



**19th Europhysics Conference  
on the Atomic and Molecular Physics of Ionized Gases  
Granada, Spain, 15-19 July 2008**

Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Laboratories

Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

**Plasma Assisted Ignition and High-Speed Flow Control:  
Non-Thermal and Thermal Effects**

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*Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory*

*Department of Mechanical Engineering*



# **Students and Post-Docs Who Did Most of the Work**

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## **I. Low-Temperature Plasma Assisted Ignition:**

**Demonstrating non-thermal plasma chemical ignition mechanism in uniform, repetitively pulsed, nanosecond pulse discharges**

## **II. High-Speed Flow Control by Plasmas:**

**Using repetitively pulsed localized heating to excite flow instabilities, for mixing enhancement and noise reduction**

# Background:

## Nonequilibrium plasma assisted combustion (PAC)

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- Plasma assisted ignition and combustion studied using different types of discharges: spark, MW, RF, pulsed corona, nanosecond pulse, etc.
- Ignition delay time in non-flowing, shock-preheated  $H_2$ -air and  $C_xH_y$ -air mixtures reduced by a single-pulse, nanosecond duration fast ionization wave discharge (Starikovskii et al, 2003-05)
- Repetitively pulsed nanosecond duration plasmas stabilize lean premixed propane-air flames, increase flame blow-off velocity, expand the flammability limits (Starikovskii et al, Laux et al, Cappelli et al, 2003-06)
- Filamentary pulsed corona discharge ( $\sim 100$  ns) : ignition delay time reduced compared to spark plug ignition at the same pulse energy (Gundersen et al., 2003-05)
- Nanosecond repetitively pulsed plasmas: flow ignition, combustion, and flameholding achieved at plasma temperatures 300-400<sup>0</sup> C below autoignition temperature (Ohio State, 2003-07)

# Interpretation of PAC experiments: two opposing viewpoints

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- **Thermal:** Ignition due to rapid localized heating by the plasma (due to filamentation and arcing)
- **Non-thermal:** Ignition due to radical generation by the plasma (O, H, OH,  $C_xH_y$ , etc.), which provides key radical initiation step at low temperatures

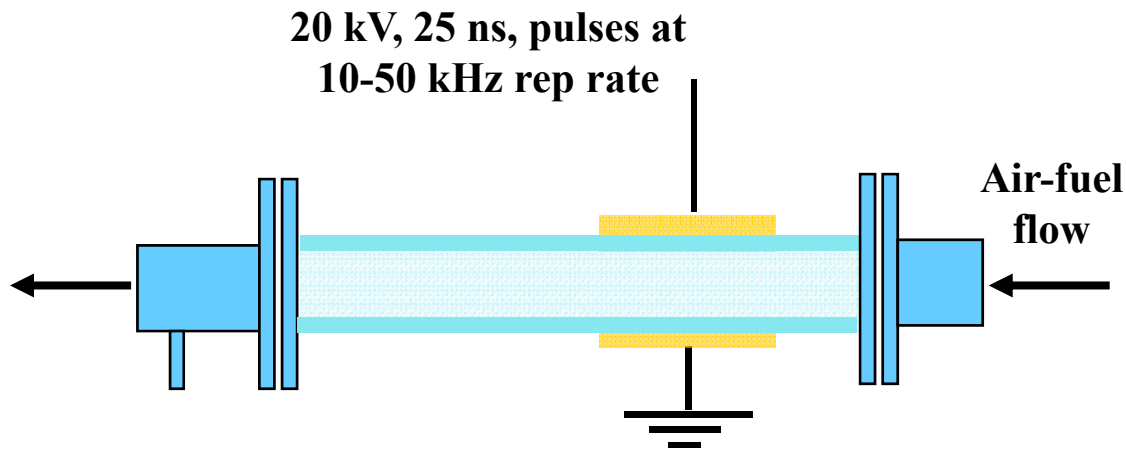
**Isolating and demonstrating possible non-thermal ignition mechanism has been difficult.** To do this, we need to:

- Identify a “test bed” experiment suitable for this purpose
- Minimize plasma non-uniformity and localized heating
- Measure key radical species number densities and ignition delay time
- Demonstrate kinetic mechanism of plasma assisted ignition in kinetic modeling calculations
- Compare modeling calculations with experiment

# Flow ignition /flameholding in a repetitively pulsed nanosecond discharge (AIAA 2008-1106)

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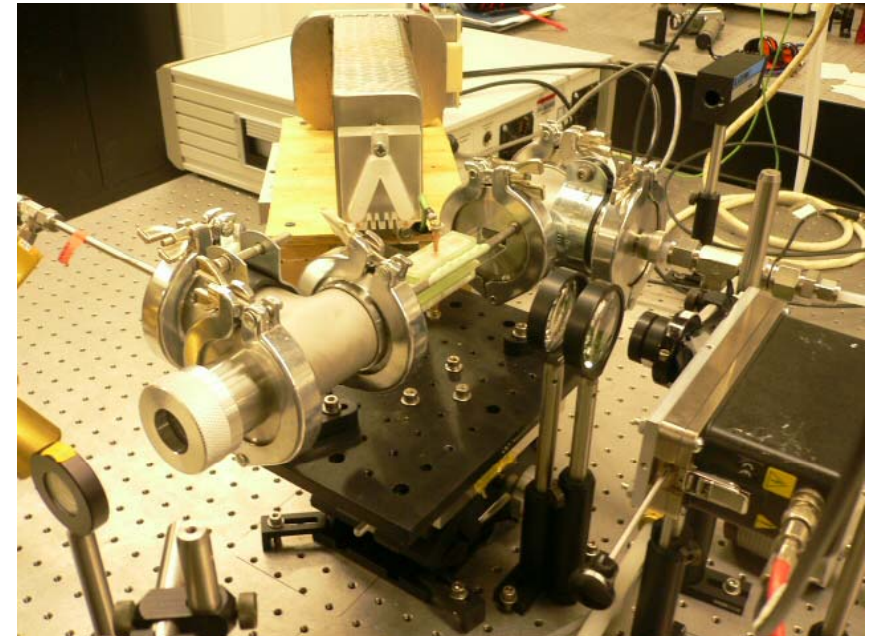
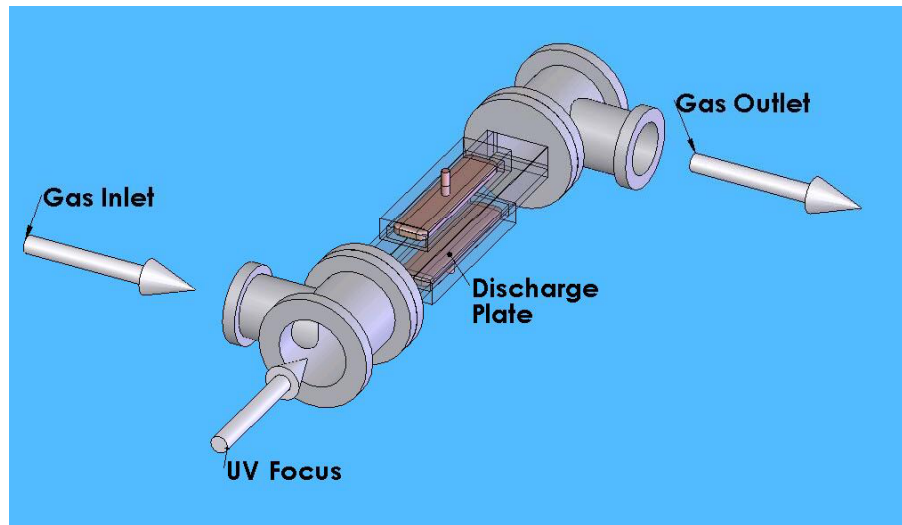


- Steady state flow experiments
- Premixed ethylene-air flows,  $u = 3\text{--}10$  m/sec
- Ignition, flameholding, and steady combustion at  $\nu > 40$  kHz
- Kinetic modeling in good agreement with experiment
- **Not suitable for quantitative, predictive ignition kinetics studies:** non-uniform axial temperature distribution, possible flame flashback / blowoff / reignition; convection and conduction heat transfer

# TALIF O atom density measurements in a single-pulse nanosecond discharge (AIAA 2008-1110)

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- Single-pulse discharge experiments ( $\nu=10$  Hz,  $u < 1$  m/sec) in air, methane-air, and ethylene-air
- Stable uniform plasma with no sign of filament formation
- O atom concentration measured as a function of time after the pulse
- Kinetic modeling in good agreement with experiment
- **Can be used for “batch” (slow flow) ignition studies using a high rep rate pulse burst: flow / convection heat transfer effects can be neglected**



# Objectives / Motivation

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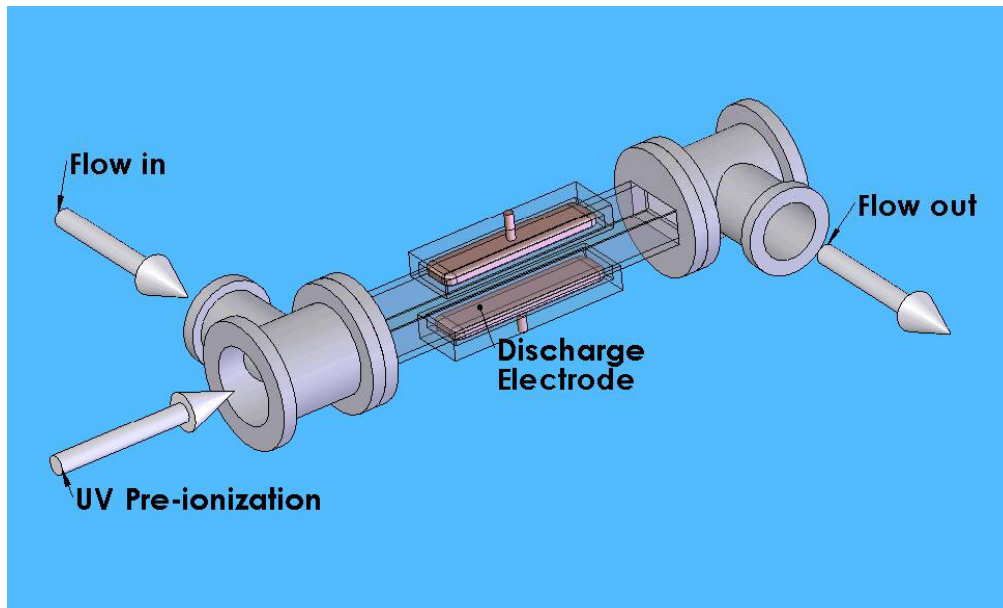
- Measure “batch” pulse burst ignition delay time in slow, premixed air-fuel flows at conditions where plasma can be characterized
  - Compare with kinetic model predictions
  - Identify kinetic mechanism of plasma assisted ignition at low temperatures
- 
- Insight into fundamental kinetic mechanism of low-temperature plasma ignition
  - Development of efficient nonequilibrium plasma igniters for internal combustion and jet engines: confident ignition in a wide range of equivalence ratios, pressures, and flow velocities; high-altitude relight



# Experiment Schematic

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## Flow / discharge geometry:

quartz channel 22 x 10 mm cross section, 14 x 63 mm electrode plates

Flow velocity 80 cm/sec, residence time in discharge ~80 msec (w/o plasma)

## Pulse burst:

Up to 1000 20 kV, 25 ns pulses at  $\nu=10\text{--}50$  kHz, pulse energy ~1 mJ/pulse

## Pre-ionization:

UV lamp (to achieve breakdown on the first pulse)

## Diagnostics:

gated ICCD camera images (broadband), emission spectra (OMA), time-resolved emission (PMT/monochromator)

**Need to know:**

**Whether plasma is uniform**

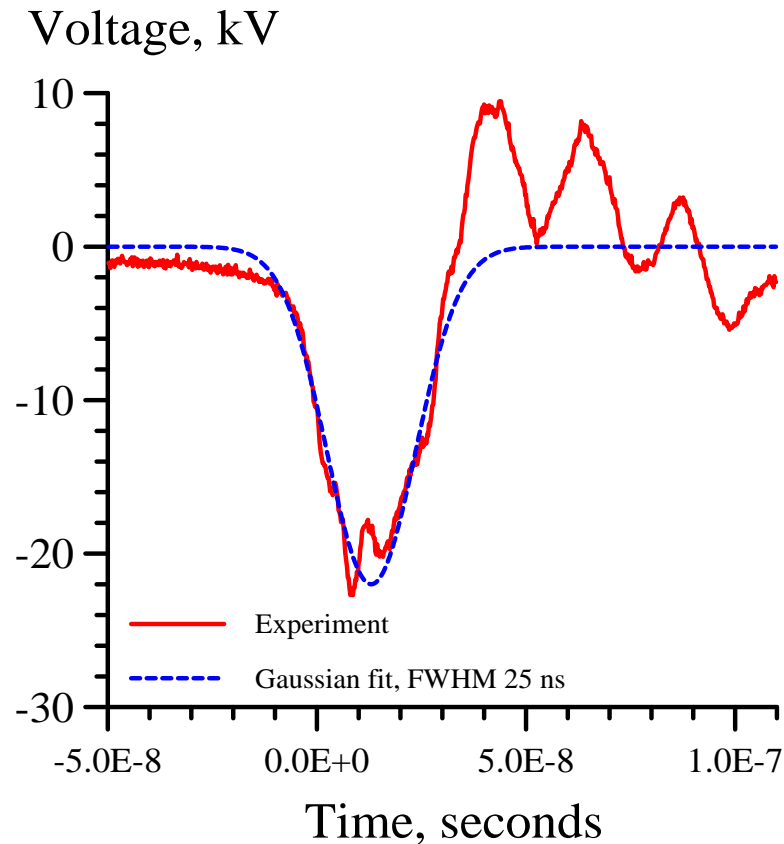
**Pulse energy coupled to flow**

**Pulse energy variation during burst**

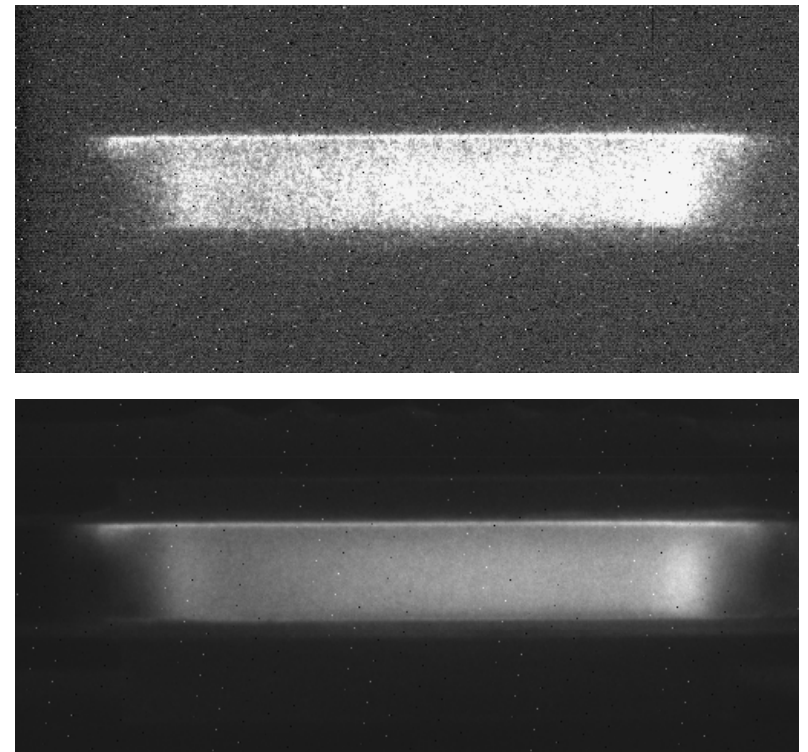
# Typical voltage pulse shape and broadband plasma images

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**20 kV peak voltage, FWHM 25 nsec**



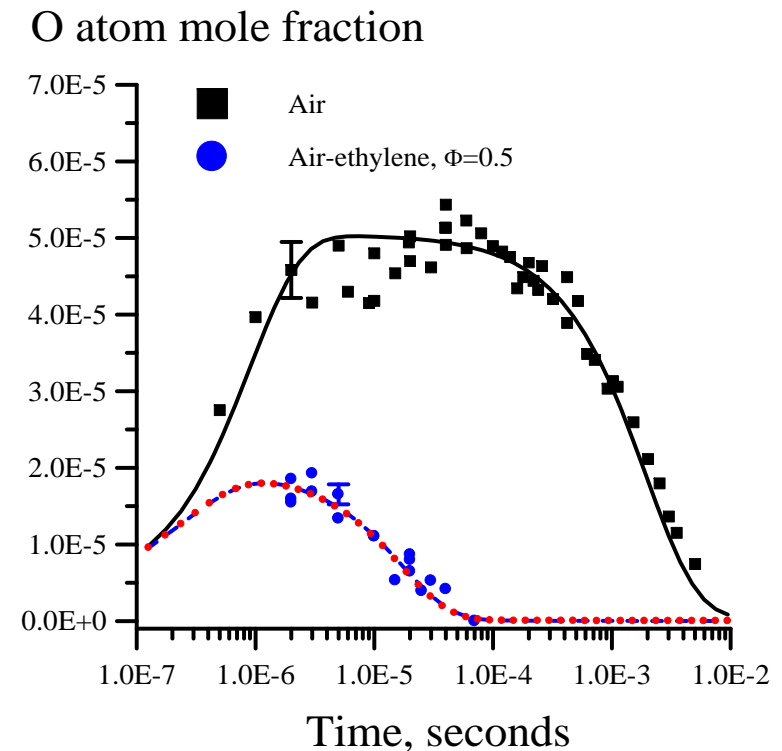
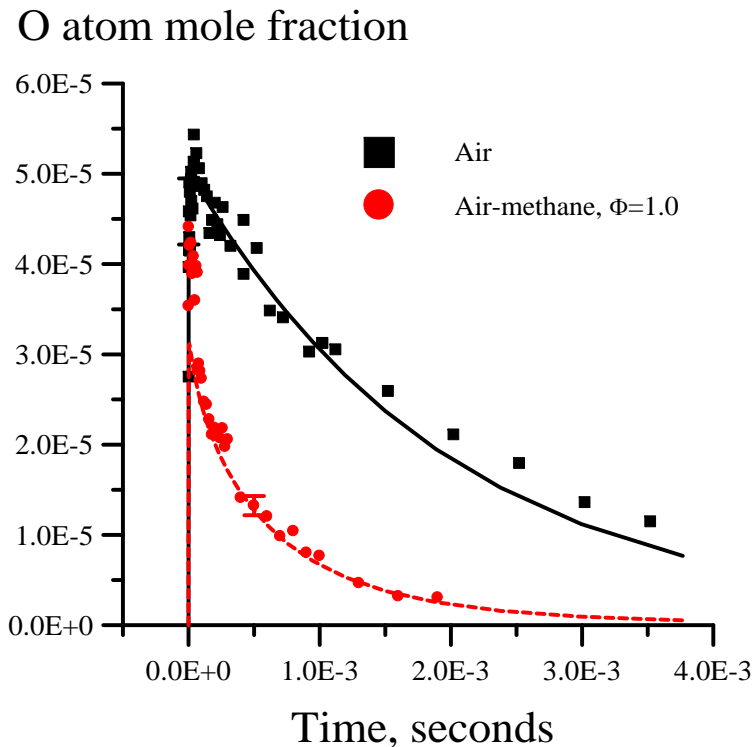
**Gated ICCD camera images (300 ns gate).  
Nitrogen, P=60 torr,  $\nu=5$  kHz. Top, single  
pulse; bottom, 100 pulse average.**

**Uniform plasma in both cases**

# Pulse energy inference: TALIF O atom density measurements in a single pulse discharge (AIAA 2008-1110)

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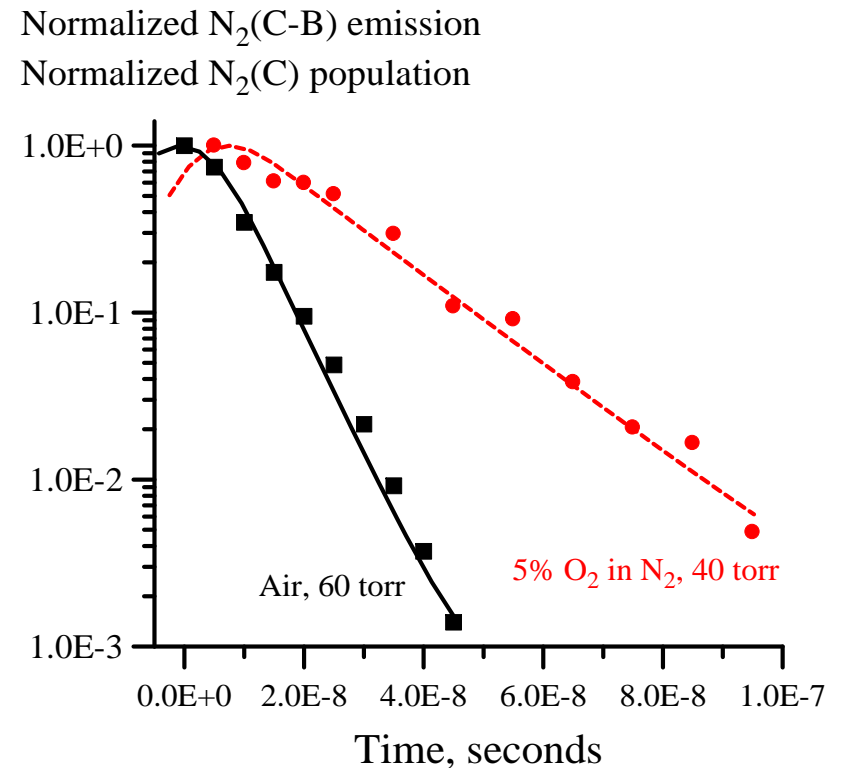
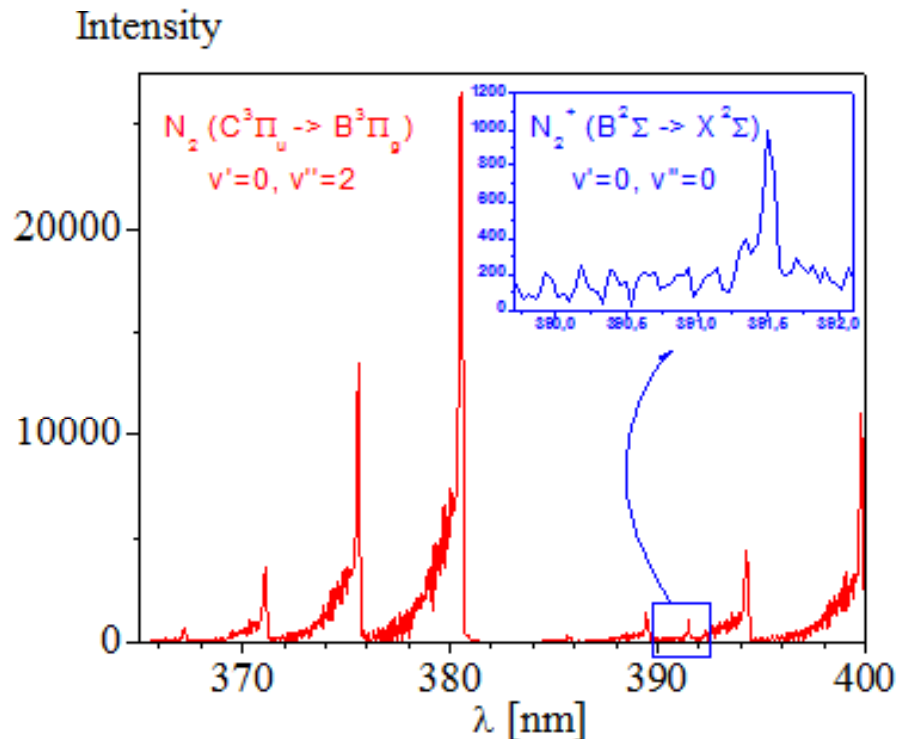


- Pulse energy measured by integrating voltage and current waveforms:  $\approx 1$  mJ/pulse. Large uncertainty due to large forward and reflected powers (several mJ/pulse)
- Pulse energy inferred from **peak** O atom density in air using kinetic model of air plasma: **0.76 mJ at  $E/N=250$  Td**; in good agreement with pulsed discharge model (**0.7 mJ**)
- Excellent agreement with measured absolute **time-dependent** O atom concentrations (for same pulsed energy in air and fuel-air mixtures)

# Electric field during the pulse: inferred from ratio of $N_2(C \rightarrow B)$ and $N_2^+(B \rightarrow X)$ emission

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- Emission decays within  $\sim 10$  nsec, i.e. signal collected during the pulses
- Collisional and radiative lifetimes & Franck-Condon coefficients taken from literature
- Inferred  $E/N = 330 \pm 30$  Td in good agreement with pulsed discharge model ( $E/N \approx 360$  Td)
- Experimental demonstration of gap shielding ( $U_{peak}/L \approx 1000$  Td)

# Hydrocarbon-air plasma chemistry kinetic model (to predict ignition delay time)

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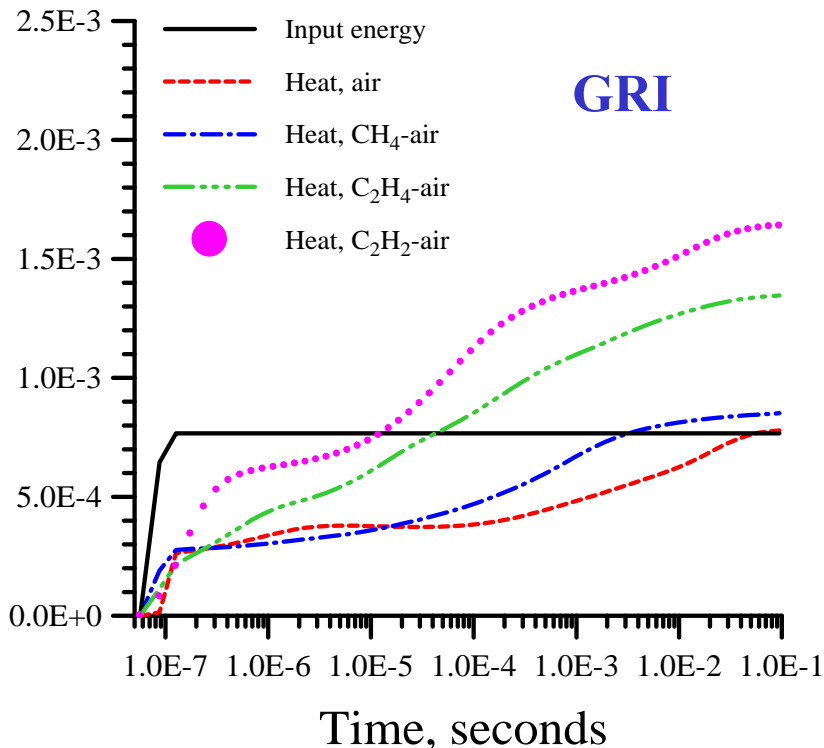
- **Air plasma model:** equations for ground state neutral species (**N, N<sub>2</sub>, O, O<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O**), charged species (electrons and ions), and excited species (**N<sub>2</sub>(A<sup>3</sup>Σ), N<sub>2</sub>(B<sup>3</sup>Π), N<sub>2</sub>(C<sup>3</sup>Π), N<sub>2</sub>(a'<sup>1</sup>Σ), O<sub>2</sub>(a<sup>1</sup>Δ), O<sub>2</sub>(b<sup>1</sup>Σ), O<sub>2</sub>(c<sup>1</sup>Σ), N(<sup>2</sup>D), N(<sup>2</sup>P), O(<sup>1</sup>D)**) produced in the plasma.
- **Two-term expansion Boltzmann equation for plasma electrons**
- **Quasi-1-D flow equations; conduction heat transfer (HT time ~ 10 msec)**
- **Fuel-air plasma: model combined with GRI Mech 3.0 or with USC (Wang et al., better C<sub>2</sub> chemistry) C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub> oxidation mechanisms, supplemented with fuel dissociation by electron impact and in reactions with electronically excited nitrogen**
- **Peak E/N adjusted to fit O atom density measured in a single pulse discharge in air to match inferred pulse energy, 0.76 mJ/pulse**
- **Pulse energy kept the same in air and air-fuel mixtures**
- **Validated by comparison with time-dependent O atom density measured in single pulse discharges in air, CH<sub>4</sub>-air, and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-air (AIAA 2008-1110)**

# Kinetic modeling: additional heat release by plasma chemical reactions

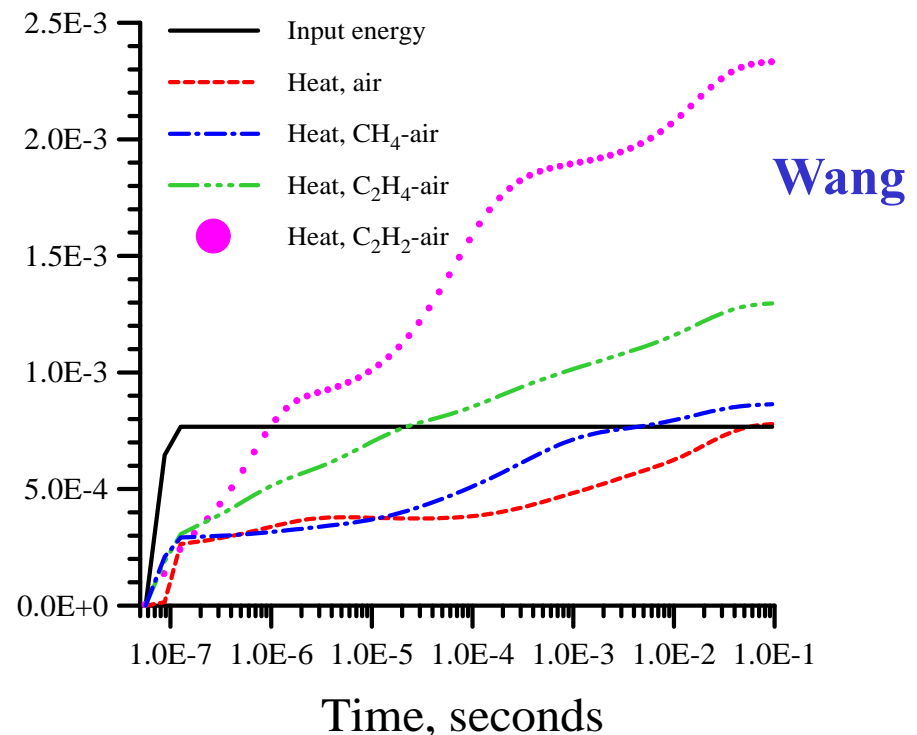
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Pulse energy balance, J



Pulse energy balance, J



- Significant additional energy release from fuel species reacting with radicals produced by the plasma (O, H, OH, and  $C_xH_y$ ) in ethylene-air (70-80%) and especially acetylene-air (a factor of 2 to 3)
- Much less pronounced in methane-air (10-15%)
- Suggests shorter ignition times in acetylene, longer in ethylene, and longest in methane

# Dominant radical generation / loss and energy release processes in air and ethylene-air

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<b>O atom generation</b>			
$N_2$	$+ e^-$	$= N_2(A^3\Sigma) + e^-$	
$N_2$	$+ e^-$	$= N_2(B^3\Pi) + e^-$	
$N_2$	$+ e^-$	$= N_2(C^3\Pi) + e^-$	
$N_2$	$+ e^-$	$= N_2(a'^1\Sigma) + e^-$	
$O_2$	$+ e^-$	$= O(^3P) + O(^3P, ^1D) + e^-$	
$N_2(C^3\Pi)$	$+ O_2$	$= N_2(a'^1\Sigma) + O_2$	
$N_2(a'^1\Sigma)$	$+ O_2$	$= N_2(B^3\Pi) + O_2$	
$N_2(B^3\Pi)$	$+ O_2$	$= N_2(A^3\Sigma) + O_2$	
$N_2(A^3\Sigma)$	$+ O_2$	$= N_2 + O + O$	
<b>O atom decay</b>			
$O$	$+ O_2 + M$	$= O_3 + M$	
$O$	$+ O_3$	$= O_2 + O_2$	

<b>Fuel dissociation</b>			
$C_2H_4$	$+ e^-$	$= \text{products} + e^-$	
$N_2(A^3\Sigma)$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= N_2 + C_2H_3 + H$	
$N_2(B^3\Pi)$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= N_2 + C_2H_3 + H$	
$N_2(C^3\Pi)$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= N_2 + C_2H_3 + H$	
$N_2(a'^1\Sigma)$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= N_2 + C_2H_3 + H$	
<b>O atom decay</b>			
$O$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= CH_3 + HCO$	
$O$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= H + CH_2CHO$	
$C_2H_3$	$+ O_2$	$= HCO + CH_2O$	
$C_2H_3$	$+ O_2$	$= O + CH_2CHO$	
<b>Energy release</b>			
$O$	$+ CH_2CHO$	$= H + CH_2 + CO_2$	
$H$	$+ O_2 + M$	$= HO_2 + M$	
$O$	$+ HO_2$	$= OH + O_2$	
$OH$	$+ HO_2$	$= O_2 + H_2O$	
$OH$	$+ C_2H_4$	$= C_2H_3 + H_2O$	
$HO_2$	$+ CH_3$	$= OH + CH_3O$	
$CH_3O$	$+ O_2$	$= HO_2 + CH_2O$	
$O_2$	$+ CH_2CHO$	$= OH + HCO + HCO$	
$HCO$	$+ O_2$	$= HO_2 + CO$	
$HO_2$	$+ HO_2$	$= O_2 + H_2O_2$	
$CH_2$	$+ O_2$	$= H + H + CO_2$	

Is plasma just a fancy heater?

Is that all there is to it?

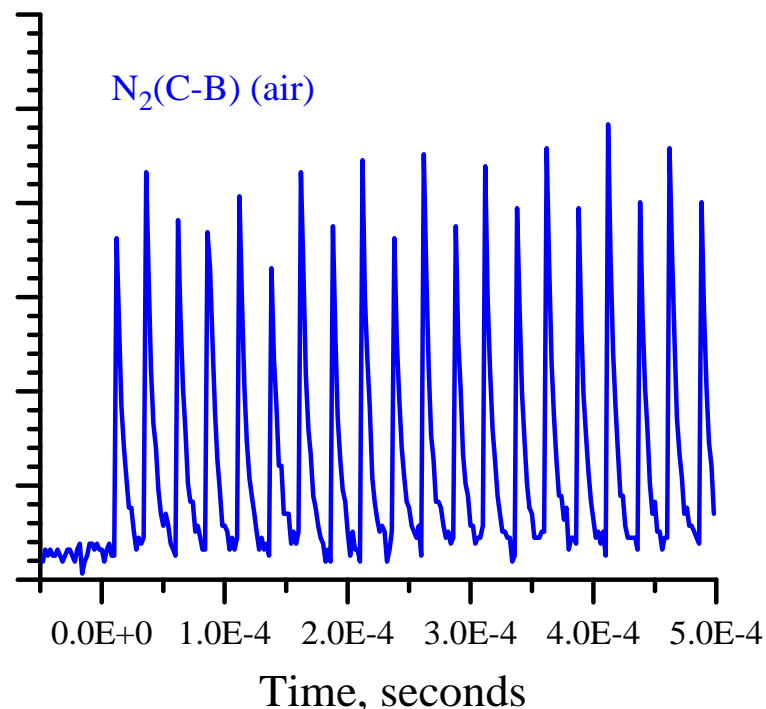


# Pulse burst discharge emission in air and ethylene-air ( $P=60$ torr, $\phi=1$ , $\nu=40$ kHz, 308 nm)

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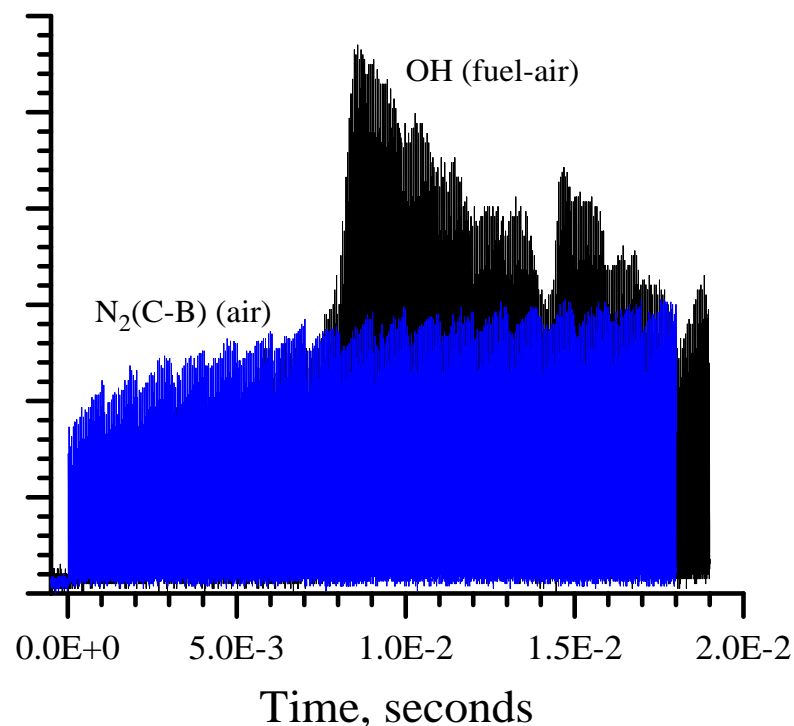
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Emission intensity (arb. units)



- Air (higher time resolution)
- $N_2(C \rightarrow B)$  emission spikes unresolved
- Peak emission appear to oscillate due to low number of points across the peak

Emission intensity (arb. units)

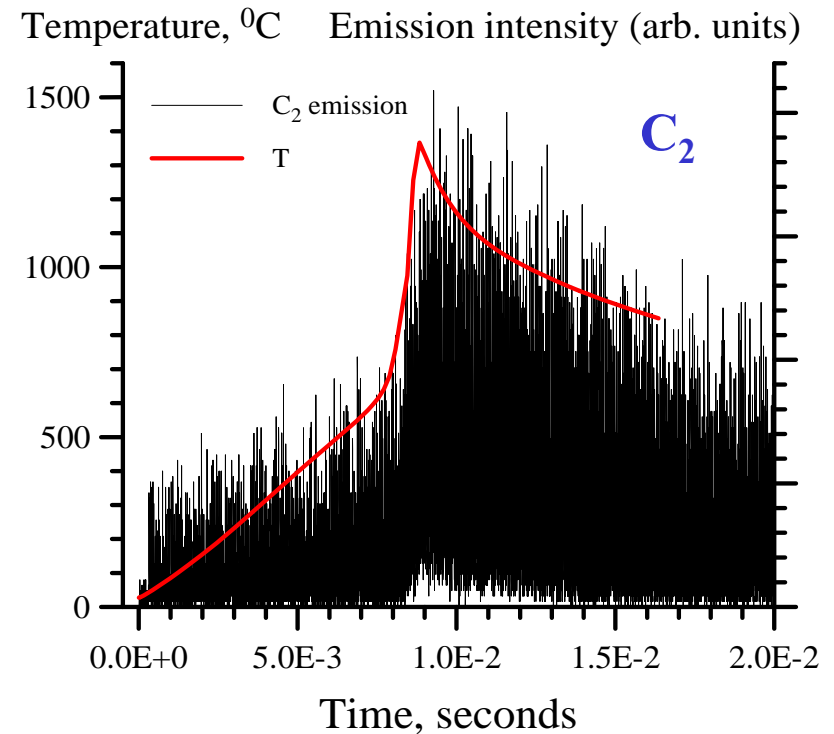
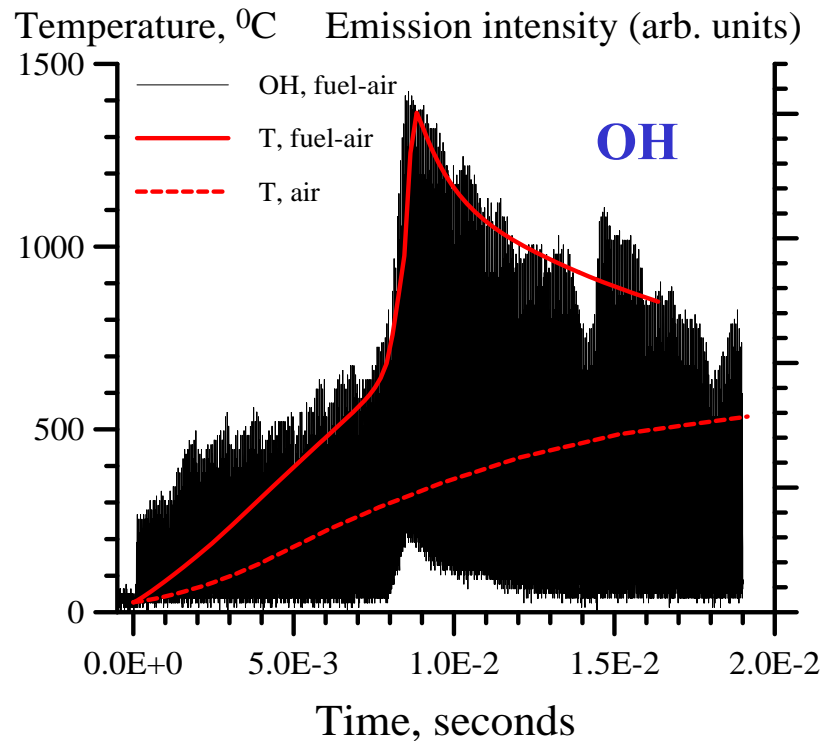


- Air and  $C_2H_4$ -air (lower time resolution)
- $N_2(C \rightarrow B)$  emission steady in time
- Emission overshoot in ethylene-air after  $\sim 360$  pulses ( $\sim 9$  msec):  **$OH(A \rightarrow X)$**
- Overshoot reproduced well run-to-run

# Pulse burst discharge emission in ethylene-air ( $P=60$ torr, $\phi=1$ , $\nu=40$ kHz, 308 and 563 nm)

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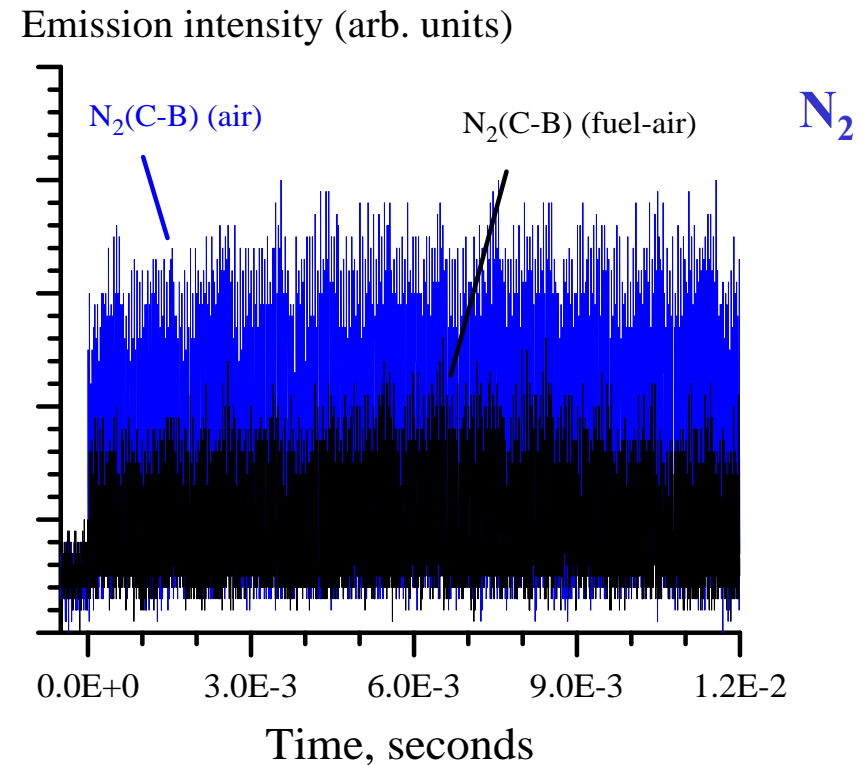
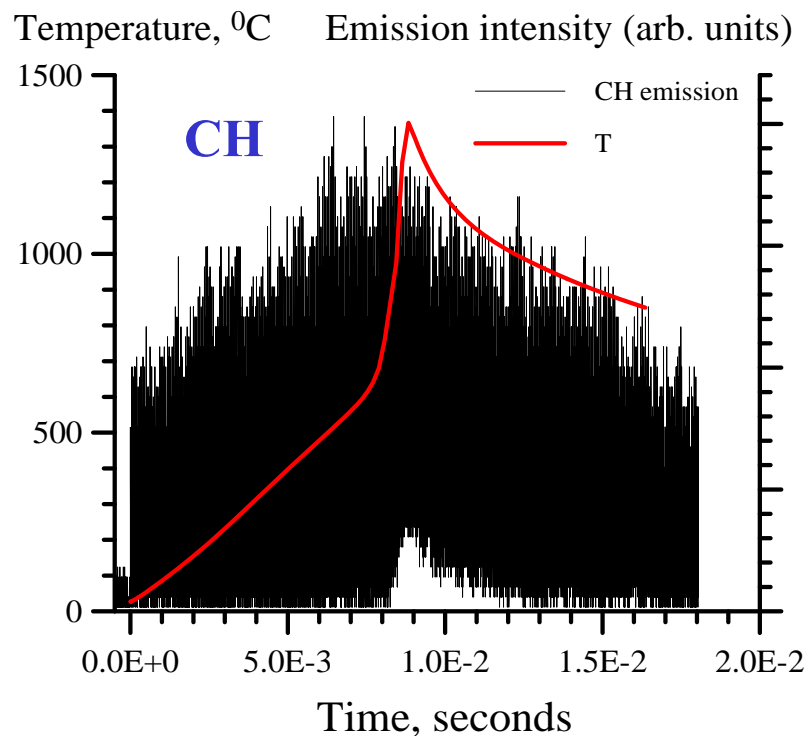


- Both traces show emission intensity overshoot after  $\sim 360$  pulses ( $\sim 9$  msec)
- Both traces show emission “footprint” at  $\sim 9$  msec: emission no longer goes down to zero between pulses, **indicating self-sustained emission process during combustion (OH and  $\text{C}_2$  Swan)**
- Emission overshoot timing in good agreement with temperature and OH concentration peaks predicted by the kinetic model

# Pulse burst discharge emission in ethylene-air ( $P=60$ torr, $\phi=1$ , $\nu=40$ kHz, 431 and 457 nm)

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- 431 nm emission shows (CH) emission “footprint” at ~9 msec, which coincides with OH and  $C_2$  emission “footprints” and temperature peak predicted by the model
- No  $N_2(C \rightarrow B)$  emission overshoot detected for bands not overlapping with strong OH, CH, and  $C_2$  bands (e.g. 457 nm)

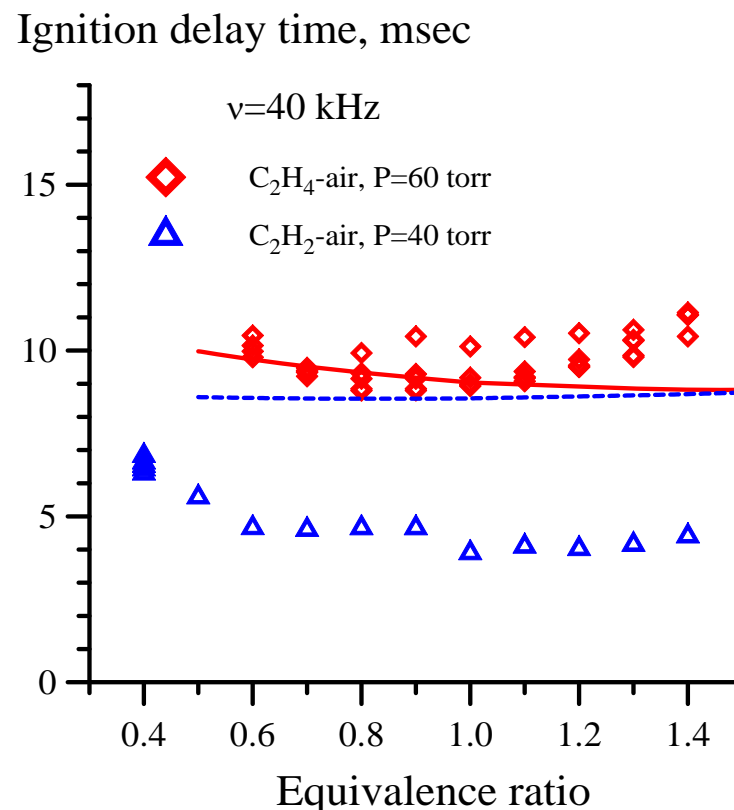
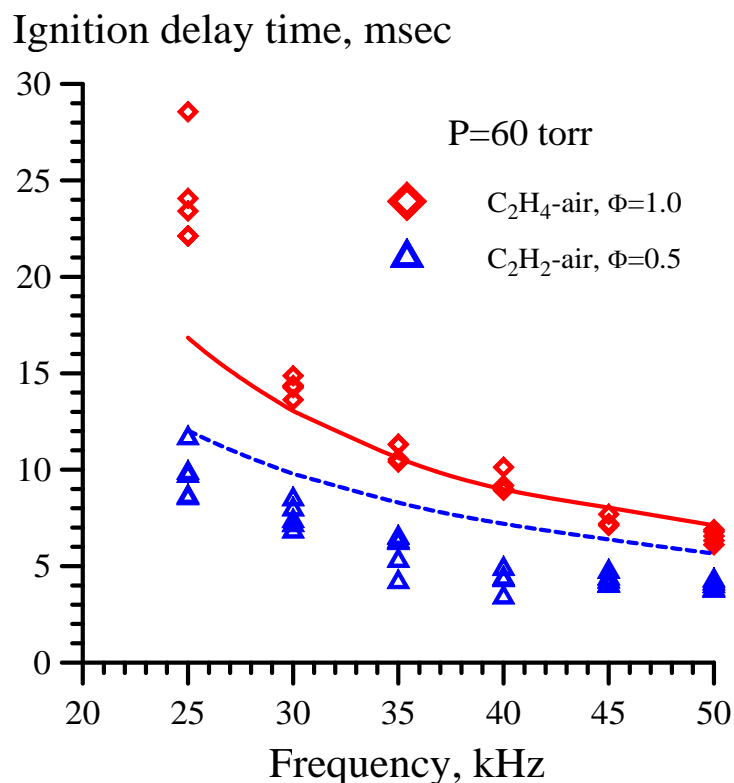
**Summary:** Emission “footprints” are due to ignition in test section

**Kinetic model predicts ethylene ignition delay time at baseline conditions accurately**

# Experimental and calculated ignition delay times (ethylene and acetylene at P=60 torr, GRI 3.0)

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- Very good run-to-run reproducibility (10-20%)
- Excellent agreement for ethylene-air (except at 20 kHz; likely convective cooling effect)
- Model predicts longer ignition delay time in acetylene-air (by up to 50-100%)
- Measured and predicted ignition delay decreases with rep rate, nearly independent of  $\phi$
- Both experiment and model predict **no methane ignition in the entire range of conditions**

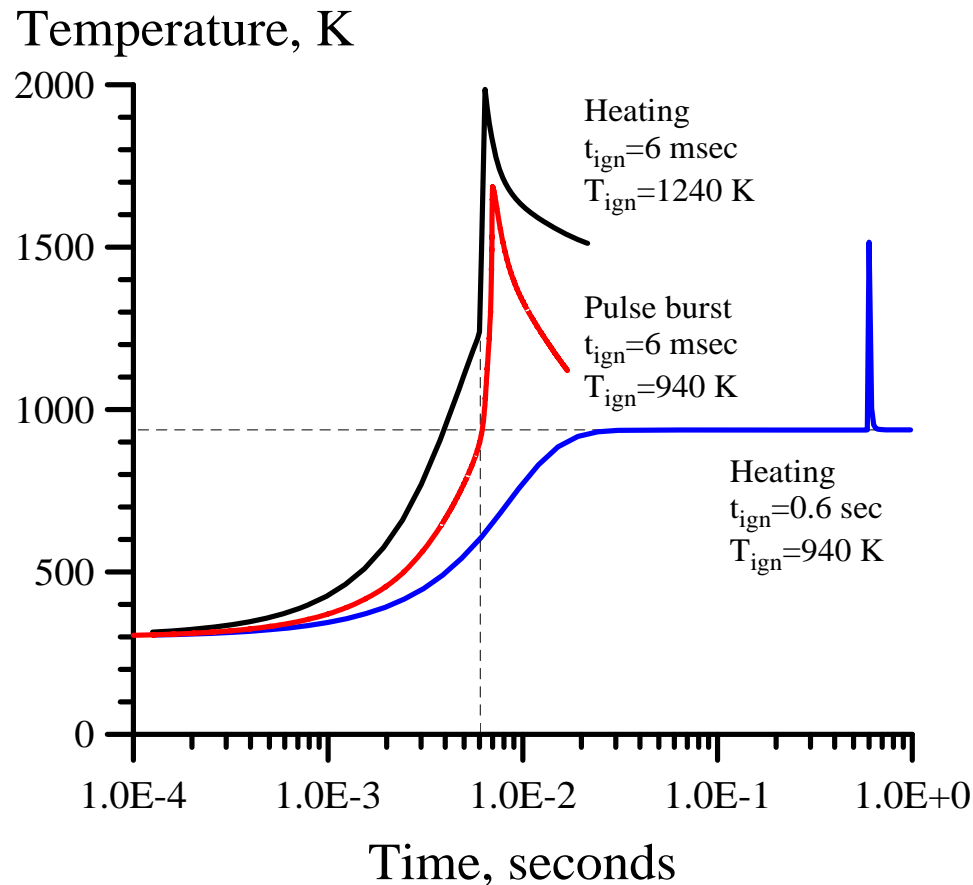
# Kinetic modeling: is ignition a thermal effect?

## Pulse burst ignition vs. equilibrium heating

(ethylene-air,  $P=60$  torr,  $\phi=1$ ,  $\nu=50$  kHz)

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**Case I (black curve):** heating rate adjusted to produce **same ignition delay time** as during pulse burst ignition

**Plasma ignition temperature lower by 300° C** (due to chain reaction acceleration by radicals)

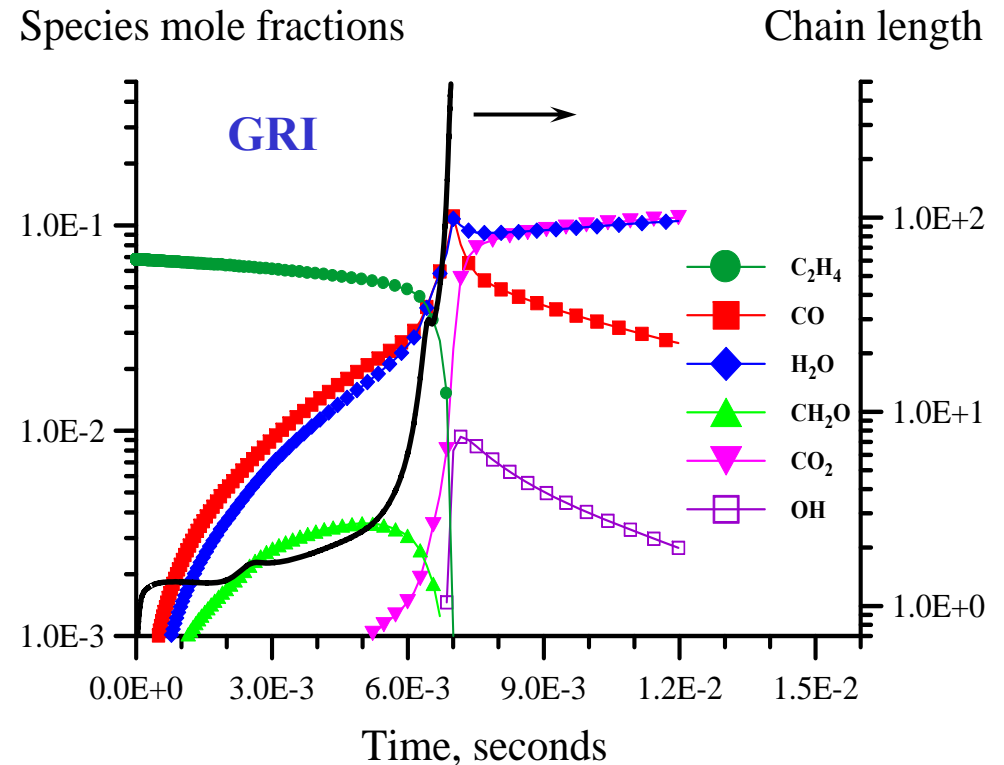
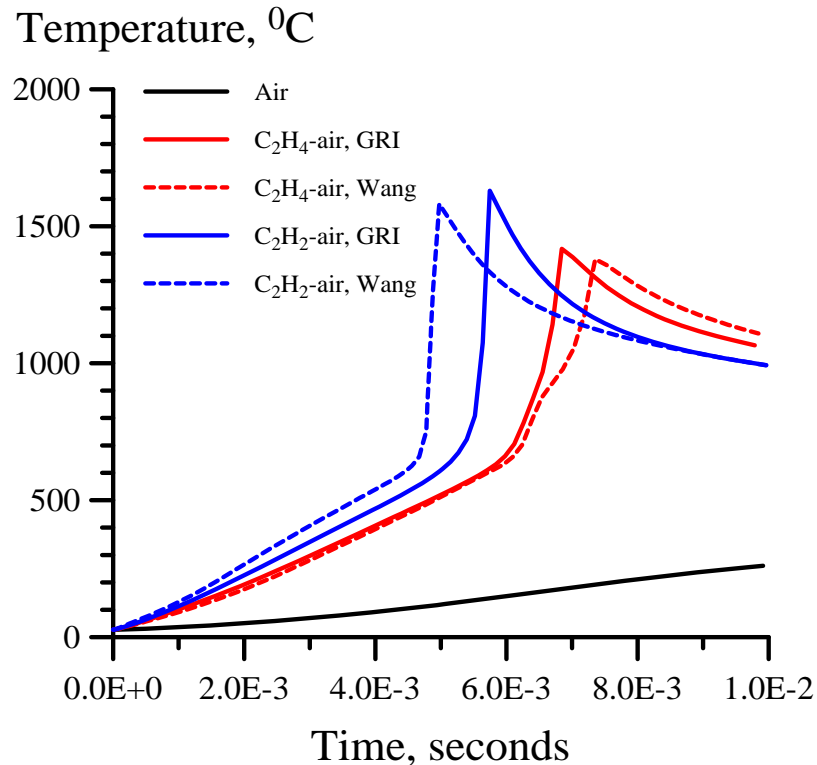
**Case II (blue curve):** heating rate adjusted to produce **same ignition temperature** as during pulse burst ignition

**Plasma ignition delay time shorter by 2 orders of magnitude** (due to chain reaction acceleration by radicals)

# Kinetic modeling: comparison of two $C_xH_y$ oxidation mechanisms, GRI 3.0 and Wang ( $P=60$ torr, $\phi=1$ , $\nu=50$ kHz)

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- Both mechanisms predict ignition delays, temperatures, and species concentrations in ethylene-air and acetylene-air close to each other
- Reaction chain length greatly increases as the temperature rises
- Temperature and OH concentration overshoots occur at the same time
- Both mechanisms predict no methane-air ignition at the present conditions (no additional plasma chemical energy release + rapid heat transfer to the walls): **consistent with experiment**

# Summary: Plasma Assisted Ignition

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- Ignition delay time measured in premixed methane-air, ethylene-air and acetylene-air flows excited by nanosecond pulse burst, uniform, low-temperature plasma
- Kinetic model of hydrocarbon-air plasma chemistry model developed
- Pulse energy used by the plasma chemistry model (0.76 mJ/pulse), inferred from TALIF O atom measurements, in good agreement with prediction of nanosecond pulse discharge model (0.7 mJ/pulse)
- Both electric field measurements ( $330 \pm 30$  Td) and nanosecond pulse discharge model predictions (360 Td) demonstrate strong plasma shielding by charging dielectrics
- Both experiment and model demonstrate absence of ignition in methane-air mixtures
- Experimental ignition delay time in ethylene-air in very good agreement with kinetic model of nanosecond pulse hydrocarbon-air plasmas
- Predicted ignition delay time in acetylene-air 50-100% longer than in experiment: acetylene-air plasma chemistry model may well be oversimplified
- Kinetic mechanism of nanosecond plasma ignition (additional heat release in fuel reactions with plasma-generated radicals + chain reaction acceleration by radicals) has been identified with confidence



## On-going and **Future** Work

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- **Direct measurements of pulse energy vs. pulse number and pulse rep rate (by integrating voltage and current wave forms): does the pulse energy remain the same during the burst?**
- **ICCD camera flame imaging at different moments of time: demonstrate that ignition indeed occurs in a large volume**
- **Pulse burst ignition delay time measurements in a wide range of pressures: can non-thermal, large volume ignition be achieved at high pressures?**
- **Spatially- and time-dependent temperature measurements (CARS): does the temperature increase at the same rate at different locations?**
- **Other key radical species measurements: H atoms (TALIF) and OH (LIF)**

# Background: Two Basic Mechanisms of Plasma Flow Control (without magnetic field)

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## EHD

- Coulomb force interaction in DBD discharges (Roth et al, Corke et al, Artana et al, Starikovskii et al, Moreau et al): boundary layer flow separation control,  $P \sim 1$  atm,  $u_\infty \sim 10$  m/s. Strong indication that dominant effect of DBD plasma at higher velocities is thermal.

## Heating

- Bulk flow heating by glow discharge (Mishin et al., Klimov et al.): shock weakening and drag reduction,  $P \sim 0.1$  atm,  $u_\infty \sim 1$  km/s. High power budget, not scalable to high pressures and flow dimensions.
- Localized flow heating by pulsed lasers and arc discharges (Myrabo et al, Tretyakov et al, Elliott et al, Leonov et al):  $P \sim 0.5$  atm,  $u_\infty \sim 500$  m/s, high power budget (up to  $\sim 10$  kW)
- Targeting flow instabilities by repetitively pulsed localized arc filament plasmas: **heating at the right place at the right frequency**

## Motivation

- **Develop energy-efficient arrays of plasma actuators for high-speed flow control, scalable to large flow dimensions**
- **Applications for mixing enhancement and noise reduction in jet engines**

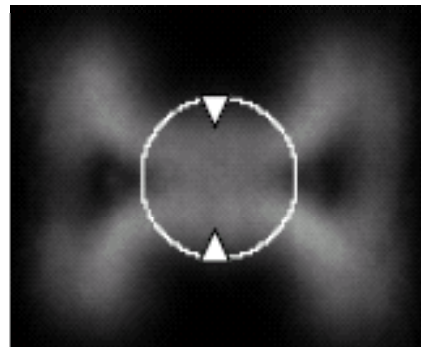
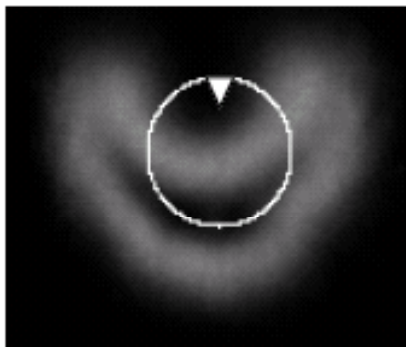
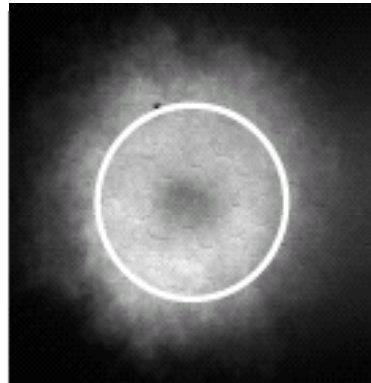
## Objectives

- **Design and test multi-channel, high-voltage pulsed plasma generators, with individual channel power, frequency, phase, and duty cycle control**
- **Design localized arc filament plasma actuator / ceramic housing assembly**
- **Characterize and optimize actuator performance: measure arc filament discharge power and plasma temperature**
- **Determine effect of repetitively pulsed arc filament plasmas on high speed flow and acoustic noise**

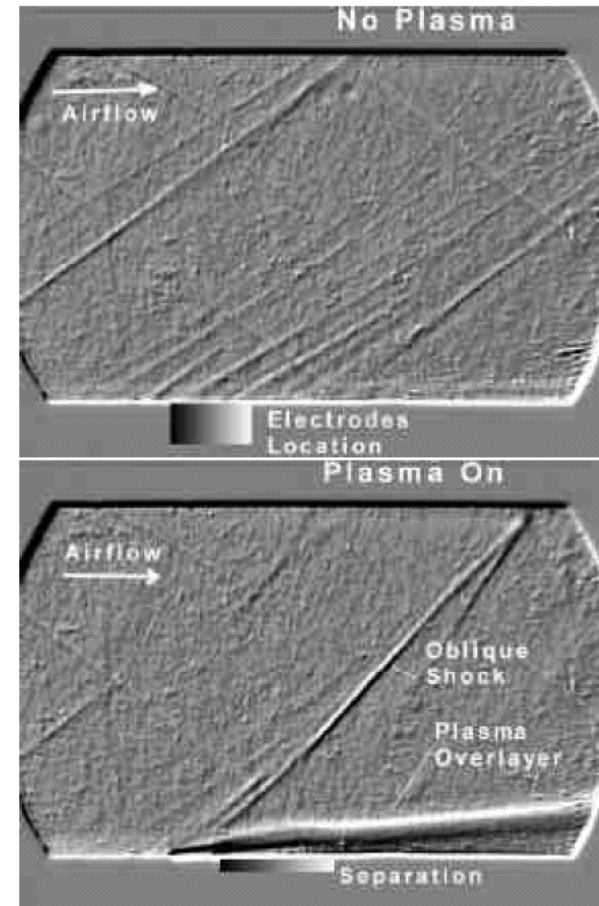
## Previous results on high-speed flow modification: effect of solid obstacles and arc plasmas

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**Solid tabs in a circular  $M=1.3$  jet  
flow: shear layer distortion by  
streamwise vortices**  
(Samimy et al., 2002)



**Near-wall DC arc plasma in flat plate  
 $M=1.5$  flow: shock waves, flow separation**  
(Leonov et al., 2002)

# Key Technical Issues

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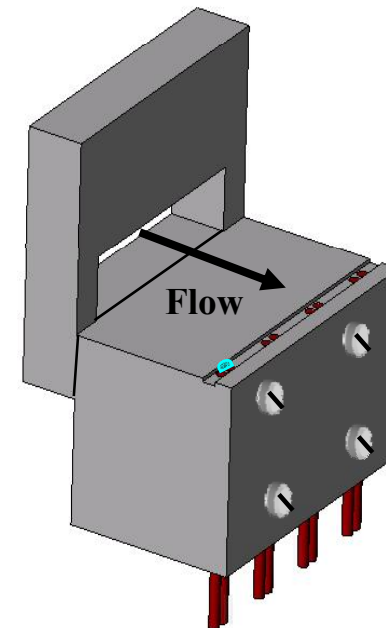
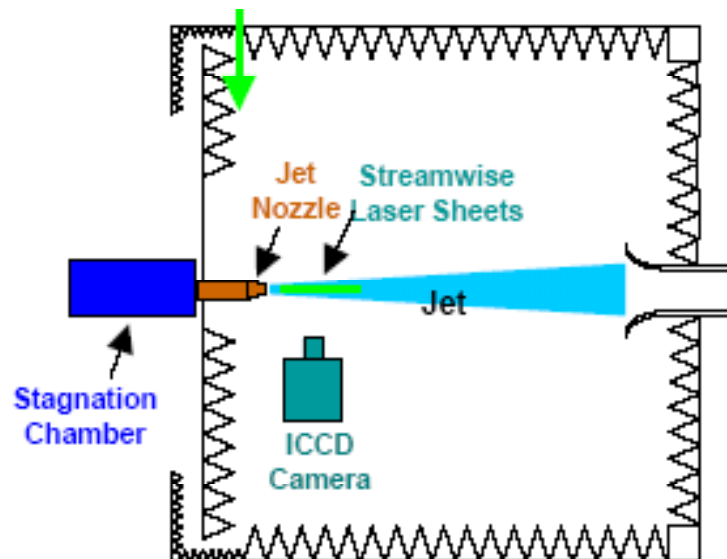
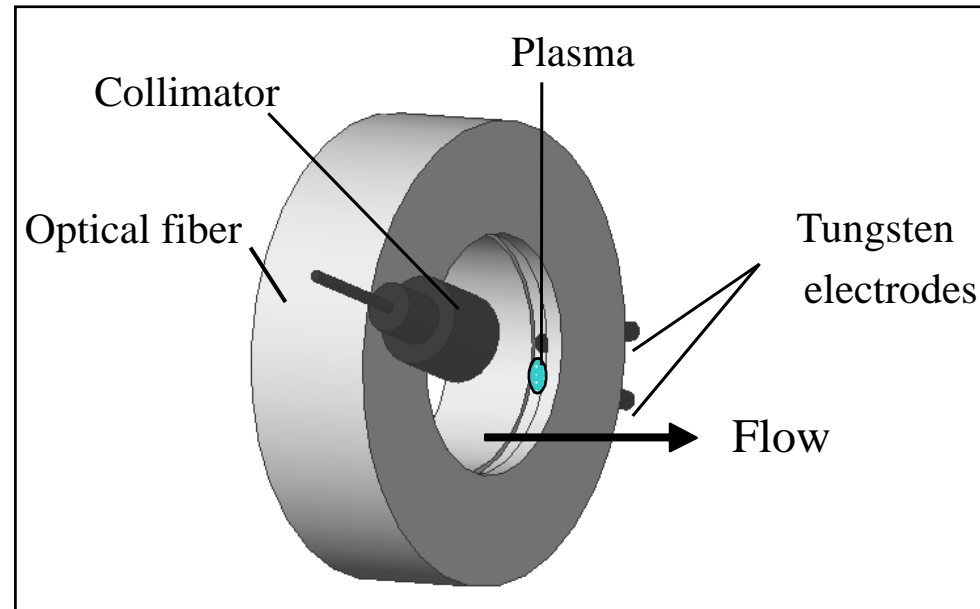
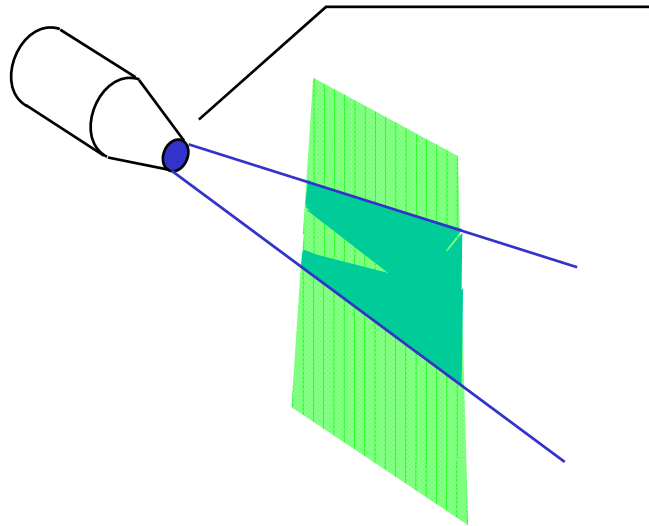
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- **Solid obstacle actuators: always present in the flow, cannot operate in “on/off” regime at high frequencies**
- **Fluidic actuators: not enough bandwidth; piezo actuators: not enough amplitude**
- **Plasma actuators: combine high amplitude and bandwidth**
- **Sustaining and individual control of multiple arc filament plasmas: arcs are blown off by the high-speed flow**
- **Heating needs to be rapid and localized**
- **Plasma power needs to be small compared to flow power ( $\sim 0.1\%$ )**
- **Electrode and ceramic material erosion at high-temperatures**
- **EMI noise from the plasma**
- **Flow control mechanism and actuator optimization**

# Experimental Facility Schematic

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Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

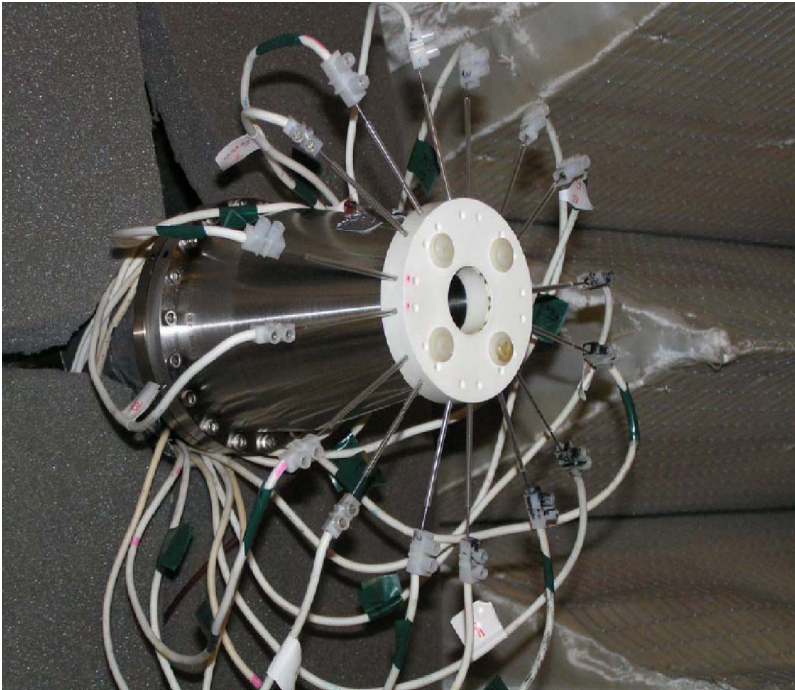




# Circular and rectangular nozzle extensions

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- **Circular nozzle 1 inch in diameter**
- **M=1.3 correctly expanded jet**
- **8 pairs of pin electrodes (3 mm apart)**
- **Rectangular nozzle, 1/2 in. x 3/2 in. cross section**
- **Flat plate nozzle extension**
- **M=0.9 jet**
- **4 pairs of pin electrodes (3 mm apart)**

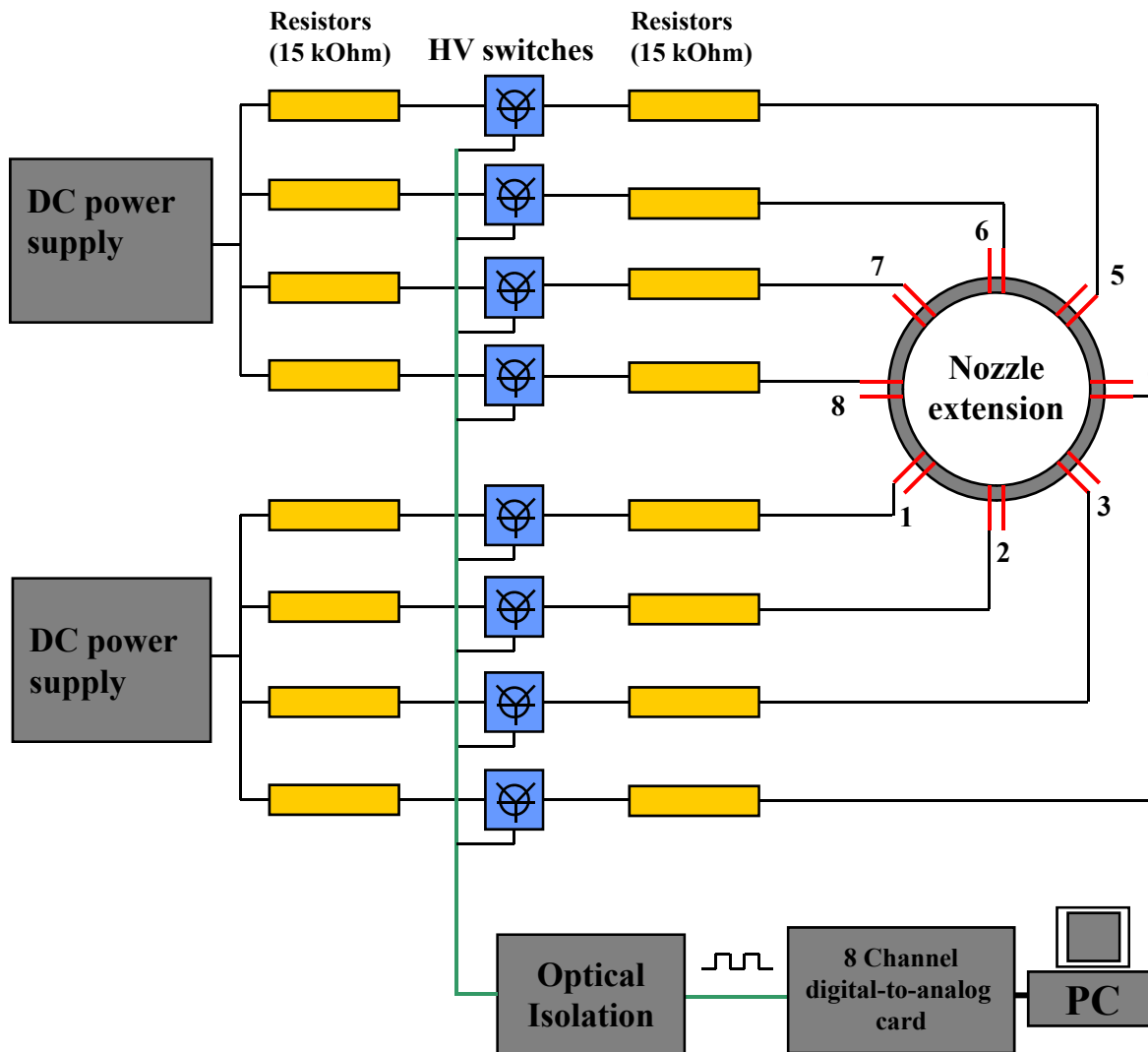
- **Boron nitride nozzle extensions, tungsten wire electrodes**
- **Rectangular groove to stabilize plasma (1 mm x 0.5 mm)**
- **Visible emission: optical fiber / OMA spectrometer**



# 8-channel high-voltage pulsed DC power supply

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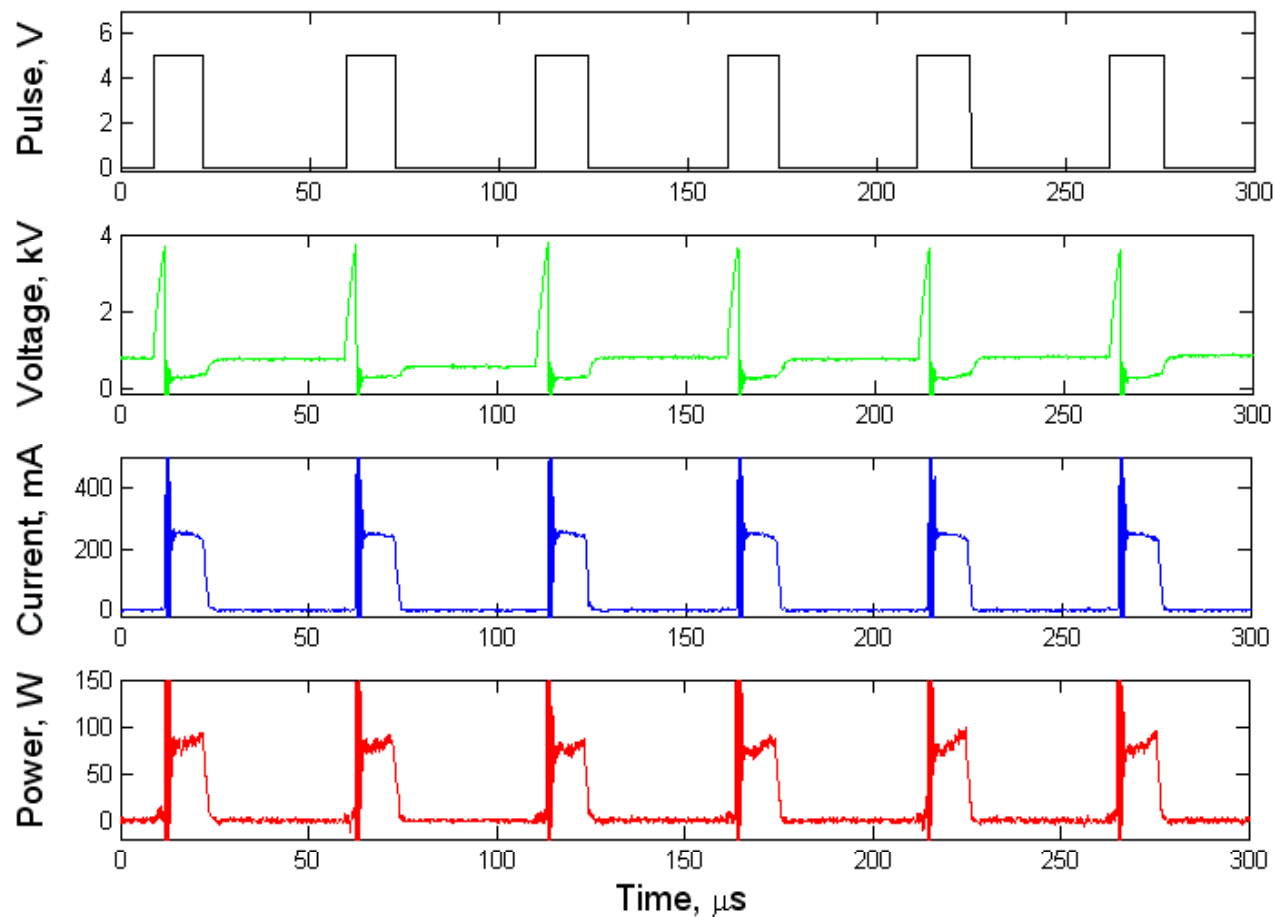


- Two 8 kV, 1.2 A DC power supplies
- 8 individually ballasted channels
- Fast HV switches in each channel (20 kV, 200 kHz, 0.1  $\mu$ s response time)
- Switches controlled by independent waveforms generated by 8-channel DAC / Labview
- Optical isolator stops feedback EMI noise
- Independent control of frequency, phase, and duty cycle  $\rightarrow$  excitation of different instability modes

# Typical pulsed DC actuator waveforms

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**DAC HV switch  
control signal**

**Voltage**

**Current**

**Power**

- **M=1.3 jet power: 28 kW**
- **Time-averaged plasma power budget: ~20 W per actuator (160 W total) – 0.6%**
- **Down side: 90-95% of DC power supply power dissipated on ballast resistors**



# 2-channel DC / pulsed RF converter power supply

## (Heat and Mass Transfer Institute, Minsk, Belarus)

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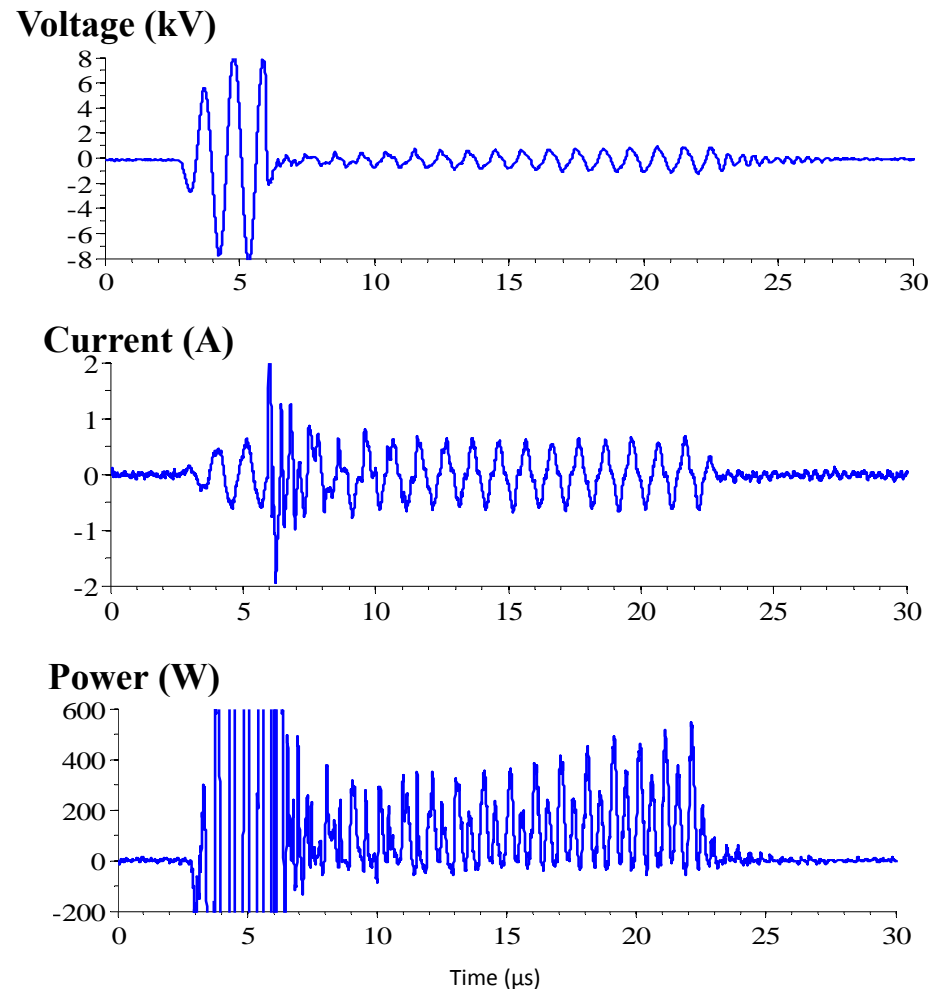
Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

- **Input power: 400 V DC**
- **Output power: 20 kV peak, 1 MHz frequency RF pulse bursts, burst repetition rate 0-50 kHz**
- **Individual control of burst duration, repetition rate, and phase for individual channels → excitation of different instability modes**
- **Control signals generated by digital-to-analog card / Labview**
- **Rapid RF voltage ramp-up time: 1-2  $\mu$ sec**
- **RF discharge after load breakdown: 500 V peak, 0.25 A peak, 100 W average power**
- **High DC / RF conversion efficiency: 60-85% of input DC power coupled to load**
- **No need for ballast resistors**
- **Scalable to large number of channels: 8-channel generator will be shipped in July, 64-channel is in design stage**

# Typical pulsed RF actuator waveforms

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Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

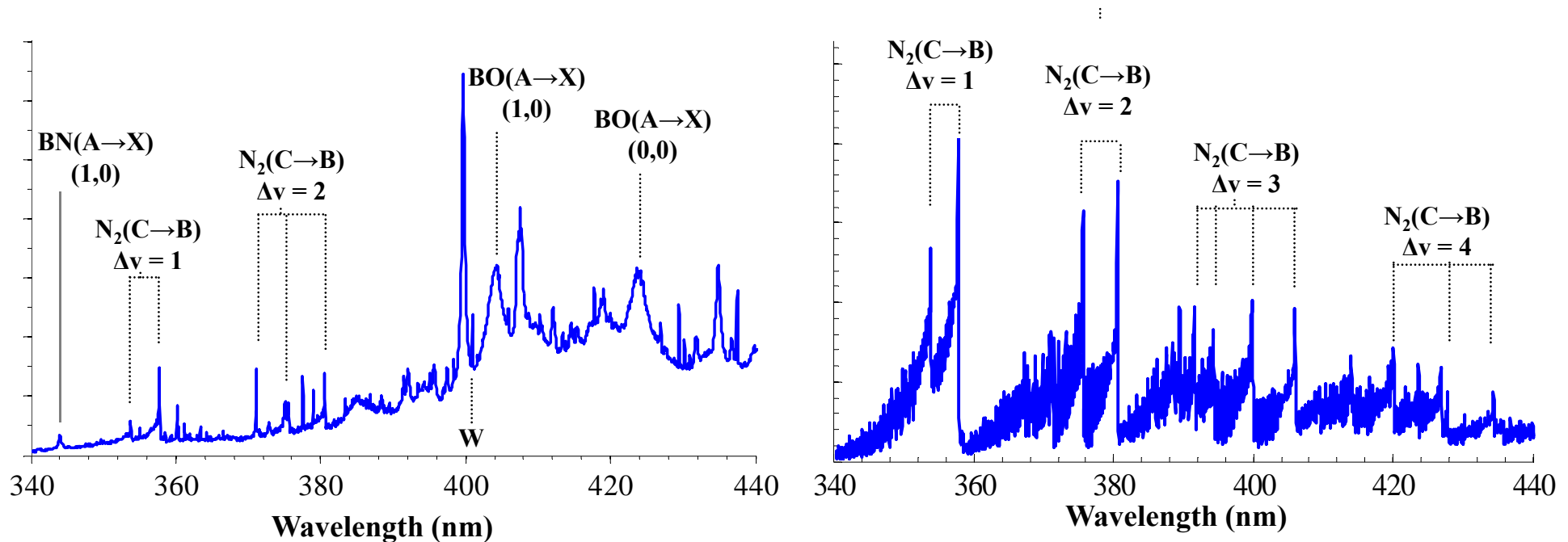


- $M=0.9$  jet power: 37 kW
- Time-averaged plasma power budget:  $\sim 12$  W per actuator (48 W total) – 0.13%
- DC/RF conversion efficiency: 60-85% of input DC power coupled to the plasma

# Pulsed DC and pulsed RF discharge emission spectra in a M=0.9 jet

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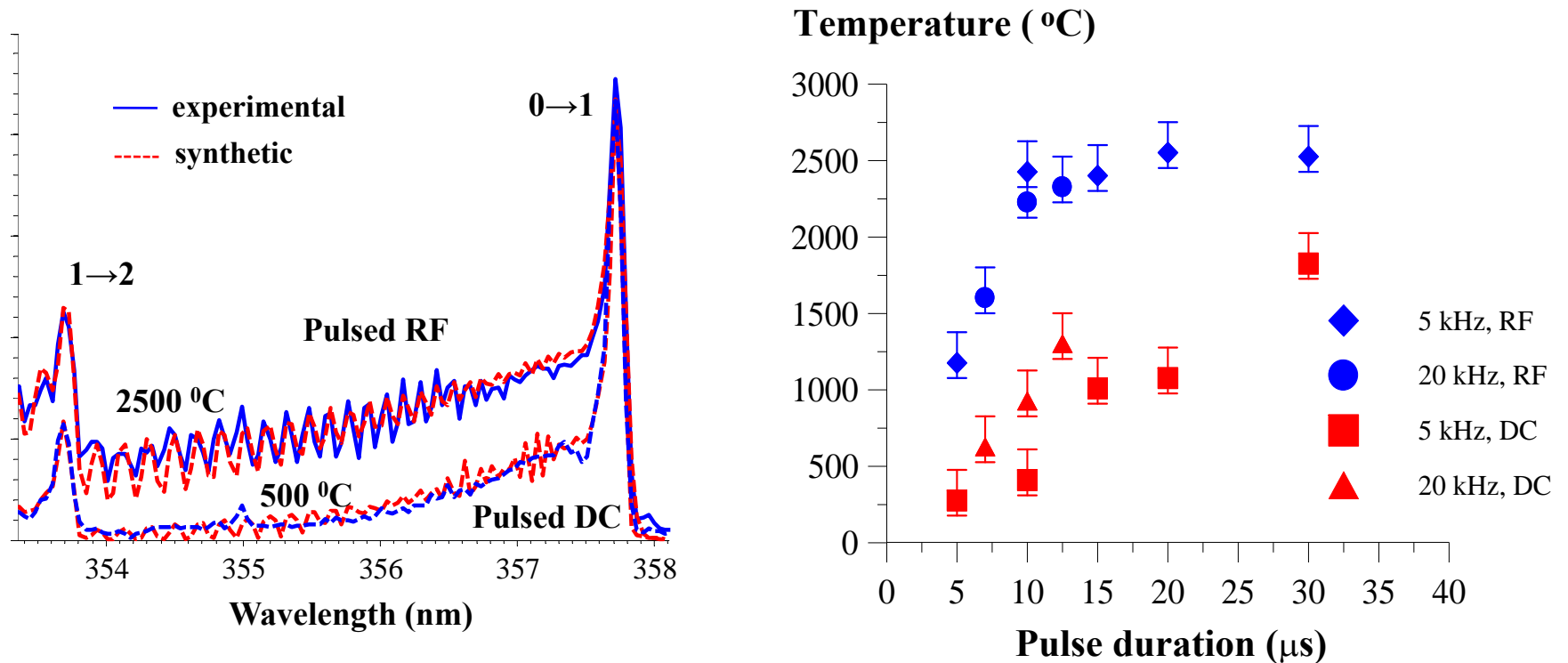


- Signal collected only during “plasma on” periods (plasma rapidly blown off)
- Optical fiber signal collection region 2-3 mm in diameter
- Both spectra shown in the same scale
- DC discharge: broadband baseline (due to overlapping BO bands), BN and W atom emission (evidence of electrode and ceramic erosion)
- RF discharge: no boron oxide baseline (no apparent material erosion)

# Temperatures in pulsed DC and pulsed RF discharges

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- Rapid heating rate in both discharges (~1000 °C over 10 μsec)
- RF discharge: much higher temperature (from  $N_2(C^3\Pi_u \rightarrow B^3\Pi_g)$  bands) than in DC discharge **at nearly the same discharge power**
- RF discharge energy balance: more power to flow heating, less power to electrode / wall heating

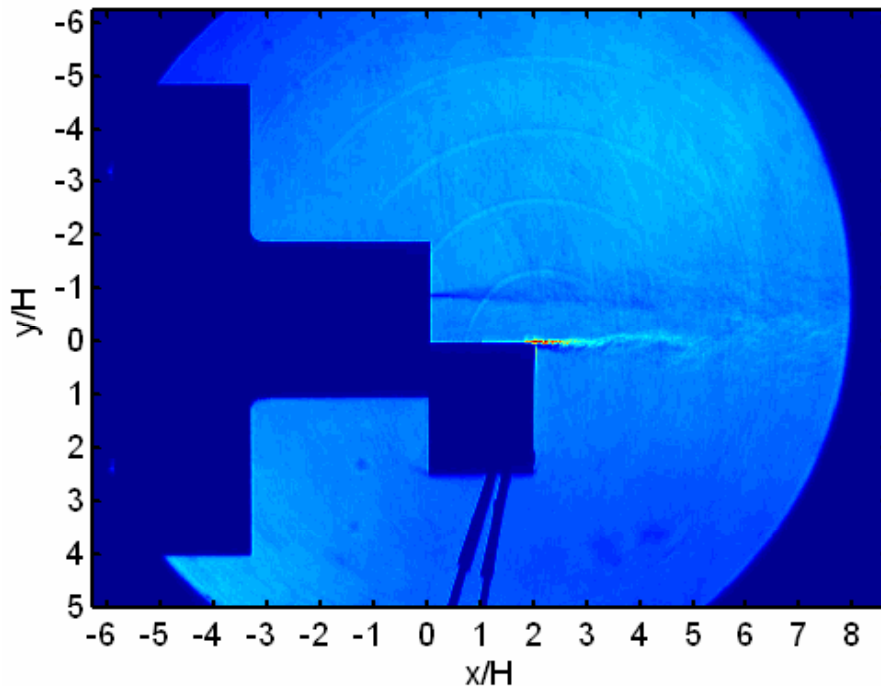
# Compression / shock wave generation by rapid localized flow heating

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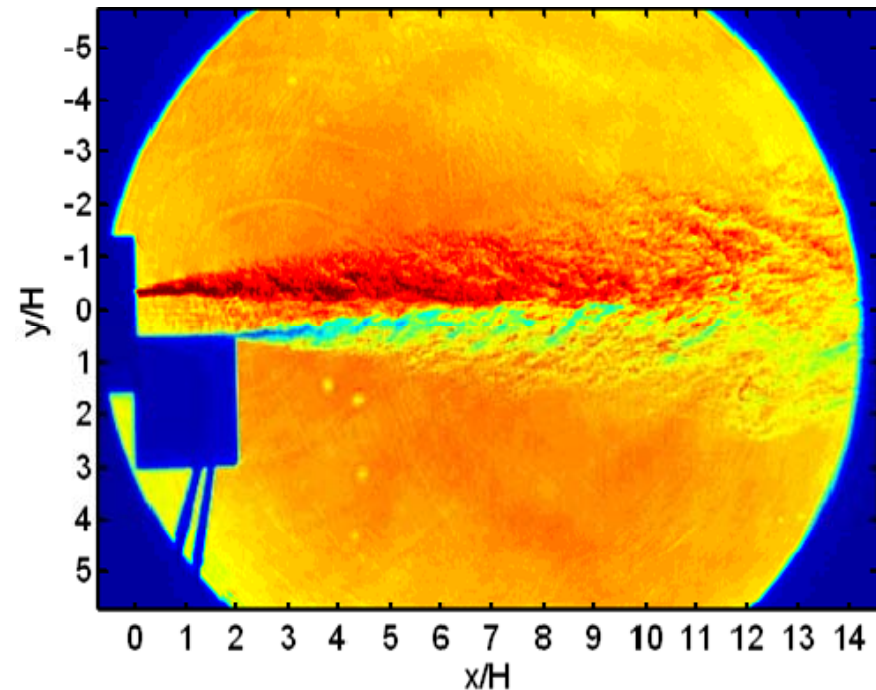
Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

**Pulsed DC, 20 kHz, 14% duty cycle**

**M=0.17**



**M=0.9**



- Predicted by modeling calculations (Utkin et al., 2007)
- Rapid heating in arc filament → pressure rise → strong compression wave
- Amplification of repetitive pressure perturbations at “right” frequencies in jet flows (triggering jet column instability, shear layer instability)
- Flow interaction with pressure bumps may also result in streamwise vortices formation



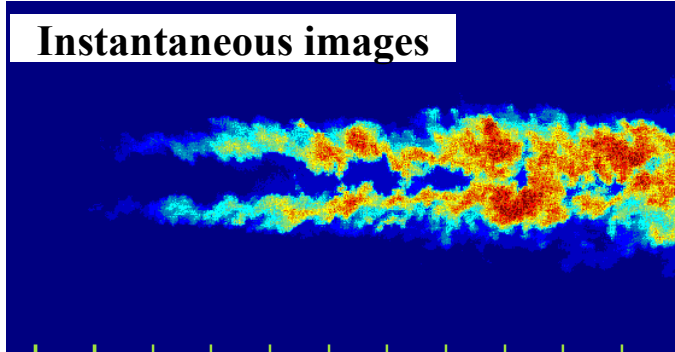
# Laser sheet mixing layer visualization

## Effect of different forcing frequencies

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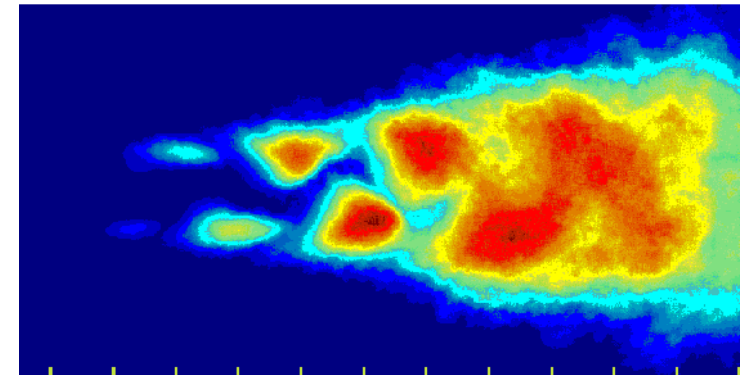
Instantaneous images



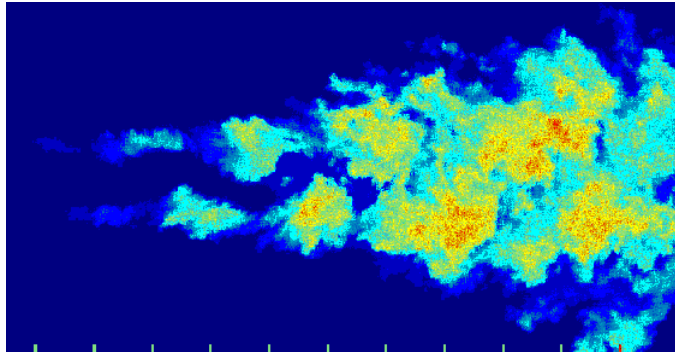
Baseline  
(no plasma)

M=1.3 ideally expanded circular jet  
8 pulsed DC actuators

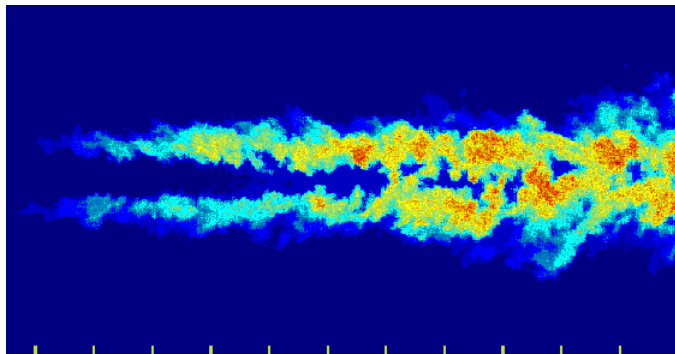
Phase averaged image



Flapping mode:  
5 kHz ( $St_D=0.33$ )  
5% duty cycle



Flapping mode:  
20 kHz ( $St_D=1.3$ )  
10% duty cycle



- Flow strongly responds to forcing **near jet column instability frequency**
- Likely mechanism: growth of instabilities triggered by pulsed forcing

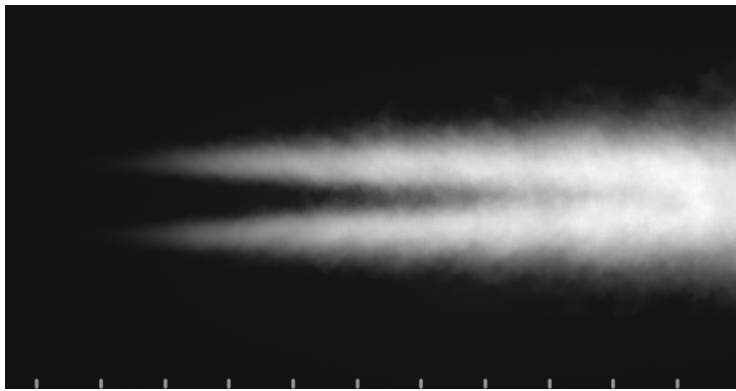
# Laser sheet mixing layer visualization (cont.)

## Phase averaged images, effect of different modes

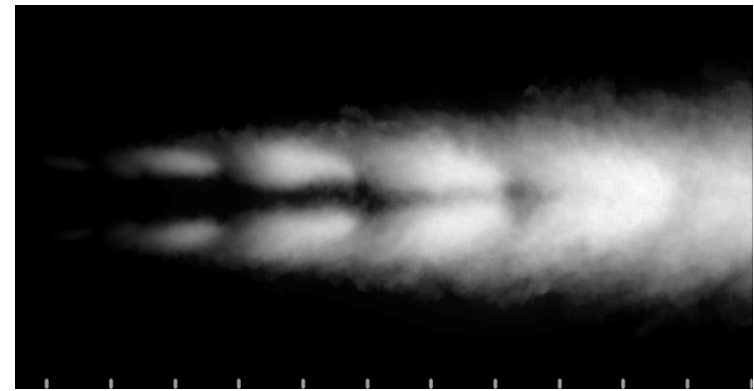
Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Laboratories

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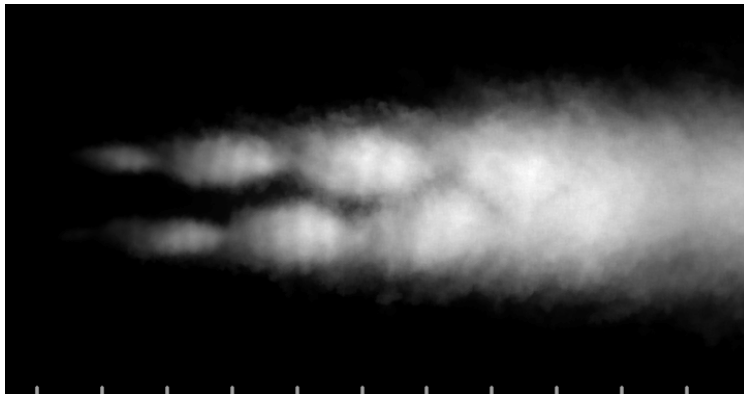
**5 kHz, 5% duty cycle (10  $\mu$ sec pulses,  $St_D=0.33$ )**  
 **$M=1.3$  ideally expanded circular jet, 8 pulsed DC actuators**



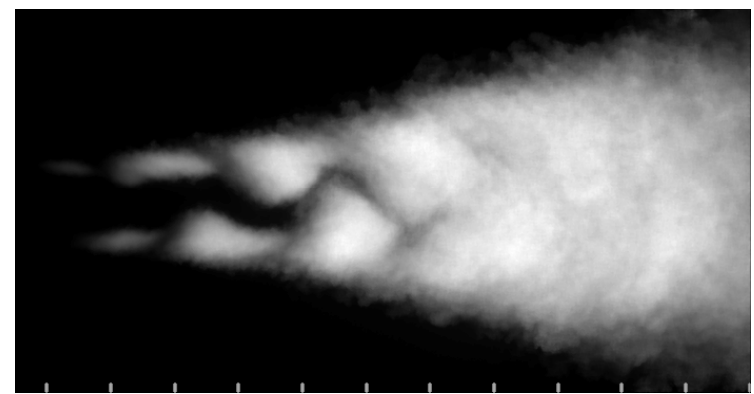
**Baseline (no plasma)**



**Axisymmetric mode**



**First helical mode**



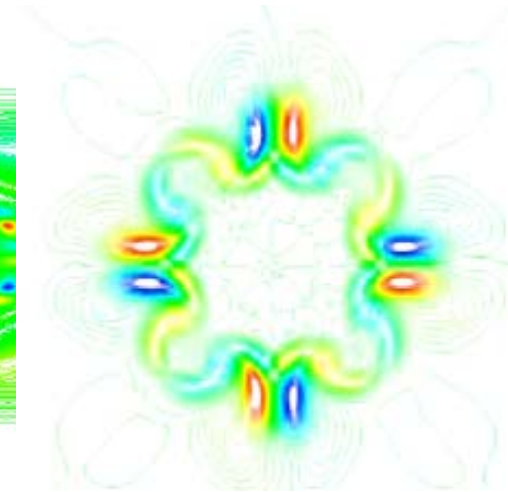
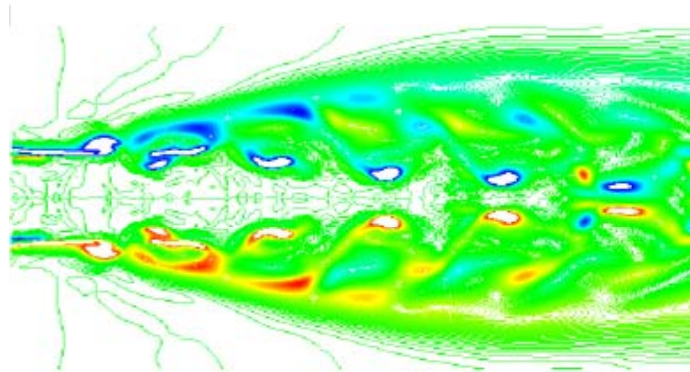
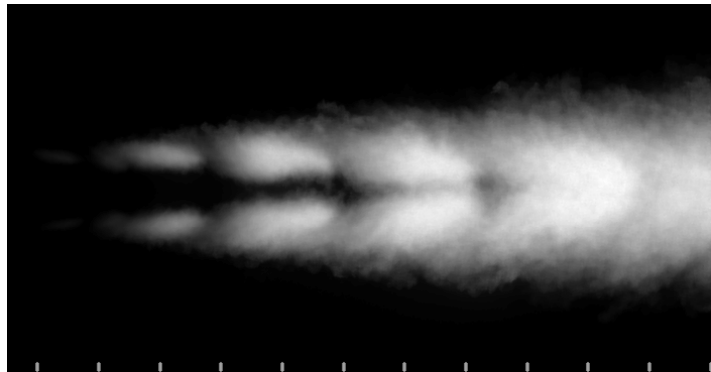
**Flapping mode**

# Plasma Actuator / Flow Interaction Modeling

Actuators modeled as periodic temperature boundary conditions

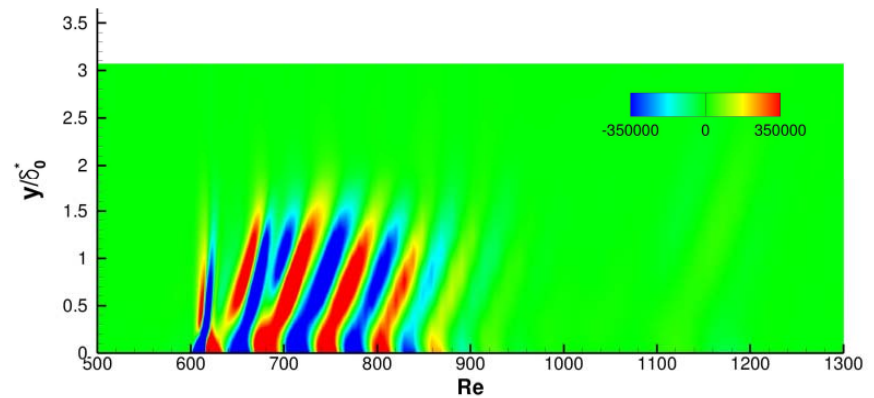
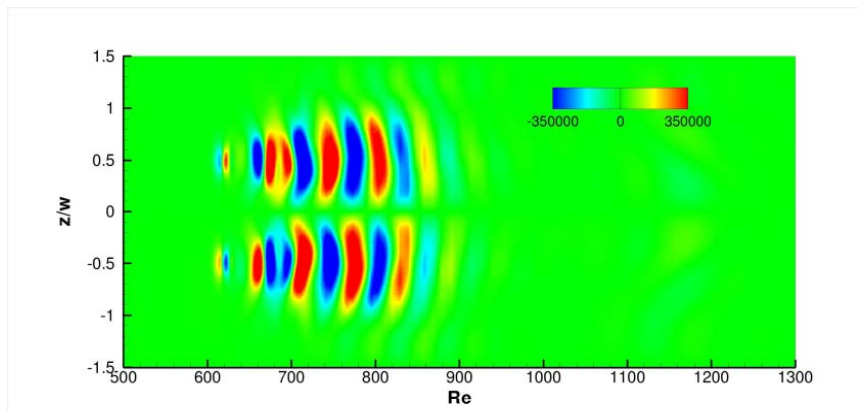
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**M=1.3 circular jet (3-D Euler equations, Yu et al., 2006)**

**Streamwise vortices predicted in calculations  
have not been detected in experiments**



**M=1.5 flow over flat plate (3-D Navier-Stokes equations, Yan and Gaitonde, 2008)**

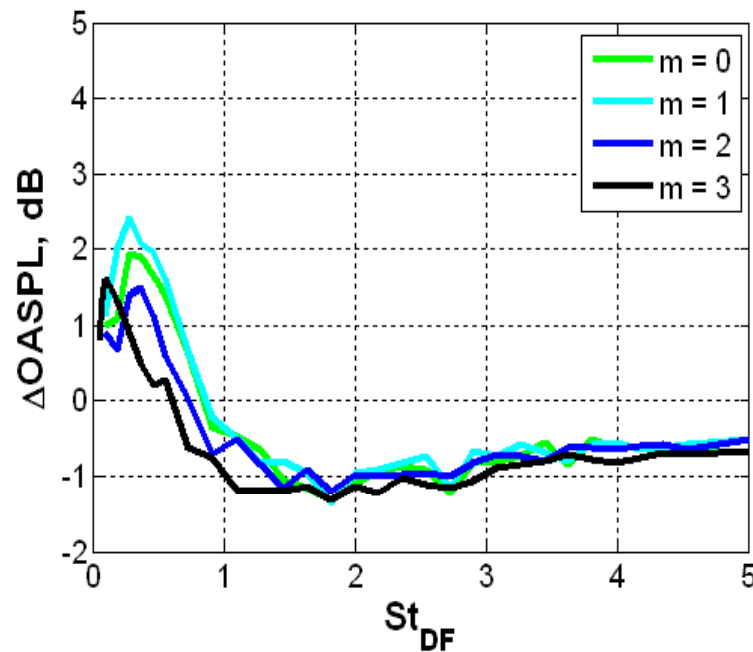
**Streamwise vortices formation due to flow interaction with pulsed pressure bump**

# Plasma Effect on Acoustics: Far-field Sound Pressure Level Reduction

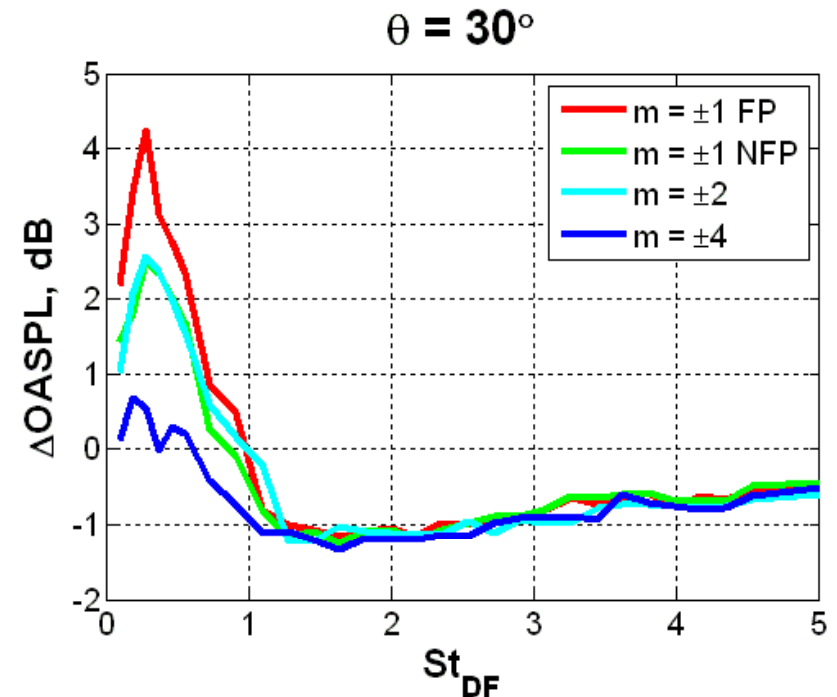
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**M=0.9 circular jet**



**Axisymmetric and helical modes**



**Flapping modes**

Noise reduction (by 1-2 dB) achieved at higher forcing frequencies  
than mixing enhancement ( $St_D=1-3$  vs.  $St_D=0.33$ , Samimy et al., 2006)

# Summary: High-Speed Plasma Flow Control

Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Laboratories

Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

- **Multi-channel, high-voltage, energy efficient pulsed power generators, with individual channel parameter control designed and tested**
- **Arc plasma actuator / BN ceramic housing assemble designed and tested**
- **Discharge parameters and arc filament plasma temperature measured**
- **Plasma power does not exceed  $\sim 0.5\%$  of jet power**
- **Filament heating: up to  $\sim 2500^0$  C over  $\sim 20$   $\mu$ sec**
- **Compression / shock wave formation by pulsed arc filaments detected**
- **Effect of pulsed plasma actuators on mixing rate and noise reduction demonstrated**
- **Likely flow control mechanism in jets and shear layers: growth of flow instabilities triggered by repetitively pulsed forcing**

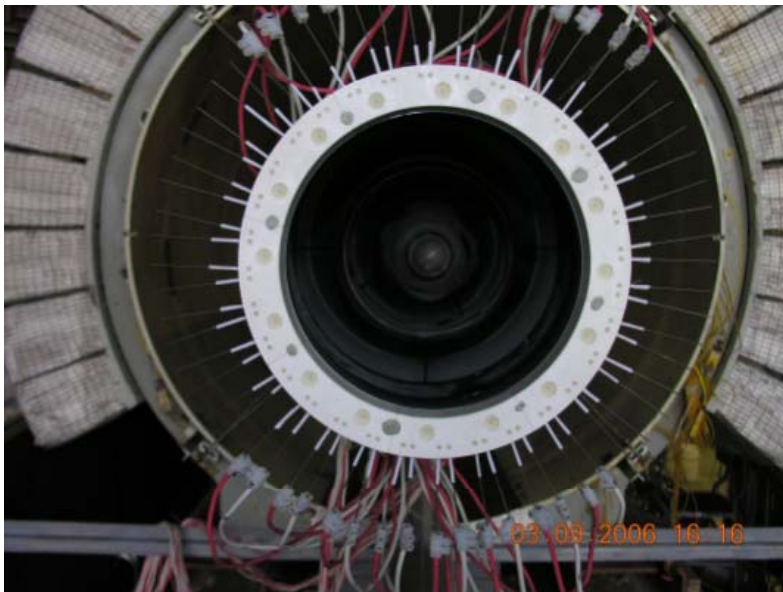


## Future work

Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Laboratories

Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

- **Development of a massively multi-channel (64 channels), energy efficient, pulsed RF plasma generator and actuator array to force large diameter jets (funding permitting). Currently, 8 out of 32 available actuators used in 7.5 inch diameter jet.**
- **This approach may well become practical for mixing enhancement and noise reduction in jet engines**



**7.5" jet nozzle  
at NASA Glenn NATR facility**

**32 actuators are shown**



# Acknowledgments

Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Laboratories

Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

- **U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research (Julian Tishkoff, technical monitor)**
- **NASA Glenn Research Center (Isaiah Blankson and James Bridges, technical monitors)**
- **National Science Foundation**



# Thank you for your attention!

Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Laboratories

Gas Dynamics and Turbulence Laboratory

