

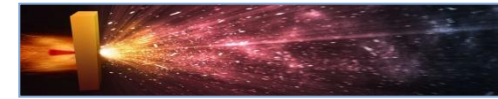
## **Research on superintense laser-driven ion acceleration at Politecnico di Milano**

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*3° Topical Workshop on Novel Acceleration Techniques,  
LA3NET, Dresden, 28-30 April 2014*



- INTRODUCTION  
Nanolab @ Politecnico di Milano
- ACTIVITIES AT NANOLAB-POLIMI ON LASER-DRIVEN ION ACCELERATION  
SULDIS project, main topics, a specific example: foam-based targets
- CONTRIBUTION OF POLIMI TO TRAINING IN LASER-PLASMA INTERACTION  
Master courses, master and PhD theses, future
- CONCLUSIONS & PERSPECTIVES



The **Micro and Nanostructured Materials laboratory (Nanolab)** belongs to the **Department of Energy of Politecnico di Milano**



**Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)** ([www.polimi.it](http://www.polimi.it)):

It is **the largest University in Italy to train Engineering students**

- About 20 Bachelor - 20 Master Programs in Engineering
- About 15 PhD Programs in Science and Engineering
- QS rank: 1° Italy, top 10 Europe, top 30 World in Engineering

**Department of Energy at POLIMI** ([www.energia.polimi.it](http://www.energia.polimi.it)) :

- Activated in 2008. **More than 100 Professors and Researchers**
- **Research in various topics related to Energy (basic & applied)**
- **Education**: mainly involved in Energy Engineering (Bs & Ms) and Nuclear Engineering (Ms) programs, Contribution to others

# Micro and Nanostructured Materials Laboratory @ POLIMI: staff



**At present about 20 people:**

## **Permanent staff:**

- Carlo E. Bottani (**Head of lab**, Full Prof)
- Marco Beghi, Paolo Ossi (Associate Prof)
- Andrea Li Bassi (Associate Prof)
- Carlo Casari, [Matteo Passoni](#) (Assistant Prof)

## **Technicians:**

- Anna Facibeni
- Antonio Mantegazza

## **Post-Doc/Post-lauream researchers:**

- [Valeria Russo](#)
- [Andrea Sgattoni](#)
- [David Dellasega](#)

## **PhD students:**

- Andrea Pezzoli
- Alessandro Maffini
- Andrea Uccello
- Paolo Gondoni
- [Lorenzo Cialfi](#)
- [Irene Prencipe](#)
- Piero Mazzolini

**About 7-8 undergraduate students/year**

[www.nanolab.polimi.it](http://www.nanolab.polimi.it)



## Vision

Detailed understanding and control of physical phenomena at the **nanoscale** can lead to:

- knowledge of materials behavior in unconventional/extreme conditions
- development of new materials to control the related physics/technology

## Experimental research activities

- Development of new nanostructured materials (thin films/surfaces) with tailored structure and properties for:
  - energy applications (photovoltaic & nuclear fusion)
  - more “basic” science (e.g. **laser-driven ion acceleration!**)

## Experimental facilities

- Synthesis: Pulsed Laser Deposition (thermal evaporation, sputtering-ion gun)
- Characterization: SEM, EDS, AFM, STM/STS, Raman, Brillouin

## Theoretical/numerical support to the research

- theoretical support to material characterization (group theory; STM theory)
- theoretical & numerical (PIC) activities on laser-plasma interaction



## **NEMAS – Center for NanoEngineered Materials and Surfaces**

Center of Excellence accredited and funded by Ministry of Research, on the basis of review by a panel of international referees.

Starting from 2010, the lab is formally **involved in the research activities on laser-driven ion acceleration** (resp. M. Passoni):

### **SULDIS**

#### **Superintense Ultrashort Laser-Driven Ion Sources**

- **FUNDING PROGRAM: Futuro in Ricerca (MIUR Italian Ministry of Research)**
  - A program started in 2009 and specifically devoted to “young scientists”
  - ERC IDEAS-like approach: **new and unique in the Italian scenario**
  - about 3800 applicants (2009 call) with 100 final selections (success rate < 3%)
- **DURATION: 4 years (started in 2011 – end this year!)**
- **OVERALL FUNDING: € 350.000**
  - ...half of which to hire young researchers (PhD, Post-Docs)

# Specific aims of the SULDIS project:

## Main Goals

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- Systematic **THEORETICAL AND NUMERICAL STUDY OF THE DIFFERENT ION ACCELERATION REGIMES** induced by super intense pulses ( $I > 10^{21}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>)
  - *TNSA*: dependence on laser/target properties, scaling laws, predictions at super-high intensities
  - *RPA*: “thick” vs “thin” targets, feasibility and robustness of the concept, non-ideal effects, scaling laws
  - *Other regimes*: foam-based; grating surfaces; shock-driven
- Theoretical **DESIGN & experimental PRODUCTION OF INNOVATIVE TARGETS**:
  - control down to the **nanoscale**, optimized for the investigated regimes.
- **DESIGN AND REALIZATION OF EXPERIMENTAL CAMPAIGNS** aimed to the study of the regimes identified, to be conducted on **world class laser facilities**.



## ➡ **THEORETICAL**

Analytical descriptions, to gain insight into the relevant physics of the systems.

## ➡ **NUMERICAL**

Particle-In-Cell (PIC) codes will be specifically developed to tackle the multiscale character of the physical regimes & simulate "realistic" experimental conditions

## ➡ **EXPERIMENTAL**

Advanced experimental methods of surface science/nanotechnology will be exploited for target manufacturing.

## ➡ **COLLABORATIVE**

Experimental campaigns will be designed with top-level internationally recognized partners.





## **POLIMI group (Dipartimento di Energia, Politecnico di Milano)**

*Group Leader:* Matteo Passoni – Principal Investigator

*and:* D. Dellasega, A. Sgattoni (PostDocs), PhDs (A. Zani, I. Prencipe, C. Perego)

*Specific Role:*

- theoretical-numerical investigation of TNSA;
- target manufacturing at the Micro and Nanostructured Materials lab;
- support for experiments on international laser facilities



**POLITECNICO  
DI MILANO**

## **CNR-PI group (Istituto Nazionale di Ottica, CNR)**

*Group Leader:* Andrea Macchi

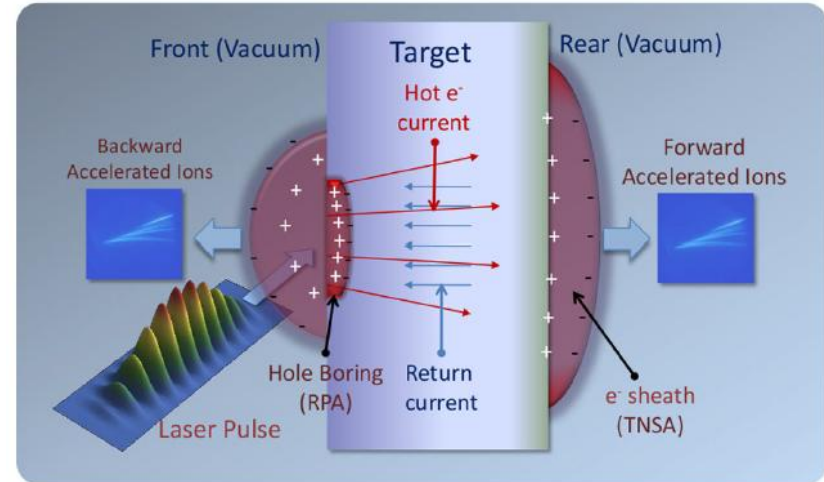
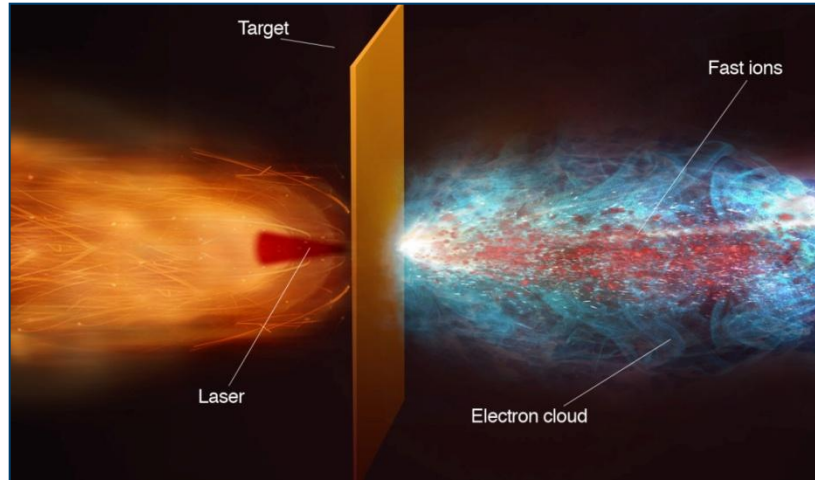
*and:* PhDs (M. Tamburini, L. Fedeli)

*Specific Role:*

- theoretical and numerical investigation of RPA;
- radiation friction modeling and effects;
- established collaboration with experimental groups



**INO**  
ISTITUTO NAZIONALE  
DI OTTICA



Expertise of the team on laser-ion acceleration:

-TNSA modeling & interpretation

M. Passoni et al, *Phys. Rev. E* **69**, 026411 (2004); M. Passoni et al, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **101**, 115001 (2008); ... ..

- RPA modeling & interpretation

A. Macchi et al, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **94**, 165003 (2005); A. Macchi et al, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103**, 085003 (2009); ... ..

...leading also to the preparation of an extensive Review on the subject:

A. Macchi, M. Borghesi, M. Passoni

*Ion acceleration by superintense laser-plasma interaction*

*Reviews of Modern Physics*, **85**, 751 (2013)

# Main publications in 2010-2014 on laser-ion acceleration @ Polimi

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## Theoretical-numerical: TNSA theory and novel concepts:

- M. Passoni, C. Perego, A. Sgattoni, D. Batani, **Physics of Plasmas (Letters)**, **20**, 060701 (2013)
- A. Sgattoni, P. Londrillo, A. Macchi, M. Passoni, **Physical Review E** **85**, 036405 (2012)
- C. Perego, D. Batani, A. Zani, M. Passoni, **Review of Scientific Instruments**, **83** 02B502 (2012)
- A. Zani, A. Sgattoni, M. Passoni, **Nuclear Instruments and Methods A** **653**, 89-93 (2011)
- C. Perego, A. Zani, D. Batani, M. Passoni, **Nuclear Instruments and Methods A** **653**, 94-97 (2011)
- M. Passoni, L. Bertagna, A. Zani, **Nuclear Instruments and Methods A** **620** (1), 46-50 (2010)
- M. Passoni, L. Bertagna and A. Zani, **New Journal of Physics** **12**, 045012 (2010)

## Experimental: target development & laser-ion acceleration experiments:

- M. Passoni, A. Zani, A. Sgattoni et al, **Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion**, **56**, 045001 (2014)
- T. Ceccotti, V. Floquet, A. Sgattoni et al, **Physical Review Letters**, **111**, 185001 (2013)
- A. Zani, D. Dellasega, V. Russo, M. Passoni, **Carbon** **56**, 358-365 (2013)

## Reviews/Editorial preparation of special issues on laser-driven ion acceleration

- A. Macchi, M. Borghesi, M. Passoni, **Reviews of Modern Physics**, **85**, 751 (2013)
- A. Macchi, A. Sgattoni, S. Sinigardi, M. Borghesi, M. Passoni, **Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion**, **55**, 124020 (2013)
- D. Batani, M. Passoni, **Nuclear Instruments and Methods A**, **653**, 1 (2011)

# An example: enhancing TNSA with multi-layered targets

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Interest in “intermediate”, near critical densities:  $n_e \sim n_c$

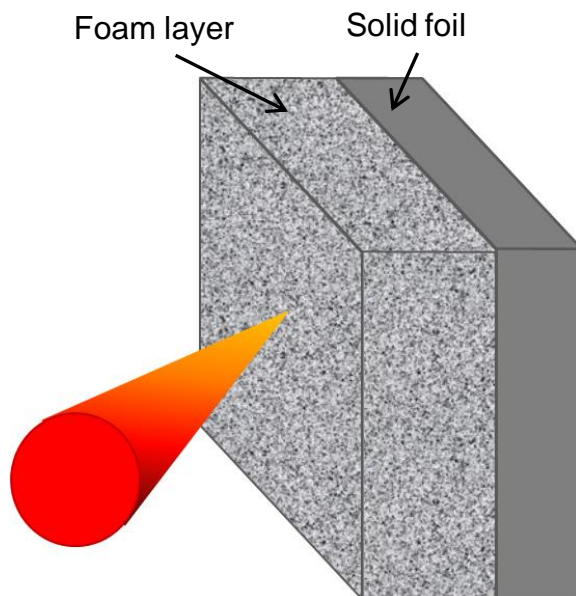
Scalings predicts more efficient absorption and fast electron generation

[L.Willingale et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett* **96**, 245002 (2006)]

[L.Willingale et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett* **102**, 125002 (2009)]

[S.S.Bulanov et al. *Phys. Plasmas* **17**, 044105 (2010)]

[T. Nakamura et al. *Phys. Plasmas* **17**, 113107(2010)]



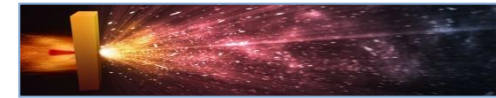
**Possibility to achieve an “advanced” TNSA regime:  
multilayered targets: thin solid foil + low-density layer**

## Open problems:

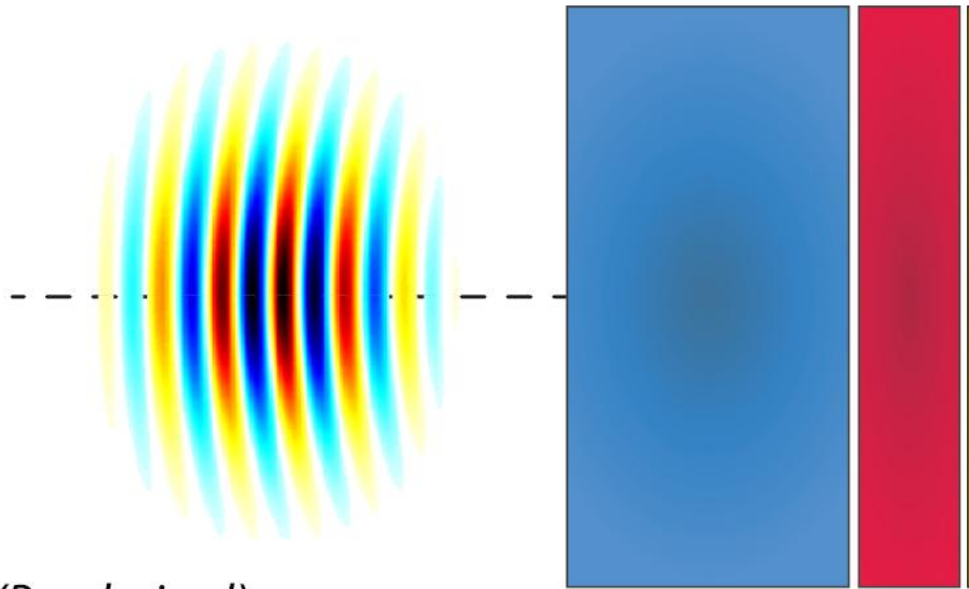
- Theoretical investigation of the ion acceleration dependence on system parameters (foam thickness, density, laser properties)
- Multilayered target manufacturing (not easy controlling density, adhesion to solid..)

# TNSA in multi-layers: numerical investigation

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**Use of the Particle In Cell (PIC) method**  
(to numerically solve the plasma kinetic equations)



**Laser** (*P*-polarized)

$\tau=25$  fs

$w = 3\mu\text{m}$

$\lambda=0.8\ \mu\text{m}$

**$P=3-120$  TW  $a=3-20$**

**$\theta_{\text{inc}}=0^\circ-30^\circ-45^\circ-60^\circ$**

**Foam**  
 **$C^{6+}$**

**$1-12\ \mu\text{m}$**

**$1-8n_c$**

**Metal**  
 **$Al^{9+}$**

$0,5\ \mu\text{m}$

$80\ n_c$

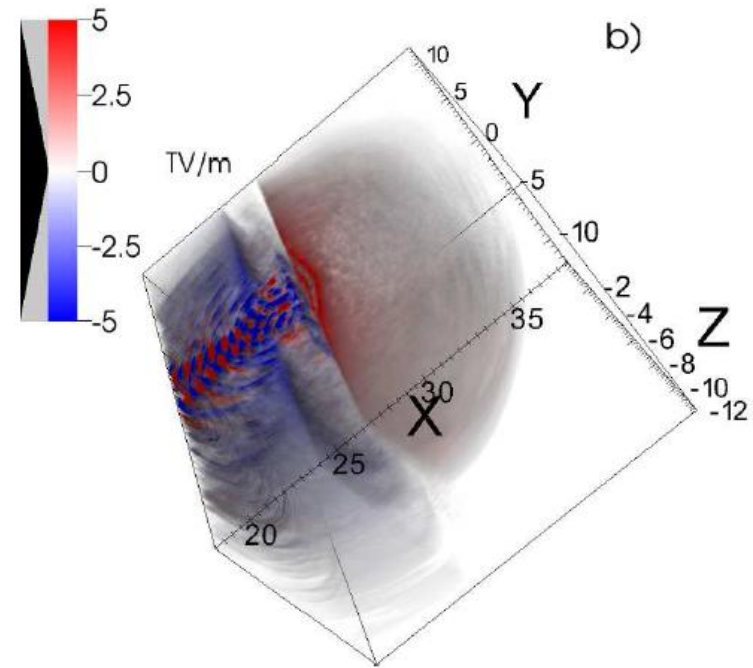
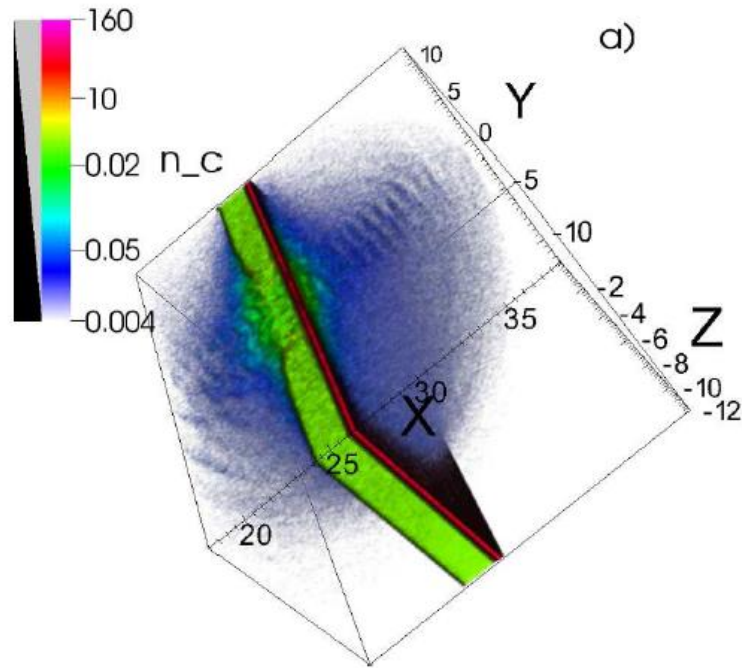
**Impurities**  
 **$H^+$**

$50\ \text{nm}$

$9\ n_c$

# TNSA in multi-layers: example of results of 3D PIC simulations

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- the laser penetrates through the foam layer (relativistic transparency)
- electrons from the foam are accelerated and expands on the rear side
- longitudinal electric field exceeds  $5 TV/m$

# TNSA in foam-based multi-layers: summary of the 2D-3D PIC analysis

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## Targets with near critical density layer

- enhanced “TNSA”, the maximum proton energy 3 times higher than bare solid foils
- short, low energy, pulses have been tested ( $U < 4\text{J}$ )
- ⇒ higher proton energies are expected for longer pulses
- optimal foam thickness depends on laser intensity and foam density
- high energy absorption by the target
- electrons from the foam play key role
- electron acceleration increases with thickness
- volume interaction
- oblique incidence gives no clear advantages

Sgattoni et al, *Phys. Rev. E* **85**, 036405 (2012)

# Production of low-density C foams by Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)

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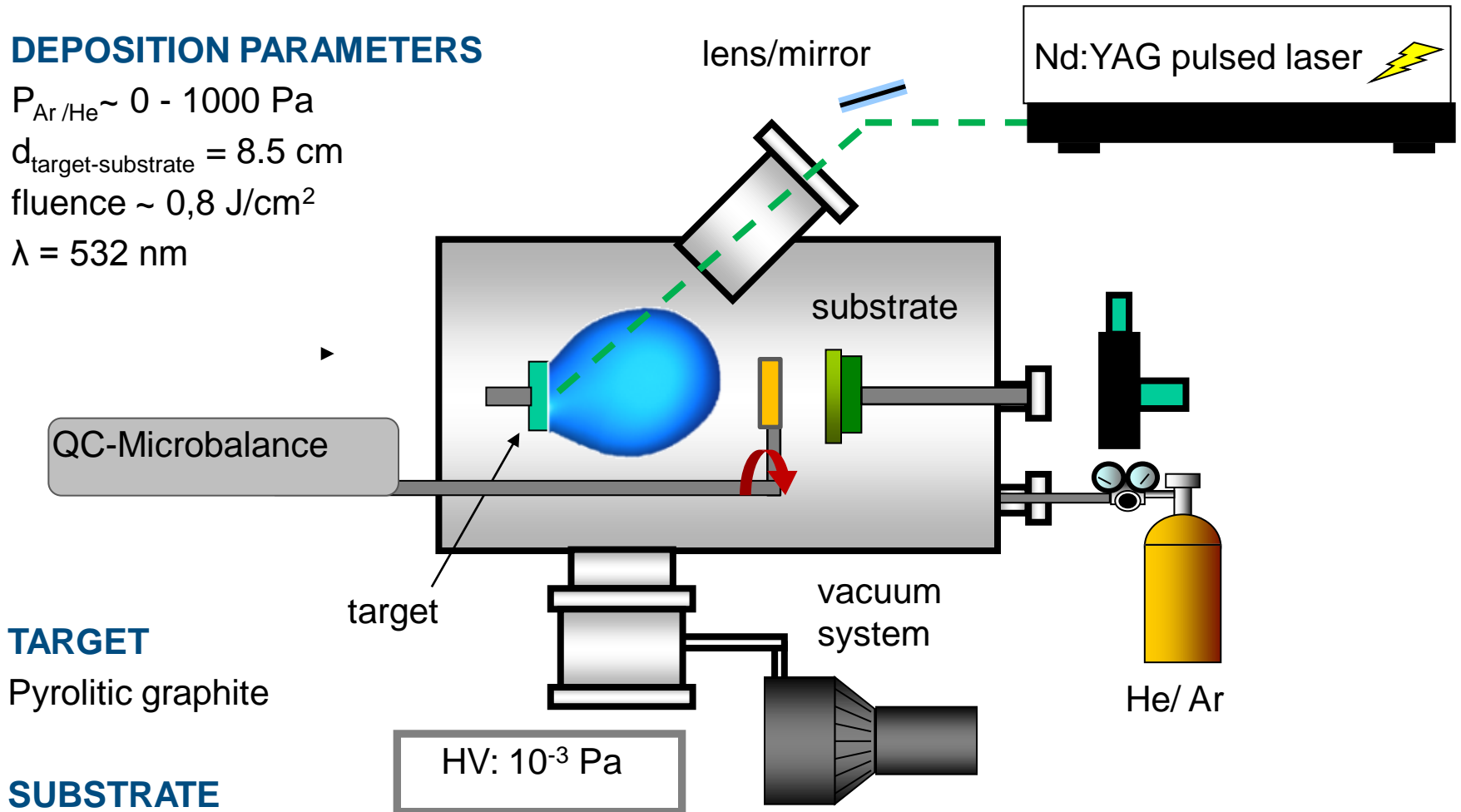
## DEPOSITION PARAMETERS

$P_{\text{Ar/He}} \sim 0 - 1000 \text{ Pa}$

$d_{\text{target-substrate}} = 8.5 \text{ cm}$

fluence  $\sim 0,8 \text{ J/cm}^2$

$\lambda = 532 \text{ nm}$



## TARGET

Pyrolytic graphite

## SUBSTRATE

Si  $\langle 100 \rangle$  for characterization

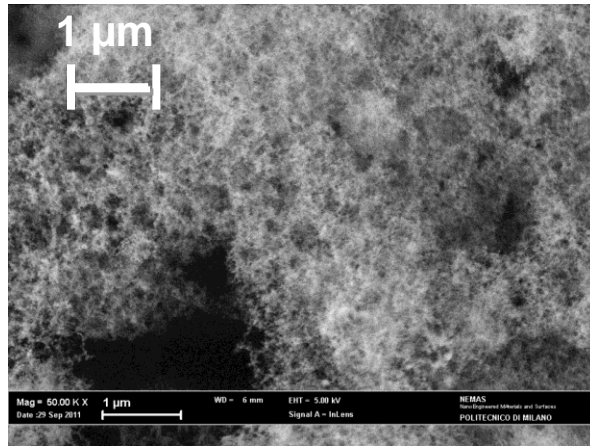
Al (0.7-10  $\mu\text{m}$ )

A. Zani *et al.*, Carbon, **56**, 358 (2013)





## Carbon foam morphology: SEM analysis



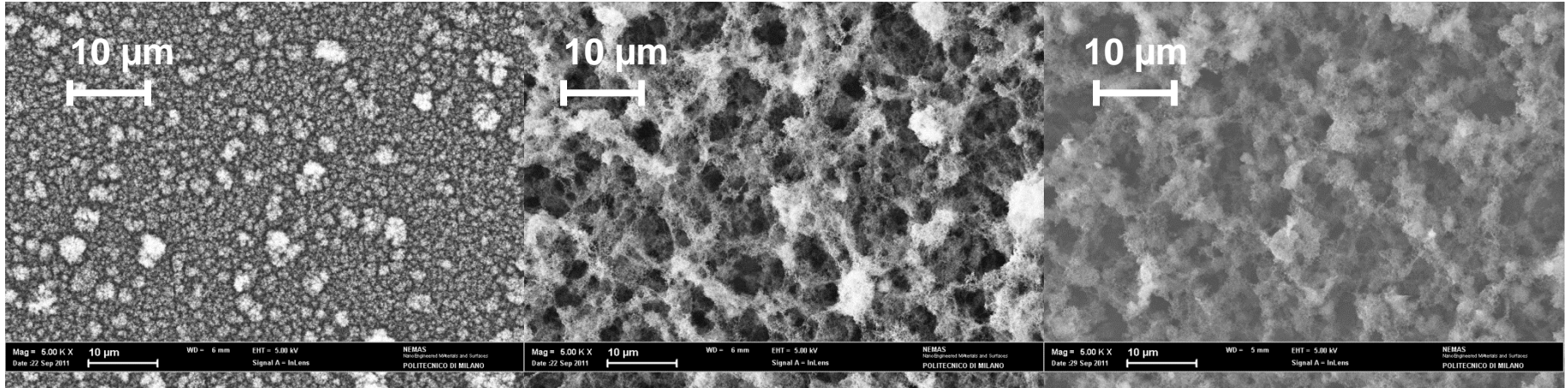
Structure at high magnification is very open and porous

On a mesoscale these structures can arrange in different ways by simply varying one process parameter: **Ambient gas pressure (Ar)**

30 Pa

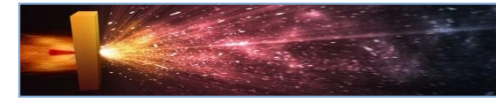
100 Pa

300 Pa



# Carbon foam density characterization & foreseen experiments

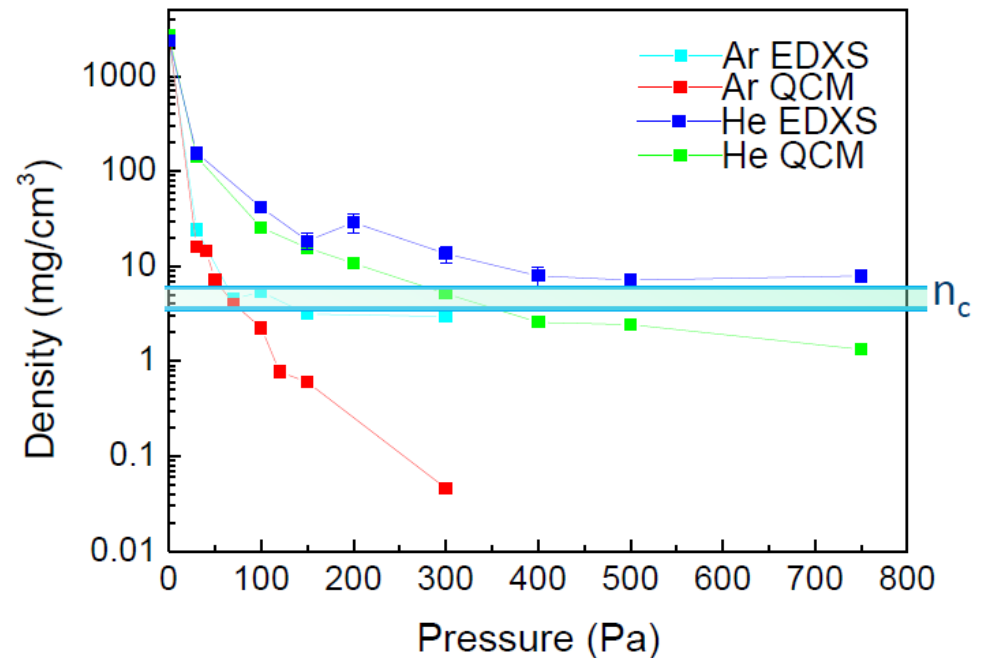
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- Assuming:

- fully ionized carbon
  - $\lambda=0.8 \mu\text{m}$  incident laser
- ⇒  $\rho_{\text{cr}}(\text{C}) \approx 3.2 \text{ mg/cm}^3$

- microbalance/EDXS analysis
  - Cross-section SEM analysis
- ⇒



- Potential in producing:

- foam materials having controlled density-composition in the near critical regime
- foam layers directly grown on solid surfaces (solving adhesion problems)
- materials with controlled density profile (functionally gradient materials)

- Main challenge:

- achievement of desired parameters with satisfactory film homogeneity and uniformity

- Experimental tests: LIDyL-CEA/Saclay group, under Laserlab (others foreseen!)

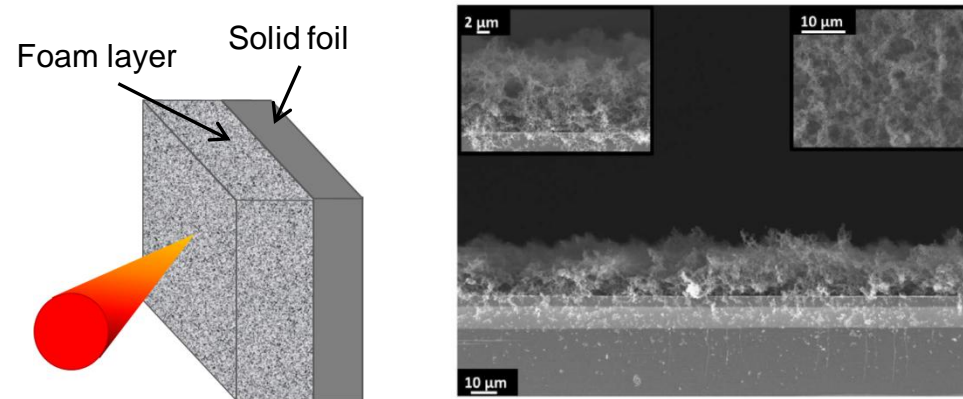
# Improved TNSA-like schemes: first experimental tests



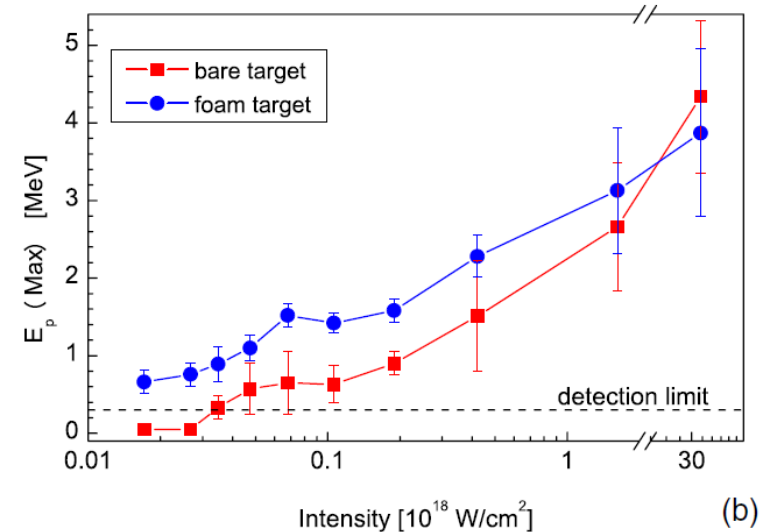
**Targets:** thin solid foil (Al) + foam ( $\sim n_c$ ) C layer

Al foil 1.5 (HC) – 10 (LC)  $\mu\text{m}$

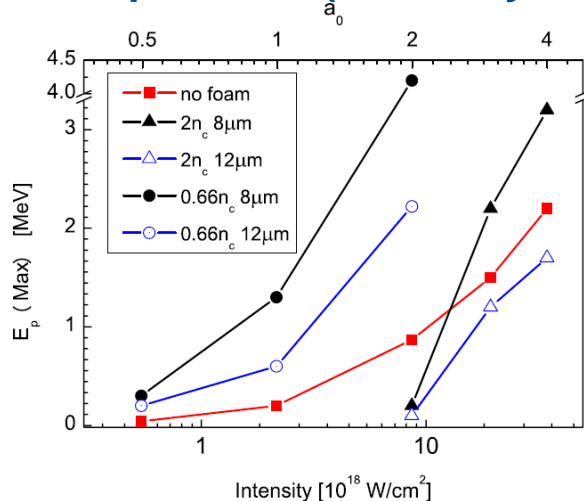
C foam 5 - 6  $\text{mg}/\text{cm}^3$ ; 12 (HC) – 23 (LC)  $\mu\text{m}$



**Experimental results:**  
representative example (HC case)



## Interpretation (PIC analysis)



When  $I_L < 10^{18} \text{ W}/\text{cm}^2$ :

- partial foam ionization ( $\text{C}^{2/4+}$ )  $\rightarrow$  sub-critical plasma ( $\sim 0.5 n_c$ )
- Laser penetration and  $e^-_{\text{hot}}$  from volume interactions
- higher proton energy with foam-attached targets

**These results suggest enhancement of  $E_{\text{max}}$   
at ultrahigh intensities with proper foam optimization**

M. Passoni *et al.*, Plasma Phys, Contr. Fusion, **56**, 045001 (2014)

# Training of young students on laser-plasma: role of POLIMI

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## Educational activities at Polimi of relevance for laser-ion acceleration

- Master program in Nuclear Engineering (about 35-40 students/year)
- Master course in Plasma Physics I+II (about 100 h, 20-25 students/year, from Nuclear Engineering, Physical Engineering, Mathematical Engineering)
- Other master courses (Radiation detection and measurements, physics of nuclear materials, laser physics & technology, radioprotection...)
- Phd Program in “Energy and Nuclear Science and Technology” (STEN)
- Polytechnic School...a lot of interdisciplinary topics available

## Role of Nanolab in laser-ion acceleration:

- Teaching of the course Plasma Physics I+II (M. Passoni) (+ more...)
- Direct role in: master program Nuclear Engineering, PhD in STEN
- Supervision of master thesis students (about 1-2 each year)
- Supervision of post-lauream, PhD students & Post-Docs (presently: 4)

# That's all Acknowledgements



## CO-WORKERS

D. Batani<sup>1</sup>, T. Ceccotti<sup>2</sup>, V. Floquet<sup>2</sup>, D. Delsega<sup>3</sup>, A. Macchi<sup>4,5</sup>,  
P. Martin<sup>2</sup>, C. Perego<sup>6</sup>, I. Prencipe<sup>3</sup>, V. Russo<sup>3</sup>, A. Sgattoni<sup>3,4</sup>, A. Zani<sup>3</sup>

1 Université Bordeaux, CNRS, CEA, CELIA

2 CEA/DSM/IRAMIS/LIDyL, Gif sur Yvette, France

3 Dipartimento di Energia, Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy

4 CNR/INO, Pisa, Italy

5 Dipartimento di Fisica “Enrico Fermi”, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

6 Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

## Work sponsored by:

- **FIRB-MIUR, Italy** (SULDIS – “Superintense Ultrashort Laser-Driven Ion Sources”)

- **Laserlab, EU** (grant n. 228334, Seventh Framework Programme, proposal n.SLIC001689)

- **Use of supercomputing facilities at CINECA (Italy) via grant awards:**

(IBM-SP6, **IS CRA** award: project TOFUSEX – “TOwards FULL-Scale simulations of laser-plasma EXperiments” N.HP10A25JKT-2010)

(FERMI BlueGene/QTM, **PRACE** award: LSAIL – “Large Scale Acceleration of Ions by Lasers”)

# THE END THANK YOU!



# EXTRA SLIDES



Overall, THE TEAM INCLUDE:

- the MAIN ITALIAN EXPERTISES about the theoretical study of ION ACCELERATION DRIVEN BY UU LASER pulses
- the MAIN ITALIAN EXPERTISES about the development and the exploitation of PIC SIMULATION codes and their implementation on supercomputers
- the EXPERIMENTAL EXPERTISE of a nanoscience & nanotechnology lab
- collaboration with RESEARCH GROUPS OF RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE in the field of laser-ion acceleration experiments



interdisciplinary approach:  
laser-plasma physics  
material science & nanotech.

integrated approach:  
theoretical, numerical,  
experimental, collaborative

# PIC simulations for ion acceleration: expertise & numerical resources

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- Expertise by the team in development and use of PIC codes
- Team members have been involved in previous projects for numerical investigation of both electron and ion laser-plasma acceleration
  - Quinn et al, PRL 102, 194801 (2009) - Romagnani et al, PRL 105, 175002 (2010) – Macchi et al, New J. Phys. 12, 045013 (2010) - Tamburini et al PRE 85, 016407 (2012)
  - Benedetti et. al. NIMA 608 (2009) - Benedetti et al NIMA 606 (2009) – Londrillo et. al. MIMA 620, 28 (2010) - Sgattoni et al PRE 85, 036405 (2012)
- Various 3D PIC codes available: UMKA<sup>a</sup> , **ALaDyn**<sup>b</sup> , **Piccante**
  - MPI parallelized and tested on 1000s CPU
  - UMKA: radiation reaction effects
  - **ALaDyn**: several particle and field solvers 2nd and 4th order, efficient multispecies definition.
  - Piccante: home made, recently developed and open sourced

a) G. I. Dudnikova et al., Comp. Technol. 10, 37 (2005).

b) Benedetti C. et al IEEE Trans. Plasma Science 36, 1790 (2008)

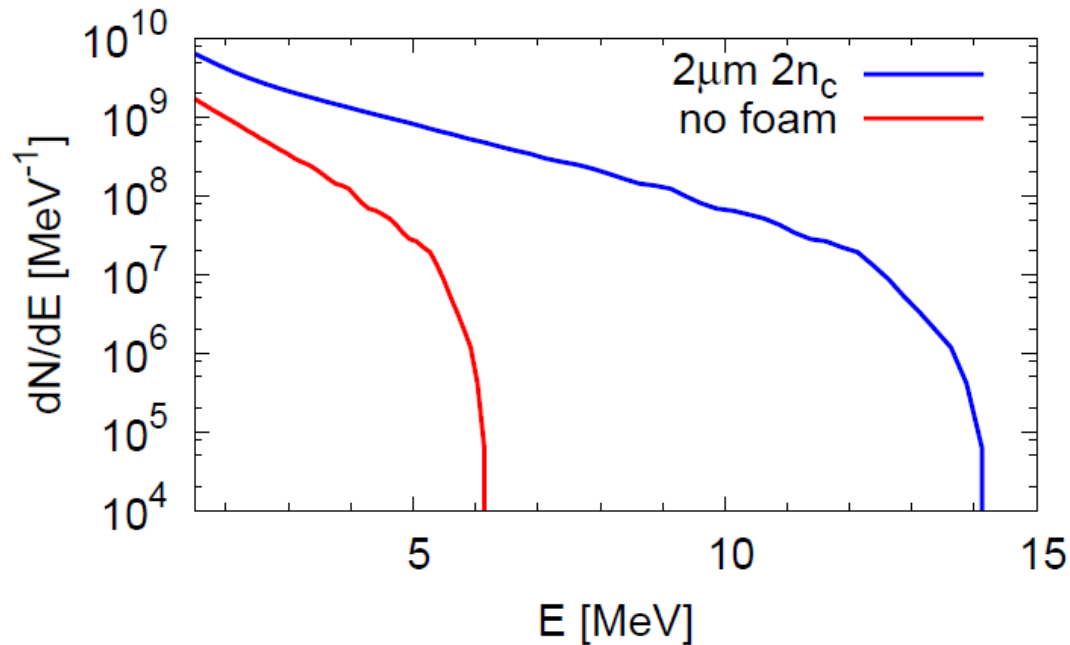


# TNSA in multi-layers: example of results of 3D PIC simulations

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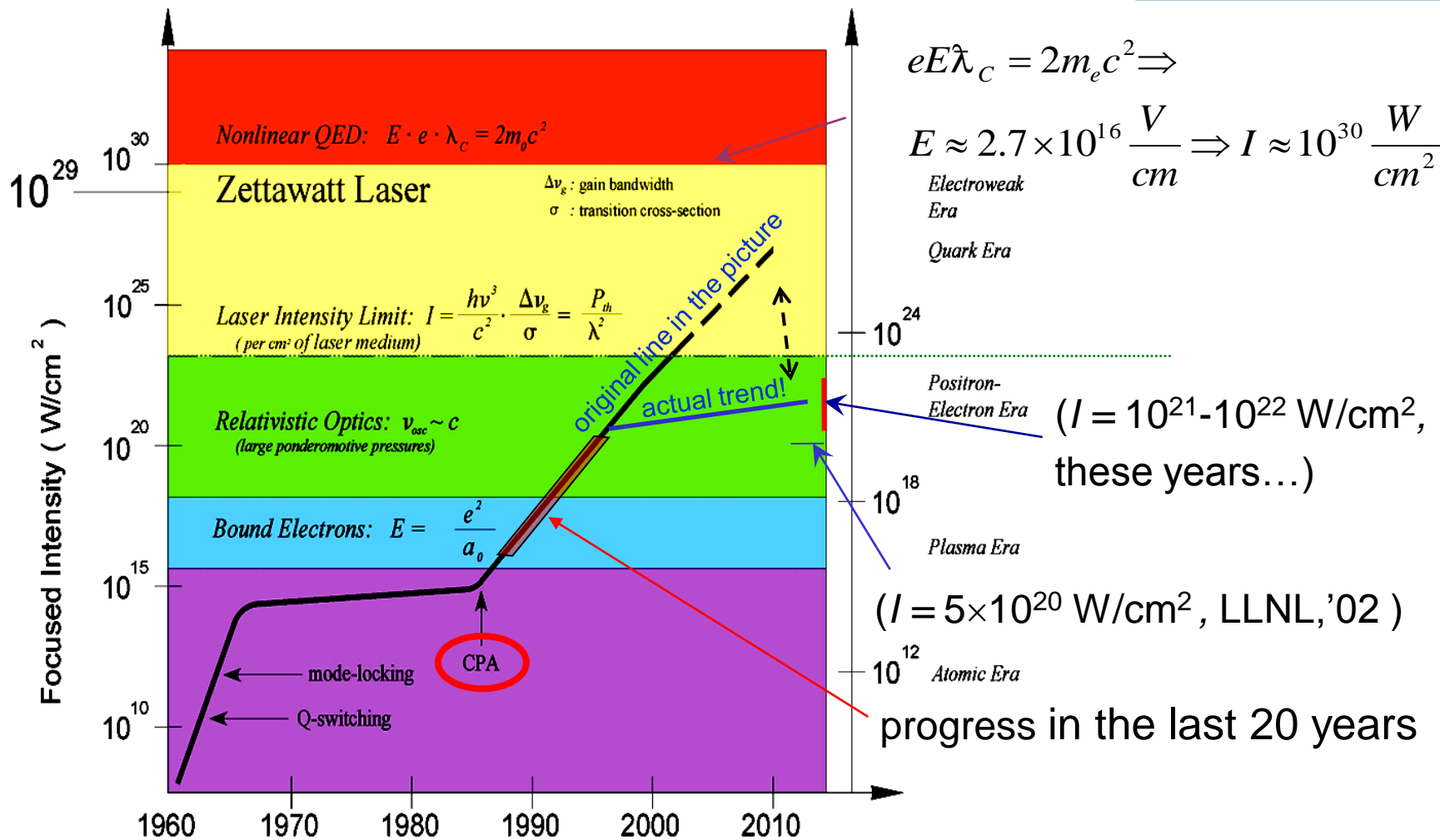


$$P = 32 \text{ TW} \quad \tau = 25 \text{ fs} \quad w_0 = 3 \mu\text{m} \quad U = 0.8 \text{ J} \quad I = 3.4 \cdot 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2 \quad (a_0 = 10)$$



- exponential with a cut-off (like TNSA)
  - thin foam ( $l_f = 2 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n_f = 2n_c$ )  
⇒ cut-off energy increased by a factor  $\sim 2.5$ !
- **Sgattoni et al PRE 85, 036405 (2012)**

# Physical regimes achievable



[G. Mourou, T. Tajima, S.V. Bulanov, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **78**, 309 (2006)  
M. Marklund, P.K. Shukla, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **78**, 591 (2006)]

# Theoretical description of laser-based ion acceleration: TNSA

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## How to develop analytical quantitative models of the acceleration process in TNSA?

...generally speaking, two “complementary” approaches are possible:

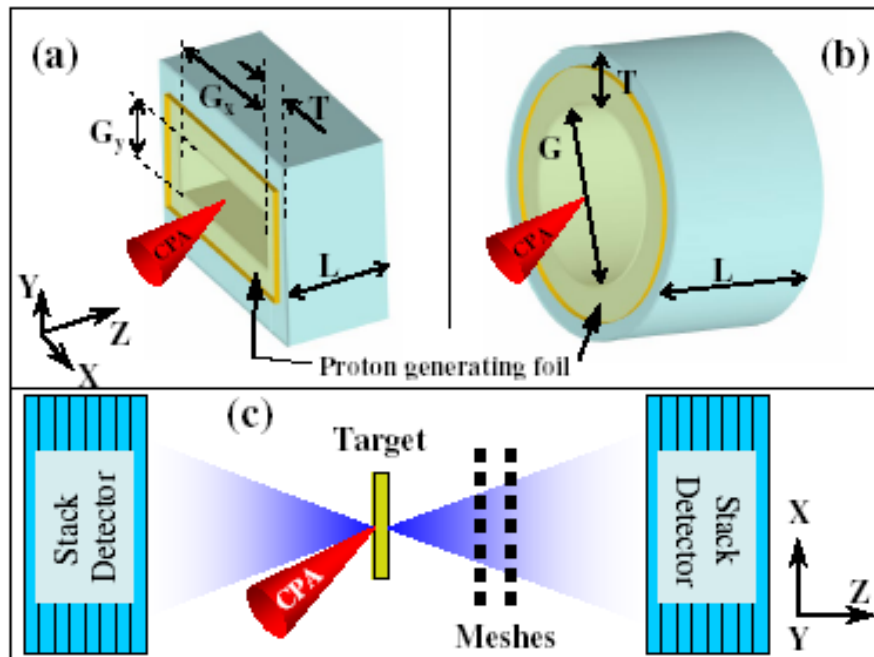
- 1) **consider ions and hot electrons as an expanding plasma which is described with fluid or kinetic models**
  - accelerated ions are the positive component of a globally neutral plasma
  - focus on the collective time evolution of ion dynamics
  
- 2) **describe in detail the accelerating field as a quasi-static sheath electric field set up by the hot electrons**
  - light ions treated as test particles forming a thin low-density layer
  - heavier ions considered almost immobile on the time scales of light ion acceleration
  - focus on the early stages of ion acceleration (energetic ions)



## Any experimental evidence of “passing” vs “bound” electrons?

“Dynamic Control of Laser-Produced Proton Beams”

S. Kar et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **100**, 105004 (2008)



“... A small fraction of the hot electron population escapes and rapidly charges the target to a potential of the order of  $Up$  preventing the bulk of the hot electrons from escaping. ...”

“... All targets were mounted on 3 mm thick and 2 cm long plastic stalks in order to provide a highly resistive path to the current flowing from the target to ground. ...”

about this issue, see also  
K. Quinn et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2009)

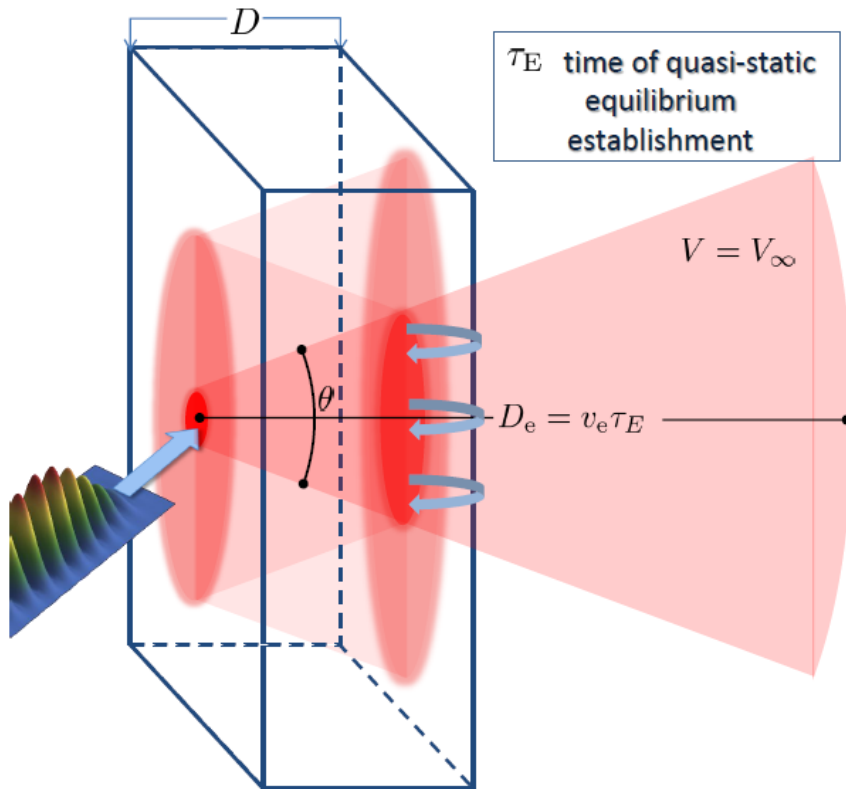
...then, in usual conditions

**a globally neutral target with only “bound” electrons develops**

# TNSA theory: Extension of the description



## Thickness Dependence



✓ Hot Electron generation:  $N_h = \eta E_L / \langle K \rangle$

✓ Collision-less Ballistic Transport, with divergence angle  $\theta$

$$v_e \lesssim c \quad \tau_E \sim 50 \text{ fs} \quad V \rightarrow V_\infty$$

✓ Uniform Density  $n_\infty = N_h / V_\infty$

✓ Electron Recirculation, longitudinal confinement

$$n_{h0} = \frac{D_e}{D} n_\infty$$

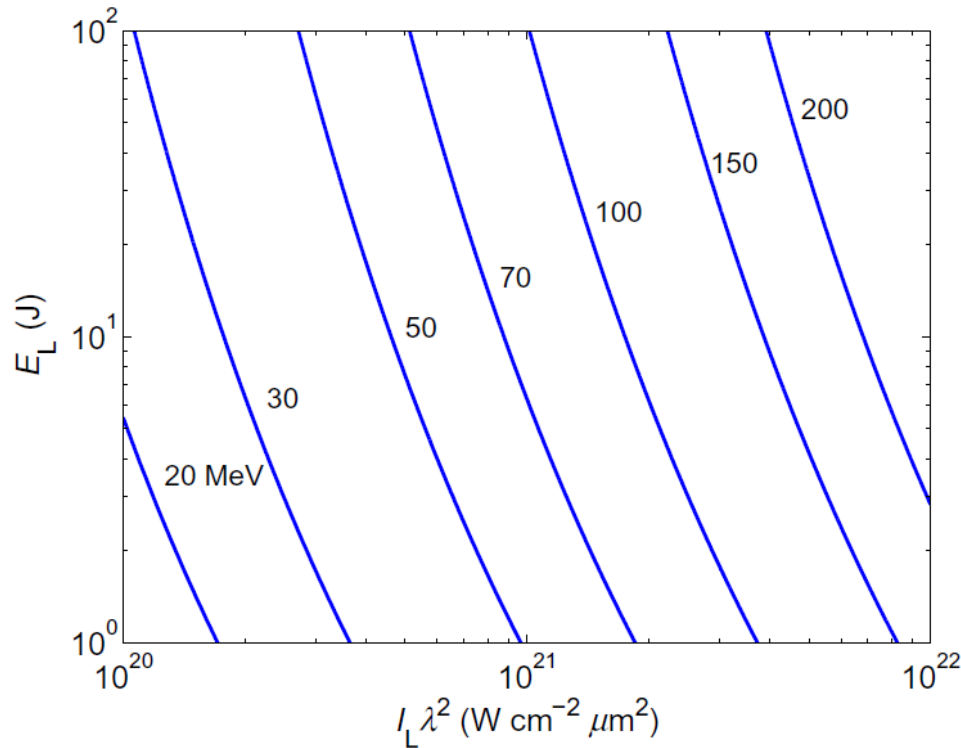


The hot electron density estimate is used as a boundary condition in Passoni-Lontano theory:

$$\varphi^* + \log \left[ \frac{I(\varphi^*, T_h)}{\zeta K_1(\zeta)} \right] = \log \left( \frac{n_{h0}}{\tilde{n}} \right)$$

# Pulse energy – intensity plane: TNSA beyond $10^{21}$ W/cm<sup>2</sup>: ?

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Example :  
100 MeV protons with  
**Ti:Sa ( $\lambda=800$  nm);**  
 **$I = 4 \times 10^{21}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>;**  
 **$E_L = 5$  J**

**Figure 4.** The curves at constant  $\varepsilon_{i,\max}$  (in MeV) are plotted in the  $(I_L \lambda^2; E_L)$  plane, in units  $(\text{W cm}^{-2} \mu\text{m}^2; \text{J})$ . Ranges relevant for future laser facilities are considered.

M. Passoni et al, *New J. Phys.* **12**, 045012 (2010)

# TNSA theory: comparison with experiments

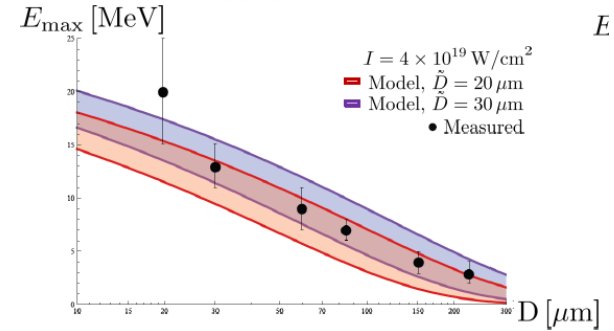


M. Kaluza *et al. Phys. Rev. Lett.* **93** (2004)

ATLAS, MPI Garching 10 TW: Different thicknesses, laser intensities and pre-pulse durations

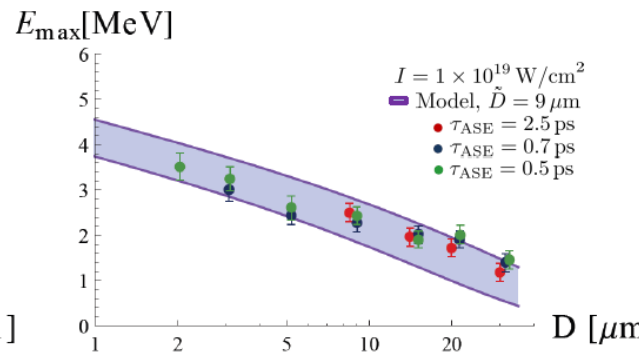
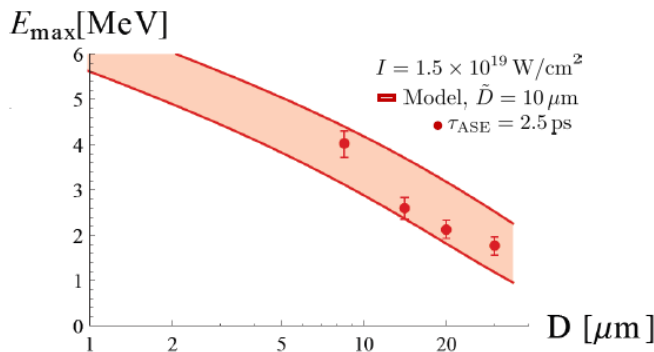
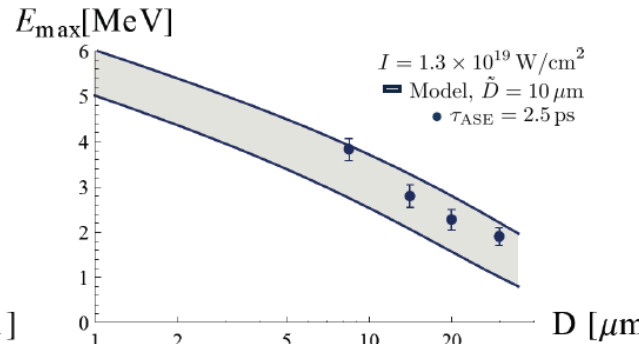
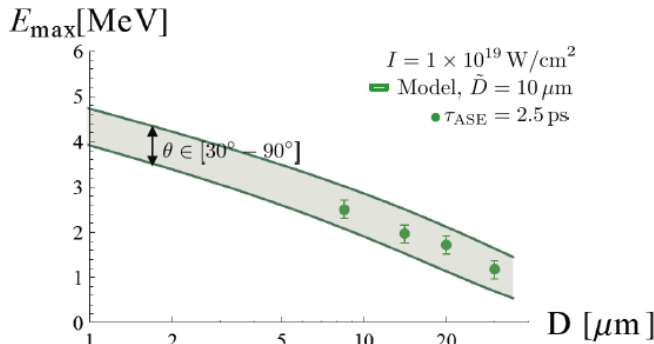
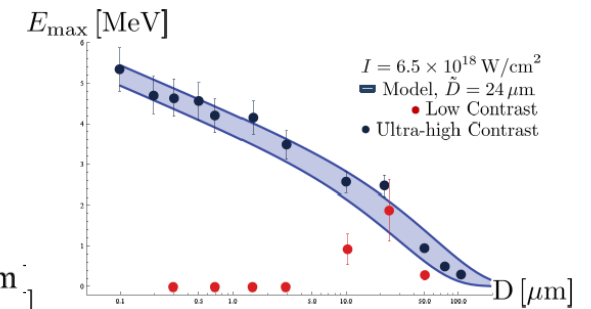
J. Fuchs *et al. Nat. Phys.* **48** (2006)

LULI, 100 TW: higher on target energy and thicker targets, 2 different normalizations



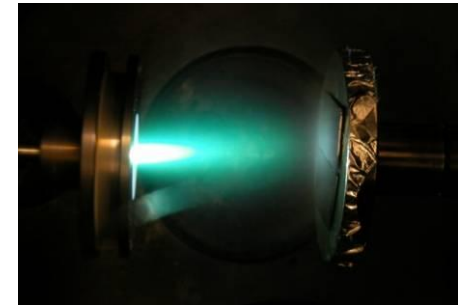
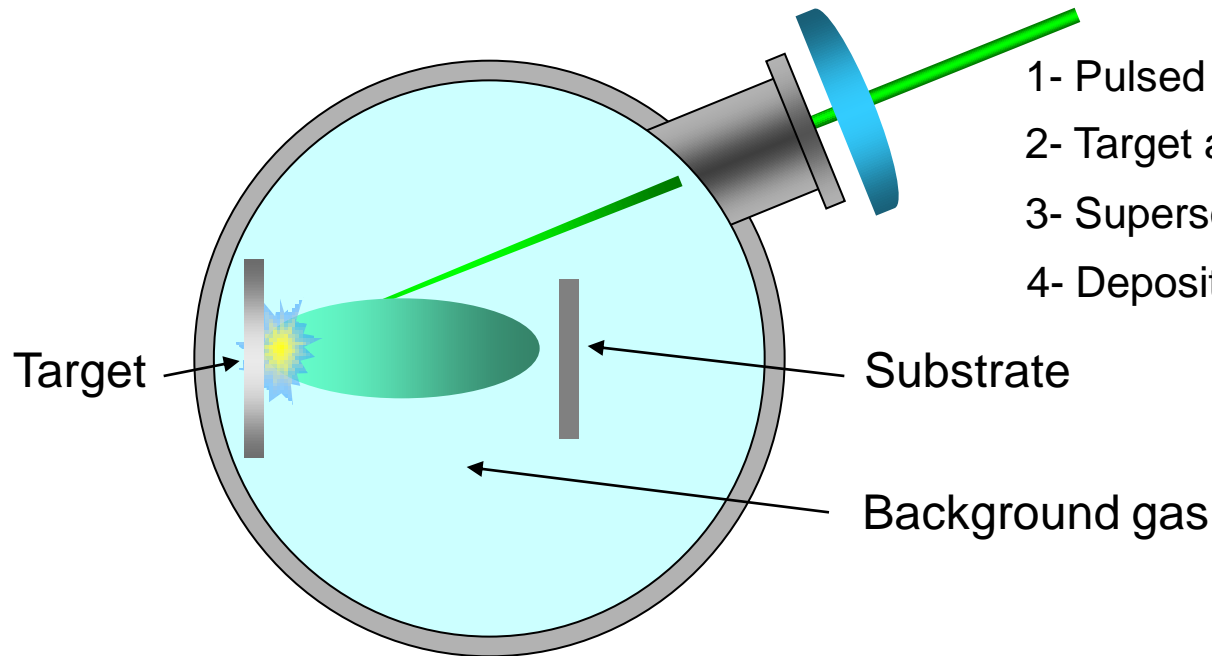
T. Ceccotti *et al. Phys. Rev. Lett.* **99** (2007)

2 UHI10, Saclay 10 TW: low/ultra-high contrast pulses on Mylar targets

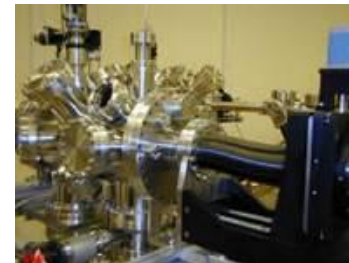


# Production of films & coatings with Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD)

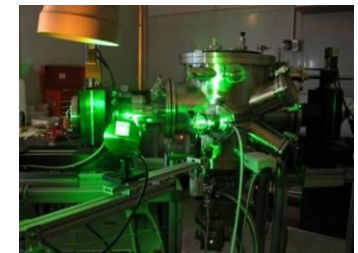
32



UHV chamber with KrF excimer laser  
 $\lambda=248 \text{ nm}$ , pulsewidth 12 ns 450 mJ



HV chamber with 4th harm NdYAG laser  
 $\lambda=266 \text{ nm}-1064 \text{ nm}$ , pulsewidth 7 ns 160 mJ





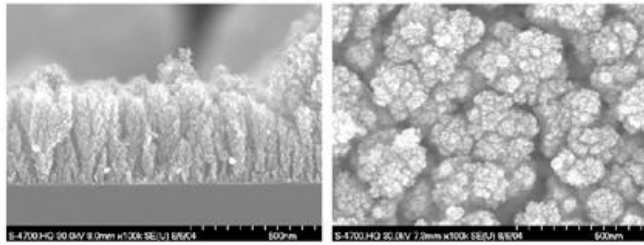
# Control of morphology-growth in PLD: effect of Gas Pressure



Ambient gas (Atomic mass, Pressure) can affect:

Energy of the ablated species

Morphology

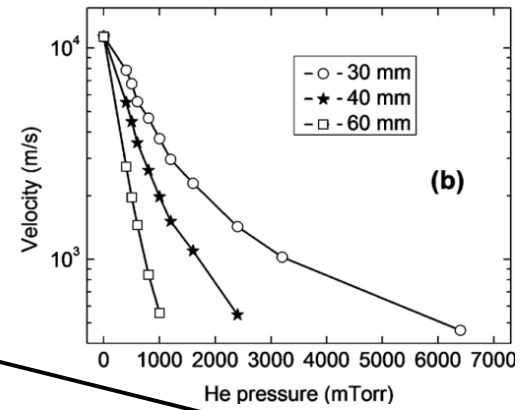


500 nm

[1]

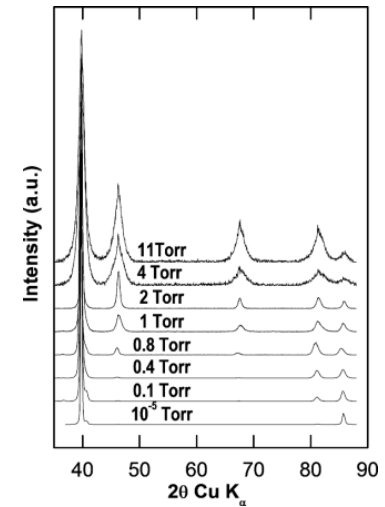
Specific aim:

achieve separate control of crystalline domain size and film morphology



[1]

Crystalline Structure

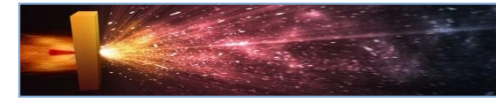


[1]

[1]D. Riabinina, E. Irissou, et al., JAP **108**, 034322 (2010)

# Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD): Pro and Contra

34



## Advantages in using PLD:

- fine tailoring of the morphology and structure of the deposited film at the nanometric scale (thanks to the high energy of the ablated species)
- possibility of obtaining better thermo-mechanical properties (stress relief, adhesion, fatigue resistance, deformability)
- deposition of multi-layer & functionally graded materials in order to overcome interface problems
- high purity of the deposited material (strong reduction of contaminants)

## Drawbacks:

- Deposition of limited areas (tens cm<sup>2</sup>) and thicknesses ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Formation of micro-nano metric droplets

## Possible interest of PLD for fusion research:

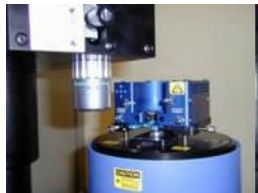
- First Wall coatings properties – especially W! (JET, AUG, ITER, DEMO)
- permeation barriers
- Nanostructured films for specific devices (diagnostic mirrors, neutron detectors)



- SEM (Zeiss Supra 40 equipped with the GEMINI column)  
morphology and substrate adhesion
- EDS (Oxford Instruments)  
composition and contaminations



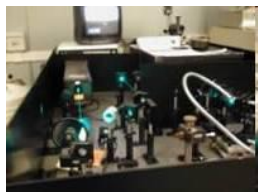
- STM (Omicron)  
surface analysis



- AFM (Thermomicroscope Autoprobe CP Research)  
roughness



- Raman spectroscopy (1- Jobin-Yvon T64000, 2- Renishaw Invia)  
composition, structure

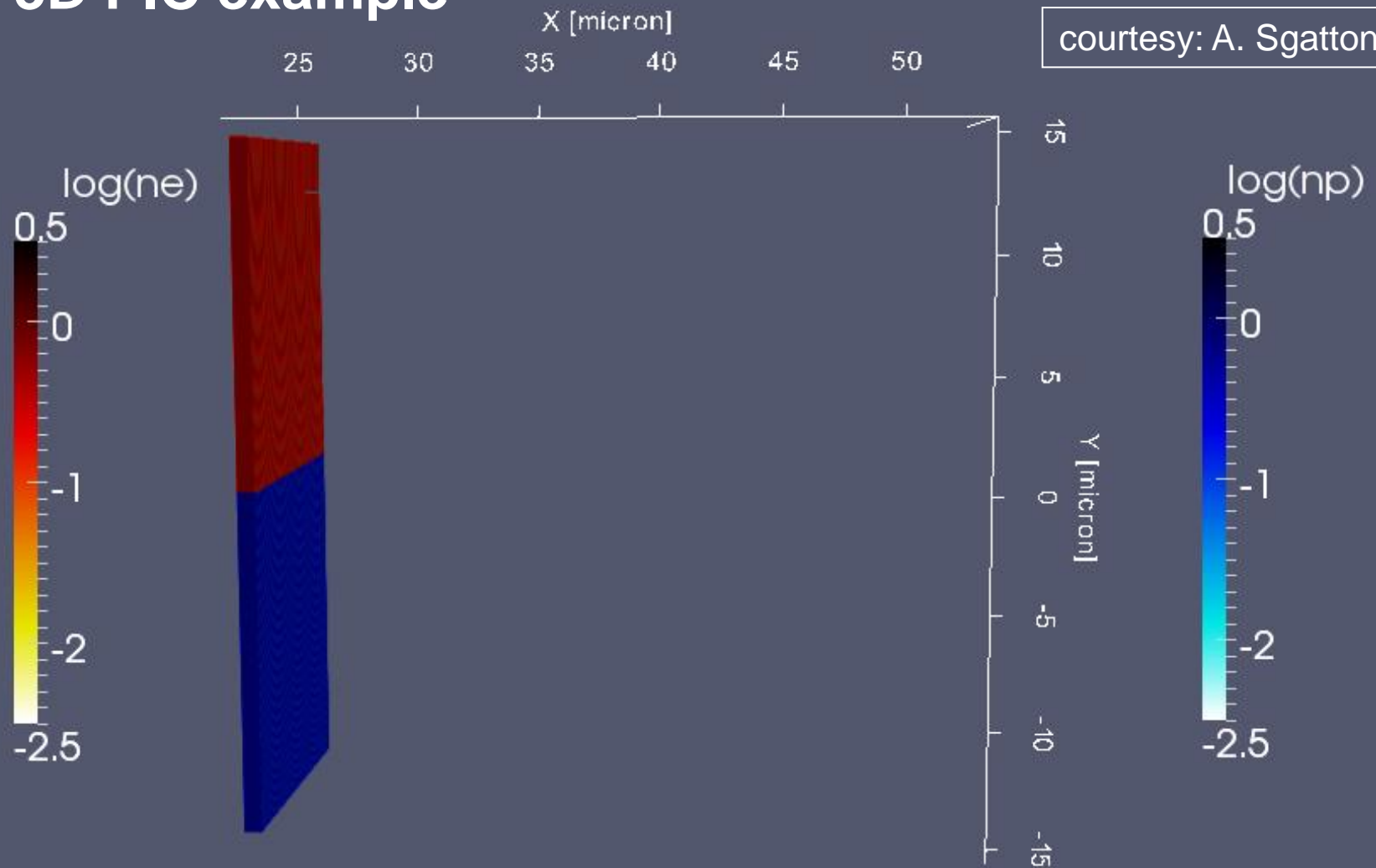


- Brillouin spectroscopy  
mechanical properties, elastic constants

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 0$  fs

courtesy: A. Sgattoni

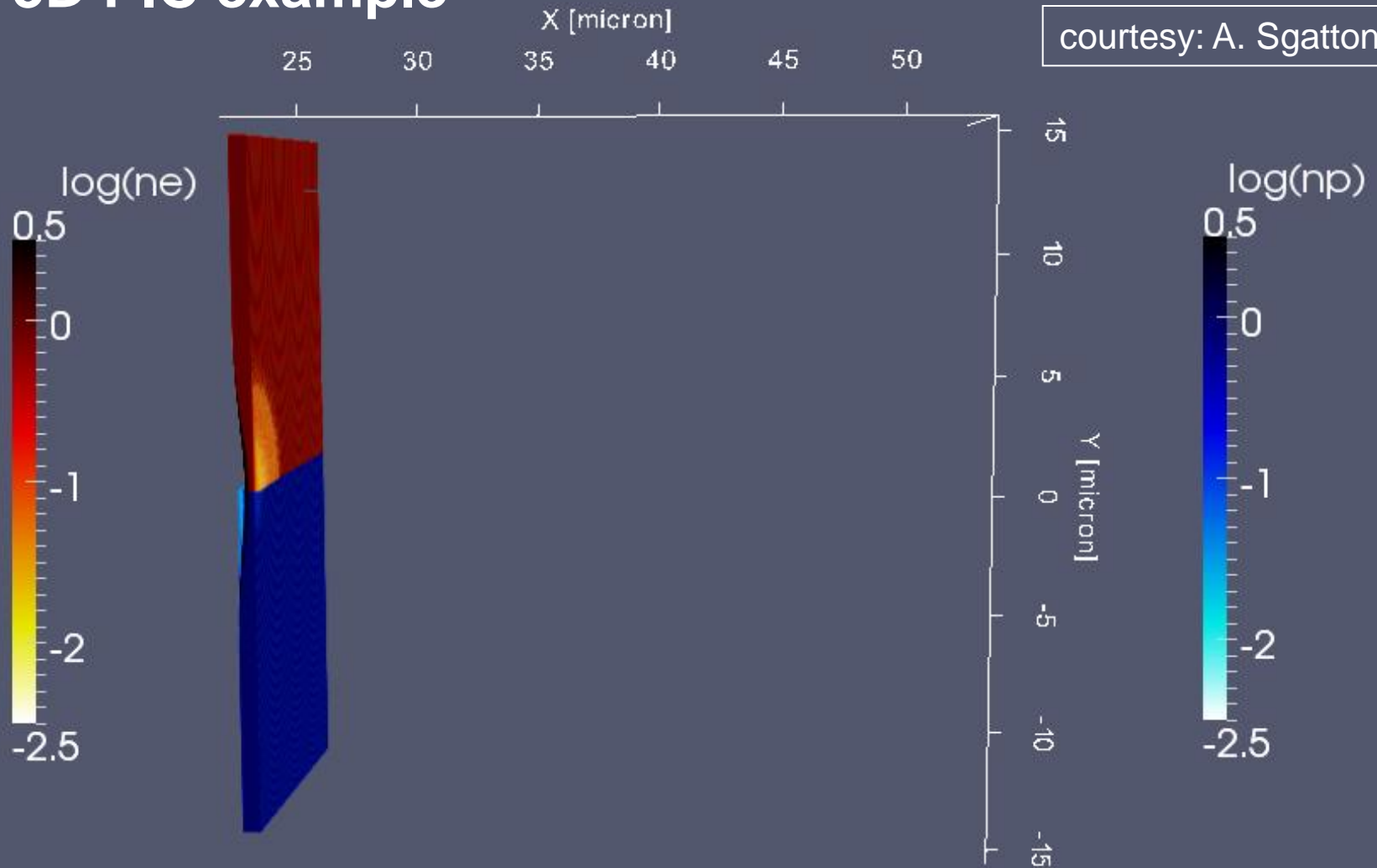


CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>  $w_0 = 3,5\mu m$   $\tau = 24fs$   $\lambda = 0,8\mu m$   
 $e$ - $p$  plasma:  $l = 0,8\mu m$   $n_e = 64n_c$

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 16,6 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni

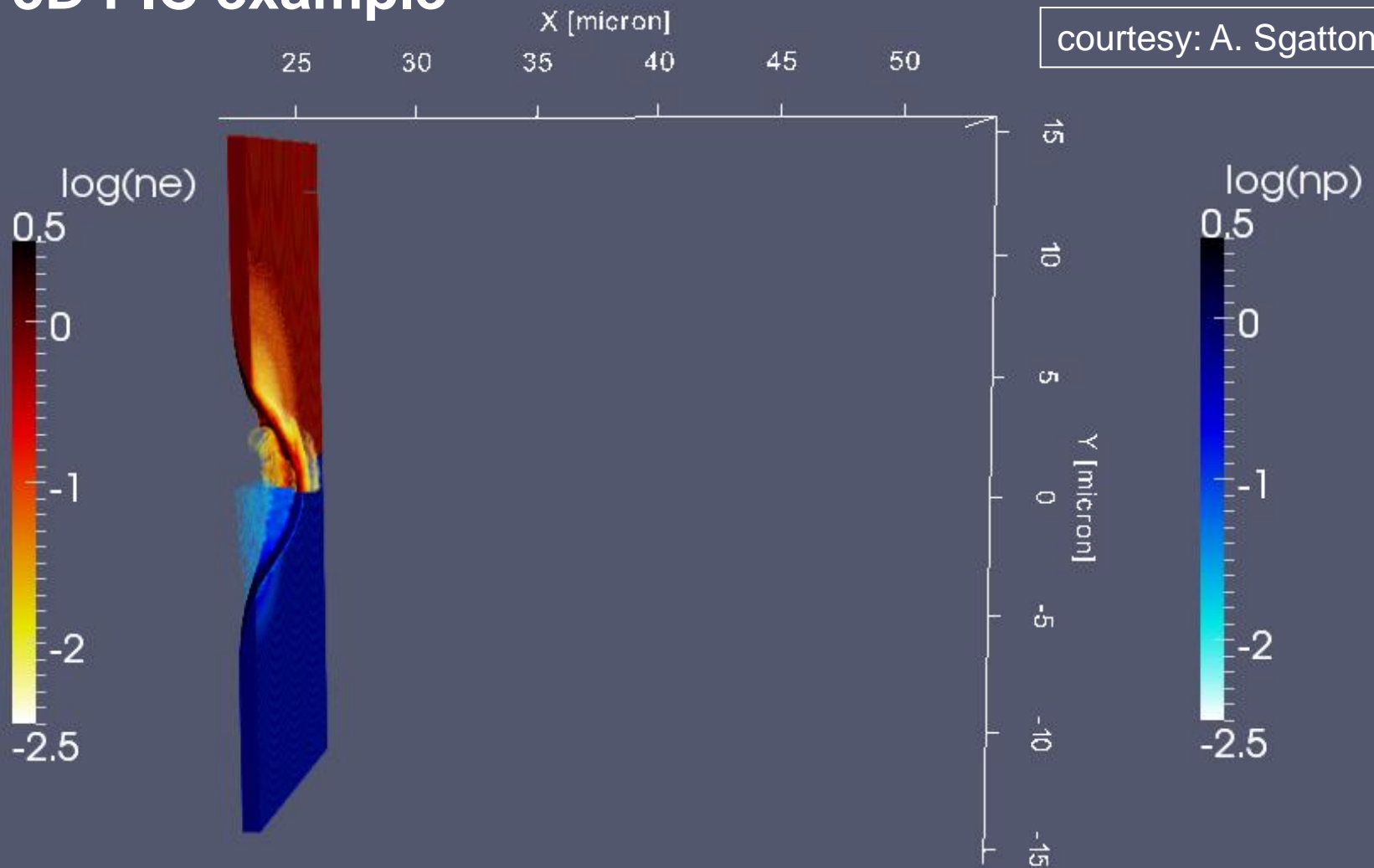


CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
 $e$ - $p$  plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 33,3 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni

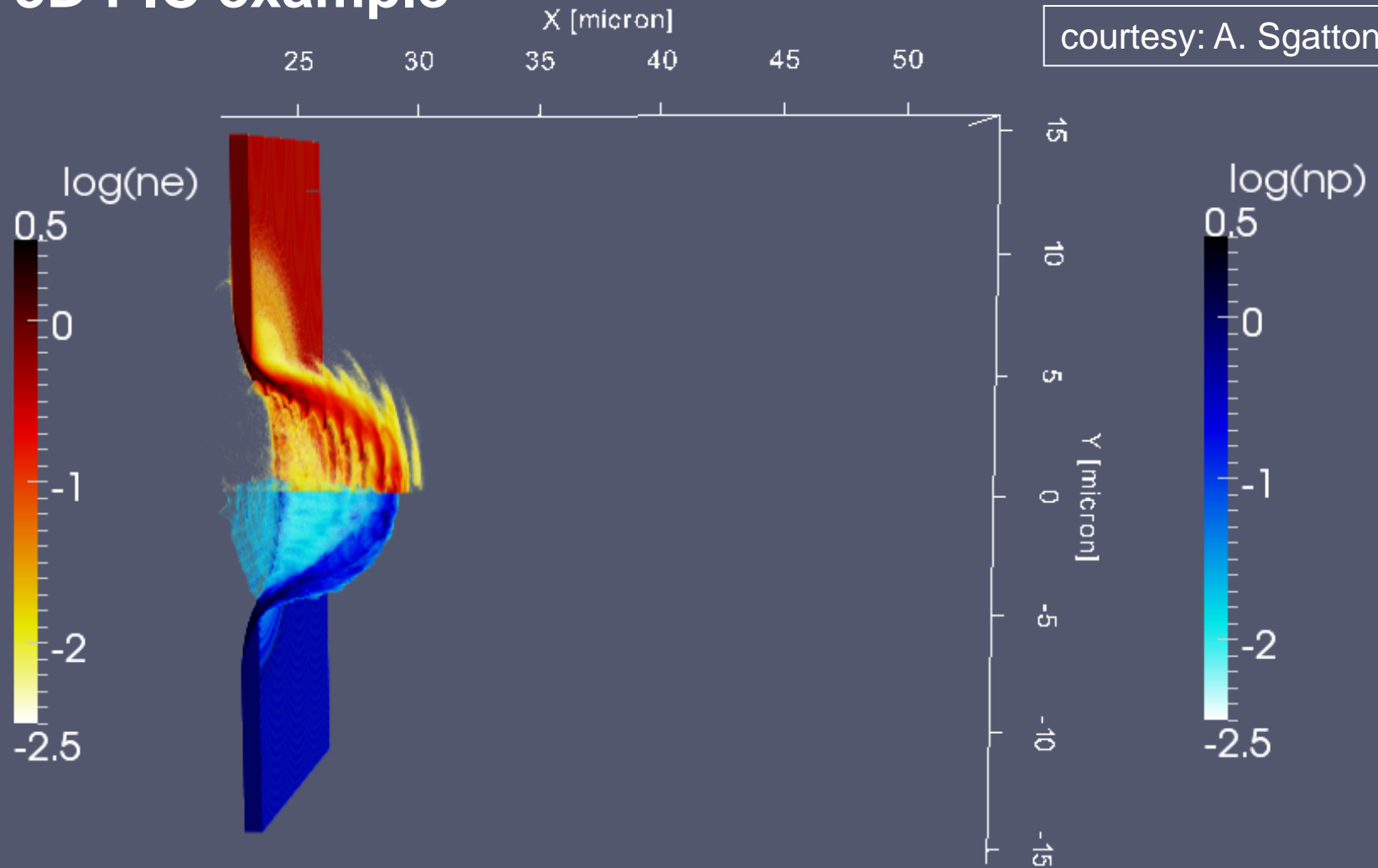


CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
e-p plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 50 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni

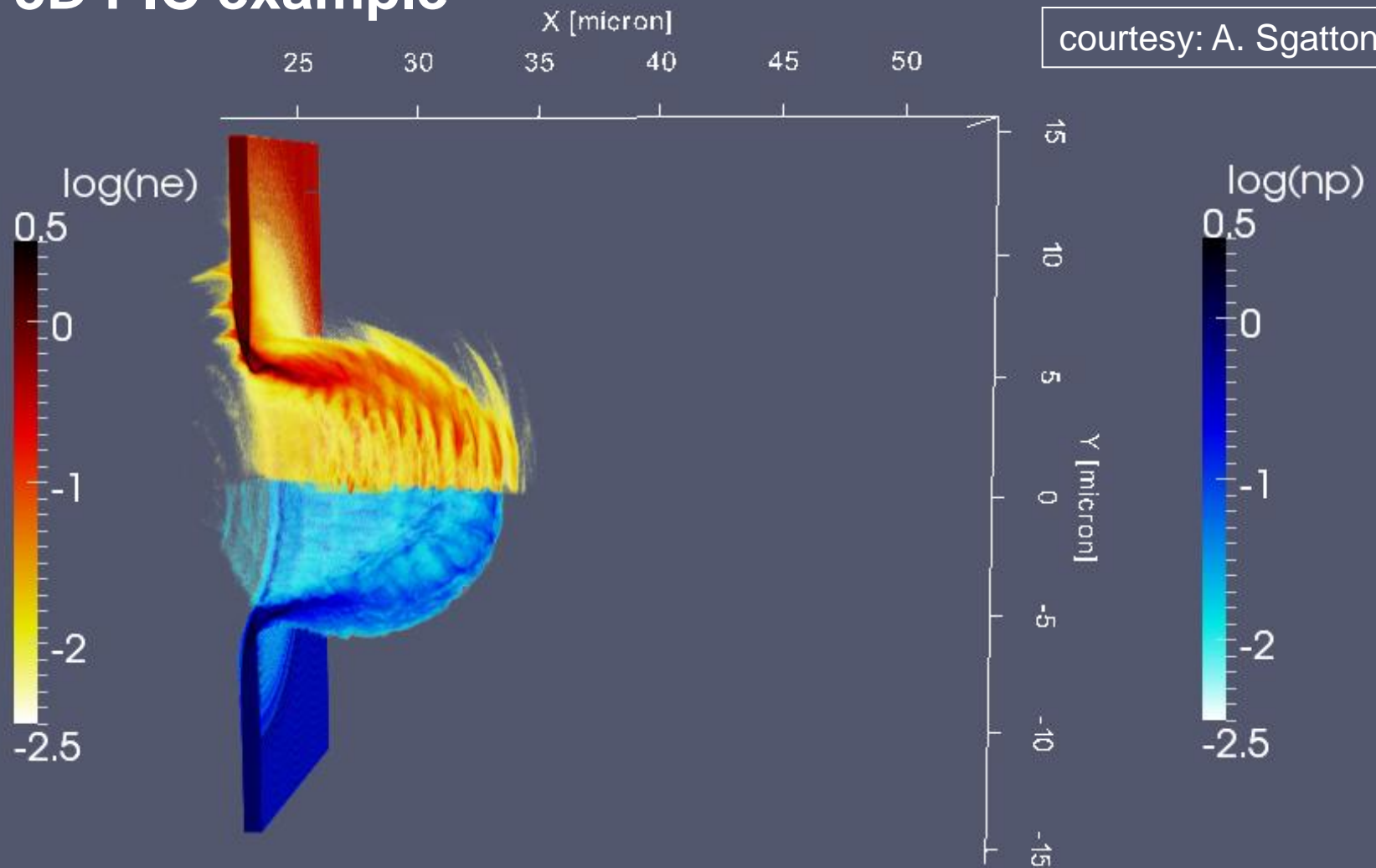


CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
e-p plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 66,6 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni



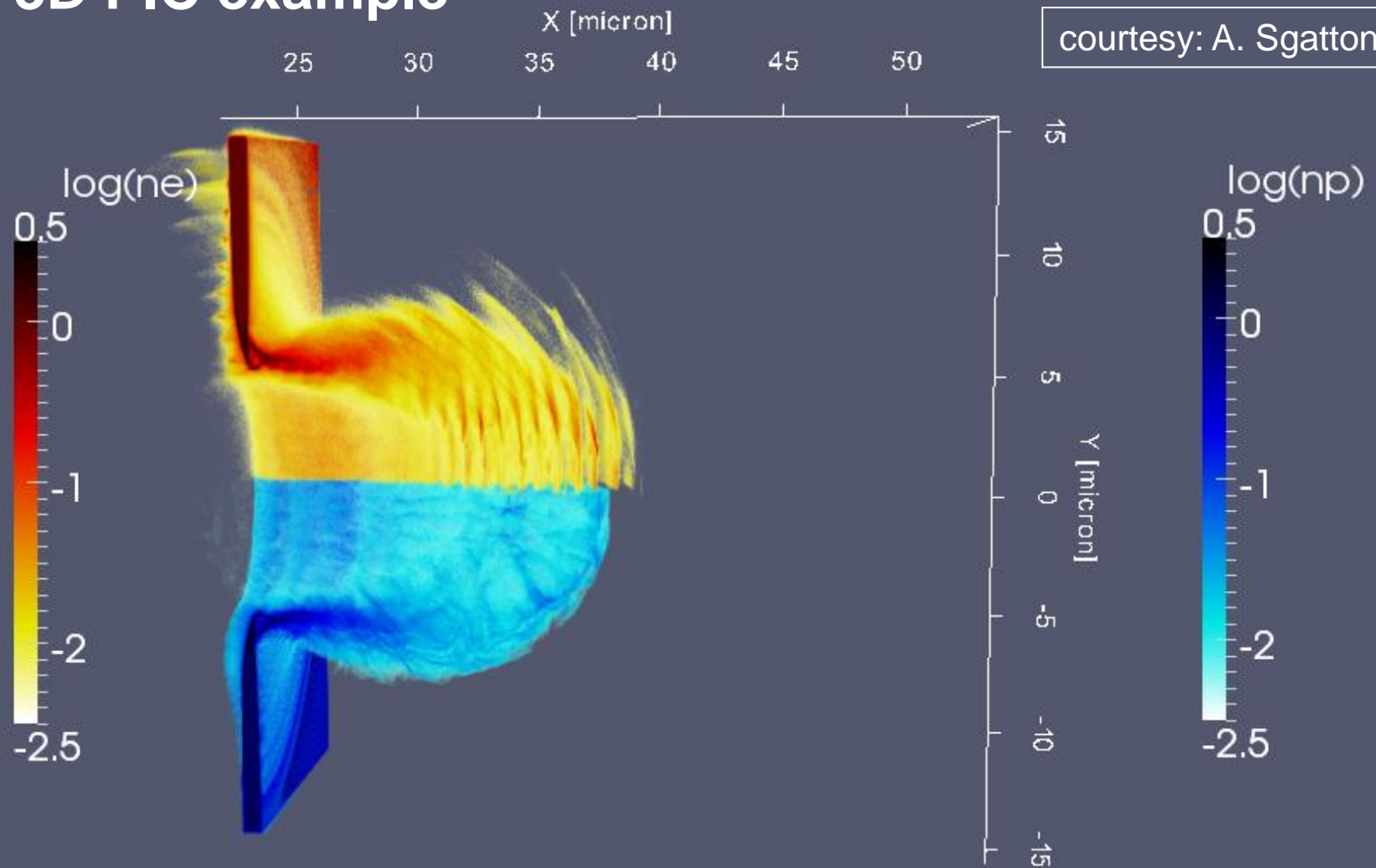
CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
 $e$ - $p$  plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$



# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 83,3 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni

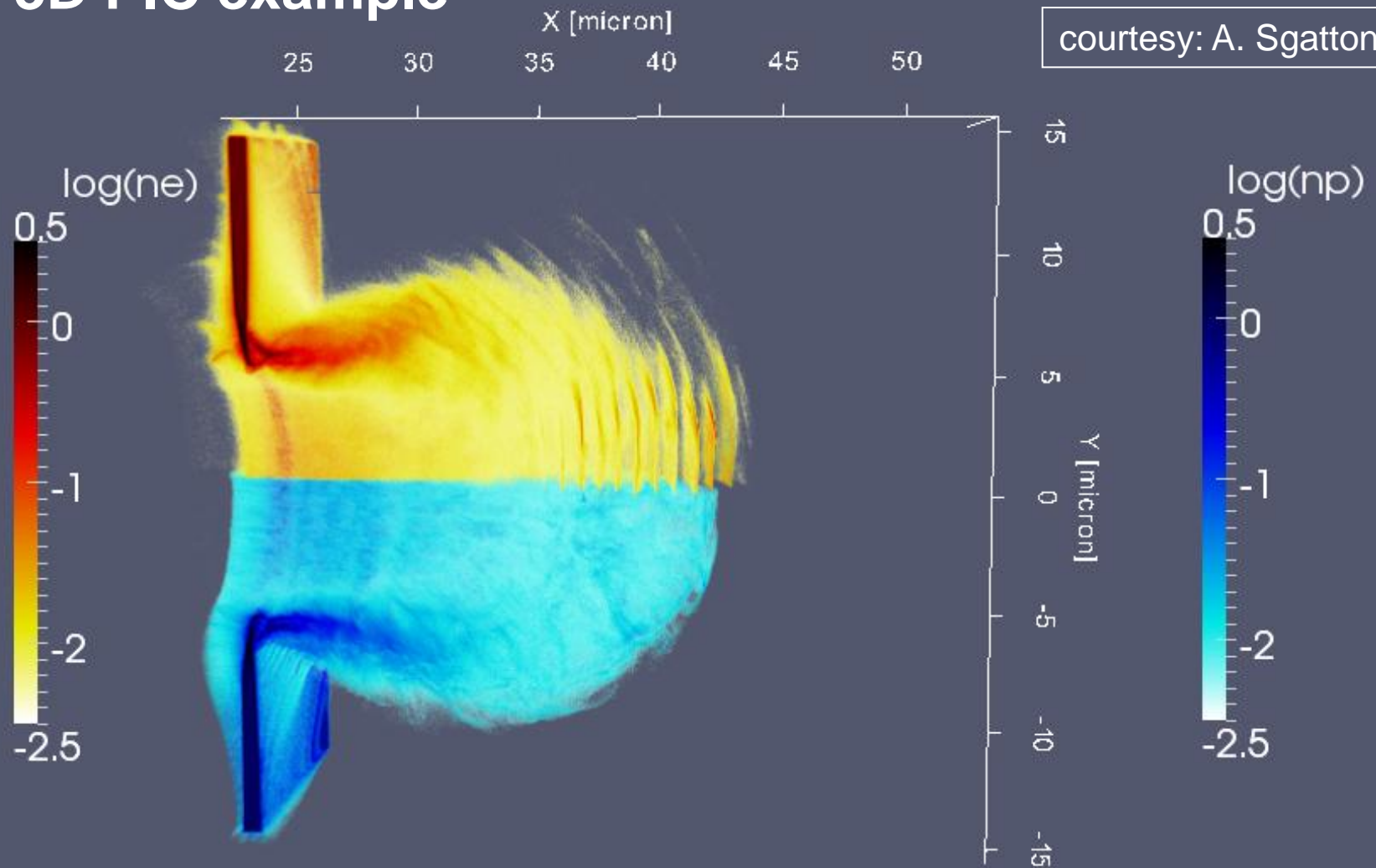


CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
 $e$ - $p$  plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 100 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni

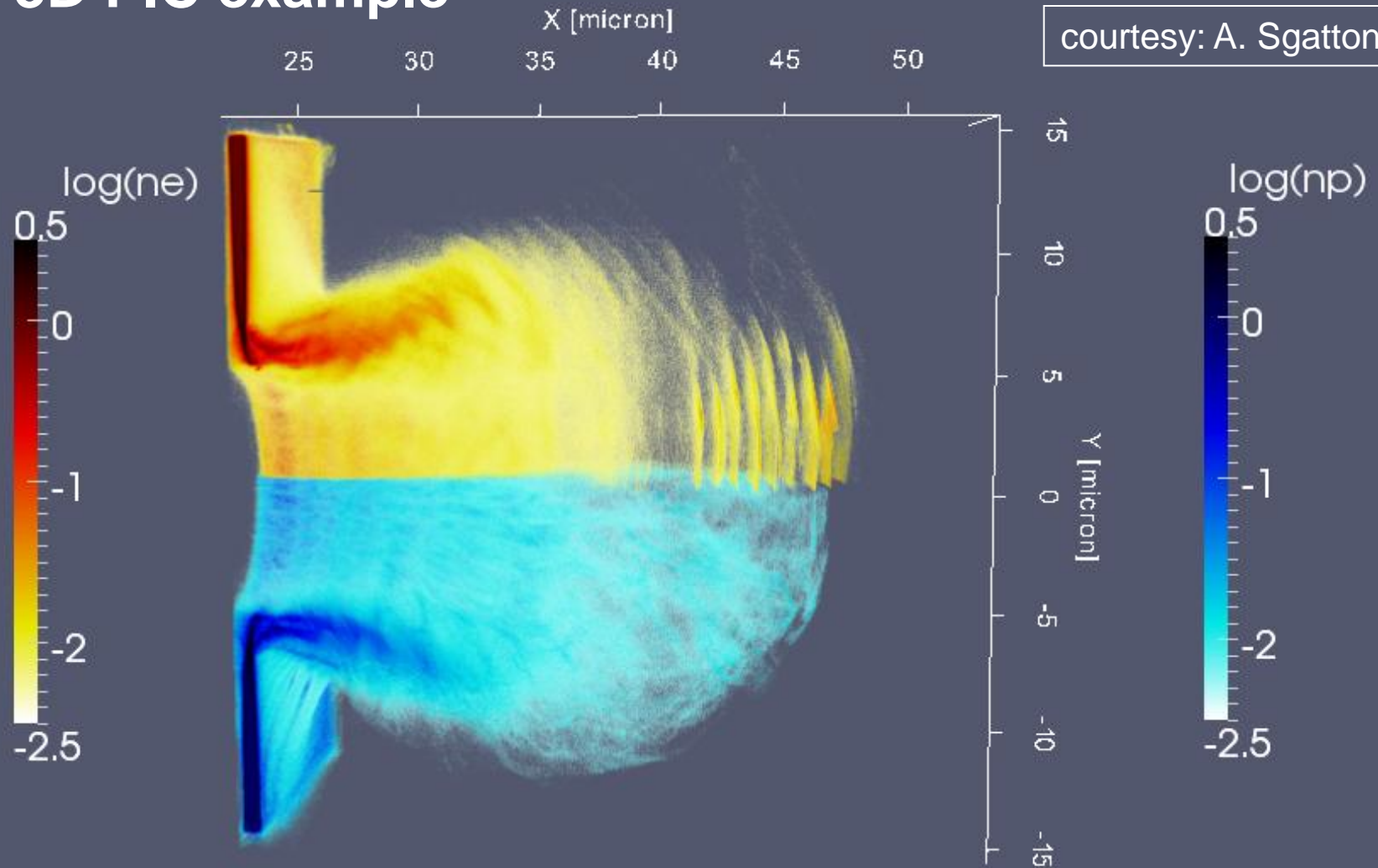


CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
 $e$ - $p$  plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$

# RPDA: a 3D PIC example

$t = 116 \text{ fs}$

courtesy: A. Sgattoni



CP laser:  $I_0 = 1,7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ W/cm}^2$   $w_0 = 3,5 \mu\text{m}$   $\tau = 24 \text{ fs}$   $\lambda = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   
e-p plasma:  $l = 0,8 \mu\text{m}$   $n_e = 64 n_c$

FINAL PROTON ENERGY:  $\sim 2 \text{ GeV}$