



Integrity ★ Service ★ Excellence

Space Propulsion and Power

8 March 2012

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AFOSR/RSA**

Air Force Research Laboratory



Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 08 MAR 2012		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2012 to 00-00-2012	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Space Propulsion And Power				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright Patterson AFB, OH, 45433				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Spring Review Arlington, VA 5 through 9 March, 2012					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 23	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			



2012 AFOSR SPRING REVIEW



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PORTFOLIO:

Multi-disciplinary (Propulsion, Materials, Plasma and Electro-Energetic Physics, Chemistry, etc), multi-physics, multi-scale approach to complex space propulsion problems

SUB-AREAS IN PORTFOLIO:

•Coupled Materials and Plasma Processes Far From Equilibrium

with Sayir, Harrison (RSA), and Luginsland (RSE)

•Novel Energetic Materials

Multi-agency Coordination Committee: Petris/DTRA, Doherty/DHS, Anthenien/ARO, Bedford/ONR, Spowart, Hawkins/AFRL, Palaszewski, Fletcher, Sayir/NASA, Pagoria/LLNL, Owruksy/NRL, Birkan, Berman/AFOSR

•Nonlinear, multi-scale, multi-physics high pressure combustion dynamics

with Fahroo (RSL), Darema (CC), and Li (RSA)



Coupled Materials and Plasma Processes Far From Equilibrium

Kick-off meeting, NASA Glenn RC, 29-30 November 2011
with Sayir, Harrison (RSA), and Luginsland (RSE)



steady-state powered low-density plasmas

$\sim 10^{15}$ #/cm³

Pulsed-powered relatively low-density plasmas, $\sim 10^{13-20}$ #/cm³

Plasma/Electrode Interactions in High Current Density Environments (HPM sources)

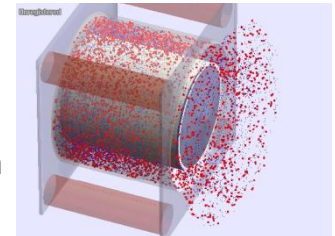
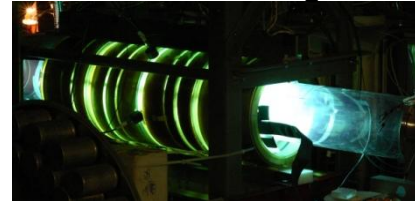
500kV, 10kA, GW-class EM fields, 100ns to 1 μ s

Pulsed-powered high-density thermal plasmas

Pressure ~ 10 's Mpa, Temperature ~ 1 -10 eV, Pulse time ~ 1 μ s – 1 m

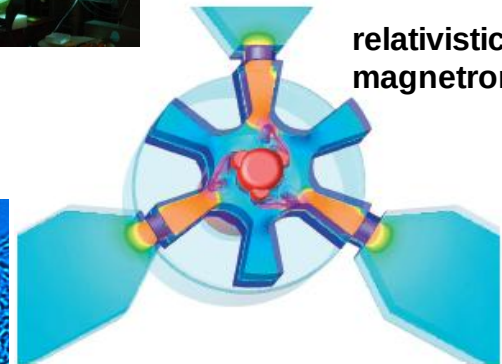
Characterize Surface / particle Interactions in Space Environment to mitigate contamination, charging, thermal control, undesired optical backgrounds

Reverse field configuration

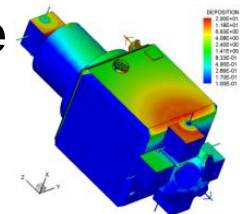
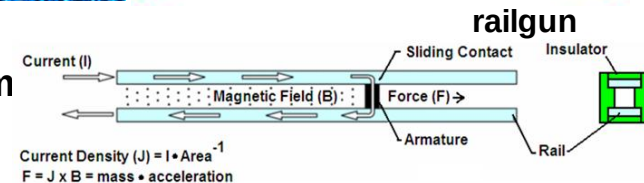
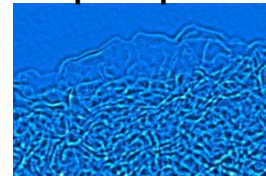


electric thrusters

relativistic magnetron



supercapacitor



Satellite contamination /charging



Understand and Model the interactions among the low pressure plasma, material, and energy flow



TEAM 1

Nasr M. Ghoniem(UCLA)
Dan Goebel (JPL)
Igor D. Kaganovich (Princeton)
Yevgeny Raitses (Princeton)
Shahram Sharafat (UCLA)
Brian Williams (Ultramet)
Richard Wirz (UCLA)

TEAM 2

Mitchell L. R. Walker (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Alex Kieckhafer (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Jud Ready (Georgia Tech Research Institute)
Greg Thompson (University of Alabama)

What are the relationships between surface architecture and secondary electron emission, and the damage energy fluence limits?

How to model plasma-material interaction to characterize grain detachment, sputtering leading to plasma modifications ?

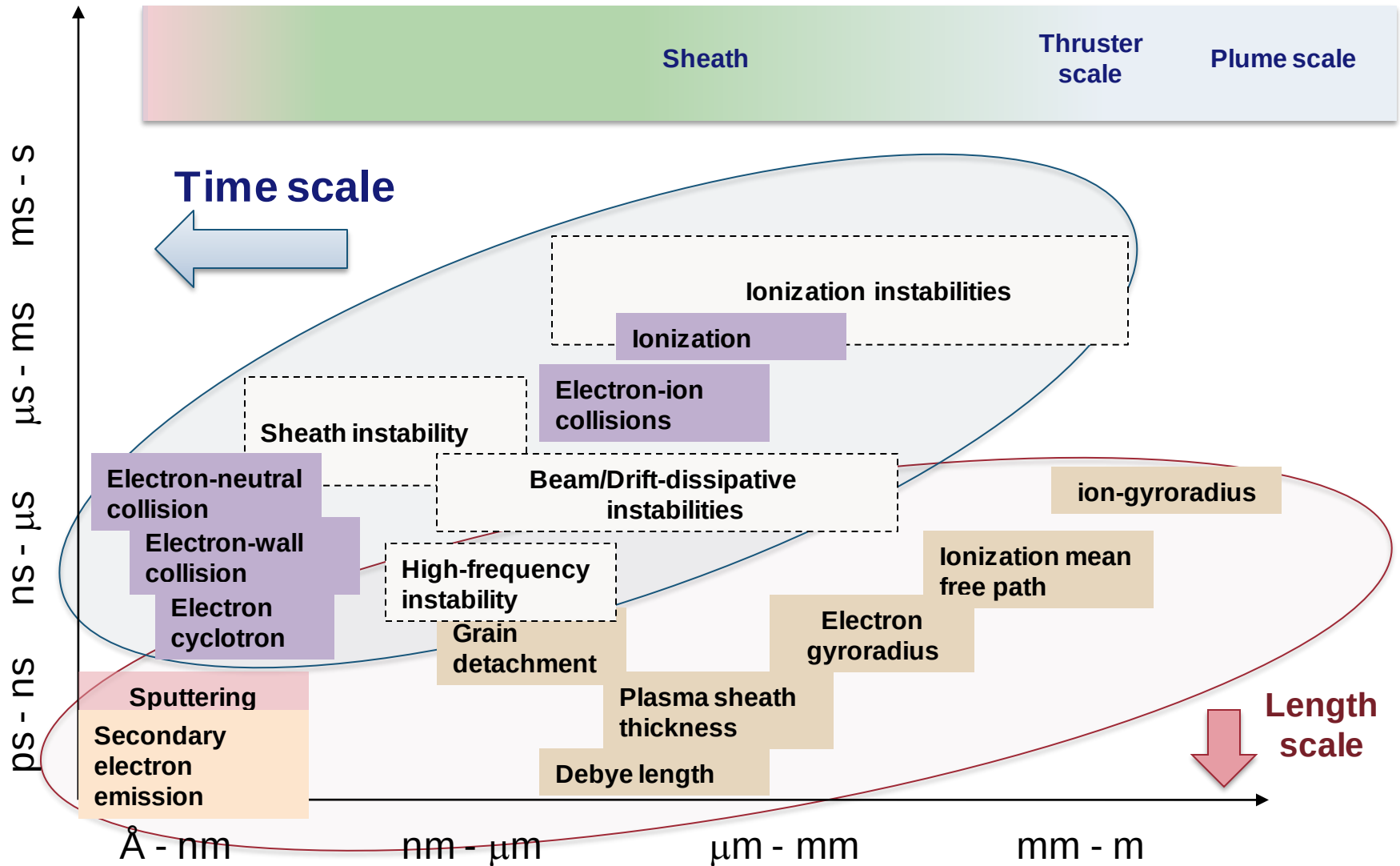
TEAM 3

Manuel Martinez-Sanchez (MIT)
Mark Cappelli (Stanford),
Dennis Whyte (MIT-PSFC)

What is the the effect of sheath instabilities, gas retention, and plasma-induced structural modifications on global performance ?

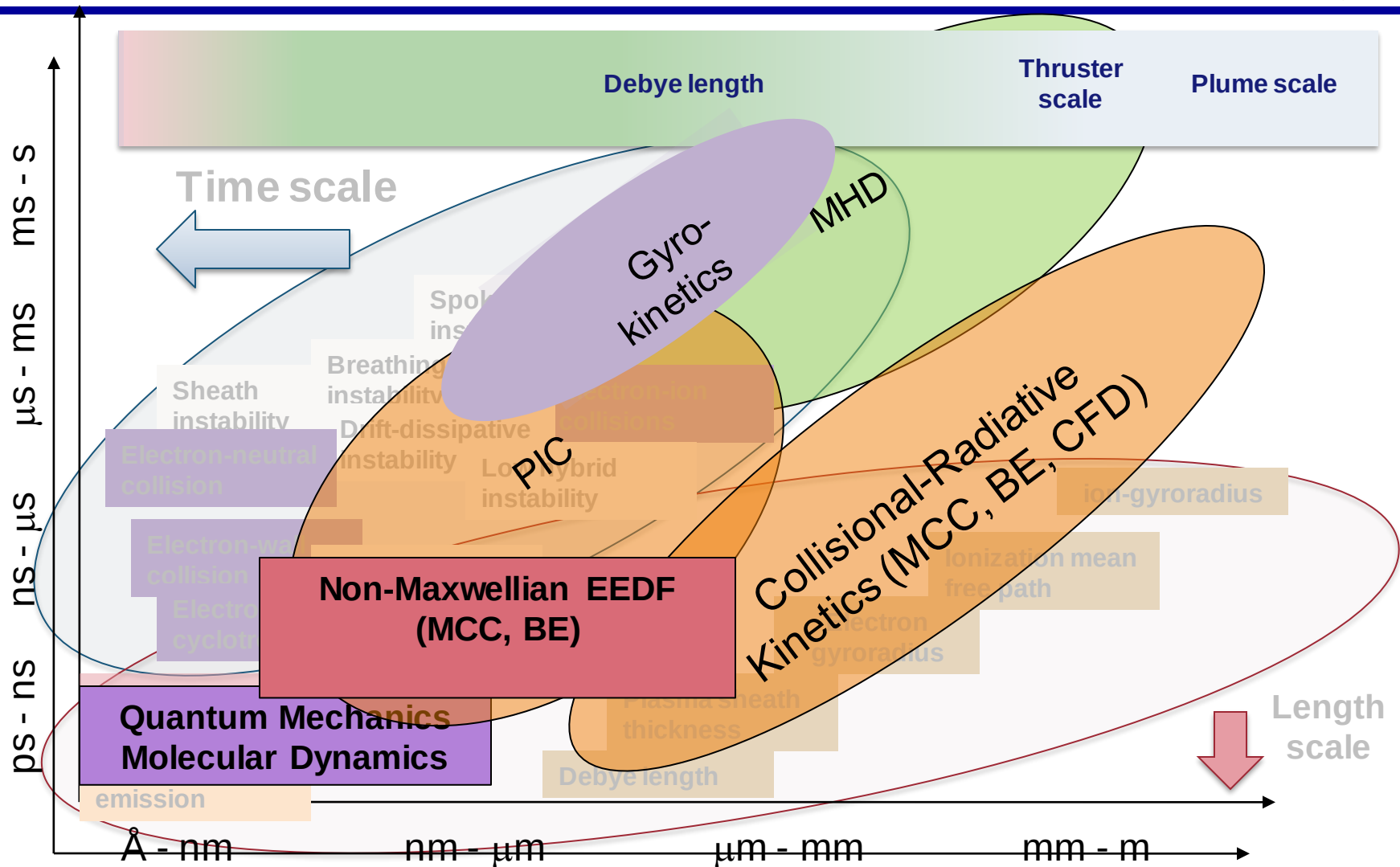


Multiple Scales in low-density, steady-state powered plasmas



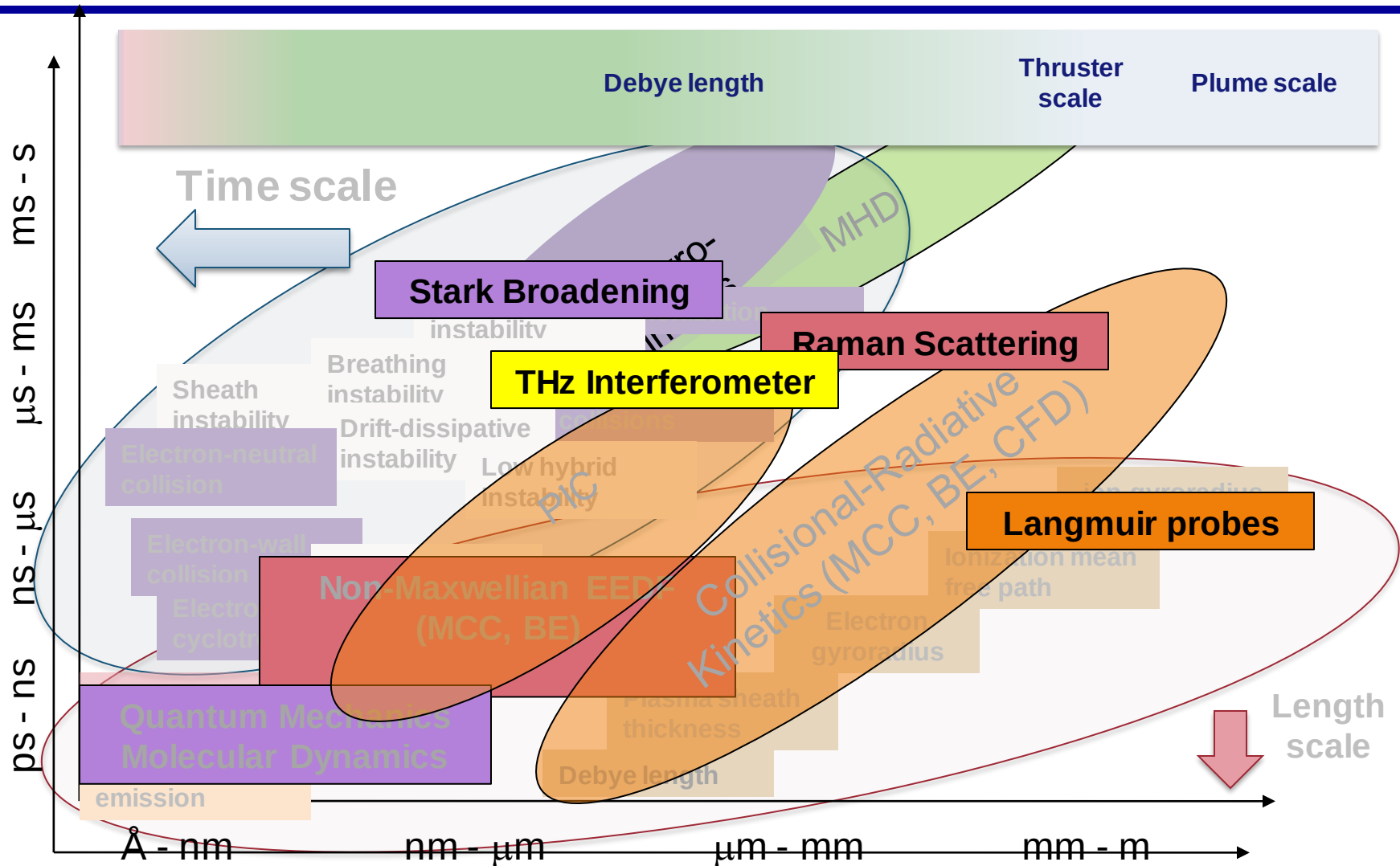


Multiple Scales in low-density, steady-state powered plasmas - Computational Tools



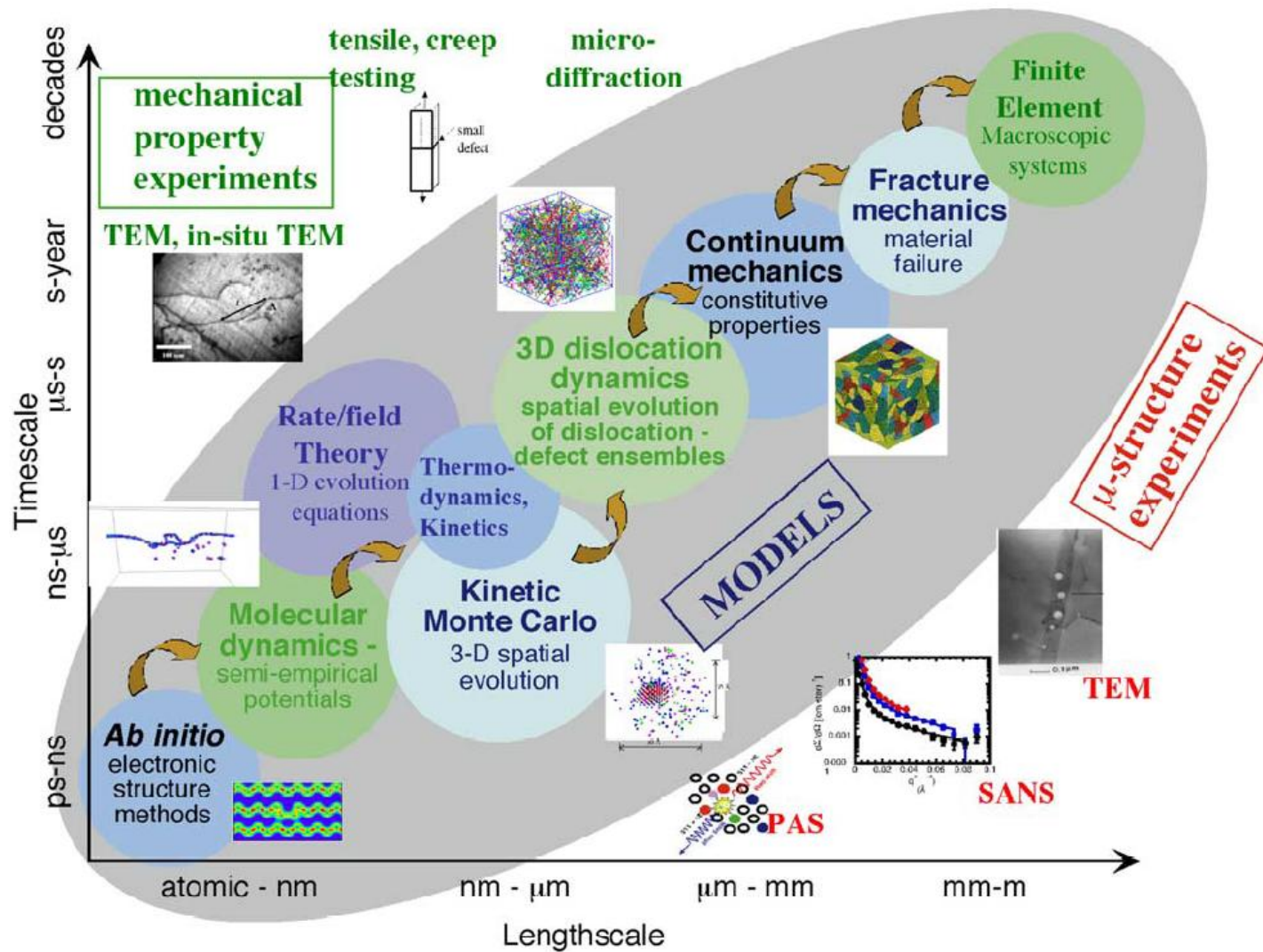


Multiple Scales in low-density, steady-state powered plasmas - Diagnostic Tools





Multi-scale Modeling of Materials

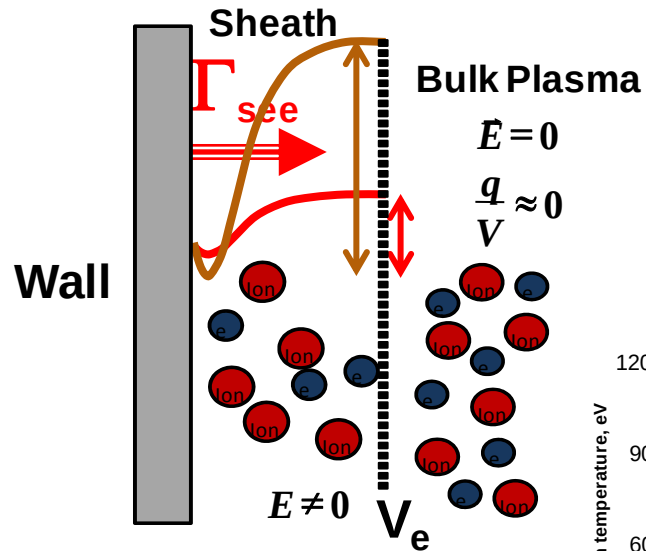




Example:

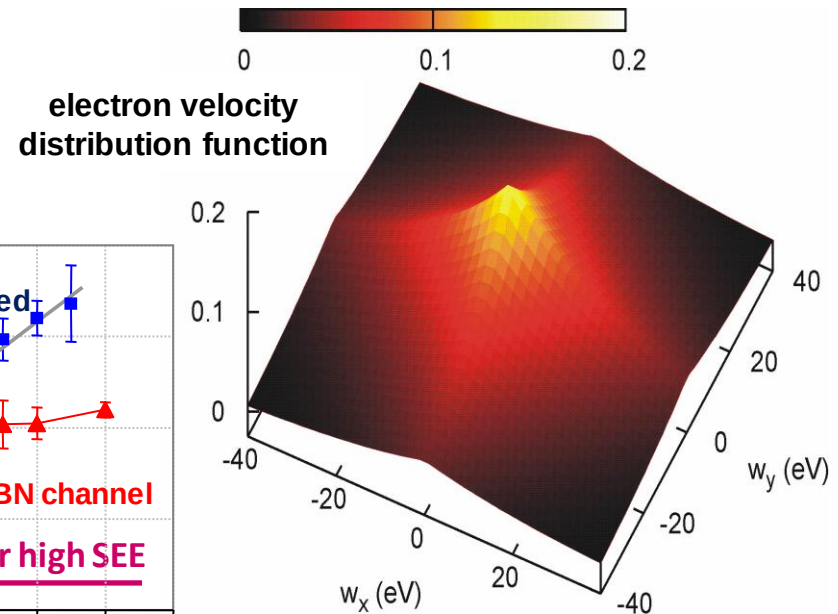
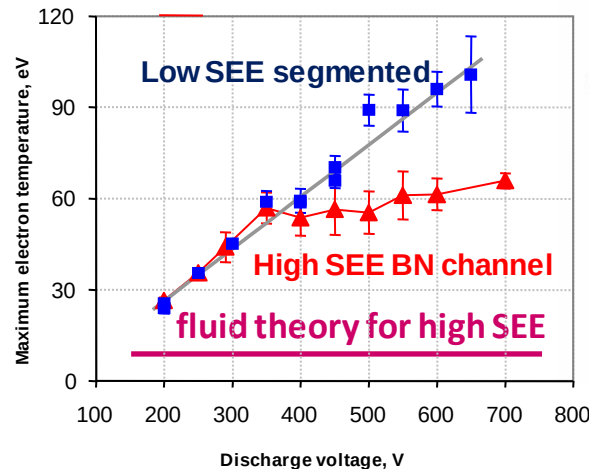
Secondary Electron Emission: Good or Bad?

• According to the Classic Fluid theory of Hobbs and Wesson, SEE is GOOD !!, leads to reduced wall erosion !! Martinez – Sanchez / MIT (1997)



• Fluid theory assumes isotropic equilibrium (Maxwellian), and for walls with very high secondary electron emission, sheath collapses, sheath potential negligible !!

One Problem: can not predict the experimental results



• WHY?

- Plasma mean free path in thrusters are too high to achieve equilibrium (not enough electron-electron collisions)
- According to the fluid theory, maximum electron temperature does not change with discharge power due to huge electron heat flux to the wall



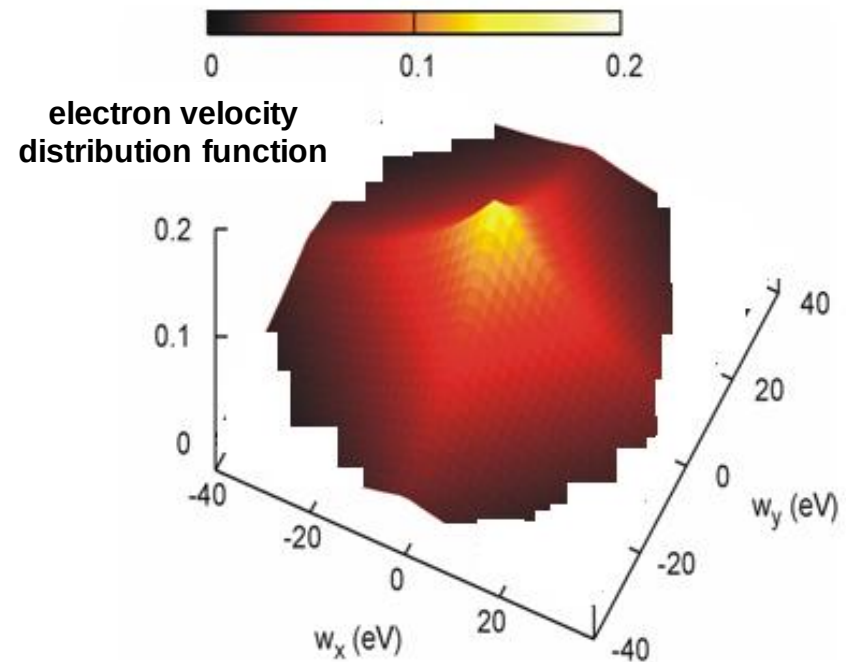
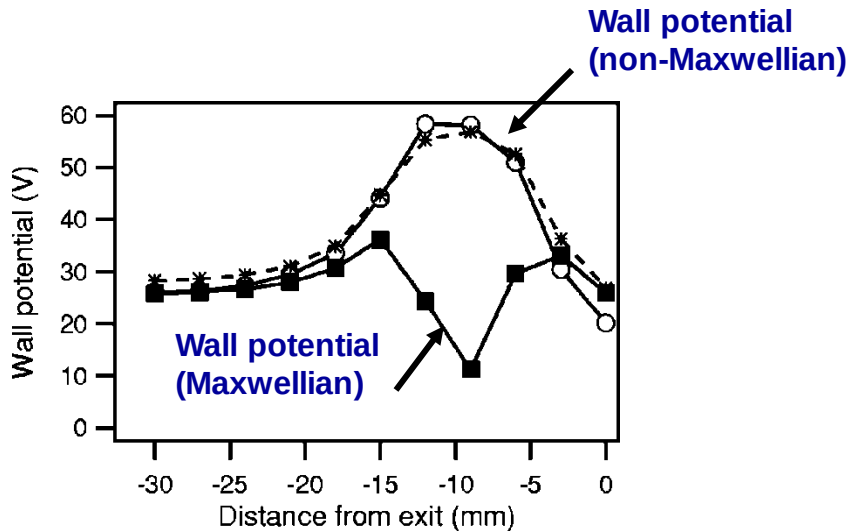
Example: Secondary Electron Emission: Good or Bad?



Model should account for Non-Equilibrium Effects !!

Kinetic theory of Meezan and Cappelli / Stanford, High Secondary Electron Emission Depletes Tail of the Isotropic Electron Velocity Distribution

•Solution of the Boltzmann Equation, ISOTROPIC



- High Energy Electrons lost at wall
- Isotropic, can not predict secondary electron emission beams, and sheath instabilities

•Sheath does not collapse, so Secondary Electron Emission has little effect on EROSION!

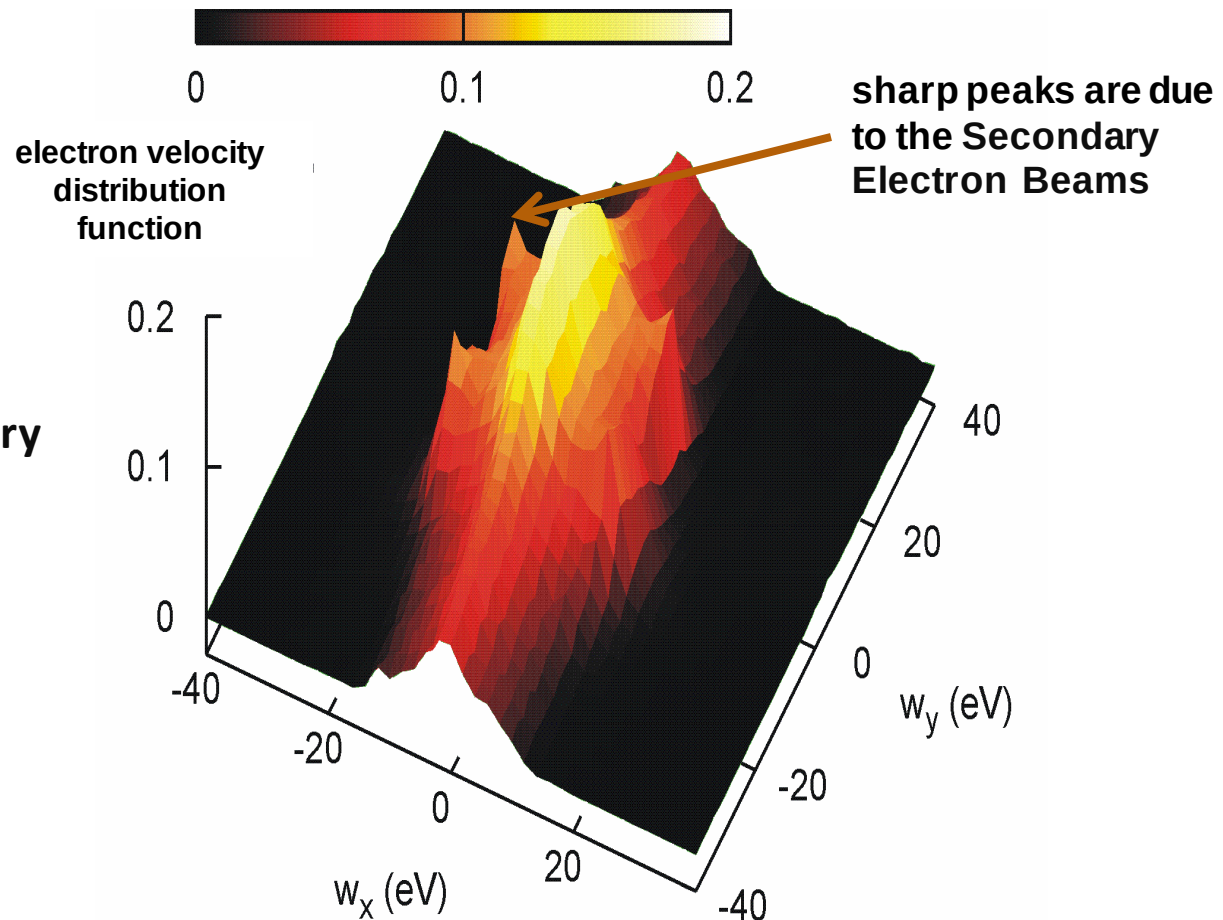
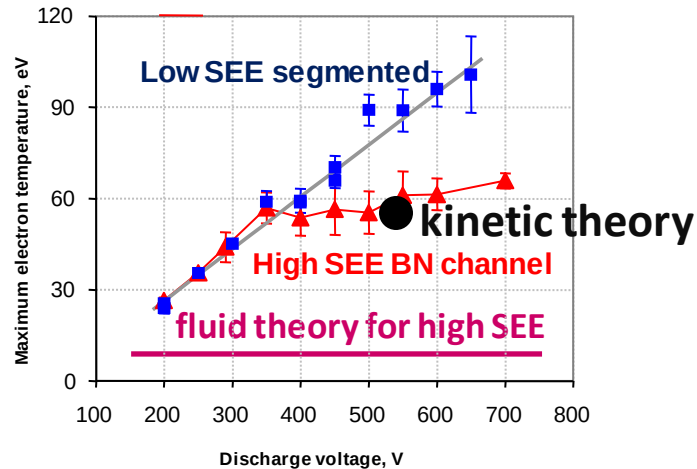


Example: Secondary Electron Emission: Good or Bad?

Particle-In-Cell (PIC) simulations suggests that the electron velocity distribution function *is Anisotropic !!*



- Correctly predicts secondary electron emission beams, and sheath instabilities (Raitses, Kaganovich / Princeton)



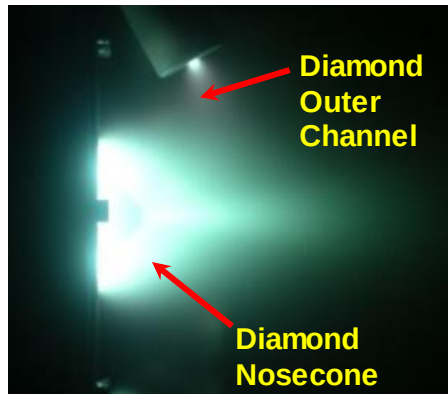
- Secondary electron emission does not change the sheath potential
- Secondary electron beams cause instabilities near the sheath surface due to the “BUNCH UP”



Walls Made From Carbon-Based Materials with Different Micro and Macro Structures Can Have Very Different Effect On Plasma and Sheath Instabilities

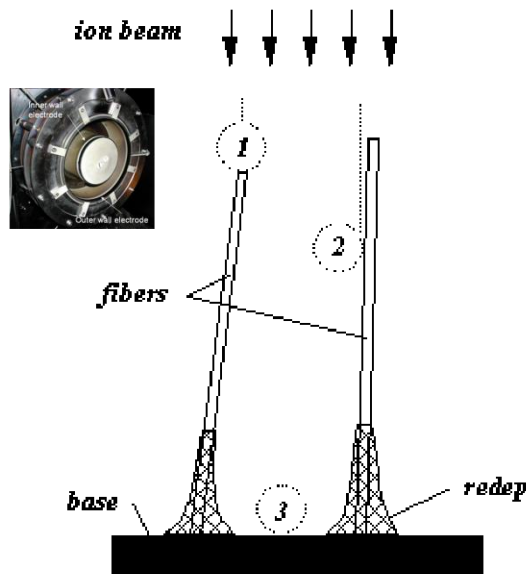


Diamond Wall BHT-200 – Cappelli / Stanford (Secondary Electron Emission is unknown)



- Fundamental experiments verified high sputter resistance (GOOD!)
- **Diamond** (carbon) walls exaggerated plasma fluctuations – plasma very UNSTABLE leading to VERY LOW THRUSTER EFFICIENCIES !!!

Carbon Velvet Wall– Raitses, Fisch, Kaganovich (Princeton) (has ZERO Secondary Electron Emission)



- **Carbon velvet** acts as almost ideal “black body” absorbing all incident particles preventing SEE
- With non-emitting carbon velvet walls, thruster operates more stable (no SEE induced instabilities of the plasma-sheath, attenuated breathing oscillations)
- With carbon velvet walls, the maximum electric field can be 2-3 times larger than with ceramic walls

• Same element, different structure and architecture different result!

• Hypothesis: surface architecture affects performance!



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Novel Energetic Materials

Workshop, 23-24 August 2011, Arlington, VA



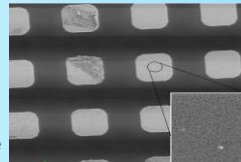
The Sciences

Discovery, understand, model, and exploit novel energetics materials to obtain:

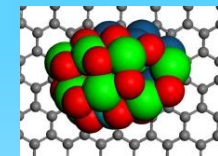
- Smart Responsive Materials
- Nanoenergetics
- Energetic Liquids, Oxidizers, and Binders

through Multiscale approach from the atomistic to macroscale

Ordered arrays of nano-porous silicone composites



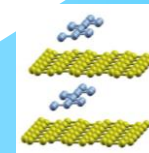
encapsulated nanoscale fuels /catalysts, nanoporous fuel / oxidizer composites for control



nPt on graphene

surface functionalization , particle morphology, and defect reduction to decrease sensitivity

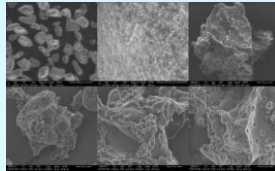
Next Step



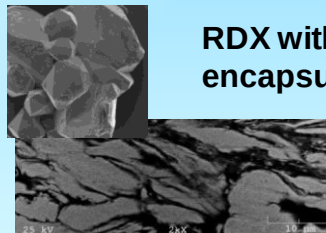
graphene sheets decorated with energetic organics and metallic nanoparticles for performance enhancement

Current S&T Effort

Frozen Propellants
Nickel Aluminum
Metal hydrides



Polystyrene coating
Ammonium Borane



RDX with nano-Al encapsulated

State-of-the-Art

Hydrogen and hydrocarbon,
Ionic Propellants
ADN, HMX

Potential Impacts

- Mission tailored performance, and burning rate, switchable, smaller platforms
- Enhanced and new interactions with external stimuli for total control of reaction
- Reduced sensitivity, increased safety, and better mobility
- Enabled new missions

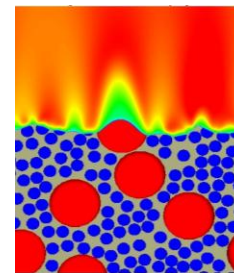
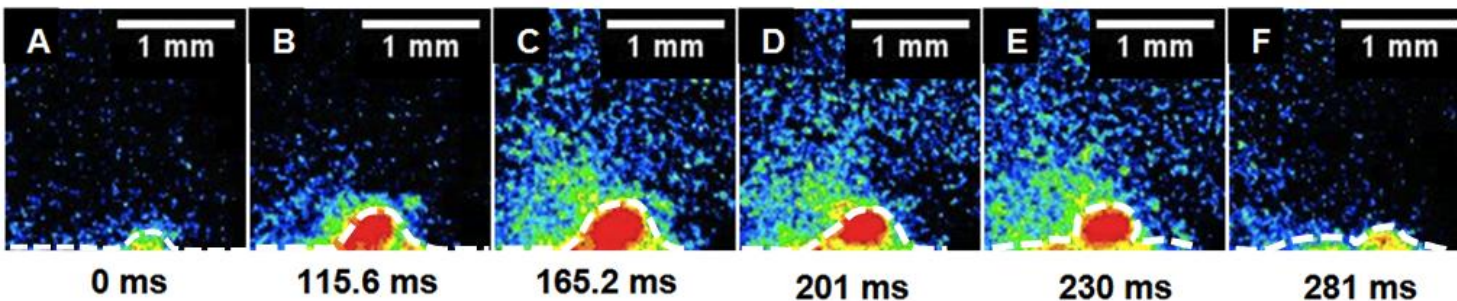


High speed OH PLIF reveals that coarse ammonium perchlorate burns much faster at high pressures



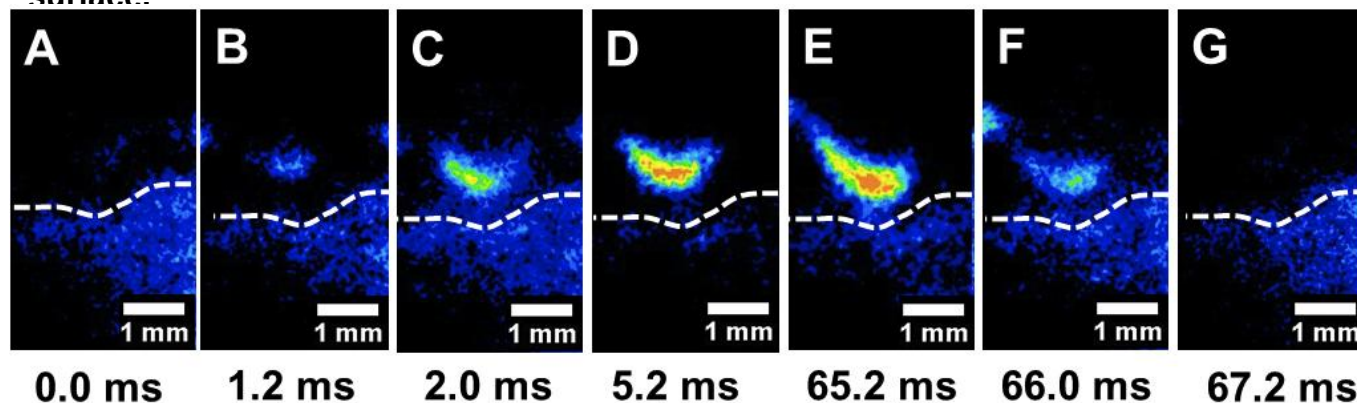
- The diffusion flame structure changes from a jet-like to a lifted sheet-like diffusion flame as pressure is increased because of the relatively high local burning rate of the coarse AP

1 atm: Fluorescing coarse AP crystal is shown in red. Dashed line is the



State-of-the-Art 3-D simulation at high pressure (6 atm)

6 Atm: The relatively fast burning crystal cannot be seen because it is below the surface.



- High speed OH PLIF also reveals that: Coarse AP is not affected by catalyst (Fe_2O_3 and CuO) addition, Catalyst should be inside coarse AP in order to have a greater effect on performance

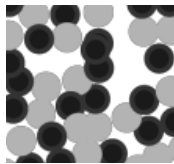


Nano-scale features affecting meso-scale behavior

Example: mechanically activated Aluminum + Fluorocarbon mixture



Al + polycarbon
monofluoride
Powder Mixture



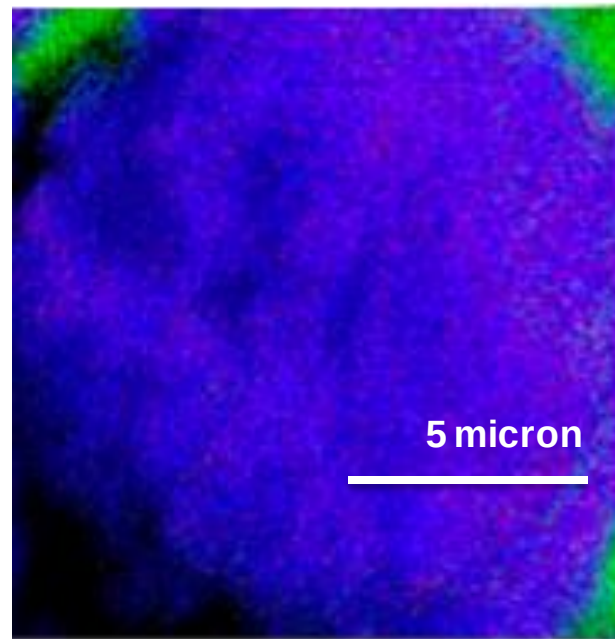
Mechanical
Activation



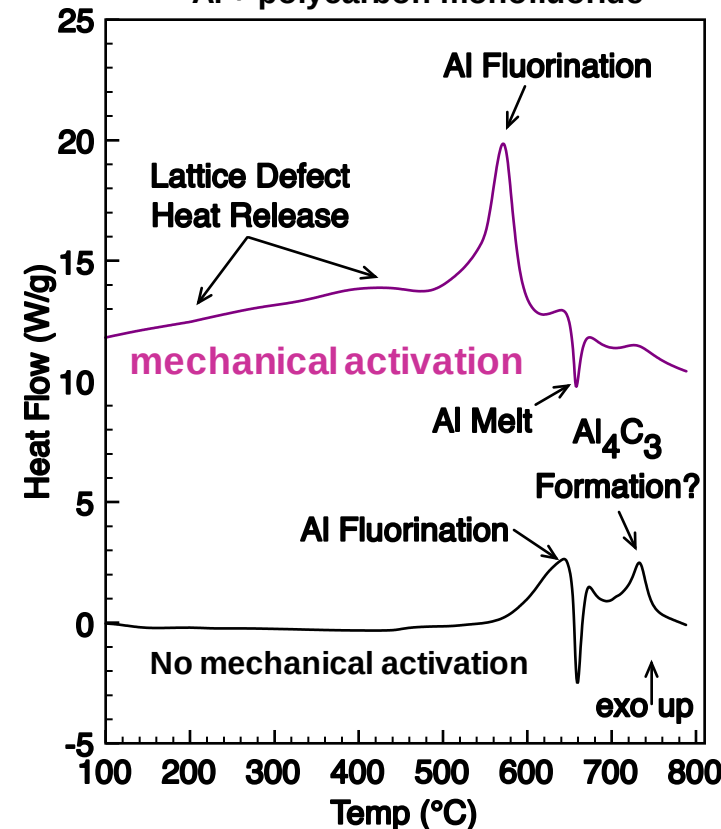
Uniform composition and induced
lattice defects (stored energy)

SEM/EDX (Scanning Electron
Microscopy/Energy Dispersive X-ray
Spectroscopy)

Activated energetic particles
Aluminum=blue, Fluorine=red
Carbon=green



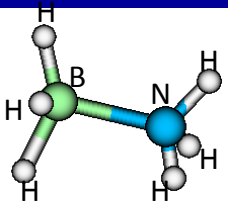
DSC analysis of
Al + polycarbon monofluoride



- Fluorinated graphite encapsulated inside aluminum at nanoscales can provide increased combustion efficiency, reduced ignition temperature and agglomeration



Ammonia Borane (NH_3BH_3) as propellant additive, 20% hydrogen by mass, can significantly increase rocket performance

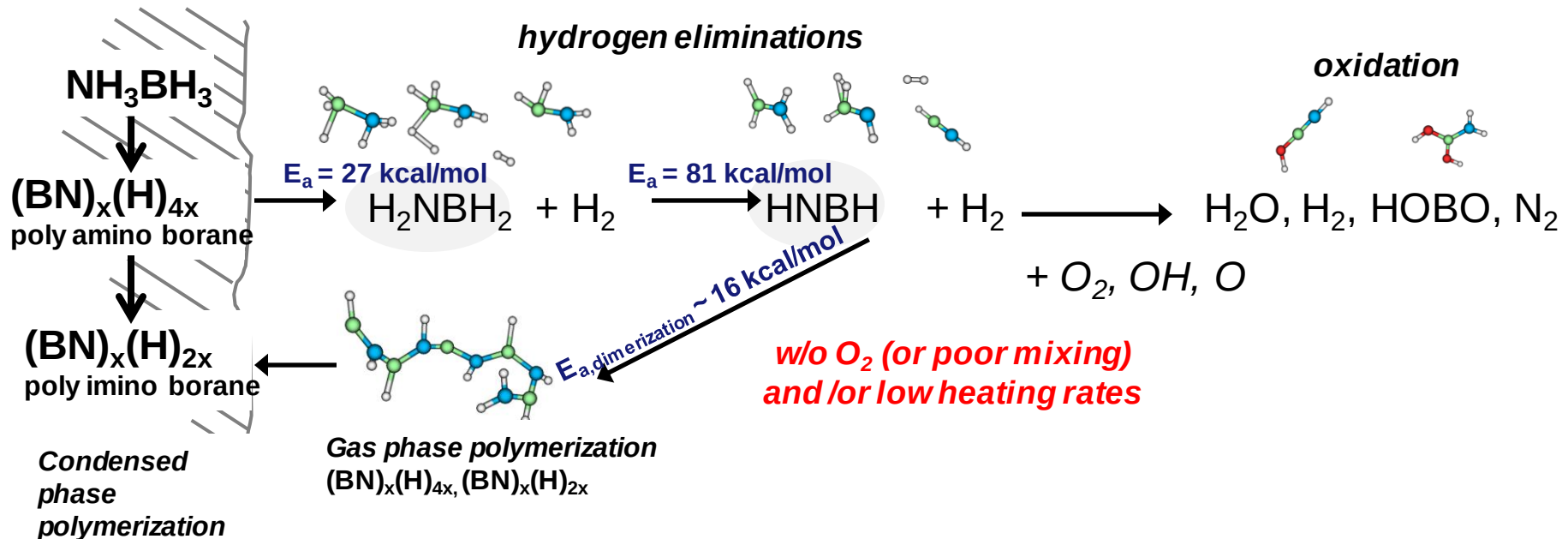


- Ammonia Borane added to hybrid fuel (paraffin), $I_{sp,exp}$ increased ~10% with 20% mass addition



• **Problem:** Significant AB addition led to condensed phase product accumulation on fuel grain

• MD simulations, kinetic calculations, and TGA/DSC and Confined Rapid Thermolysis/FTIR/MS experiments



- dehydrogenation of AB remains important in combustion processes at low temperature
- polymerization processes have lower energy barriers than dehydrogenation
- an $\uparrow$ in heating rate of 25x's results in a $\downarrow$ of 2.6x's in mass accumulation in condensed-phase

• Hypothesis: Smaller ammonia borane particles may resolve the problem



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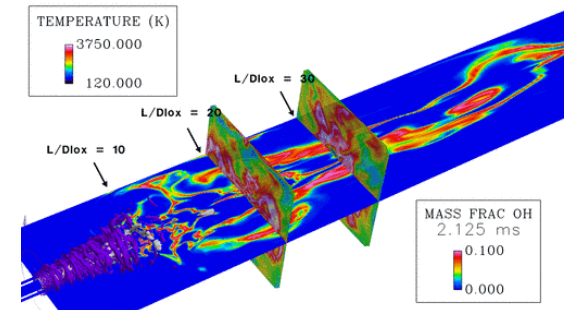
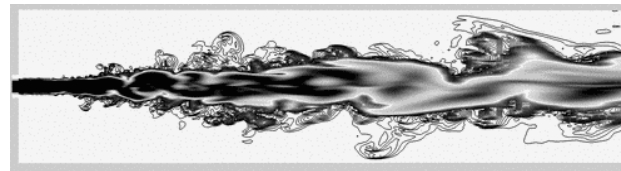
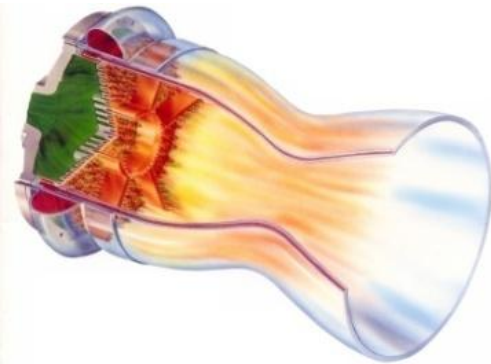
Nonlinear, multi-scale, multi-physics high pressure combustion dynamics

Workshop, 15 June 2011, London; Workshop, 23 August 2011, Arlington, VA



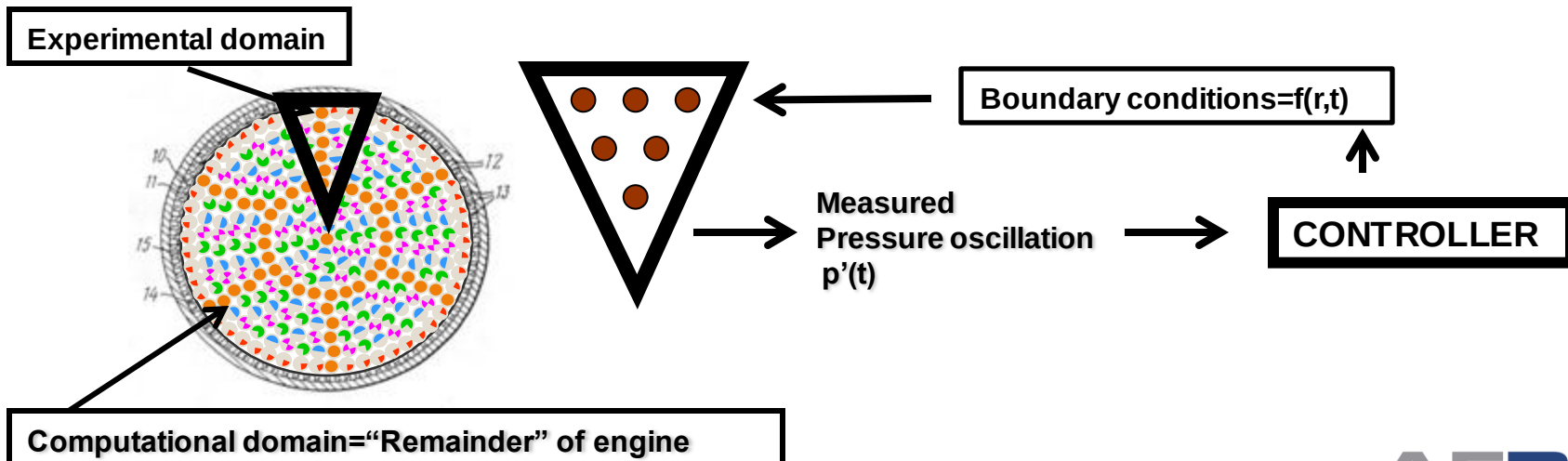
PARADIGM SHIFT IN SIMULATION:

- Reduced Basis and Stochastic Modeling of a Complex High Pressure Combustion System to identify physical mechanisms responsible for the observed dynamical behavior



PARADIGM SHIFT IN VALIDATION:

Closed-loop actively controlled real-time hybrid approach



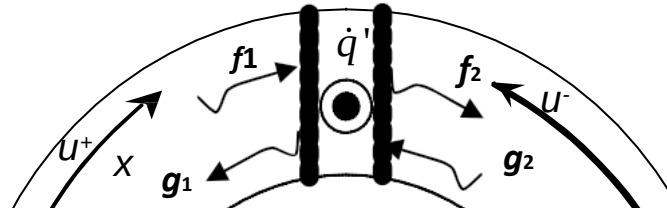


waves structure in a high pressure toroidal cavity with concentrated heat release zones

Zinn, Yang, Neumeier /Georgia Tech, and Law (Princeton)



- Consider a toroidal cavity with a single combustion point source. The acoustics is governed by the homogeneous wave equation except in the singular point.



- Consider now the homogenous wave equation:

$$\partial P'^2 / \partial t^2 - \bar{C}^2 \partial P'^2 / \partial x^2 = 0$$

$\lambda^R = x - ct$	Right propagating characteristics	➡	Right going pressure wave	$p^R = f(\lambda^R)$	➡	$u^R = \frac{f(\lambda^R)}{\bar{\rho}\bar{c}}$
$\lambda^L = x + ct$	Left propagating characteristics	➡	Left going pressure wave	$p^L = g(\lambda^L)$	➡	$u^L = \frac{g(\lambda^L)}{\bar{\rho}\bar{c}}$

- With combustion:

The compact heat release source
modifies the out going waves



$$g_1 = g_2 + \frac{(\gamma - 1)}{2\bar{c} \cdot A} \cdot \dot{q}'$$

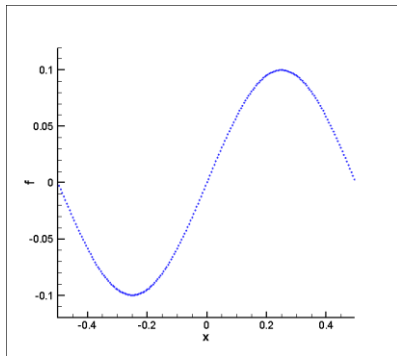
$$f_2 = f_1 + \frac{(\gamma - 1)}{2\bar{c} \cdot A} \cdot \dot{q}'$$



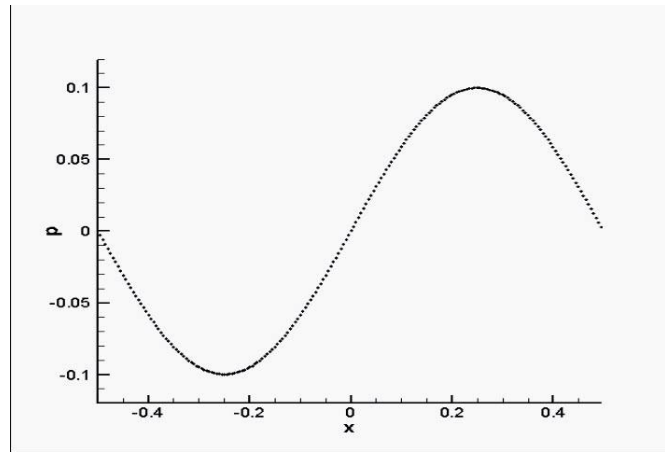
The increased mean flow due to the convecting standing waves causes spinning waves with increasing amplitude leading to instability



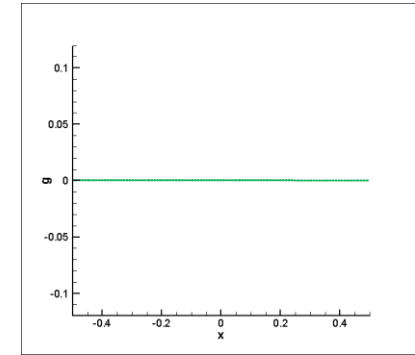
Initial conditions
Right travelling wave f



If no tangential mean flow: spinning to a standing wave

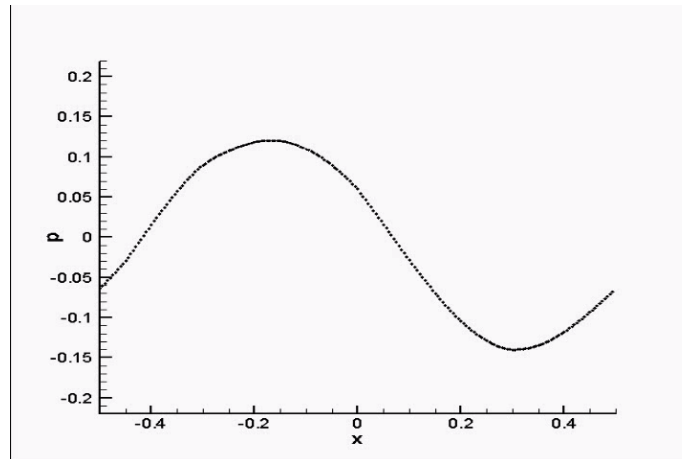
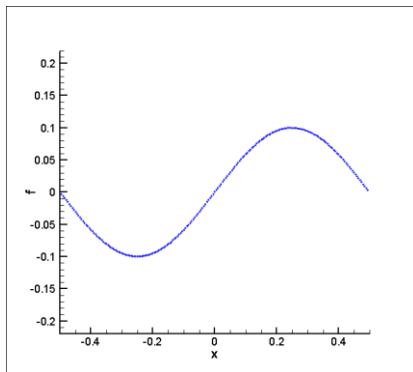


Initial conditions
Left travelling wave g

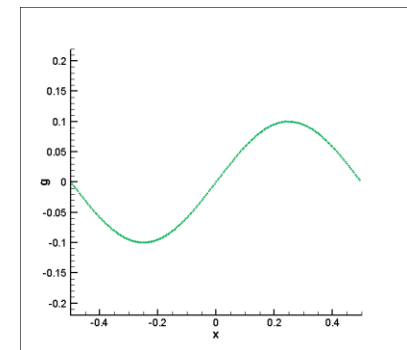


TANGENTIAL MEAN FLOW due to recirculation near the injectors and inhomogeneous distribution of heat release, leading to convecting to a spinning wave

Initial conditions
Right travelling wave f



Initial conditions
Left travelling wave g



•Explained experimental results obtained at NASA (Marcus Heidmann , 1969)



Summary



Space Propulsion Portfolio has become a platform for Multi-disciplinary activities in all scales:

- Propulsion
- Materials
- Interface Sciences
- Plasma and Electro-Energetic Physics
- Applied and Computational Mathematics
- Chemistry
- and others...

Will provide the scientific foundation to:

- Reduce Fuel Demand in Space / more efficient power generation and energy utilization, increase spacecraft lifetime, and reduce / control waste heat / provide novel design propellants / increase reliability and performance
- understand and manage High Energy Density
- Enable high-energy storage in ultra-capacitors with nanostructured components,
- and others...