

# **AWAKE: proton driven plasma wakefield acceleration for particle physics applications**

**M. Turner for the AWAKE Collaboration**

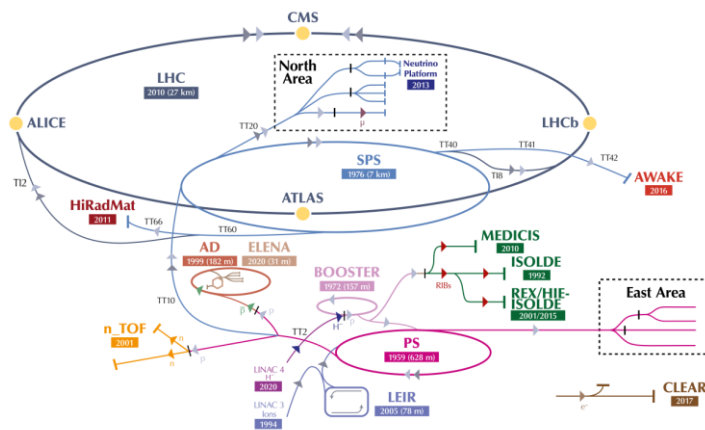
# The AWAKE experiment at CERN



## proton drivers

p+ bunches from the CERN SPS are delivered to the AWAKE facility

The CERN accelerator complex  
Complexe des accélérateurs du CERN



to excite wakefields in a (currently) 10 m long plasma

## high energy drivers



driver parameters:

- ~20 kJ → very high energy per bunch
- 400 GeV/c high energy per particle
- enabling hundreds of GeV energy gain in single plasma (~TeV with LHC driver)

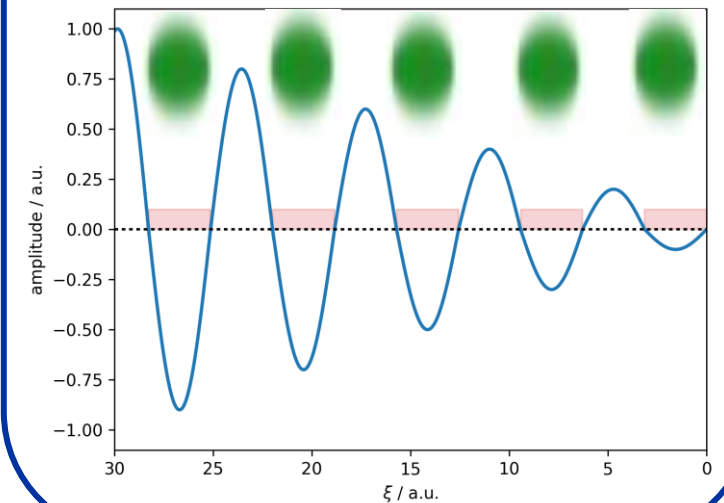
- low beam density  $n_b \sim 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- very long ( $\sigma_z \sim 5 \text{ cm}$ ;  $\sim 100 \lambda_{pe}$ )
- waist size  $\sigma_r \sim 0.17 \text{ mm} < c/\omega_{pe}$

plasma parameters:

- plasma density:  $n_{pe} 1-10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
- plasma wavelength  $\lambda_{pe} \sim 3 - 1 \text{ mm}$

## resonant excitation

- to be able to excite ~GV/m fields → **self-modulation** (requires ~4-6m of plasma)
- multiple bunches → resonantly drive wakefield → large amplitude



# Self-modulation demonstrated

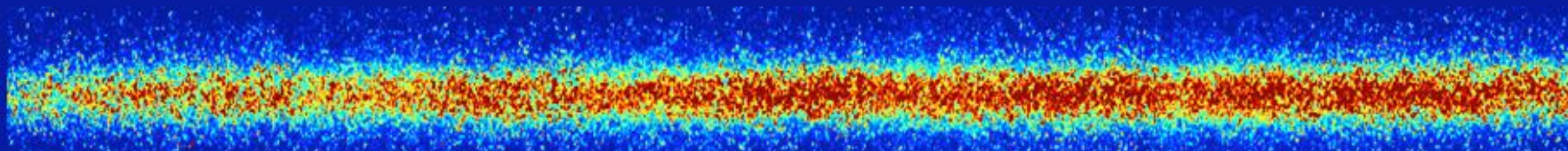
AWAKE, PRL 122, 054802 (2019)

M. Turner, (AWAKE coll.), PRL 122, 054801 (2019)

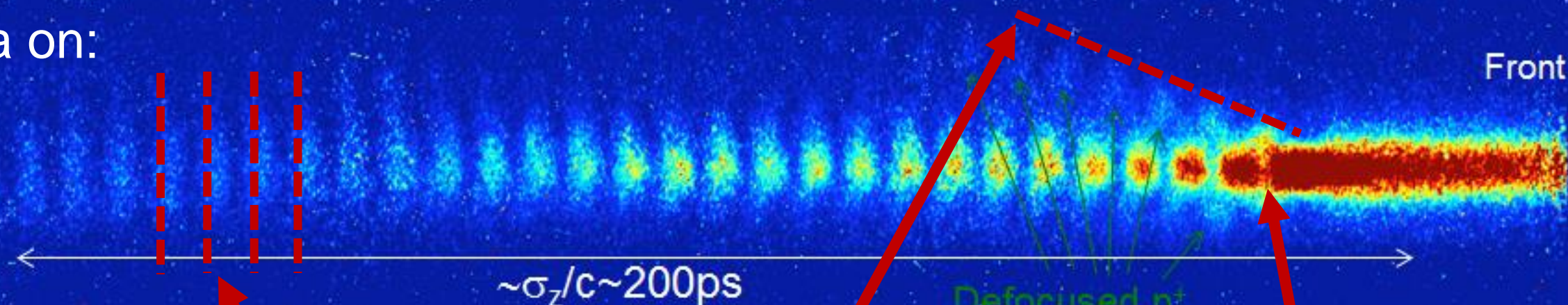
F. Braumueller, (AWAKE coll.), PRL 125, 264801 (2020)

F. Batsch (AWAKE coll.), PRL 126 (2021)

plasma off:



plasma on:



P. Muggli  
F. Batsch

frequency  
 $f = f_{pe}$

growth  
 $W_r > W_{r,seed}$

seed  
→ timing/phase  
reproducible

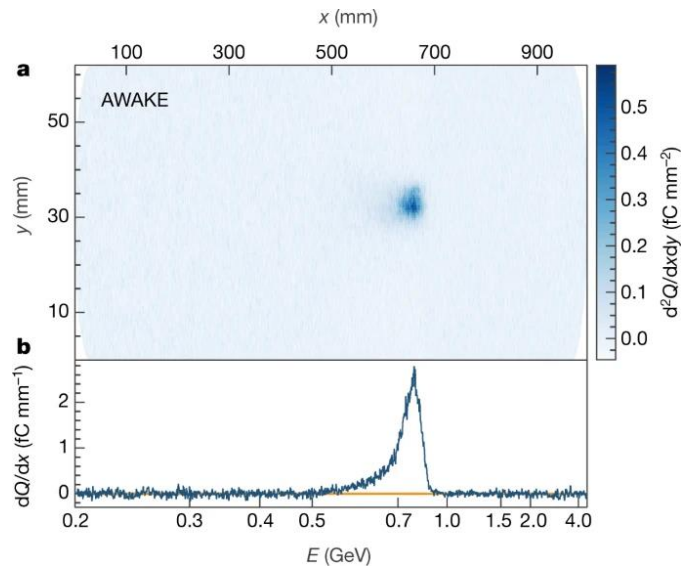
# Proof-of-principle acceleration

external injection

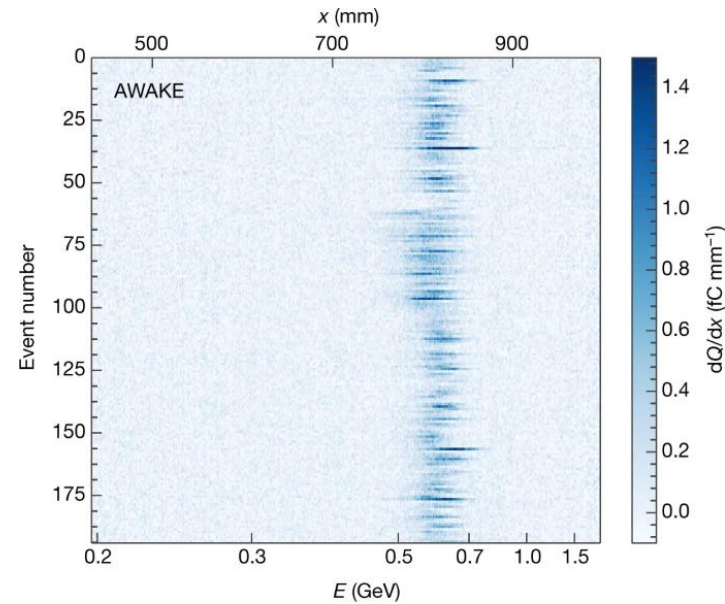
AWAKE Collaboration, Nature 2018

## electrons accelerated

- finite energy spread

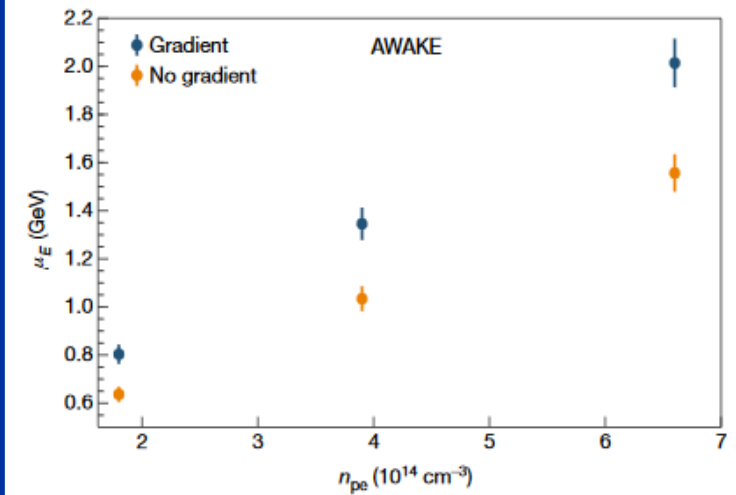


## acceleration repeatable



## plasma density scaling

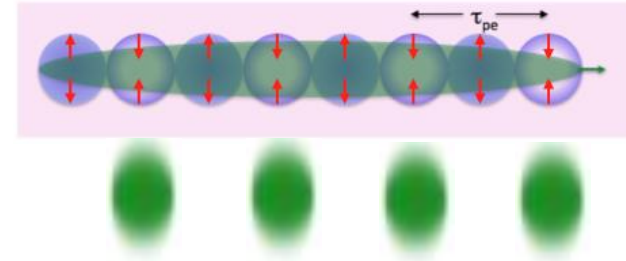
- increasing with increasing  $n_{pe}$
- +20% higher energy with gradient



# Challenge: controlling SM

to the level, where it can be used in an accelerator

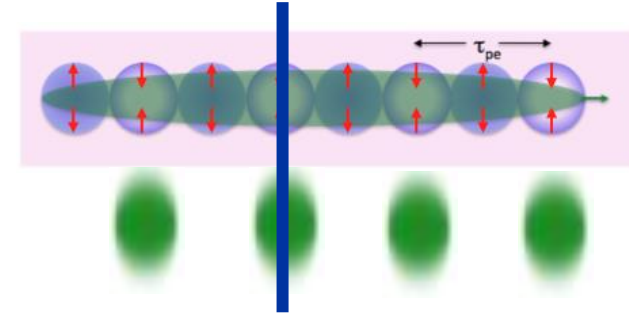
- **transverse** wakefields dominate the SM process ( $p_{p+,r} \sim 400$  MeV)
  - $\Delta\gamma \ll \gamma$ ,  $\rightarrow \Delta L = (1/\gamma^2) (\Delta\gamma/\gamma) L < \lambda_{pe} \rightarrow$  negligible longitudinal evolution of  $p_{p+,z} \sim 400$  GeV bunch



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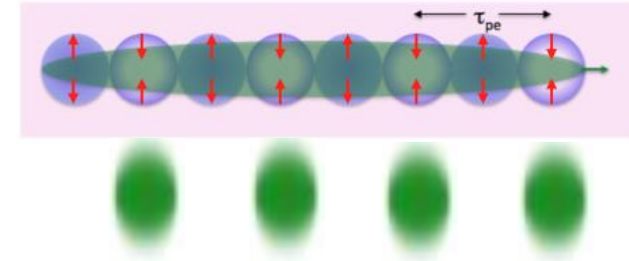
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- **self-evolving**: SM instability  $\rightarrow$  convective process
  - $v_{ph}$  of the wakefields is evolving  $\rightarrow$  driver slices experiences different fields at different times



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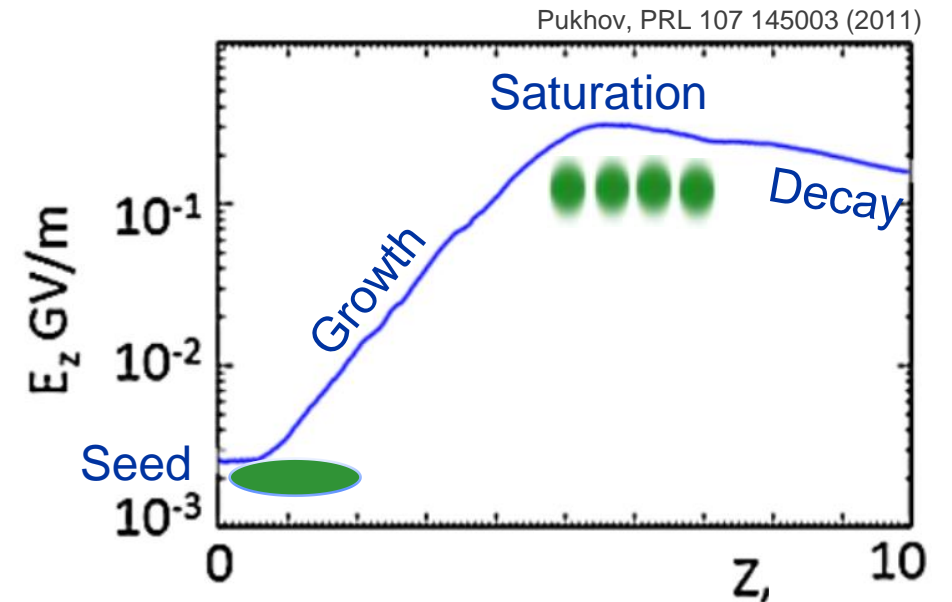
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- **self-evolving:** SM instability  $\rightarrow$  convective process
  - $v_{ph}$  of the wakefields is evolving  $\rightarrow$  driver slices experiences different fields at different times

- **wakefield amplitude**  $\rightarrow$  defined by driver
  - driver evolves  $\rightarrow$  amplitude evolves

$\rightarrow$  understand, control, tune the process



# Outline

## ➤ Latest AWAKE physics results

- discharge plasma source
  - wakefield growth, ion motion, filamentation instability
- rubidium vapor source
  - amplitude stability, self-modulation instability suppression

## ➤ AWAKE's progress toward particle physics applications

- rubidium vapor source with plasma density step
- approved AWAKE Run 2c/d programs

## ➤ Summary and conclusions



# Discharge plasma source

talk + poster by  
C. Amoedo, WG3

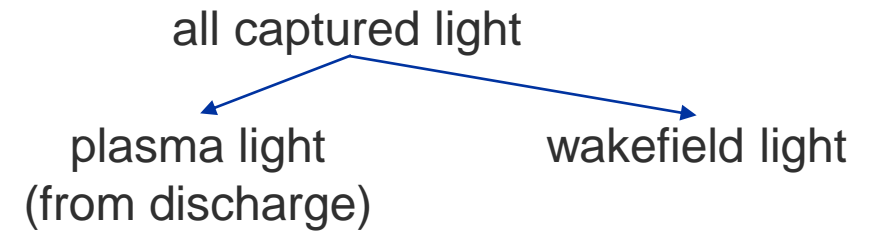
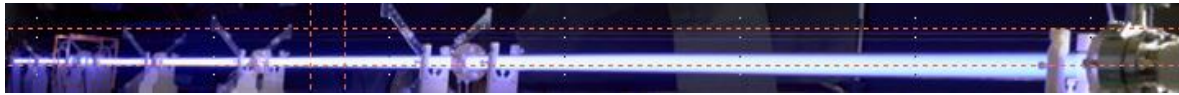
- **scalable** (50-200m) plasma source technology



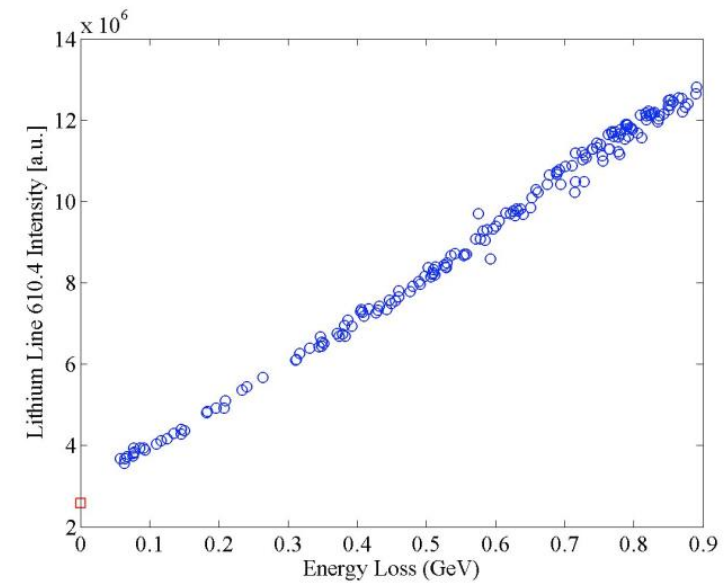
Collaboration between IST and CERN

# Plasma light shows wakefield growth

Poster by  
J. Mezger



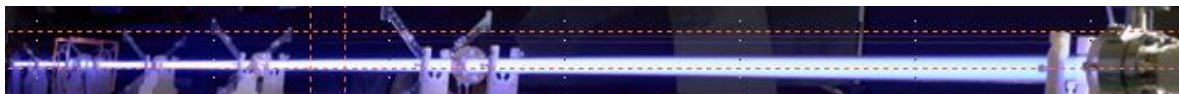
**expectation:** wakefield light  $\leftrightarrow$  energy deposited



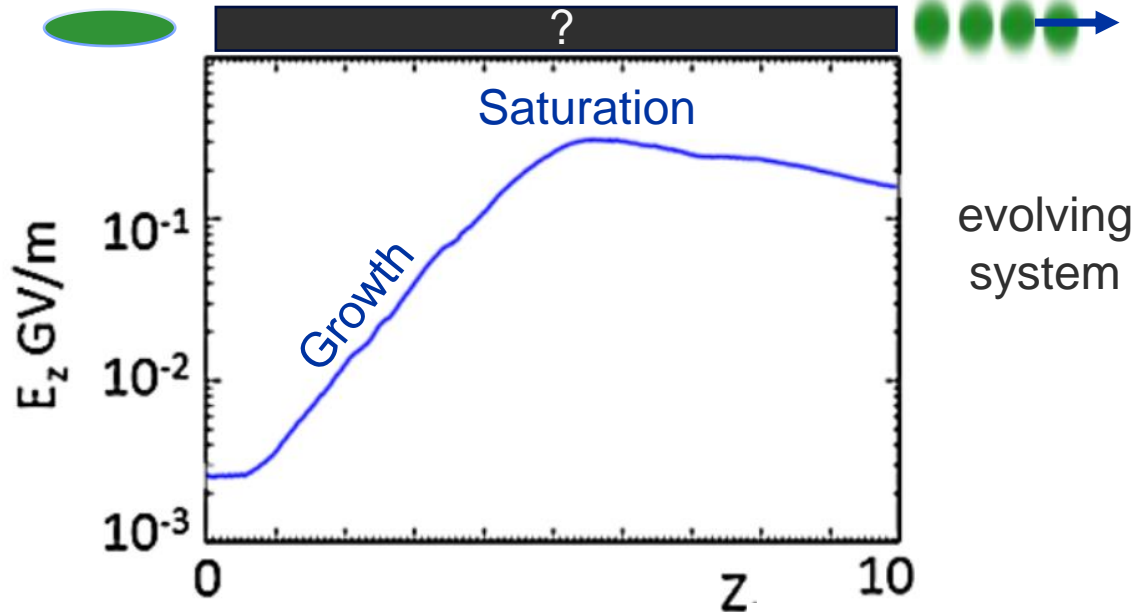
E. Oz, AIP Conf. Proc. 737, 708 (2004)

# Plasma light shows wakefield growth

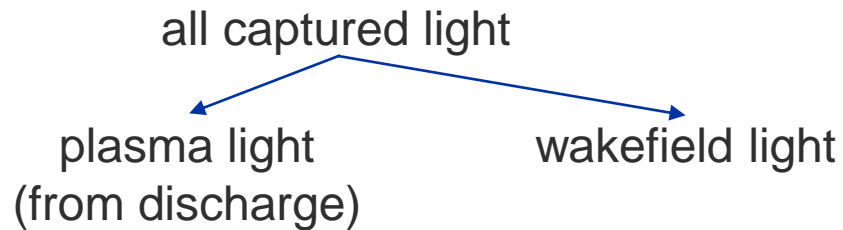
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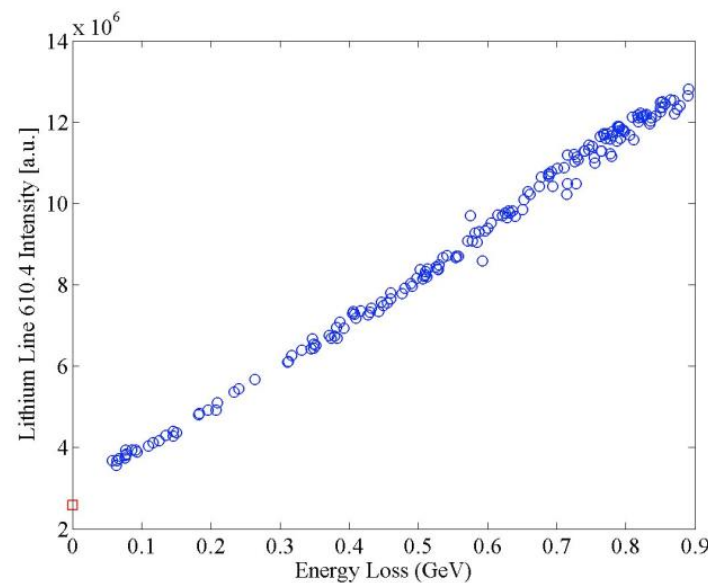
**idea:** wakefield light → show development of self-modulation?



Pukhov, PRL 107 145003 (2011)



**expectation:** wakefield light ↔ energy deposited

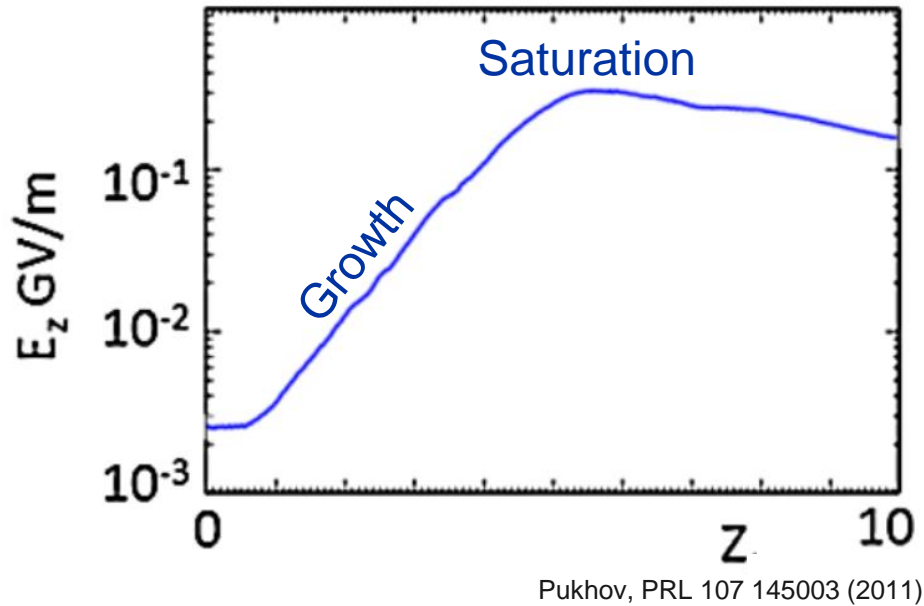
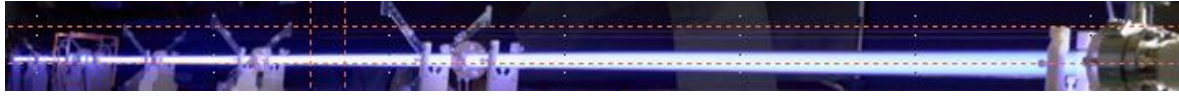


demonstrated  
in non-  
evolving  
system

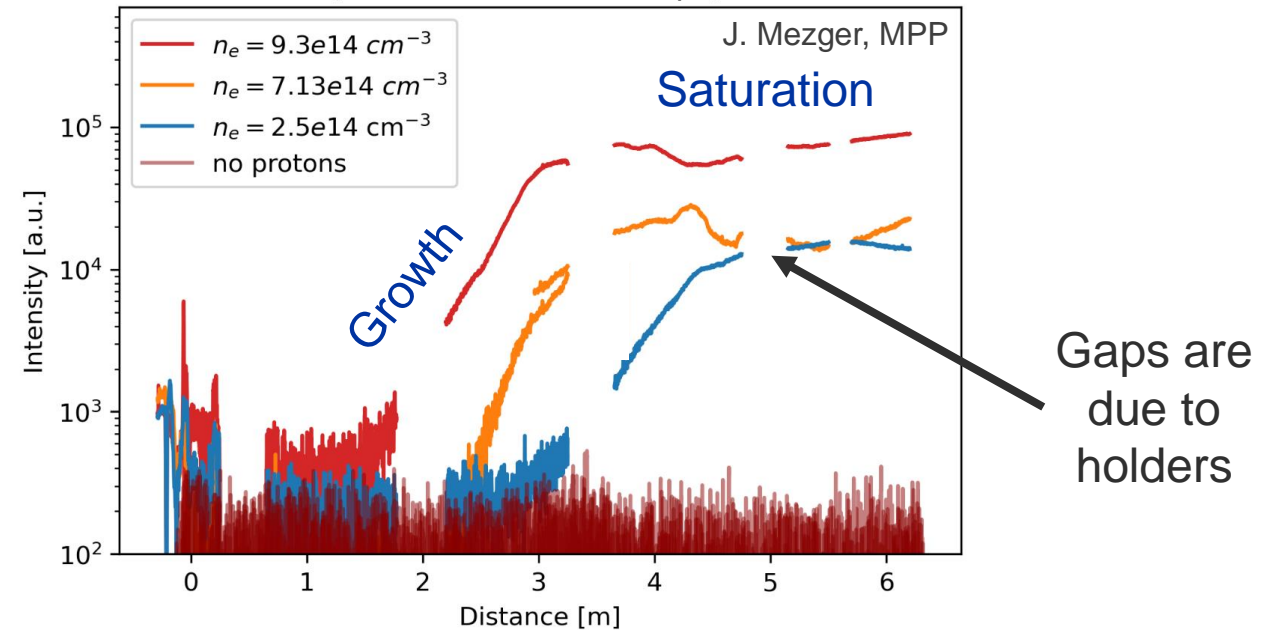
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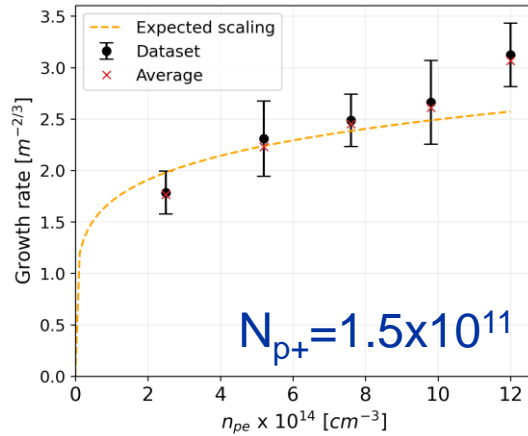
- observed growth
- increases with  $n_{pe}$



# Plasma light shows wakefield growth

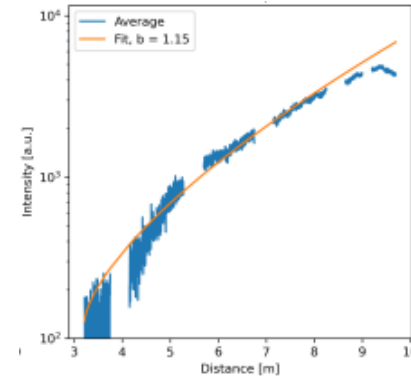
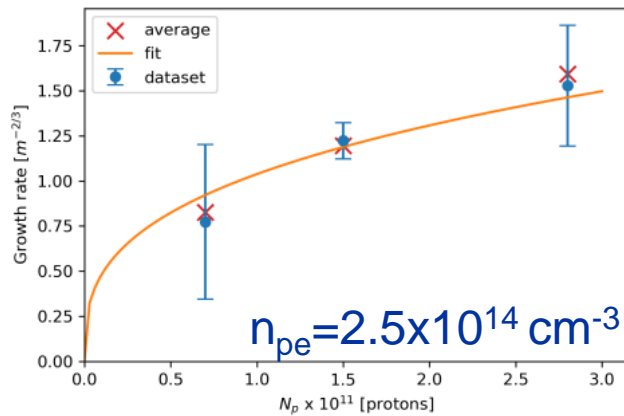
Poster by  
J. Mezger

- $\Gamma$  consistent with  $n_{pe}^{1/6}$  scaling



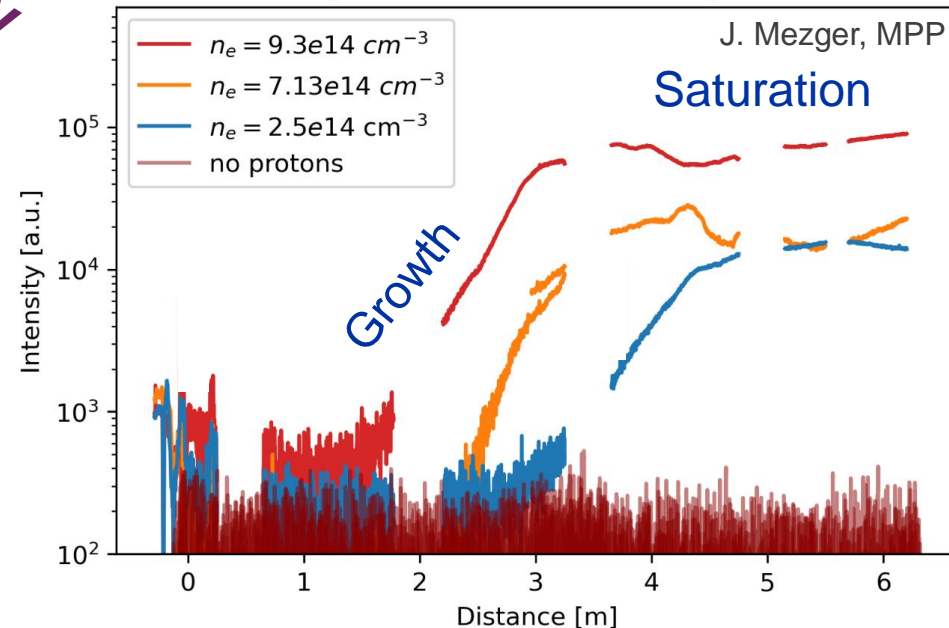
preliminary

- $\Gamma$  consistent with  $n_{b0}^{1/3}$  scaling



- fit growth rate  $\Gamma$

$$\Gamma = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} \omega_{pe} \left( \frac{n_{b0} m_e}{2n_{pe} m_p \gamma ct} \xi \right)^{1/3}$$

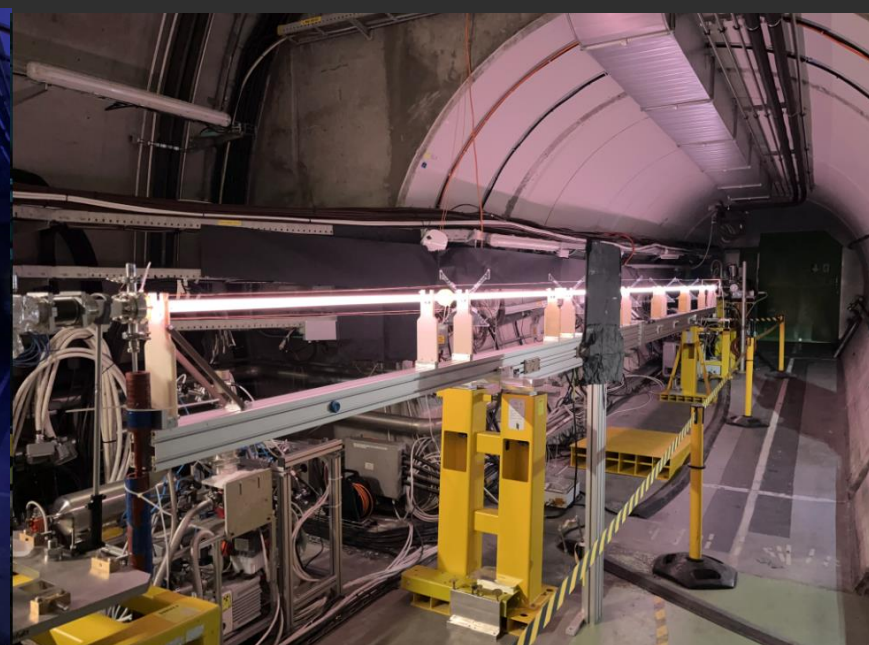
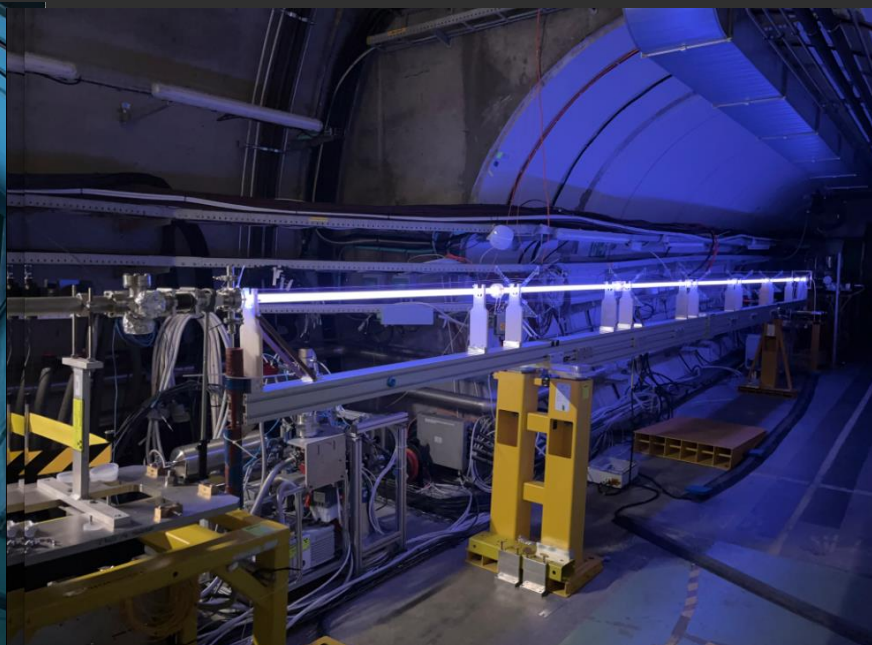
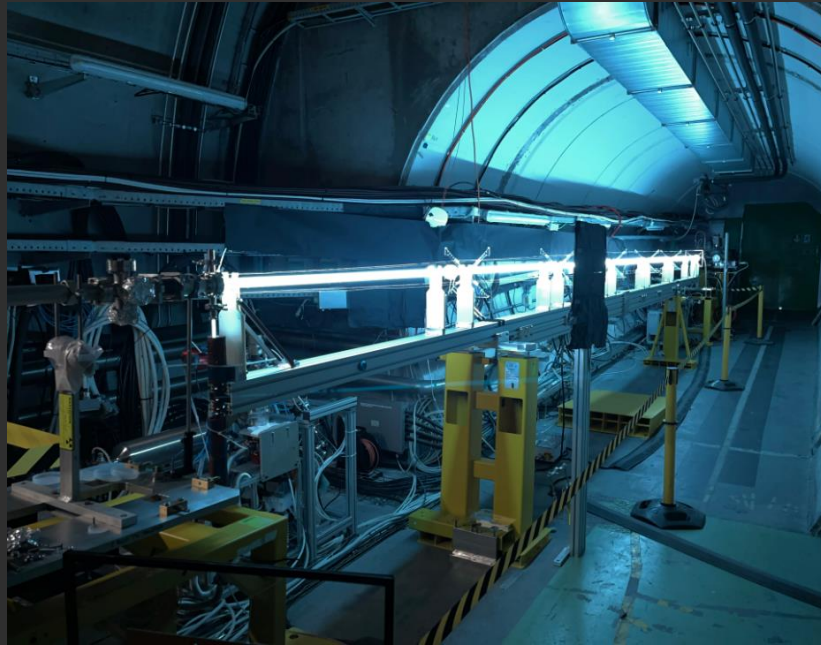


→ First time one sees SM evolution along the plasma

xenon  
 $A=131$

argon  
 $A = 40$

helium  
 $A = 4$



# Motion of plasma ions

- broad interest:
  - uniform ion column → linear focusing force

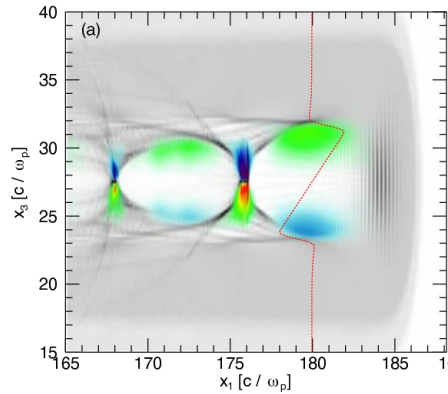


Image from [Vieira, J. et al - arXiv:1607.03514](#)

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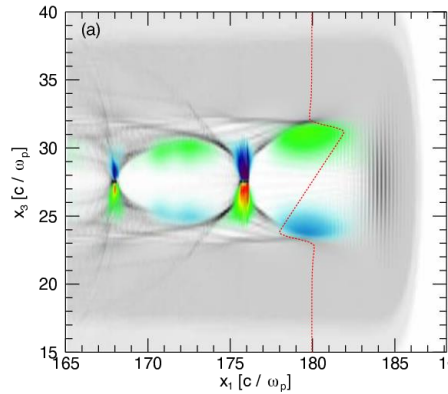
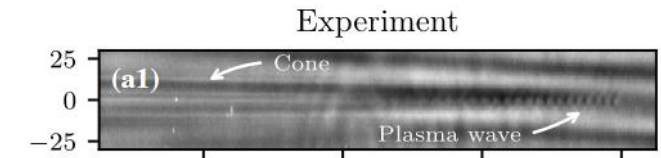


Image from [Vieira, J. et al - arXiv:1607.03514](#)

- motion of ions:
  - nonlinear focusing force
  - emittance growth
    - J. B. Rosenzweig et al., PRL 2005
    - Weiming An, et al., PRL 2017
- suggested to detune hosing resonance
  - T. J. Mehrling, et al, PRL 2018



# Motion of plasma ions



M. F. Gilljohann, et al., Phys. Rev. X 9, 011046

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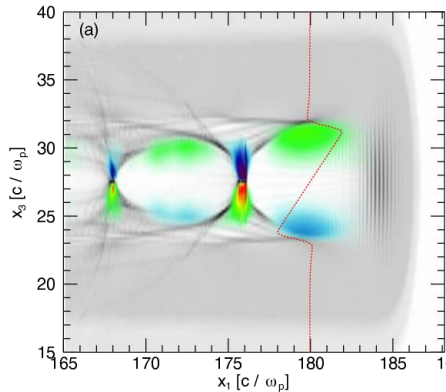


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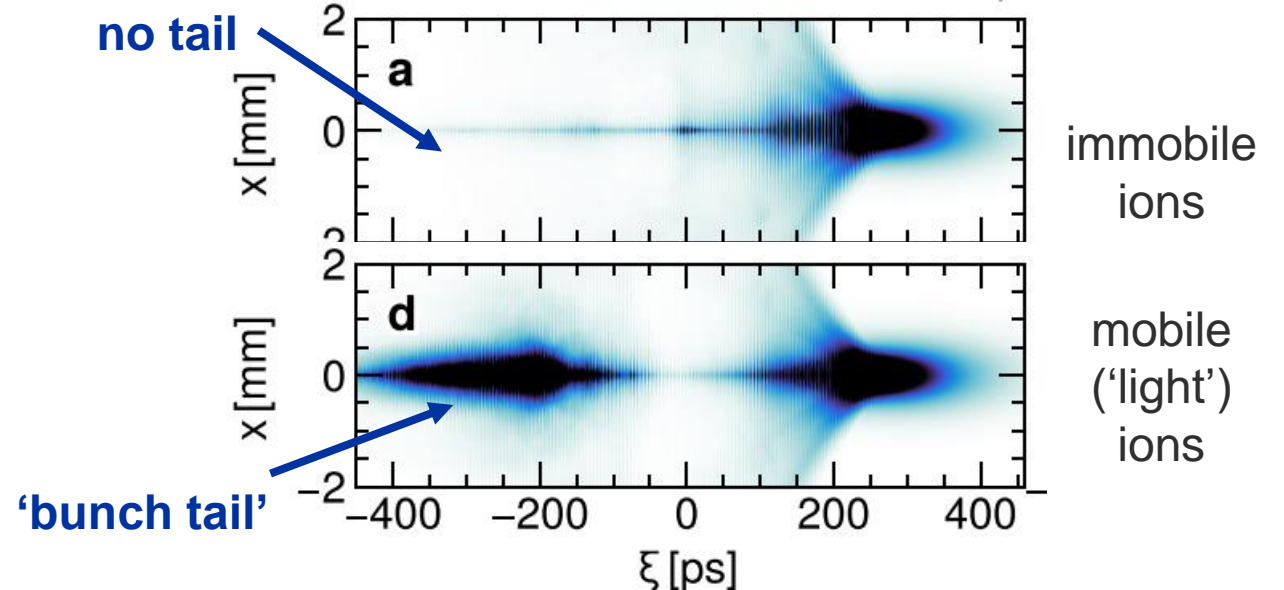
T. J. Mehrling, et al, PRL 2018

- motion of ions caused by:
  - fields of the driver
  - fields of the witness
  - **ponderomotive force of the wakefields**

$$F_p \cong -\frac{e^2}{4m_e\omega_{pe}^2} \nabla \tilde{W}_r^2$$

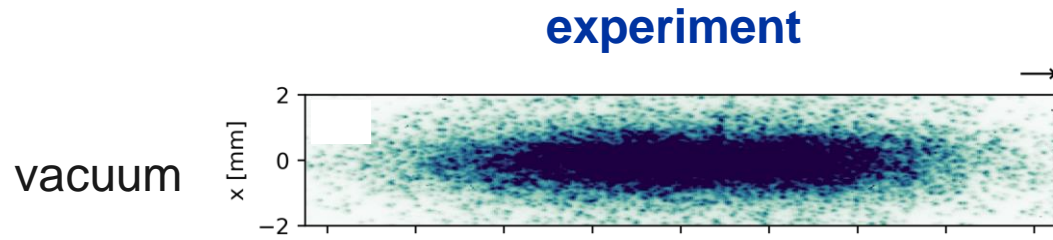
- long bunch and SM (simulations)
  - formation of bunch tail

J. Vieira, et al., PRL, 2012  
J. Vieira, et al., PoP, 2014  
L. M. Gorbunov, et al., PoP, 2003



# Motion of plasma ions

M. Turner, (AWAKE Collaboration),  
submitted

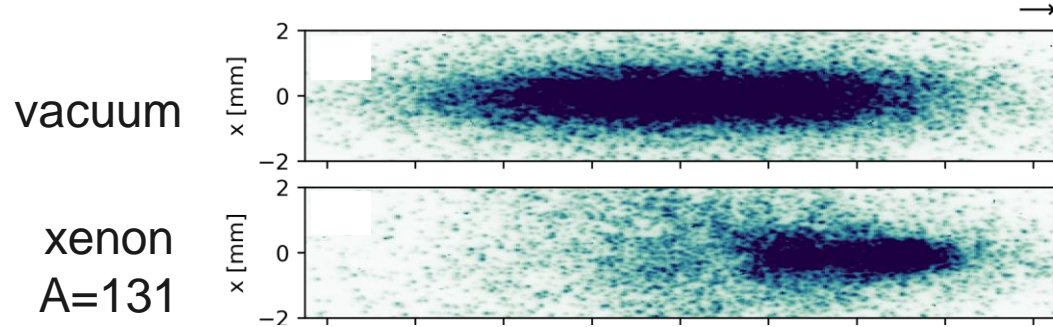


simulations

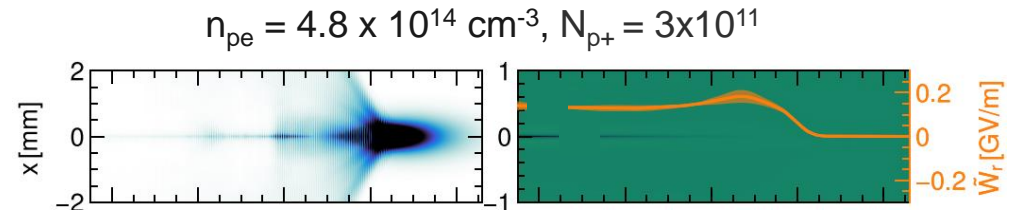
# Motion of plasma ions

M. Turner, (AWAKE Collaboration),  
submitted

## experiment



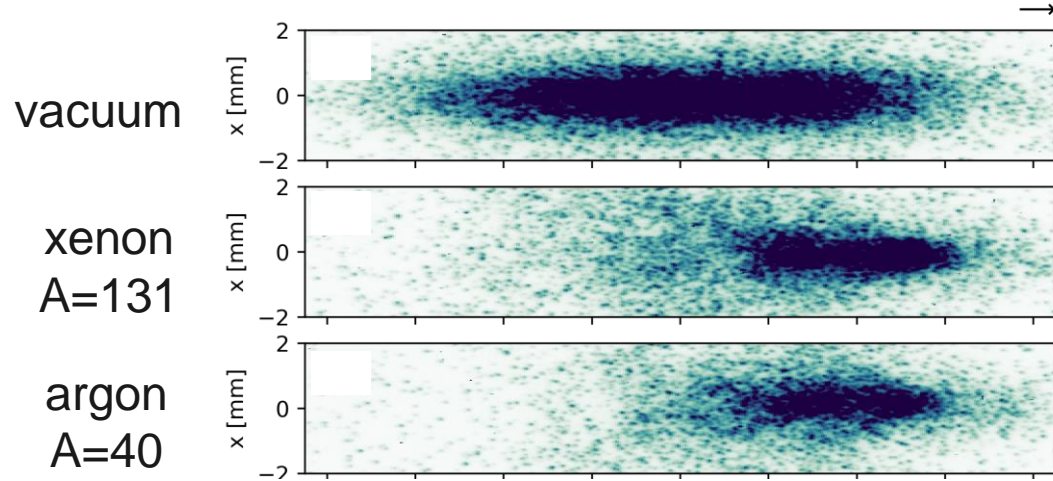
## simulations



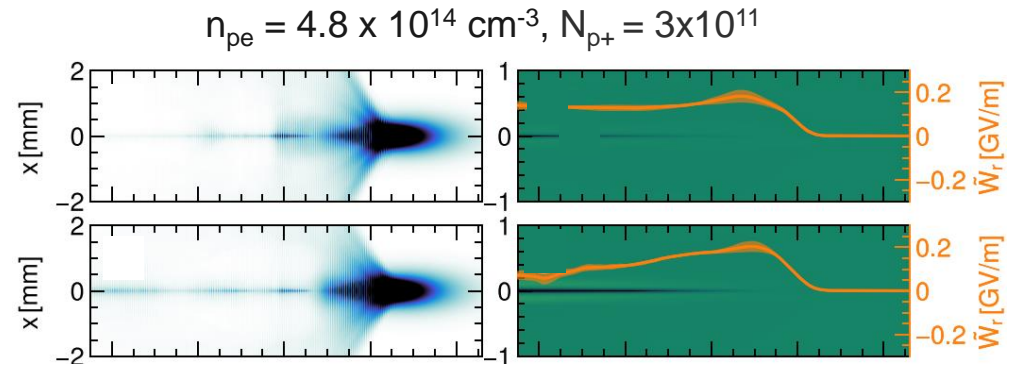
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M. Turner, (AWAKE Collaboration),  
submitted

experiment

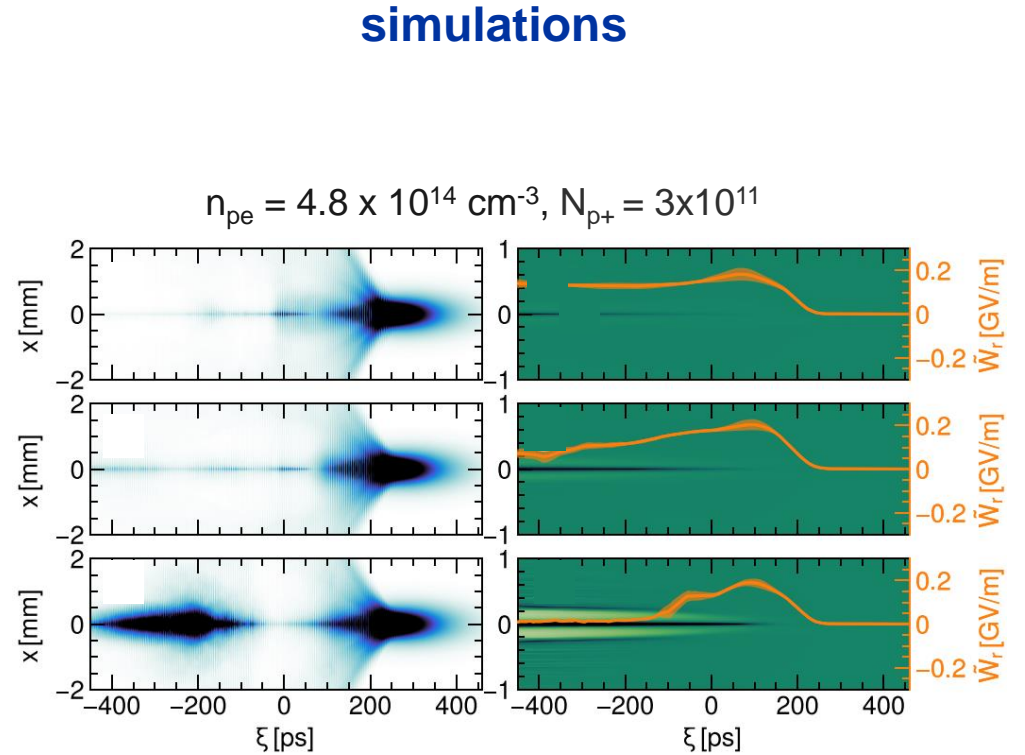
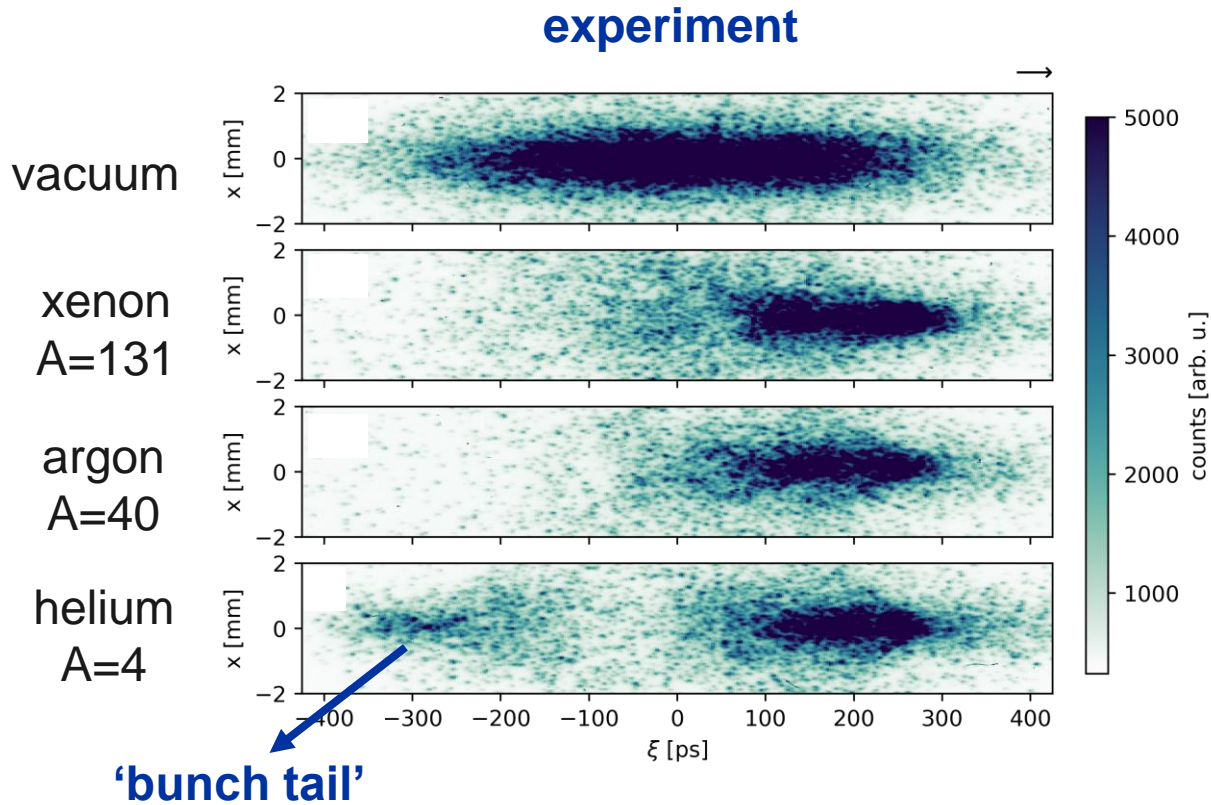


simulations



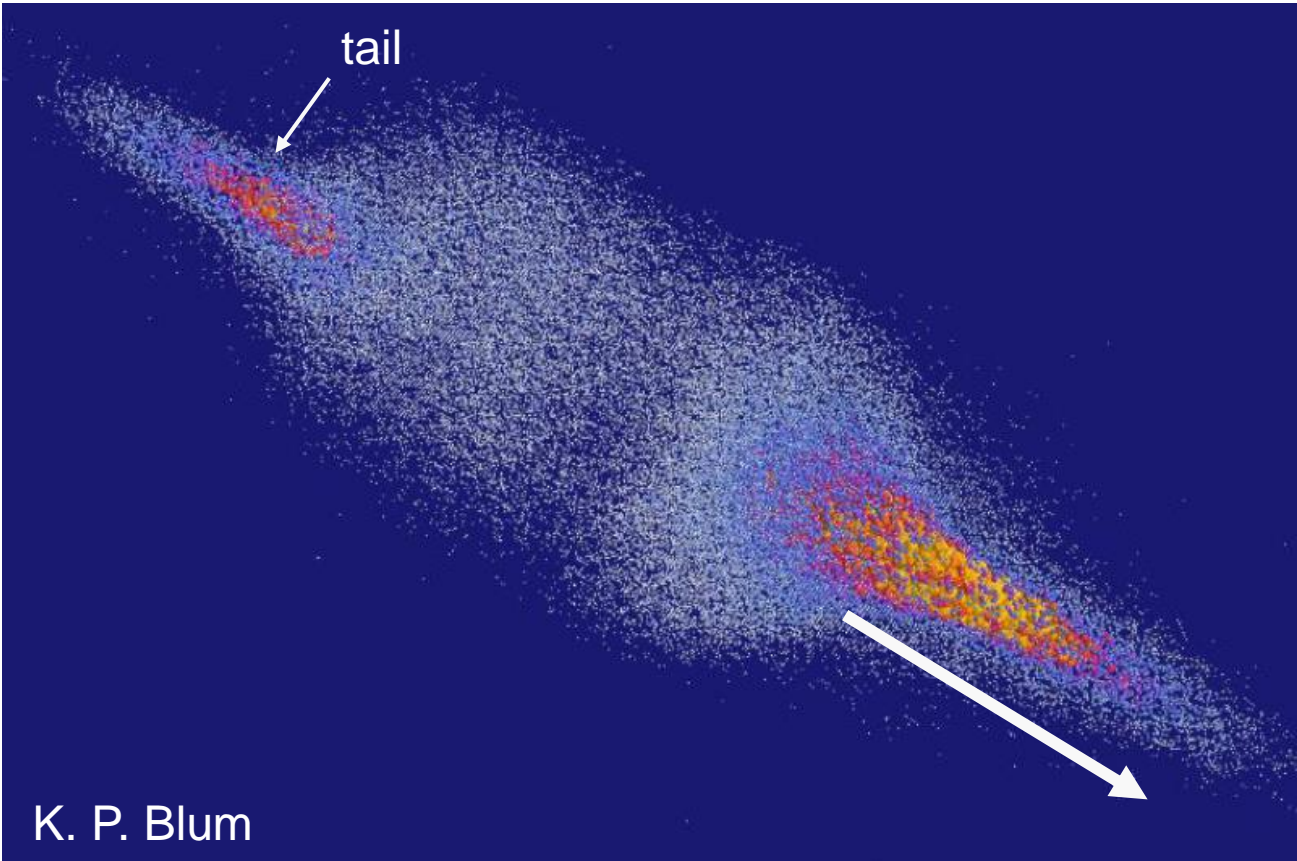
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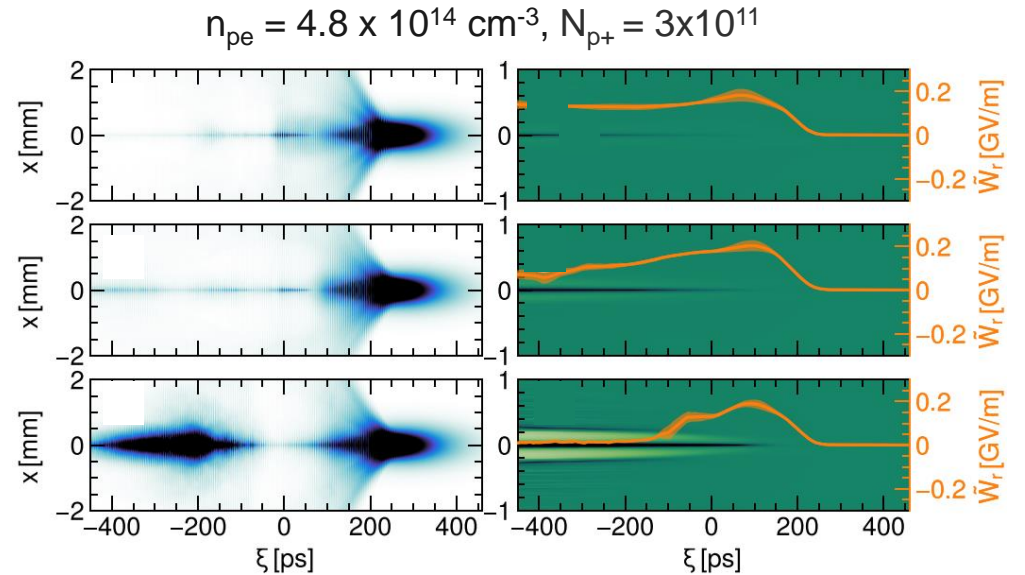


# Motion of plasma ions

M. Turner, (AWAKE Collaboration),  
submitted



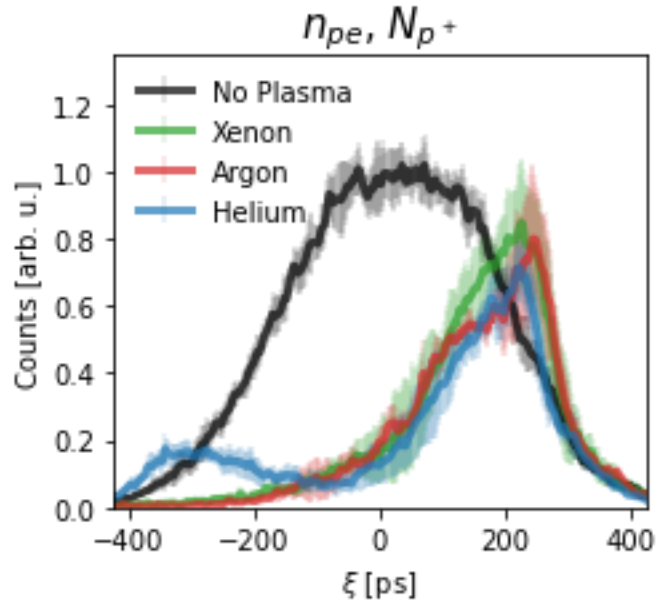
## simulations



- bunch tail observed, reproducible → effect of motion of ions on the bunch
  - at this wakefield amplitude ( $n_{pe}$  and  $N_{p+}$ ) only with helium
- confirms expected inverse mass dependency

# Scaling with wakefield amplitude

M. Turner, (AWAKE Collaboration),  
submitted

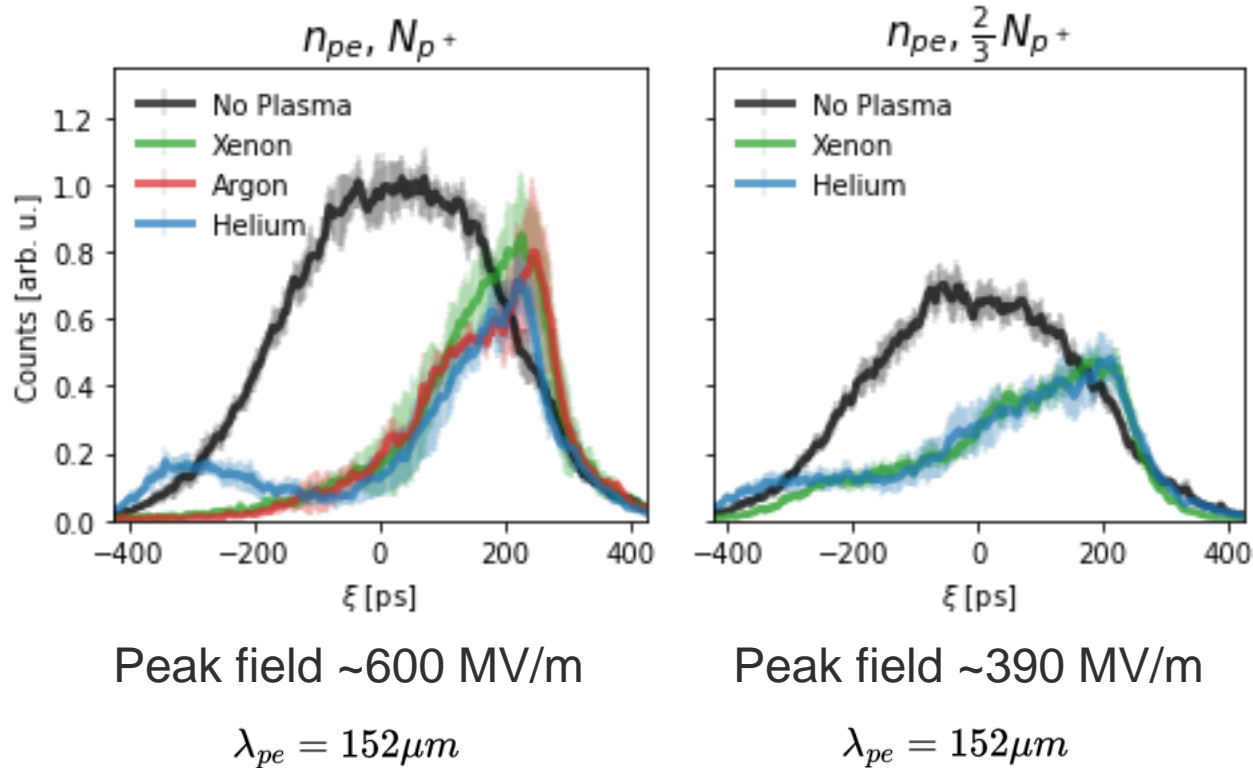


Peak field  $\sim 600$  MV/m

$$\lambda_{pe} = 152 \mu m$$

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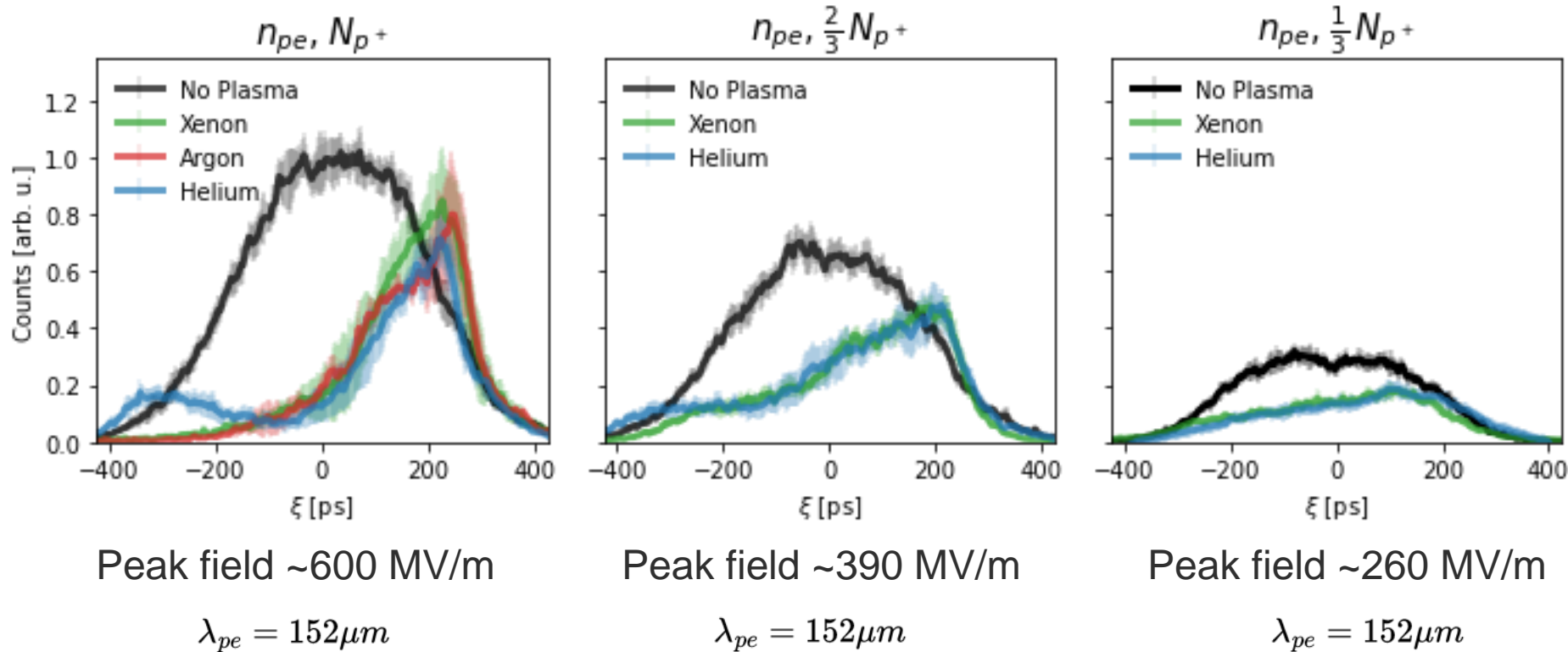
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submitted





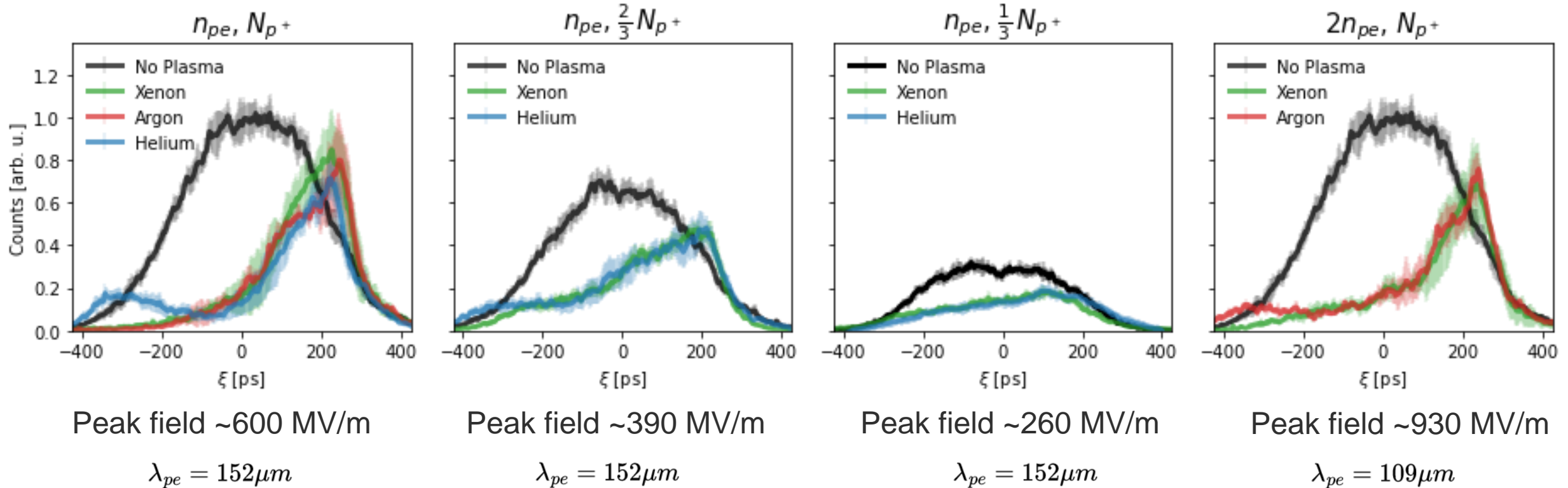
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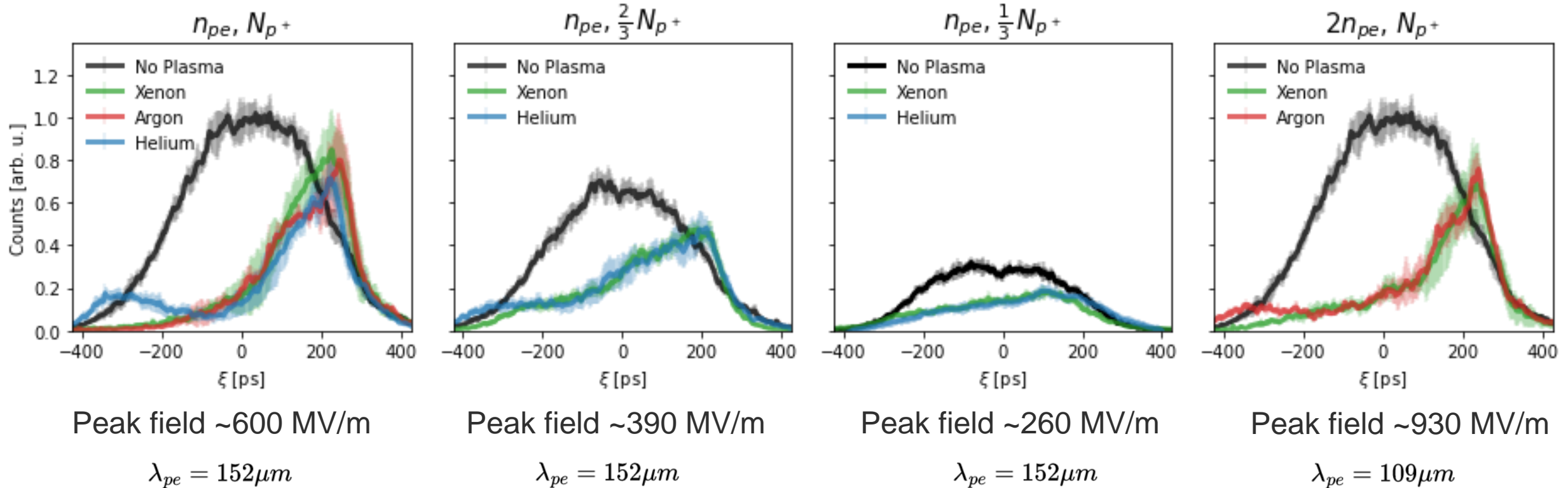
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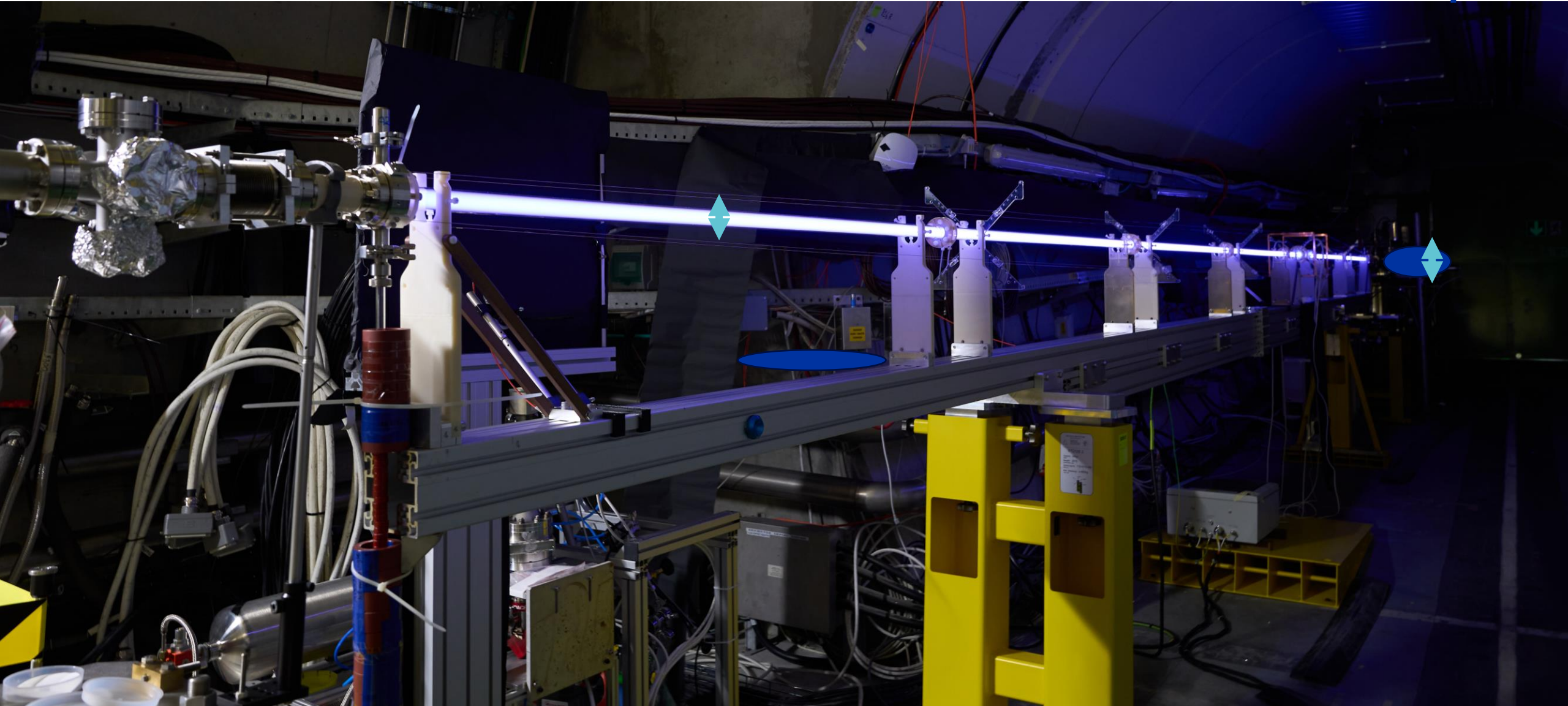
# Scaling with wakefield amplitude

M. Turner, (AWAKE Collaboration),  
submitted



- effect also scales with wakefield amplitude ( $n_{pe}$  and  $N_{p+}$ )  $F_p \cong -\frac{e^2}{4m_e\omega_{pe}^2} \nabla \tilde{W}_r^2$
- important validation of the model/scalings that will be used to inform collider designs

# Wide plasma ( $\sim\text{cm}$ ) + wide proton bunch ( $\sigma_{r0} \gg c/\omega_{pe}$ )



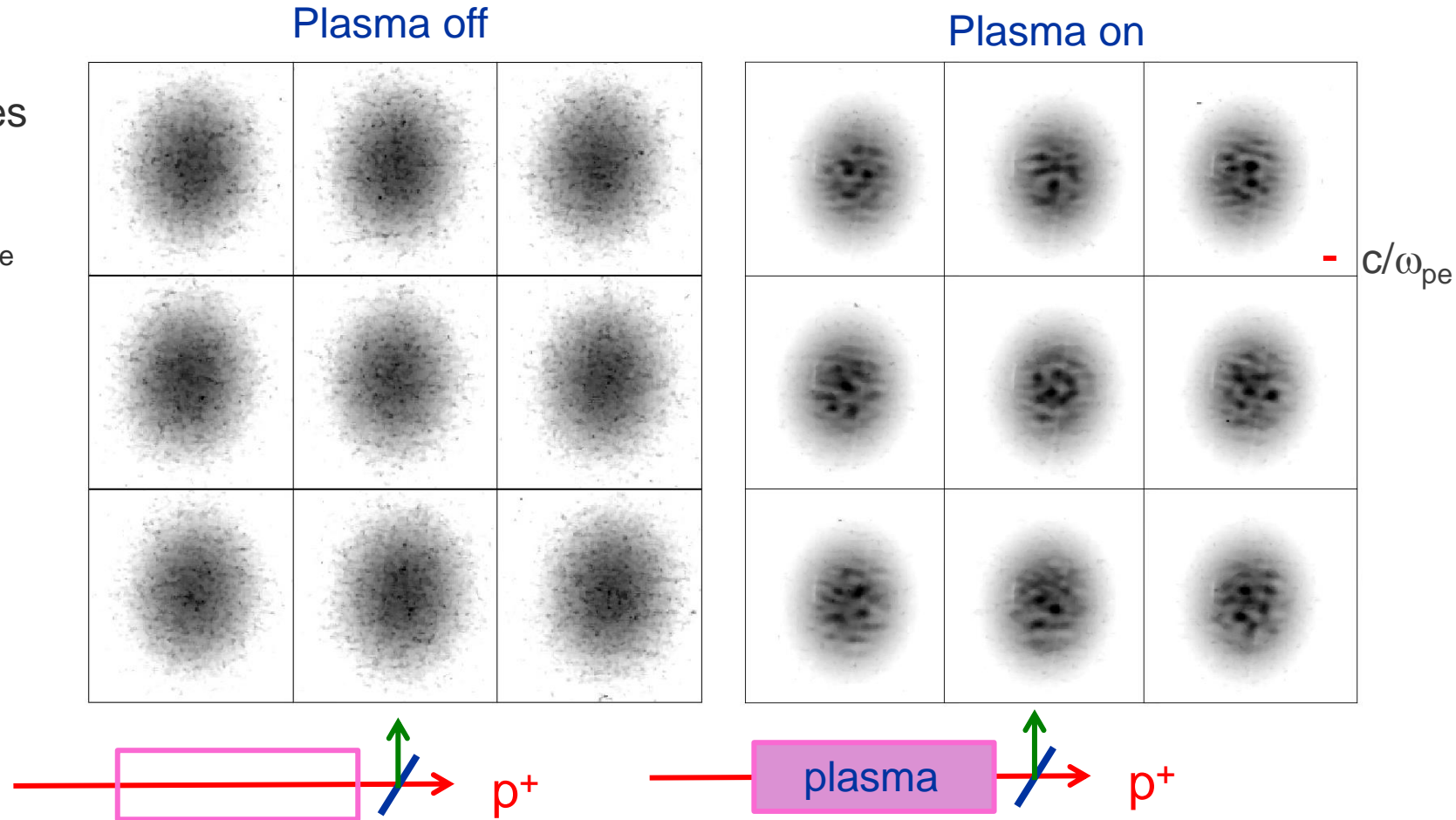
# Filamentation instability

'Astrophysics in the lab'

- $\sigma_{r0} < c/\omega_{pe}$ : optimum for wakefield generation
  - 'one filament'
- $\sigma_{r0} \gg c/\omega_{pe}$ : filamentation instabilities can develop ...
  - observed filaments at the  $c/\omega_{pe}$  scale

Talk by L. Verra, WG3

L. Verra et al., (AWAKE Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. E 109, 055203



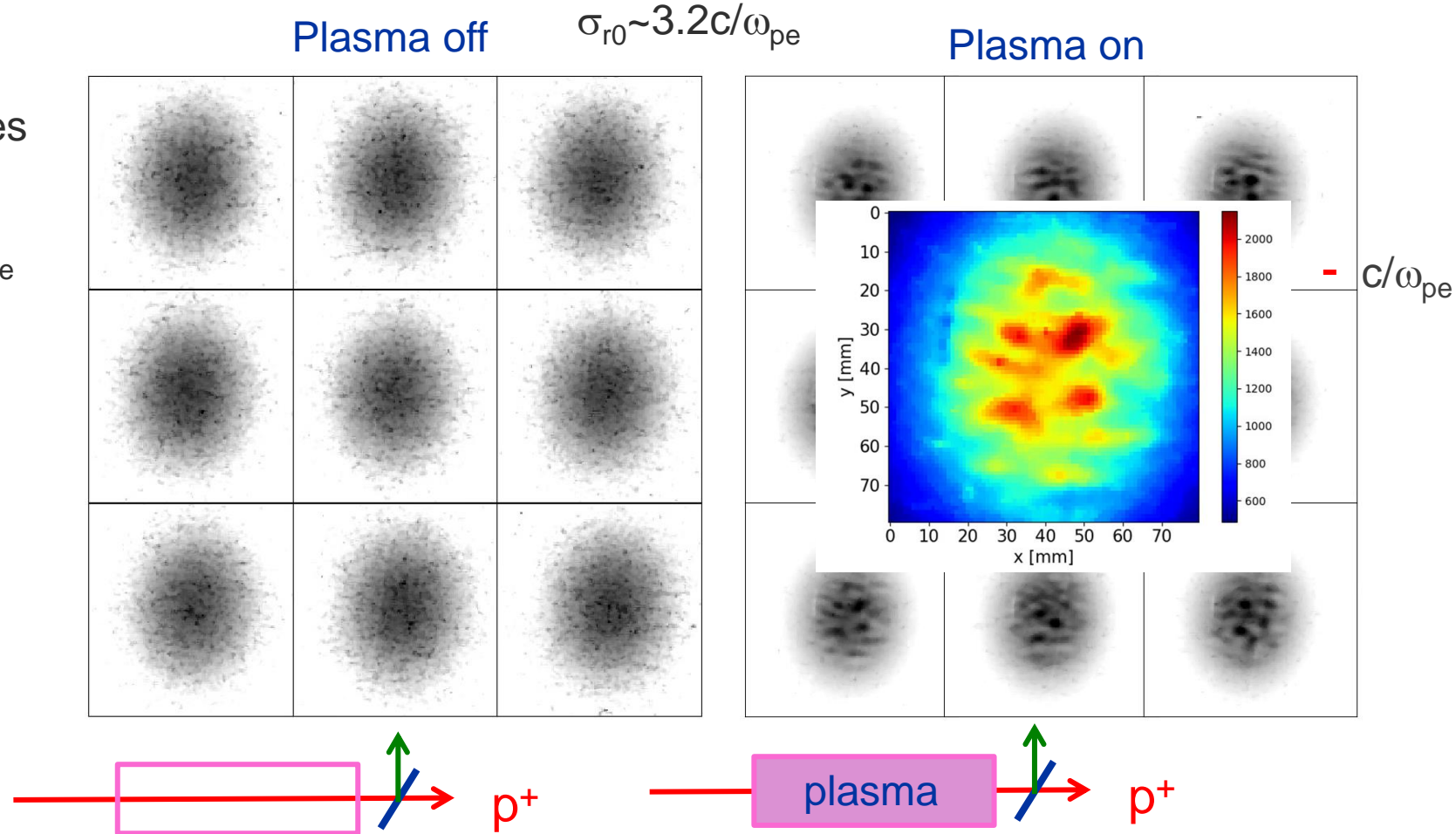
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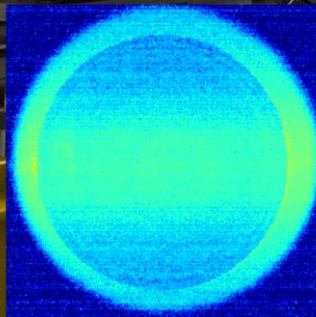
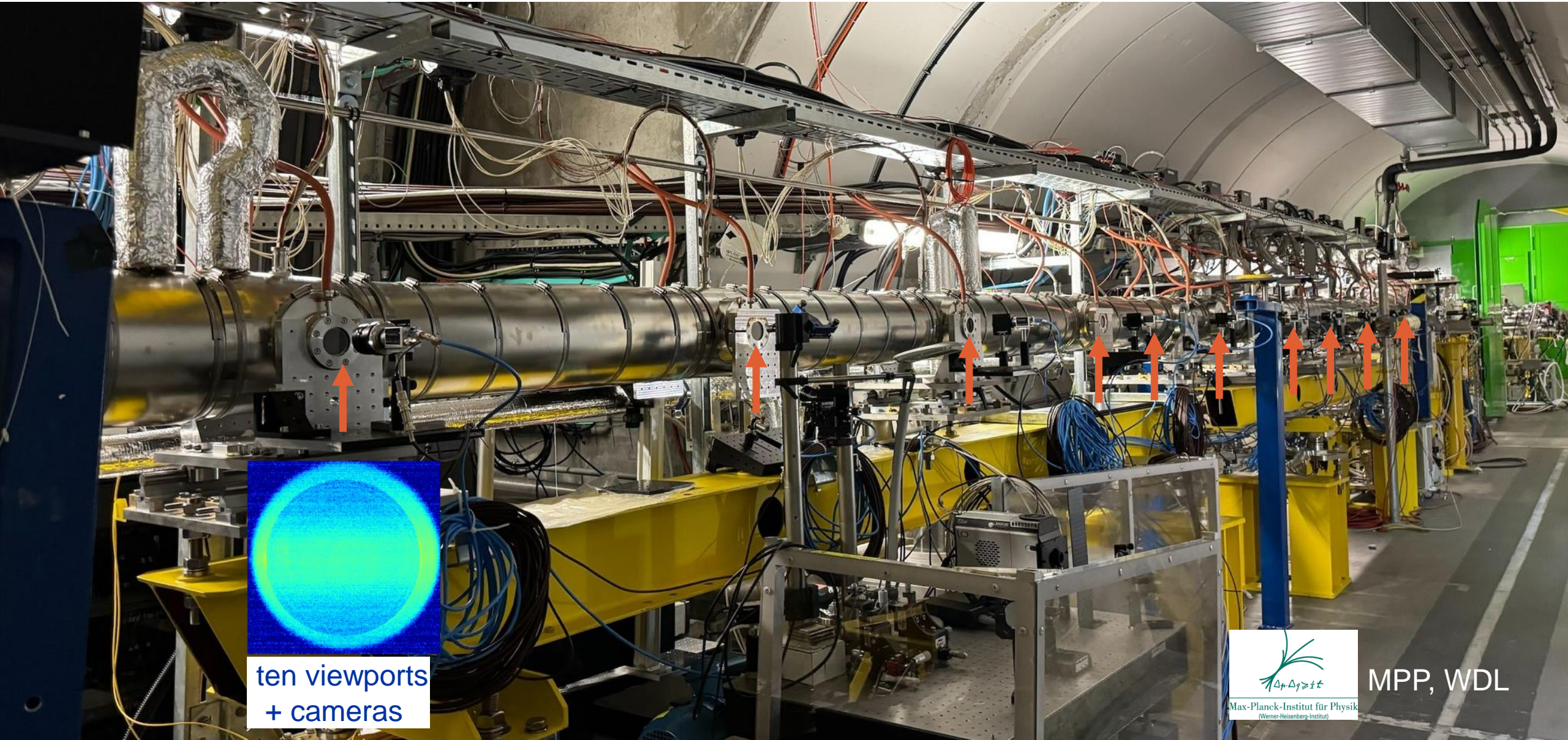
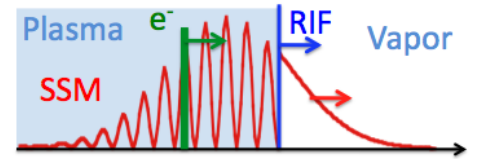
Talk by L. Verra, WG3

L. Verra et al., (AWAKE Collaboration)  
Phys. Rev. E 109, 055203



# Rubidium vapor source

laser ionized  $\rightarrow$  allows for relativistic ionization front (RIF) seeding

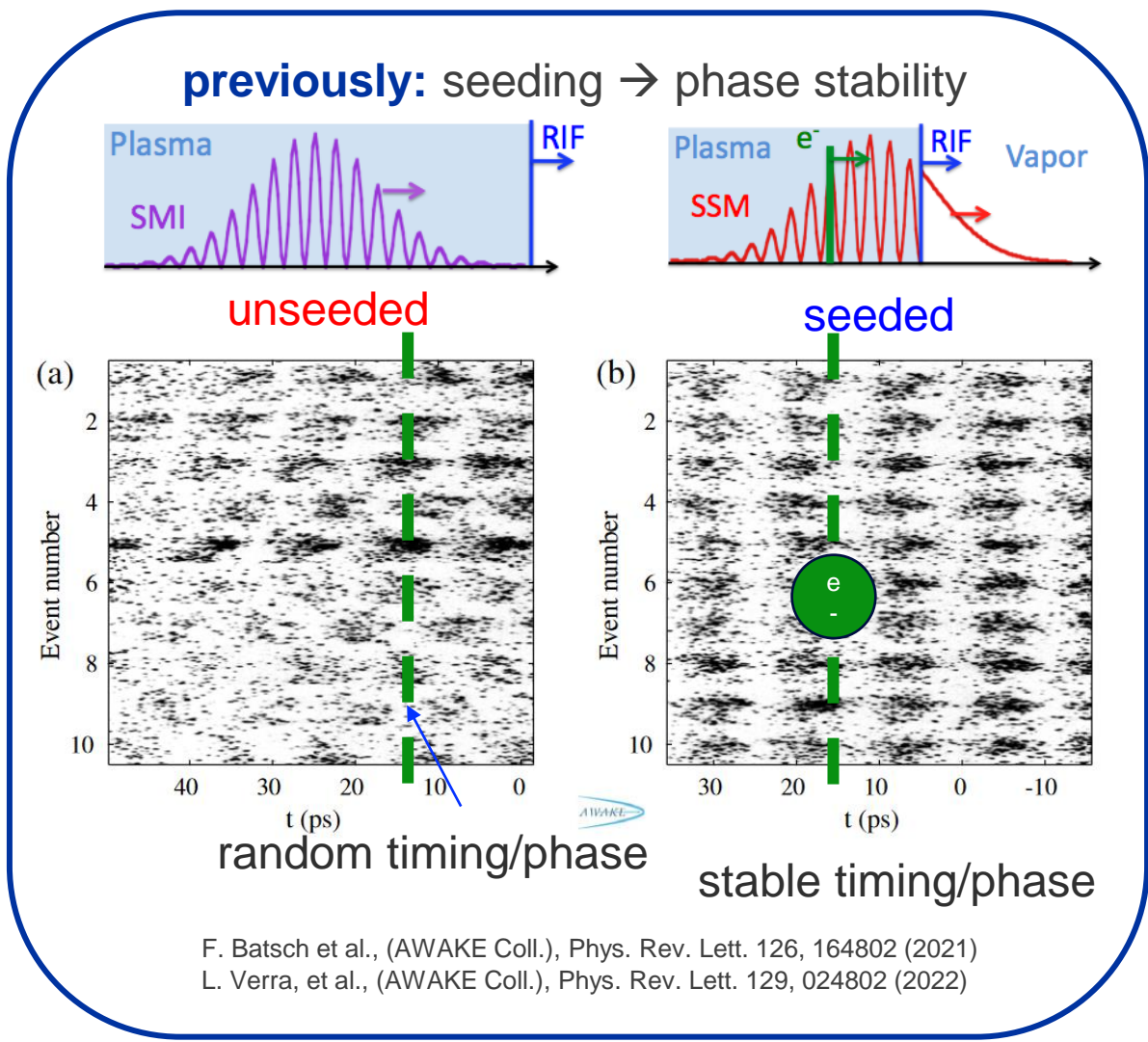


ten viewports  
+ cameras

# Wakefield amplitude reproducibility

Poster by  
A. Clairembaud

To build a reproducible accelerator, the phase and amplitude of the wave must be reproducible



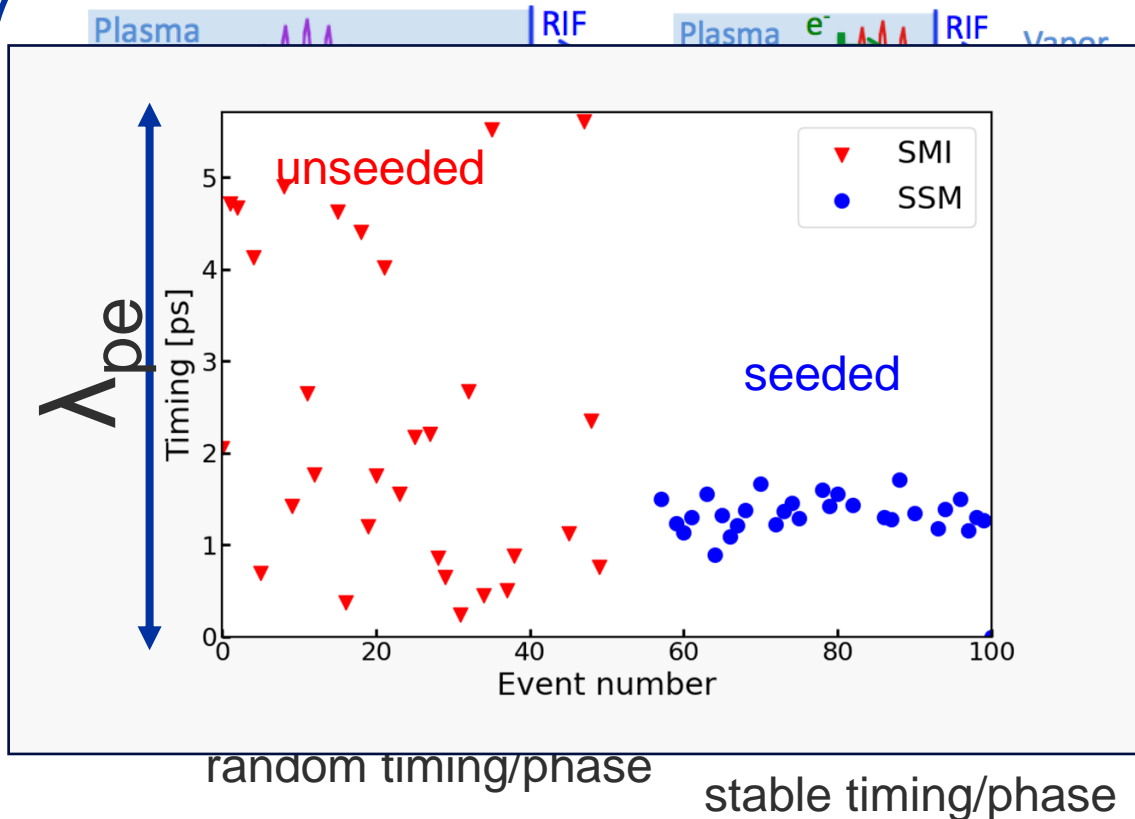


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previously: seeding  $\rightarrow$  phase stability



F. Batsch et al., (AWAKE Coll.), Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 164802 (2021)

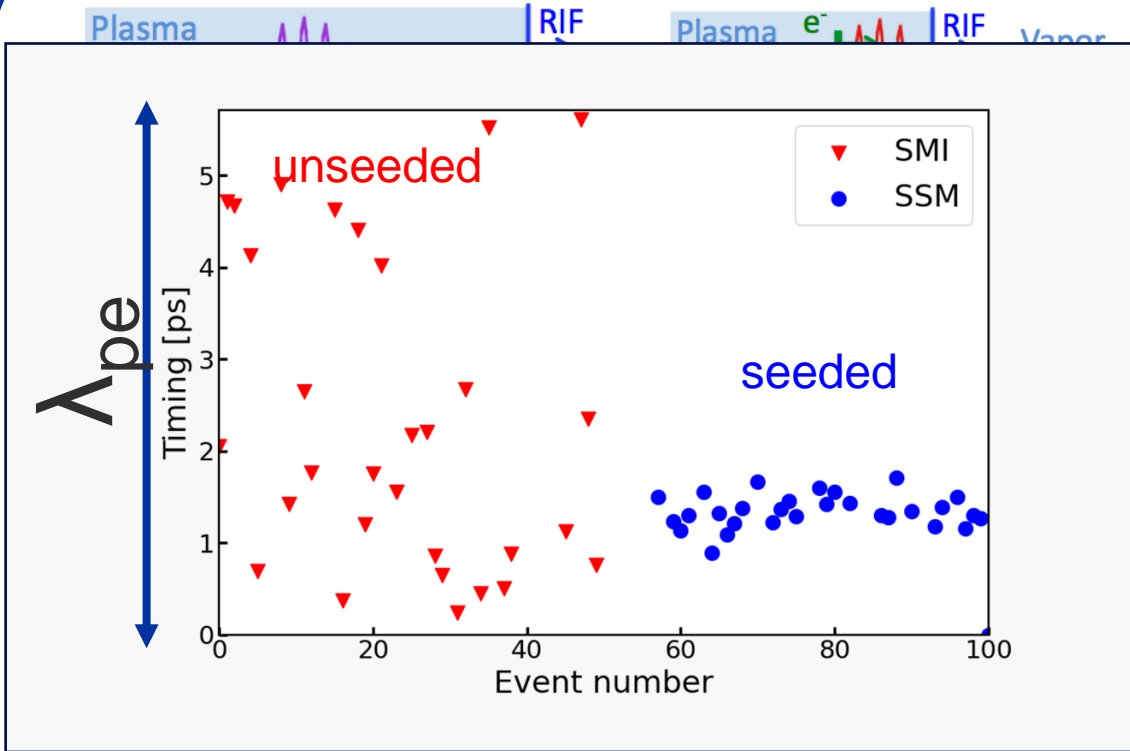
L. Verra, et al., (AWAKE Coll.), Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 024802 (2022)

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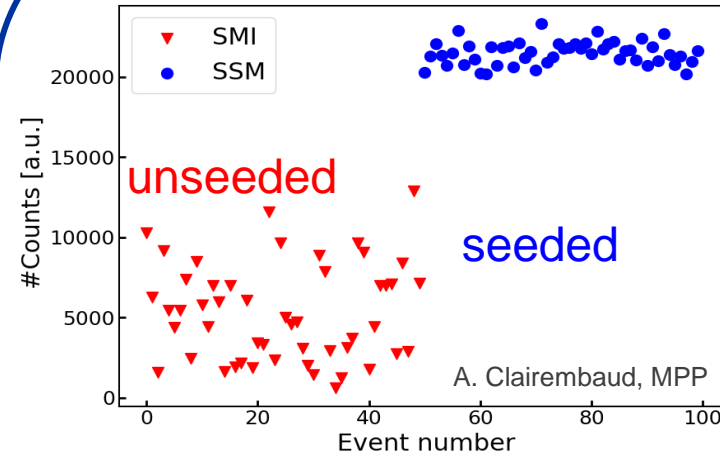


random timing/phase

stable timing/phase

F. Batsch et al., (AWAKE Coll.), Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 164802 (2021)  
L. Verra, et al., (AWAKE Coll.), Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 024802 (2022)

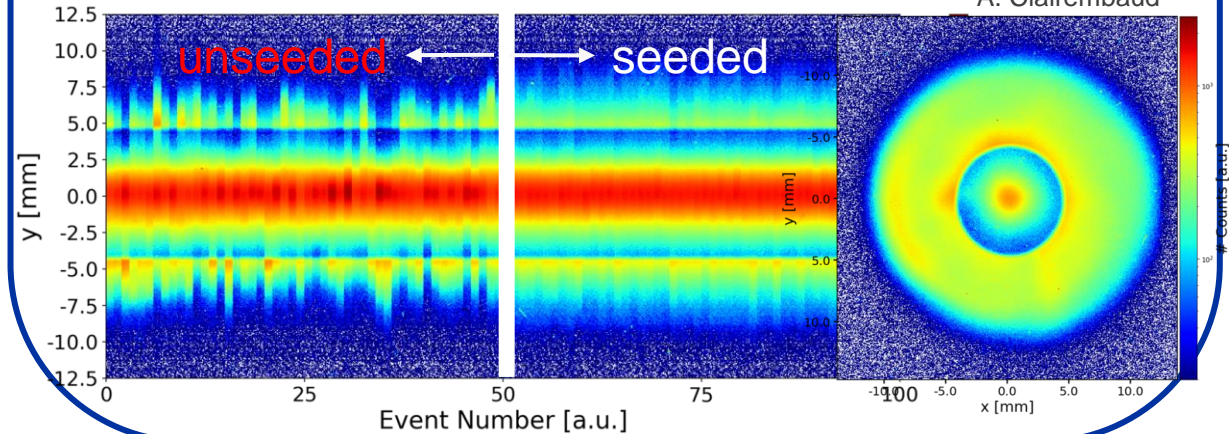
now: seeding  $\rightarrow$  amplitude stability



➤ plasma light and halo more reproducible when SM seeded

*preliminary*

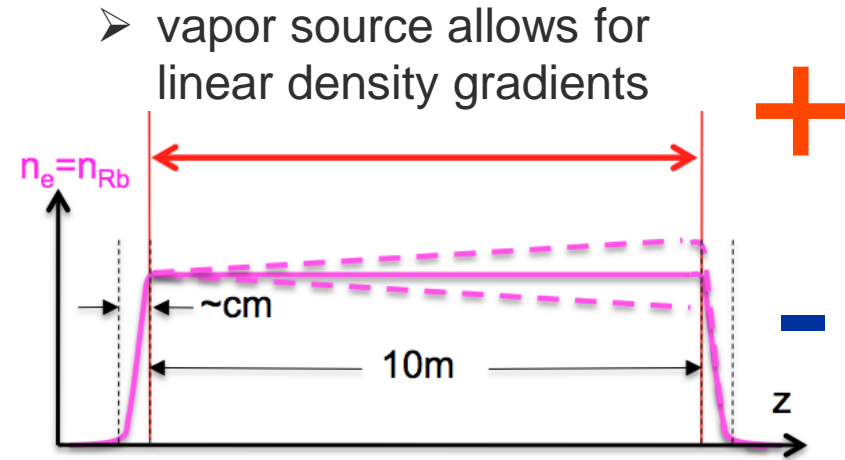
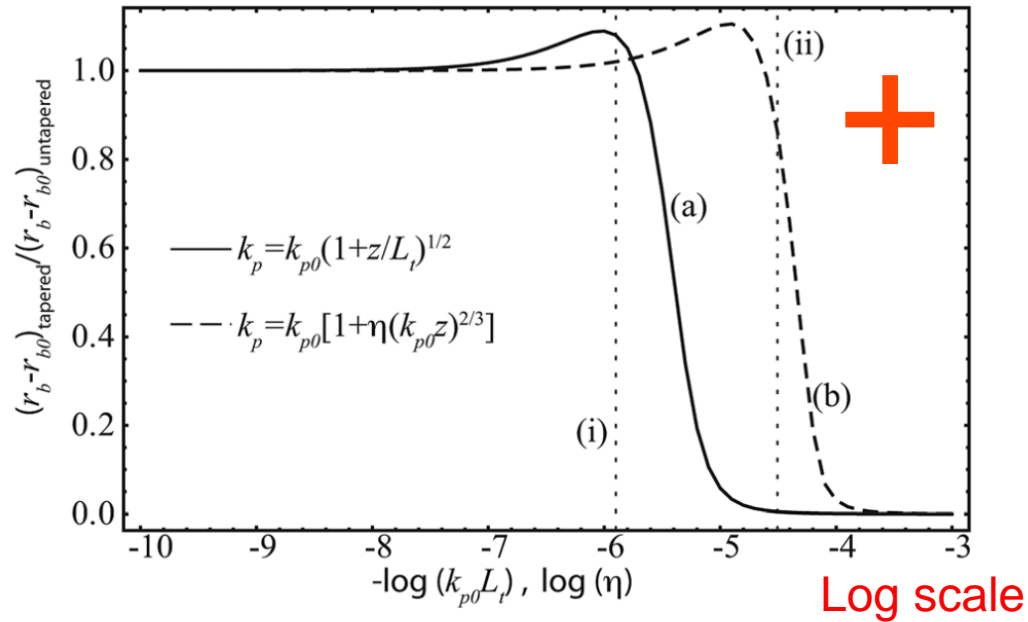
during SM growth defocused protons



# Self-modulation instability suppression

## prediction from theory

C. B. Schroeder, et al., *Phys. Plasmas* 19, 010703 (2012)



- relative radial modulation of the bunch vs. linear density gradient (log scale)
  - SM suppression at large gradient, because resonance is detuned
- ←————→ feedback loop affected

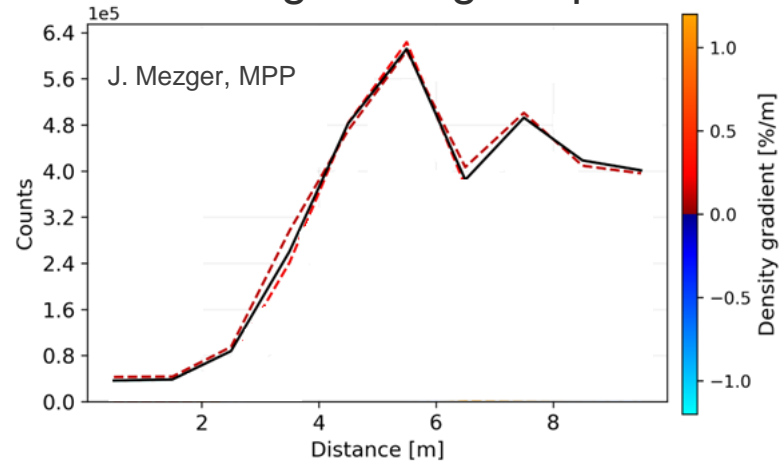
# Self-modulation instability suppression

Poster by  
J. Mezger

**prediction from theory:** positive gradients **suppress** the development of the SM

C. B. Schroeder, et al.,  
*Phys. Plasmas* 19, 010703 (2012)

wakefield light along the plasma



preliminary

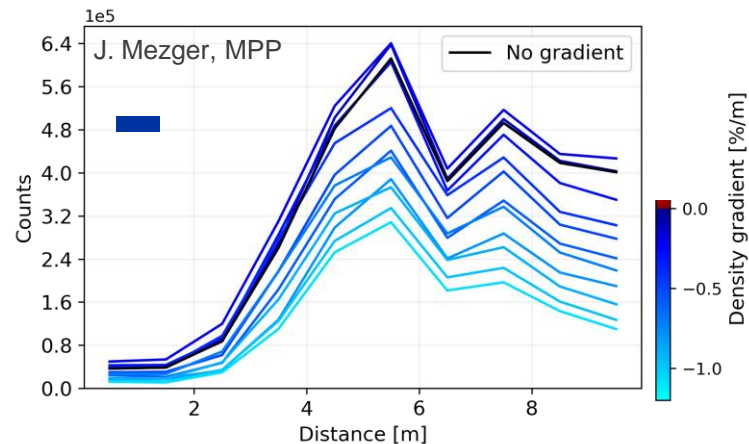
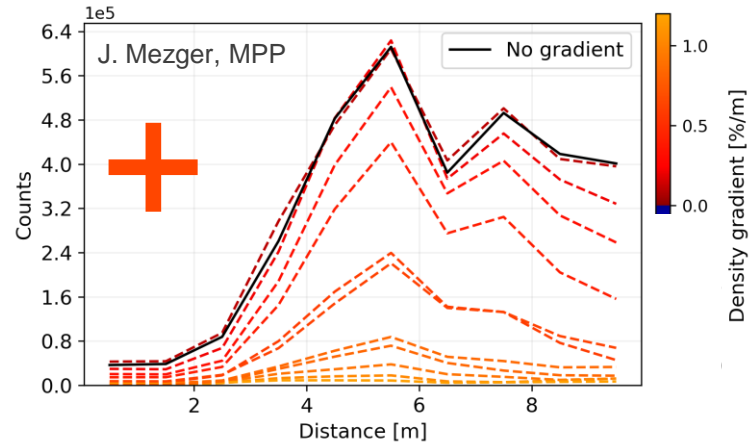
# Self-modulation instability suppression

Poster by  
J. Mezger

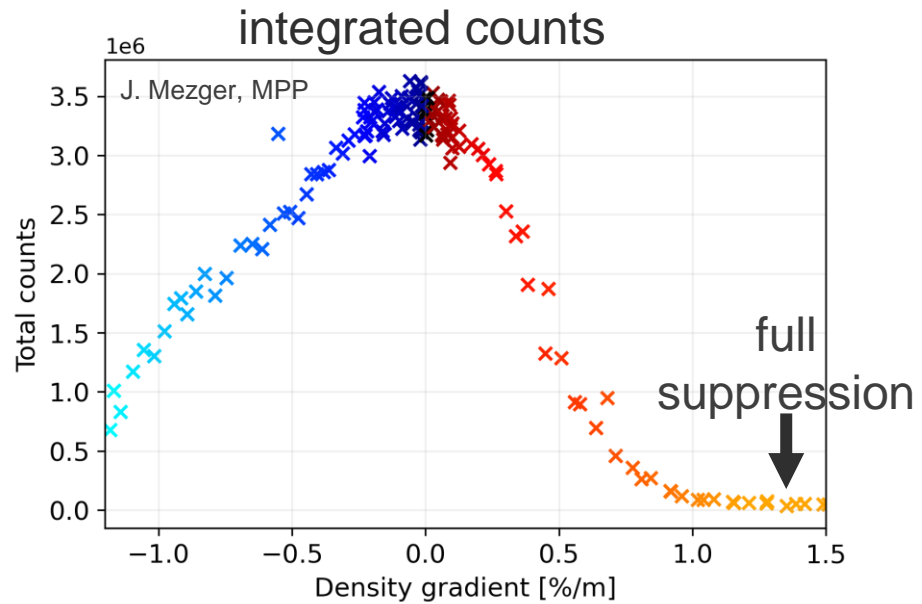
prediction from theory: positive gradients **suppress** the development of the SM

C. B. Schroeder, et al.,  
*Phys. Plasmas* 19, 010703 (2012)

wakefield light along the plasma



$n_{pe} = 2 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  
 $N_{p+} = 0.5 \times 10^{11}$  per  
bunch  
RIF = +200 ps



preliminary

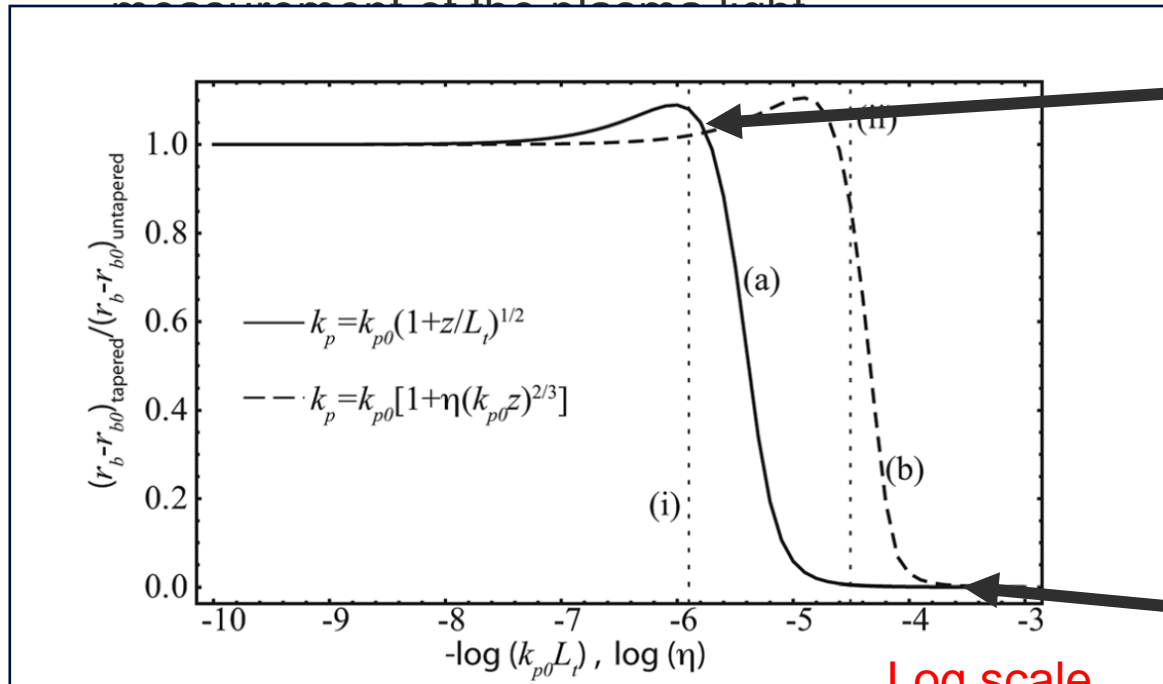
➤ less wakefield light for large positive and negative gradients

# Self-modulation instability suppression

Poster by  
J. Mezger

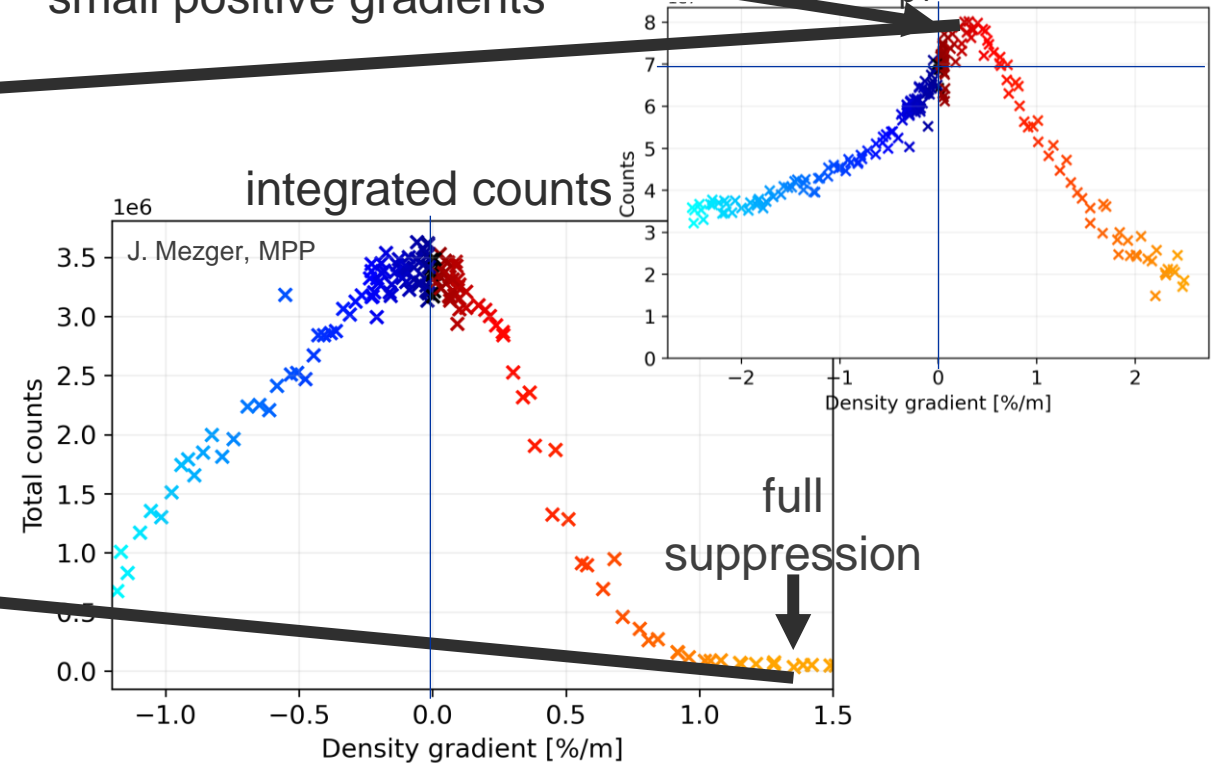
prediction from theory: positive gradients **suppress** the development of the SM

C. B. Schroeder, et al.,  
*Phys. Plasmas* 19, 010703 (2012)



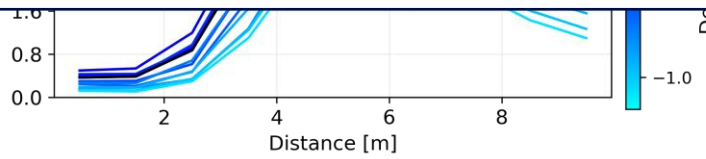
signal increase for  
small positive gradients

$N_{p+} = 3 \times 10^{11}$



- less wakefield light for large positive and negative gradients
- consistent with theoretical prediction

C. B. Schroeder, et al., *Phys. Plasmas* 19, 010703 (2012)



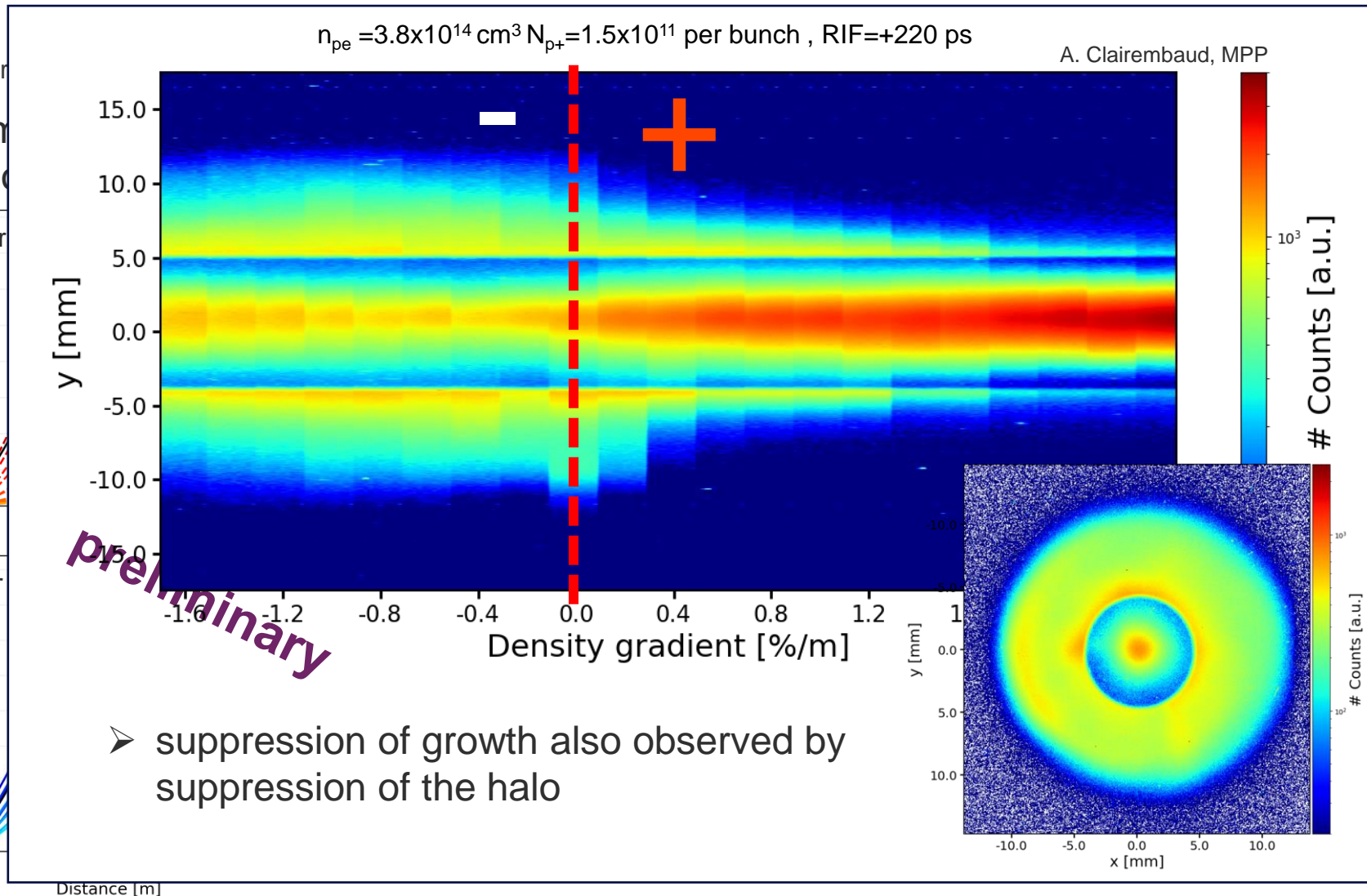
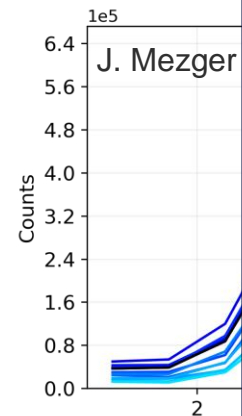
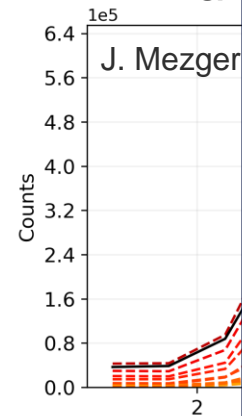
# Self-modulation instability suppression

Prediction from

C. B. Schroeder

measurement

also

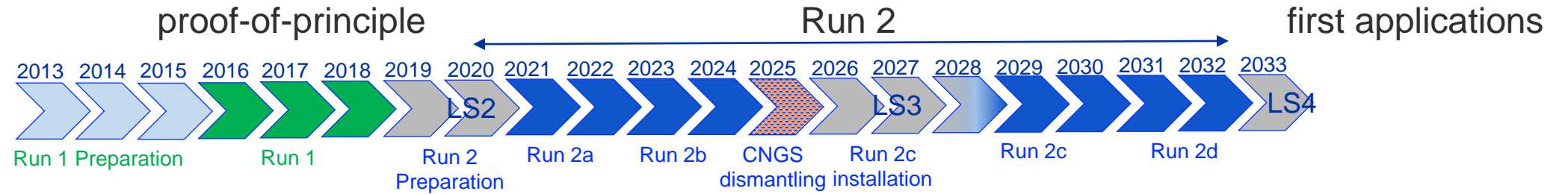


instability

# **AWAKE progress toward particle physics applications**

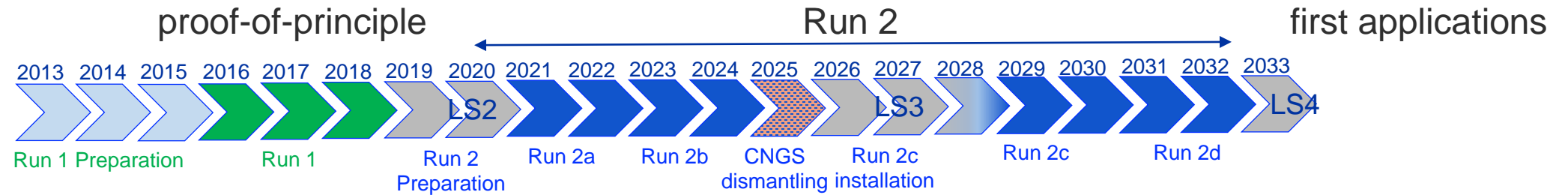


# AWAKE has a clear time-line towards an accelerator



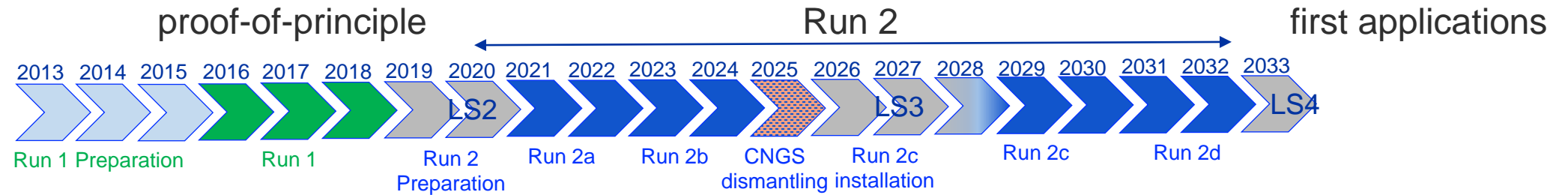
➤ milestones for AWAKE Run 2: → transition from proof-of-principle to applications

# AWAKE has a clear time-line towards an accelerator



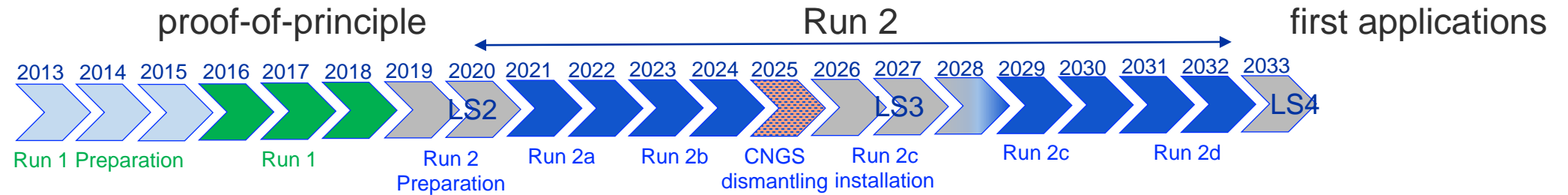
- milestones for AWAKE Run 2: → transition from proof-of-principle to applications
- ✓ ➤ **Run 2a:** demonstrate the seeding of the self-modulation of the entire proton bunch with an electron bunch

# AWAKE has a clear time-line towards an accelerator



- milestones for AWAKE Run 2: → transition from proof-of-principle to applications
- ✓ ➤ **Run 2a:** demonstrate the seeding of the self-modulation of the entire proton bunch with an electron bunch
- now ➤ **Run 2b:** maintain large wakefield amplitudes over long plasma distances by introducing a step in the plasma density

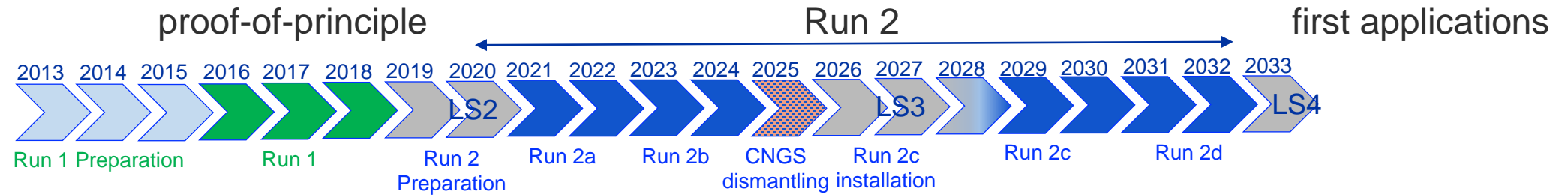
# AWAKE has a clear time-line towards an accelerator



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- ✓ ➤ **Run 2a:** demonstrate the seeding of the self-modulation of the entire proton bunch with an electron bunch
- now ➤ **Run 2b:** maintain large wakefield amplitudes over long plasma distances by introducing a step in the plasma density
- **Run 2c:** demonstrate electron acceleration and emittance control of externally injected electrons.
- **Run 2d:** development of scalable plasma sources to 100s meters length with sub-% level plasma density uniformity.

**Approved in June 2024!**

# AWAKE has a clear time-line towards an accelerator



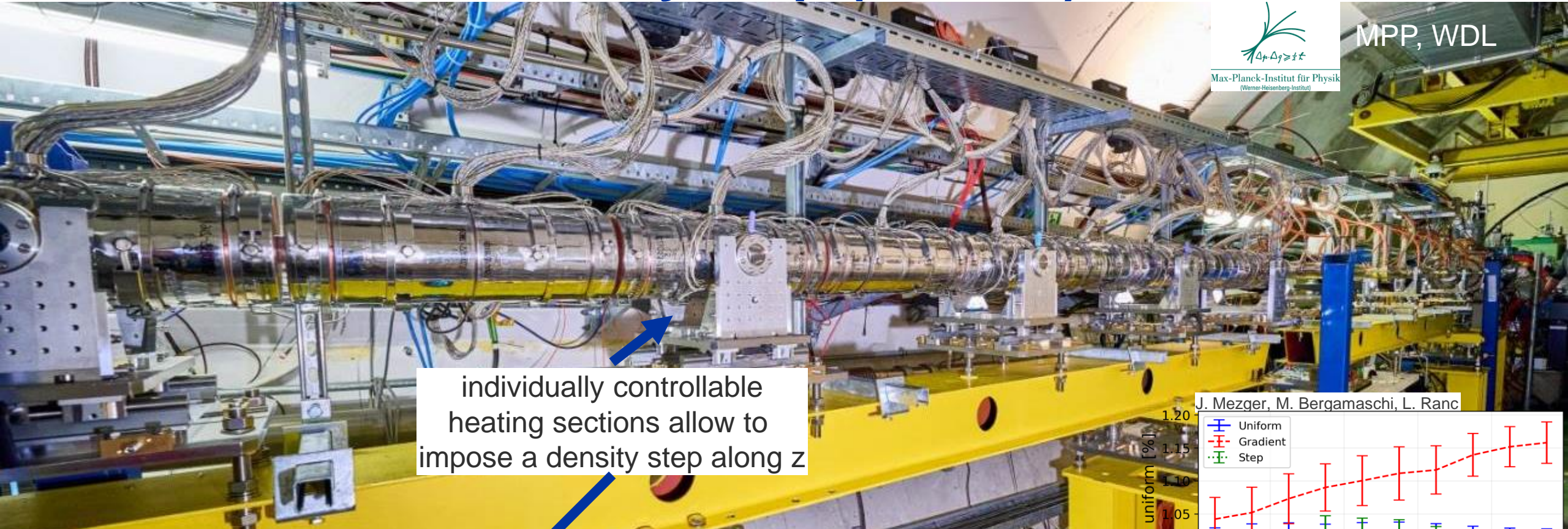
- milestones for AWAKE Run 2: → transition from proof-of-principle to applications
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- **Run 2c:** demonstrate electron acceleration and emittance control of externally injected electrons.
- **Run 2d:** development of scalable plasma sources to 100s meters length with sub-% level plasma density uniformity.
- propose **first applications** for particle physics experiments with 50-200 GeV electron bunches

# New rubidium vapor source that also allows for density step (Run 2b)

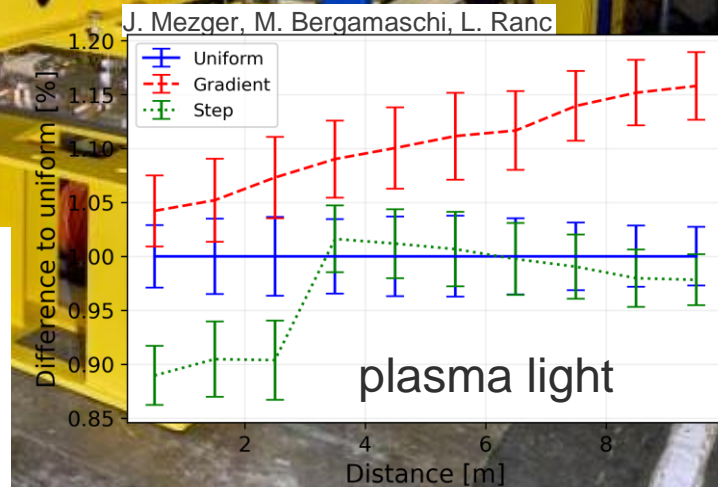
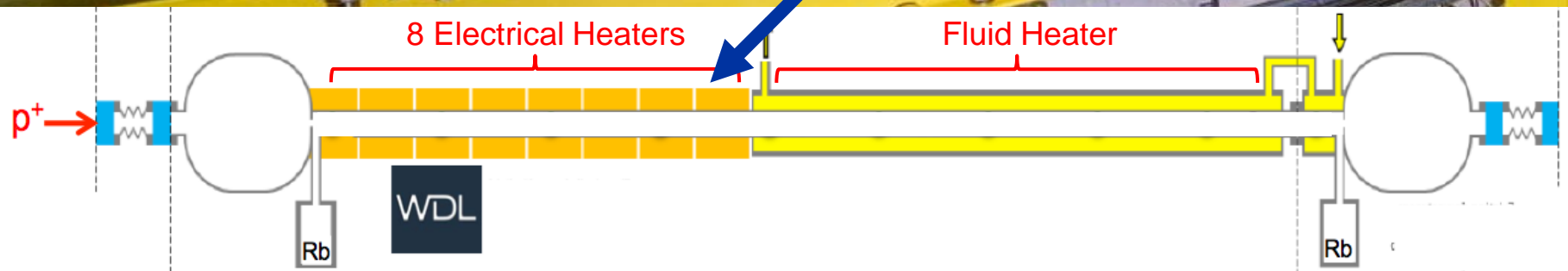
installed July 2023



MPP, WDL



individually controllable heating sections allow to impose a density step along  $z$



# Run 2b: first results

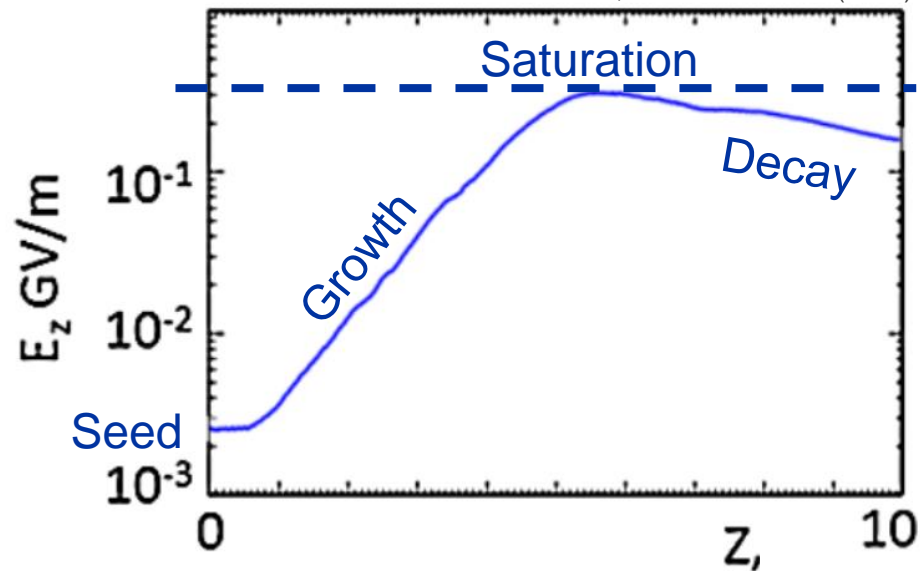
## Effect of the density step

Clear effect!

**prediction:** optimum density step → stabilizes wakefield amplitude after saturation

Caldwell, POP 18, 103101 (2011)

Pukhov, PRL 107 145003 (2011)



➤ density step rephases micro bunches in the wakefields

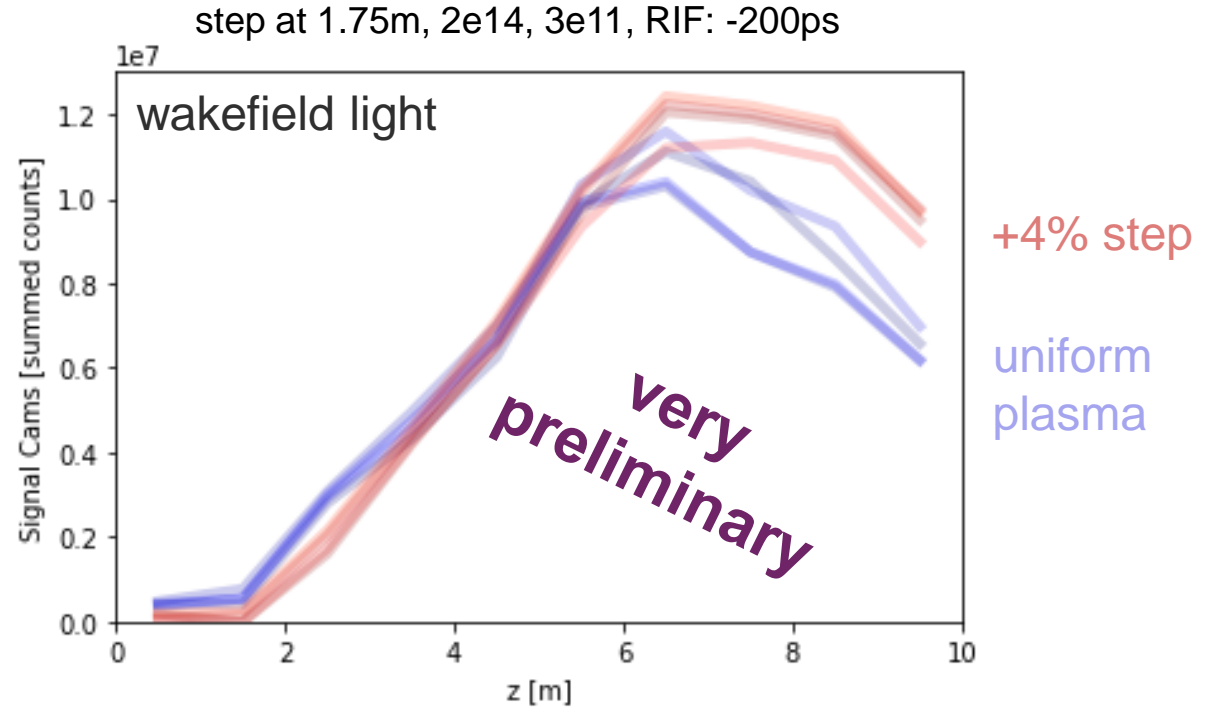
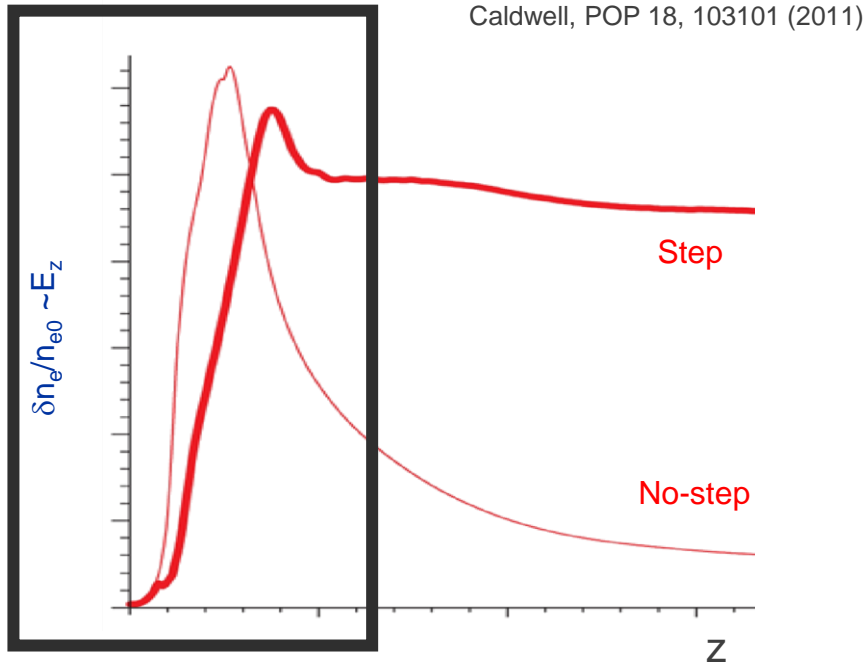
K. V. Lotov, Physics of Plasmas 22, 103110 (2015)

# Run 2b: first results

## Effect of the density step

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➤ density step rephases micro bunches in the wakefields

K. V. Lotov, Physics of Plasmas 22, 103110 (2015)

➤ more wakefield light with density step after saturation



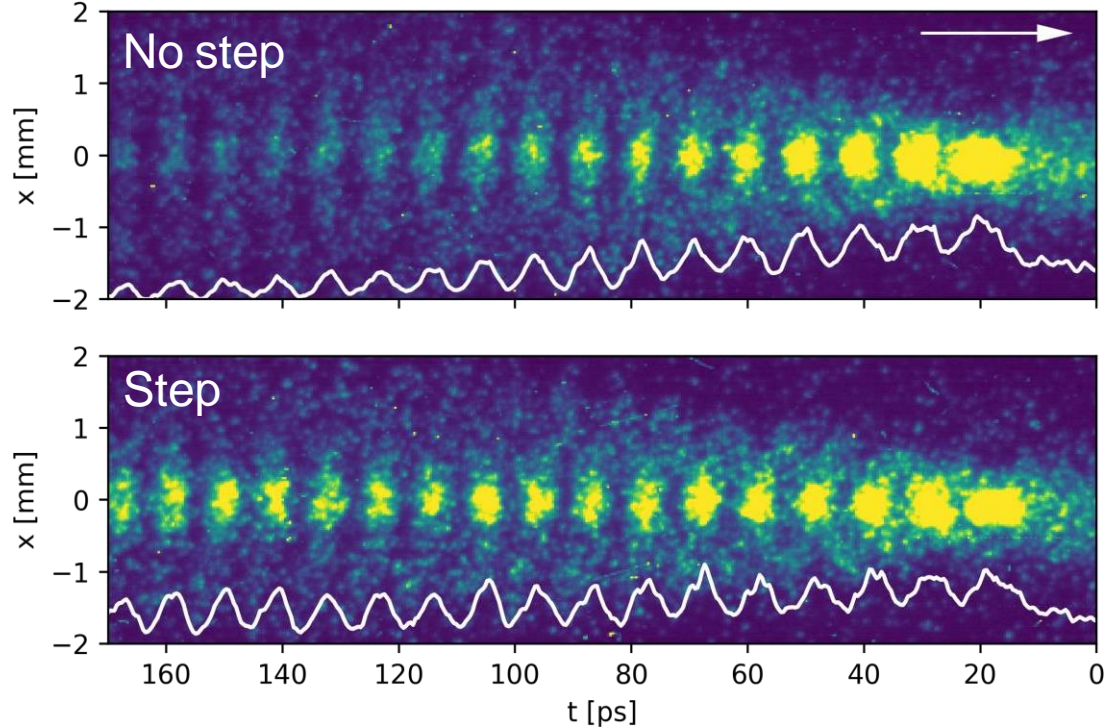
# Run 2b: first results

## Effect of the density step

Clear effect!

very preliminary

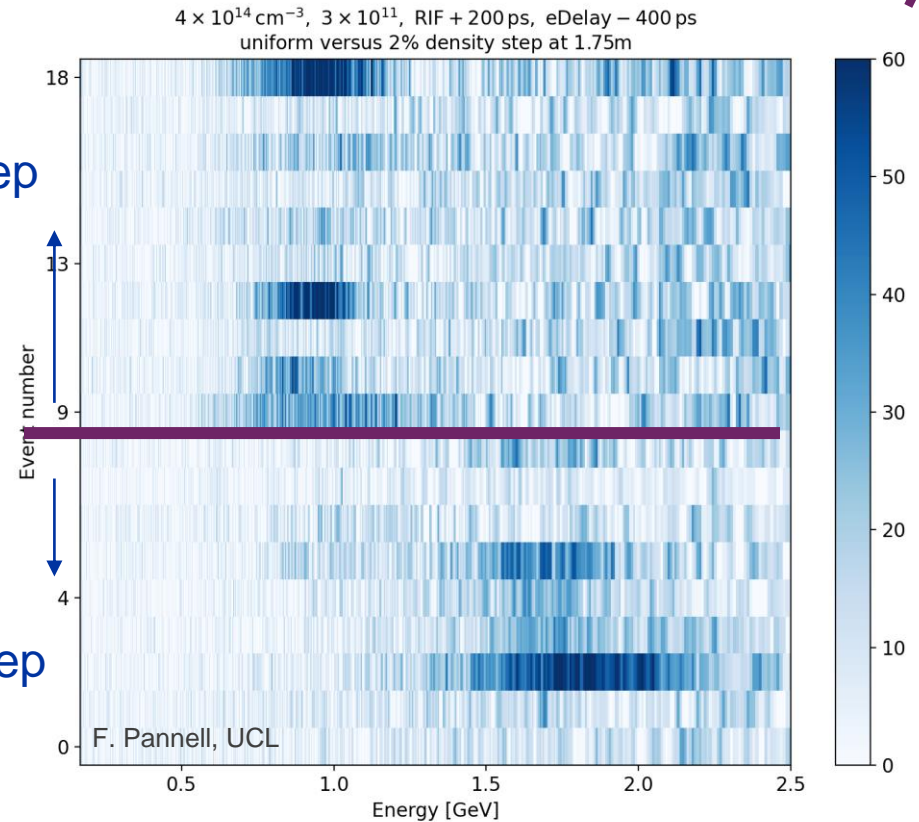
- longer bunch trains on the time resolved images of the proton bunch



5% step at 1.75m,  $n_{pe} \sim 2 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $n_{p+} = 1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ p+}/\text{bunch}$

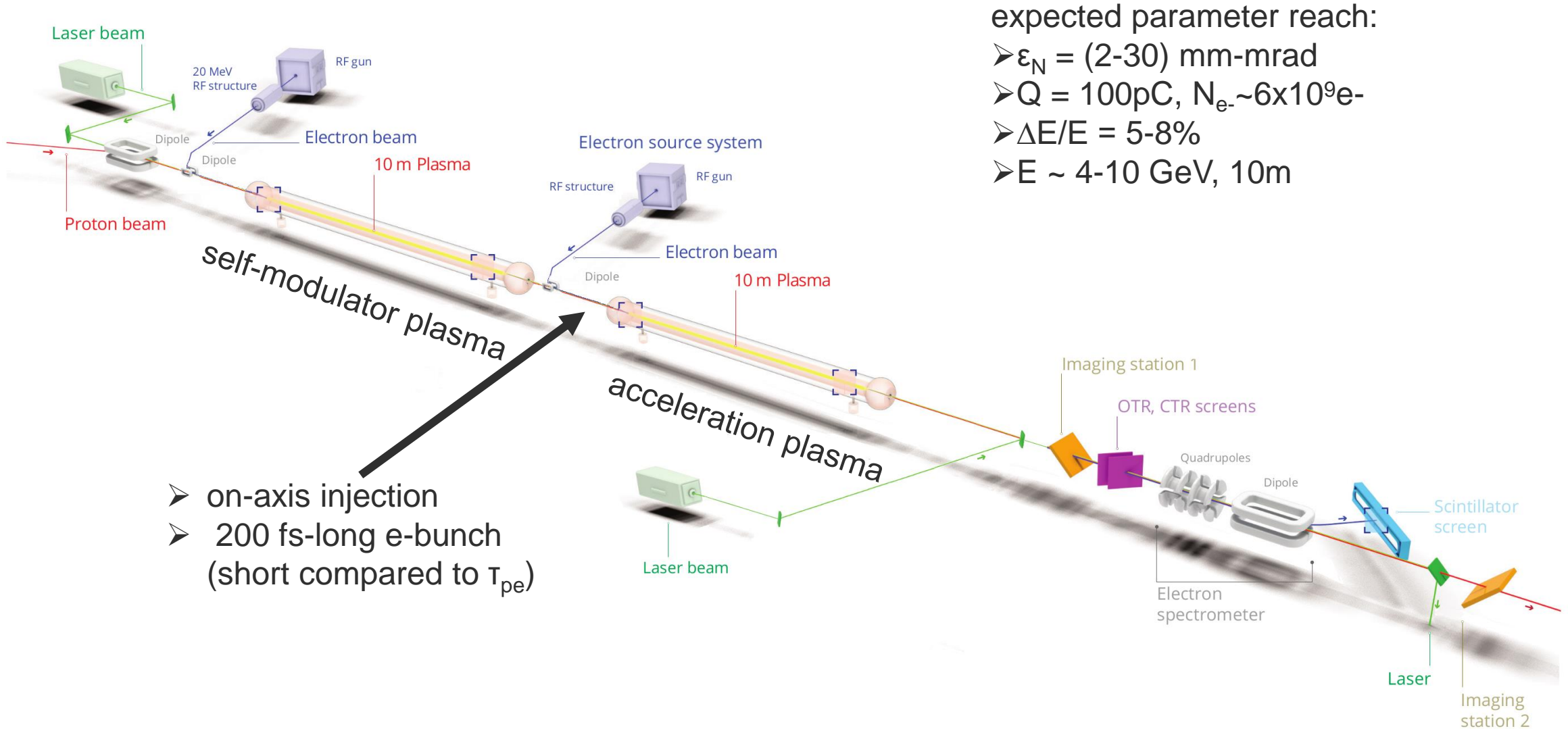
no step

2% step



- higher energy gain by externally injected 20 MeV electrons with step

# AWAKE Run 2c: quality acceleration



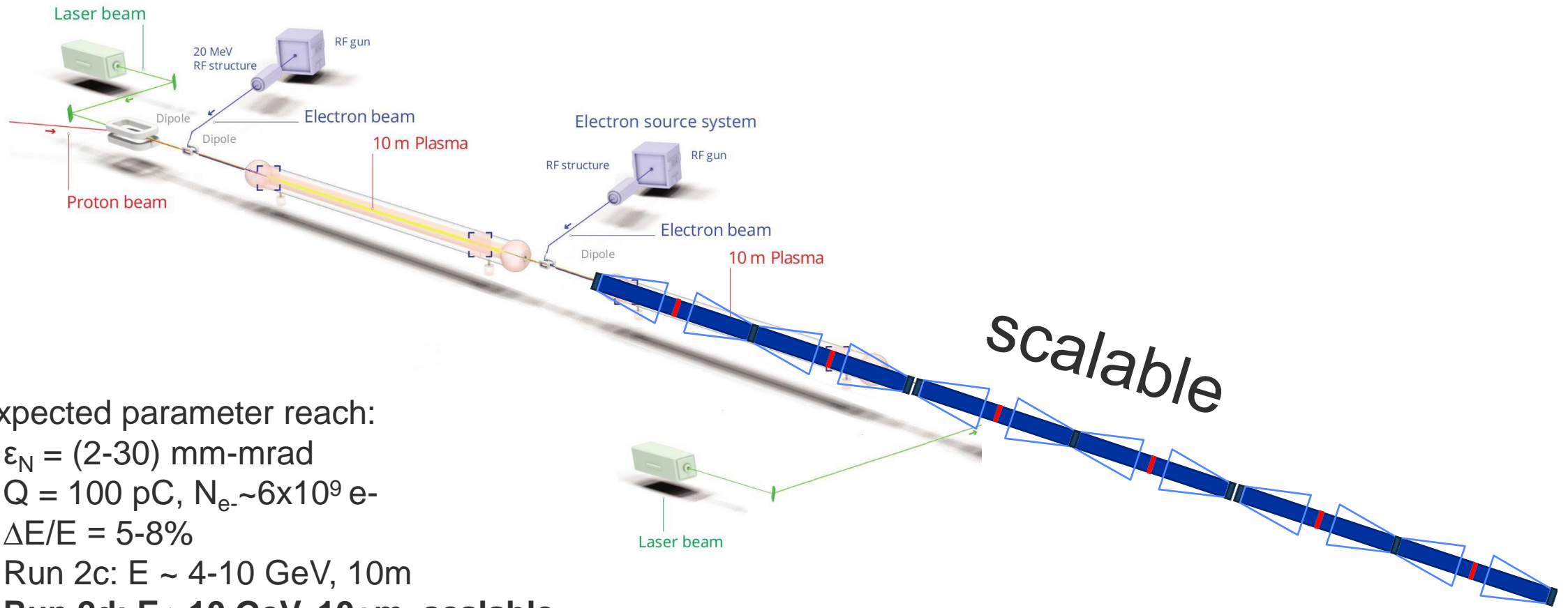
expected parameter reach:

- $\epsilon_N = (2-30)$  mm-mrad
- $Q = 100$  pC,  $N_e \sim 6 \times 10^9 e^-$
- $\Delta E/E = 5-8\%$
- $E \sim 4-10$  GeV, 10m

- on-axis injection
- 200 fs-long e-bunch (short compared to  $\tau_{pe}$ )

# Run 2d: demonstration of scalability

## scalable plasma source for acceleration



expected parameter reach:

- $\epsilon_N = (2-30)$  mm-mrad
- $Q = 100$  pC,  $N_{e^-} \sim 6 \times 10^9$  e<sup>-</sup>
- $\Delta E/E = 5-8\%$
- Run 2c:  $E \sim 4-10$  GeV, 10m
- **Run 2d:  $E > 10$  GeV, 10+m, scalable**

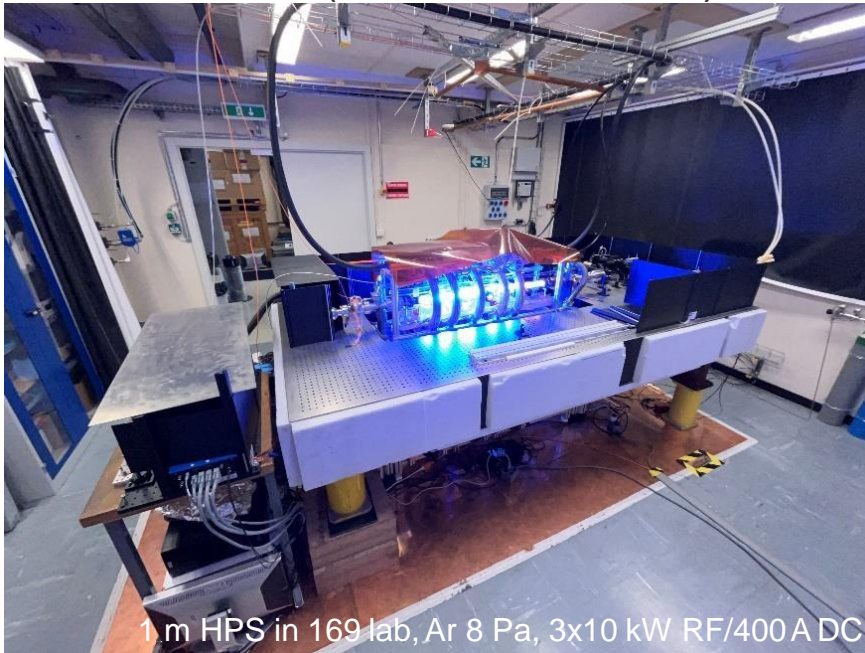
# AWAKE is developing plasma source technologies

A. Sublet (CERN)

- AWAKE dedicated plasma sources R&D program launched in 2018
- well defined plan with 5 institutes + CERN as host, 6 PhD works
- **two dedicated labs at CERN**, capable to house up to 20 m long source and diagnostics

talk + poster by  
C. Amoedo, WG3

HPS lab (launched in 2019)



already demonstrated:  
→ Density  $\sim 10^{15}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>



IPP Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik

EPFL



DPS lab (launched in 2021)



to be demonstrated:  
→ uniformity (+measurement)  
→ tunability



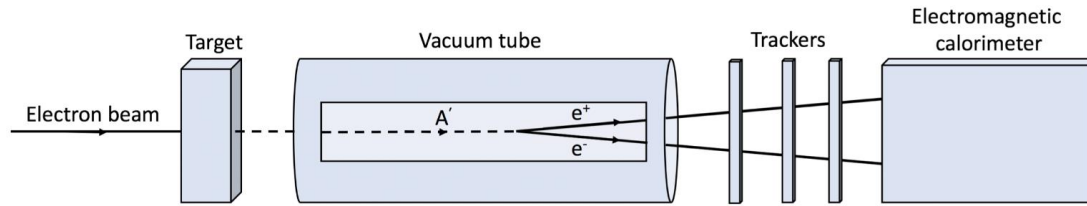
ifj TÉCNICO LISBOA

Imperial College London

# Possible applications to particle physics

Once Run 2 is completed, AWAKE is in a position to start with first particle physics applications

- 50-200 GeV  $e^-$ , using SPS  $p^+$  bunch as driver:
  - fixed target, beam-dump experiments: search for dark photons
  - nonlinear QED:  $e^-/\text{photon}$  collisions
  - $ep$  or  $eA$  collisions, QCD, structure of matter
  - ...

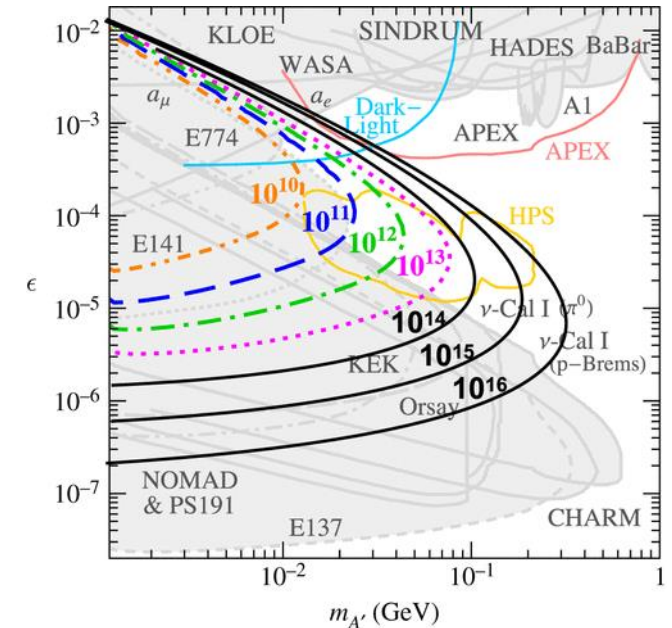


A. Caldwell and M. Wing,  
The European Physical Journal C76, (2016)

- TeV  $e^-$ , using LHC  $p^+$  bunch as driver:
  - High energy  $ep$  or  $eA$  collider

- luminosity of collider applications limited by single use of low rep-rate  $p^+$  bunch production

M. Wing, Phil. Trans. Royal Soc 377,20180185 (2019)  
AWAKE collaboration, Symmetry 2022, 14(8), 1680



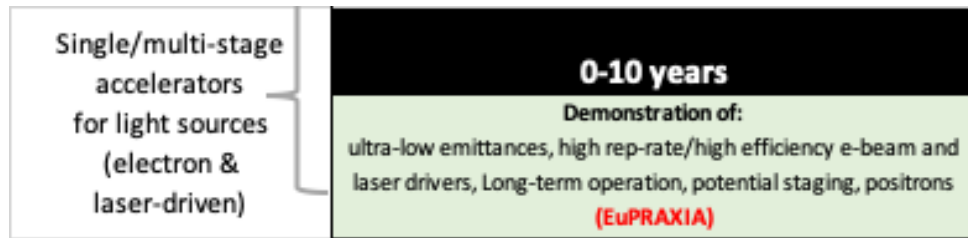
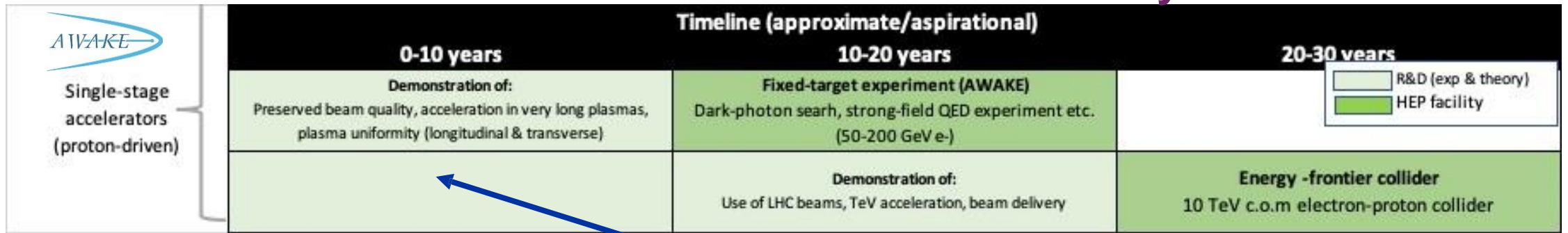
# AWAKE Collaboration: 23 Institutes World-Wide

- University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
- University of Manchester, Manchester, UK
- Cockcroft Institute, Daresbury, UK
- Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK
- Oxford University, UK
- Max Planck Institute for Physics, Munich, Germany
- Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, Greifswald, Germany
- UCL, London, UK
- UNIST, Ulsan, Republic of Korea
- Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany
- Heinrich-Heine-Universität of Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany
- University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
- ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
- Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
- Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia
- GoLP/Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
- TRIUMF, Vancouver, Canada
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, US
- Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden
- Wigner Institute, Budapest, Hungary
- Swiss Plasma Center group of EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

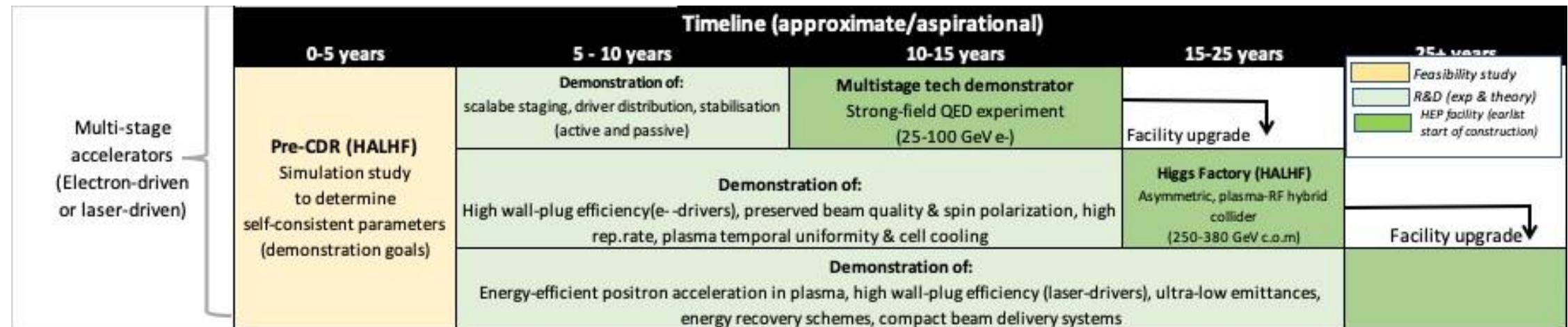


# ESPP roadmap

## Advanced accelerator community



AWAKE aims for particle physics applications and is therefore part of the ESPP process



# Summary and conclusions

- AWAKE is a **proton-driven** plasma wakefield acceleration experiment
  - wakefields are driven resonantly by a micro bunch train formed by self-modulation
  - very large single stage energy gain possible (~100GeV- few TeV)
- New **physics results**, relevant to understanding and controlling self-modulation
  - wakefield growth, ion motion, filamentation instability, amplitude stability, instability suppression
- the goal is to build an accelerator for particle physics applications
  - requires:
    - **control** of self-modulation
    - **quality** acceleration (external injection...)
    - **scalable** plasma sources
  - these are also relevant for other plasma-based accelerators
- **goal:** propose particle physics applications in the early 2030's based on the AWAKE concept



# Changing plasma length to measure gradients

Vary plasma length by stopping the ionizing laser

