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## Tritium diagnostics for in situ inventory and waste management

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Link for a Zoom Q&A session during Poster session I (Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 17:00 to 18 :30): (pass.: JSI-sabina) <https://fmf.uni-lj.si/zoom.us/j/2951480083?pwd=dW11NjU3ZjNOTHNzQ3JhZm9xMjBxQT09>

The development/upgrade of T diagnostics, that can be used during operating tokamak reactor and for tritiated waste management is one of the targets of fusion development and is considered in the H2020/TRANSAT project (<http://transat-h2020.eu/>). Nuclear reaction analysis (NRA), autoradiography and laser induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) are the tritium detection techniques being developed within the TRANSAT project.

**Introduction:**  
Thermonuclear reactors will operate with a D-T fuel mixture leading to tritium (T) trapping in materials. During the lifetime of the device but also for the waste management or dismantling activities, the measurements of the T inventory in such materials is mandatory to comply with safety regulations. In that frame, it is of major importance to have an accurate measurement of the quantity of trapped T within tokamak relevant materials.

## Nuclear Reaction Analysis

Goal is to measure T trapped in materials to depths of a few micrometers. It relies on the detection of products (d, p) from the nuclear reaction between <sup>3</sup>He and T. First measurements by <sup>3</sup>He beam with energies from 0.7 MeV to 5 MeV on T<sub>2</sub> gas loaded W sample pre-irradiated by 20 MeV W ions show a small but measurable signal around 7.5 MeV increasing with <sup>3</sup>He impact energy. Such new technique will enable simultaneous detection of D/T in materials.

Use of ion accelerator – MeV energies

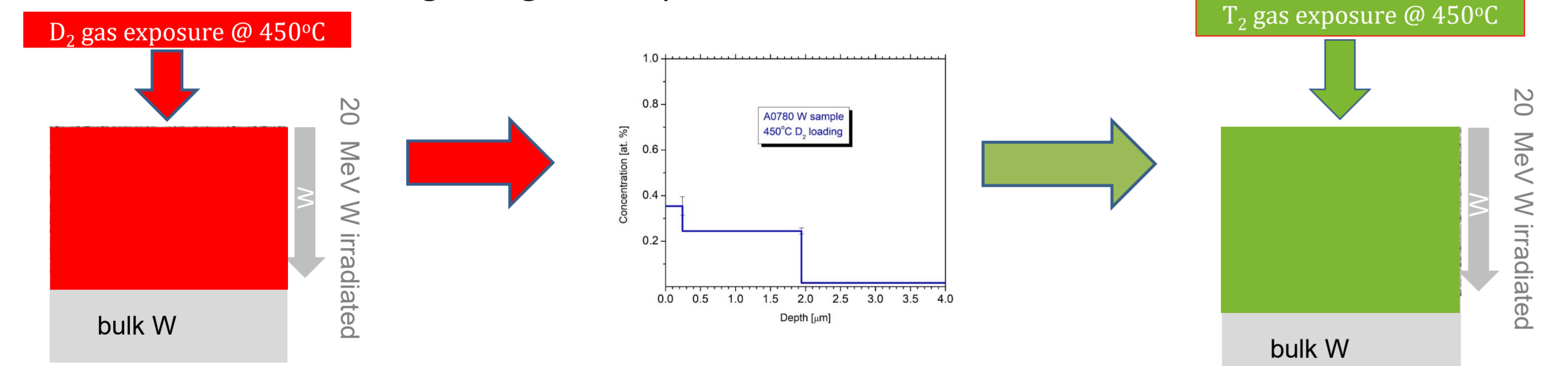
- <sup>3</sup>He ion beam
- Goal is to use same ion beam as for D detection in the bulk of materials – efficient analysing method for D
- Nuclear reaction for tritium:
- <sup>3</sup>He + T = <sup>4</sup>He + d + 14.31 MeV
- <sup>3</sup>He + T = <sup>4</sup>He + p + n + 12.08 MeV

Challenge:

- Determination of cross section (only literature from 50's, 60's)
- Production of stable tritiated sample
- Lab activation limit < 1 GBq

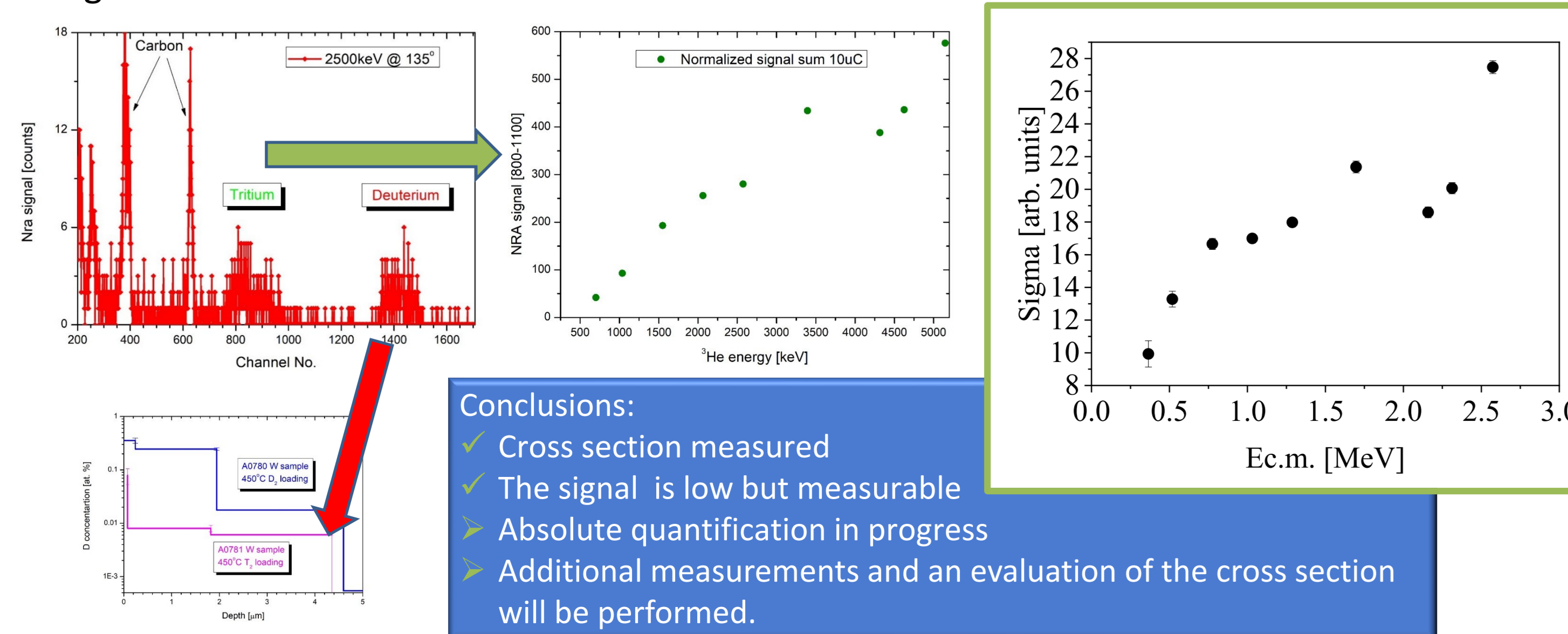
Sample preparation

- > 20 MeV W ion irradiated W samples - strong trapping of D
- > Increased fuel retention in ion damaged W region 0.25 at. % for D<sub>2</sub> gas loading conditions
- > No ion induced outgassing of D expected



Results:

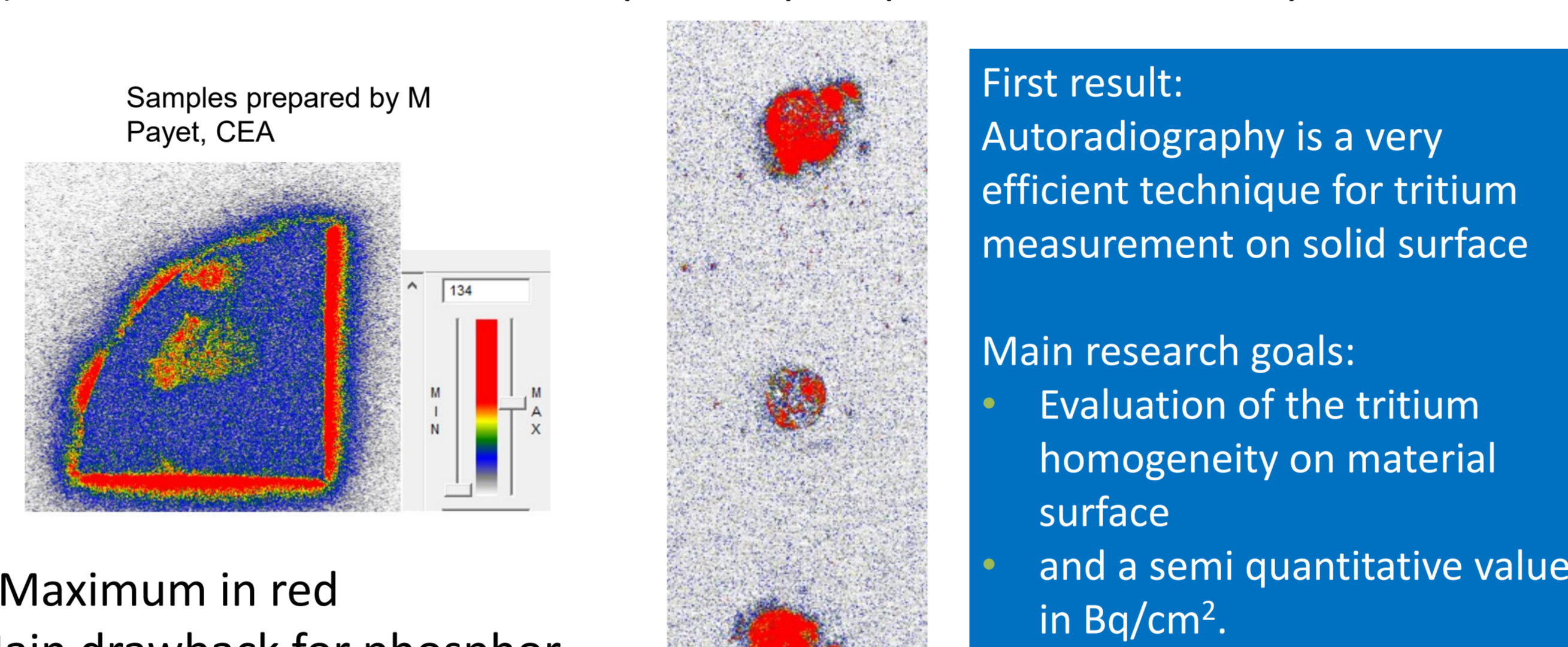
- > Tritium activity measured 220 MBq by liquid scintillation technique
- > Little D contamination
- > Signal due to tritium observed between channels 750-1000



## Autoradiography

With Autoradiography, we are currently testing a new type of autoradiographic camera based upon Silicon Photo Multipliers (SiPM) detectors closely connected with solid scintillators. It will allow rapid measurements of T contamination. An industrial device was built in 2019 and T sources were tested. We have successfully measured T on a solid surface with emerging activities as low as 100 Bq/mm<sup>2</sup> (with an exposure time of 5'). We will also show in the future how the autoradiography coupled with an accurate erosion technique (depth resolution < 100 nm) can be used to address the T depth profile in tritiated samples.

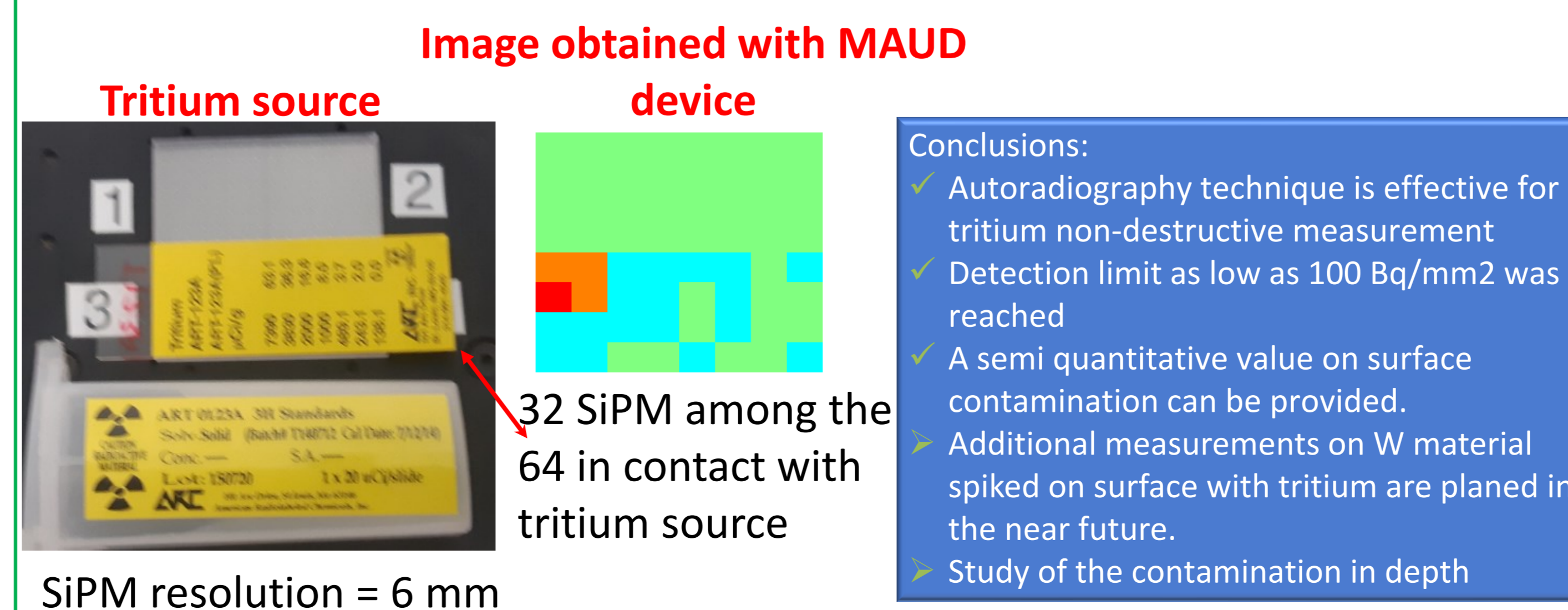
(1) First tries on W tritiated samples on phosphor screen technique:



T Maximum in red  
Main drawback for phosphor Screen: potential T contamination  
Spatial resolution of the phosphor screen = 150 µm

(2) The second tested system for autoradiography is based on solid scintillators which emit photons when exposed to radiations. The light is collected using 64 SiPM, a fairly new type of photosensors, with high gain, large photodetection efficiency and low voltage bias.

The industrial device called MAUD (Digital Autoradiography Measurement) has been tested on tritium source and an autoradiography image was obtained.



## Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)

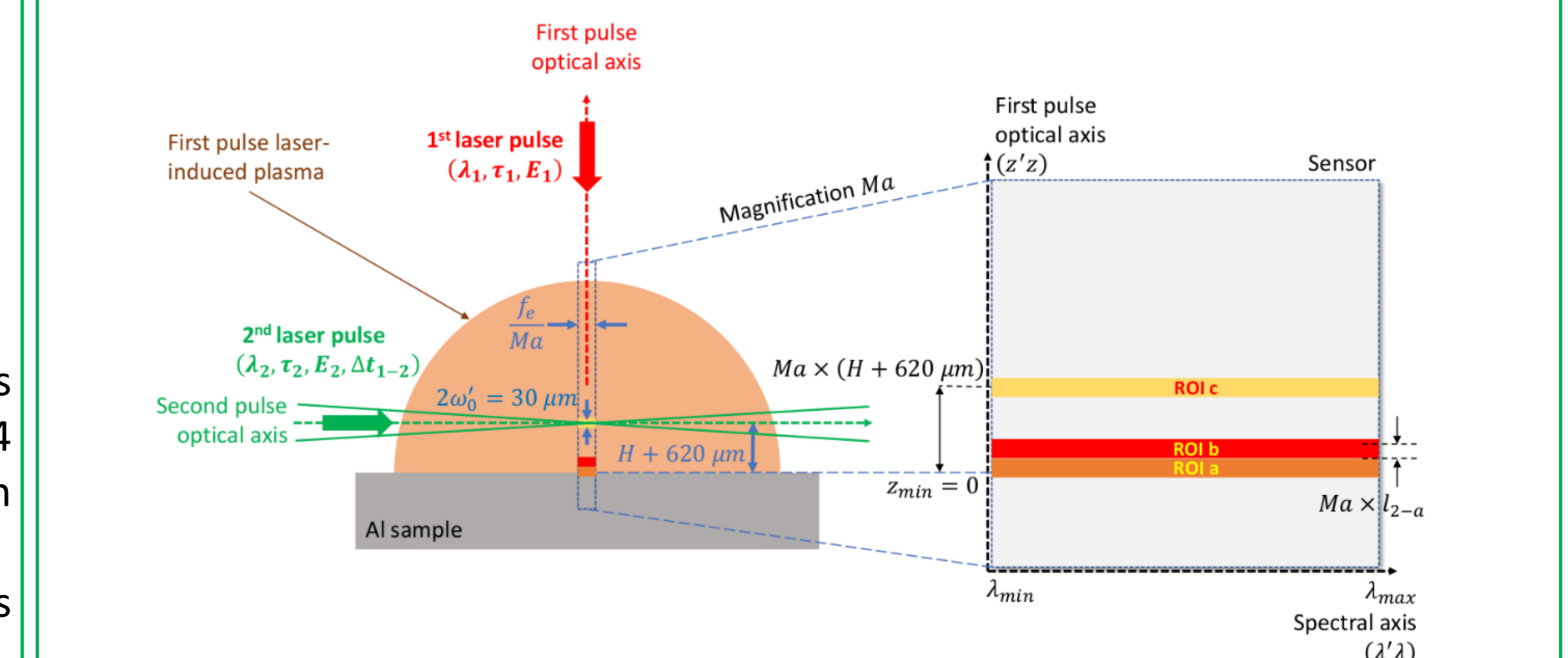
The LIBS development relies on picosecond laser interaction with the material producing a thermal plasma and allowing measuring the T mole fraction and its profile in the material. First attempts are performed on H and D at low level. T wastes are targeted. Preliminary results show that (1) only the alpha lines (Balmer series) are observed and (2) the temperature increase resulting from the absorption due to a second laser pulse is required.

Preparation of the samples

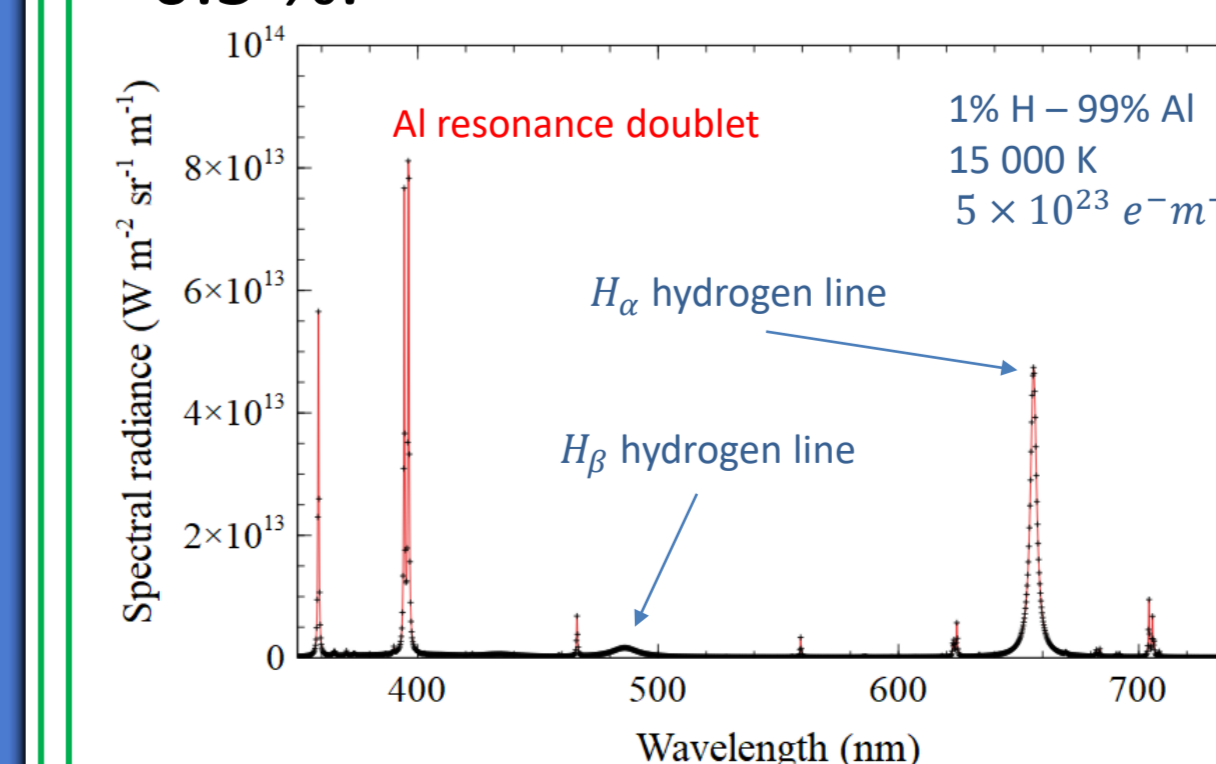
The samples are prepared by laser deposition of target (W or Al) on substrates in a H<sub>2</sub>/D<sub>2</sub> low pressure atmosphere.

First attempts under ps/ns double pulse

The ps pulse ( $\tau_1=30$  ps,  $\lambda_1=1064$  nm,  $E_1=20$  mJ) is focused on the sample using a lens of 125 mm focal length. The nanosecond pulse ( $\tau_2=6$  ns,  $\lambda_2=532$  nm,  $E_2=50$  mJ) is delayed by  $\Delta t_{1-2}=350$  ns and is tangentially focused (with a lens of 150 mm focal length) in the plasma produced by the ps pulse at a distance H (=0 or 1 mm) + 0.62 mm above the sample's surface.



Spectral images are observed on the sensor and lead to spectra compared with calculated ones assuming the Local Thermodynamic Equilibrium of the plasma. The composition is then determined. The lowest measurable H mole fraction is ~ 0.5 %.



For LIBS see also poster No. 332 (Bultel et al.)

Next step: LIBS in collinear ps/ps double pulse

The previous ns pulse will be replaced by another ps pulse ( $\tau_2=30$  ps,  $\lambda_2=1064$  nm, various  $E_2$ , various  $\Delta t_{1-2}$  ~ some 100 ps) on the same optical axis to maximize the absorption.