

Hydrodynamische Modelle und numerische Verfahren zur Beschreibung von Niedertemperaturplasmen



Markus Becker
D. Loffhagen

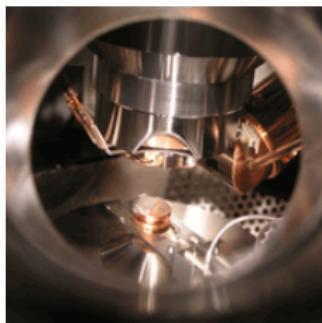
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Leibniz-Institut für Plasmaforschung und Technologie e.V.

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Basic features of modelling
- 3** Numerical methods
 - Drift-diffusion model
 - Strict hydrodynamic model
- 4** Summary & outlook

■ Plasma science at the INP Greifswald

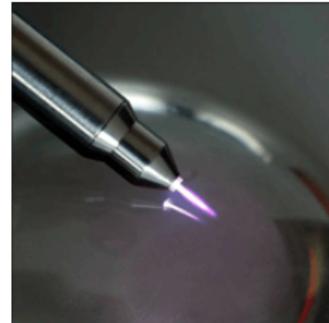
Surfaces & Materials



Environment & Energy



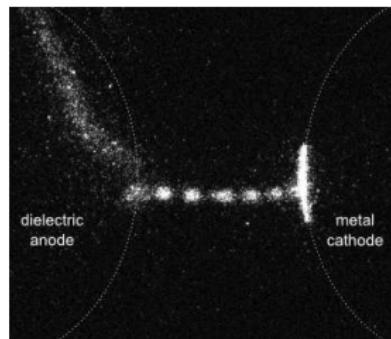
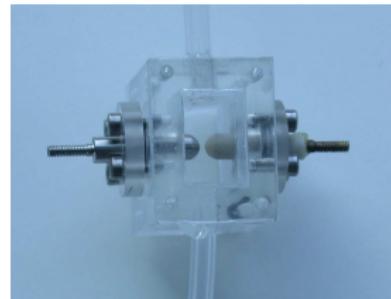
Biology & Medicine



■ Plasma modelling group contributes to all sectors

- (better) understanding of fundamental processes
- parameter studies and optimization
- assistance for development of new devices

Device / experimental setup

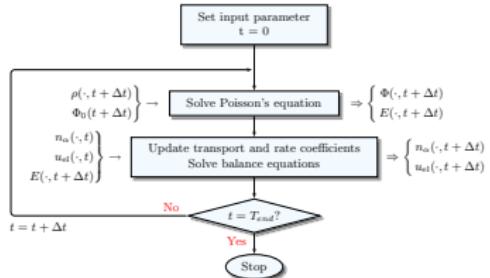


Basic features of modelling

Device / experimental setup



Mathematical model



Device / experimental setup



Mathematical model



Computer program

```
1 READ(kind=rp) :: F_m,F_p,V_p,h_m,h_p
2 REAL(kind=rp) :: g1,g2,g3,g4
3 REAL(kind=rp) :: h_m,h_p,h_c,dtdh
4
5 M = size(X)
6 allocate(Unew(M),S(M))
7 Unew = 0._rp
8 S = S_lhs*U+S_rhs
9 select case(order)
10    case(1) ! simple upwind scheme
11       i = 1
12       h_p = X(i+1)-X(i)
13       V_p = 0.5_rp*(V(i)+V(i+1))
14       F_p = max(0._rp,V_p)*U(i)+min(0._rp,V_p)*U(i+1)
15       do i=2,M-1
16          h_m = h_p
```

Device / experimental setup



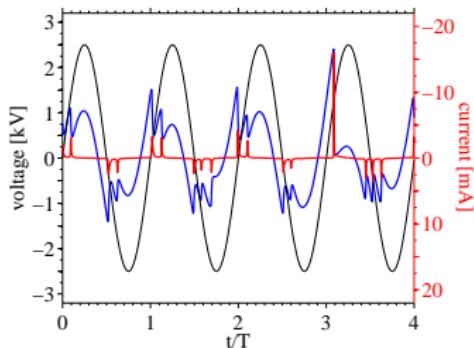
Mathematical model



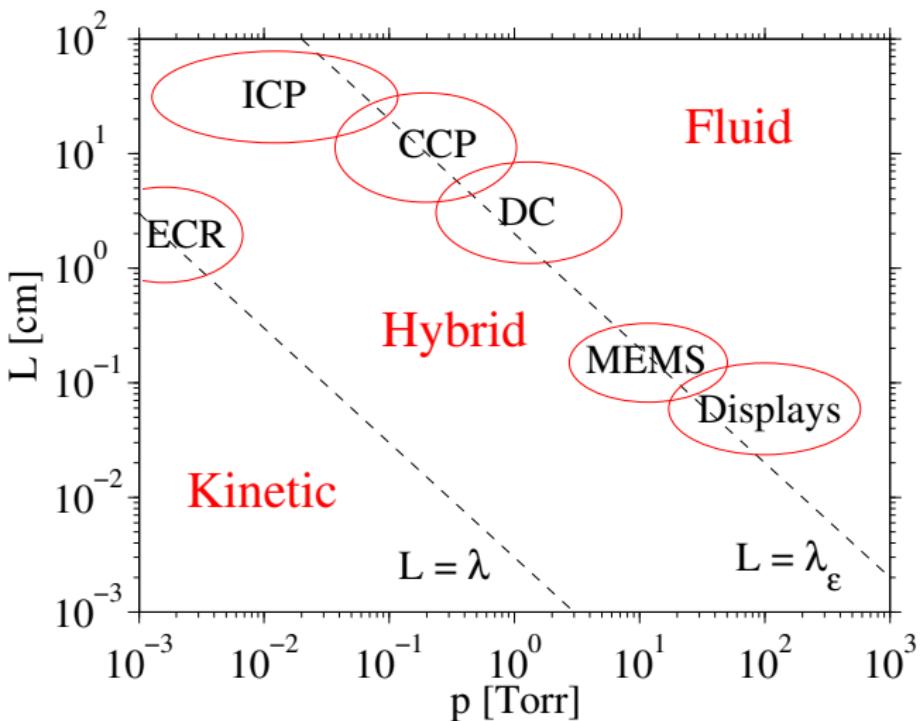
Computer program



Prediction of plasma behaviour



- Kinetic model
 - PIC-MCC / direct solution of a kinetic equation
 - most accurate but very time-consuming
- Hydrodynamic model
 - Solution of a certain set of fluid equations
 - most efficient but less accurate
- Hybrid (kinetic \leftrightarrow hydrodynamic) model
 - kinetic model for (fast) electrons, fluid model for heavy particles



Boltzmann equation for the velocity distribution function

$$\partial_t f_s + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f_s + \frac{q_s}{m_s} \mathbf{E} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} f_s = \sum_h \left(C_h^{\text{el}}(f_s) + \sum_r C_{h,r}^{\text{in}}(f_s) \right)$$

Direct derivation

Strict hydrodynamic models

Balance equations for
particle density
particle flux
energy density
+ assumption for heat flux

Further
simplifications

Drift-diffusion model

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Direct derivation

Expansion of f_s in Legendre polynomials

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Drift-diffusion model

Further simplifications

- Multiplying Boltzmann's equation by 1, \mathbf{v} and $\frac{1}{2}m_s v^2$
 \Rightarrow governing equations for n_s , $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s = n_s \bar{\mathbf{v}}_s$ and w_s

$$\partial_t n_s + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s = S_s$$

$$\partial_t \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s + \nabla \cdot (\bar{\mathbf{v}}_s \otimes \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s) + \nabla \left(\frac{2}{3} \frac{w_s}{m_s} - \frac{1}{3} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}_s \right) = \frac{q_s}{m_s} n_s \mathbf{E} - \nu_s \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s$$

$$\partial_t w_s + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{5}{3} w_s \bar{\mathbf{v}}_s - \frac{m_s}{3} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}_s \bar{\mathbf{v}}_s + \mathbf{q}_s \right) = q_s \mathbf{E} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s + \tilde{S}_s$$

- Poisson's equation for the electric potential

$$-\varepsilon_0 \Delta \Phi = \sum_s q_s n_s; \quad \mathbf{E} = -\nabla \Phi$$

- Fourier's law for heat flux of electrons

$$\mathbf{q}_e = -\kappa_e \nabla(\bar{\varepsilon}) \quad \text{with} \quad \bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{w_e}{n_e} \approx \frac{3}{2} k_B T_e$$

⇒ parabolic-hyperbolic system for n_e , $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_e$ and w_e

- Temperature of heavy particles assumed to be constant (energy balance equation not needed)
⇒ hyperbolic system for n_h and $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_h$
- Resulting system of partial differential equations has the general form

$$\partial_t \mathbf{U} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{U})$$

- Continuity equations for the particle densities

$$\partial_t n_s + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s = S_s$$

- Energy balance equation for electrons

$$\partial_t w_e + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{Q}_e = \tilde{S}_e$$

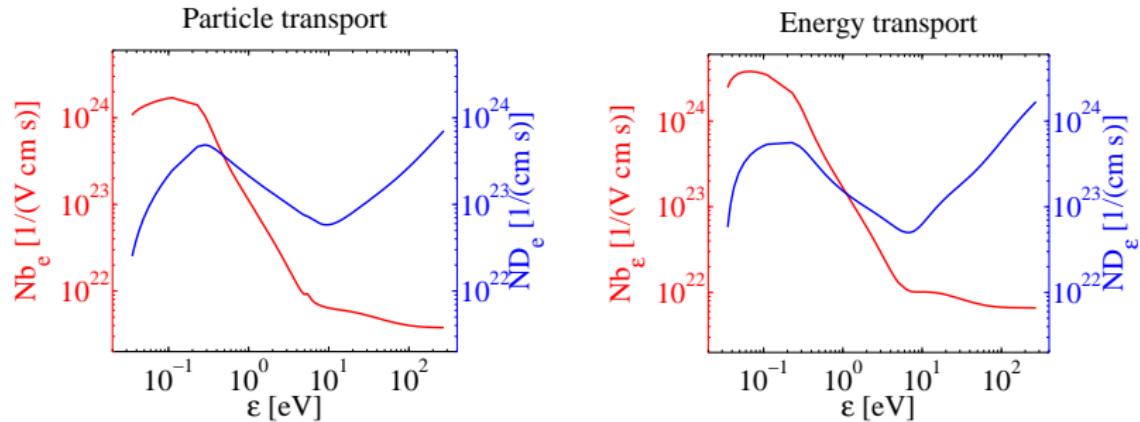
- Drift-diffusion approximation for particle and energy fluxes

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s = -\nabla(D_s n_s) + \text{sgn}(q_s)b_s \boldsymbol{E} n_s$$

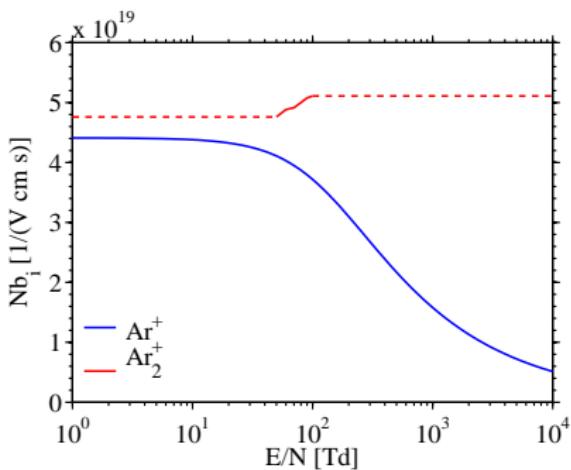
$$\boldsymbol{Q}_e = -\nabla(\tilde{D}_e n_e) - \tilde{b}_e \boldsymbol{E} n_e$$

- Poisson's equation for the electric potential

$$-\varepsilon_0 \Delta \Phi = \sum_s q_s n_s; \quad \boldsymbol{E} = -\nabla \Phi$$



- Electron transport coefficients as functions of the mean energy obtained from solution of 0D Boltzmann equation



A. V. Phelps, J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data 20, 557 (1991)
H.W. Ellis et al., At. Data and Nucl. Data Tables 31, 113 (1984)

- Ion transport coefficients are taken from literature
- Ion mobility b_i depends on E/N
- Einstein relation for determination of diffusion coefficient

Source terms

- Gain and loss of particles and energy due to
 - collisions: $A + B + \dots \longrightarrow C + D + \dots$
 - radiation: $A \longrightarrow B + h\nu$
- Particle gain and loss

$$S_s = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{R}_s^g} k_i g_{s,i} \prod_{k=1}^{N_s} n_k^{\beta_{k,i}} - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{R}_s^l} k_i g_{s,i} \prod_{k=1}^{N_s} n_k^{\beta_{k,i}}$$

- Energy gain and loss

$$\tilde{S}_s = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{R}_s^g} h_i k_i \prod_{k=1}^{N_s} n_k^{\beta_{k,i}} - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{R}_s^l} h_i k_i \prod_{k=1}^{N_s} n_k^{\beta_{k,i}} - n_s P^{\text{el}}$$

Boundary conditions

- Reflexion of heavy particles

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_s \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{1 - r_s}{1 + r_s} \left(|b_s \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n}| n_s + \frac{v_{\text{th},s}}{2} n_s \right)$$

- Reflexion and secondary emission of electrons

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_e \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{1 - r_e}{1 + r_e} \left(|b_e \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n}| n_e + \frac{v_{\text{th},e}}{2} n_e^\alpha \right) - \frac{2}{1 + r_e} \gamma [\![\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_i^{\text{tot}} \cdot \mathbf{n}, 0]\!]$$

$$\boldsymbol{Q}_e \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{1 - r_e}{1 + r_e} \left(|\tilde{b}_e \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n}| n_e + \frac{\tilde{v}_{\text{th},e}}{2} n_e^\alpha \right) - \frac{2}{1 + r_e} \bar{\varepsilon}^\gamma \gamma [\![\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_i^{\text{tot}} \cdot \mathbf{n}, 0]\!]$$

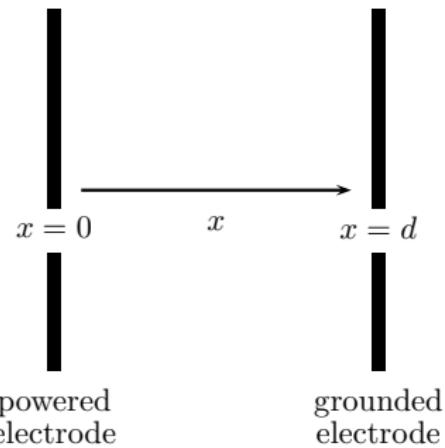
G.J.M. Hagelaar, F.J. de Hoog, G.M.W. Kroesen, Phys. Rev. E. **62**, 1452 (2000)

- Boundary conditions for the electric potential Φ

$$\Phi(0, t) = U_0 (1 - \exp(-t/\tau)); \quad \Phi(d, t) = 0$$

- Spatially one-dimensional geometry

- Electrode gap $d = 1 \text{ cm}$
- Gas: argon
- Gas pressure $p = 133 \text{ Pa}$
- Gas temperature $T_g = 300 \text{ K}$
- Applied voltage $U_0 = -250 \text{ V}$



ions

electrons

- Numerical methods needed for discretization of the
 - strict hydrodynamic model including $\partial_t \boldsymbol{I}_s$
 - drift-diffusion model

- Special issues to deal with
 - parabolic/hyperbolic character changes in space and time
 - (locally) very fine spatial grids unavoidable
 - physical time scales strongly vary in time

- Standard FDM / Galerkin FEM for Poisson's equation
- Semi-implicit time-stepping scheme

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- Semi-implicit time-stepping scheme
- Drift-Diffusion model
 - Scharfetter-Gummel FDM / stabilized Petrov-Galerkin FEM for charged particles
 - standard FDM / Galerkin FEM for neutral particles

M.M. Becker, D. Loffhagen, W. Schmidt, Comput. Phys. Commun. **180**, 1230–1241 (2009)

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M.M. Becker, D. Loffhagen, W. Schmidt, Comput. Phys. Commun. **180**, 1230–1241 (2009)

- Strict hydrodynamic model
 - flux-corrected-transport methods based on FDM / FEM for balance equations

M.M. Becker, D. Loffhagen, Proc. Appl. Math. Mech. **10**, 641–642 (2010)

- For any $t \in]0, T_{\text{end}}[$ find $\Phi(\cdot, t) \in V$ such that

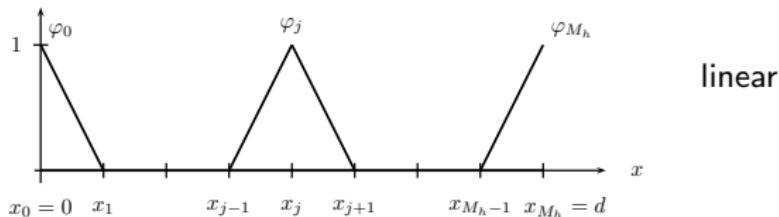
$$\int_0^d \partial_x \Phi \partial_x v \, dx = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \int_0^d \sum_s q_s n_s v \, dx \quad \forall v \in H_0^1((0, d))$$

- For any $t \in]0, T_{\text{end}}[$ find $n_s(\cdot, t) \in V$, $s = 1, \dots, N_s$ and $w_e(\cdot, t) \in V$ such that

$$\partial_t \int_0^d n_s v \, dx - \int_0^d \Gamma_s \partial_x v \, dx = \int_0^d S_s v \, dx + B_s v \Big|_0^d \quad \forall v \in H^1((0, d))$$

$$\partial_t \int_0^d w_e v \, dx - \int_0^d Q_e \partial_x v \, dx = \int_0^d \tilde{S}_e v \, dx + \tilde{B}_e v \Big|_0^d \quad \forall v \in H^1((0, d))$$

- Galerkin FEM: $S_h^s = T_h^s = \text{span}\{\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{M_h}\}$



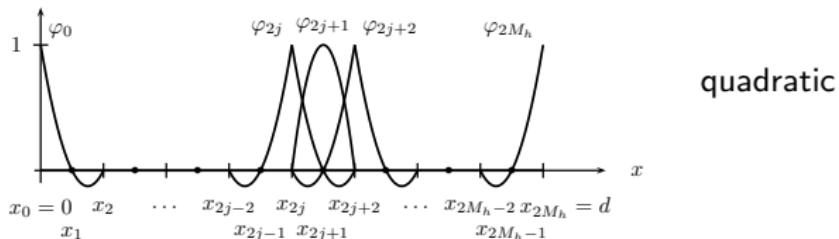
- Optimal results for the potential and neutral particles

$$\|\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_h\|_{L^2} \leq Ch^2$$

- Problem in charged particle equations

$$\|\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_h\|_{L^2} \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{for} \quad |\text{Pe}| = h \frac{|bE|}{2D} \rightarrow \infty$$

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- Optimal results for the potential and neutral particles

$$\|\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_h\|_{L^2} \leq Ch^3$$

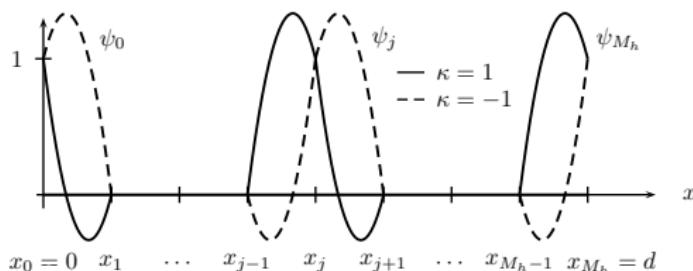
- Problem in charged particle equations

$$\|\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_h\|_{L^2} \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{for} \quad |\text{Pe}| = h \frac{|bE|}{2D} \rightarrow \infty$$

- Stabilization by modifying the test space:

$$T_h^s = \text{span}\{\psi_0^s, \dots, \psi_{M_h}^s\}$$

$$\psi_j(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x - x_{j-1}}{x_j - x_{j-1}} + \kappa \frac{3(x - x_{j-1})(x_j - x)}{(x_j - x_{j-1})^2} & , x_{j-1} \leq x \leq x_j \\ \frac{x_{j+1} - x}{x_{j+1} - x_j} - \kappa \frac{3(x - x_j)(x_{j+1} - x)}{(x_{j+1} - x)^2} & , x_j \leq x \leq x_{j+1} \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



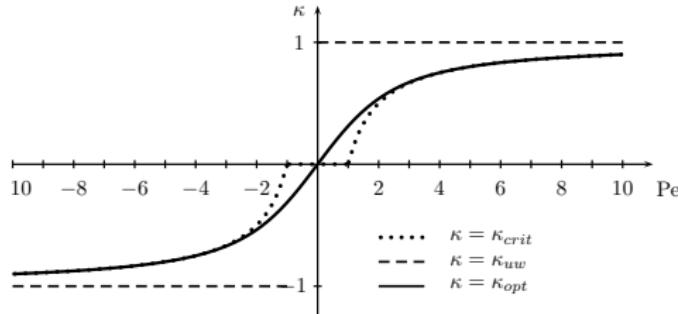
I. Christie *et al.*, Int. J. Numer. Meth. Eng. **10**, 1389 (1976)

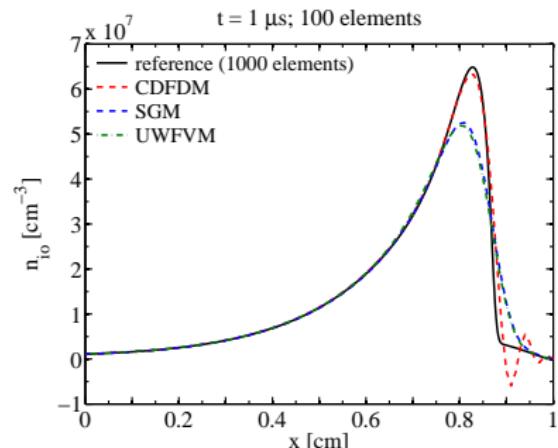
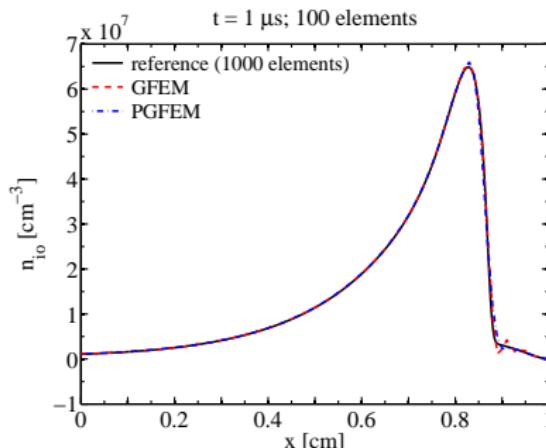
- Necessary condition for positivity

$$|\kappa| > \kappa_{\text{crit}} := 1 - \frac{1}{|\text{Pe}|}, \quad \text{sgn}(\kappa) = \text{sgn}(\text{Pe})$$

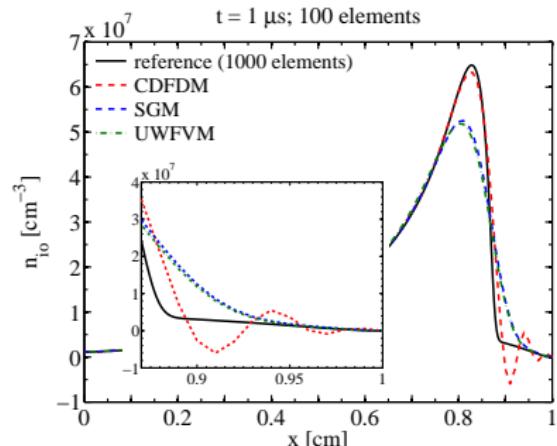
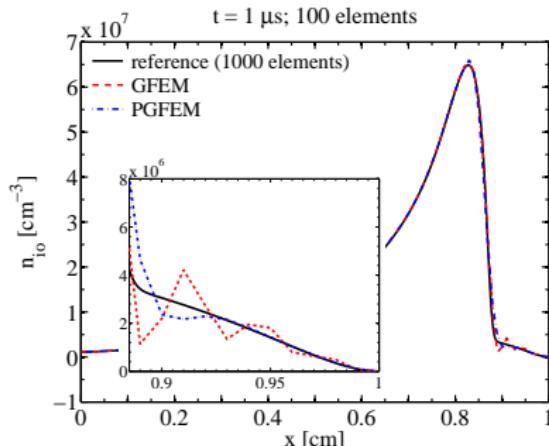
- Exact nodal values for stationary equations with constant coefficients

$$\kappa_{\text{opt}} := \coth(\text{Pe}) - \frac{1}{\text{Pe}}$$

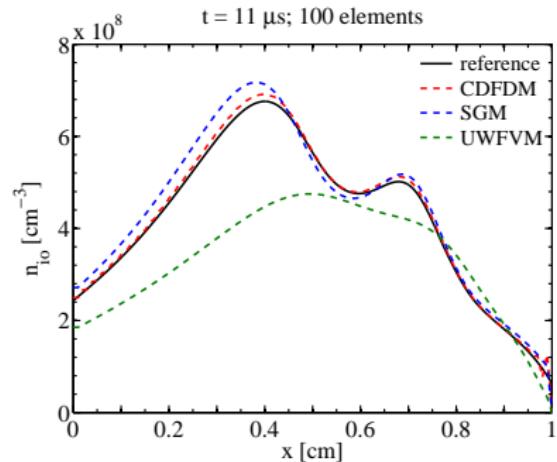
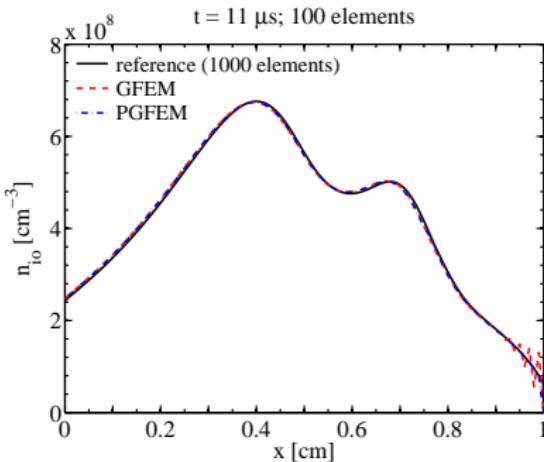




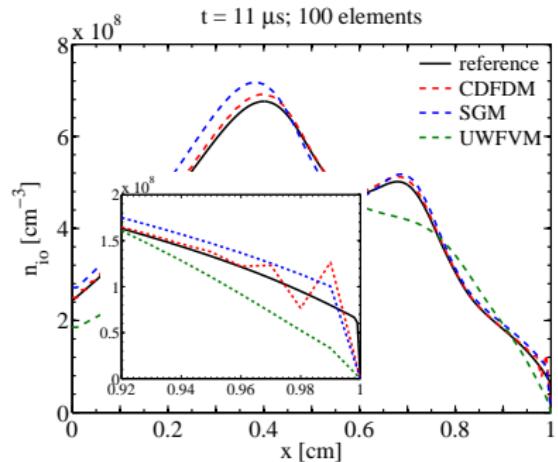
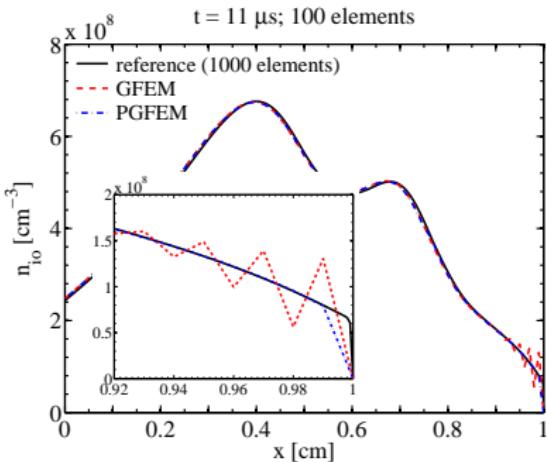
- PGFEM provides good results even on coarse spatial grids
- SGM and UWVFM yield non-oscillatory but inaccurate results on coarse spatial grids
- GFEM and CDFDM provide oscillating results if too coarse spatial grids are used



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- GFEM and CDFDM provide oscillating results if too coarse spatial grids are used



- Dirichlet outflow boundary condition
 \Rightarrow oscillations when using GFEM or CDFDM and $|\text{Pe}| > 1$
- Stabilized methods avoid this problem
- PGFEM provides better results than SGM and UWFVM



- Dirichlet outflow boundary condition
⇒ oscillations when using GFEM or CDFDM and $|\text{Pe}| > 1$
- Stabilized methods avoid this problem
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- Classical formulation for FDM

$$\partial_t U + \partial_x F = R$$

- Weak formulation for FEM

$$\int_0^d \partial_t U v \, dx - \int_0^d F \partial_x v \, dx = \int_0^d R v \, dx \quad \forall v \in V$$

- 1973–1976 Boris/Book (ETBFCT)
- 1979 Zalesak
- 1984–1988 Erlbacher, Parrott/Christie, Löhner *et al.* (FEMFCT)
- 1993 Odstrcil (YDFCT)
- 2001–2009 Kuzmin *et al.* (FEMFCT)

1 Determination of high order (maybe oscillatory) solution

$$U_j^H = U_j^0 - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^0 - F_{j-1/2}^0) + \Delta t R_j^0$$

2 Determination of low order (monotonic) solution

$$U_j^L = U_j^H + \nu_{j+1/2} \Delta U_{j+1/2}^0 - \nu_{j-1/2} \Delta U_{j-1/2}^0$$

3 Determination of limited anti-diffusive fluxes

$$F_{j+1/2}^C = \text{BBL}(U_j^L, \mu_{j+1/2} \Delta U_{j+1/2}^0)$$

4 Determination of final (corrected) solution

$$U_j^{\text{new}} = U_j^L - (F_{j+1/2}^C - F_{j-1/2}^C)$$

→ Time step restriction CFL $\leq 1/2$

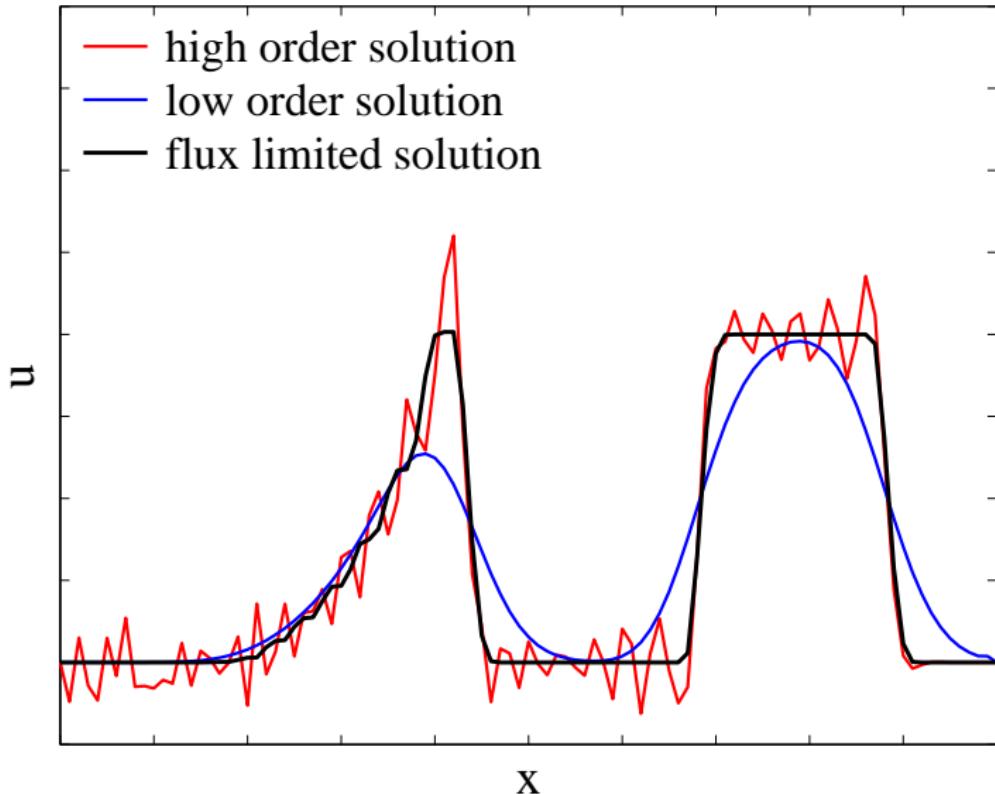
- Diffusion and anti-diffusion coefficients reduce amplitude and phase errors to the fourth order (for pure convection on uniform grids)

$$\nu = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{\Delta x} \right)^2$$

$$\mu = \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{\Delta x} \right)^2$$

- Boris/Book flux limiter

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BBL}(U^L, F_{j+1/2}^A) = & \operatorname{sgn}(\Delta U_{j+1/2}^L) \max \left\{ 0, \min \left(|F_{j+1/2}^A|, \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. \operatorname{sgn}(\Delta U_{j+1/2}^L) \Delta U_{j-1/2}^L, \operatorname{sgn}(\Delta U_{j+1/2}^L) \Delta U_{j+3/2}^L \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$



Modifications with respect to ETBFCT:

- two steps per time step

$$U^0 \rightarrow U^* \rightarrow U^{\text{new}}$$

- additional diffusive fluxes in the first step

$$\begin{aligned} U_j^H = & U_j^0 - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^0 - F_{j-1/2}^0) + \Delta t R_j^0 \\ & + \gamma_{j+1/2} \Delta U_{j+1/2}^0 - \gamma_{j-1/2} \Delta U_{j-1/2}^0 \end{aligned}$$

- modified anti-diffusive fluxes in the second step

$$F_{j+1/2}^C = \text{BBL}(U^L, \mu_{j+1/2} \max(|\Delta U_{j+1/2}^*|, \tfrac{1}{2} |\Delta U_{j+1/2}^H|))$$

→ Time step restriction CFL ≤ 1

- Additional anti-diffusion coefficient reduces the phase error to the sixth order (for pure convection on uniform grids)
- Half step:

$$\nu = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x} \right)^2 ; \quad \mu = \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x} \right)^2$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{60} - \frac{1}{60} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{2\Delta x} \right)^2$$

- Full step:

$$\nu = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{\Delta x} \right)^2 ; \quad \mu = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{v\Delta t}{\Delta x} \right)^2$$

- 1 Determination of high order (maybe oscillatory) solution

$$(M - \Delta t K) \mathbf{U}^H = M \mathbf{U}^0 + \Delta t \mathbf{f}$$

- 2 Determination of anti-diffusive fluxes

$$\mathbf{F}^A = -((M - M_L) - \Delta t(K - K_D)) \mathbf{U}^H + (M - M_L) \mathbf{U}^0$$

- 3 Determination of limited anti-diffusive fluxes

$$\mathbf{F}^C = \text{ZL}(\mathbf{F}^A, \mathbf{U}^0) \mathbf{F}^A$$

- 4 Determination of corrected (final) solution

$$(M_L - \Delta t K_D) \mathbf{U}^{\text{new}} = M_L \mathbf{U}^0 + \Delta t \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{F}_C$$

- 1 Determination of high order (maybe oscillatory) solution

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- 4 Determination of corrected (final) solution

$$(M_L - \Delta t K_D) \mathbf{U}^{\text{new}} = M_L \mathbf{U}^0 + \Delta t \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{F}_C$$

→ Usage of K_D instead of K suppresses terracing effect

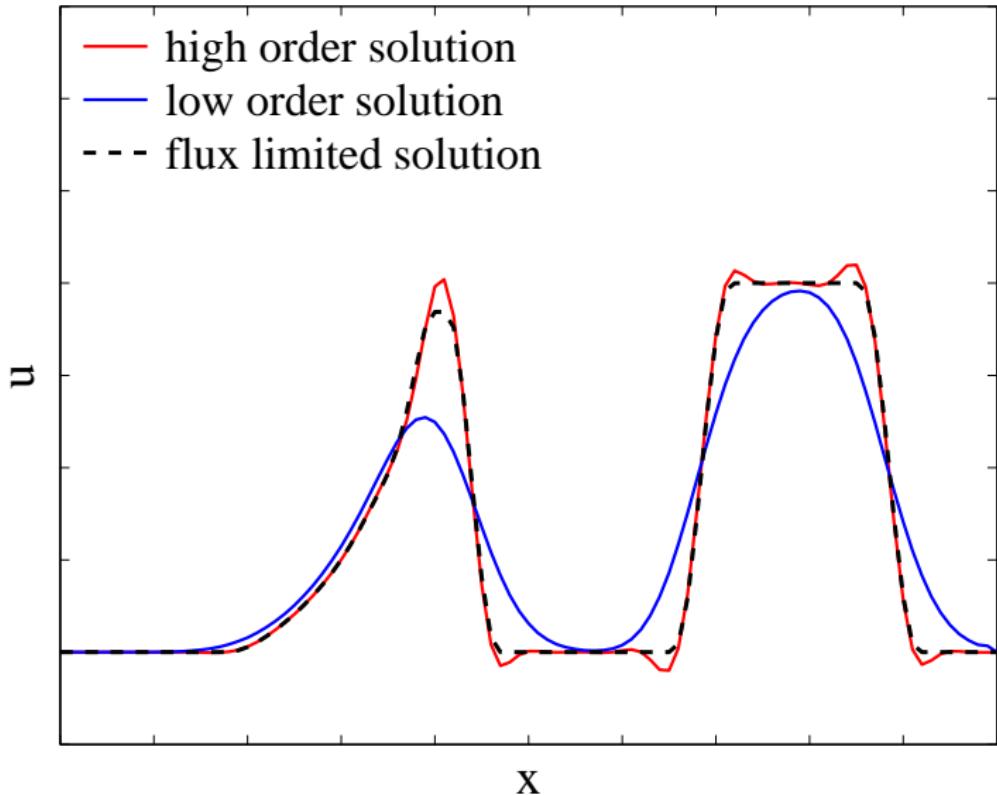
- FEMFCT uses adapted Zalesak limiter

$$P_i^\pm = \sum_{j \neq i} \max_{\min} \{0, F_{ij}^A\}$$

$$Q_i^\pm = \max_{\min} \Delta U_{ij}^\pm, \quad \text{where } \Delta U_{ij}^\pm = \max_{\min} \{0, U_j - U_i\}$$

$$R_i^\pm = \begin{cases} \min\{1, m_i Q_i^\pm / P_i^\pm\} & \text{if } P_i^\pm \neq 0 \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha_{ij} = \begin{cases} \min\{R_i^+, R_j^-\} & \text{if } F_{ij}^A > 0 \\ \min\{R_j^+, R_i^-\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



1 Determination of high order (maybe oscillatory) solution

$$\begin{aligned} U_j^H &= U_j^0 - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^H - F_{j-1/2}^H) + \Delta t R_j^H \\ &\quad + \gamma_{j+1/2} \Delta U_{j+1/2}^H - \gamma_{j-1/2} \Delta U_{j-1/2}^H \end{aligned}$$

2 Determination of low order (monotonic) solution

$$\begin{aligned} U_j^L &= U_j^0 - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (F_{j+1/2}^L - F_{j-1/2}^L) + \Delta t R_j^L \\ &\quad + \nu_{j+1/2} \Delta U_{j+1/2}^L - \nu_{j-1/2} \Delta U_{j-1/2}^L \end{aligned}$$

3 Determination of limited anti-diffusive fluxes

$$F_{j+1/2}^C = \text{BBL}(U^L, \mu_{j+1/2} \Delta U_{j+1/2}^H)$$

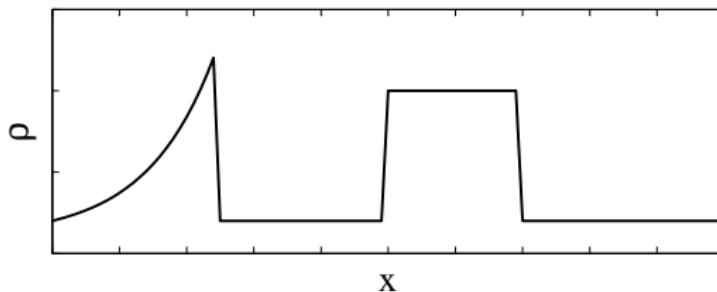
4 Determination of final (corrected) solution

$$U_j^{\text{new}} = U_j^L - (F_{j+1/2}^C - F_{j-1/2}^C)$$

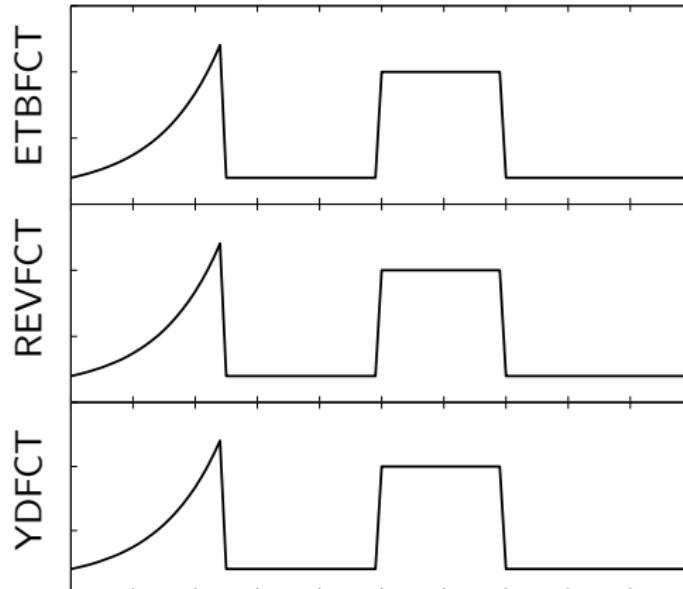
- Pure convection with velocity $v = 1$

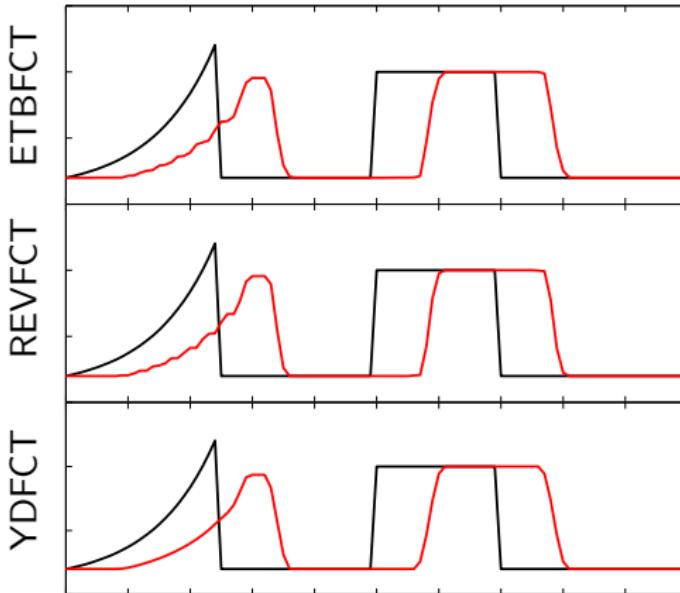
$$\partial_t \rho + \partial_x(v\rho) = 0$$

- Initial profile



- 101 grid points, $CFL = \frac{v\Delta t}{\Delta x} = 0.1$





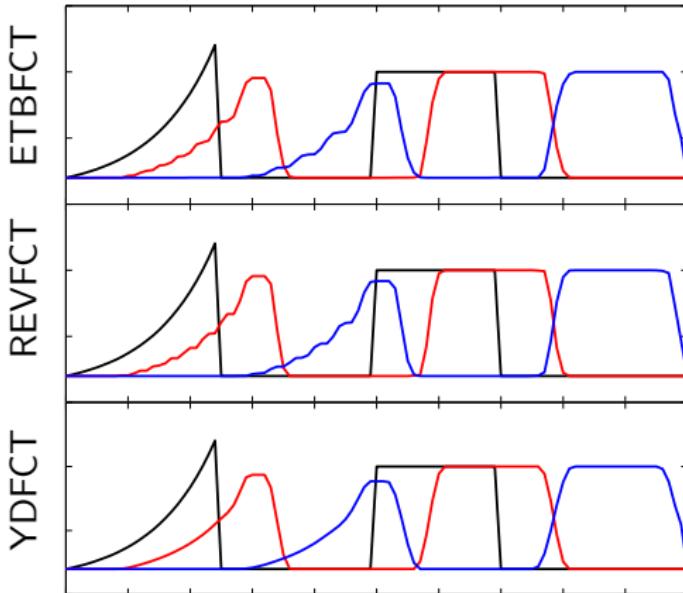
relative error: 0.066

relative error: 0.058

relative error: 0.069

after 90 time steps

- Adequate convection of the “square wave”
- ETBFCT and REVFCT exhibit terracing effect



relative error: 0.066
relative error: 0.081

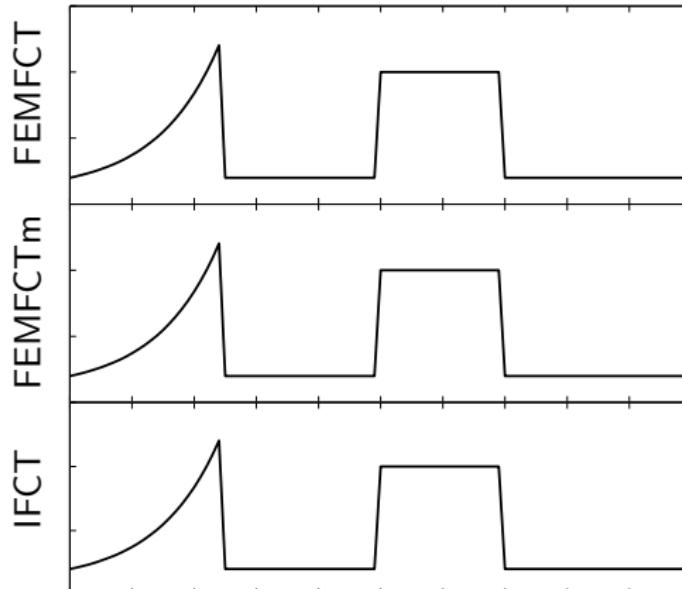
relative error: 0.058
relative error: 0.070

relative error: 0.069
relative error: 0.088

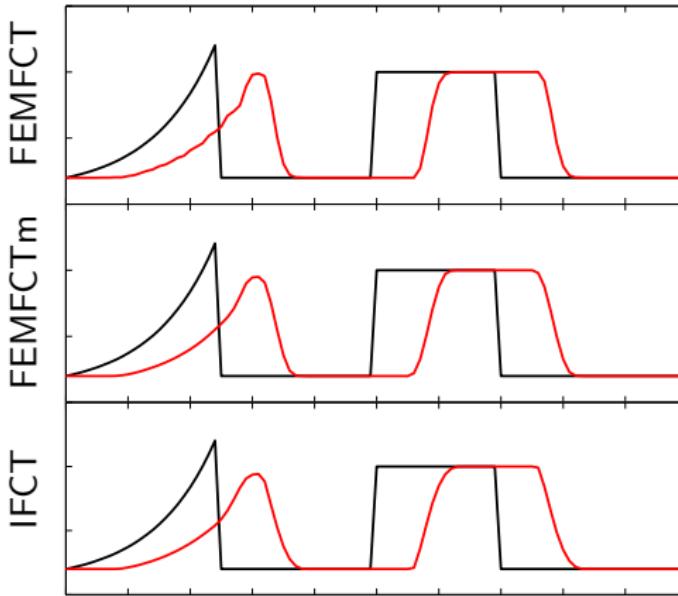
after 90 time steps
after 290 time steps

- Adequate convection of the “square wave”
- ETBFCT and REVFCT exhibit terracing effect

Test case (implicit methods)



Test case (implicit methods)



relative error: 0.073

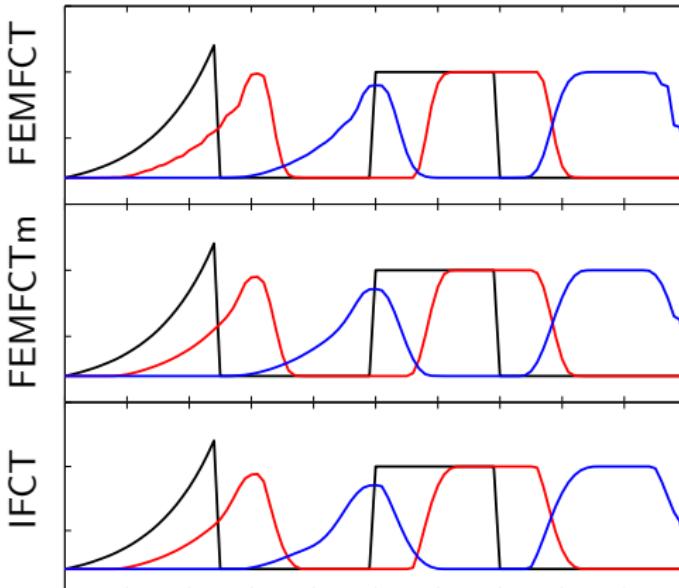
relative error: 0.089

relative error: 0.101

after 90 time steps

- Terracing effect suppressed by modified FEMFCT and IFCT
- Implicit methods are more diffusive

Test case (implicit methods)



relative error: 0.073
relative error: 0.104

relative error: 0.089
relative error: 0.122

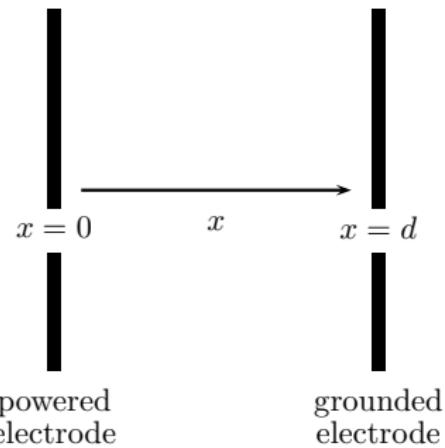
relative error: 0.101
relative error: 0.128

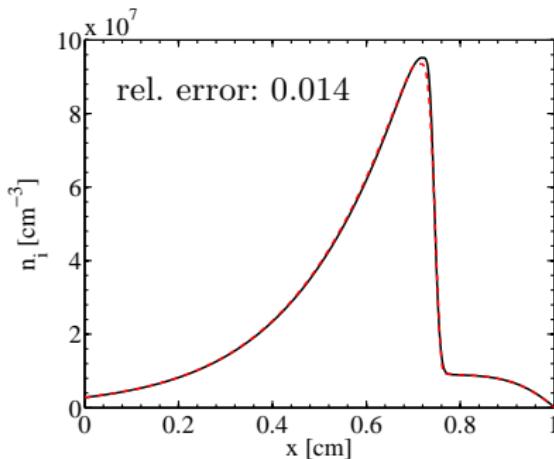
after 90 time steps
after 290 time steps

- Terracing effect suppressed by modified FEMFCT and IFCT
- Implicit methods are more diffusive

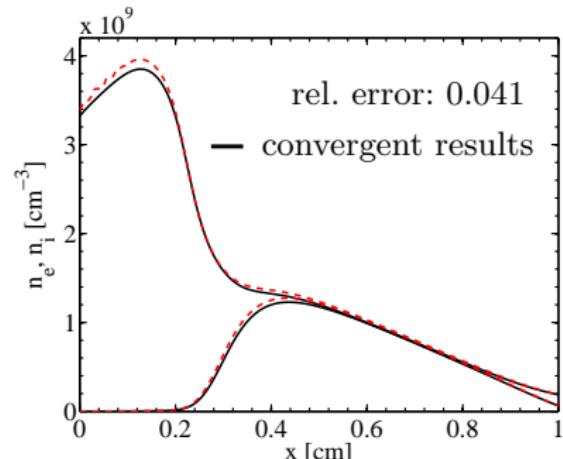
- Spatially one-dimensional geometry

- Electrode gap $d = 1 \text{ cm}$
- Gas: argon
- Gas pressure $p = 133 \text{ Pa}$
- Gas temperature $T_g = 300 \text{ K}$
- Applied voltage $U_0 = -250 \text{ V}$

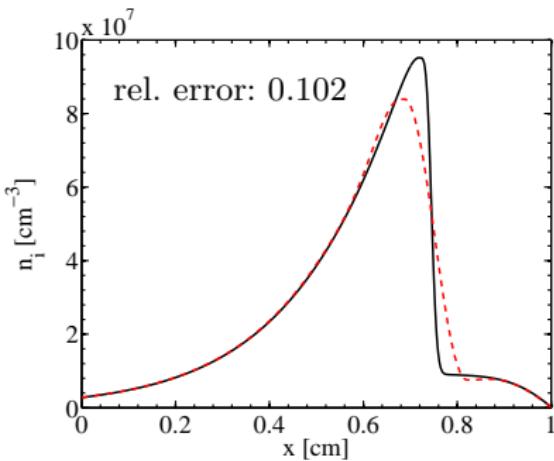


$t = 2 \mu\text{s}$ 

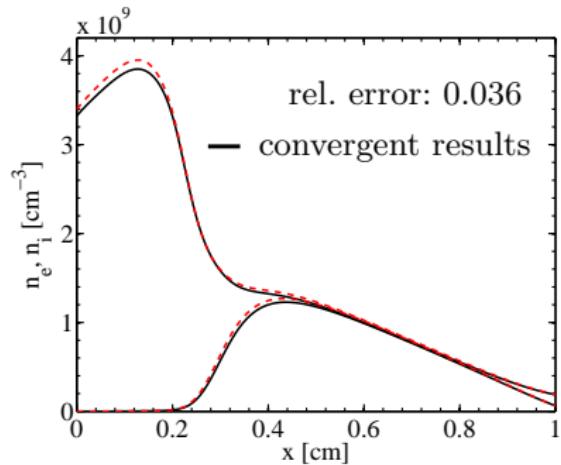
steady state



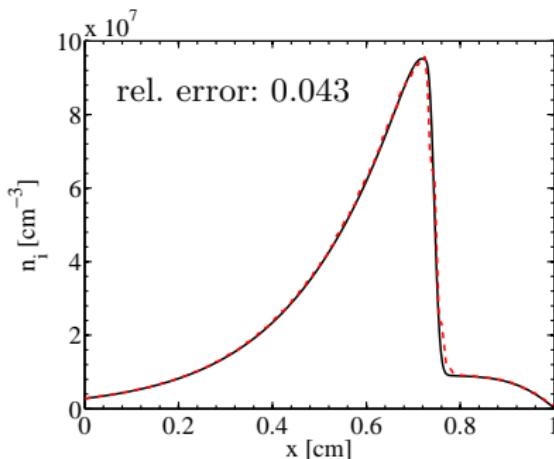
- Good approximation of steep gradients
- Spurious terracing effect
- (Locally) fine spatial grids not applicable due to CFL restriction

$t = 2 \mu\text{s}$ 

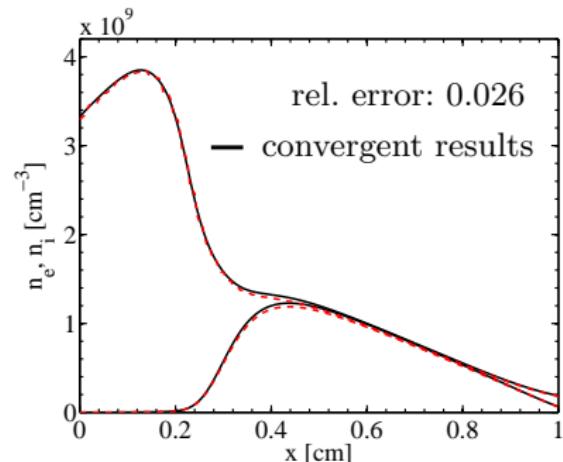
steady state



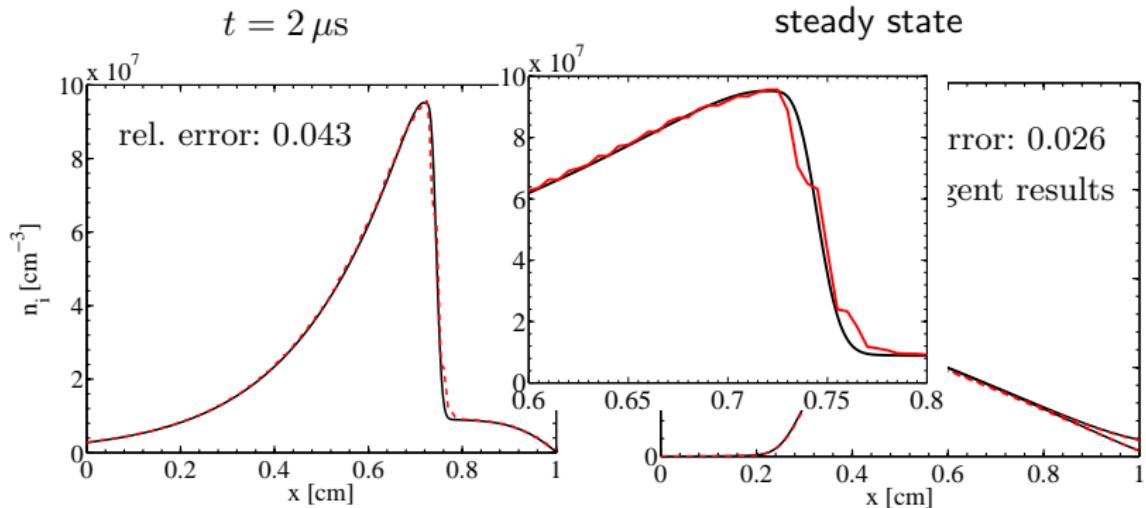
- Poor approximation of steep gradients
- No terracing effect due to additional artificial diffusion
- (Locally) fine spatial grids not applicable due to CFL restriction

$t = 2 \mu\text{s}$ 

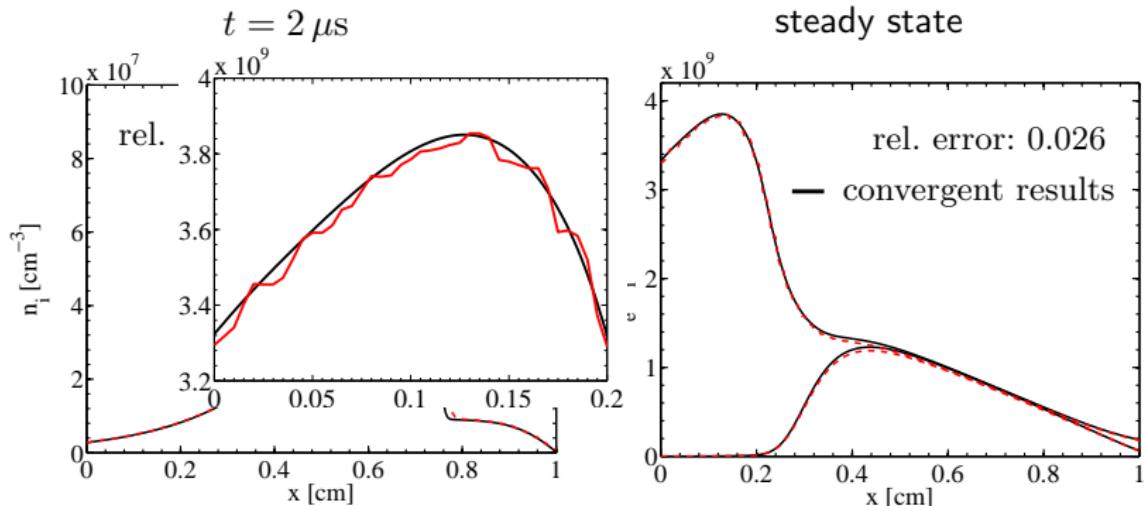
steady state



- Appearance of terraces at the front of steep gradients as well
- Apart from terraces, accurate results on coarse spatial grids
- (Local) grid refinement possible (no CFL restriction)

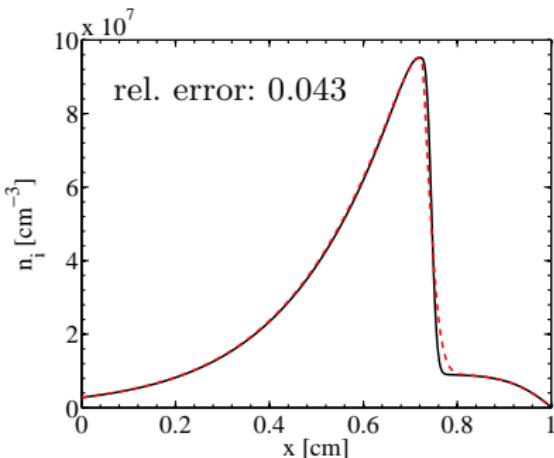


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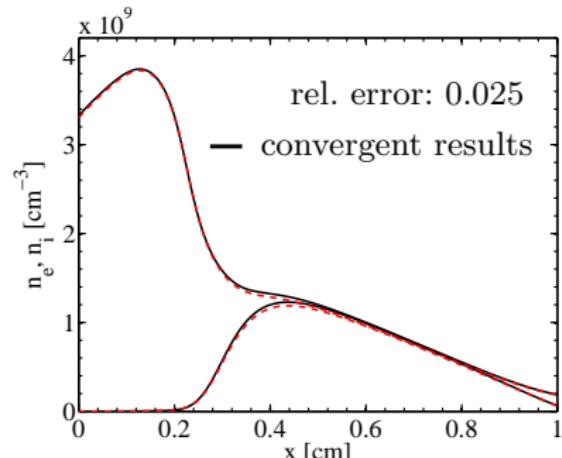


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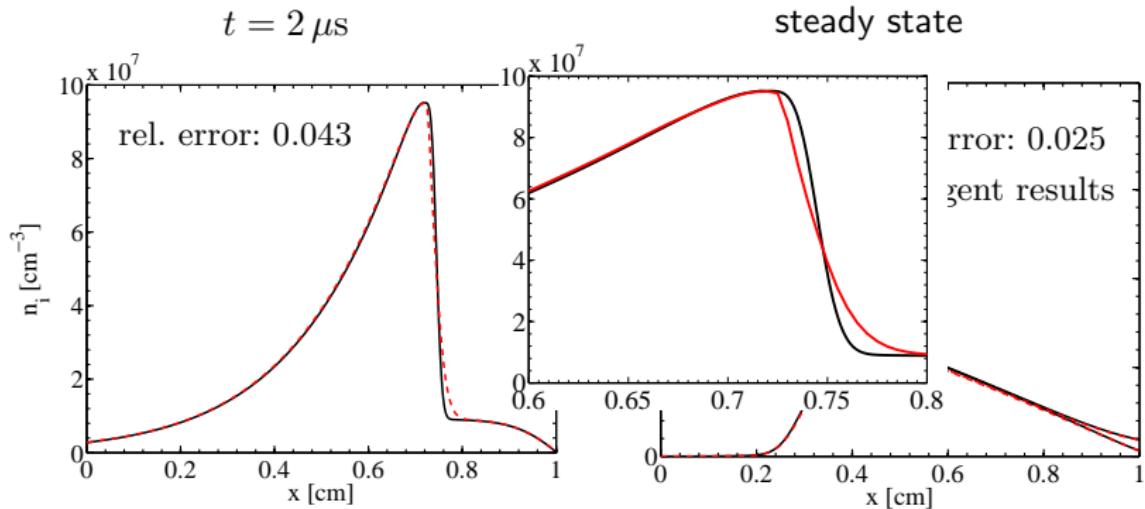
$t = 2 \mu\text{s}$



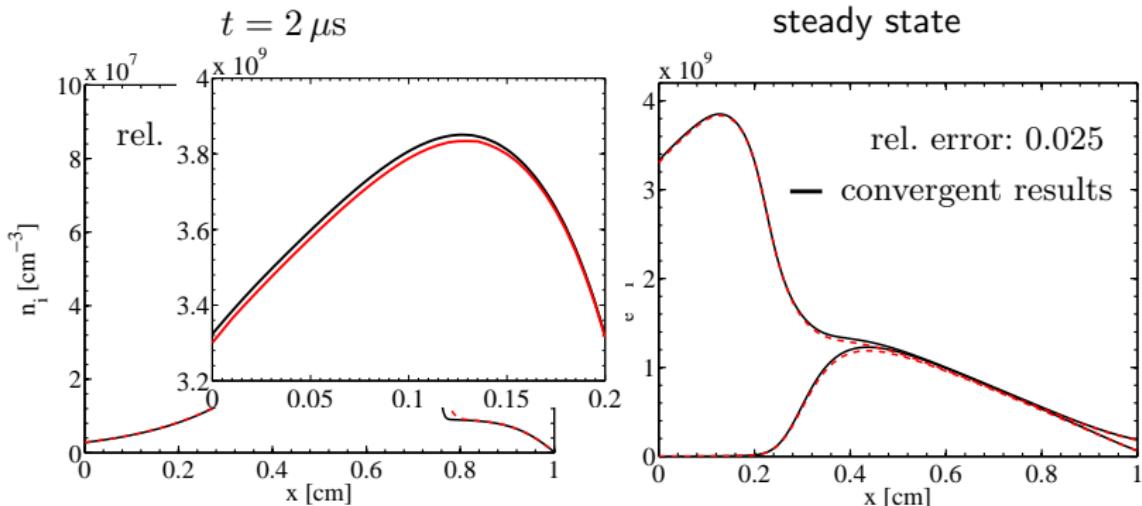
steady state



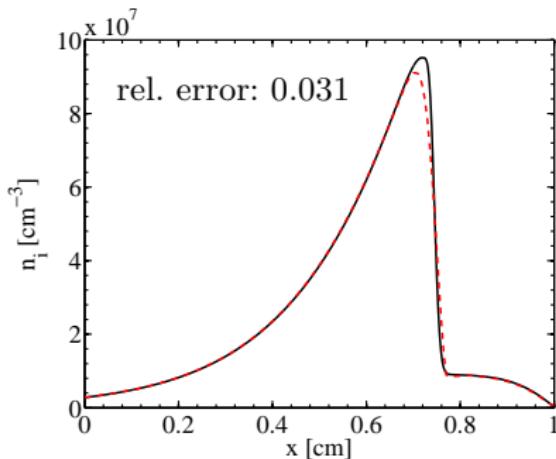
- No terracing effect
- Accurate results on coarse spatial grids
- (Local) grid refinement possible (no CFL restriction)



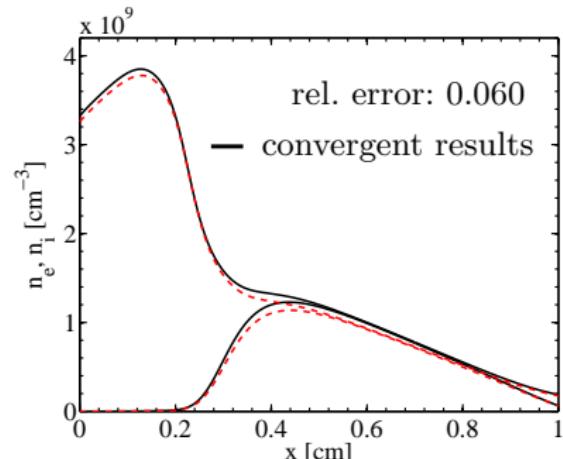
- No terracing effect
- Accurate results on coarse spatial grids
- (Local) grid refinement possible (no CFL restriction)



- No terracing effect
- Accurate results on coarse spatial grids
- (Local) grid refinement possible (no CFL restriction)

$t = 2 \mu\text{s}$ 

steady state



- No terracing effect
- Slightly higher errors at steady state
- (Local) grid refinement possible (no CFL restriction)

- Investigation of hydrodynamic models for the theoretical description of low temperature plasmas
- Application of stabilized numerical methods
 - Petrov-Galerkin FEM for drift-diffusion model
 - FCT methods for strict hydrodynamic model
 - well suited to study gas discharges at low and atmospheric pressure
- New approach for hydrodynamic description under development
- Extension of the model to 2D/3D geometries planed



EUROPA DEUTSCHLAND MECKLENBURG VORPOMMERN GREIFSWALD

Leibniz-Institut für Plasmaforschung und Technologie e.V.

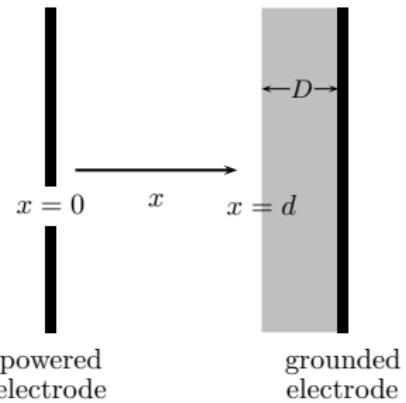
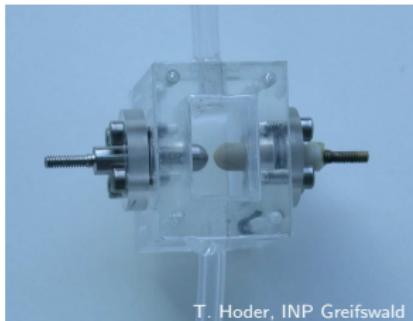
Adresse: Felix-Hausdorff-Str. 2, 17489 Greifswald

Telefon: +49 - 3834 - 554 300, Fax: +49 - 3834 - 554 301

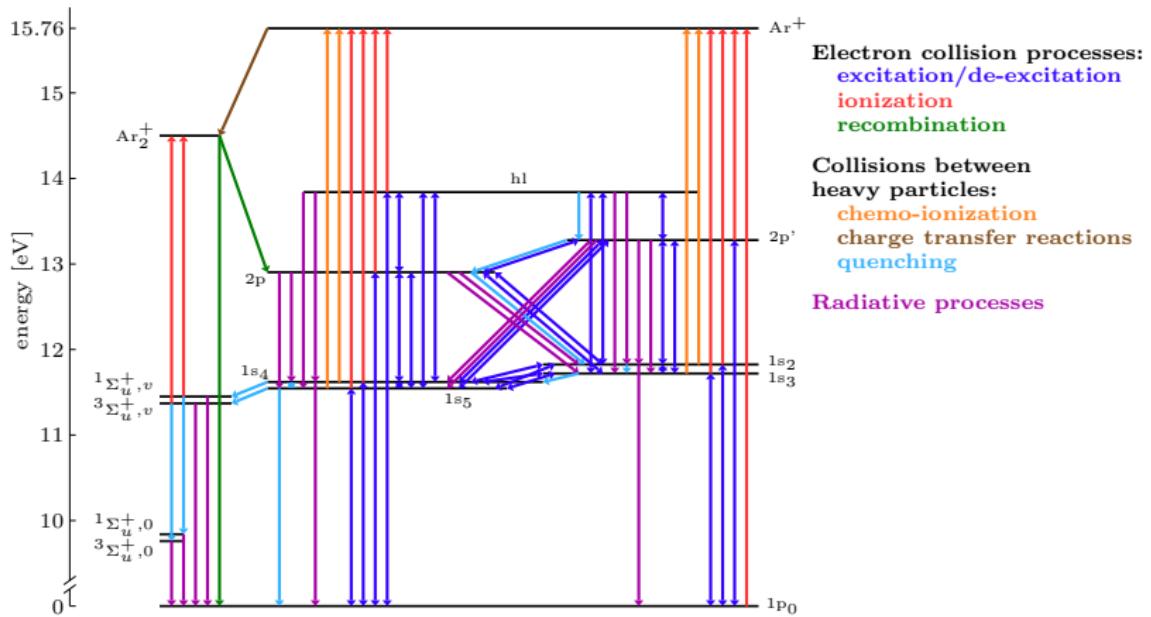
E-mail: welcome@inp-greifswald.de, Web: www.inp-greifswald.de

Discharge configuration

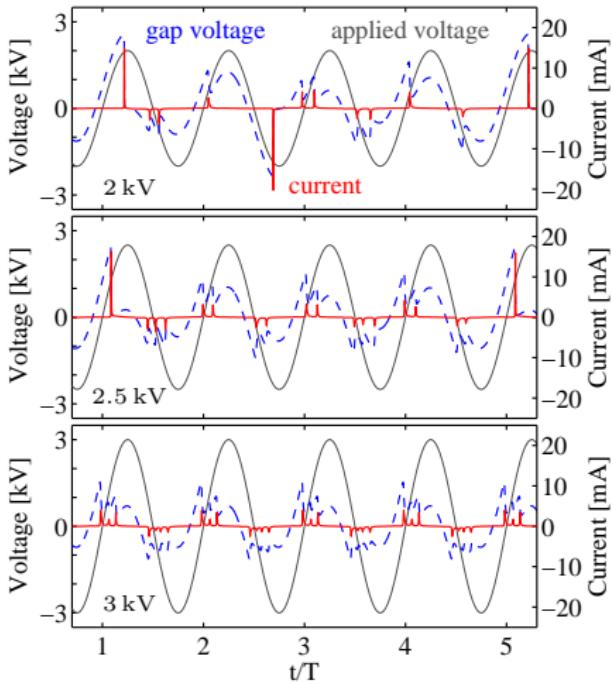
- 1D model with electrode gap $d = 1.5 \text{ mm}$
- Dielectric: Al_2O_3 , $\varepsilon_r = 10$, $D = 0.5 \text{ mm}$
- Sinusoidal applied voltage ($f = 60 \text{ kHz}$)
- Gas: argon
- Pressure $p = 1 \text{ atm}$
- Gas temperature $T_{\text{gas}} = 300 \text{ K}$

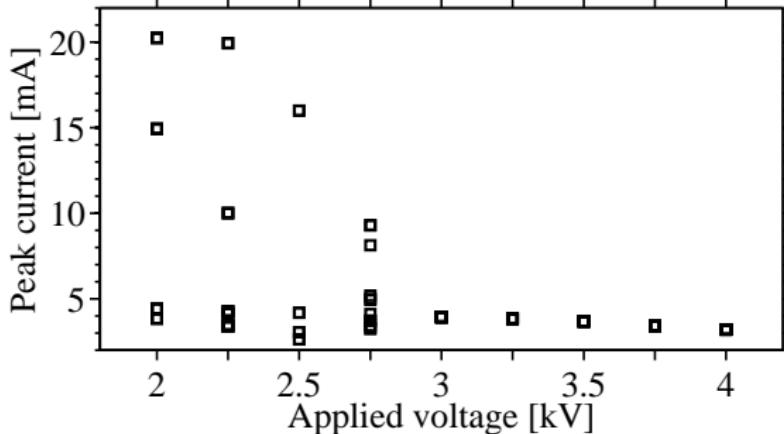


- Considered species: electrons, Ar^+ and Ar_2^+ ions, 11 excited states
- About 100 collisional and radiative processes

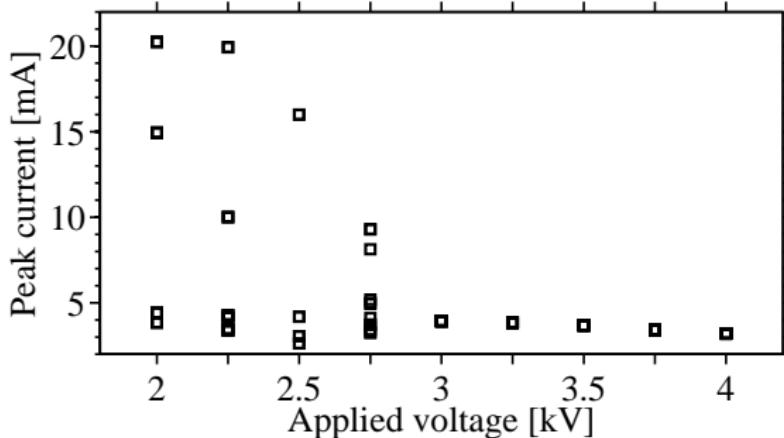


- Discharge behaviour depends sensitively on applied voltage
- Two different discharge modes at applied voltages $< 3 \text{ kV}$
- Periodic behaviour at higher voltages

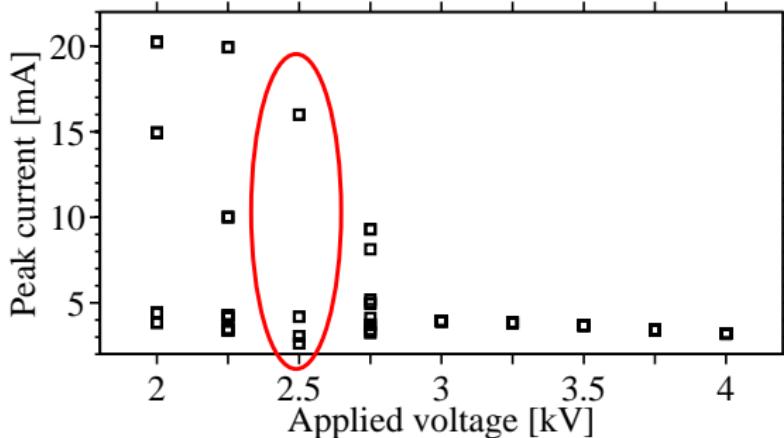




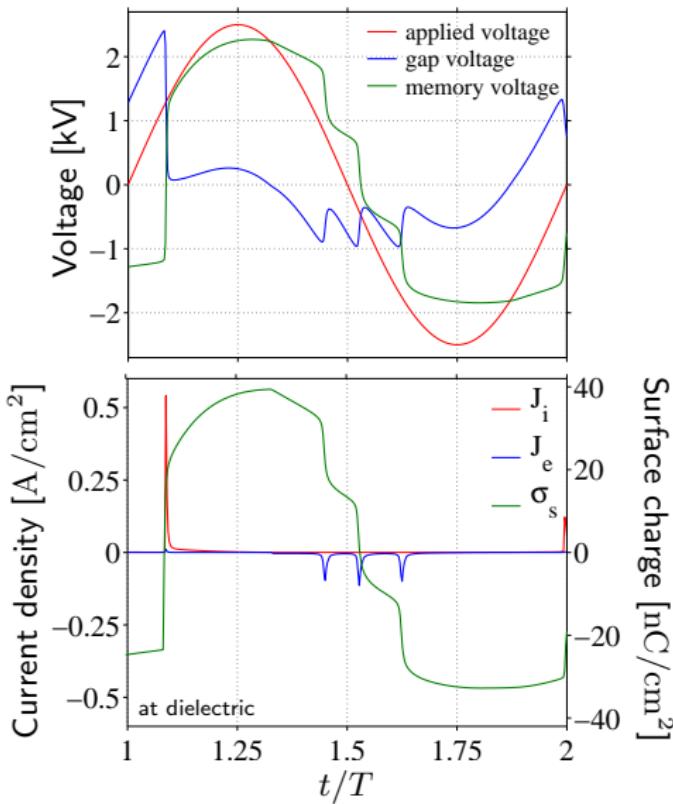
- Period multiplication phenomena occur at $V_0 < 3\text{ kV}$
- Decrease of maximum current peak value at increasing voltage because of higher memory voltage $\Phi_m = \Phi_a - \Phi_{gap}$



- Chaotic (non-periodic) behaviour around $V_0 = 2.75 \text{ kV}$
- Periodic conditions at $V_0 > 3 \text{ kV}$

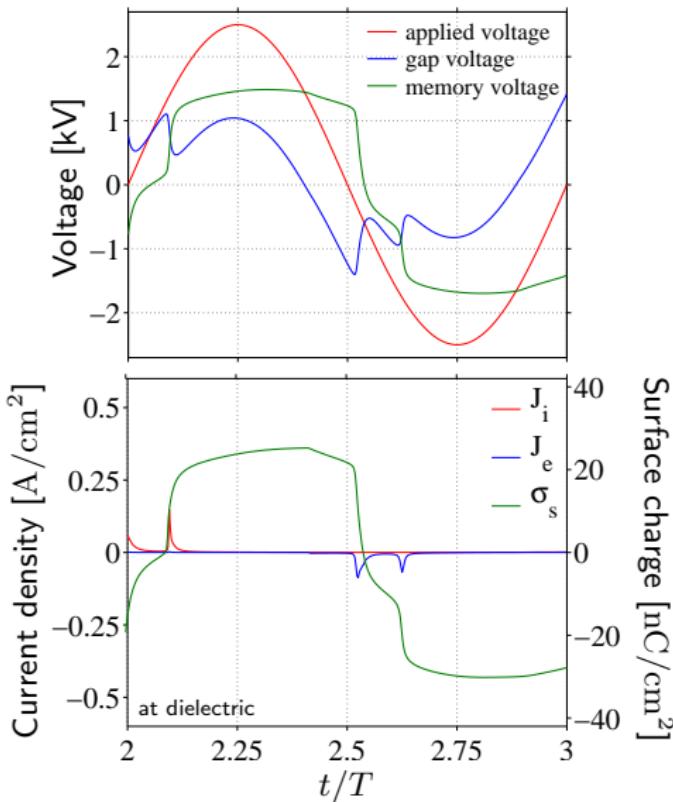


- Chaotic (non-periodic) behaviour around $V_0 = 2.75$ kV
- Periodic conditions at $V_0 > 3$ kV
- Analysis of discharge behaviour at $V_0 = 2.5$ kV



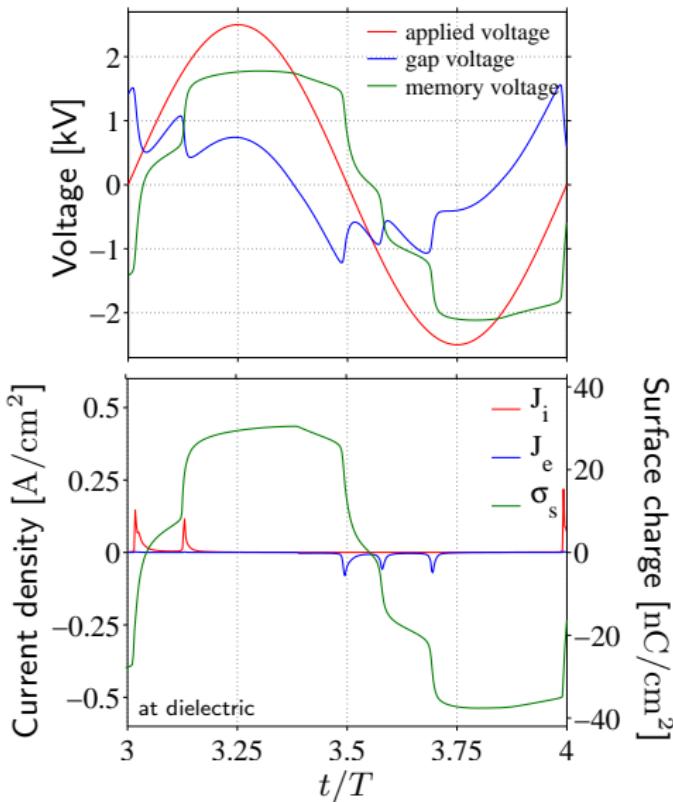
- High ignition voltage at first discharge event
- Multiple weaker discharges with lower ignition voltage after change of polarity
- Last discharge event not equal to the first due to higher memory voltage

Period multiplication at $V_0 = 2.5 \text{ kV}$



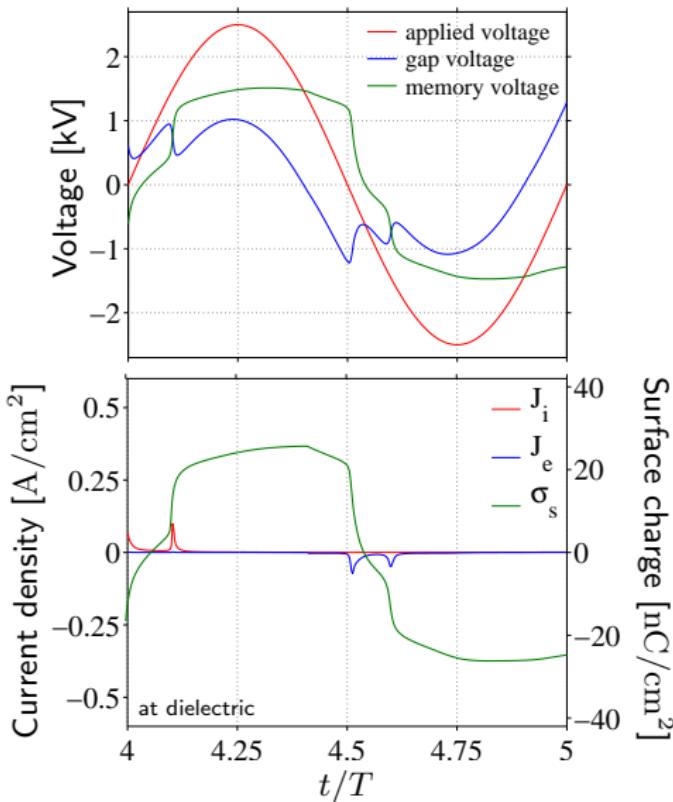
- Sequence of weaker discharges events with two or three current peaks

Period multiplication at $V_0 = 2.5$ kV

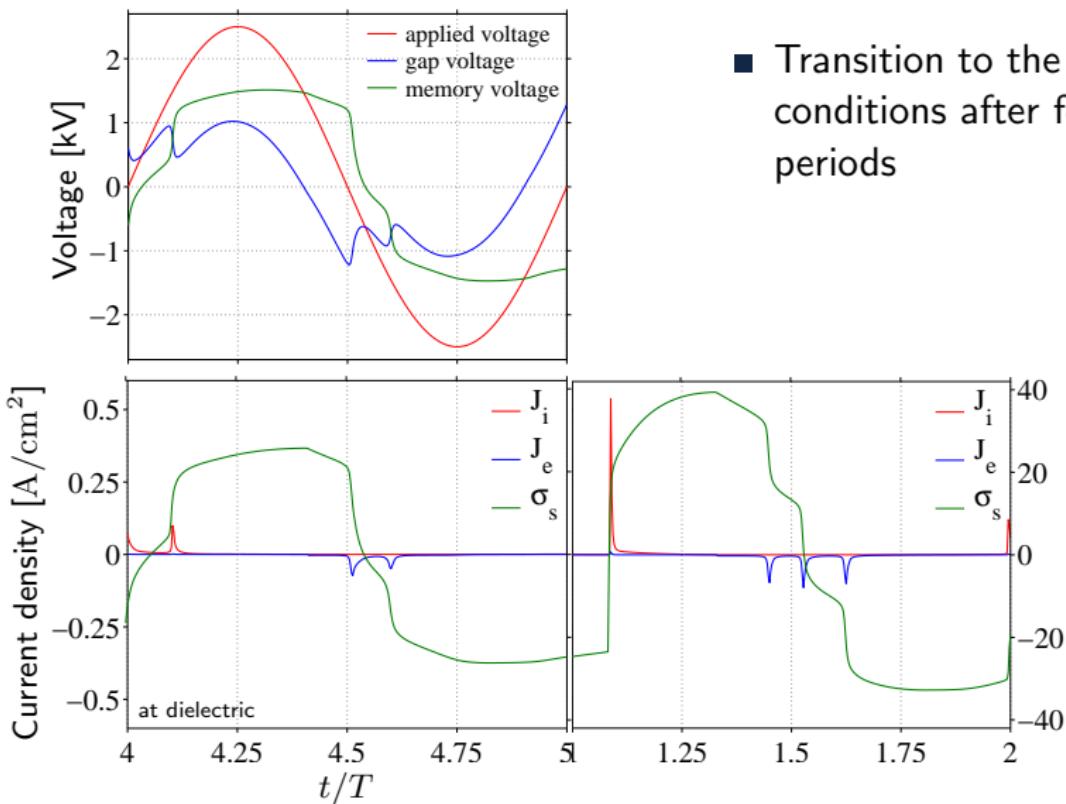


- Sequence of weaker discharges events with two or three current peaks

Period multiplication at $V_0 = 2.5$ kV

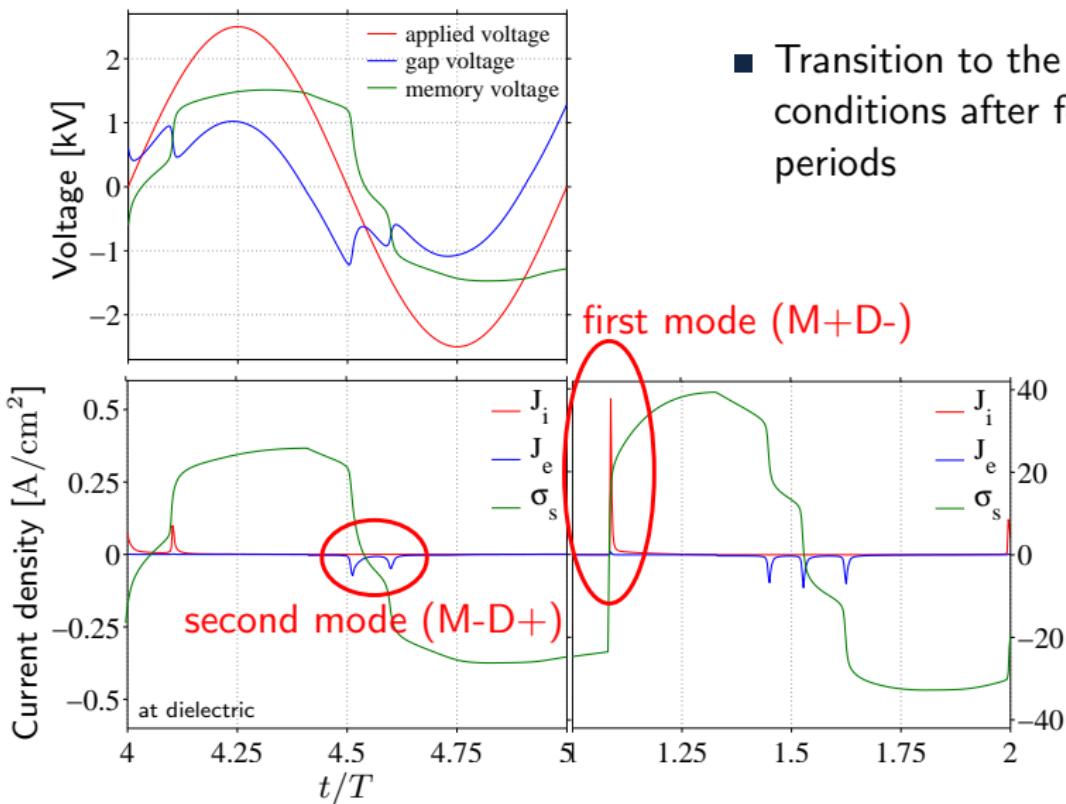


- Transition to the same conditions after four periods



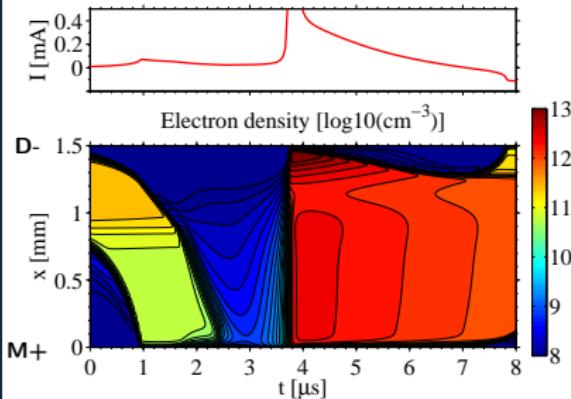
- Transition to the same conditions after four periods

Period multiplication at $V_0 = 2.5$ kV

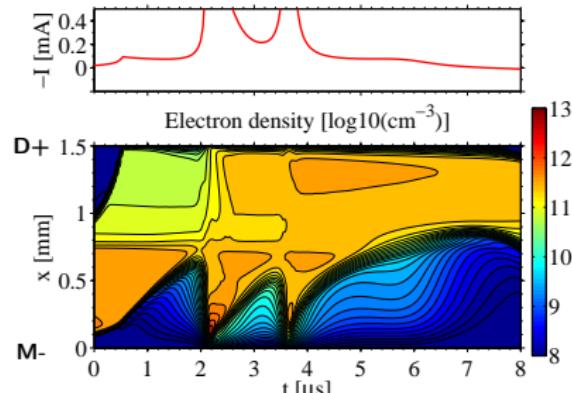


- Transition to the same conditions after four periods

First discharge mode

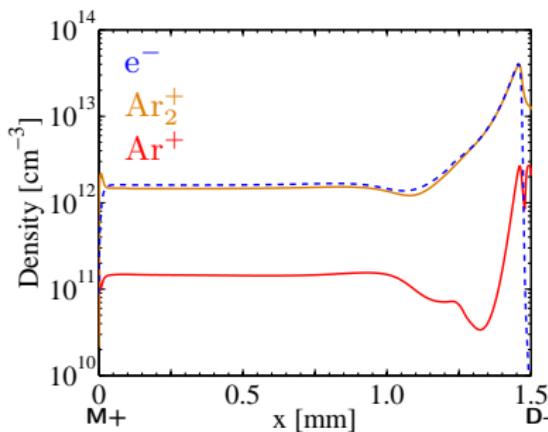


Second discharge mode

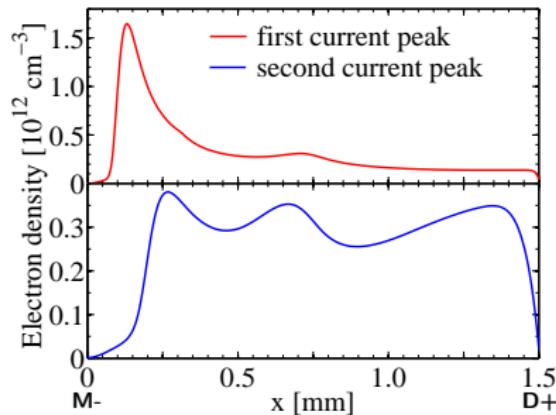


- Low electron density before ignition of microdischarges in first discharge mode (single current peak)
- Electron density locally high before ignition of microdischarges in second discharge mode (multiple current peaks)

First discharge mode

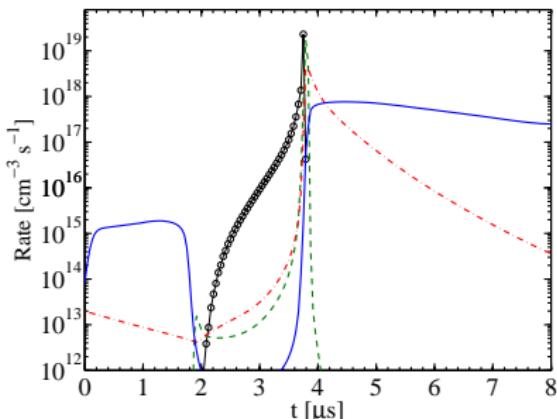


Second discharge mode

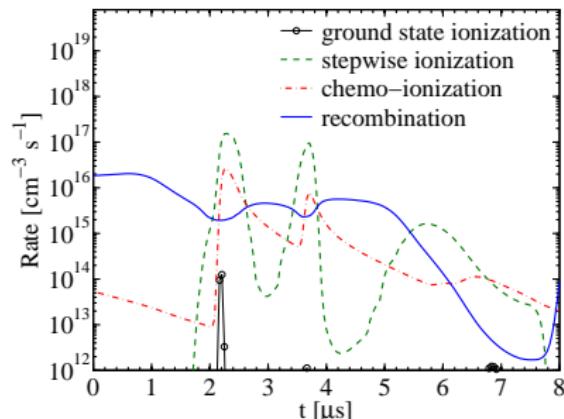


- Glow-discharge-like spatial structure in first discharge mode
- Second discharge mode is characterized by an inhomogeneous positive column

First discharge mode



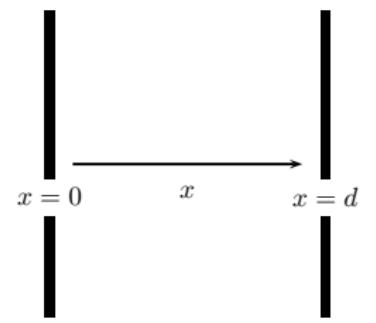
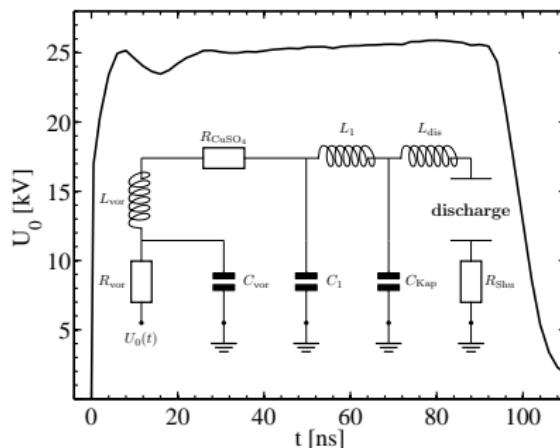
Second discharge mode



- Townsend-like phase initiates the discharge ignition in first discharge mode
- Charge carrier production results mainly from stepwise ionization in second discharge mode

Discharge configuration

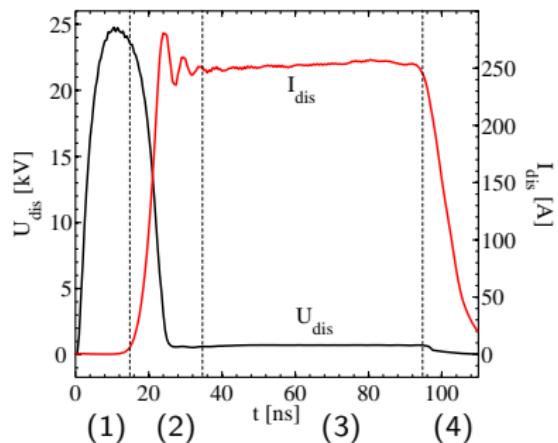
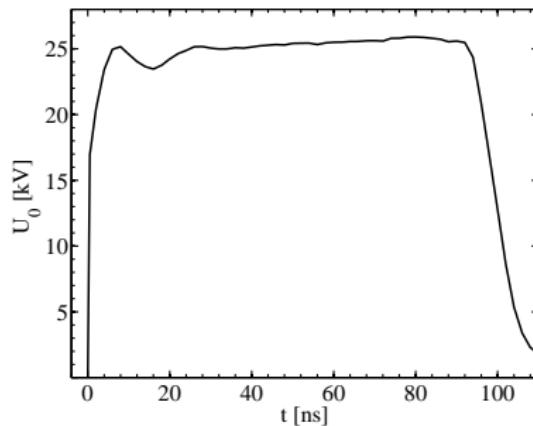
- Spatially one-dimensional model, gap $d = 1 \text{ cm}$
- Gas: argon
- Gas temperature $T_g = 300 \text{ K}$, pressure $p = 760 \text{ Torr}$
- Applied voltage pulse $U_0 = 25 \text{ kV}$, 100 ns
- Discharge voltage from electrical circuit equations



$$\Phi(0, t) = U_{\text{dis}}(t)$$

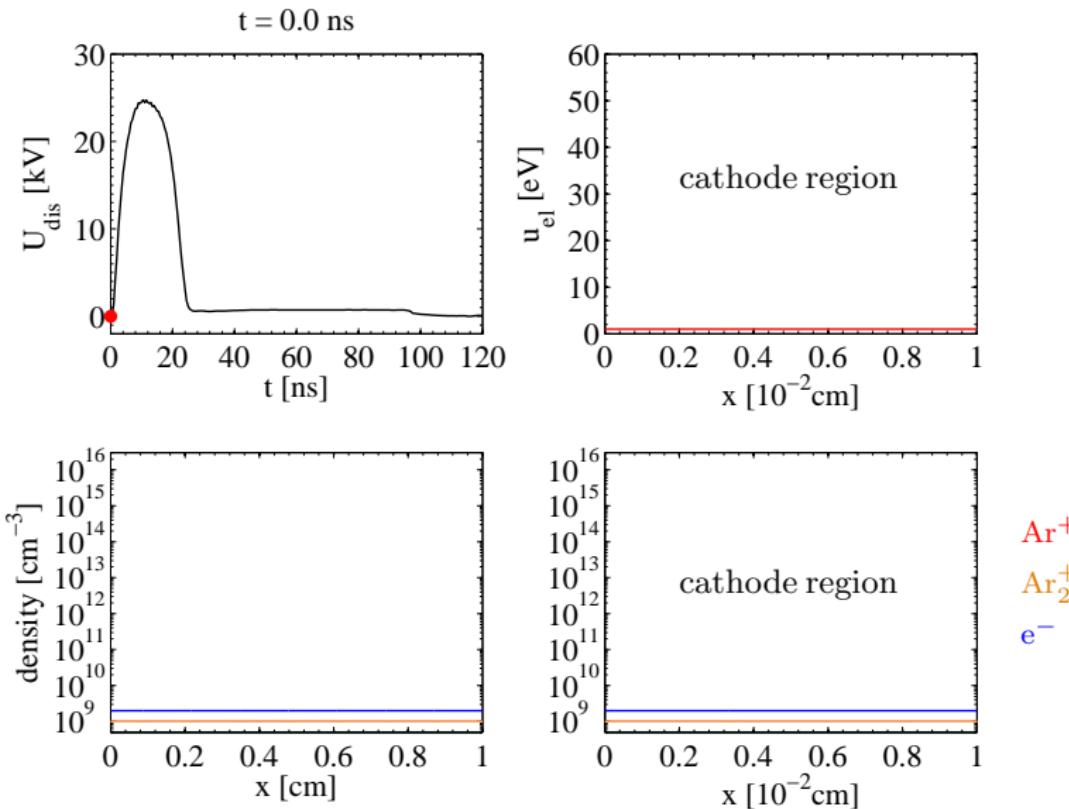
$$\Phi(d, t) = 0$$

Discharge characteristics



- $t < 15 \text{ ns}$: Townsend phase (1)
- $15\text{--}35 \text{ ns}$: ignition phase (2)
- $35\text{--}95 \text{ ns}$: quasi-steady-state (3)
- $t > 95 \text{ ns}$: recombination phase (4)

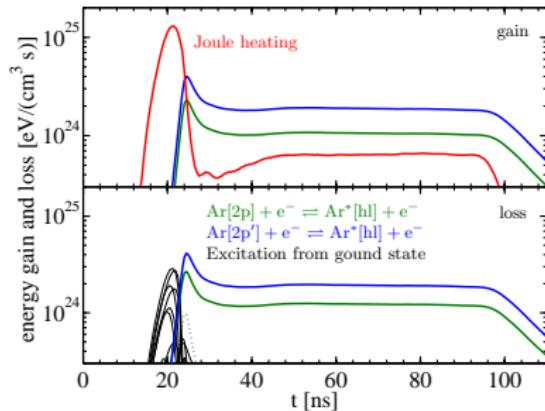
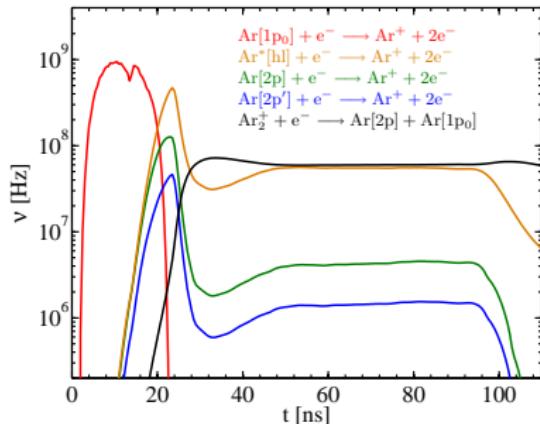
Spatiotemporal behaviour



Ar^+

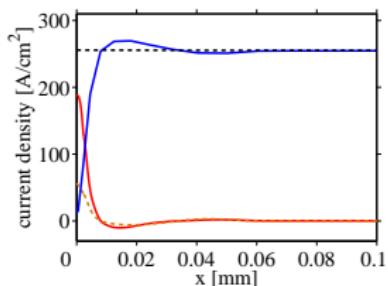
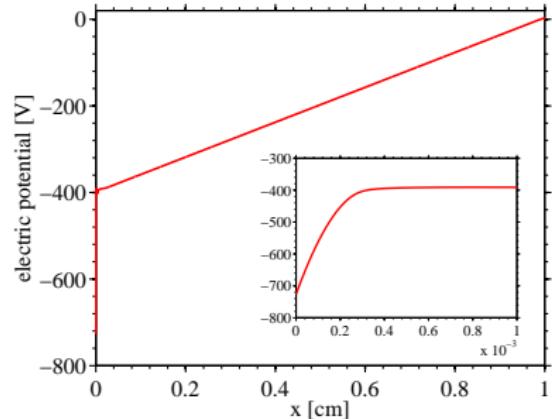
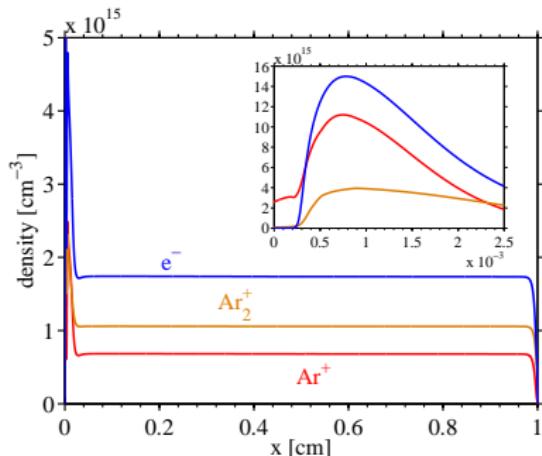
Ar_2^+

e^-



- Ionisation from ground state dominates electron production during Townsend phase
- During ignition phase stepwise ionisation from higher excited states become important
- Collisions with $\text{Ar}[2\text{p}]$, $\text{Ar}[2\text{p}']$ and higher excited states dominate power budget in the quasi-steady state

Quasi-steady state



- Similarity parameters agree well with similarity laws for normal glow discharges

$$p d_c = 0.23 \text{ Torr cm}$$

$$j/p^2 = 450 \mu\text{A Torr}^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$