

Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)

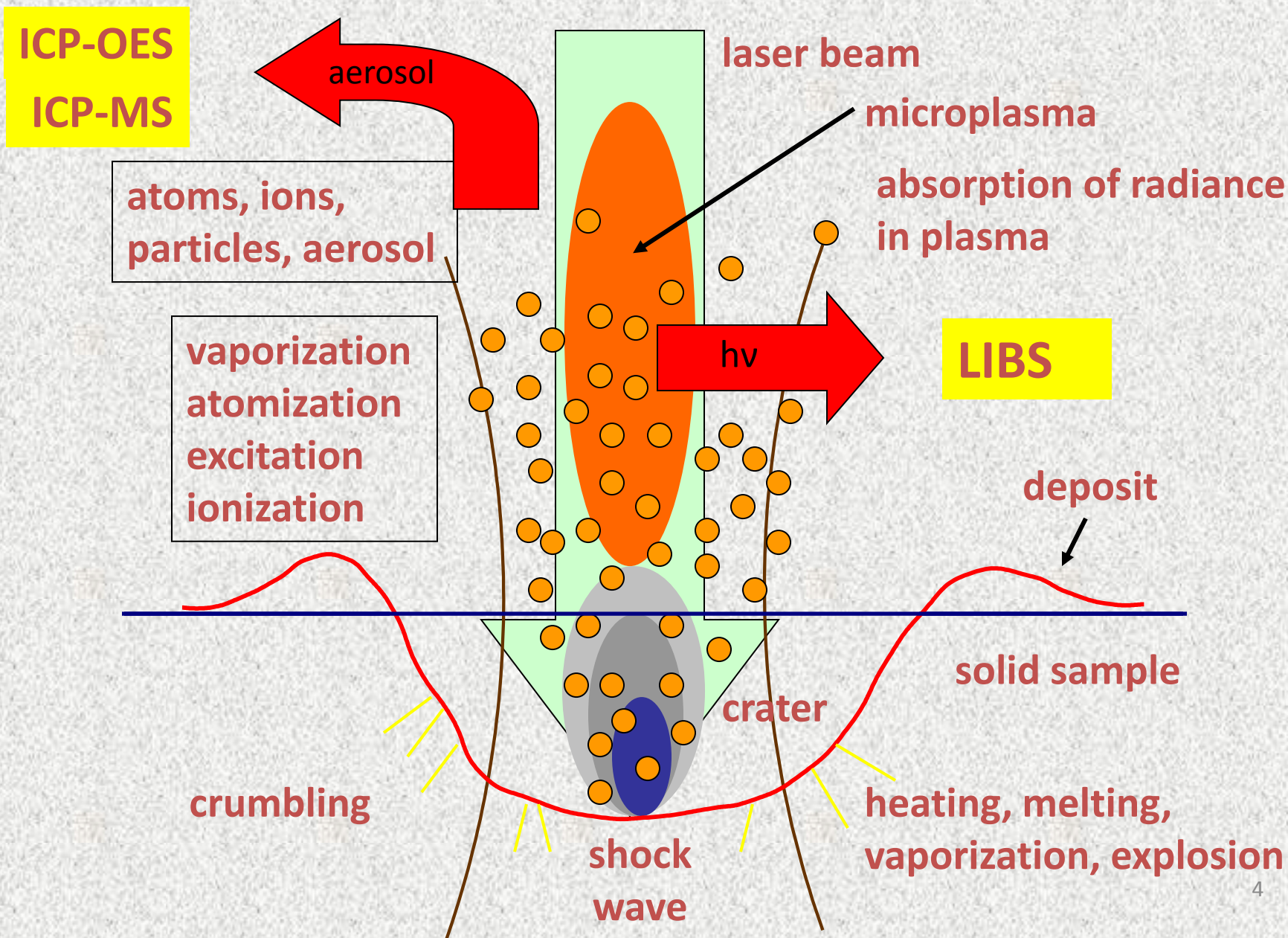
Content

- Introduction to fundamentals of LIBS
- Basic instrumentation and configurations
- Double pulse LIBS (instrumentation)
- Depth profiling (zinc coated steel, ceramic tiles)
- Elemental mapping (teeth, plants, urinary stones ...)

Content

- LIBS techniques for powder materials (pressed pellets)
- LIBS techniques for liquid samples (algae suspension)
- LIBS technique for nanoparticles (QDs)
- Remote analysis by LIBS (identification of biominerals)
- Conclusion

Laser beam - solid sample interaction



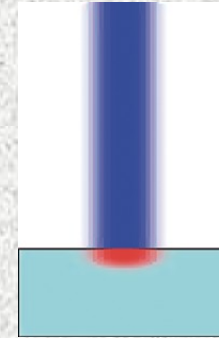
Laser beam - solid sample interaction

Plasma ignition: ns laser ($10^7 - 10^{11} \text{ W/cm}^2$)
fs laser ($10^{12} - 10^{17} \text{ W/cm}^2$)

Thermal vaporization ($10^{-9} - 10^{-8} \text{ s}$)

Non-thermal ablation ($10^{-9} - 10^{-8} \text{ s}$)

Plasma shielding ($10^{-9} - 10^{-8} \text{ s}$)

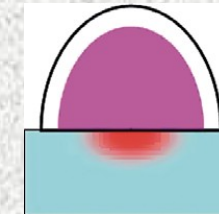


Plasma expansion and cooling:

Shockwave propagation

Plasma expansion ($10^{-11} - 10^{-6} \text{ s}$)

Plasma radiation cooling ($10^{-6} - 10^{-4} \text{ s}$)

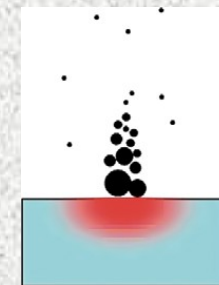


Particle ejection and condensation:

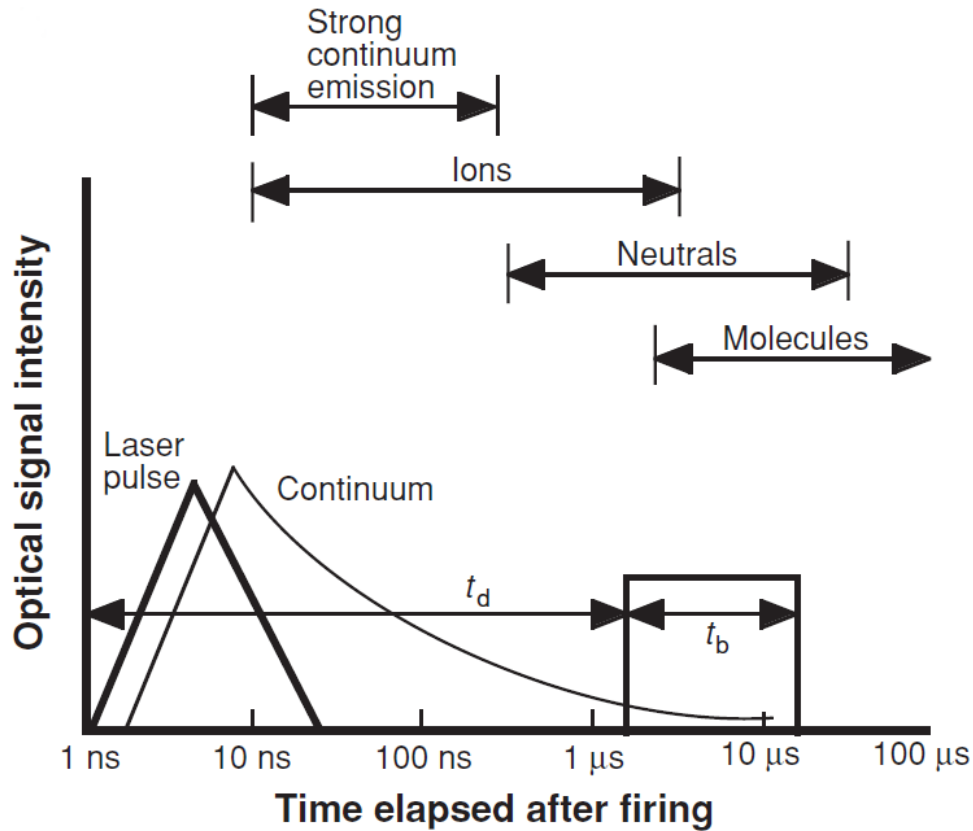
Ejection of liquid droplet ($10^{-8} - 10^{-6} \text{ s}$)

Solid exfoliation ($10^{-8} - 10^{-6} \text{ s}$)

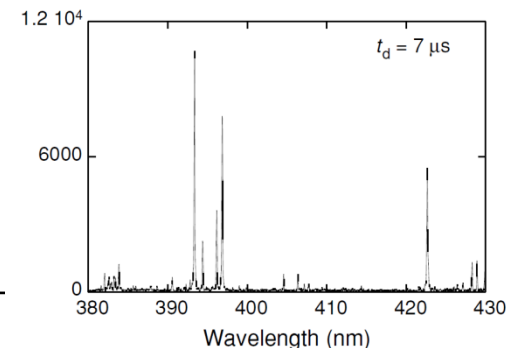
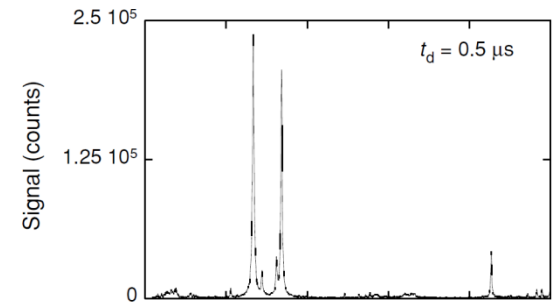
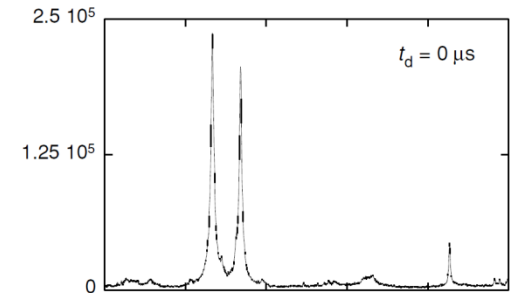
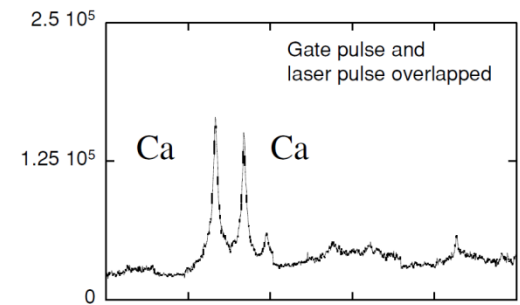
Nano particles formation ($10^{-4} - 10^{-3} \text{ s}$)



Important time periods after plasma formation



t_d - delay time, t_b - gate pulse width



LIBS - lasers

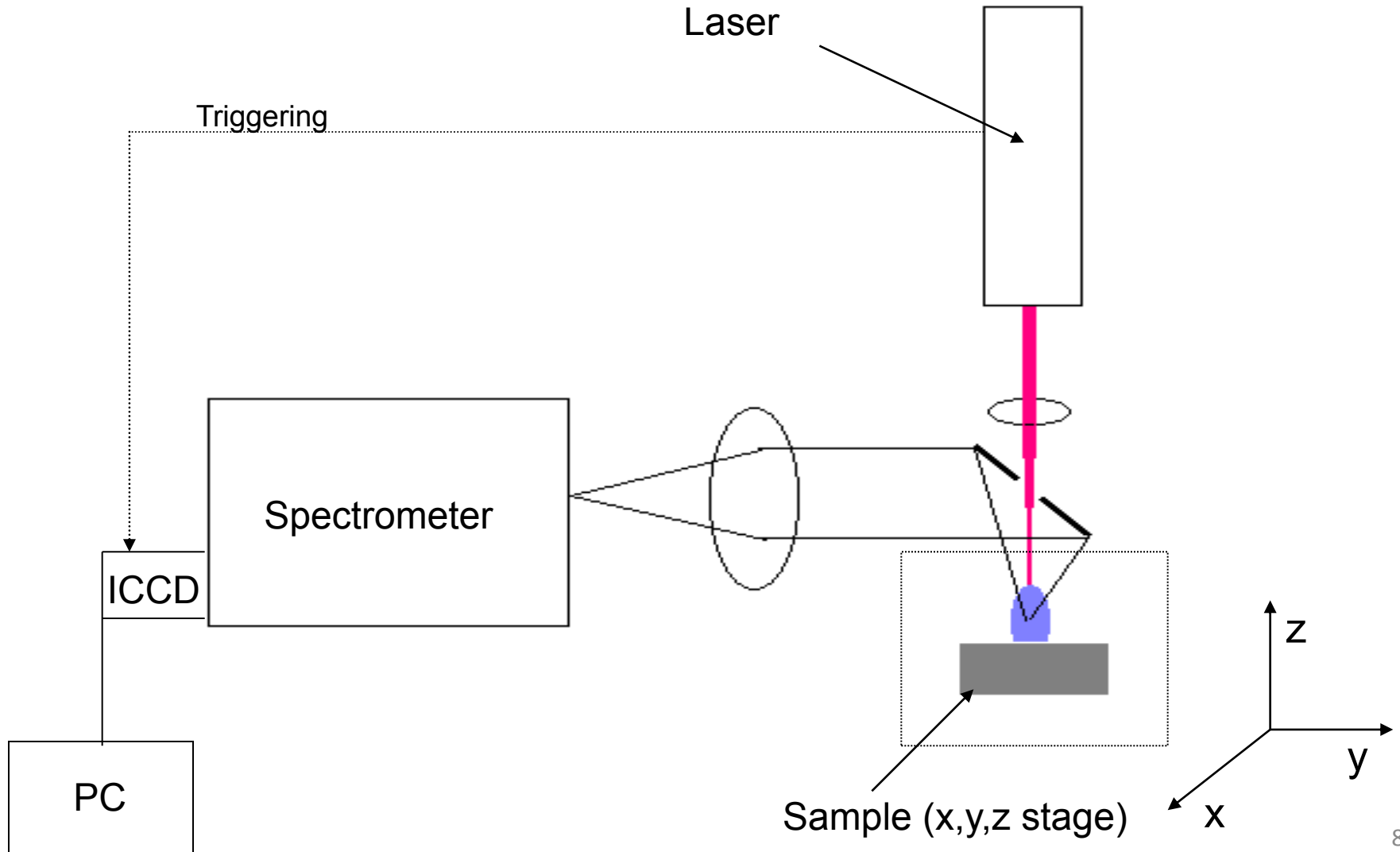
Table 3.1 Specifications of lasers used for LIBS

Type	Wavelength (nm)	Pulse width (ns)	Rep. rate (Hz)	Comments related to LIBS applications
Nd:YAG (s)	Fundamental: 1064	6–15	ss to 20	(1) Fundamental wavelength easily shifted to provide harmonic wavelengths (2) Available in very compact form for small instrumentation
	Harmonics: 532, 355, 266	4–8		(3) Good beam quality possible (4) Dual-pulse capabilities in single unit (5) Flashlamp or diode-pumped available
Excimer (g)	XeCl: 308	20 ns	ss to 200	(1) Requires periodic change of gases
	KrF: 248			(2) Beam quality less than Nd:YAG laser
	ArF: 194			(3) Provides UV wavelengths only
CO ₂ (g)	10 600	200 (with 1000 ns trailing edge)	ss to 200	(1) Requires periodic change of gases or gas flow (2) Does not couple well into many metals (3) Beam quality less than Nd:YAG laser
Microchip	1064	<1 ns	1–10 k	(1) Good mode and beam quality (2) High shot-to-shot pulse stability
Ti:sapphire: femtosecond (s)	~800 ($\Delta\lambda$ ~ 10 nm)	20–200 fs	10–10 ³	
Fiber laser (s)	Nd ⁺³ 900			
	Pr ⁺³ 1060	<50	25–500 k	
	Er ⁺³ 1540			

Notes: (s) = solid state laser; (g) = gas laser; ss = single shot.

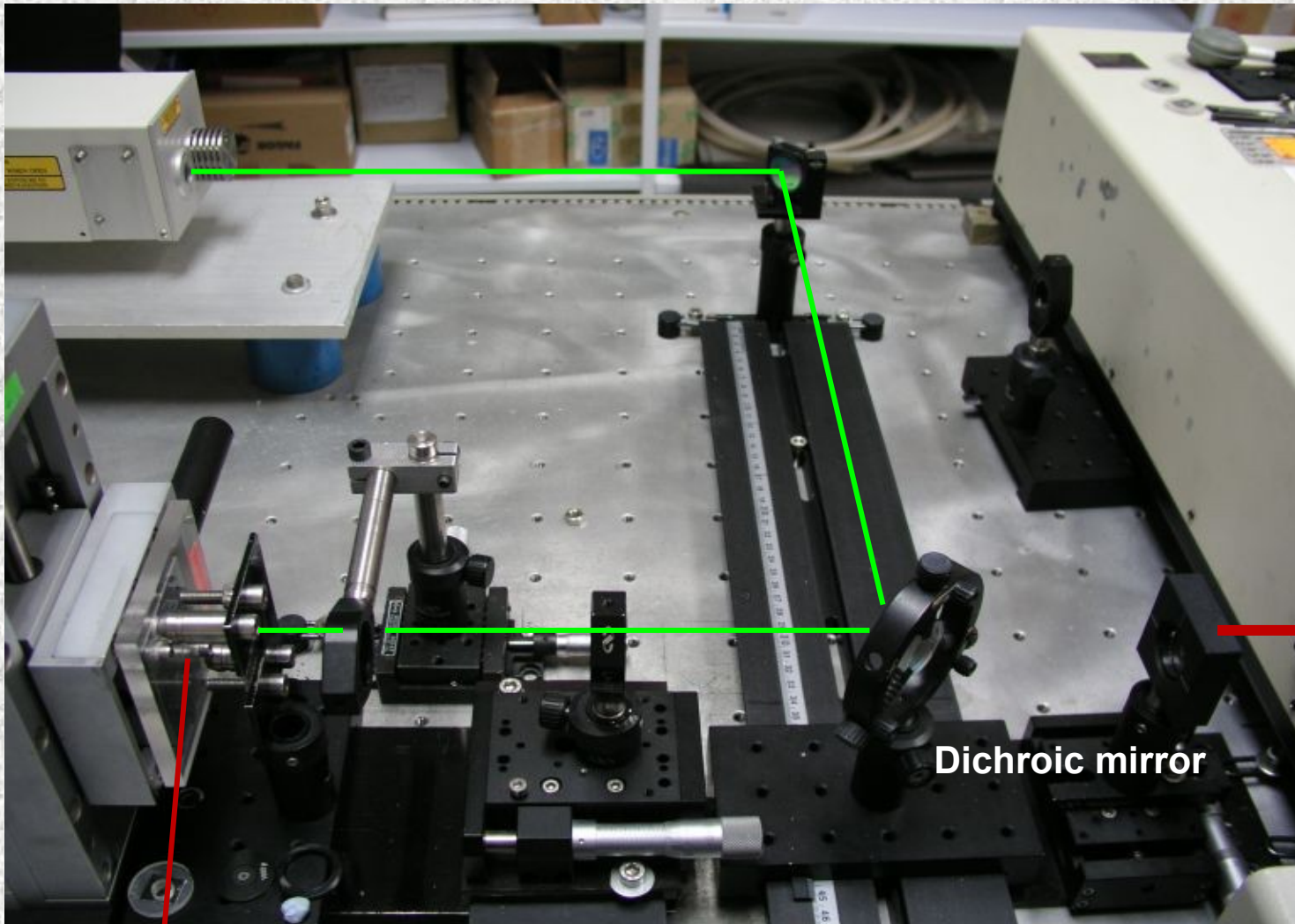
Basic configurations

1. Experimental setup with pierced mirror



Basic configurations

Laser



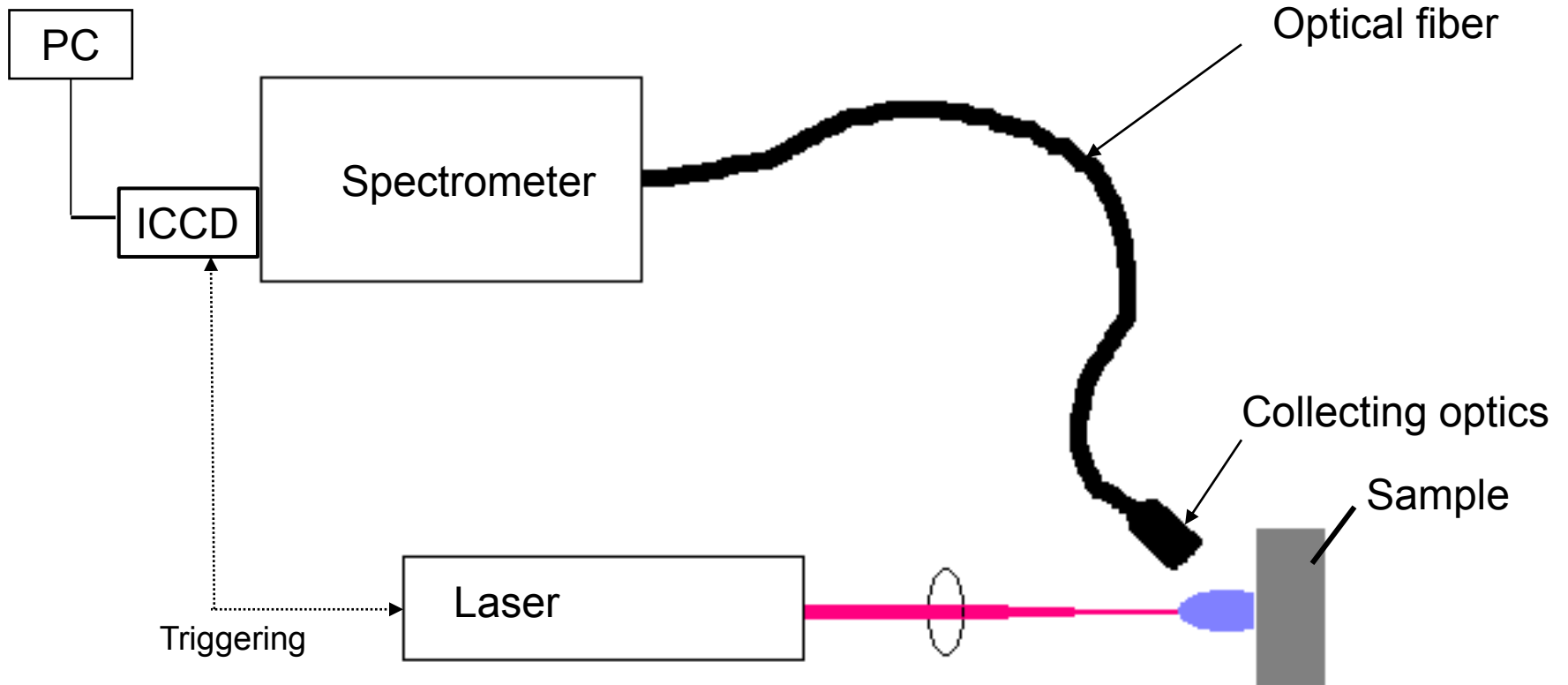
Spectrometer

Dichroic mirror

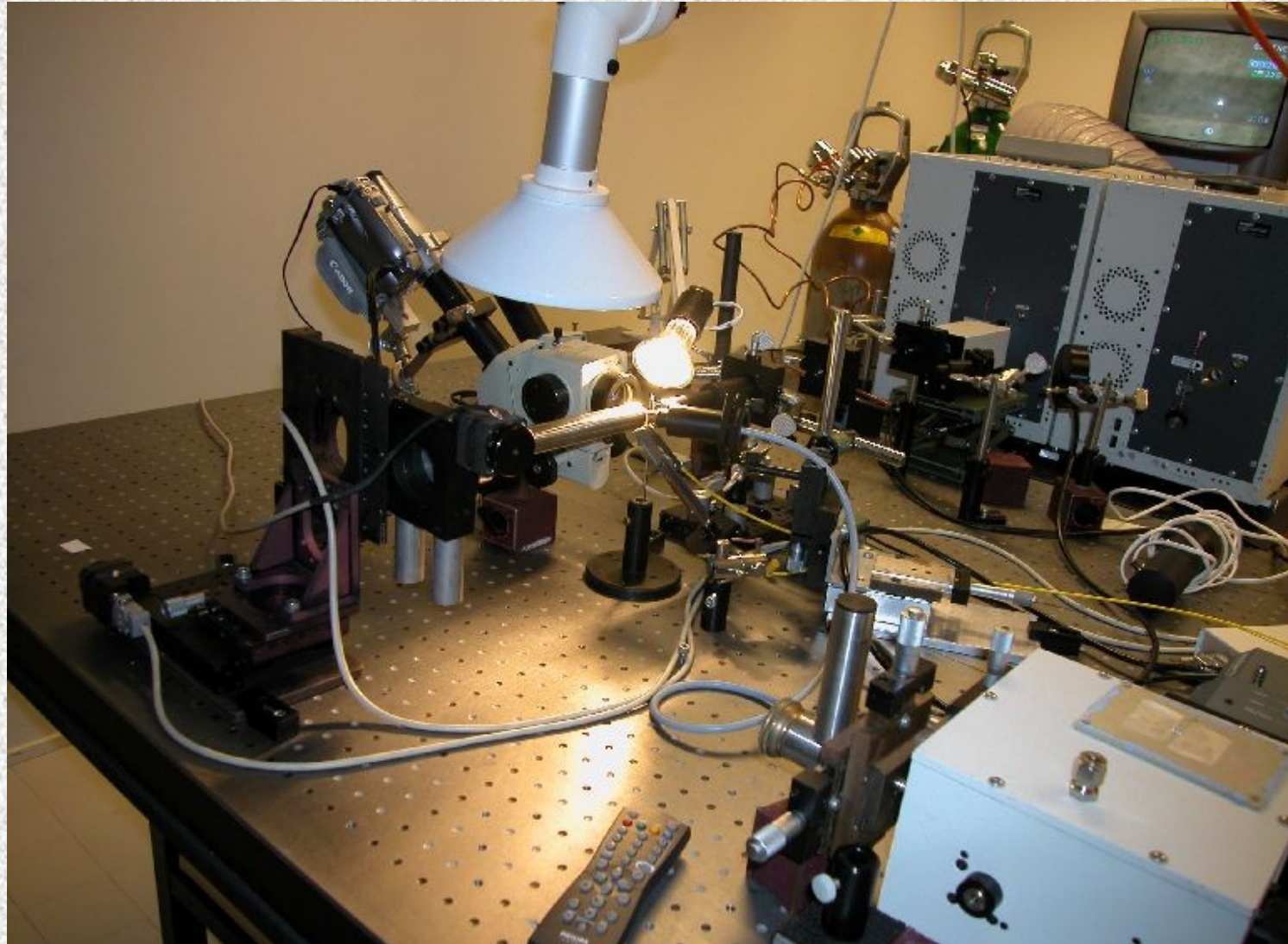
Sample

Basic configurations

2. Experimental setup with optical fiber



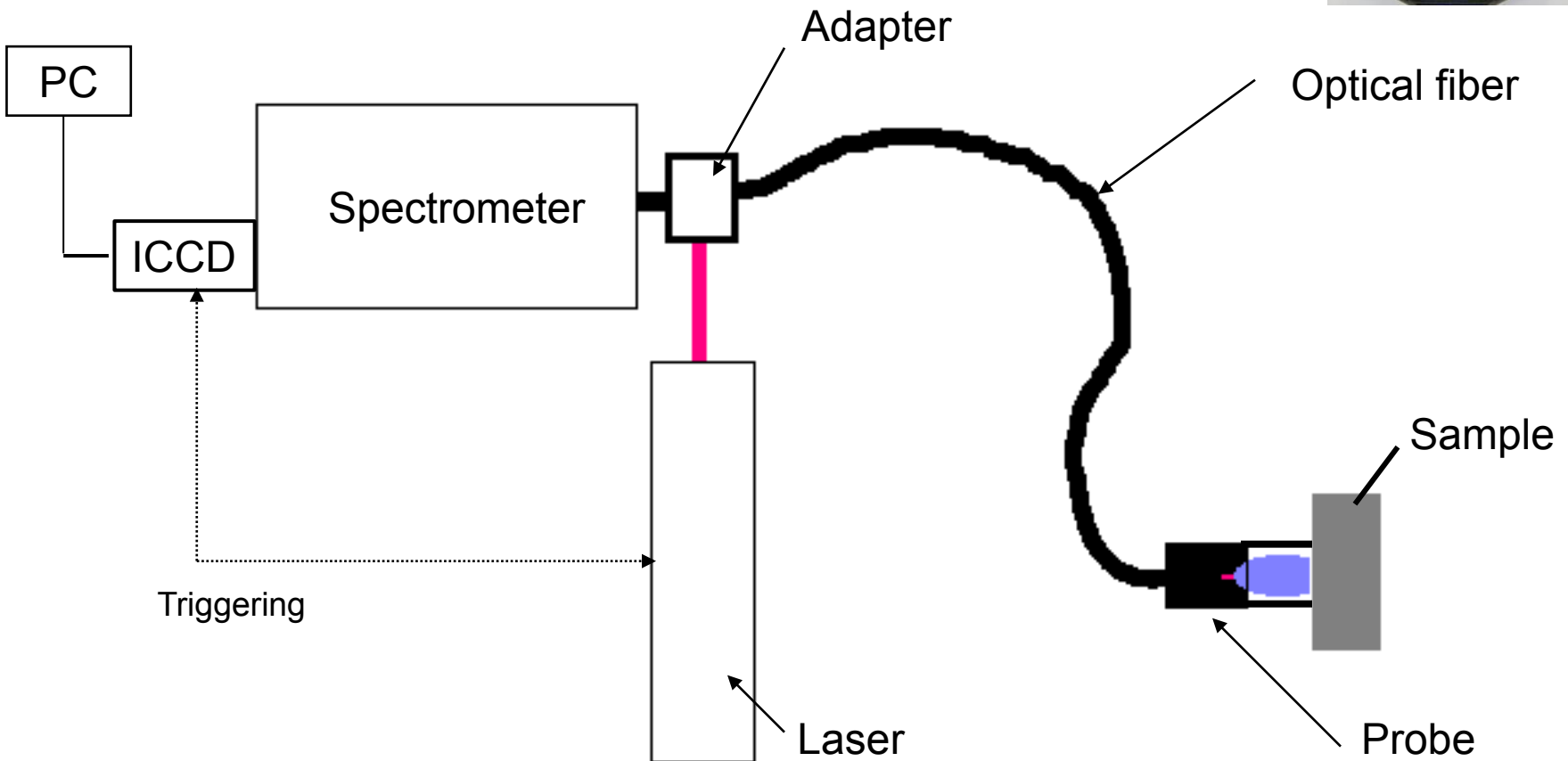
Basic configurations



Basic configurations

3. Experimental setup with optical fiber

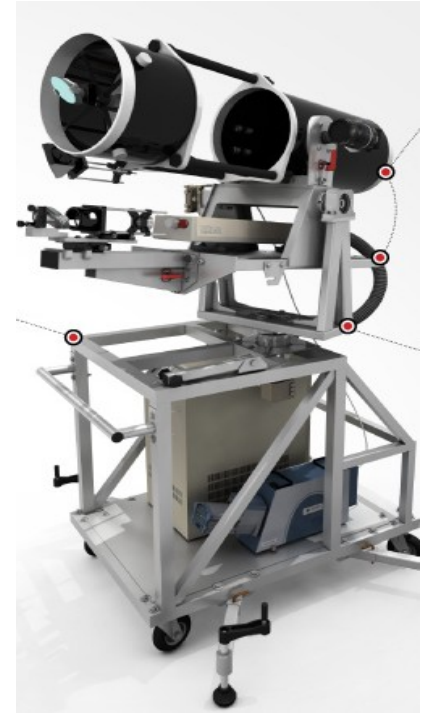
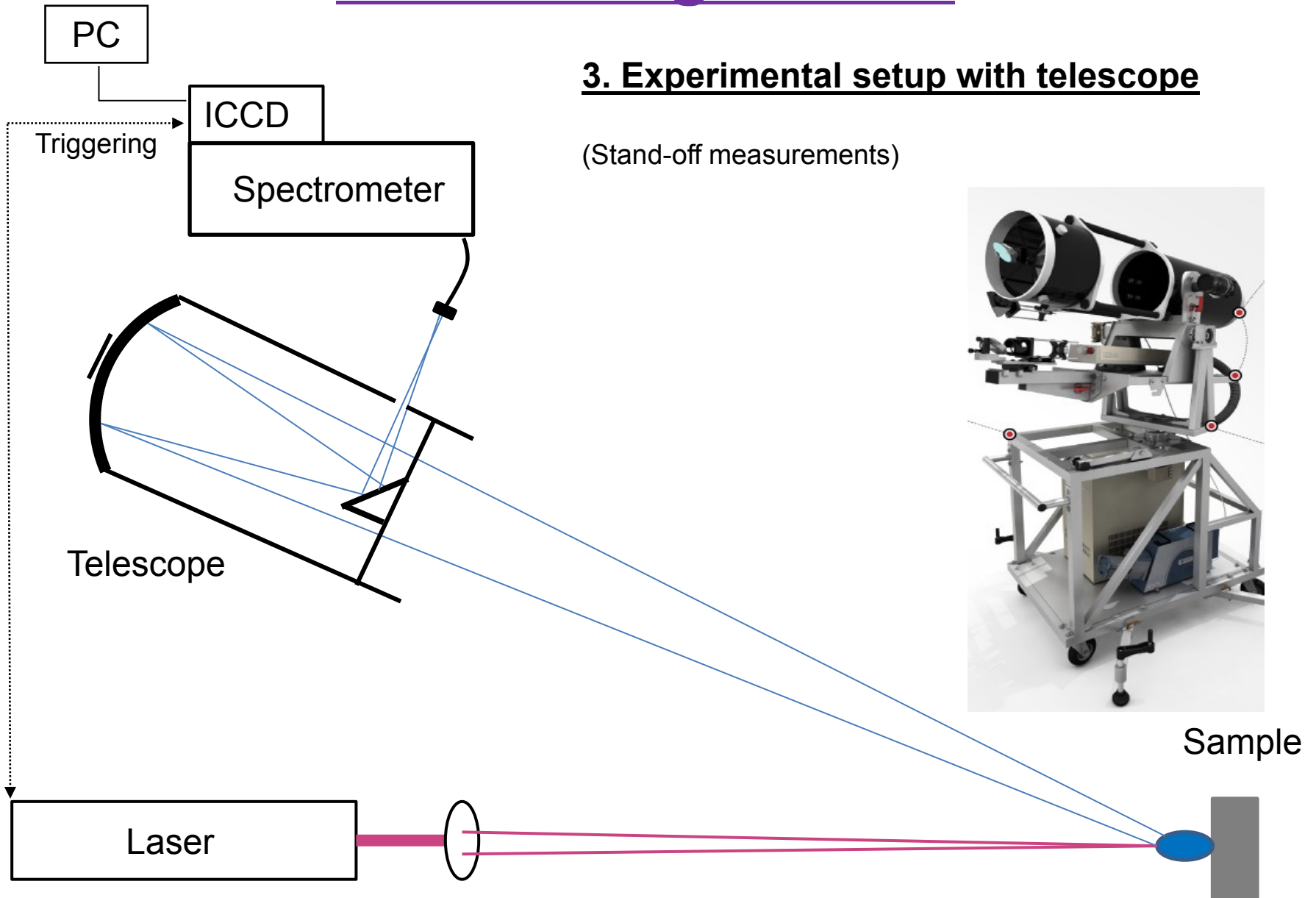
(portable LIBS, underwater measurements)



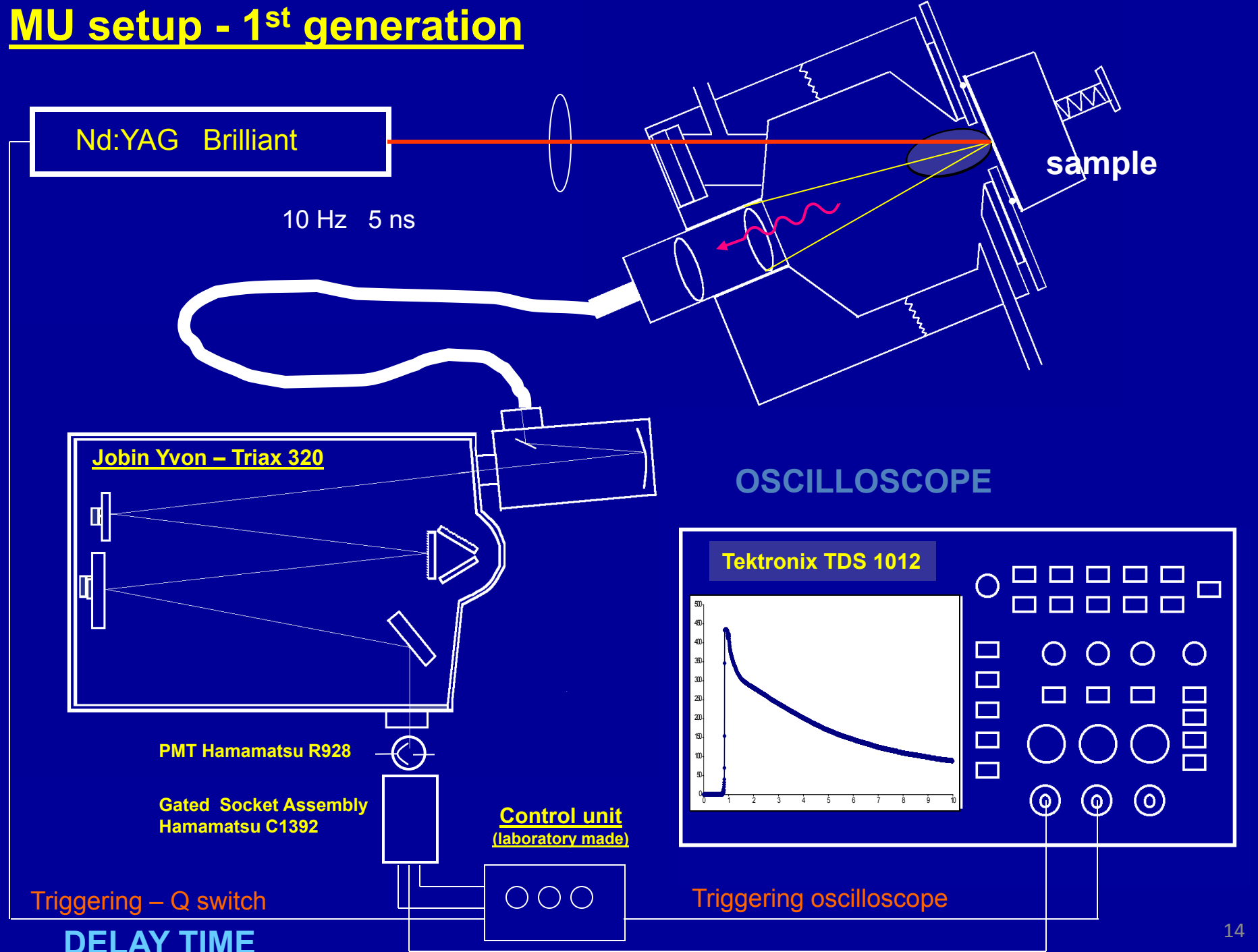
Basic configurations

3. Experimental setup with telescope

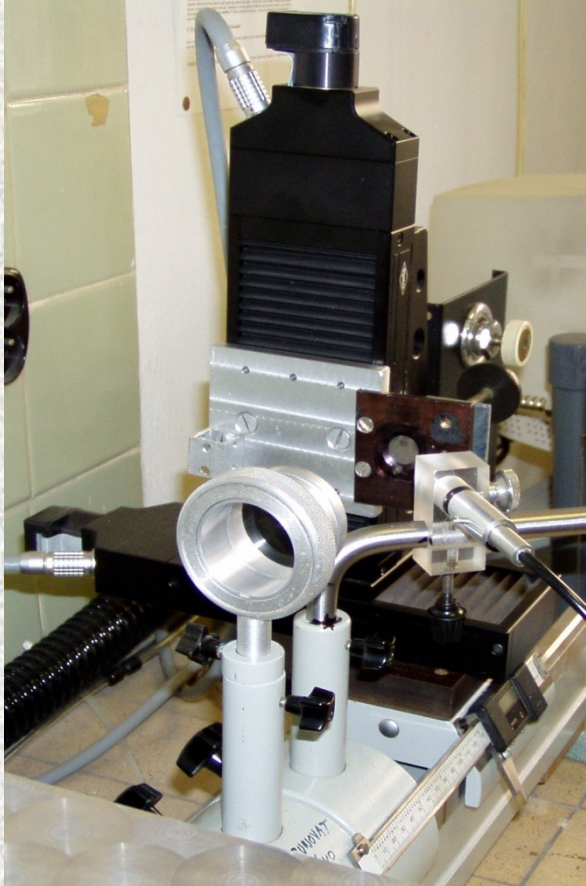
(Stand-off measurements)



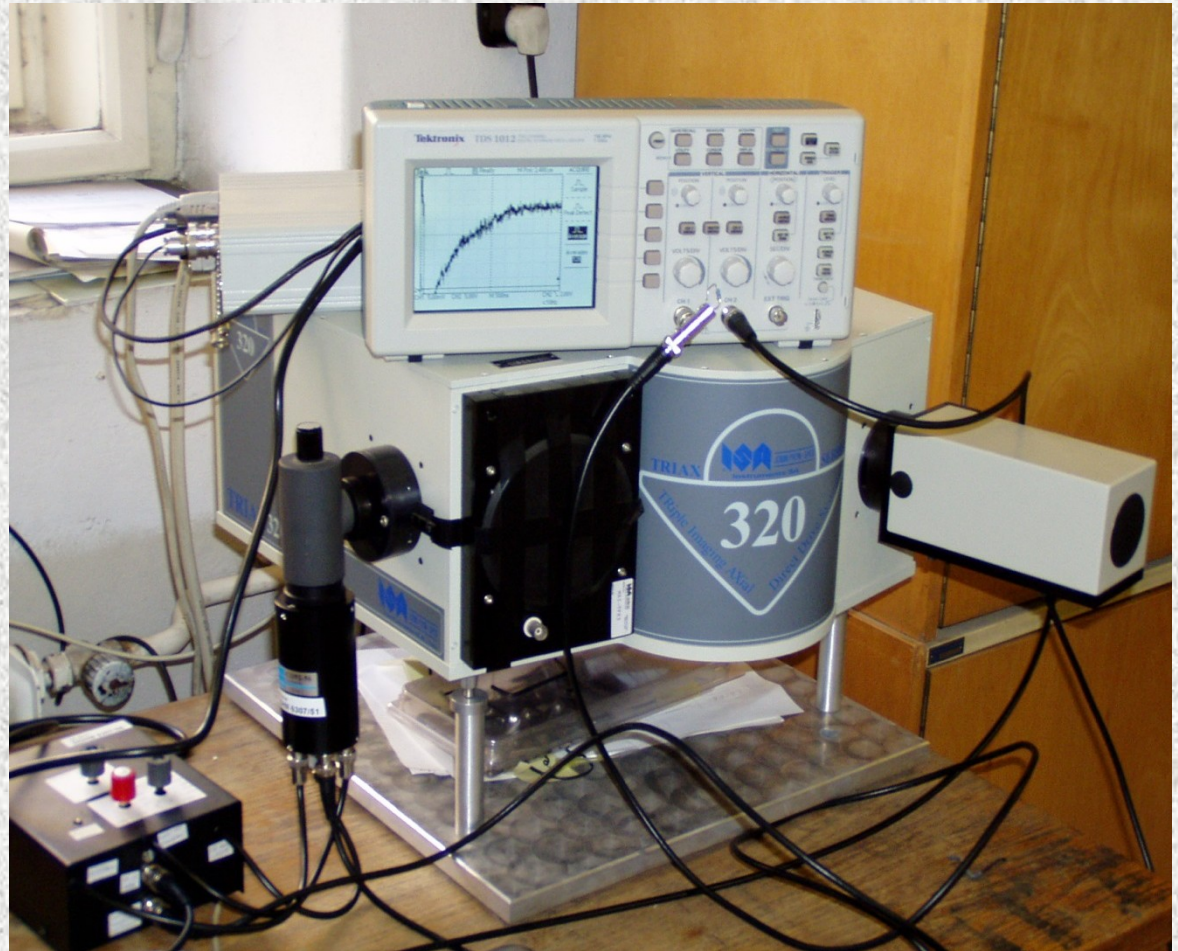
MU setup - 1st generation



MU setup - 1st generation

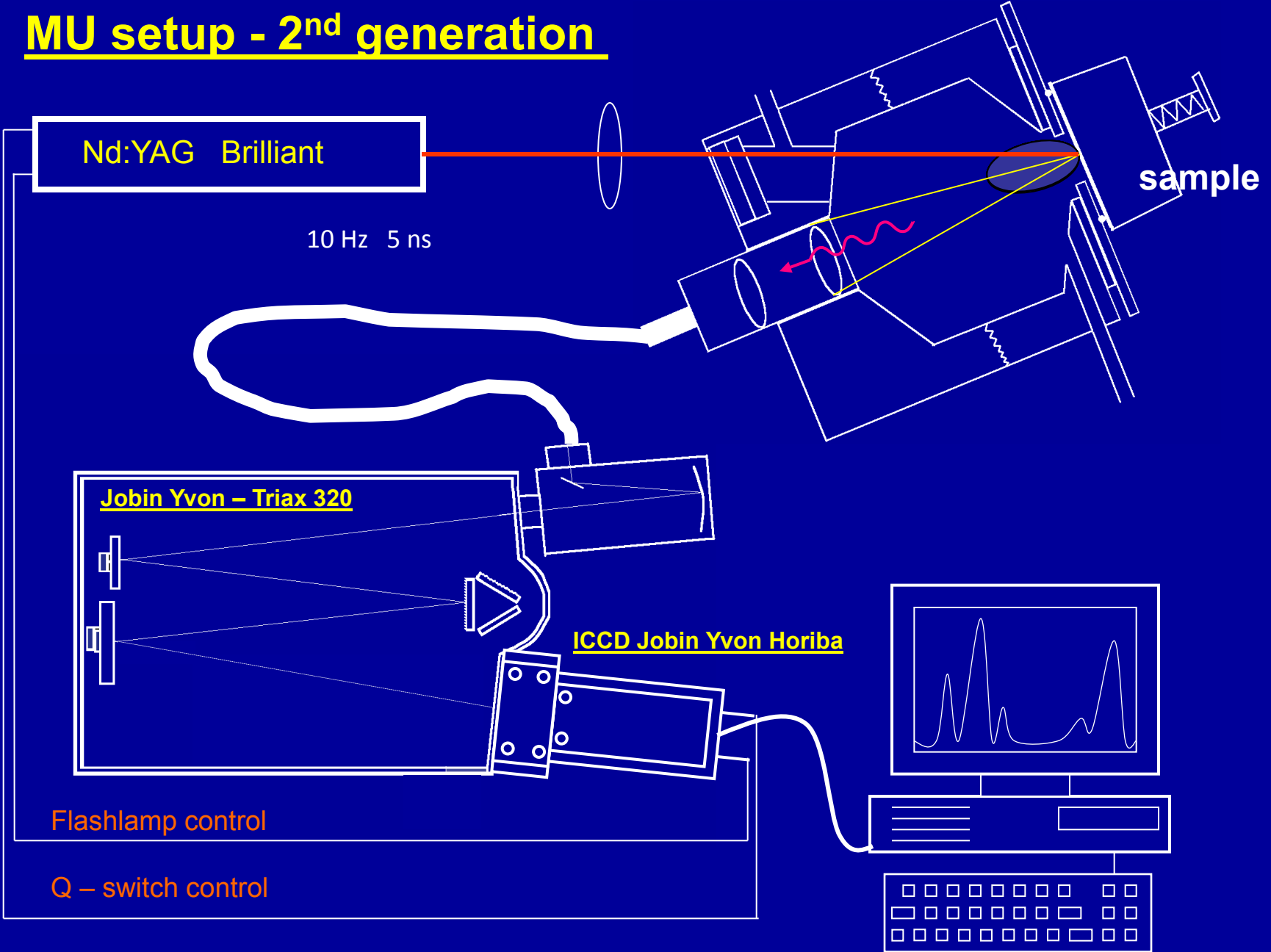


x,y stage OWIS
Nd:YAG Brilliant (Quantel)
glass lens
optical fiber



Monochromator TRIAX 320 (Czerny – Turner 320 mm)
PMT Hamamatsu R928
Control of the PMT by Q – switch pulse
Oscilloscope TDS 1012

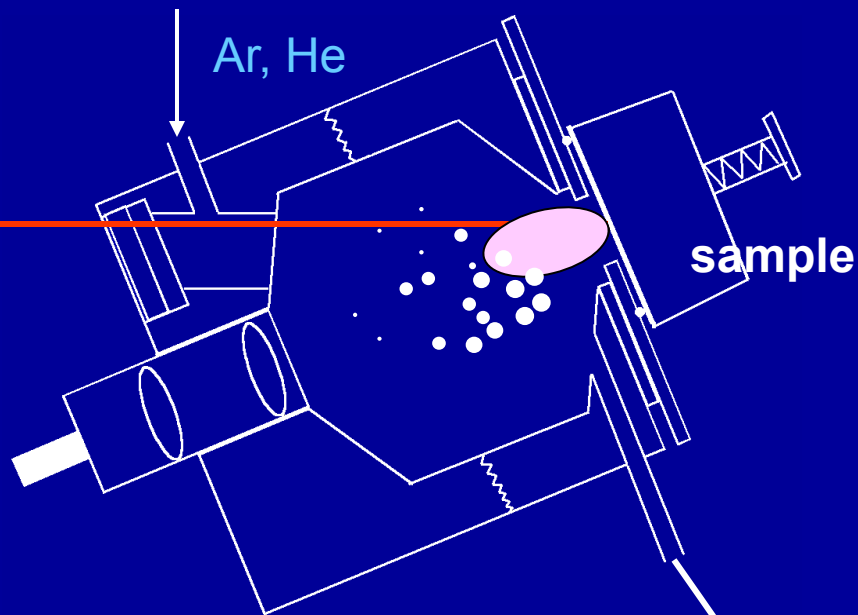
MU setup - 2nd generation



LA-ICP-OES

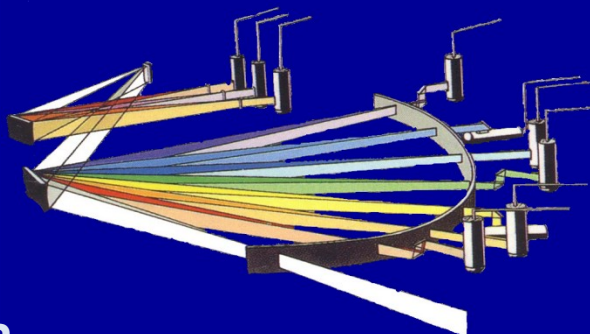


10 Hz 5 ns

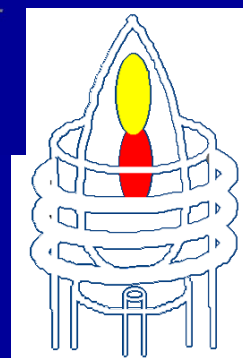
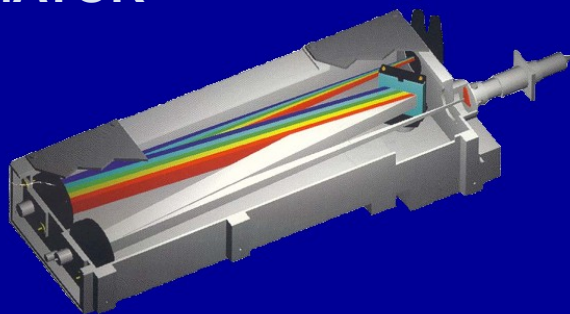


ICP-OES Jobin Yvon – 170 Ultrace

POLYCHROMATOR



MONOCHROMATOR



Double pulse technique (DP-LIBS)

Emission enhancement

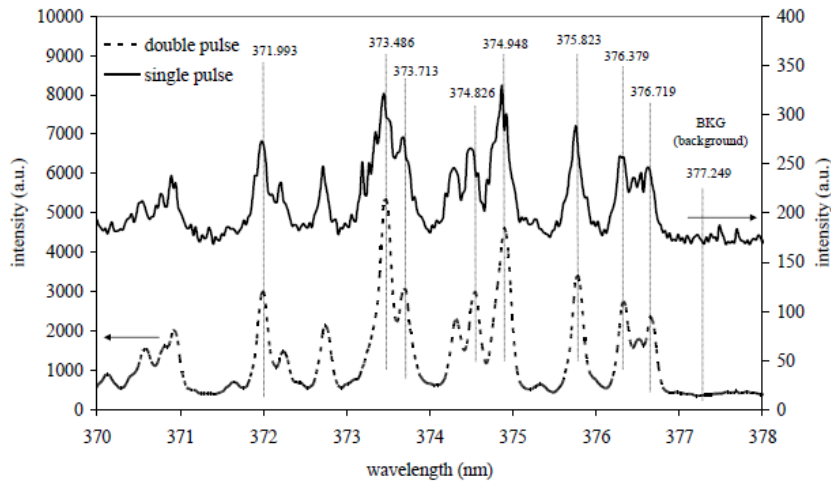
- plasma volume increasing
- higher temperature
- longer decay time
- S/N enhancement

Decreasing of LOD up to two orders of magnitude

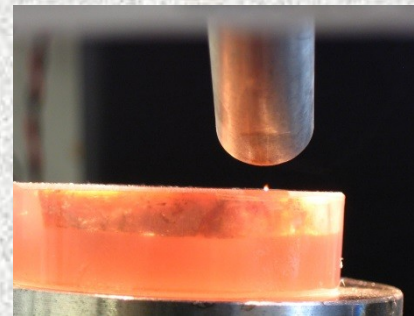


New Wave, UP 266 MACRO

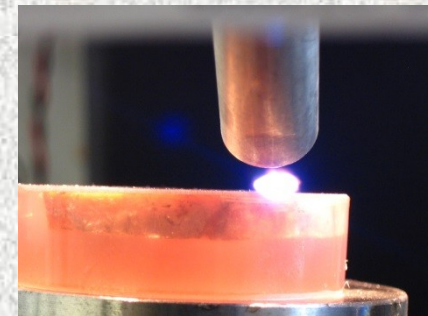
Nd:YAG laser @ 266 nm (4th harmonic frequency)
Second laser pulse Nd:YAG (Quantel Brilliant) @1064 nm



Comparison of the single and double-pulse signals in spectral region of selected iron lines



Single Pulse



Double Pulse

MU setup - 3rd generation

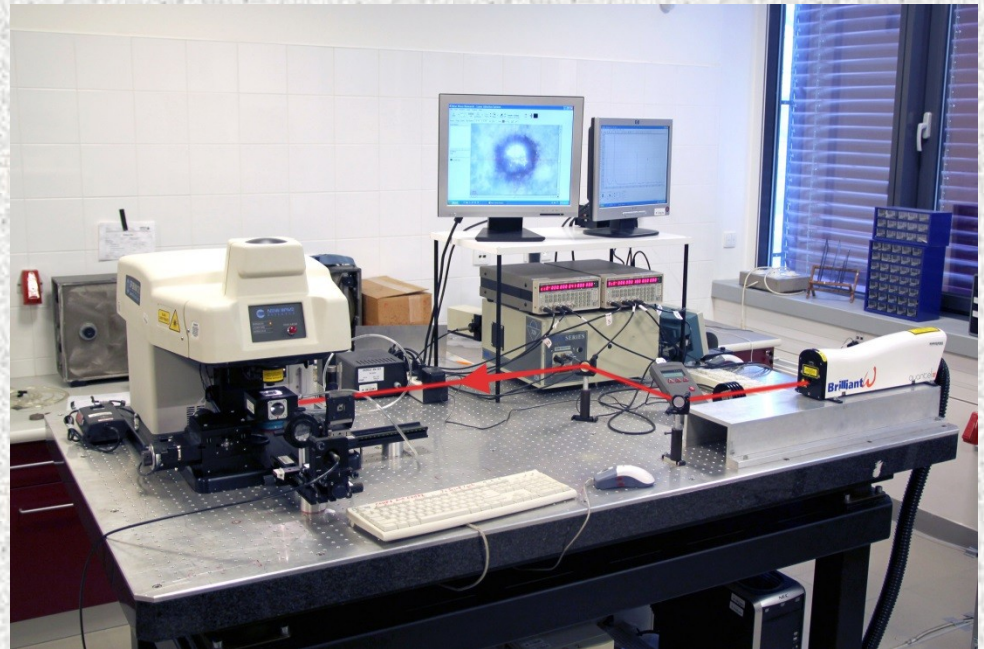
SIMULTANEOUS DP-LIBS AND LASER ABLATION ICP-OES SYSTEM

designed by utilizing a modified commercially available laser ablation system
(New Wave, UP 266 MACRO)

- no modification of the original optics - possible to use all advantages of the original arrangement
- spot ablation for depth profiling, line scanning for lateral analysis and raster scanning for bulk or surface analysis.
- second re-heating laser pulse (Quantel Brilliant) is delivered orthogonally
(periscope arrangement allowing precise laser beam positioning)
- two digital delay generators DG 645
- collection optics for emission transport to the monochromator Triax 320 (Jobin-Yvon)
- ICCD Princeton Instruments PI MAX-3
- sample holders
(different size and shape)

For LA-ICP-OES experiments the original ablation chamber was replaced with a special laboratory made chamber

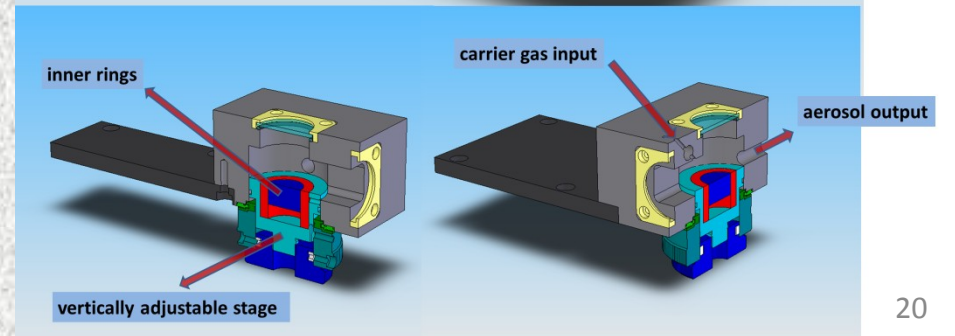
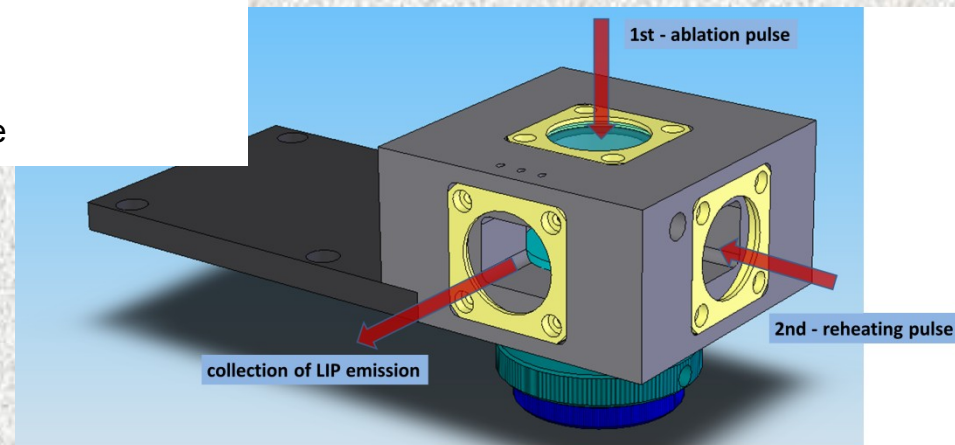
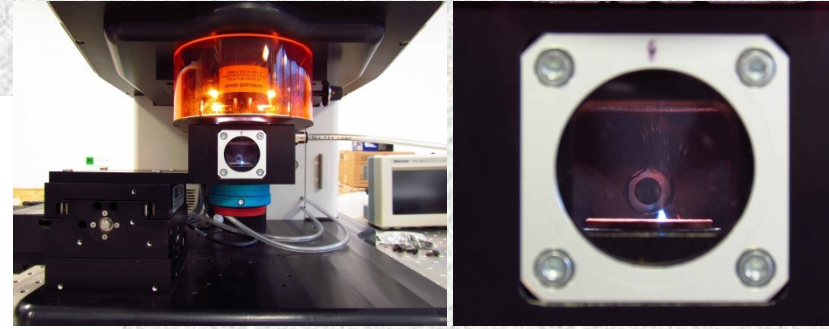
- window for entering the second orthogonal laser pulse
- window for collection of LIP emission
- stage for sample height alignment



ABLATION CHAMBER FOR SIMULTANEOUS DP-LIBS AND LA- ICP-OES/MS

Construction in cooperation with Institute of Physical Engineering
BUT Brno (prof. J. Kaiser)

- compatible with the UP 266 Macro and UP-213 laser ablation systems
- ablation pulse led through the window from above
- re-heating pulse focused through the second window from the right side
- collection of LIP emission through third window at the front side
- oblique jets for carrier gas input
- aerosol output near the ablated sample surface
- vertically adjustable sample stage
- exchangeable inner rings to minimize the inner chamber volume



Instrumentation - Summary

1st generation

- Nd: YAG laser Brilliant (1064, 532 or 266 nm)
- monochromator Jobin Yvon TRIAX 320 (f=320 mm, three gratings – 1200, 2400 and 3600 g/mm)
- photomultiplier Hamamatsu gated by a laboratory-built control unit
- **time resolved emission signal at given wavelength**
- **laboratory-made aluminum ablation chamber - different ablation atmosphere
- connection to ICP OES**

2nd generation

- **ICCD camera Jobin Yvon Horiba (iStar Andor)**

3rd generation

- **orthogonal double pulse configuration**
- laser ablation system New Wave UP 266 MACRO
- ablation chamber for **simultaneous DP-LIBS and double pulse LA-ICP-OES**
- sample surface monitoring by the internal CCD camera
- easy settings of all laser and detection parameters
- **programmable sample moving - depth profiling, line scanning or raster scanning for bulk or surface analysis**
- **single or double pulse experiments**
- detection by PMT or ICCD

Depth profiling

Depth profiling by LIBS

- from nanometer to millimeter scale
- no or minimal sample preparation
- without restrictions on the shape, size or conductivity
- under atmospheric conditions
- on-line and in situ measurement

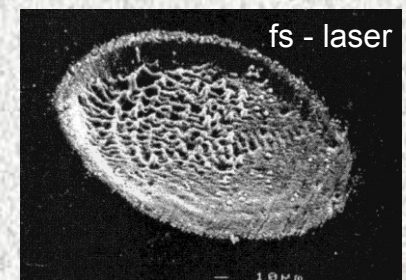
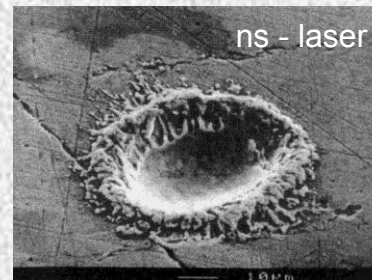
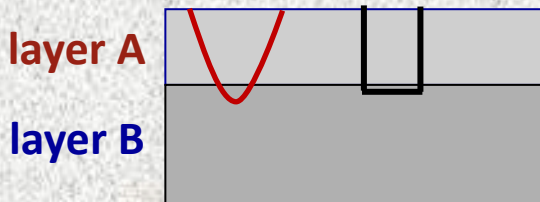
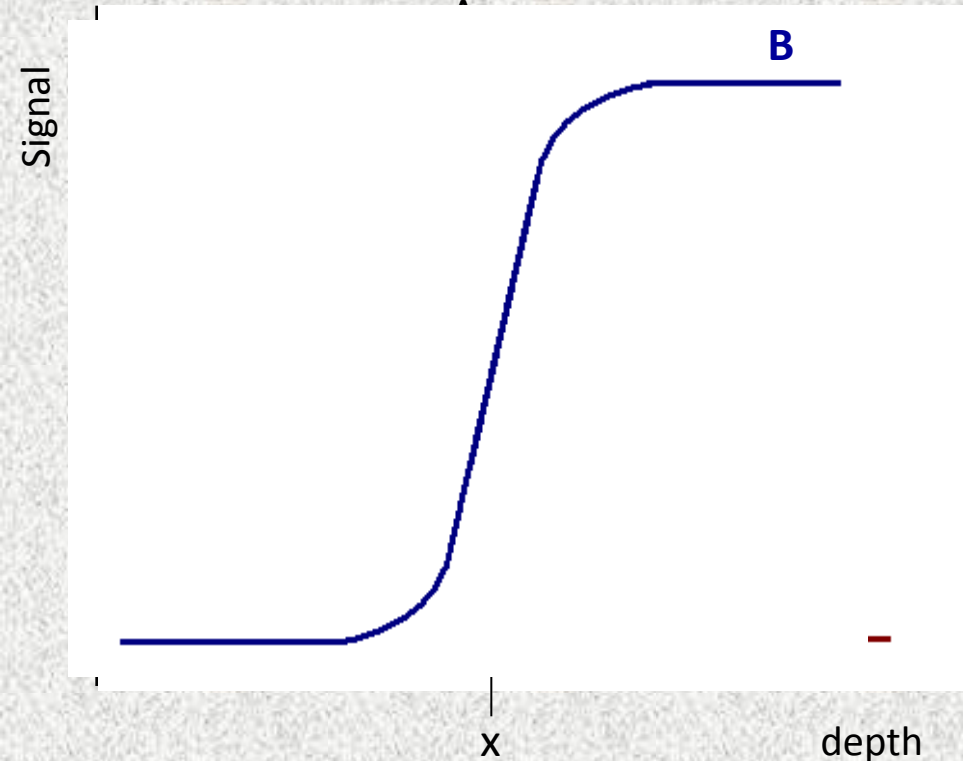
Δz – depth resolution

defined by convention: depth range over which the signal changes from 84 to 16% of its full value

$$\Delta z = \Delta p \text{ AAR}$$

Δp – number of laser shots needed to reach 84 and 16% of signal

AAR – averaged ablation rate



Depth profiling

(zinc-coated iron sheets)

Different manufactures and different zinc-coating thicknesses:
previously analyzed by glow discharge optical emission spectrometry

Hoesch Stahl (20 μm)

electroplated Zn coating, Sollac (10 μm)

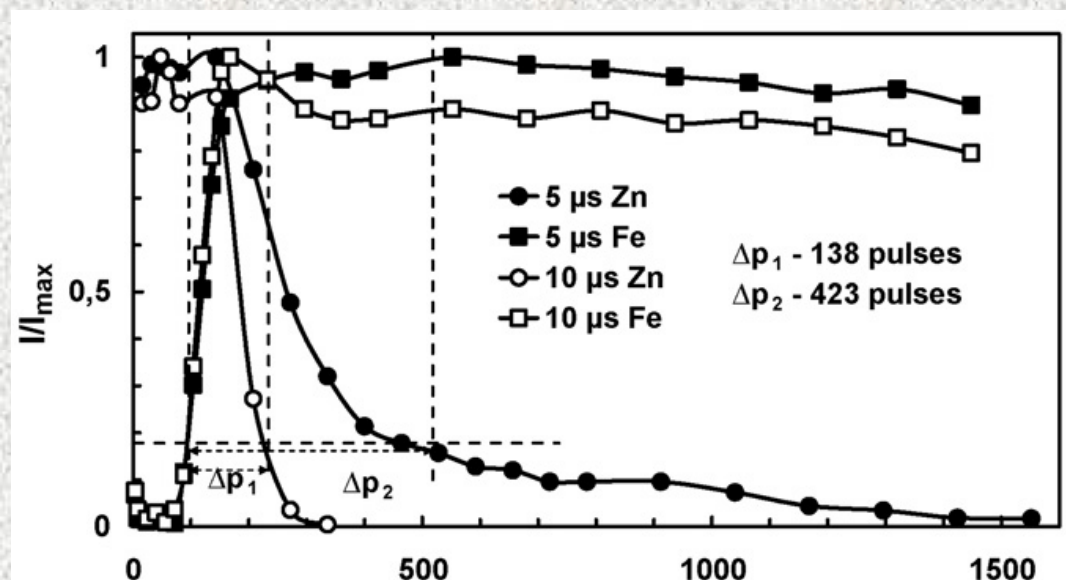
Aluzink, SSAB (24 μm)

Galfan, Voest Alpine (6 μm)

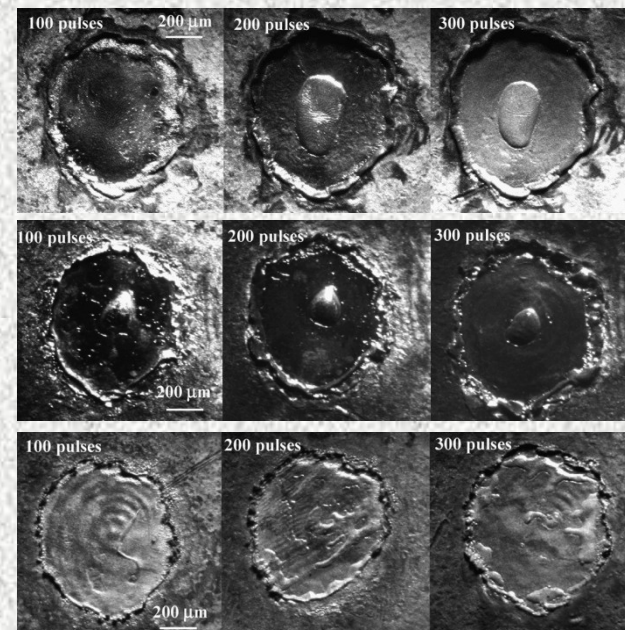
Galvanneal, British Steel (9 μm)

Optimized parameters

- laser pulse energy
- focusing condition
- different surrounding gases
- delay time



Depth profile of electroplated Zn in helium focusing at -20 mm. Comparison of LIBS signals of Zn(I) 280.08 nm and Fe(I) 344.06 nm at 5 and 10 ms delay times. Ablation was performed with an energy of 100 mJ/pulse.



air

Ar

He

Depth profiling

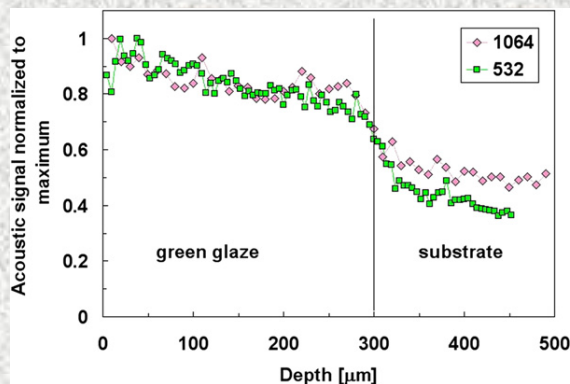
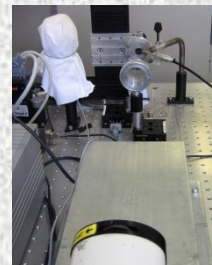
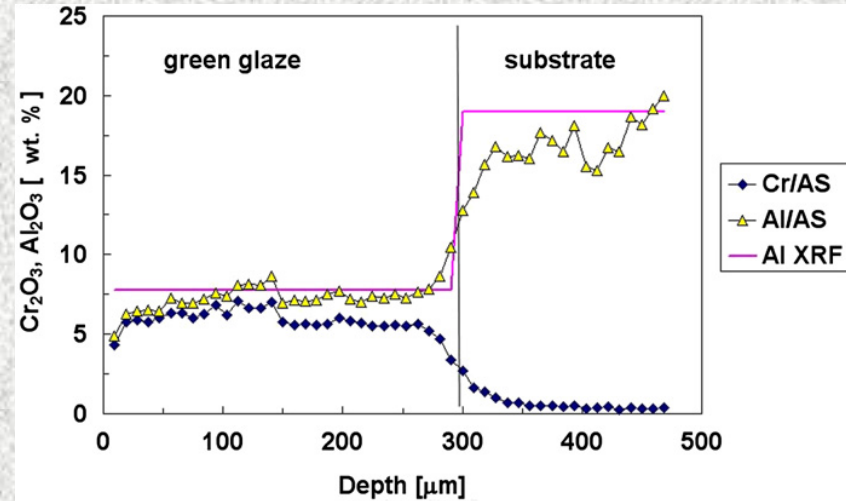
(ceramic tiles)



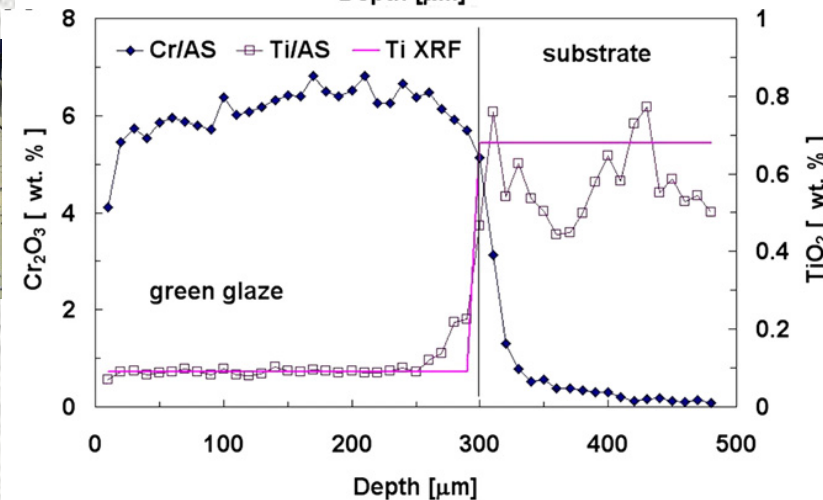
Model sample of glazed silicate ceramics

- well-defined average contents of constituents
- reproducible production series

Oxide	Wt.%	
	Glaze	Ceramic body
SiO ₂	56.84	66.11
Al ₂ O ₃	7.75	18.99
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.35	1.23
TiO ₂	0.09	0.68
CaO	6.03	9.79
MgO	0.54	1.49
K ₂ O	2.51	1.42
Na ₂ O	0.20	0.29
ZrO ₂	0.22	0.00
ZnO	9.26	0.00
BaO	1.96	0.00
SrO	0.10	0.00
PbO	7.37	0.00
CuO	0.06	0.00
Cr ₂ O ₃	6.18	0.00



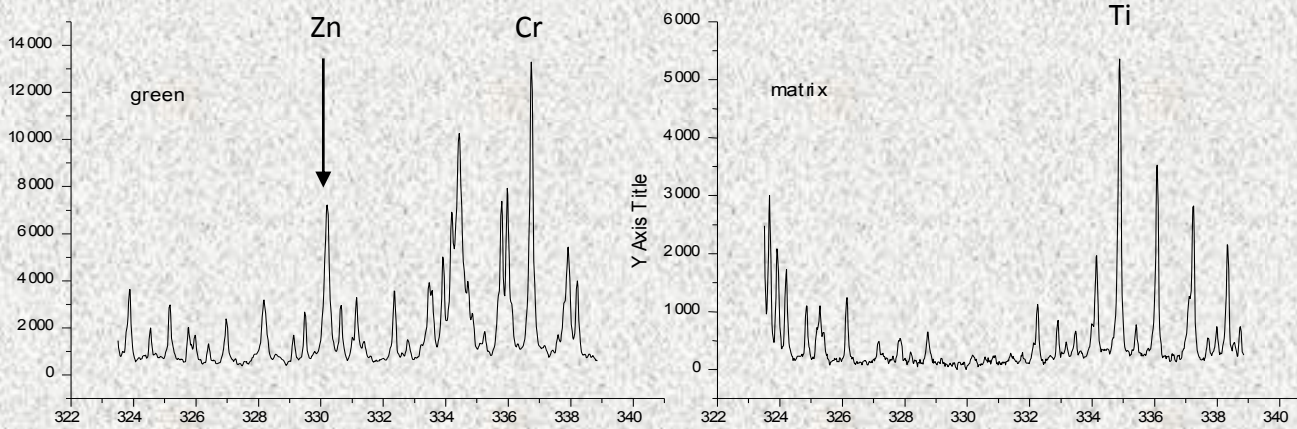
← decrease in the optical emission during ablation was successfully compensated by normalization to the acoustic signal →



Depth profile of the green tile acquired for Al(I) 309.271 nm, Cr(I) 295.368 nm and Ti(II) 334.904 nm.

Mapping and depth profiling

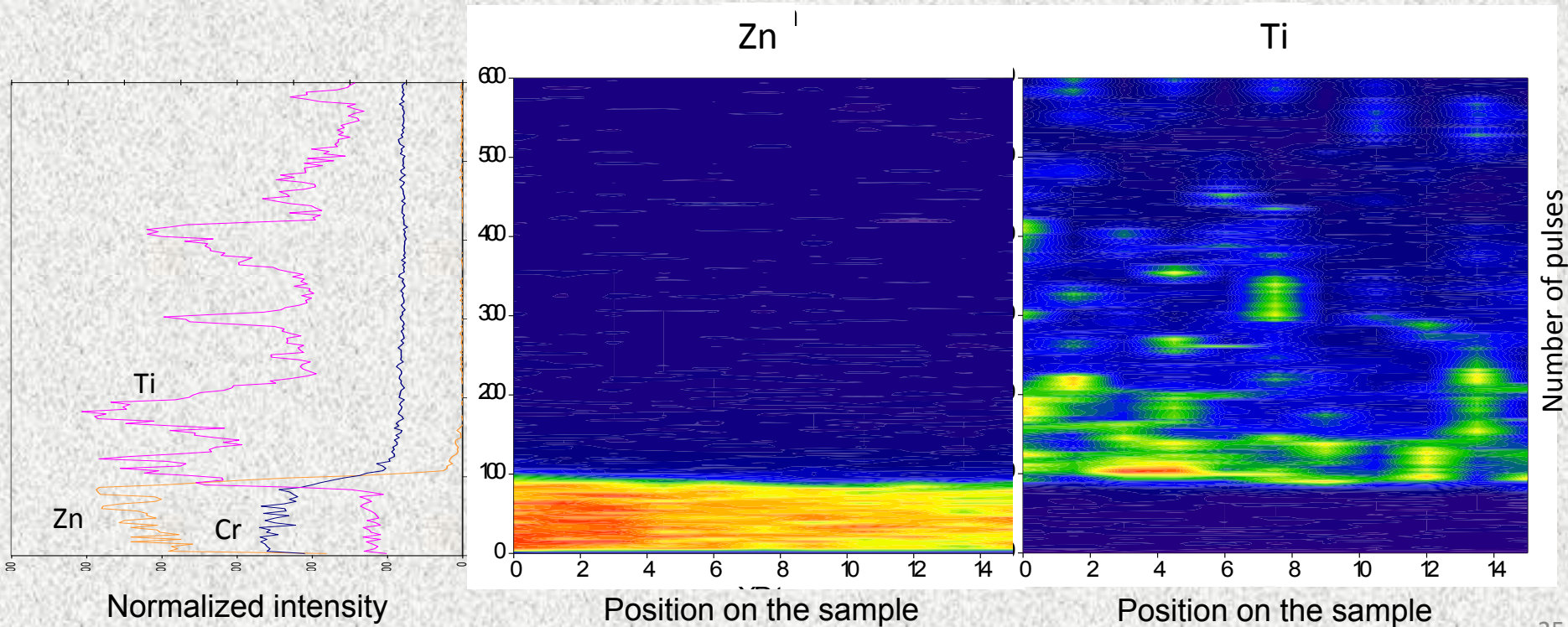
(ceramic tiles)



Ti(II) 334.9 nm
Cr(II) 336.8 nm
Zn(I) 330.29nm



ablation craters



Mapping of elemental distribution

(plant samples)

Cleaning of metal contaminated soil - **PHYTOREMEDIATION**

resistant, strong tolerance, effective plant-transport mechanisms, high accumulation, high biomass, fast growth

herbs: *Zea mays*, *Helianthus annuus* ...

trees: *Betula pendula*, *Populus tremula* ...

Samples from naturally growing trees

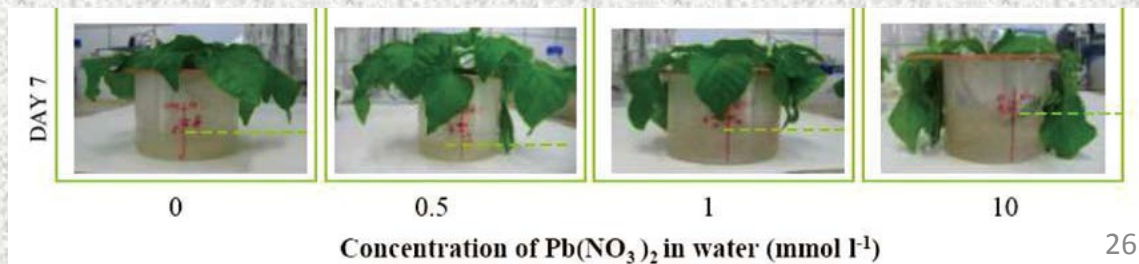
recultivated sludge bed in locality **Smolník (Slovakia)**

	Sample	Investigated part	Monitored element	Method		
				LIBS		LA-ICP-MS
				SP	DP	
Cultivated plants	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	leaves, stems, roots	Pb, Cd, Mg, K, Ag, Cu	X		X
	<i>Zea mays</i>	leaves, stems, roots	Pb, Mg, Fe	X		X
	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	leaves	Fe	X		
	<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L.	leaves	Pb, Mg	X		
	<i>Picea abies</i>	needles, twigs	Cu, Ca		X	
Natural plants	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	needles	Cu, Ca	X		
	<i>Populus tremula</i>	leaves	Cu, Ca	X		
	<i>Betula pendula</i>	leaves	Cu, Ca	X		
	<i>Picea abies</i>	needles, twigs	Cu, Ca	X		



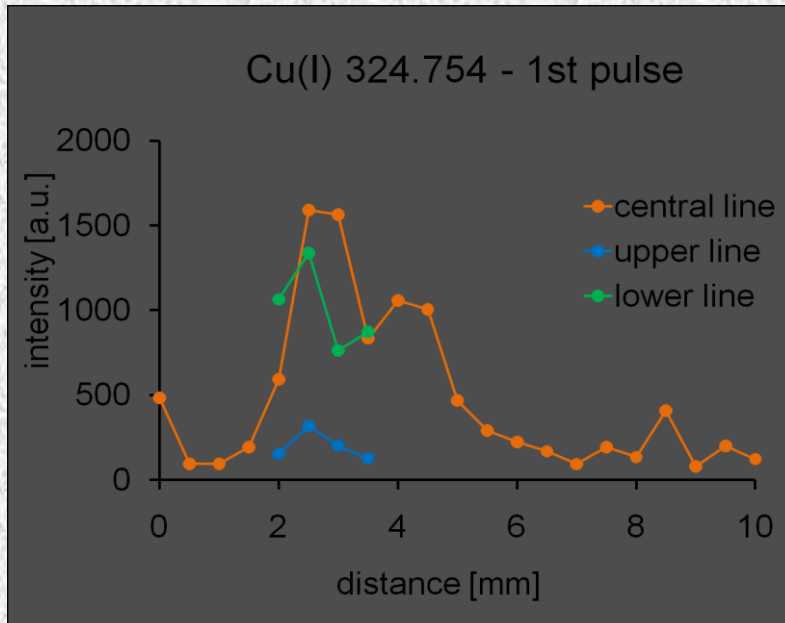
Laboratory cultivated plants

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mendel University in Brno



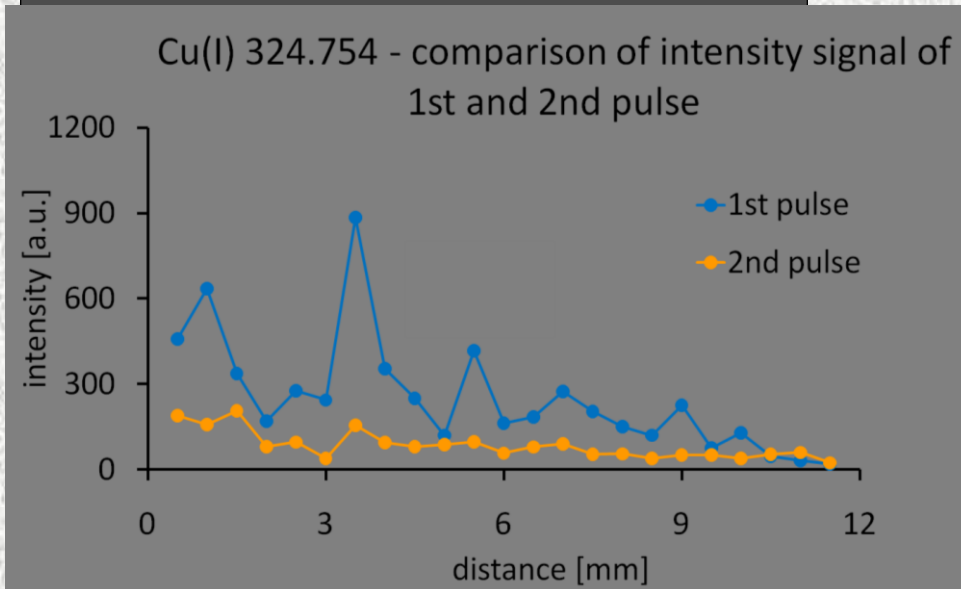
Mapping of elemental distribution

(plant samples)



Smolník

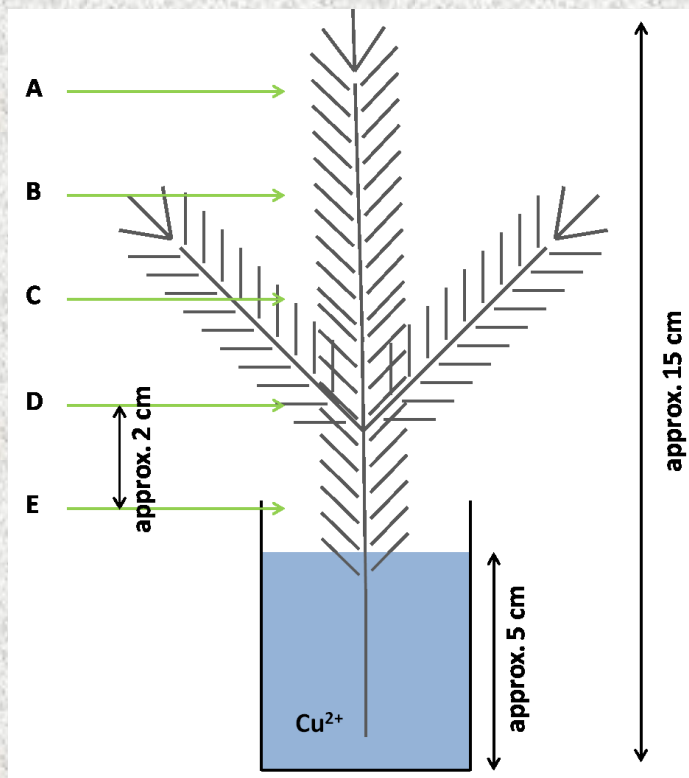
Copper distribution in the needle of pine tree (*Pinus sylvestris*) obtained by LIBS **single pulse**.



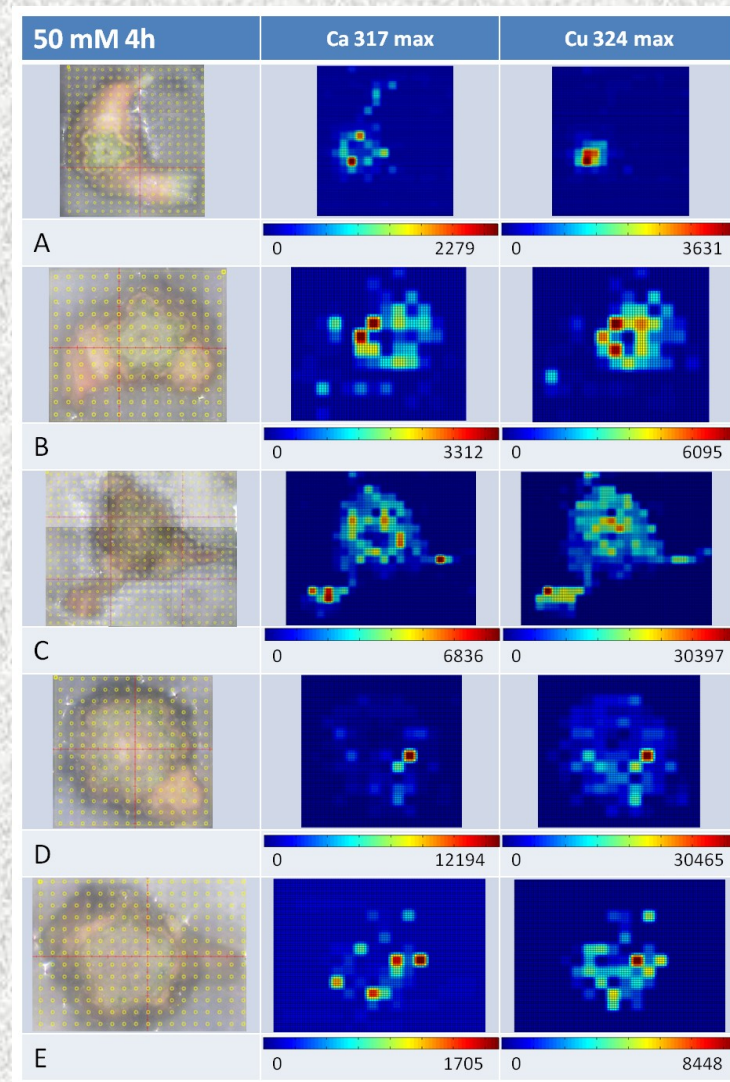
Copper distribution in central vein of the aspen leaf (*Populus tremula*) obtained by LIBS **single pulse**; two laser pulses on each point.

Mapping of elemental distribution

(plant samples)



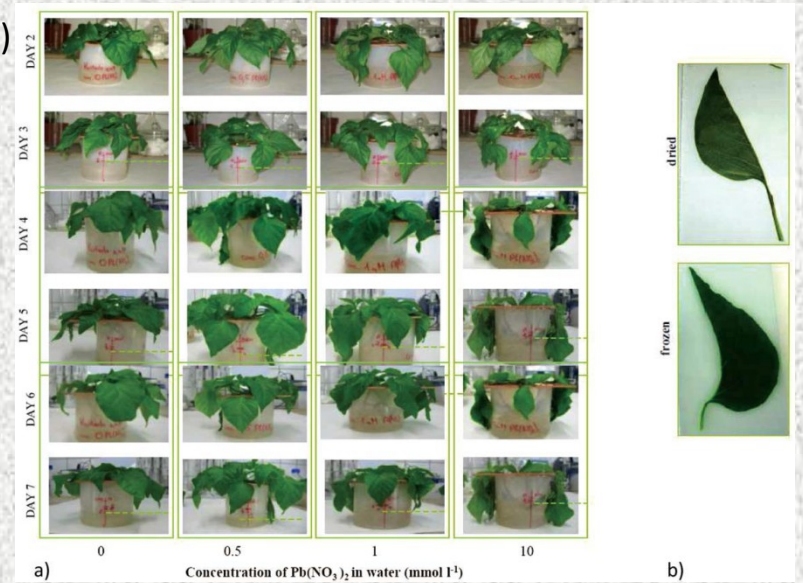
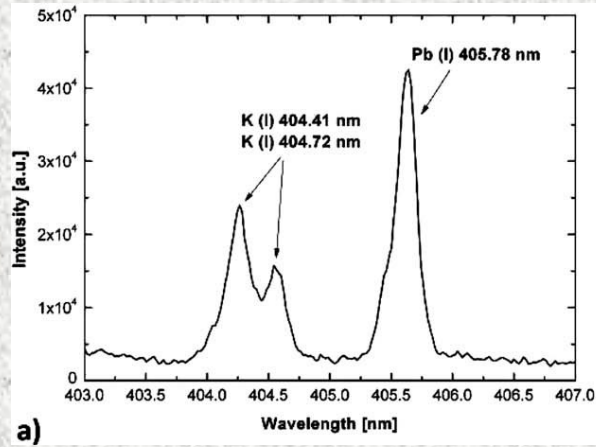
Example of **copper** and **calcium** distribution maps on cross sections of spruce twigs (*Picea abies*) cultivated in $50 \text{ mmol.l}^{-1} \text{ CuCl}_2$ obtained by **LIBS double pulse**.



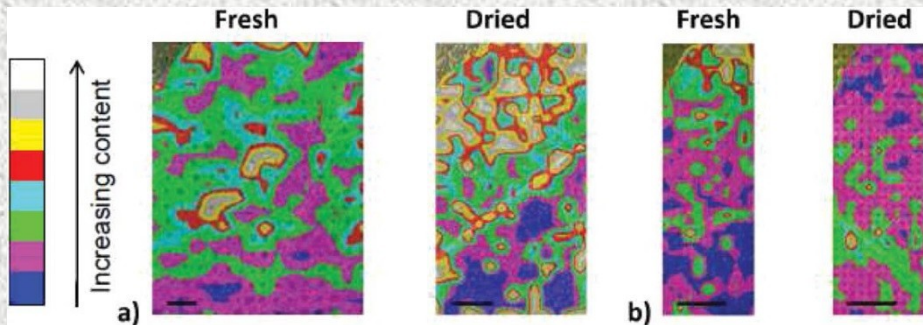
Point distance = 150 μm

Mapping of elemental distribution (plant samples)

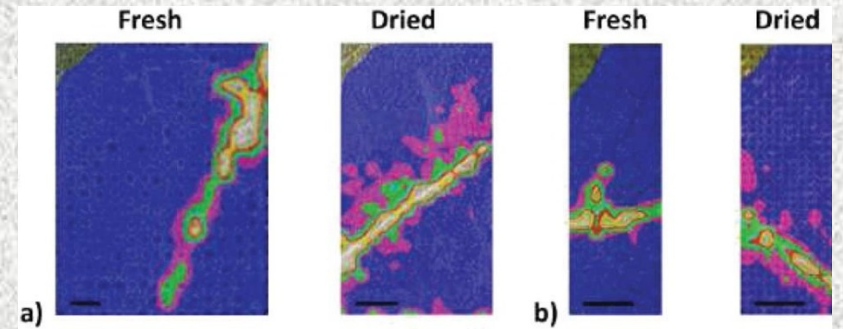
Mapping of accumulation and distribution of heavy metal (lead) and nutrition elements (potassium) in leaves of *Capsicum annuum L.* samples.



(a) Set of *C. annuum L.* samples used for monitoring of effects of lead(II) ions. (b) Example of the investigated *C. annuum L.* leaves.



The maps of K obtained from the studied area of the 2 days 10 mmol L⁻¹ Pb(NO₃)₂ treated *C. annuum L.* leaf. The K distribution in fresh (frozen) and dried samples measured by (a) LIBS and (b) LA-ICP-MS.



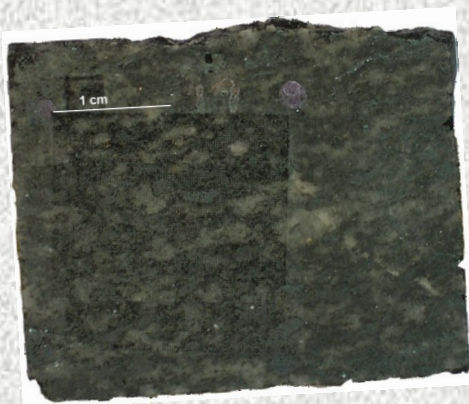
The maps of Pb obtained from the studied area of the 2 days 10 mmol L⁻¹ Pb(NO₃)₂ treated *C. annuum L.* leaf. The K distribution in fresh (frozen) and dried leaf measured by (a) LIBS and (b) LA-ICP-MS.

Elemental mapping

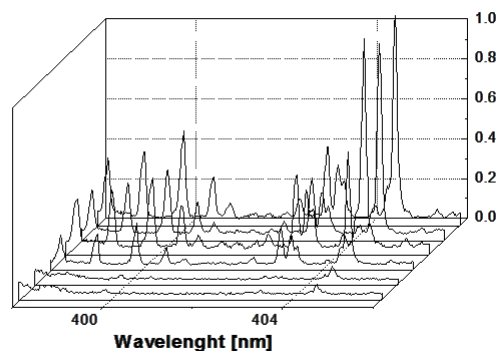
(geological sample)

Comparison study:

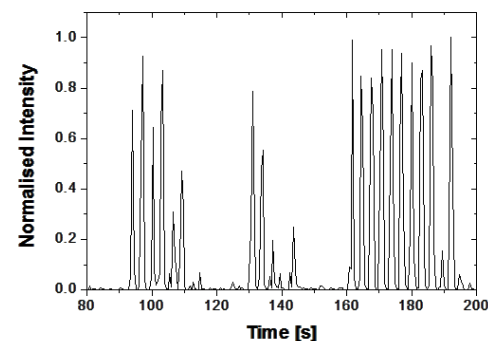
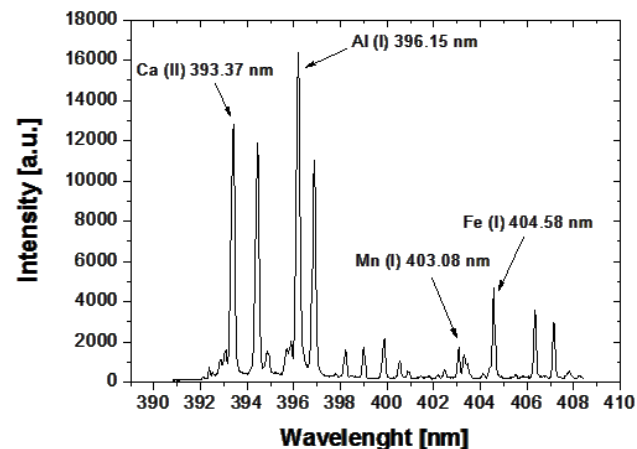
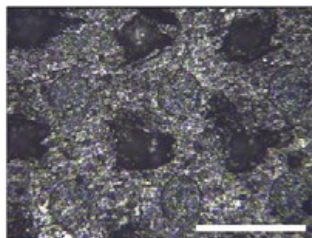
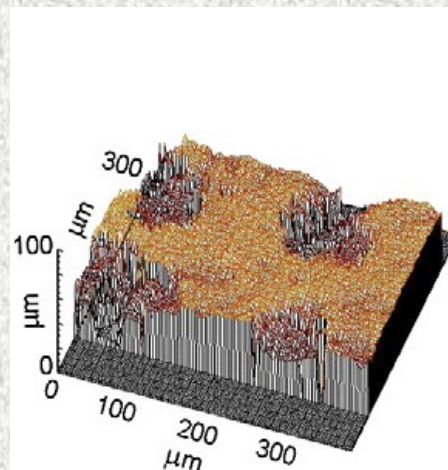
multi-element (Ca, Al, Fe, Mn) mappings of a granite sample surface performed by **LIBS** and subsequently by **LA-ICP-MS** analysis



The 2 x 2 cm² area of the granite was sampled with a spatial resolution of 200 μm (the distance of the LIBS and LA-ICP-MS craters).



Set of normalised spectra obtained by six subsequent pulses from the different places of the sample.

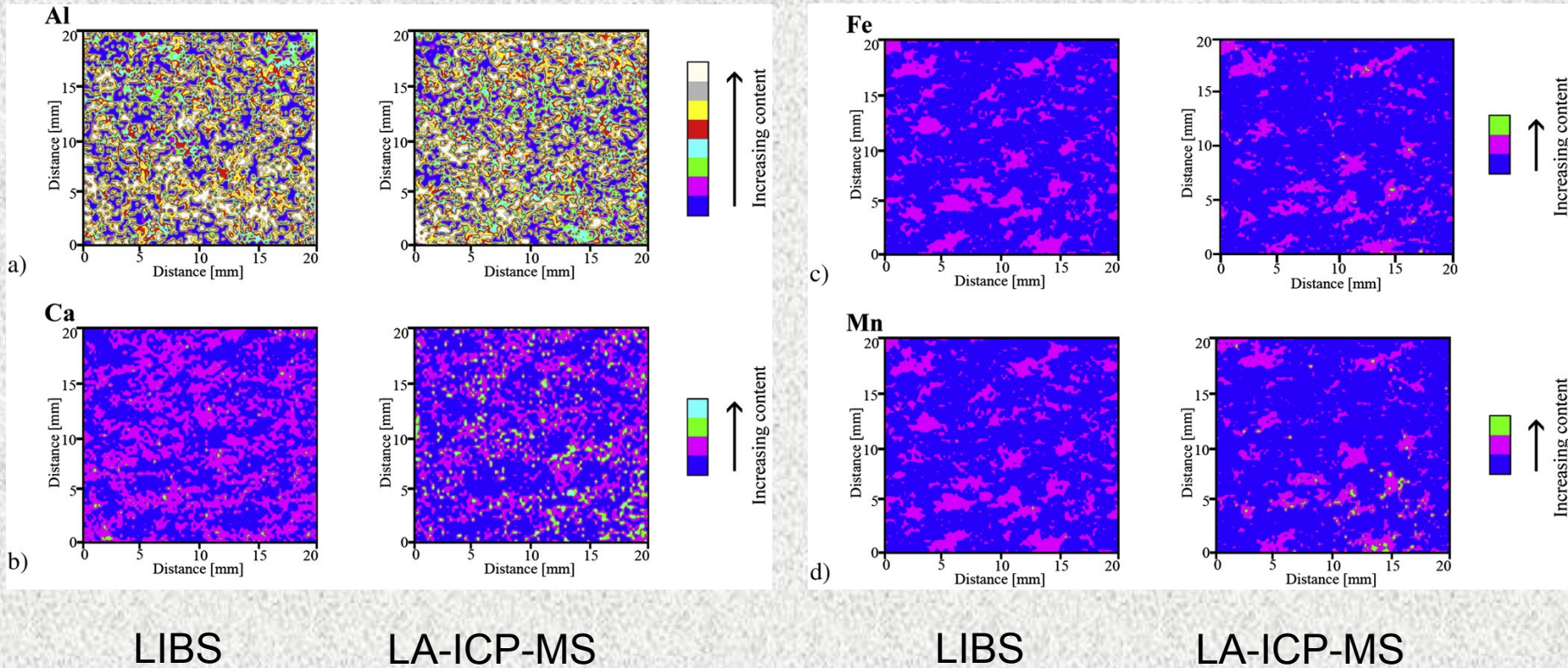


Typical LA-ICP-MS signal for Fe monitoring obtained for ~40 ablation craters.

Elemental mapping

(geological sample)

100×100 individual sample points to map an area of 20×20 mm²



Elemental mapping

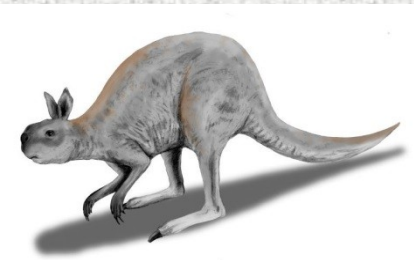
(teeth)



Upper palaeolithic reindeer tooth
locality at Moravany-Lopata, Western Slovakia



Fossil brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) was excavated
at Dolní Věstonice II-Western Slope, South
Moravia, Czech Republic.



Protemnodon - an extinct species of a kangaroo
that lived about 50 000 years ago, found in
Australian swamps

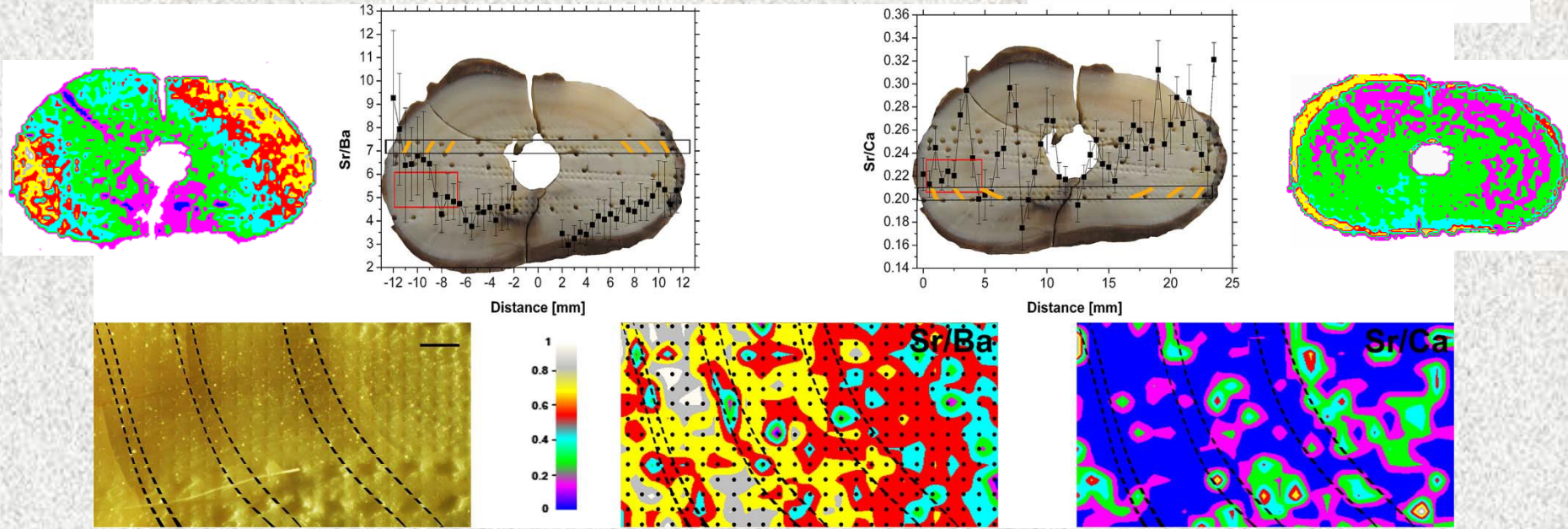
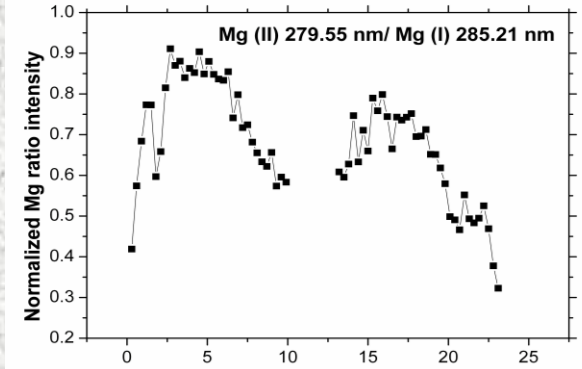
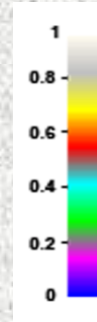
Elemental mapping

(teeth)

The estimation of the sample hardness via magnesium ionic to atomic line intensity. The estimated hardness characteristic was proved by microhardness measurements.

ETHOLOGY OF THE STUDIED FOSSIL BROWN BEAR

The seasonal fluctuations of the Sr/Ca and Sr/Ba detected by DP LIBS evidenced the migration of this bear between his hibernaculum's location and the place where the fossils were found.

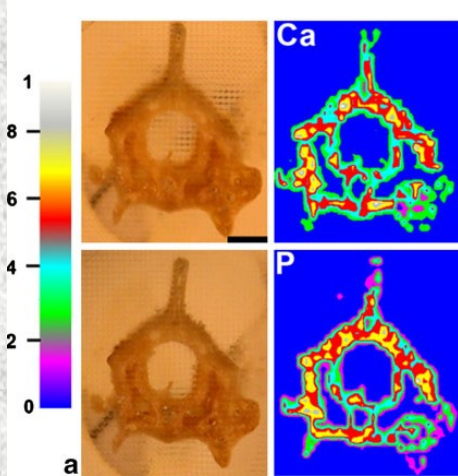


Sr/Ca and Sr/Ba ratios derived from LIBS line scan and LA-ICP-MS mapping; dotted lines represent the different regions (white, summer bands; brown, winter bands) of the tooth cross section. The bar has a length of 500 μm .

Elemental mapping

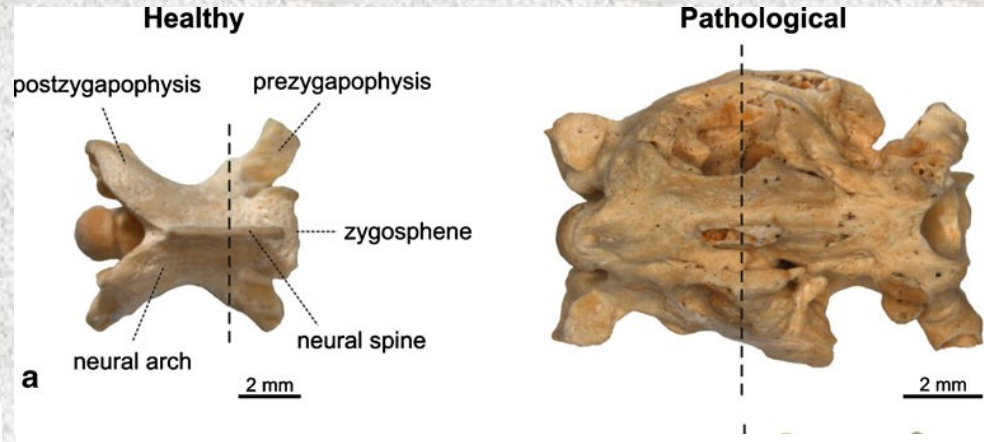
(fossil snake vertebrae)

Elemental mapping of pathological bony tissue (*osteitis deformans* phases in fossil vertebrae)

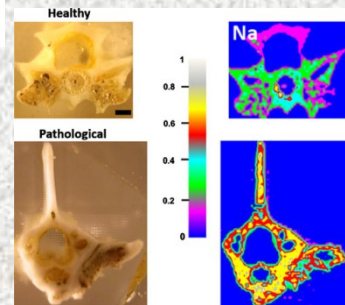
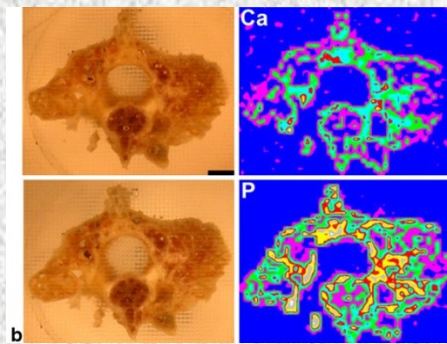


The fossil material:

Natrix natrix
Mladeč Caves excavation II
(Czech Republic),
Early Pleistocene

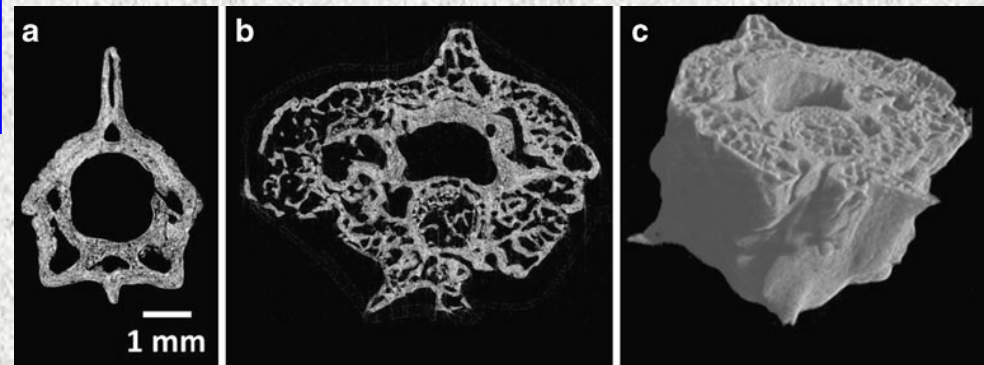


The photographs of the studied a fossil (*N. natrix*) snake vertebrae. The investigated healthy (the left images) and pathological (the right images) bones are shown.



Lower Ca/P ratio indicating the later stage of the *osteitis deformans*.

Na content can be caused by metabolic derangement (“acidosis”).



SR- μ CT slices of **a** healthy and **b** pathological fossil snake vertebra together with **c** the 3D rendering of the investigated fossil snake vertebra segment

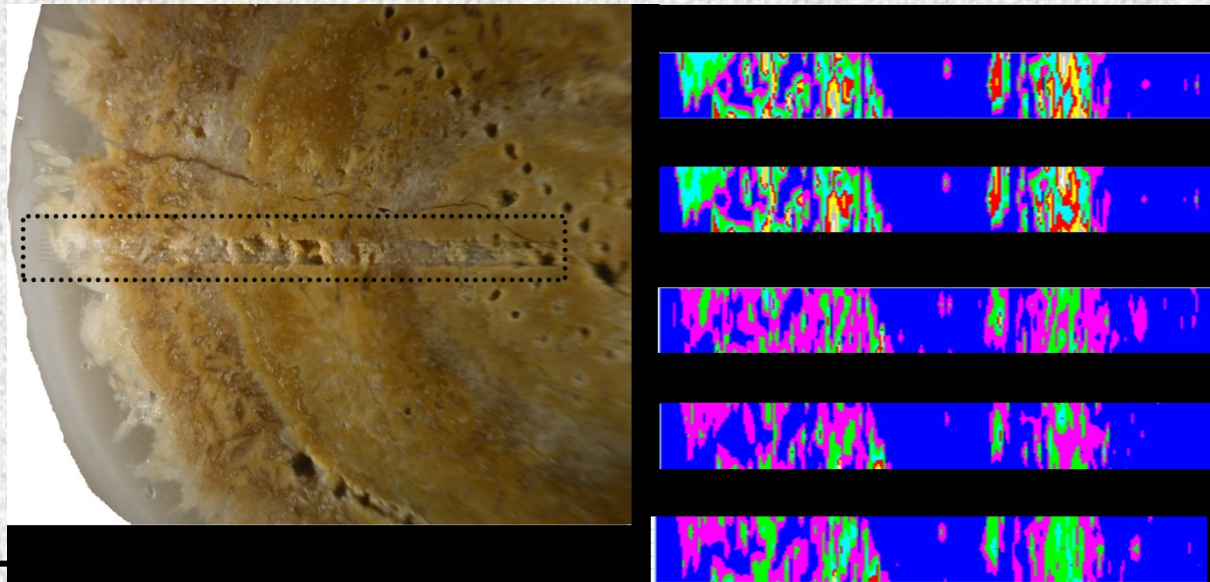
Elemental mapping

(urinary stones)

Mineralized tissues and bio-mineral structures are “archives” related to living habits, nutrition and exposure to changing environmental conditions.

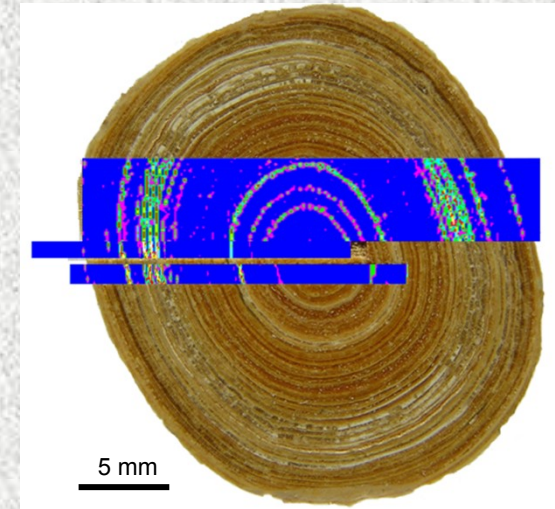
Line scans of the urinary concrement cross-sections may provide information about the accumulation history of the elements of interest.

Four categories of urinary stones: a) oxalates b) phosphates c) uric acid and d) cystine.



Correlation between calcium and phosphorus indicates the presence of apatite.

Distribution of iron is connected with accumulation of blood clot during the growth of urinary stones in the urinary bladder.



Ca distribution

Sample no. 10806: oval, ellipsoidal, pale yellow-brown zone.

The main components:

uric acid (90%)

weddellite $\text{CaC}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (10%)

Powder samples

powdered tungsten carbide hard-metal precursors (WC/Co)

Samples: Pramet Tools, Šumperk, Czech Republic

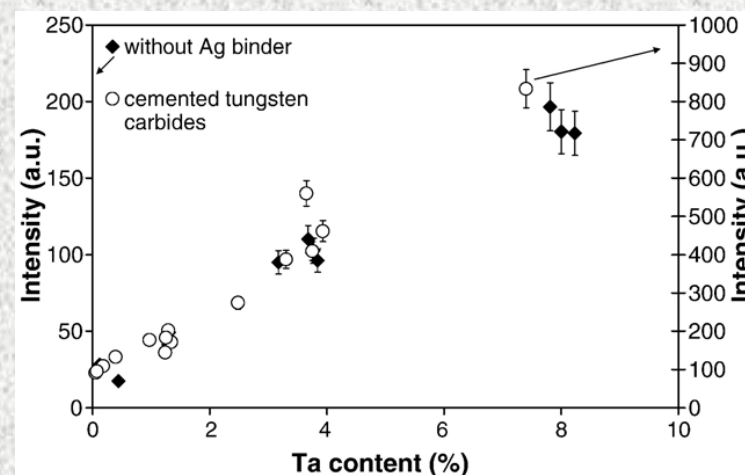
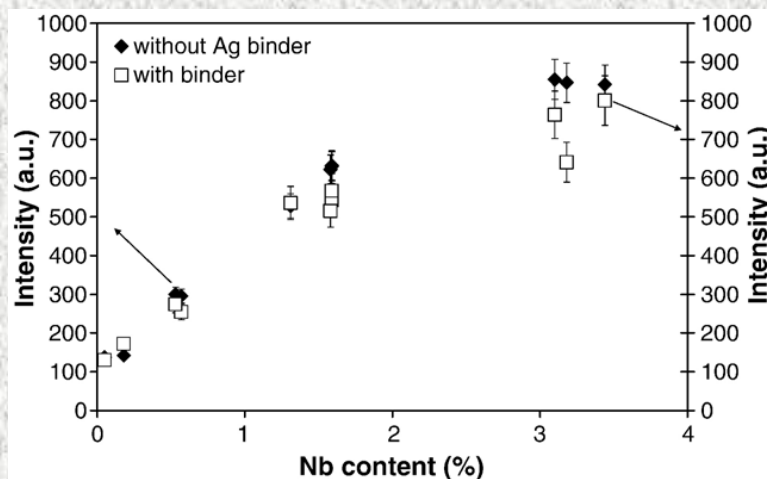
The elemental composition of powders samples:

preparation of pressed pellets with or without binder (binder powdered silver)



element	content % (m/m)
W	57–88
C	4.8–7.5
Co	3–10
Ti	0.04–9.6
Ta	0.1–8.2
Nb	0.05–3.4

Element	Wavelength (nm)
Nb	405,89
Ta	648,53
Co	350,25
Ti	361,03



Powder samples

calibration pellets (urinary stones)

Mineralogical composition of calibration pellets

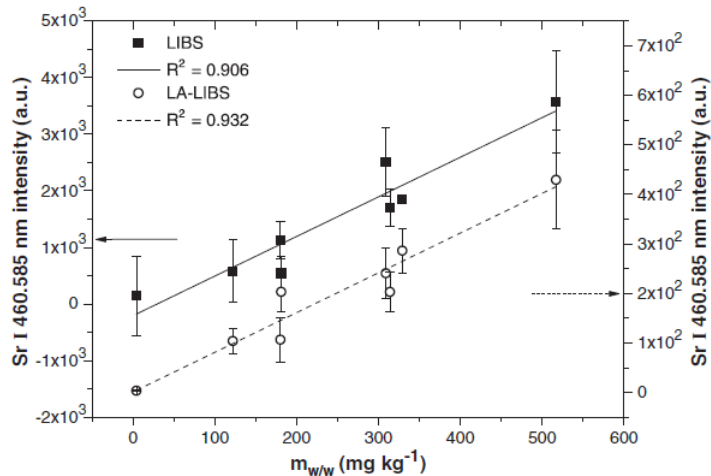
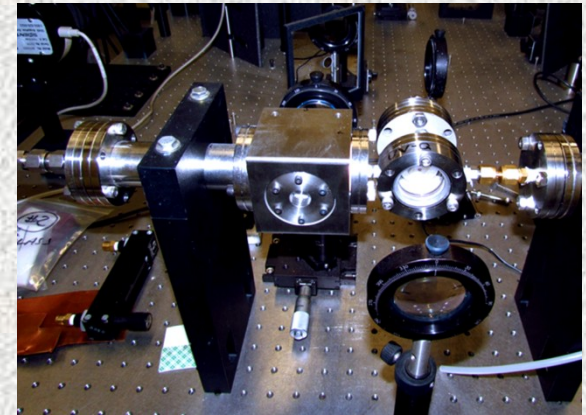
Mineral	Apatite [%]	Struvite [%]	Uric acid [%]	Calcium oxalate [%]
No. Sample				
8393	51.4	51.6	0	0
5056	60.0	40.0	0	0
5255	61.3	38.7	0	0
6686	56.5	43.5	0	0
6489	52.8	47.2	0	0
5397	6.1	93.9	0	0
5996	35.2	64.8	0	0
9130	61.4	38.6	0	0
6671	75.2	24.8	0	0
8365	13.4	1.2	0	85.4
6275	7.8	0.4	0	91.8
9081	1.1	0.2	0	98.7
5166	10.7	0.6	0	88.7
8500	0.1	0.1	42.2	57.6
7851	1.6	0.3	0	98.1
7901	0.1	0	36.5	63.4
6432	0.2	0	50.1	49.7
6585	0	0	52.6	47.4

Comparison of LIBS and LA LIBS

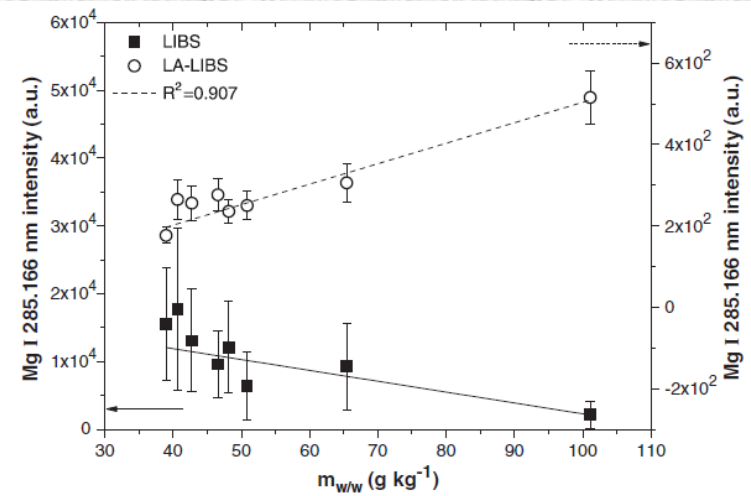
Problems with elements present in high content are related mainly to the LIBS technique and most probably they are connected to the processes in the LIP and self-absorption.

Laser ablation LIBS (LA-LIBS)

(analytical LIBS plasma is completely separated from LA)



Comparison of LIBS and LA-LIBS calibration curves for Sr in phosphate matrix pellets.

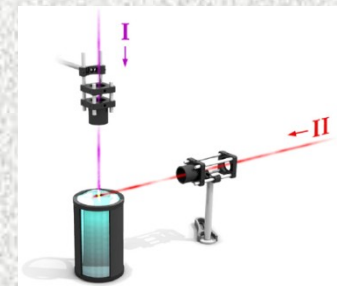
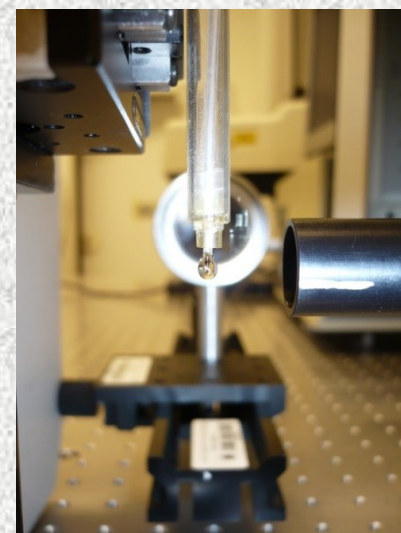
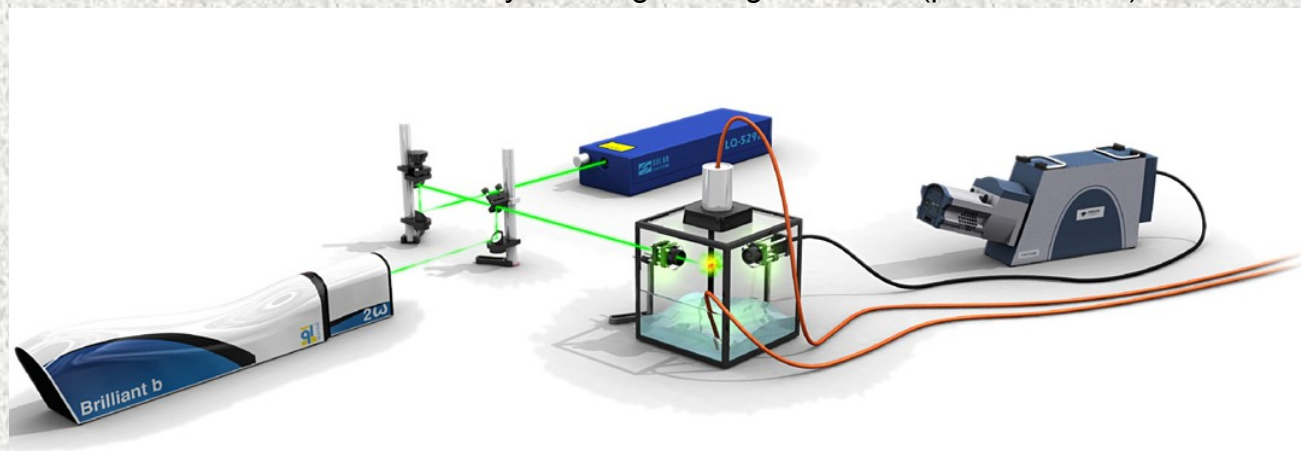


Comparison of LIBS and LA-LIBS calibration curves for Mg in phosphate matrix pellets.

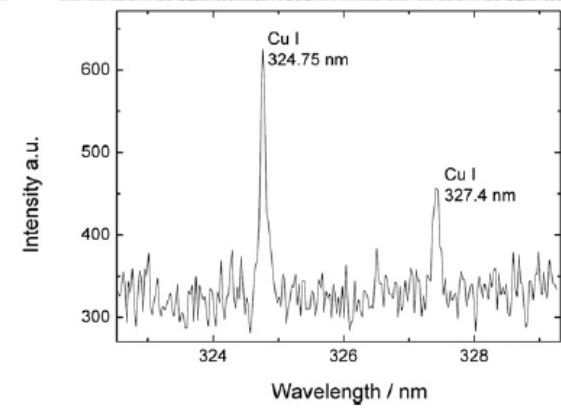
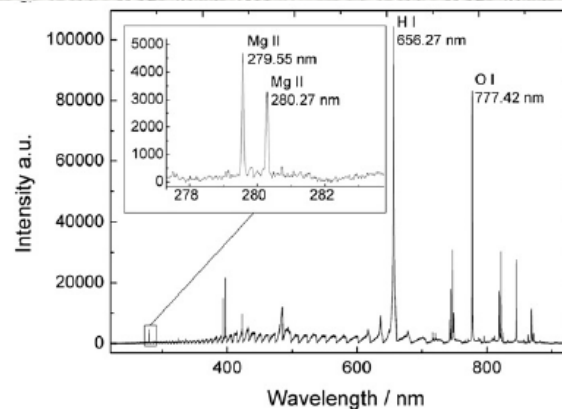
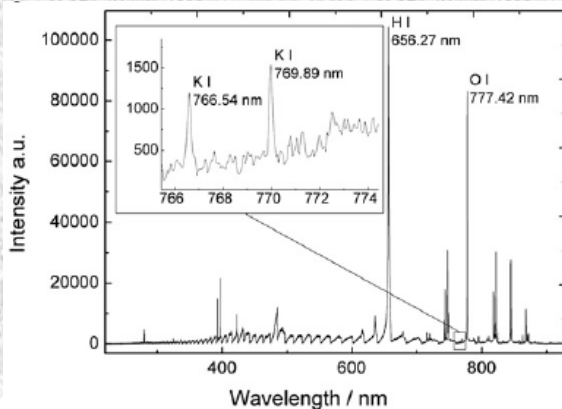
Liquid samples

Investigation of liquid samples or bio-fluids (algae suspension)

Instrumentation at Institute of Physical Engineering BUT Brno (prof. J. Kaiser)



LIBS system employing laminar water jet setup

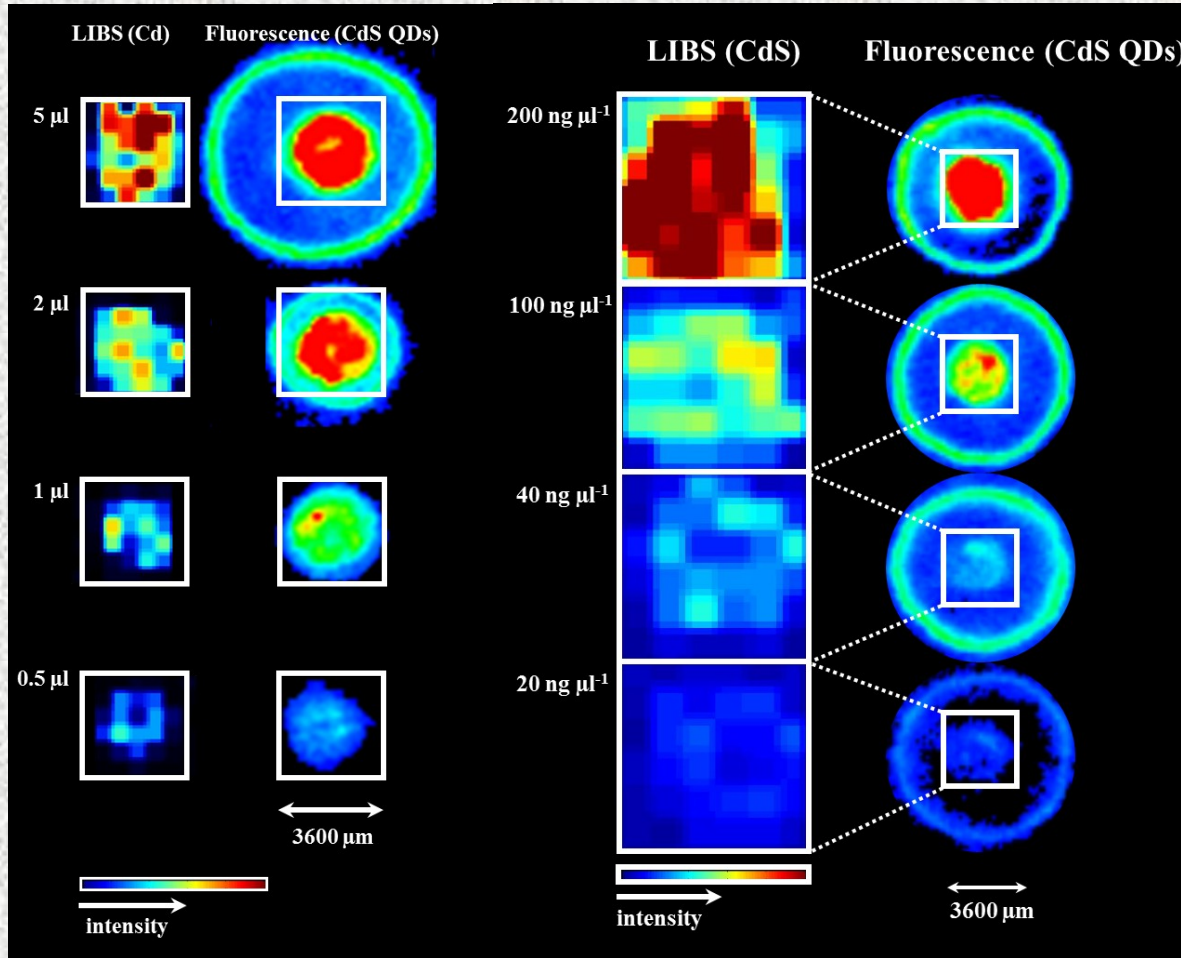


Segments of LIBS spectra of algae suspensions recorded using water jet liquid arrangements

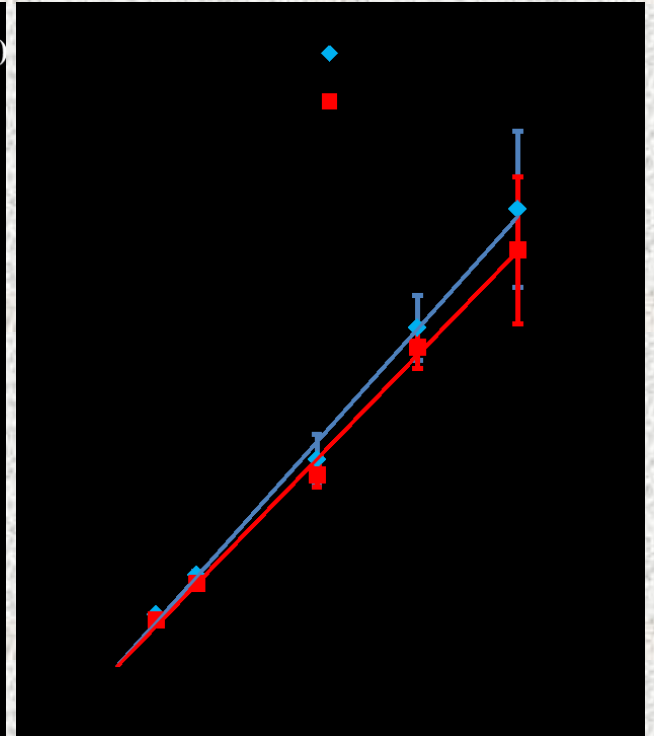
Nanoparticles (QDs)

Spatial distribution of quantum dots (QDs)

- cadmium containing QDs – CdS, CdTe
- injection onto the carrier material (chromatographic paper, polystyrene ...)



CdS QDs spatial distribution after injection of different volumes and different concentrations on chromatographic paper, 6 x 6 points with spacing 600 µm, emission line Cd (I) 508.58 nm and fluorescence (excitation wavelength 460 nm, emission wavelength 700 nm).



Calibration graphs for injection of 5 µl CdS GSH and CdS MPA solution injected on the chromatographic paper .

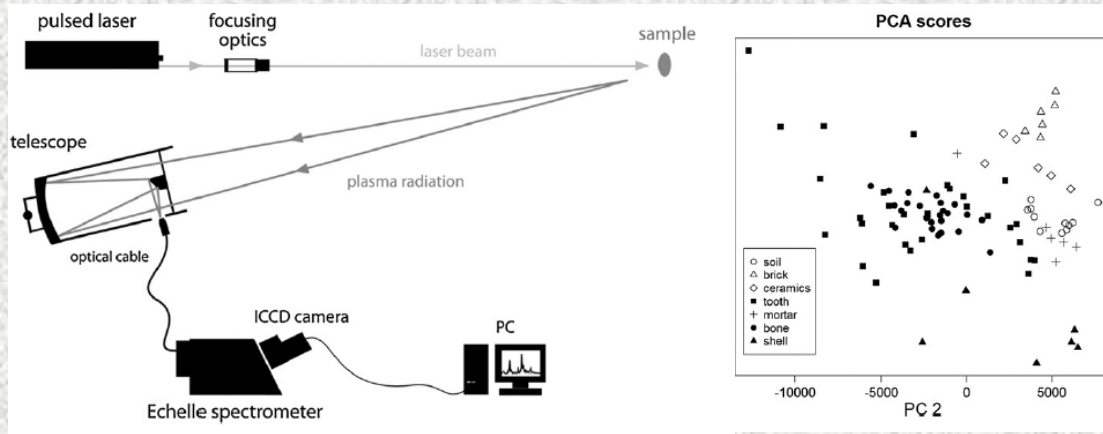
Cd signal was obtained by LIBS on emission line Cd(I) 508.58 nm and signal intensity was summarized by counting pixels and all points of raster.

Remote analysis

Stand-off identification of biominerals

Instrumentation developed at Institute of Physical Engineering

BUT Brno (prof. J. Kaiser)



List of samples. Training, validation and testing spectra.

Type	Sample	Training spectra	Validation spectra	Testing spectra
Soil pellets	Soil 1	No. 1 No. 2 No. 3 No. 4 No. 5		
	Soil 2	No. 6 No. 7 No. 8 No. 9 No. 10		
	Soil 3			
Bricks	Brick 1			No. 11 No. 12
	Brick 2	No. 77 No. 80	No. 78 No. 79	No. 81 No. 82
Ceramics	Tile	No. 13 No. 17	No. 14 No. 15	No. 16 No. 17
	Green potsherd			No. 51
Mortars	Fine-grained mortar	No. 37 No. 41	No. 38 No. 39	No. 40 No. 41
	Coarse-grained mortar			No. 42
Teeth	Bear tooth 1	No. 18 No. 25 No. 28 No. 31 No. 35	No. 19 No. 26 No. 29 No. 32	No. 21 No. 27 No. 30 No. 33
	Bear tooth 2	No. 22 No. 25 No. 28 No. 31 No. 35	No. 23 No. 26 No. 29 No. 32	No. 24 No. 27 No. 30 No. 33
	Bear tooth 3			No. 36
Bones	Human tooth 1			No. 93
	Human tooth 2	No. 82 No. 85 No. 89 No. 92	No. 83 No. 87 No. 90	No. 84 No. 88 No. 91
	Swine bone			No. 43
Shells	Syphilitic human bone	No. 52 No. 55 No. 58 No. 62 No. 65 No. 68 No. 72 No. 75	No. 53 No. 56 No. 60 No. 63 No. 66 No. 69 No. 73 No. 76	No. 54 No. 57 No. 61 No. 64 No. 67 No. 71 No. 74
	White shell	No. 44 No. 47	No. 45 No. 49	No. 46 No. 48
	Brown shell			No. 50

Comparison of linear discriminant analysis (LDA) and artificial neural networks (ANN) input data - PCA scores

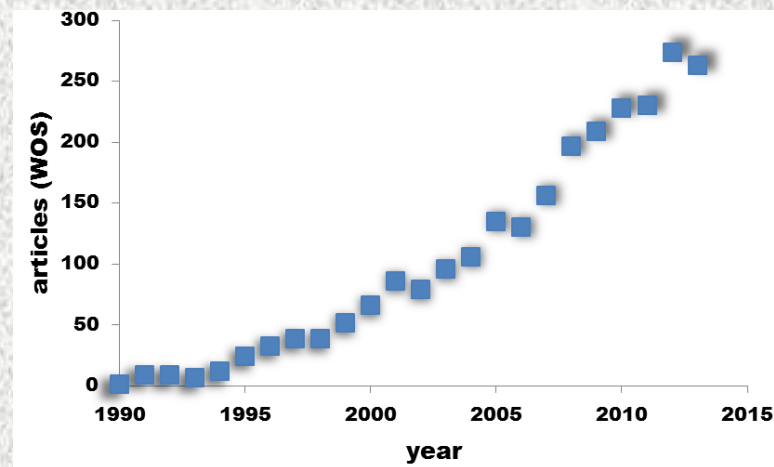
The predictions for test spectra created by LDA (ML) and ANN with back propagation. In the first column there are numbers of test spectra, and in the second one there are real material characters of particular samples. The incorrect predictions are marked in bold.

Test spectrum	Material	LDA (ML)	ANN
No. 11	Soil	Soil	Ceramics
No. 12	Brick	Brick	Brick
No. 36	Bear tooth	Bear tooth	Bear tooth
No. 42	mortar	soil	mortar
No. 43	Bone	Bone	Bone
No. 50	Shell	Shell	Shell
No. 51	Ceramics	Ceramics	Ceramics
No. 93	Human tooth	Bone	Human tooth



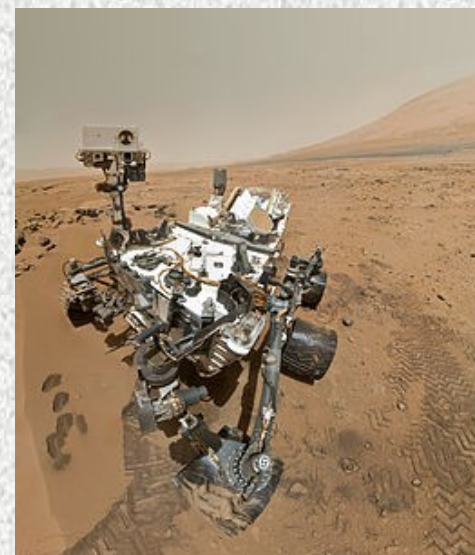
Conclusion

- rapid progress during the last two decades
- significant improving of LIBS measurement
(advanced lasers, detection systems and data processing)
- improving precision and accuracy
(process monitoring, on-line/on-situ screening)
- further improving to be accepted as an analytical technique for quality control
- commercialization
- rapidly expanding field of LIBS applications



Perspectives at the Department of chemistry PřF MU:

- further development of instrumentation and methodology
- applications on real samples to solve the real scientific problems
- cooperation with the Institute of Physical Engineering BUT Brno, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Mendel University in Brno, etc.
- involvement in the project CEITEC
- continuation of international cooperation with many universities and research teams around the world



Self-portrait of *Curiosity* in [Gale Crater](#) on the surface of [Mars](#)
(October 31, 2012)