

Introduction to plasma science for life science applications

Achim von Keudell

Research Department Plasmas with Complex Interactions
Ruhr-Universität Bochum

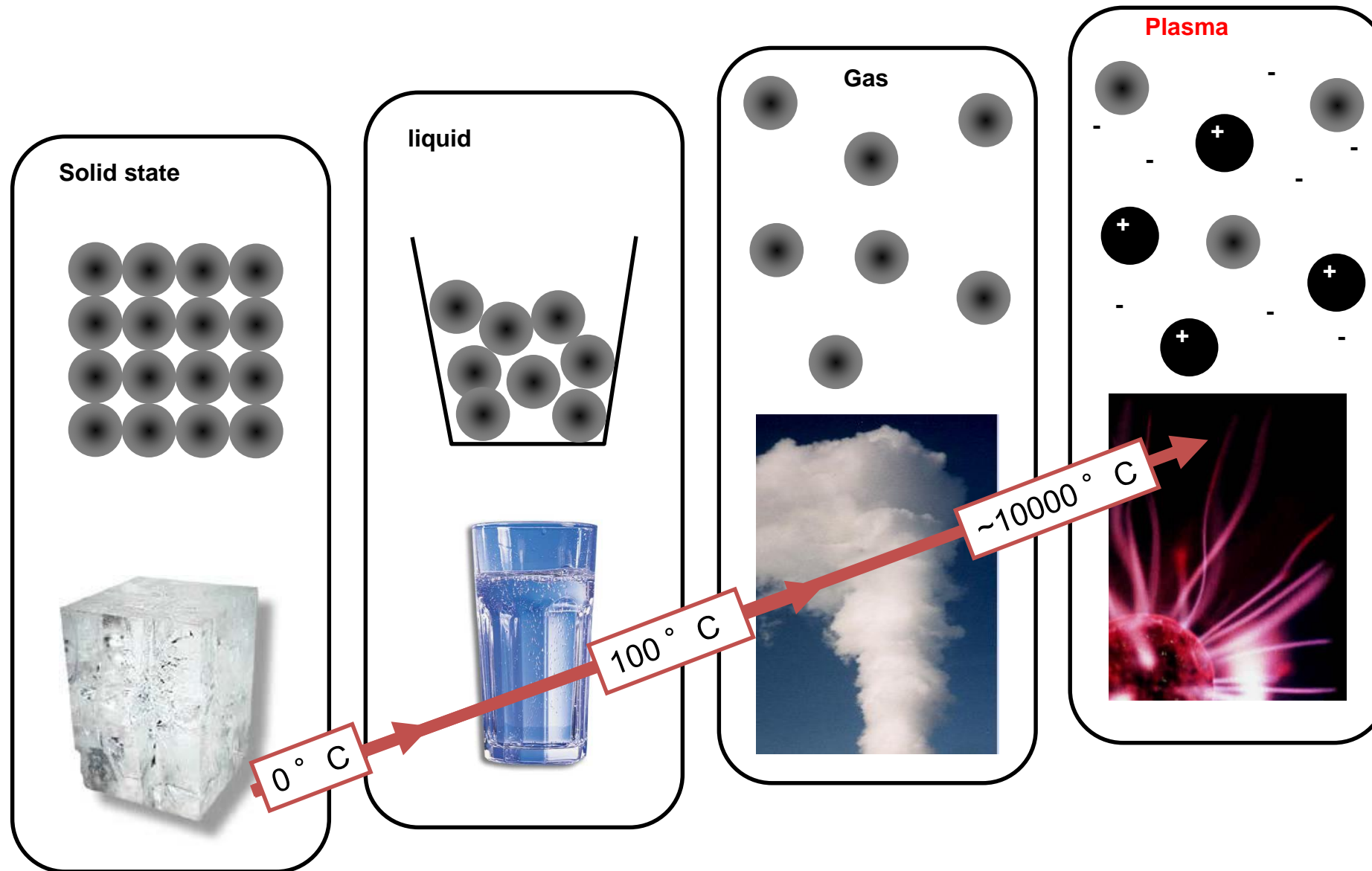
[Foundations of low-temperature plasma physics—an introduction](#)

A von Keudell and V Schulz-von der Gathen 2017 *Plasma Sources Sci. Technol.* **26** 113001

Youtube Playlist of This lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgXZ2UeRnGhDOXYebt-L9CRWQ53fFCOeV>

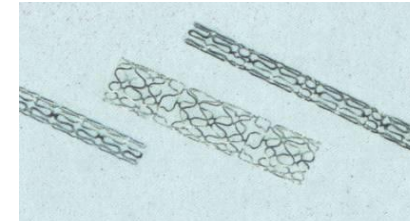
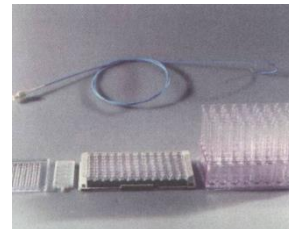
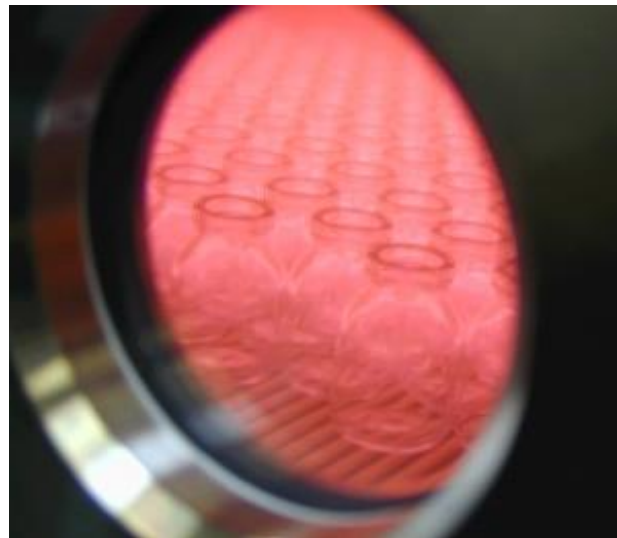
Physics/Plasma animations at youtube channel Achim von Keudell

Plasma as the fourth state of matter



Plasma in the biomedical sector

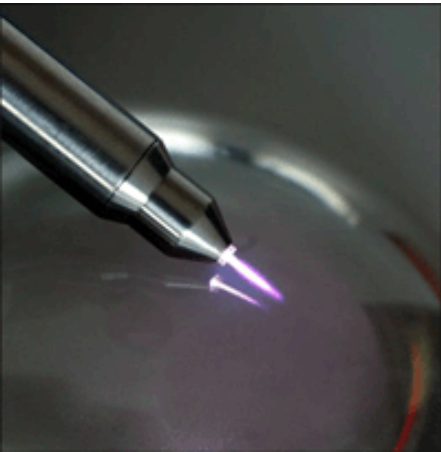
- Artificial knee – plasma coated
- Catheters – plasma coated
- Stents – plasma coated
- Artificial hips – plasmaspraying
- Sterilisation in Hospitals
- Drugs – plasma treated
- Sterilisation of vials



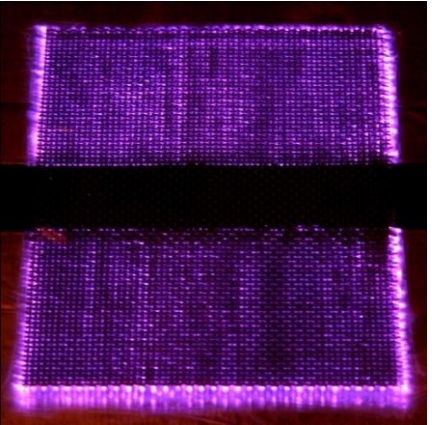
Plasmajets for biological applications



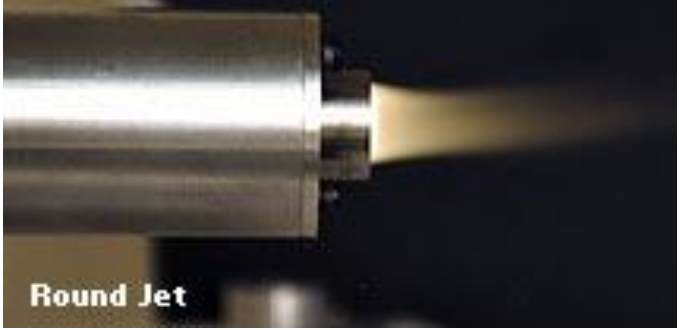
Plasma Pen
(PVA TePla)



Plasma Jet (INP)



plasma brush
(Rheinhausen)



Round Jet

Plasma Jet
(APJJet, G. Selwyn)



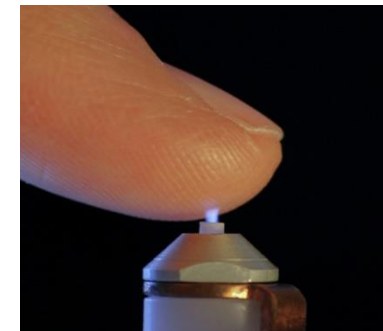
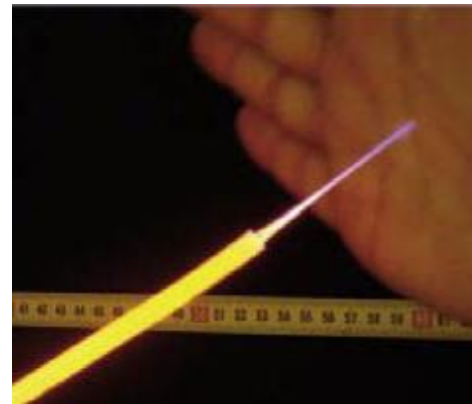
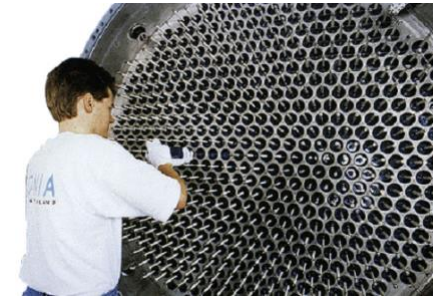
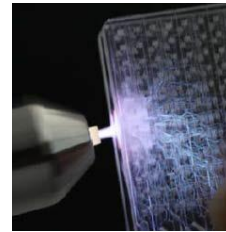
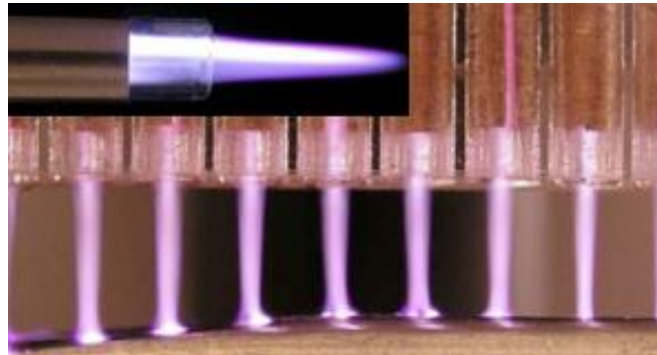
Plasma Pencil etc.
(kHz,kV)
(JE Consult)

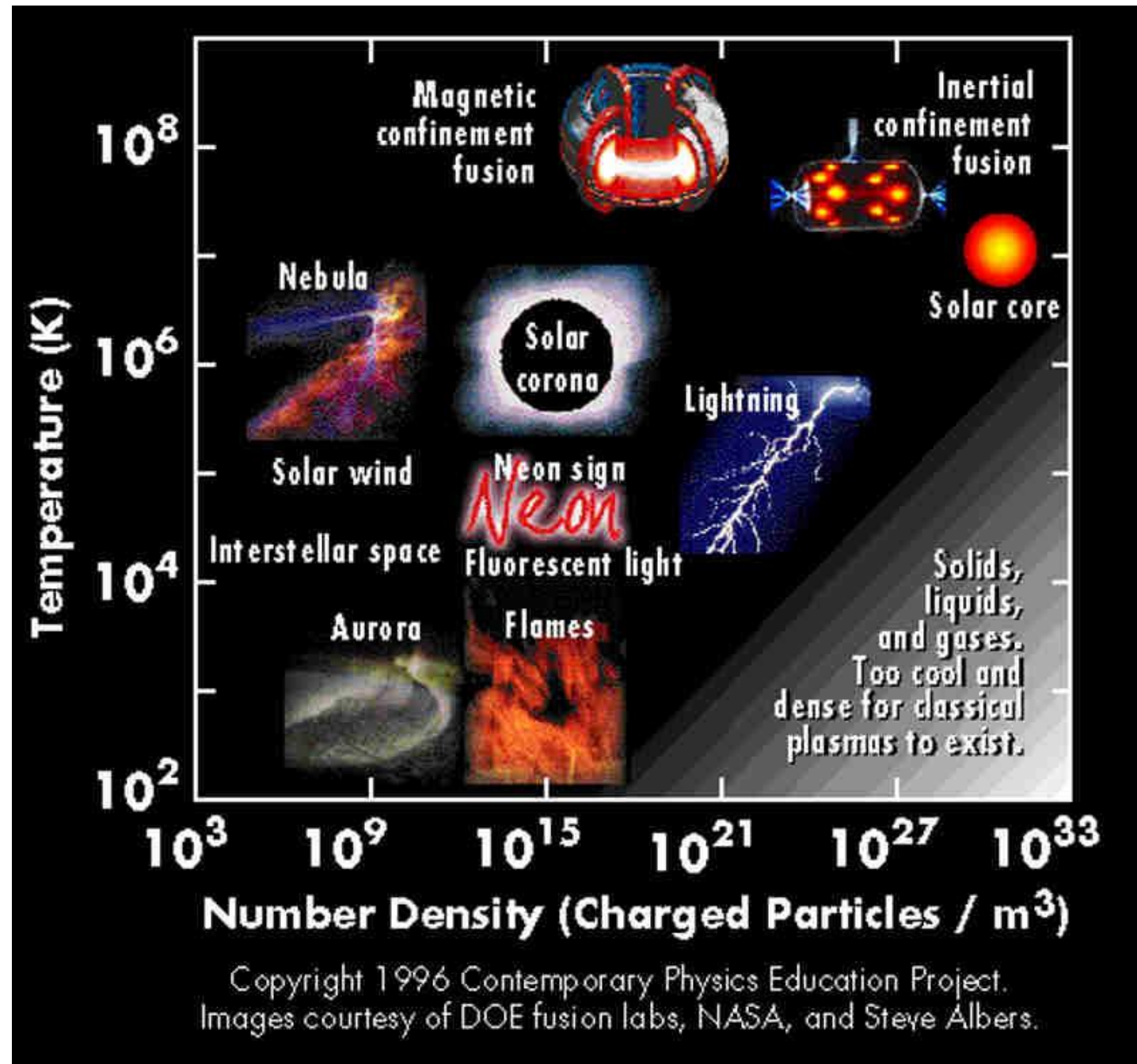


Plasma needle (rf)
(E. Stoffels)

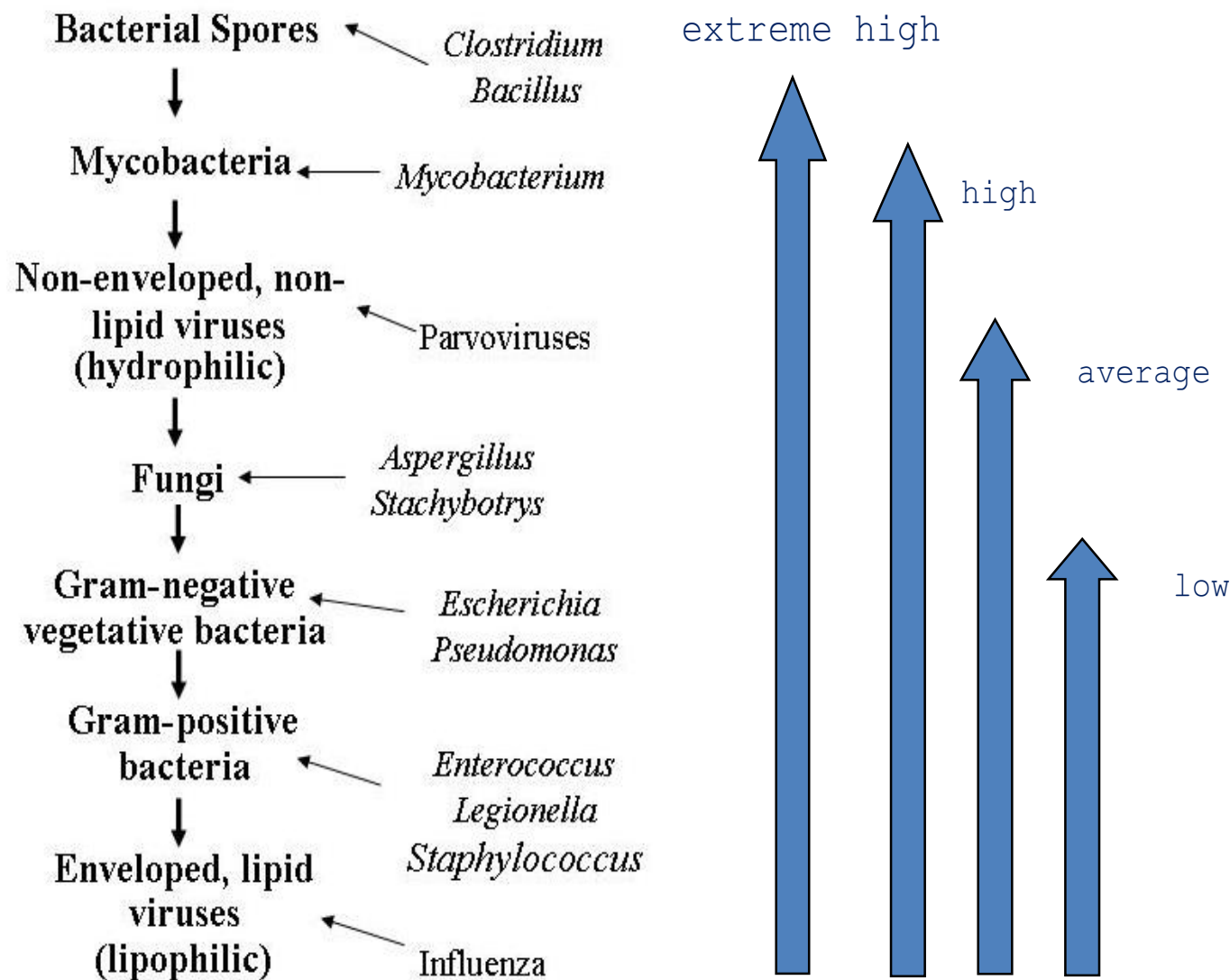
Environmental Applications

- Waste treatment
- Water and air cleaning
- Plasma medicine

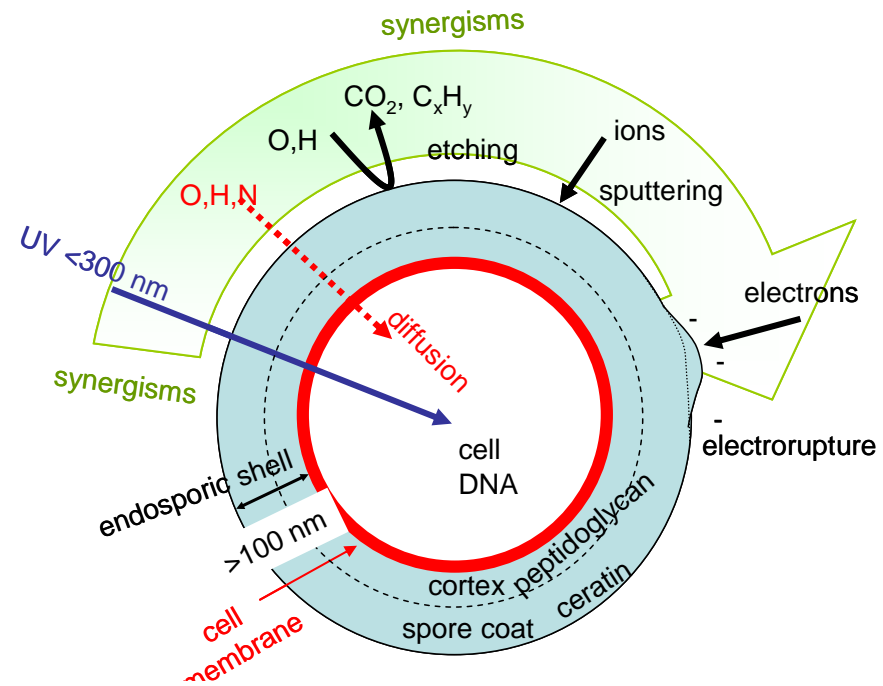




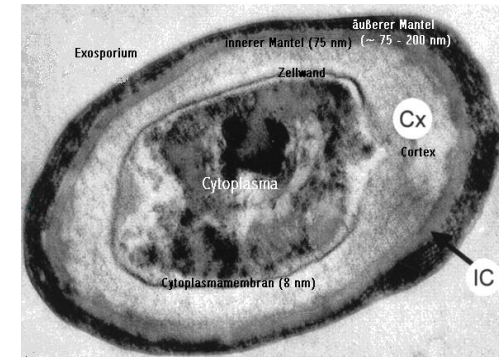
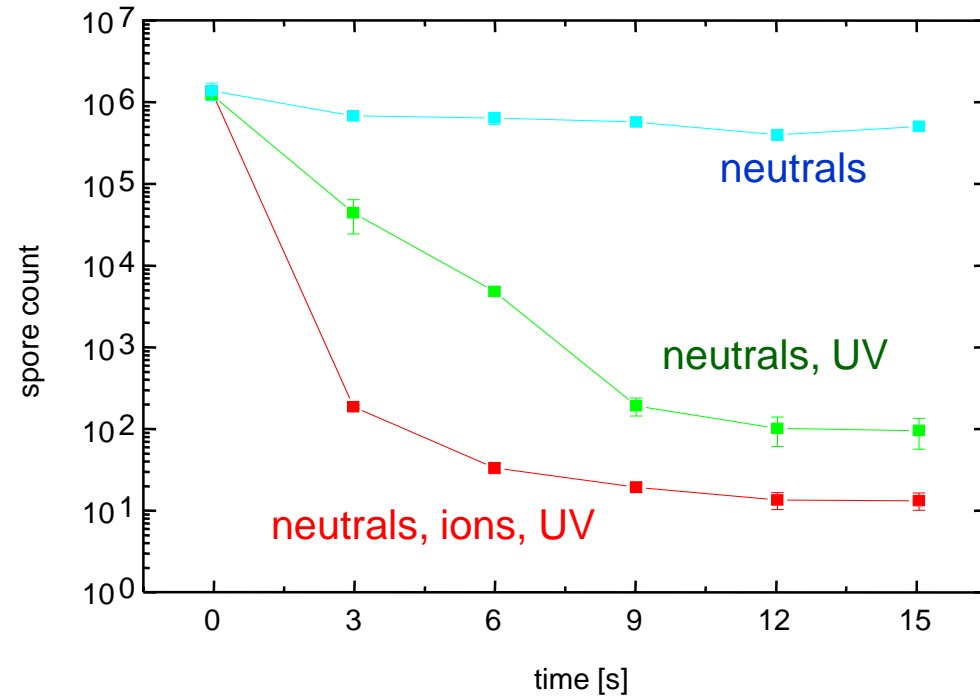
The resistance of biological systems against inactivation mechanisms



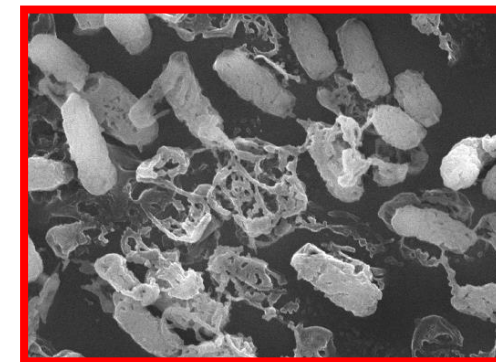
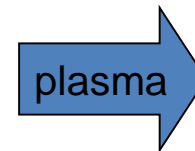
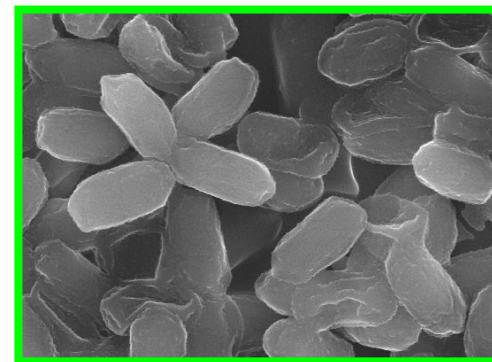
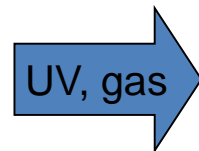
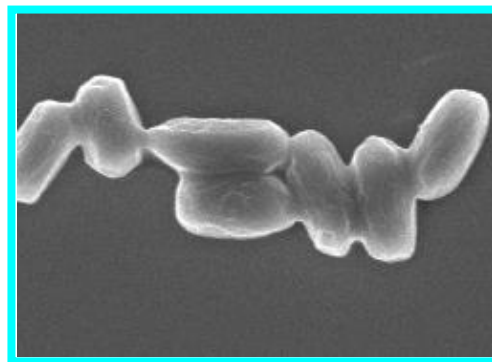
Possible Mechanisms of Bacteria Inactivation



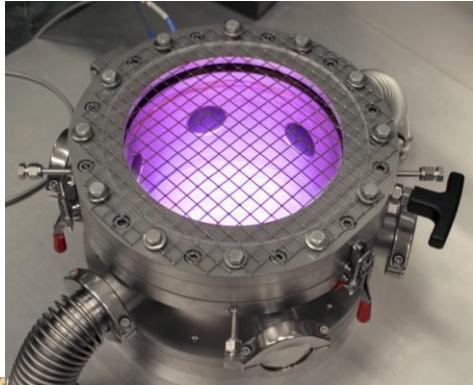
bac. subtilis in an Ar/H_2 plasma



T. Gans et al., Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion **47** (2005) A353



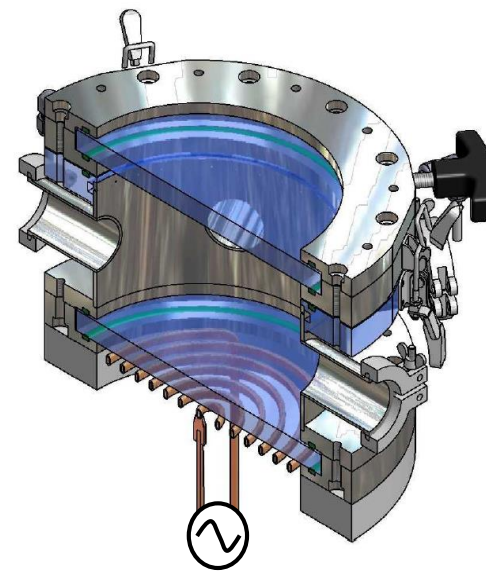
A flexible low pressure ICP system for decontamination



Low pressure system:

Inductively Coupled Plasma
Pressures 0.5...30 Pa
Reactor volume ~ liters
Power up to 600 W
Gases Ar, He, O₂, N₂, H₂

Fully computer controlled
On mobile platform
Only 230 V plug needed

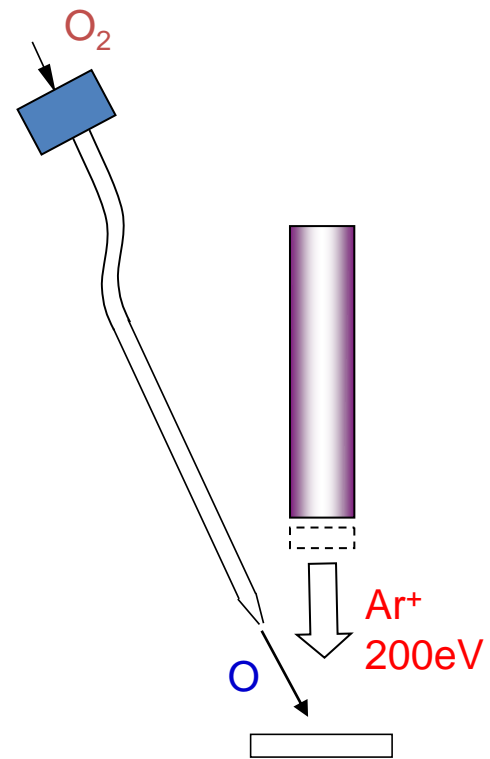


Steam Sterilisation
Subtil Crepieux



Inactivation of spores

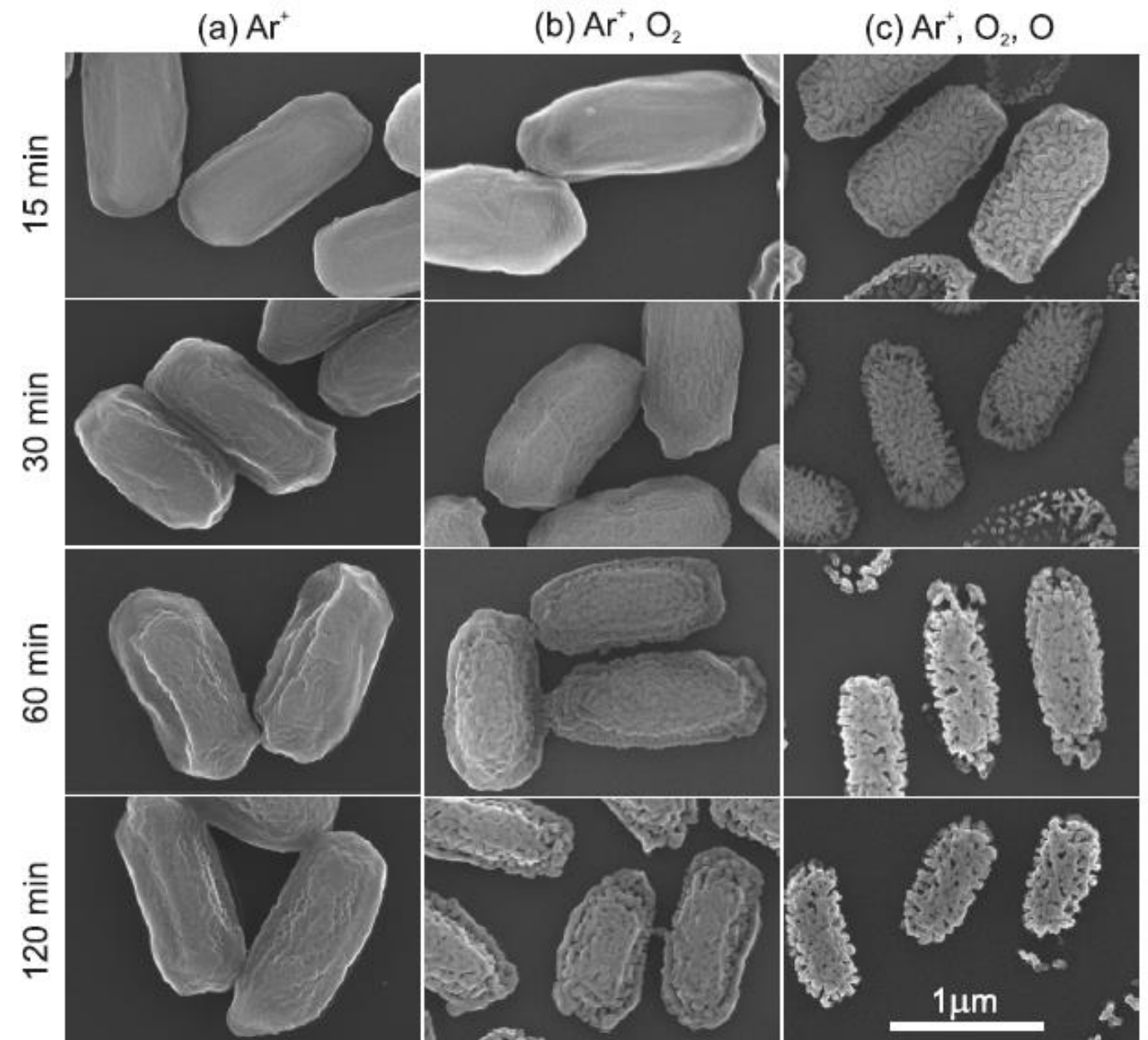
Raballand et al.
J. Phys. D 41,
115207 (2008)



$$j_{\text{Ar}^+} = 1.8 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$j_{\text{O}_2} = 1.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$j_{\text{O}} = 2.4 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$$





1. What is a plasma ?

- Temperature
- Debye shielding
- Plasma frequency

2. The edge of a plasma

- Sheath physics

3. How to ignite a plasma

- Ignition, Paschen curve
- Streamer
- RF-ignition

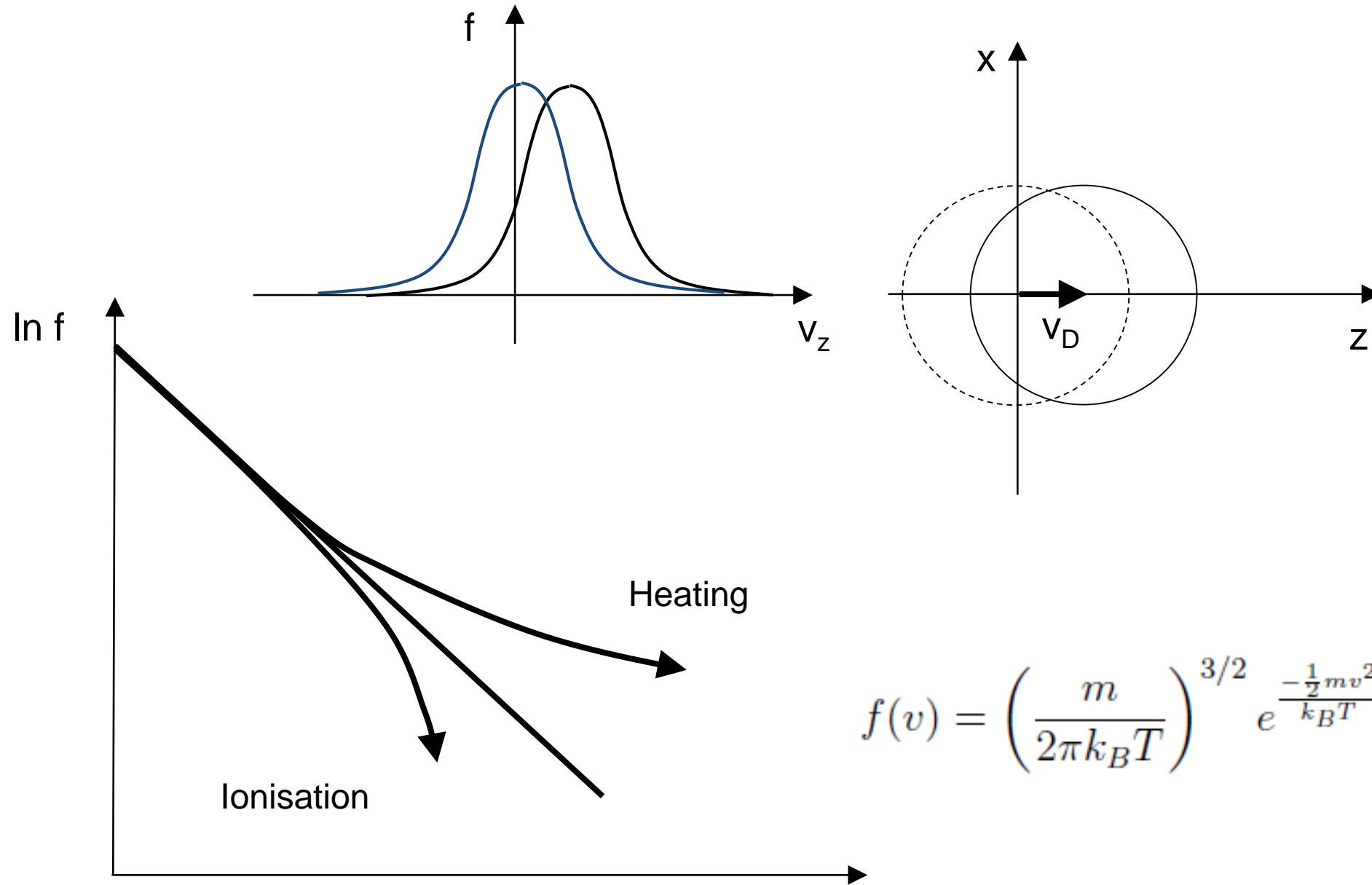
4. Transport in a plasma

- Particle motion
- Plasma as a fluid
- Drift and diffusion

5. How to sustain a plasma

- DC plasma
- Rf-plasmas
- Plasma heating

What is a plasma ? Concept 1 - temperature



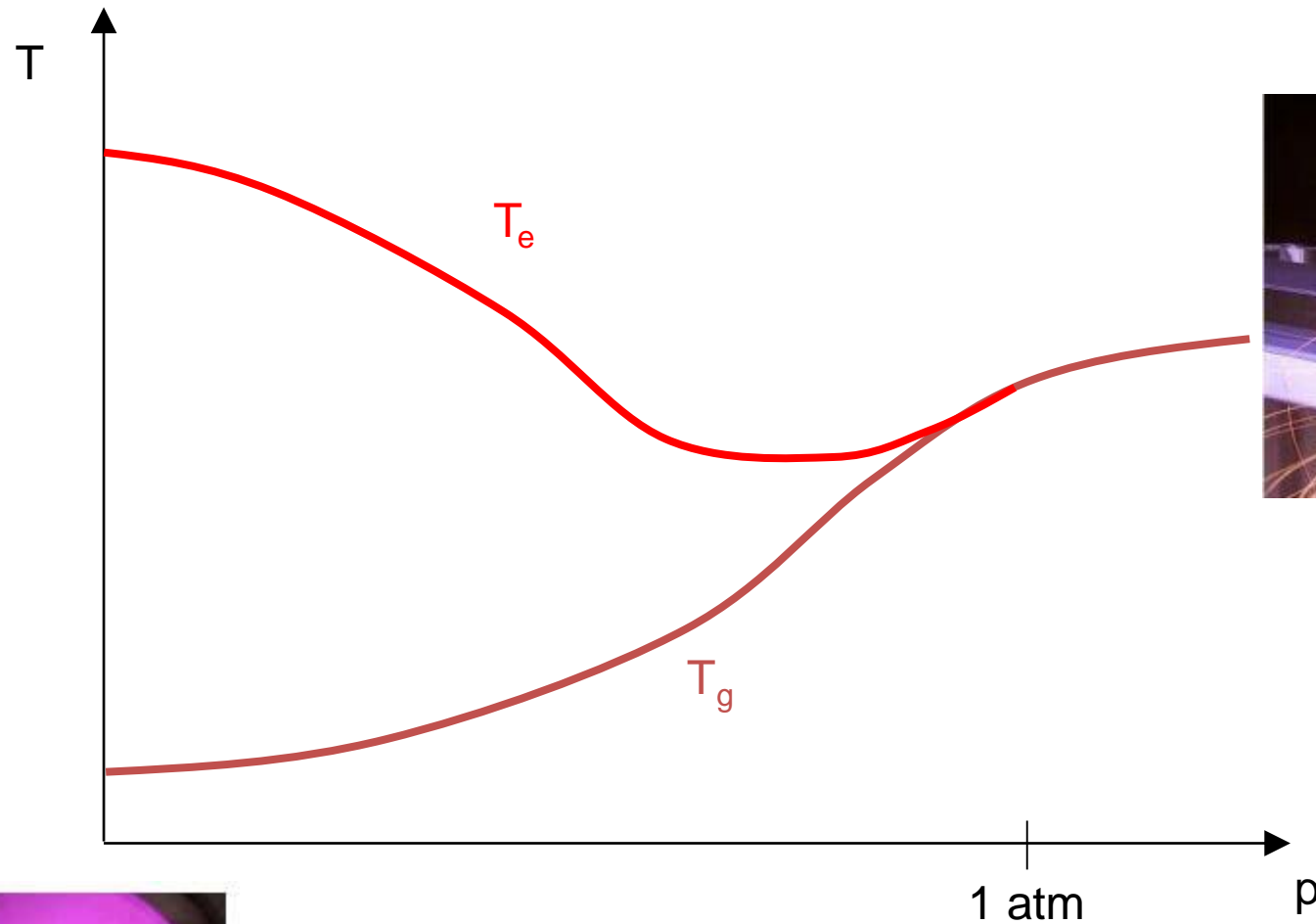
$$f(v) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi k_B T} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{mv^2}{k_B T}}$$

What is the best plasma for life science applications?

DBD – barrier discharges
cold, high electric fields
Energy inefficient

Microwave discharges
Hot, low electric field
Energy efficient

What is a plasma ? Concept 1 - temperature

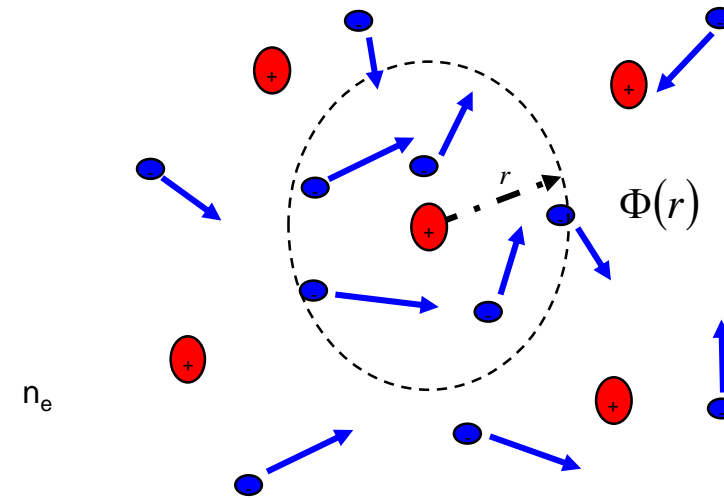
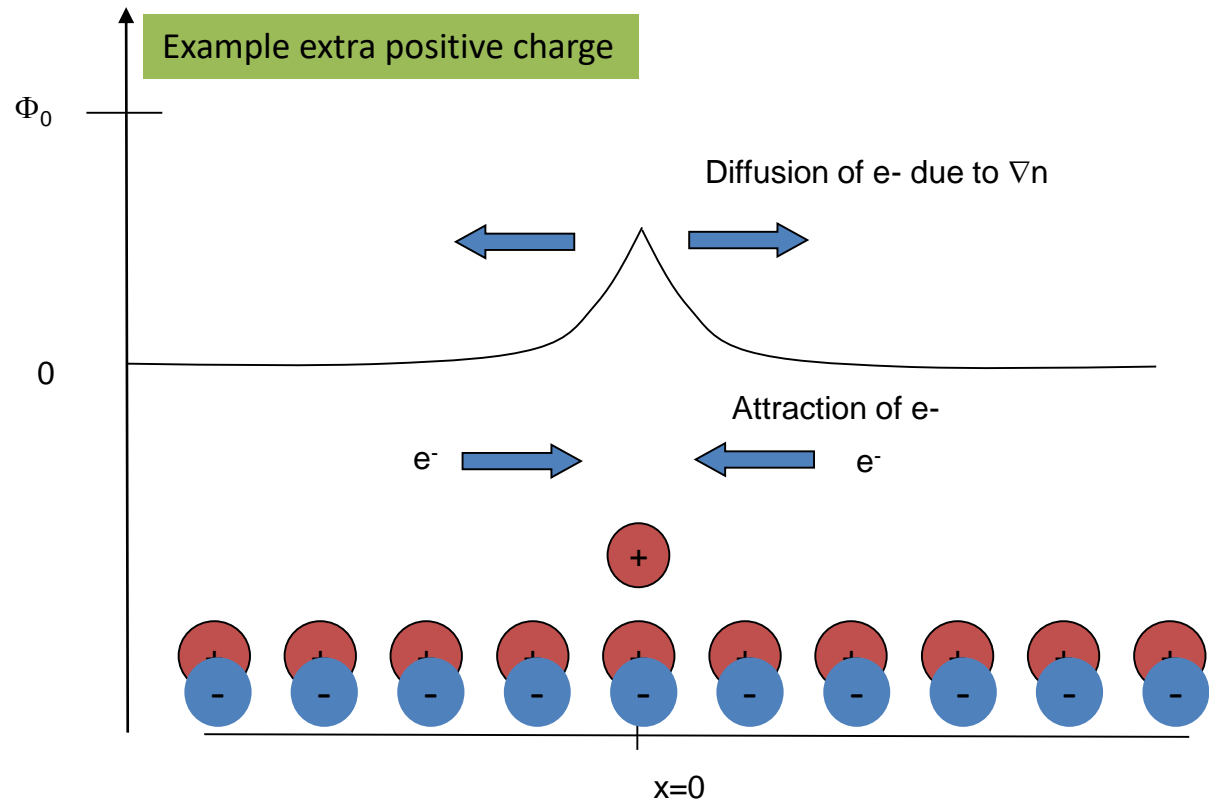


What is the best pressure/equilibrium for life science applications?

Low pressure
Cold plasmas,
only electrons are hot

High pressure,
All species equilibrate
OR
Pulsing,
Fast gas flows

What is a plasma ? - Concept 2 – Debye shielding, quasineutrality

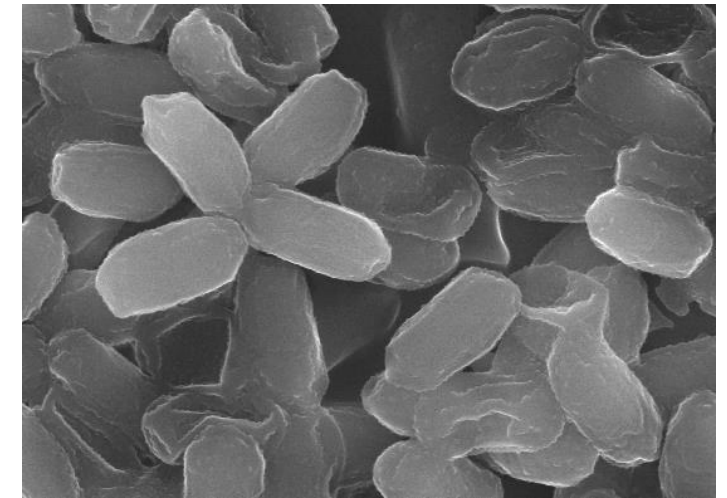


$$n_e = n_0 e^{\frac{e\Phi(x)}{k_B T}}$$

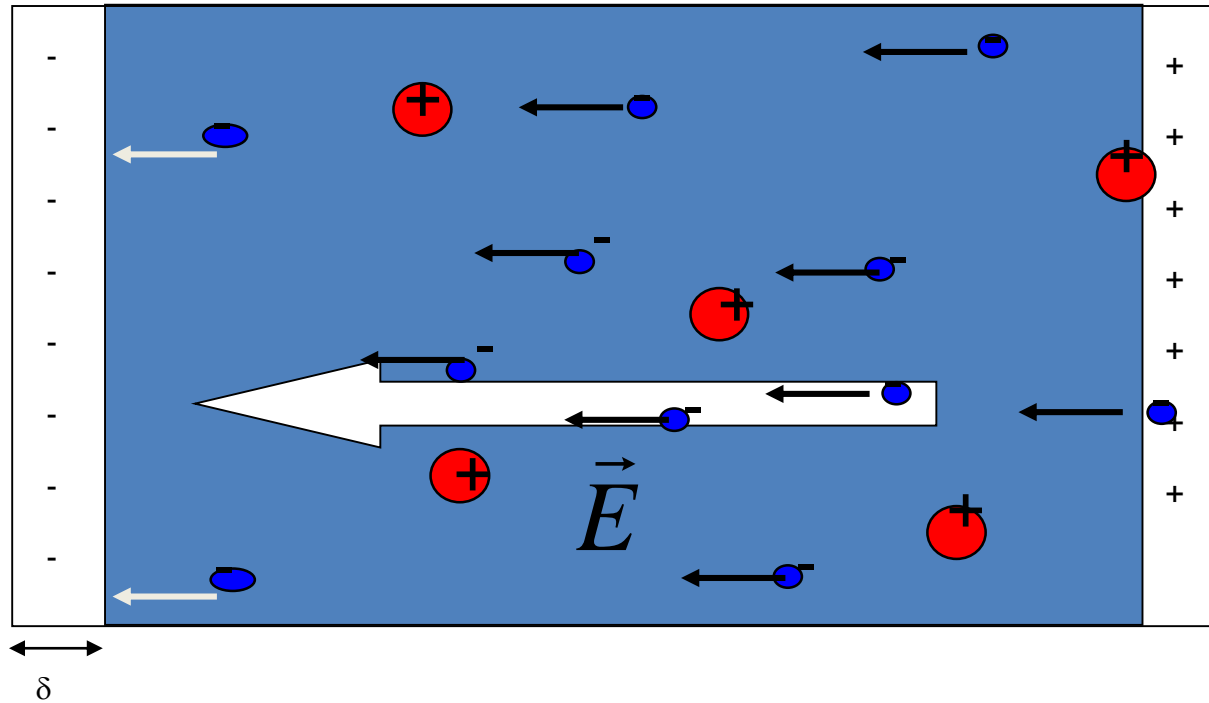
$$\lambda_D = \left(\frac{\epsilon_0 k_B T}{n_0 e^2} \right)^{1/2}$$

What is the best plasma for life science applications?

High electron densities,
Plasma can penetrate into small pores



What is a plasma ? - Concept 4 –the plasma frequency (formulas)



$$E = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} en\delta$$

$$m_e \frac{d^2\delta}{dt^2} = -eE$$

$$\frac{d^2\delta}{dt^2} + \frac{ne^2}{\epsilon_0 m} \delta = 0$$

$$\omega_p = \left(\frac{ne^2}{\epsilon_0 m} \right)^{1/2}$$

What is the best plasma for life science applications?

How to get the energy into the plasma?

Use high frequency fields
To keep heavy species cold

Web version at
www.plasma-school.org

Plasma Calculator

This is an online version of the original Nick Braithwaite Plasmacalculator Excel-Sheet.

Input Parameter

T_g	<input type="text" value="300"/>	K
T_e	<input type="text" value="3.00"/>	eV
n_e	<input type="text" value="1.00e+17"/>	m ⁻³
Pressure p	<input type="text" value="100000.00"/>	Pa
Mass Neutrals/Ions m	<input type="text" value="40"/>	amu
Cross Section neutrals σ	<input type="text" value="1.00e-19"/>	m ²
System Dimension L	<input type="text" value="0.10"/>	m
Magnetic field B	<input type="text" value="0.10"/>	T
Microwave f	<input type="text" value="2.45"/>	GHz

Calculate

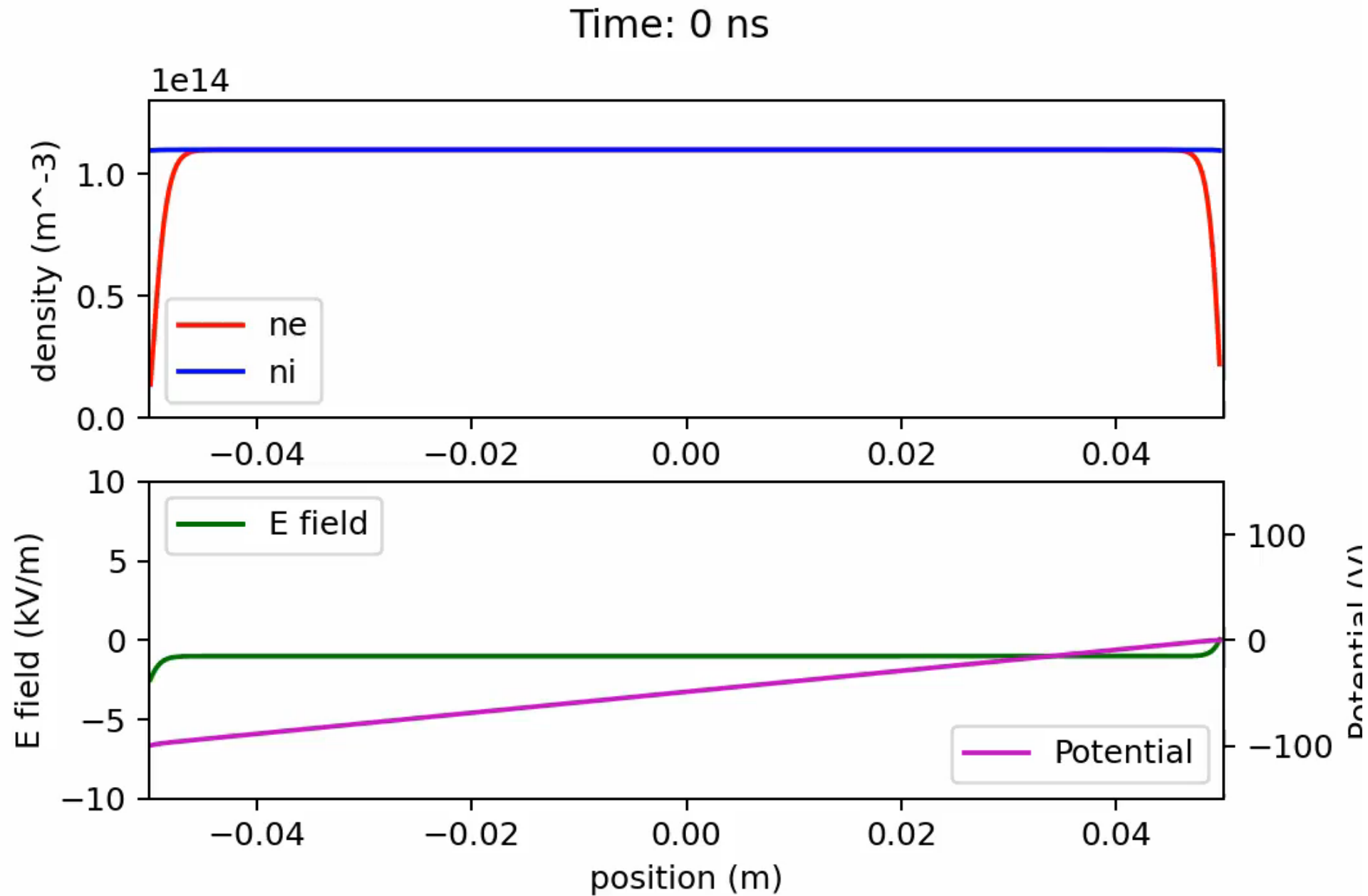
Output Parameter

Parameter	Value	Unit
Distances		
Neutral-Neutral	3.46e-9	m
Mean Free Path	4.14e-7	m
Debye Length	4.07e-5	m
Densities		
Neutrals	2.42e+25	m ⁻³

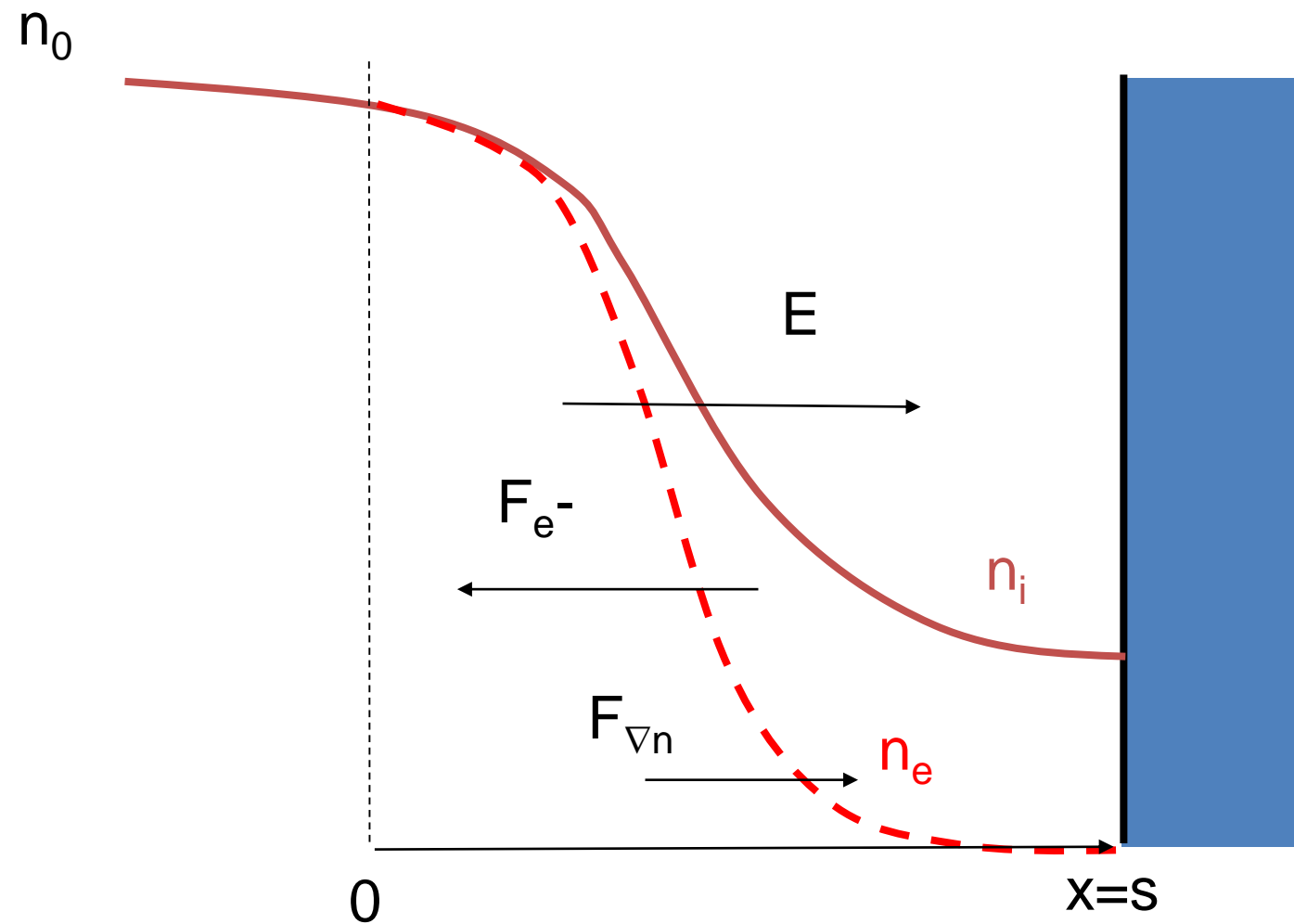
The edge of a plasma



A plasma in front of a wall – sheath physics



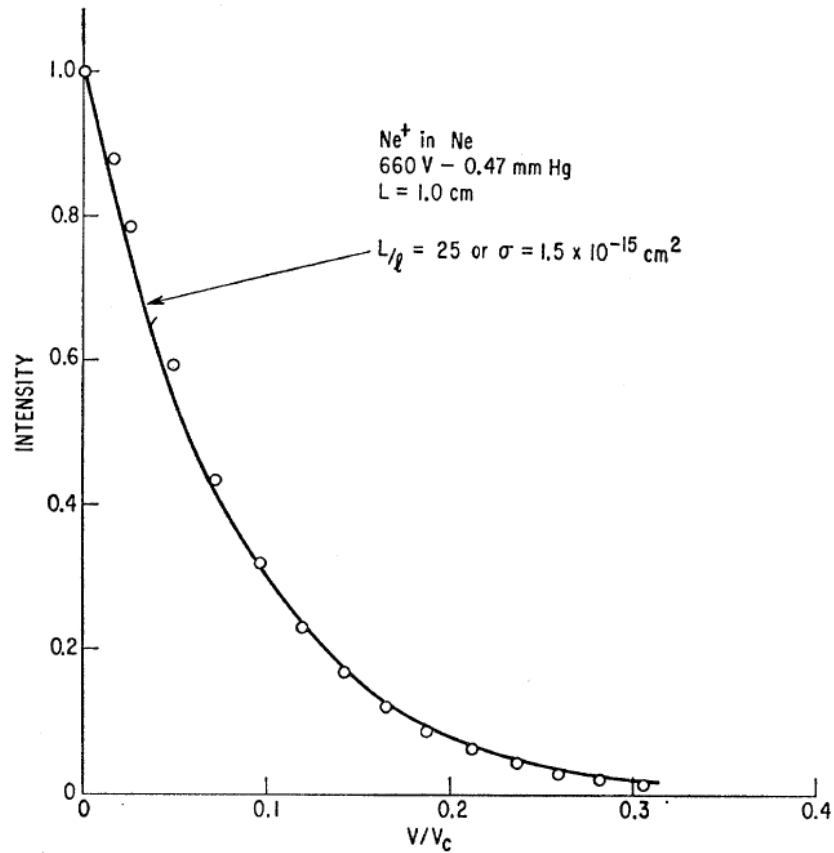
A plasma in front of a wall – sheath physics



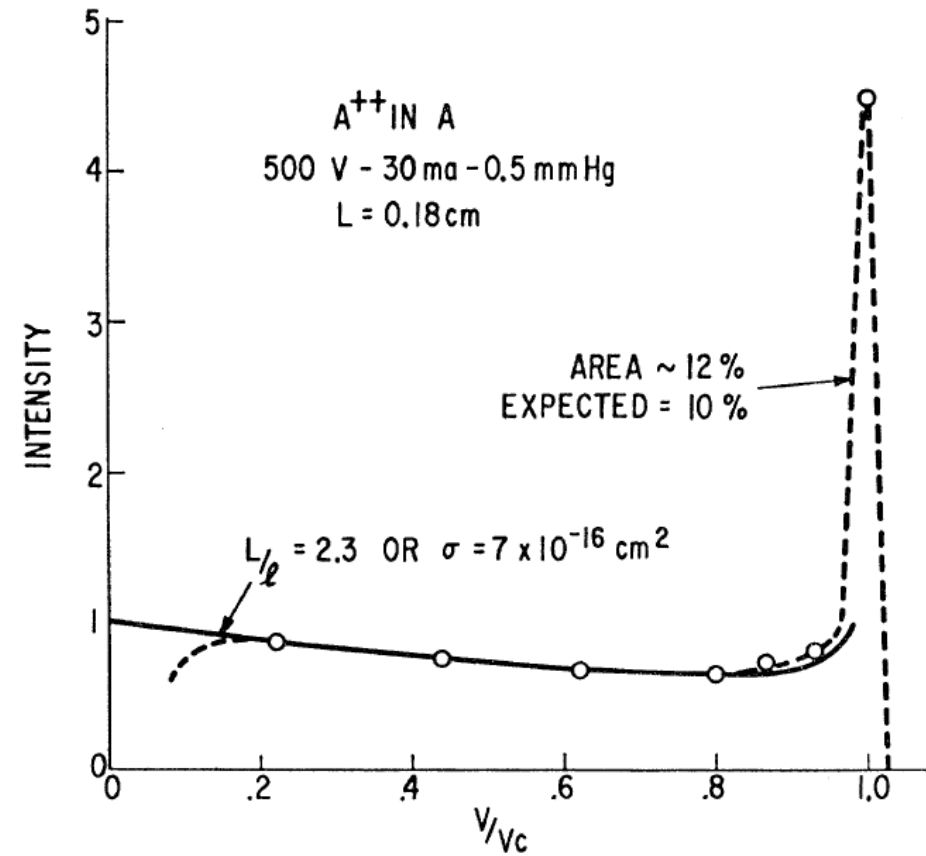
$$v_0 > \sqrt{\frac{k_B T_e}{M}} = v_B$$

A plasma in front of a wall – sheath physics – ion energy distributions - collisions

many collisions in the sheath

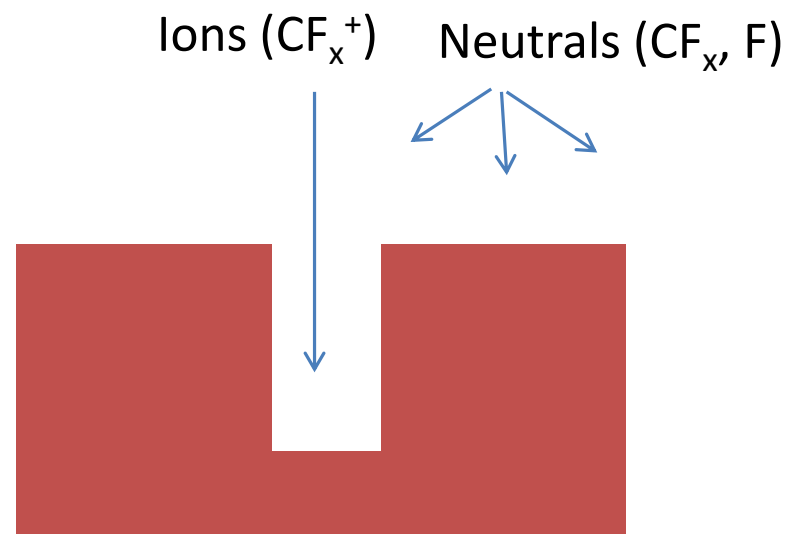
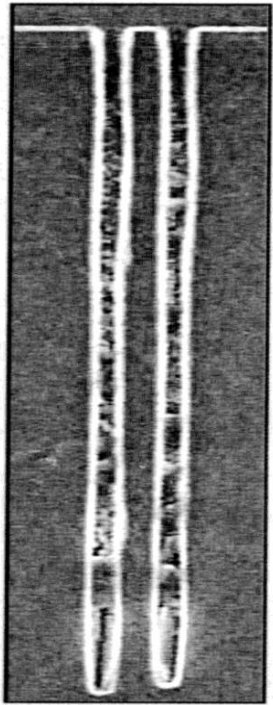
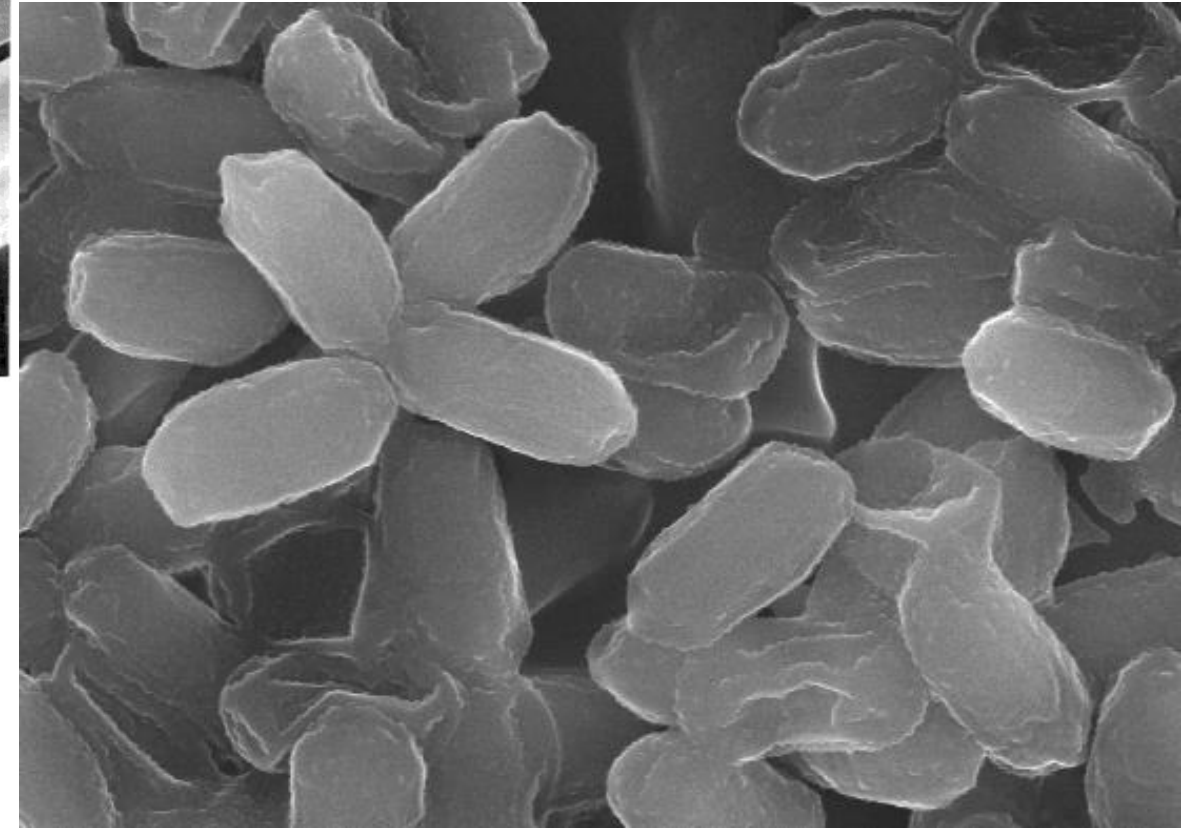
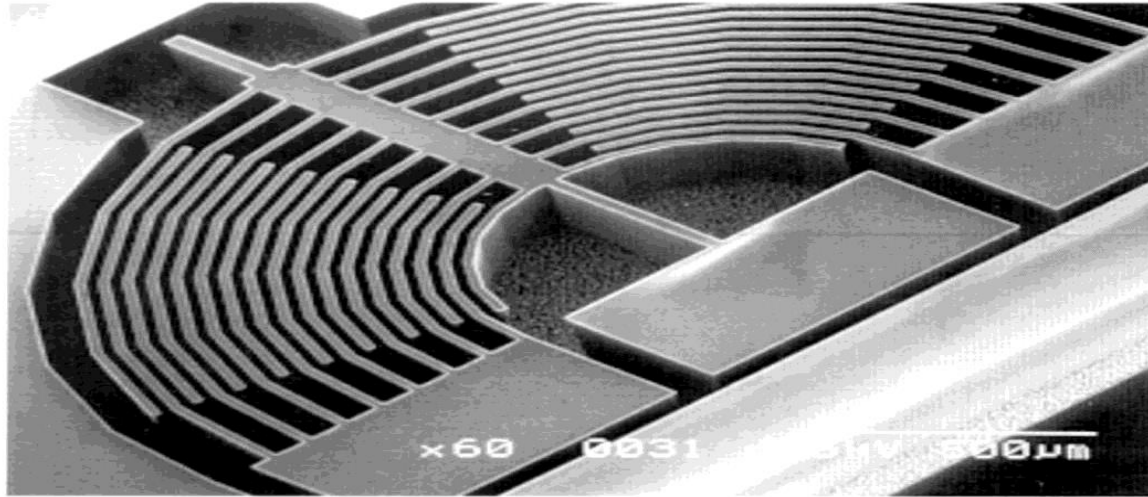


Few collisions in the sheath

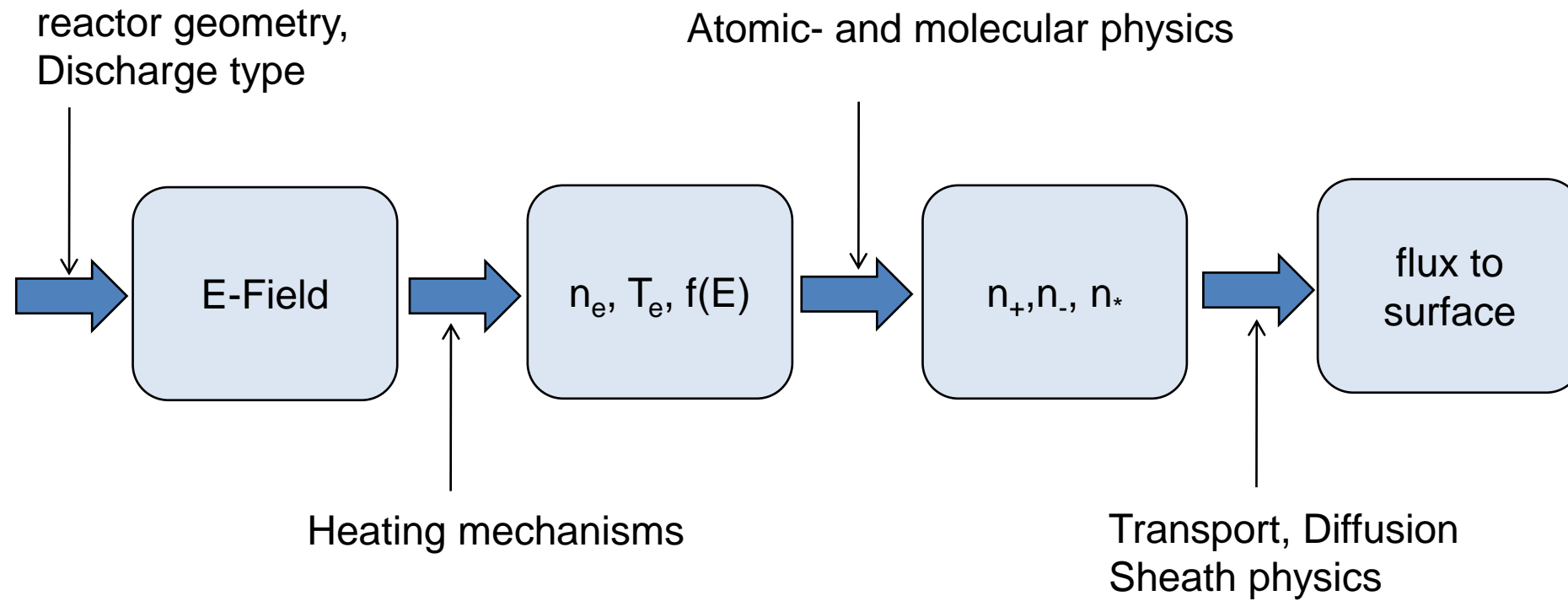


mbar) [T. Davis, T. Vanderslice *Ion energies at the cathode of a glow discharge*, Phys. Rev. 131, 219 (1963)]

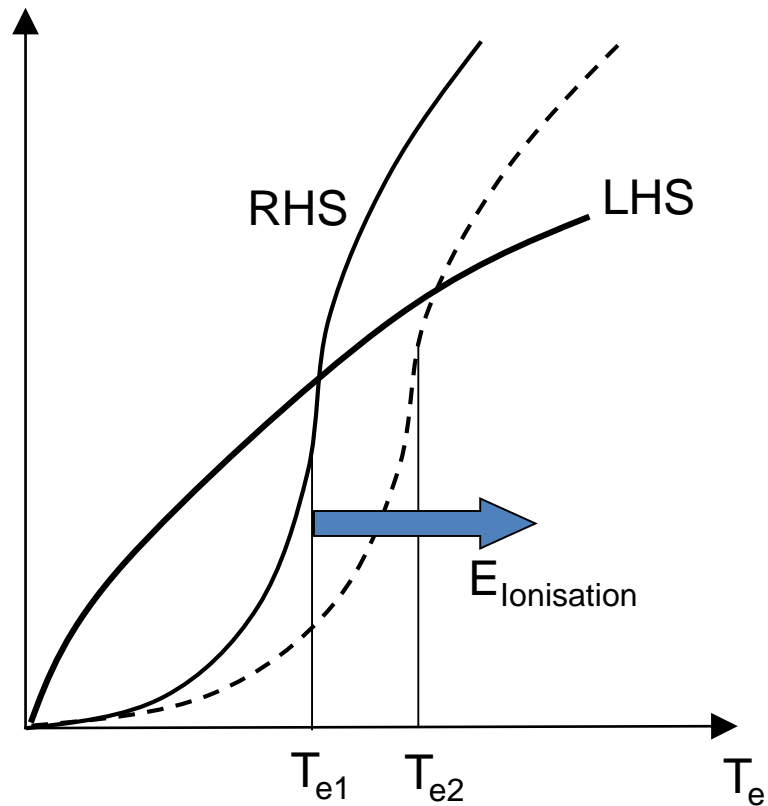
A plasma in front of a wall – sheath physics – applications in microelectronics



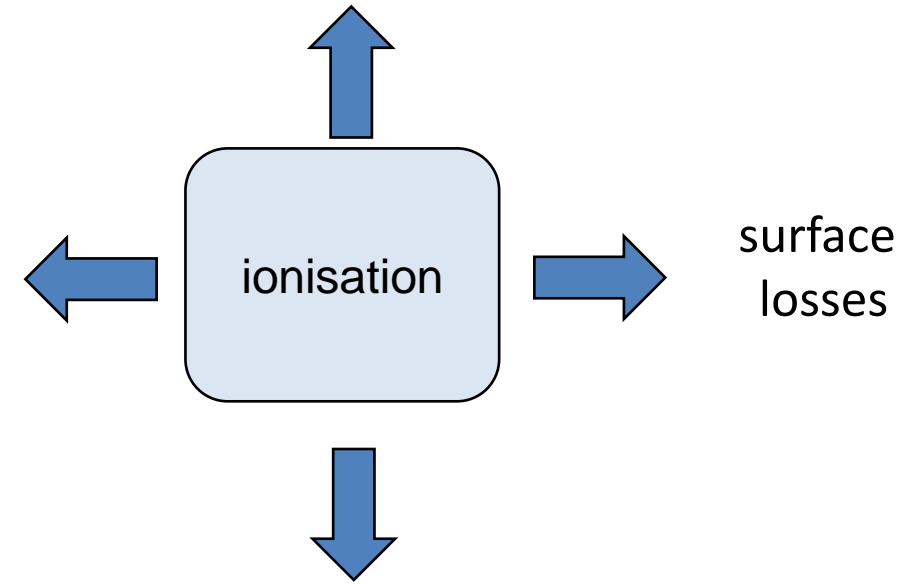
Working point of a Plasma – global model



Working point of a Plasma – global model



Particle balance determines
Electron temperature



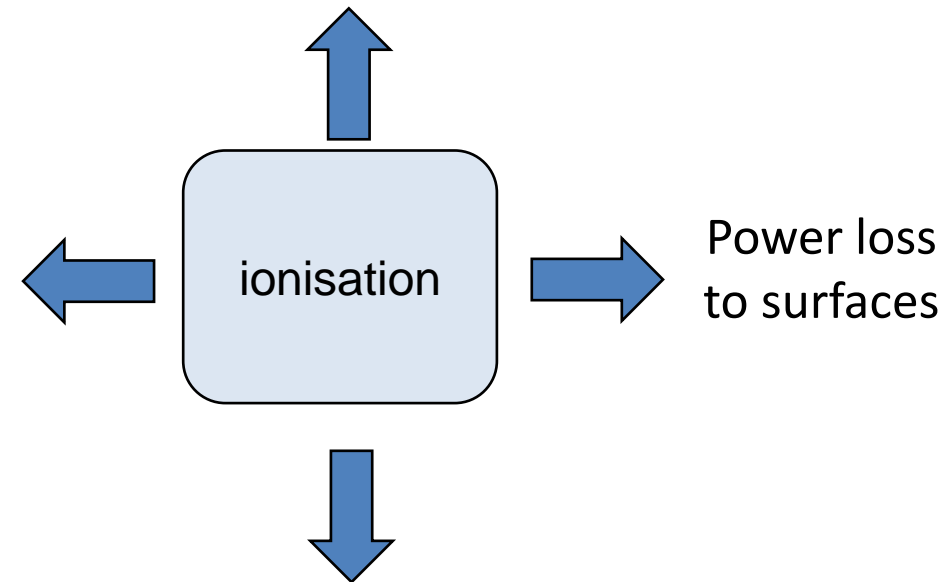
$$An_0v_B = n_g n_0 k_{Ionisation} V$$

$$k_{Ionisation} = k_0 e^{-\frac{E_{Ionisation}}{k_B T_e}}$$

$$An_0 \sqrt{\frac{k_B T_e}{M}} = n_g n_0 k_0 e^{-\frac{E_{Ionisation}}{k_B T_e}} V$$

Working point of a Plasma – global model

Absorbed power is a complicated function of electron density

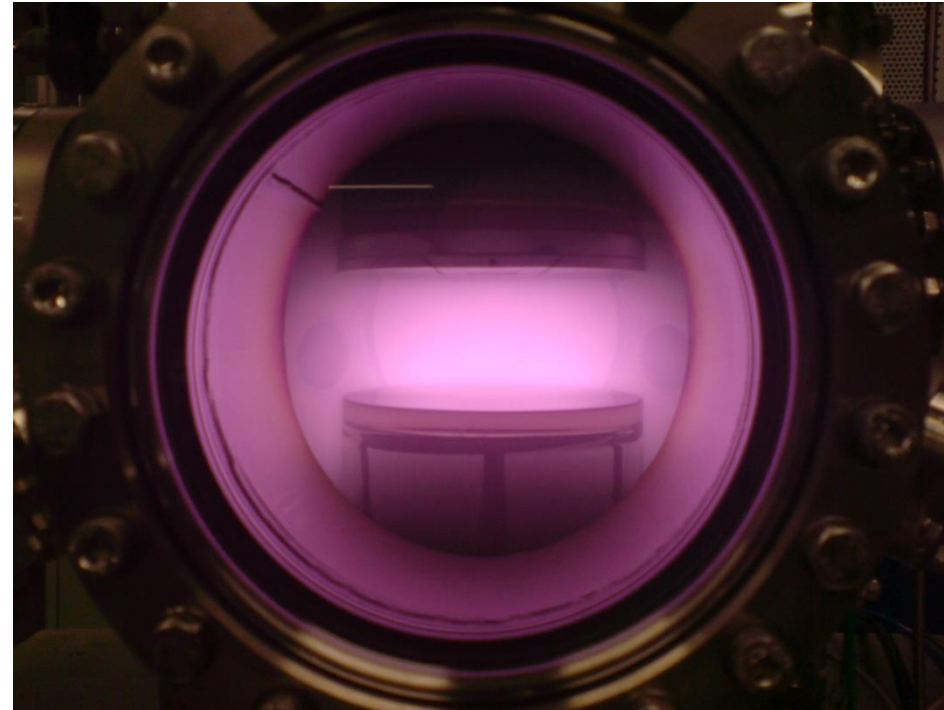


$$P_{abs} = P_{Verlust} = n_0 v_B A (E_{Ionisation} + E_{Randschicht})$$

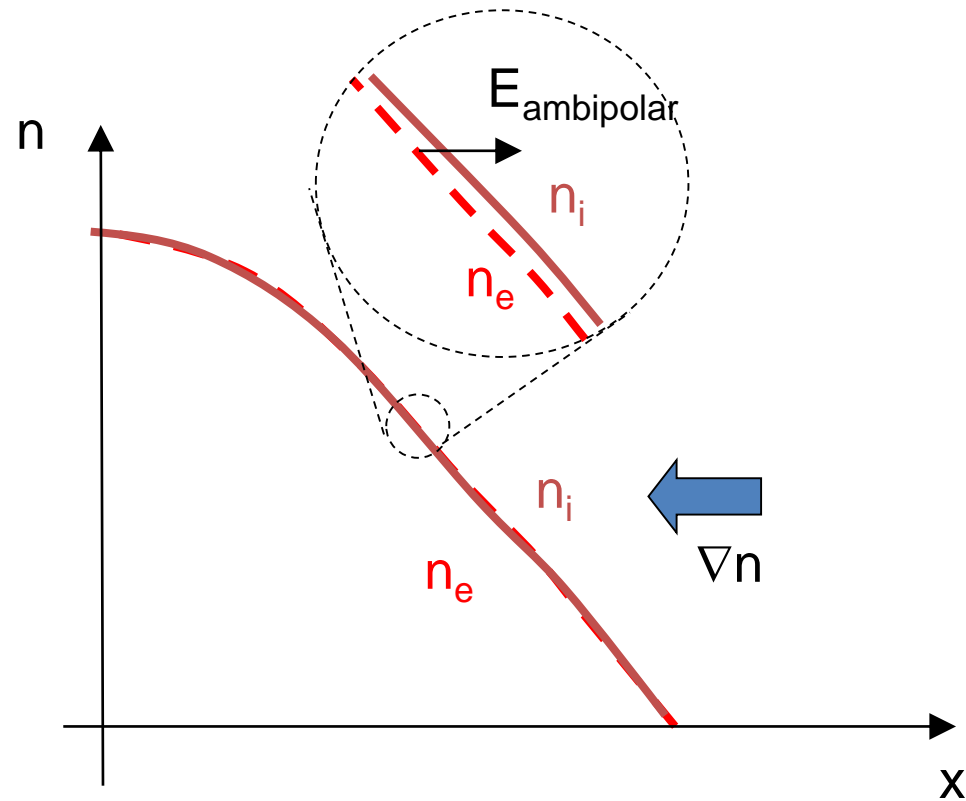
+ excitation,
+ electron loss to surfaces

Power balance determines
Electron density

Transport in a plasma



Transport in a plasma – motion as a fluid – ambipolar diffusion

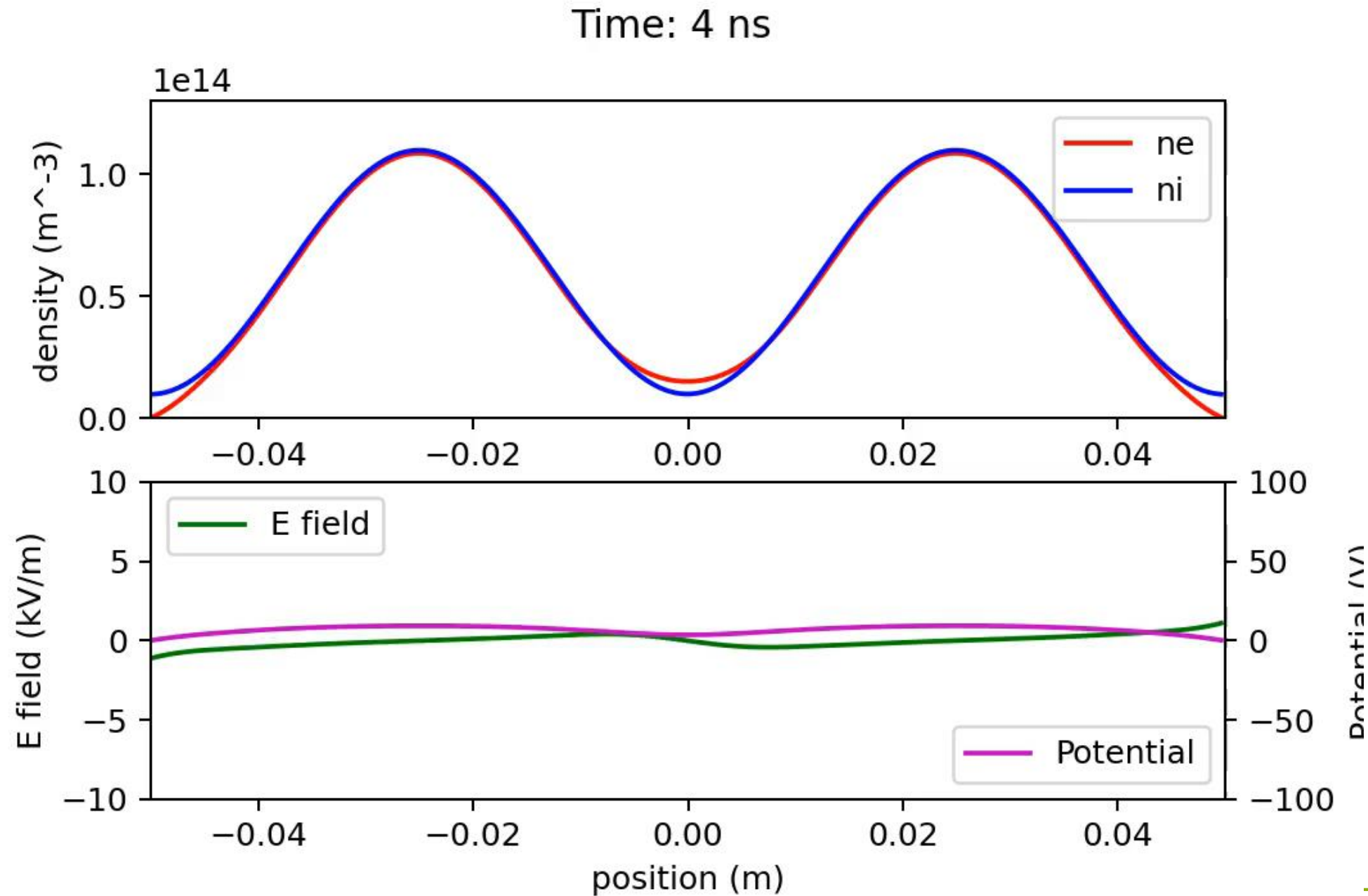


for $j_i = j_e, n_e = n_i \quad \nabla n_e = \nabla n_i$

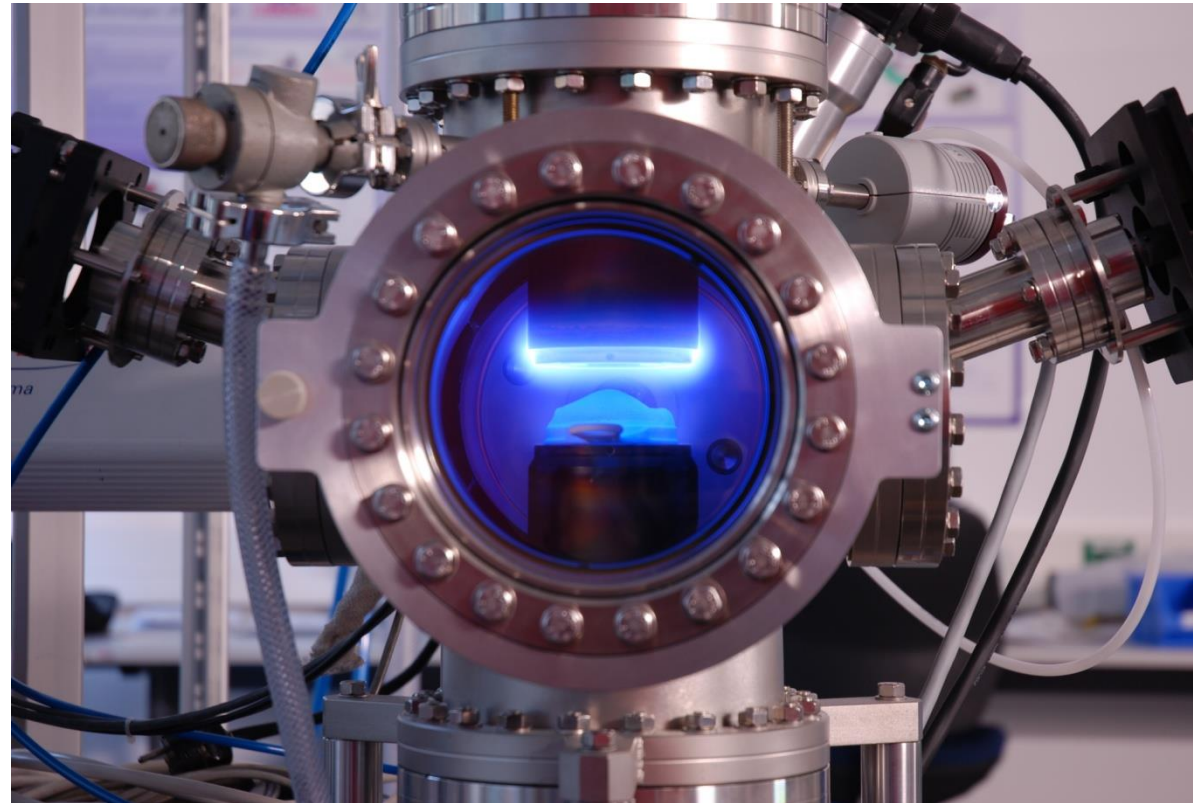
for $\mu_e \gg \mu_i$ and $T_e \gg T_i$

$$D_{amb} = D_i \frac{T_e}{T_i} = \frac{k_B T_e}{M \nu_{m, Ionen}}$$

$$\vec{E}_{amb} = \frac{D_i - D_e}{\mu_i + \mu_e} \frac{\nabla n}{n}$$



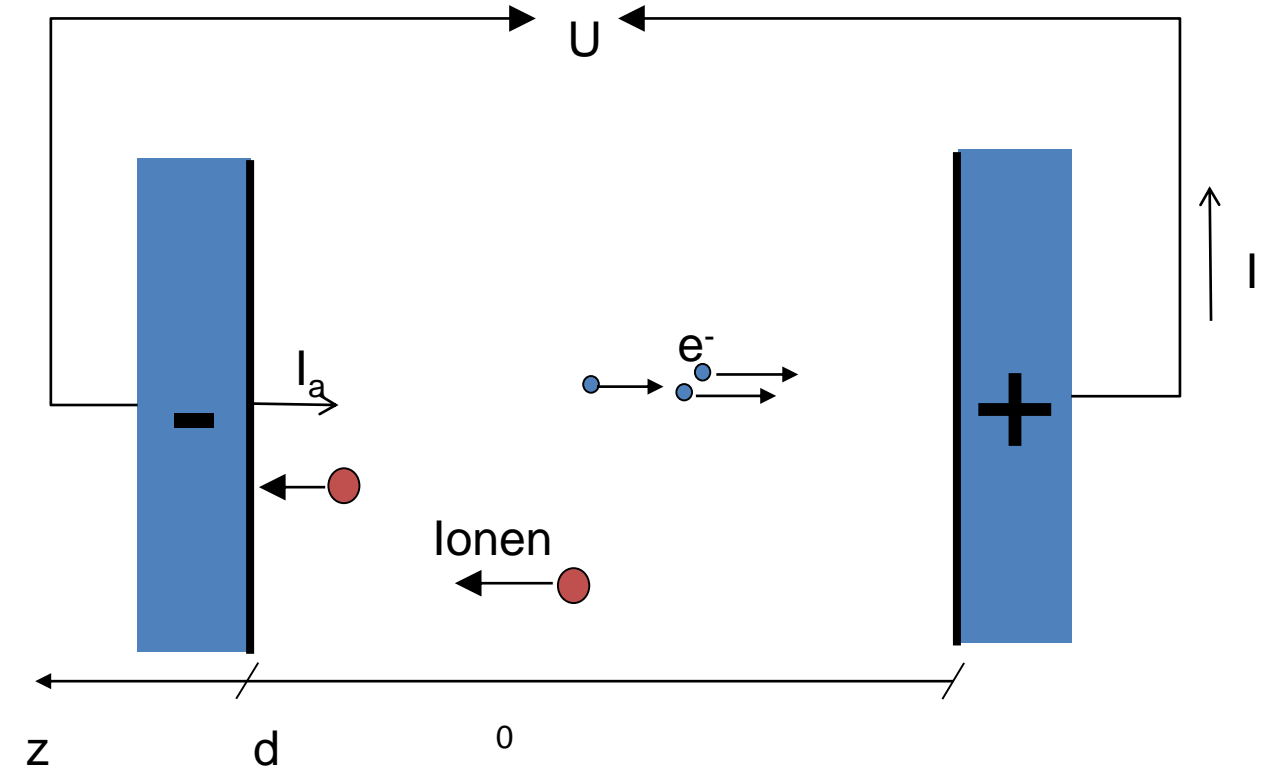
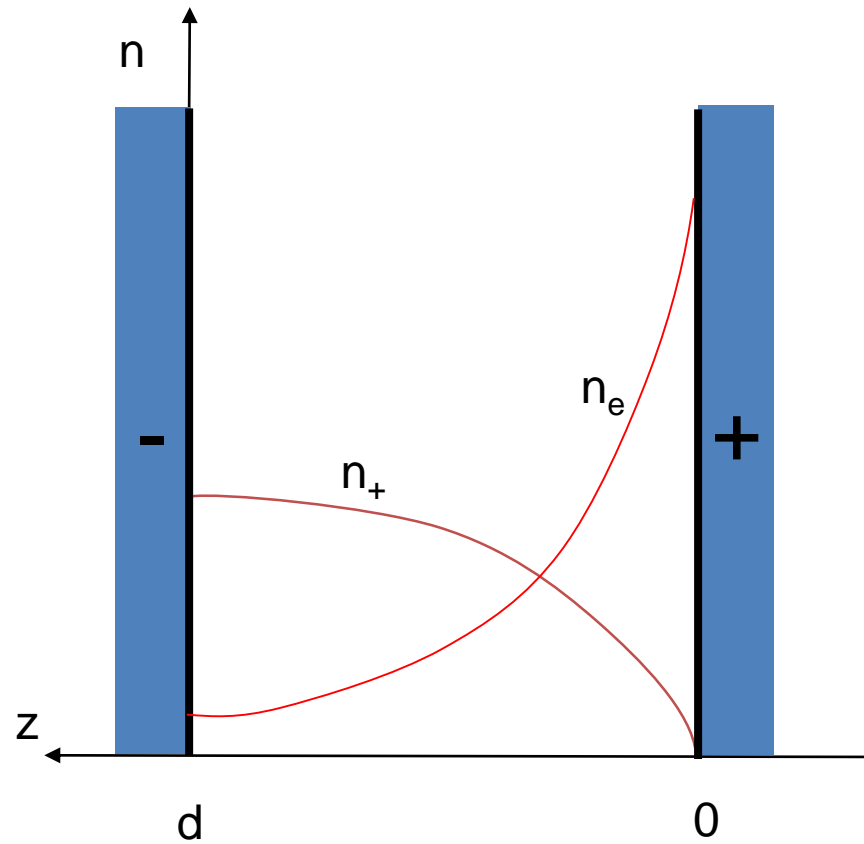
Ignition of a plasma



Ignition of a plasma – Townsend regime

1. Townsend coefficient
gas amplification

$$\alpha = Ap \exp \left[-B \frac{pd}{V} \right]$$



Ignition of a plasma – Townsend regime – Secondary effects

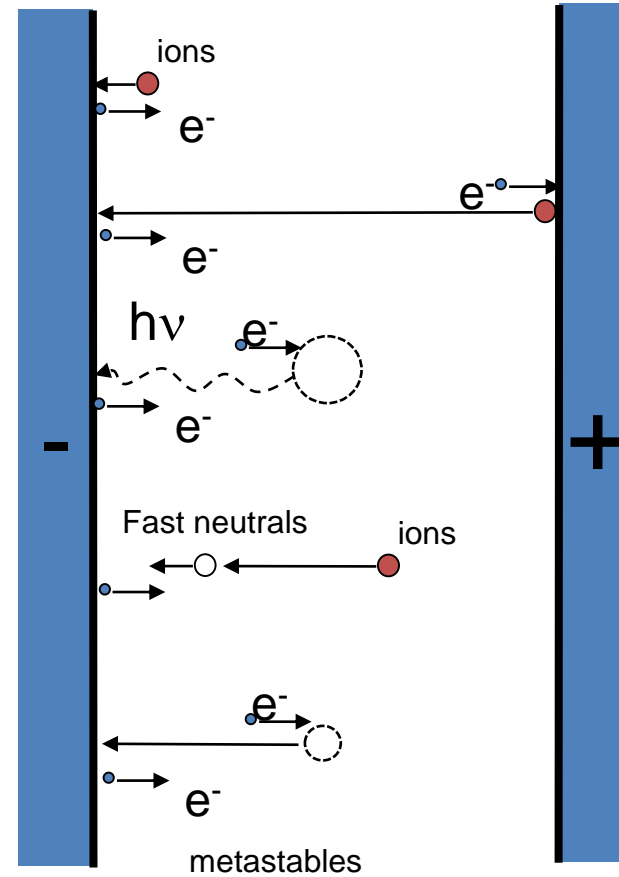
Ion bombardment at the cathode

Secondary ion emission at the anode

photoeffect

fast neutrals

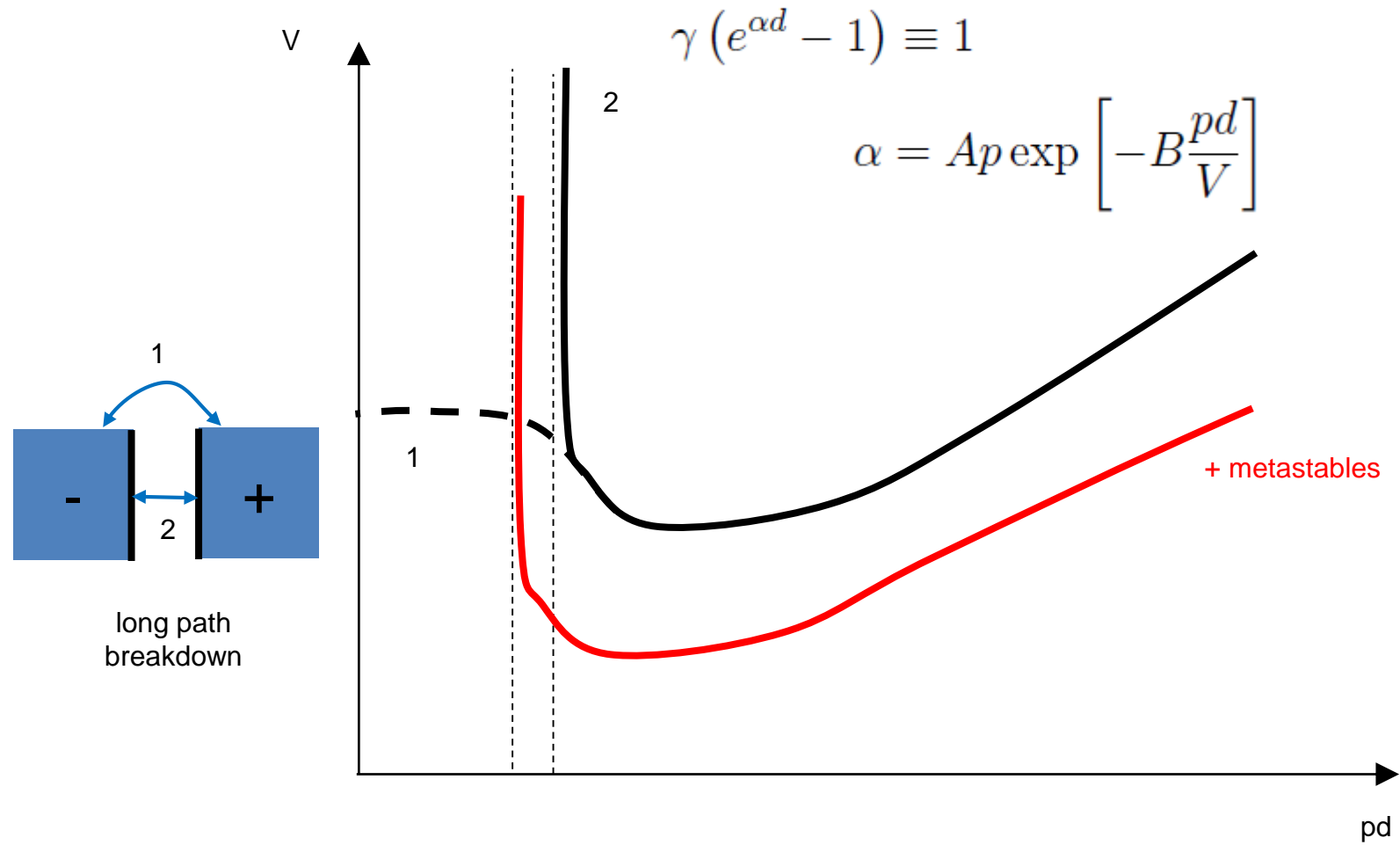
metastables



$$I = \underbrace{I_a e^{\alpha d}}_{\text{primary amplification}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i (e^{\alpha d} - 1)}}_{\text{secondary amplification}}$$

$$\gamma (e^{\alpha d} - 1) \equiv 1$$

Ignition of a plasma – the Paschen curve

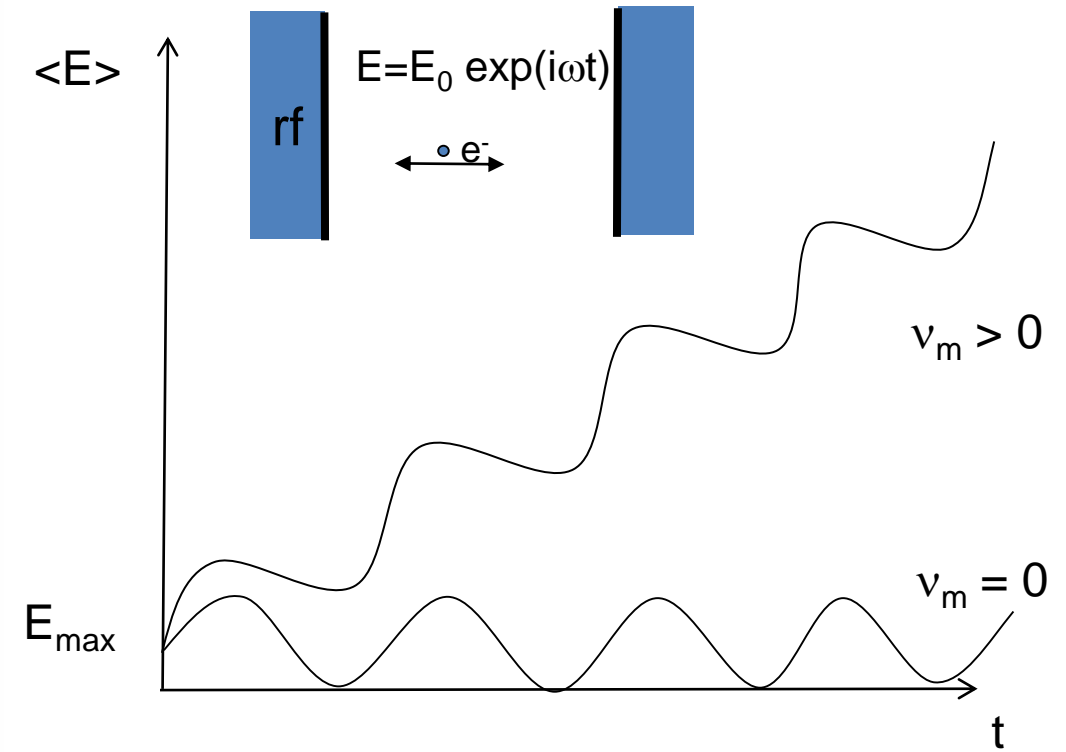
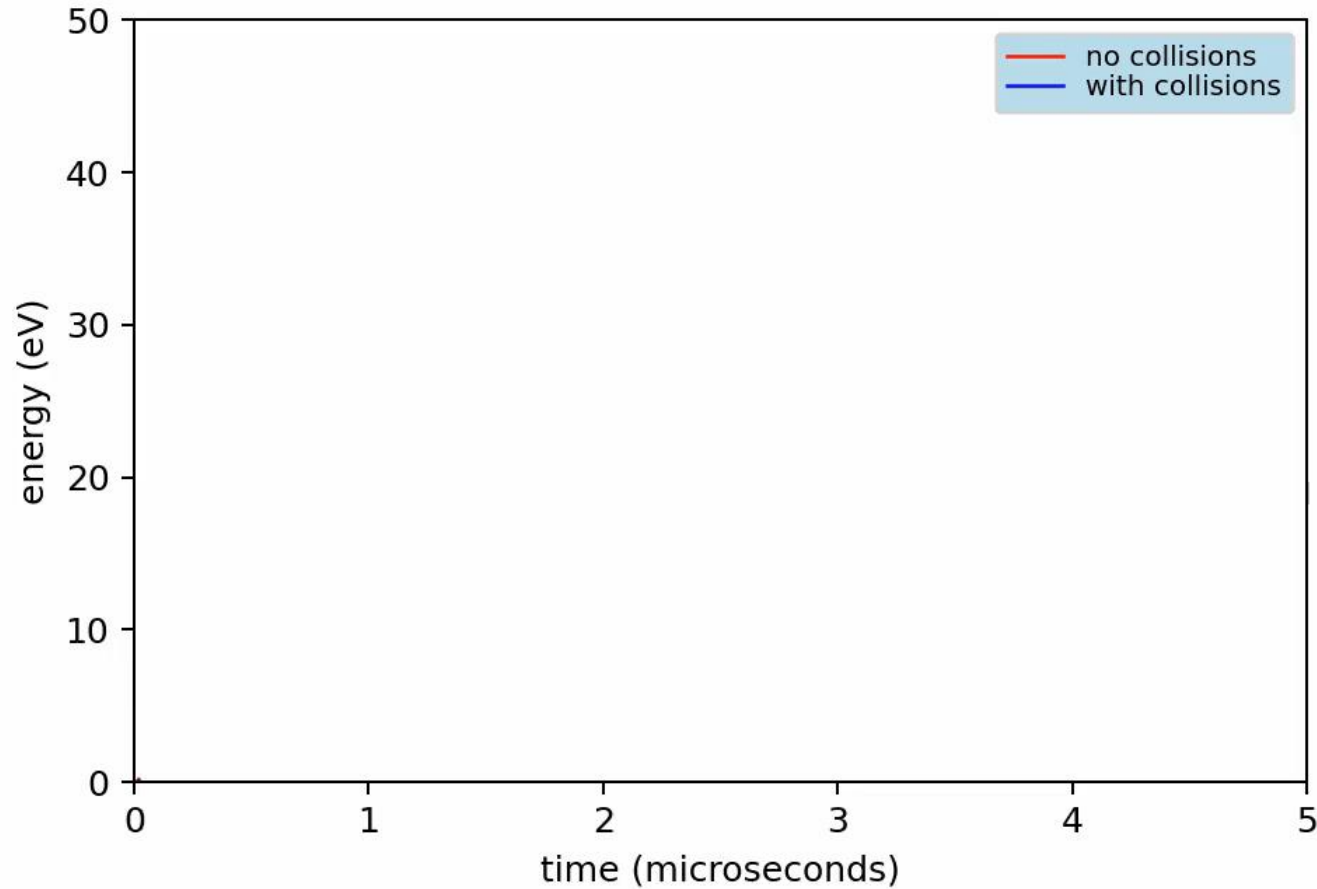


	$A [\text{cm}^{-1} \text{Torr}^{-1}]$	$B [\text{V cm}^{-1} \text{Torr}^{-1}]$	$e \frac{B}{A} [\text{eV}]$
He	1.8	50	27.5
Ar	12	200	16.7
H ₂	10.6	350	33
CO ₂	20	466	23.3

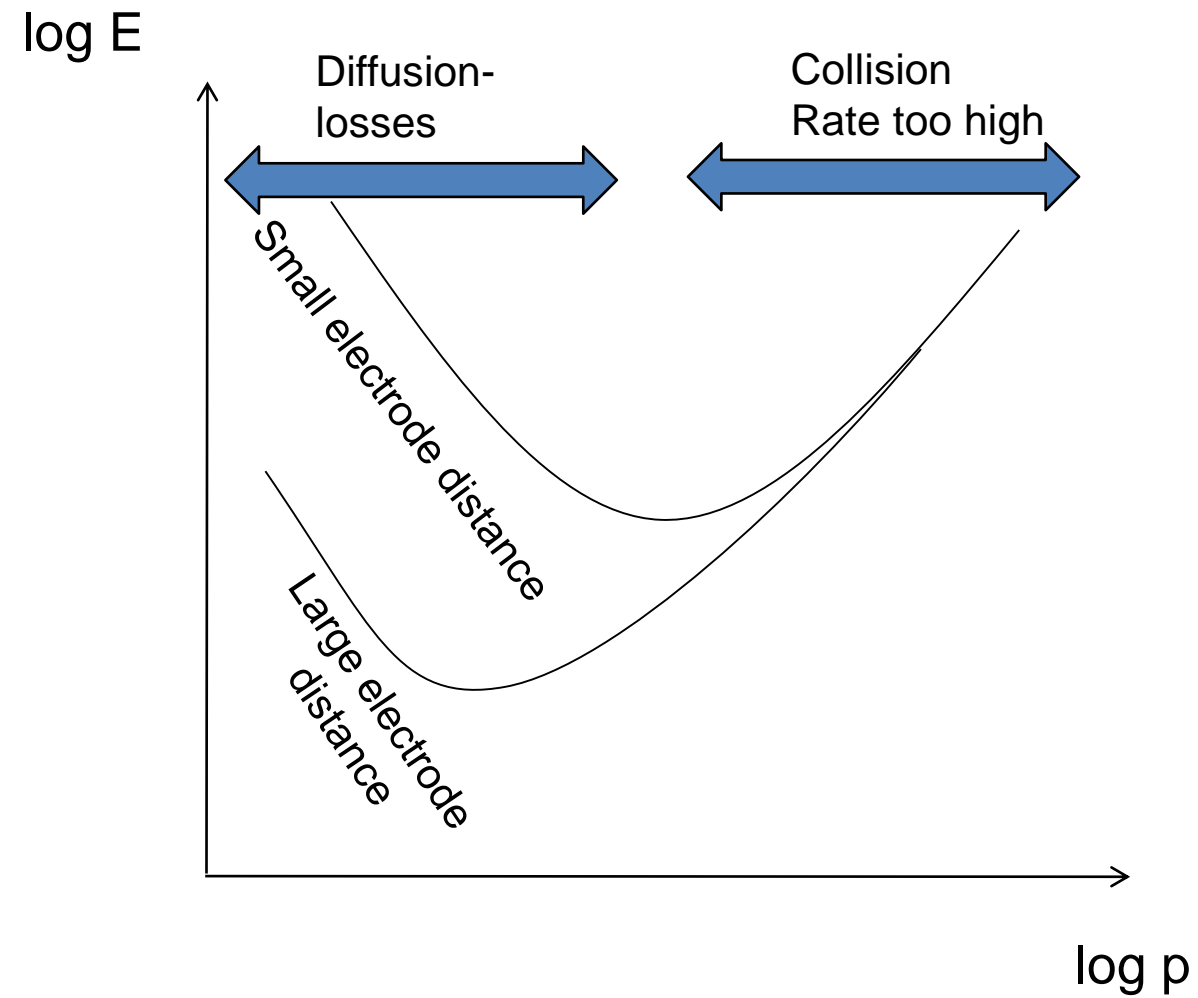
$$V = \frac{Bpd}{\ln(Apd) - \ln[\ln(1 + \gamma^{-1})]}$$

Ignition of a plasma – rf-voltages

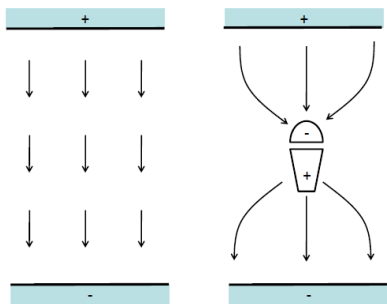
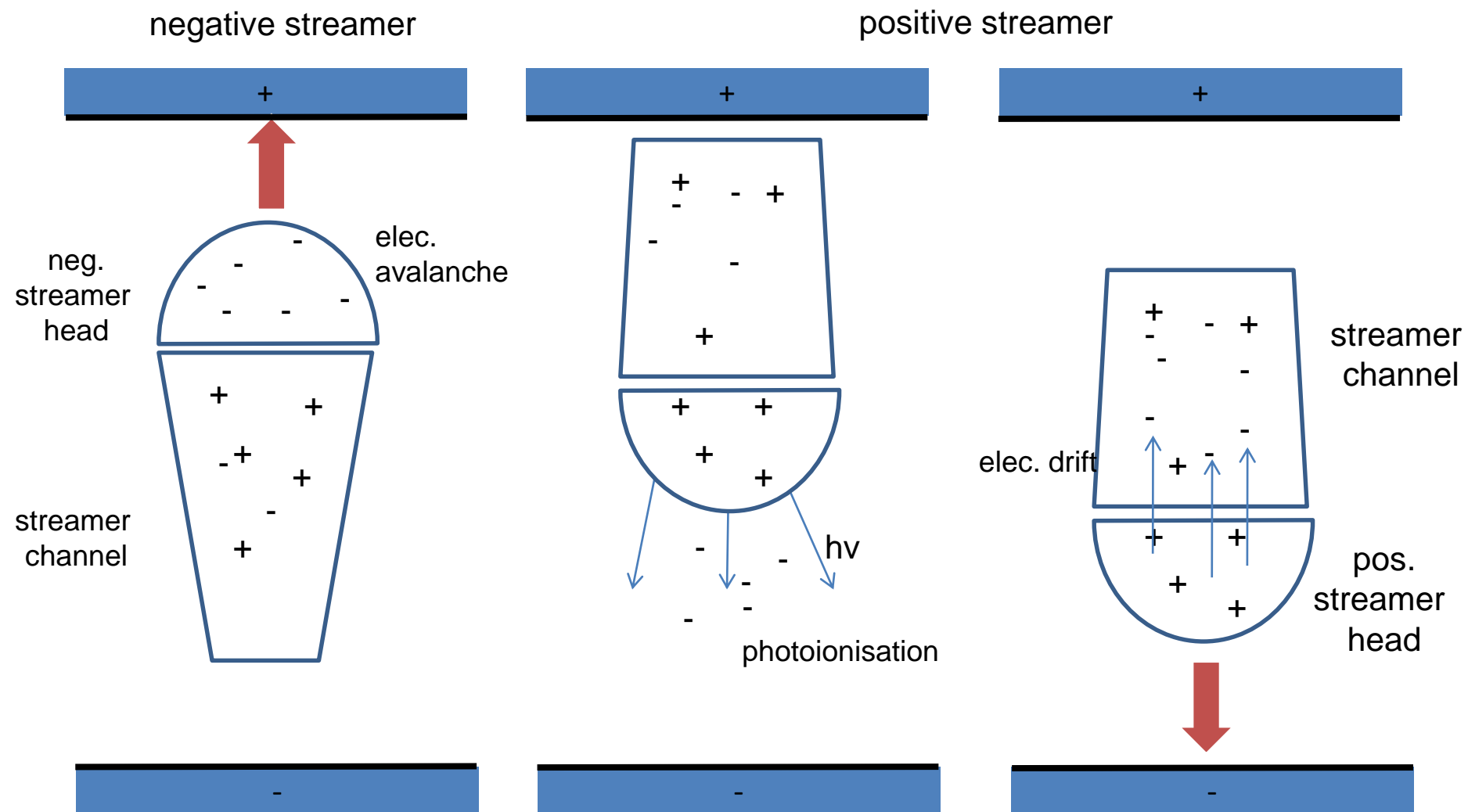
Collisions are essential to heat a high frequency plasmas



Ignition of a plasma – Paschen curve for rf-voltages



Ignition of a plasma – High pressure - streamers

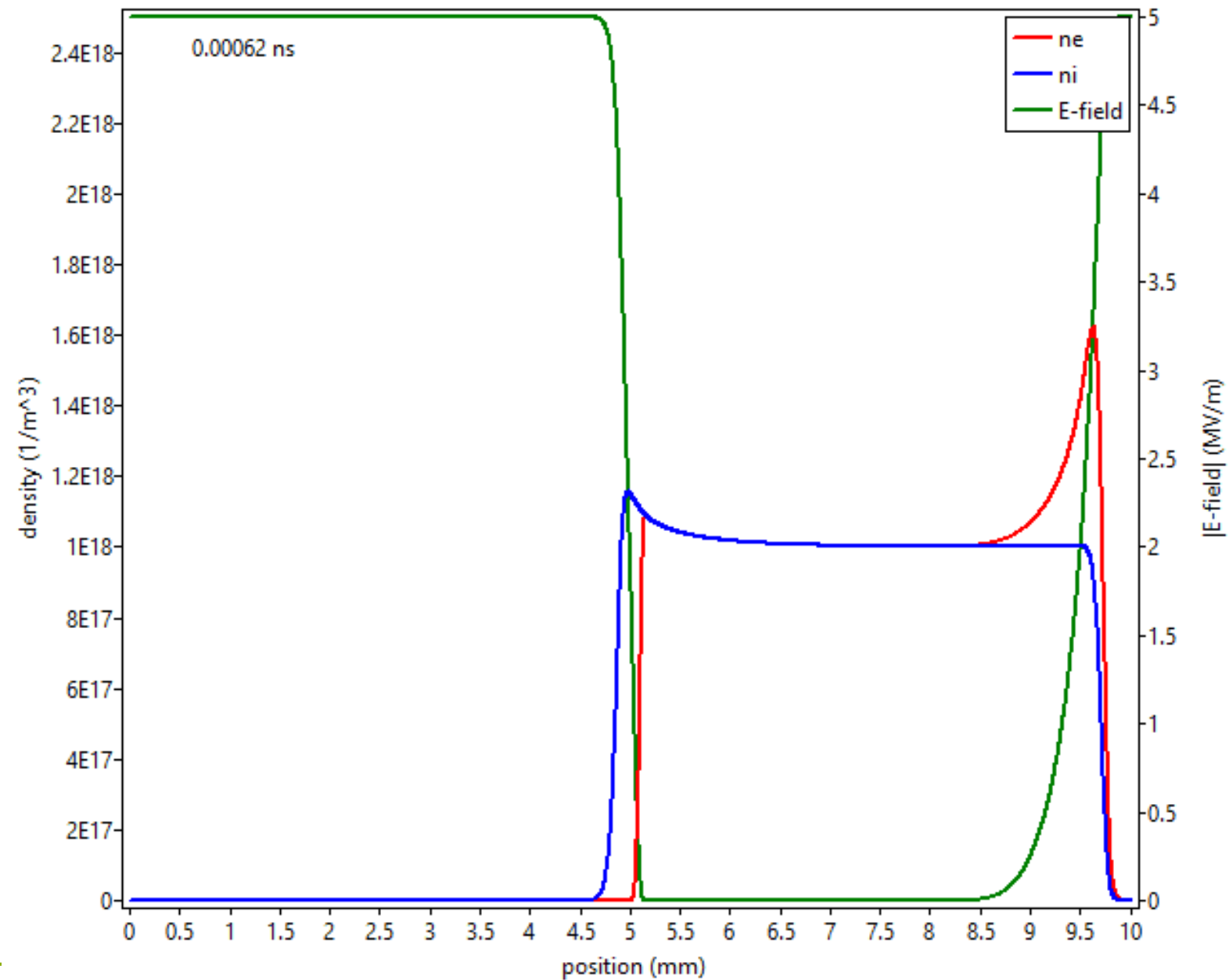


$$E_a = \frac{e}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} e^{\alpha d}$$

$$R = \frac{1}{\alpha}$$

$$\alpha d = \ln \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 E_0}{e\alpha^2} \approx 20$$

Meek criterion



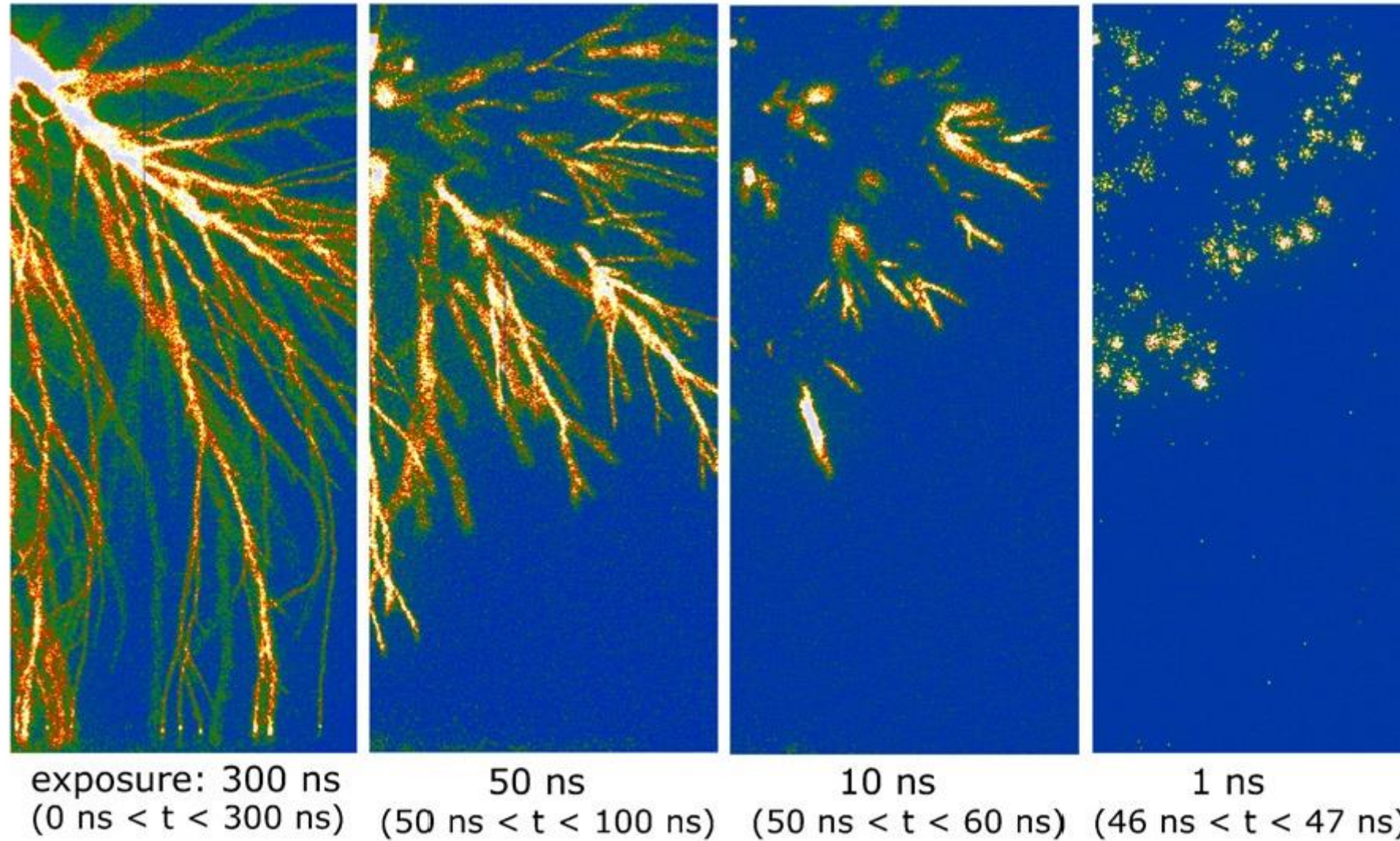
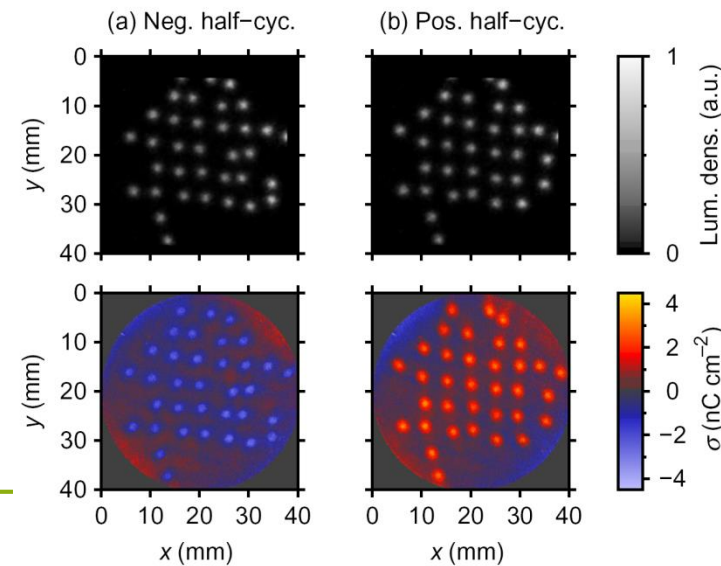
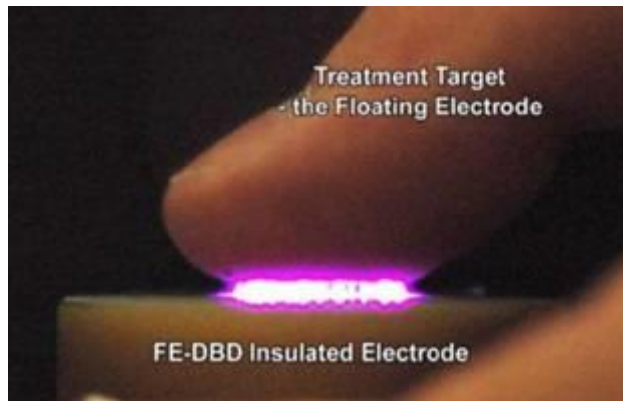
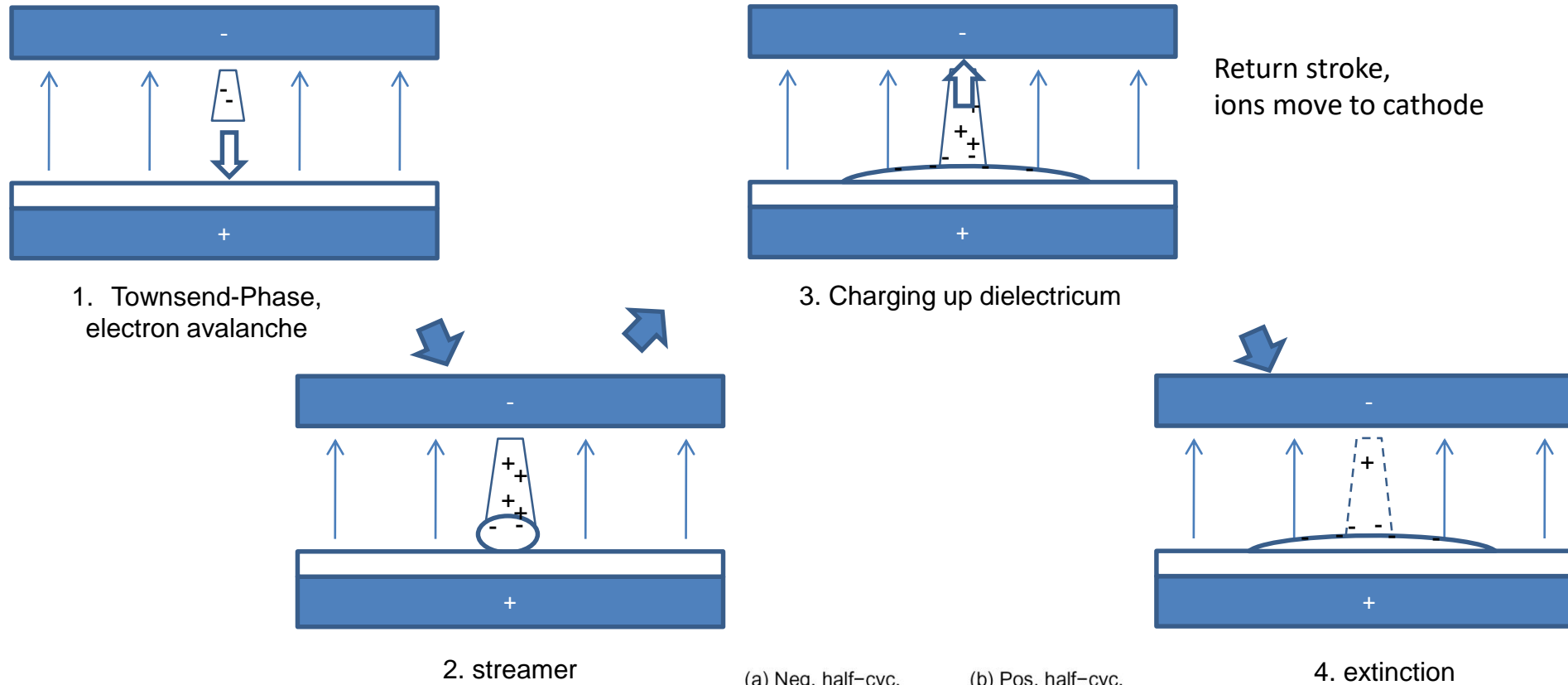


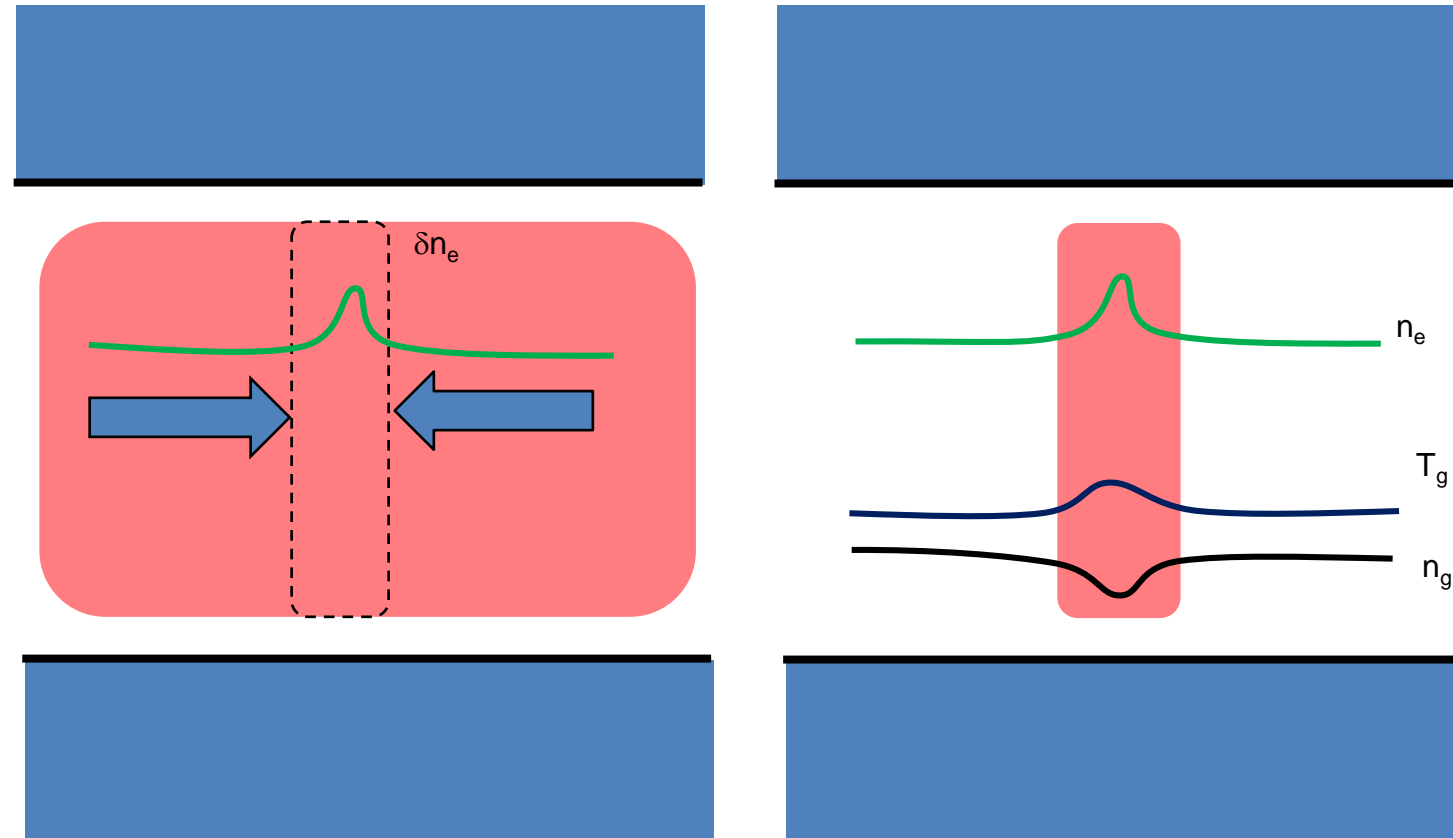
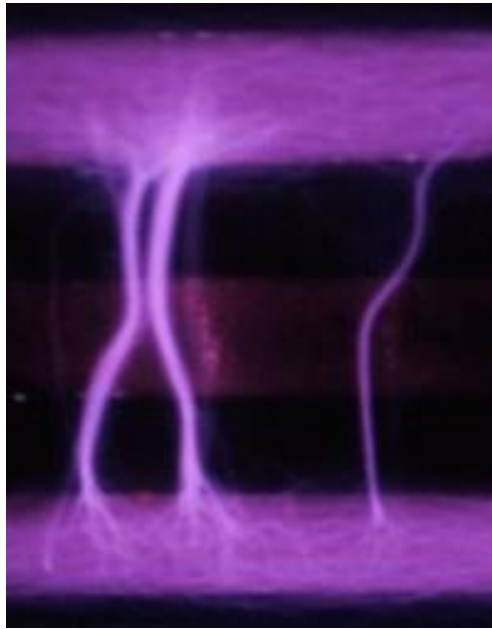
Abbildung 2.14: Photographie einer Streamerentladung bei unterschiedlichen Belichtungszeiten. [U. Ebert et al. *The multiscale nature of streamers*, Plasma Sources Science and Technol. 15, S118 (2006)]

Sustaining a plasma – barrier discharges



from L. Stollenwerk,
New Journal of Physics 11,
103034 (2009)

Sustaining a plasma – high pressure discharges - filamentation



1. What is a plasma ?

- Temperature
- Debye shielding
- Plasma frequency

$$f(v) = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi k_B T} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{mv^2}{k_B T}} \quad \omega_p = \left(\frac{ne^2}{\epsilon_0 m} \right)^{1/2} \quad \lambda_D = \left(\frac{\epsilon_0 k_B T}{n_0 e^2} \right)^{1/2}$$

2. The edge of a plasma

- Sheath physics

$$v_0 > \sqrt{\frac{k_B T_e}{M}} = v_B$$

3. Transport on a plasma

- Particle motion
- Plasma as a fluid
- Drift and diffusion

$$\vec{j} = \mu_i n_i \vec{E} - D_i \nabla n_i$$

4. How to ignite a plasma

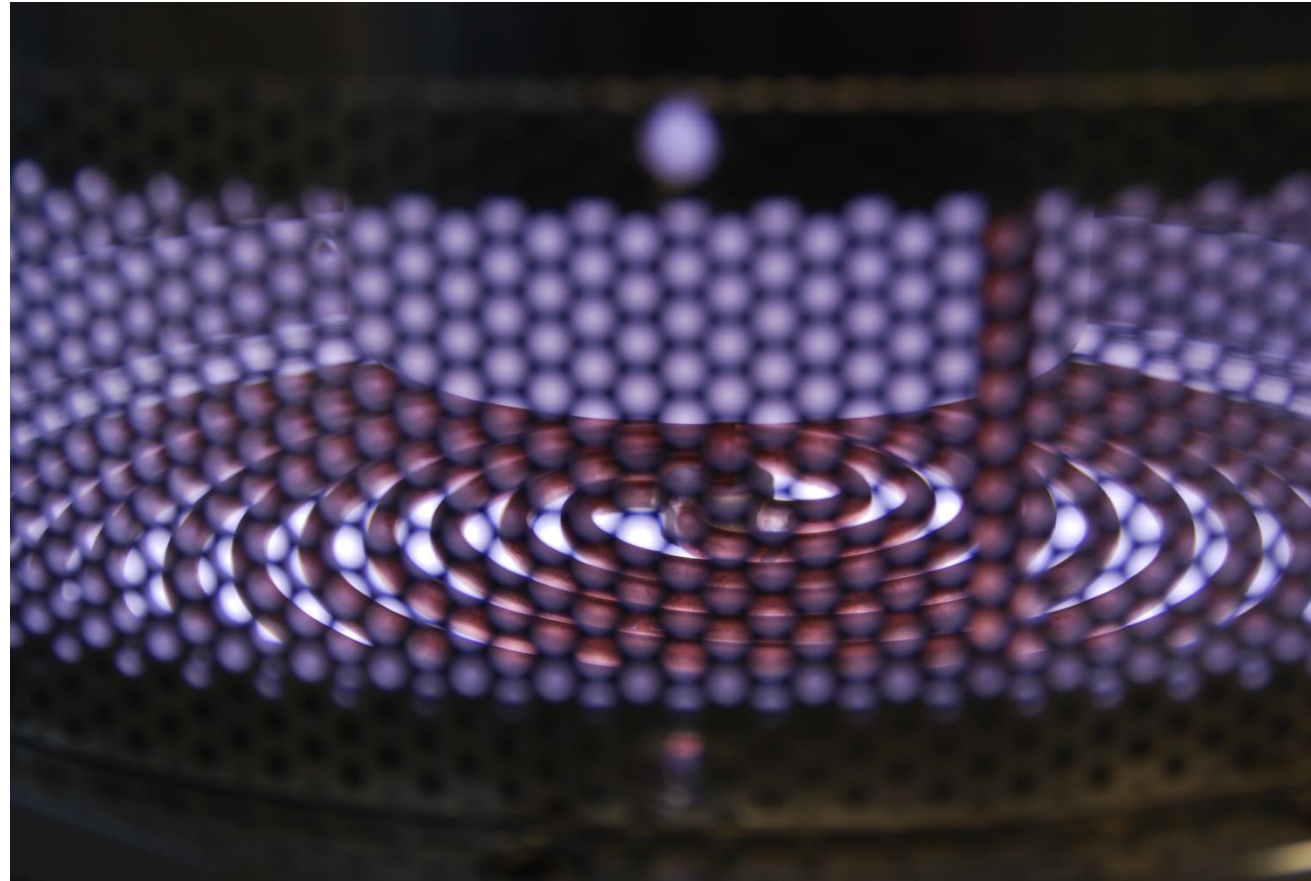
- Ignition, Paschen curve
- Streamer
- RF-ignition

$$V = \frac{Bpd}{\ln(Apd) - \ln[\ln(1 + \gamma^{-1})]}$$

5. How to sustain a plasma

- DC plasma
- Rf-plasmas
- Plasma heating

Sustaining a plasma



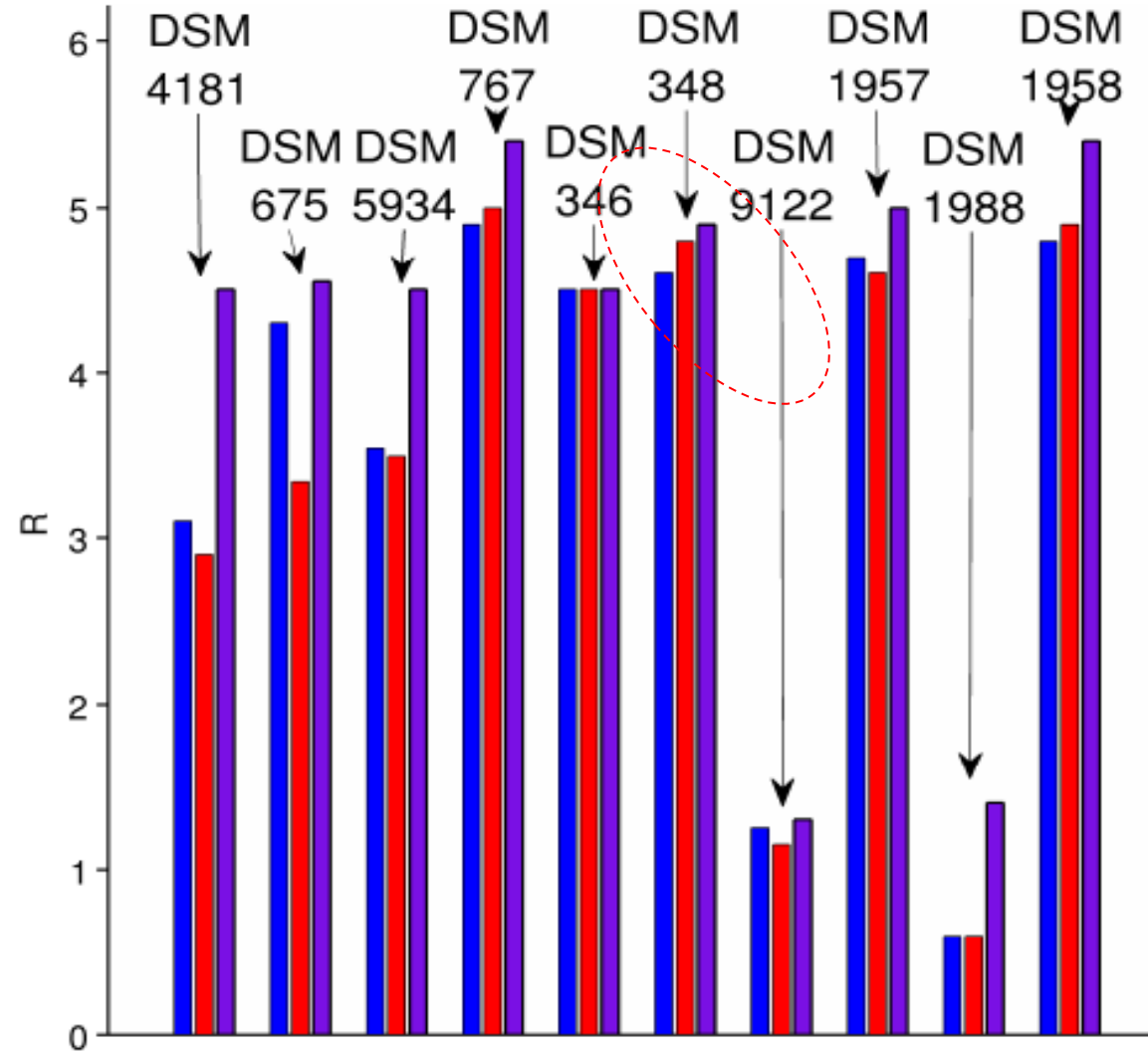
Sterilisation of bacteria and fungi

Plasma optimisation:

Study of effects of different plasmas on bacteria

10 s plasma treatment

Logarithmic reduction after 10s of plasma treatment

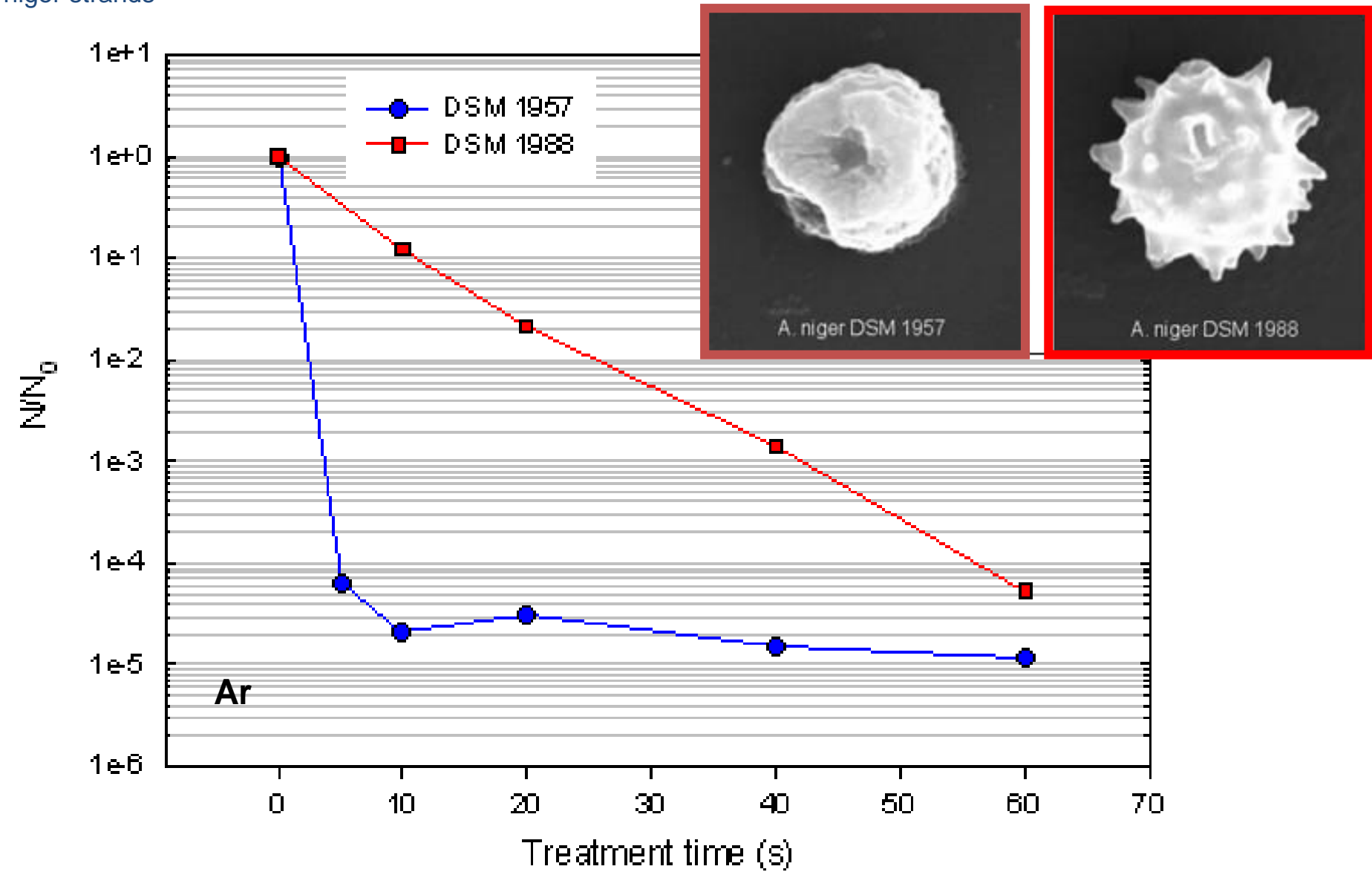


BioDecon-Plasma parameter:
 P=150 W; p=10 Pa; t=10 s
 Ar ■ Ar:H2 ■ Ar:O2 ■

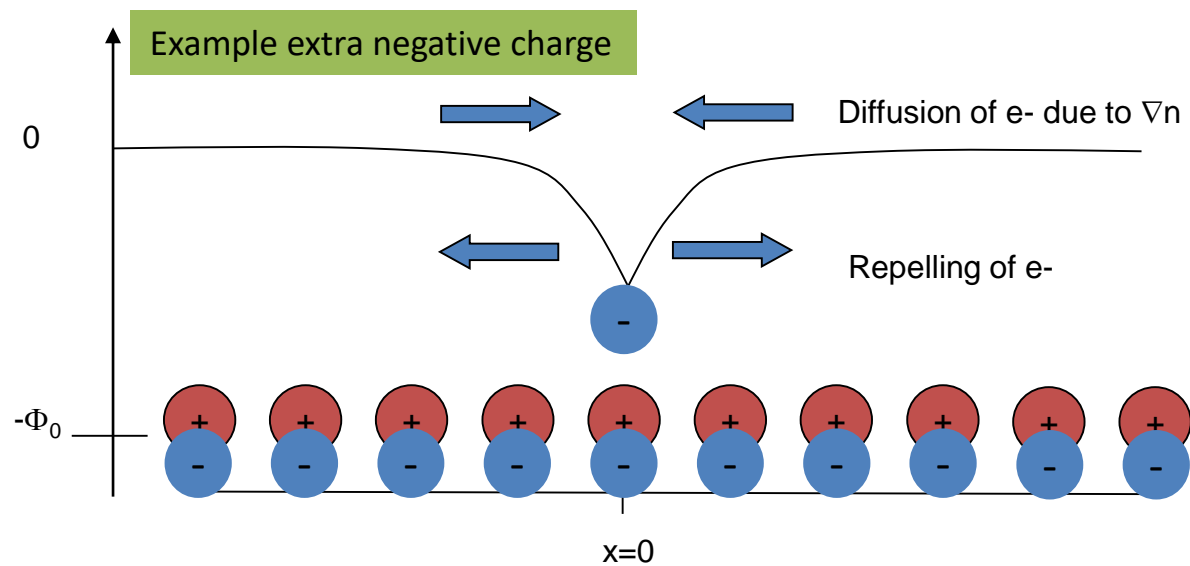
- DSM 4181: *B. subtilis* SA22 (sp.)
- DSM 675: *B. atrophaeus* (sp.)
- DSM 5934: *Geob. stearothermophilus* (sp.)
- DSM 767: *Clostridium sporogenes* (sp.)
- DSM 346: *Styphylococcus aureus* (veg.)
- DSM 348: *Kocuria rhizophila* (veg.)
- DSM 9122: *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* (sp.)
- DSM 1957: *A. niger* (fungi)
- DSM 1988: *A. niger* (fungi)
- DSM 1958: *A. terreus* (fungi)

Sterilisation of *Aspergillus Niger*

Survival curves of different aspergillus niger strands



What is a plasma ? - Concept 2 – Debye shielding (in formulas)



$$n_e = n_0 e^{\frac{e\Phi(x)}{k_B T}}$$

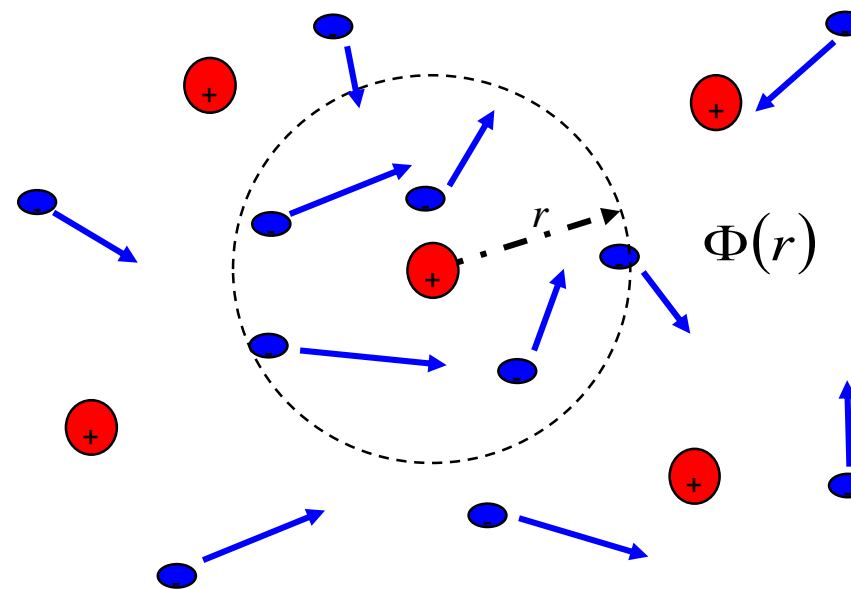
$$\epsilon_0 \frac{d^2 \Phi}{dx^2} = en_0 \left(e^{\frac{e\Phi(x)}{k_B T}} - 1 \right)$$

with $\frac{e\Phi}{k_B T} \ll 1$

$$\epsilon_0 \frac{d^2 \Phi}{dx^2} = en_0 \left(1 + \frac{e\Phi(x)}{k_B T} + \dots - 1 \right) \simeq en_0 \frac{e\Phi}{k_B T}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \Phi}{dx^2} = \frac{n_0 e^2}{\epsilon_0 k_B T} \Phi \longrightarrow \Phi = \Phi_0 e^{-\frac{|x|}{\lambda_D}}$$

$$N_D = \frac{4\pi}{3} \lambda_D^3 n \gg 1$$



What is a plasma ? - Concept 4 –the plasma frequency (numbers)

electrons

$$\omega_{pe} = \sqrt{\frac{n_e e^2}{\epsilon_0 m_e}} \simeq 60 \sqrt{n_e [10^{16} m^{-3}]}$$

$$f_{pe} \simeq 9 \sqrt{n_e [10^{16} m^{-3}]}$$

ions

$$\omega_{pi} = \sqrt{\frac{n_e e^2}{\epsilon_0 m_i}} \simeq 1.4 \sqrt{\frac{n_e [10^{16} m^{-3}]}{A [amu]}}$$

$$f \simeq 0.2 \sqrt{\frac{n_e [10^{16} m^{-3}]}{A [amu]}}$$

Assume:
100 MHz RF plasma in Ar
 $n_e = 10^{16} m^{-3}$

$$f_{pe} \simeq 9 \times 10^8 s^{-1} \rightarrow \tau = 1.1 \times 10^{-9} s$$

$$f_{pi} \simeq 3 \times 10^6 s^{-1} \rightarrow \tau = 0.3 \times 10^{-6} s$$

Electrons can easily follow the RF cycle,
ions can NOT !!