

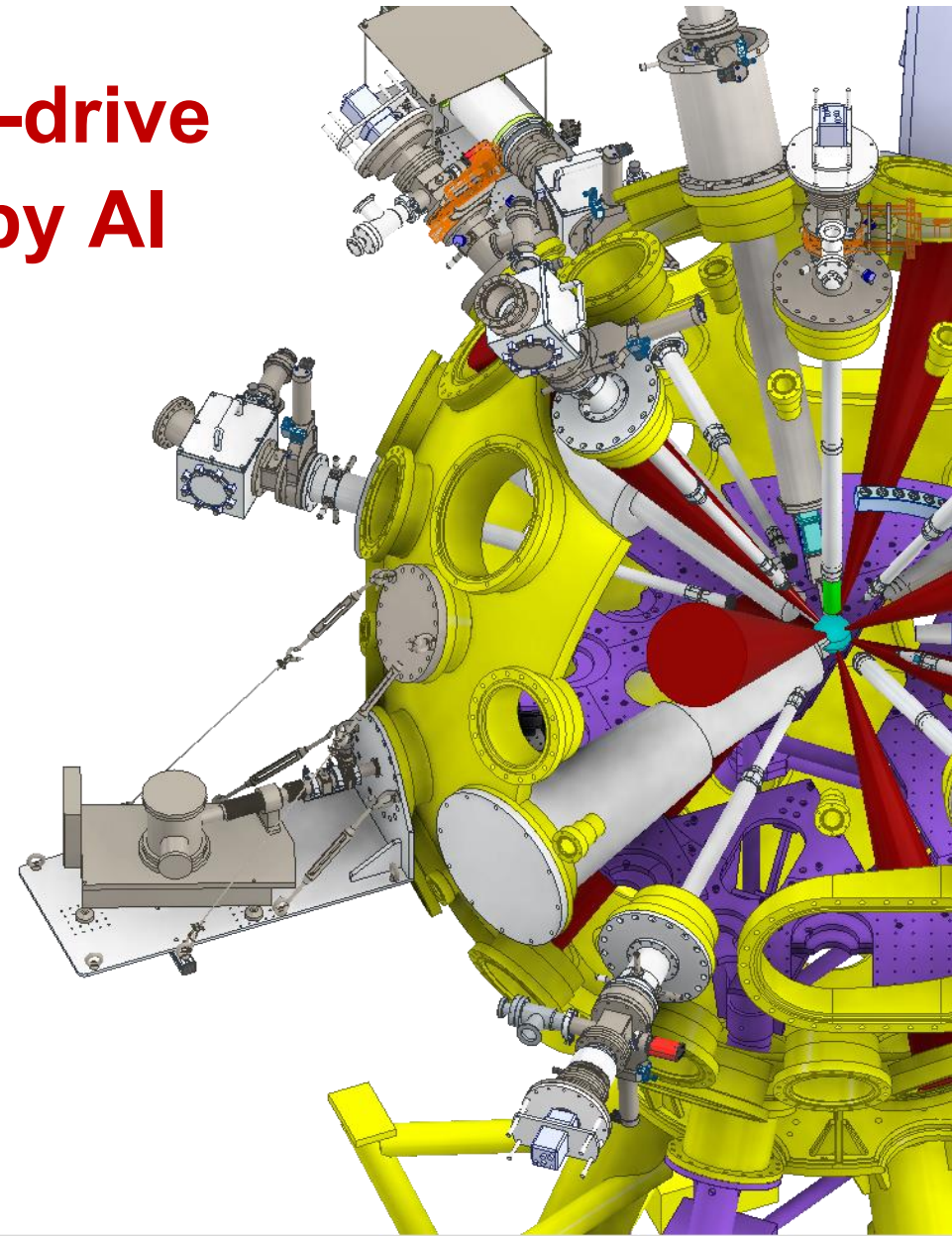
Predictive simulations for laser direct-drive implosion experiments empowered by AI

Fuyuan Wu, Yuhan Wang, Yangyi Lei,
Xiaohui Yuan, Jie Zhang*

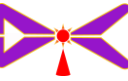
DCI Joint Team
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

October 16, 2025

30th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference, Chengdu, China



Outline



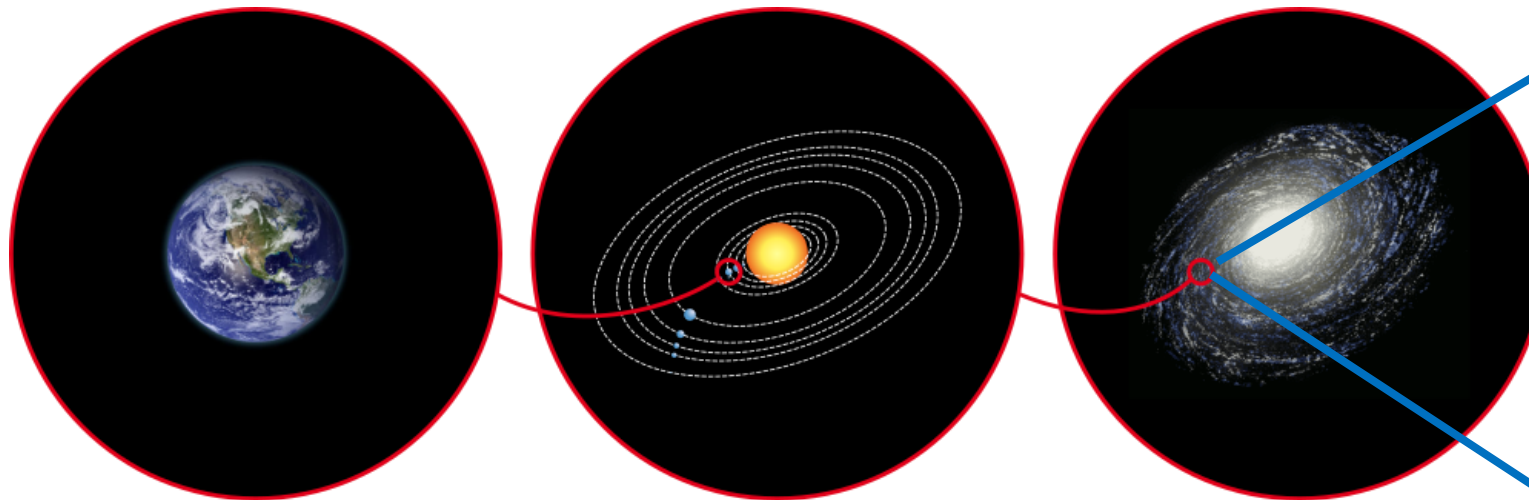
- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Investigation method**
- 3. Physical results**
- 4. Summary**

Laser fusion is good for all human being



- Laser fusion is a promising method for the leap of **human civilization** from Kardashev scale I (Planet energy) to Kardashev scale II (Star energy).
- The **Double-Cone Ignition (DCI)** scheme proposed by Academician Jie Zhang is particularly suitable for laser fusion energy due to its **high efficiency, high stability** and **low-cost**.

Kardashev scale for human civilization

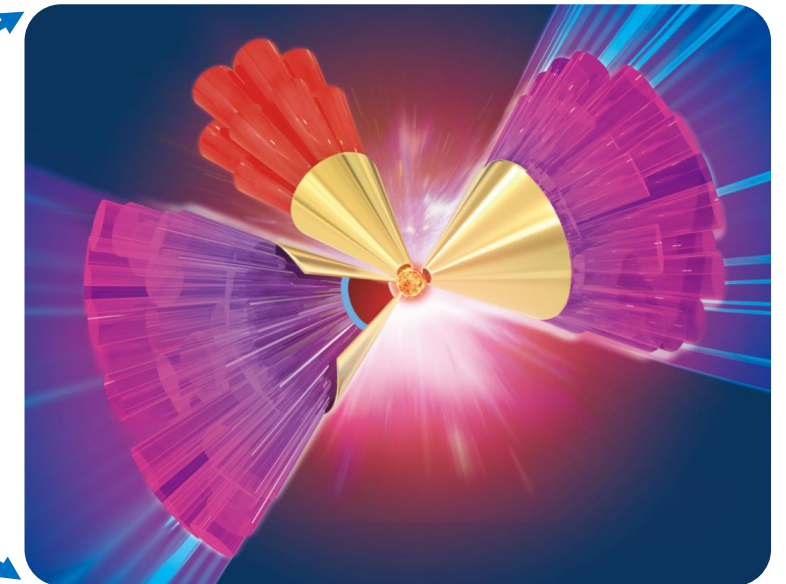


Type I: Planet

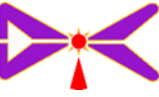
Type II: Star(Fusion)

Type III: Galaxy

Double-Cone Ignition scheme



The Progress of Double-Cone Ignition Scheme

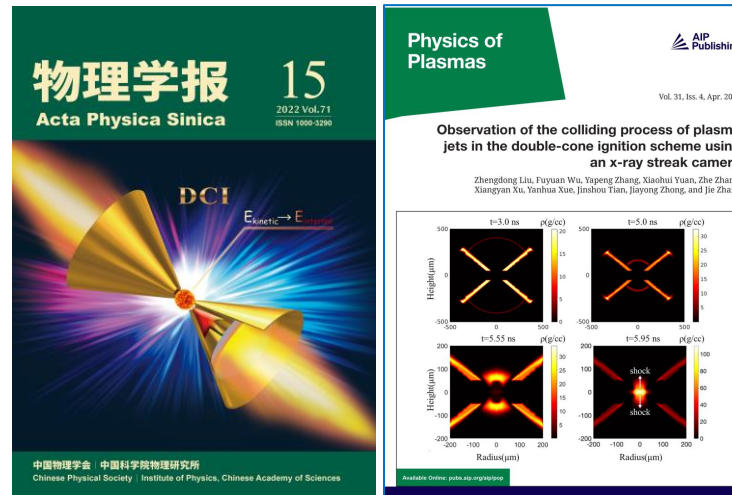


- ✓ In the past 5 years, simulation abilities empowered by AI were developed, critical physical studies were performed, and **10 rounds** experimental campaigns were completed.
- ✓ The results effectively support the **high efficiency** of the DCI scheme and validate all the **four key physical processes**.

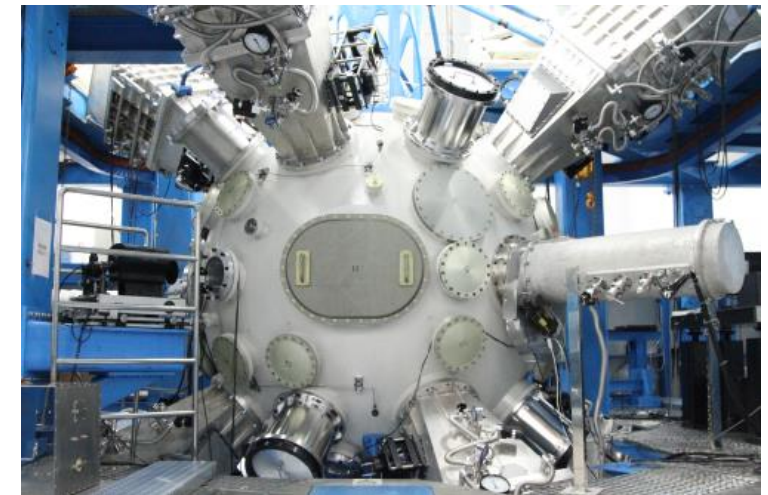
DCI joint research team



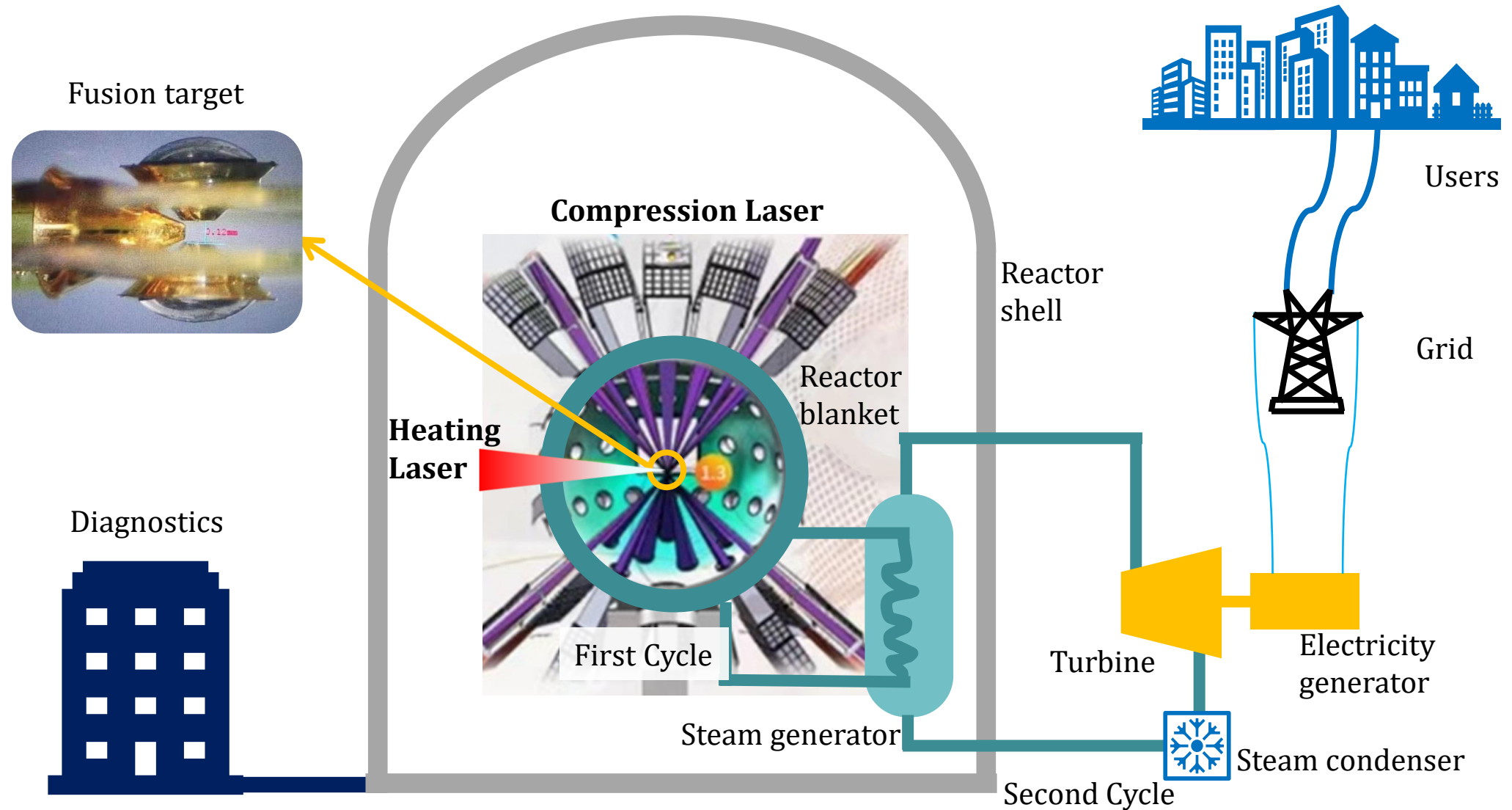
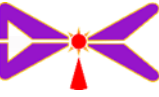
DCI results on the covers



Experiments on SG-II Upgrade



Fusion Power Plant Based on Double-Cone Ignition Scheme

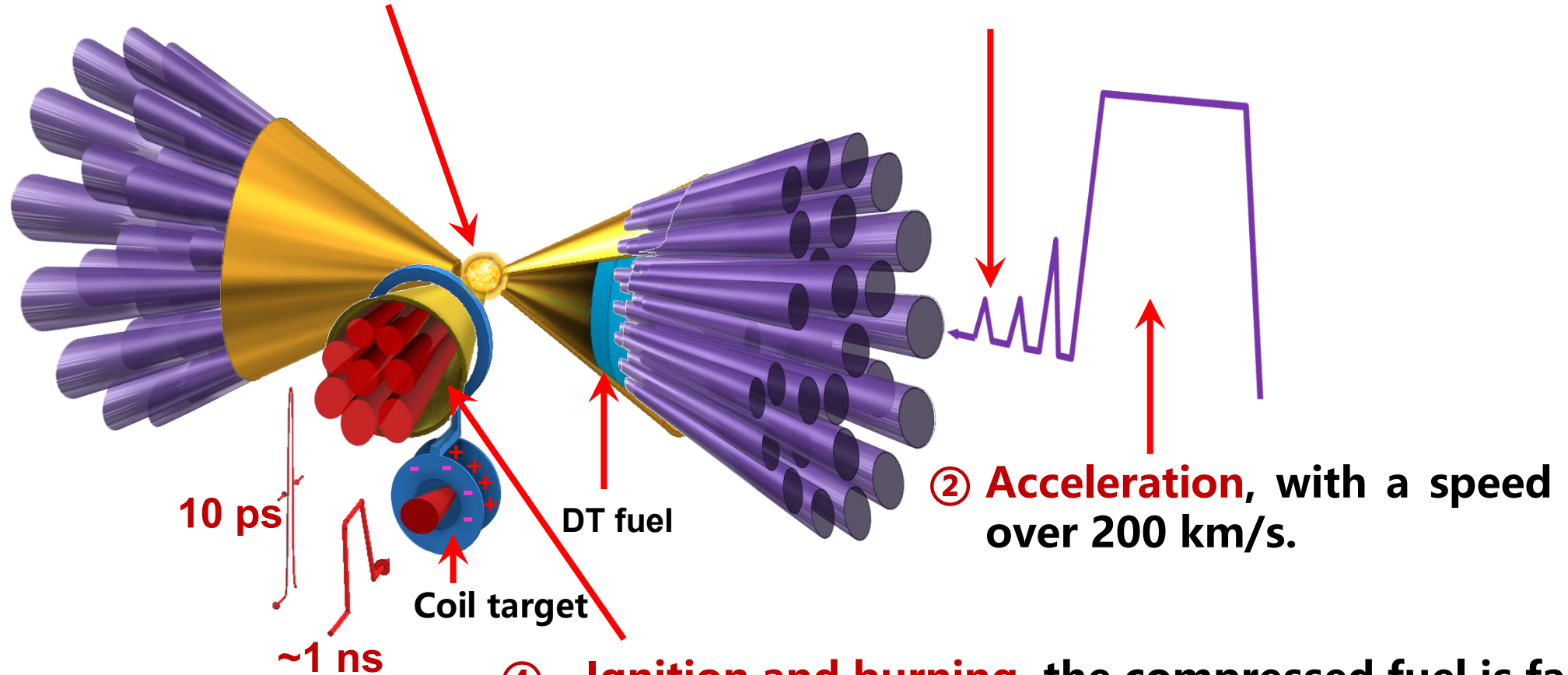


The recent progress of the DCI Experiments



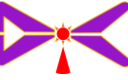
③ **Collision**, the density is compressed to 100g/cc and the temperature increase dramatically.

① **Isentropic compression**, with a density amplified by 50 times.

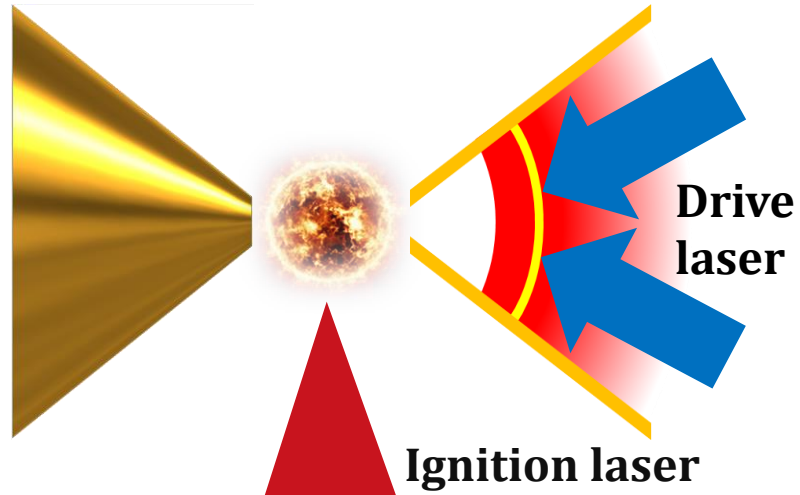


④ **Ignition and burning**, the compressed fuel is fast heated to over 600 eV by the picosecond laser.

How to discover the promised land efficiently?



Double-Cone Ignition Scheme



Artificial Intelligence

Simulations

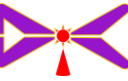


Scientific Faith: There are lots of **continents** made of laser pulse and target structure where fusion energy exists.

Question: How to discover routes to these continents efficiently?

Answer: Simulations(**Boat**) + Artificial Intelligence(**Compass**)

The Boat: The hydro code MULTI-1D/2D/3D



Author: **Rafael Ramis(Spain)**, Meyer-ter-Vehn(Germany), ..., **Fuyuan Wu(China)**

Introduction: A two-dimensional, two-temperature, radiation magnetohydrodynamic program, considering laser ablation and fusion burning in **Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian(ALE)** coordinates.

Mass: $\rho = m/V$

Momentum: $\rho \frac{du}{dt} = -\nabla(P_e + P_i + P_v) + J \times B$

Ion energy: $\rho \frac{de_i}{dt} = -(P_i + P_v) \nabla \cdot u - Q_{ei} + S_{exi}$

Electron energy: $\rho \frac{de_e}{dt} = -P_e \nabla \cdot u + \nabla \cdot q_e + Q_{ei} + \eta J^2 + Q_{rad} + S_{exe}$

Toroidal field: $\frac{\partial B_\theta}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (u \times B_\theta) - \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \left(\frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \nabla \times B_\theta \right) + \nabla \times \left(\frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla P_e \right)$

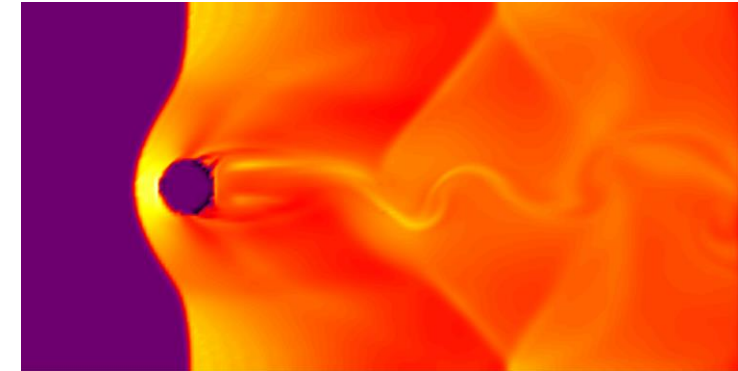
Parallel field: $\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (u \times B_\theta) - \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times A_\theta) - \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times A_\theta), (B_z, B_r)$

$= \nabla \times A_\theta$
Radiation field: $\vec{n} \cdot \nabla I = -\frac{I^P - I}{\lambda}$

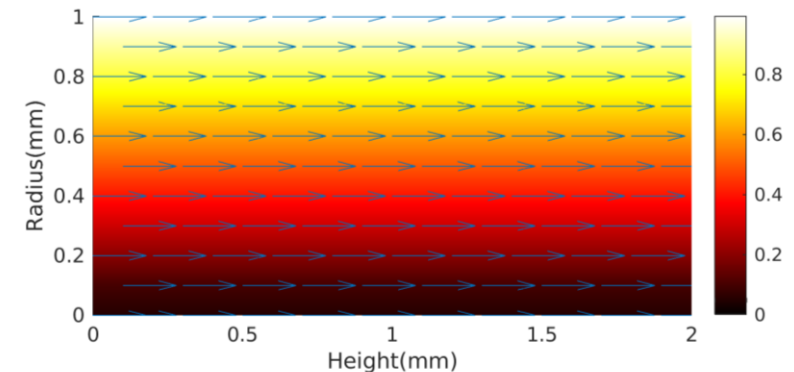
Fusion burning: $\frac{dn_{DT}}{dt} = -\langle \sigma v \rangle n_{DT}^2, \langle \sigma v \rangle = f(T_i)$

Alpha particle: $\frac{dE^\alpha}{dt} = -\nabla \cdot \vec{S}^\alpha - Q^\alpha + \langle \sigma v \rangle n_{DT}^2 \epsilon_0^\alpha$

Von Karmen Vortex Street(ALE)



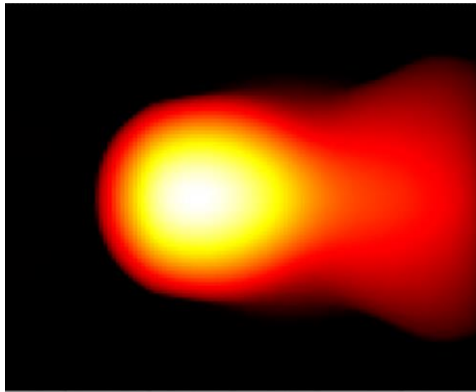
Axial magnetic field for fast ignition



The Boats: Integrated simulations for DCI

1) MULTI-IFE/2D/3D

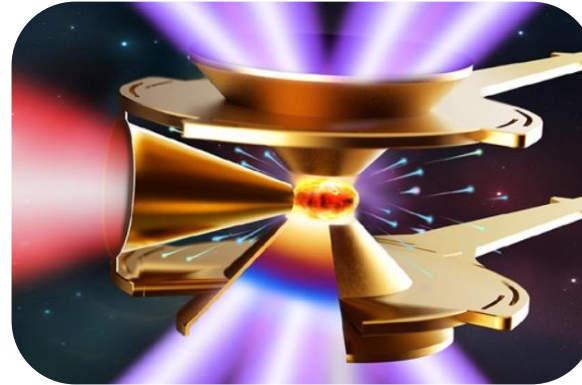
Implosion by nanosecond laser



4) OSUKI/MULTI-3D

Fusion burning to release energy

Density and Temperature

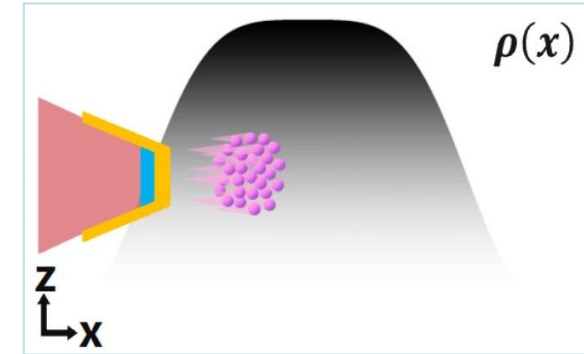


Optimize laser and target

Density and Temperature

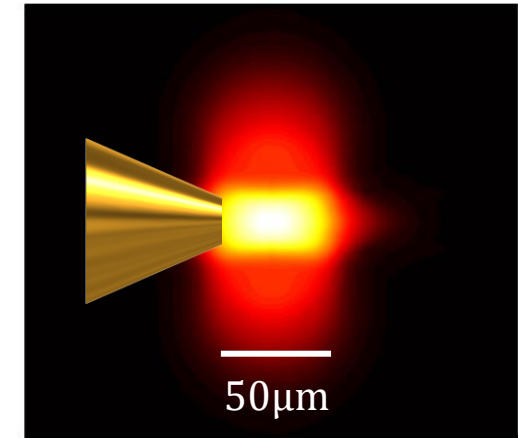
2) KLAPS

Generation of fast electrons



R
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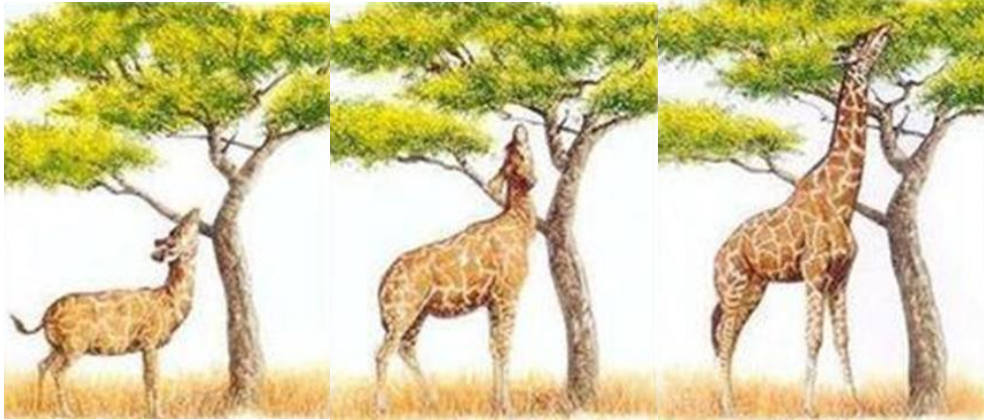
3) HEETS

Fusion ignition by fast electrons

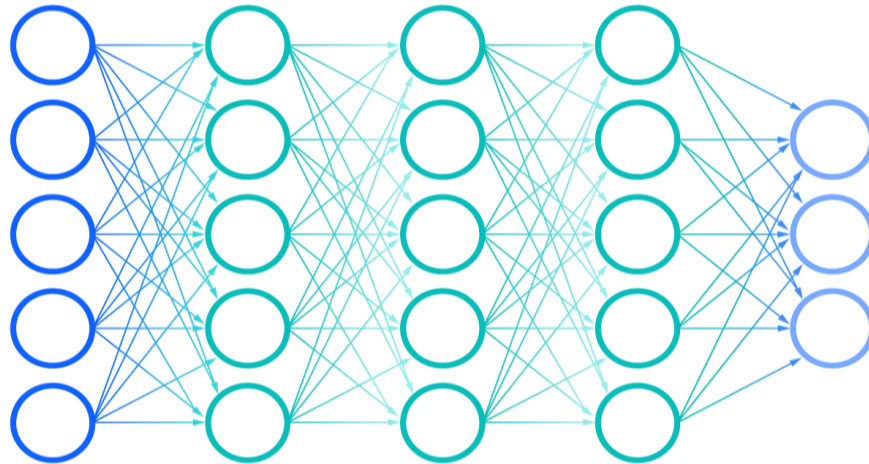
The Compass: Artificial Intelligence



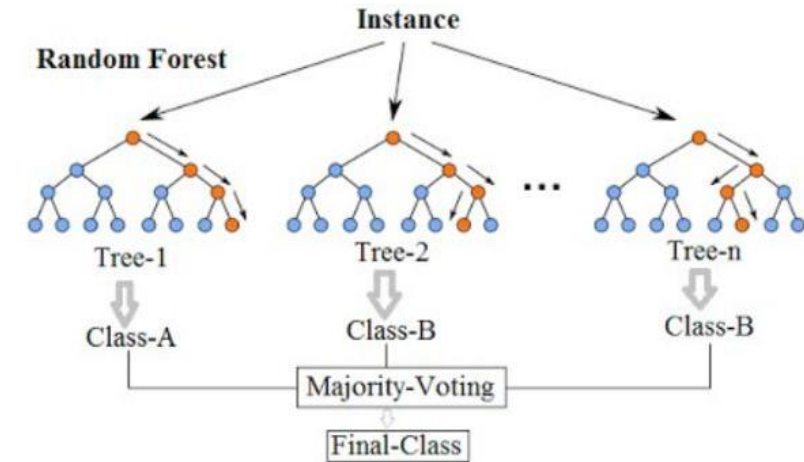
The Genetic Algorithm for global optimization



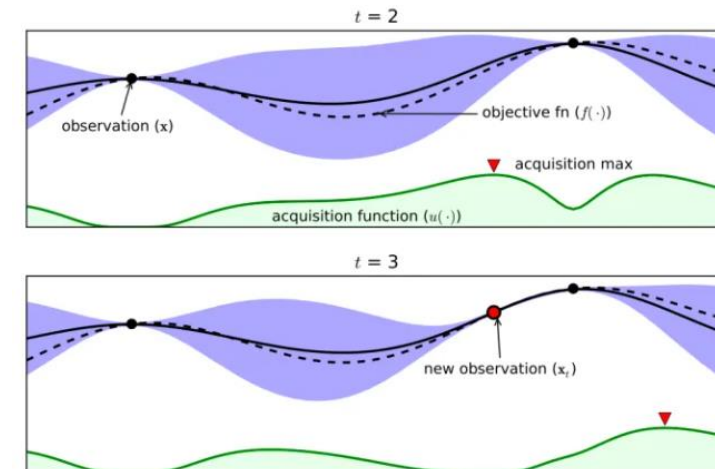
The neural network for prediction



Random Forest for feature importance



The Bayesian inference for Probability



Poster 1: **Yangyi Lei**, Genetic Algorithm for waveform optimization to suppress RT instability

Poster 2: **Yuhan Wang**, Input Calibration for DCI Experiments with Transformer-Based Surrogate Models

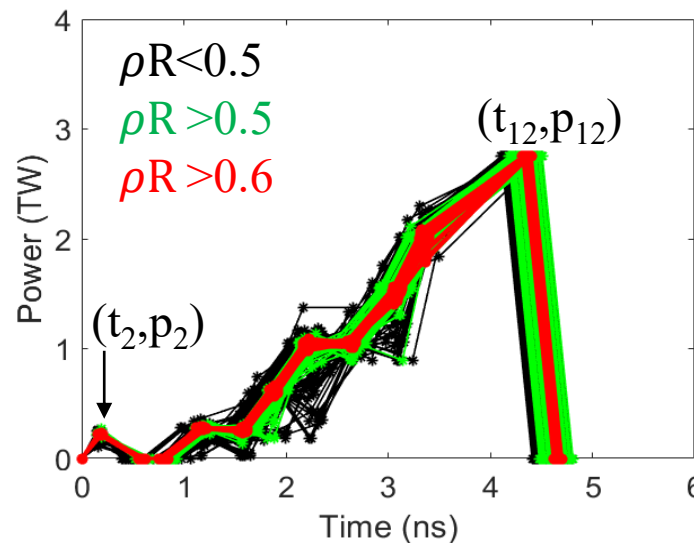
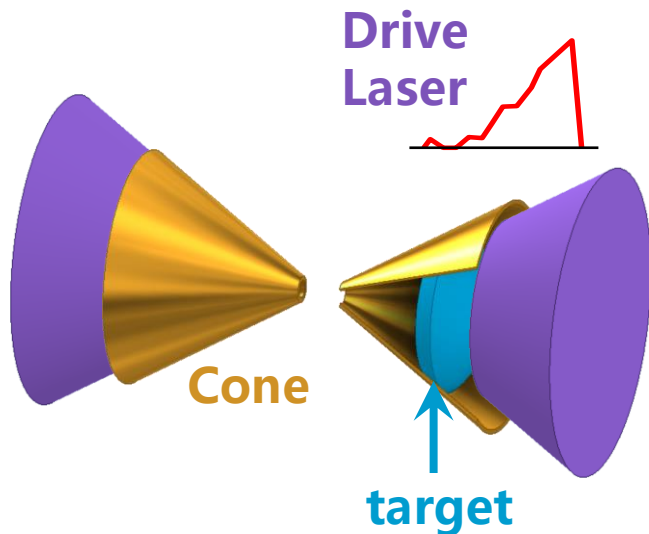
Optimize the laser pulse with artificial intelligence

- Challenges: It is important but **very difficult** to find a laser pulse that satisfy isentropic compression, high-speed implosion and low instability.
- Methods: We employ the **artificial intelligence** to optimize **24 variables** describing laser waveforms with a goal of high density, high speed and low in-flight aspect ratio. The optimization **quality** and **efficiency** is then improved greatly.

Object: Laser power pulse

Evolution: black→red

The performance with AI

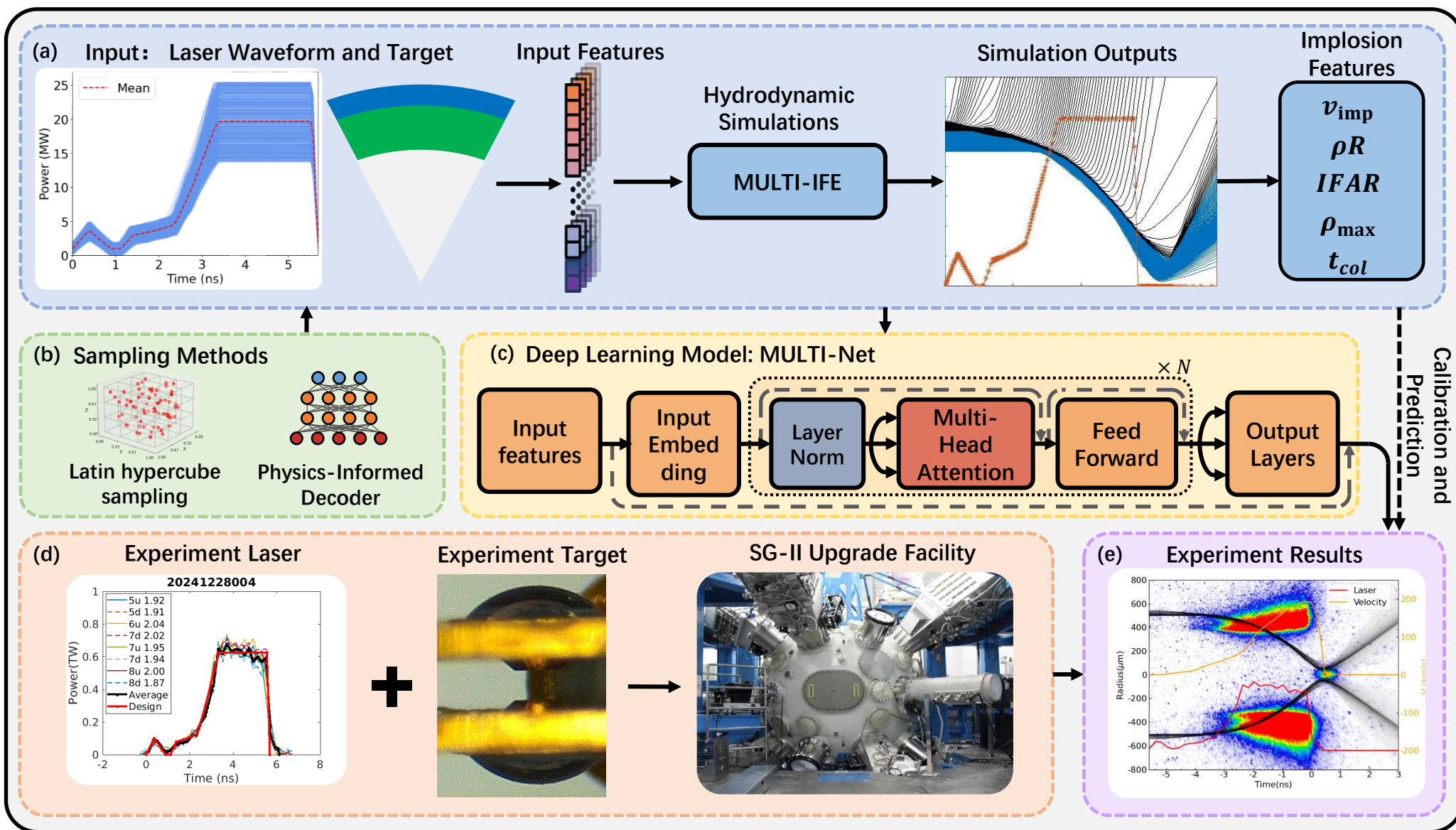


Variables	Before	AI	Effects
Density (g/cm ²)	0.13	0.32	↑ 2.5x
Speed (km/s)	135	210	↑ 1.6x
Time (Day)	30	7	↑ 4.3x



双锥对撞点火
祝融聚变大模型

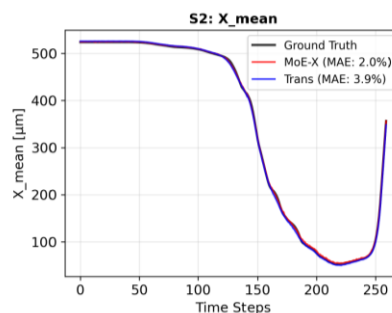
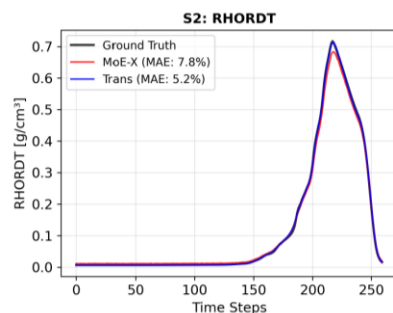
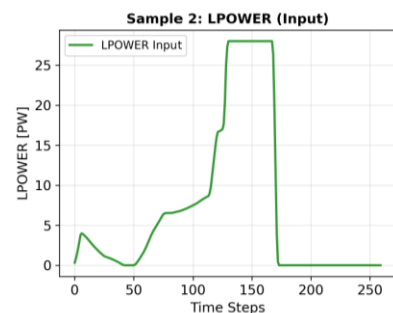
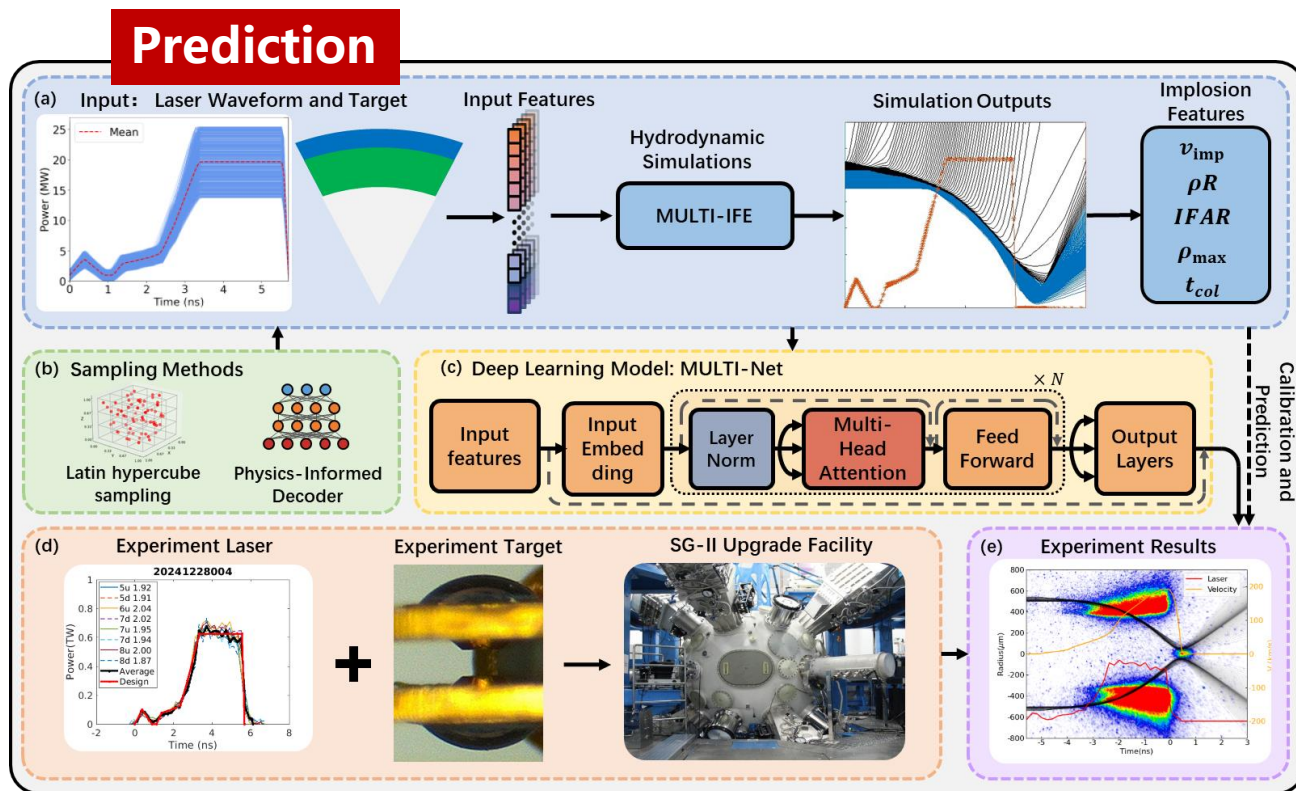
An effort for the Zhurong fusion foundation model



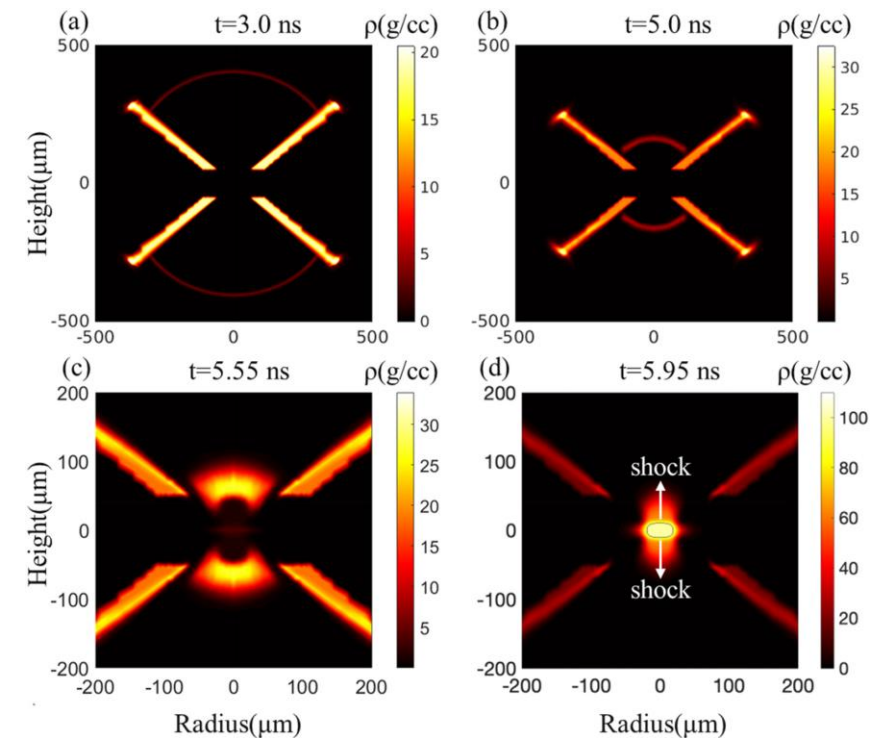
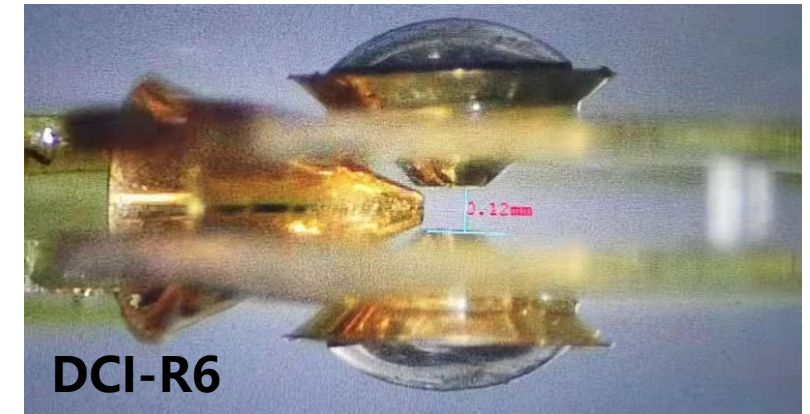
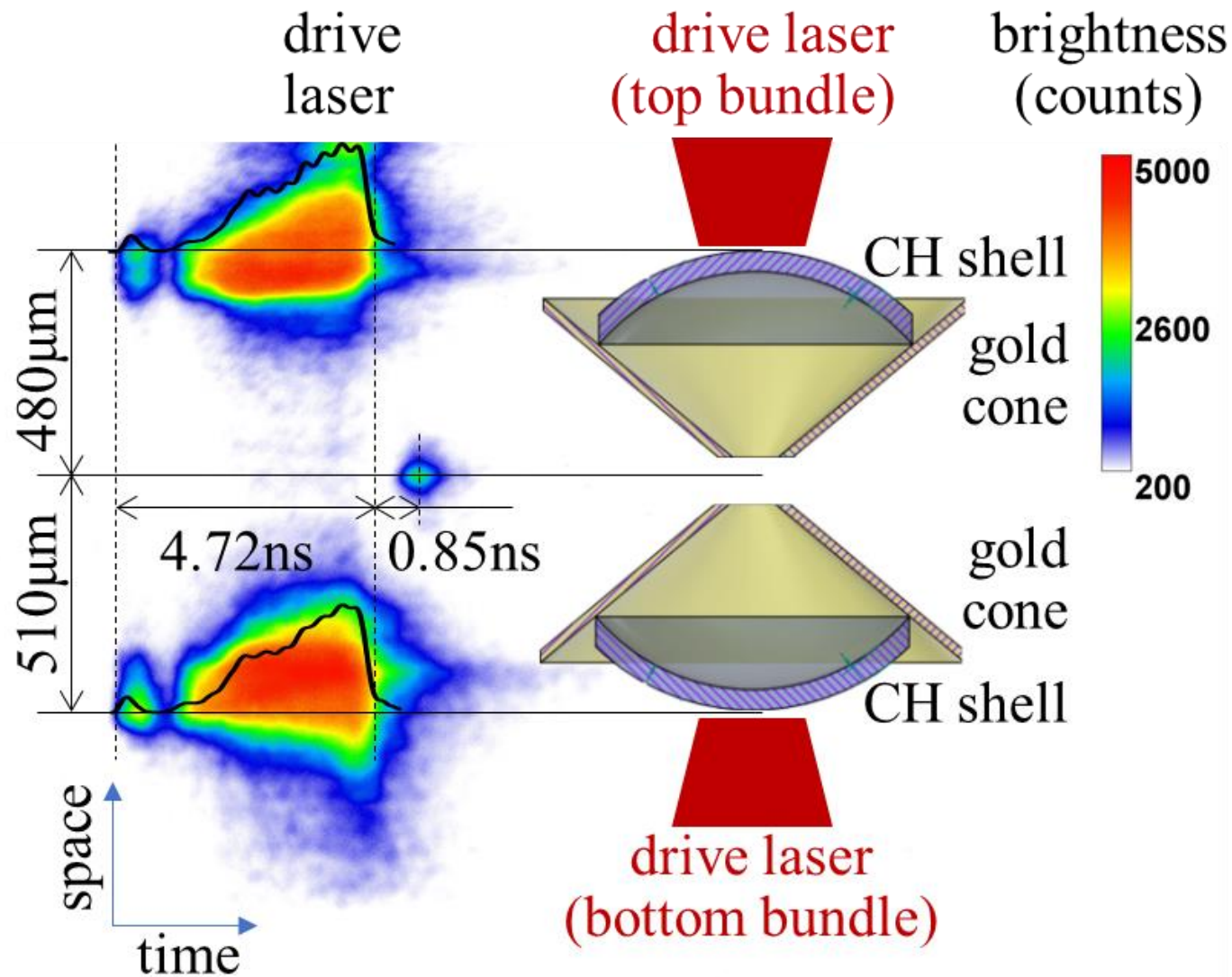


双锥对撞点火
祝融聚变大模型

An effort for the Zhurong fusion foundation model

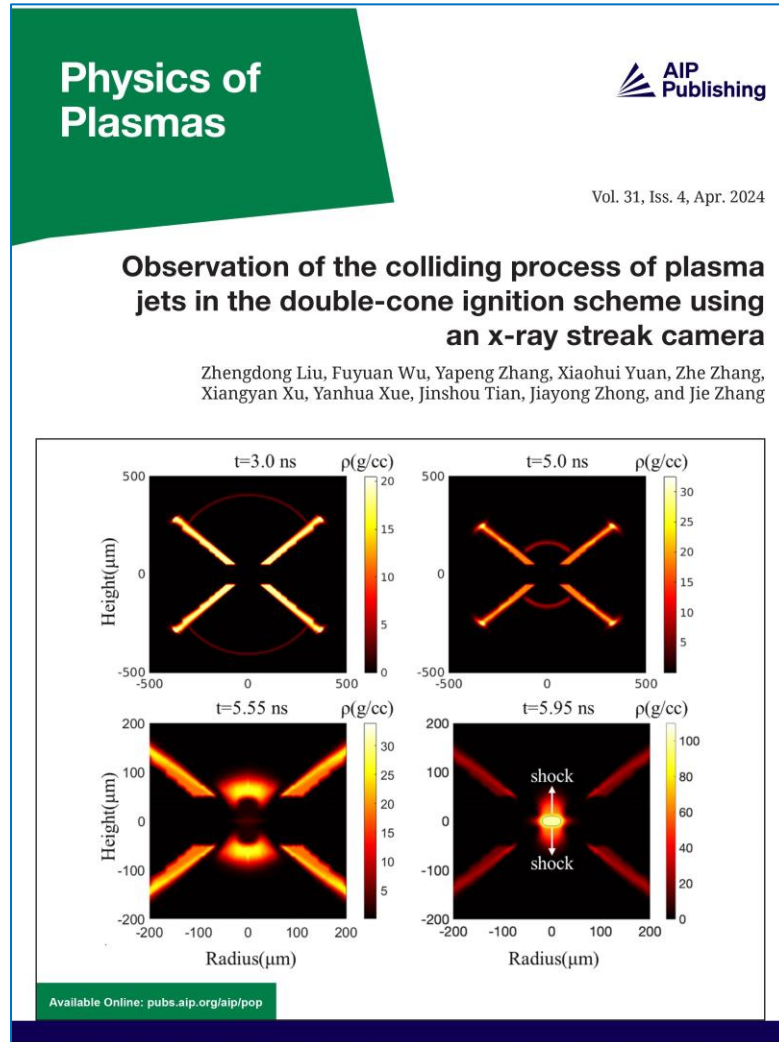
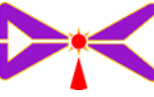


Formation of high density isochoric plasmas with the DCI



X-ray emissions from the ablated and collision plasma

More details about the DCI simulations and experiments



AIP Publishing Scilight

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Volume 2024, Issue 14
5 April 2024

NEWS | APRIL 04 2024

Head-on collision of compressed plasma jets shows promise for high-gain laser fusion FREE

Ben Ikenson

[Check for updates](#)

Scilight 2024, 141103 (2024)
<https://doi.org/10.1063/1.0025638>

Connected Content
This is a companion to: Observation of the colliding process of plasma jets in the double-cone ignition scheme using an x-ray streak camera

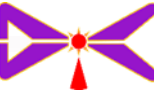
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Topics
[Bremsstrahlung](#), [Astrophysics](#), [Young stellar objects](#), [Laser fusion](#), [Streak cameras](#), [Plasma confinement](#), [Plasma properties and parameters](#), [Plasma temperature](#), [Fluid instabilities](#), [Fluid flows](#)

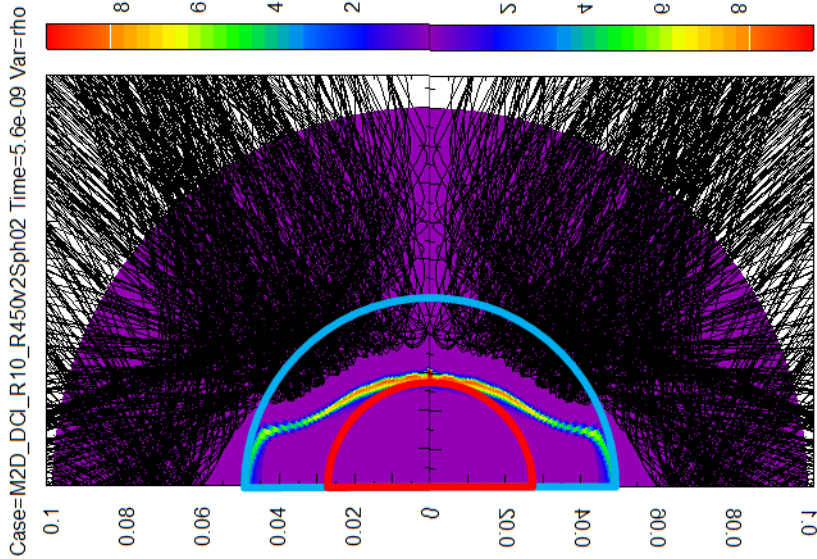
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Liu Z, Wu F, Zhang Y, et al. Observation of the colliding process of plasma jets in the double-cone ignition scheme using an x-ray streak camera[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2024, 31(4), 141103.

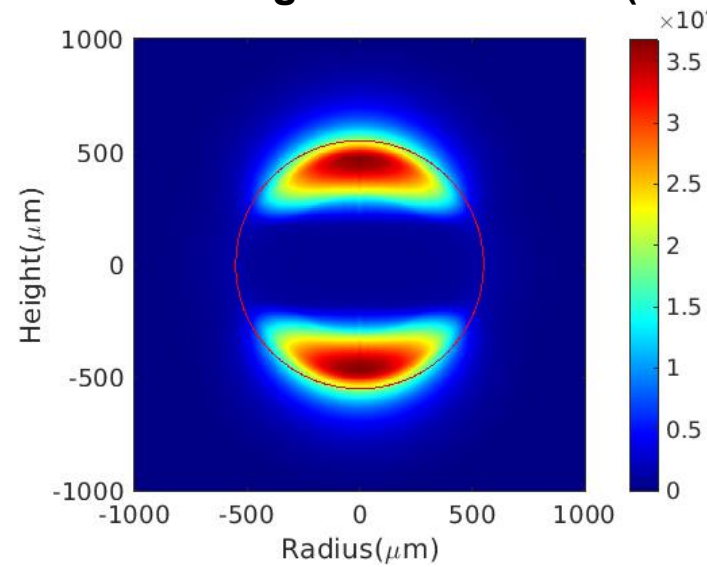
Spherical implosions and R10-Shot 30 experiments



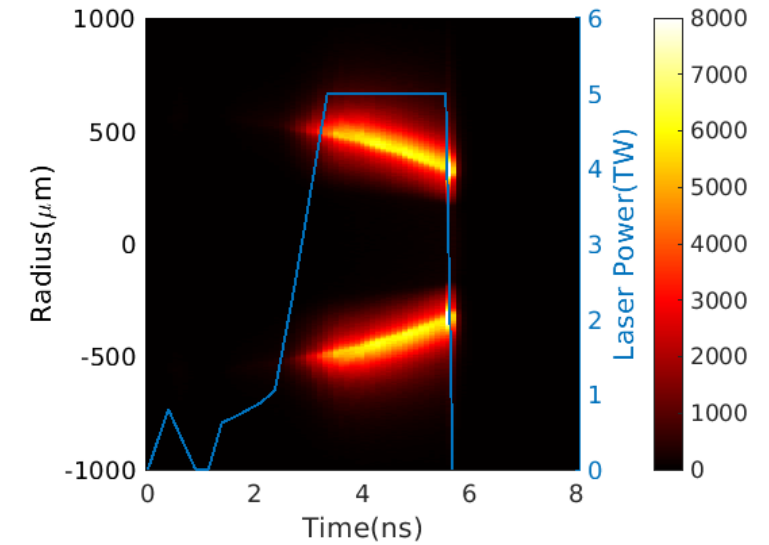
Implosion of spherical ball



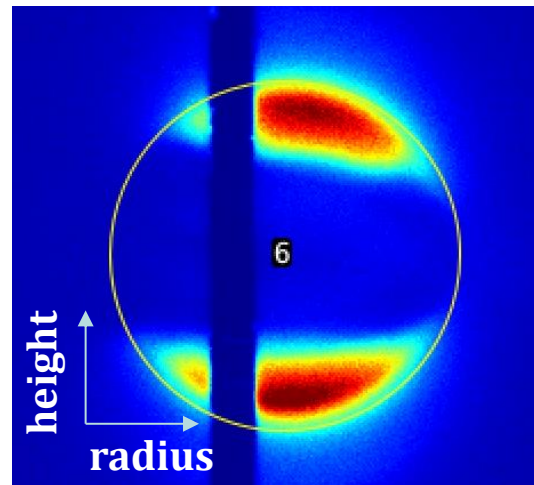
Time-Integrated emissions(Sim)



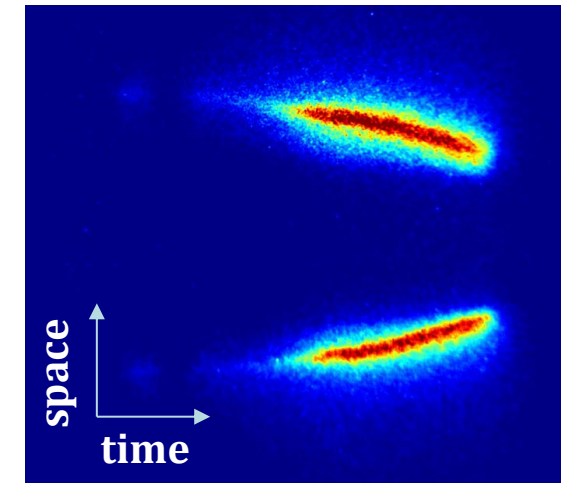
Time-Resolved emissions(Sim)



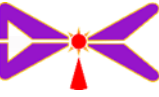
Time-Integrated emissions(Exp)



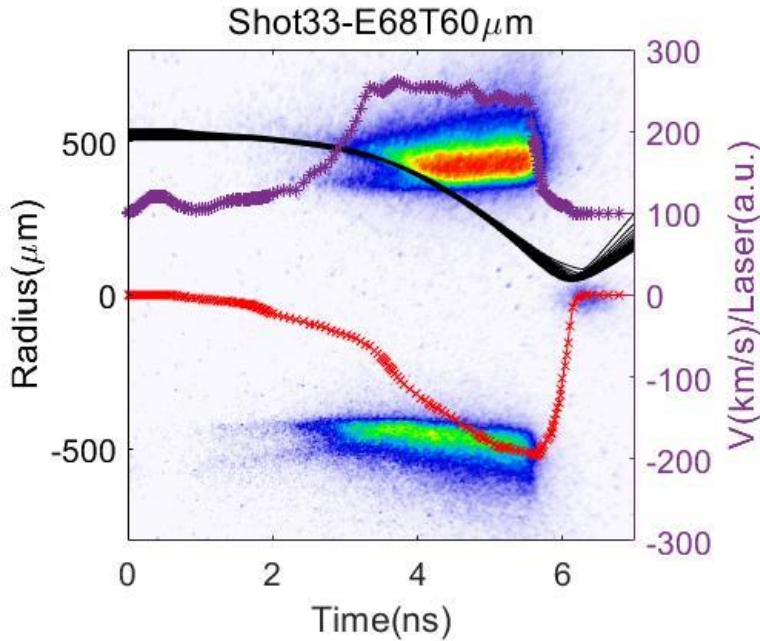
Time-Resolved emissions(Exp)



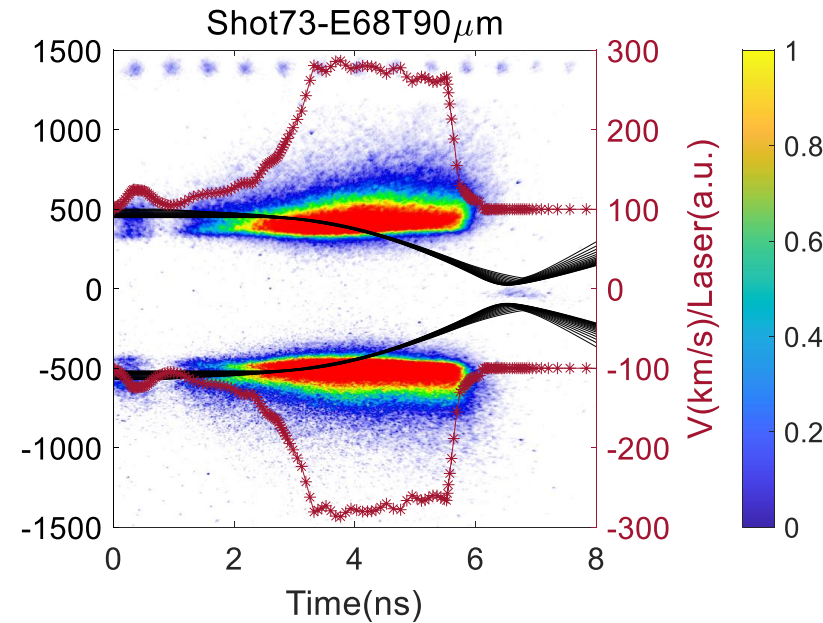
The plasma implosion is calibrated by Bayesian optimization



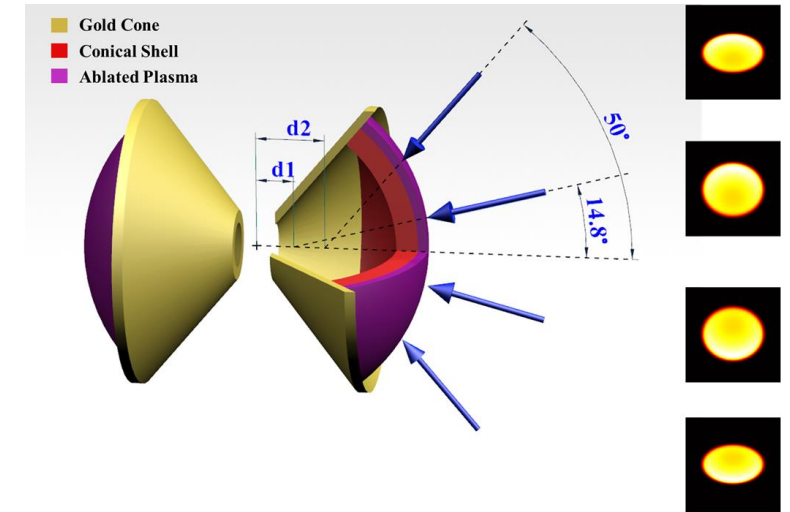
Calibration of shot 33



Prediction of shot 73



Laser irradiance of DCI

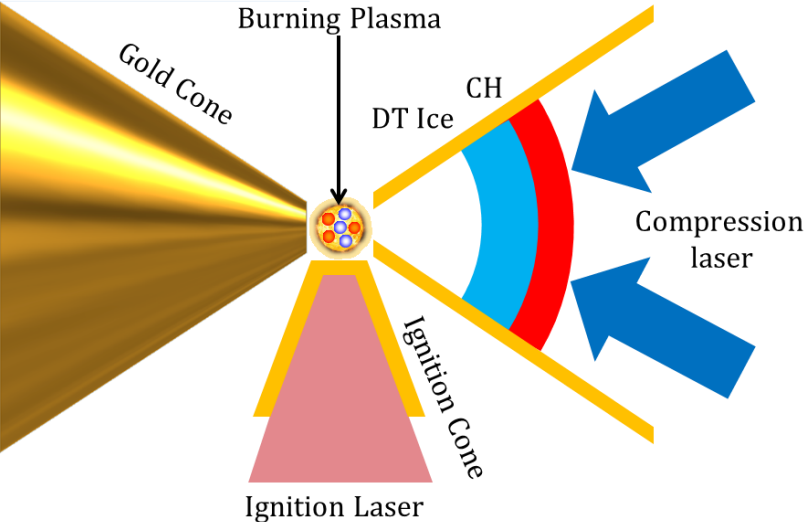


1. The simulation is **calibrated** by shot 33 and successfully **predict** the shot 73.
2. Four experimental phenomena is well predicted by the simulation. a) the x-ray emission at the **picket**, b) the **cooling** time of the ablated plasma, c) the quasi-uniform **acceleration** with a parabolic curved trajectory, d) the **collision** time of the plasma jets at 6.2 ns.
3. Reasons: Some laser energy is lost due to the **geometry** and laser-plasma **scatters**.

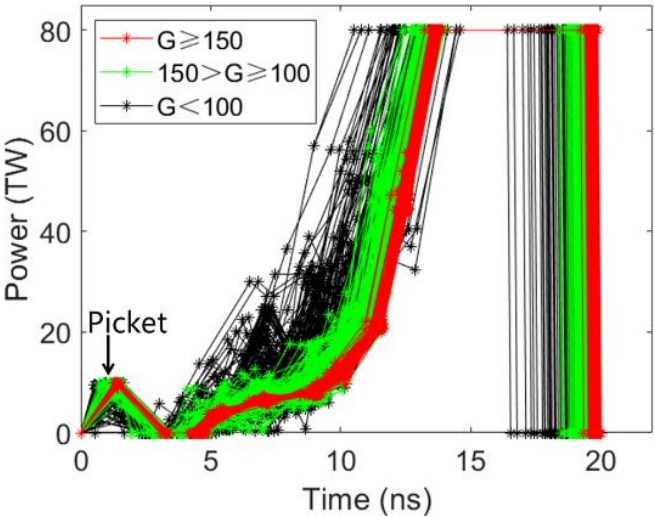
Optimization of Laser pulse for High Gain DCI scheme



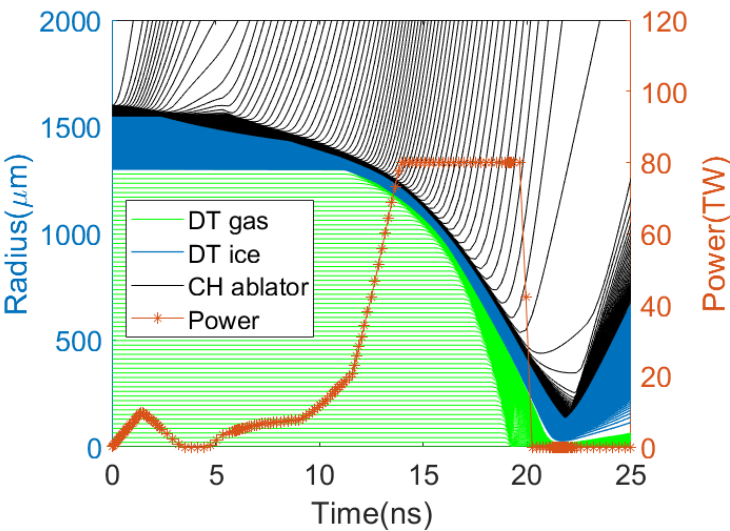
Optimization of laser pulse



Evolution of laser pulses



The baseline target and pulses



$$G_{fusion} = \frac{E_{fusion}}{E_{ns} + E_{ps}} = \frac{q_{fuel} M_{fuel}}{E_{ns} + 560(100/\rho)^{1.85}} \frac{\rho R}{\rho R + H_B}$$

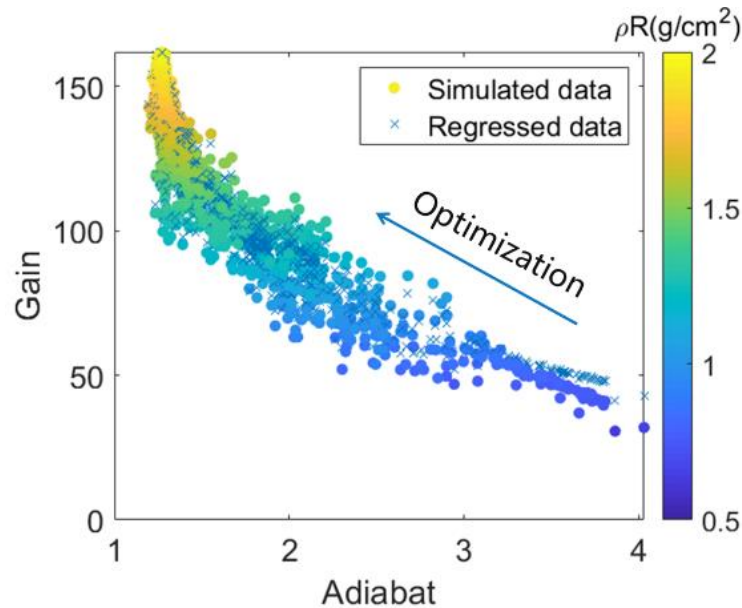
Variable	M(μg)	ρR(g/cm ²)	ρ(g/cc)	IFAR	E _{ns} (kJ)	E _{ps} (kJ)	E _{fusion} (MJ)	G _{fusion}
DCI	571	1.95	345	24	240	57	41	138

Wei S, Wu F, Zhu Y, et al. A Machine Learning Method for the Optimization Design of Laser Pulse in Fast Ignition Simulations[J]. Journal of Fusion Energy, 2024, 43(1): 6.

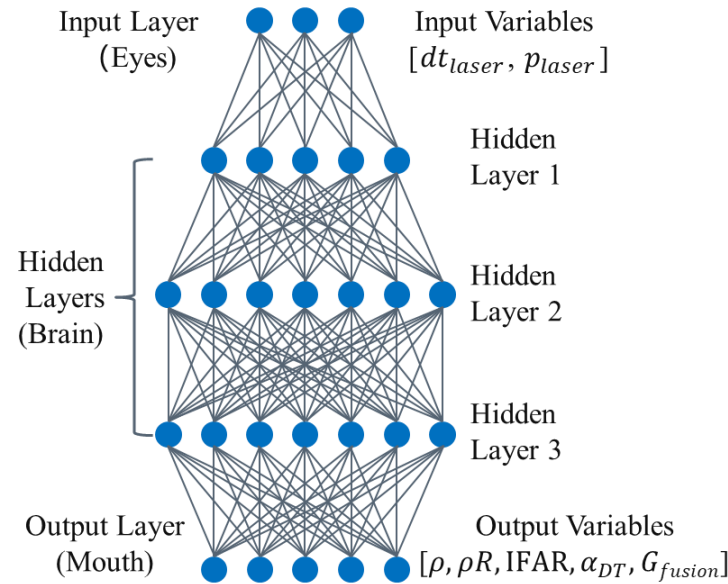
Construct a surrogate model for the hydro simulations



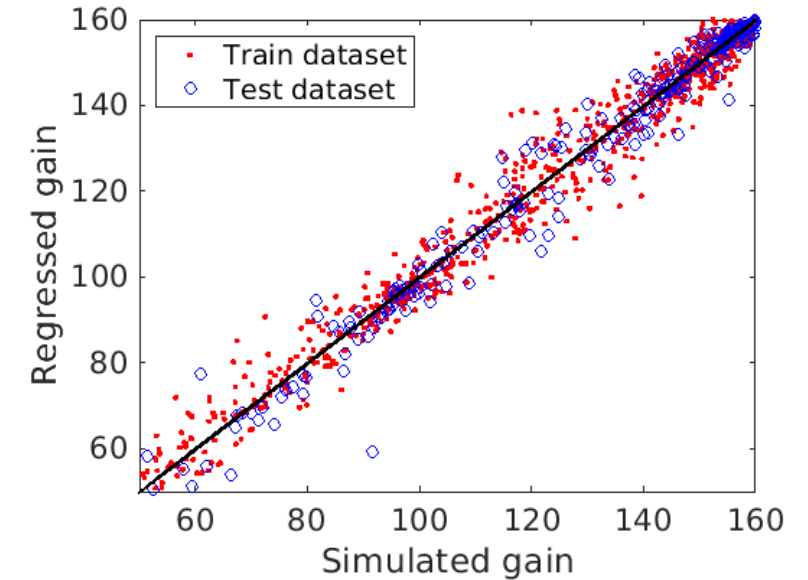
Dataset obtained by GA



Surrogate model for fusion



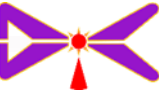
The ability of the trained model



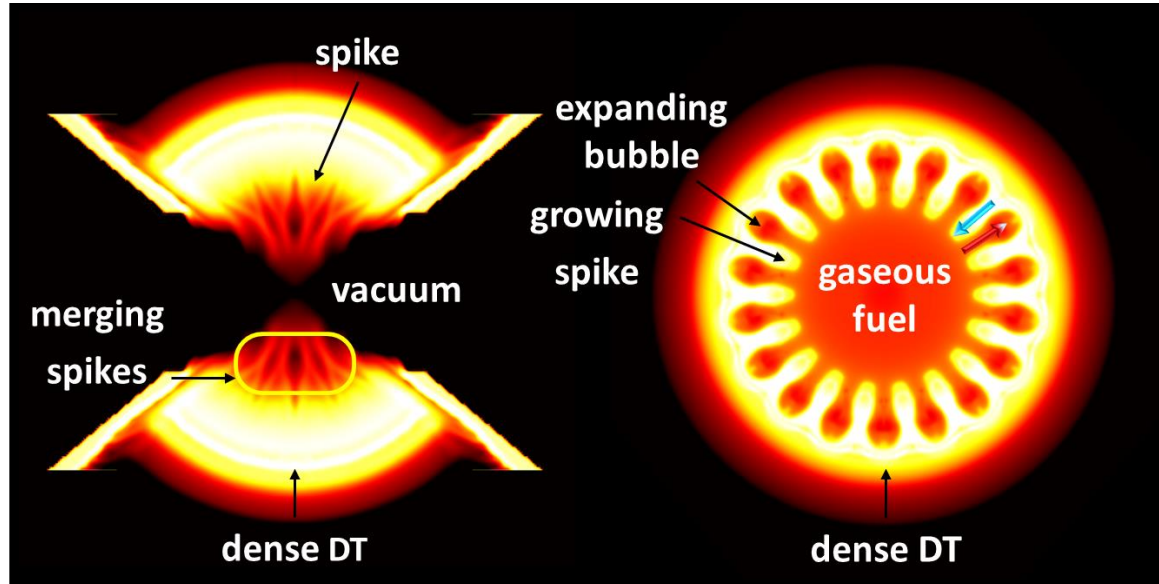
IAEA AI4Fusion CRP project

1. The implosion dataset produced by the genetic algorithm is rather suitable for the training of a deep **neural network** model with multiple input and outputs.
2. When the surrogate model called by the **Bayesian optimization**, an implosion with a fusion gain larger than 100 can be found **within 5 minutes**.

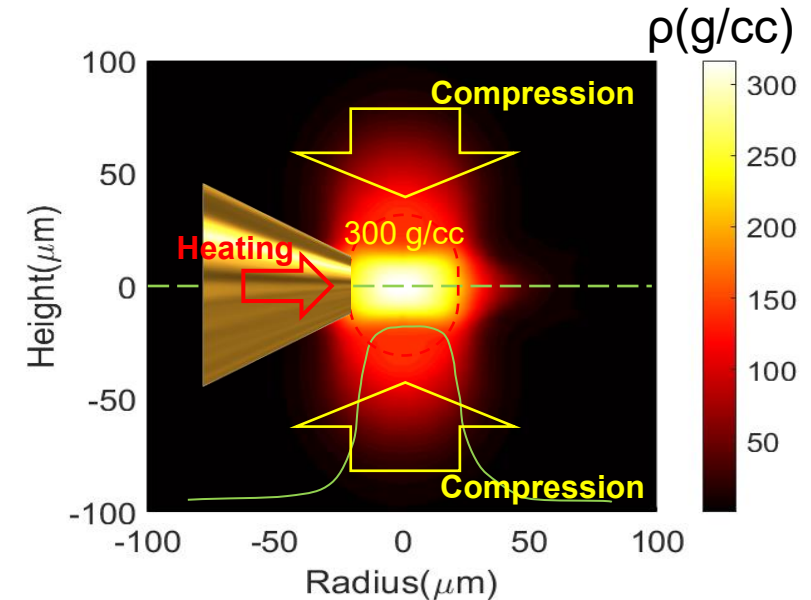
Formation of isochoric plasma insensitive to RT instability



RTI instability in the DCI and central ignition schemes



Isochoric plasma formed in DCI



- There is **no central gas** inside the DCI scheme, which can effectively suppress the growth of RT instability during sliding, forming a high-density **isochoric** plasma ($\rho_{max} = 420 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $\rho R = 2.18 \text{ g/cm}^2$)
- In the central ignition scheme, the RT Instability develops significantly, a hotspot is formed with relatively small areal density ($\rho_{hotspot} = 53 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $\rho R_{shell} = 0.99 \text{ g/cm}^2$)

The heating cone can survive until the peak compression



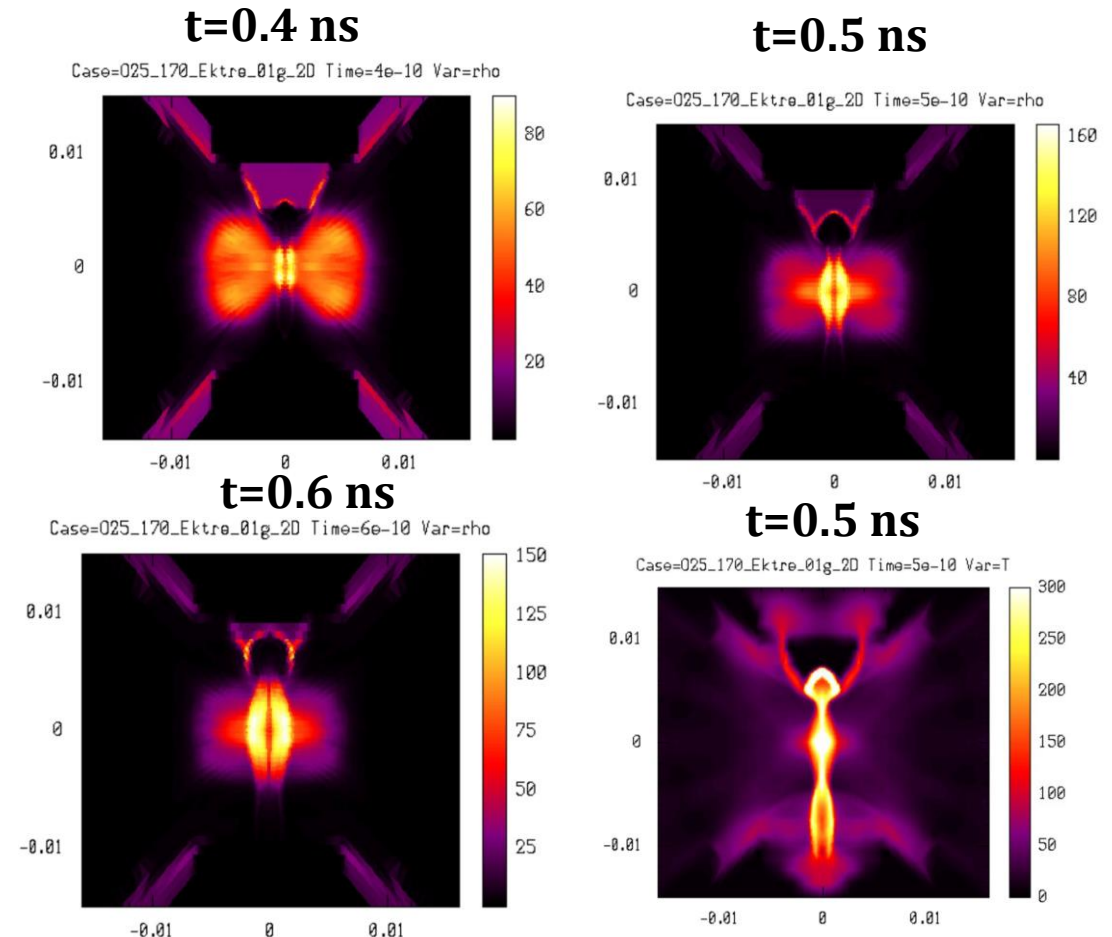
Features: ZRØ Axial symmetrical grid, **with the tip of heating Cone**, Carbon and Gold material, Symmetric boundary at $X=0$, with heat conduction and radiation transport. Carbon Plasma jets with 10 g/cc, 5eV and 200 km/s, Gold cone with 19 g/cc, 0.1 eV and 0 km/s.

Results: The plasmas collides before the broken of heat cone, with **$\rho > 150$ g/cc, $T > 300$ eV**.



M3D_DCI_Collision-010

025_170_DCltre_01g



Summary

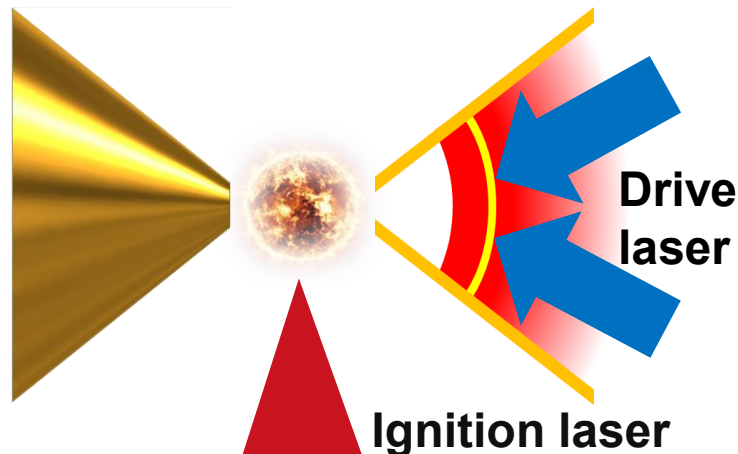


1. High-speed implosion plasma jets with a velocity of **200 km/s** has been created with **Double-Cone Ignition(DCI)** scheme. A high-density **isochoric** plasma is formed after the collision on the SG-II Upgrade facility.
2. The laser pulse is optimized with **machine learning**, with a goal to achieve high-density, moderate velocity and high stability implosion for the DCI experiments.
3. A point design of the DCI baseline target indicates a fusion gain **>100** with a drive energy of 300 kJ, which is promise for **laser inertial energy fusion(LIFE)**.

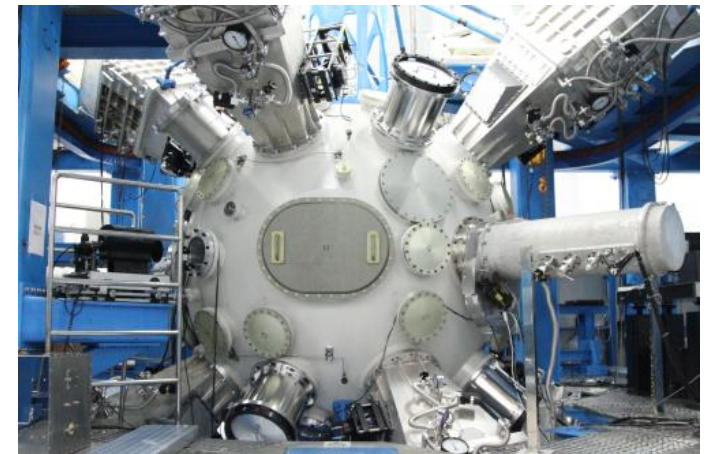
Simulations on supercomputer



AI empowered DCI Fusion



Experiments on SG-II Upgrade





IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Thank You!



上海交通大学
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY



Via Fusion, Towards Space!

**“Earth is the cradle of humanity, but one cannot remain
in a cradle forever! ”**

