

Overview of LWFA science

Mike Downer

University of Texas at Austin

“...speaker should provide a broad introduction of the domain, indicating the **status of the field**, in particular current performance in **electron bunch properties**, **existing projects worldwide** and **current challenges**.”

- 1) Current status of LWFA electron bunch properties**
- 2) Selective survey of major experimental LWFA projects world-wide**
- 3) Current LWFA challenges**

Published LWFA reviews:

Esarey *et al.*, “Physics of laser-driven plasma-based electron accelerators,” *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **81**, 1229 (2009)
Leemans & Esarey, “Laser-driven plasma-wave electron accelerators,” *Physics Today* **62**, 44 (2009)

... but a lot has happened since 2009!

Current Status of LWFA Electron Bunch Properties

Property	State of Art*	Reference	Remarks
Energy	2 GeV ($\pm 5\%$, 0.1 nC) 3 GeV ($\pm 15\%$, ~ 0.05 nC) 4 GeV ($\pm 5\%$, 0.006 nC)	Wang (2013) - Texas Kim (2013) - GIST Leemans (2014) - LBNL	Accelerates from $E \approx 0$
Energy Spread	1% (@ .01 nC, 0.2 GeV) 5-10%	Rechatin (2009a) - LOA more typical, many results	0.1% desirable for FELs & colliders
Normalized Transverse emittance	$\sim 0.1 \pi$ mm-mrad	Geddes (2008) - LBNL Brunetti (2010) - Strathclyde Plateau (2012) - LBNL	Measurements at resolution limit
Bunch Duration	\sim few fs	Kaluza (2010) - Jena (Faraday) Lundh (2011) - LOA; Heigoldt (2015) - MPQ/Oxford (OTR) Zhang (2016) - Tsinghua	Measurements at resolution limit
Charge	0.02 nC @ 0.19 GeV $\pm 5\%$ 0.5 nC @ 0.25 GeV $\pm 14\%$	Rechatin (2009b) - LOA Couperus (2017) - HZDR	Beam-loading achieved. FOM: $Q/\Delta E$?
Repetition Rate & Repeatability	~ 1 Hz @ > 1 GeV 1 kHz @ ~ 1 MeV	Leemans (2014) - LBNL He - UMich ('15); Salehi ('17) - UMD; Guénot ('17) -- LOA	Limited by lasers & gas targets

*** No one achieves all of these simultaneously!**

- Brunetti, *PRL* **105**, 215007 ('10)
- Couperus, *submitted* ('17)
- Geddes, *PRL* **100**, 215004 ('08)
- He, *Nat. Comms* **6**, 7156 (2015)
- Heigoldt, *PR-STAB* **18**, 121302 ('15)
- Kaluza, *PRL* **105**, 115002 ('10)
- Kim, *PRL* **111**, 165002 (2013)
- Leemans, *PRL* **113**, 245002 (2014)
- Lundh, *Nat. Phys.* **7**, 219 (2011)
- Rechatin, *PRL* **102**, 164801 (2009)
- Rechatin, *PRL* **103**, 194804 ('09b)
- Salehi, *Opt. Lett.* **42**, 215 ('17)
- Wang, *Nat. Comms* **4**, 1988 (2013)
- Zhang, *PRST-AB* **19**, 062802 (2016)

Current Status of LWFA Positron Properties: no results yet

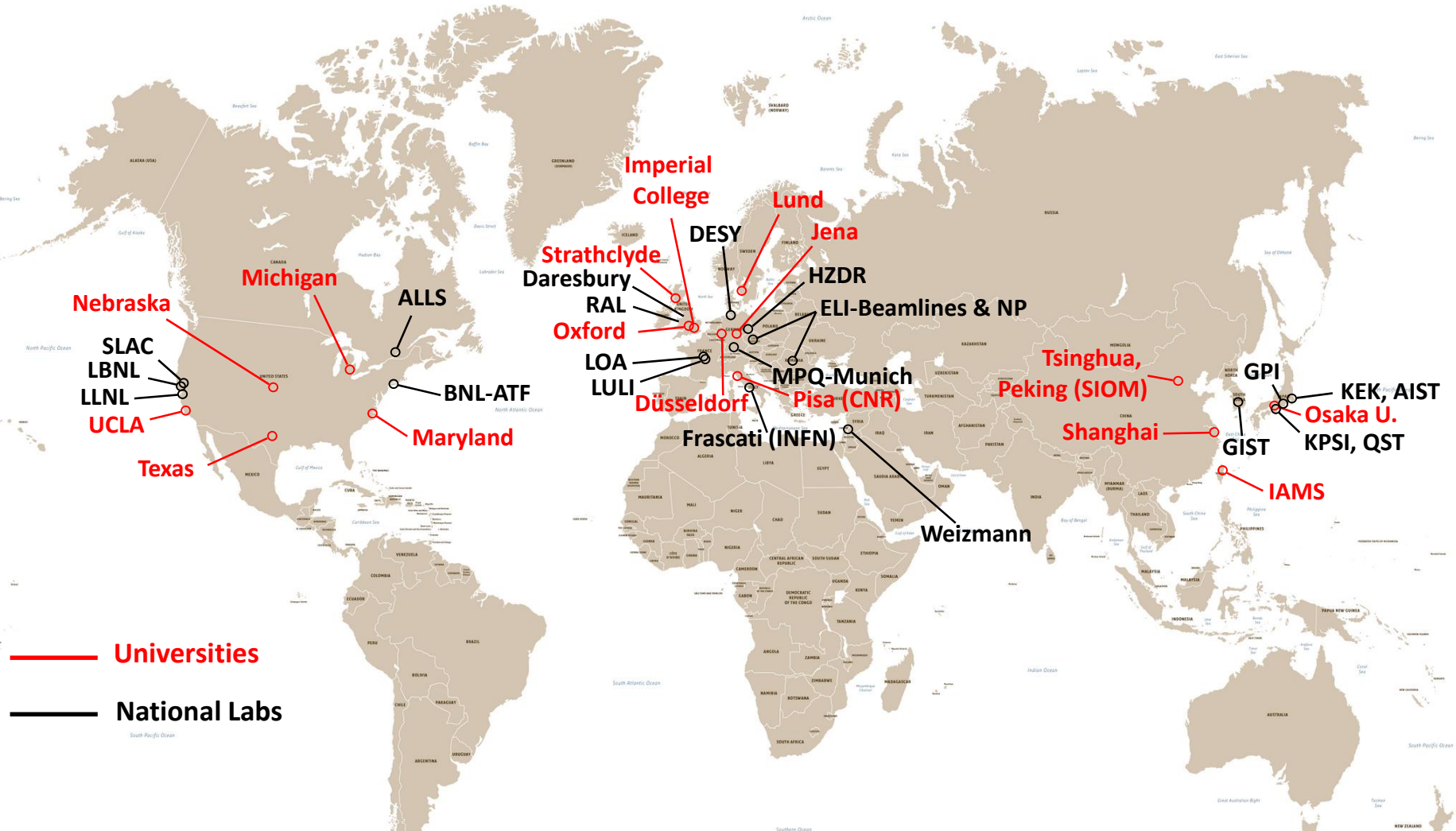
LWFA and PWFA/DWA/DLA: Comparisons & Contrasts*

Property	LWFA	PWFA	DWA	DLA
Stand-alone? <i>(i.e. no RF accelerator)</i>	YES	NO	NO	NO
Energy Gain Achieved	0 → 4.25 GeV	20 → 30 GeV 40 → 80 GeV	smaller	much smaller
Accelerating Gradient	~1 GeV/cm	~ 0.1 GeV/cm	smaller	smaller
Dephasing Limited?	YES	NO		YES
Positrons accelerated?	NOT YET	YES	NO	NO
Wall-plug efficiency	10^{-5} (@ 1GeV ± 10%) 10^{-7} (@ GeV ± 0.1%)			

* Intended to highlight areas where the approaches differ, not to promote one approach over another.

A sampling of existing LWFA experimental projects worldwide*

* Because of its stand-alone nature, LWFA research has proliferated in small laboratories world-wide, making a complete list of existing projects difficult to compile accurately. Apologies in advance for any omissions. This list is NOT comprehensive.



— Universities
— National Labs

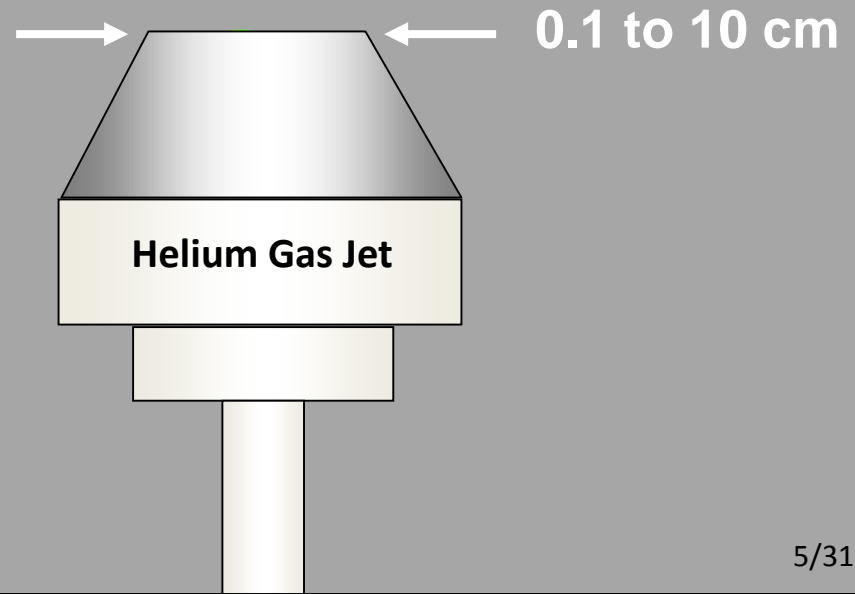
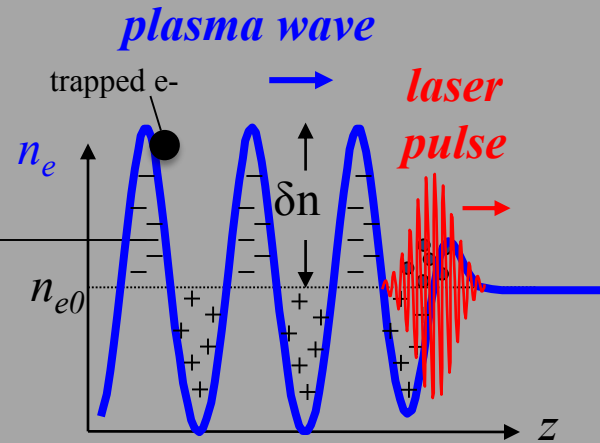
Selected examples from this list will comprise the bulk of the presentation.

Electrons Surfing on a Laser-Driven Plasma Wave

Tajima & Dawson, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 43, 267 (1979)



Dawson



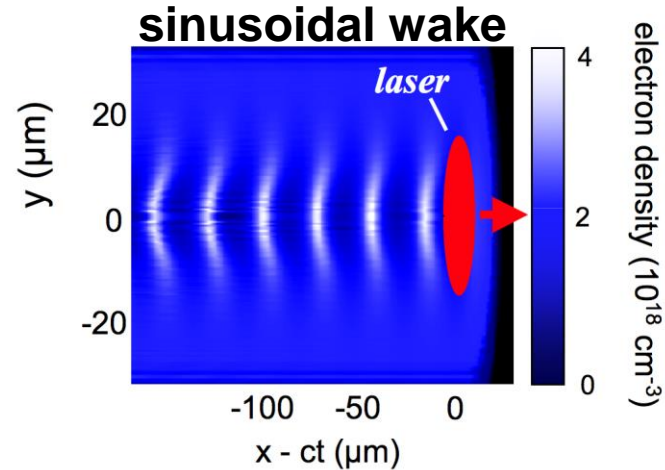
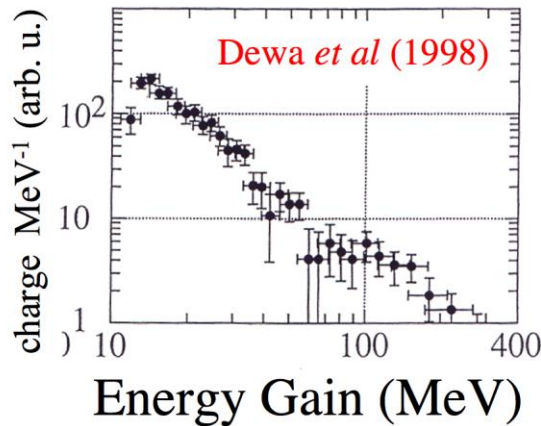


Today, most LPAs operate in the “bubble” regime...

Pukhov and Meyer-ter-Vehn, *Appl. Phys. B* **74**, 355 (2002)

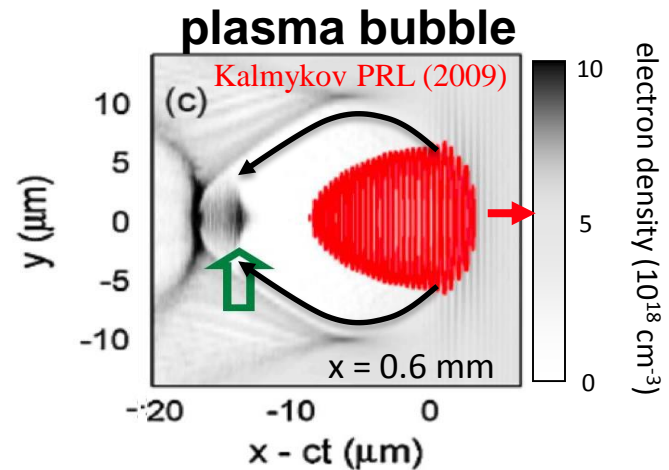
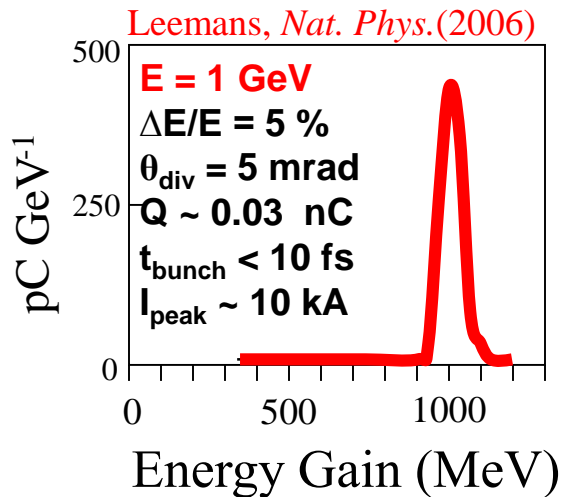
Review: Esarey, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **81**, 1229 (2009)

Before 2004:



After 2004:

Geddes, *Nature* (2004)
 Faure, *Nature* (2004)
 Mangles, *Nature* (2004)



... because point-like injection enables quasi-monoenergetic acceleration

Quasi-monoenergetic laser-plasma acceleration of electrons to 2 GeV

Xiaoming Wang¹, Rafal Zgadzaj¹, Neil Fazel¹, Zhengyan Li¹, S. A. Yi¹, Xi Zhang¹, Watson Henderson¹, Y.-Y. Chang¹, R. Korzekwa¹, H.-E. Tsai¹, C.-H. Pai¹, H. Quevedo¹, G. Dyer¹, E. Gaul¹, M. Martinez¹, A. C. Bernstein¹, T. Borger¹, M. Spinks¹, M. Donovan¹, V. Khudik¹, G. Shvets¹, T. Ditmire¹ & M. C. Downer¹



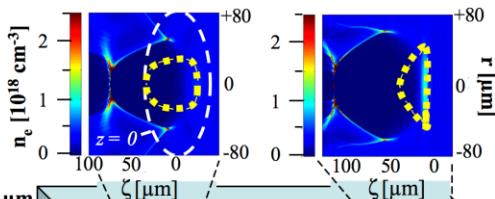
0.5

1

2

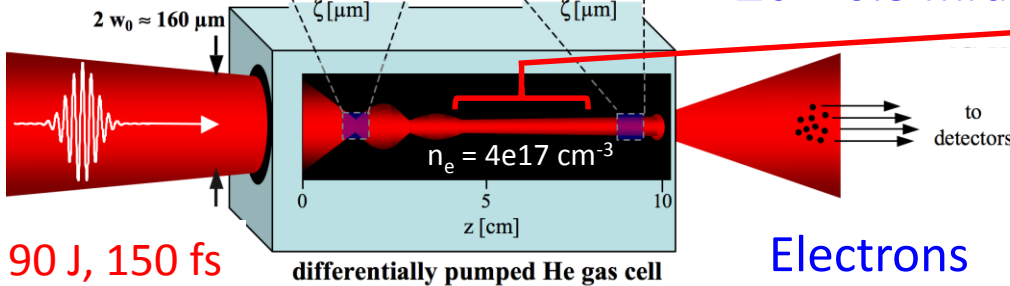
Electron Energy [GeV]

Plasma bubble & laser profiles:



$Q = 100 \text{ pC}$
 $\Delta E/E = .04$
 $\Delta\theta = 0.3 \text{ mrad}$

Drive pulse self-guided via nonlinear laser-plasma interactions for $L_{\text{eff}} \sim 3 \text{ cm}$



90 J (laser) \rightarrow 0.2 J (e⁻):
 0.2% efficiency

Electrons

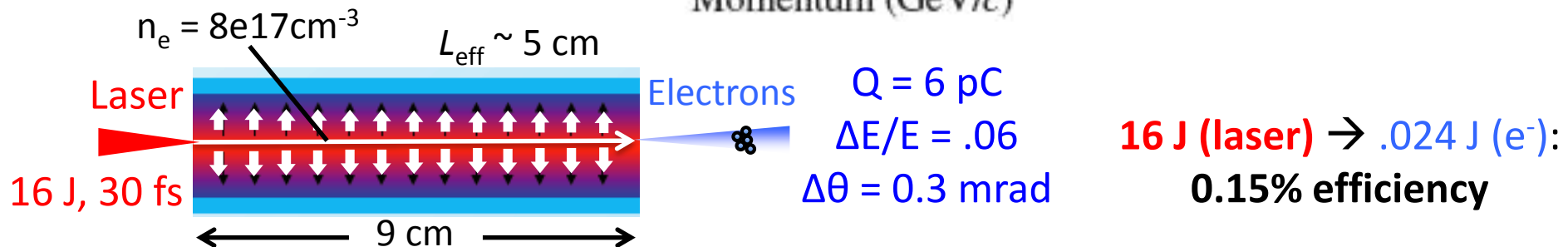
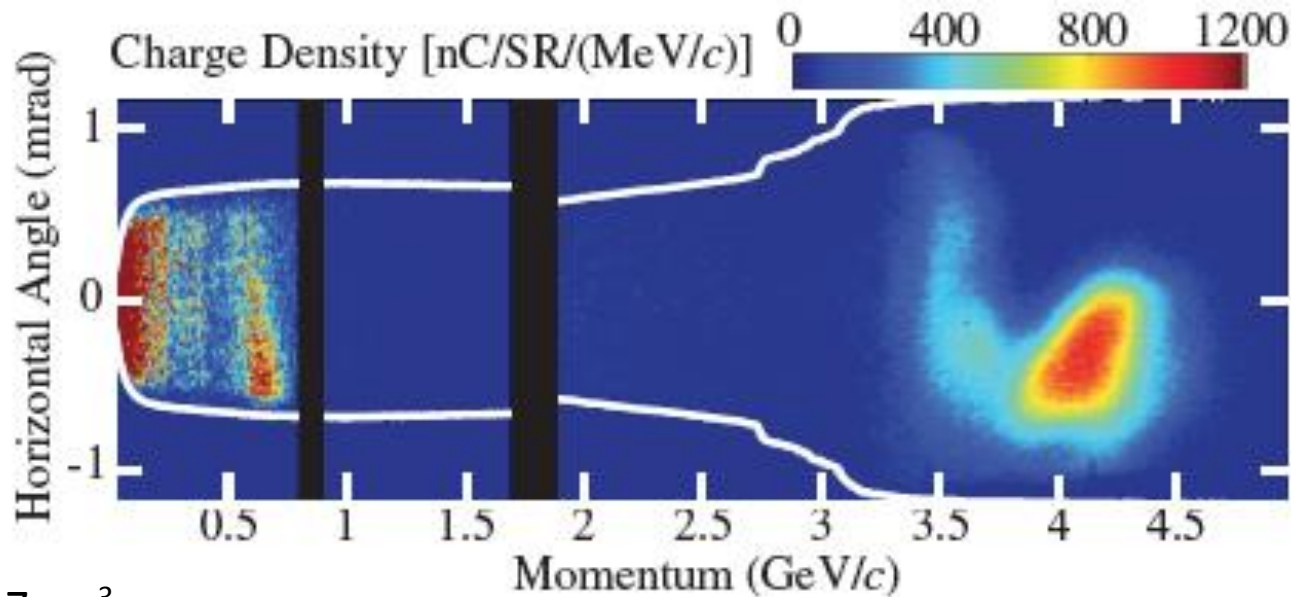


Multi-GeV Electron Beams from Capillary-Discharge-Guided Subpetawatt Laser Pulses in the Self-Trapping Regime

W. P. Leemans,^{1,2,*} A. J. Gonsalves,¹ H.-S. Mao,¹ K. Nakamura,¹ C. Benedetti,¹ C. B. Schroeder,¹ Cs. Tóth,¹ J. Daniels,¹ D. E. Mittelberger,^{2,1} S. S. Bulanov,^{2,1} J.-L. Vay,¹ C. G. R. Geddes,¹ and E. Esarey¹

¹Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, USA

²Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, USA





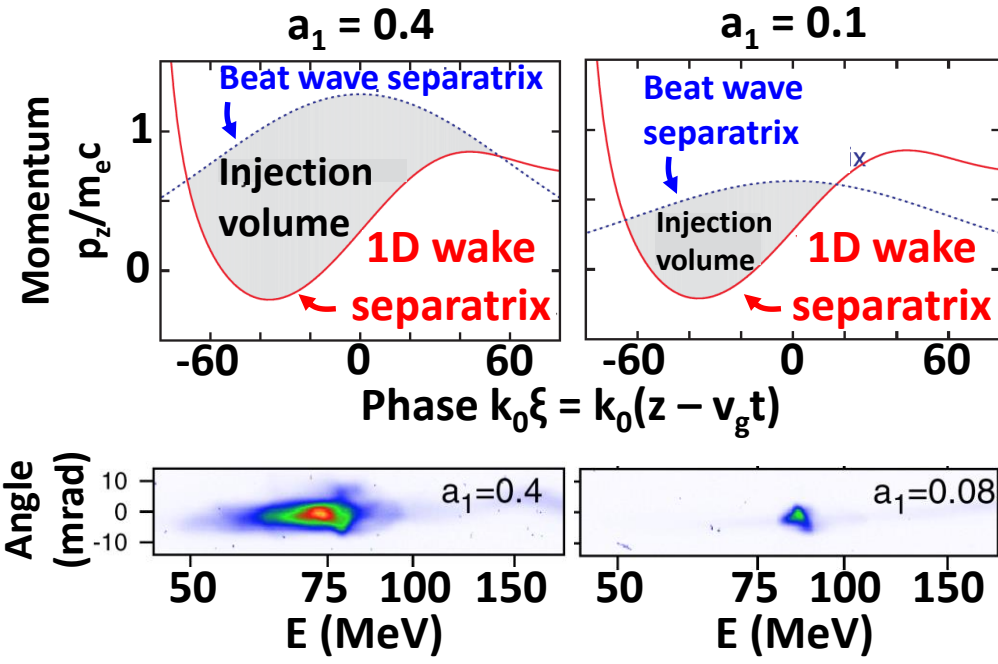
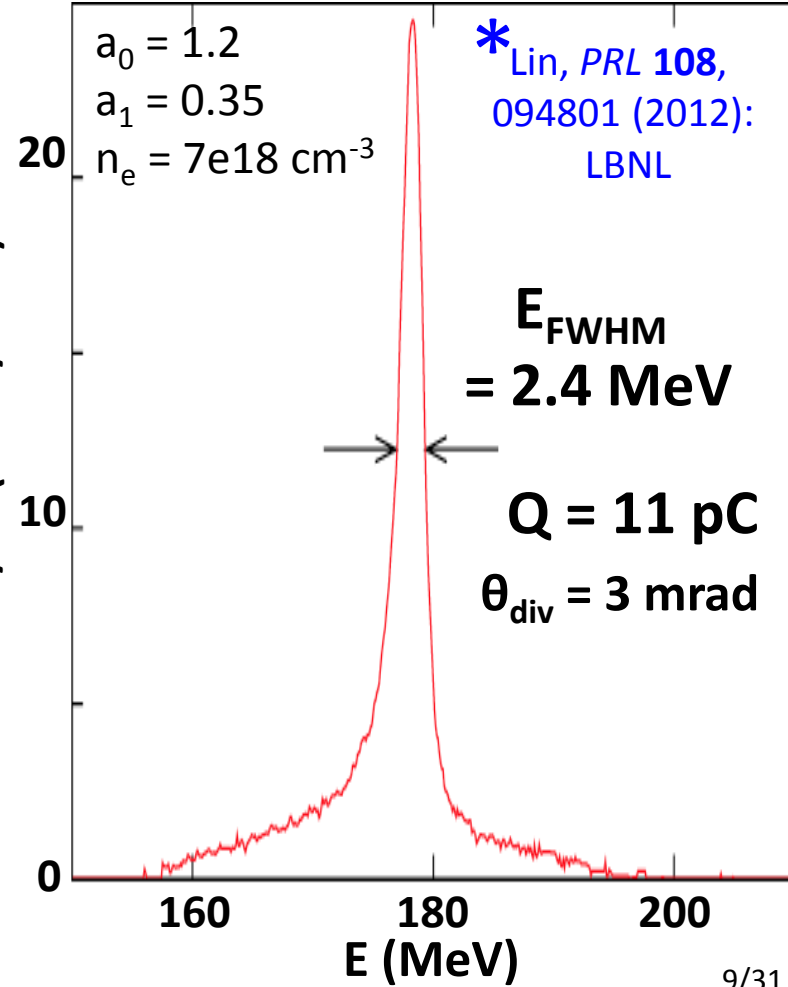
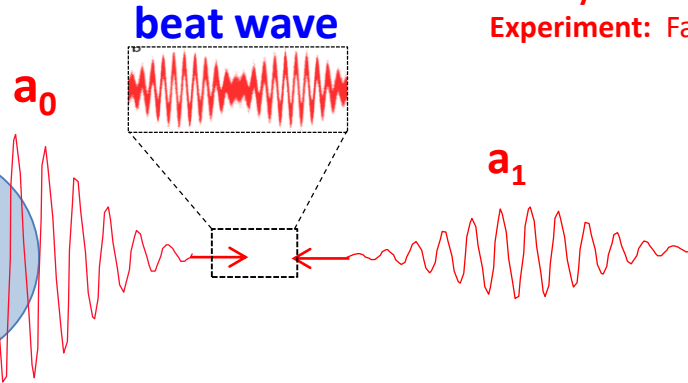
Energy spread as small as 1% has been achieved using precision injection techniques *

Theory: Esarey, *PRL* **79**, 2682 (1997); Fubiani, *Phys. Rev. E* **70**, 016402 (2004)

Experiment: Faure, *Nature* **444**, 737 (2006); Rechatin, *PRL* **102**, 164801 (2009)

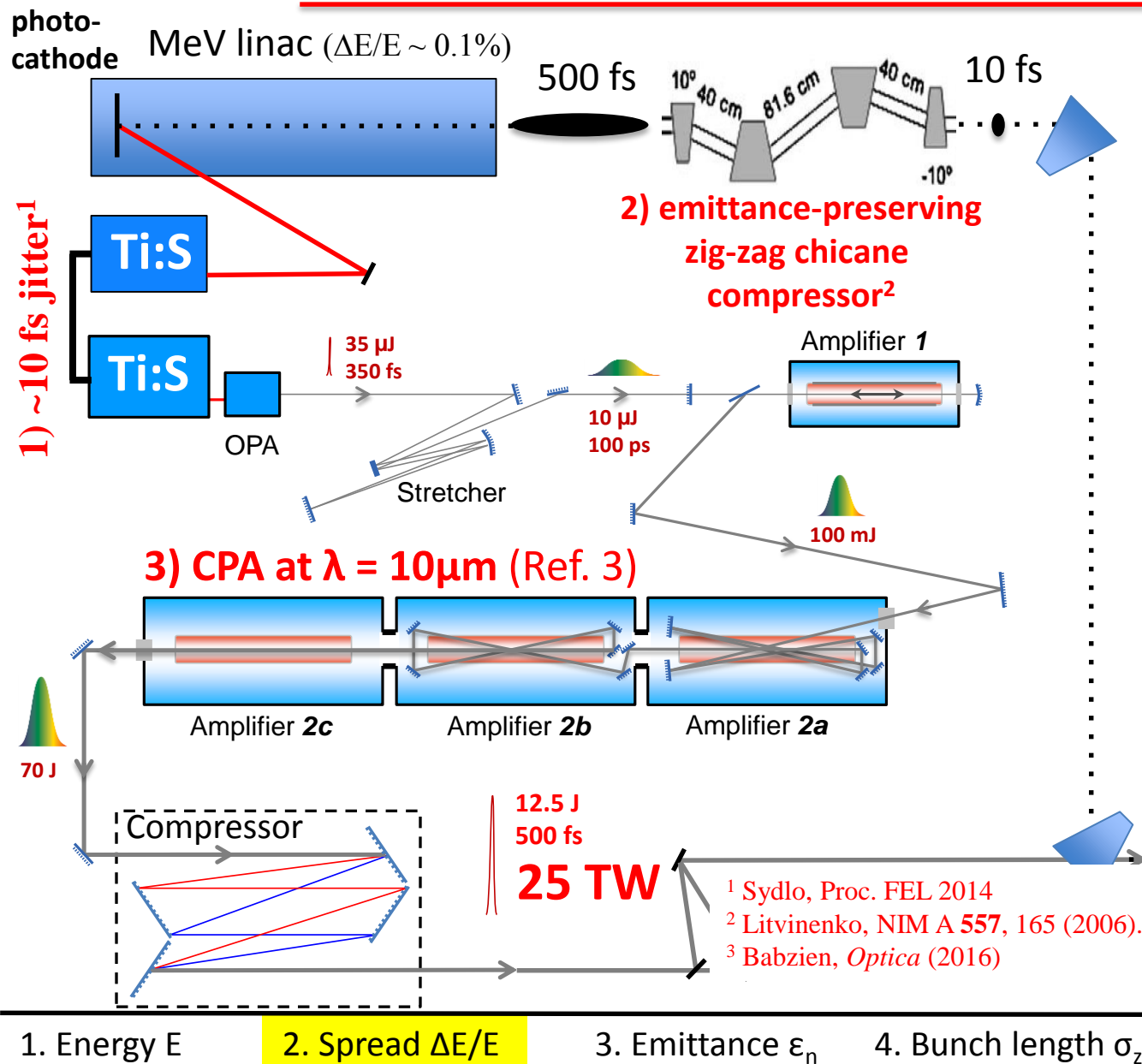
* LWFA "slice" energy spread can be < 1%

Overlap of wake & beatwave separatrix determines phase space injection volume

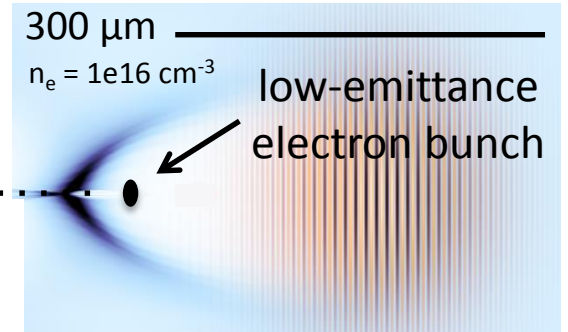


1. Energy E
2. Spread $\Delta E/E$
3. Emittance ϵ_n
4. Bunch length σ_z
5. Charge Q
6. Rep Rate

Multi-TW CO₂ lasers, due to large $l\lambda^2$, drive huge bubbles in tenuous plasma, enabling injection of low $\Delta E/E$ beams



Large plasma bubbles
 → easy external injection,
 → high-resolution diagnostics



Bubble driven by $1\mu\text{m}$, 25 TW laser in $n_e = 1e19 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ plasma:

¹ Sydlo, Proc. FEL 2014
² Litvinenko, NIM A **557**, 165 (2006).
³ Babzien, *Optica* (2016)

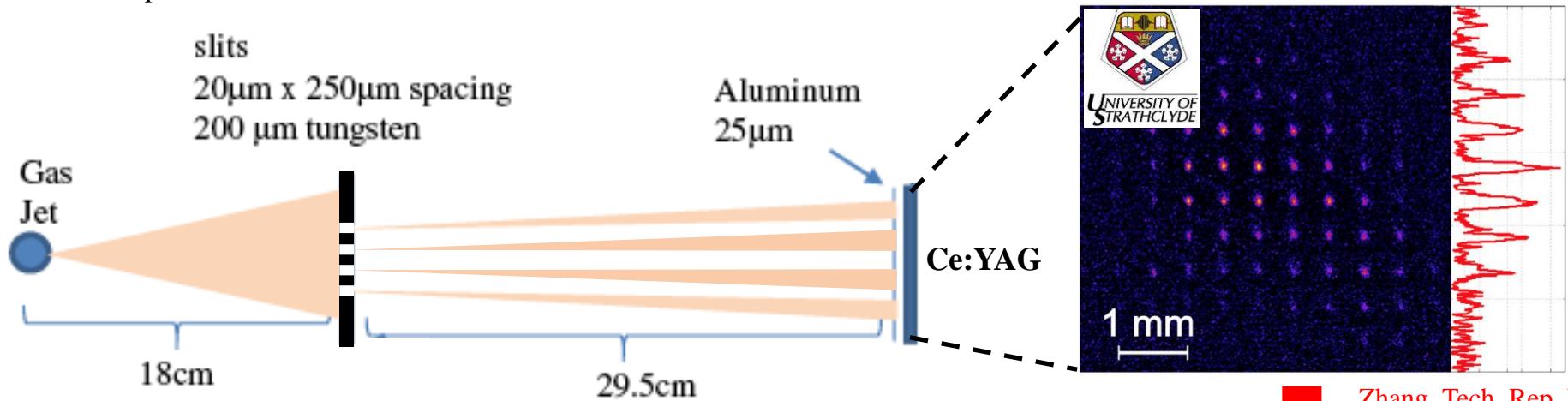


Early measurements of normalized transverse emittance ϵ_N of PA* electrons used the “pepper-pot” method



Fritzier, *PRL* **92**, 165006 (2004); Sears, *PR ST-AB* **13**, 092803 (2010); Brunetti, *PRL* **105**, 215007 (2010)

*plasma-accelerated



Results showed $1 < \epsilon_N < 3\pi$ mm-mrad, comparable with e-beams from conventional electron accelerators.

PROs

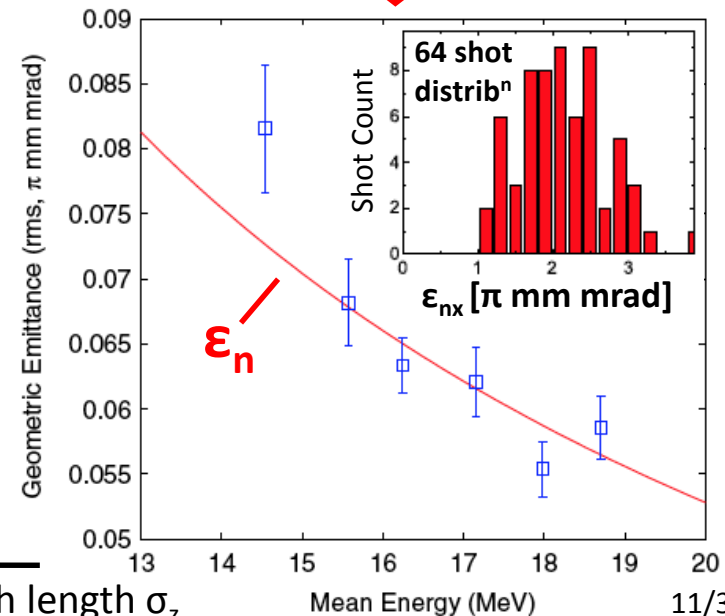
- single shot
- compact

CONS

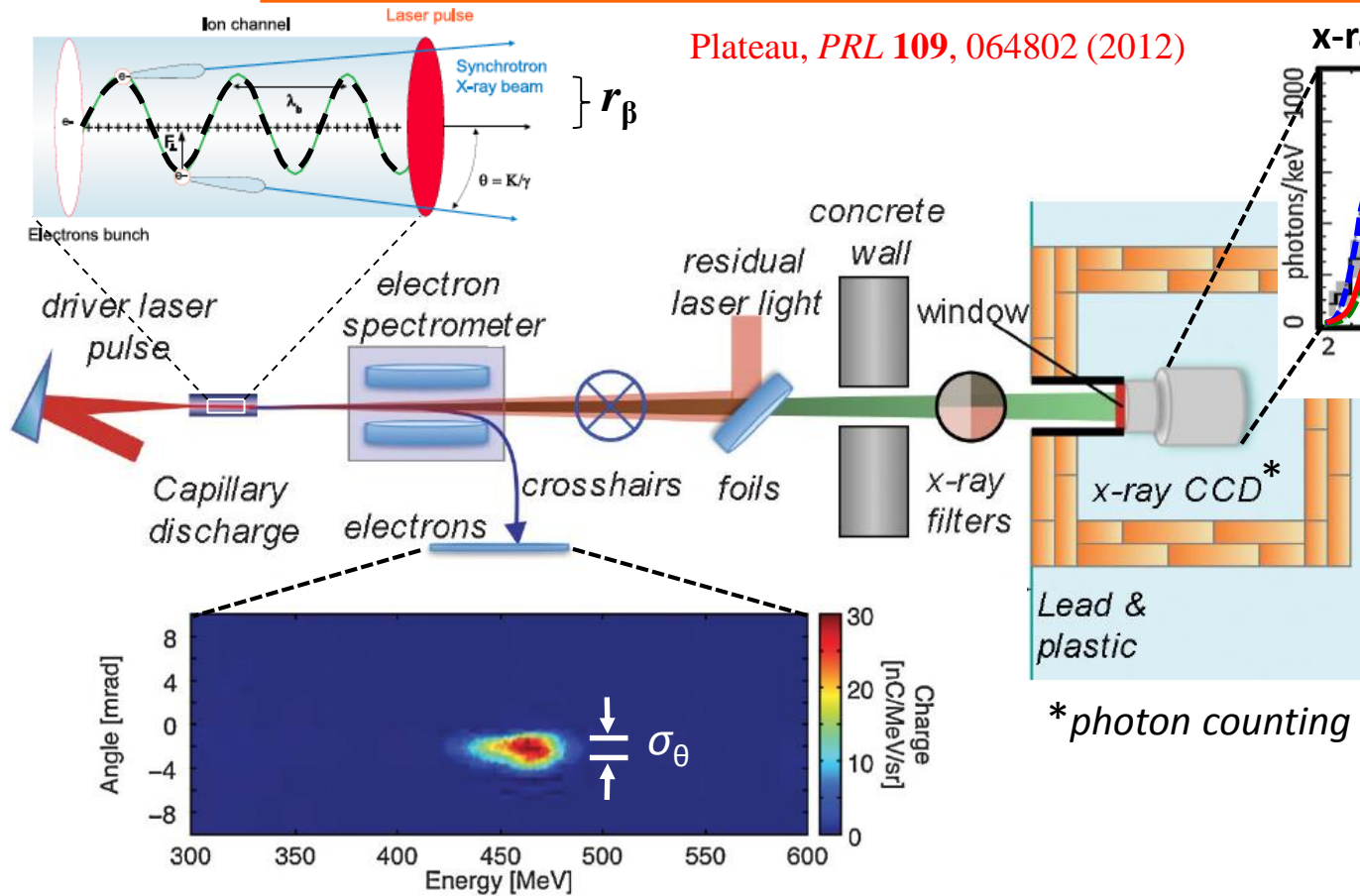
- invasive
- limited to e^- energy < 500 MeV; *
(LPA measurements only up 125 MeV)
- resolution limit $\epsilon_N \sim 1\pi$ mm-mrad

*Delerue, Proc. PAC-09

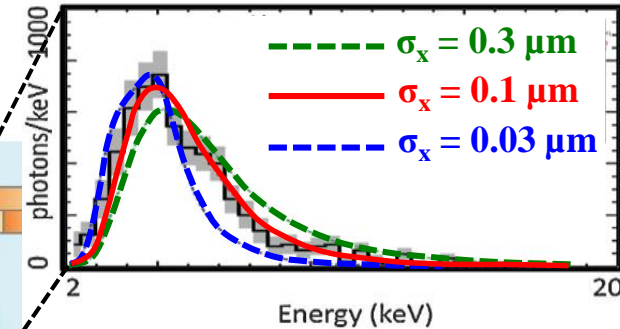
Zhang, Tech. Rep. No. FERMLAB-TM-1988



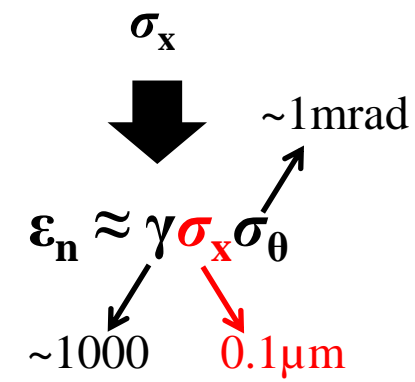
Betatron x-ray spectroscopy estimated $\epsilon_n \sim 0.1\pi$ mm mrad for low-divergence, ~ 500 MeV PA e- beams



x-ray photon counting spectrum



Spectral shape determined by betatron strength parameter $a_\beta \sim (\gamma n_e)^{1/2} r_\beta$ of each electron averaged over beam radius



PRO

- single-shot
- non-invasive
- high ϵ_n resolution
- compatible with low GeV e-

CON

- relies on betatron modeling
- measures ϵ_n *inside* wake; could change outside
- only *estimates* ϵ_n using $\gamma \sigma_x \sigma_\theta$



Plasma accelerators can produce electron bunches of few fs duration,* presenting a diagnostic challenge

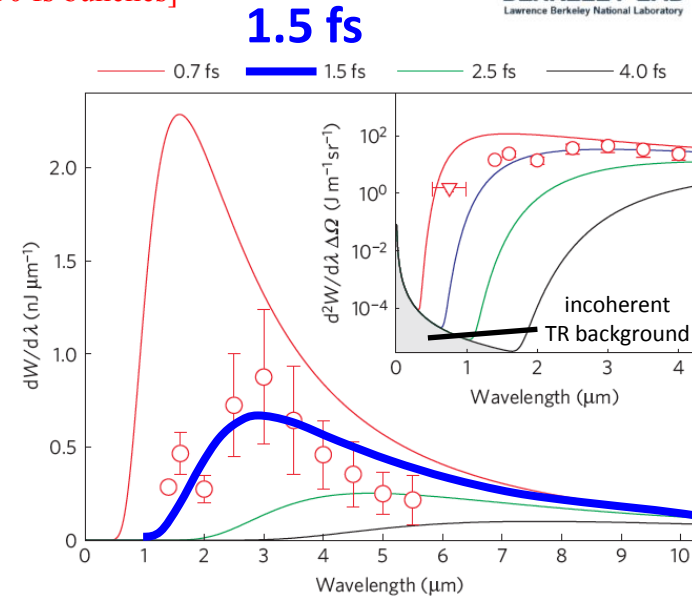
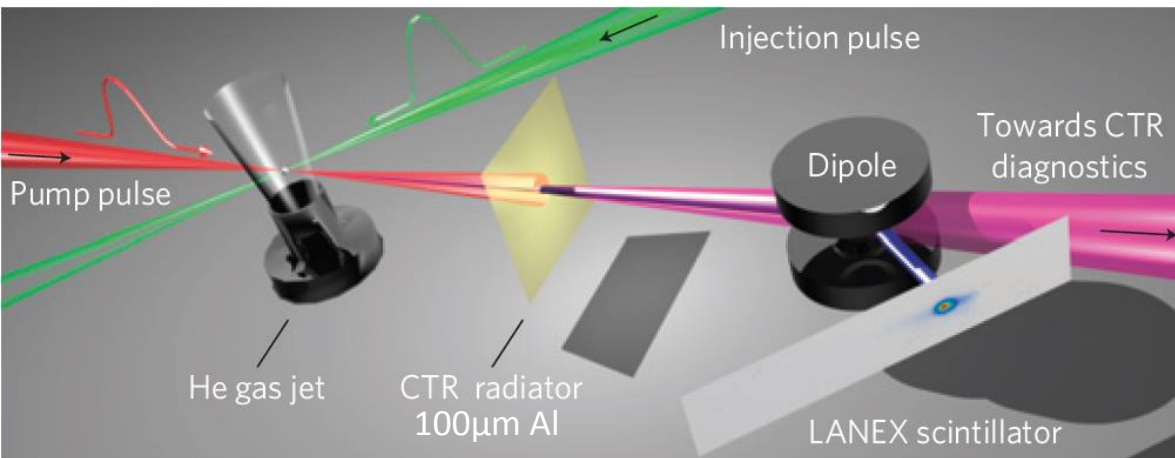


IR CTR results below: [Lundh, Nat. Phys. 7, 219 \(2011\) - LOA](#)

* minimizes beam-strahlung, saves power

THz CTR: [van Tilborg, PRL 96, 014801 \(2006\)](#); [Debus, PRL 104, 084802 \(2010\)](#) [≥ 30 fs bunches]

Infrared Transition Radiation (TR) bunch length σ_z diagnostic



TR becomes coherent when $\sigma_z \leq \lambda_{TR}$:

$$\underbrace{\frac{d^2W}{d\omega d\Omega}}_{N\text{-electron TR spectrum}} = \left[\underbrace{N}_{\text{incoherent}} + \underbrace{N^2 F(\omega, q)}_{\text{coherent}} \right] \underbrace{\frac{d^2w}{d\omega d\Omega}}_{\text{single e}^- \text{ TR spectrum}}$$

form factor: $\left| \int f(\mathbf{x}) \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{x}) d^3\mathbf{x} \right|^2$

PROS

- nearly non-invasive
- unprecedented time resolution down to ~ 1 fs; beats deflection cavities, e-o methods, streak cameras

CONS

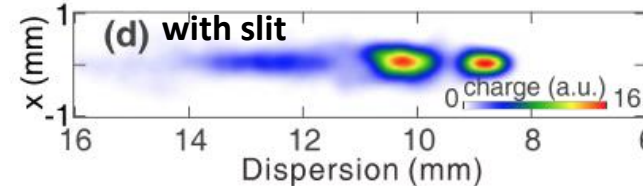
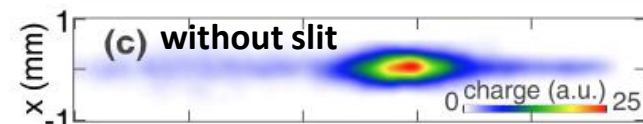
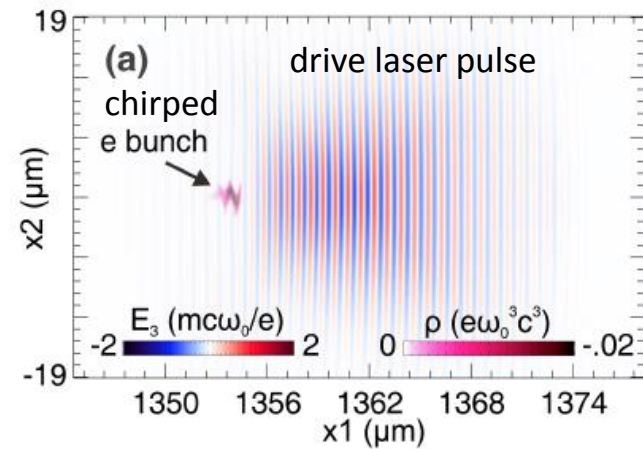
- multi-shot
- insensitive to bunch shape $f(\mathbf{x})$ details
- identifies only the shortest feature



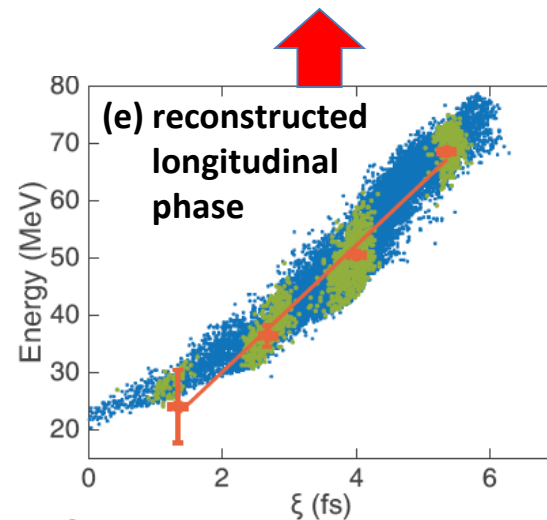
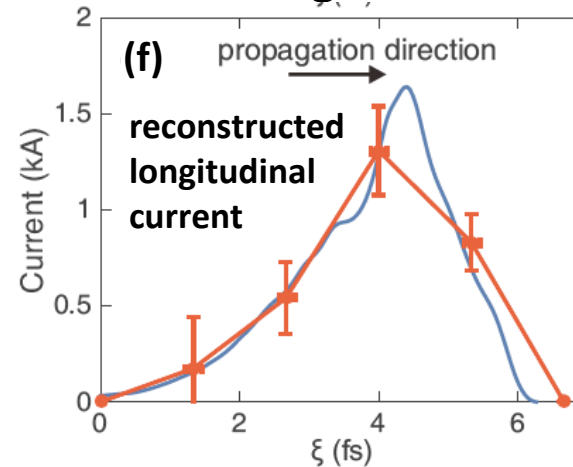
Laser cycle provides fs-“clock” for measuring duration of chirped ultrashort LPA e⁻ bunches

Zhang et al., *Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams* **19**, 062802 (2016)

Measurement



Reconstructed longitudinal current profile



“Beam-loaded” LWFAs can support $Q \sim \text{nC}$ with $I_{\text{peak}} \sim 100 \text{ kA}$, the key component for future compact light sources

- Demonstrated GeV LWFAs limited to $\leq 50 \text{ pC}$ $\rightarrow I_{\text{peak}} \sim 5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ C}/10^{-14} \text{ s} = 5 \text{ kA}$

Wang, *Nat. Comms* **4**, 1988 (2013)

Kim, *PRL* **111**, 165002 (2013)

Leemans, *PRL* **113**, 245002 (2014)

- Theoretically, such LWFAs can support $Q \sim 1 \text{ nC}$ $\rightarrow I_{\text{peak}} \sim 10^{-9} \text{ C}/10^{-14} \text{ s} = 100 \text{ kA}$

Pukhov & Meyer-ter-Vehn, *Appl. Phys. B* **74**, 355 (2002)

- Self-fields of such high trapped charge re-shape the accelerating field (“beam-loading”) in ways that can be beneficial.

Gordienko & Pukhov, *Phys. Plasmas* **12**, 043109 (2005)

Lu *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams* **10**, 061301 (2007)

Tzoufras *et al.*, *PRL* **101**, 1 (2008); *Phys. Plasmas* **16**, 056705 (2009)

- Beam-loaded PWFAs recently imparted $\Delta E \sim 10 \text{ GeV}$ to $Q \sim 1 \text{ nC}$ bunches, exploiting flattening of accelerating fields to maintain narrow $\Delta E/E \dots$

Litos *et al.*, *Nature* **515**, 92 (2015)

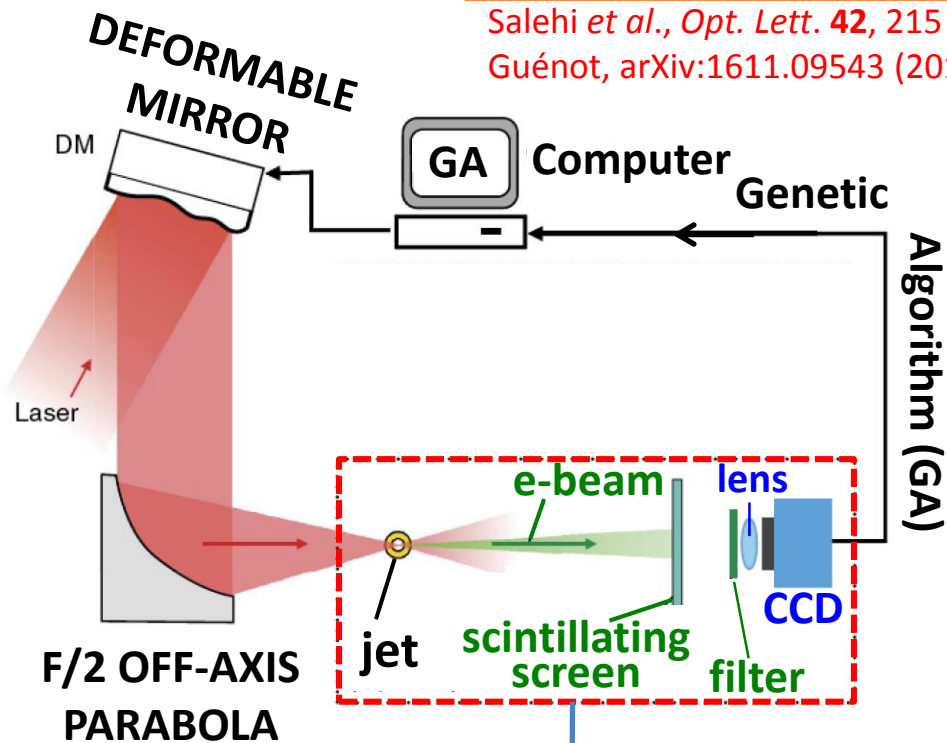
... an inspiration for LWFA development!

LWFA at 1 kHz rep rates enables coherent control of beam profile

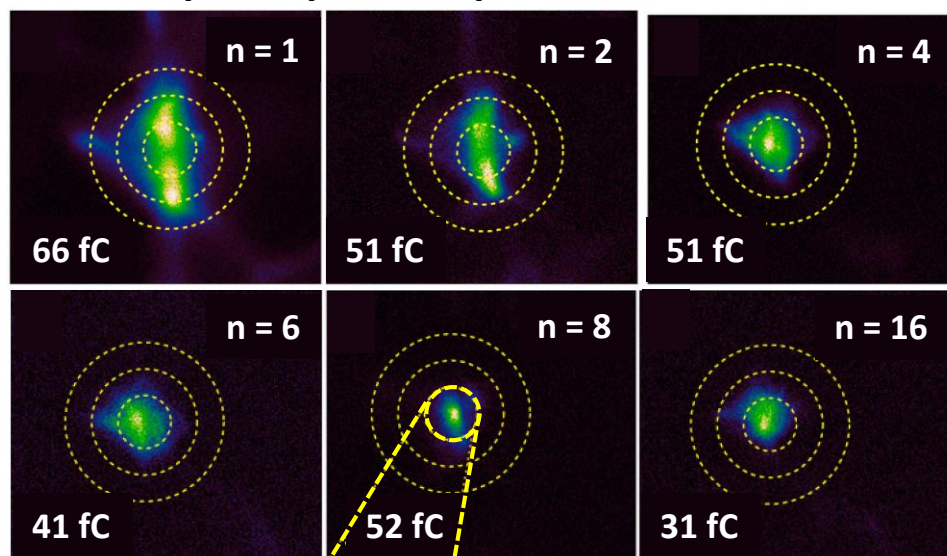
He *et al.*, *Nat. Comms.* **6**, 7156 (2015) – U. Michigan: 0.1 MeV, .05 pC

Salehi *et al.*, *Opt. Lett.* **42**, 215 (2017) – U. Maryland: 1 MeV, 1 pC

Guénot, arXiv:1611.09543 (2016) – LOA: 5 MeV, 1 pC



e-beam spatial profile optimization for various n

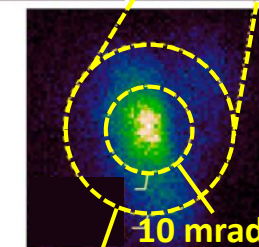


Algorithm (GA)

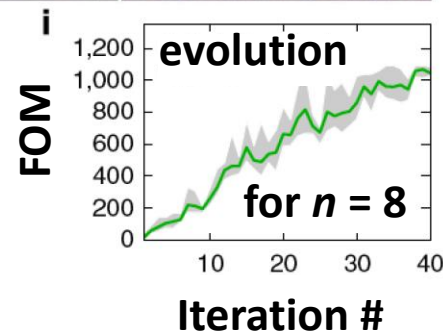
$$FOM = \mathop{\text{arg}}_{(ij)} \frac{I_{ij}}{|r_{ij} - r_0|^n} \text{ exponent}$$

I_{ij} = pixel intensity

r_0 = beam radius (optimization target)



20 mrad



e-beam energy distribution similarly optimized

1. Energy E

2. Spread $\Delta E/E$

3. Emittance ϵ_n

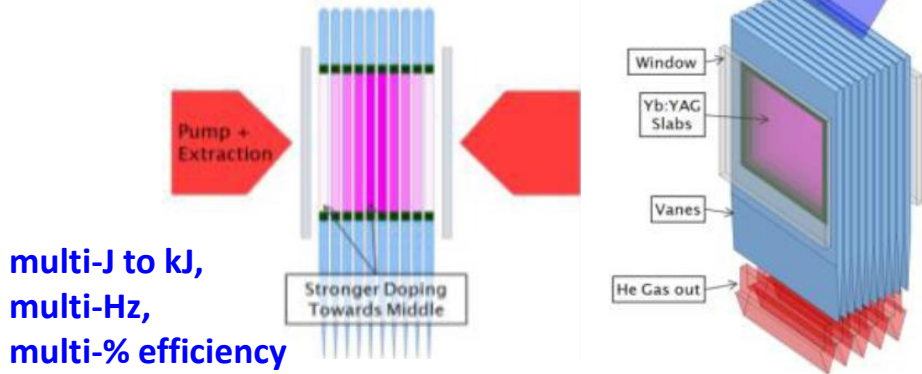
4. Bunch length σ_z

5. Charge Q

6. Rep Rate

New High-Average Power TW/PW Lasers for GeV LWFAs are emerging

Cooled glass slabs (DiPOLE, RAL)



Coherent Fiber Networks

Nature Photonics 7, 258 (2013)



The future is fibre accelerators

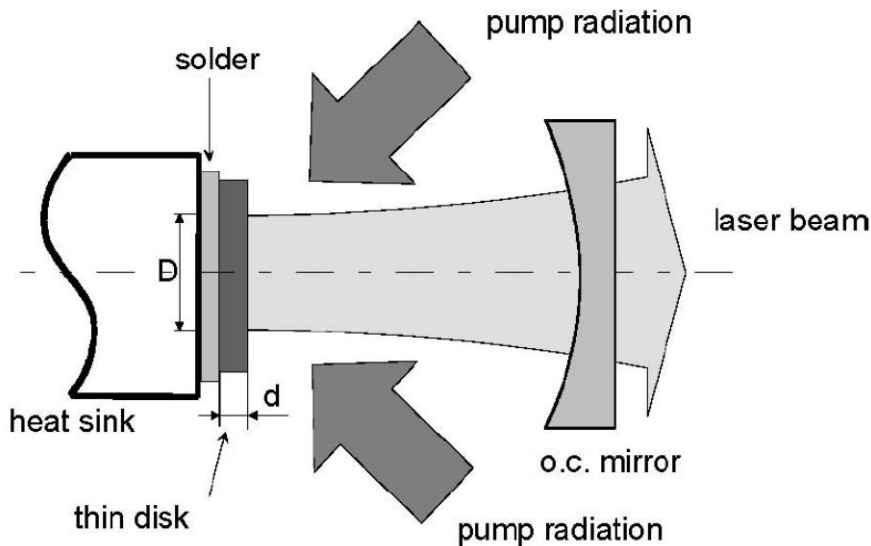
Gerard Mourou, Bill Brocklesby, Toshiki Tajima and Jens Limpert

Could massive arrays of thousands of fibre lasers be the driving force behind next-generation particle accelerators? The International Coherent Amplification Network project believes so and is currently performing a feasibility study.

> 10 J @ 10 kHz

Thin-disc lasers

Giesen, IEEE-JSTQE 13, 598 (2007)



Diode-pumped SSL – pumped CPA



1. Energy E

2. Spread $\Delta E/E$

3. Emittance ϵ_n

4. Bunch length σ_z

5. Charge Q

6. Rep Rate

The U. S. DOE has placed new, high priority on HAP laser development for LWFAs



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

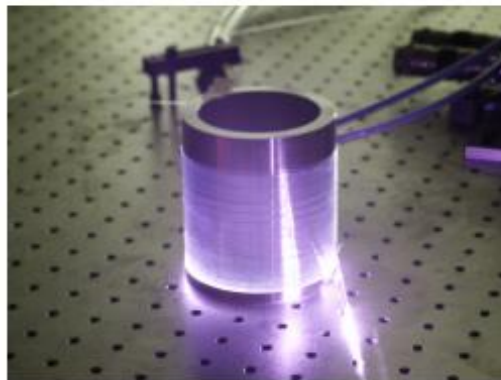
**Efficient, high-rep-rate
high-peak-power laser
technologies are emerging**



Workshop on
Laser
Technology for
Accelerators

Summary Report

January 23-25, 2013



- **LWFA e-beam properties**

- Energy (2-4 GeV)
- Energy Spread ($> 1\%$)
- Normalized transverse emittance ($\sim 0.1\pi$ mm-mrad)
- bunch duration (few fs)
- charge (~ 0.5 nC)
- rep rate (1 Hz @ GeV, 1 kHz @ low MeV)

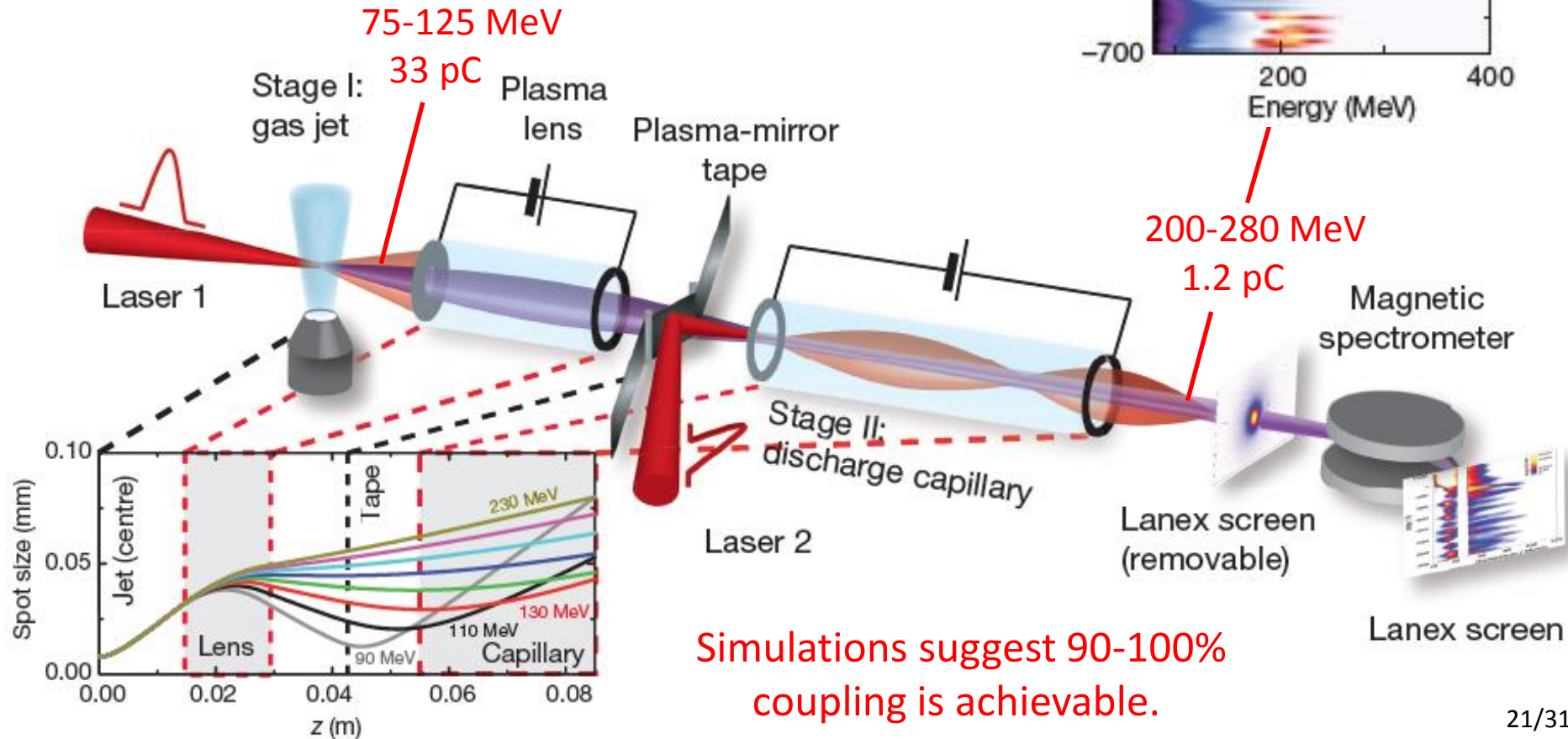
- **LWFA implementation** *

- Staging
- Diagnostics
- Computations
- Short-Term applications

* Much recent progress, many future challenges

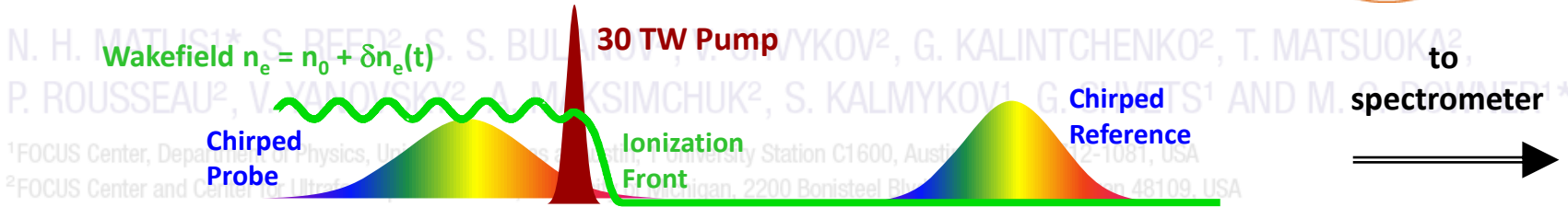
Multistage coupling of independent accelerators

S. Steinke¹, J. van Tilborg¹, C. Benedetti¹, C. G. R. Geddes¹, C. B. Schroeder¹, J. Danielson¹, K. Nakamura¹, N. H. Matlis¹, B. H. Shaw^{1,2}, E. Esarey¹ & W. P. Leemans^{1,2}

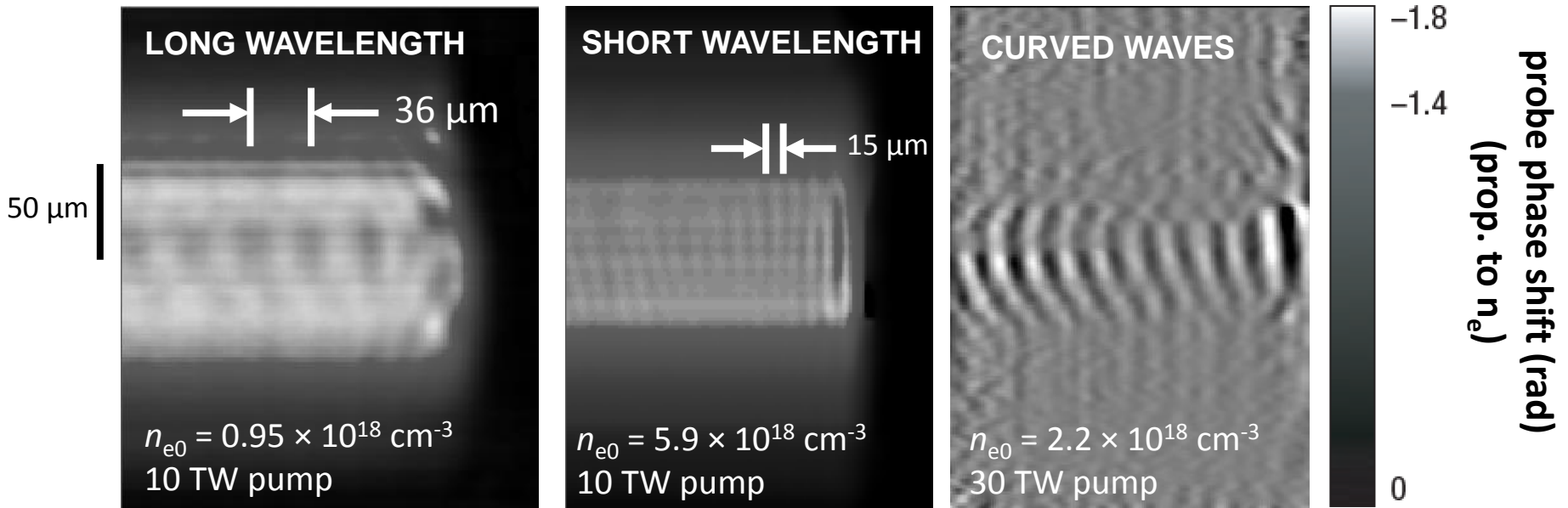




Snapshots of laser wakefields



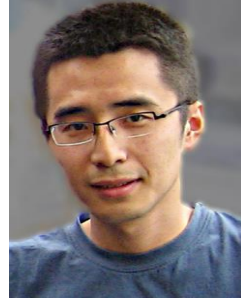
Laser-plasma accelerators come in many shapes & sizes



The ability to capture pictures of plasma waves helps us understand and improve laser-plasma accelerators



Frequency-Domain “Streak Camera” records EVOLUTION of Plasma Bubble in ONE shot



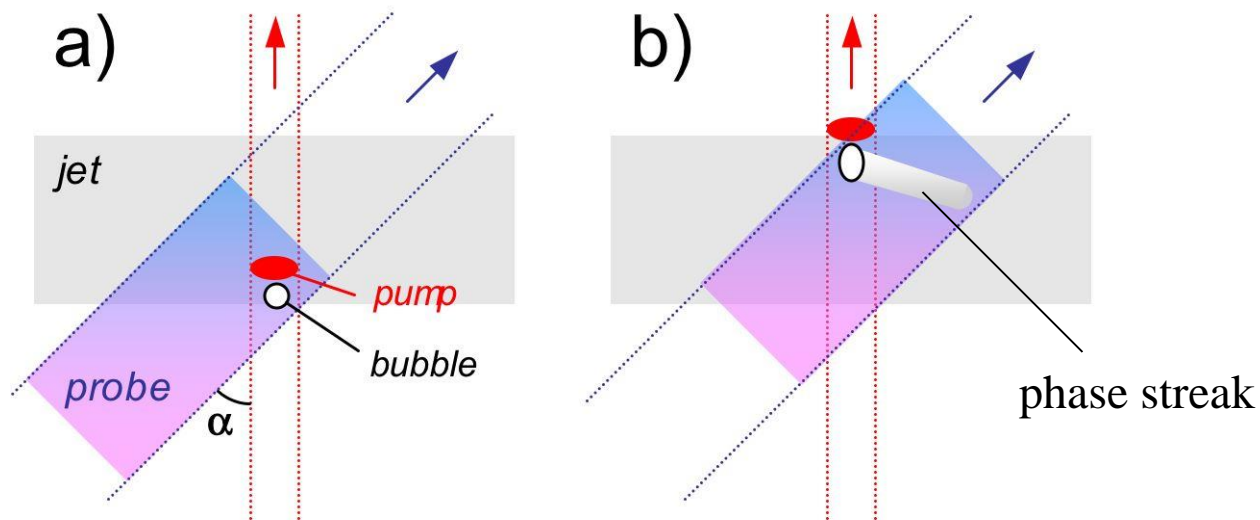
Zhengyan Li
PhD 2014

P. Dong *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **104**, 134801 (2010)

Z. Li *et al.*, *Opt. Lett.* **35**, 4087 (2010);

----- *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **113**, 085001 (2014)

----- *Nat. Comms.* **5**, 3085 (2014)

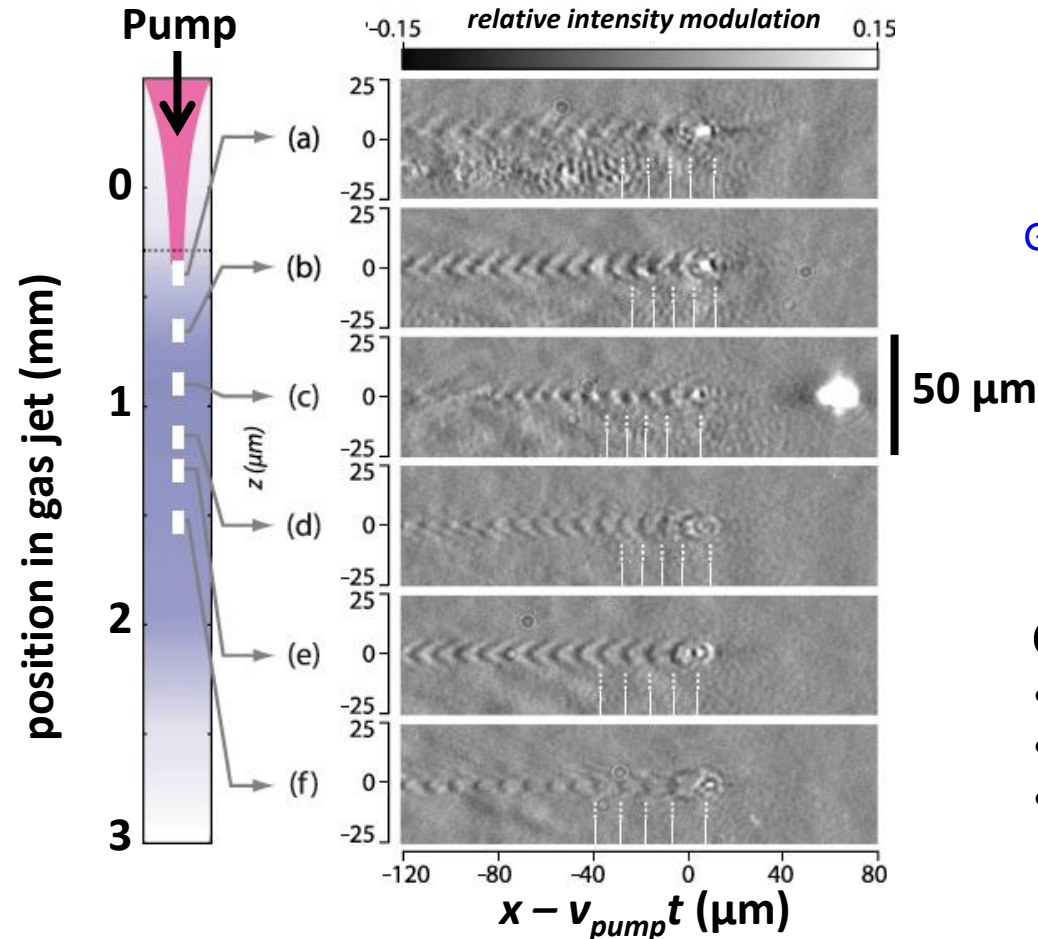
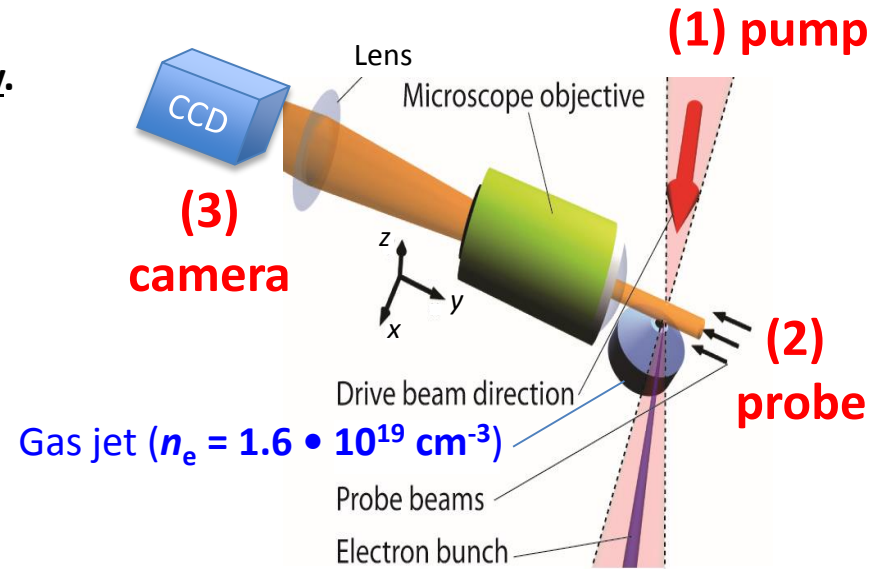


- Phase streak is a temporal sequence of the object’s projections
- We can record several of them simultaneously to recover the object’s evolving structure tomographically

Transverse few-cycle probe shadowgraphically images wake at selected Δt

Buck, *Nat. Phys.* **7**, 453 (2011); Sävert, *PRL* **115**, 055002 (2015)

- (1) 40-TW, 30 fs laser pulse drives plasma wake.
- (2) 6 fs synchronized probe pulse impinges transversely.
- (3) Probe shadowgraphs imaged at selected Δt .



PROS

- single-shot, non-invasive
- μm resolution,

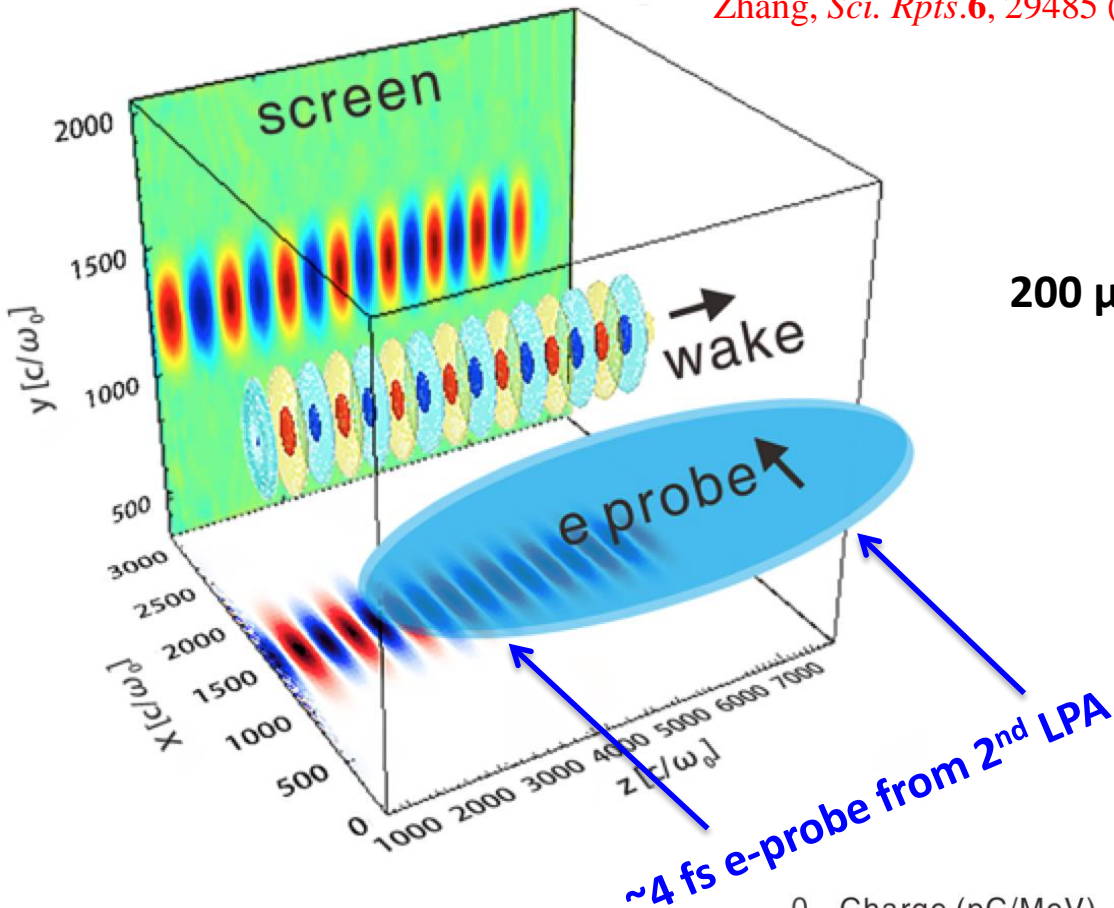
CONS

- dynamic info requires multiple shots
- **challenging to scale to $n_e < 1e19 \text{ cm}^{-3}$**
- requires extremely short probe pulse



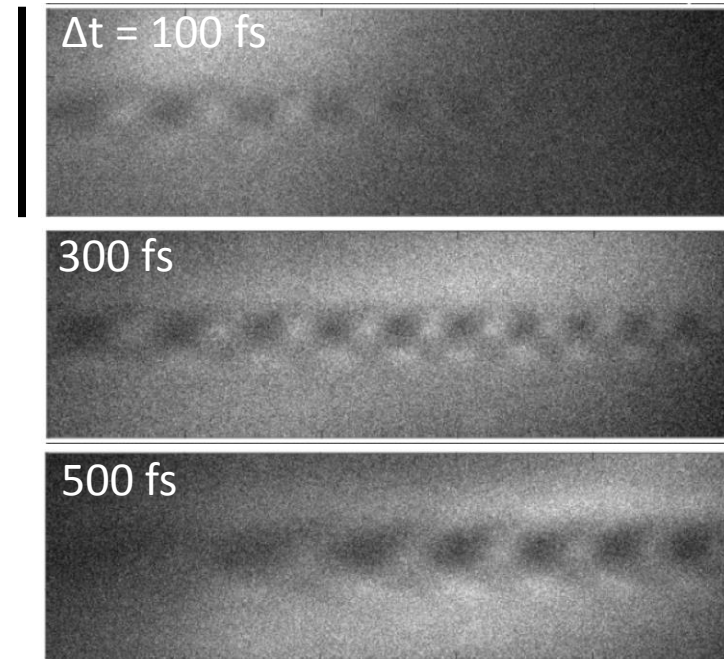
4 fs e-probe from one LPA probes E-fields of another

Zhang, *Sci. Rpts.*6, 29485 (2016)

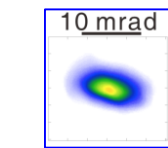


e-snapshots at

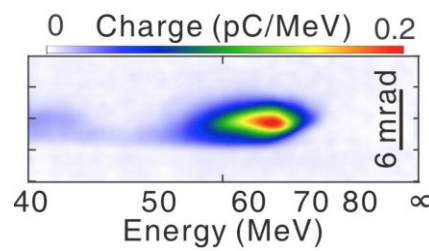
$$n_{e0} = 2 \cdot 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$



Profile, energy spectrum of e-probe:



spatial profile

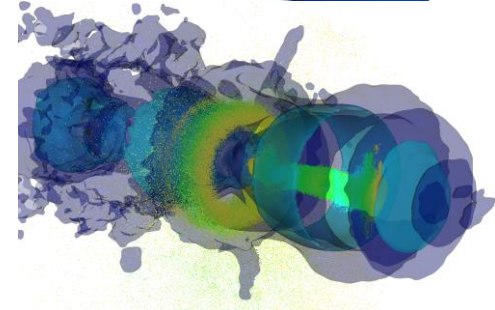
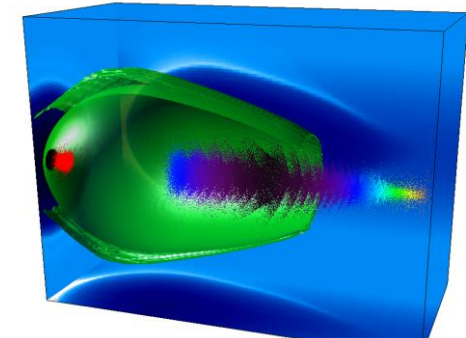
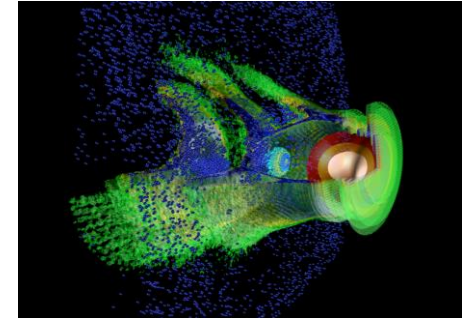




LWFA research has spurred development of computational methods & codes *

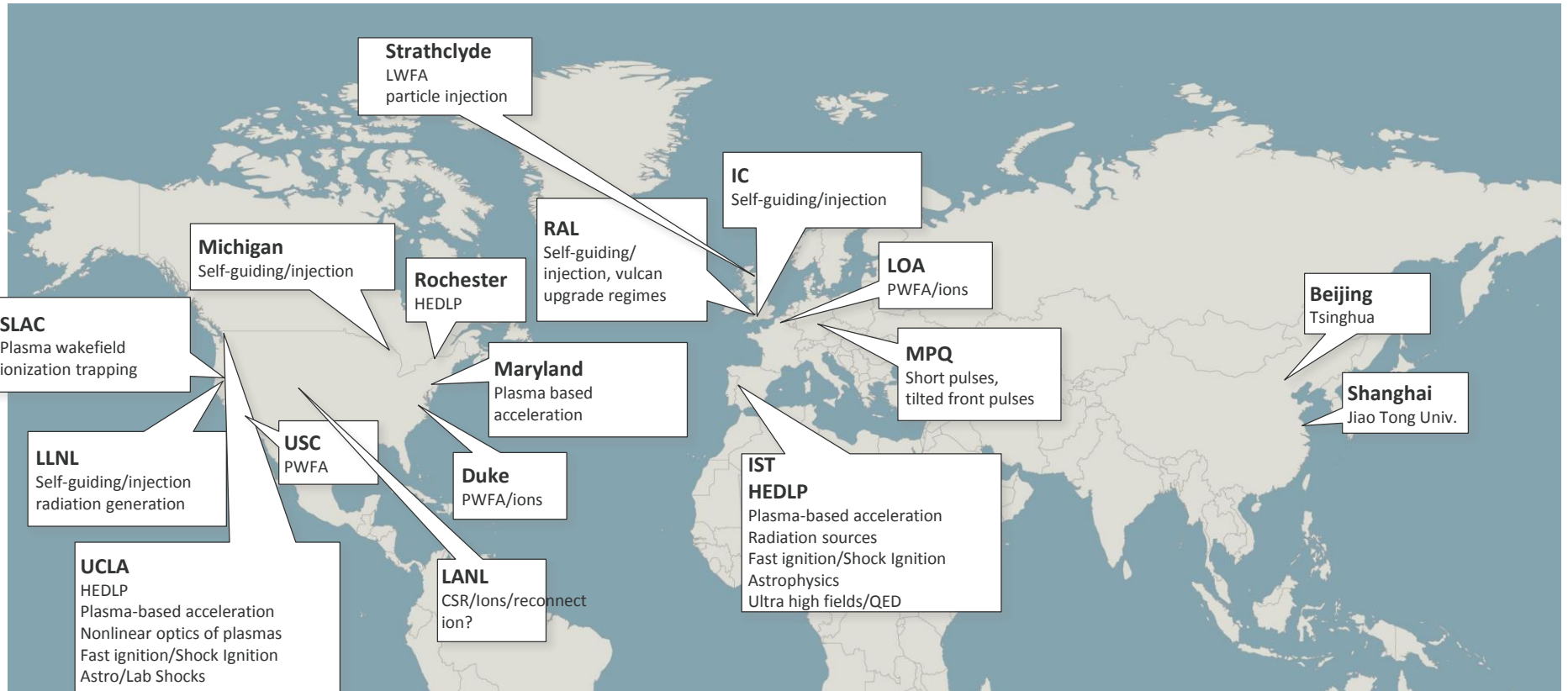
Courtesy Warren Mori

- **Novel algorithms and methods:**
 - **Moving Window**
 - **Parallel PIC codes**
 - **Quasi-static PIC codes**
 - **Ponderomotive Guiding Center**
 - **Close coupling between simulations and experiments**
 - **Lorentz boosted frames (early concept began at universities)**
 - **GPU and Many Core PIC algorithms**
- **Widely used production codes:**
 - **OSIRIS** (UCLA + IST)
 - **WAKE** (U. Maryland)
 - **QuickPIC** (UCLA + UMaryland + IST)
 - **turboWAVE** (NRL + UCLA + UMaryland)
 - **UPIC-EMMA** (UCLA + IST + TsinghuaU)



*** and vice versa**

A worldwide network of OSIRIS/QuickPIC-based research has developed



Examples of OSIRIS applications:

- **Mangles et al., Nature 431 529 (2004).**
- **Tsung et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 94 185002 (2004)**
- **Mangles et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 96, 215001 (2006)**
- **Lu et al., Phys. Rev. ST: AB, 10, 061301 (2007)**

Examples of QuickPIC applications:

- **Simulations for E157/162/164/164X/167**
- **Study of electron cloud effect in LHC.**
- **Plasma afterburner design up to TeV**
- **Efficient simulation of externally injected LWFA**
- **Beam loading studies using laser/beam**

Sydney
HEDLP



Where is LWFA Computing Going?

Support experiments (at Universities and National Labs)

Enable ability to understand complicated physics

Extend studies to parameters not accessible in the laboratory

Discovery

Real-time steering of experiments

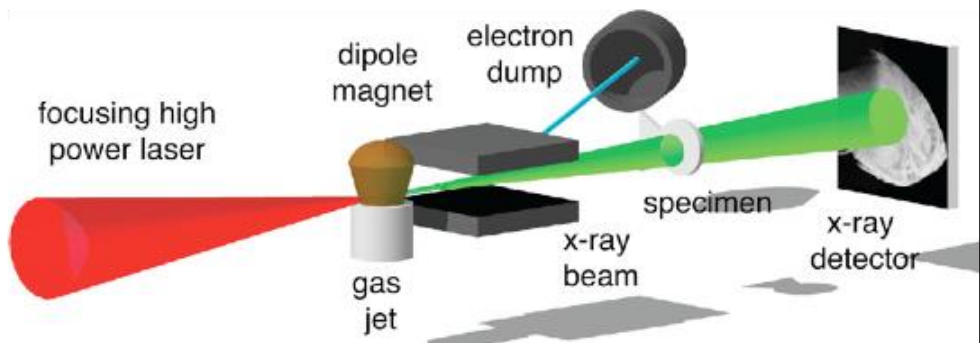
**Rapid parameter scans to determine how changes in inputs effects outputs
(experimental observables and physical processes)**

Hardware and algorithmic improvement could lead to speed ups of 10^4+

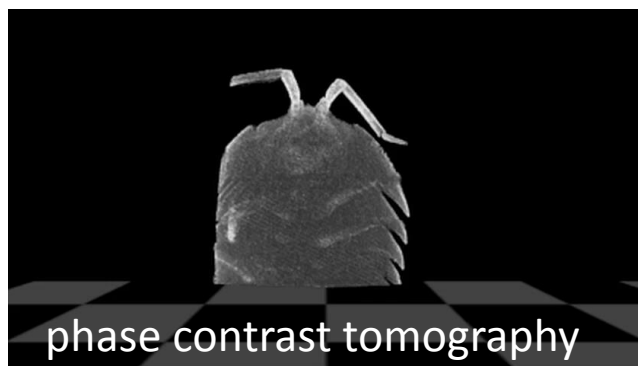
Near-term LWFA light source applications will spur LWFA improvements needed for XFELs, colliders

Kneip, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **99**, 093701 (2011);
Nature Phys. **6**, 980 (2010)

Reviews: Corde, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **85**, 1 (2013)
 Albert et al., *Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion* **56**, 084015 (2014)



- miniature synchrotron-like source based on betatron x-rays from LWFA
- peak brightness comparable to 3rd generation synchrotrons demonstrated



LWFA light sources

source	hv range (keV)	hΔv	photons pulse ⁻¹	τ (fs)	rep rate (Hz)	
Beta-tron	1-80	100%	10 ⁸	tens	≤ 1	← current
	1-150	✓	✓	✓	>30	← desired
Compton	10 ² to 10 ⁵	50%	10 ⁸	tens	≤ 1	← current
	✓	< 1%	10¹⁰	✓	>100	← desired

LWFA improvements needed:

- higher rep rate
- $\epsilon_n < 1$ mm-mrad
- $< 1\%$ $\Delta E/E$
- 1% rms jitter

Applications:

- x-ray phase contrast imaging
- x-ray absorption spectroscopy (EXAFS, XANES)
- Nuclear physics (resonance fluorescence, medical radio-isotopes, photofission)
- **ultrashort positron sources for LWFA**

Current LWFA Challenges

1) Complete the scientific foundation of a future e^-e^+ collider

- demonstrate high-quality, reliable, high-rep-rate ~ 10 GeV modules
 - dephasing-/depletion-limited, beam-loaded, controlled injection, $< 1\% \Delta E/E$
 - develop repeatable, high-rep-rate plasma targets
- demonstrate efficient inter-stage coupling
 - near-unity charge & emittance preservation
- demonstrate e^+ acceleration
 - develop injection sources, hollow-channel accelerators for focusing
- continue developing innovative diagnostics for...
 - sub- μm , sub-fs bunch characterization; single-shot wake visualization
- develop fully predictive PIC simulations

2) Develop tabletop radiation sources & applications

- XFEL: requires $0.1\% \Delta E/E$, perhaps in slice energy spread
- Compton: tunable multi-MeV γ -ray sources for nuclear science
- Betatron: wide-band multi-keV x-ray sources for materials, HED, biomedicine

3) Develop efficient, high-average-power PW lasers

- improved wall-plug efficiency
- model technologies: cooled glass slabs, coherent fiber networks, “Thin Disc” (active mirrors), diode-pumped OPCPA (e.g. HAPLS)
- mid-IR multi-TW lasers

