



# PRISMAP school on radionuclide production Ion sources for ISOL

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CERN SY-STI

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# Ion sources for ISOL

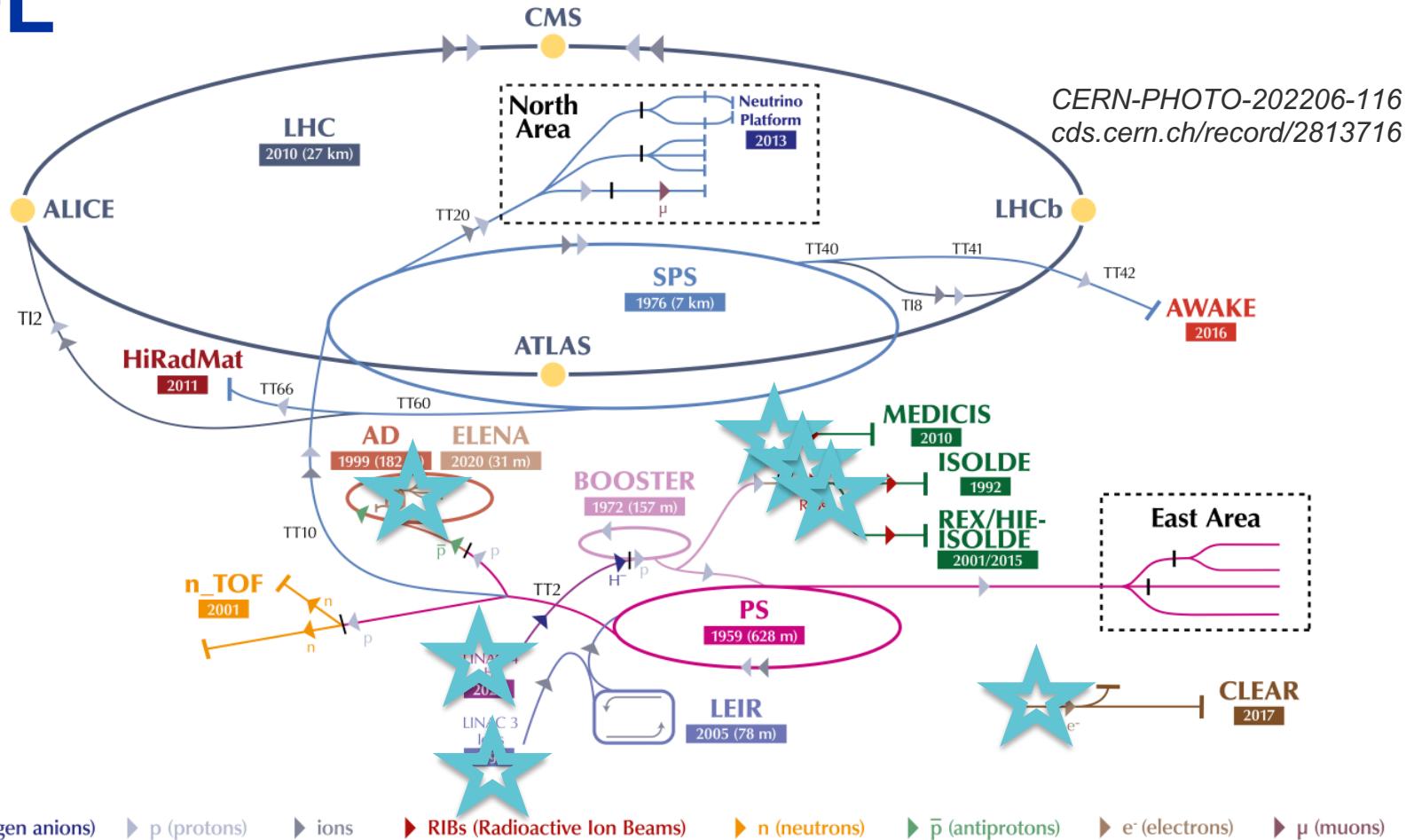
## Outline:

1 Introduction

2 Ionization phenomena

3 ISOL ion sources

4 Applications



LHC - Large Hadron Collider // SPS - Super Proton Synchrotron // PS - Proton Synchrotron // AD - Antiproton Decelerator // CLEAR - CERN Linear Electron Accelerator for Research // AWAKE - Advanced WAKEfield Experiment // ISOLDE - Isotope Separator OnLine // REX/HIE-ISOLDE - Radioactive Experiment/High Intensity and Energy ISOLDE // MEDICIS // LEIR - Low Energy Ion Ring // LINAC - LINEar ACcelerator // n\_TOF - Neutrons Time Of Flight // HiRadMat - High-Radiation to Materials // Neutrino Platform

# Ion sources for ISOL - Outline

## What?

- Broadly: a device to create a beam of charged particles

## Why?

- Charged particles respond to electric and magnetic fields, allowing the manipulation of particle beams
- Ion sources define important properties of the particle beam:
  - Type of particle
  - Intensity (number of particles)
  - Energy of the particles
  - Position and velocity (shape and emittance)
  - Number of charge units per particle (charge state)
  - Time structure of the particles

## How?

- This lecture 😊

# The Isotope Separation On-Line (ISOL) method

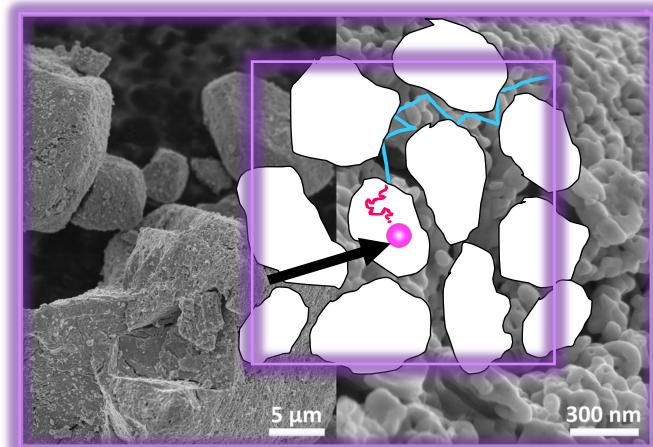
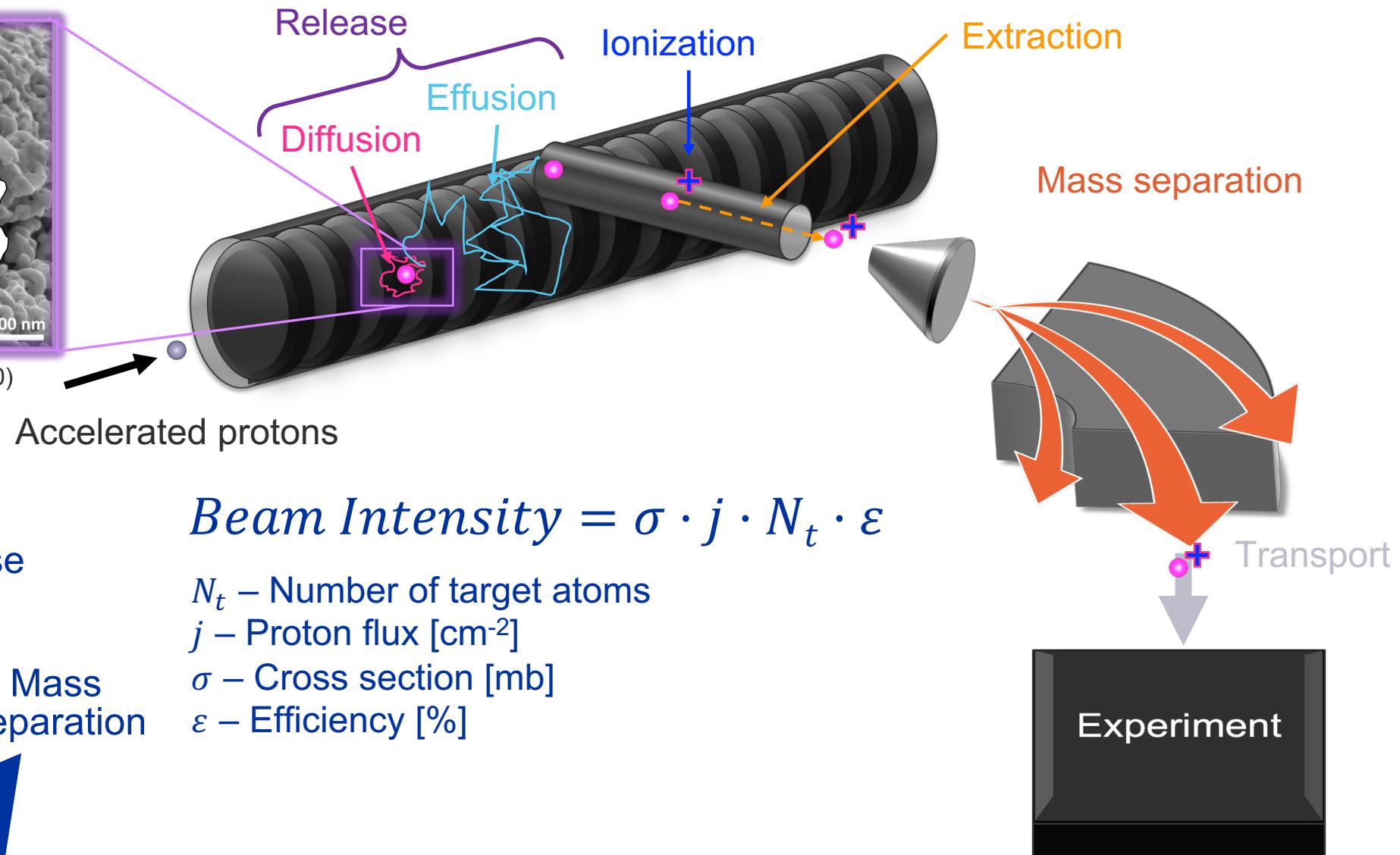


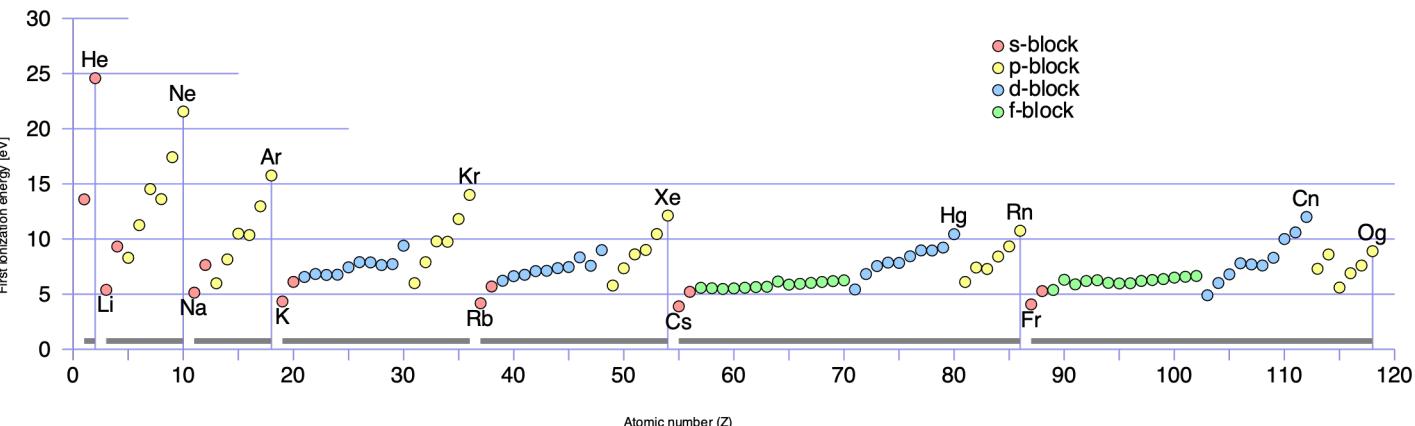
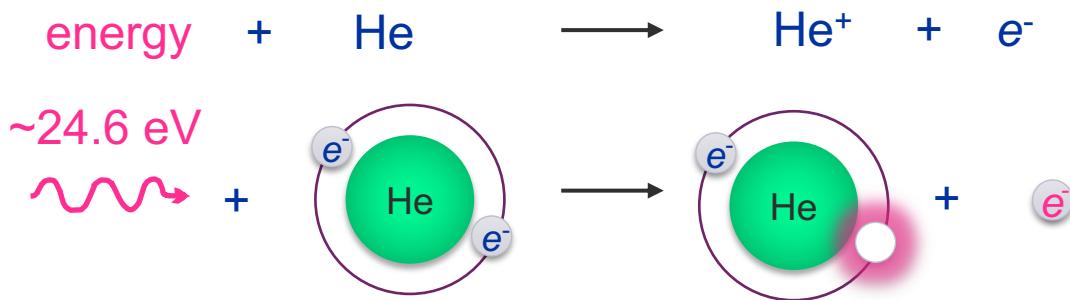
Figure published in Ramos et al., (2020)  
*NIM B* **463**, 201

1. Production
2. Release
3. Ionization
4. Mass separation
5. Delivery to experiments



# ISOL Step 3: Ionization

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
1	H Hydrogen 1.008	Atomic Symbol Name Weight	C Solid	Metals										Nonmetals	Pnictogens Chalcogens Halogens						
2	Li Lithium 6.94	4 Be Boron 9.0122	Hg Liquid	Alkaline metals	Alkaline earth metals	Lanthanoids	Transition metals			Post-transition metals	Metalloids	Reactive nonmetals	Noble gases	B Boron 10.81	C Carbon 12.011	N Nitrogen 14.007	O Oxygen 15.999	F Fluorine 18.998	He Helium 4.0026		
3	Na Sodium 22.990	12 Mg Magnesium 24.305	H Gas	Rf Unknown			Actinoids							5 B Boron 10.81	6 C Carbon 12.011	7 N Nitrogen 14.007	8 O Oxygen 15.999	9 F Fluorine 18.998	10 Ne Neon 20.180		
4	19 K Potassium 39.098	20 Ca Calcium 40.078	21 Sc Scandium 44.956	22 Ti Titanium 47.867	23 V Vanadium 50.942	24 Cr Chromium 51.996	25 Mn Manganese 54.938	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.933	28 Ni Nickel 58.693	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.38	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.630	33 As Arsenic 74.922	34 Se Selenium 78.971	35 Br Bromine 79.904	36 Kr Krypton 83.798			
5	37 Rb Rubidium 85.468	38 Sr Strontium 87.62	39 Y Yttrium 88.906	40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.906	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.95	43 Tc Technetium (98)	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.91	46 Pd Palladium 106.42	47 Ag Silver 107.87	48 Cd Cadmium 112.41	49 In Indium 114.82	50 Sn Tin 118.71	51 Sb Antimony 127.60	52 Te Tellurium 127.60	53 I Iodine 126.90	54 Xe Xenon 131.29			
6	55 Cs Caesium 132.91	56 Ba Barium 137.33	57–71		72 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.193	74 W Tungsten (183.84)	75 Re Rhenium 186.21	76 Os Osmium 190.23	77 Ir Iridium 192.22	78 Pt Platinum 195.08	79 Au Gold 196.97	80 Hg Mercury 200.59	81 Tl Thallium 204.38	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.98	84 Po Polonium (210)	85 At Astatine (210)	86 Rn Radon (222)		
7	87 Fr Francium (223)	88 Ra Radium (226)			104 Rf Rutherfordium (267)	105 Db Dubnium (268)	106 Sg Seaborgium (269)	107 Bh Bohrium (270)	108 Hs Hassium (277)	109 Mt Meitnerium (278)	110 Ds Darmstadtium (281)	111 Rg Roentgenium (282)	112 Nh Copernicium (285)	113 Fl Flerovium (286)	116 Lv Livermorium (293)	117 Ts Tennessee (294)	118 Og Oganesson (294)				
For elements with no stable isotopes, the mass number of the isotope with the longest half-life is in parentheses.																					
6	57 La Lanthanum 138.91	58 Ce Cerium 140.12	59 Pr Praseodymium 140.91	60 Nd Neodymium 144.24	61 Pm Promethium (145)	62 Sm Samarium 150.36	63 Eu Europium 151.96	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.93	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.50	67 Ho Holmium 164.93	68 Er Erbium 167.26	69 Tm Thulium 168.93	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.05	71 Lu Lutetium 174.97						
7	89 Ac Actinium (227)	90 Th Thorium 232.04	91 Pa Protactinium 231.04	92 U Uranium 238.03	93 Np Neptunium (237)	94 Pu Plutonium (244)	95 Am Americium (243)	96 Cm Curium (247)	97 Bk Berkellium (247)	98 Cf Californium (251)	99 Es Einsteinium (252)	100 Fm Fermium (257)	101 Md Mendelevium (258)	102 No Nobelium (259)	103 Lr Lawrencium (266)						



# **Ionization potential (IP) / ionization energy (IE)**

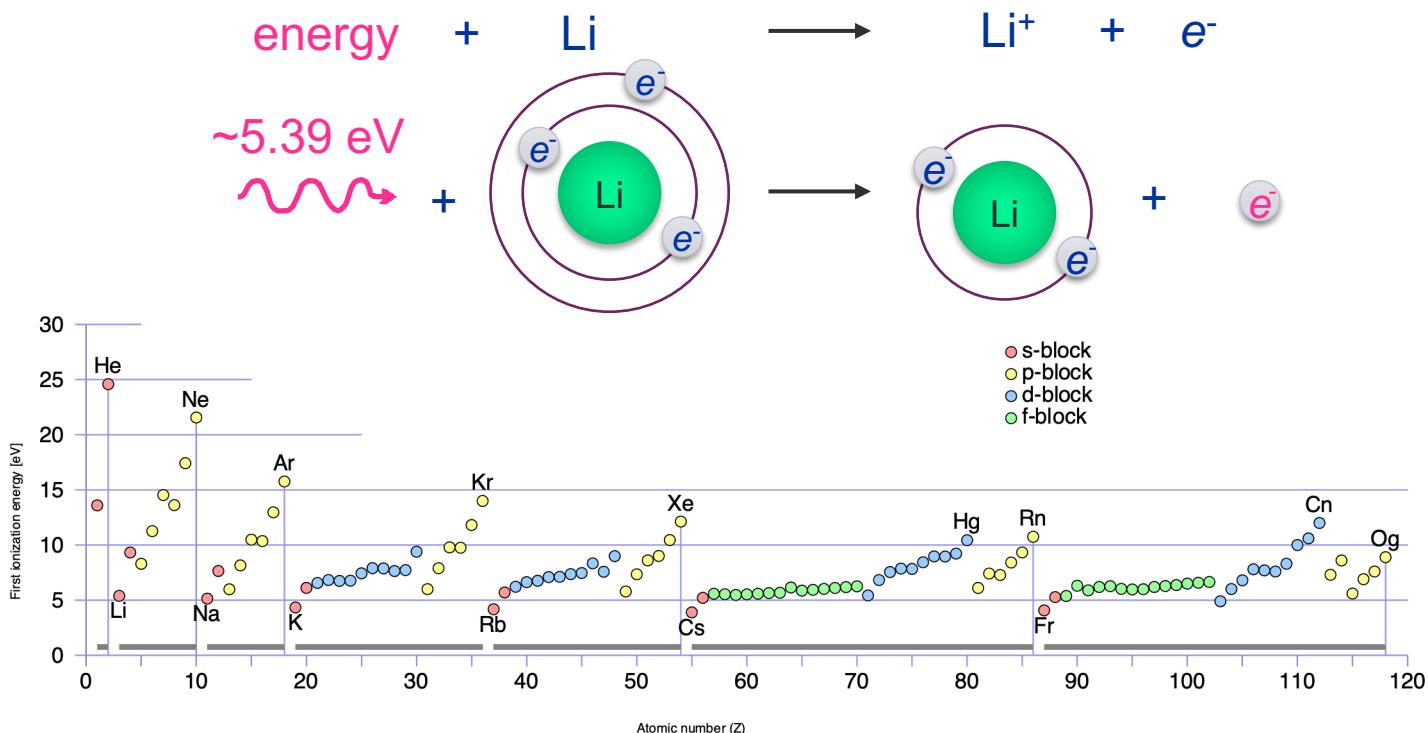
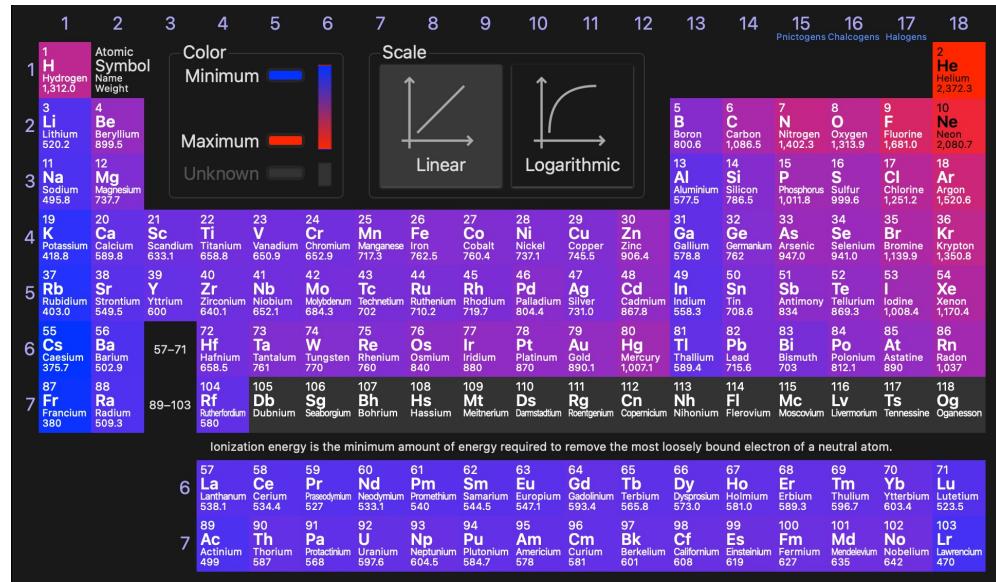
- the energy needed to remove an electron from an atom (or ion)
    - First IP: energy to ionize the neutral atom
    - The IP depends on the electronic “shell structure” of the atom

[1] [www.ptable.com](http://www.ptable.com)

[2] Graph of first ionization energies in eV ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First\\_Ionization\\_Energy\\_blocks.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_Ionization_Energy_blocks.svg))



# ISOL Step 3: Ionization



## Ionization potential (IP) / ionization energy (IE)

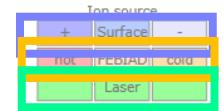
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# ISOL Step 3: Ionization

1	H
3	Li
4	Be
11	Na
12	Mg
19	K
20	Ca
37	Rb
38	Sr
55	Cs
56	Ba
87	Fr
88	Ra

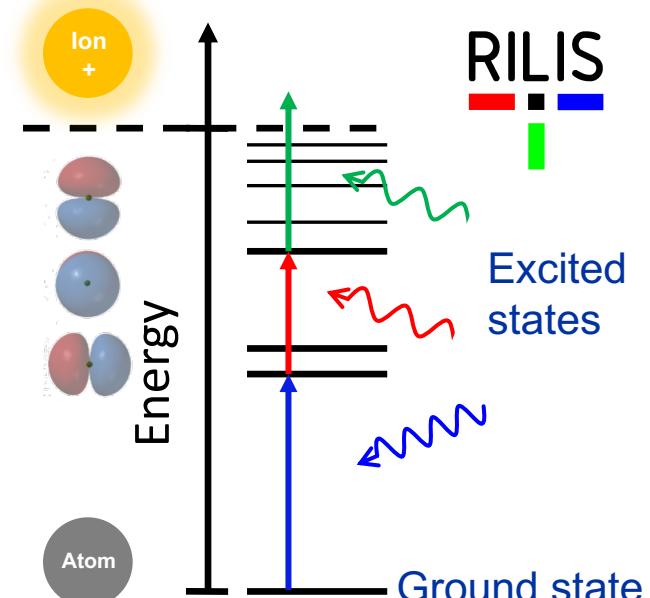
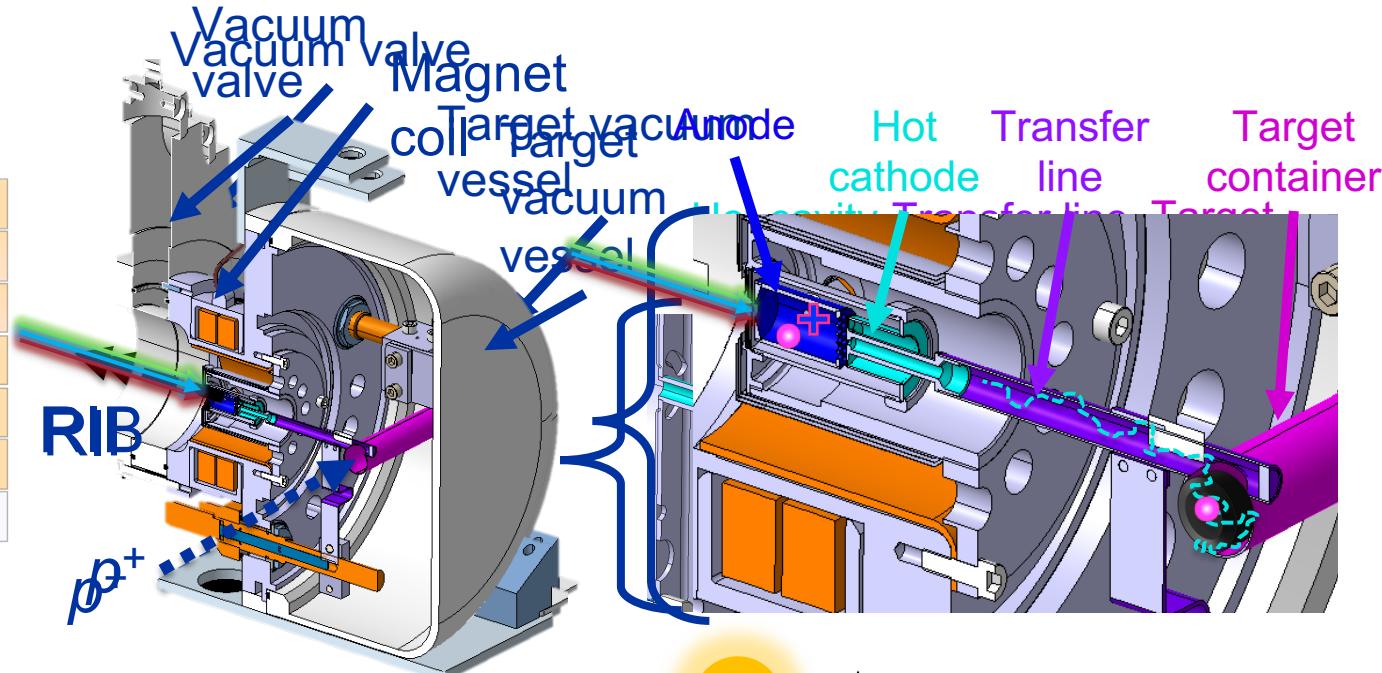
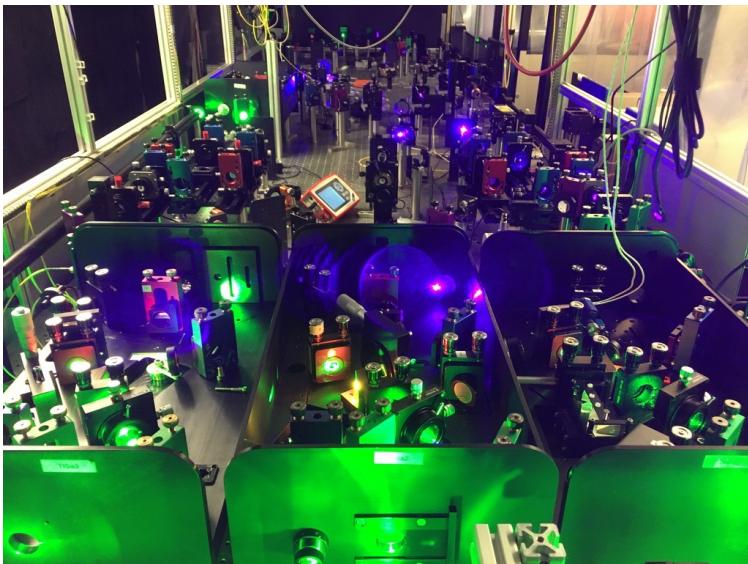


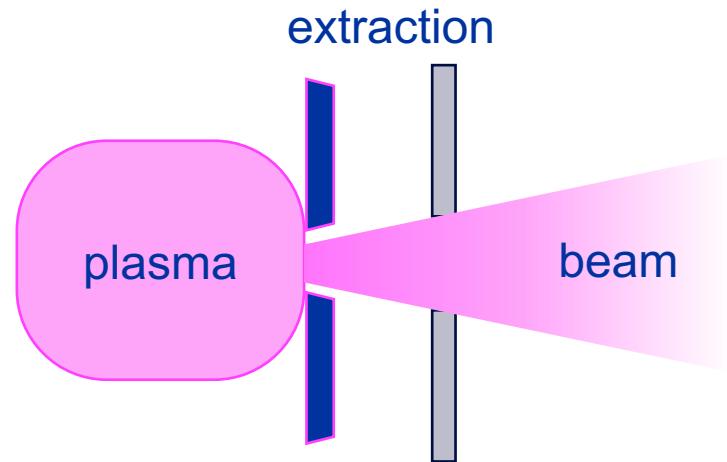
2	He
5	B
6	C
7	N
8	O
9	F
10	Ne
13	Al
14	Si
15	P
16	S
17	Cl
18	Ar
21	Sc
22	Ti
23	V
24	Cr
25	Mn
26	Fe
27	Co
28	Ni
29	Cu
30	Zn
31	Ga
32	Ge
33	As
34	Se
35	Br
36	Kr
39	Y
40	Zr
41	Nb
42	Mo
43	Tc
44	Ru
45	Rh
46	Pd
47	Ag
48	Cd
49	In
50	Sn
51	Sb
52	Te
53	I
54	Xe
71	Lu
72	Hf
73	Ta
74	W
75	Re
76	Os
77	Ir
78	Pt
79	Au
80	Hg
81	Tl
82	Pb
83	Bi
84	Po
85	At
86	Rn
103	Lr
104	Rf
105	Db
106	Sg
107	Bh
108	Hs
109	Mt
110	Ds
111	Rg
112	Cn
113	Nh
114	Fl
115	Mc
116	Lv
117	Ts
118	Og

[cern.ch/isolde-yields](http://cern.ch/isolde-yields)

## Ion sources

- Surface ionization
- Electron impact ionization
- Resonance laser ionization





# Ionization

Mechanisms, processes and interactions

References and literature:

1. The Physics and Technology of Ion Sources 2nd edition Ian G. Brown (2004), WILEY-VCH
2. Handbook of Ion Sources, B. Wolf (1995)

- 1 Plasmas
- 2 Ionization mechanisms
- 3 Surface interactions
- 4 Beam formation and extraction

# Plasmas and their parameters

Plasma: “fourth state of matter” – instead of molecules, composed of ions, electrons, and neutrals

## Density

- electron density  $n_e$ , ion density  $n_i$  and neutral density  $n_n$
- “charge neutrality” :  $\sum q_i n_i = n_e$
- Ionization fraction:  $\beta = \frac{n_i}{n_i + n_n}$

## Temperature

- Typical units of electron volts (eV)  
 $1 \text{ eV} = 11\,600 \text{ K}$
- In an isotropic plasma at thermal equilibrium, the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution leads to:
  - $\bar{v}_e = 67\sqrt{T_e} \left[ \frac{\text{cm}}{\mu\text{s}} \right]$
  - $\bar{v}_i = 1.57\sqrt{\frac{T_i}{A}} \left[ \frac{\text{cm}}{\mu\text{s}} \right]$
- electrons, ions, and neutrals may have different temperatures:  $T_e$ ,  $T_i$ ,  $T_n$

## Collisions

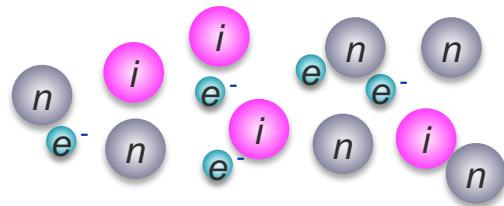
- Kinetic theory of gases → plasmas
- Mean free path  $\lambda = \frac{1}{n\sigma}$
- collision time  $\tau$  (collision frequency  $\nu = \frac{1}{\tau}$ )  $\tau = \frac{1}{n\sigma\nu}$
- Collision times  $\sim$ ns to ms

## Frequency

- Oscillations of electrons and ions in response to small deviations away from charge neutrality

$$\omega_e^2 = \frac{e^2 n_e}{\epsilon_0 m_e} \quad \omega_i^2 = \frac{q^2 e^2 n_i}{\epsilon_0 m_i}$$

Provides the supply of charged particles



# Electron impact ionization

- collisions of electrons with atoms or molecules, where ionization to charge state  $i$  can happen for  $E_e \geq \epsilon_i$
- Typical cross-section maximums around  $E_e \approx 3.5\epsilon_i$

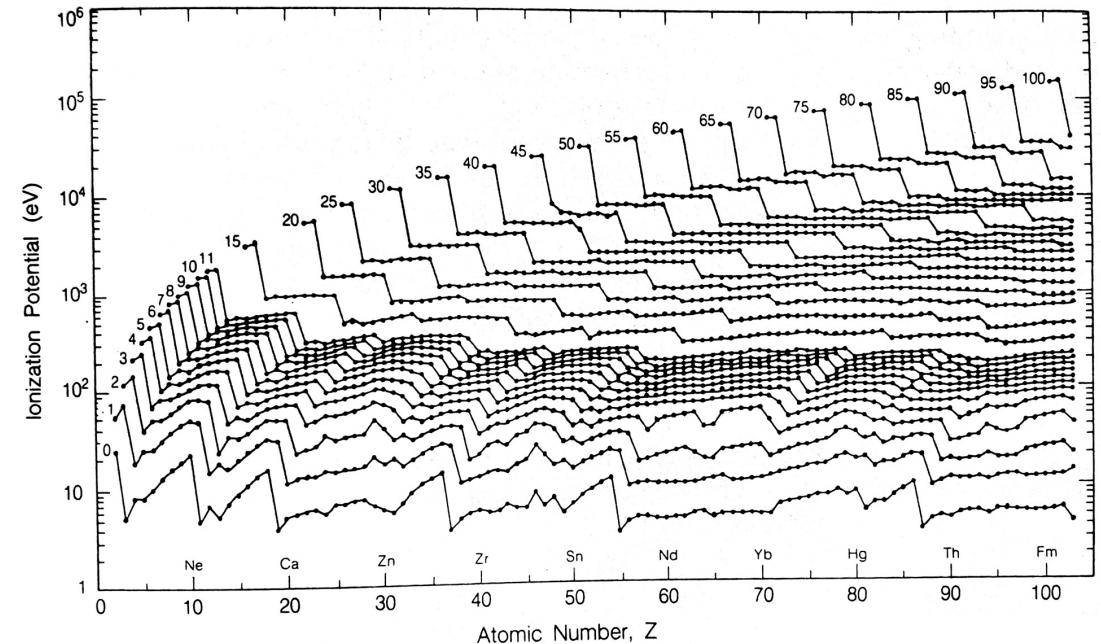
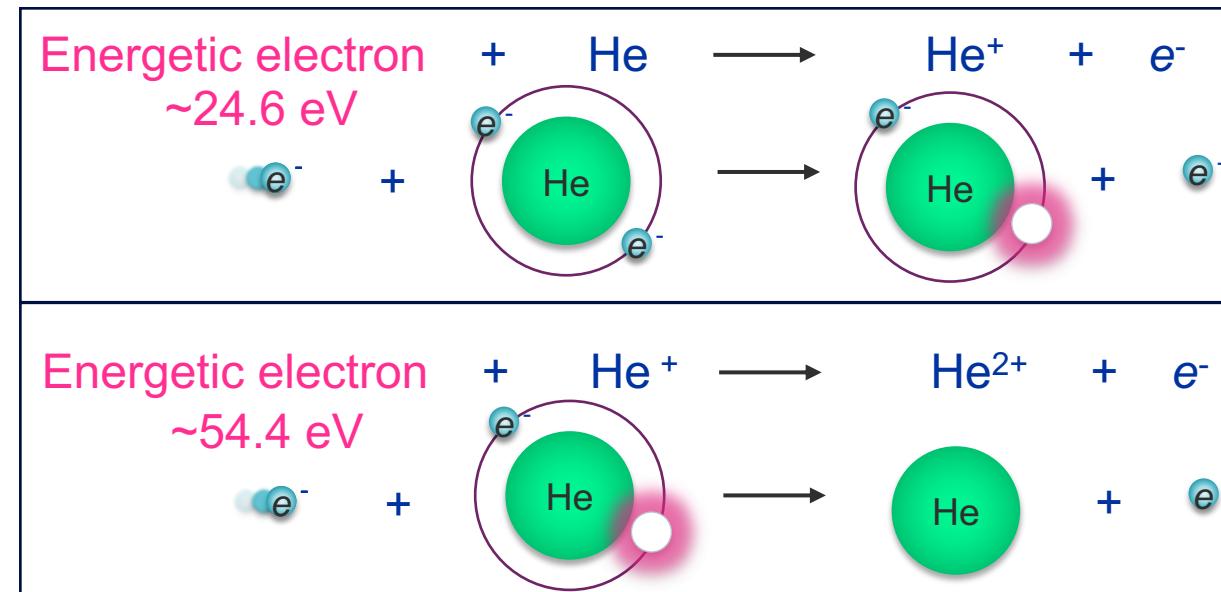
## Multiple ionization

- Removal of multiple electrons: “multiply-ionized”, “multiply-charged”, “highly charged ions”
- Single or multiple (step-wise collisions)

## Electron impact in plasmas

- Electron temperature  $T_e$ :  $\bar{v}_e = \sqrt{\frac{8k_B T_e}{\pi m_e}}$  and  $\bar{E}_e = \frac{3}{2} k_B T_e$
- Number of electron impact events:
  - Plasma electron density  $n_e$  or electron current  $j_e = n_e v_e$
  - Required ion confinement time:

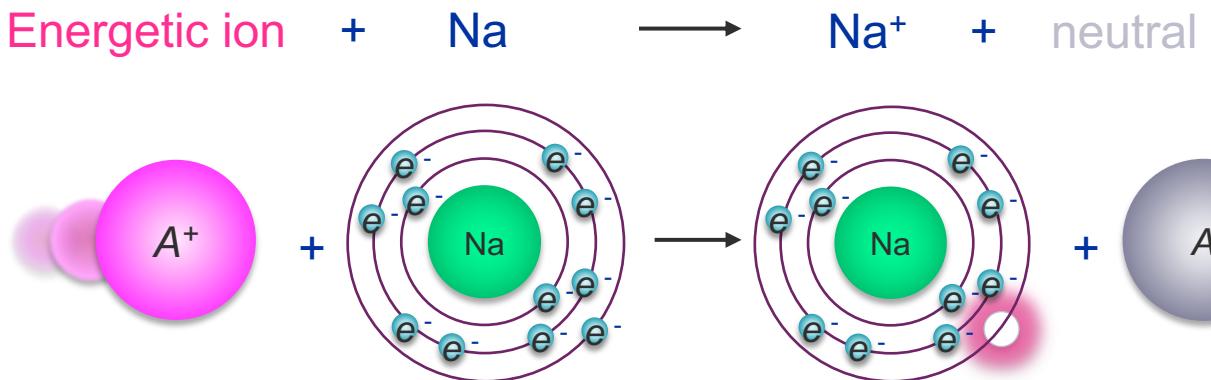
$$\tau_i(q) = \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} \frac{1}{n_e \langle \sigma_{k,k+1} v_e \rangle}$$



# Ion impact ionization

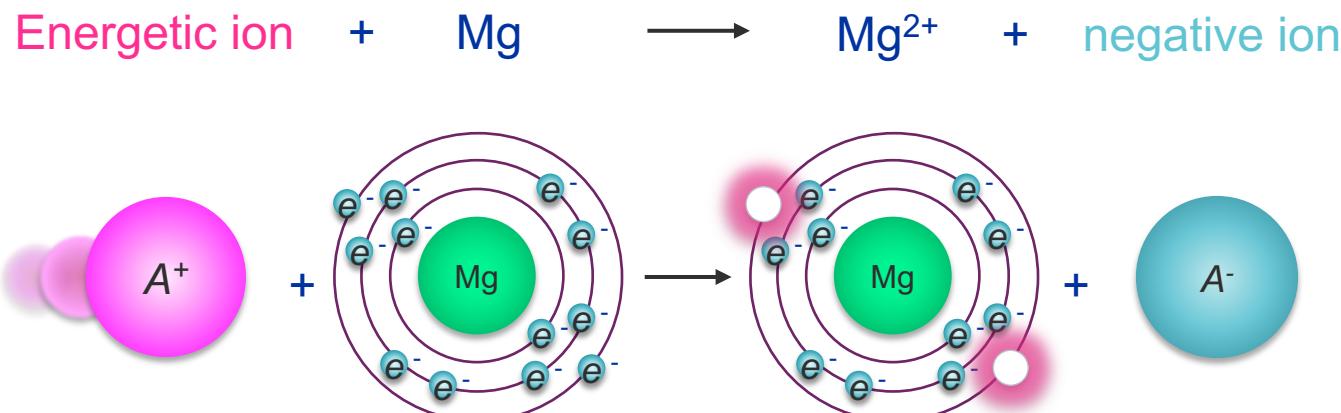
## Charge exchange

- Collisions between ions and atoms where an electron is exchanged
- Maximum ionization cross-sections occur when the energetic particle has a similar speed to the orbital electron – requires high energy ions compared to electron impact



## Double charge exchange

- Single step or stepwise exchange of multiple electrons
- negative ion production from positive ion beams
- Alkalies (Na, K, Rb, Cs) can do stepwise double charge exchange
- Alkali-earths (Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba) can do single-step double charge exchange



# Chemical ionization

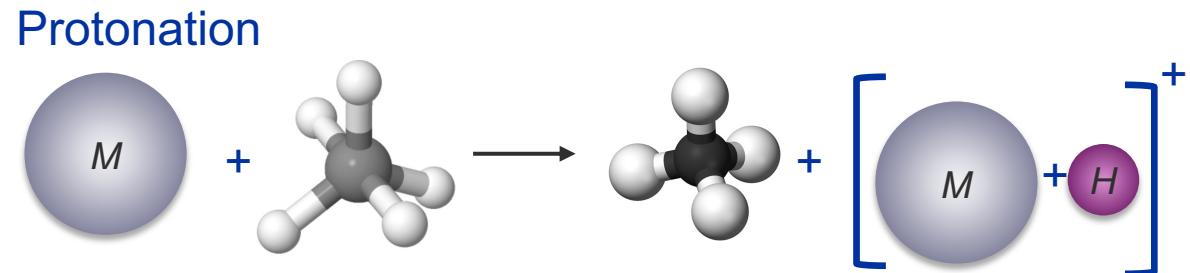
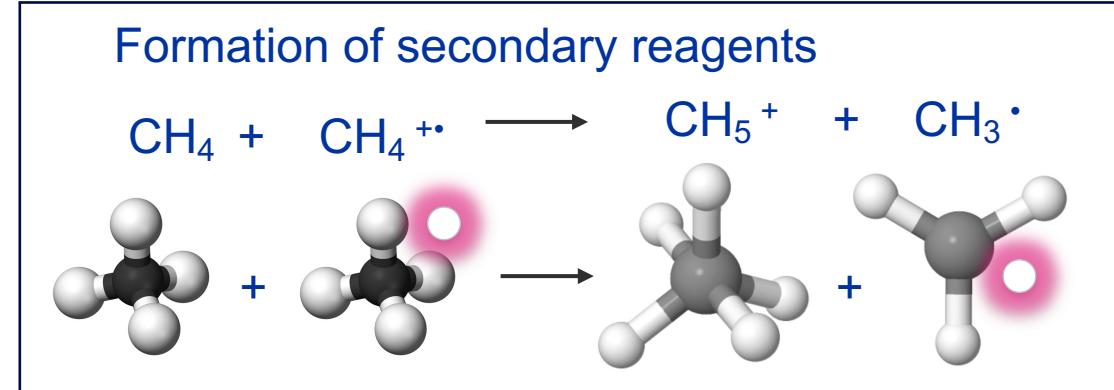
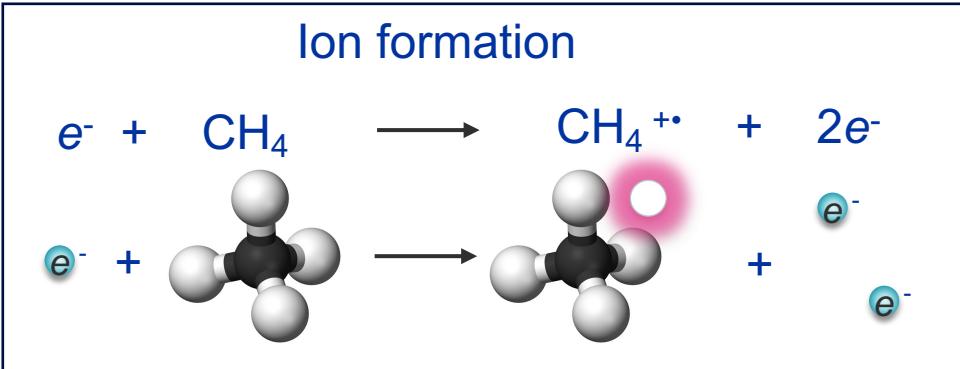
- “soft” ionization technique – produces ions with little excess energy, reduced fragmentation for molecules ( $M$ )
- Typically a gas-phase acid-base reaction using an ionized reagent gas to react with and ionize an analyte

## Reagents

- Ex: Methane  $\text{CH}_4$  (PA 5.7 eV) isobutane  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$  (PA 8.5 eV) ammonia  $\text{NH}_3$  (PA 9.0 eV)

## Reactions

- Proton transfer (“protonation”)
- Adduct formation
- H- transfer
- Charge exchange



[1] Harrison *Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1992)

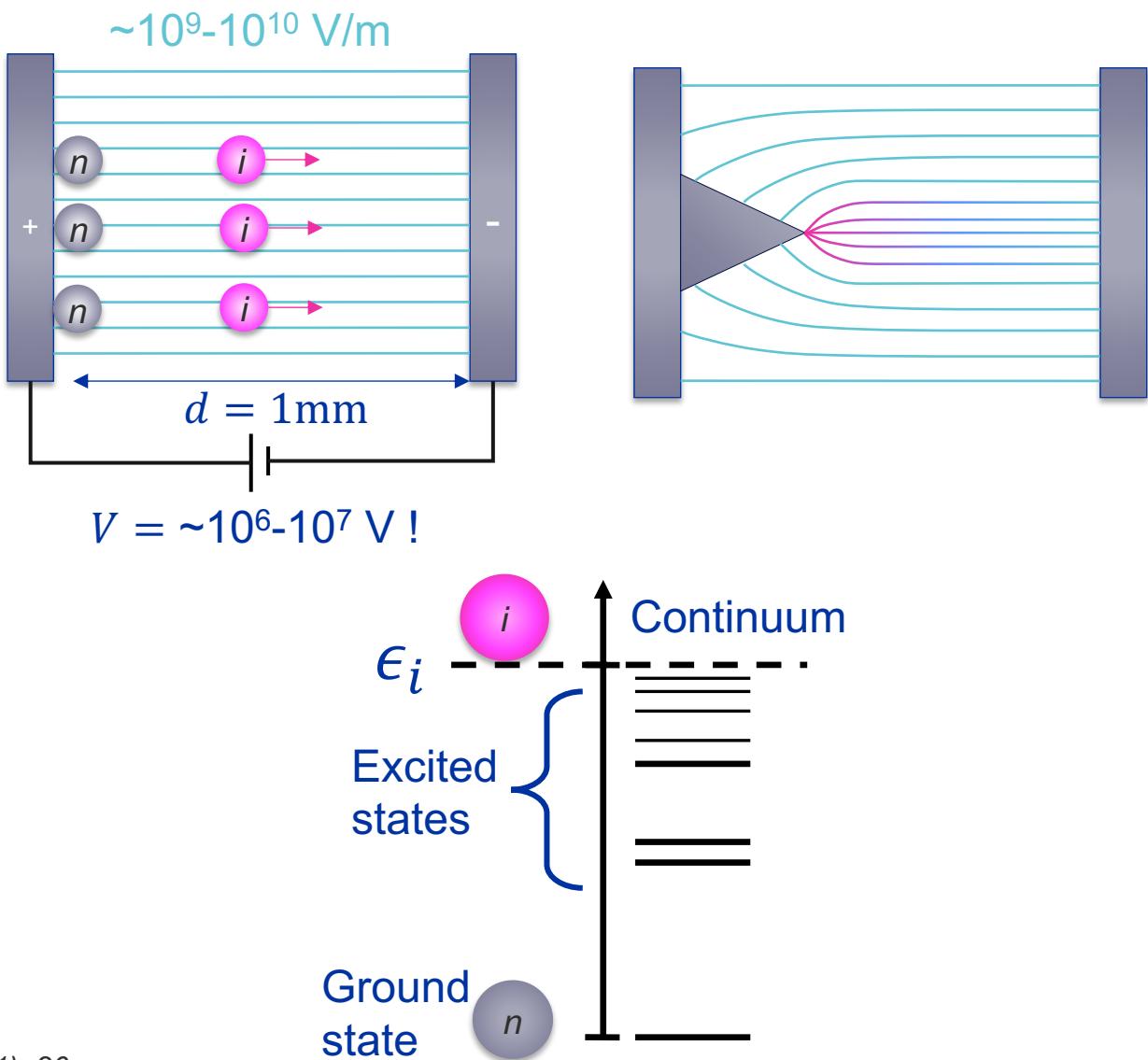
# Field ionization

## Field desorption

- electric fields can be used to ionize neutrals
  - Volatile species
- Sharp points enhance field intensity

## Ionization from excited states

- ionization of highly excited atoms in a well-controlled static electric field
- Lower required fields



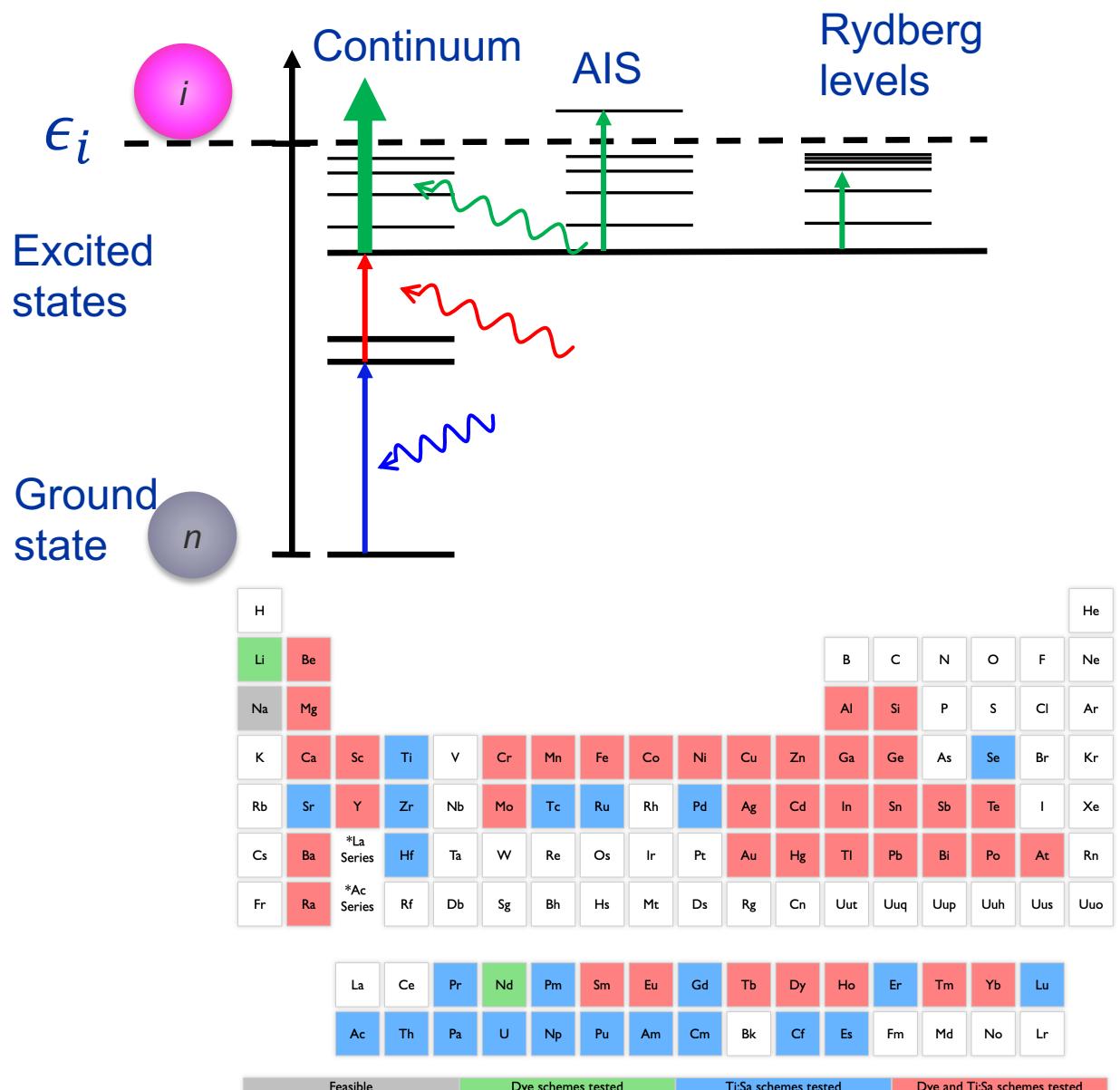
[1] Beckey H.D. Field ionization mass spectrometry. Research/Development, 1969, 20(11), 26

# Photoionization

- Photons can eject electrons from atoms or ions if  $E_\gamma \geq \epsilon_i$ 
    - $\lambda \approx 1\,200 \text{ nm}$  for  $E_\gamma = 1 \text{ eV}$
    - Single-photon ionization: vacuum UV or soft X-rays

# Stepwise photoionization

- Excitation of an electron through a series of electronic transitions that cumulatively give  $E_{\gamma, total} \geq \epsilon_i$
  - Non-resonant ionization to the continuum
  - Auto-ionizing states (AIS)
  - Rydberg levels



[1] Fedosseev et al., (2017) J. Phys. G Nucl. Part. Phys. 44 (2017) 084006

[2] RILIS Elements (2024). <https://isolde-rilis2.web.cern.ch>

# Kinetic ejection

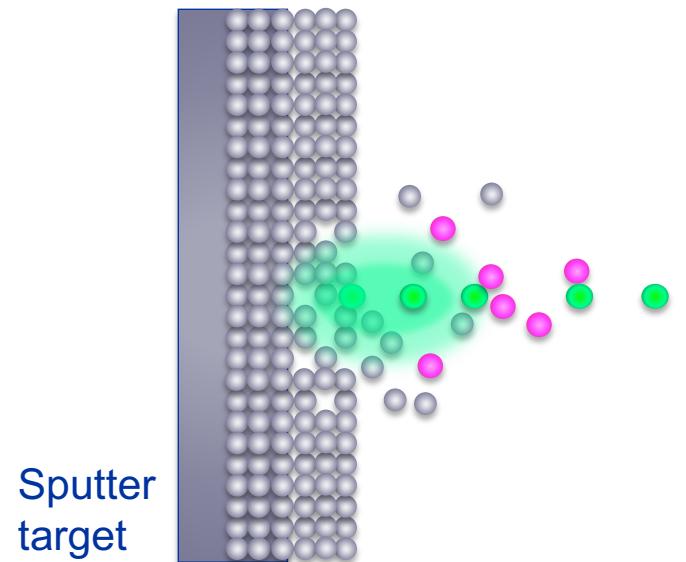
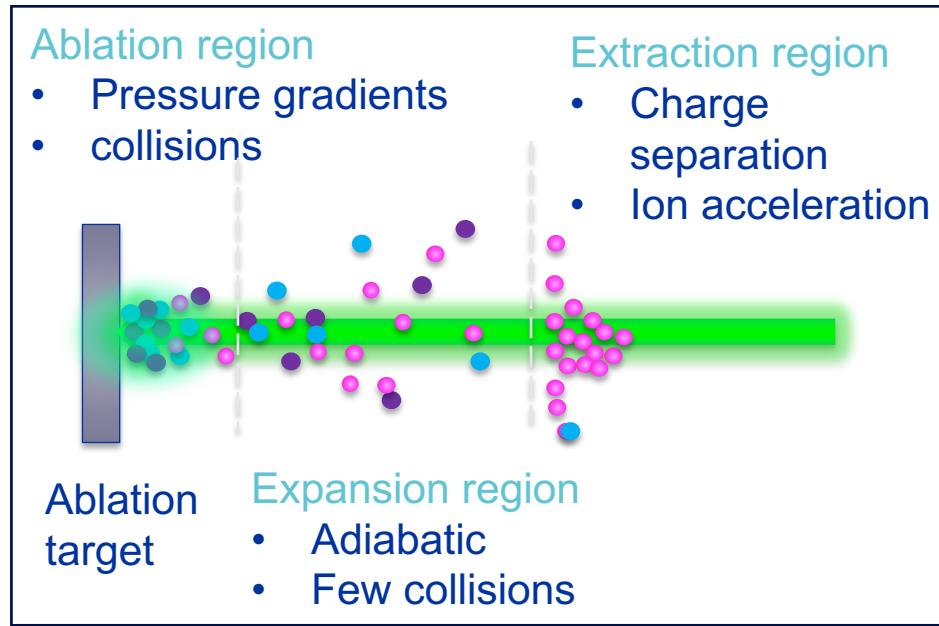
Ejection of particles from surfaces when solid material is bombarded with high enough energy

## Laser ablation

- Photons in a laser beam impart energy to electron and lattice components of a solid – *not* photoionization
- Low flux: heated material at the surface evaporates or sublimates
- High flux: heated material is converted to a plasma: **ion production**
- Dependence on laser pulse-length

## Sputtering

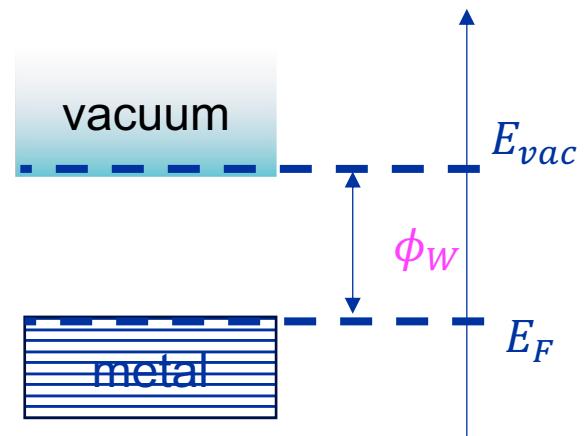
- Atoms from a solid target are released by bombardment with energetic ions
- Minimum energy required to remove an atom from the target



# Electron sources

## Work function $\phi_W$

- Minimum energy required to eject an electron from the surface



## Low work function materials

- Dispenser cathodes (ex. porous W with BaO, CaO)
- Coatings (ex. Cs, ...)
- Single crystals (ex. LaB<sub>6</sub>, CeB<sub>6</sub>)

## Photoemission

- Photocathodes for electron emission
- Sensitive to surface conditions and vacuum requirements

### Photoelectric effect [1]

$$\text{Energy} = hf_0 = \phi_W$$



$$eff_{quantum} = \frac{n_{e-}}{n_\gamma}$$

[1] A. Einstein, *Analen der Physik*, 322 (1905)  
p 132 (in German)

### Example: scanning electron microscope (SEM)

	Tungsten hairpin	CeB <sub>6</sub> crystal	Schottky FEG
Emission mechanism	Thermionic	Thermionic	Electron Tunnelling
Lifetime	100 h	1500 h	>10,000 h
Tip emitting diameter	100 μm	25 μm	100 nm
Resolution @30 kV	4 nm	3 nm	1 nm
Resolution @1 kV	50 nm	25 nm	5 nm
Low-kV imaging (<5 kV)	Yes	No	Yes
Vacuum	$10^{-1} - 10^{-5}$ mbar	$10^{-7}$ mbar	$10^{-9}$ mbar
Cost of ownership	Lowest	Medium	Highest

Table 1: Comparison of electron source characteristics for SEM.

<https://www.nanoscience.com/blogs/which-electron-source-is-best/>

# Thermionic emission

- Emission of charge carriers from a surface due to thermal energy

## Electron emission from surfaces

- electron gas in a metal at a given temperature: Richardson-Dushman equation [1,2]

## Emission in electric fields

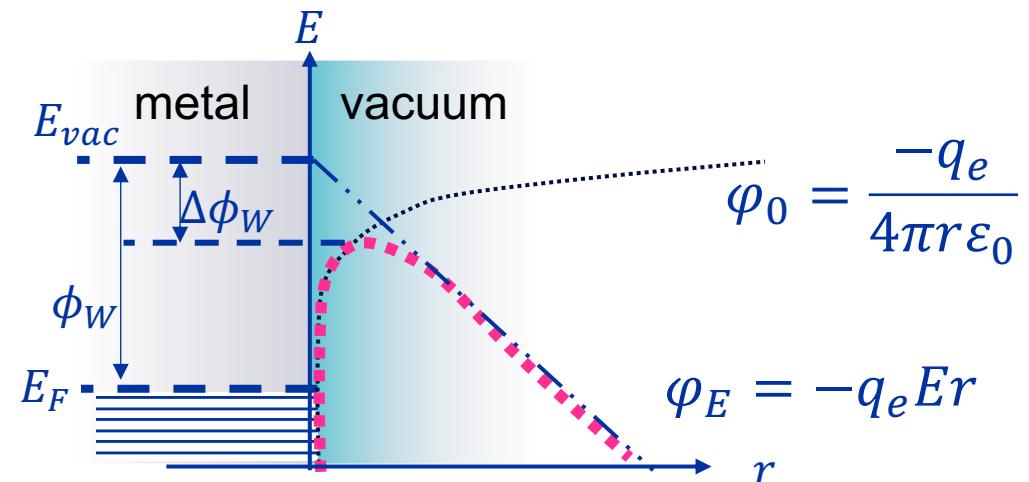
- Schottky effect [3]: moderate electric fields  $E$  lower the potential barrier for electrons to escape the hot surface by an amount  $\Delta\phi_W$
- Field emission/Fowler-Nordheim tunnelling [4]: strong  $E$ -fields make the potential barrier thin enough for electrons to tunnel through

Electron current density

$$J = \frac{4\pi m_e q_e}{h^3} k_B^2 T^2 e^{-\frac{\phi_W}{k_B T}} \left[ \frac{A}{m^2} \right]$$

Richardson constant  $C_R \approx 120 \text{ [A cm}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-2}\text{]}$

$$\phi_W^* = \phi_W - \Delta\phi_W = \phi_W - \sqrt{\frac{q_e^3 E}{4\pi\epsilon_0}}$$



[1] O.W. Richardson, *Phil Mag Ser 6* 28 (1914) p 633

[2] S. Dushman, *Phys Rev* 21 (1923) p 623

[3] W. Schottky, *Z f Physik* 14 (1923) p 63

[4] R.H. Fowler, L. Nordheim, *Proc R soc London A* 119 (1928) p 173

# Ionization at surfaces

- Collisions of electrons and atoms can cause ionization

## Langmuir equation [1]

- Ratio of ions to neutrals desorbing from a surface

## Saha equation [2]

- derived for the degree of ionization in the sun
  - equilibrium of an ionized gas at a given temperature

## Saha-Langmuir equation [3,4]

- $n_i \approx n_e$  : quasi-neutrality
  - $P$  : pressure
  - Plasma sheath formation shields wall potentials

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha = \frac{n_1}{n_0} = \frac{g_1}{g_0} e^{-\frac{W-\epsilon_1}{k_B T}} \\ \beta = \frac{n_1}{n_1 + n_0} = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \alpha} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\frac{n_{i+1}n_e}{n_i} = \frac{2}{\Lambda^3} \frac{g_{i+1}}{g_i} e^{-\frac{\epsilon_{i+1}-\epsilon_i}{k_B T}}$$

$n_i$  : density of ions in charge state  $i$

$n_e$  : density of electrons

$$\Lambda : \text{Electron de Broglie wavelength } \Lambda = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi m k_B T}$$

$g_i$  : Degeneracy for charge state  $i$

$\epsilon_i$  : Energy to remove  $i$  electrons from neutral species

$$\alpha = \frac{n_1}{n_0} = \frac{g_1}{g_0} A_0 T^2 \frac{1}{q_e n_1} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi m}{k_B T}} e^{\frac{-\epsilon_1}{k_B T}}$$

$\beta$  : ionization coefficient

$$\beta = \frac{n_1}{n_1 + n_0} = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \alpha}$$

[1] I. Langmuir, Phys. Rev. 2 (1913) p 450

[2] M. N. Saha, *Philosophical Magazine Series 6*. 40 (238): 472 (1920)

[3] A. Latuszynski and V. I. Raiko, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. 125 (1975) 61.

[4] R. Kirchner and Piotrowski, NIM B 153 (1978) p 291



# Plasma boundaries

## Screening effect

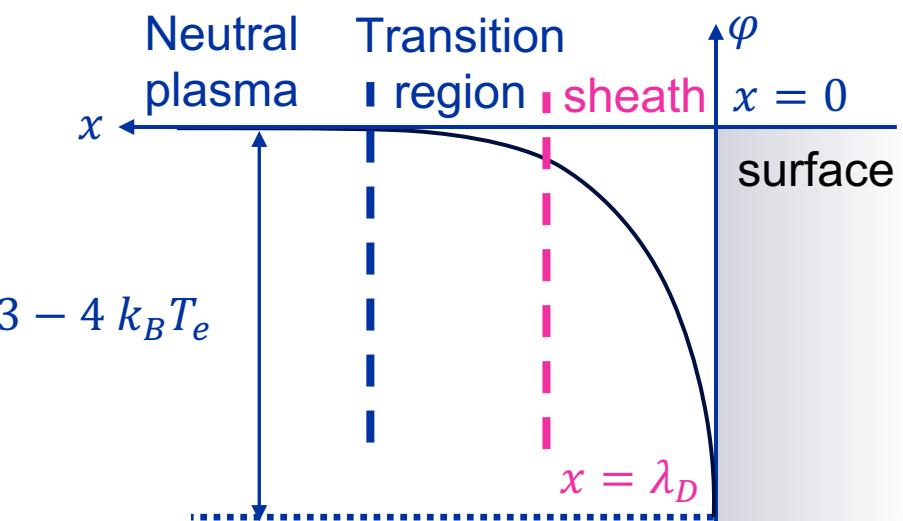
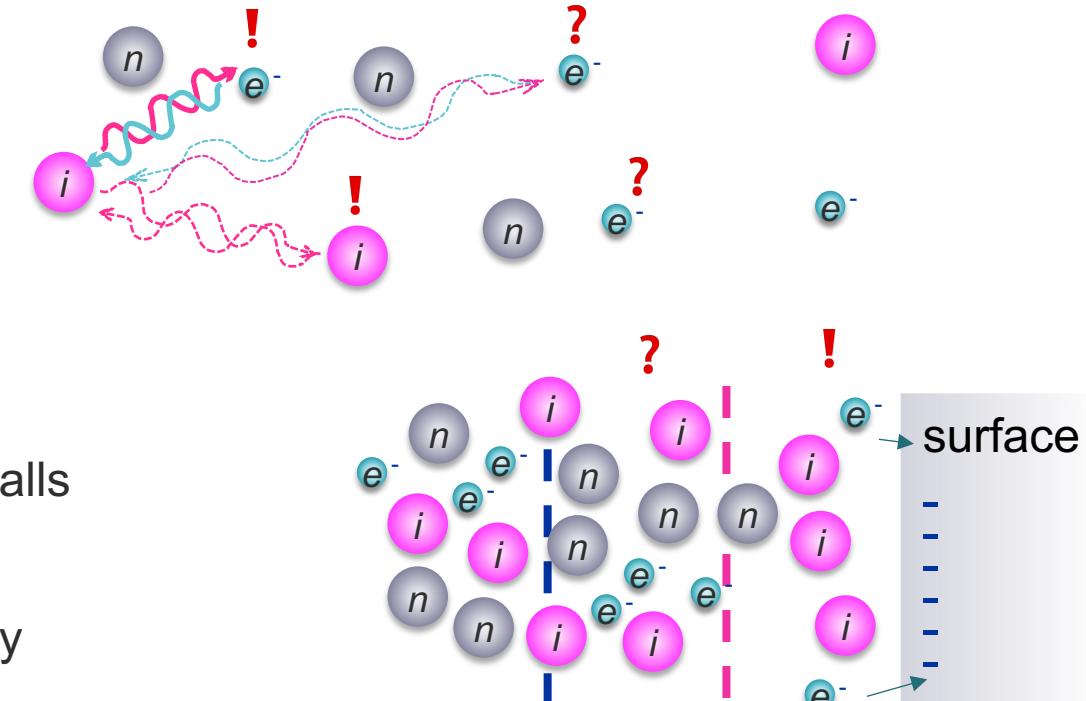
- Plasma particles interact by electromagnetic interactions

## Plasma sheath

- Boundary layer formed at interfaces between plasmas and walls
- Wall acquires a charge
- Plasma acquires a potential respective to the wall—not locally charge neutral—and redistributes to cancel external fields
- Sheath thickness = shielding distance

- Plasma only: Debye length  $\lambda_D = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0 k_B T_e}{e^2 n_e}}$  [1]

- With an applied potential:  $d_{sheath} = \lambda_D \sqrt{\frac{V_{applied}}{k_B T_e}}$



[1] P. Debye, E. Hückel, (1923). Physikalische Zeitschrift. **24** (9) p 185–206.

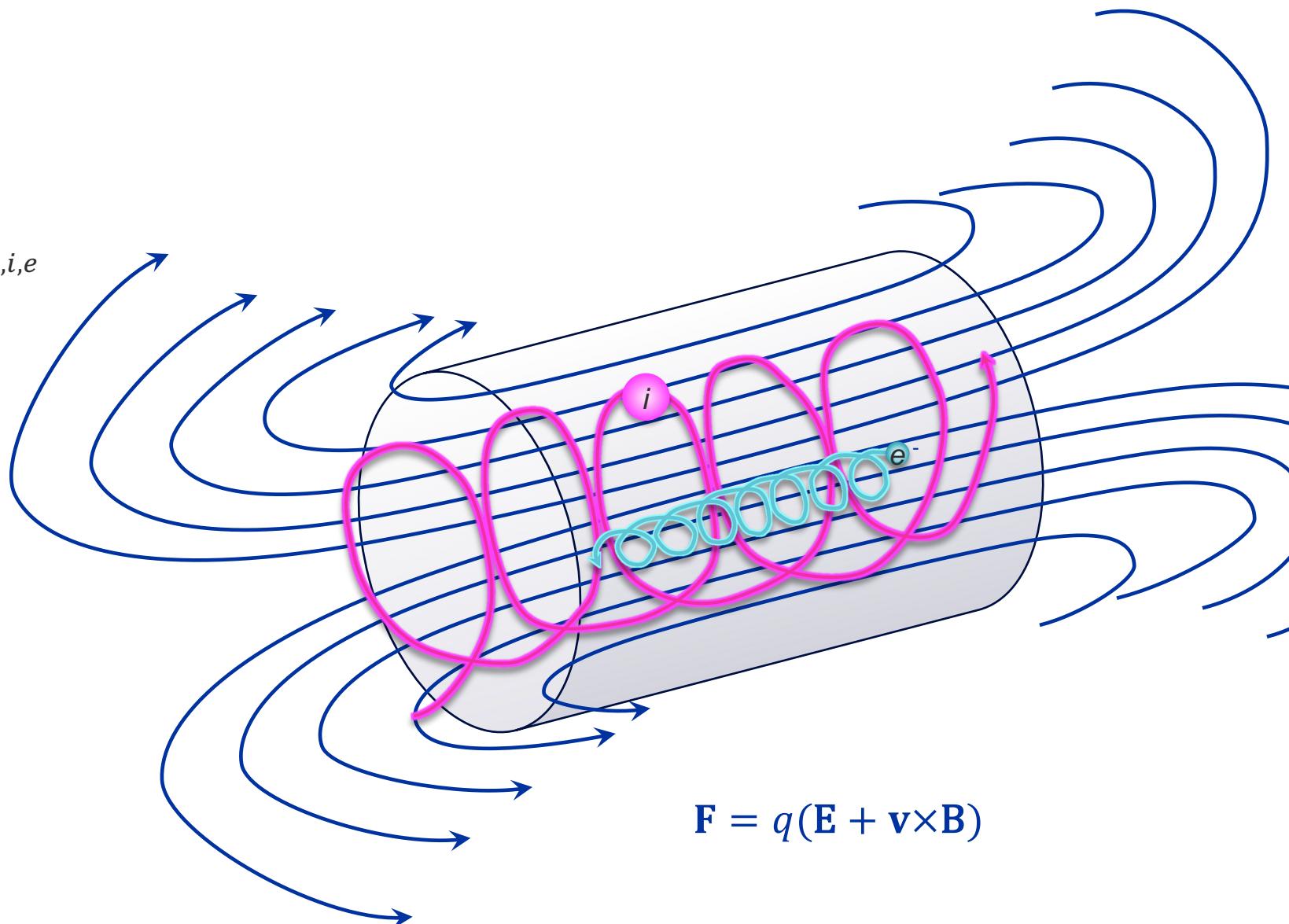
# Magnetic effects

## Gyro-frequencies

- Precession of ions and electrons
- Collision frequency  $\nu_{i,e} \ll \omega_{cyclotron,i,e}$

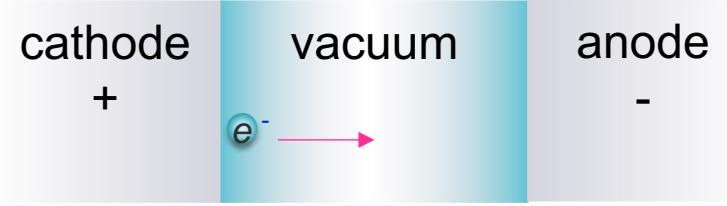
## Magnetic and plasma pressure

- $P_{mag} = \frac{B^2}{2\mu}, \mu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{mv_\perp^2}{B}$
- $P_{plasma} = n_e k_B T_e + n_i k_B T_i$
- $P_{plasma} \ll P_{mag}$ 
  - magnetic confinement



# Space charge

A collection of charged particles in a region of space, so that the extra charge is considered to be distributed across the region

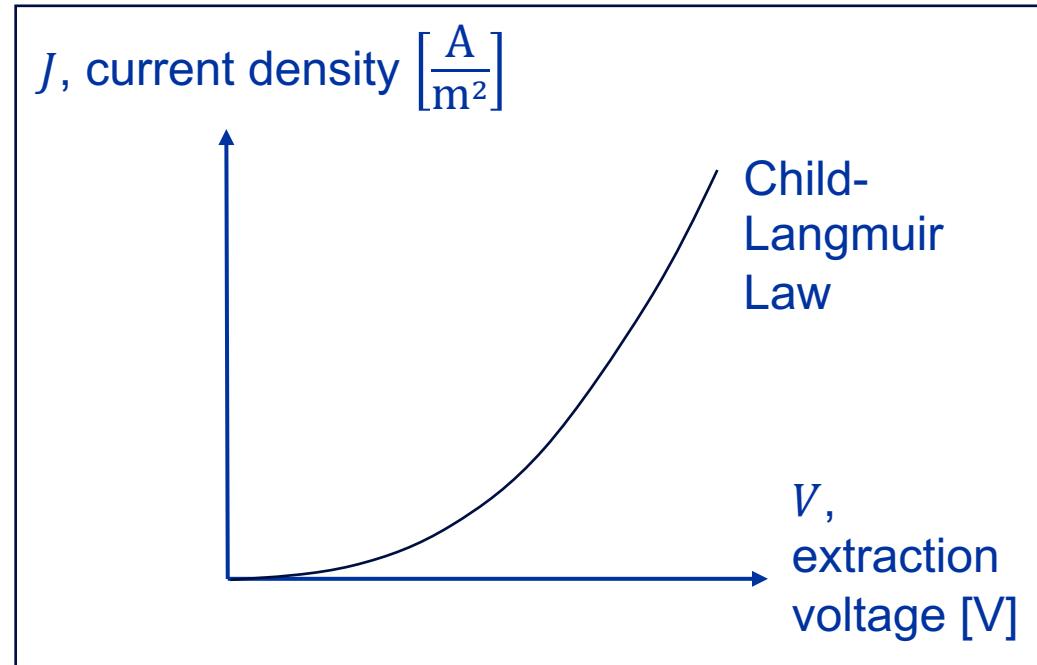


## Space-charge-limited current

- Child's law, or "three-halves power law" [1]
- Usual assumption: particle velocity is 0 at the surface
  - Generalization for nonzero initial velocities [2]

## Application to electron currents

- Cylindrical geometries [3] -> "Child-Langmuir Law"
- At some voltage, the operation may transition from the space-charge limited case into the emission limited case



Electron  
current  
density

$$J = \frac{I}{S} = \frac{4\epsilon_0}{9} \sqrt{\frac{2q_e}{m_e}} \frac{V^{3/2}}{d^2} \left[ \frac{\text{A}}{\text{m}^2} \right]$$

[1] C.D. Child, *Phys Rev Lett* 32 (1911) p 492

[2] B. Conley, *Masters thesis MIT, Cambridge* (1995) p 24

[3] I. Langmuir, *Phys. Rev.* 2 (1913) p 450

# Beam formation

## Particle emission

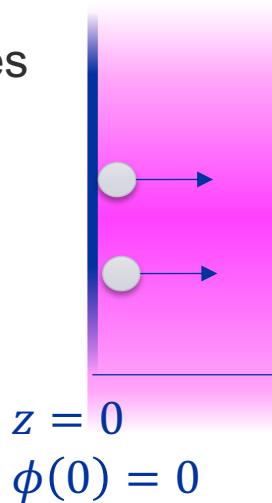
- Emission of charged particles into an acceleration gap

## Child's law [1]

- Infinite emission surface
- Non-relativistic

## Pierce geometry [2]

- Finite-size emitter
- Electrodes shaped to form the potential at the beam boundary
- cylindrical

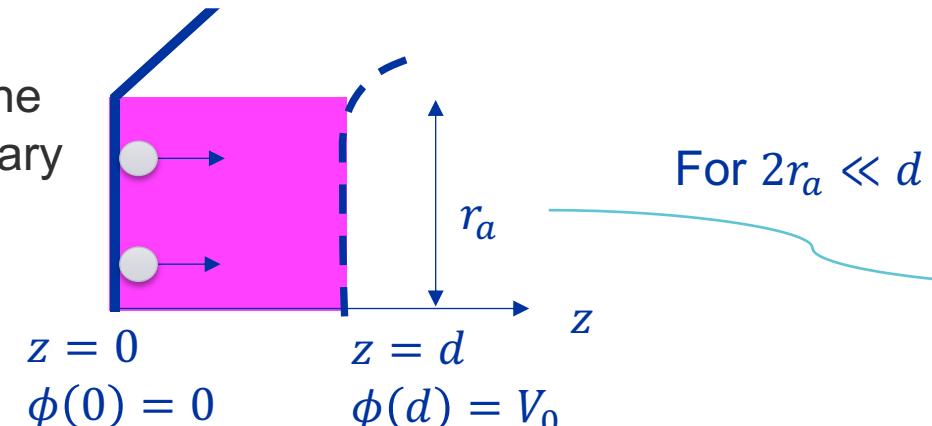


$$v_z(z)^2 = \frac{-2q\phi(z)}{m_0}$$
$$n(z) = \frac{J}{qv_z(z)}$$
$$\phi(z) = V_0 \left(\frac{z}{d}\right)^{4/3}$$

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dz^2} = \frac{-n(z)q}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{-J}{\epsilon_0 \sqrt{\frac{-2q\phi(z)}{m_0}}}$$

$$J_0 = \frac{4\epsilon_0}{9} \sqrt{\frac{2q}{m_0} \times \frac{V_0^{3/2}}{d^2}} \quad \text{[A/m}^2\text{]}$$

Maximum current density



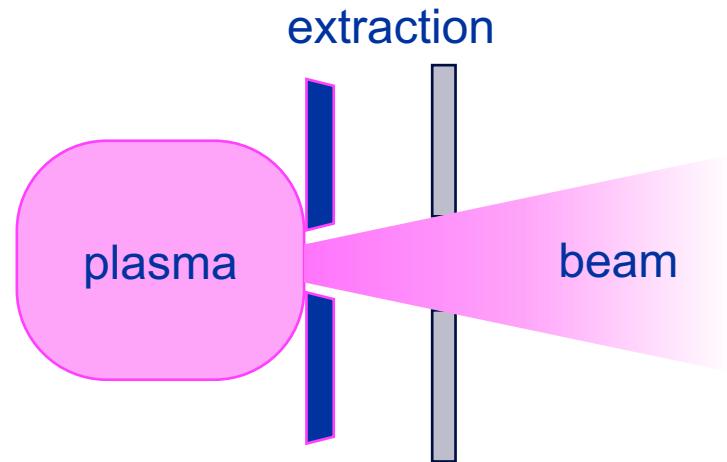
For  $2r_a \ll d$

$$I_0 = \frac{4\epsilon_0}{9} \sqrt{\frac{-2q}{m_0} \times \frac{\pi r_a^2}{d^2} V_0^{3/2}} \quad \text{[A]}$$

Maximum current

[1] C.D. Child, Phys Rev Lett 32 (1911) p 492

[2] J.R. Pierce, J Appl Phys 11 (1940) p 548



# Recap

## Ionization mechanisms, processes and interactions

References and literature:

1. The Physics and Technology of Ion Sources 2nd edition Ian G. Brown (2004), WILEY-VCH
2. Handbook of Ion Sources, B. Wolf (1995)

- 1 Plasmas
- 2 Ionization mechanisms
- 3 Surface interactions
- 4 Beam formation and extraction

# ISOL ion sources

## A brief overview

References and literature:

1. R. Kirchner, Review of ISOL target—ion-source systems (2003) NIM B, 204, p. 179

1 Surface ion sources

2 Resonance laser ion sources

3 Electron bombardment ion sources

4 Negative ion sources

5 Other ion sources

# Ion source properties for RIB production

## Efficiency

- Radioactive isotopes in / radioactive ions out

## Universality

- Variety of available ion beams

## Selectivity

- Purity, contaminant suppression

## Simplicity

- Operational complexity, free parameters

## Reliability

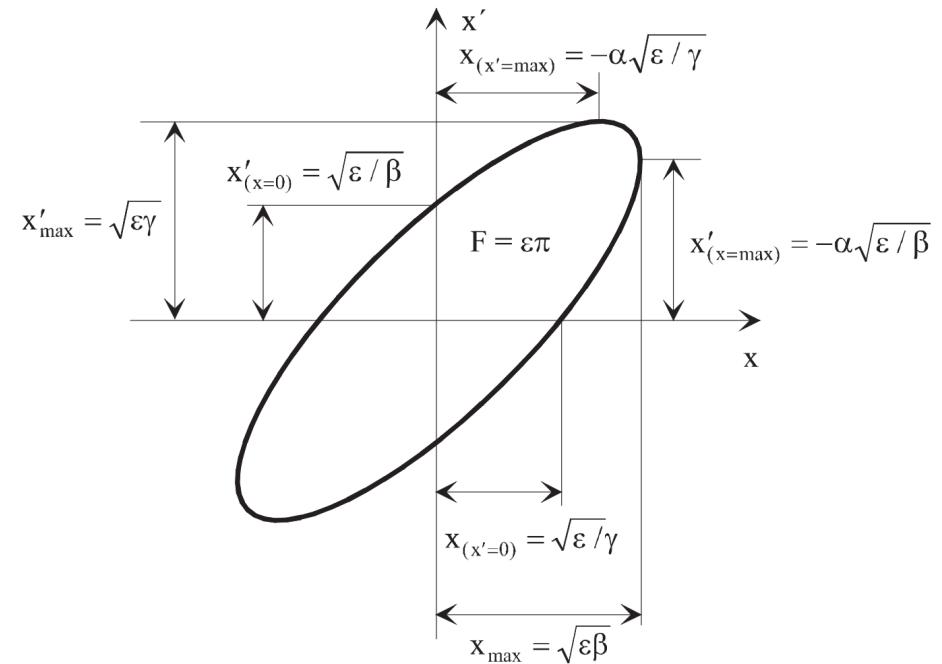
- Operation limits, failure modes

## Maximum intensity

- “brightness”

## Emittance and energy spread

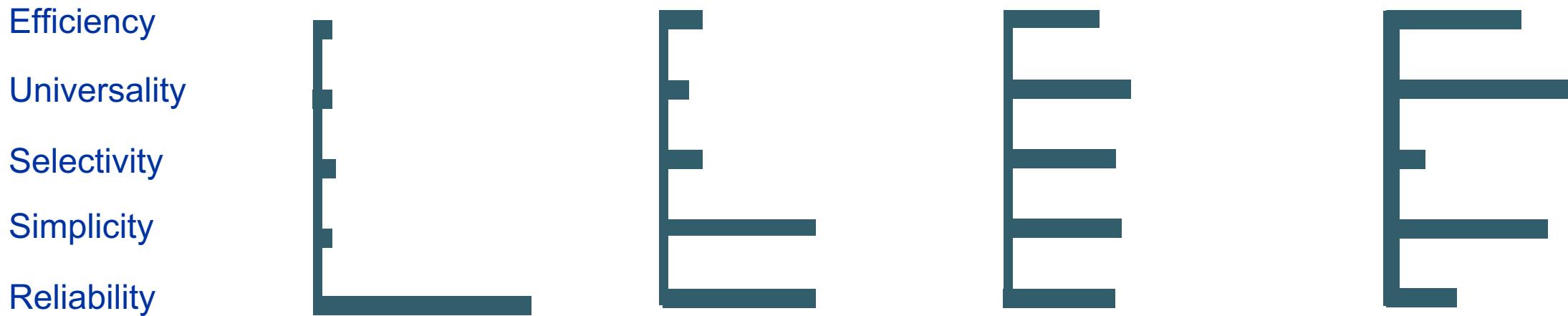
- Beam size and shape, momentum distribution



# Ion source properties for RIB production

## Considerations for RIBs

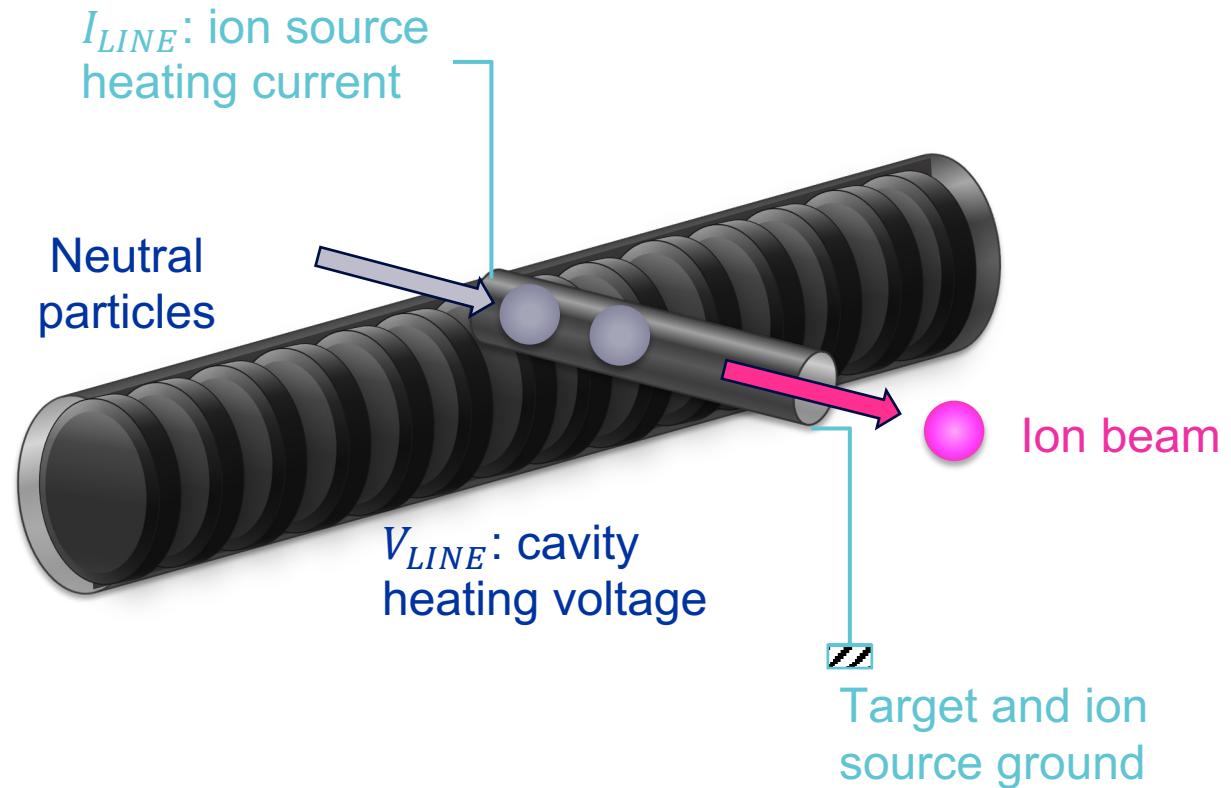
- Short half-lives – short residence times
- High radiation environments
- Operational periods – few weeks, facility dependent



Adapted from Y. Martinez-Palenzuela, K. Chrysalidis, B. Marsh et al., (2011) Int. Conf. Ion. Sources presentation - Young Speaker Award

# Surface ion sources

- Hot cavity ion sources have been used since the 1970s and are still being studied and developed
  - Simple and robust construction, short residence times – **radioactive ion beams**



[1] M. Turek et al, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* 83, 023303 (2012)

[2] M. Huyse et al., *NIM B* 215 (1983) p 1-5

[3] R. Kirchner and Piotrowski, *NIM B* 153 (1978) p 291

# Surface ion sources

- Hot cavity ion sources have been used since the 1970s and are still being studied and developed
  - Simple and robust construction, short residence times – **radioactive ion beams**

Turek Model [1]:

$g_i$  : degeneracy for charge state  $i$

$r_i$  : reflection coefficient for charge state  $i$

$$\beta = \frac{n_1}{n_1 + n_0} = \left[ 1 + \frac{g_1(1 - r_1)}{g_0(1 - r_0)} e^{\frac{\epsilon_1 - W}{k_B T}} \right]^{-1}$$



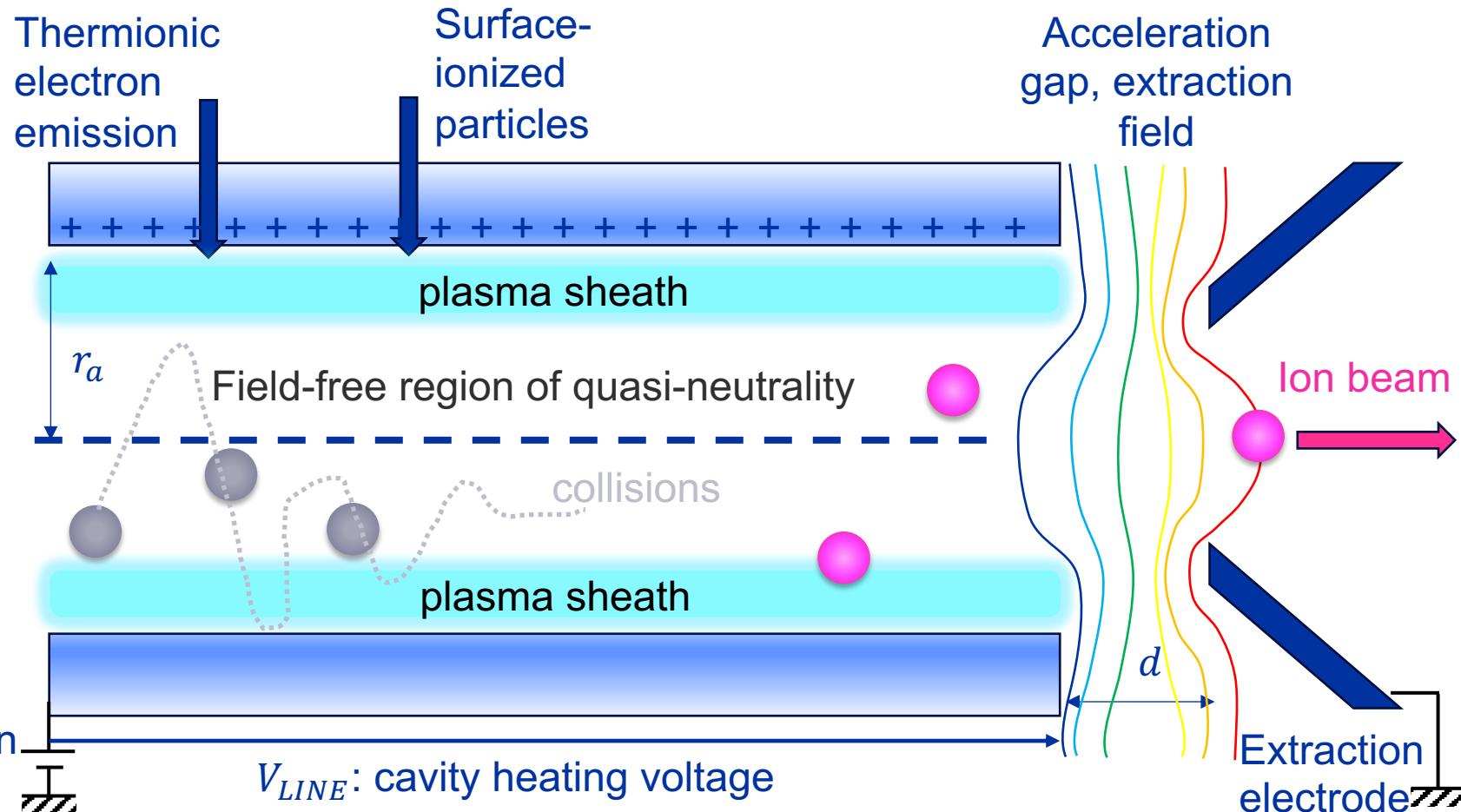
Neutral  
particles

[1] M. Turek et al, Rev. Sci. Instrum. 83, 023303 (2012)

[2] M. Huyse et al., NIM B 215 (1983) p 1-5

[3] R. Kirchner and Piotrowski, NIM B 153 (1978) p 291

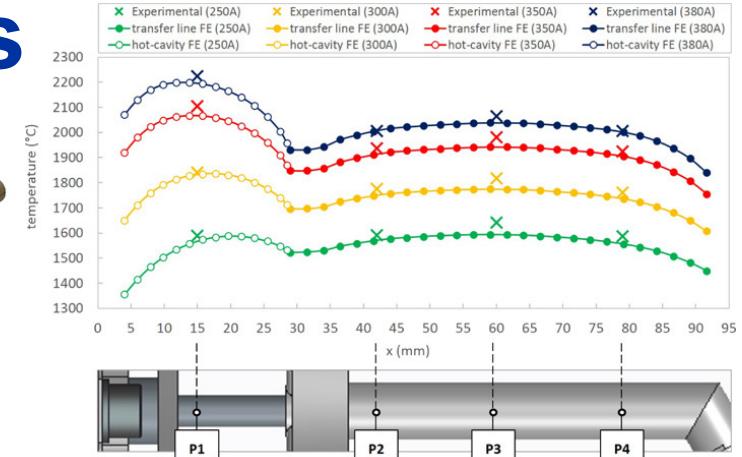
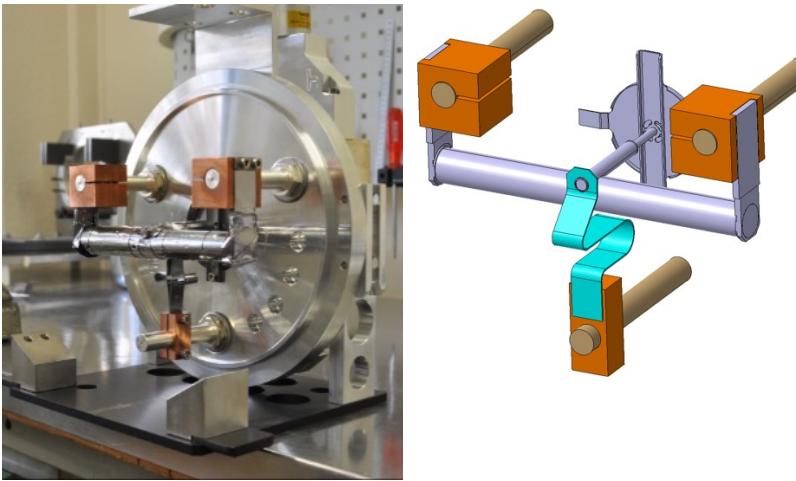
$V_{ext}$ : extraction voltage



# Developments in surface ion sources

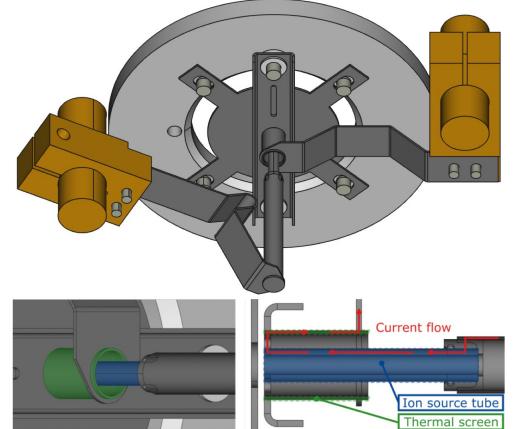
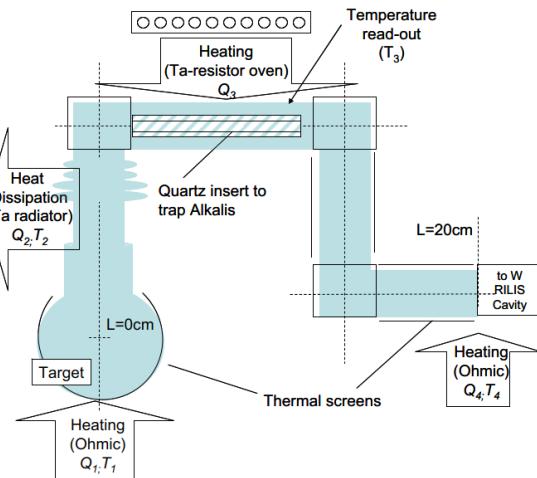
## Temperature homogeneity

- Engineering heating to prevent condensation [1,2]

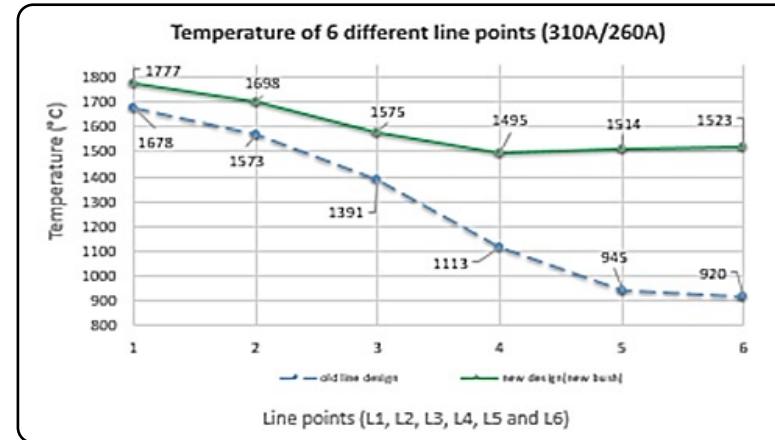


## Contaminant suppression

- Isothermal vacuum chromatography
  - Alkali suppression: quartz glass transfer line [3,4]



active thermal screen [2]



- [1] M. Manzolaro et al., *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* 87, 02B502 (2016)  
[2] S. Hurier et al., *First ion source at ISOL@MYRRHA with an improved thermal profile - Theoretical considerations ICIS'23* (2023)  
[3] U. Köster et al., *NIMB*, 266 (2008) p. 4229  
[4] Bouquerel, E, et al. *Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top.* 150, 277–280 (2007).

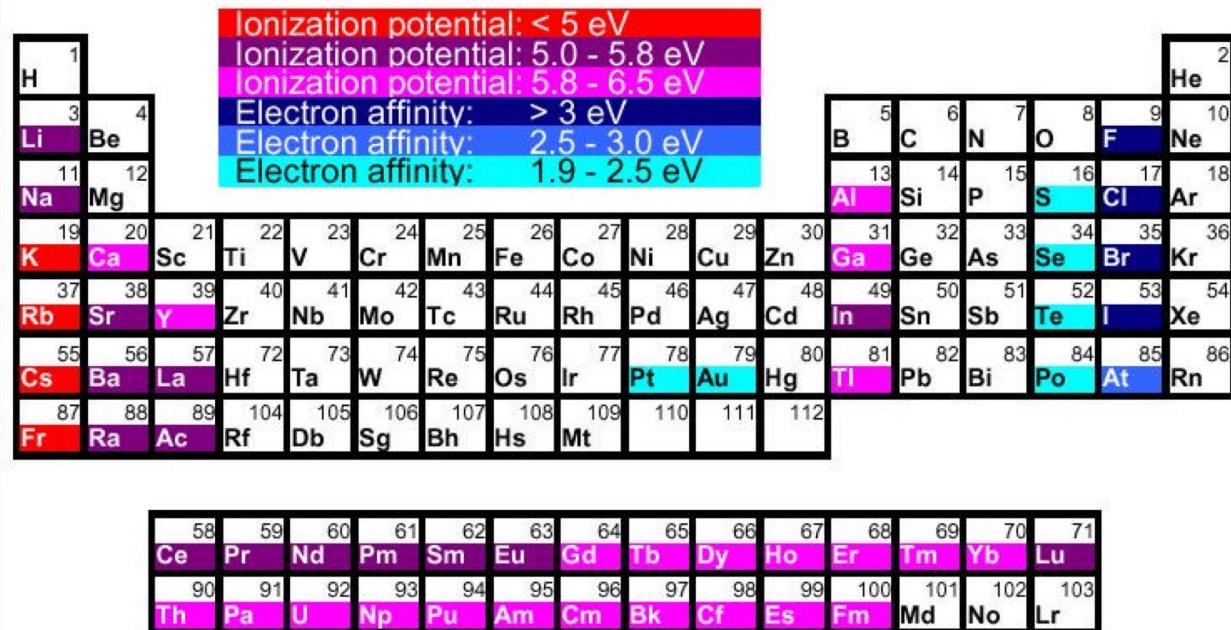
# Surface ion sources

## Properties

- Efficiency: 100% for  $\epsilon_i \leq 5$  eV, few % for  $\epsilon_i \leq 6.5$  eV
- Used for alkali and alkaline earths, rare earths
- molecules as BaF, SrF, RaF
- Short delay time (half-lives as short as 10 ms)

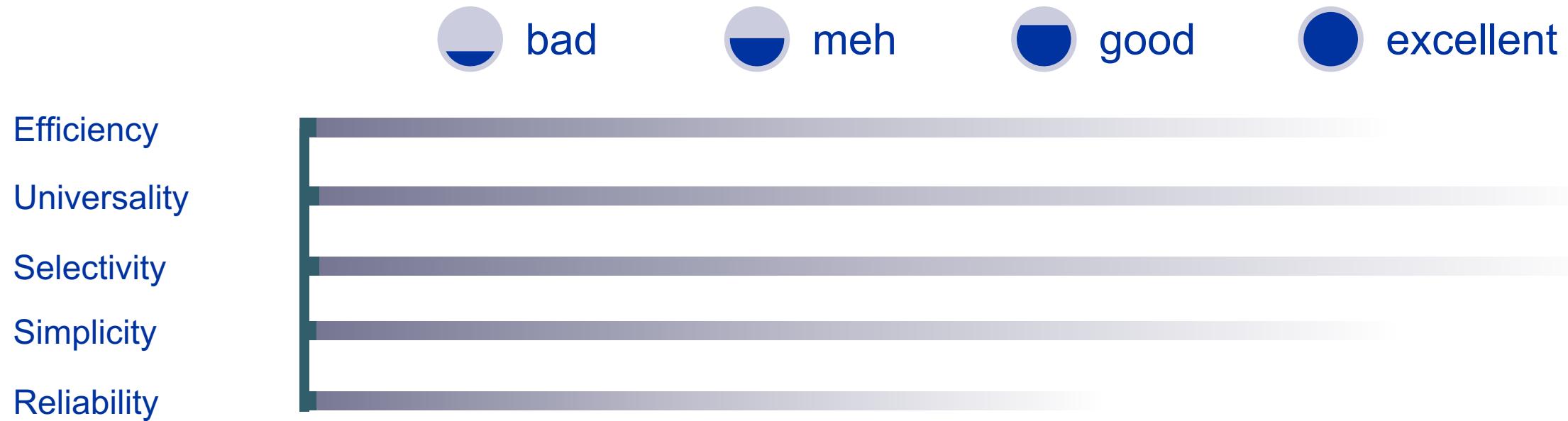
Source material	Work function [eV]
Molybdenum	4.15
Tantalum	4.12
LaB <sub>6</sub>	2.5-2.7
GdB <sub>6</sub>	1.5-2.7
SrVO <sub>3</sub>	1.79 (predicted)

## Positive and Negative Surface Ion Source



# Surface ion sources – properties for ISOL

## Questions about surface ion sources?



# Resonance Ionization Laser Ion Source (RILIS)



Use of tunable wavelengths for resonance photoionization  
since 1984 [1]

## RILIS [2-5]

- Step-wise resonant excitation
- Element-selective

PROPOSAL  
of the Institute of Spectroscopy, Acad.Sci. USSR  
for experiments with ISOLDE-CERN Facility  
(V. S. Letokhov and V. I. Mishin)  
LASER PHOTOIONIZATION PULSED SOURCE OF  
RADIOACTIVE ATOMS

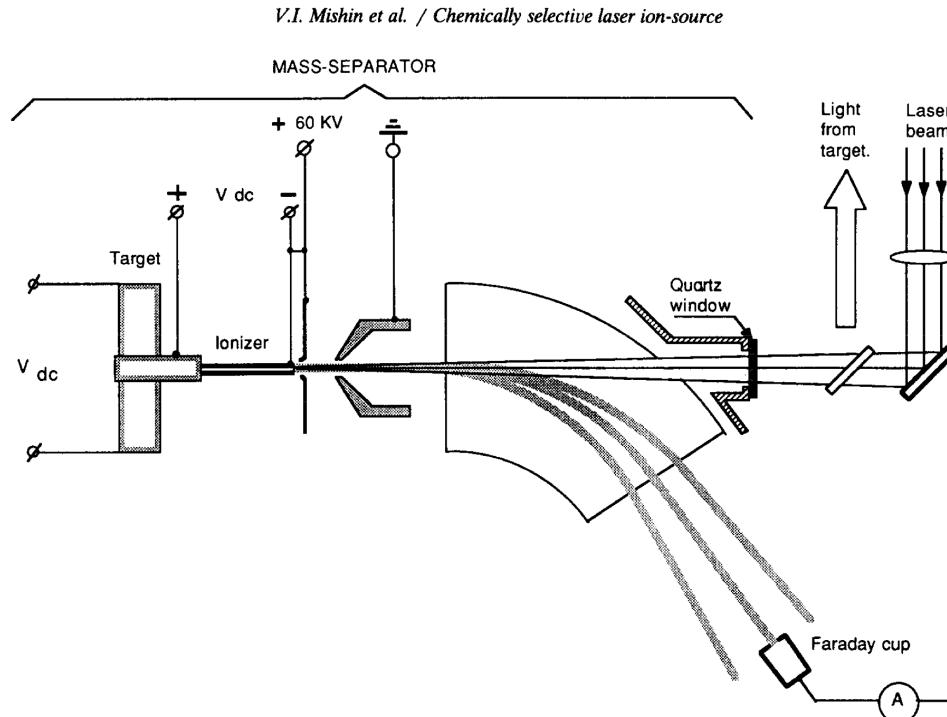
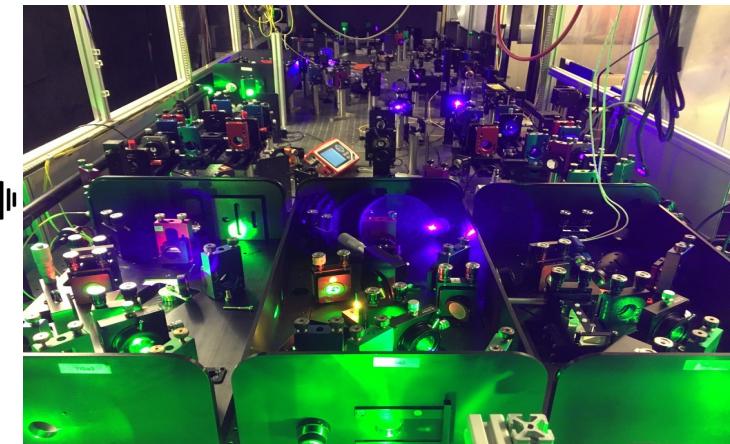
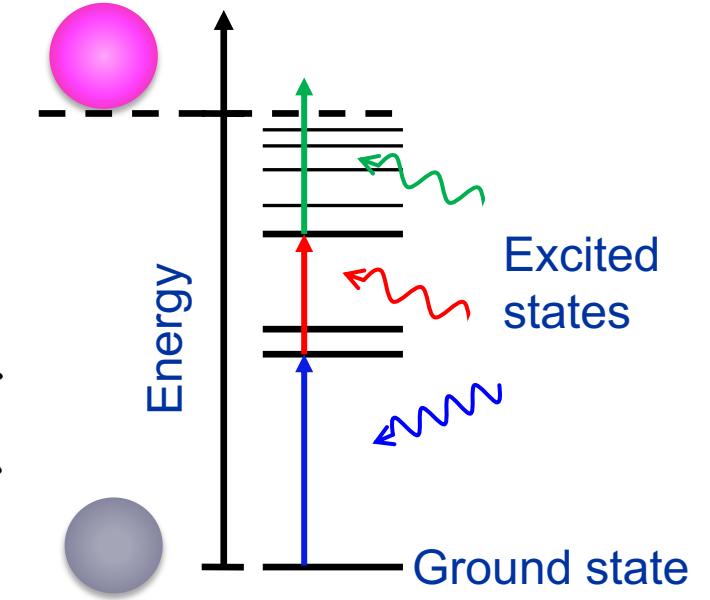


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of the mass-separator and laser ion-source.

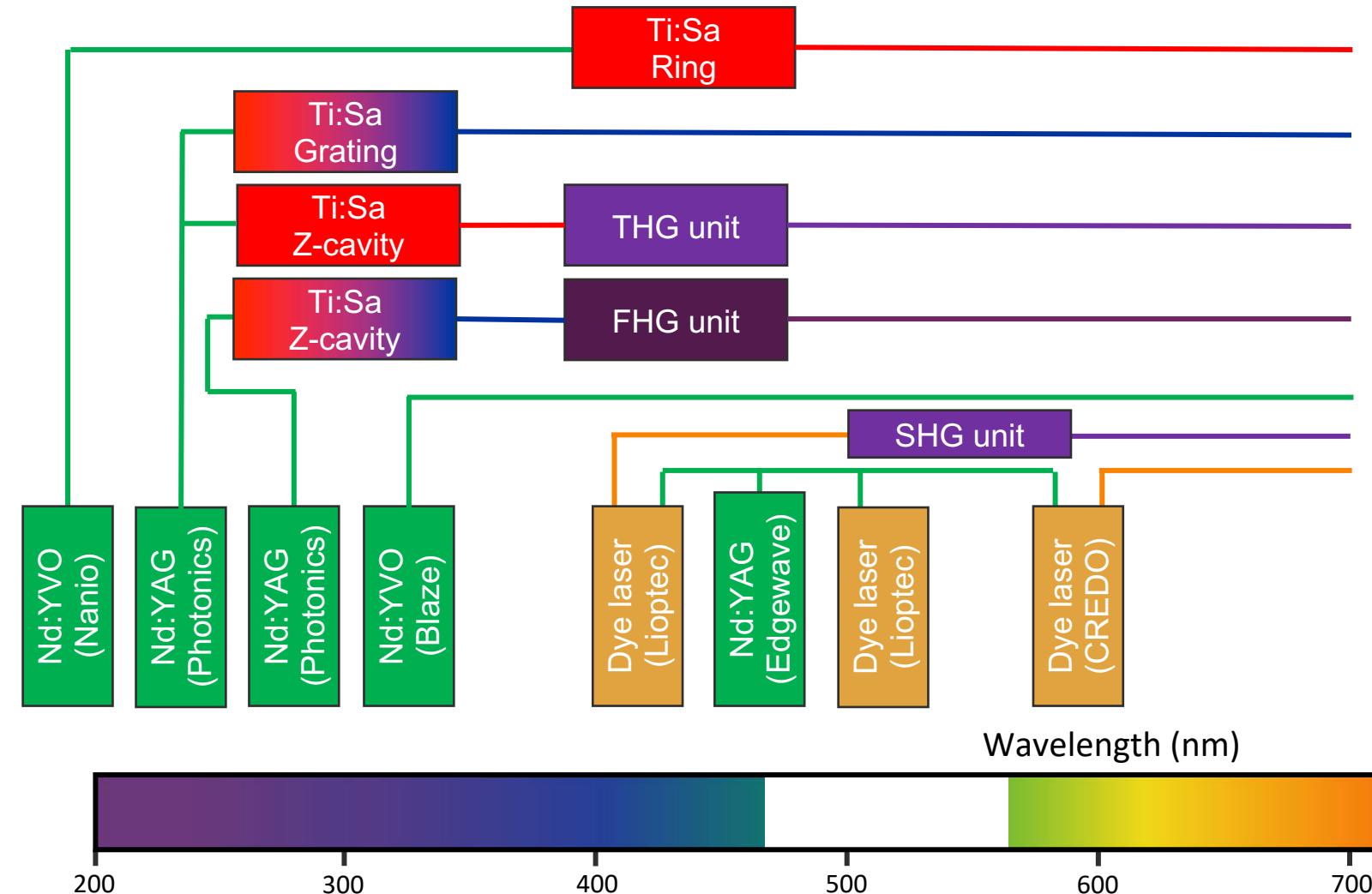


- [1] Letokhov and Mishin (1984)
- [2] Fedosseev et al., J. Phys. G Nucl. Part. Phys. 44 (2017) 084006
- [3] Marsh et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 85, (2014) 02B923
- [4] Mishin, Fedoseyev et al., NIM B 73 (1993) 550
- [5] Alkhazov et al., NIM A 306 (1991) 400

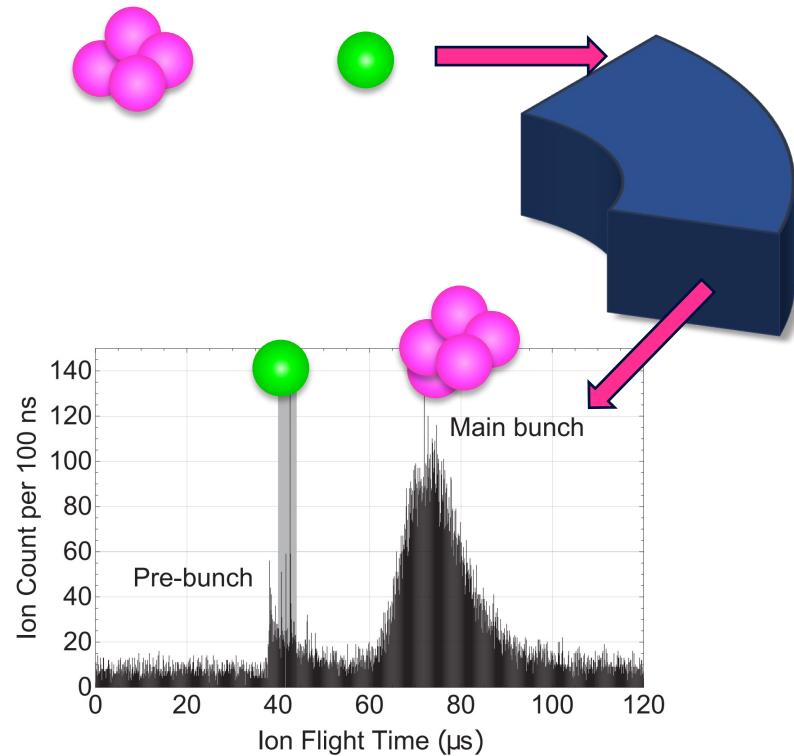
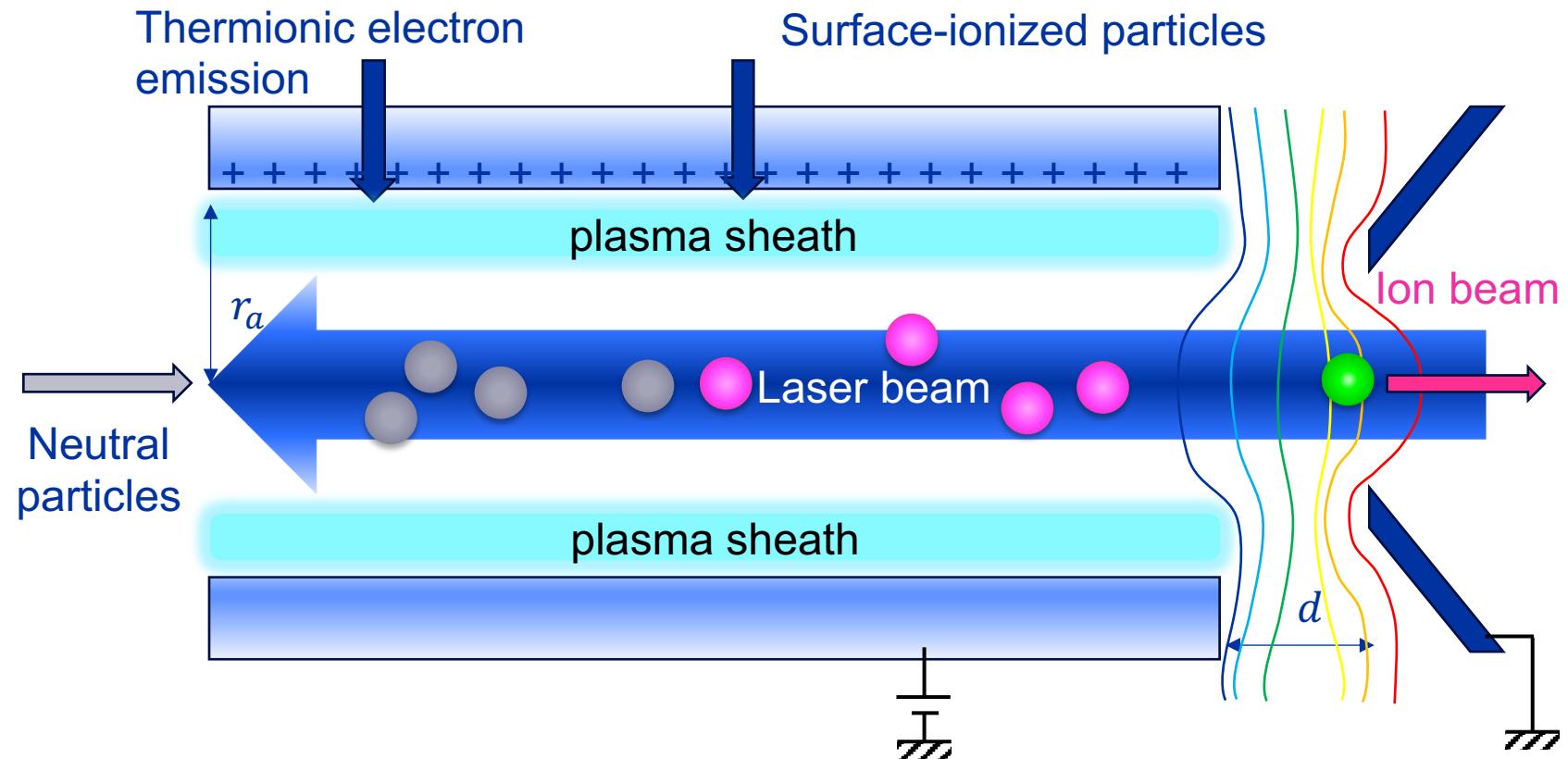
# RILIS lasers

## RILIS at CERN-ISOLDE

Slide courtesy of C. Bernerd (2023)  
*Introduction to RILIS: RILIS @CERN,  
ISOLDE workshop 2023*



# Resonance laser ionization in hot cavities



[1] Fedosseev et al., J. Phys. G Nucl. Part. Phys. 44 (2017) 084006

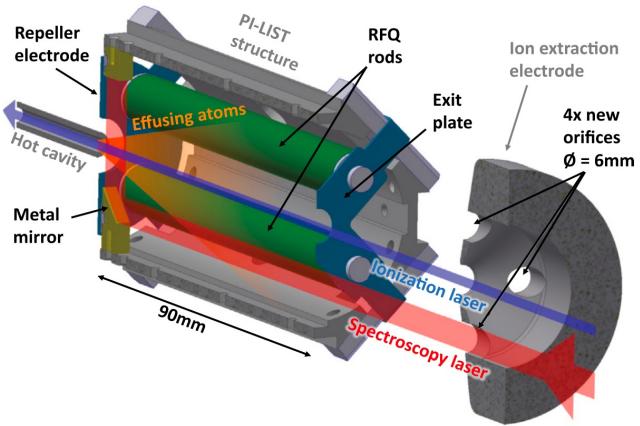
[2] Marsh et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 85, (2014) 02B923

[3] Heinke et al., NIM B 463 (2020) p. 449

# Developments in RILIS ion sources

## High throughput ion source [1]

- High ion load → breakdown of confinement potential



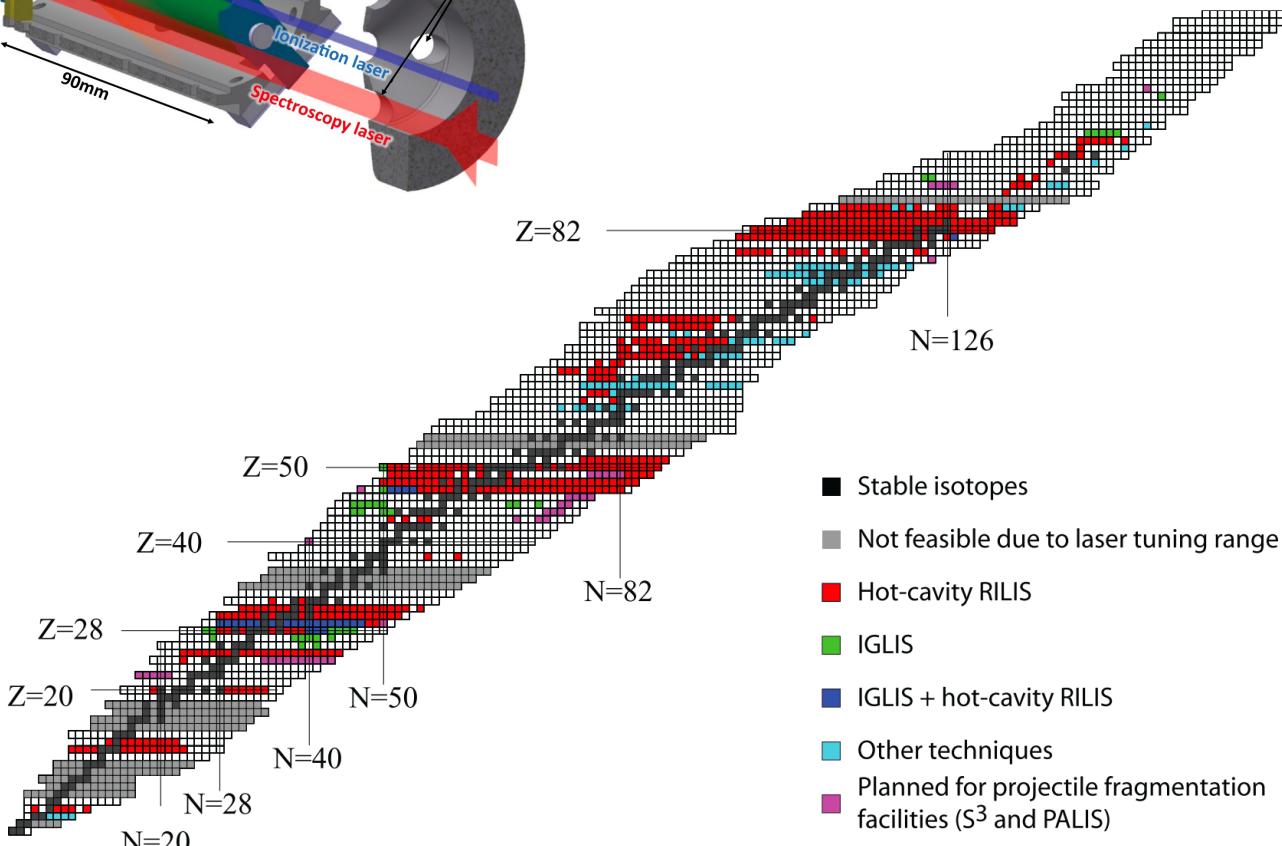
- [1] R. Mancheva, PhD thesis work, CERN  
[2] Heinke et al. (2023) *NIM B*. **541** (8-12)  
[3] Marsh et al., *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **85**, (2014)  
02B923

## Laser Ion Source and Trap (LIST)

- Implementation at CERN-ISOLDE [2]
- Suppression of surface ions

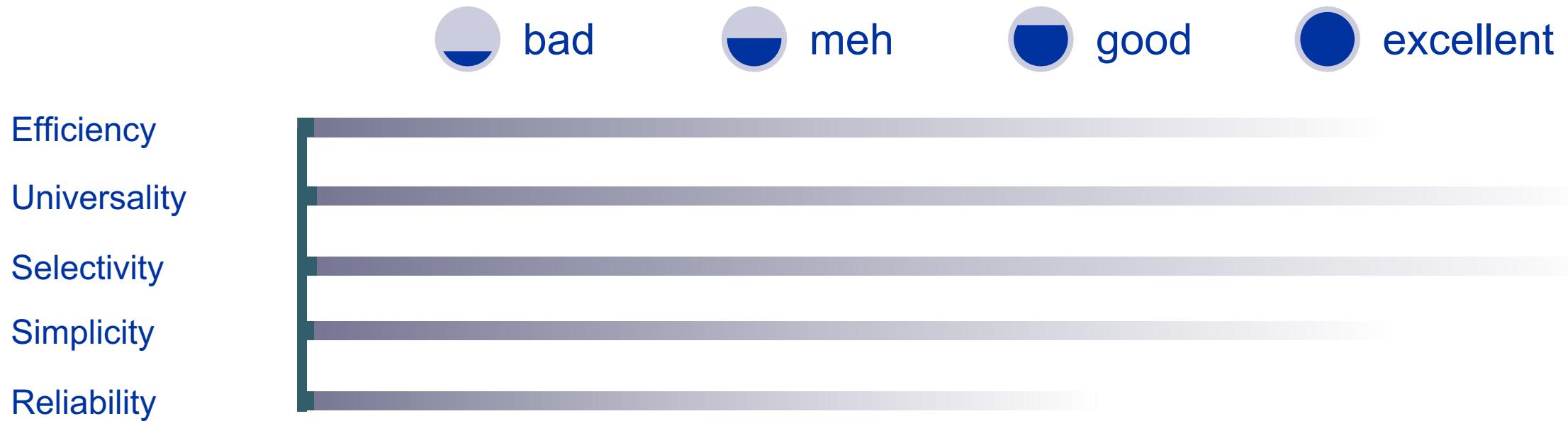
## Laser developments

- Frequency range
- Tunability
- Power
- Stability
- Operational simplicity
- Not just for ion sources



# RILIS-type ion sources – properties for ISOL

Questions about resonance ionization laser ion sources?



# Electron bombardment ion sources

## Nielsen-type ion source

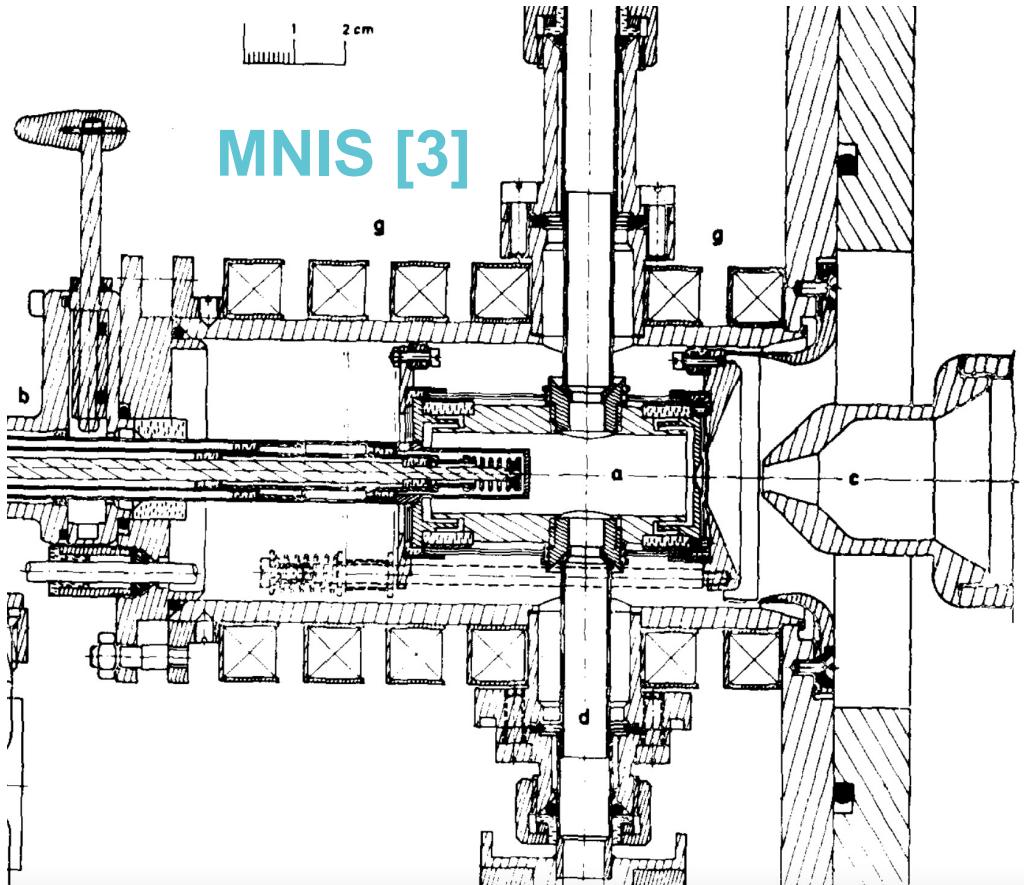
- A filament contained in a magnetic field which confines electrons, ionization via plasma discharge [1]
- Modified to protect the fragile cathode [2]

## Modified Nielsen ion source

- reduced dimensions to increase temperature and reduce condensation – higher efficiencies [3]
- required stringent control of gas injection to sustain plasma discharge.

## Forced Electron Beam Induced Arc Discharge (FEBIAD) ion source

- Electron extraction by a grid biased at the anode voltage [4]
- Addition of a transfer line, combined transfer line and cathode heating [5].

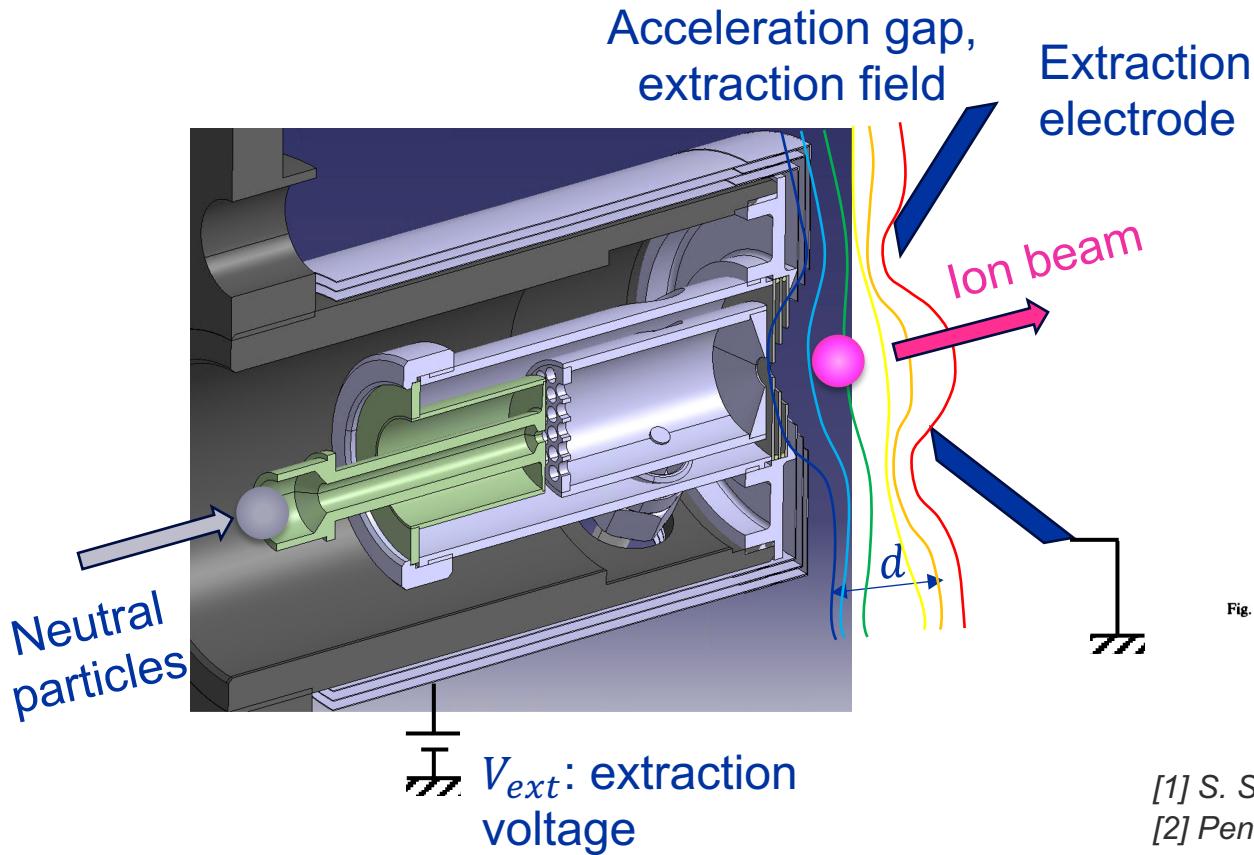


- [1] K.O. Nielsen NIM 1(6) (1957), p. 289
- [2] R. Kirchner and E. Roeckl NIM 127(2) (1975), p. 307
- [3] R. Kirchner and E. Roeckl, NIM 133(2) (1976), pp. 187
- [4] R. Kirchner and E. Roeckl NIM 139(C) (1976), p. 291
- [5] S. Sundell and H Ravn. NIM B 70 (1992) p. 160

# FEBIAD-type ion sources

## Versatile Arc Discharge Ion Source (VADIS)

- Modified FEBIAD ion source with a molybdenum grid [2]
- Hot, warm, and cold transfer lines



## MK-series [1]

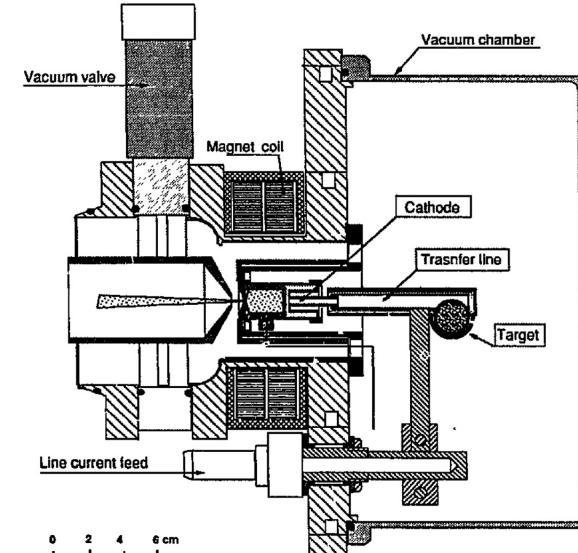


Fig. 1. Target and ion source assembly with plasma ion source MK5. The vacuum valve is part of the assembly.

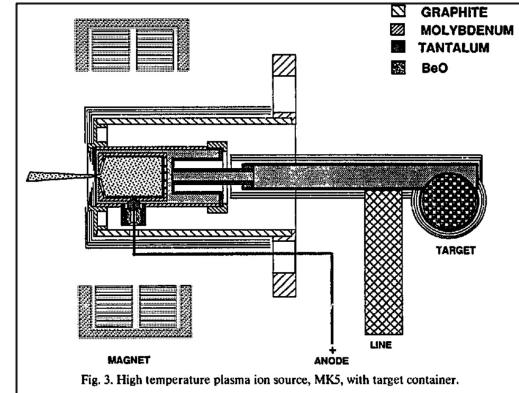


Fig. 3. High temperature plasma ion source, MK5, with target container.

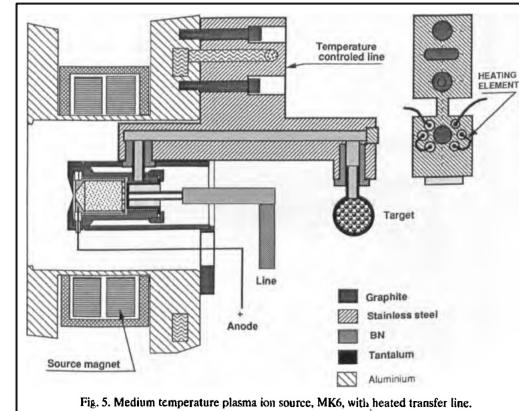


Fig. 5. Medium temperature plasma ion source, MK6, with heated transfer line.

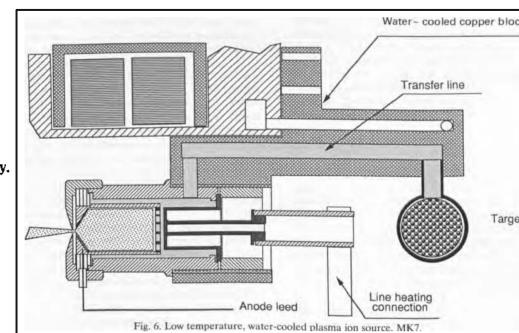


Fig. 6. Low temperature, water-cooled plasma ion source, MK7.

[1] S. Sundell and H Ravn. NIM B 70 (1992) p.160

[2] Penescu et al, Rev. Sci. Instrum. 81 (2010) 02A906

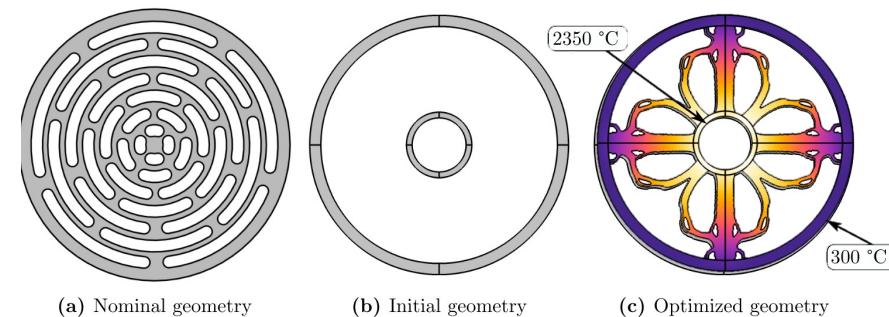
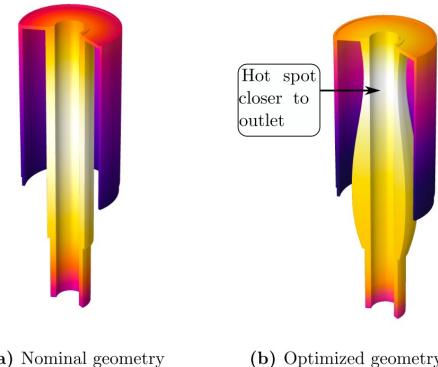
# Developments in FEBIAD-type ion sources

## (some) failure modes

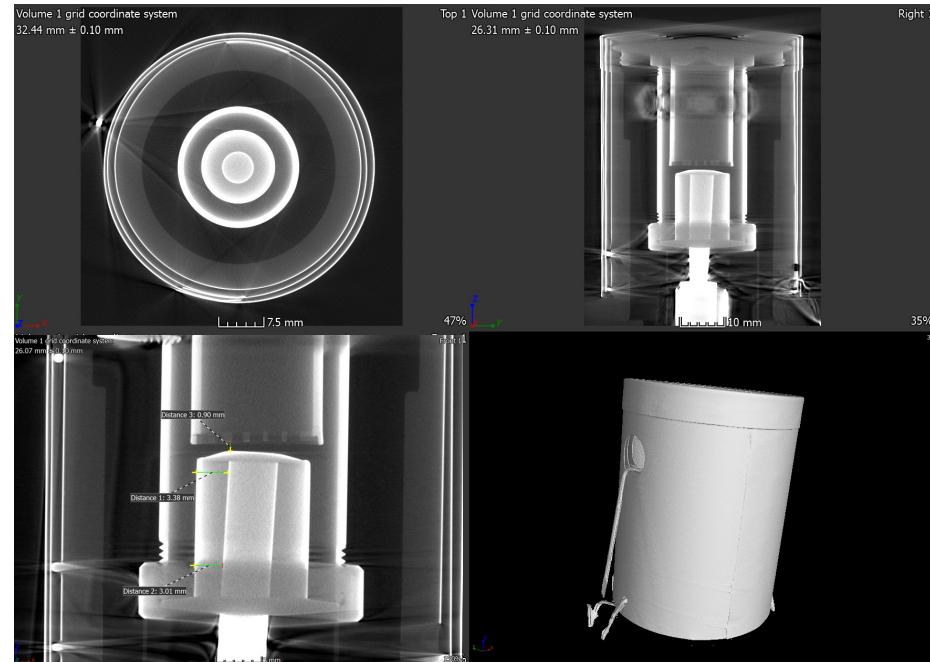
- Coated insulators
- Grid melting
- Cathode overheating and deformation:  
short-circuits or open circuits

## Temperature optimization

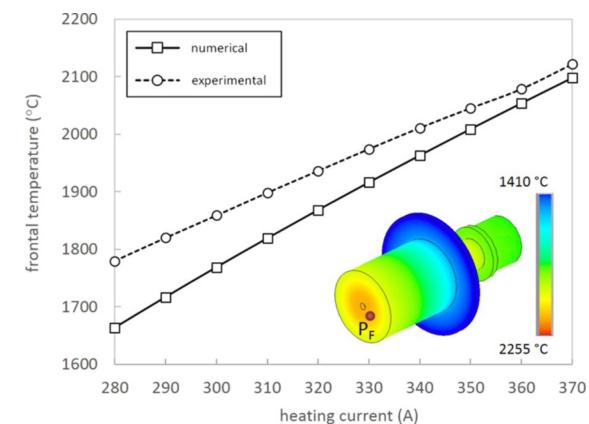
- Cathode and anode [1,2]



[1] F. Maldonado, PhD thesis, University of Victoria (2022)  
[2] Manzolaro et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 87, 02B502 (2016)



Non-destructive 3D reconstruction by X-ray computed tomography (ZEISS METROTOM 1500/225 kV) – images courtesy of S. Rothe



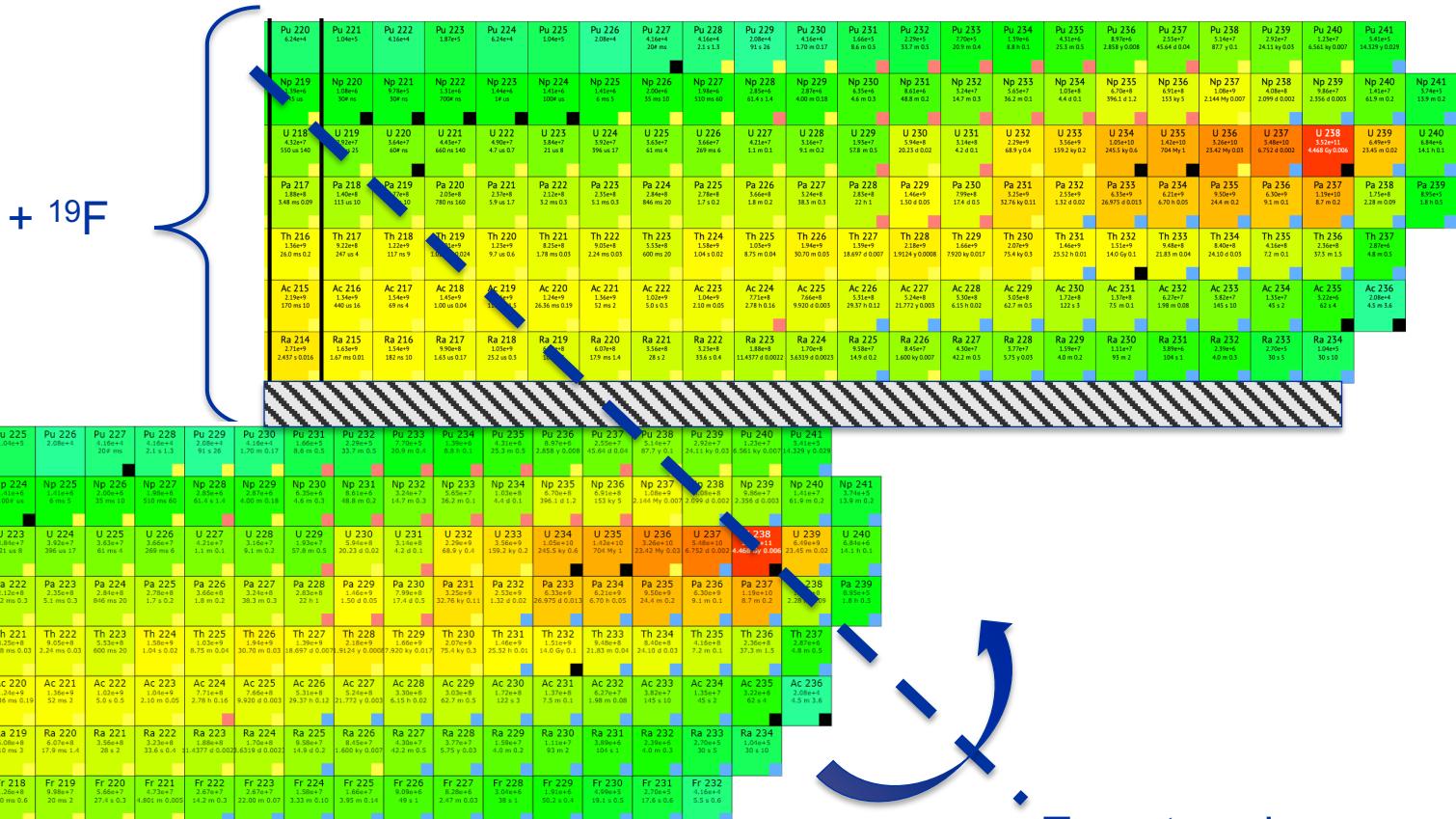
# Developments in FEBIAD-type ion sources: molecular beams

## Sideband extraction

- Operation of mass-separator on an isobar-free mass setting [1,2]

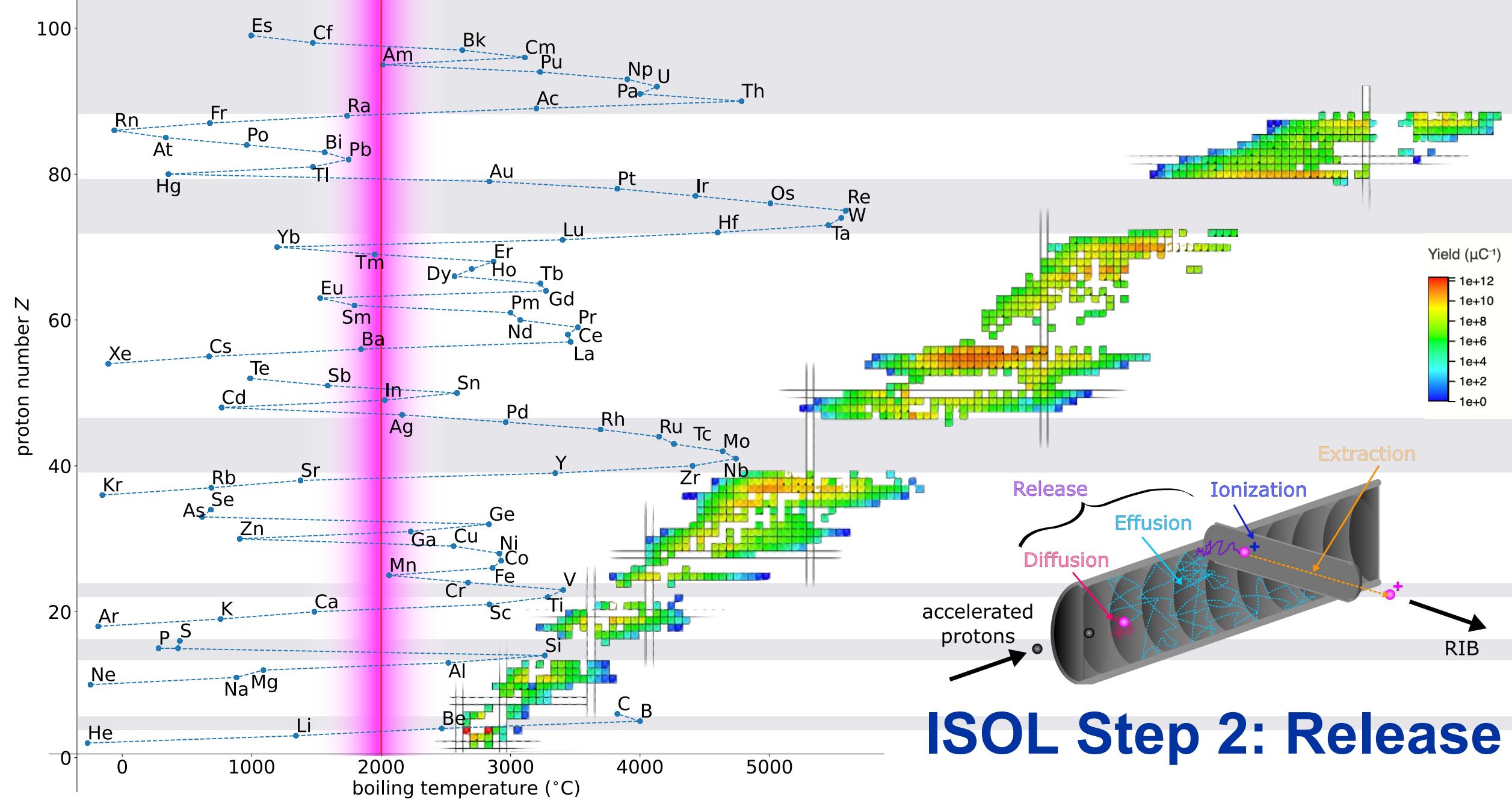
## Volatilization

- Extraction of volatile compounds of otherwise refractory elements [1,2]



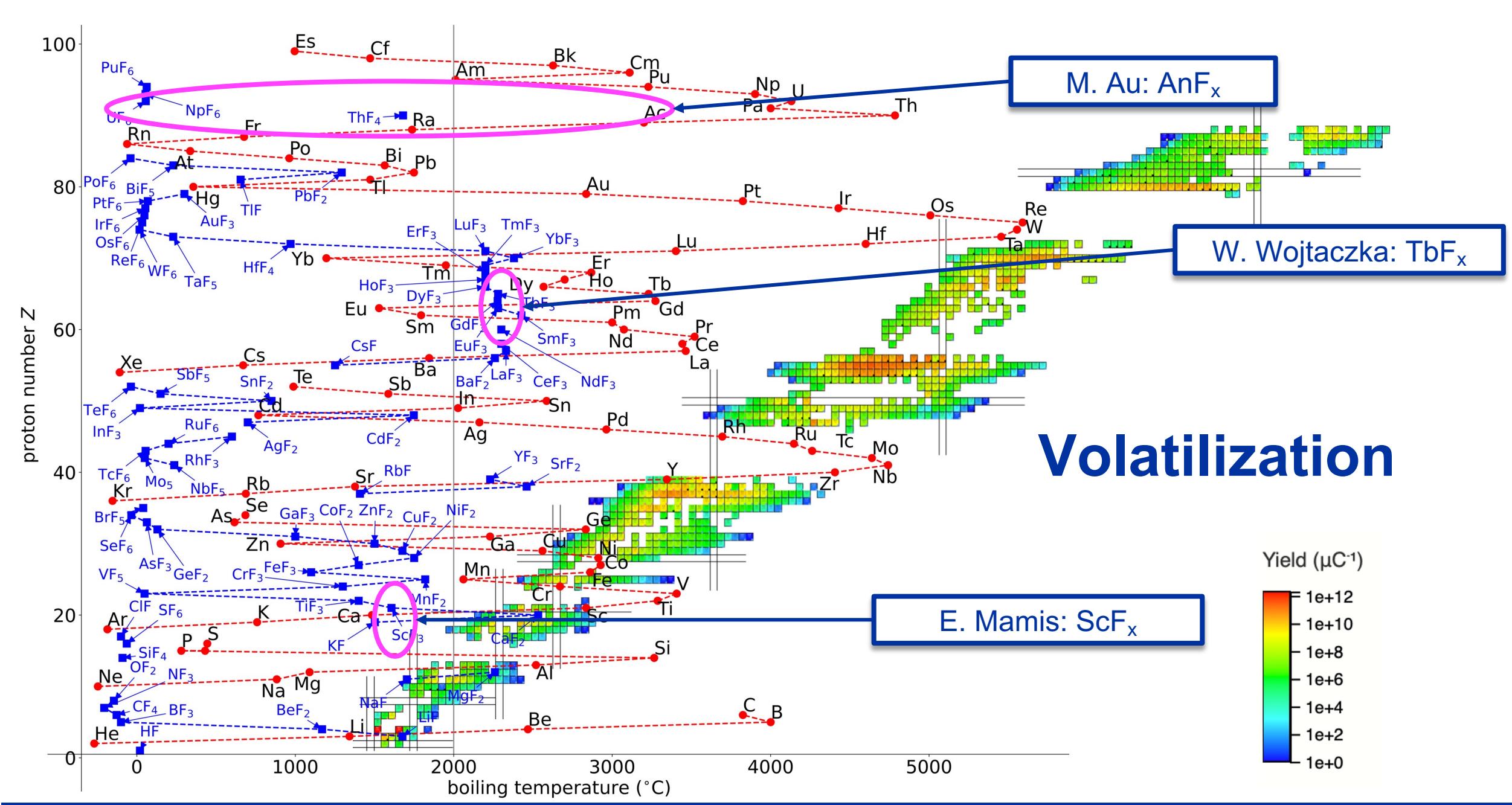
[1] J. Ballof, PhD thesis, JGU Mainz (2021)

[2] M. Au, PhD thesis, JGU Mainz (2023)



# ISOL Step 2: Release

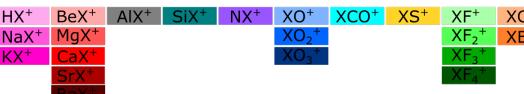
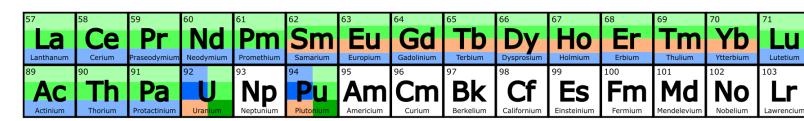
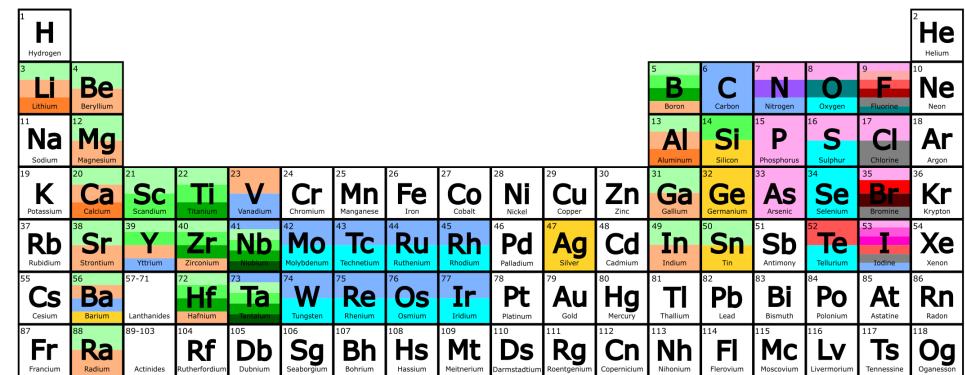
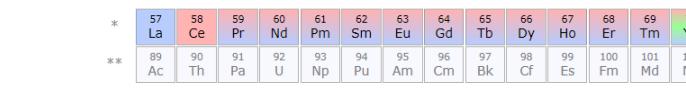
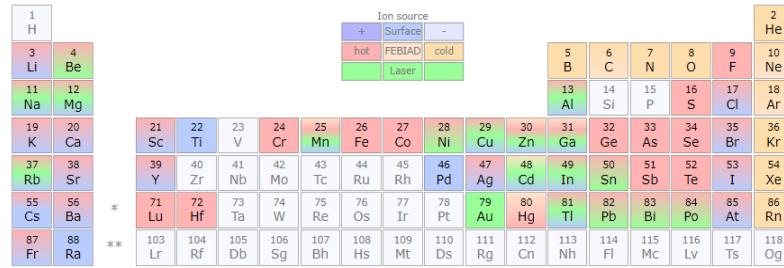




# Developments in FEBIAD-type ion sources: molecular beams

## Sideband extraction

- Operation of mass-separator on an isobar-free mass setting [1,2]



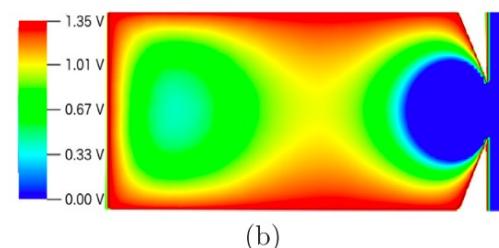
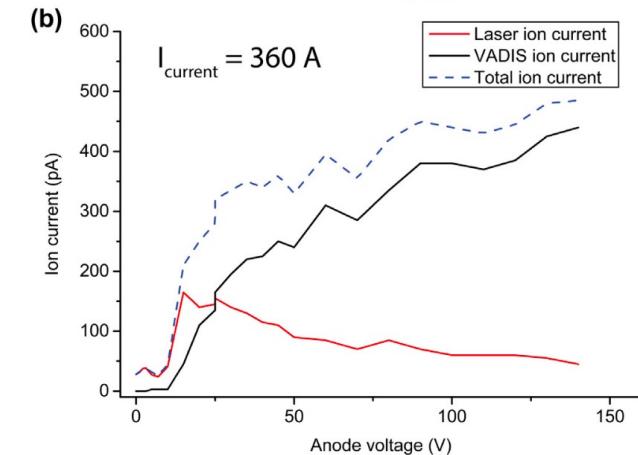
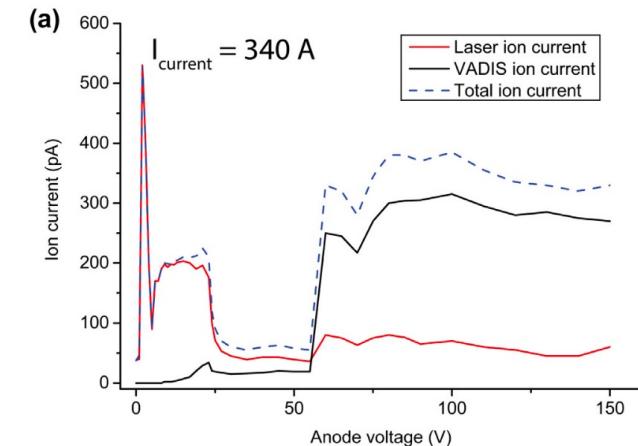
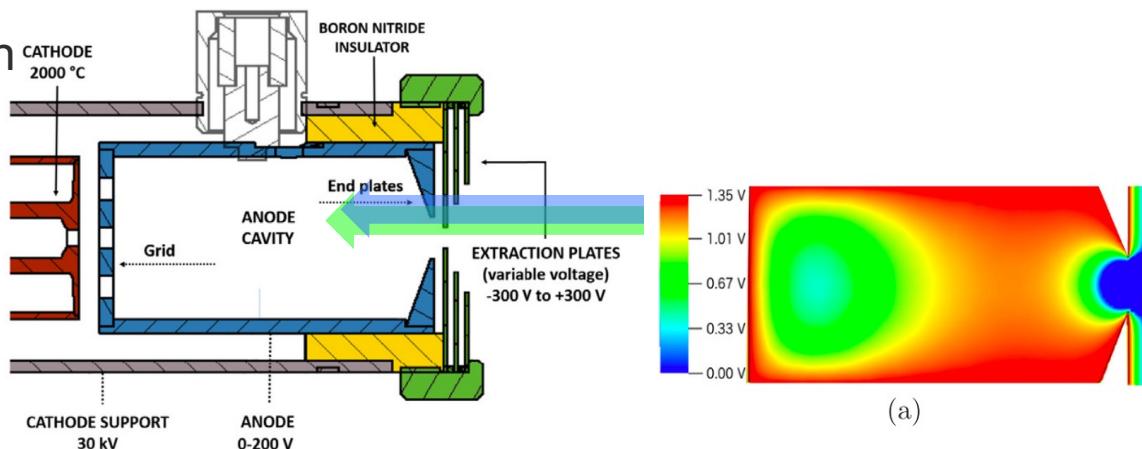
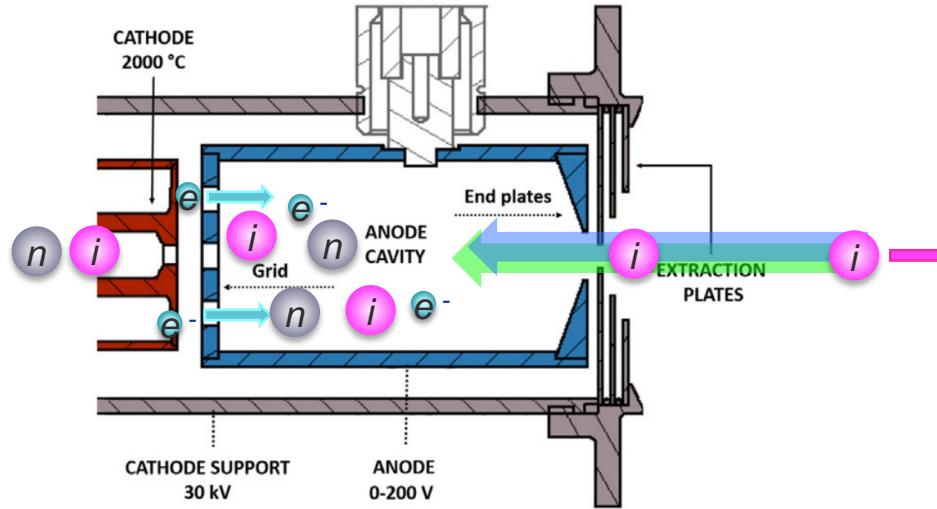
Au and Ballof, (2022) Zenodo 10.5281/zenodo.6884293

- [1] J. Ballof, PhD thesis, JGU Mainz (2021)  
[2] M. Au, PhD thesis, JGU Mainz (2023)

# Resonance laser ionization in FEBIAD-type ion sources

## VADLIS

- RILIS inside a VD5 geometry [1]
  - Central potential well
  - Repelling effect of anode voltage
  - Reversible polarity cathode
- Addition of biasable extraction plates [2]



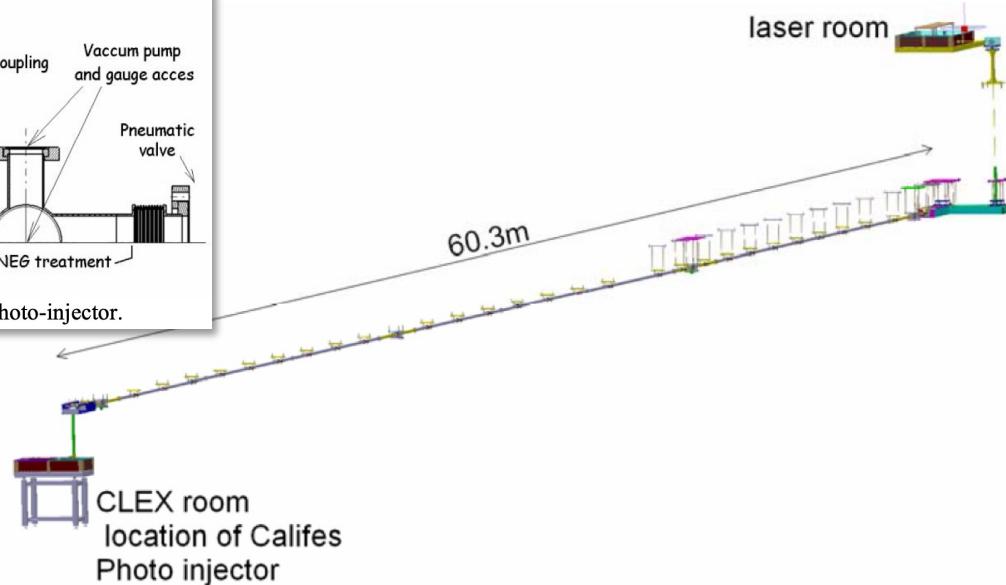
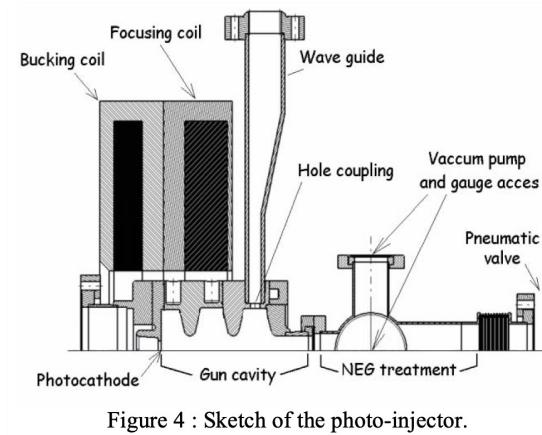
[1] T. Goodacre et al, NIM B 376 (2016) p.39

[2] Y. Martinez Palenzuela et al., NIM B 431 (2018) p. 59

# Photocathode sources

## Photocathode electron sources

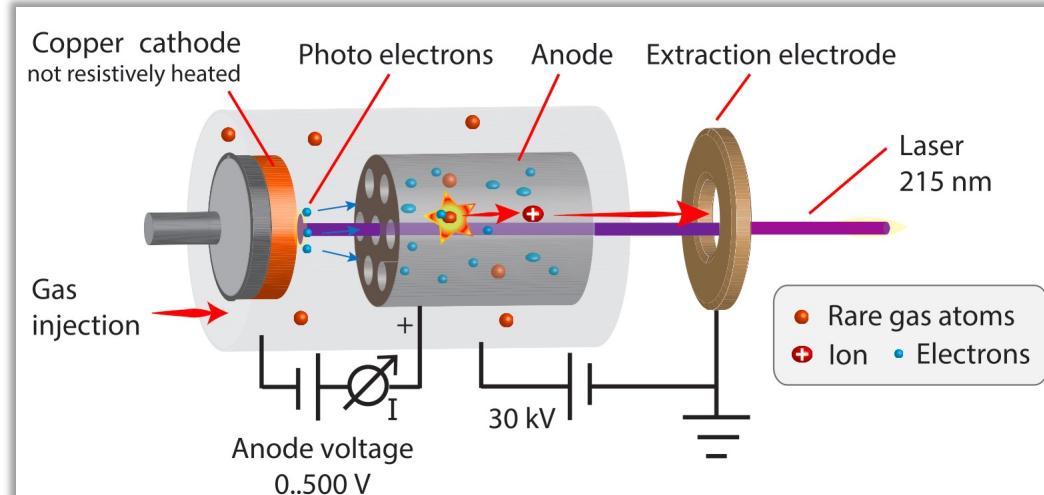
- High pulse energy lasers, low  $\phi_W$  surfaces
- Ex. CERN's Compact Linear Collider (CLIC)
  - CALIFES [1] photo-injector [2]:
    - Cs<sub>2</sub>Te with UV (262 nm) laser, > 370 nJ/pulse [3]



## Photocathode ion sources

- Room temperature operation of FEBIAD [4]
- Volatile gases and molecules
- Quantum efficiency of copper

Figure 15: View of the beam transport between laser room and CLEX experimental area.



[1] J. L. Navarro Quirante, et al. 27th International Linear Accelerator Conference (LINAC14), p.MOPP030 (2014)

[2] J. Brossard et al., Conf. Proc.: EPAC 2006, Edinburgh, Scotland. (2006)

[3] E. Granados et al., Capabilities and performance of the CLEAR facility photo-injector, CERN, "CERN-OPEN-2020-002" (2019) <https://cds.cern.ch/record/2705786>

[4] J. Ballof, et al., J. Phys. Conf. Proc. ICIS2021, 2244 (2022) 012072

# FEBIAD-type ion sources – properties for ISOL

Questions about FEBIAD-type ion sources?



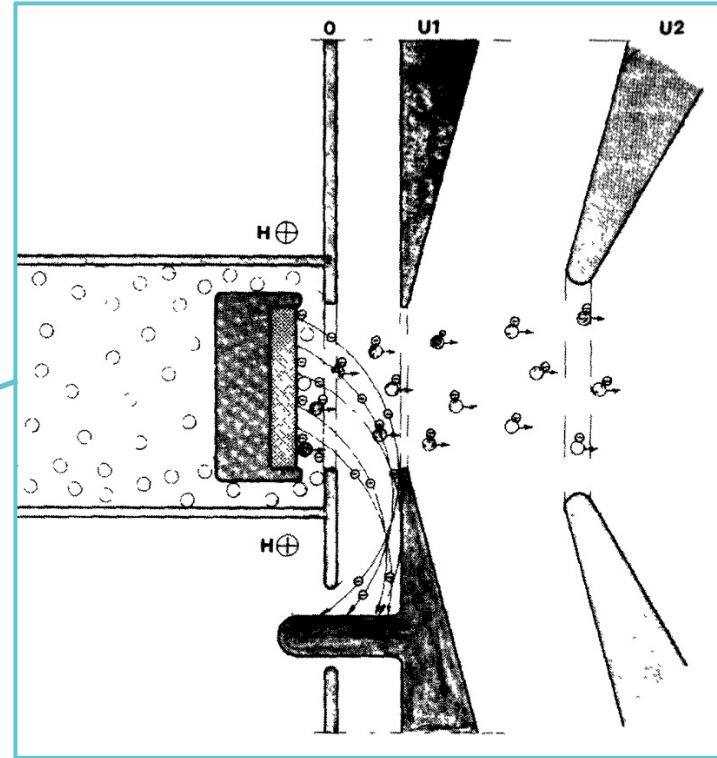
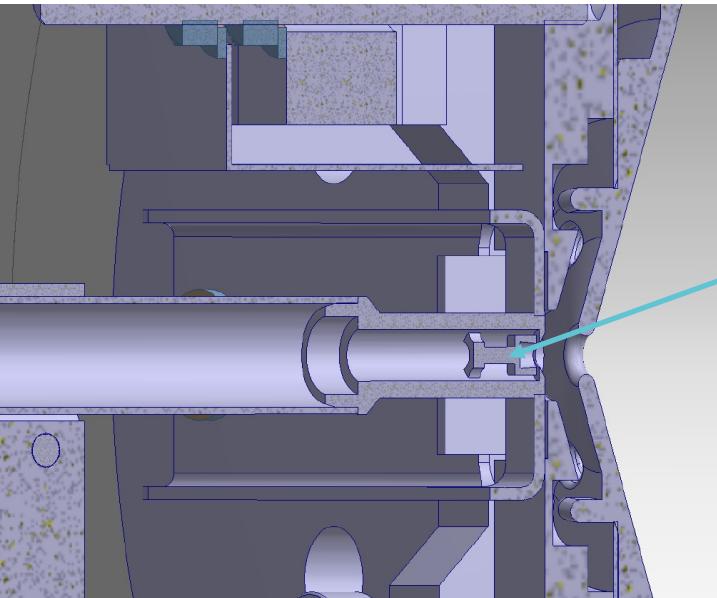
# Negative ion sources

## Surface ion sources

- Low work function surfaces:
  - LaB<sub>6</sub> pellet [1,2]
- Surface poisoning

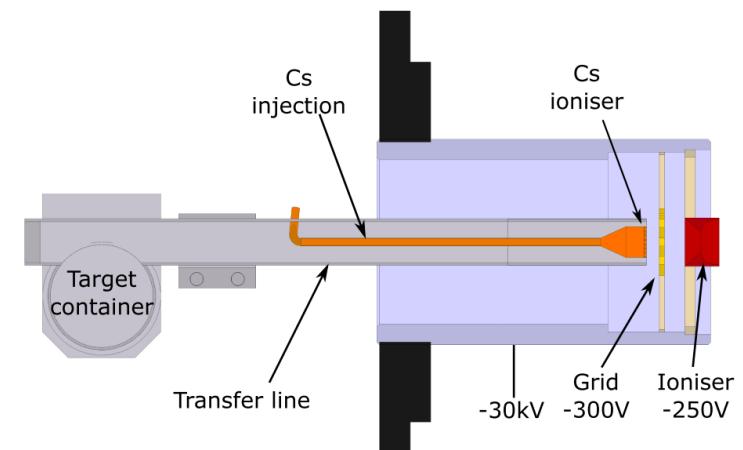
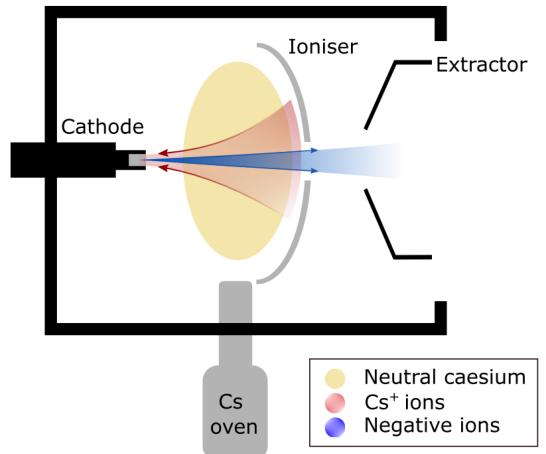
## Kinetic ejection negative ion source (KENIS)

- Cs sputtering [3]



## VADIS in negative mode

- Cs<sub>2</sub>CrO<sub>4</sub>
- Efficiency " $\approx 2.8 \times 10^{-4} \%$  at most" [2]



[1] B. Vosicki et al. NIM Phys. Res. 186.1 (1981), p. 307

[2] D. Leimbach, PhD thesis, JGU Mainz (2021)

[3] G.D Alton et al. NIMB 170.3 (2000), p. 515

[4] R. Middleton. NIM Phys Res. 214.2 (1983), pp. 139– 150.  
90580-X.

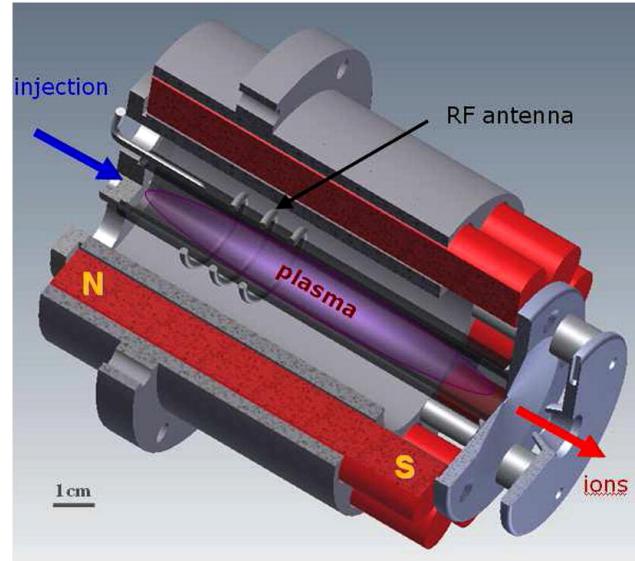
# ECR ion sources

- Electron cyclotron resonance (ECR) ion sources (ECRIS)

## Principle

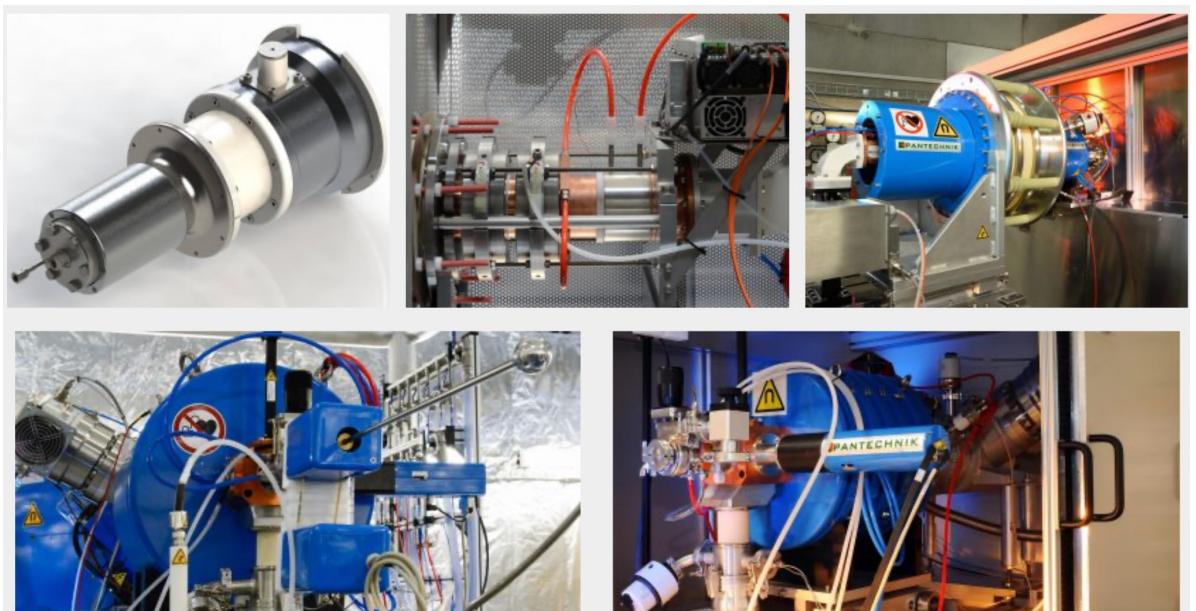
- Magnetic field and injection of RF or microwaves
- Plasma heating by resonantly exciting electrons :

$$\omega_{ECR} = 2\pi f_{ECR} = \frac{eB}{m}$$



## Examples

- CERN-ISOLDE helicon ion source [1]
  - efficiencies ~10% [2,3] CO: 2.5% Ar: 4%
- Commercial ECRIS [4]



[1] M. Kronberger, et al., NIM B, 317 (2013) p. 438

[2] F. Chen, in: O.A. Popov (Ed.), High Density Plasma Sources, Noyes, Park Ridge, NJ, (1995)

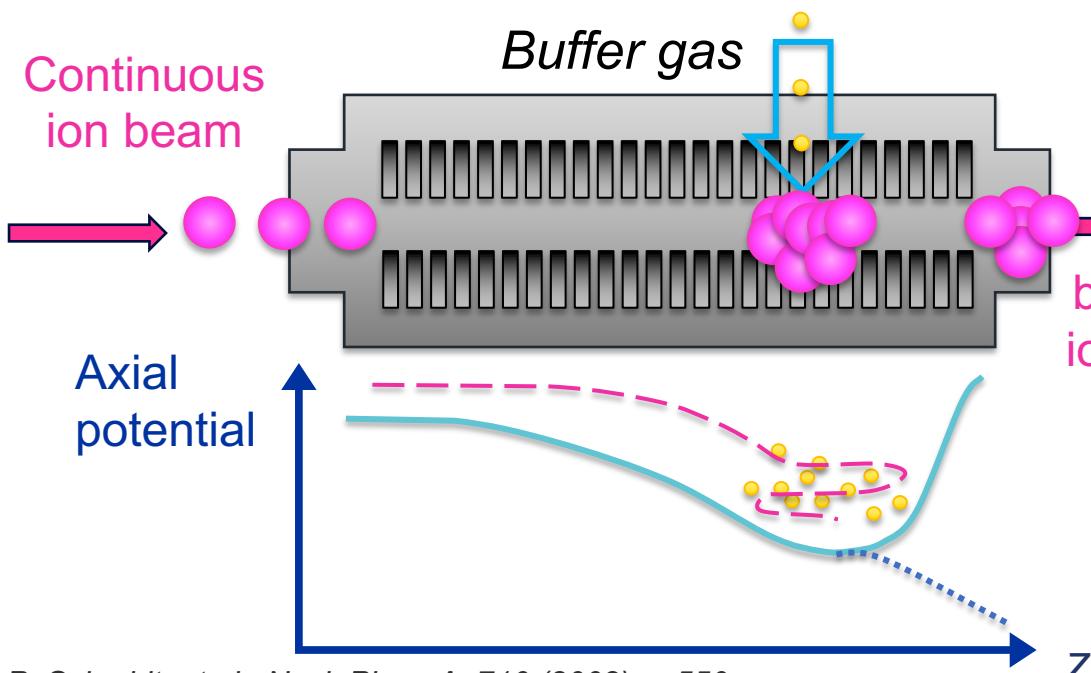
[3] P. Suominen, T. Stora, ISOLDE Newsletter, 20, Spring (2011)

[4] <https://www.pantechnik.com/ecr-ion-sources/>

# Electron bombardment ion sources and traps

## Ion beam bunching and cooling

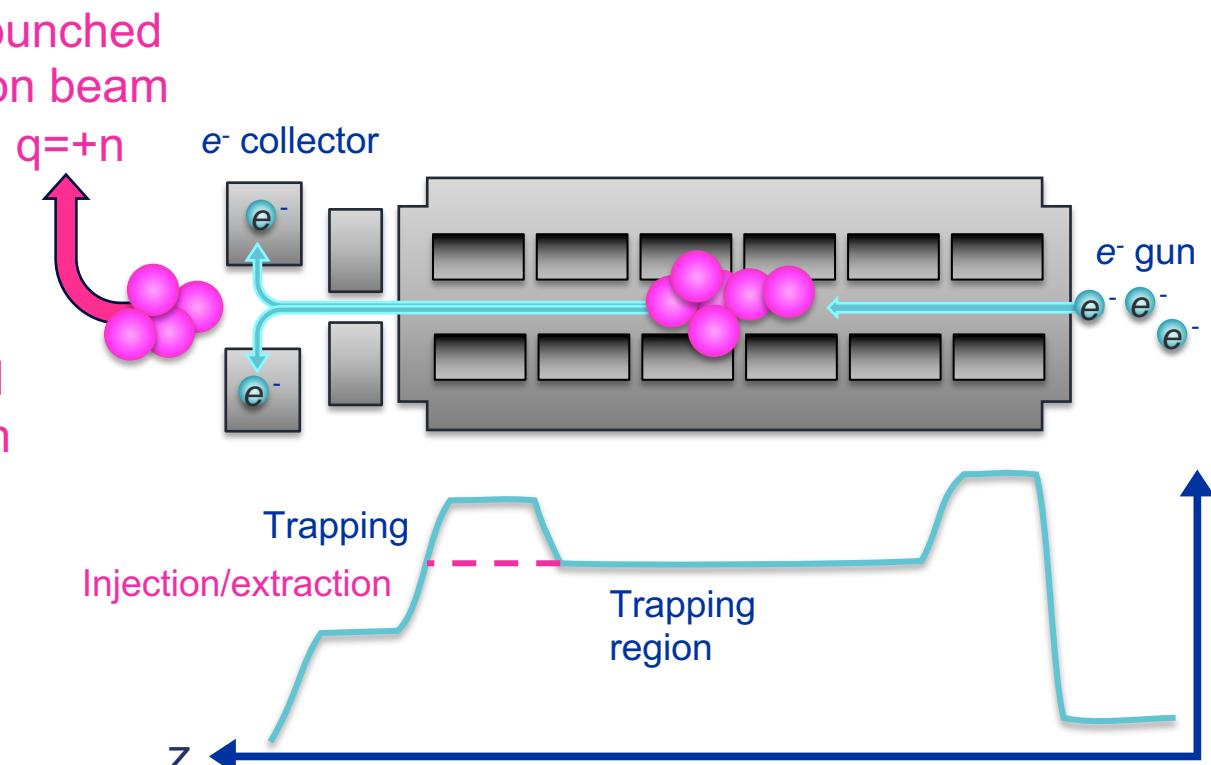
- Radiofrequency quadrupole cooler-buncher (RFQ-cb) [1]



[1] P. Schmidt, et al., Nucl. Phys. A. 710 (2002) p. 550  
[2] F. Wenander, JINST 5, (2010) C10004  
[3] N. Bidault et al., AIP Conf. Proc. 2011 (2018) 070009

## Charge breeding: EBIS / EBIT

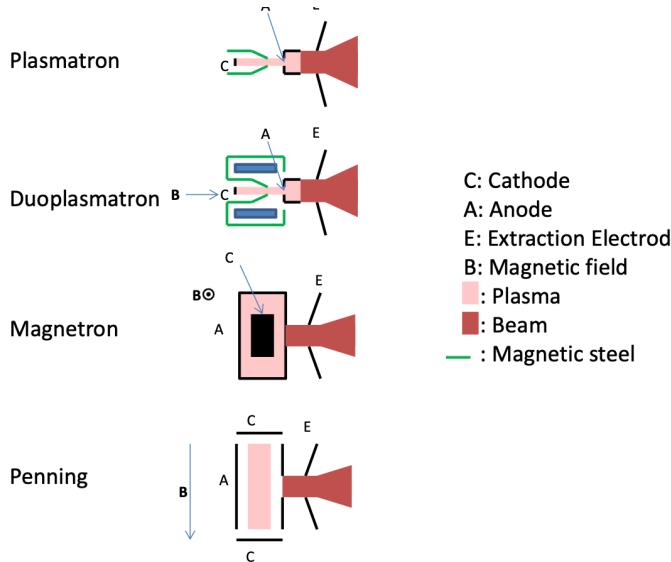
- Electron beam ion source (EBIS) / Electron beam ion trap (EBIT) [2,3]



# Other ion sources – there are many!

## Plasma discharge ion sources [1]

- Magnetron
- Multicusp
- Penning/Phillips ion gauge (PIG)
- Plasmatron, duoplasmatron
- RF



## Neutral beam injectors (NBIs)

- Ionization of fast neutral beams by plasma collisions

## H- ion sources

- Surface production
- Volume production
- at CERN: [LINAC4](#) [2,3]
  - Intensity: 35 mA

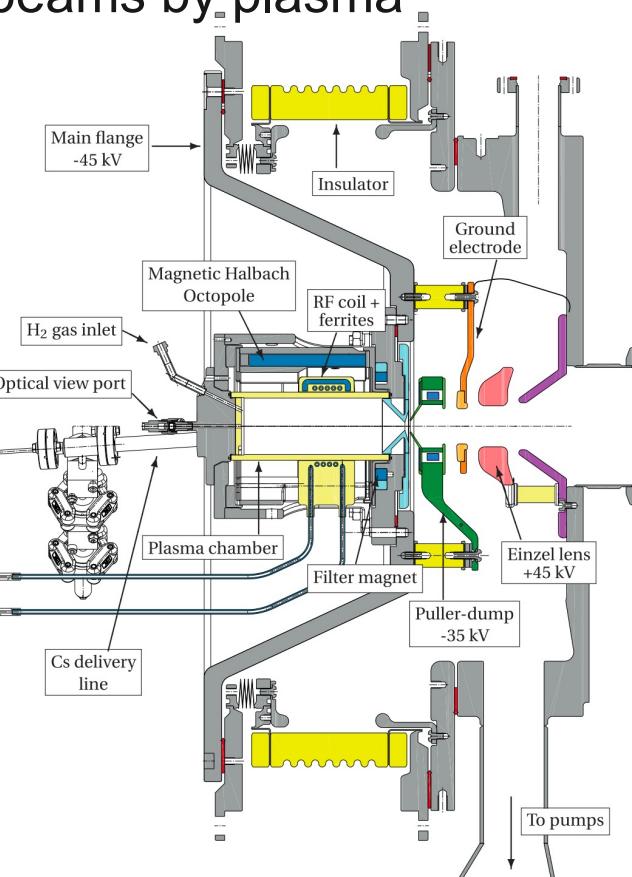
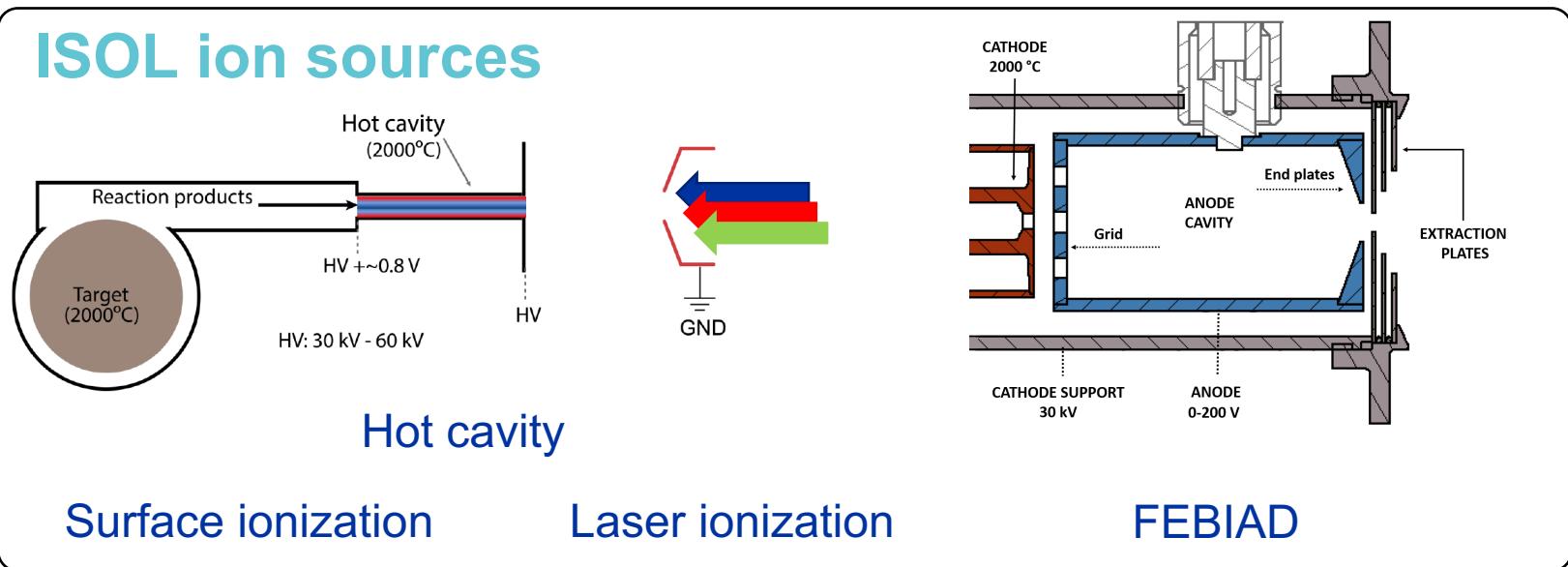
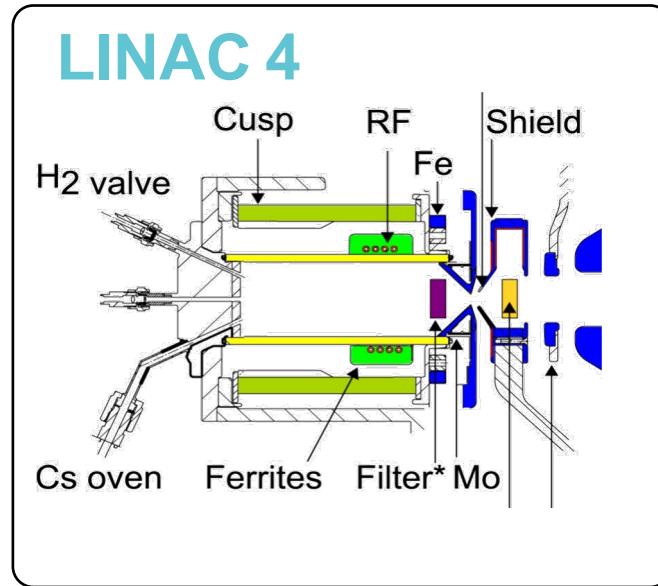


Figure 1.12 – Cross-sectional view of the Linac4 H<sup>-</sup> ion source with its plasma generator and extraction system.

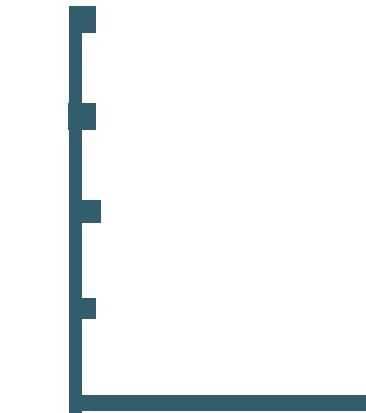
- [1] R. Scrivens, CAS Lectures on ion sources  
[2] J. Lettry, et al., CERN's Linac4 cesiated surface H<sup>-</sup> source.  
AIP Conf. Proc. 9 August 2017; 1869 (1): 030002.  
[3] S. Mattei PhD thesis, (2017) CERN-THESIS-2017-109  
[4] R. F. Welton (2002) 21st International Linear Accelerator  
Conference, Gyeongju, Korea, 19 - 23 Aug 2002, e-proc. TH101

# Ion source comparisons

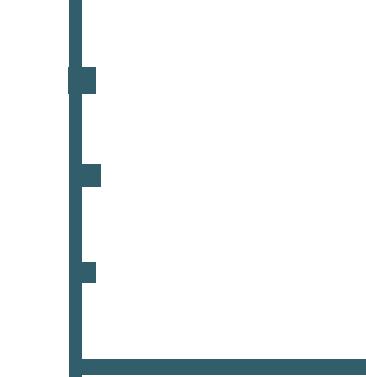
Adapted from Y. Martinez Palenzuela, K. Chrysalidis, B. Marsh et al., (2017)  
Int. Conf. Ion. Sources presentation - Young Speaker Award



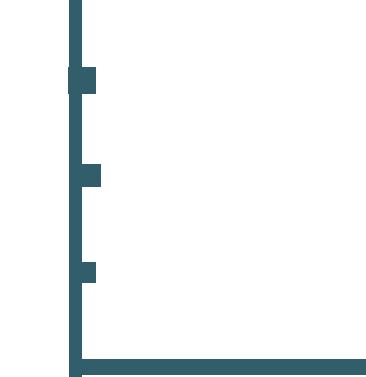
Efficiency



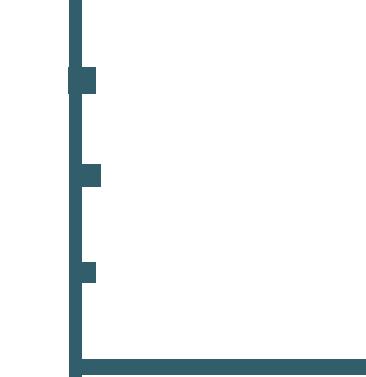
Universality



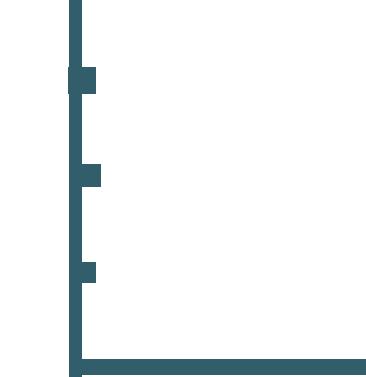
Selectivity



Simplicity



Reliability



- supply is unlimited

# Ion source applications

In the ISOL community

A small part of a big field

1 RIB production and considerations

2 In-source spectroscopy

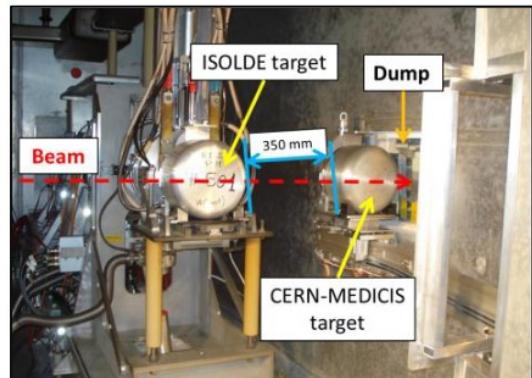
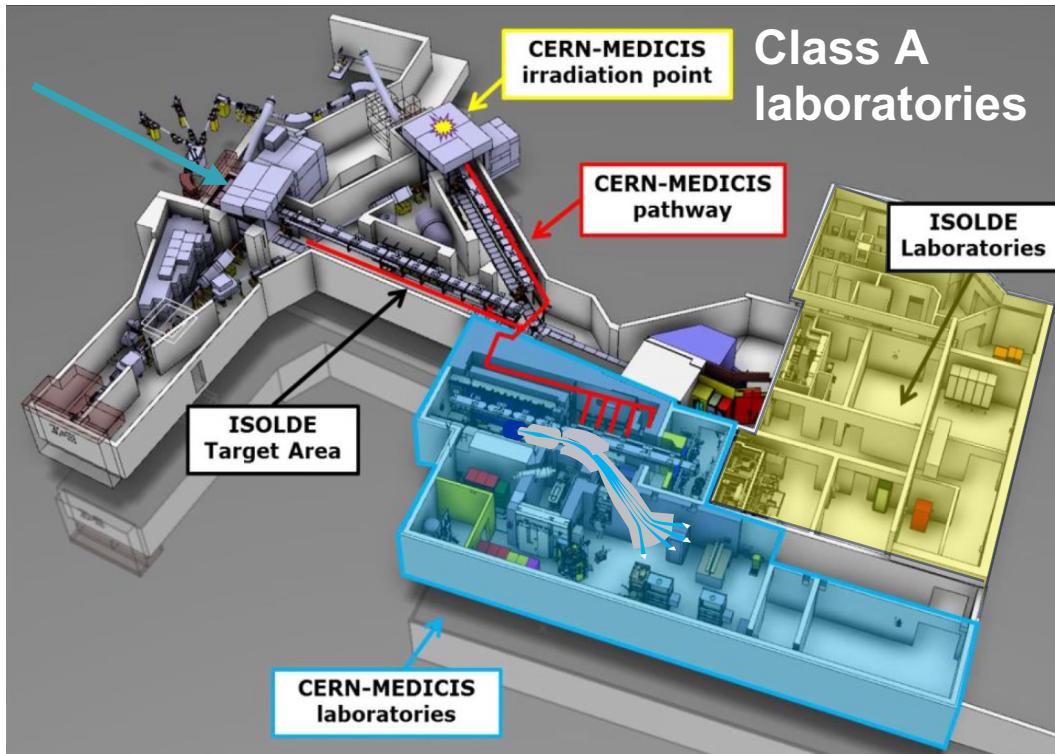
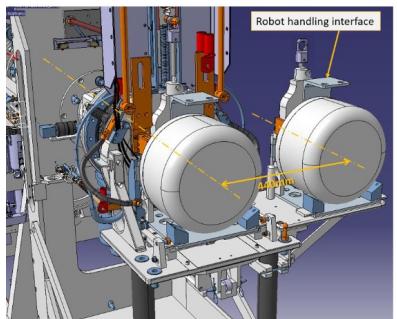
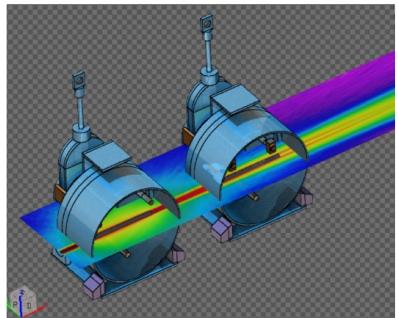
3 Fundamental properties

4 Production of medical isotopes

# ISOL

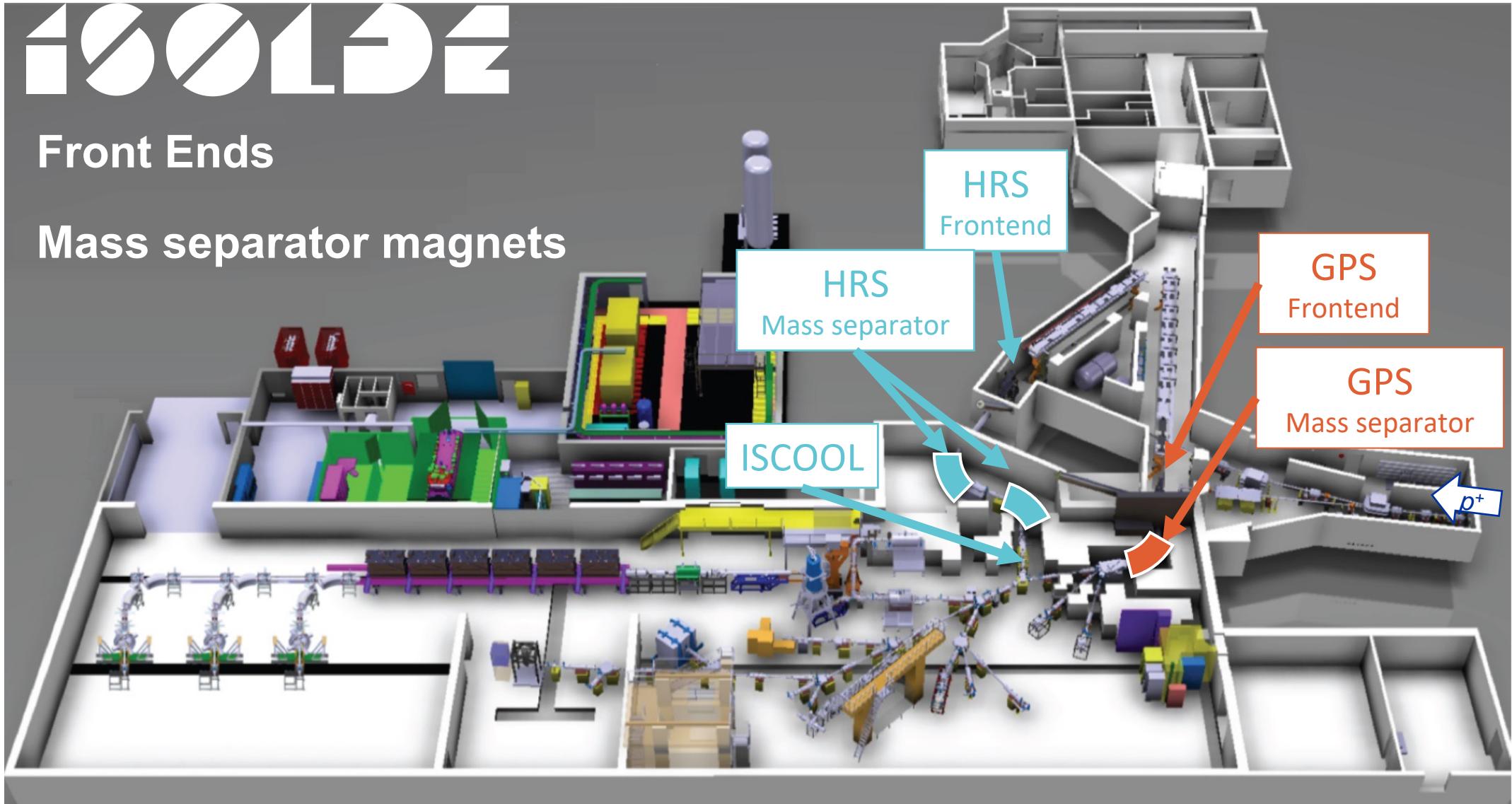
## “On-Line”:

- Production
- Release
- Ionization
- Extraction



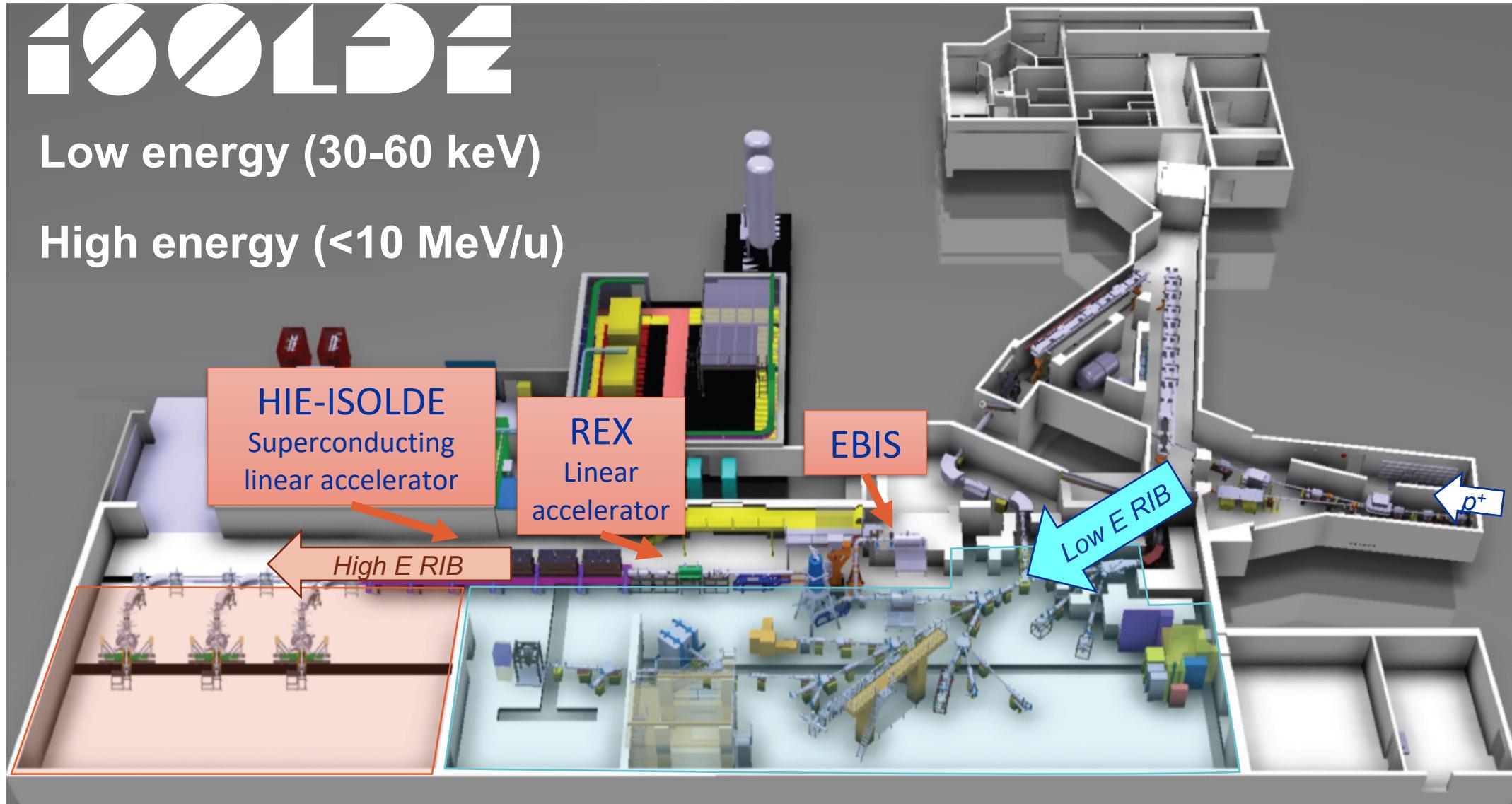
# ISOL Step 4: Mass separation

Catherall et al. (2017) *J. Phys G* **44**, 094002  
[isolde.web.cern.ch](http://isolde.web.cern.ch)



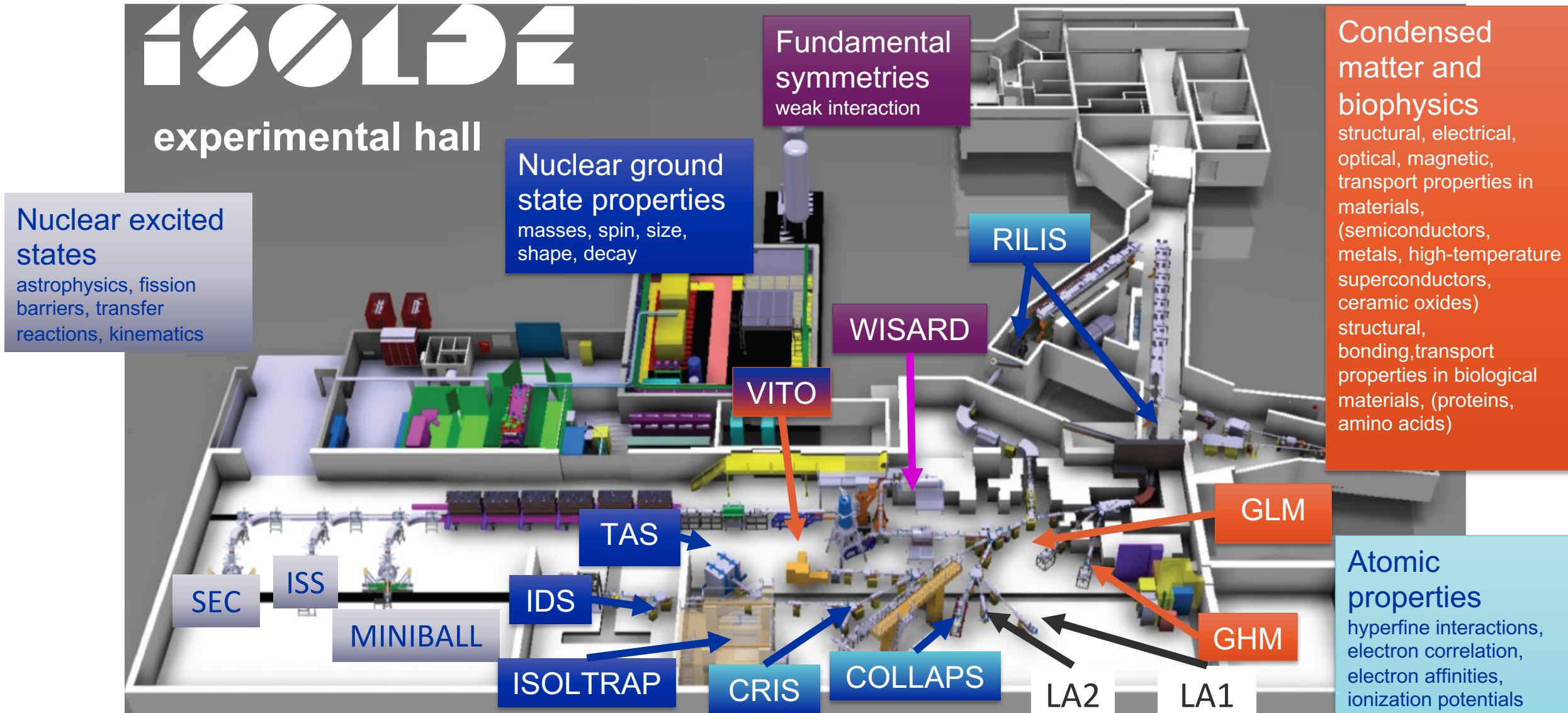
# ISOL Step 5: Delivery to Experiments

Catherall et al. (2017) *J. Phys G* **44**, 094002  
[isolde.web.cern.ch](http://isolde.web.cern.ch)



# ISOL Step 5: Delivery to Experiments

Catherall et al. (2017) *J. Phys G* **44**, 094002  
[isolde.web.cern.ch](http://isolde.web.cern.ch)



# CERN-ISOLDE

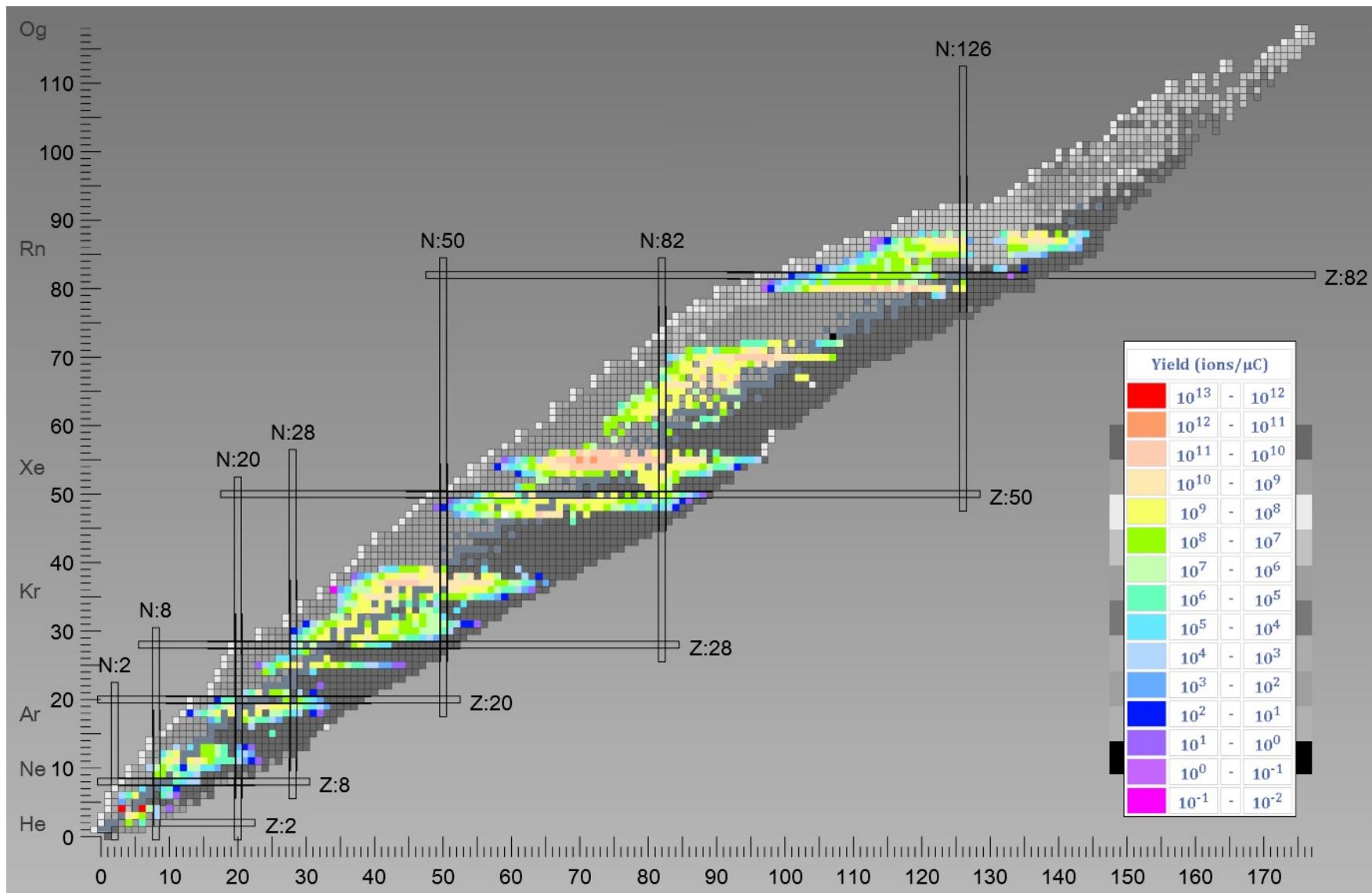
>1000 isotopes  
and isomers

74 elements

Balof et.al, (2020) NIM B 463, 211-215  
[cern.ch/isolde-yields](http://cern.ch/isolde-yields)

[www.nucleonica.com](http://www.nucleonica.com)

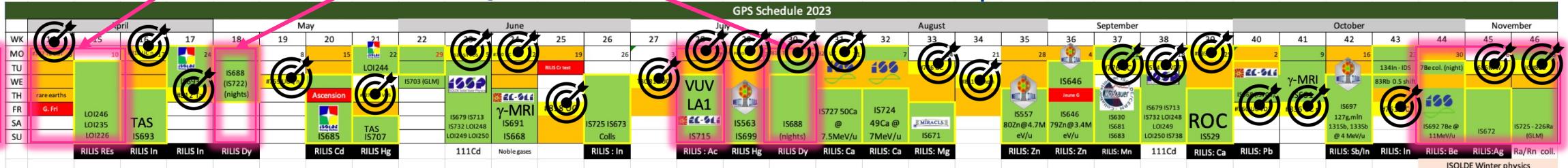
Dataset: JEFF-3.1 Nuclear Data Library, NEA (2023)



# TISD 2023

## Back-of-line heating: Dy collections

LIST: lanthanides



Hot  
quartz

VD7

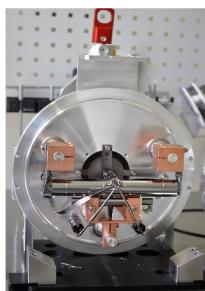
MK1



LIST: actinides

MK1

VD5+CF<sub>4</sub>



prototype  
ion source

(~ 50 kCHF)



=

MK1  
molecules

MK1

MK1

VD5 SnS

MK1

MK1

MK1  
molecules



= Yield measurements, proton scans, setup



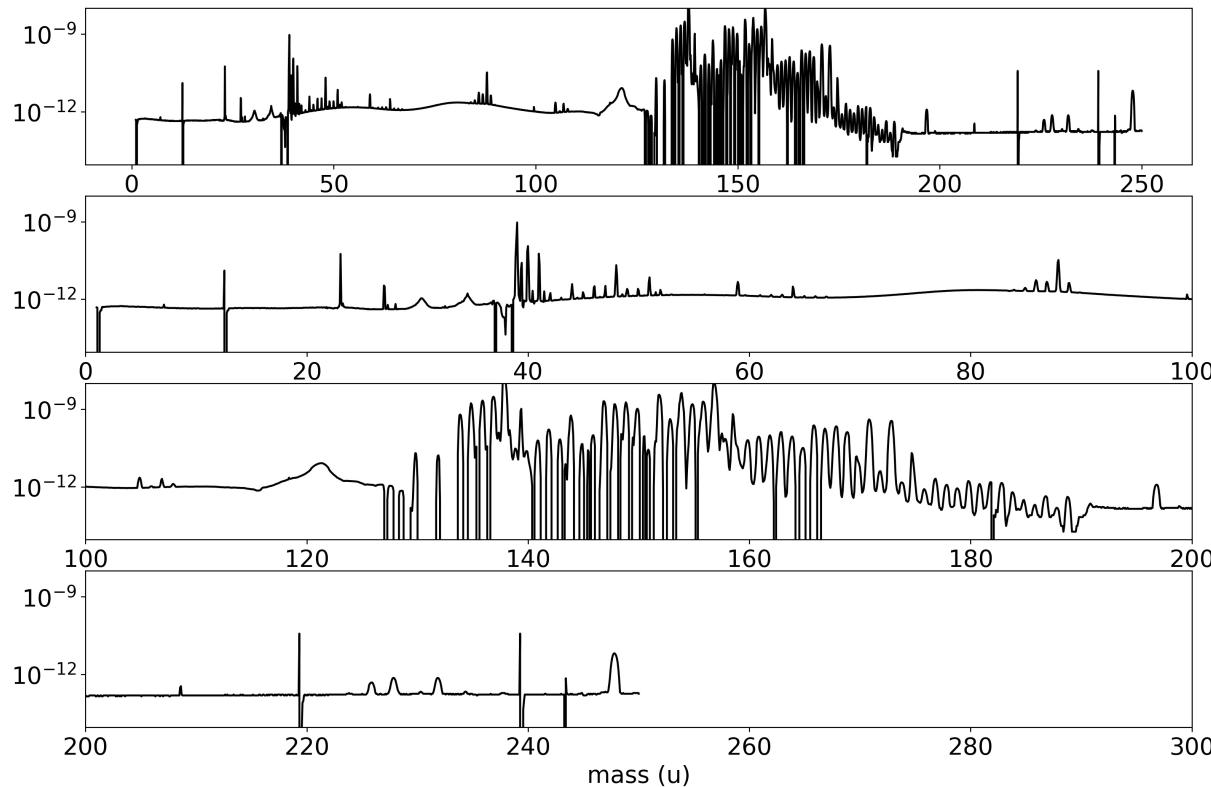
RILIS  
23 : U, Np, Pu, Dy, Tm, Pm, Er, Gd, Yb, In, Cd, Hg, Al, Cr, Ac, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Pb, Sb, Be, Ag



# Operating ion sources: mass scans

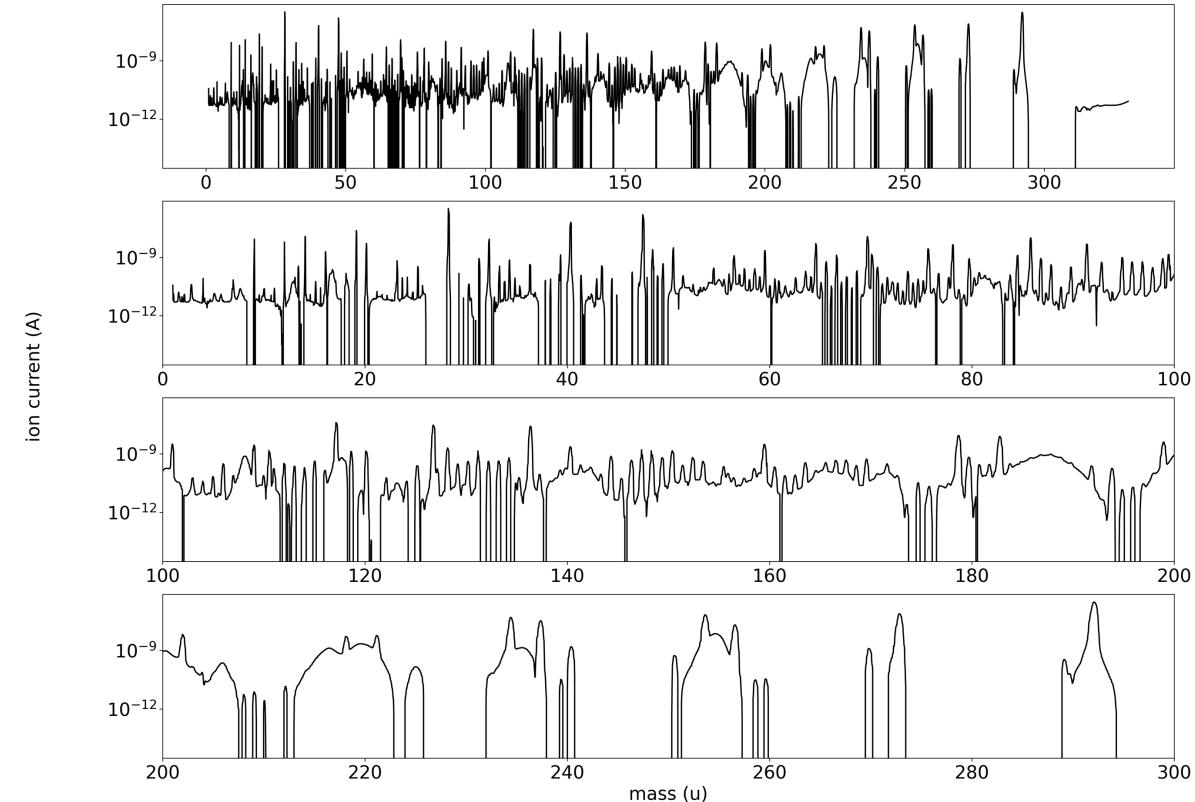
## Surface

- Low IPs
- Surface ionization efficiency



## FEBIAD

- High/unknown IPs
- High efficiency

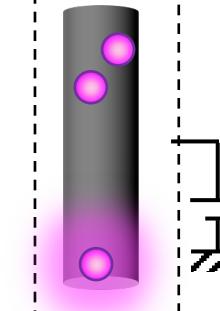


# Operating ion sources: time structures

Laser pulse (10 kHz)

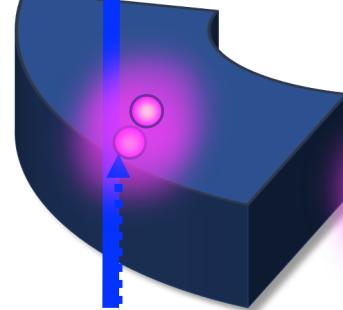
RFQ-cb (~100 Hz)

Ion source



+30 kV

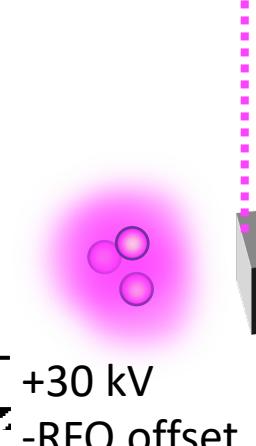
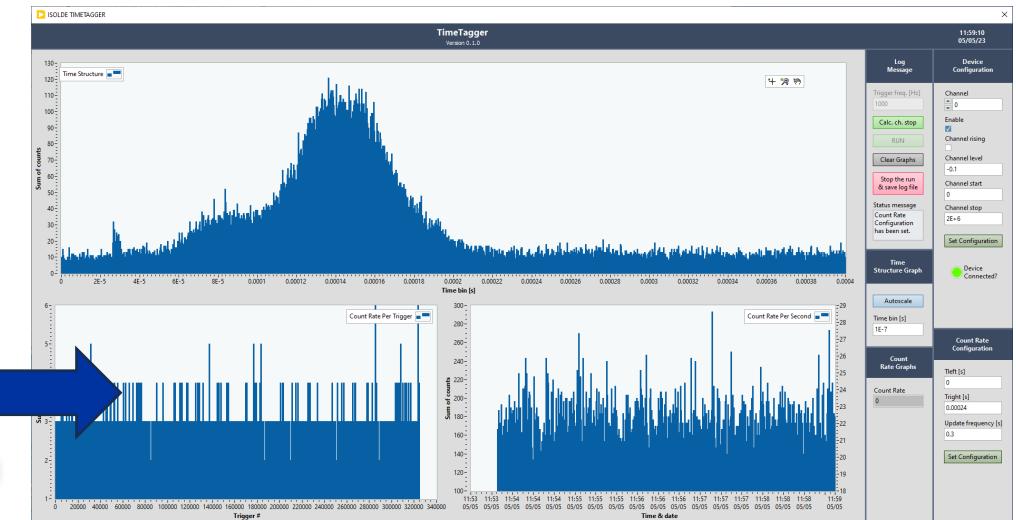
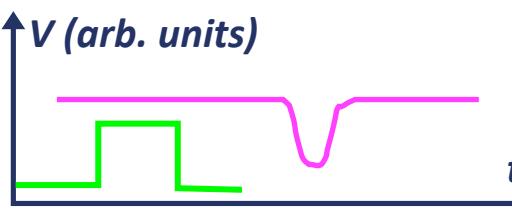
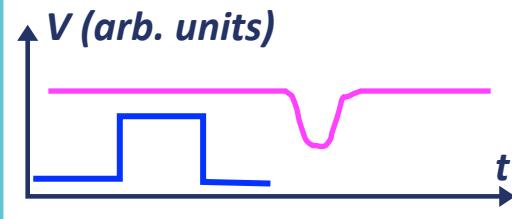
Extraction



Mass separator

Ion ToF signal

MagneToF 1

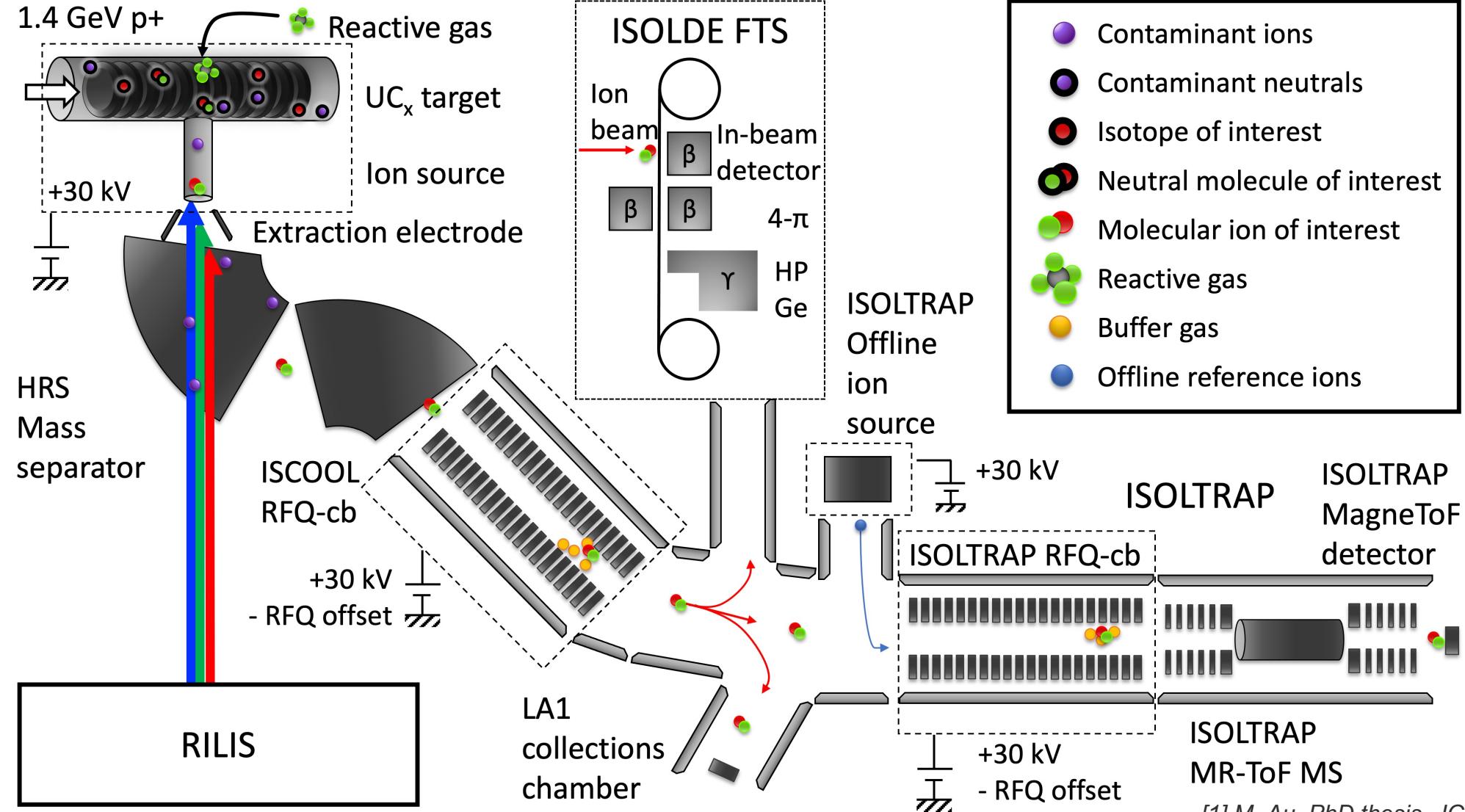


Ion ToF signal  
MagneToF 2

+30 kV  
-RFQ offset

Au et al. (2023) NIM B. 541 (144-147)

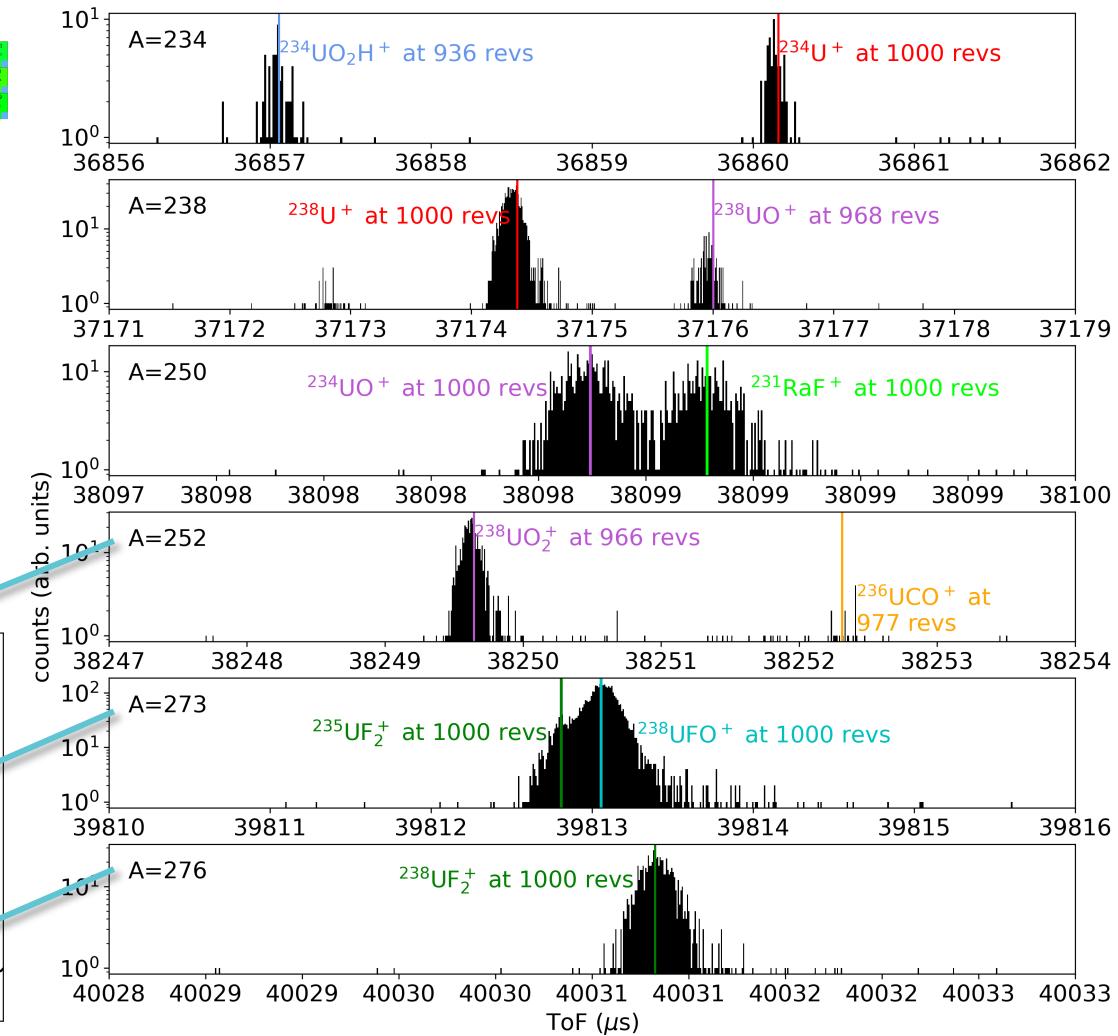
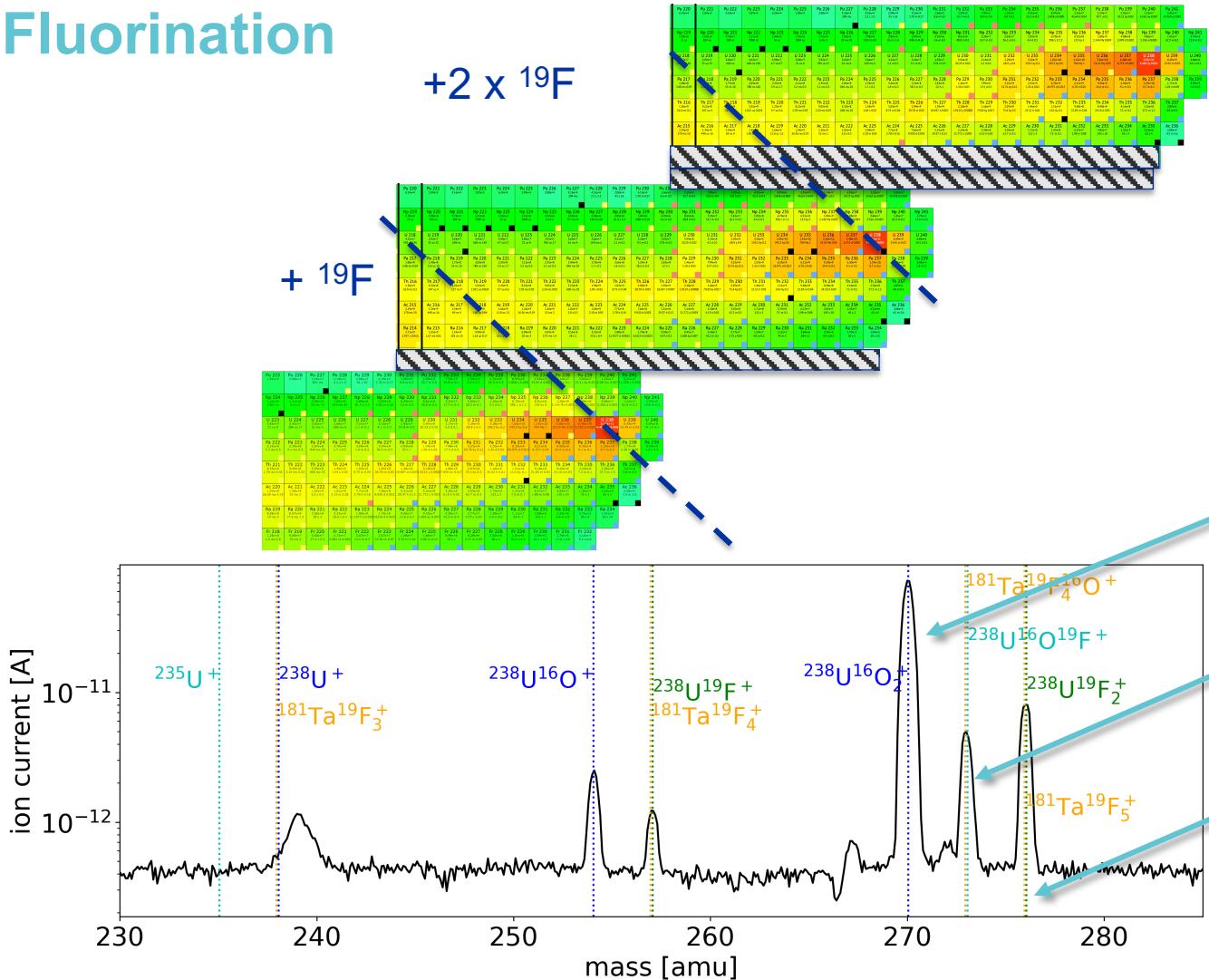
# Developing ion sources: diagnostics



[1] M. Au, PhD thesis, JGU Mainz (2023)

# Molecular formation: identification

## Fluorination



Au et al. (2023) NIM B. 541 (375-379)

# Applications: RILIS as a spectroscopy tool

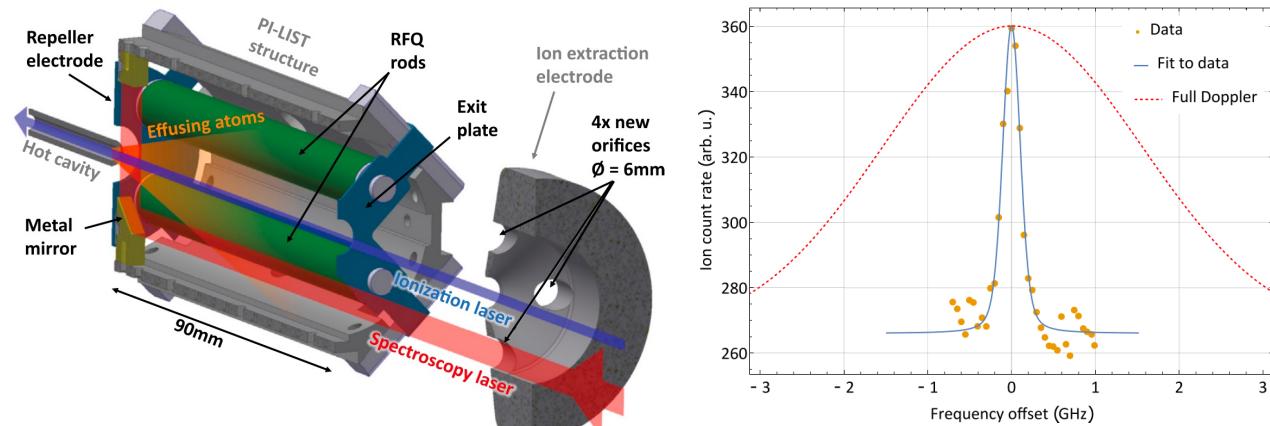
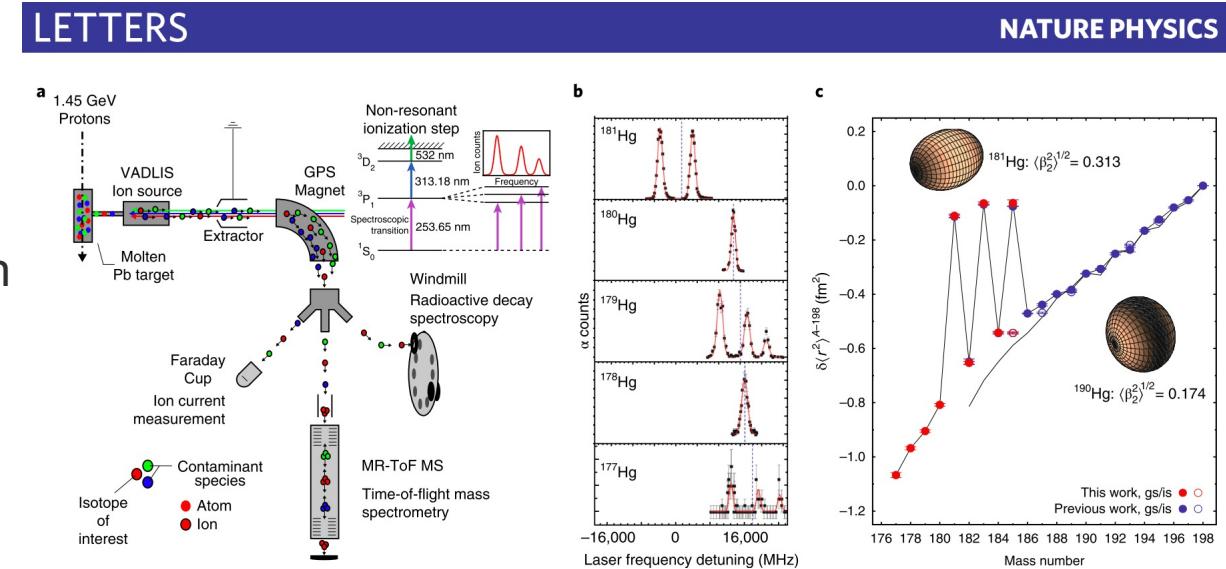
- For stable and sufficiently small laser linewidth, ionization efficiency is sensitive to **hyperfine structure**
- Sensitivity to nuclear structure observables: charge radius, electromagnetic moments
- Highlight: shape co-existence phenomenon, odd–even shape staggering of n-deficient Hg [1]

## In-source resonance ionization spectroscopy (RIS) [2]

- Resolution limited by Doppler broadening

## LIST and PI-LIST

- Sub-Doppler hot-cavity in-source spectroscopy
- CERN-ISOLDE implementation [3]



[1] Marsh *et al.*, *Nat. Phys.* 14 (2018) p 1163

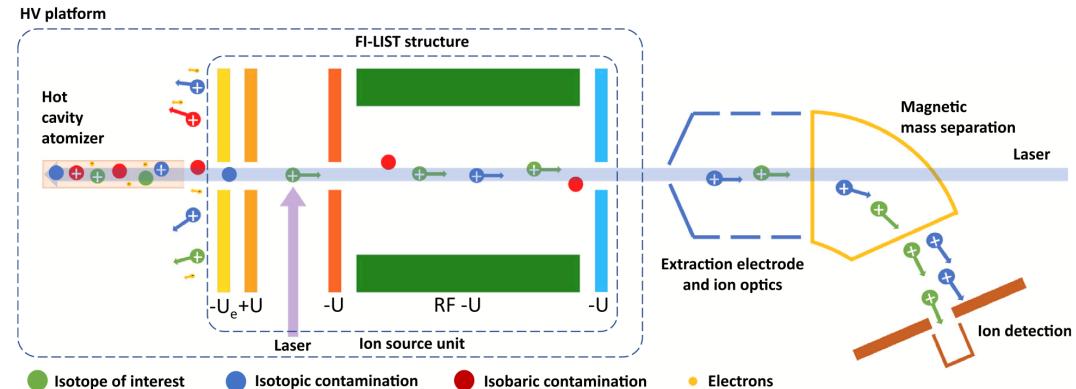
[2] Fedosseev *et al.*, *NIM B* 204 (2003) 353

[3] Heinke *et al.* (2023) *NIM B* 541 (8-12)

# Applications: ionization potentials

## FI-LIST: IP of Yb

- Application of field ionization from excited states in a LIST ion source geometry [1]

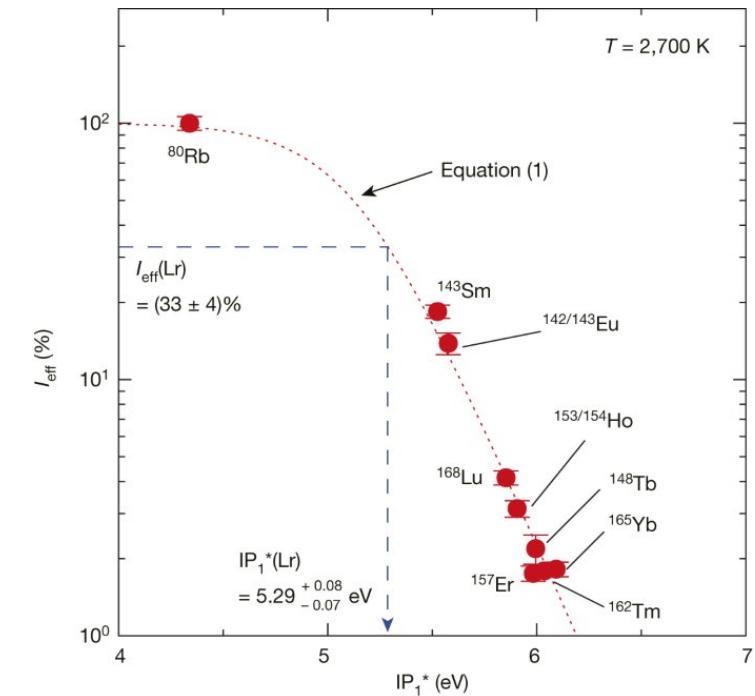
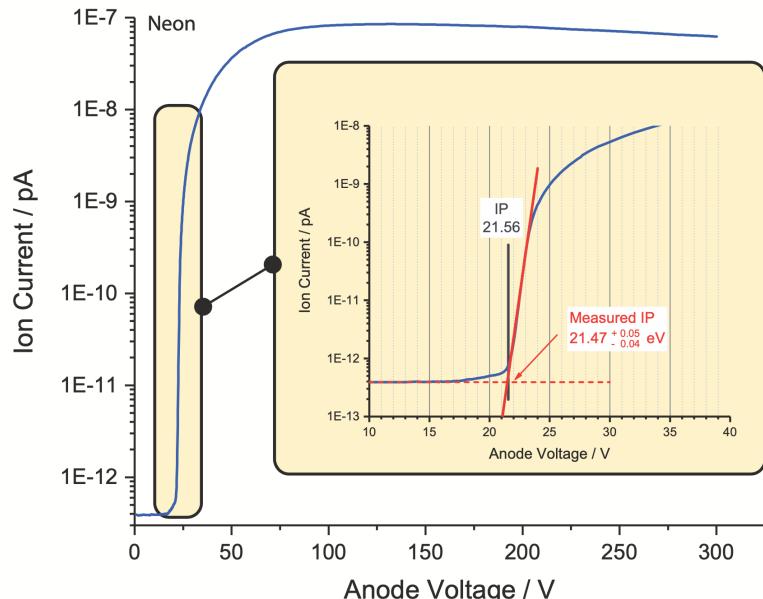


## Surface ionization efficiency

- Use of surface ionization efficiency expression to perform the first measurement of the IP of superheavy Lr [2]

## FEBIAD

- For species with higher IP: noble gases [3]



- [1] M. Kaja et al., NIM B. 547 (2024) 165213  
[2] Sato et al., Nature 520 (2015) p. 209–211  
[3] Ballof et al., 6<sup>th</sup> Int. Conf. Chem. Phys. of Transactinide Elements (2019)

# Applications: ionization of medical radionuclides

## Actinium-225

- Targeted  $\alpha$ -therapy
- Half-life 9.9 days

## Production routes

- Collect  $^{225}\text{Ra} \rightarrow ^{225}\text{Ac}$ 
  - Surface ion source [1,2]
- Collect  $^{225}\text{Ra}$  and  $^{225}\text{Ac}$ 
  - Surface ion source + RILIS for Ac [1,2]
- Collect only  $^{225}\text{Ac}$ 
  - VD5 and molecular sidebands [3]

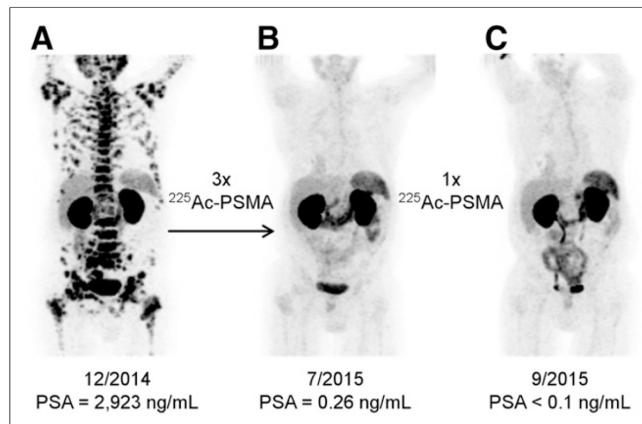


Figure published in: Kratchowil et al. (2016) J. Nucl. Med. **57** 1941-1944

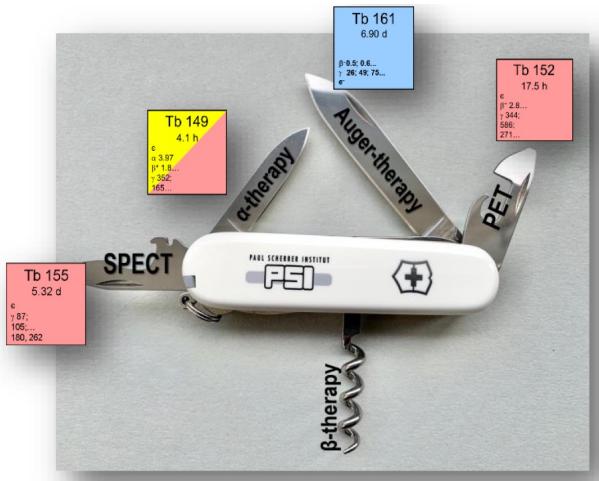


Figure 1 The quadruplet of theragnostic terbium radioisotopes. [5]

## Terbium-149

- Targeted  $\alpha$ -therapy and PET
- Half-life 4.1 h

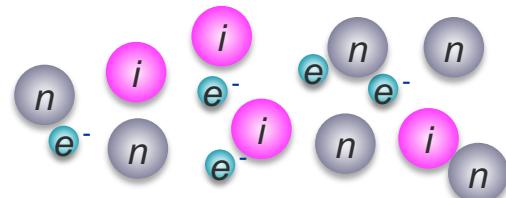
## Production routes

- Collect  $^{149}\text{Dy} \rightarrow ^{149}\text{Tb}$  [4,5]
- Target and ion source development [6]

- [1] E. Jajčišinová, et al., *Sci Rep* 14, 11033 (2024)
- [2] Johnson et al., *Sci Rep* 13, 1347 (2023)
- [3] M. Au et al., *PhD thesis, JGU Mainz* (2023)
- [4] C. Müller et al., *EJNMMI Radiopharm Chem* 1 (2017) 5. PMID: 29564382
- [5] Grundler, Johnston, Köster, Müller, Talip, van der Meulen, IS688 CERN-INTC-P-593 (2023)
- [6] W. Wojtaczka et al., *in preparation* (2024)



# Summary



1 Basic processes in ion sources

2 Ion sources used for ISOL

3 Applications of ion sources

4 Lots of research done, lots more to do!

