

# X-Ray Fluorescence Imaging with a Laser-Wakefield Thomson X-Ray Source

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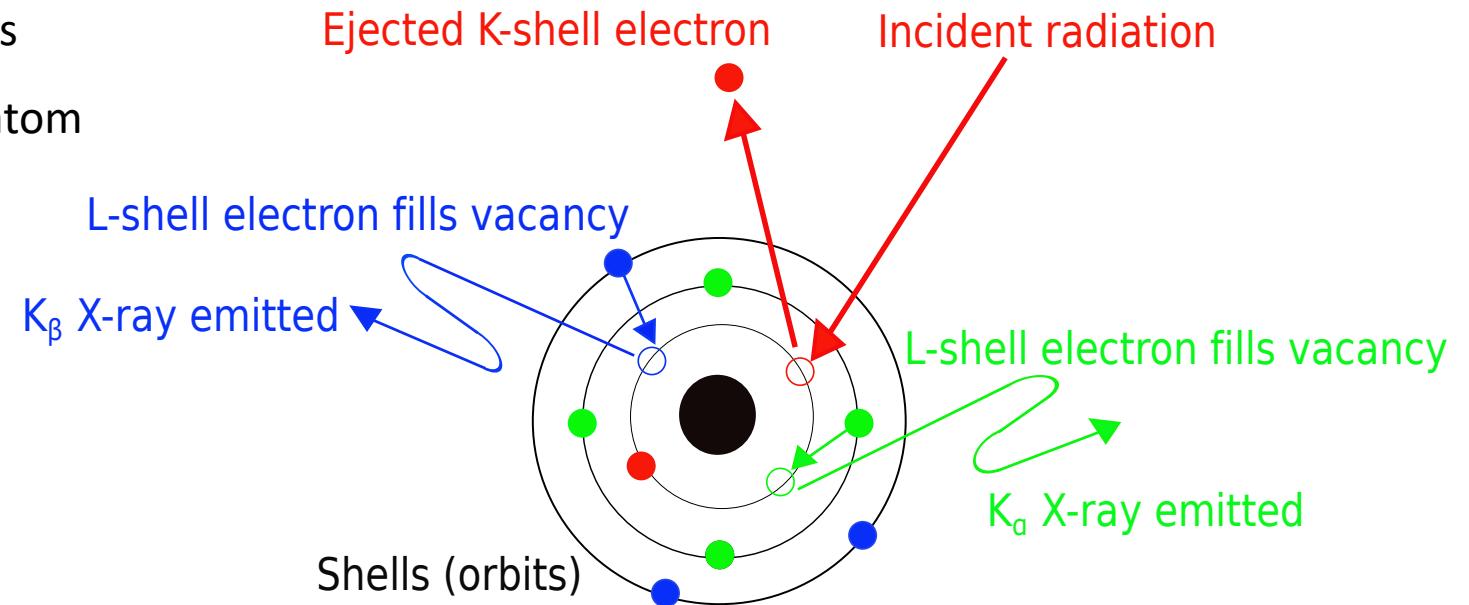
# CONTENTS

- Principle of X-ray fluorescence imaging (XFI)
- Requirements on the X-ray source & necessary improvements
- Laser-wakefield acceleration (LWFA)
- Thomson scattering (TS)
- First proof-of-principle experiment and results
- Optimisation of the setup



# X-RAY FLUORESCENCE IMAGING (XFI)

- Incident X-ray beam displaces electrons from inner orbital shells of the target atom
- Vacancies are filled by electrons from higher orbits
- Energy difference is released in form of characteristic X-rays
- Potential use for medical imaging with high-Z elements

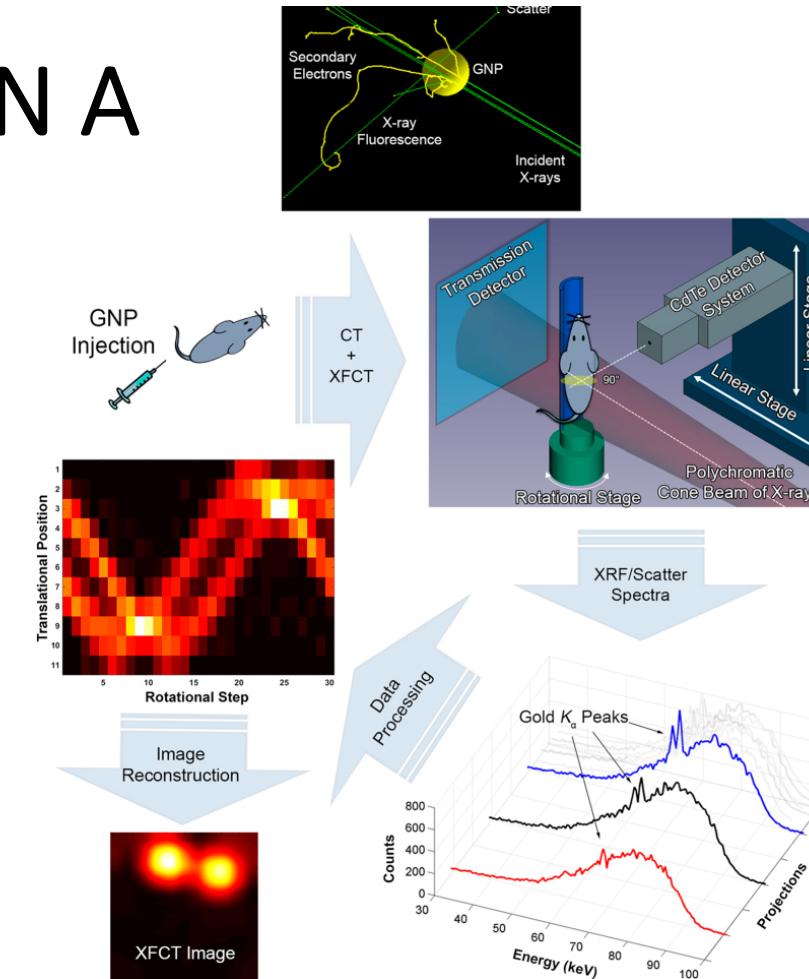


Taken and modified from [www.bruker.com](http://www.bruker.com)



# PREVIOUS IMAGING OF GNPs IN A TUMOR- BEARING MOUSE

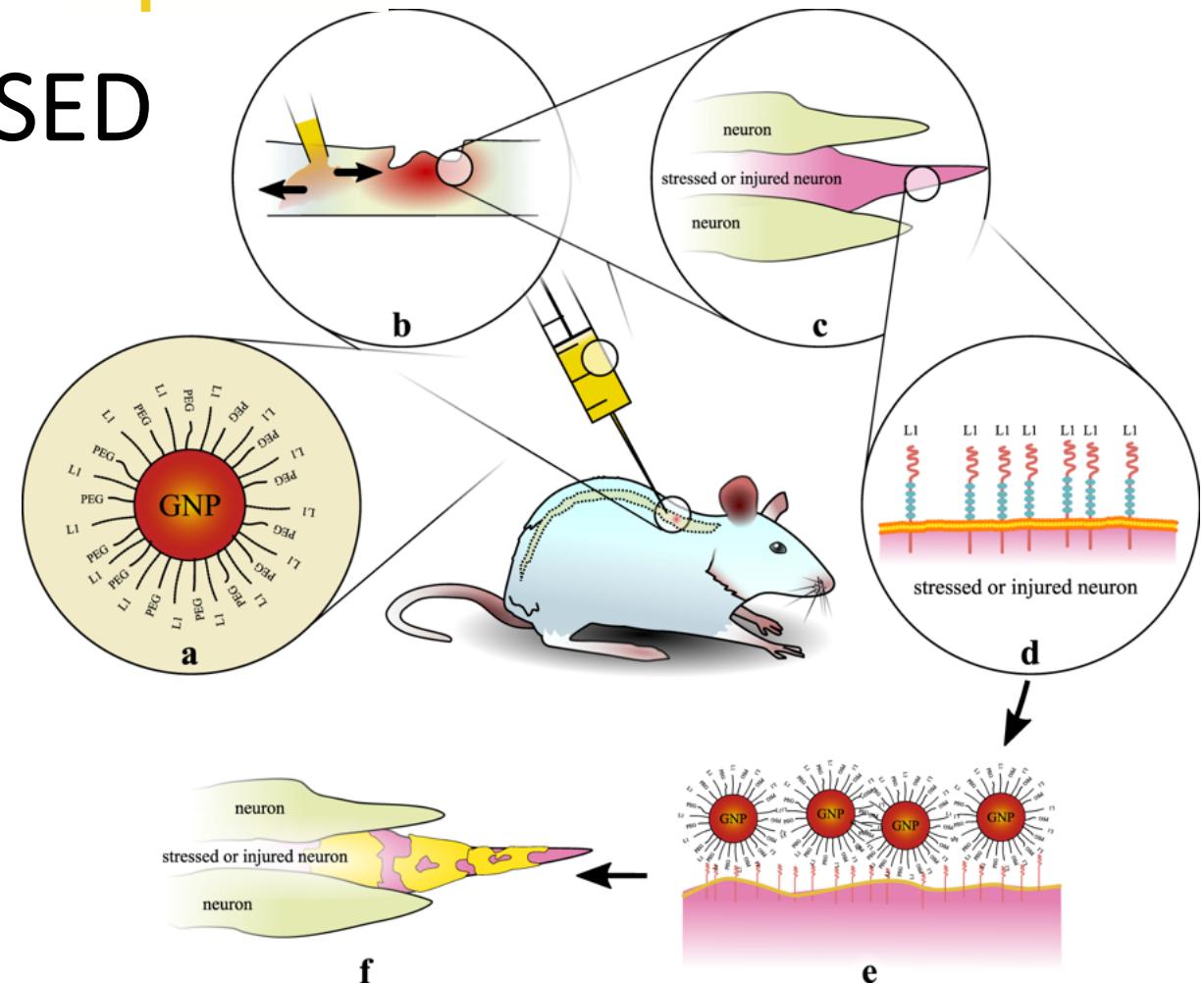
- Mouse injected with small amounts of gold nanoparticles (GNPs)
- Benchtop setting with polychromatic X-ray source
- Detect characteristic gold fluorescence signals
- Translation of the detector in order to obtain tomographic images





# LOCALISING FUNCTIONALISED GOLD-NANOPARTICLES

- GNPs functionalised with L1-peptides injected into murine spinal cord → bind to stressed neurons
- XFI-scans localise regions with bound GNPs
- Gold masses down to 72 pg could be detected
- Close agreement to inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) results





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# NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS & REQUIREMENTS

- Surface-functionalisation of GNPs
- Development of large-area, pixelated, spectroscopic detectors
- Development of compact, hard X-ray sources (80 – 100 keV) with high brilliance, flux and repetition rate
- Small source size
- Inexpensive realisation
- Effective background reduction with advanced filtering scheme and collimators



Pixelated Hexitec detector from  
[www.quantumdetectors.com](http://www.quantumdetectors.com)

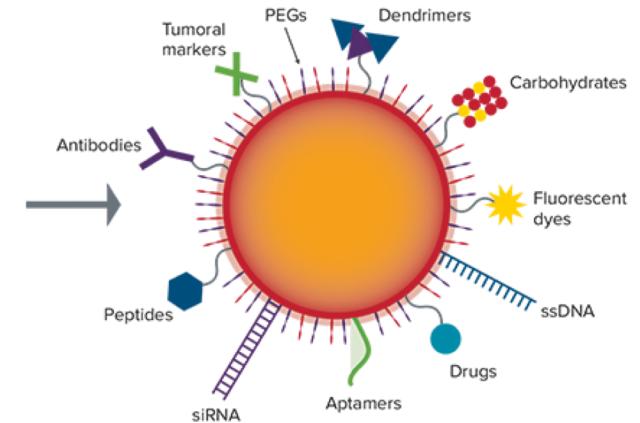
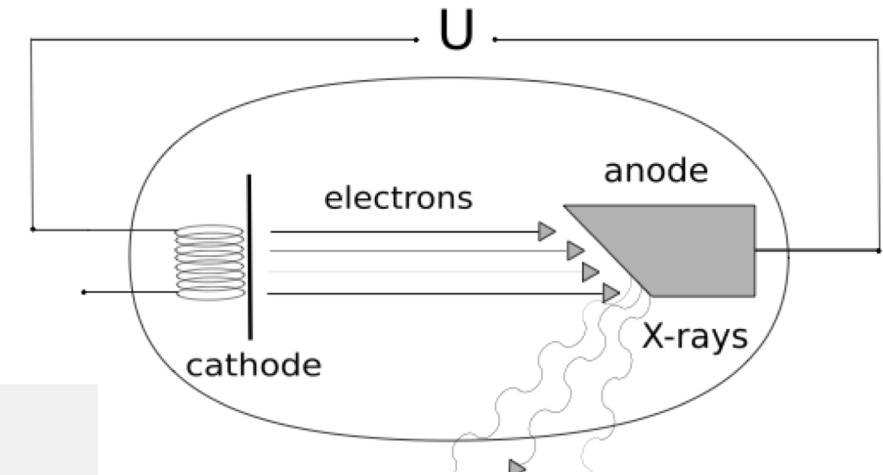
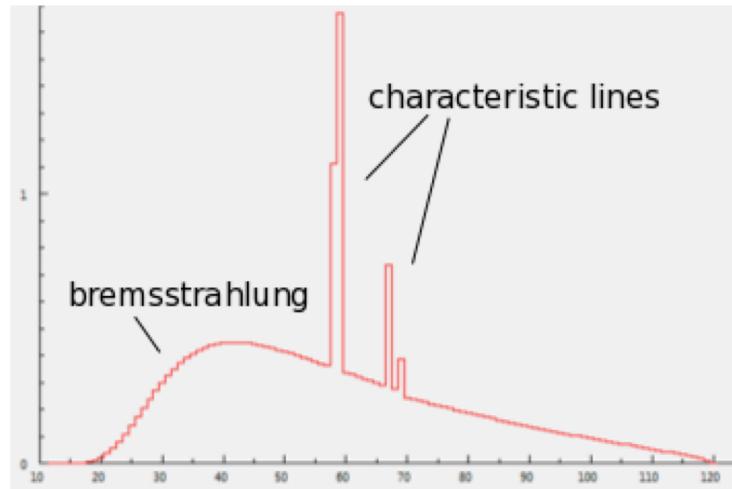


Diagram of surface  
functionalisation of nanoparticles  
from [www.moleculardevices.com](http://www.moleculardevices.com)



# CLINICAL SOURCES TODAY: X-RAY TUBES

- Electrons are discharged and accelerated
- Collisional and radiative energy transfer
- Bremsstrahlung and characteristic X-rays
- 1% of the energy : X-rays
- 99% of the energy: heat





# SYNCHROTRONS

- Modern synchrotrons provide high energy and brilliance photons
- Circumferences in the order of kilometers and large numbers of bending magnets
- huge and expensive
- Not suitable for medical applications (except at research centers)



Aerial view of the PETRA III synchrotron at DESY in Hamburg  
(<http://photon-science.desy.de>)

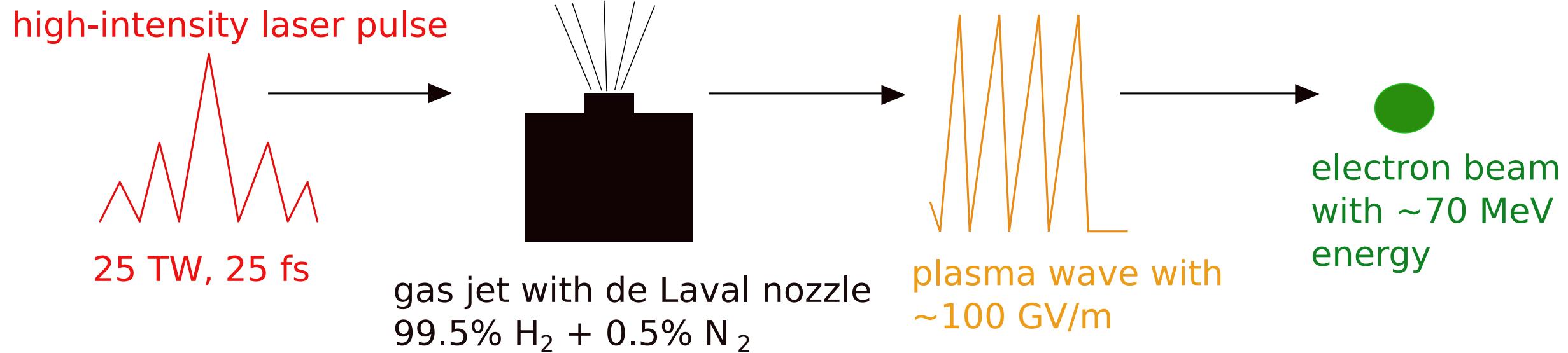


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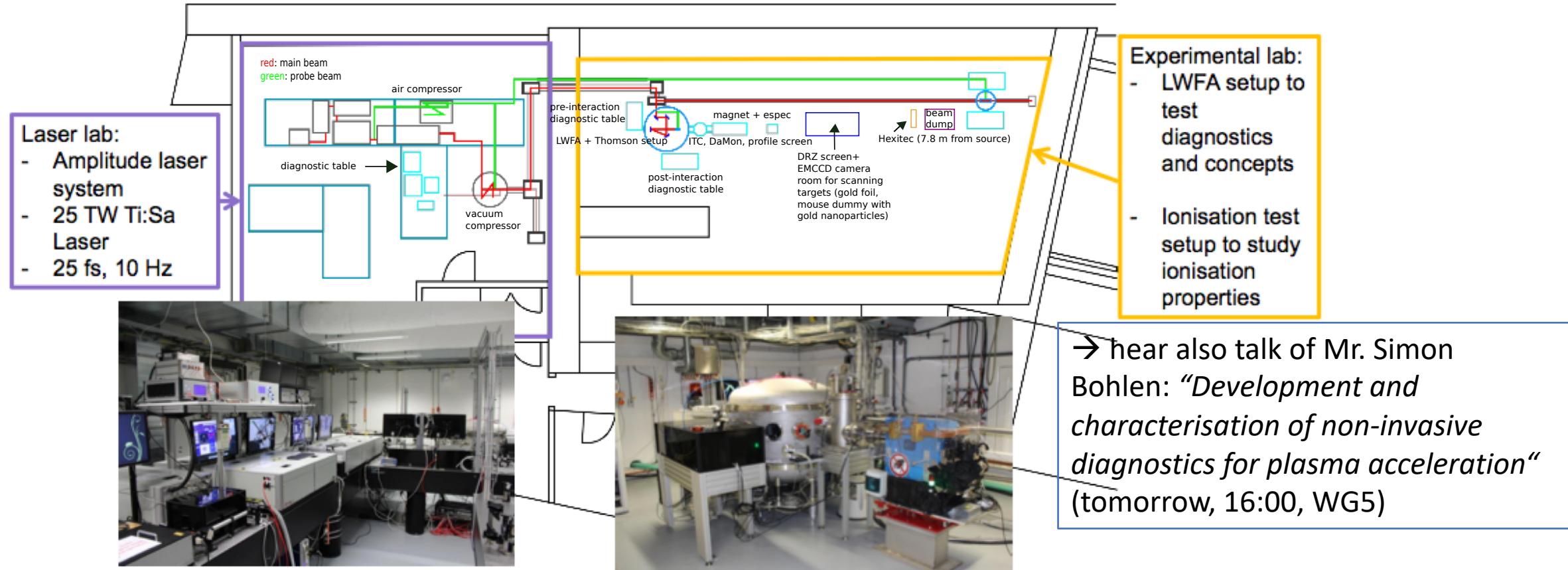


# LASER-WAKEFIELD ACCELERATION (LWFA)





# LAB SETUP @DESY/HAMBURG



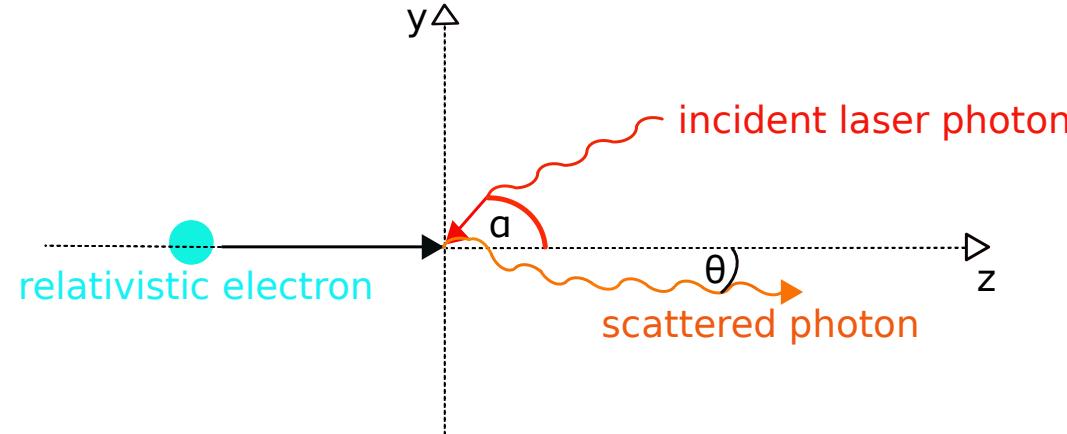


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# THOMSON SCATTERING (TS)



Simple schematic of the Thomson scattering process

Energy of scattered photons:

$$E_\gamma \propto \frac{\gamma^2 E_L}{1 + \frac{a_0^2}{2} + \gamma^2 \theta^2}$$

Opening angle:

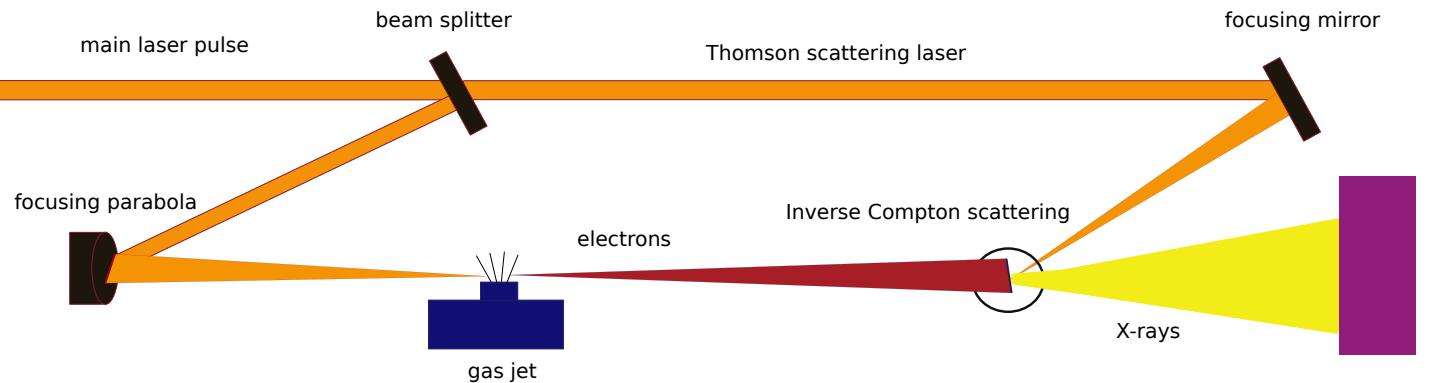
$$\theta_s \sim \frac{1}{\gamma}$$

Photon number:

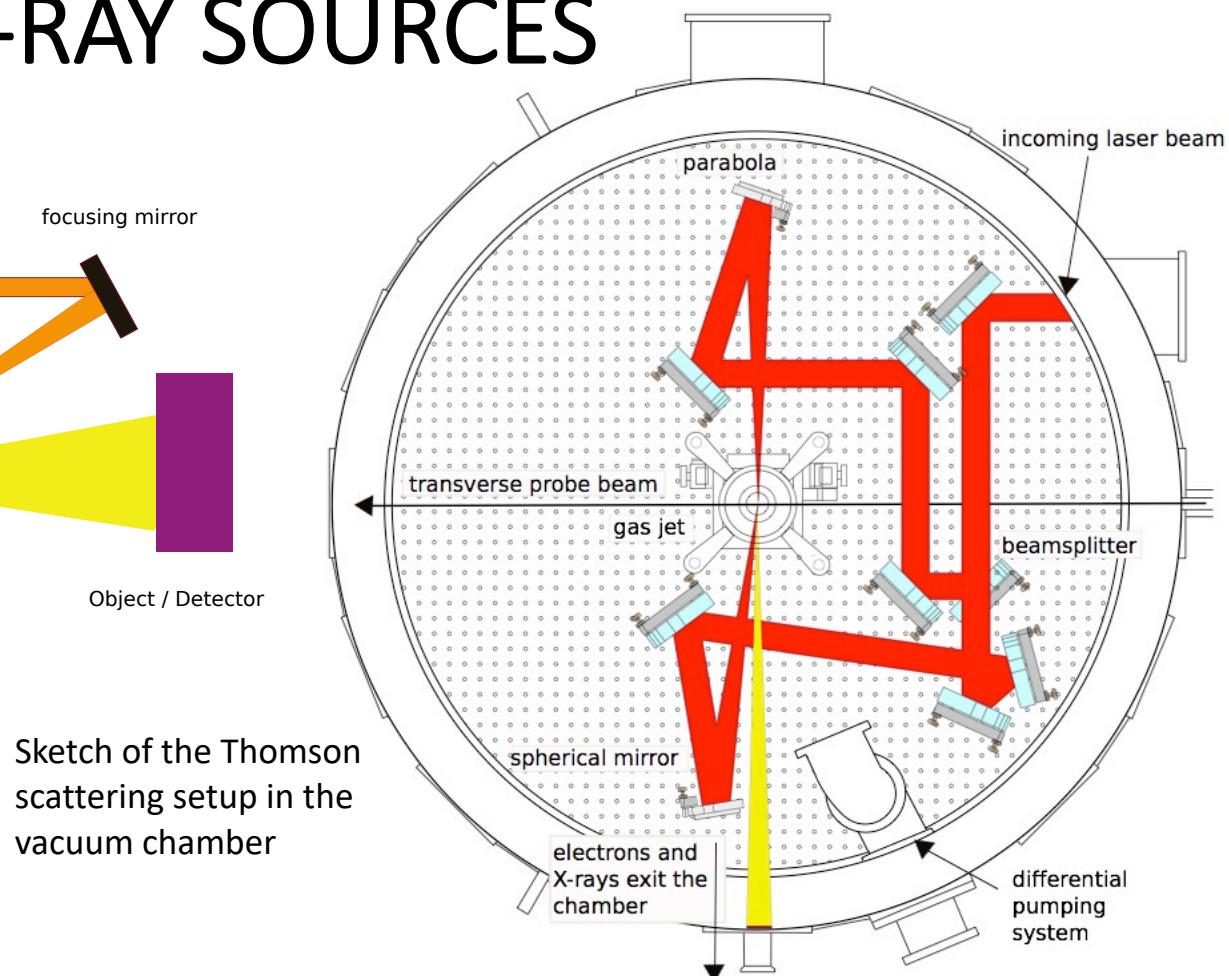
$$N_\gamma \sim Q_{bunch} \tau_{laser} a_0^2 \sigma(\theta_{obs})$$



# THOMSON SCATTERING X-RAY SOURCES



Schematic of the Thomson scattering setup



Sketch of the Thomson  
scattering setup in the  
vacuum chamber

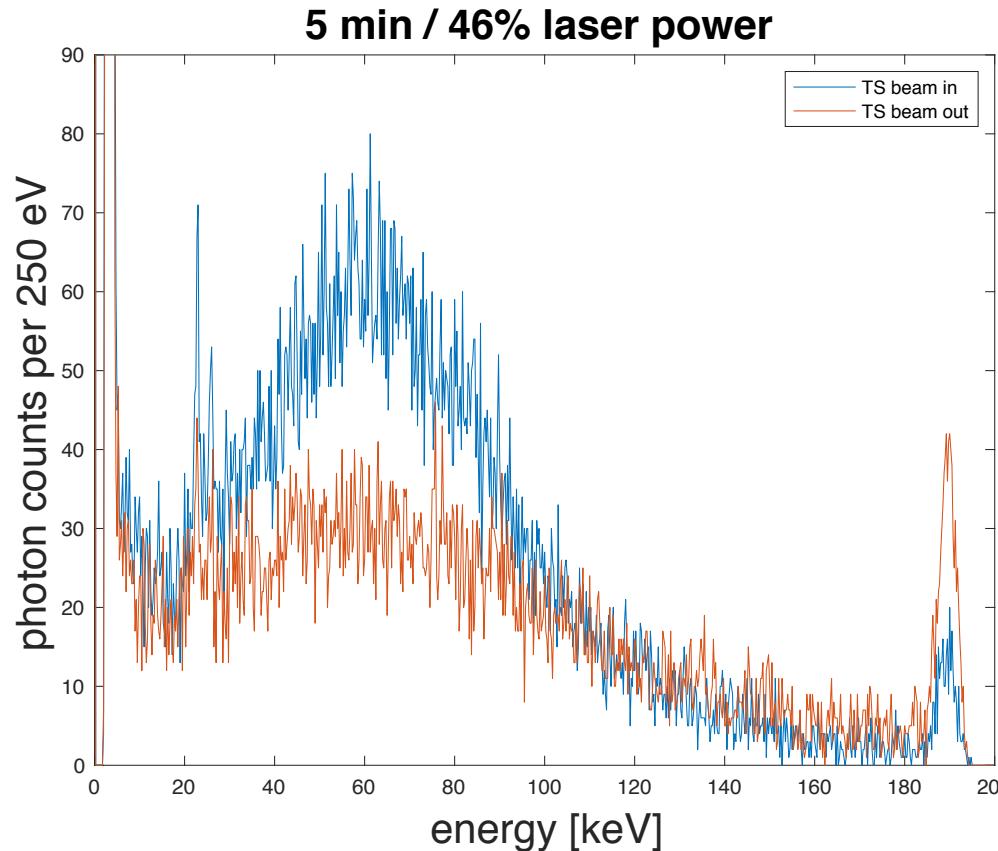


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# FIRST PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE EXPERIMENT



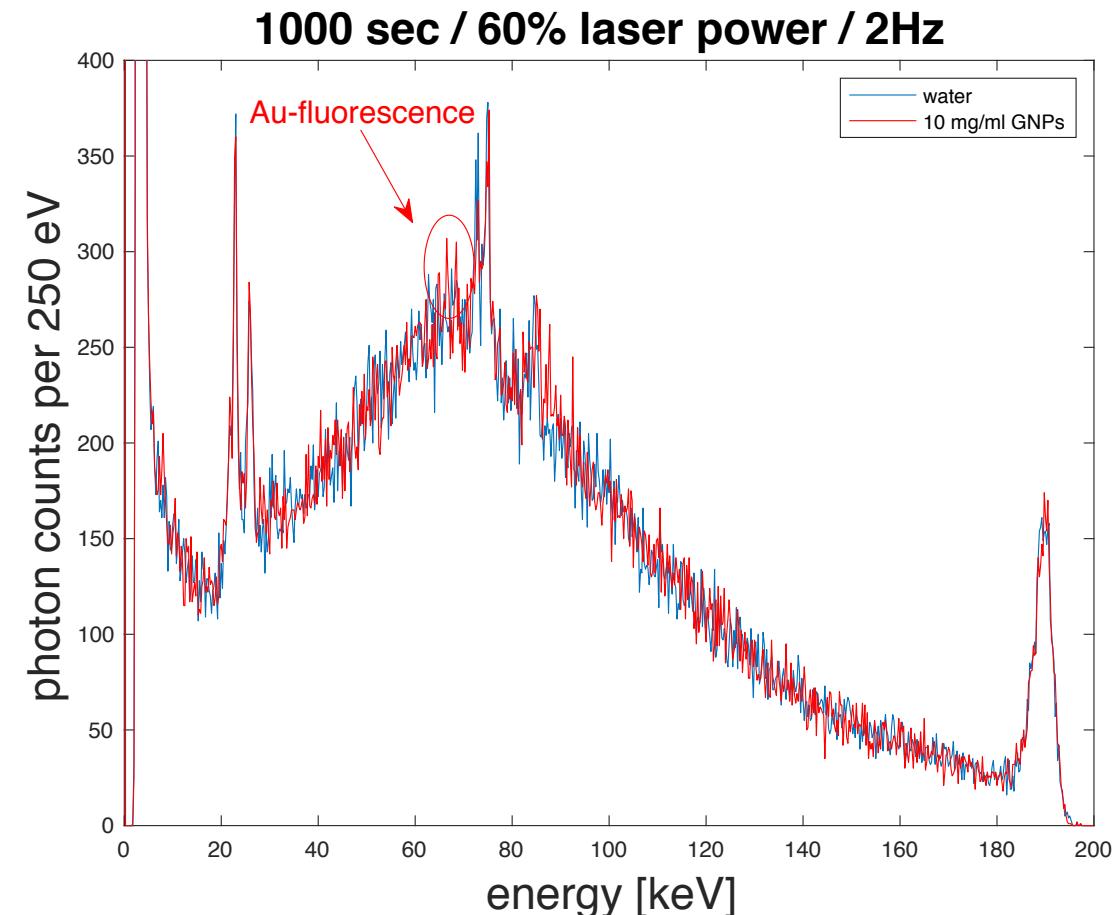
- Hexitec detector<sup>1</sup> at 8 meters distance from the interaction point
- 5 minutes measurement duration
- 46% laser power (2-3 pC charge, 60 MeV mean electron energy)
- Clear difference with / without Thomson scattering laser

<sup>1</sup> kindly loaned from CLF

# IMAGING OF GNPs IN A MOUSE PHANTOM

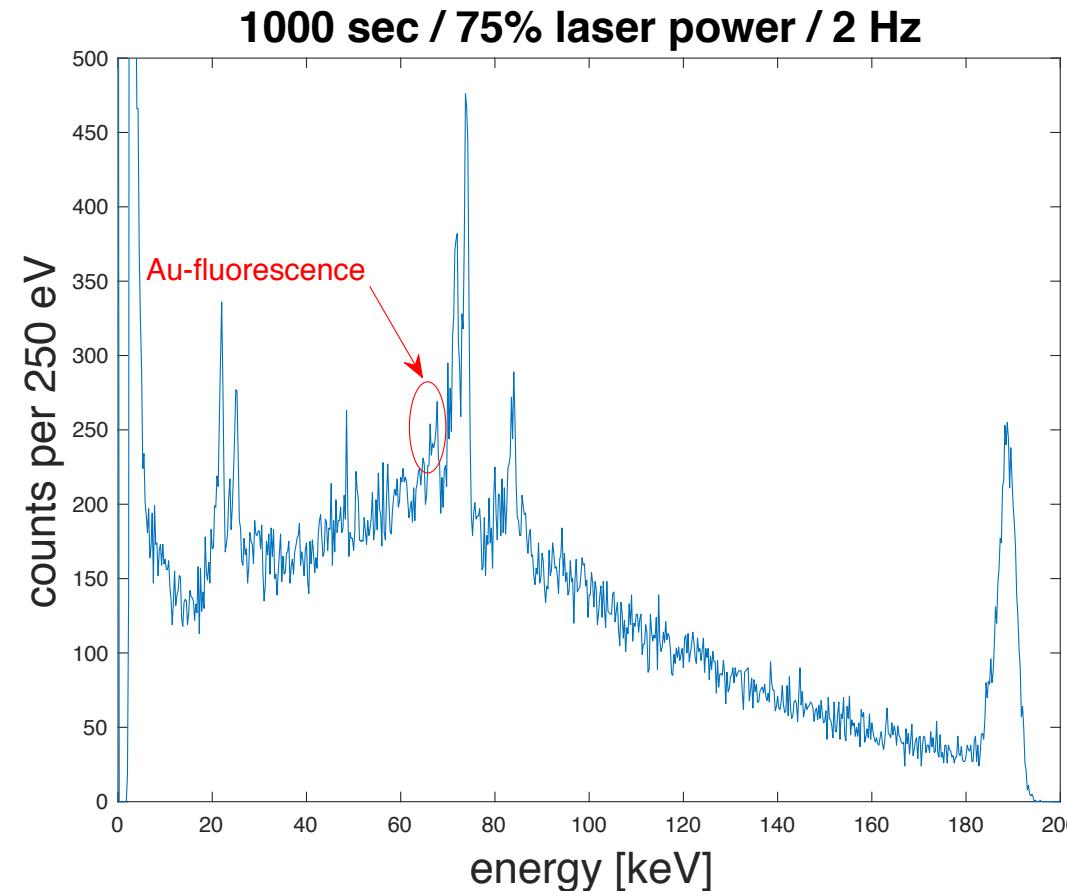
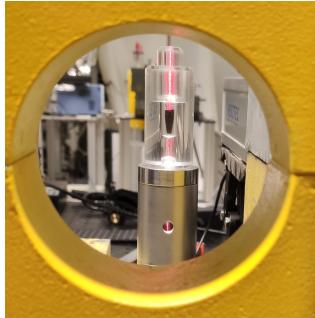


- 3 cm diameter PMMA-cylinder with 0.3 ml Eppendorf tube containing **10 mg/ml** GNPs
- Target at 3.25 meters from interaction point
- Calculated significance **Z = 5.4**





# IMAGING OF GNPs IN A MOUSE PHANTOM

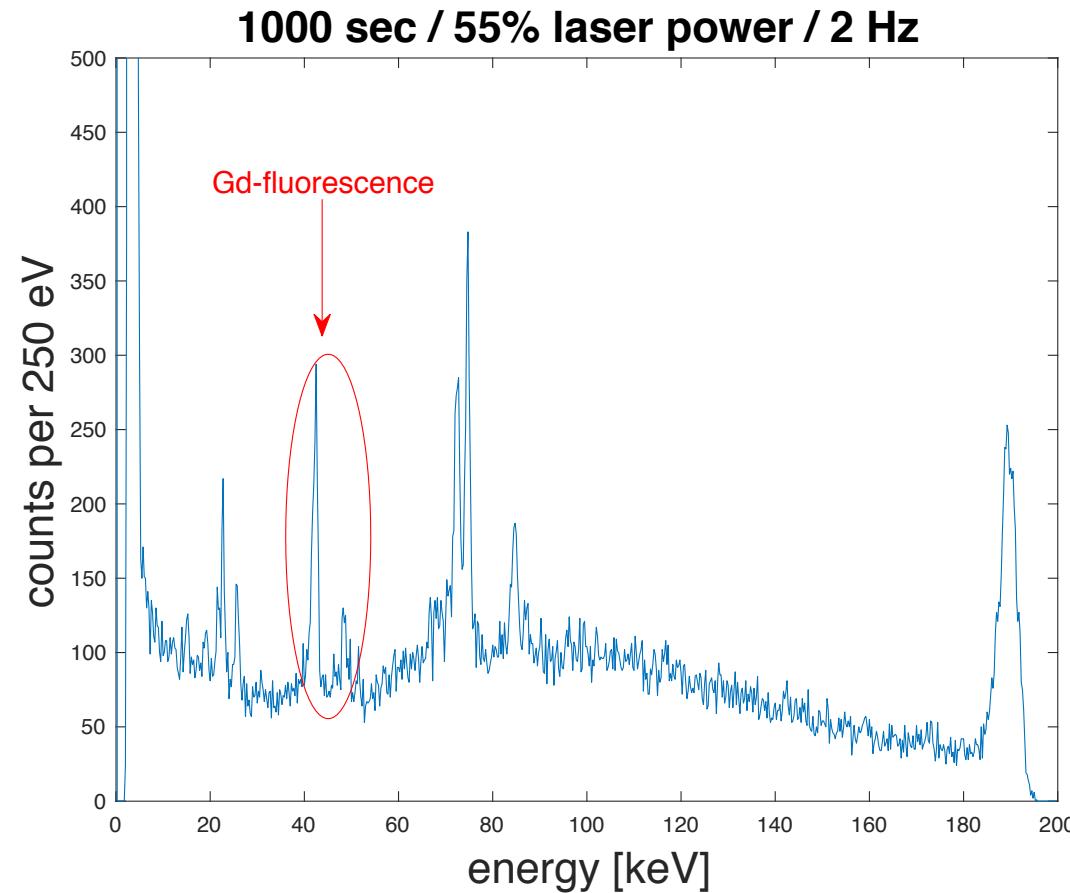


- 3 cm diameter PMMA-cylinder with 0.3 ml Eppendorf tube containing **18.87 mg/ml** GNPs
- Improved lead shielding to reduce Bremsstrahlung
- Target at 3.25 meters from interaction point
- Calculated significance **Z = 8.3**



# IMAGING OF Gd-SOLUTION

- Gadolinium is used as contrast agent in magnetic resonance imaging
- 1 cm diameter Eppendorf tube containing **78 mg/ml** Gd-solution
- Target (only Eppendorf tube, no surrounding phantom) at 3.25 meters from interaction point
- Calculated significance of fluorescence lines at 42.3 and 43 keV: **Z = 32**
- Even K<sub>β</sub>-fluorescence at 48.7 keV visible





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# OPTIMISATION OF THE SETUP

- Improving the electron parameters:

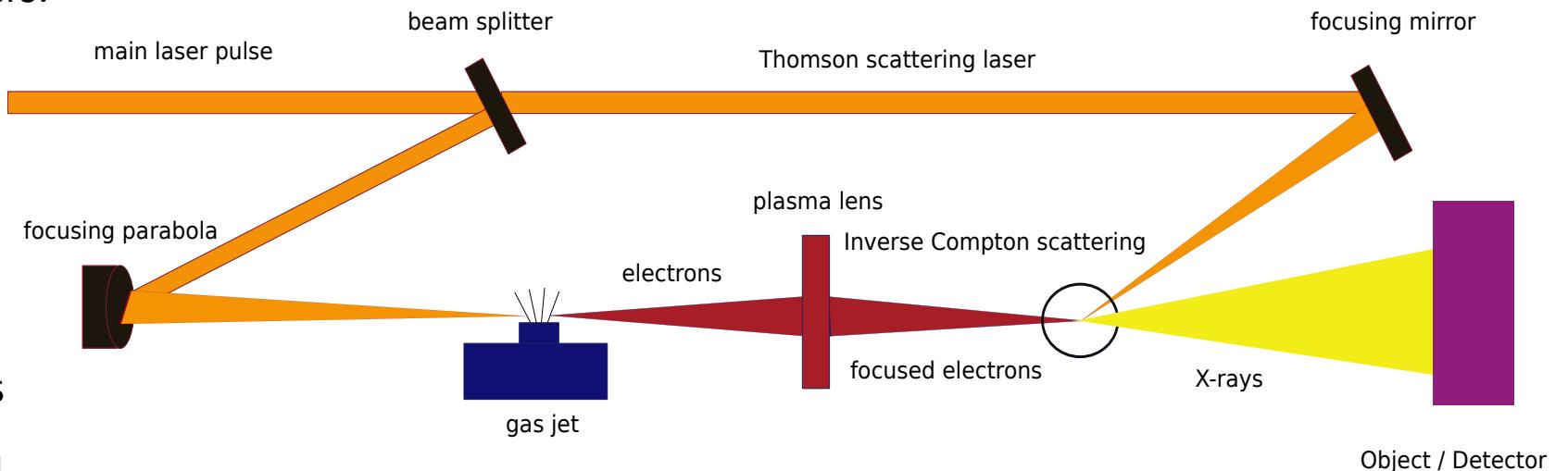
## Active Plasma Lenses

- Improving the laser parameters:

maximising X-ray gain by  
varying laser focus and length

- Simulated result: 80 000 photons  
per shot in **90 keV ± 15 % FWHM**

(ideal parameters for XFI)



Schematic of the optimised setup with an active plasma lens



# SUMMARY

- XFI is a new medical imaging modality with applications e.g. in pharmacokinetics or tumor diagnostics
- Developments in accelerator technologies enable to build compact and high-brightness X-ray sources
- Thomson scattering with laser-wakefield acceleration is an excellent driver for XFI with desired properties
- Proof-of-principle experiments demonstrated XFI measurements with a laser-driven Thomson X-ray source
- Implementation of active plasma lens will optimise incident Thomson spectrum for XFI by reducing effective spectral width of electrons

