



**Argonne**  
NATIONAL  
LABORATORY

*... for a brighter future*



U.S. Department  
of Energy

UChicago ►  
Argonne<sub>LLC</sub>



**Office of  
Science**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

A U.S. Department of Energy laboratory  
managed by UChicago Argonne, LLC

## *Levitation: engineering + science at 11 ID-C*



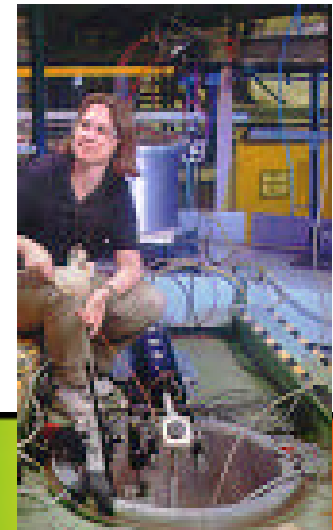
*Rick Weber, STA at 11 ID-C, XSD.*

*17 September, 2009*

## *Means of Support*

- Chris Benmore, Kevin Beyer, XSD 11 ID-C
- Joerg Neuefeind, SNS
- Martin Wilding, U. Aberystwyth, John Parise, Stony Brook.
- Internal funding: IPNS, Art Shultz, XSD, Brian Toby and Pete Chupas
- External funding: ORNL

Joan Siewenie,  
2001 GLAD tests



## Outline

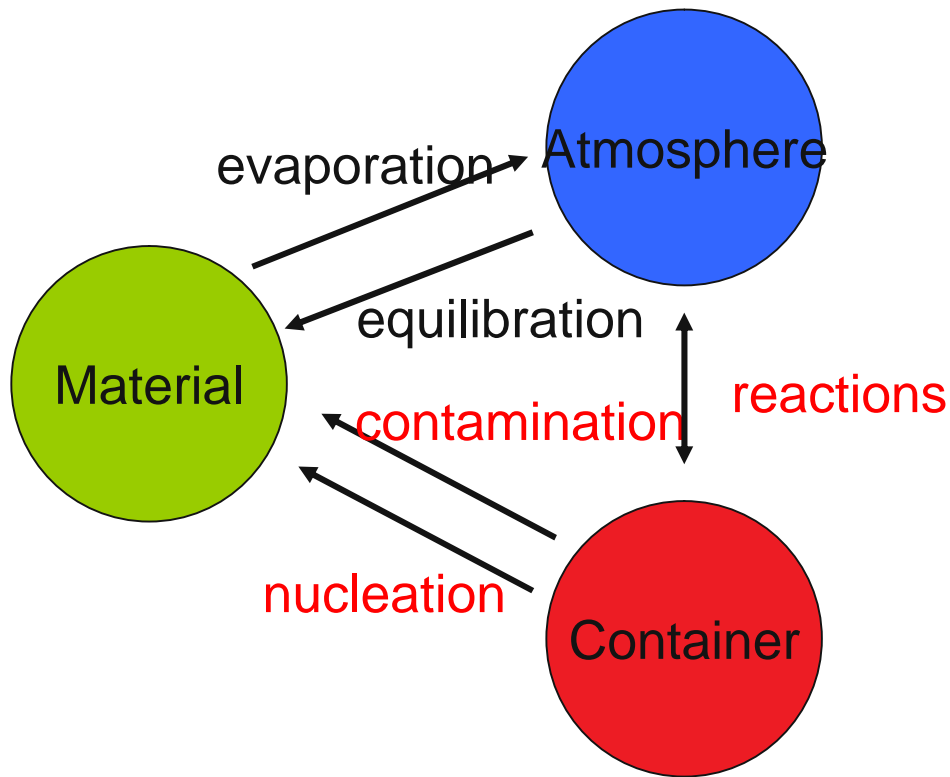
- Why levitate things?
- Issues specific to levitation experiments
- Methods
- Some applications
- Summary

## Containerless processing/levitation

Tendency for chemical reactions increases exponentially with T

Using containerless methods accesses:

- high purity
- non-equilibrium liquids
- pristine liquid surfaces
- eliminates sample “holder”



$$F = -mg$$



## *Issues*

- You can't touch the sample with anything
- Non-contact measurements
  - *Beams*
  - *Optical probes*
  - *Spectroscopy*
  - Non-contact temperature control
    - *Lasers/beams – surface heating*
    - *EM – bulk heating*
    - *Microwave – bulk heating*
- Sample sizes are limited
- Compositions and materials may be specific to the method

## ***Scientific applications of levitation (containerless techniques)***

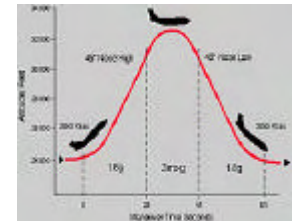
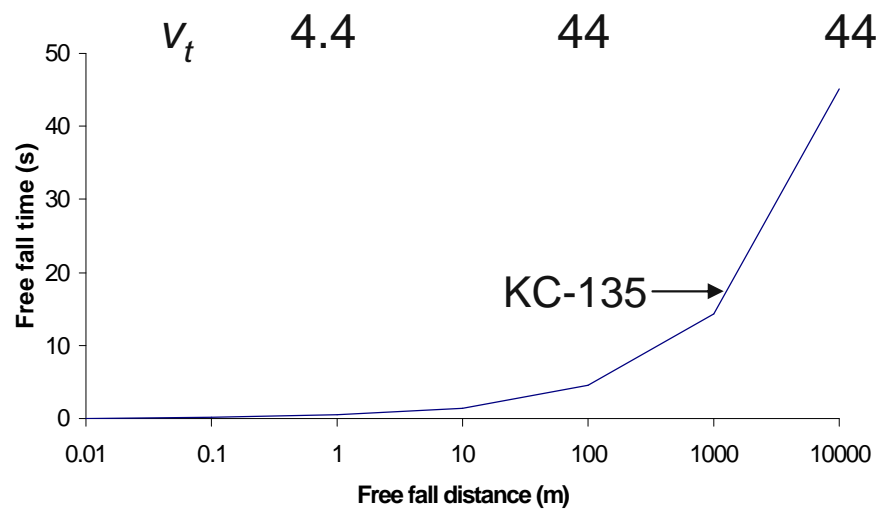
- ***Avoid contamination*** of materials at extreme temperatures
- ***Control melt chemistry*** under extreme conditions
- *Investigate surface reactions with reactive environments*
- *Avoid nucleation to access deeply **supercooled** and non-equilibrium liquids and glasses*
- *Expose pristine **liquid surfaces***
- *Scientific and technological interest derives from:*
  - ***Geo-materials*** community: planetary evolution, carbon sequestration, waste storage
  - ***Fundamental condensed matter physics***: glass transition, fragile liquids, nucleation and ordering in supercooled liquids
  - ***Bio-materials*** community: supersaturated solutions, bio-active phases
  - ***Energy materials***: materials at extreme temperatures in chemically active gases
  - *Measurement of **thermophysical properties** of hot liquids: surface tension, viscosity, heat capacity*

# “Transient” methods: Shot tower, William Watts, England, 1782



A shot tower in Dubuque, IA

$$\text{Free fall time: } t = \sqrt{\frac{2h}{g}}$$





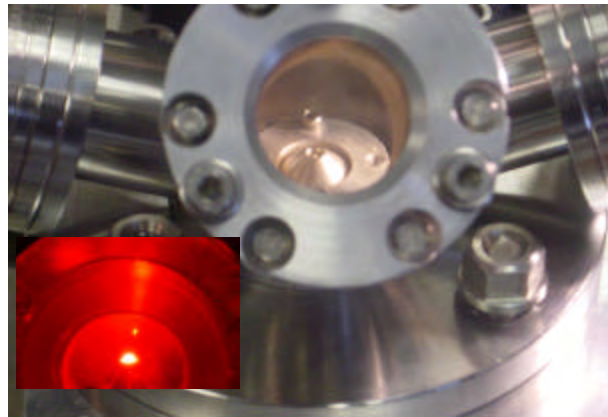
# Some methods for “steady-state” containerless or levitation



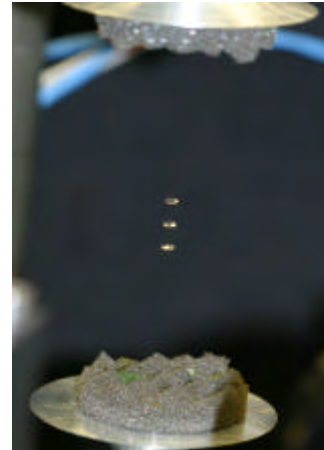
**Aero-acoustic Levitation**



**Electromagnetic Levitation**



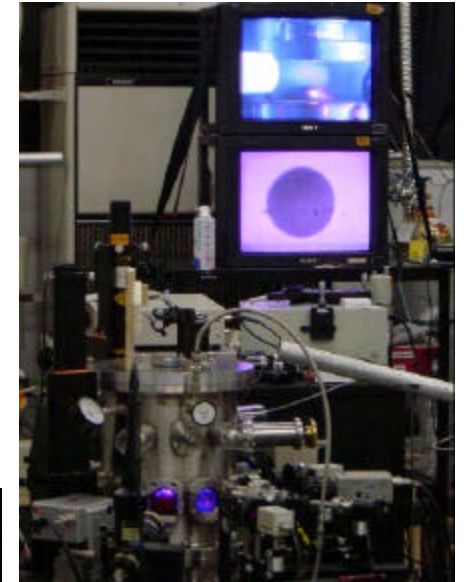
**Aerodynamic levitation**



**Acoustic levitation**



**UHV Electrostatic levitation**



**High pressure electrostatic levitation**



**Magnetic levitation**



## Comparison of levitation techniques

| Method                       | Sample size (mm) | Sample type        | Atmosphere (bar) | Heating          | Optical access | Footprint | Relative Price |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Acoustic <sup>1</sup>        | 0.2-3.5          | Most               | 0.5-1 most gases | External radiant | Excellent      | Medium    | Low            |
| Aero-acoustic <sup>2</sup>   | 0.8-3.5          | Most               | 1 most gases     | External radiant | Excellent      | Large     | High           |
| Aerodynamic <sup>3</sup>     | 0.5-4.0          | Most#              | 0.5-5 most gases | External radiant | Good (>50%)    | Small     | Moderate       |
| Electromagnetic <sup>4</sup> | 3-8*             | Metallic conductor | UHV-pressure     | EM, external     | Poor           | Small     | Moderate       |
| Electrostatic <sup>5</sup>   | 0.2-2.5          | Material-specific  | UHV or >3        | External radiant | Good           | Medium    | High           |
| Gas Film <sup>6</sup>        | Up to 20         | Low melting        | 1                | Susceptor/EM     | Poor           | Medium    | Moderate       |
| Magnetic <sup>7</sup>        | Up to 10         | Diamagnetic        | UHV-pressure     | External radiant | Poor           | Large     | High           |
| Optical <sup>8</sup>         | <0.1             |                    | UHV              | External (laser) | Good           | Medium    | Moderate       |

\*Special field shaping coils have levitated up to ~1kg of aluminum.

#Demonstrated for reactive metallic liquids, [J.J. Wall, J.K.R. Weber, J. Kim, P.K. Liaw, and H. Choo, "Aerodynamic Levitation Processing of a Zr-based Bulk Metallic Glass," *Mater. Sci. Eng. A*, **445-446**, 219-22 (2007)].

1. E.H. Trinh, "Compact acoustic levitation device for studies in fluid dynamics and materials science in the laboratory and microgravity," *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **56**, 2059-65 (1985).
2. J.K.R. Weber, D.S. Hampton, D.R. Merkley, C.A. Rey, M.M. Zatarski and P.C. Nordine, "Aero-acoustic Levitation - A Method for Containerless Liquid-phase Processing at High Temperatures," *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, **65**, 456-65 (1994).
3. S. Krishnan, J.J. Felten, J.E. Rix, J.K.R. Weber, P.C. Nordine, M.A. Beno, S. Ansell and D.L. Price, "Levitation Apparatus for Structural Studies of High Temperature Liquids Using Synchrotron Radiation," *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, **68**, 3512-18 (1997).
4. S. Krishnan, G.P. Hansen, R.H. Hauge and J.L. Margrave, "Observations on the dynamics of electromagnetically levitated liquid metals and alloys at elevated temperatures," *Met. Trans. A*, **19**, 1939-43 (1988).
5. W. K. Rhim, M. Collender, M. Hyson and D. D. Elleman, "Development of an Electrostatic Positioner for Space Materials Processing," *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, **56**, 307-15, (1985).
6. M. Papoular and C. Parayre, "Gas-Film Levitated Liquids: Shape Fluctuations of Viscous Drops," *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **78**, 2120-23 (1997).
7. A.K. Geim, M.D. Simon, M.I. Boamfa, L.O. Heflinger, "Magnet levitation at your fingertips", *Nature*, **400**, 323-24 (1999).
8. A. Ashkin, "Acceleration and Trapping of Particles by Radiation Pressure," *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **24**, 156-59 (1970)

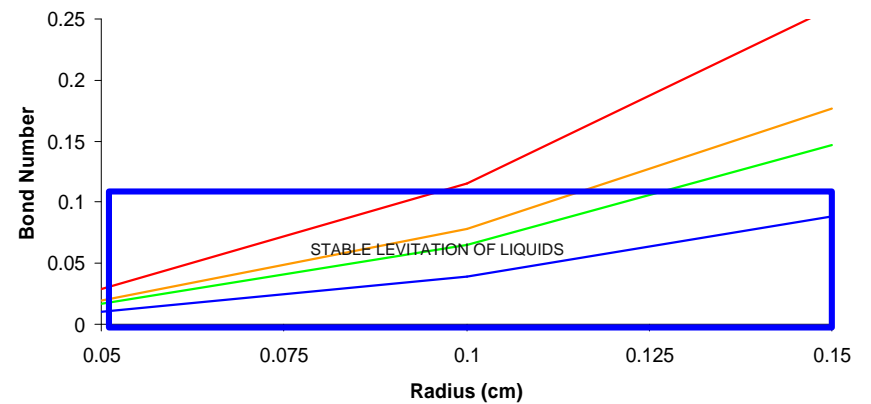
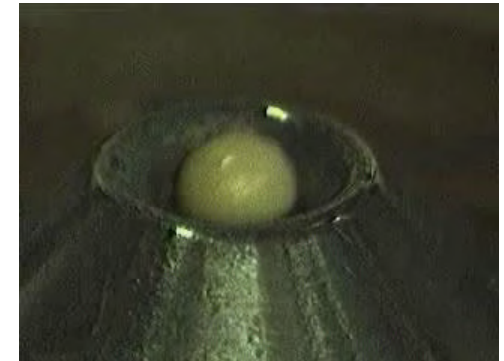
## Aerodynamic levitation



Antonov-225, payload 550,000 lbs  
Takeoff wt.  $\sim 4 \times 10^8$  grams

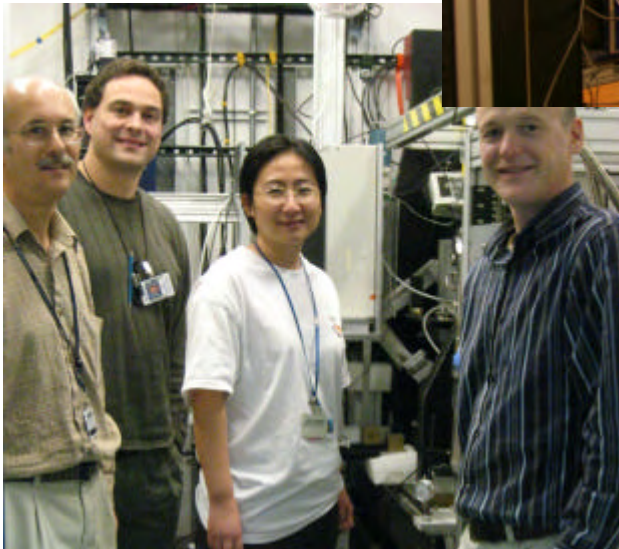
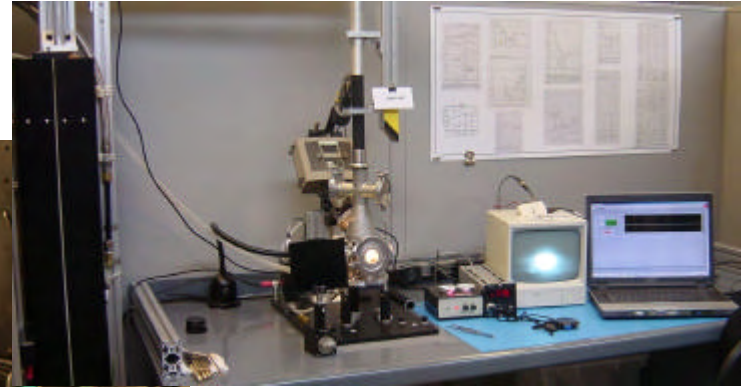
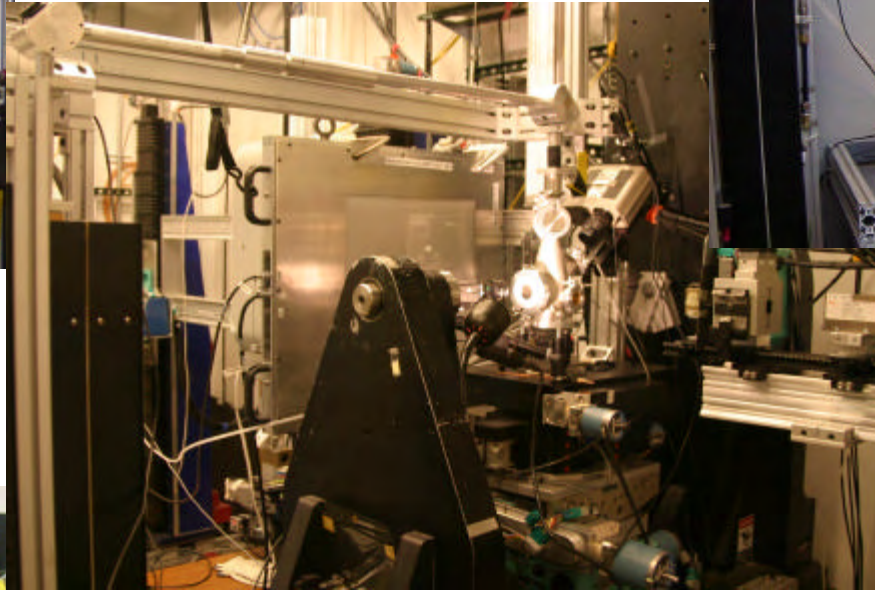
$$B_o = \frac{rgL^2}{g}$$

Plenty of force available  
Size limit results from fragmentation of liquids





*Operated as a Class I laser system with embedded 250 Watt (Class IV) CO2 laser in the lab and at 11 ID-C*

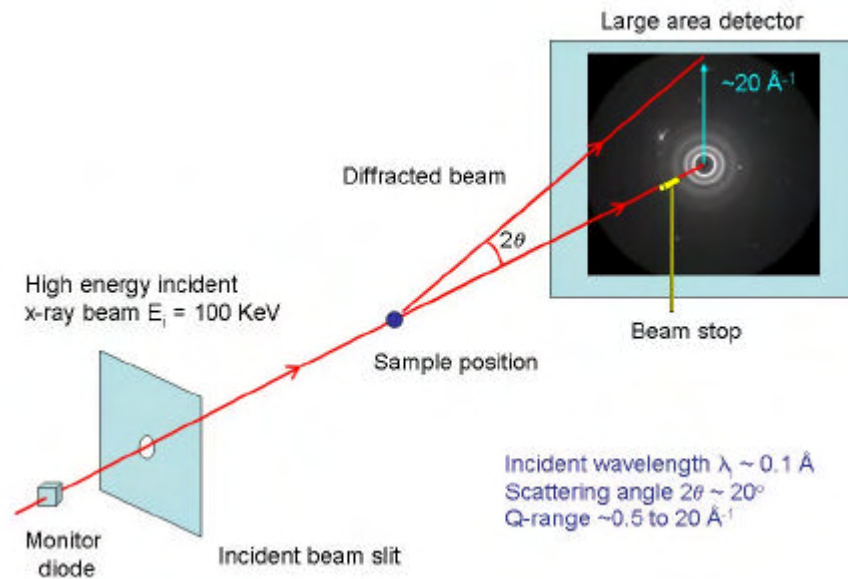


## X-ray set up

Mar 345, PE 1600, GE Revolution



1 mm square beam  
Area detector  
High energy



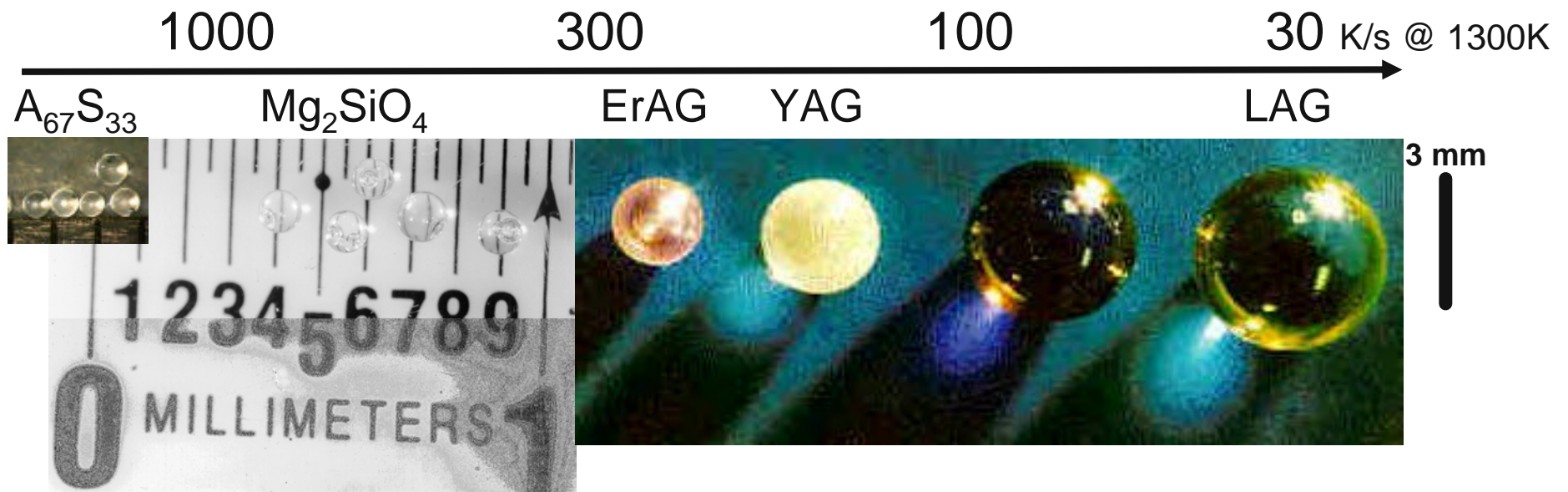
## *Desirable features of an APS research levitation system*

- Beamline and lab. based systems to enable sample synthesis and testing
- Non-contact temperature measurement
  - Optical diagnostics and beam probes
- Class I laser operation
  - Enhanced safety
  - More accessible to users
- Ability to change process atmospheres
  - Oxidizing, neutral, reducing, reactive
- Basic lab support:
  - semi-micro balance, density meas., mixing and grinding equipment, technical support

## Some examples of reluctant glass formers made using levitation melt processing

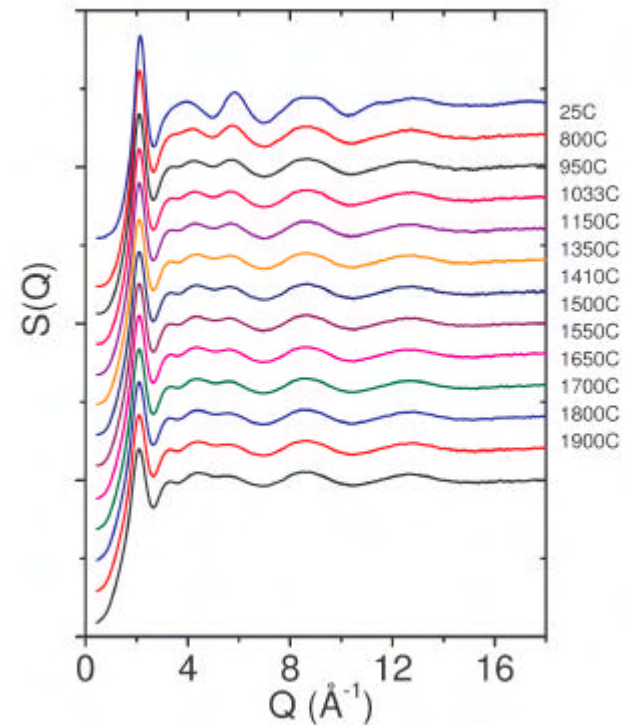
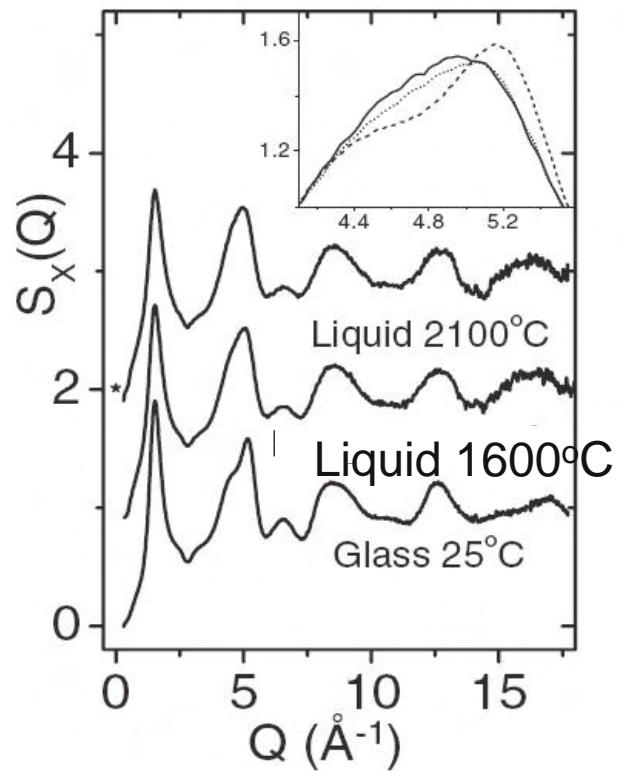
- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -CaO 50-75 % CaO
- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -RE oxide 20-50 % RE oxide (includes RE garnets and perovskites)
- $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{SiO}_2$  up to 67 %  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (includes 60/40 mullite)
- CaO- $\text{SiO}_2$  up to 50% CaO
- MgO- $\text{SiO}_2$  up to 67 % MgO (includes enstatite and forsterite)
- Calcium phosphates
- Zr-Cu-Ni-Al-Ti alloys

Cooling rate limited by surface area:volume



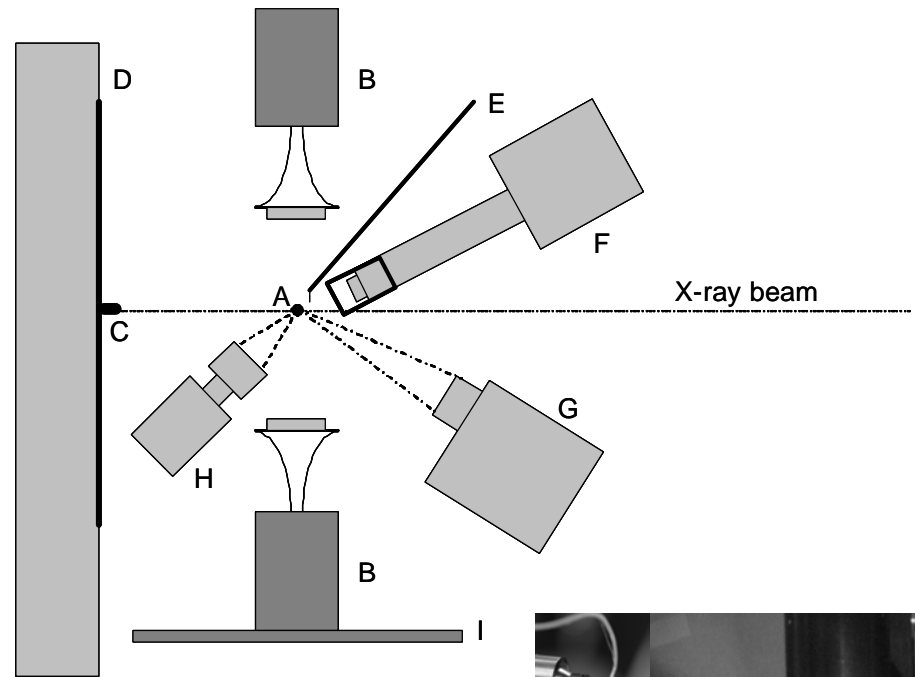
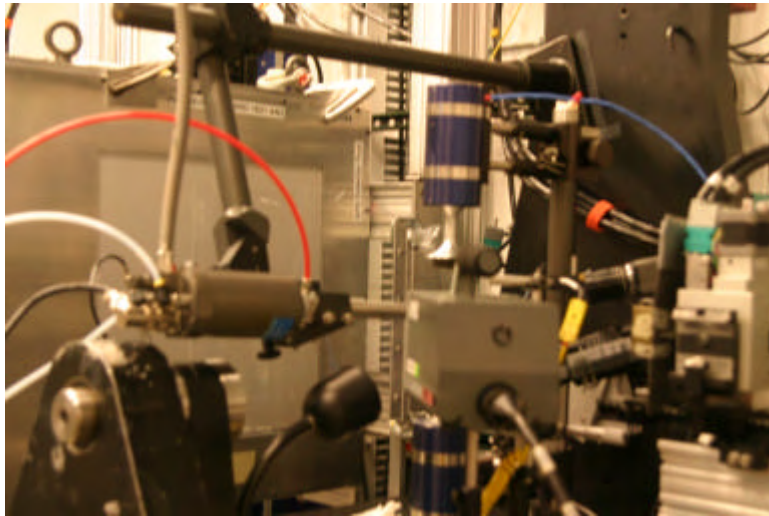


## Temperature dependent structure of liquids

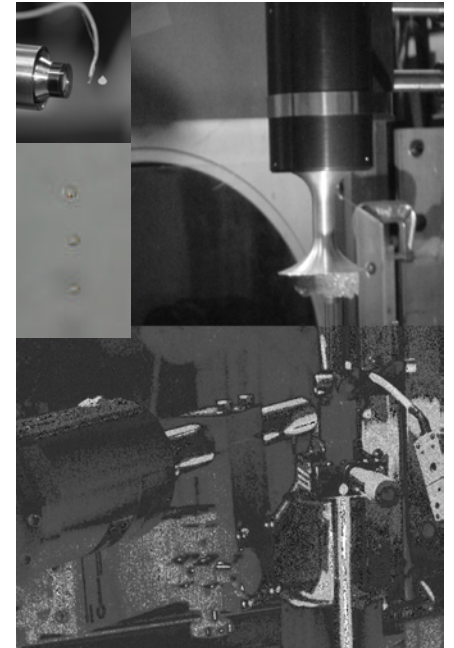


Mei, *et al*, PRL, **98**, 057802 (2007).

# Acoustic Levitation

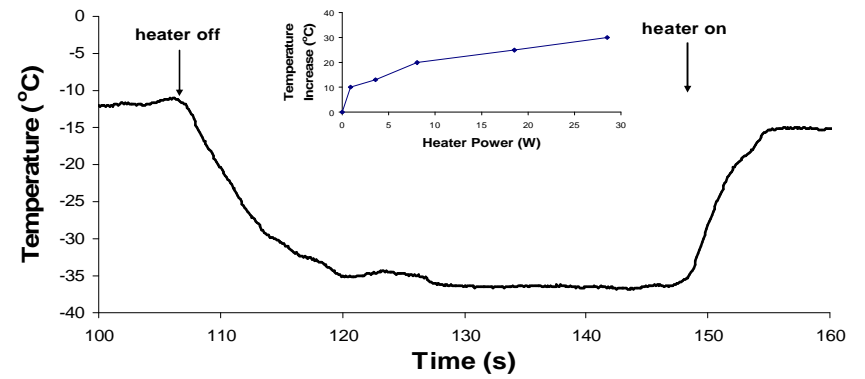
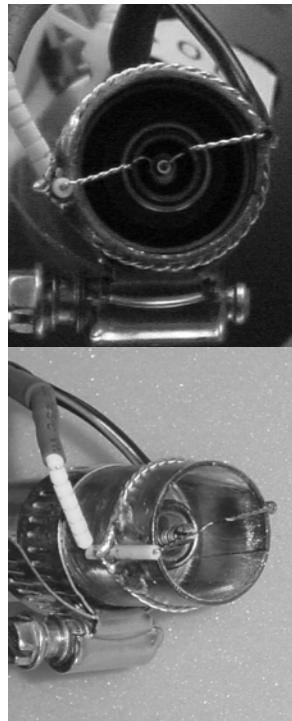
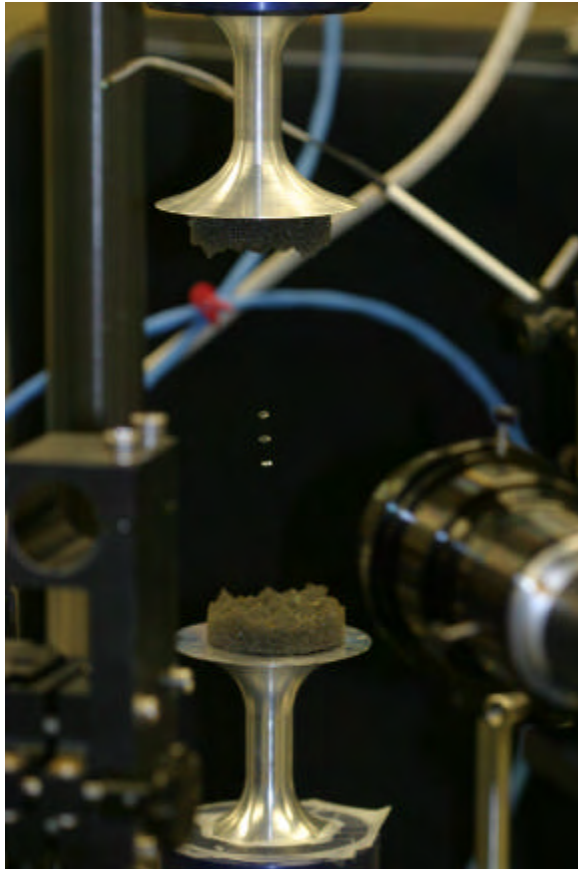


VIDEO

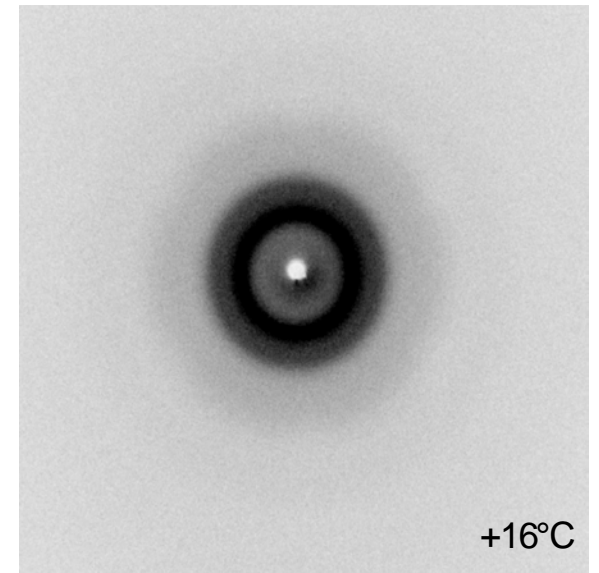
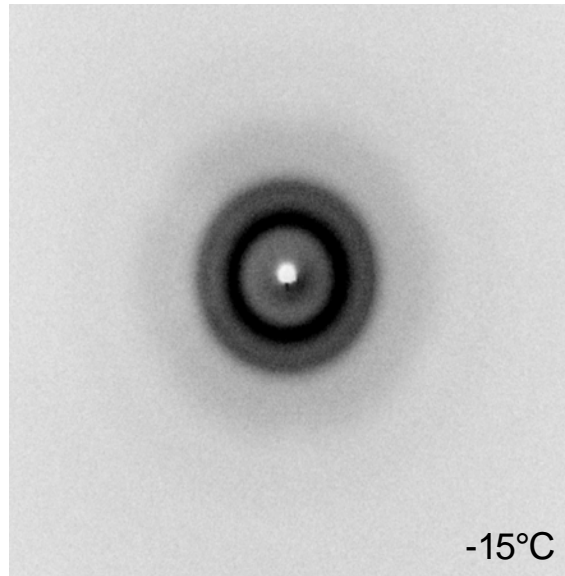
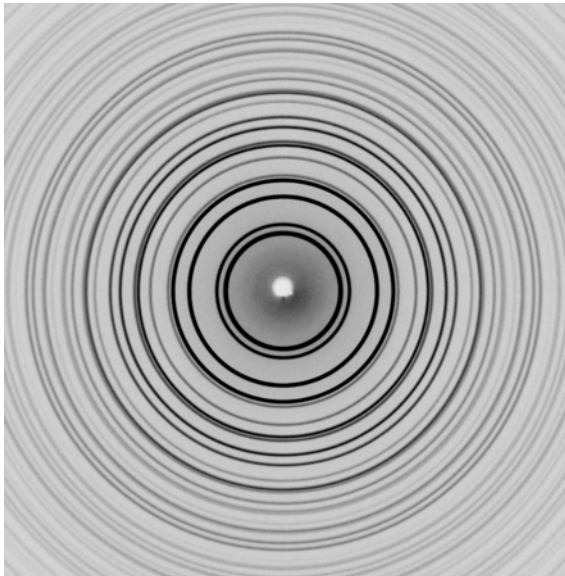


RSI, **80**, 083904 (2009).

# Acoustic Levitation



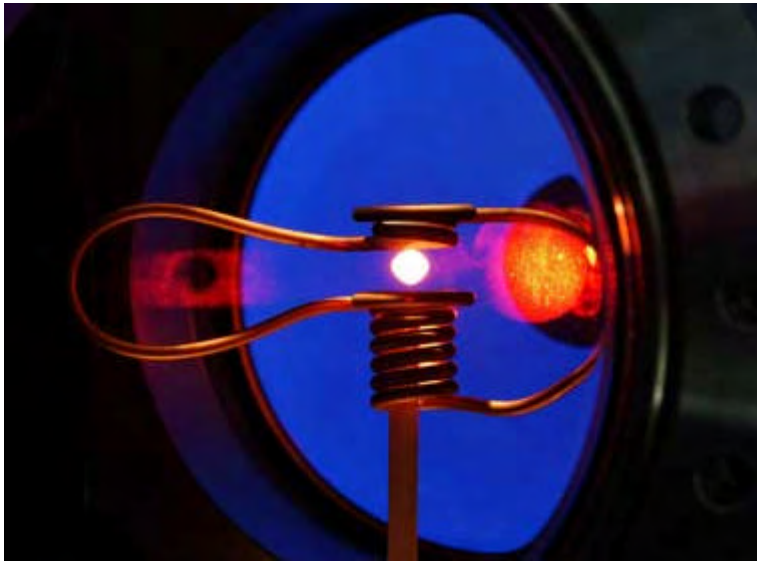
## What the image plate “sees”



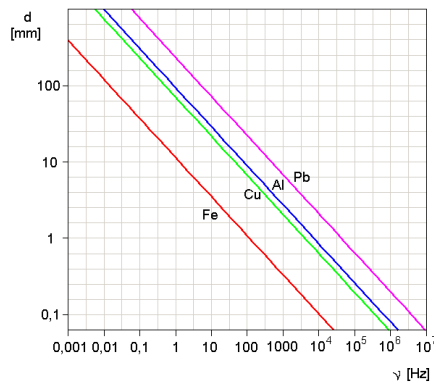
Small (sub-millimeter) sample motion does not measurably affect the data quality



## Electromagnetic levitation



- Need skin depth,  $d$ , < sample x-section
- Force is proportional to  $(\text{field gradient})^2$
- Heating is proportional to  $(\text{induced (current) field})^2$
- Typically 450 kHz generator (Lepel, Inductotherm, Ameritherm)
- Need to match impedance of load
- Need to avoid FCC frequencies
- Heating and levitation are **coupled**
- Cooling gas or beam heating can extend T range
- Used in a demo expt. at GLAD ~1993



$$d \propto C \sqrt{\frac{r}{n}}$$

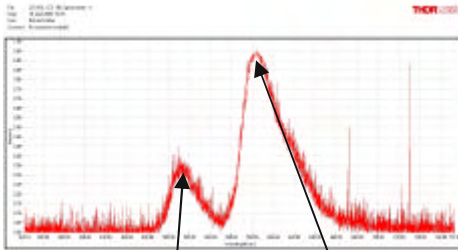
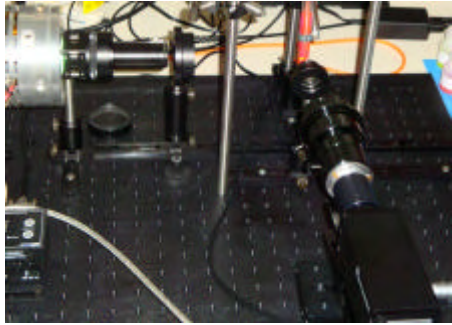
$$\text{Force} \propto \frac{dB^2}{dz}$$

$$\text{Heat} \propto B^2$$

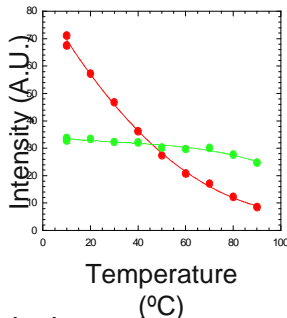
# Non-contact temperature measurement

Low T

Inframetrics 760, 8-12  $\mu\text{m}$  thermal imaging camera



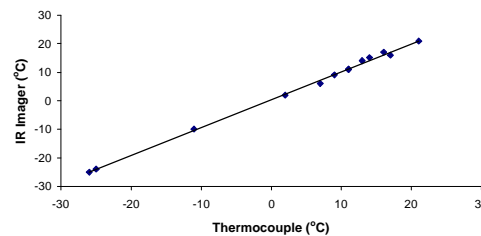
5,6 carboxyfluorescein rhodamine B



FL emission ratio measurements  
Ross *et al*, *Analyt. Chem.*,  
4117-23, **73** (2001).



Peak in thermal emission spectrum at 300 K is  $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$



High T

Optical pyrometry at a wavelength where emission is strong. Peak  $\sim 3000/T$  (in K)

Emissivity corrections may be needed.

$$\frac{1}{T_{abs.}} - \frac{1}{T_{app}} = \frac{I \ln(e_1)}{C_2}$$



## Summary

- Good coverage of “sample environment space”
- Ability to investigate liquids under non-equilibrium conditions and at high purity
- Class I laser system maximizes safety, minimizes user training requirements
- Complementary bench top facility enables characterization and synthesis
- **Neutron + X-ray** needed to deconvolute structure and constrain models
- **Work needed** on low  $T$  measurement
- **Work needed** on fast measurements in transient conditions – high flux is essential

## sample environment space

