

## Observation of Ne-like Ar Soft X-ray Lasing in Fast Capillary Discharge

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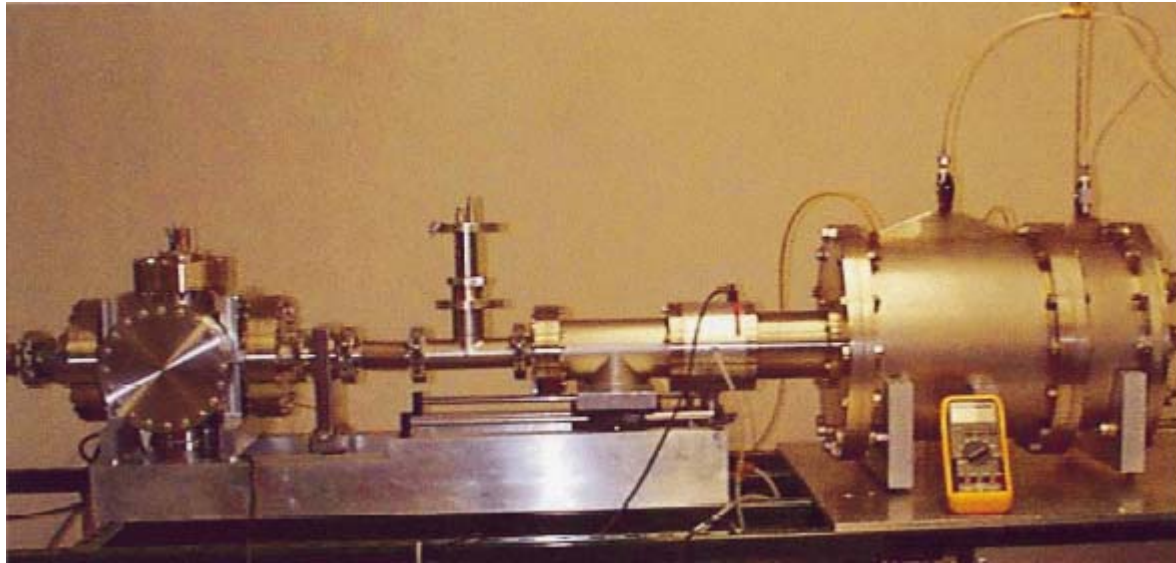
# Outline of Talk

- **Objective**
- **Experimental Setup**
- **Experimental Results**
  - **Pre-ionization**
  - **Lasing properties – Directivity, Gain, Spectroscopy**
  - **Parameter region – Current, Pressure**
- **Summary**

# Objective

- **Construction of compact X-ray laser**
  - High rep-rate, compact X-ray laser : Metrology
  - Lasing by minimum input energy
    - Minimum current, Initial filling pressure?
- **Effect of pre-ionization**
  - Suppression of instability
    - Observation with high speed camera
  - Output laser energy
- **Property of soft X-ray laser**
  - Directivity
  - Gain
  - Wavelength – Spectroscopic measurement

# Compact Soft X-ray Laser by J.J.Rocca et al.

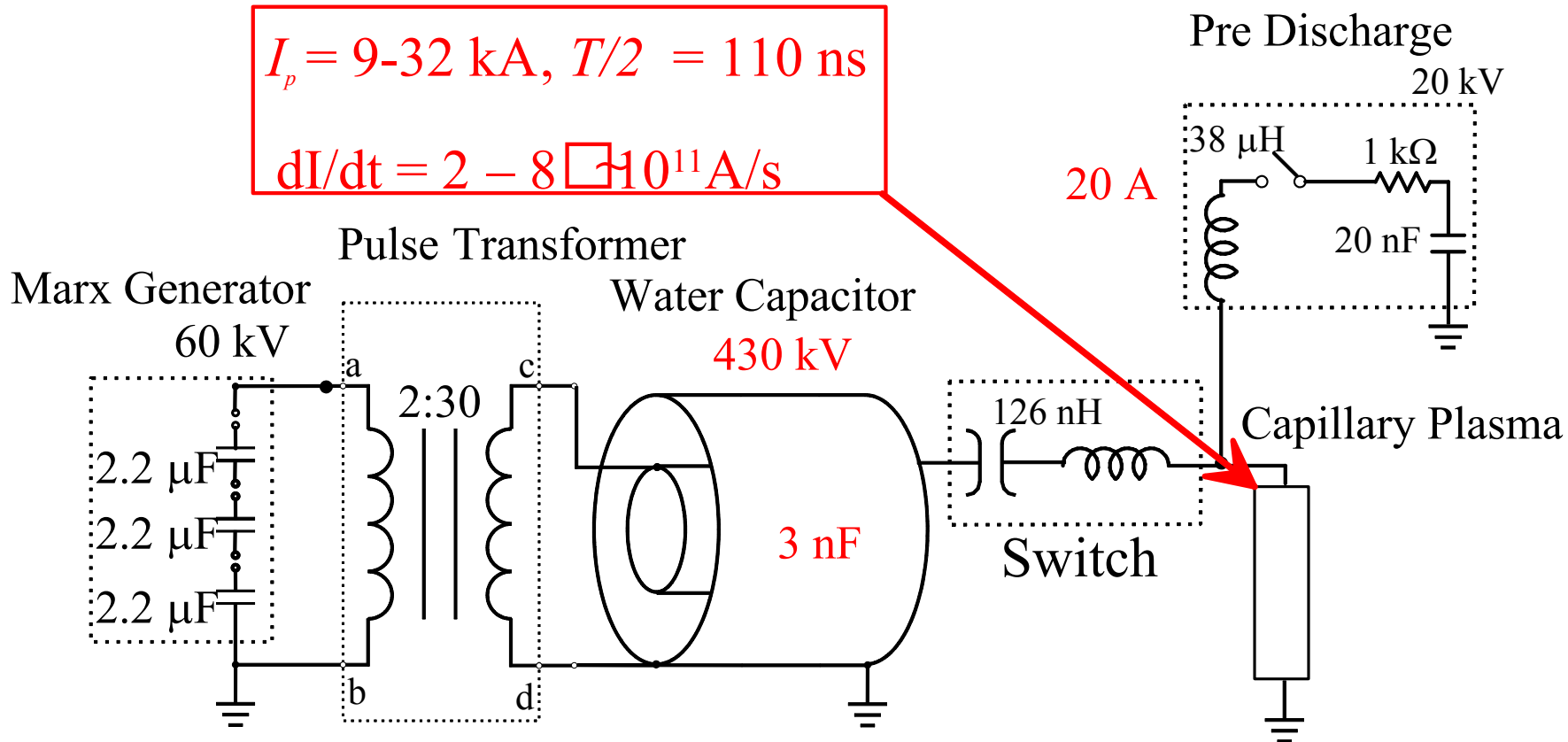


Laser parameter	
Pulse energy	0.88 mJ @ 4 Hz
Average pulse power	3.5 mW
Peak pulse power	0.6 MW
Divergence	$\approx 4.6$ mrad
Pulse width	1.2–1.5 ns
Pulse spectral brightness	$2 \cdot 10^{25}$ photons/(s·mm <sup>2</sup> ·mrad <sup>2</sup> ·0.01% bandwidth)

J.J.Rocca et al., C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, t. 1, Série IV, p. 1065–1081, 2000

# Electrical Circuit of Experimental Device

$$I_p = 9-32 \text{ kA}, T/2 = 110 \text{ ns}$$
$$dI/dt = 2 - 8 \times 10^{11} \text{ A/s}$$

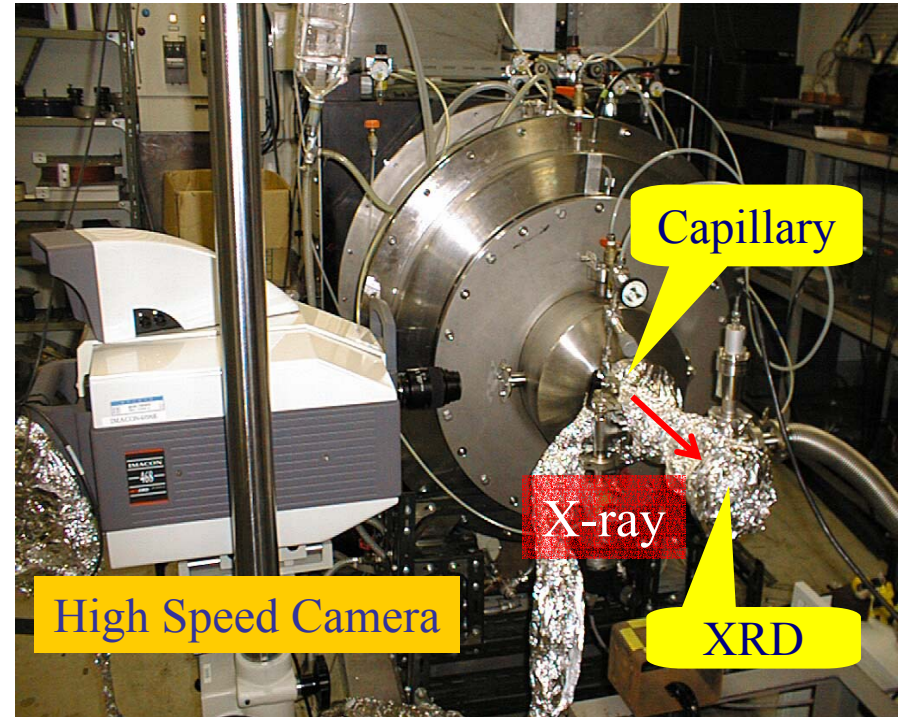
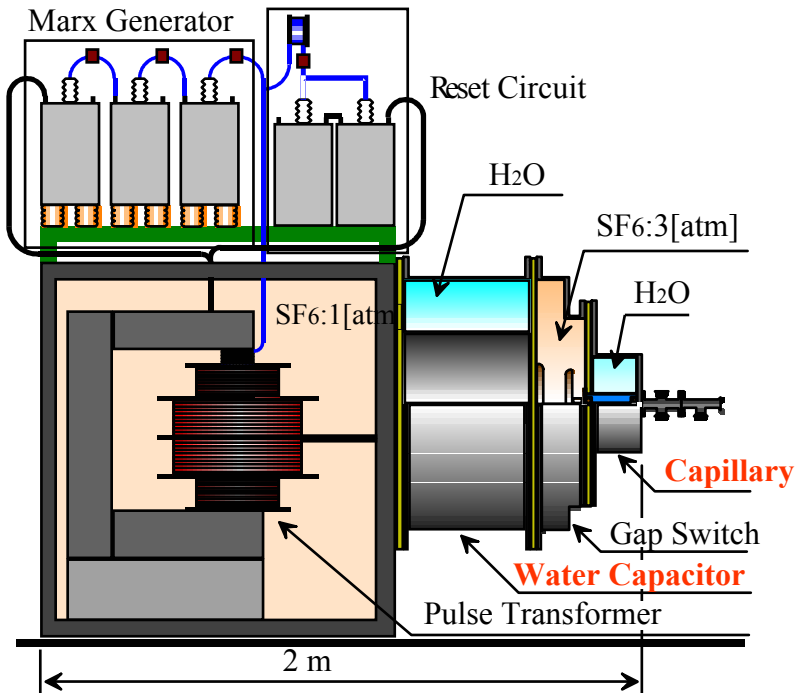


## Pulsed Power Generator

# Experimental Setup

## Capillary Z pinch (Soft X-ray Laser)

## Photograph



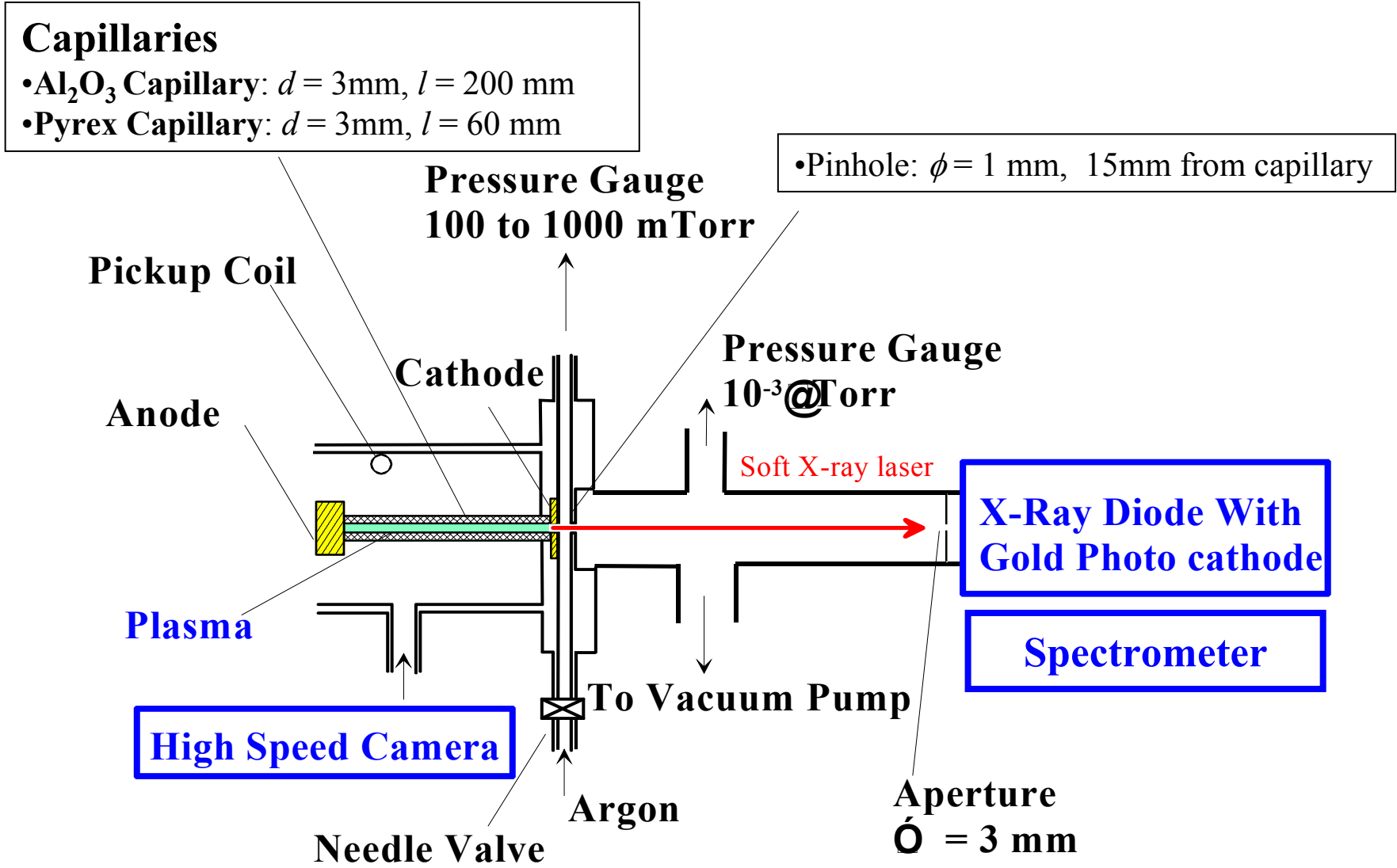
### Specification

**Water capacitor:** 3nF, Max. 900 kV (1.2 kJ)

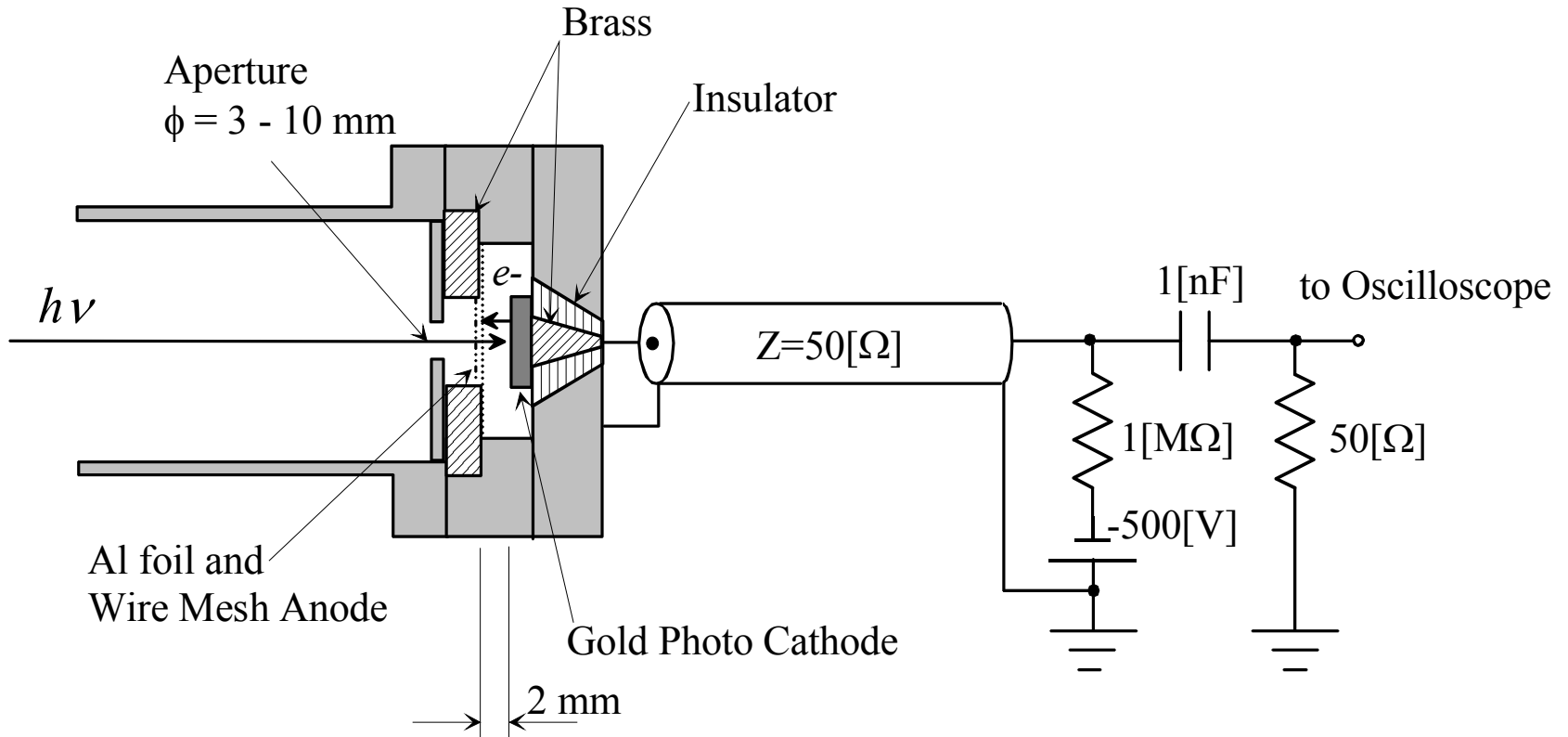
**Capillary:** Polyacetal, Pyrex or Almina Ceramics,  $\phi$ 3mm, 60-200 mm long

**Filling gas:** 100-1000 mTorr Ar

# Measurement System



# Electrical Circuit of XRD



**Aluminum foil filter of 0.8 or 2  $\mu\text{m}$  thick is used.**

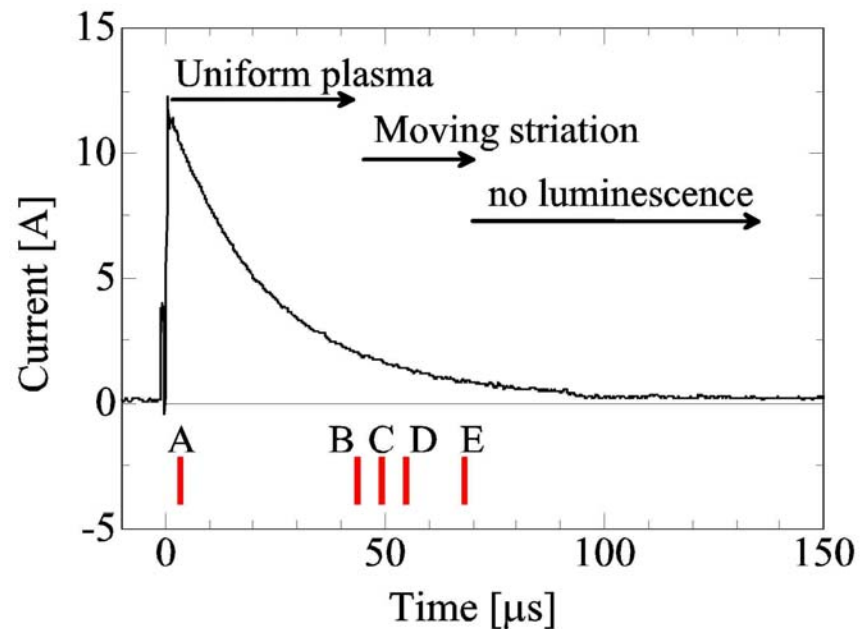


# Time Evolution of Pre-Discharge Plasma

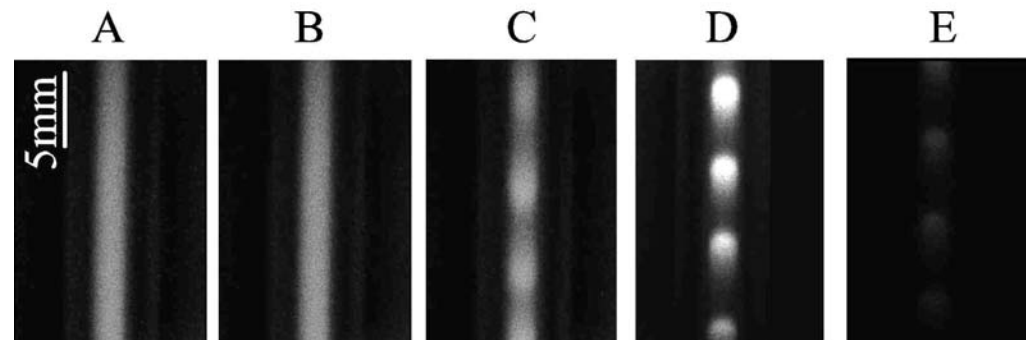
## Waveform of predischage current

### Discharge condition

- Pyrex Capillary:  $l = 60$  mm,  $d = 3$  mm
- Argon: 500 mTorr
- Predischage Current: 12 A

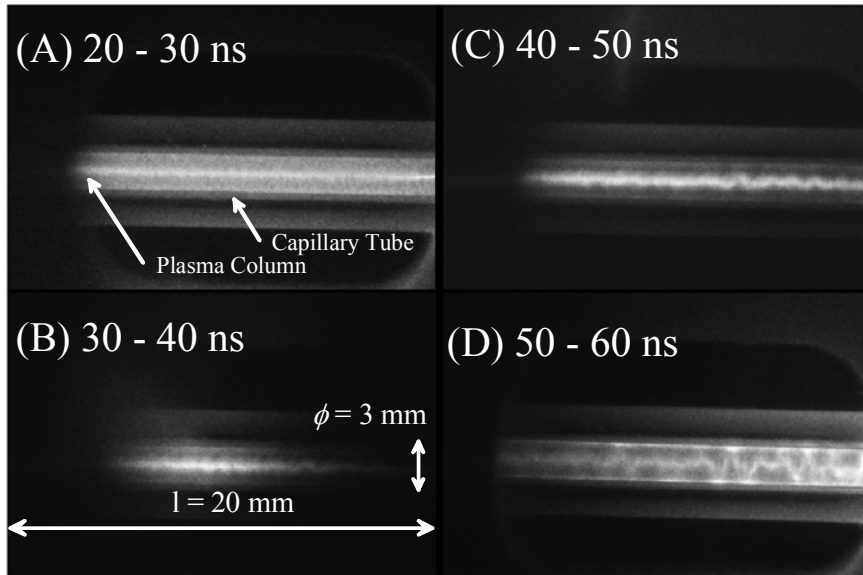


## Side-on Framing Photographs



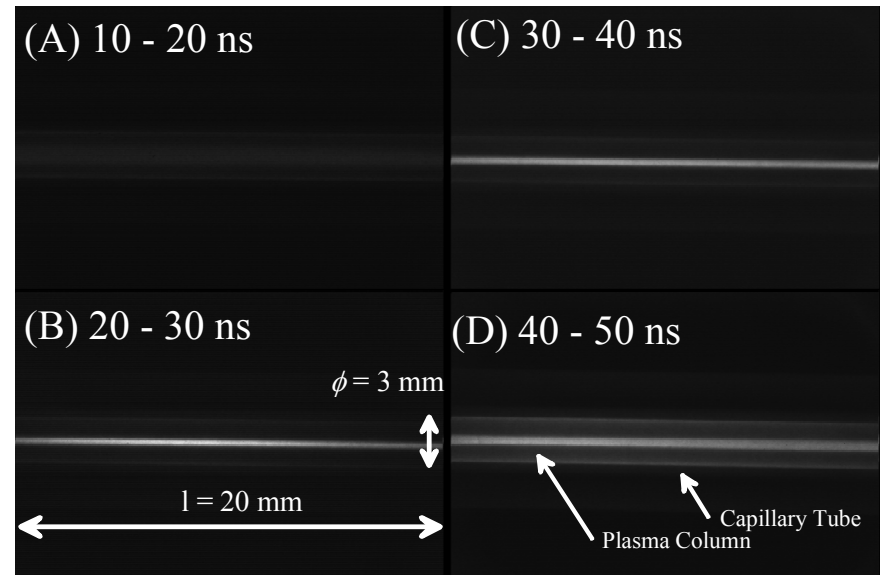
# Effect of Pre-ionization

## Without pre-discharge current

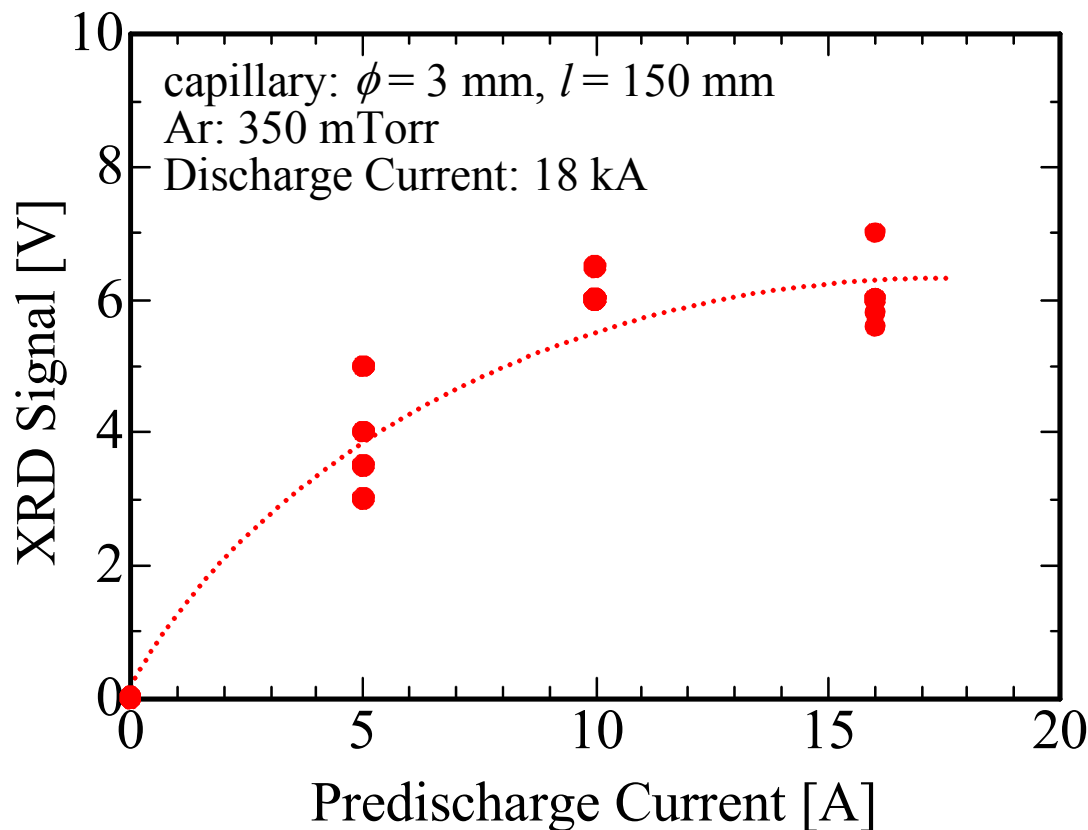


- Helical instabilities are observed
- Poor reproducibility

## With pre-discharge current of 10 A

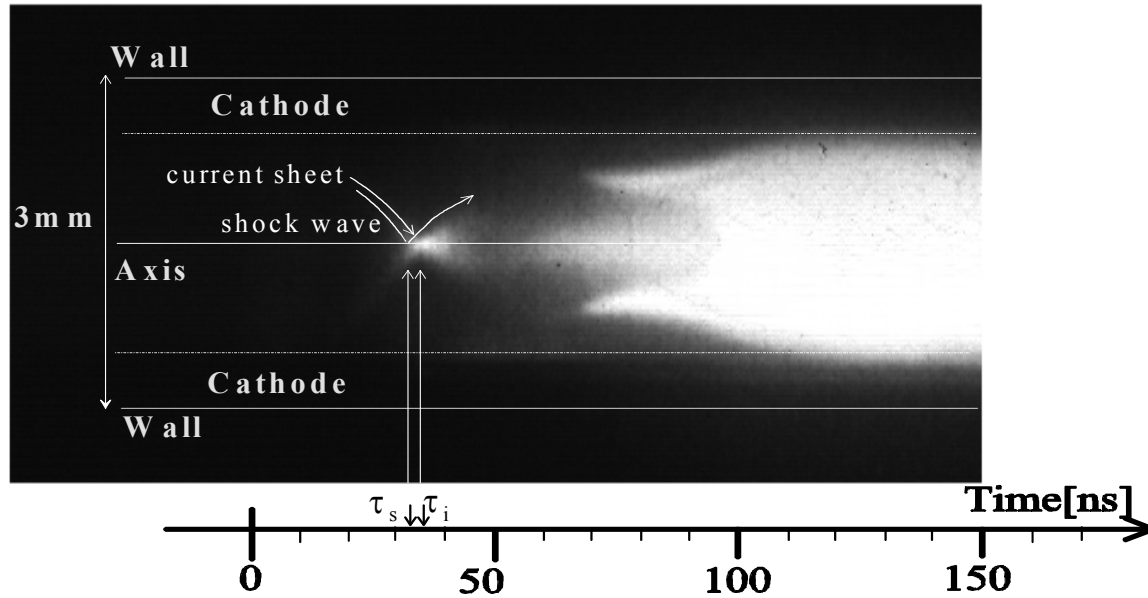


- Stable
- Highly repeatable
- Diameter of pinched plasma: 300 μm



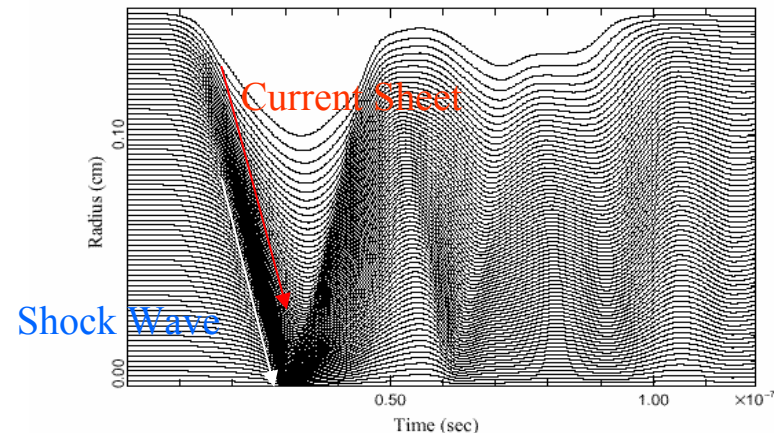
The unstable and low laser output at low pre-discharge current is possibly related to the growth of instabilities. Uniform pre-ionized plasma is essential for lasing.

## Streak Photograph and 1D-MHD Simulation Result



Initial Pressure : 500 mTorr Ar  
Capillary Diameter : 3 mm  
( $T_{ei} = 0.5$  eV,  $T_{ii} = 0.1$  eV)

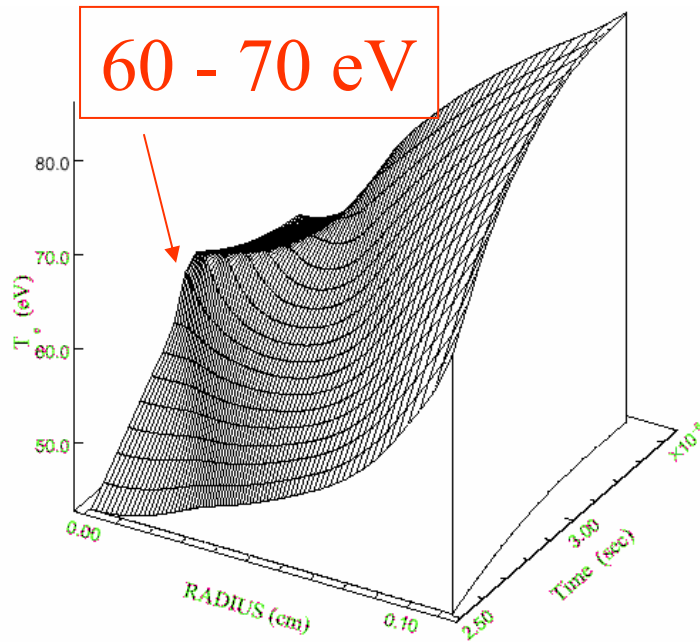
Shock wave heating and  
magnetic compression  
→ High heating efficiency



Ne-like Ar (469 Å)

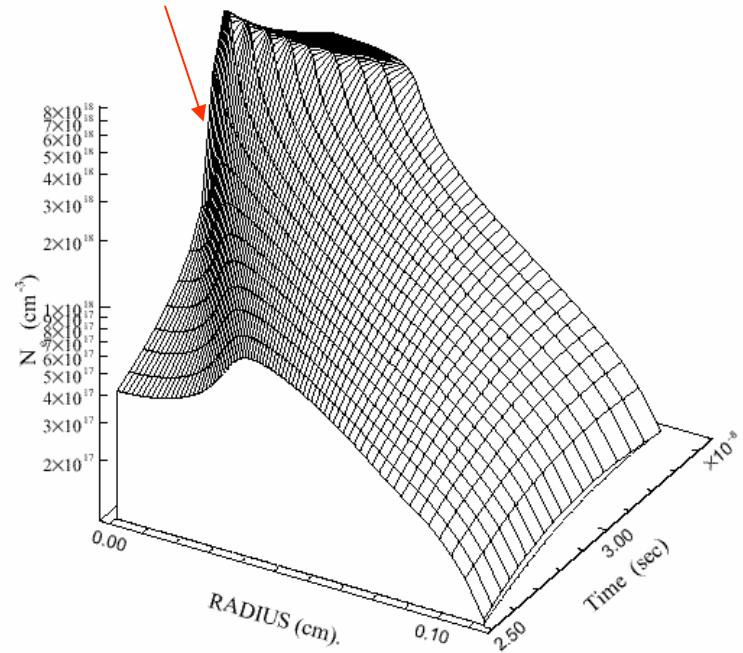
Te ~ 60 – 90 eV

Ne ~ 0.5 – 2 × 10<sup>19</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>



Time-spatial evolution of electron temperature

2 – 8 × 10<sup>18</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>

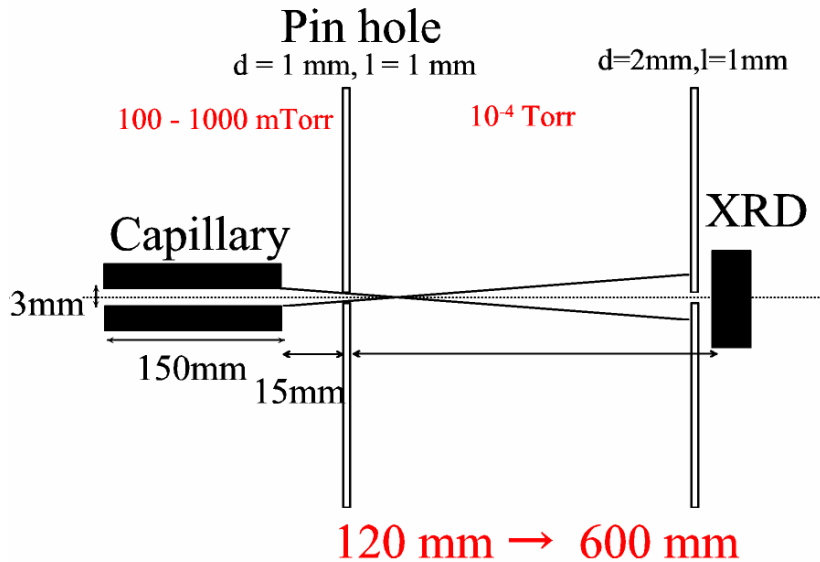


Time-spatial evolution of electron density

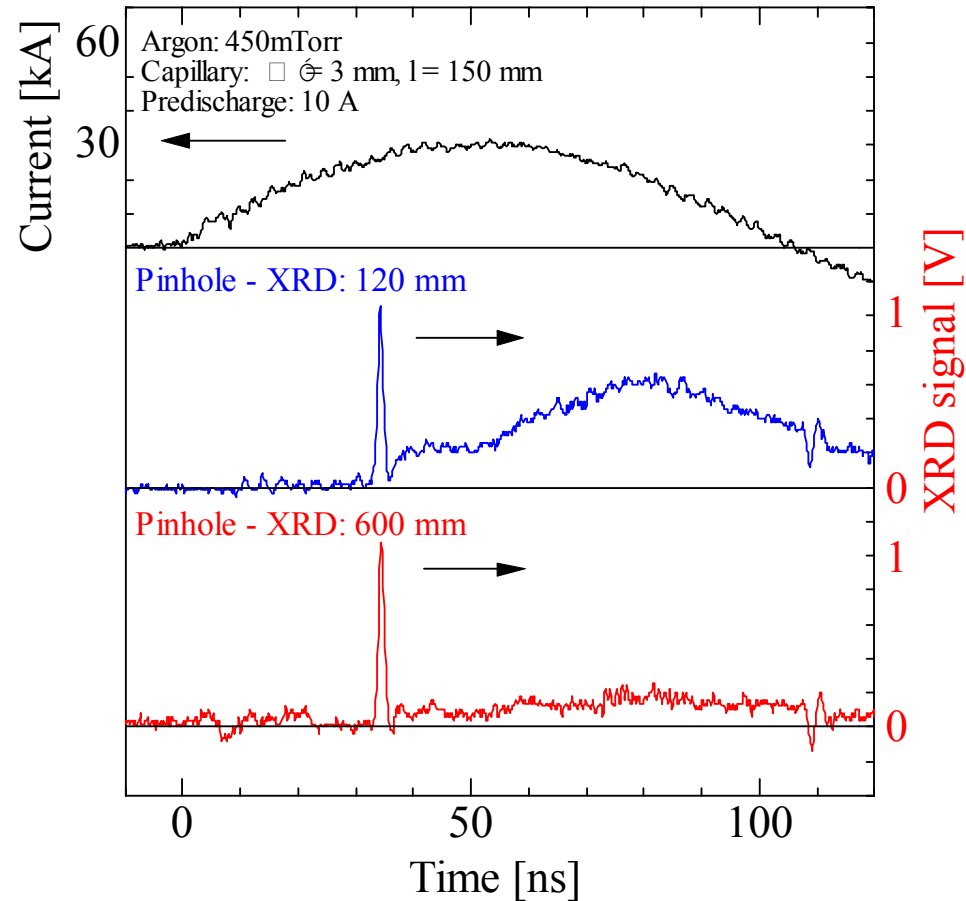
# Directivity of Spike Output

## Discharge conditions

- Ceramics Capillary:  $l = 150 \text{ mm}$ ,  $d = 3 \text{ mm}$
- Argon: 450 mTorr
- Predischarge: 10 A

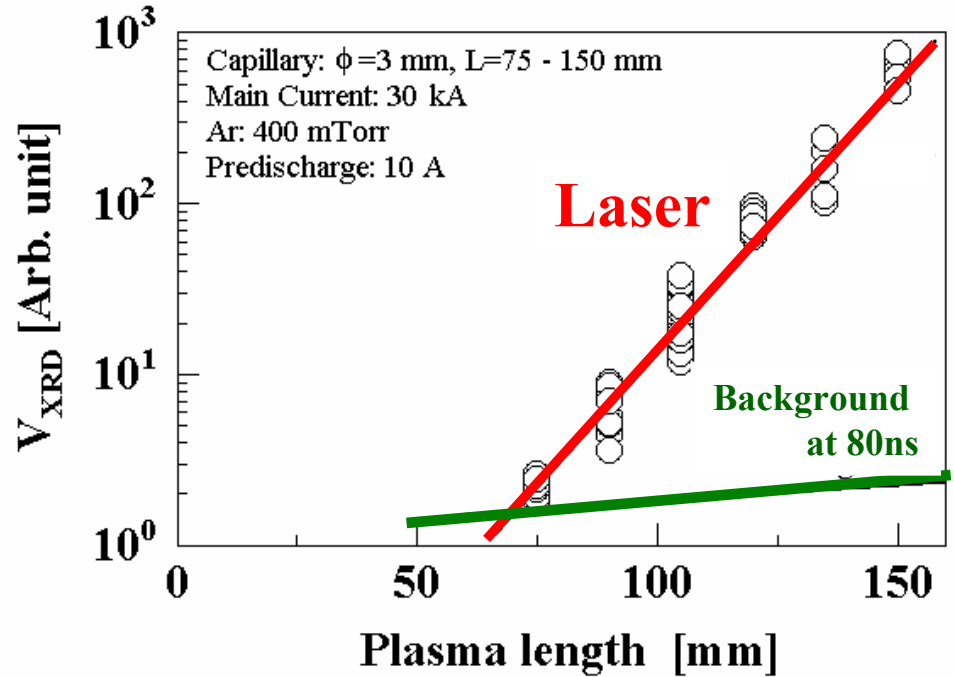
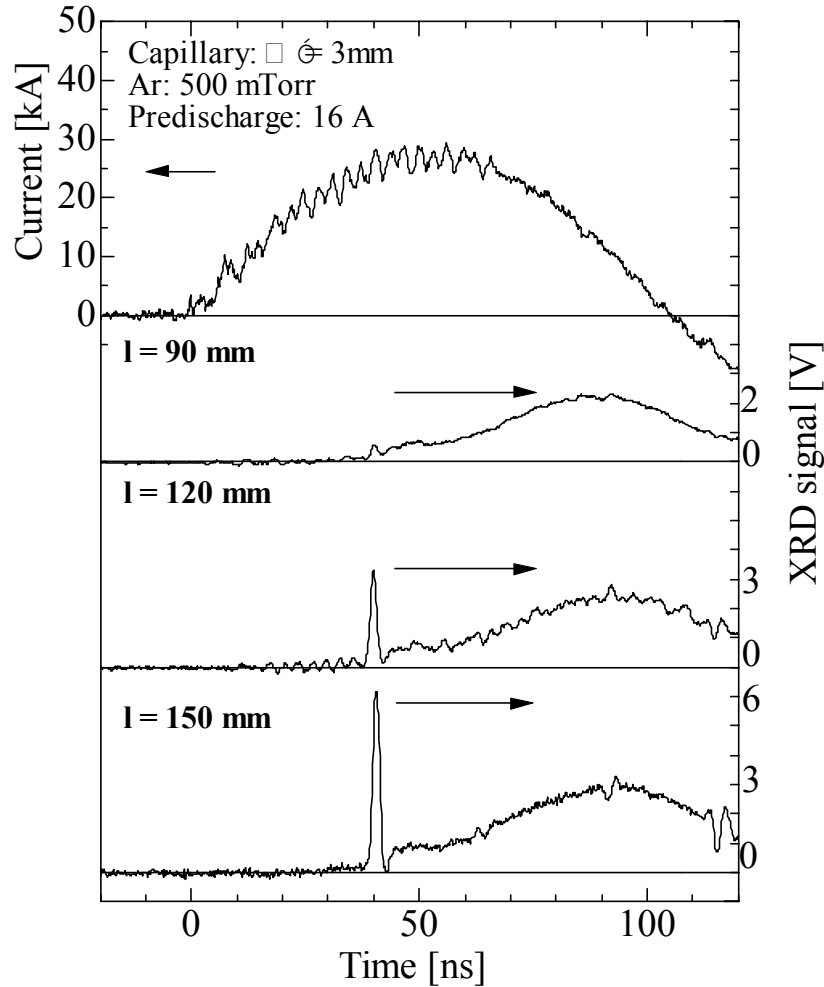


To confirm the directivity of laser, the distance from the capillary to the XRD is changed from 120mm to 600mm



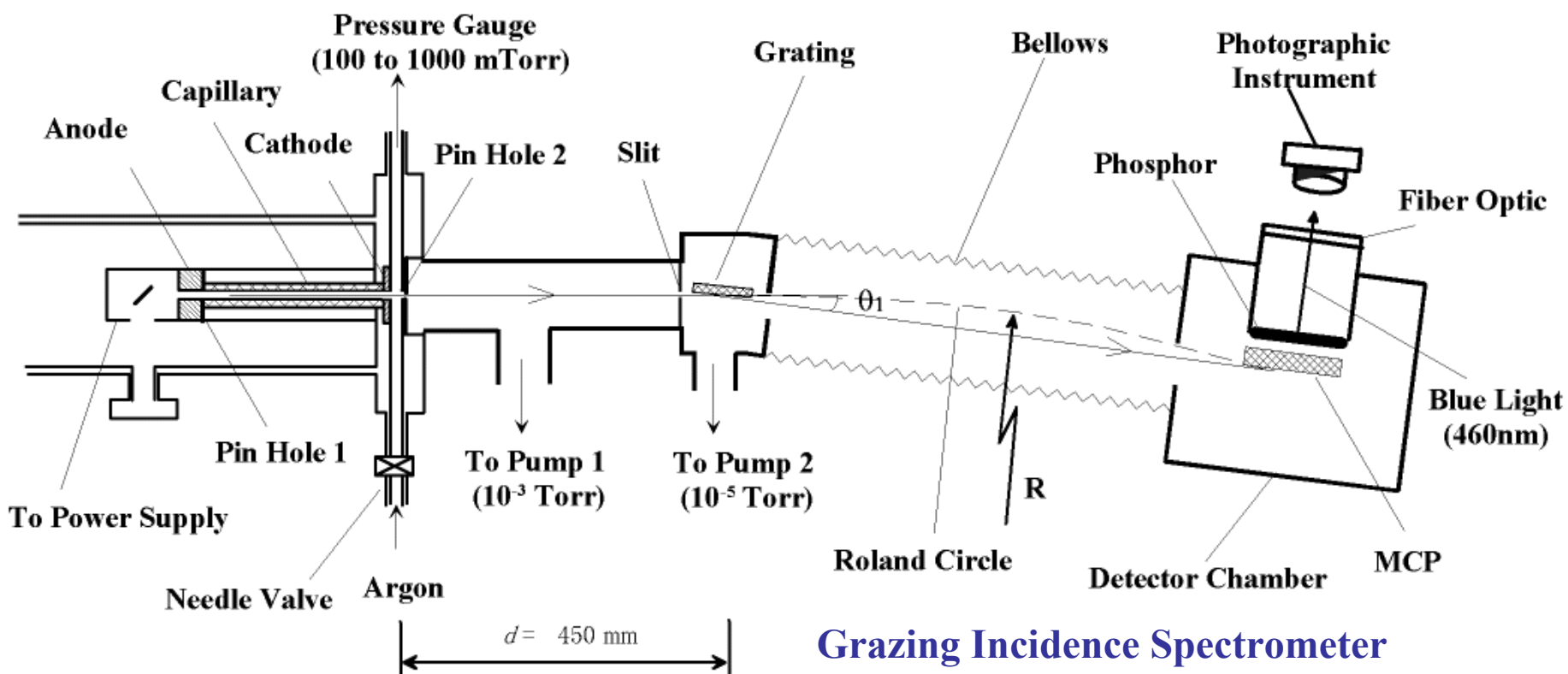
XRD output dependence on distance between capillary and detector

# Gain-Length Product



**XRD output dependence on capillary length**

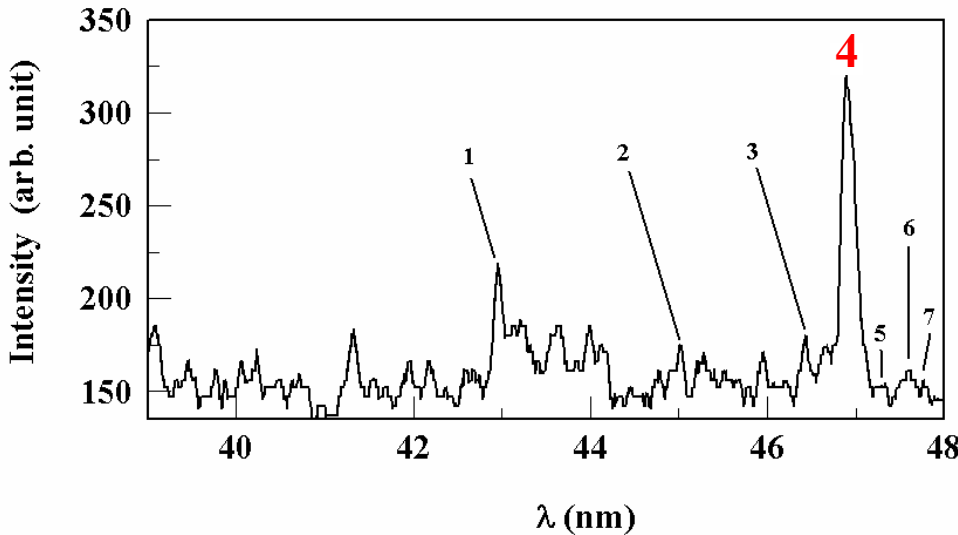
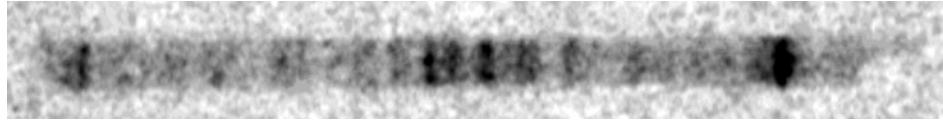
Maximum gain-length product  $gl$  of 12 ( $g = 0.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and Laser output energy of 5 - 6  $\mu\text{J}$  are obtained.



**Grazing Incidence Spectrometer  
(McPherson 248/310G)**



# Spectrum

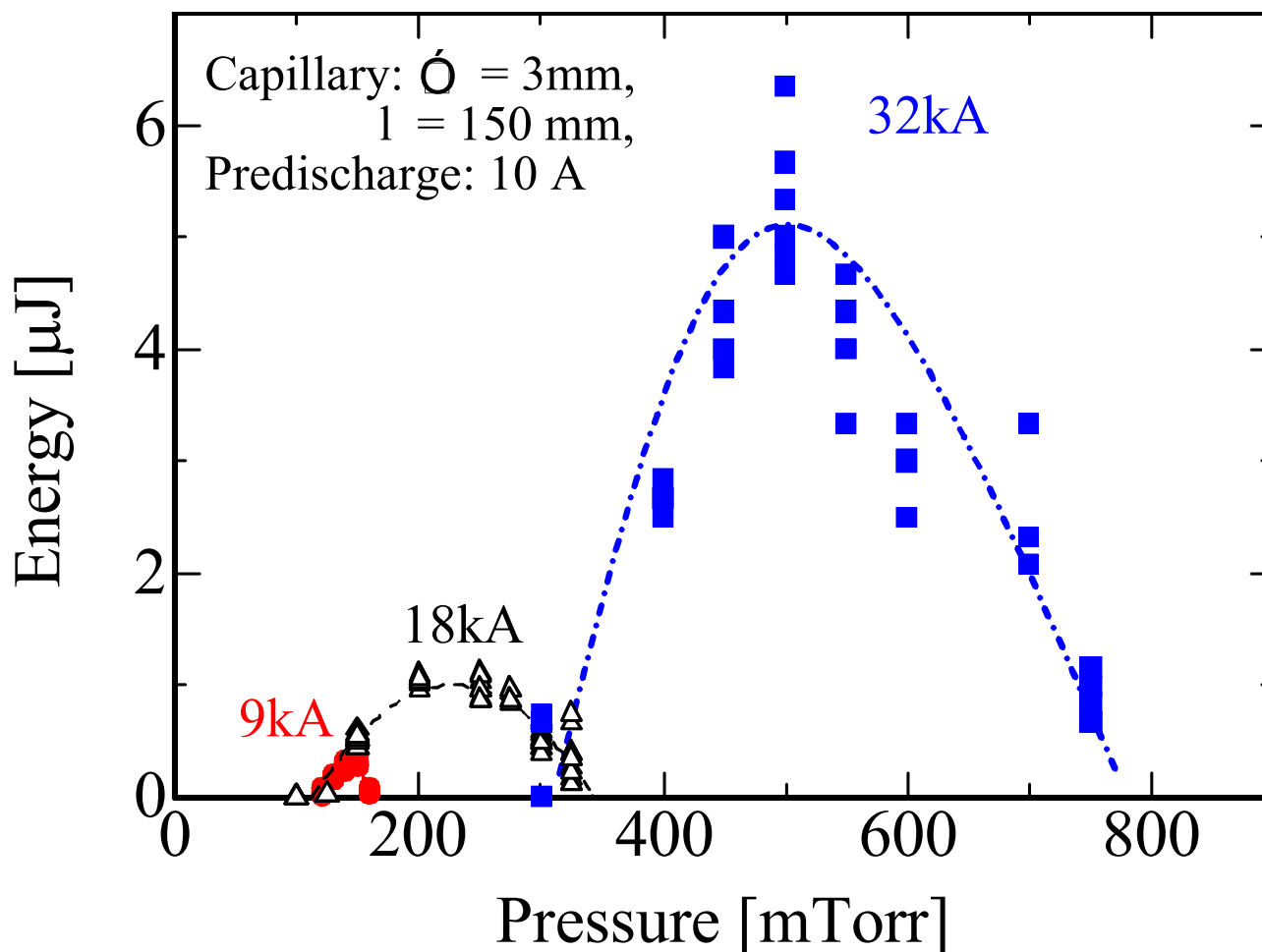


Label	Series	Transition	$\lambda$ (Å)
1	<i>Ar IX</i>	$3s\ ^3P_1 - 3p\ ^1S_0$	431.123
2		$3p\ ^1P_1 - 3d\ ^1P_1$	450.660
3		$3p\ ^1P_1 - 3d\ ^1P_1$	465.118
4		$3s\ ^1P_1 - 3p\ ^1S_0$	468.793
5	<i>Ar VII</i>	$3s3p - 3s3d$ ( $J = 0-1$ )	473.934
6		$3s3p - 3s3d$ ( $J = 1-2$ )	475.654
7		$3s3p - 3s3d$ ( $J = 2-3$ )	479.379

**Discharge condition**  
**Capillary :  $\phi 3, l = 150$  mm**  
 **$I = 22$  kA**  
 **$p = 300$  mTorr**

After P.S.Antsiferov et al.,  
*Physica Scripta*, Vol.62, pp.127-131, 2000

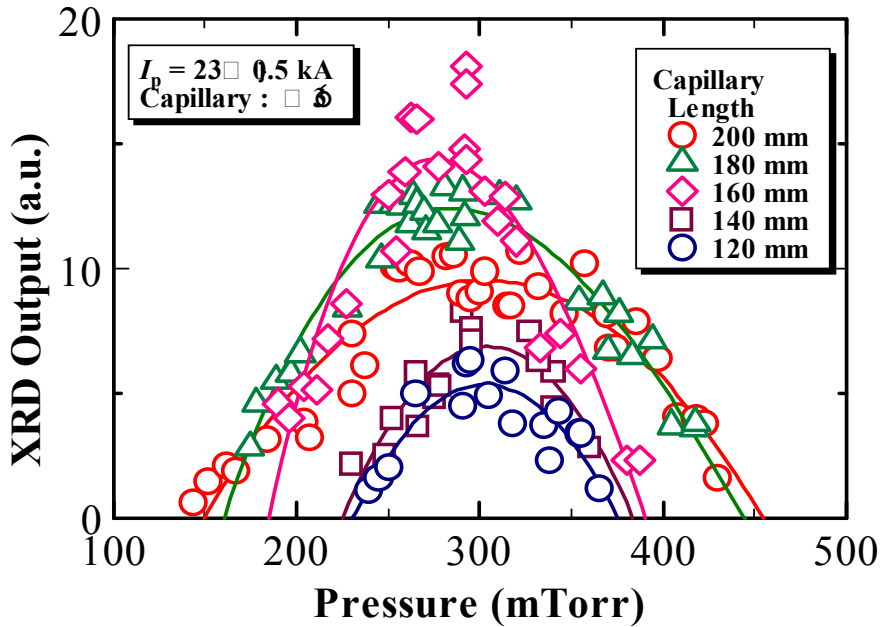
# Current and Pressure Range of Lasing



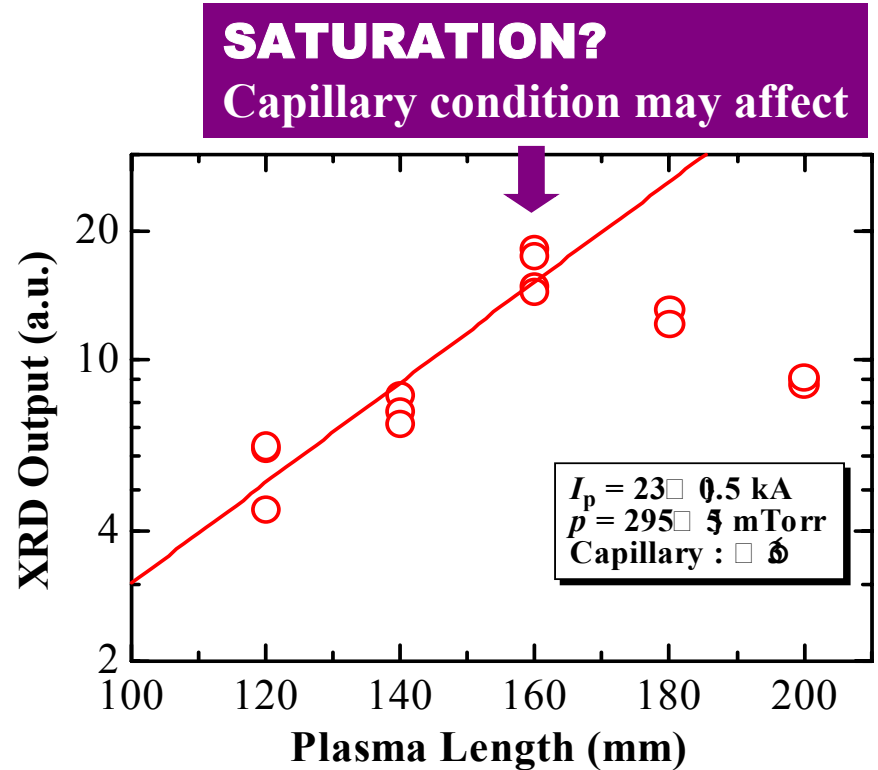
Lasing may be obtained with a current of below 9kA and over 32 kA, with adequate gas pressure.

# Saturation of Laser Output

Capillary :  $\varphi 3, l=200$  mm  
 $I = 23 \pm 0.5$  kA



XRD Output vs Pressure



XRD Output vs Plasma Length

# Summary

- **Ne-like Ar Soft X-ray Lasing was observed**
  - **Current of 9-32kA and half period of 110ns**
  - **Ceramic capillary :  $\varphi=3\text{mm}$ ,  $l = 150, 200\text{mm}$**
  - **Argon gas pressure: 150-800mTorr**
  - **Maximum  $gl=12$  ( $g=0.8\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) at 32kA, 500mTorr**
  - **Pre-discharge current: 5-15A**
- **Sufficient pre-discharge current is essential for**
  - **Production of uniform pre-ionized plasma**
  - **Suppression of instabilities of pinched plasma**
  - **Increase of laser output and improvement of reproducibility**
- **Lasing at current of less than 10 kA may be possible**
  - **Lower laser output energy**
  - **Compact power supply**
  - **Higher rep-rate operation**



**Děkuju vám**

**Thank you**