



# X-Box Discharge Experiments at CERN

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# Motivation

To develop high-gradient equipment we need to look into major limiting phenomenon –  
**vacuum breakdowns**

New cavity has to be conditioned to achieve CLIC specs: 100 MV/m @ 200 ns with BDR~  $10^{-7}$  bpp/m  
Take time and costs – we can optimize the process if we understand it

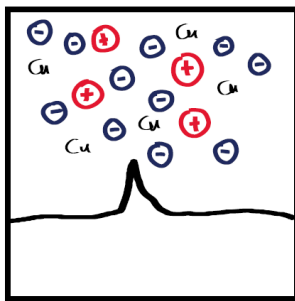
Continuous progress in understanding e.g. from study of long term trends we believe that  
the number of pulses, but not with the number of breakdowns conditions the structure

Why? Not sure ...

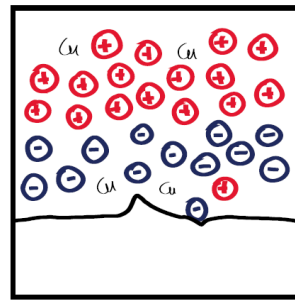
Different models are put forward to understand this hardening process  
(i.e. surface can resist more power with increasing number of pulses)

But models need verification by experiment

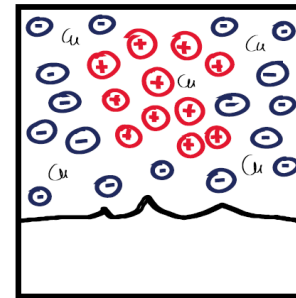
## Phases of breakdown process



Onset  
dark current (DC)



Plasma



Discharge  
breakdown current (BD)

Drawings by A.Palaia

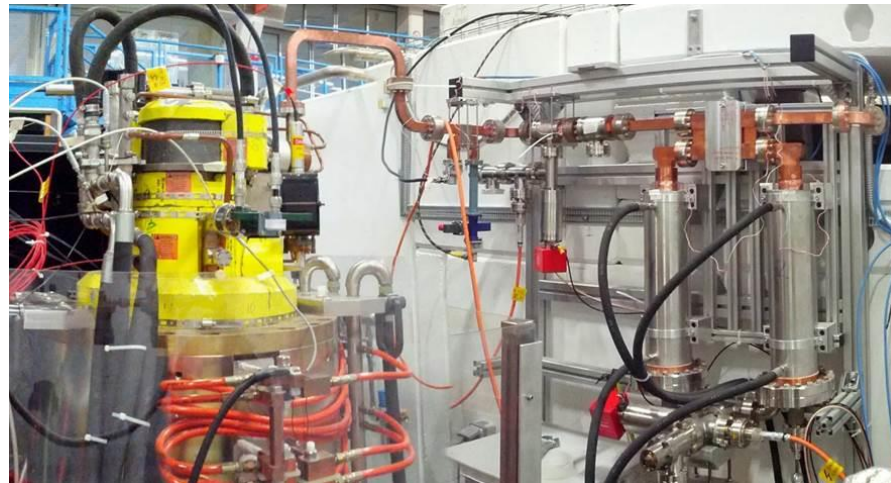
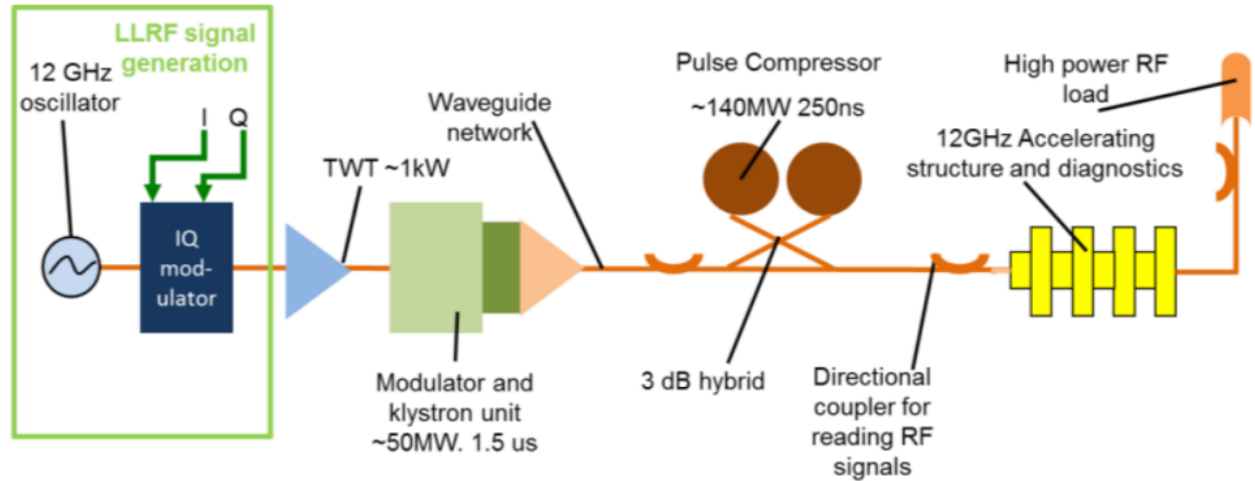
# Xbox 2 @ CERN

## CLIC ACS tests require:

- 40-45 MW power
  - pulse length  $\leq 250$  ns
- Conditioning process speed related to number of pulses:
- high rep rate  $\geq 50$  Hz

## **XBox2**

Solid state modulator (Scandinova) +  
a single 50 MW klystron +  
pulse compressor

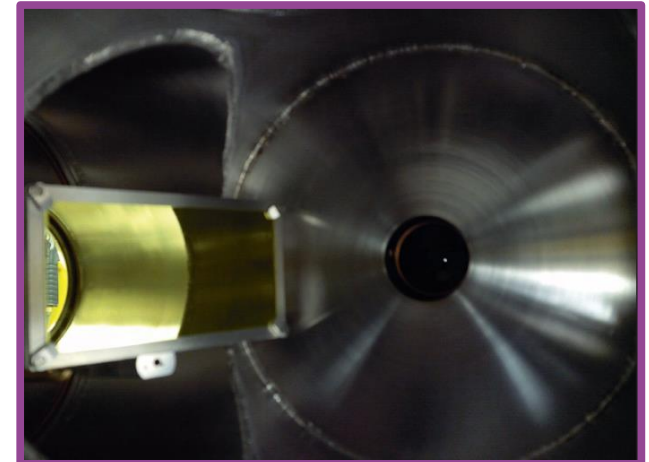
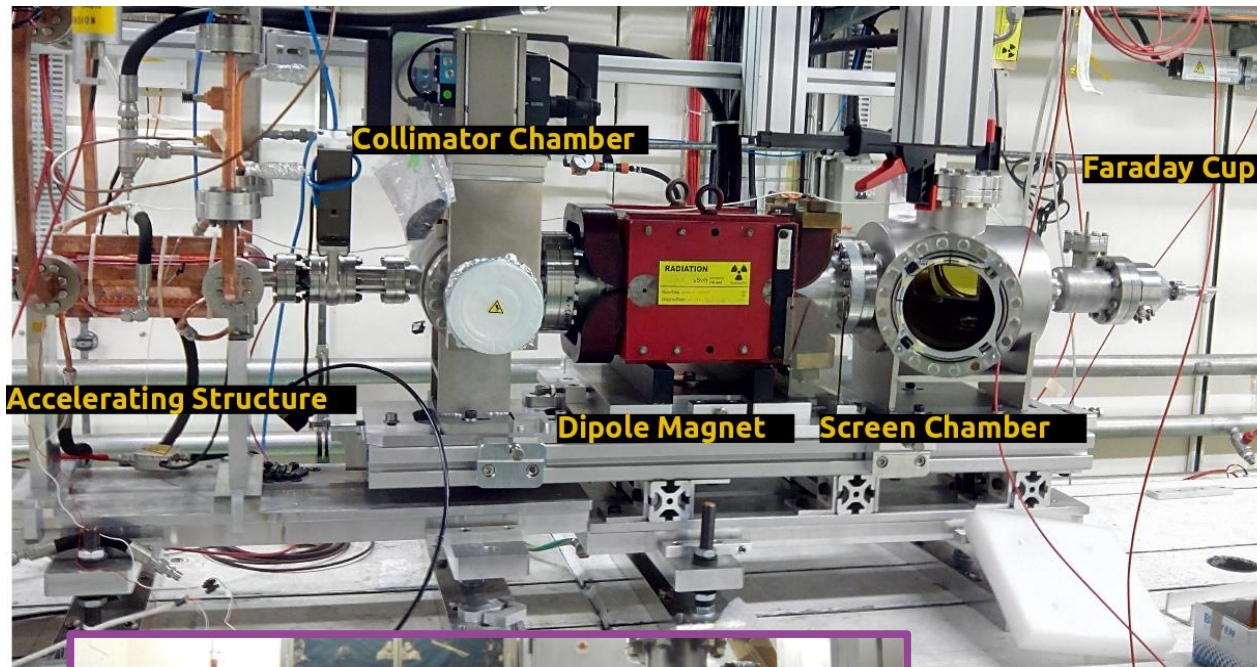


B. Woolley

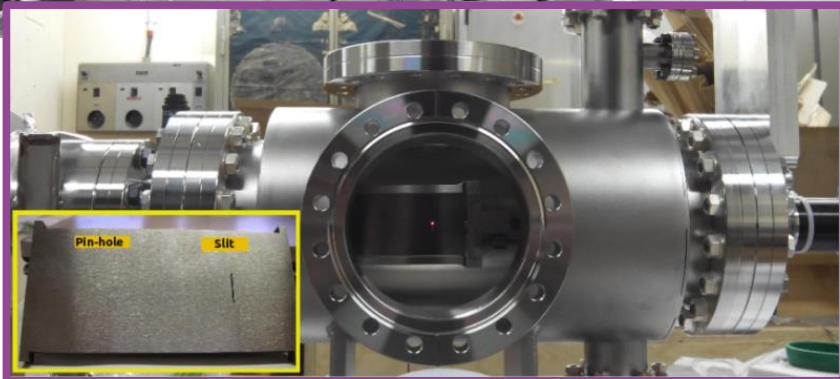


# Uppsala/CLIC X-band Spectrometer (UCXS)

general-purpose system for detection and measurements of dark and breakdown currents during structure conditioning



**Screen** (100x50x0.5 mm YAG:Ce)  
 linear actuator (fully retractable)  
 30 degrees angle w.r.t. the beam axis  
 2M pixel, 50fps camera with focuser



**Energy resolution with dipole magnet**

Maximum electron energy	<20MeV
Rel. energy spread (single slit)	10% - 25%
Full energy coverage with magnetic field scan	

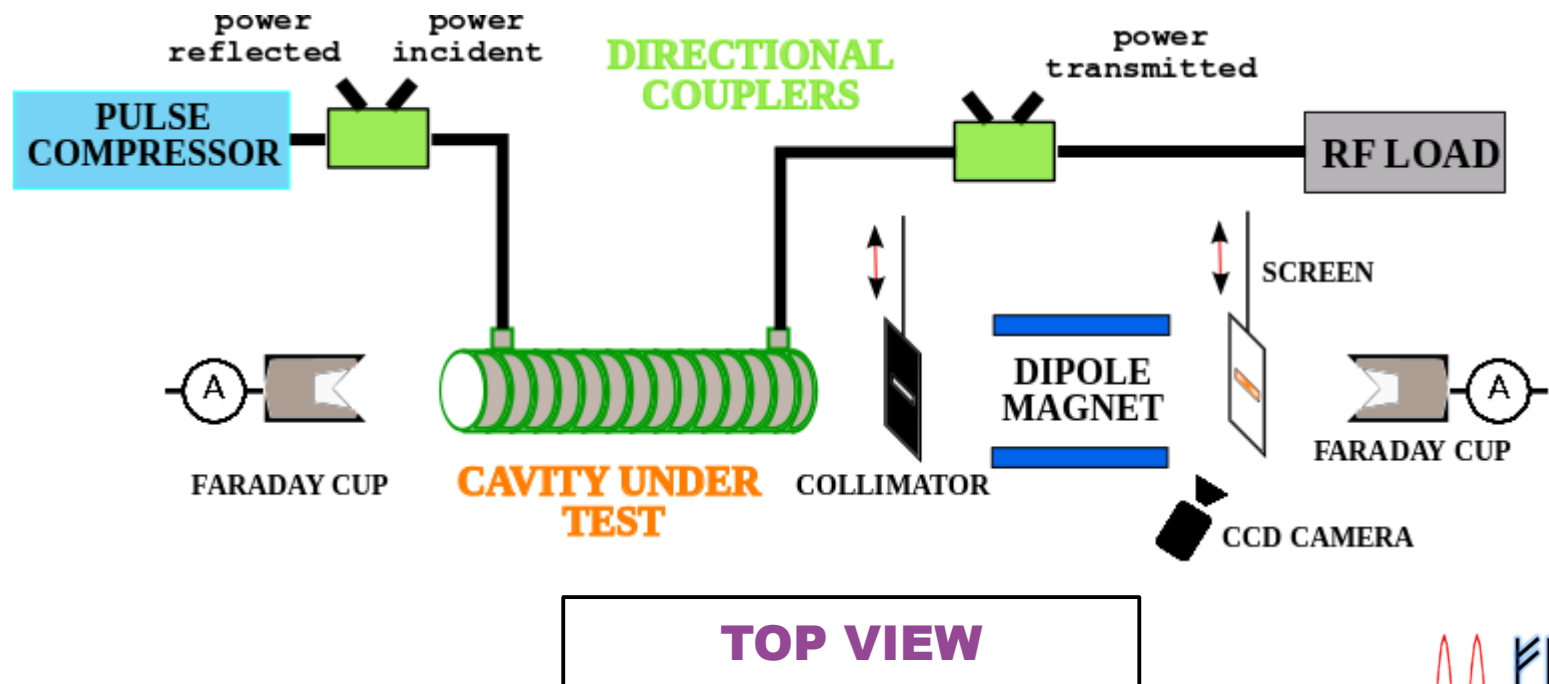
**Collimator** (5 mm tungsten plate)  
 linear actuator (fully retractable), place for two patterns,  
 presently: **pin-hole** 0.5mm and **slit** 10x0.5mm

# Instrumentation at XBox2



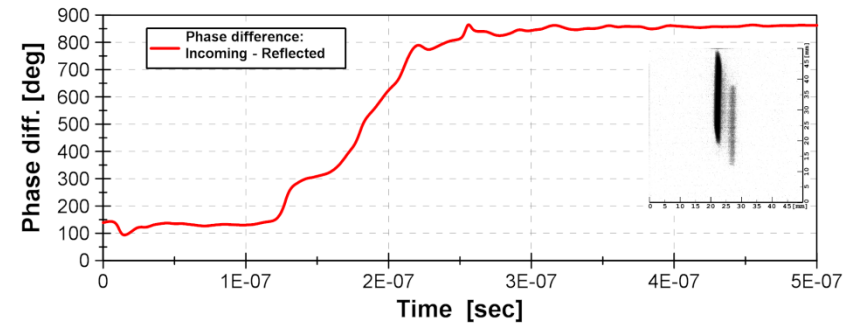
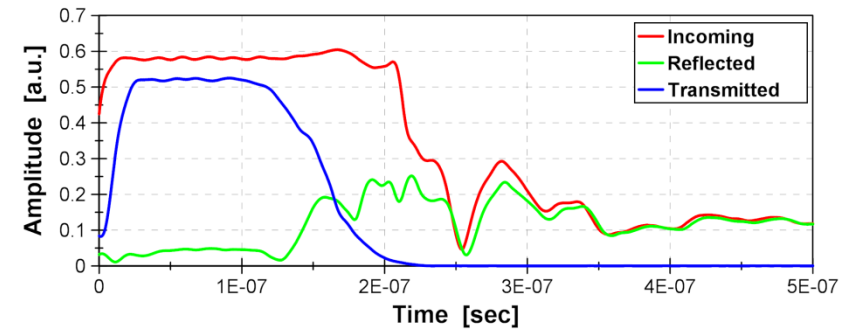
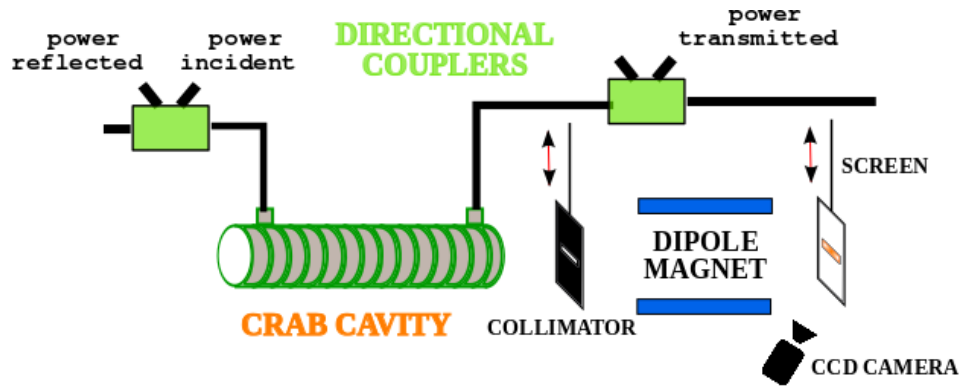
All diagnostics information available for the breakdown events is combined with images from the camera (including images from before and after BD)

50 Hz operation

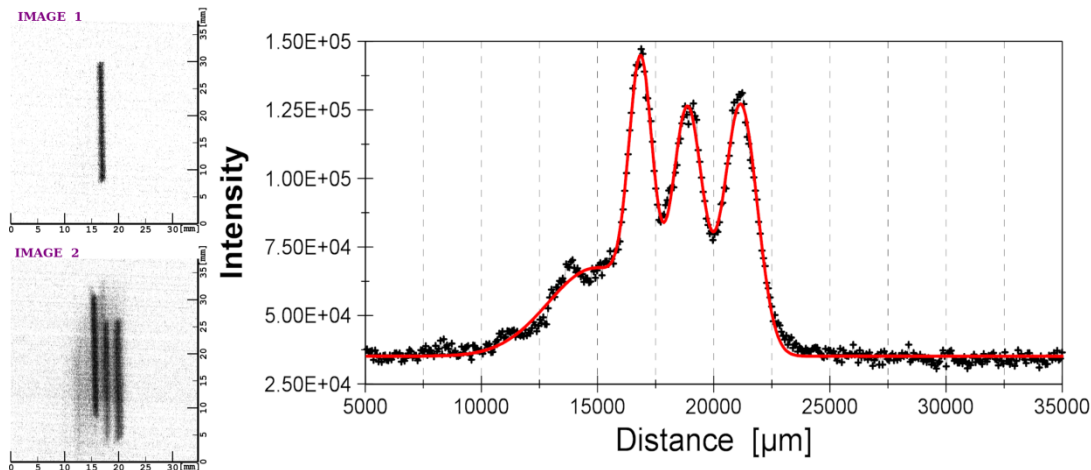




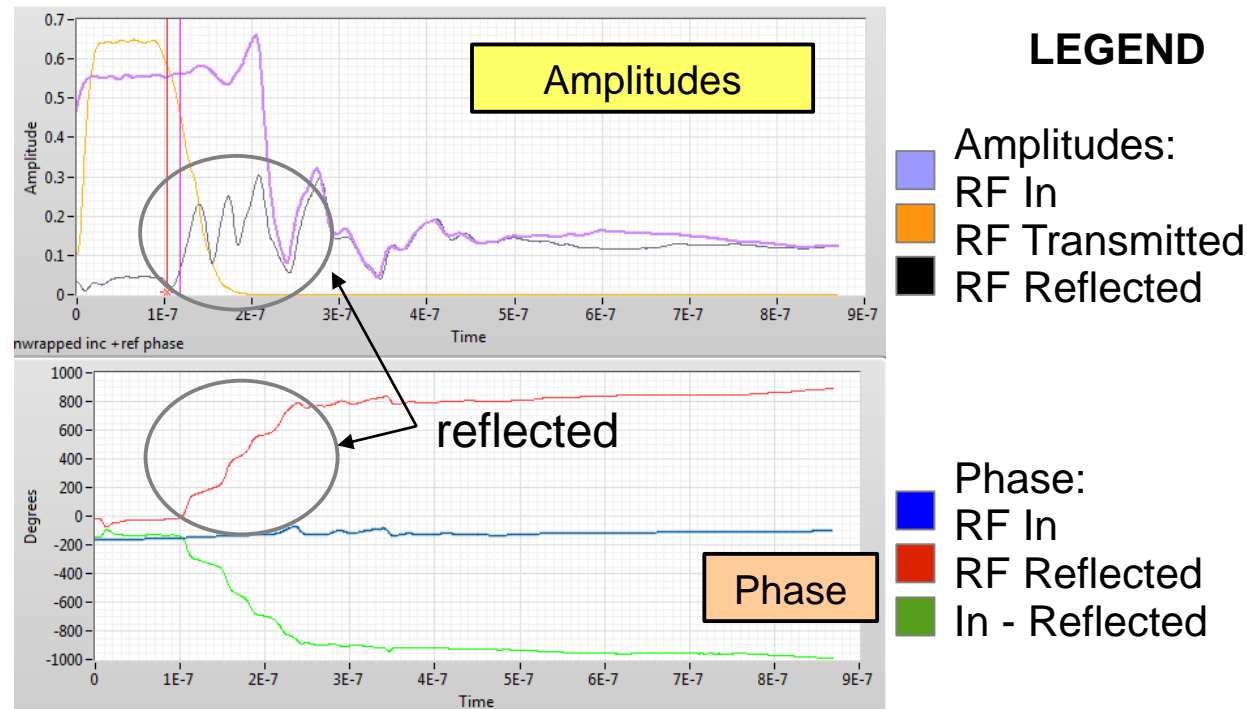
# Example of collected signals – BD events



## Example of images after the slit



# RF signals



- Often rich structure of the reflected signal
- From amplitude spectrum we conclude that the energy is lost –  
breakdown is “feeding” from the power
- The time and phase difference can give us information about position of the BD site



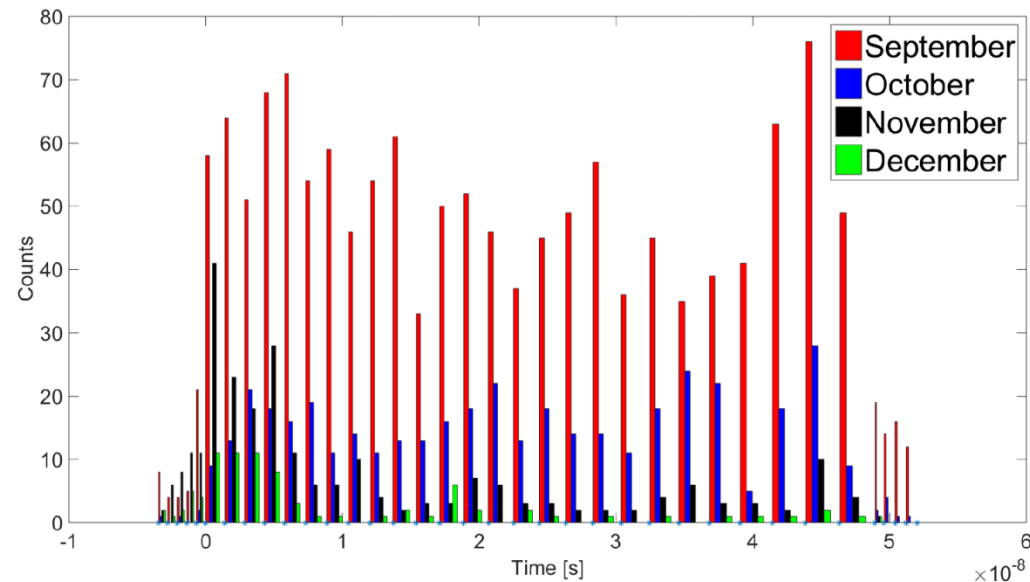
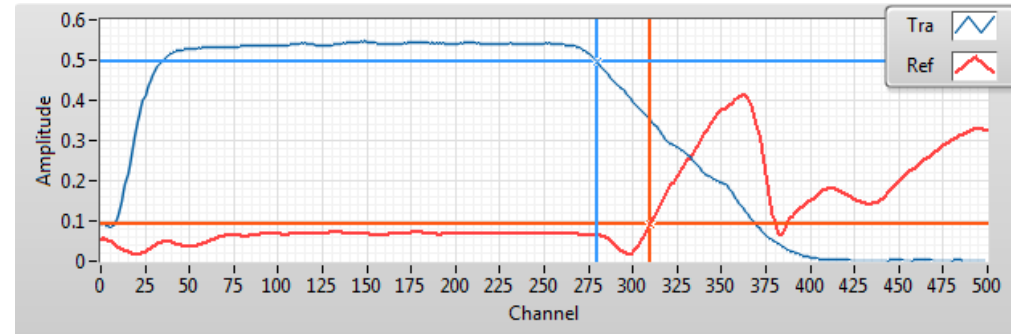
# BD position

## BD detected when:

- 1) Drop in transmitted power due to plasma formation
- 2) Power reflected back

Difference in time between the transmitted power falling and the reflected power increasing to find the BD cell location. \*)

The phase of the reflected signal is used to pinpoint cell location.



Static information (single value), while BD is a dynamic process

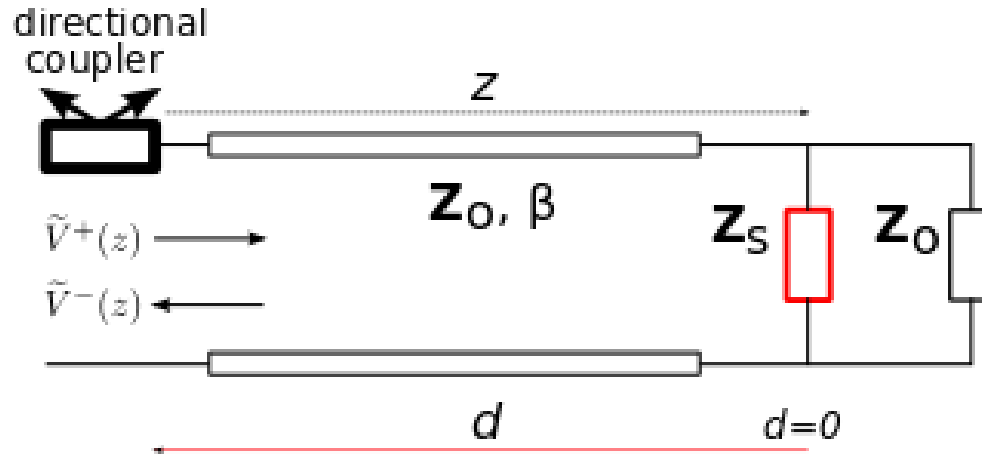
Can we do better?

\*) There are other methods that use RF signal timing to extract BD position.

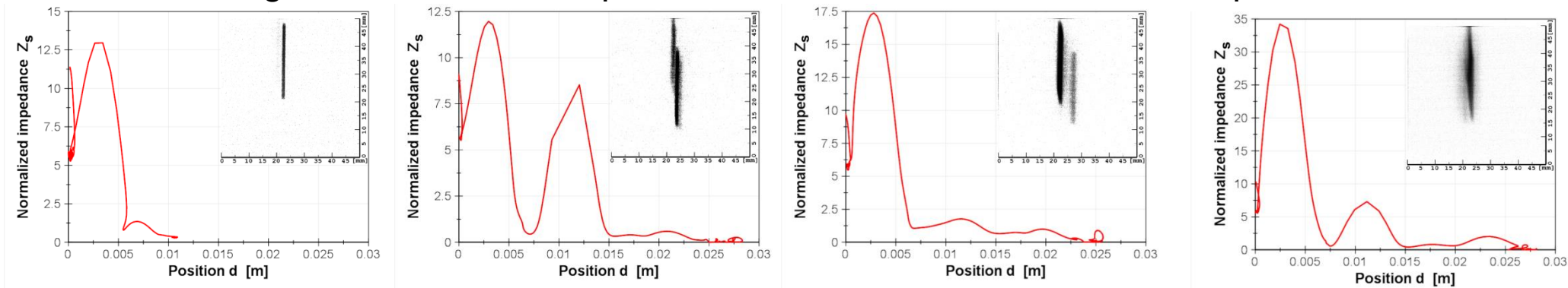




# Longitudinal discharge dynamics



- Field reflections can be seen as reflection on a mismatched load in the structure
- In a simple model we interpret the mismatch as plasma growth
- Combining phase and amplitude information from Incoming and Reflected waves we can get relation between position of the wave and the relative impedance



Peak separation in agreement with cell length of 8.3 mm

This supports the theory of breakdown migrations during the RF pulse

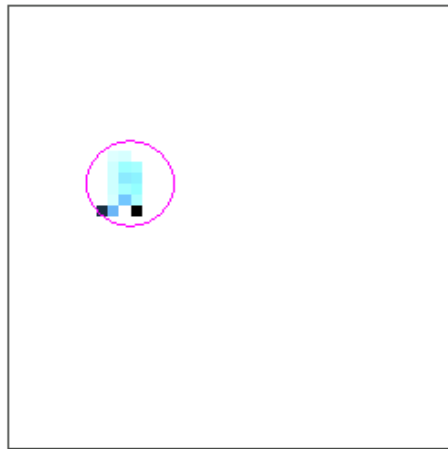
# Information from the images

## Breakdown transverse position – SLIT

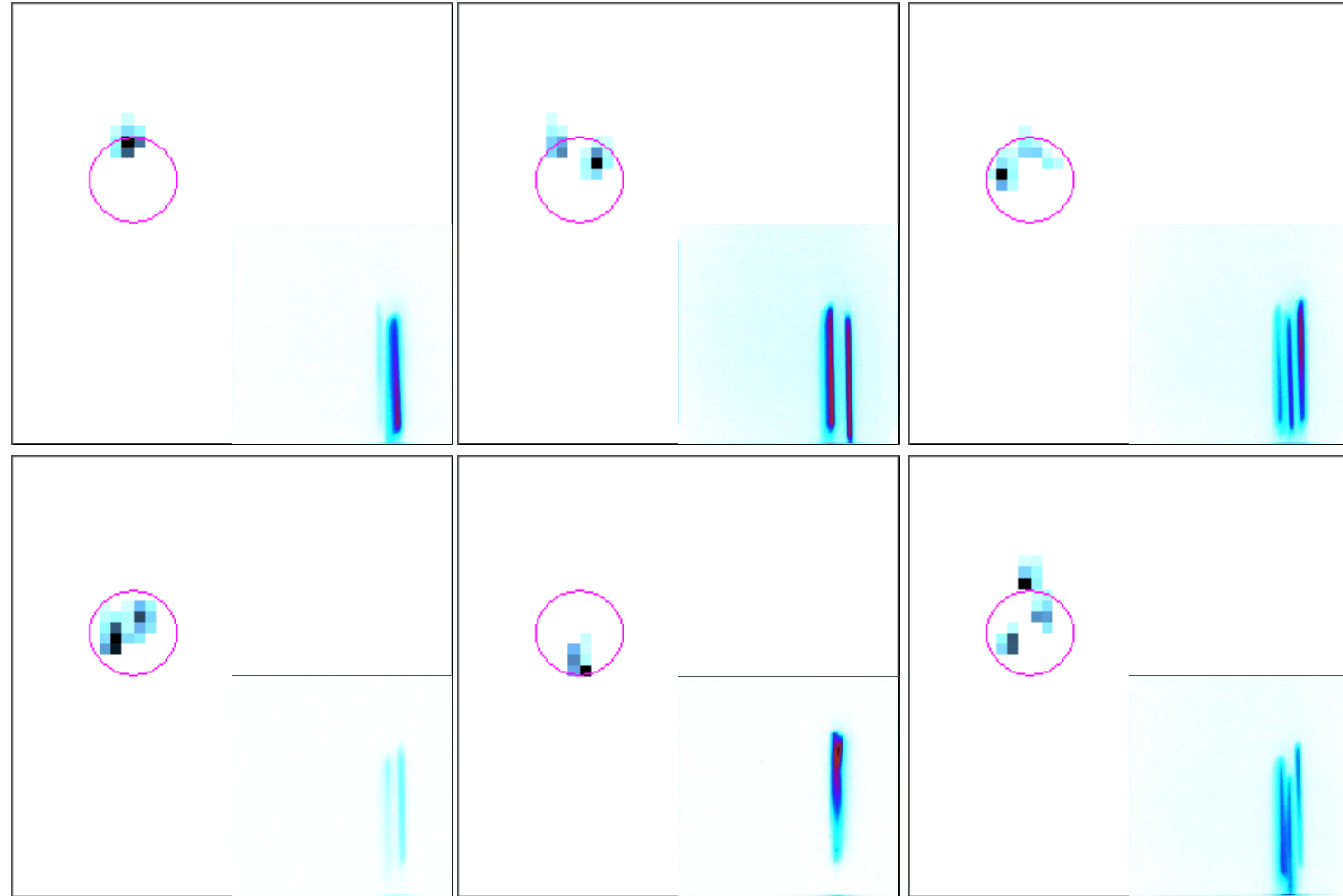
75 ns pulses

Deconvolution with slit transfer function

Single events - recorded images and reconstructed source positions



Single events  
(animated preview)

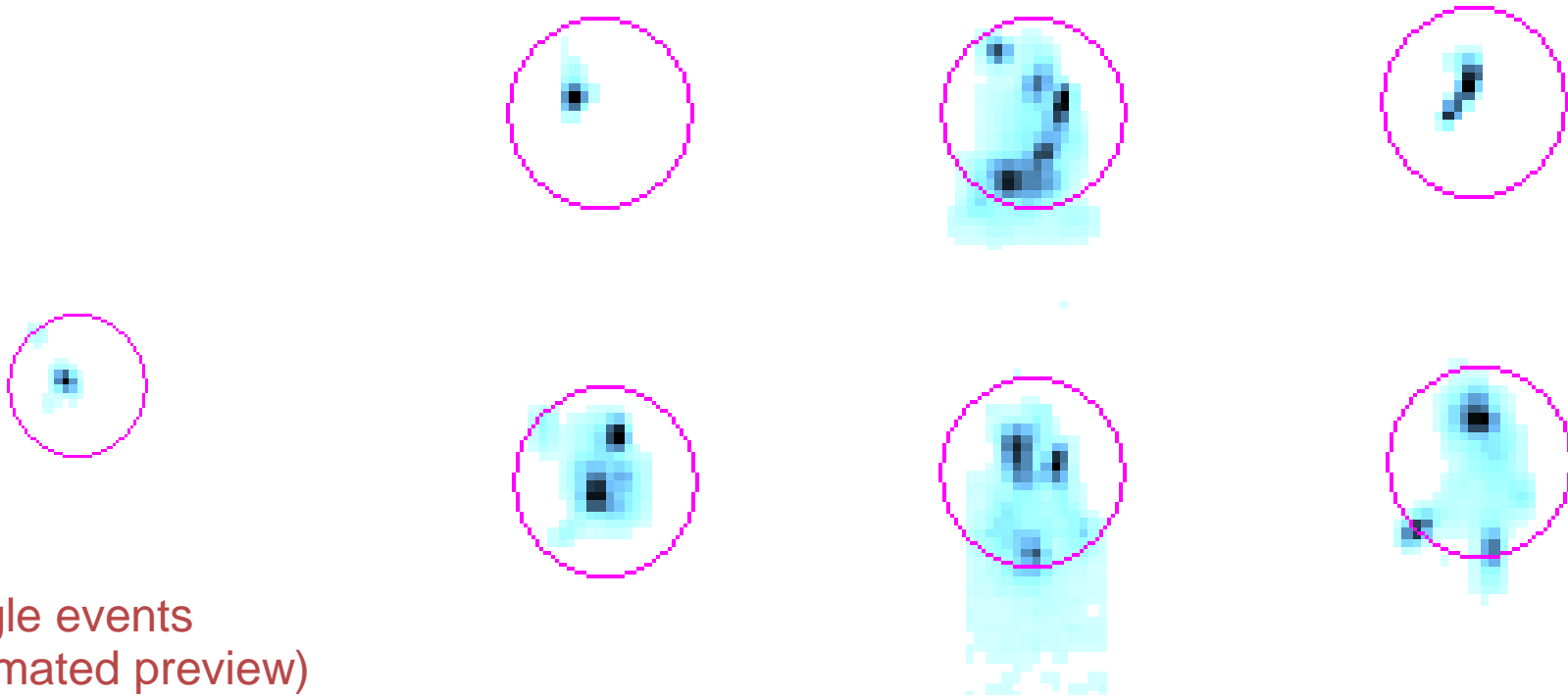


# Breakdown transverse position – PINHOLE

200 ns pulses

Deconvolution with slit transfer function

Single events - recorded images and reconstructed source positions



Single events  
(animated preview)

Qualitatively more features in data –  
longer pulse, more time to develop new breakdown

# Breakdown transverse position – PINHOLE

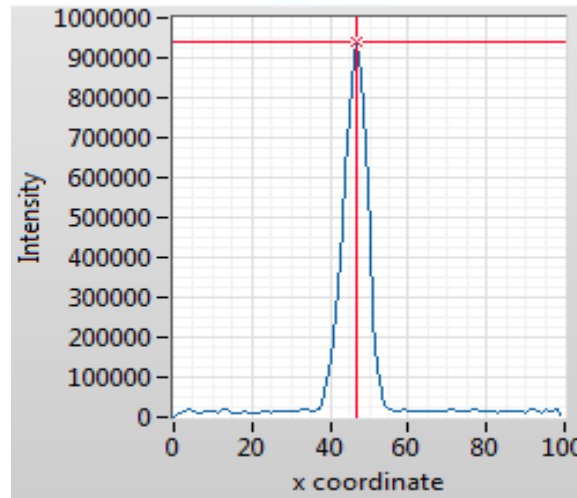
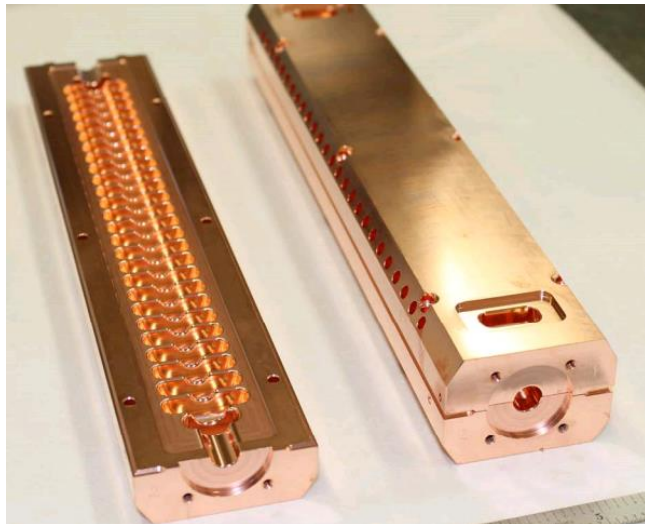
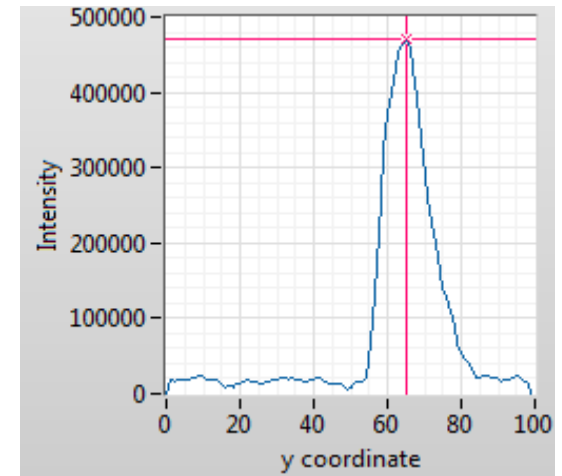
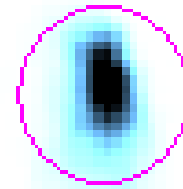
200 ns pulses

Combined image from 199 events

**Asymmetry and excess events in vertical direction**

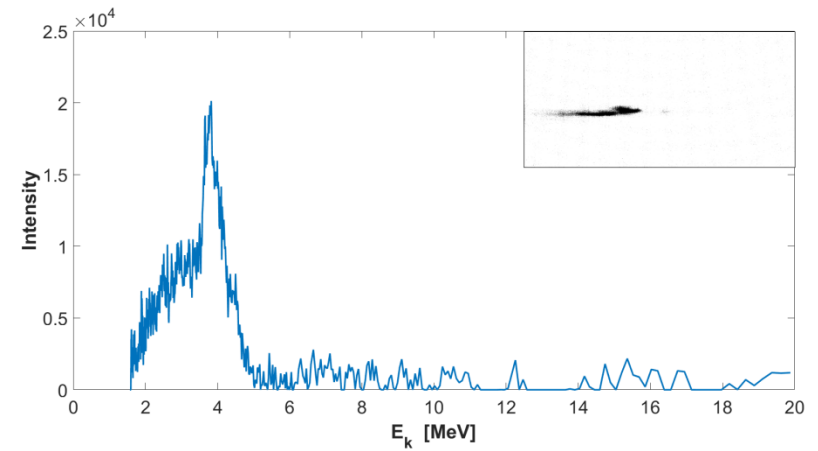
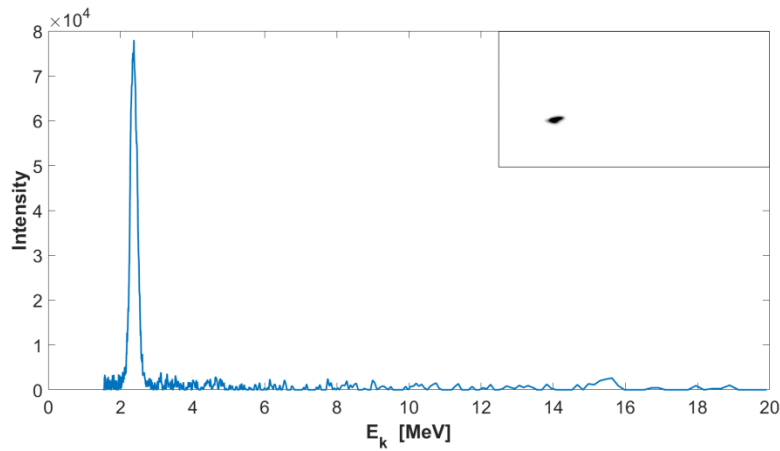


Due to special type of structure under test?

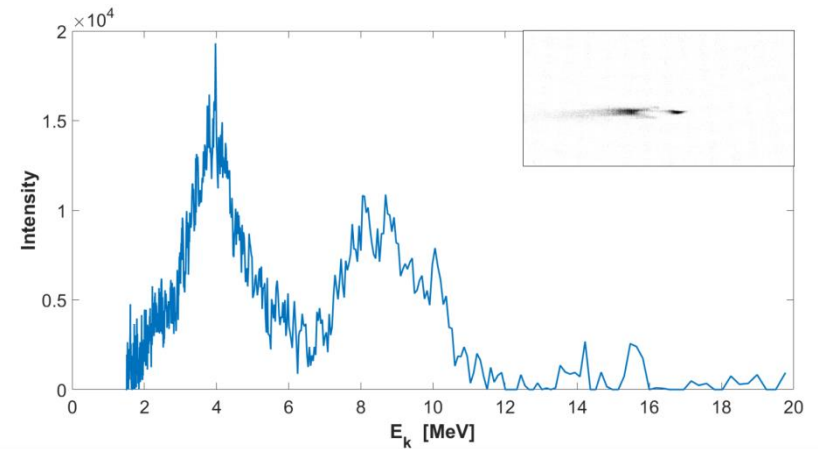
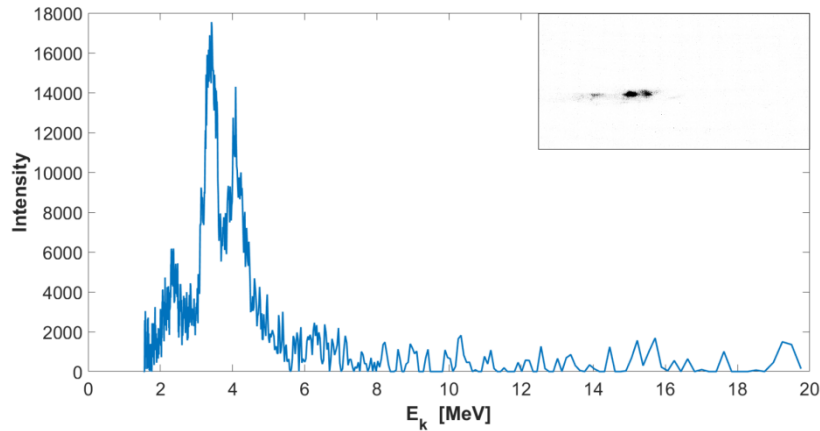




# Energy spectra from BD events



Preliminary



Electrons with well defined energies

→ maximum in agreement with the given power/gradient in the structure

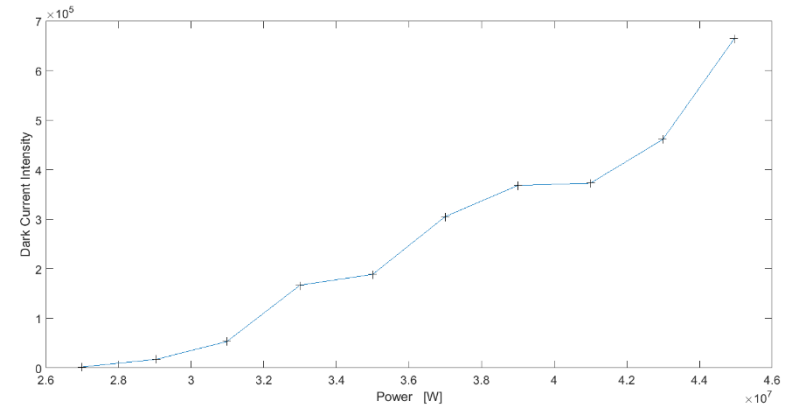
**Next step:** combining energy information with other signals and compare with simulation



# Dark current

## Dark current :

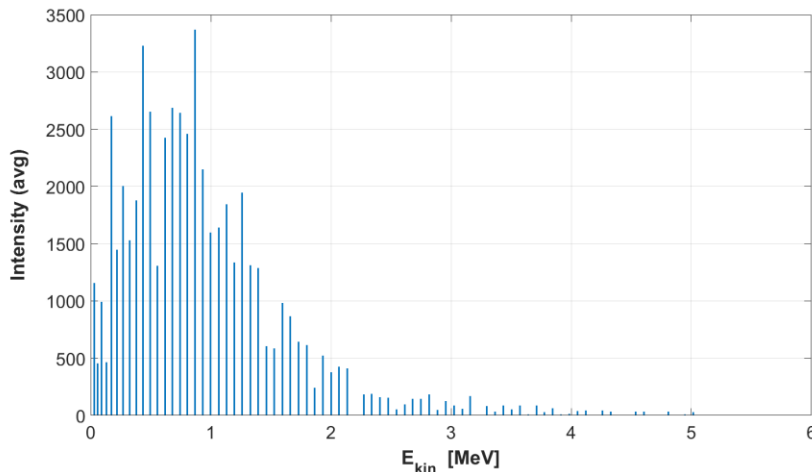
- precursor of RF breakdown, input to many models  
can we predict that BD approaches?
- Information about structure hardening process
- Causes RF power loss, radiation, possible backgrounds



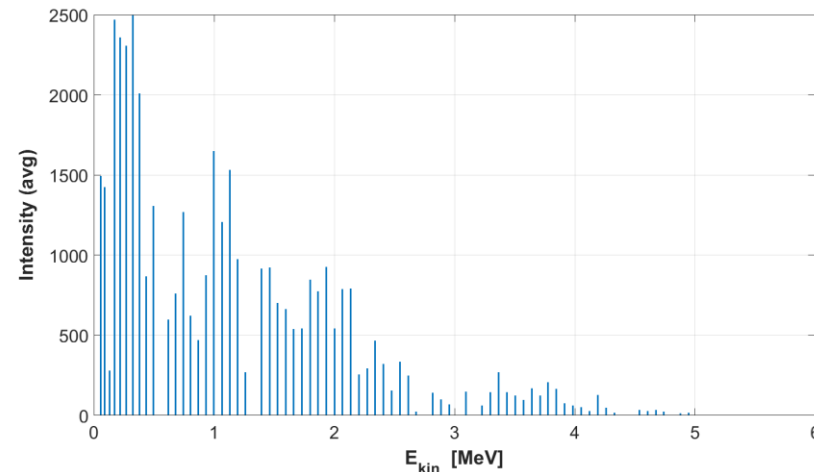
Preliminary

DC scan with power

@ 26 MW inc. power



@ 30.5 MW inc. power



Broad energy spectrum – continuum from electrons in dark current  
example here from 50 consecutive pulses (1 second)

**Next step:** comparison with other detectors i.e. Cherenkov fiber detectors, Faraday cup to look at which structure parameters affect the dark current production





# Summary

With data from test stands we better understand the conditioning process  
→ We gain in time and cost and ensure the proper performance ACS in a  
accelerator

During the conditioning we:

- learn about the hardening process by looking at which parameters (pulse shape, power, pulse length etc) affect the dark current behavior
- check with BD localization the “health” of the structures, uniformity, "hot-spots"
- Benchmark theoretical models to understand the changes in metal surfaces under high gradients, applicable outside accelerator physics in fusion devices, satellites etc





# Acknowledgement

Many thanks to Ben Woolley and  
RF group at CERN for the efforts in  
constructing and running the XBox

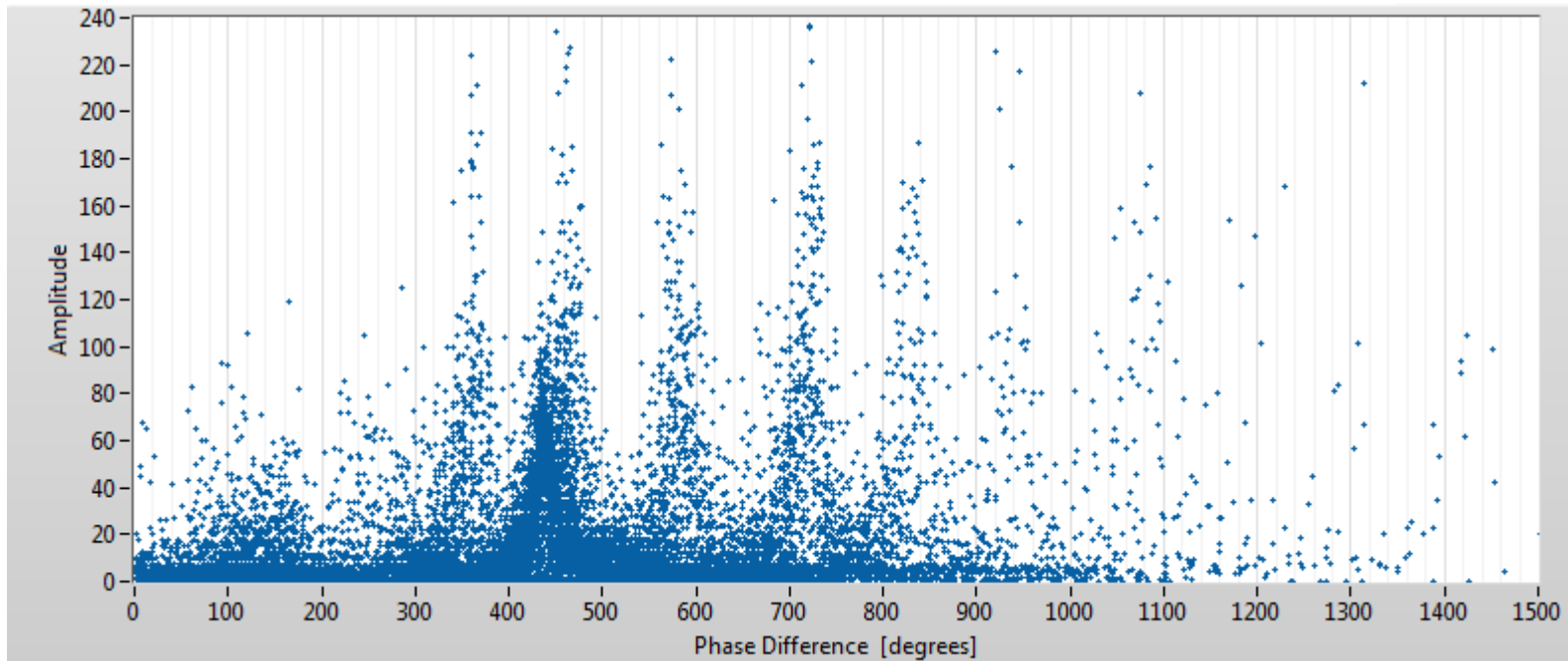






# Correlating images with other parameters

## RF phase difference Inc - Refl (T24)

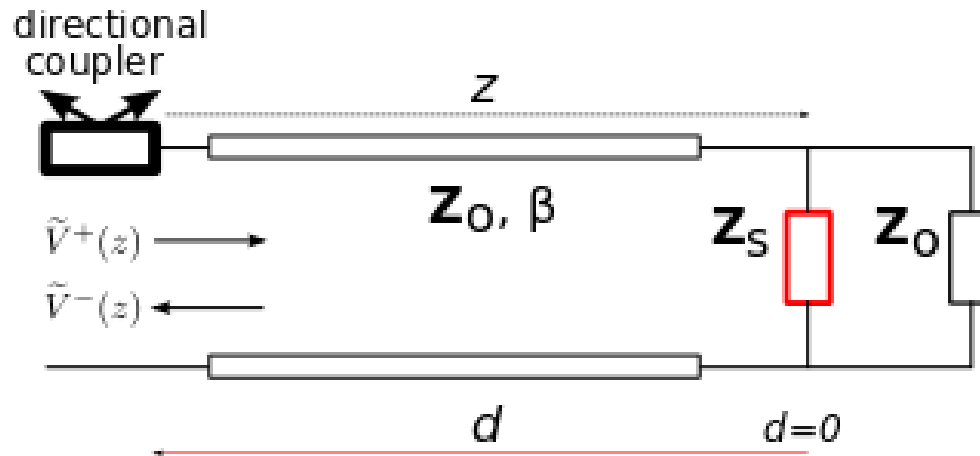


Structures in the phase difference (~300 events)  
Peaks are separated by multiples of  $120^\circ$  –  
RF phase advance of the structure –  
suggesting that BD jumps between consecutive irises





# Longitudinal discharge dynamics



Field reflection can be seen as reflection on a mismatched load in the structure

Simple model  $\rightarrow$  mismatch in the load can be interpret as plasma growth

Relative impedance  $\tilde{Z}_s$  is related to ratio of incoming ( $V^+$ ) and reflected ( $V^-$ ) signals - plasma density

$$\tilde{Z}_s = \frac{Z_s}{Z_0}$$

Breakdown position  $d$  related to RF phase

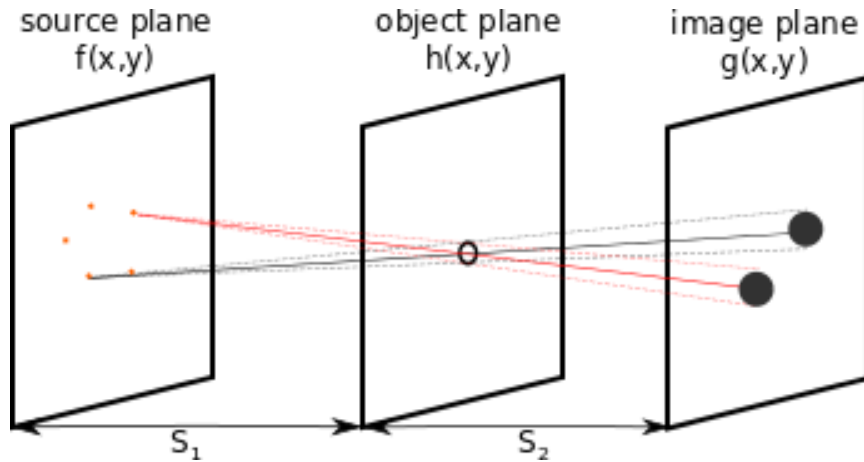
$$\frac{V^{refl}(t)}{V^{inc}(t)} = A(t)e^{j\Delta\phi} = \frac{-e^{2j\beta d(t)}}{1 + 2\tilde{Z}_s(t)}$$



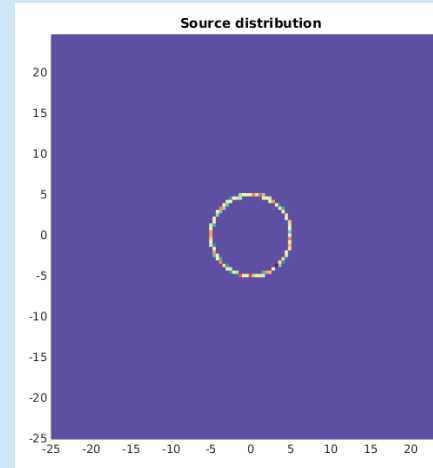
# Can we extract source distribution from the image?

Treating setup as a linear system

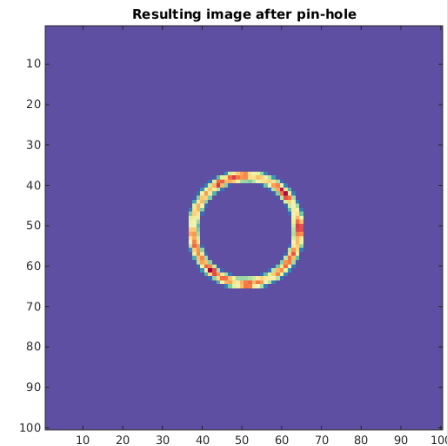
– analytic solution



Source distribution from circular iris



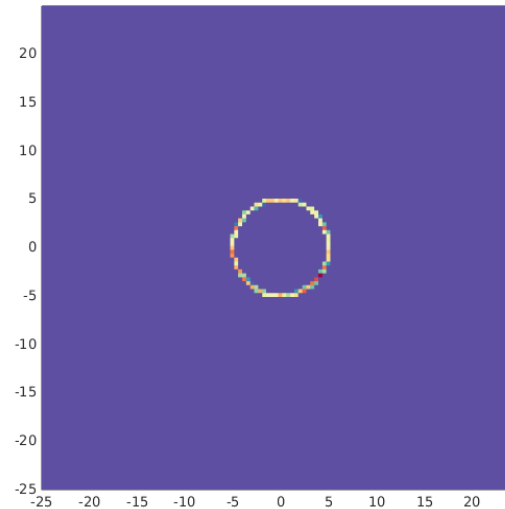
Resulting image after pin-hole



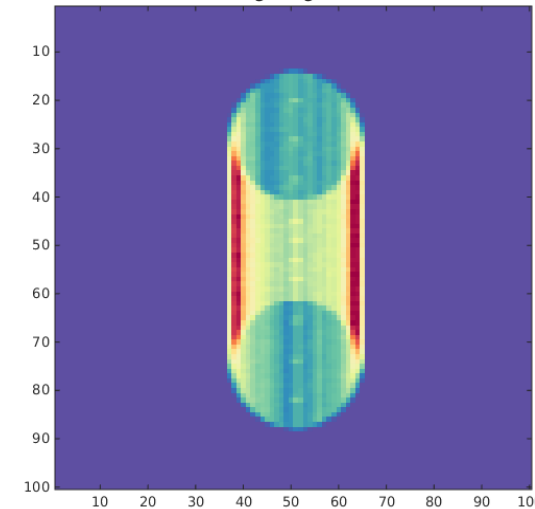
**Convolution**  
 $g(x,y) = f(x,y) \otimes h(x,y)$

Same distribution at source  
 But image is formed through a slit

Source distribution



Resulting image after slit



# Deconvolution - breakdown "tomography"

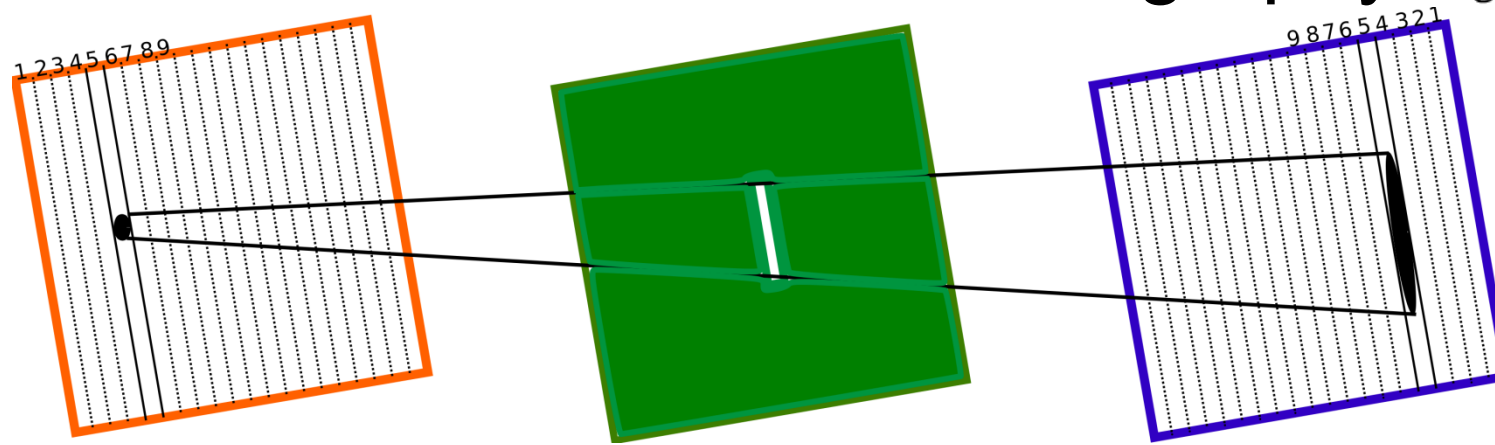
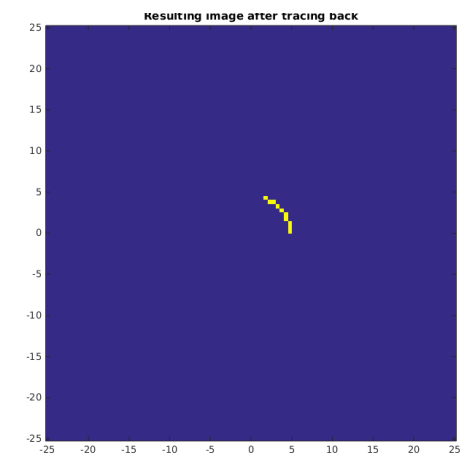
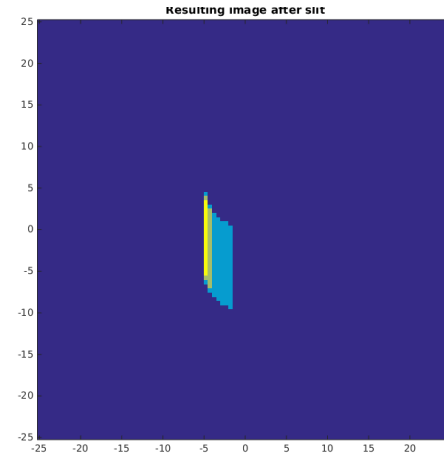
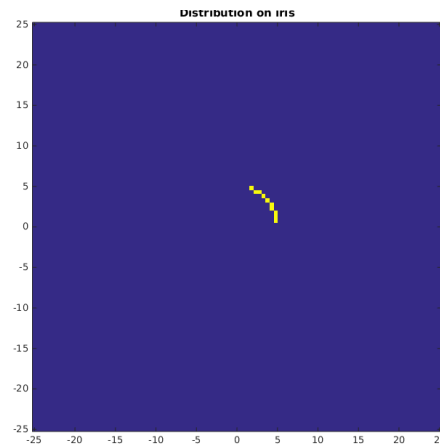


Image is created by calculating a series of 1D convolutions

Image is divided into columns with the width corresponding to the width of the slit  
Each projection from the column is taken to directly solve the inverse problem,

Simulation



This way we avoid the influence of the slit's width on the constructed image

Price to pay – lower resolution

**This method proved most robust with the presence of the noise  
than any 2D convolution methods**

