

# BAYESIAN INFERENCE OF PLASMA PROPERTIES FROM FAST-DIVING TRIPLE LANGMUIR PROBE MEASUREMENTS

# Hall Thrusters

## PROS

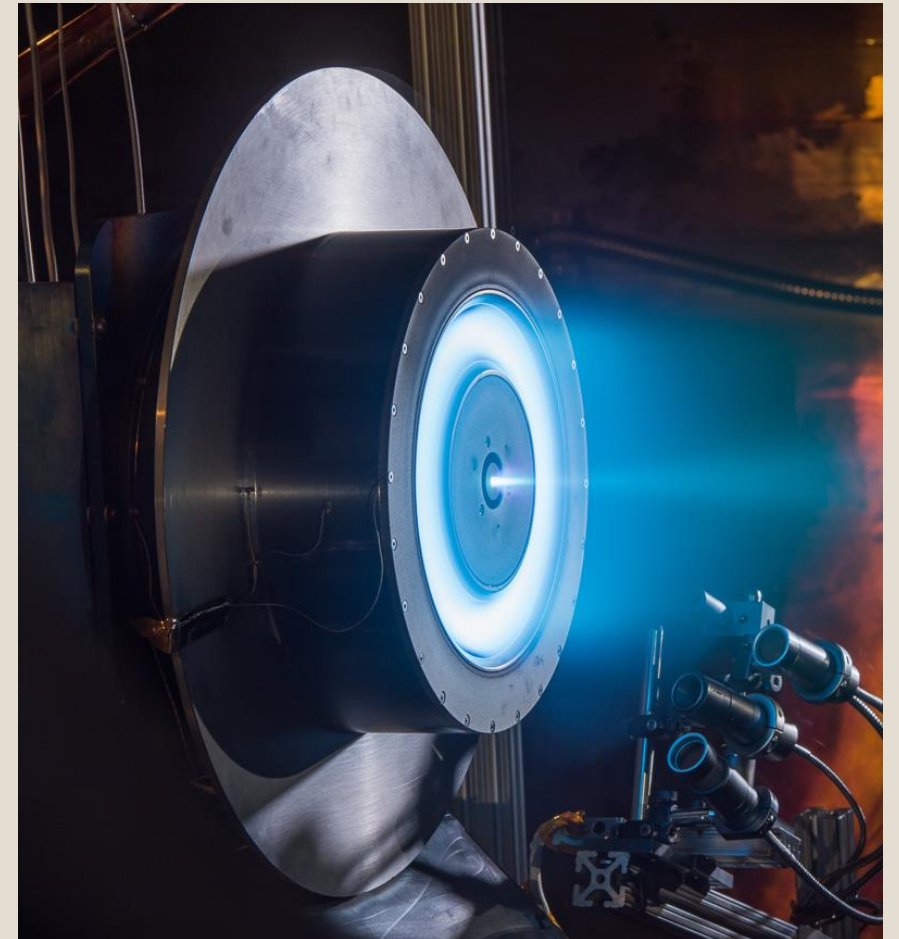
1. Compact (high Thrust to Area ratio)
2. Low propellant consumption (high  $I_{sp}$ )
3. High Efficiency
4. Versatile

## CONS

1. Strong (and expensive) experimental campaign



(Double) Langmuir Probe

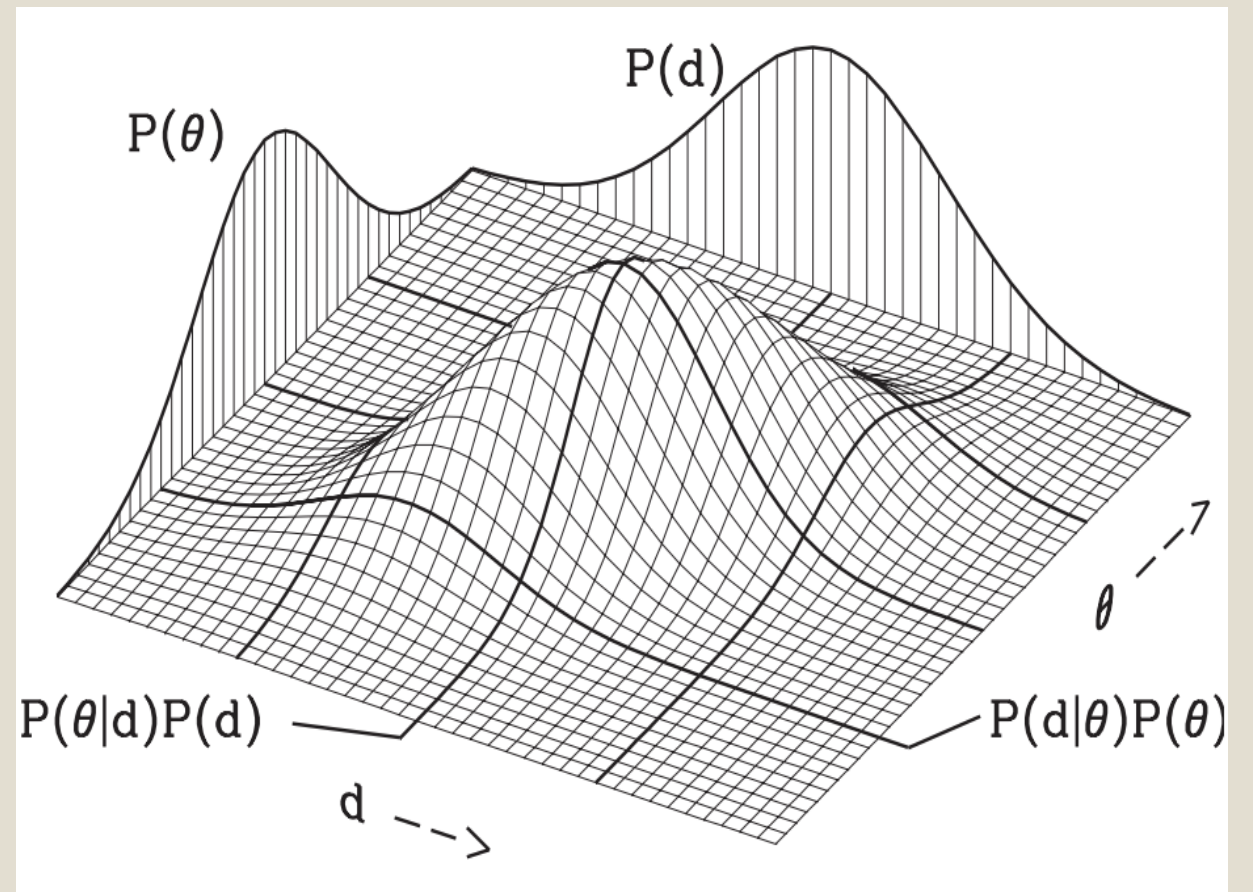


# Bayesian Statistics

Likelihood



Expert  
Knowledge



# Bayesian Statistics

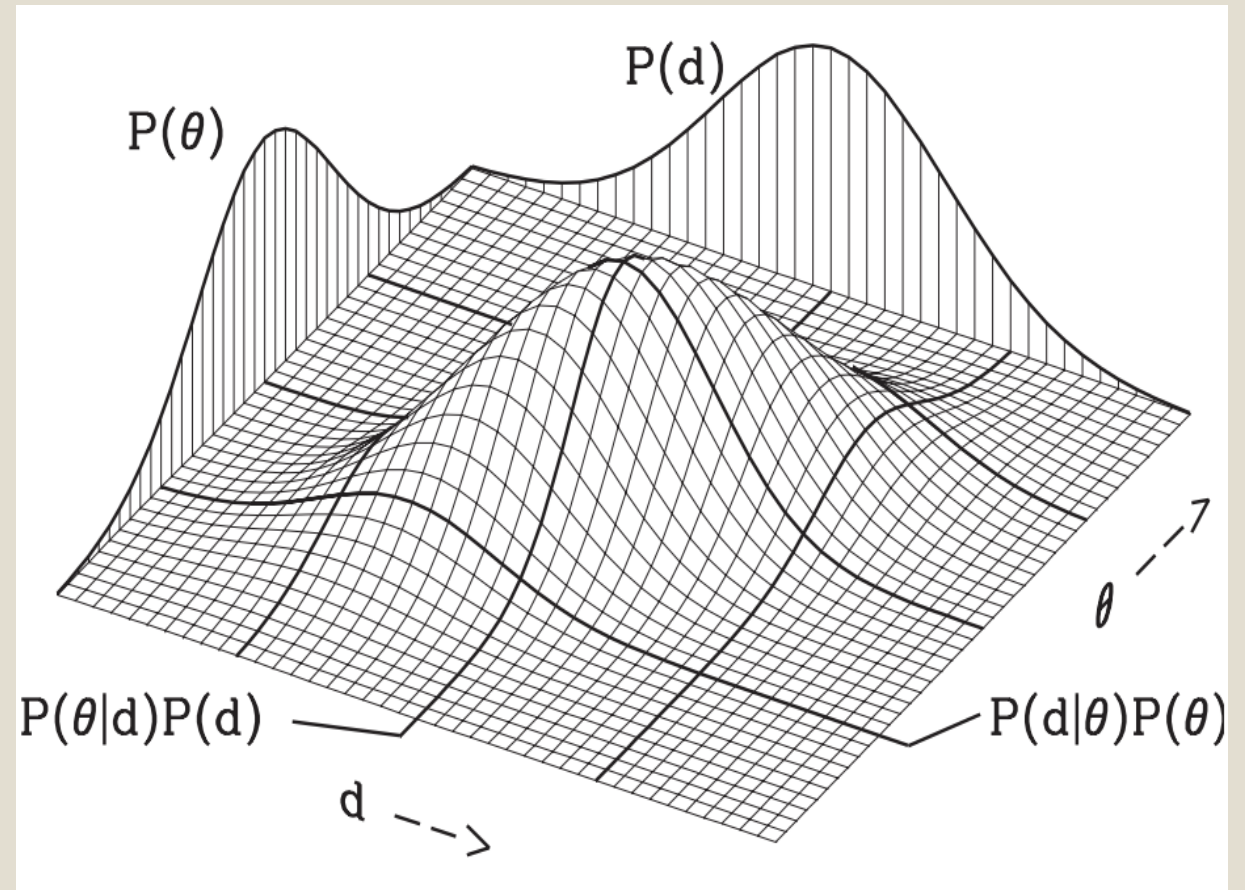
## Product Rule

Prior x Likelihood = Evidence x Posterior

$$p(D, \theta | I) = p(\theta | I)p(D | \theta, I) = p(D | I)p(\theta | D, I)$$

## Marginalization Rule

$$p(\theta_1 | D, I) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p(\theta_1, \theta_2 | D, I) d\theta_2$$



# Bayesian Statistics - Example

Data distribution  $p(D|\theta, \sigma, I) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}\right)^{N/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^N (d_i - \theta)^2\right)$

Assumed Prior  $p(\theta|I) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi S^2}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2S^2} (\theta - \theta_0)^2\right)$

Posterior  $p(\theta|D, I) = \frac{p(\theta|I)p(D|\theta, I)}{p(D|I)} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \langle \theta \rangle = \frac{N\bar{d}/\sigma^2 + \theta_0/S^2}{N/\sigma^2 + \theta_0/S^2} \\ \langle \Delta\theta^2 \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{NS^2}\right)}\right) \frac{\sigma^2}{N} \end{cases}$

# Bayesian Statistics

Multi-dimensional numerical integration

$$\langle \psi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \psi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|I) p(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, I) d\boldsymbol{\theta}$$

Evidence



# Bayesian Statistics

Multi-dimensional numerical integration

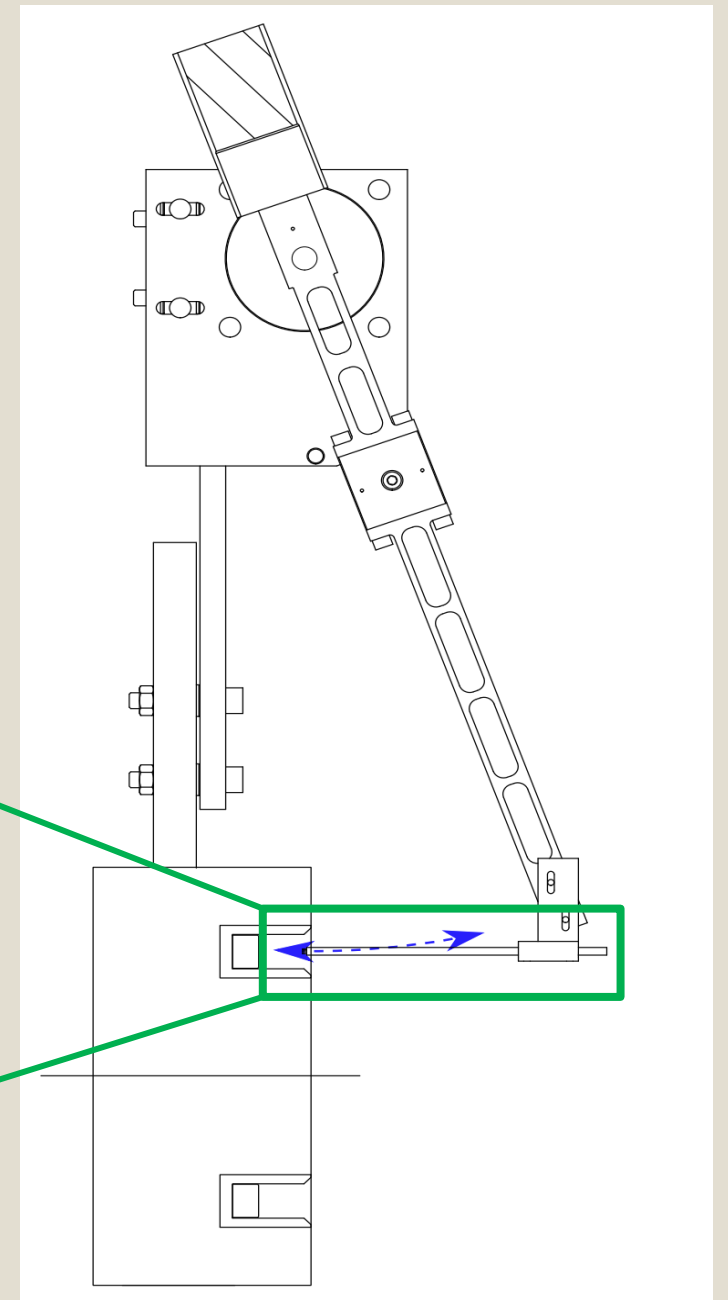
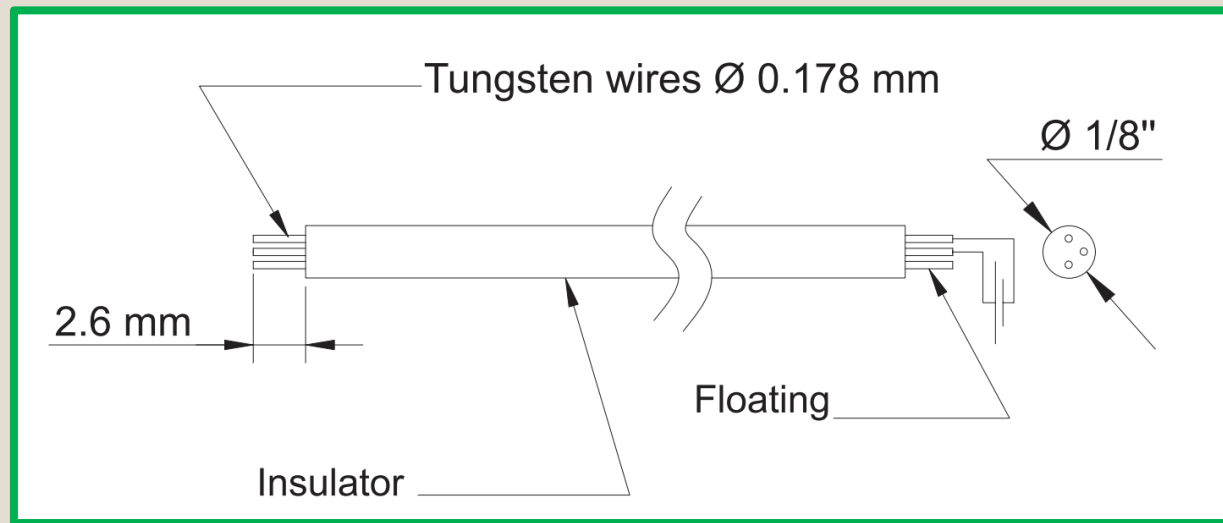
$$\langle \psi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \psi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|I) p(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, I) d\boldsymbol{\theta}$$

Evidence



Markov Chain Monte Carlo  
(MCMC) techniques

# Experimental Campaign





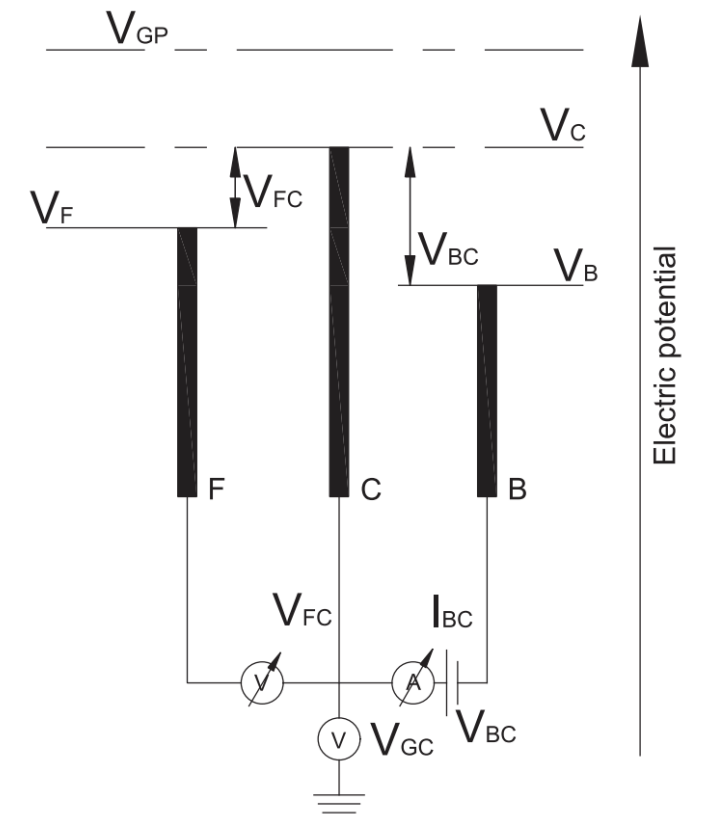
# Experimental Campaign

Three Bias Voltages:

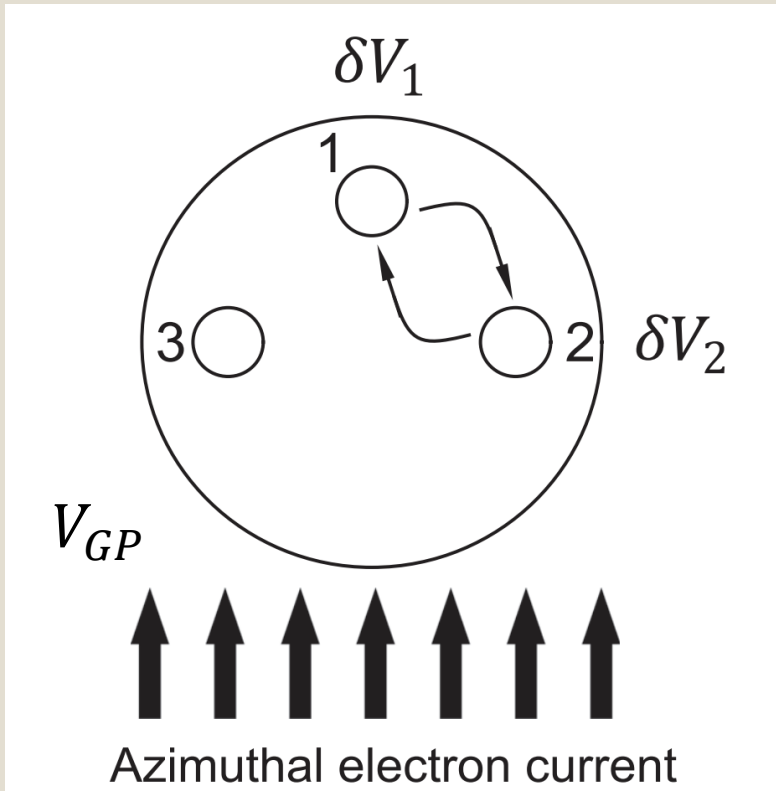
$$V = 0 \text{ V}$$

$$V = 15 \text{ V}$$

$$V = 30 \text{ V}$$



# Experimental Campaign



Two probe configurations:

Probe 1 = F  
Probe 2 = C  
Probe 3 = B

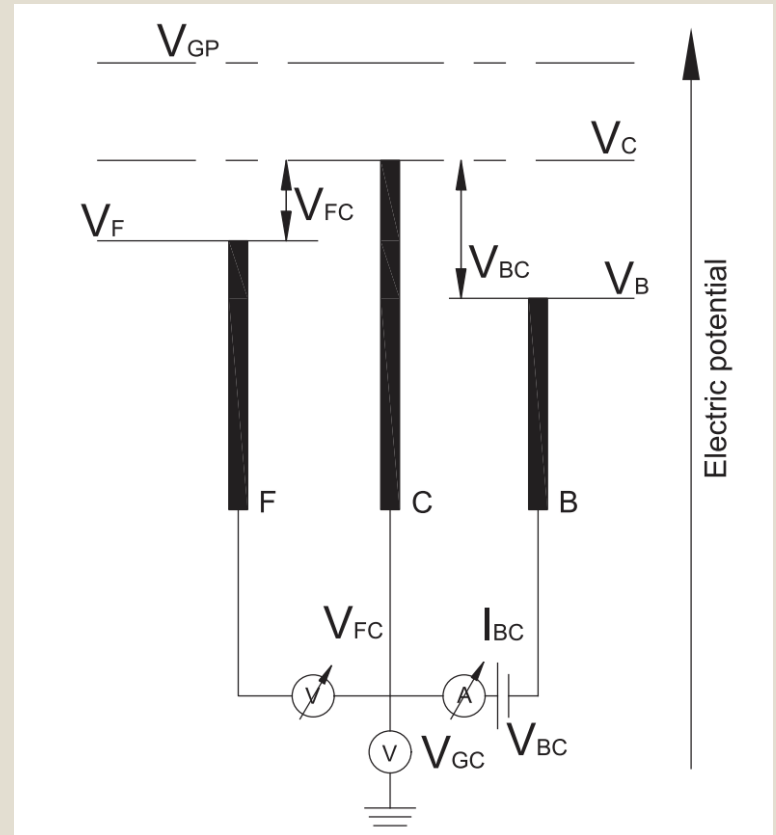
Probe 1 = C  
Probe 2 = F  
Probe 3 = B

Three Bias Voltages:

$V = 0 \text{ V}$

$V = 15 \text{ V}$

$V = 30 \text{ V}$



# Langmuir Probe Model

Laframboise solution  $I(V_{PR}, T_e, n, V_{GP}) = Aen \sqrt{\frac{T_e}{2\pi m_e}} \left[ \exp\left(e \frac{V_{PR} - V_{GP}}{T_e}\right) - a \sqrt{\frac{m_e}{m_i}} \left(b - e \frac{V_{PR} - V_{GP}}{T_e}\right)^c \right]$

# Langmuir Probe Model

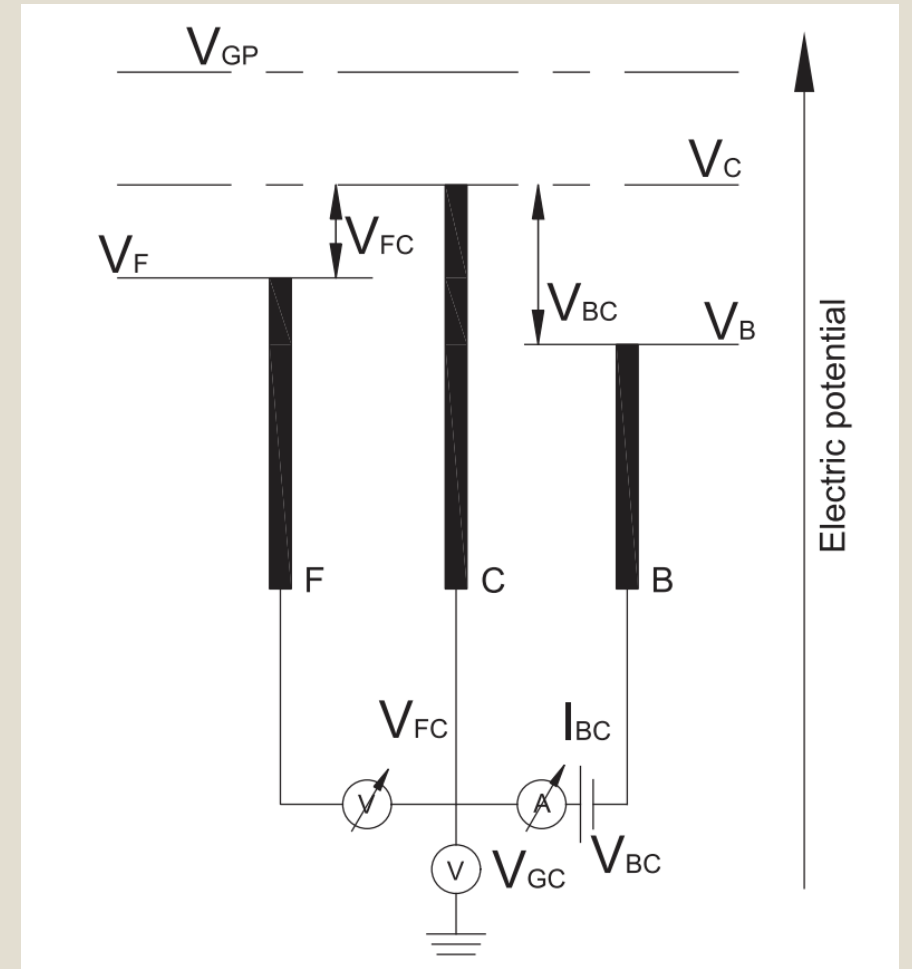
Laframboise solution  $I(V_{PR}, T_e, n, V_{GP})$



$$I_B = I(V_{GC} - V_{BC}, T_e, n, V_{GP}) = -I_{BC}$$

$$I_C = I(V_{GC}, T_e, n, V_{GP} + \delta V_j) = I_{BC}$$

$$I_F = I(V_{GC} - V_{FC}, T_e, n, V_{GP} + \delta V_k) = 0$$



# Langmuir Probe Model

Laframboise solution  $I(V_{PR}, T_e, n, V_{GP})$



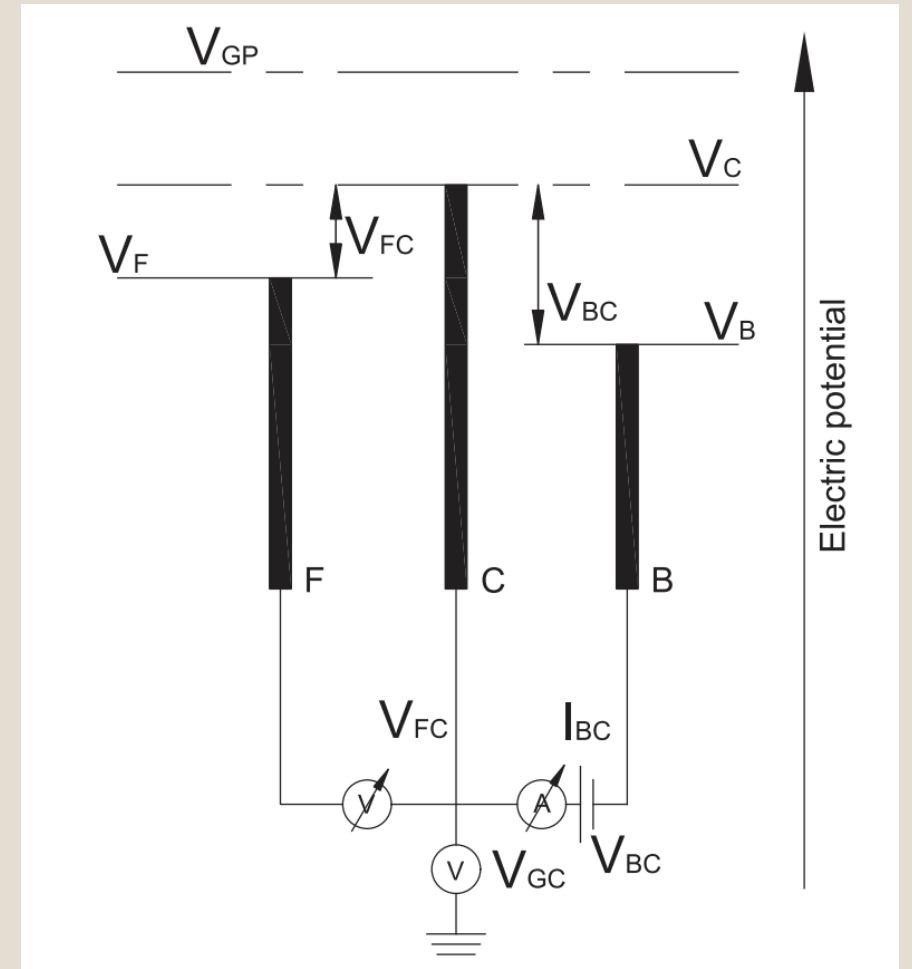
$$I_B = I(V_{GC} - V_{BC}, T_e, n, V_{GP}) = -I_{BC}$$

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$$I_F = I(V_{GC} - V_{FC}, T_e, n, V_{GP} + \delta V_k) = 0$$

3 data

5 unknowns



# Data Analysis – Priors

## Uniform probabilities

$$0.01 \text{ eV} < T_e < 100 \text{ eV}$$

$$10^{15} \text{ m}^{-3} < n_e < 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

$$**-25 \text{ V} < V_{GP} < 330 \text{ V}**$$

LIF measurements

Previous Probes measurements

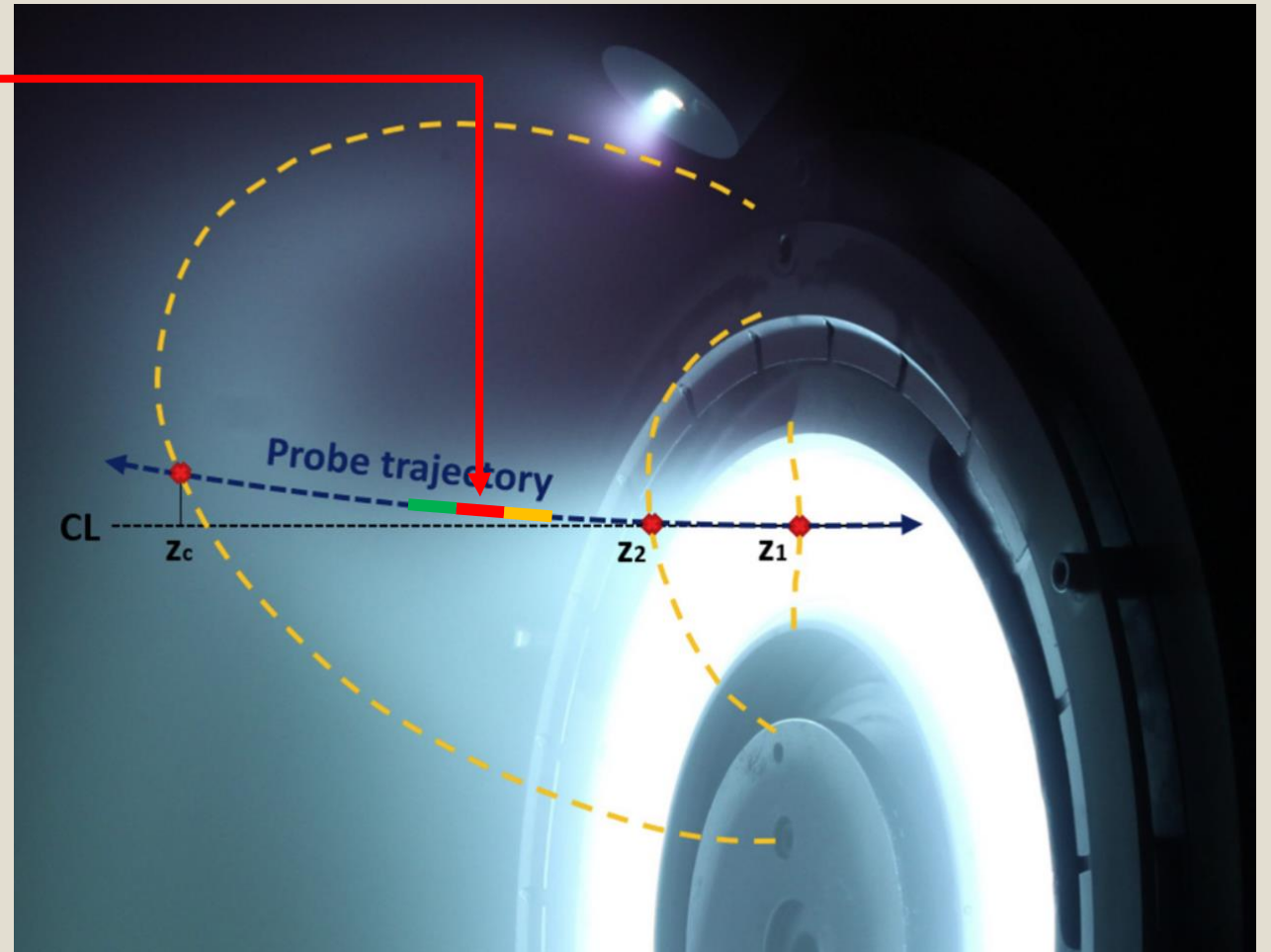
# Data Analysis – Data Management

Spatial bins of 2.6 mm

Multivariate Gaussian Likelihood

$$p(\mathbf{D}_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}, I) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{D}_i - \mathbf{Y})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i^{-1}(\mathbf{D}_i - \mathbf{Y})\right)}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i|}}$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} V_{GC} \\ V_{FC} \\ I_{BC} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{f} \left( \begin{bmatrix} T_e \\ n \\ V_{GP} \\ \delta V_1 \\ \delta V_2 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \mathbf{f}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$



# Data Analysis - Procedure

Dataset  $V = 0$  V

Computation of

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V_0}, I)$$

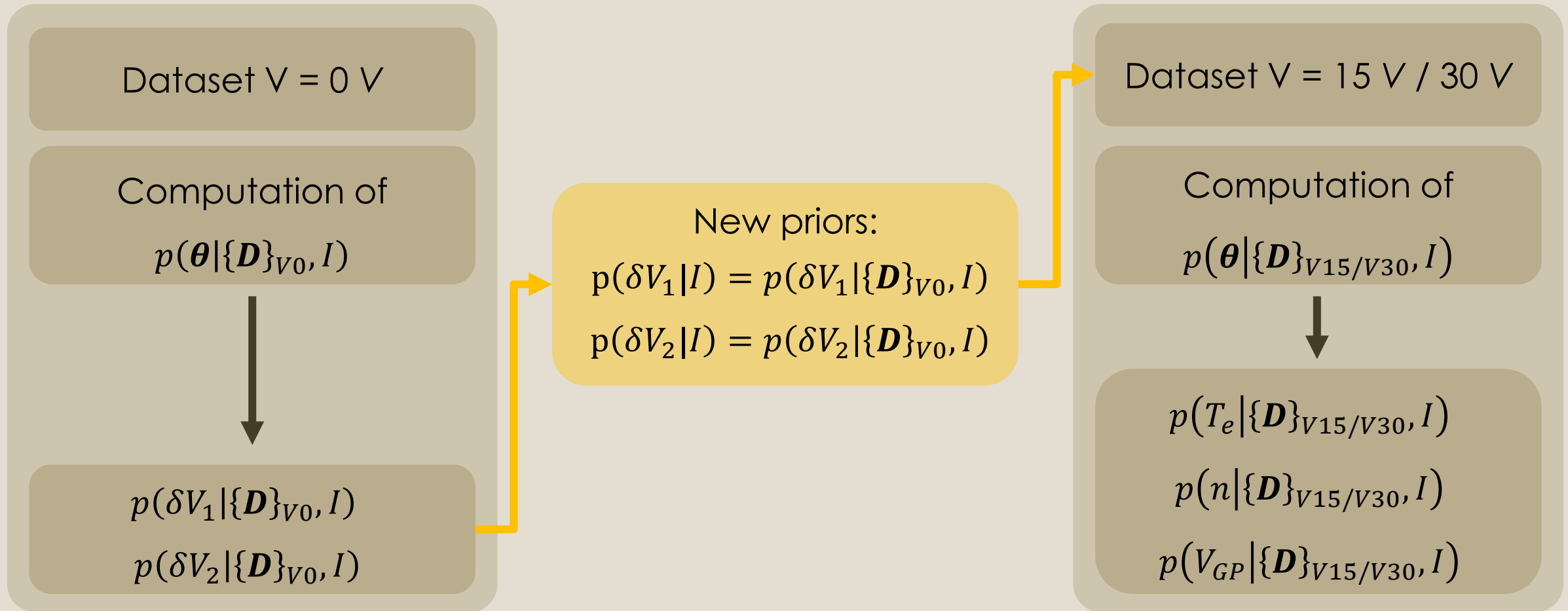


$$p(\delta V_1|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V_0}, I)$$

$$p(\delta V_2|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V_0}, I)$$



# Data Analysis - Procedure



# Data Analysis – Smoothing

Smoothing prior:

$$\log(p(\theta_z|I)) = -\frac{1}{2\sigma_{\frac{d^2\theta}{dz^2}}^2} \sum_{i=2}^{N_z-1} \left[ \frac{\theta_{i+1} - \theta_i}{z_{i+1} - z_i} - \frac{\theta_i - \theta_{i-1}}{z_i - z_{i-1}} \right]^2$$

$$p(T_e|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$$

$$p(n|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$$

$$p(V_{GP}|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$$

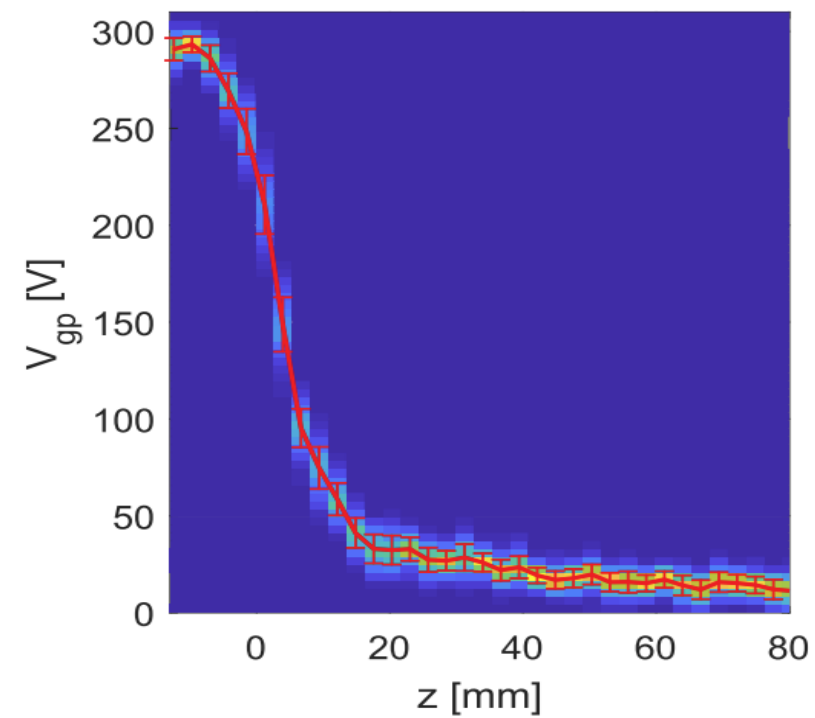
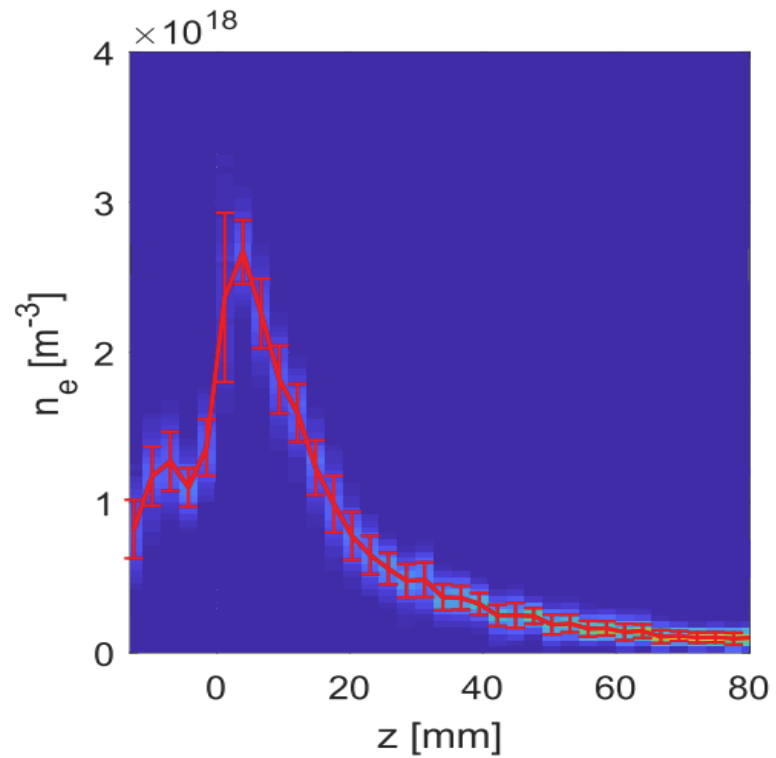
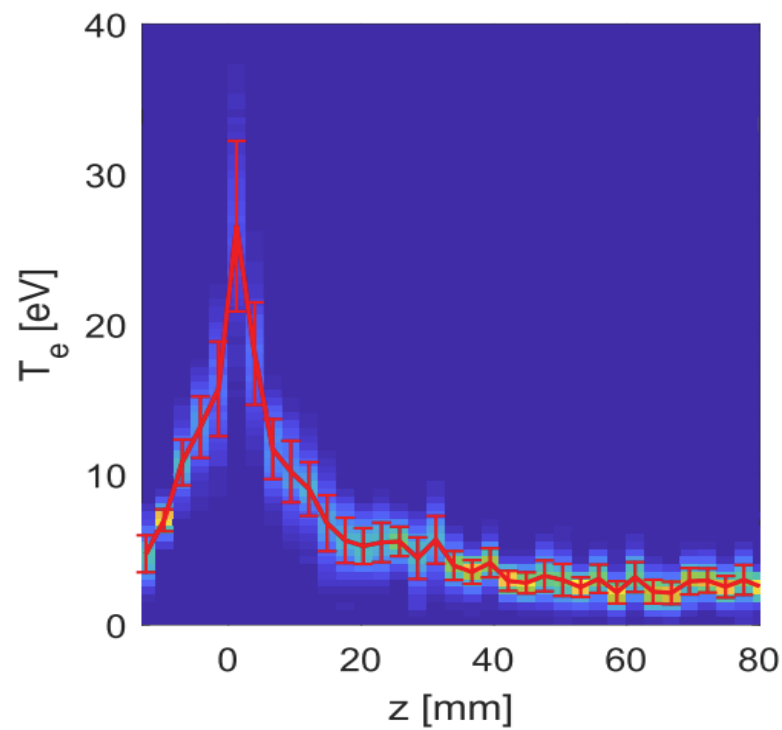
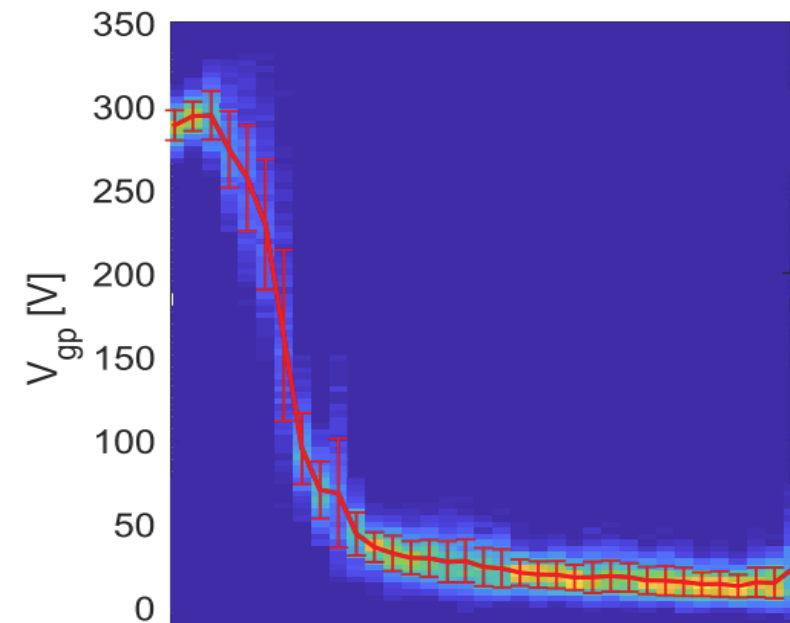
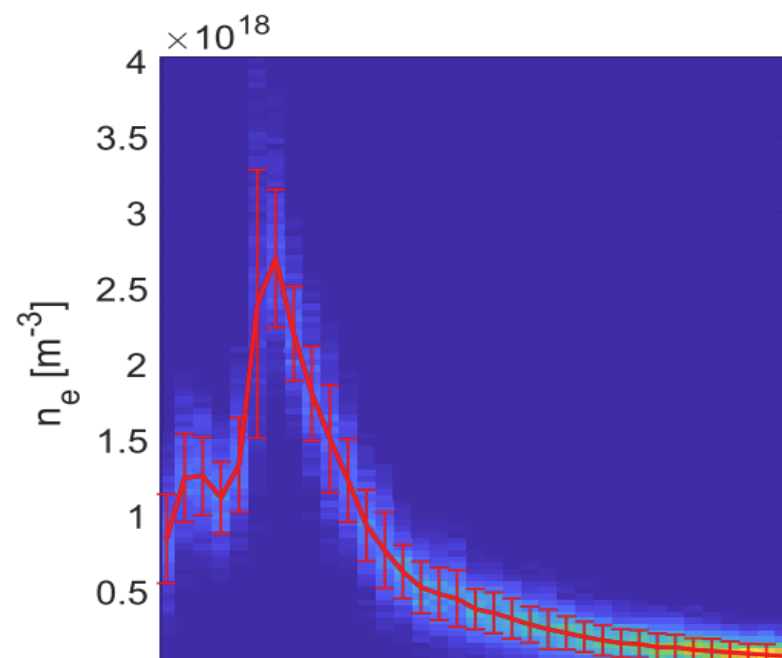
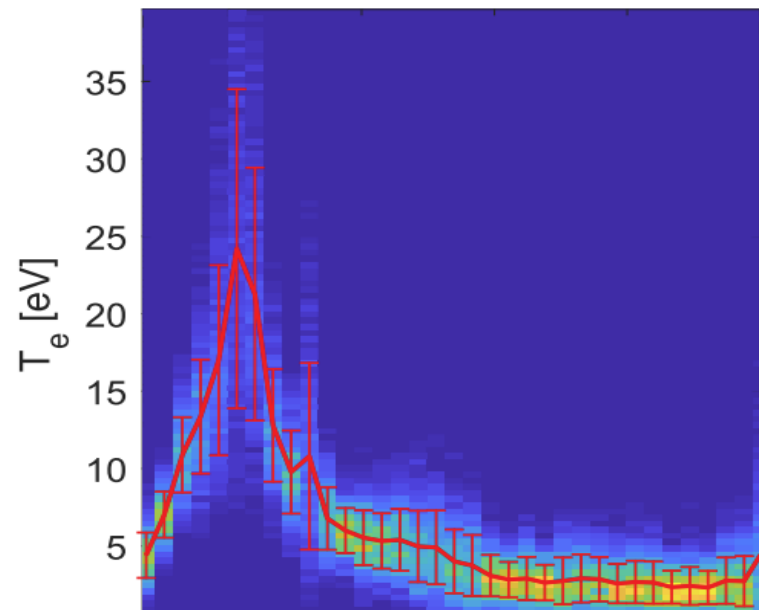
Dataset  $V = 15 \text{ V} / 30 \text{ V}$

Computation of  
 $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$

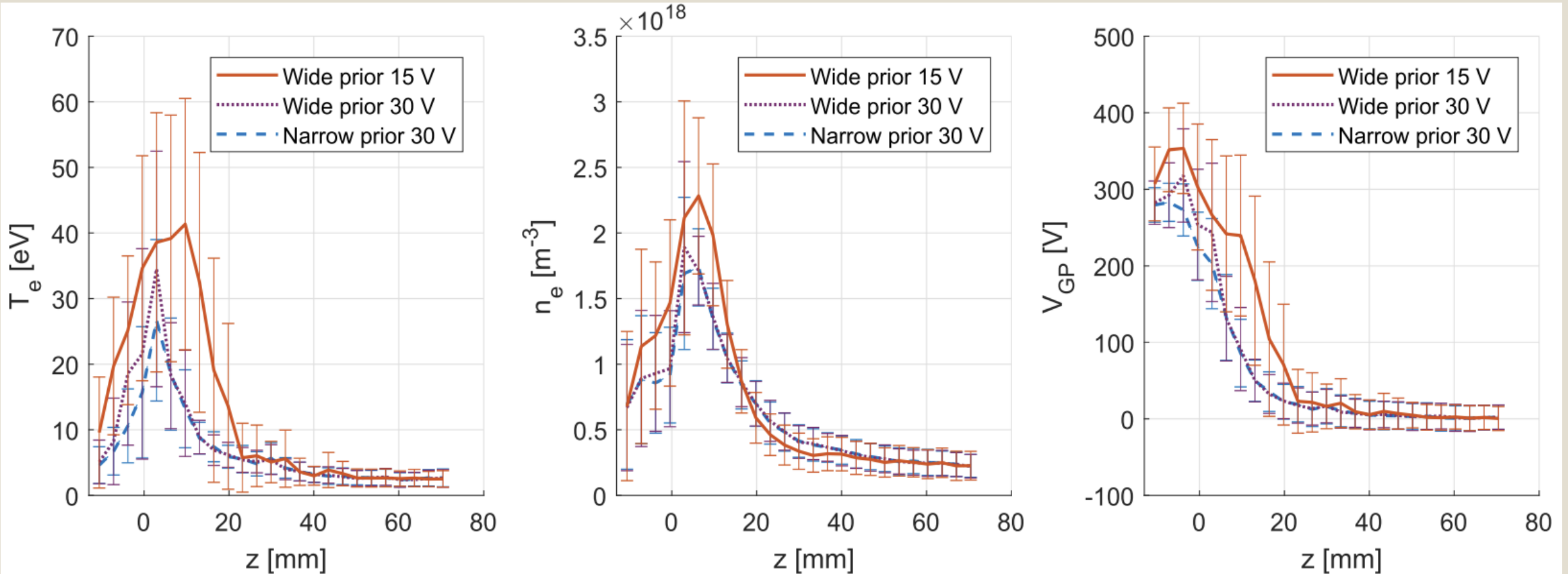
$$p(T_e|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$$

$$p(n|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$$

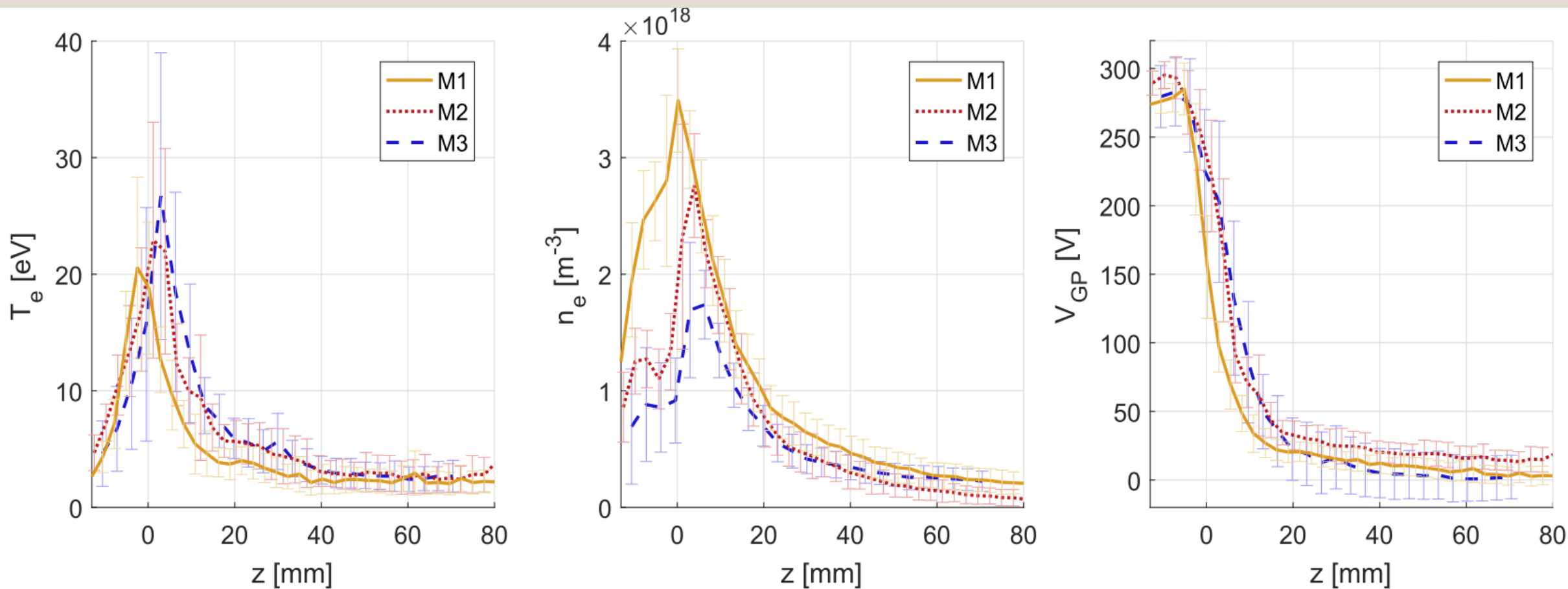
$$p(V_{GP}|\{\mathbf{D}\}_{V15/V30}, I)$$



# Main Results – Different Priors



# Main Results – Different B Config



# Conclusions

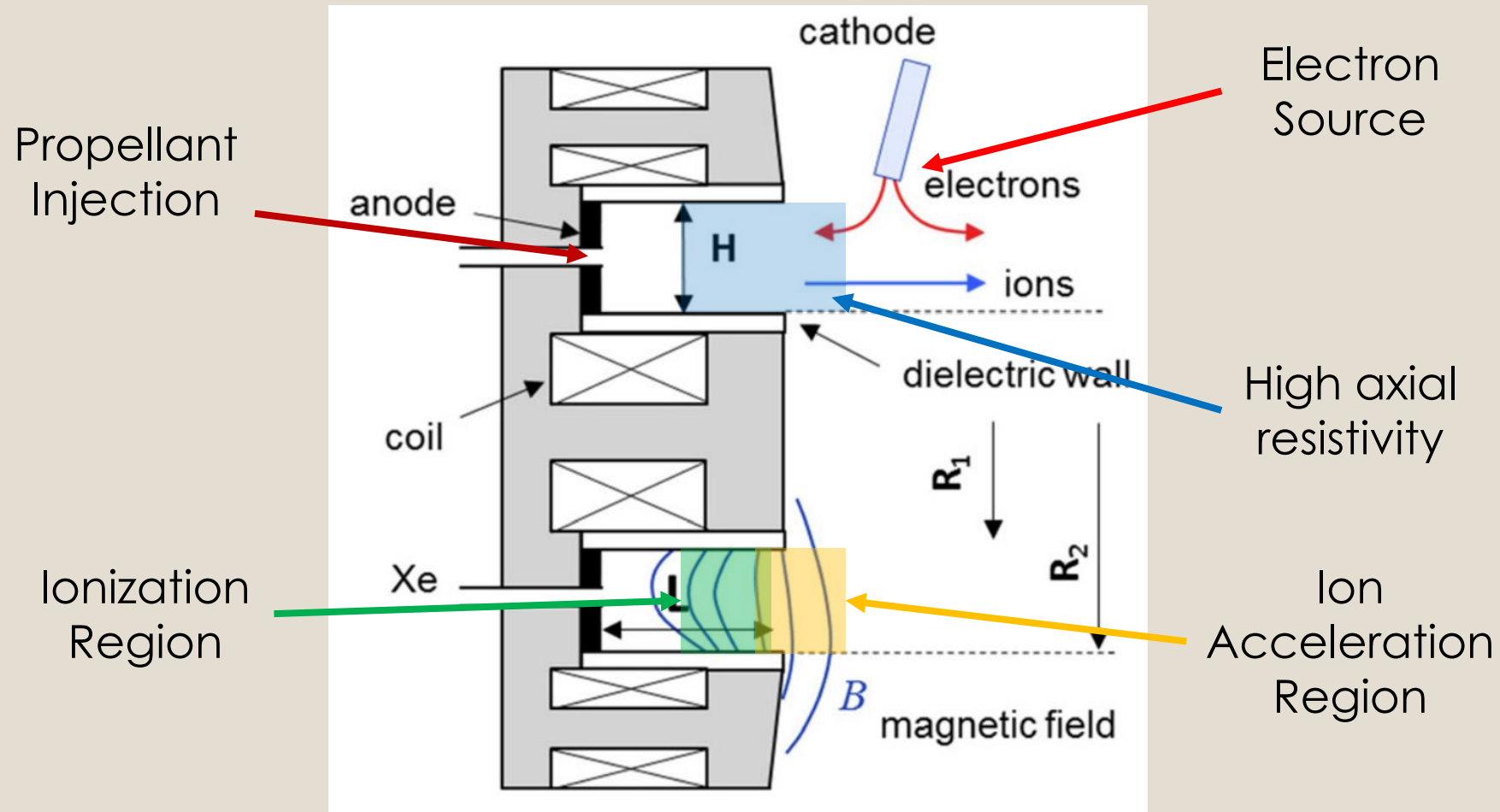
- Robust inference method for plasma parameters in most of the thruster channel
- A clever identification of the priors is more important in the high  $T_e$  area, and this dependence may be reduced with higher  $V_{BC}$
- Possibility of investigation of the effect of magnetic shielding on plasma

# Bibliography

- M. M. Saravia, A. Giacobbe, and T. Andreussi, “Bayesian analysis of triple Langmuir probe measurements for the characterization of Hall thruster plasmas”, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* 90, 023502 (2019)
- V. Dose, “Bayesian inference in physics: case studies” *Rep. Prog. Phys.* 66, 1421 (2003)
- V. Giannetti, M.M. Saravia, T. Andreussi, “ Measurement of the breathing mode oscillations in Hall thruster plasmas with a fast-diving triple Langmuir probe”, *Phys. Plasmas*, 27, 123502 (2020)
- O. Ford, “Tokamak plasma analysis through Bayesian diagnostic modelling”, Ph.D. dissertation (Imperial College, London, UK, 2010)

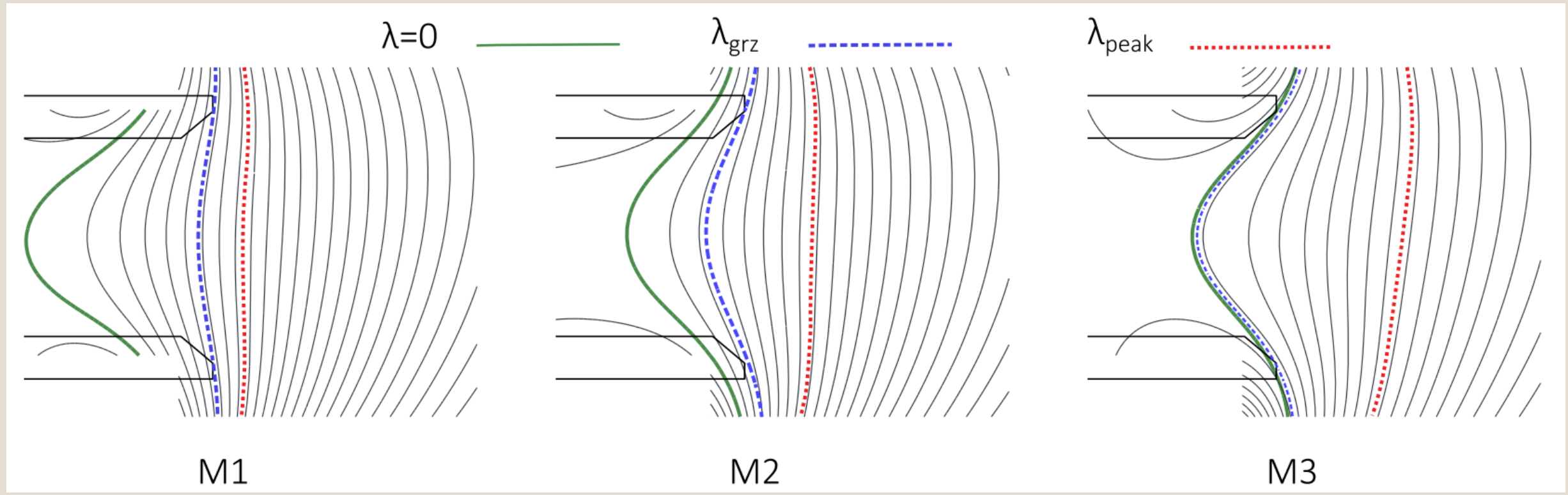
Thanks for your attention

# Hall Thrusters





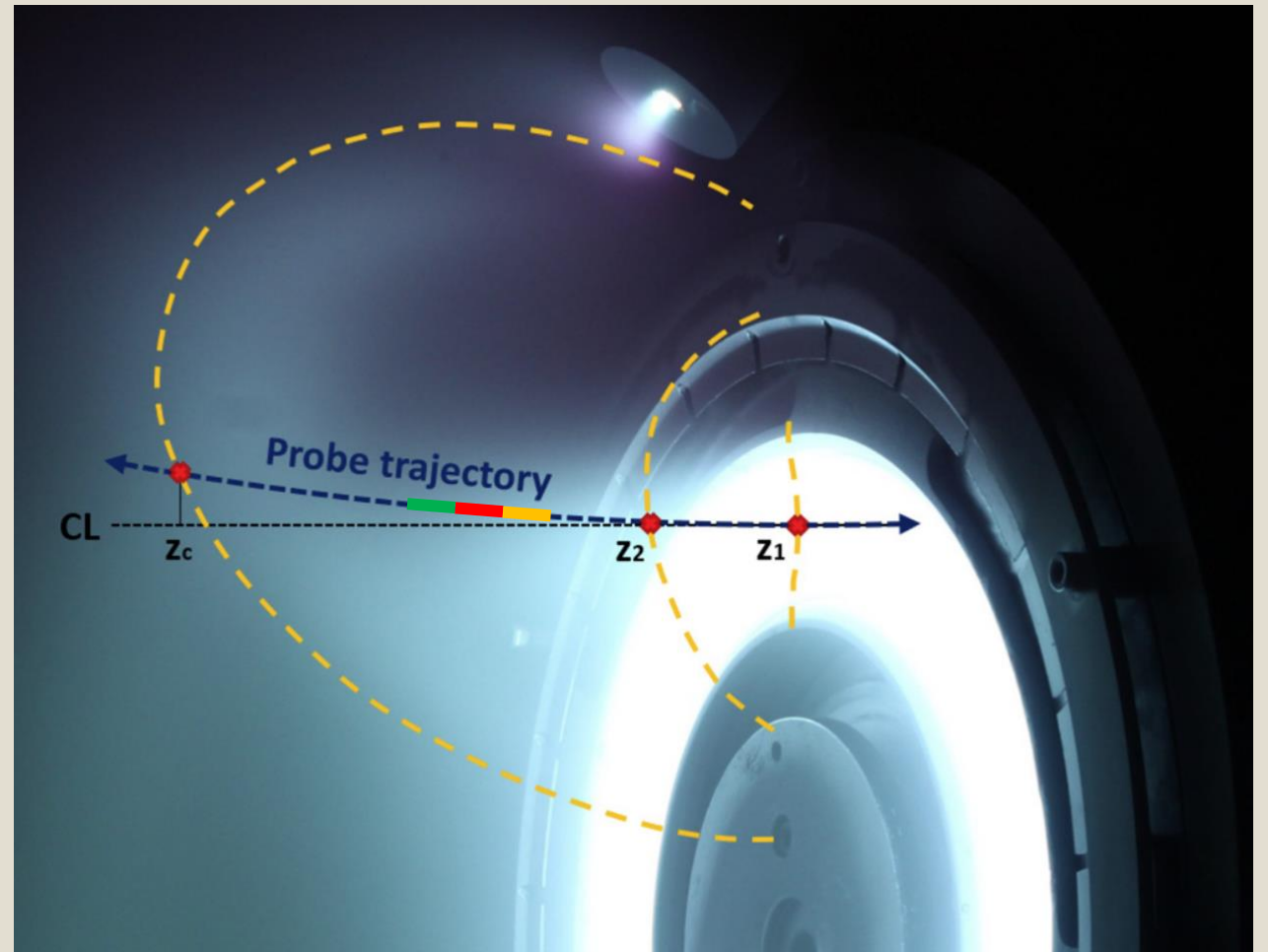
# Magnetic Field Configurations



# Data Analysis – Data Management

$$\mathbf{D}_i = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} V_{GC} \\ V_{FC} \\ I_{BC} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle_{t_{z_i} < t < t_{z_{i+1}}}$$

$$\mathbf{\Sigma}_i = \left\langle \left( \begin{bmatrix} V_{GC} \\ V_{FC} \\ I_{BC} \end{bmatrix} - \mathbf{D}_i \right) \left( \begin{bmatrix} V_{GC} \\ V_{FC} \\ I_{BC} \end{bmatrix} - \mathbf{D}_i \right)^T \right\rangle_{t_{z_i} < t < t_{z_{i+1}}}$$



# Main Results – Breathing Mode

