

DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE



***ULTRA HIGH INTENSITY
LASER-MATTER INTERACTION
AT CEA - SACLAY***

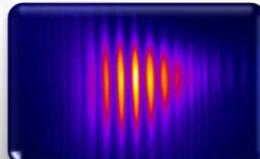


CEA / DSM / IRAMIS / SPAM / Physique à Haute Intensité |
Tiberio Ceccotti

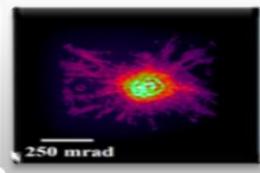
Outline



The laser UHI100 : High Intensity @ Ultra High Contrast



High order harmonic generation



Electron acceleration



Protons and ions acceleration



Conclusion and perspectives



LASER

SLIC

the Saclay Laser-matter Interaction Center

3 Main facilities

LUCA

- 1TW, 50 fs, 20Hz
- Up to 6 lines, up to 4 users
- Femtochemistry, solid-state physics

PLFA

- 0.4TW, 32 fs, 1kHz
- High average flux, high shot-to-shot stability

UHI100

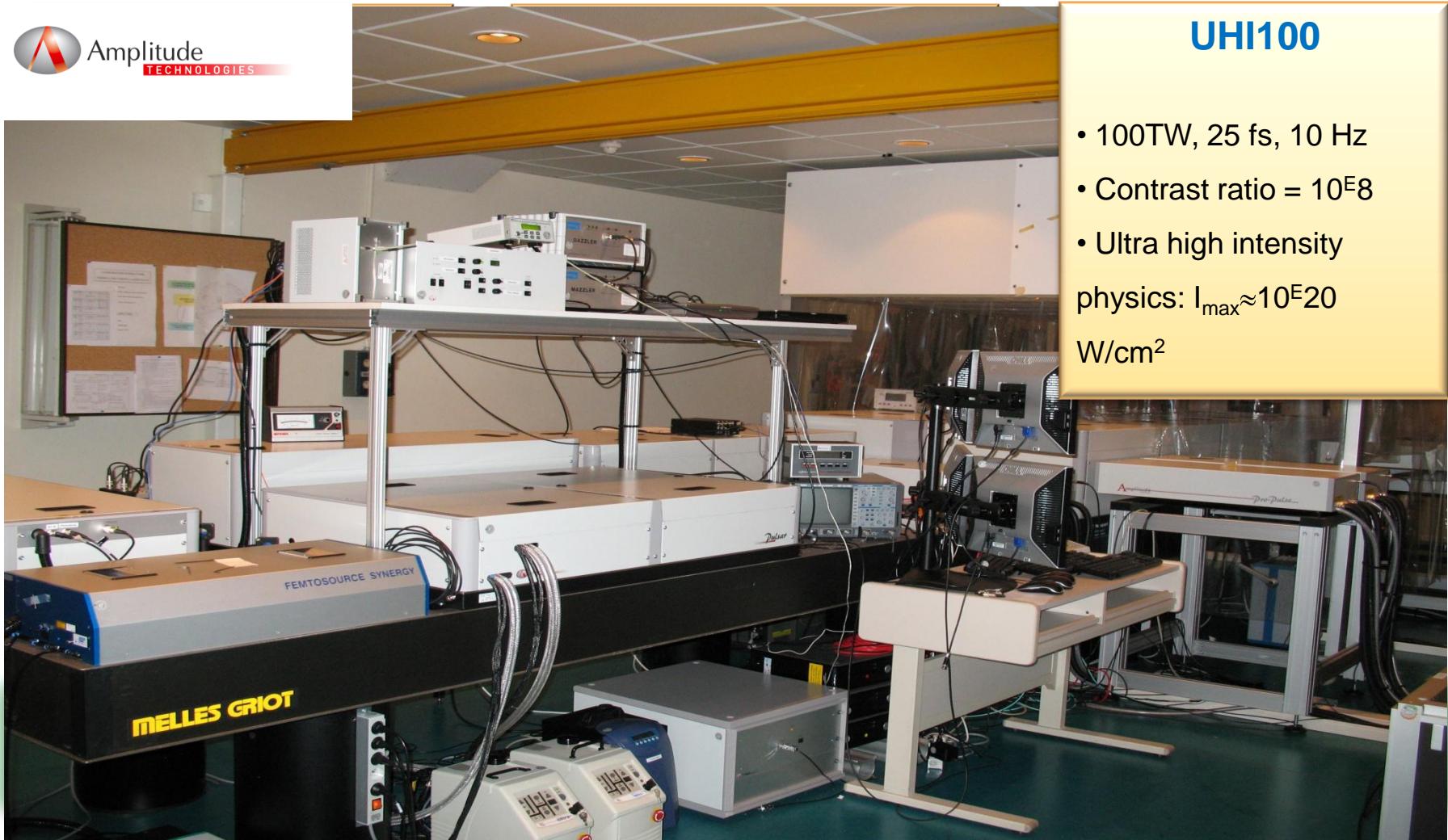
- 100TW, 25 fs, 10 Hz
- Contrast ratio = 10^8
- Ultra high intensity physics: $I_{max} \approx 10^{20}$ W/cm²

European Research Groups are encouraged to apply for access to SLIC Laboratory,
member of the LASERLAB-EUROPE network

SLIC

the Saclay Laser-matter Interaction Center

3 Main facilities

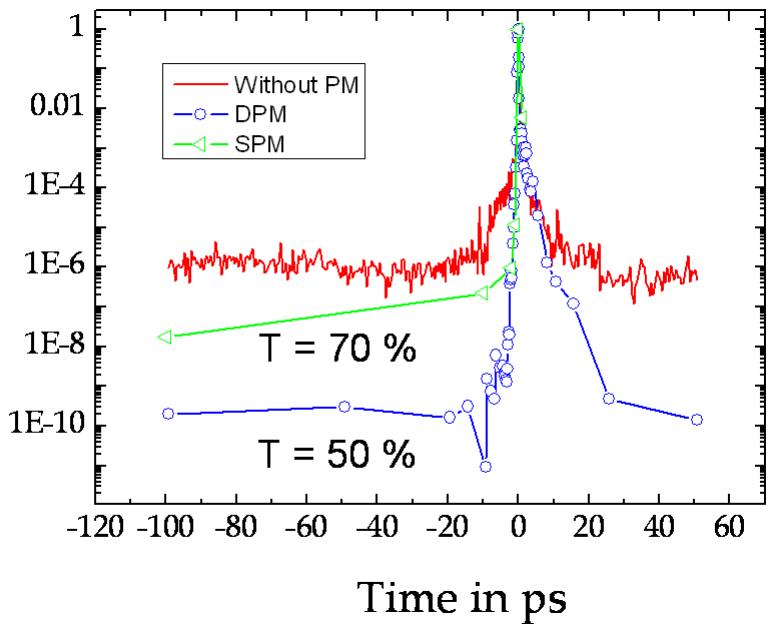


UHI100

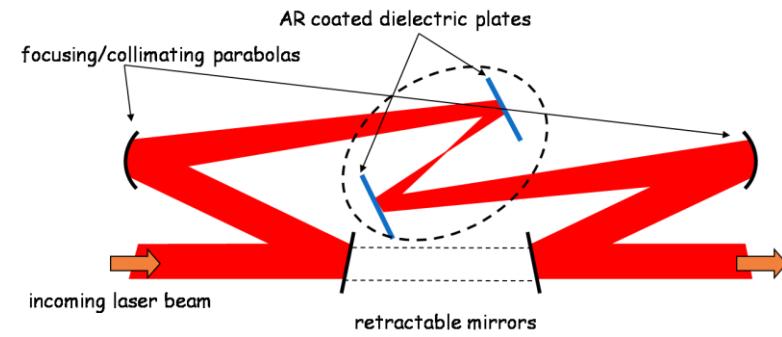
- 100TW, 25 fs, 10 Hz
- Contrast ratio = 10^{E8}
- Ultra high intensity physics: $I_{max} \approx 10^{E20} \text{ W/cm}^2$

Increasing the contrast: the double plasma mirror device

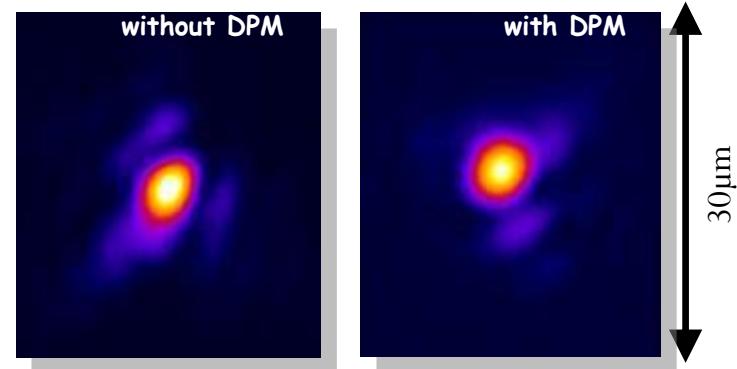
Intensity



- Pulse contrast : 10^{10}
- Transmitted energy: 50%
- Maximum intensity : $6 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ W/cm}^2$
- Focal spot size : $\emptyset = 8 \mu\text{m}$
(FWHM)
- Polarization p

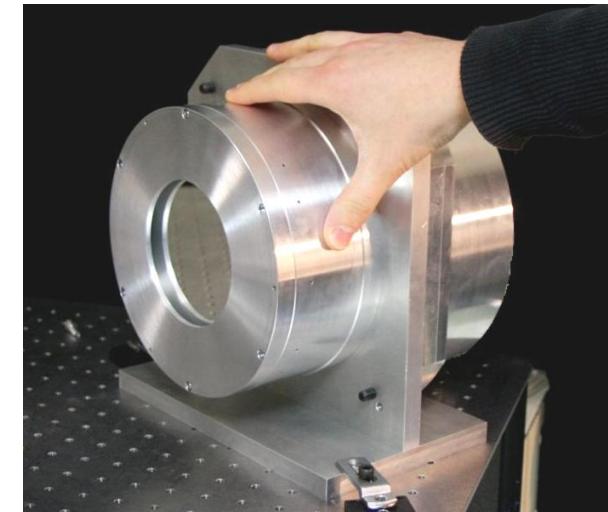
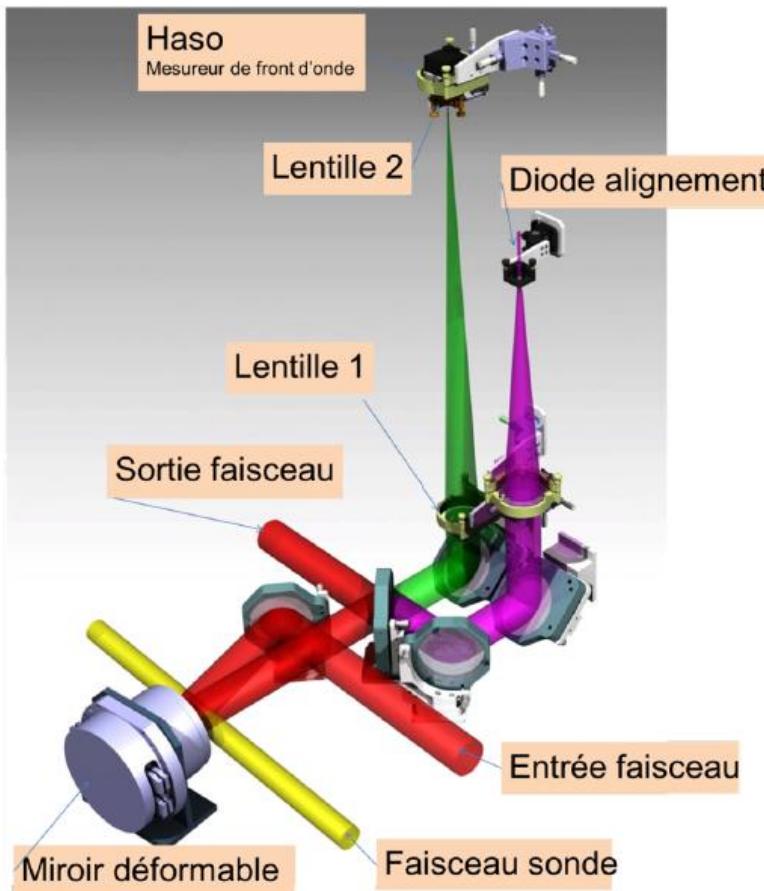


focal spot

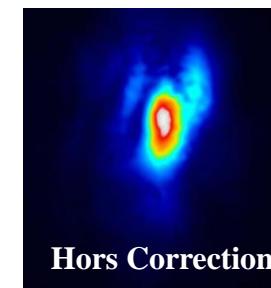
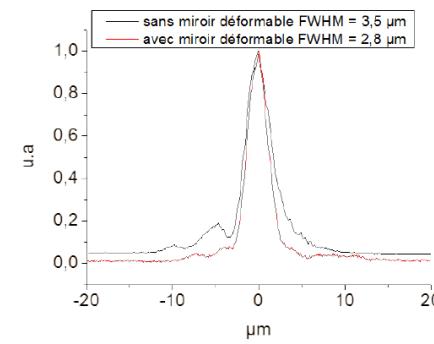


- A. Lévy et al., *Optics Letters* **32**, 310 (2007)
C. Thaury et al., *Nature physics*, **3**, 424 (2007)
G. Doumy et al., *Phys. Rev. E*, (2004)

Improving the focal spot: the deformable mirror device

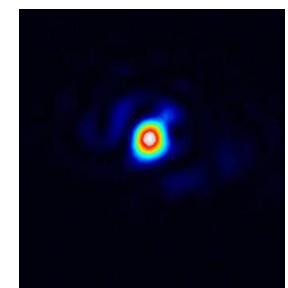


Best result (measured): $I_{\max} \approx 1.7 \cdot 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2$



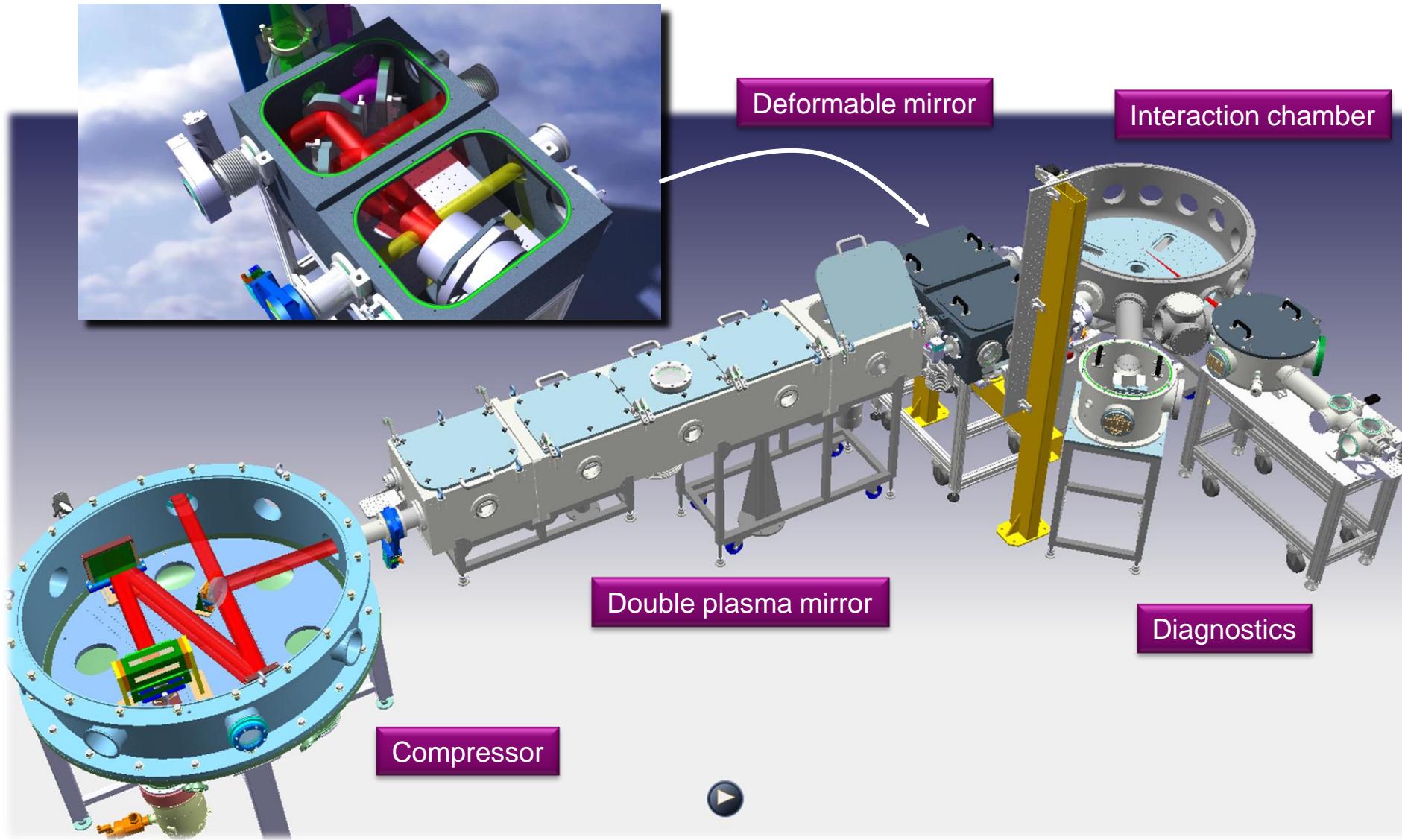
Hors Correction

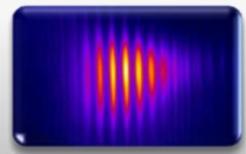
FWHM = 3.5 μm



FWHM = 2.8 μm

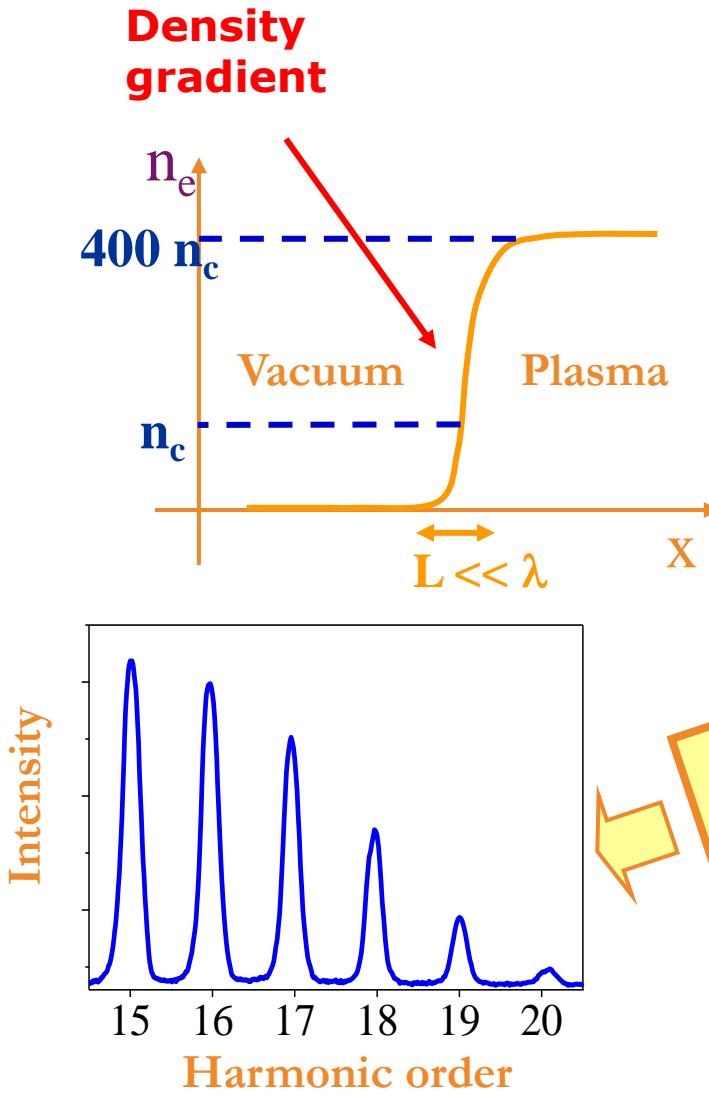
Experimental set-up



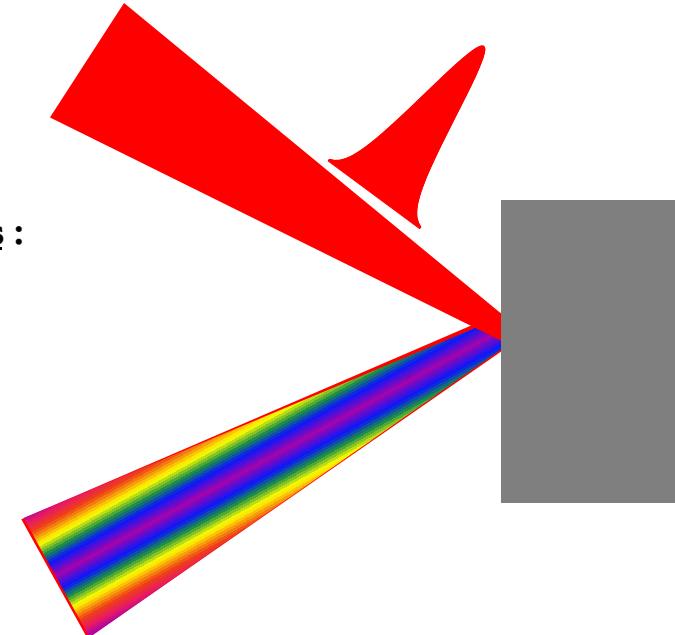


HHG

High order harmonic from solid targets



Digital intensities :
 $I < 10^{16} \text{ W/cm}^2$
p-polarization



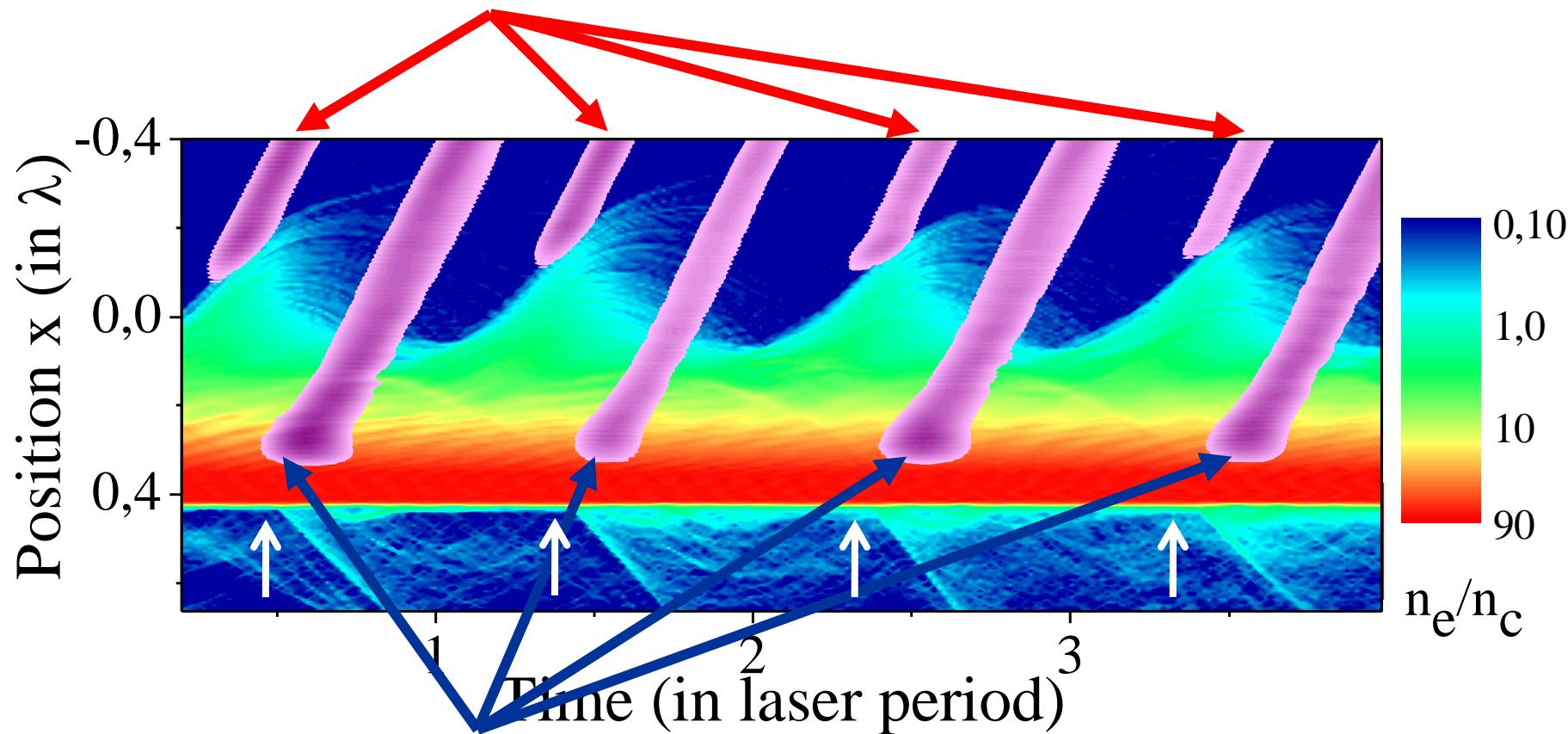
Motivations

- Understand the underlying physical mechanisms
- Radiation source :

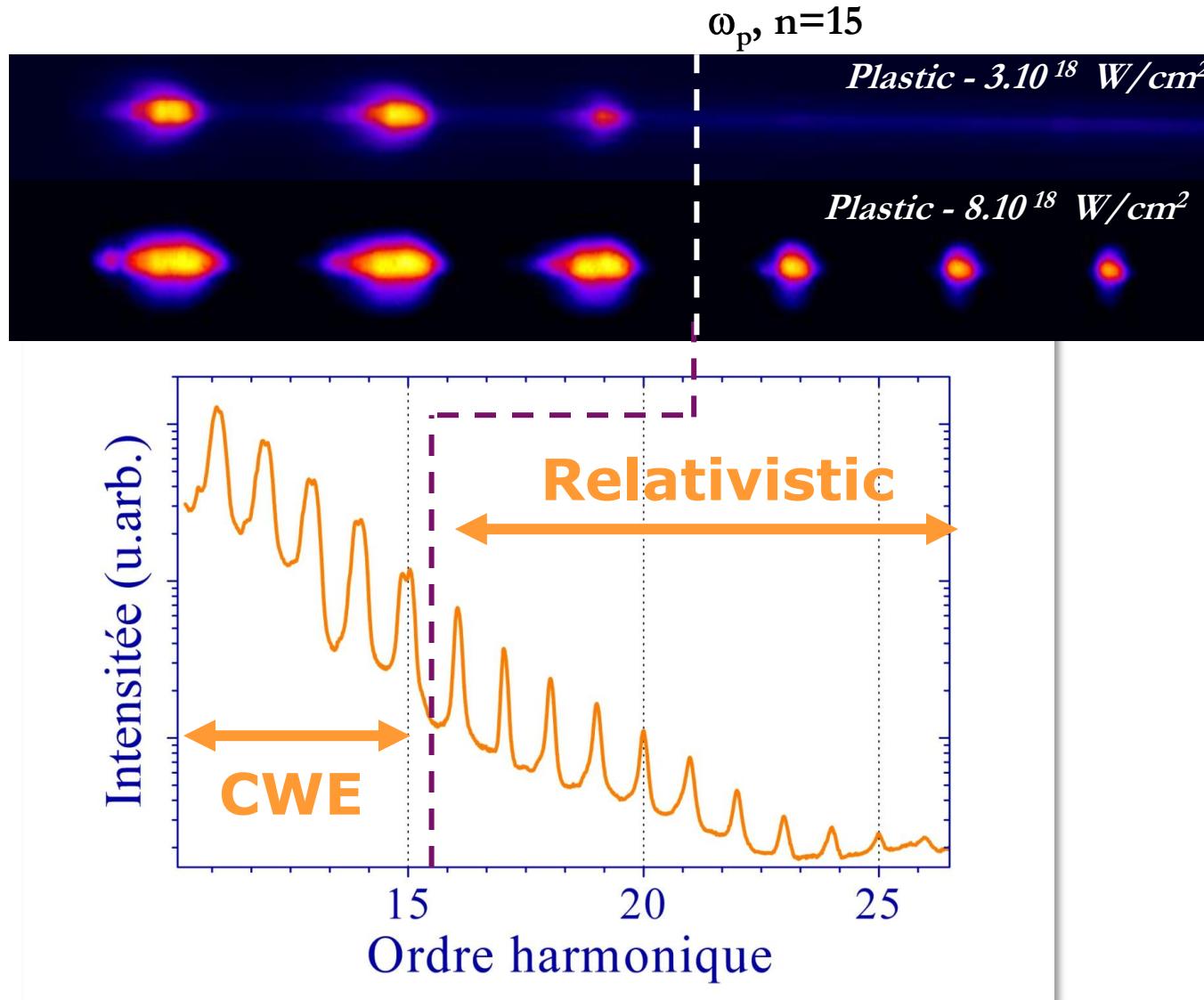
Intense ultrashort (fs to as) XUV pulses

Two different mechanisms of HHG on plasma mirrors

Relativistic Oscillating Mirror Doppler effect

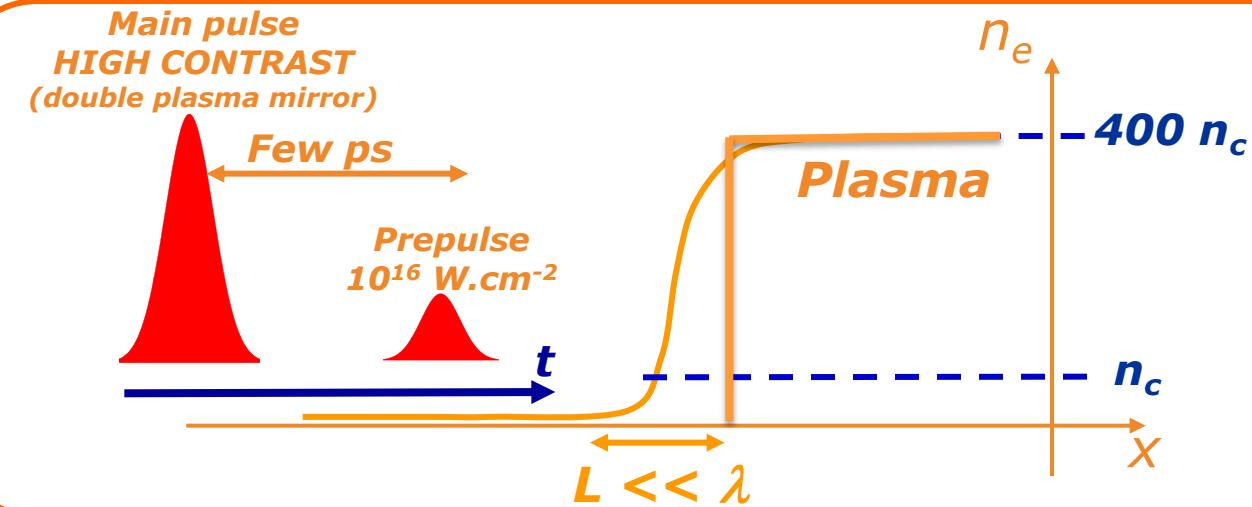


Experimental evidence : relativistic harmonics

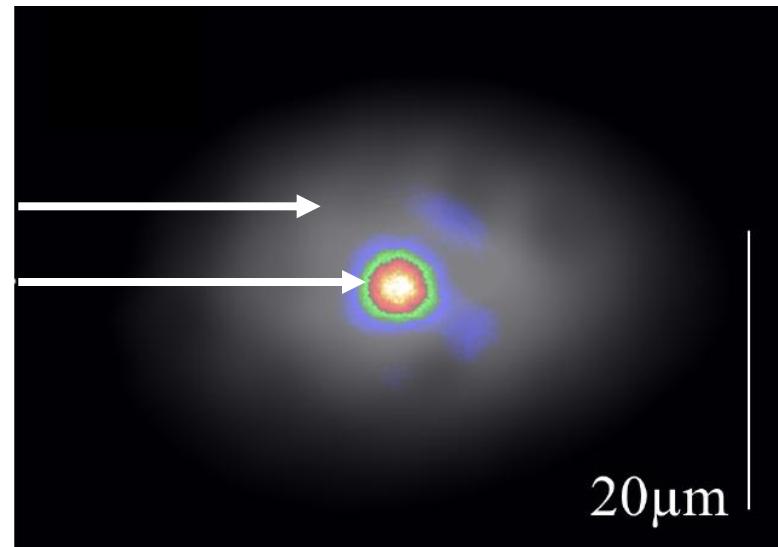


Control and measurement of the density gradient

UHI100
laser
25 fs- 2 J
CEA Saclay

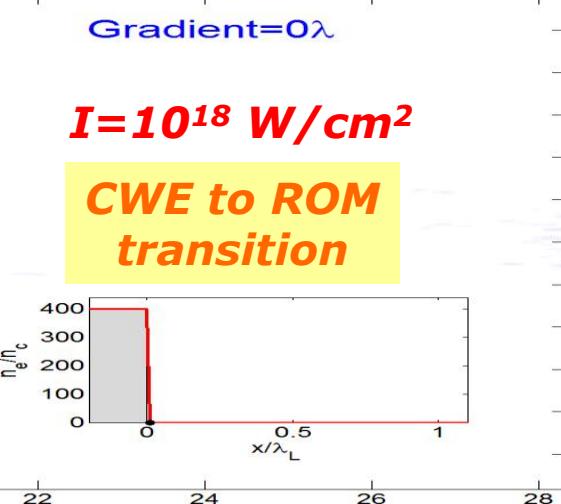
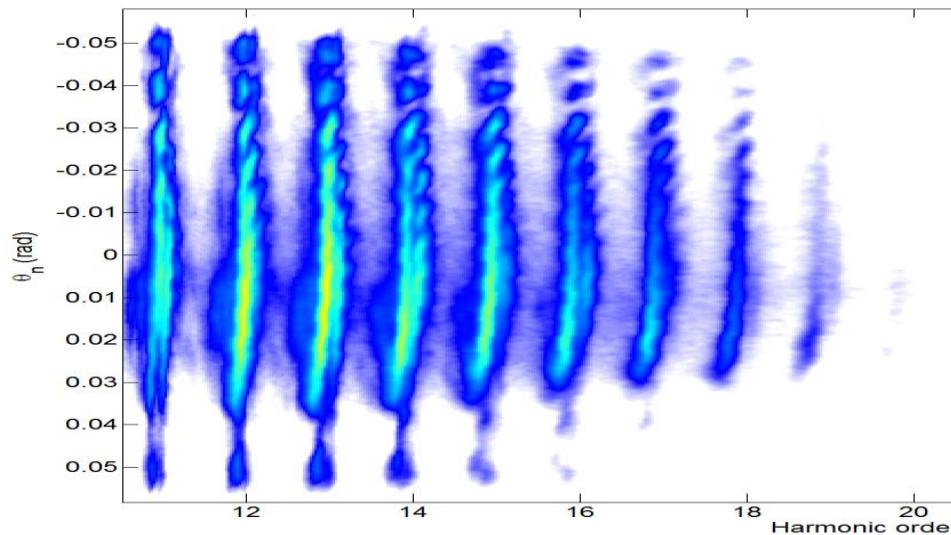
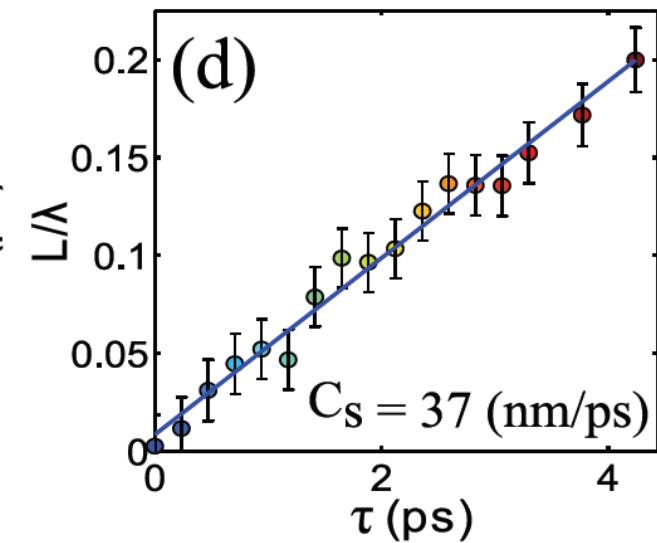
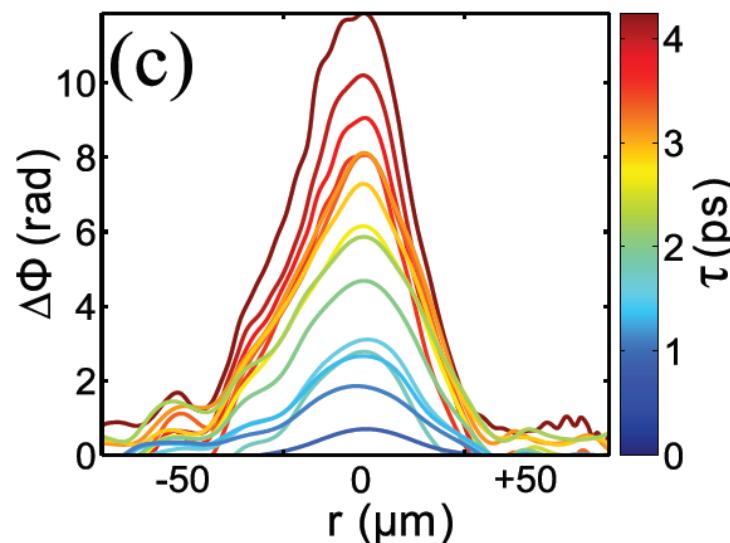


Prepulse focal spot
Main pulse focal spot

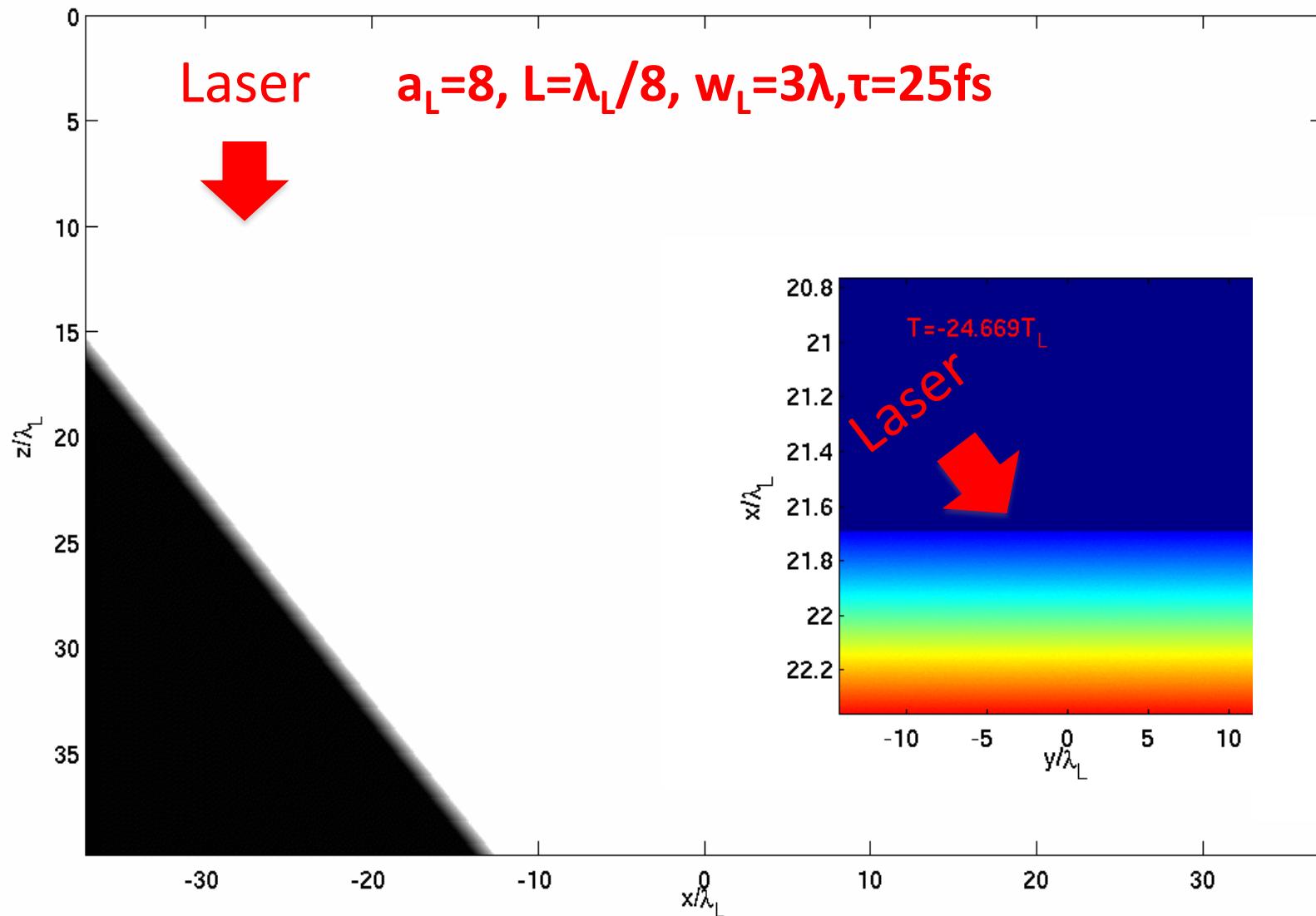


Control and measurement of the density gradient

*FDI measurements
of the gradient
created by
the prepulse*



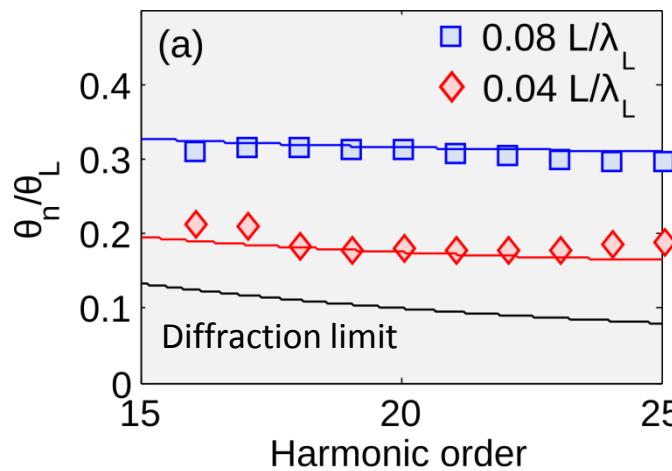
Focusing by laser-induced plasma mirror curvature



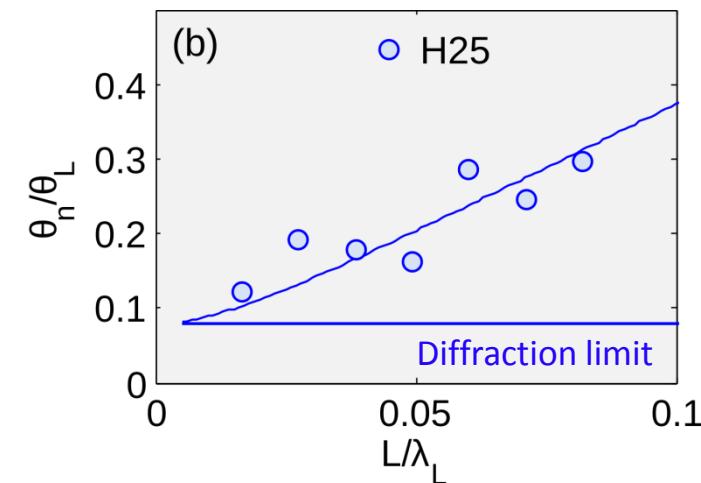
Experiment vs model

Fully-analytical model
of the plasma dynamical curvature,
and its effect of the harmonic beam
validated experimentally
without any adjustable parameter

Divergence vs harmonic order

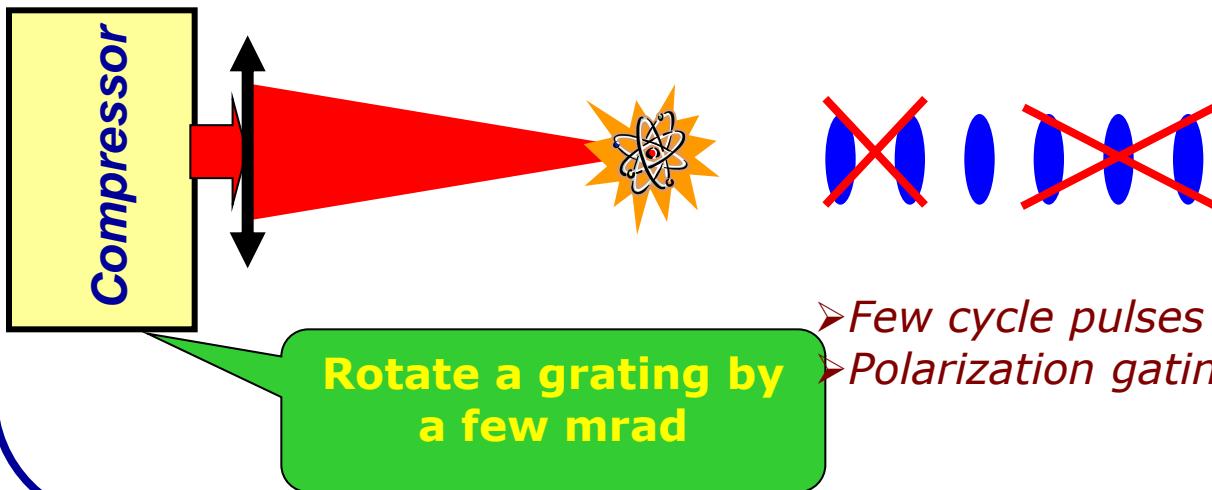


Divergence vs density gradient L



Attosecond lighthouses

General principle



$$\theta_n / \theta_L \leq 1/\alpha p N_c$$

θ_n = divergency of $n\omega_L$ harmonic beam
 θ_L = divergency of laser beam

N_c = optical cycles in the driving-laser pulse

p = attosecond pulses generated every laser optical cycle

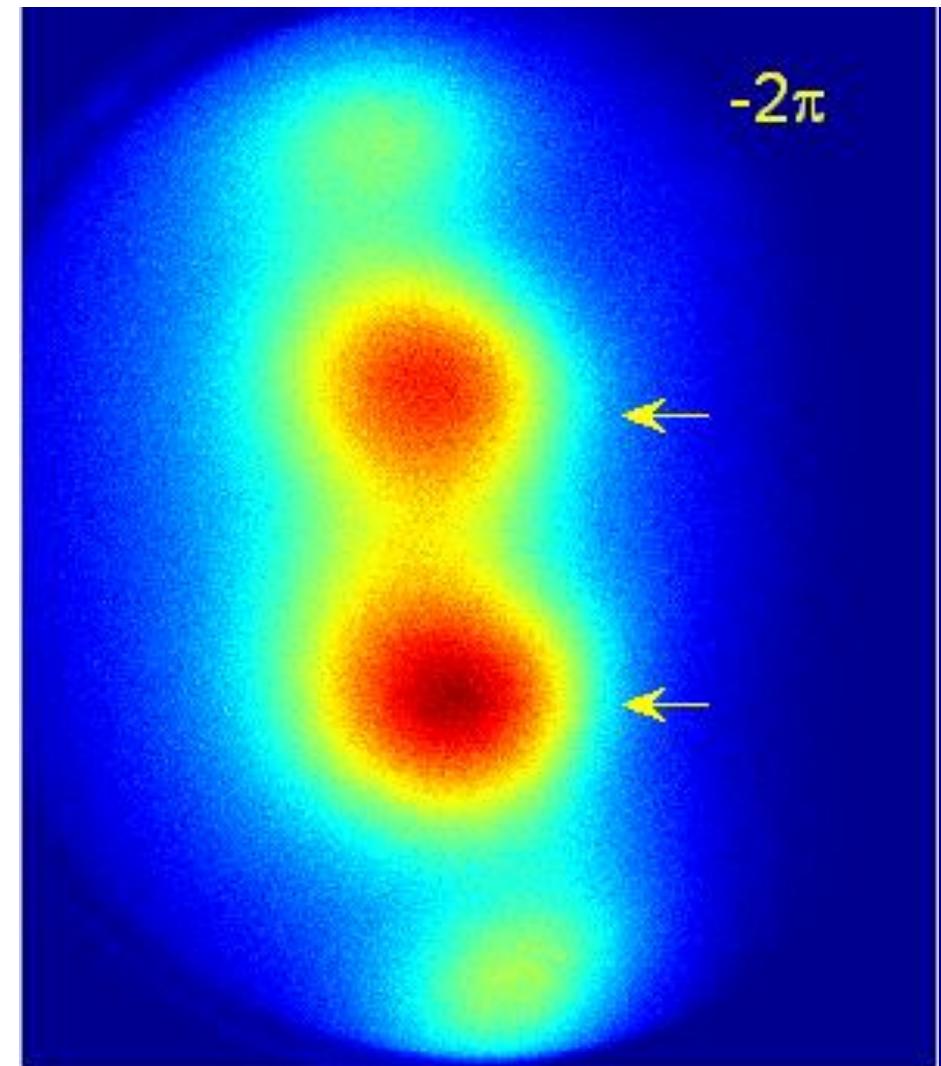
Benefits

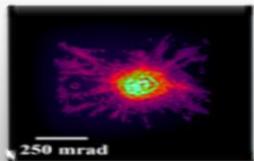
- Simple and universal (gases, plasmas)
- Collection of beams of single atto pulse
- Ultrafast metrology, including CEP changes

Experimental demonstration (collab. LOA)

**Footprint of the XUV
beam in the far field**

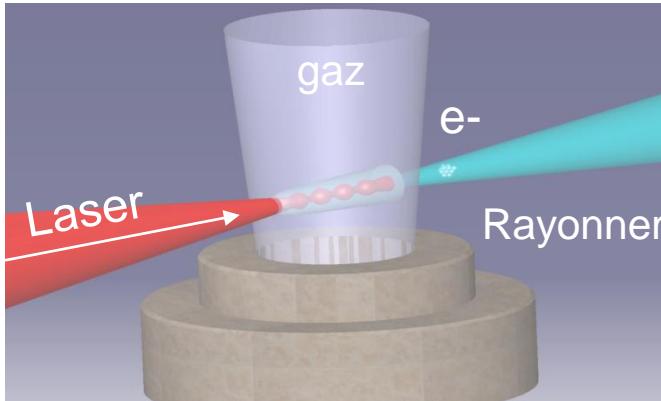
*Single
attosecond pulses
from plasma mirrors
at kHz rep rate*





ELECTRON ACCELERATION

Laser-plasma accelerator for the generation of relativistic electrons



- Ponderomotive force pushes electrons away from high intensity regions
- Still ions space charge brings electrons back to their initial position
- $\omega_p^{-1} \approx \tau \Rightarrow$ large amplitude plasma wave in the wake of the laser pulse travelling @ $v_{ph} = v_g$ laser

$$E_{\max}(\text{GV/m}) = 0.3 \times (\delta n_e / n_e) (\%) \times (n_e)^{1/2} (10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3})$$

→ several 100's of GV/m (several 10's MV/m in conventional accelerators)

- *Radiotherapy*
- *Femtosecond radiolysis*
- *XFEL*
- *Ultrashort and sub-mm γ-ray sources*
- *Fast ignitor*
- *Pump-probe experiments*

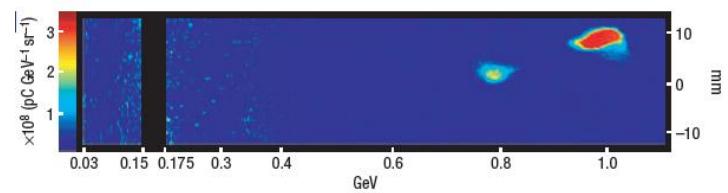
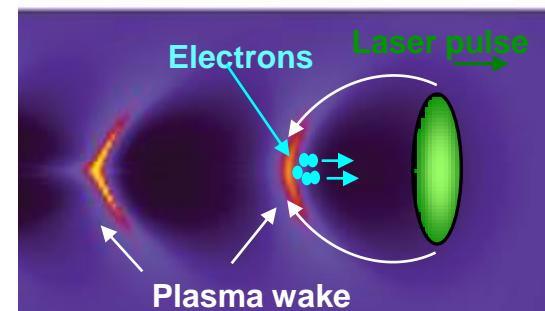
Properties of electron bunches

The « Bubble regime » :

$$a_0 = \frac{eE_L}{m_0 c \omega_L} = 0.85 \left(\frac{\lambda_L}{\mu m} \right) \left(\frac{I_L}{10^{18} W/cm^2} \right)^{1/2} \gg 1$$

- radial dimension = longitudinal dimension $\ll \lambda_p$
 - injection at c^{ste} phase
 - $a_0 = (\omega_0 / \omega_p)^{2/5}$ Laser pulse self-focusing
 - $k_p R = k_p w_0 = \sqrt{a_0}$ Bubble formation
 - $\tau c = 2 w_0 / 3$ $L_{deph} = L_{abs}$
 - signature : monoenergetic spectra
- 1st exp. obs. : Mangles et coll., Geddes et coll.,
Faure et coll., Nature 2004

Pukhov and Meyer-Ter Vehn, 2002



Nature Phys. (2006)

	UHI100	LUIRE	APOLLON-10P
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E	3 J	15 J	150 J
a_0	4	4.5	5.6
w_0	13 μm	21.5 μm	40 μm
τ	30 fs	48 fs	90 fs

Properties of electron beams :

- electrons of 100's of MeV up to GeV
- low divergence (\sim mrad)
- short duration ($< \tau_{laser}$)
- Charge : several nC

n_0	$2.5 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$	10^{18} cm^{-3}	$4 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
L_{deph}	6.5 mm	2.3 cm	11 cm
E	1 GeV	2.5 GeV	8.5 GeV
Q	0.4 nC	0.7 nC	1.6 nC

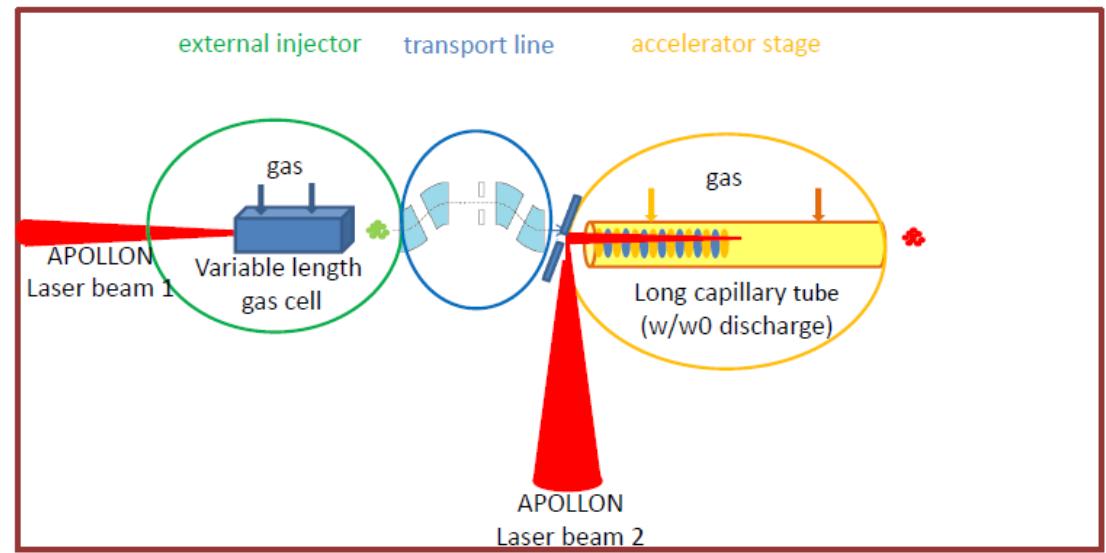
Towards higher energies....

To increase the electron energy :

- increase the laser energy
("blow out" regime at low N_e)
- use a wave guide (laser propagation length only limited by the length of the guide)

Multi-stage LPA scheme

1st step: 2-stage Laser Plasma Accelerator (LPA)



ELISA

ELectron Injector for compact Staged high energy Accelerator

Project: set up and study an electron source as an external injector into the accelerator stage

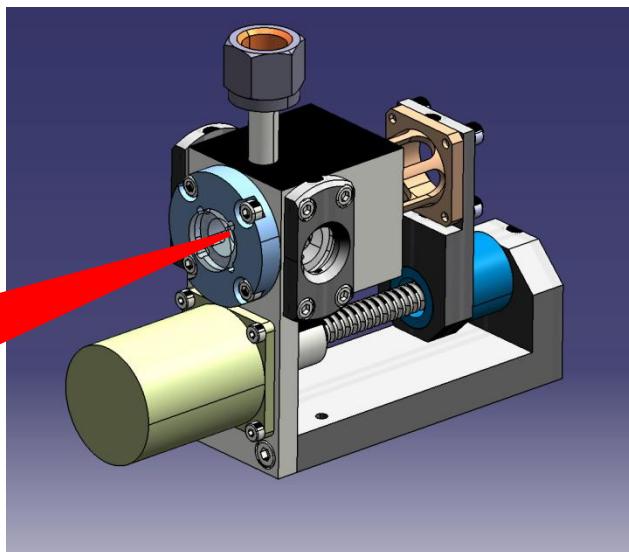


First step : 1 injector for 2nd stage LPA ELISA PROJECT

External injector: ionisation of a low Z gas doped with impurities for controlling the electron trapping

To be injected
in a 2nd LPA stage

- duration (<10fs)
- emittance to be focused on ~10µm
- stability
- energy : monocinetic, several 10's of MeV



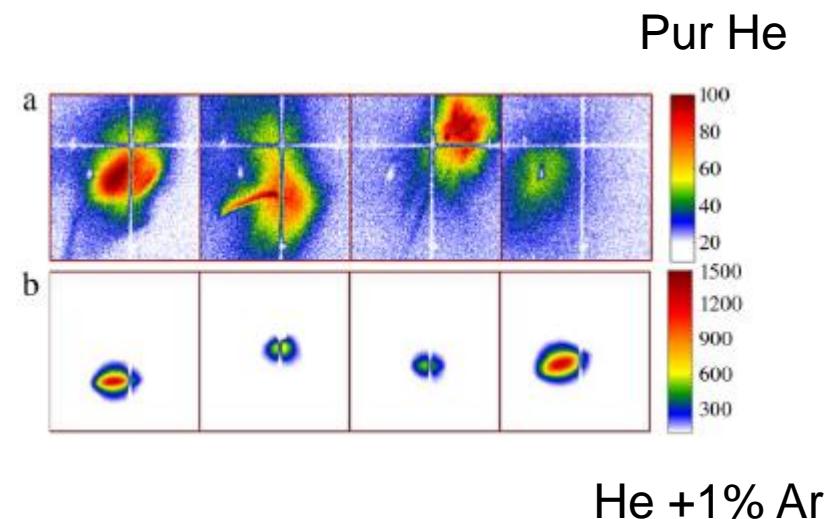
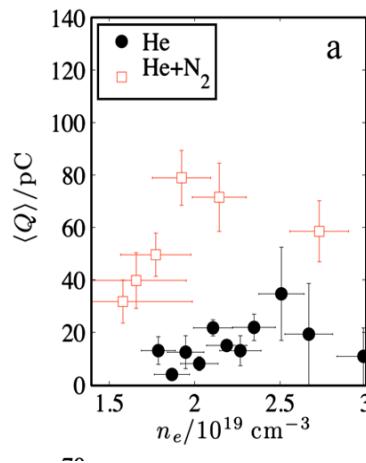
Originality:

- gas cell → stability
- ΔL → Vary the E
- differential pumping → reduce the density gradients at entrance/exit of the injector
- gas mixture (several % of impurities) → Electron trapping control

Ionisation injection

Idea: choose the impurities such as the ionisation happens at I_{\max} for optimising the electron injection and trapping into the plasma wave created in the rising edge of the laser pulse

➤ Experimental results



- increasing of the electron bunch charge of 1 order of magnitude
and decreasing of the beam divergence by a factor of 2 compared to pur He

➤ Theory of ionization-induced trapping in laser-plasma accelerators

M. Chen, E. Esarey, a) C. B. Schroeder, C. G. R. Geddes and W. P. Leemans, PoP, 2012

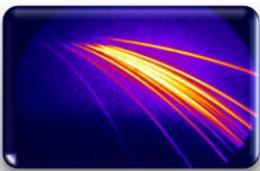
- Effect of the impurity percentage, of the medium length, etc ... on the properties of the accelerated electron bunch

Research axis on LPA

- Generation of a reproducible, stable and controlable LPA as injector for 2-stage LPA
EquipeX CILEX on APOLLON-10P

And also

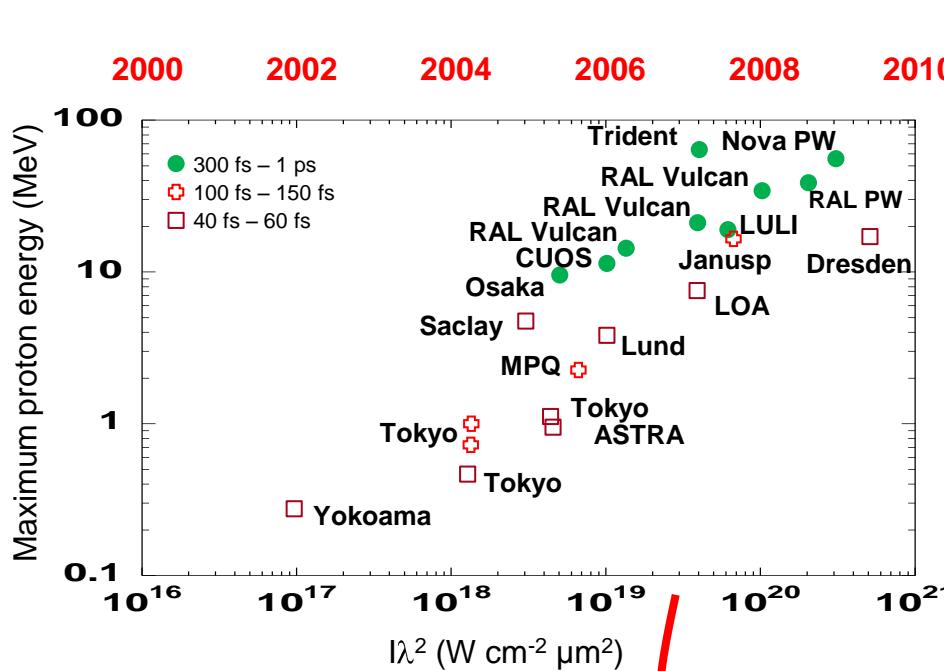
- Harmonic generation in the laser propagation axis
- Spatio-temporal characterisation of the laser pulse → pulse compression by propagation through the plasma



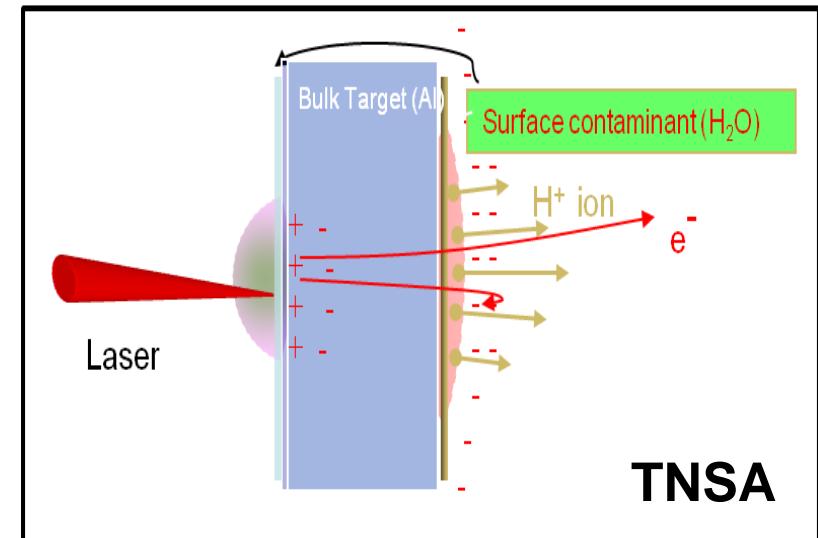
PROTON ACCELERATION

Laser driven ion acceleration: the TNSA mechanism

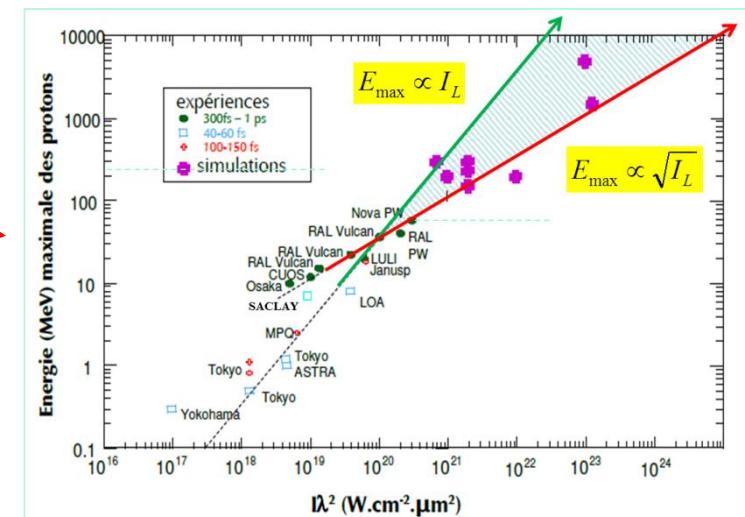
“...turning a light beam into a matter beam”



> 10 years of intense and ever-increasing research

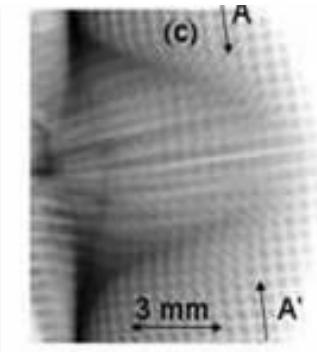
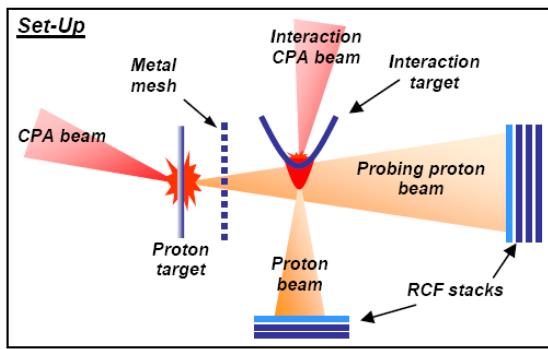


- Short duration ~ ps
- Divergence ~ 10
- Laminarity
- Emittance ~ $0.002 \pi \text{ mm mrad}$
- Energy ~ dozens of MeV
- Flux ~ $10^{11-13} (\text{E} > 3 \text{ MeV})$



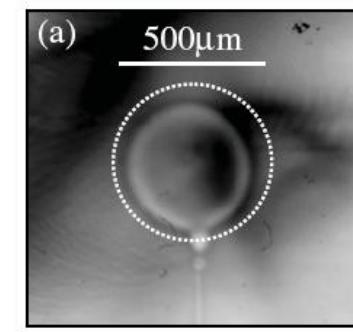
Applications

Probing electric fields in plasma



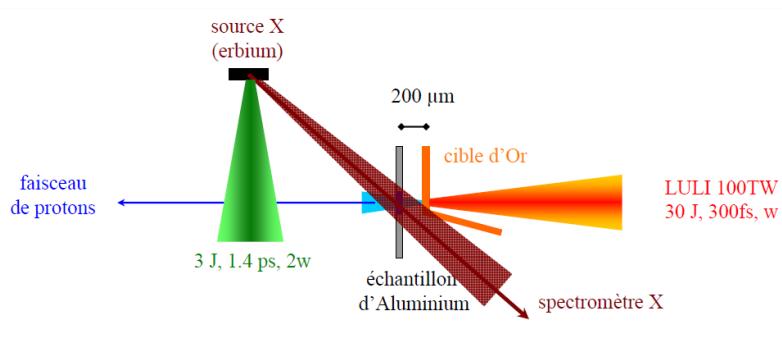
L. Romagnani et al, PRL **95**, 195001 (2005)

Probing dense plasmas



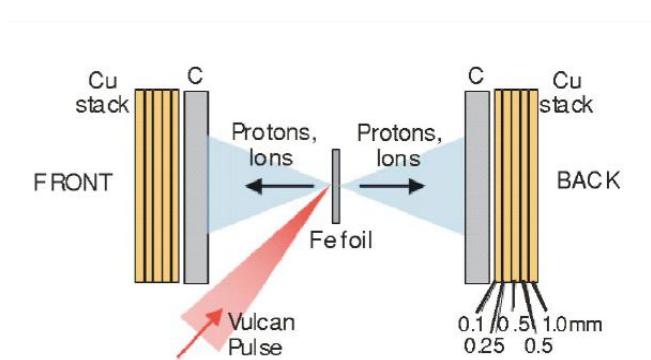
A. J. Mackinnon et al, PRL **97**, 045001 (2006)

Isochoric heating



A. Mancic et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 035002 (2010)

Medical isotopes production



McKenna et al. PRE **70**, 036405 (2004)

Applications : proton therapy – some numbers

10 millions more people affected each year

6 millions are treated by conventional radiotherapy

9% of them could be treated by proton therapy: **only 0.1%** actually are.

Proton beams have still a very low impact on overall tumor therapy

About **500** more proton therapy centers required to satisfy the need

Isocentric arm: gantry
10m, >120 tonnes

Cyclotron or synchrotron
100 - 400 t
500 kW power needed

- **Cost of the installation : 80 to 140 M€ (~2.5 times a photon based center)**
- **Size of the installation : 1000 to 2000 m²**

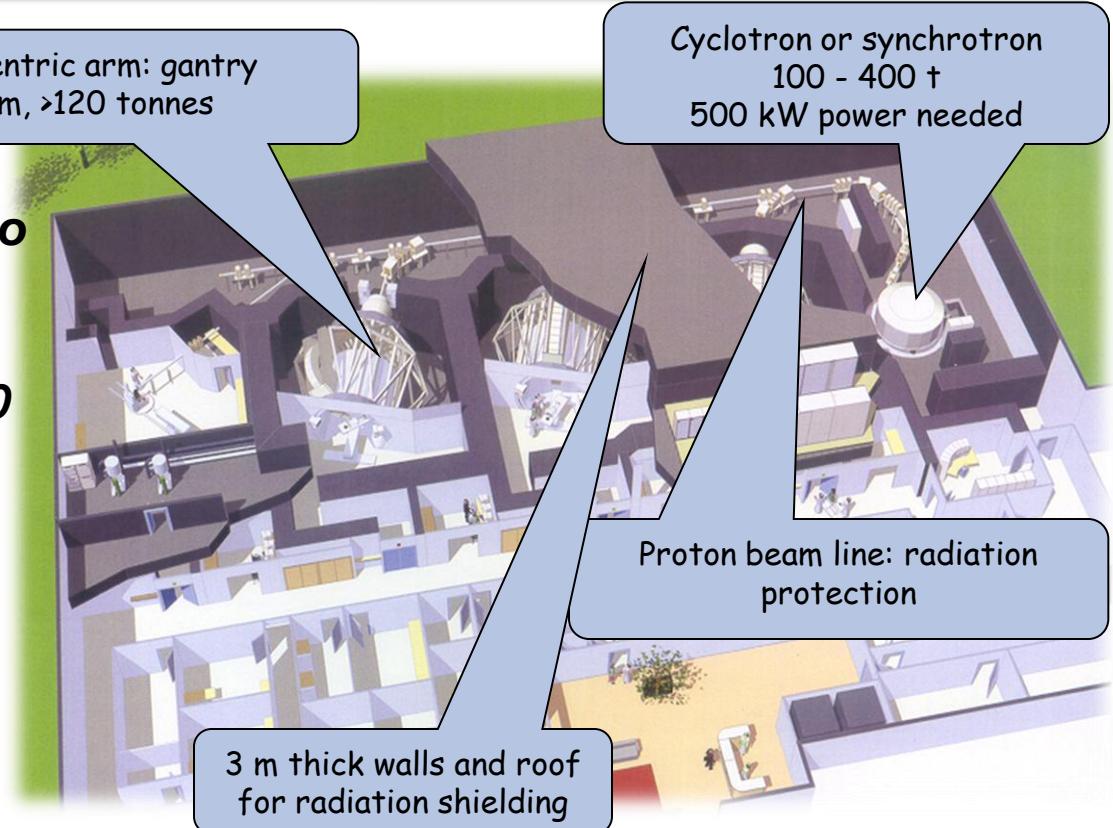
More affordable installations



more clinical centers



more treated patients



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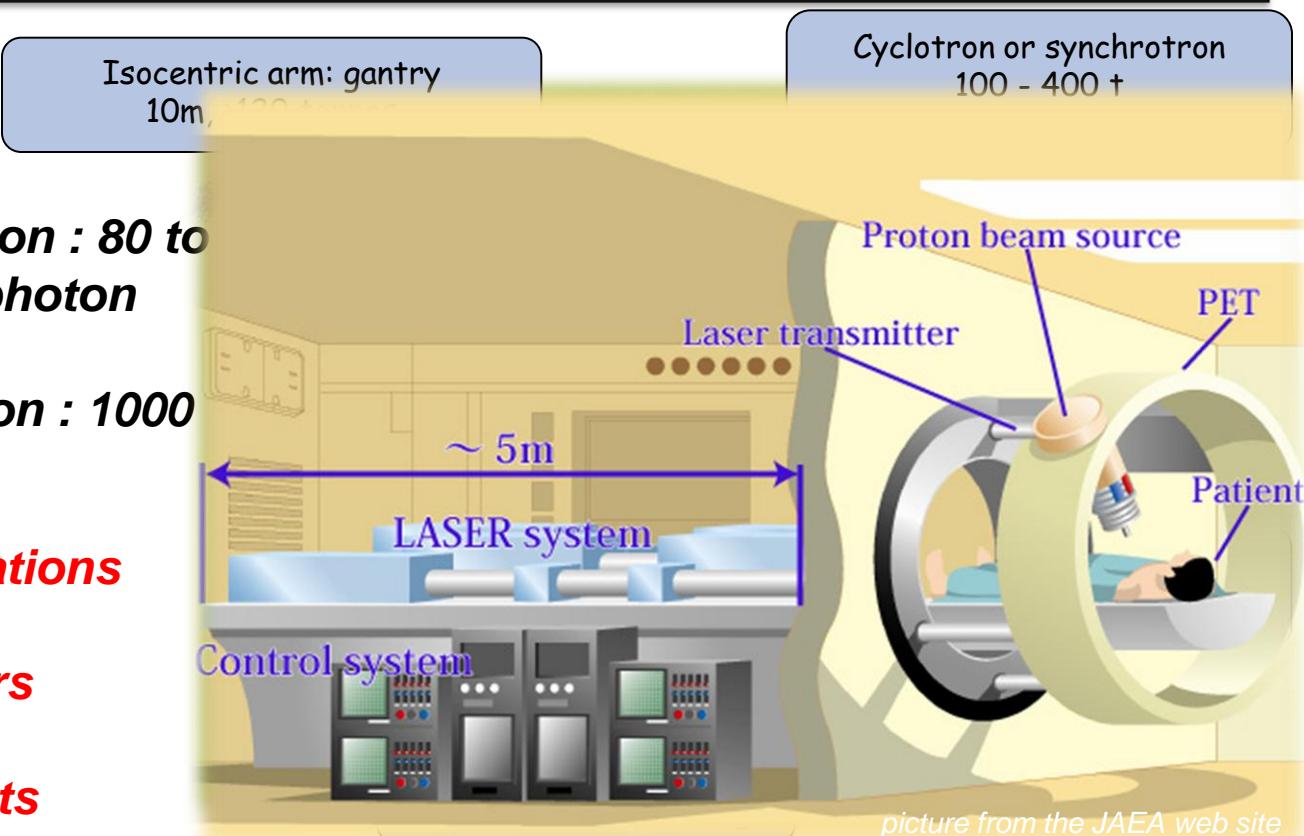
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More affordable installations

↓
more clinical centers

↓
more treated patients



picture from the JAEA web site

The SAPHIR consortium on laser-driven protontherapy

SAPHIR: Source Accélérée de Protons par laser de Haute Intensité pour la Radiothérapie
(Accelerated Proton Source by Ultra Intense Laser for Protontherapy)

Technical challenges

- Getting more than 65 MeV pour eye treatment and 150-200 MeV for others.
- Proton energy spectrum fully managed and controlled
- Stability and reproducibility
- Applied dose



Total budget (consolidated) : 20 M€

Financial support

- OSEO: 6.25 M€
- Région Ile de France: 1 M€



Present main aims in laser-driven proton acceleration and related research paths



Increasing
 E_{\max}

- Reducing the target thickness
- Reducing the target size
- Well controlled pre-plasma
- Engineered targets
- Simply increasing the laser power?

Spectrum
tailoring

- RPA
- Engineered targets

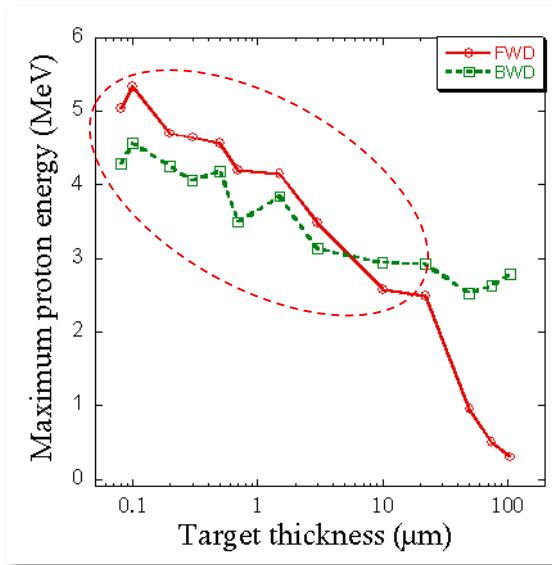
Divergence
tailoring

- Laser-driven microlens
- Engineered targets

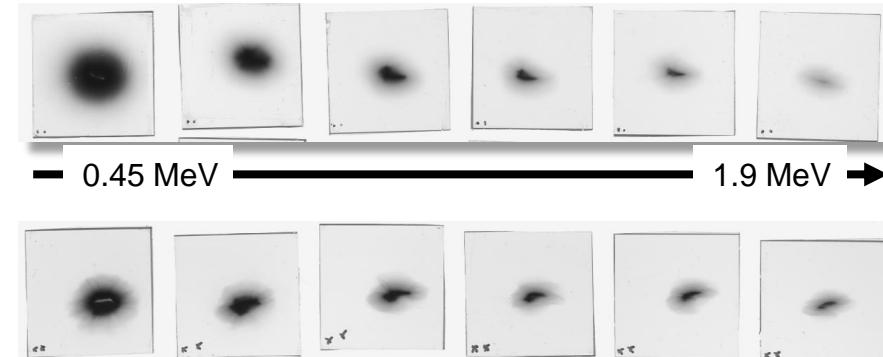


- Upstream study of main physical mechanisms in proton acceleration
- Setting scaling laws
- Exploration of new acceleration mechanisms

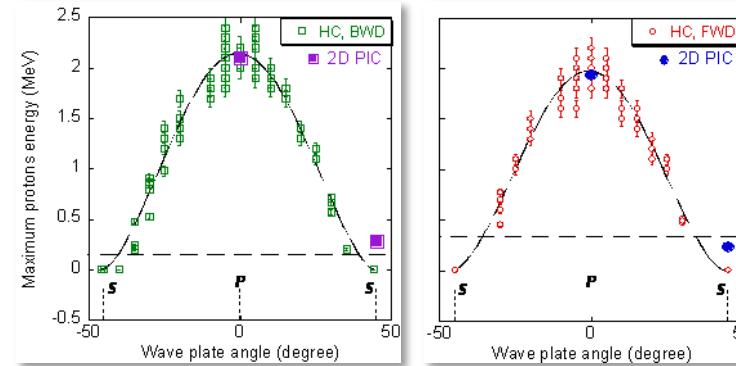
Proton emission under UHC conditions



BWD



FWD

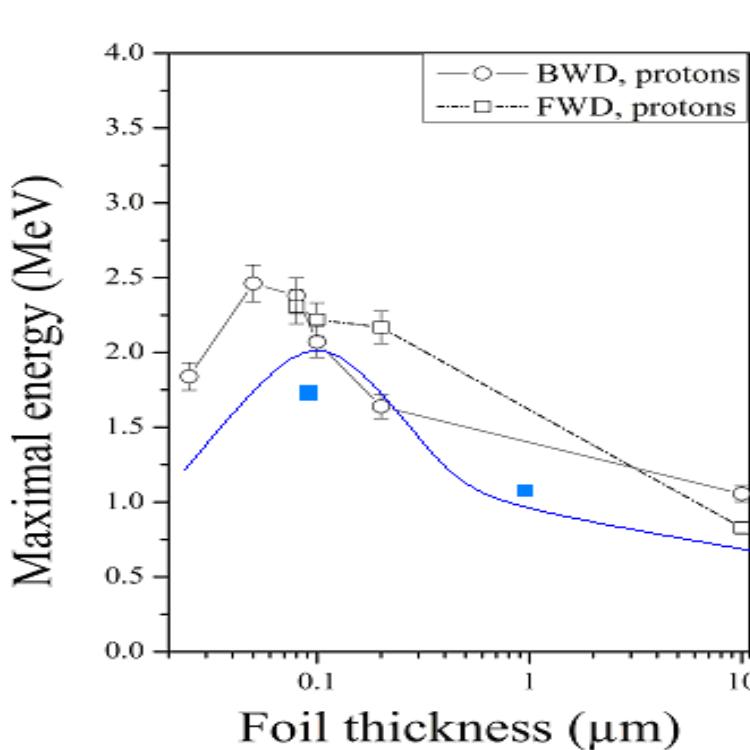


**Heating mechanism:
Brunel effect**

- E_{max} FWD $\approx E_{max}$ BWD
- θ FWD $\approx 0.7 * \theta$ BWD
- Flux FWD \approx Flux BWD
- Laminarity FWD and BWD
- Emittance FWD \approx Emittance BWD
 $\approx 0.1 \pi * \text{mm} * \text{mrad}$

**Quasi-symmetrical acceleration
TNSA model applies to both sides**

Ultra thin targets @ ultra high contrast: an analytical model



A Andreev et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 155002 (2008)

- Maximum protons and ions energy
 - Optimal target thickness
 - Protons and ions number

- Self consistent solution of the Poisson equation for the electric field accelerating ions
- Adiabatic approximation for the hot electrons population
- Two ion sorts
- 1D analytical model



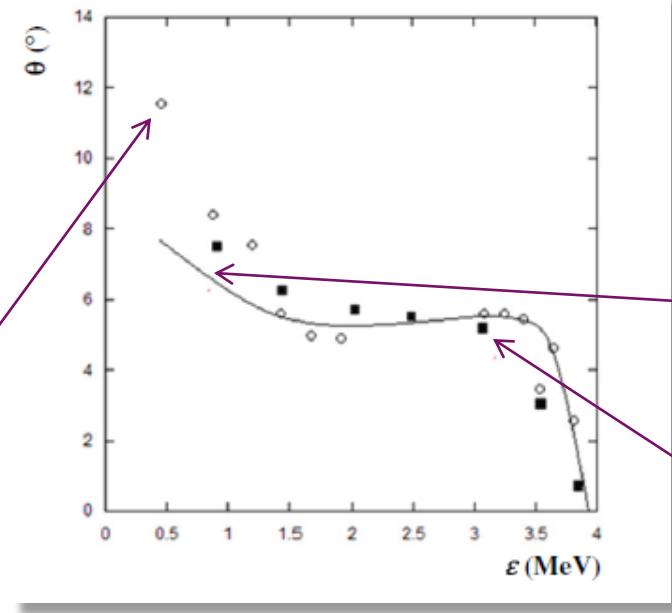
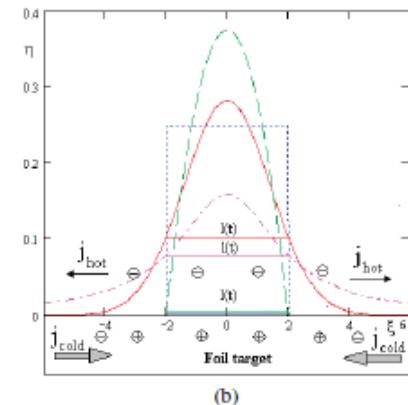
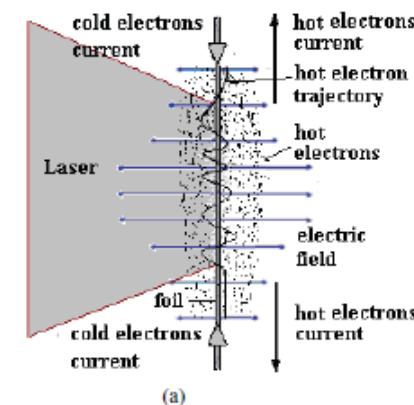
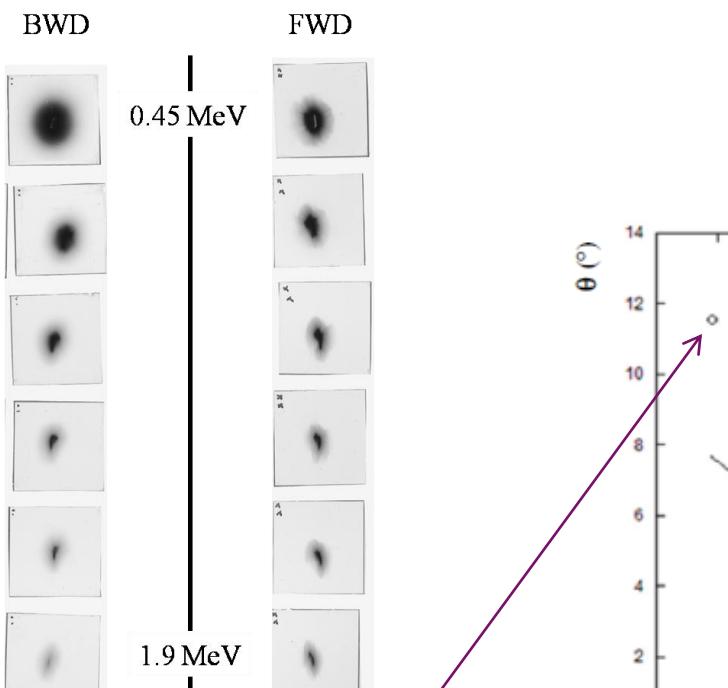
$$\varepsilon_{i\max_{1,2}} \approx \frac{3\pi Z_{1,2} e^2 (Z_2 n_{i_2} \ell_{i_2} \pm Z_1 n_{i_1} \ell_{i_1}) r_{De}}{\sqrt{1 + (\ell_{i_2}/r_{De})^2}} + \left(\frac{2\sqrt{2} T_{e_0}}{3^{3/4}} f^{3/2} \pm 4\pi e^2 Z_1 n_{i_1} \ell_{i_1} r_{De} \right) \frac{Z_{1,2}}{\sqrt{1 + (r_{De}/\ell_{i_2})^2}}$$

$$\ell_{i_2}^{\text{opt}} \approx \lambda_L \frac{n_{cr}}{Z n_{i_2}} \left(5 + I_{18}^{3/4} \left(\frac{t_L}{30 f_s} \right)^{3/4} \right) \left(\frac{Z n_{i_2}}{6 \cdot 10^{23} \text{cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} N_H &= \int_{-\infty}^{-\ell_H} n_{HC} \theta(\varepsilon_{i_1}(z_0) - \varepsilon_{thr}) dz_0 + \int_{-\ell_H}^0 n_H \theta(\varepsilon_{i_1}(z_0) - \varepsilon_{thr}) dz_0 \\ &= n_{HC} (\ell_s \ln(\varepsilon_{i\max_1}/\varepsilon_{thr} - \ell_H)) \theta(\ell_s \ln(\varepsilon_{i\max_1}/\varepsilon_{thr} - \ell_H)) \\ &\quad + n_H \ell_H \theta(\ell_s \ln(\varepsilon_{i\max_1}/\varepsilon_{thr} - \ell_H)) \\ &\quad + n_H \ell_s \theta(\ell_H - \ell_s \ln(\varepsilon_{i\max_1}/\varepsilon_{thr})) \\ N_C &= \int_{-\infty}^{-\ell_H} n_C \theta(\varepsilon_{i_2}(z_0) - \varepsilon_{thr}) dz_0 = n_C (\ell_s \ln(\varepsilon_{i\max_2}/\varepsilon_{thr} - \ell_H)) \\ &\quad \times \theta(\ell_s \ln(\varepsilon_{i\max_2}/\varepsilon_{thr} - \ell_H)) \end{aligned}$$

Ion beam divergence @ ultra-high contrast

Lateral expansion of the fast electron cloud during the ion acceleration



Experimental data

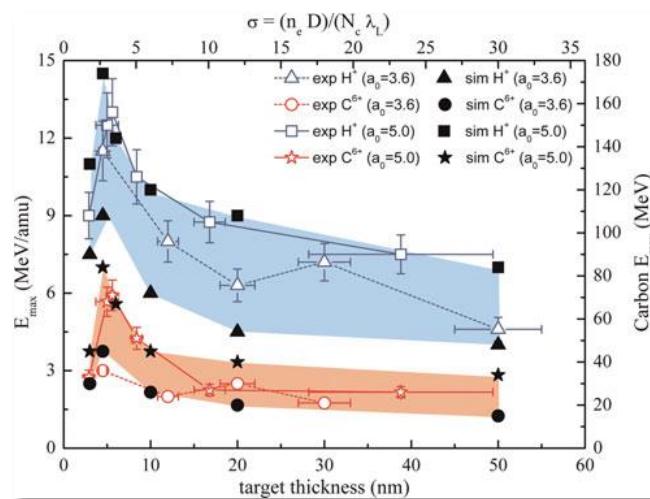
Deviation of the traveling ions from the target normal

Analytical model for the divergence of fast ion beams

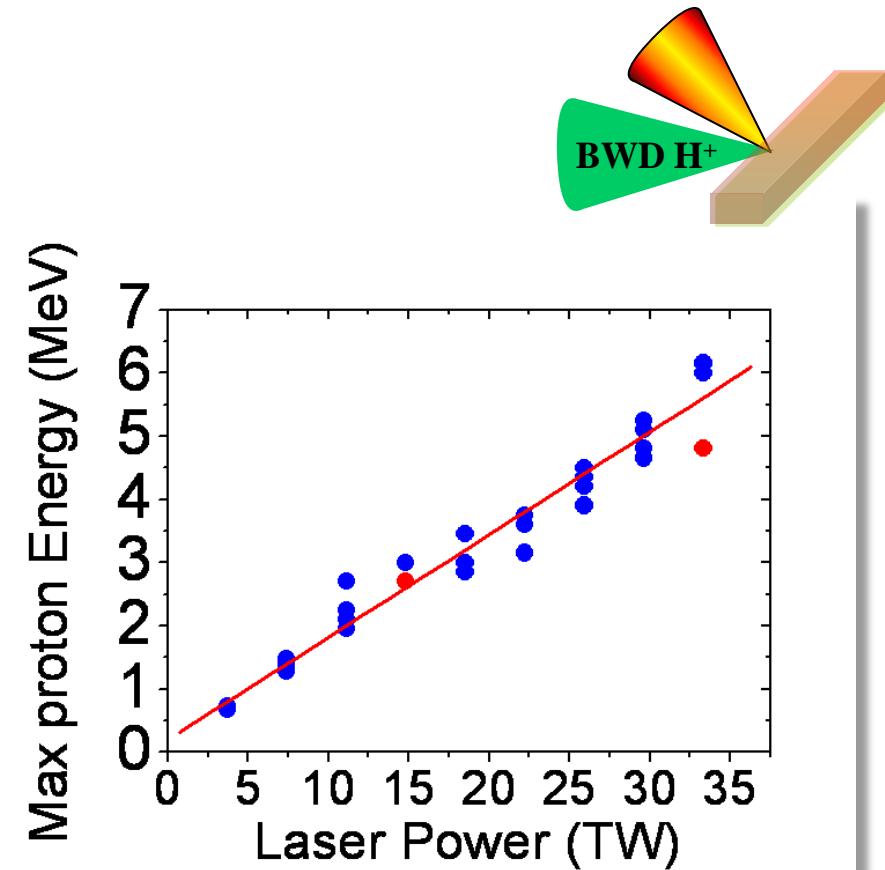


2D PIC simulations

First results with the UHI100 laser chain: ultra-thin foils & scaling law for bulk targets



Steinke et al., Las. Part. Beams, 28, 215(2010)



100 MeV protons → 500 TW @ UHC

Engineered targets on UHI100: I - foam targets

Laserlab joint experiment: PHI - Politecnico di Milano (PI M. Passoni)

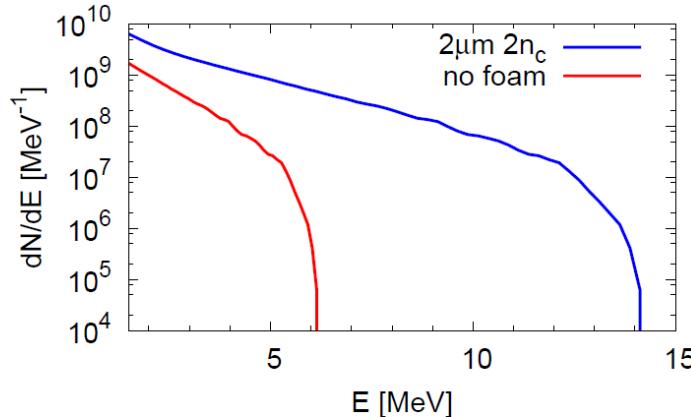
“Advanced” TNSA regime

multilayered targets: thin solid foil + low-density layer

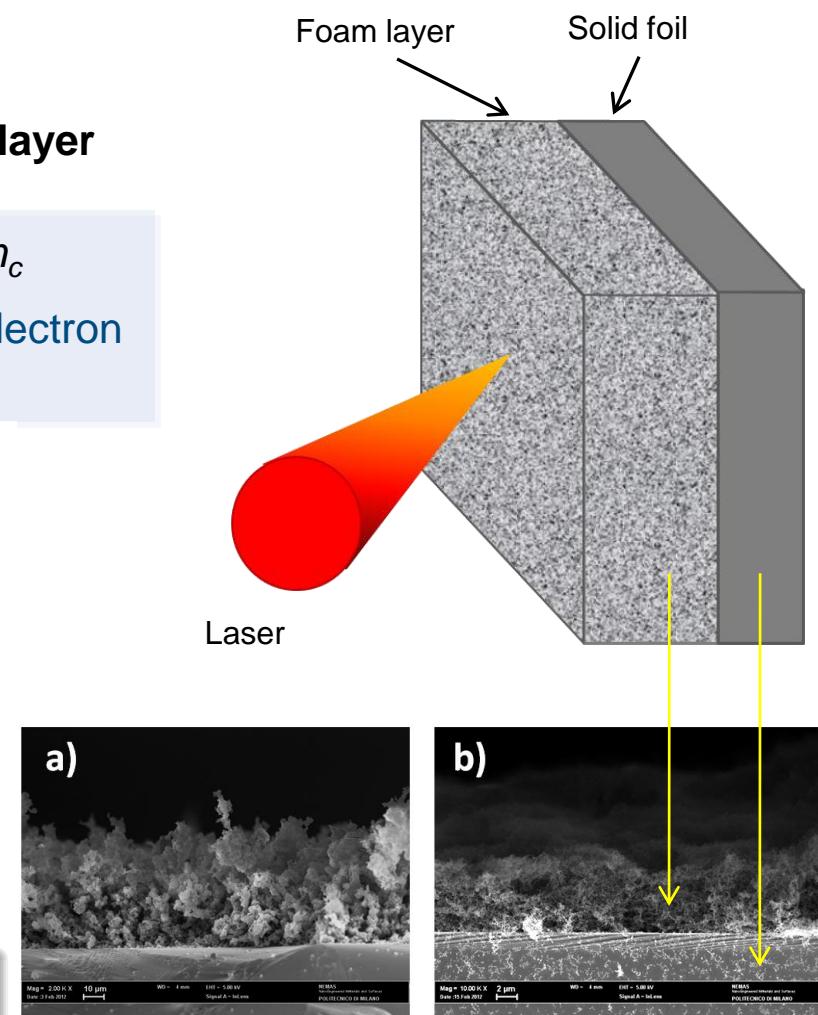
Interest in “intermediate”, near critical conditions $n_e \sim n_c$

Scalings predicts **more efficient absorption** and **fast electron generation**

$$P = 32 \text{ TW} \quad \tau = 25 \text{ fs} \quad w_0 = 3 \mu\text{m} \quad U = 0.8 \text{ J} \quad I = 3.4 \cdot 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2 \quad (a_0 = 10)$$



- exponential with a cut-off (like TNSA)
- thin foam ($l_f = 2 \mu\text{m}$, $n_f = 2 n_c$)
 \Rightarrow cut-off energy increased by a factor $\sim 2.5!$
- Sgattoni et al PRE 85, 036405 (2012)

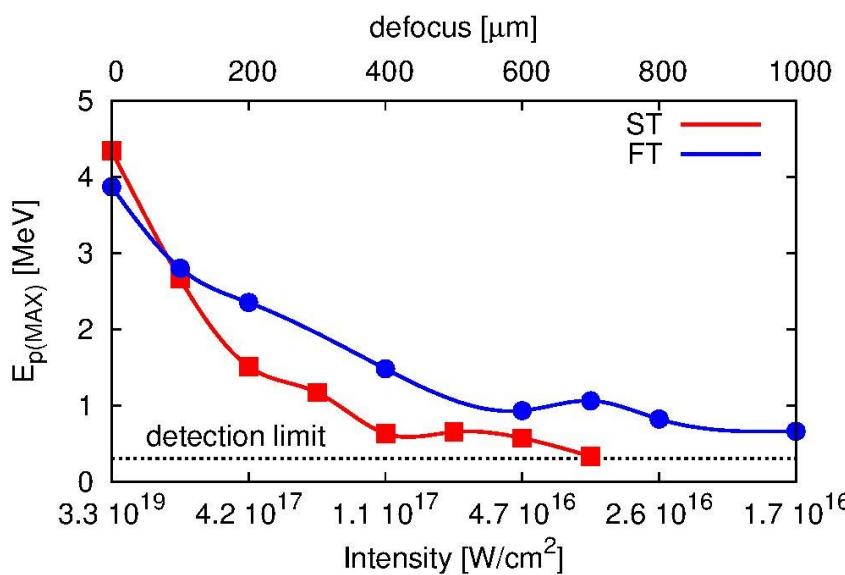


@NANOLAB POLIMI: **Pulsed Laser Deposition**
 Nanostructured Carbon **grown** on aluminium

Engineered targets on UHI100: I - foam targets

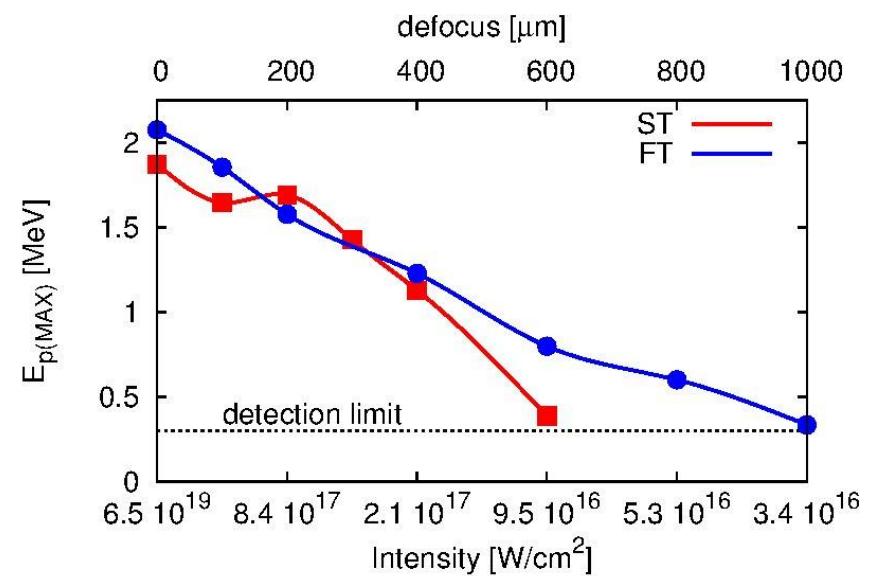
High Contrast

Al 1,5 μm + foam $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$



Low Contrast

Al 10 μm + foam $\sim 23 \mu\text{m}$

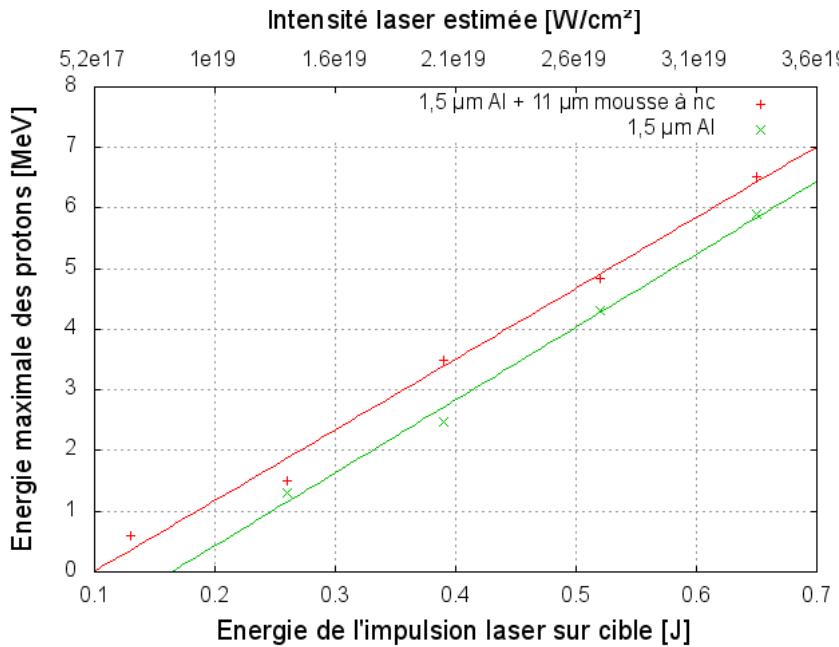


At HC and LC , FT similar to ST at maximum focalization / intensity

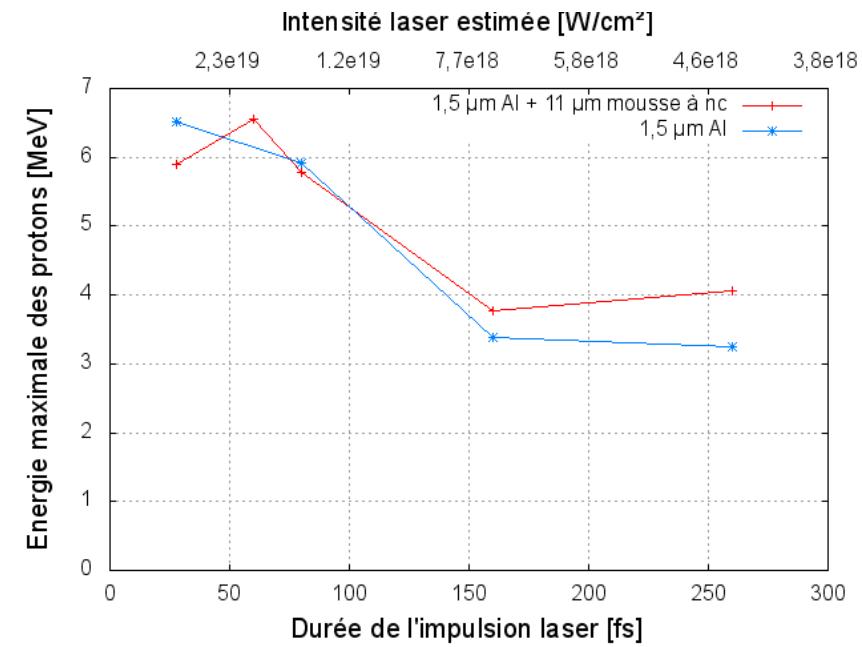
At low intensities, FT energies > ST energies

Engineered targets on UHI100: I - foam targets

Energie de l'impulsion variable



Durée de l'impulsion variable



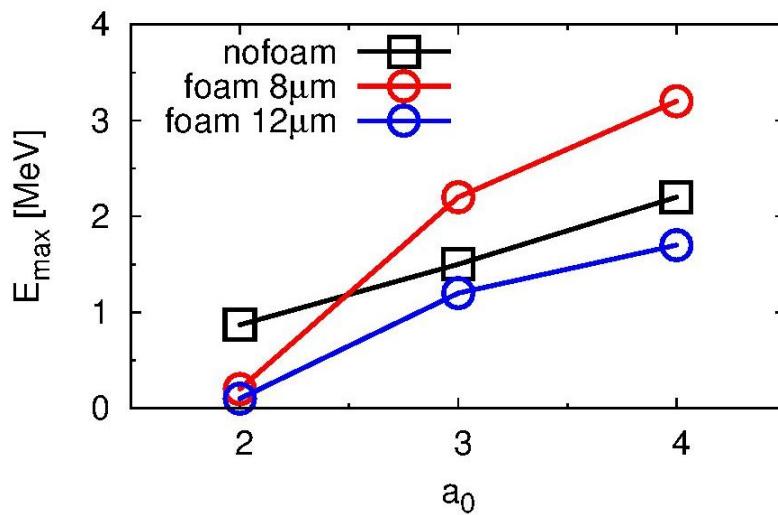
Comportement similaire pour des cibles simples et des cibles mousse si :
variation de l'intensité = variation de l'énergie ou de la durée de l'impulsion

Engineered targets on UHI100: I - foam targets

2D-PIC simulations (ALaDyn)

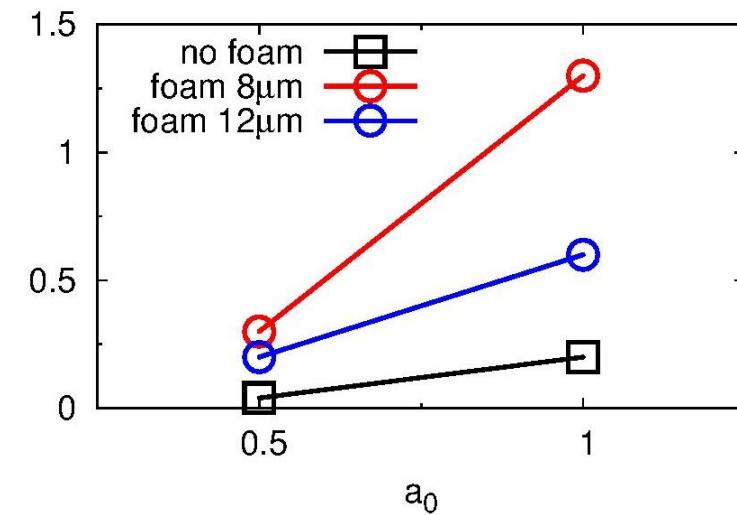
Foam total ionization

$$n_e = 2n_c$$



Foam partial ionization

$$n_e = 0.66n_c$$

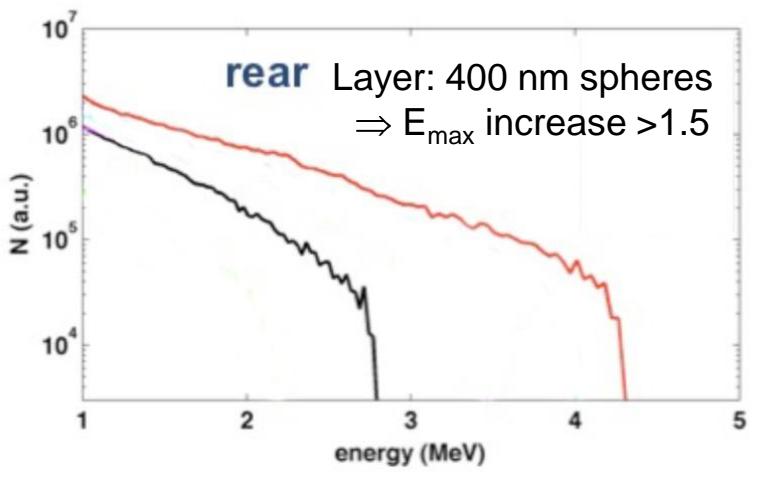


Underdense foam
considerable advantage
over ST (at low intensities)

Engineered targets on UHI100: II - 'μ-spheres' targets

Laserlab joint experiment: CEA/IRAMIS, LULI, Czech Technical University, INO (PI A. Macchi)

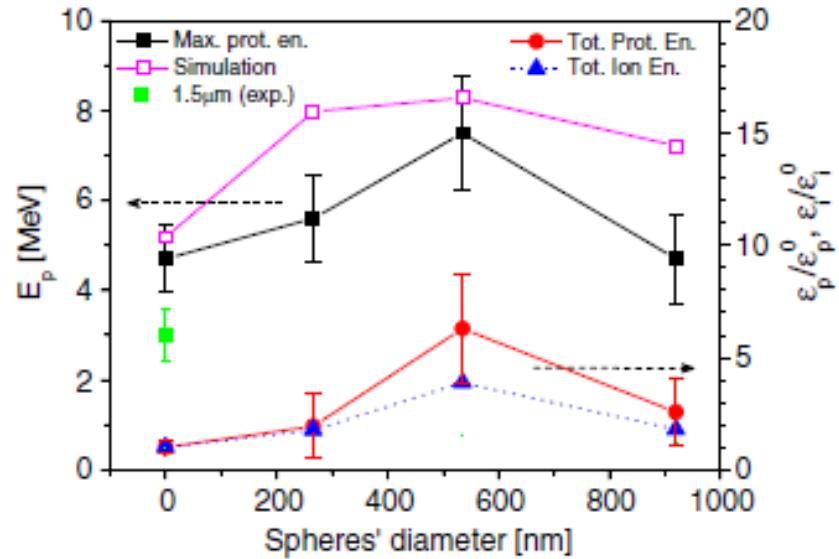
2D3V relativistic EM (parallel) PIC code



O Klimo et al., New Journal of Physics 13 053028, (2011)

- 3 substrate thicknesses (900 nm, 20 μm and 40 μm)
- 2 polystyrene sphere sizes (471 nm or 940 nm)
- Proton E_{\max} as a function of incidence angle and pulse polarization

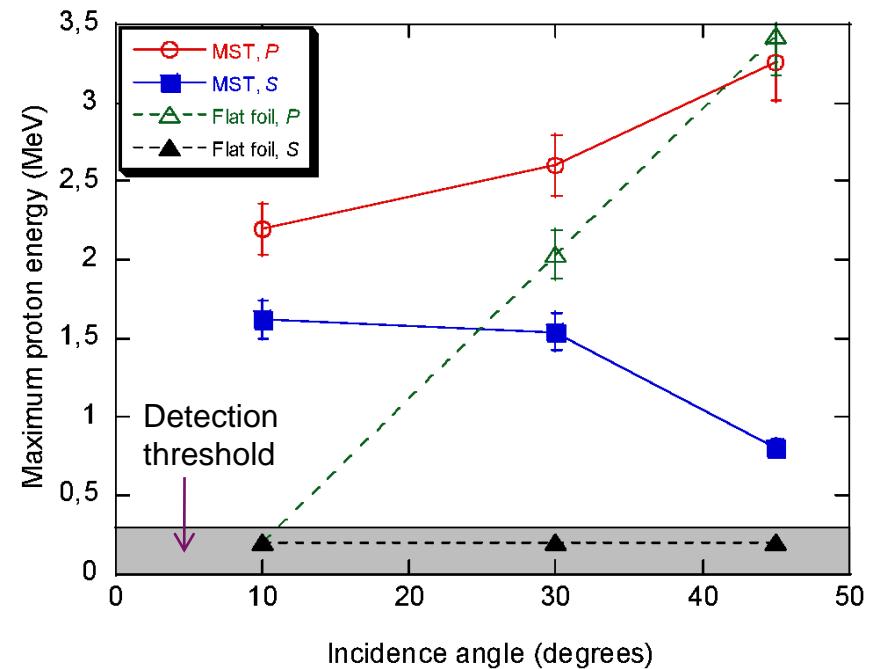
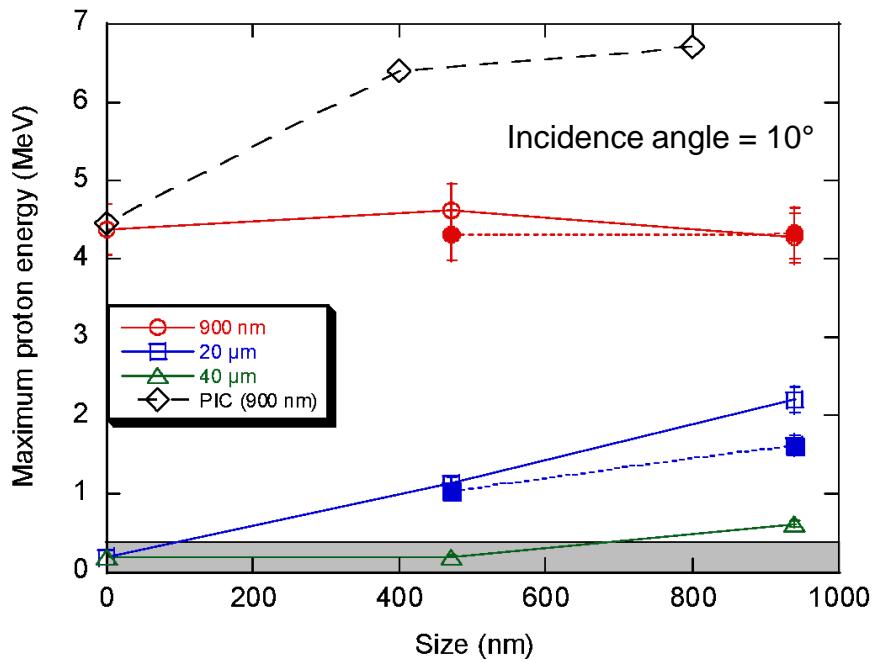
Target : thin (μm thick) plastic foil (substrate) with a mono-layer of hexagonally-packed micrometer polystyrene spheres on its surface.



D. Margarone et al., PRL, 109, 234801 (2012)

Engineered targets on UH100:

II - 'μ-spheres' targets

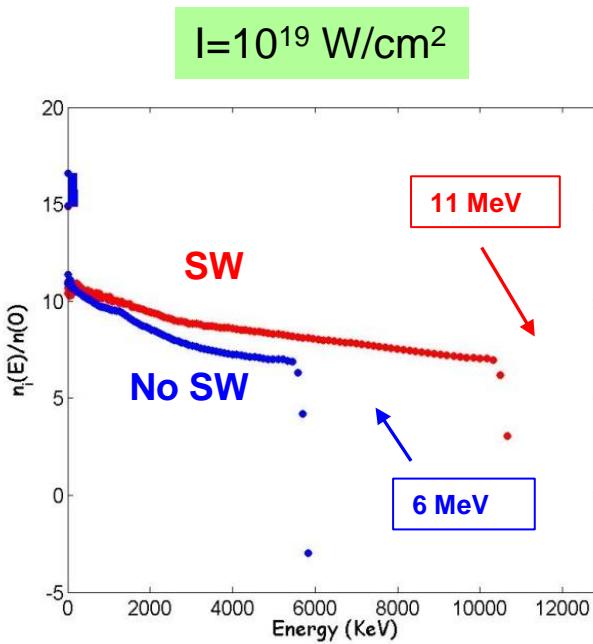


- Cut-off energy increase for thicker targets
- Not effective for large incidence angles
- Not effective for (too much?) thin substrates

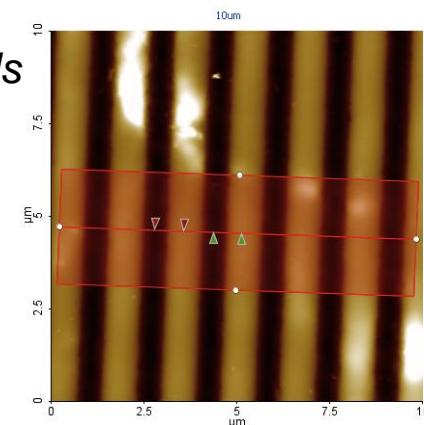
Engineered targets on UHI100: III - 'grating' targets

Laserlab joint experiment: CEA/IRAMIS, LULI, Czech Technical University, INO (PI A. Macchi)

- Solid foils with periodic surface modulation may allow resonant excitation of **Surface Waves (SW)**
- Previous investigations only at modest intensities $I \leq 10^{16} \text{ W/cm}^2$



SEM picture of engraved Mylar foils



SW
excitation



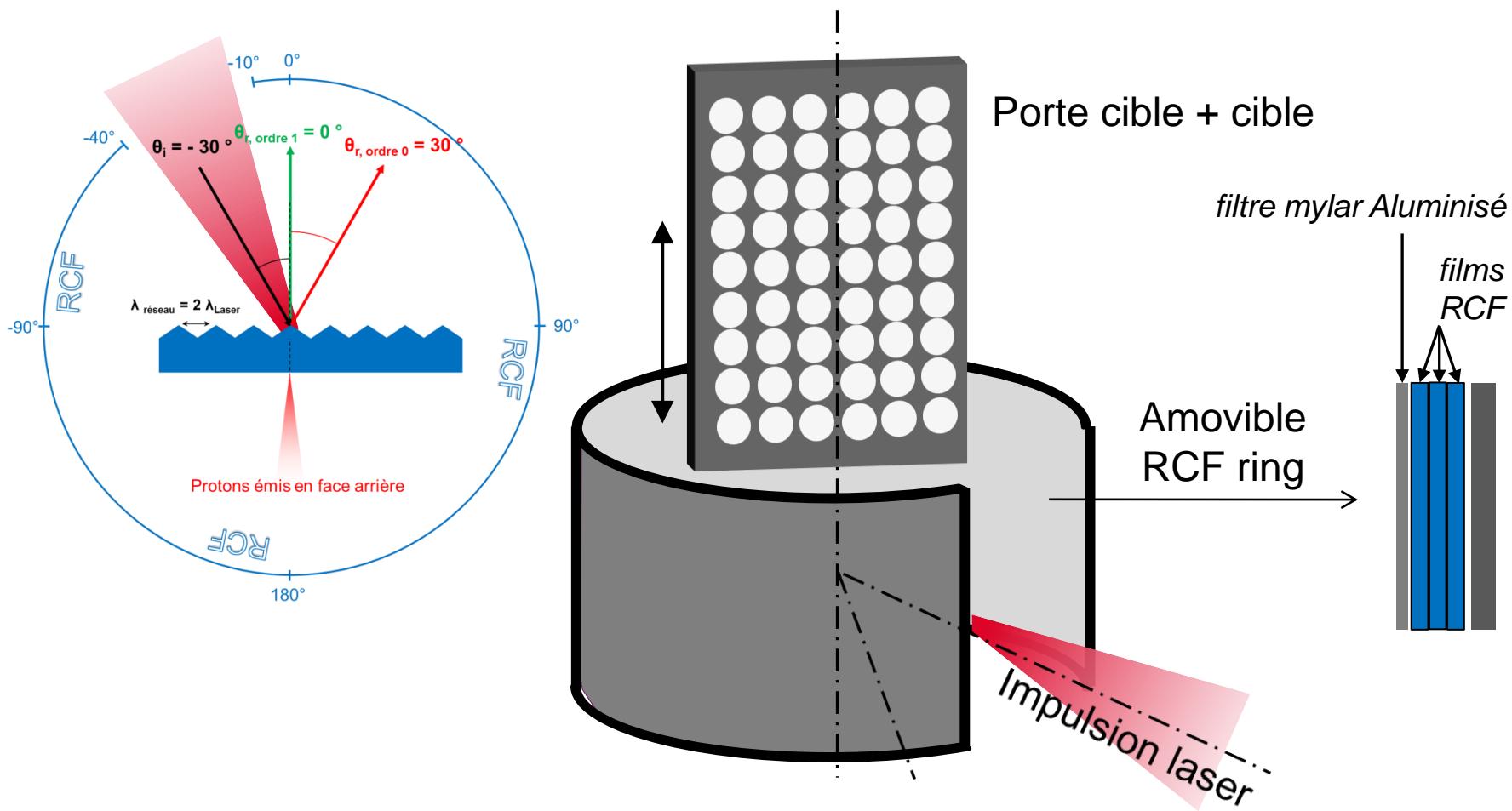
Proton cut-off energy
increase ($\sim \times 2$)

- 3 substrate thicknesses (800 nm, 20 μm and 40 μm)
- 2λ periodic engraving, 500 and 300 nm deep
- Proton E_{\max} as a function of incidence angle

Engineered targets on UHI100:

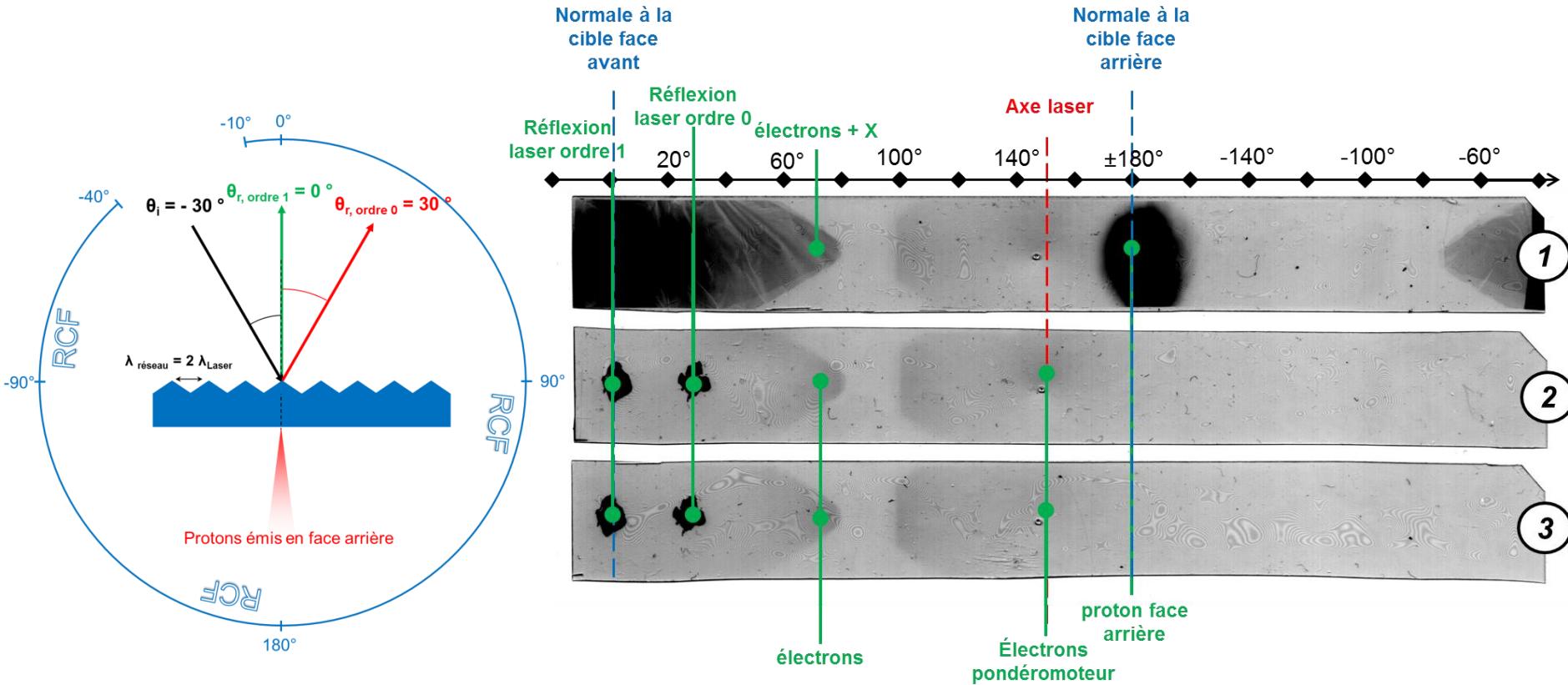
III - 'grating' targets

Détection des électrons, protons et rayonnement X sur ~ 330



Engineered targets on UHI100:

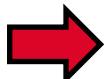
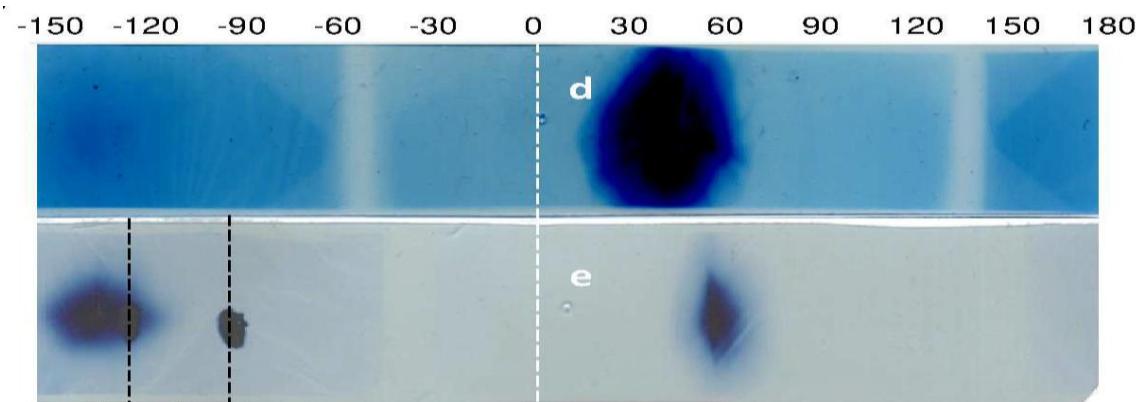
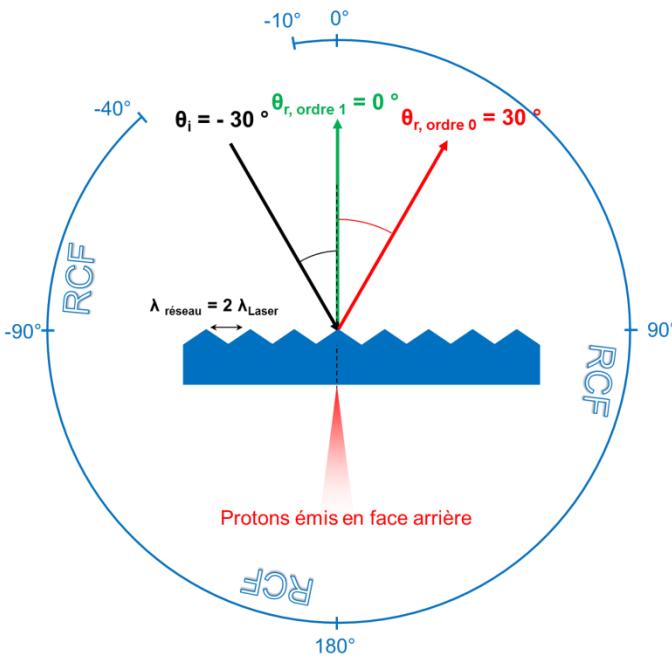
III - 'grating' targets



-
- Motif réseau préservé lors de l'interaction (contraste laser 10^{12})
 - Direction d'émission principale des électrons: $\sim 90^\circ$
 - Pas d'influence sur la direction d'émission des protons en face arrière

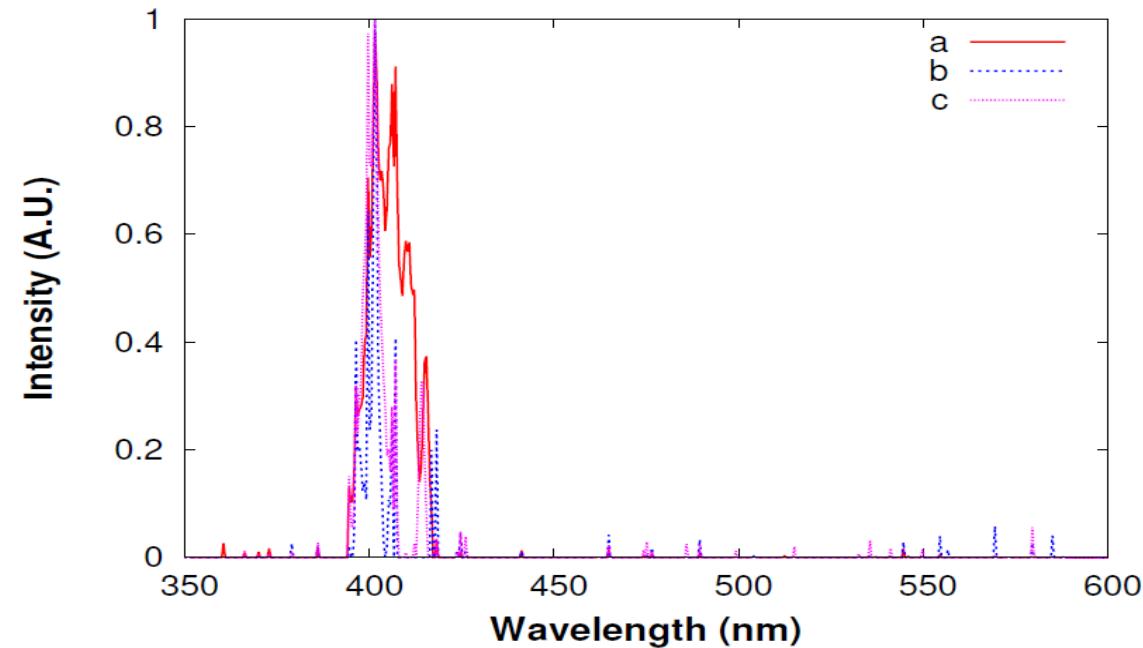
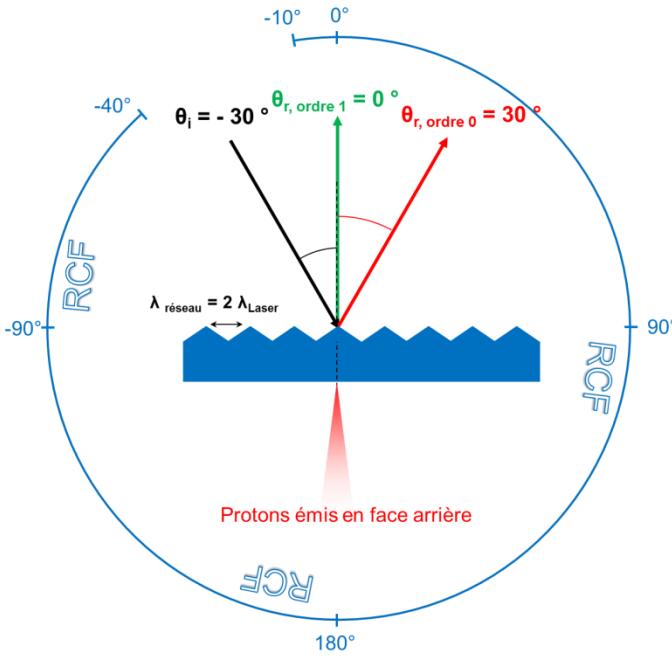
Engineered targets on UHI100:

III - 'grating' targets

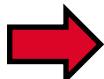


- Bas contraste => pas d'émission électrons (d)
- Changement de l'angle d'incidence => shift angle émission électrons (e)

Engineered targets on UHI100: III - 'grating' targets

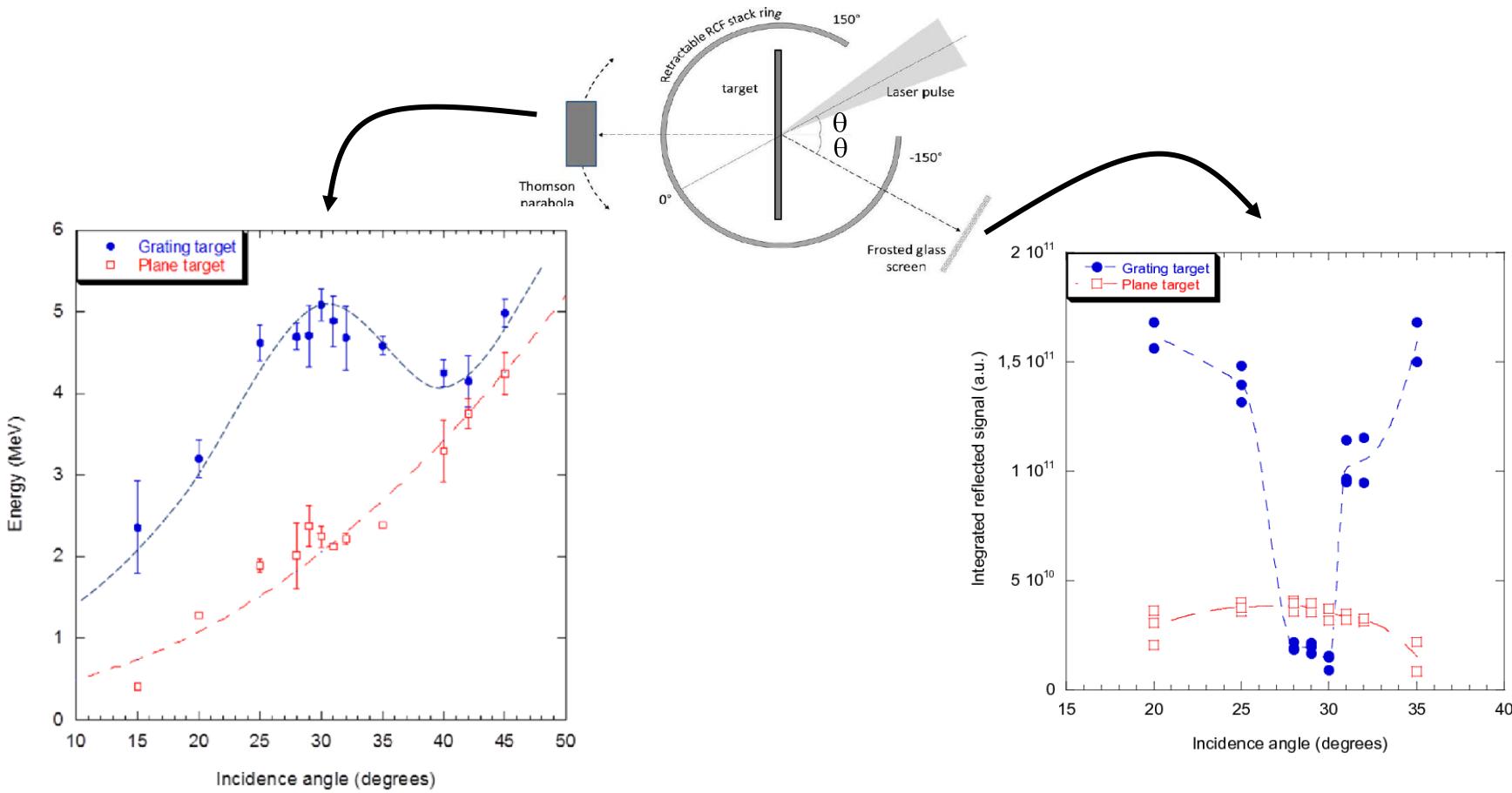


No evidence of an optical emission close to the $3/2 \omega$ wavelength.



- Bas contraste => pas d'émission électrons (d)
- Changement de l'angle d'incidence => shift angle émission électrons (e)

Engineered targets on UHI100: III - 'grating' targets

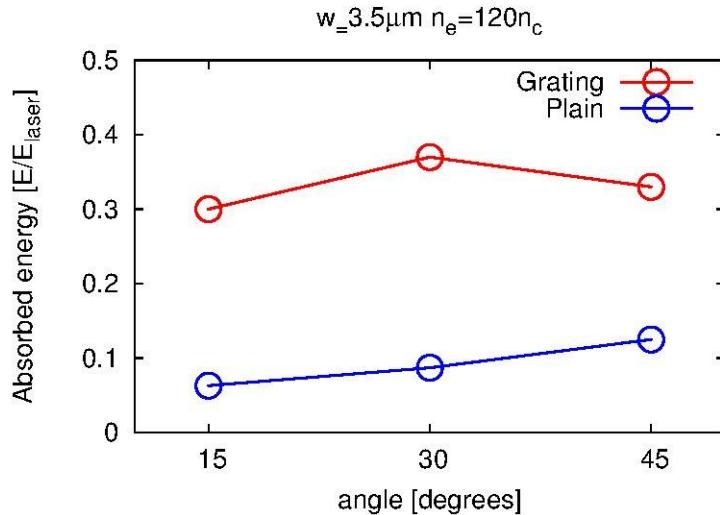


- ➡ Grating target shows a clear maximum at resonance angle (30°)
- ➡ For the same angle, reflected

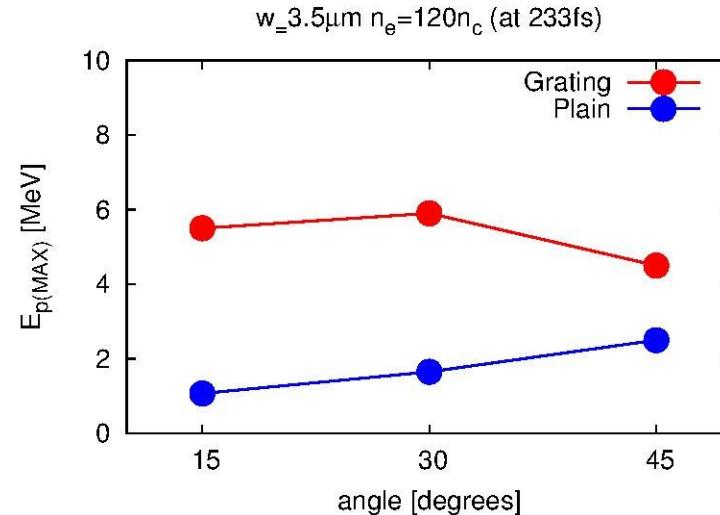
Engineered targets on UHI100:

III - 'grating' targets

Absorbed energy



Proton cut-off energy



Thin target
focussed target

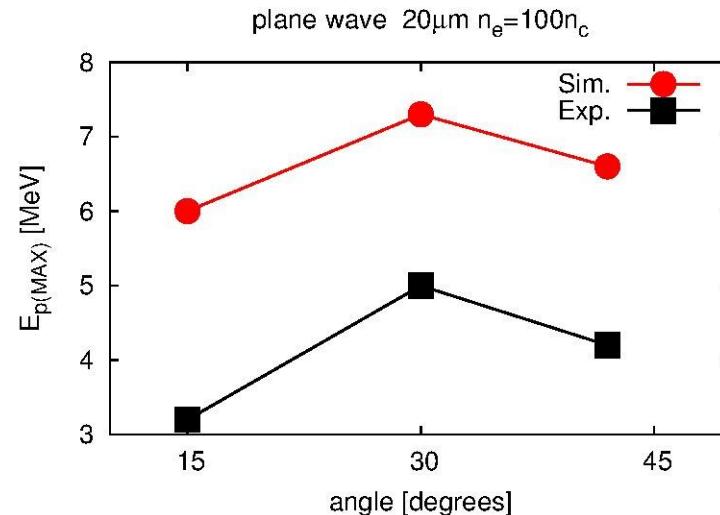
Thick target plane
wave

Two different PIC configuration:

- Thin foil ($0.8\mu\text{m}$) + focused target (ALaDyn)
- Thick target ($20\mu\text{m}$) + plane wave (EMI2D)

Grating vs. Plain target

- increased absorption
- Higher proton energies
- «resonance» at 30°





CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

Conclusions

In a rich and stimulating scientific surrounding, CEA-Saclay offers a comprehensive panel of laser facilities, open to external researchers in the framework of the LASERLAB network

Thanks to the features of its high intensity laser chain, the PHI group carries on a pioneering research activity on laser-matter interaction in the UHC pulses domain

Pre-plasma free, UHC experiments are a nice benchmark for analytical models and/or numerical codes

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« ELECTRONS »: sandrine.dobosz@cea.fr

« PROTONS »: tiberio.ceccotti@cea.fr

Perspectives

CILEX Centre interdisciplinaire lumière extrême

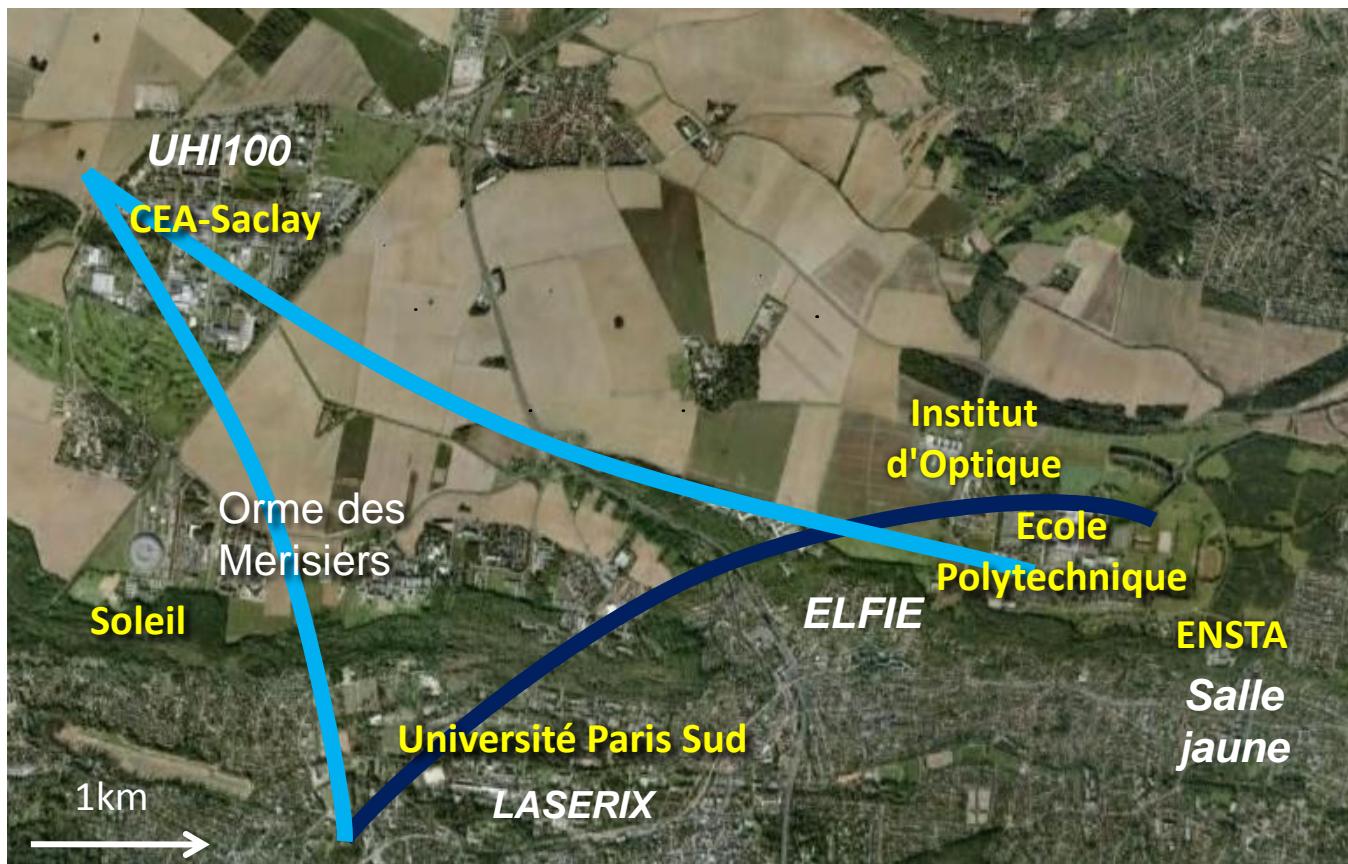


General objective: a Research Centre on Intense Lasers, Plasmas and Applications, hosting the most powerful laser (*APOLLON 10P, 10 PW, 15 fs, 150 J*) and smaller scale facilities (*ELFIE (LULI), UHI100 (IRAMIS), Salle Jaune (LOA), LaserX (Paris XI)*) for pluridisciplinary programs and training of scientists and engineers
Operated as a user-facility

CILEX = APOLLON (20 M€) + SATELITTE FACILITIES + BUILDING REHABILITATION + EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP (20 M€)

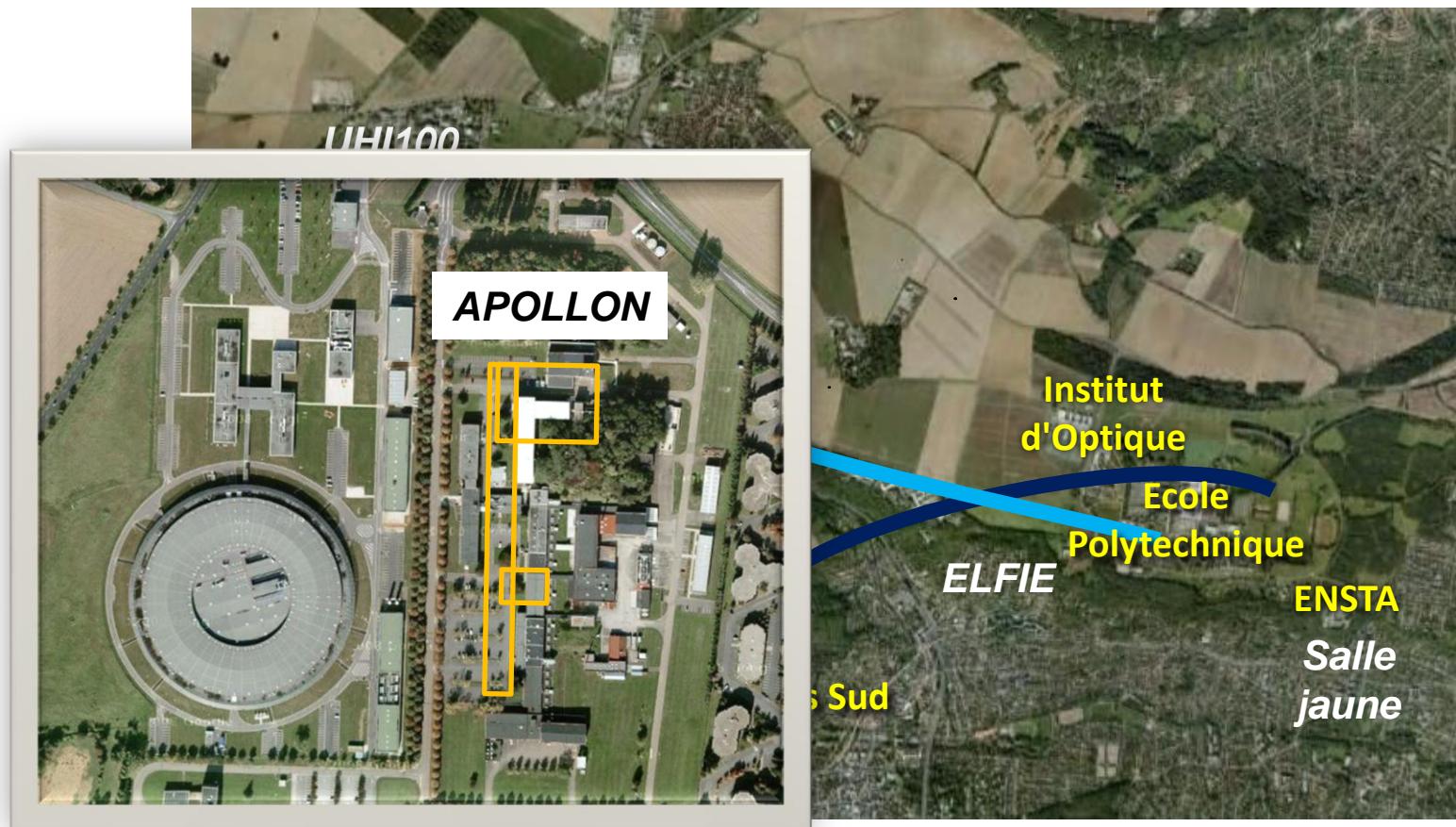
A "laser and plasma labs" Campus on the « Plateau de Saclay »

Developing new instruments and an interdisciplinary centre **CILEX** will be devoted to address physics at unexplored power densities



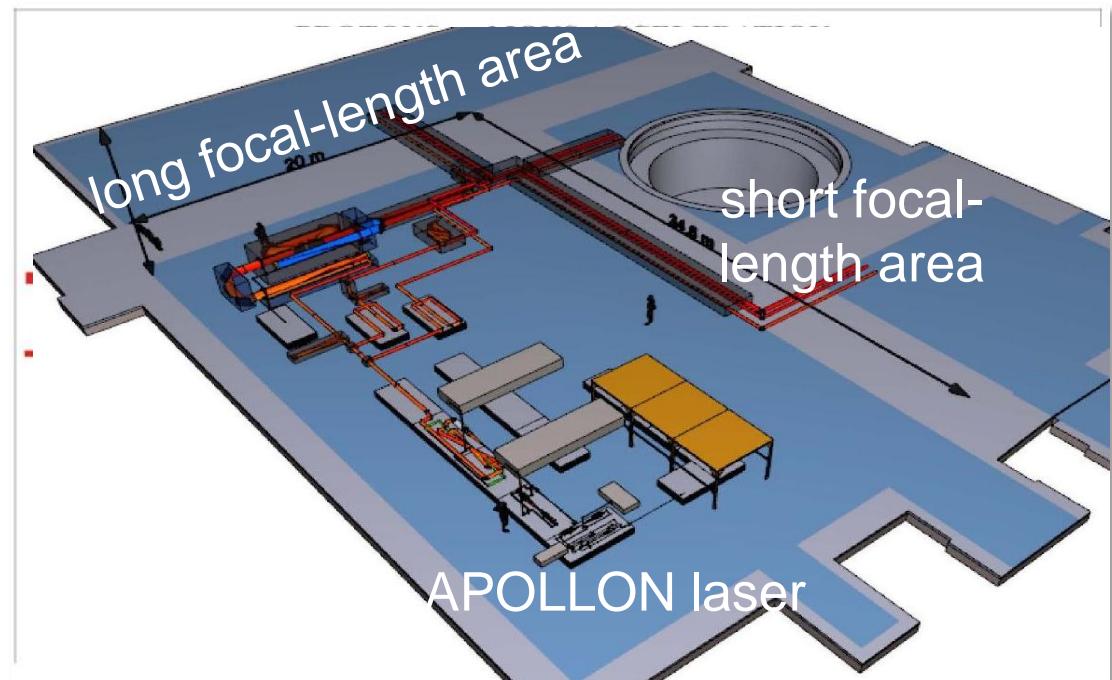
A "laser and plasma labs" Campus on the « Plateau de Saclay »

Developing new instruments and an interdisciplinary centre **CILEX** will be devoted to address physics at unexplored power densities



The ion beam line @ Apollon: tentative (almost definitive) set-up

1 Main beam 10PW
+
1 synchronized energetic beam
1PW
(15J/15fs/1shot per minute)
+
1 probe beam few TW
(150mJ to 1J/15fs/1shot per
minute)



About 180 m², 2 experimental chambers, diagnostics,
radio-shielding

GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE

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