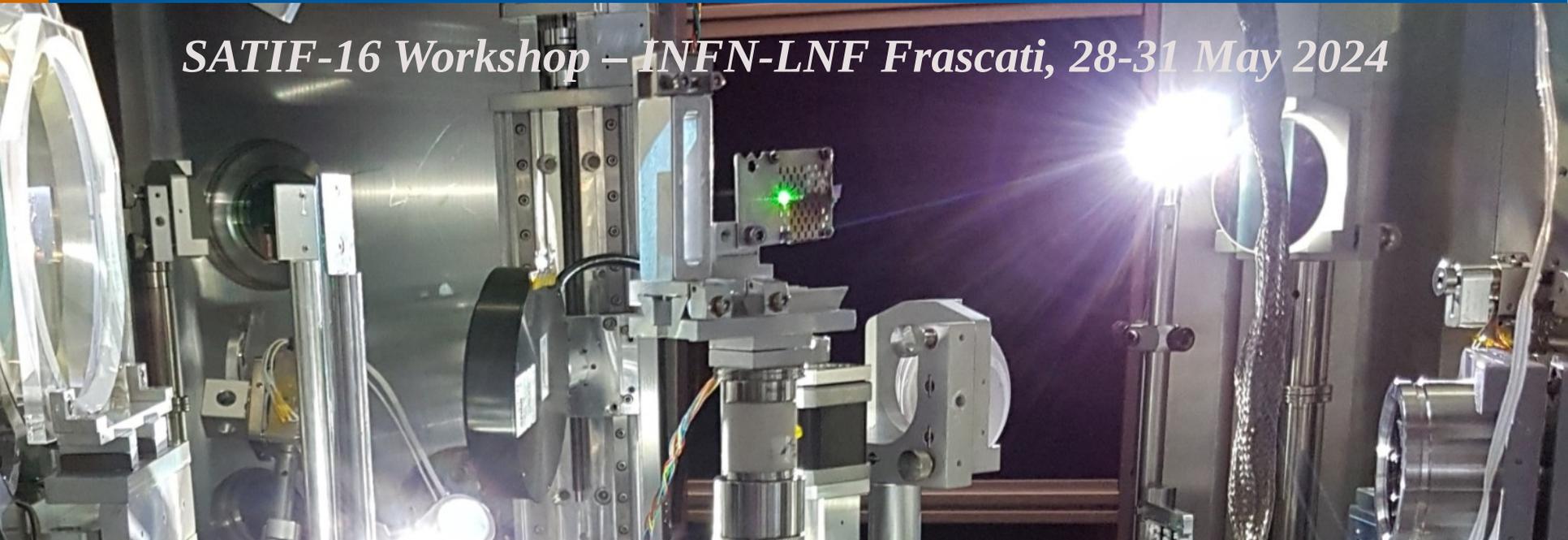


*SATIF-16 Workshop – INFN-LNF Frascati, 28-31 May 2024*



# Source terms for the HED science in short-pulse experiments with solid target, and further perspectives

**A. Ferrari, T. Cowan**  
**E. Brambrink**

*Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf*  
*European XFEL*

*...with contributions from the HED group at HZDR*

**L. Huang, M. Molodtsova**

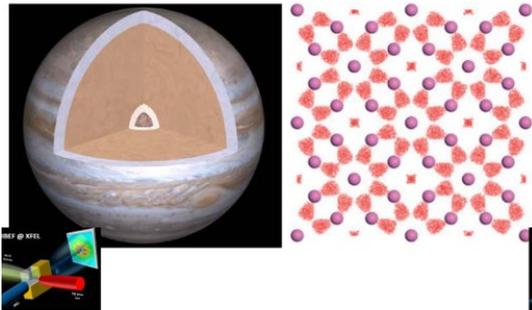


# Introduction

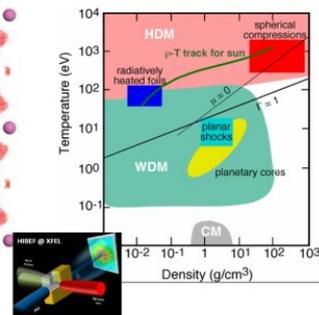
## Ultrafast dynamics and structural properties of matter at extreme states

- Highly excited solids → laser processing, dynamic compression, high B-field
- Near-solid density plasmas → WDM, HDM, rel. laser-matter interaction
- Quantum states of matter → high field QED

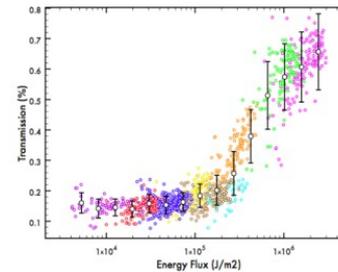
Condensed matter at very high T, P,  $\rho$



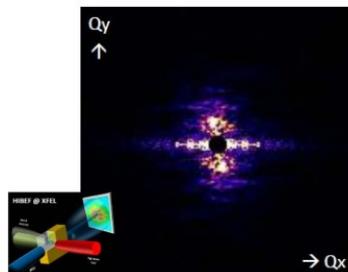
Beyond condensed matter



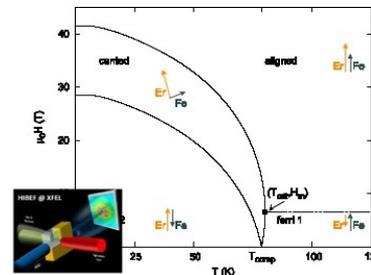
Intense x-ray matter interaction



Relativistic laser-matter interaction



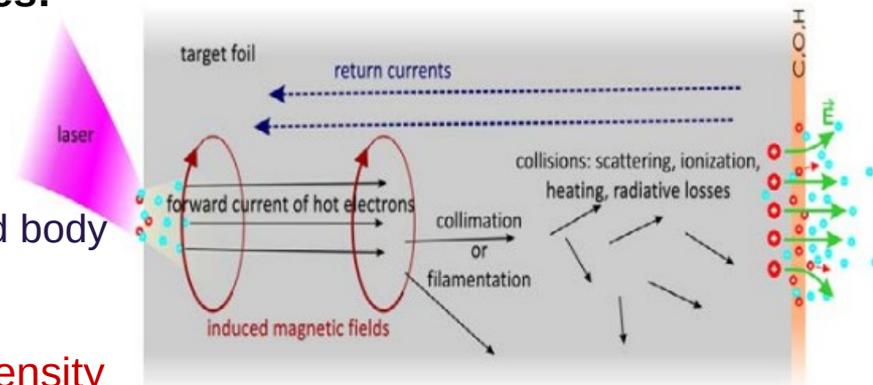
Complex solids in high fields



# The dominant radiation source term

High intensity Lasers when hits solid targets creates:

- free electrons (from ionization of atoms)
- extreme electric and magnetic fields
- thin plasma layer (ions & electrons) on a dense, solid body
- energetic electrons propagate into solid
- 'Hot electron temperature' is related to the laser intensity and relativistic effects must be taken into account



$$T_e^{hot} = 2\pi \left[ \int_0^{2\pi} (1 + a_0^2 \sin^2 t)^{-1/2} dt \right]^{-1} - 1$$

$$a_0 = \sqrt{2I / n_C m_e c^3}$$

*T. Kluge et al.,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 205003 (2011)*

$n_C$  = critical density of the dense plasma

- $T_{el}$  scales with the laser intensity

Electrons are originated in the target with a Boltzmann-like distribution and generate bremsstrahlung radiation

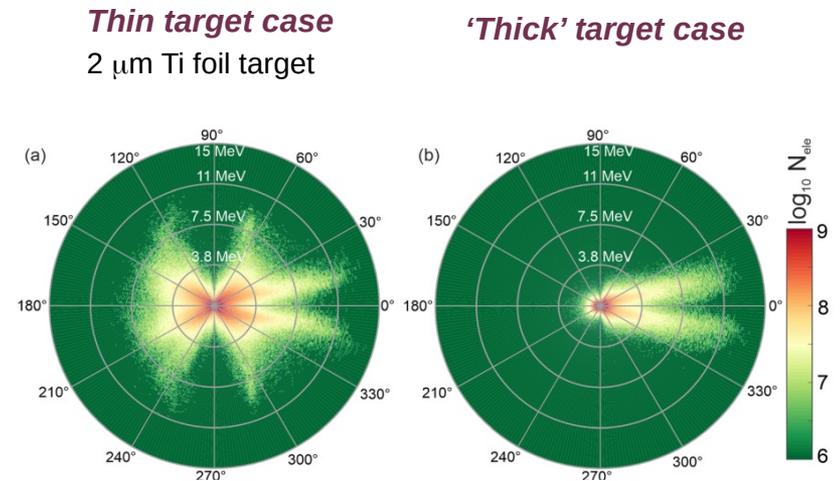
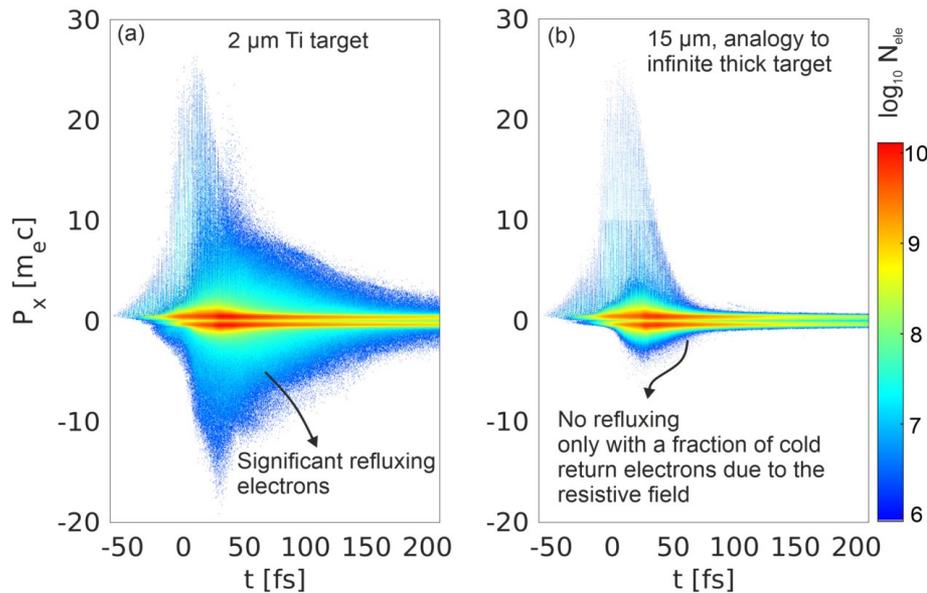
**Escaping electrons + bremsstrahlung radiation**

are the dominant radiation source term for the facilities in HED science

# Investigating the hot electron dynamics via PIC simulations - (Satif-15)

In PIC simulations:

- similar laser and target parameters as in experiments
- study of the temporal evolution of the sheath field, to take into account the hot  $e^-$  refluxing mechanism



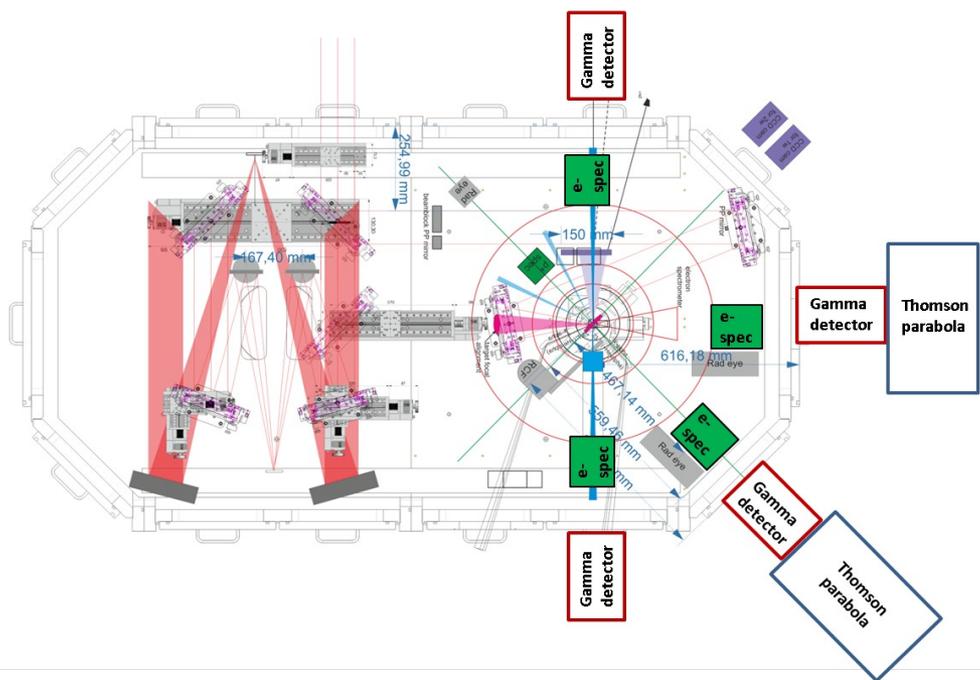
*L.G. Huang, M. Molodtsova, A. Ferrari et al.,  
Phys. Plasmas 29, 023102 (2022)*

- The energy spectra of forward and backward hot electrons are integrated on 4 probing boundaries
- The optimal integration time (132 fs) is calculated from the study of the temporal evolution of the sheath field

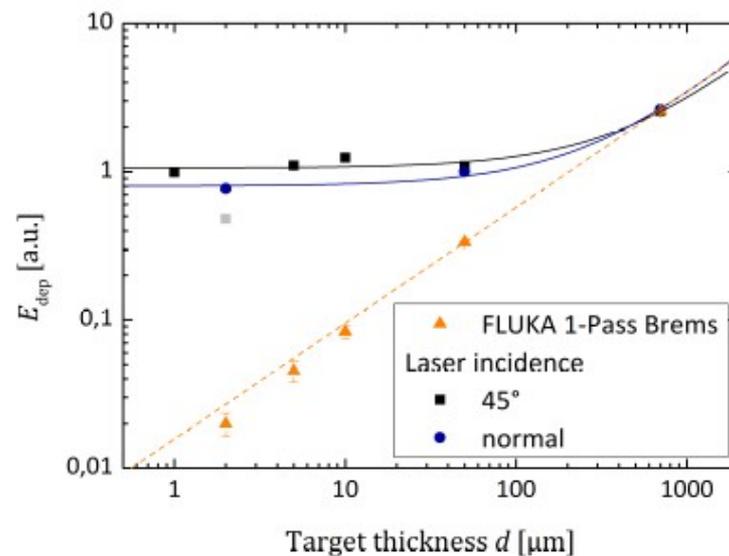
# Experimental signature of hot electrons refluxing in thin targets

Large experimental campaign to study the **bremstrahlung** properties associated to the proton acceleration ( **DRACO facility**, Ti:Saffire laser, **8J, 150 TW**)

- Foils of different materials (**Ti, Al, W**)
- Thickness scan of Ti (1/2/10/50/700  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Alternative shapes (cones, wires)

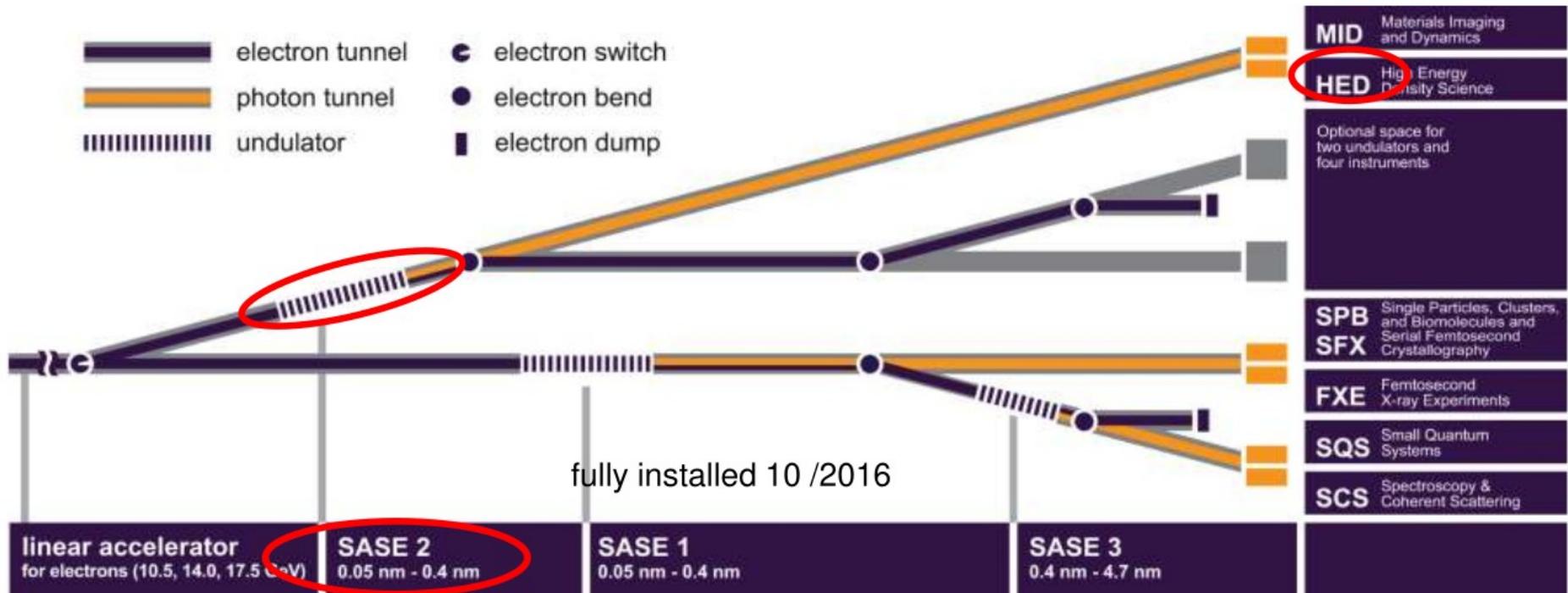


## Scaling of the deposited energy



*Measured energy (a.u., normalized to the first data point) deposited by the bremsstrahlung in our **photon detectors** as a function of the target thickness, compared with FLUKA simulations without electron refluxing description*

# European XFEL: beamlines and instruments



HED – some numbers

- Beamline commissioning 2019, first user experiments spring 2019
- Typically 20 experiments/year
- Photon energies: 5-25+ keV
- Pulse energies: > 3 mJ @ 8 keV

- HED is a versatile platform for High Energy Density Physics and dynamic compression experiment

# Hibef user consortium

# HiBEF

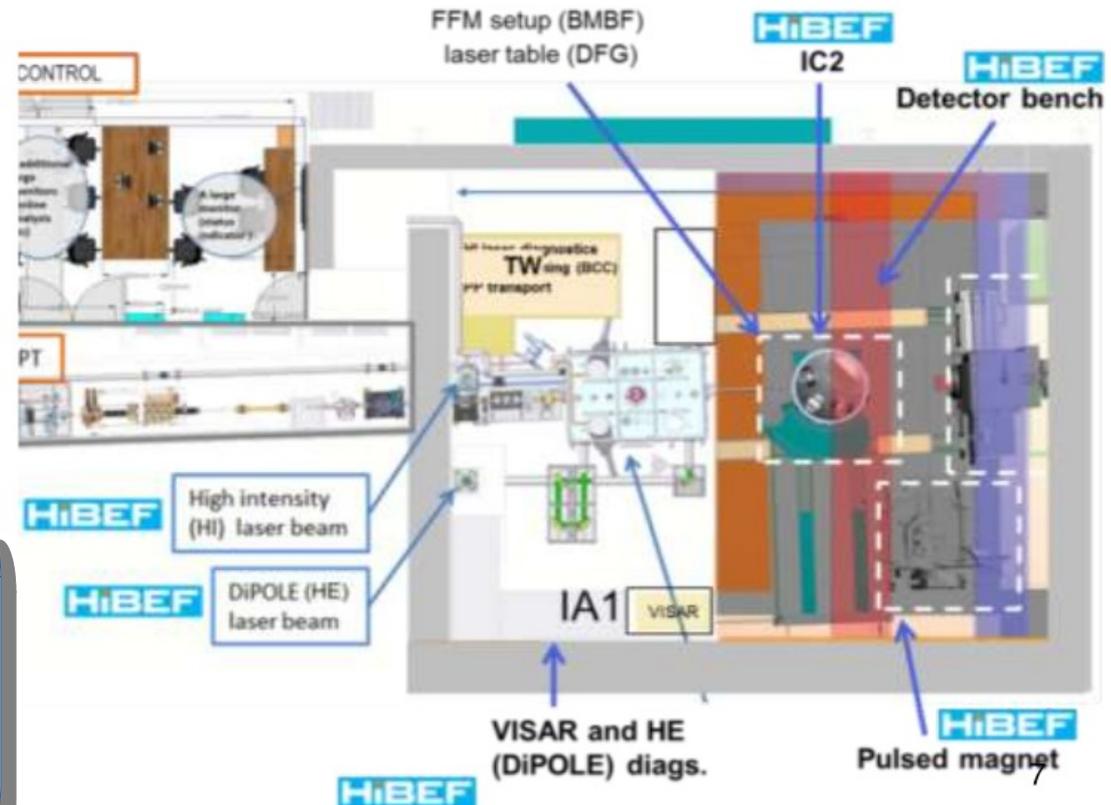
Helmholtz international beamline for extreme fields

- Installation and operation of lasers and part of the HED instrument
- 80 institutions, 20 countries
- > 40 M€ budget

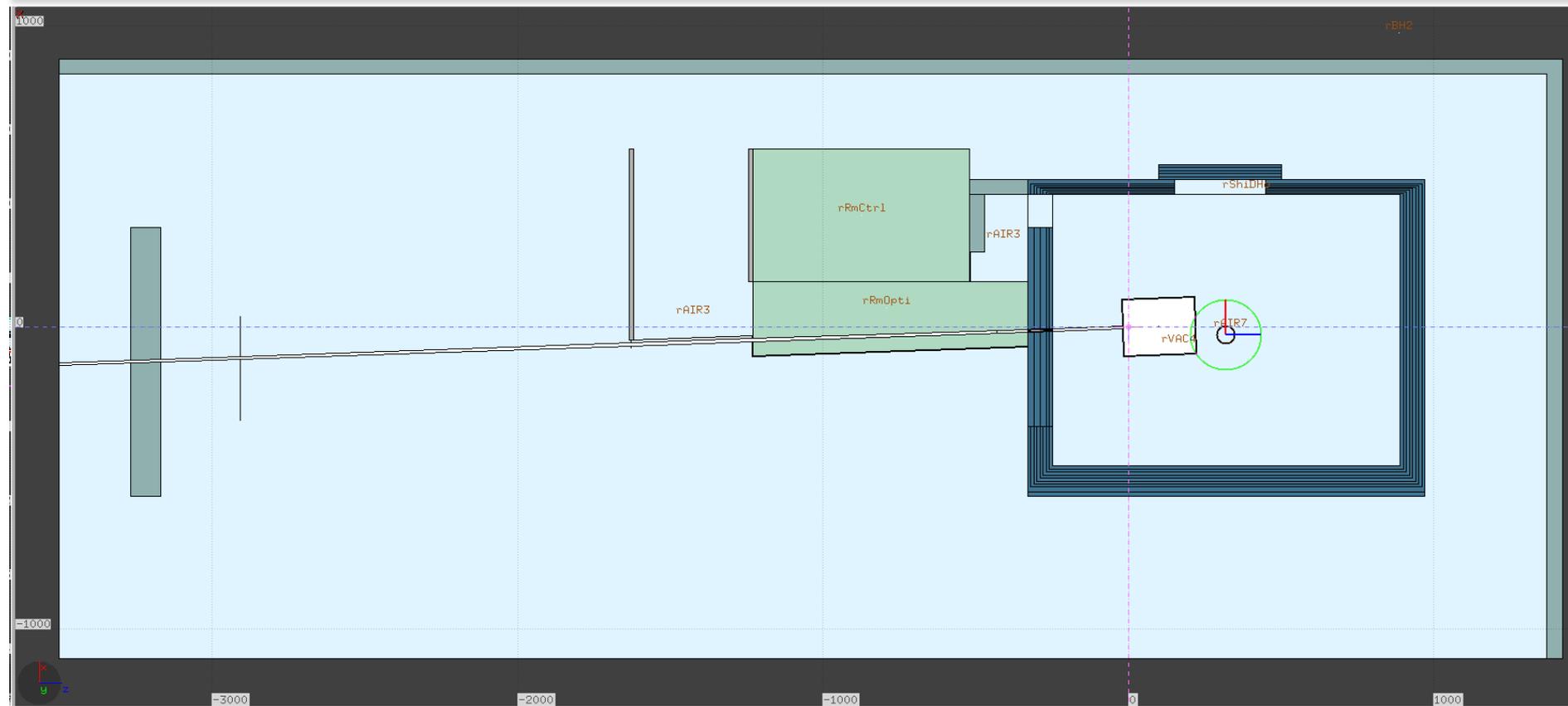


Shielding optimized for **150 TW** operation

Now: **up to 400 TW**



# Geometry: HED + upstream region



The present simulation includes the elements above

The lead/steel/lead local shielding has been described in the first 16.5 m from the HED

## Source terms for solid target experiment up to 400 TW: General strategy for shielding assessment

---

1. To be sure to cover the full possible electron temperature range for the **400 TW** case, including expected improvements in the beam conditions, we extend the calculations from the typical electron energy  $kT_{e1} = 5 \text{ MeV}$  to the “upper limit” case  $kT_{e1} = 15 \text{ MeV}$

## Source terms for solid target experiment @400 TW: General strategy for shielding assessment

1. To be sure to cover the full possible electron temperature range for the **400 TW** case, including expected improvements in the beam conditions, we extend the calculations from the typical electron energy  $kT_{el} = 5 \text{ MeV}$  to the “upper limit” case  $kT_{el} = 15 \text{ MeV}$
2. In every geometry configuration (collinear with the XFEL,  $90^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$  forward and counter-propagating **as accident scenario**) we have always 2 contributions:
  - the escaping electrons source term, described with a **10 nC** charge emitted in a  **$45^\circ$**  semi-opening cone
  - the “pure bremsstrahlung” source term, due to the electron recirculation in the sheath field in the solid target. Since this radiation source term is approximately isotropic, it is important to stress that its contribution to the counter-propagating radiation is always present, in every geometry configuration. This means that it must be evaluated not only for an accident scenario (where we will see that it is negligible respect to the escaping e- source term), but also for normal operation. From the calculation we will conclude that it is negligible for RP purposes

# Source terms for solid target experiment @400 TW: General strategy for shielding assessment

1. To be sure to cover the full possible electron temperature range for the **400 TW** case, including expected improvements in the beam conditions, we extend the calculations from the typical electron energy  $kT_{e1} = 5 \text{ MeV}$  to the “upper limit” case  $kT_{e1} = 15 \text{ MeV}$
2. In every geometry configuration (collinear with the XFEL,  $90^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$  forward and counter-propagating **as accident scenario**) we have always 2 contributions:
  - the escaping electrons source term, described with a **10 nC** charge emitted in a  **$45^\circ$**  semi-opening cone
  - the “pure bremsstrahlung” source term, due to the electron recirculation in the sheath field in the solid target. Since this radiation source term is approximately isotropic, it is important to stress that its contribution to the counter-propagating radiation is always present, in every geometry configuration. This means that it must be evaluated not only for an accident scenario (where we will see that it is negligible respect to the escaping e- source term), but also for normal operation. From the calculation we will conclude that it is negligible for RP purposes

3. We evaluate the Bremsstrahlung source term due to the recirculating electrons. To describe this we calculate the electron current in the sheath field in the target assuming 20% conversion efficiency from a laser pulse of 10 J.

Depending on the  $kT_{e1}$ , we obtain (the case with  $kT=2 \text{ MeV}$ , characteristic of operation up to 150 TW, is for comparison):

	$kT_{e-} = 15 \text{ MeV}$	$kT_{e-} = 5 \text{ MeV}$	$kT_{e-} = 2 \text{ MeV}$
Charge ( $10 \text{ J}/kT_{e-} \text{ )} \times 20\%$	$0.133 \mu\text{C}$	$0.4 \mu\text{C}$	$1 \mu\text{C}$

4. We calculate for every geometry the contribution of escaping electrons.

We will demonstrate that this is always the dominant part for RP purposes

# The Bremsstrahlung Source Term

To evaluate the Bremsstrahlung source term we do a **two-step simulation**:

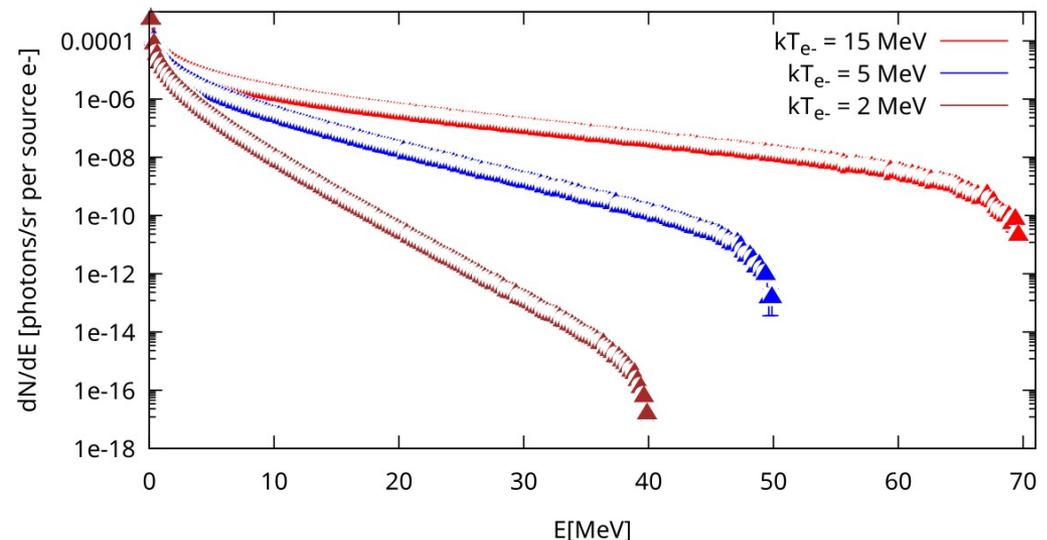
(1) We simulate first an isotropic electron source with the proper  $kT_{el}$ , at the center of a copper sphere (material representative of a typical target),  $30 \mu\text{m}$  thick. This thickness has been evaluated identifying the effective recirculation time with the the life window of the sheath field, evaluated in  $\sim 100 \text{ fs}$  from PIC calculations [ref: Huang et al., PoP 29, 023102 (2022)].

**Considering  $v_e \sim c$  we obtain a  $30 \mu\text{m}$  path length.**

We save then the photon spectrum exiting the sphere, to be used in the next simulation step, and we calculate the photon yield ( $N_{ph}$  per source electron)

(2) As second step we use the calculated photon spectrum, properly weighted, as Bremsstrahlung source term.

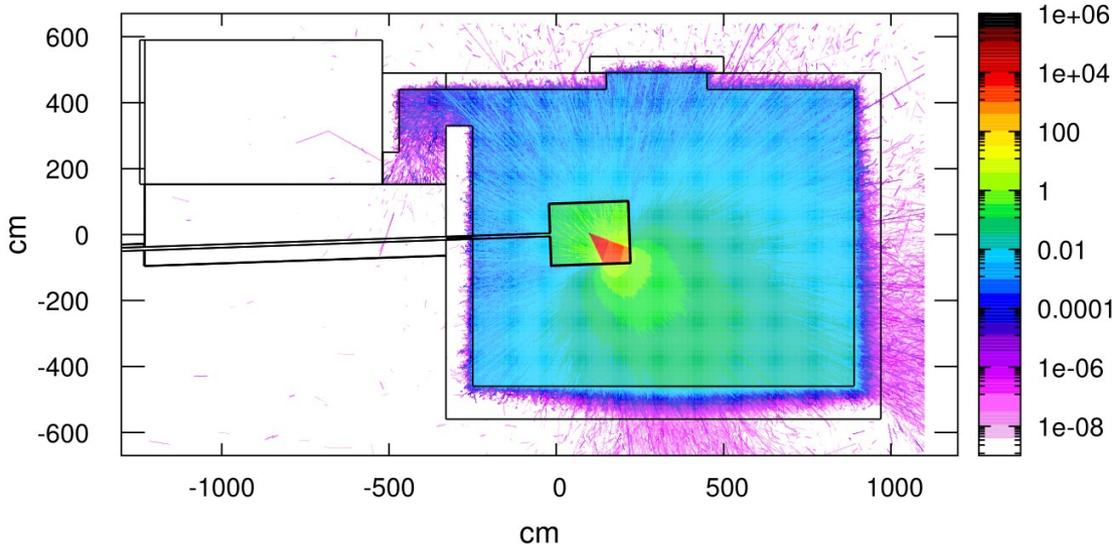
(This two-step method is more accurate and much faster- once the photon spectra are computed- respect to the previous killing of electrons out of the sphere and filtering the photon dose)



	$kT_{e^-} = 15 \text{ MeV}$	$kT_{e^-} = 5 \text{ MeV}$	$kT_{e^-} = 2 \text{ MeV}$
Yield ( $e^- \rightarrow \text{photons}$ )	$3.87 \text{ E-3}$	$3.06 \text{ E-3}$	$2.50 \text{ E-3}$

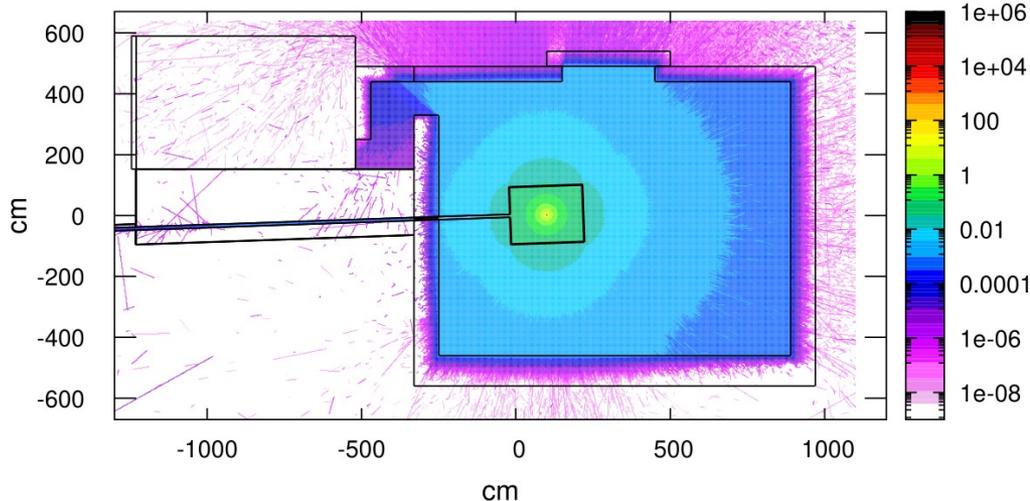
# The two components of the source term with $kT_{el} = 2$ MeV in $45^\circ$ forward geometry

$H^*(10)[\mu\text{Sv}/\text{shot}]$  - 10 nC escaping e-  $kT_{el} = 2$  MeV



-  $kT_{el} = 2$  MeV  
escaping electrons source term,  
described with a **10 nC** charge  
emitted in a  **$45^\circ$**  opening cone

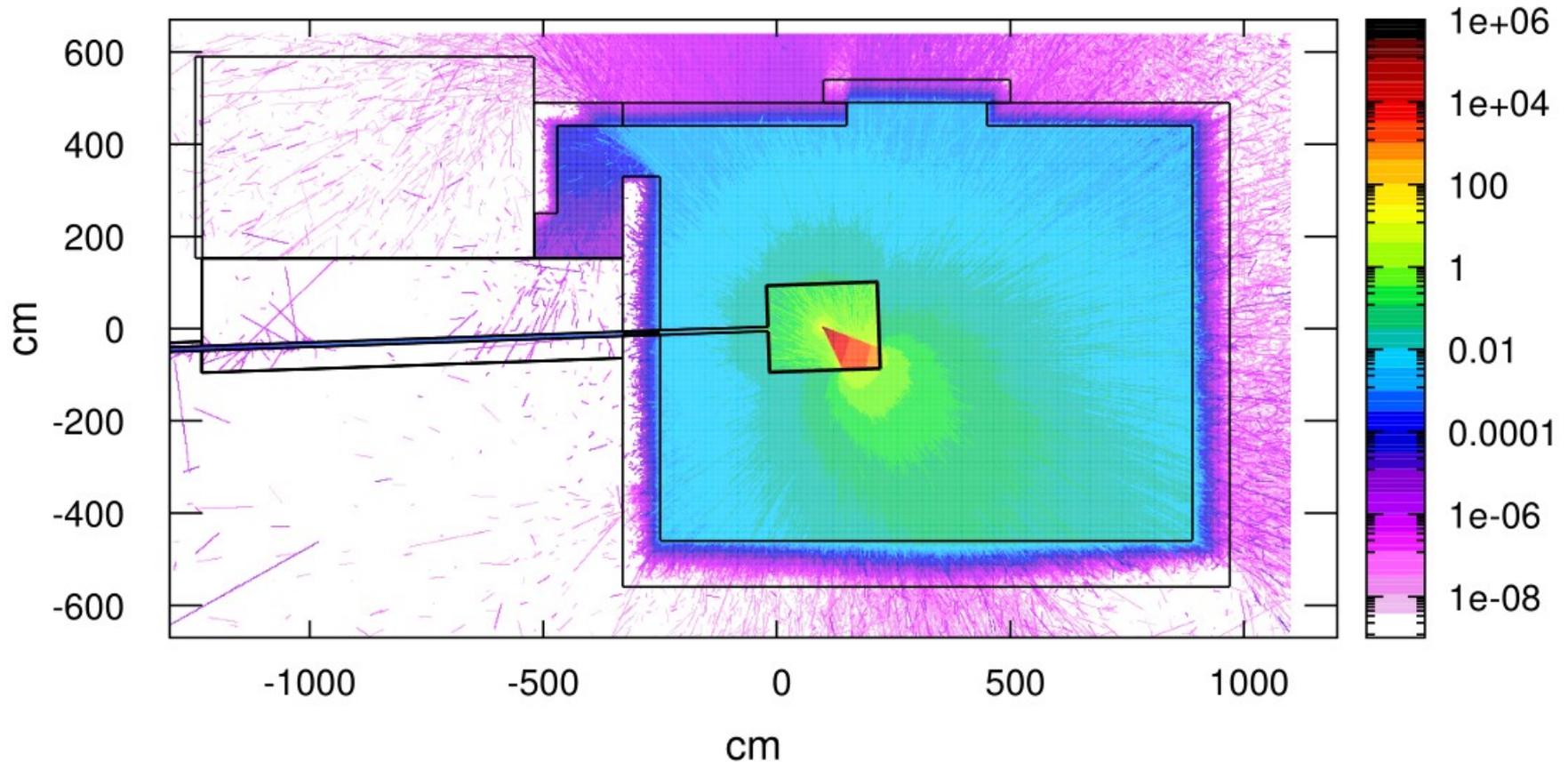
$H^*(10)[\mu\text{Sv}/\text{shot}]$  - pure bremsstrahlung from recirculating e- with  $kT_{el} = 2$  MeV



-  $kT_{el} = 2$  MeV  
Bremsstrahlung source term

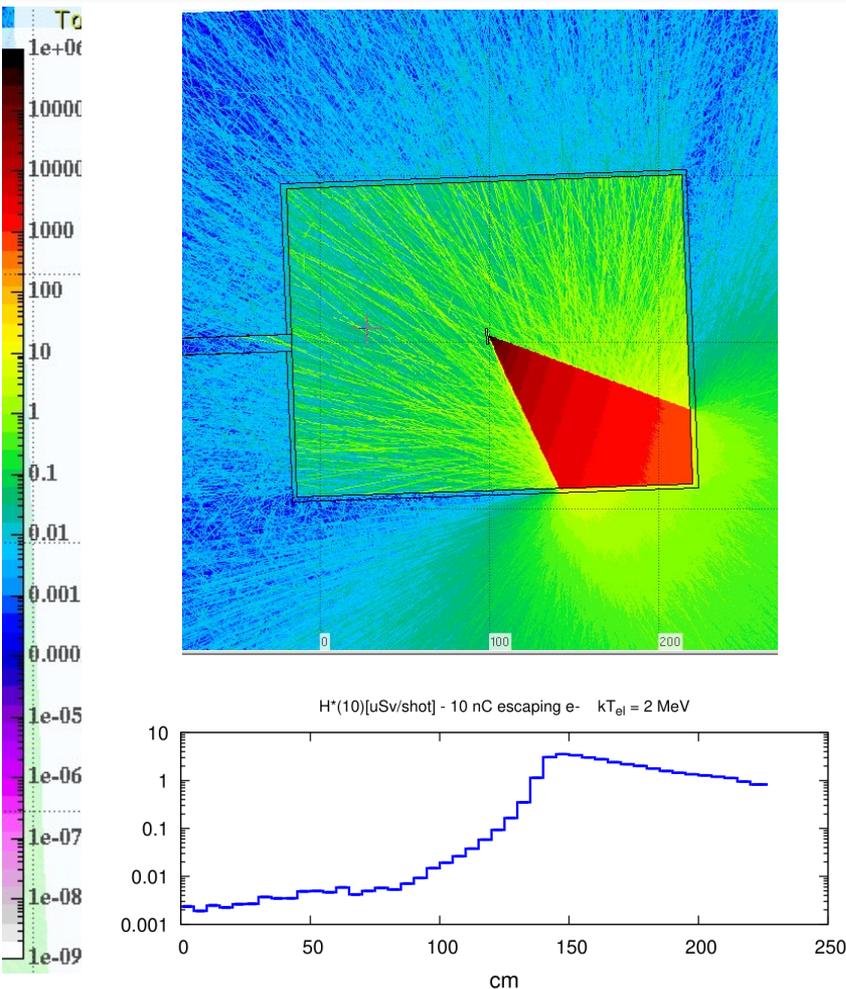
# The full radiation field

$H^*(10)[\mu\text{Sv}/\text{shot}] - kT_{eI} = 2 \text{ MeV}$  Full radiation field



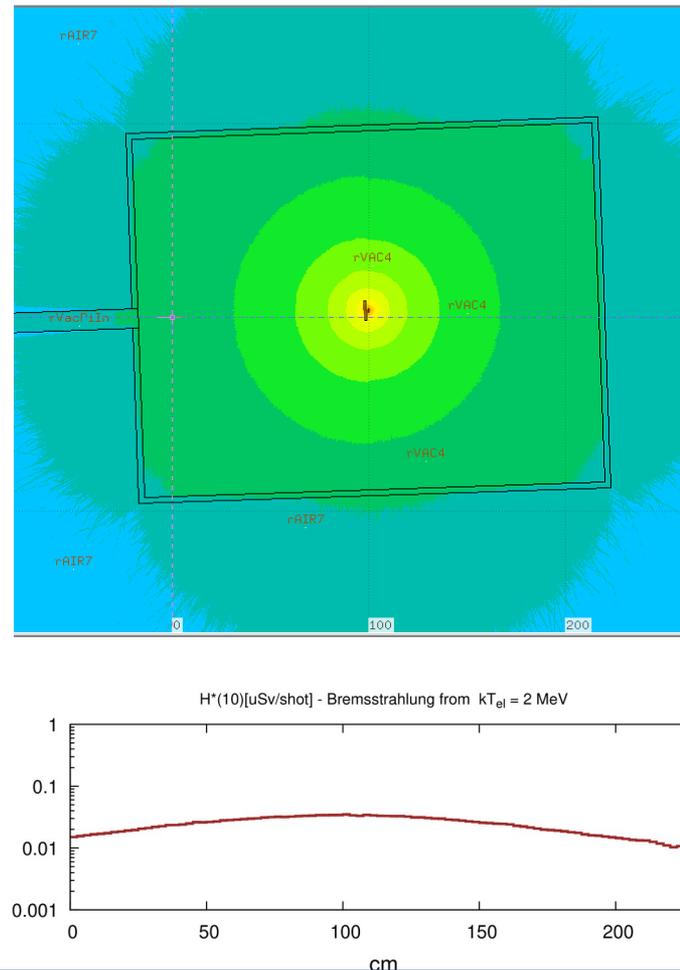
$H^*(10)$  outside the shielding walls remains  $\leq 10^{-6} \mu\text{Sv}/\text{shot}$

# Benchmark: dose distribution around the chamber



MC Dose at the dosimeter position:

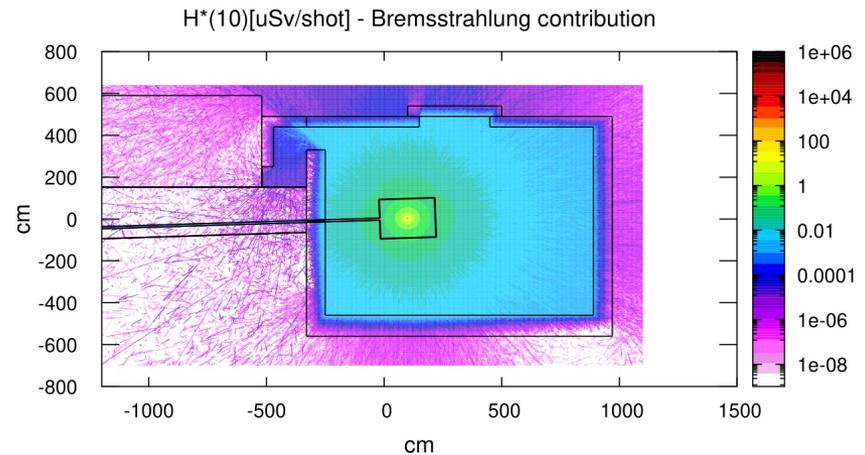
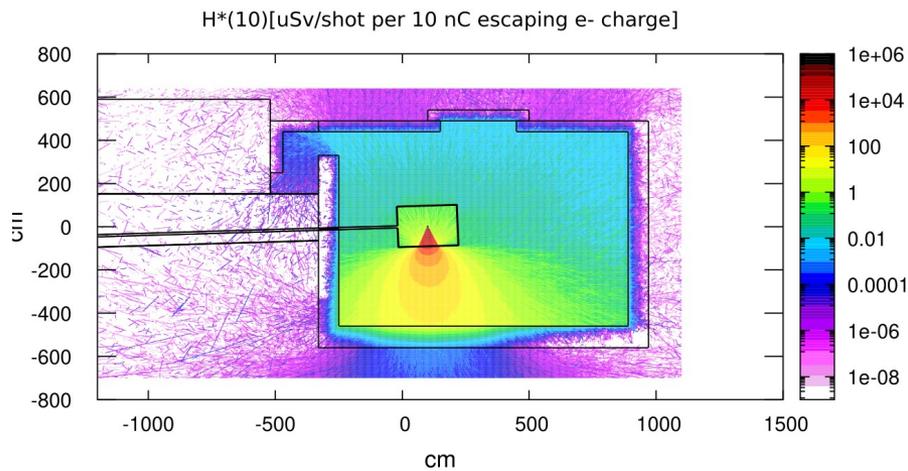
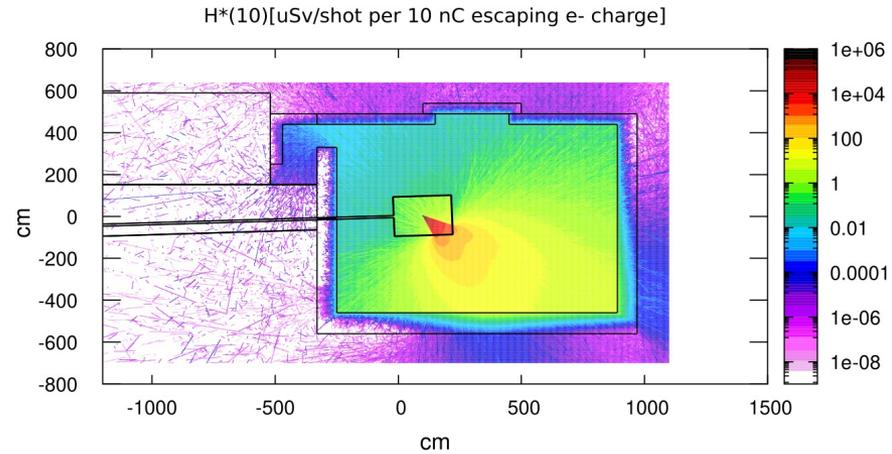
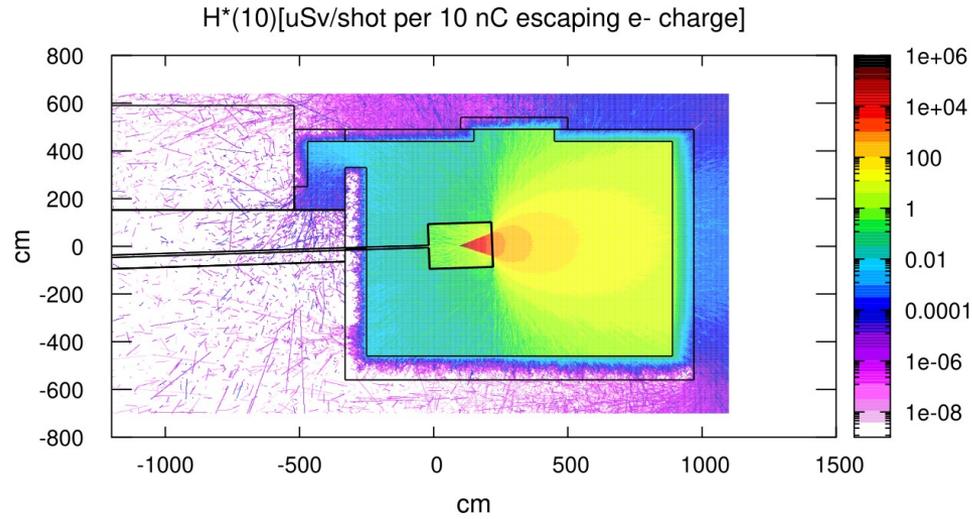
**3.5  $\mu\text{Sv/shot}$**



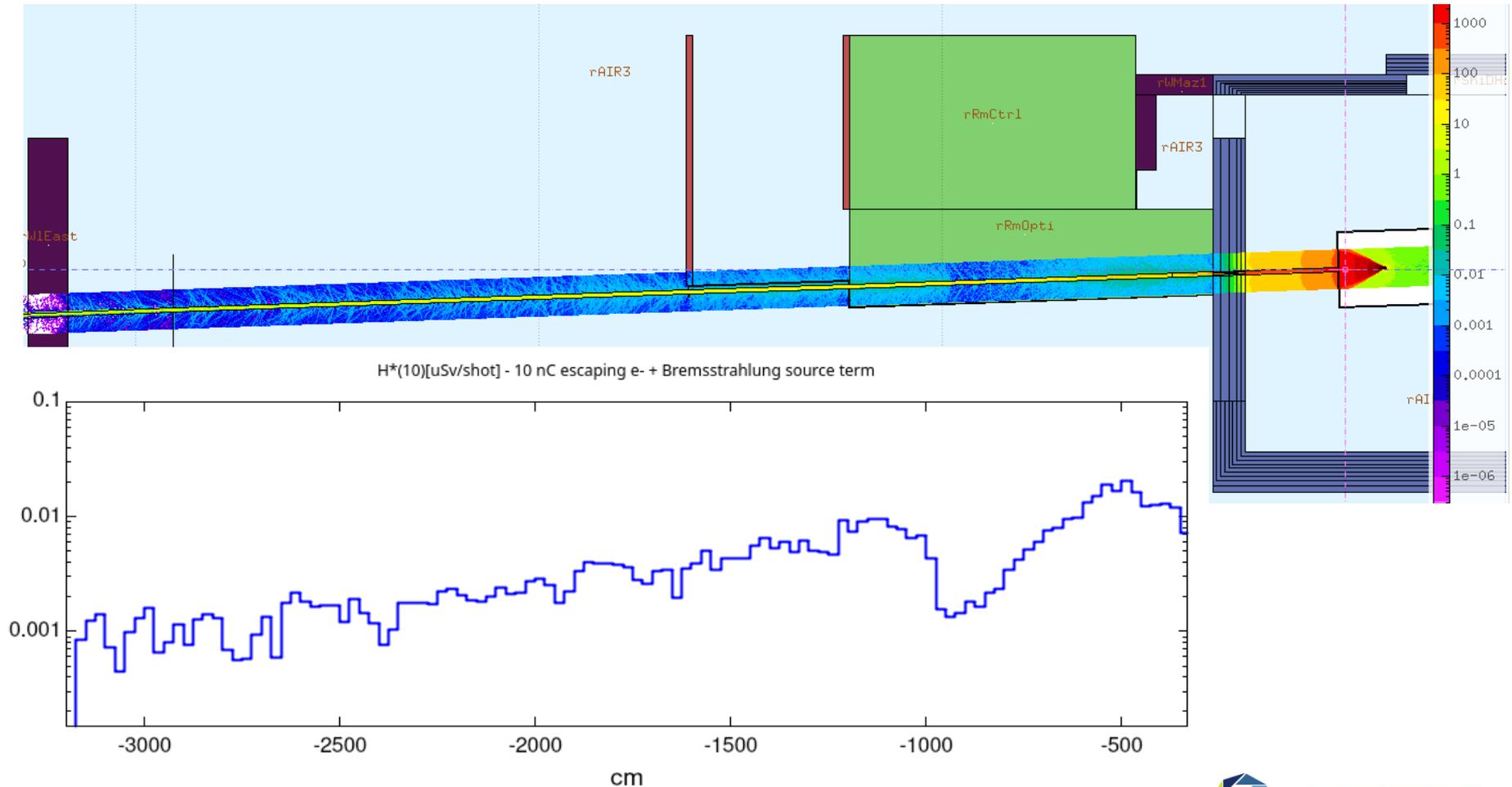
Measured dose:

**$\sim 1 \mu\text{Sv/shot}$**  for most of the thin foil targets  
 Few shots up to  $5 \mu\text{Sv/shot}$  for advanced targets

# The two components of the source term with $kT_{e1} = 15$ MeV



# Accident scenario: Full counter-propagating source term in the case $kT = 15$ MeV Escaping electrons + Bremsstrahlung



*Thank you for your attention!*

