



**The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



2052-44

Summer College on Plasma Physics

10 - 28 August 2009

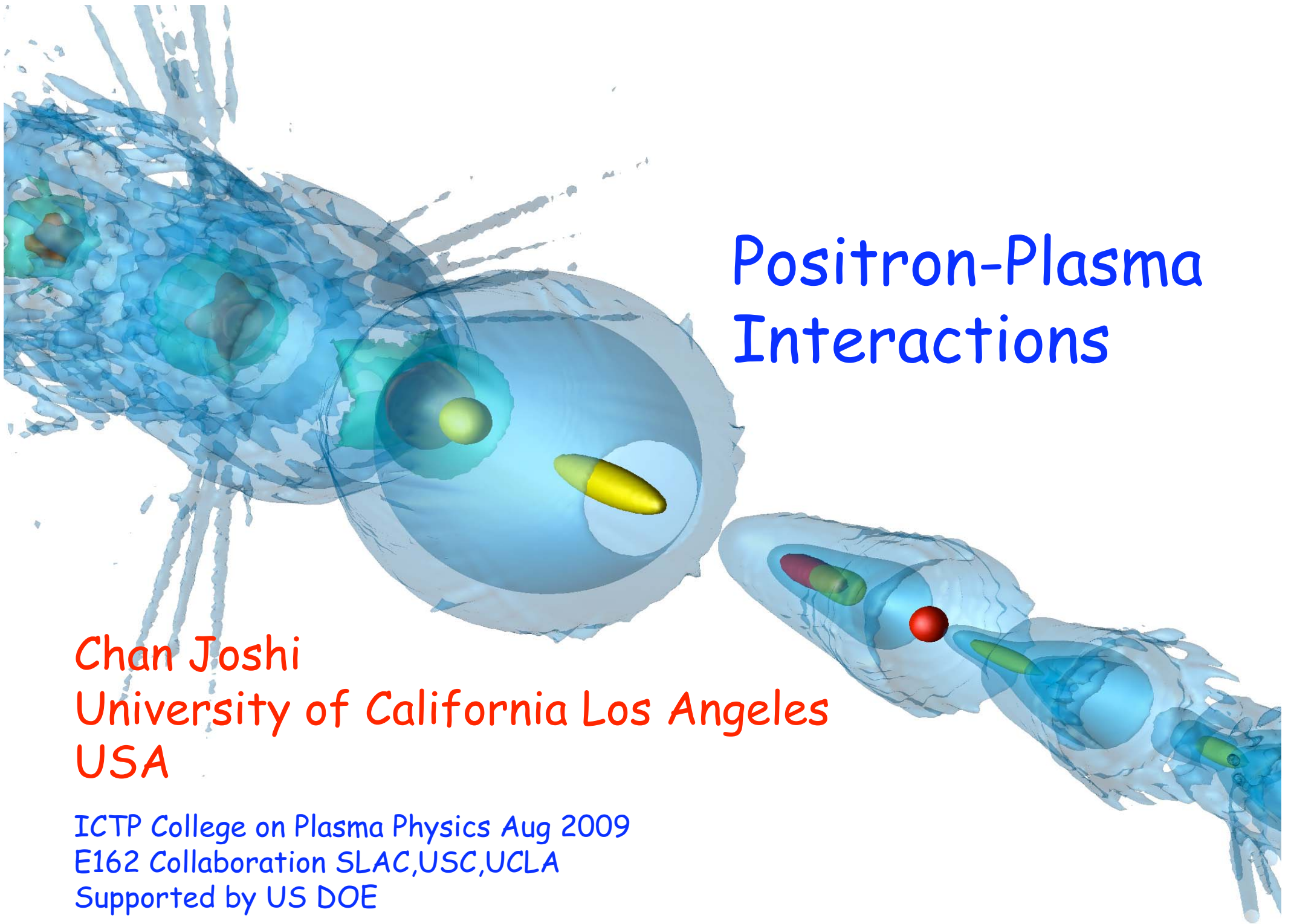
Positron-Plasma Interactions

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Positron-Plasma Interactions

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University of California Los Angeles
USA

ICTP College on Plasma Physics Aug 2009
E162 Collaboration SLAC, USC, UCLA
Supported by US DOE





Discovery of Positron

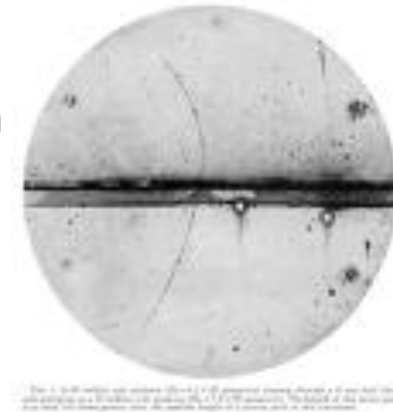
Phys .Rev. vol 43, #6, 1933

Postulated by Dirac in 1928 : Relativistic QM Wave Equation

Carl Anderson



Cloud Chamber track
Produced by a positron



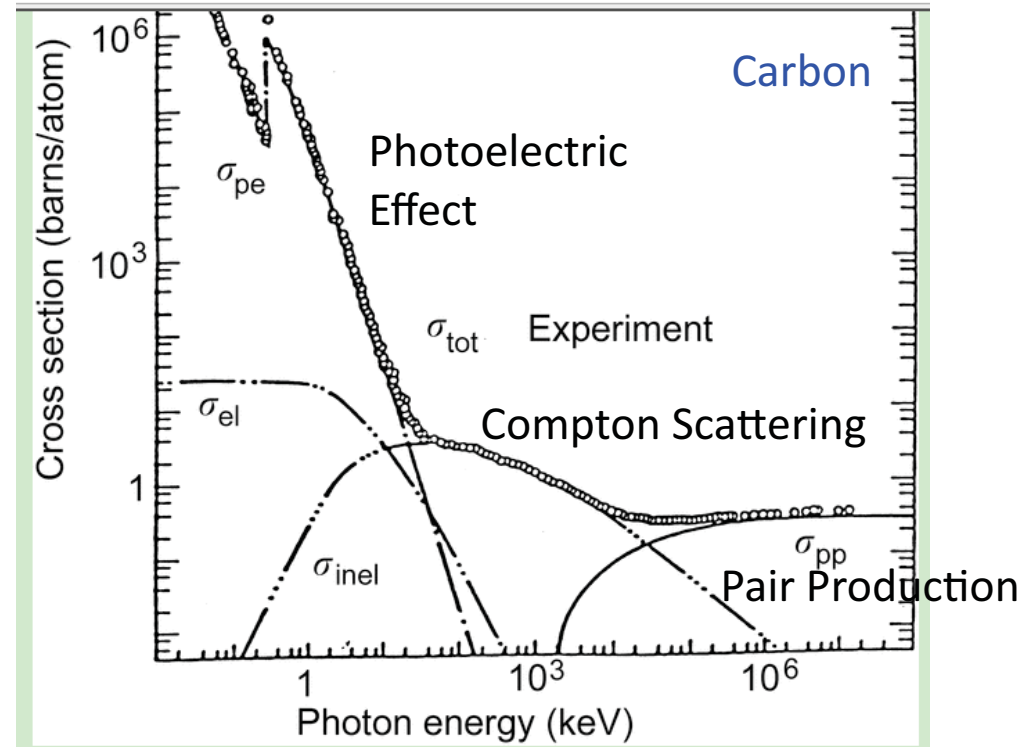
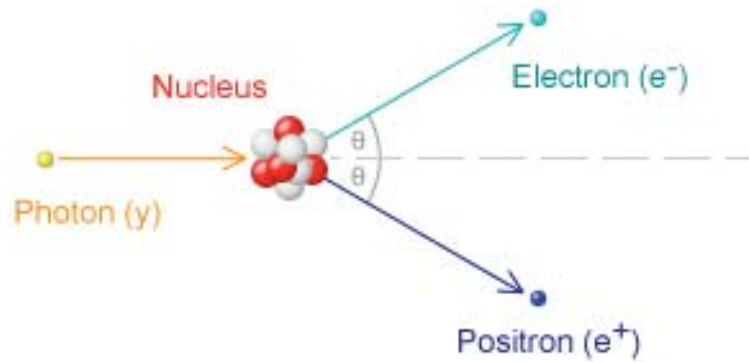
Pb plate

The Positive Electron

"On August 2, 1932, during the course of photographing cosmic-ray tracks... the tracks shown in Fig. 1 were obtained, which seemed to be interpretable only on the basis of the existence in this case of a particle carrying a positive charge but having a mass of the same order of magnitude as that normally possessed by a free negative electron... It is concluded, therefore, that the magnitude of the charge of the positive electron which we shall henceforth contract to positron is very probably equal to that of a free negative electron which from symmetry considerations would naturally be called a negatron." -Carl Anderson



Positron Generation in Laboratory



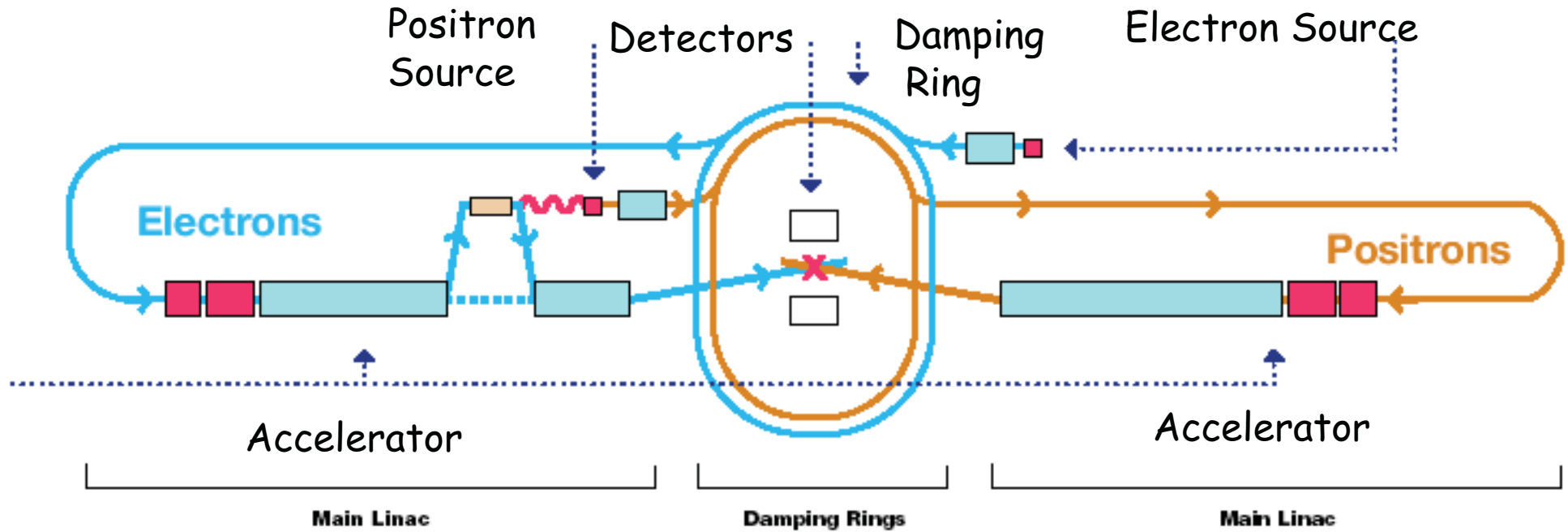
Beam of multi-MV photon traverses a thin (few mm-cm) high Z target.

Photons decay into electron-positron pairs

Positrons can escape the target without annihilation and be collected.



International Linear Collider



31 km , 500 GeV CM \$ 20B + !!!

Positron Beam Source Requirements

Production: 150 GeV electron beam, 1.5 cm period , 100m helical undulator with $K = 1$, Polarization 60% , $1e14$ positrons/s

250 GeV, Total average beam power 20 MW

Can we miniaturize a high energy collider?

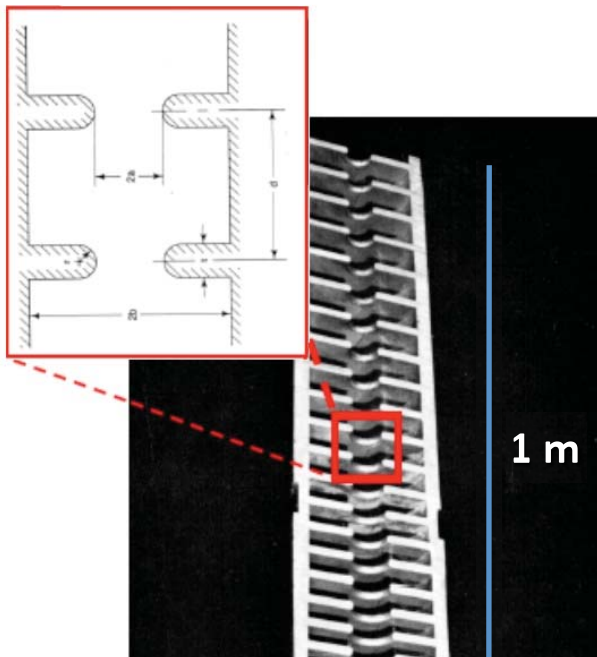
Conventional Accelerator

Copper Structure with irises

Powered by microwaves

Energy Gain 20 MV/m

Structure Diameter 10cm



Plasma Accelerator

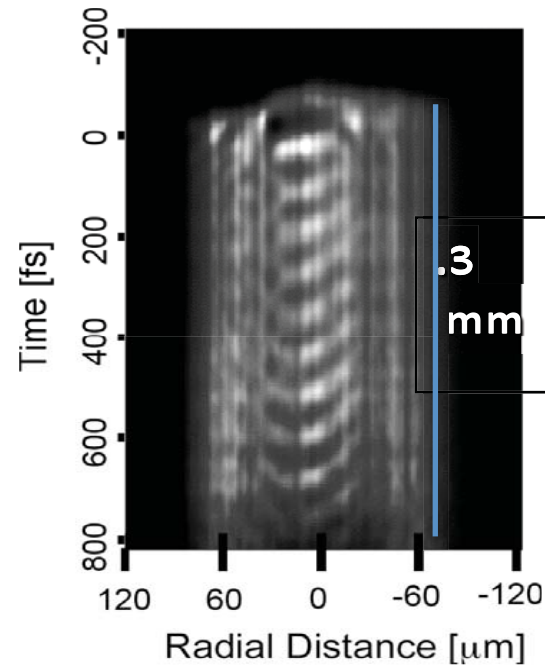
Ionized Gas

Lifetime, few picoseconds

*Powered by a Laser or
electron beam pulse*

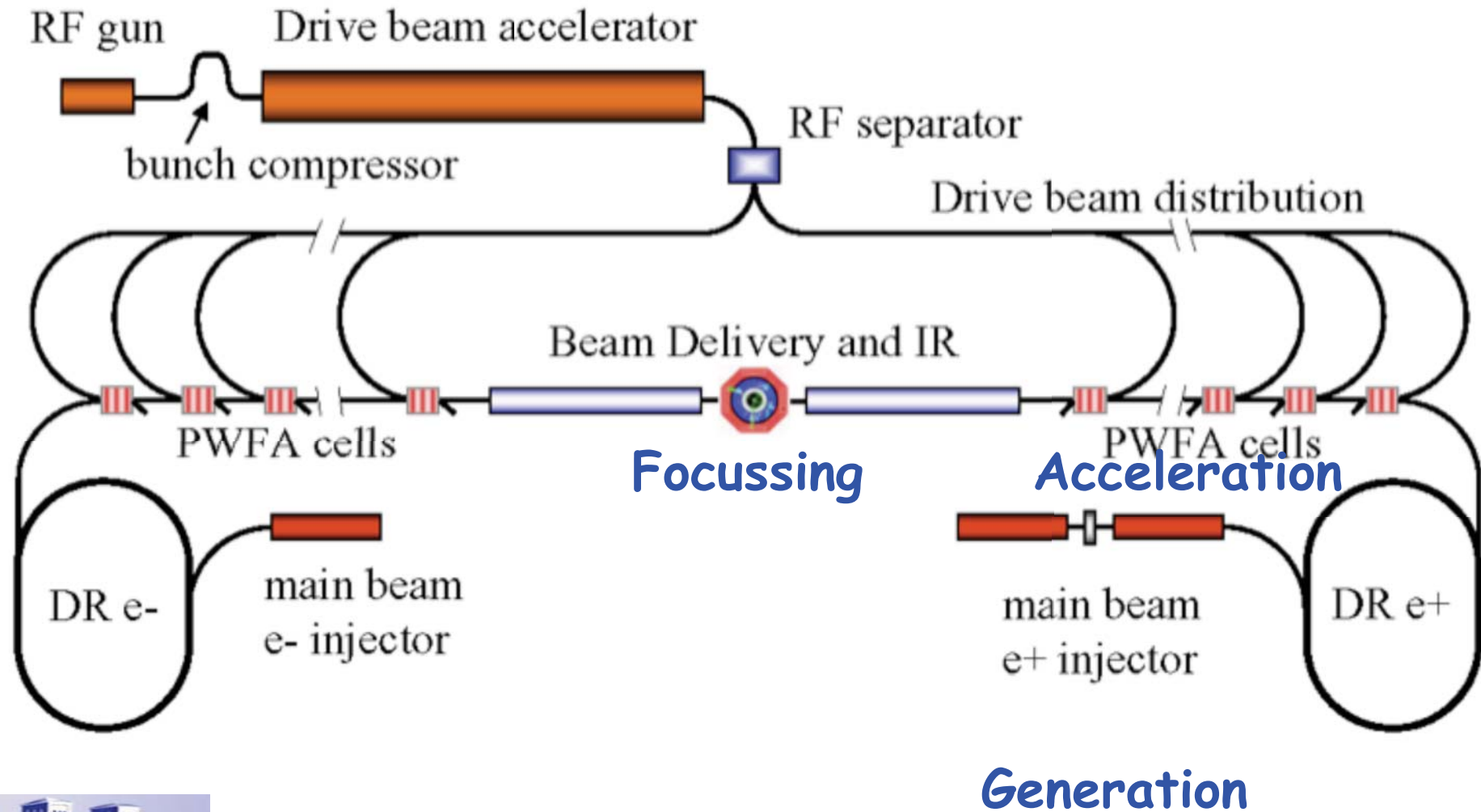
Energy Gain 20 GV/m

Diameter 0.1-1 mm



C. Joshi Sc. Am. Feb. 2006

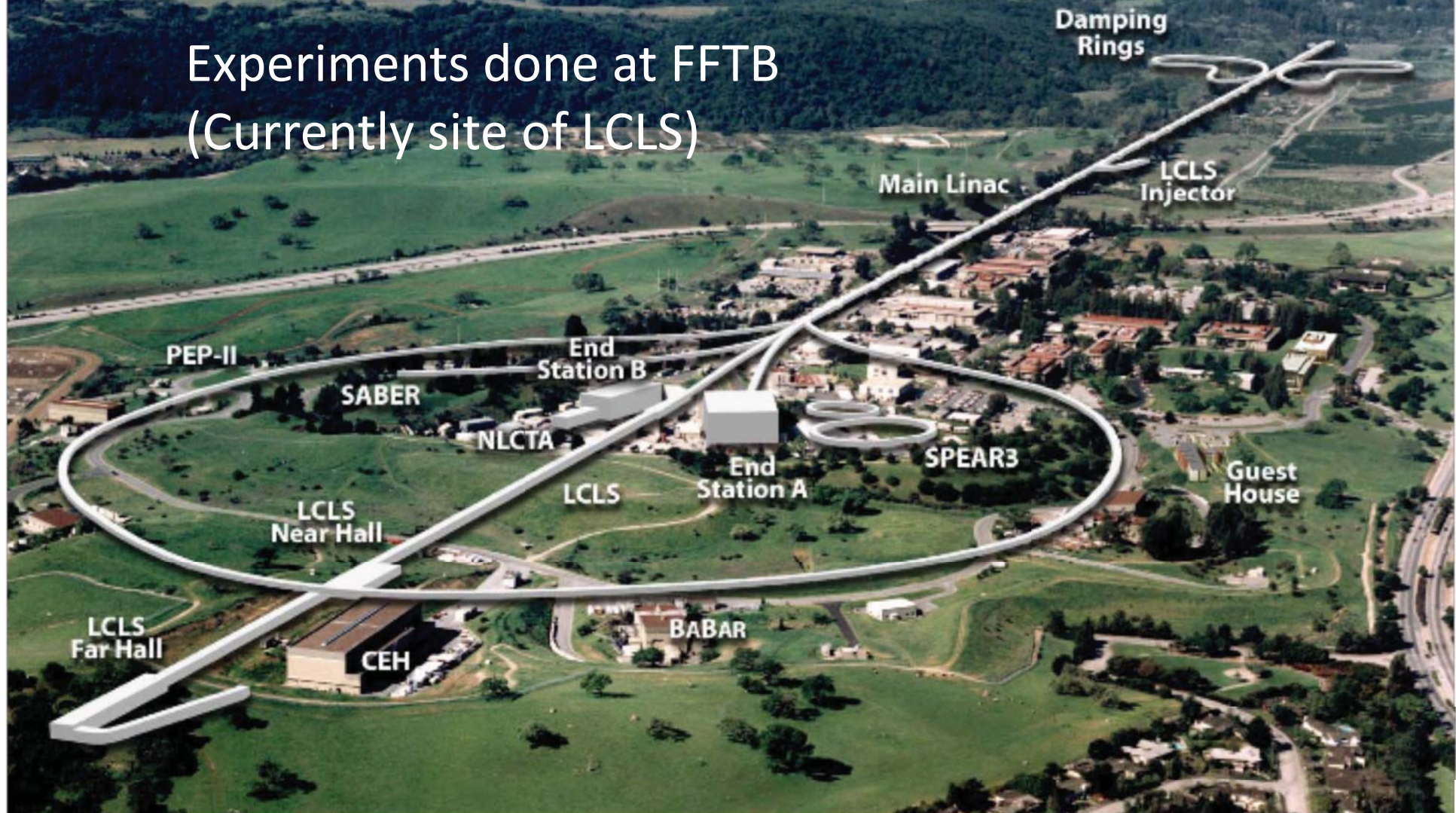
Plasma Wakefield Accelerator Linear Collider



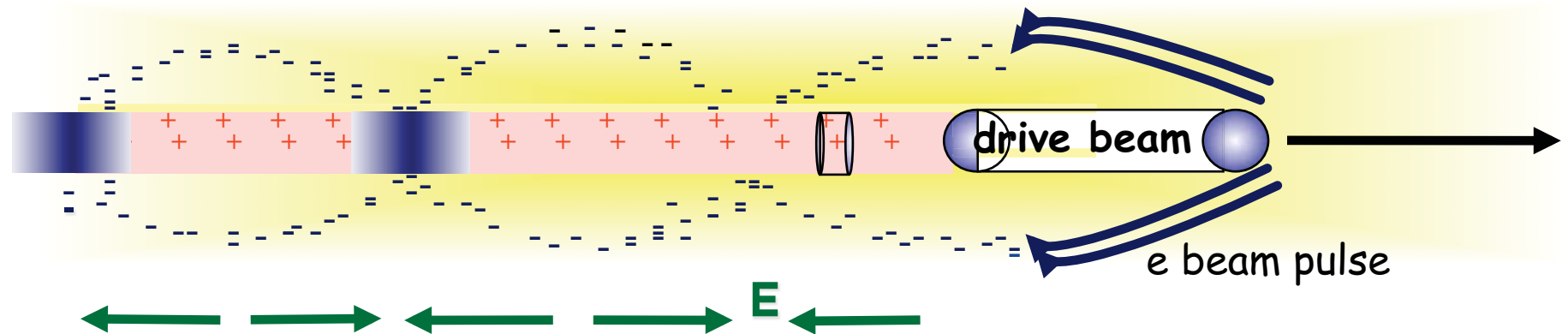
A. Seryi et al PAC Conf Proc.2009

Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC)

Experiments done at FFTB
(Currently site of LCLS)



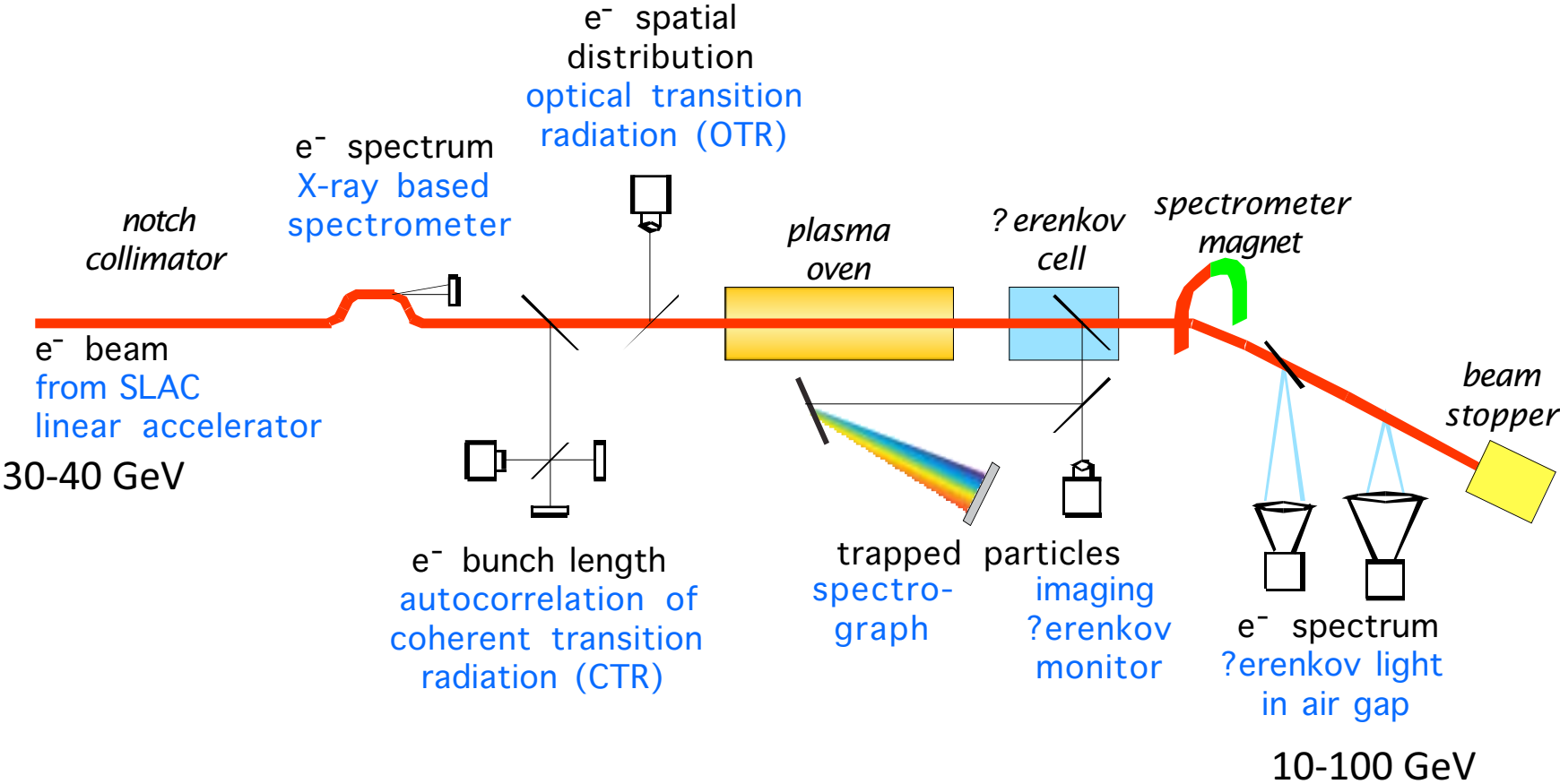
Ucla, Plasma Wakefield Acceleration Concept



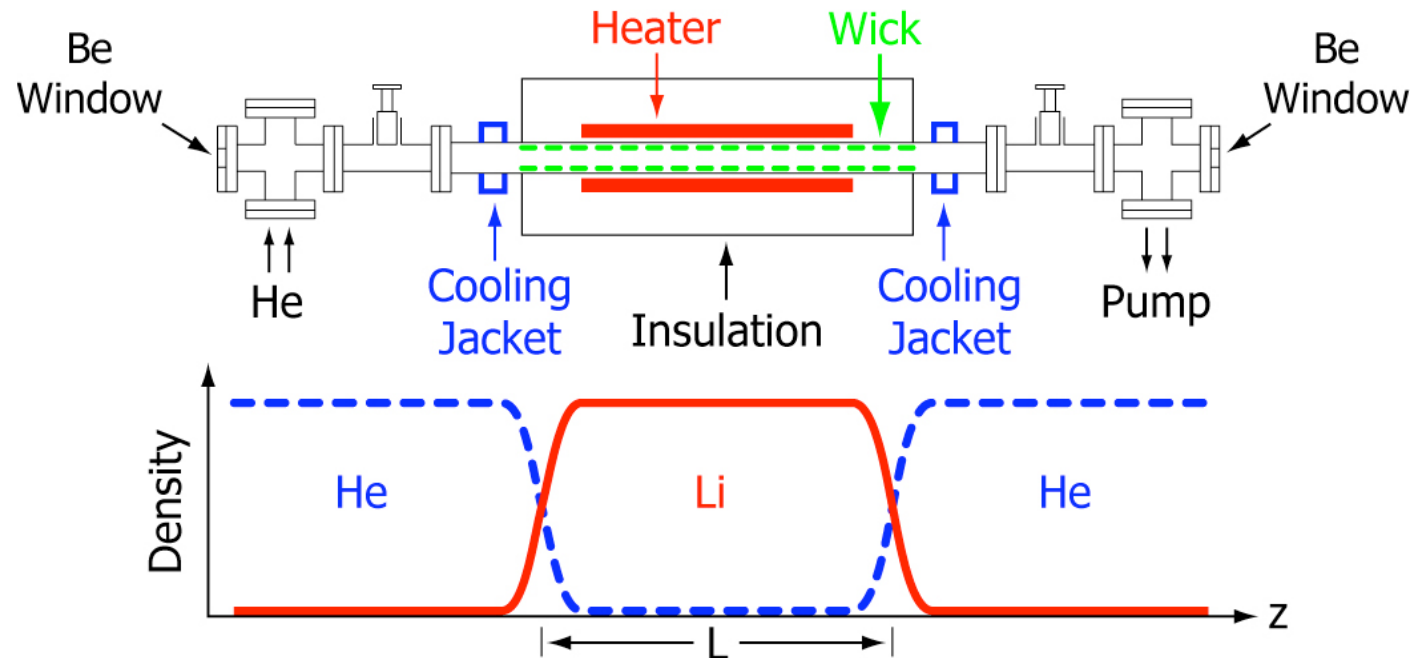
- Space charge force of the beam pulse displaces plasma electrons
- Plasma ion channel exerts restoring force => space charge wake

No dephasing between the particles and the wake

Experimental Setup



Lithium Plasma Source



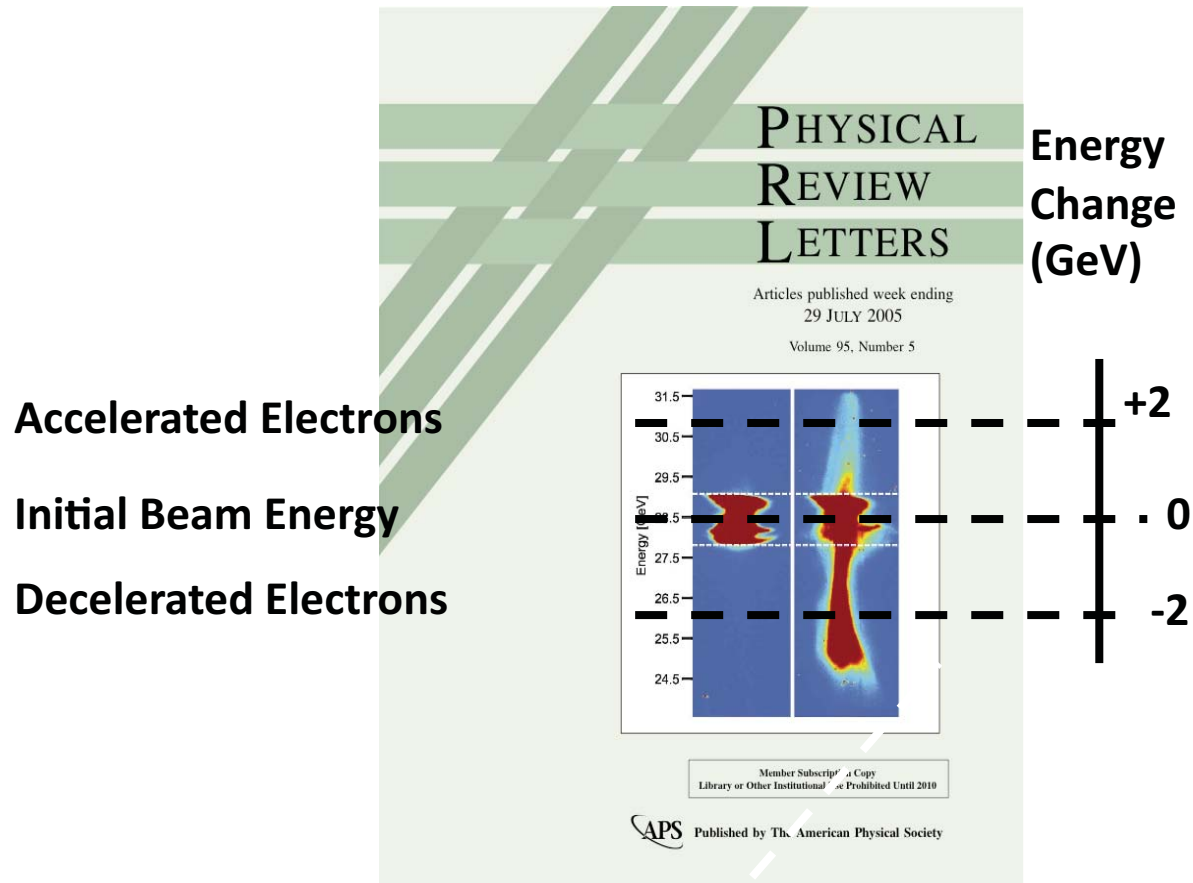
**Lithium Oven
Diagram**

How it works:

- 1) Heated to 800°C to vaporize solid Li.
- 2) Li vapor diffuses out to the He transition region and condenses on wick.
- 3) The molten Li wicks back to center, vaporizes and begins the process again.

- Be (low-Z) windows separate the He from the FFTB beam line vacuum.
- The He pressure determines the Li vapor density, and the heater power determines the Li vapor length

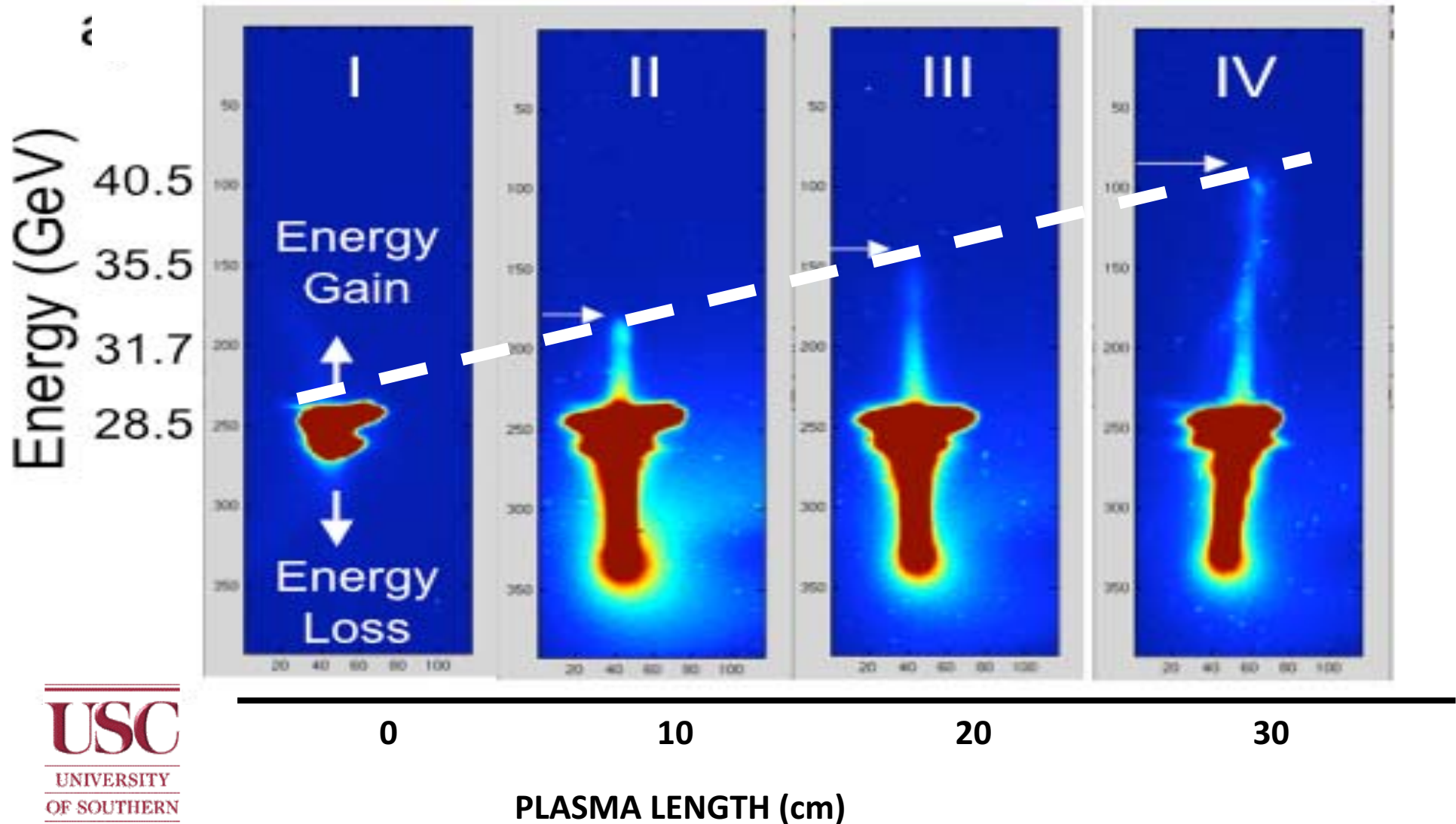
BREAKING THE 1 GeV BARRIER



$$n_e \approx 3.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3} \quad L \approx 10 \text{ cm}, \quad N \approx 1.8 \times 10^{10}, \quad \tau \approx 50 \text{ fs}$$



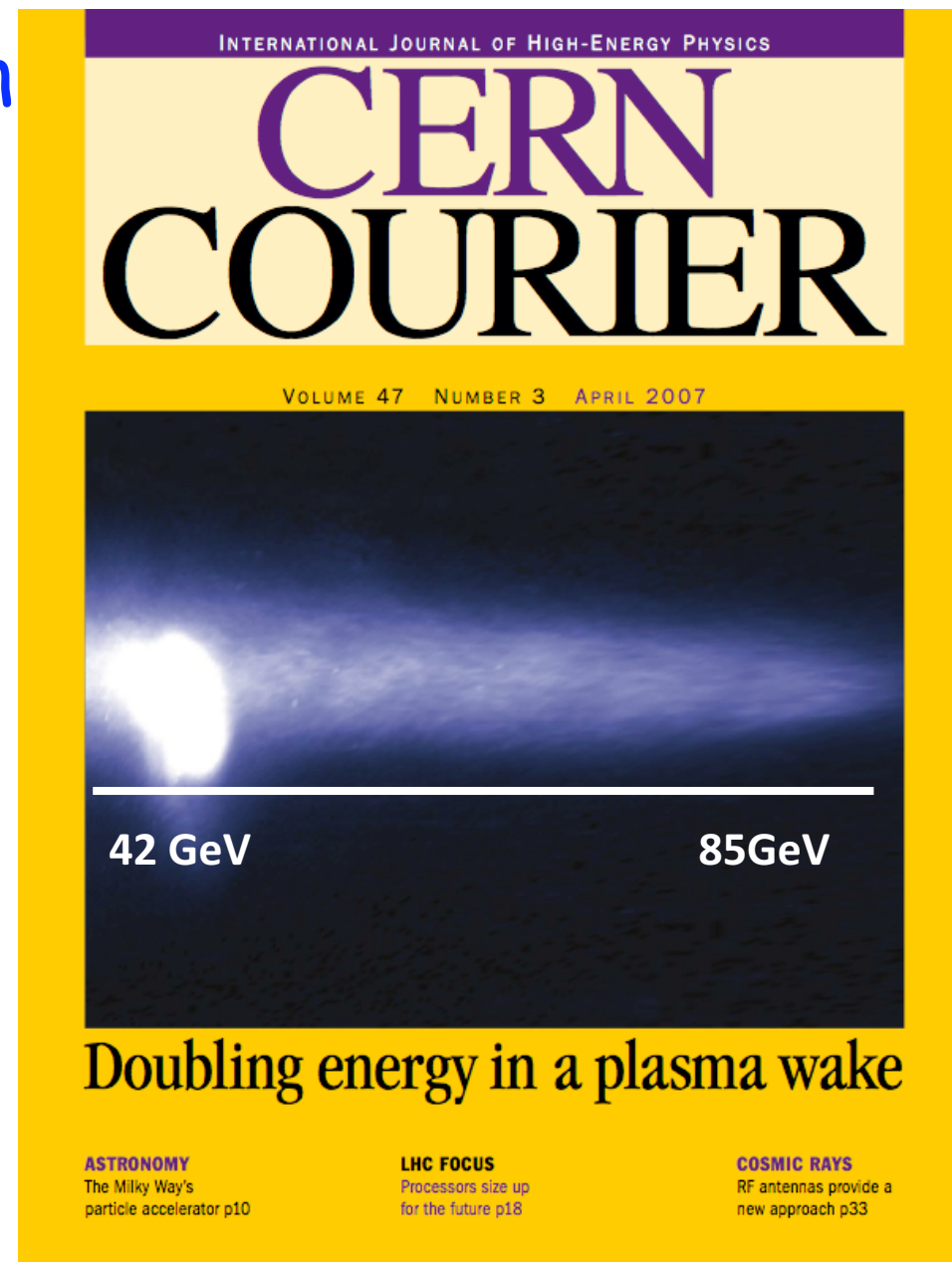
Ucla, Energy Gain Scales Linearly with Length



Spectacular Progress in Plasma Wakefield Acceleration

Energy Doubling of 42 Billion Volt Electrons Using an 85 cm Long Plasma Wakefield Accelerator

[Nature v 445,p741 \(2007\)](#)



But What About Positrons?

Positron Focusing by Plasma : Need a transverse electrostatic field

Positron Acceleration by Plasma: Need a longitudinal field

Intense Beams of Positrons for Positron-Plasma Interaction

Only place in the world to study this topic !!



$N = 4 \times 10^{10}$

Energy 50 GeV

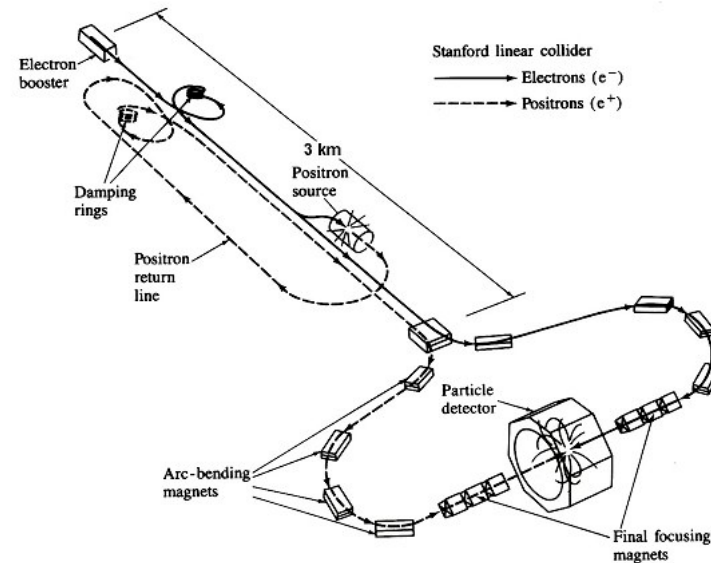
Rep Rate 60 HZ

Energy/pulse 320 J

Focal Spot Size 1 micron

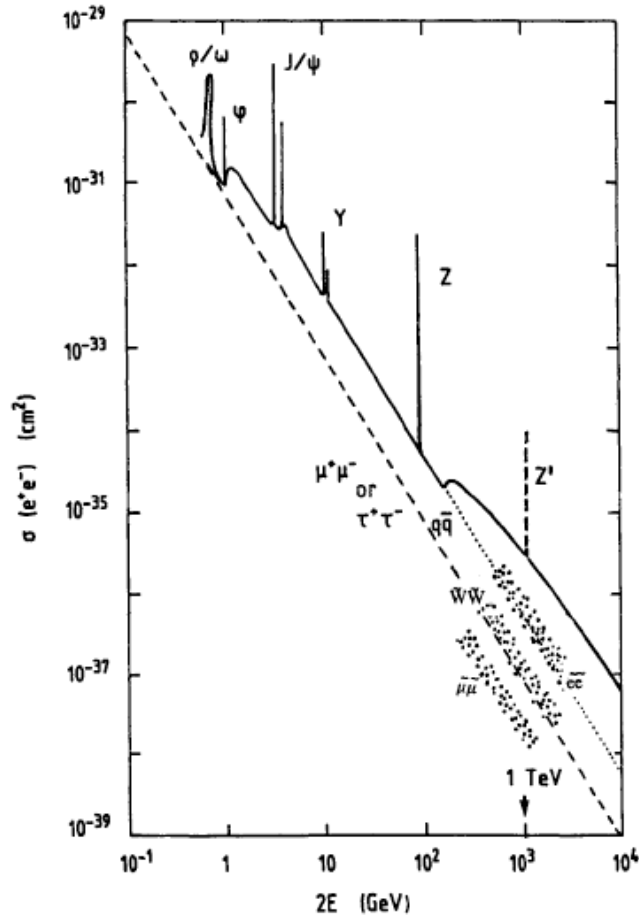
Pulse Width 4 ps

Focused Intensity $8 \times 10^{21} \text{ W/cm}^2$



Comparable to the most intense laser beams to-date

Positron-Electron Annihilation



Why don't the positrons annihilate with plasma electrons?

For fixed target collisions CM Energy must exceed 2.muon rest mass = 210 MeV

$$E^2 - (pc)^2 = E_{cm}^2$$

$$\left(\gamma_b mc^2 + 0.511\right)^2 - \left(\gamma_b mc^2\right)^2 = E_{cm}^2$$

$$\gamma_b mc^2 = 43.69 \text{ GeV} , \quad E_{cm} = 210 \text{ MeV}$$

Below this threshold in current experiments.

Bhabha cross section that will scatter positrons also very small

Even above this energy cross-section too small

Linear Plasma Wakefield Theory

In the linear regime plasma response to both electrons and positrons very similar

$$\left(\partial_t^2 + \omega_p^2\right) \frac{n_1}{n_o} = \mp \omega_p^2 \left(\frac{n_b(t)}{n_o}\right)$$

Large wake if beam density $n_b \sim n_o$

$$\tau_{\text{pulse}} \sim \pi \cdot \omega_p^{-1}$$

100fs $(10^{17}/n_o)^{1/2}$ and spot size c/ω_p :

$$\Rightarrow Q / \tau_{\text{pulse}} = 1 \text{ nCoul} / 100 \text{ fs} \quad (\sim 10 \text{ kA}) \text{ beam}$$

$$\nabla \cdot E = -4\pi e n_1 \Rightarrow eE = \frac{n_1}{n_o} \sqrt{\frac{n_o}{10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}}} 10 \text{ GeV/m} \cos \omega_p (t - z/c)$$

But interesting wakes are in the nonlinear blowout regime...



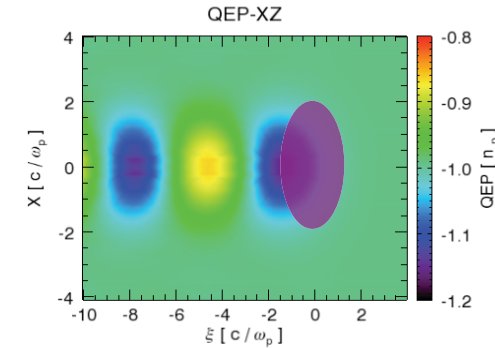
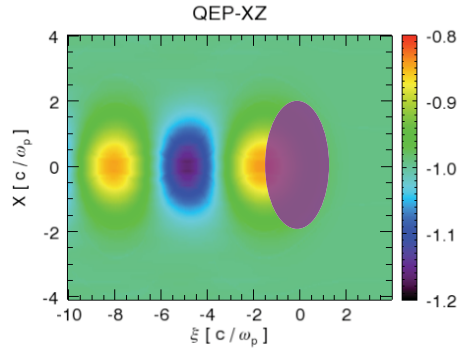
Linear wake fields driven by e^- and e^+ beams

e^- Beam

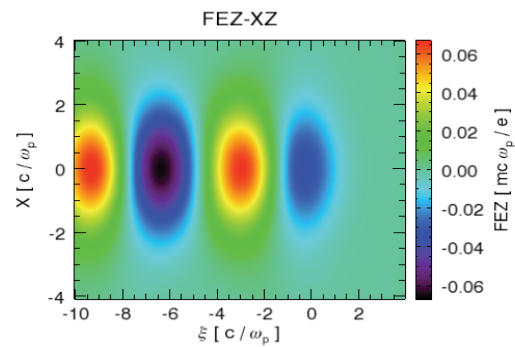
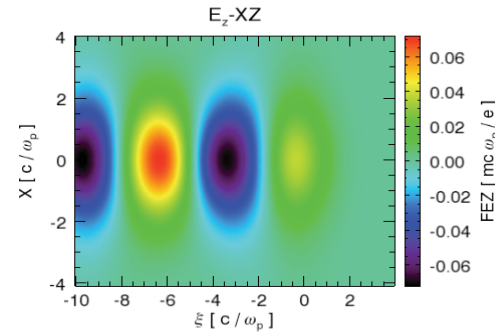
$n_b \ll n_p$

e^+ Beam

Plasma Density



Accelerating Field

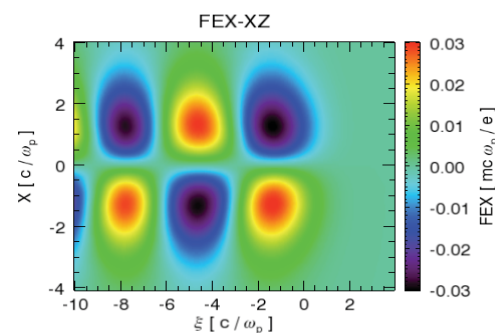
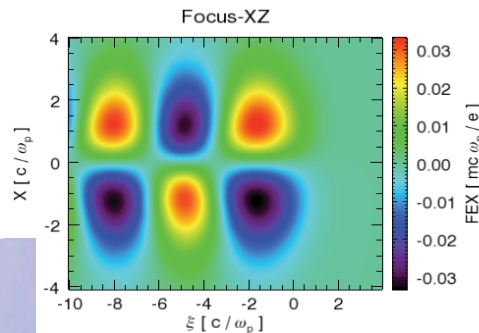


$$n_b = n_0 e^{-\frac{r^2}{2\sigma_r^2}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2\sigma_z^2}}$$

$$\sigma_r = 1.0 k_p^{-1}$$

$$\sigma_z = 1.0 k_p^{-1}$$

Focusing Field



QuickPIC simulations

By Weiming An and Warren B. Mori UCLA

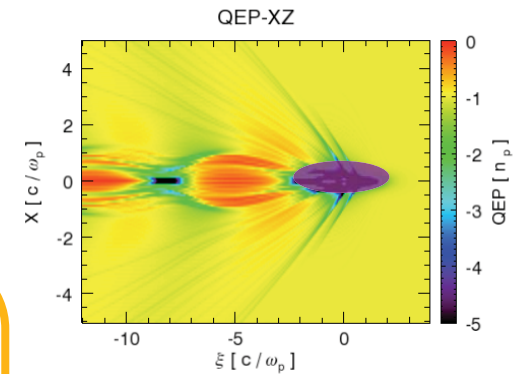
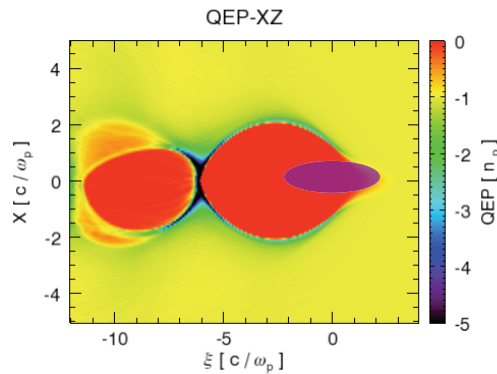
Nonlinear wake fields driven by e^- and e^+ beams

e^- Beam

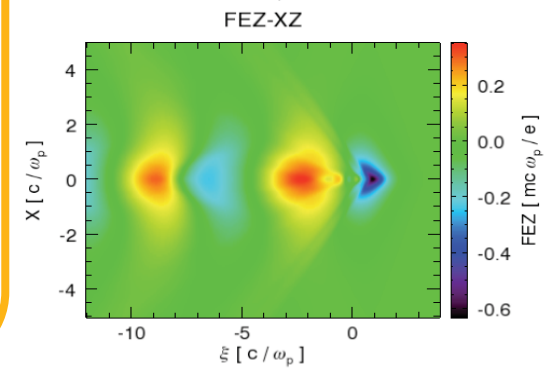
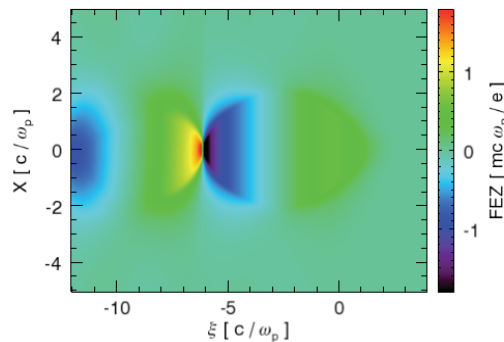
$n_b \gg n_p$

e^+ Beam

Plasma Density



Accelerating Field

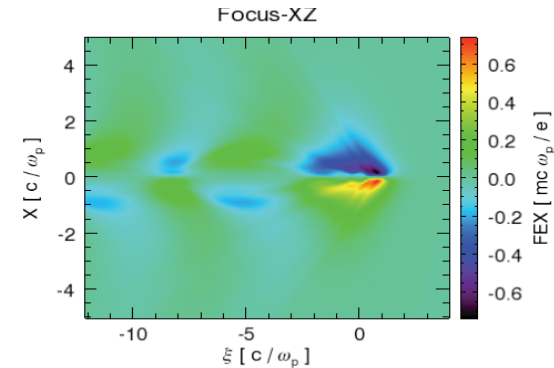
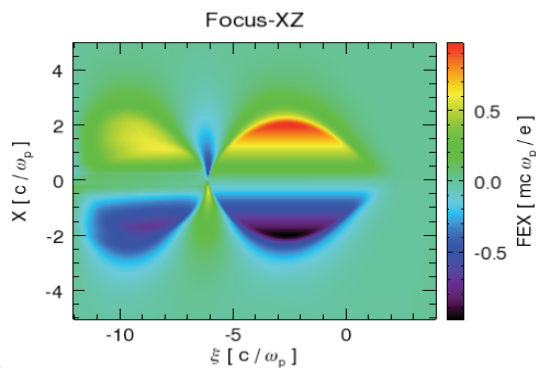


$$n_b = n_0 e^{-\frac{r^2}{2\sigma_r^2}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2\sigma_z^2}}$$

$$\sigma_r = 0.2k_p^{-1}$$

$$\sigma_z = 1.0k_p^{-1}$$

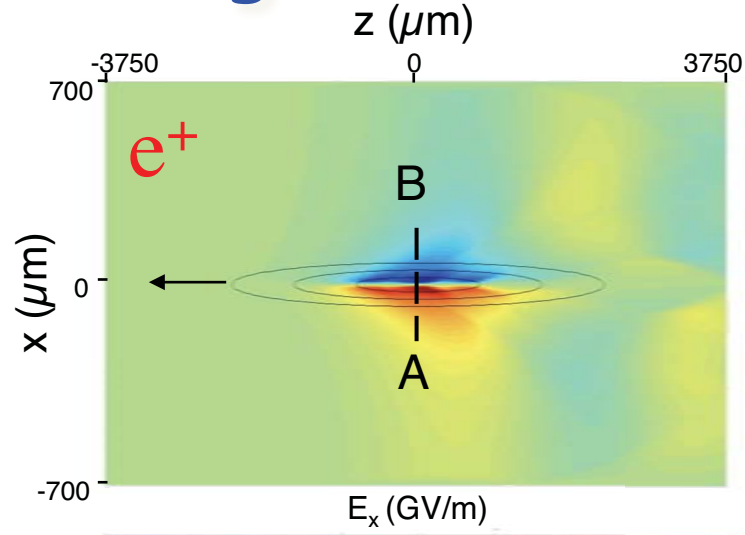
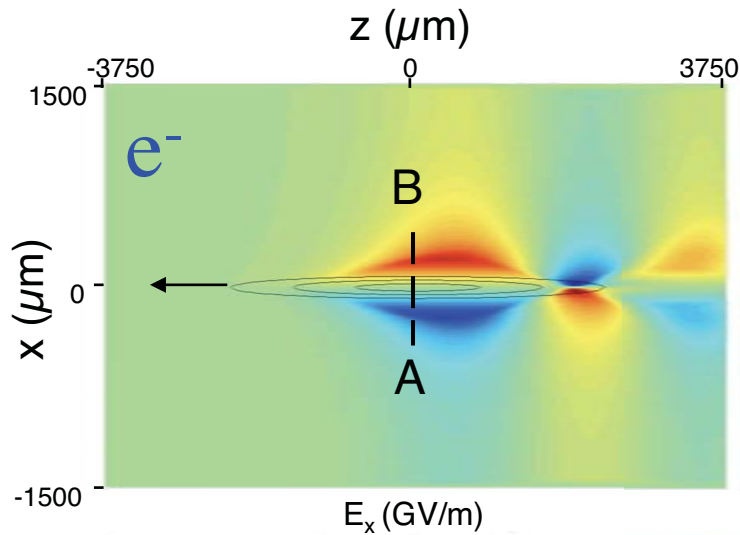
Focusing Field



QuickPIC simulations

By Weiming An and Warren B. Mori UCLA

e^- & e^+ Focusing Fields



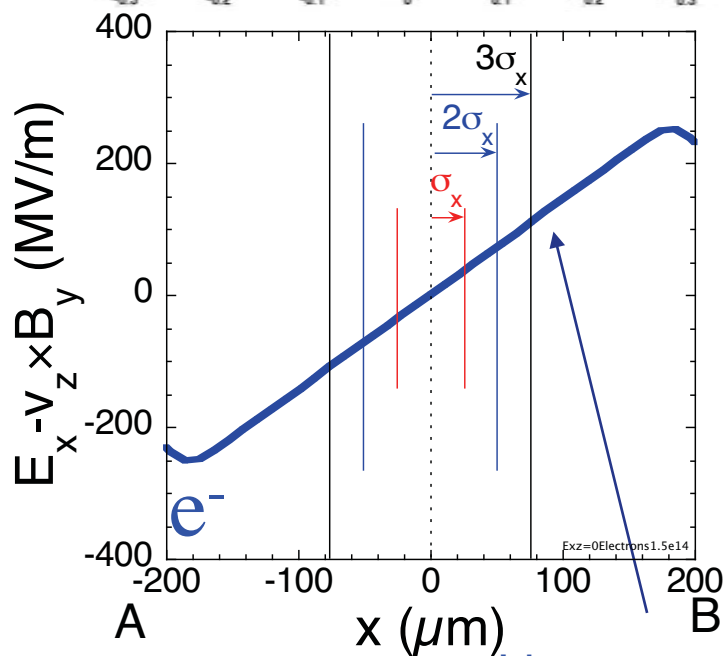
QuickPIC

$$\sigma_{x0} = \sigma_{y0} = 25 \mu\text{m}$$

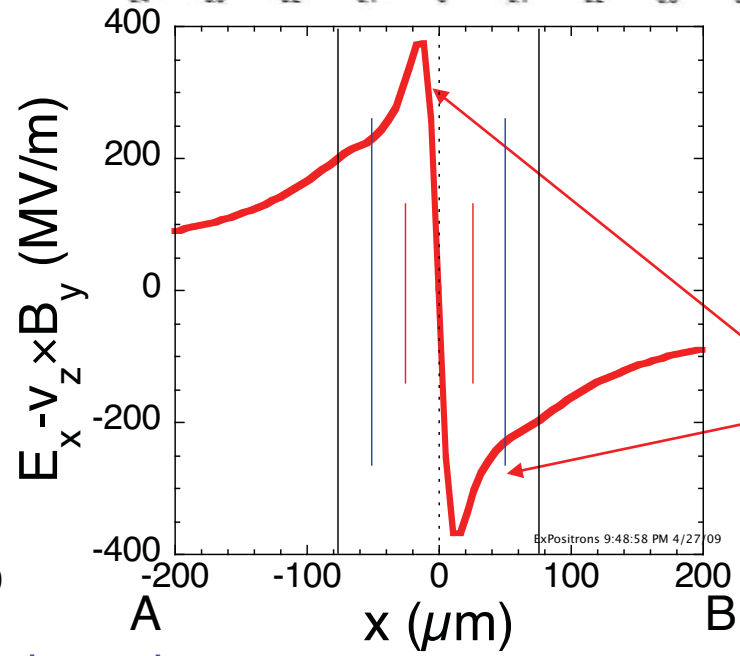
$$\sigma_z = 730 \mu\text{m}$$

$$N = 1.9 \times 10^{10} \text{ e}^+/\text{e}^-$$

$$n_e = 1.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$



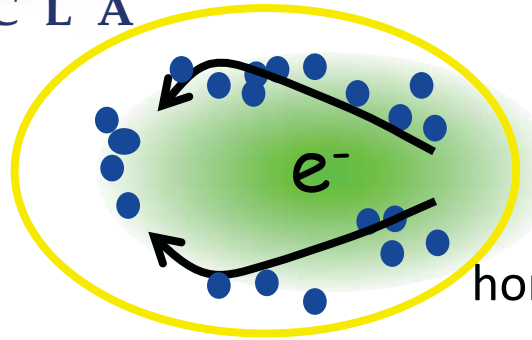
Linear, no aberrations



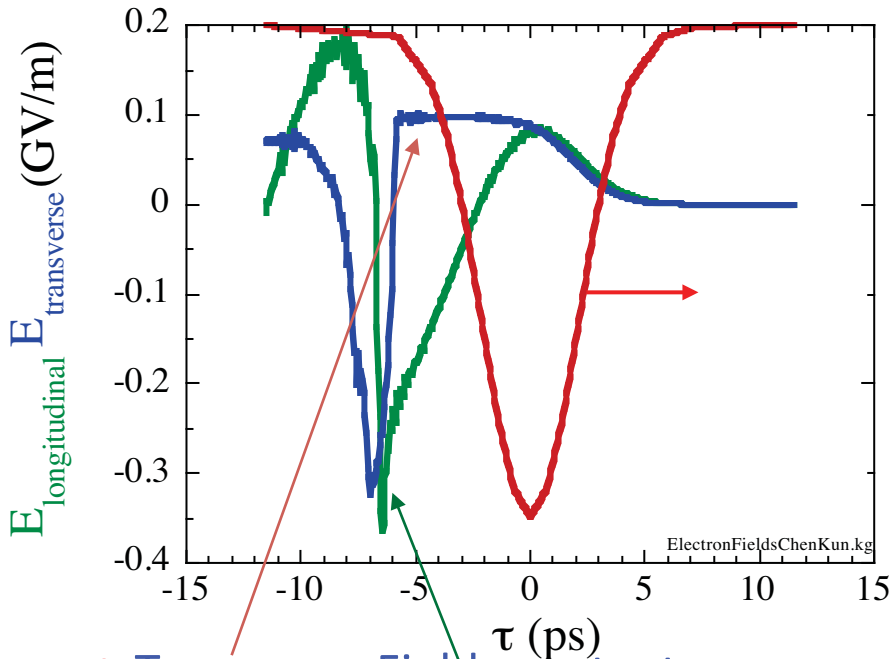
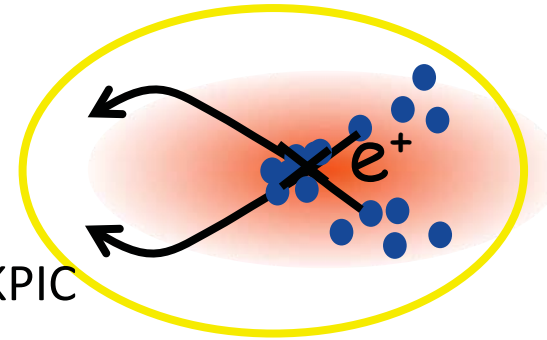
Non-linear, aberrations



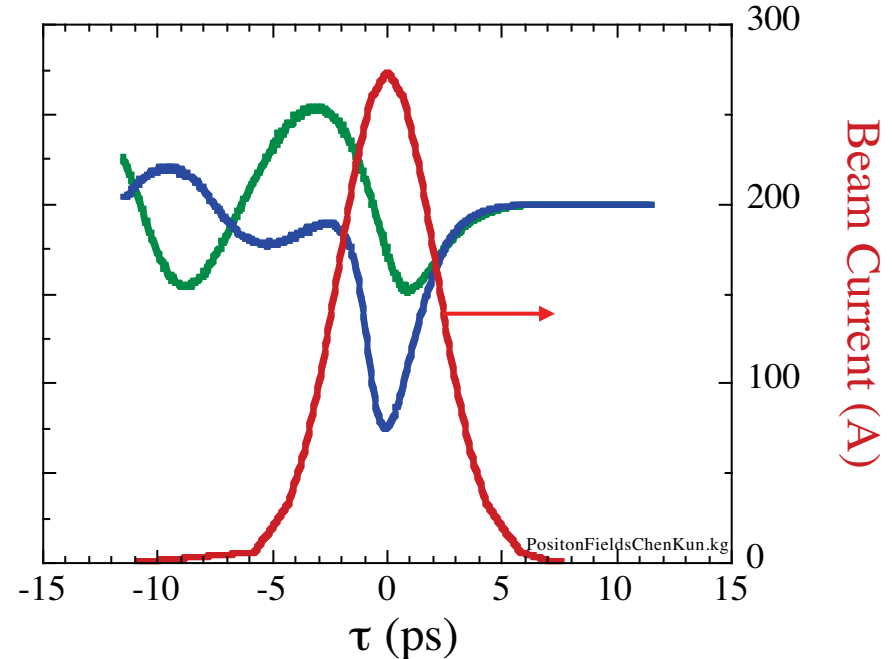
WAKEFIELD FIELDS for e^- & e^+



$n_e = 1.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
homogeneous, QUICKPIC

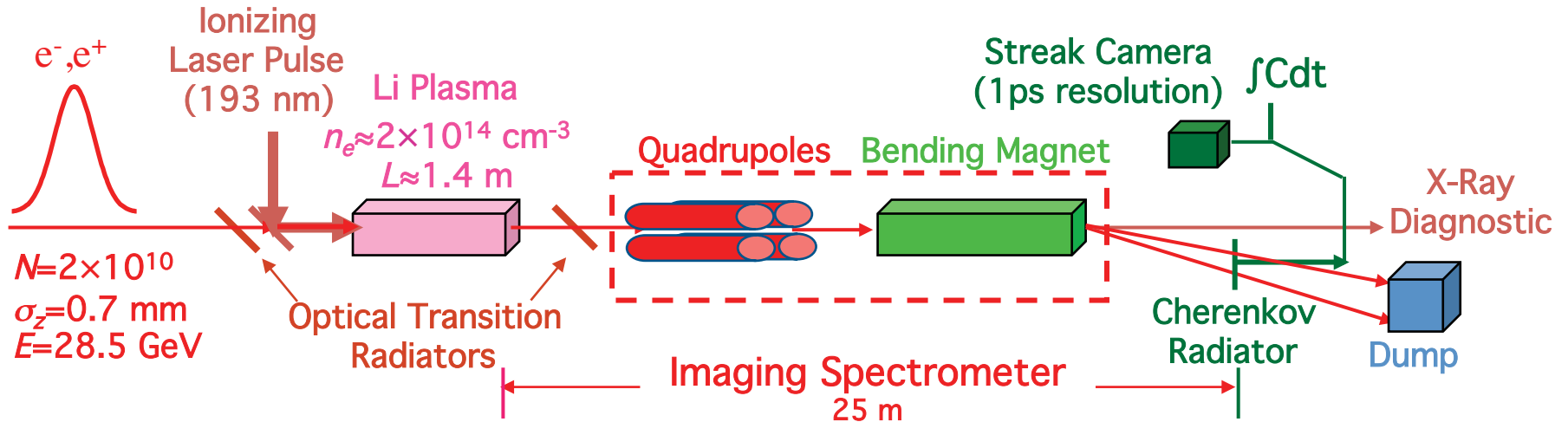


- Transverse Field constant After Plasma electrons Blown-Out
- Longitudinal field Shows Accelerating "Spike"



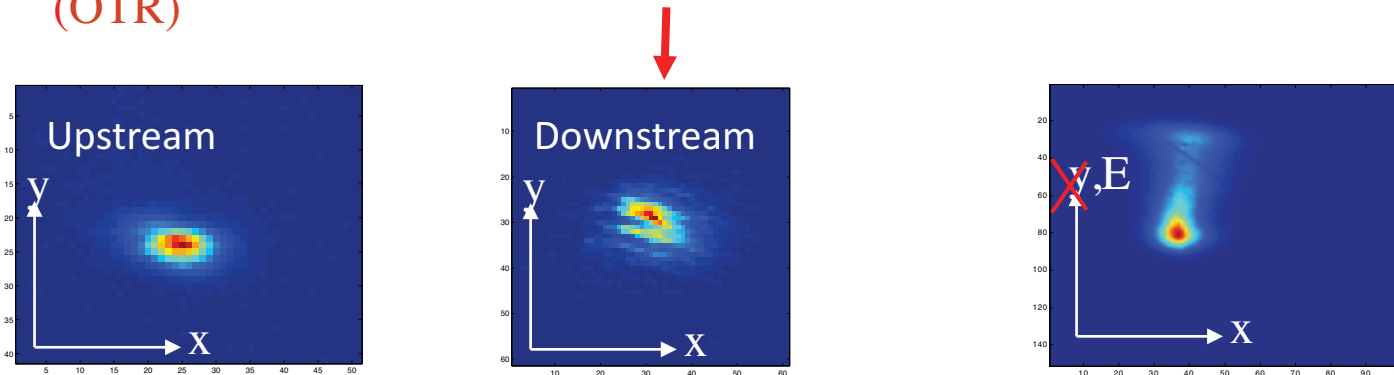
- Fields vary along r , stronger
- Less Acceleration

EXPERIMENTAL SET UP



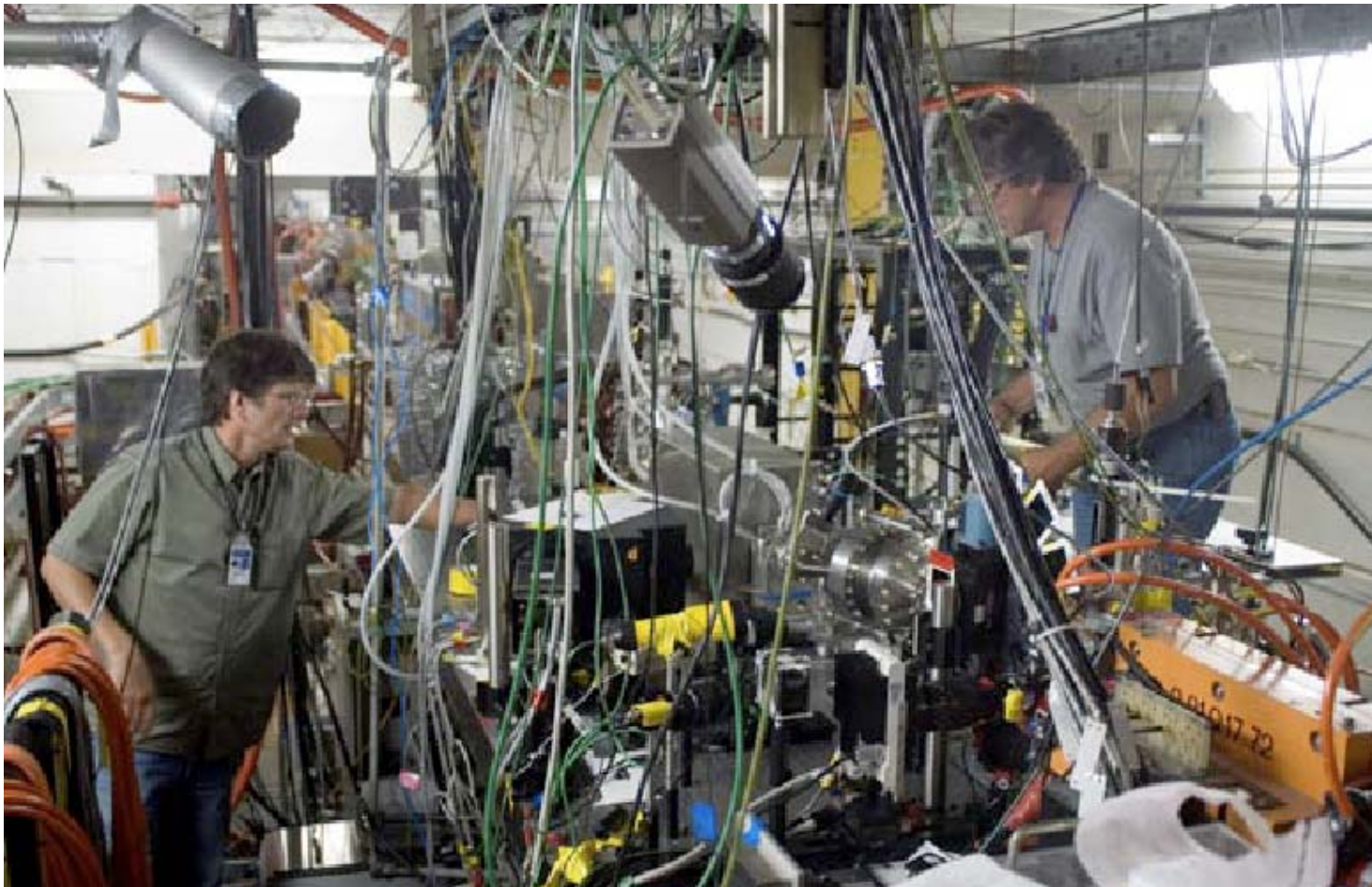
- Optical Transition Radiation (OTR)

- CHERENKOV (aerogel)



- 1:1 imaging, spatial resolution $< 9 \mu\text{m}$

- Spatial resolution $\approx 100 \mu\text{m}$
 - Energy resolution $\approx 30 \text{ MeV}$
 - Time resolution: $\approx 1 \text{ ps}$



Life of an experimentalist

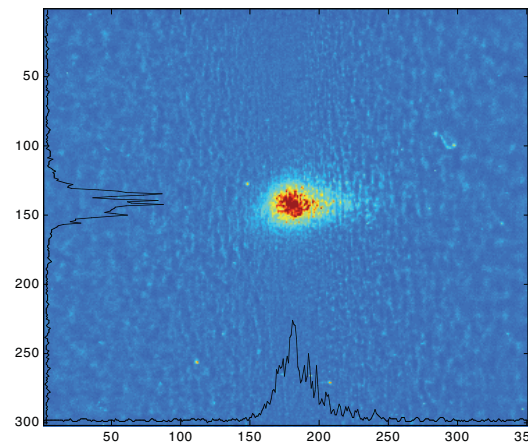
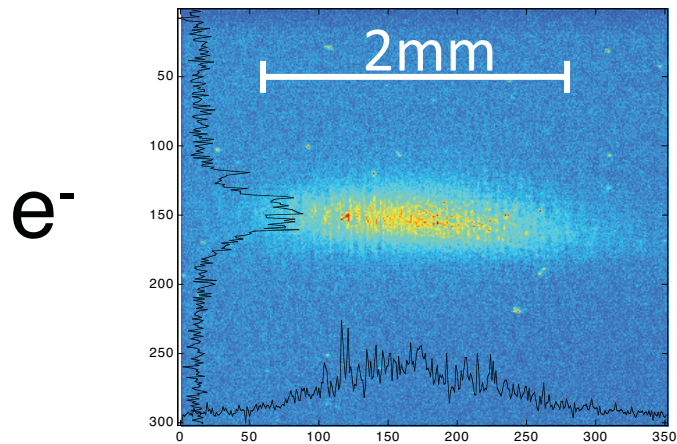
From: Chan Joshi, UCLA Personal archives

FOCUSING OF e^-/e^+

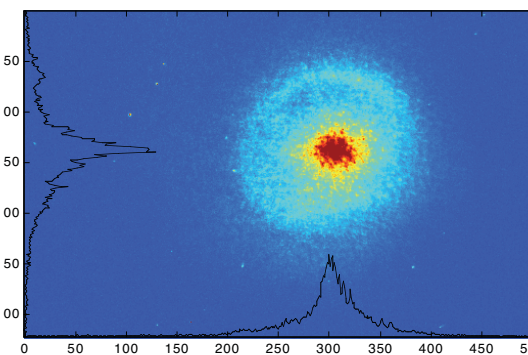
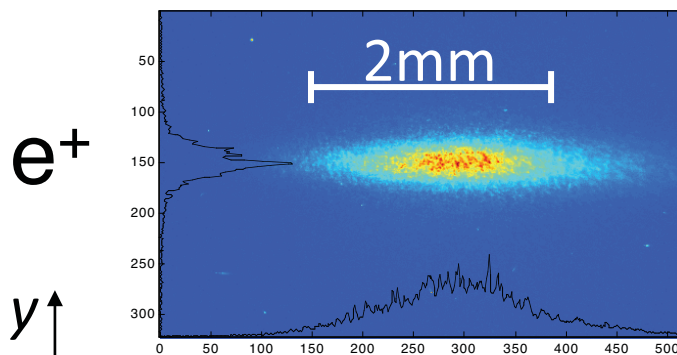
- Beam images ≈ 1 m from plasma exit ($\epsilon_x \neq \epsilon_y$)

$n_e = 0$

$n_e \approx 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



- *Ideal Plasma Lens in Blow-Out Regime*



- *Plasma Lens with Aberrations (Halo Formation)*

M.Hogan et al Phys. Rev. Letts. 2002)

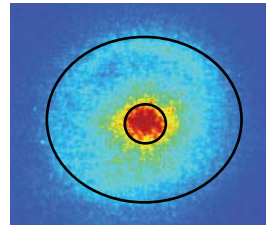
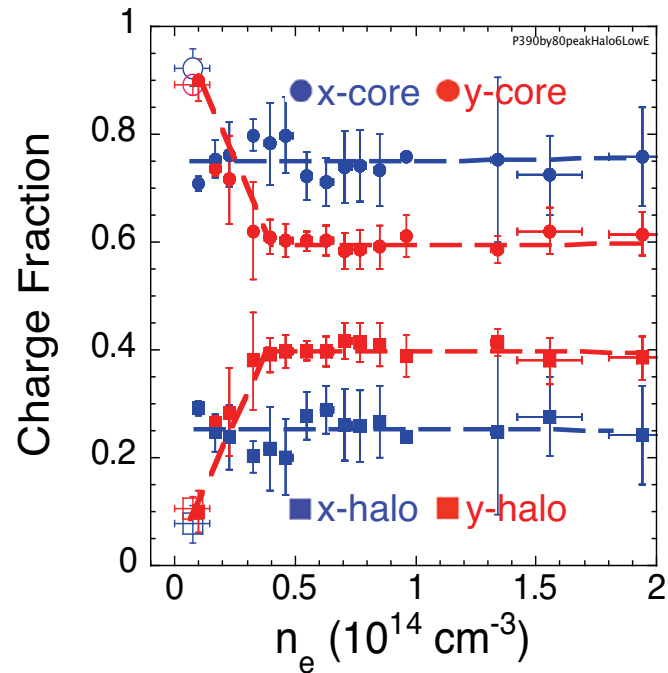
P.Muggli et al Phys. Rev. Letts 101 055001, (2008),



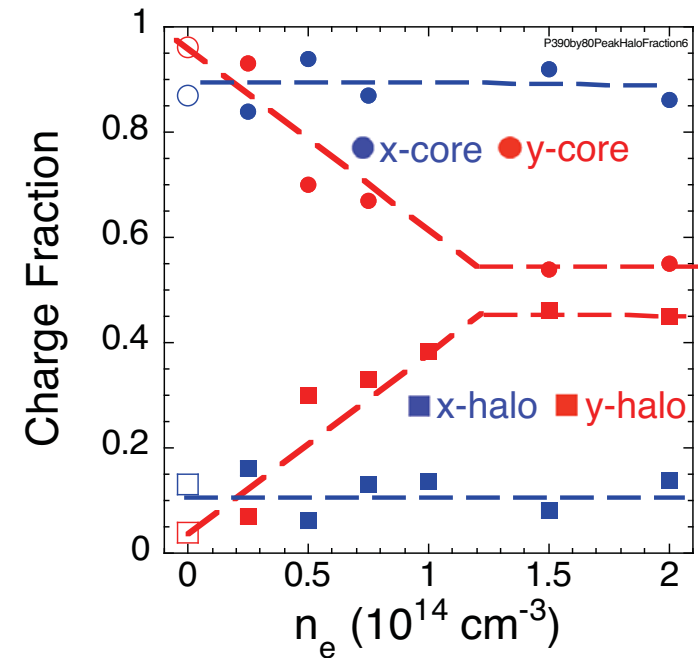
EXPERIMENT/SIMULATIONS: HALO FORMATION

$$\sigma_{x0} \approx \sigma_{y0} \approx 25 \mu\text{m}, \quad \varepsilon_{N_x} \approx 390 \times 10^{-6}, \quad \varepsilon_{N_y} \approx 80 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m-rad}, \quad N = 1.9 \times 10^{10} \text{ e}^+, \quad L \approx 1.4 \text{ m}$$

Experiment



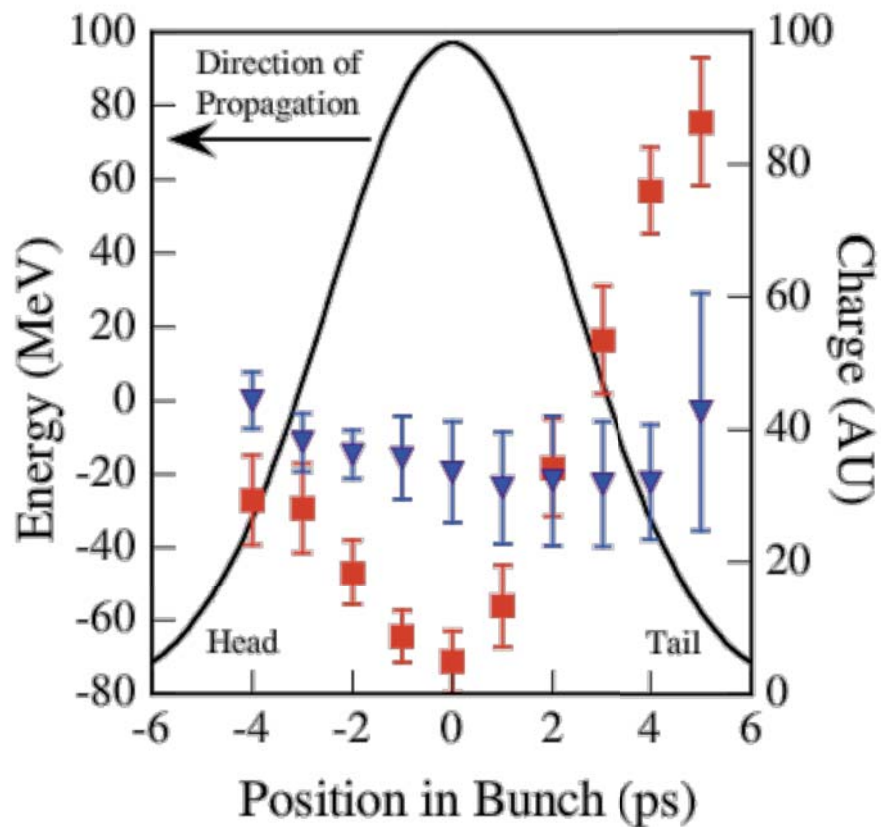
Simulations



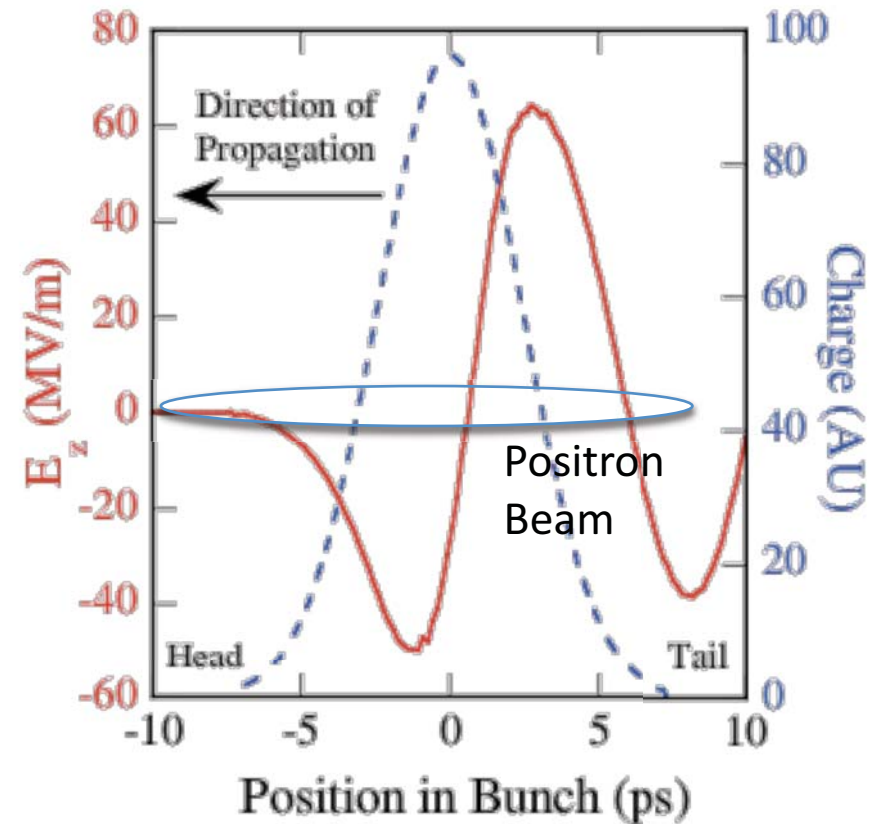
Positron Acceleration

Time Resolved Spectrum

$N=1.2 \times 10^{10} e^+$, $n_e=1.8 \times 10^{14} \text{cm}^{-3}$,
 $L=1.4 \text{ m}$



Wake Structure in Plasma



B.E. Blue et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 90, 214801 (2003).

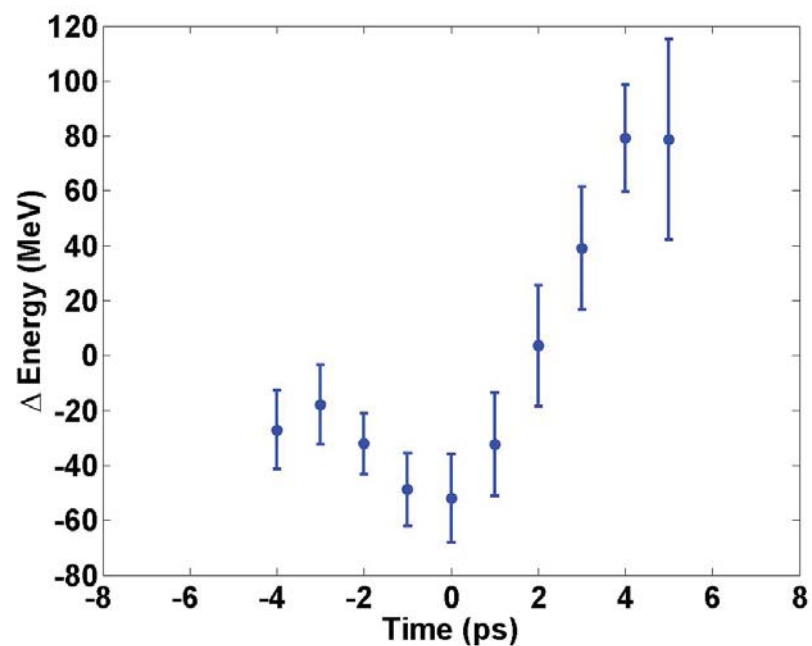
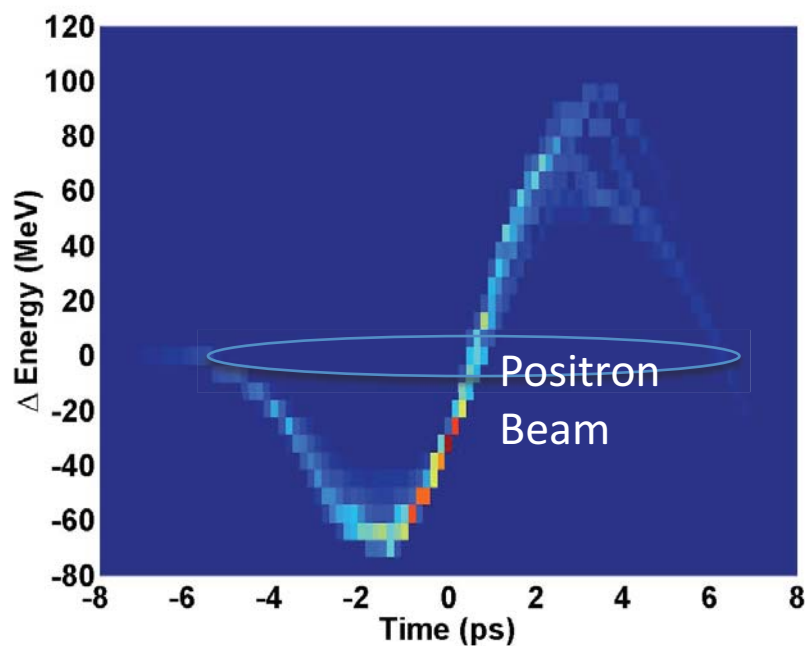
Energy Gain & Loss of Positrons in a Plasma Wake

OSIRIS Simulation Prediction:

Experimental Measurement:

Simulation	<u>Peak Energy Loss</u>
Experiment	64 MeV
	65±10 MeV

<u>Peak Energy Gain</u>
78 MeV
79±15 MeV



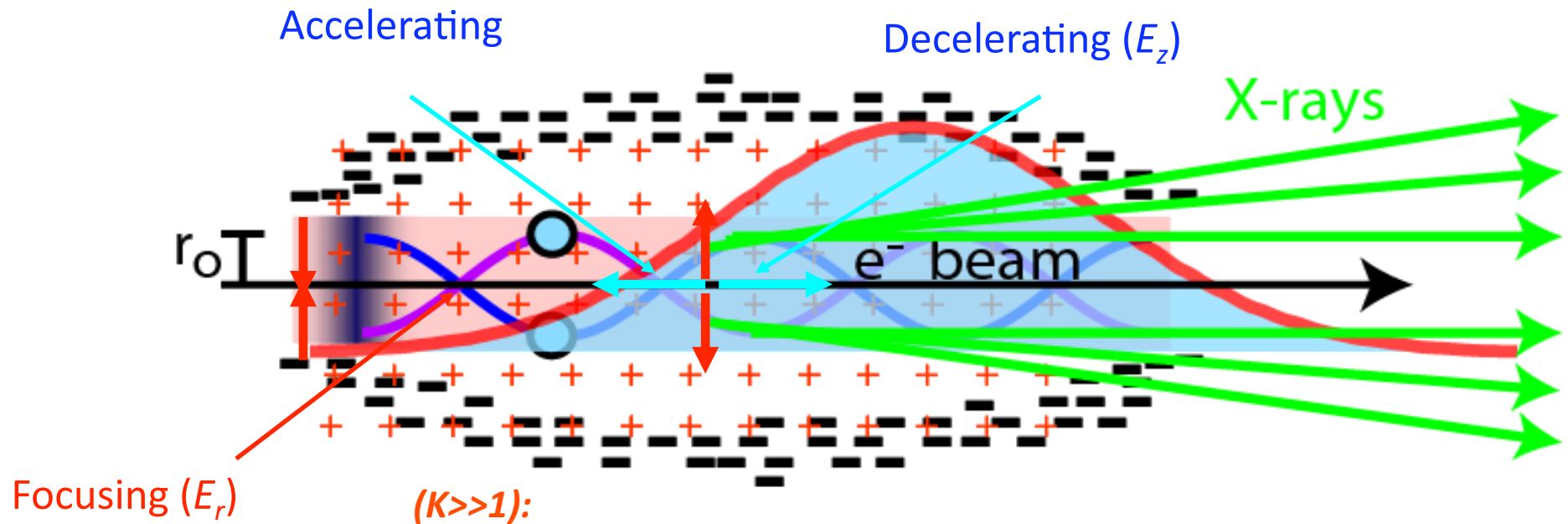
5×10^8 e⁺ in 1 ps bin at +4 ps

(Brent Blue et al Phys,Rev.Letts 2002)

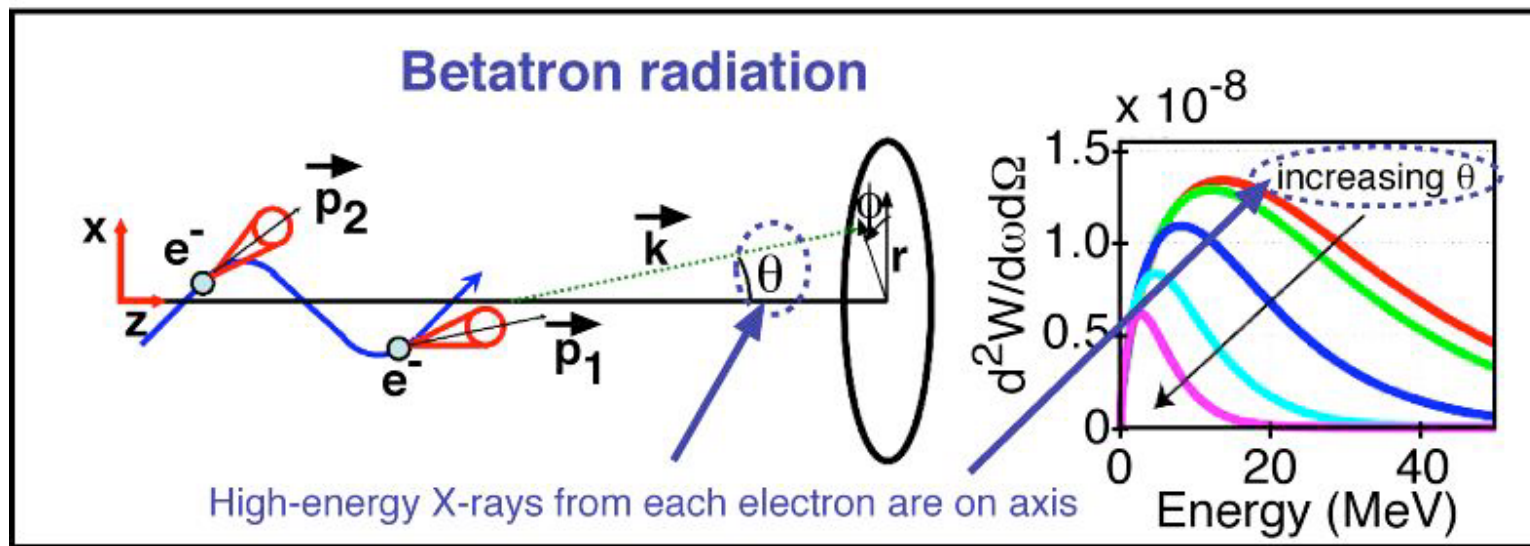
Positron Production Using Plasmas

Plasma Wiggler for MeV X-ray Production

- Positron production needs 50 MV X-Rays
- Use an ion column produced by a dense electron beam as a wiggler
- If $n_b > n_{pe}$, all plasma e^- are blown-out creating an ion column.
Betatron motion in this wiggler produces X-ray radiation.



For "high-K" wigglers, high-energy photons are emitted in the near forward direction



Scaling Laws for Betatron radiation

Wiggler strength:

$$K = \frac{\gamma \omega_{\beta}}{c} r_o = f(n_p, r_o, \gamma) = 173$$

Critical frequency on-axis

$$\omega_c = \frac{3\omega_{\beta}^2 \gamma^3}{2c} r_o = f(n_p, r_o, \gamma^2) = 49.6 \text{ MeV}$$

Larmor Formula

$$\frac{dE}{dz} = \frac{1}{3} r_e m_e c^2 \gamma^2 k_{\beta}^2 K^2 = f(n_p^2, r_o^2, \gamma^2) = 4.3 \text{ GeV} / m$$

Energy Loss:

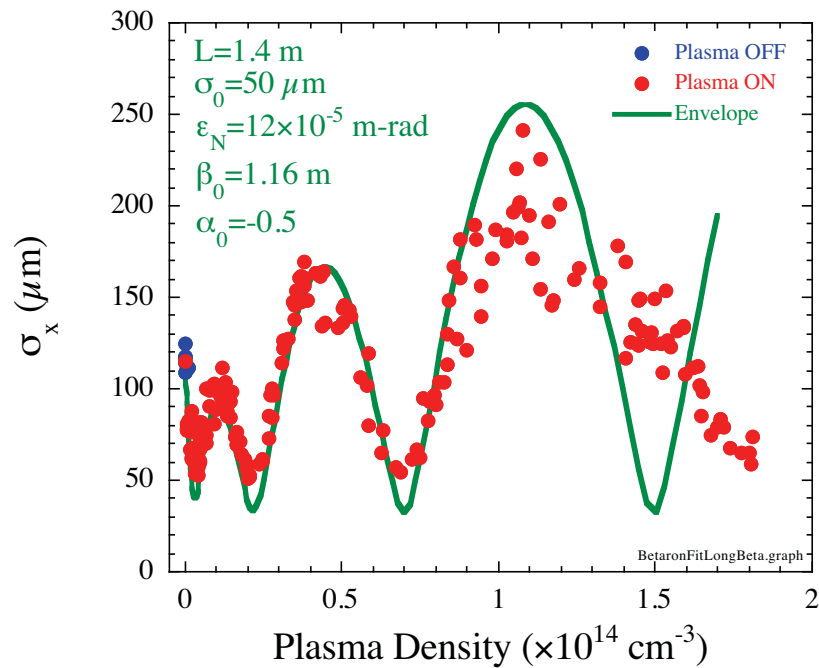
Typical Parameters

$$n_{pe} = 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}, \quad \gamma = 56000, \quad r_o = 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}:$$

$$\text{Giving: } E_r = 27 \text{ GV/m}, \quad \lambda_{\beta} = 2 \text{ cm}, \quad B/r = 9 \text{ MT/m}$$

β -TRON RADIATION IN PLASMAS

Beam Envelope Oscillations in Ion Column



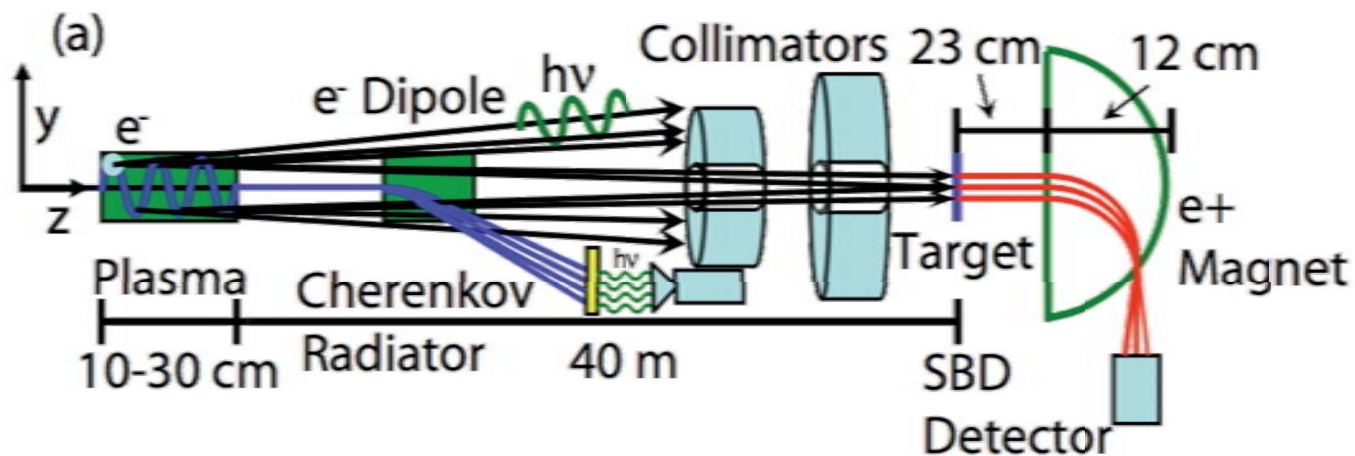
Betatron Radiation Spot



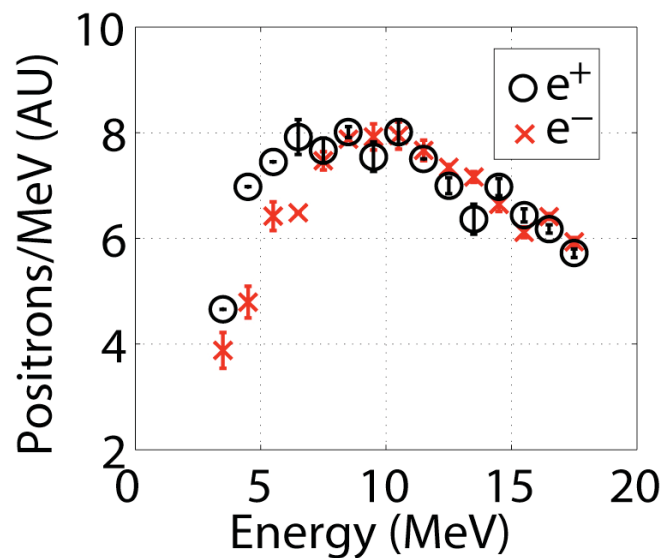
$$\lambda_\beta \cong 0.91 \text{ m} \quad N_{\lambda_\beta} \cong 1.5$$

$$\hbar\omega_c \approx \text{keV} \quad n_e = 1.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

β -Tron Radiation Produced Pairs



Johnson, AAC 06, Proceedings



Both electron and positron spectra measured

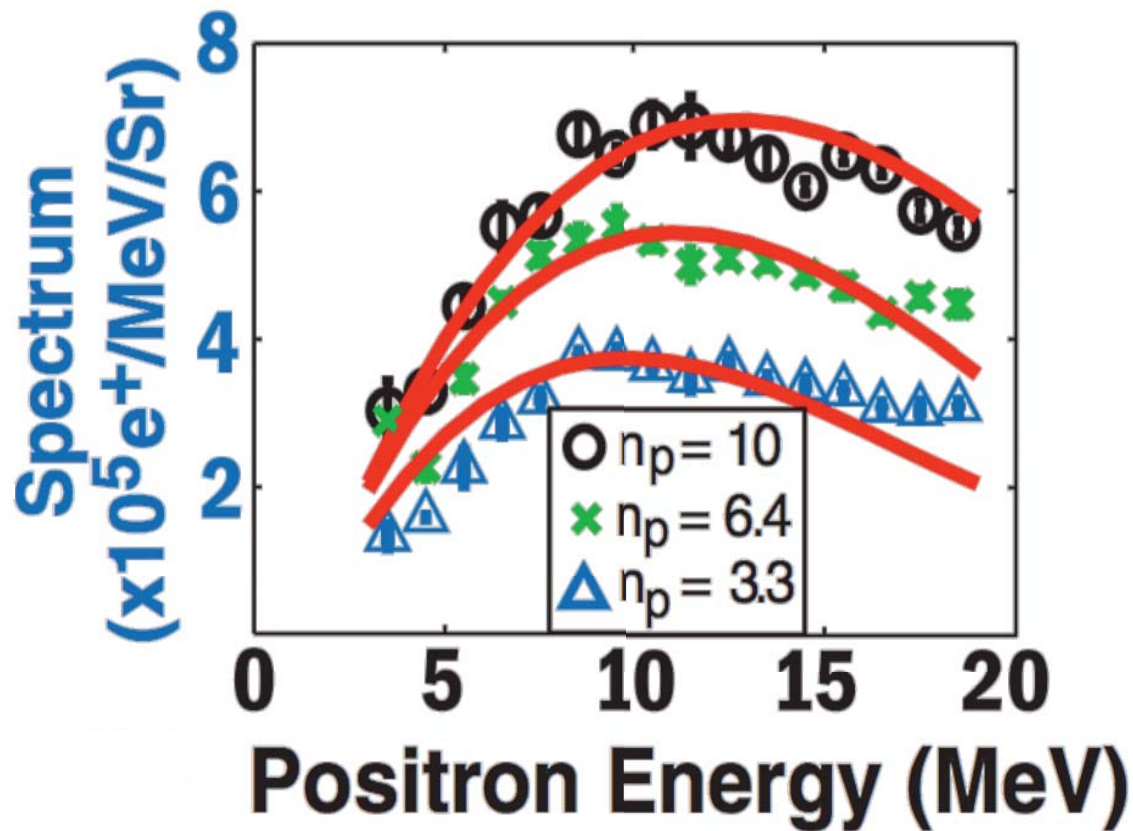
Johnson, PRL 97, 2006

Measured Positron Spectra Excellent Agreement with Theory

$n_{pe} = 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$,
 $\gamma = 56000$,
 $r_0 = 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$:

Giving:

$E_r = 27 \text{ GV/m}$,
 $\lambda_\beta = 2 \text{ cm}$,
 $B/r = 9 \text{ MT/m}$



Summary on Positron Production

- Using a 28 GeV beam radiation loss of 4.2 GeV/m demonstrated.
- Since half the energy is above the critical frequency , 50 MeV photons , this loss represents ~ 500 photons/e
- This is within an order of magnitude of what is needed for a future linear collider
- Open Questions : circularly polarized photons?

Positron-Plasma Interactions: Where to next?

FACET: Facility for Second Generation AA Research @SLAC

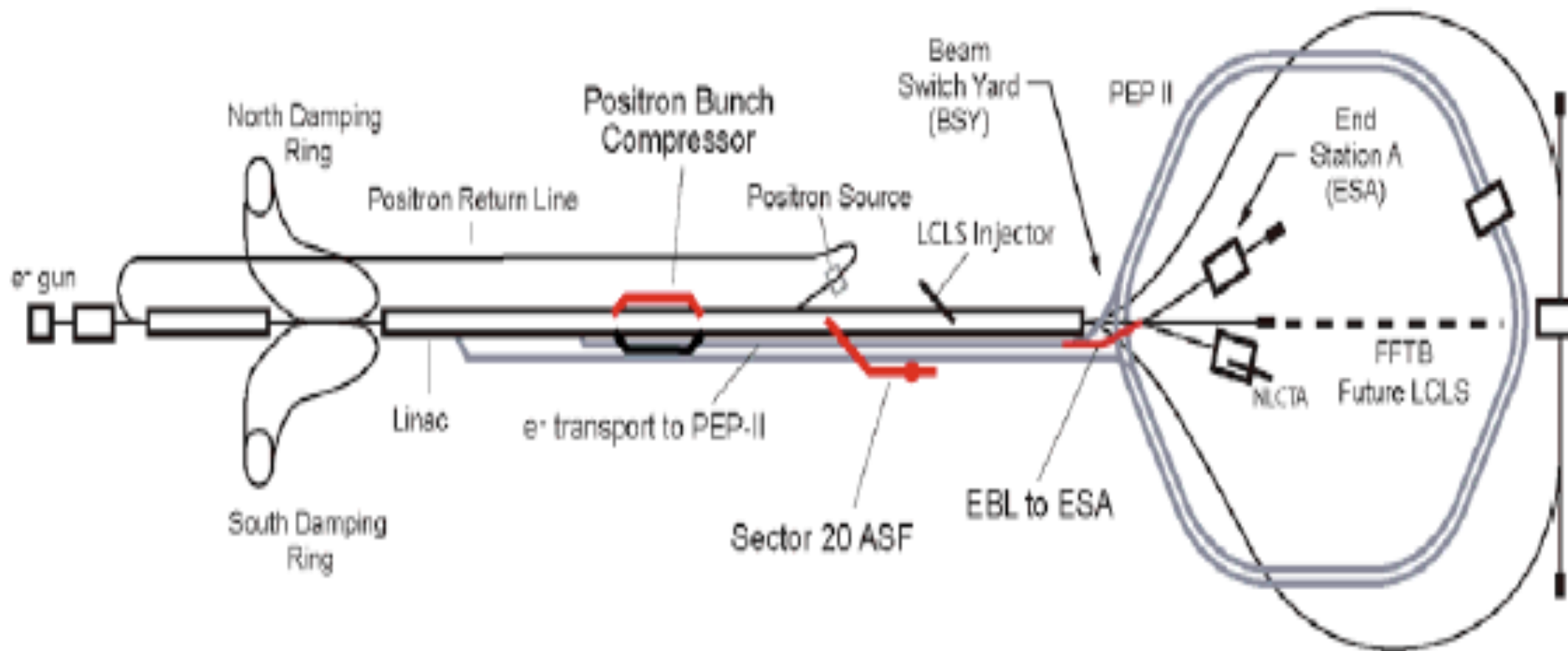
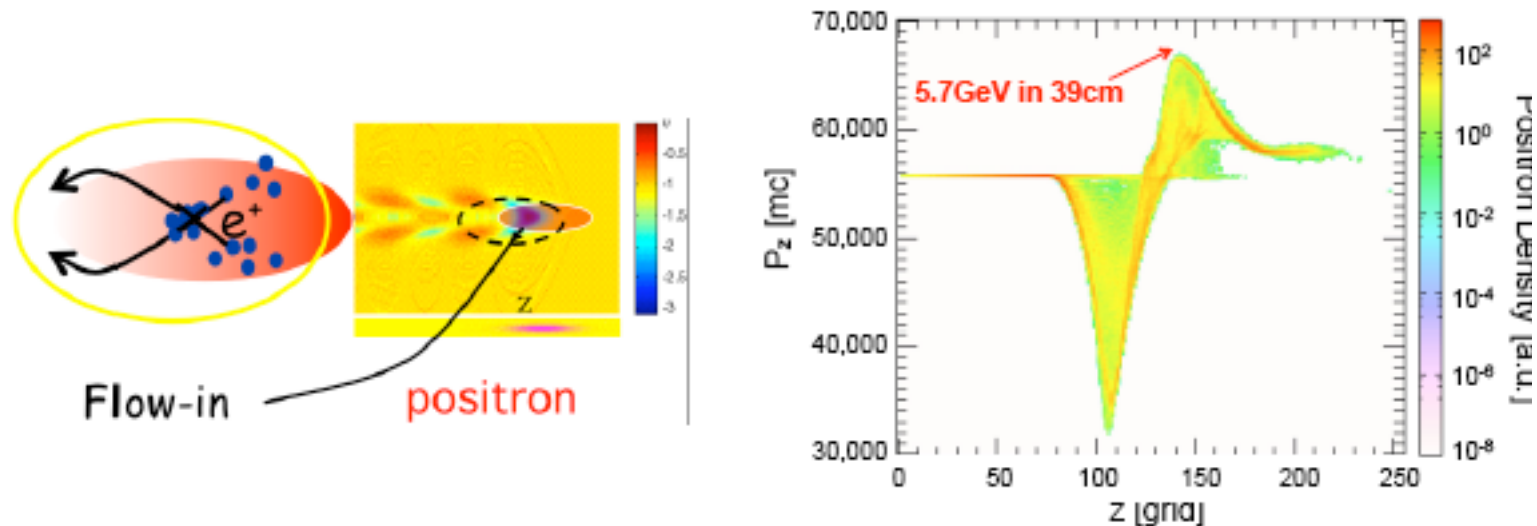


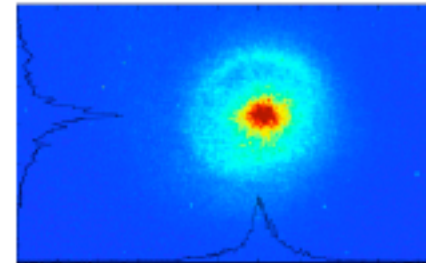
Figure 1-1. Schematic of the SLAC site with proposed FACET modifications to the beam delivery systems.

High Gradient Positron Acceleration

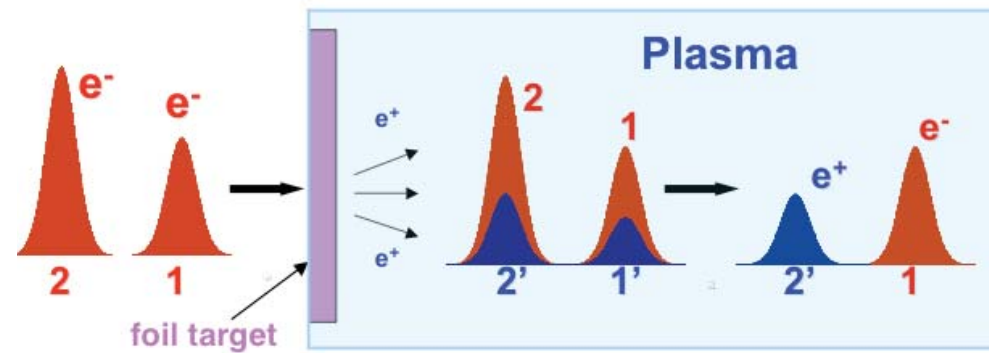
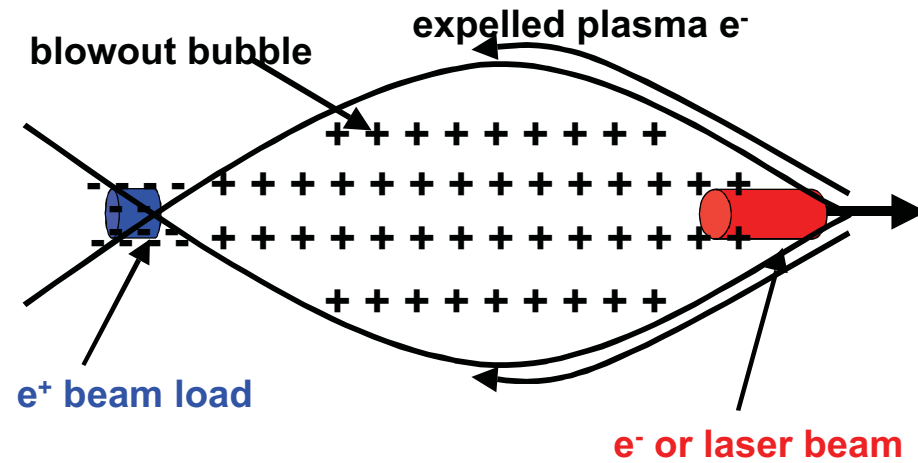
- * First experiments will attempt to reproduce E-167 with positrons
- * Not trivial when consider the difference in plasma electron response



- * Second phase will use two bunches to study beam loading of positron wakes (notch collimator will work equally well with e^- or e^+)
- * Measure halo formation and emittance growth with DSOTR & quad scan in x-plane of dispersed beam to isolate accelerating portion of the wake



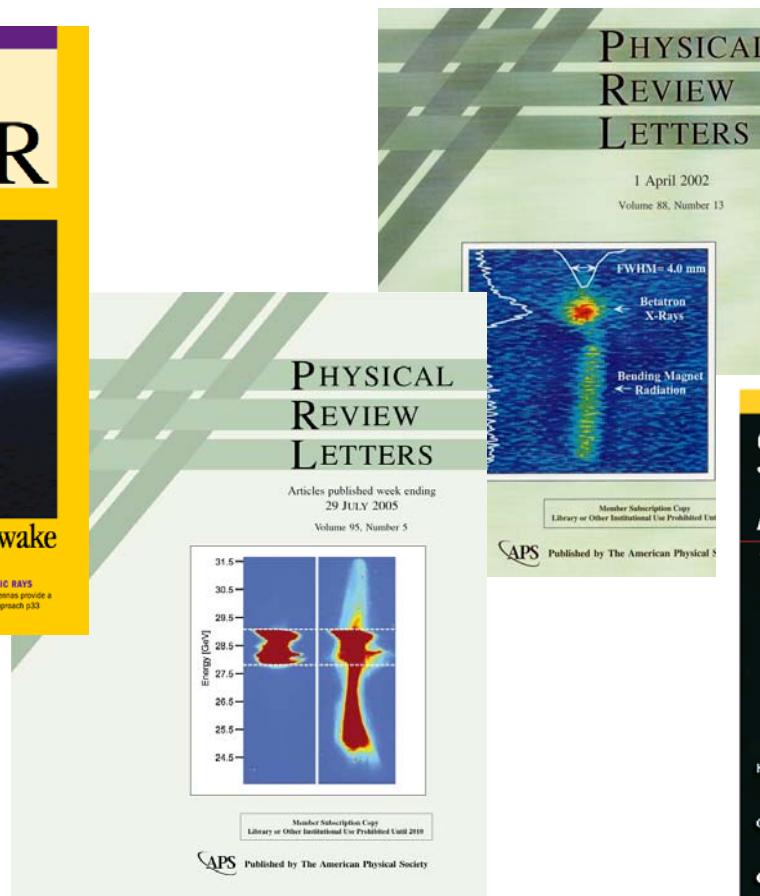
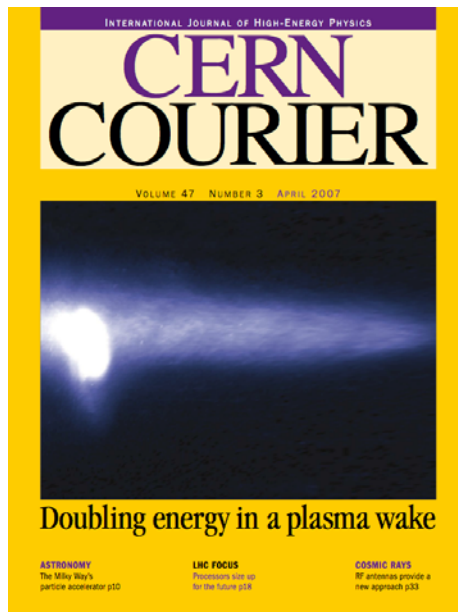
e^+ ACCELERATION ON e^- WAKE



- ◆ Test of e^+ acceleration on e^- wake
- ◆ Injection on e^+ on e^- wake

Research program has put Plasma Physics at the Forefront of Science

Acceleration, Radiation Sources, Refraction, Medical Applications



Conclusions

Positron-plasma interactions is a rich area of research

Driven by applications to plasma-based accelerators

Good progress to date on experiments and simulations

Nonlinear theory is still lacking

FACET facility will allow next generation experiments to be carried out.

EPILOGUE



John M. Dawson
1930-2001

“This is a story of **Science as a Living Thing** taking Unexpected turns in directions that were never foreseen. Science must have goals, but it must also have the freedom to follow up interesting and unexpected results when they turn up. This is what excites the good young researcher and it is in their hands that our future rests.”

John Dawson AIP Conf. Proc. 560 p 3 (2000)
Personal Recollections on the Development of
Plasma Accelerators and Light Sources

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