



Plasmas for
Astrophysics,
Nuclear
Decays
Observation and
Radiation for
Archaeometry

David Mascali, INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Sud - 18 Feb. 2019

Physics and Technology of magnetized plasmas

# PLASMA the "4. State of Matter"

## Some Applications

Light (see lamps und projector)

#### Surface Hardening

Plasma Monitor (Television) large, well resolving, flat





## Surface Refinement

Plasma treated roof of the cathedral "Christ the Saviour" in Moscow. Steel tiles covered with films of Titanium Nitride and diamond-like carbon



## Main Plasma Constituents

positively charged ions

electrons

neutrals

Key Plasma Properties

quasineutrality

collective behavior

#### **Electron Temperature and Distribution Functions**

Weakly ionized plasma is a mixture of different gases:

neutral gas, ion gas and electron gas.

Under the action of electromagnetic fields electrons gain much more energy from the EM-field than ions. Their mean energy exceeds by far the mean energy of the ions and the neutrals. Thus

$$T_{\rm e} >> T_{\rm +}, T_{\rm n}$$

In plasma temperatures are measured in eV: kT = 1eV corresponds to T = 11600 K Typical values:  $kT_e = 1... 10^4$  eV for electrons (i.e.  $10^4 - 10^8$  °K !!)  $kT_+ = 0.03...1$ eV for ions

# How do plasmas can be confined?



# Gyration of ions and electrons under the action of a static magnetic field

The Lorentz force F<sub>L</sub> exerted by a static magnetic field of induction B on particles of mass m bearing an elementary charge e causes a circular motion.

✤The radius (cyclotron radius)  $r_B$  of the circular trajectory is given by  $r_B = mv/eB$ 

The corresponding cyclotron frequency  $\omega_B$  does not depend on the particle velocity v:  $\omega_B = eB/m$ 





### Magnetic Confinement

Magnetic fields intrinsically force charged particles to reduce freedom degrees: electrons spiralyze around the field lines and can be trapped for several ms in mirror machines or toroidal structures.



#### **MIRROR STRUCTURES**

have axial symmetry and can be produced by sequences of room temperature or SC coils. They are commonly used in ion sources field

**TOROIDAL CONFINEMENT** is typical of Fusion Machines like TOKAMAKS or STELLARATORS

## The ideal confinement requires some stringent conditions on plasma equilibrium and stability

Plasma can also be viewed as fluids. Therefore the confinement and its equilibrium and stability can be investigated by looking to the equilibrium between the plasma kinetic pressure and the magnetic (confining) field pressure.

$$p + \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} = costante$$

The stability of the confinement can be studied as a function of the  $\beta$  parameter, which is the ratio between the kinetic and magnetic pressures.

The condition for a magnetically stable plasma is that  $\beta\!<\!<\!1$ 

$$\beta \equiv \frac{\sum nkT}{\frac{B^2}{2\mu_0}}$$

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## **Principles of magnetic** *mirrors*

Particles trajectories in plasmas are affected by several drifts, due to spontaneous or induced E fields, B lines curvature, B gradient, gravity, etc...

Particles rebounce inside the trap and are contemporaneously affected by the "phi" drift around the magnetic axis, due to the B curvature and axial gradient



## JET Tokamak for nuclear fusion (energy production)

AISHA: an extremely compact plasma machine



## The plasma heating via Electron Cyclotron Resonance





## INFN-LNS plasma-based machines

Name	Type	Trap	Species	Ι	$n_e$ - $T_e$
SERSE CS Injector	ECR	B-min S.C.	from H to Pb	$\begin{array}{l} \mathrm{O^{6+}}\sim500\mu\mathrm{A}\\ \mathrm{Ar^{16+}}\sim20\mu\mathrm{A} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{l} n_e \sim 10^{13}\mathrm{cm}^{-3} \\ T_e^{warm} \sim 1 \div 10\mathrm{keV} \\ T_e^{hot} \sim 100\mathrm{keV} \end{array}$
CAESAR CS Injector	ECR	B-min N.C.	Ne, Ar	H, O, N, $O^{6+} \sim 80 \mu A$ $Ar^{14+} \sim 20 \mu A$	$\begin{array}{l} n_e \sim 10^{12}\mathrm{cm^{-3}} \\ T_e^{warm} \sim 0.5 \div 5\mathrm{keV} \\ T_e^{hot} \sim 50\mathrm{keV} \end{array}$
PS-ESS	MDIS	B-flat N.C.	Protons, also $H^{2+}$ , D	$\sim 100{ m mA}$	$n_e \sim 10^{12}  {\rm cm}^{-3}$ $T_e \sim 15 \div 25  {\rm eV}$
FPT Test-bench	Trap	Bottle B-flat Beach	gaseous elements		$n_e \sim 10^{12} \div 10^{13} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ $T_e \sim 15 \div 25 \mathrm{eV}$
AISHa Hadronthere machine	ECR	B-min S.C.	C, Li, O, Ar	${f C^{4+}}\sim 800\mu{f A}$ ${f O^{6+}}\sim 800\mu{f A}$	$n_e \sim 10^{12} \div 10^{13} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ $T_e \sim 15 \div 25 \mathrm{eV}$
VIS	MDIS	B-flat S.C.	$H, H^{2+}, D, He$	$\begin{array}{l} \mathrm{H^{+}}\sim60\mathrm{mA}\\ \mathrm{He^{+}}\sim40\mathrm{mA} \end{array}$	$n_e \sim 10^{12} \div 10^{13} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ $T_e \sim 15 \div 25 \mathrm{eV}$

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#### High power proton accelerator for spallation

#### **ESS** accelerator



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## The proton source for ESS accelerator

1 kW RF injection system at 2.45 GHz 75 kV extraction/ focusing system

#### Magnetic system @ 0.1 T

Plasma chamber

74 mA proton beam



100 mA proton curr. - 0.2 pi mm mrad reached!!







**Regione Siciliana** 

#### **Topics: Health and Life Sciences**

#### **Proponents** (public-private partnership):

- INFN-Laboratori Nazionale del Sud
- Hitec2000 srl
- C3SL srl
- Unico srl



## The GOAL: make a step forward w.r.t. PK-SUPERNANOGAN for CNAO and other hadron therapy facilities



#### **Measured performances**

	Ions	Current (request) [µA]	Current (avail.) [µA]	After improvements by INFN-LNS [µA]	Emittance (request) π mm.mrad	Emittance (new extractor) π mm.mrad	Stability [99,8%]
<	C4+	200	200	250	0.75	0.56	36 h
2 Martin Charles	$\mathrm{H_2^+}$	1000	1000		0.75	0.42	2 h
NAT NATURAL	$\mathrm{H_3}^+$	700	600	1000	0.75	0.67	8 h
12442	He <sup>+</sup>	500	500		0.75	0.60	2 h

Significant improvements have been provided by INFN-LNS: frequency tuning effect, gas control, extractor reliability, etc. but further improvements are not possible and different set of requirements are done for the treatments by therapy experts.



AISHa

ALSHa



400

**AISHa** 

#### AISHA

#### **Advanced Ion Source for HAdrontherapy**

-300

λZ

**4 (SC) coils** AISHA is a hybrid ECRIS: the radial confining field is obtained by means of a permanent magnet hexapole, while the axial field is obtained with a **Helium-free superconducting system**.

The **operating frequency of 18 GHz will permit** to maximize the plasma density by employing commercial microwave tubes meeting the <u>needs of the installation in hospital</u> environments.

Radial field	1.3 T
Axial field	2.7 T - 0.4 T - 1.6 T
Operating frequencies	17.3 GHz – 21.5 GHz
Operating power	1.5 + 1.5 kW (max)
Extraction voltage	40 kV (max)
Chamber diameter / length	Ø 92 mm / 360 mm
LHe	Free
Warm bore diameter	274 mm
Source weight	1400 kg

Permanent magnets hexapole







## Confinement of highly charged ions in a magnetoplasma



According to the plasma density, temperature and confinement time, a given charge state distribution can be mainteined in a dynamical equilibrium for hours or even days!!

SECRAL source at IMP - Lanzhou, China

- 1. Plasma can be obtained by (almost) any element, including rare isotopes
- 2. The Charge State Distribution can be modulated according to the plasma density and temperature
- **3.** The decay-products can be tagged by γ-rays or by XRF on accumulation targets





## Non-intrusive plasma diagnostics methods



regimes: density, temperature and plasma structure evaluation under different operative parameters



## Non-intrusive plasma diagnostics methods



**Microwave Interferometery measuring plasma density** 

We need a tool able to measure density of electrons with an externally injected "probing" radiation (no perturbation since  $P_{probing}/P_{exciting} < 1\%$ )

→ Density measurement technique no-longer based on plasma emission but on "response-on-transmission" of microwaves through the plasma

#### **MICROWAVE INTERFEROMETRY**



#### Non-intrusive plasma diagnostics methods RF IR Visible & UV **EUV Soft-Xray** Hard-Xray (3 kHz-300 (10-100 keV) (10-120 eV) (0,12-12 keV) (300 (1,6-12 eV) GHz) GHz-430 THz) **Optical plasma** X-ray Pinhole Camera **Observation** Imaging & 2D-**SDD - HpGe** Spectroscopy 1D/2D Spectroscopy **X-ray detectors** 2D energy distribution and density-temp. Spectroscopy (relative) density measurement $\triangle$ B1 10 counts/min 4.5 $\square$ B2 T=95 keV 3.5 $10^{1}$ T=35 keV - N<sub>2</sub> 3.7478GHz Temperature [KeV] з $10^{0}$ 🗩 N,, 2.45GHz 2.5 200 300 400 500 600 He 2.45GHz Energy [KeV] 2 1.5 0.5 150 100 Power [Watt]

#### Correlating X-ray fluxes, plasma density and <q>: volumetric measurements

#### Measurements at GSI (March 2013):

impact of the pumping wave frequency on the X-ray spectra for either intermediate and high energy levels



**SDD detector** for warm electron component



*HpGe detector* for hot electron component



**Collimation system** for the detection of the plasma-core (only) X-radiation.



## Experimental setup for simultaneous measurement of density, temperature and CSD



Three detectors were used for a broad characterization of the EEDF:

- HpGe for "hot electrons" E>30 keV
- SDD for "warm electrons" 2<E<30 keV
- CCD camera for imaging and 2D resolved spectroscopy 1<E<10kEV</p>







Mascali et al., Review of Scientific Instruments 87, 02A510 (2016);

## Non-intrusive plasma diagnostics methods






#### Varying the magnetic field strength



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# Plasma inspection after energy filtering

## 13.24 GHz - distribution at different energies



(equalized pseudocolor maps)

Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 26 (2017) 075011 (14pp)

https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6595/aa758

Electron cyclotron resonance ion source plasma characterization by energy dispersive x-ray imaging

R Rácz<sup>1,5</sup>, D Mascali<sup>2</sup>, S Biri<sup>1</sup>, C Caliri<sup>2</sup>, G Castro<sup>2</sup>, A Galatà<sup>3</sup>, S Gammino<sup>2</sup>, L Neri<sup>2</sup>, J Pálinkás<sup>1</sup>, F P Romano<sup>4</sup> and G Torrisi<sup>2</sup>

#### See S. Biri's talk for last news and experiments!!

## Advanced design of the plasma chamber walls oriented to spatially-resolved X-ray spectroscopy

X-ray image from 2014 experiment



R. Racz et al. Plasma Sources Science and Technology, Vol. 26, No. 7 D. Mascali et al., Review of Scientific Instruments **8**7, 02A510 (2016) Advanced design of the plasma chamber walls oriented to spatially-resolved X-ray spectroscopy

High-spatial resolution, time integrated images with an **exposure time of 50 sec** 

→ Counts estimated in each ROI rely to n·E, i.e. including both photon flux and energy content



Decoupling of n vs E will possible only after the spectral analysis (already acquired but not yet elaborated)

# Comparison with self-consistent simulations



# Comparison with self-consistent simulations



$$\overline{\overline{\epsilon}} = \epsilon_0 \overline{\overline{\epsilon}}_r = \epsilon_0 \left(\overline{\overline{\epsilon'}} - i\overline{\overline{\epsilon''}}\right) = \epsilon_0 \left(\overline{\overline{I}} - \frac{i\overline{\overline{\sigma}}}{\omega\epsilon_0}\right)$$
$$= \epsilon_0 \begin{bmatrix} 1 + i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{a_x}{\Delta} & i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{c_z + d_{xy}}{\Delta} & i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{-c_y + d_{xz}}{\Delta} \\ i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{-c_z + d_{xy}}{\Delta} & 1 + \frac{i\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{a_y}{\Delta} & i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{c_x + d_{yz}}{\Delta} \\ i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{c_y + d_{xz}}{\Delta} & i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{-c_x + d_{zy}}{\Delta} & 1 + i\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega}\frac{a_z}{\Delta} \end{bmatrix}$$

Full-3D non homogeneous dielectric permittivity Tensor depends on local density and B-field

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \boldsymbol{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \overline{\overline{\epsilon_r}} \cdot \boldsymbol{E} = 0$$

Wave equation with tensorial permittivity

Meshing the integration domain: tetrahedrons size is reduced in proximity of the ECR surface, accounting for resonance.



# Searching self-consistency



### Comparison to self-consistent simulations 12.84 and 12.92 GHz

Energy density in 2-12 keV range on xy plane z=0 @12,84 GHz

Energy density in 2-12 keV range on xy plane z=0 @12,92 GHz



## Including ionization

$$\frac{\nu_{ion\,i\to i+1}}{n_e} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{a_{ij}q_{ij}}{T_e^{3/2}} \Big\{ \frac{1}{P_{ij}/T_e} E_1(P_{ij}/T_e) - \frac{b_{ij}e^{c_{ij}}}{P_{ij}/T_e + c_{ij}} E_1(P_{ij}/T_e + c_{ij}) \Big\}$$

Lotz formula for multi-step ionisation



Starting from 3D distribution of electrons in the plasma, maps of ions distribution can be obtained







## X-ray imaging and 3D plasma modelling





3D self-consistent simulations very well reproduce energy content distribution of the plasma, which in turn fits with experimental detected displacement of Argon ions



# Probing the plasma density in all the energy domains



## VESPRI

VEry Sensitive evaluation of Plasma density by micRowave Interferometry

# Probing the plasma density in all the energy domains



#### Classical Scheme of Interferometer

How to calculate the density n of the plasma

$$\Delta \varphi = \frac{\omega}{c} \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] L \implies \omega_p^2 = \frac{4\pi ne^2}{m\varepsilon_0}$$

In plasmas the phase variation depends on the " natural plasma frequency"

The plasma frequency depends on the density Microwave interferometry measures plasma density through a measurement of phase shift.

## The main challange: "downsizing"

# JET Tokamak for nuclear fusion (energy production)



*ECR ION Source: extremely compact plasma machine* 



# Probing the plasma density in all the energy domains



Limited ECRIS access probing port

Multi-paths introduce spurious signals

**Drawbecks** 







# Interferometry in ECRIS: the measurements in plasma





<sup>c</sup> Error evaluation in a series of ten measurements.

#### Faraday rotation measurements Next step Polarimetry (Faraday rotation detection) Livello Cross polare Load Encoder OMT Giunto OMT (A) Rotante (B) Livello Copolare Camera Plasma $\Delta \Psi = \frac{e^3 \lambda^2}{2\pi m_e^2 c^4} \int_0^L n_e(l) B_{\parallel}(l) . dl$ LAN Controller AC 220V The polarimetric system has been Setup Block Diagram designed jointly with SICIL-Sat s.r.l. (satellite communications)

# Faraday rotation measurements Final Design of the OMT-based system



# Faraday rotation measurements Installation of the OMT-based system

motorized stage

**OMT** 

Antenna

Plasma Reactor Setup

## Faraday rotation measurements Original Analysis method development



- Microwave range 18 GHz ÷ 26.5 GHz
- Test-bench: Plasma Reactor



L=26.6 cm d=13.6 cm B≈0.1 T



--> Undesired plasma chamber/Cavity effects



→ Spurious components rejection: Malus law-based selection

Free-space

• Empty cavity

 $\vartheta_{P_{max}} = 0^{\circ}$  $\vartheta_{P_{min}} = 90^{\circ}$ 





## Faraday rotation measurements Fitting procedure



Experimental data have been **fitted** with statistical consistence **by a**  $\lambda^2$  **law, in agreement with Faraday rotation** dependence on the probing wave-length

E. Naselli et al., *The first measurement of plasma density by means of an interfero-polarimetric setup in a compact ECR-plasma trap* **Oral Presentation at the 28th Symposium on Plasma Physics and Technology** June 18–21, 2018 Czech Technical University in Prague





#### Non-intrusive plasma diagnostics methods RF IR Visible & UV **EUV** Soft-Xray Hard-Xray (3 kHz-300 (10-100 keV) (0,12-12 keV) (300 (10-120 eV) (1,6-12 eV) GHz) GHz-430 THz) **Optical plasma** X-ray Pinhole Camera **Observation** Imaging & 2D-**SDD - HpGe** Spectroscopy 1D/2D Spectroscopy **X-ray detectors** 2D energy distribution and density-temp. Spectroscopy (relative) density measurement 100 Η $\alpha$ 80 656 nm 10 1eV $\mathsf{H}_{\beta}$ 2eV 1e+16 m^-3 Intensity [A.U.] 3eV 8 4eV 1e+18 m^-3 5eV 5e+18 m^-3 60 486 nm 1e+19 m^-3 6eV Н \_6 Н H/H27eV 10eV 15eV 20eV 40 4 30eV н 2 **Fulcher band** 25 35 1.5 2 ٦ Δ 4.5 1 10<sup>20</sup> 10<sup>18</sup> 10<sup>16</sup> Electron Temp. 434 nm 600-640 nm 20 Electron density [m<sup>-3</sup>] U. Fantz, Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 15, p. S137 (2006). 0 450 650 400 500 550 600 700 Wavelength [nm]



In collaboration with Max Plank Institute – Institute of Plasma Physics (Germany)



# Probing turbulent plasma regimes (CYCLOTRON MASER INST.) in a Time-Resolved way



Kinetic instabilities in a mirror-confined plasma sustained by high-power microwave radiation

IOP Publishing

Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. 23 (2014) 025020 (8pp)

A. G. Shalashov, M. E. Viktorov, D. A. Mansfeld, and S. V. Golubev

Citation: Physics of Plasmas 24, 032111 (2017);

Beam current oscillations driven by cyclotron instabilities in a minimum-*B* electron cyclotron resonance ion source plasma

O Tarvainen<sup>1</sup>, I Izotov<sup>2</sup>, D Mansfeld<sup>2</sup>, V Skalyga<sup>2,3</sup>, S Golubev<sup>2,3</sup>, T Kalvas<sup>1</sup>, H Koivisto<sup>1</sup>, J Komppula<sup>1</sup>, R Kronholm<sup>1</sup>, J Laulainen<sup>1</sup> and V Toivanen<sup>4</sup>

#### Radio-Bursts

Plasma Sources Science and Technolog







#### IN ADDITION TO THE "DELAYED" EMISSION OF X-RAY BURSTS, NORMALLY RELATED TO "PRECIPITAION" OF ELECTRONS FROM THE TRAP, SIMULTANEOUS EMISSION OF X-RAYS HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN THE RF BURST TIMESCALE






#### SpectroPolarimetry for C.S.D. on-line measure



#### Spettrografo Alta Risoluzione Galileo



INFN

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA, OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO DI CATANIA

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE,

LABORATORI NAZIONALI DEL SUD

RIGUARDANTE

Un'intensa sinergia su obiettivi comuni della ricerca scientifica al fine di incentivare le attività interdisciplinari basate sulla fisica dei plasmi ad alta densità e temperatura, di interesse per la produzione di fasci ionici, l'astrofisica nucleare e l'astrofisica osservativa, e seanatamente nel compo della propagazione a

nicroonde in plasmi magnetizzati, della spettroscopia ottica/UV, della spettropolarimetria, e dell'analisi dell'emissione di raggi X.

stituto Nazionale

#### PANDORA@Work

INFN-INAF MoU in progress

the first *MoU* to be signed by the two institutions

CSN III and V

- Range: 370-900 nm
- R = 160 000

Starting a new synergy with Astronomy/Astrophysics!!!

SARG has been transferred to LNS from T.N.G. in La Palma, Canary Islands Spettrografo Alta Risoluzione Galileo

• 370-900 nm

• R = 160 000

Full Stokes Capability (Leone et al. 2003, SPIE, 4843, 465) SARG@TNG, Canary Islands, has been one of the most powerful spectropolarimetry for the observation of magnetized stars' atmospheres

# SARG@LNS, February 2018 -> Now in the installation phase



#### SpectroPolarimetry for C.S.D. on-line measurements

Optical Emission Spectroscopy is already widely used worldwide to measure plasma density and temperature...

BUT...

The effect of the magnetic field is rarely taken into account. It may affect in a relevant way line-ratios, etc.

----> SPECTROPOLARIMETRY is needed!

Collaboration with Cambridge Univ. and University of Michigan started to integrate astrophysical databases to ECR plasmas

#### SpectroPolarimetry for C.S.D. on-line measurements



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PANDORA's fall-out for Cosmic Magnetic Fields

> Since George Ellery Hale (1908) we measure LS-coupling magnetic fields





(a) A sunspot

#### Building In-laboratory **DATABASE** of Landé factors



Example of nuclear

reactions that build neutron-rich isotopes

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**Red Giant Star** 

Different sets of nuclei are involved in the reactions that occur in each zone

Nuclear reactions for Stellar Structure and Chemical evolution

14N

Alfvén waves source for coronal heating

Magnetic reconnection source of solar mass ejection

<sup>22</sup>Ne

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



# **NAGNETIC RECONNECTION**

Magnetic fields go in, energy comes out. Magnetic reconnection is a fundamental process of nature that happens all across our universe.

> NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale, or MMS, mission studies magnetic reconnection near Earth so we can understand it everywhere.

Magnetic Reconnection occurrence in the Universe PANDORA's fall-out for Observative Astrophysics

Coronal mass ejection

Auroras

Heliopause

82

 $\bigcirc$ 



### LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature24298

# Spectroscopic identification of r-process nucleosynthesis in a double neutron-star merger

E. Pian<sup>1</sup>, P. D'Avanzo<sup>2</sup>, S. Benetti<sup>3</sup>, M. Branchesi<sup>4,5</sup>, E. Brocato<sup>6</sup>, S. Campana<sup>2</sup>, E. Cappellaro<sup>3</sup>, S. Covino<sup>2</sup>, V. D'Elia<sup>6,7</sup>, J. P. U. Fynbo<sup>8</sup>, F. Getman<sup>9</sup>, G. Ghirlanda<sup>2</sup>, G. Ghisellini<sup>2</sup>, A. Grado<sup>9</sup>, G. Greco<sup>10,11</sup>, J. Hjorth<sup>8</sup>, C. Kouveliotou<sup>12</sup>, A. Levan<sup>13</sup>, L. Limatola<sup>9</sup>, D. Malesani<sup>8</sup>, P. A. Mazzali<sup>14,15</sup>, A. Melandri<sup>2</sup>, P. Møller<sup>16</sup>, L. Nicastro<sup>1</sup>, E. Palazzi<sup>1</sup>, S. Piranomonte<sup>6</sup>, A. Rossi<sup>1</sup>,

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 774:25 (13pp), 2013 September 1

C 2013. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

"Stars in Jar" -> The issue of astrophyiscal plasma opacities

doi:10.1088/0004-637X/774/1/25

#### OPACITIES AND SPECTRA OF THE r-PROCESS EJECTA FROM NEUTRON STAR MERGERS

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Figure 2: Left: Line opacity as a function of wavelength, comparing elements with d-shell valence shell electrons (iron, cerium) to lanthanides with f-shell electrons (e.g. Nd, Os). Right: Planck mean opacities,  $\kappa_{\rm Pl} = \frac{\int_0^\infty \kappa_{\nu} B_{\nu}(T) d\nu}{\int_0^\infty B_{\nu}(T) d\nu}$ , for ejecta containing different mass fractions of lanthanides  $X_{\rm Nd}$ , the remainder being non-lanthanides  $X_{\rm Fe} = 1 - X_{\rm Nd}$ . From Kasen et al. (2013).





# Many thanks to the LNS plasma & ion source group



The presentation is the results of a collective effort by senior and young colleagues!

Many thanks to Santo Gammino, Luigi Celona, Alessio Galatà, Giuseppe Torrisi, Giuseppe Castro, Lorenzo Neri, Eugenia Naselli, Maria Mazzaglia, Marina Giarrusso, Franco Leone, Carlo Sportato, Tommaso Podestà, Gianluigi Cosentino, Mario Musumeci, Sara Palmerini, Cristian Massimi, Vincenza Bonanno

#### Thank you for your attention!!



# Achievements and Perspectives

We are now able to see what happens into the plasma and to model through numerical simulations how it could be happen differently (and in a better way)

Microwave absorption oriented design is needed: Power deposition into the plasma must be done in a highly controlled way
Single pass absorption

Some ideas

- STILL IN ECR-heating paradigm: are cylindrical shapes of the plasma chamber still mandatory?
- OVERCOMING ECR-heating paradigm: on-purpose design of launchers

### "Microwave-absorption-oriented" design



M.A. + guiding + resonator scheme

Full-wave calculation of the electric field distribution inside the new Flexible Plasma Trap at INFN-LNS



## "Microwave-absorption-oriented" design







A new setup developed at LNS for fundamental studies: RF launcher construction is ongoing

ARRAY of two waveguides

