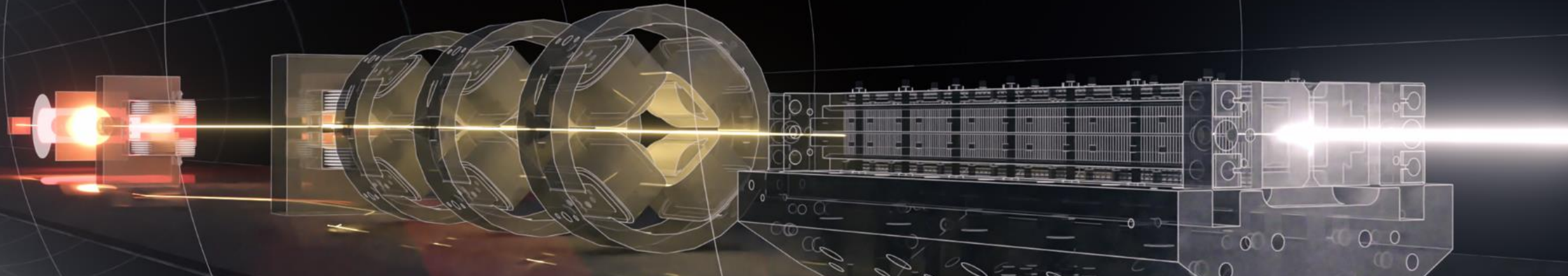


Fahim Habib et al.
**Towards ultrahigh 6D brightness
electron beams from plasma wakefield accelerators**

Department of Physics, University of Strathclyde
Scottish Centre for the Application of Plasma-Based Accelerators (SCAPA)
Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (SUPA)
The Cockcroft Institute



Snapshot of wakefield-driven X-FEL landscape

REVIEW

Free electron lasers driven by plasma accelerators: status and near-term prospects

Experimental efforts

	COXINEL	DESY-LUX	SIOM	LBNL-BELLA
Charge density [pC/MeV]	0.5	4	1–5	2
Repetition rate [Hz]	1–10	1	1–5	5
Mean energy [GeV]	0.18–0.4	0.3	0.84	0.1–0.3
Slice energy spread RMS [%]	NA	0.5	0.24–0.4	0.2–1
Charge [pC]	NA	50	8–25	25
Emittance [mm-mrad]	1	1.5 (horz.), 0.3 (vert.)	0.4	0.3–1
FEL wavelength [nm]	UV-VUV	100	6–10	80
Undulator technology	Cryo-PMU	Cryo-PMU	Planar and TGU	Planar + strong focusing
FEL operation modes	Decompression + seeding	Decompression + SASE	SASE, transverse decompression	Decompression + seeding
Key challenge pursued	Demonstrate FEL gain	Demonstrate FEL gain	Demonstrate FEL gain	Demonstrate FEL gain

First experimental breakthroughs

SIOM: Wang, W. et al. *Nature* **595**, 516–520 (2021)
→ SASE operation at 27 nm

INFN: Pompili, R. et al. *Nature* **605**, 659–662 (2022)
→ SASE operation at 800 nm

INFN: M. Galletti et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 129, 234801(2022)
→ Seeded operation at 800 nm

COXINEL/HZDR: Labat, M. et al, *Nat. Photon.* 17, 150–156 (2023) → Seeded operation at 269 nm

LBNL: Sam Barber, “Demonstration of a reliable, high gain laser plasma accelerator driven free electron laser”, Talk, 23 Jul 2024 → SASE at ~400 nm

Programs in planning

SLAC FACET-II*	DESY - FLASHForward	Strathclyde*	EuPRAXIA at SPARC LAB*
10–500	1	1–100	4
1	10 (10 ⁴ after future upgrades)	Variable	10
5–10	1	1–5	1–5
0.1–1	0.15	0.01–2	0.75
10–100	100	0.1–500	30
1–10	1–20	0.01–1	1
10–50	Soft X-rays	Hard X-rays	4
Compression + pre-bunching	SASE	Multiple	SASE
Attosecond FEL pulses	High average power FEL	Hard X-ray FEL gain	Plasma-FEL user facility

Conceptual effort/upcoming programs

SLAC FACET-II: C. Emma, et al. *APL Photonics* 6.7 (2021), Rafi Hessami et al., *Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams* 27, 070701 (2024)

Strathclyde: A. F. Habib et al. *Nat. Comm.* 14, 1054, (2023)

EuPraxia: Assmann, R.W. et al. *Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top.* 229, 3675–4284, (2020)

Peking University: Xinlu Xu et al. *Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams* 27, 011301, (2024)

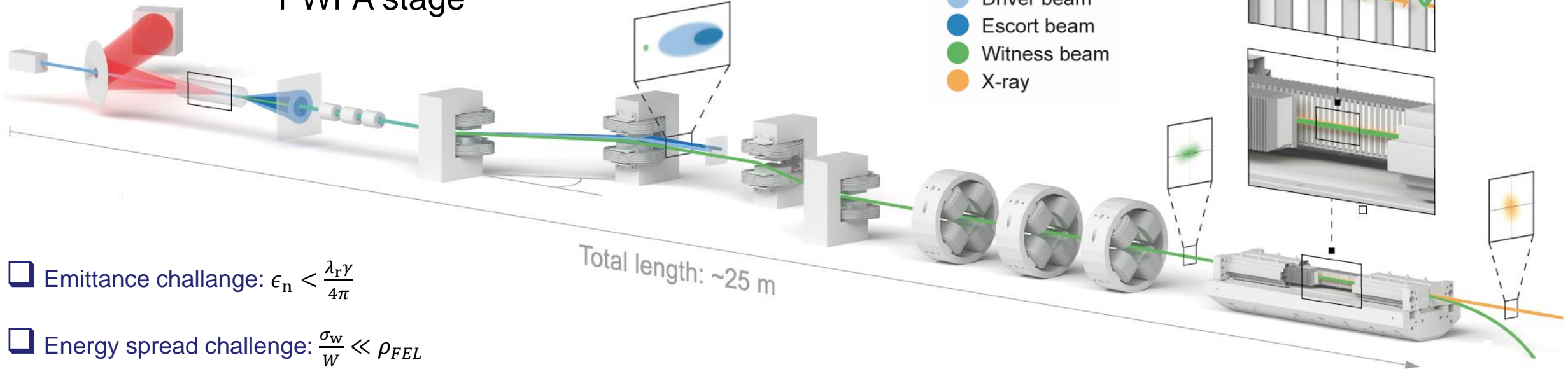
Many more...

Plasma X-FEL fundamental challenges

① Ultrahigh brightness PWFA stage

② Beam transport

③ Ultrabright X-FEL



❑ Emittance challenge: $\epsilon_n < \frac{\lambda_r \gamma}{4\pi}$

❑ Energy spread challenge: $\frac{\sigma_w}{W} \ll \rho_{FEL}$

❑ Short FEL gain length: $L_g \propto B_{6D}^{-1/3}$

❑ Dark current free acceleration over multi-cm \rightarrow multi-GeV energy gain

❑ Beam quality preservation

❑ Extract and capture witness beam from the plasma stage

❑ Transport witness beam without quality degradation

❑ Separate witness beam from driver

❑ Match witness beam to the undulator

❑ Drive a XFEL at hard wavelength

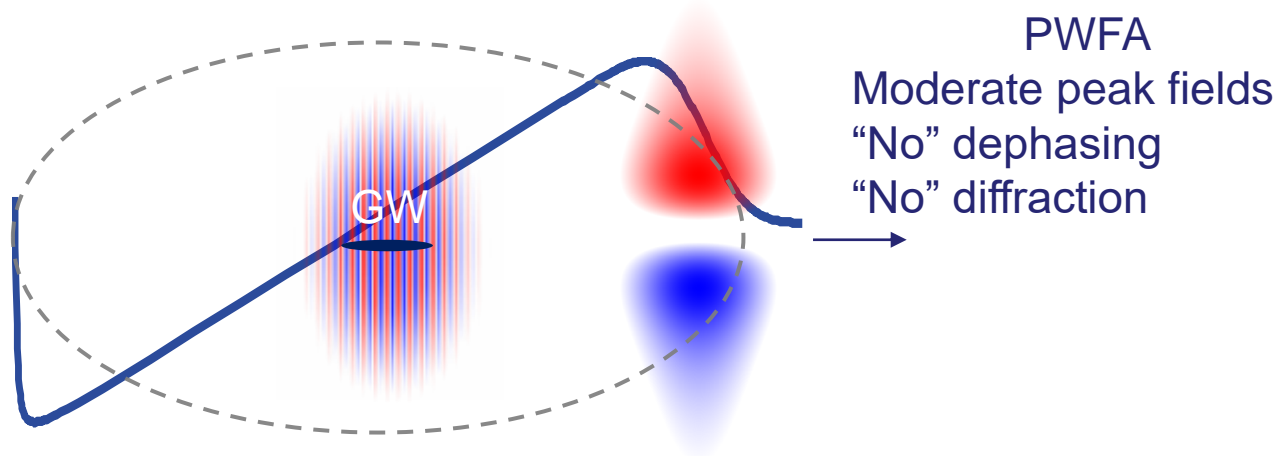
❑ Generate radiation with fs/sub-fs duration

❑ Achieve saturation \rightarrow coherence

❑ Operate in the single-spike regime to obtain fully coherent x-ray pulses ?

Emittance challenge: Plasma photocathode

Plasma photocathode



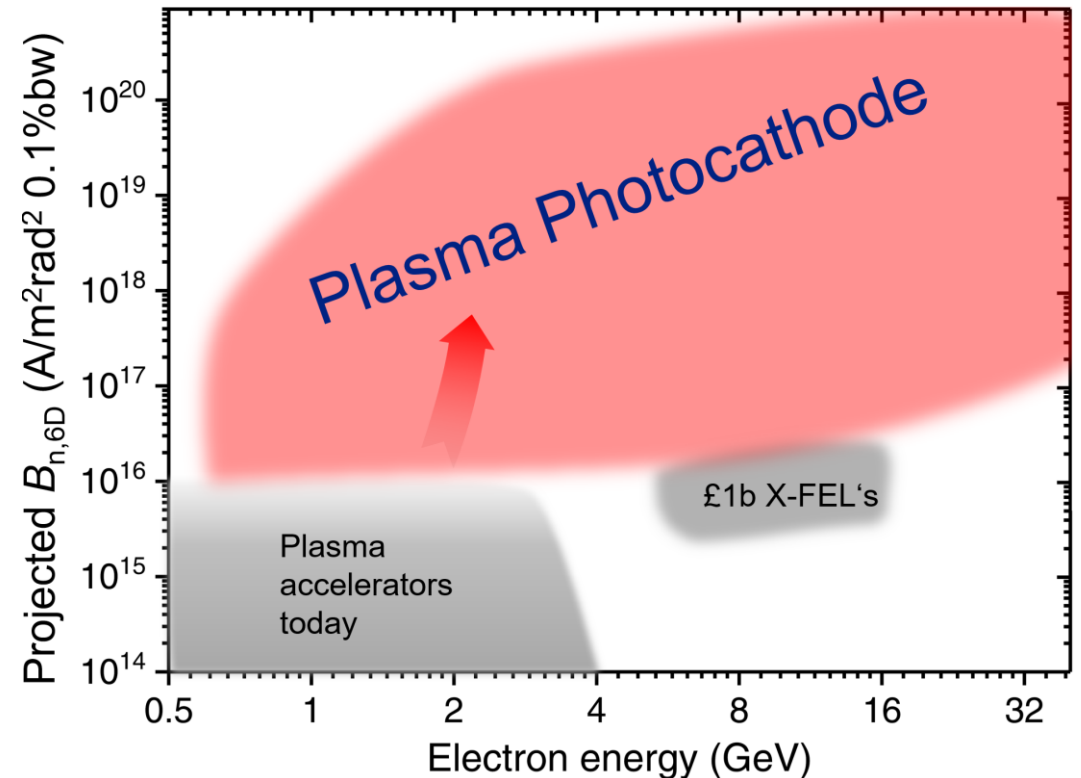
Hidding et al., *Phys. Rev. Letters* 108, 035001, 2012

- ❑ Injection fully decoupled from wake excitation: laser-controlled, dark current free, clean electron beam production from localized tunnel ionization e.g. of He
- ❑ Transverse residual momentum from $\sim 10^{15}$ W/cm² laser negligible \Rightarrow normalized emittance $\epsilon_n \sim$ **nm rad scale**
- ❑ Auto-compression to kA currents $I \Rightarrow$ beams orders of magnitude brighter than state-of-the-art
- ❑ Test beams for staging: nm rad level emittance growth per stage observable

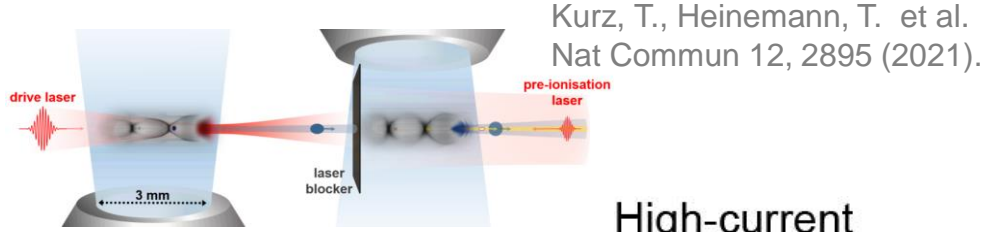
Light source and HEP applications

$$B_{6D} = \frac{\text{multi-kA current } I}{\epsilon_n^2 \cdot 0.1\% \sigma_W \text{ energy spread } <0.01\%}$$

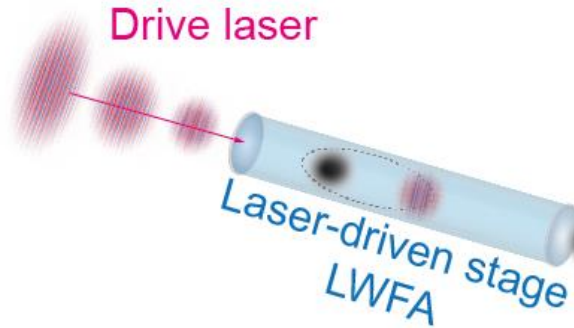
nm rad emittance



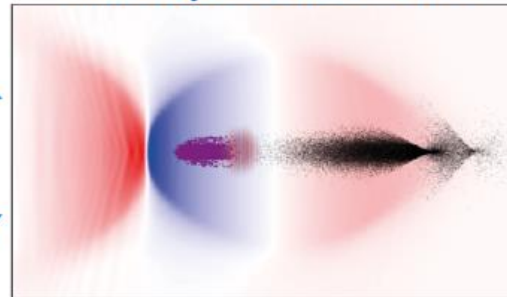
Experimental pathways towards PWFA based light sources



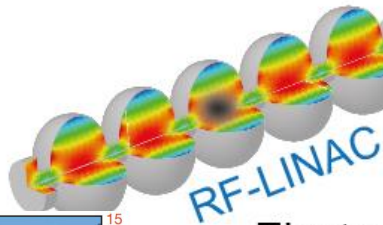
High-current
electron driver beam



Hidding et al., *Phys. Rev. Letters* 108, 035001, 2012, Deng* and Karger* et al., *Nat. Phys.* 2019
Plasma photocathode injection
aka Trojan Horse PWFA



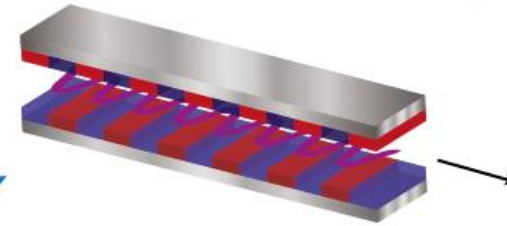
Brightness and energy
booster stage



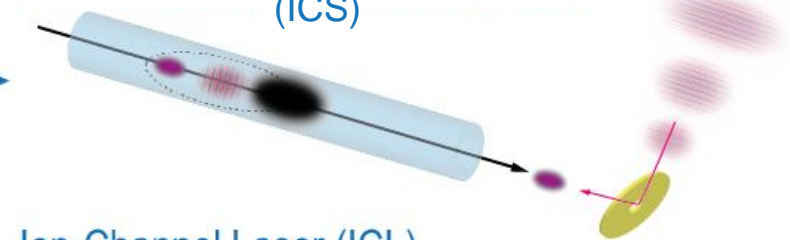
Electron driver beam
from LINAC

M. Litos, et al., *Nature*
515 92-15 (2014)

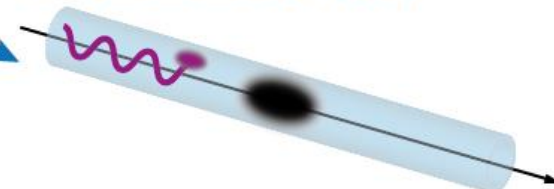
X-ray Free-electron laser (XFEL)



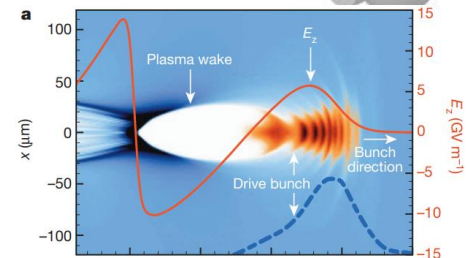
Inverse-Compton Scattering
(ICS)



Ion-Channel Laser (ICL)

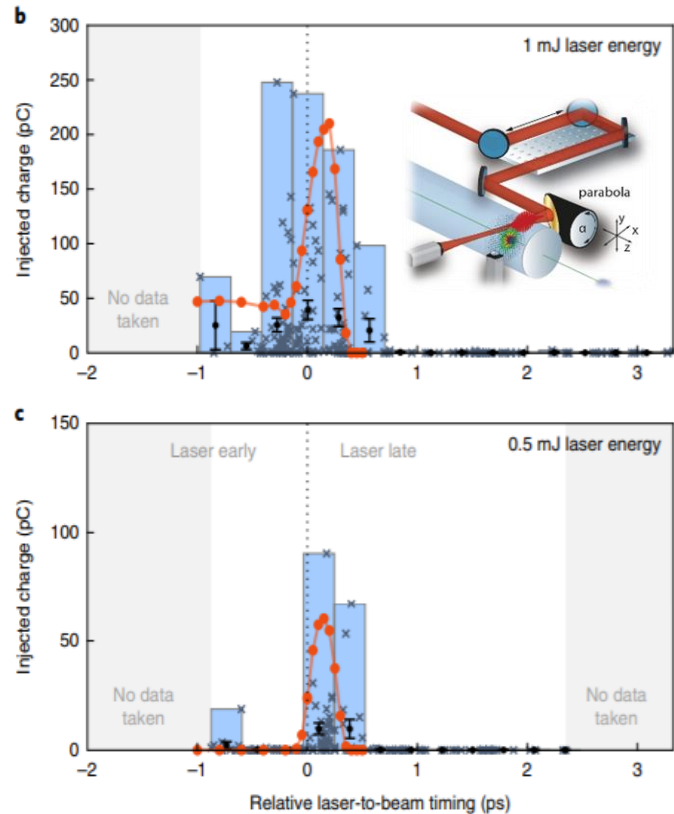


Habib et al., *Proc. SPIE* 11110, Advances in
Laboratory-based X-Ray Sources, Optics, and
Applications VII, 111100A (9 September 2019);
doi: 10.1117/12.2530976



Plasma photocathode experimental progress

E210: Plasma photocathode injection proof-of-concept @SLAC FACET



Deng* and Karger* *et al.*, *Nat. Phys.* 2019

- ❑ 90° geometry version
- ❑ First demonstration of density down-ramp injection in PWFA
- ❑ Program to be continued at SLAC FACAT-II (E-310) (PI: Hidding *et al.*)

E310: First E310 experimental results in H₂/He mixed gas @SLAC FACET-II



- ❑ Beam time delivered by Strathclyde (UK), SLAC (USA) and HHU (Germany) team
- ❑ Ionization tests in mixed H₂/He gas
- ❑ Crucial first step towards E310 goals

Breakthrough in Hybrids LWFA→PWFA 90° plasma photocathode realized

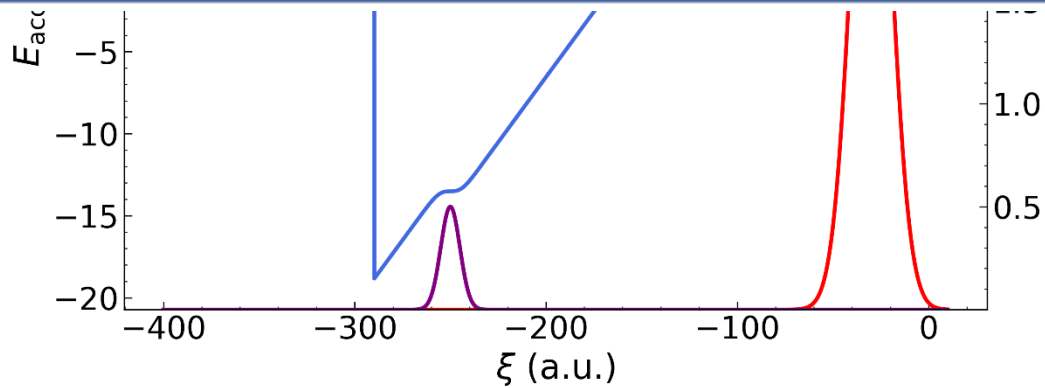


- ❑ Realization of plasma photocathode in Hybrids LWFA→PWFA
- ❑ All-optical configuration
- ❑ Pathway towards ultra-compact and ultra-high brightness electron source

Energy spread challenge

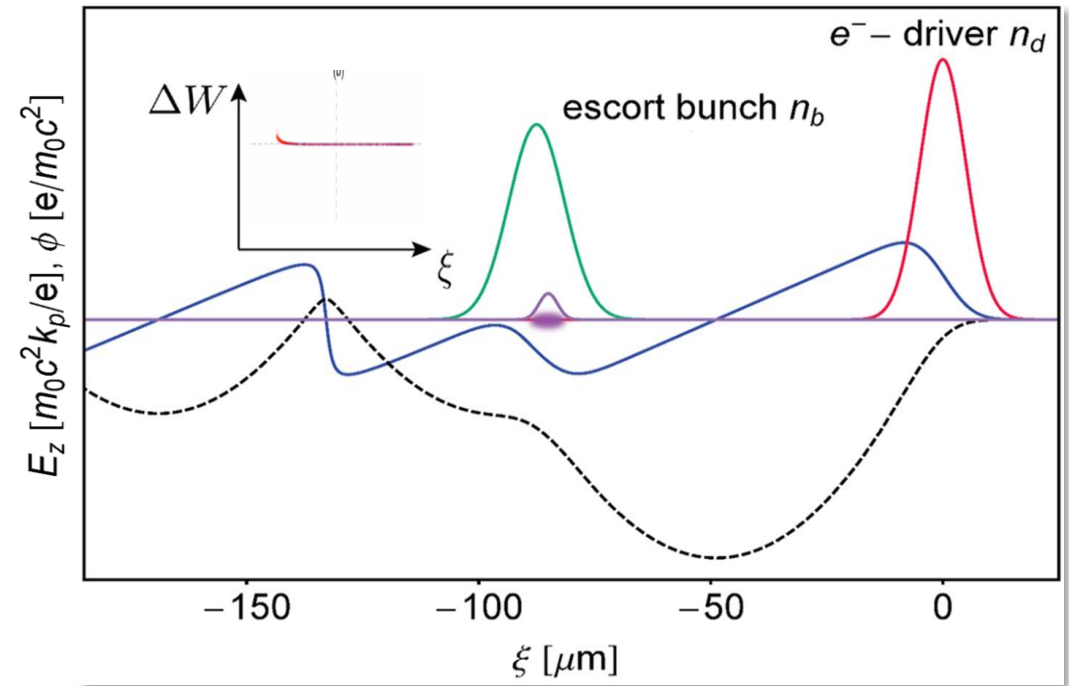


Low energy spread beams with single stage, single bunch
Trojan Horse injection
 Lily H. A. Berman A. F. Habib & B. Hidding
 Scottish Universities Physics Alliance University of Strathclyde, Glasgow UK The Cockcroft Institute, Warrington, UK



L. Berman, A. F. Habib *et al.*, *paper in prep* (2024)

- Straightforward way: take advantage of beam loading via tailored plasma photocathode injector
- Requires multi-kA beams to load the wakefield
- May spoil spoils norm. emittance due to space charge



G.G. Manahan*, A. F. Habib* *et al.*, *Nat. Comm.* 8, 15705 (2017)

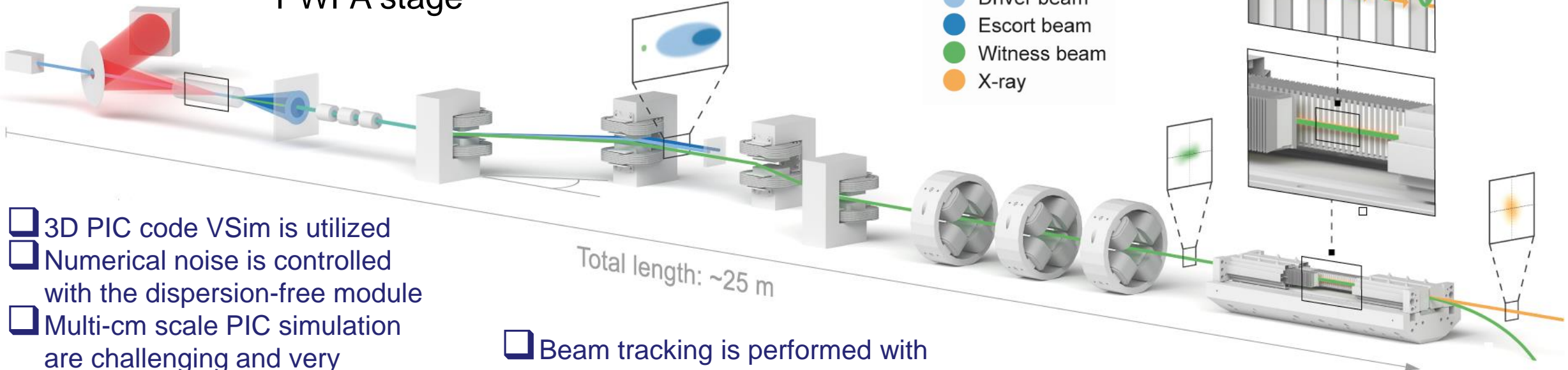
- Exploit tailored beam loading via “escort beams” to flip the accelerating field locally
- Reduced the energy spread down to $\sim 0.01\%$ at few GeV beam energy may be possible
- E-313 experiment at SLAC FACET-II (PIs: Habib/Hidding)

High-fidelity start-to-end-simulation framework

① Ultrahigh brightness PWFA stage

② Beam transport

③ Ultrabright X-FEL



- ❑ 3D PIC code VSim is utilized
- ❑ Numerical noise is controlled with the dispersion-free module
- ❑ Multi-cm scale PIC simulation are challenging and very expensive

VSim

- ❑ Beam tracking is performed with ELEGANT with CSR effects
- ❑ Complete 6D phase space of the witness, drive, and escort beam are considered

- ❑ We use the unaveraged 3D FEL code Puffin developed in Strathclyde
- ❑ We introduce proper Poisson 'shot-noise' to the electron beam (McNeil and Robb, J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 30 567,(1997))
- ❑ The undulator B-fields are implemented in 3D

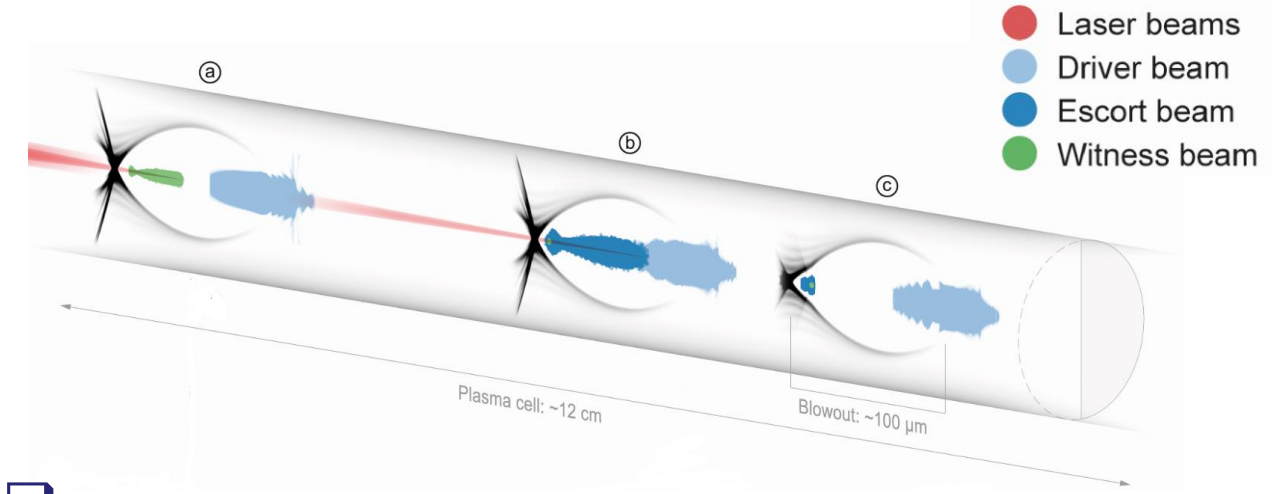
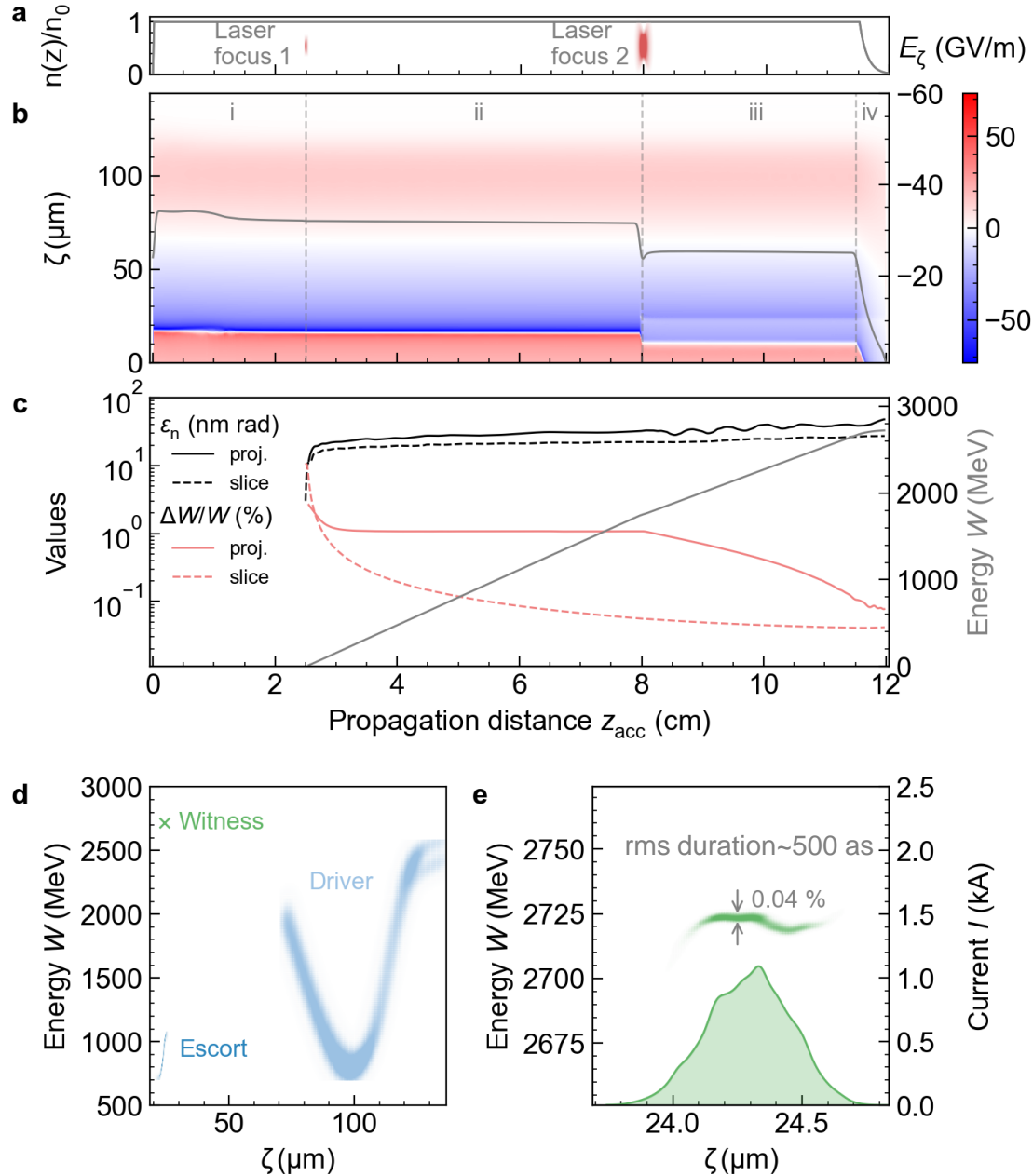
Magnet and undulator calculations with Sirepo



Magnet and undulator models from RadiaBeam



Ultrahigh brightness PWFA stage



High-fidelity 3D PIC simulation of the PWFA-stage

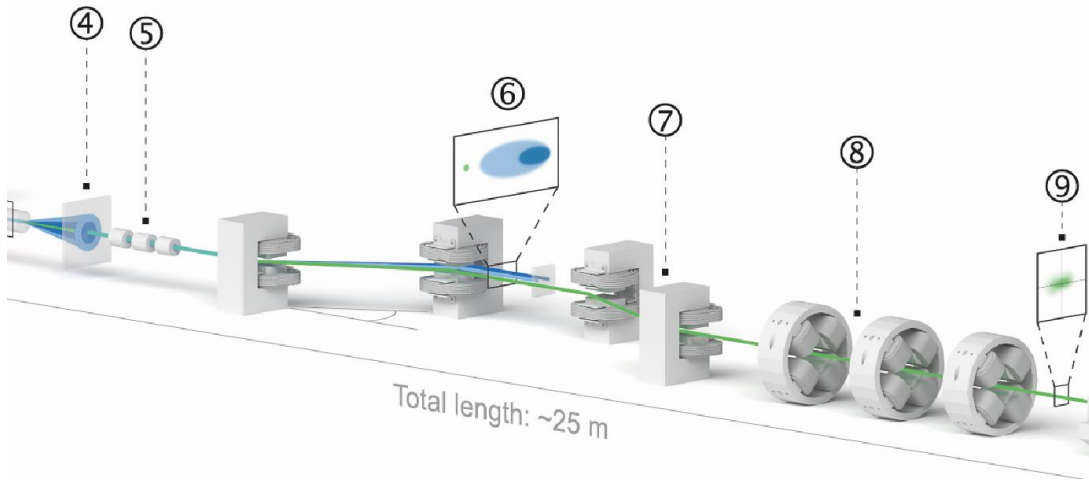
High quality witness beam is produced, accelerated, dechirped and extracted without quality degradation in the same PWFA stage!

Witness beam at the plasma stage exit

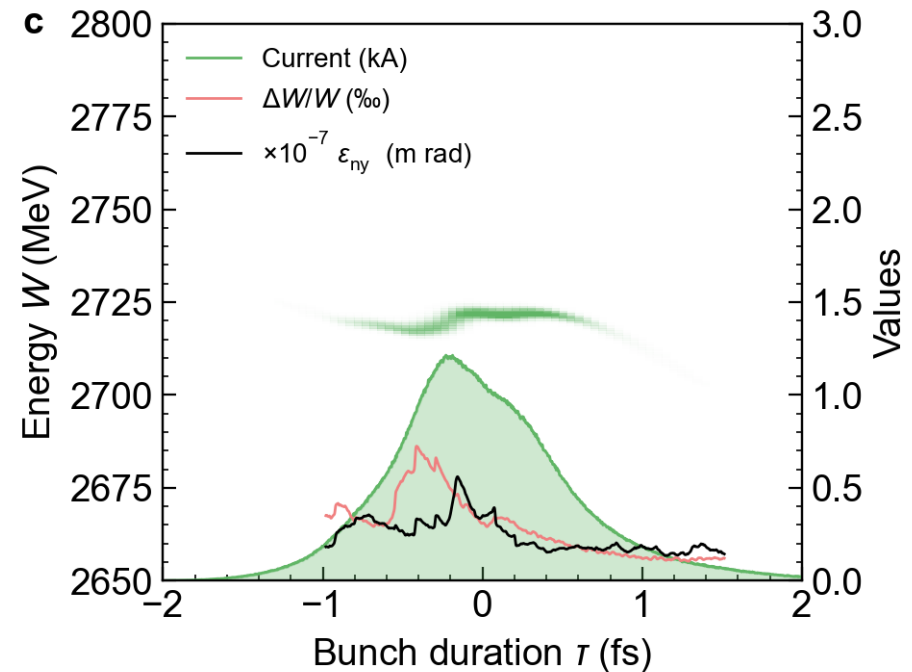
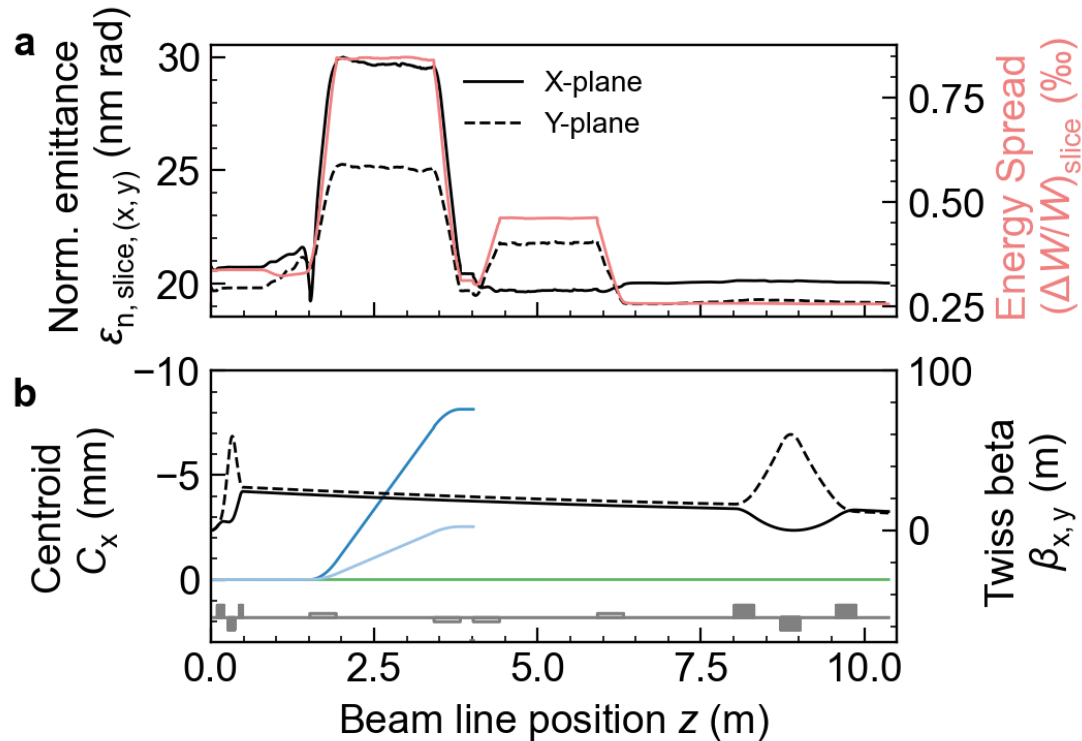
Energy ~ 2.7 GeV, slice norm. emittance ~ 20 nm rad, slice energy spread $\sim 0.04\%$, peak current ~ 1.2 kA, 6D brightness $\sim 10^{18}$ A m $^{-2}$ rad $^{-2}$ /0.1%bw.

Witness beam energy is larger than driver and escort beam energy

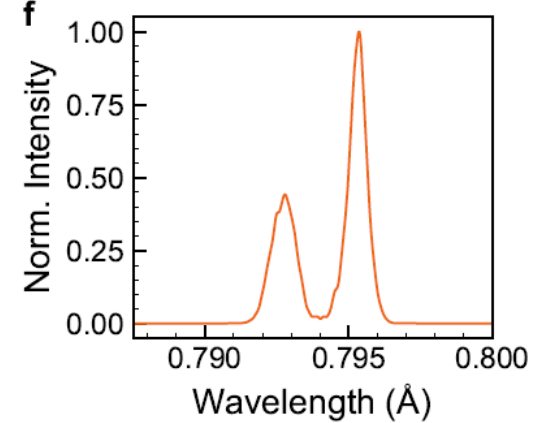
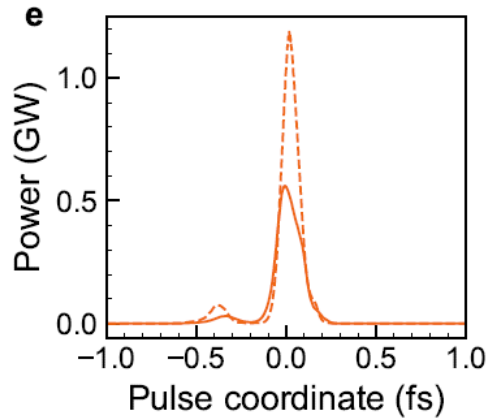
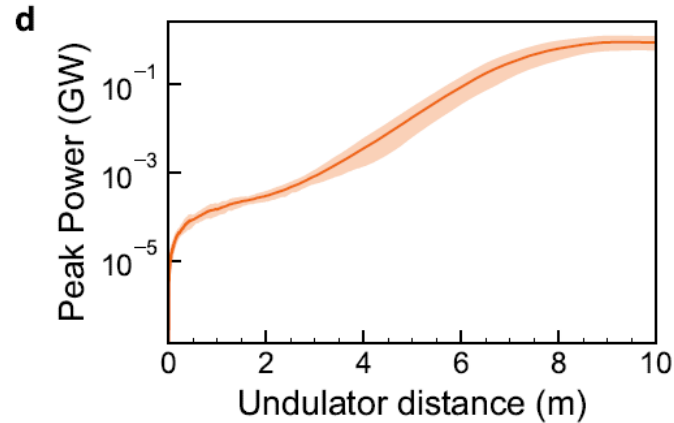
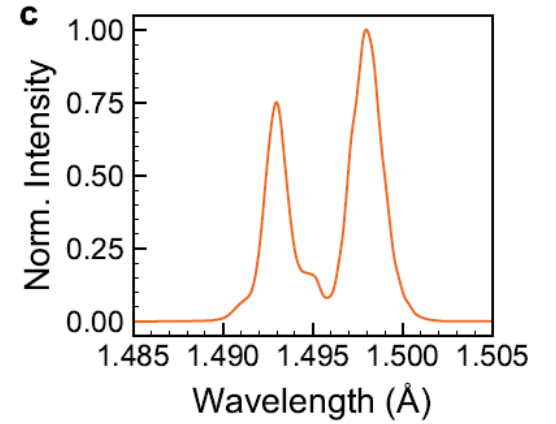
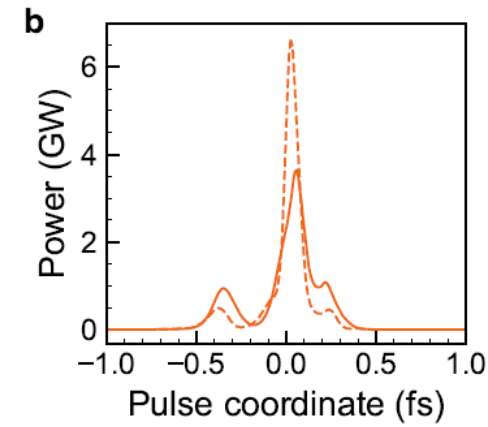
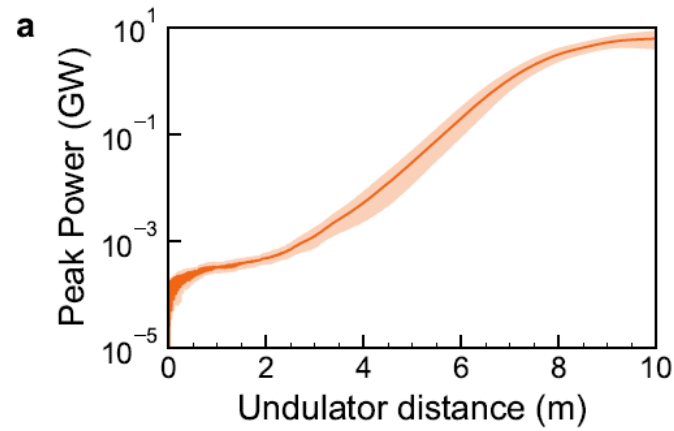
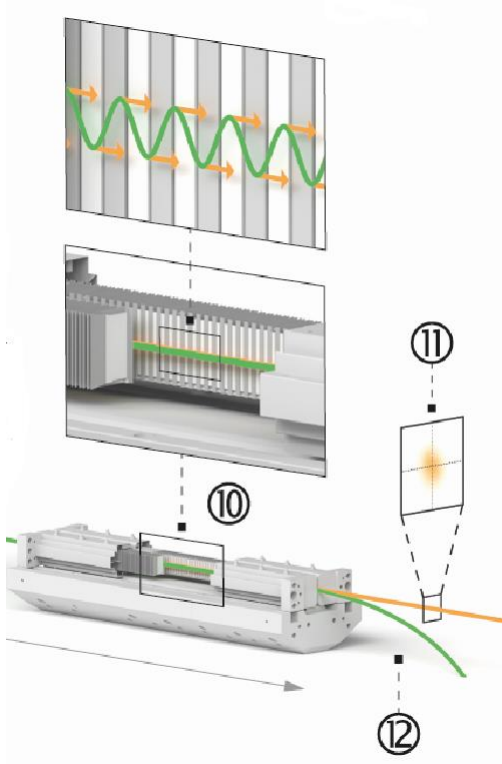
Beam transport line



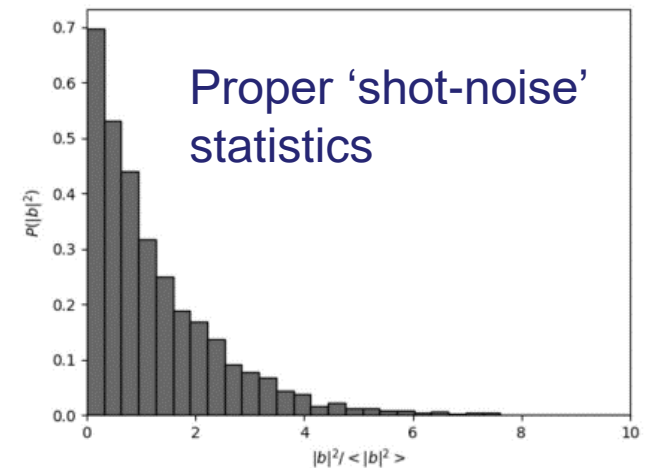
- Witness beam is captured, separated and matched to the undulator section
- CSR effects do not compromise beam quality
- Slice and projected witness beam properties in terms of emittance, energy spread and current are preserved
- Slice energy spread is slightly reduced due to decompression in the chicane to 0.026 %
- Projected (slice) brightness at the undulator entrance
 $B_{6D} \approx 1.3 \times 10^{18} (1.1 \times 10^{19}) \text{ A m}^{-2} \text{ rad}^{-2}/0.1\%bw.$



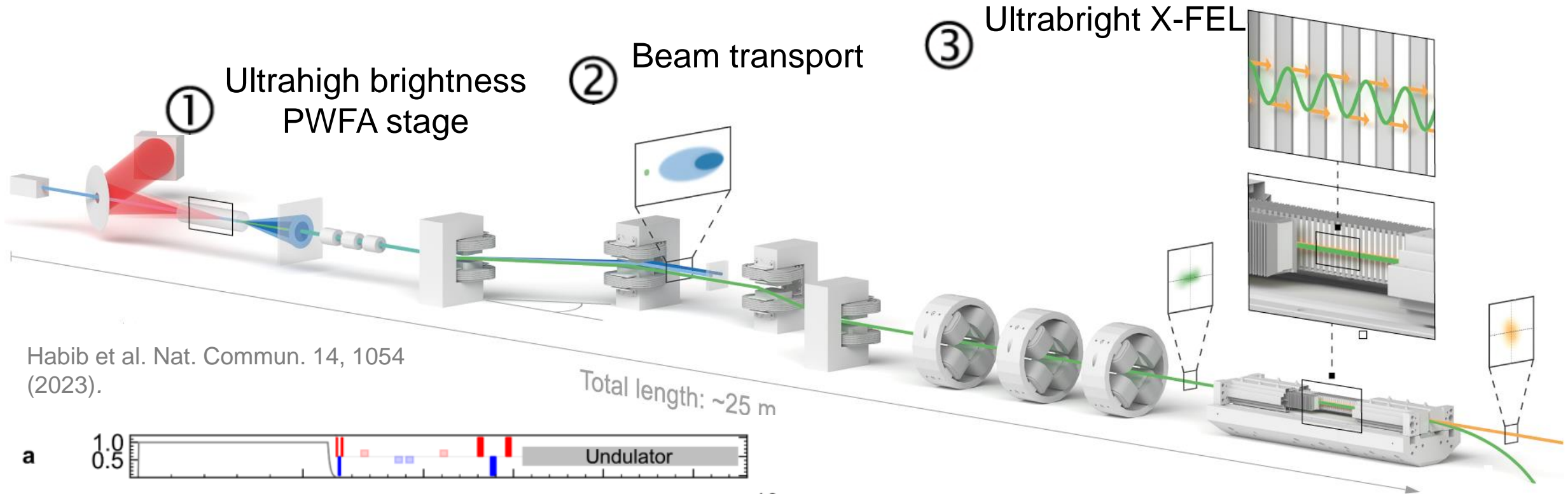
Hard X-ray FEL section



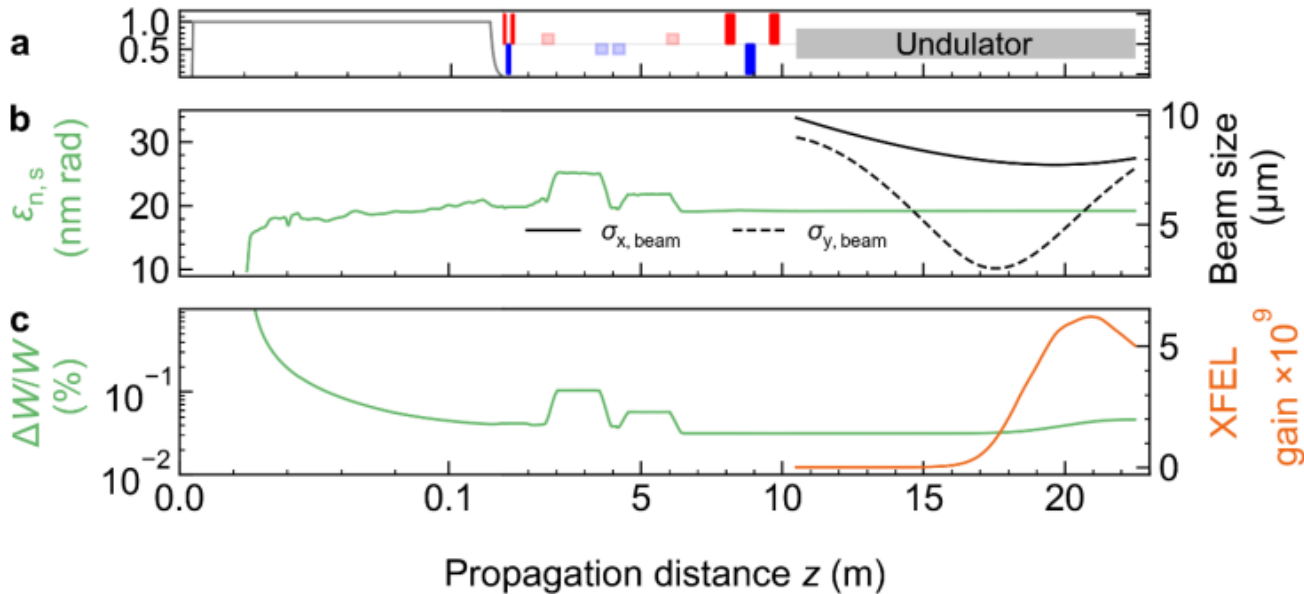
- SASE Hard X-ray FEL:** $\sim 1.5 \text{ \AA}$ and **Sub-Ångström** $\sim 0.8 \text{ \AA}$
- Saturation below 10 m undulator length \rightarrow GW power levels
- Radiation pulses are of atto-second pulse duration $\sim 100 \text{ as}$
- High gain and short bunch duration few modes are amplified \rightarrow near longitudinal coherence
- $\Delta\nu\Delta\tau \approx 1.8$ indicates that further improvements may yield Fourier transform limited X-FEL
- Note 3D gain length is very close to the theoretical 1D gain length \rightarrow cold beam limit



Summary PWFA-X-FEL

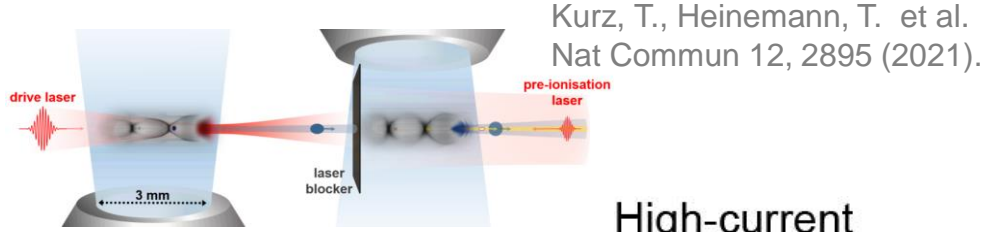


Habib et al. Nat. Commun. 14, 1054 (2023).

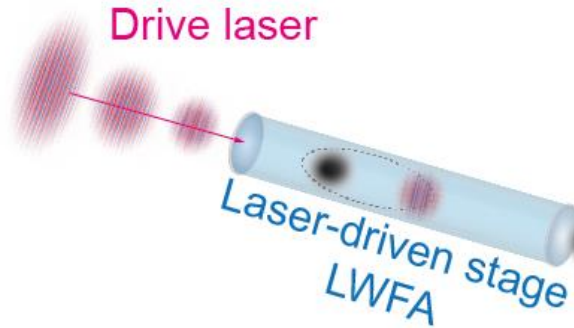


- ❑ Ultra-high 6D brightness witness beams are produced in PWFA via plasma photocathode
- ❑ Witness beam is extracted from the PWFA, captured, isolated and refocused into the undulator
- ❑ Beam quality is preserved across the building blocks
- ❑ GW power attosecond pulses at $\sim 1.5 \text{ \AA}$ and $\sim 0.8 \text{ \AA}$

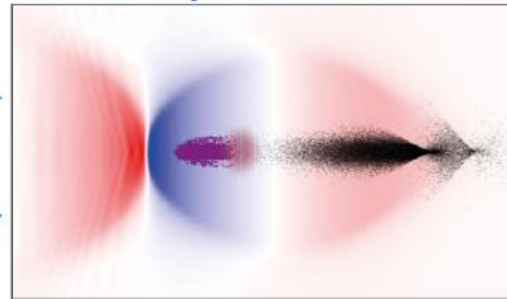
Experimental pathways towards PWFA based light sources



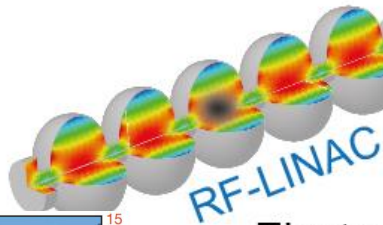
High-current
electron driver beam



Hidding et al., *Phys. Rev. Letters* 108, 035001, 2012, Deng* and Karger* et al., *Nat. Phys.* 2019
Plasma photocathode injection
aka Trojan Horse PWFA



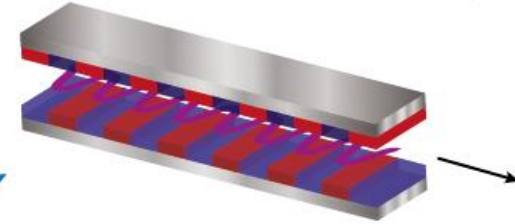
Brightness and energy
booster stage



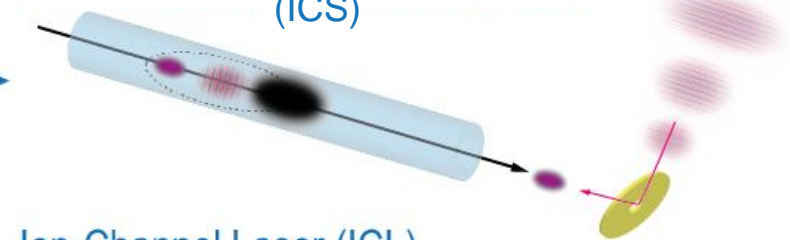
Electron driver beam
from LINAC

M. Litos, et al., *Nature*
515 92-15 (2014)

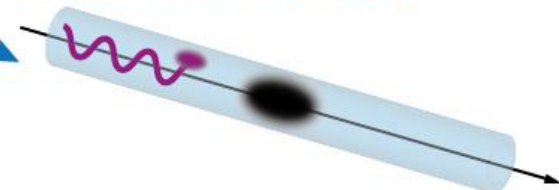
X-ray Free-electron laser (XFEL)



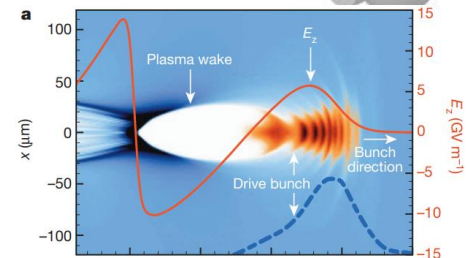
Inverse-Compton Scattering
(ICS)



Ion-Channel Laser (ICL)

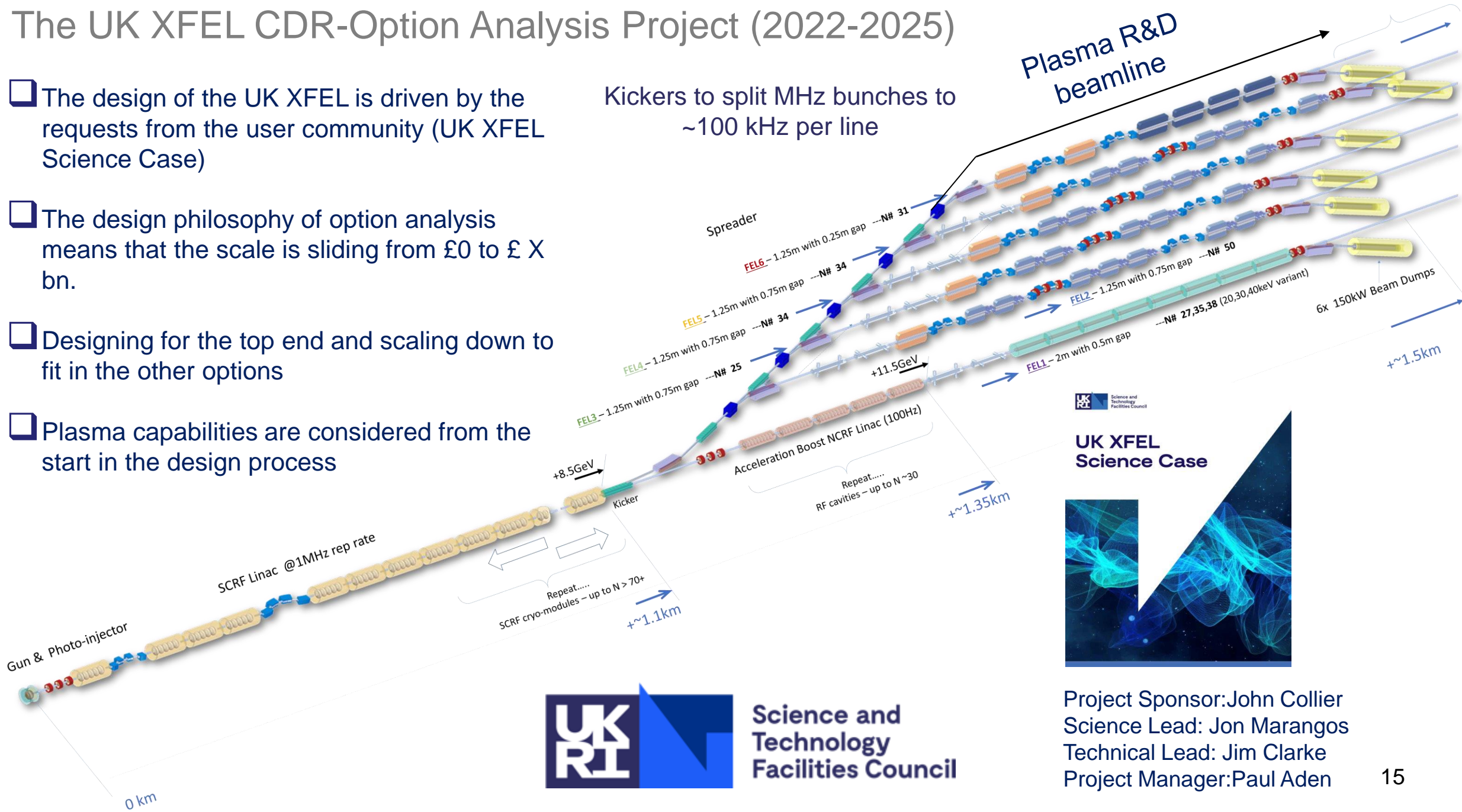


Habib et al., *Proc. SPIE* 11110, Advances in
Laboratory-based X-Ray Sources, Optics, and
Applications VII, 111100A (9 September 2019);
doi: 10.1117/12.2530976



The UK XFEL CDR-Option Analysis Project (2022-2025)

- The design of the UK XFEL is driven by the requests from the user community (UK XFEL Science Case)
- The design philosophy of option analysis means that the scale is sliding from £0 to £ X bn.
- Designing for the top end and scaling down to fit in the other options
- Plasma capabilities are considered from the start in the design process



PWFA-booster station @ UK XFEL

- Feasibility study of extending FEL photon energy beyond nominal 20 keV through the PWFA-booster station
- Consideration of the best strategy for integration into wider facility
- Sponsored/founded by the UK XFEL CDR- Option Analysis project

AAC 2018 poster on energy and brightness booster for linac-driven XFELs

Brightness booster stage for the LCLS-II accelerator

A.F. Habib^{1,†}, A. Knetsch², T. Heinemann^{1,2,P}, P. Scherkl¹, A. Sutherland^{1,3}, D. Ullmann¹, A. Beaton¹, G. Kirvan², J.B. Rosenzweig⁴, Raubenheimer, Tor O.⁵ & B. Hidding¹

[†]ahmad.habib@strath.ac.uk

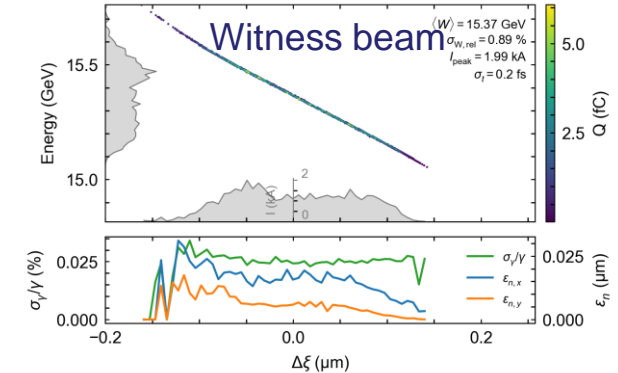
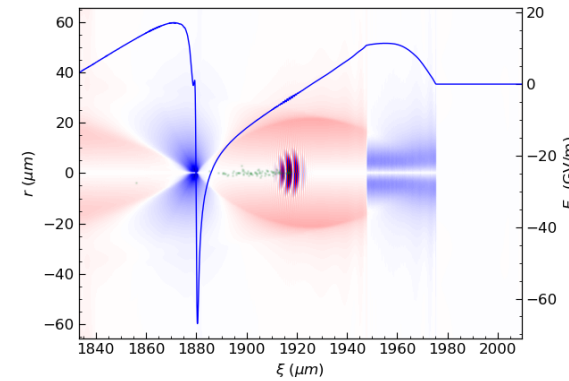
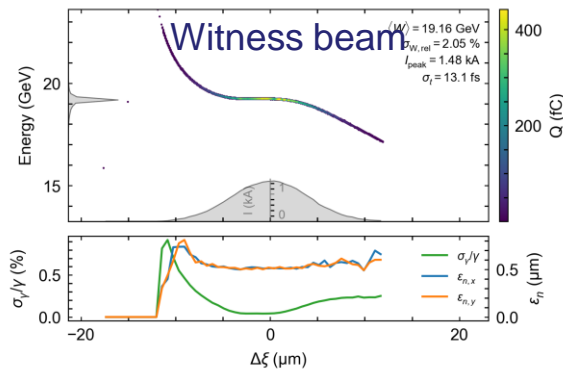
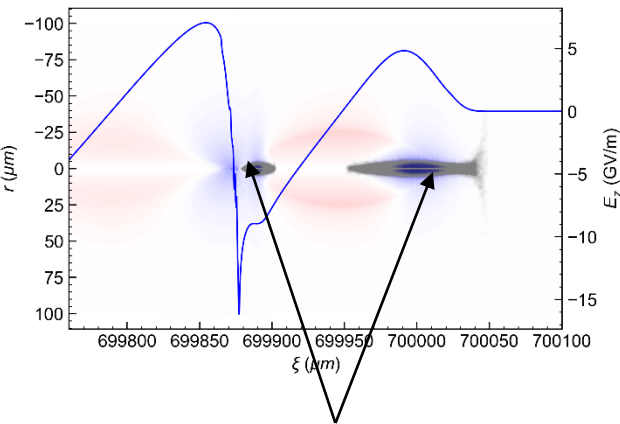
¹University of Strathclyde, SUPA, & The Cockcroft Institute, ²Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron (DESY), ³SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, ⁴University of California and ⁵Stanford University.

1. Energy boost to 19-20 GeV

Via two bunch configuration from UK XFEL linac

2. Brightness boost to 20-50 nm rad norm. emittance

Via plasma photocathode injection into PWFA



Driver-witness pair from UK XFEL linac @ 8 GeV initial beam energy

UK XFEL linac

R&D beam line



Post kicker beamline



40 -120 cm PWFA stage



Post-plasma stage beamline

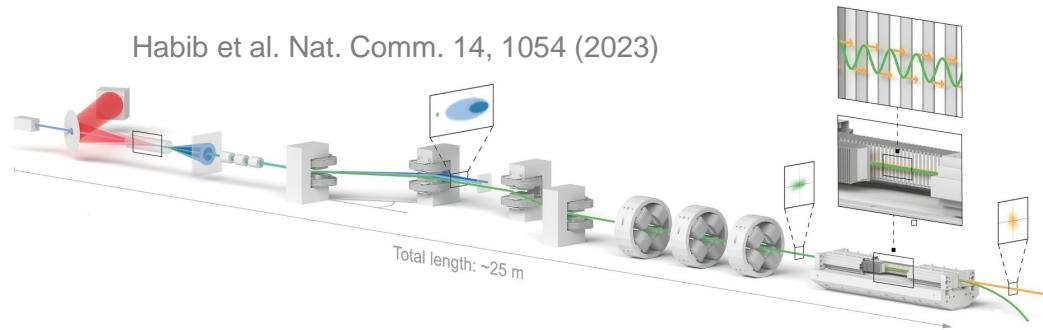


Applications: XFEL, ICS, ICL, and more ...

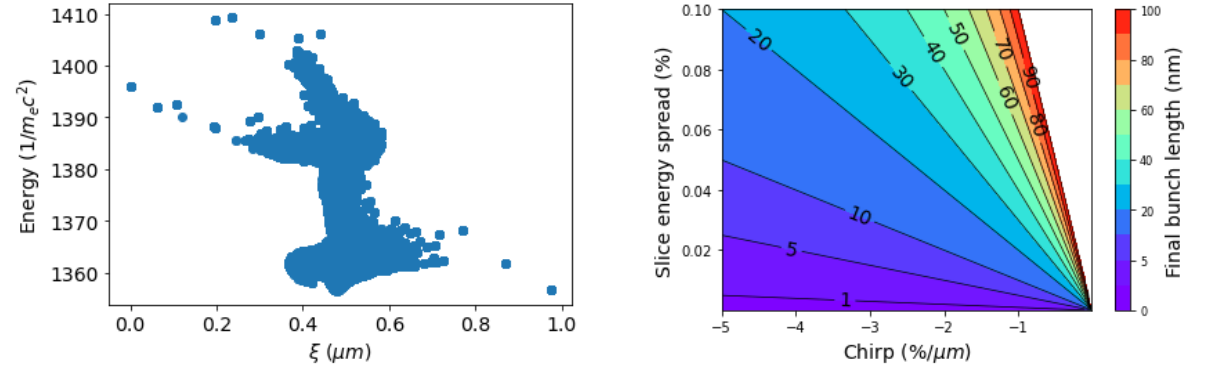
Witness beam injected via plasma photocathode in PWFA

Selected applications of plasma-based electron beams

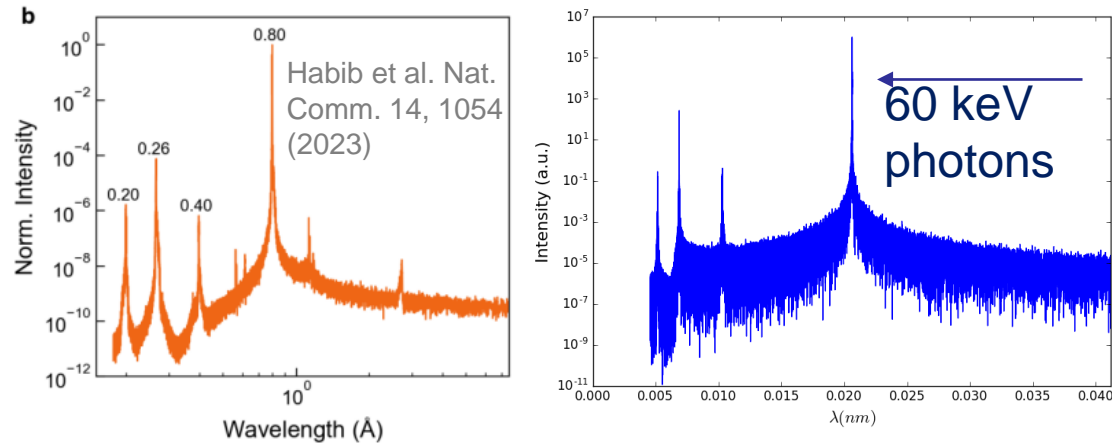
Attosecond-angstrom class XFEL photon pulses module



Attosecond-electron beams via extreme compression in post-plasma beamline (PAX)- Courtesy of Lily Berman

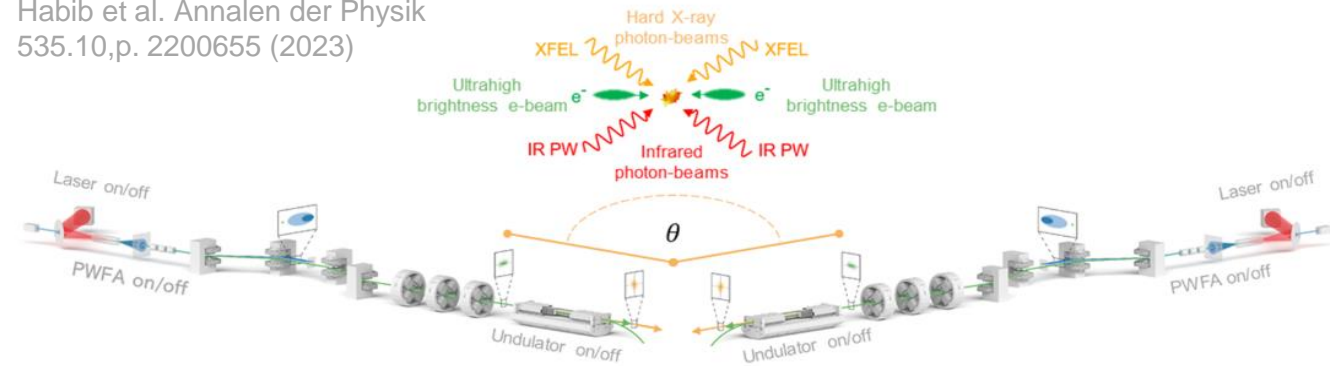


XFEL photon energies > 20 keV maybe possible



Pathways to novel electron and photon modalities towards QED, HEP and High-Field Physics.

Habib et al. Annalen der Physik 535.10,p. 2200655 (2023)



Many more applications such as ICS, ICL and betatron radiation in combination with XFEL pulses... → Pathway to new science?

Habib, Hidding, McNeil,
Berman, et al.



Rosenzweig et al.



Hogan, Raubenheimer,
Hemsing et al.



Dunnig,
Snedden,
Williams,
Clarke et al.



Industrial partners:
RadiaBeam (Andonian,
Murokh et al.),
Tech-X (Cary et al.),
RadiaSoft (Bruhwiler et al.)

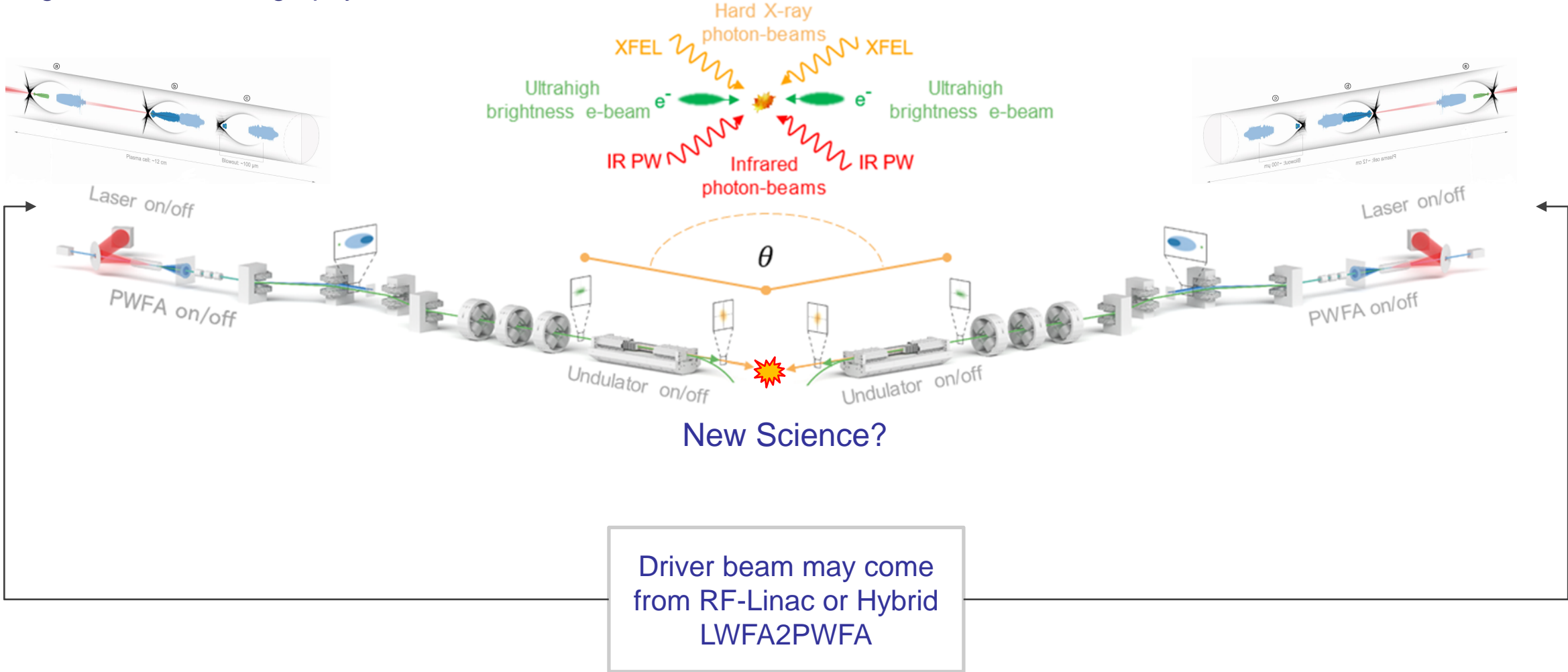


Thanks
Have a bright AAC 2024

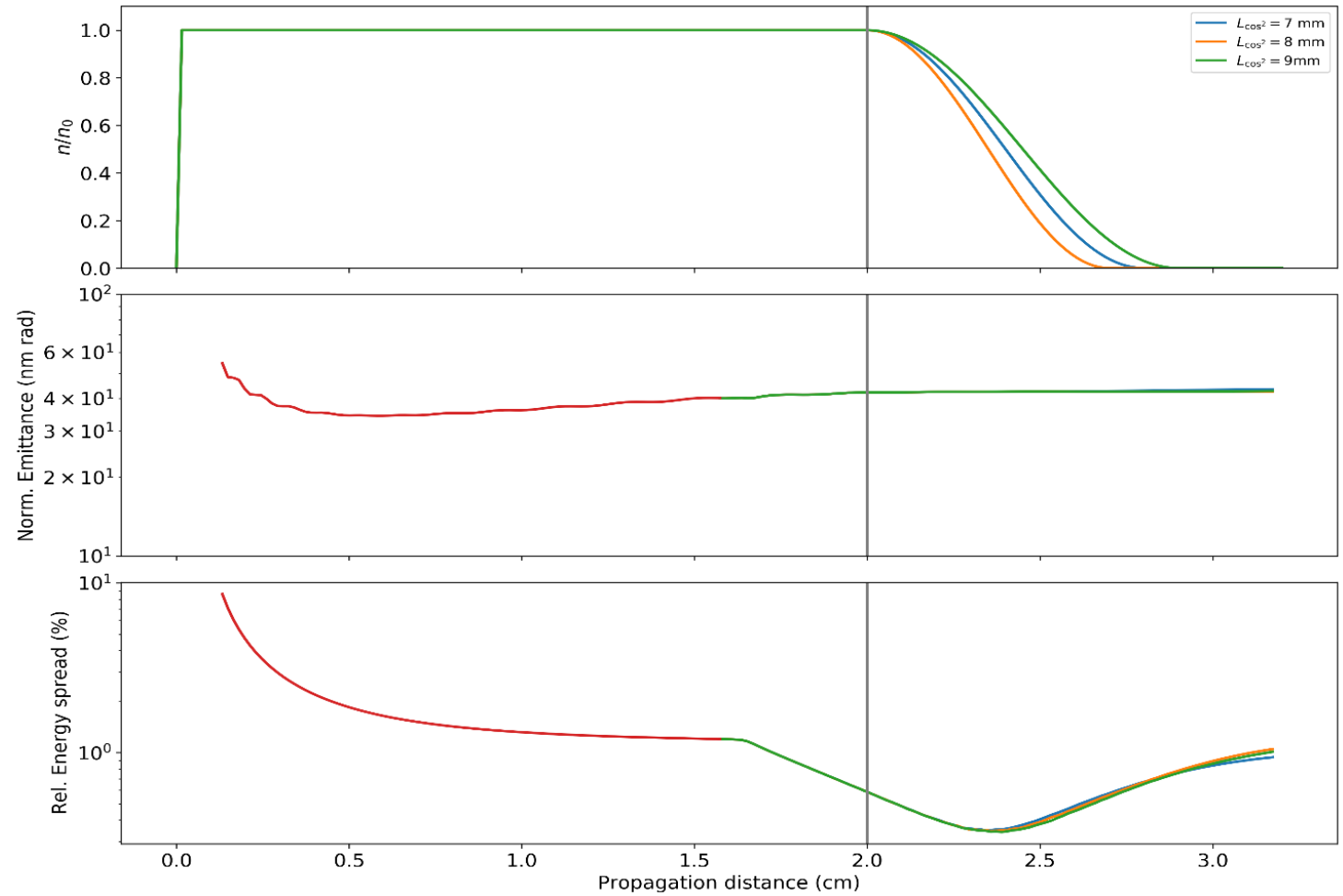
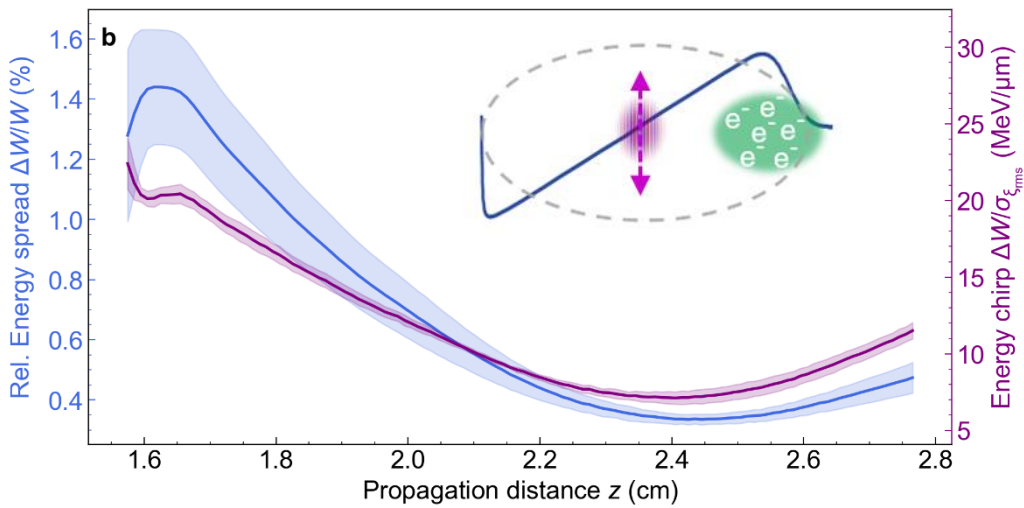
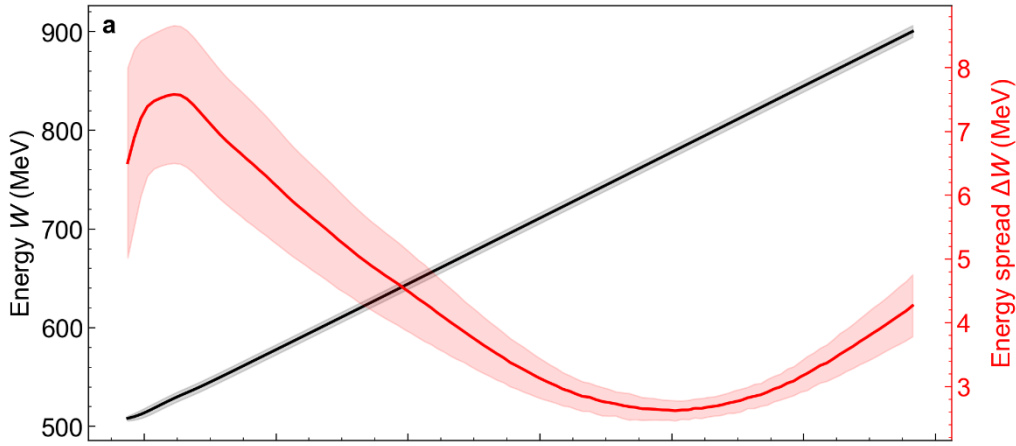


Outlook: prospects of PWFA-X-FEL

- Colliding photon and ultra-high brightness electron beams with arbitrary permutation
- Enables novel electron and photon beams modalities
- Investigate photon-photon scattering (Not experimentally demonstrated so far)
- QED and basic science studies with a new set of tools
- Single molecule tomography?

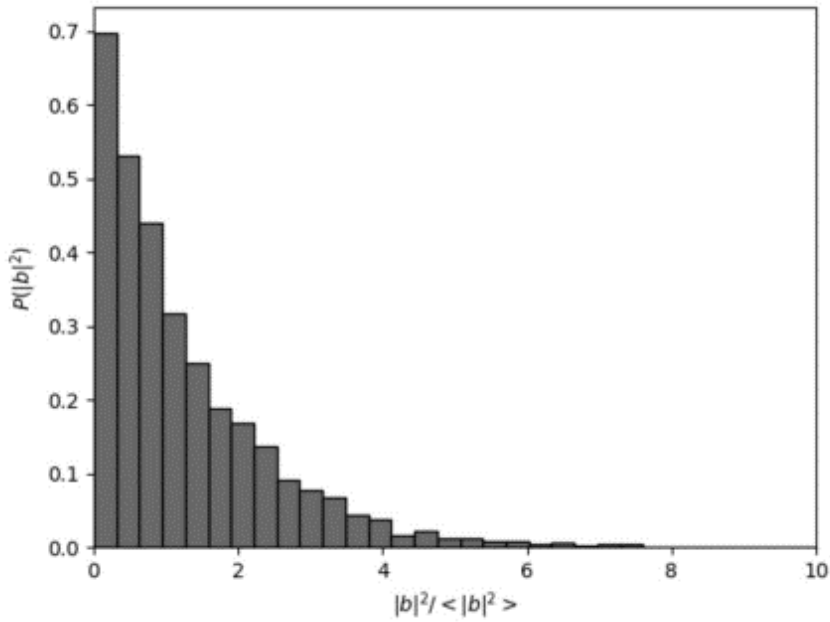


Stability of energy spread and extraction



- Witness beam injector laser misalignment does not have a dramatic impact on dechirping
- Witness beam can be extracted from the plasam stage without quality degradation

Fixing the shot-noise and undulator considerations



Supplementary Table 2 | Summary of the plasma-X-FEL performance for the two respective cases C1 and C2 presented in this work.

	λ_u (mm)	K	λ_r (nm)	E_{ph} (keV)	ρ_{1D} $\times 10^{-4}$	L_{1D} (m)	$L_{G,th}$ (m)	$L_{G,sim}$ (m)	$P_{r,th}$ (GW)	$P_{r,sim}$ (GW)	$\Delta\tau$ (as)	β^* (m)
C1	5	1.18	0.149	8.3	7.6	0.30	0.49	0.54	4.0	4.0	~100	~2.4
C2	3	1.0	0.079	15.7	5.5	0.25	0.42	0.62	2.8	0.5	~100	~2.4

- We need to carefully up-sampling the total number of particles for the FEL code
- Electron beams from PIC-codes have the "wrong" shot-noise statistics.
- Very important! Introduce proper Poissonian 'shot-noise' to the up-sampled distribution

- We use advanced undulator similar presented in the UC-XFEL configuration
- Low electron energy, low emittance and short period undulators belong together
- We pushed towards the cold beam regime



Rosenzweig, J.B. et al. An ultra-compact x-ray free-electron laser. New J. Phys. 22, 093067 (2020).

Beam quality stability analysis

Conservative jitter parameters

- ❑ Temporal offset: 0-30 fs
- ❑ Transverse offset: 0-10 μm
- ❑ Focus laser intensity a_0 : 0-2%

Beam parameter stability

- ❑ Key properties show % to sub-% level stability
- ❑ Path towards stability levels for FEL and HEP applications
- ❑ Beam energy stability within beam transport tolerances
- ❑ Huge improvement potential considering state-of-the-art synchronization limits
- ❑ Deliberately misaligning injector laser for flat beams

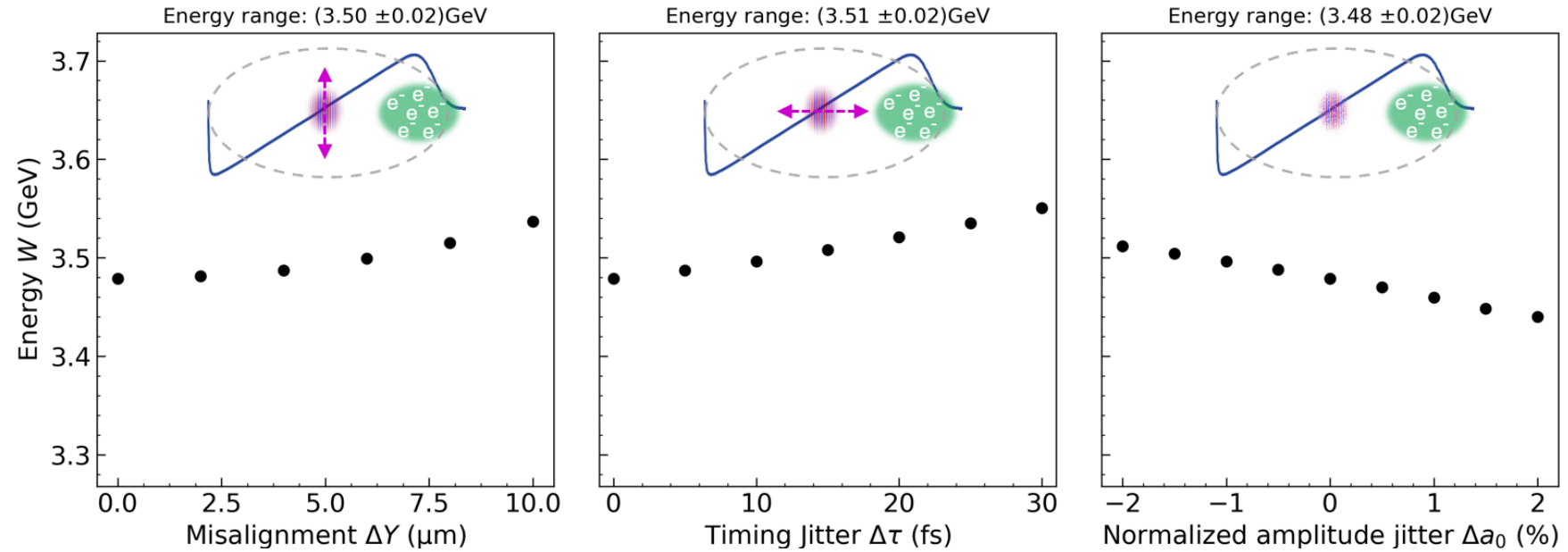


TABLE I. Witness beam parameter summary of plasma photocathode laser jitter analysis.

Beam parameter	Pointing jitter ΔX	Timing jitter $\Delta\tau$	Laser amplitude jitter Δa_0
Energy W (MeV)	72.15 ± 0.59	72.38 ± 0.69	71.69 ± 0.68
Energy spread (%)	1.41 ± 0.05	1.52 ± 0.11	1.38 ± 0.15
Charge (pC)	2.371 ± 0.005	2.375 ± 0.006	2.41 ± 0.42
Peak current I_p (kA)	1.32 ± 0.21	1.23 ± 0.21	1.56 ± 0.11
Bunch length (μm)	0.19 ± 0.03	0.22 ± 0.04	0.17 ± 0.02
Normalized emittance $\epsilon_{n,x}$ (nm rad)	29.91 ± 11.80	15.11 ± 0.13	15.17 ± 1.77
Normalized mittance $\epsilon_{n,y}$ (nm rad)	15.38 ± 0.48	15.51 ± 0.12	15.66 ± 1.90
5D brightness ($\times 10^{18} \text{ A m}^{-2} \text{ rad}^{-2}$)	7.11 ± 3.66	10.45 ± 1.65	13.5 ± 2.40

Habib, F. A. et al. Ultrahigh brightness beams from plasma photoguns. Preprint at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.01502> (2021).