

# Van der Waals loops or Maxwell constructs?

## Assessing EOS applicability using PDV of electrically thick metal driven by high lineal current density

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# The evolution of a conductor driven by intense current is of broad interest

## Fundamental radiation-MHD (and beyond):

Challenging interplay of magnetic diffusion, hydrodynamics, and radiative energy transfer

- Liner compression
- Magneto-inertial fusion
- Magnetically accelerated flier plates
- Ultrahigh magnetic field generators
- Magnetically insulated transmission lines
- Wire-array z-pinches
- High-current fuses
- Astrophysics

# Simulations and underlying models need experimental validation

**Magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) modeling requires accurate material properties models**

- **Equation of state, electrical conductivity, thermal conductivity,...**

**Material properties models depend on approximations**

- **Atomic potentials, tunable parameters,...**

**Experiments are important for calibrating & validating material properties models and MHD simulations**

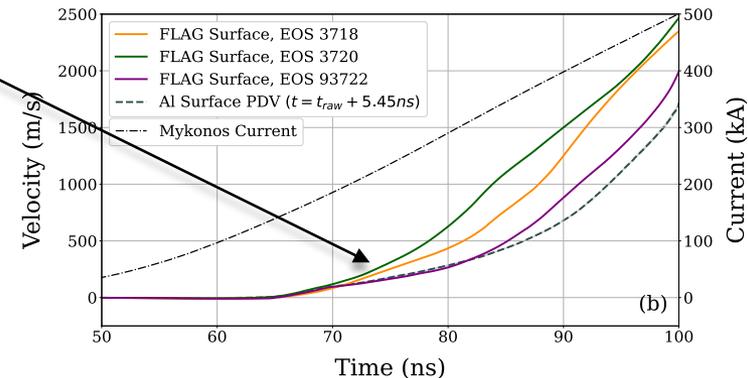
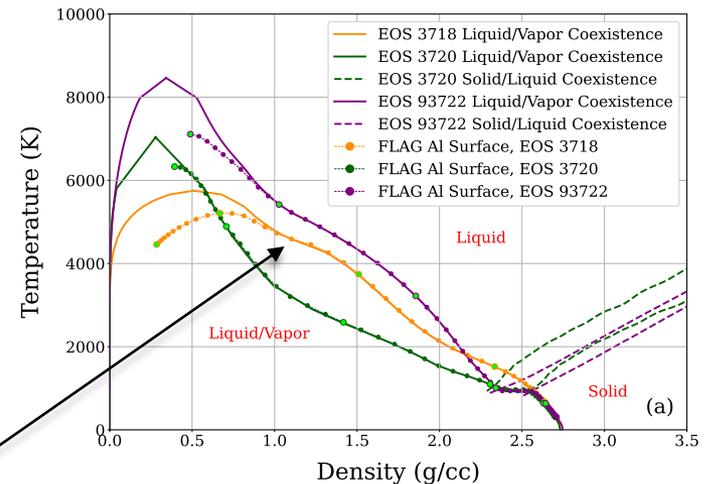
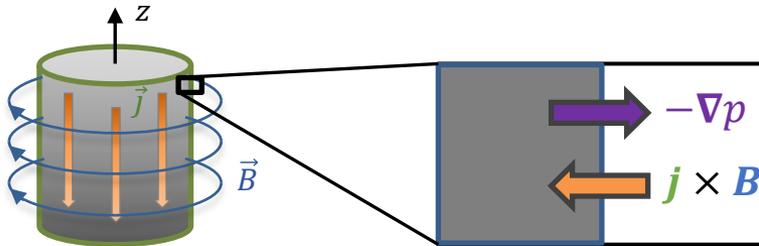
# SESAME EOS tables for Al vary considerably below solid density (LANL-FLAG modeling by S.E. Kreher)

Local balance in MHD momentum equation on an Ohmically exploded metal rod causes the surface to track the vaporization phase boundary.

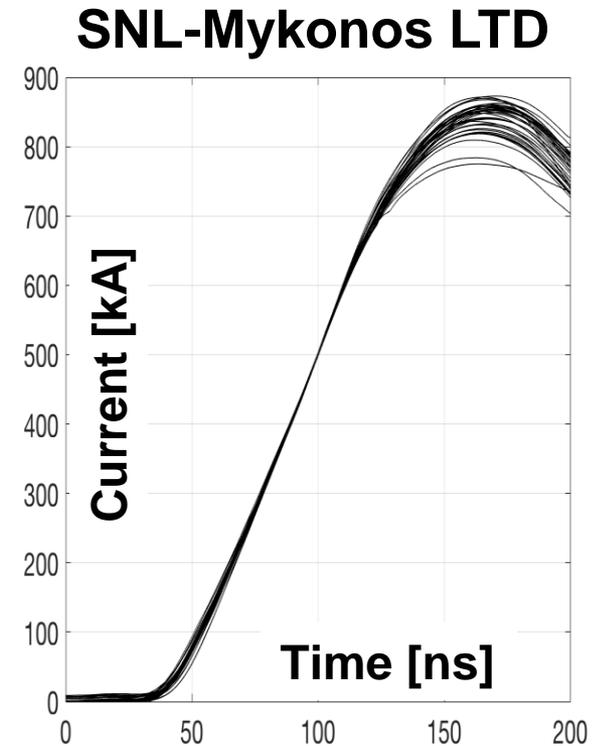
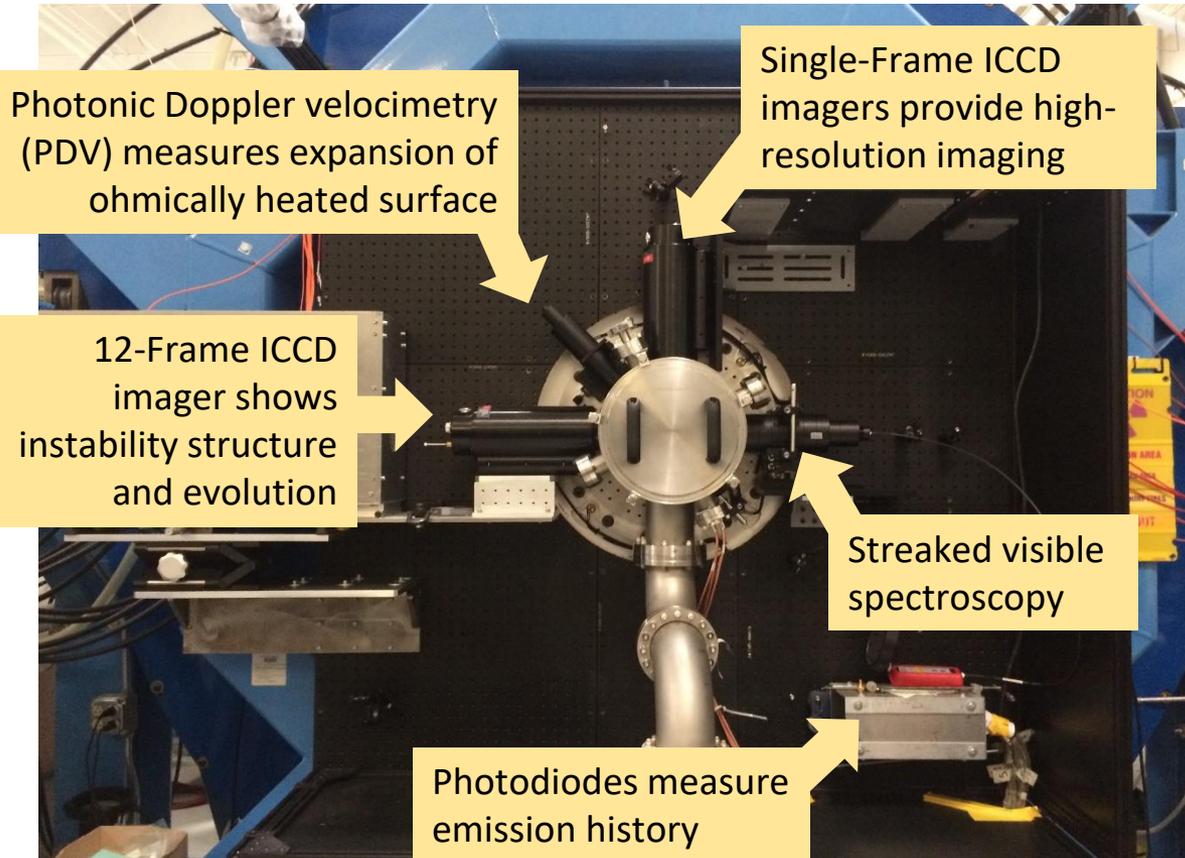
Experimental velocimetry can be used to validate EOS models in MHD simulations for metals in expansion.

$$\rho \frac{D(\mathbf{u})}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Slower velocity  $\leftrightarrow$  steeper binodal



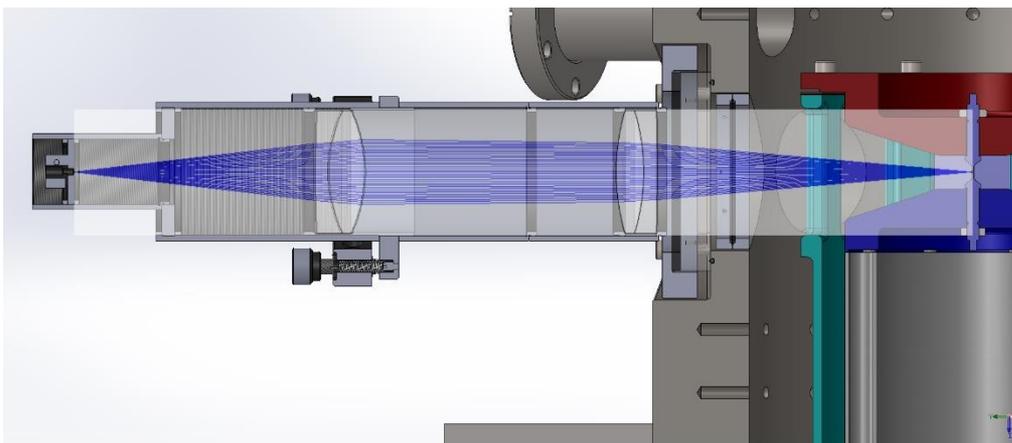
# To study ETI, 0.8 MA are driven through 0.8-mm-diameter metal rods on Mykonos



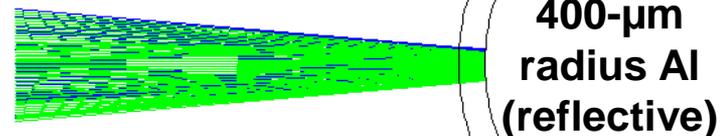
- **Al-5N, Al-6061, Cu-5N, Ni-4N rod radii  $\gg$  electrical skin depth**
- **Parylene-N coated (5, 17, 41  $\mu\text{m}$  thick) & uncoated rods**
- **Surface defects, inclusions, and machining periodicity varied**

# Al surface motion was measured with photonic Doppler velocimetry (PDV)

CW 1550-nm probe laser, upgraded from 35 mW to 200 mW,  
fiber-coupled to achromatic imaging system



<45- $\mu\text{m}$  dielectric coating (refractive)



50- $\mu\text{m}$  spot  
 $\approx$  Zemax calculation

193.416-THz probe laser  
nonlinearly mixed with  
193.414-THz reference laser

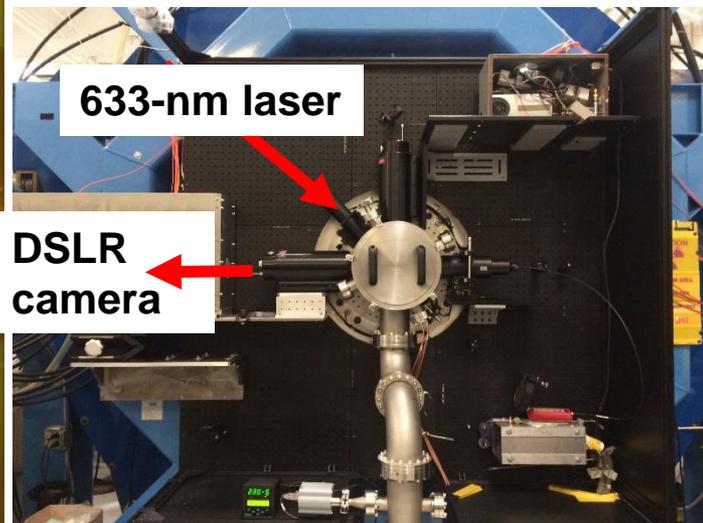
$\Rightarrow$  scope signal of

(2 GHz)+(Doppler shift)

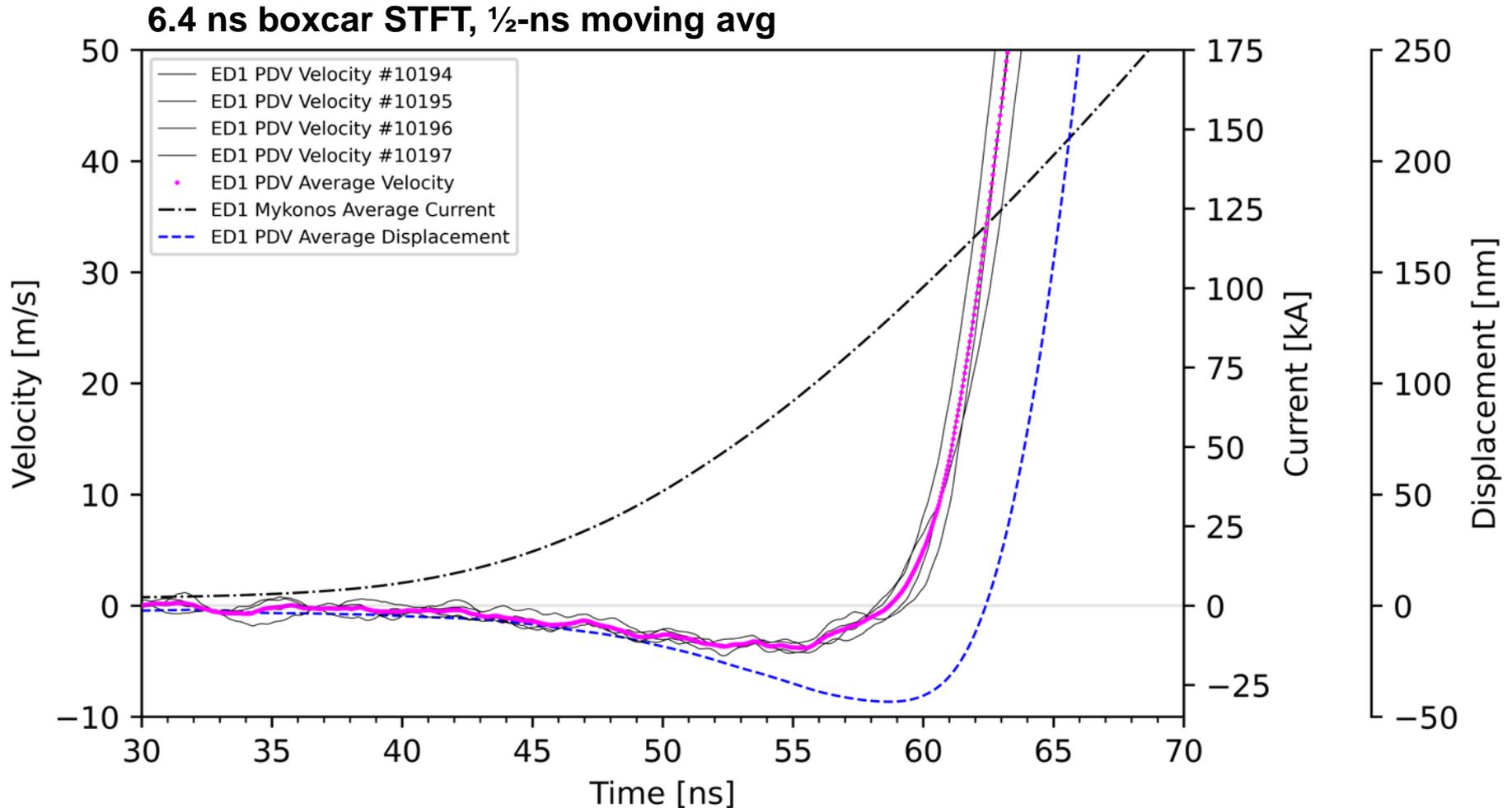
$\Rightarrow$  Doppler shift  $\bar{f}$  using

Short-Time Fourier Transform

$\Rightarrow$  Apparent velocity  $v^* = \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \bar{f}$

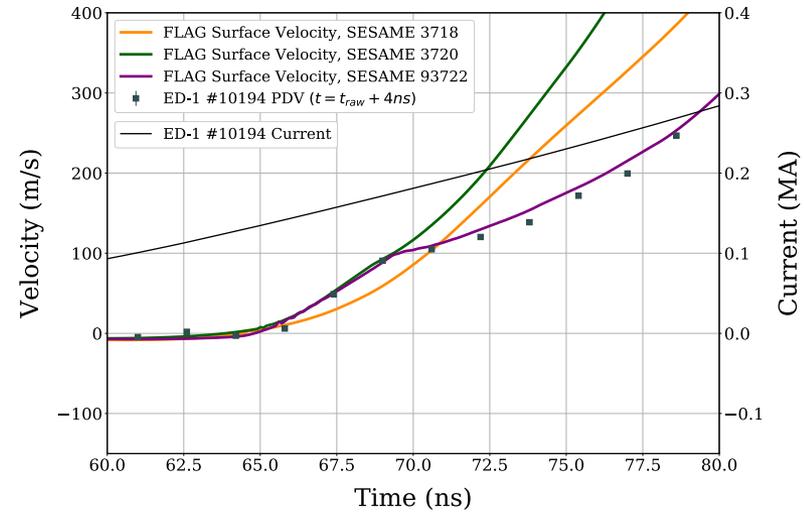
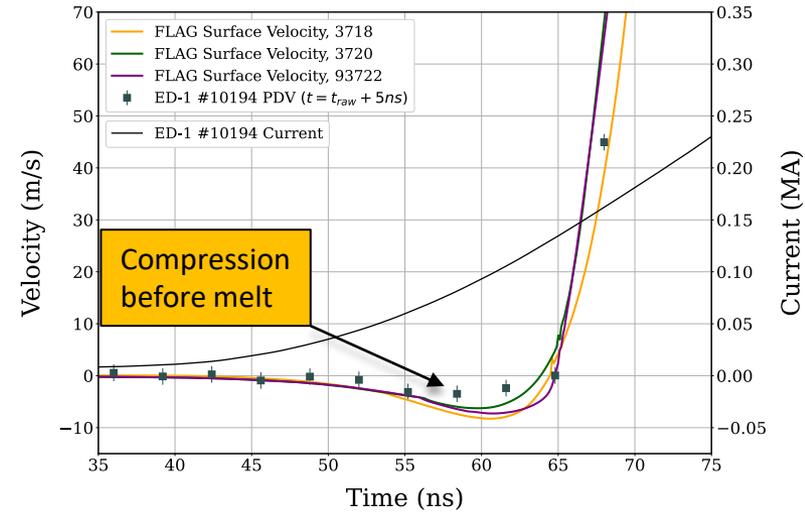
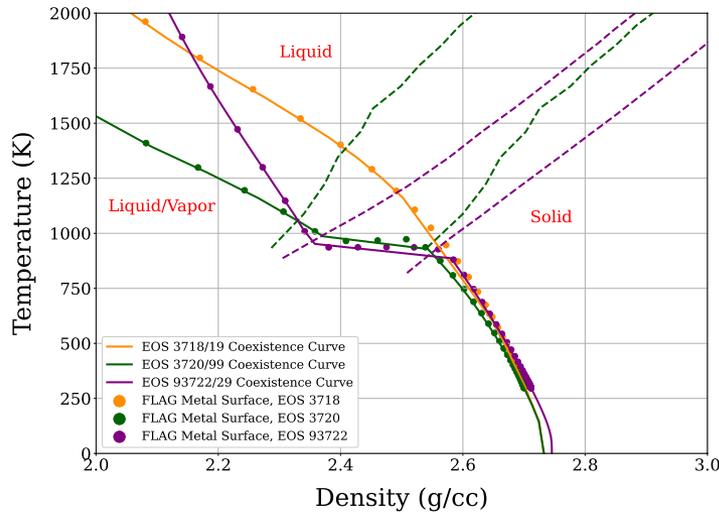


# First PDV measurement of radially inward motion of solid-filled Al rod



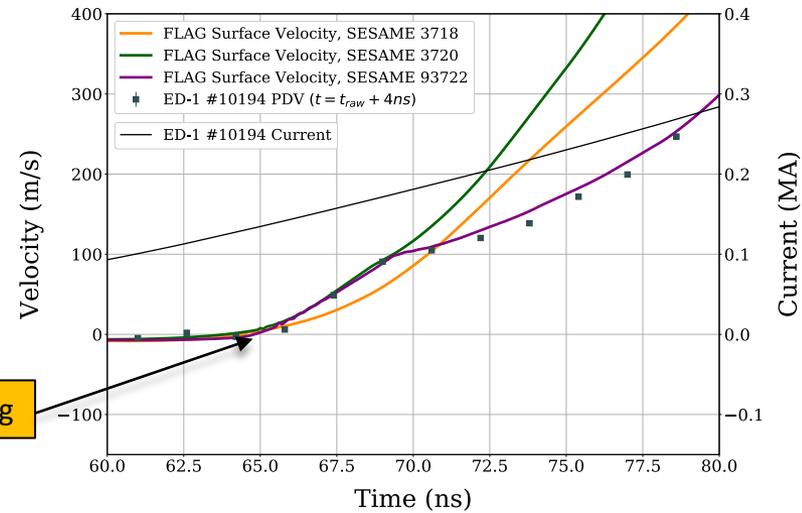
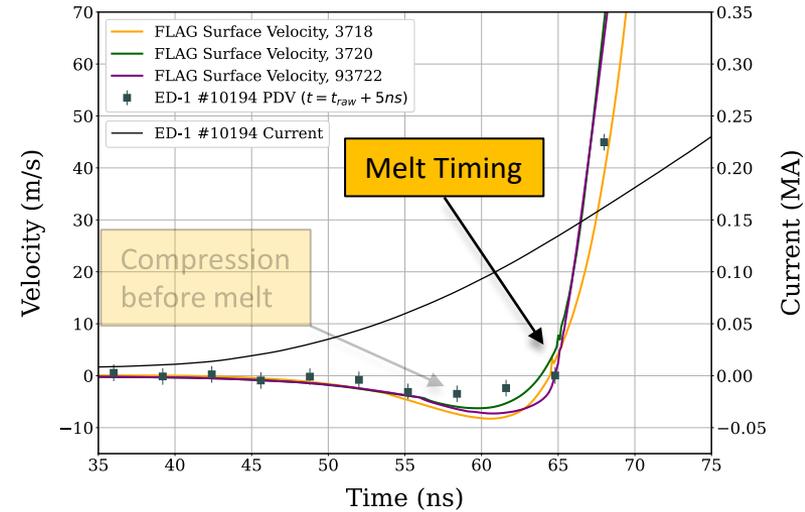
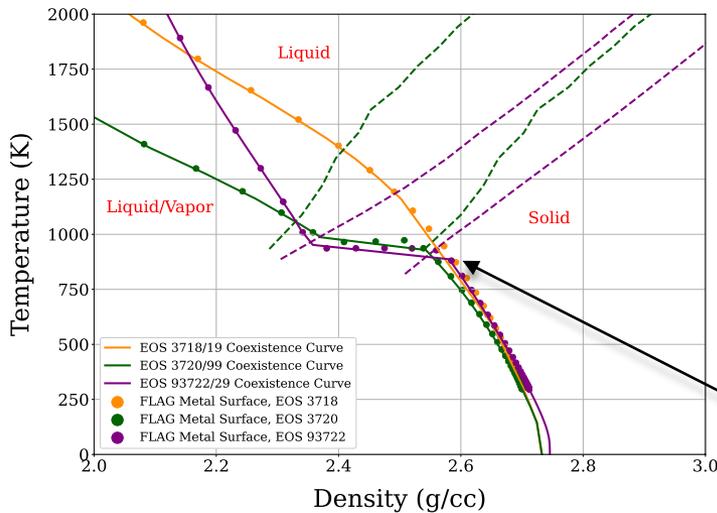
# Early PDV features validate EOS

Prior to surface melting, the  $\vec{j} \times \vec{B}$  Lorentz force slightly dominates thermal expansion and **compresses** the rod



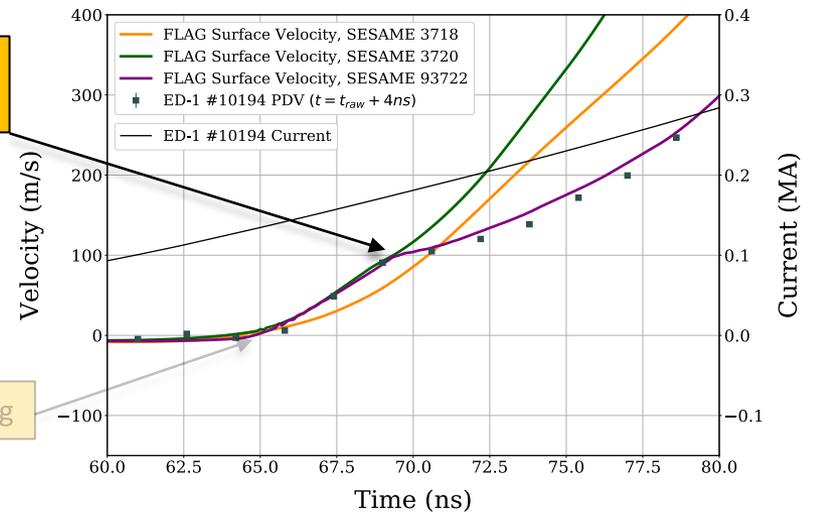
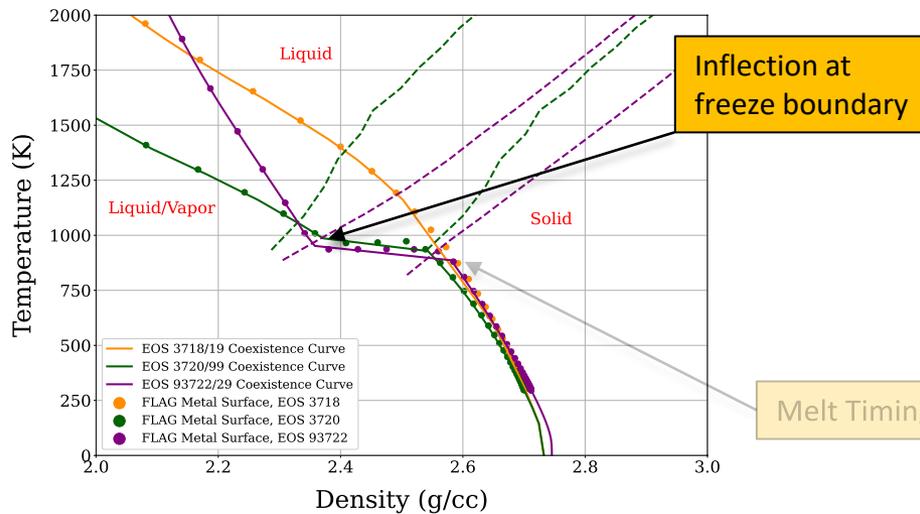
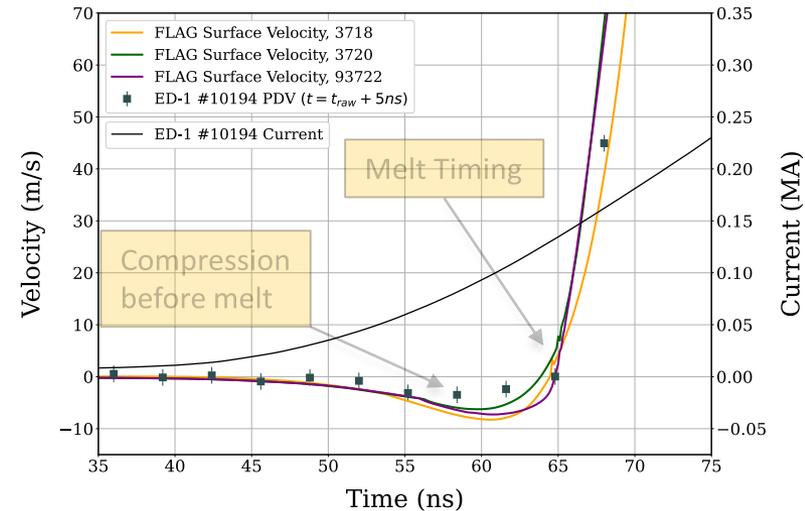
# Early PDV features validate EOS

@  $t \sim 64$  ns  
 the surface begins to melt  
 and starts to **expand rapidly**



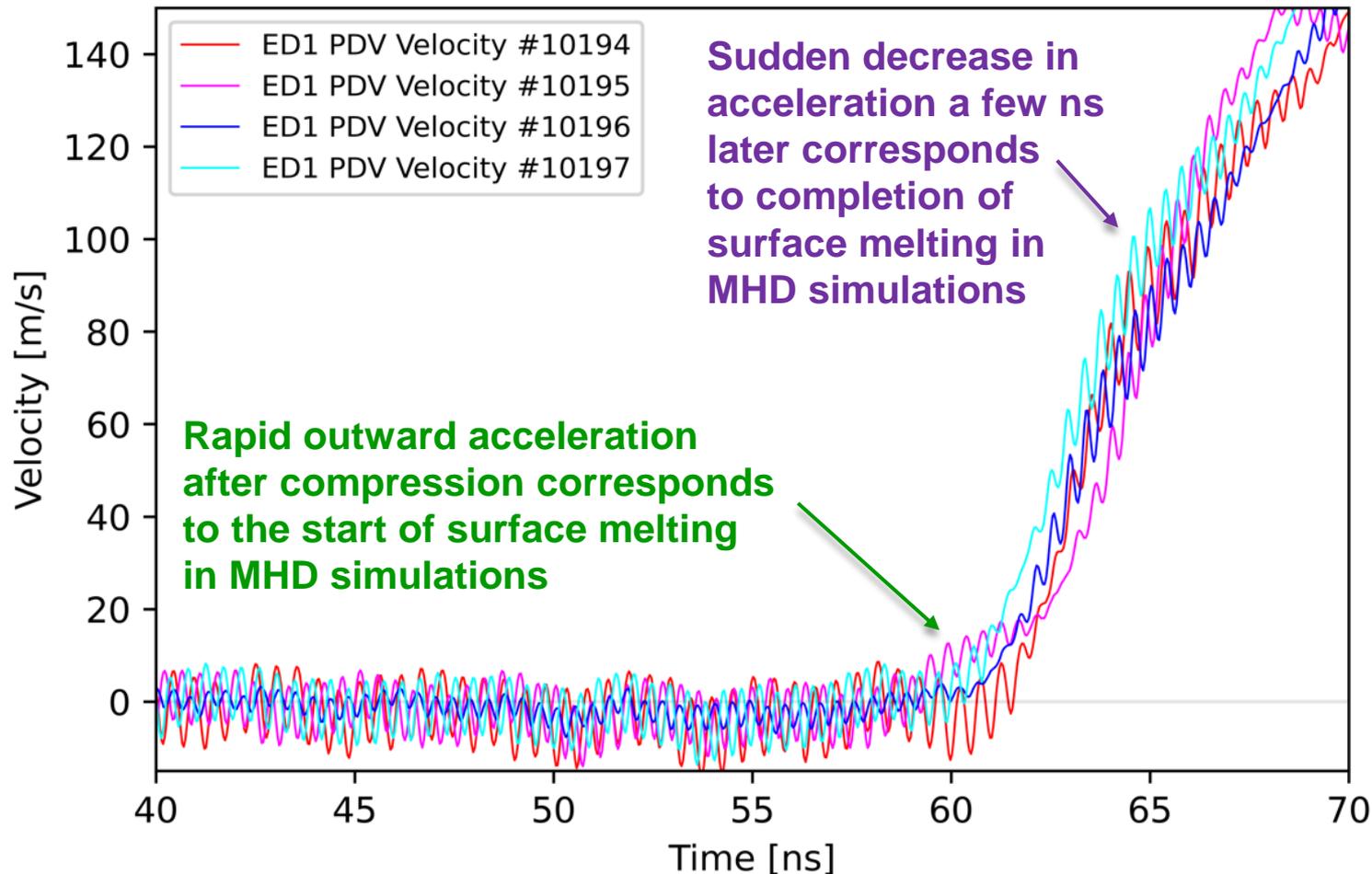
# Early PDV features validate EOS

**@  $t \sim 69$  ns**  
**the surface finishes melting;**  
**binodal slope increases drastically**  
**at freeze/ liquidus phase boundary**  
**=> sharp decrease in acceleration**

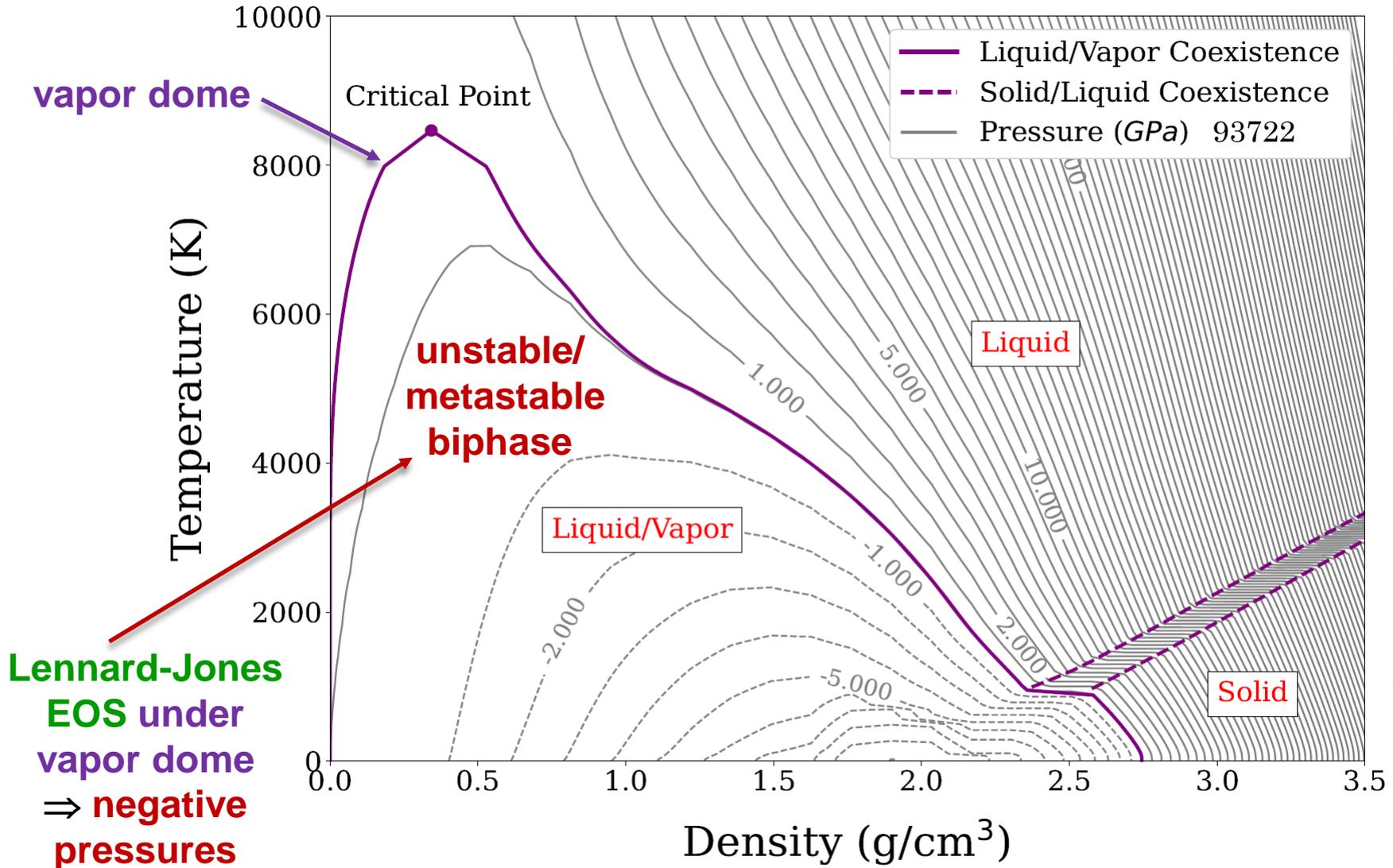


# Inflection points of $v'(t)$ will give first measurement of duration of surface melting on a current-driven rod

ED1 PDV comparison: Boxcar windowing function, Gaussian peakfinding, 3.2 ns tau, no smoothing

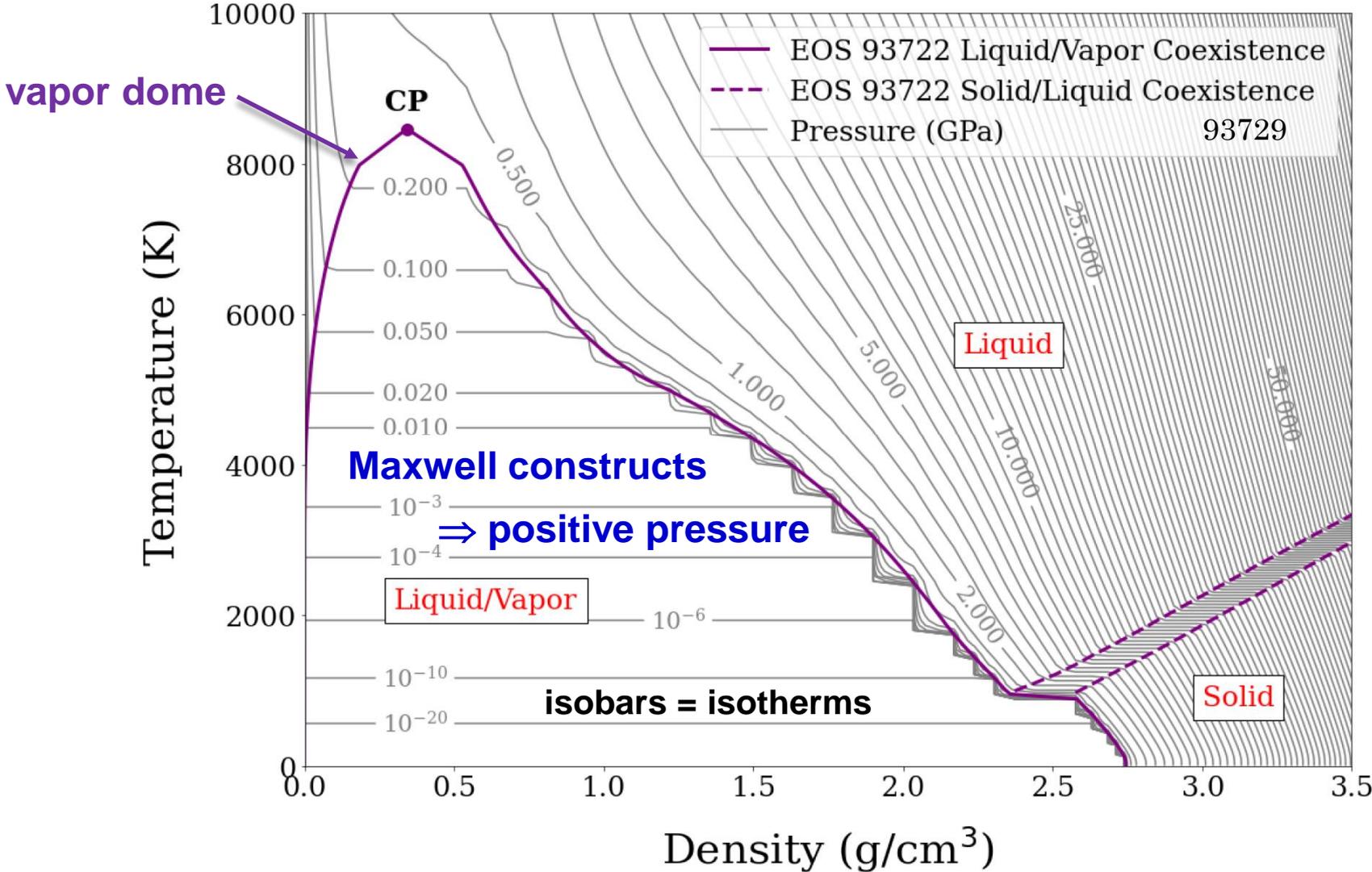


# Under vapor dome, **unmodified** AI EOS has $p < 0$ van der Waals (VdW) loops



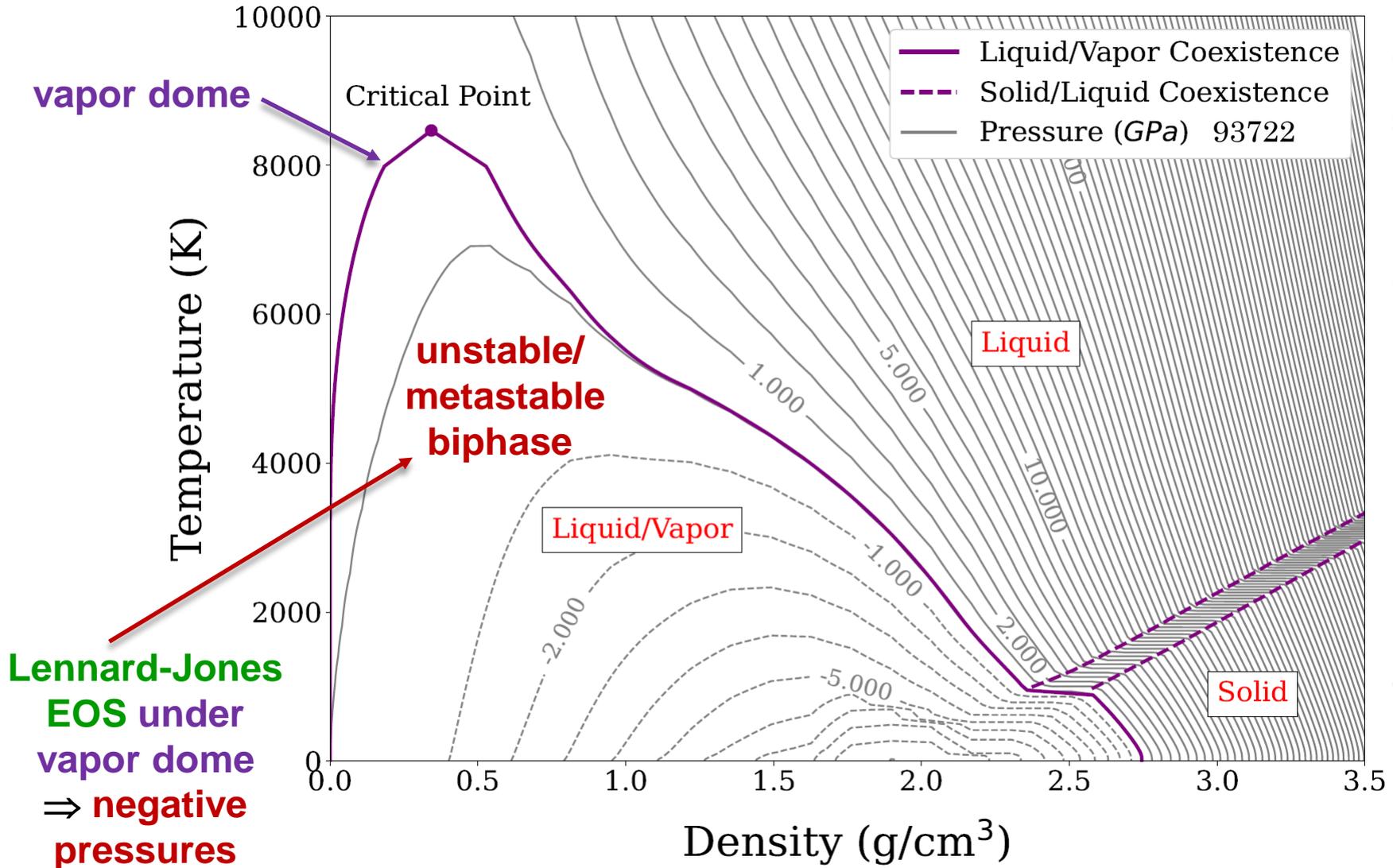
T. Sjoström et al., Phys. Rev. B 94, 144101 (2016)  
S.E. Kreher, PhD dissertation, Univ. of Nevada, Reno (2023)

# Under vapor dome, AI EOS modified with Maxwell constructs has $p > 0$



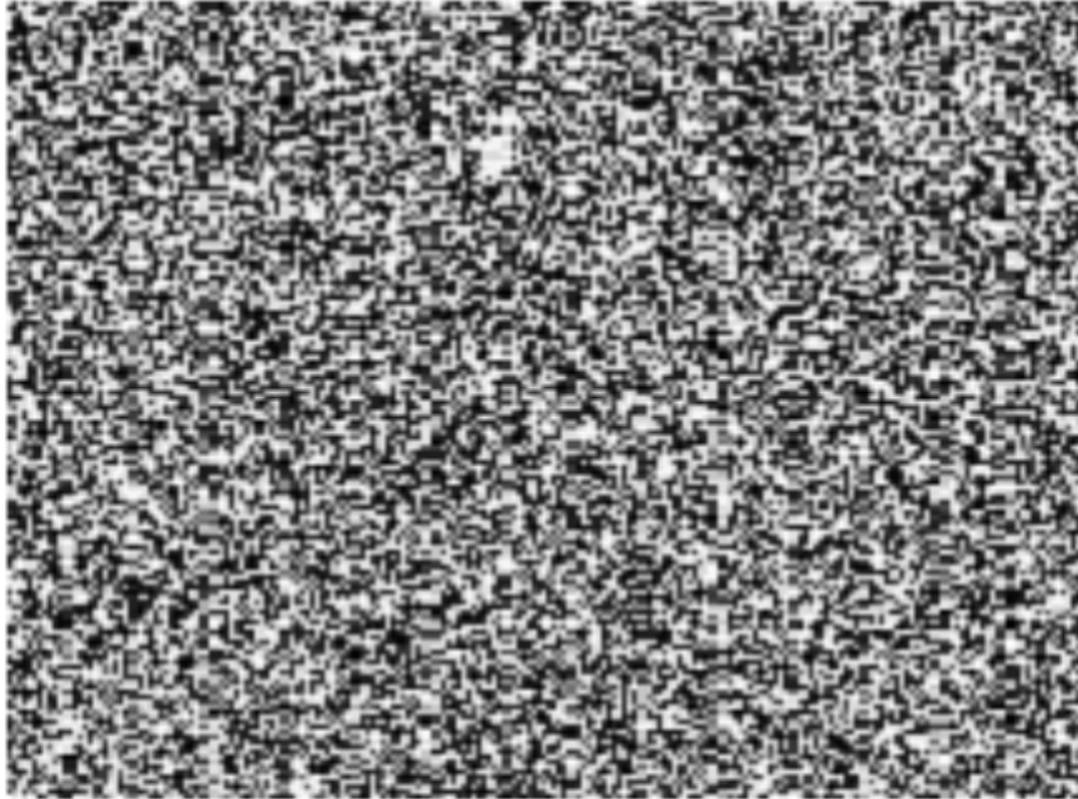
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If enough time for spinodal decomposition and/or nucleation, **unstable/metastable biphase** dissociates into liquid & vapor  $\Rightarrow$  use **Maxwell constructs**



## Spinodal Decomposition

*Microstructural evolution under the Cahn–Hilliard equation, demonstrating distinctive coarsening and phase separation.*

Yonatan Oren, Wikimedia Commons, 2007,  
[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CahnHilliard\\_Animation.gif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CahnHilliard_Animation.gif)

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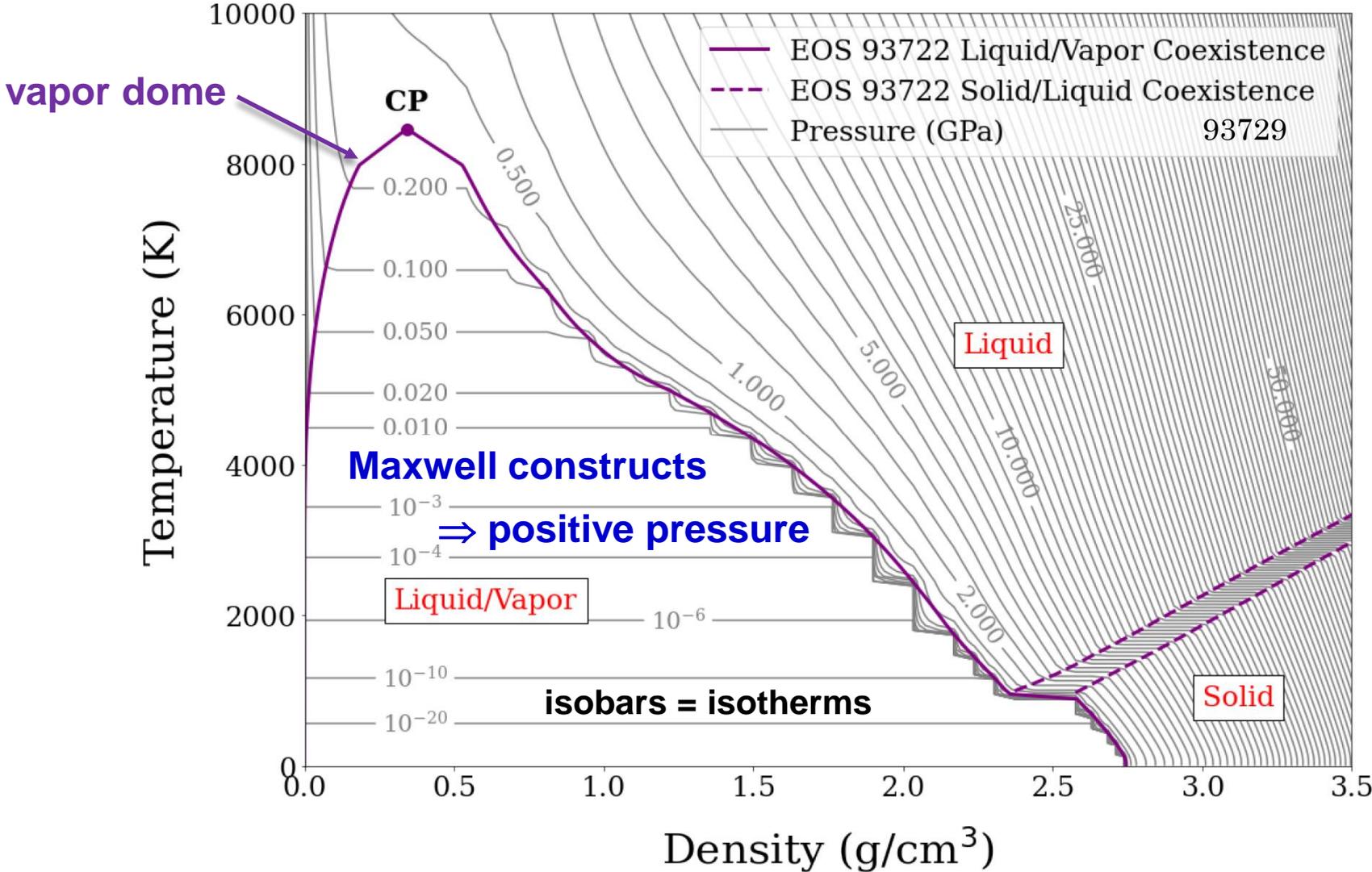


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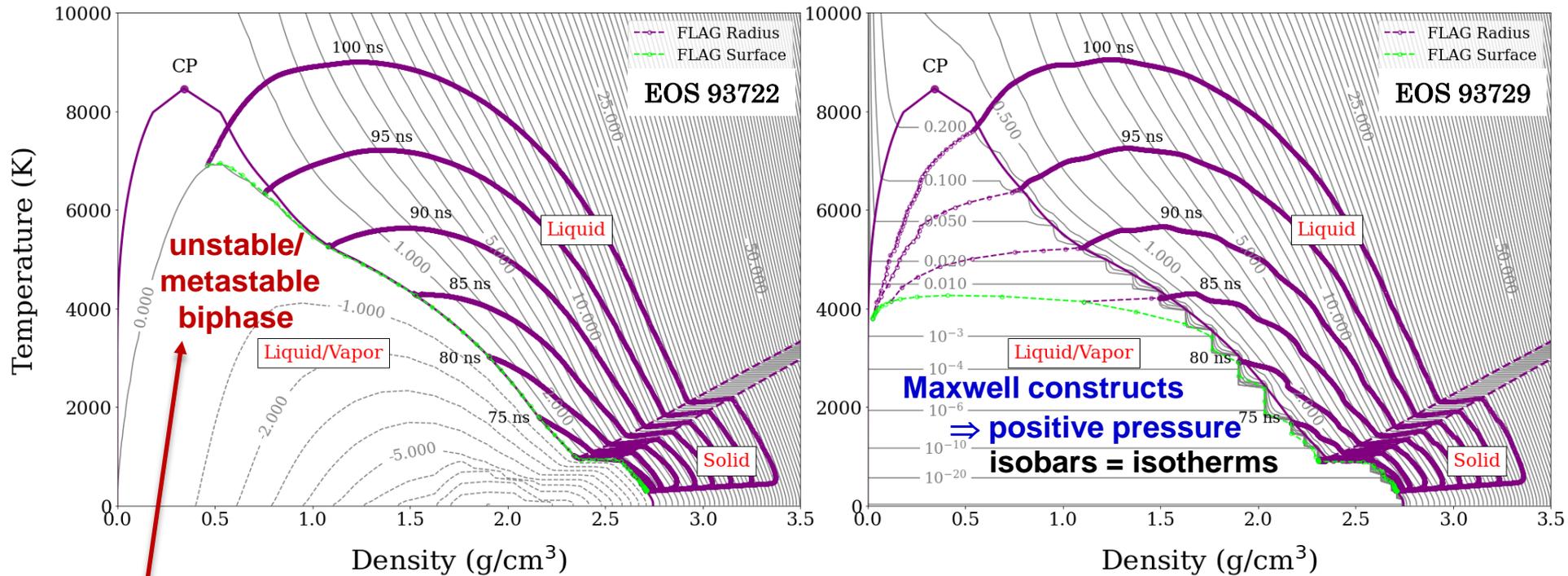
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# Under vapor dome, AI EOS modified with Maxwell constructs has $p > 0$



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# Maxwell constructs cause surface to vaporize earlier vs unmodified EOS tables with van der Waals loops



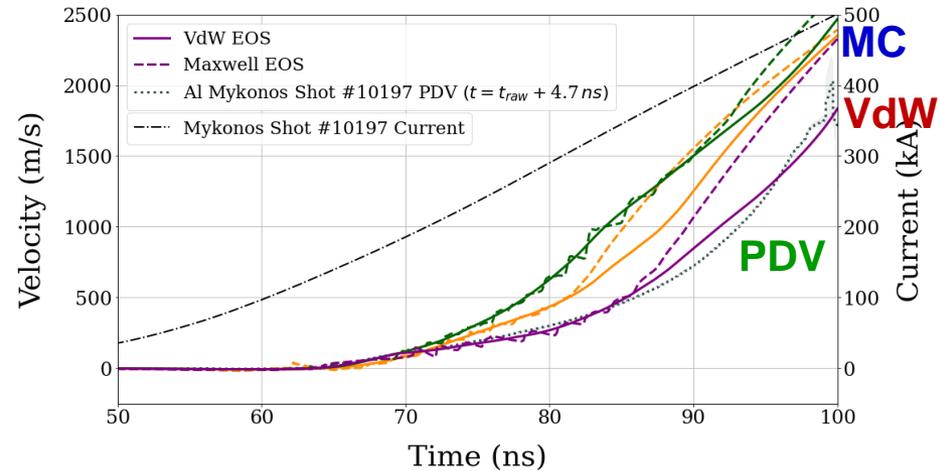
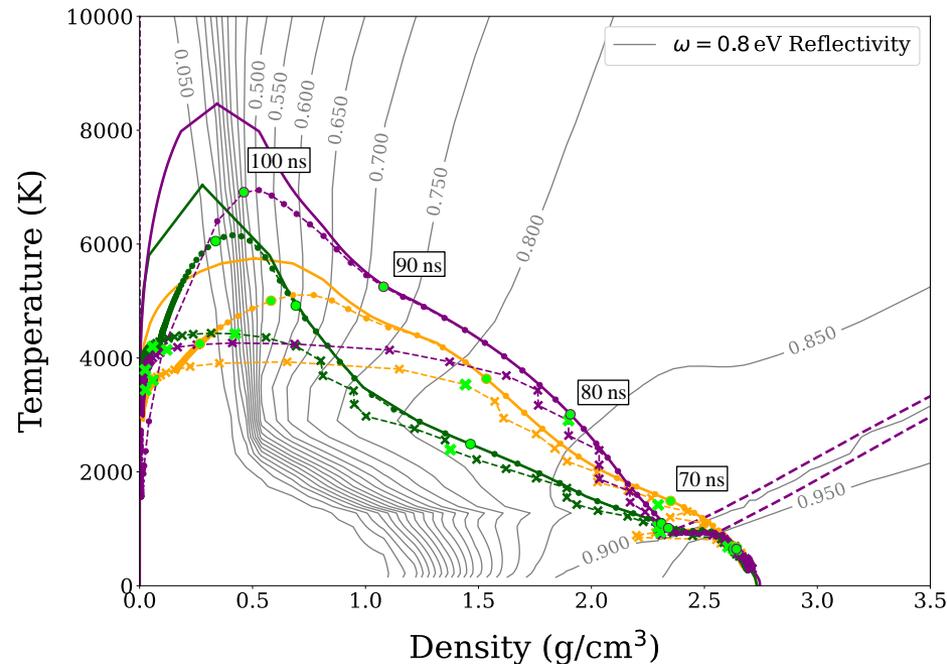
Lennard-Jones  
EOS under  
vapor dome  
=> negative  
pressures

T. Sjostrom et al., Phys. Rev. B 94, 144101 (2016)

# Maxwell-construct earlier vaporization

⇒ rapid acceleration of Al surface

but **VdW prediction** better matches **PDV**

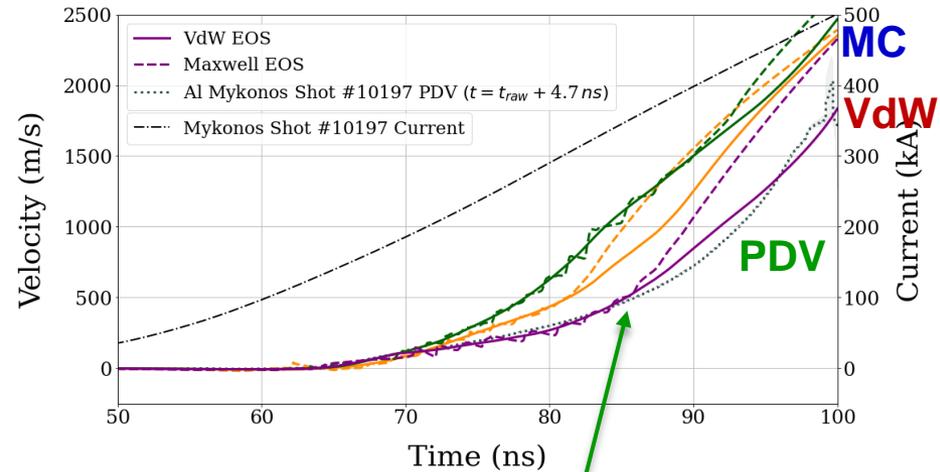
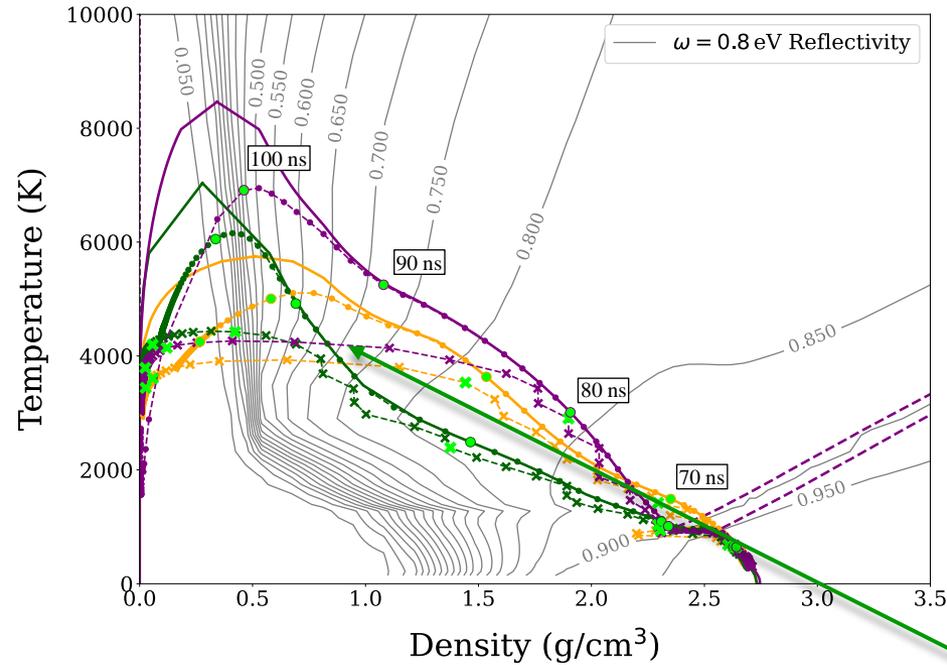


Al reflectivity to 0.8 eV PDV laser from DFT calculations suggests rod surface is reflective for both **VdW** & **MC** EOS in RHS of vapor dome

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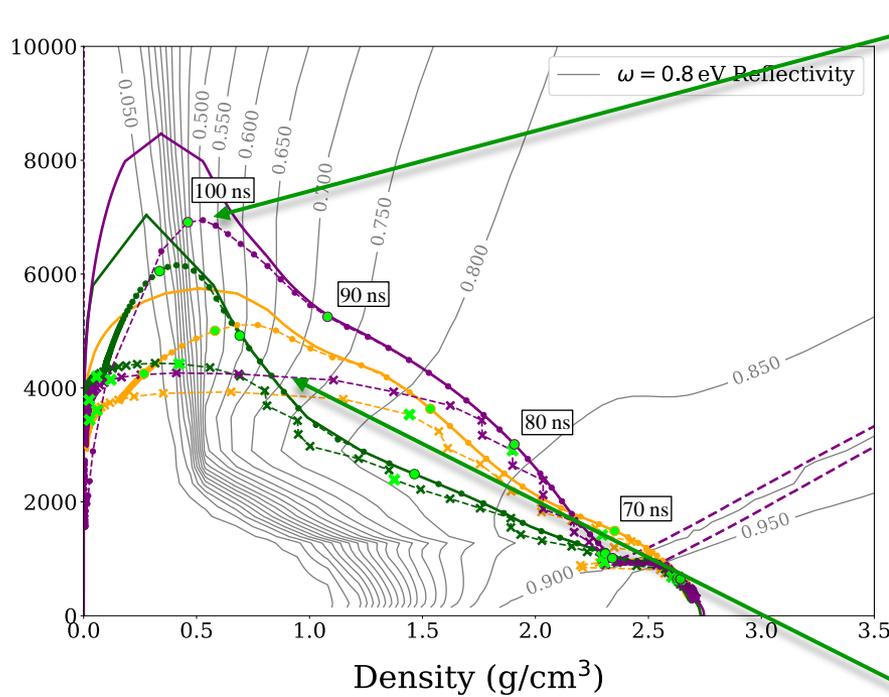
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Velocity inflection @ 85-86 ns should still be 70-75% reflective for **MC** calculation

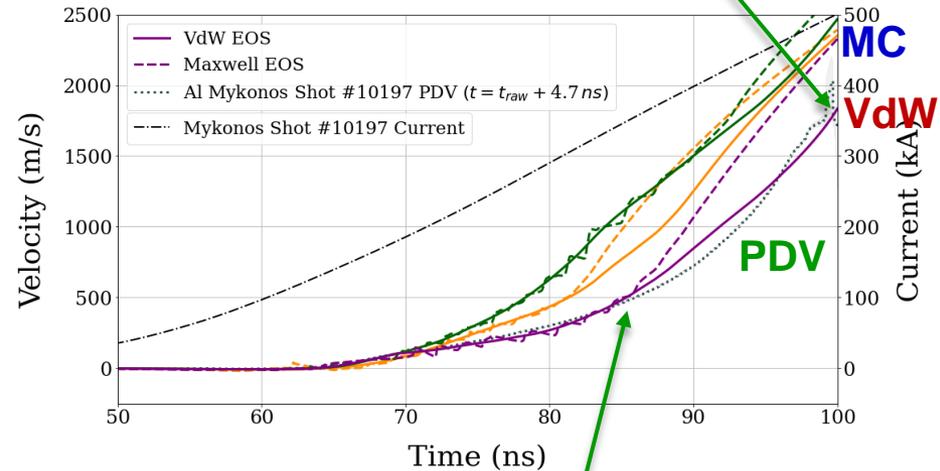
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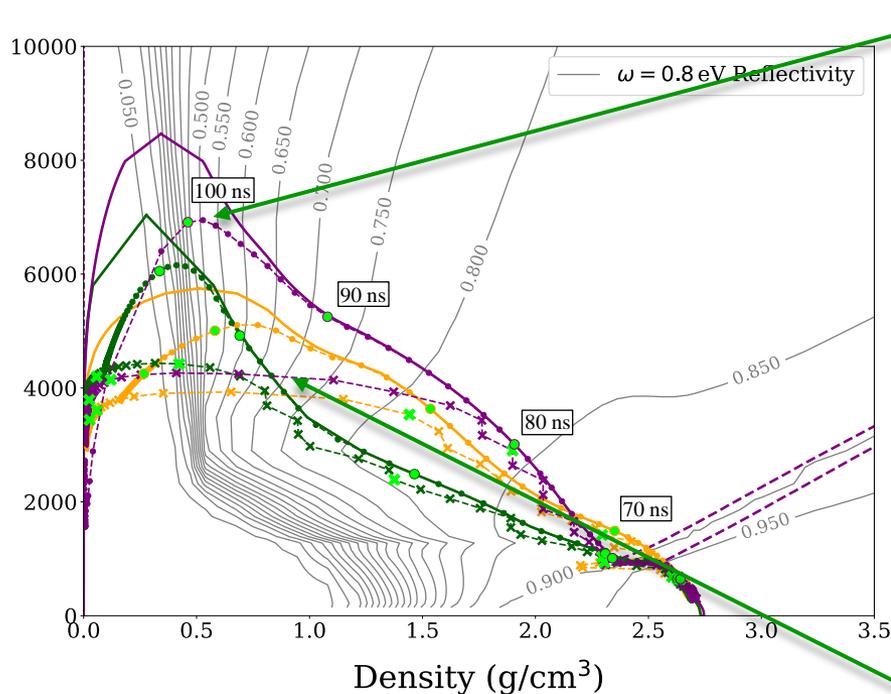
PDV signal cutting out @ 98 ns correlates with reflectivity cliff for VdW calculation



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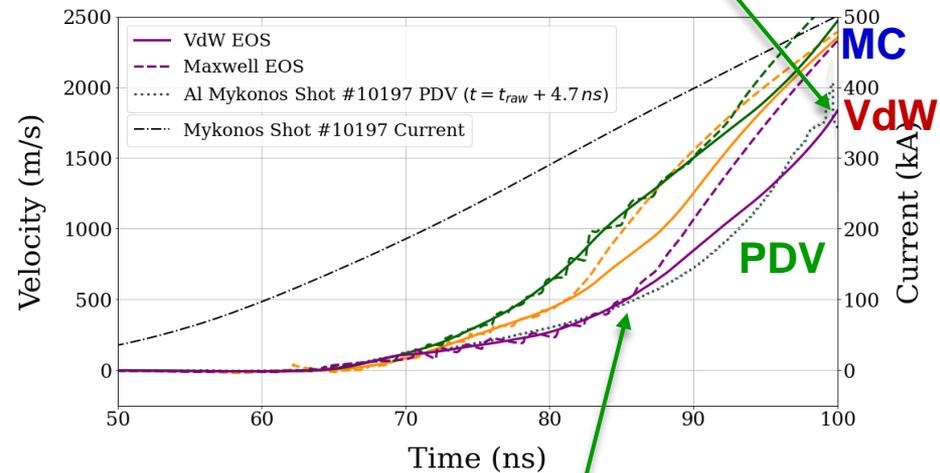
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Effect of energetic electrons/photons from magnetically insulated transmission line?

# Conclusions

- ✓ PDV from diamond-turned, 0.8-mm-diameter, Al-5N rods driven by 860-kA, 71-ns-risetime, SNL-Mykonos LTD
- ✓ First PDV measurements of **radially inward motion** and **duration of surface melting** on a current-driven rod
- ✓ **PDV compared with FLAG MHD modeling: After melt, the phase-space trajectory of the reflective surface follows liquid-vapor boundary until surface vaporizes**
- ✓ **Maxwell constructs cause surface to vaporize earlier than unmodified EOS with van der Waals (VdW) loops**
- ✓ **MHD with SESAME EOS 93722 (VdW) agrees with PDV best; vital knowledge for device modeling**