

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
für Wirtschaft  
und Energie



Experimental Physics I

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages

JLU

NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607.

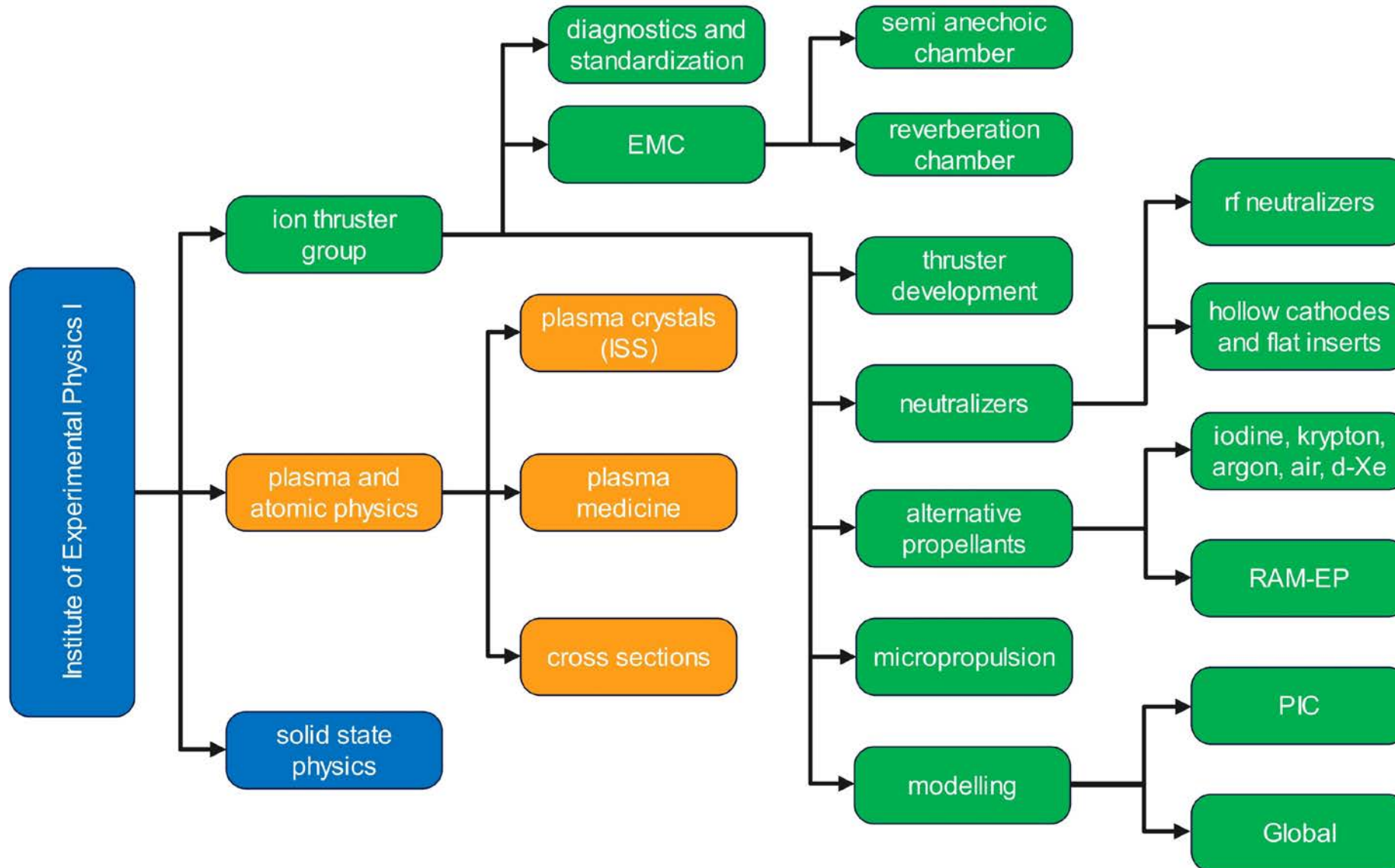
JUSTUS-LIEBIG-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
GIESSEN

Peter J. Klar, Kristof Holste

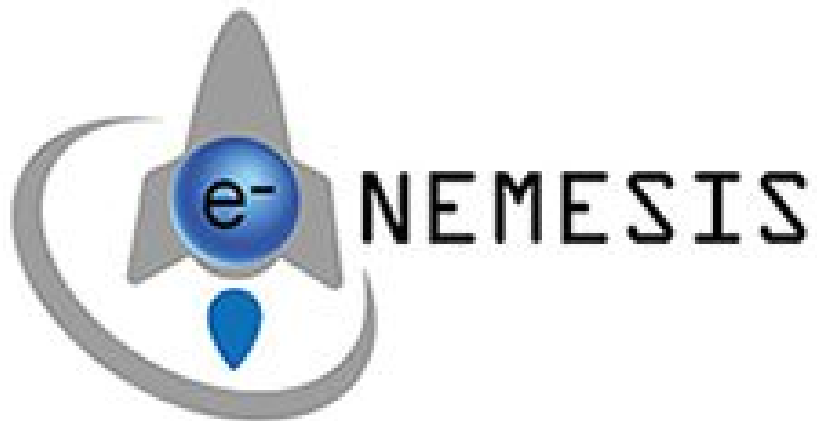
# Current research and testing activities at JLU Giessen

2023-05-12 – EPIC Workshop 2023, SRC H2020, Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy

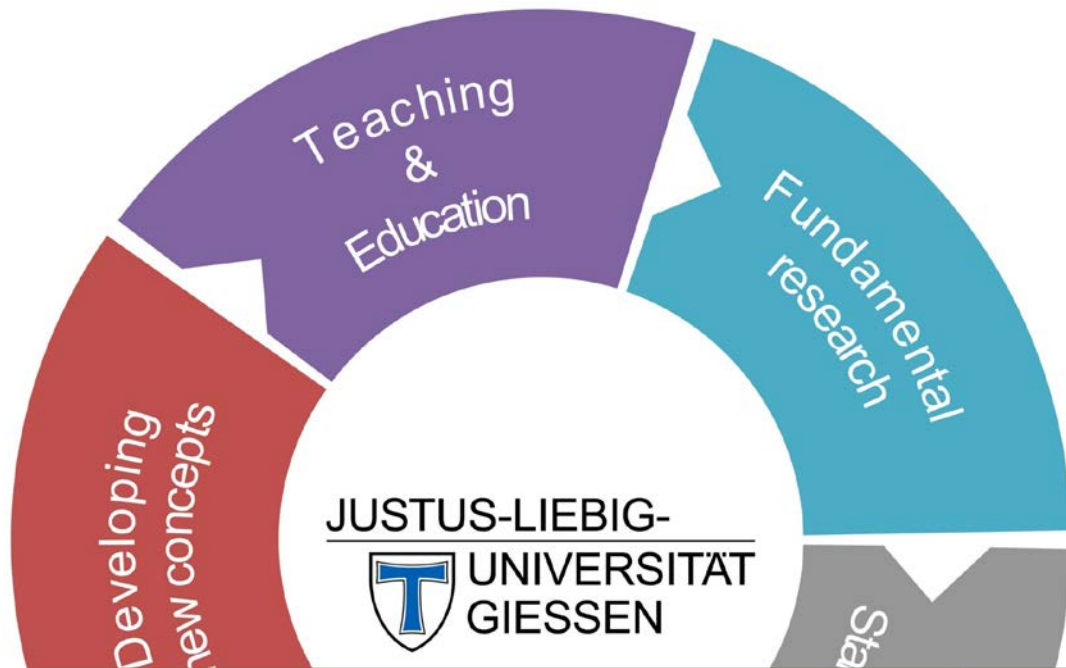
# Research at IPI of JLU



# EPIC projects with JLU participation



# Contribution in EPIC



We see ourselves as scientific scouts in such projects conducting and leading cutting edge research



diagnostics development  
& testing  
modelling of grid erosion



materials compatibility  
materials characterization  
alternative propellants

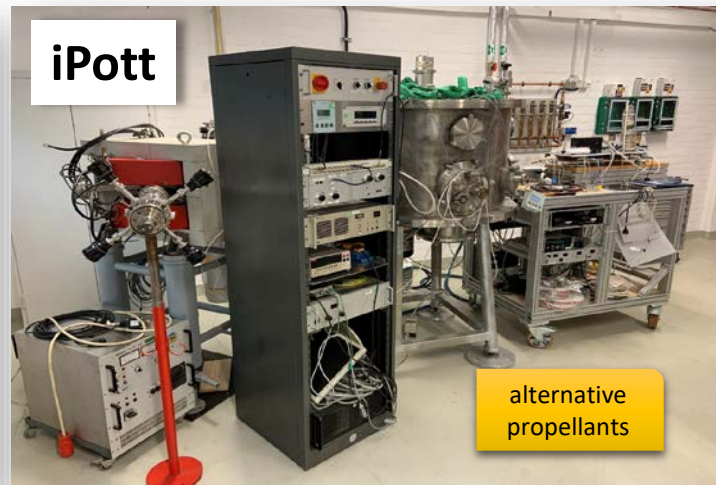


materials compatibility  
materials characterization  
alternative propellants  
cathode development & testing

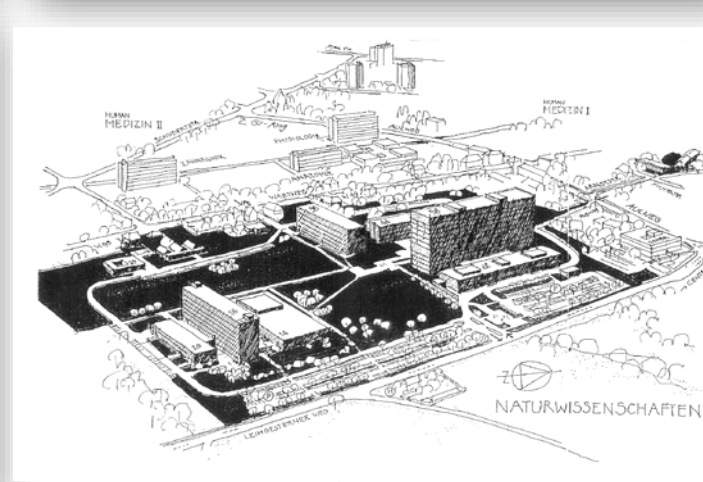
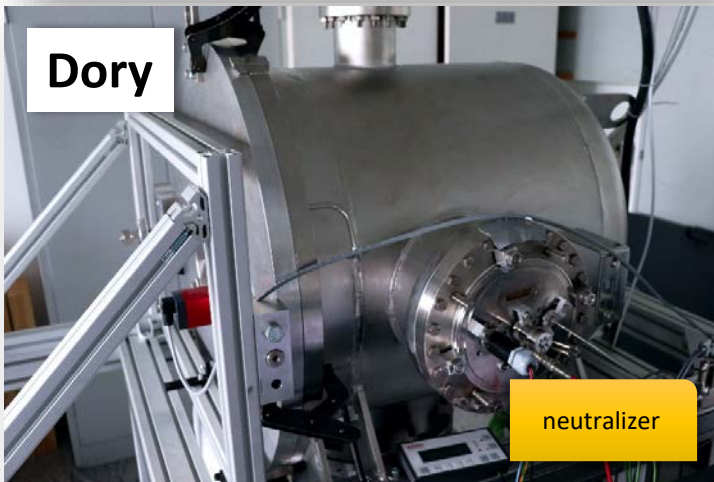


diagnostics development  
& test facility

# EP test facilities at JLU Giessen



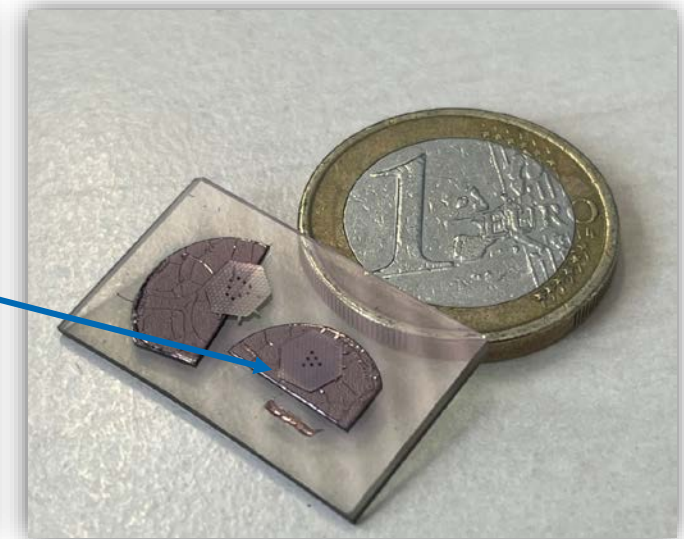
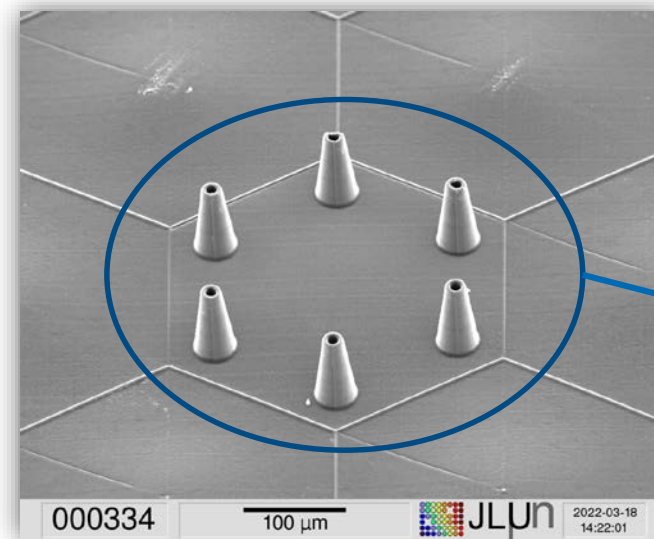
# Test facilities at JLU



# Developing new concepts



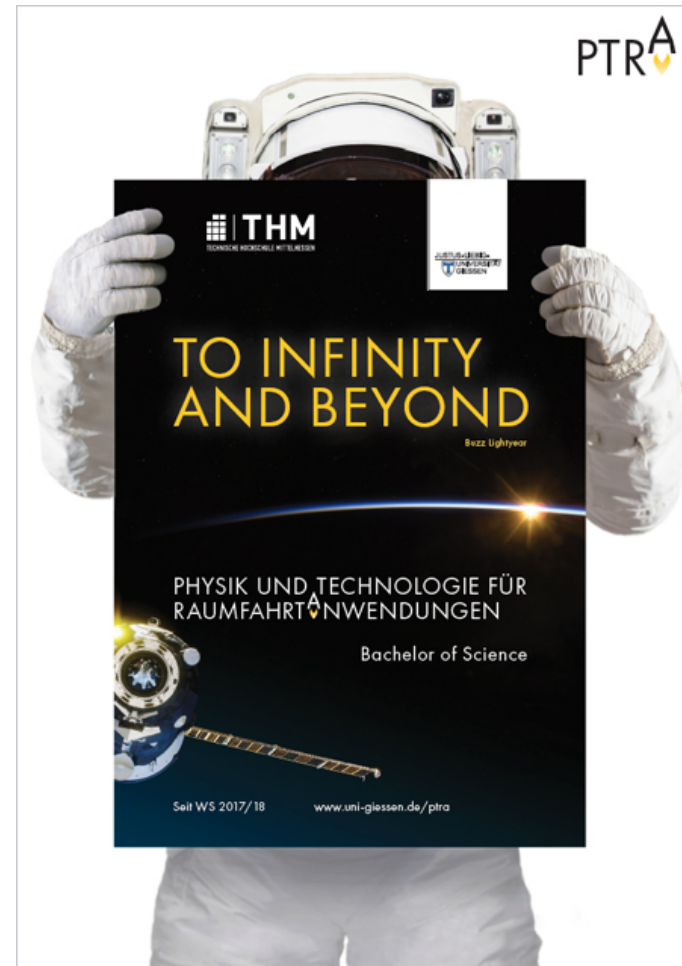
- probing various materials as propellant
- testing new plasma generation methods
- optimizing electrides  $C_{12}A_7:2e^-$  with chemical methods
- miniaturize electro spray emitters to the  $\mu\text{m}$  scale



# Teaching & Education

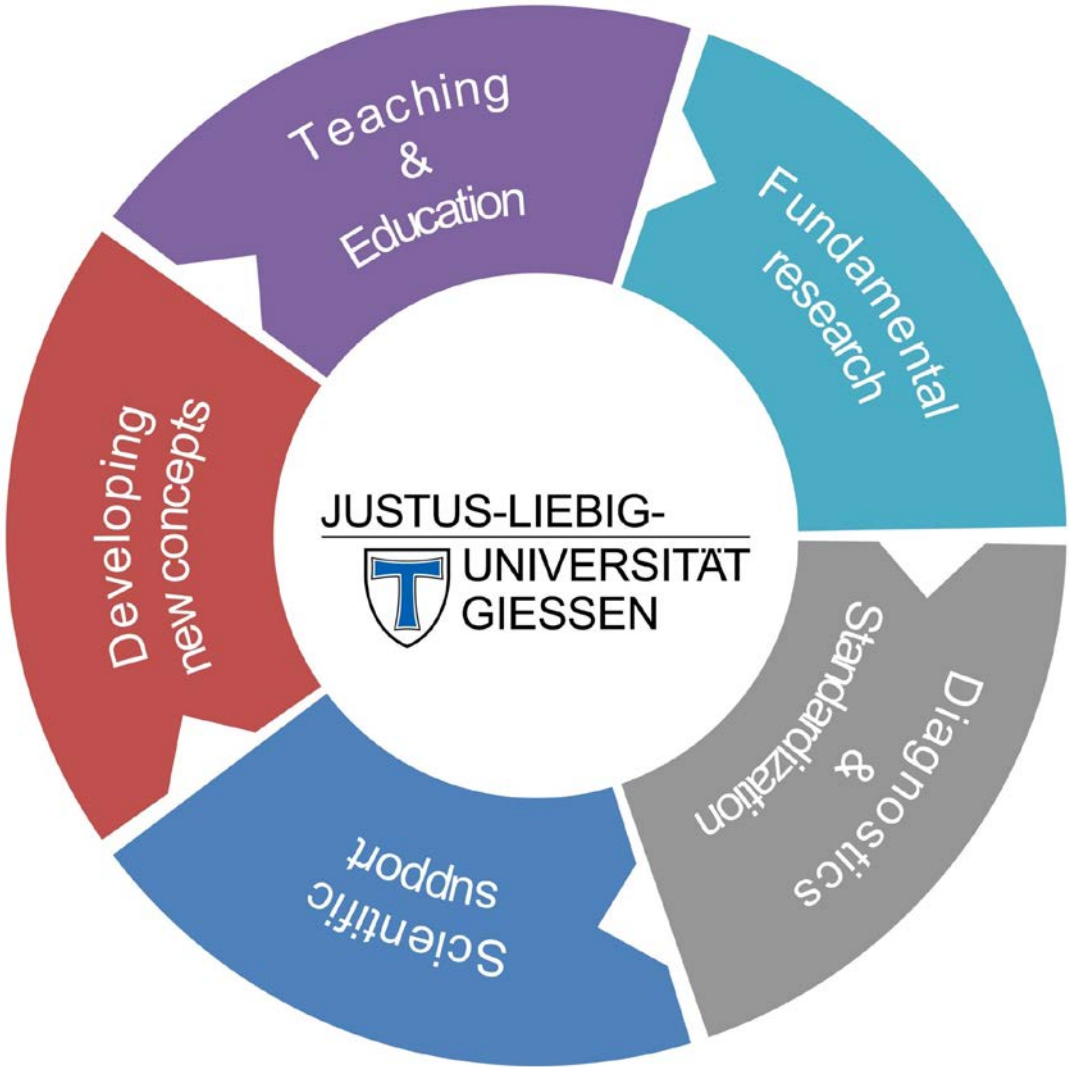


Joint Bachelor and Master course with THM  
„Physics and Technology for Space Applications“





# Fundamental research



**RESEARCH** **Open Access**



Corrosion of metal parts on satellites by iodine exposure in space

**Ion thrusters for electric propulsion: Scientific issues developing a niche technology into a game changer** F

Cite as: Rev. Sci. Instrum. 91, 061101 (2020); doi: 10.1063/5.0010134  
Submitted: 8 April 2020 · Accepted: 18 May 2020 ·  
Published Online: 24 June 2020



**Combination of optical emission spectroscopy and multivariate data analysis techniques as a versatile non-invasive tool for characterizing xenon/krypton mixed gas plasma inside operating ion thrusters**

Cite as: J. Appl. Phys. 131, 053301 (2022); doi: 10.1063/5.0074412  
Submitted: 8 October 2021 · Accepted: 11 January 2022 ·  
Published Online: 2 February 2022



# Diagnostics & standardization

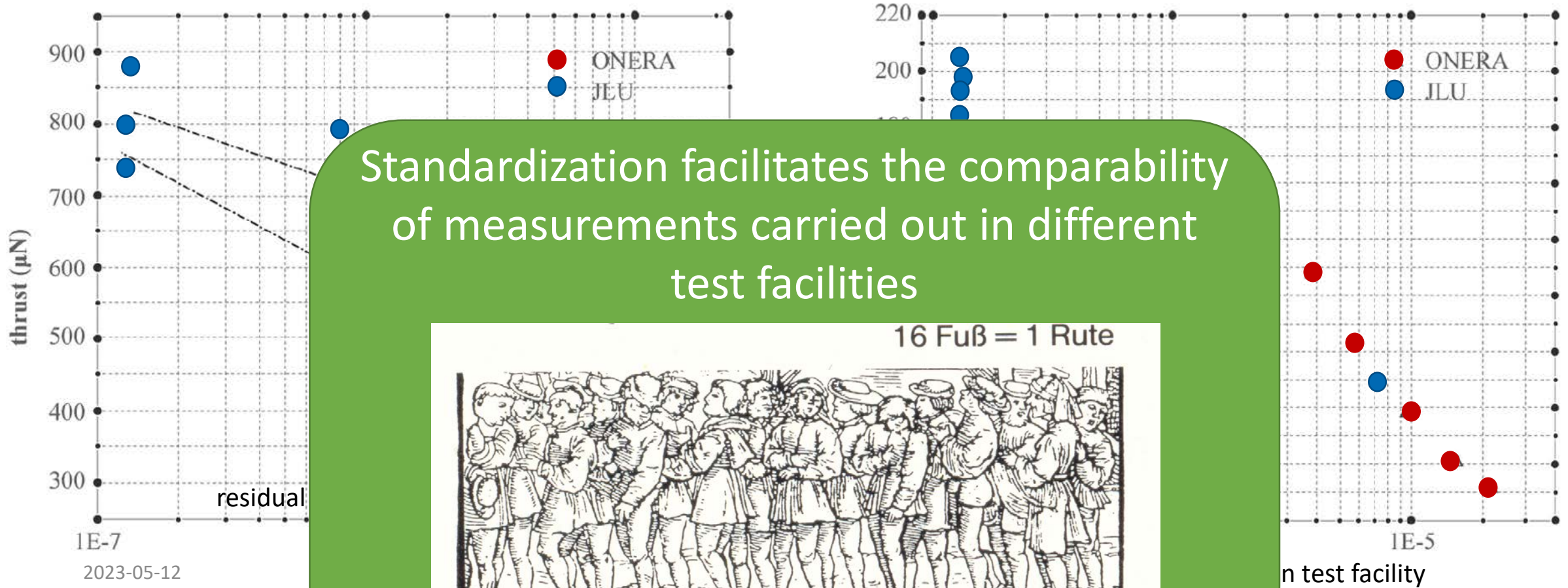


- Faraday cups and probes (ion beam distribution)
- Retarding potential analyzer (ion beam energy)
- Electrostatic mirror analyzer (ion beam energy)
- ExB probe (ion beam momentum)
- 90° dipole magnet (ion beam momentum)
- Langmuir probes (plasma potential and temperature)
- Emissive probe (plasma potential)
- Various optical spectrometers (standard, Echelle)
- THz spectroscopy (plasma refractive index)
- EMC (antennas, signal generator, spectrum analyzers)
- Neutral flux probe
- Thrust balance & force probe

# Why is standardization important?

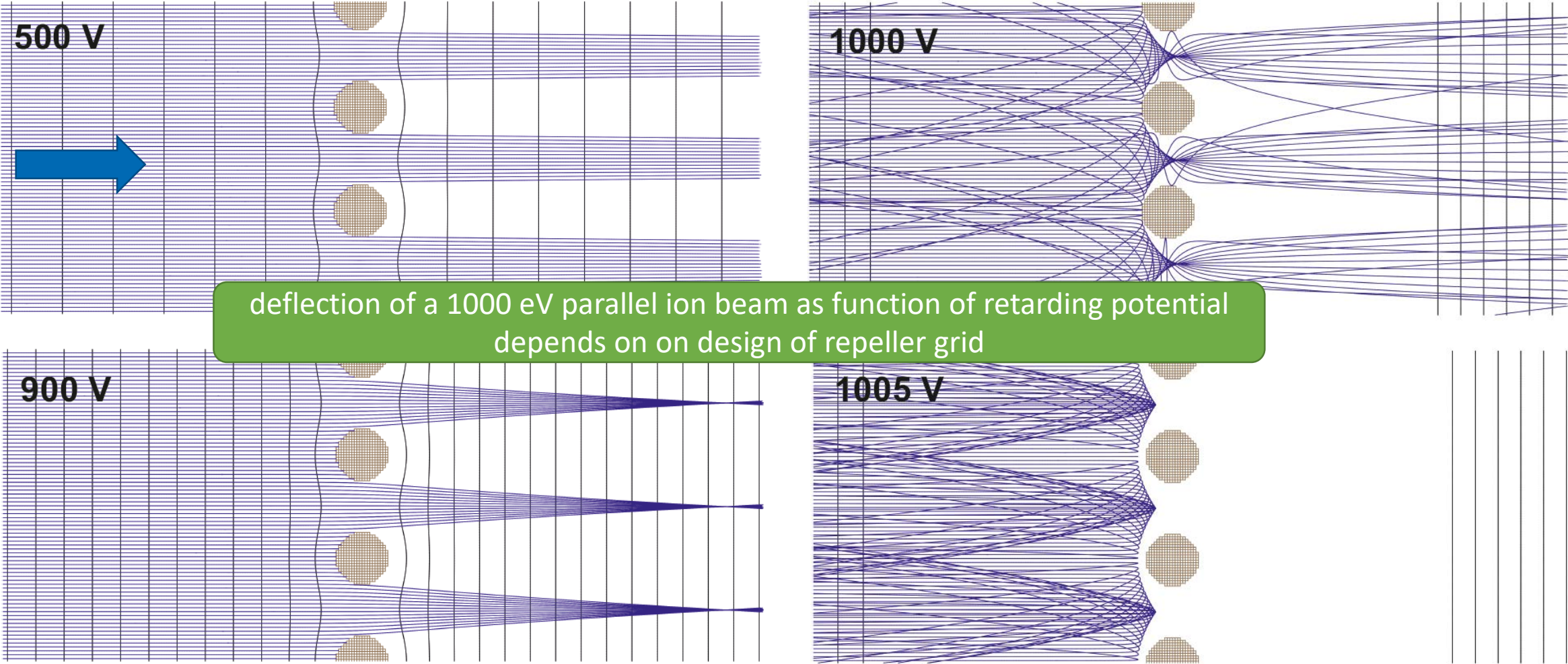
same thruster may show a different behaviour in different test facilities

Holste et al. Rev. Sci. Instrum. (2020)

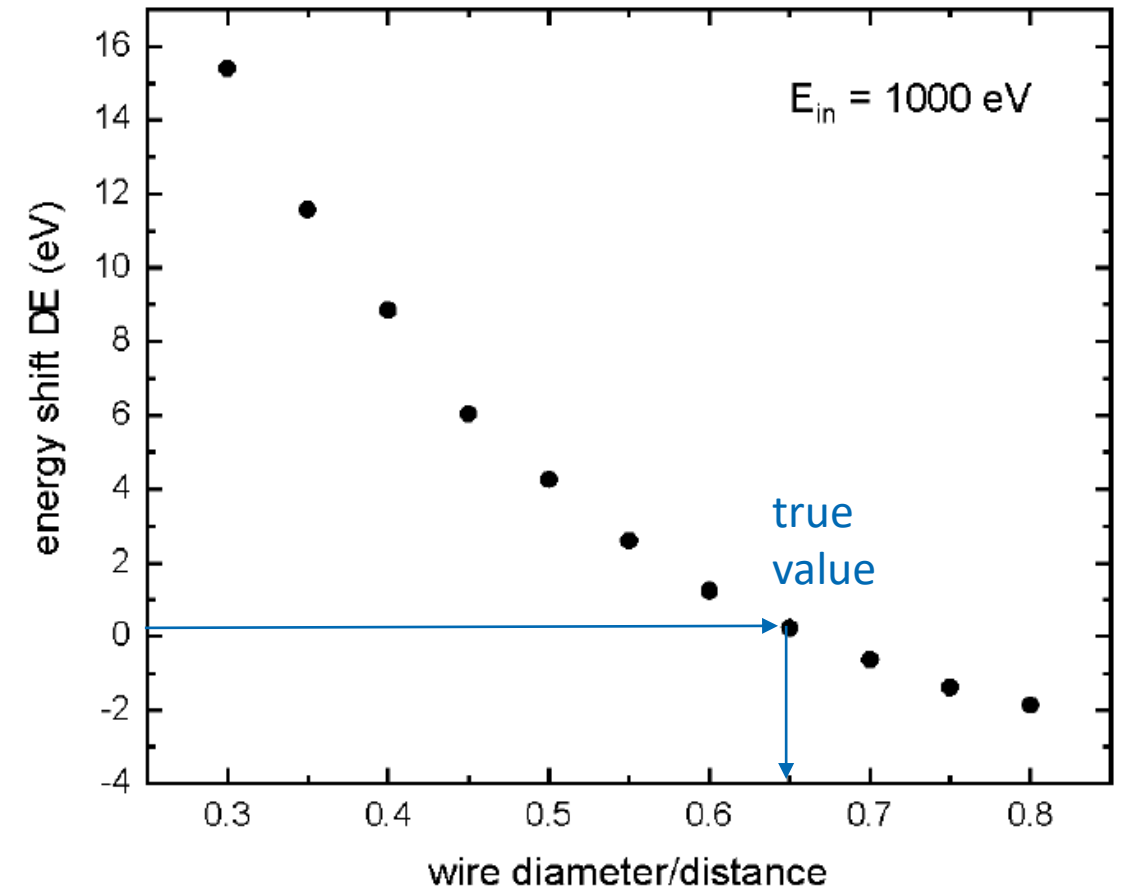
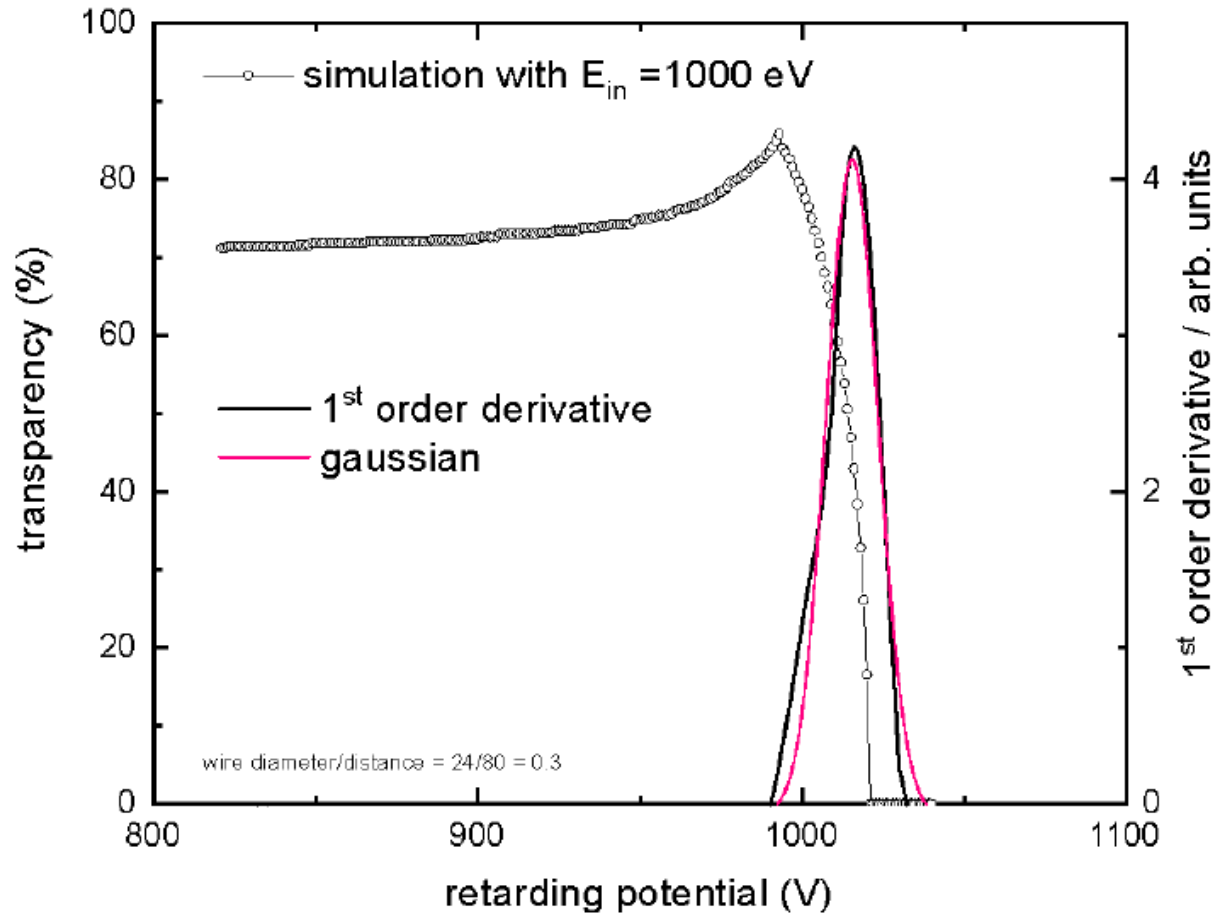


# Approach to standardize RPA measurements

Identify the problem



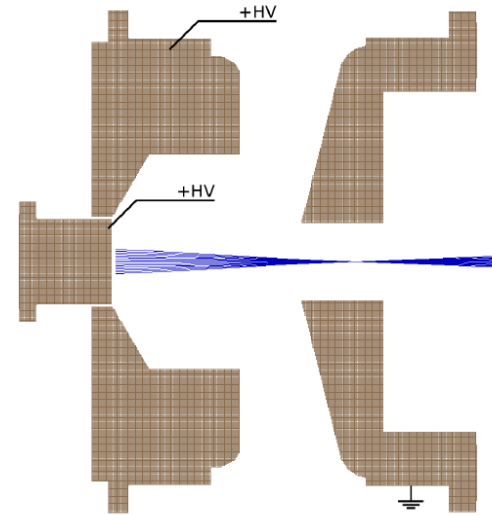
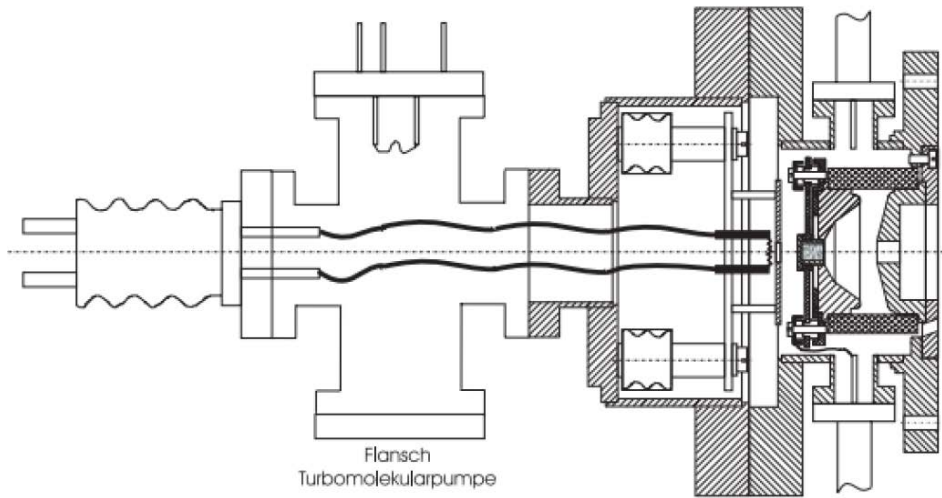
# Approach to standardize RPA measurements



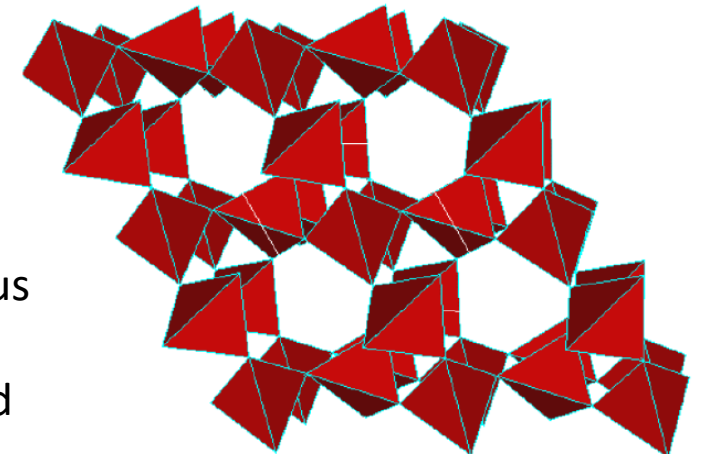
Careful design of the RPA is essential and needs validation

# Approach to standardize RPA measurements

## 1) Reference ion source (with almost monoenergetic beam)

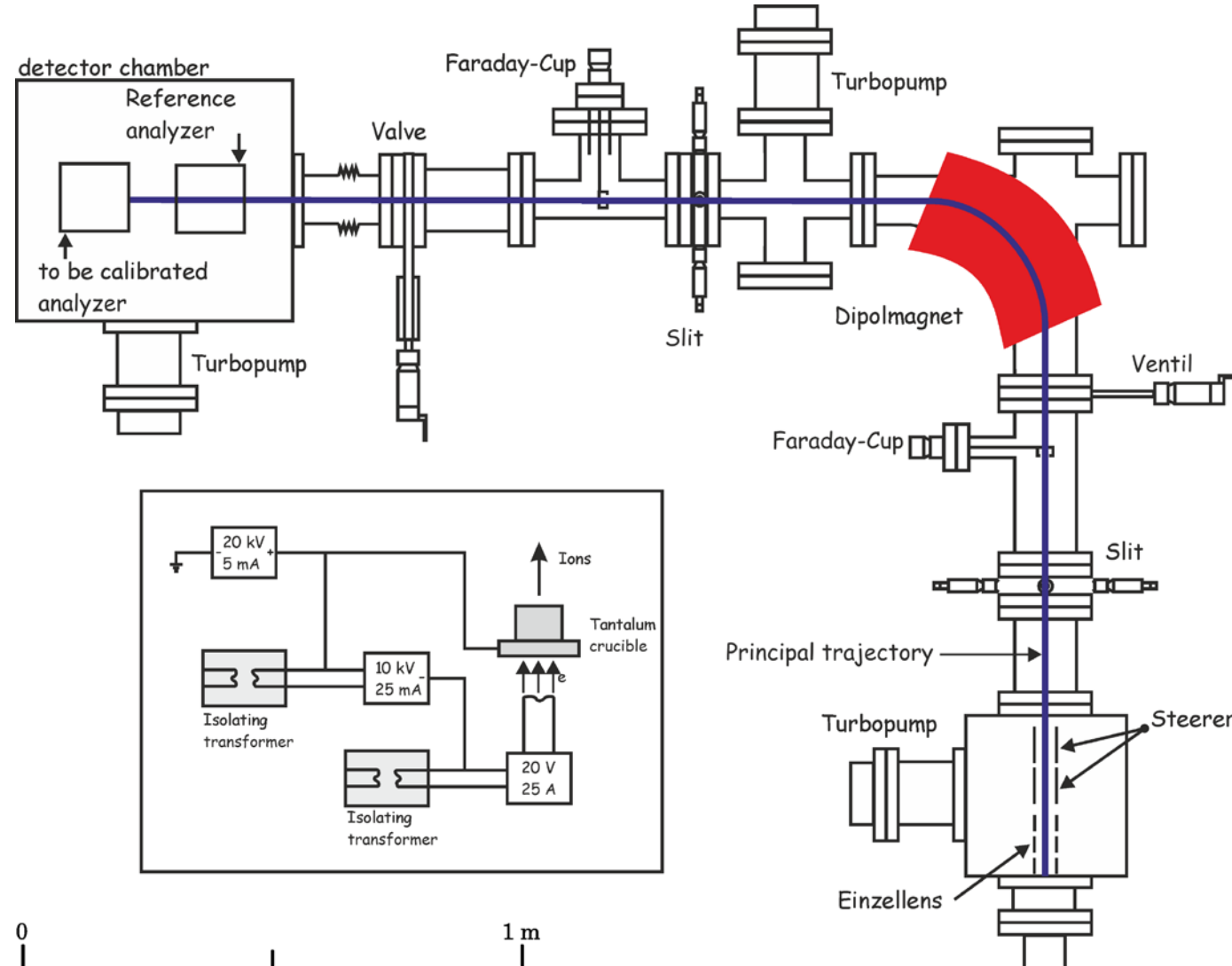


- alkali aluminosilicate ion source
- no plasma offset
- one charge state (99%)
- one dominant ion (95%)
- ion energy relatively homogeneous
- thermal uncertainty < 1 eV
- contact potentials to be measured



# Approach to standardize RPA measurements

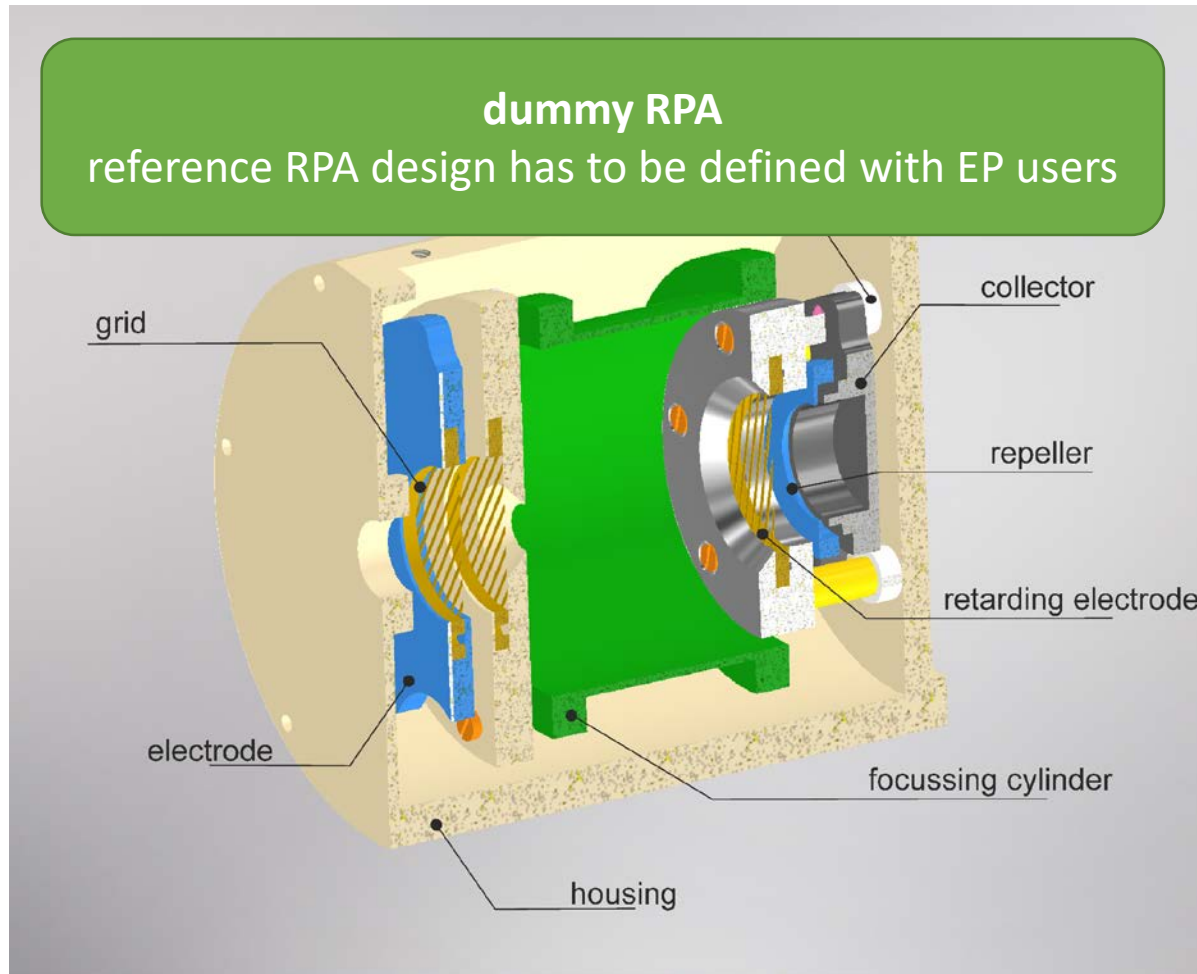
## 2) Reference beam line & reference energy analyzer



- electrostatic mirror analyzer are most suitable as reference energy analyzer
- reference analyzer may be cross-checked by calibration with ions or electrons generated in well-known processes (e. g. Auger emission)

# Approach to standardize RPA measurements

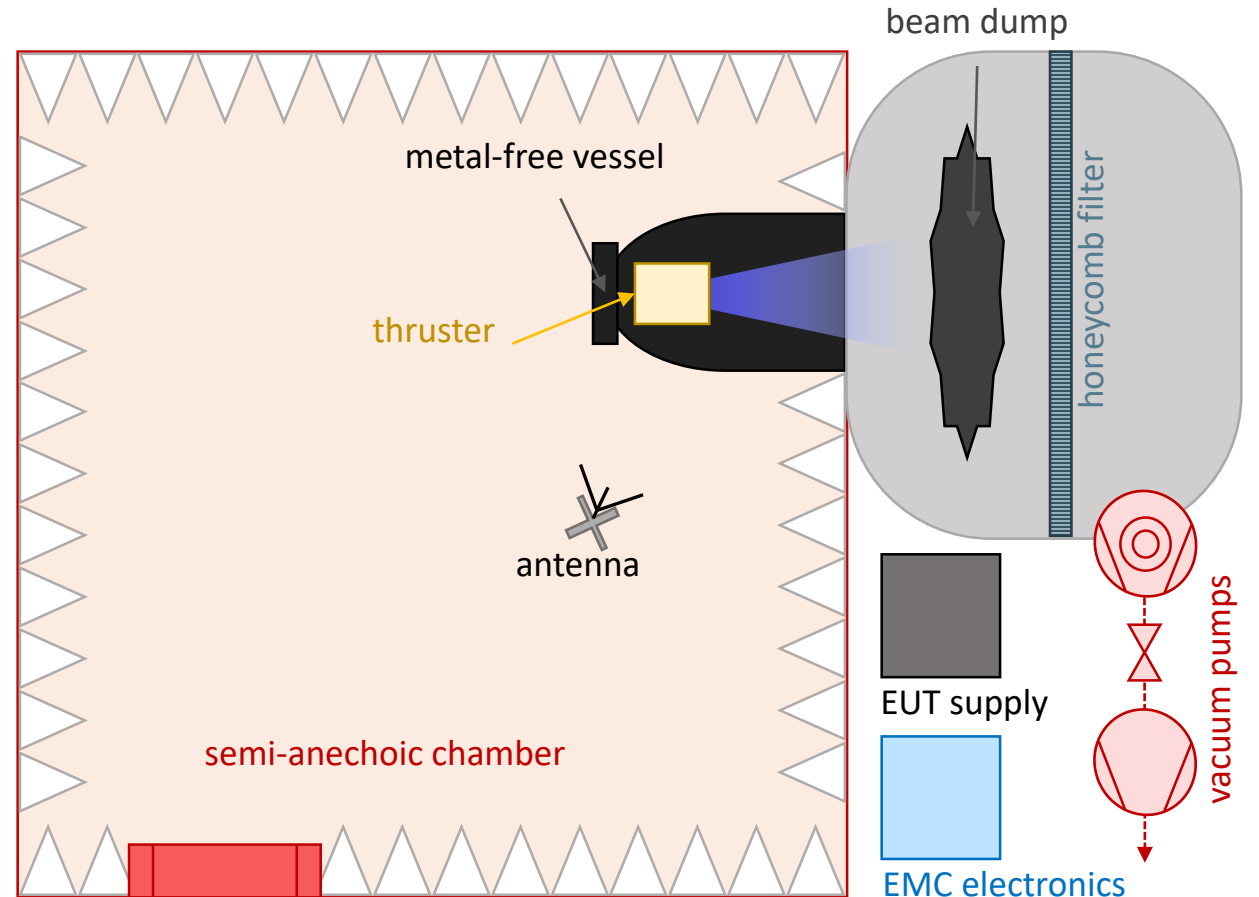
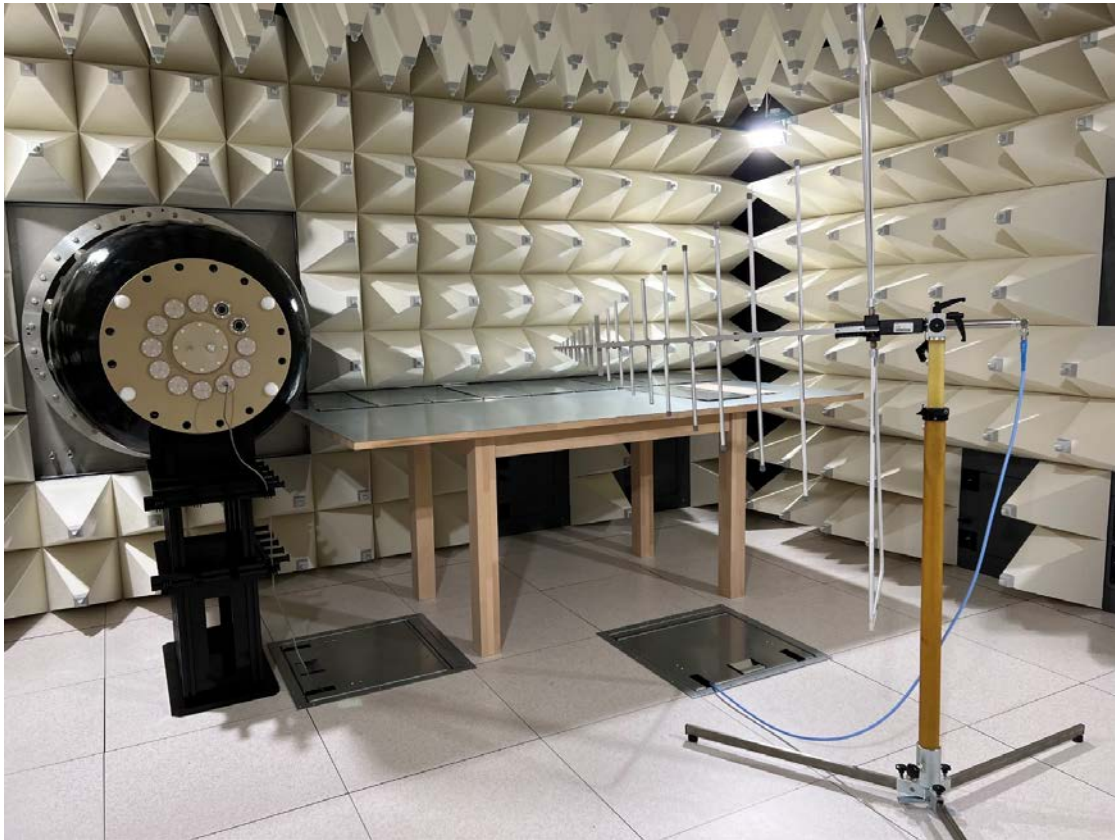
## 3) Reference RPA for round-robin test



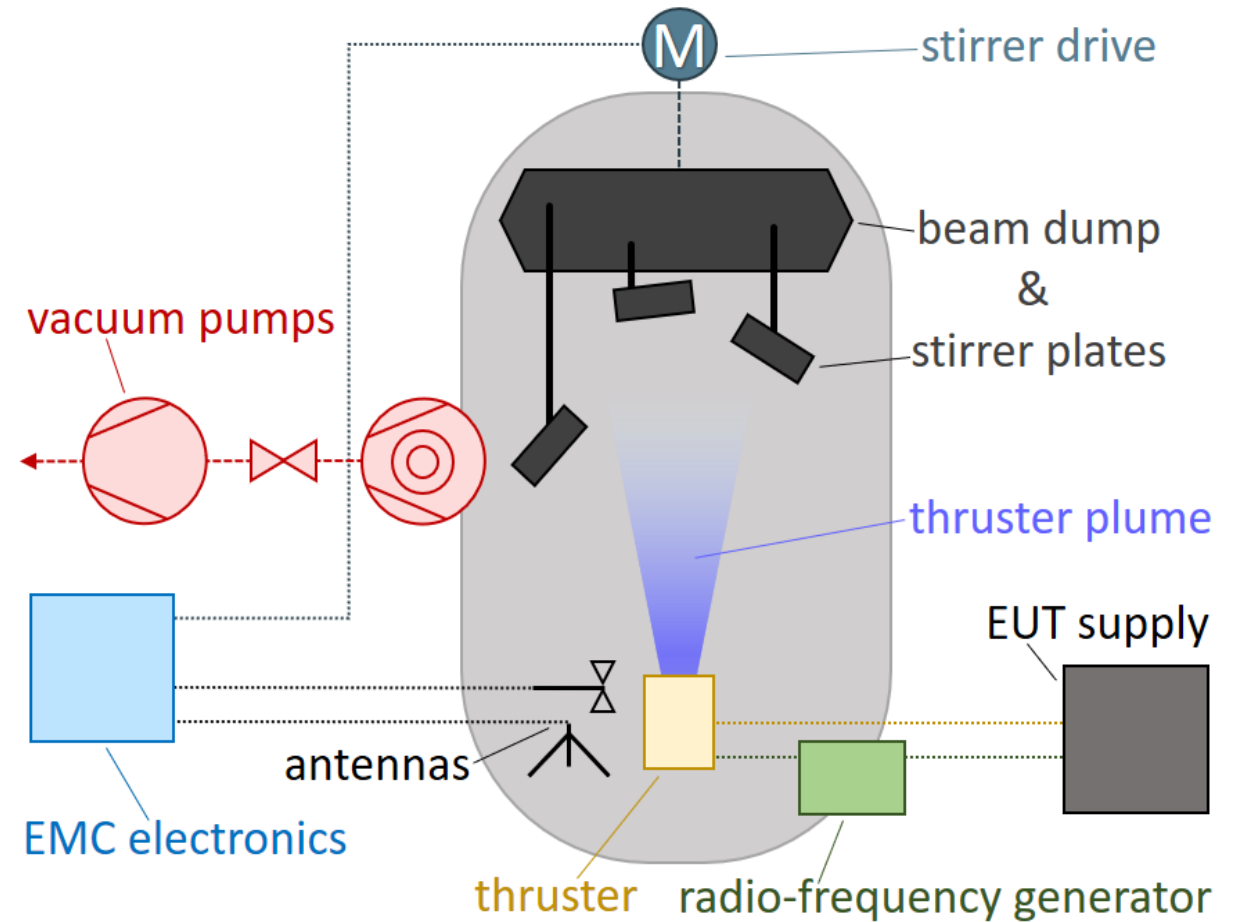
- reference energy analyzer for round-robin test to ensure comparability of measurements in different facilities
- Even better comparability through establishment of a reference ion thruster
- Reference systems must be described publicly and in detail (open source idea) to enable replication.
- Recognised energy standard for comparison of EP diagnostics should be available and maintained by a recognised institution.



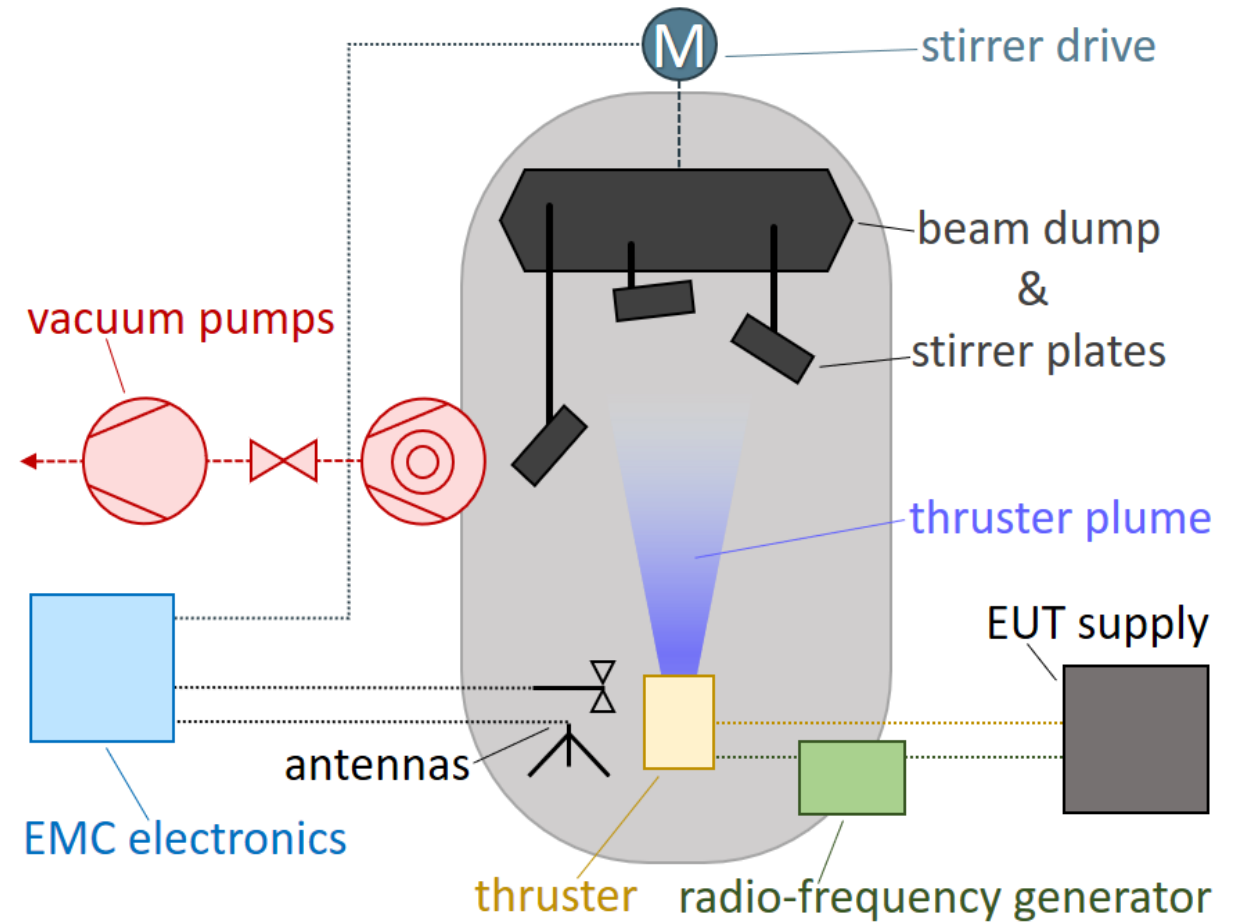
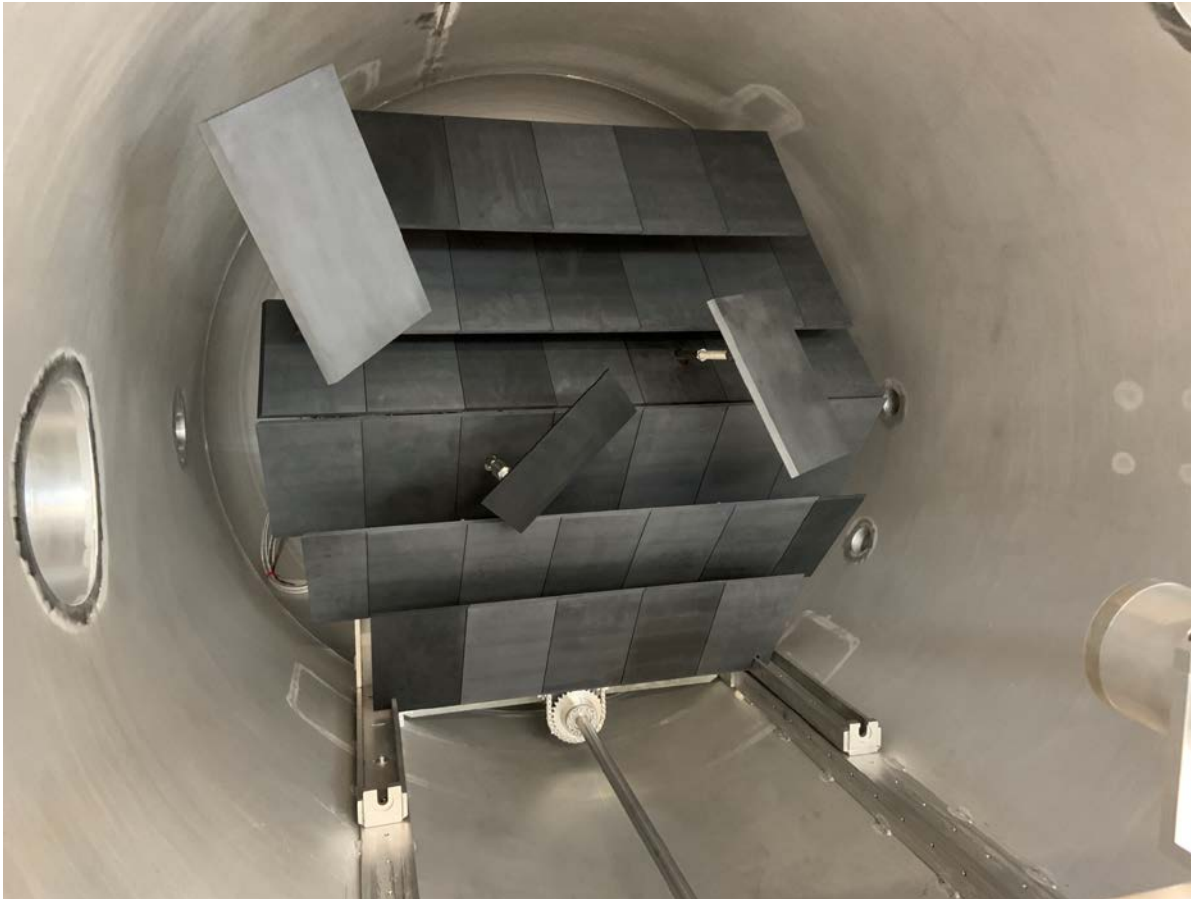
# EMC – semi-anechoic chamber (SAC)



# EMC – reverberation chamber (RVC)

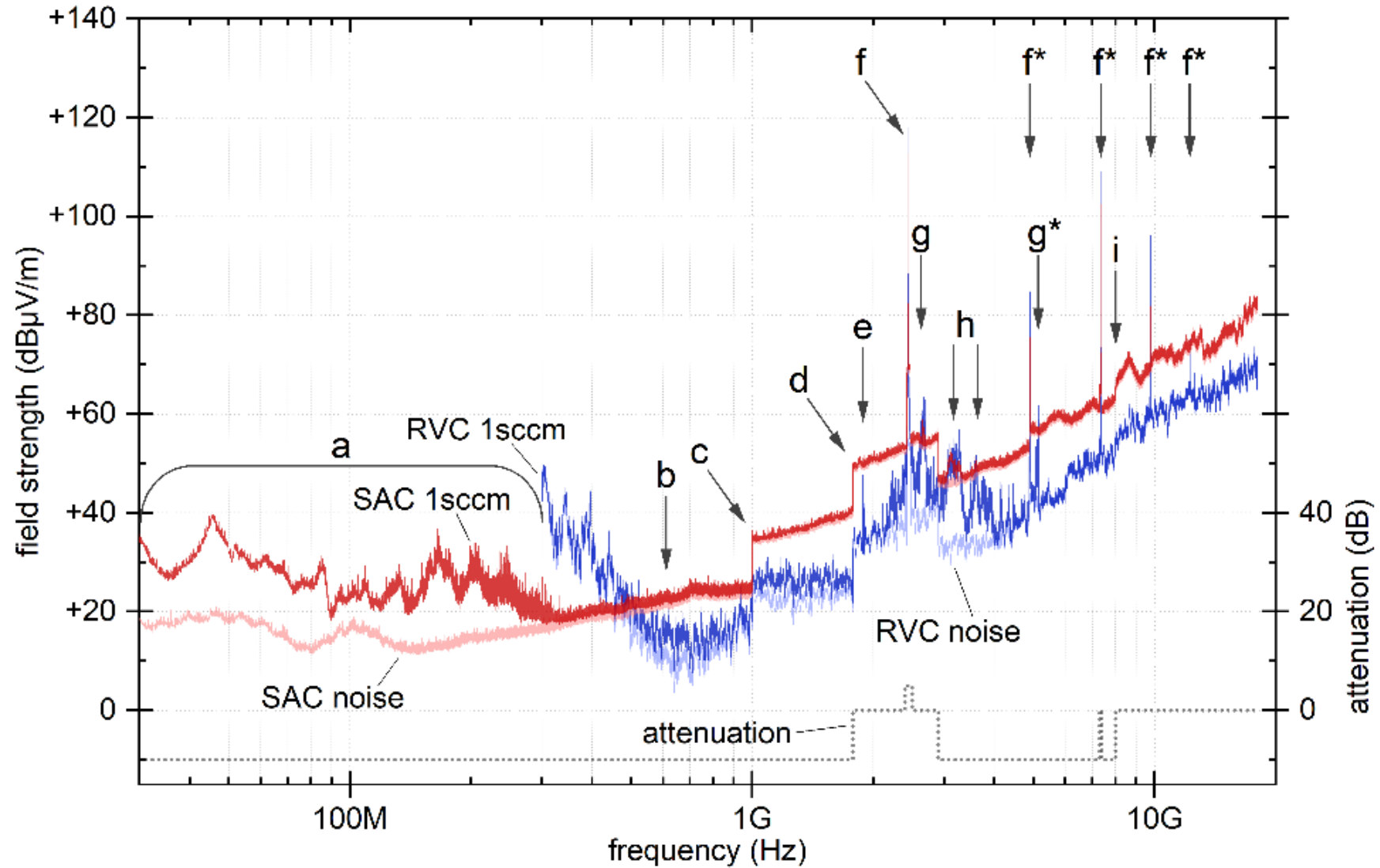


# EMC – reverberation chamber (RVC)



# Comparison SAC & RVC

F. Kiefer et al. (will be published in 2023)



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<https://www.uni-giessen.de/de/fbz/fb07/fachgebiete/physik/institute/ipi/raumfahrtphysik/ionentriebwerke>

Thank you for your attention