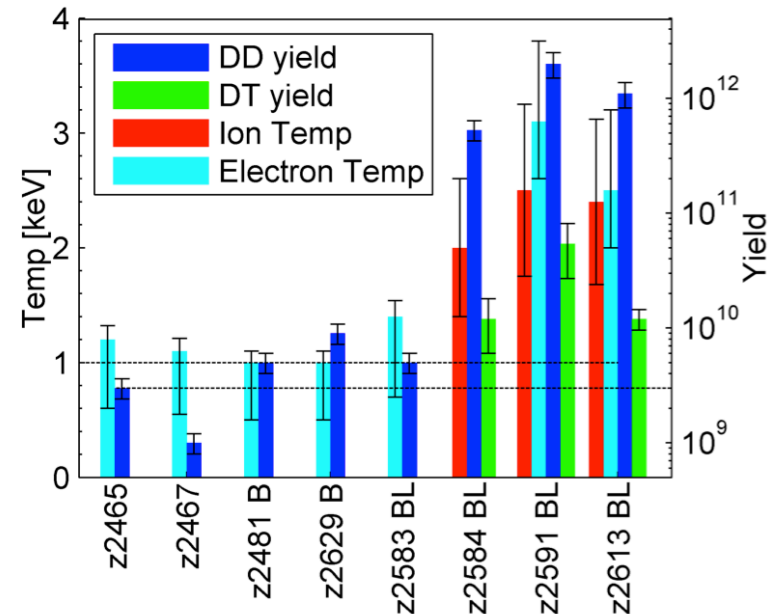
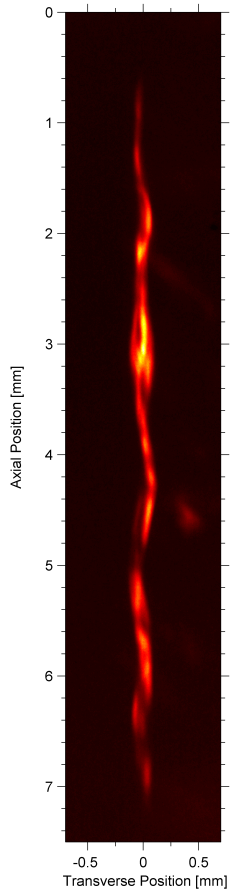
Recent experiments with $B_z^0 = 7$ T and 10 T, and $I_{\max} \sim 17$ MA, demonstrate excellent inner surface integrity at $CR \sim 7$





The first integrated MagLIF experiments successfully demonstrated the concept

- Thermonuclear DD neutron generation up to $\sim 1e13$ ($\sim 1e15$ DT equivalent)
- Fusion-relevant stagnation temperatures
- Stable pinch with narrow emission column at stagnation
- Successful flux compression





Triple-Thread Method Sparks Hope for Nuclear Fusion Energy
The secrets to its success are lasers, magnets and a big pinch
December 31, 2013 | By [W. Wayt Gibbs](#) and [Nancy Rasmussen](#)

The Z machine at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico discharges the most intense pulses of electrical current on Earth. Millions of amperes can be sent through a metallic cylinder the size of a pencil eraser, inducing a magnetic field that creates a force — called a Z pinch — that crushes the cylinder in a fraction of a second.

These areas, scientists have used the Z pinch to implode cylinders filled with hydrogen isotopes in the hope of achieving the extreme temperatures and pressures needed for energy-generating nuclear fusion. Despite their efforts, they have never succeeded in reaching ignition — the point at which the energy gained from fusion is greater than the energy put in.

The Z Machine: The intense electrical discharge of New Mexico's Sandia National Laboratories' Z machine is used in attempts to trigger nuclear fusion.
[Brendy Shevings/Sandia National Laboratories](#)

At the University of California, Los Angeles, scientists are using a different approach to achieve fusion. They are using a technique called inertial confinement fusion (ICF), which involves compressing a small amount of fuel into a tiny sphere, creating conditions that allow fusion to occur.

ICF is a more complex process than Z-pinches, but it has the potential to produce more energy than the Z-machine. The National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is the world's largest ICF experiment, and it is expected to produce the first fusion reaction in the near future.

While Z-pinches and ICF are the most advanced methods for achieving fusion, there are other approaches being explored. These include magnetic confinement fusion (MCF), which uses powerful magnetic fields to contain and heat the plasma, and hybrid fusion-fission reactors, which combine the two processes.

Despite the challenges, the potential of fusion energy is immense. It offers a clean, safe, and sustainable source of power that could revolutionize the way we generate electricity. As research continues, the hope is that fusion will become a reality in the coming decades.

The overarching mystery of the yield of the Nation's nuclear weapons is generated when the conditions within the nuclear-explosive package are in the high energy density (10¹⁰ to 10¹¹ g/cm³) regime. This is the condition under which the nuclear reactions are initiated and the energy is released. The National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is the world's largest ICF experiment, and it is expected to produce the first fusion reaction in the near future.

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Physics **Physics T, 105 (2014)**

Viewpoint

Magnetic Fields Lock in the Heat for Fusion

Research Brief
Department of Physics and Astronomy and Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 2G1
 Published October 16, 2014

Exotic magnetic fields trap heat in a fusion reactor, locking in the heat of fusion reactions.

Subject Area: Nuclear Physics, Plasma Physics

A Viewpoint on:
 Experimental Demonstration of Stationed-Rotator Conditions in Magnetized Ion-Inertial Fusion
in the Volume 105
 Physical Review Letters (doi: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.113.155001) Published October 16, 2014

Understanding Fast Magnetization and Its Role in Secondary Nuclear Reactions in Magnetized-Fusion Plasmas
P. J. C. de Groot et al.
 Physical Review Letters (doi: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.113.155001) Published October 16, 2014

Since the creation of the first model, the H3D program is the fastest growing as an important component of the research program. The following is a general overview of activities and the other uses of H3D research in teaching. In response, we are developing a more coordinated approach across the major national H3D efforts to measure the long-term viability of the H3D.

The NIMRA has developed their cutting edge experimental capabilities as part of the National Confusion/Fatigue (NC/F) Program to enable access to H3D expertise relevant to nuclear response. The Omega and Omega 2P teams at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Fusion, the US Naval Research Laboratory, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Pacific-2000 at the University of Tennessee National Laboratory (UNL), and Tennessee have also enabled critical contributions to the maintenance of the nation's nuclear facilities. As an international national H3D effort will enhance our ability to monitor our nuclear technology, allocate the generation of multiple resources, and protect the U.S. homeland from terrorism in H3D systems.

With these objectives at guiding priorities, we start with key technical factors in early education to ensure the future contribution of our national H3D efforts. A first commitment emerged in late meeting the H3D system, and more specifically the period of focus (H3D) in the laboratory, to extend for the long-term benefits of the strategic research programs. At this time, we are developing a series of research programs that will enable the long-term development of this national H3D program.

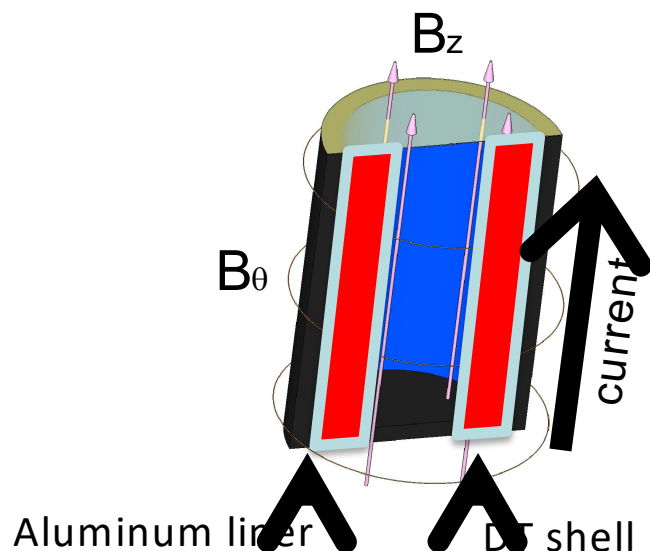
The U.S. nuclear response initiatives are fully committed to building and maintaining H3D capabilities that support key NIMRA system efforts:

- Sustaining and upgrading the technology
- Qualifying system and components for the new nuclear environment
- Conducting technological research
- Recruiting, training, testing, and retaining technical staff



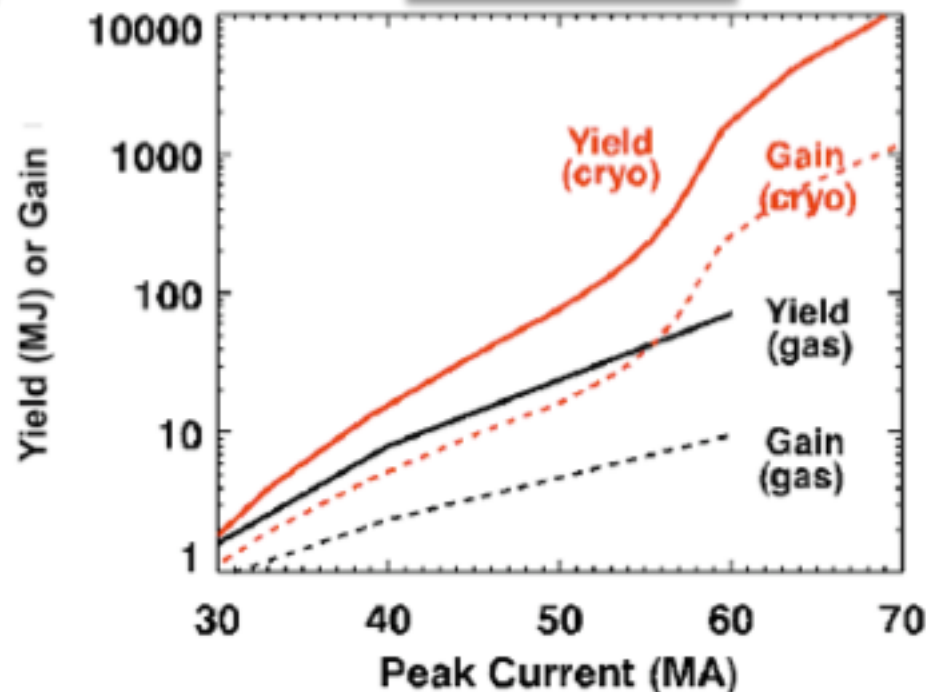
Direct-magnetically-driven targets give high yields (>1 GJ) at 60 MA in simulations

Magnetized Cryogenic Levitated Shell



- Reduce difficulty of ignition and high yield
 - Large energies to target (> 1 MJ)
 - Magnetized fuel
 - Pre-heated fuel

Yield and Gain



S. A. Slutz *et al.*, *Phys. Plasmas*, 17, 056303 (2010).
S. A. Slutz, R. A. Vesey, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 108, 025003 (2012)



Large yields and low rep-rate may be an attractive path for Inertial Fusion Energy

The logic of the integrated system is compelling

- Compact, efficient, low cost, long-lifetime, repetitive driver
- Advanced, efficient, low cost, robust targets, that are simple to fabricate
- Large stored energies, efficient coupling
- \Rightarrow Very large absorbed target energies
- \Rightarrow Very large fusion yields
- \Rightarrow Allows low rep-rate using recyclable transmission lines (RTL)
- \Rightarrow RTL coupling is feasible, engineering development required
- \Rightarrow RTL allows thick-liquid-wall (TLW) and vaporizing blanket
- \Rightarrow TLW provides long lifetime chamber

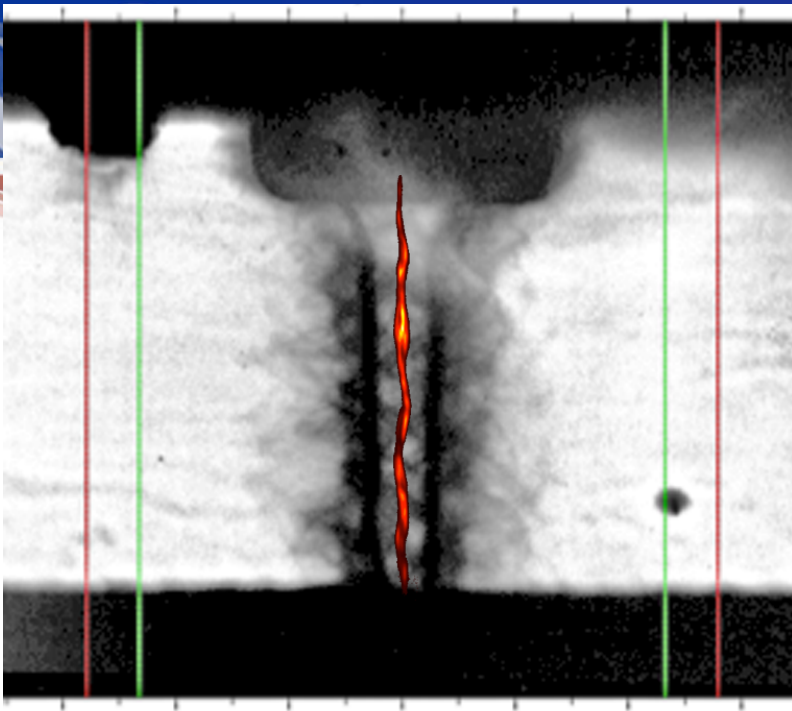
Key enabling physics:

magnetically-driven-targets

Key enabling technologies:

LTD' s and RTL' s, Fusion Engineering

MagLIF Summary



MagLIF enables ICF yields
on pulsed-power accelerators
using slow < 100 km/s implosions

Integrated calculations provide realistic design requirements for MagLIF experiments, as well as predictions for improvements

Integrated experiments provided evidence for thermonuclear neutrons and magnetized fuel

Detailed comparisons between simulations and experimental results are excellent



There are many applications of pulsed power technology – we've only discussed some

(and there are more than just these....)

- Pulsed electric fields
 - Electroporation
 - Bacterial decontamination
 - Discharges through solids and liquids
- Pulsed magnetic fields
 - Equation of state measurements
 - High energy density physics
 - Ultra high field production
- High power beams
 - Electron beams
 - Ion beams
- Intense radiation sources
 - Laser flashlamps
 - Microwave generation
 - Z-pinch soft X-ray sources (< 5 keV)
 - Z-pinch warm x-ray sources (5-10 keV)
 - Hard X-ray sources (>100 keV)
- Pulsed power inertial confinement fusion
 - Indirect-drive wire arrays
 - Dynamic and double ended hohlraum
 - Direct-drive magnetically-driven implosions
 - Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion
 - Liner stability experiments
 - Inertial Fusion Energy
 - High gain targets, linear transformer drivers, chambers, recyclable transmission lines
- Fundamental science
 - Laboratory astrophysics
 - Earth and planetary Sciences



Summary

- **Large currents** create large magnetic fields, and large magnetic fields **create large pressures**, which are needed to access high energy density regimes
- Pulsed power can inexpensively, efficiently, and flexibly drive many different kinds of experiments at **large currents** and high voltages
- The Z machine creates large currents (and is the world's largest x-ray source), allowing us to address fundamental issues in HED science, laboratory astrophysics, and inertial fusion energy
- Lasers have more control than Z-pinchs regarding “where”, “how”, and “how long” energy is deposited.
However, Z-pinchs are **much cheaper** and **more efficient** than lasers, and so provide an attractive option for inertial fusion energy
- The upper limits on Z-pinch performance in achieving high energy densities are not known.

There is a lot of room for innovation! (esp. direct drive concepts for fusion)



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