

A laser-produced plasma extreme ultraviolet (EUV) source by use of liquid microjet target

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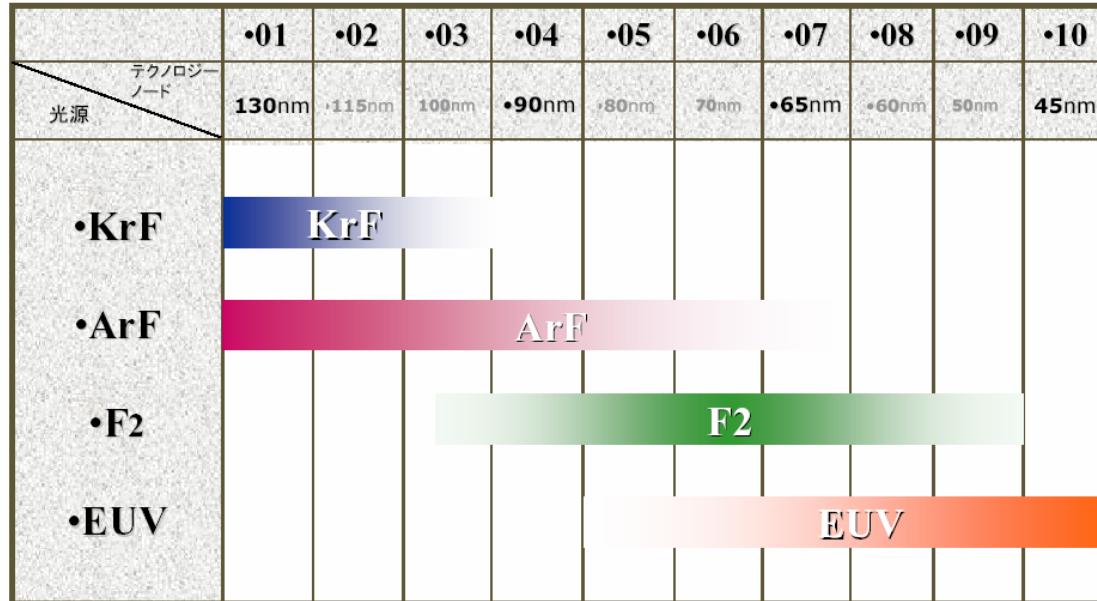
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under contract subject "Leading project for EUV lithography source development"

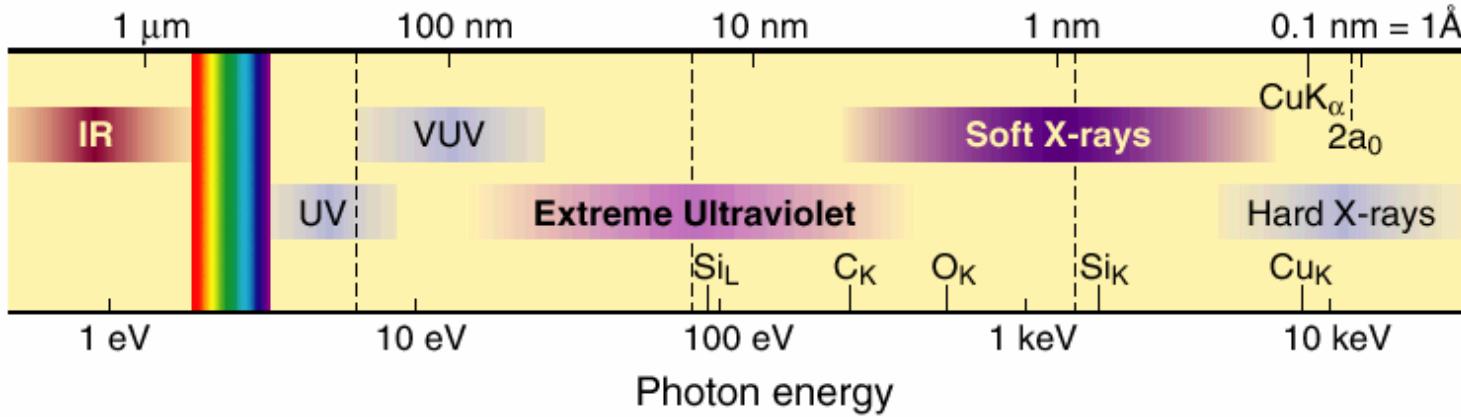


Background: EUV light source for the next generation lithography



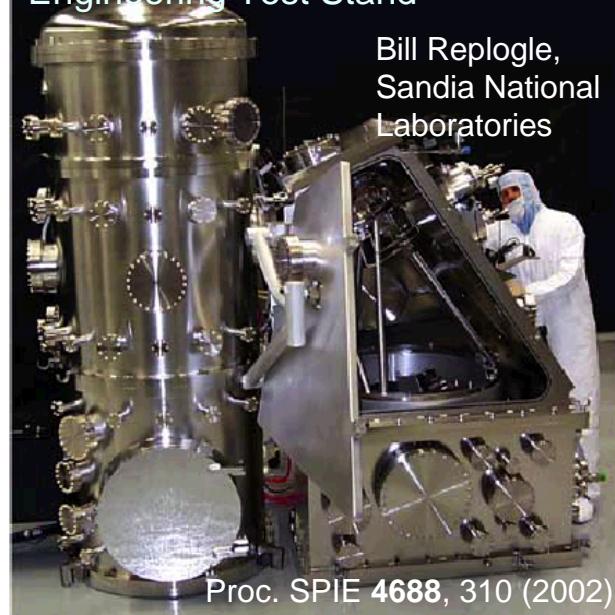
International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors (ITRS)

Wavelength



Engineering Test Stand

Bill Replogle,
Sandia National
Laboratories



Proc. SPIE 4688, 310 (2002)

Joint requirements for EUV source: 13.5 nm (2%BW), 115 W, 7-10 kHz

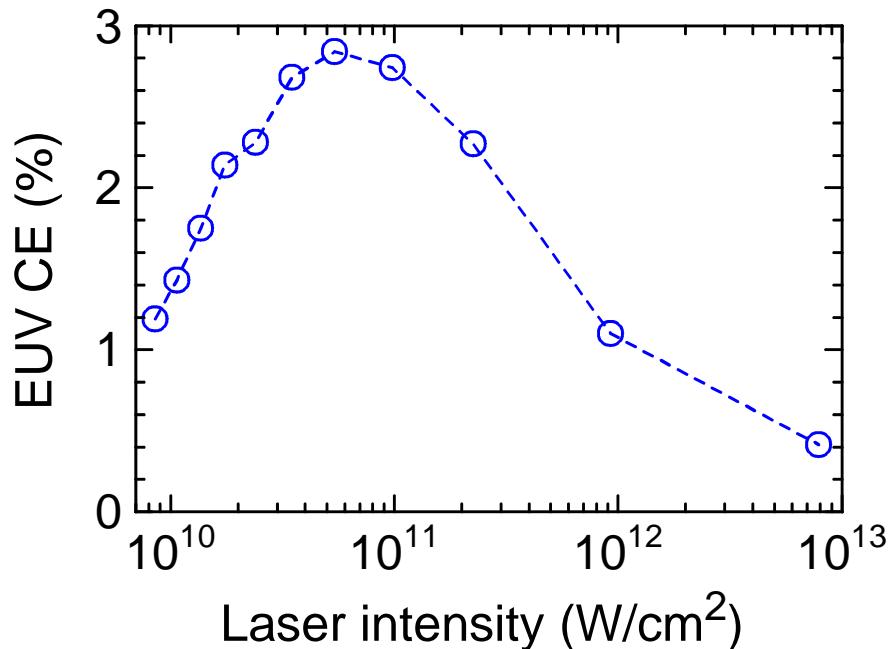
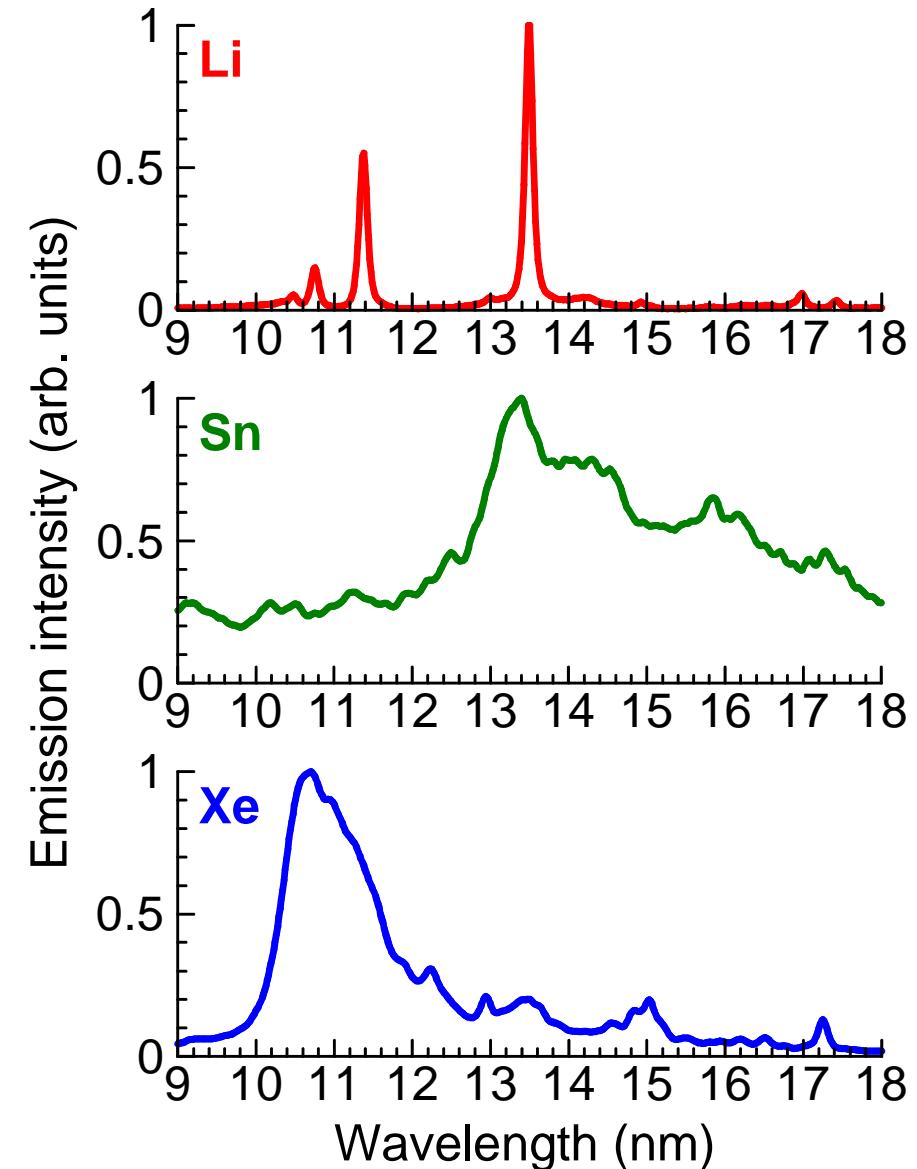
Joint Requirements for EUV Source

SOURCE CHARACTERISTICS	REQUIREMENTS
• Wavelength	13.5 (nm)
• EUV Power (in-band)	115 (W) (after intermediate focus)
• Repetition Frequency	> 7 - 10 kHz *
• Integrated Energy Stability	± 0.3% (3σ over 50 pulses)
• Source Cleanliness	≥ 30,000 hours (after intermediate focus)
• Etendue of Source Output	1 – 3.3 mm ² sr (max)*
• Maximum Solid Angle to Illuminator	0.03 – 0.2 (sr) (depending on particular optical scheme)*
• Spectral Purity 130 - 400 nm (DUV/VUV) > 400 nm (Vis/IR)	≤ TBD – 7% (design dependent)* TBD

* Not agreed among participants



EUV emission spectra from possible plasma materials



"The Optimal Source Path to HVM"
D. Myers, B. Llene, I. Fomenkov,
B. Hansson, and B. Bolliger (CYMER)



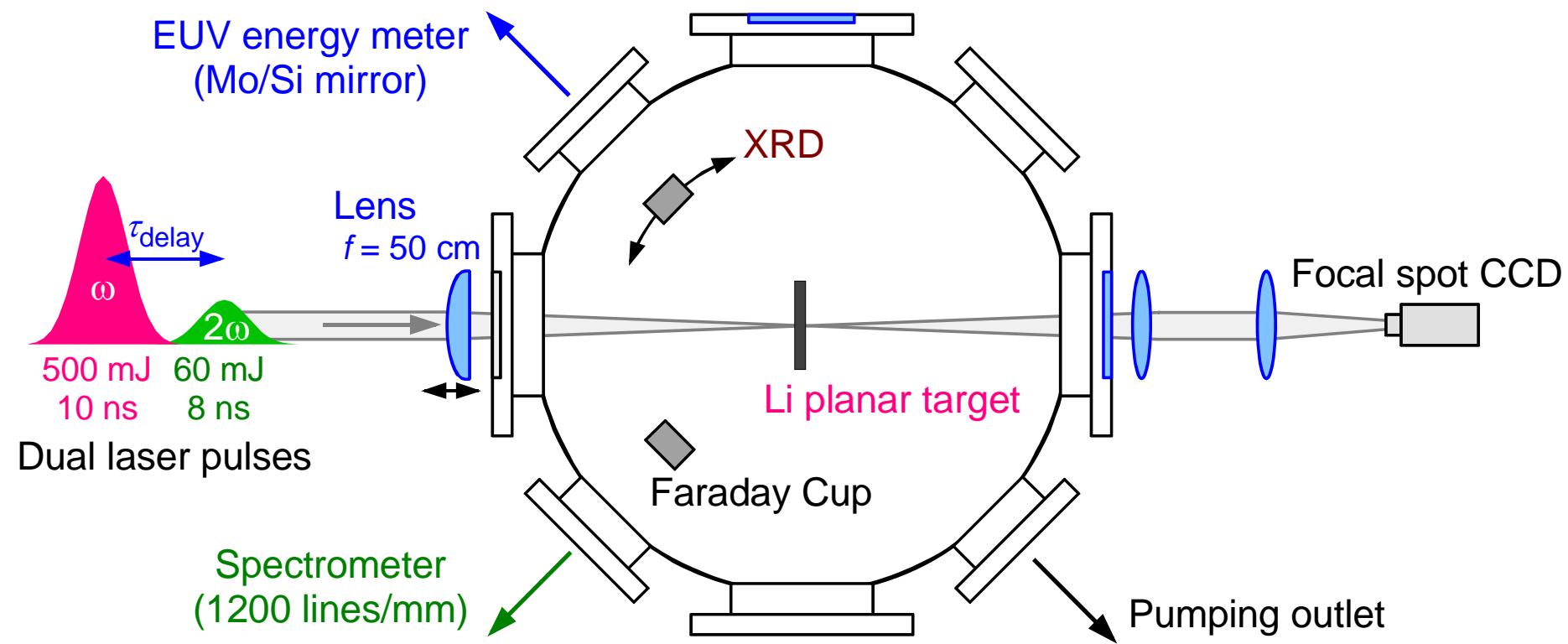
Schematic diagram of experimental setup using planar Li target

Wavelength: 1064 nm

Laser energy : < 1.4 J

Pulse width: 10 ns (FWHM)

Spot size: 300 $\mu\text{m}\phi$





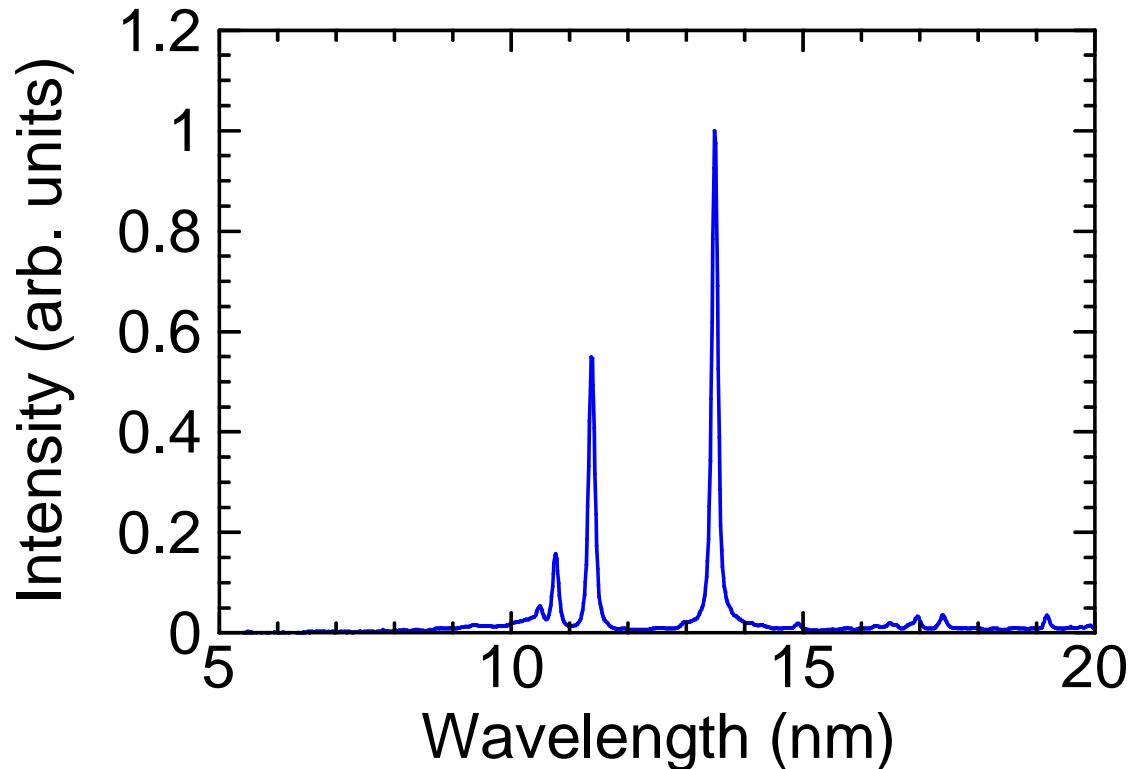
EUV spectrum of a laser-produced lithium plasma

Laser intensity: 7×10^{10} W/cm²

Laser energy : 500 mJ

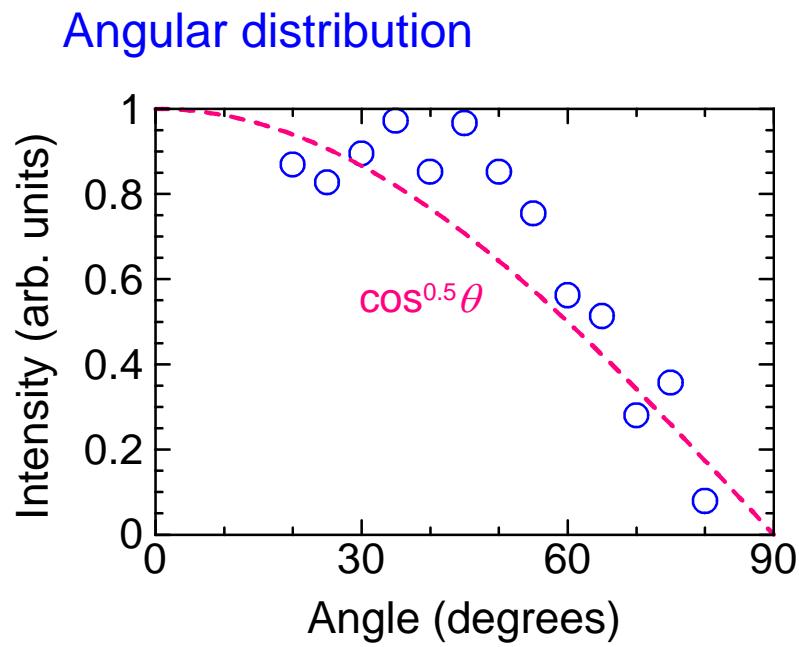
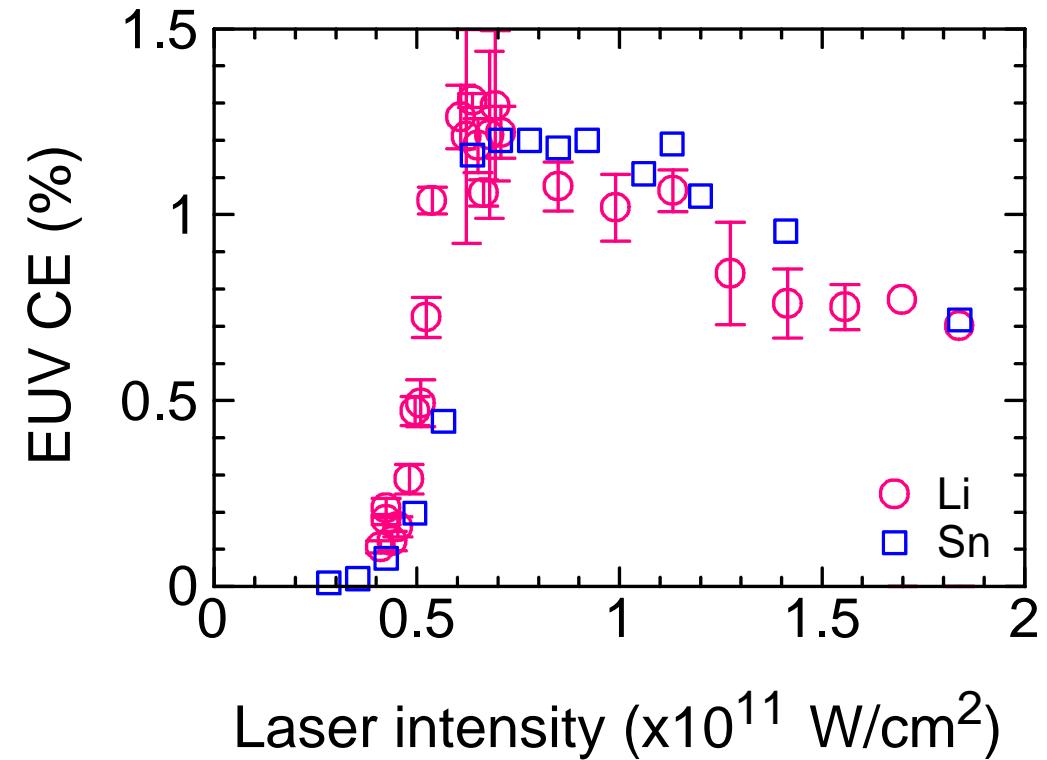
Pulse width: 10 ns (FWHM)

Spot size: 300 μmφ



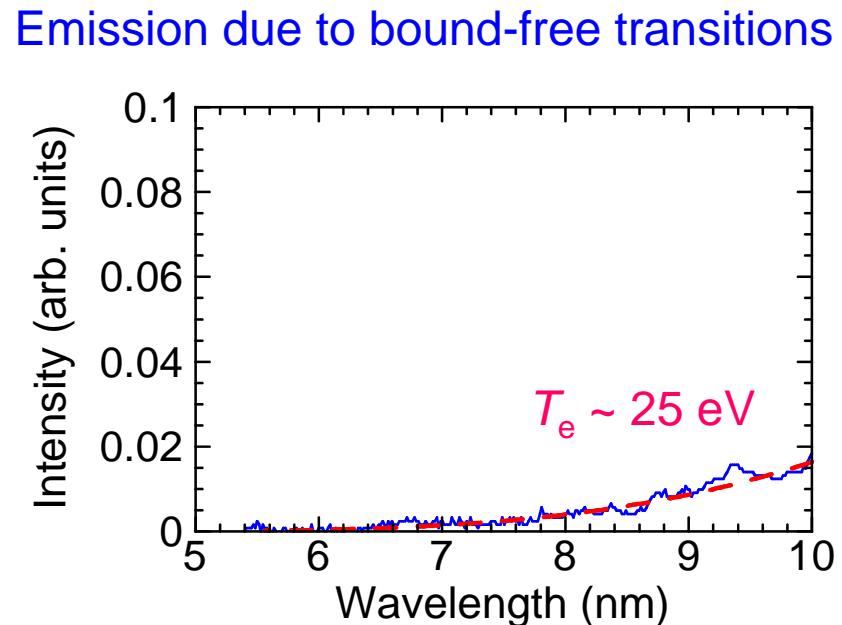
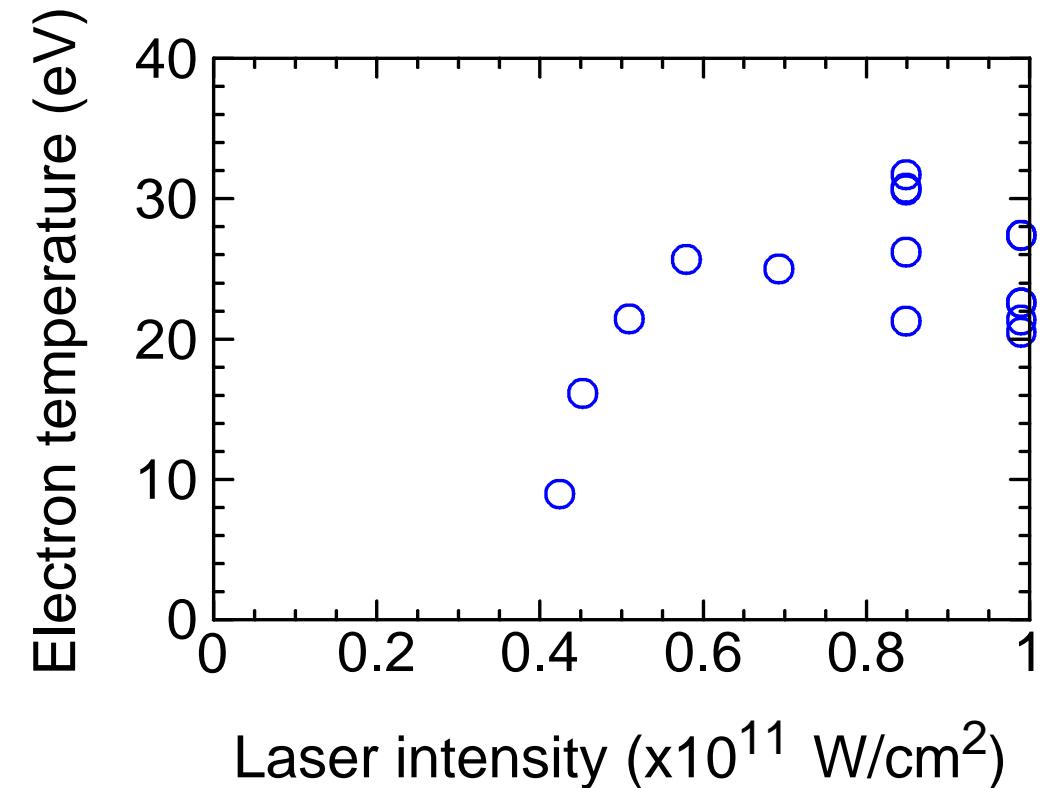


Laser intensity dependence of EUV CE using a single laser pulse





Estimation of an electron temperature using bound-free transitions in Li^{2+} ions



Y. B. Zel'dovich and Y. P. Raizer, "Physics of shock waves and high-temperature hydrodynamic phenomena" (Dover Publication, Inc., New York, Mineola, 1966).

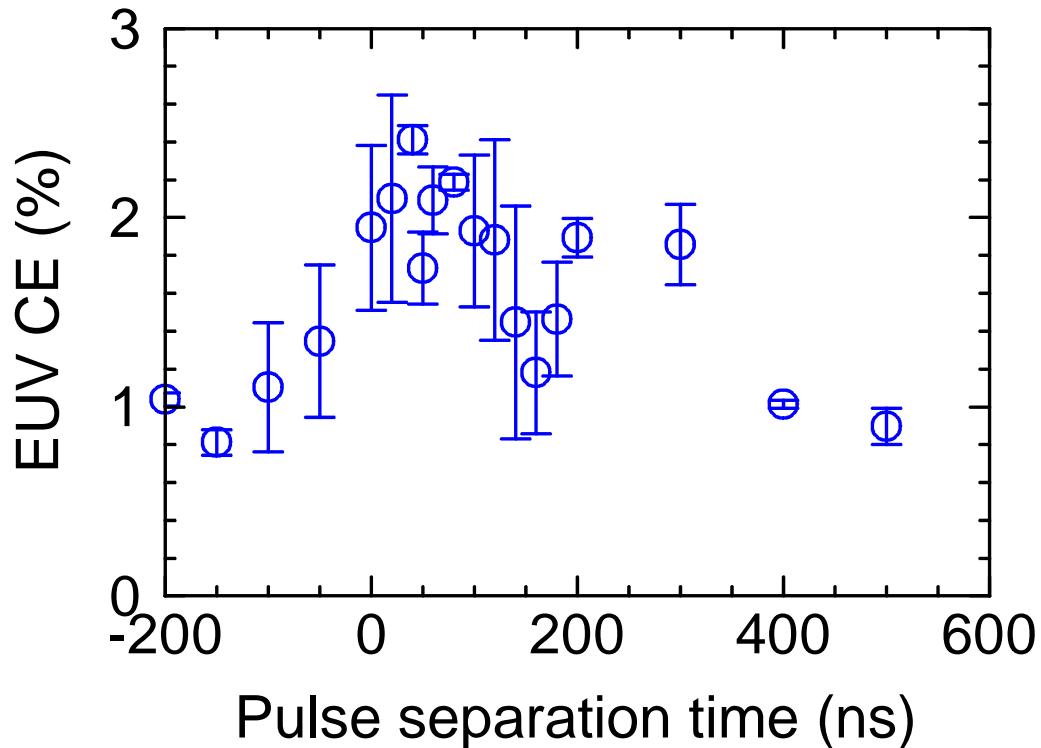


Pulse separation time dependence of EUV CE utilizing dual laser pulses

Pre-pulse: 532 nm, 60 mJ, 8 ns ($< 2 \times 10^{10} \text{ W/cm}^2$)

Main pulse: 1064 nm, 500 mJ, 10 ns, 300 μm ($7 \times 10^{10} \text{ W/cm}^2$)

Optimum delay separation time: 20-50 ns

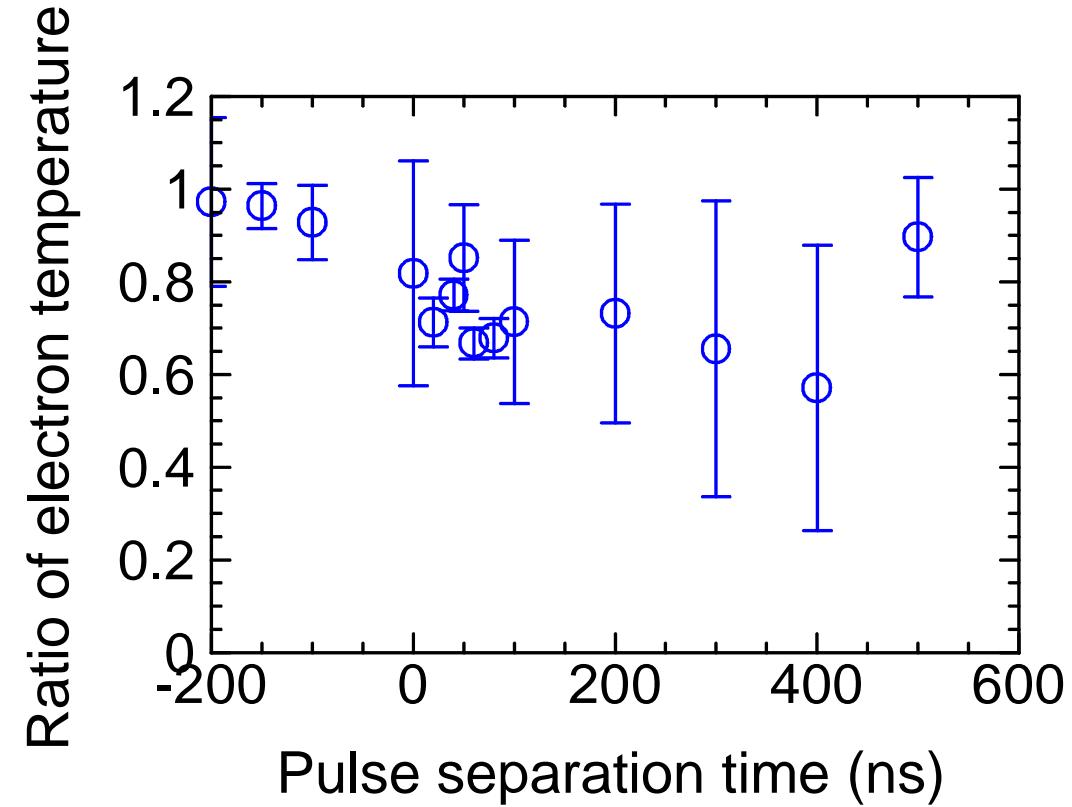




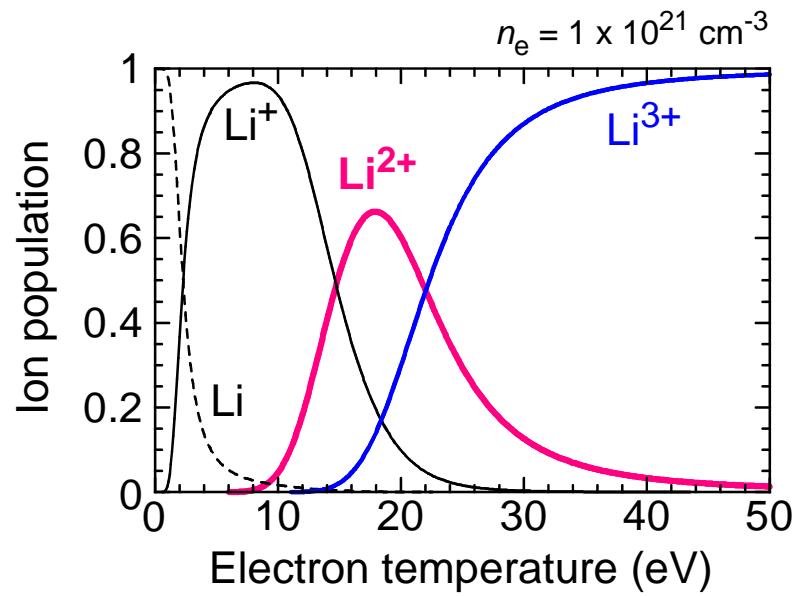
Ratio of electron temperature as a function of pulse separation time

Pre-pulse: 532 nm, 60 mJ, 8 ns ($< 2 \times 10^{10} \text{ W/cm}^2$)

Main pulse: 1064 nm, 500 mJ, 10 ns, 300 μm ($7 \times 10^{10} \text{ W/cm}^2$)



CR model





Objective: Enhancement of the EUV CE

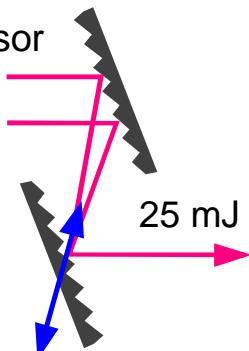
- Enhancement of the EUV CE by use of *dual* laser pulses
 - Plasma hydrodynamics of a Li plasma should be regulated.
 - Optimum Li plasma parameters could thus be realized.

Experimental setup using ultrashort, high-intensity laser pulses

Ti:Sapphire laser pulse

Adjustable pulse width

Compressor



25 mJ

τ_{pulse}
100 fs-1 ps
700 ps

Adjustable separation time

Michelson
interferometer

HM

M1
M2

$1 \times 10^{15} \text{ W/cm}^2$
5.3 mJ

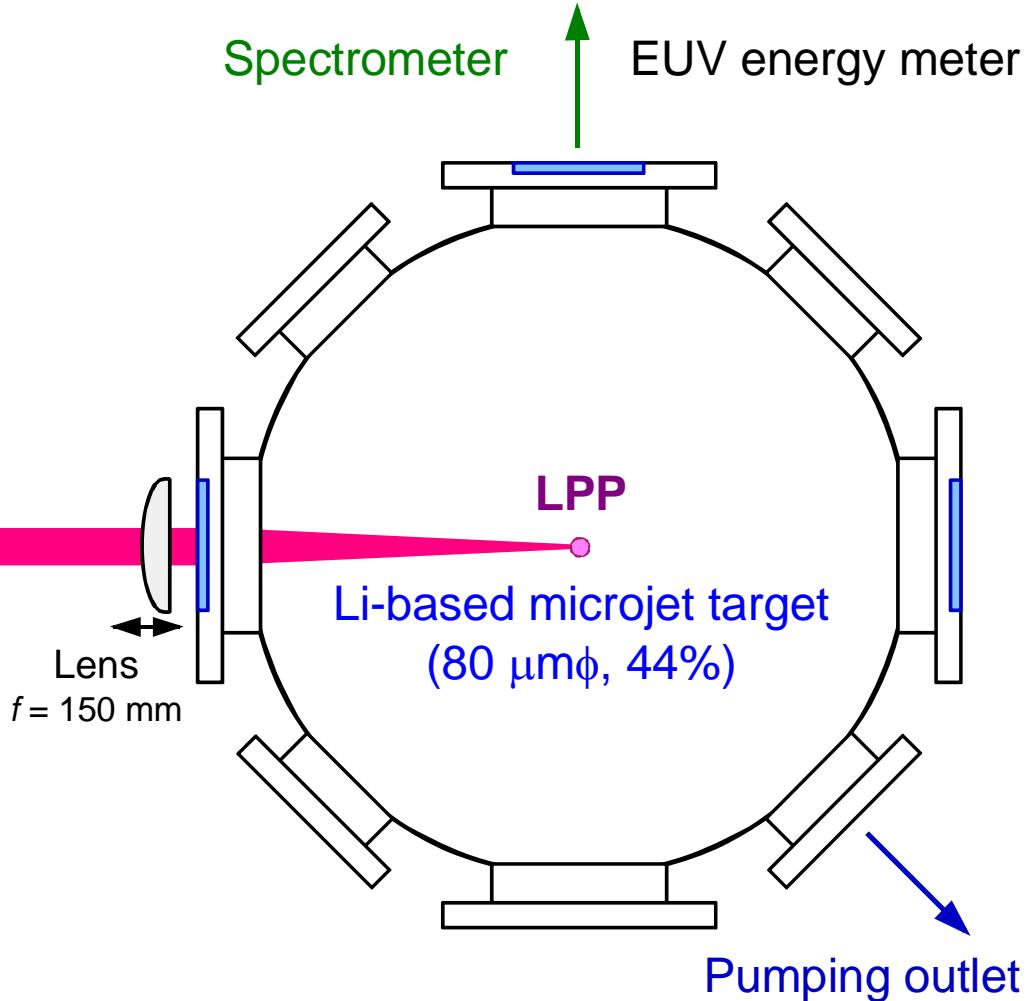
300 fs

$6 \times 10^{13} \text{ W/cm}^2$
5.8 mJ

$\tau_{\text{delay}} = 100-800 \text{ ps}$

Spectrometer

EUV energy meter





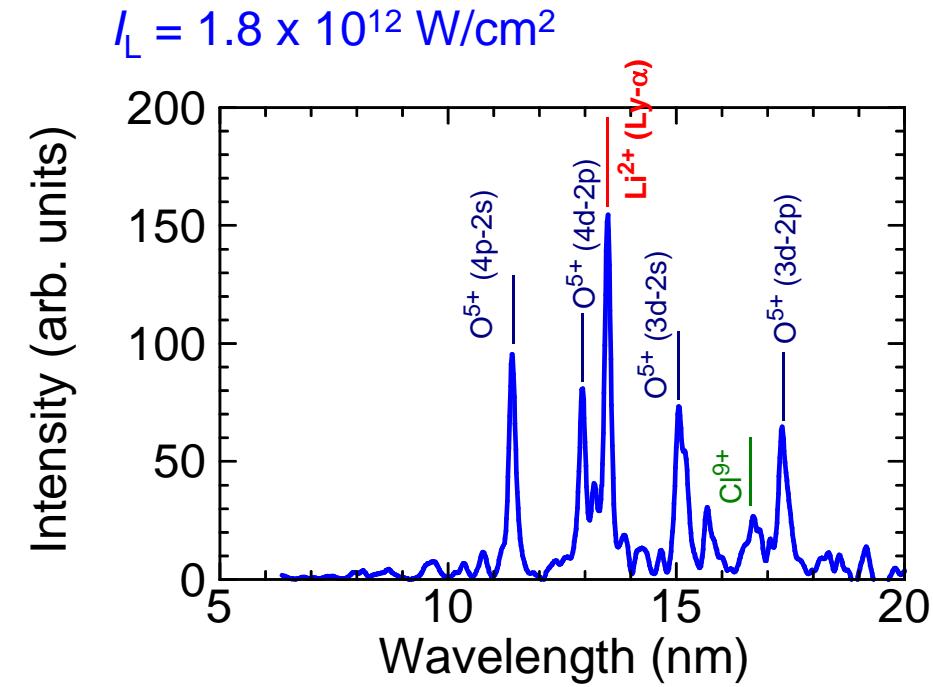
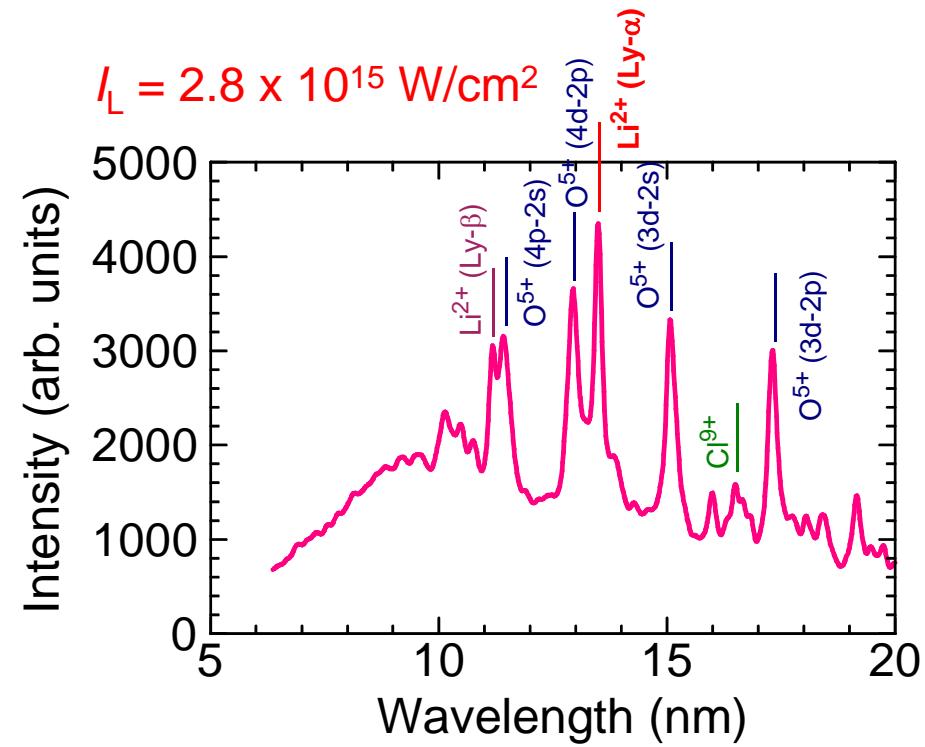
EUV spectra from a Li-contained plasma at different laser intensities



Li concentration (by mass): 44.4%

Jet diameter: 80 μm

Laser energy: 25 mJ





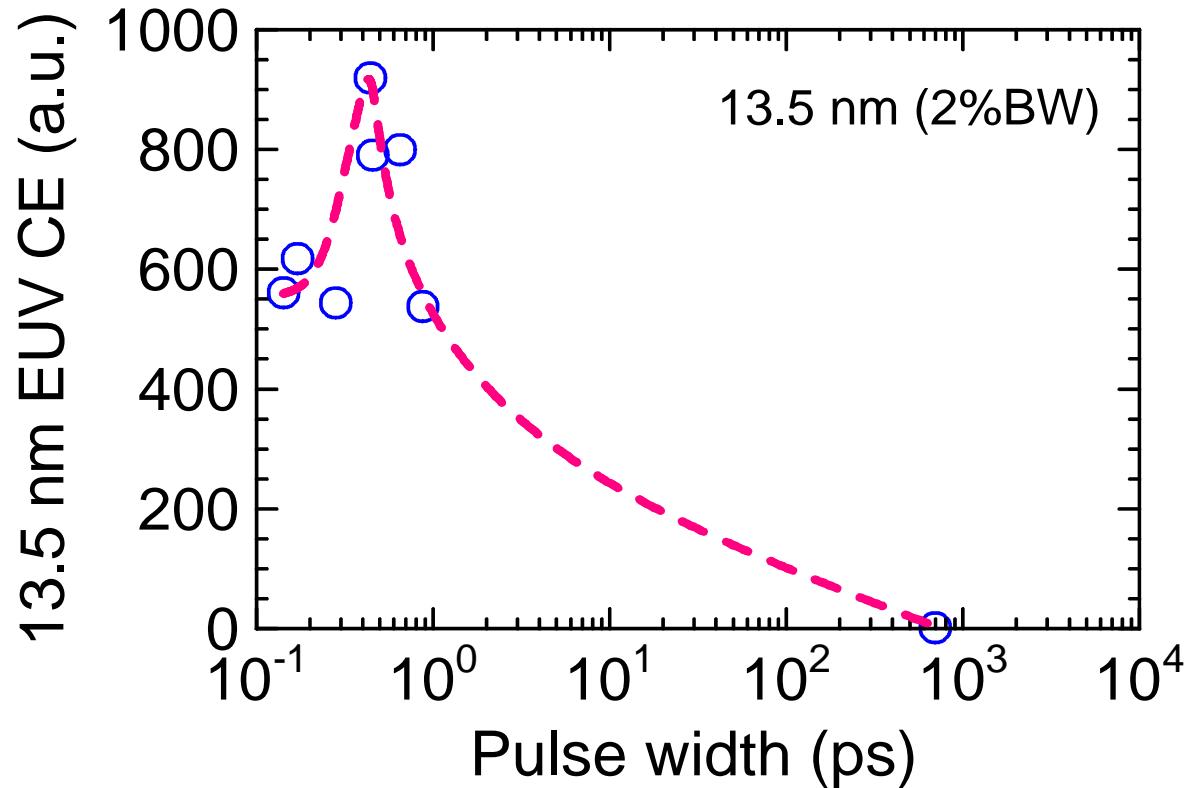
Subpicosecond pulse width dependence of the EUV CE



Li concentration (by mass): 44.4%

Jet diameter: $80 \mu\text{m}\phi$

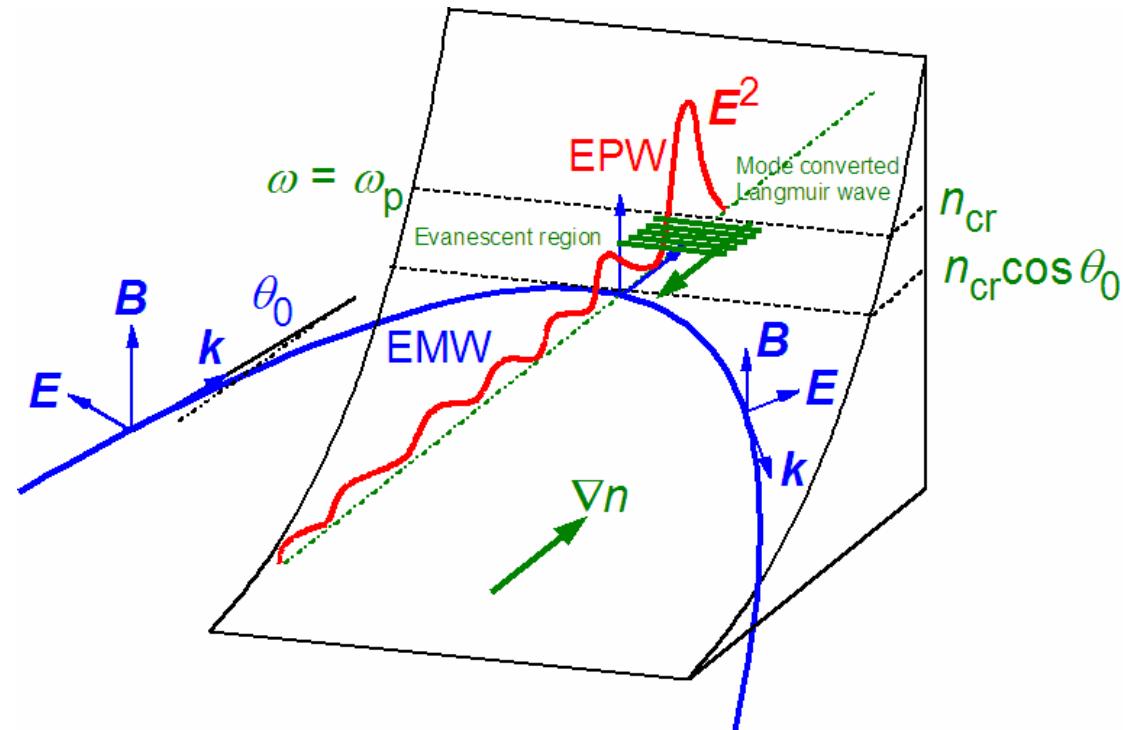
Laser energy: 25 mJ





Optimum pulse width explained by the resonant absorption process

Resonant absorption is dominant in a steepened density profile.



Absorption thickness

$$L_{\text{cr}} = L_{\text{opt}} \approx \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8k \cos^3 \theta}$$

$$L_{\text{opt}} \approx c_s \tau_{\text{pulse}}$$

$$c_s \approx 2 \times 10^7 \text{ cm/s}, \\ \lambda = 2\pi/k = 0.8 \text{ } \mu\text{m},$$

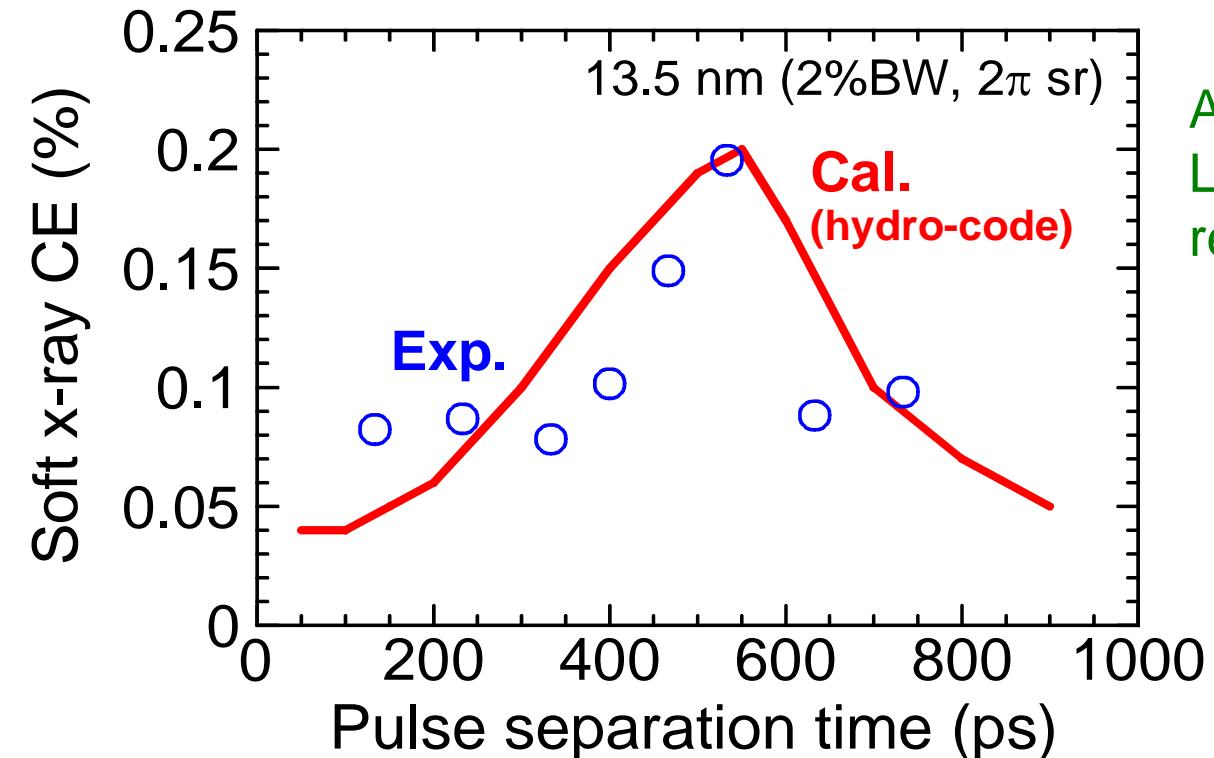
$$L_{\text{opt}} \approx 82 \text{ nm for } \theta = 0$$

$$\tau_{\text{pulse}} \approx 400 \text{ fs}$$

- [1] C. Garban-Labaune, E. Fabre, C. E. Max, R. Fabbro, F. Amiranoff, J. Virmont, M. Weinfeld, A. Michard, Phys. Rev. Lett. **48**, 1018 (1982).
- [2] V. L. Ginzburg, "Propagation of Electromagnetic Waves in Plasmas" (Pergamon, New York, 1970).
- [3] E. Parra, I. Alexeev, J. Fan, K. Y. Kim, S. J. McNaught, and H. M. Milchberg, Phys. Rev. E **62**, R5931 (2000).



Enhancement of the EUV CE by use of dual subpicosecond laser pulses

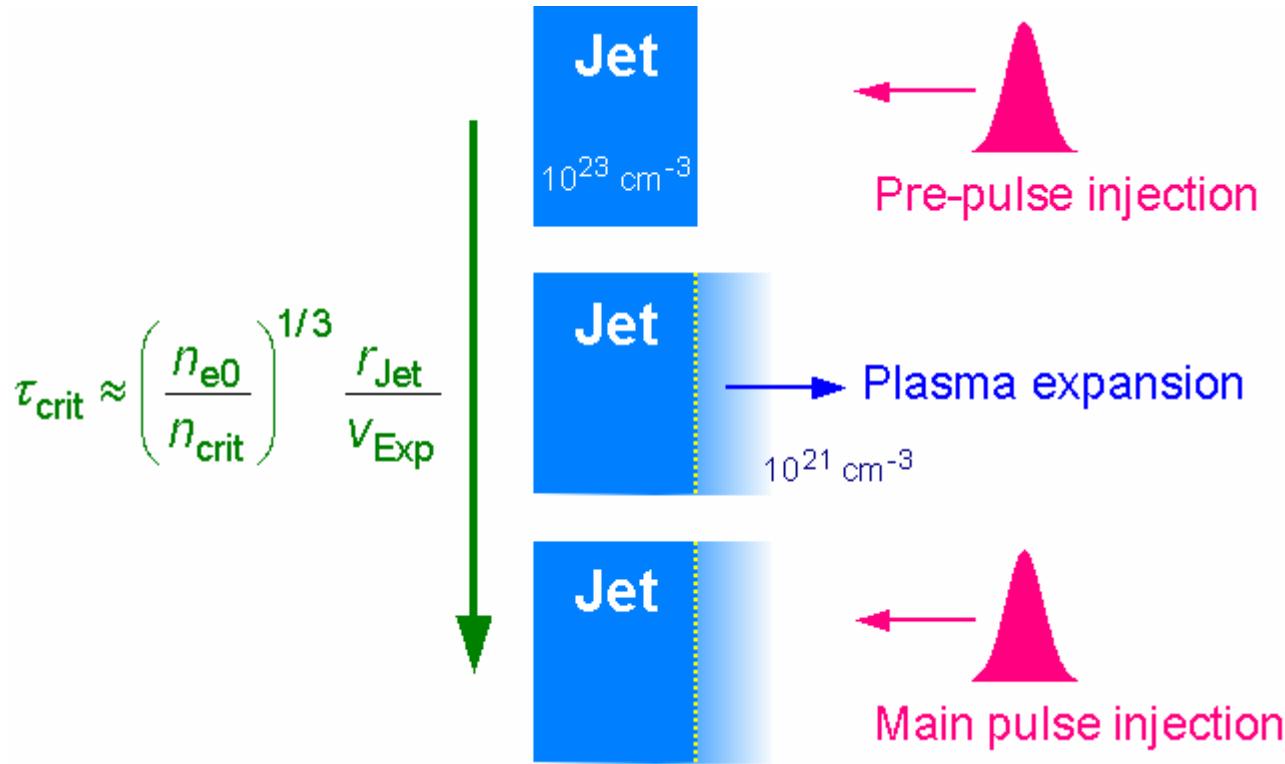


A one-fluid two-temperature Lagrangian code well reproduced the experiments.

- Plasma hydrodynamic
- Atomic code
- Plasma emission



Optimum delay time explained by the plasma expansion (simpler estimate)

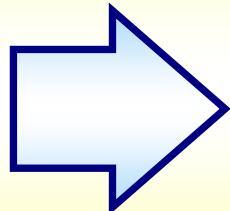


$$n_{e0} = 10^{22}-10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$n_{\text{crit}} = 1.7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

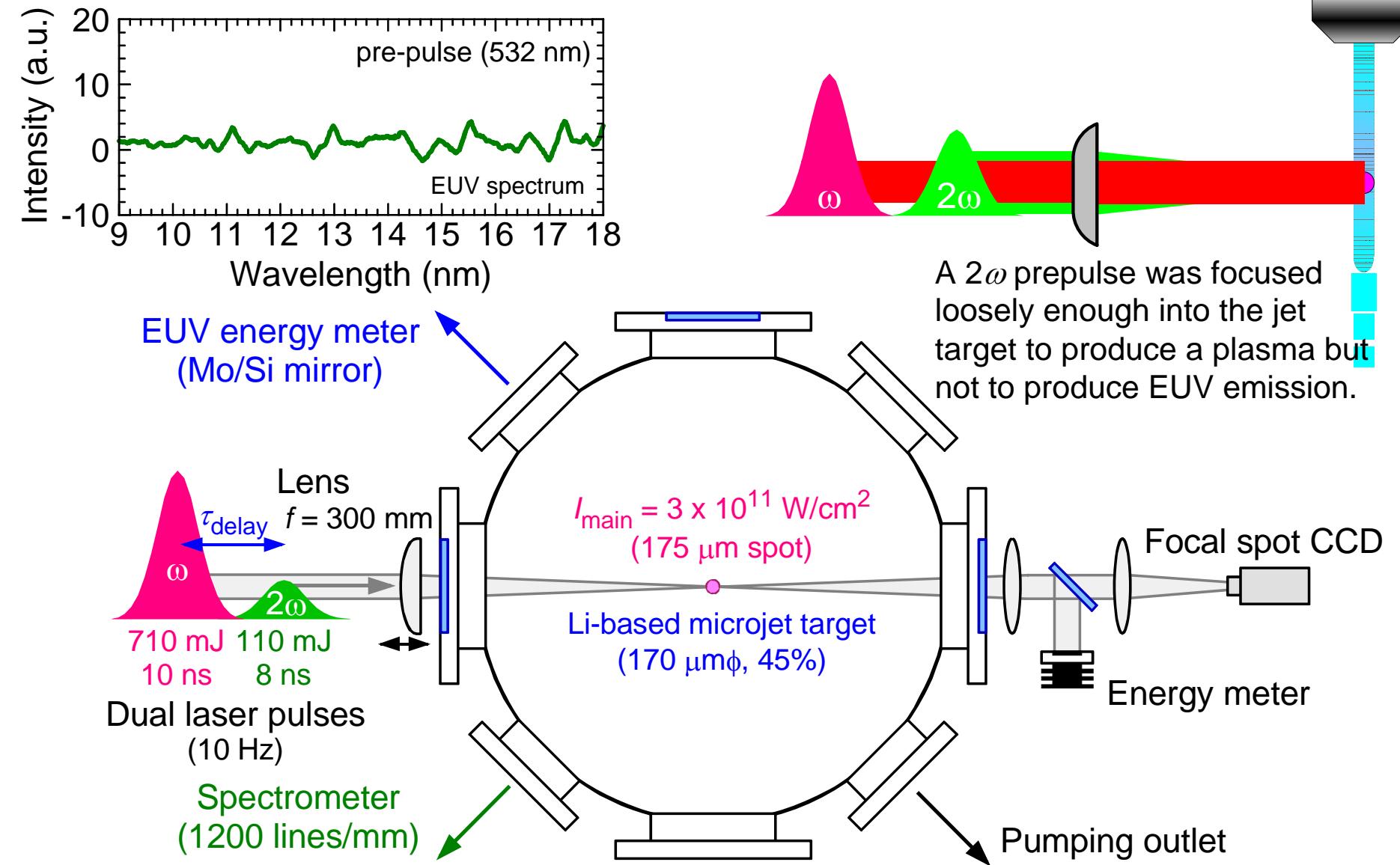
$$r_{\text{Jet}} = 40 \mu\text{m} \quad (2r_{\text{Jet}} = 80 \mu\text{m})$$

$$v_{\text{exp}} \approx c_s \approx 2 \times 10^7 \text{ cm/s}$$

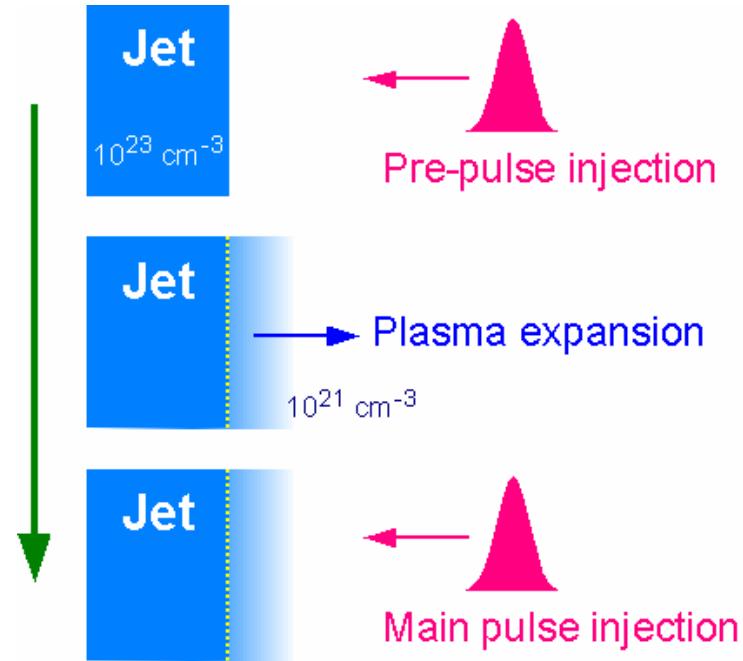
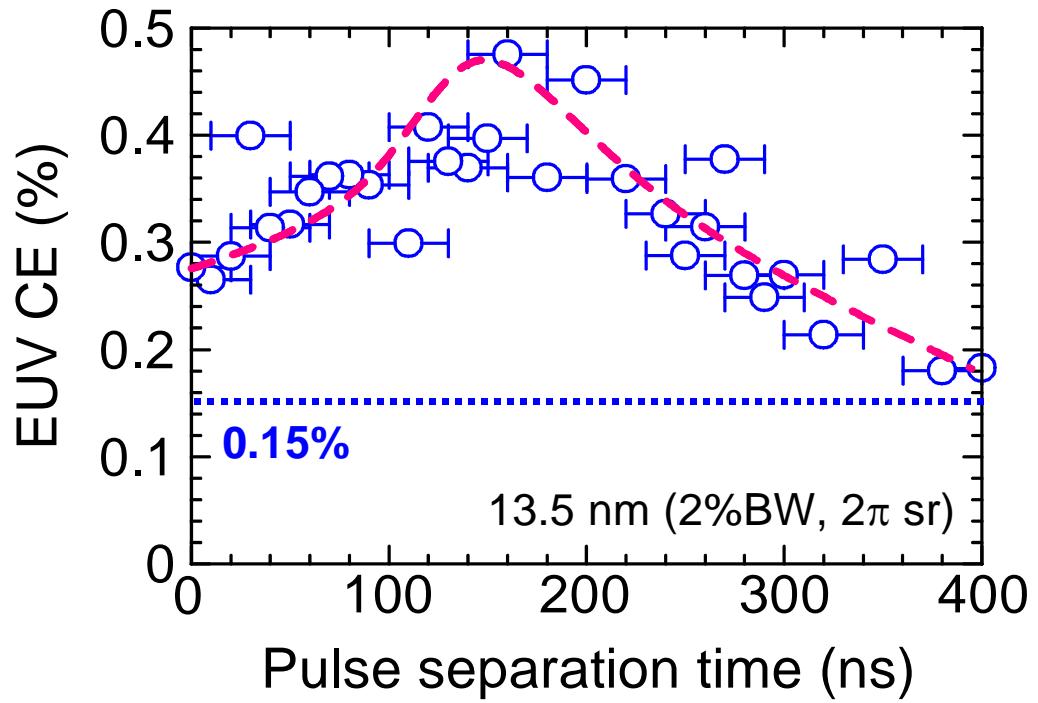


$$\tau_{\text{exp}} \approx 400 \text{ ps}$$

Experimental setup using dual nanosecond laser pulses



Enhancement of the EUV CE by use of dual nanosecond laser pulses



$$\tau_{\text{crit}} \approx \left(\frac{n_{e0}}{n_{\text{crit}}} \right)^{1/3} \frac{r_{\text{Jet}}}{v_{\text{Exp}}} \approx 80 \text{ ns}$$

$$n_{e0} = 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$n_{\text{crit}} = 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3} @ \lambda_L = 1 \mu\text{m}$$

$$2r_{\text{Jet}} = 170 \mu\text{m}$$

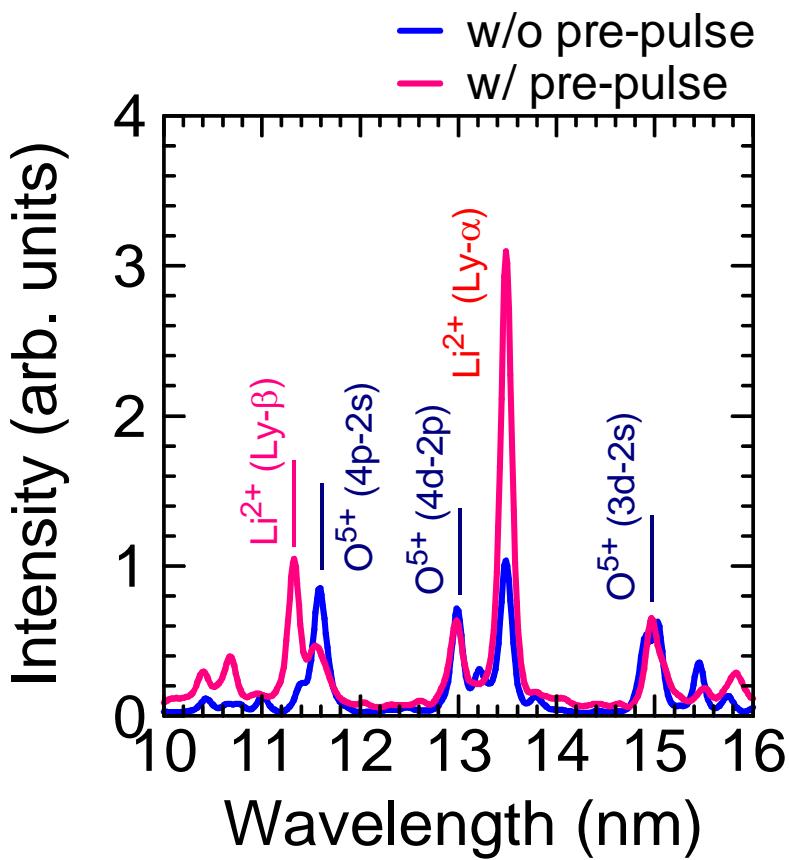
$$v_{\text{Exp}} = 5 \times 10^5 \text{ cm/s} @ 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

A plasma expansion time to its critical density was responsible for the optimal pulse separation time.

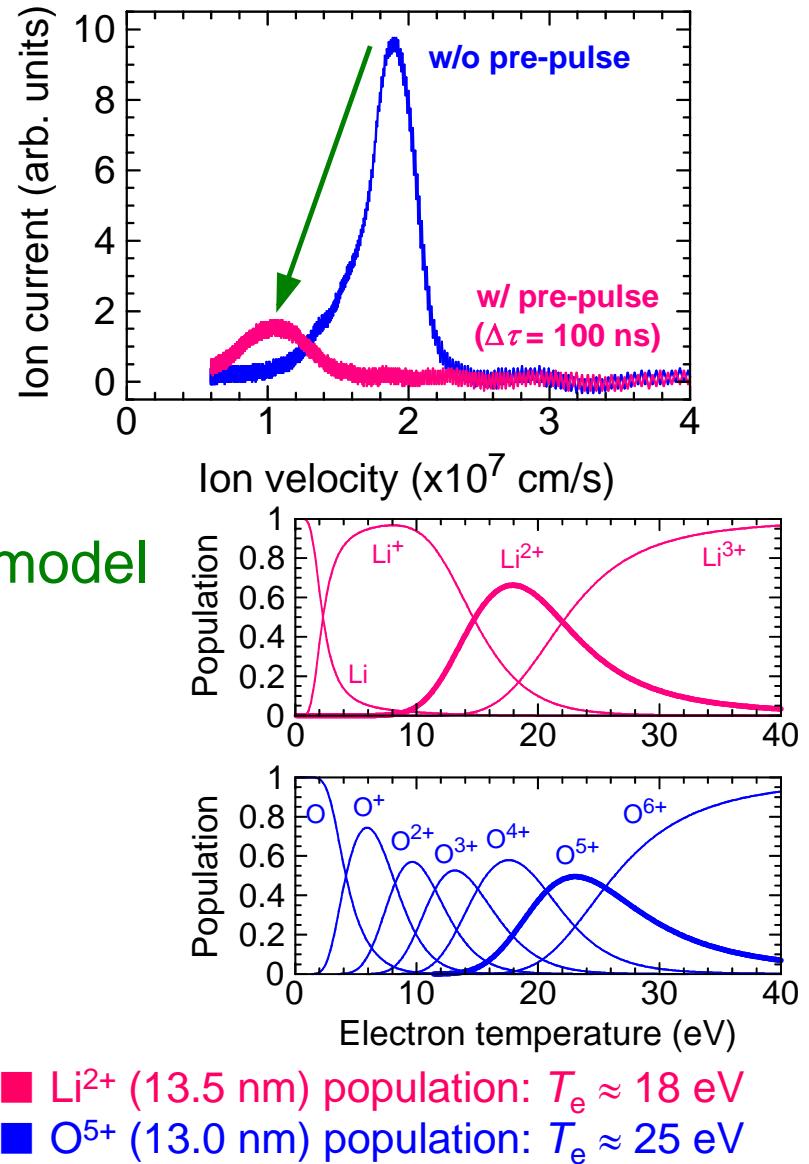
APB 80, 409 (2005).



Optimum plasma conditions obtained for the Lyman- α emission at 13.5 nm



CR model



Optimum dual laser parameters produced a plasma where Li 13.5 nm emission became dominant.

APB 80, 409 (2005).

Summary

- Optimum dual laser parameters for the EUV CE enhancement
 - Subpicosecond pulse width dependence revealed the optimal prepulse width of 400 fs, which corresponded to resonance absorption time of a short scale-length plasma.
 - Dual laser pulse irradiation increased the in-band EUV CE from 0.08% to 0.2% for subpicosecond laser pulses, and from 0.15% to 0.5% for nanosecond laser pulses.
 - Pulse separation time dependence indicated the optimum time separation of 500 ps and 100 ns for subpicosecond and nanosecond laser pulses, respectively, corresponding to the plasma density decrease to its critical density due to the plasma expansion. The difference of the optimum delay time is mainly due to the difference of the plasma expansion velocities determined by different laser intensities.