

# Atmospheric Pressure Plasma Based Flame Control and Diagnostics

Richard Miles

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Atmospheric Pressure Plasma Based Flame Control and Diagnostics  
Princeton University

Atmospheric Pressure Plasma Based Flame Control and Diagnostics  
Supported by AFOSR MURI

**Fundamental mechanisms, predictive modeling,  
and novel aerospace applications of plasma assisted combustion.**



Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

**Applied Physics Group**



# 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 <b>2015</b>		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2015 to 00-00-2015</b>	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>Atmospheric Pressure Plasma Based Flame Control and Diagnostics</b>				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) <b>Princeton University, Department of Mechanical &amp; Aerospace Engineering, Applied Physics Group, Princeton, NJ, 08544</b>				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 <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <b>AFOSR MURI 2015 Fifth Year Review Meeting</b>					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE			
<b>unclassified</b>	<b>unclassified</b>	<b>unclassified</b>	<b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	<b>49</b>	

# Research Group

## Graduate Students

Nathan Calvert  
Tat Loon Chng  
Matthew Edwards\*  
Chris Limbach\*  
Sean McGuire\*  
Christopher Peters  
Yibin Zhang

## Recently Graduated

Nick DeLuca (MS 2013)  
USMC  
James Michael (Ph.D. 2012)  
Iowa State U.  
Emanuel Stockman (Ph.D. 2009)  
Lockheed Martin

## Research Scientists

Arthur Dogariu  
Mikhail Shneider\*  
Andrey Starikovskiy\*

## Technical Staff

Nick Tkash

## Visiting Research Collaborators

Albina Tropina (Kharkiv, Ukraine)  
Martiqua Post (US Air Force Academy)

## Visiting Graduate Students

Nina (Jaibao) Li (Tsinghua University)  
Kevin Prieur (École Supérieure de  
Physique et de Chimie  
Industrielles de la Ville de Paris)  
Carmen Guerra Garcia (MIT)

\* Giving related talks here at SciTech 2015



# Significant MURI Accomplishments

- Single pulse (10 nsec) quantitative Filtered Rayleigh imaging of temperature fields
- Pulsed microwave control of flames
  - Greater than 20% Flame speed enhancement
    - Coupling efficiency greater than 50%
    - < 10% of the flame power
  - Factor of two reduction in equivalence ratio limit.
- Radar REMPI measurement of NO and radicals in flames.
- Pulsed microwave coupling to laser pre ionization
  - Distributed ignition
- Femtosecond Laser Electronic Excitation Tagging (FLEET) for velocity and temperature profiles



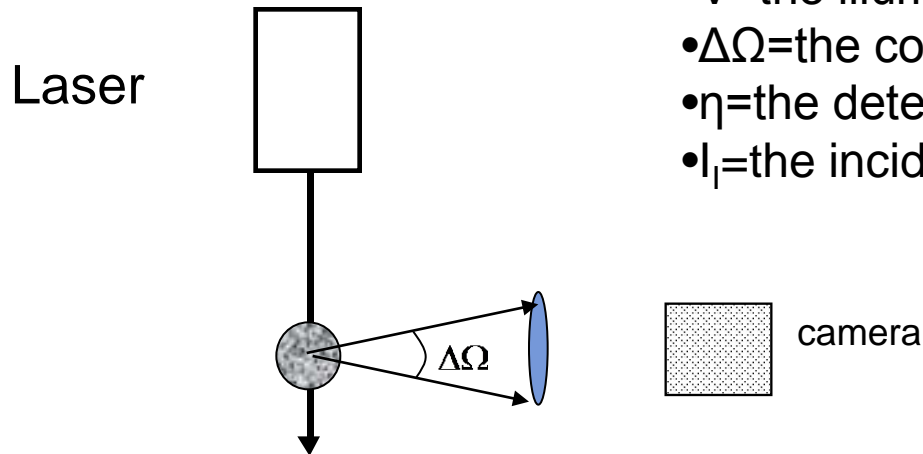
# Filtered Rayleigh Scattering

for Quantitative Temperature Imaging  
at constant pressure

# Rayleigh Signal

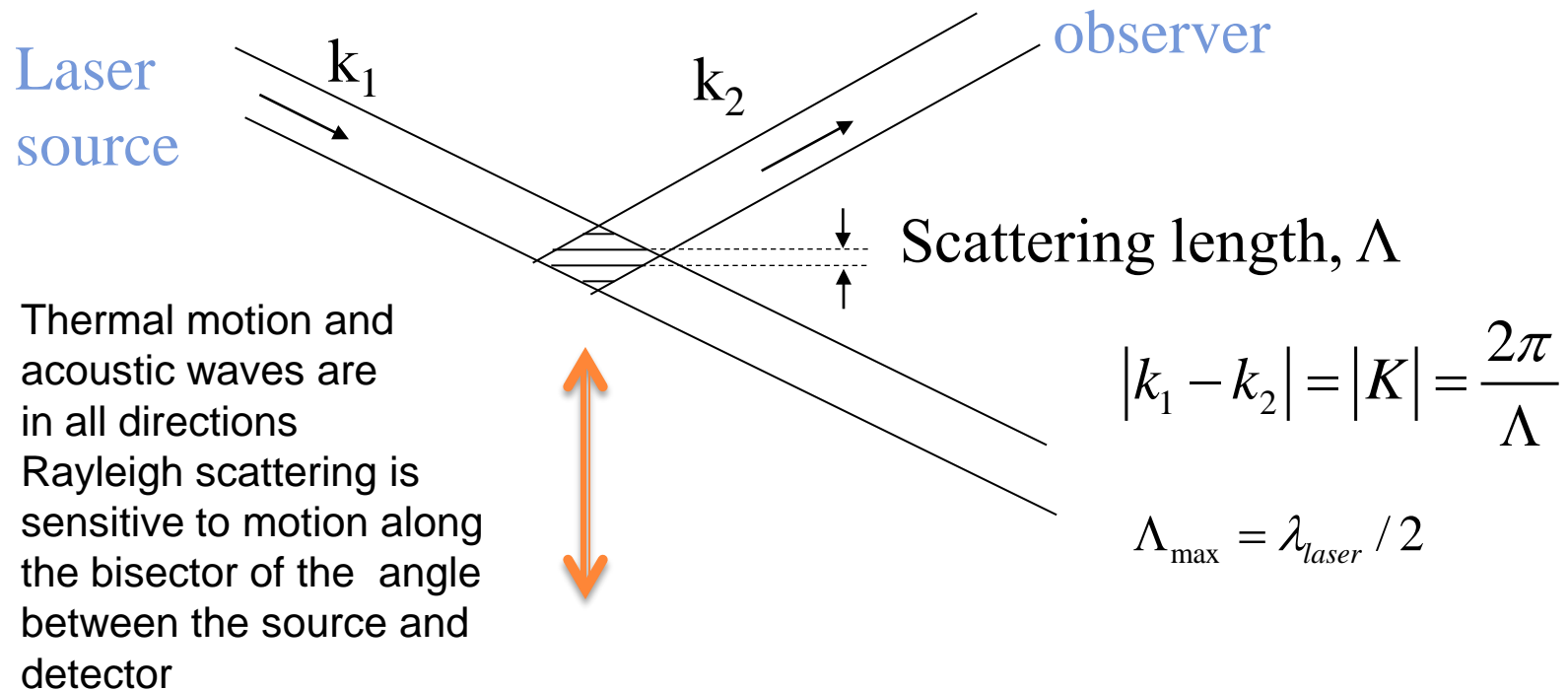
$$P_{DET} = \eta I_I NV \int_{\Delta\Omega} \frac{\partial \sigma_{ss}}{\partial \Omega} d\Omega$$

- $N$  = the number of dipoles per unit volume
- $V$  = the illuminated volume of the sample
- $\Delta\Omega$  = the collection solid angle
- $\eta$  = the detector and optical system efficiency
- $I_I$  = the incident laser intensity



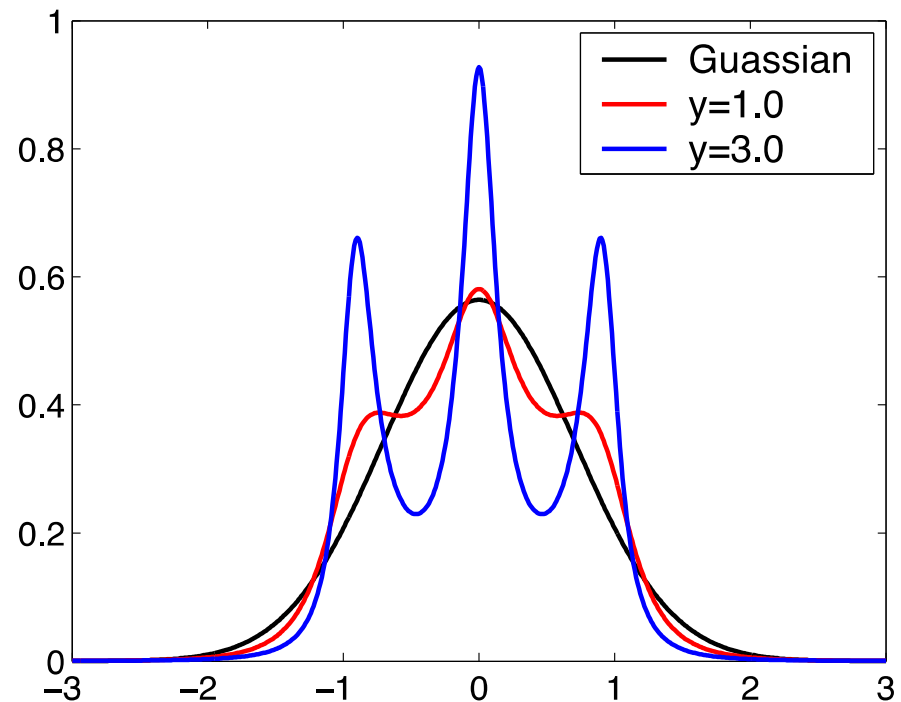
# Rayleigh Scattering Interactions leading to line broadening

- $Y = \text{scattering length} / \text{mean free path}$

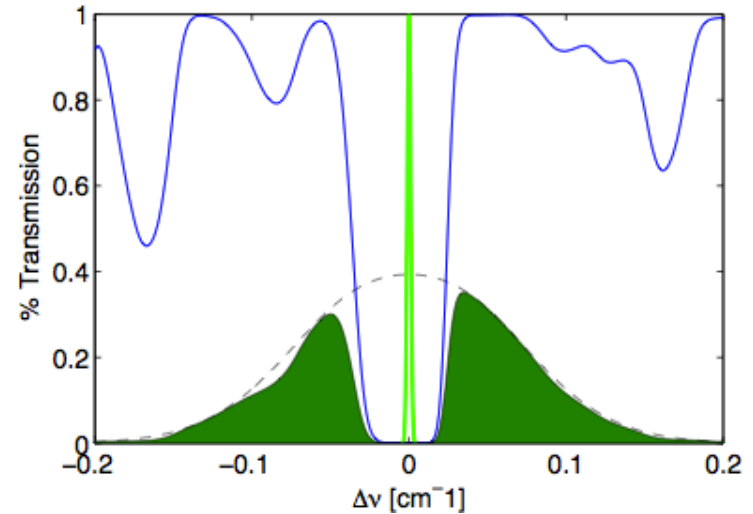
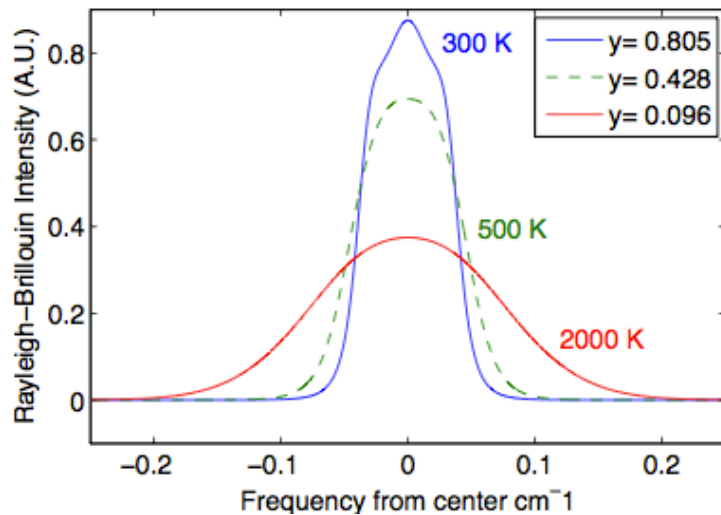


# Line Broadening Regimes

- If  $Y < 1$ , then in the Knudsen Regime – no collective effects. The Rayleigh line is Gaussian in this regime – **low density, high temperature**
- If  $Y > 1$ , then in the hydrodynamic regime – collective effects dominate – **high density, low temperature**

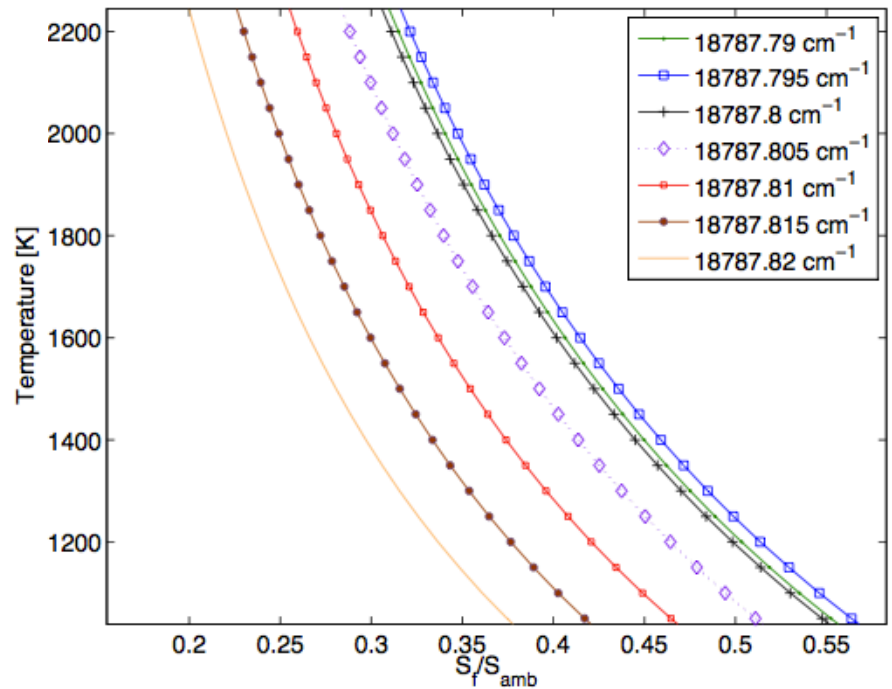
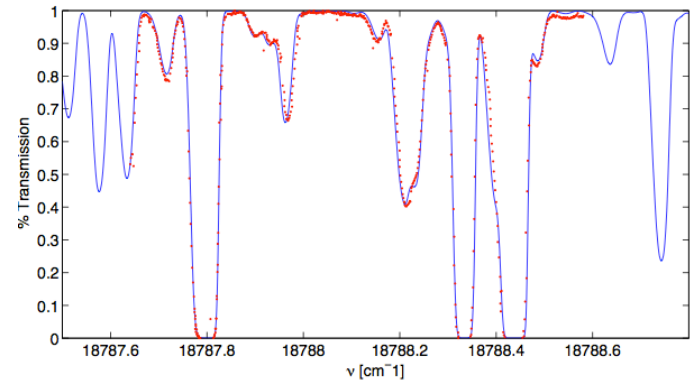
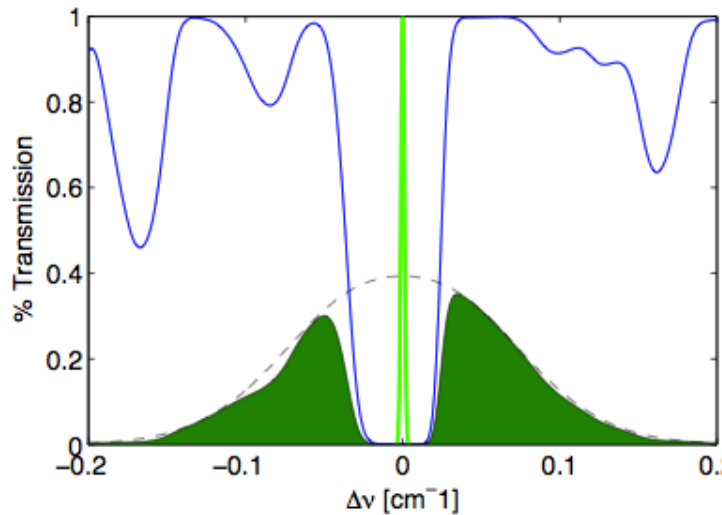
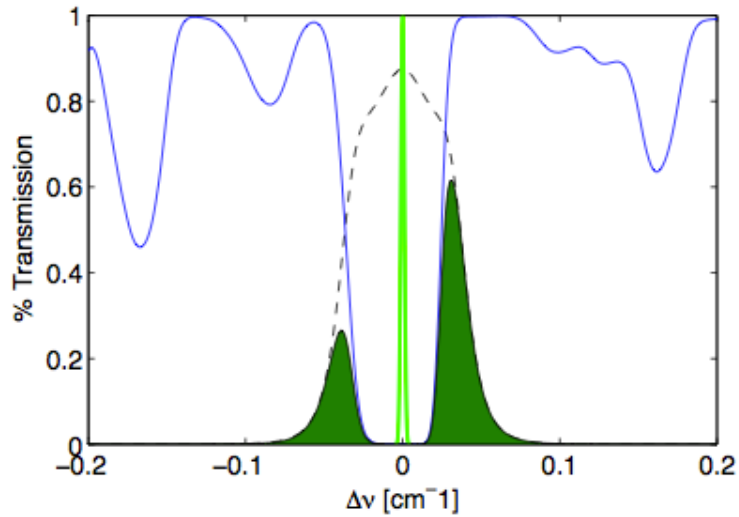


# Temperature Imaging by Filtered Rayleigh scattering

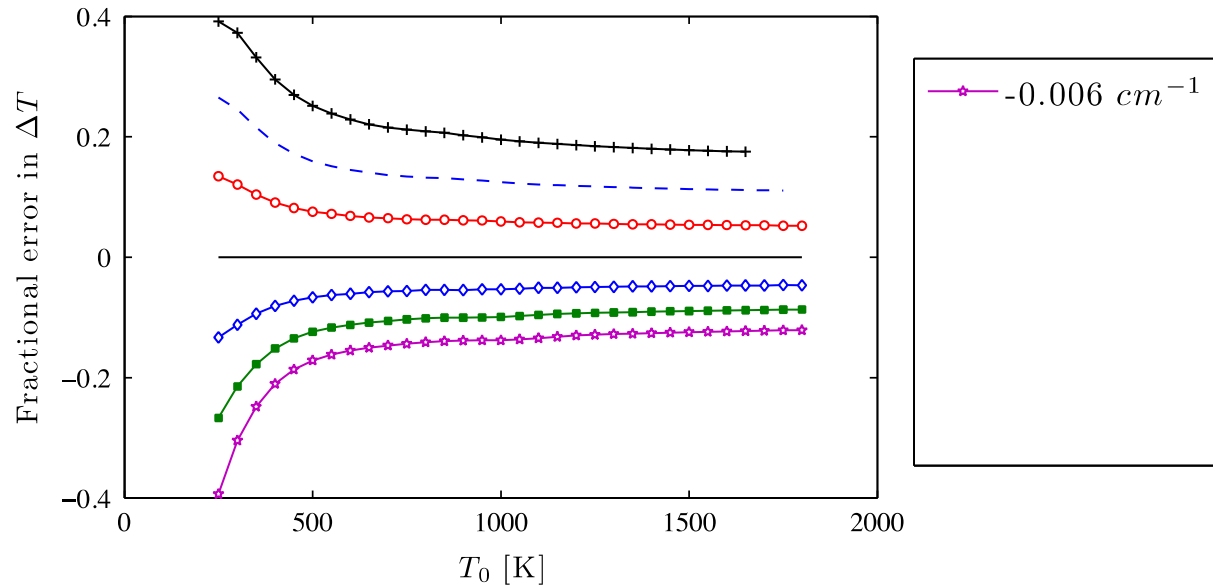


- Modeled Rayleigh-Brillouin Line Broadening (Pan S7)
- Narrow-linewidth molecular iodine filter to block background laser light. Eliminates particle and surface scattering
- Assuming constant pressure (one atmosphere for flame studies) and constant species (nitrogen is a good approximation) the signal coming through the filter is only a function of temperature
- Calibrate using the ratio of the signal from the high temperature to that of air or nitrogen at room temperature (often in the same frame)

# FRS sensitivity to laser wavelength



# Differential Sensitivity with Temperature

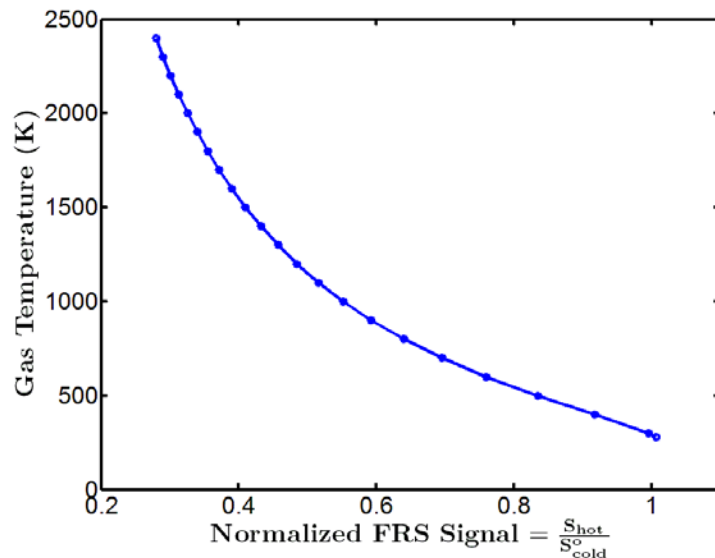


- At high temperature the slopes of the calibration curves are almost identical Leading to robust measurements of temperature differences above  $\sim 1000\text{K}$
- Provides a single pulse (10 nsec) image of the temperature field

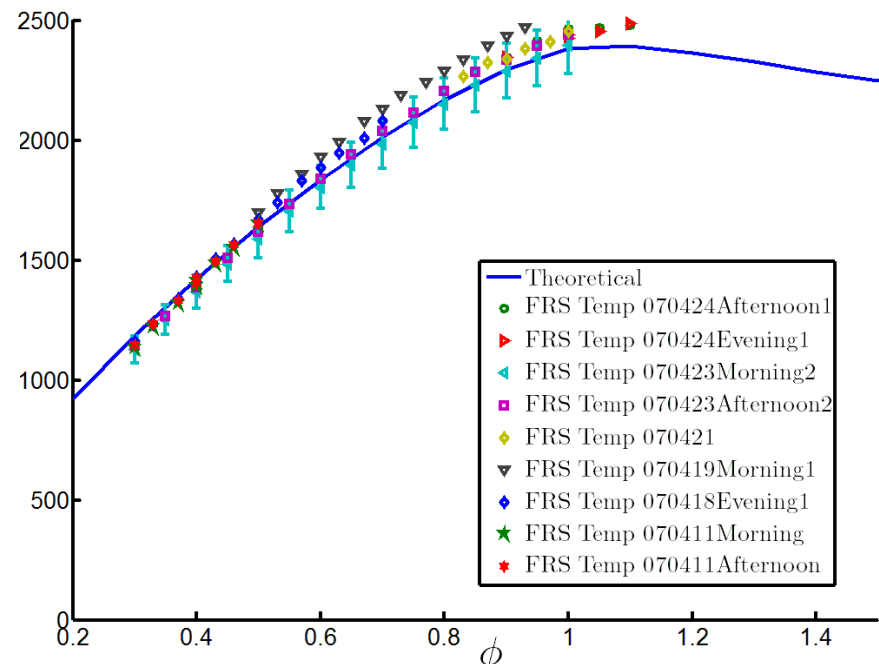
# FRS Thermometry Calibration

- Research Technologies RD1x1 Hencken Burner
- With line scattering can obtain Rayleigh signal-to-background > 20:1
- Normalize flame Rayleigh scattering to that of N<sub>2</sub> co-flow
- Accuracy and precision better than 5%

## Calibration



## H<sub>2</sub>/Air Hencken Burner Measurements with averaged FRS

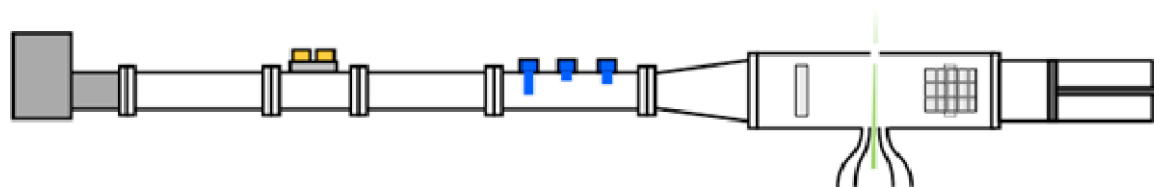


# Microwave interactions with flames

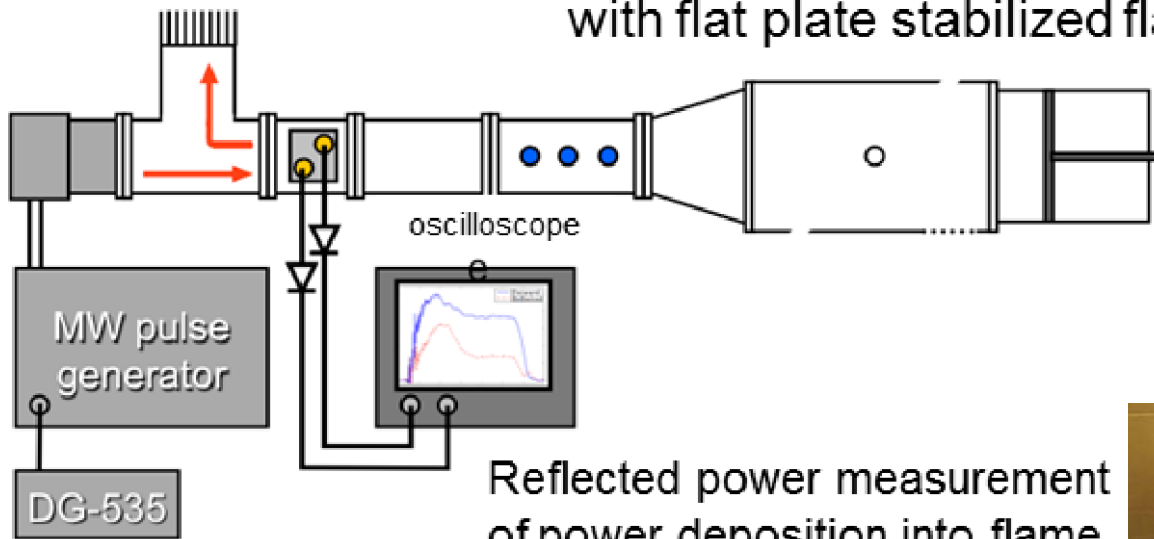
## Couples to natural ionization in the flame

$\text{CH} + \text{O} \rightarrow \text{HCO}^+ + \text{electron}$

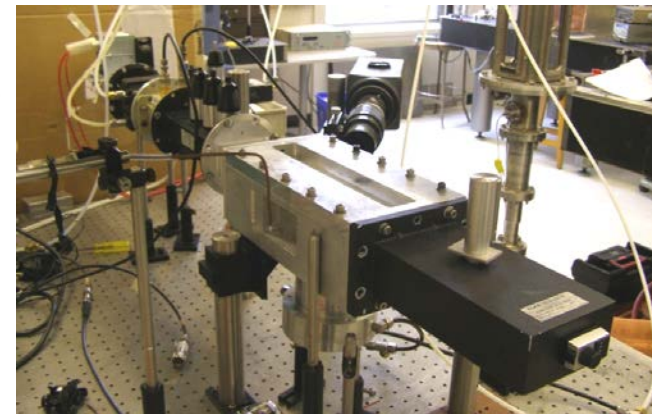
# Microwave coupled Laminar Flame Set up



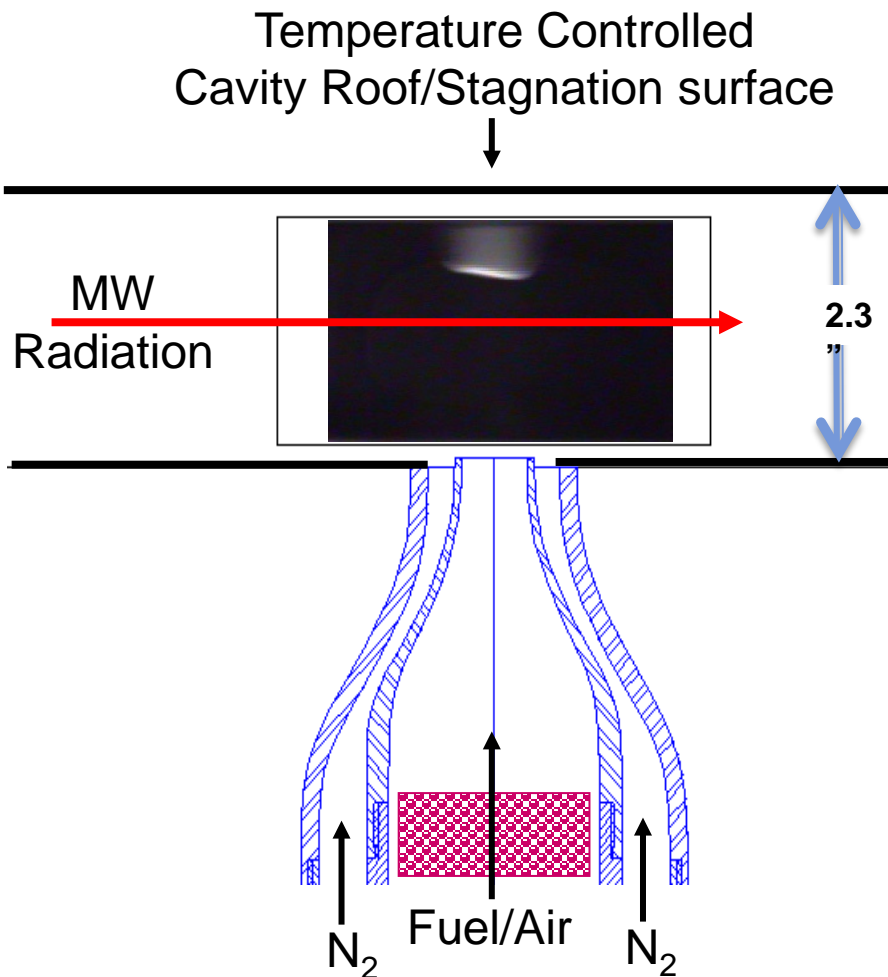
High Q Microwave resonator cavity  
with flat plate stabilized flame



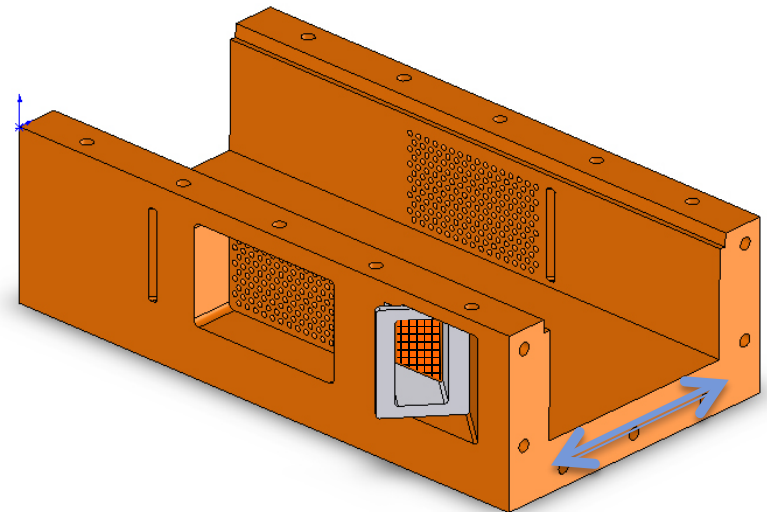
Reflected power measurement  
of power deposition into flame



# Experimental Setup: Laminar Burner



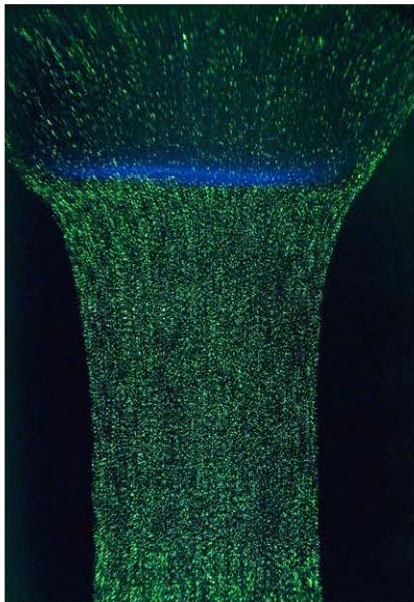
- Uniform velocity at exit  
 $v_e < 100 \text{ cm/s}$
- Large  $L/D \sim 3.8$  leads to low strain rates
- Flame stabilized by aerodynamic strain rate
- Cavity limited optical access
  - 'Meshed' windows
  - Narrow laser slots



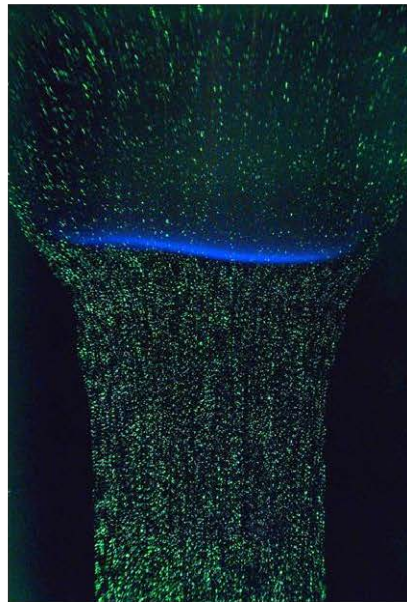
# Flame Speed Enhancement with cw microwaves

**CH<sub>4</sub>/Air**

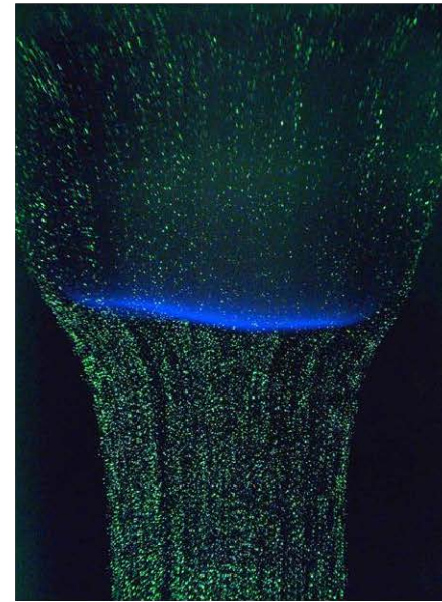
$V_{\text{exit}} = 85 \text{ cm/s}$     $\phi = 0.78$



0 Watts  
 $S_{\text{ref}} = 33.7 \text{ cm/s}$



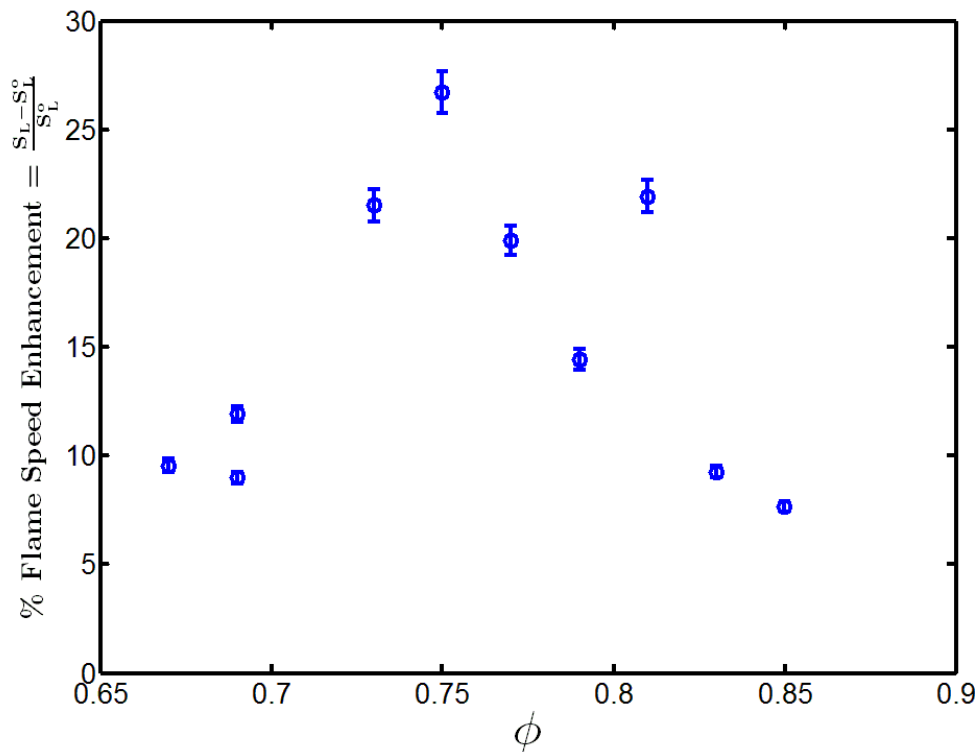
700 Watts  
 $S_{\text{ref}} = 40.6 \text{ cm/s}$



1200 Watts  
 $S_{\text{ref}} = 45.3 \text{ cm/s}$

# FLAME SPEED ENHANCEMENT

CH<sub>4</sub>/Air laminar stagnation flame speed enhancement  
with 1.3kW cw-microwave radiation



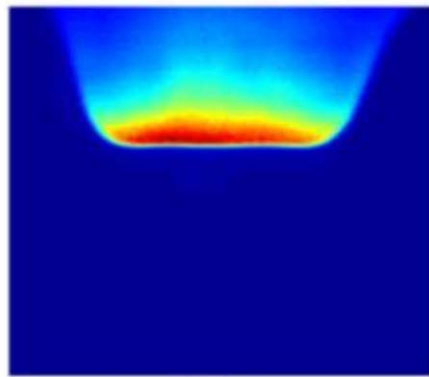
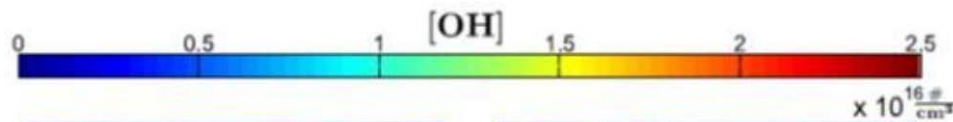
- 2% error in DPIV measurement propagates to ~4% error in flame speed enhancement percentage
- Peaking at  $\phi=0.75$  might be an outcome of experimental procedure

~25% enhancement seen with 1.3 kW magnetron, ~10-20W absorbed power



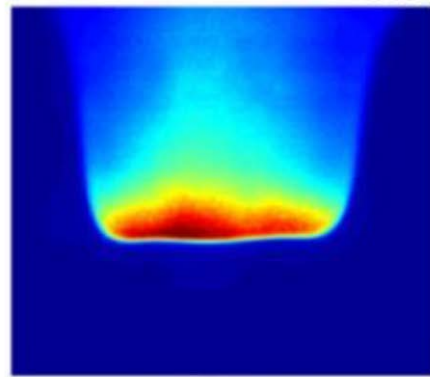
# LiF Measurement of OH (with AFRL)

$\phi = 0.76$



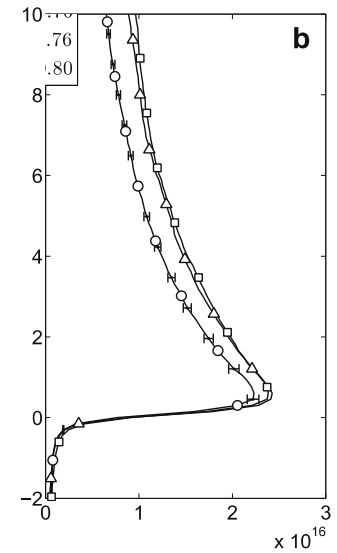
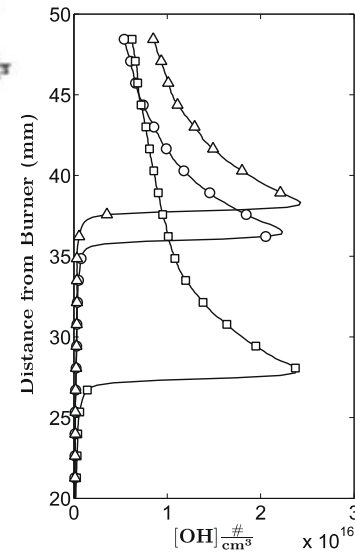
(a)

off



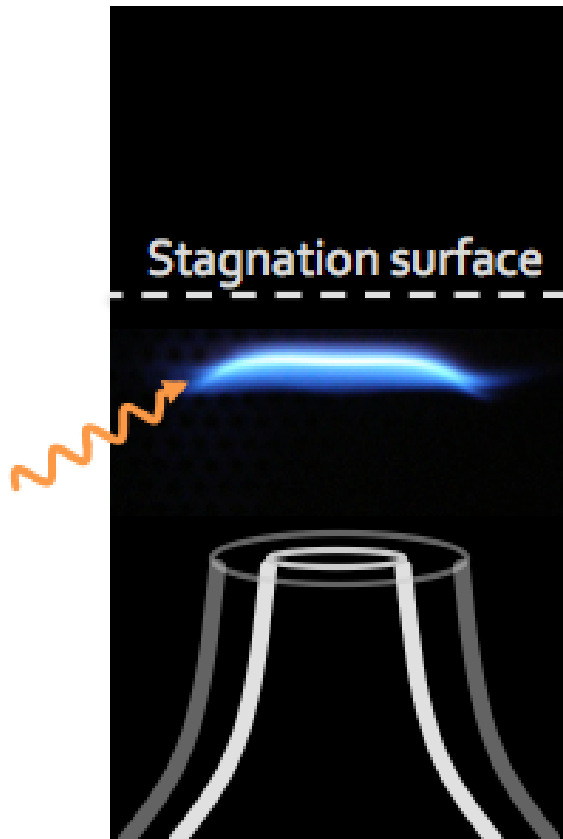
(b)

on

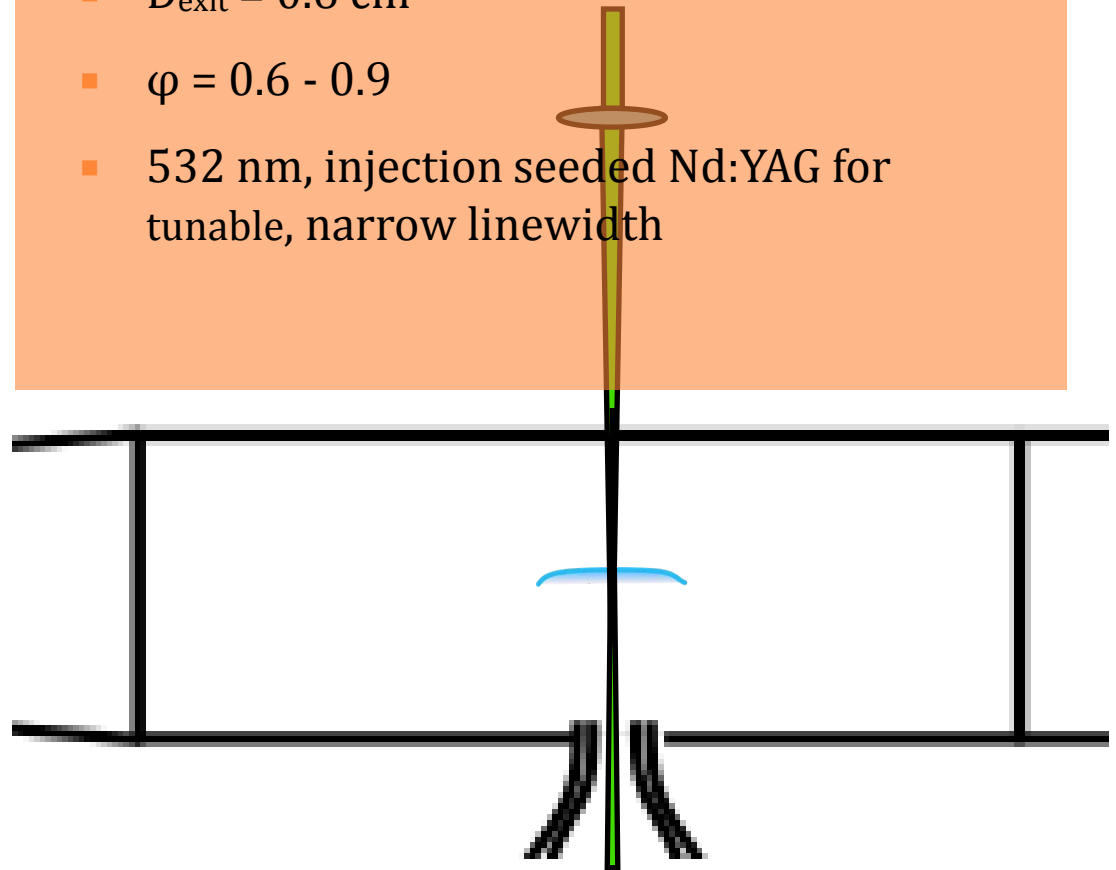


The OH level is increased and the OH decay rate away from the flame front is reduced

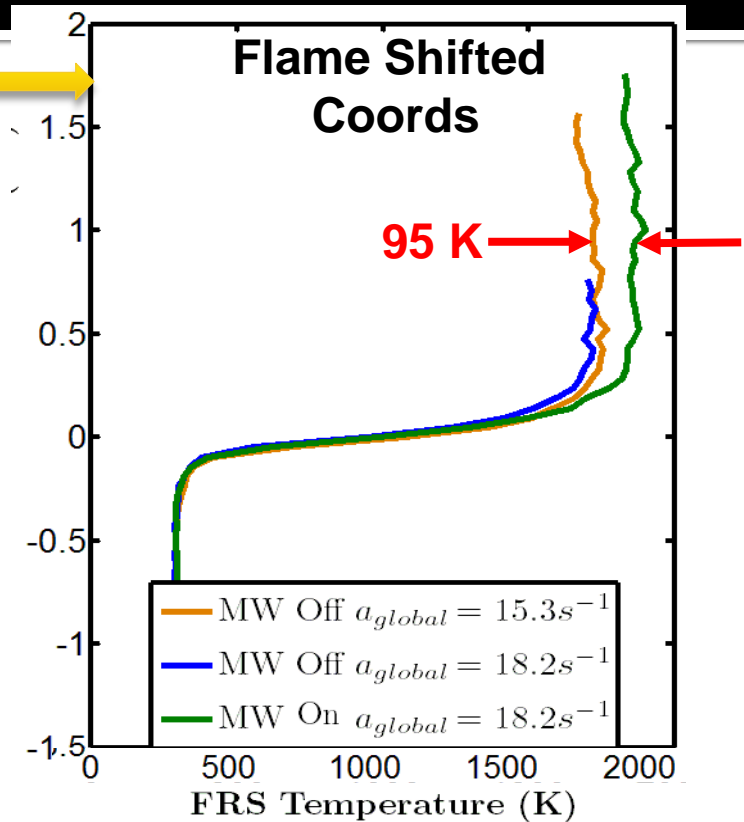
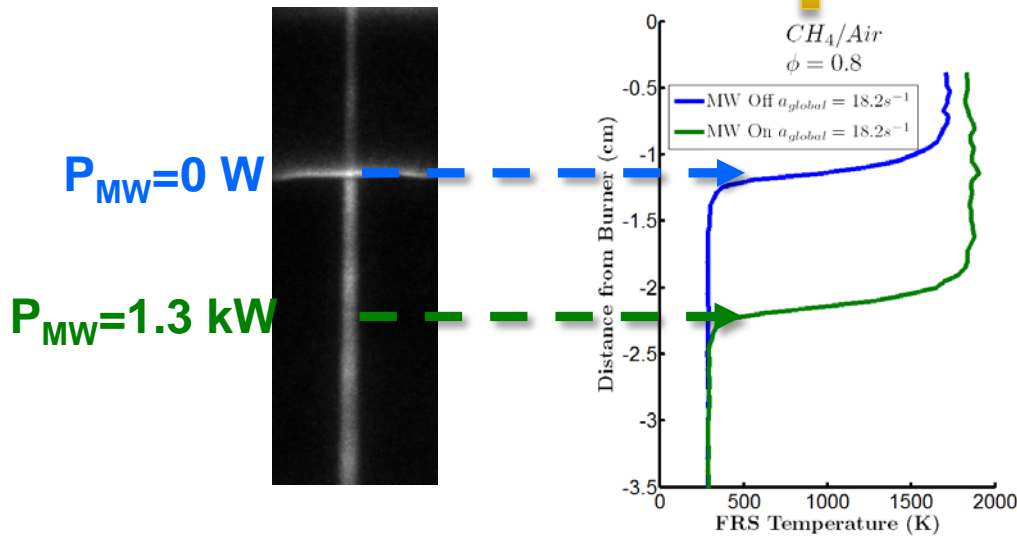
# FRS Thermometry



- $U_{\text{exit}} \sim 60 \text{ cm/s}$
- $D_{\text{exit}} = 0.6 \text{ cm}$
- $\varphi = 0.6 - 0.9$
- 532 nm, injection seeded Nd:YAG for tunable, narrow linewidth



# Line FRS Thermometry

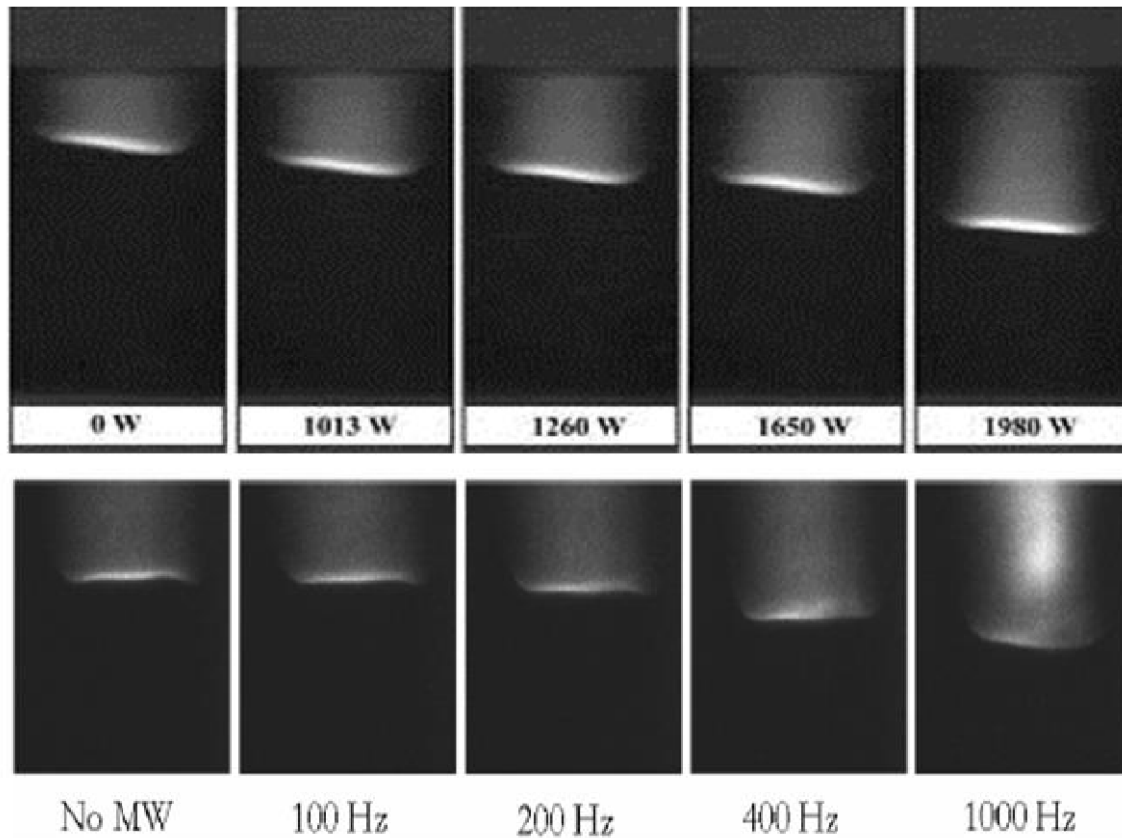


- 95 K increase in post flame temperature
- Temperature rise is just after flame sheet
  - Implies microwave energy deposition is in flame sheet

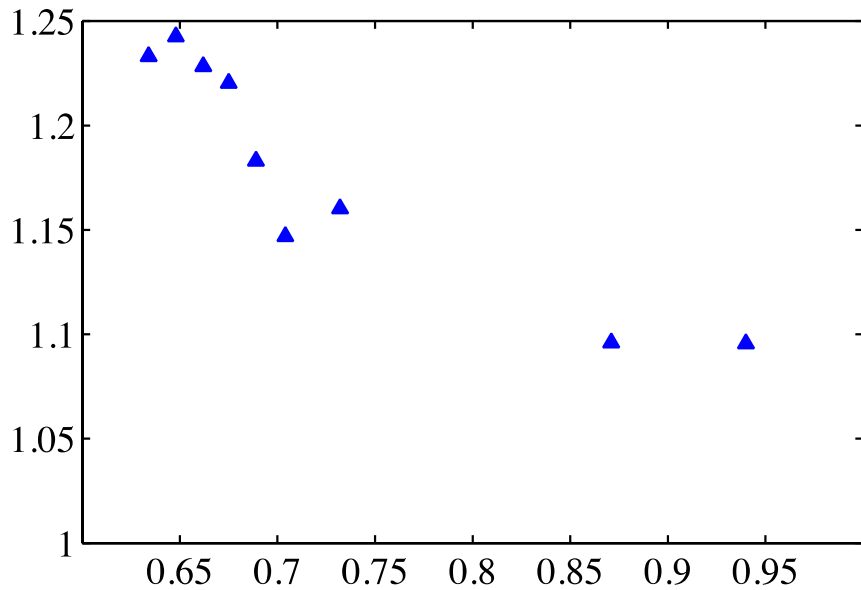
# Microwave interactions with flames

## Using microsecond duration pulsed microwaves

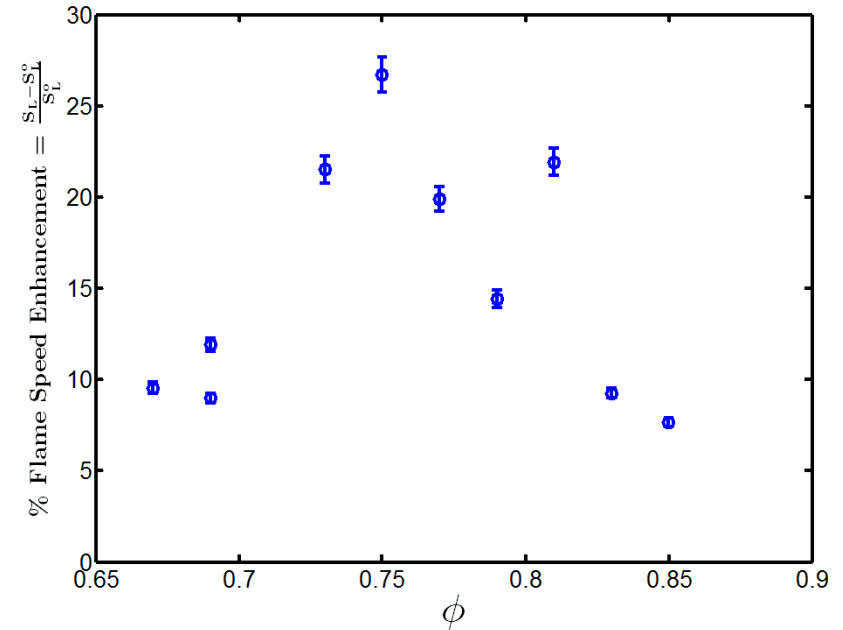
# Comparison of Flame Speed enhancement CW and pulsed microwaves



# Flame Speed Enhancement with Pulsed Microwaves



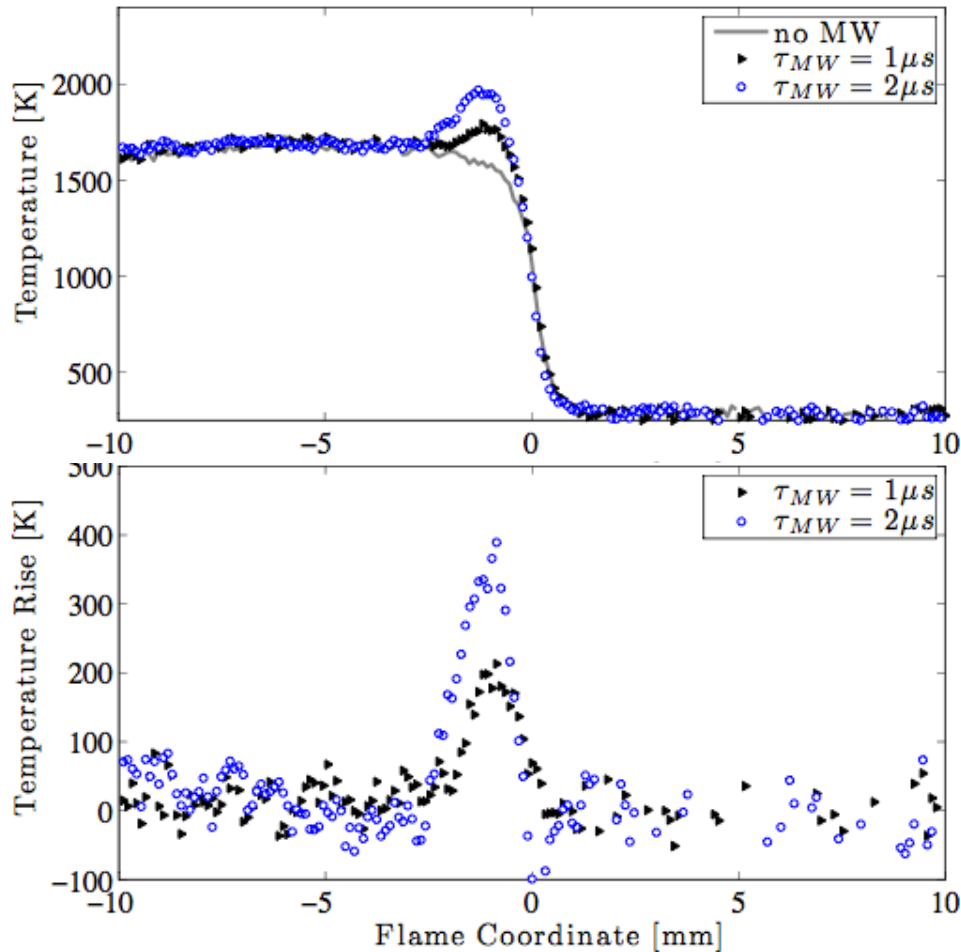
Pulsed 1 kHz, 5 mj/ pulse = 50 Watts



CW – 1.3 kW

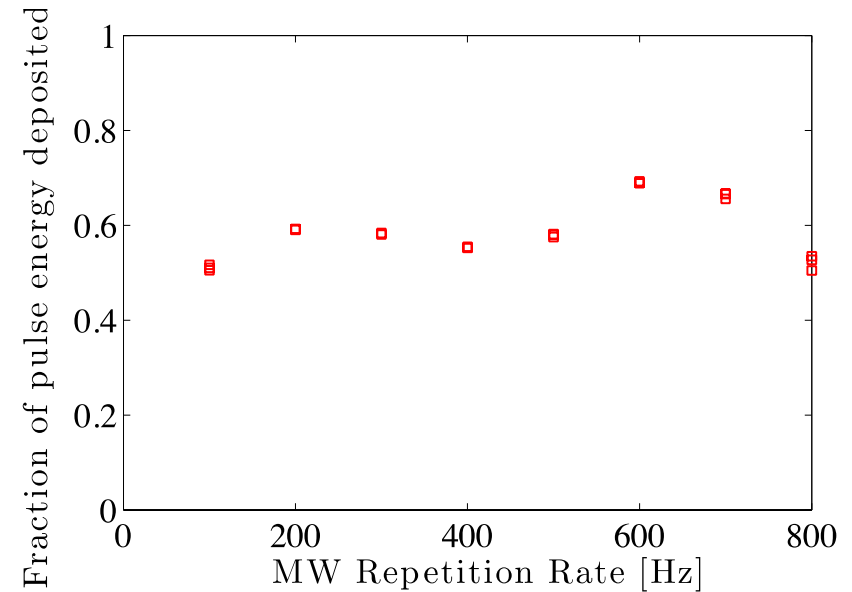
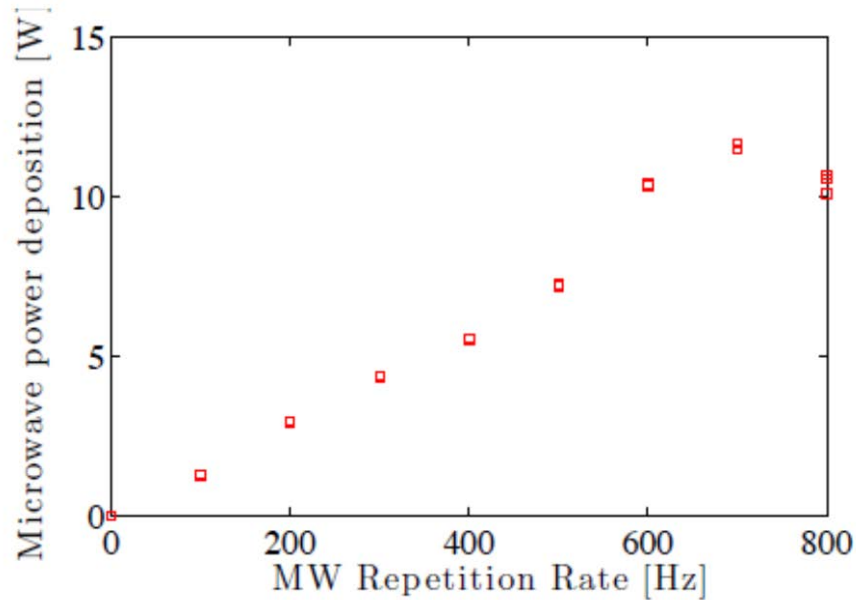
Reduction in average power by a factor of 26

# Single pulse temperature jump



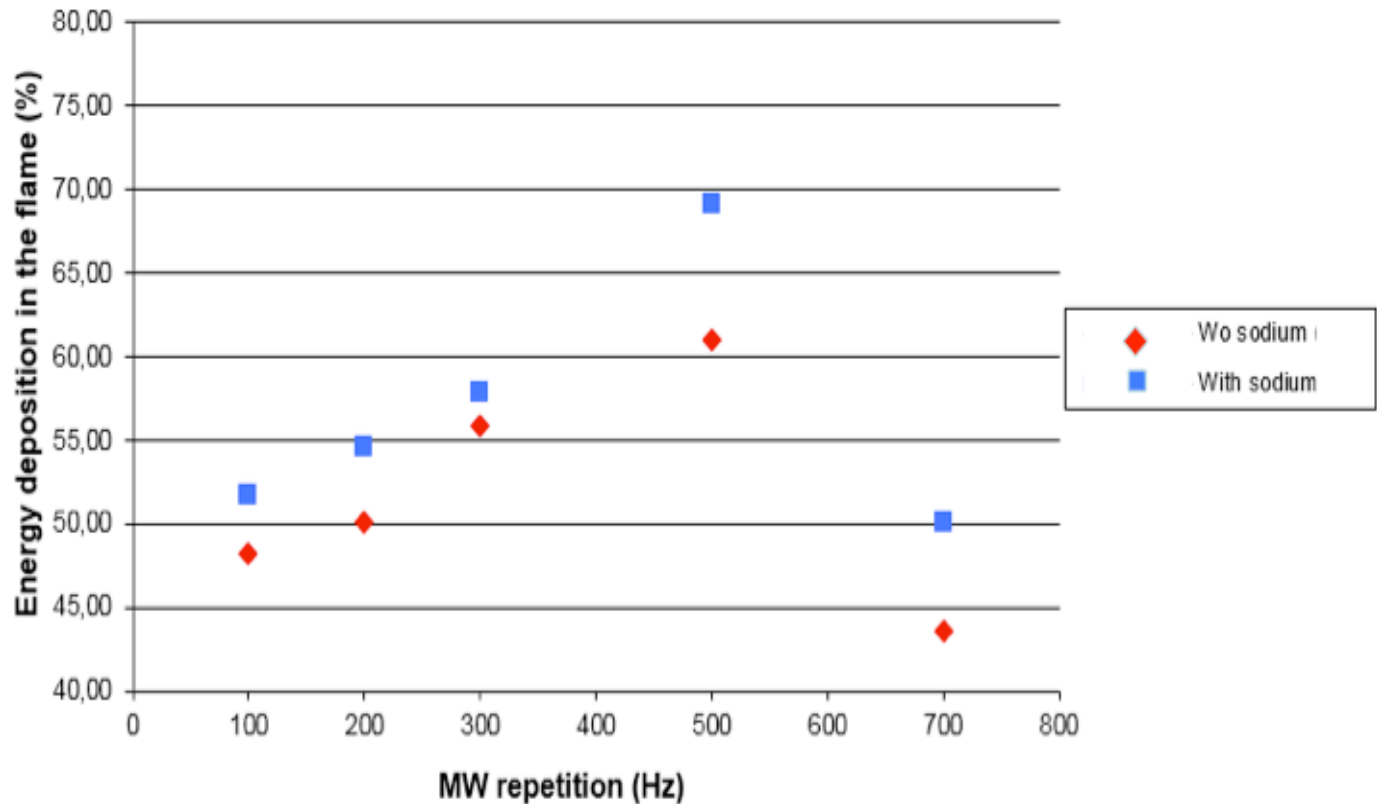
- Deposition localized near flame front/reaction zone
- 25 mJ, 1  $\mu s$  pulse gives 200 K rise
- 50 mJ, 2  $\mu s$  pulse gives 350 K rise
- With 30 Watts average pulsed power the flame speed is enhanced as much as with a 1.3 kW continuous microwave
- Coupling efficiency is  $\sim 60\%$ .

# Power Deposition into flame from pulsed microwave system

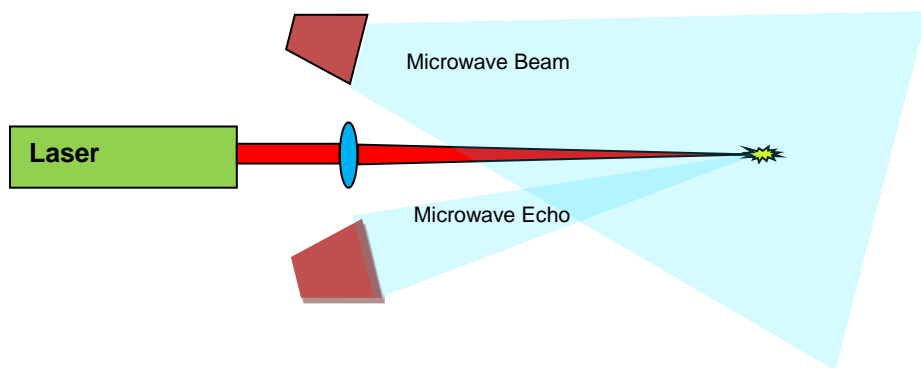


High efficiency coupling of pulsed microwaves

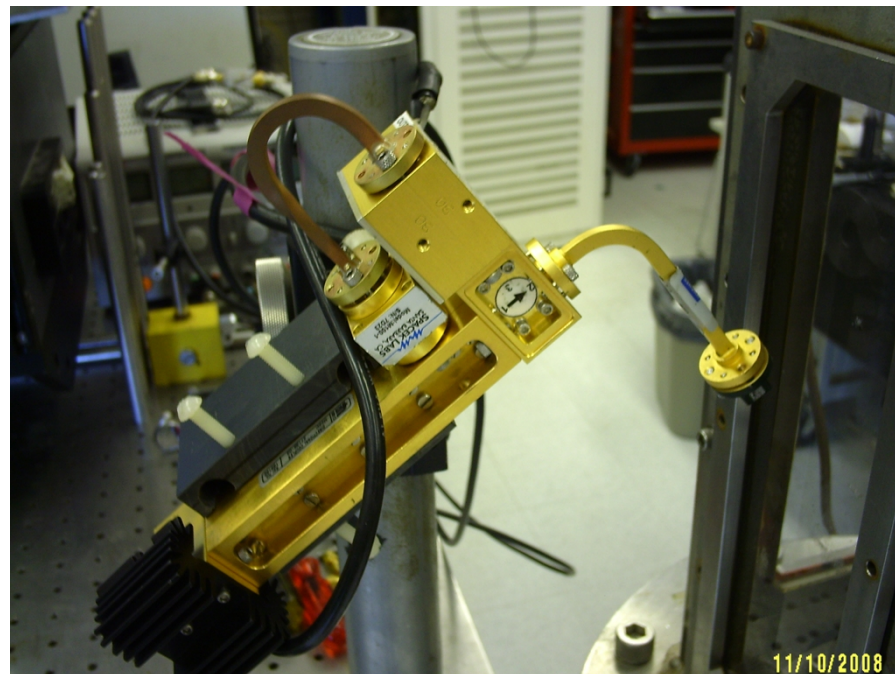
# Further enhanced by seeding the fuel with sodium



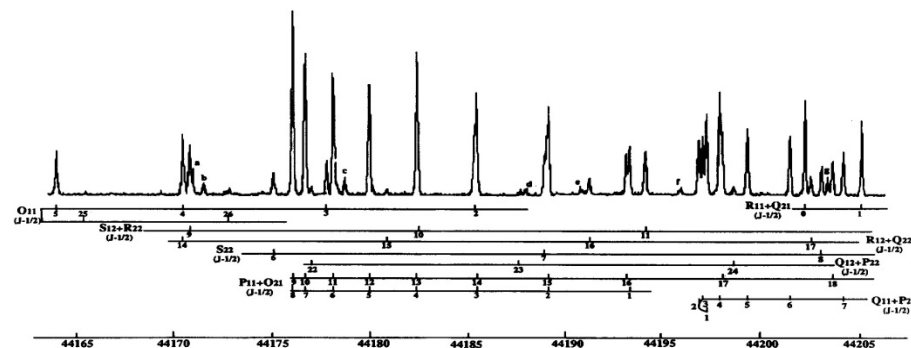
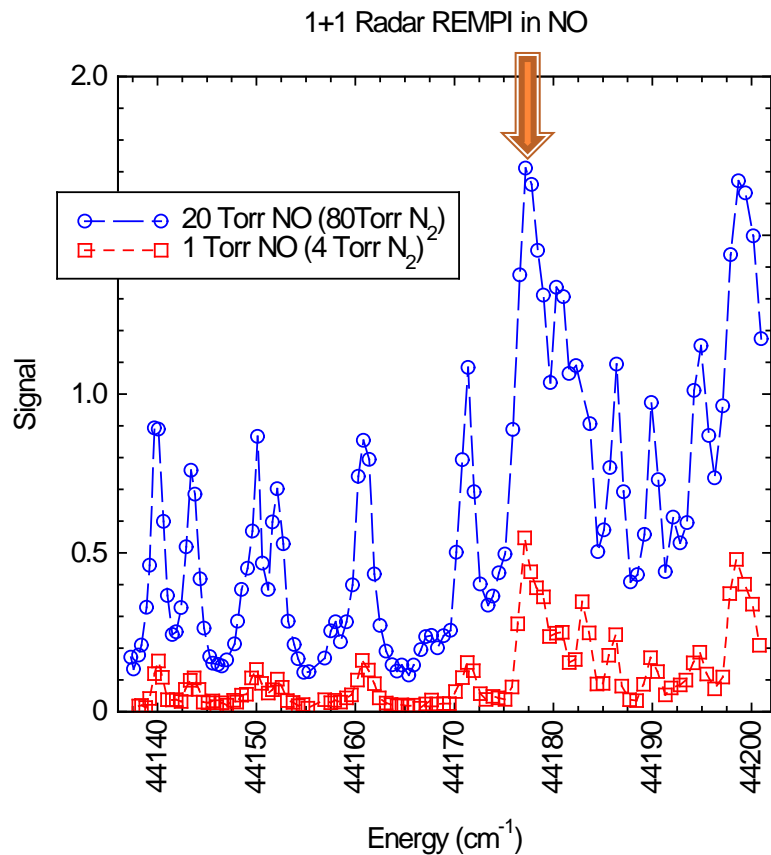
# Radar REMPI measurement of NO



**Microwave/laser measurement configuration.** *The focused laser creates a small region of ionization and the microwaves are scattered from that region into the microwave detector.*

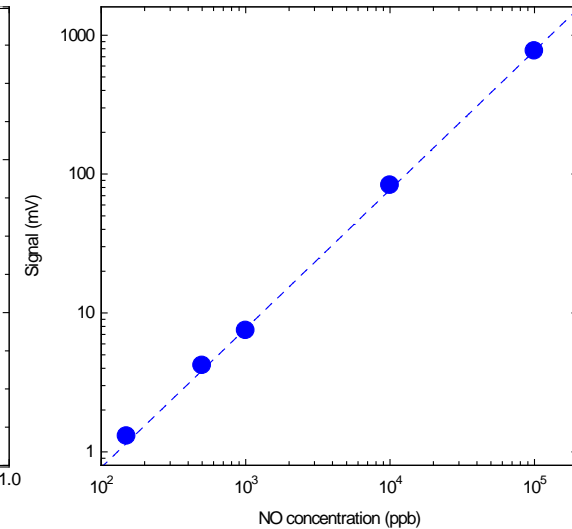
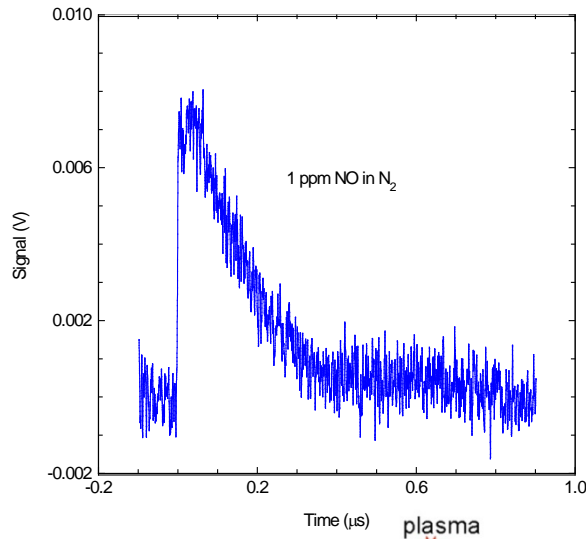
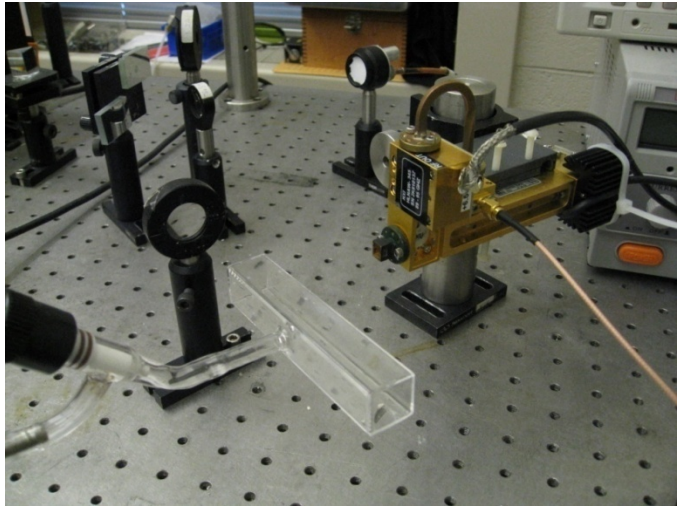


# NO spectrum via 1+1 Radar REMPI

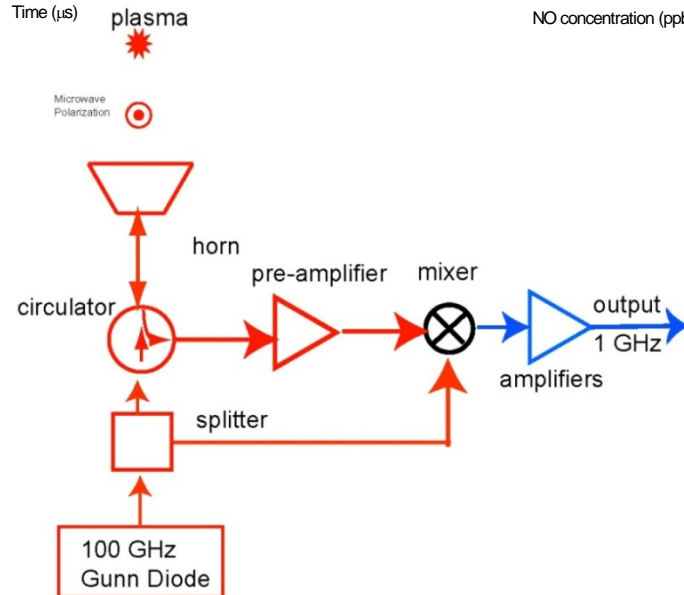


$A^2\Sigma^+ \leftarrow X^2\Pi$  molecular electronic transition

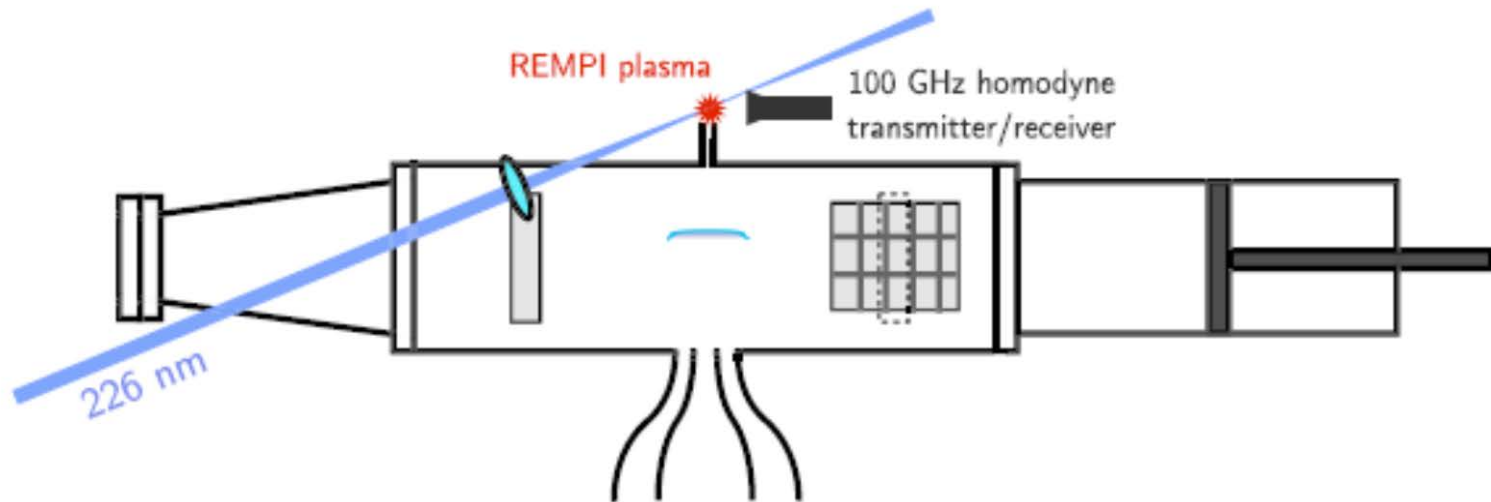
# Radar REMPI Experimental Setup



- 1+1 REMPI of NO with 226 nm laser
- 100 GHz probes the plasma.
- The mixer output is proportional to the scattering amplitude, hence electron density
- Linear signal from ppm to ppb
- Sub-nanosecond temporal resolution

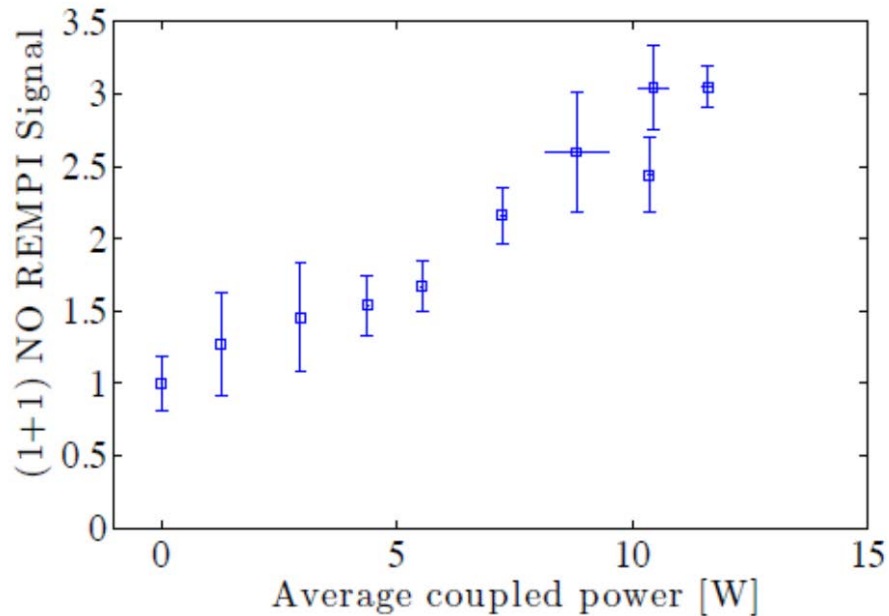


# Nitric Oxide production with pulsed microwaves using Radar REMPI



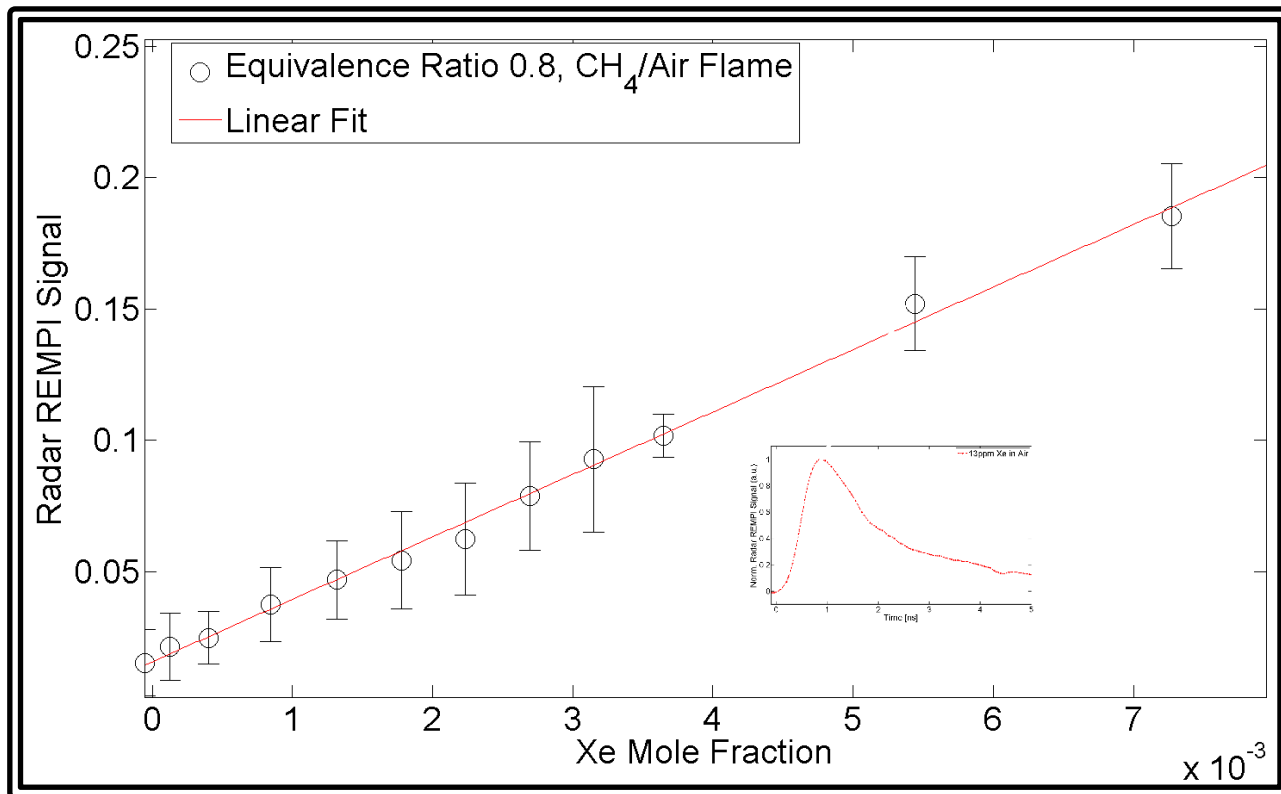
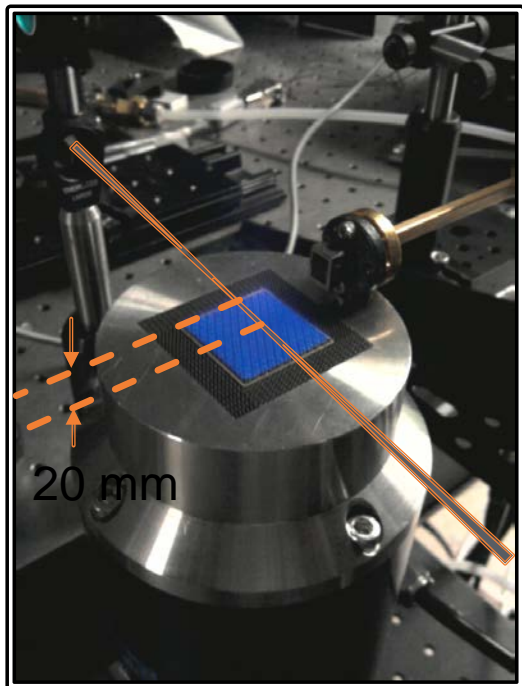
NO measured in the post flame product gas and averaged over time

# Increase of NO with microwave power



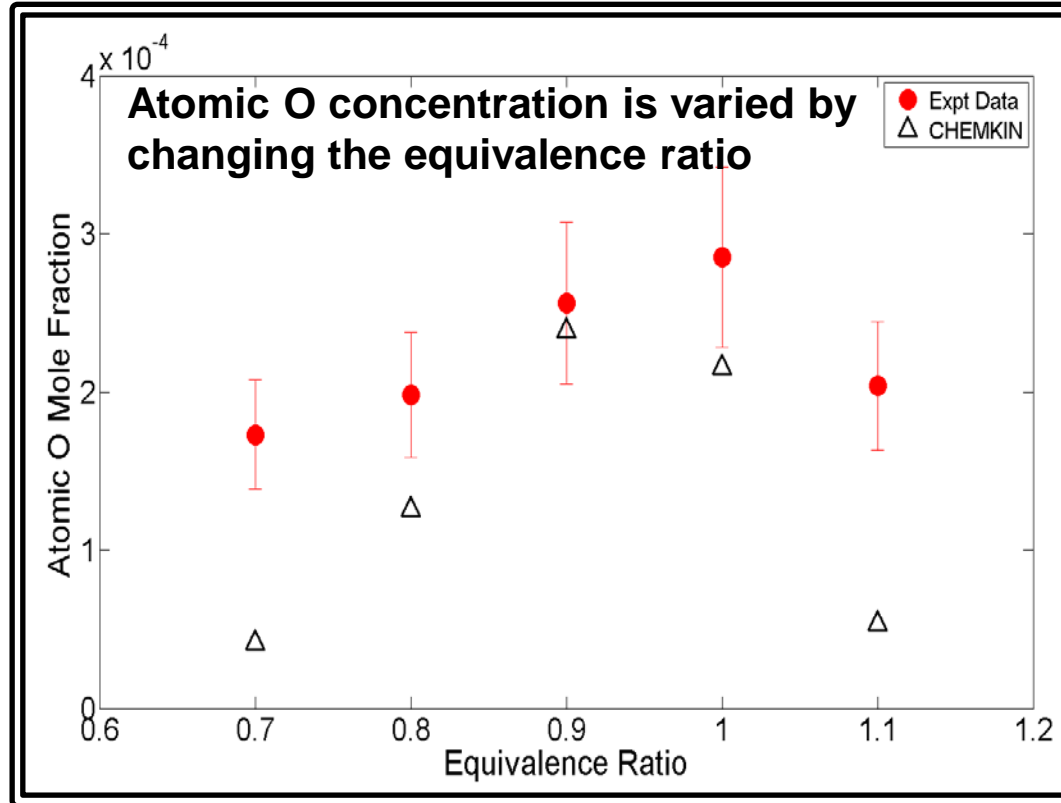
Predicted nitric oxide increase as a function of temperature over  $\phi = 0.8$  equilibrium

# Xe Signal Linearity (CH<sub>4</sub>/Air Flame)



- Good signal linearity with Xe concentration observed at 20 mm above the burner surface, where atomic O concentrations are expected to approach equilibrium values
- Xe detection limit in a flame  $\sim 130$  ppm ( $10^{14} - 10^{15}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>)

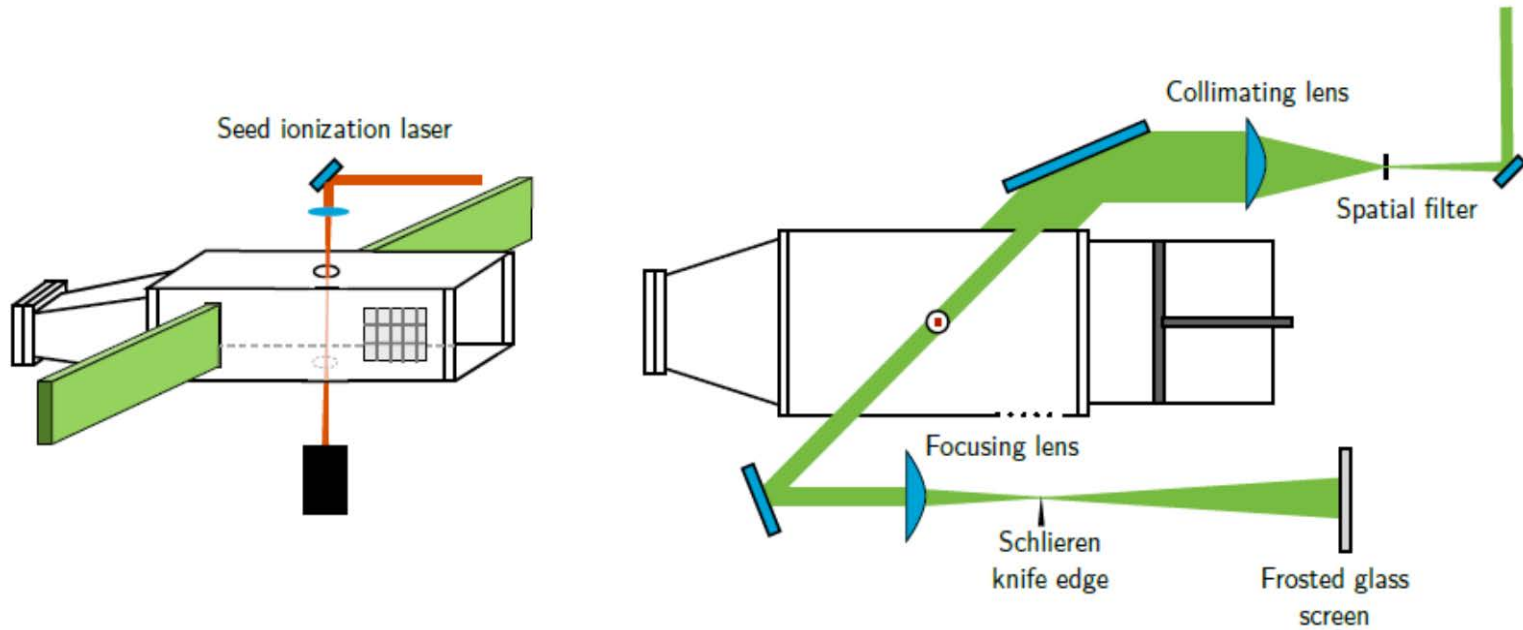
# Inferred Atomic O Concentrations Using Xe Calibration



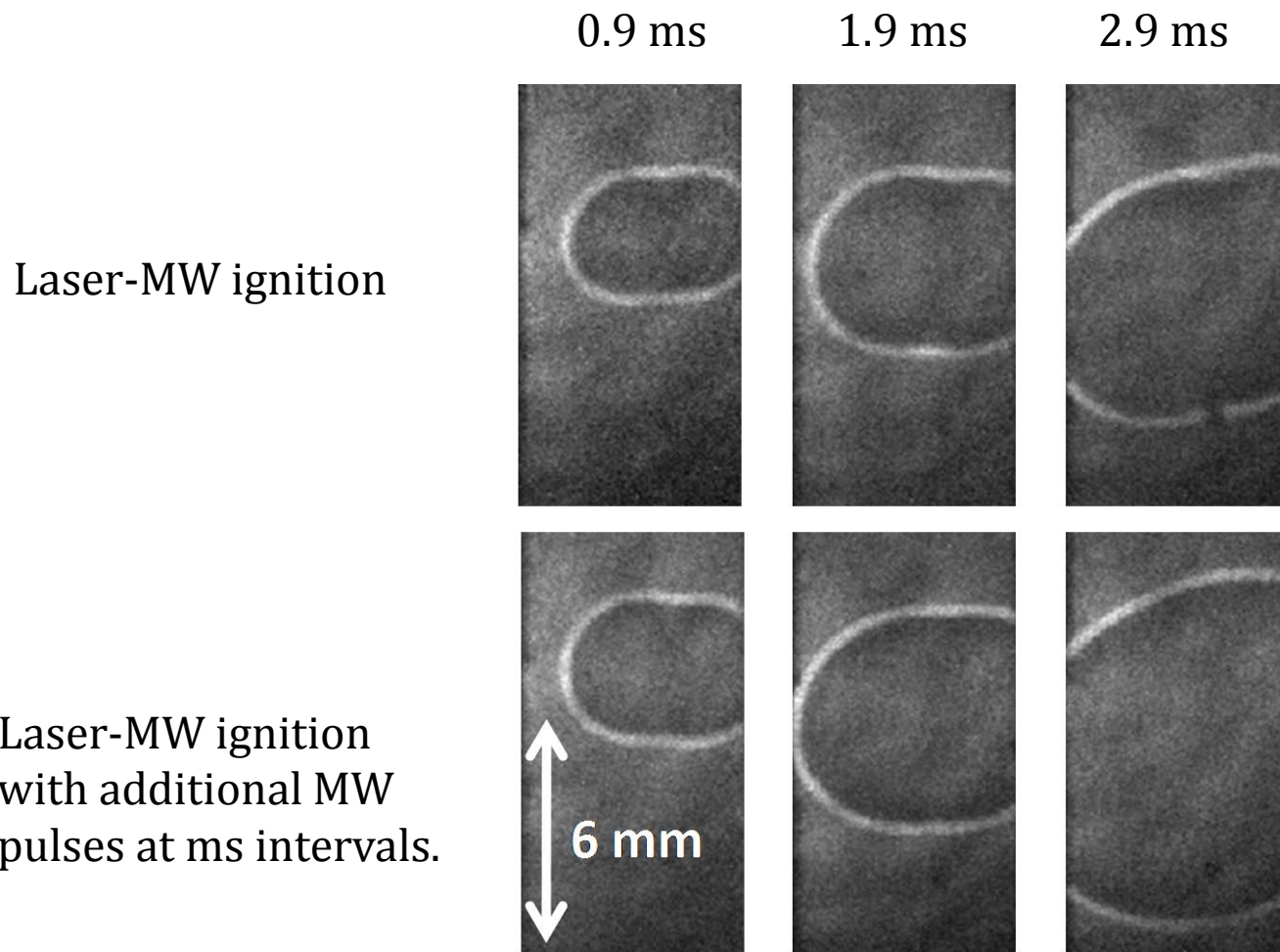
- Reasonable agreement close to stoichiometric conditions but overshoot in the fuel rich and lean regime



# Schlieren imaging of Microwave coupling for laser ignition and preionization studies



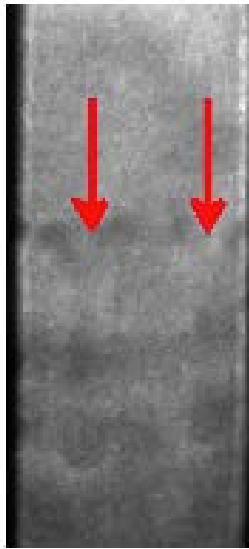
# Enhanced kernel growth rate following laser designated, pulsed microwave ignition.



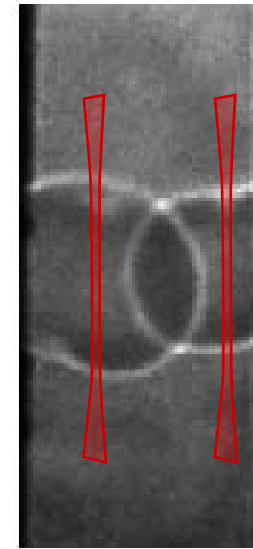
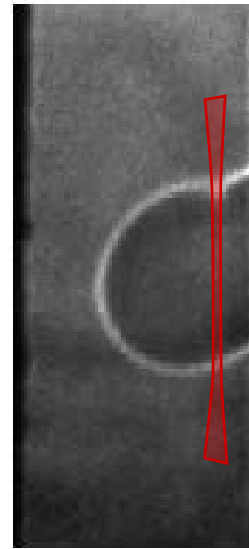
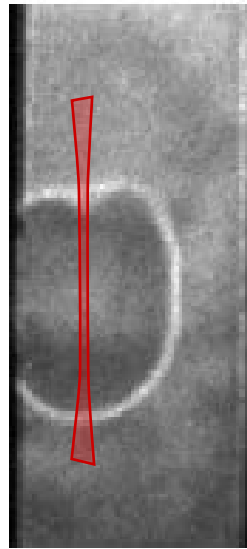
# Multi-point ignition

Michael, et al., Journal of Applied Physics 108 (2010) 093308.

- ▶ 2 laser ionization regions in one standing mode  
maximumSingle 75 mJ, 3  $\mu$ s MW pulse

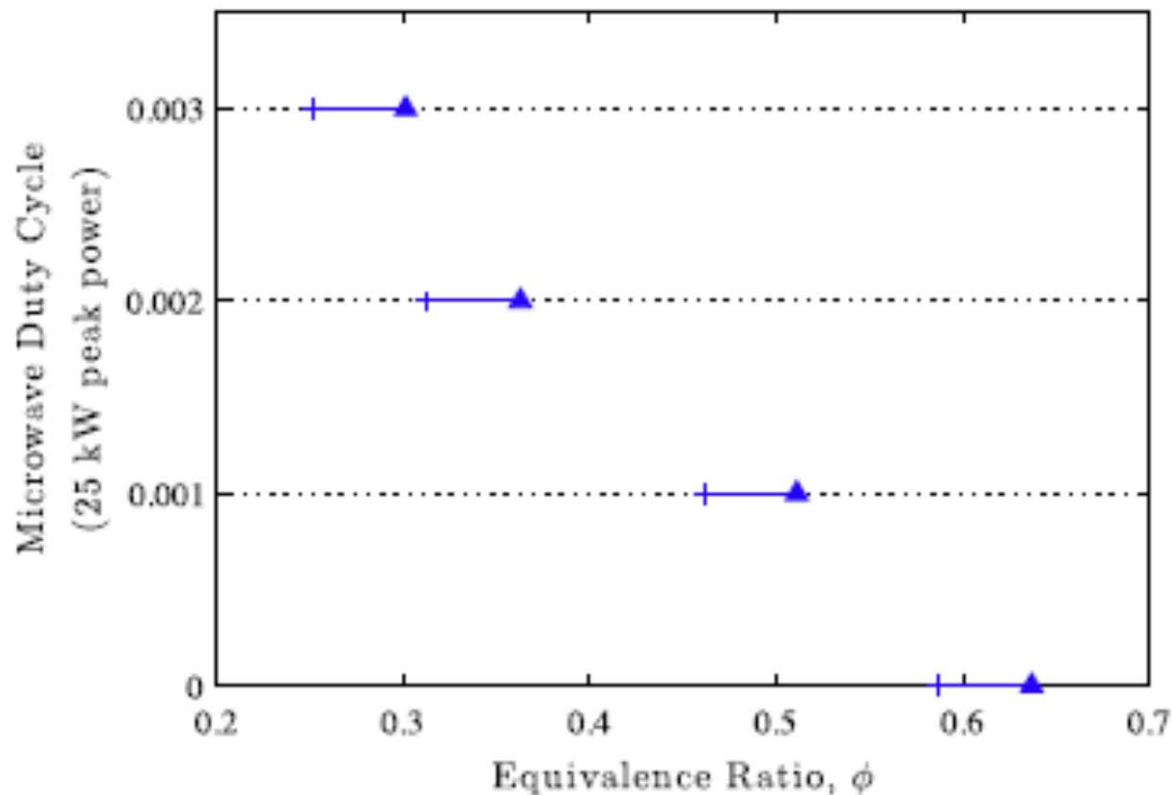


NO MW



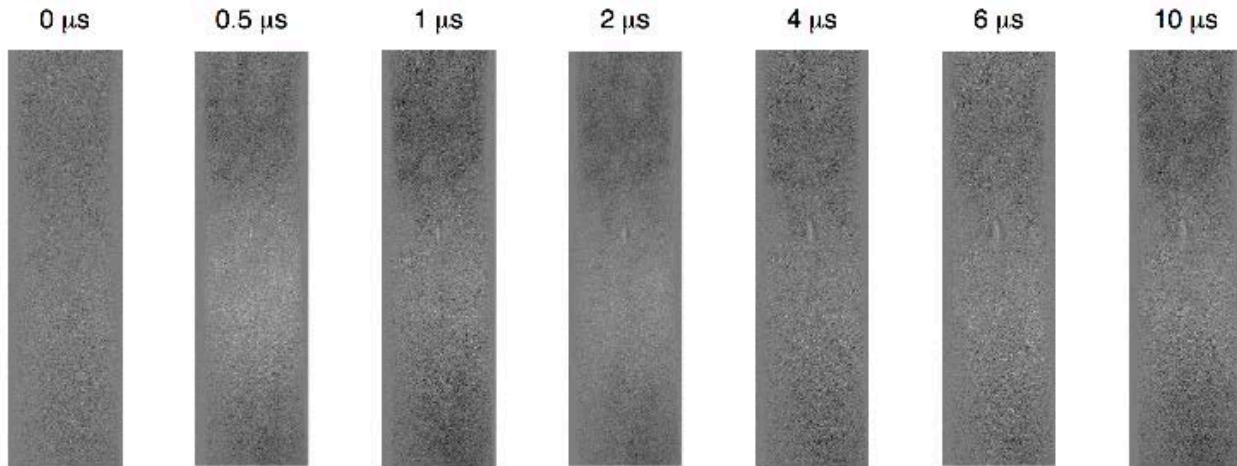
DUAL

# Reduction of lean limit with 1 Khz microwave pulses

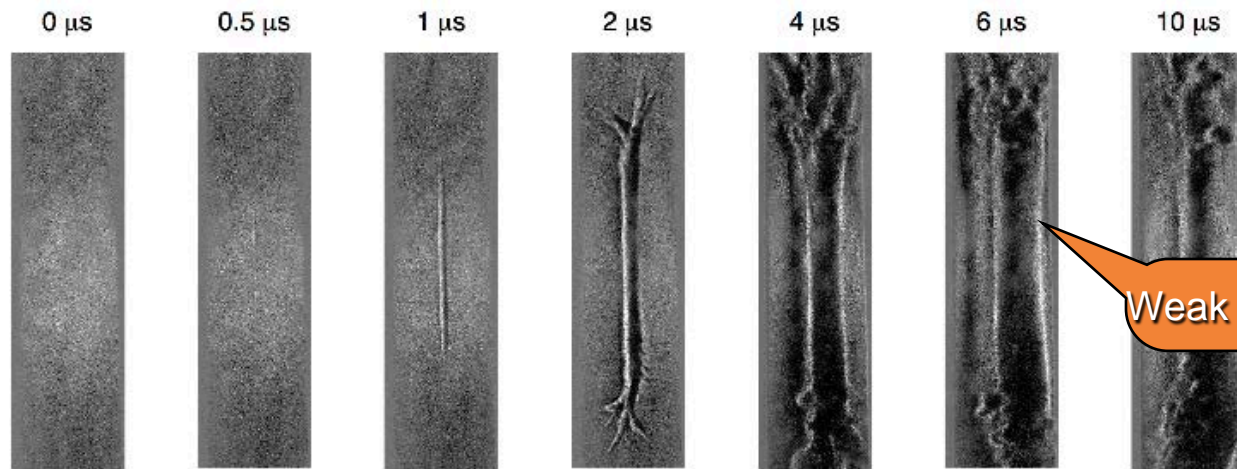


# Air heating of 600 $\mu\text{J}$ femtosecond seed by Subcritical Microwave

LASER

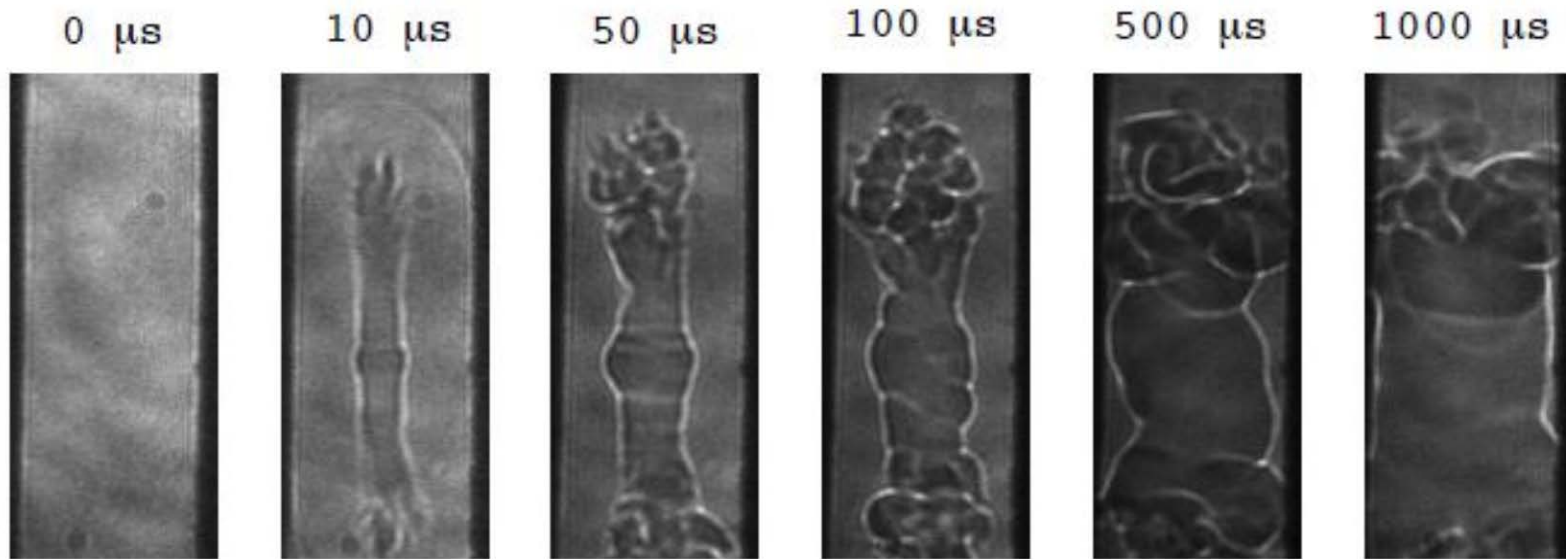


LASER  
+  
50 mJ  
MW



Weak shock ( $M = 1$ )

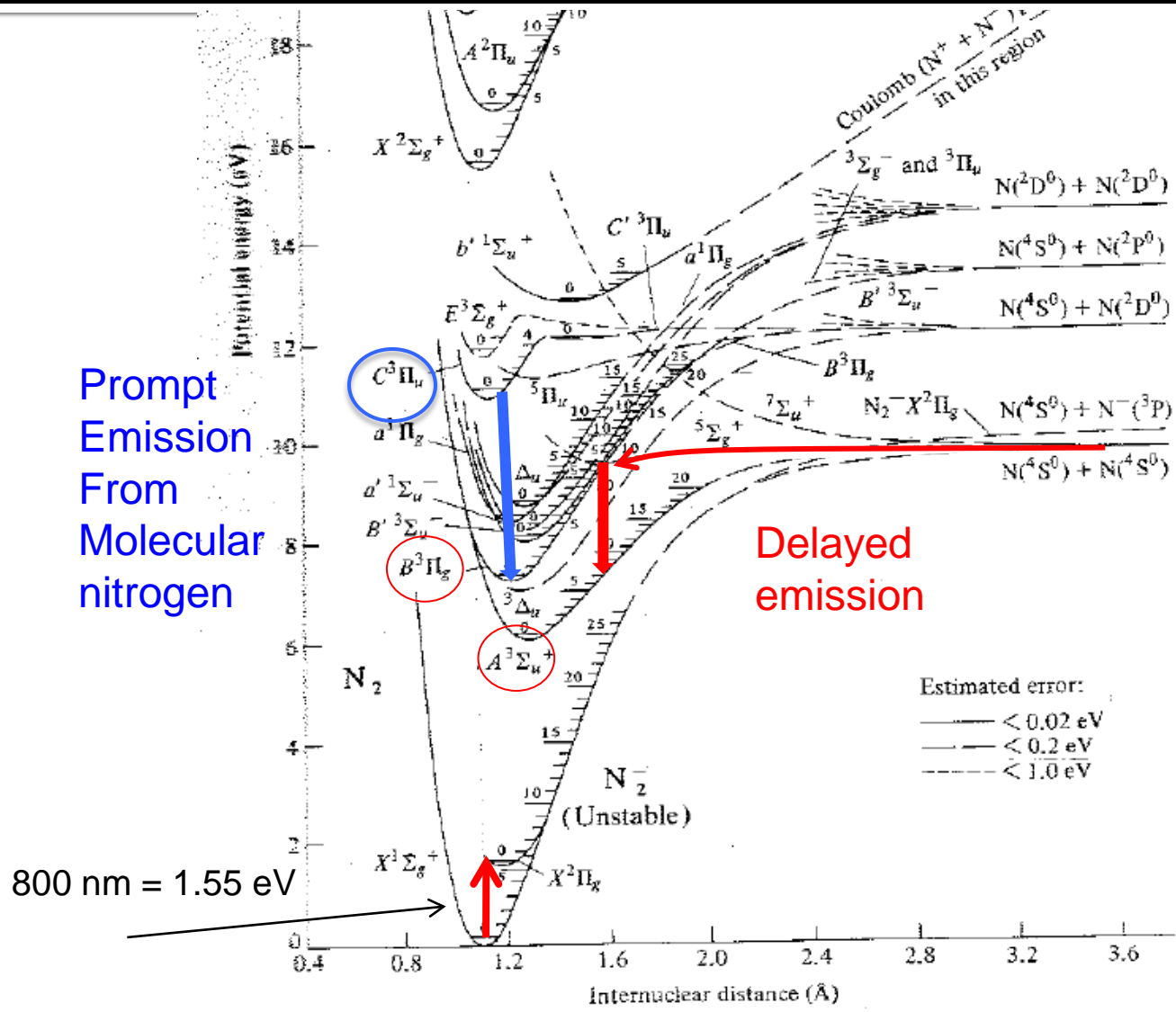
# Line ignition using microwave coupling to fsec laser preionization line



# Femtosecond Laser Electronic Excitation Tagging (FLEET)

For Velocity and Temperature Profile Imaging

# Nitrogen Emission



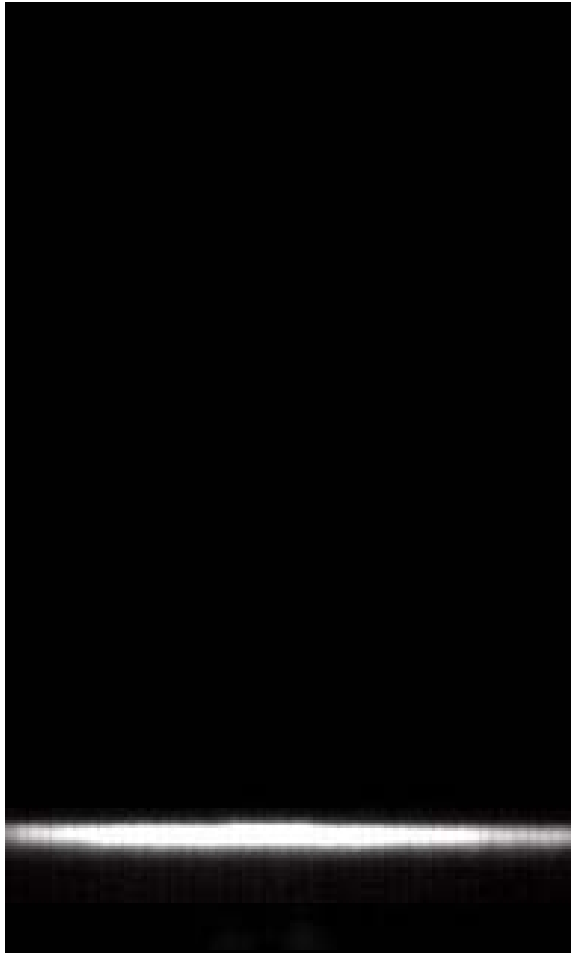
Prompt  
Emission  
From  
Molecular  
nitrogen

Delayed  
emission

Recombination  
Of atomic nitrogen



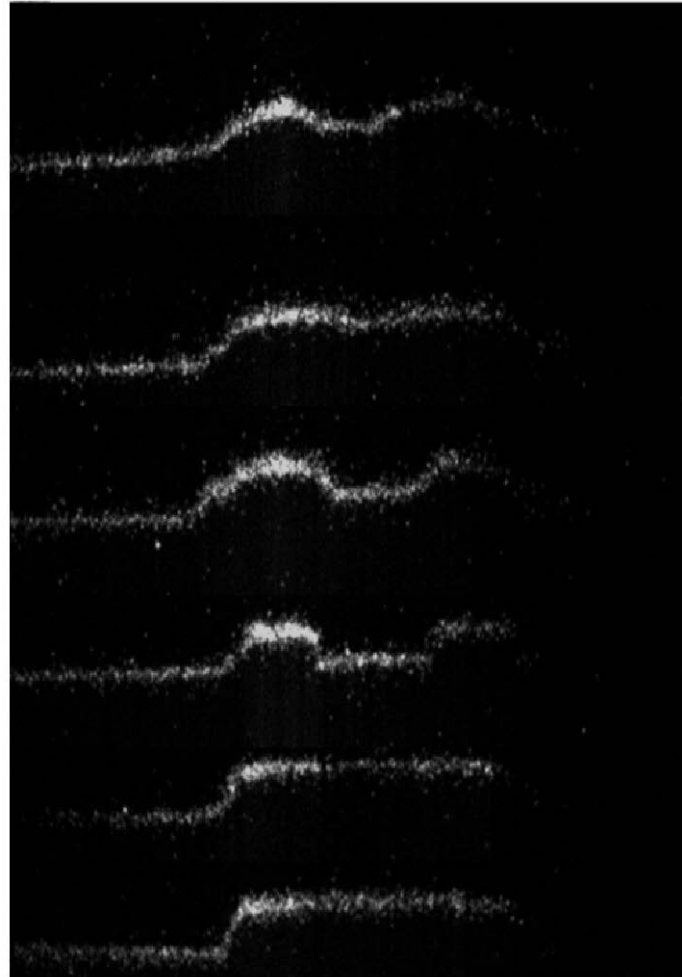
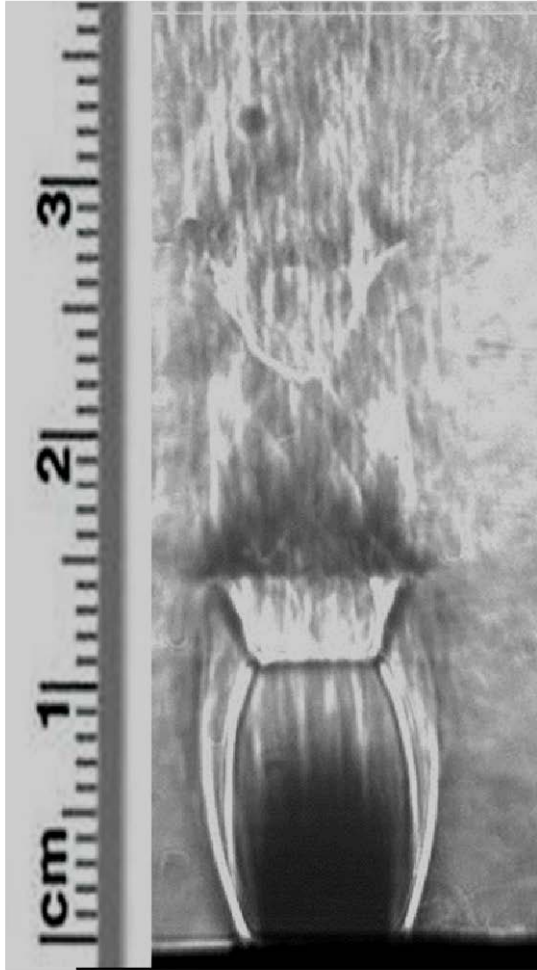
# Subsonic Demonstration Video (with AFRL)



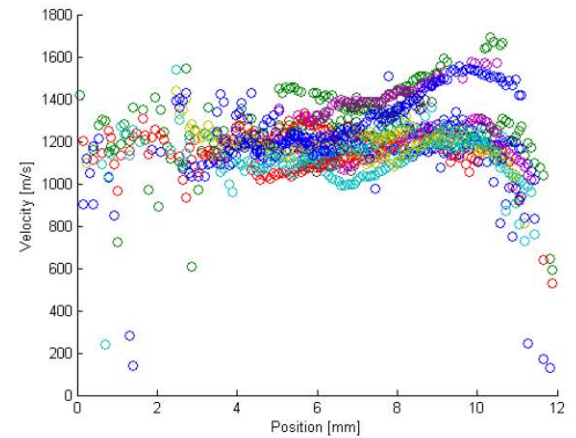
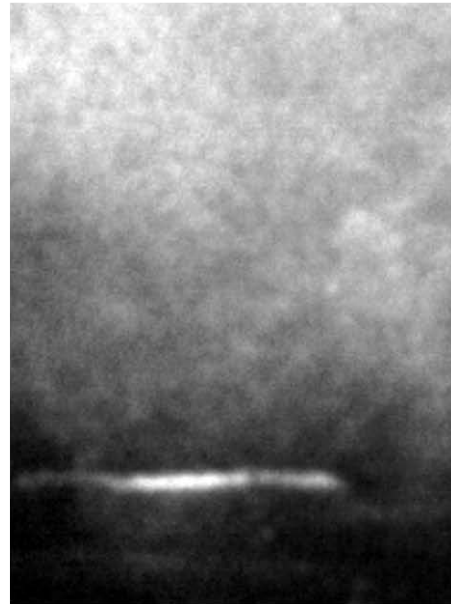
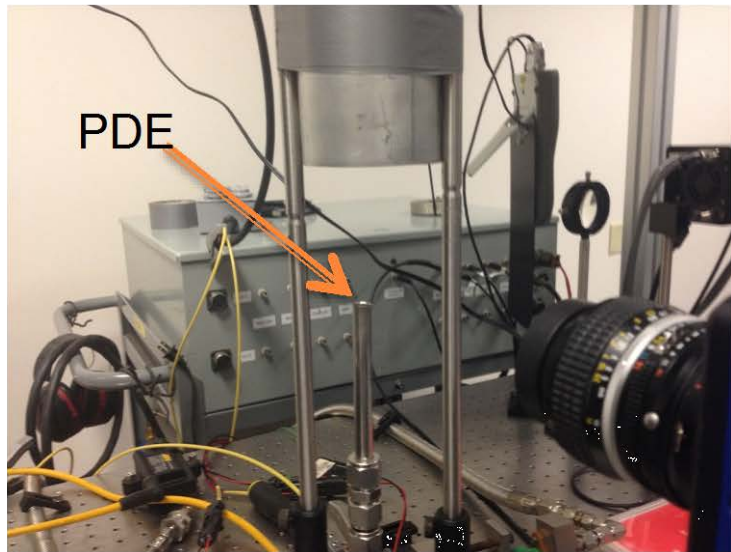
- Each progression includes about 10 line displacement shots due to the long lifetime in pure N<sub>2</sub>
- Measured centerline velocity  $\sim 150\text{m/s}$



# FLEET in Supersonic flow



# FLEET measurements of Pulse Detonation Engine at AFRL



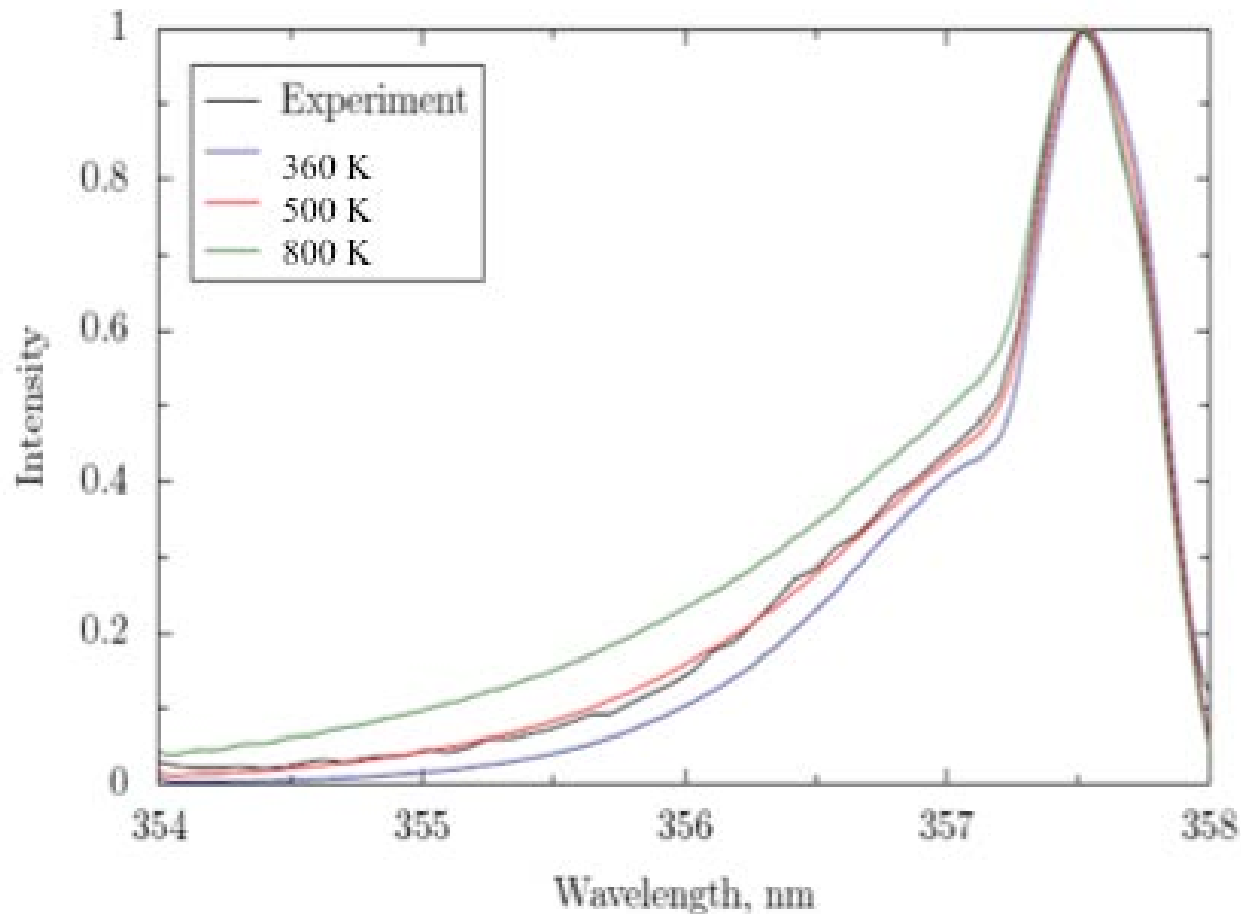
Displaced line after 1  $\mu$ sec  
Undisplaced line

# FLEET For Temperature Profiles

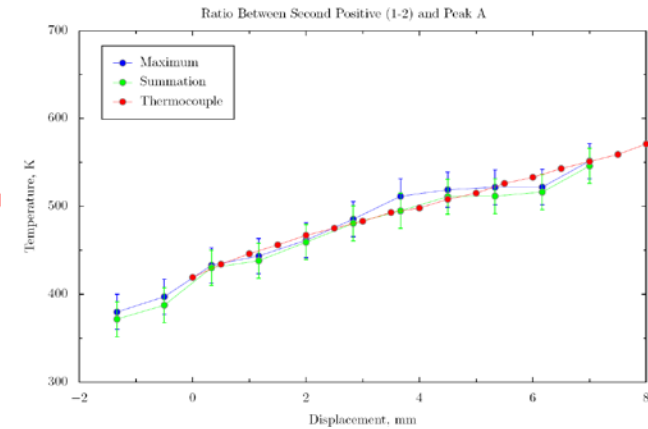
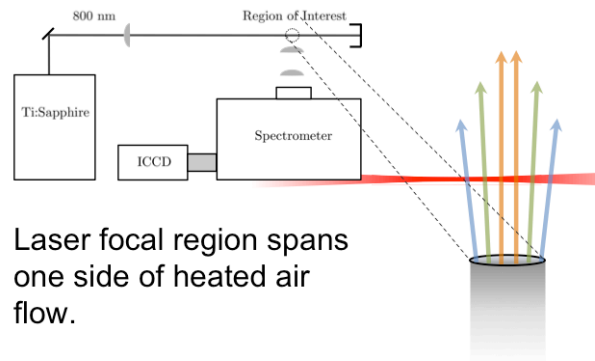
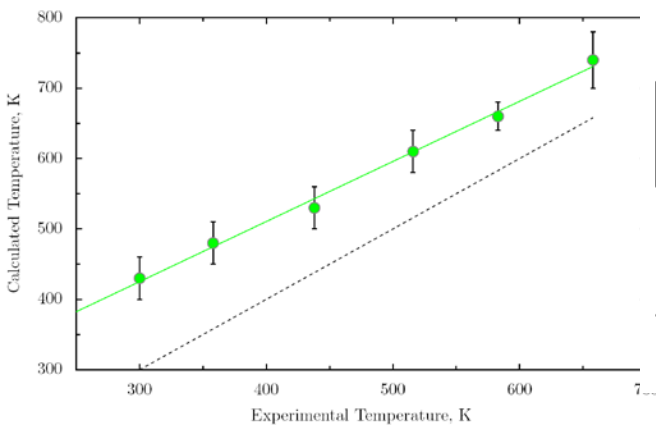
- The rotational temperature of a gas is closely linked to translational temperature.
- The rotational temperature equilibrates with the translational temperature within a few collisions – less than a nanosecond in atmospheric pressure air
- Second positive UV emission is used – prompt emission
- By measuring the distribution of rotational states, we extract the instantaneous temperature profile



# Nitrogen Second Positive Spectral Variation with Temperature

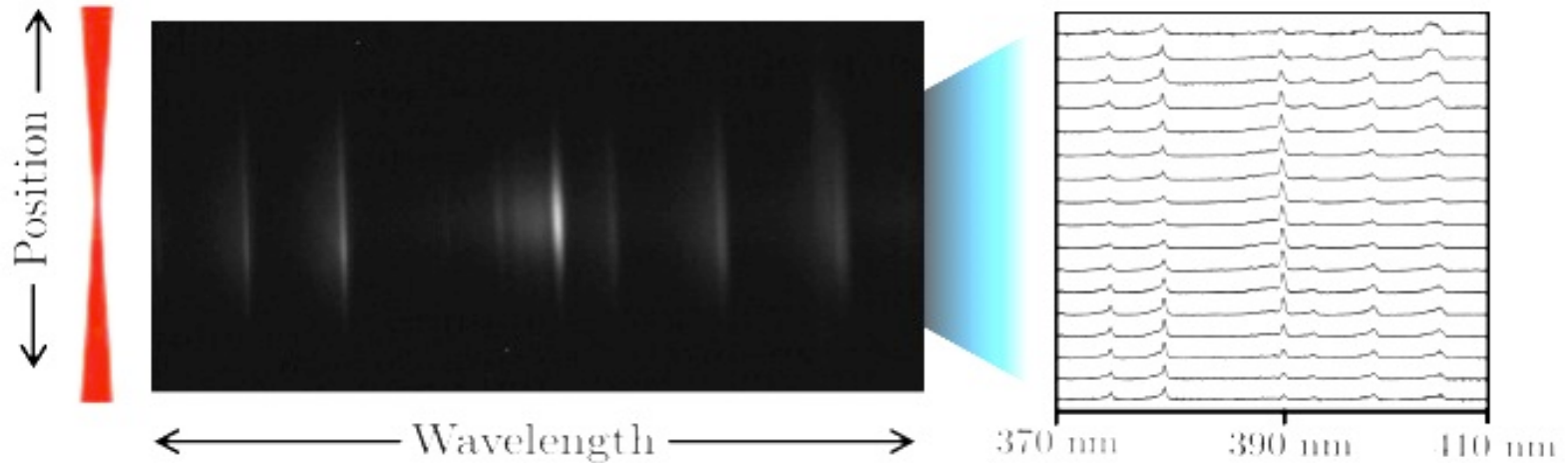


# Temperature Measurement

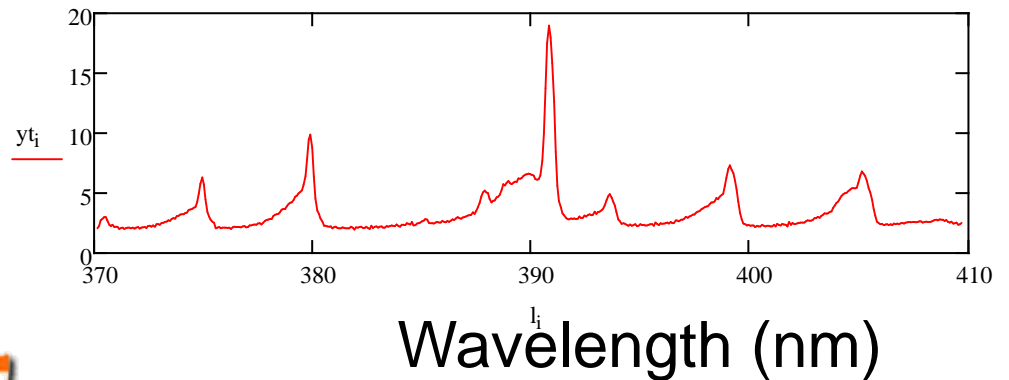


- Temperature profiles can be measured, since images capture displacement on one axis and spectrum on the other.
- Profile measurements based on ratio between systems show good agreement with thermocouple measurements.
- Temperatures calculated based on rotational spectra are slightly warmer than measured, perhaps due to laser heating of focal region.

# FLEET: Hyperspectral imaging



Spectra over 4mm  
of filament



# Summary

- Control of atmospheric pressure flames with pulsed microwave energy
  - High efficiency coupling ( $>50\%$ )
  - Small percentage of flame power ( $\sim 3\%$  to  $10\%$ )
  - Flame speed enhancement ( $>20\%$ )
  - Extension of lean limit (factor of two)
  - Distributed ignition
- Development of new diagnostics
  - Quantitative Temperature images with Filtered Rayleigh Scattering
  - Measurement of NO and radicals with Radar REMPI
  - Imaging velocity and temperature profiles with FLEET



Thank you!

Questions?

