

CRISMAT Laboratory (Caen – Normandy - France)



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UNIVERSITÉ
CAEN
NORMANDIE



MICROWAVE SYNTHESIS OF MATERIALS:
A bird view with some chosen examples

EL NANO thematic school GDR NAME

Aussois, 13th June 2023

**ELaboration of NANOMaterials for the recovery, conversion,
transport and storage of energy**

THIS LECTURE - OUTLOOK

MICROWAVE SYNTHESIS OF MATERIALS: A bird view with some chosen examples

BASIC of MW PROCESSING of MATERIALS

A QUICK VIEW OF MICROWAVE ASSISTED INORGANIC SYNTHESIS

ZnO flower like shape made by sublimation-recrystallisation (CRISMAT)

Microwave Plasma Enhanced CVD (litterature)

Microwave assisted Hydrothermal synthesis (litterature)

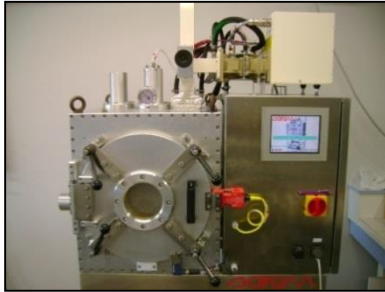
Solid-State Synthesis (CRISMAT)

Microwave Sintering: thermal managment to control sintering (CRISMAT)

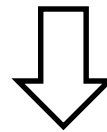
CONCLUDING REMARKS

I- Basic of MW Processing of Materials

Why is it worth using MW for materials processing?



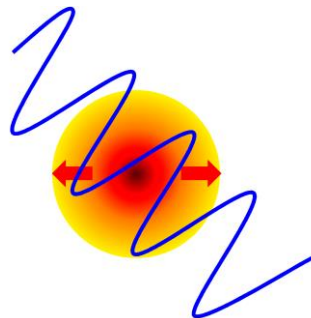
We take advantage of MW-Material
interactions
 $300\text{ MHz} < f < 300\text{ GHz}$



Volumetric Heating
And Selective Heating
Possible
(depending on the mat.
Properties)

Less Energy Consumption
High efficiency
Very High heating rates
($>200^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$)
'Green Technology'

Reliable – Affordable
Our 1987 microwave source
Is still in good working
conditions



❑ Microwave Heating highly depends on the material electric properties

The absorbed microwave power (case of dielectric materials):

$$P_d = 2\pi f \epsilon' \tan(\delta) E^2 \quad \text{Dielectric Losses}$$

The penetration depth of the Electrical Field:

$$D_p = \frac{\lambda_0}{2\pi \sqrt{\epsilon'} \tan(\delta)}$$

The lower the loss factor
The higher the E field
penetration depth

For conducting material, the penetration depth is very small and tends to zero (skin effect)

Microwaves-Matter Interactions

Dissipated power formula

$$\text{(usual case for dielectrics)} \quad P_d = 2\pi f \epsilon' \tan(\delta) E^2$$

Let us compare Al_2O_3 vs SiC:
A quick comparison to understand
the impact of the loss tangente

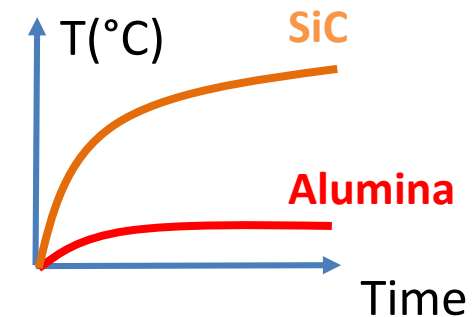
Dielectrics properties of alumina versus Silicon carbide @ 2,45 GHz

CERAMIC MATERIALS	FREQUENCY (GHz)	TEMP. (°C)	ϵ'	ϵ''	$\tan \delta$	DEPTH OF PENETRATION D_p (cm)	CRITICAL TEMP. (T_c)
Alumina ¹	2.45	+25	8.9	0.009	0.00010	1.2	800°C (3.89-3.61GHz) ⁵
Silicon carbide ²	2.45	+200	105	110	1.048	0.28	

1: Data provided by J. Gerling, Gerling Applied Engineering, Inc., Modesto, CA

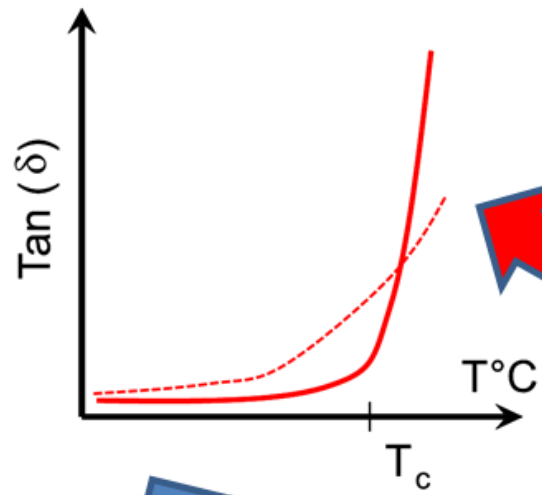
2: Leiser, K., "Microwave Behavior of Silicon Carbide/High Alumina Cement Composites," Doctoral dissertation, University of Florida (2001)

Al_2O_3 is a poor coupling
material
SiC highly absorbs MW



what is true at low temperature, is not necessarily true at high temperature

$\tan(\delta)$ increases with temperature (general trend)



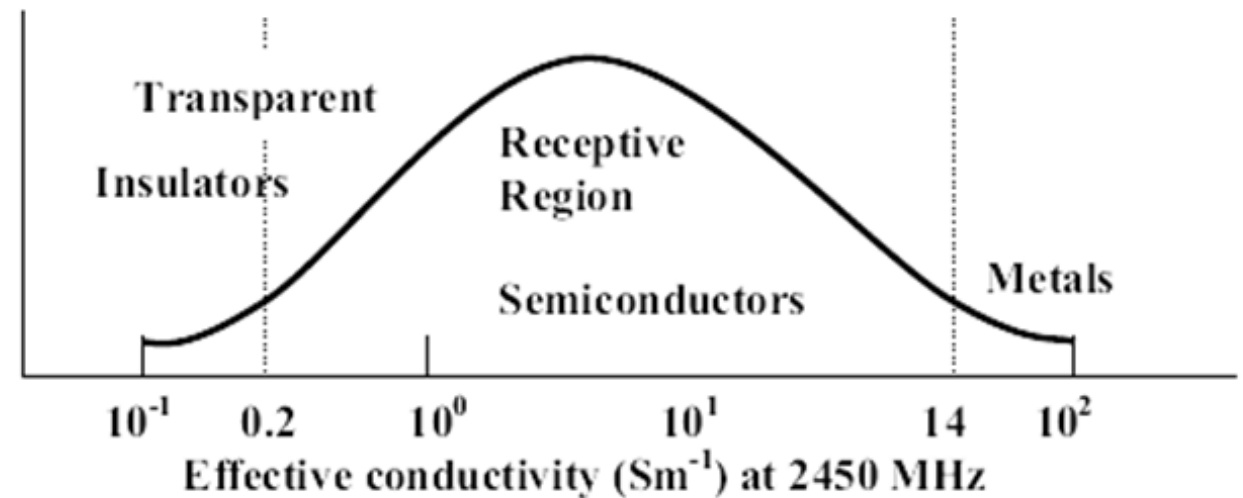
Strong coupling at
high temperature ($>800^\circ\text{C}$)

Transparent (or not coupling)
materials at RT

$$(P_d = 2\pi f \epsilon' \tan(\delta) E^2)$$

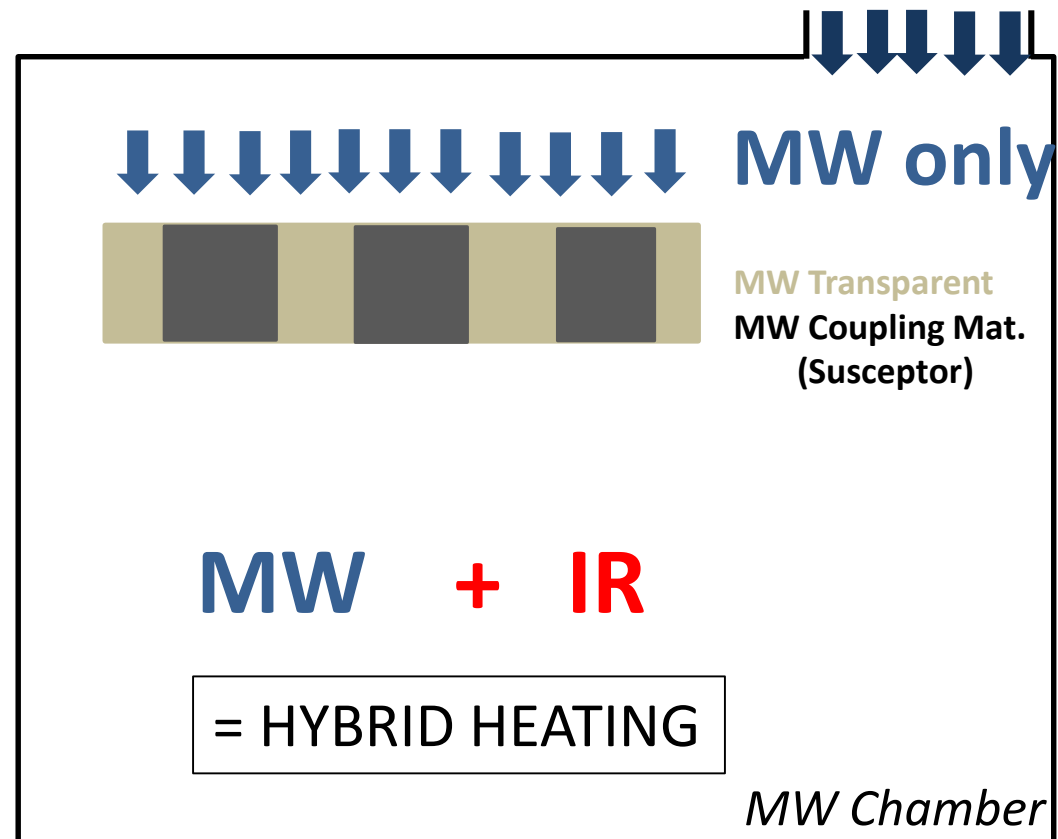
*Most transparent materials at
RT end up coupling (heating)
at high temperature*

Absorbed MW power
per unit of volume



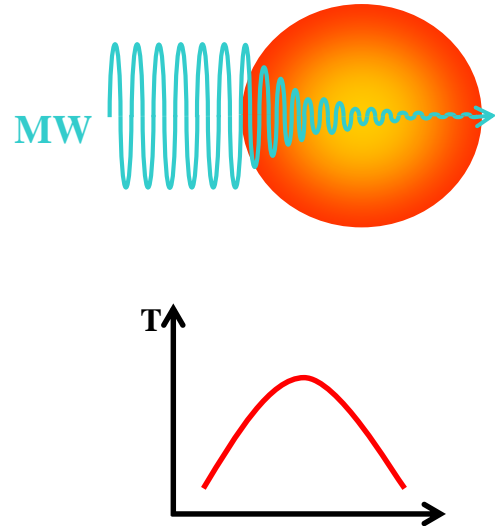
*It is not because only semi-conducting material easily couples with microwave that we cannot use MW for any kind of materials. The adopted solution is to use a **SUSCEPTOR** which provides **hybrid heating**.*

SUSCEPTOR: a material which strongly couples with MW converting the MW energy into thermal IR radiation (it becomes like a resistor in a CV furnace)



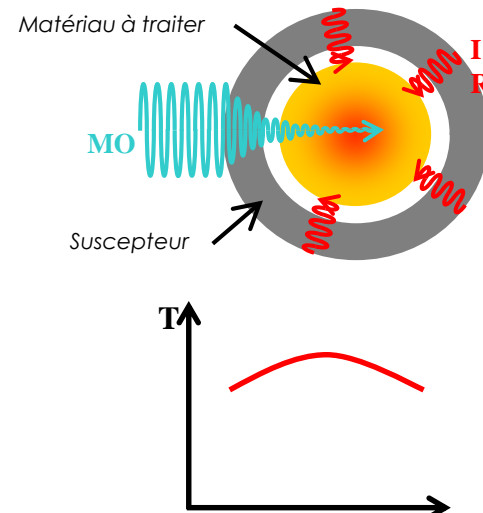
MW mater interactions: Different ways of using MW Energy

Direct Heating



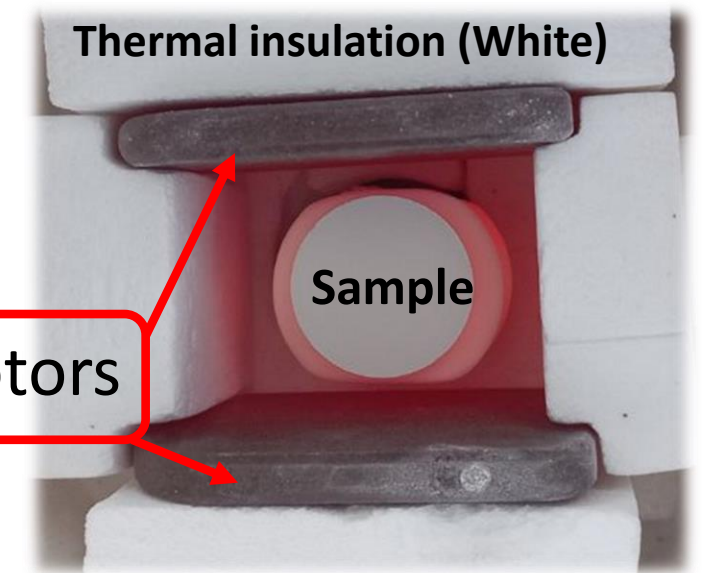
Direct heating can be advantageously used when selective heating process is researched (Welding, Fast synthesis, etc.)

Hybrid Heating



Hybrid Heating Is most often Priviledged when an « homogeneous » Temperature Distribution is needed

SiC susceptors



MW Sintering:
Some Technical
Details describing
How Energy is transferred from the
source to the sample

TYPICAL SINGLE-MODE MICROWAVE SYSTEM FOR MATERIALS PROCESSING

MW Source

**The Wave Guide and the
Tunning devices for impedance
matching**

**Applicator or
cavity, where the
sample is located**

Circulator for
protection

Tuner for
impedance
matching

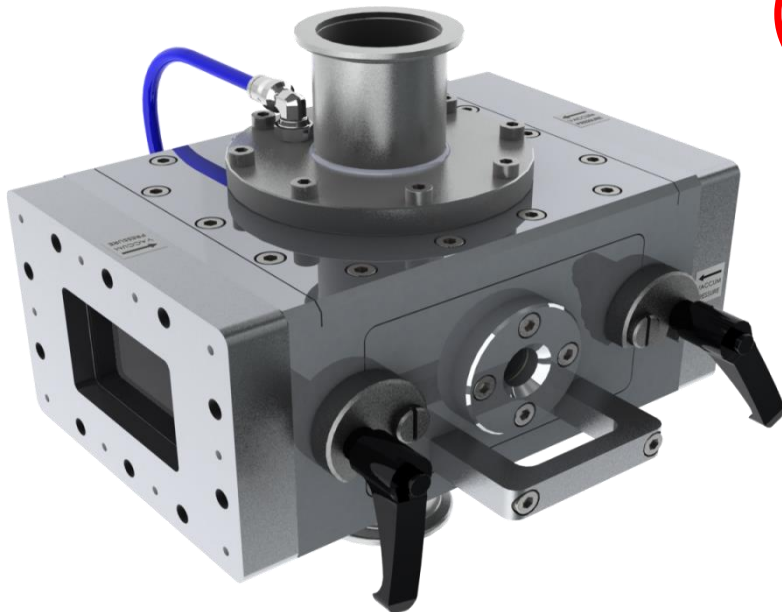
Short-circuit
piston
(resonance
conditions)

S. Marinel et al.
Advances in Materials Science and Engineering
Volume 2018, Article ID 4158969, 8 pages
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/4158969>

At the end of the line, an applicator or a microwave Cavity is used to convert the MW energy to thermal energy into the material ...

There are two types of cavity :

(i) resonant cavity



(ii) multimode cavity (chamber)



Single-mode/resonant cavity:

Small Volume $\propto f^{-1}$

E, H fields are amplified
(Standing Waves are formed)

Low Power needed – high efficiency

(E, H) (x,y,z,t) distribution known

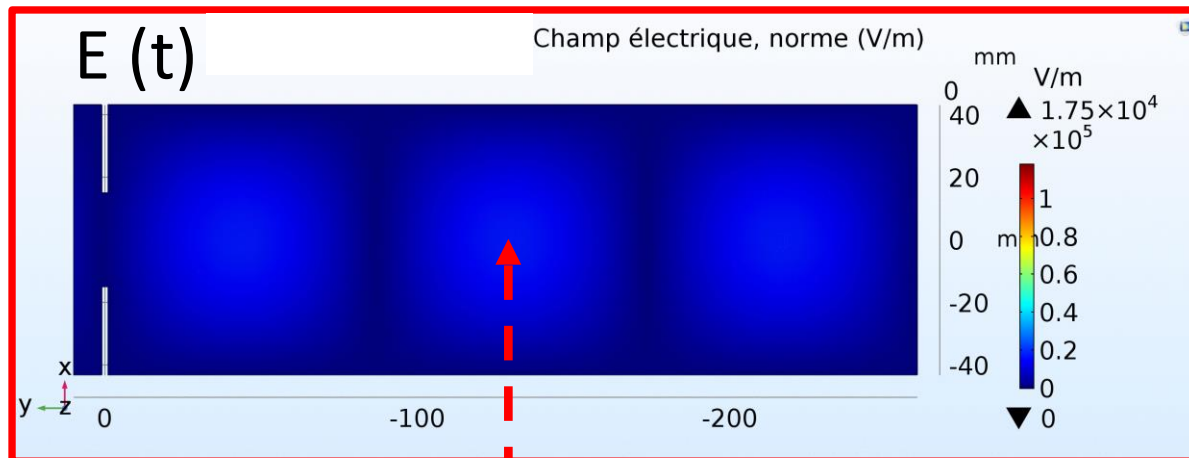
Multi-mode Cavity

Larger Volume

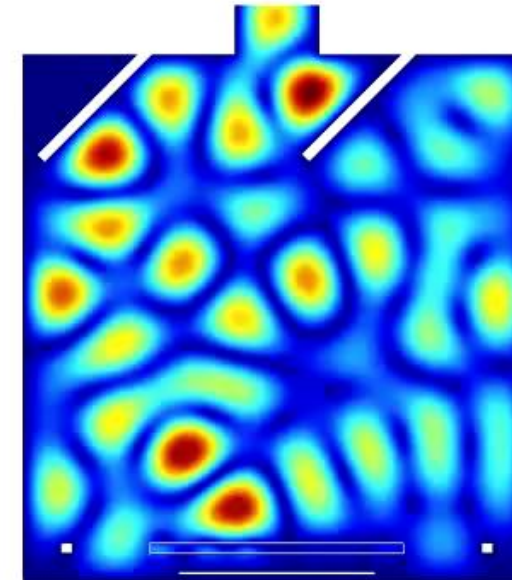
Stirrer is often used (mixing waves)

Higher MW Power is needed

(E, H) (x,y,z,t) distribution is averaged.

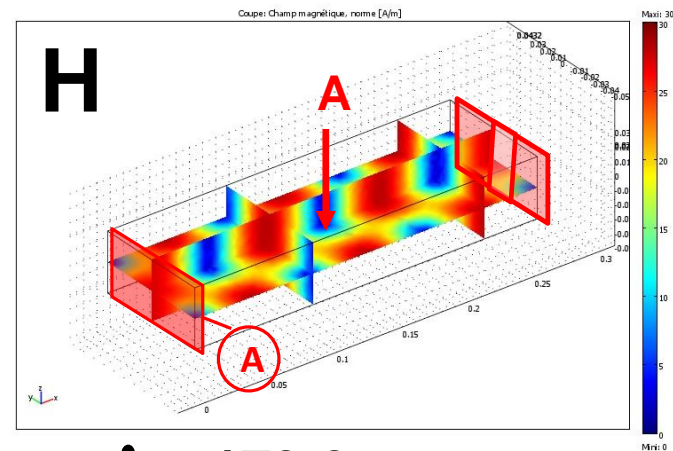
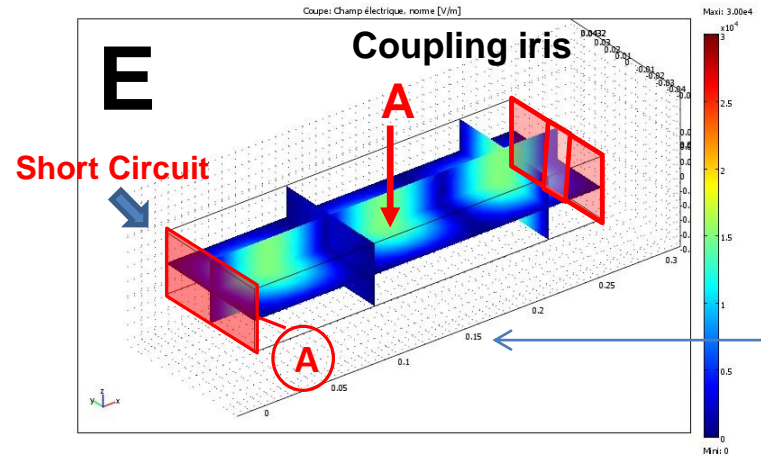
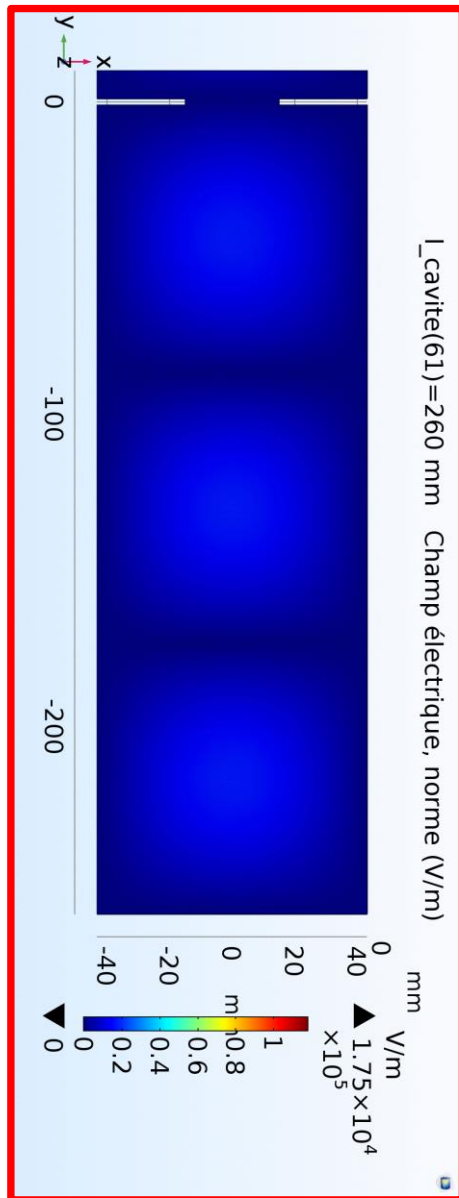


Maximums of the E (V/m) at fixed position



Maximums of the E (V/m) are moving

In a Single- mode Cavity : 'We have stationnary wave'

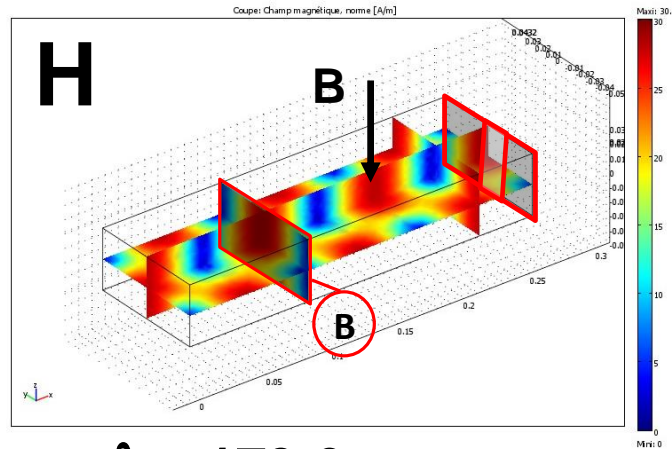
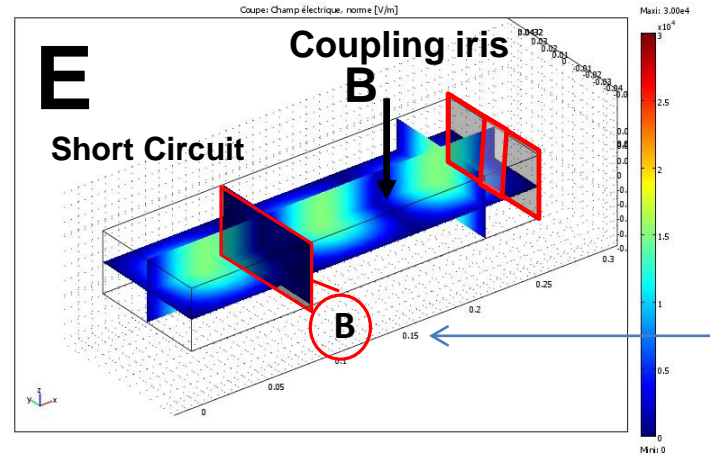
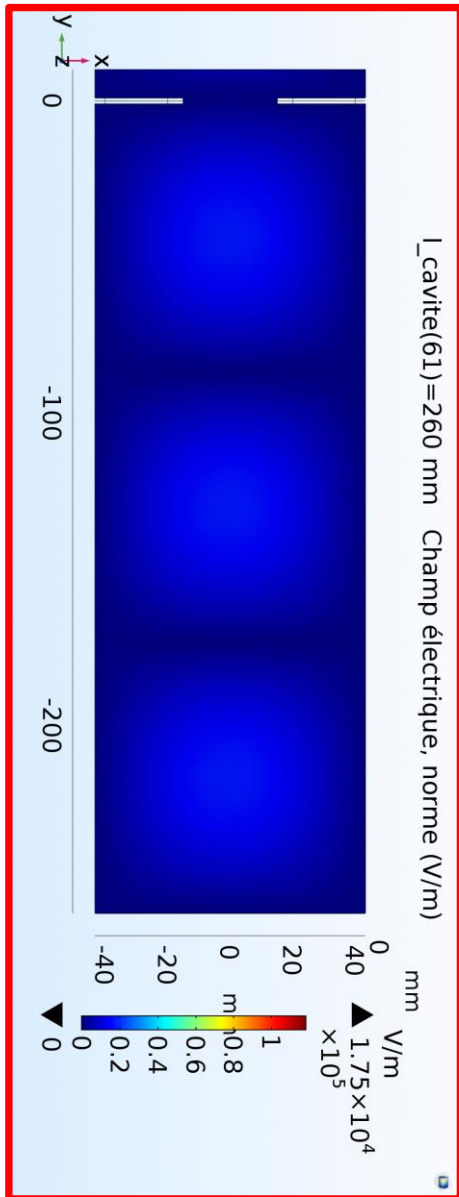


$$\lambda_g = 173,6 \text{ mm}$$

Short Circuit in A position
TE₁₀₃: E field, $L = 1,5 \lambda_g$

Sample located in a max. of E
E field mode

In a Single- mode Cavity : we have stationnary waves



$\lambda_g = 173,6 \text{ mm}$

Short Circuit in B position

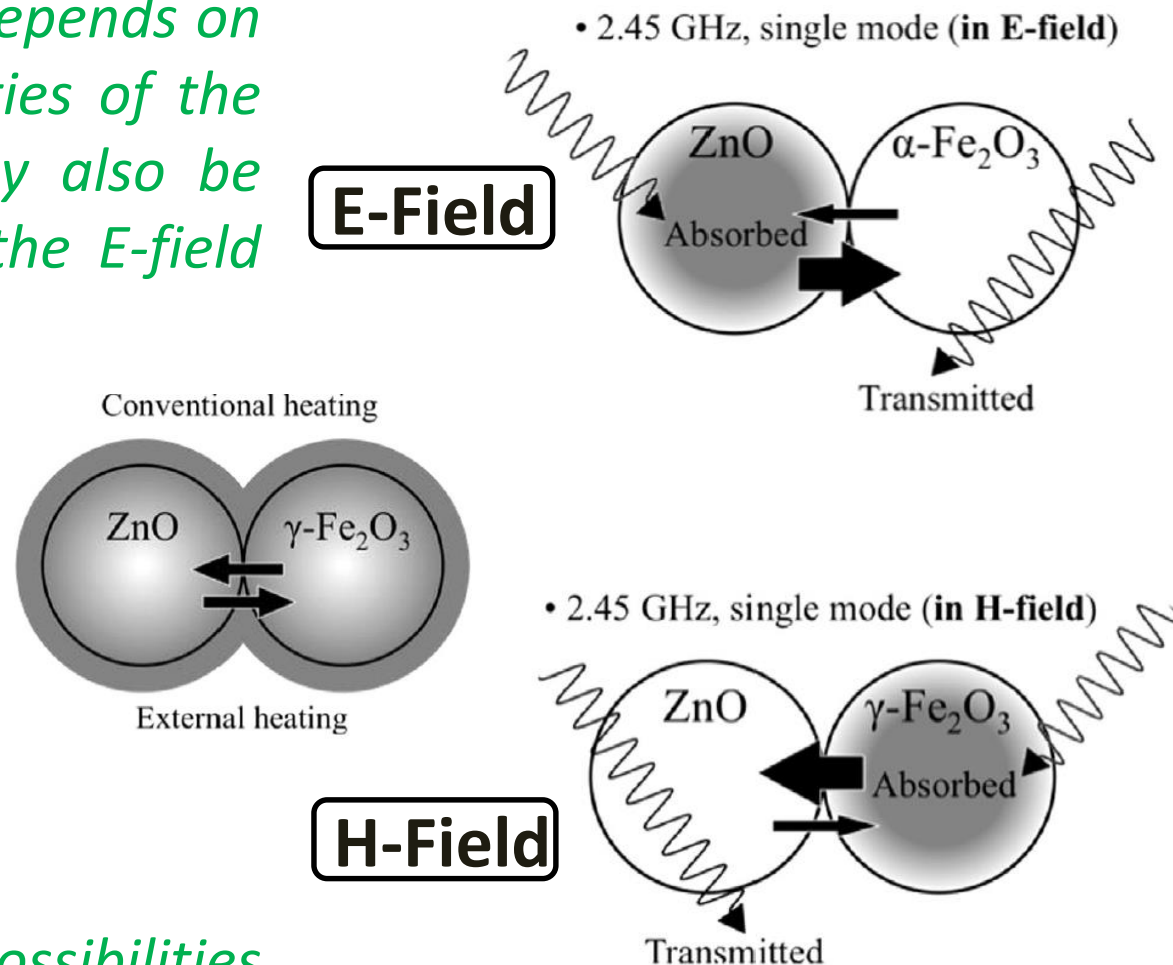
TE102: H field, $L=1 \lambda_g$

Sample located in a max. of H
H field mode

That is why some people say we
are working in « **pure** » **E field**
(for dielectrics)

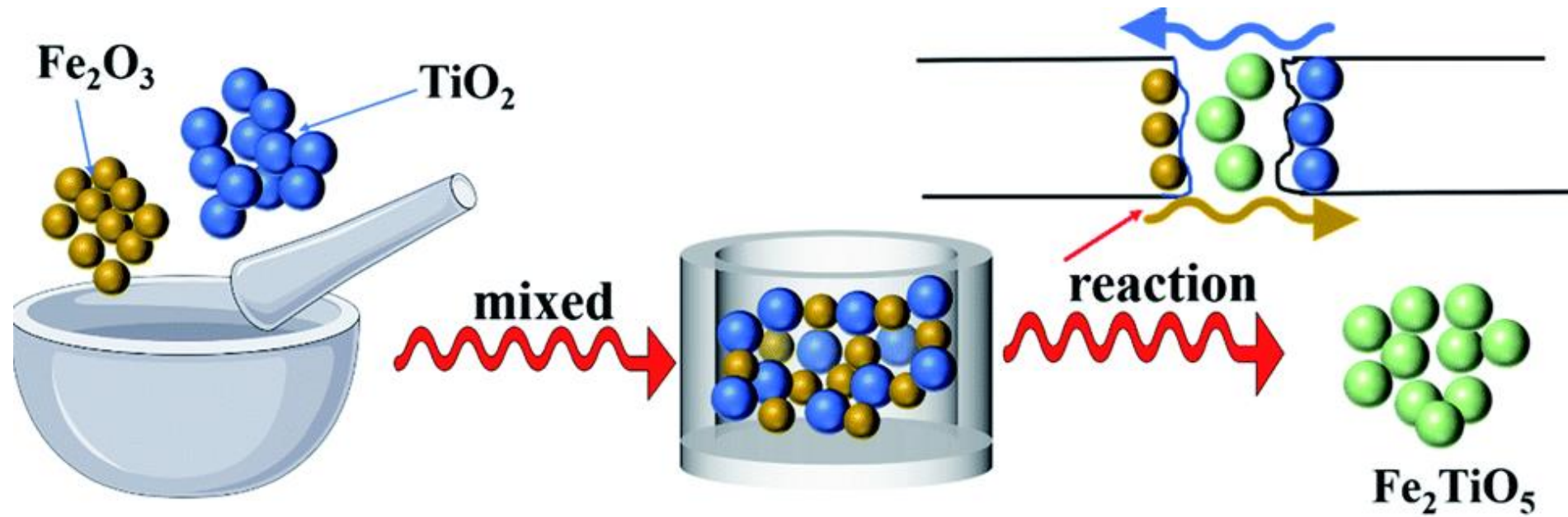
Or in « **pure** » **H field** (for semi-
conductors for instance)

Microwave heating depends on the electrical properties of the materials, but it may also be different if you use the E-field or the H-field



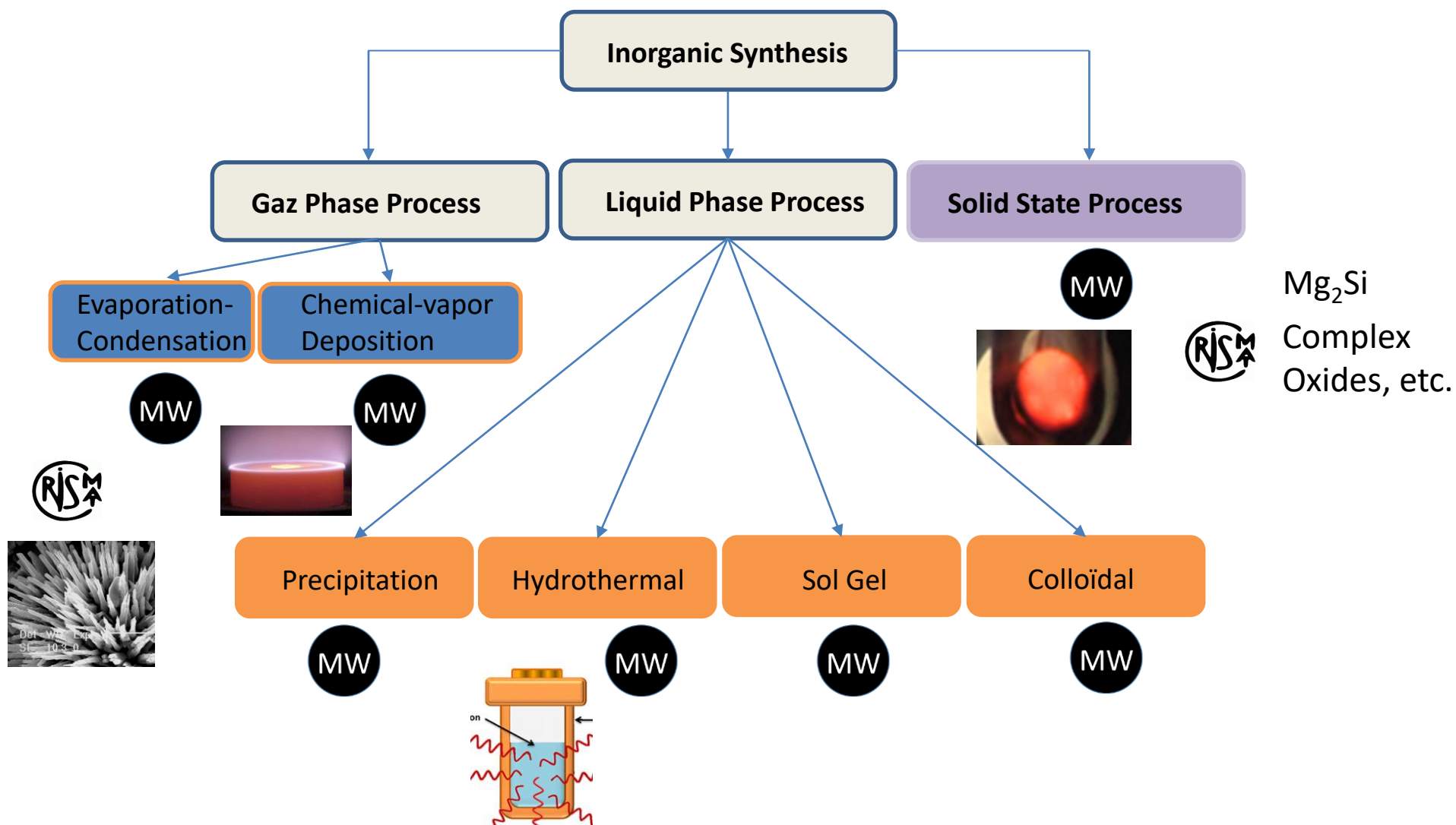
it gives you many possibilities to heat materials - This way of heating can be very versatile

Nagao et al.



II- A QUICK VIEW OF
MICROWAVE ASSISTED
INORGANIC SYNTHESIS and
SINTERING

Different methods to get inorganic compounds: actually MW technology can be found in most of them :



EXAMPLE 1

Flower-like shape ZnO
made by sublimation-
recrystallisation



- Similar Nanostructures were obtained by precipitation techniques (C. Wu *et al.* MRB (2007), *etc.*)

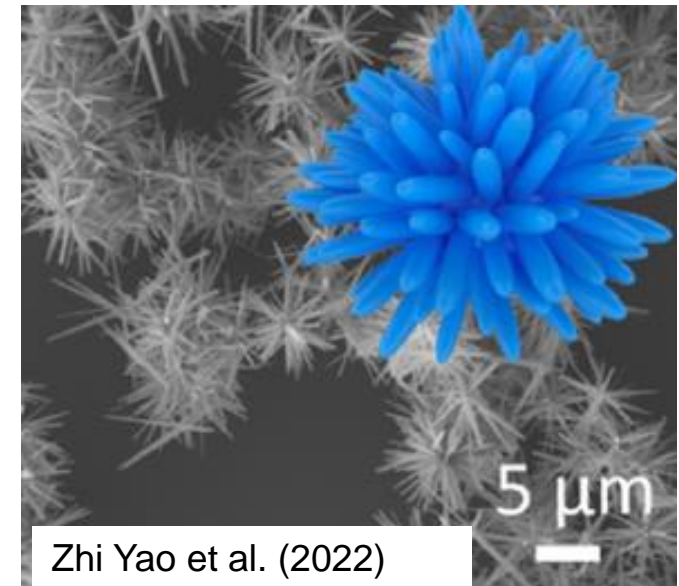
- MW fast heating in vacuum: Simple and fast process !

Some interesting applications:

* flower-like ZnO superstructures embedded in the PVA-co-PE nanofiber membrane, to prepare air-filter.

* flower-like ZnO for luminescence properties

F. Koao *et al.* [Mat. Sci. Semicond. Proc. 27](#), 2014. *etc.*

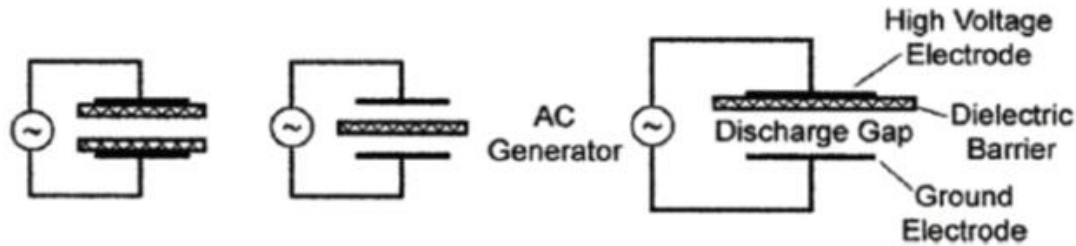


EXAMPLE 2

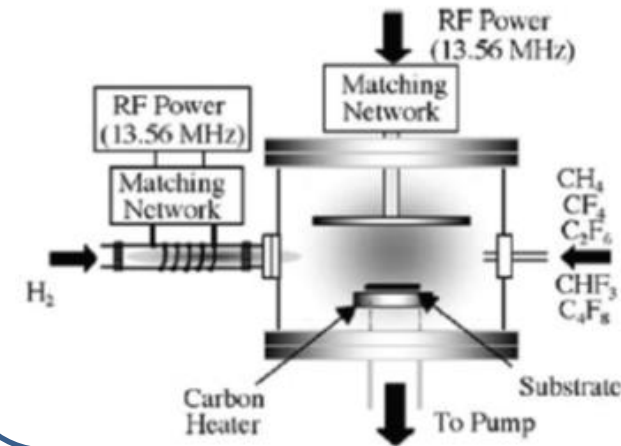
**MICROWAVE PLASMA
ENHANCED CVD:
*Growth of synthetic
diamonds***

Different ways of producing PLASMA

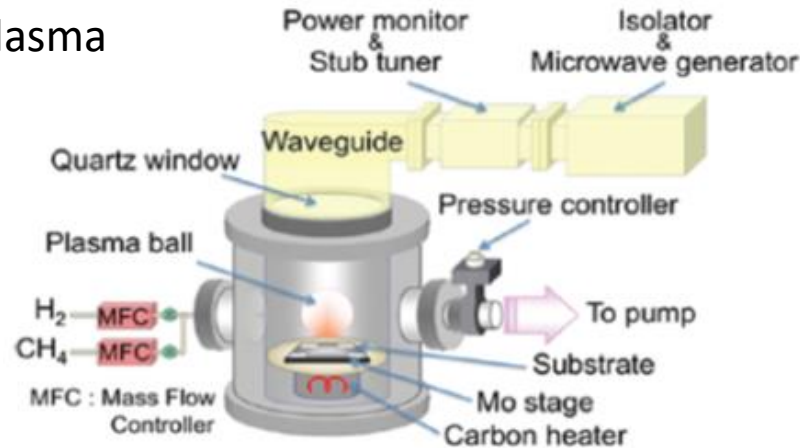
Dielectric discharge barrier



RF plasma



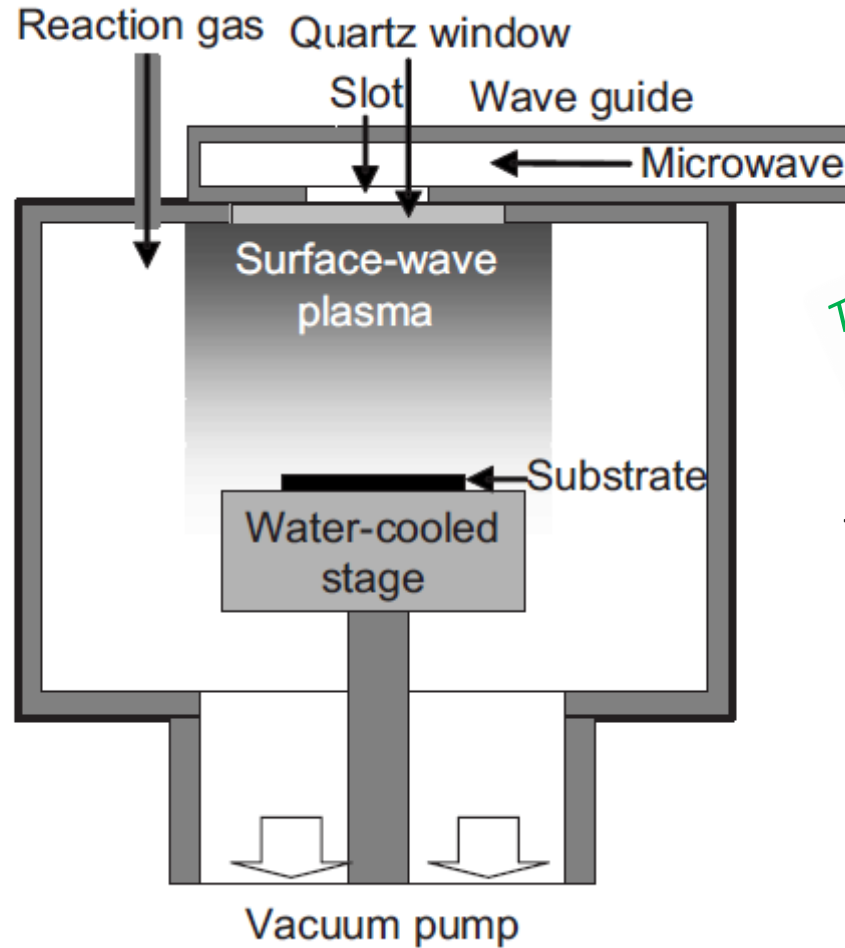
MW plasma



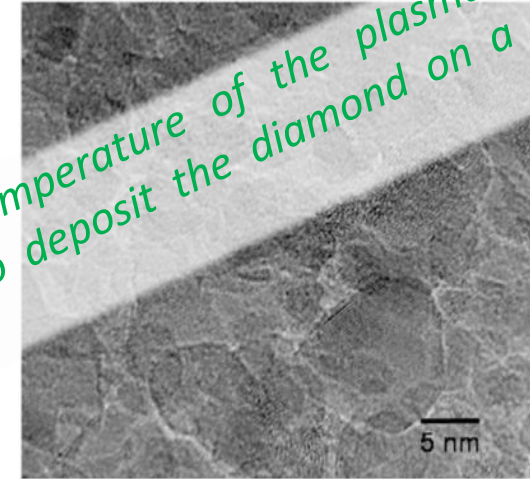
Advantages of MW PLASMA:

- Usually called « non thermal plasma » thanks to the low plasma temp. (contrarywise to arc plasma)
- No electrodes

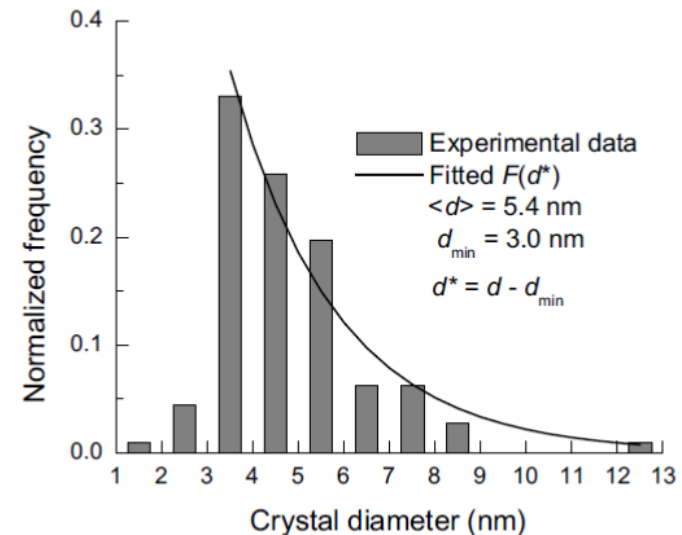
Example of Nanocrystalline diamond film growth on plastic substrates at temperatures below 100 °C from low-temperature plasma



The low temperature of the plasma makes possible to deposit the diamond on a plastic substrate



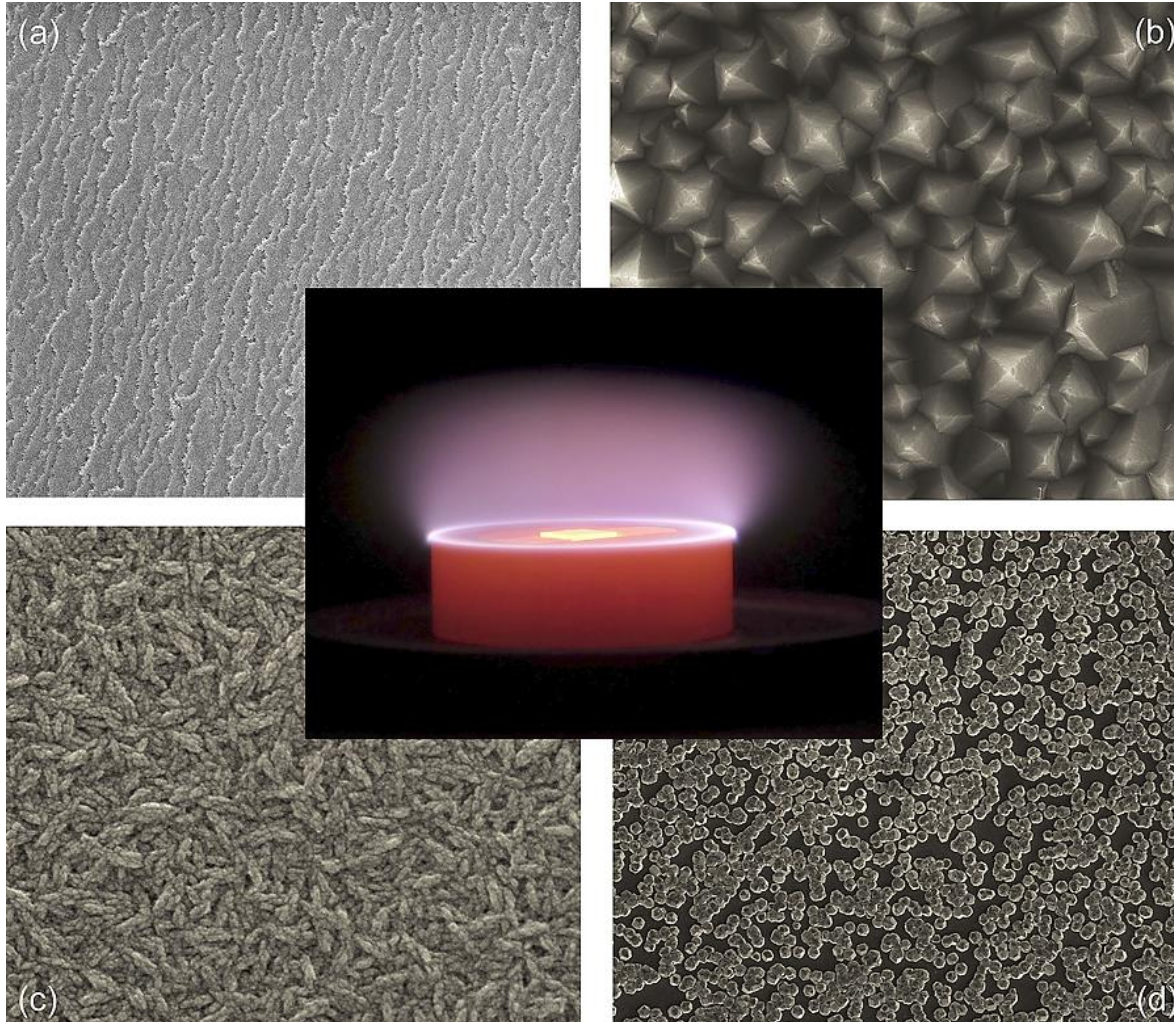
TEM observation of the NCD deposited On plastic and the granulometric distribution



Kazuo Tsugawa et al.

PHYSICAL REVIEW B **82**, 125460 (2010)

<http://sekidiamond.com/microwave-plasma-cvd-systems/>



Huge Market in which
MW plasma CVD process
grows over the high temp.
Hig pressure process

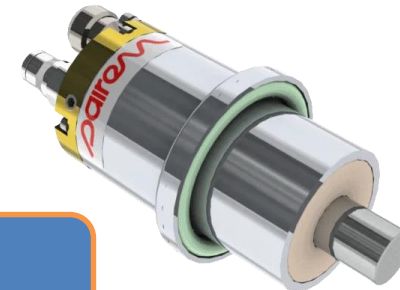
Synthetic diamond!

Jewelry
Electronics,
Mining
Machining
Construction etc .

Different type of nano cristalline diamond (depending on
the experimental conditions)

Courtesy MRS Bulletin, Vol 39, June 2014

Chemical
Vapor Condensation



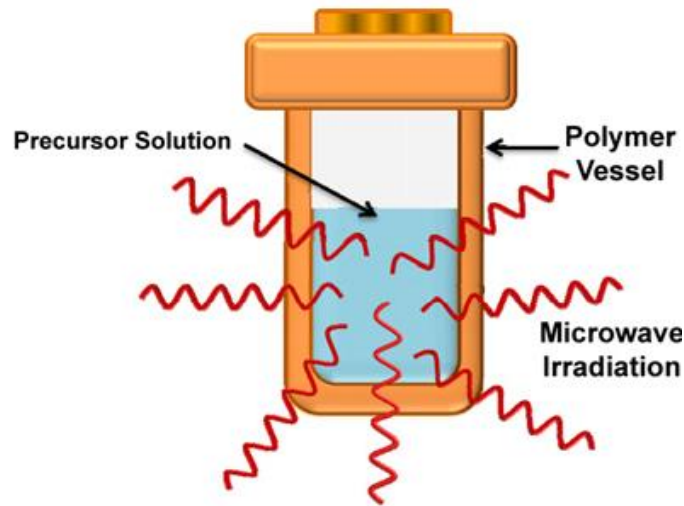
EXAMPLE 3

MICROWAVE HYDROTHERMAL PROCESS

Liquid Phase Method
Ex. hydrothermal

The hydrothermal synthesis process is a method for growing single crystals from an aqueous solution in an autoclave (a thick-walled steel vessel) at high temperature (400 deg. C) and pressure.

Royal society definition



Microwave hydrothermal process was first developed by Komarneni et al In the mid 90s. @ PennState University. USA

Thanks to the volumetric microwave heating, the solvent is rapidly and uniformly heated by microwaves.

This efficient heating way is beneficial for getting

- Finer grain size with a narrow granulometric distribution

- Fast process

- Many types of materials can be produced at 200 °C



There are many commercial MW autoclaves available in the market

From Milestone, CEM, Biotage, MARS, Anton Paar , etc...

Conventional and Microwave Hydrothermal Synthesis and Application of Functional Materials: A Review

Guijun Yang and Soo-Jin Park *Materials* 2019, 12, 1177; doi:10.3390/ma12071177

Comparison: MW versus CV Hydrothermal process

CV: Zirconia - 24 hours – 150 °C – 20-50 nm

MW: Zirconia - 30 min. 150 °C – 10-20 nm

CV: TiO₂ - >8 hours – 195°C – 50 /100 nm

MW: TiO₂ - 10 min. – 195°C – 10 nm

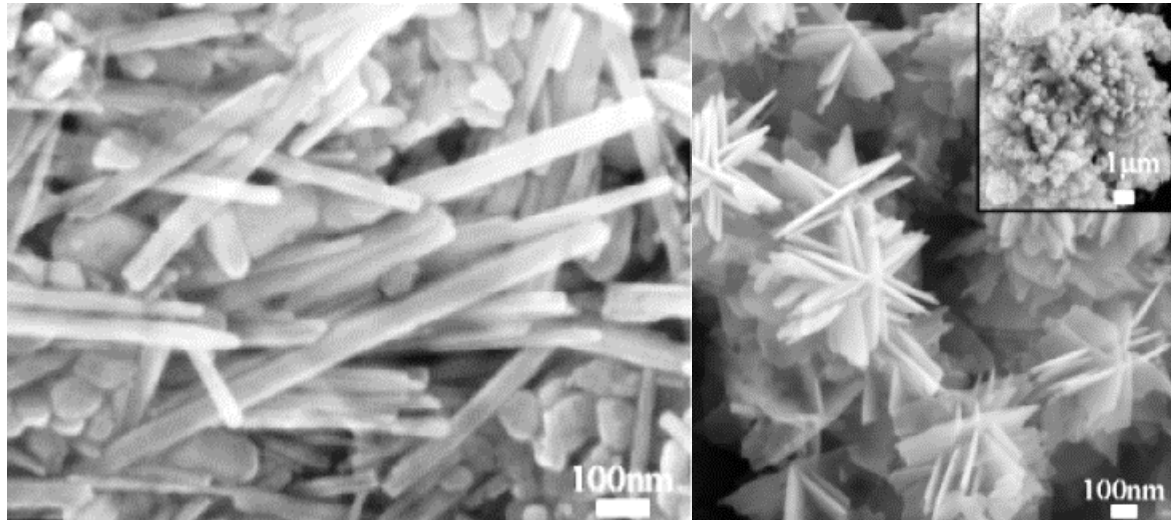
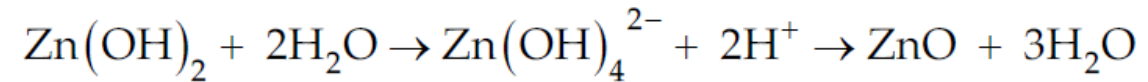
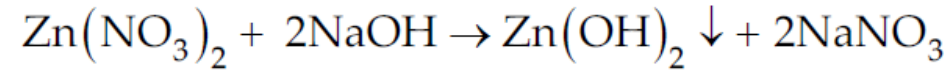
Table 2. Comparison of the morphology, particle size, and reaction conditions using the hydrothermal and microwave hydrothermal methods.

Hydrothermal Method						Microwave Hydrothermal Method				
	Morphology	Raw Materials	Conditions	Size	Ref.	Morphology	Raw Materials	Conditions	Size	Ref.
ZrO ₂	Spherical	ZrOCl ₂ ·8H ₂ O, NH ₄ OH, NaOH	150 °C, 24 h	20–30 nm	[87]	Monoclinic	ZrOCl ₂ ·8H ₂ O, NaOH	200 °C, 2 h, 2.45 GHz	10–20 nm	[88]
	Rod	ZrOCl ₂ ·8H ₂ O, NH ₄ OH, NaOH	200 °C, 24 h	50 nm × (200–400) nm	[87]	Tetragonal- monoclinic	ZrOCl ₄ , NaOH	150–220 °C, 30 min	~20 nm	[89]
			250 °C, 24 h	80 nm × (200–500) nm						
Al ₂ O ₃	Hollow	Al(NO ₃) ₃ ·9H ₂ O, glucose	160 °C, 3–8 h	5.4–6.9 μm	[64]	Hollow	KAl(SO ₄) ₂ ·12H ₂ O, CO(NH ₂) ₂ Surfactant Brij 56,	180 °C, 40 min, 300 W	0.8–1.2 μm	[90]
	Rod	Al(NO ₃) ₃ ·9H ₂ O, N ₂ H ₄ ·H ₂ O	200 °C, 12 h	8 nm × (220–532) nm	[65]	Fiber	H ₂ SO ₄ , Aluminum sec-butoxide	80 °C, 30 min, 500 W	~50 nm	[91]
MnO ₂	Belt	Mn ₂ O ₃ , NaOH	170 °C, 12 h	5–15 nm	[92]	Flower Nanosheet Fiber	KMnO ₄ , HCl	100 °C, 25 min	200–400 nm	[94]
								140 °C, 25 min	10 nm	
	Urchin Urchin Nanowire	MnSO ₄ , (NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈	80 °C, 4 h 110 °C, 4 h 140 °C, 4 h	2–3 μm 30–40 μm ultrathin	[83]	Nanosphere	KMnO ₄ , MnSO ₄ ·H ₂ O	180 °C, 25 min	2–6 μm	[95]
								75 °C, 30 min	70–90 nm	
TiO ₂	Nanotube	TiO ₂ , NaOH	150 °C, 48 h	8.1–27.3 nm	[96]	Nanowire	TiO ₂ , NaOH	210 °C, 2 h, 350 W	80–150 nm	[96]
	Acicular	TiOCl ₂	195 °C, >8 h	100 nm × 50 nm	[97]	Spherical	TiOCl ₂	195 °C, >30 min, 2.45 GHz	10 nm	[97]

Microwave Hydrothermal and Solvothermal Processing of Materials and Compounds

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/45626> (2012) Boris I. Kharisov Et al.

Exemple of ZnO nanorods/flowers



Nano-rods and flower-like
Shape ZnO crystal obtained
by
MW hydrothermal process
From Zinc nitrate in basic
medium

Binary metallic oxides: ZnO, CuO, PdO, CoO, MnO, TiO₂, CeO₂, SnO₂, HfO₂, ZrO₂, Nd₂O₃, In₂O₃, Tl₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, Fe₃O₄, and Mn₃O₄.^{3,15,25-29} Complex oxides such as perovskites and spinels: KNbO₃, ATiO₃ (A = Ba, Pb), NaTaO₃, BiFeO₃,^{15,35-38} and ZnM₂O₄ (M = Al, Ga) and AFe₂O₄ (A = Zn, Ni, Mn, Co).^{39,40}

Oxyhydroxides

Nanoporous materials such as zeolites

SOLID STATE ROUTE
(*Microwave Synthesis
and Sintering*)

Energy / high Temperature / solid state diffusion



- High temperature is required (>800°C)
- Usually it takes time as reaction is controlled by atomic diffusion, which is a thermally activated process


MW often provides an efficient and rapid way to get compounds from solid-state reaction

- Three examples:
- Synthesis of the intermetallic Mg_2Si
 - Synthesis of the complexe oxide $\text{CaCu}_3\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{12}$
 - Microwave sintering of oxides (process controle and results)

✓ Self-Propagation synthesis of intermetallic compounds by microwave ignition

Fast synthesis of nanocrystalline Mg_2Si by microwave heating: a new route to nano-structured thermoelectric materials, E. Savary et al. Dalton Transactions (2010)

MICROWAVE SYNTHESIS of NANO-STRUCTURED Mg_2Si




Expected reaction:

$$2\text{Mg} + \text{Si} \rightleftharpoons \text{Mg}_2\text{Si}$$

Energy

Solid state synthesis



➤ The strategy



1. High energy ball-milling (mechanical alloying) between $2\text{Mg} + \text{Si}$

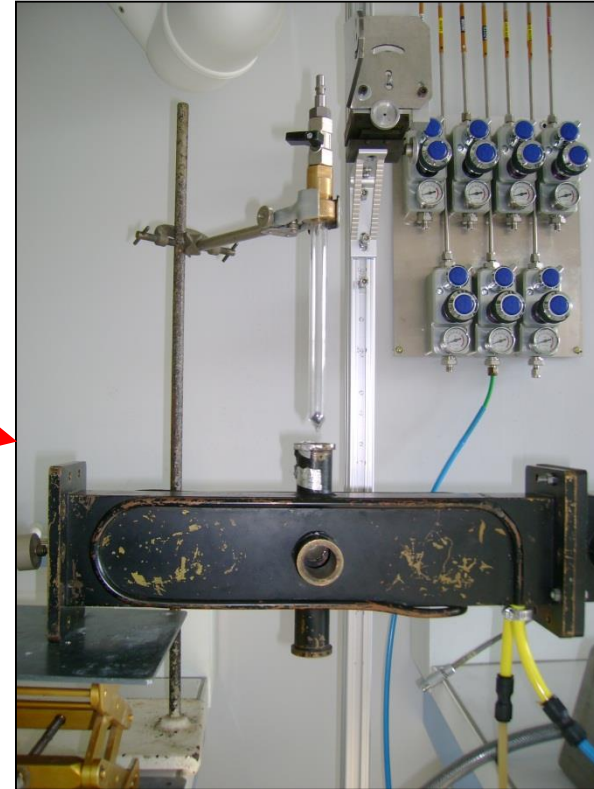
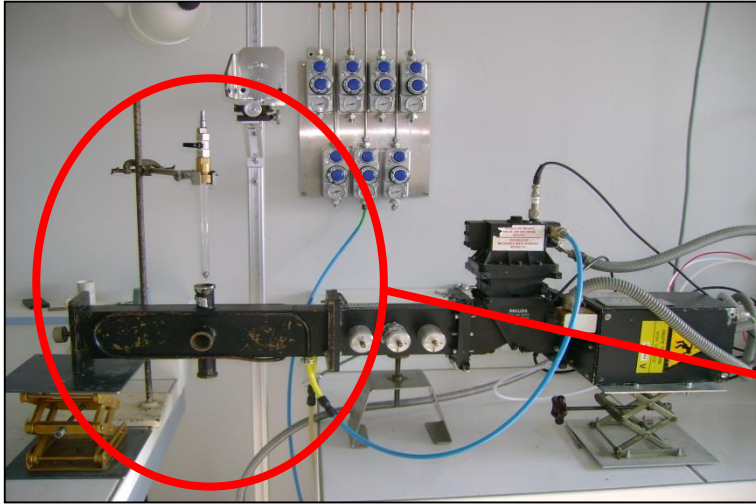
2. Fast MW heating of the mixture

Question : How do Mg and Si react to MW ?



Solid state synthesis

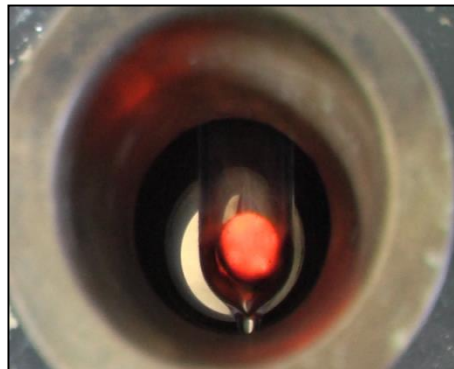
- Behavior of the precursors 'Silicon and Magnesium' under MW:



In H field



Mg sample into a
sealed tube

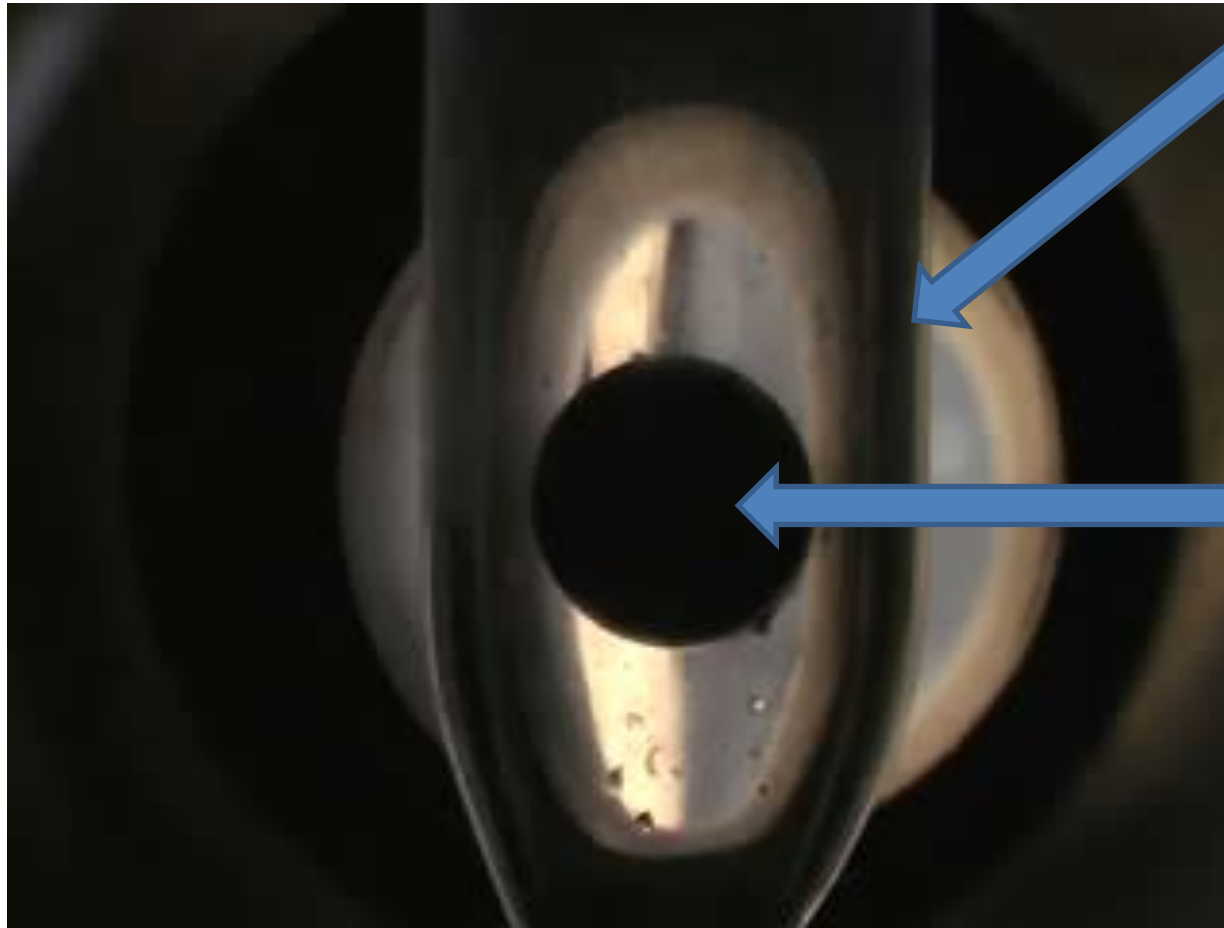


Si heats by
itself

$$\sigma(\text{Mg}) \approx 10^6 \text{ S.cm}^{-1}$$

$$\sigma(\text{Si}) \approx 0,5-10 \text{ S.cm}^{-1}$$

Silicon couples well
Magnesium (too conductive) does not



Sealed quartz
Tube (in vacuum)

Pressed
2Mg+Si Powder

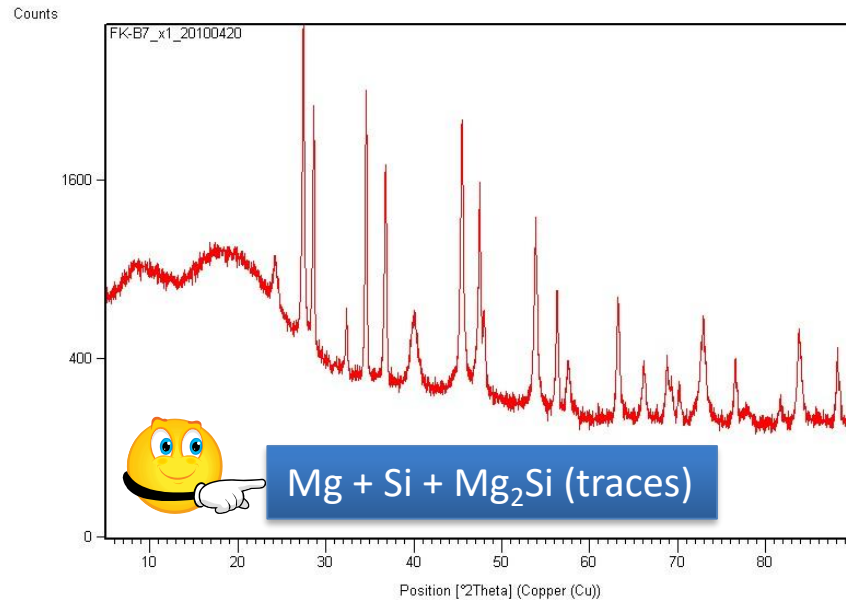


MW Power ~ 100 Watts

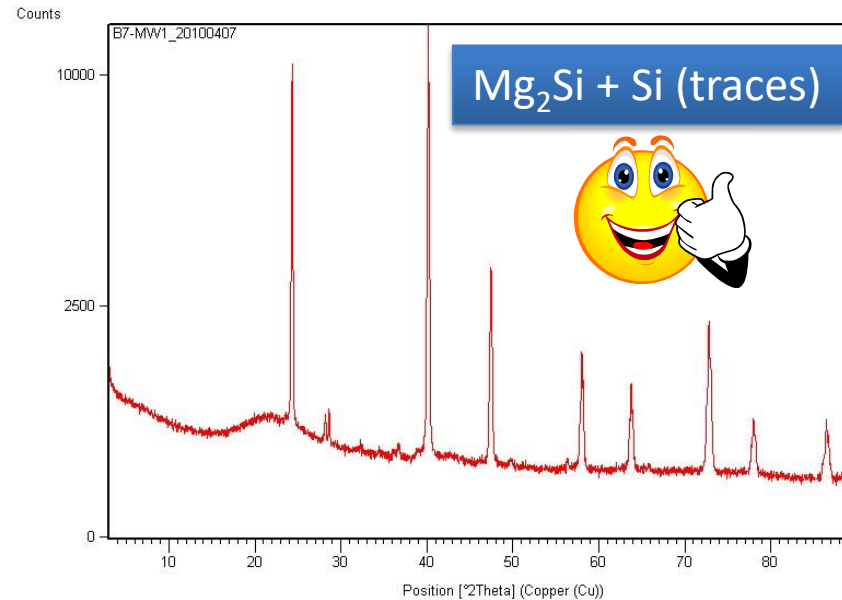
This Power is switched off when sample starts glowing.

- XRD Diffraction patterns before and after the MW irradiation
(≈ 20 seconds)

XRD of the mixture (prepared by ball milling)



After MW irradiation



The 'Fast Synthesis' Strategy works well !

Savary et al., Fast Synthesis of Nanocrystalline Mg_2Si by Microwave Heating: A new Route to Nano-Structured Thermoelectric Materials

2010, Dalton Transactions 39(45):11074-80



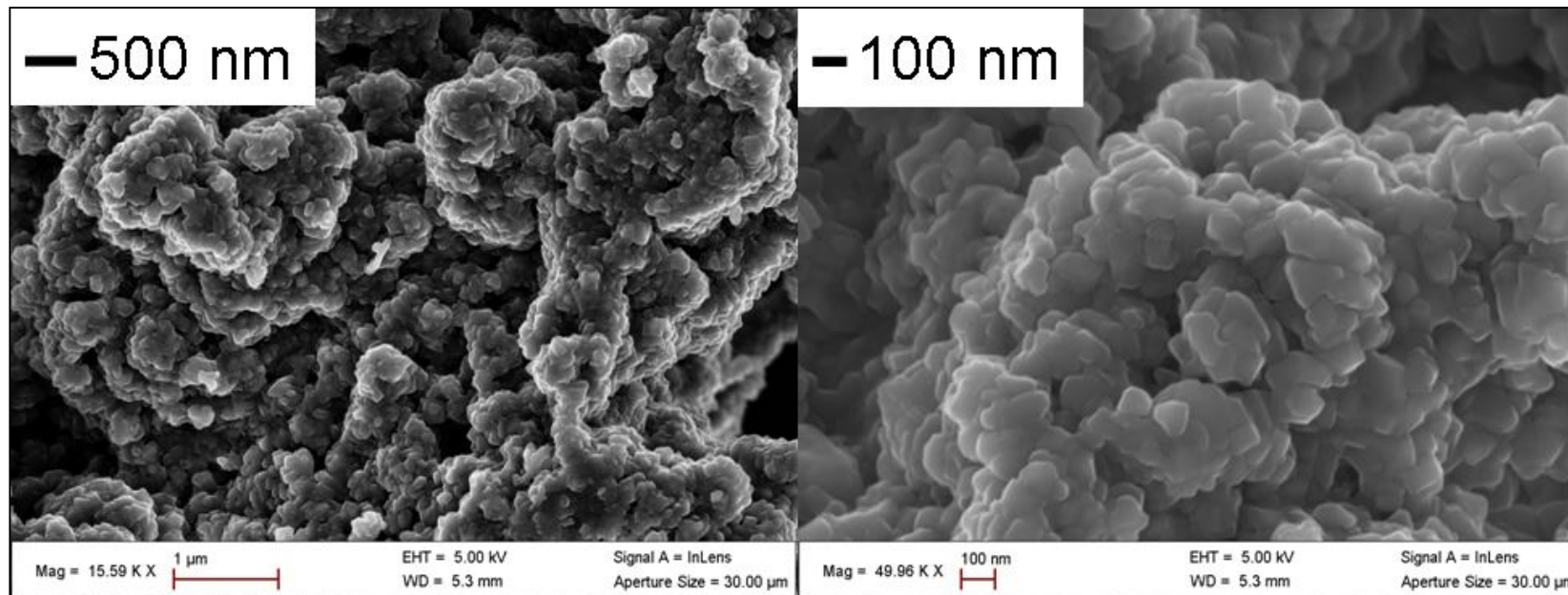
Synthesis of Mg_2Si Nano-grains by MW heating

➤ TOWARDS Nano-structuration

Grinding duration : 4x30 min ;

Microwave Incident power : 175W ;

Irradiation time after coupling = 2 seconds



Nano-structured Mg_2Si grains

Savary et al., Fast Synthesis of Nanocrystalline Mg_2Si by Microwave Heating: A new Route to Nano-Structured Thermoelectric Materials

2010, Dalton Transactions 39(45):11074-80

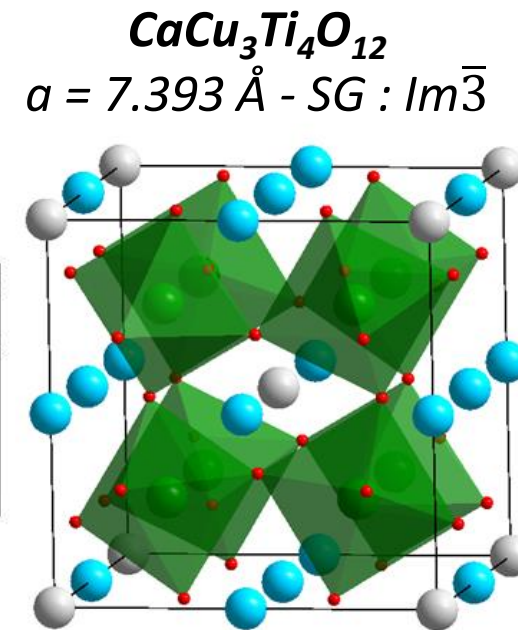
MICROWAVE SYNTHESIS (SS route) of $\text{CaCu}_3\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{12}$



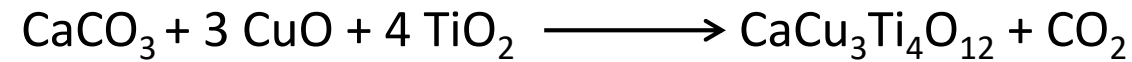
- ✓ First synthesis in 1967 in CAEN at CRISMAT Laboratory By Deschanvres *et al.* (1)
- ✓ Subramanian et al. first reported original properties in 2000 (2)

- * High dielectric constant $\epsilon_r > 10^5$ (at room T°, 1 kHz)
- * High dielectric loss $\tan \delta \simeq 0,1$

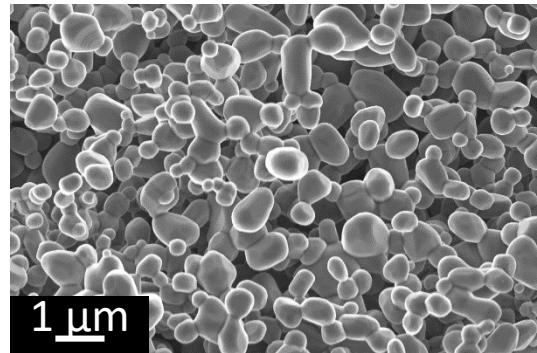
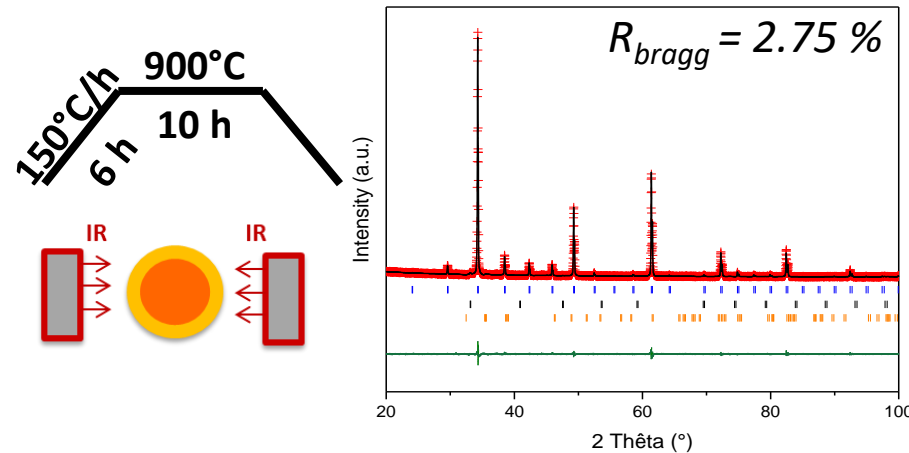
- (1) Deschanvres A, Raveau B, Tollemer F (1967) Substitution of copper for a bivalent metal in titanates of perovskite type. Bulletin de la Societe Chimique de France 11:4077
- (2) M.A. Subramanian et al. Journal of Solid State Chemistry 151 (2000)



Solid state synthesis

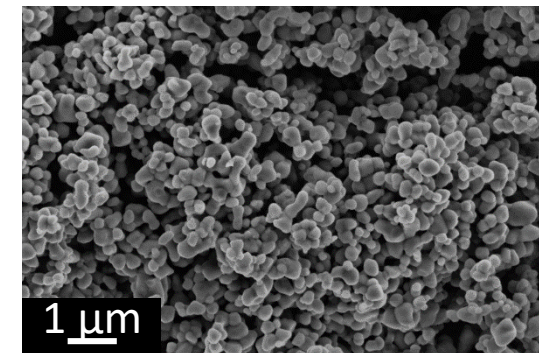
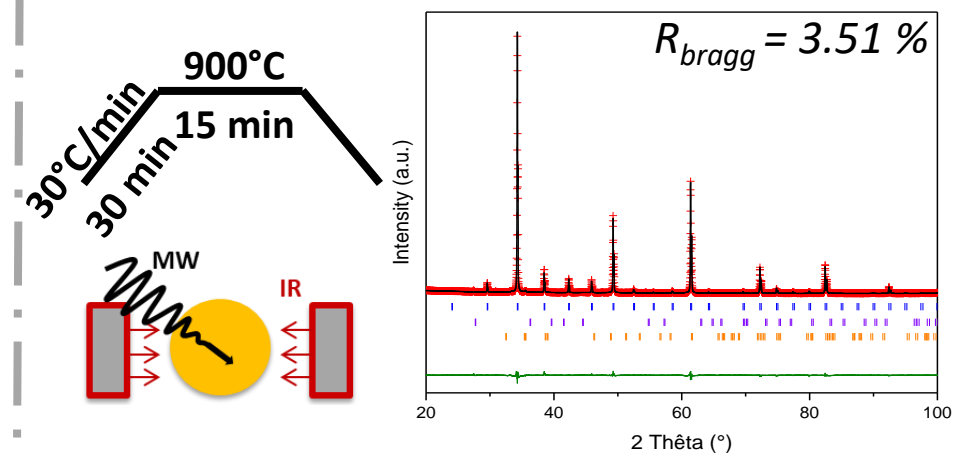


Conventional heating

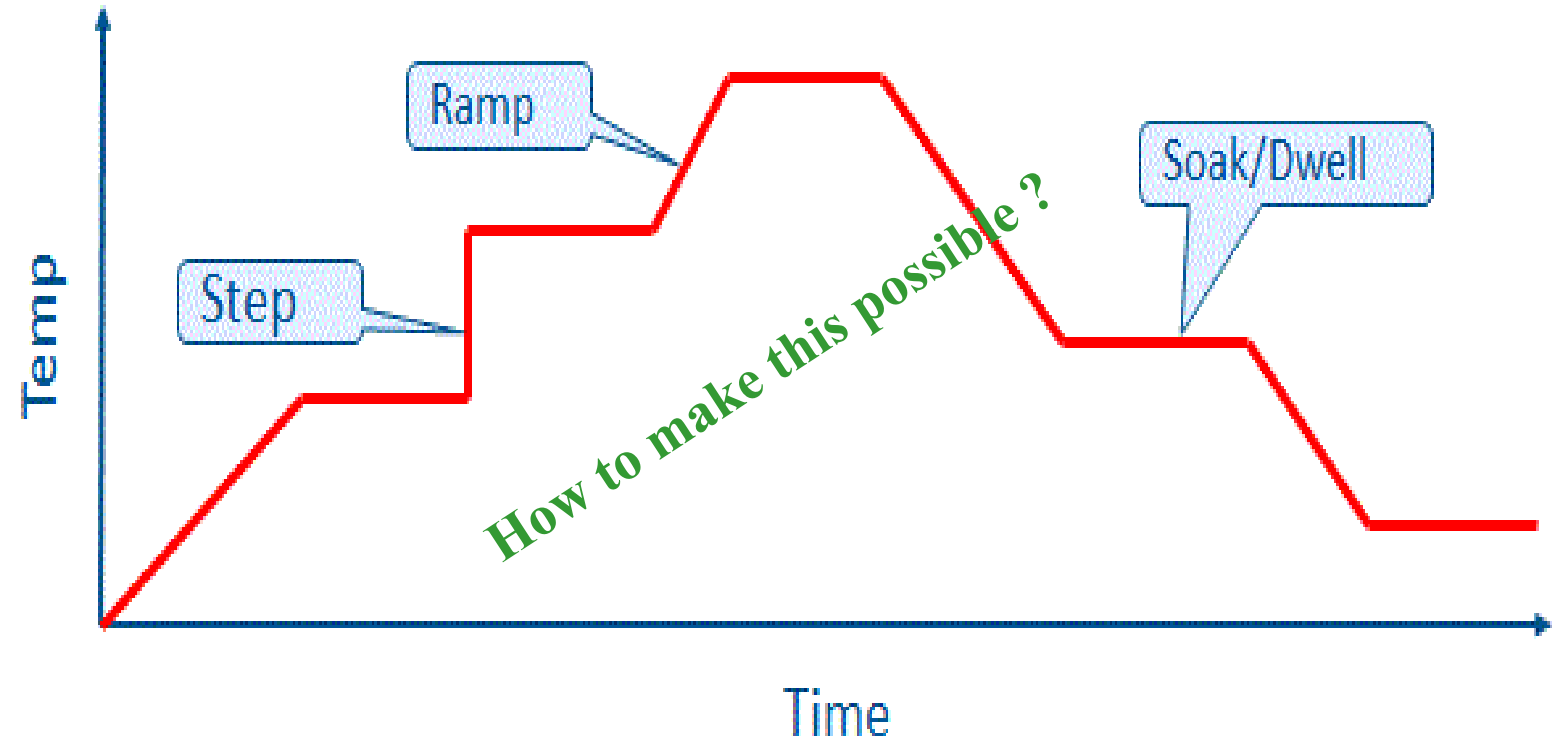


Pure CCTO after 3 calcinations (≈72h)
Grain size (700nm-1μm)

Hybrid microwave heating



✓ Pure CCTO after 4 calcinations (≈4h)
✓ Grain size (300-500nm)



Process control during high temperature microwave sintering of materials

Development of a fully automatized 915 MHz single-mode applicator for High Temperature Processing

Why 915 MHz ? (1) Larger penetration depth than in 2.45 GHz

For example: $\epsilon^*=5-0,5j$
(porous alumina at HT)

Dp [2.45Hz] ~ 8 cm

Dp [915 MHz] ~ 23 cm

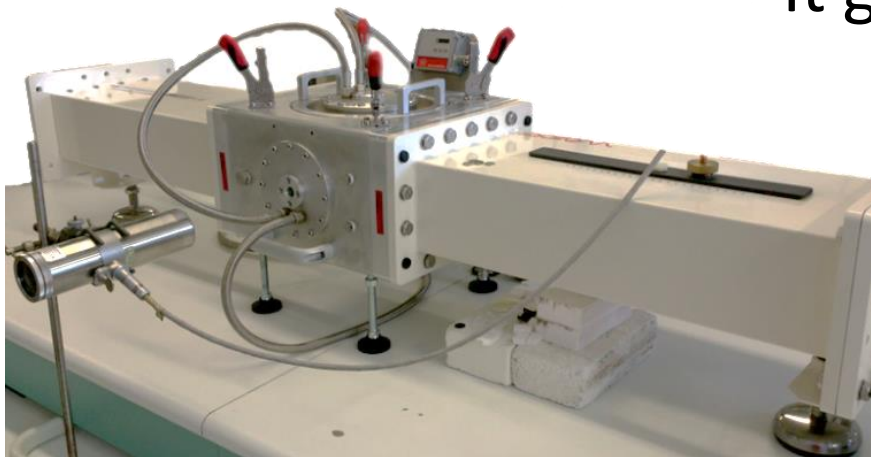
More homogeneous temp. distribution expected

(2) Larger useful volume than in 2.45 GHz

It goes from 0,35 liter [2.45 GHz] to 9 liter [915 MHz]

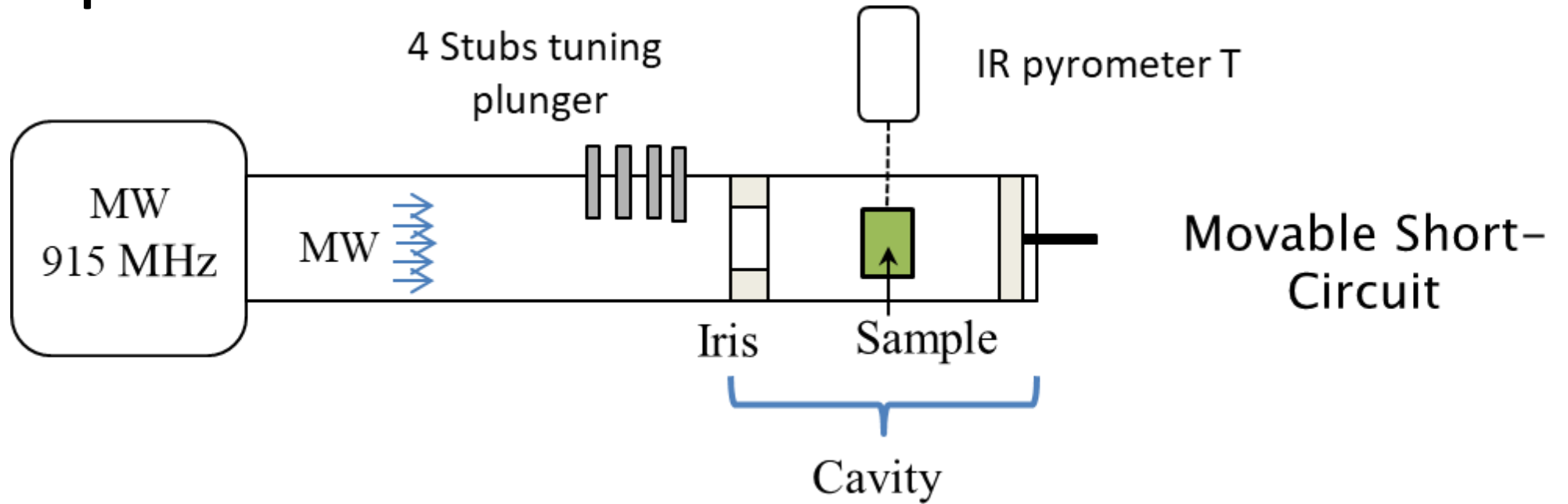
Why Using a single-mode applicator?

- E,H Field distribution well known
- Higher energy efficiency than
In multi-mode chamber !



915 MHz

The different parts of the MW Line



The sample temperature results from the **balance power** between absorbed power and dissipated power:

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) + p(x, T)$$

Absorbed Power (If dielectric Losses)

$$p(x, T) \propto E^2$$

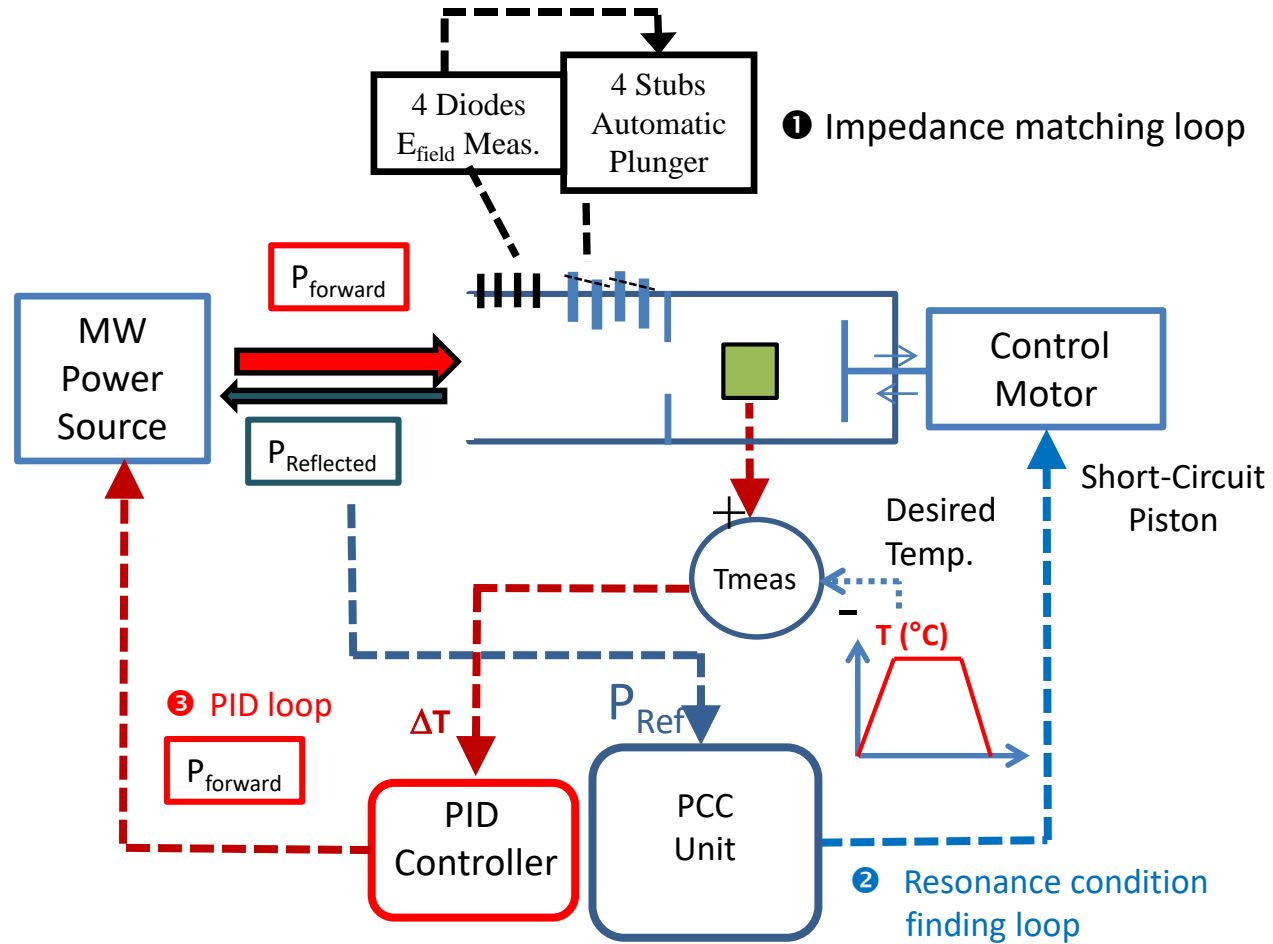
Dissipated Power:

*Thermal losses come from thermal radiation
& thermal conduction mechanisms*

MW heating highly depends on the material properties (T)

Block Function Diagram – Implementation:

the system quite complicated but it works !



Maximum amount of the Microwave energy needs to be directed to the cavity (impedance matching)

Maximum E
(resonance conditions—
amplification)

A PID module on the incident power must be implemented (to follow-up the Thermal cycle)

***More details: Marinel et al.
Adv. Mat. Sci. Eng. 2018***

Advances in Materials Science and Engineering
Volume 2018, Article ID 4158969, 8 pages
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/4158969>

❶ Impedance Matching:

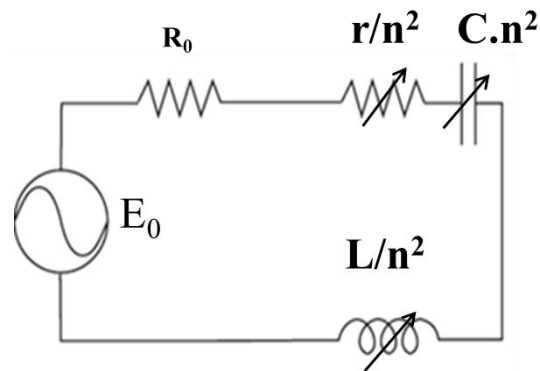
First Loop: **Automatic Impedance Tuning is required**

❷ Resonance Mode:

Second Internal Loop: **Resonance Conditions must be tuned automatically**

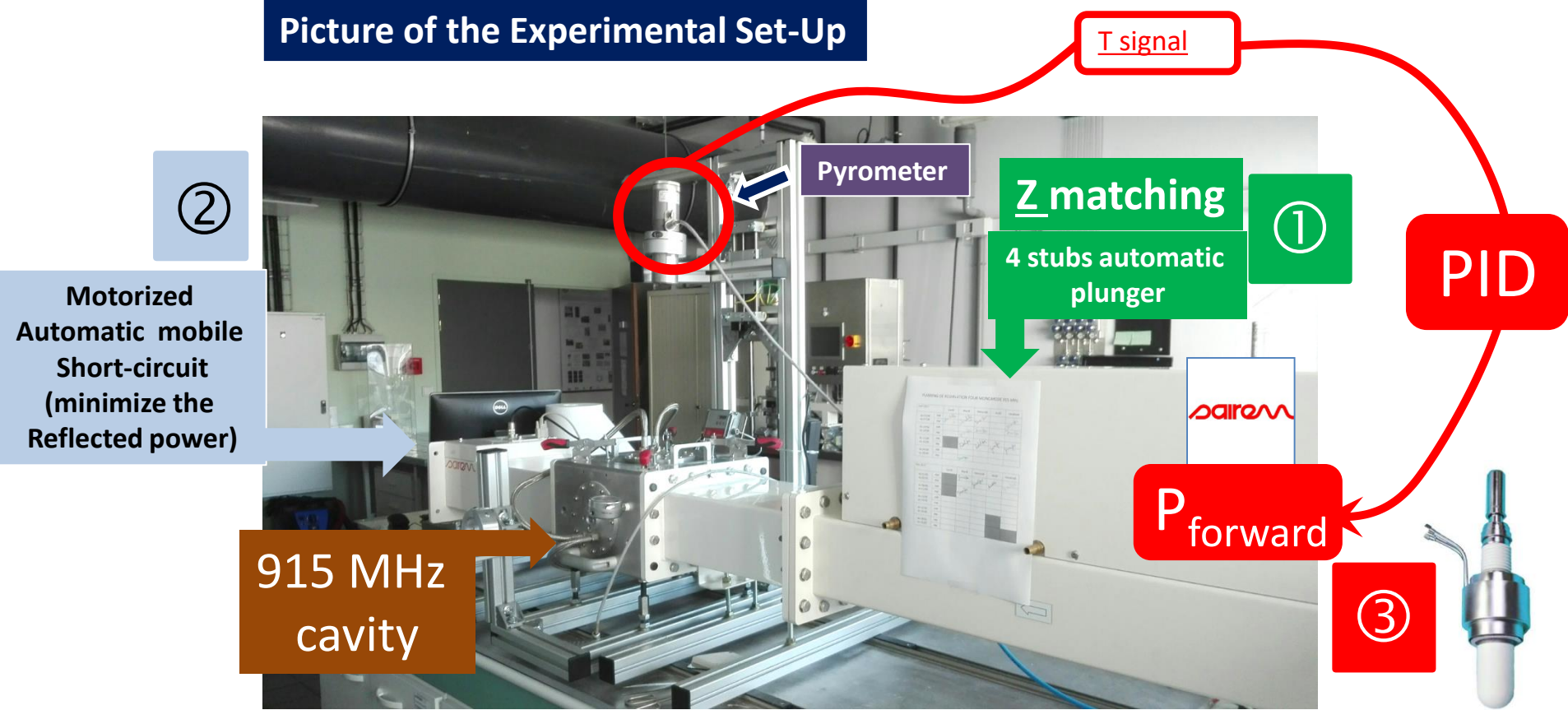
❸ Incident Power:

Microwave Power must be tuned to get the wished Thermal cycle (auto adaptive PID)



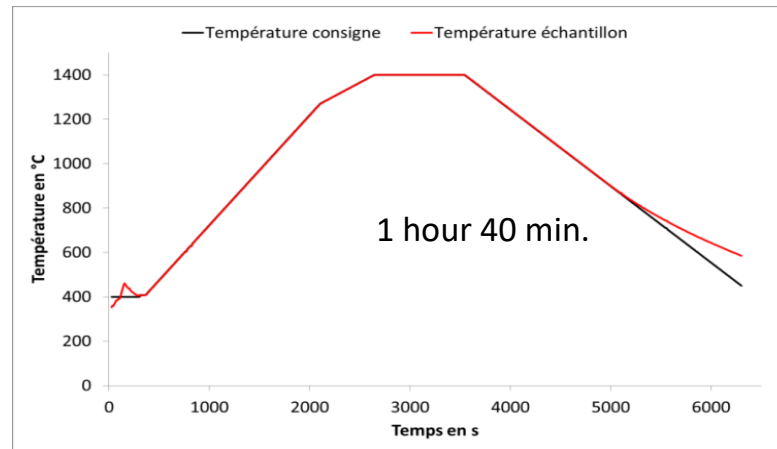
Analoguous Electrical Circuit
More details in *Marinel et al.
Adv. Mat. Sci. Eng. 2018*

A fully automatic 915 MHz MW process for sintering: How does it look like?

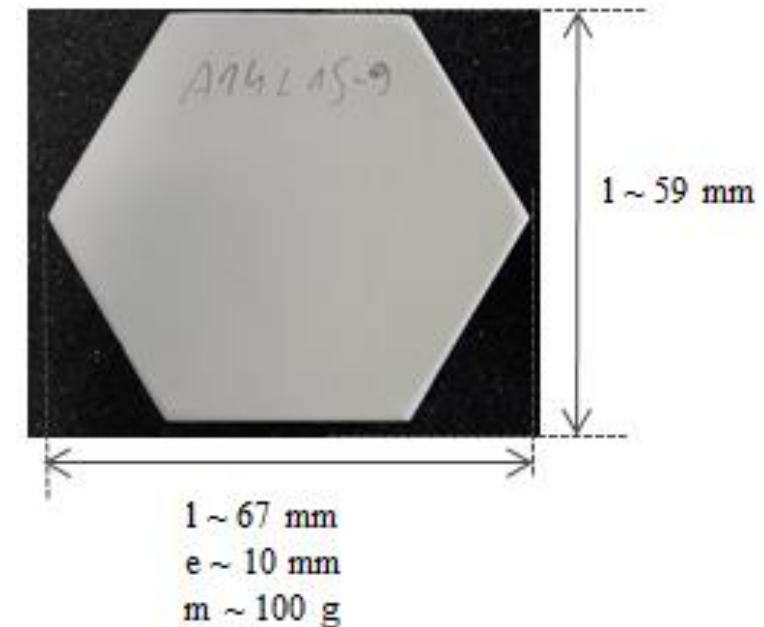
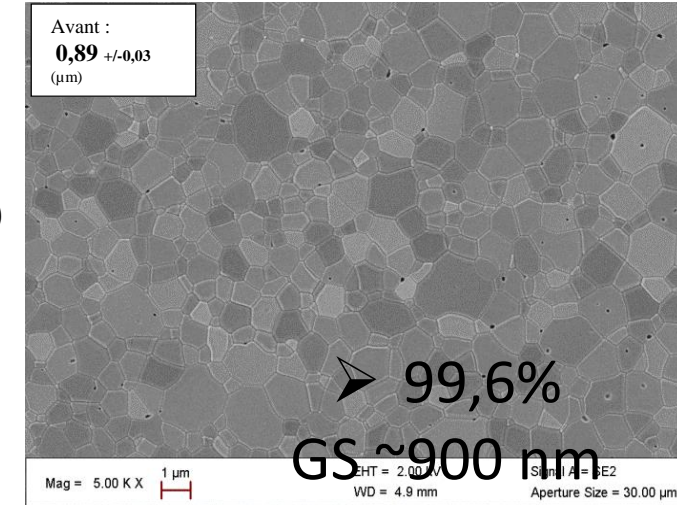


Microwave Sintering of large hexagonal pieces of Alumina: Microstructure Distribution & Reproducibility

- Highly Pure Materials, Alumina from Baikowski (BMA15)
- Green Hexagonal shaped samples were slip-casted by our industrial Partner SOLCERA,
- Green density was ~60 % of the theoretical density



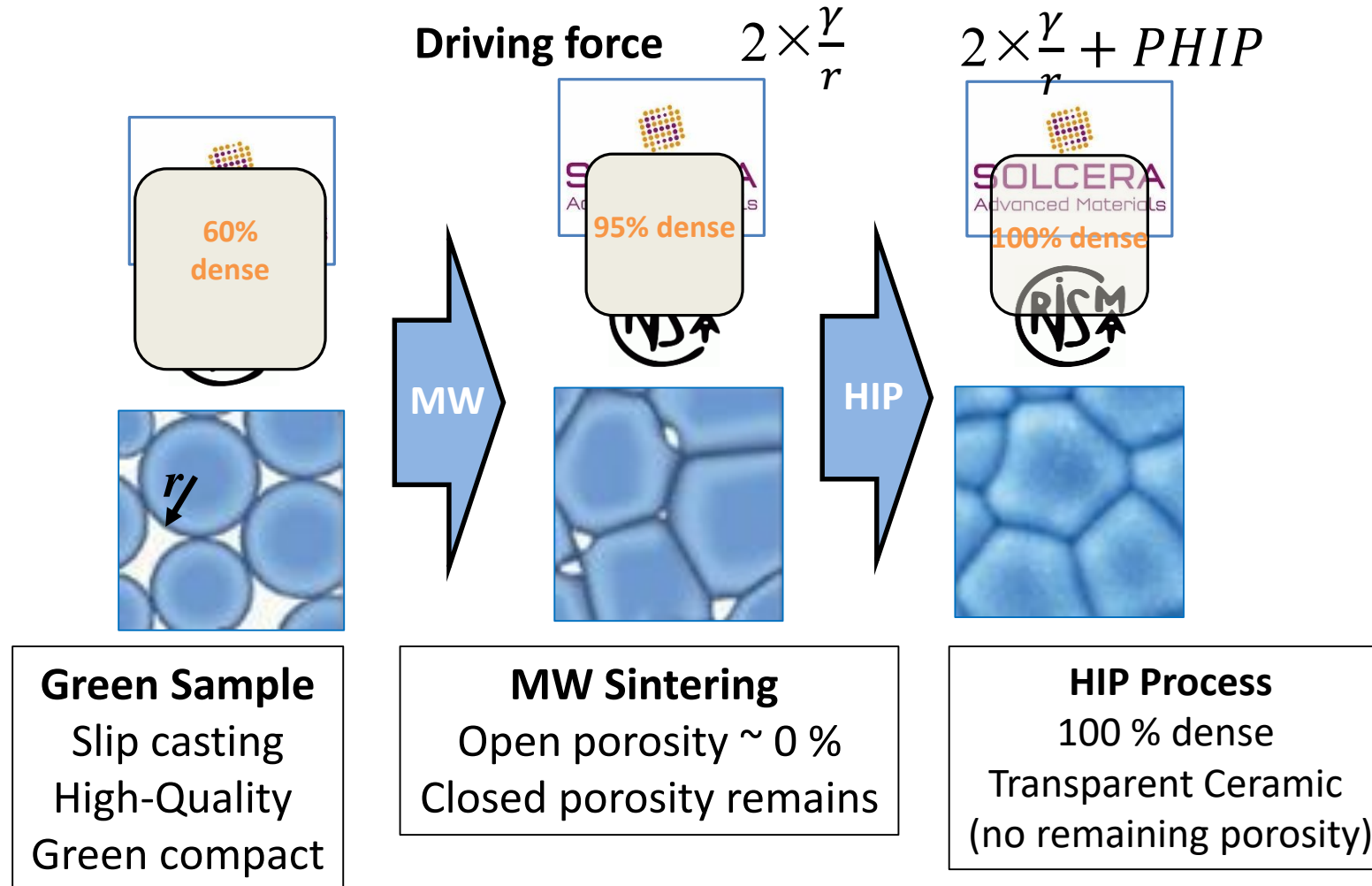
TYPICAL TEMP/TIME CYCLE



DGA project

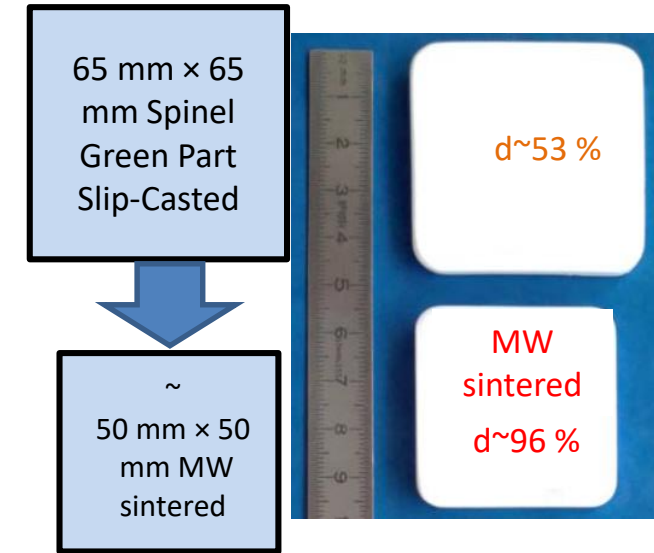
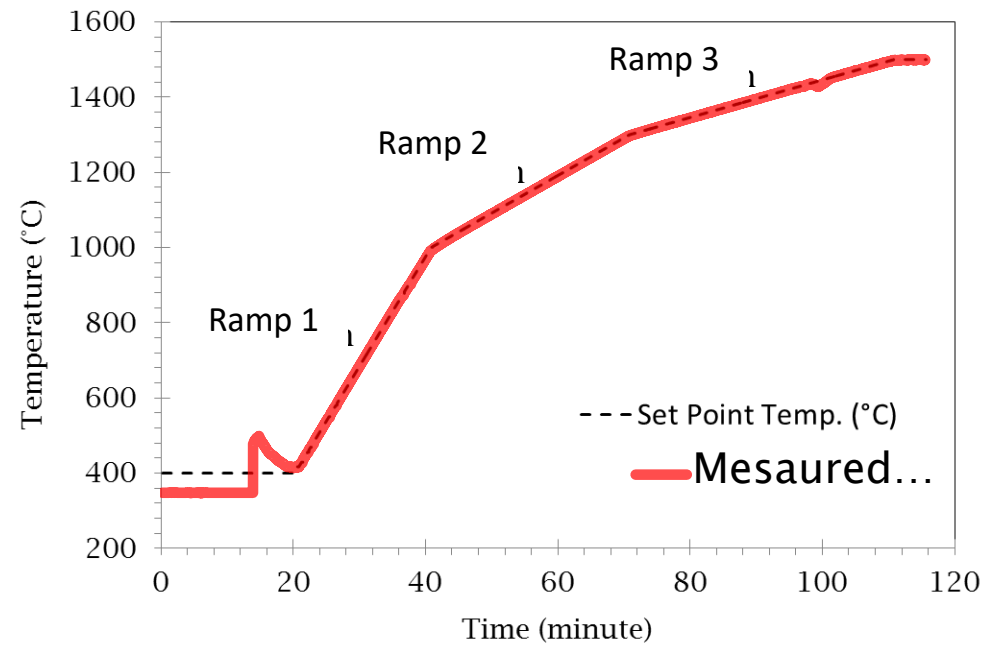


INVESTIGATION OF THE MW SINTERING FOLLOWED BY HIP PROCESS TO GET TRANSPARENT SPINEL CERAMIC





Multi-Step MW sintering of MgAl₂O₄ phase @ ~ 1500°C

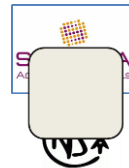
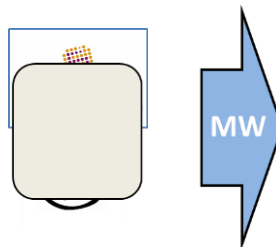


~ 4 % closed porosity

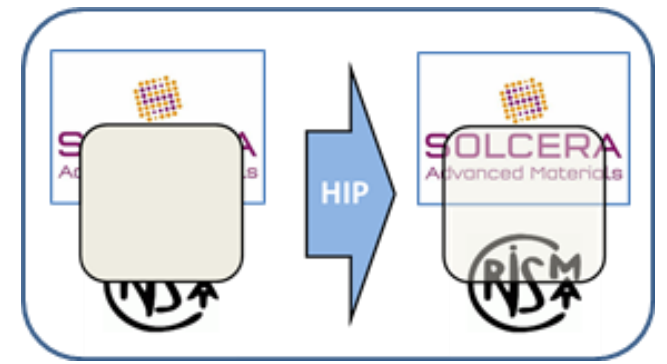


HIP process

(T°C – Pressure
Confidential)

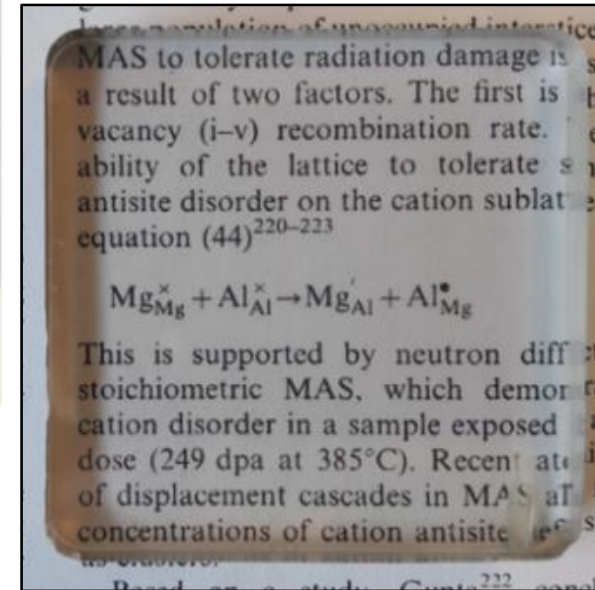


After HIP treatment to remove the remaining porosity



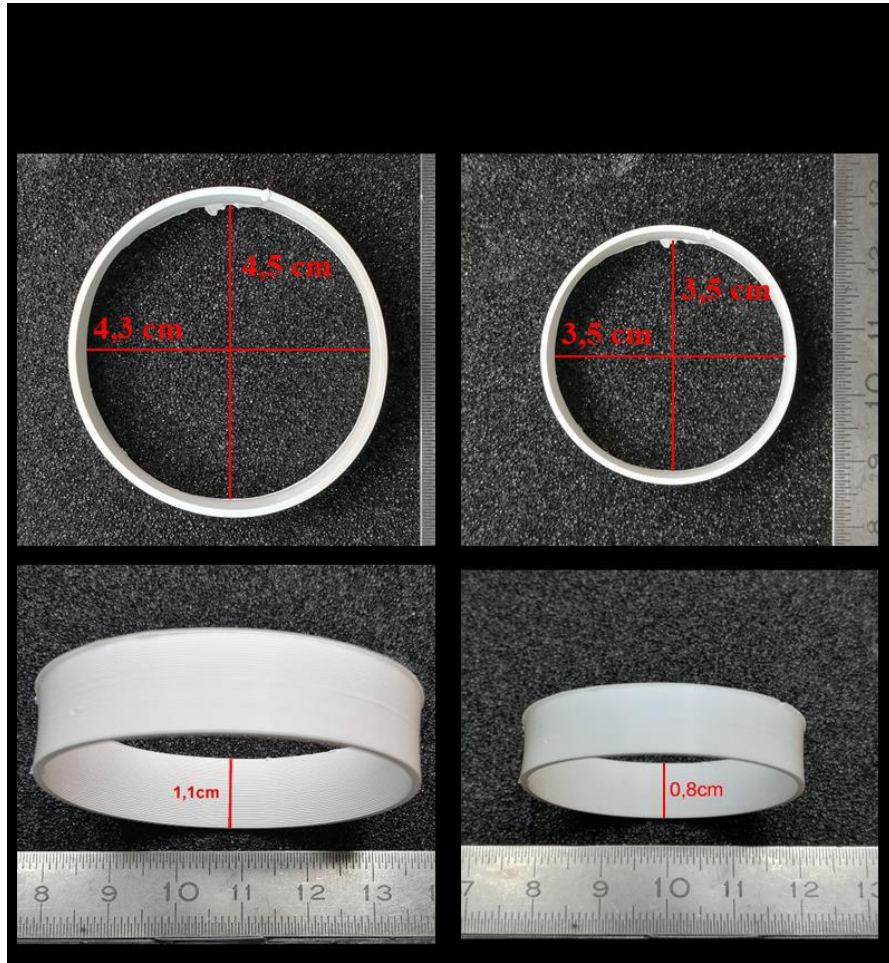
Spectrophotometre Perkin Elmer 1050 Lambda
(From CIMAP, CAEN)

At $\lambda = 640$ nm RIT ≈ 70 % and
RIT ≈ 80 % In the Infra Red
Region

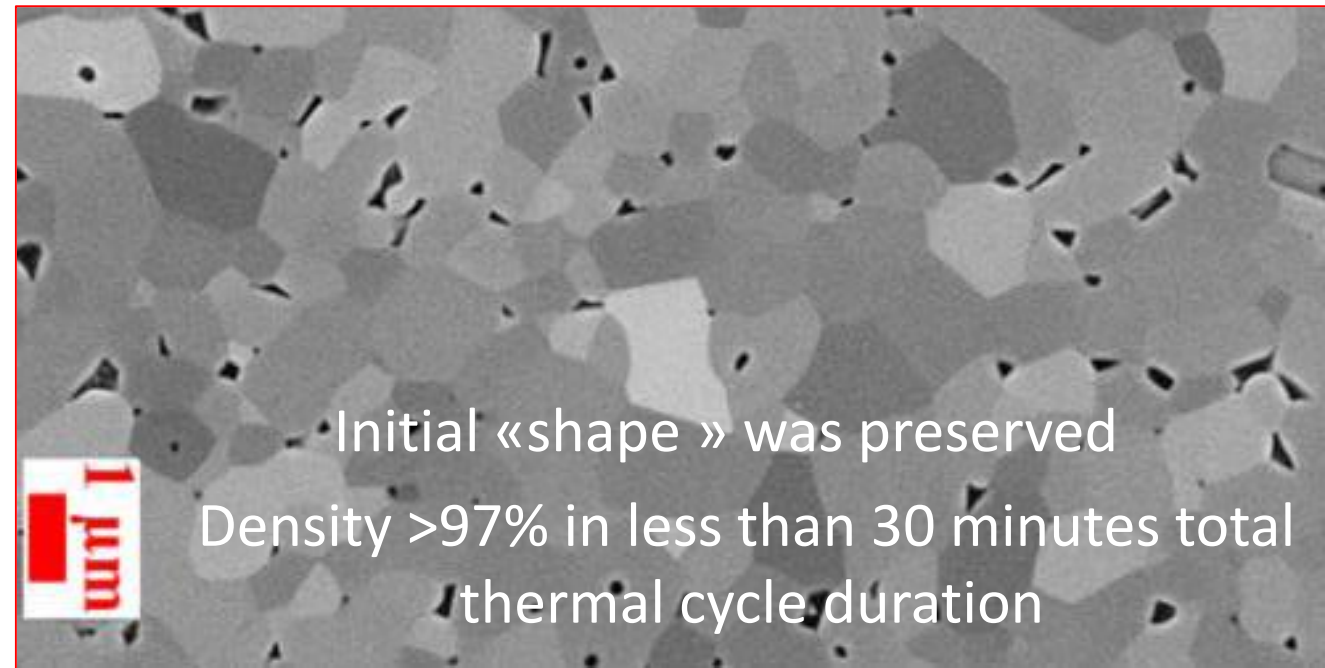
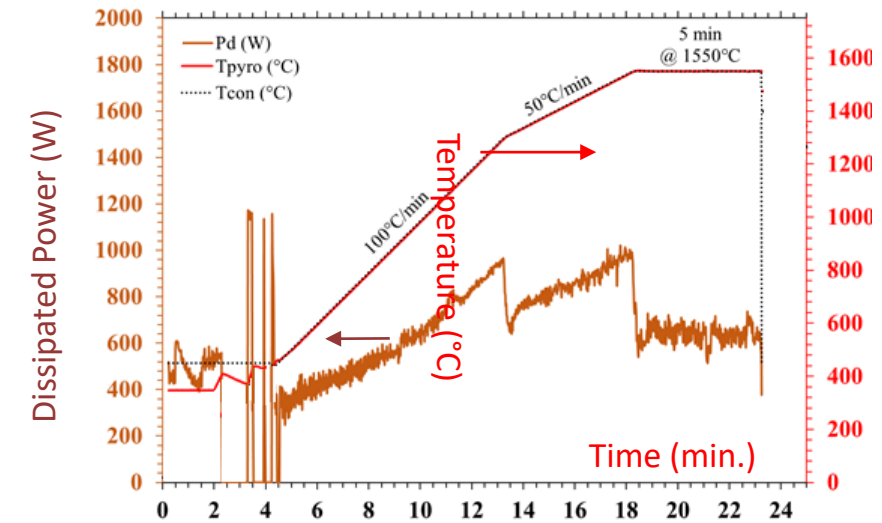


*>1 cm thickness transparent spinel ceramics made by
MW sintering followed by HIP*

Microwave Sintering of 3D printed alumina complexe shape @ 915 MHz (MW assisted with susceptors)



Green alumina part made by
INSA LYON



Initial «shape » was preserved
Density >97% in less than 30 minutes total
thermal cycle duration

SUMMARY-CONCLUDING REMARKS

Basic aspects of the microwave processing of materials were presented showing different

Applications:

- The fast synthesis of magnesium silicide compounds (with nano-sized grains)
- The synthesis of oxides (SSR)
- The sublimation and recrystallisation of ZnO to get flower-like ZnO nano-structure.
- Microwave is also widely spread in thin films technology and liquid phase processing (Hydrothermal)

Microwave processes are fast ...

« Conventional thermal
heated runner »



« Microwaved runner »



Thermal cycle control works well (magnetron) but it requires a relatively complicated instrumentation.

Things are about to change with the new generation of microwave generator...

Magnetron



Magnétron 2.45 GHz, 1.2 kW
(4.5 kV, 0.4 A, $\eta = 60\%$)

VS

Vacuum tube operating à high voltage (>

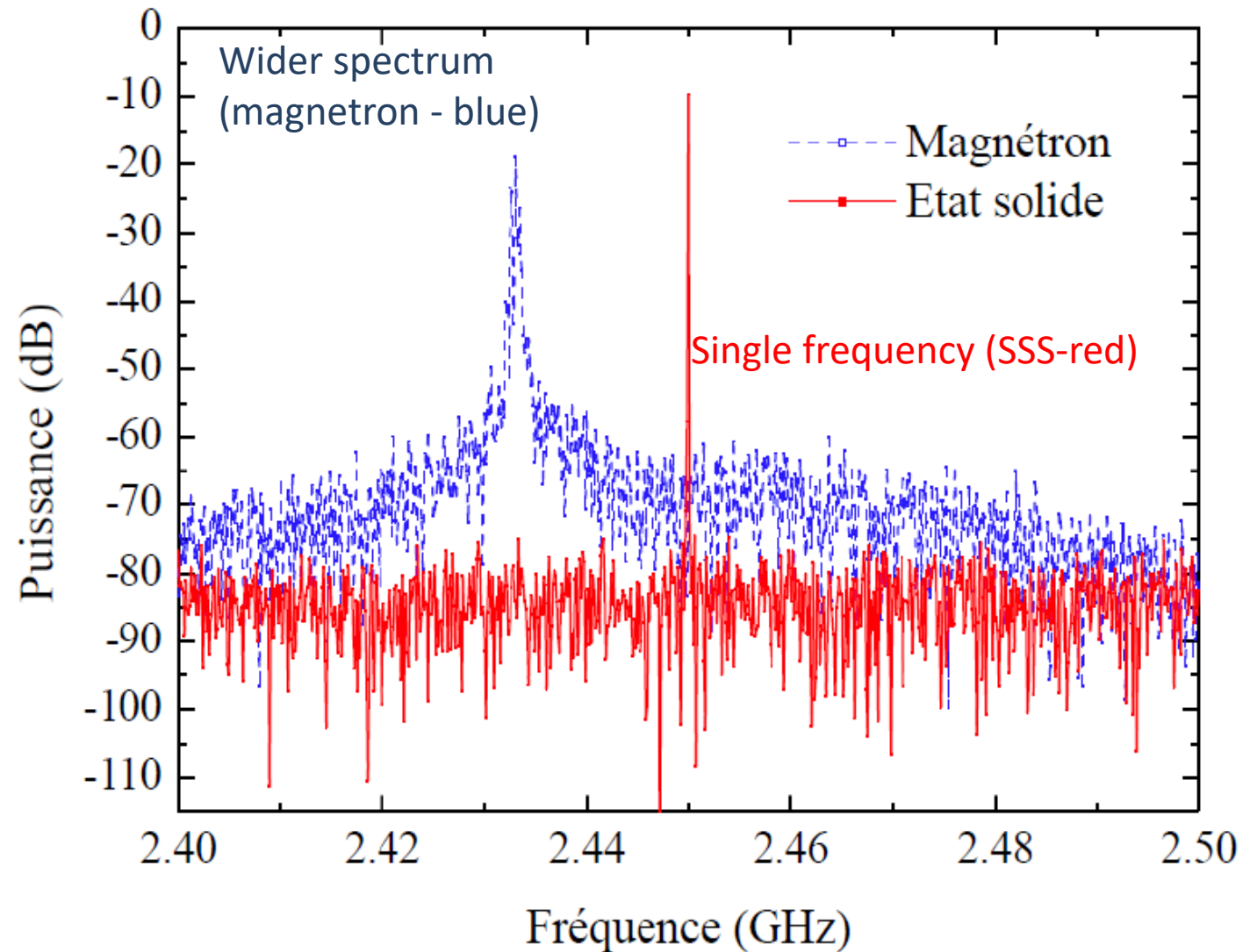
High power available

Reliable and it has a long lifespan

Frequency not stable (not adjustable)

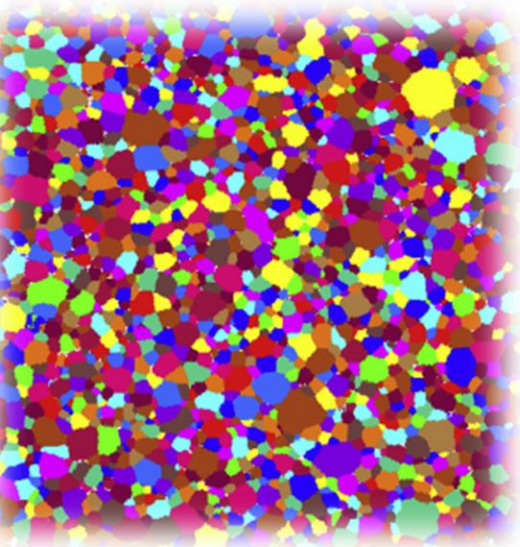
Wide Spectrum (vs power)

Solid-State RF Amplifier



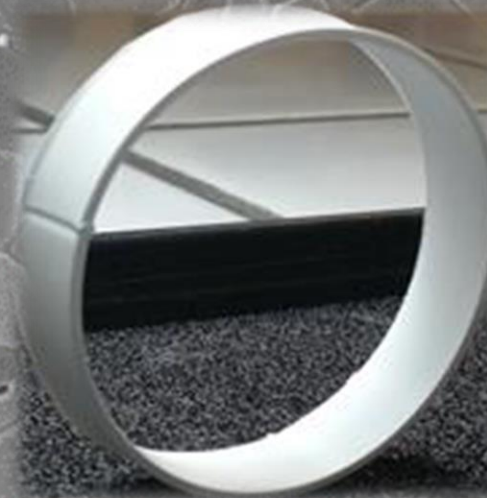
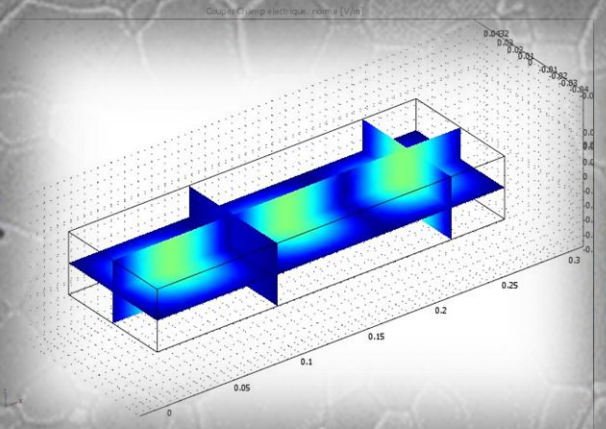


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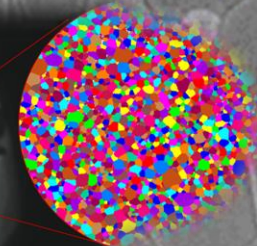
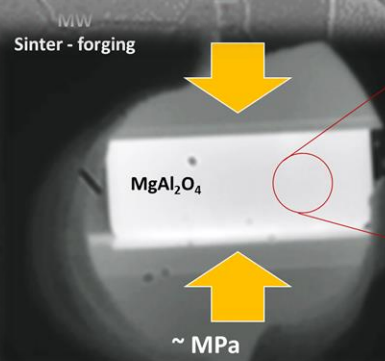
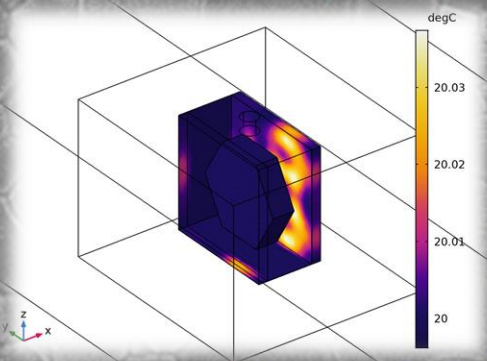
Thank you for
your attention !



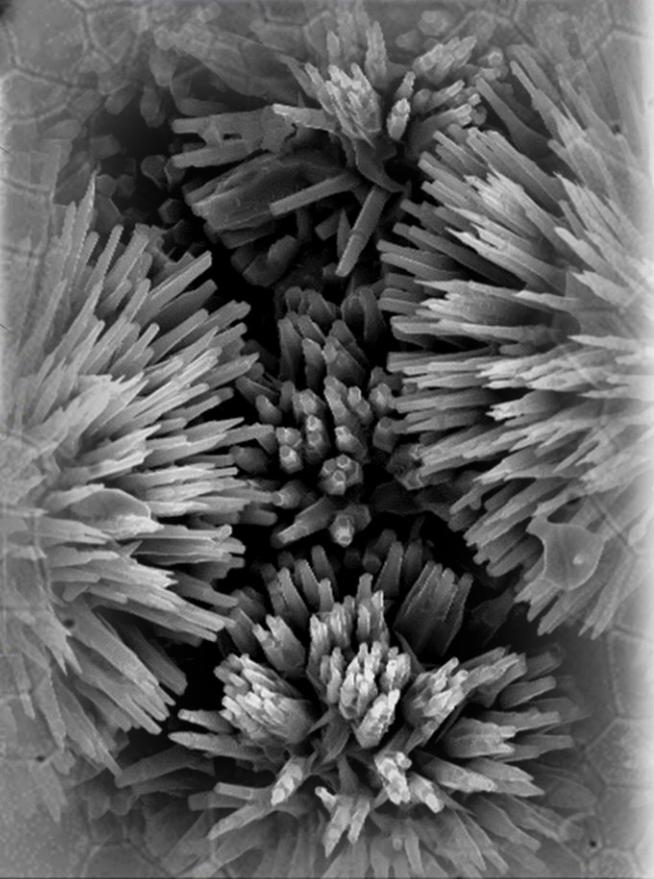
...tolerance of an amount of intrinsic
MAS to tolerate radiation damage is
a result of two factors. The first is
vacancy (i-v) recombination rate.
ability of the lattice to tolerate s
antisite disorder on the cation sublatt
equation (44)²²⁰⁻²²³

$$\text{Mg}_{\text{Mg}}^{\times} + \text{Al}_{\text{Al}}^{\times} \rightarrow \text{Mg}_{\text{Al}}^{\prime} + \text{Al}_{\text{Mg}}^{\bullet}$$

This is supported by neutron diff
stoichiometric MAS, which demon
cation disorder in a sample exposed
dose (249 dpa at 385°C). Recent at
of displacement cascades in MAS at
concentrations of cation antisite (ef
no disorder)



Microwave sintered of a
3D printed alumina 'snake'



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