

# Ultra-Intense X-Ray Radiation of Relativistic Laser Plasma Creating Radiation-Dominated Matter Kinetics

S.A. Pikuz<sup>1,2</sup>, A.Ya. Faenov<sup>1,3</sup>, J. Colgan<sup>4</sup>, J. Abdallah Jr.<sup>4</sup>, M.A. Alkhimova<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Andreev<sup>5,6</sup>,  
N. Booth<sup>7</sup>, N.M.H. Butler<sup>8</sup>, R.J. Dance<sup>8</sup>, L. Doehl<sup>9</sup>, P. Durey<sup>9</sup>, Y. Fukuda<sup>11</sup>, J. Green<sup>7</sup>,  
C. Gregory<sup>7</sup>, S.B. Hansen<sup>10</sup>, N. Hasegawa<sup>11</sup>, T. Hosokai<sup>12</sup>, M. Kanasaki<sup>11</sup>, M. Kando<sup>11</sup>,  
T. Kawachi<sup>11</sup>, K. Kondo<sup>11</sup>, S. Masuda<sup>12</sup>, P. McKenna<sup>8</sup>, M. Nishikino<sup>11</sup>, M. Nishiuchi<sup>11</sup>,  
K. Ogura<sup>11</sup>, T.A. Pikuz<sup>1,12</sup>, A.S. Pirozhkov<sup>11</sup>, S.N. Ryazantsev<sup>1</sup>, A. Sagisaka<sup>11</sup>, H. Sakaki<sup>11</sup>,  
I.Yu. Skobelev<sup>1,2</sup>, E. Tubman<sup>9</sup>, Y. Watanabe<sup>13</sup>, A. Zhidkov<sup>12</sup>, N. Woolsey<sup>9</sup>, R. Kodama<sup>3,12</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Joint Institute for High Temperatures, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 125412 Russia

<sup>2</sup>National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Moscow, 115409 Russia

<sup>3</sup>Institute for Academic Initiatives, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871 Japan,

<sup>4</sup>Theoretical Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, 87545 USA

<sup>5</sup>Max Born Institute, Berlin, 12489 Germany

<sup>6</sup>ELI-ALPS, Szeged, H-6720 Hungary

<sup>7</sup>CLF, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX UK

<sup>8</sup>SUPA, Department of Physics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, G4 ONG UK

<sup>9</sup>York Plasma Institute, Department of Physics, University of York, York, YO10 5DD UK

<sup>10</sup>Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123, USA.

<sup>11</sup>Quantum Beam Science Directorate, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Kizugawa, Kyoto, Japan

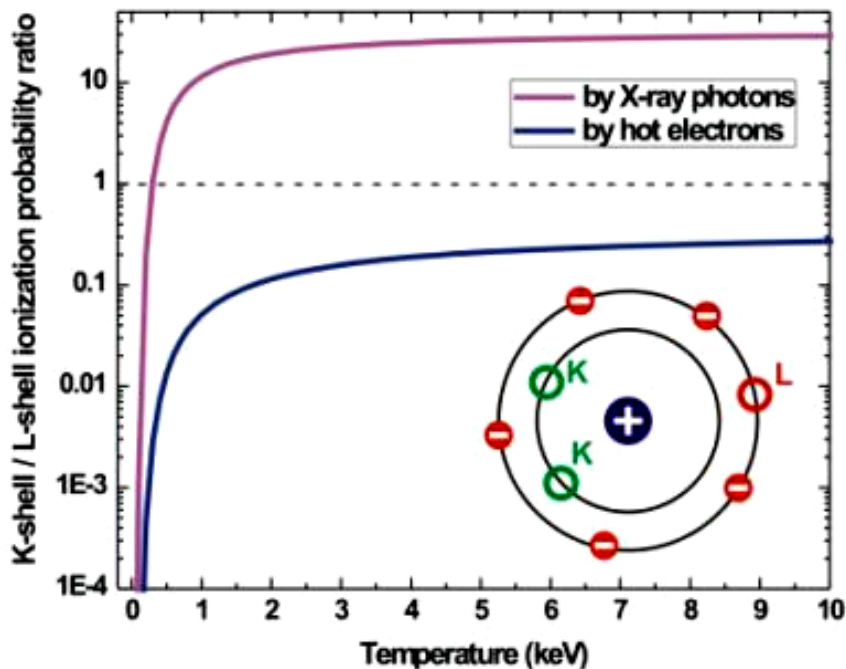
<sup>12</sup>PPC and Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka, 565-087 Japan

<sup>13</sup>Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Engineering Sciences, Kyushu University, Japan.

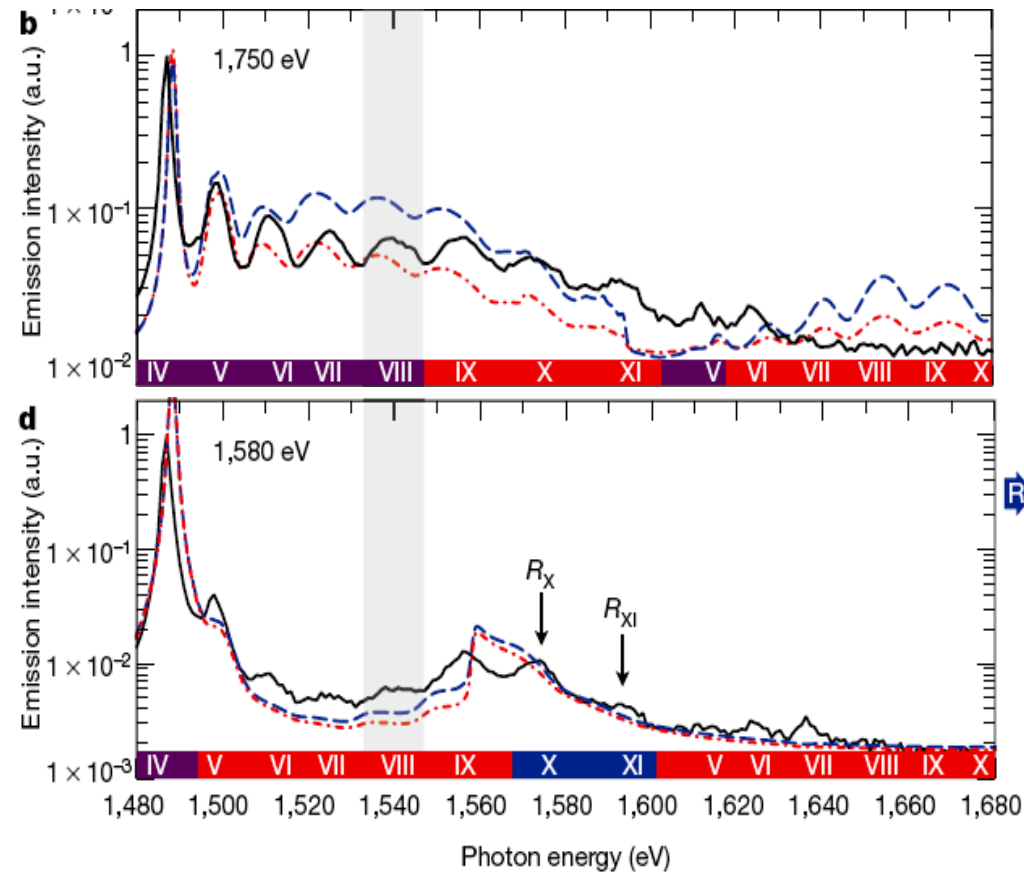
# Radiation dominated matter

Plasma physics @  
 $10^{20+}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> laser intensities

- Relativistic laser plasma / QED
- Issues of fast electron currents in dense plasma – ICF, astrophysics
- Generation of bright X-ray source
- Intense X-rays interacting with matter
- Aim to Radiation Dominant Regime



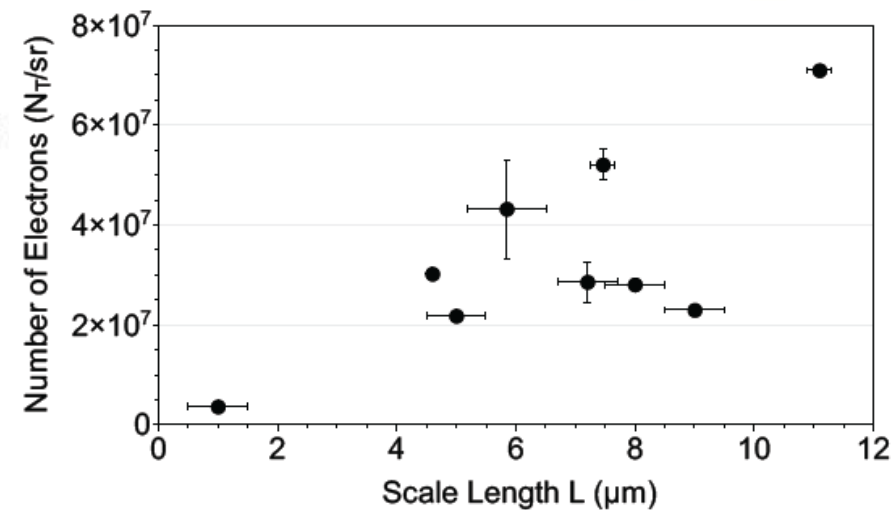
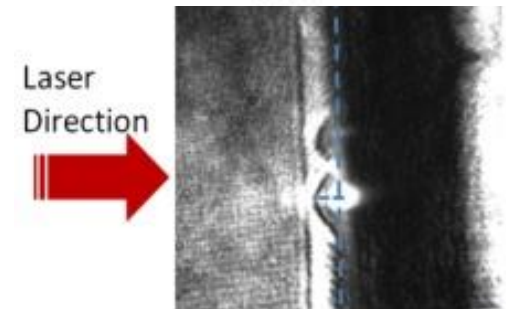
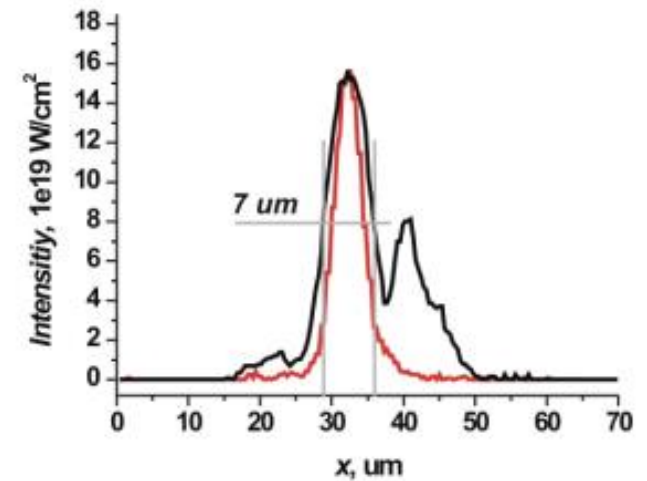
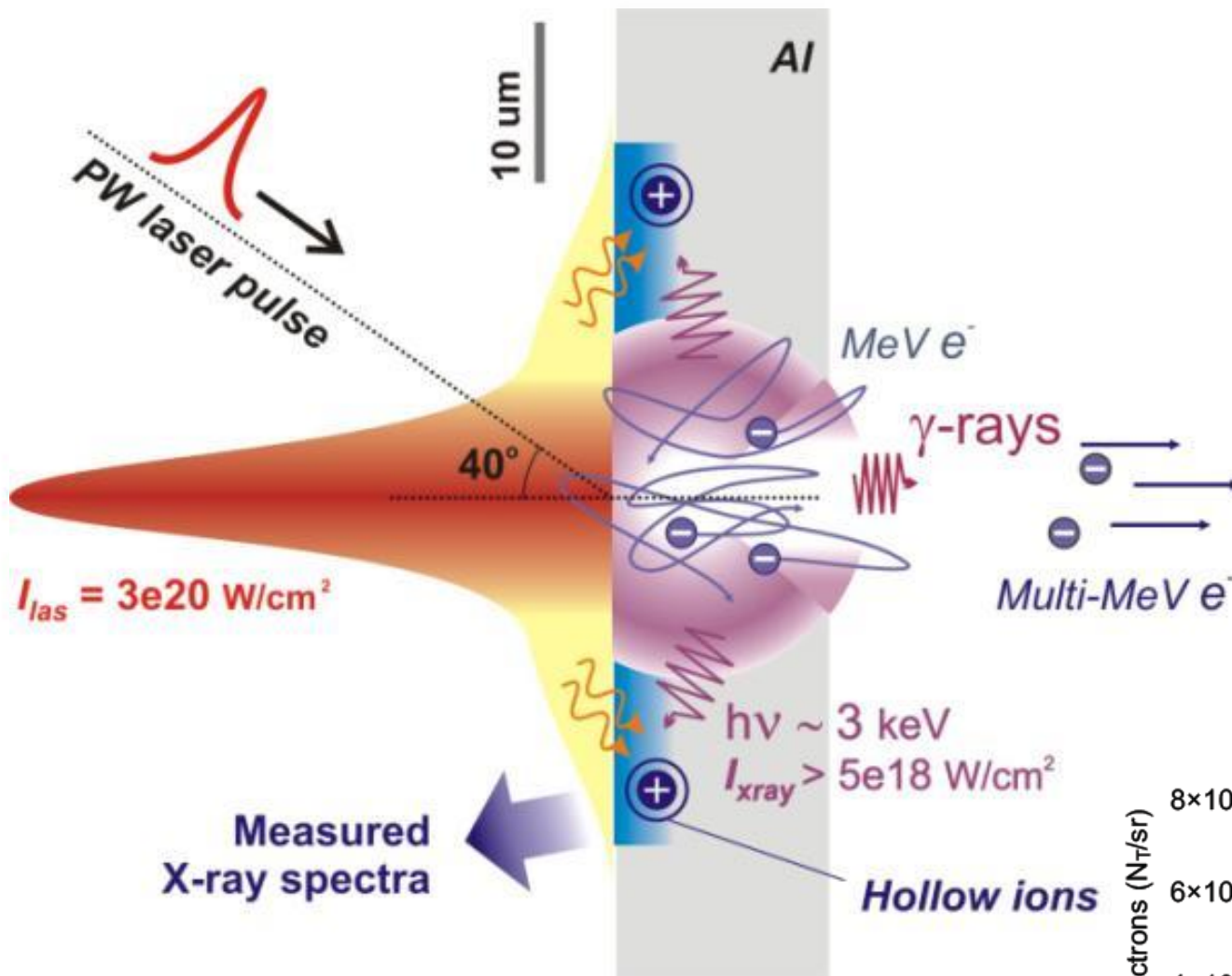
**Hollow atom** spectral lines induced by intense quasi-monochromatic X-ray radiation of LCLS



// S.M. Vinko et al., Nature 482, 59 (2012)

We would like to demonstrate the exotic state of matter consisting of hollow atoms is also created effectively with optical laser technology

# Proposed mechanism of hollow atom generation



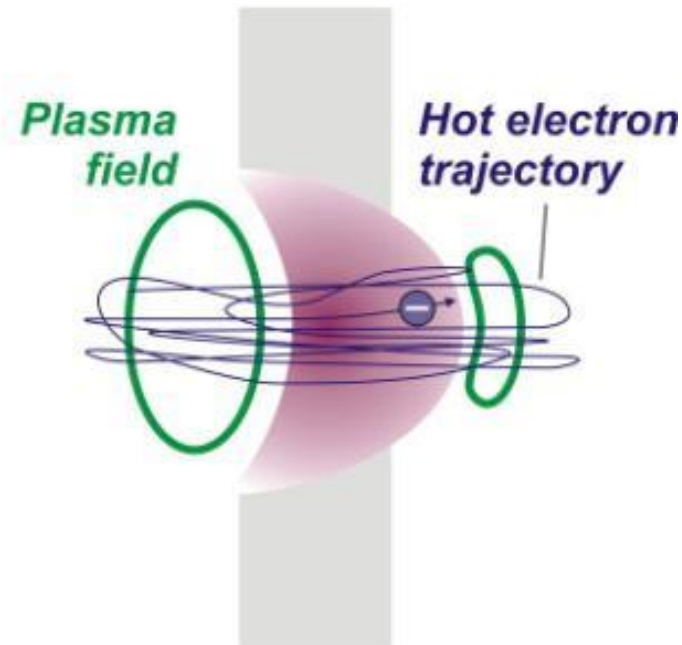
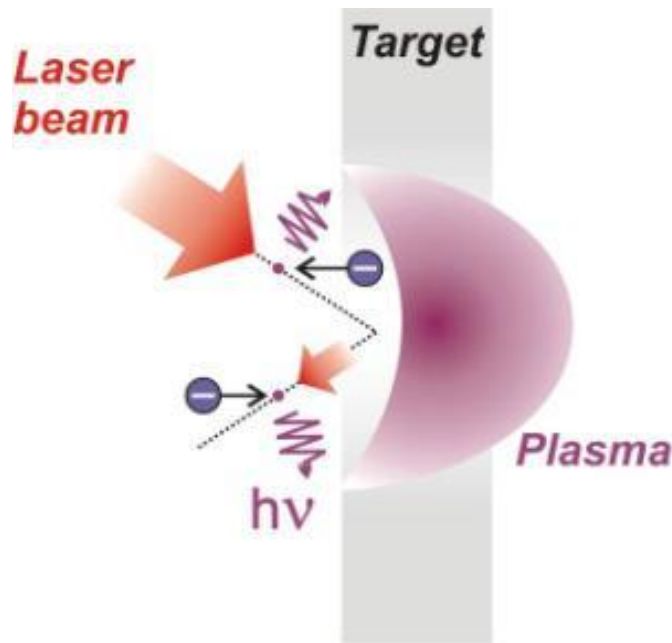
Refluxing is very important to increase the electron flux *inside* the plasma.  
Thin ( $\sim \mu\text{m}$ ) targets is more effective due to higher electron oscillation frequency.

# Ultra intense source of X-rays in keV range

$$f_R \approx \frac{2e^4}{3m^2c^5} \gamma^2 \vec{v} \left\{ \left( \vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B} / c \right)^2 - \left( \vec{v} \cdot \vec{E} / c \right)^2 \right\} \quad f_R \neq 0 \text{ when } E \text{ means:}$$

$E_{\text{laser}}$ , i.e. Thomson scattering  
at incident laser radiation

$E_{\text{plasma-transv}}$ , i.e. Bremsstrahlung  
in a plasma during refluxing



$$P \approx AN_e \int_{\varepsilon_R}^{\infty} d\gamma \gamma^{1/2} v f_R e^{-mc^2(\gamma-1)/T_h}$$

$$P \sim T_h^2 E^2 \exp(-\varepsilon(\theta/T_h))$$

With  $I_{\text{Las}} = 3e20 \text{ W/cm}^2$   $I_{\text{Xray}} \sim 5e18 \text{ W/cm}^2$  to be estimated

# Ultra intense source of X-rays in keV range

$$P \sim T_h^2 E^2 \exp(-\varepsilon(\theta)/T_h) \quad \text{and here hot electron temperature} \quad T_h \sim a_0 \div a_0^2$$
$$a_0 = e E_L / mc\omega \quad \text{is laser field amplitude}$$

$$P \sim [a_0^4 \div a_0^6] \exp(-\varepsilon(\theta)/T_h) \quad // \text{A. Zhidkov et al., PRL 88, 185002 (2002)}$$
$$// \text{L. Landau, \& E. Lifshitz The classical theory of fields (1961)}$$

With  $I_{Las} = 3e20 \text{ W/cm}^2$   $I_{Xray} \sim 5e18 \text{ W/cm}^2$  to be estimated

## Atomic kinetics – another way to estimate X-ray intensities

Hollow atoms are mainly excited from autoionizing states by photoionization process. So to get sufficient population of hollow atoms it is necessary to have

$$(I_{Xray} / \hbar\omega) \cdot \sigma_{ph} > \Gamma_{auto}$$

For K-shell of Al ions at threshold

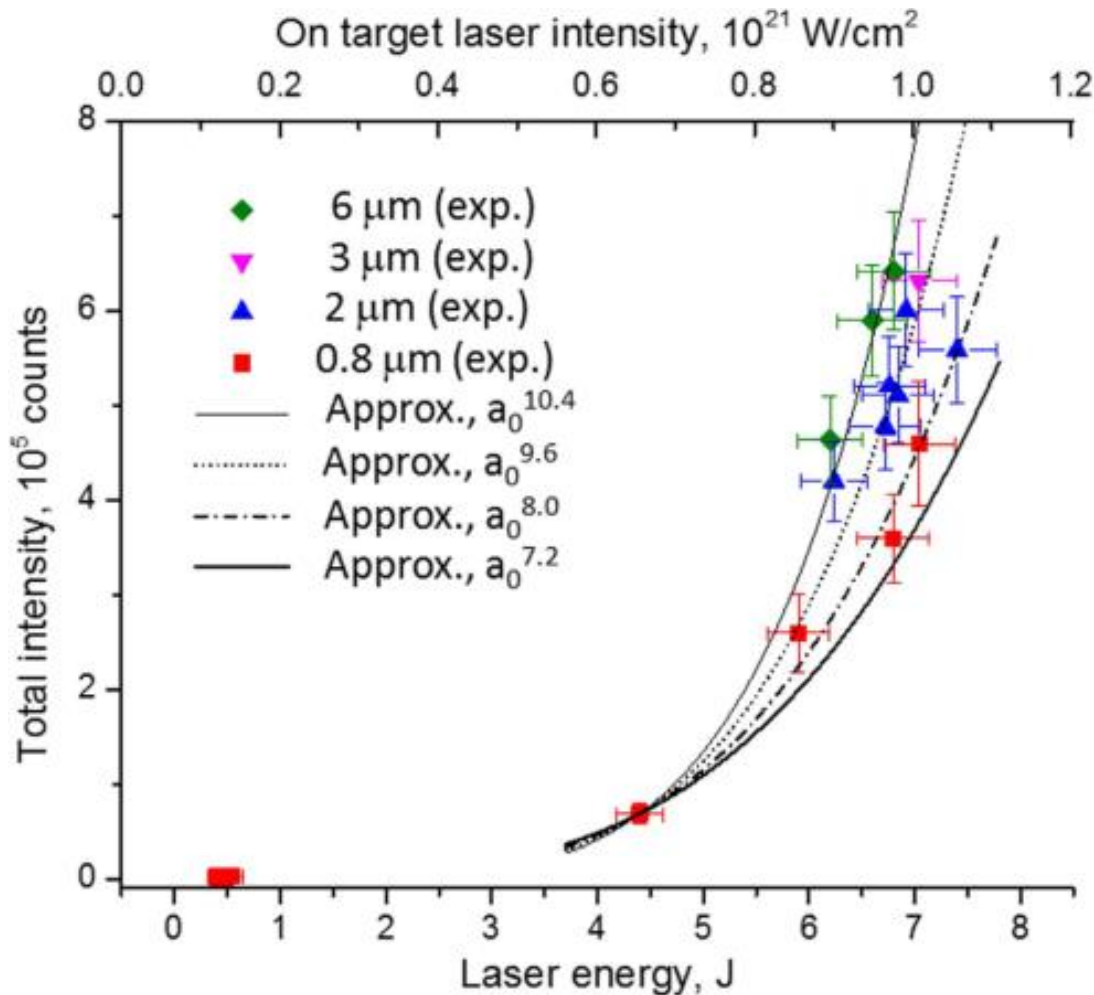
$$\hbar\omega = 2 \text{ keV: } \sigma_{ph} \sim 5e20 \text{ cm}^{-2}, \Gamma \sim 3e14 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$I_{Xray} > 3e18 \text{ W/cm}^2$$

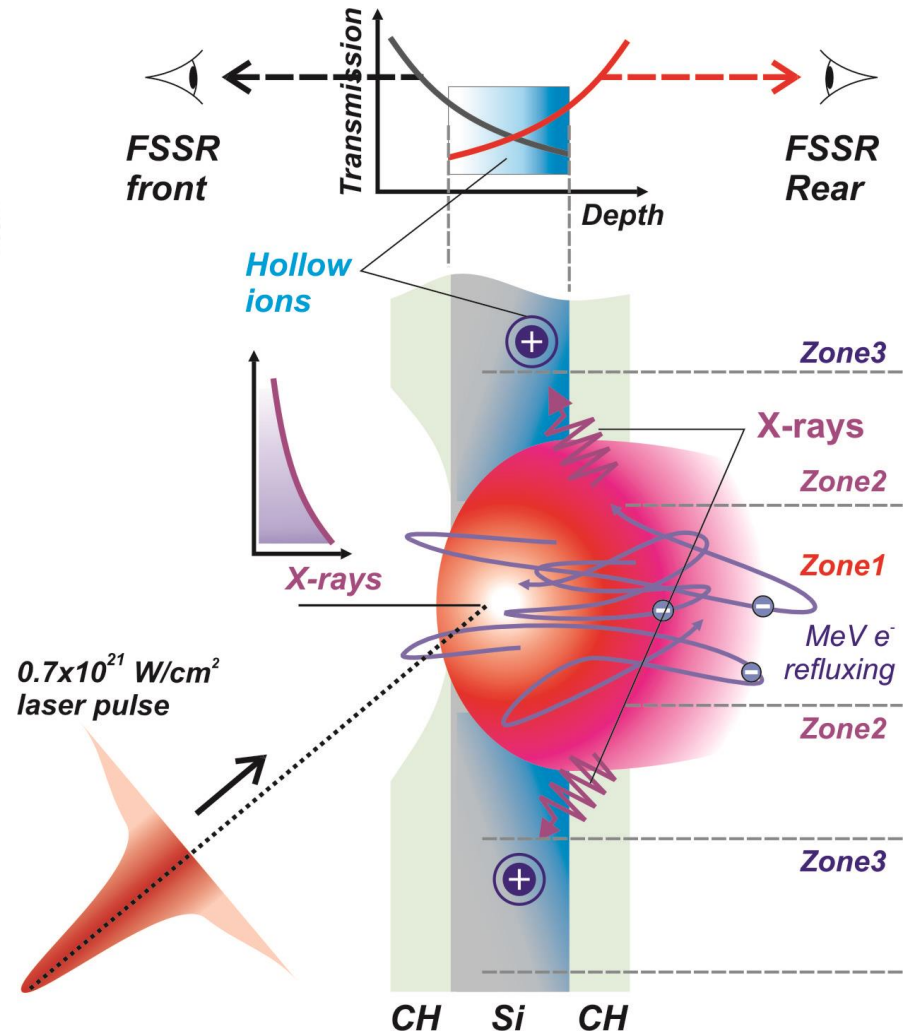
Such considerations together with the **measured intense hollow atom spectra** prove that **ultra bright X-ray source of keV photons exists** and, can pumps the surrounding **matter into Radiation Dominant Regime**

# Proofing of non-linear increase in X-ray yield

**J-KAREN exp:**  
**~7 J, 35 fs,  $1e21$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>**



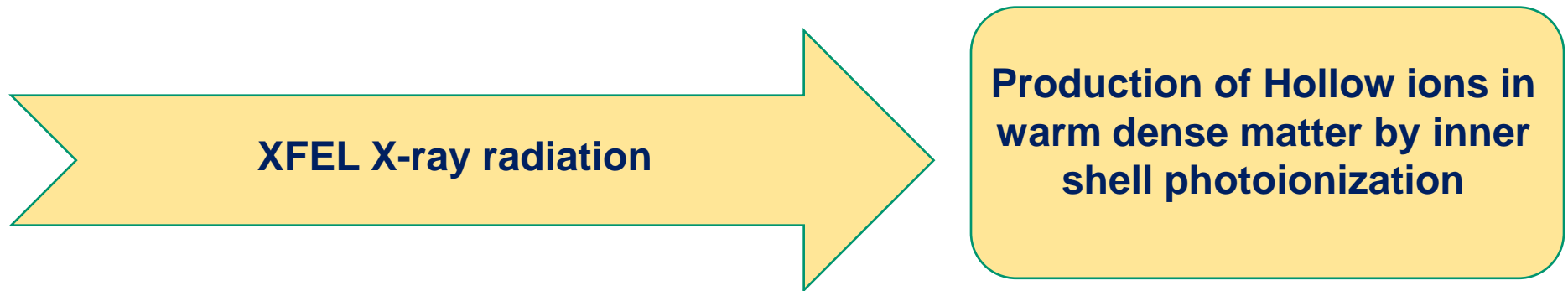
**The nature of intense X-ray generation in PW laser plasma is confirmed**



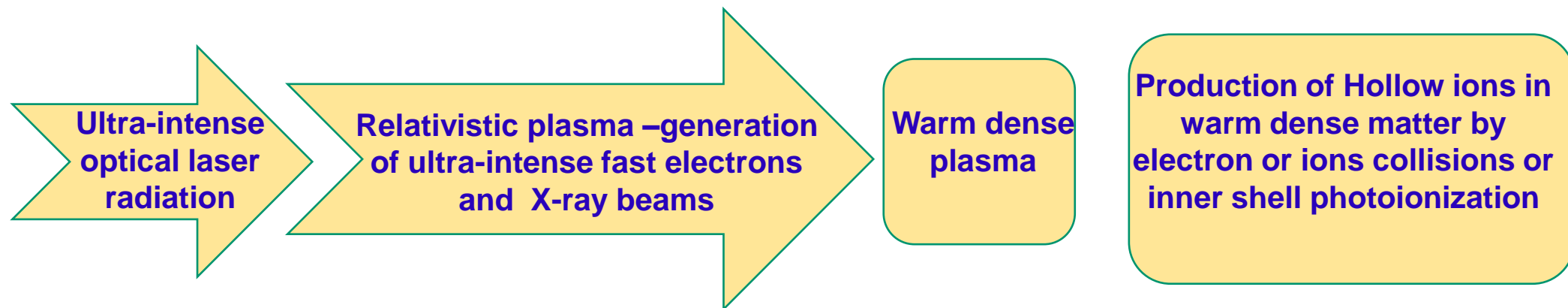
**3-Zones concept is developed to describe the details of X-ray emission and RDKR matter creation**

# WDM with exotic atomic states due to intense X-rays

## 1. Direct excitation by ultra-intense X-ray laser or XFEL pulses

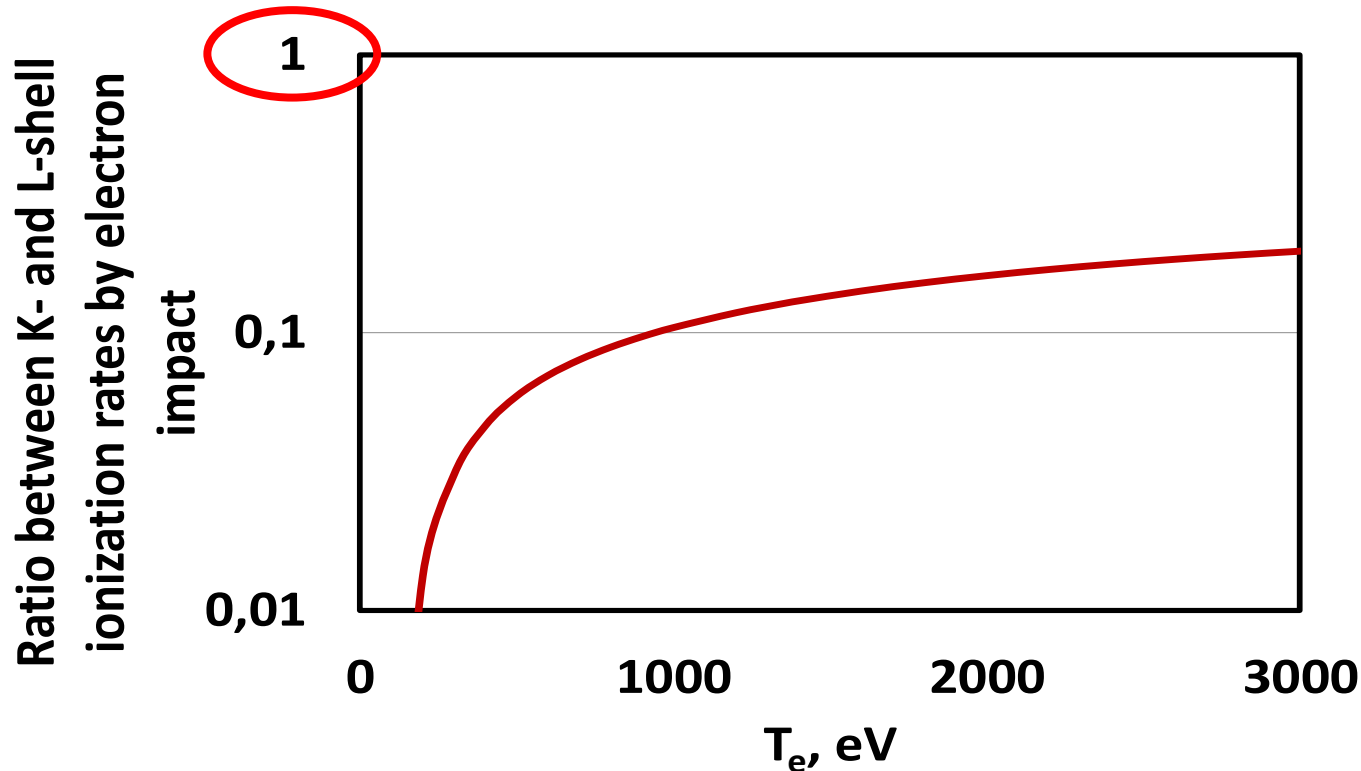


## 2. Indirect excitation by visible ultra-intense laser pulses



# Hot plasma created by fast particles

Hot electrons preferentially ionize outer shells rather than inner shells



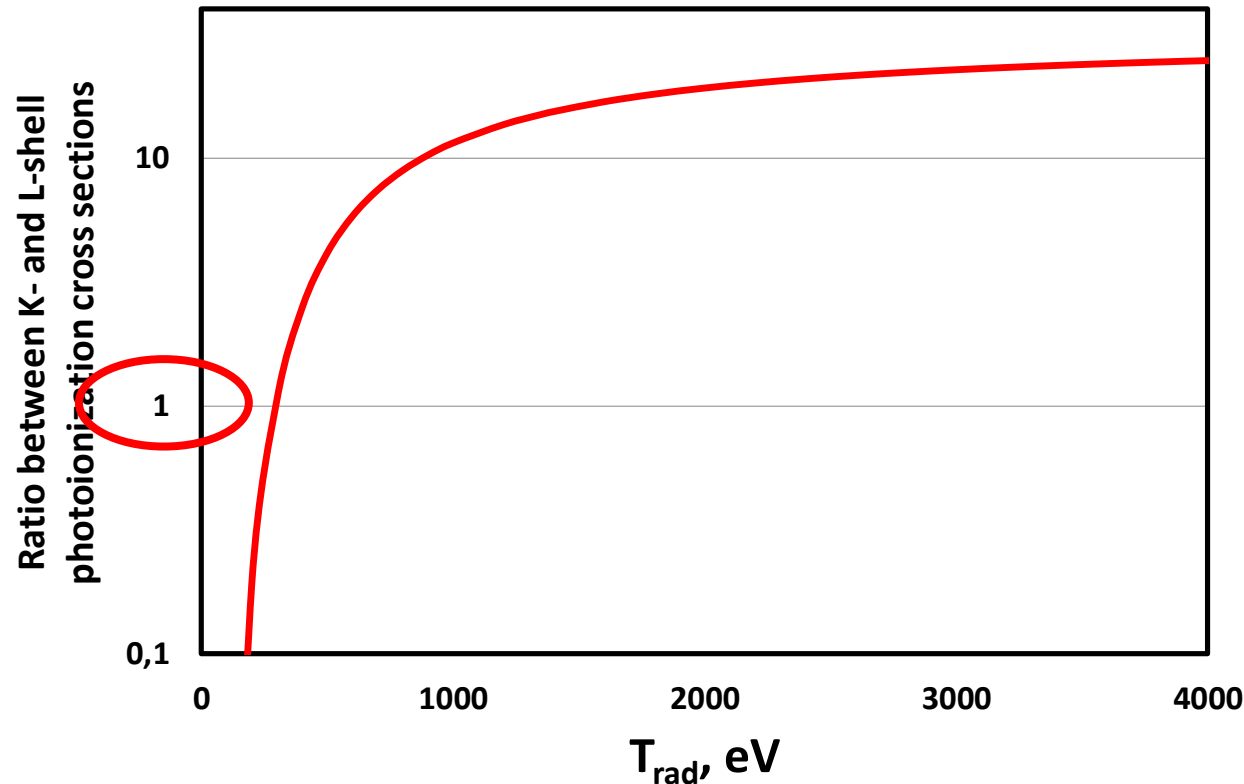
During ion collisions with hot electrons hollow ions are formed, but their abundance is lower than abundance of the usual ions. Thus,

**KK hollow ion states are low populated, however KL hollow ion spectra can play important role in X-ray emission of such plasma**



# Hot plasma under intense external X-ray radiation

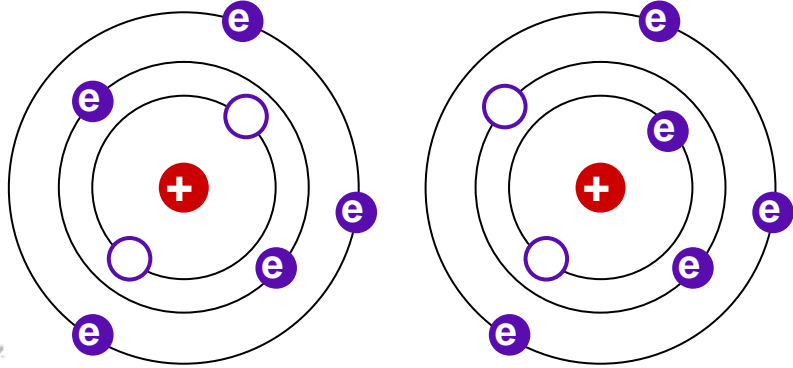
**X-Ray photons preferentially ionize inner shells rather than outer shells**



During ion collisions with X-Ray photons hollow ions are formed, and their abundance can be higher than abundance of the usual ions.

**KK Hollow ion spectra can be dominant in the plasma emission if they will be pumped by ultra-strong X-ray source**

# Hollow atom spectroscopy, principles



Exotic hollow atom states may be created by hot electron flow or X-ray radiation (external beam or plasma itself of)

*Target heating prior inner-shell excitation should be avoided - High contrast of a laser pulse is important*

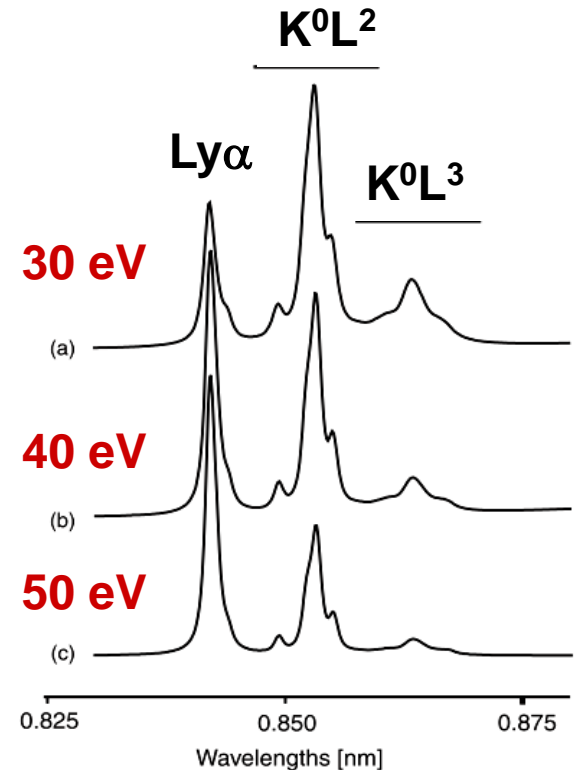
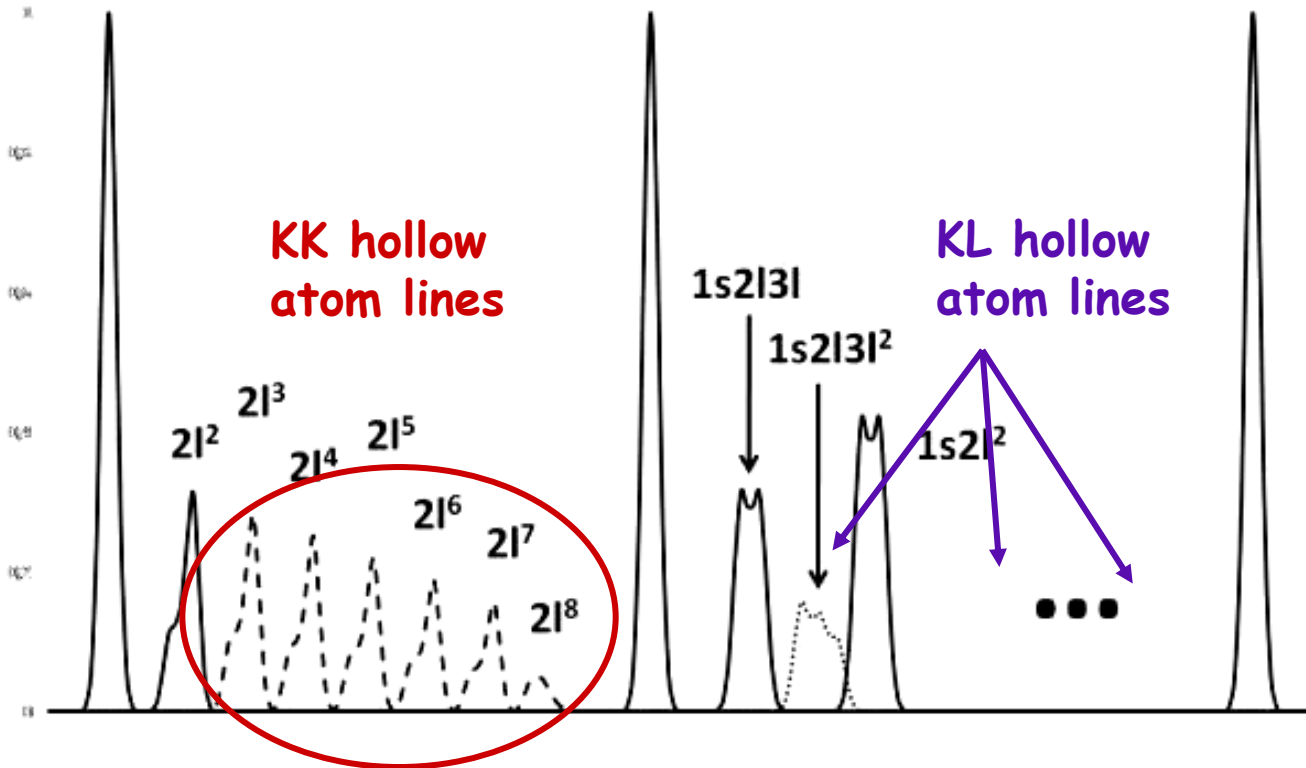
$\text{Ly}_\alpha$  (2p)

$\text{He}_\alpha$  (1s2p)

$\text{K}_\alpha$  (1s2l<sup>83l<sup>n</sup></sup>)

KK hollow atom lines

KL hollow atom lines

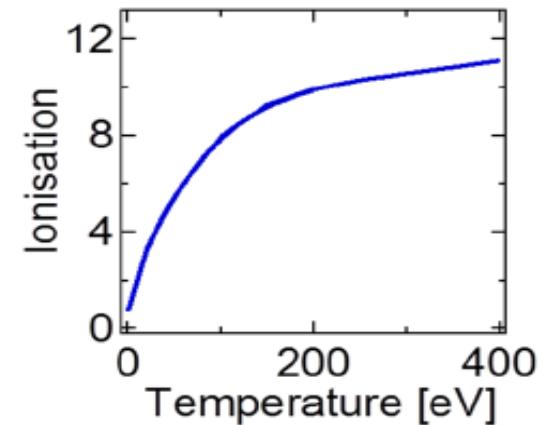
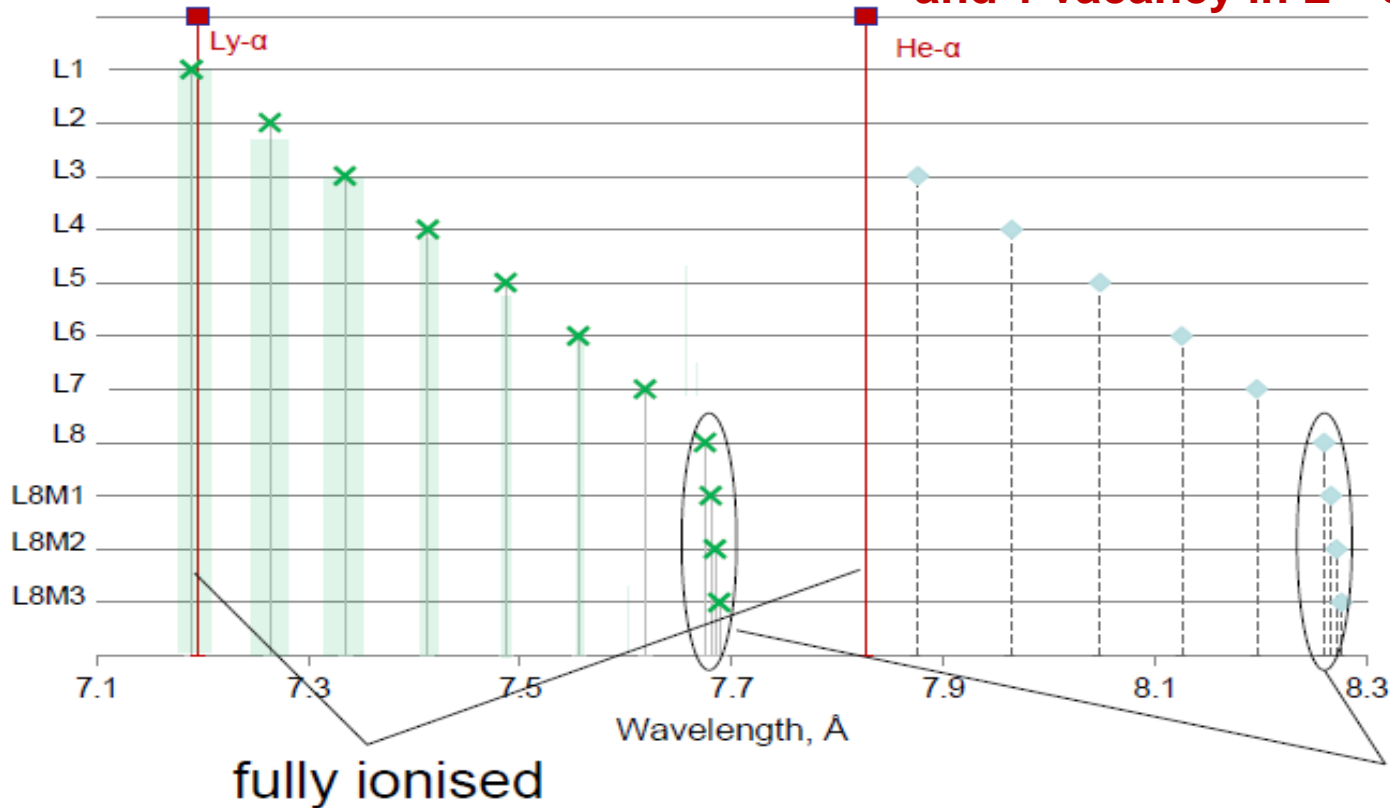


Becomes very significant for high intensity lasers

# Hollow ion emission line shifts position while the ion ionizes

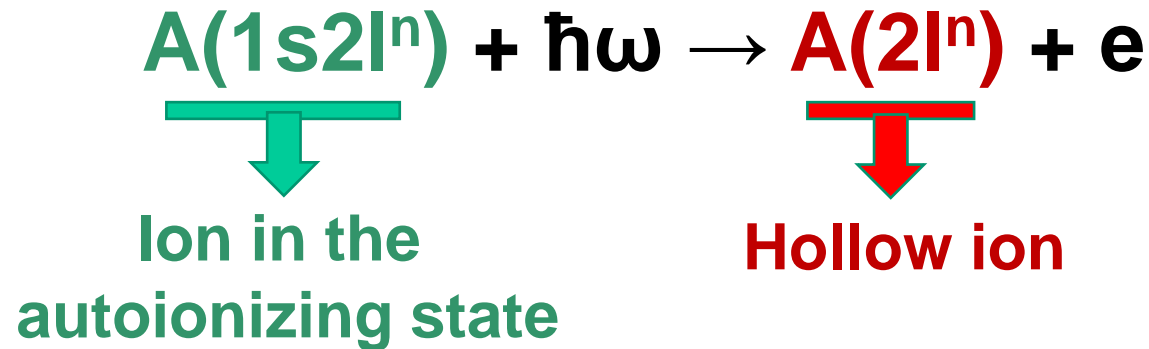
**KK – Hollow ion**  
(2 vacancies in K – shell)

**KL – Hollow ion**  
(1 vacancy in K - shell  
and 1 vacancy in L – shell)



Hollow ions spectra are very temperature and density sensitive

# Efficiency of hollow ions production by X-rays vs ion charge $Z$



$$\frac{N(2l^n)}{N(1s2l^n)} \approx \left( \frac{I_{X\text{-ray}}}{\hbar\omega} \right) \sigma^{\text{ph}}(1s2l^n \rightarrow 2l^n) / \Gamma(2l^n)$$

$N(2l^n)$  – population of hollow ions

$N(1s2l^n)$  – population of usual autoionizing states

$I_{X\text{-ray}}$  and  $\hbar\omega$  – intensity and energy of X-ray photons

$\sigma^{\text{ph}}(1s2l^n \rightarrow 2l^n)$  – photoionization cross section

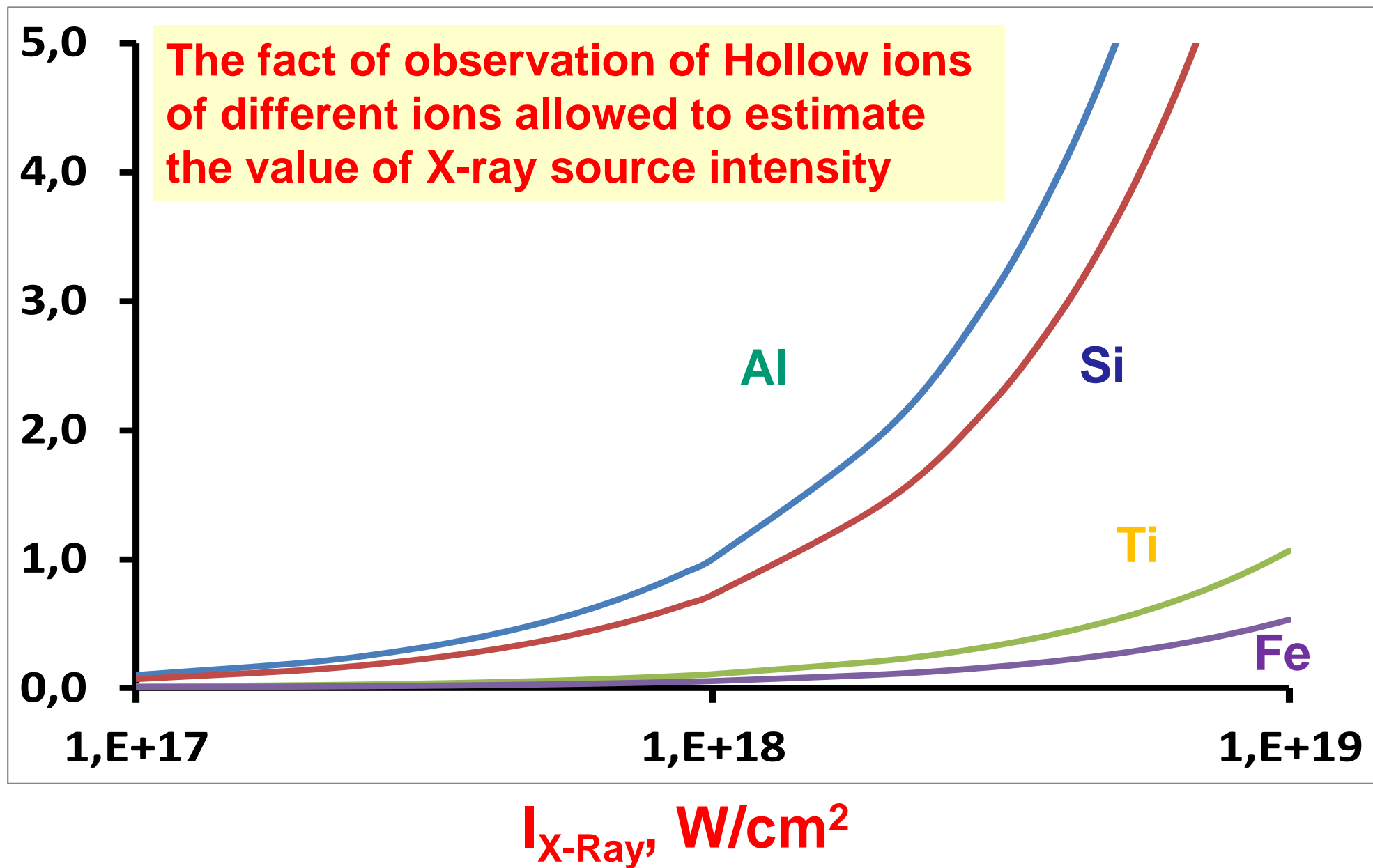
$\Gamma(2l^n)$  – autoionization probability

For ions with different  $Z$ :  $\omega \sim Z^2$ ,  $\sigma^{\text{ph}} \sim Z^{-2}$ ,  $\Gamma \sim \text{const}$ , and

$$\frac{N(2l^n)}{N(1s2l^n)} \sim Z^{-4}$$

# Observations of different Z hollow ions in laser plasma

N(hollow ion state)/N(autoionizing state)



# Experimental setup

Laser energy – **160 J on target**

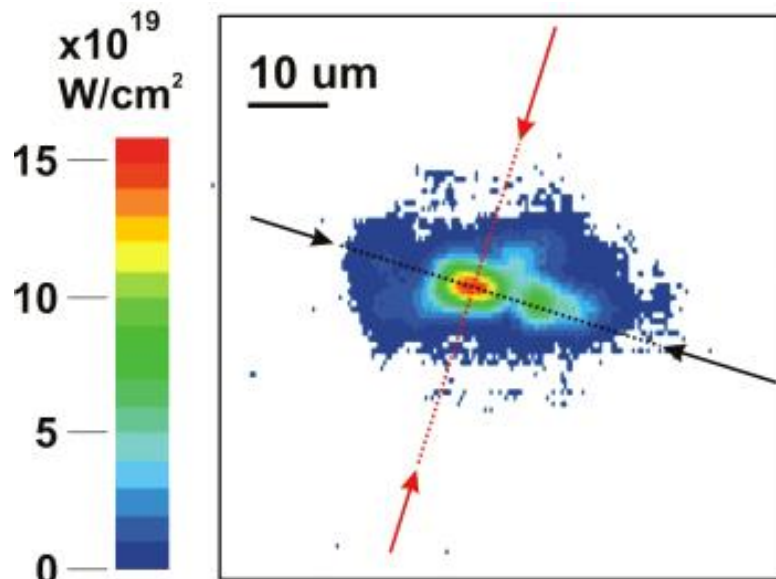
Pulse duration – 0.7 - 1.2 ps

$1\omega = 1054 \text{ nm}$

*High contrast of OPCPA*

*Vulcan PW laser*

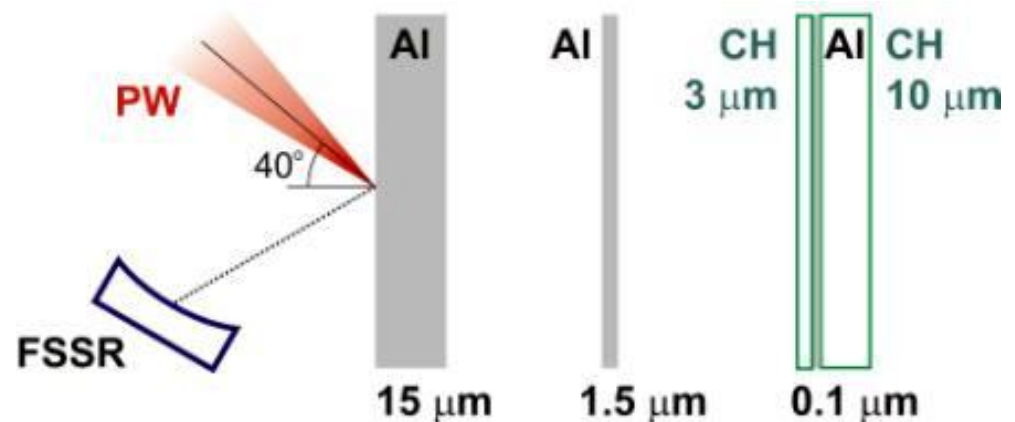
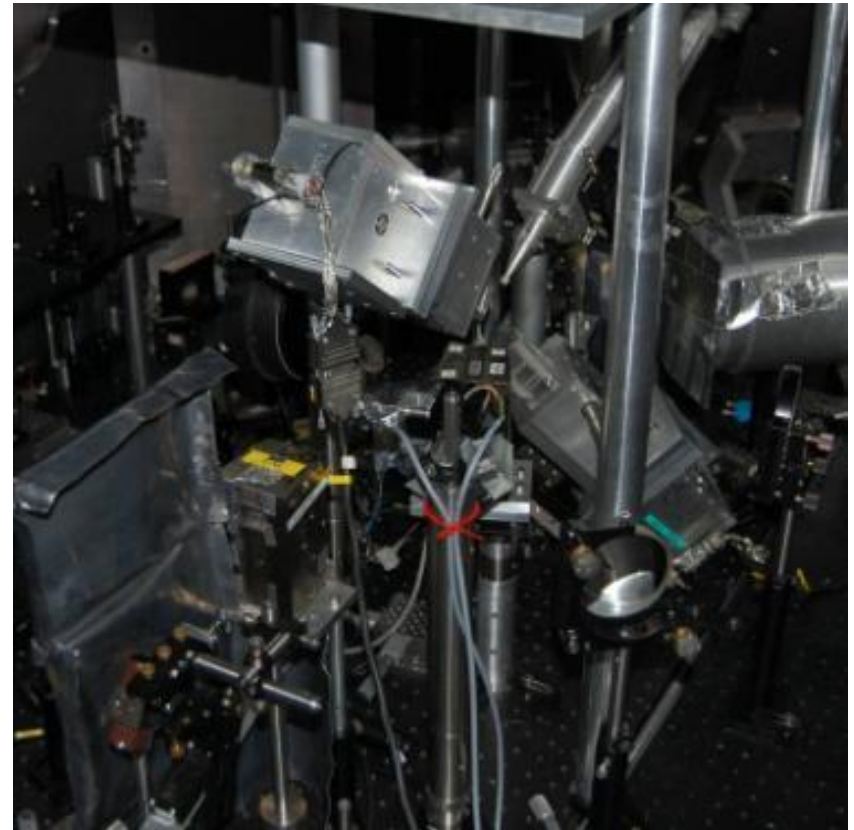
Focal spot d  $7 \mu\text{m}$  (30% of energy in)



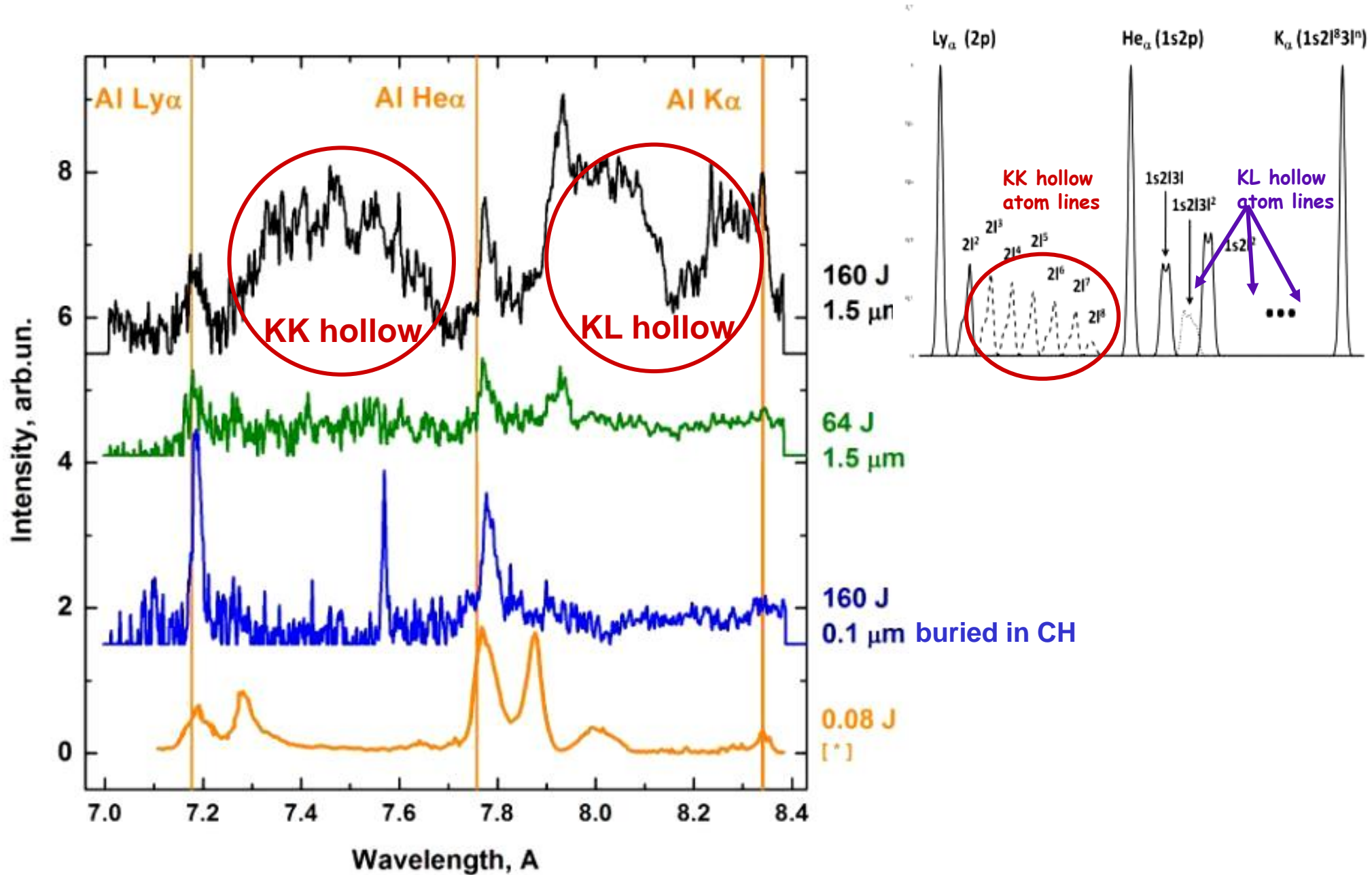
$$I_{\text{max}} = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2$$

f/3 off-axis parabola

40 deg incidence to target normal



# X-ray spectroscopy measurement results



[\*] U. Andiel et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 80, 198 (2002)

# Modeling of Al spectra by ATOMIC code

Mixed Unresolved Transition Array (MUTA) method (Mazevet & Abdallah) :

*The key principle :*

- The most strong transitions calculated in details  
( Detailed level accounting - DLA approach)
- The remain lines as a massive of unresolved  
( Unresolved transition array - UTA approach )

- Configurations of the type  $K^{-1}LM^{+1}$ ,  $KL^{-1}M^{+1}$ ,  $K^{-2}LM^{+2}$ ,  $K^{-1}L^{-1}M^{+2}$ ,  $K^{-2}L^{-1}M^{+3}$ ,  $K^{-1}L^{-2}M^{+3}$ ,

the  $n = 1$  sub- shell,  $L$  represents the  $n = 2$  sub-shells,  $M$  represents the  $n = 3$  sub-shells, and the notation  $K^{-2}$  signifies a  $1s^0$  sub-shell.  $K^{-2}L^{-2}M^{+4}$ ,  $K^{-1}L^{-3}M^{+4}$ ,  $K^{-2}L^{-3}M^{+5}$ , and  $K^{-1}L^{-4}M^{+5}$  were included. In this notation  $K$  represents  $l$ . Rydberg configurations up to  $n=7$  were also included. This procedure resulted in **over 21 000 atomic configurations** (for all ion stages of Si) that were included in atomic kinetics calculations.

## Other features:

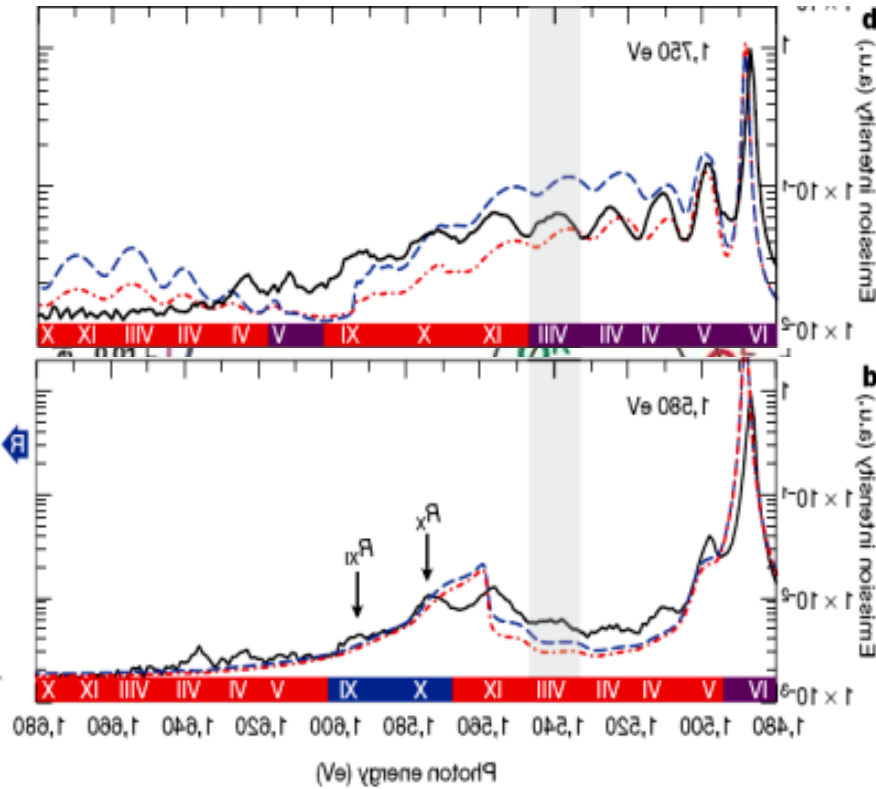
Calculations include all relevant atomic processes, that is, photoionization, collisional ionization, autoionization, collisional and radiative excitation and de-excitation, and all recombination processes.

- Energy of levels, oscillator strengths, cross-sections - calculated by CATS program developed as an improvement of R. Cowan code
- Collision ionizations, photo ionization, auto ionization – calculated by GIPPER code
- Time dependent radiative collision kinetics – calculated by code ATOMIC

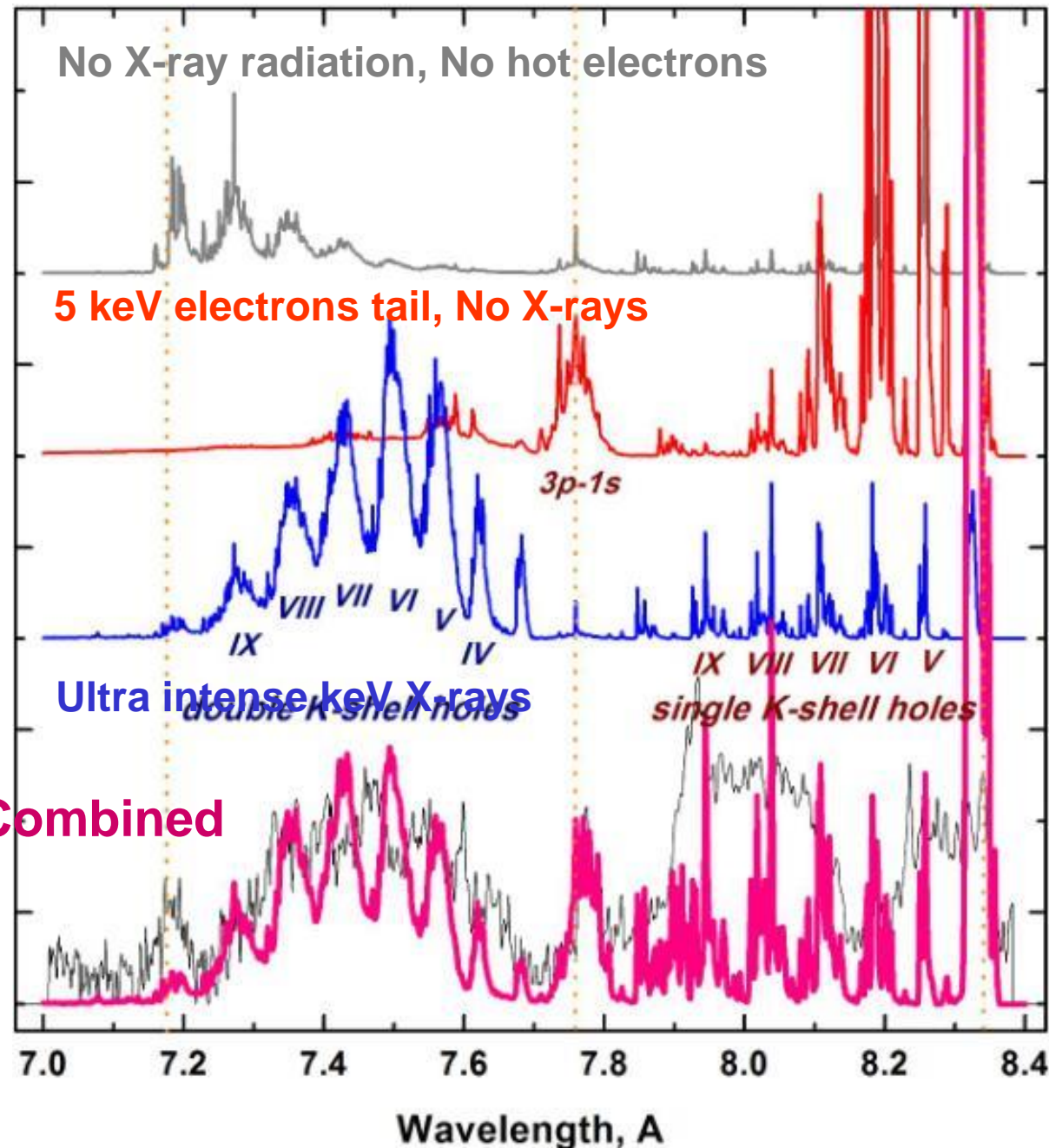


# NLTE ATOMIC spectra simulations

// J. Colgan et al. High Energy Density Physics 7, 77 (2011)



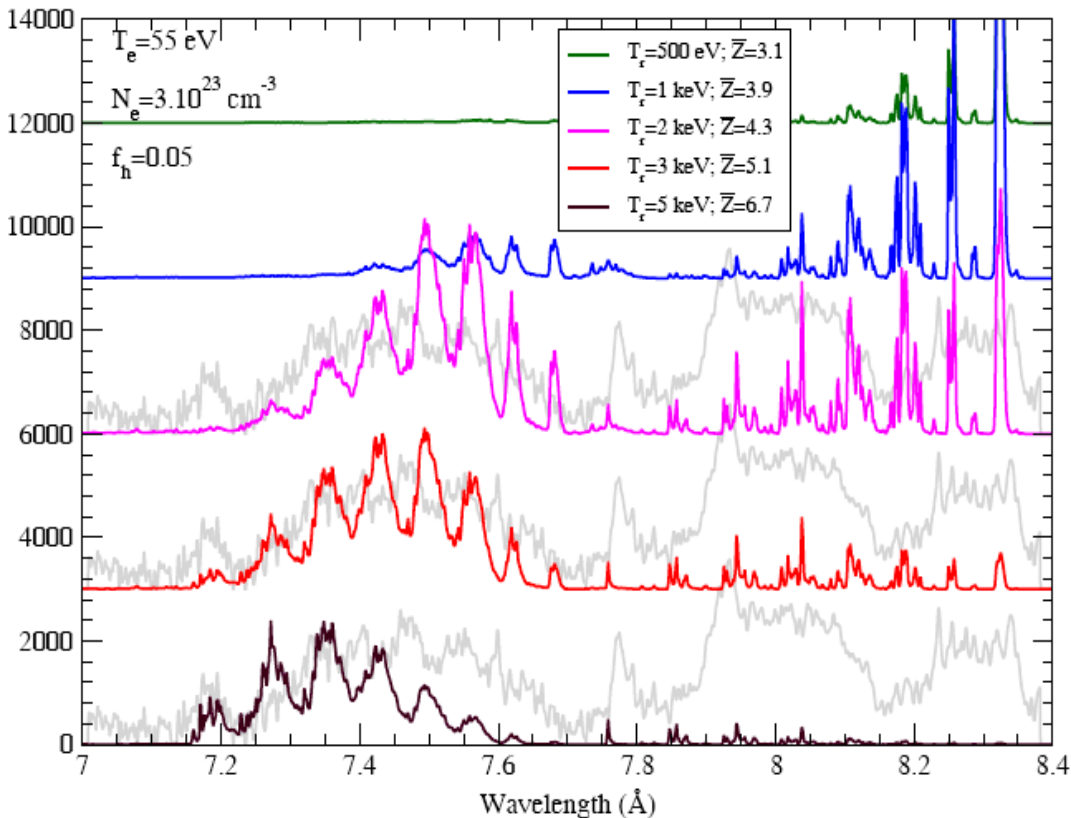
bulk  $T_e = 55$  eV  
 $N_e = 3 \times 10^{23}$  cm $^{-3}$   
 5% of 5 keV electrons



Combined

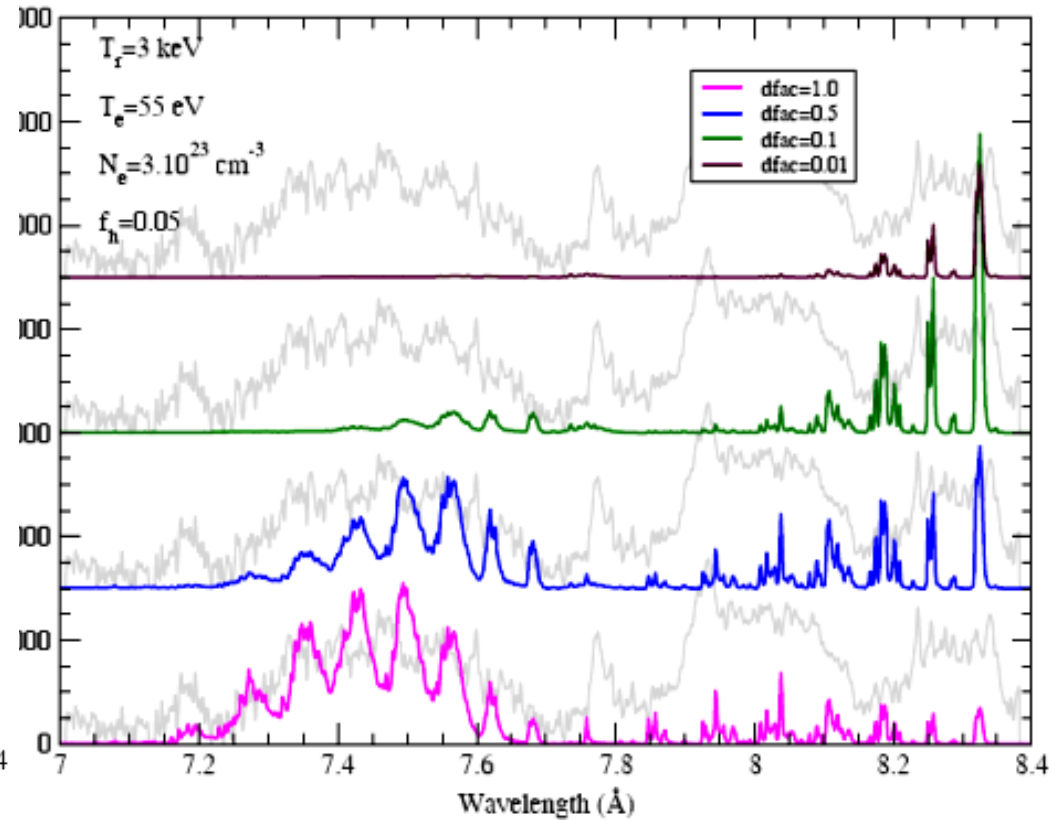
# ...depending on X-ray source parameters

## Radiation temperature



Varying  $T_{rad}$  in 0.5 – 5 keV range

## Source brightness



Testing Dilution factor in 0.01 – 1 range

Confirms the source of  $I_{xray} > 1E18 \text{ W/cm}^2$  intensity and  $T_{rad} \sim 3 \text{ keV}$  existing

// J. Colgan et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 110, 125001 (2013),

// S.A. Pikuz et al. HEDP 9, 560 (2013)

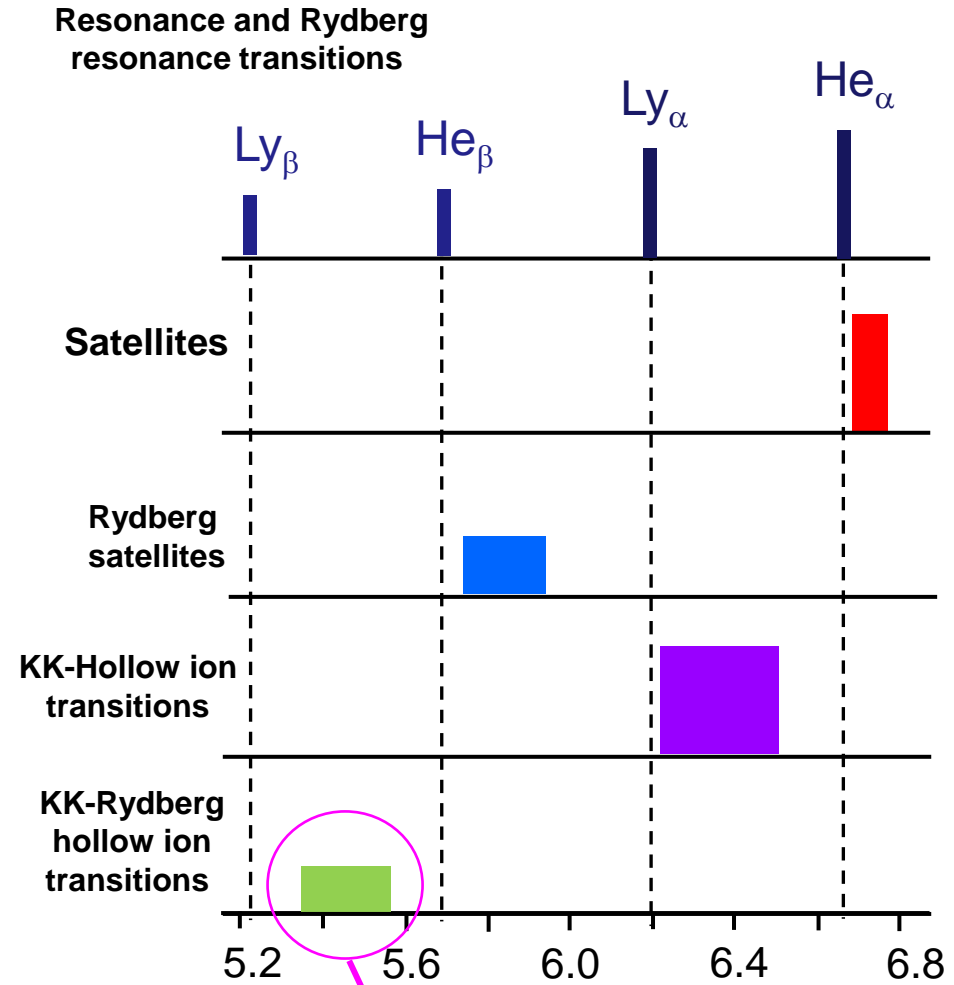
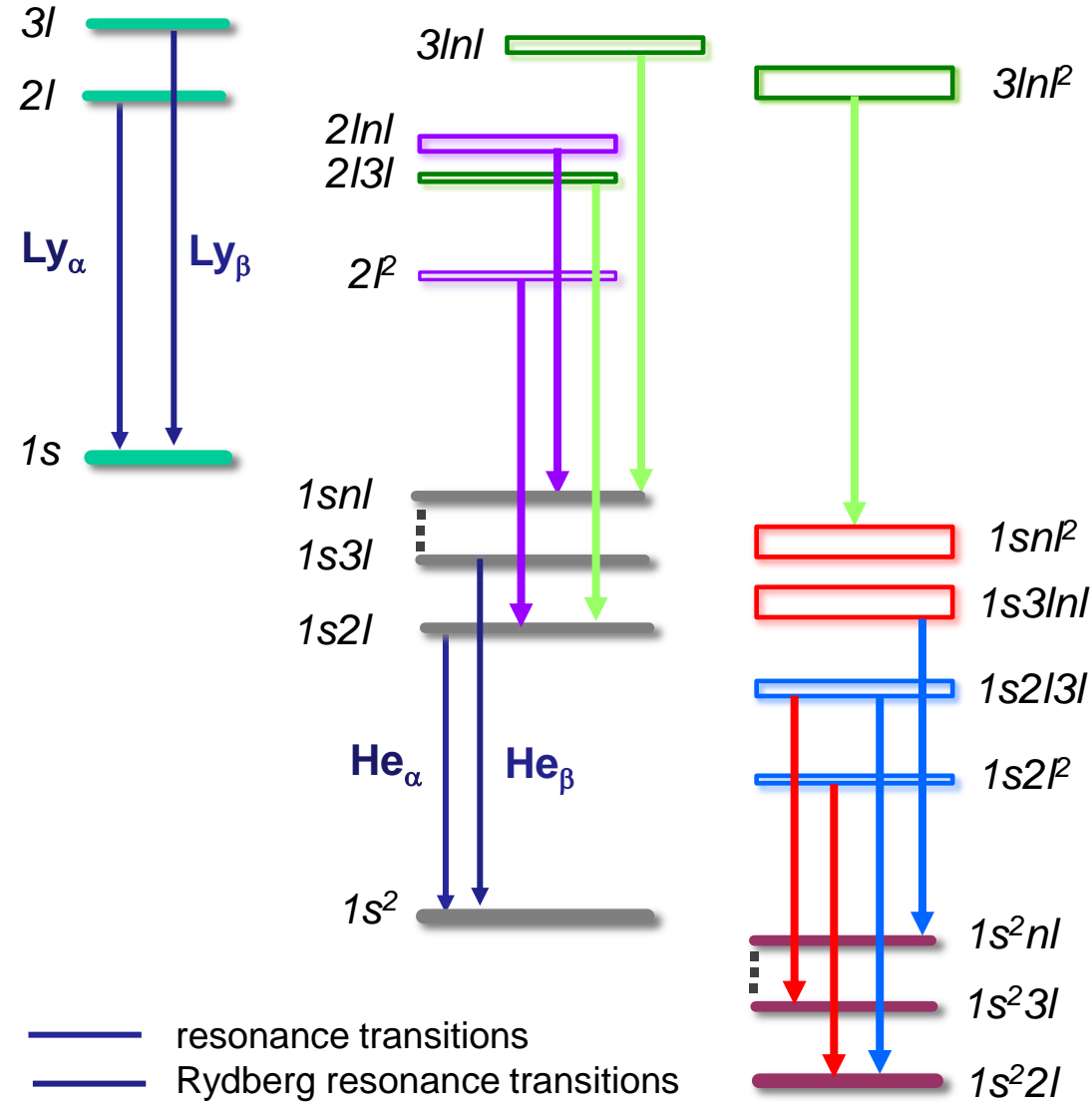
# First observation of Hollow ions for higher Z – Si ions and Rydberg Hollow ions

**H-like**

**He-like**

**Li-like**

**Spectral map**

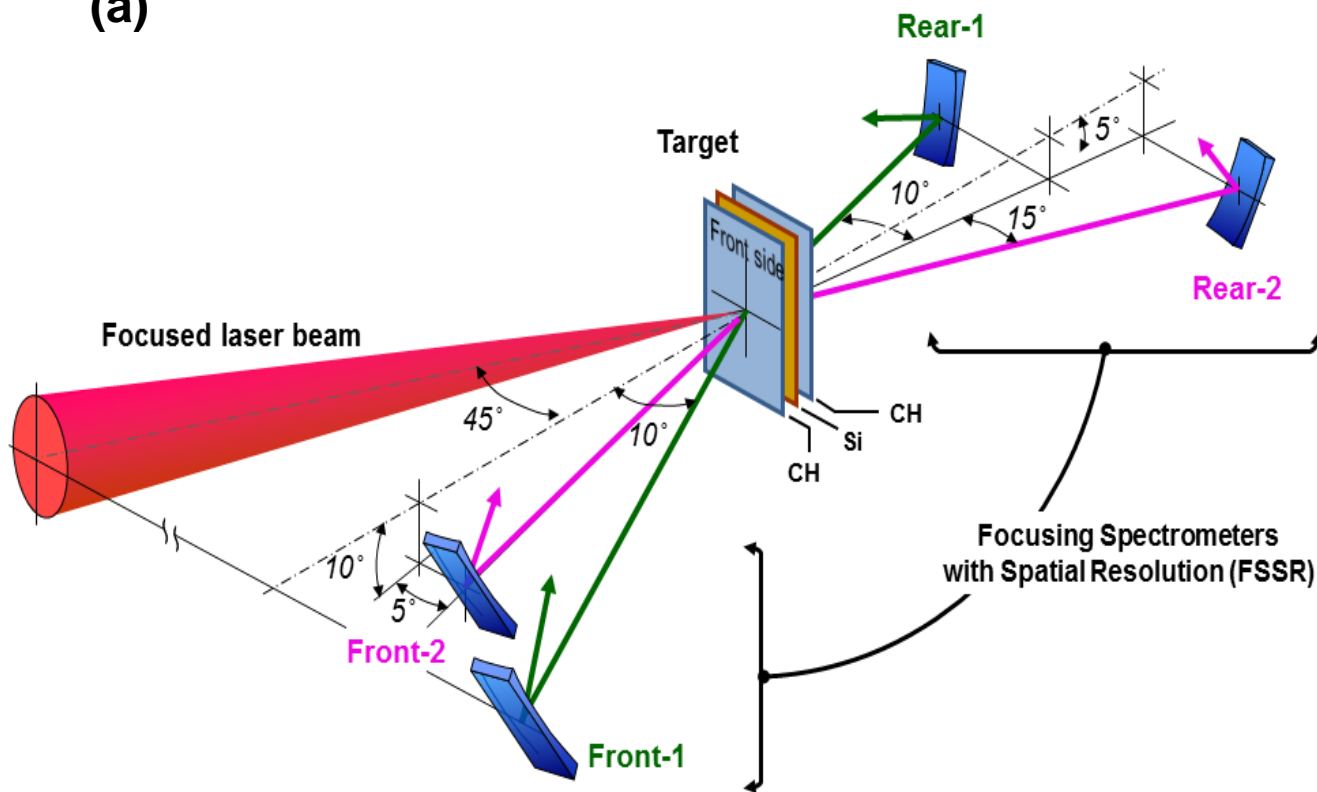


- resonance transitions
- Rydberg resonance transitions
- satellites
- Rydberg satellites
- hollow ion transitions
- Rydberg hollow ion transitions

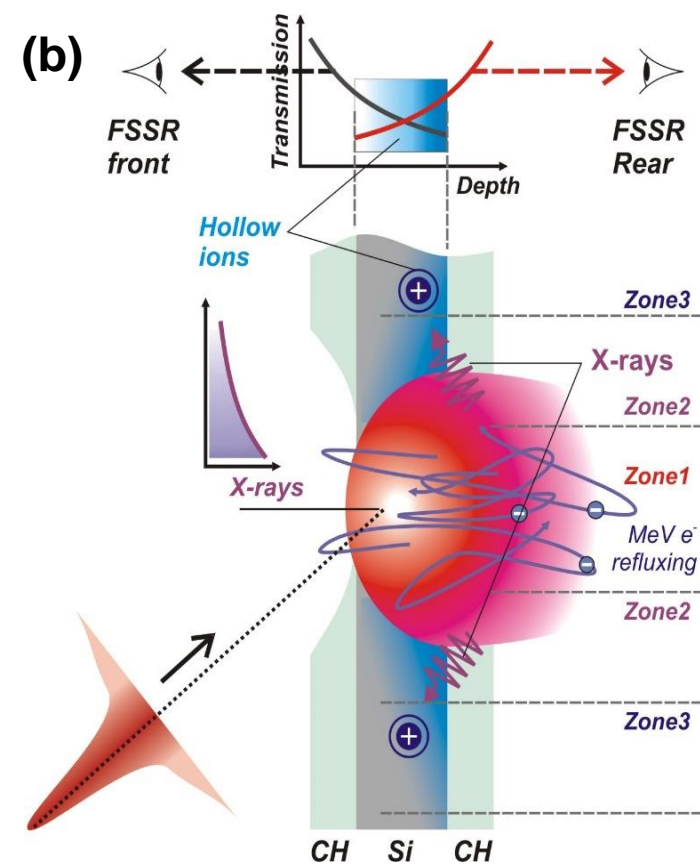
Evaluated at the first time

# The scheme of the experiment on the observation Rydberg Hollow ions satellites in the laser-produced Si plasma

(a)



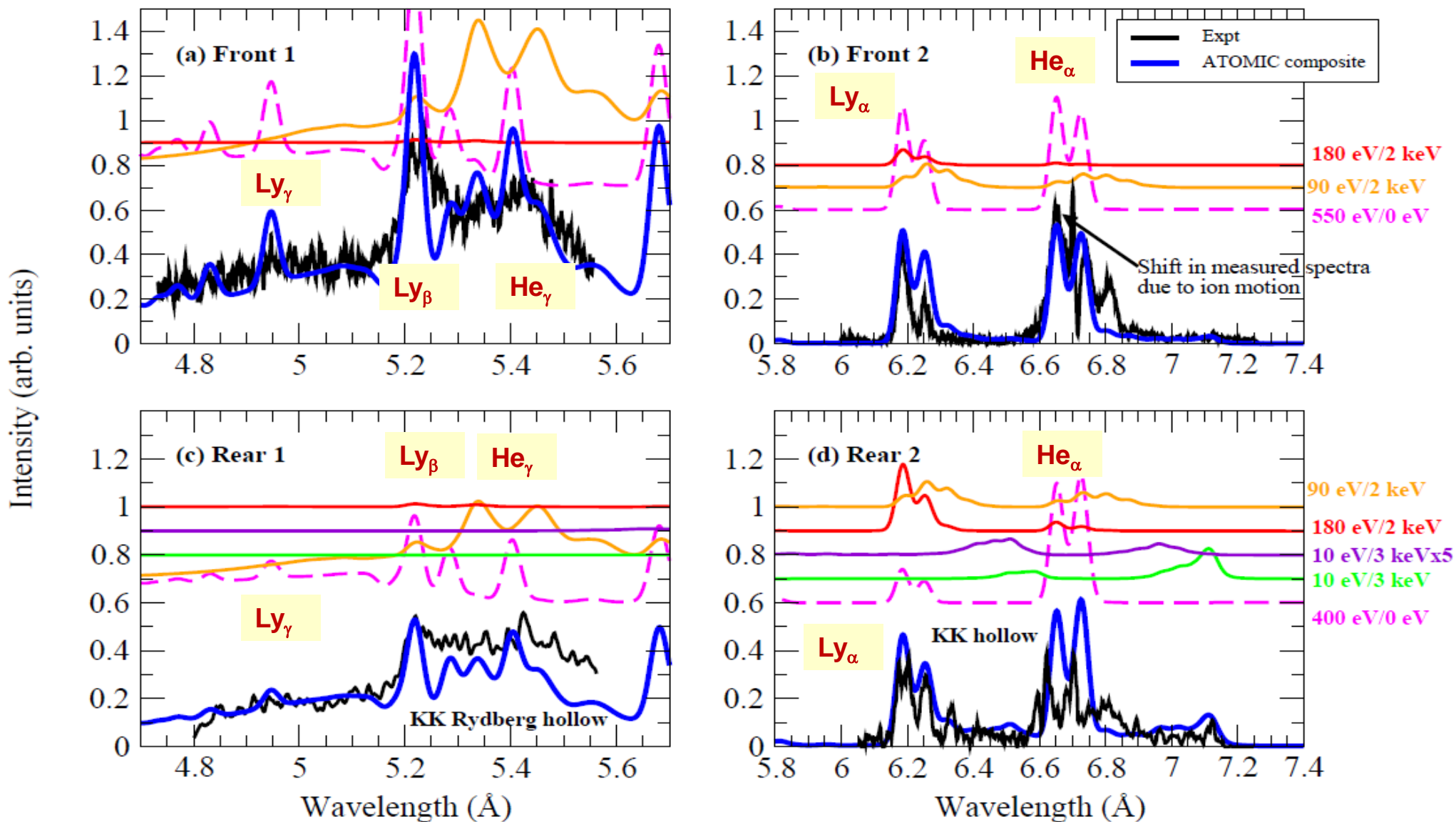
(b)



**Vulcan Petawatt laser parameters:  $\lambda = 1054$  nm,  $\tau \sim 1$  ps,  $E = 114$  J on the target,  $I = 3 \times 10^{20}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>, Laser contrast  $\sim 10^9$ , laser spot size on the target  $\sim 7$   $\mu$ m**

**Target: 1.6  $\mu$ m CH + 2  $\mu$ m Si + 1.6  $\mu$ m CH**

# Rydberg hollow ion spectra



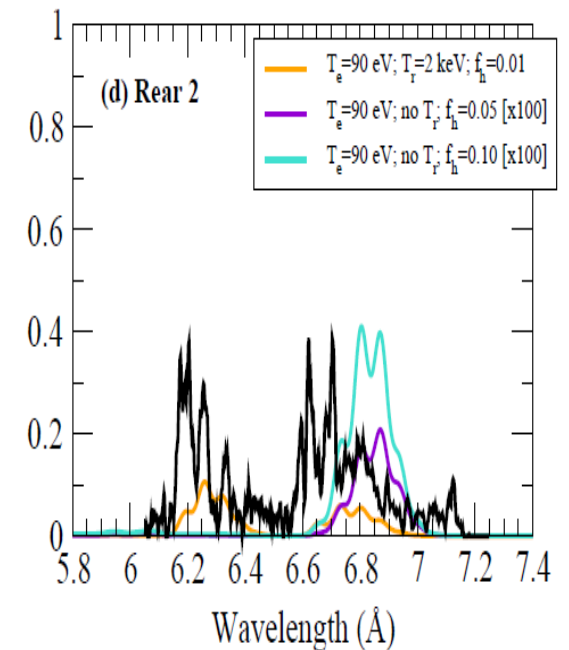
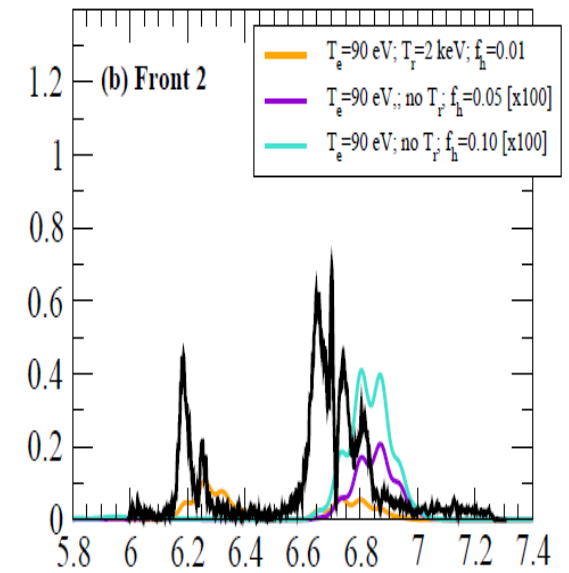
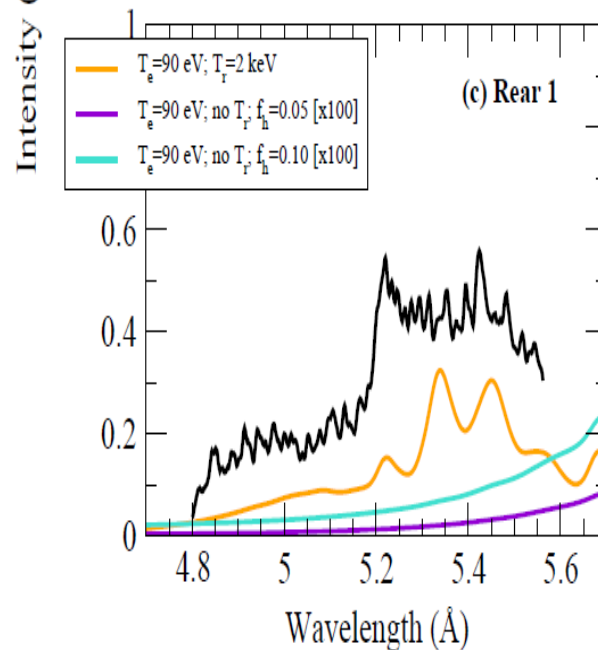
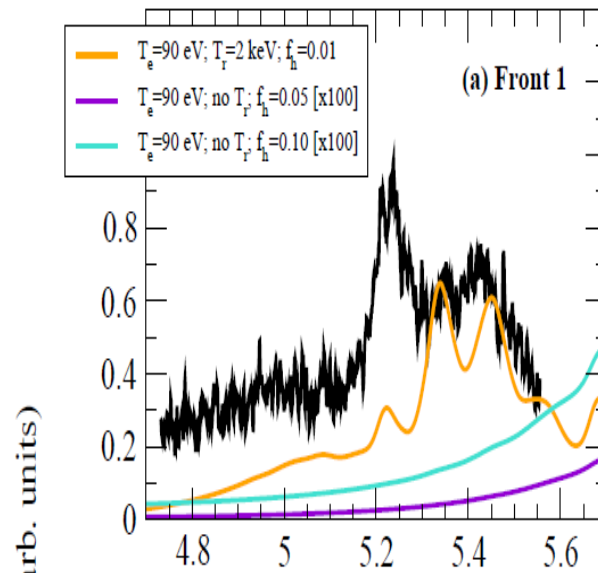
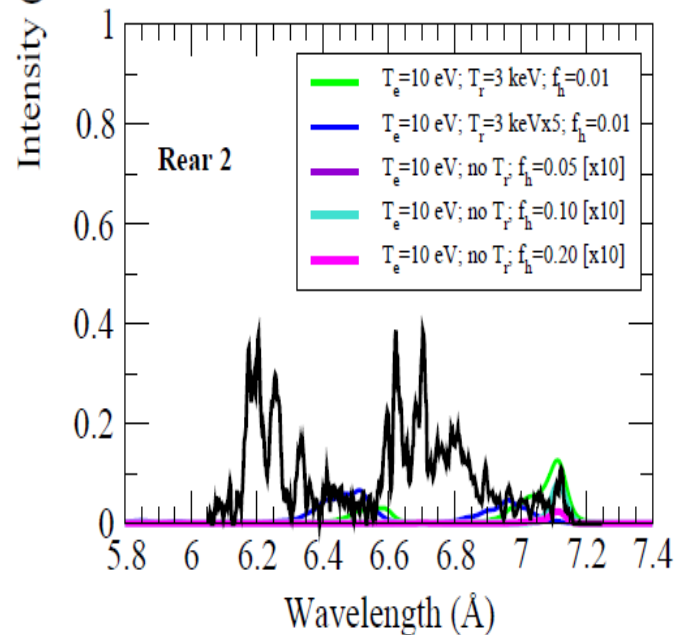
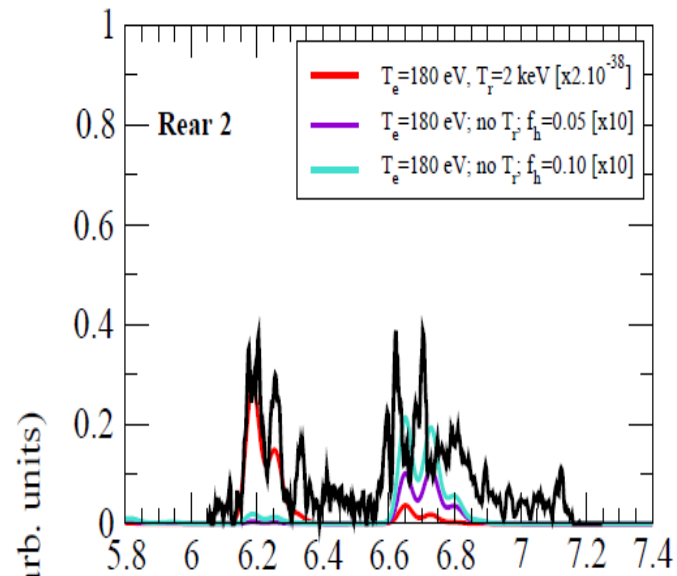
Modeling parameters include: 6  $\mu\text{m}$  optical thickness, 1% hot electrons and also

Zone I -  $N_e=10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , bulk  $T_e=550 \text{ eV}$  for Front and 400 eV for Rear spectrometers

Zone II -  $N_e=3 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T_e=180 \text{ eV}$  and  $T_e=90 \text{ eV}$ ,  $kT_r=2 \text{ KeV}$

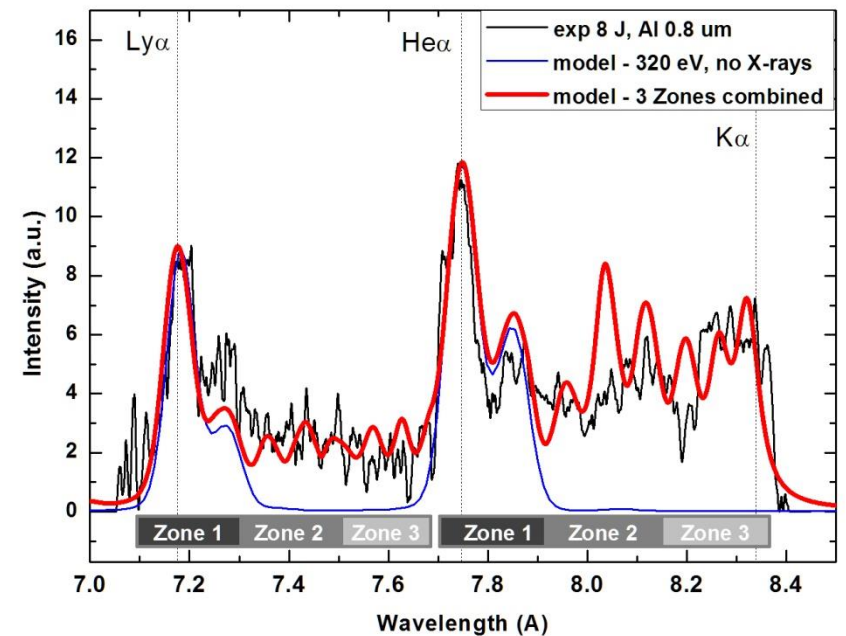
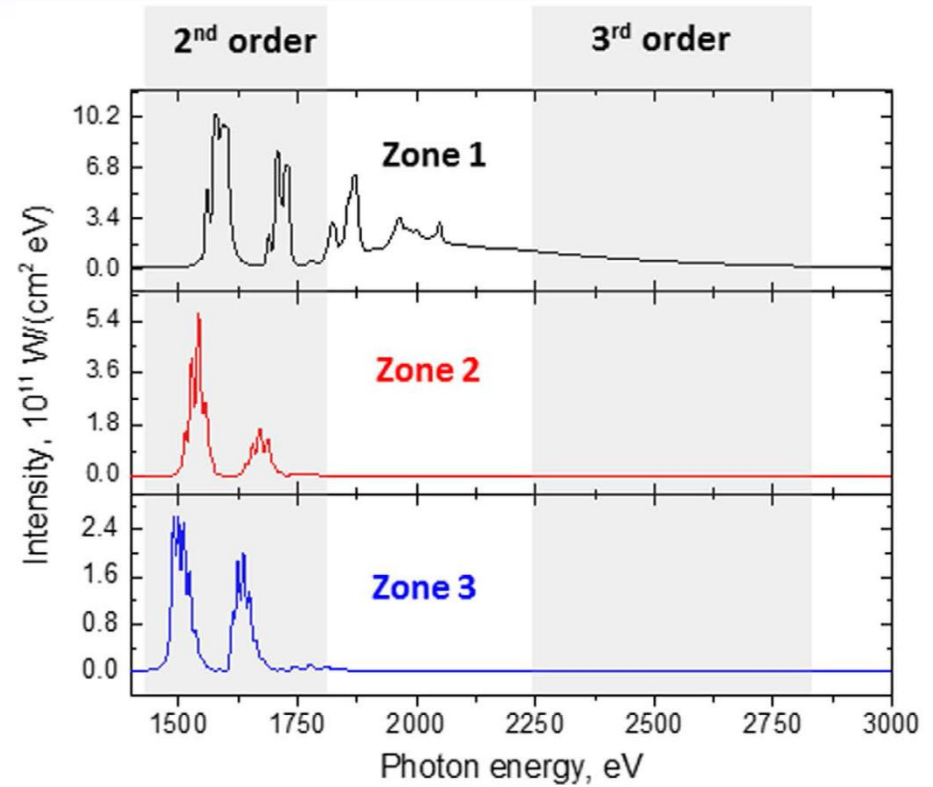
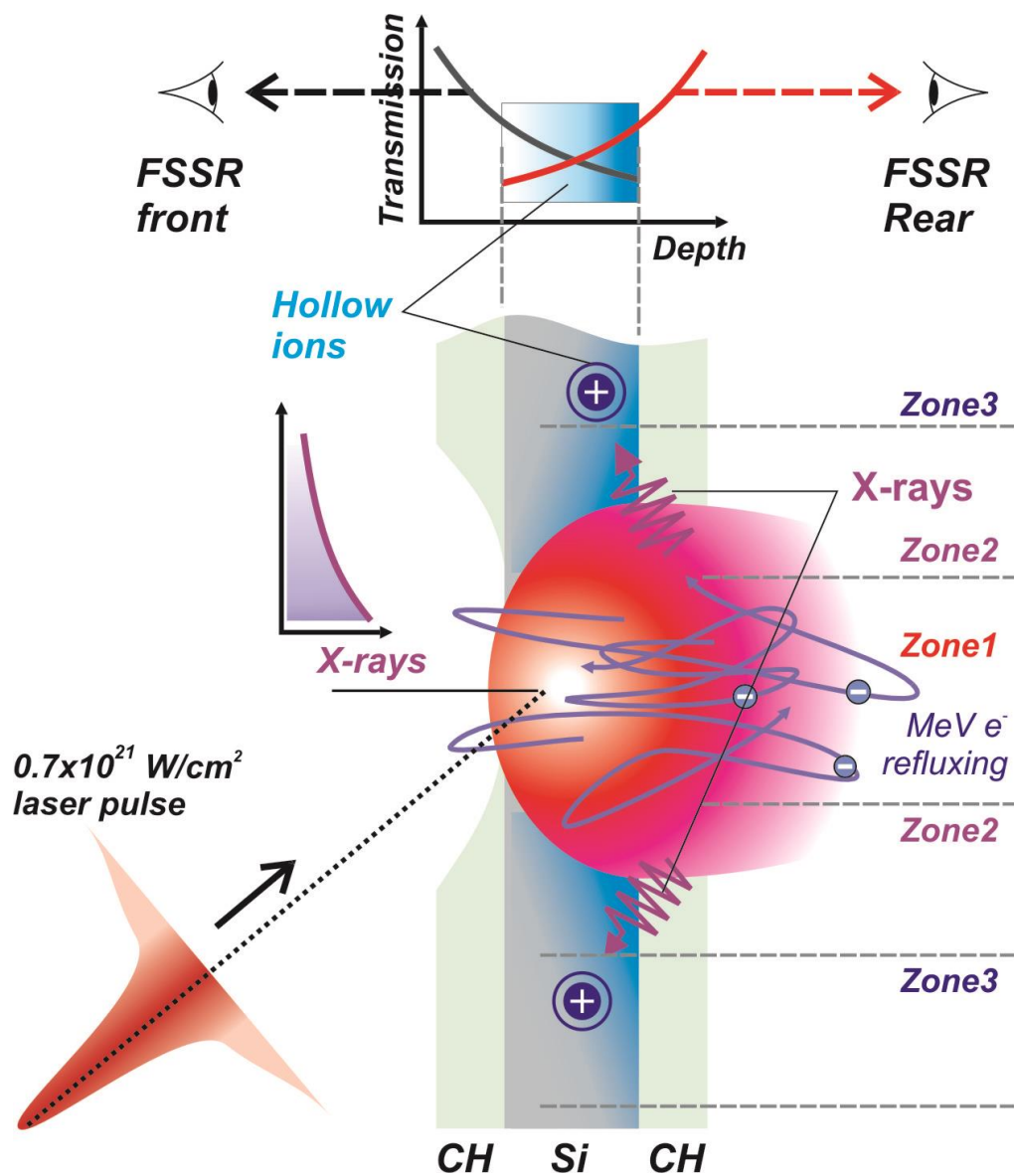
Zone III -  $N_e=3 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T_e=10 \text{ eV}$ ,  $kT_r=3 \text{ KeV} + kT_r=3 \text{ KeV}$  enhanced by factor of 5

# Modeling of Si hollow ion spectra vs radiation temperature and hot e



**Observed spectra could not be explained only by influence of hot electrons.  
The photo pumping by external X-ray source should be introduced in modeling**

# The need for "multiple-zones" concept

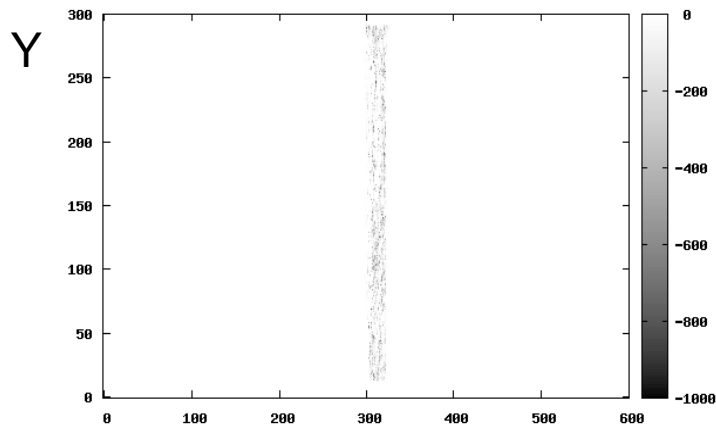


# Effect of Target Shape on the Radiation

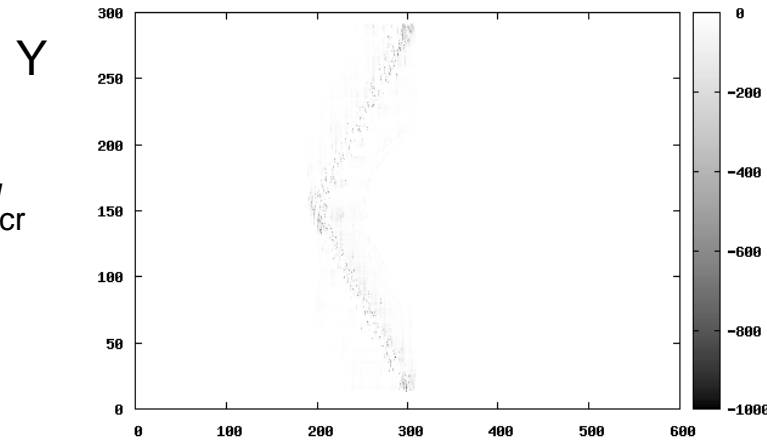
2D PIC simulation

$I=10^{22}\text{W/cm}^2$ ,  $\tau=20\text{ fs}$ ,  $w_0=6\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , target thickness  $15\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ,  $N_e=2\times 10^{23}\text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $Z=2$ , no plasma ionization, preplasma  $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$

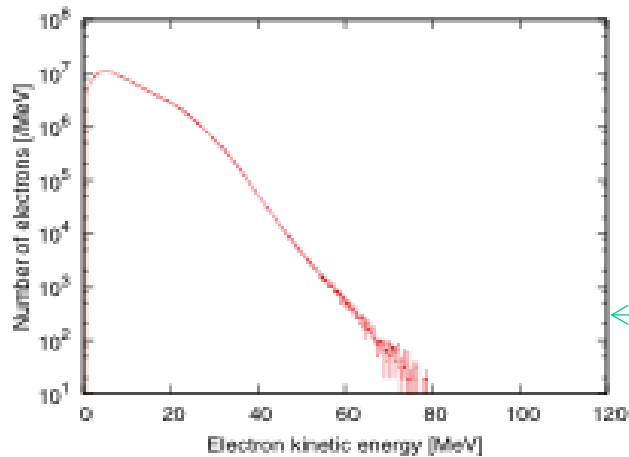
1 – Flat target



2 – Curved target



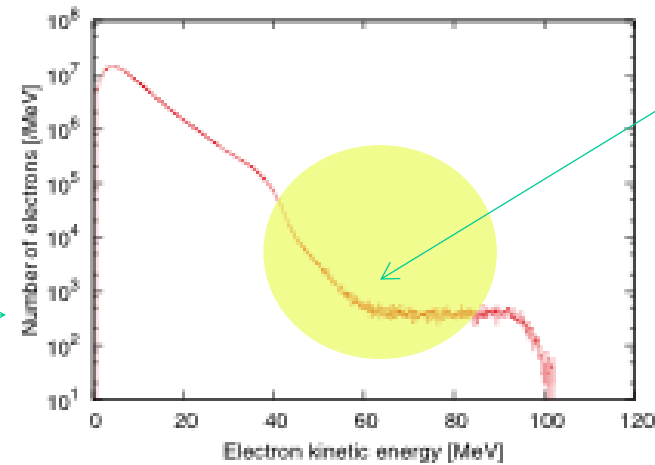
RD losses ~0.6%



Almost no RD effect

$df/dE$

RD losses ~1.8%



A clear energy cut due to the radiation

**Plasma radiation, therefore, is very sensitive to the laser pre-pulses and target shapes**

Laser pre-pulses result in essential increase of plasma radiation, however may disrupt the conditions for hollow ions existence



# RDKR with optical PW

- **Very intense spectral lines of true hollow atom X-ray radiation** are observed in the plasma of PW optical laser pulses coupled into solid Al targets. **Rydber hollow ions spectra** is registered for Si targets.
- Spectra data simulation demonstrates the dominant role of **keV X-rays** in plasma ionization and the matter reaches **Radiation Dominant Kinetics Regime**
- The optical laser plasma is considered as **ultrabright (up to  $1e19$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>) polychromatic source of keV X-rays** due to non-linear Compton scattering and Bremstrahlung of refluxing electrons
- The observed effect is quite sensitive to laser intensity, pulse contrast and **target parameters**. It provides a nice opportunity to study the processes in **Radiation Dominated plasma** with **PW optical lasers**, complementing XFEL experiments and relevant to ICF, laboratory astrophysics and RDR matter studies in general.



# Particle-In-Cell Simulation of Plasma Radiation

X-ray radiation power from plasma irradiated by high intensity laser pulses rapidly increases with the laser pulse intensities,  $a_0$ ,

$$P \propto (a_0^4 \div a_0^6) \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon_R(\theta)}{T_f(a_0)}\right)$$

**Current PIC simulations included the total radiation losses without the spectral analysis (the spectral analysis is in progress)**

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = -e[\vec{E} + \vec{p} \times \vec{B} / (mc\gamma)] - \vec{f}_{RD} + \vec{f}_{Langevin} \quad \vec{f}_{RD} = -\frac{2e^3}{3mc^3} \gamma^{1/2} \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \right) \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \left[ \mathbf{v} \times \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \right) \mathbf{H} \right] \right\}$$

$$\gamma = \sqrt{1 + \vec{p}^2 / (mc)^2}$$

$$\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \vec{p} / (m\gamma)$$

$$-\frac{2e^4}{3m^2c^4} \left\{ \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H} + \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{H} \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{H}) + \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{E} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}) \right\} -$$

$\vec{f}_{Langevin}$  serves for elastic collisions

$$\frac{2e^4}{3m^2c^5} \gamma^2 \mathbf{v} \left\{ \left( \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{H} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E})^2 \right\}$$

**Collisional and field ionizations are calculated as the variable particle weights.**

**The last term of the radiation force is large for the light scattering .**

**Additionally to Compton scattering, in a curved plasma, there is a term ~**

$$\frac{2e^4}{3m^2c^5} \gamma^2 \mathbf{v} \vec{E}_\perp$$

The transverse component of the plasma field  $\sim a_0$