

# Positron Plasma Wakefield Acceleration

International School of Particle Accelerators – ERICE 2023

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July 31, 2023

**SLAC** NATIONAL  
ACCELERATOR  
LABORATORY

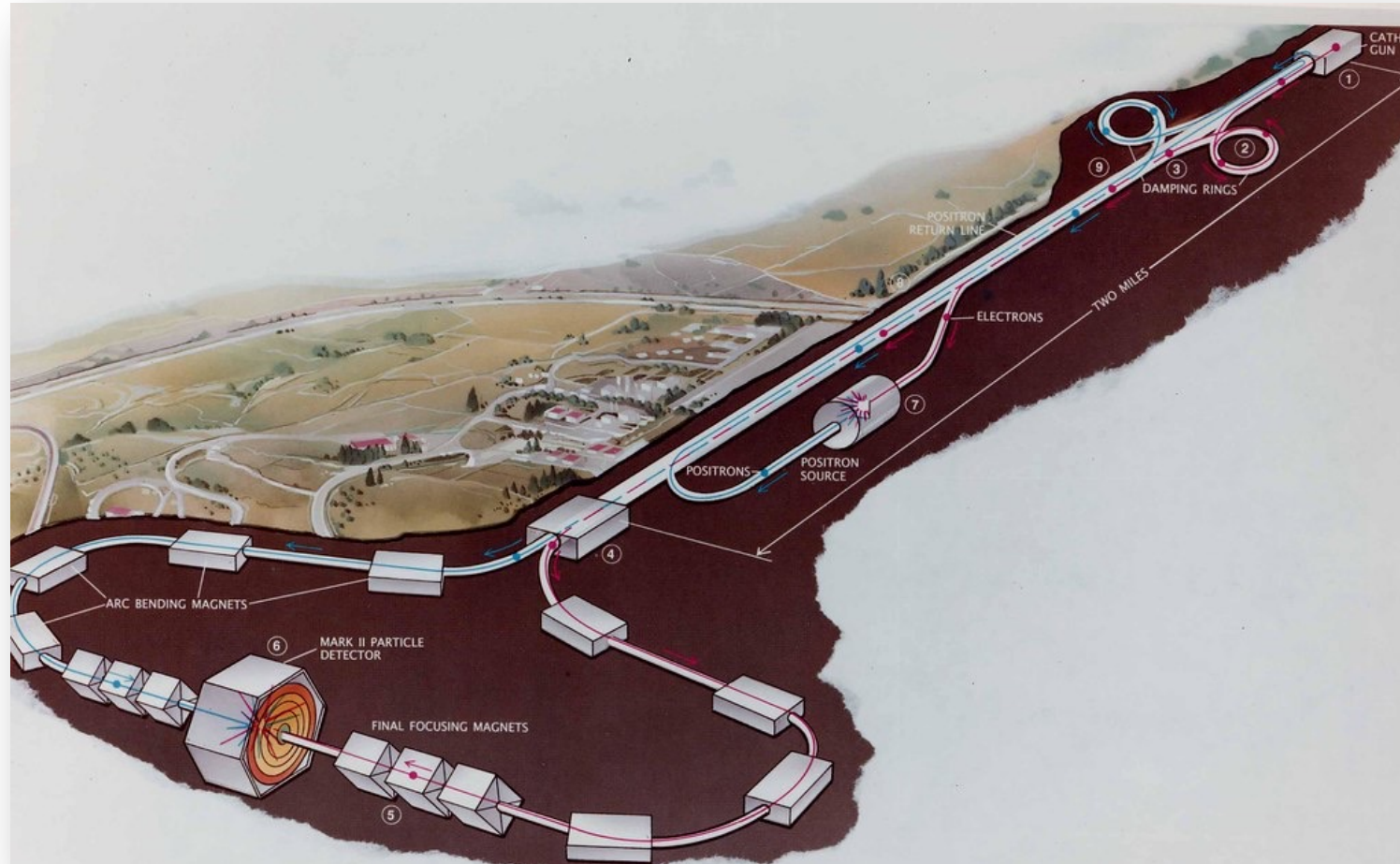
Stanford  
University



# Linear Colliders

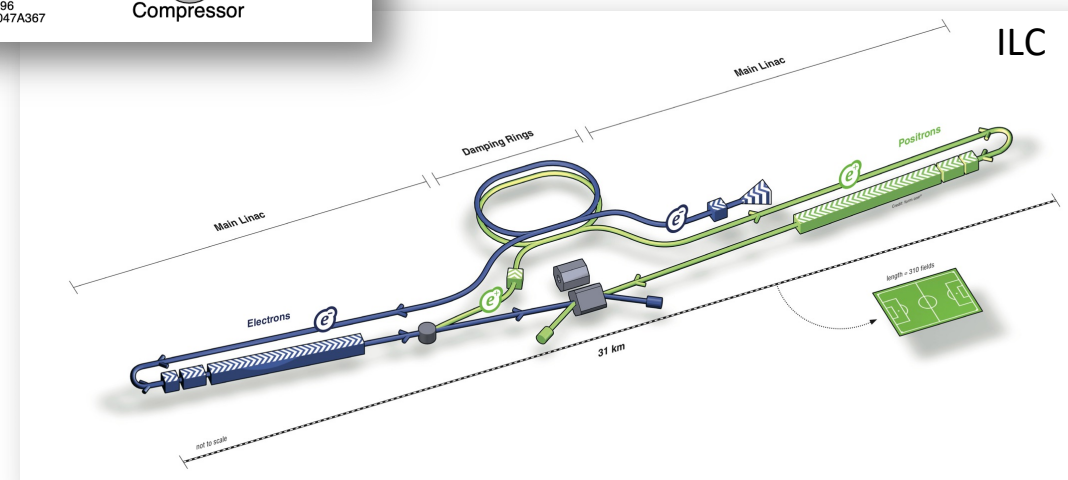
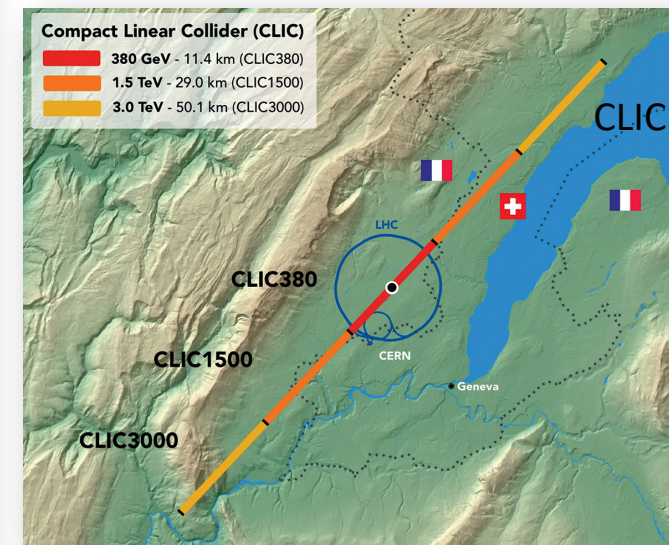
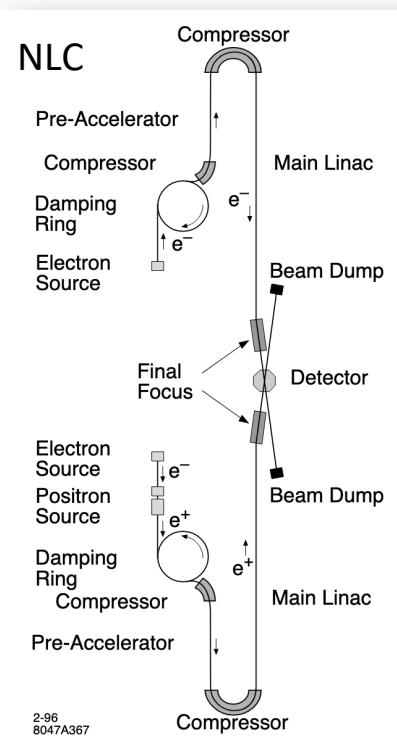
To date, there has only been one linear collider ever built:

The SLAC Linear Collider (SLC) which operated from 1986-1998



# Linear Colliders

- Linear Colliders collide electron and **positron** beams
- They are used for precision particle physics studies
- There are several existing design concepts
- The total length of the machines are  $\sim 30\text{km}$



# PWFA Experimental Program at FACET-II is Motivated by Roadmap for Future Colliders Based on Advanced Accelerators



## Advanced Accelerator Development Strategy Report

DOE Advanced Accelerator Concepts Research Roadmap Workshop  
February 2-3, 2016

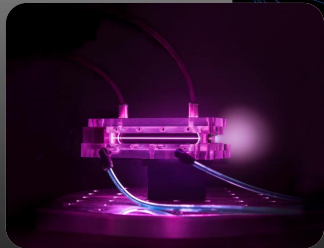
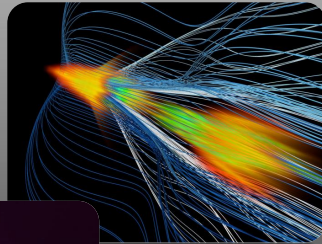
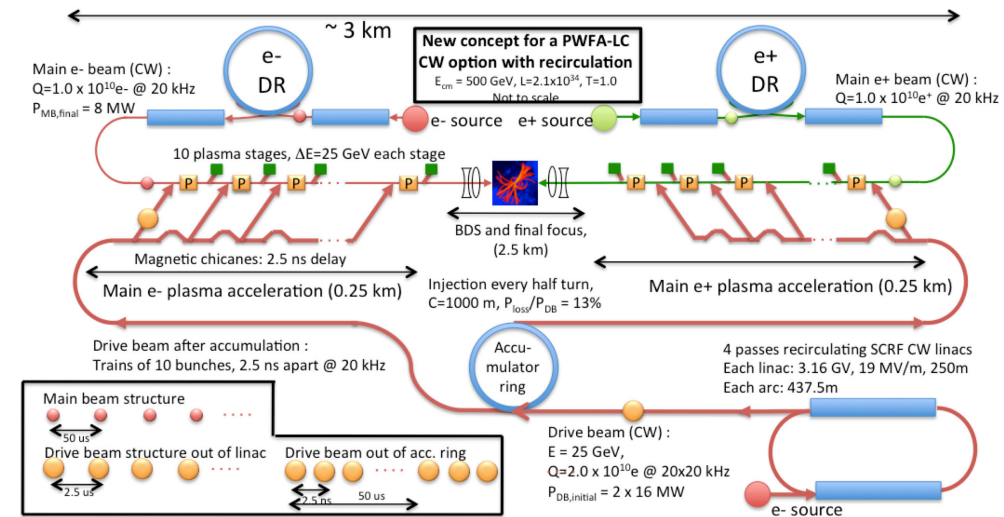


Image credits: lower left LBNL/R. Kalschmidt, upper right SLAC/UCLAW. An

[http://science.energy.gov/~media/hep/pdf/accelerator-rd-stewardship/Advanced\\_Accelerator\\_Development\\_Strategy\\_Report.pdf](http://science.energy.gov/~media/hep/pdf/accelerator-rd-stewardship/Advanced_Accelerator_Development_Strategy_Report.pdf)

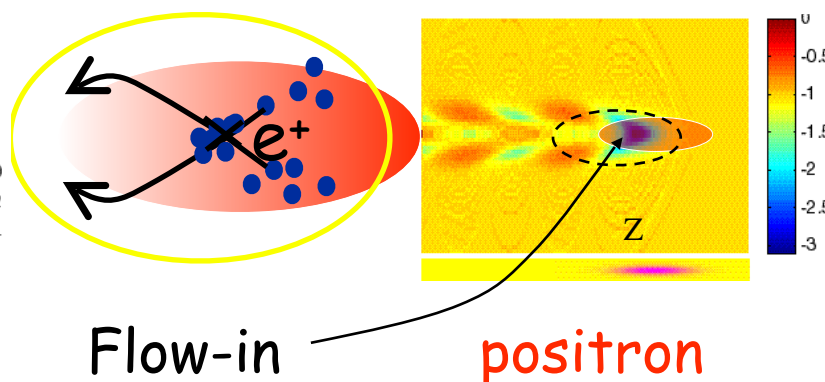
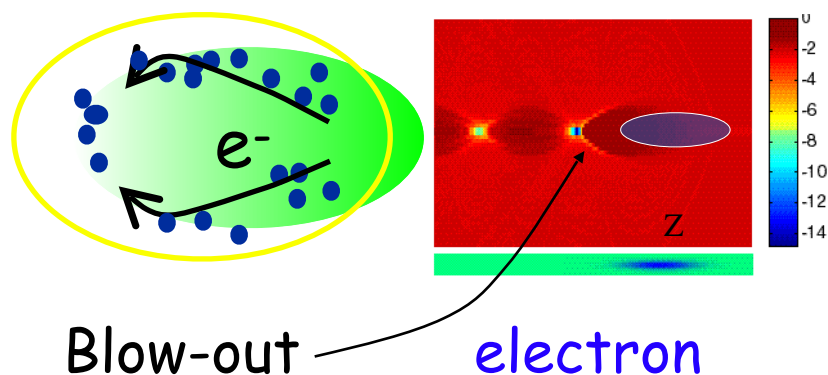
### A Conceptual PWFA-LC



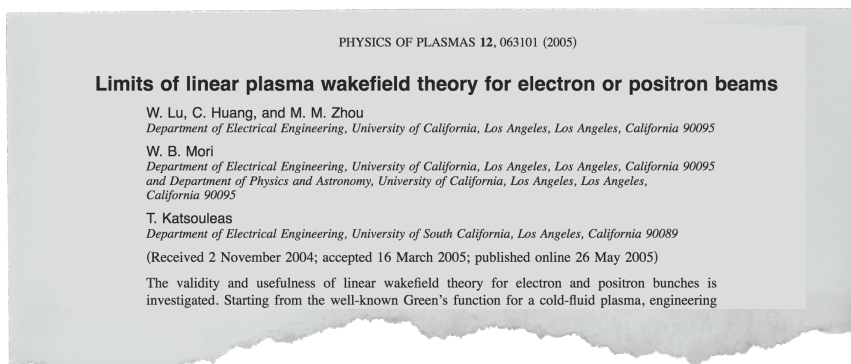
E. Adli et al., ArXiv 1308.1145  
J. P. Delahaye et al., Proceedings of IPAC2014

- Collider concepts assume high degree of symmetry between electron and positrons
- **This is not a good assumption**
- Planning for FACET-II to offer ability to test concepts in collider relevant regimes

# Plasma Response to Positron Beams



- The plasma electrons are mobile but the plasma ions are not
- The plasma responds asymmetrically to beams of opposite charge
- No other accelerating mechanism exhibits this behavior!



For electron drivers, the useful accelerating fields agree with linear theory up to  $n_b/n_p \approx 10$ , and then becomes smaller than linear theory, while the decelerating field agrees with linear theory only up to  $n_b/n_p \approx 1$ .

For positron drivers, both the peak accelerating fields and the peak decelerating fields agree with linear theory up to  $n_b/n_p \approx 1$ .

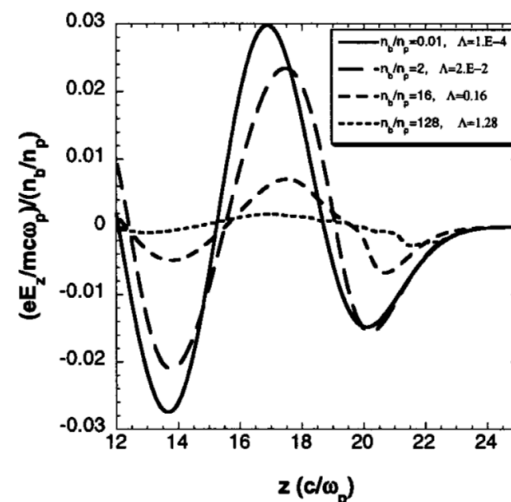
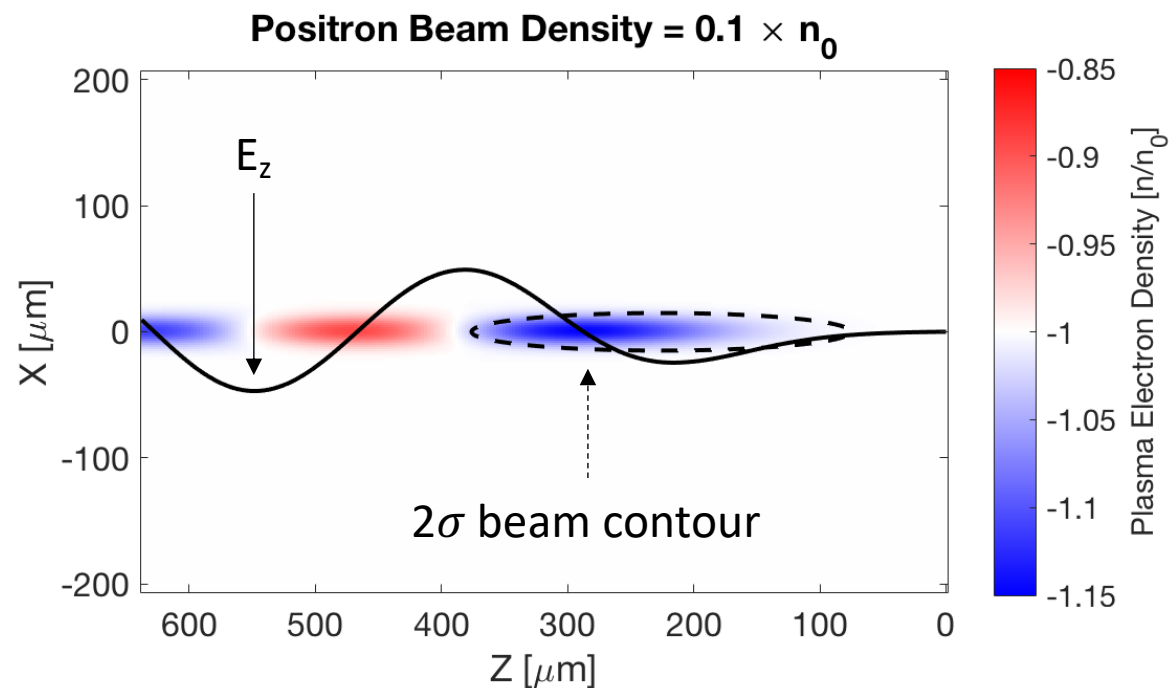
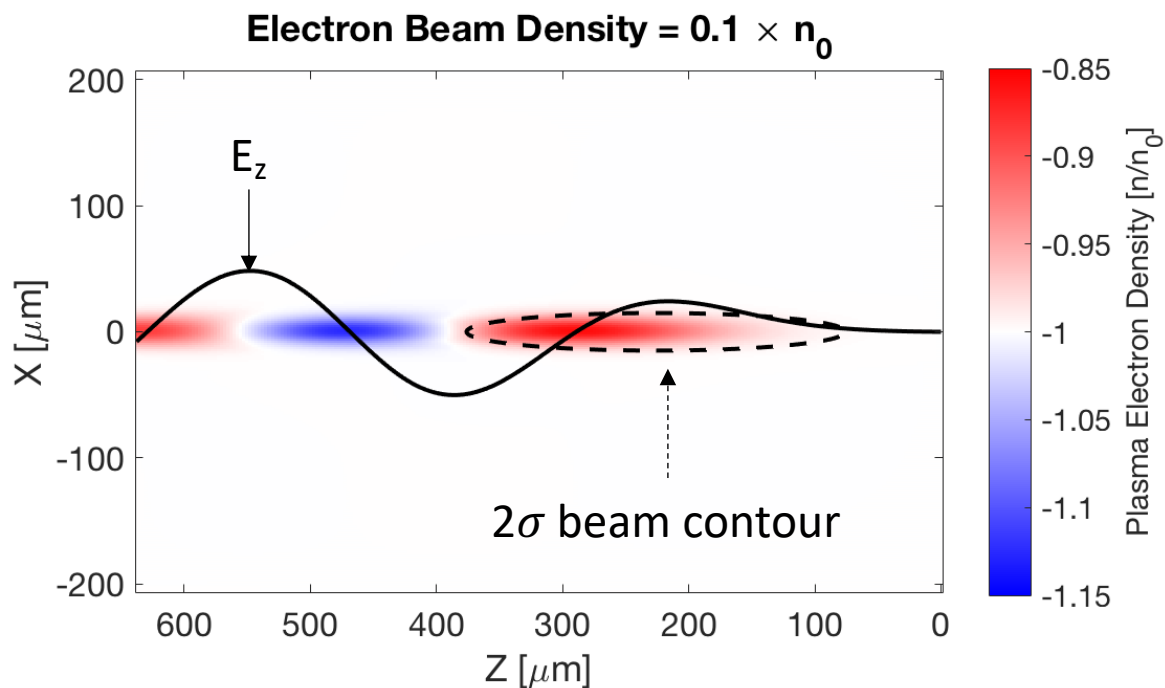


FIG. 7. Wake structure for positron drivers: we plot the ratio of normalized electric field over  $n_b/n_p$ , as a function of distance behind the wake, for  $k_p \sigma_z = \sqrt{2}$  and  $k_p \sigma_r = 0.1$  (the beam center is at  $z = 20c/\omega_p$ ).

# Plasma Response to Beams of Opposite Charge

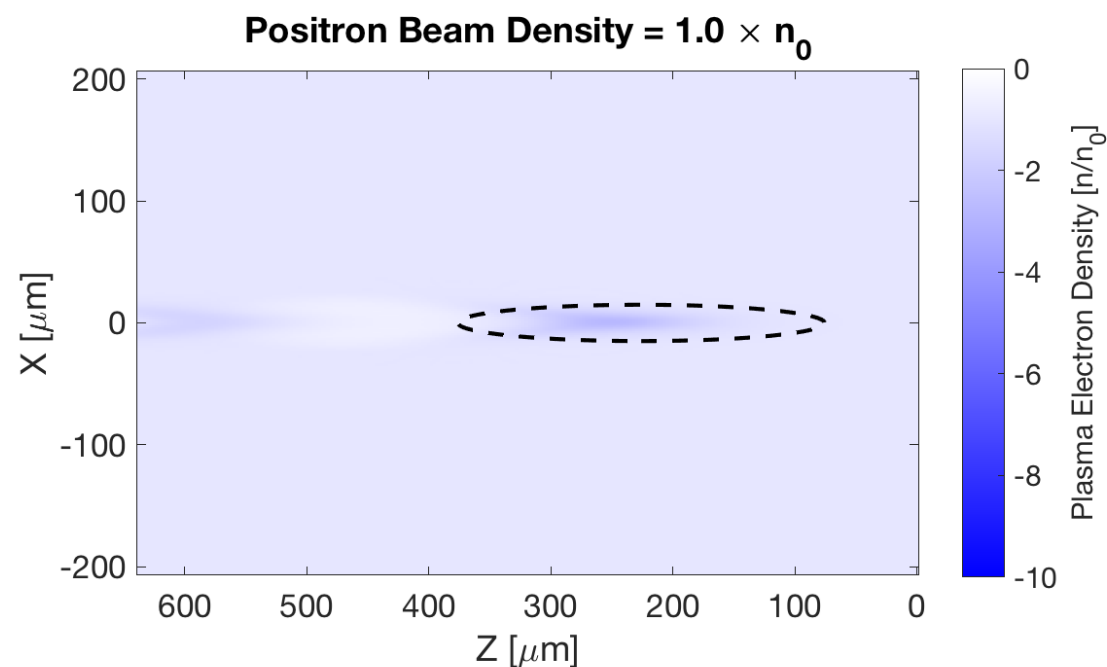
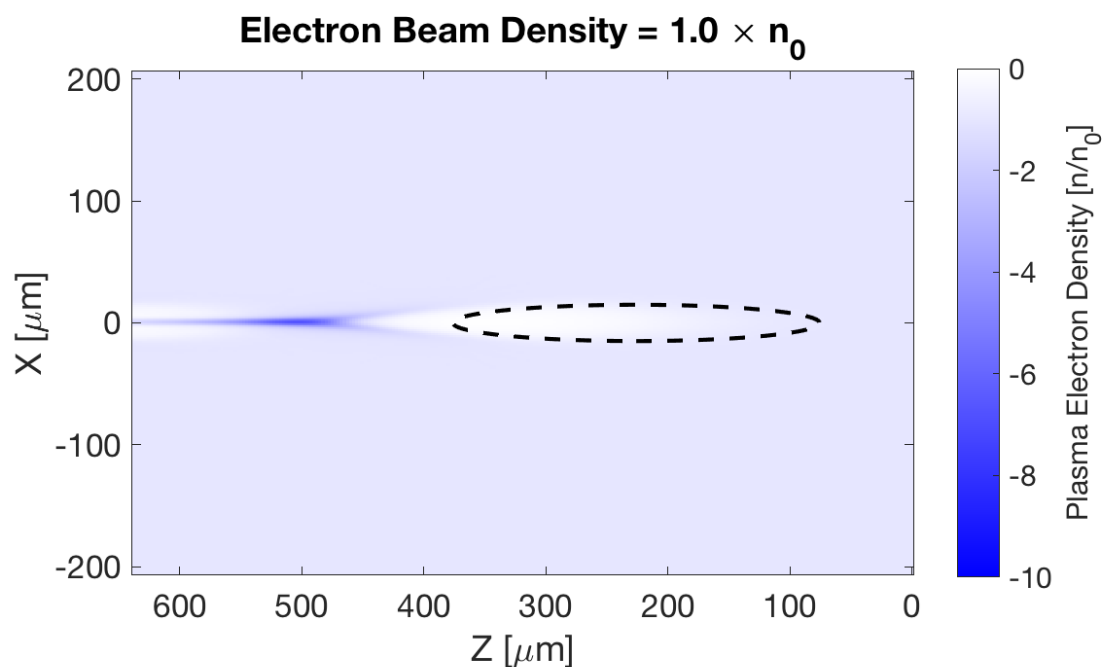
In the linear regime, the response is symmetric



QuickPIC Simulation run on Hoffman2 at UCLA - courtesy of S. Gessner

# Plasma Response to Beams of Opposite Charge

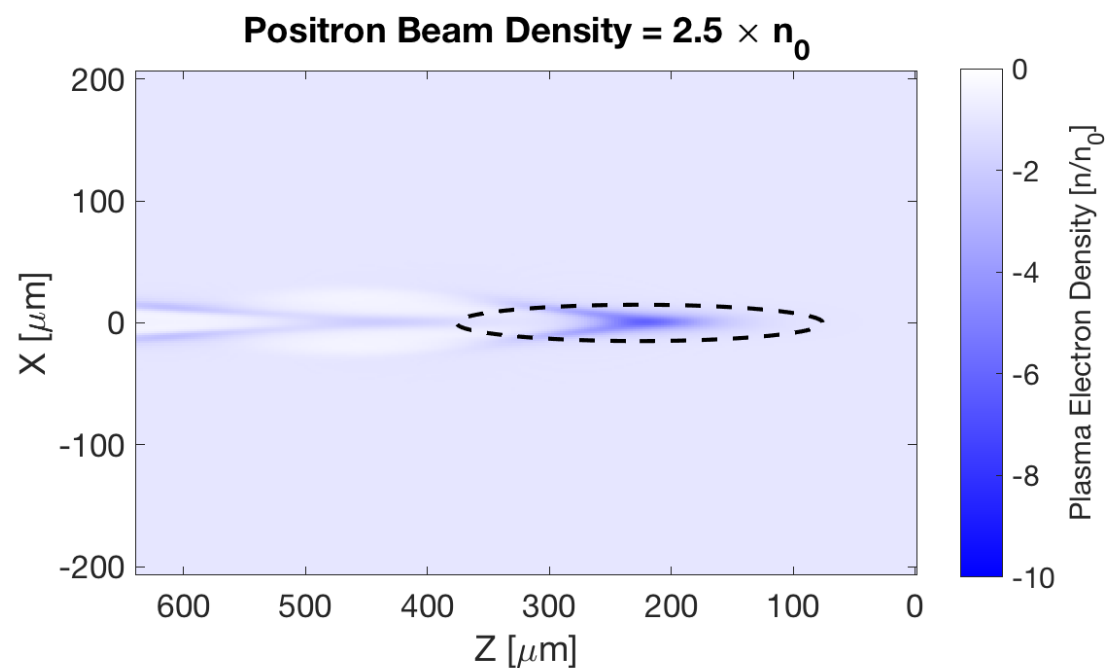
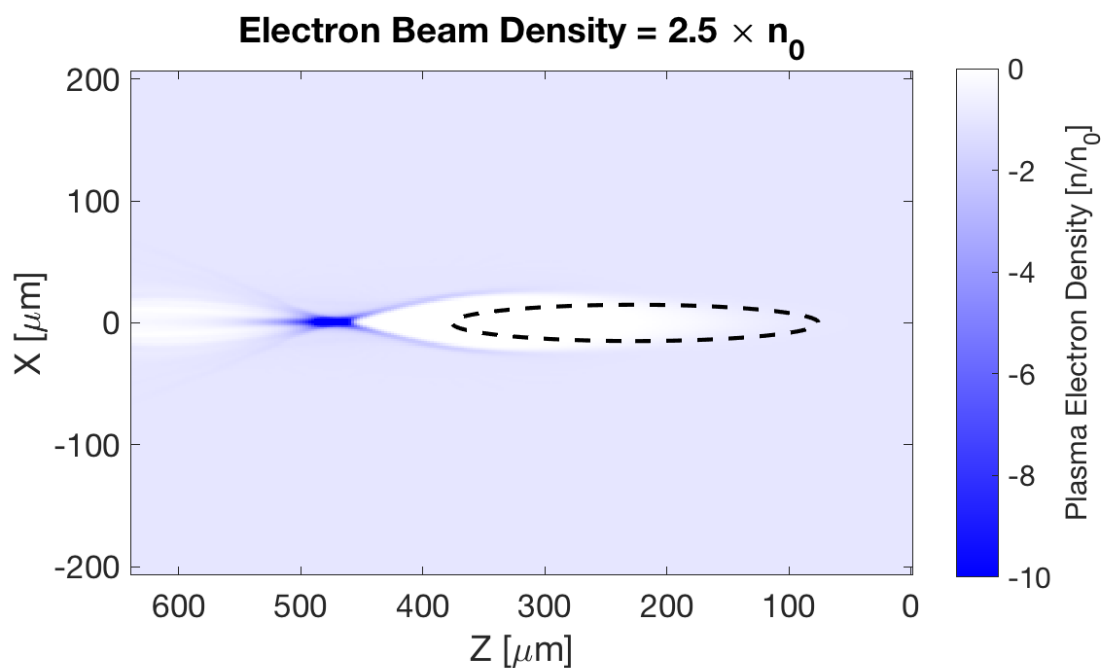
As we increase the beam charge (density), the asymmetry becomes more pronounced



QuickPIC Simulation run on Hoffman2 at UCLA - courtesy of S. Gessner

# Plasma Response to Beams of Opposite Charge

As we increase the beam charge (density), the asymmetry becomes more pronounced

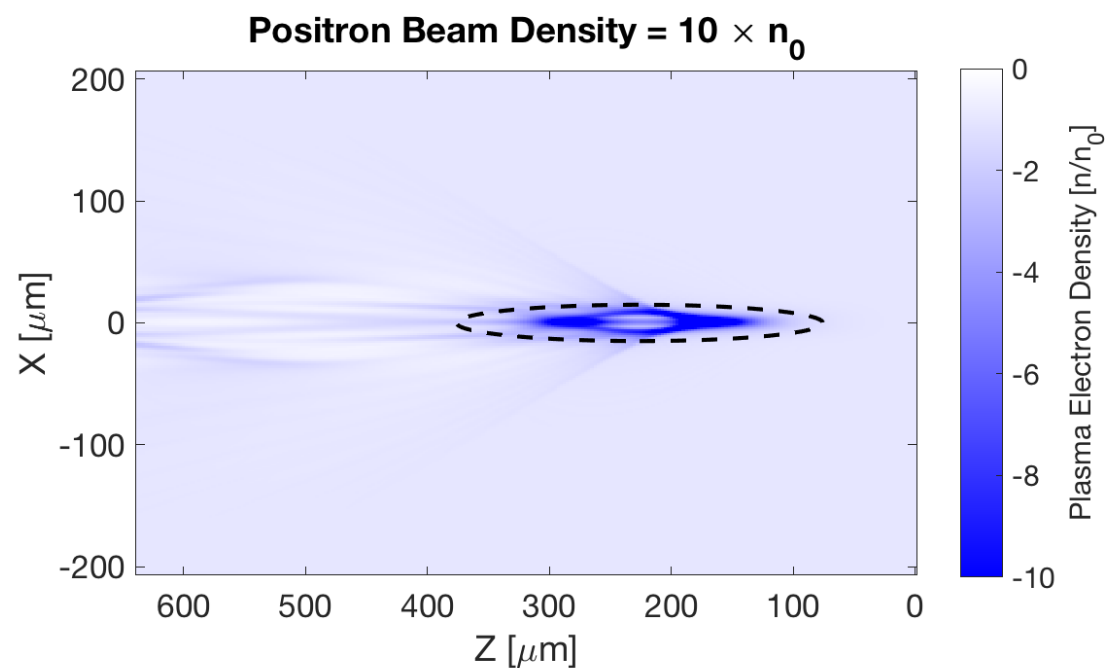
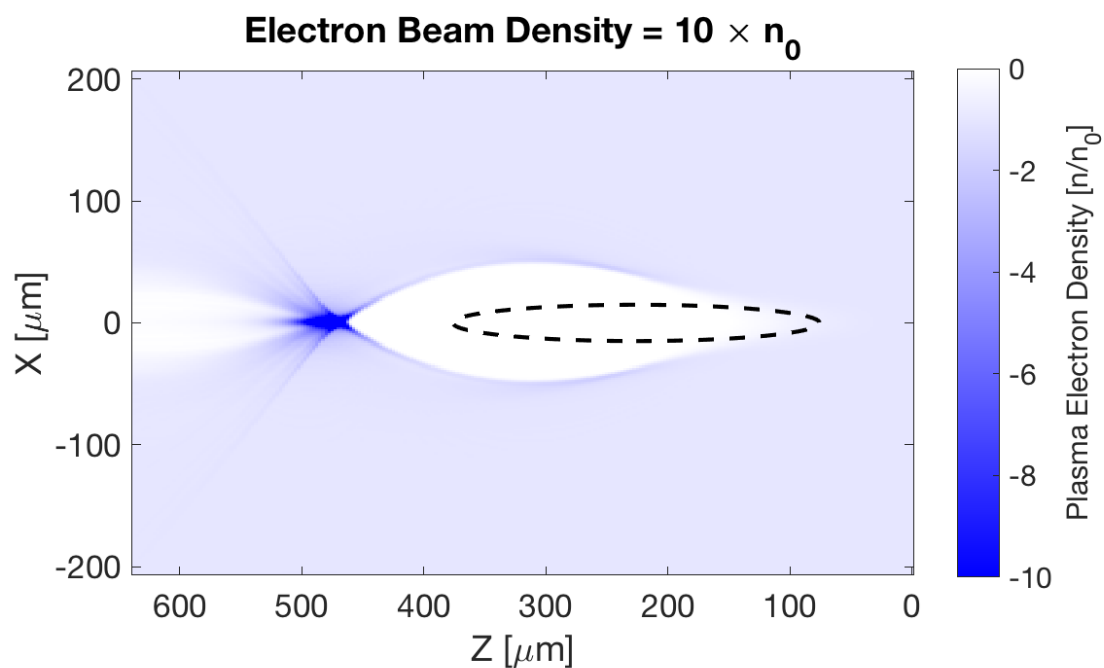


QuickPIC Simulation run on Hoffman2 at UCLA - courtesy of S. Gessner



# Plasma Response to Beams of Opposite Charge

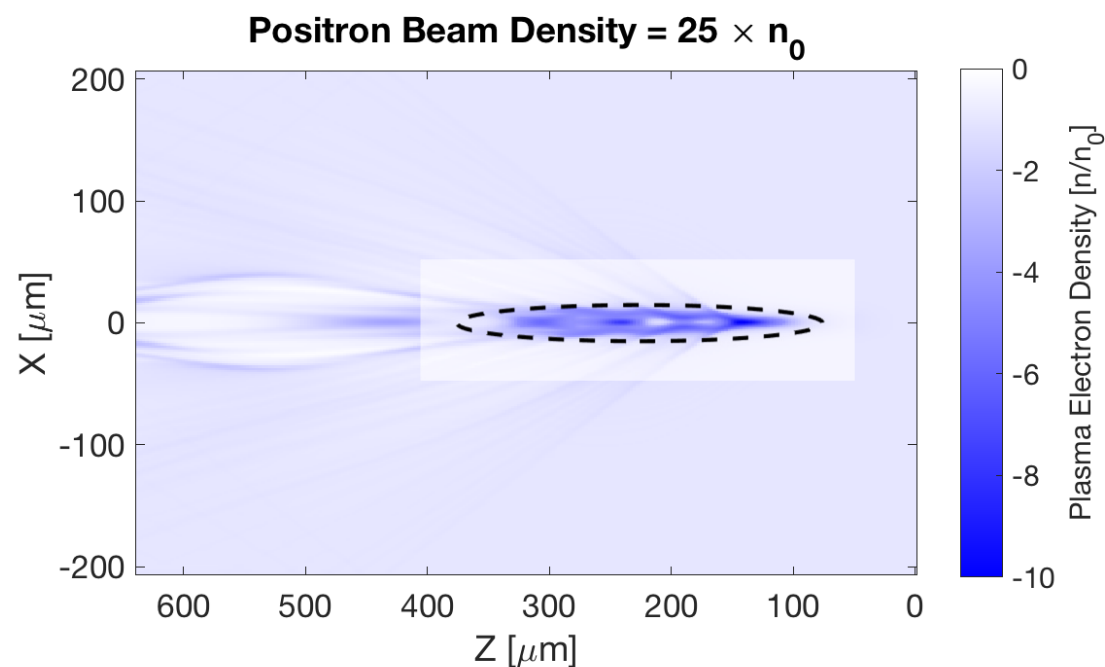
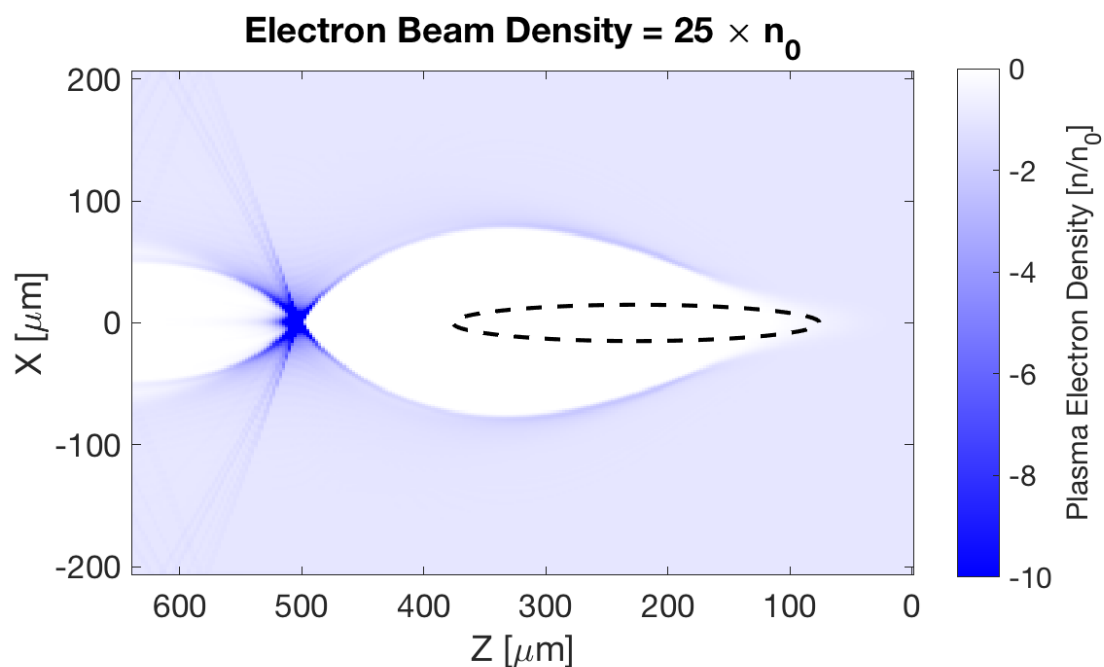
As we increase the beam charge (density), the asymmetry becomes more pronounced



QuickPIC Simulation run on Hoffman2 at UCLA - courtesy of S. Gessner

# Plasma Response to Beams of Opposite Charge

As we increase the beam charge (density), the asymmetry becomes more pronounced ...and more complicated

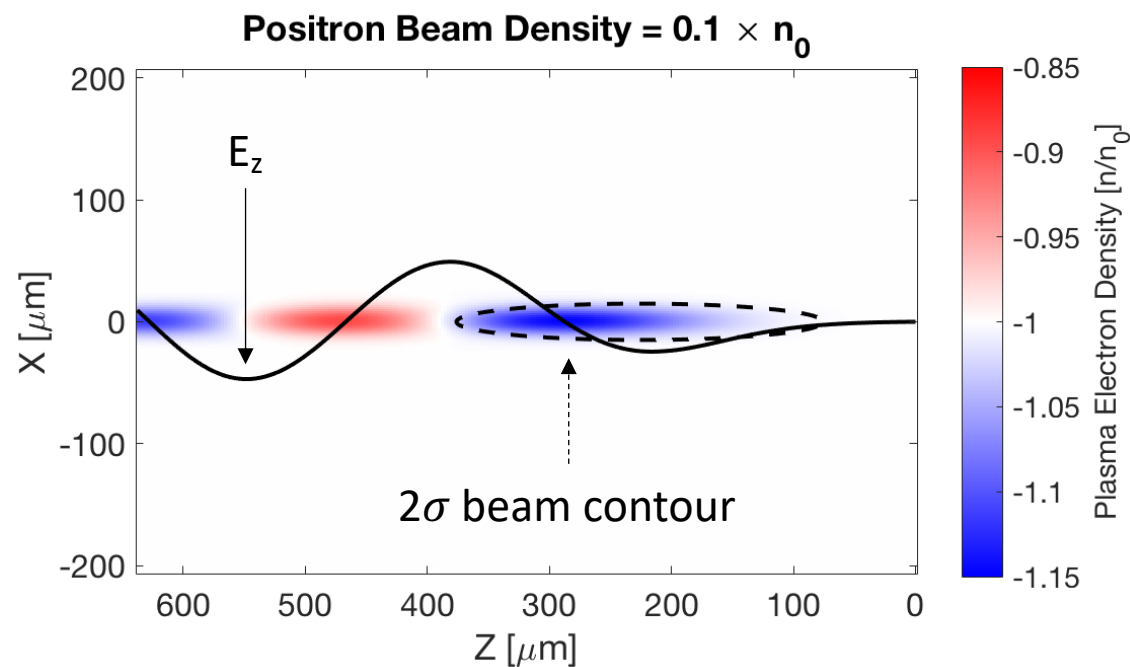
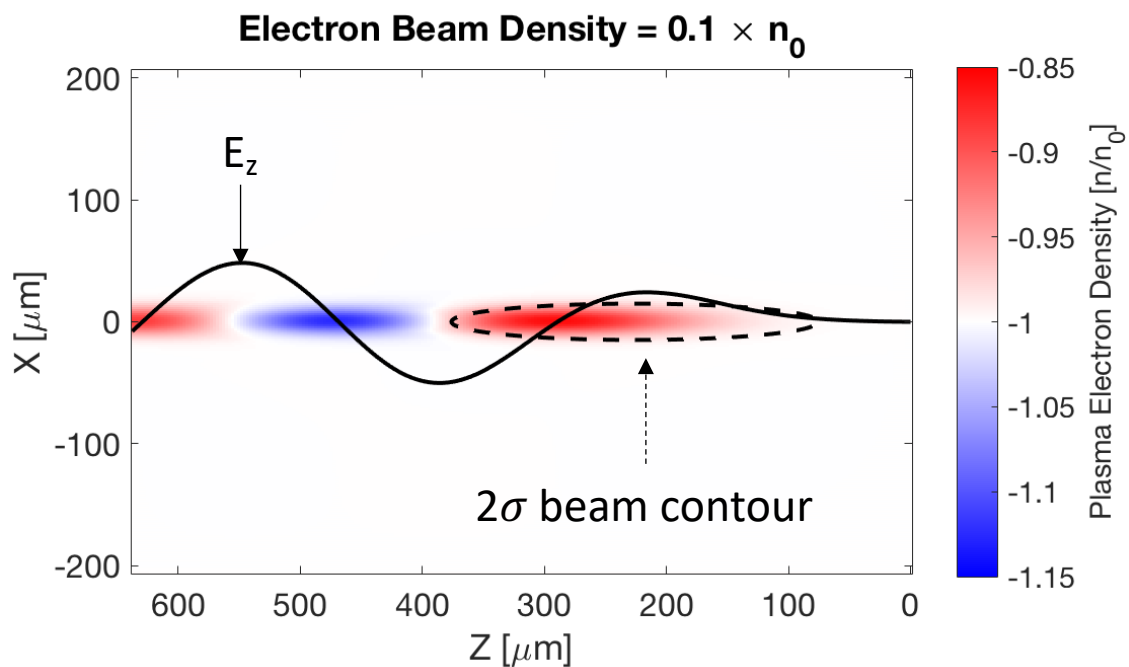


Blow-out regime has many great properties for accelerating electrons:

- Focusing is linear in  $r$  and constant in  $z$
- Accelerating field is constant in  $r$

# Positron Acceleration in the Linear Regime?

Why not operate in the linear regime then?

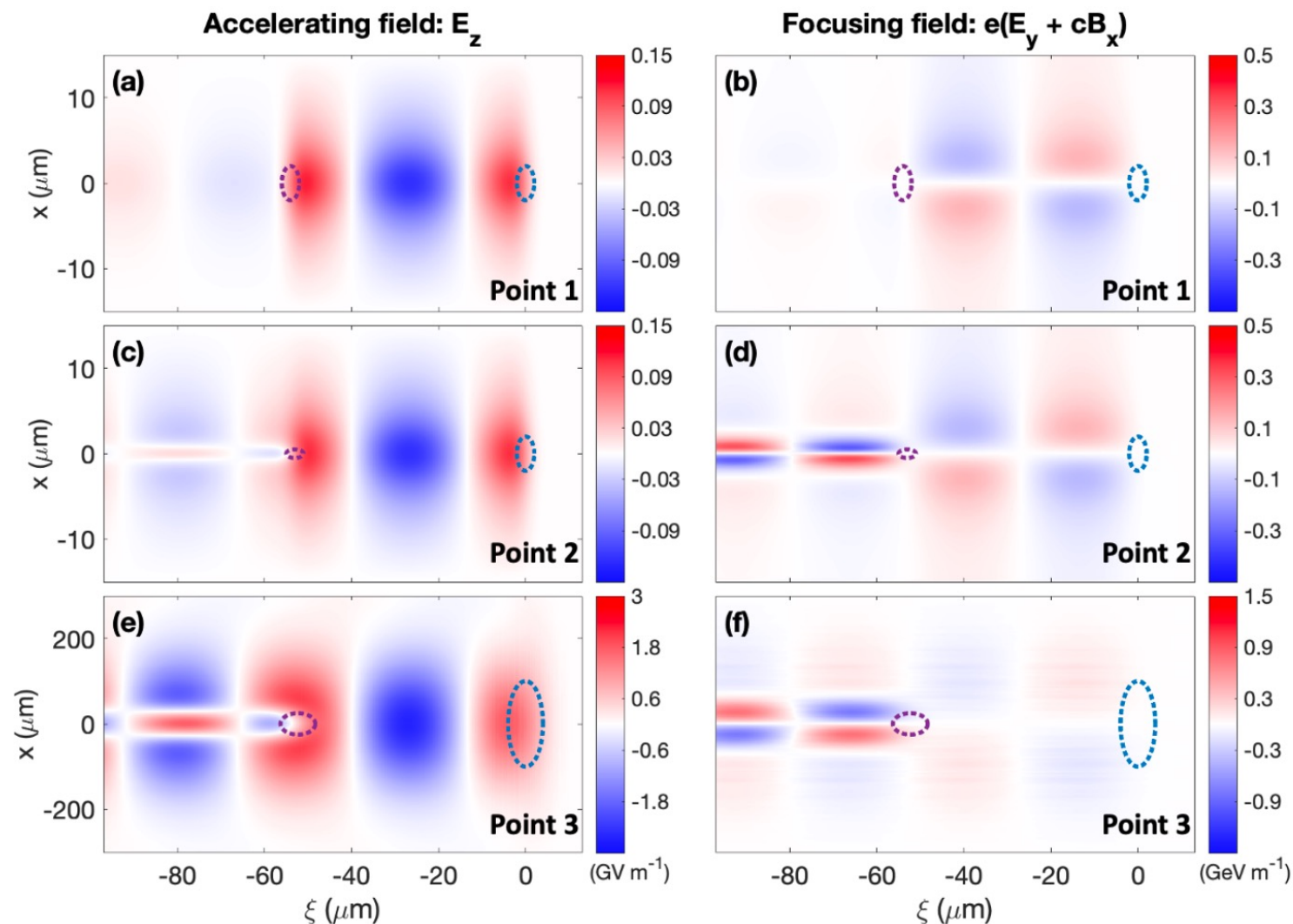


QuickPIC Simulation run on Hoffman2 at UCLA - courtesy of S. Gessner

# Beam Loading in the Linear Regime

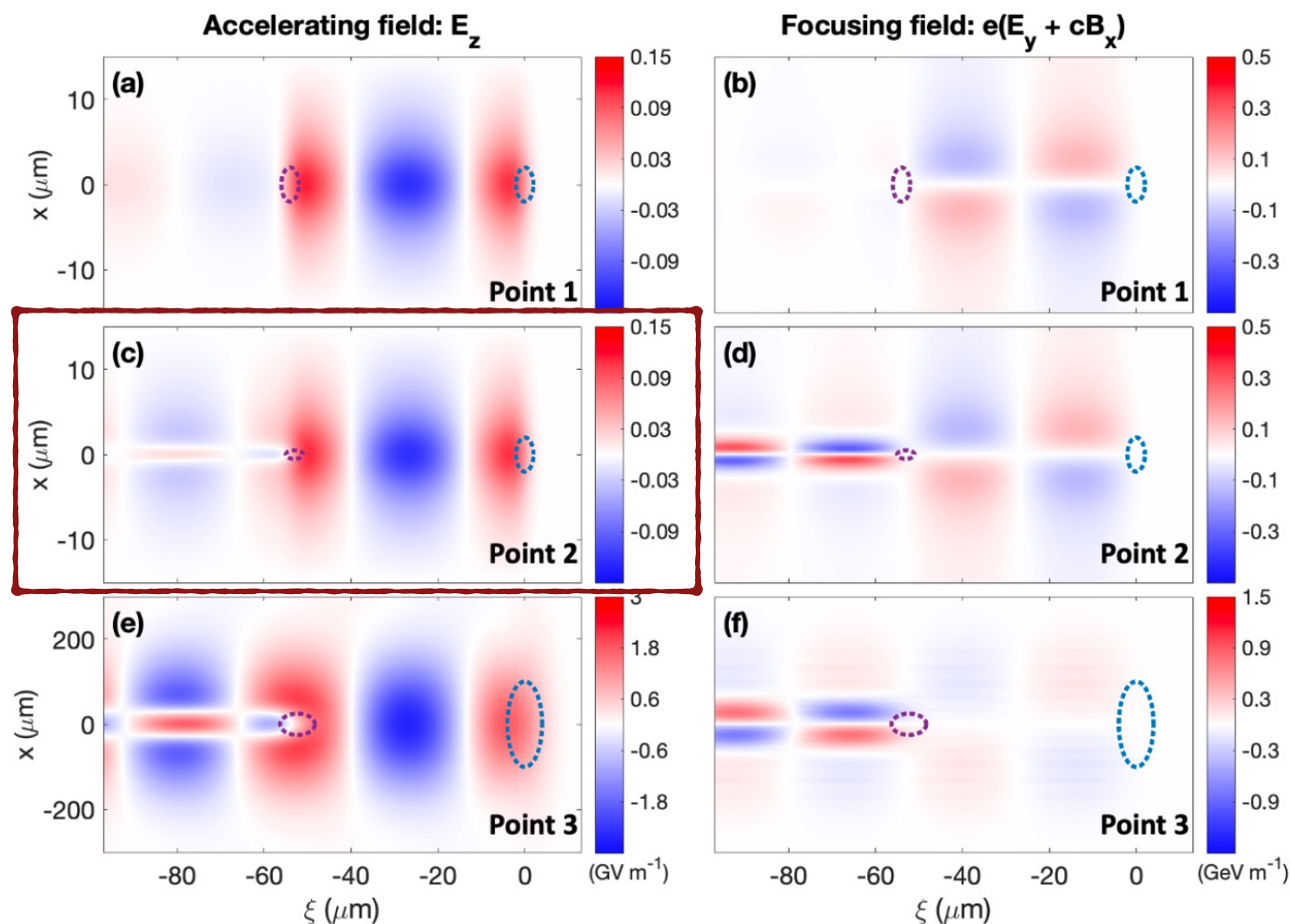
For positron acceleration in the linear regime, we must consider both beam quality and efficiency.

- What is the energy spread of the beam?
- Is the emittance maintained throughout acceleration?
- What is the transfer efficiency?



# Beam Loading in the Linear Regime

- In general, a smaller witness beam samples less variation of a changing wakefield, and beam quality is higher
- However, it also absorbs less energy from the wake and efficiency is lower
- The problem becomes more severe with lower emittance beams



# Beam Loading in the Linear Regime

If we insist on maintaining beam quality at a certain level, none of the options in the linear regime are particularly efficient

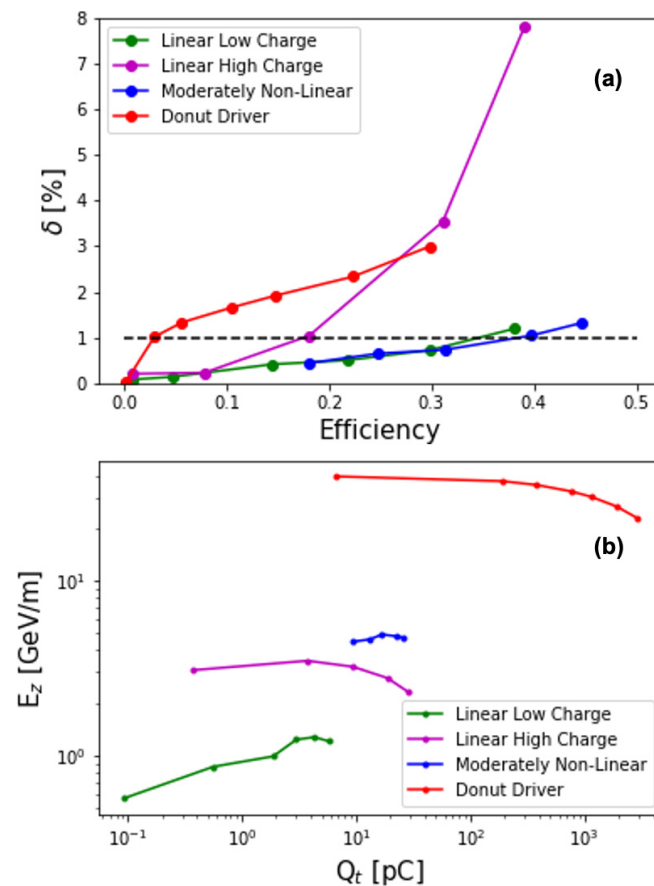
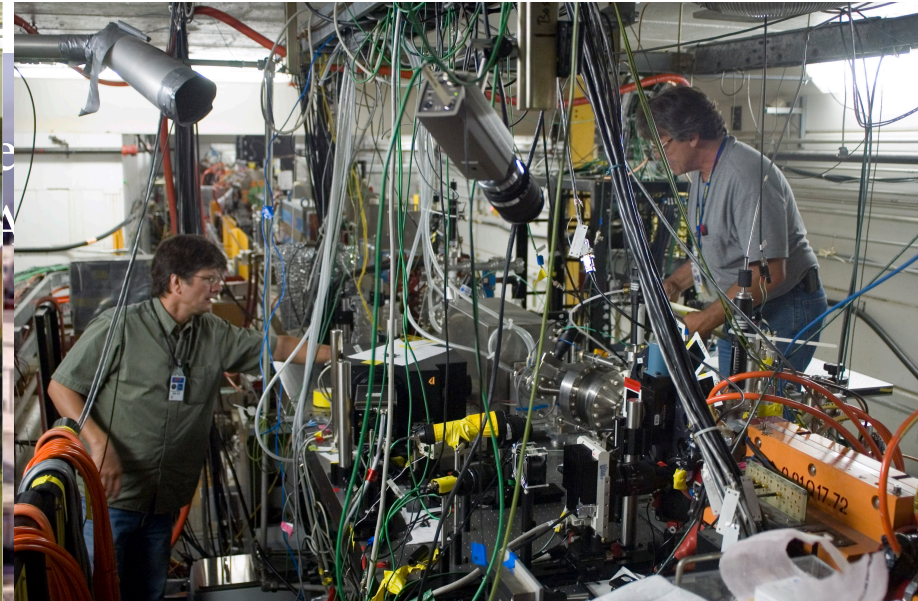
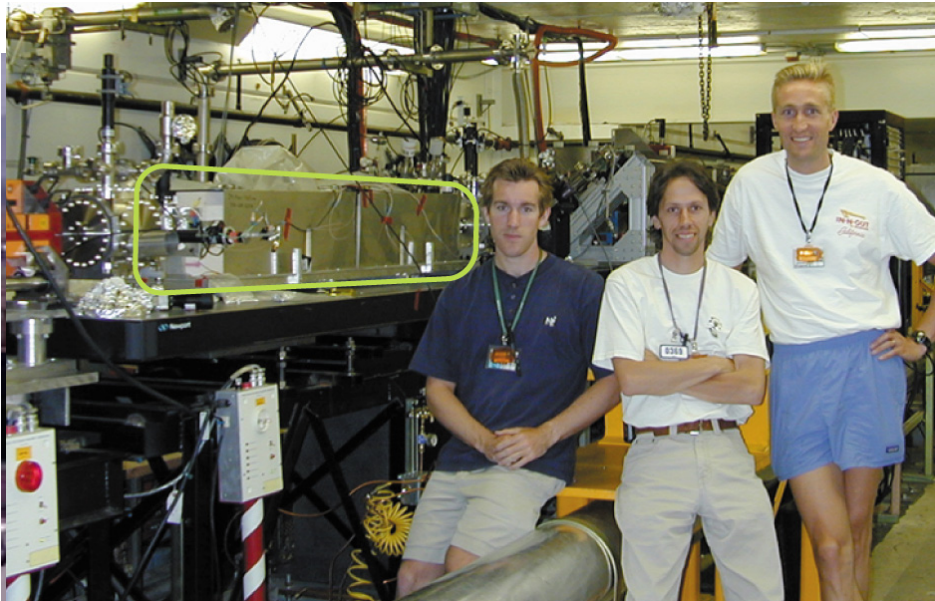
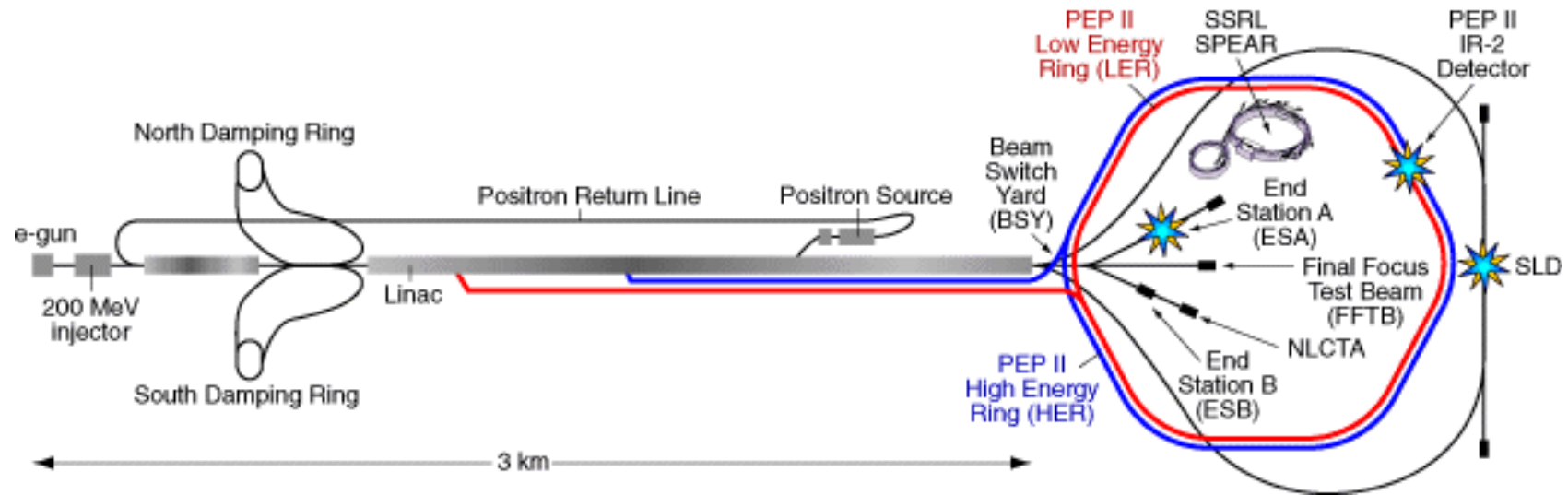
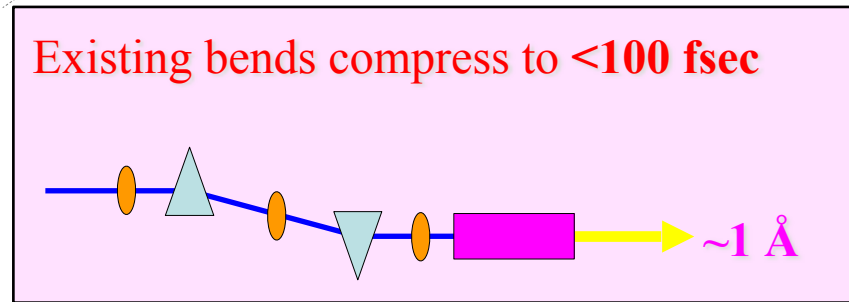
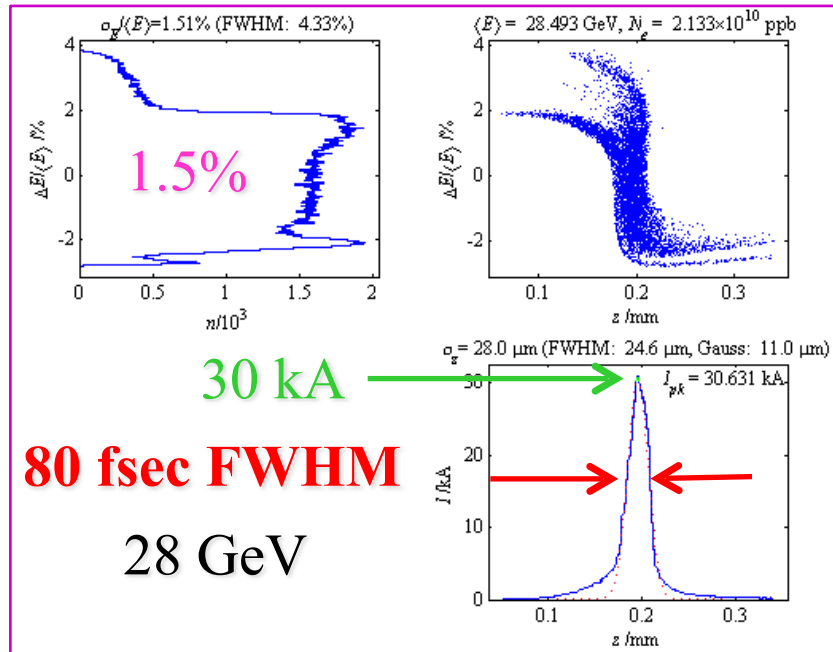
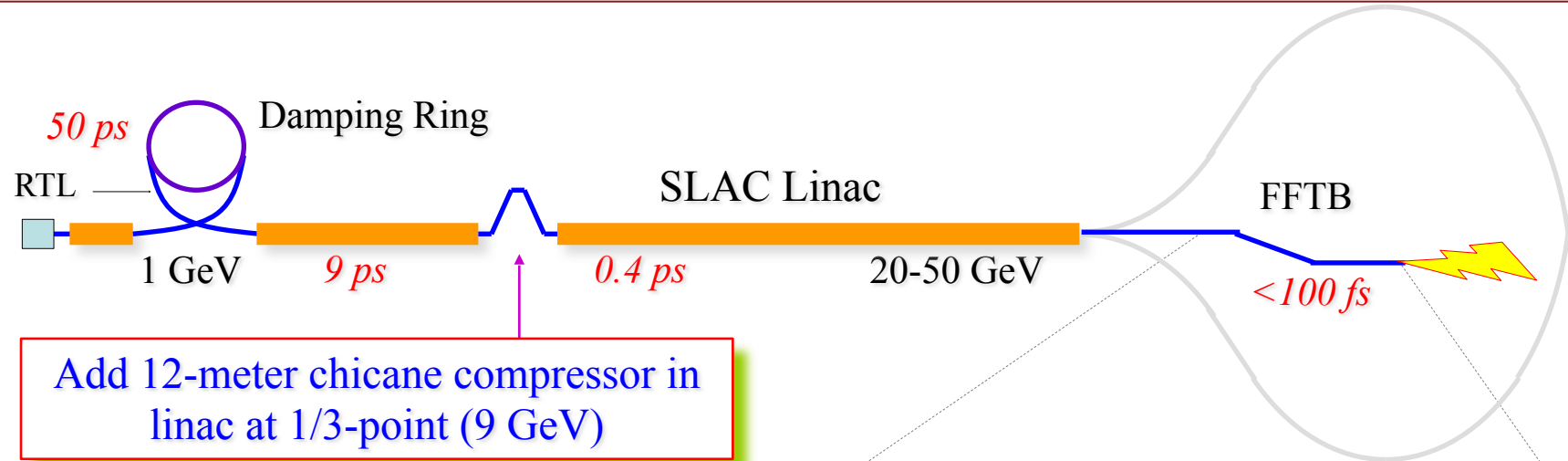


FIG. 8. (a) Uncorrelated-energy-spread-to-gain ratio  $\delta$  vs energy-transfer efficiency  $\eta$  for different regimes of positron acceleration. The dashed black line depicts the constraint  $\delta \lesssim 1\%$  explained in the text. For each regime, the different data points are obtained by increasing  $Q_t$  and optimizing the driver to minimize  $\delta$ . (b) Loaded accelerating field  $E_z$  vs trailing positron charge  $Q_t$  for the same data points as in (a). Beam and plasma parameters or parameter range for these simulation results can be found in Table II.

# Plasma Wakefield Experiments at the SLAC FFTB (1998-2006)



# Short Bunch Generation In The SLAC Linac After 2002 – But Only for Electrons



- Bunch length/current profile is the convolution of an incoming energy spectrum and the magnetic compression
- Dial FFTB R56, measure incoming energy spectrum



# First Acceleration of Positrons in Plasma

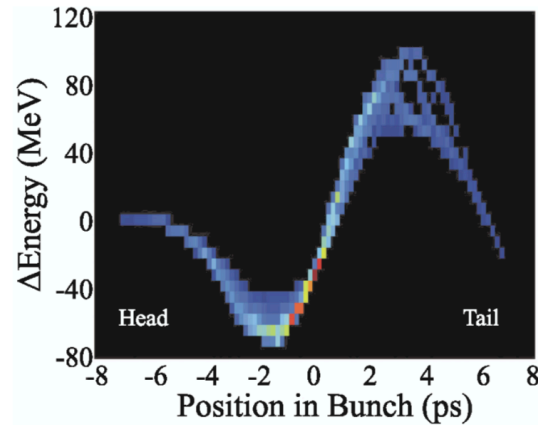
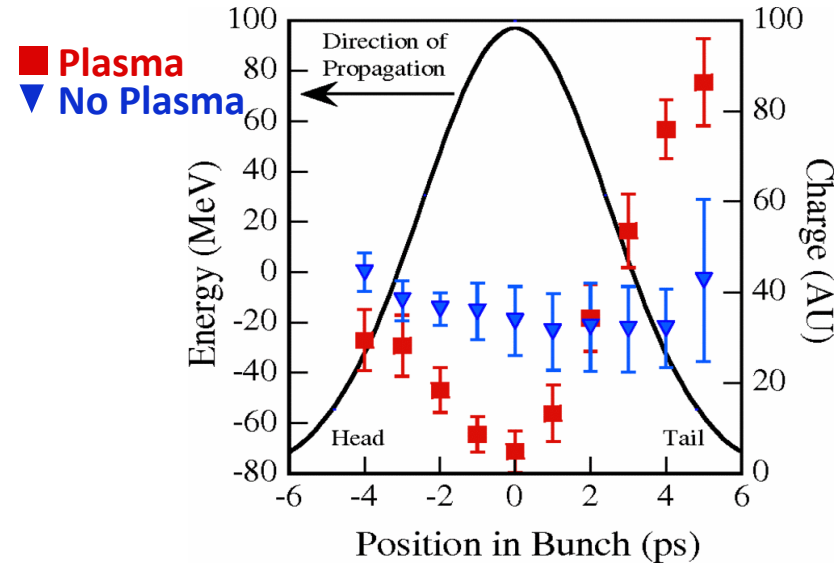


FIG. 2 (color). 3D particle-in-cell simulation of a positron beam in a plasma. The image depicts the phase space of the beam after it has traversed 1.4 m of plasma. Beam parameters in the simulation were identical to experimental parameters. The simulation predicts an energy loss of 64 MeV and an energy gain of 79 MeV.

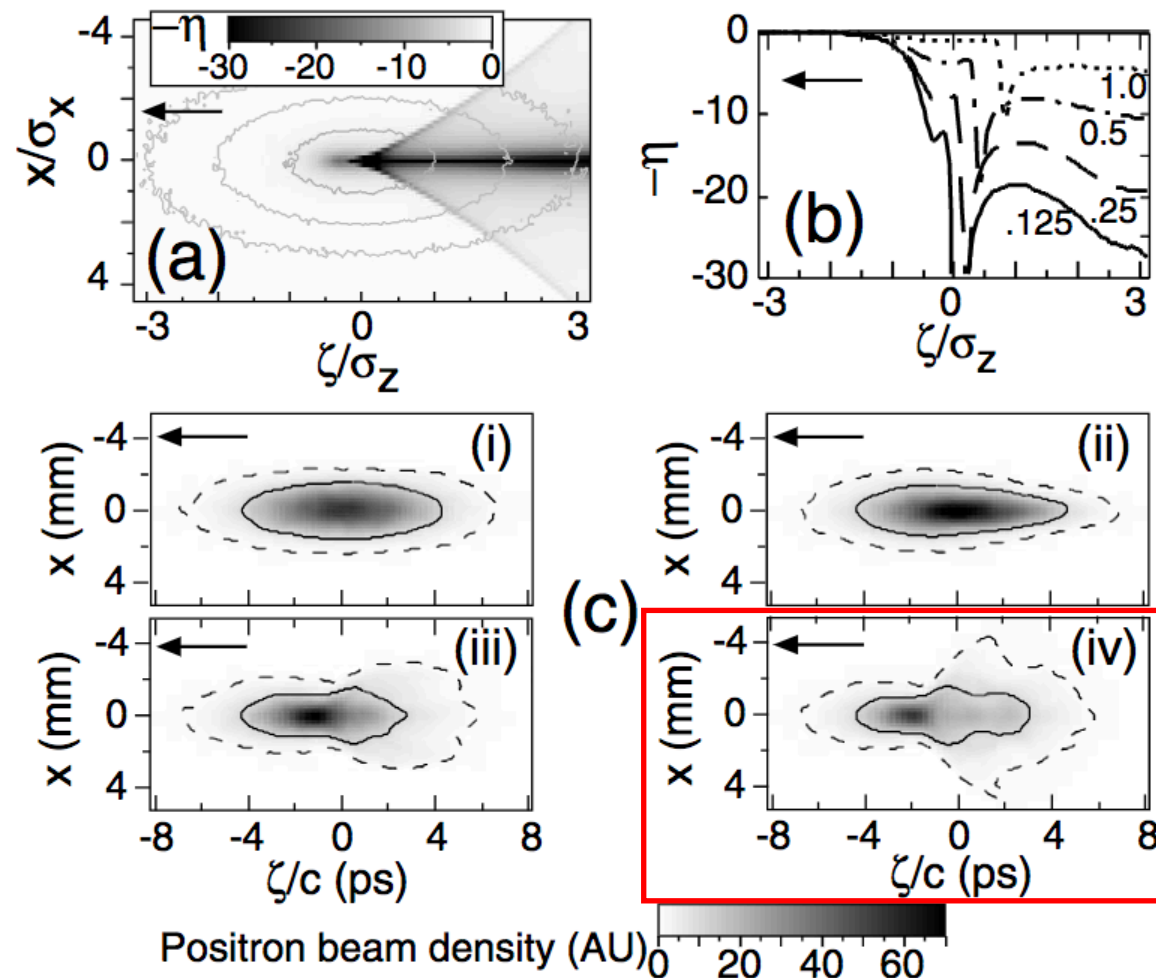


B. Blue et. al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 90 214801 (2003).

- First demonstration of positron acceleration in plasma!
- The E162 experiment operated in the linear regime
- A streak camera was used to measure the time-resolved energy spectrum

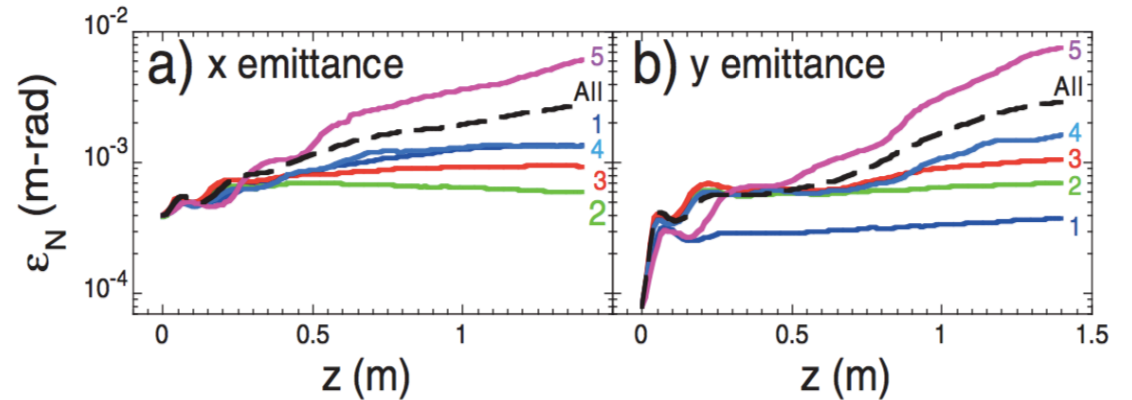
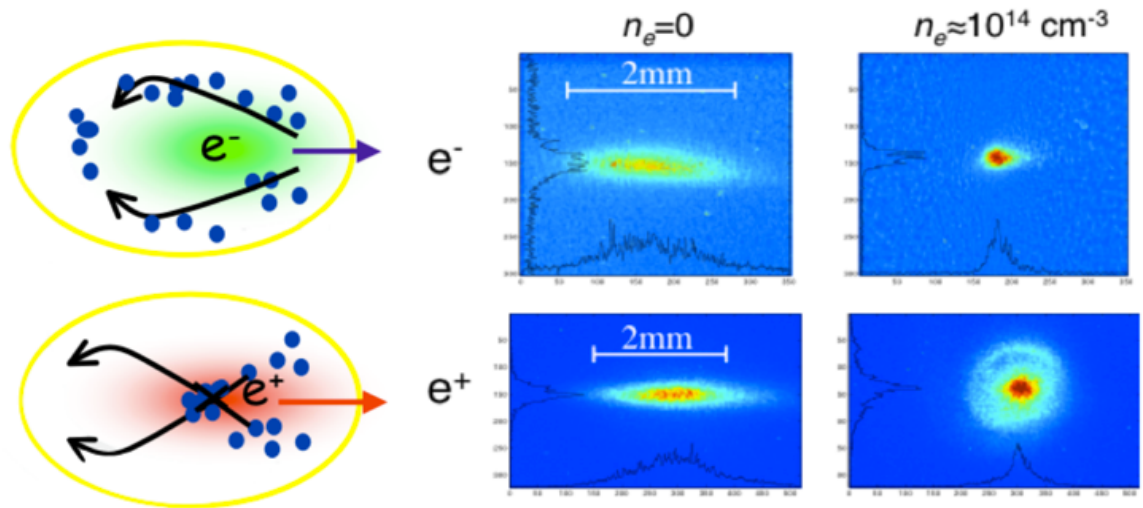
# Transverse Dynamics of Positrons in Plasma

- When the positron beam is much denser than the background plasma, the nonlinearities become evident.
- Simulations of the ultra-relativistic positron experiment show the formation of an “arrowhead” bunch.



M. J. Hogan et. al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 90 205002 (2003).

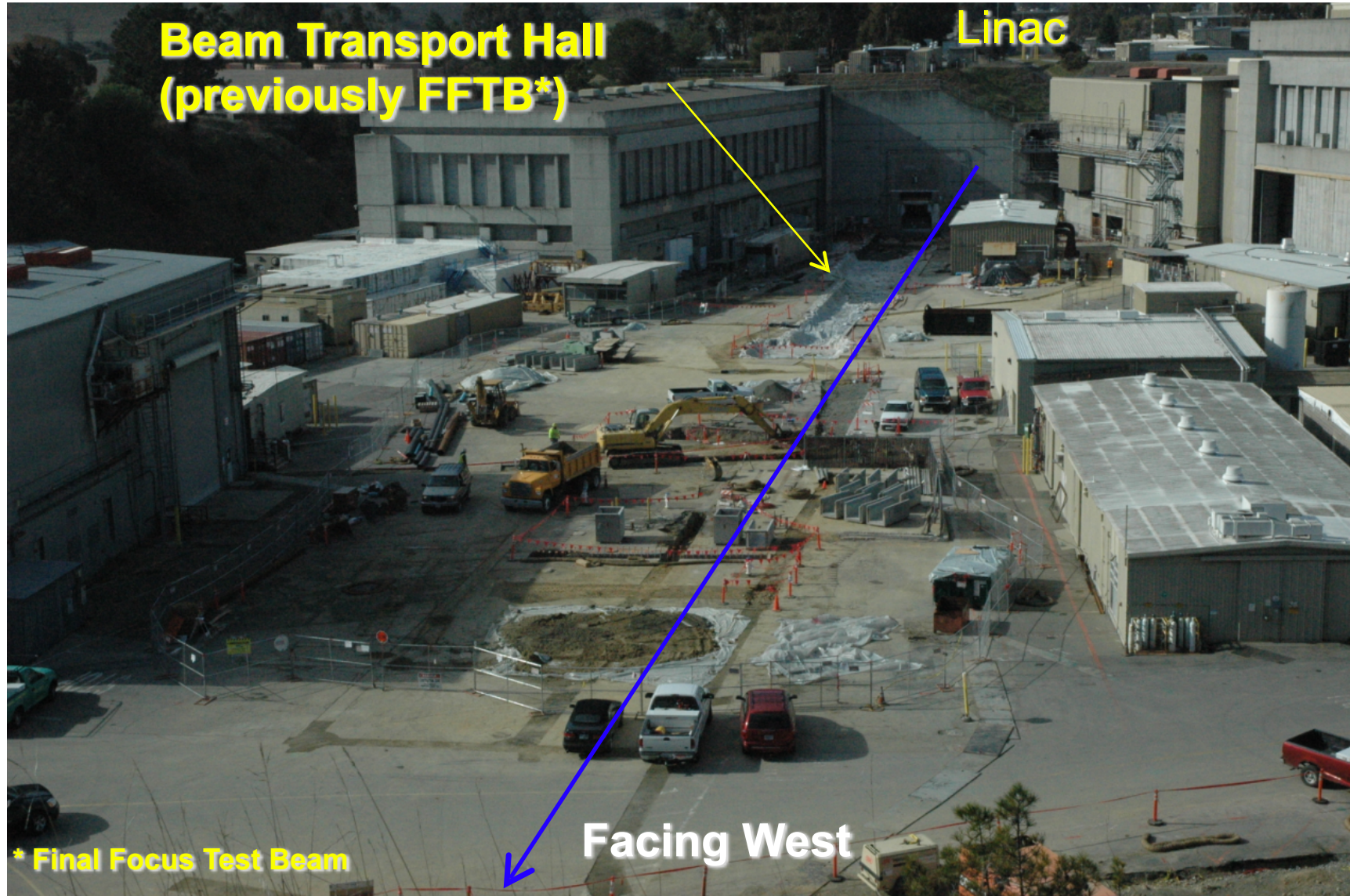
# Transverse Dynamics of Positrons in Plasma



P. Muggli et. al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 101 055001 (2008).

- The question of positron beam evolution in the plasma important for understanding the final beam parameters
- A large, non-gaussian, beam halo is observed implying a large emittance
- Simulations show that the emittance grows rapidly along all longitudinal slices of the beam.

# Future Experiments Would Require a New Facility – FACET



# FACET: A National User Facility (2012-2016) based on high-energy beams and their interaction with plasmas and lasers



## Primary Goal:

- Demonstrate a single-stage high-energy plasma accelerator for electrons

## Timeline:

- Construction, Commissioning (2008-2011)
- Experimental program (2012-2016)

## A National User Facility:

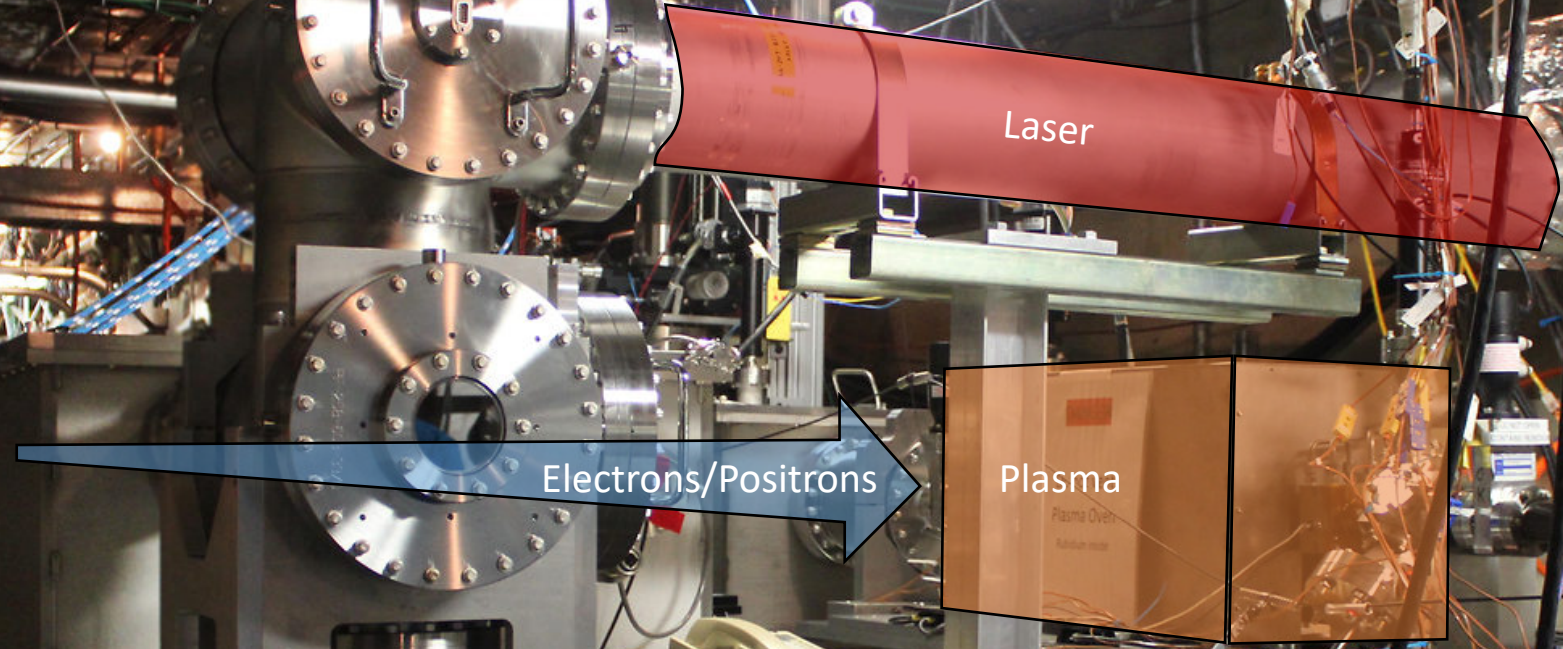
- Externally reviewed experimental program
- >200 Users, 25 experiments, 8 months/year operation

## Key PWFA Milestones:

- ✓ Mono-energetic e<sup>-</sup> acceleration
- ✓ High efficiency e<sup>-</sup> acceleration (*Nature* 515, Nov. 2014)
- ✓ First high-gradient e<sup>+</sup> PWFA (*Nature* 524, Aug. 2015)
- ✓ Demonstrate required emittance, energy spread  
(*Nature Physics*, Aug. 2019)

Premier R&D facility for PWFA: Only facility capable of e<sup>+</sup> acceleration  
Highest energy beams uniquely enable gradient > 1 GV/m

# Results from FACET

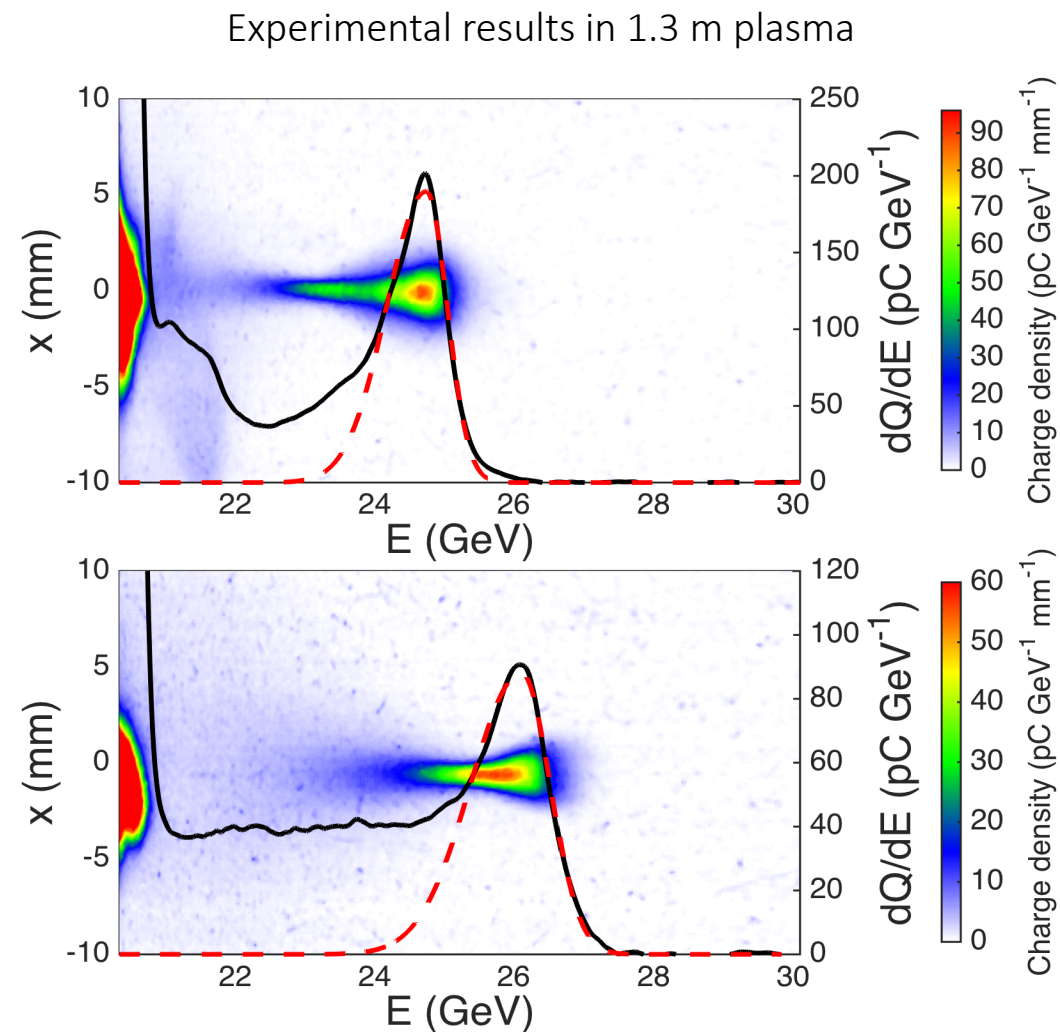


# Positron Beam-Driven PWFA at FACET

FACET was able to provide high-density, compressed positron beams for non-linear PWFA experiments

This led to new observations:

- Accelerated positrons form a spectrally-distinct peak with an energy gain of 5 GeV
- Energy spread can be as low as 1.8% (r.m.s.)
- An exciting and unexpected result!

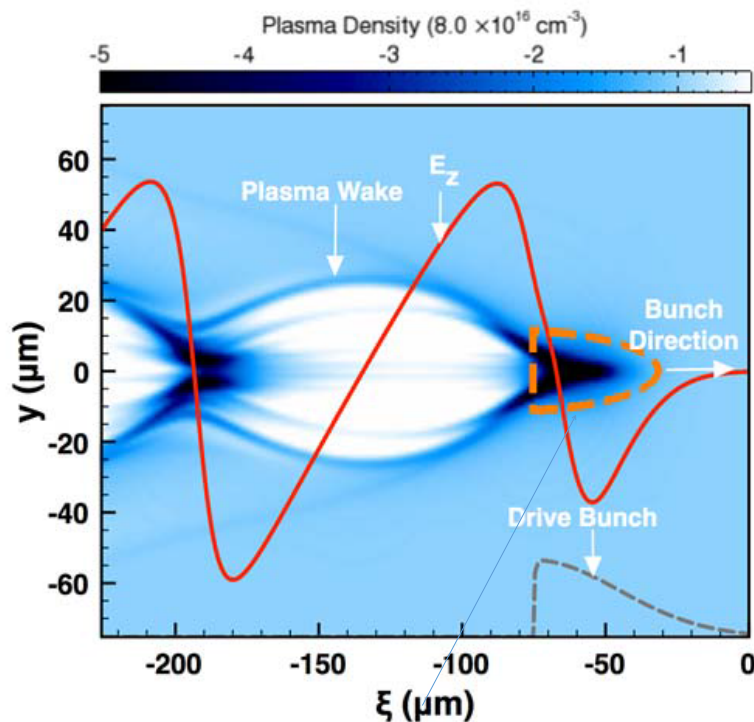


S. Corde *et al.*, Nature 524, 442 (2015)

# Positron Beam-Driven PWFA

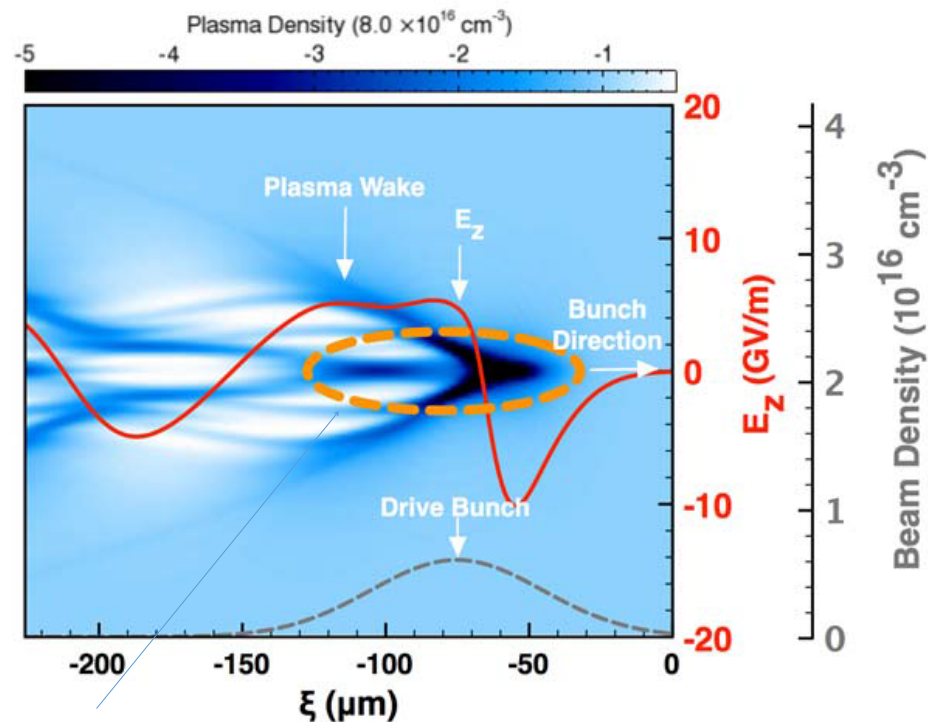
QuickPIC simulations: loaded vs unloaded wake (truncated bunch)

Unloaded



defocusing

Loaded



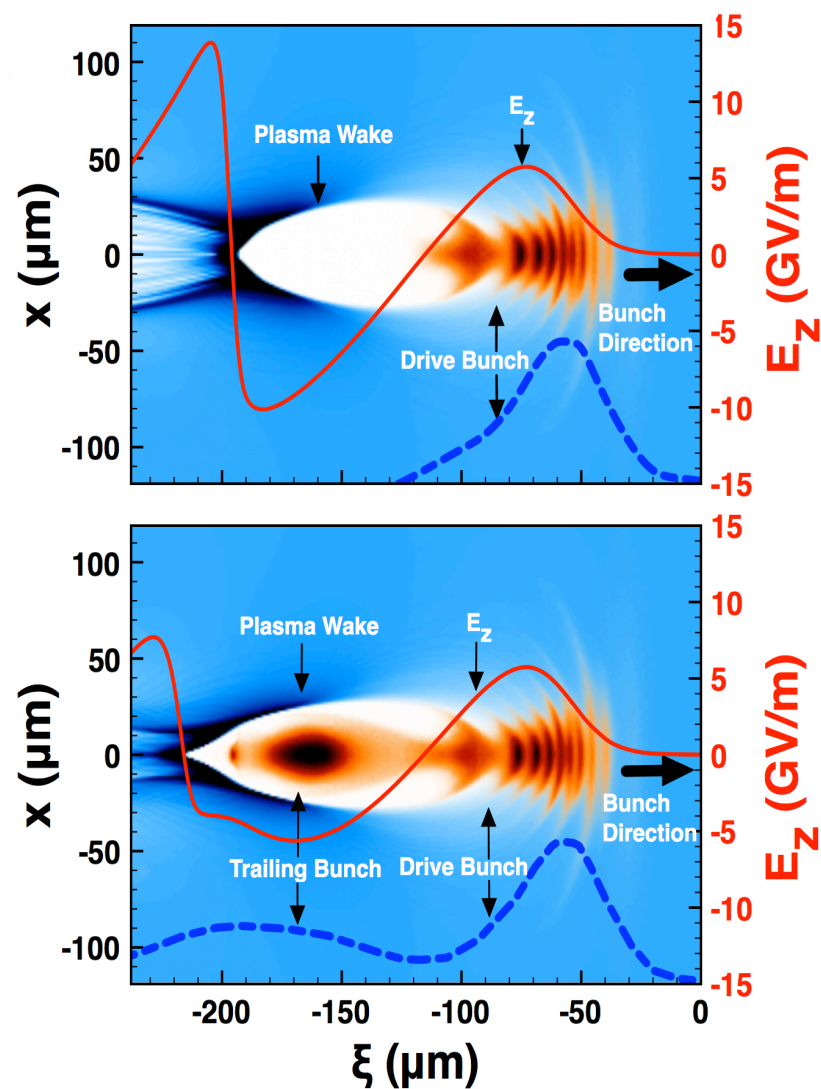
focusing

S. Corde *et al.*, Nature 524, 442 (2015)

**Beam loading also affects transverse fields for positron driven wakes!**



# Beam Loading with Electron Bunches

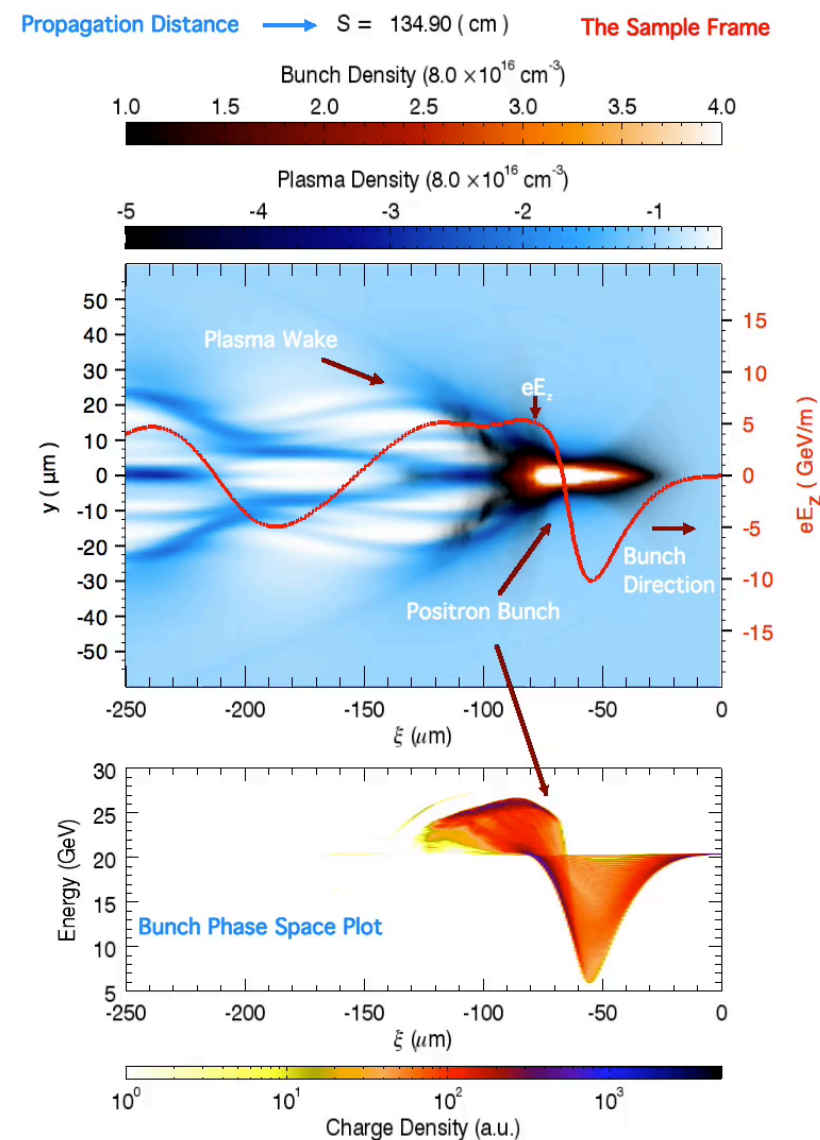


- This simulation shows the electron beam-driven wake in the blow out regime
- When the wake is loaded, the bubble regime is still free of plasma electrons and the transverse force is un-modified
- The presence of the trailing electron beam “flattens” the  $E_z$  field
- This leads to high efficiency and low energy spread
- However, there is no modification of the transverse fields inside the bubble due to the addition of the trailing electron bunch

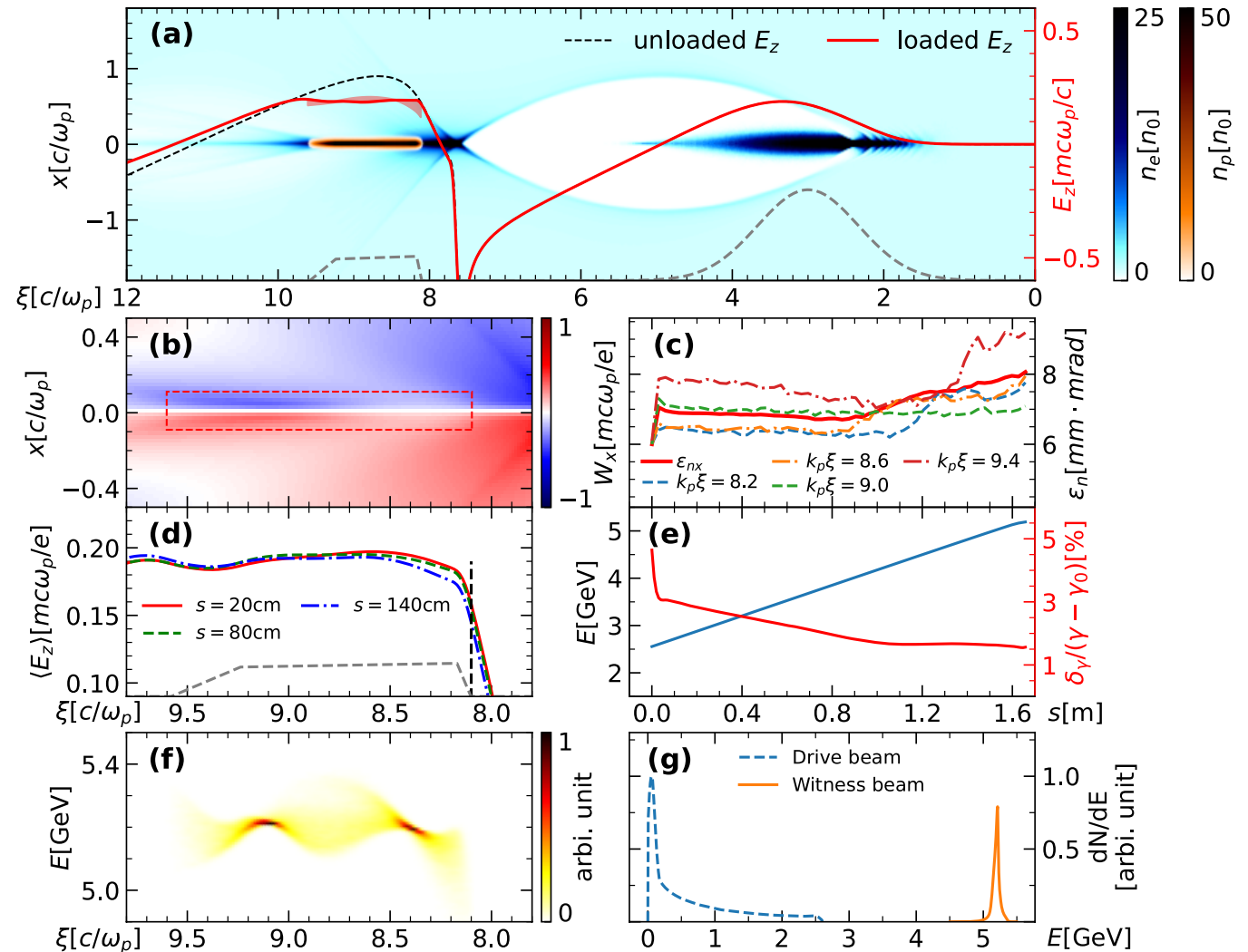
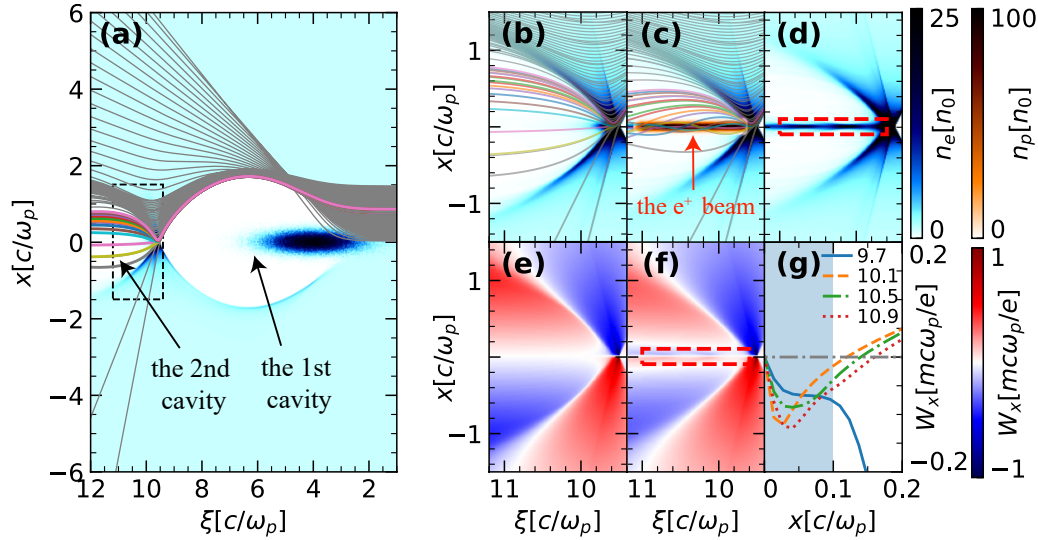
# Positron Beam-Driven PWFA

## Key question:

Is there an equilibrium emittance, or is the emittance growth continuous?



# Positron Beam Loading and Acceleration in the Blowout Regime of Plasma Wakefield Accelerator



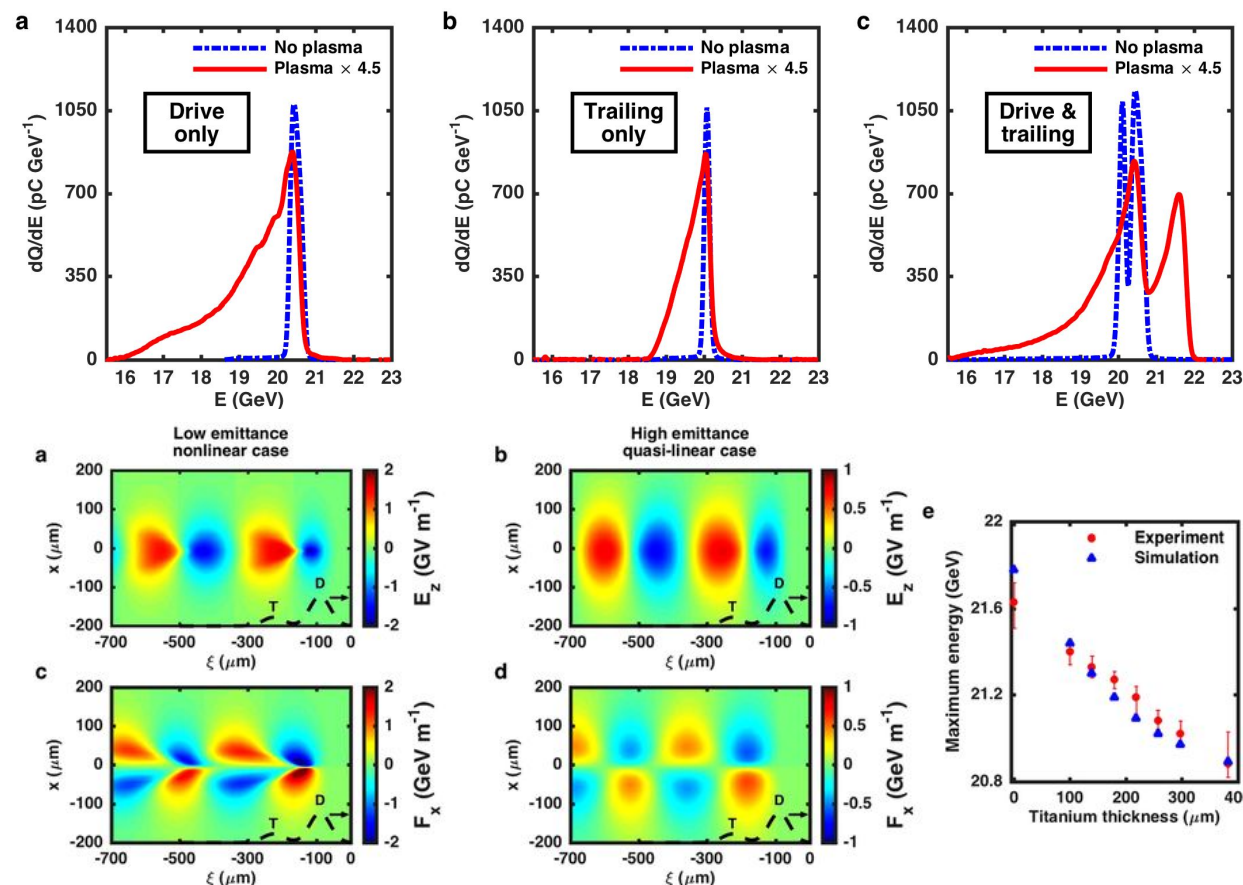
- $\sim 100\text{pC}$   $e^+$  charge
- 5GeV energy gain
- 2.4% energy spread
- 7 mm-mrad norm. Emittance
- Wake to beam efficiency 26%

Zhou et al., arXiv:2211.07962v1 (2022)

# Two-Bunch Positron Beam-Driven PWFA

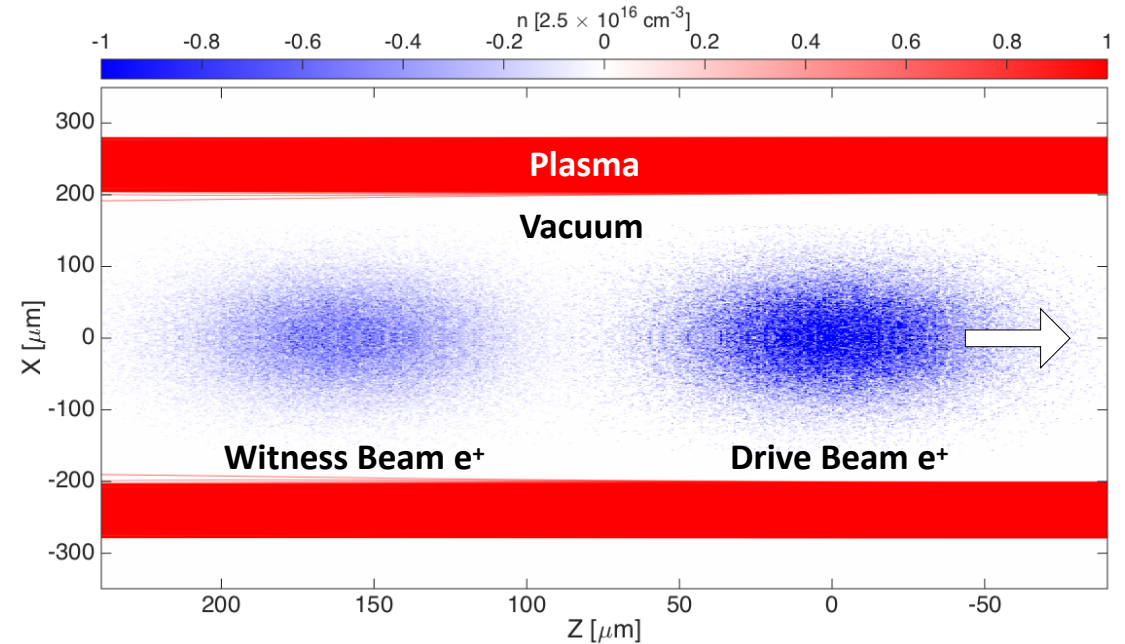
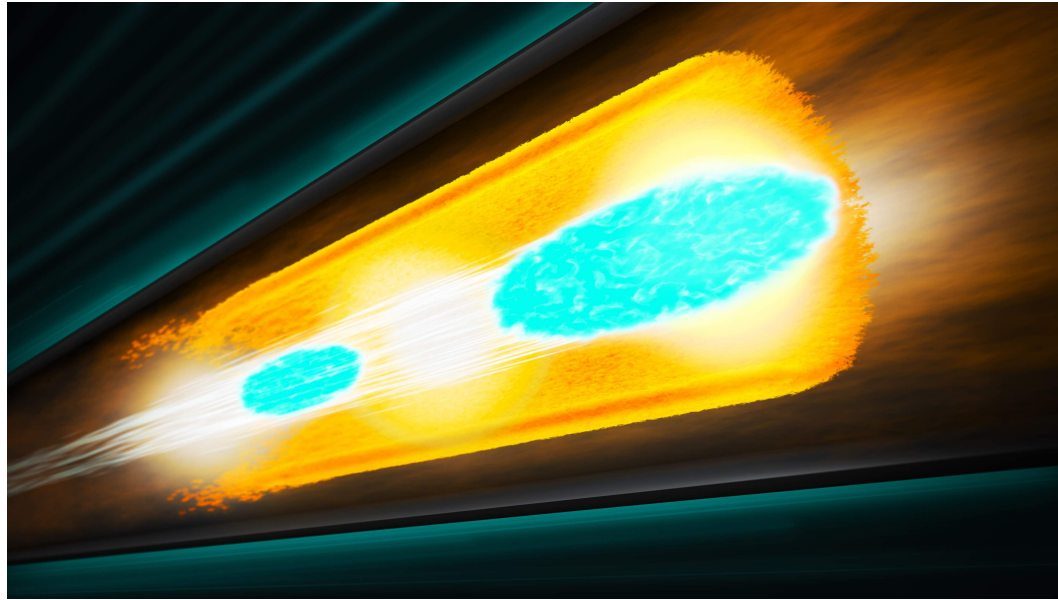
The results of the single positron bunch experiment naturally beg the question:  
Can we repeat these results in the drive-witness scenario?

- This led to the first demonstration of controlled beam loading in the positron beam-driven wake
- We tested this scenario in both the quasi-linear and non-linear regimes



A. Doche *et al.*, Nat. Sci. Rep. 7, 14180 (2017)

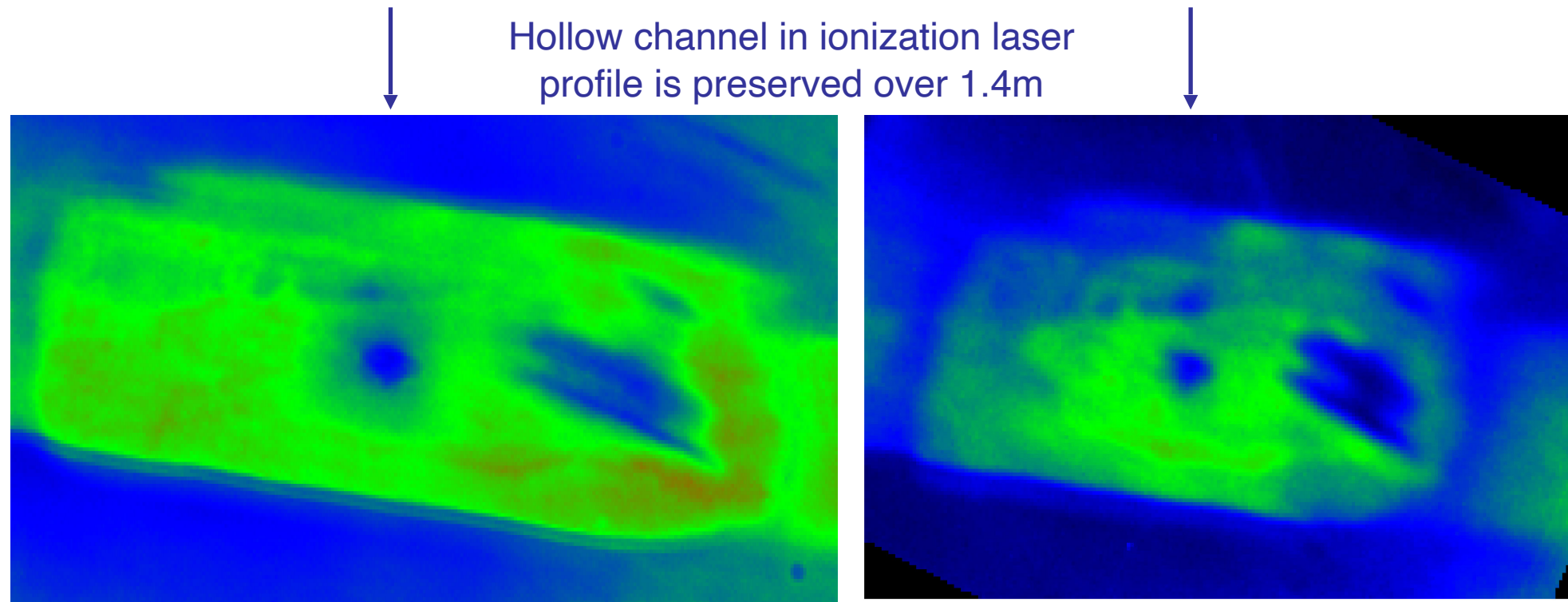
# The Hollow Channel Plasma Accelerator



- The Hollow Channel Plasma is a structure that symmetrizes the response of the plasma to electron and positron beams
- There is no plasma on-axis, and therefore no focusing/defocusing force from plasma ions

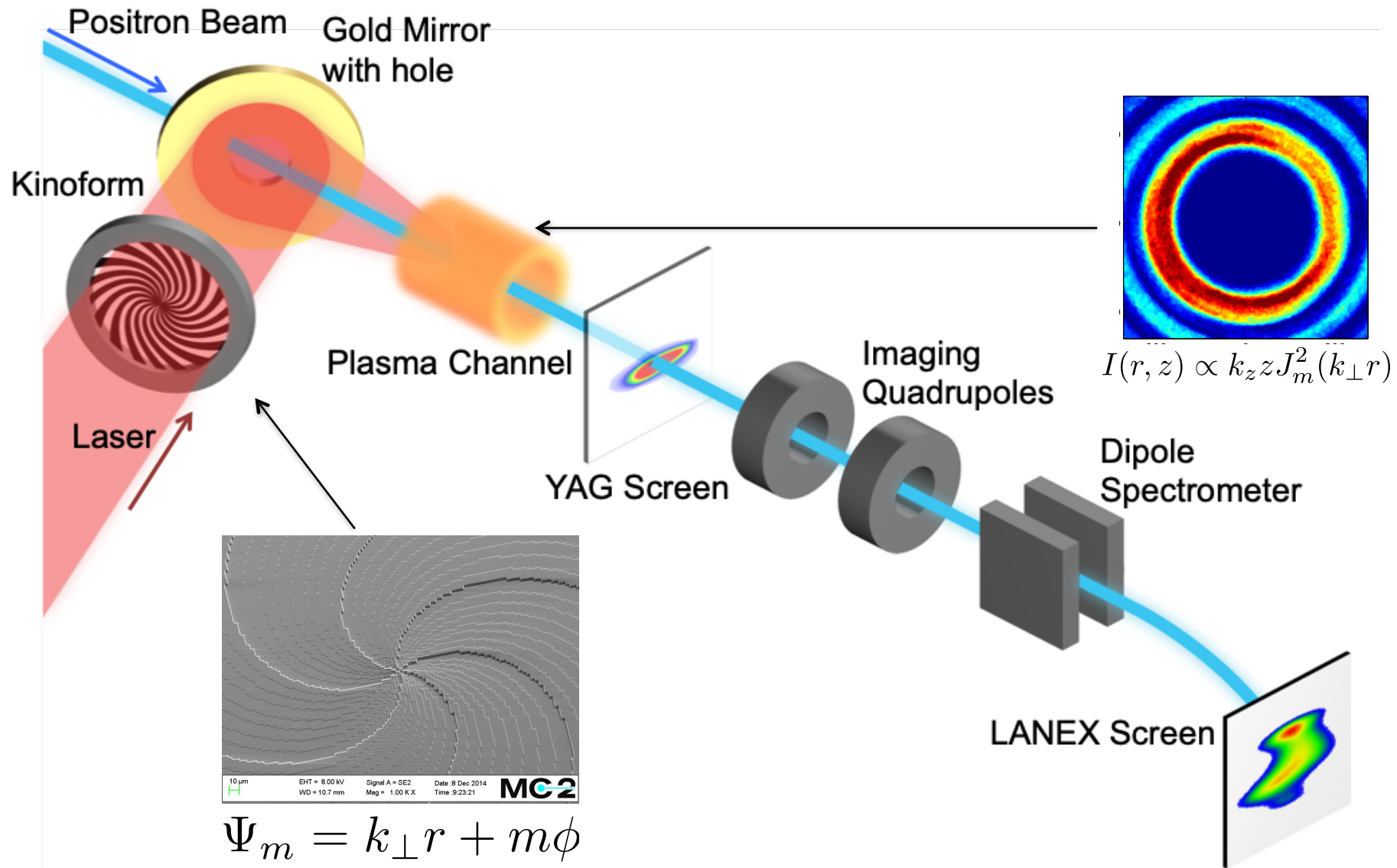
# If at First You Don't Succeed, Try and Try Again

The accelerating wake for a positron beam driven plasma wave can be optimized by using a hollow channel plasma, but can we make such a channel? - Yes

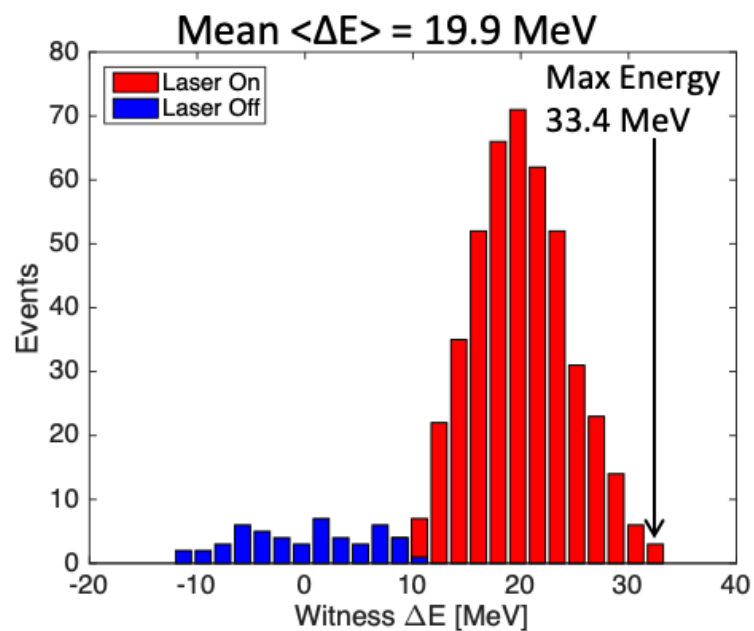


UV profiles 0.3 m (a) and 1.3 m (b) from a damaged UV optic with  $\sim 500 \mu\text{m}$  hole in reflective coating (center of images) as well as other forms of damage. The structure of the resultant mask in UV fluence is preserved over the required length to photo-ionize a hollow channel plasma.

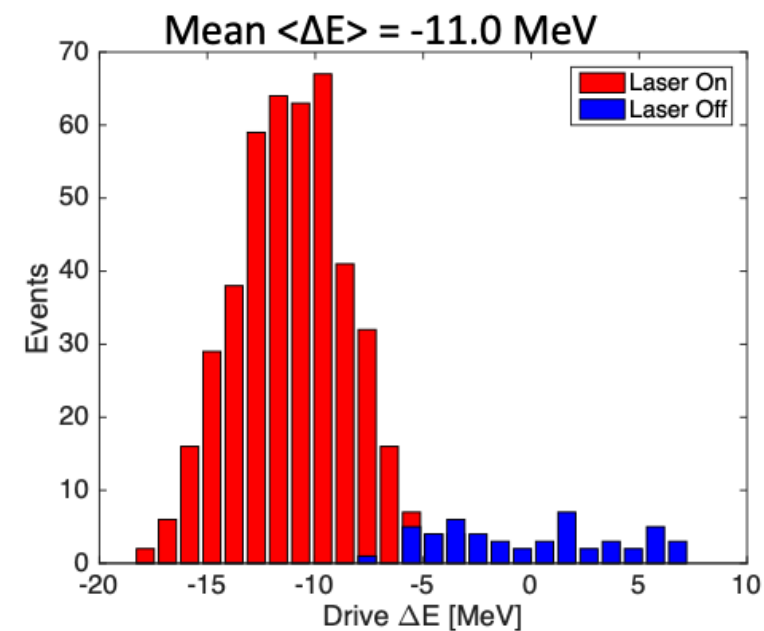
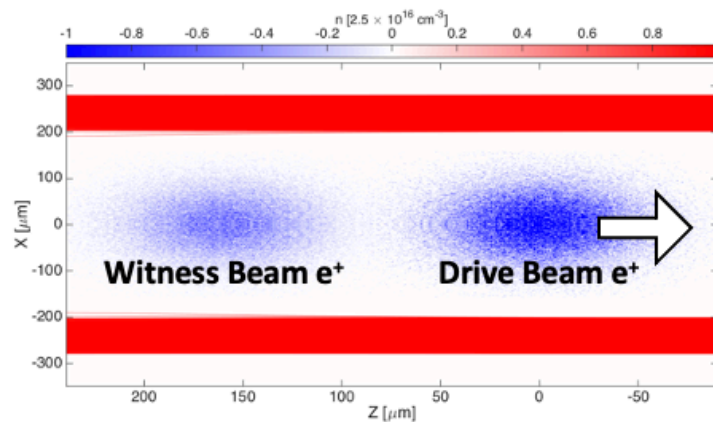
# Creating a Hollow Channel Plasma



# Positron Acceleration



Witness beam gains energy from the wake

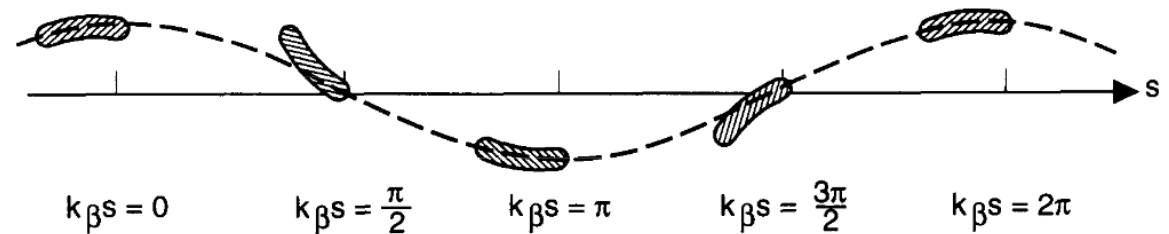
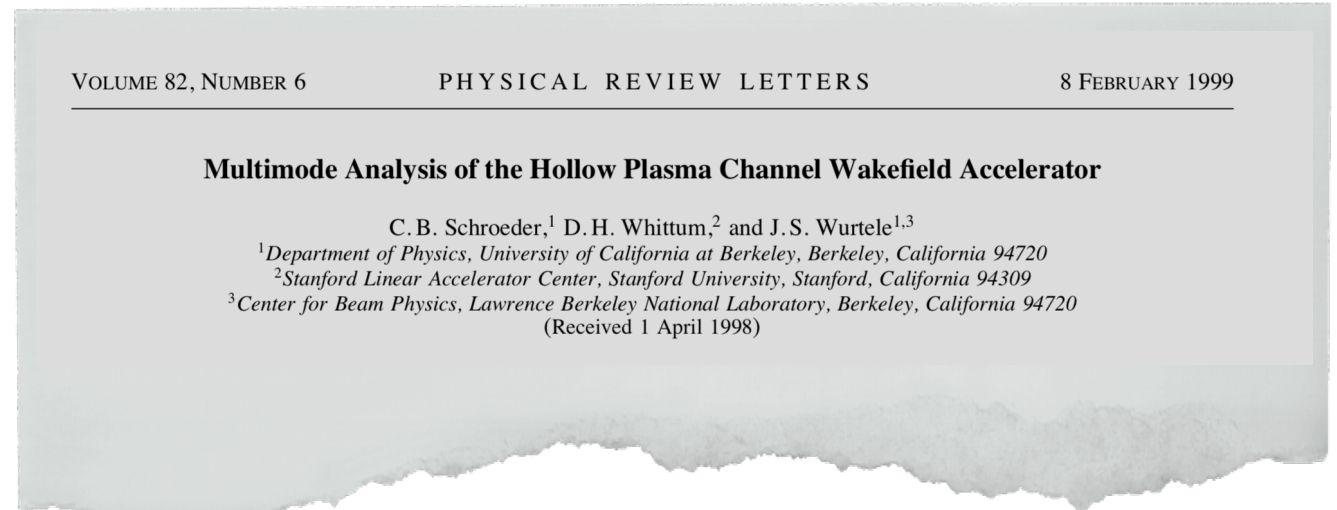


Drive beam transfers energy to witness beam



# Transverse Wakefields

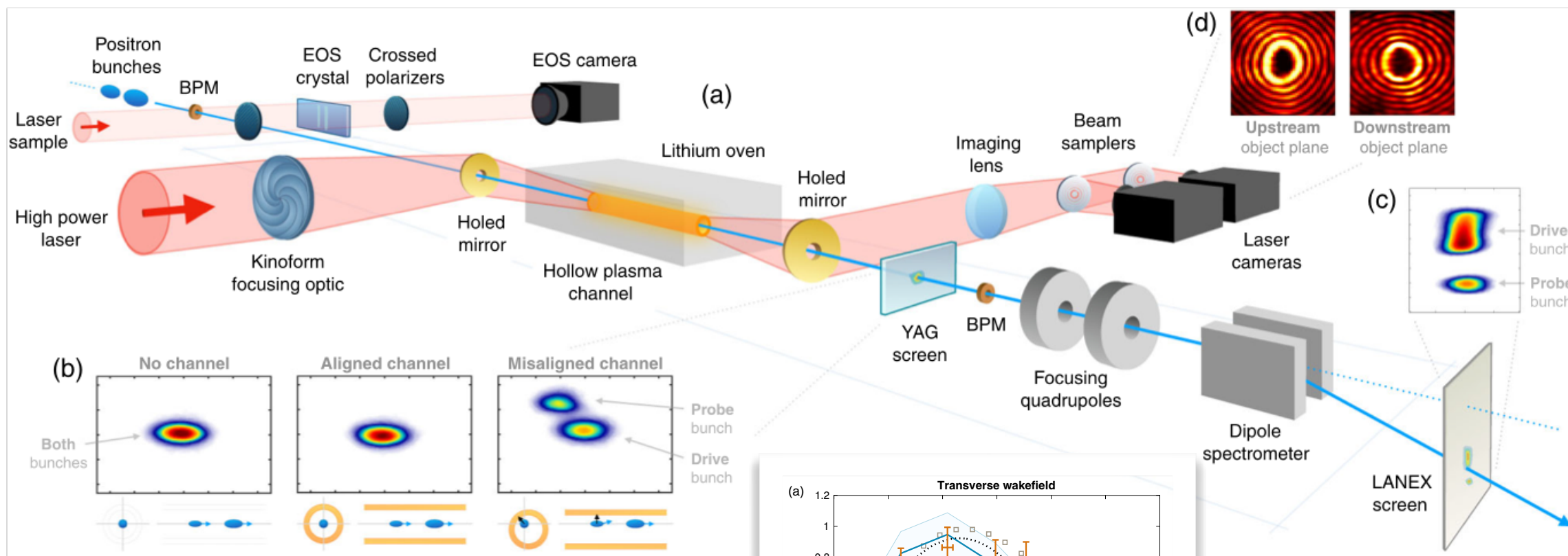
- What if the beam is off-axis in the channel?
- The beam induces a transverse wakefield which deflects the tail of the bunch from the channel axis
- This wakefield is strong and drives a beam-breakup instability (BBU)
- The growth lengths of this instability is  $O(10 \text{ cm})$  for FACET-like parameters



**Figure 3.3.** Sequence of snapshots of a beam undergoing dipole beam breakup instability in a linac. Values of  $k_{\beta}s$  indicated are modulo  $2\pi$ . The dashed curves indicate the trajectory of the bunch head.

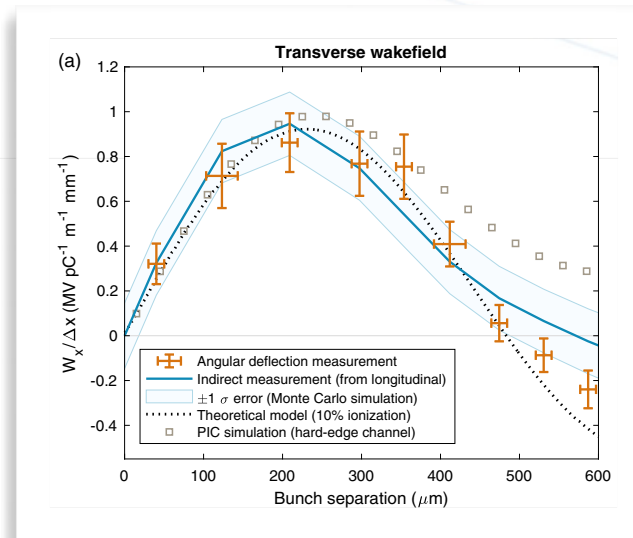
*Physics of Collective Beam Instabilities in High Energy Accelerators.* A. Chao, Wiley 1992

# Fields in the Hollow Channel

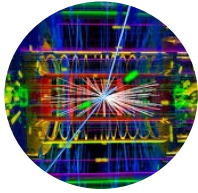


Transverse Wake Amplitude CLIC: 100 V/pC/m/mm  
 Transverse Wake Amplitude E225: 1M V/pC/m/mm

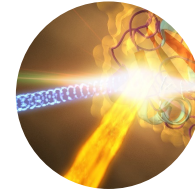
C. A. Lindstrøm et. al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 120 124802 (2018).



# FACET-II: A National User Facility Based on High-energy Beams and Their Interaction with Plasmas and Lasers



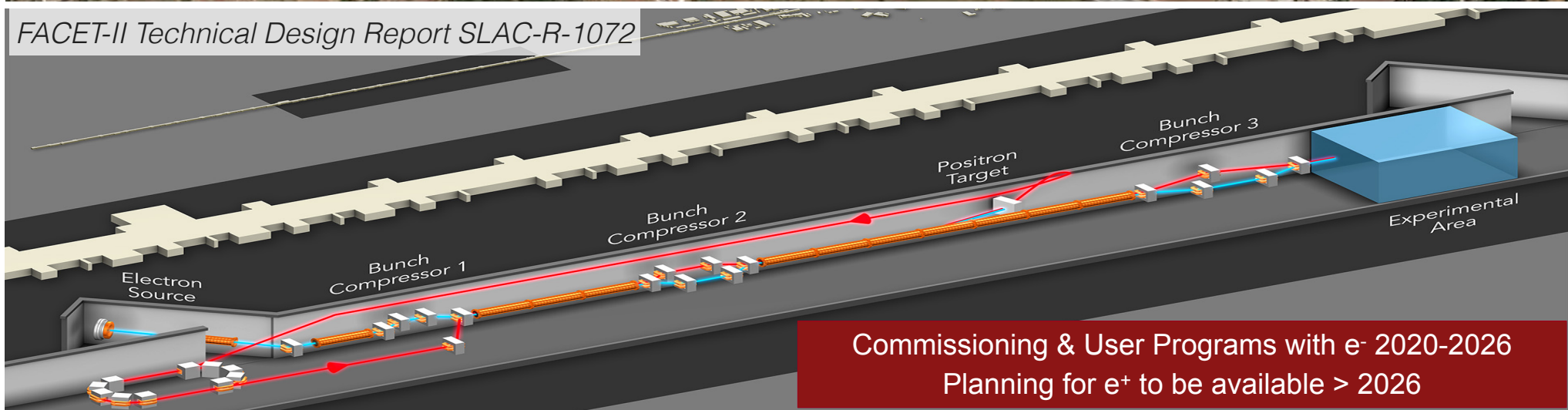
Advance the energy frontier  
for future colliders



Develop brighter X-rays  
for photon science



FACET-II Technical Design Report SLAC-R-1072



Commissioning & User Programs with  $e^-$  2020-2026  
Planning for  $e^+$  to be available > 2026

# Positron Generation and Trapping without External Source

PHYSICAL REVIEW ACCELERATORS AND BEAMS **22**, 091301 (2019)

- Use a pair of electron beams to generate positrons in a tungsten foil at plasma entrance
- Some positrons will get trapped and accelerated in the electron-driven wake
- E-303 experiment: P.I. K. Marsh, UCLA

‘Simple’ way to probe volume of the region that is accelerating and focussing but cannot access collider level parameters

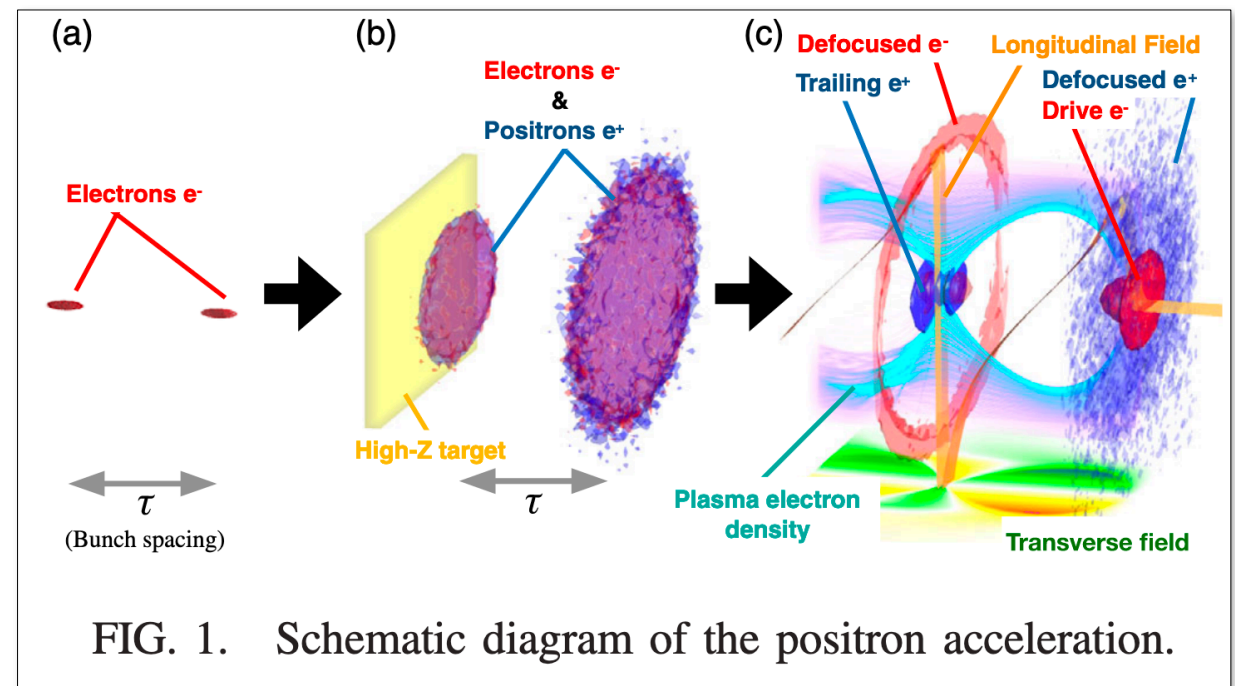
## Positron beam extraction from an electron-beam-driven plasma wakefield accelerator

H. Fujii<sup>1</sup>, K. A. Marsh<sup>1</sup>, W. An<sup>1</sup>, S. Corde<sup>2</sup>, M. J. Hogan<sup>3</sup>, V. Yakimenko<sup>3</sup> and C. Joshi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California 90095, USA

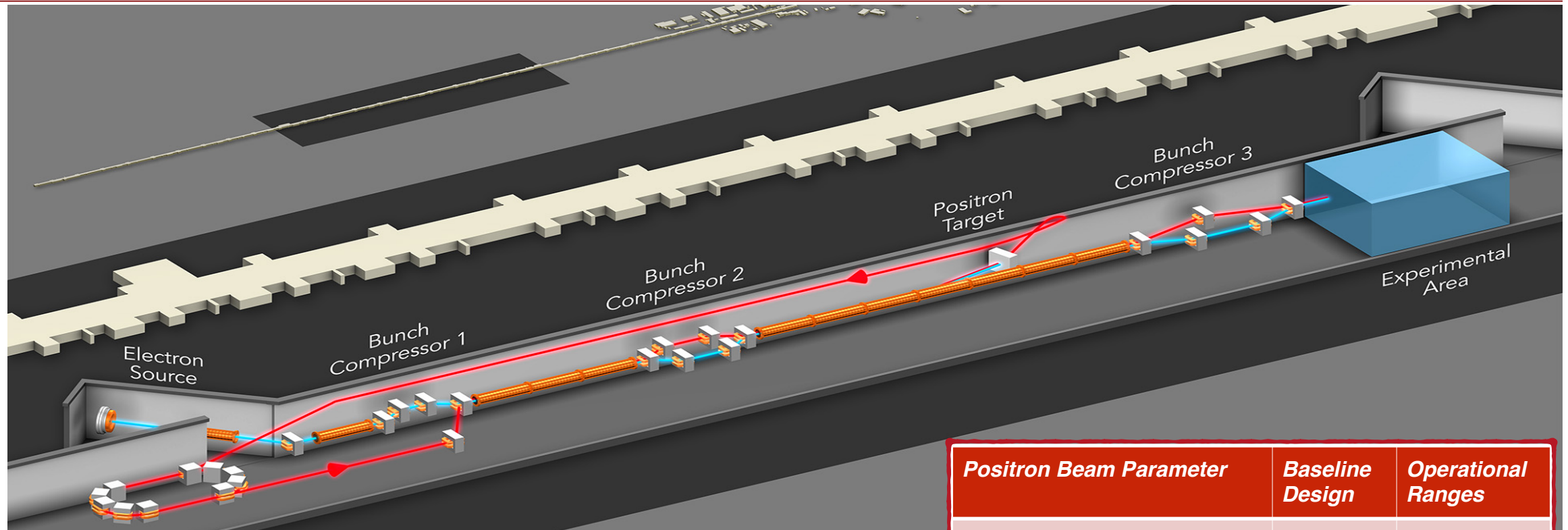
<sup>2</sup>LOA, ENSTA Paris, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, 91762 Palaiseau, France

<sup>3</sup>SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park, California 94025, USA



# FACET-II Layout and Beams

A plan is being developed to restore positron capability

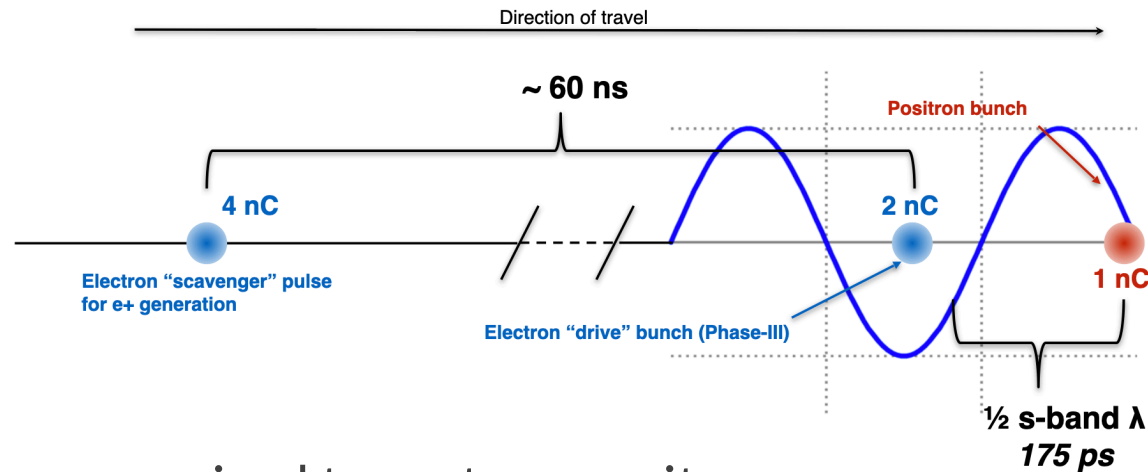


- Simultaneous delivery of up to 1nC e+ & 2nC e- to S20 IP region
- Expected performance modeled with particle tracking, including dynamic errors
- More details in TDR Ch. 8

<i>Positron Beam Parameter</i>	<i>Baseline Design</i>	<i>Operational Ranges</i>
<i>Final Energy [GeV]</i>	10	4.0-13.5
<i>Charge per pulse [nC]</i>	1	0.7-2
<i>Repetition Rate [Hz]</i>	5	1-5
<i>Norm. Emittance <math>\gamma\epsilon_{x,y}</math> at S19</i>	10, 10	6-20
<i>Spot Size at IP <math>\sigma_{x,y}</math> [<math>\mu\text{m}</math>]</i>	16, 16	5-20
<i>Min. Bunch Length <math>\sigma_z</math> (rms)</i>	16	8
<i>Max. Peak current <math>I_{pk}</math> [kA]</i>	6	12

# Will be Possible to Study Positron PWFA in Electron Wakes

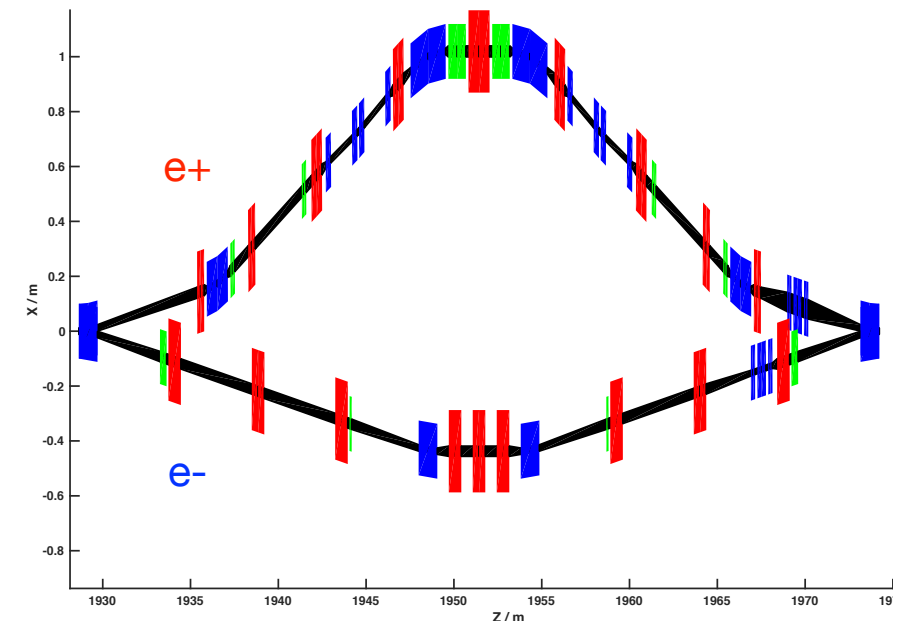
Positrons can be restored to Sector 20 by utilizing existing S19 positron source with a ~4 nC electron driver pulse



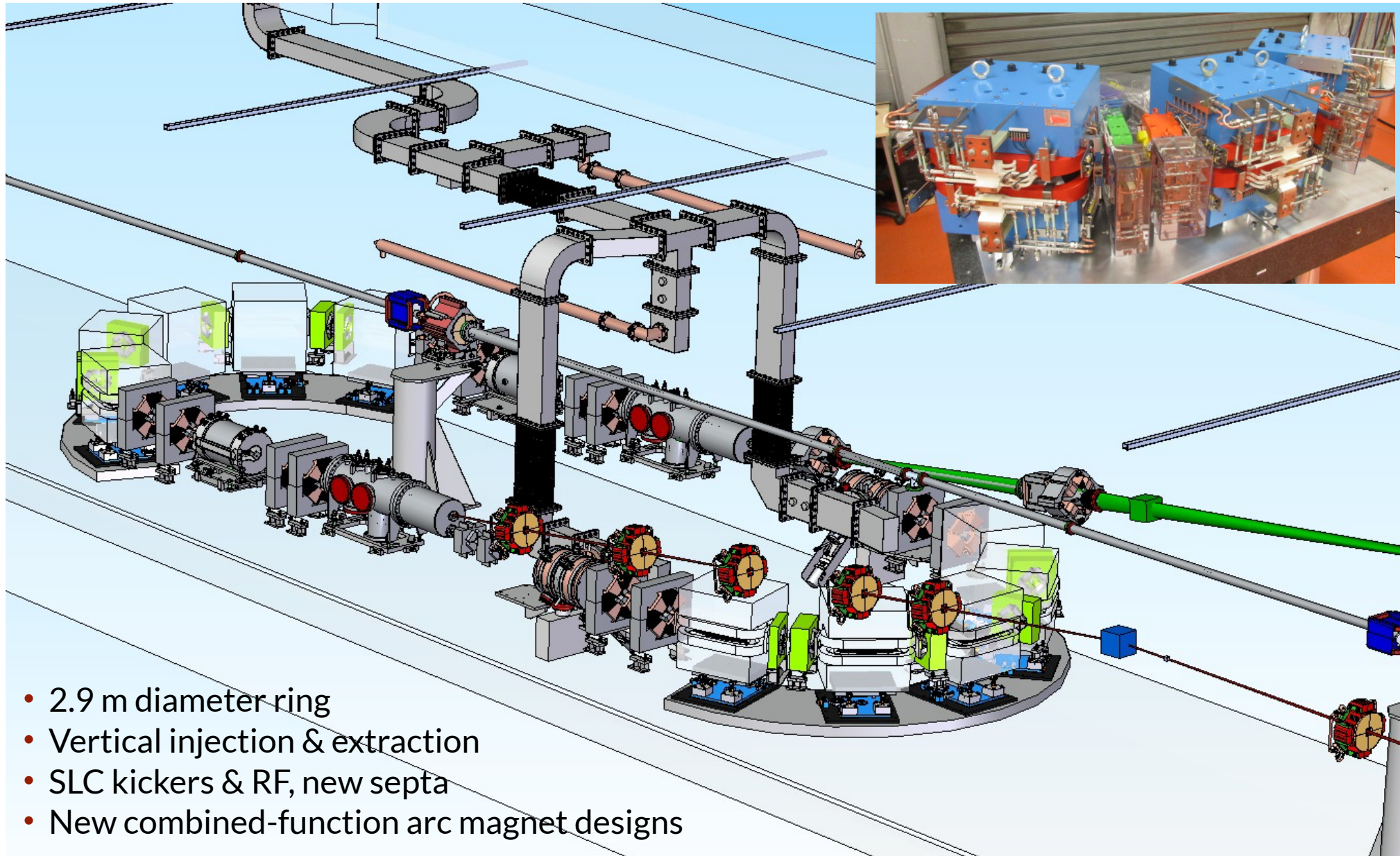
Hardware required to restore positrons:

- New BC14 chicane section
- 335 MeV booster Linac in return line
- New compact DR in Sector 10
- New beamlines to extract beam from return line into DR, extract beam from DR and extract, compress & inject into BC11

Simultaneous e- e+ delivery  
(dz +/- 600  $\mu$ m) made possible by adding **BC20P** beamline



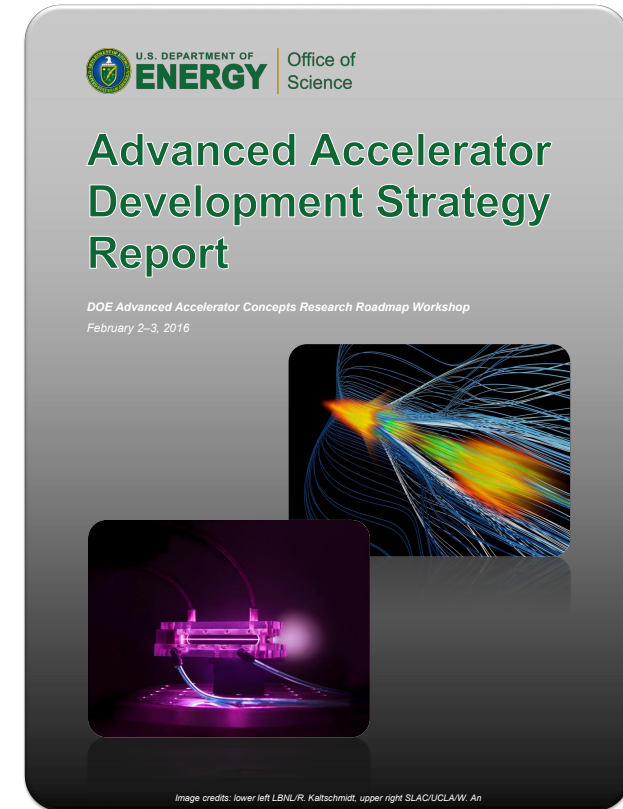
# 335 MeV Positron Damping Ring in Sector 10



- 2.9 m diameter ring
- Vertical injection & extraction
- SLC kickers & RF, new septa
- New combined-function arc magnet designs

# Collider Designs Require New Ideas for Positron PWFA

Beam Driven Plasma R&D 10 Year Roadmap					
2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	2026
PWFA-LC Concept Development and Parameter Studies					
Beam Dynamics and Tolerance Studies					
Positron Acceleration					
FACET		FACET-II Phase 2: Positrons			
Simulate, Test and Identify the Optimal Configuration for Positron PWFA					
Present ('New Regime' only)		Goals			
4GeV		100pC, >1GeV @ >1GeV/m, dE/E < 5%, Emittance Preserved in at least one regime:			
Q ~ 100 pC					
3 GeV/m		'New Regime' seeded with two bunches			
$\Delta E/E \sim 2\%$		Hollow Channel Plasmas			
$\epsilon$ not measured		Quasi non-linear			
Plasma Source Development					
Goals					
Tailored density ramps for beam matching and emittance preservation					
Uniform, hollow and near-hollow transverse density profiles					
Accelerating region density adjustable from $10^{15} - 10^{17} \text{ e}^-/\text{cm}^3$					
Accelerating length > 1m					
Scalable to high repetition rate and high power dissipation					

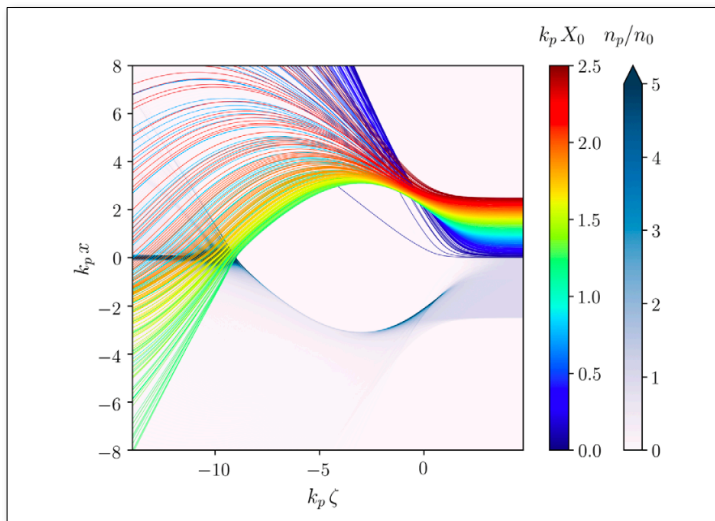


- Transversely tailored plasmas
- Transversely tailored drivers
- Long term evolution of beams/ plasmas into exotic equilibrium

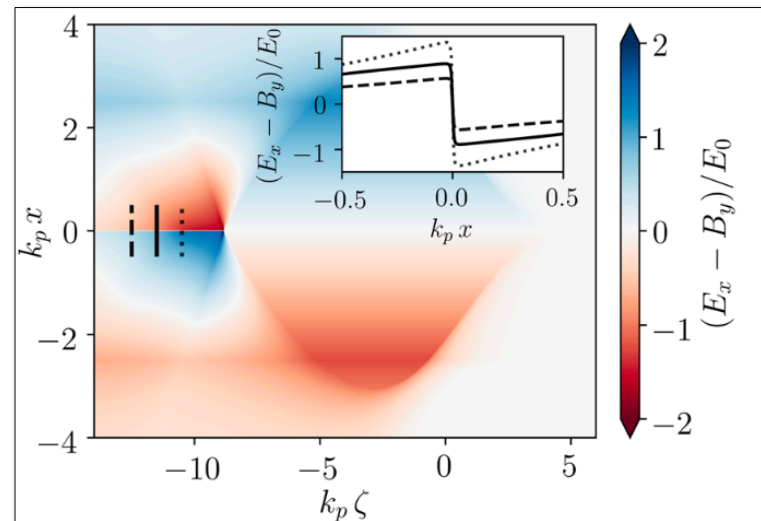


# Transversely Tailored Plasmas

- Changing the shape of the ionized plasma region modifies the trajectories of plasma electrons in the wake.
- This leads to an elongated region in the back of the wake where positron bunches are focused and accelerated.
- E-333 experiment: DESY/LBNL/SLAC collaboration

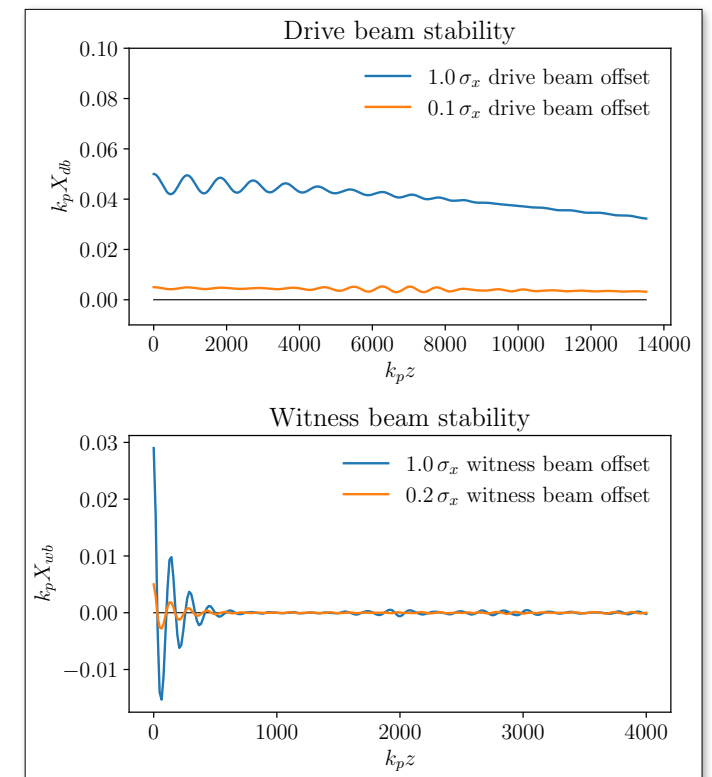


[S. Diederichs et. al. Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams 22 081301 \(2019\)](#)



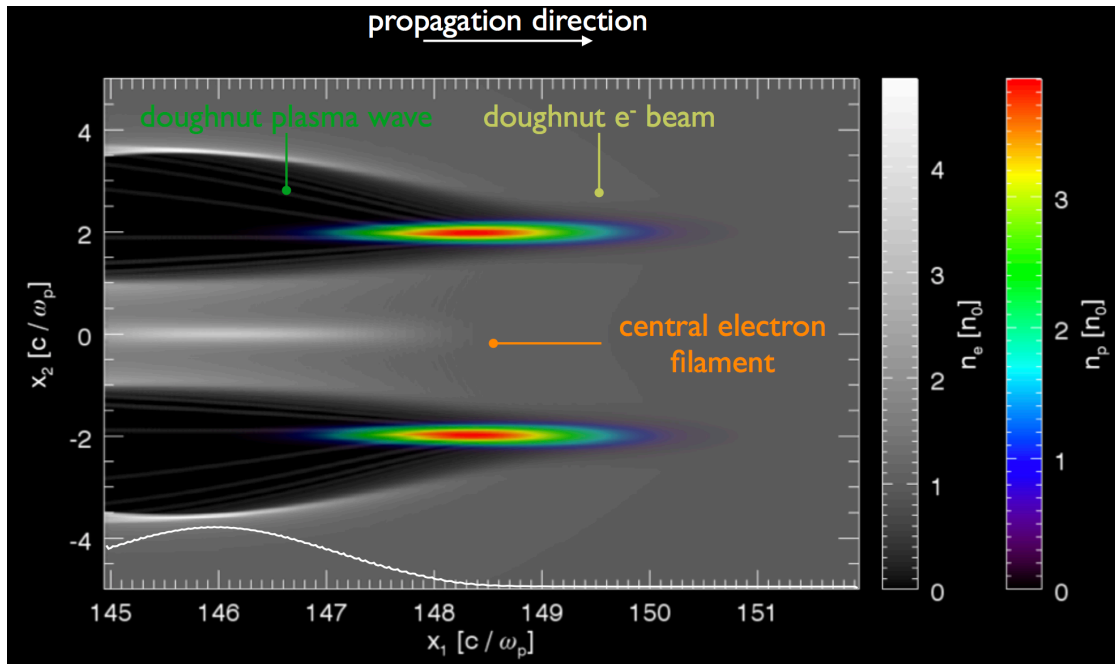
[S. Diederichs et. al. Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams 23 121301 \(2020\)](#)

[S. Diederichs et. al. Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams 25, 091304 \(2022\)](#)

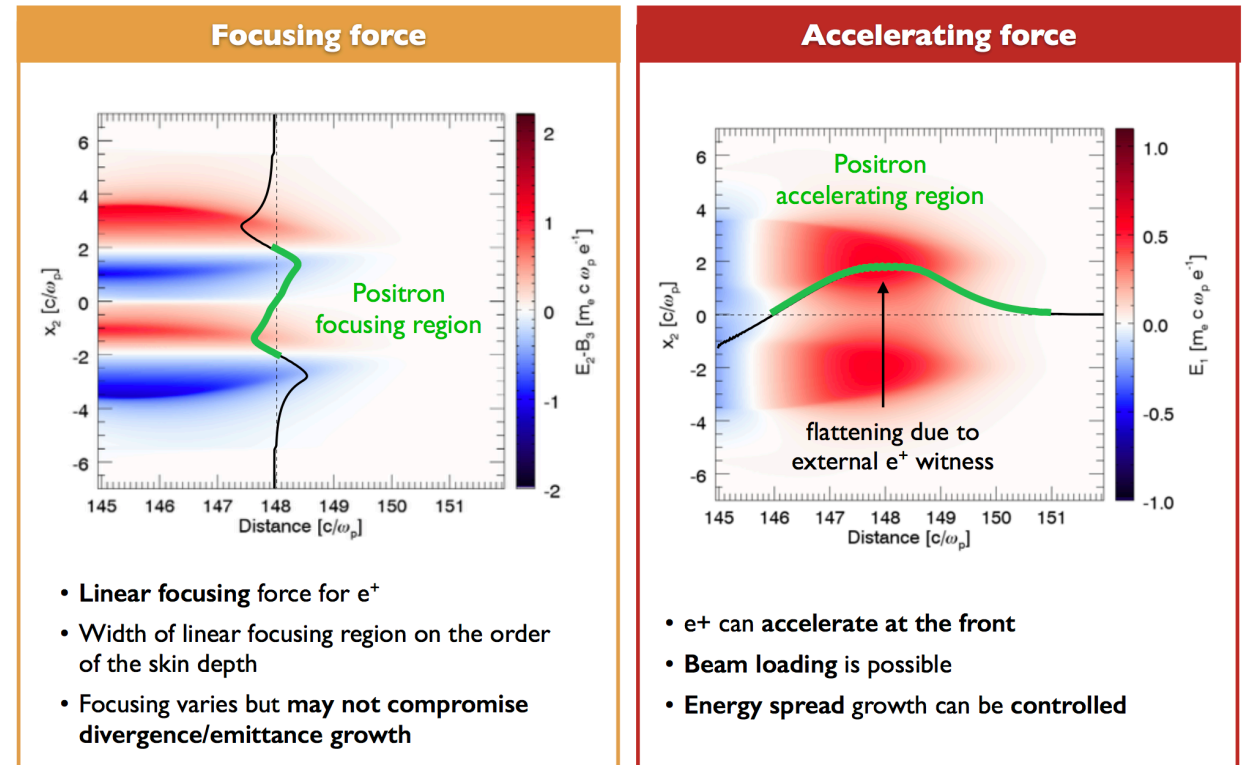


# Transversely Tailored Drivers a.k.a. Wake Inversion

- Certainly a challenge for the accelerator physicists
- Optimizations are possible trading efficiency, energy spread and emittance



J. Vieira, et al. PRL 112 215001 (2014)  
N. Jain et al. PRL 115 195001(2015)



- Linear focusing force for  $e^+$
- Width of linear focusing region on the order of the skin depth
- Focusing varies but may not compromise divergence/emittance growth

- $e^+$  can accelerate at the front
- Beam loading is possible
- Energy spread growth can be controlled

# Fireball Beams!

Zhou et al. (PRAB 25, 091303 2022)

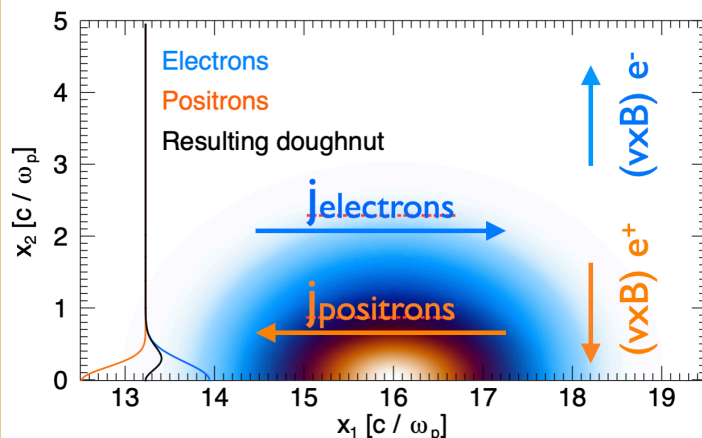
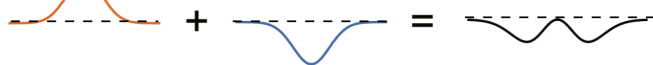
## Approach to realise scheme without ring e- drivers: Nonneutral fireball beam



Scheme could be realised superimposing Gaussian e- driver with e+ witness

### Self-generated doughnut e- bunch

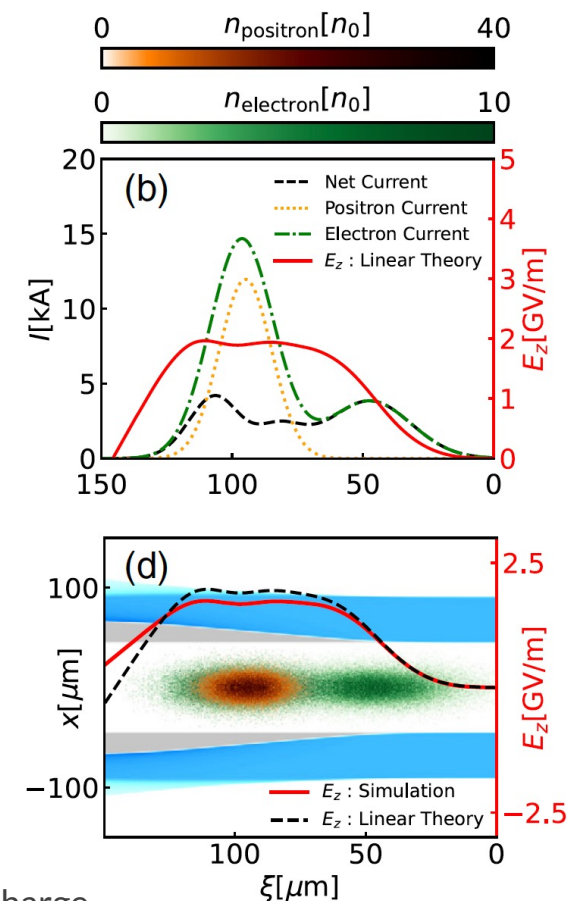
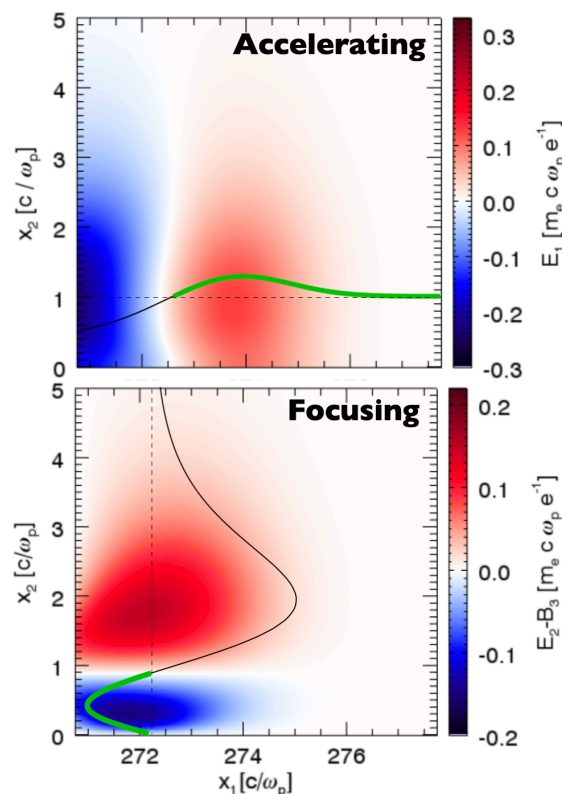
Use positron bunch with smaller transverse size than electron bunch



### Connection to astrophysics:

Neutral fireballs and  $\sigma_r \gg c/\omega_p$  leads to Weibel Instability

### Wakefields are similar to doughnut



~ nC charge

~ GV/m gradient

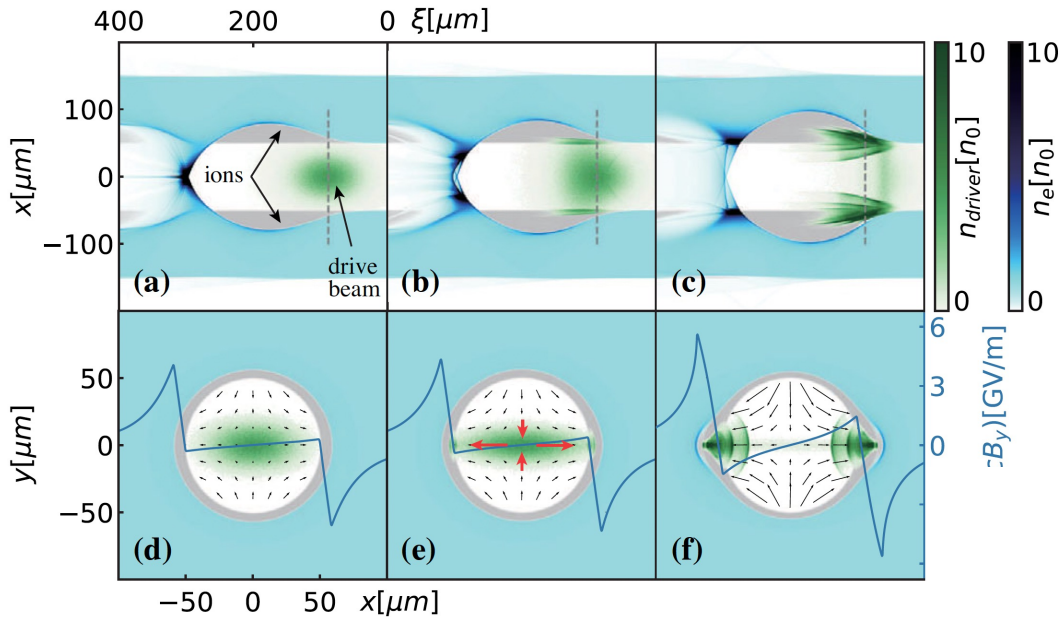
≅ 0.5% induced energy spread

~ 50% energy transfer efficiency

Stability? External focusing needs to be demonstrated

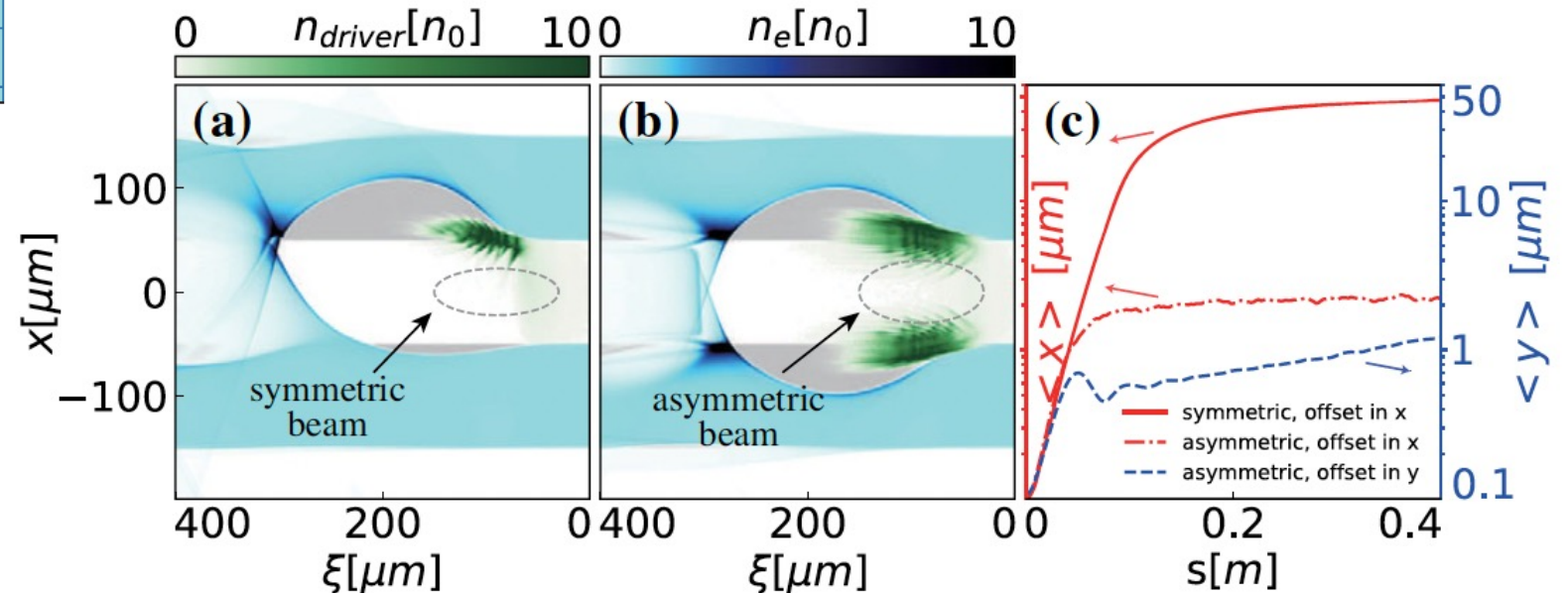
# High Efficiency Uniform Wakefield Acceleration of a Positron Beam Using Stable Asymmetric Mode in a Hollow Channel Plasma

## Recent Proposals with New Equilibrium Conditions

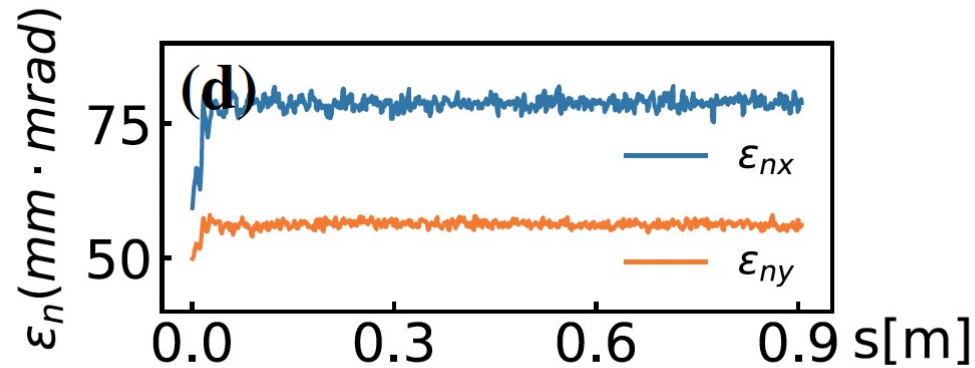
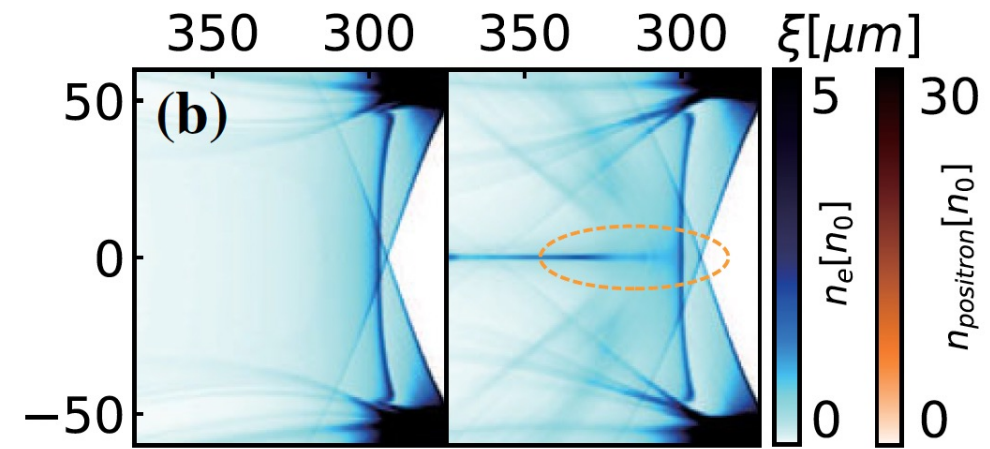
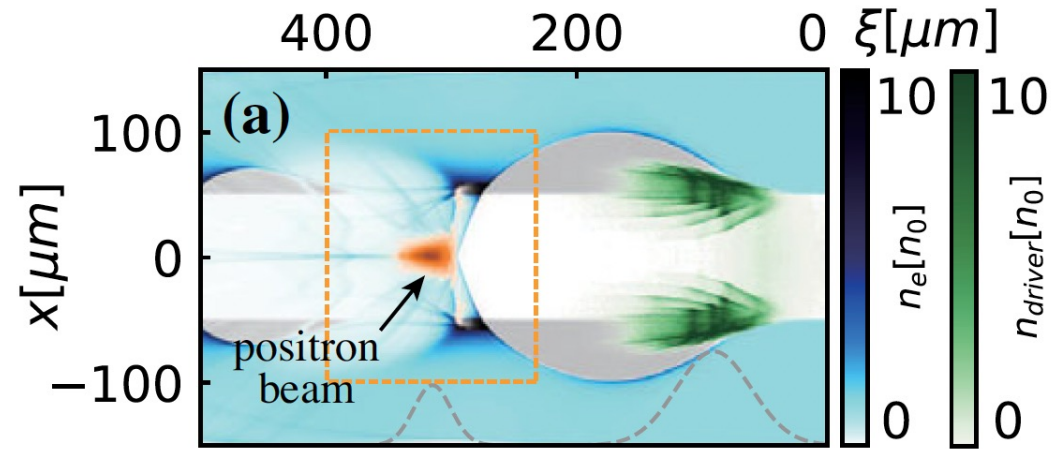


- Drive beam hits channel wall
- Creates a quadrupole moment
- Stabilizes the drive beam in hollow plasma channel

Zhou et al., PRL 127, 174801 (2021)



# High Efficiency Uniform Wakefield Acceleration of a Positron Beam Using Stable Asymmetric Mode in a Hollow Channel Plasma



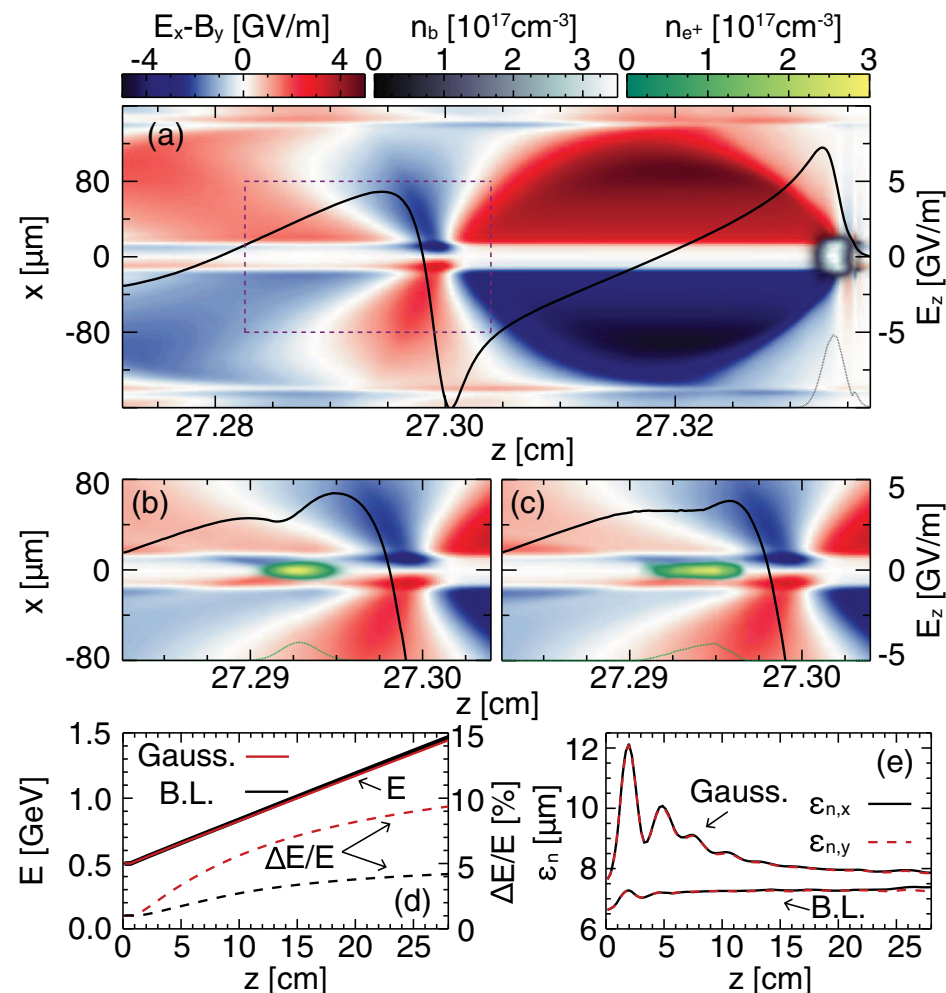
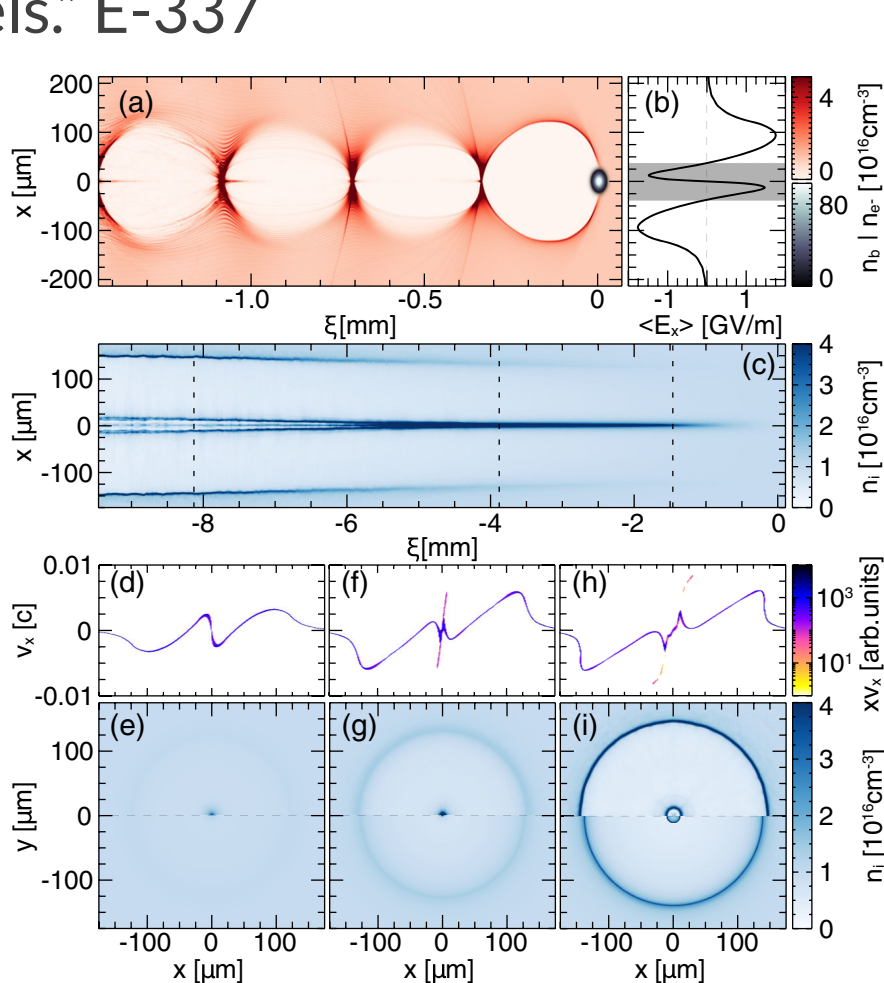
- Electron filament stabilizes witness
  - 0.49 nC charge
  - 4.9 GV/m gradient
  - 1.6% rms energy spread
  - 33% energy transfer efficiency
  - > 50 μm central slice emittance
- Finite temperature in plasma electrons further mitigates emittance growth

Zhou et al., PRL 127, 174801 (2021)

Diederichs et al. (in preparation)

# Recent Proposals with New Equilibrium Conditions

“Electron and positron acceleration in self-generated, thin, warm hollow plasma channels.” E-337



T. Silva et al. (IST)

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 104801 \(2021\)](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.127.104801)

# Conclusions & Outlook

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- **Positron PWFA Experiments by the Numbers:**
  - 1 Laboratory: SLAC
  - 2 Facilities: FFTB and FACET
  - 3 Experiments: E162, E200, E225
  - 7 Publications (see previous slides)
- Positron acceleration is 50% of a PLC but only a small fraction of PWFA research
- The non-linear blowout regime is great for electrons but does not work for positrons
- High-gradient acceleration of positrons in plasma has been demonstrated
- Need alternative approaches engineering the plasma and/or beams to get all of the properties we want – gradient, efficiency, emittance...
- Research progress correlates with having the ability to test concepts experimentally
- A plan has been developed to restore (and improve) our capabilities to test concepts for positron PWFA at FACET-II
- With positron upgrade FACET-II will be first facility capable of studying electron-driven, positron witness PWFA

Help maintain the momentum and submit new ideas at:  
<https://facet.slac.stanford.edu/proposals>



**FACET-II**

Facility for Advanced  
Accelerator Experimental Tests

# Questions?