

*Trond Ramsvik*  
*TS / MME*

- *Introduction*
  - *Motivation, Origin of Breakdown*
- *Experimental Setup*
- *Local Field*
- *Spark Conditioning (Mo, W, Cu)*
  - *General*
    - *Breakdown Field ↔ Material*
    - *Breakdown Field ↔ Residual Gas*
    - *Breakdown Field ↔ Surface Treatments*
  - *Comparison with results from RF*
- *Spark Conditioning (Ti)*
- *Future projects / Wishes*
- *Conclusions*

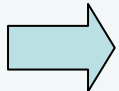


# *Introduction: Why DC spark experiments?*



*With a simple DC spark-test system, the properties of various materials can be studied at high electric fields in an easy and controlled way.*

**Goal: To find materials that withstand the highest field without breakdown and have low level of deterioration even when breakdown events occur.**





# Introduction: Origin of Breakdown

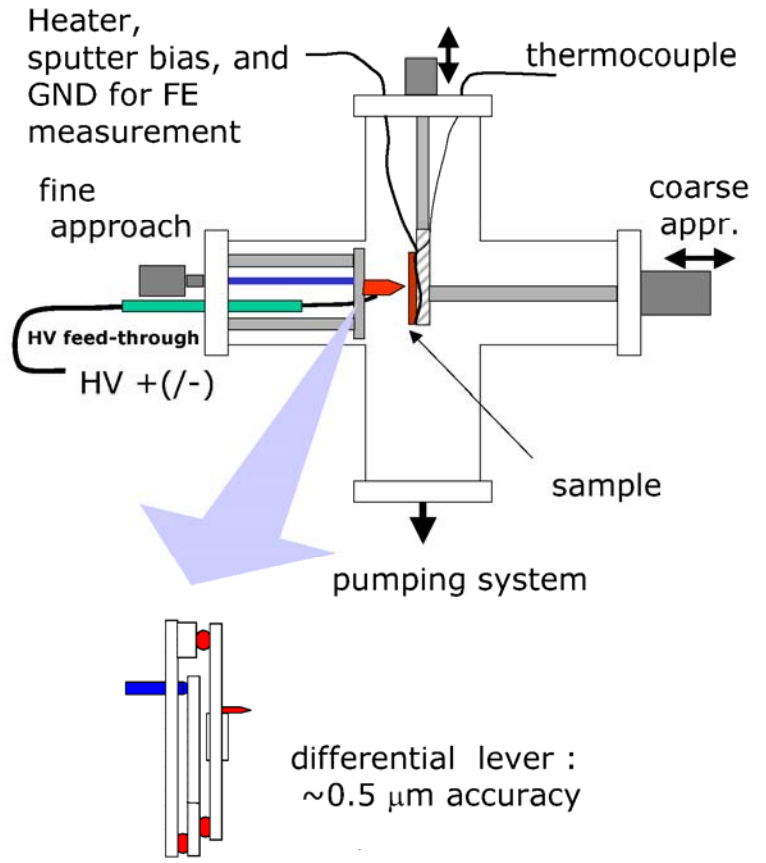


- *The physics of breakdown is still not perfectly understood*
- *Commonly accepted that breakdown at small gaps ( $d \leq 0.5$  mm) is initiated by an electron field emission based mechanism from one or a few microprotrusions\**
- *Process towards breakdown. Suggested Models:*
  - “Anode-initiated”
    - electron bombardment of anode
      - release of gas and/or anode material through intense localized heating or electron stimulated desorption (ESD)
      - Avalanche ionization of the released species
  - “Cathode-initiated”
    - The microprotrusion on the cathode becomes unstable
      - fracture of the surface due to the tensile stress produced by the electric field
      - ohmic heating from high field emission current density
  - *Exchange*
    - Avalanche of mutual secondary emission of ions, electrons between the electrodes

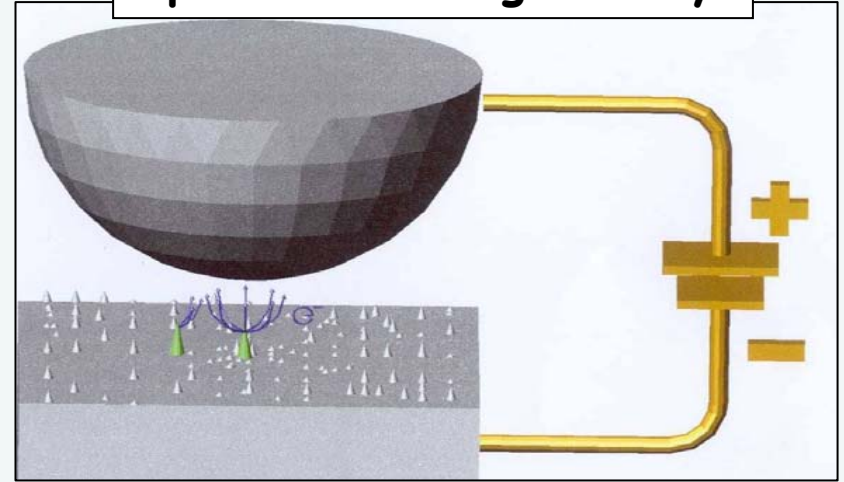
# Experimental Setup



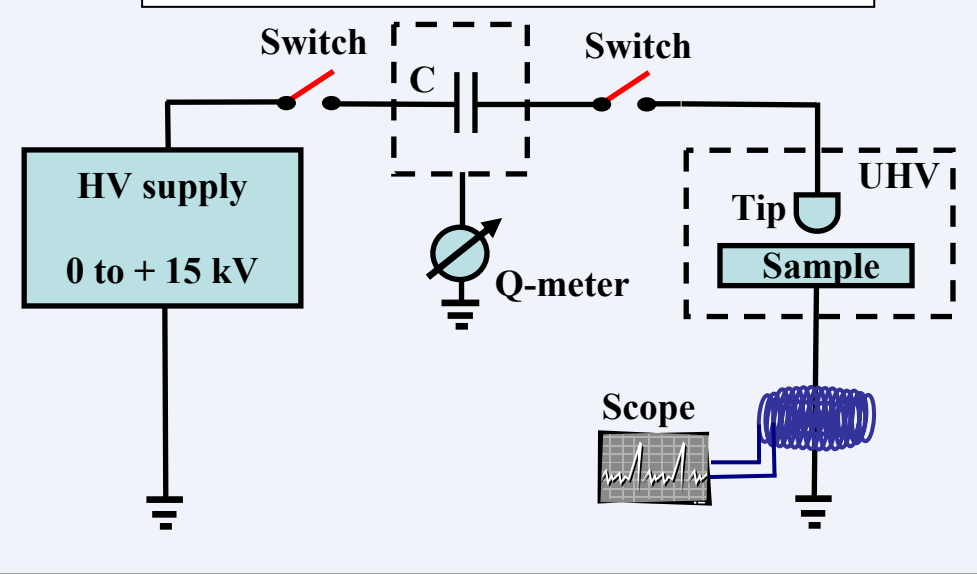
## Spark test UHV chamber



## Sphere / Plane geometry

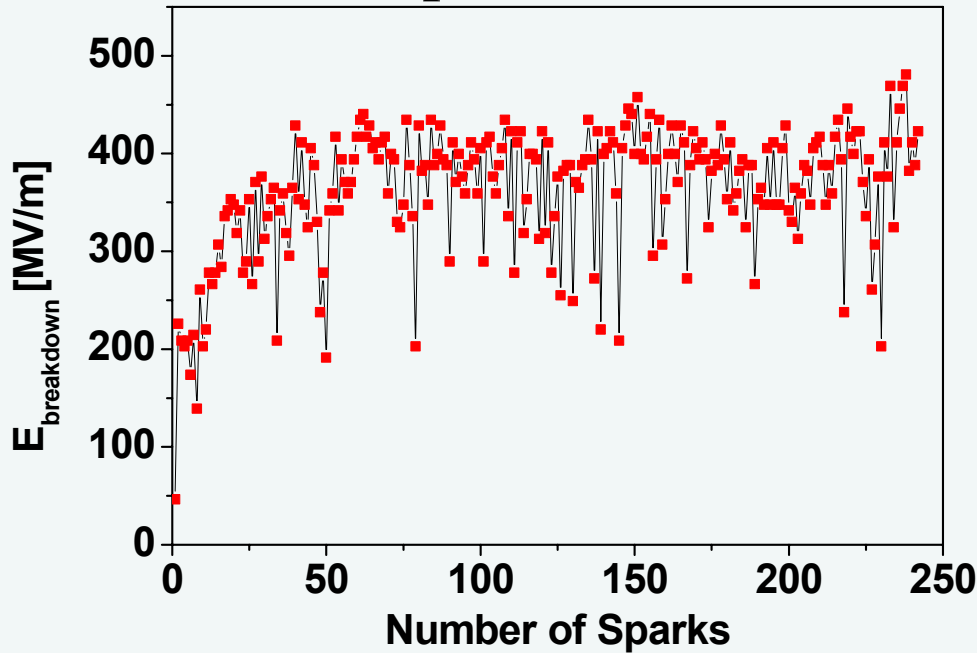


## Breakdown Measurements

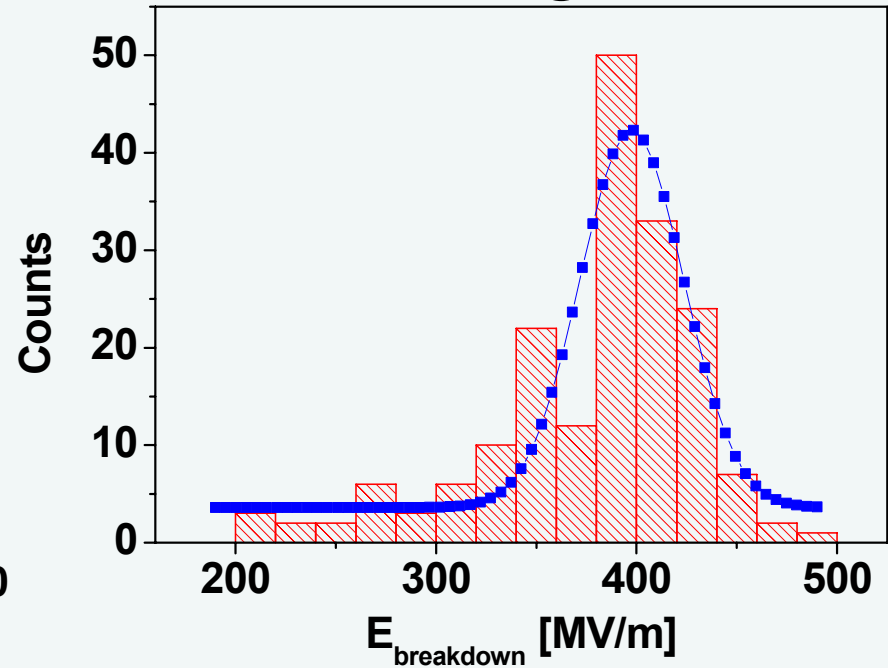


## Molybdenum (Mo) - Tip and Sample

### Spark Scan



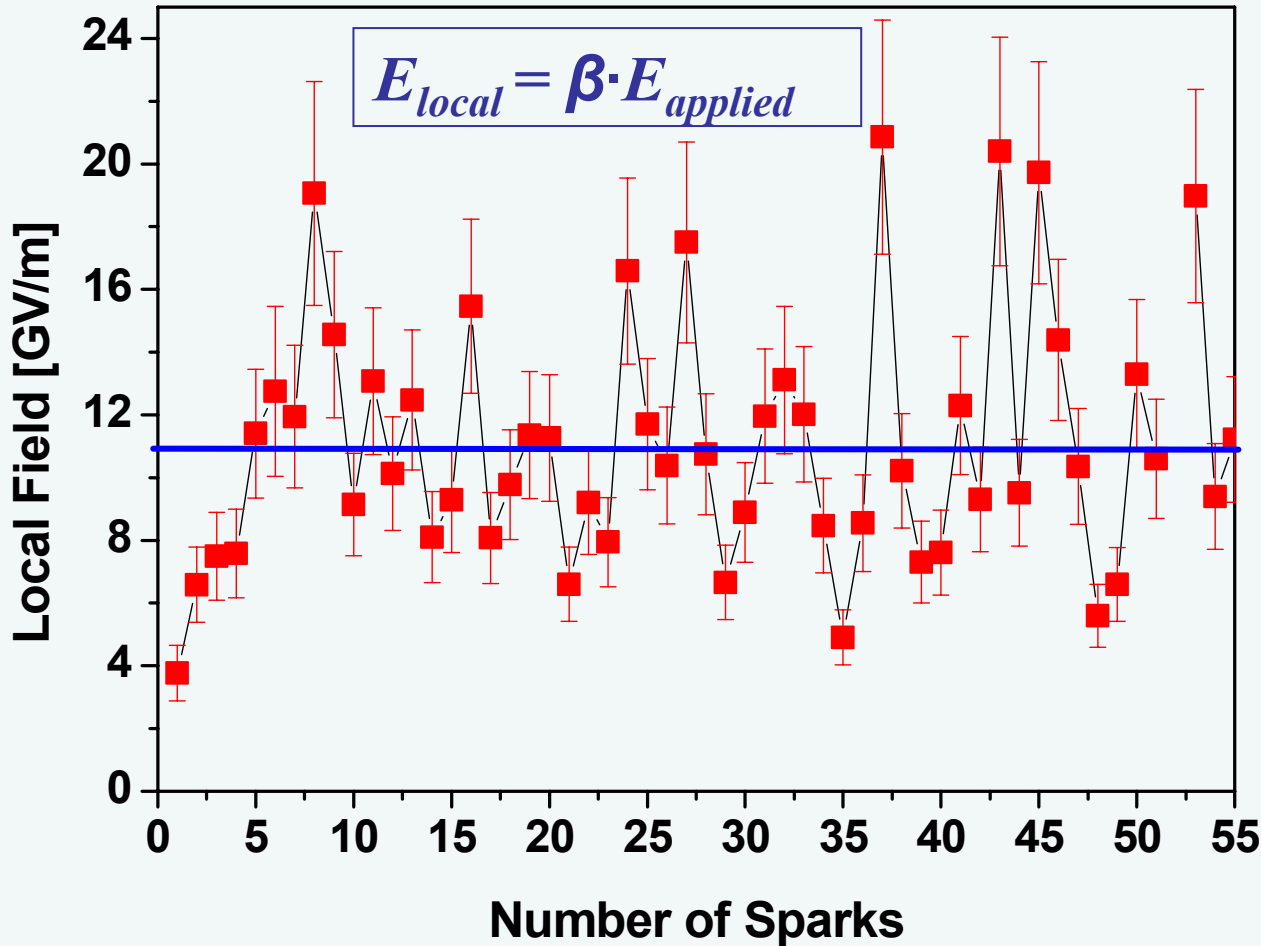
### Histogram



$$E_{\text{breakdown}}^{\text{sat}} \cong (398 \pm 4) \text{ MV/m at } \sim 4 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mbar}$$



## Field evaporation $\leftrightarrow$ Tensile Strength



*Measured tensile strength of Mo\*:*

**750 MPa**

$$\sigma = \frac{\epsilon_0 E^2}{2}$$

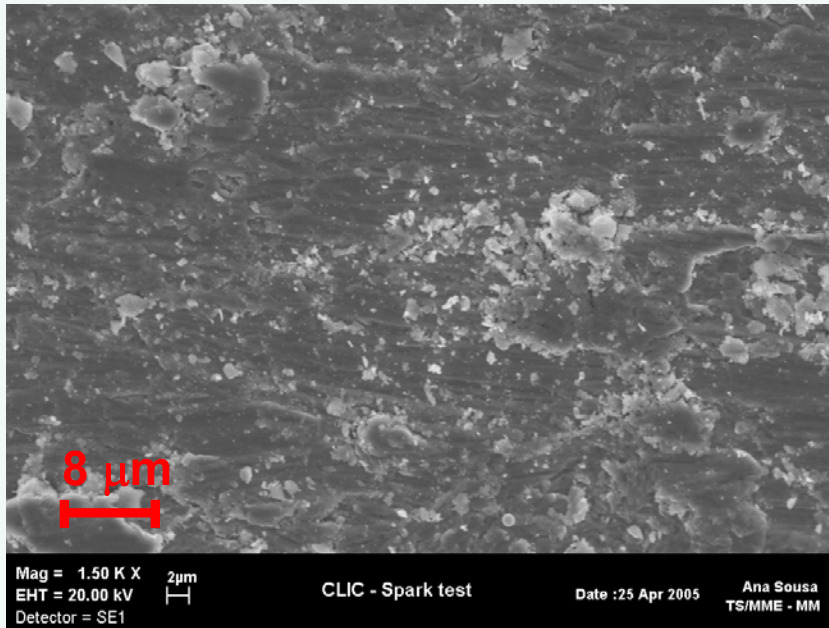
$E_{local} \approx 11 \text{ GV/m}$   
(max 21 GV/m)



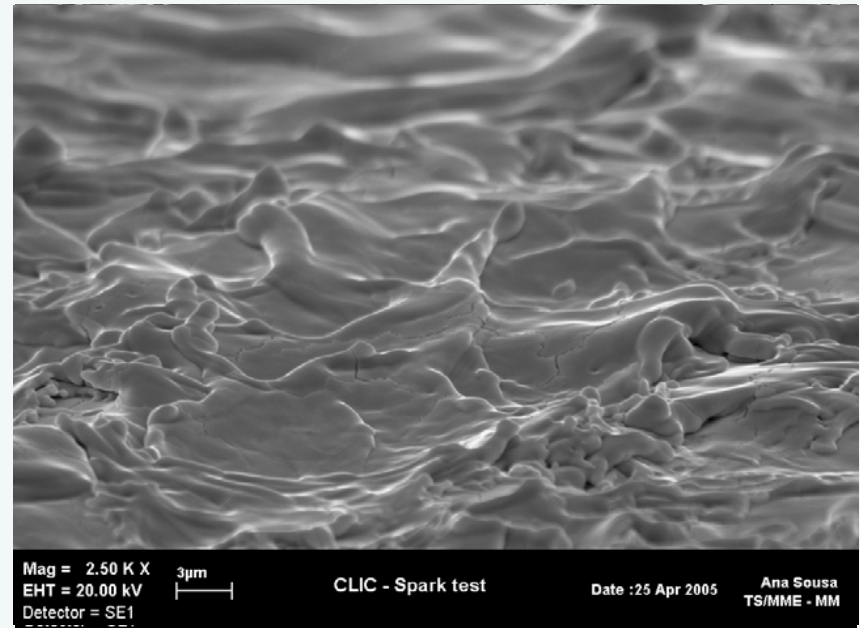
$\sigma_{tensile} \approx \underline{520 \text{ MPa}}$   
(max  $\sim 1950 \text{ MPa}$ )

*Molybdenum surface after ~ 1600 sparks*  
*Average energy per spark: 0.8 J*

*Outside spot*



*Inside spot*



*Local Melting smoothes out the surface*



*Number of micro-protrusions strongly reduced*

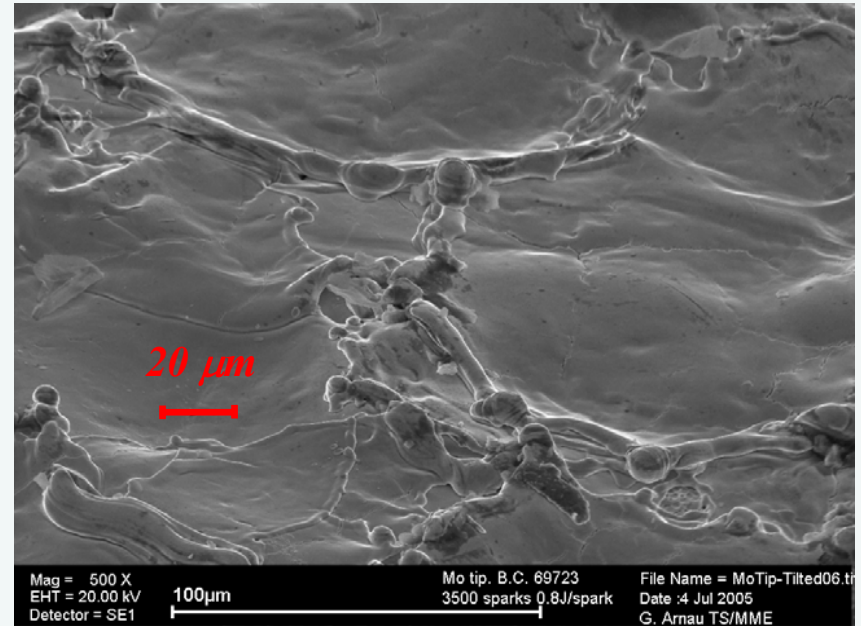
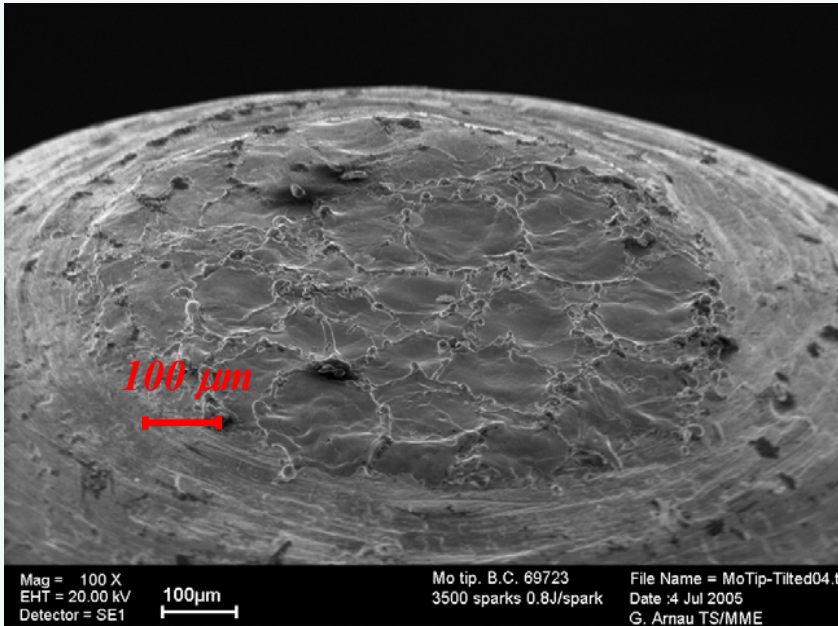


*Molybdenum tip after ~ 3500 sparks*

*Average energy per spark: 0.8 J*

*Mag. = 100x, Tilted 70°*

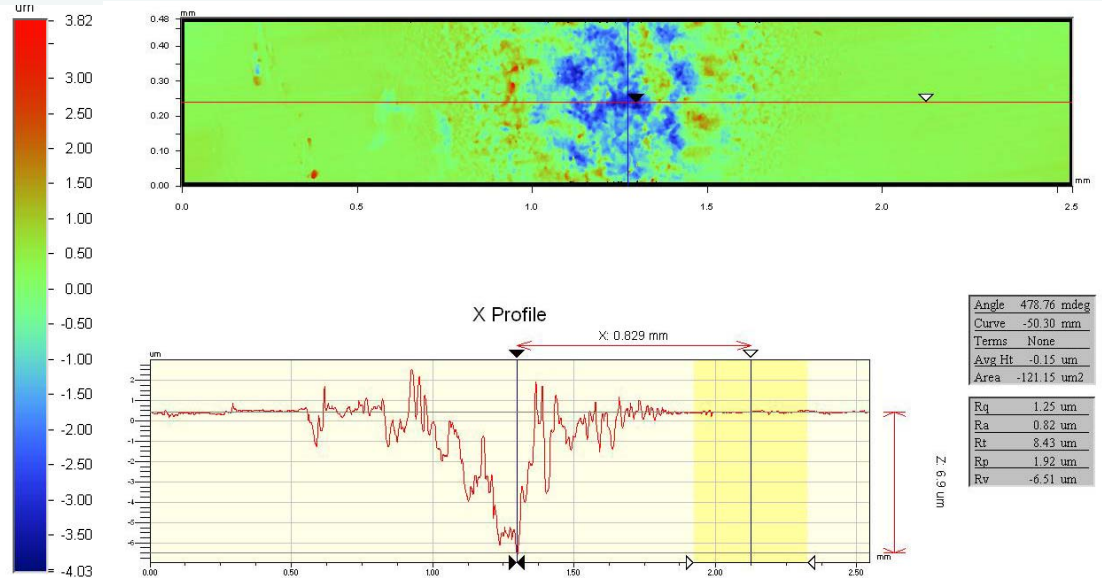
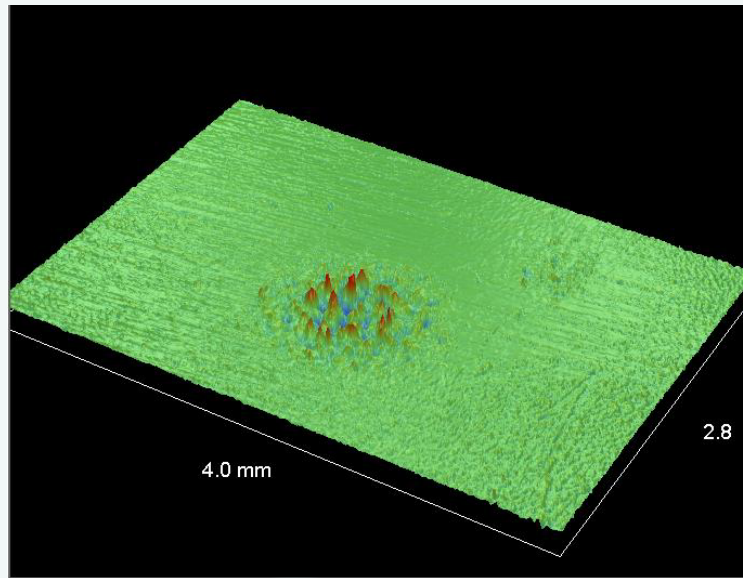
*Mag. = 500x, Tilted 70°*



*Diameter of affected tip: ~0.82 mm*

*Diameter of affected sample: ~1.75 mm*

# Depth Profile - Mo



Net Missing Volume:

474914,5  $\mu\text{m}^3$



297  $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{spark}$



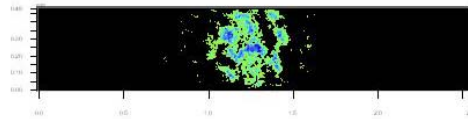
~3 ng/spark

@ 0.8 J/spark

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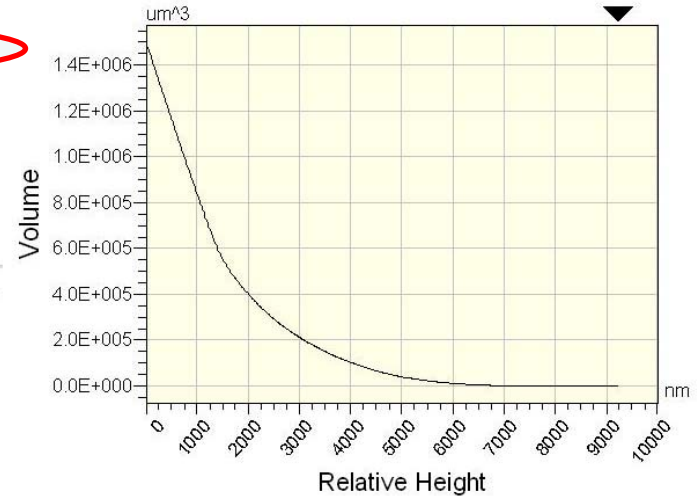
### Volume Calculations

Volume Options	Normal
Natural Volume	1498440.75 $\mu\text{m}^3$
Normal Volume	1.40 $\mu\text{m}^3$
Negative Volume	559077.94 $\mu\text{m}^3$
Positive Volume	81163.45 $\mu\text{m}^3$
<b>Net Missing Volume</b>	<b>474914.50 <math>\mu\text{m}^3</math></b>
Total Displaced Volume	645241.38 $\mu\text{m}^3$



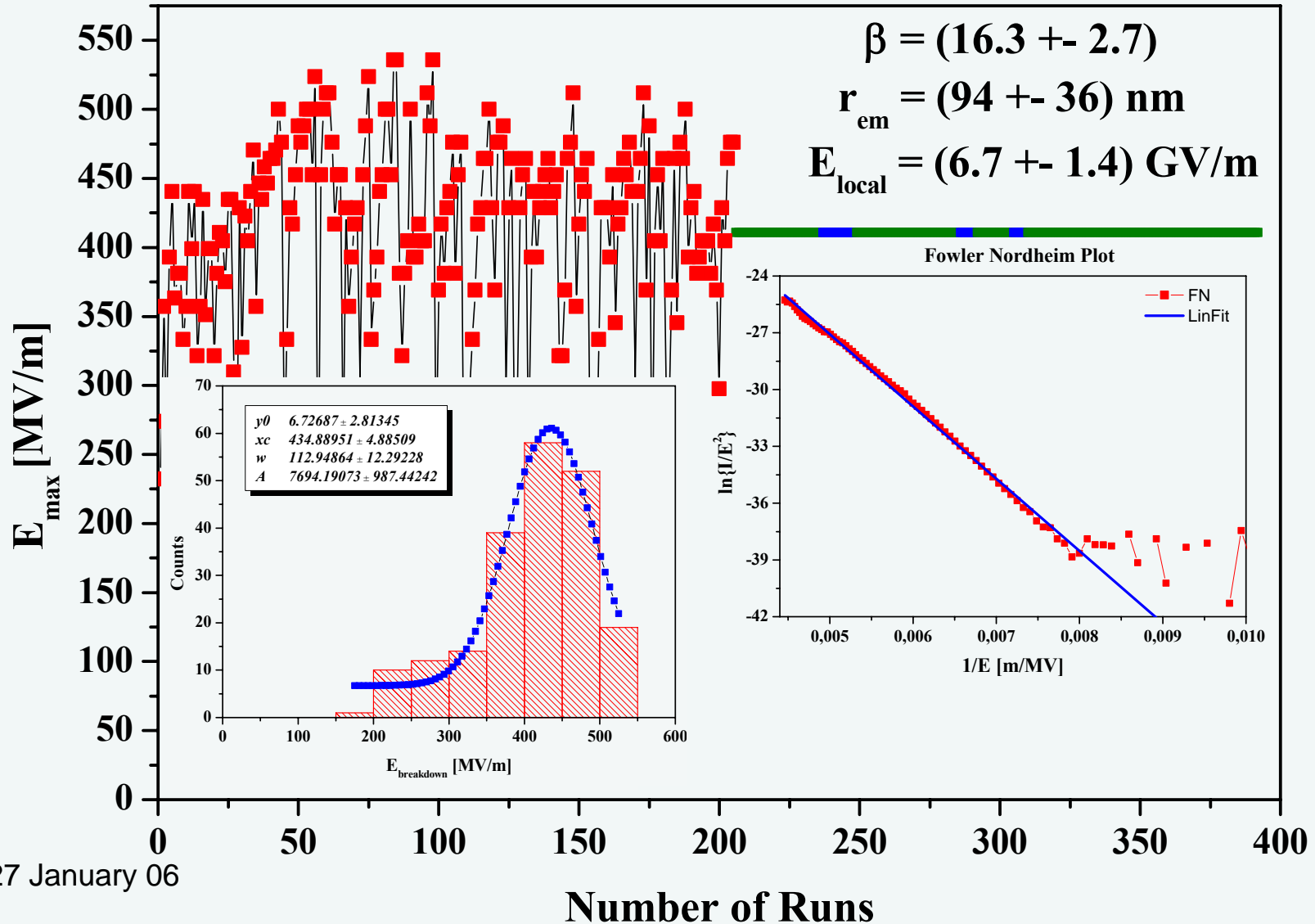
Thresh: 3.44  $\mu\text{m}$  37.25% of P-V  
 Pts Below: 96.71% of Total  
 Vol: 1.59e+005  $\mu\text{m}^3$  10.58% of Total

Volume



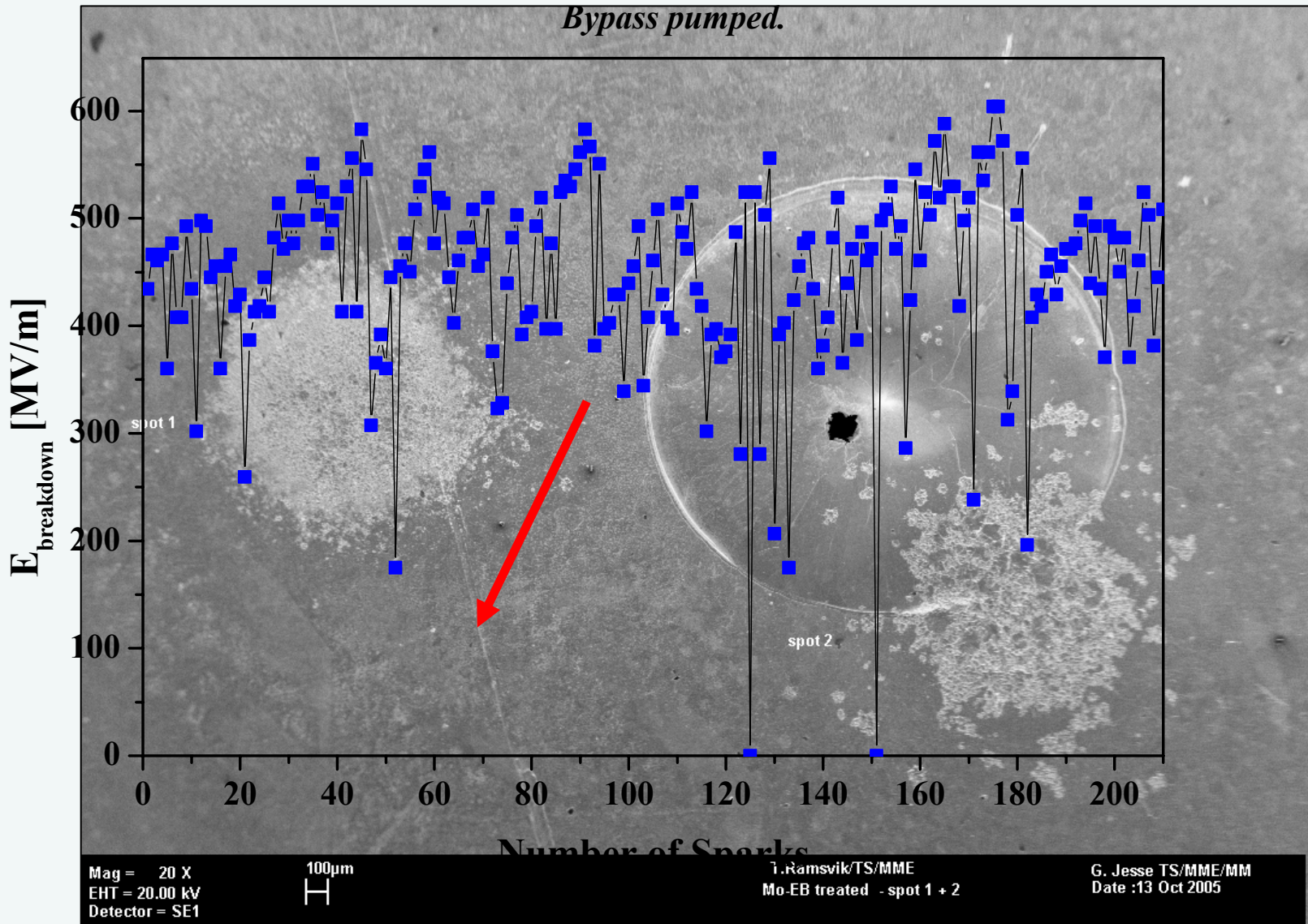
Saturation Field = 435 MV/m

Operation Field = 410 MV/m





# Mo: e-beam treated - 150 keV



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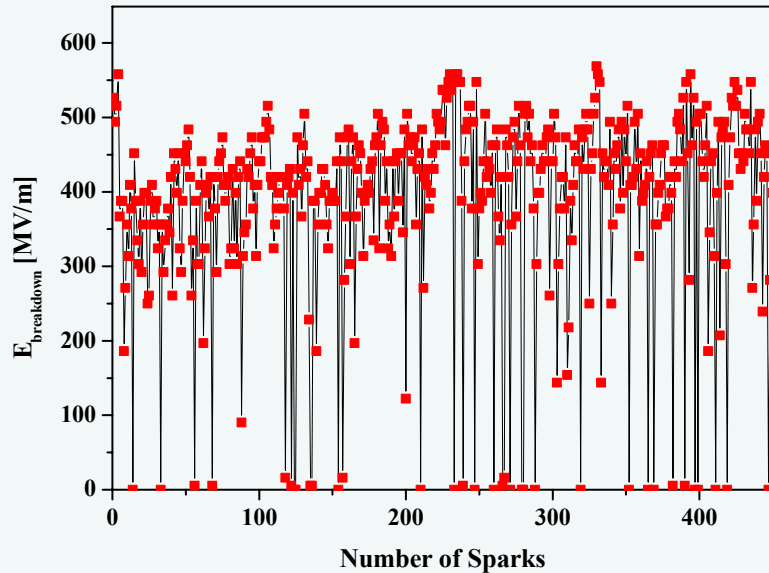
## *Immediate conditioning!!*

# Mo - heated with e-beam



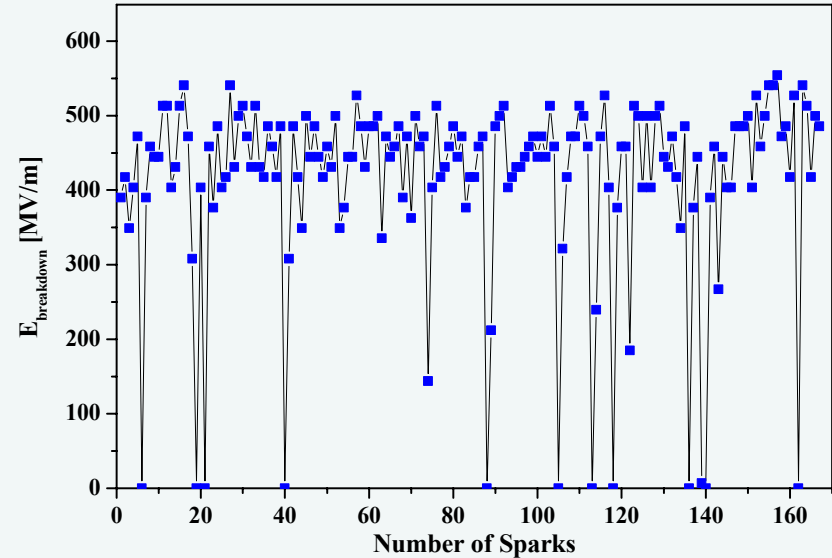
*not re-crystallized*

*~ 4 hours in air between heating and mounting in spark system*



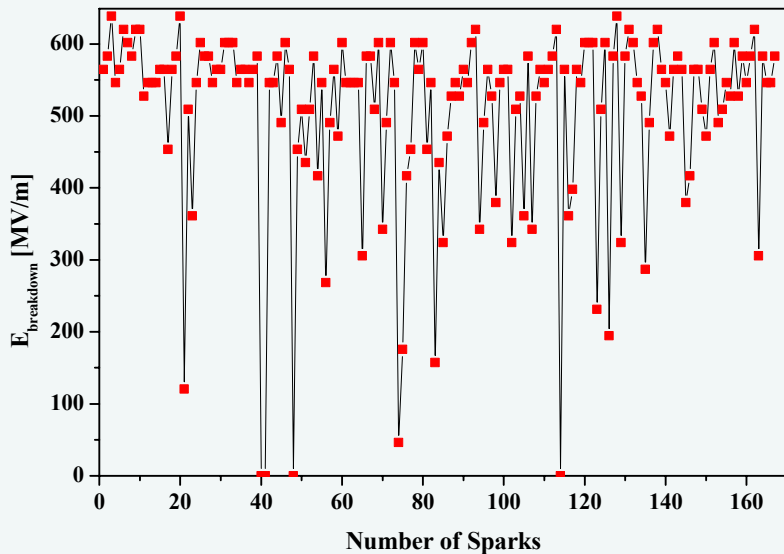
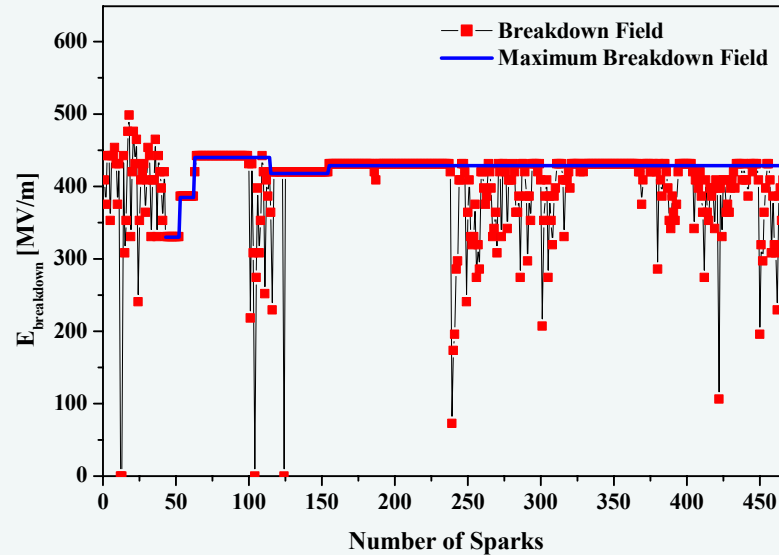
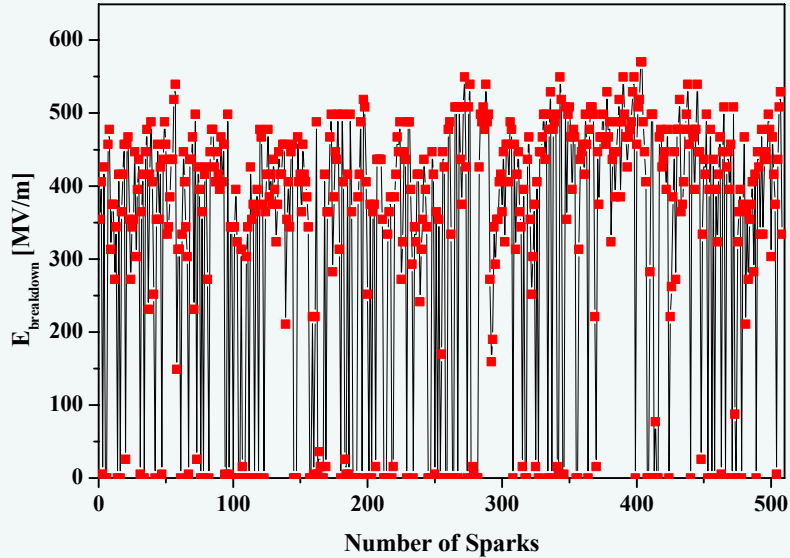
*Initial Breakdown Field:  
~ 350 MV/m*

*Conditioning with "normal"  
speed to ~450 MV/m*



*Conditioning almost  
immediately to  
~450 MV/m*

# Mo - heated with e-beam

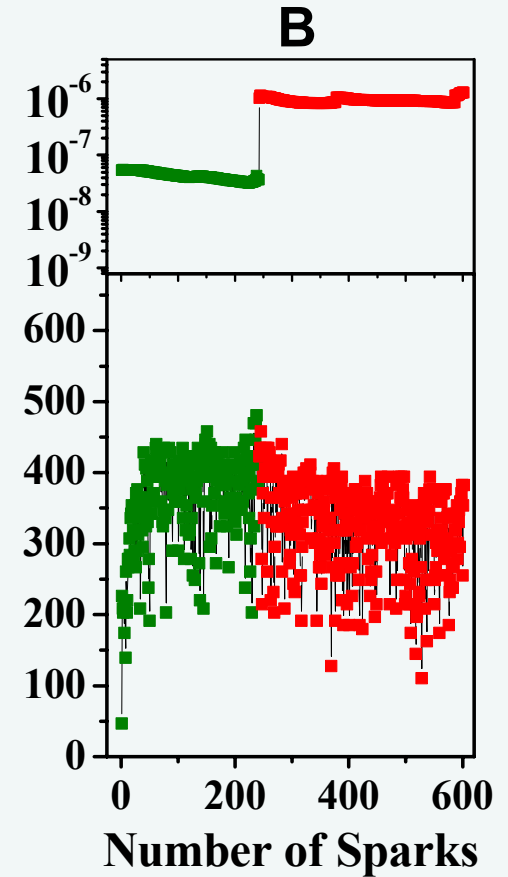
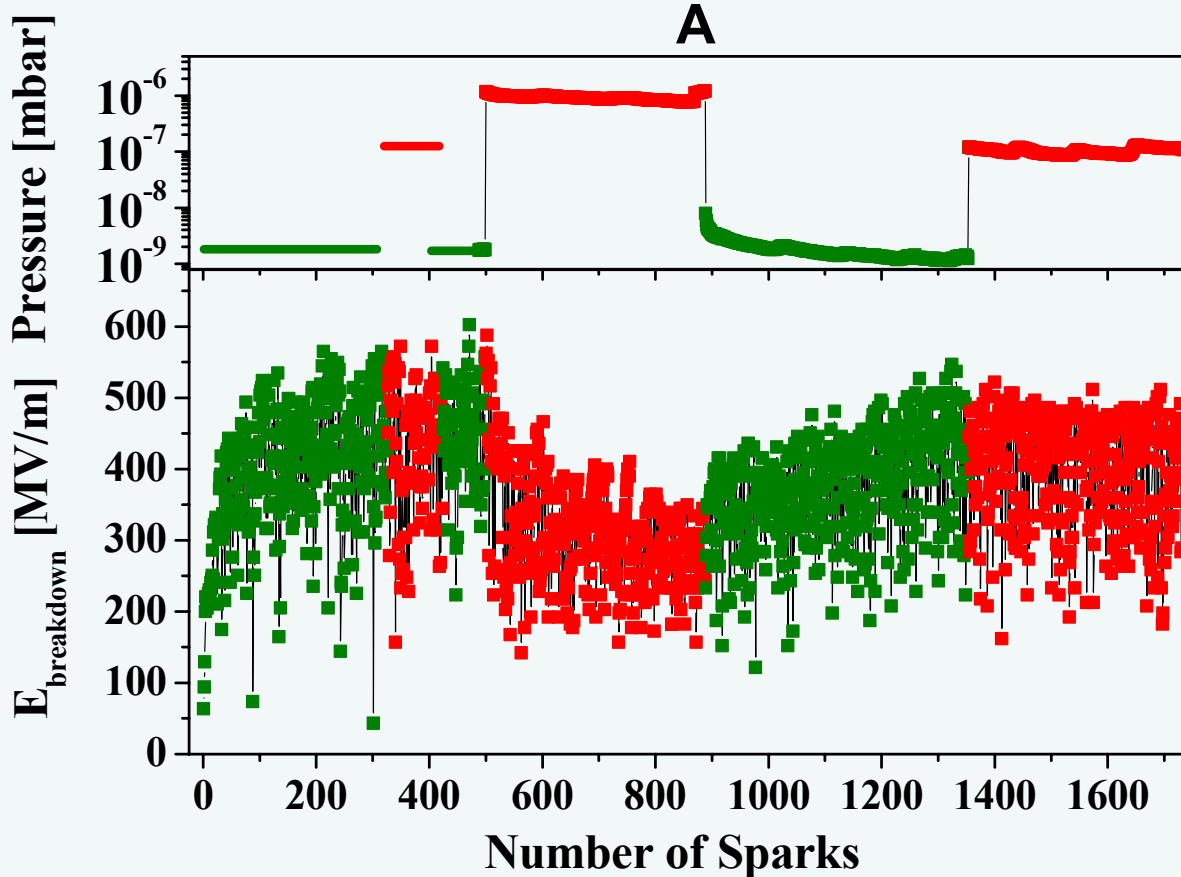


*heavily re-crystallized 5.5 kV / 60 mA  
~ 4 hours in air between heating and  
mounting in spark system*

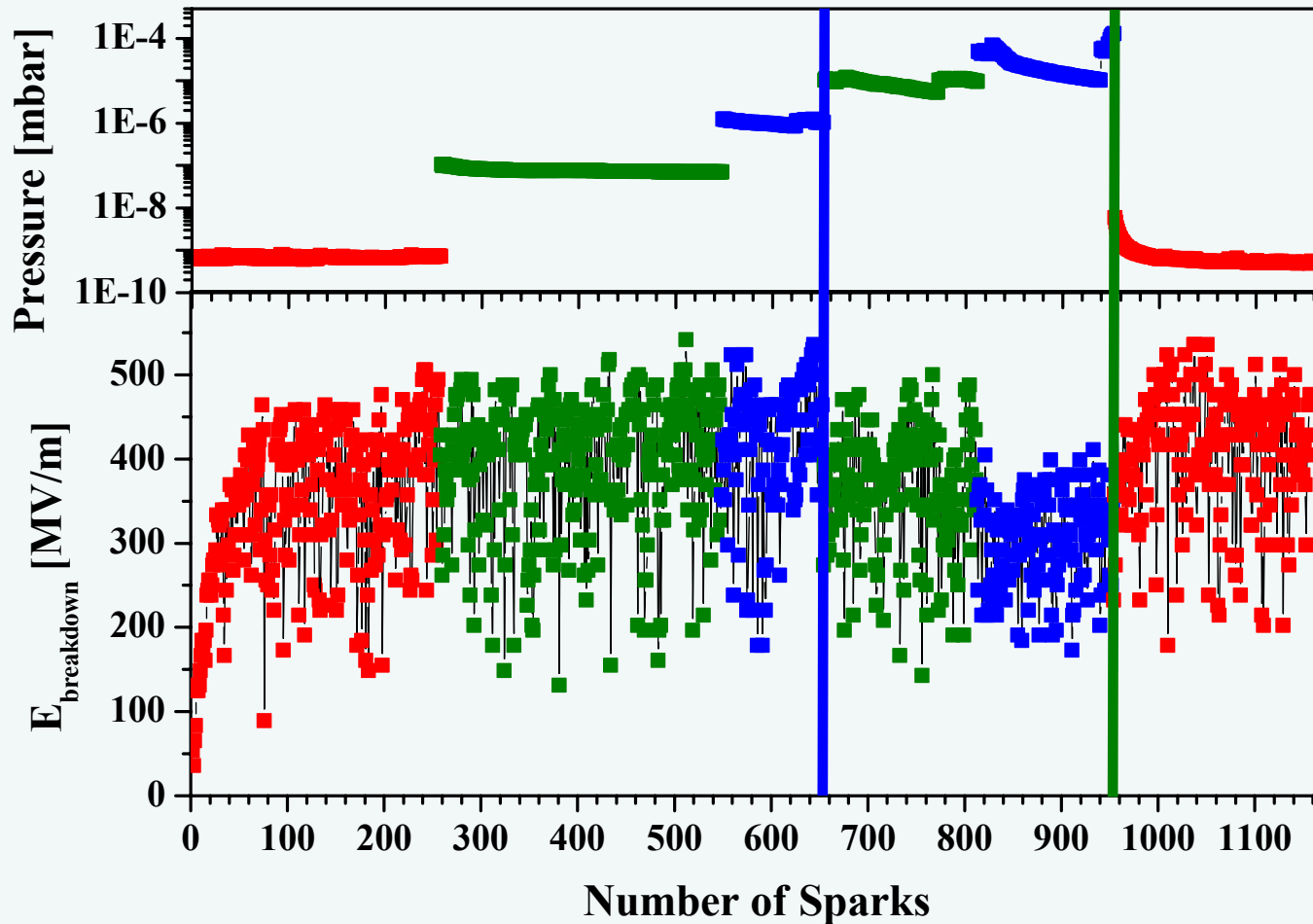


*Baked system*  
*Laboratory Air*

*Unbaked system*  
*Dry Air*



## CO experiments



*No change in breakdown-field below  $10^{-6}$  mbar*

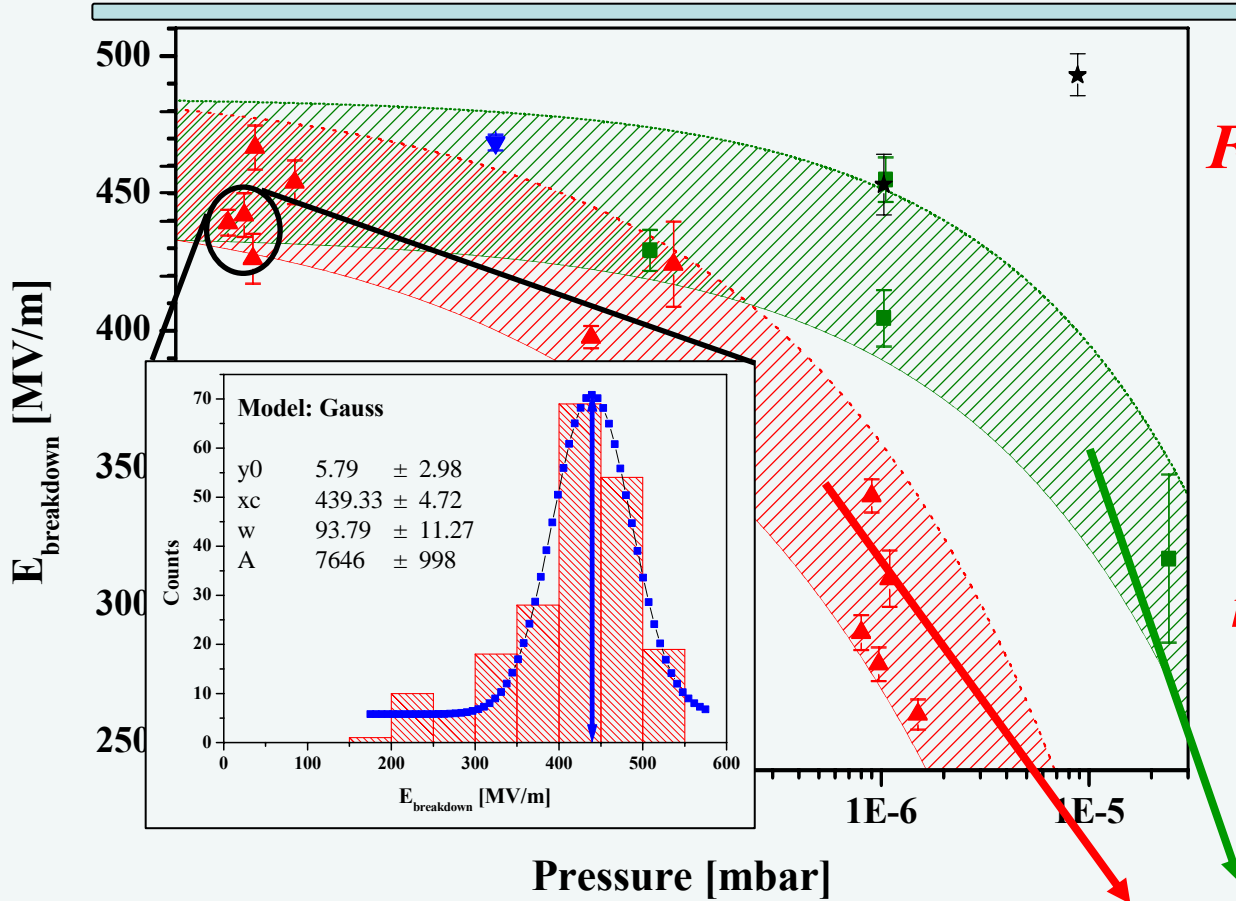
*“Abrupt” decrease above  $10^{-5}$  mbar*

*Recovery of breakdown field*





# Gas Experiments - (Air-CO)/Mo



*From  $\sim 10^{-9}$  to  $\sim 10^{-6}$  mbar  
of air*



*The saturated  
breakdown field is  
reduced by  $\sim 140$  MV/m*

$$E_{\text{breakdown}}^{0 \text{ mbar, CO}} = (465 \pm 30) \text{ MV/m}$$

$$k_{\text{CO}} = (12425 \pm 1008) \text{ MV/m (mbar)}^{-1}$$

$$n_{\text{CO}} = (0.42 \pm 0.02)$$

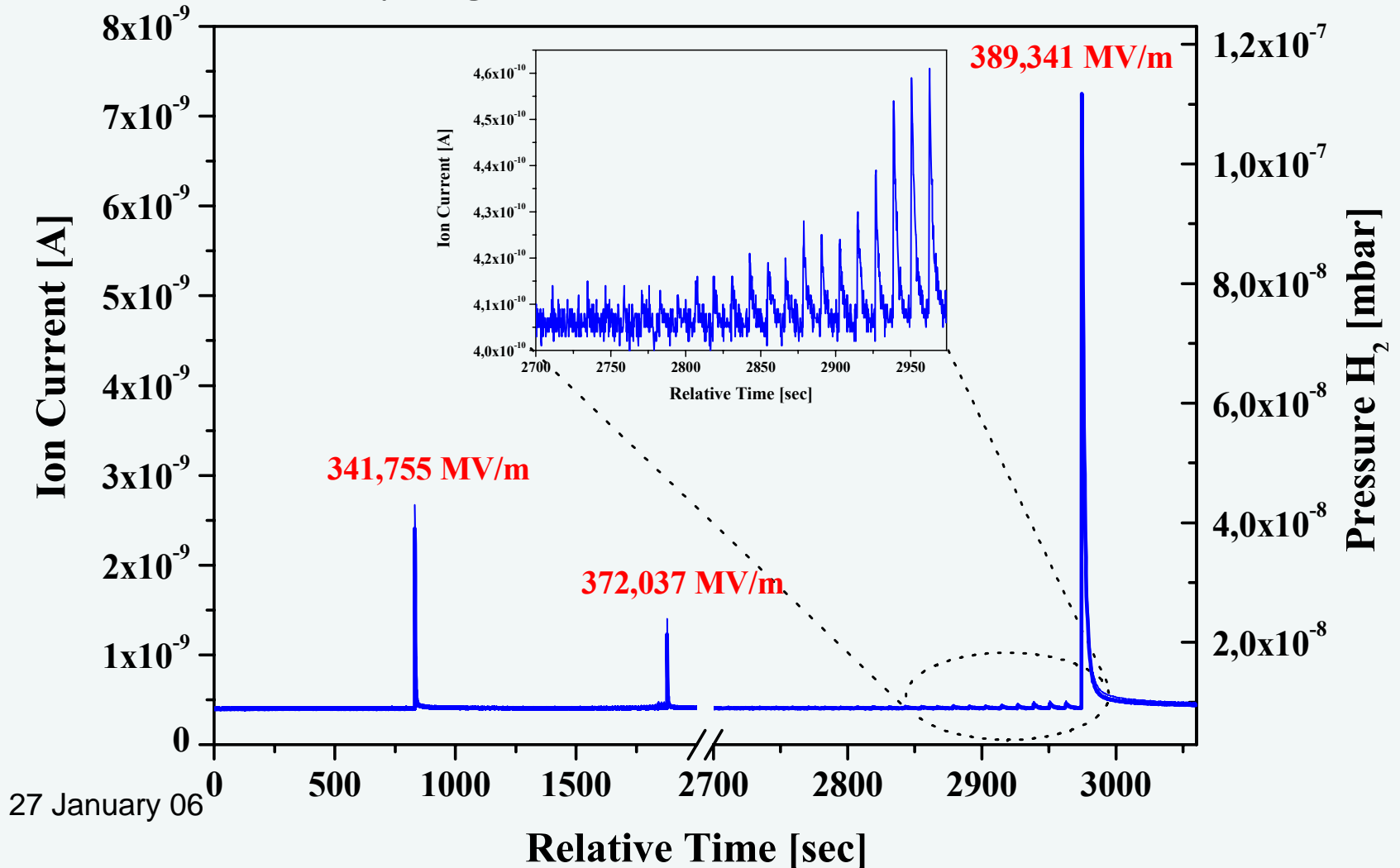
$$E_{\text{breakdown}} = E_{\text{breakdown}}^{0 \text{ mbar}} - k \cdot \{P\}^n$$



## Example: Release of Hydrogen Gas

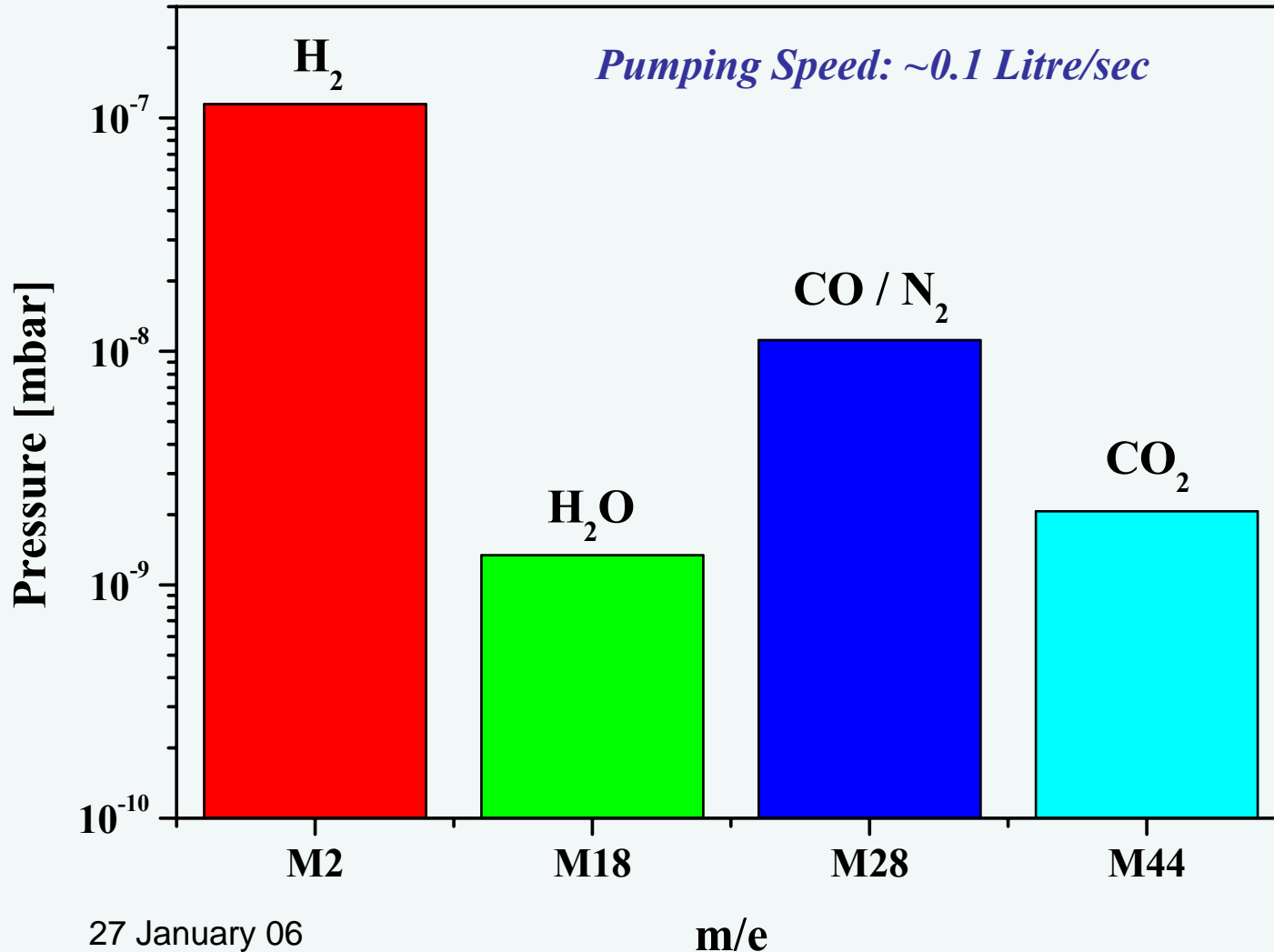
Pumping Speed:  $\sim 0.1$  Litre/sec

— Hydrogen Gas





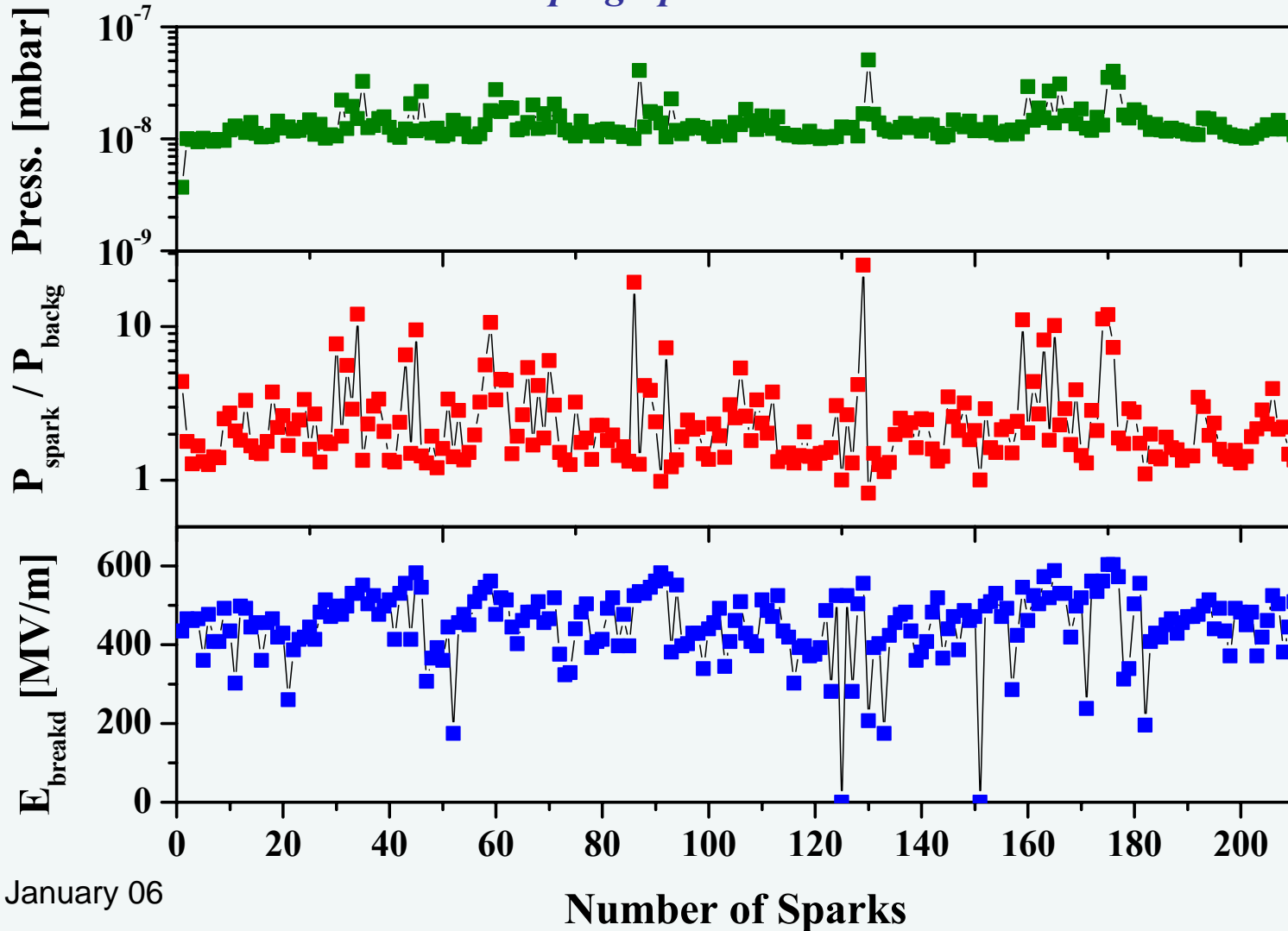
## Release of gas due to spark



Hydrogen gas  
most abundant  
specie



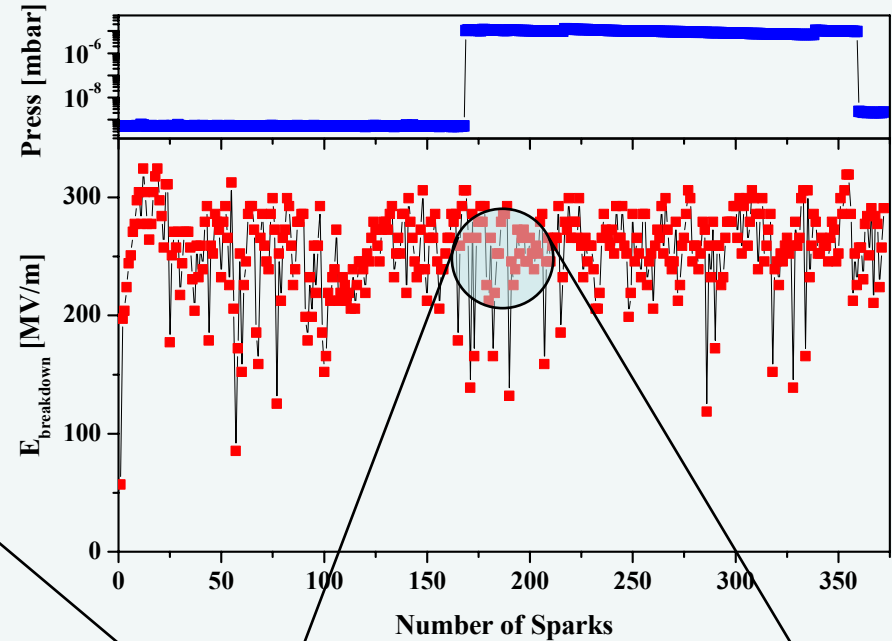
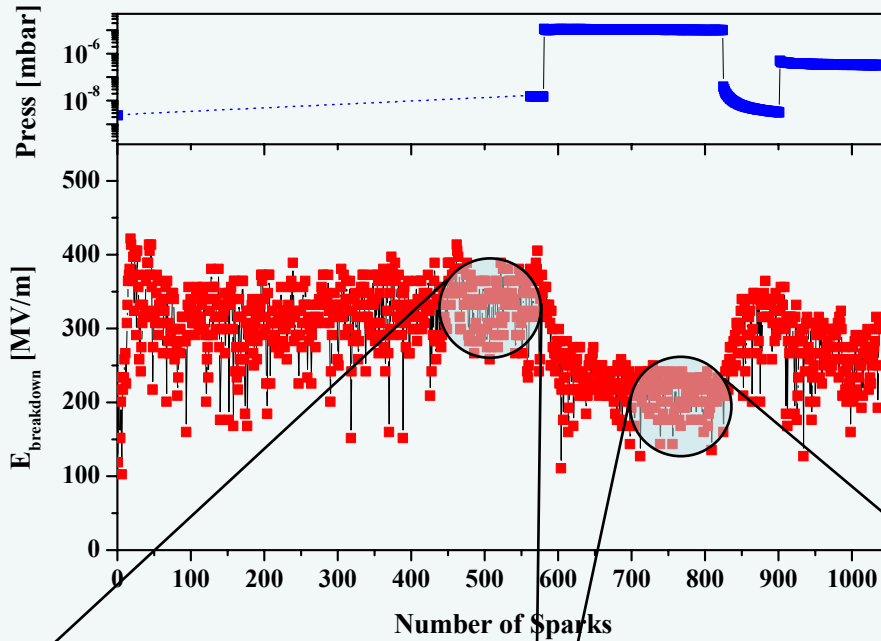
## *E-beam treated Molybdenum* *Pumping Speed: ~0.1 Litre/sec*





## Laboratory Air

## CO



$(333,4 \pm 5,1) \text{ MV/m}$

$(219,0 \pm 1,2) \text{ MV/m}$

$(261,9 \pm 1,3) \text{ MV/m}$

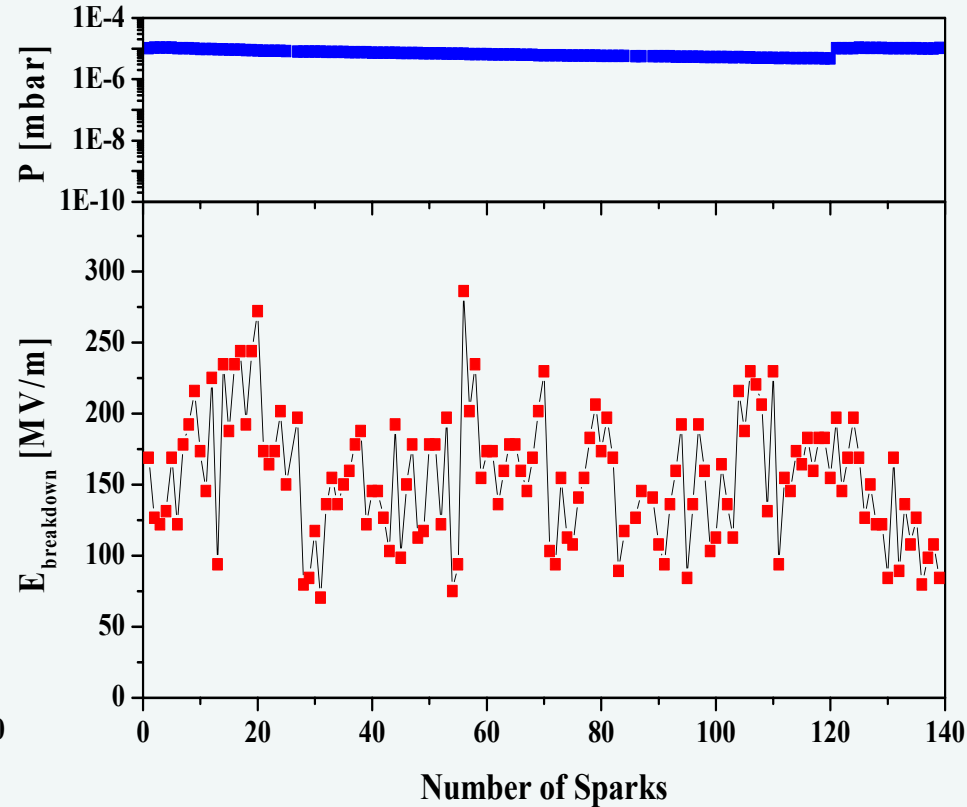
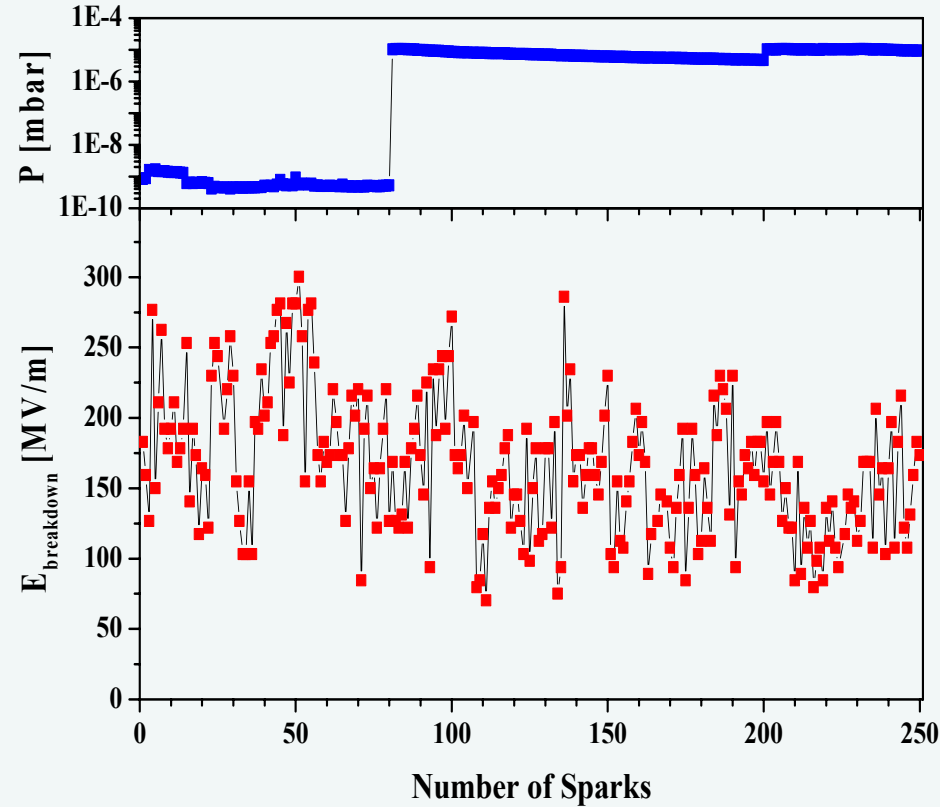
$E_{breakdown}$  reduced by 34% at  $1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mbar Air

No reduction of  $E_{breakdown}$  at  $1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mbar CO



Laboratory Air

CO

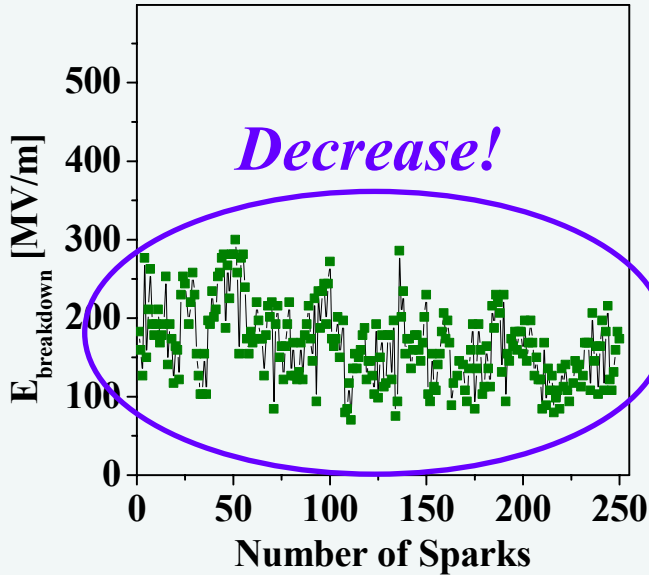


*No significant effect of exposure to Air and CO*

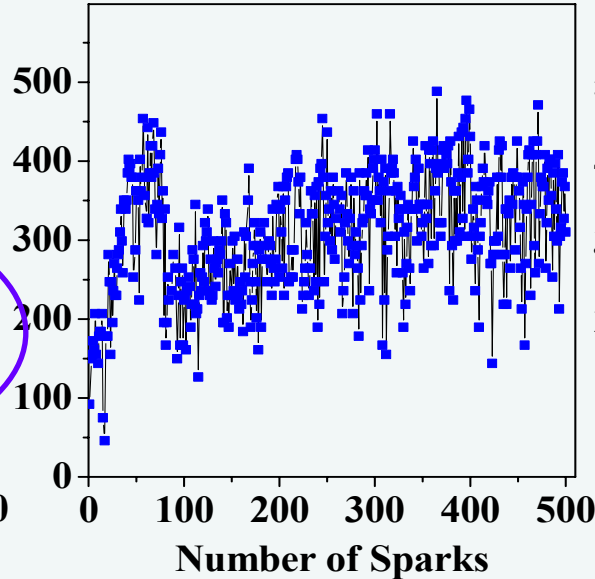
# Comparison Cu - W - Mo



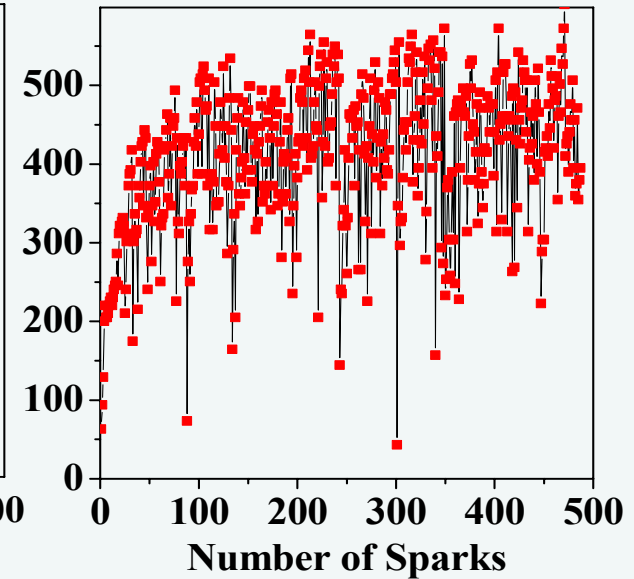
*Copper*



*Tungsten*



*Molybdenum*

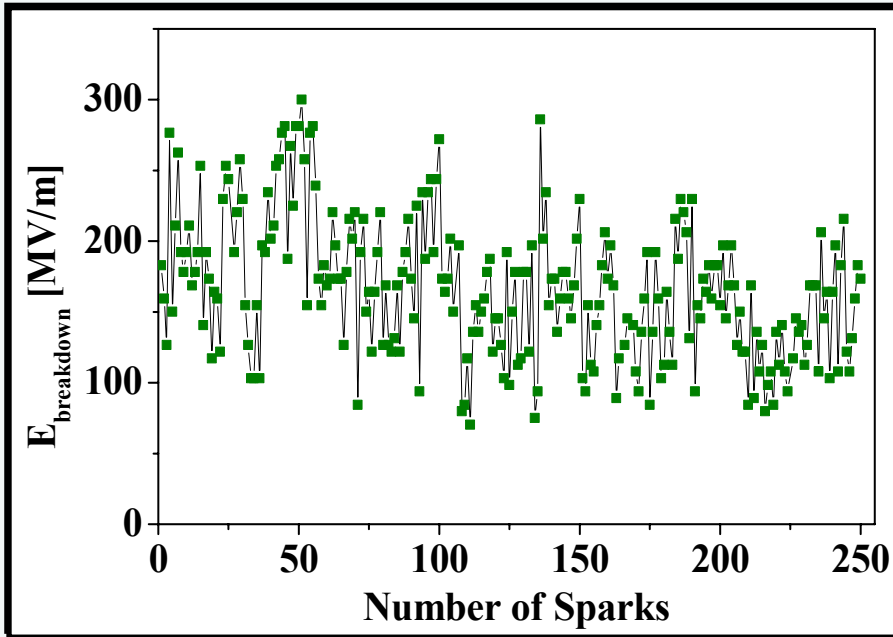


***Cu:***  $E_{\text{breakdown}}^{\text{sat}} \cong (159 \pm 3) \text{ MV/m at } \sim 7 \times 10^{-10} \text{ mbar}$

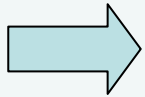
***W:***  $E_{\text{breakdown}}^{\text{sat}} \cong (349 \pm 6) \text{ MV/m at } \sim 2 \times 10^{-08} \text{ mbar}$

***Mo:***  $E_{\text{breakdown}}^{\text{sat}} \cong (431 \pm 7) \text{ MV/m at } \sim 2 \times 10^{-09} \text{ mbar}$

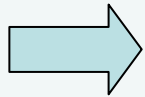
# Comparisons - 30 GHz measurements



	$E_{\text{breakd}}^{\text{sat}}$ (DC) [MV/m]	Max. surface field in RF [MV/m]
<i>Cu</i>	160	241
<i>W</i>	349	329
<i>Mo</i>	430	420

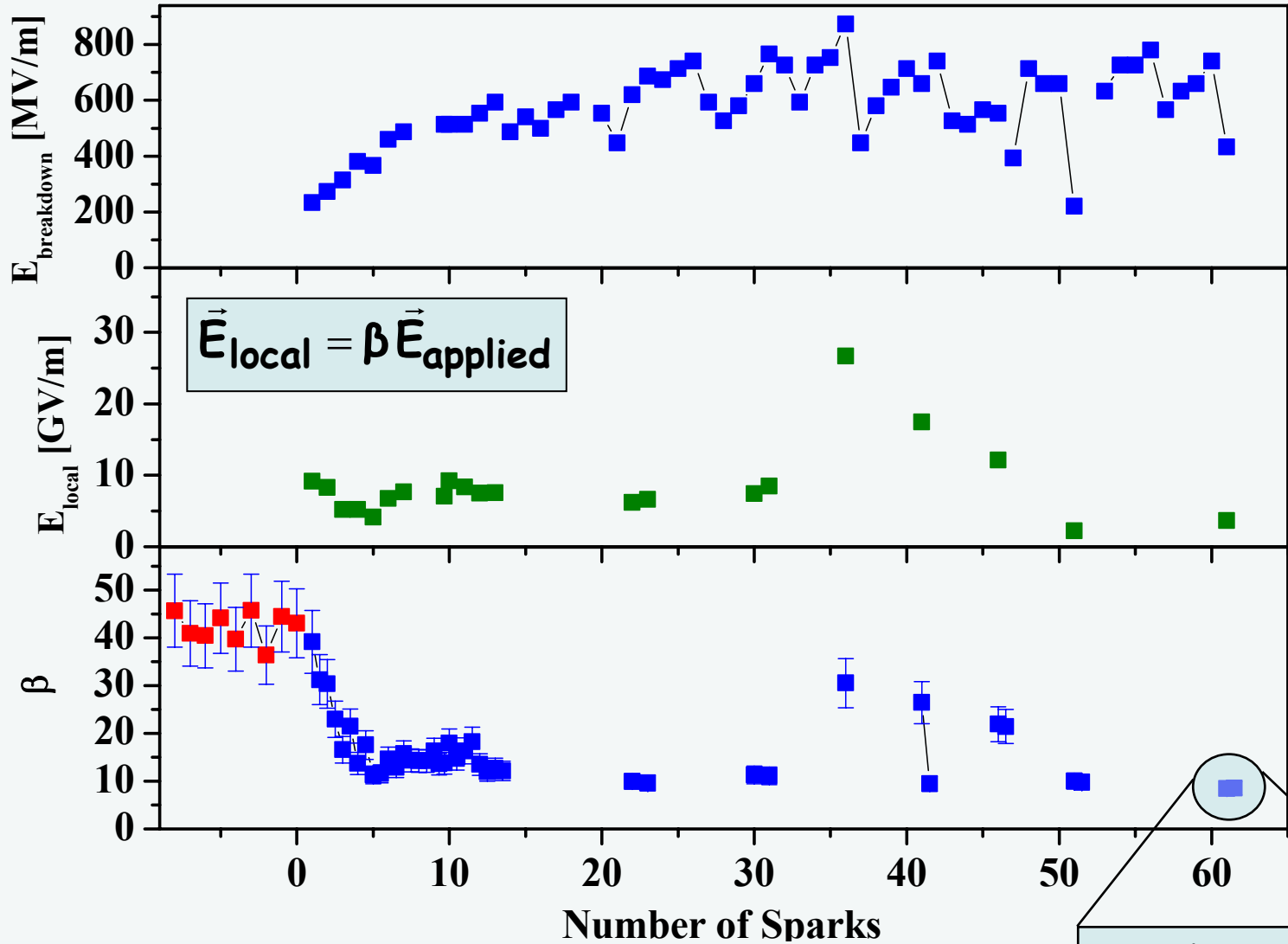


*DC and RF breakdown measurements give similar breakdown fields for Mo and W*



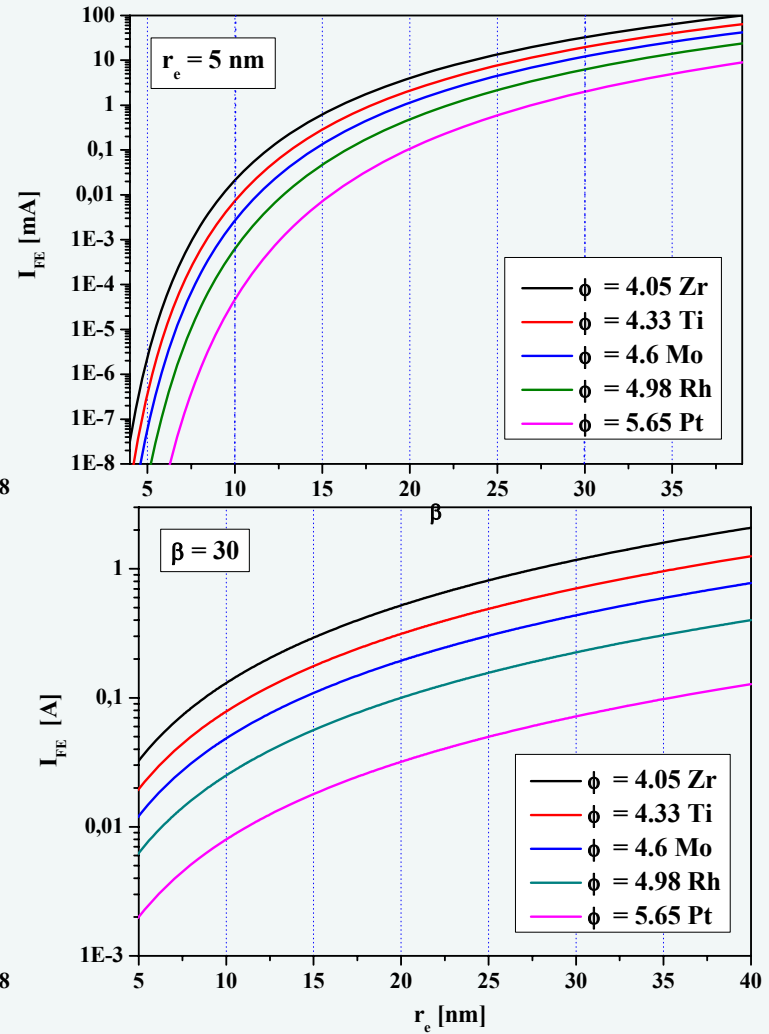
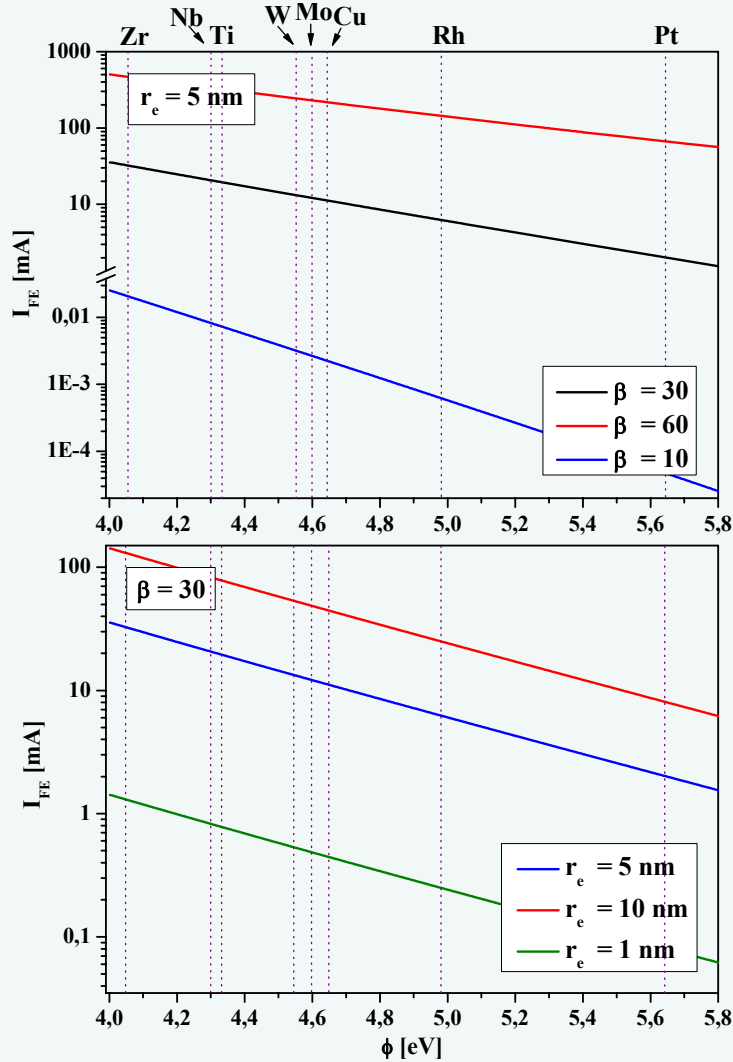
*Superior behavior of both Mo and W with respect to Cu.*





$\beta = (8,5 \pm 1,4)$

# Dependence of $I_{FE}$



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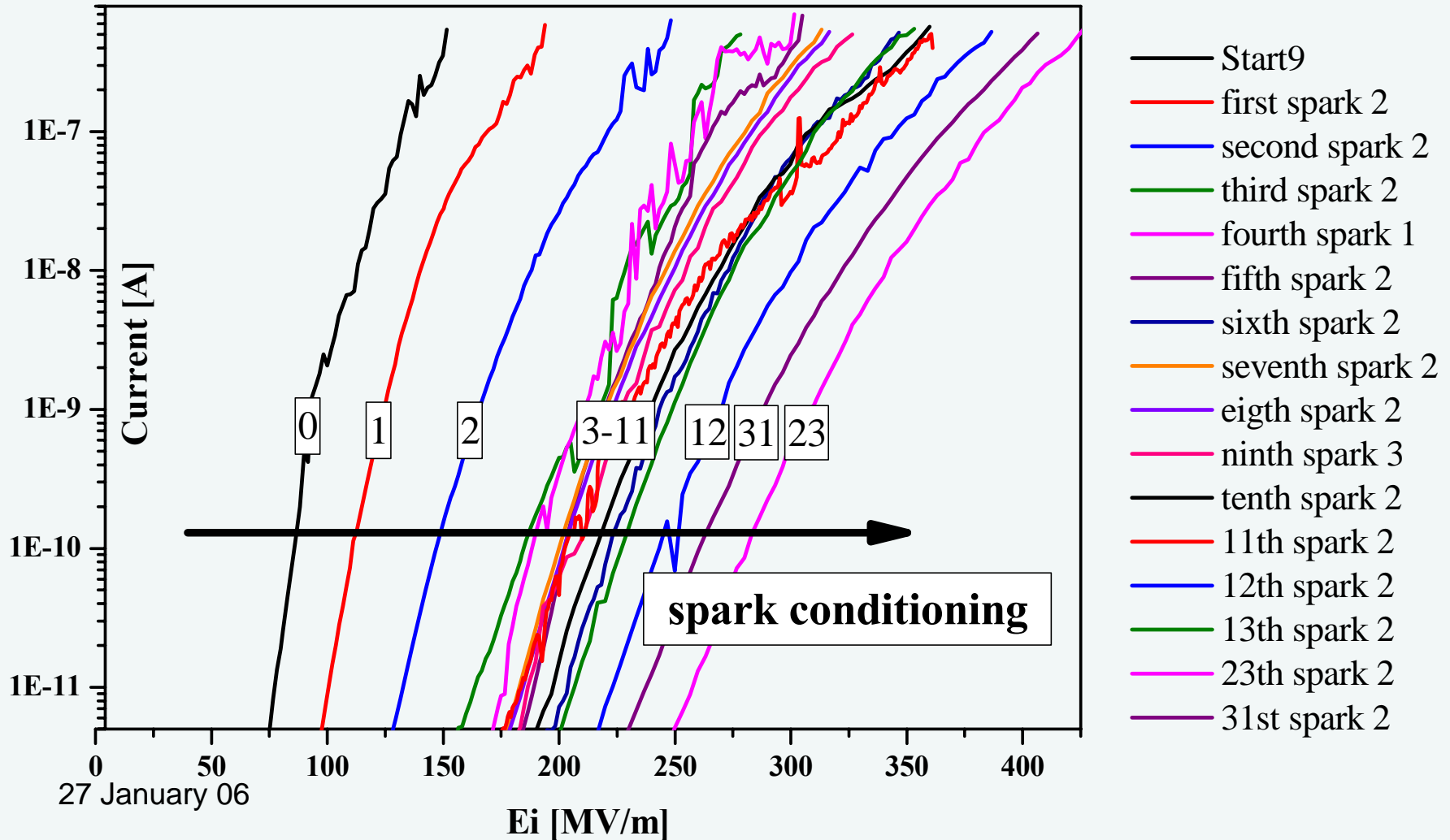
$$\frac{I_{FN}}{E^2} \frac{6.494 \cdot 10^5}{(A_e \beta^2)} = \frac{10^{4.52} \phi^{-1/2}}{\phi} \cdot \exp \left[ -\frac{2.84 \cdot 10^9 \phi^{1.5}}{\beta E} \right]$$

$E = 300$  MV/m

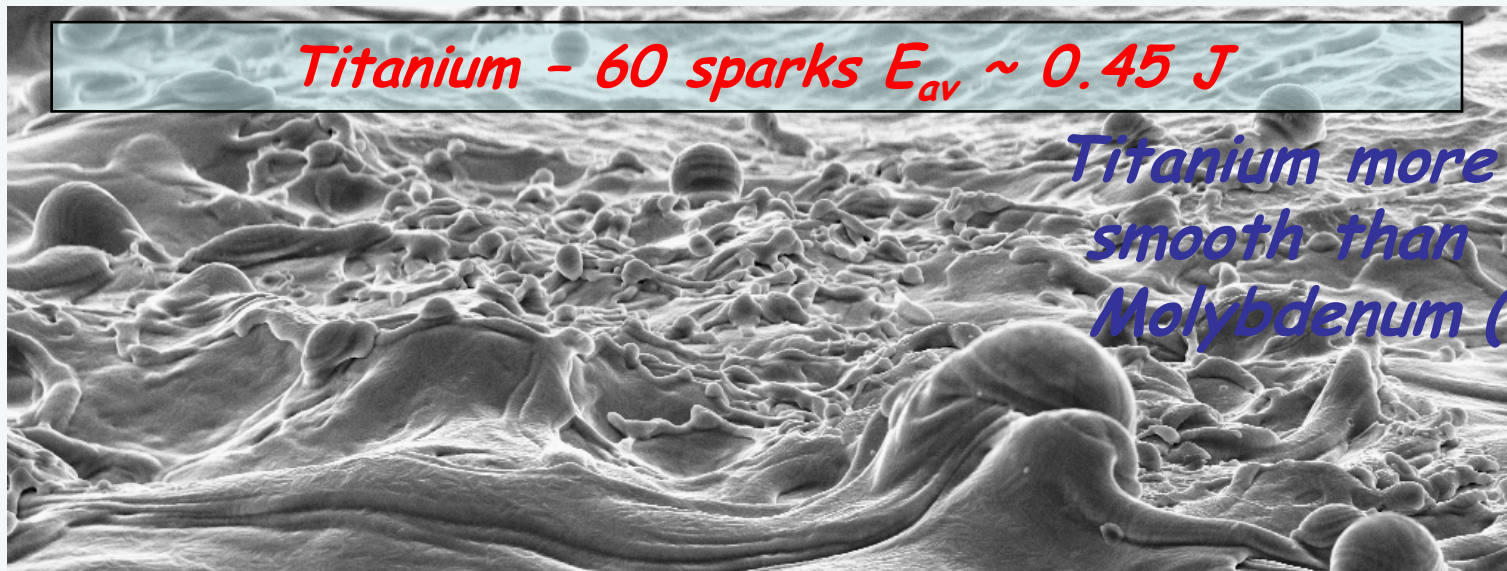
# Titanium - $I_{FE}$ variation



Increase of the threshold for field emission also increase the breakdown field  
 W. T. Diamond: *J. Vac. Sci. Technol. A* 16(2) (1998) 707.

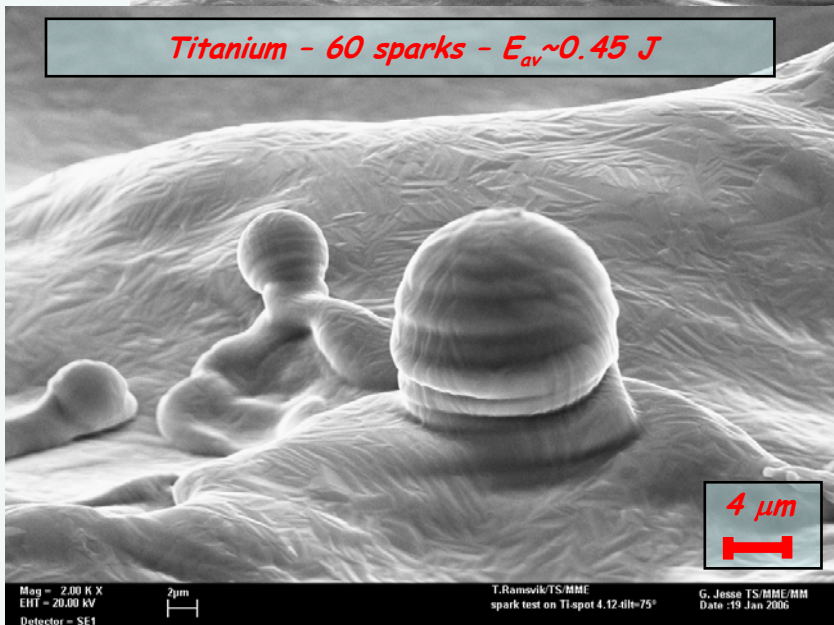


# Titanium cathode - SEM study



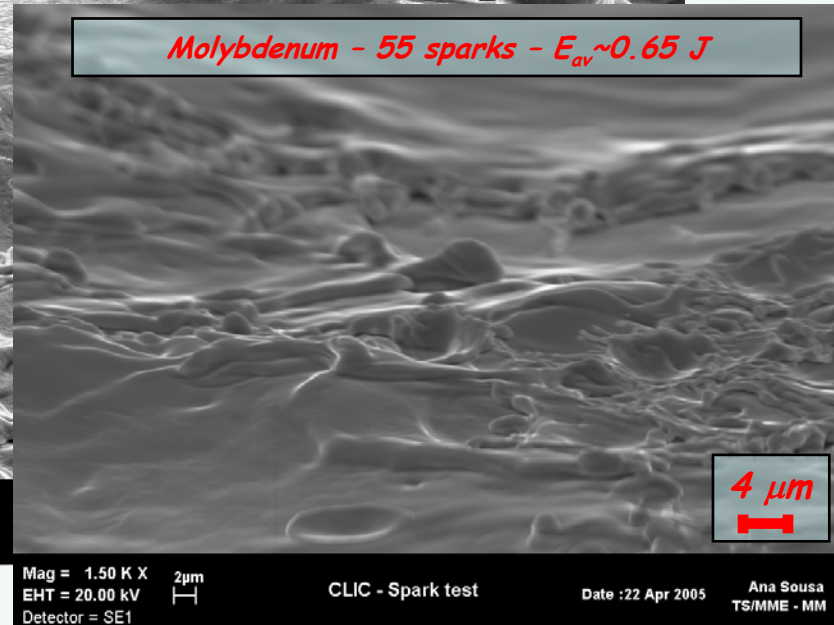
*Titanium - 60 sparks  $E_{av} \sim 0.45 J$*

*Titanium more smooth than Molybdenum (?)*



*Titanium - 60 sparks -  $E_{av} \sim 0.45 J$*

*4  $\mu m$*

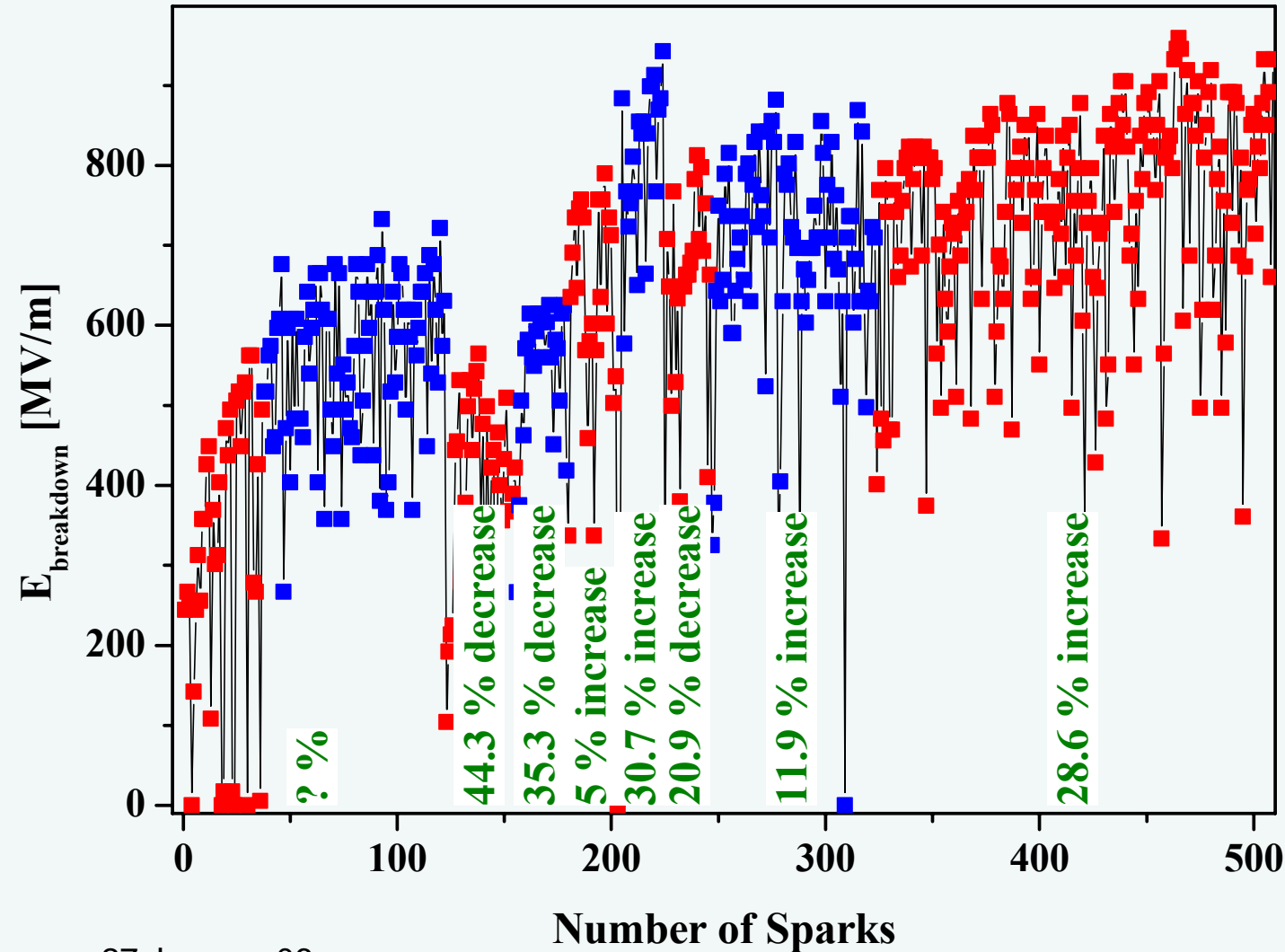


*Molybdenum - 55 sparks -  $E_{av} \sim 0.65 J$*

*4  $\mu m$*

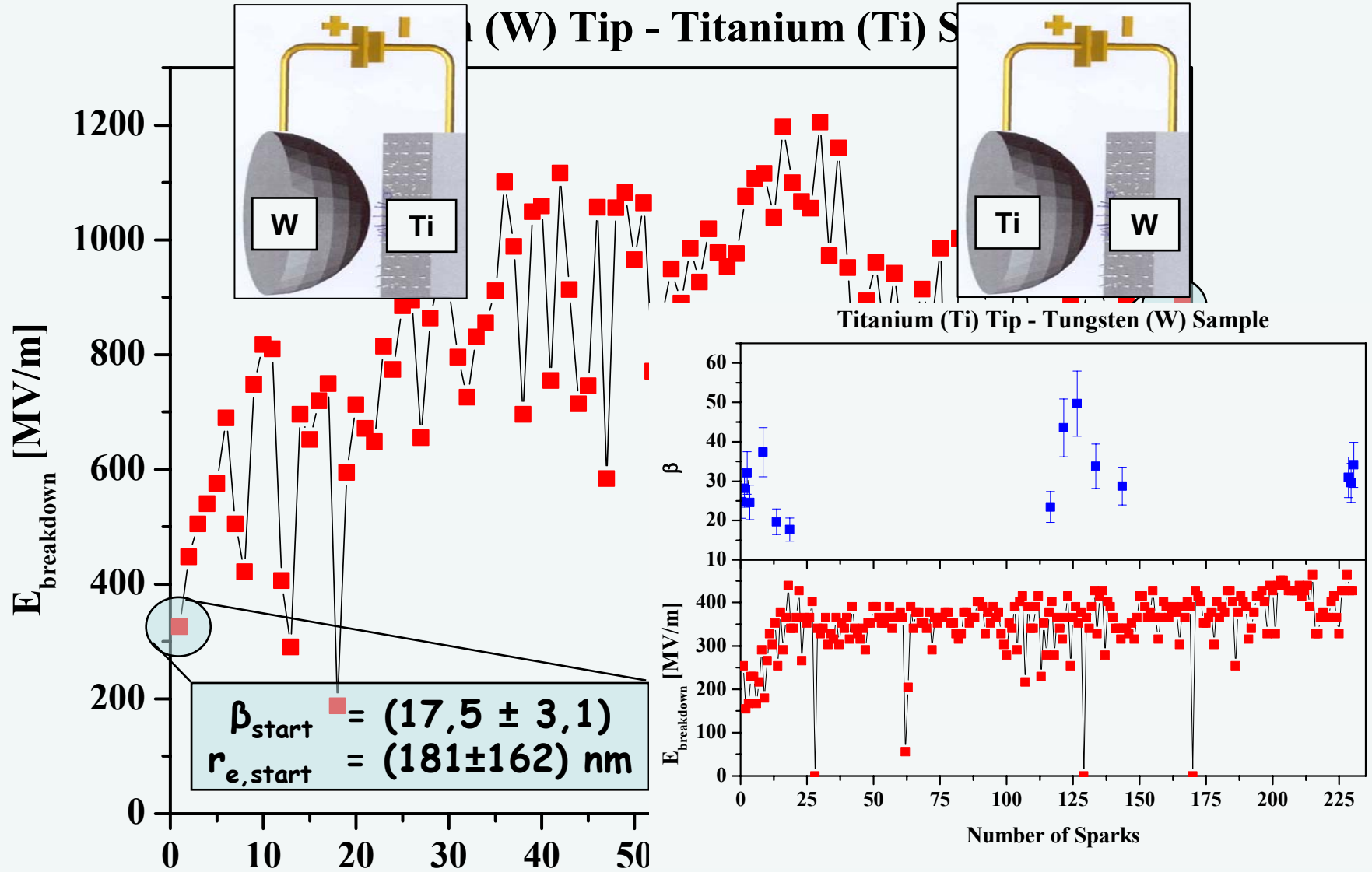


## Titanium Raw Data



*Significant erosion of Ti material at the moment of spark*

# $W \leftrightarrow Ti / anode \leftrightarrow cathode$



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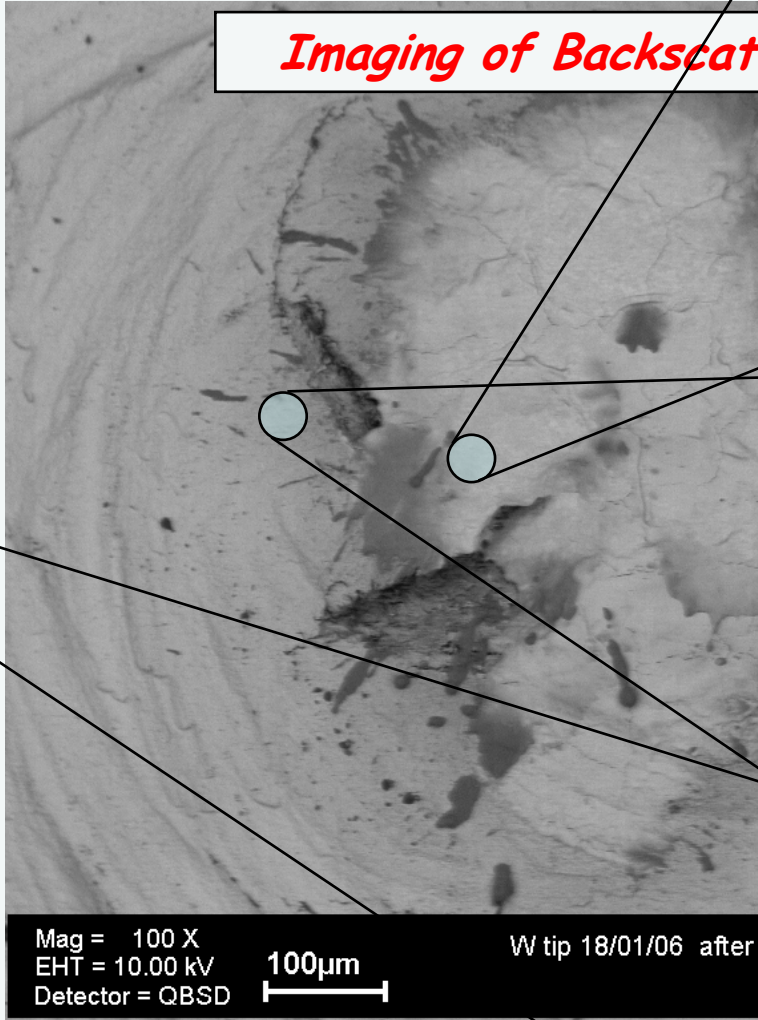
*Cathode initiated processes dominating*



# W anode - Ti cathode SEM/EDX



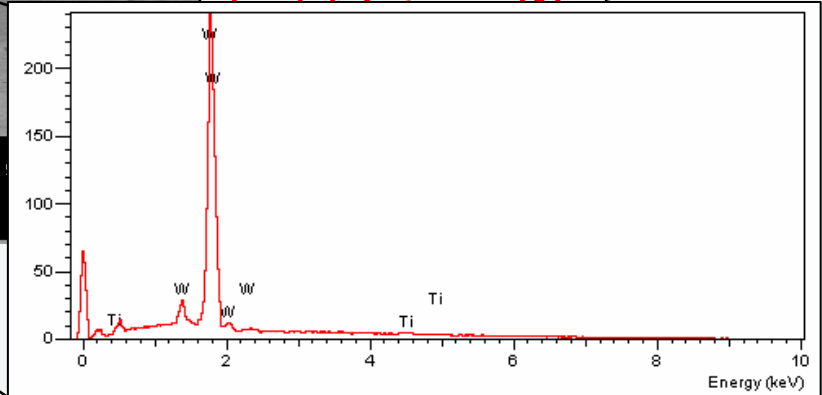
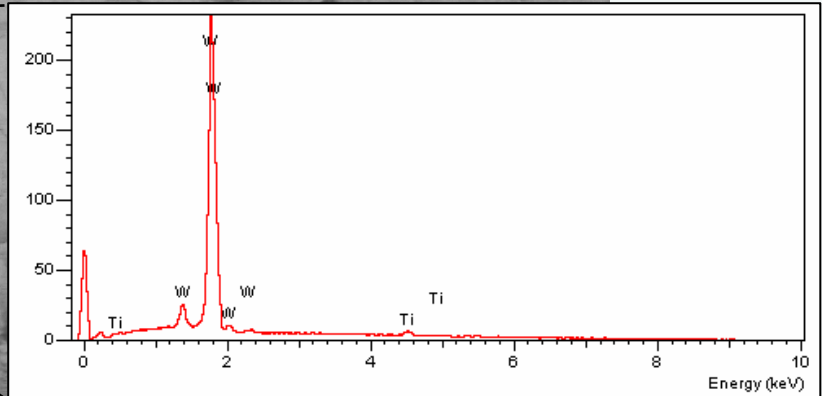
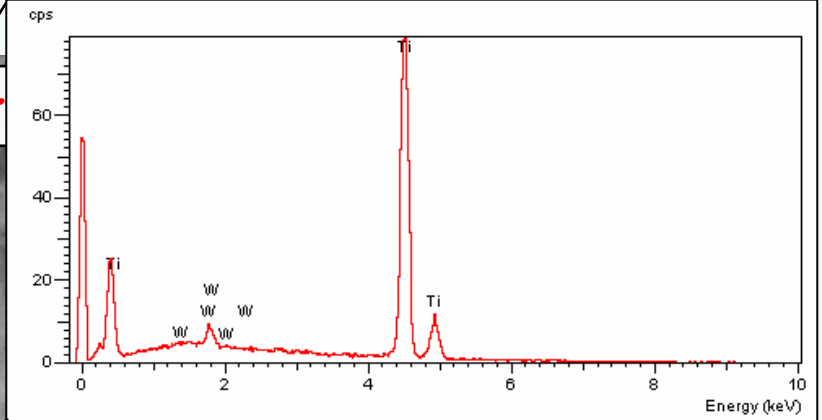
**Imaging of Backscat**



Mag = 100 X  
EHT = 10.00 kV  
Detector = QBSD

100µm

W tip 18/01/06 after





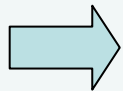
*Seminar: 10 June 2005*

## Criteria:

- *low vapor pressure @ 1000 K*
- *high tensile strength*
- *high melting point*
- *high thermal conductivity*
- *high electrical conductivity*

## Titanium:

- *High*
- *Low*
- *Average*
- *Low*
- *Low*



*Molybdenum & Tungsten*





## Continue the study of various materials

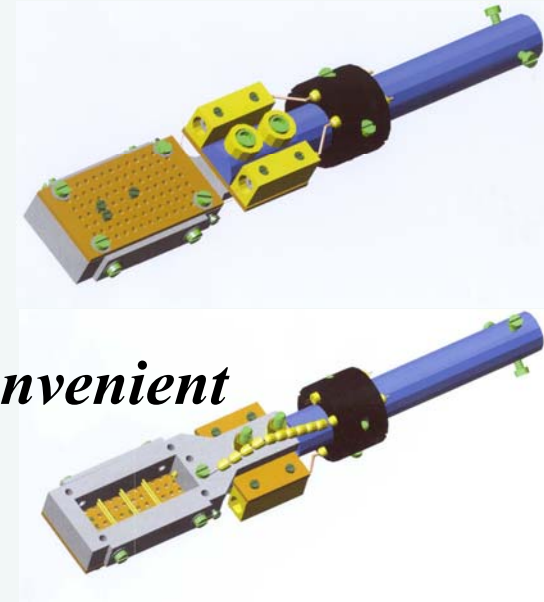
- *TiVAl*
  - *higher tensile strength than pure Titanium*  
→ *maintain low beta, and avoid severe erosion ?*
- *Glidcop, CuZr*
  - *higher resistance to fatigue than pure Copper*
- *Mo-Re alloys*
  - *study the effect of increased tensile strength, while maintaining similar properties as Mo*
- *Chromium*
- *Sputter Cleaned Molybdenum*
  - *study the effect of molybdenum oxide on the surface*
- *(others)*

## Regulate the energy over the gap junction

## In-situ annealing and sputtering of samples

- New spark system?:
  - *facilitate higher throughput of materials and preparation techniques*
  - *Improvements in the experimental setup*
    - *XYZ movements*
    - *E-beam heating  $\rightarrow \sim 1000^{\circ}\text{C}$* 
      - *“In-situ” treatments*
    - *several samples*
    - *variation of energy over gap more convenient*

*Estimated Cost for materials:*  
 *$\sim 33$  kCHF*



- Technical Student for DC spark system?



- *Ex-situ surface heating of Molybdenum influences significantly the conditioning speed*
- *There is a residual gas effect on the breakdown field for Molybdenum and Tungsten*
- *Titanium shows a higher breakdown field than Molybdenum and Tungsten due to low enhancement factor*
  - *Erosion during breakdown makes this alternative problematic*
- *Cathode initiated processes are the dominating sources for electrical breakdowns*



# *Contributors*



- *Sergio Calatroni*
- *Gonzalo Arnau Izquierdo*
- *Ahmed Cherif*
- *Gudrun Jesse*
- *Morten Kildemo*
- *Holger Neupert*
- *Alessandra Reginelli*
- *Ana Sousa E Silva*
- *Mauro Taborelli*
- *Walter Wuensch*

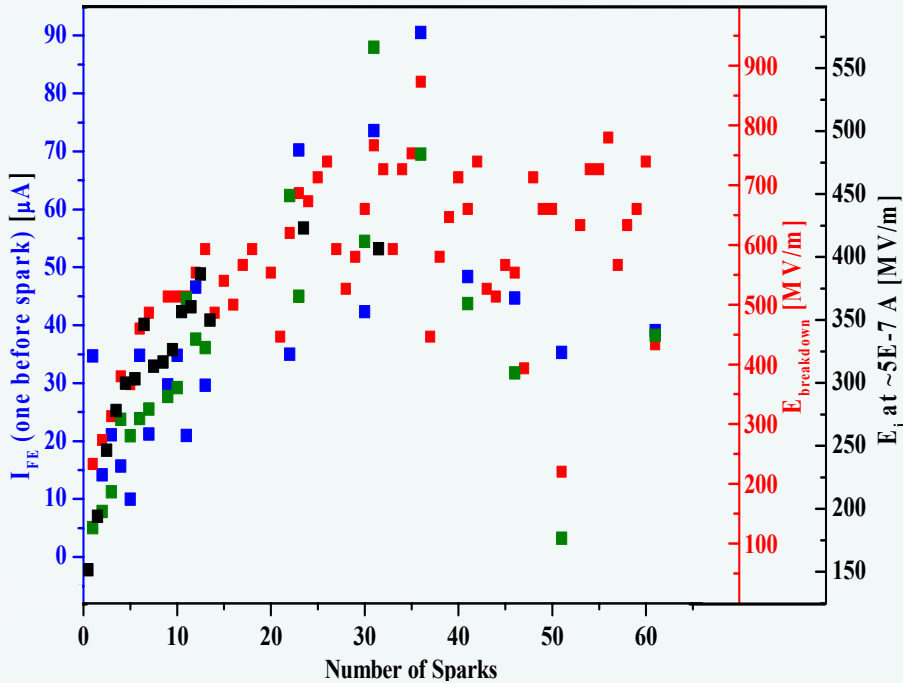


*W. T. Diamond: J. Vac. Sci. Technol. A 16(2) (1998) 707.*

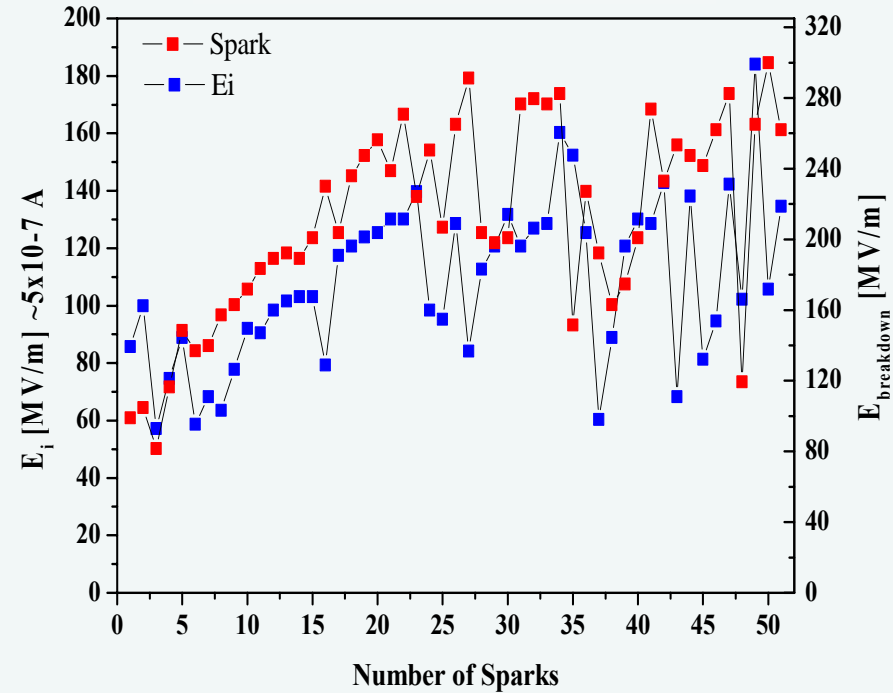
- Work function changes at the cathode
  - Adsorption of foreign species / oxidation
  - Transfer of microparticles from the anode and stripping of small areas of the cathode
- Mechanical changes produced by the strong electrical forces on the electrode surfaces
- ~~• Gas desorption from the anode with sufficient density to *Important at large gaps* discharge
  - Higher voltage → higher gas desorption~~



## Titanium

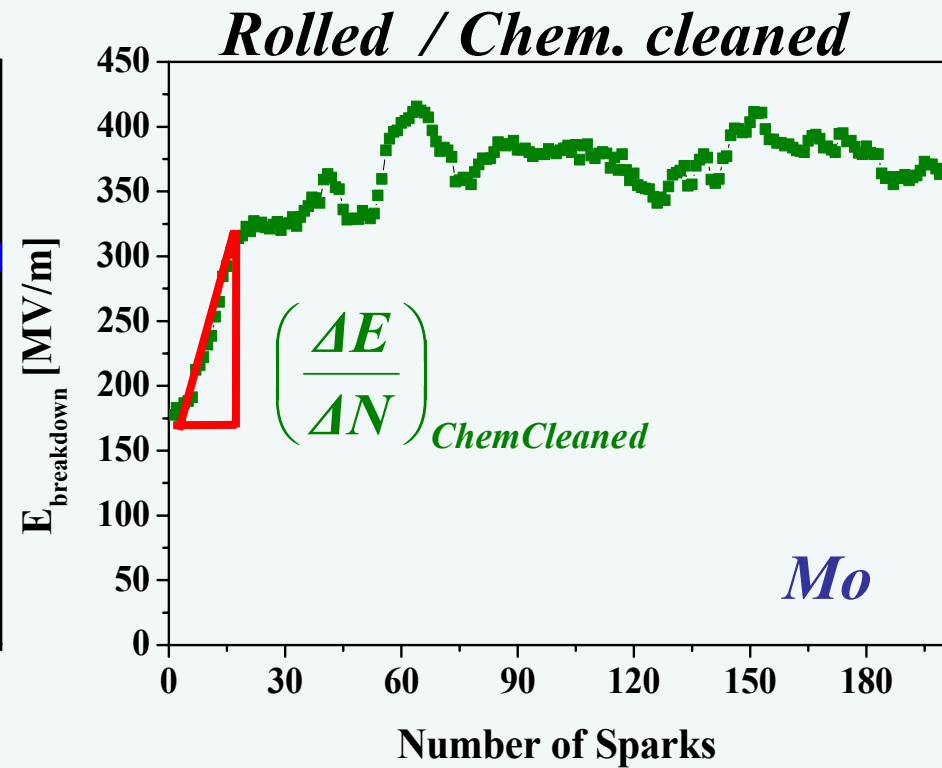
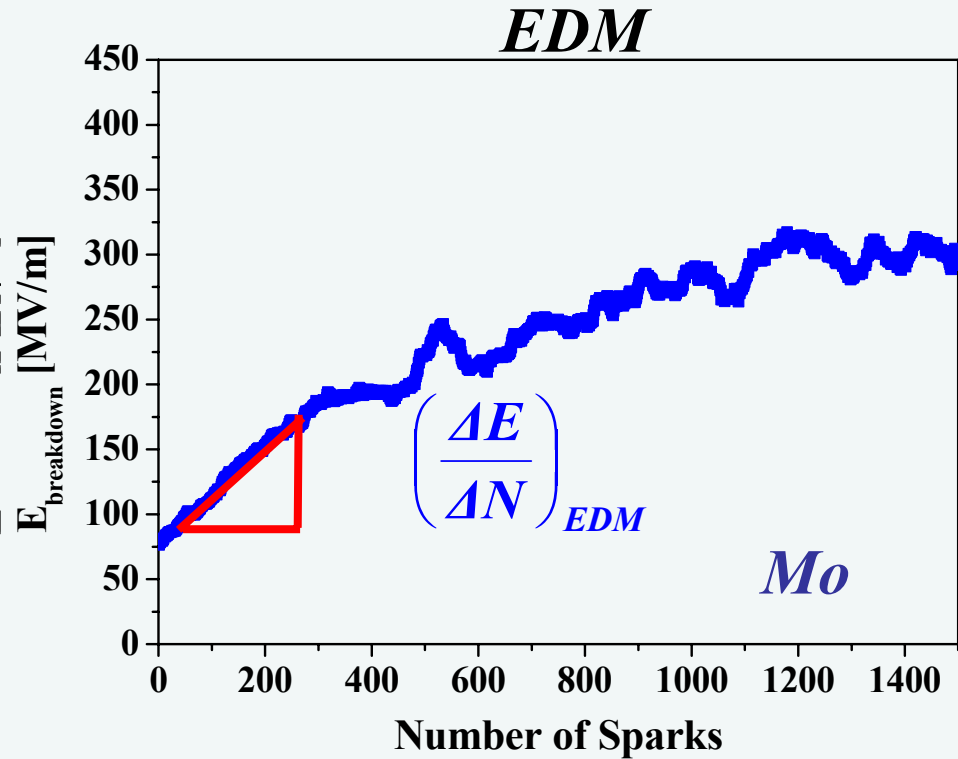


## Molybdenum



$I_{FE}$  and Breakdown Field closely related

# Electro Discharge Machined (EDM)



$$\left(\frac{\Delta E}{\Delta N}\right)_{EDM} \approx 0,4 \frac{MV/m}{spark}$$

$$\left(\frac{\Delta E}{\Delta N}\right)_{ChemCleaned} \approx 8 \frac{MV/m}{spark}$$

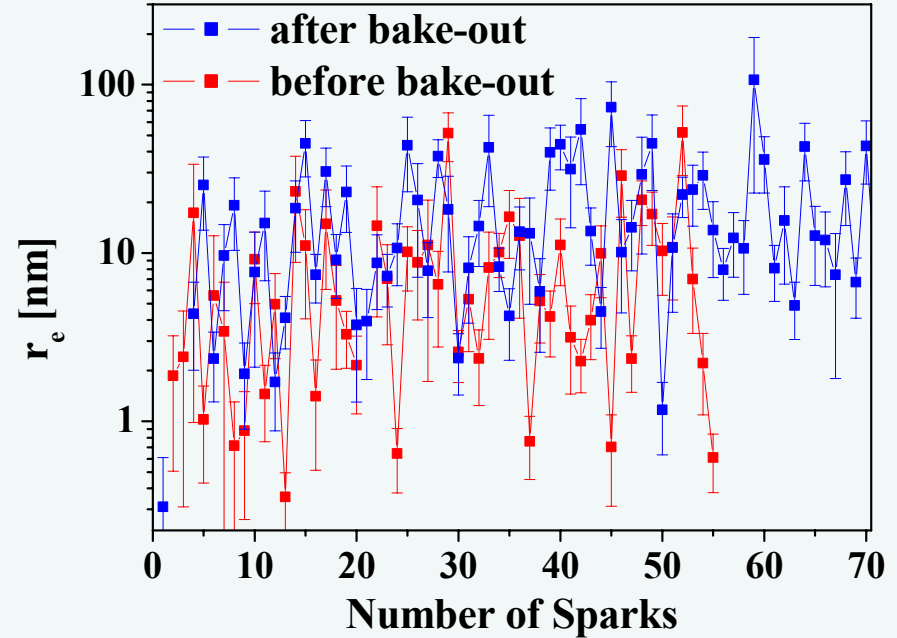
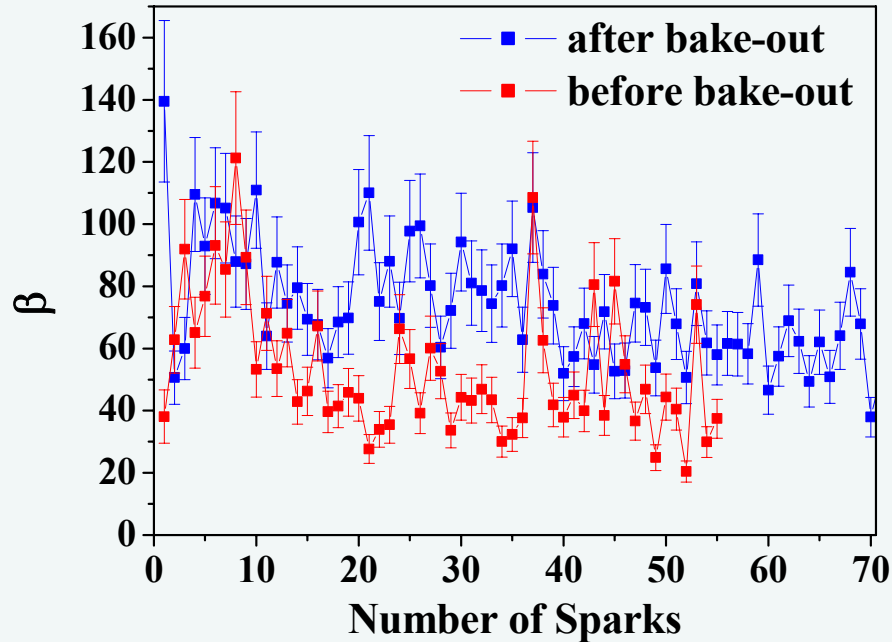
$$\frac{\left(\frac{\Delta E}{\Delta N}\right)_{CC}}{\left(\frac{\Delta E}{\Delta N}\right)_{EDM}} \approx 20$$

# Results from Fowler - Nordheim plots

## Molybdenum Tip and Sample

Enhancement Factor ( $\beta$ )

Emission Radius ( $r_e$ ) [nm]



Before bake-out:  $\beta \sim (40 \pm 10)$

After bake-out:  $\beta \sim (60 \pm 10)$

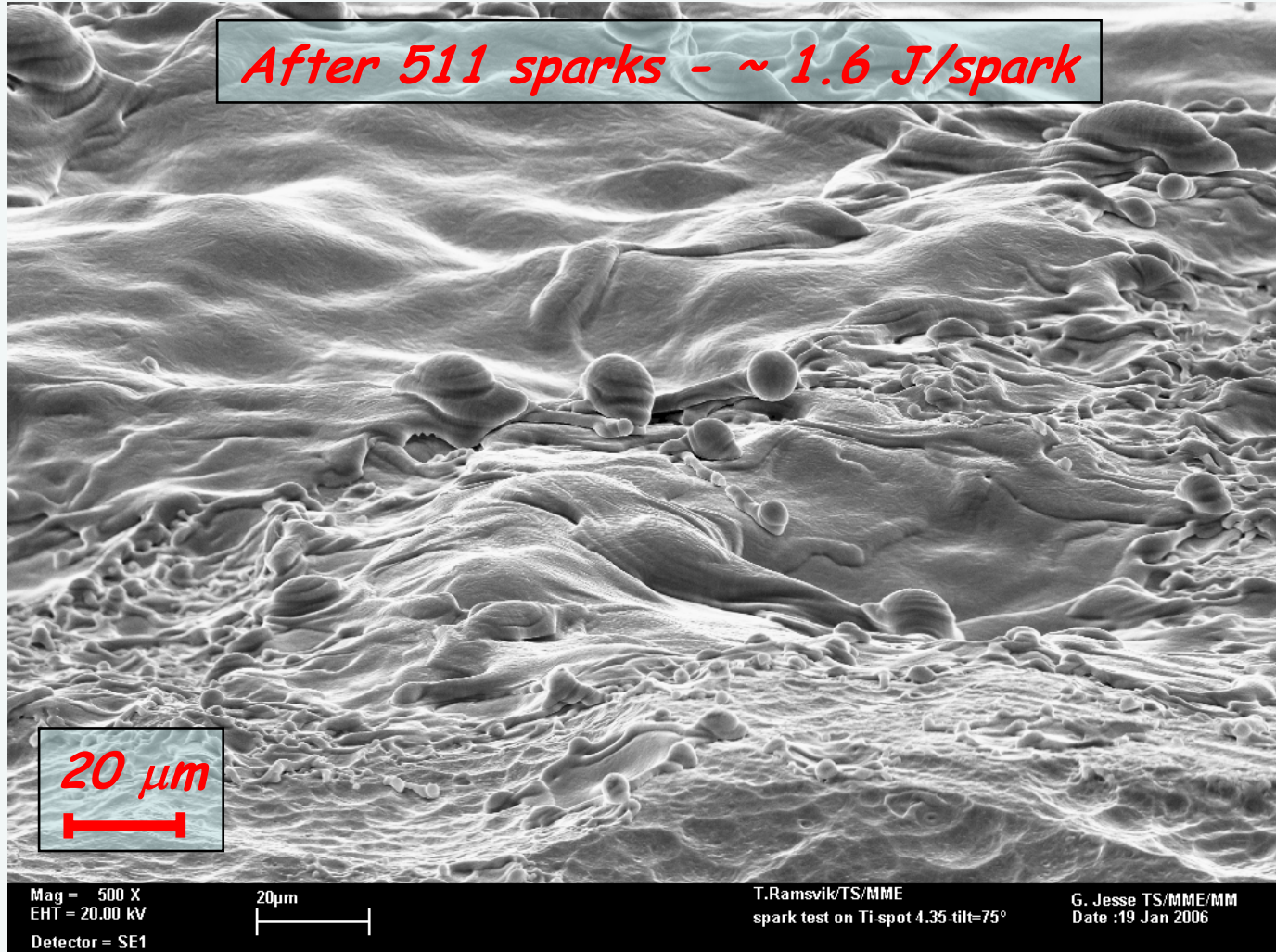
$r_e \sim (2 \rightarrow 11)$  nm

$r_e \sim (5 \rightarrow 40)$  nm

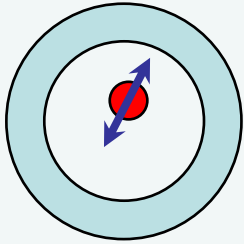
*High uncertainty*



# Titanium cathode - SEM study



# Movement of electrons in RF



$$M \frac{d^2 z}{dt^2} = qE_0 \cos \omega t$$

*Phase of  
RF field*

$$z = z_0 + \frac{qE_0}{M\omega^2} (\cos \varphi - \cos \omega t) - \frac{qE_0}{M\omega} \left( t - \frac{\varphi}{\omega} \right) \sin \varphi$$

$$\omega = 2\pi \cdot 33 \times 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

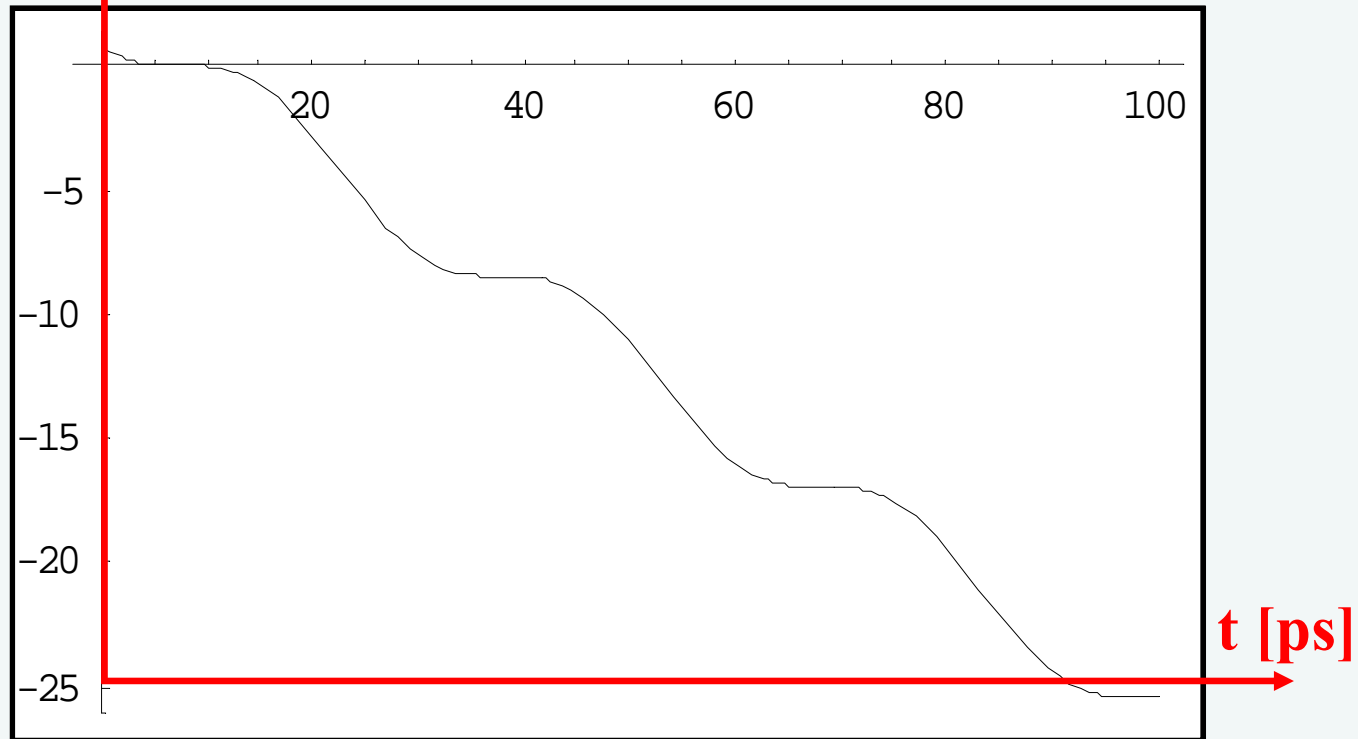
$$q = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$

$$E_0 = 330 \times 10^6 \text{ MV/m}$$

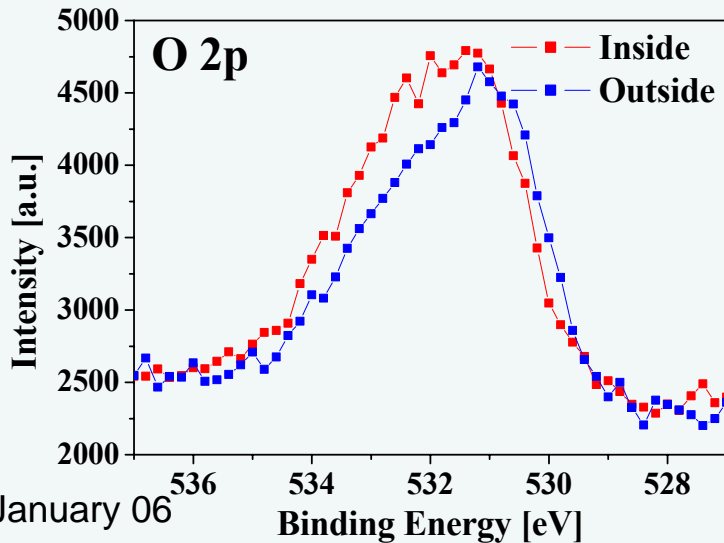
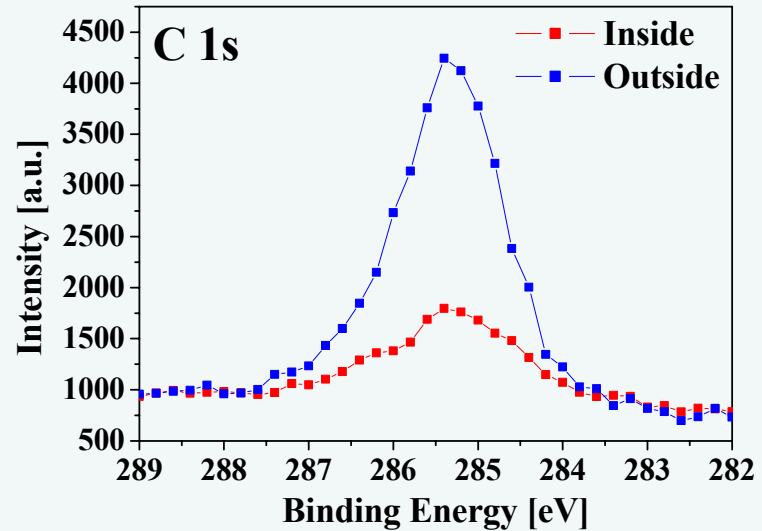
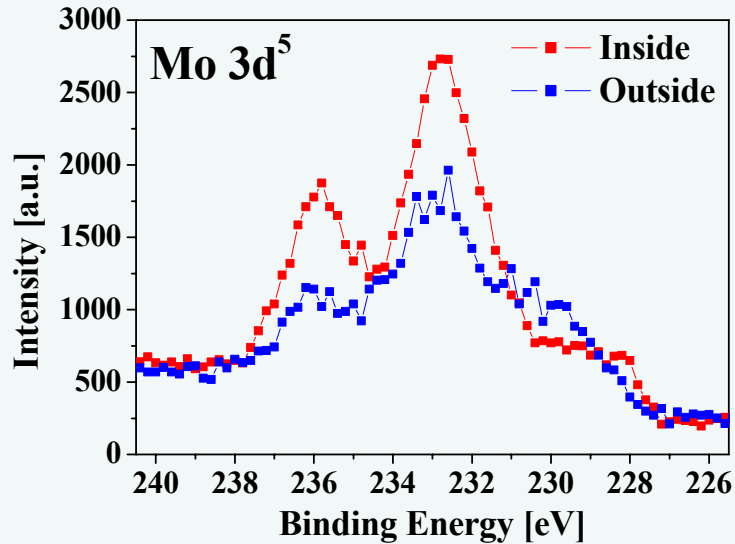
$$M_e = 9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$$

$$\varphi = \pi/2$$

$$z_0 = 0$$



*After ~1600 sparks and exposed to air*



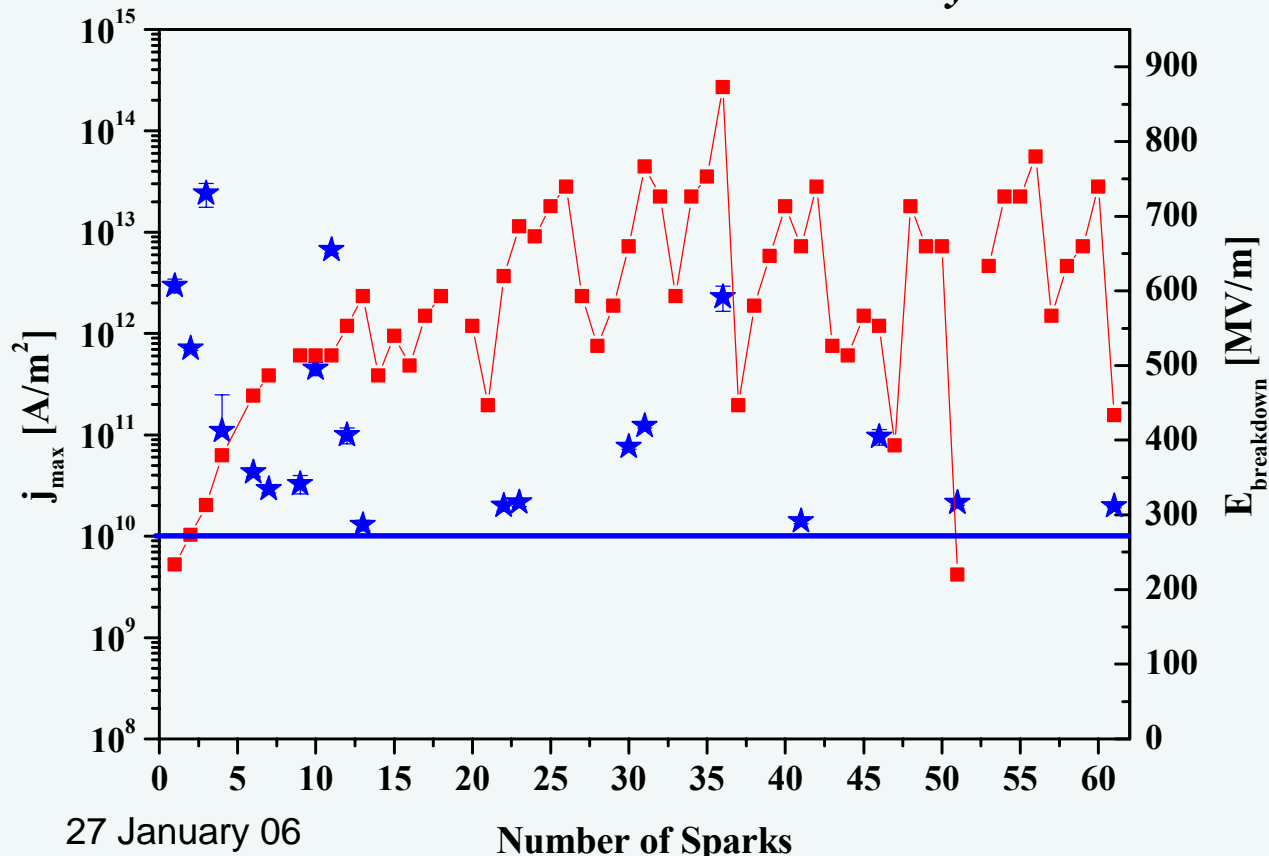
- *Carbon reduced*
- *Oxygen unchanged*
- *Molybdenum Oxide peaks stronger*



E. W. Muller (1937):

There is a critical emission current density of about  $1 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ A/m}^2$  at which the emitting surface becomes thermally unstable, cathode material is vaporized and breakdown is consequently initiated.

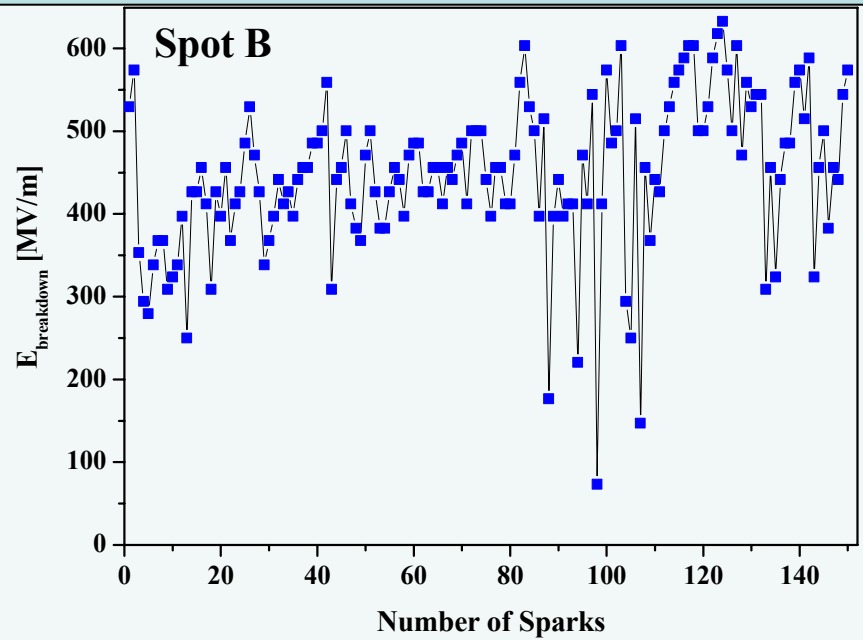
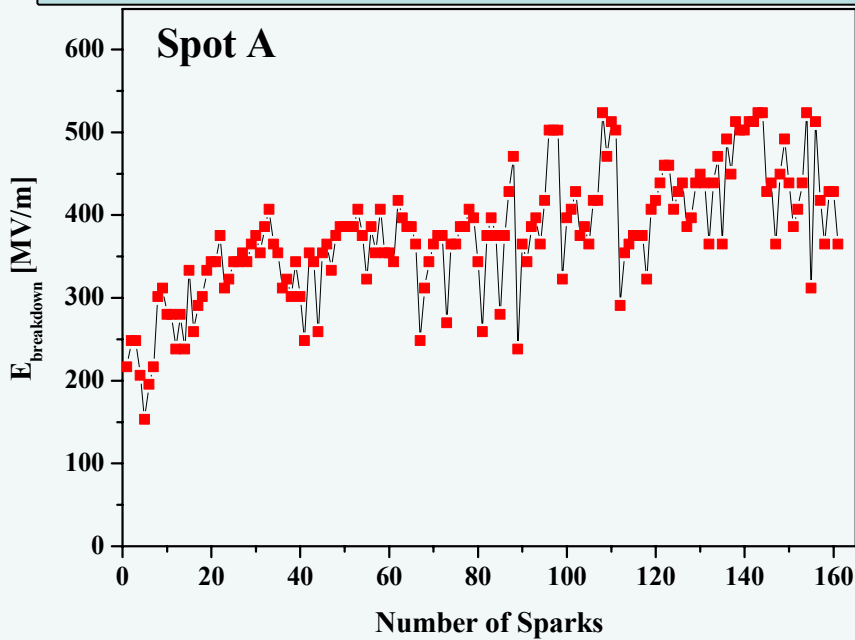
*Critical Emission Current Density*



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Number of Sparks

# Mo - 950°C for 2 h in furnace



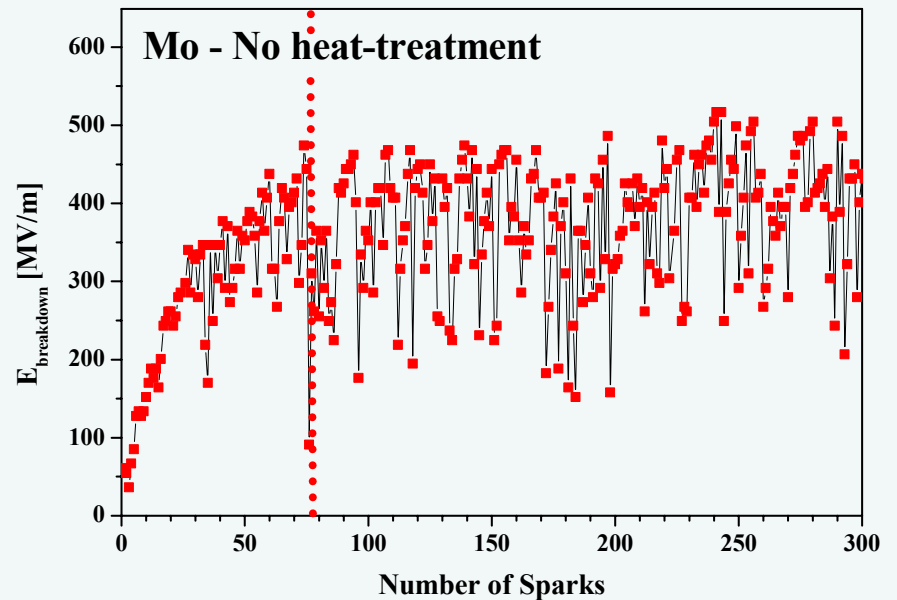
**Conditioning Speed**

**Increased !**

**Traced of  $\text{CrO}_3$  detected**



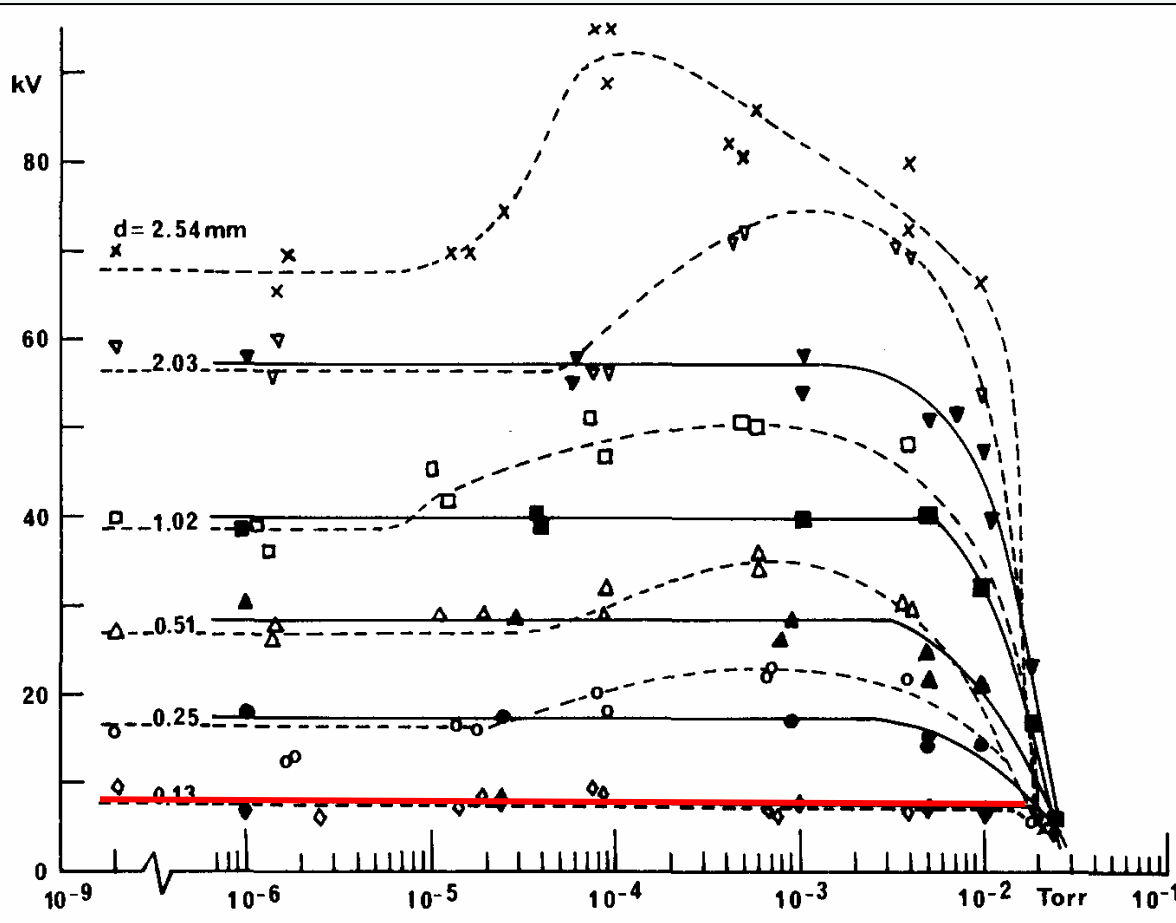
**ill-defined sample**





- Technical Student for DC spark system (TS/MME?):
- New spark system (CLIC?):
  - UHV system and XYZ manipulator
    - already present
  - Power Supply ~ 16 kCHF (CAEN 20 kV/500  $\mu$ A)
  - Linear Drive ~ 1.5 kCHF (VG 10  $\mu$ m resolution)
  - Mechanical micro-positioning device ~ 1.0 kCHF
  - New Switching Electronics ~ 12.0 kCHF
    - 8 pcs 25 kV low current switches ~ 9.7 kCHF
    - 1 pc 30 kV Hammer Switch ~ 1.3 kCHF
    - Switching board ~ 0,5 kCHF
    - Various electronic components and cables ~0.5 kCHF
  - Workshop expenses: 2.0 kCHF (?)

27 January 06 ***Estimated Cost for materials: ~ 35 kCHF***

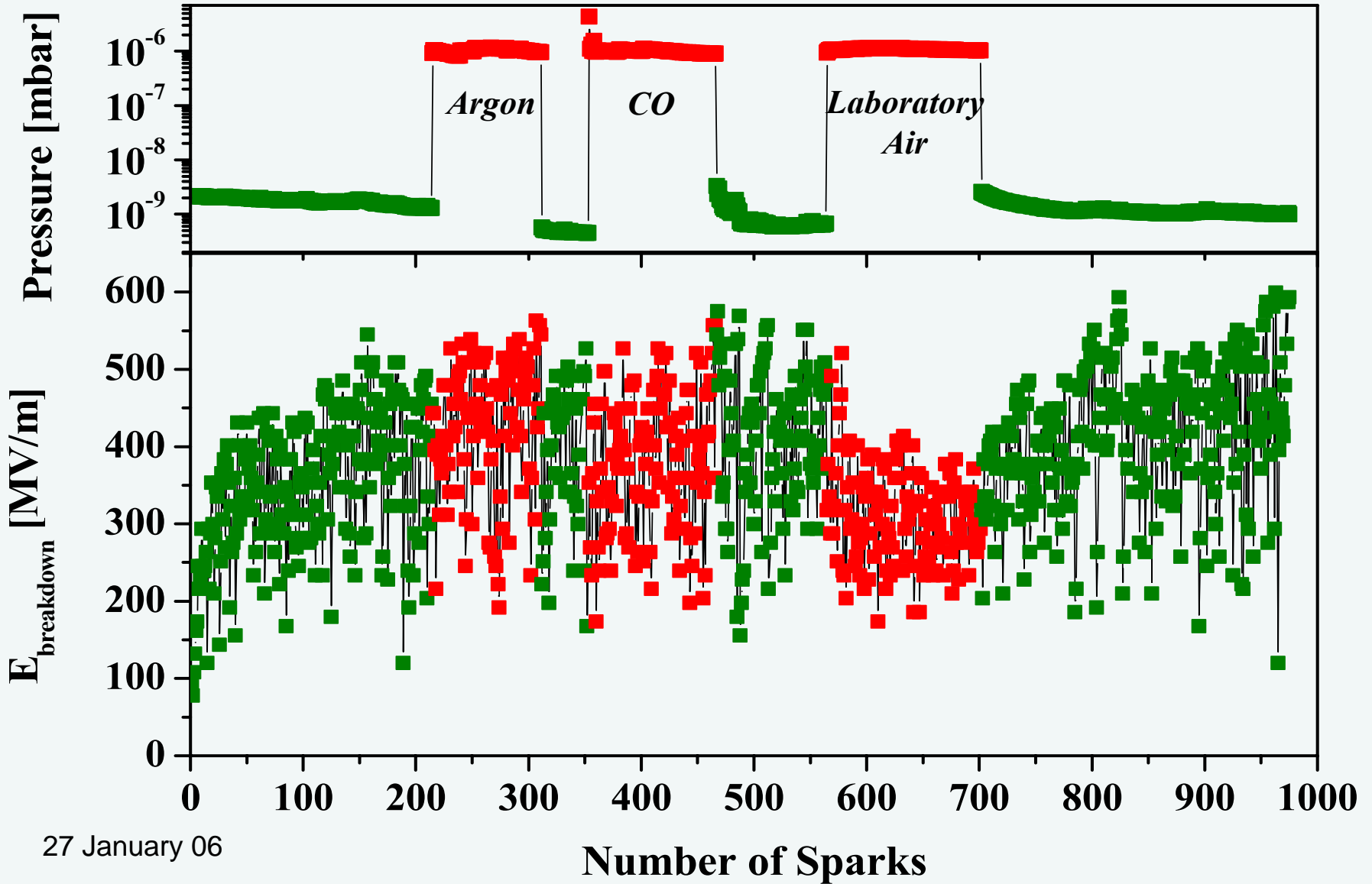
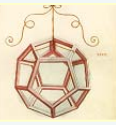


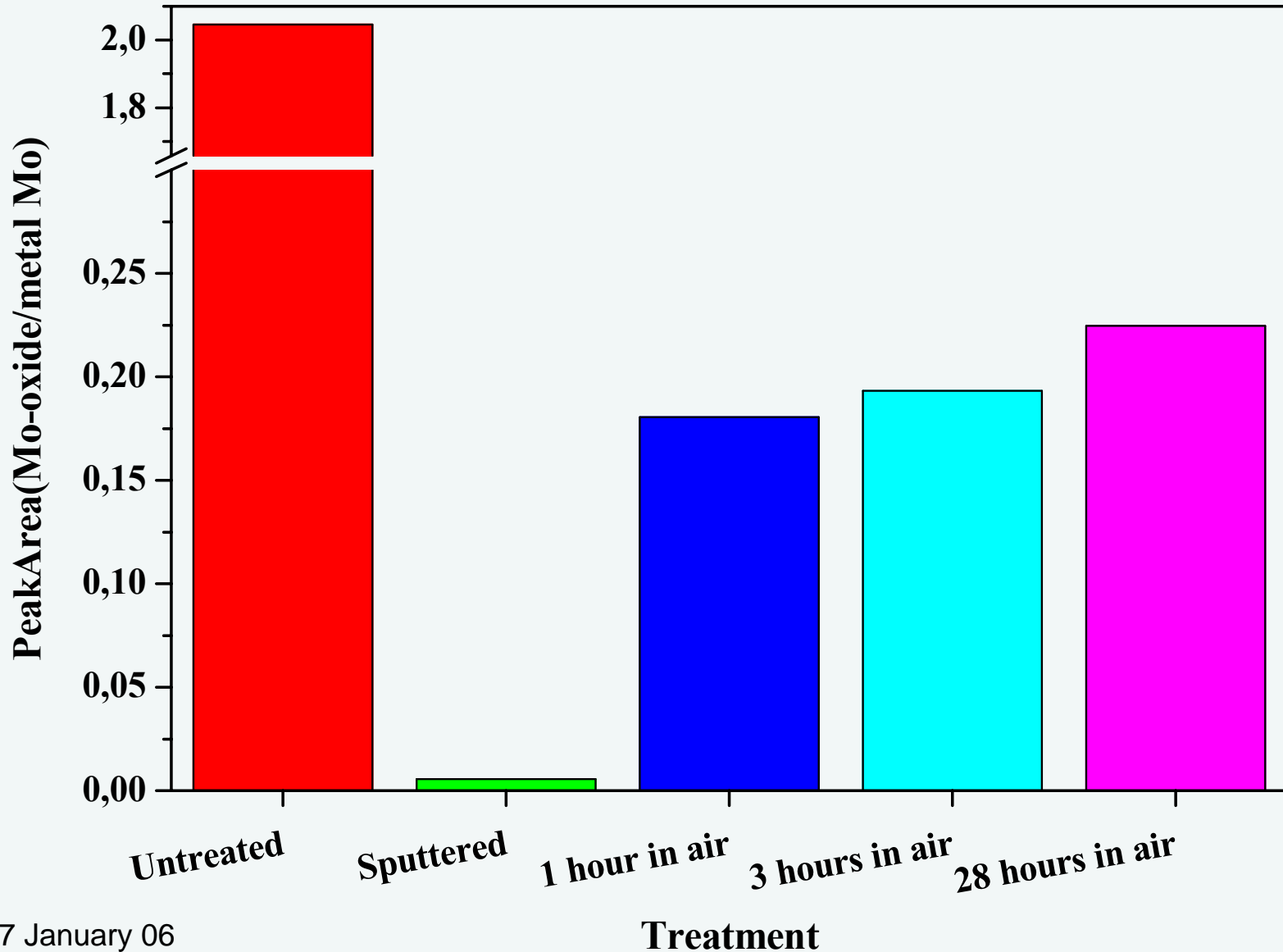
**From literature:**

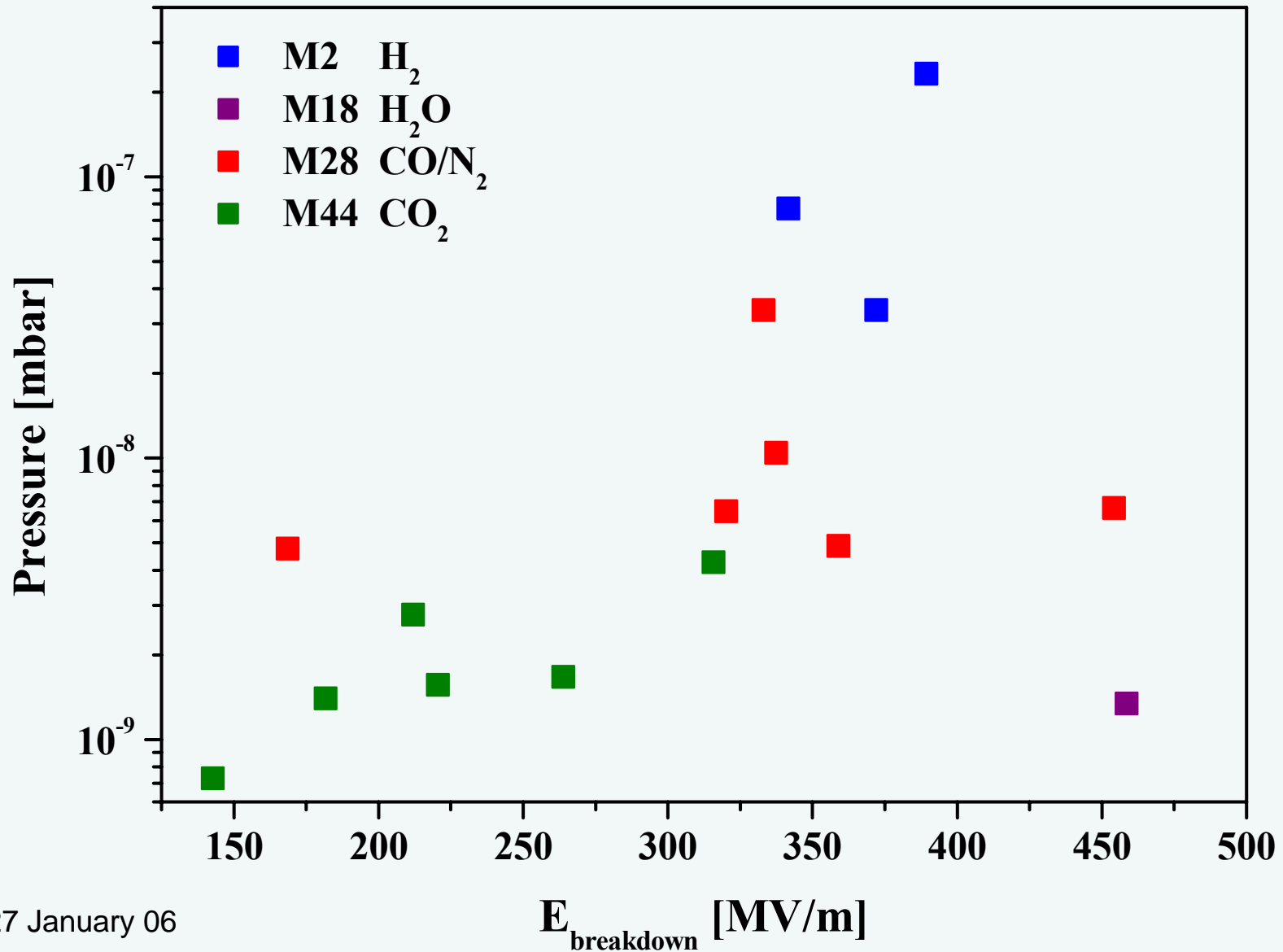
- *Pressure effect on the breakdown field significant for large gaps*
- *Breakdown field deteriorates at pressures typically above  $10^{-2}$  mbar*

R. Hackham and L. Altchek, J. Appl. Phys., 46, 627-36 (1975)



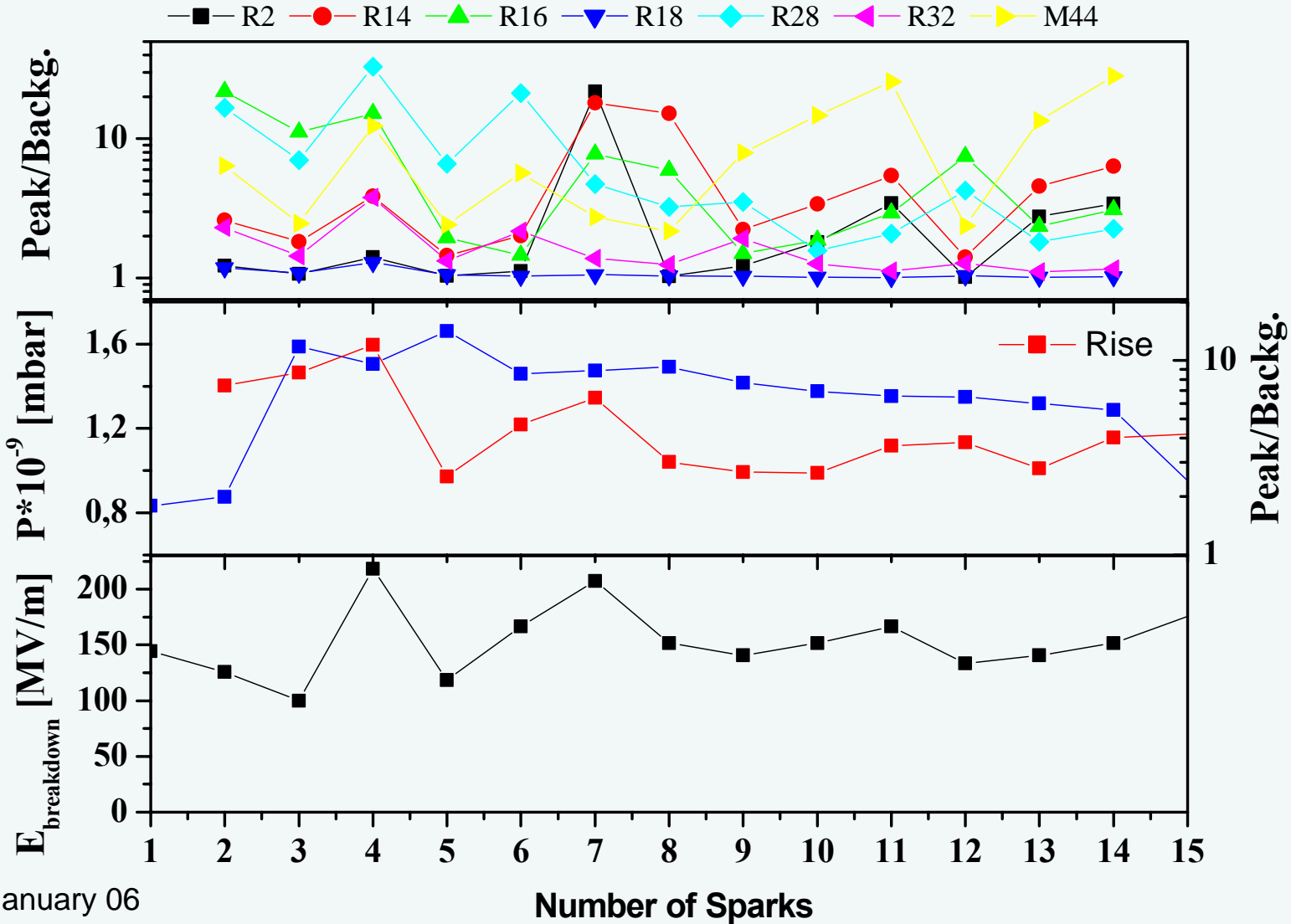




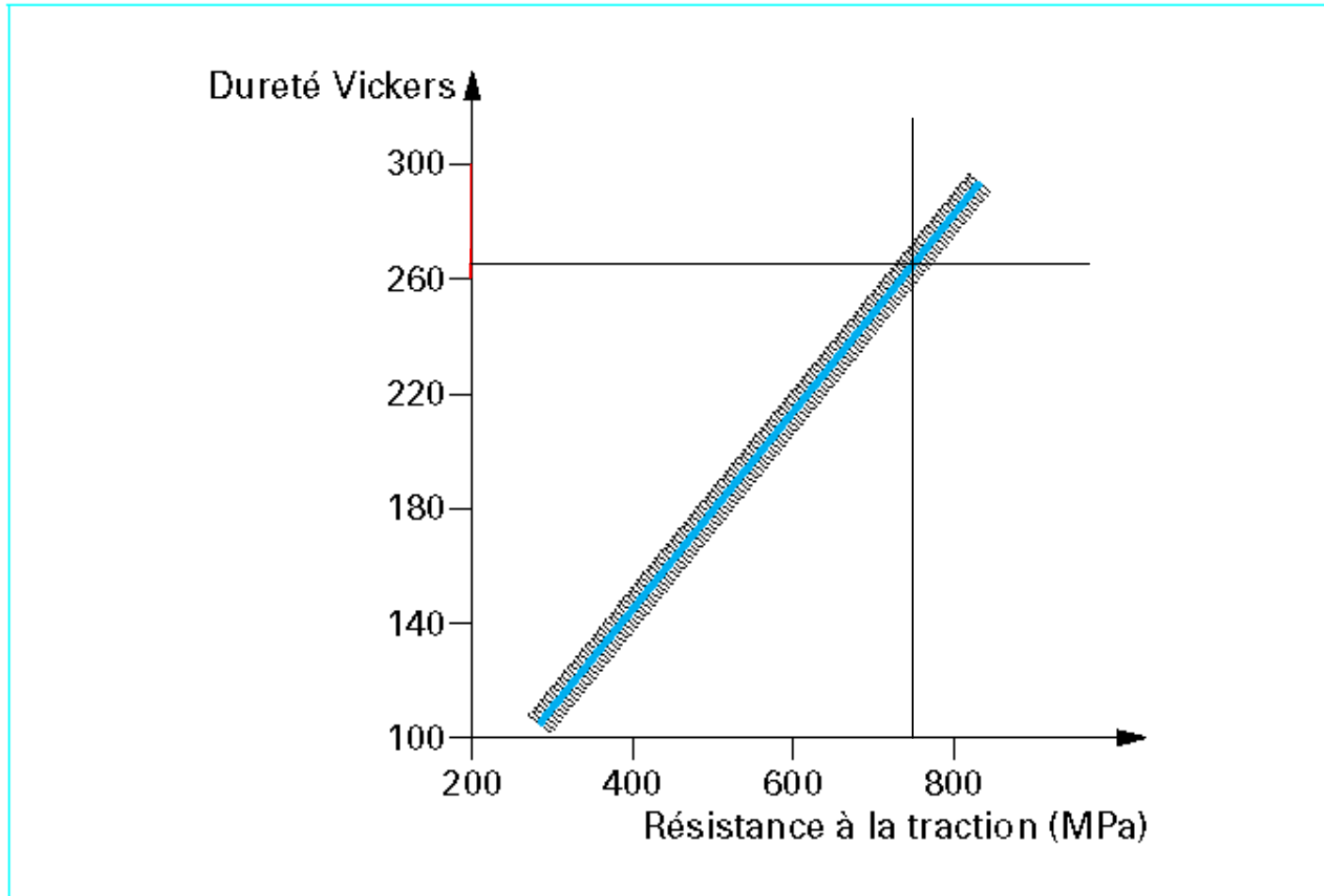




## Cu Tip and Sample

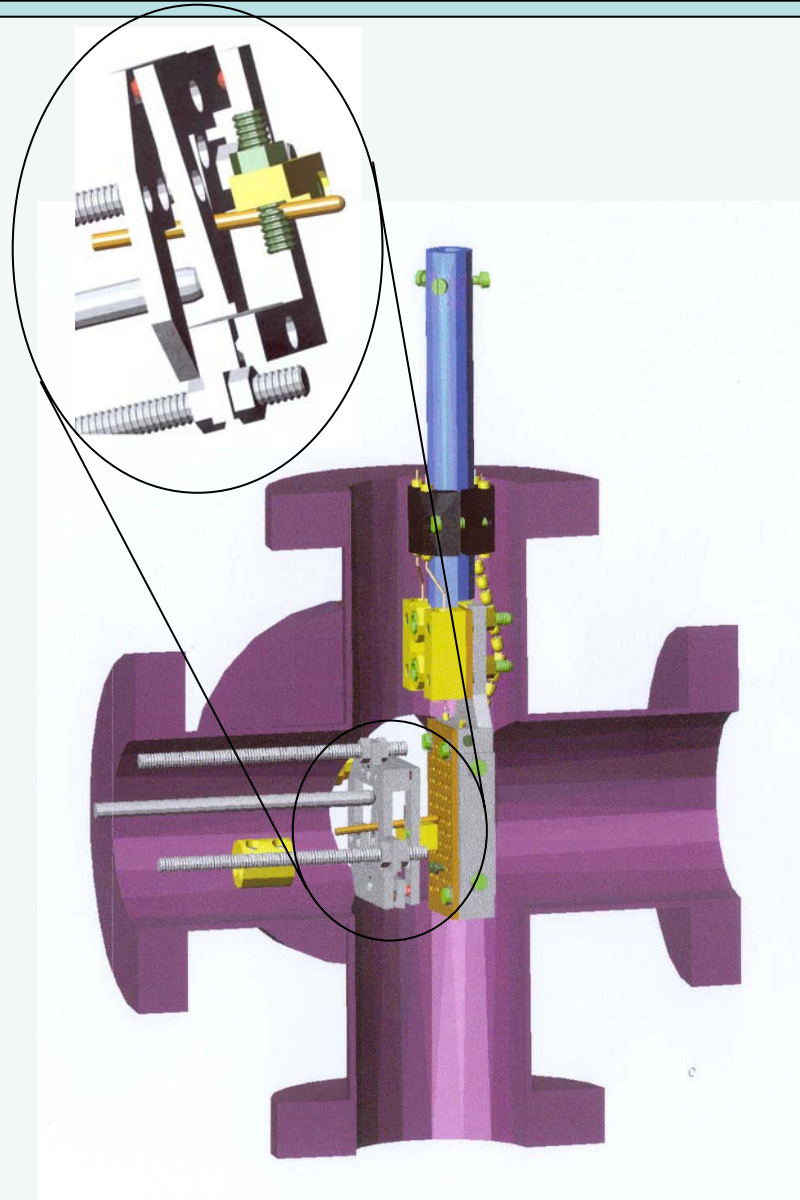


# Vickers $\leftrightarrow$ Tensile Strength



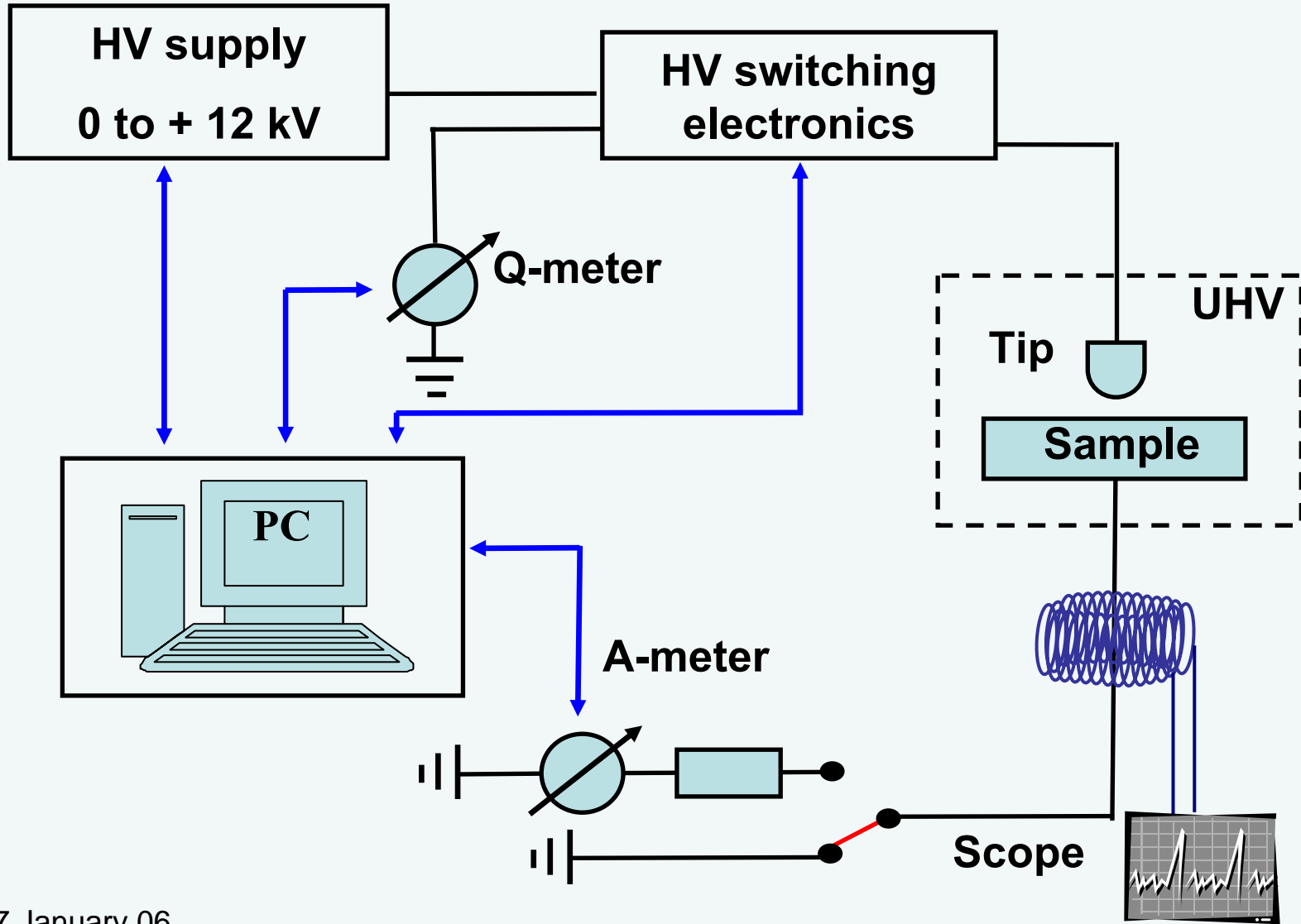
C. Bourgès Monnier, “Propriétés du molybdène et des alliages à base de molybdène”, Ecole des mines, Paris

27 January 06

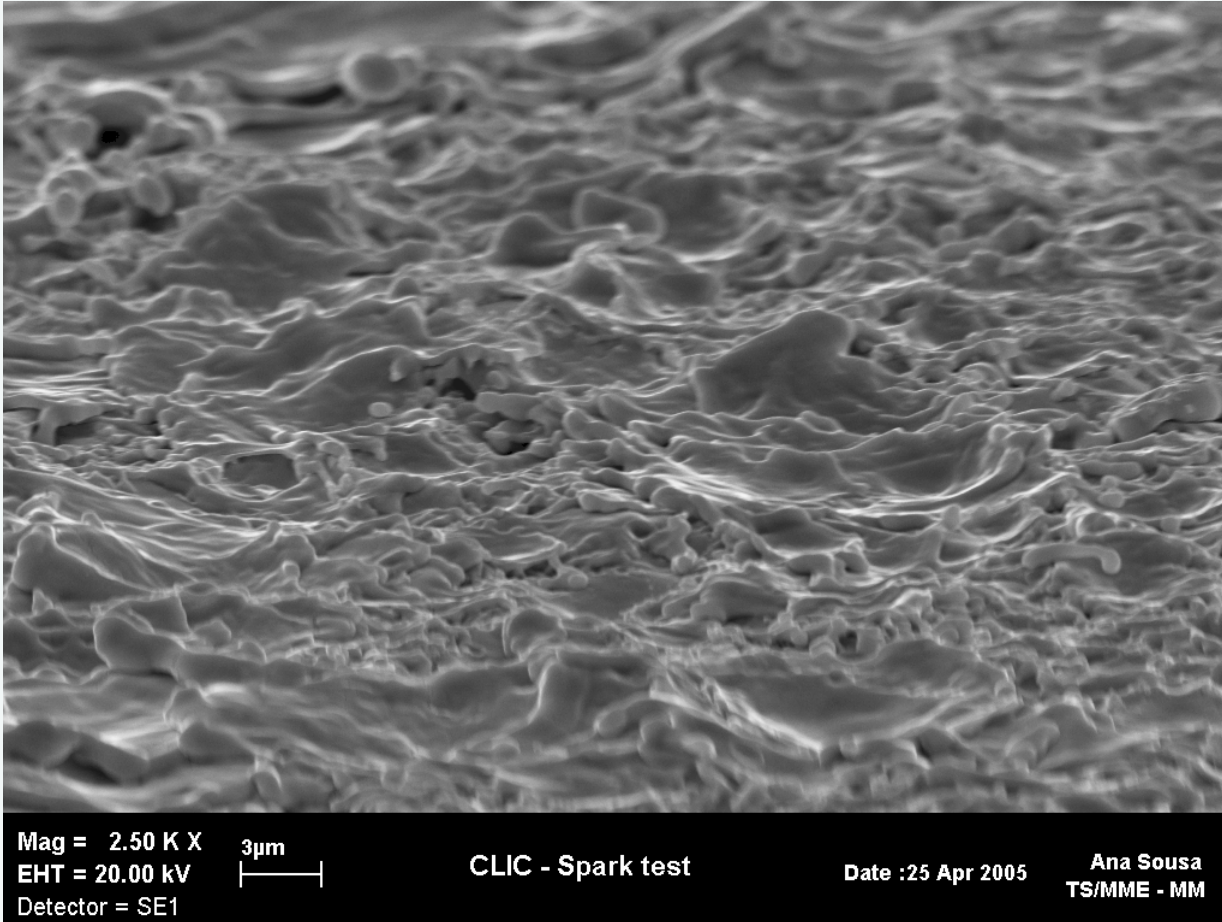


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# Details of experimental setup

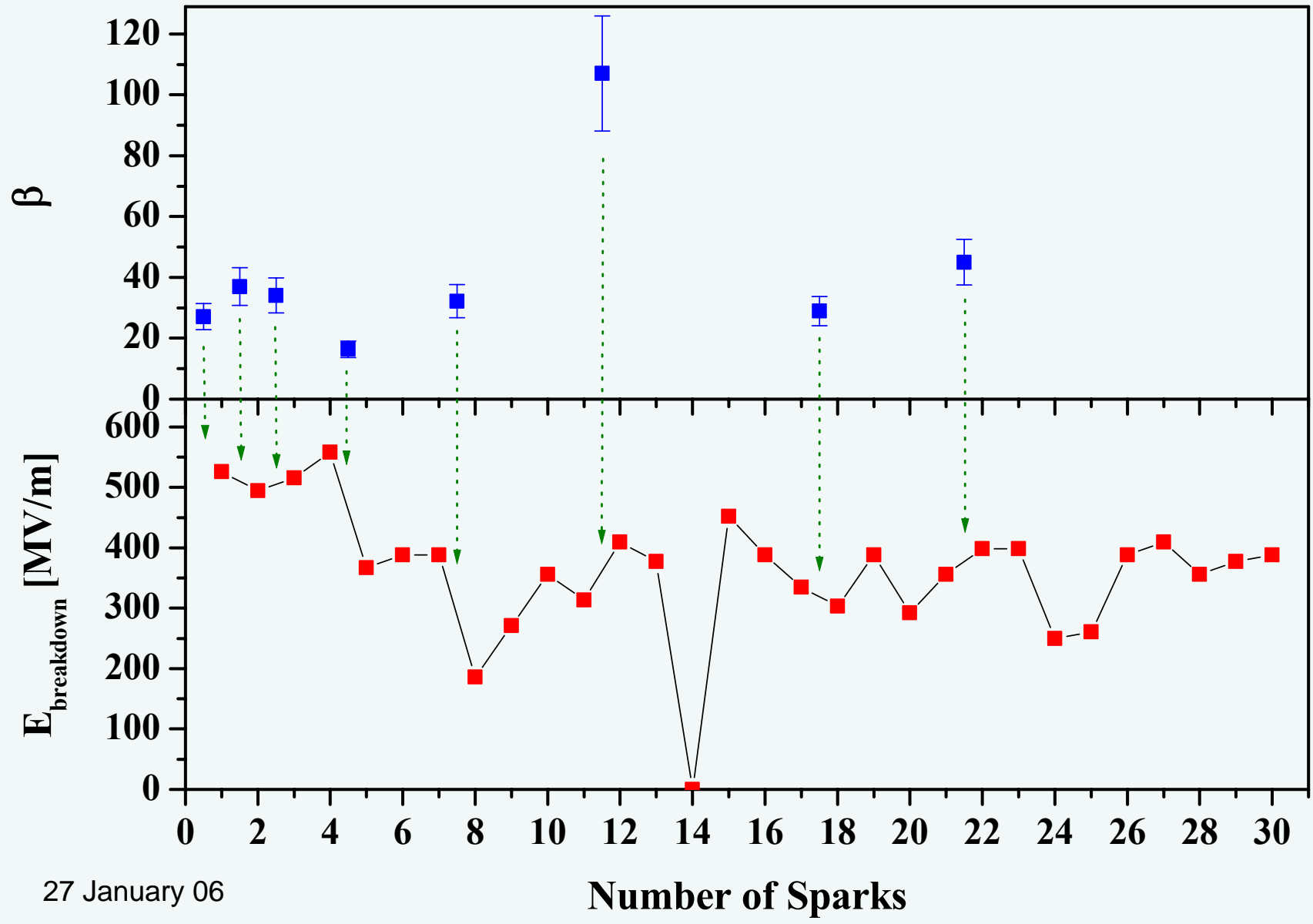








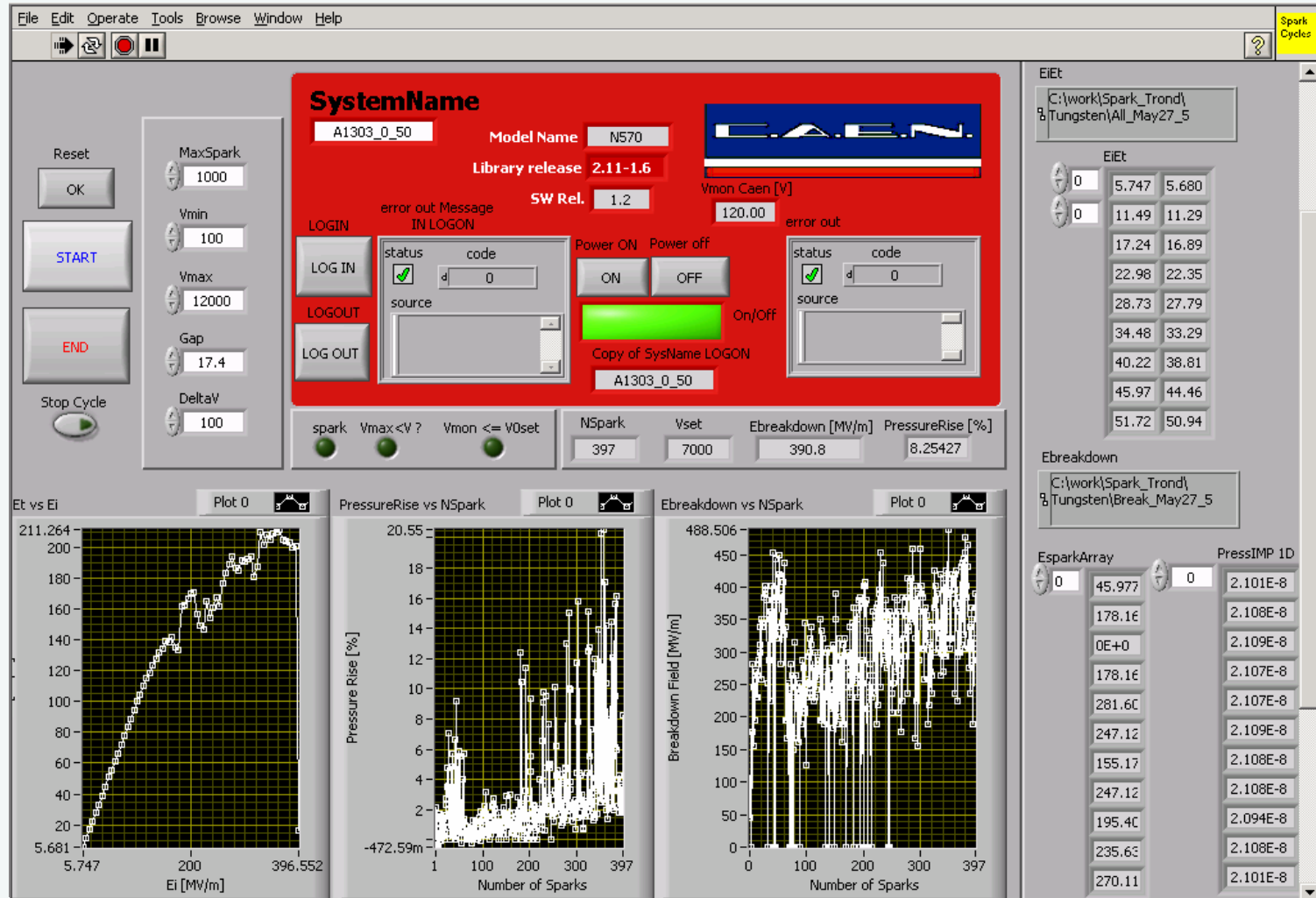
# Mo - evap. 25.10.2005 z=4.16 Beta



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## Results of Spark Conditioning





## First-principles study on field evaporation of surface atoms from W(0 1 1) and Mo(0 1 1) surfaces

Tomoya Ono <sup>a,\*</sup>, Takashi Sasaki <sup>b</sup>, Jun Otsuka <sup>b</sup>, Kikuji Hirose <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Research Center for Ultra-Precision Science and Technology, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamada-oka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan*

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Received 10 September 2004; accepted for publication 27 December 2004

Available online 6 January 2005

### Abstract

The simulations of field-evaporation processes for surface atoms on W(011) and Mo(011) surfaces are implemented using first-principles calculations based on the real-space finite-difference method. The threshold values of the external electric field for evaporation of the surface atoms, which are  $\sim 6$  V/Å for tungsten and  $\sim 5$  V/Å for molybdenum, are in agreement with the experimental results. While the threshold value of the electric field and the local-field enhancement around the evaporating atoms agree with those expected from the conclusion of the previous study using structureless jellium, the induced charge around the surface atom has a significant difference from that obtained by the jellium model.

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*Keywords:* Density functional calculations; Molecular dynamics; Field effect; Field evaporation; Metallic surfaces

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**W: 60 GV/m**

**Mo: 50 GV/m**



## ac (50 Hz) and dc electrical breakdown of vacuum gaps and with variation of air pressure in the range $10^{-9}$ - $10^{-2}$ Torr using OFHC copper, nickel, aluminum, and niobium parallel planar electrodes

Reuben Hackam and Leo Altchek

*Electronic and Electrical Engineering Department, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S1 3JD, England*  
(Received 2 May 1974; in final form 6 August 1974)

Breakdown potentials of vacuum gaps are measured over a wide range of air pressure using both direct and alternating (50 Hz) applied voltage and employing four different electrode materials. The air pressure is varied in the range  $2 \times 10^{-9}$  -  $2.5 \times 10^{-2}$  Torr for dc and  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  -  $2.5 \times 10^{-2}$  Torr for ac applied voltage. OFHC copper, nickel, aluminum, and niobium are used to fabricate the electrodes. It is found that the peak ac breakdown voltage is usually higher than the dc voltage for a fixed electrode separation and a fixed gas pressure. Under certain conditions considerable improvement in the insulating property of the gap can be obtained in semivacuum. The improvement in the breakdown voltage of the gap is considerable and can reach up to 62% in some cases. The higher breakdown voltage is attributed to the increased work function of the metal-gas adsorbate system.

OFHC copper, nickel, aluminum, and niobium



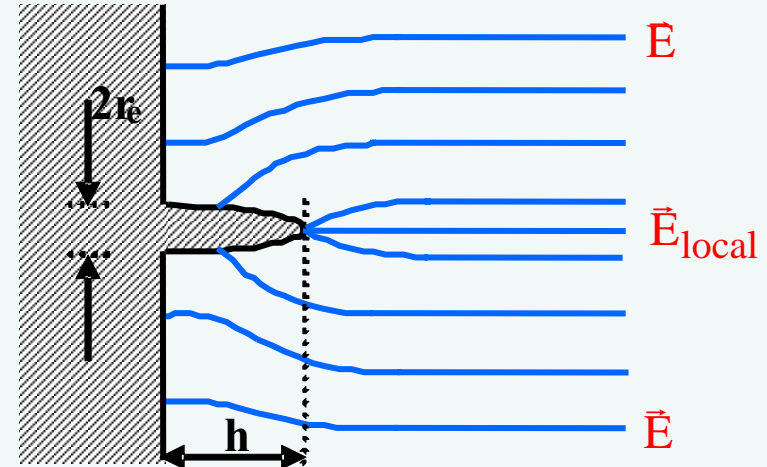
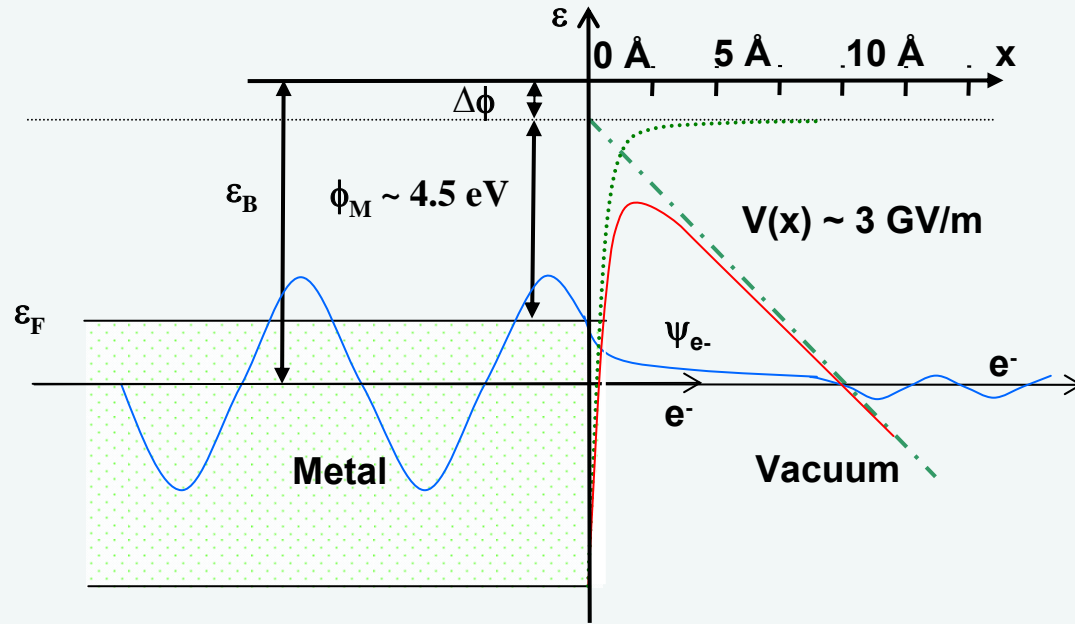
## Electrical breakdown of a point-plane gap in high vacuum and with variation of pressure in the range $10^{-7}$ – $10^{-2}$ Torr of air, nitrogen, helium, sulphur hexafluoride, and argon

Reuben Hackam and G. R. Govinda Raju

*Electronic and Electrical Engineering Department, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S1 3JD, England*  
(Received 18 February 1974; in final form 29 April 1974)

The dc breakdown potential of a point-plane electrode configuration is measured in high vacuum ( $\sim 10^{-7}$  Torr) using the positive and the negative voltage polarity of the point electrode as a function of gap separation. Air, nitrogen, helium, sulphur hexafluoride, and argon are used in turn to alter the electrode coverage by adsorption of various gases in high vacuum. It has been found that helium gives the highest breakdown voltage at a given gap length, in high vacuum. It has also been found that very high sparking potential values are obtained using positive-point–negative-plane electrodes (90 kV at 0.3 mm gap length, helium at  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  Torr). The effect of ac (50 Hz) glow discharge conditioning on the dielectric strength of the gap is investigated and found to give considerable improvement in the voltage that the gap can withstand before a vacuum breakdown occurs. The effect of introducing various gases in the pressure range  $10^{-7}$ – $10^{-2}$  Torr on the breakdown potential of point-plane gaps is investigated. Maxima are observed in the breakdown voltage and pressure curves in the range  $10^{-4}$ – $10^{-3}$  Torr. Helium and nitrogen give the highest breakdown voltage of about 90 kV for a gap length of 0.2 mm at about  $10^{-4}$  Torr. The observed improvements in the breakdown potential that the gap can withstand with certain gases are attributed to the increase in the work function of the combined metal-gas system.

# Field Emission



$$\vec{E}_{local} = \beta \vec{E}_{applied} = \beta \vec{E}$$

$$V \approx E d$$

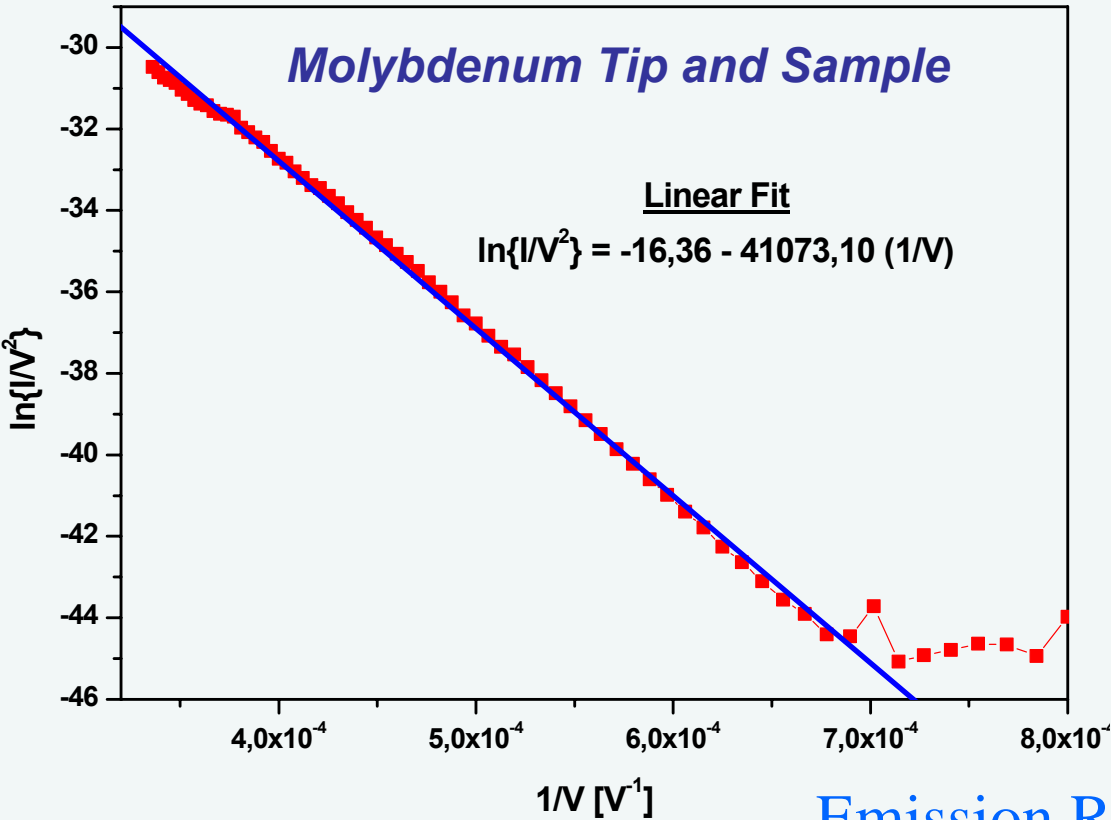
## Fowler – Nordheim plot:

$$\ln \left[ \frac{I_{FN}}{V^2} \right] = \ln \left[ \frac{1.54 \times 10^{-6} A_e \beta^2}{\phi d^2} \times 10^{4.52 \phi^{-\frac{1}{2}}} \right] - \frac{2.84 \times 10^9 d \phi^{1.5}}{\beta} \frac{1}{V}$$

- R. A. Millikan and C. C. Lauritsen, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. (US), 14, 45-49 (1928)
- R. H. Fowler and L. Nordheim, Proc. Roy. Soc. A 119 (1928) 173.



# Fowler - Nordheim plot



Enhancement factor:

$$\frac{d\left(\ln\left(\frac{I_{FN}}{V^2}\right)\right)}{d\left(\frac{1}{V}\right)} \propto \frac{d\phi^{1.5}}{\beta}$$



$\beta \approx 23$

Emission Radius:

$$\left[ \ln\left(\frac{I_{FN}}{V^2}\right) \right]_{V=\infty} \propto \ln\left\{ \frac{A_e \beta^2 10^{4.52\phi^{\frac{1}{2}}}}{\phi d^2} \right\} \Rightarrow \underline{r_e \approx 62 \text{ nm}}$$

The voltage over the gap is increased until breakdown occurs

