ARPA-E LENR Workshop
October 21, 2021

Toward a LENR Reference Experiment

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Questions addressed in this presentation:

A. What kind of diagnostic evidence is needed “that is convincing to the wider scientific community”*?

B1. What is the common denominator of different LENR systems?

B2. How does that inform the range of diagnostic evidence available?

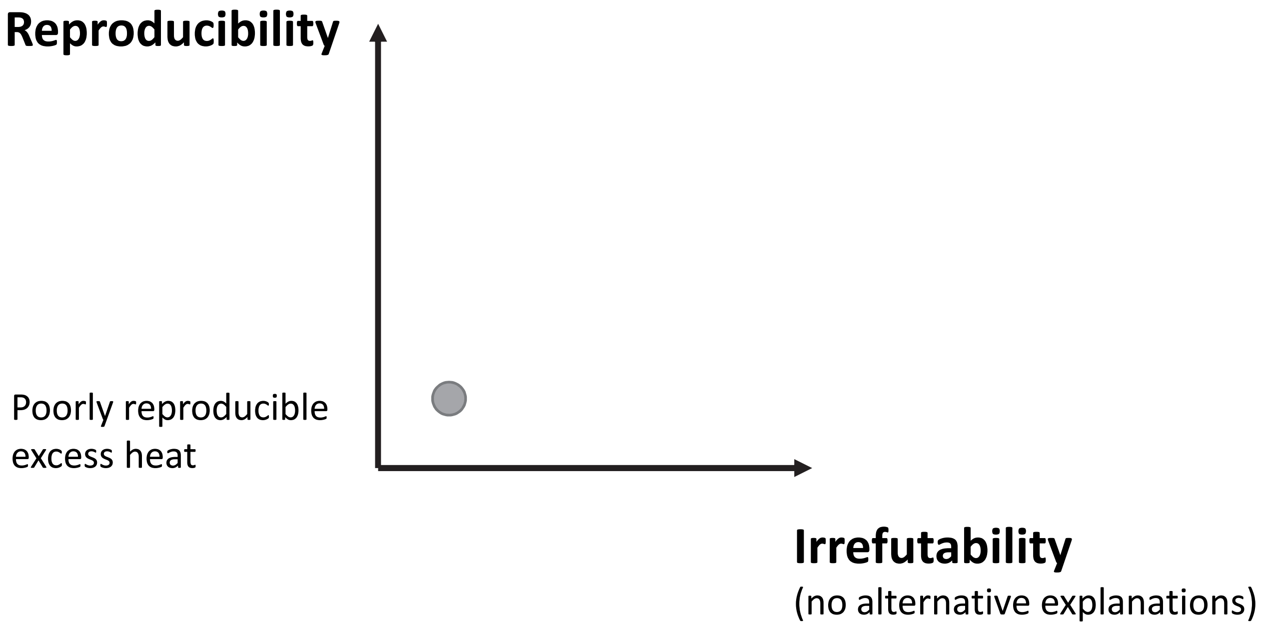
C. Implications for future research:
Given the above, how to move forward (two options discussed)?

* See workshop objectives at https://arpa-e.energy.gov/events/low-energy-nuclear-reactions-workshop: “ARPA-E envisions a potential two-phase approach toward breaking this stalemate [where adequate funding is not accessible to establish irrefutable evidence and understanding of LENR, and lack of the latter precludes the field from accessing adequate funding]: [..] Support targeted R&D toward establishing at least one on-demand, repeatable LENR experiment with diagnostic evidence that is convincing to the wider scientific community (focus of this workshop).”

A. What does a convincing LENR reference experiment entail?

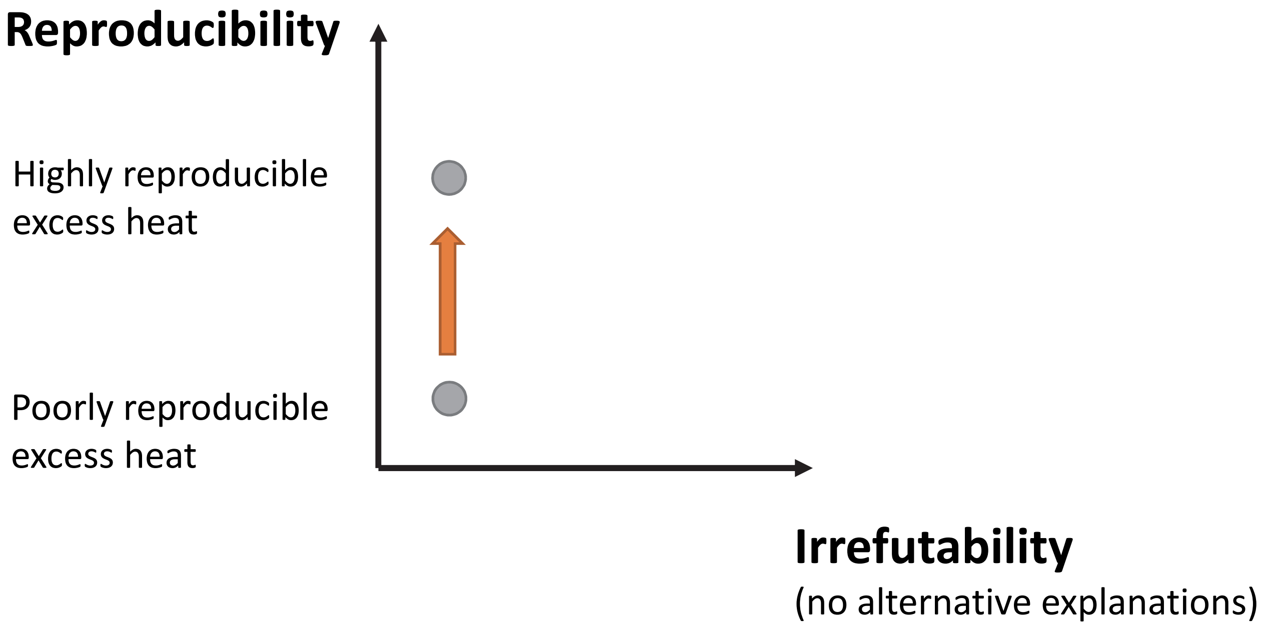
Toward a LENR reference experiment

The reproducibility challenge and the irrefutability challenge



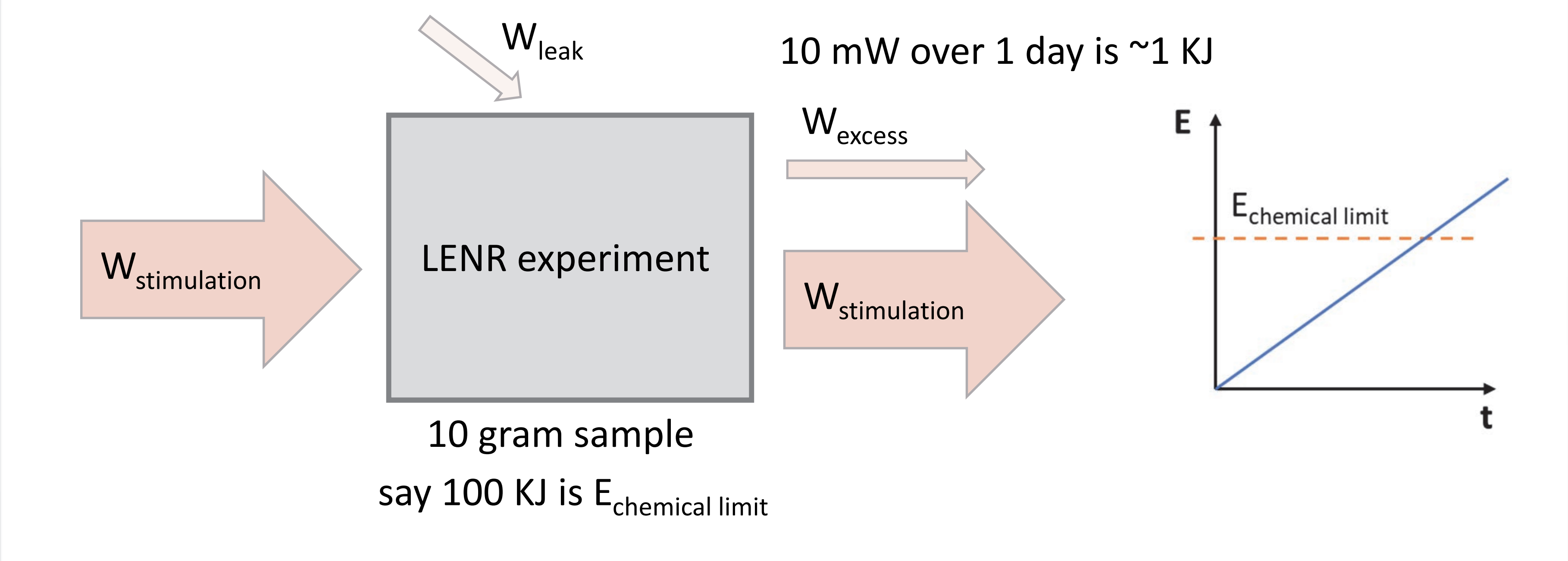
Toward a LENR reference experiment

The reproducibility challenge and the irrefutability challenge



The reproducibility challenge and the irrefutability challenge

Example illustrating how highly reproducible excess heat can still be ambiguous

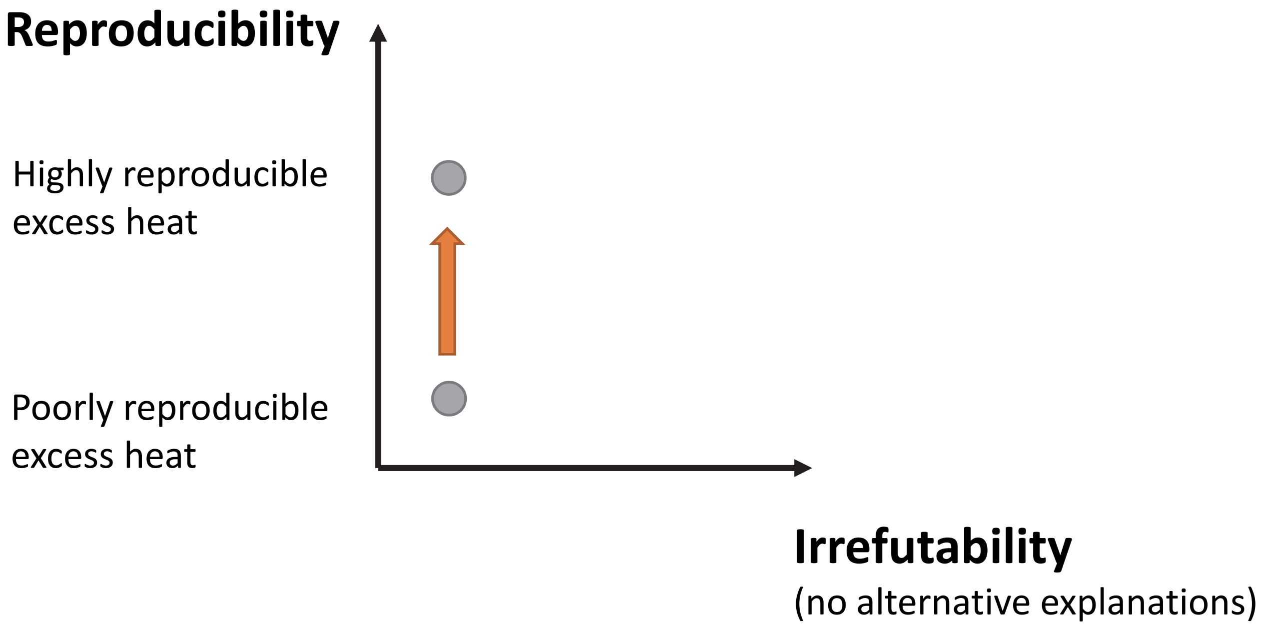


Irrefutability

(no alternative explanations)

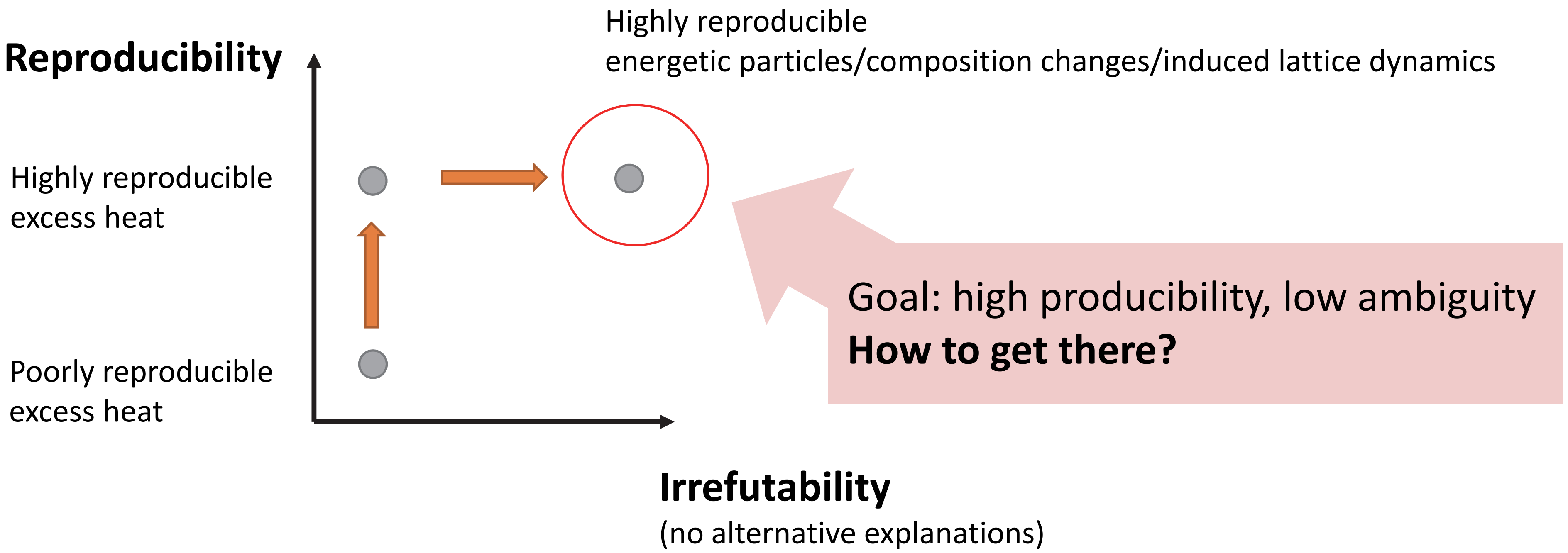
Toward a LENR reference experiment

The reproducibility challenge and the irrefutability challenge

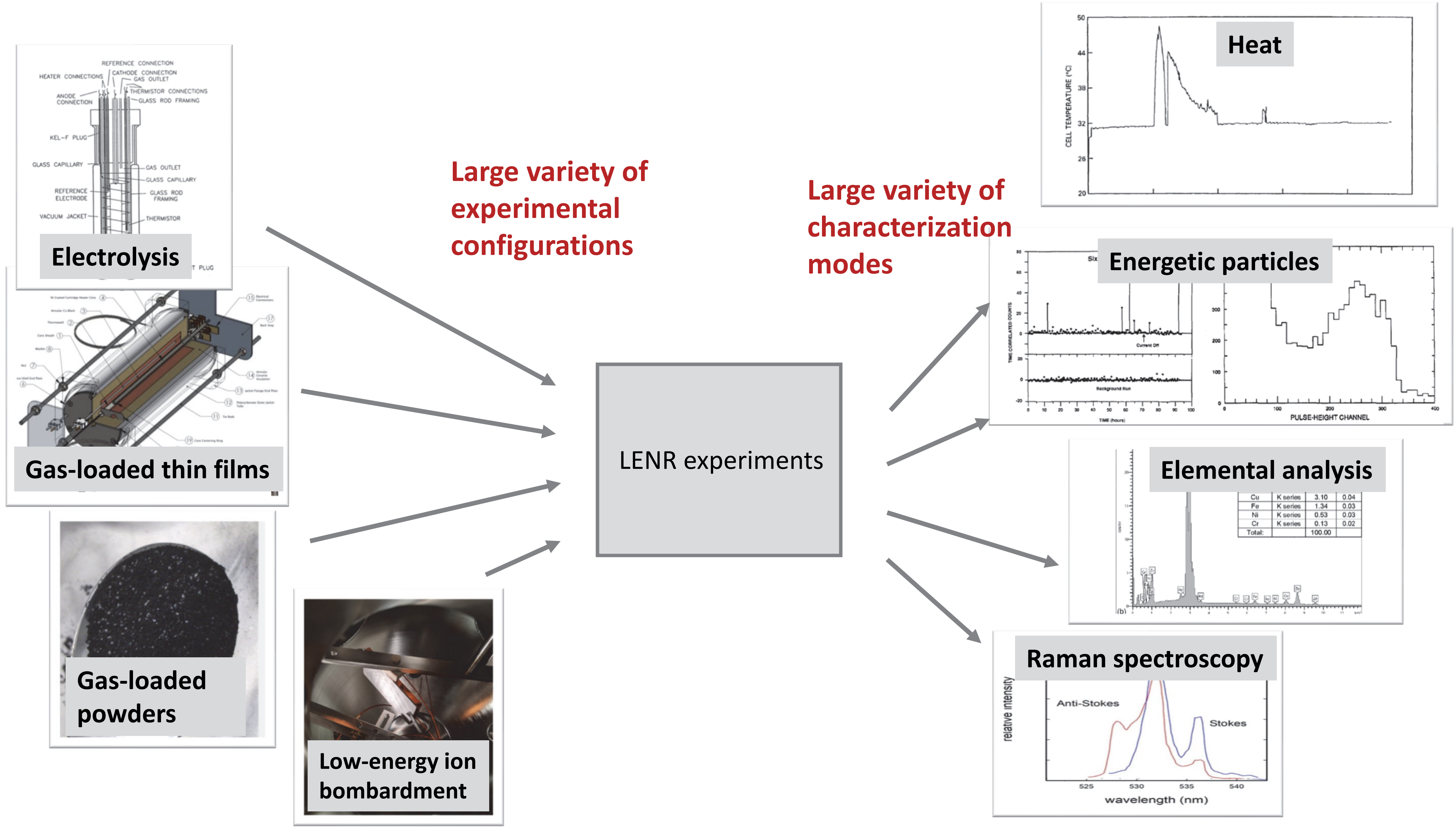


Toward a LENR reference experiment

The reproducibility challenge and the irrefutability challenge

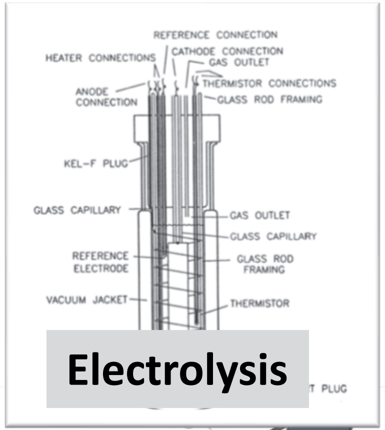


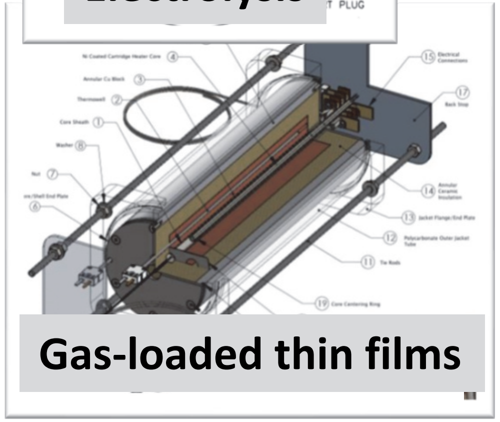
B1. Taxonomy of LENR experiments and characterization modes

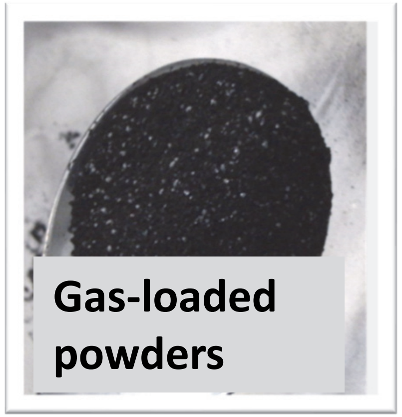


Large variety of experimental configurations
Electrolysis
Gas-loaded thin films
Gas-loaded powders
Low-energy ion bombardment
LENR experiments
Large variety of characterization modes
Heat
Energetic particles
Elemental analysis
Raman spectroscopy
CELL TEMPERATURE (°C)
PULSE-HEIGHT CHANNEL
Anti-Stokes
Stokes
relative intensity
wavelength (nm)

Large variety of experimental configurations







LENR experiments

SOLID-STATE STRUCTURE

- Bulk (foils)
- Thin films (sputtered or electrodeposited)
- Powders (with embedded nanoparticles)

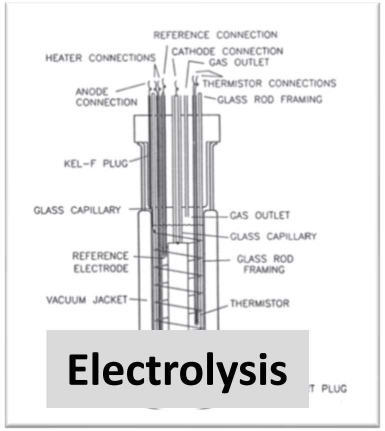
HYDROGEN LOADING

- Gas pressure
- Electrolysis
- Ion implant

STIMULATION

- Laser
- Hydrogen diffusion
- Ion bombardment
- Electric pulses
- Temperature (300-1000 C)

(exemplary taxonomy, not exhaustive)



SOLID-STATE STRUCTURE	HYDROGEN LOADING	STIMULATION
Bulk (foils)	Gas pressure	Laser
Thin films (sputtered or electrodeposited)	**Electrolysis**	**Hydrogen diffusion**
Powders (with embedded nanoparticles)	Ion implant	Ion bombardment
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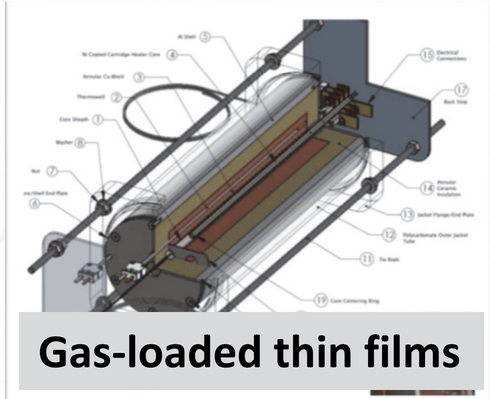

Gas-loaded thin films

SOLID-STATE STRUCTURE	HYDROGEN LOADING	STIMULATION
Bulk (foils)	Gas pressure	Laser
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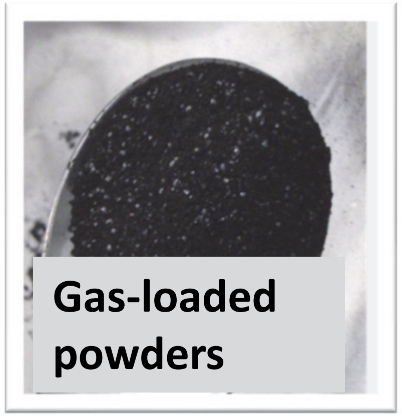

SOLID-STATE STRUCTURE

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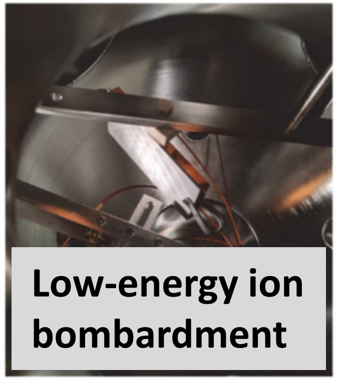

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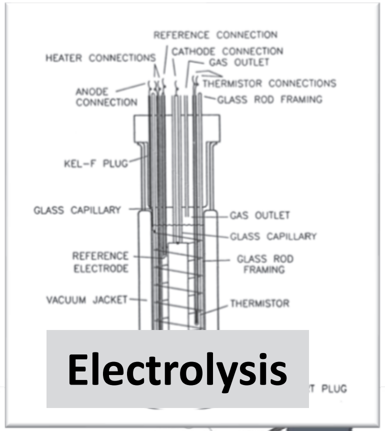
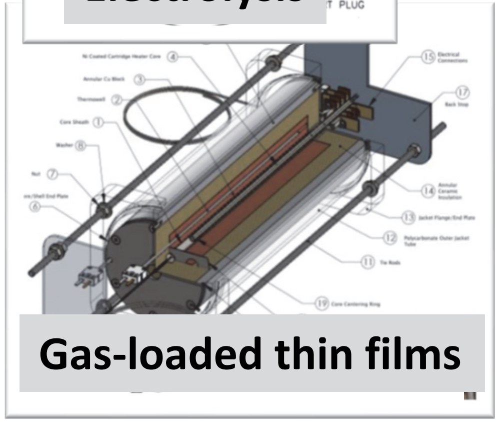
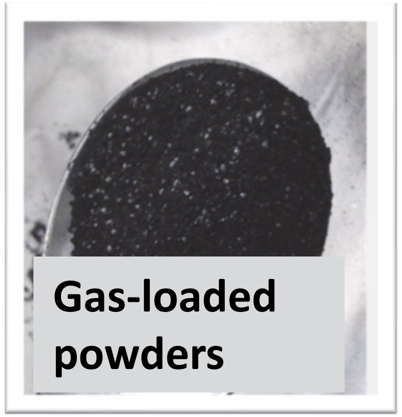
Large variety of experimental configurations







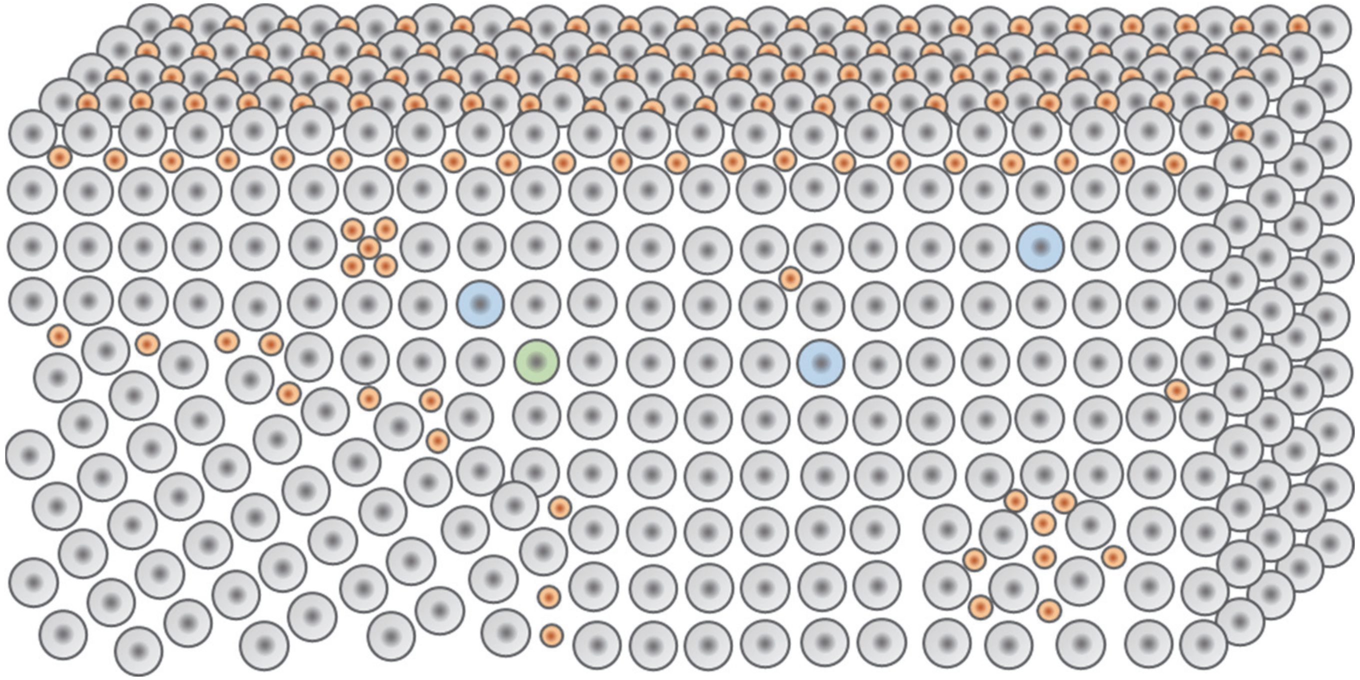
LENR experiments

Common denominator at the nano level

LENR experiments

Common denominator at the nano level

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of dynamical stimulation (energy in)

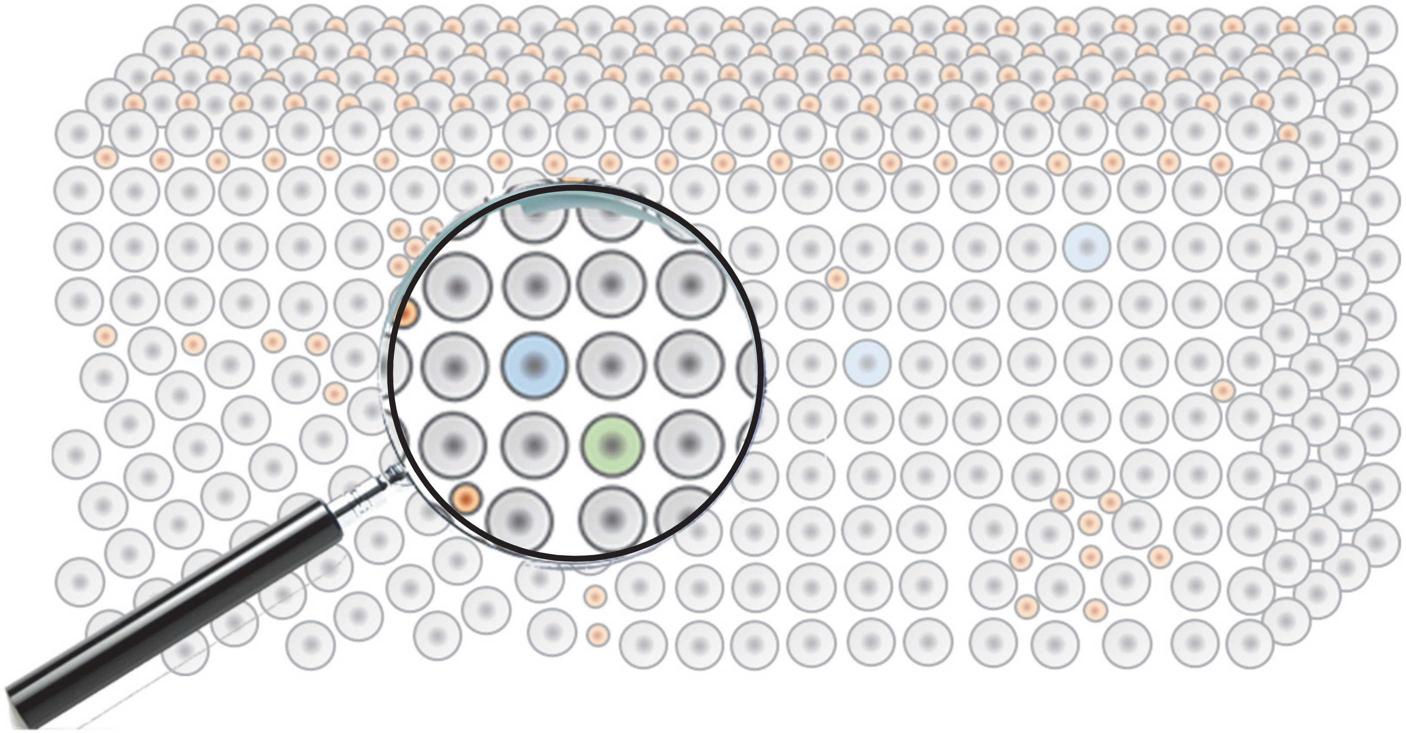


Based on Kirchheim, R., & Pundt, A. (2014). 25—Hydrogen in Metals. In D. E. Laughlin & K. Hono (Eds.), Physical Metallurgy (Fifth Edition) (pp. 2597–2705). Elsevier.

Common denominator at the nano level

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of dynamical stimulation (energy in)

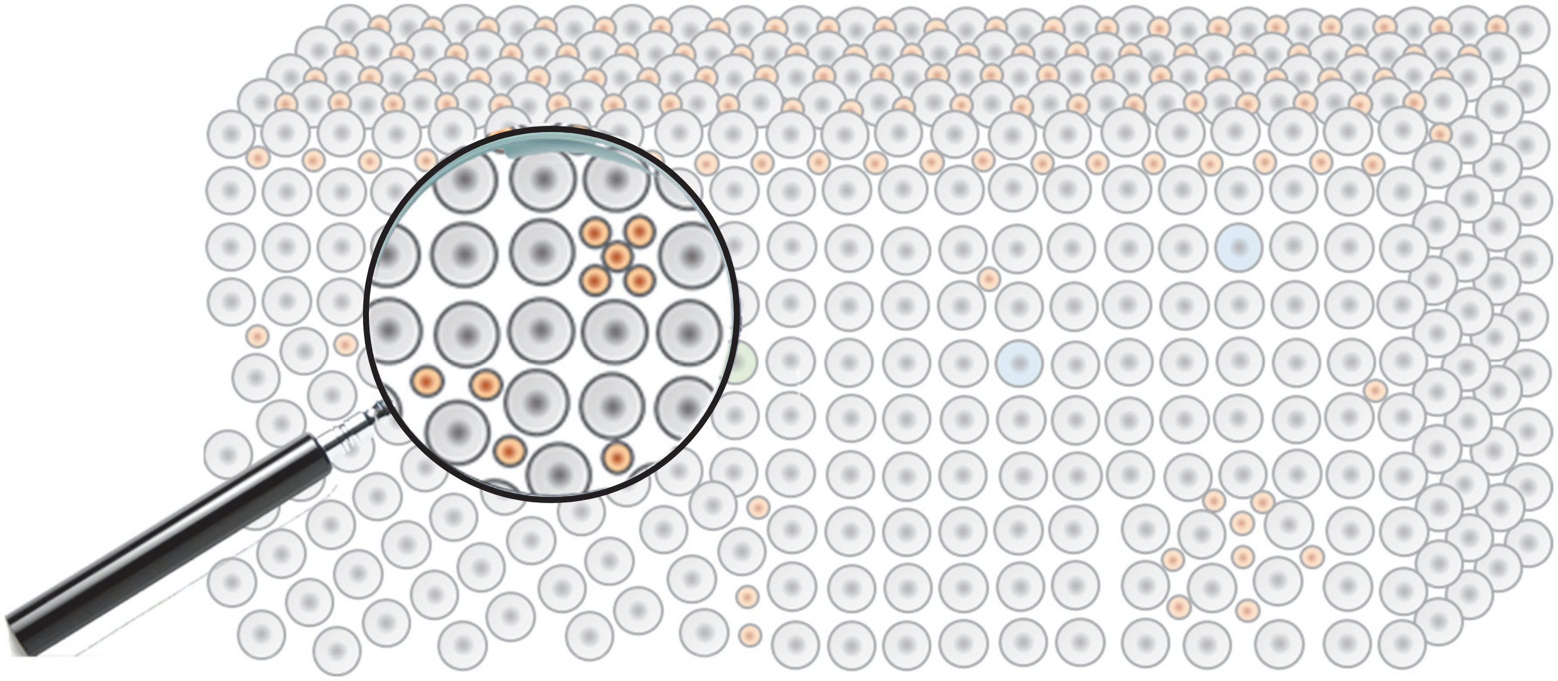
Lattice composition



Common denominator at the nano level

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of dynamical stimulation (energy in)

Lattice morphology

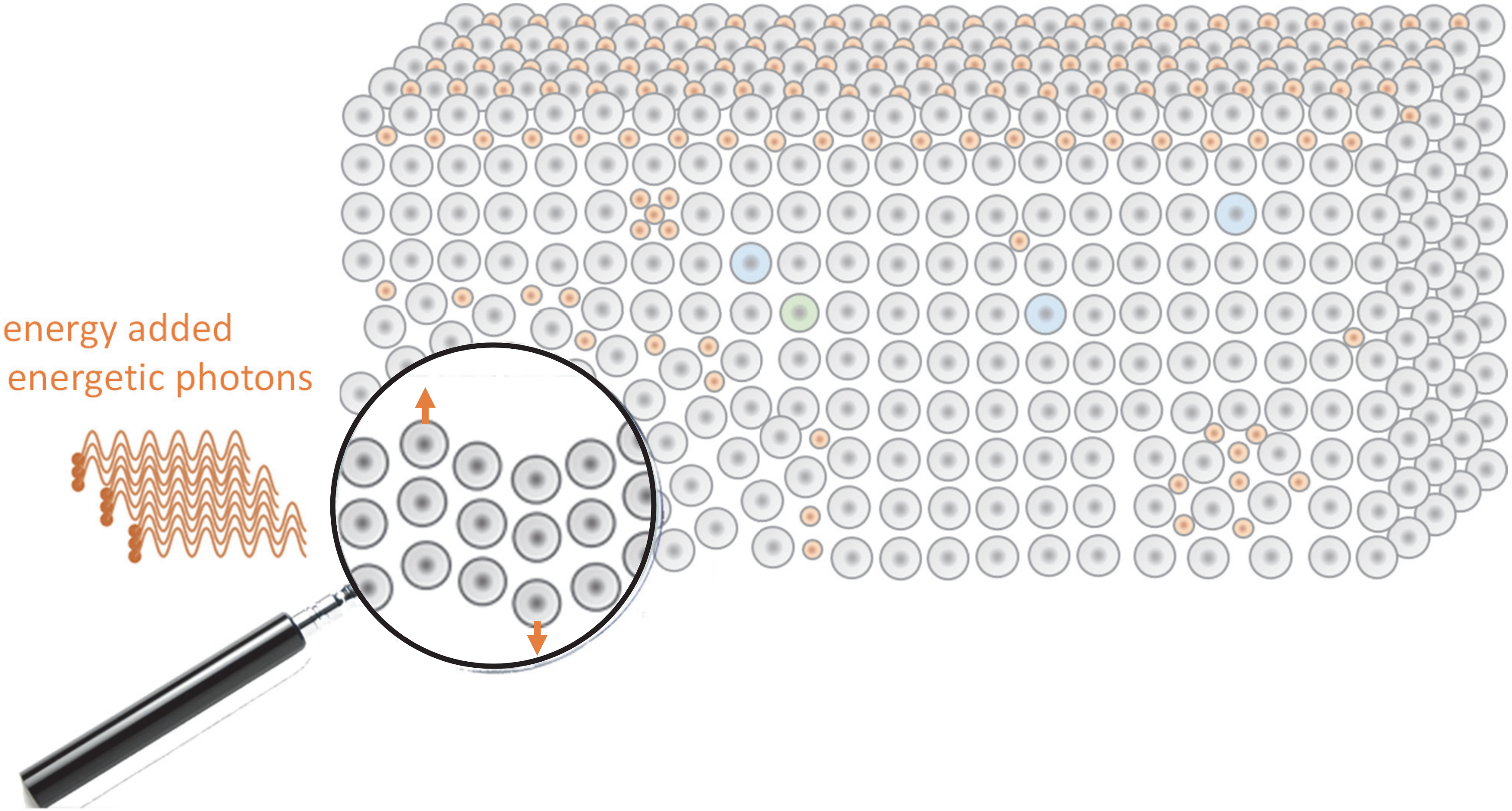


Common denominator at the nano level

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of dynamical stimulation (energy in)

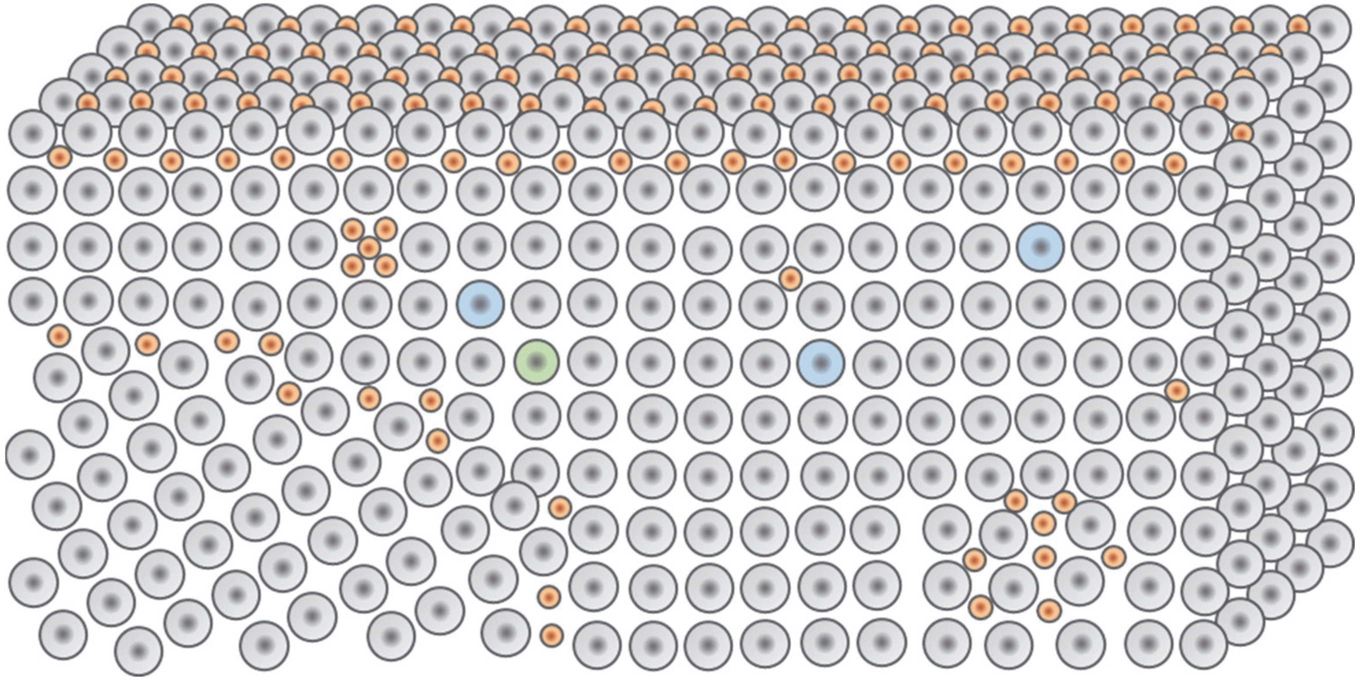
Lattice dynamics

Kinetic energy added
e.g. via energetic photons

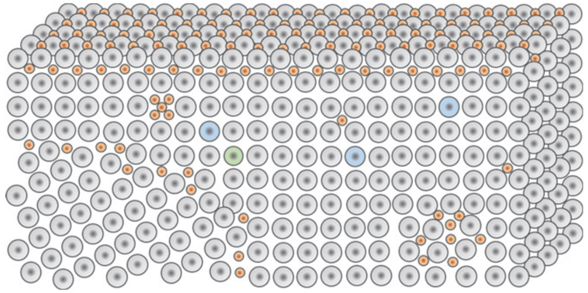


Common denominator at the nano level

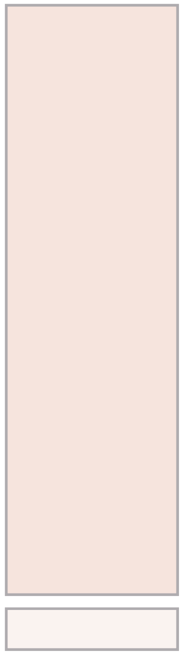
Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of dynamical stimulation (energy in)



Energy balance sheet

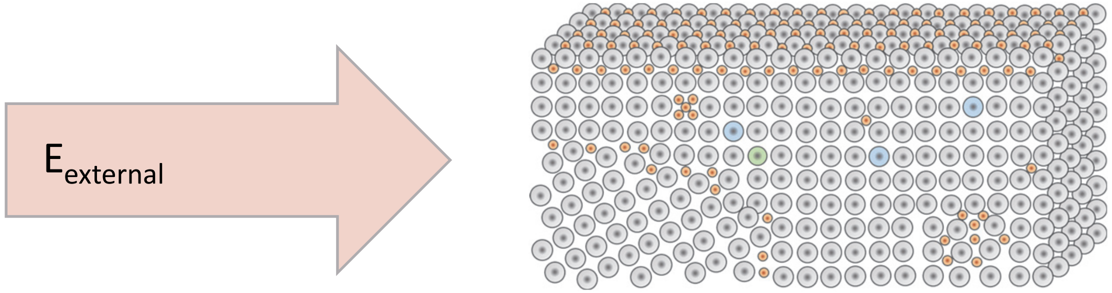


Nuclear potential energy
$E = mc^2$



Atomic potential energy

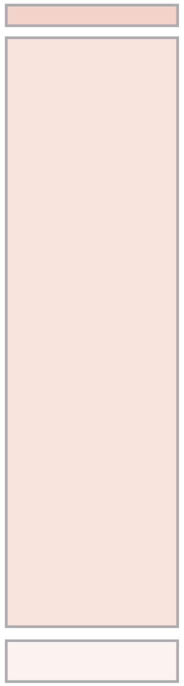
Energy balance sheet



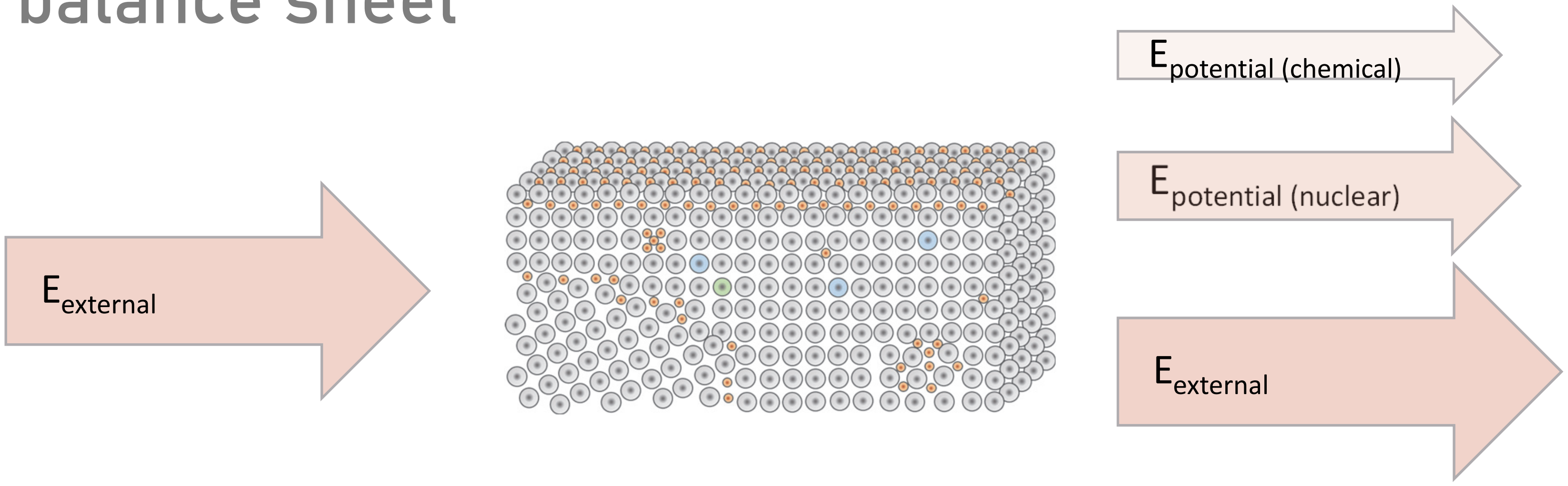
Kinetic energy in

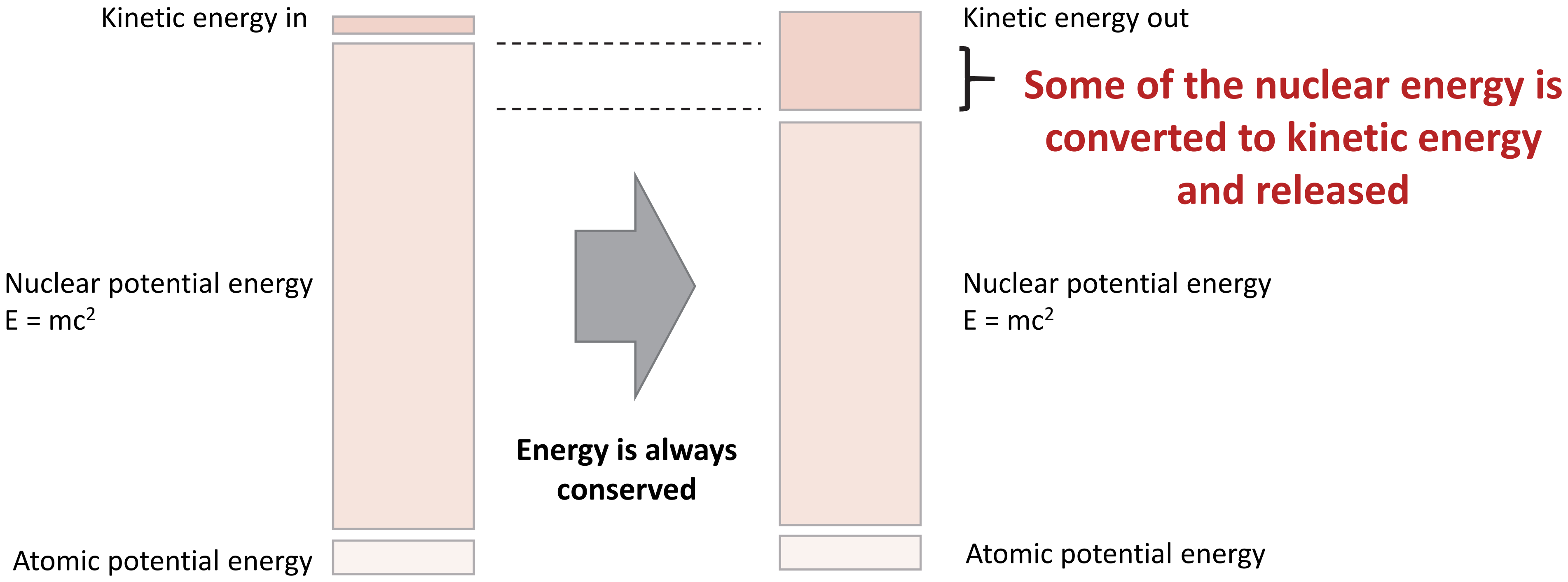
Nuclear potential energy
$E = mc^2$

Atomic potential energy



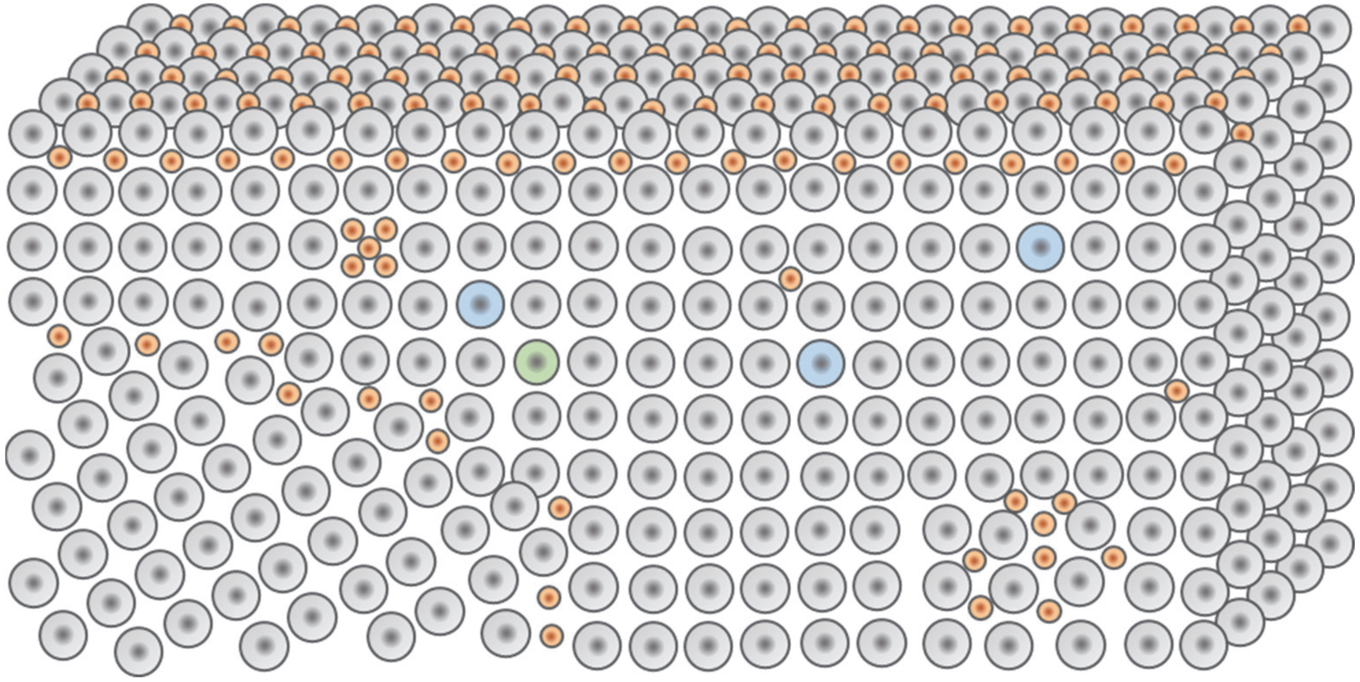
Energy balance sheet





Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)



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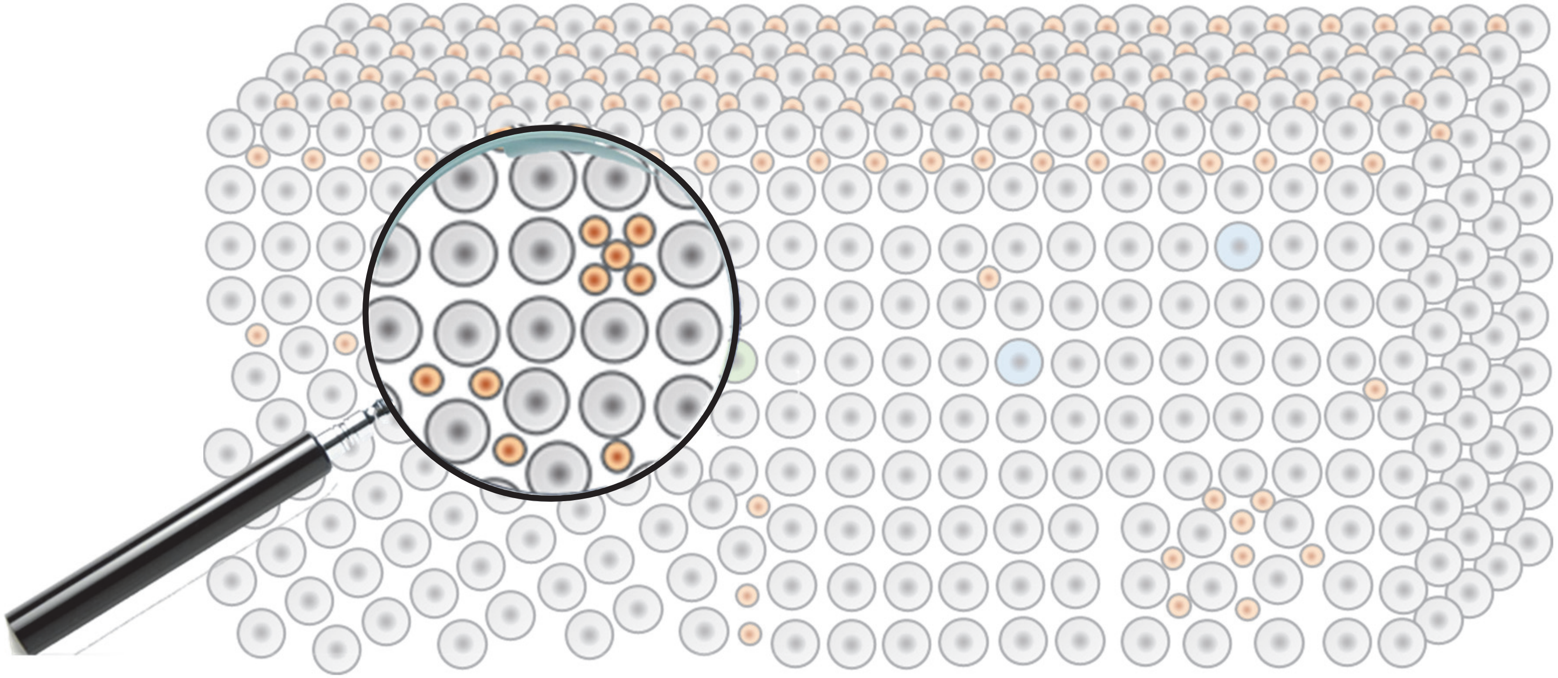

Conceivable energy release modes

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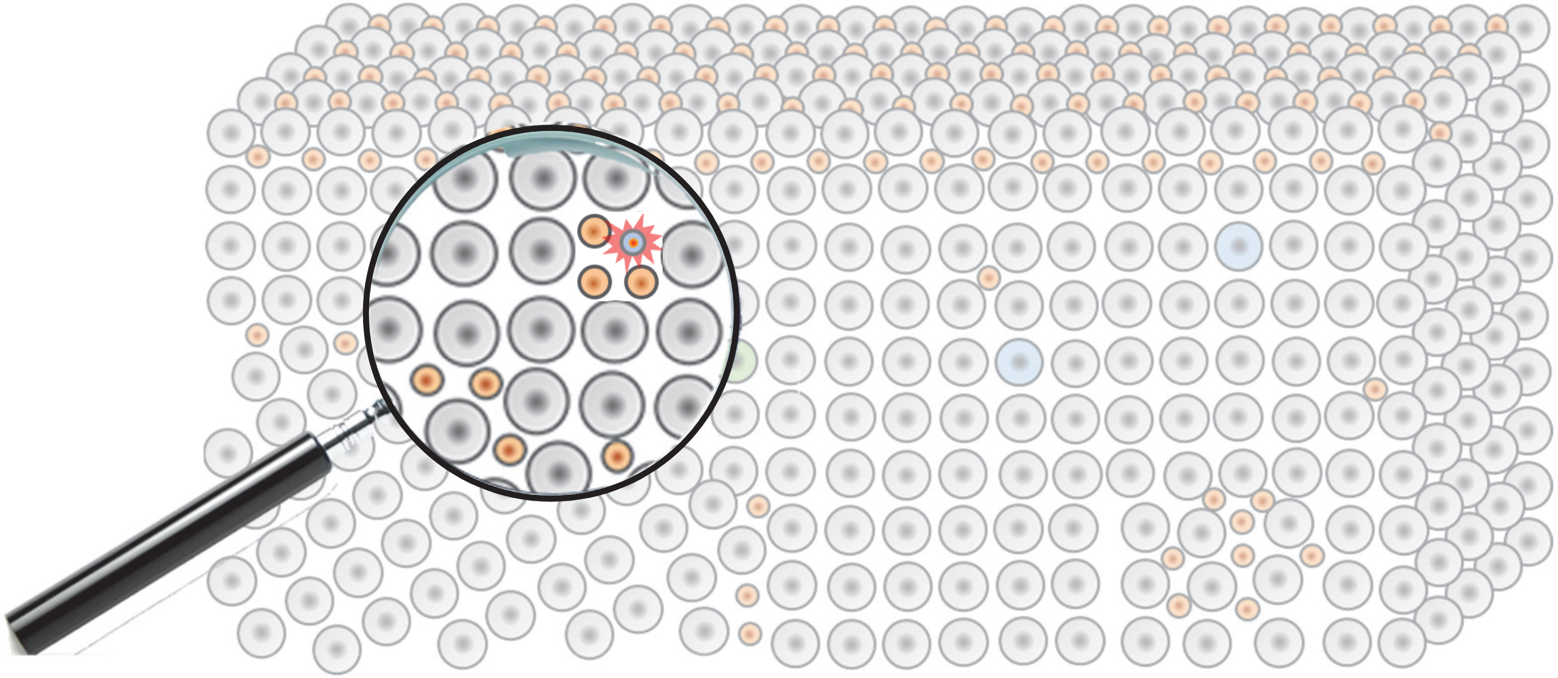

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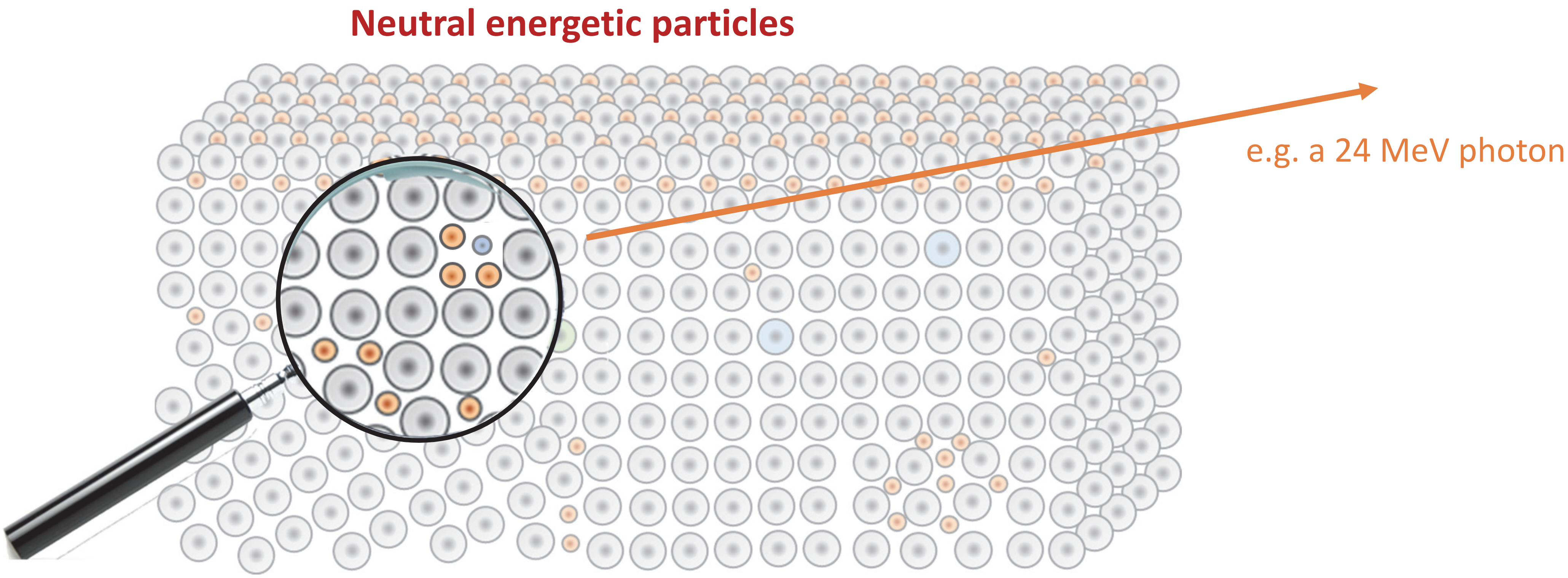
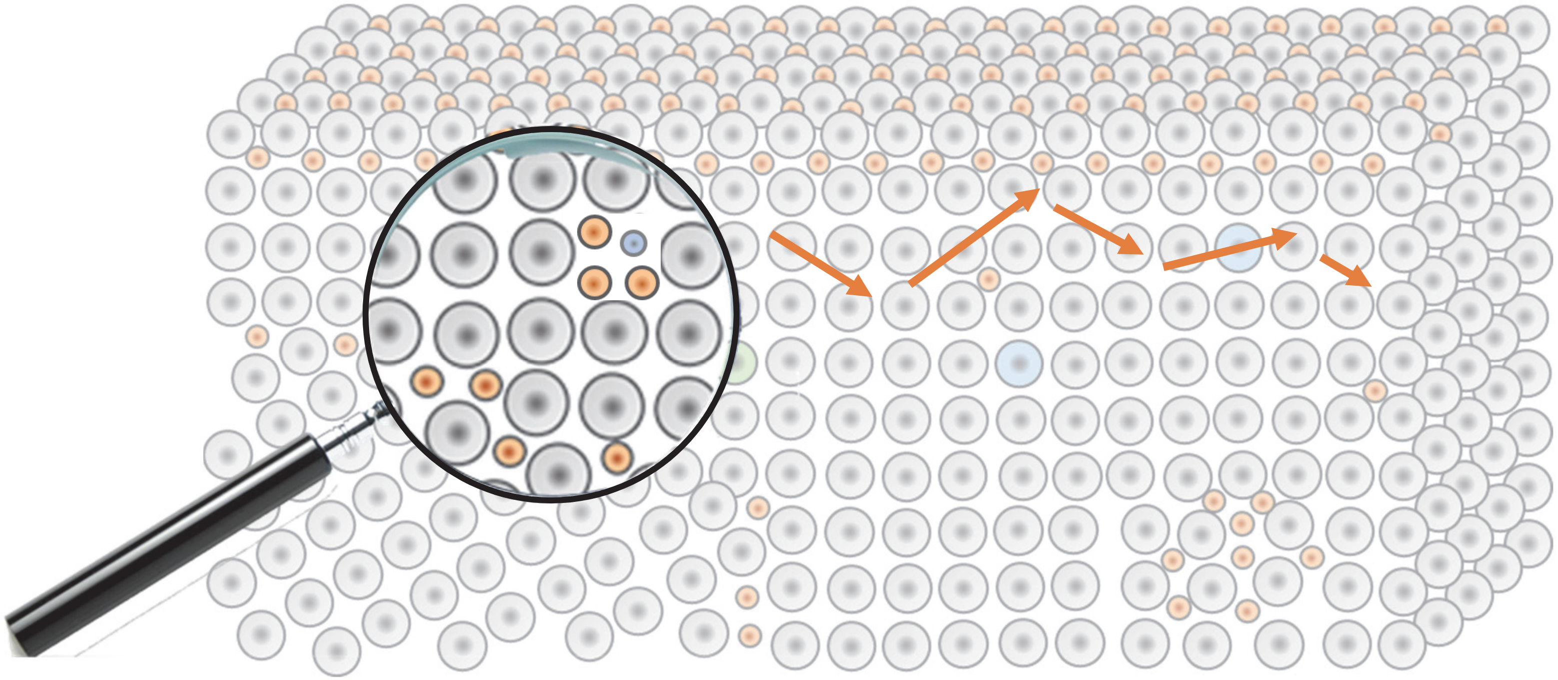


Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)

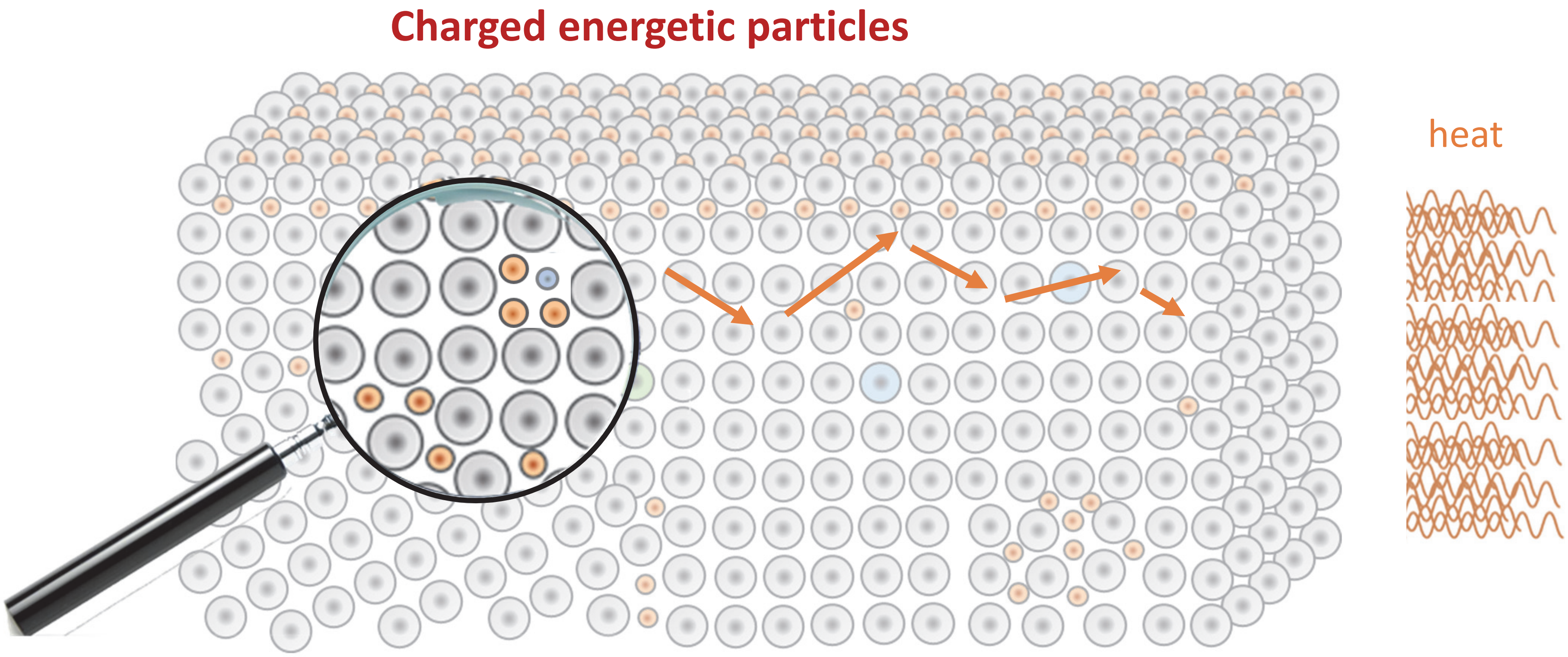
Charged energetic particles



e.g. 1 MeV alphas

Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)



Conceivable energy release modes

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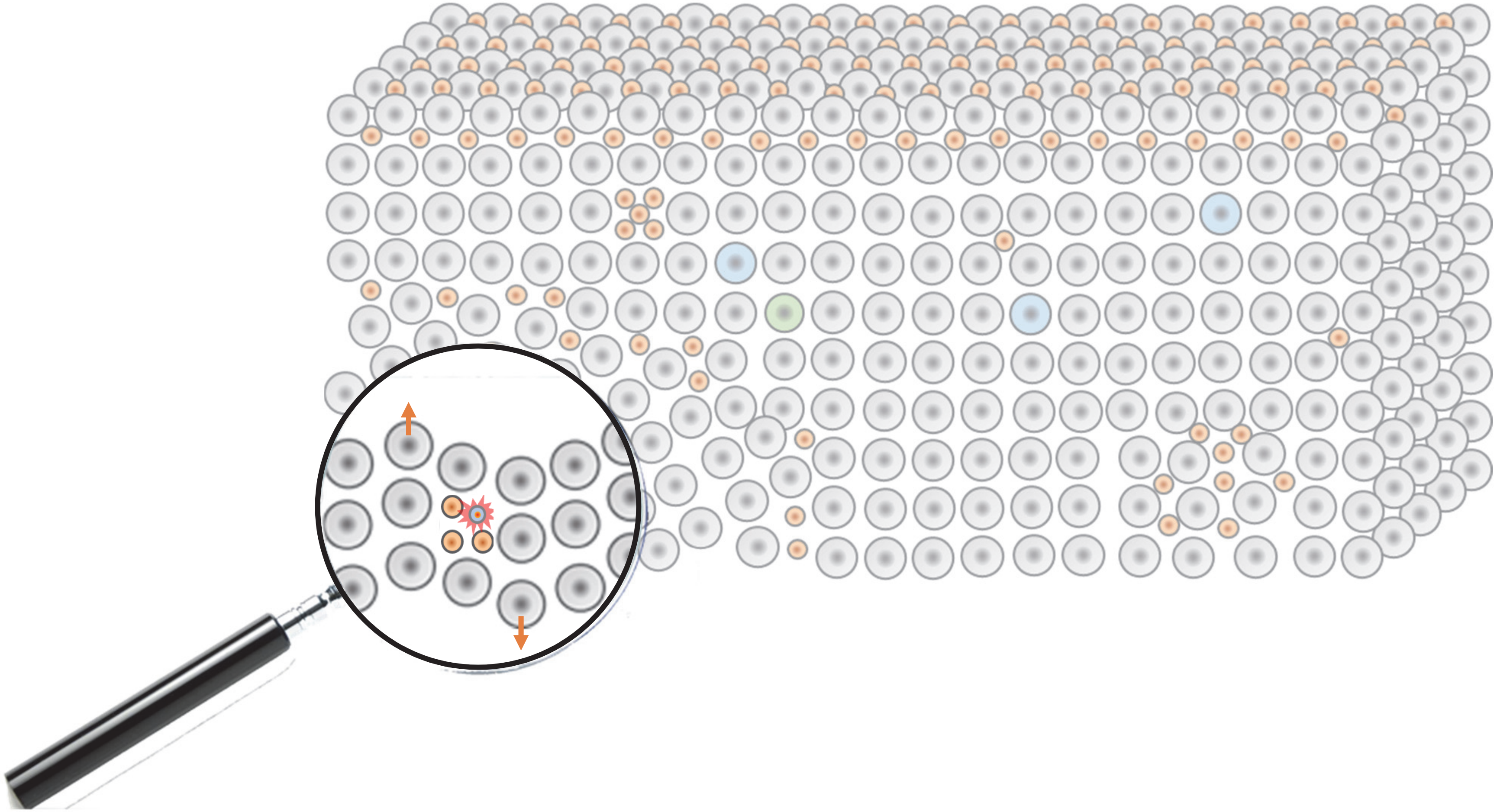
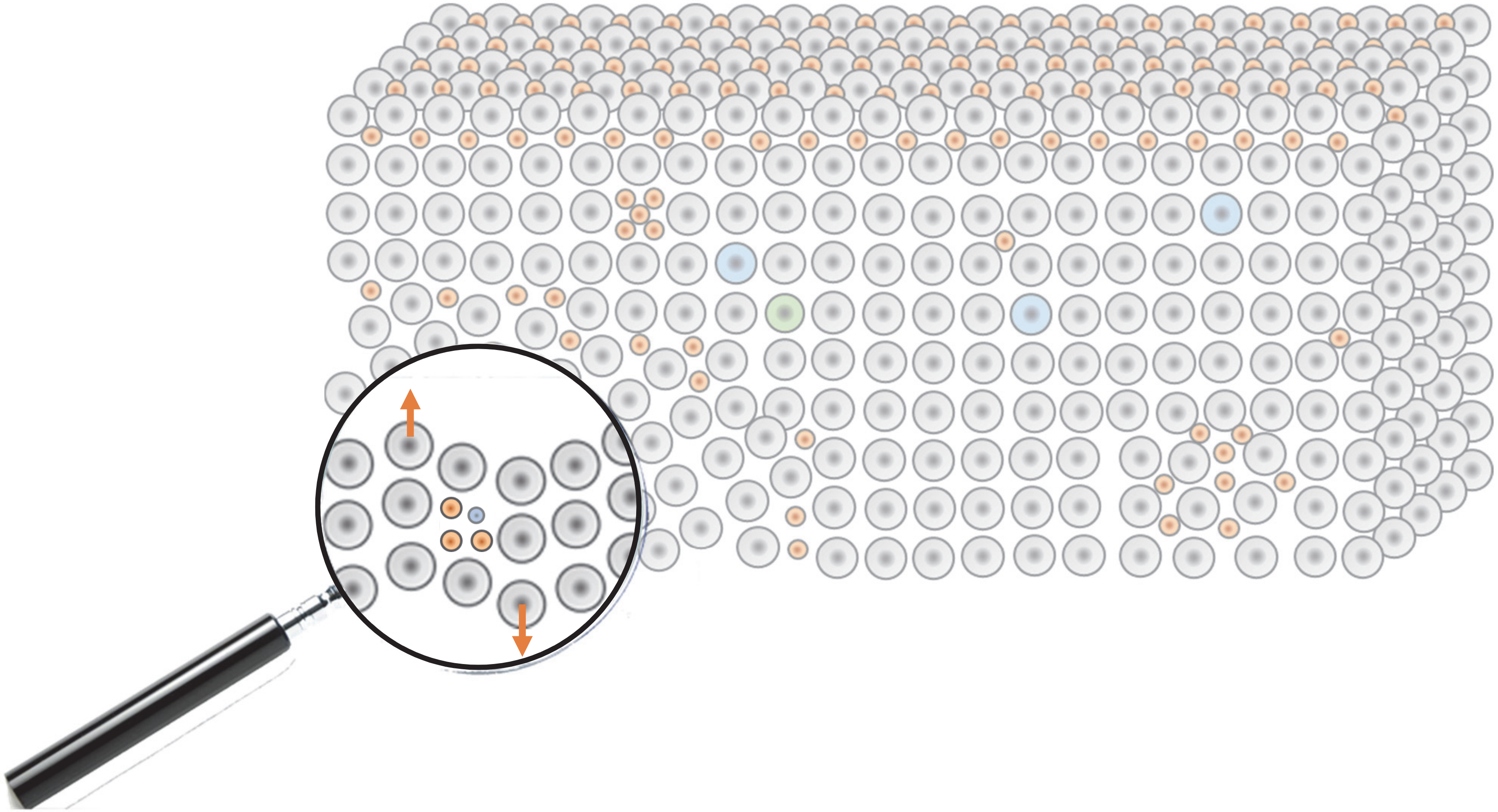


Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)

Lattice dynamics



Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)

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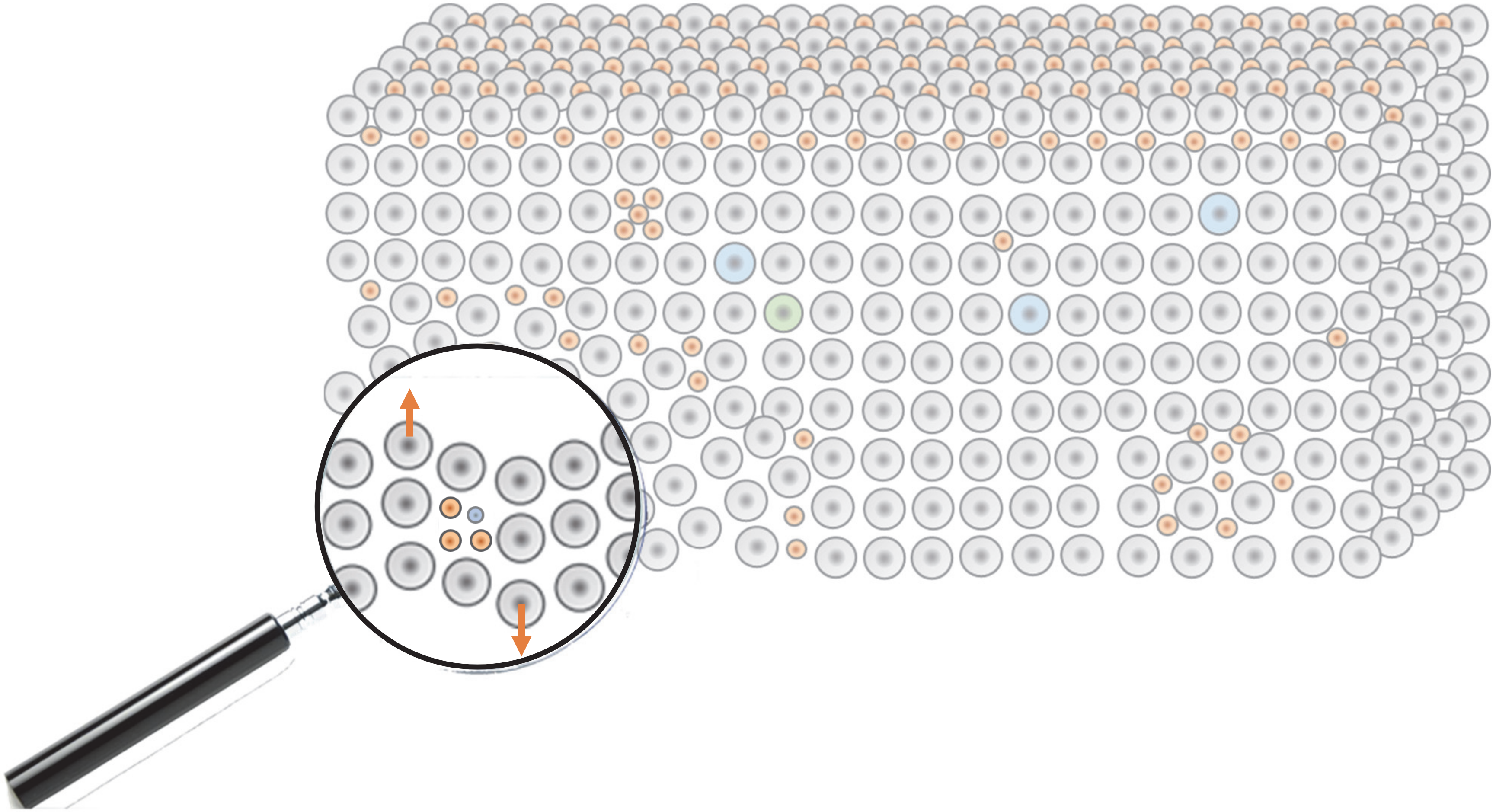
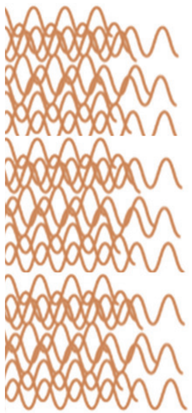
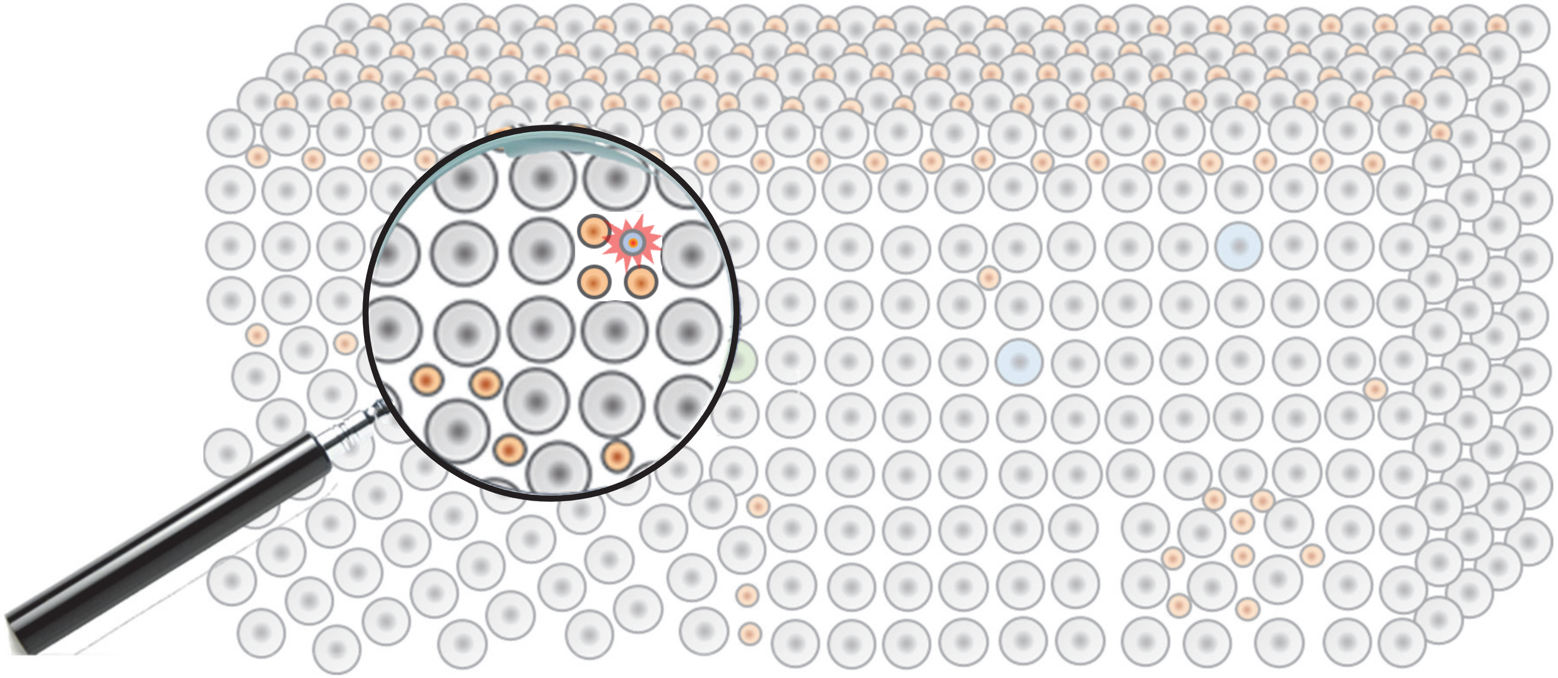


heat



Conceivable energy release modes

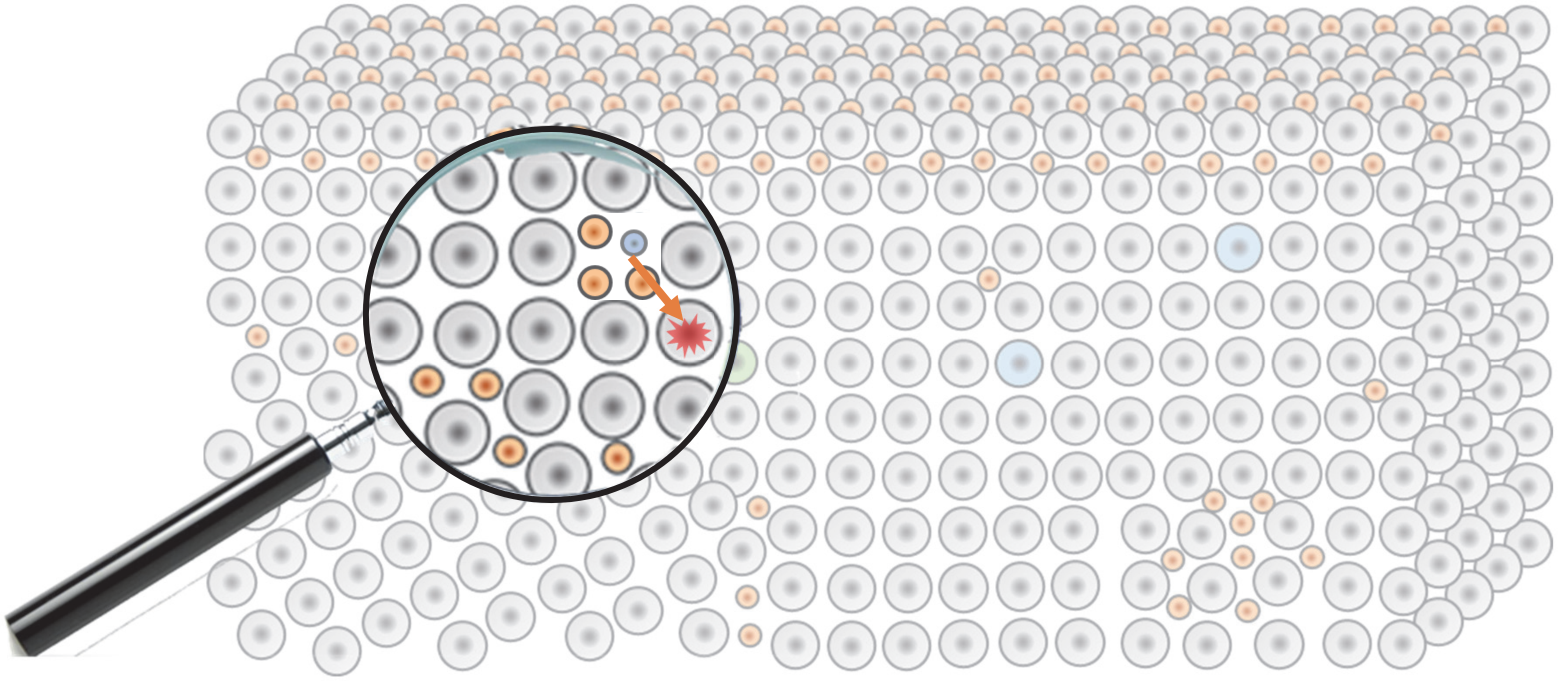
Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)



Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)

Triggering secondary nuclear reactions



Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)

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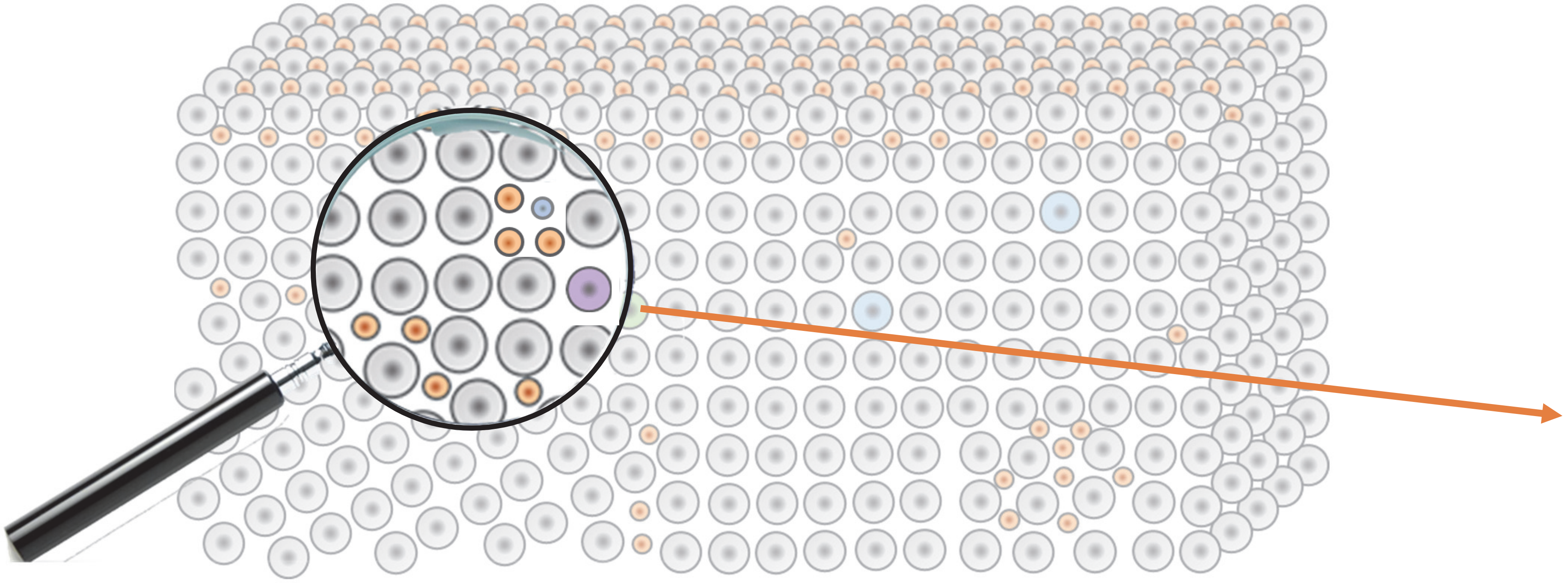
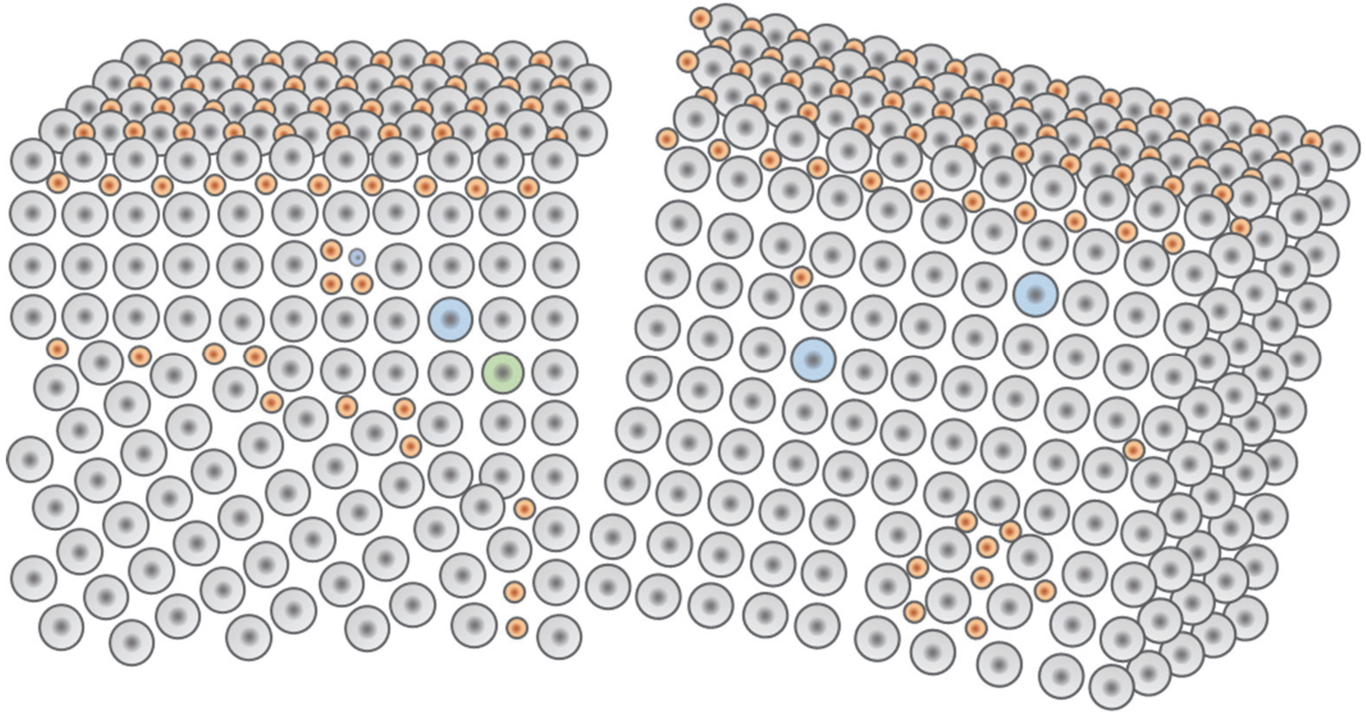


Conceivable energy release modes

Metal-hydrogen lattice with some form of nuclear energy release (energy out)

Breakage of chemical bonds



Characterization modes

HEAT

ENERGETIC PARTICLES

LATTICE COMPOSITION + CHANGES

LATTICE MORPHOLOGY + CHANGES

LATTICE DYNAMICS + CHANGES

Alternative explanations:

Questions to be addressed:

Anomaly or not?

Which reactions?

Which mechanisms?

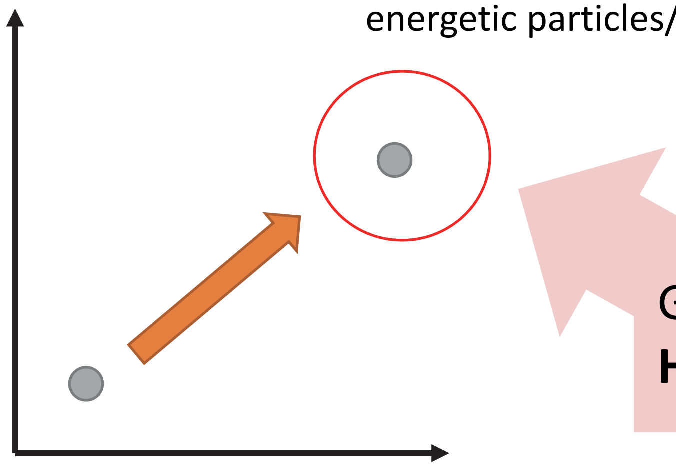
The reproducibility challenge and the ambiguity challenge

Highly reproducible
energetic particles/composition changes/induced lattice dynamics

Reproducibility

Highly reproducible
excess heat

Poorly reproducible
excess heat



Goal: high producibility, low ambiguity
How to get there?

Irrefutability
(no alternative explanations)

B2. Characterization modes by example

	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
HEAT	20 MJ in 80 d from 2 g of PdD	2 KJ in 1 d from 0.2 g of PdD	?	?	?	8 MJ in 38 d from 6 g of PdD	?	? T rise but no calorimetry	23 MJ in 60 d from 25 g PdNiD	37 x 0.5 d runs with 0-0.3 W W_{excess} from 0.1 g of PdD	?
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
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ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
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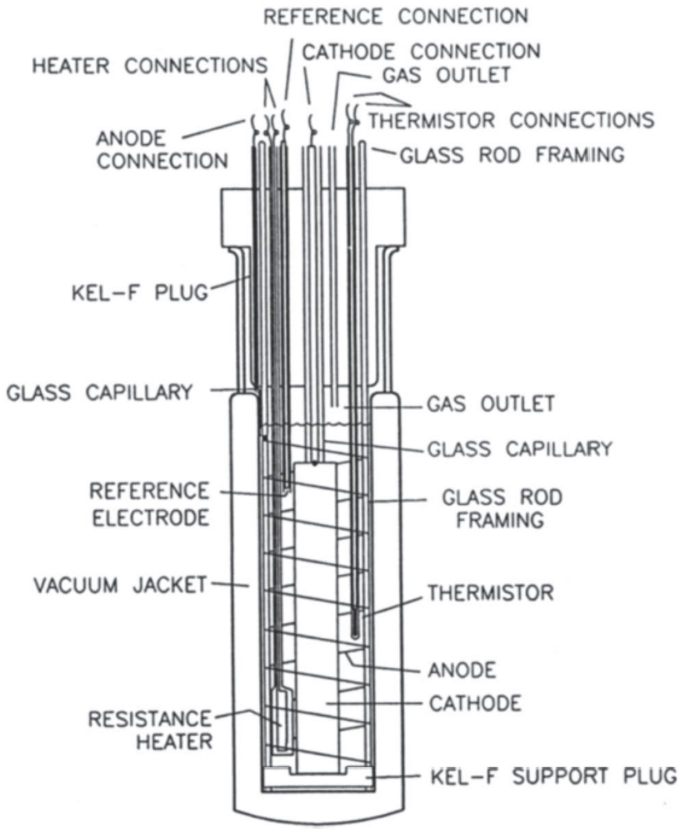
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
HEAT	20 MJ in 80 d from 2 g of PdD	2 KJ in 1 d from 0.2 g of PdD	?	?	?	8 MJ in 38 d from 6 g of PdD	?	? T rise but no calorimetry	23 MJ in 60 d from 25 g PdNiD	37 x 0.5 d runs with 0-0.3 W W_{excess} from 0.1 g of PdD	?
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

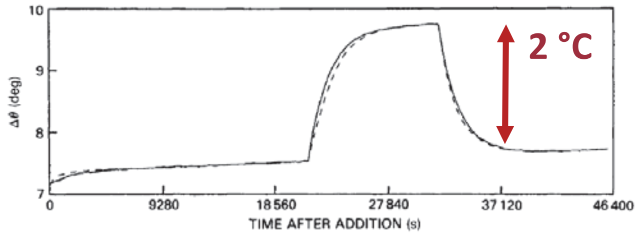
	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
HEAT	20 MJ in 80 d from 2 g of PdD	2 KJ in 1 d from 0.2 g of PdD	?	?	?	8 MJ in 38 d from 6 g of PdD	?	? T rise but no calorimetry	23 MJ in 60 d from 25 g PdNiD	37 x 0.5 d runs with 0-0.3 W W_{excess} from 0.1 g of PdD	?
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
HEAT	20 MJ in 80 d from 2 g of PdD	2 KJ in 1 d from 0.2 g of PdD	?	?	?	8 MJ in 38 d from 6 g of PdD	?	? T rise but no calorimetry	23 MJ in 60 d from 25 g PdNiD	37 x 0.5 d runs with 0-0.3 W W_{excess} from 0.1 g of PdD	?
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

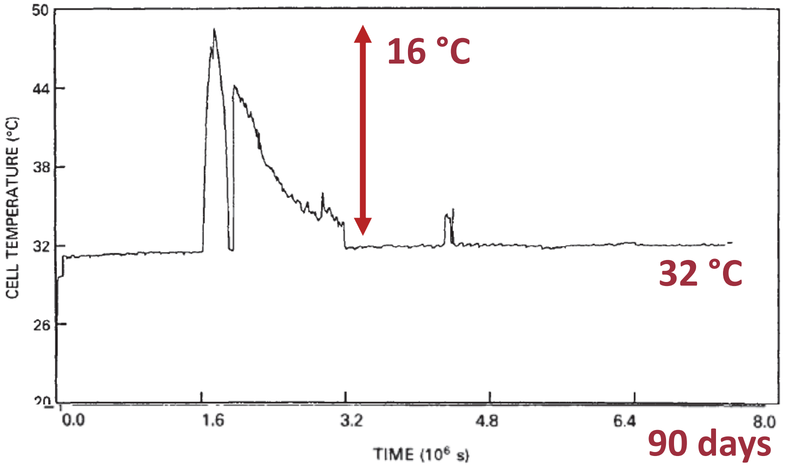
Example: Pd foil with electrochemical D loading



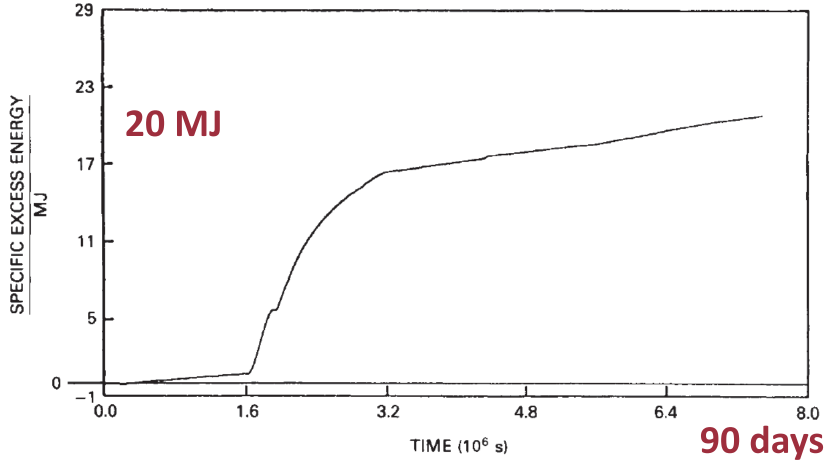
Experimental setup: Fleischmann-Pons cell



Calibration of the calorimeter through known power input



Unexplained temperature rises (excess heat)

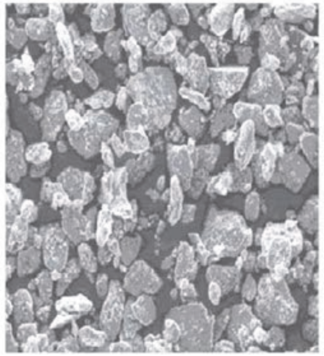


Excess energy (as accumulated excess power)

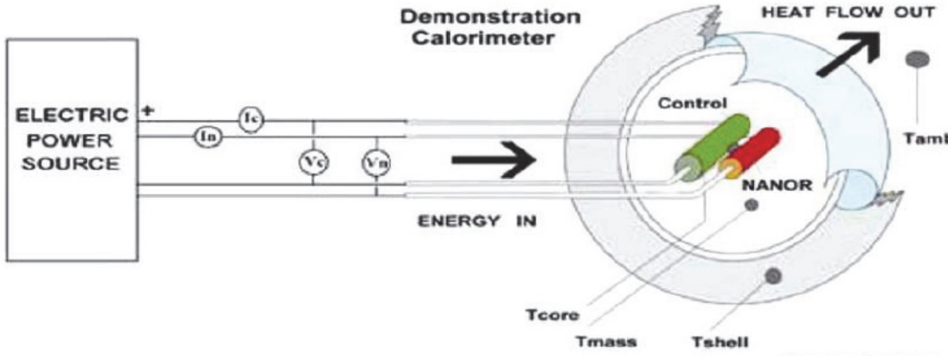
Pons, S., & Fleischmann, M. (1990). Calorimetric measurements of the palladium/deuterium system: Fact and fiction. Fusion Technology, 17, 669–679.

Characterization mode: heat

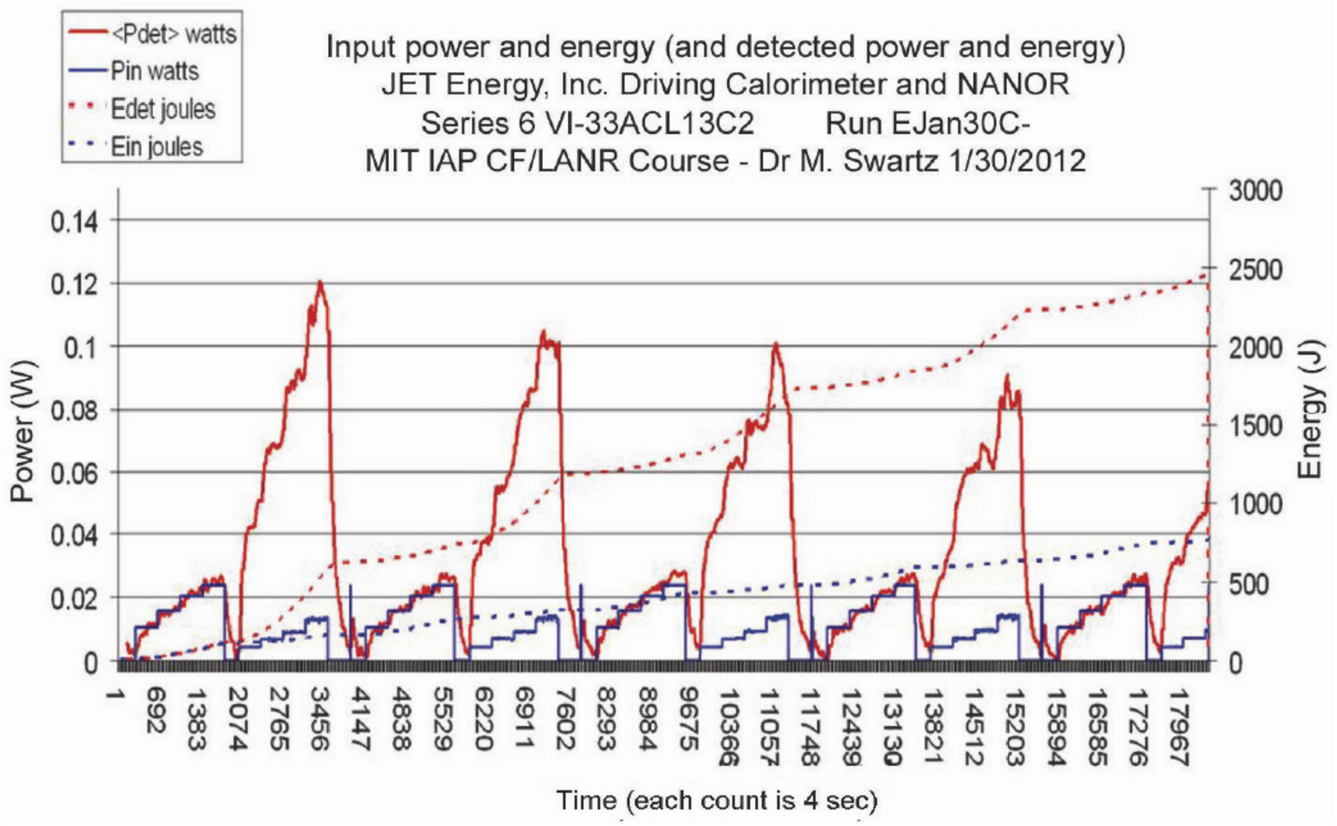
Example: PdD nanoparticles with electric discharge



PdD nanoparticles embedded in Zr pellets



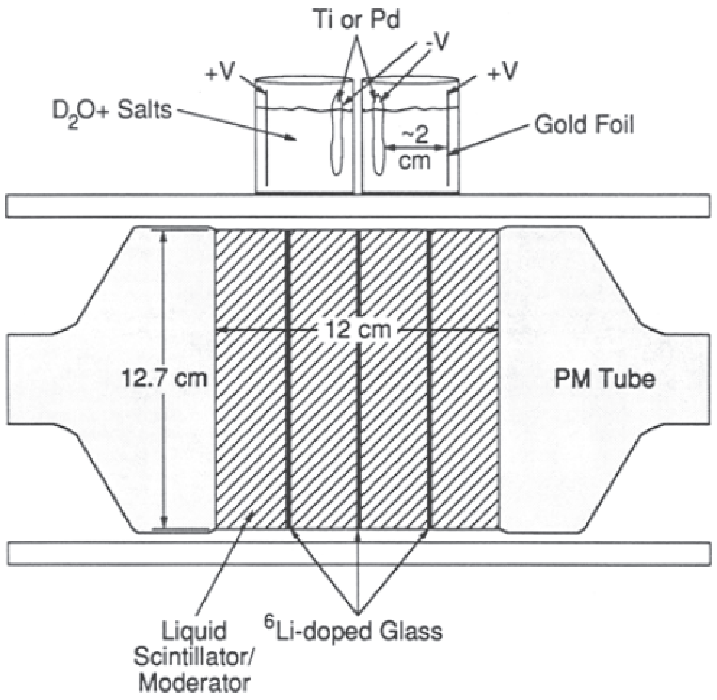
Calorimetry setup with resistive control



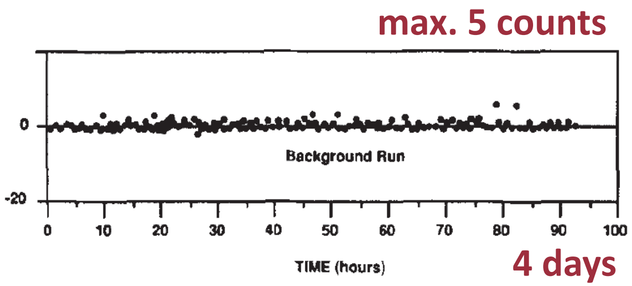
Reported excess power and accumulated excess energy

Swartz, M. R., et al (2015). Dry, preloaded NANOR®-type CF/LANR components. Current Science, 108, JSTOR.

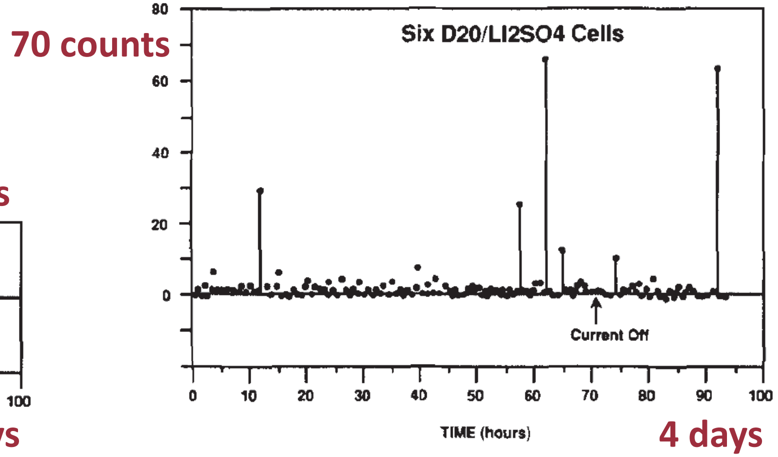
Example: Neutron emission from loaded Pd foil



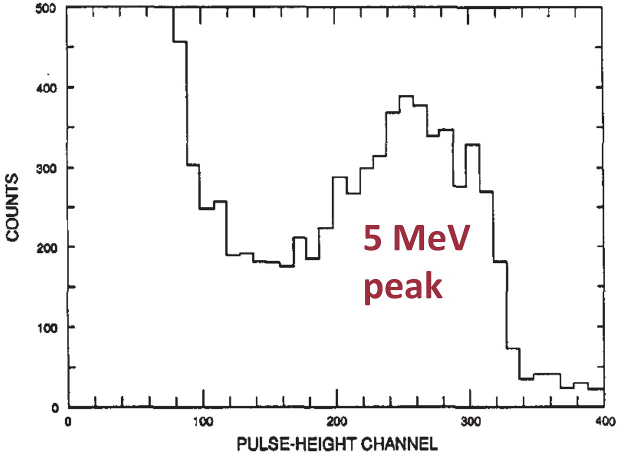
Experimental setup:
electrochemical cell above neutron spectrometer



Neutron counts during background run



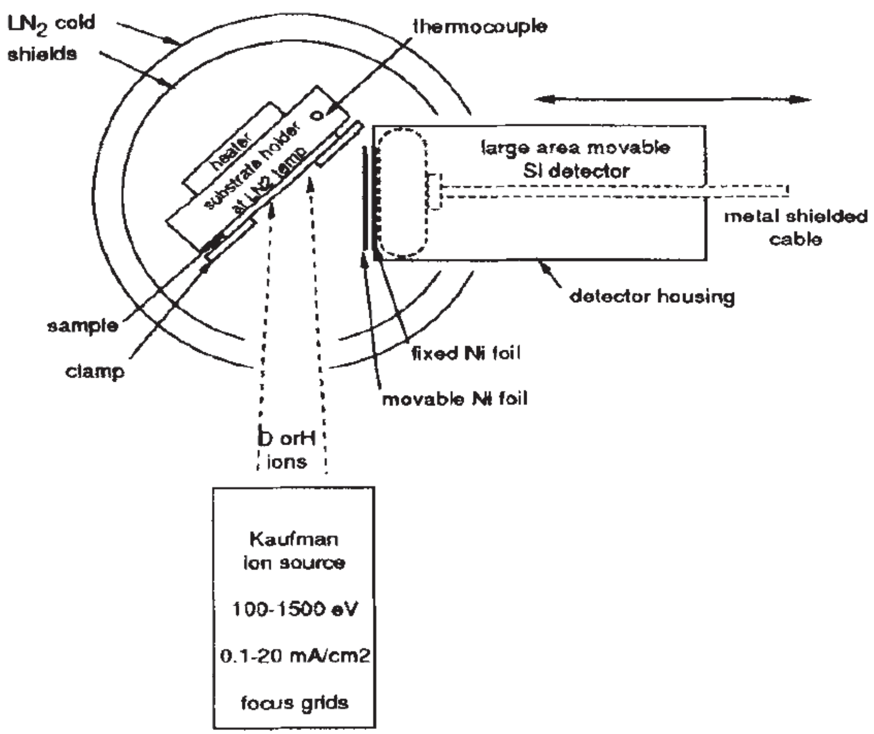
Neutron counts during experimental run



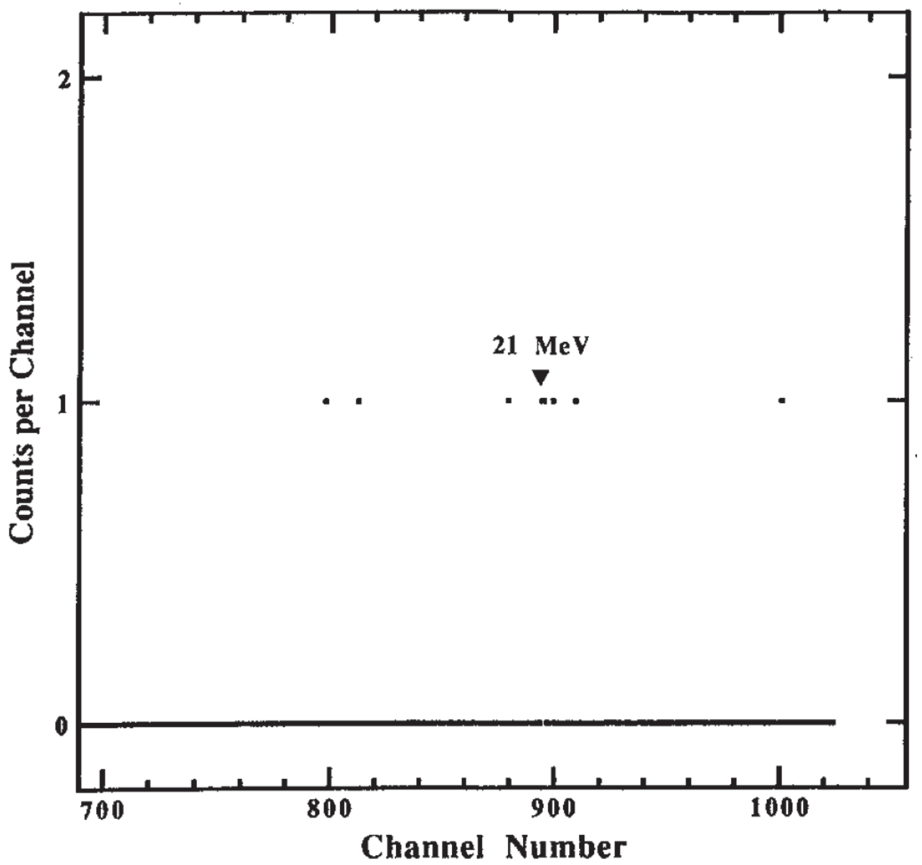
Neutron energy centers around 5 MeV

Jones, S. E., et al (1990). Anomalous nuclear reactions in condensed matter: Recent results and open questions. Journal of Fusion Energy, 9.

Example: Charged particle emission from loaded Pd foil



Experimental setup:
vacuum chamber with low-energy deuteron beam on Pd foil target

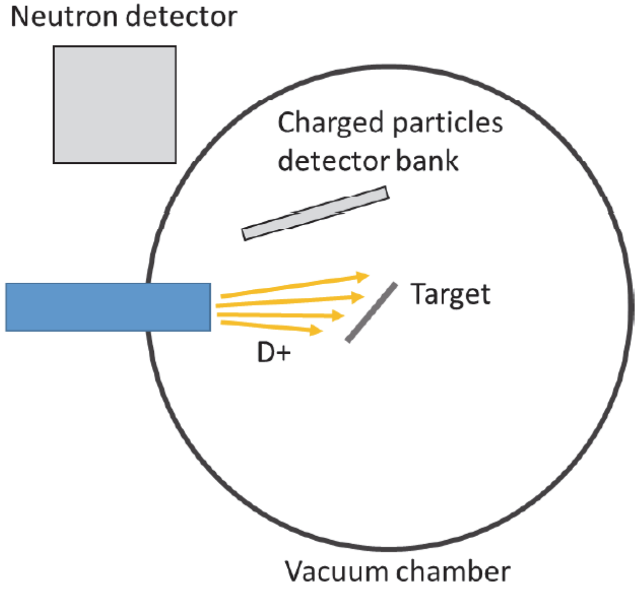


21 MeV charged particle counts from bombarded Pd foil

Chambers, G. P., Eridon, J. E., Grabowski, K. S., Sartwell, B. D., & Chrisey, D. B. (1990). Charged particle spectra of palladium thin films during low energy deuterium ion implantation. Journal of Fusion Energy, 9(3), 281–285.

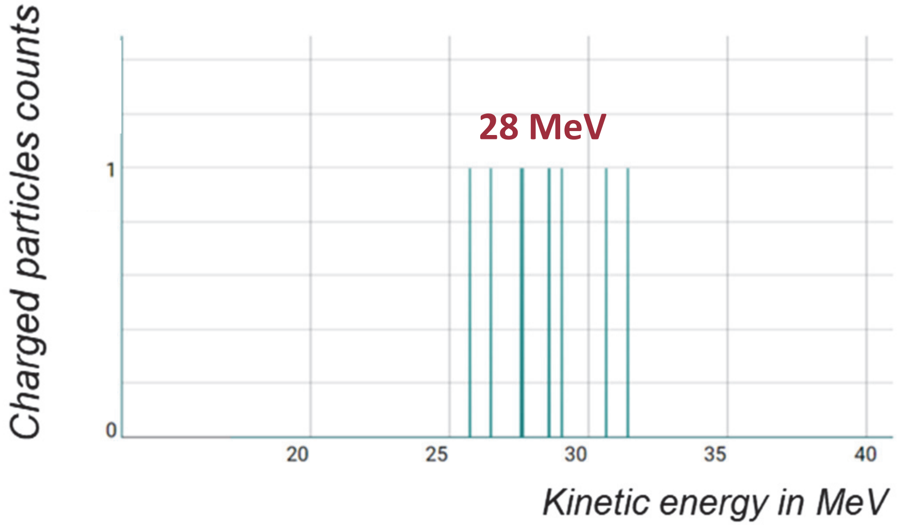
Characterization mode: energetic particles

Example: Charged particle emission from loaded Ti foil



Experimental setup:
vacuum chamber with low-energy deuteron beam on foil target

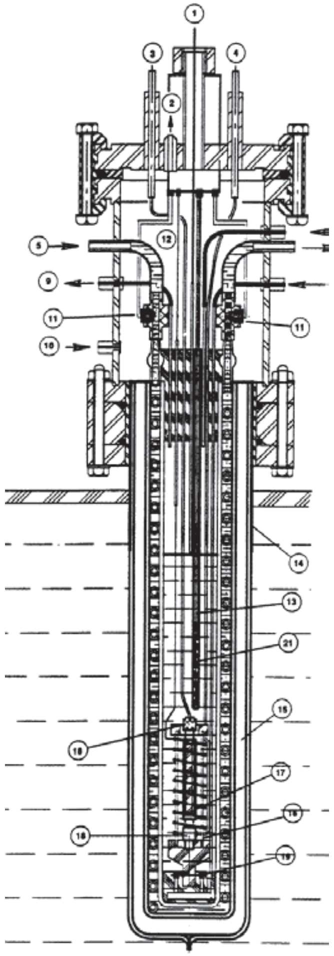
View of target sample during bombardment



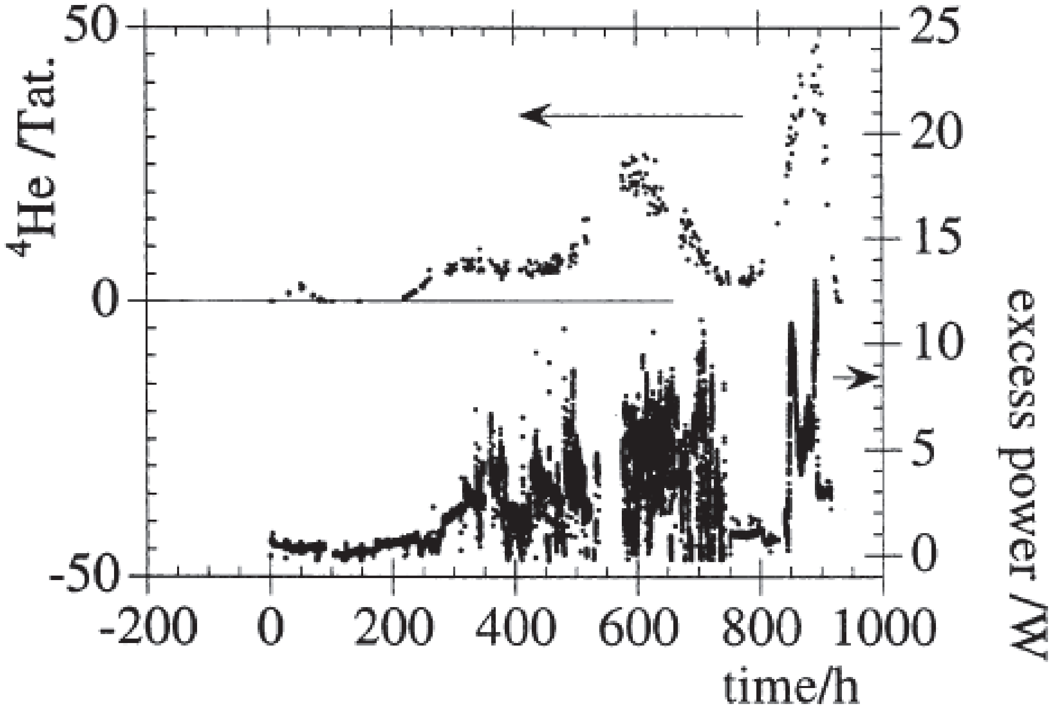
28 MeV charged particle counts from bombarded Ti foil

Forbes, S. (2019). Initial report on low-energy ion beam experiments with various metal targets [Conference Presentation]. ICCF22, Assisi, Italy.

Example: He-4 production from loaded Pd foil



Experimental setup: similarity to Fleischmann-Pons cell

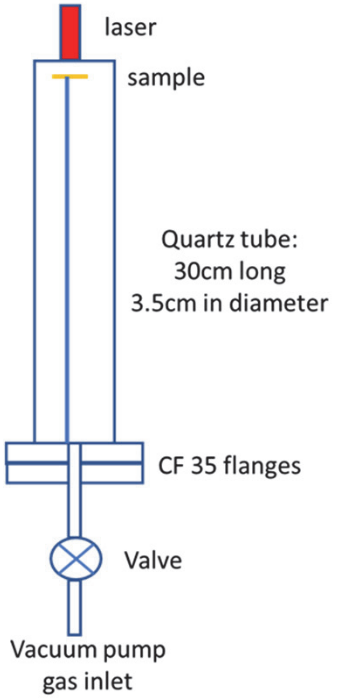


Measured He-4 (top) and excess heat (bottom) appearing correlated

Gozzi, D., et al (1998). X-ray, heat excess and 4He in the D/Pd system. J. Electroanal. Chem, 452.

Characterization mode: composition & morphology changes

Example: Possible fission products from gas loaded Pd



Scanning Electron Microscopy Image

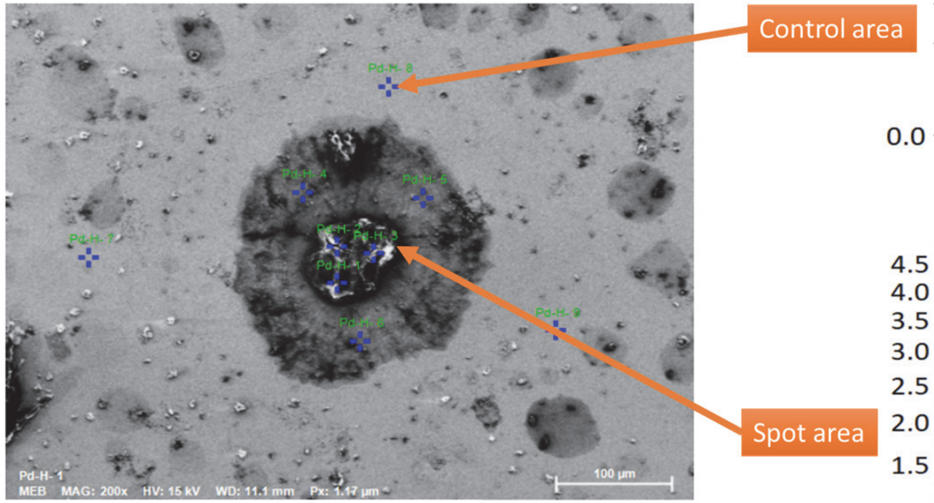
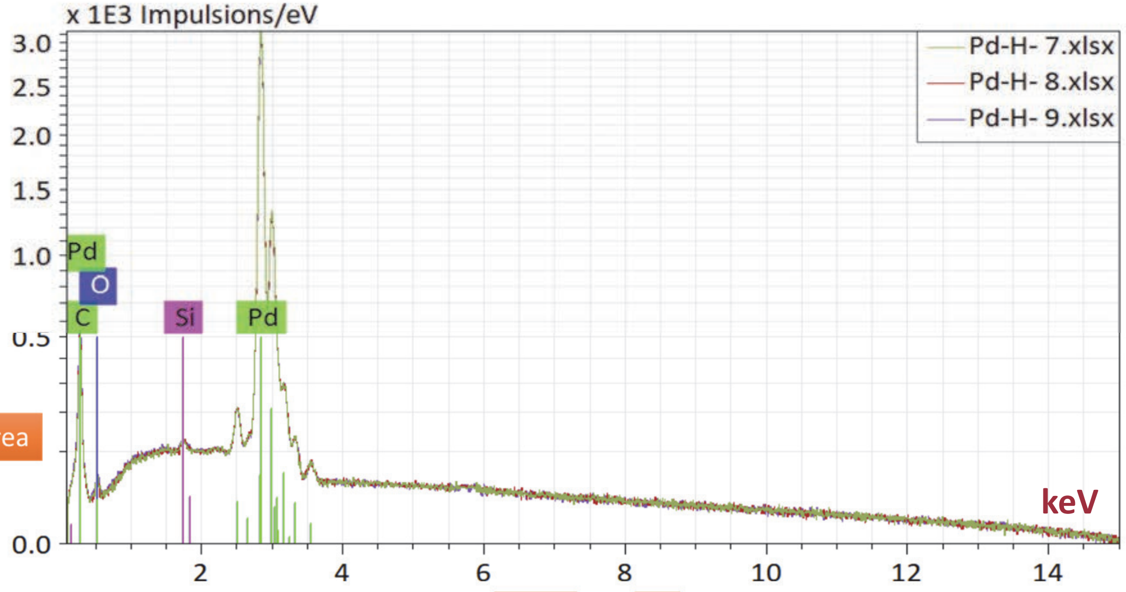
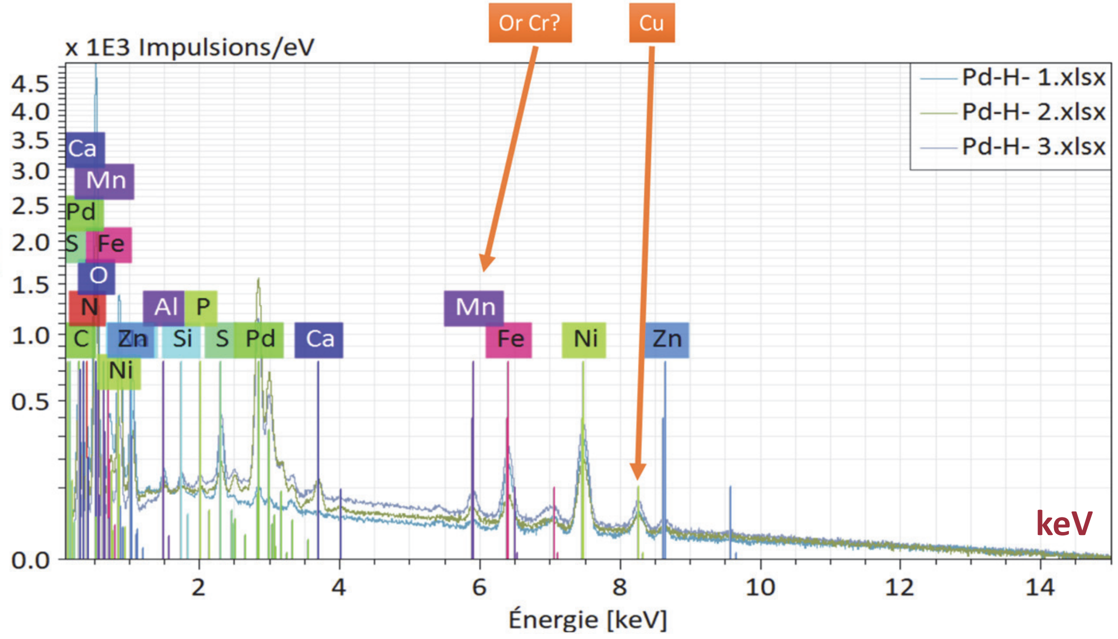


Image shows a hot spot: about 200um in diameter

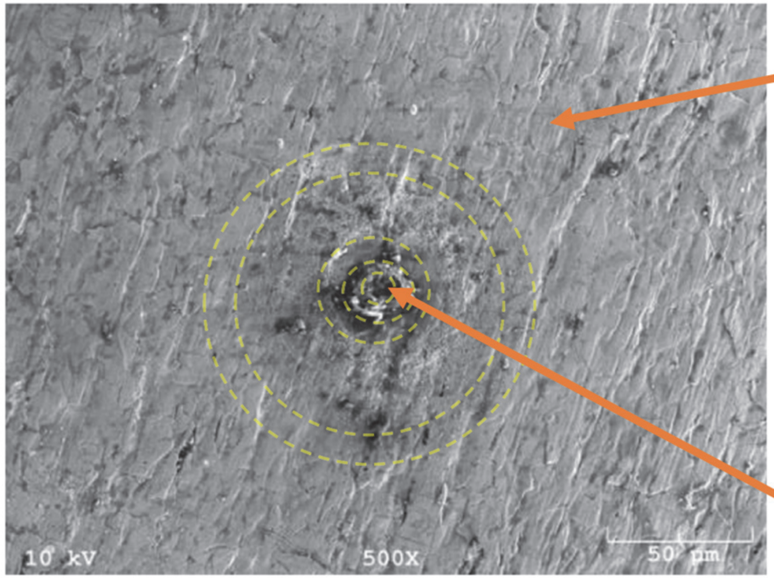


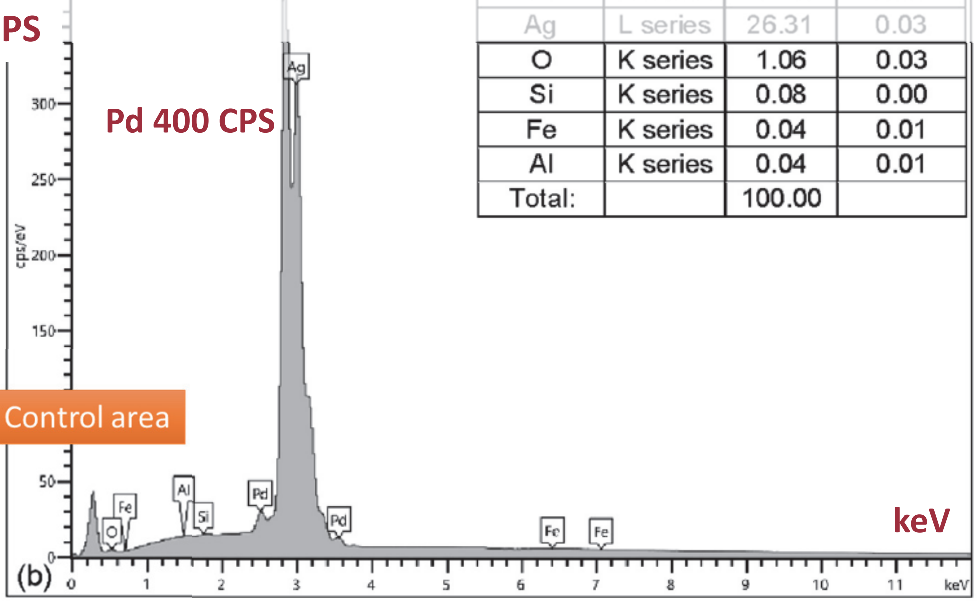


Biberian, J.-P. (2020, November 21). Transmutation induced by laser irradiation. RNBE 2020 Conference by French Society for Nuclear Science in Condensed Matter (SFSNMC), Paris.

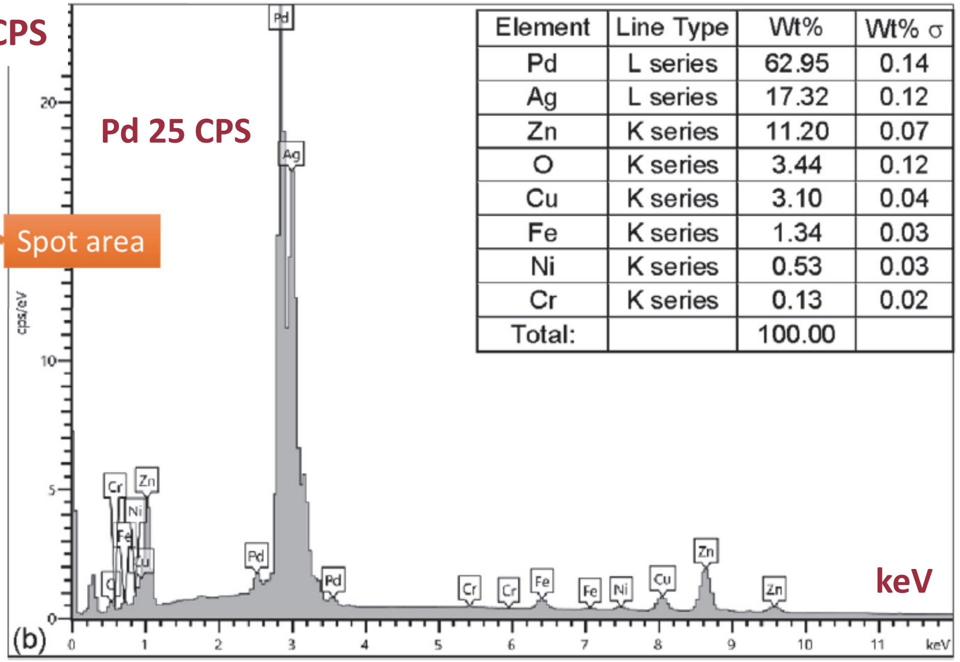
Characterization mode: composition & morphology changes

Example: Possible fission products from gas loaded Pd (2)





Element	Line Type	Wt%	Wt% σ
Pd	L series	72.47	0.04
Ag	L series	26.31	0.03
O	K series	1.06	0.03
Si	K series	0.08	0.00
Fe	K series	0.04	0.01
Al	K series	0.04	0.01
Total:		100.00	

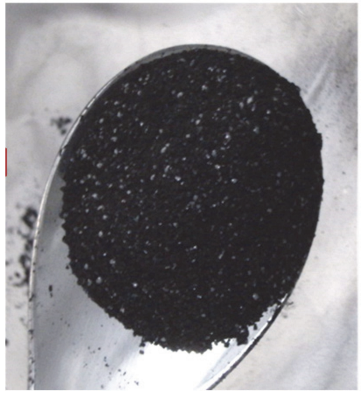


Element	Line Type	Wt%	Wt% σ
Pd	L series	62.95	0.14
Ag	L series	17.32	0.12
Zn	K series	11.20	0.07
O	K series	3.44	0.12
Cu	K series	3.10	0.04
Fe	K series	1.34	0.03
Ni	K series	0.53	0.03
Cr	K series	0.13	0.02
Total:		100.00	

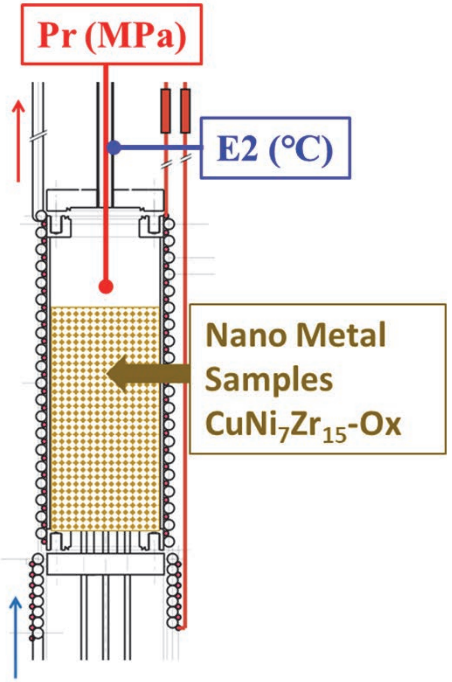
Fralick, G. C., Hendricks, R. C., Jennings, W. D., Benyo, T. L., VanKeuls, F. W., Ellis, D. L., Steinetz, B. M., Forsley, L. P., & Sandifer, C. E. (2020). Transmutations observed from pressure cycling palladium silver metals with deuterium gas. International Journal of Hydrogen Energy, 45(56), 32320–32330.

Characterization mode: morphology changes

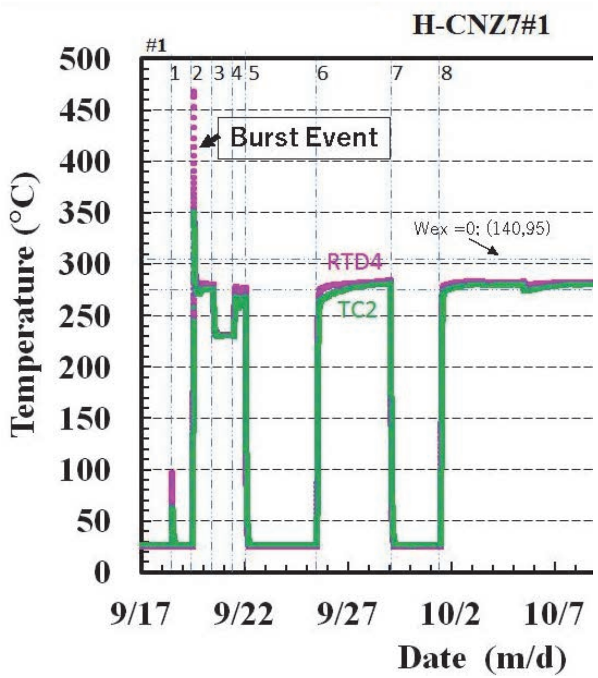
Example: Gas loaded CuNi nanoparticles with moderate heating



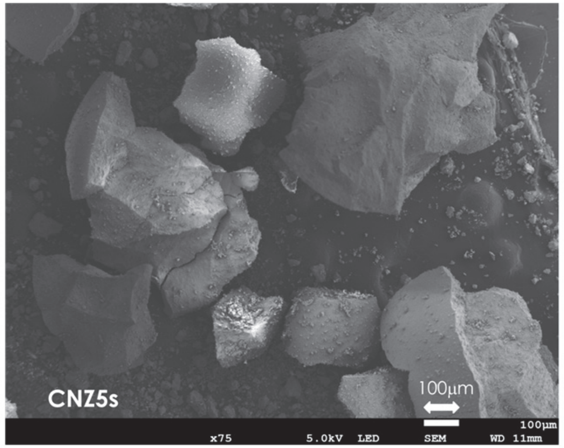
CuNi nanoparticles embedded in Zr pellets



Reactor chamber and calorimetry setup



Temperature burst during initial heating



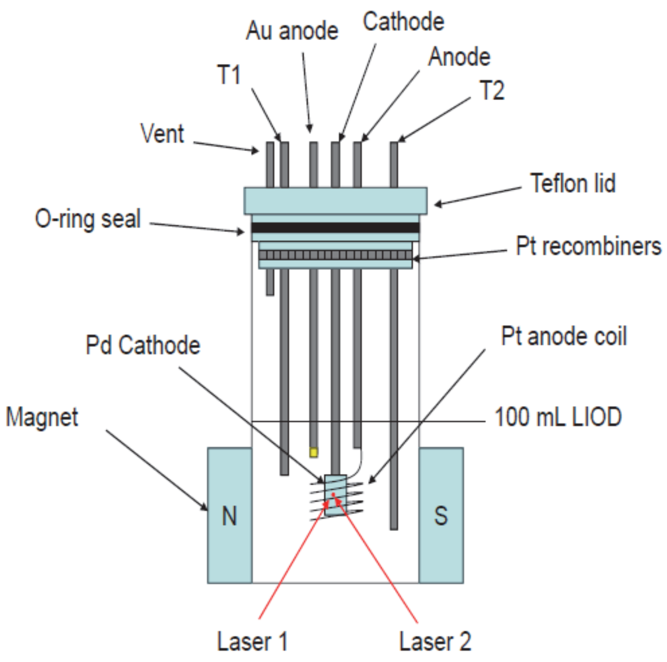
SEM image of cracked Zr pellets

Iwamura, Y. et al. (2019). Recent Advances in Heat Generation Experiments using Nano-sized Metal Composite and Hydrogen Gas at Condensed Matter Nuclear Reaction Division of Tohoku University. Conference Presentation presented at the LANR/CF Colloquium, MIT.

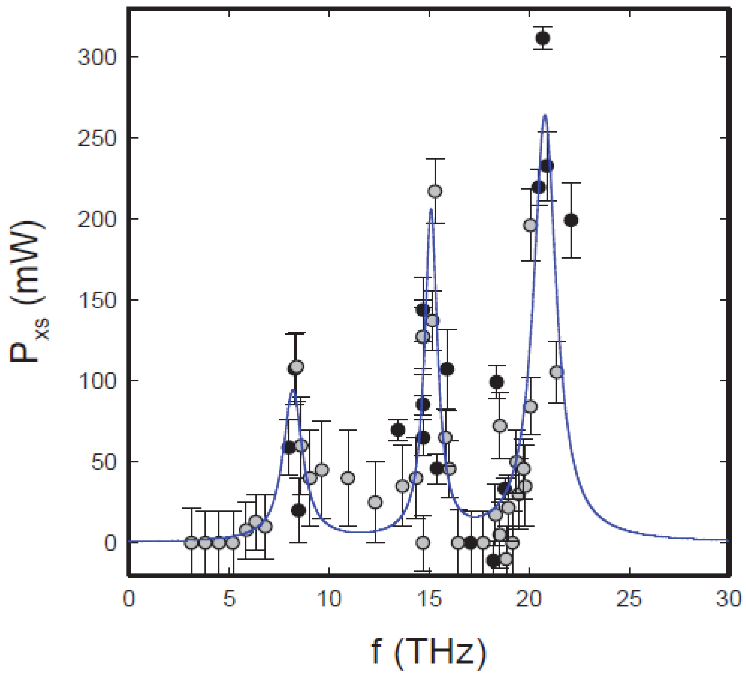
Characterization mode: lattice dynamics

Example: Excess heat as a function of stimulation frequency

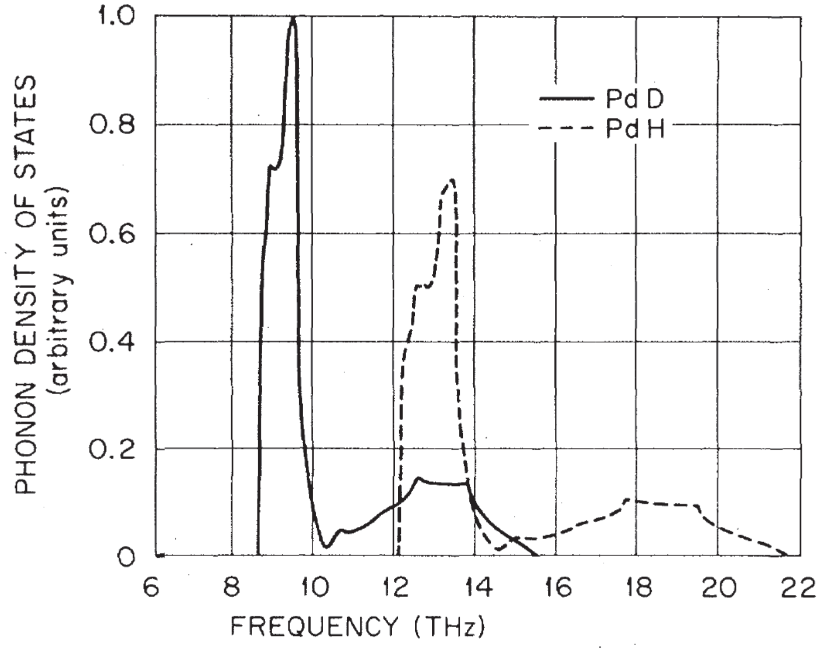
From non-LENR literature:



Experimental setup: electrolysis with Pd cathode



Excess heat from dozens of experiments as a function of stimulation frequency



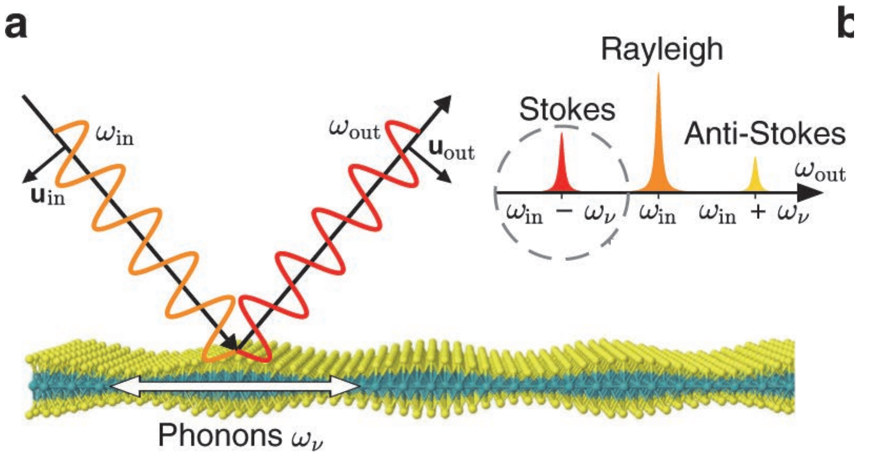
Vibrational modes of a Pd lattice with high D and H loading

Hagelstein, P. L., et al (2010). Terahertz difference frequency response of pdd in two-laser experiments. MIT Dspace. https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/71612
Rowe, J. M., et al (1974). Lattice Dynamics of a Single Crystal of Pd D 0.63. Physical Review Letters, 33, 1297.

Characterization mode: lattice dynamics

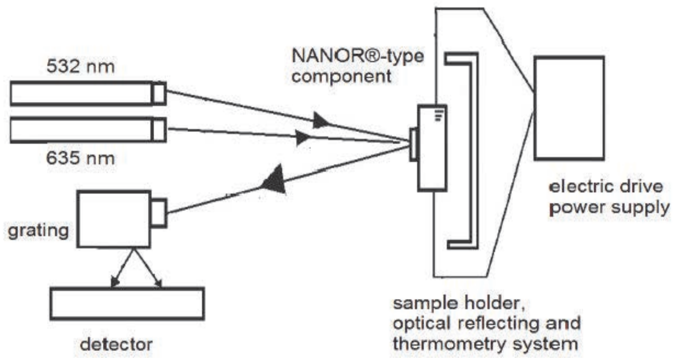
Example: Raman peaks correlated with excess heat

From non-LENR literature:

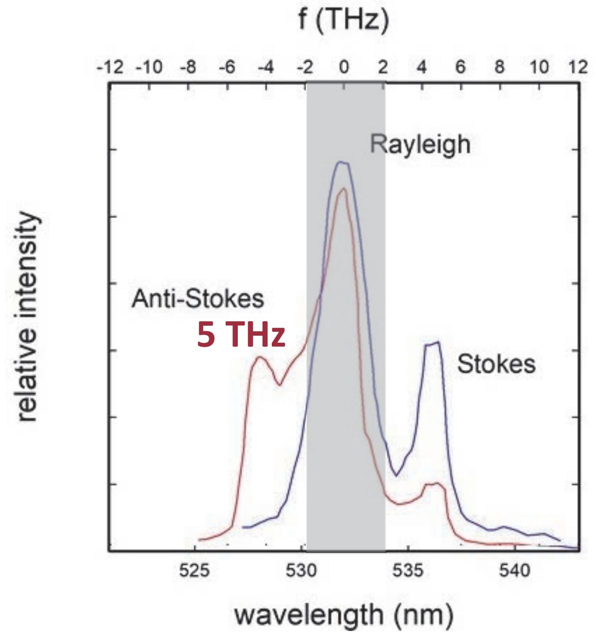


Principle of Raman spectroscopy

LENR literature:



Experimental setup: Pd nanoparticles sample (akin to Swartz et al. 2015 above) with in situ Raman measurement



Anti-Stokes Raman peaks are low before excess heat production (blue) but high during excess heat production (red).

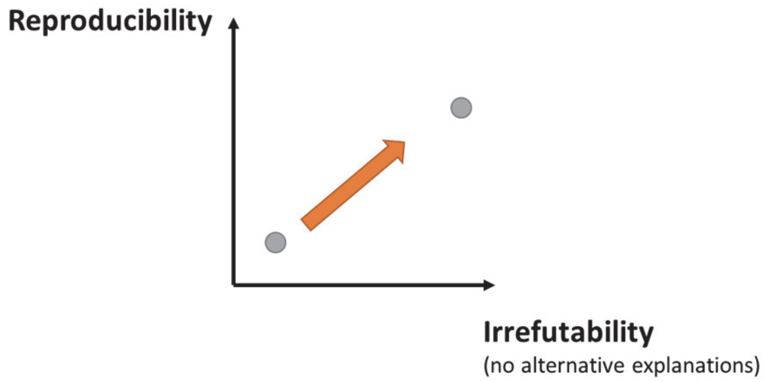
Taghizadeh, A., Leffers, U., Pedersen, T. G., & Thygesen, K. S. (2020). A library of ab initio Raman spectra for automated identification of 2D materials. Nature Communications, 11(1), 3011. Image reproduced via CC BY 4.0
Swartz, M. R., & Hagelstein, P. L. (2017). Increased PdD anti-Stokes Peaks are Correlated with Excess Heat Mode. J. Condensed Matter Nucl. Sci, 24, 130–145.

What can we learn from reviewing the LENR literature from this perspective?

Two main lessons

Lesson I: relevant to the **irrefutability challenge**

Lesson II: relevant to the **reproducibility challenge**



Lesson I: relevant to the irrefutability challenge

HEAT

ENERGETIC PARTICLES

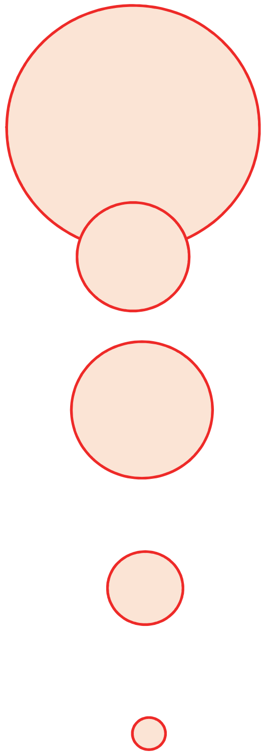
LATTICE COMPOSITION + CHANGES

LATTICE MORPHOLOGY + CHANGES

LATTICE DYNAMICS + CHANGES

Alternative explanations:

Number of experiments:



Lesson I: relevant to the irrefutability challenge

Alternative explanations:

Number of experiments:

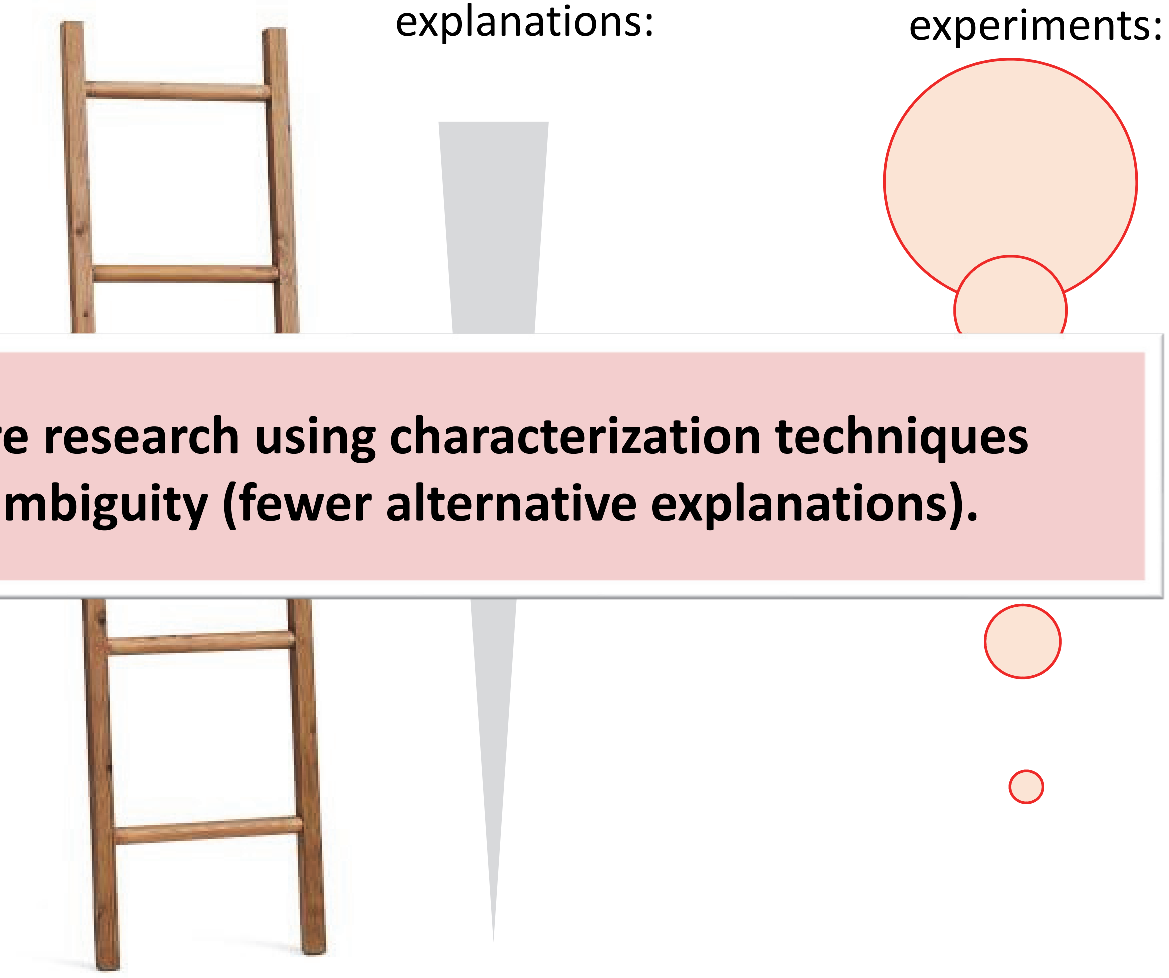
HEAT

ENERGETIC PARTICLES

LATTICE C

LATTICE MORPHOLOGY + CHANGES

LATTICE DYNAMICS + CHANGES



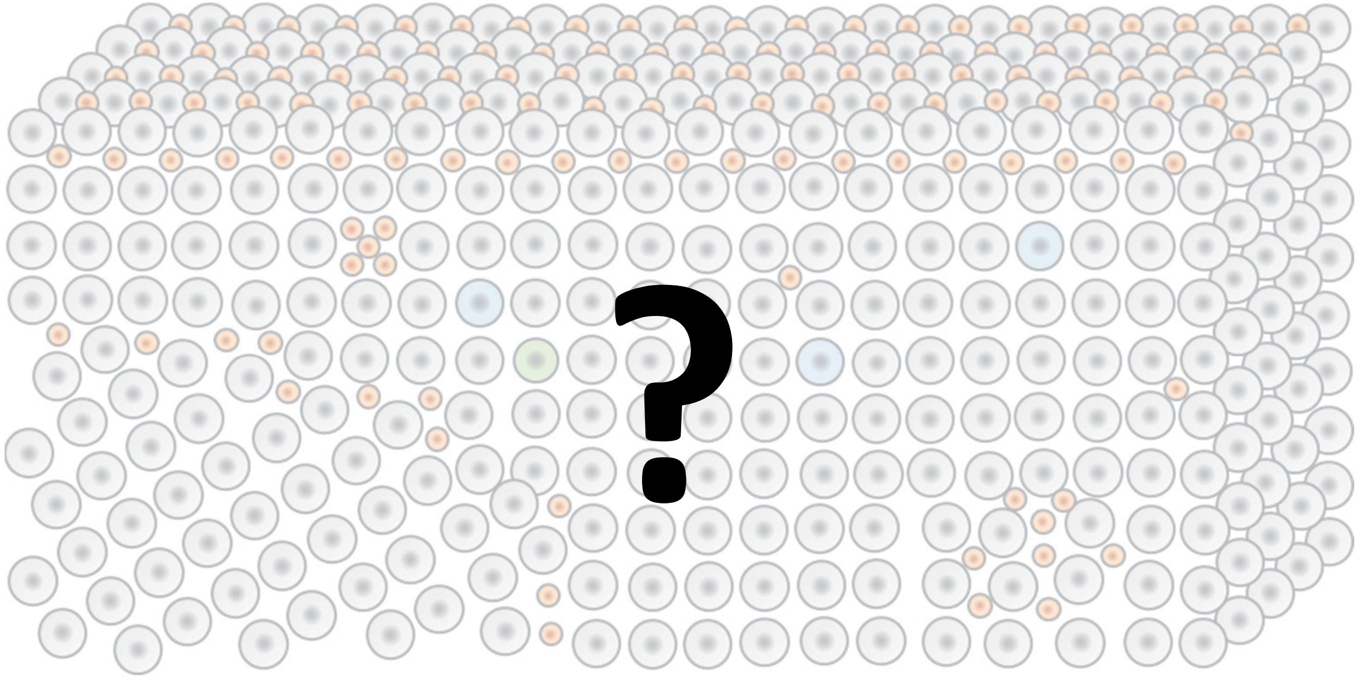
Need to conduct more research using characterization techniques with less intrinsic ambiguity (fewer alternative explanations).

	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
HEAT	20 MJ in 80 d from 2 g of PdD	2 KJ in 1 d from 0.2 g of PdD	?	?	?	8 MJ in 38 d from 6 g of PdD	?	? T rise but no calorimetry	23 MJ in 60 d from 25 g PdNiD	37 x 0.5 d runs with 0-0.3 W W_{excess} from 0.1 g of PdD	?
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

	Fleischmann & Pons 1990	Swartz 2015	Jones et al. 1990	Chambers et al. 1990	Forbes et al. 2019	Gozzi et al. 1998	Biberian 2020	Fralick et al. 2020	Kitamura et al. 2018	Letts et al. 2010	Swartz et al. 2017
HEAT	20 MJ in 80 d from 2 g of PdD	2 KJ in 1 d from 0.2 g of PdD	?	?	?	8 MJ in 38 d from 6 g of PdD	?	? T rise but no calorimetry	23 MJ in 60 d from 25 g PdNiD	37 x 0.5 d runs with 0-0.3 W W_{excess} from 0.1 g of PdD	?
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

Too many question marks

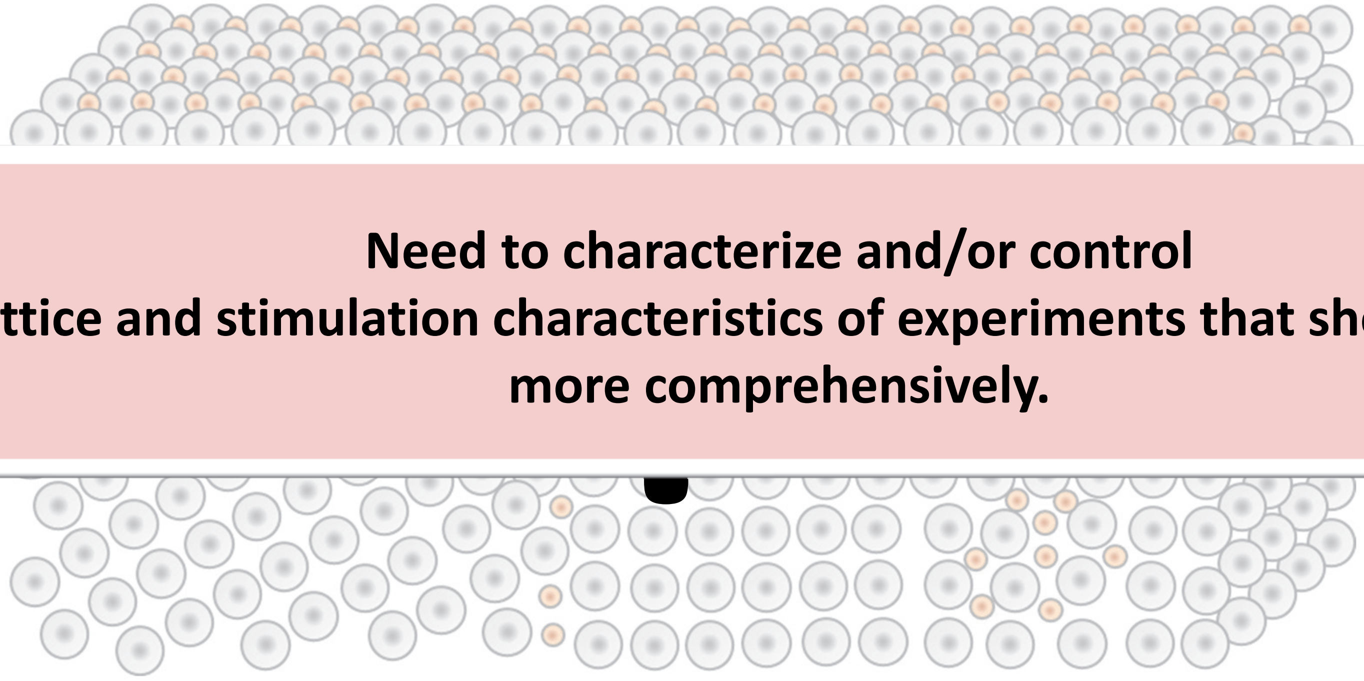
Too many uncontrolled/uncharacterized variables



Lesson II: relevant to the reproducibility challenge

Too many question marks

Too many uncontrolled/uncharacterized variables

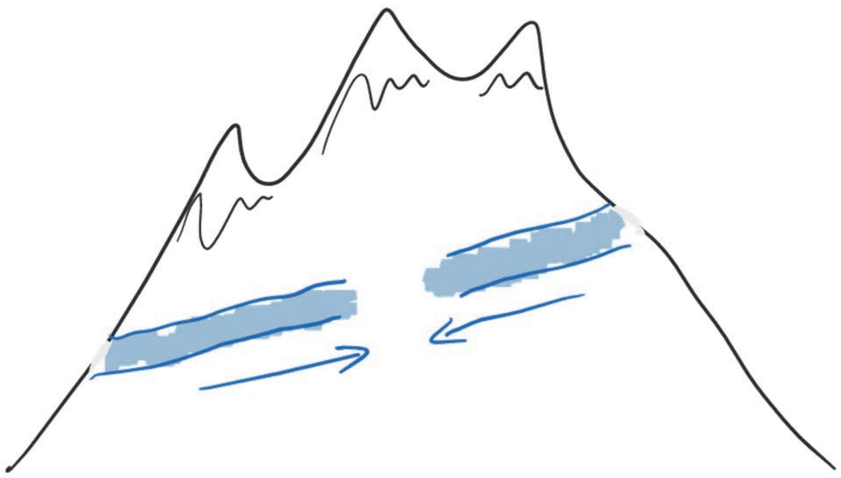


Need to characterize and/or control lattice and stimulation characteristics of experiments that show effects more comprehensively.

C. Implications for future research

What do these lessons mean for future research?

We propose a two-pronged approach to respond to these lessons and to address the irrefutability challenge and the reproducibility challenge.



Top-down:
Focus on a small number of experiments and conduct comprehensive characterizations.

Bottom-up:
Design hypothesis-driven experiments with simple, highly controlled samples predicted to exhibit LENR effects.

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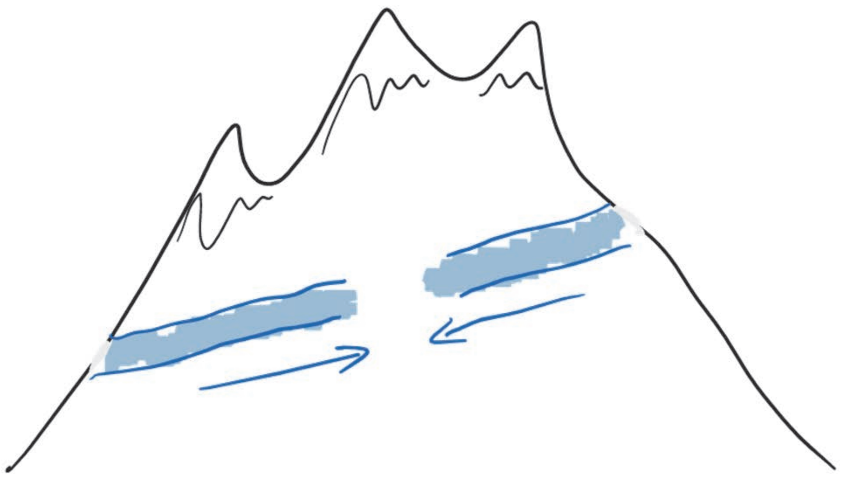

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ENERGETIC PARTICLES	?	?	5 MeV neutrons	21 MeV charged particles	28 MeV charged particles	X-ray film exposure, ?	?	?	?	?	?
LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
LATTICE DYNAMICS	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled electric discharge	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	~100 eV bombard-ment	~100 eV bombard-ment	Uncontrolled Hydrogen diffusion	Optical laser irradiation	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Uncontrolled hydrogen diffusion	Controlled THz photon stimulation	Uncontrolled electric discharge
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

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LATTICE COMPOSITION	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Ti, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Si, D, P, ?	Pd, Ag, Fe, Si, Al, D, P, ?	Pd, Ni, Zr, D, P, ?	Pd, D, P, ?	Pd, Zr, D, P, ?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	He-4 production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mn/Cr production	Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr production	?	?	?
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	Spot formation	Spot formation	Cracks	?	?
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+ CHANGES	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 THz Raman peaks

Implications

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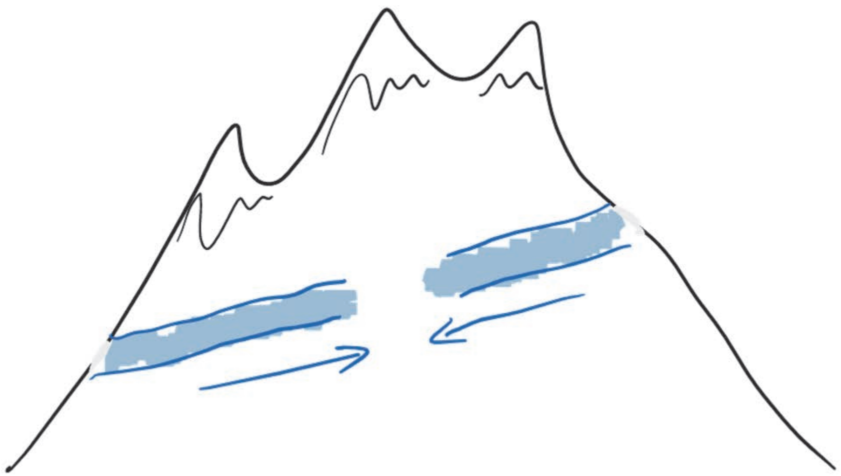
We propose a two-pronged approach to respond to these lessons
and to address the irrefutability challenge and the reproducibility challenge.



Top-down:
Focus on a small number of experiments and conduct comprehensive characterizations.

Bottom-up:
Design hypothesis-driven experiments with simple, highly controlled samples predicted to exhibit LENR effects.

Thinking about mechanisms

What is known and accepted in the wider literature about enhancing nuclear transitions:

- Atomic physics
  - Electrons can increase proximity between nuclei.
  - Vacancies allow for both close proximity and high electron density in the lattice.

→ **Want lattice with high screening and close proximity**

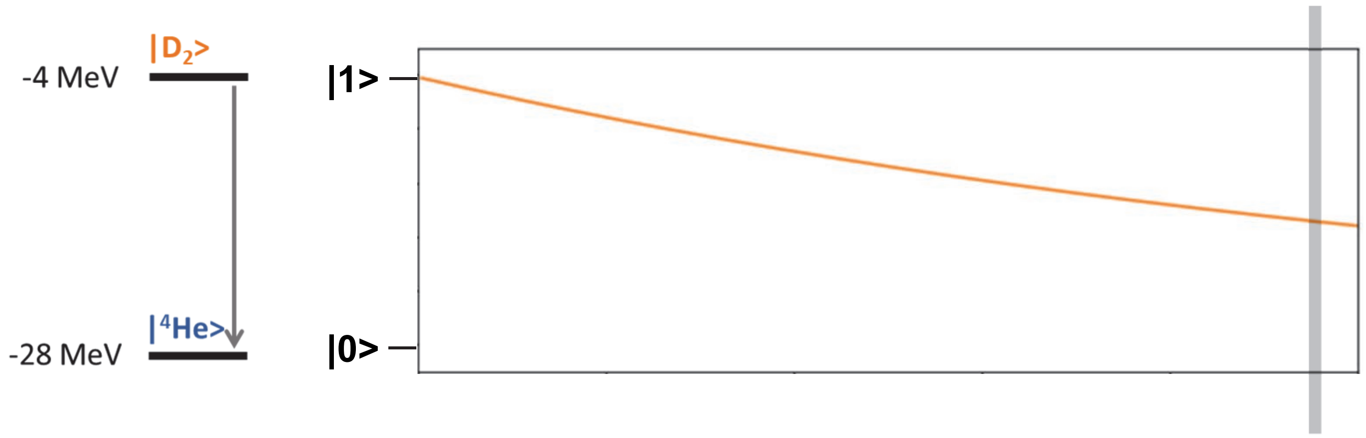
- Quantum dynamics:
  - Photons, phonons, plasmons, etc. can cause couplings between nuclei.
  - Couplings can intensify with coherence.
  - Strong couplings can change state transition and reaction parameters.

→ **Want to externally induce weak couplings and enhance via superradiance**

Prados-Estévez, F. M., Subashiev, A. V., & Nee, H. H. (2017). Strong screening by lattice confinement and resultant fusion reaction rates in fcc metals. Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section B: Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms, 407, 67–72.
Terhune, J. H., & Baldwin, G. C. (1965). Nuclear Superradiance in Solids. Physical Review Letters, 14(15), 589–591.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Start with an isolated D pair

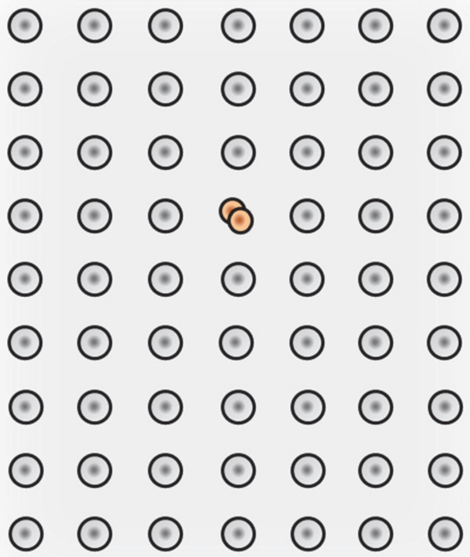


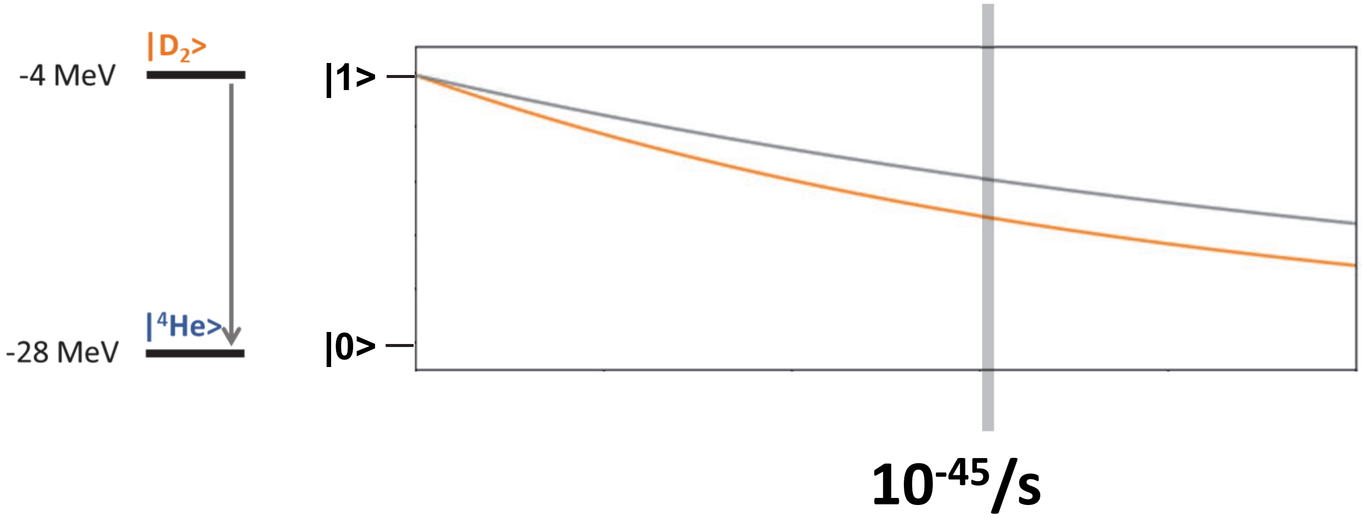
10^{-64}/s

Koonin, S. E., & Nauenberg, M. (1989). Calculated fusion rates in isotopic hydrogen molecules. Nature, 339(6227), 690.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Place D pair in a vacancy of a Pd lattice



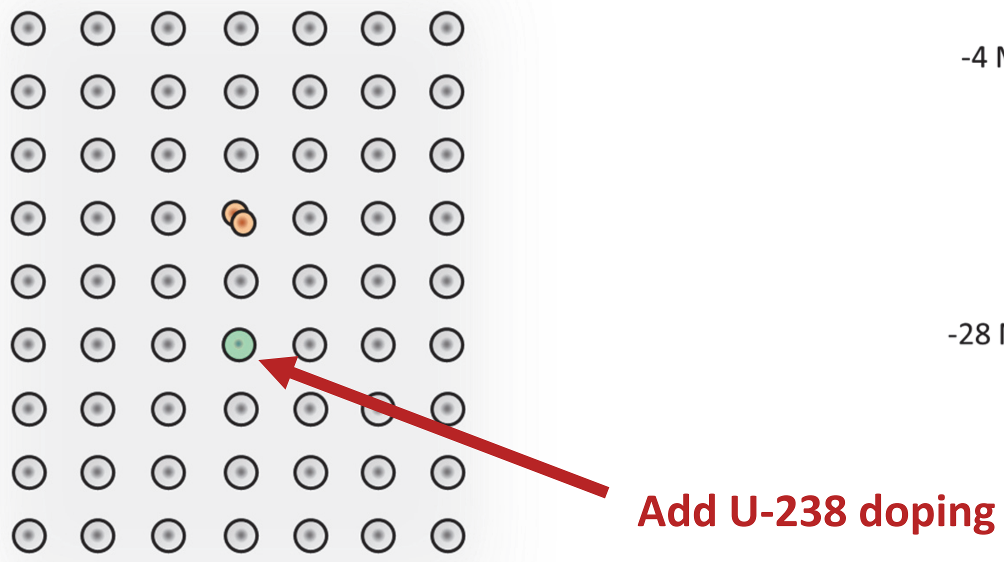


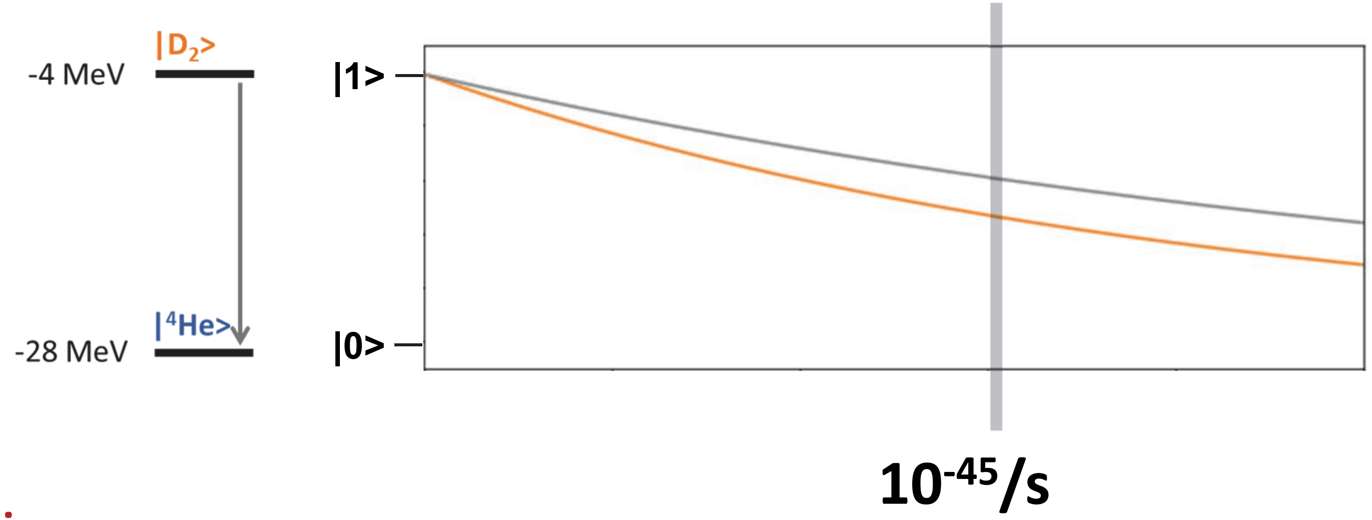
Doped Pd lattice with vacancy hydrogen clusters:
DD distance <100 pm
Screening potential > 150 eV

Targosz-Ślęczka, N., Czerski, K., Huke, A., Ruprecht, G., Weissbach, D., Martin, L., Kaczmarski, M., & Winter, H. (2013). Experiments on screening effect in deuteron fusion reactions at extremely low energies. The European Physical Journal Special Topics, 222(9), 2353–2359.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Add resonant receiver nuclei as dopants

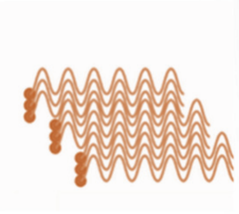


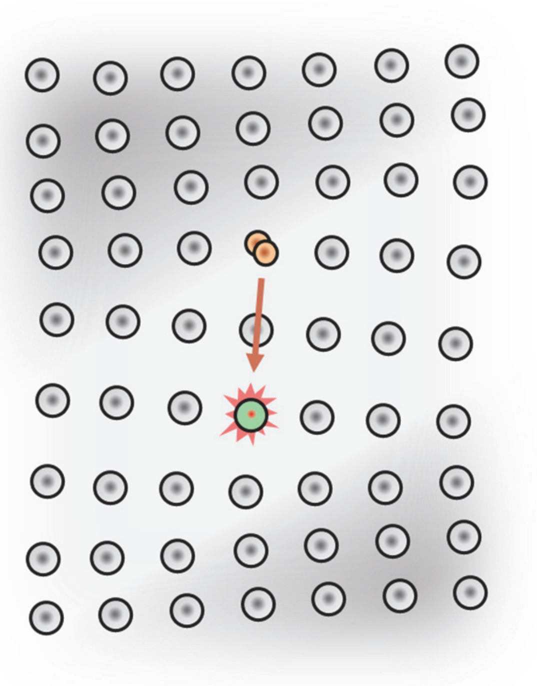


Doped Pd lattice with vacancy hydrogen clusters:
DD distance <100 pm
Screening potential > 150 eV

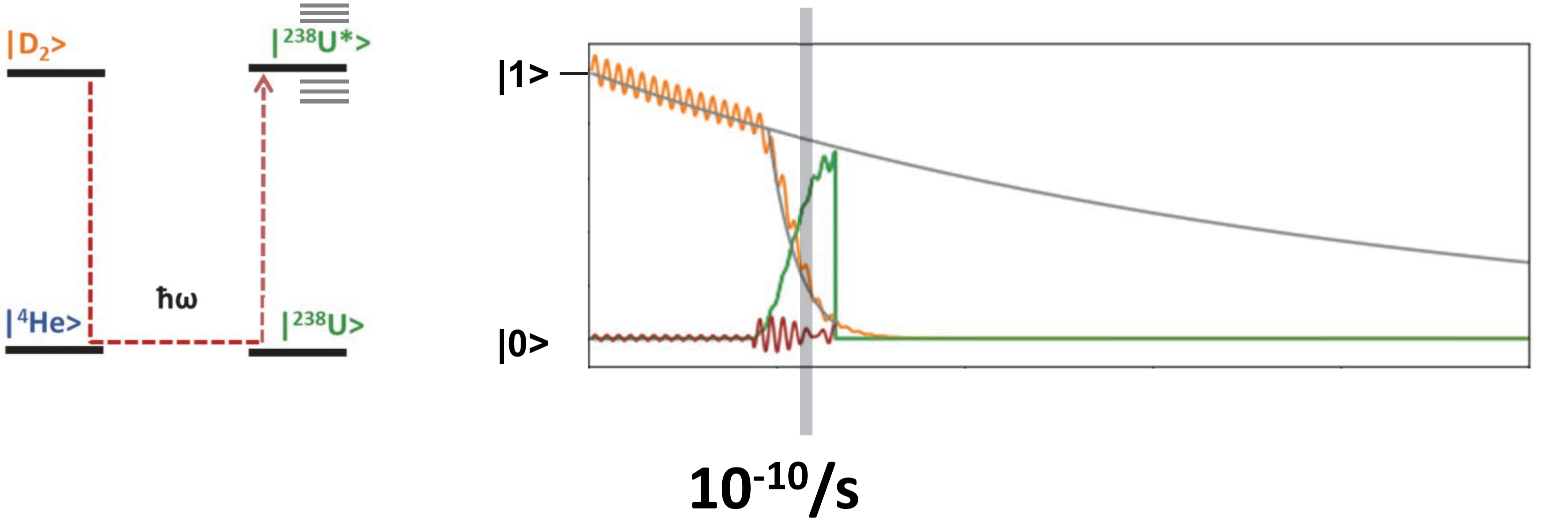
Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Enhance couplings between nuclei via coherent stimulation





Stimulate with coherent photons at 10 THz

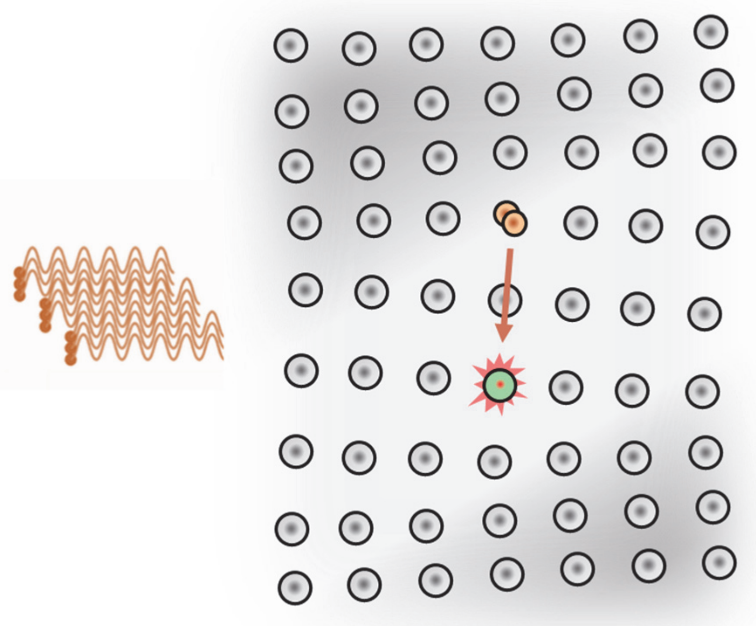


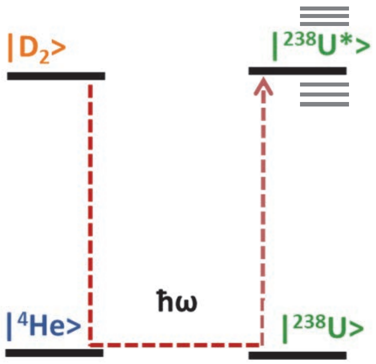
Hagelstein, P. L. (2020). Models based on phonon-nuclear coupling. In Cold Fusion (pp. 283–300). Elsevier.
Hagelstein, P. L. (2018). Phonon-mediated Nuclear Excitation Transfer. J. Cond. Mat. Nucl. Sci, 27, 97–142.

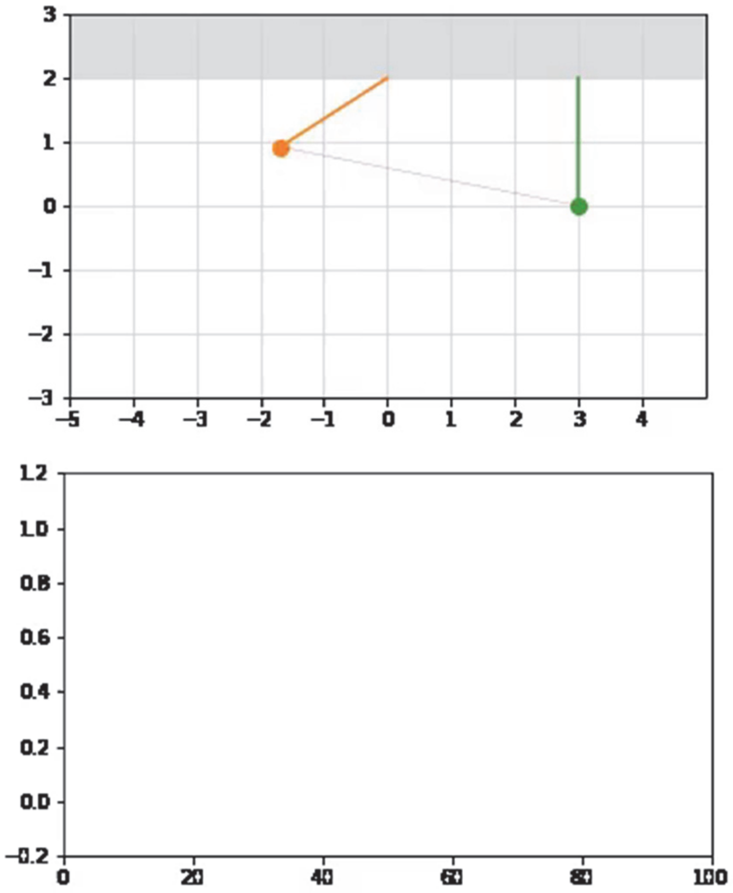
Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Building intuition through mechanical analogs

Excitation transfer via temporary increase of coupling (classical analog): https://youtu.be/wp_nqj3cADY





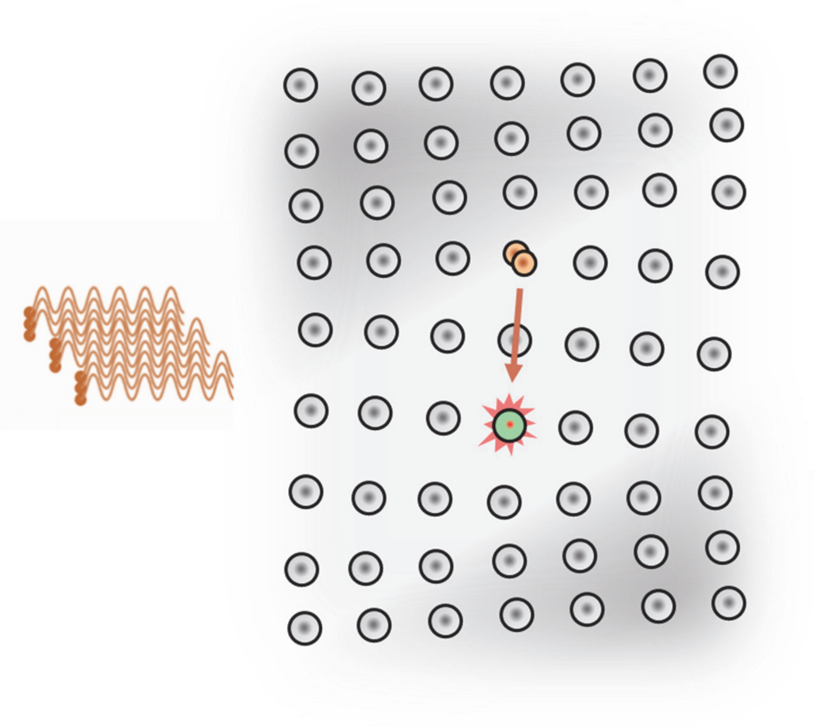


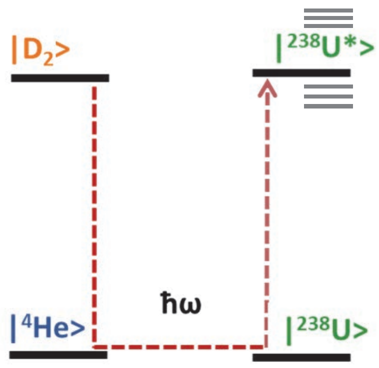
kinetic energy (classical) ≙ state occupation probability (quantum)

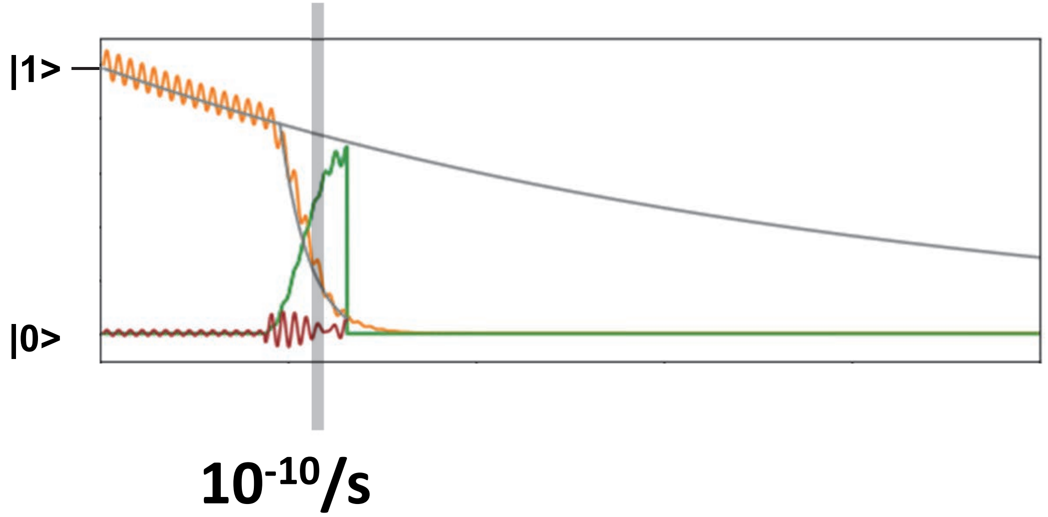
Briggs, J. S., & Eisfeld, A. (2012). Coherent quantum states from classical oscillator amplitudes. Physical Review A, 85(5), 052111.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Couplings between resonant nuclei accelerate transitions







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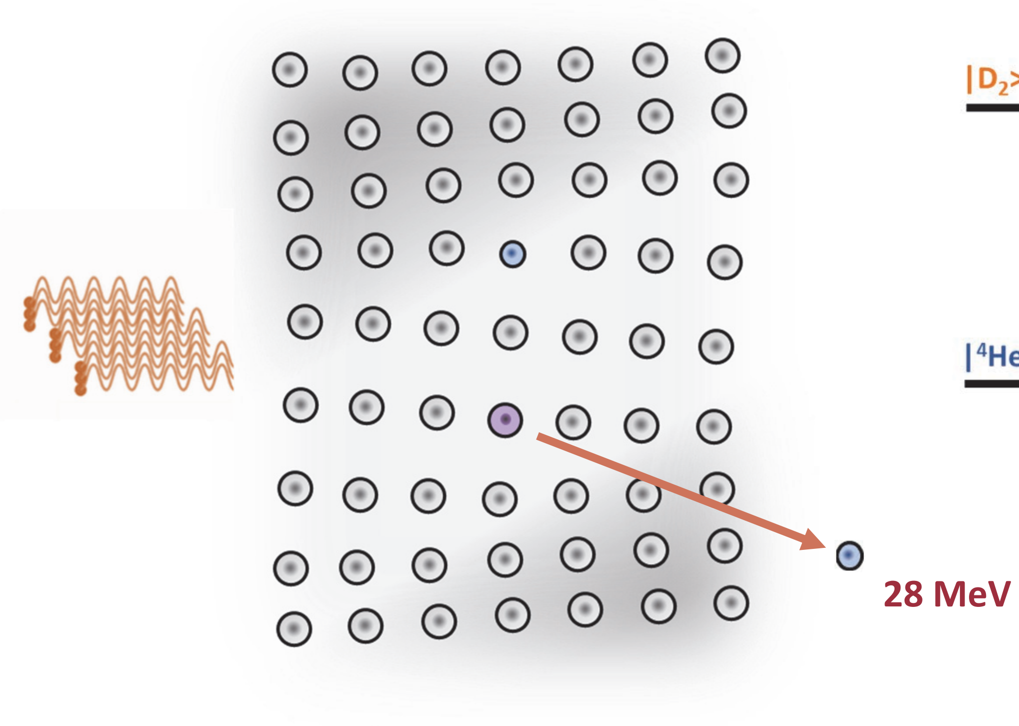
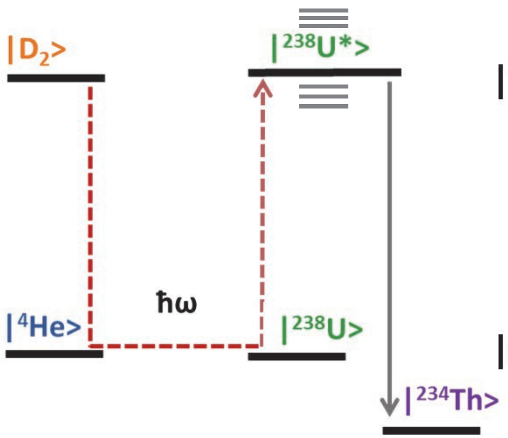
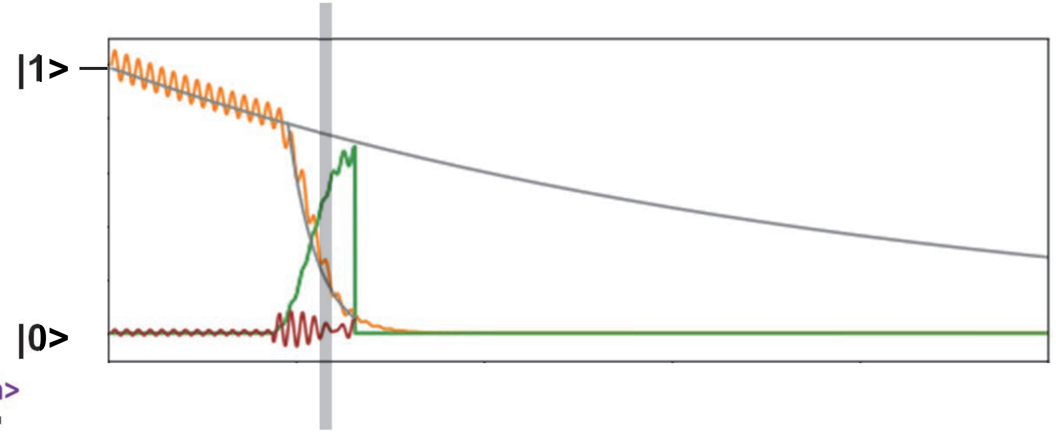
Hagelstein, P. L. (2018). Phonon-mediated Nuclear Excitation Transfer. J. Cond. Mat. Nucl. Sci, 27, 97–142.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Receiver nucleus disintegrates







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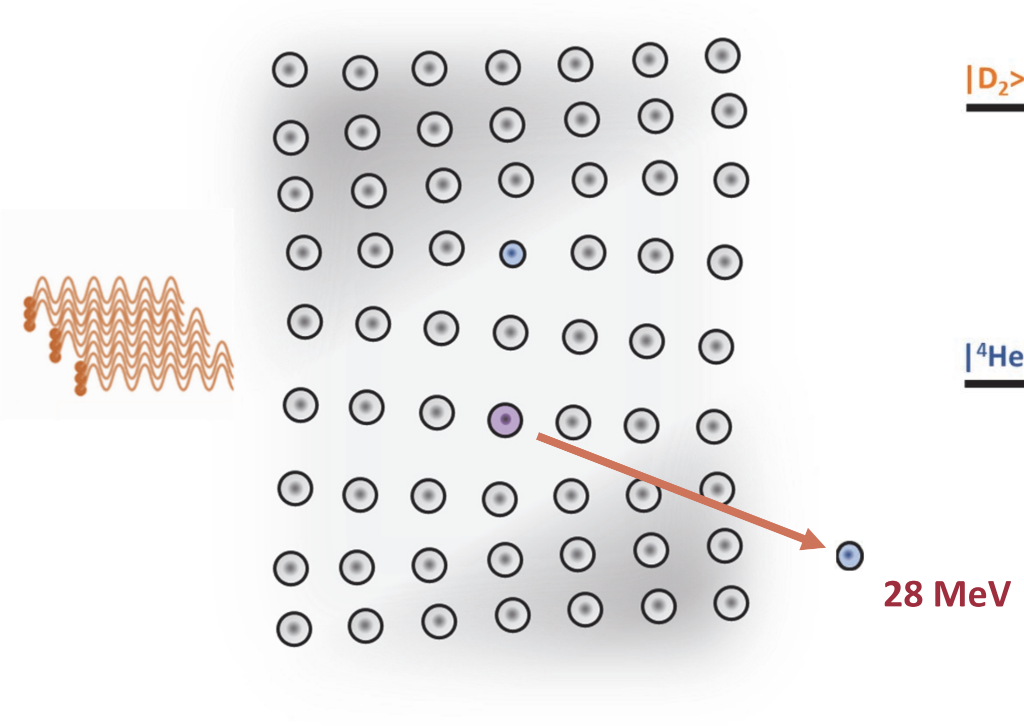
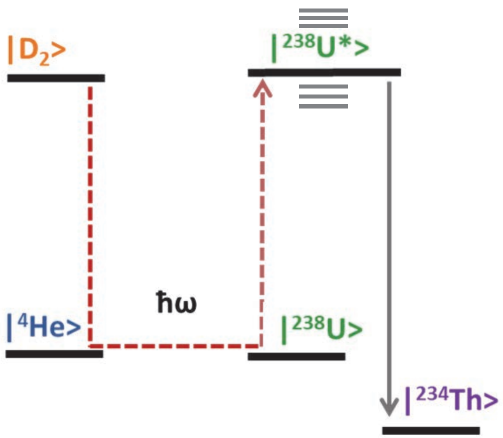
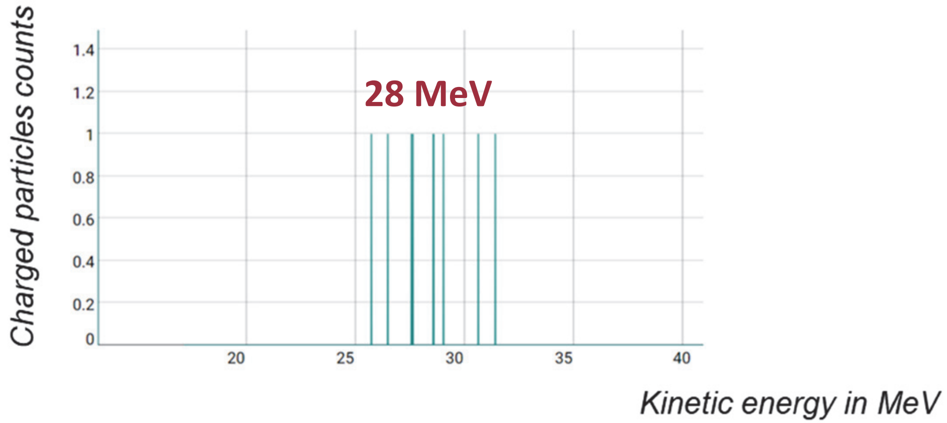
Hagelstein, P. L. (2020). Models based on phonon-nuclear coupling. In Cold Fusion (pp. 283–300). Elsevier.
Hagelstein, P. L. (2018). Phonon-mediated Nuclear Excitation Transfer. J. Cond. Mat. Nucl. Sci, 27, 97–142.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Explanation for anomalies in MIT experiments





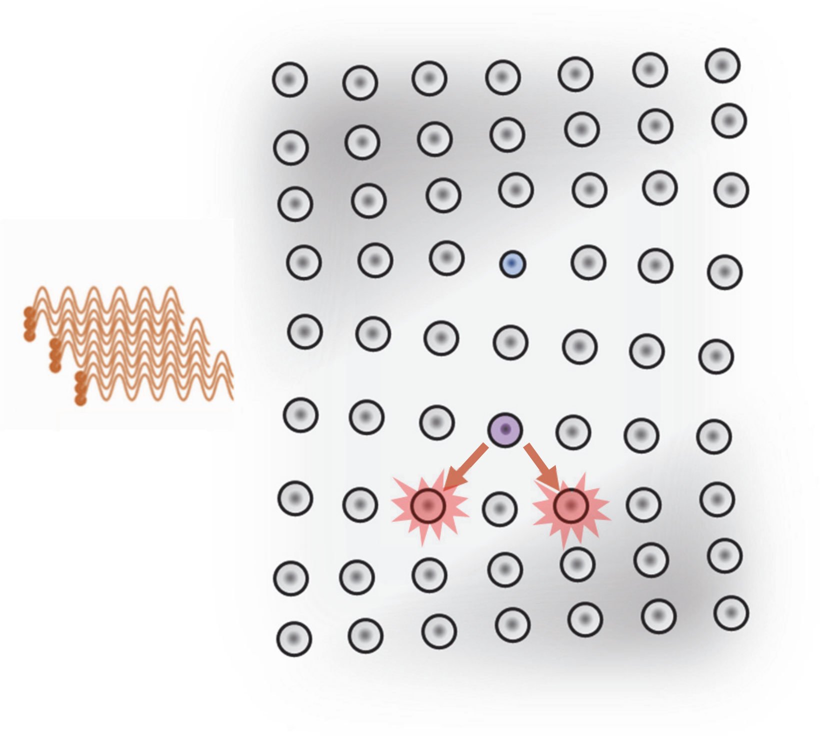


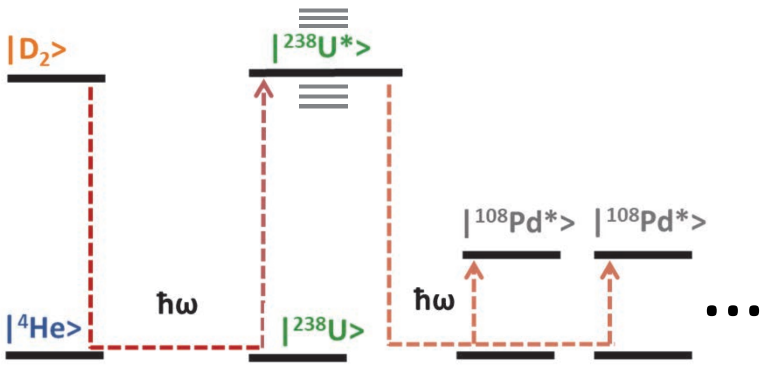
28 MeV charged particle counts from bombarded Ti foil

Forbes, S. (2019). Initial report on low-energy ion beam experiments with various metal targets [Conference Presentation]. ICCF22, Assisi, Italy.

Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Alternative secondary and tertiary reactions





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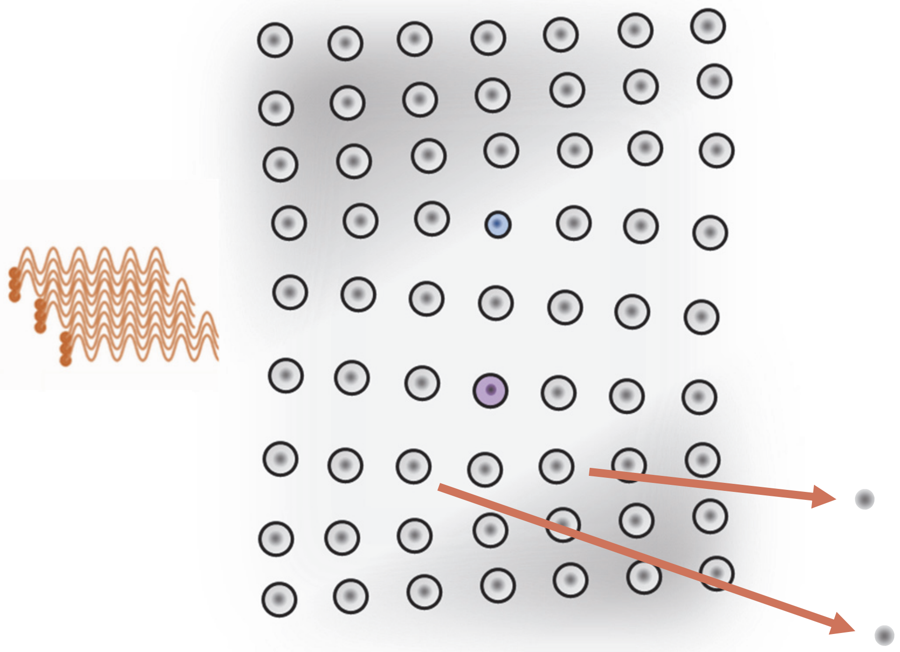
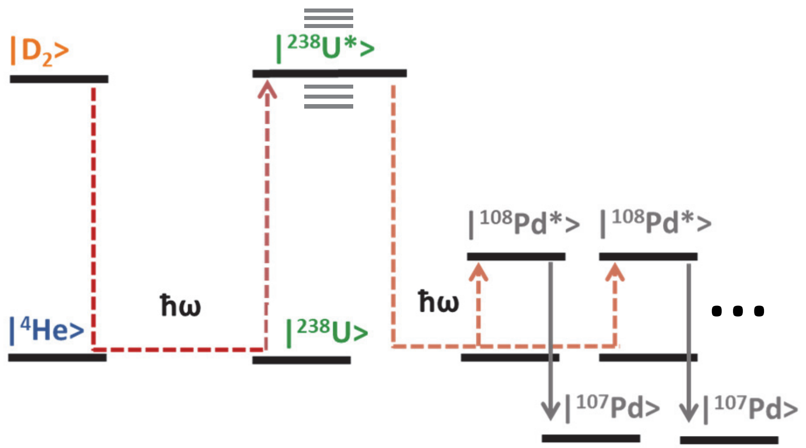
Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Explanation for anomalous neutron emission





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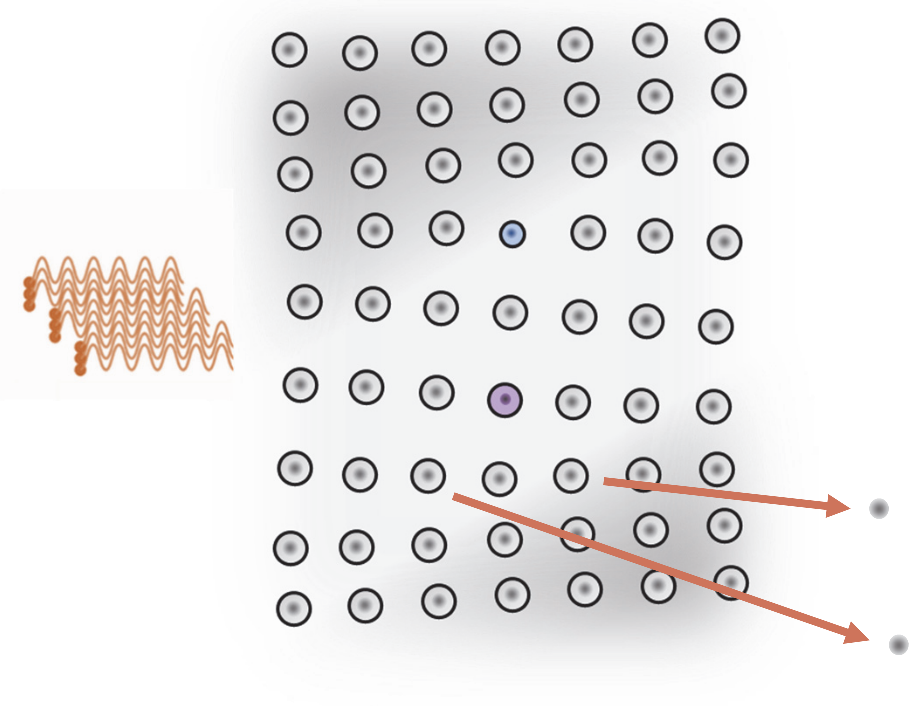
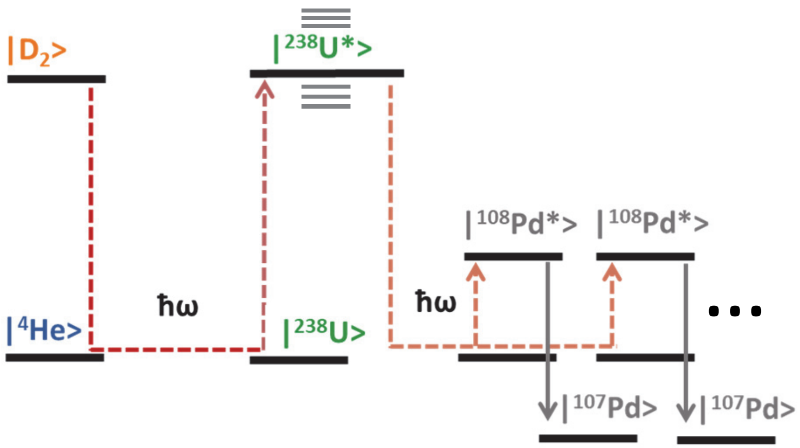
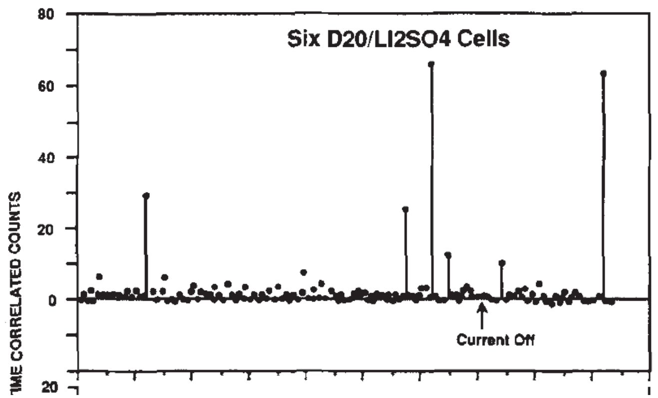
Combining screening and transition rate enhancement

Explanation for variety of experimental outcomes





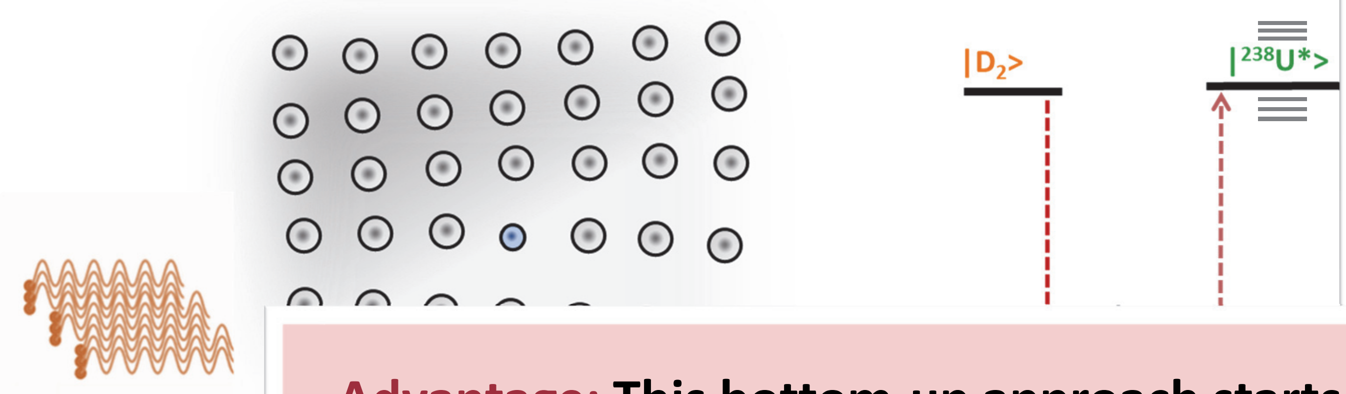


Caution:
This implies that in some configurations you would expect observable energetic particles -- and in others you would not!

Jones, S. E., Palmer, E. P., Czirr, J. B., Decker, D. L., Jensen, G. L., Thorne, J. M., Taylor, S. F., & Rafelski, J. (1990). Anomalous nuclear reactions in condensed matter: Recent results and open questions. Journal of Fusion Energy, 9(2), 199–208.

Combining screening and transition

Explanation for variety of experimenta



Advantage: This bottom-up approach starts with a complete description of what the lattice/sample ought to look like → detailed specifications for materials scientists

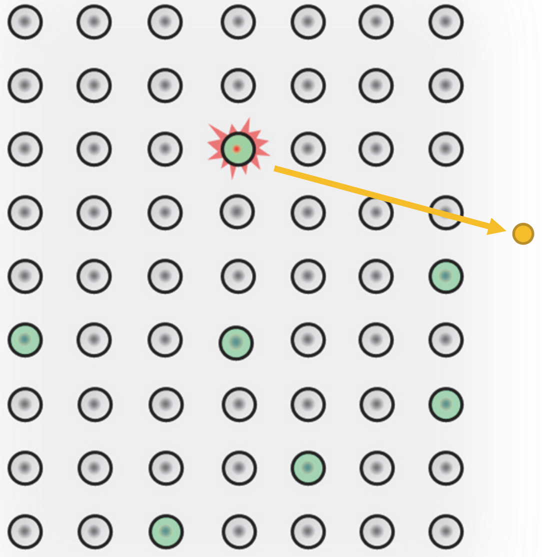
Bottom-up experiment

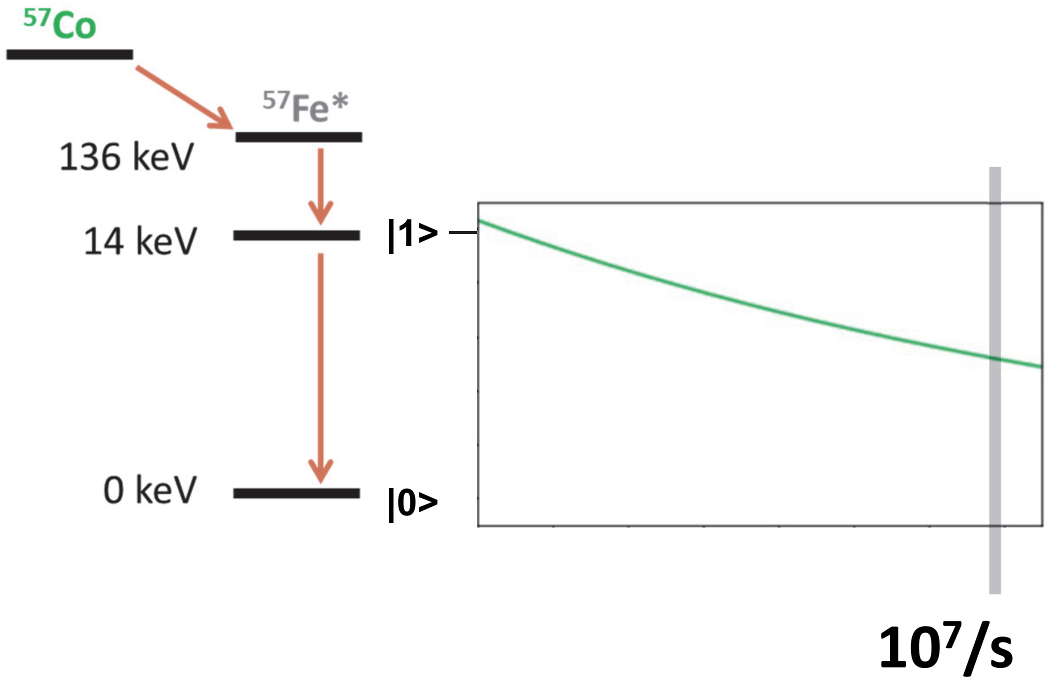
HEAT	From alpha particle thermalization
ENERGETIC PARTICLES	28 MeV per reaction site (D2 and U-238 pair)
LATTICE COMPOSITION	PdD with 0.001% U-238 dopants
+ CHANGES	DD → He-4; U-238 → Th-234
LATTICE MORPHOLOGY	PdD with >10% VacH clusters
+ CHANGES	damage from charged particles
LATTICE DYNAMICS	10 THz phonons
+ CHANGES	Possibility of downconversion to phonon modes

Hagelstein, P. L. (2020). Models based on phonon-nuclear coupling. In Cold Fusion (pp. 283
Hagelstein, P. L. (2018). Phonon-mediated Nuclear Excitation Transfer. J. Cond. Mat. Nucl.

Connecting with established literature

Simpler relevant experiments: accelerating Fe-57 nuclear emission





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Metzler, F. (2019). Experiments to Investigate Phonon-Nuclear Interactions [Thesis]. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Connecting with established literature

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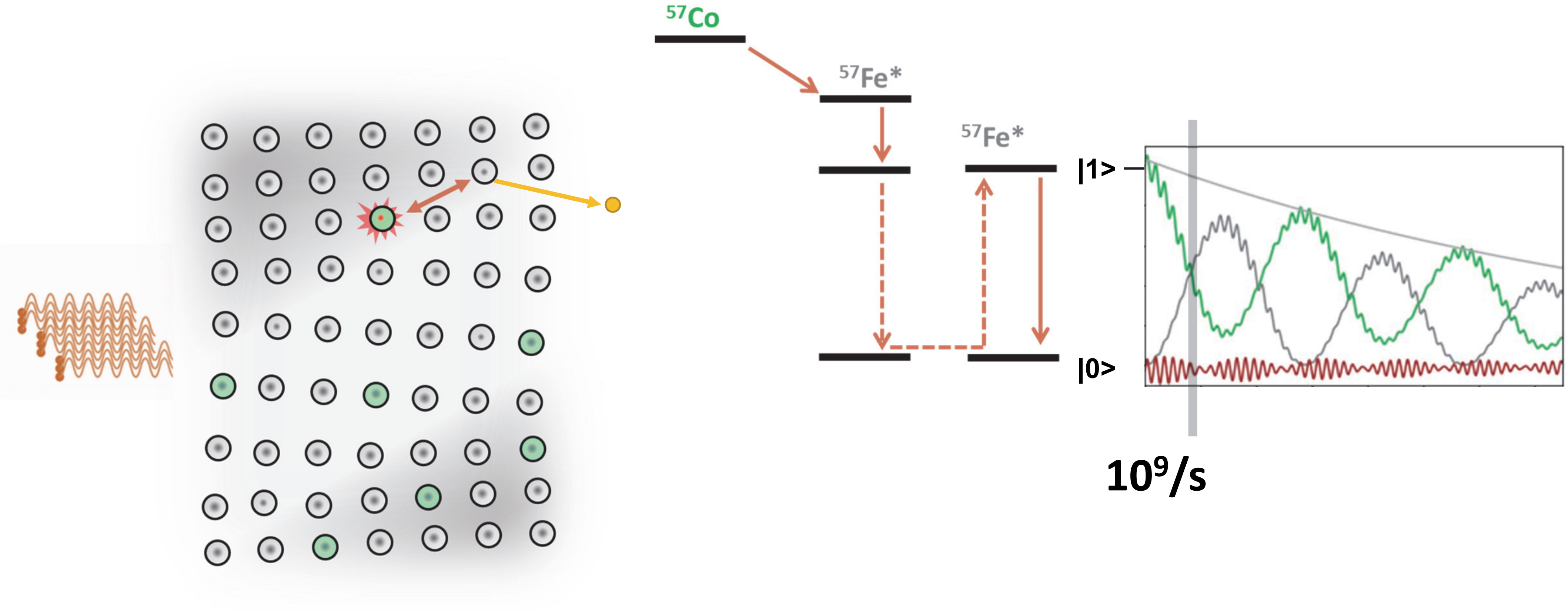

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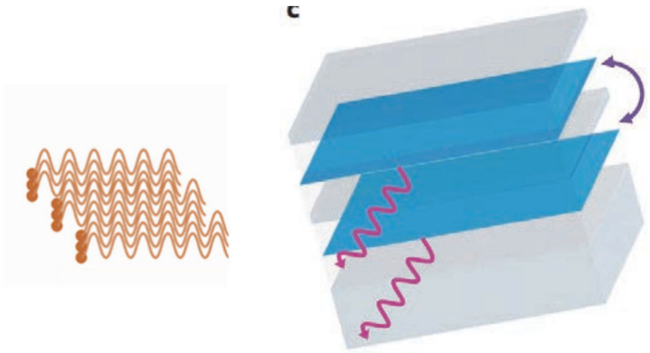
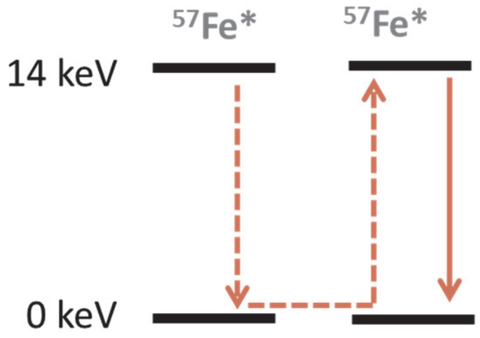
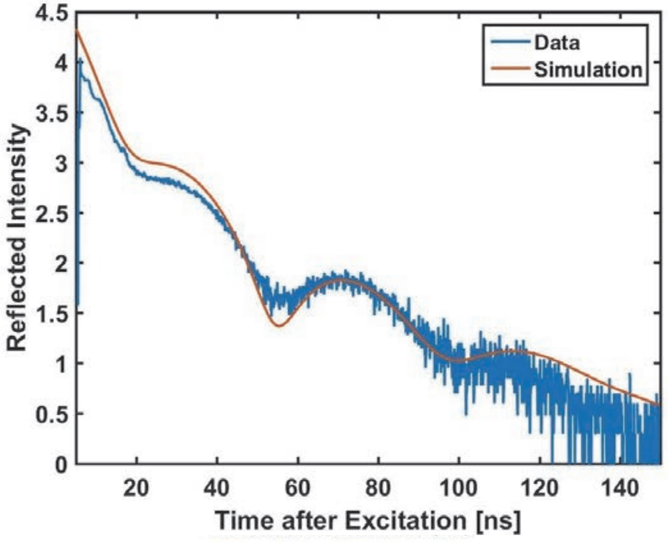
Metzler, F. (2019). Experiments to Investigate Phonon-Nuclear Interactions [Thesis]. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Connecting with established literature

Existing literature: accelerating Fe-57 nuclear emission



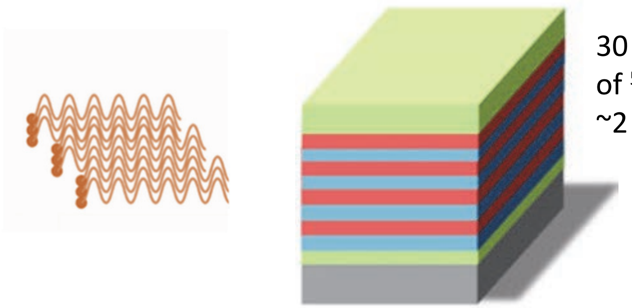




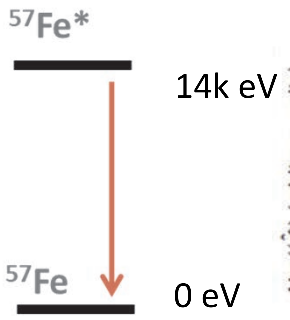
Haber, J., Kong, X., Strohm, C., Willing, S., Gollwitzer, J., Bocklage, L., Rüffer, R., Pálffy, A., & Röhlsberger, R. (2017). Rabi oscillations of X-ray radiation between two nuclear ensembles. Nature Photonics, 11(11), 720–725.
https://phys.org/news/2017-10-x-ray-rabi-oscillations-nuclei-coupled.html
Image credit: DESY

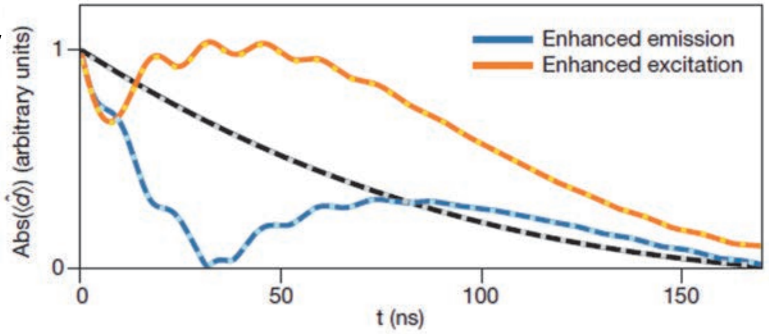
Connecting with established literature

Existing literature: accelerating Fe-57 nuclear emission



30 bilayers
of $^{57}Fe/^{56}Fe$
~2 nm each





Accelerated (blue) and delayed (orange) decay of excited states in Fe-57 nuclei due to strong couplings to resonant neighboring nuclei.

Heeg, K. P., Kaldun, A., Strohm, C., Ott, C., Subramanian, R., Lentrodt, D., Haber, J., Wille, H.-C., Goerttler, S., Rüffer, R., Keitel, C. H., Röhlsberger, R., Pfeifer, T., & Evers, J. (2021). Coherent X-ray–optical control of nuclear excitons. Nature, 590(7846), 401–404.

Conclusions

Conclusions

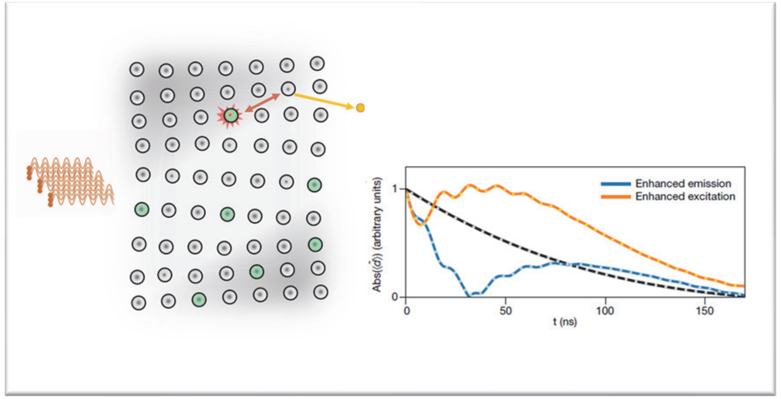
Key points

- A reference experiment needs to be both reproducible and unambiguous.
- Historically, emphasis has been on characterization modes that leave too much room for alternative explanations (heat)
  → *high ambiguity/low irrefutability.*
- Going forward, prioritize characterization modes that are intrinsically more unambiguous (e.g. Raman spectroscopy for lattice dynamics).
- There are still too many uncharacterized/uncontrolled variables in any of the major experiments → *low reproducibility.*

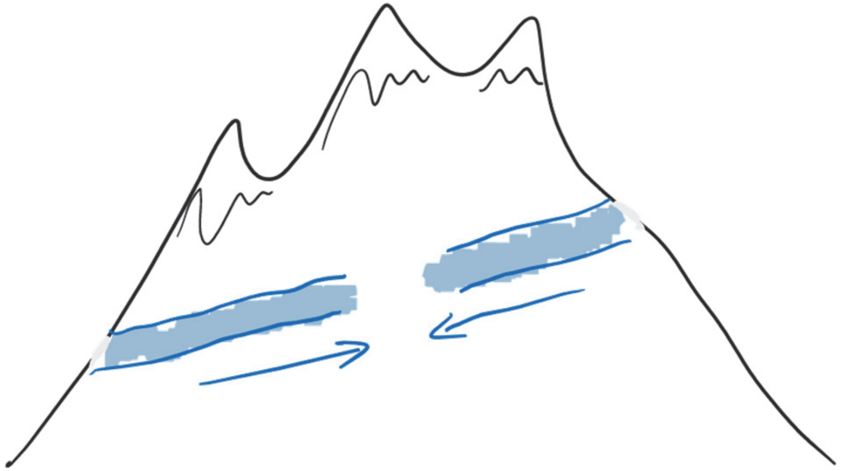
Conclusions

Key points (2)

- In future research, employ a two-pronged approach:



Bottom-up:
simple experiments with precise specifications based on hypotheses about mechanism; connect with adjacent literatures on accelerated state transitions



Top-down:
comprehensive characterization of a small number of legacy experiments (focus!)