

TÉCNICO  
LISBOA

# HPC Simulations for Plasma Accelerators

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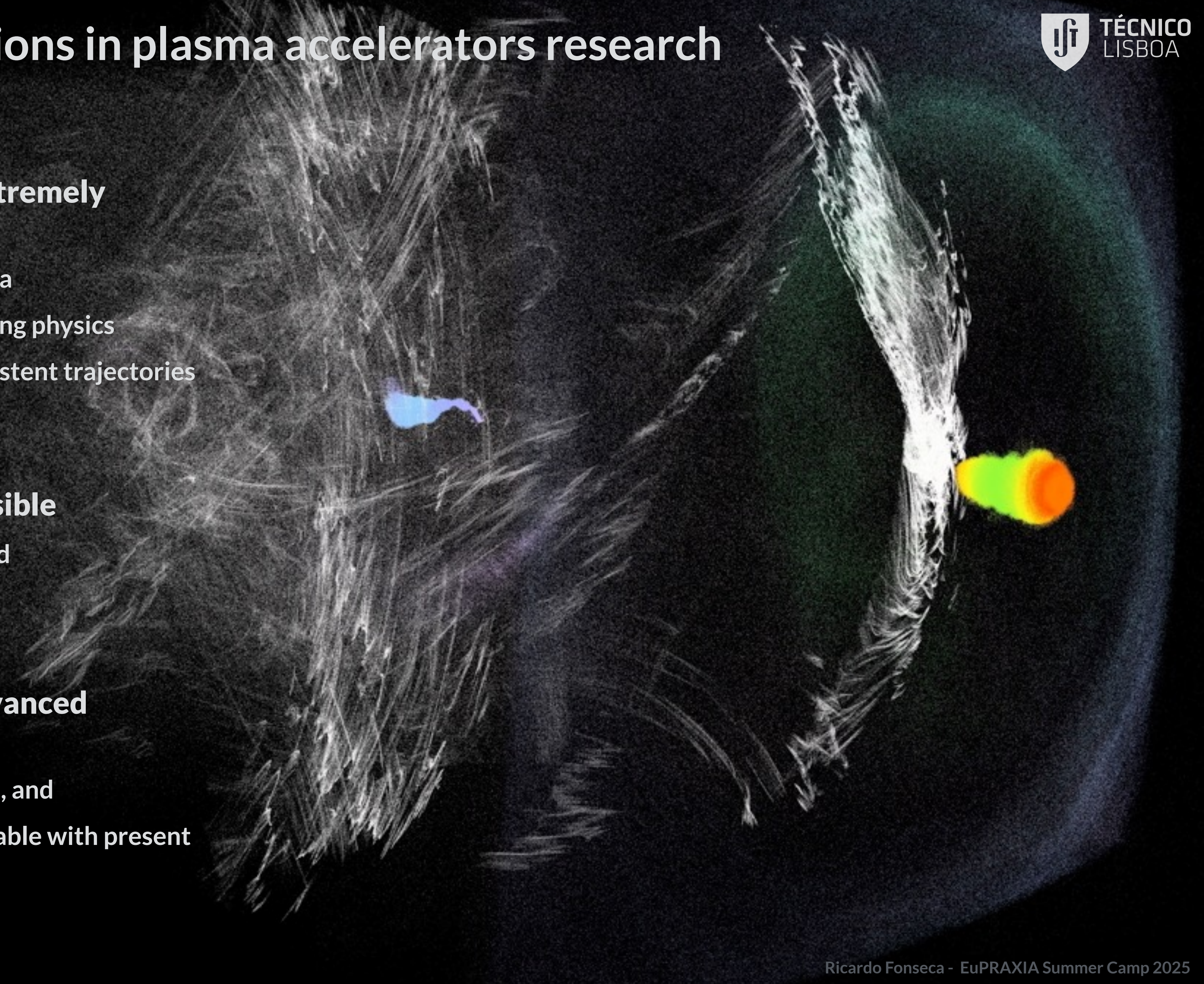
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<sup>2</sup>DCTI, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal



# The need for HPC simulations in plasma accelerators research

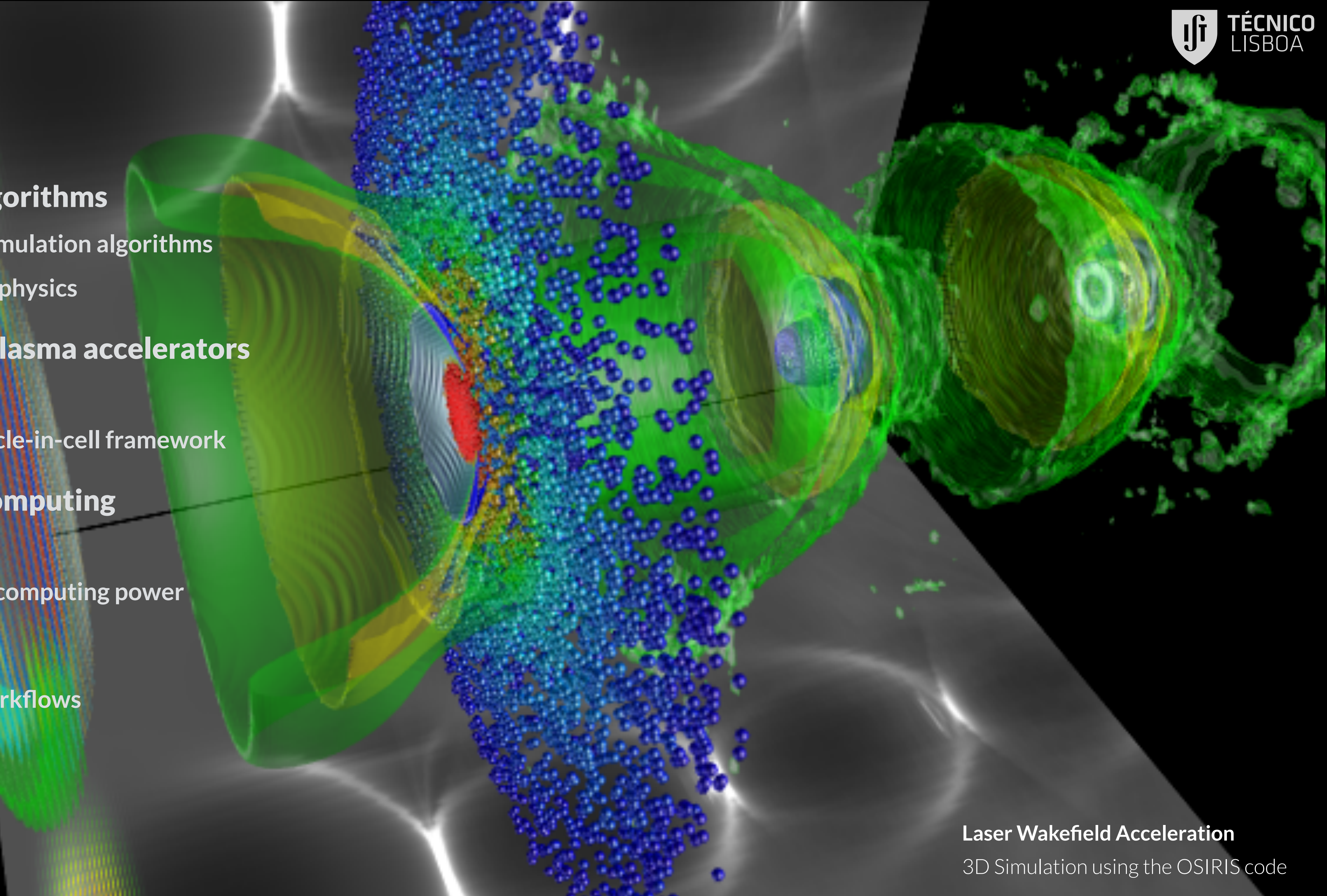
- **Plasma accelerators present an extremely challenging scientific problem**
  - Involves multiple scales and phenomena
  - Highly non-linear character of underlying physics
  - Depends on complicated and self-consistent trajectories of individual plasma particles
- **Purely analytical treatment impossible**
  - (Mostly) Limited to linear scenarios, and
  - Reduced geometries
- **Furthering knowledge requires advanced numerical tools**
  - Use of state-of-the art numerical codes, and
  - Pushing the envelope of what is achievable with present HPC technology





# Outline

- **Plasma simulation algorithms**
  - Overview of plasma simulation algorithms
  - Reduced geometries / physics
- **Simulation tools for plasma accelerators**
  - A community of codes
  - The OSIRIS code particle-in-cell framework
- **High-Performance Computing**
  - The HPC landscape
  - Tapping into Exascale computing power
- **AI Opportunities**
  - Integrating with AI workflows
  - Optimization studies
- **Overview**



**Laser Wakefield Acceleration**  
 3D Simulation using the OSIRIS code



A 3D visualization of a plasma simulation showing a dense, chaotic network of red and orange lines. These lines represent particle trajectories or magnetic field lines, with some lines ending in small red spheres. The background is a dark, smoky grey. A semi-transparent dark grey banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

# Plasma Simulation Algorithms

**Collision of  $e^-e^+$  plasma shells**  
3D Simulation using the OSIRIS code



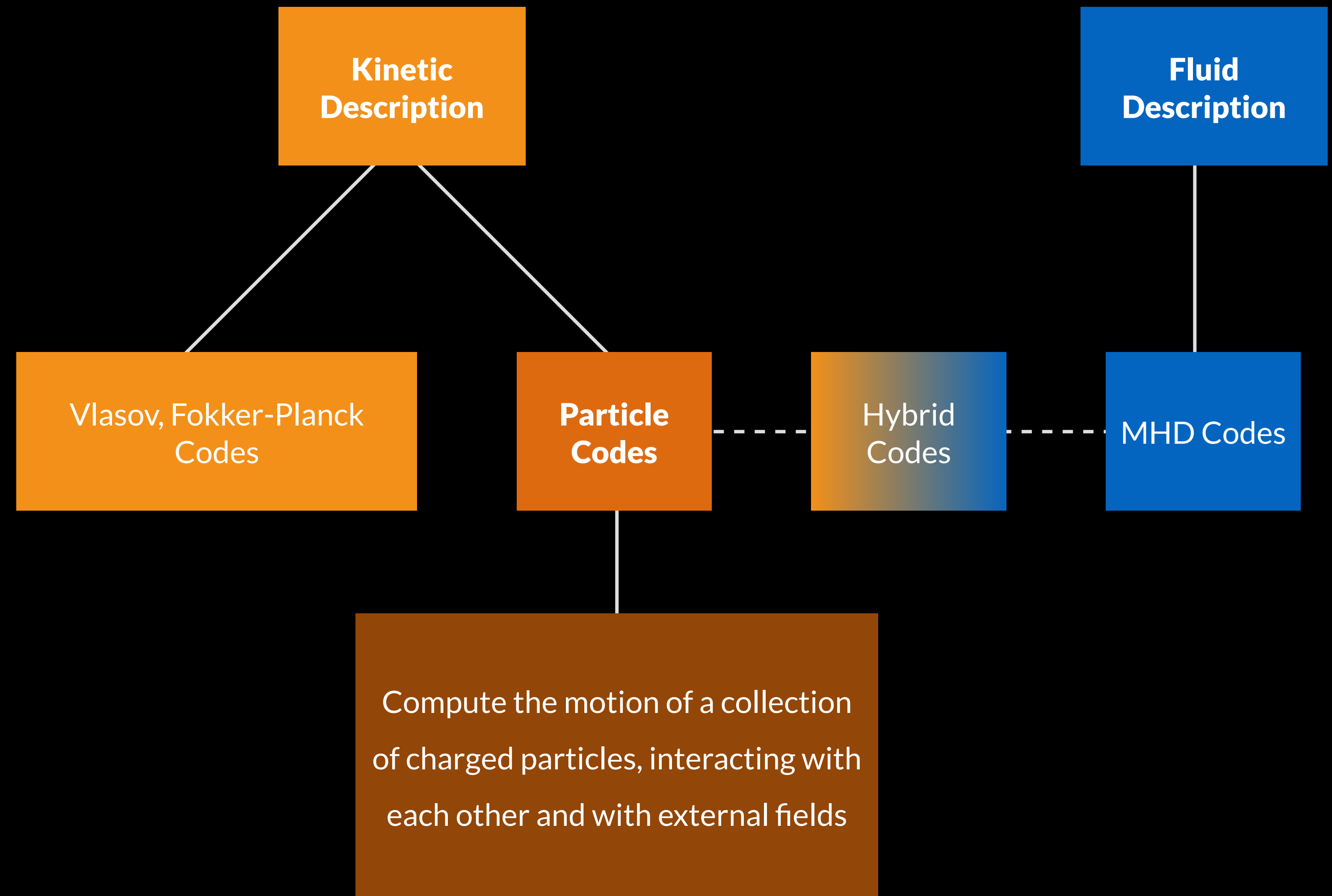
# Overview of plasma simulation algorithms

## • Plasma Simulations Using Particles

- Pioneered by John Dawson and Oscar Buneman circa 1960
- Use macro particles to simulate large spatial regions
  - 1 simulation particle corresponds to many plasma particles
- Particle-Particle simulations
  - Computations go with  $O(N_p^2)$
  - Computationally very demanding

## • Particle-In-Cell algorithms

- Interact particles through fields
- Discretize fields on grids
- Interpolate fields at particle positions to calculate forces
- Deposit particle charge/current on a grid
- Particle-Mesh algorithm
  - Computations go with  $O(N_p)$
  - Still computationally heavy but much more tractable

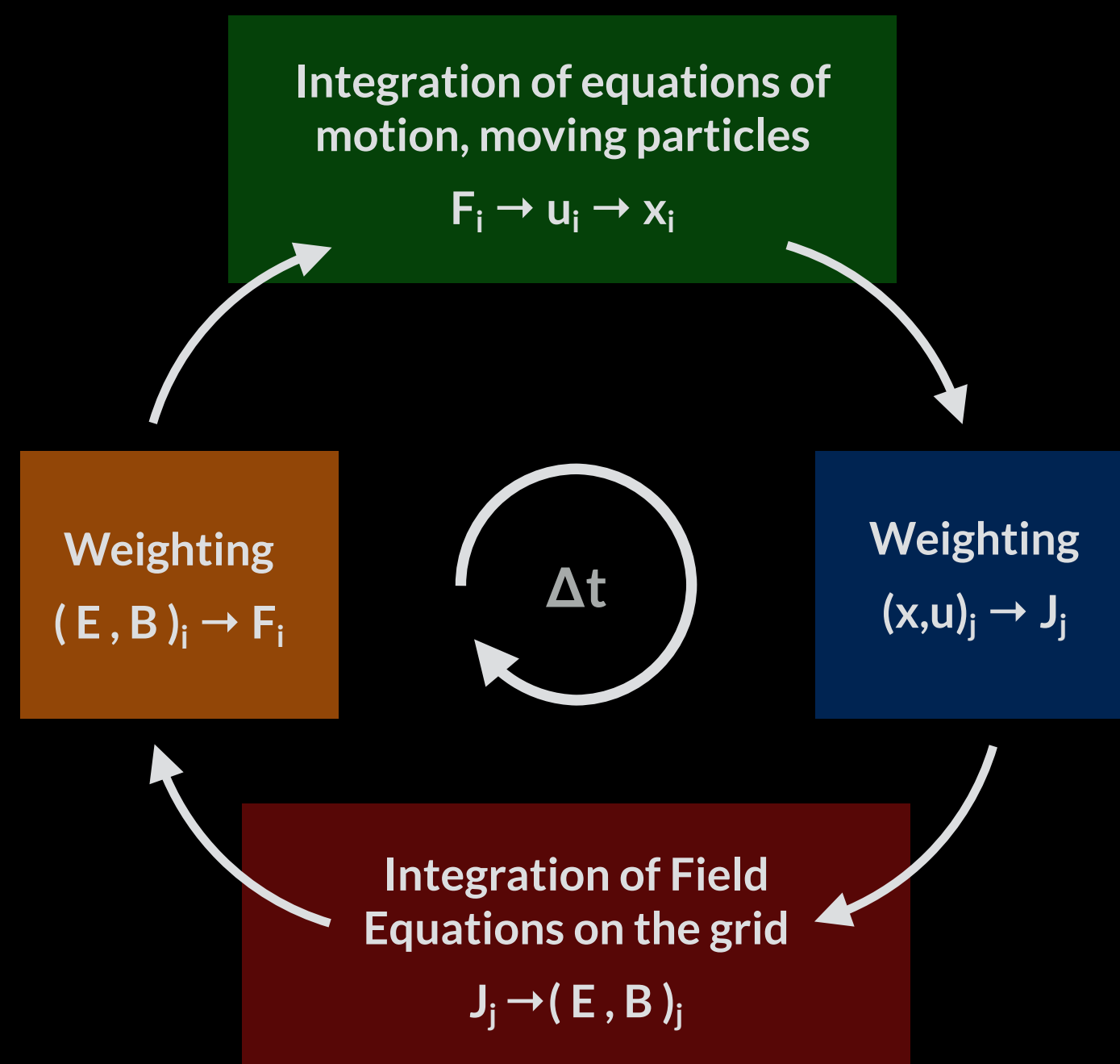




# The particle-in-cell (PIC) algorithm

## PIC algorithm

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = \frac{q}{m} \left( \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{\gamma c} \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} \right)$$



$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = c \nabla \times \mathbf{B} - 4\pi \mathbf{j}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -c \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

## PIC codes are computationally demanding

- Models is based on fundamental Physics laws

## Multi-scale problems

- Large disparity of spatial/temporal scales

## Sample problem: 10 GeV LWFA stage

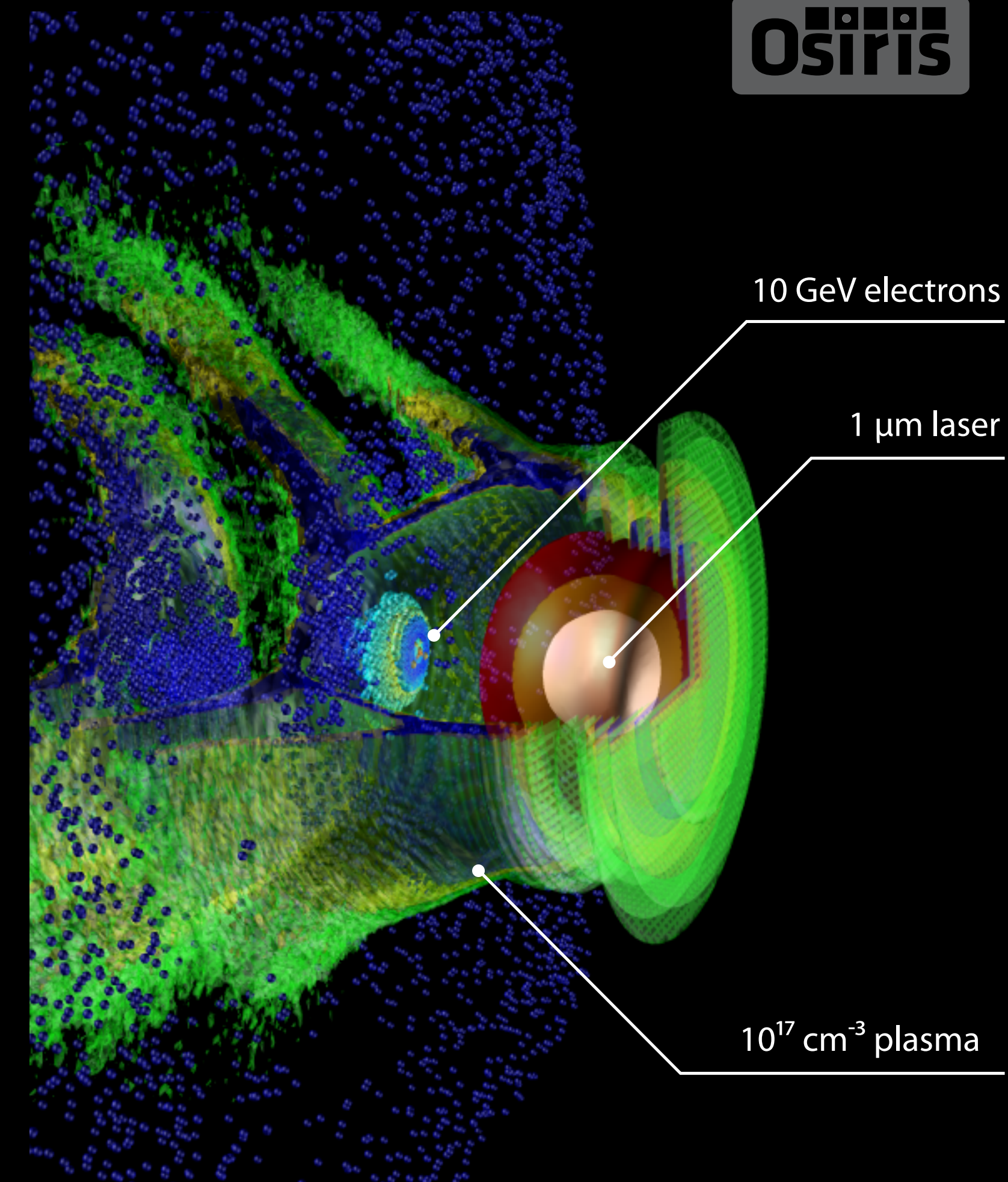
- $\lambda_0 \sim 1 \mu\text{m}$
- $L \sim 0.5 \text{ m}$

## Computational Requirements

- $\sim 10^9$  grid cells
- $\sim 10^{10}$  particles
- Iterations  $\sim 10^6 - 10^7$
- Memory  $\sim 1 - 10 \text{ TB}$
- Operations  $\sim 10^{18} - 10^{19}$

## Exascale performance

- Simulation time  $\sim 10\text{s}$





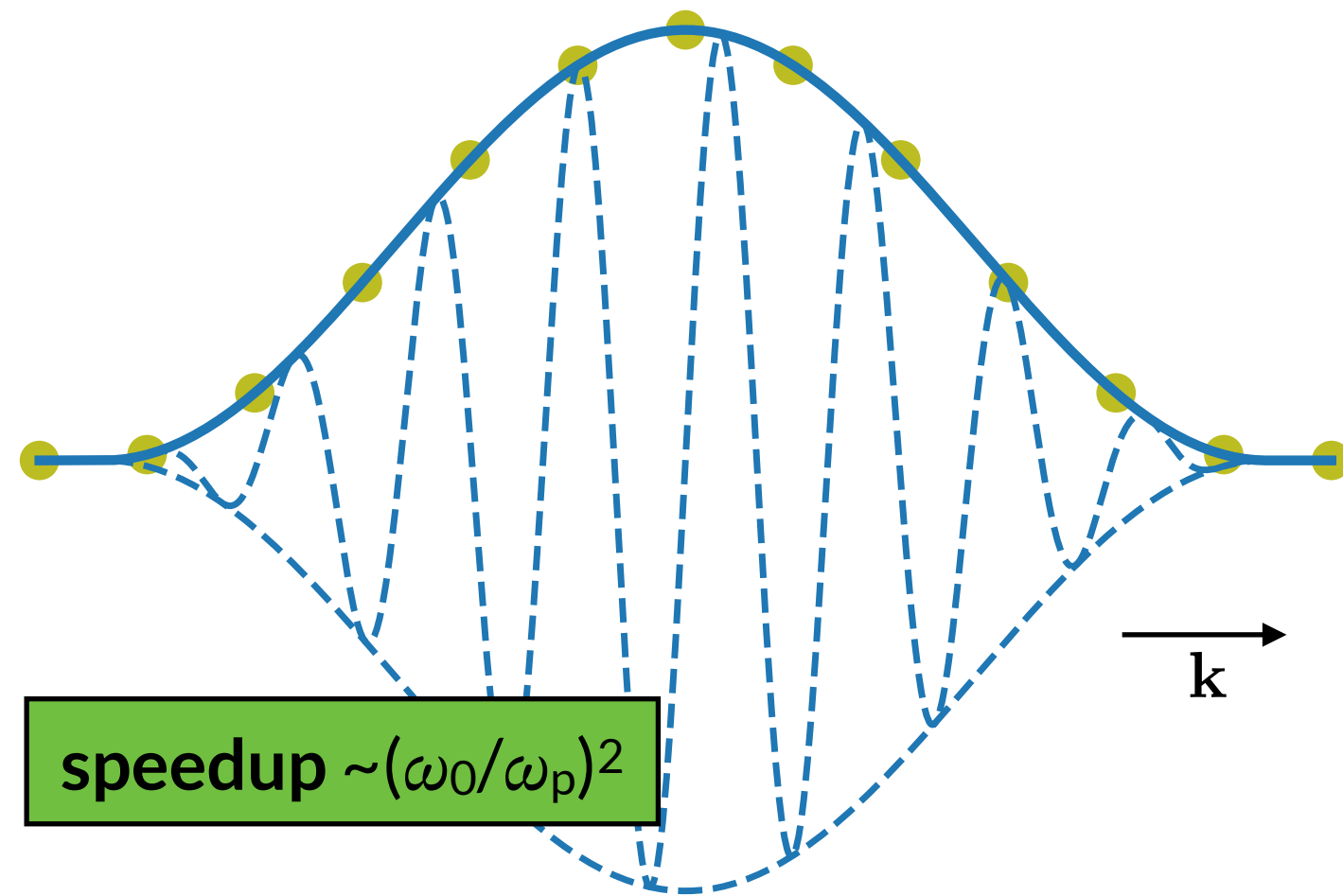
# Reduced Physics - Ponderomotive Guiding Center approximation

## Ponderomotive Guiding Center\* (PGC)

### Temporal / Spatial resolution:

PIC: laser frequency/wavelength

PGC: plasma frequency/skin depth



- requires model for laser envelope propagation
- push particles using self consistent plasma fields and ponderomotive force

### Envelope evolution

laser envelope spatial coordinate  $\xi = t - x$

$$\partial_{\tau} \overset{\text{time}}{\underset{\text{laser frequency}}{a}} = \frac{1}{2i\omega_0} \left( 1 + \frac{\partial_{\xi}}{i\omega_0} \right) (\overset{\text{plasma coupling}}{\chi} a + \Delta_{\tau} a)$$

### Ponderomotive force

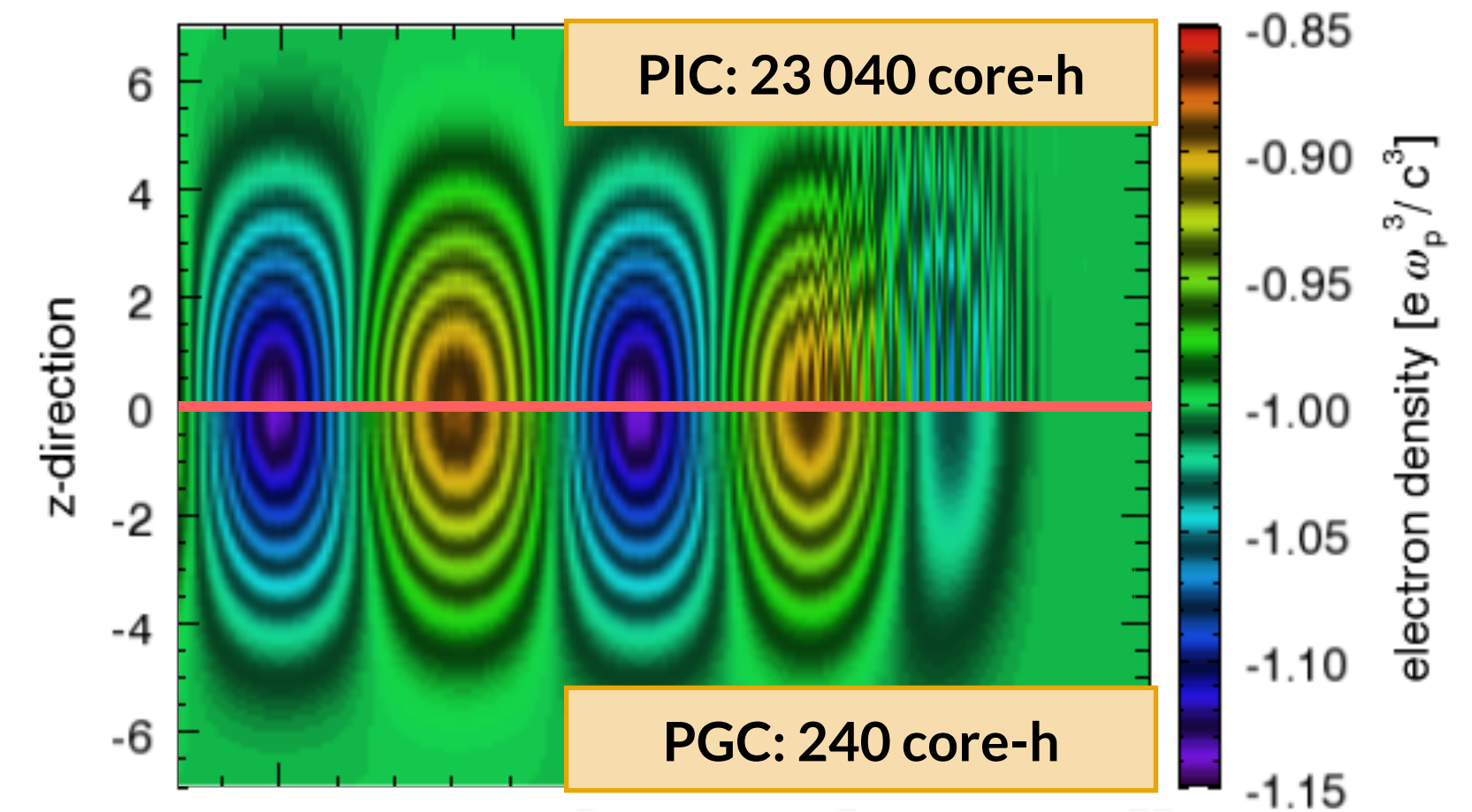
$$\mathbf{F}_p = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{q^2}{\langle m \rangle} \nabla |a|^2$$

### Plasma parameters

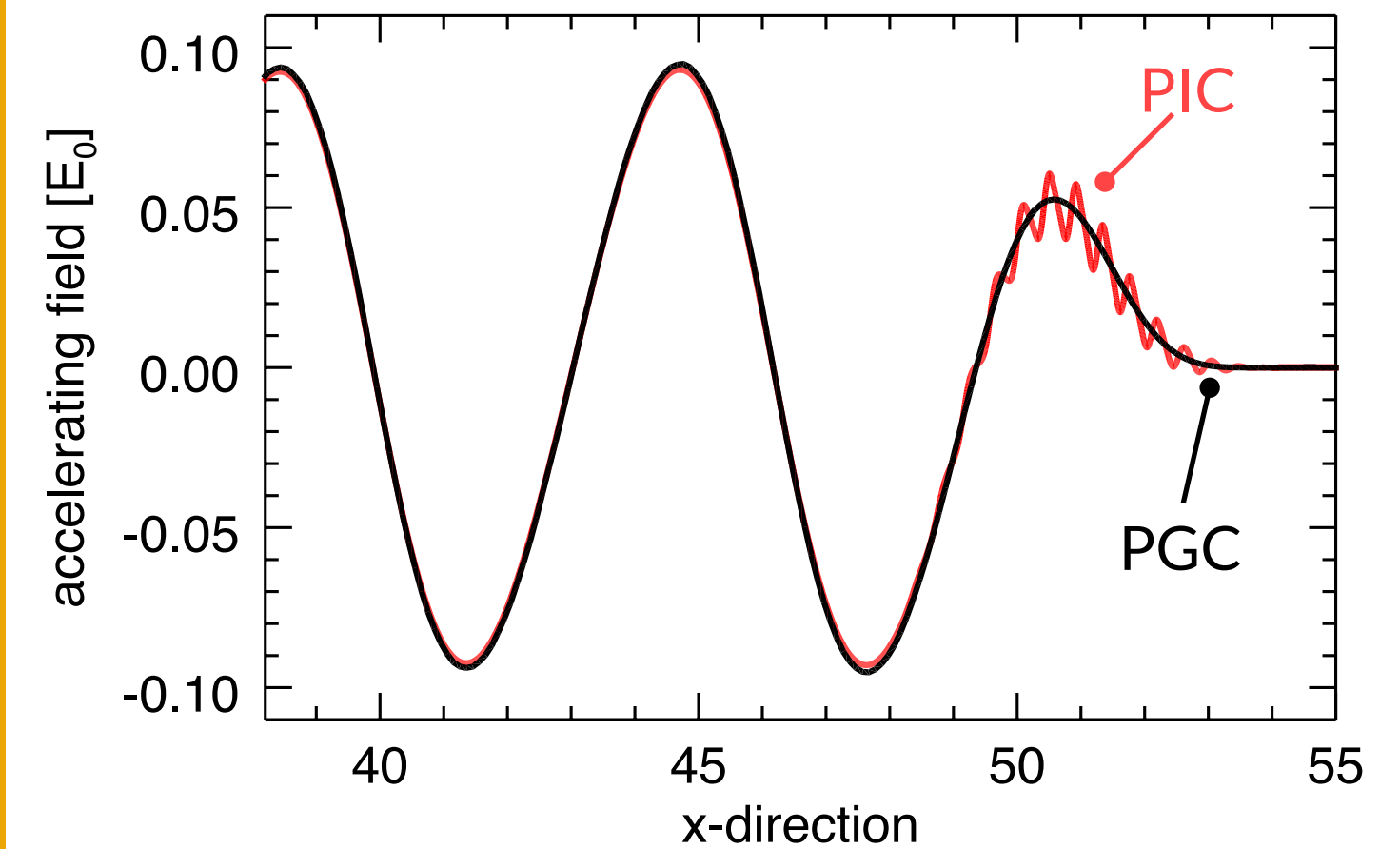
$$\chi = -\sum_i \frac{q_i \rho_i}{\langle m_i \rangle}$$

$$\langle m_i \rangle = \sqrt{m_0^2 + \mathbf{p}^2 + (q|a|)^2 / 2}$$

electron density



accelerating gradients



\* D. Gordon et. al., **IEEE Trans. Plasma Sci.** 28, 1135 (2000)



# Reduced geometries - Cylindrical mode expansion

## • Quasi-3D algorithm

- PIC in  $r - z$ , gridless (spectral) in  $\phi$
- Particles in 3D, grids in 2D

## • Retain only relevant cylindrical modes

- For particle beam driven accelerator only fundamental mode is required
- Complex effects (e.g. hosing) require additional modes
- Laser drivers require at least  $m = 1$

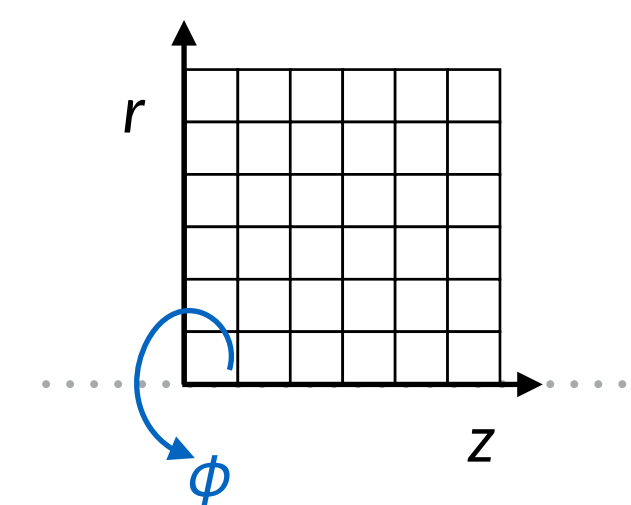
## • Capture 3D effects with smaller computational cost

- Speedup from 3D on the order of  $\sim 10^2$

<sup>1</sup> A. Lifschitz *et al.*, **JCP** 228, 1803 (2009)

<sup>2</sup> A. Davidson *et al.*, **JCP** 281, 1063 (2015)

### Azimuthal Mode Expansion<sup>1</sup>

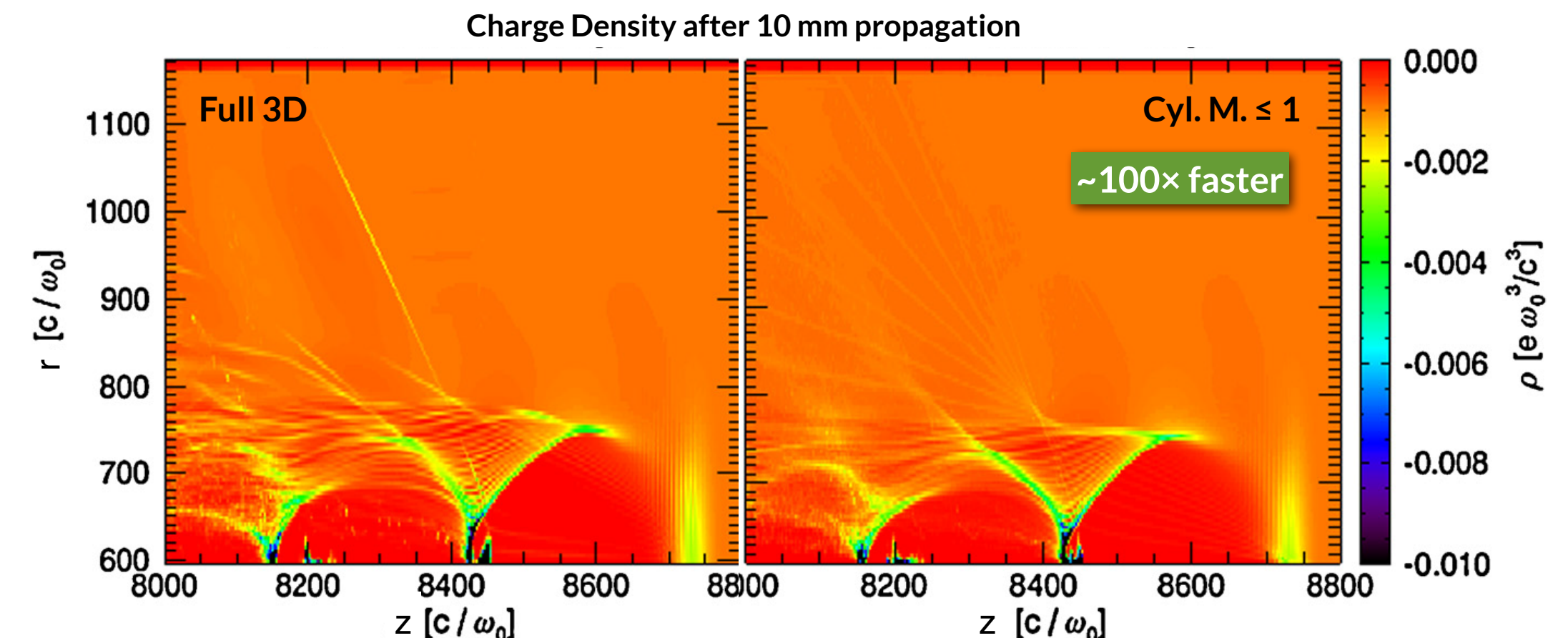


$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}(r, z, \phi) &= \Re \left\{ \sum_{m=0} \mathbf{F}^m(r, z) e^{im\phi} \right\} \\ &= \mathbf{F}^0(r, z) + \Re\{\mathbf{F}^1\} \cos(\phi) - \Im\{\mathbf{F}^1\} \sin(\phi) \\ &\quad + \Re\{\mathbf{F}^2\} \cos(2\phi) - \Im\{\mathbf{F}^2\} \sin(2\phi) \\ &\quad + \dots \end{aligned}$$

### Charge-conserving Field Advance<sup>2</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t B_r^m &= \frac{im}{r} E_z^m + \partial_z E_\theta^m & \partial_t E_r^m &= -\frac{im}{r} E_z^m - \partial_z E_\theta^m - J_r^m \\ \partial_t B_\theta^m &= \partial_z E_r^m + \partial_r E_z^m & \partial_t E_\theta^m &= \partial_z B_r^m - \partial_r E_z^m - J_\theta^m \\ \partial_t B_z^m &= -\frac{1}{r} \partial_r (r E_\theta^m) + \frac{im}{r} E_r^m & \partial_t E_z^m &= \frac{1}{r} \partial_r (r B_\theta^m) - \frac{im}{r} B_r^m - J_z^m \end{aligned}$$

### LWFA simulation







# Simulation tools for plasma accelerators



**Laser Wakefield Acceleration**

3D Simulation using the OSIRIS code



# A large community effort

Computer simulations have played a key role in the field of plasma accelerators

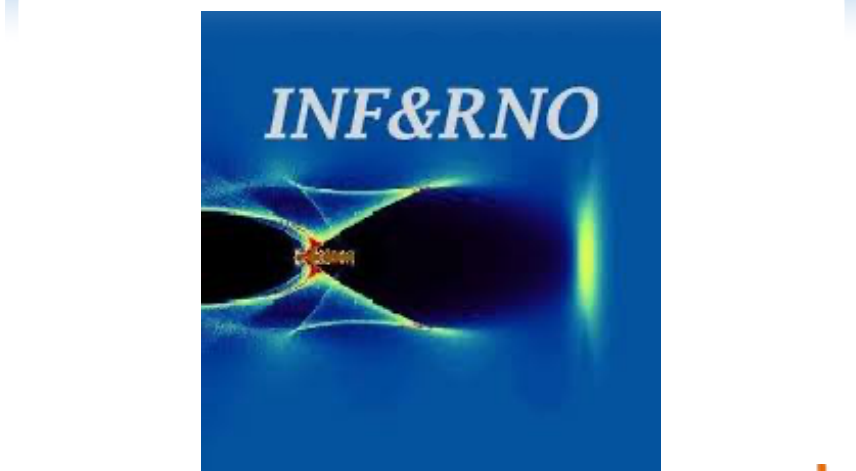
- In particular, PIC codes have been instrumental in demonstrating the feasibility of the concept
- There would not be a plasma accelerator field without PIC simulations

There is a large community of Particle-in-Cell codes supporting the field

- Test and explore new ideas
- Support experimental efforts
- Optimize accelerator design

This is an ever evolving ecosystem of codes and algorithms\*

- The different implementations and techniques are critical to ensure reliability
- Collaboration has been instrumental in the developments so far



\* 😞 Sorry if your favorite code is not listed





# Osiris 4.0

## Open-source version available

### Open-access model

- 40+ research groups worldwide are using OSIRIS
- 400+ publications in leading scientific journals
- Large developer and user community
- Detailed documentation and sample inputs files available
- Support for education and training

### Using OSIRIS 4.0

- The code can be used freely by research institutions after signing an MoU
- Open-source version at:

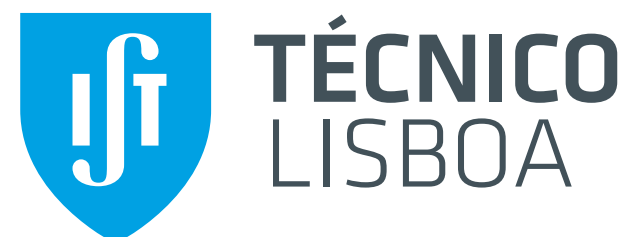
<https://osiris-code.github.io/>

### OSIRIS framework

- Massively Parallel, Fully Relativistic Particle-in-Cell Code
- Support for advanced CPU / GPU architectures
- Extended physics/simulation models
- AI/ML surrogate models and data-driven discovery



UCLA

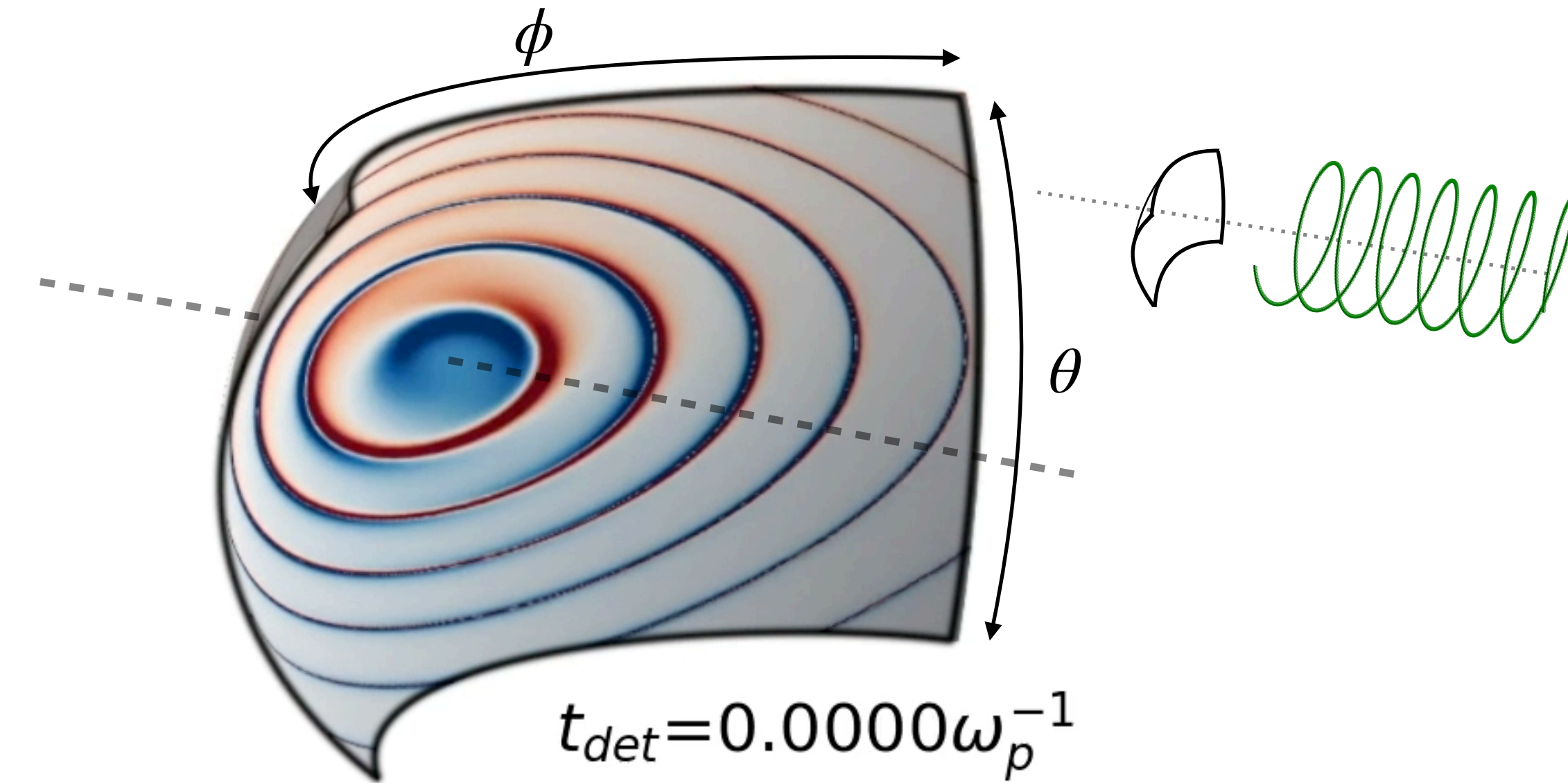
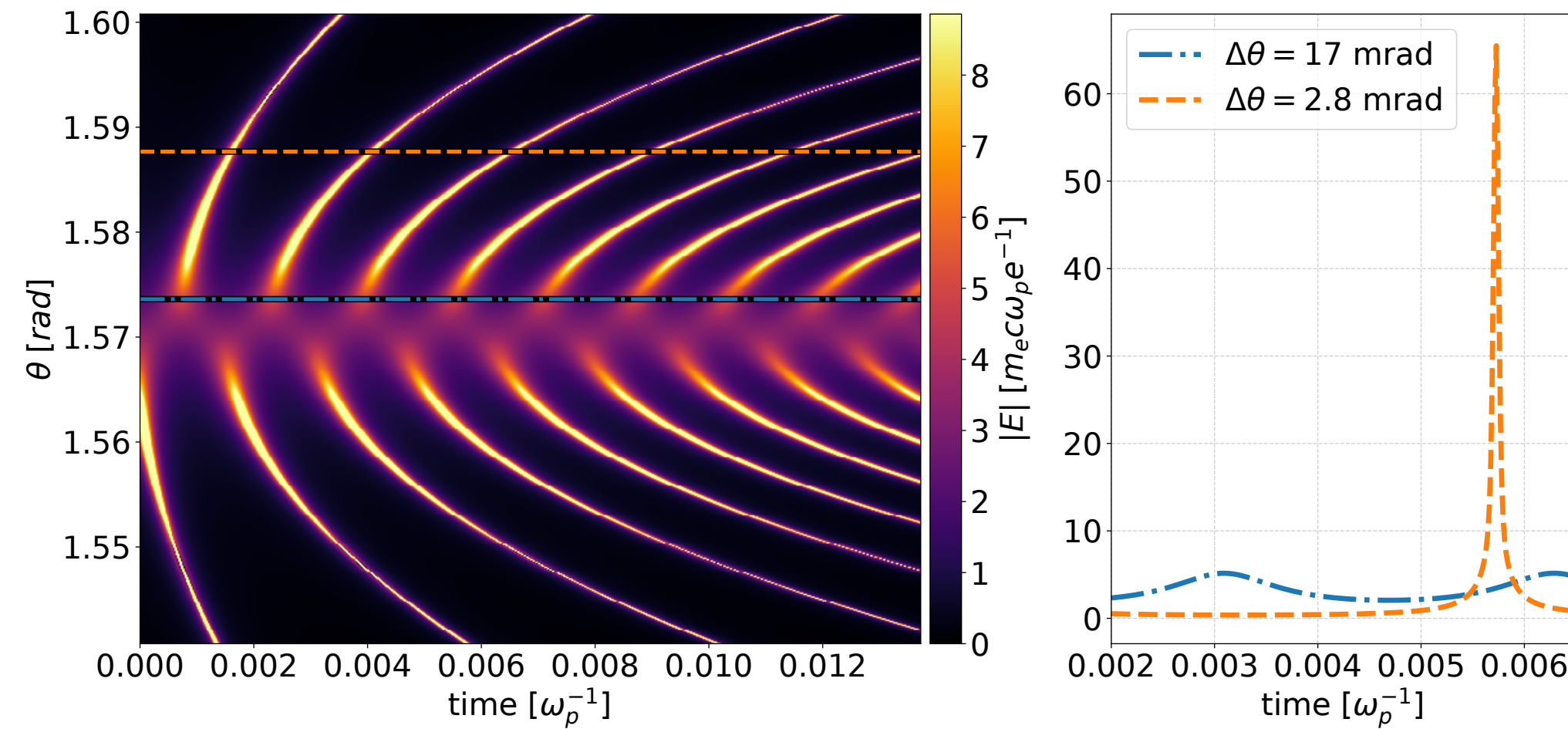


Ricardo Fonseca: [ricardo.fonseca@tecnico.ulisboa.pt](mailto:ricardo.fonseca@tecnico.ulisboa.pt)



# Extended physics / simulation models & diagnostics

## Radiation from 3D Helical motion\*



## Extending the PIC algorithm

- Field / impact ionization
- Classical radiation damping
- Particle merging
- **QED package** (pair creation, radiation reaction, non-linear Compton scattering)
- **Customizable EM field solver**
- **Alternative particle pushers**

## Supported geometries and Reduced models

- 1D, 2D, 3D cartesian and 2D cylindrical
- **Quasi-3D with azimuthal mode expansion**
- Ponderomotive guiding center (PGC) in 2D (x-y), 2D (r-z) and 3D
- Modified Spherical coordinates
- 2D shearing co-rotating framework

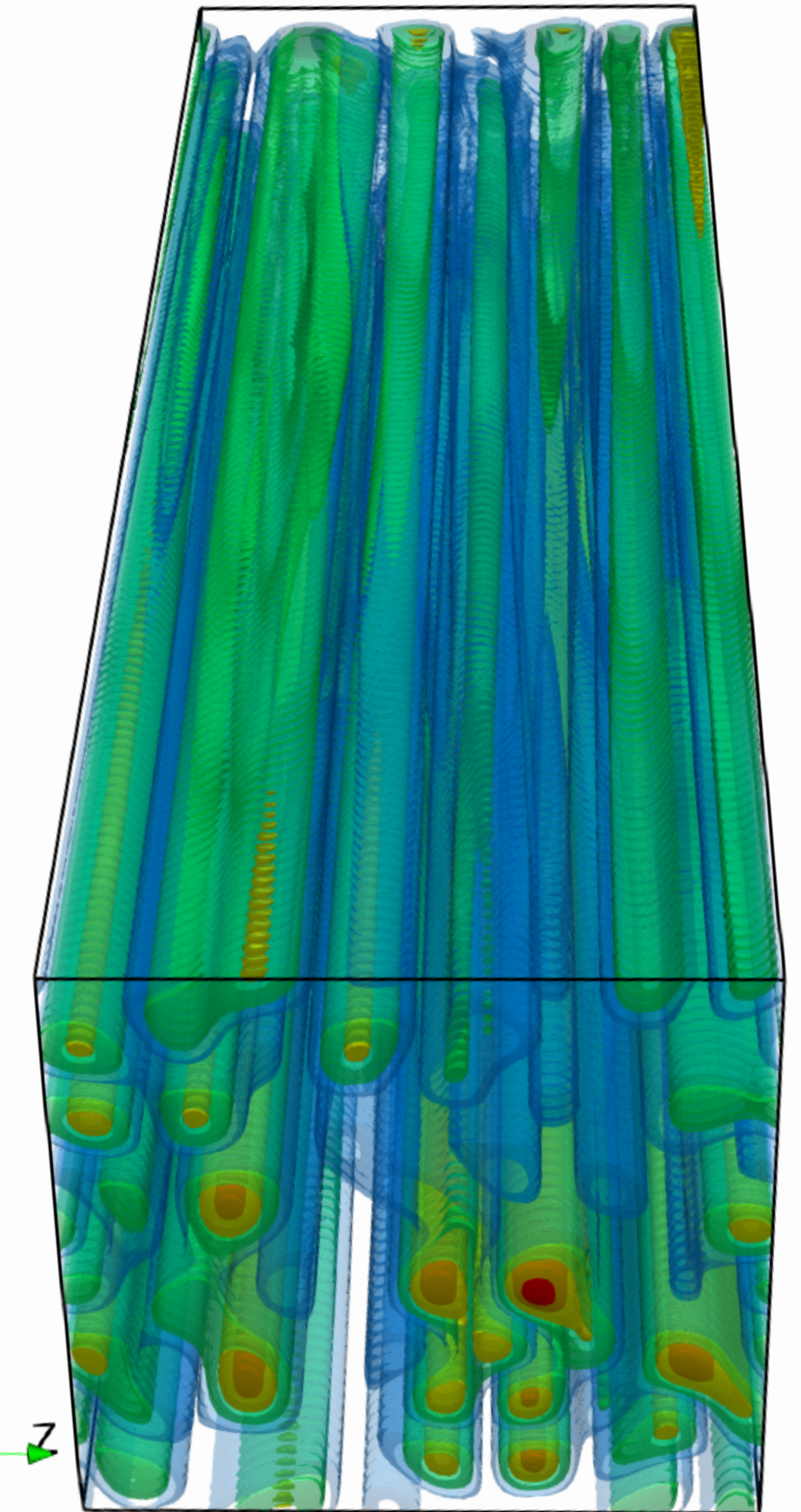
## Advanced initialization routines

- Laser Pulses with OAM / sliding focus / speckle
- Particle beams with Twiss parameters and self-consistent initial fields

## Advanced diagnostics

- Particle tracking
- Short-wavelength radiation

## Speckle module



\*M. Pardal et. al. **Comp. Phys. Comms.** 285, 108634 (2023)



# QED effects for high intensity laser-plasma interactions

## Nonlinear Compton scattering

$$\chi_e = \frac{\sqrt{(p_\mu F^{\mu\nu})^2}}{E_s mc} \quad \chi_\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{(\hbar k_m u F^{\mu\nu})^2}}{E_s mc} \quad \frac{d^2 \mathcal{P}}{dt d\chi_\gamma} = \frac{\alpha mc^2}{\sqrt{3} \pi \hbar \gamma \chi_e} \left[ \left( 1 - \xi + \frac{1}{1 - \xi} \right) K_{2/3}(\tilde{\chi}) - \int_{\tilde{\chi}}^{\infty} dx K_{1/3}(x) \right]$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = q \left( \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} \right) + \frac{d\mathcal{P}_\gamma}{dt d\chi} \quad \text{Probabilistic}$$

## Breit-Wheeler process

Emission of photons  
Probability of pair creation  
→ new particles

Integration of equations of  
motion: moving particles  
 $\mathbf{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbf{u}_p \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_p$

Deposition:  
calculating current on grid  
 $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})_p \rightarrow \mathbf{j}_i$

Interpolation:  
evaluating force on particles  
 $(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B})_i \rightarrow \mathbf{F}_p$

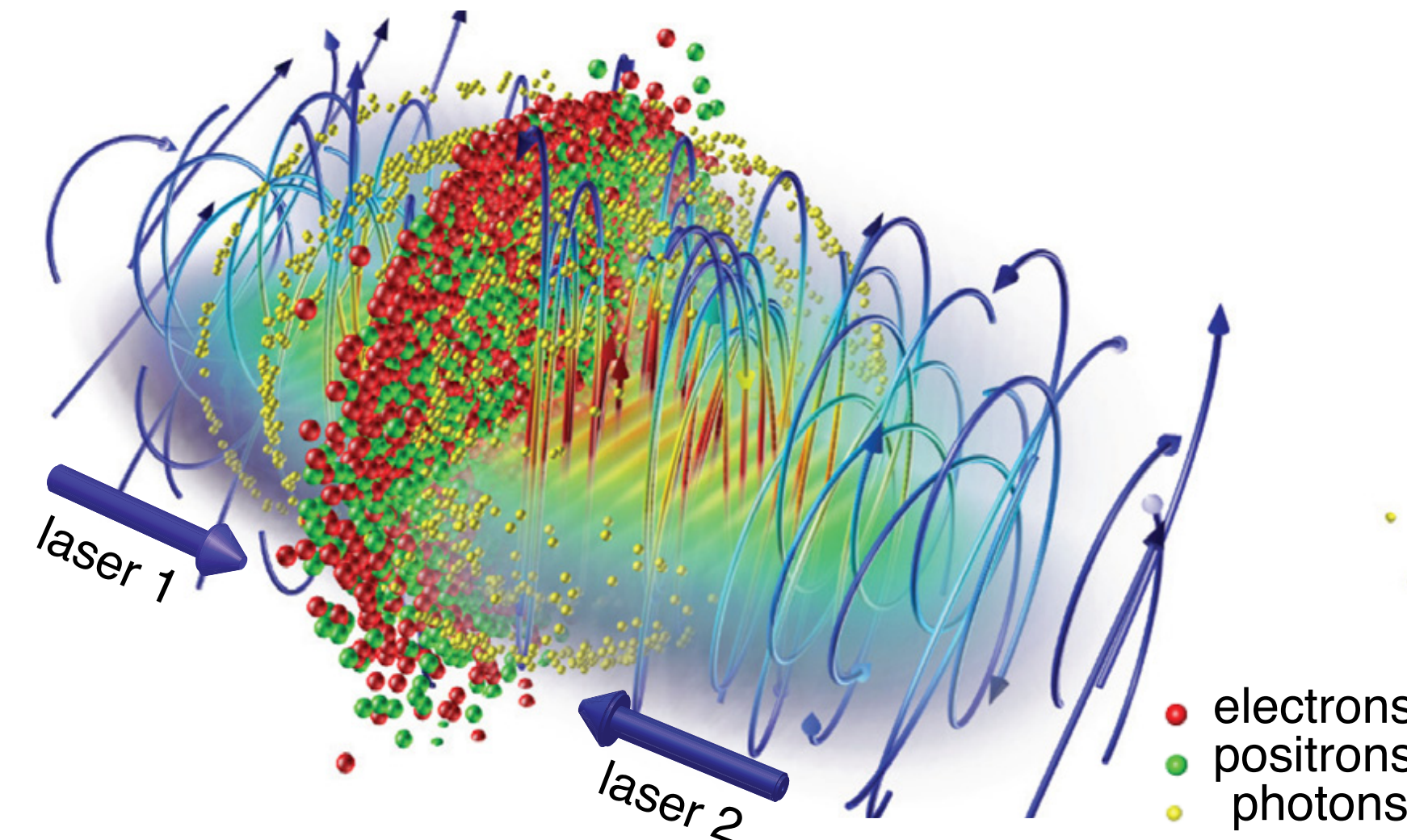
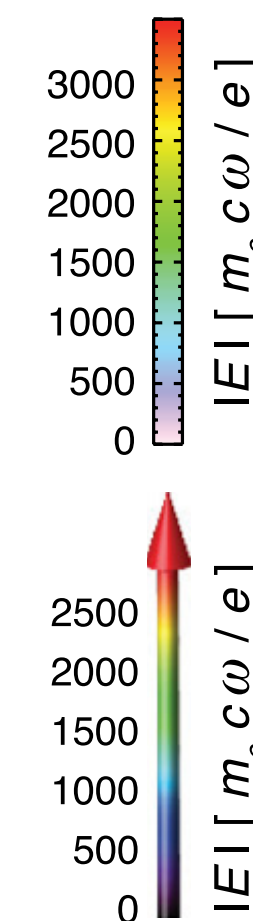
Integration of field  
equations: updating fields  
 $(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B})_i \leftarrow \mathbf{J}_i$

Particle  
Merging

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = c \nabla \times \mathbf{B} - 4\pi \mathbf{j} \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -c \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

## Simulation Parameters

- 2 counter propagating laser pulses
  - $\lambda_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$
  - $a_0 = 2000$
  - $\tau_L = 30 \text{ fs}$
  - $W_0 = 3.2 \mu\text{m}$
- Simulation box
  - $300 \times 120 \times 120 (c/\omega_p)^3$
  - $3000 \times 1200 \times 1200 \text{ cells}^3$





A black and white photograph of the ENIAC computer system, showing rows of large metal cabinets filled with electronic components and a dense network of connecting cables.

# High-Performance Computing Systems



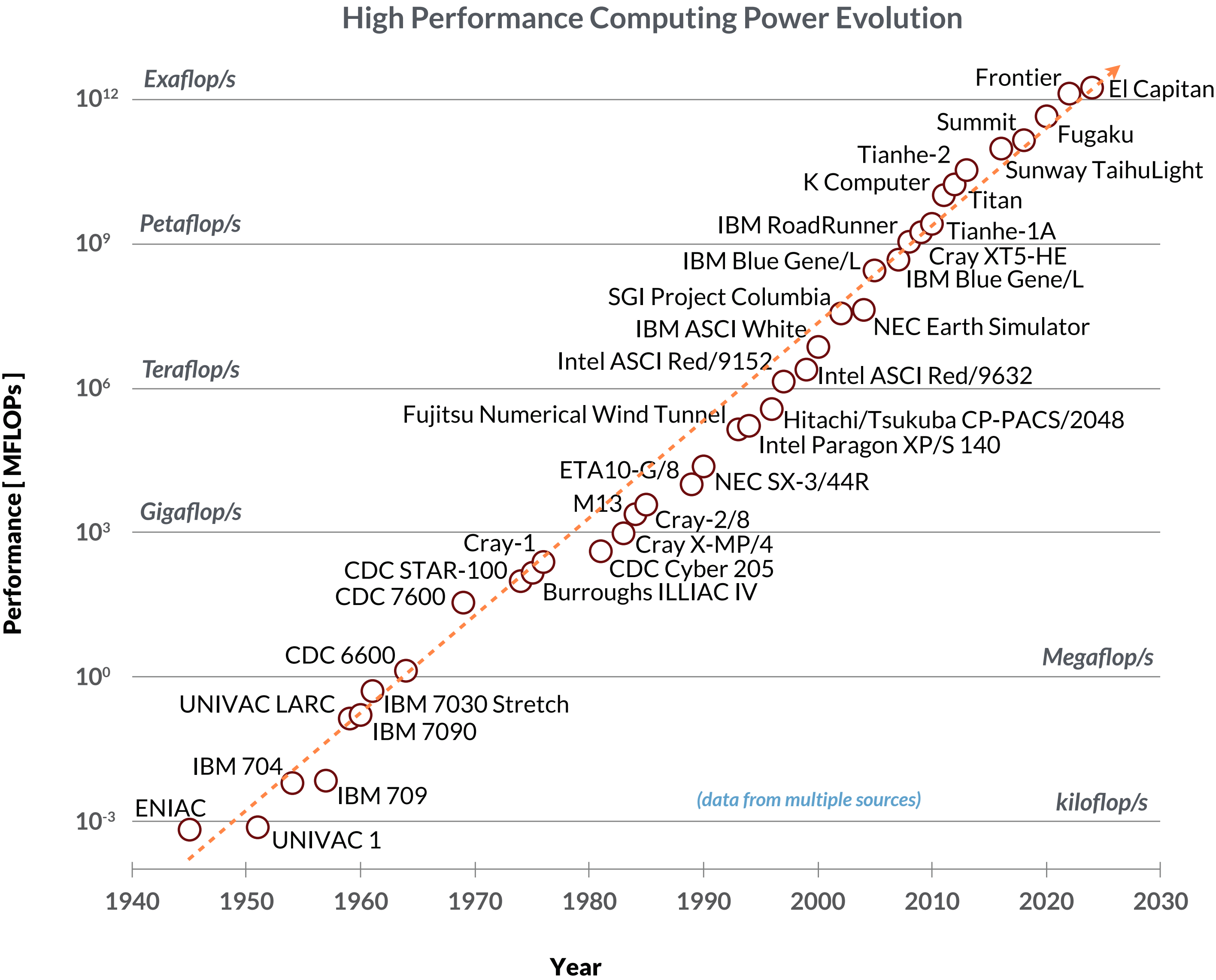
# Evolution of Computing power

## To Exaflop and beyond

- Steady progress for over 75 years
- 15 orders of magnitude improvement since 1949
- Top system performs at 1.74 EFlop/s, other exaflop systems being deployed

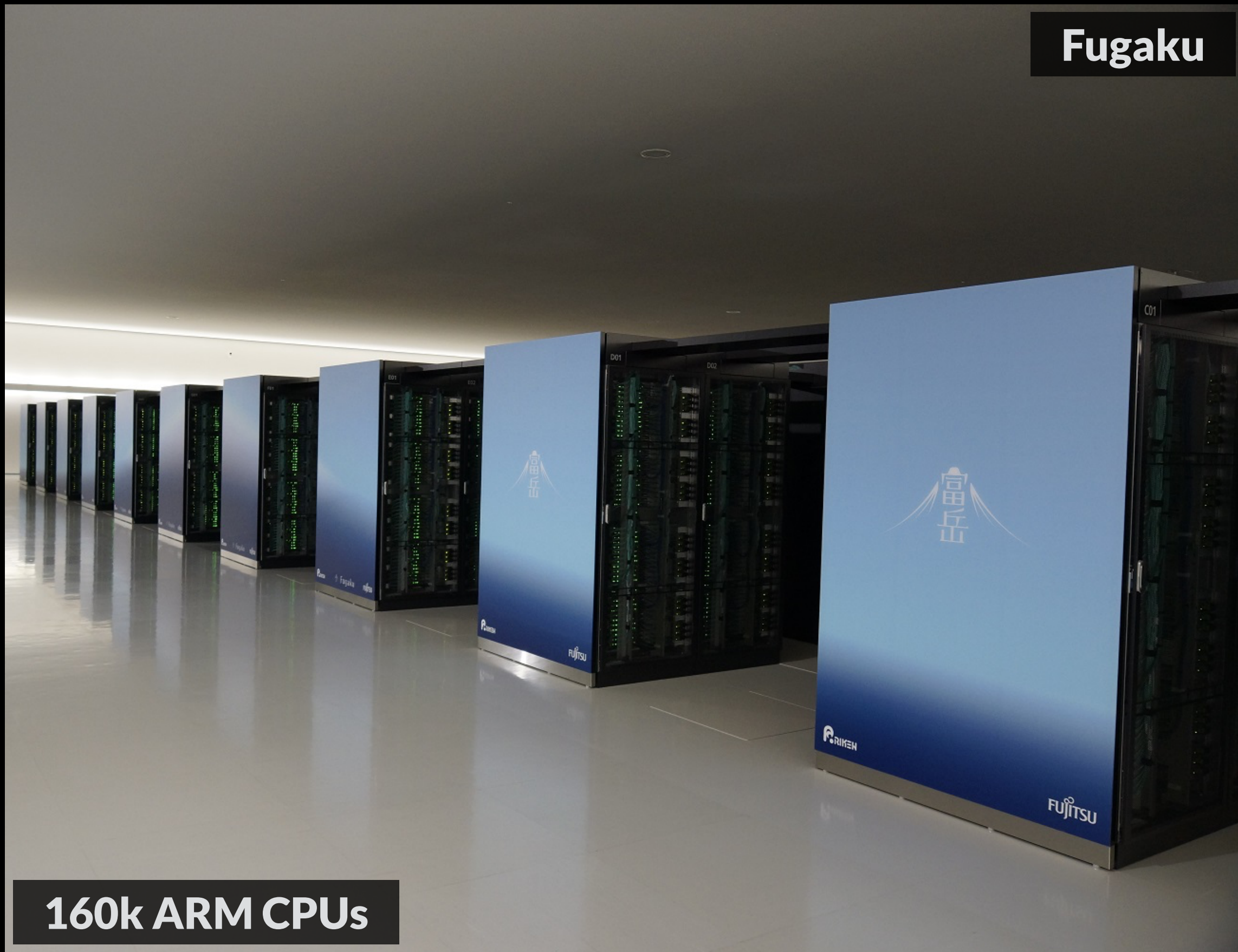
## Supported by many computing paradigm evolutions

- From electronic relays to vacuum tubes, transistors and integrated circuits
- Memory went from mercury delay lines to electrostatic vacuum tubes, magnetic storage and solid state RAM cells
- System architecture went from scalar, to super-scalar, to vector systems, massively parallel systems, and accelerator boards





# Modern HPC systems - CPU vs GPU



**Fugaku**

**160k ARM CPUs**

**RIKEN Fugaku**

Fujitsu

A64FX 48c 2.2 GHz

**#1 - TOP500 Nov/21**

**R<sub>max</sub> 0.44 EFlop/s**



**El Capitan**

**43k AMD GPUs**

**LLNL El Capitan**

HPE Cray

AMD Instinct MI300A

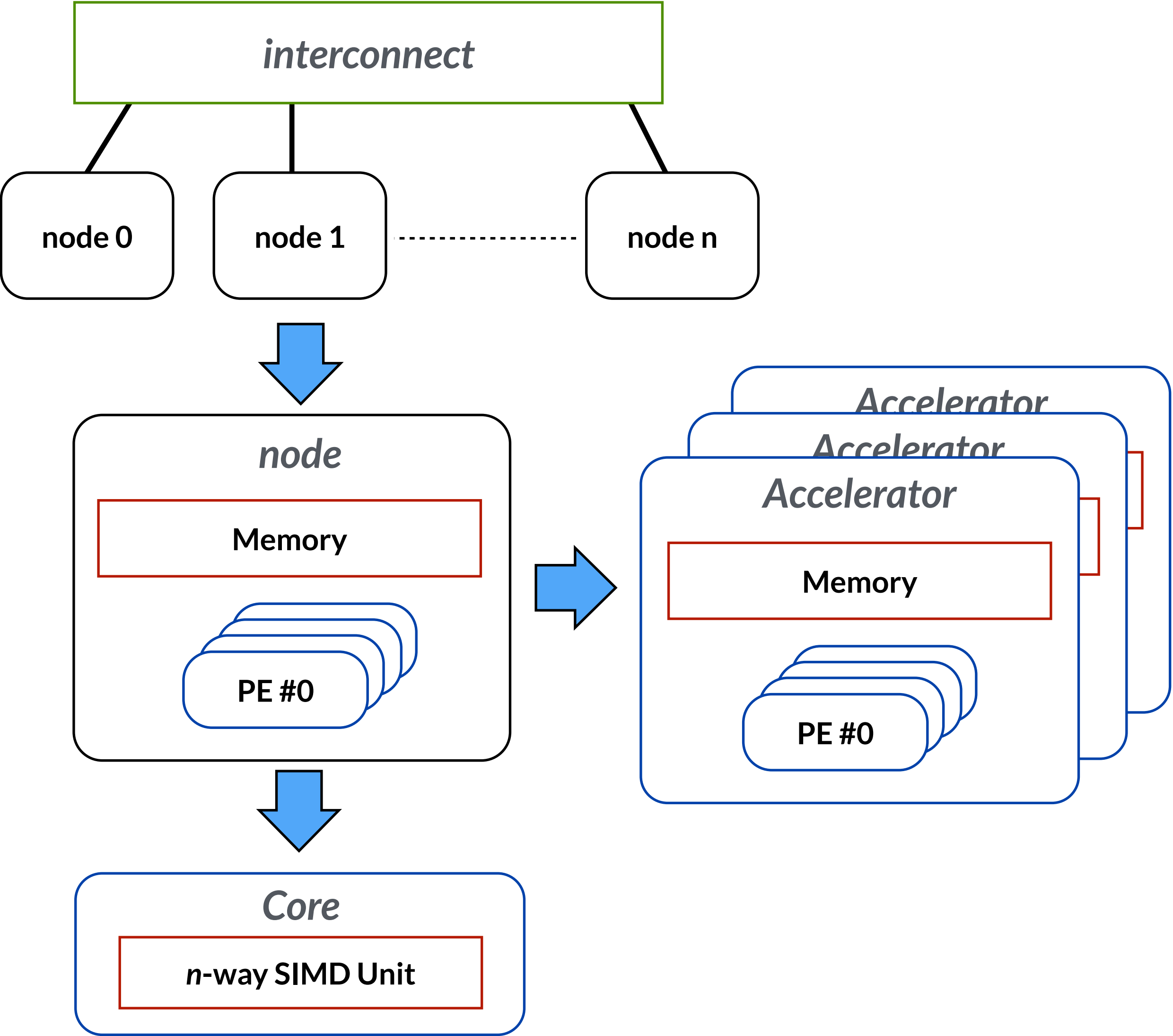
**#1 - TOP500 Nov/24**

**R<sub>max</sub> 1.74 EFlop/s**



# High Performance Computing Systems

## modern HPC systems

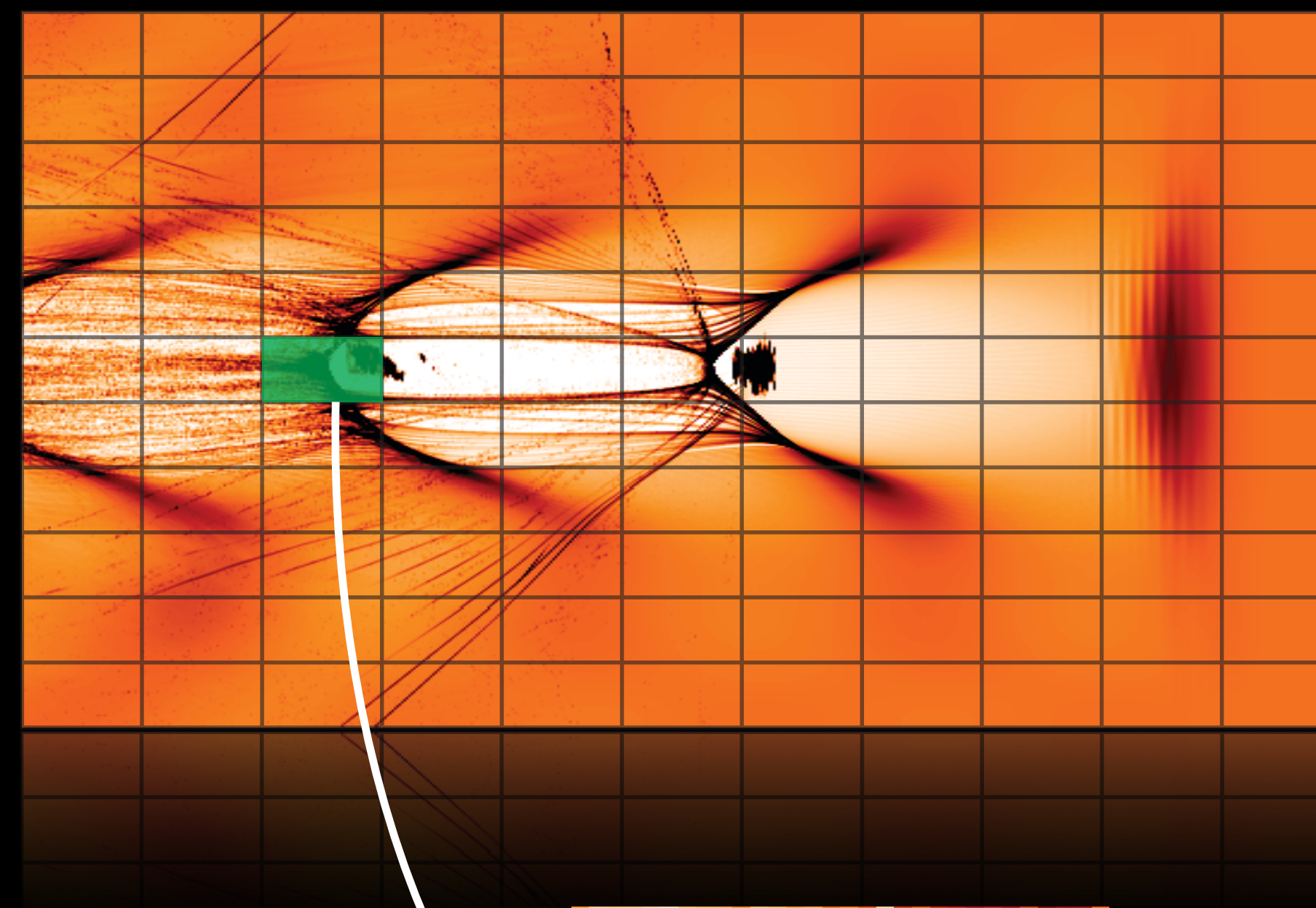


- Modern HPC systems share a common anatomy, presenting a hierarchy of parallelism**
  - Optimal performance requires exploiting all levels of parallelism and performance hardware
  - Shared anatomy means reusable strategies, but matching your algorithm to the hardware gives best performance
  - Efficient deployment on a wide array of systems requires a flexible approach, combining code reusability and specialization.
- OSIRIS development strategy focuses on optimal performance targeting current and future systems**
  - Address large scale parallelism issues, in particular focusing on parallel load balance
  - Optimize for specialized hardware, such SIMD units on modern CPUs, or GPGPU accelerators
  - Explore new and emerging programming models and paradigms, ensure readiness for future systems



# Micro-spatial domain decomposition (tiles)

- **Divide simulation data over small spatial domains**
  - Domains can be as small as  $\sim 10 - 100$  cells
  - Each domain (tile) holds all particle and grid data for that spatial region
- **Assign tiles to computing elements (CPU core, GPU, etc.)**
  - Multiple tiles may be assigned to the same computing element
  - Tiles may be reassigned dynamically to ensure an even computational load
- **Computation in each tile is (mostly) independent**
  - All tiles may be processed in parallel
  - After advancing the particles these may need to be assigned to different tiles
  - After advancing the fields edge values must be updated from neighboring tiles

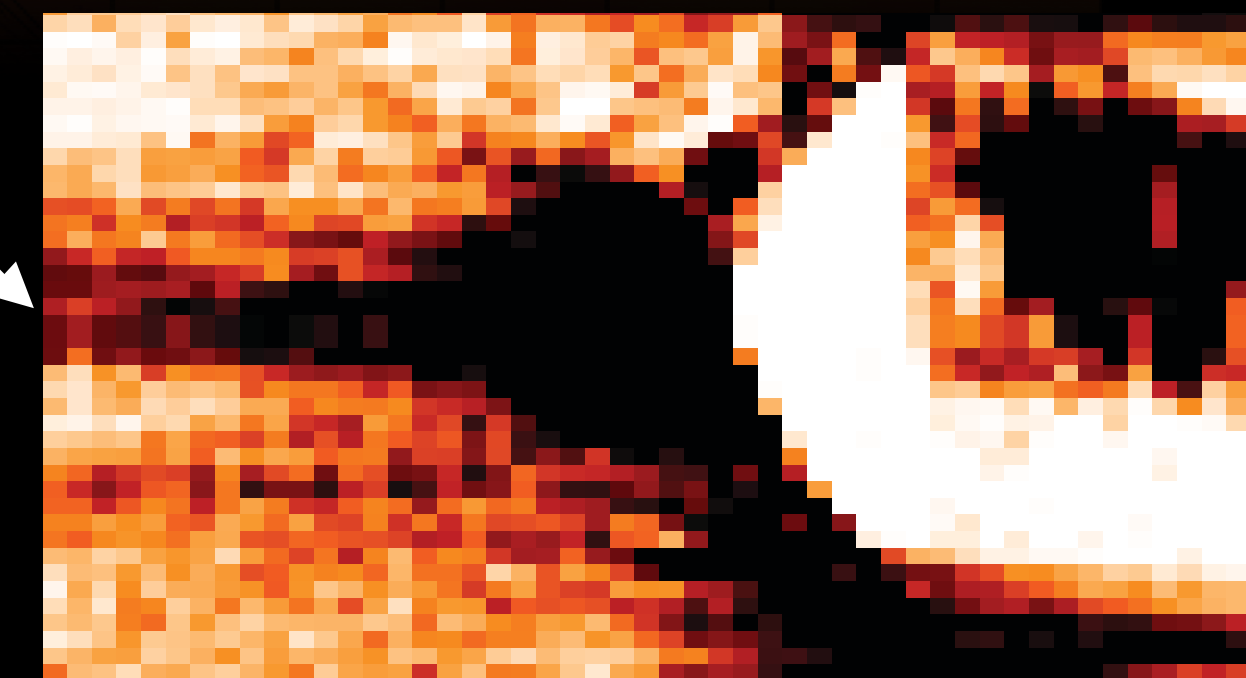


## Simulation data

- Particles
- Grids
- Organized by tiles

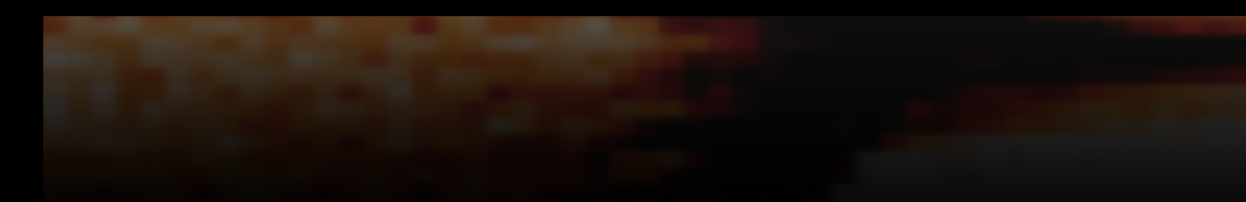
Each tile is processed in parallel

- Most computations strictly local



## Tile data

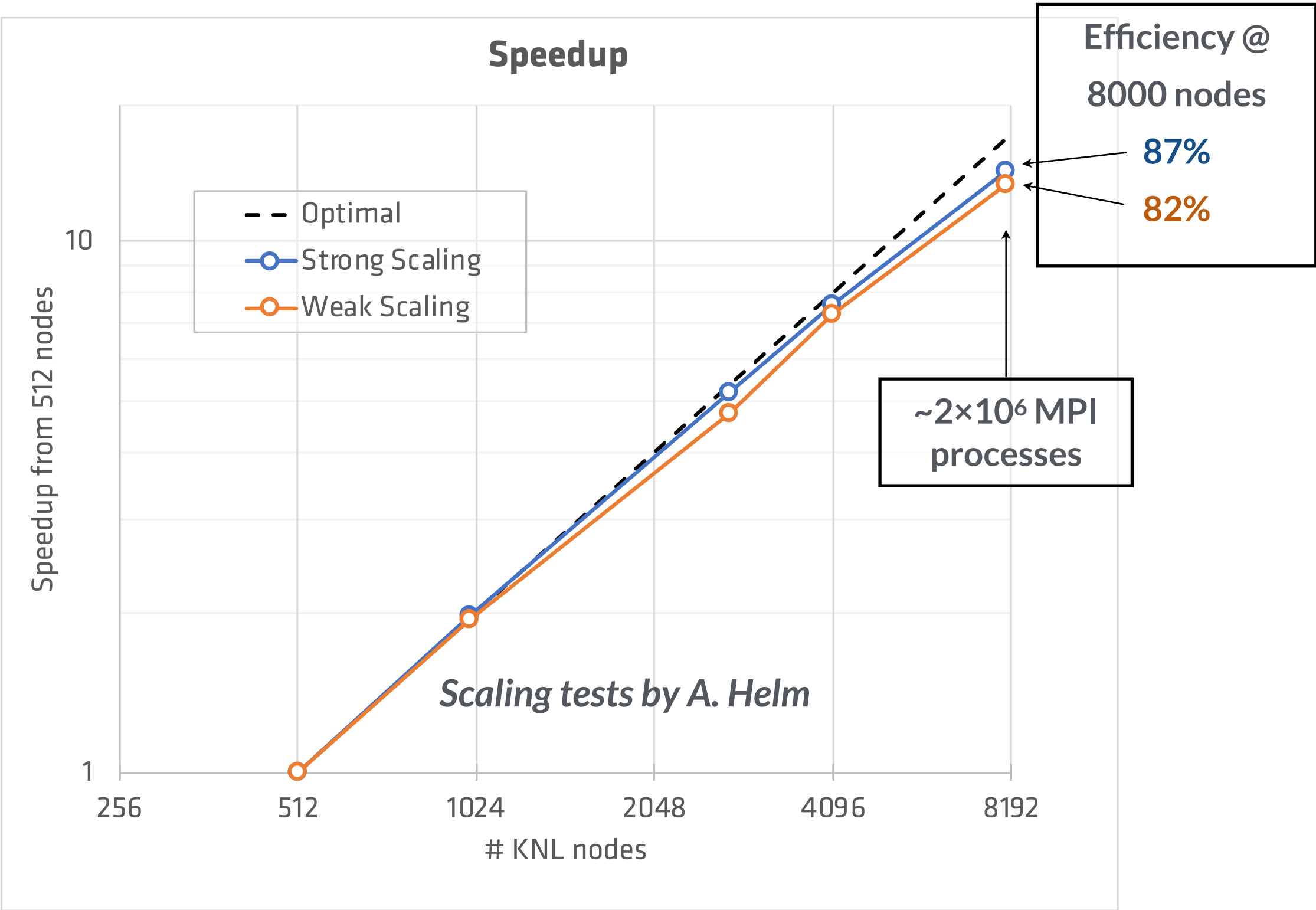
- Particles
- Grids





# Inter-node communication

- **Current HPC systems are a collection of independent nodes**
  - These nodes are connected using a high-speed computer network
- **Tiles may be neighbours to other tiles on different nodes**
  - Grid and particle data must be communicated between different nodes
- **Inter-node communication is done using the Message Passing Interface (MPI)**
  - Standard since late 1990's
  - Explicit parallelization:
    - programmer must write MPI instructions for sending / receiving messages between nodes
  - Works very well also inside computing nodes
    - Benefits from shared memory
    - Message passing inside a node is very efficient
  - Very efficient for uniform plasmas
- **Efficient even for extreme process counts**
  - Parallel scaling demonstrated up to ~ 2 M processes





# Full-scale modeling of the AWAKE\* experiment

LETTER

OPEN

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0485-4>

## Acceleration of electrons in the plasma wakefield of a proton bunch

E. Adli<sup>1</sup>, A. Ahuja<sup>2</sup>, O. Apsimon<sup>3,4</sup>, R. Apsimon<sup>4,5</sup>, A.-M. Bachmann<sup>2,6,7</sup>, D. Barrientos<sup>2</sup>, F. Batsch<sup>2,6,7</sup>, J. Bauche<sup>2</sup>, V. K. Berglyd Olsen<sup>1</sup>, M. Bernardini<sup>2</sup>, T. Bohl<sup>2</sup>, C. Bracco<sup>2</sup>, F. Braunmüller<sup>6</sup>, G. Burt<sup>4,5</sup>, B. Buttenschön<sup>8</sup>, A. Caldwell<sup>6</sup>, M. Cascella<sup>9</sup>, J. Chappell<sup>9</sup>, E. Chevallay<sup>2</sup>, M. Chung<sup>10</sup>, D. Cooke<sup>9</sup>, H. Damerau<sup>2</sup>, L. Deacon<sup>9</sup>, L. H. Deubner<sup>11</sup>, A. Dexter<sup>4,5</sup>, S. Doeber<sup>2</sup>, J. Farmer<sup>12</sup>, V. N. Fedosseev<sup>2</sup>, R. Fiorito<sup>4,13</sup>, R. A. Fonseca<sup>14</sup>, F. Friebe<sup>2</sup>, L. Garolfi<sup>2</sup>, S. Gessner<sup>2</sup>, I. Gorgisyan<sup>2</sup>, A. A. Gorn<sup>15,16</sup>, E. Granados<sup>2</sup>, O. Grulke<sup>8,17</sup>, E. Gschwendtner<sup>2</sup>, J. Hansen<sup>2</sup>, A. Helm<sup>18</sup>, J. R. Henderson<sup>4,5</sup>, M. Hüther<sup>6</sup>, M. Ibison<sup>4,13</sup>, L. Jensen<sup>2</sup>, S. Jolly<sup>9</sup>, F. Keeble<sup>9</sup>, S.-Y. Kim<sup>10</sup>, F. Kraus<sup>11</sup>, Y. Li<sup>3,4</sup>, S. Liu<sup>19</sup>, N. Lopes<sup>18</sup>, K. V. Lotov<sup>15,16</sup>, L. Maricalva Brun<sup>2</sup>, M. Martyanov<sup>6</sup>, S. Mazzoni<sup>2</sup>, D. Medina Godoy<sup>2</sup>, V. A. Minakov<sup>15,16</sup>, J. Mitchell<sup>4,5</sup>, J. C. Molendijk<sup>2</sup>, J. T. Moody<sup>6</sup>, M. Moreira<sup>2,18</sup>, P. Muggli<sup>2,6</sup>, E. Öz<sup>6</sup>, C. Pasquino<sup>2</sup>, A. Pardons<sup>2</sup>, F. Peña Asmus<sup>6,7</sup>, K. Pepitone<sup>2</sup>, A. Perera<sup>4,13</sup>, A. Petrenko<sup>2,15</sup>, S. Pitman<sup>4,5</sup>, A. Pukhov<sup>12</sup>, S. Rey<sup>2</sup>, K. Rieger<sup>6</sup>, H. Ruhl<sup>20</sup>, J. S. Schmidt<sup>2</sup>, I. A. Shalimova<sup>16,21</sup>, P. Sherwood<sup>9</sup>, L. O. Silva<sup>18</sup>, L. Soby<sup>2</sup>, A. P. Sosedkin<sup>15,16</sup>, R. Speroni<sup>2</sup>, R. I. Spitsyn<sup>15,16</sup>, P. V. Tuev<sup>15,16</sup>, M. Turner<sup>2</sup>, F. Velotti<sup>2</sup>, L. Verra<sup>2,22</sup>, V. A. Verzilov<sup>19</sup>, J. Vieira<sup>18</sup>, C. P. Welsch<sup>4,13</sup>, B. Williamson<sup>3,4</sup>, M. Wing<sup>9\*</sup>, B. Woolley<sup>2</sup> & G. Xia<sup>3,4</sup>

### Simulation Parameters

- Simulation by A. Helm
- Simulation box: 75 mm × 13 mm × 13 mm
- Propagation distance; 10 m
- 678 297 600 cells
- ~ 10<sup>10</sup> particles
- > 10<sup>6</sup> time-steps

### Simulation ran on Marenostrum 4

- 17664 cores
  - 92% of the available cores for a PRACE allocation
- ~ 3M core×h

\* E. Adli et al, Nature 561, 363-368 (2018)







# AI Opportunities

**Cray-2 - 1985**

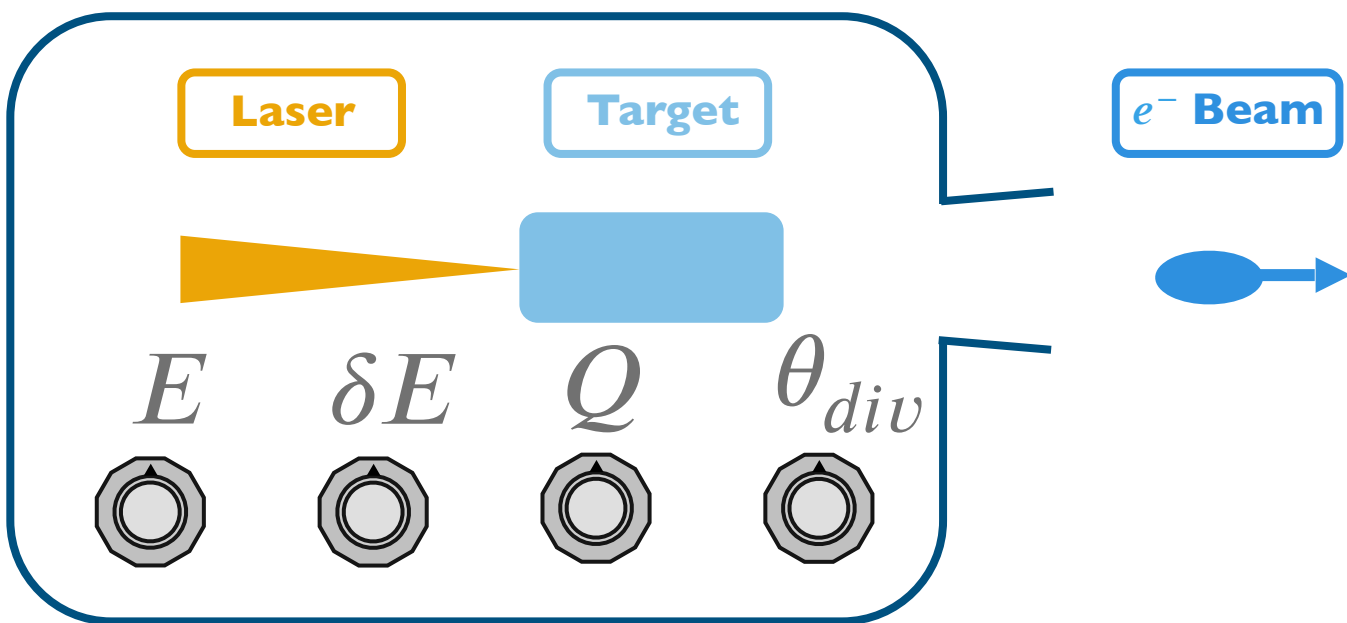
Central unit (left) &  
Fluorinet cooling waterfall (right)



# Optimizing LWFA targets with Machine Learning\*

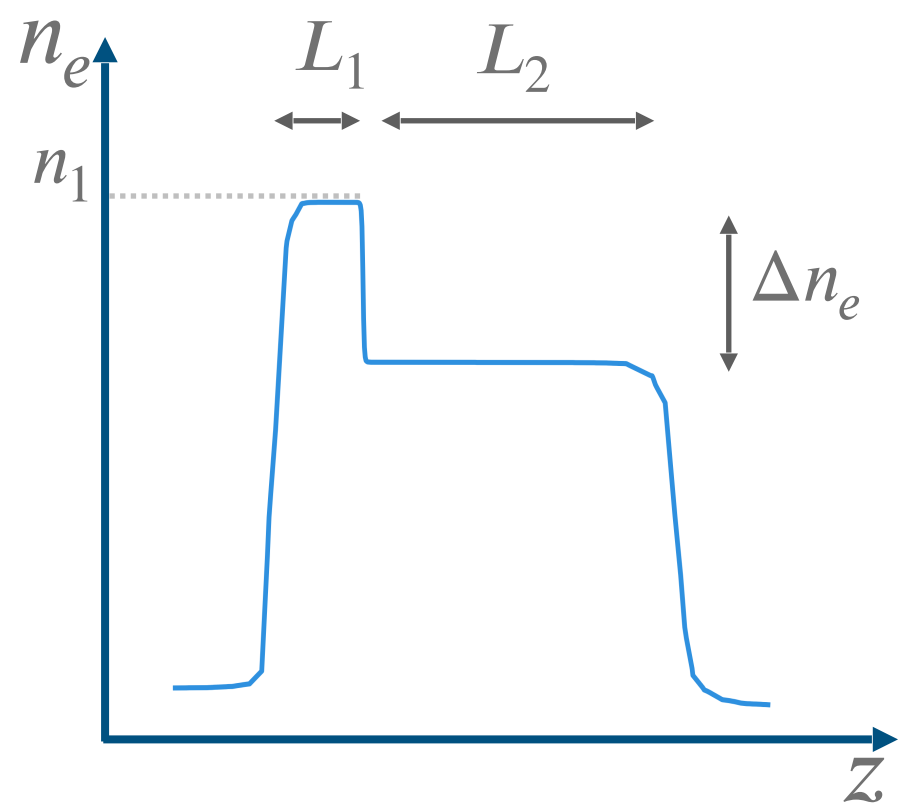
## A tunable LWFA target

**Goal:** electron beams with tunable parameters, compatible with applications

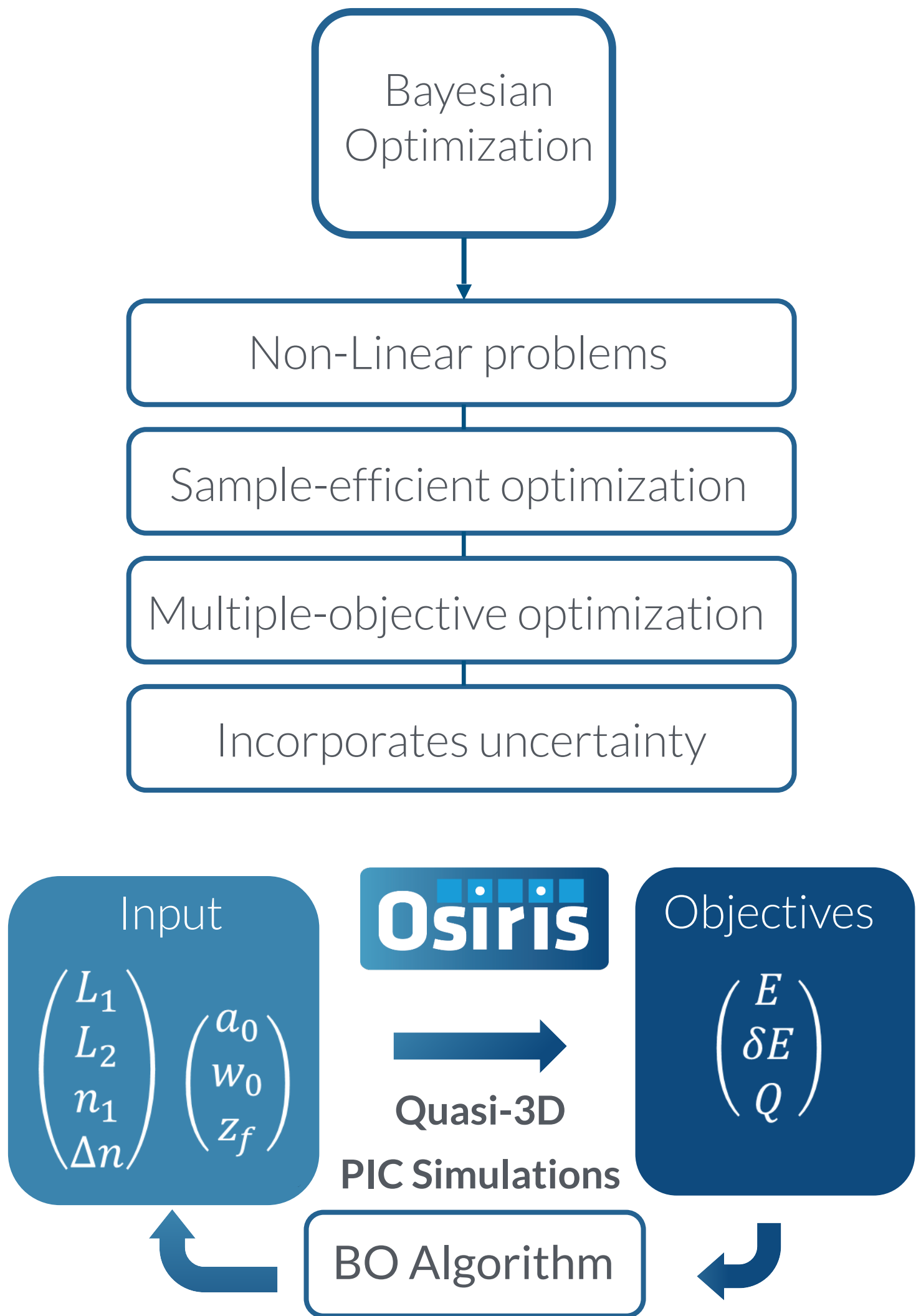


How to achieve this?

Plasma **density down-ramp** injection scheme

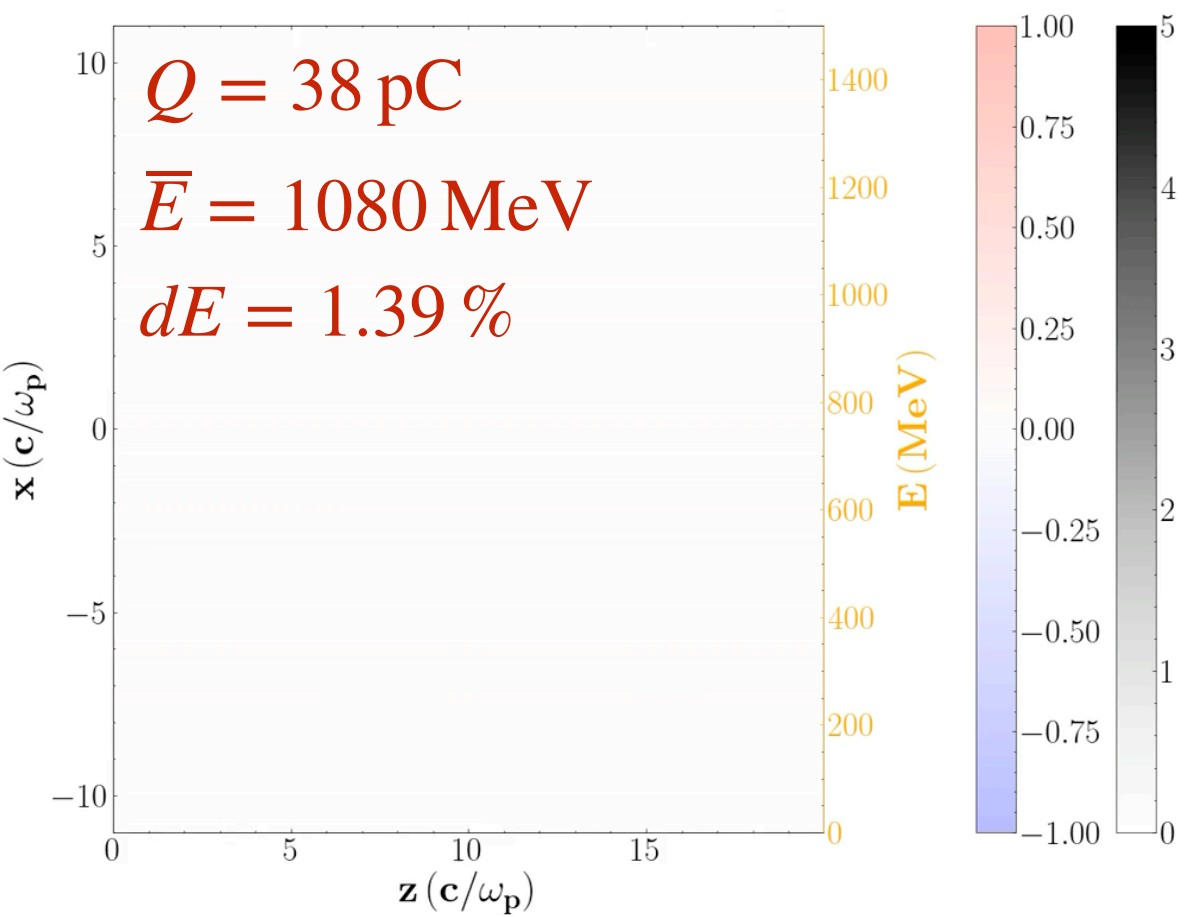
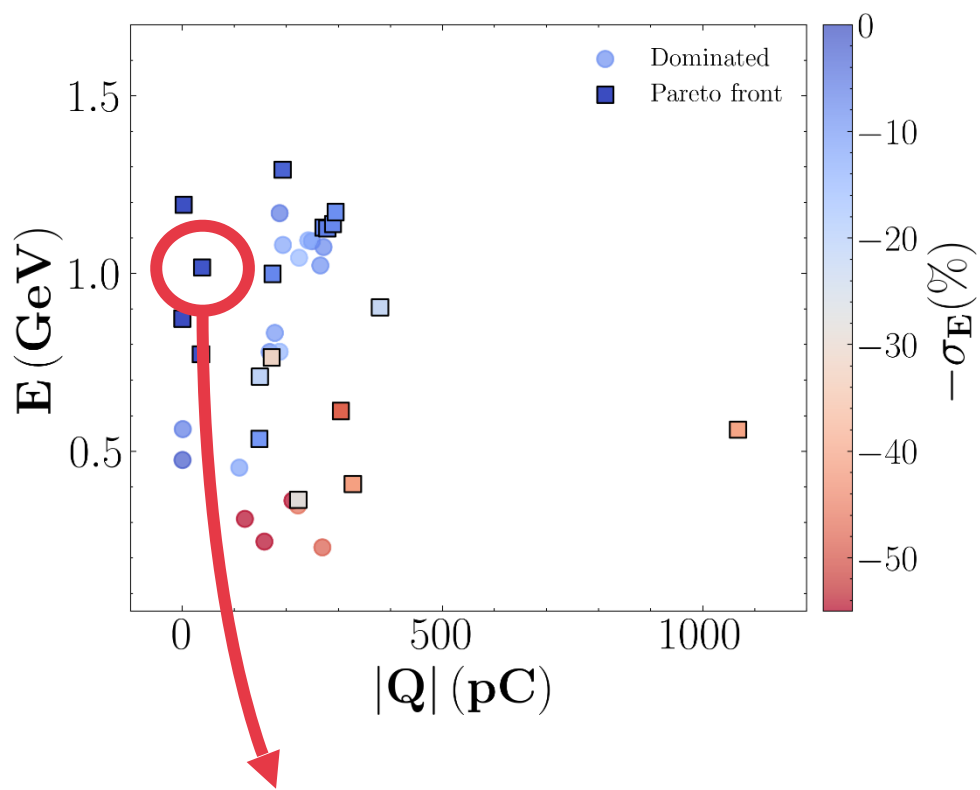


## Optimization Framework



## Monoenergetic bunches

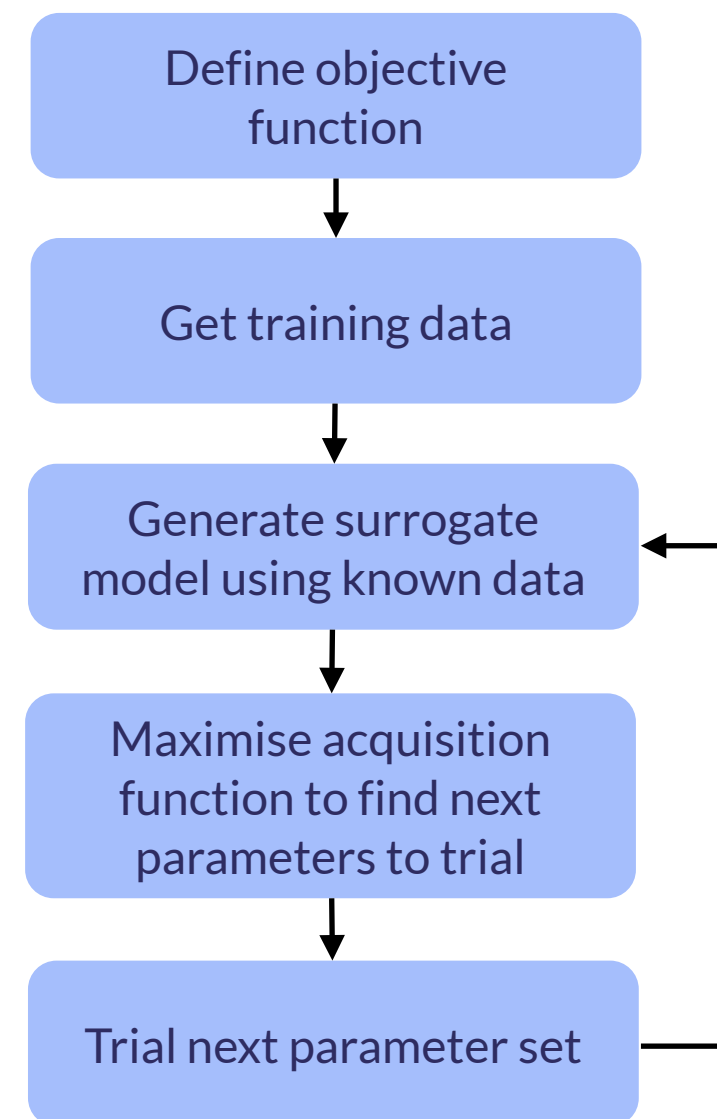
Pareto Front (set of optimal solutions)



\* Work by Diogo Lemos @ GoLP



## Bayesian Optimization



- **In-house optimization code**
  - Surrogate model using Gaussian Process Regression
  - Implementation using Scikit-Learn and SciPy libraries
- **Other optimization libraries available**
  - e.g Optimas, developed at DESY

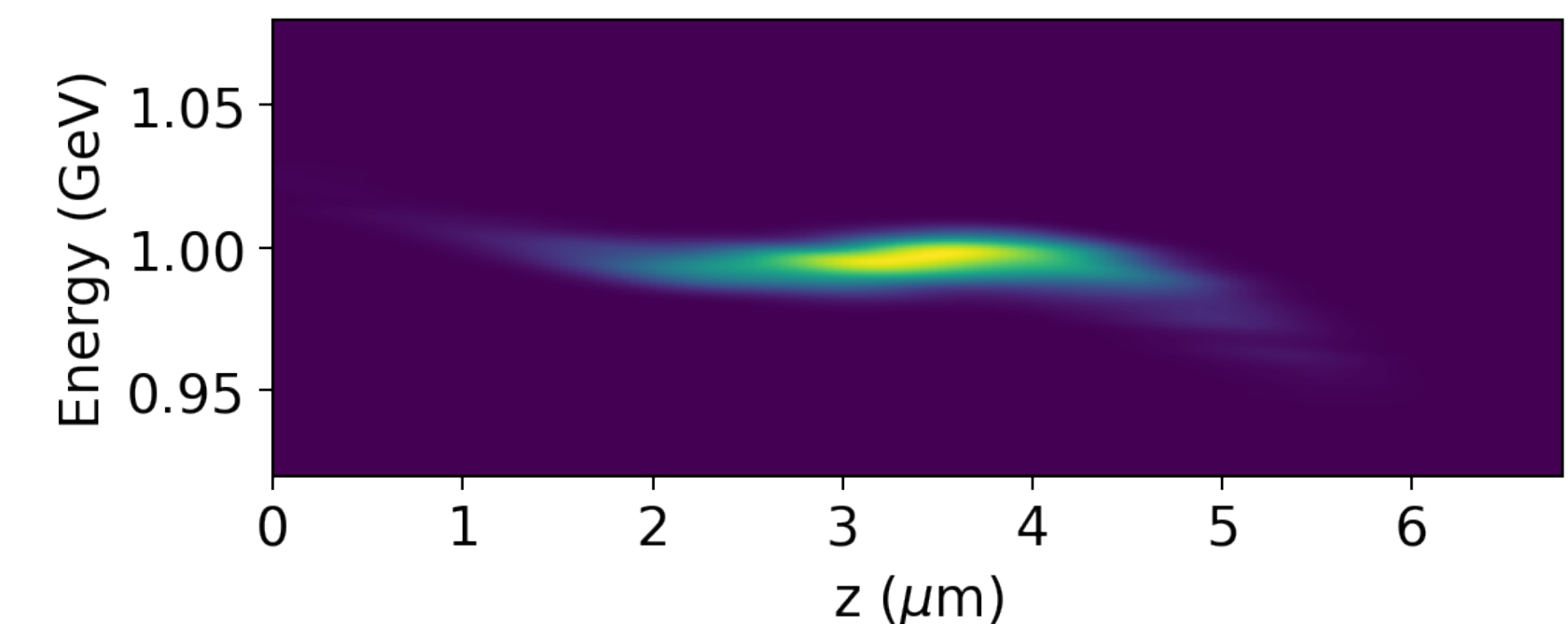
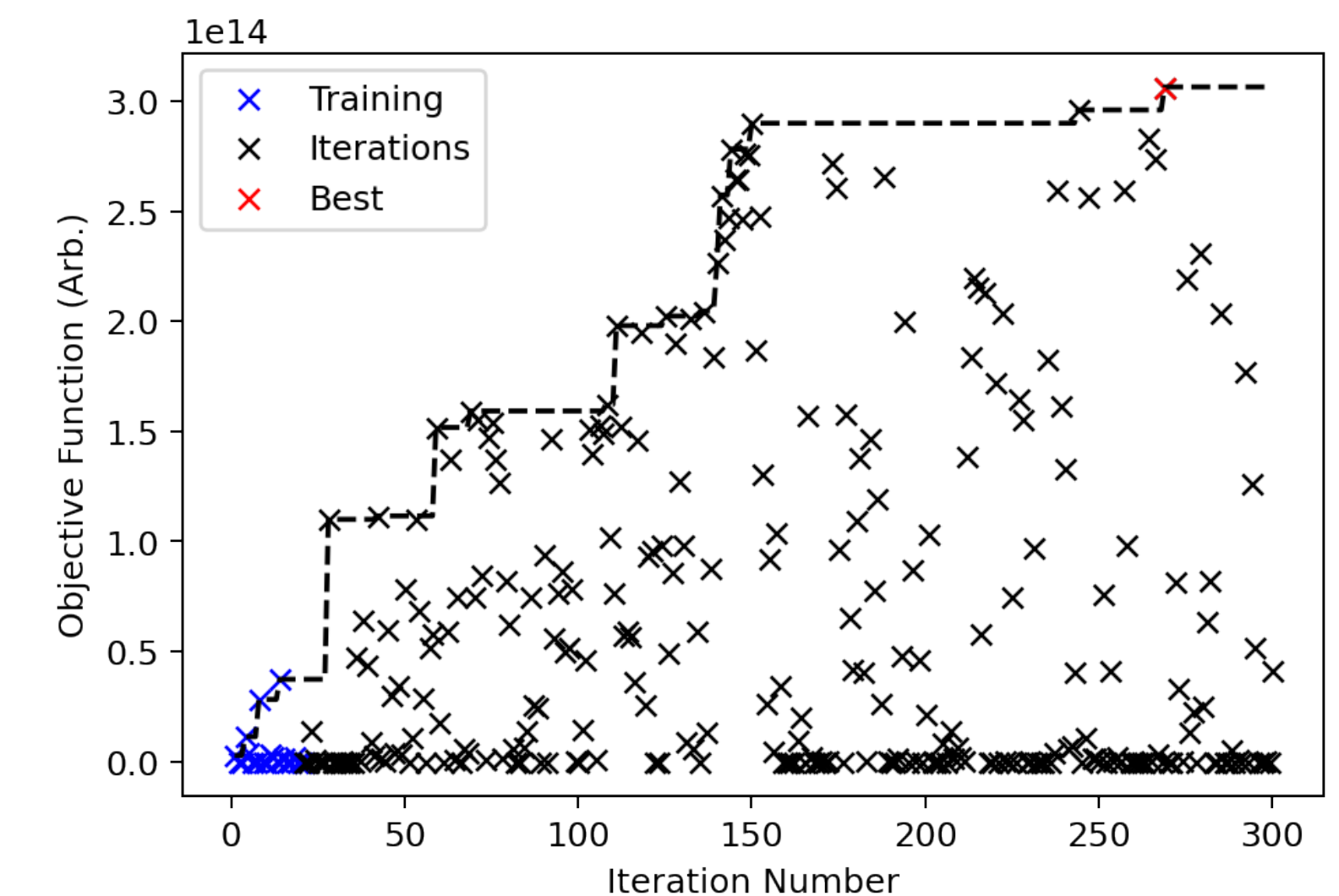
<https://github.com/optimas-org/optimas>

## Application to EPAC

- **Parameters scanned were**
  - Laser focal plane.
  - Gas density in injector region.
  - Gas density in accelerator region.
  - Gas dopant percentage.
  - Accelerator length.
- **Objective function prioritized high brightness and proximity to 1 GeV**
- **Output Bunch Parameters**
  - Mean energy = 0.99 GeV
  - Energy spread rms = 0.6 %.
  - Charge = 25 pC.
- **Best setting found after ~ 270 iterations here for large, 5d parameter space.**



<https://fbpic.github.io/>





A 3D visualization of a laser wakefield acceleration (LWFA) structure. The image shows a complex, multi-lobed geometry, likely a plasma channel or a series of undulators, rendered in a light blue/cyan color. The interior of the structure is filled with a vibrant, multi-colored field representing the laser and the wakefield. The colors transition from green at the edges to yellow and orange in the center, with a prominent red region indicating the highest intensity. On the right side, a series of concentric, semi-transparent spheres in blue and orange are visible, possibly representing the laser pulse or the electron bunch. The overall scene is set against a dark background.

# Overview



- **Simulations played a critical role in the development of the field of plasma based accelerators**
  - In particular, particle-in-cell codes were instrumental in demonstrating the feasibility of this technology
  - Remain as invaluable tools for testing new ideas and concepts, supporting experiments and optimizing designs
- **PIC codes are computationally heavy...**
  - The core algorithm makes very little approximations, leading to high computational costs
  - Reduced models and/or geometries may be used to offset this cost
- **... but, fortunately, exascale simulations are within reach**
  - The existing HPC landscape can offer the required computational power
  - Increasing quality and quantitative fidelity of simulations
  - Continuously evolve algorithms and codes to efficiently use new generations of computing hardware
- **The AI revolution opens exciting prospects**
  - Combining numeric plasma models with AI workflows enables a new generation of optimization and prototyping studies





# The zpic educational code suite

## • ZPIC code suite

- Open-source PIC code suit for plasma physics education
- Fully relativistic 1D and 2D EM-PIC algorithm
- Eletrostatic 1D/2D PIC algorithm

## • Requirements

- No external dependencies, requires only C99 compiler
- Optional Python interface

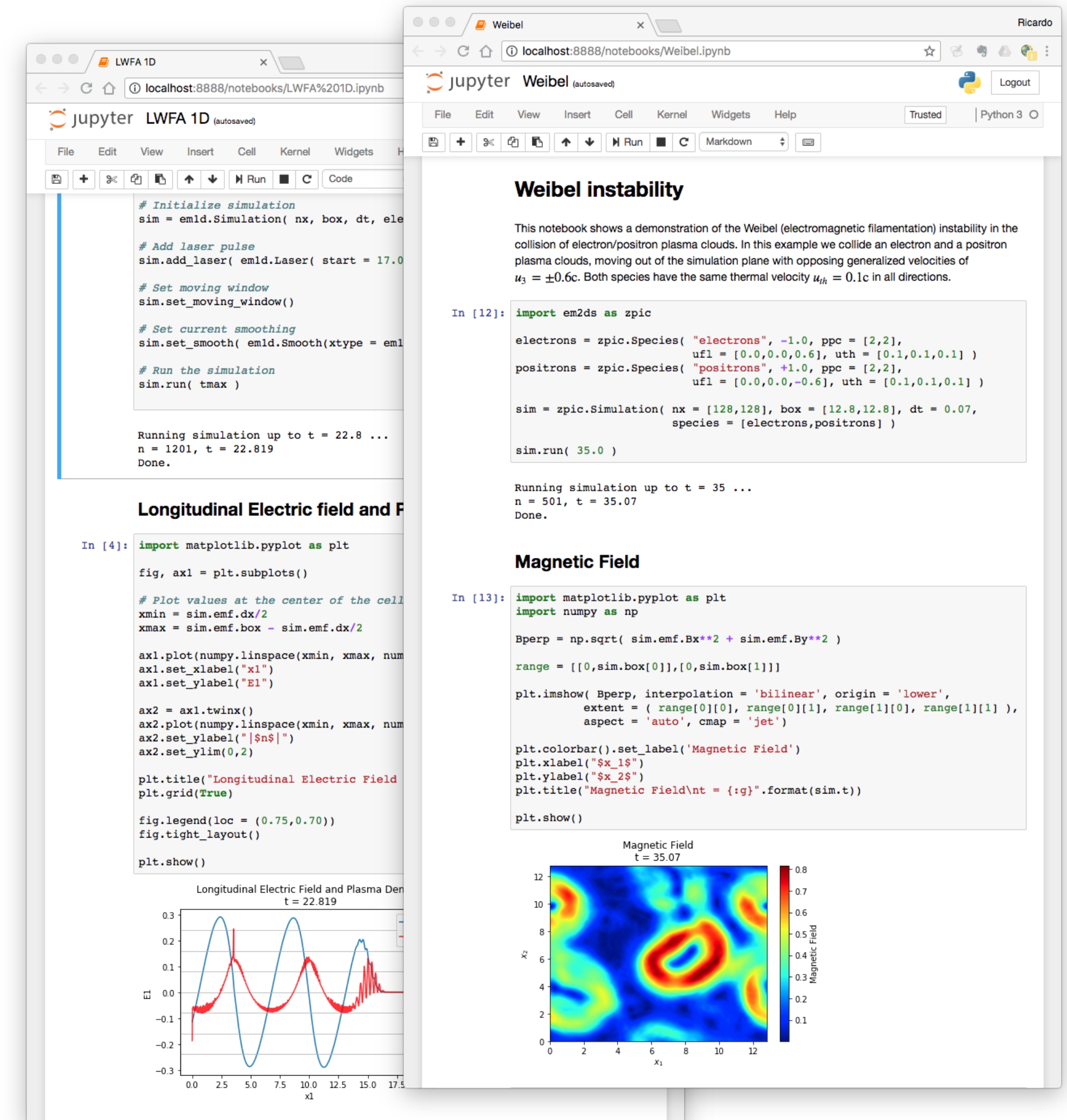
## • Jupyter Notebooks

- Includes set of Python notebooks with example problems
- Detailed explanations of code use and physics

## • Also available through Docker

- If you just want to run the notebooks you can use a Docker image available on DockerHub: `zamb/epic`

# zpic@edu



<https://zpic-plasma.github.io/>