

Harnessing Physical Forces for Medical Applications Symposium

UCLA

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# Laser-driven Medicine: A prelude

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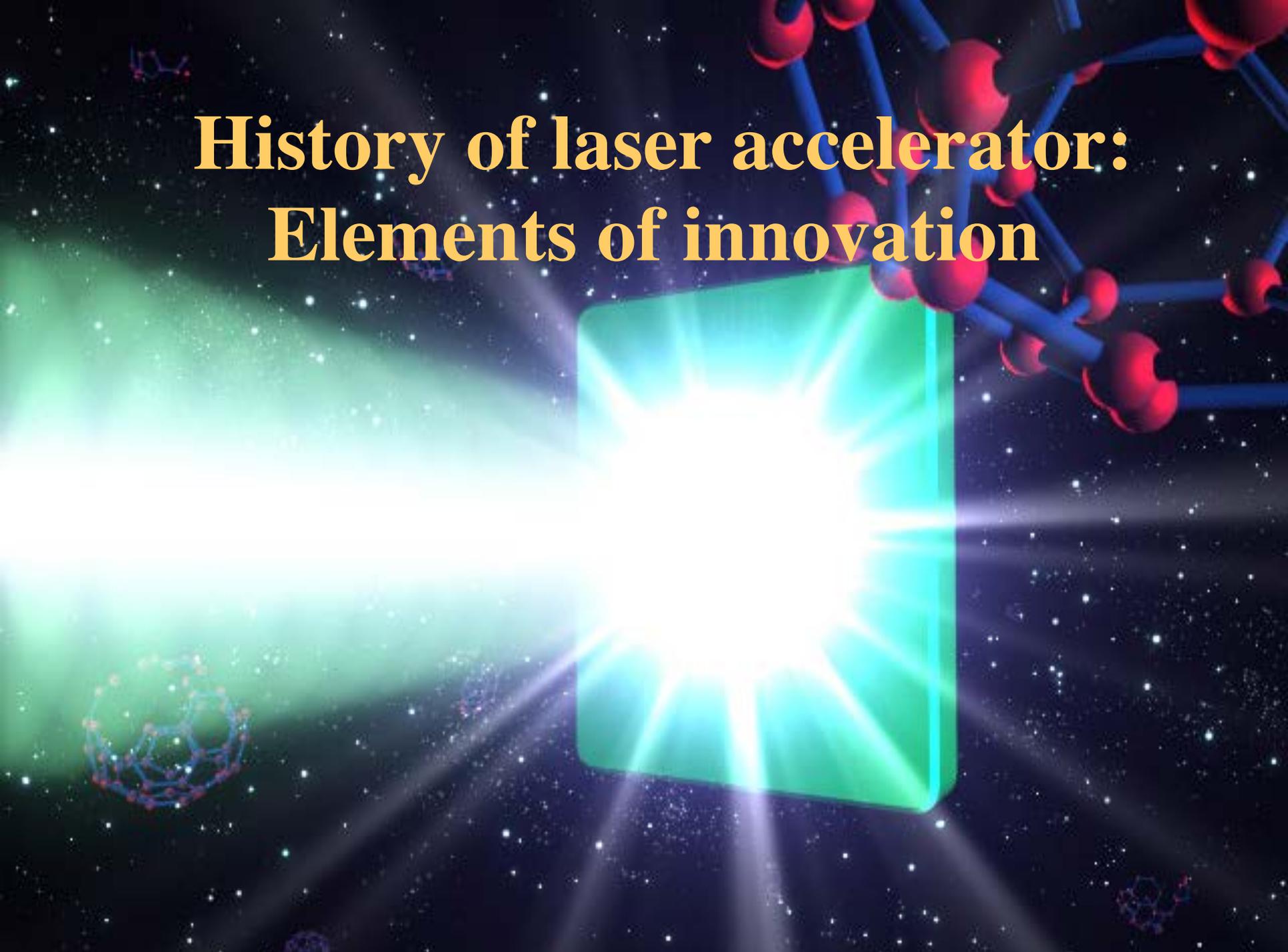
UCI

In memory of and dedication to  
the late Profs. <sup>†</sup>J. M. Dawson and <sup>†</sup>N. Rostoker

# abstract

1. History of **laser** accelerator, which drove the **laser** technology and vice versa
2. Elements of **laser** acceleration: a novel path toward tiny **radiobeams** (electrons, ions, X-rays (gamma-rays), neutrons, and radio-isotopic beams)
3. Convergence with **nanotechnology, biotechnology**
4. Potentiality: portability, intra-operative, endoscopic, theranostics, ....

# History of laser accelerator: Elements of innovation



# Advent of collective acceleration (1956)

## CERN Symposium

ON HIGH ENERGY ACCELERATORS  
AND PION PHYSICS

Geneva, 11<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1956

## Proceedings

### COHERENT PRINCIPLE OF ACCELERATION OF CHARGED PARTICLES

V. I. VEKSLER

Electrophysical Laboratory, Academy of Sciences, Moscow

This paper will include a very brief description of a new principle regarding the acceleration of charged particles.

In all existing accelerators of charged particles, the constant and varying electric field accelerating them is created by a powerful external source, and hence the strength of the field is independent, in the first approximation, of the number of particles which are being accelerated.

In resonance accelerators, the electromagnetic field has to be synchronized with the movement of the particles (this is of particular importance in linear accelerators). Finally, none of the existing methods permits the acceleration of neutral bunches of particles.

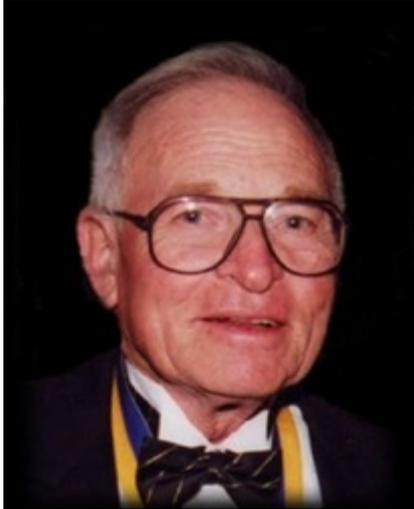
A new principle of particle acceleration is set forth below. Its distinctive feature lies in the fact that the particle-accelerating electric field is produced by the interaction of a geometrically small group of accelerated particles with another group of charges, plasma or an electromagnetic wave. This method has a number of important features. It appears, in the first place, that the magnitude of the accelerating field produced by this interaction and acting on each particle depends on the number

Theoretical studies of various aspects of the coherent acceleration method have been made by M. S. Rabinovich, A. A. Kolomenski, B. M. Bolotovskii, L. V. Kovrizhnikh and I. V. Iankov, as well as by A. I. Akhiezer, Ia. Fainberg and their collaborators. The calculations made by these theoretical workers shed light on a number of complicated problems connected with the development of the different variants of this new acceleration principle, and it therefore seems appropriate to describe the new method despite the fact that a great many problems involved still await solution.

#### 1. *Acceleration of charged bunches by means of the medium*

It was pointed out in a paper by Tamm that the loss of energy by particles due to Čerenkov radiation could be reversed, i.e. the medium travelling at a great velocity past charged particles should be able to convey energy to the latter. Up to now, however, no attention has been paid to the possibility of developing an acceleration process of this kind by using a high density electron beam (plasma) as the moving medium. Of course, if a single charge  $e$  is

# Prehistoric activities (1973-75, 78)



Professor N. Rostoker

**Collective acceleration suggested:**

Veksler (1956)

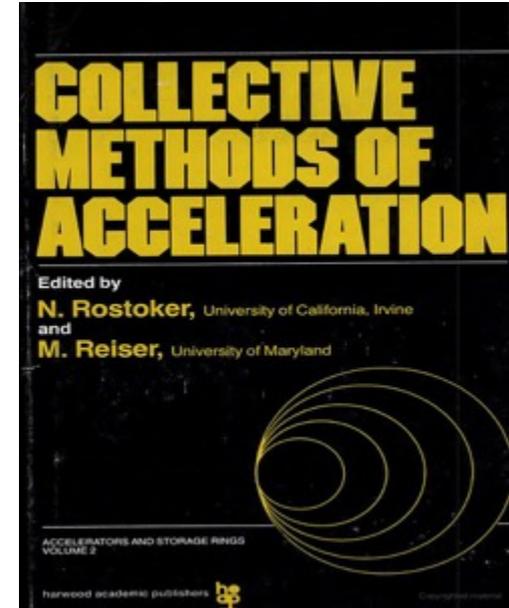
(ion energy)~ (M/m)(electron energy)

**Many experimental attempts** (~'70s):

led to **no** such amplification

(ion energy)~ (**several**)x(electron)

Mako-Tajima found its reason (1978)



Professor J. Dawson

Introduction of wakefields (Tajima-Dawson, 1979)

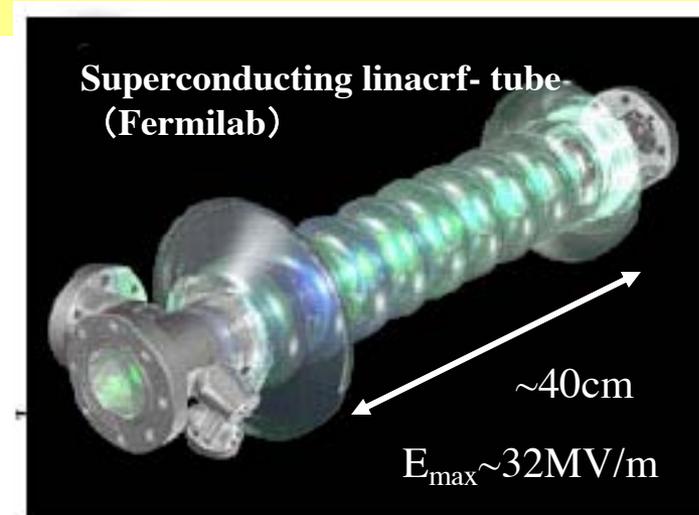
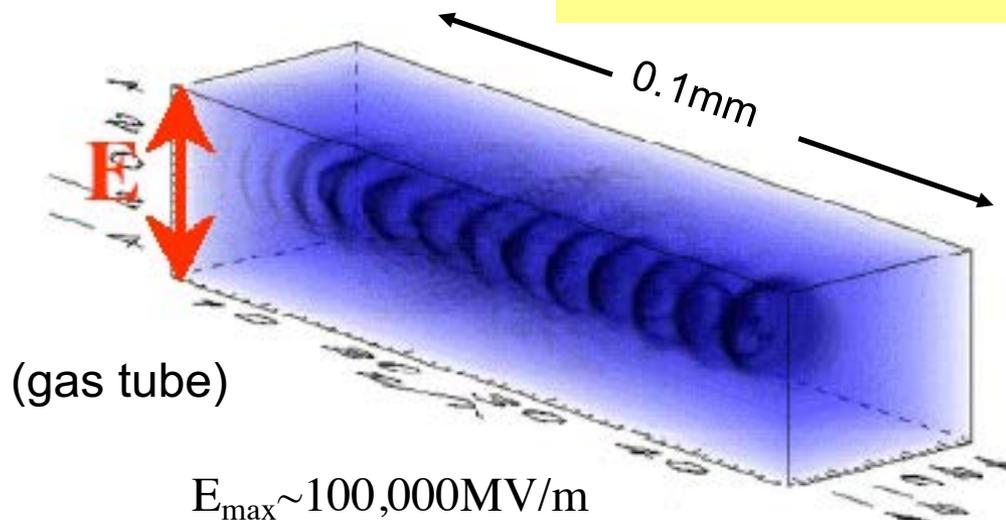
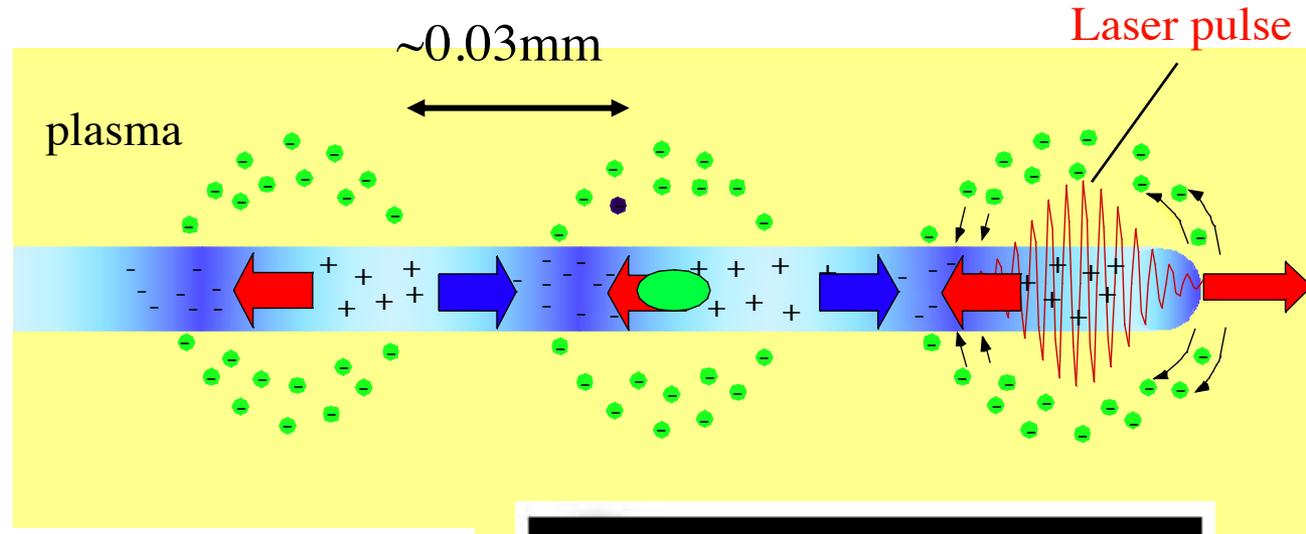
→ **electron acceleration** possible

with **trapping** (with **Tajima-Dawson field. 1979**), more tolerant for sudden process

However, requires **relativistically strong laser** (see next development)

# Laser wakefield (Tajima-Dawson, 1979 @UCLA)

Thousand-fold Compactification over conventional accelerators



# The late Prof. Abdus Salam\*



At ICTP Summer School (1981), Prof. Salam summoned me and discussed about **laser** wakefield acceleration.

Salam: *'Scientists like me began feeling that we had less means to test our theory. However, with your **laser** acceleration, I am encouraged'*. (1981)

He organized the Oxford Workshop on laser wakefield accelerator in 1982.

Effort: many scientists over many years to realize his vision / dream  
**High field science**: spawned. (\* 1979 Nobel Prize in physics)



The superconducting RF proton linac at the SNS at Oak Ridge National Laboratory is providing valuable experience for a future ADS accelerator.  
Image credit: ORNL.

# Laser technology invented (1985)



Professor Gerard Mourou\*

\* 2018 Nobel in Physics

Chirped pulse amplification (CPA) invented:  
to overcome the gain medium nonlinearities  
in spatially expanded amplification to  
temporal expansion:

smaller, shorter pulse, more intense,  
higher replate,  
all simultaneous.

→ relativistically strong **laser** realized (1990's)

→ many table-top TW and PW **lasers** world-wide  
first Chair, ICUIL (International Committee for  
Ultra Intense **Lasers** )

toward EW **laser** (*Extreme Light Infrastructure*)

→ First **LWFA** experiments

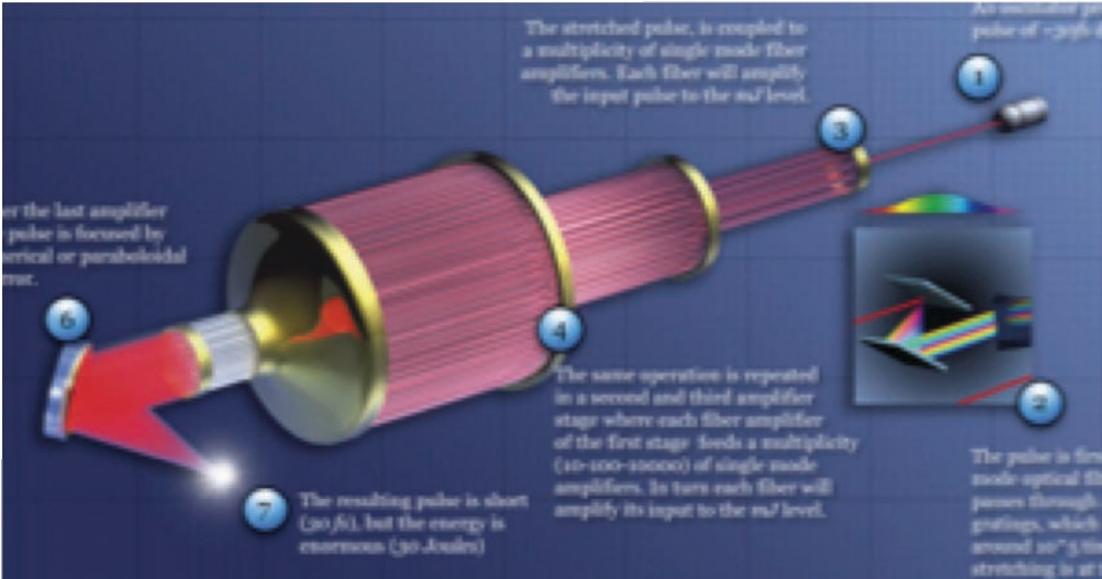
(Nakajima,..., Tajima, Phys. Scrip. 1994; Modena et al, 1995)

→ drives **High Field Science**

# Laser accelerators demanded more laser inventions

CAN fiber laser (2013)

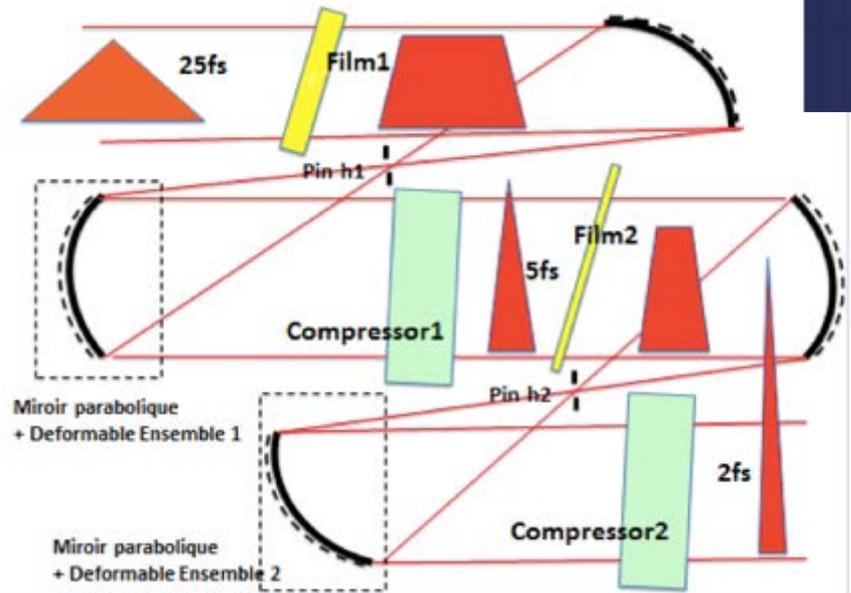
← tiny laser (like a hair  $\mu m$  individually), efficiency, large rep-rate, yet, large average power (by bundles)



Mourou\*, Brocklesby, Tajima, Limpert (2013)

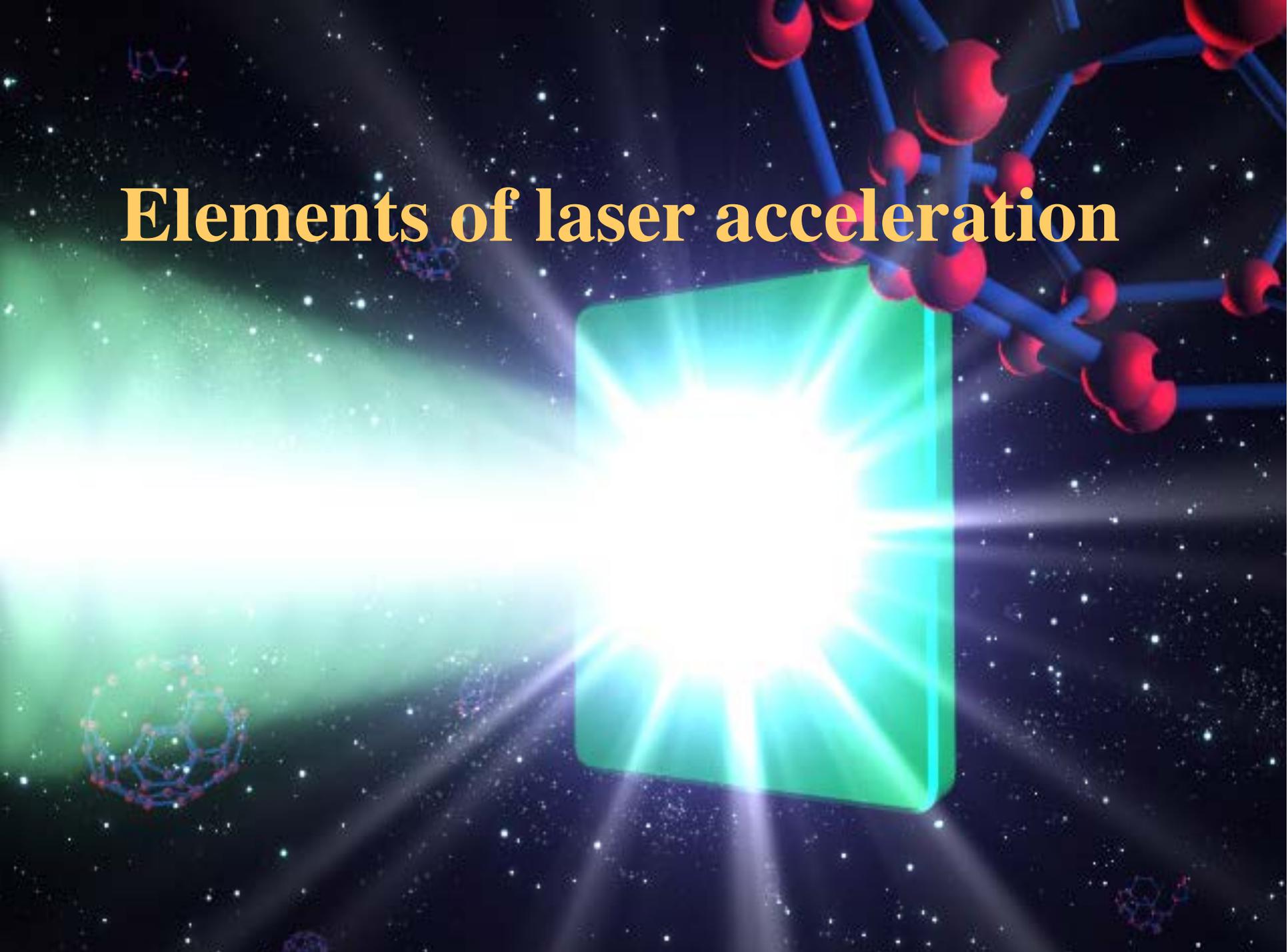
Thin Film Compression (2014)

← even shorter pulse (fs)



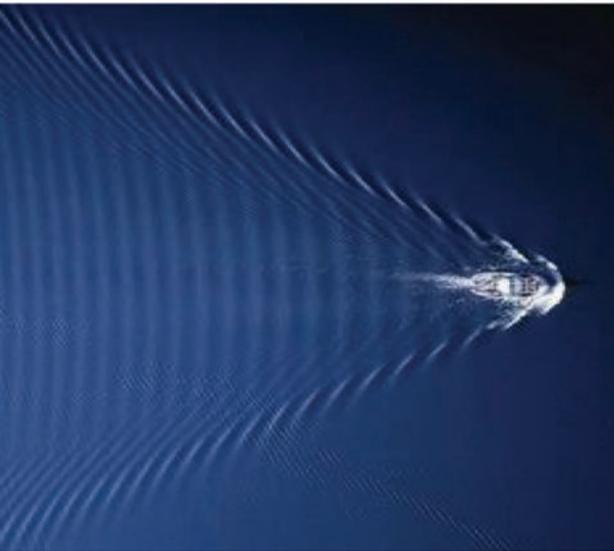
Mourou\* et al, (2014)

# Elements of laser acceleration



# Laser Wakefield (LWFA):

Wake phase velocity  $\gg$  thermal speed ( $v_{ph} \gg v_{th}$ )  
 maintains **coherent** and **smooth** structure



VS

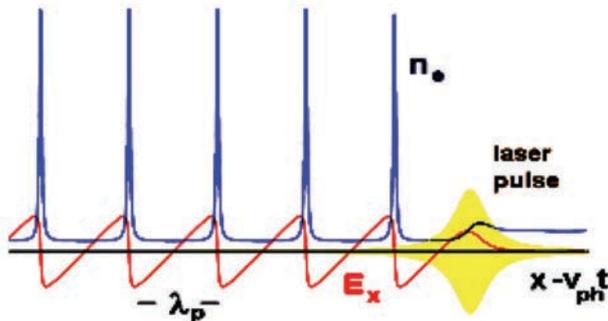
Tsunami phase velocity becomes  $\sim 0$ ,  
 causes **wavebreak** and **turbulence**



“Onigokko (hide ‘n seek)” state

Strong beam (of **laser** / particles) drives plasma waves to saturation amplitude:  $E = m\omega v_{ph} / e$

No wave breaks and wake **peaks** at  $v \approx c$



← relativity  
 regularizes  
 (*relativistic coherence*)

Wave **breaks** at  $v < c$

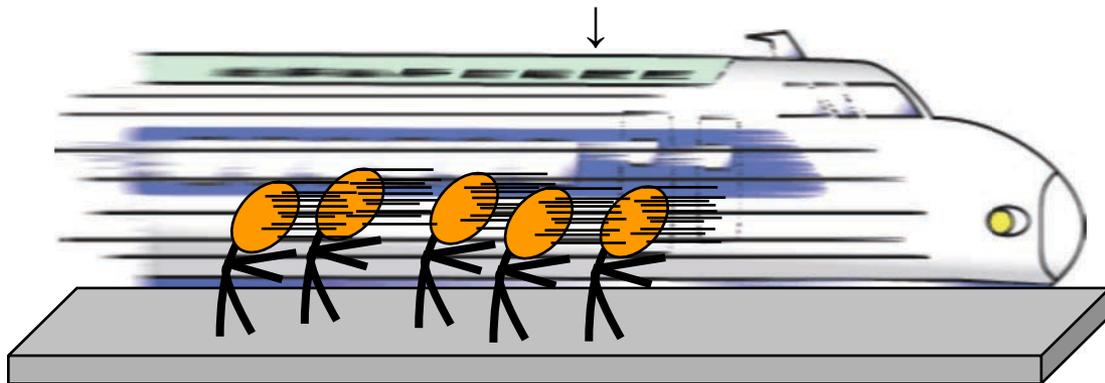


**Relativistic coherence** enhances beyond the **Tajima-Dawson field**  $E = m\omega_p c / e$  ( $\sim$  GeV/cm)

# Adiabatic (Gradual) Acceleration of Ions

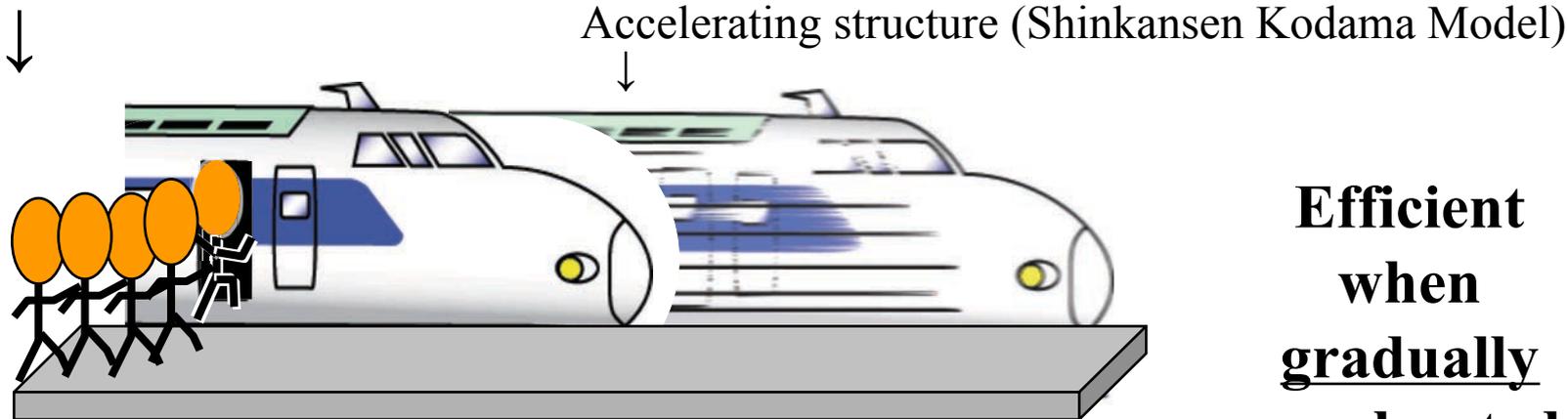
from #1 lesson of Mako-Tajima problem

Accelerating structure (Shinkansen Nozomi model)



**Inefficient if  
suddenly  
accelerated**

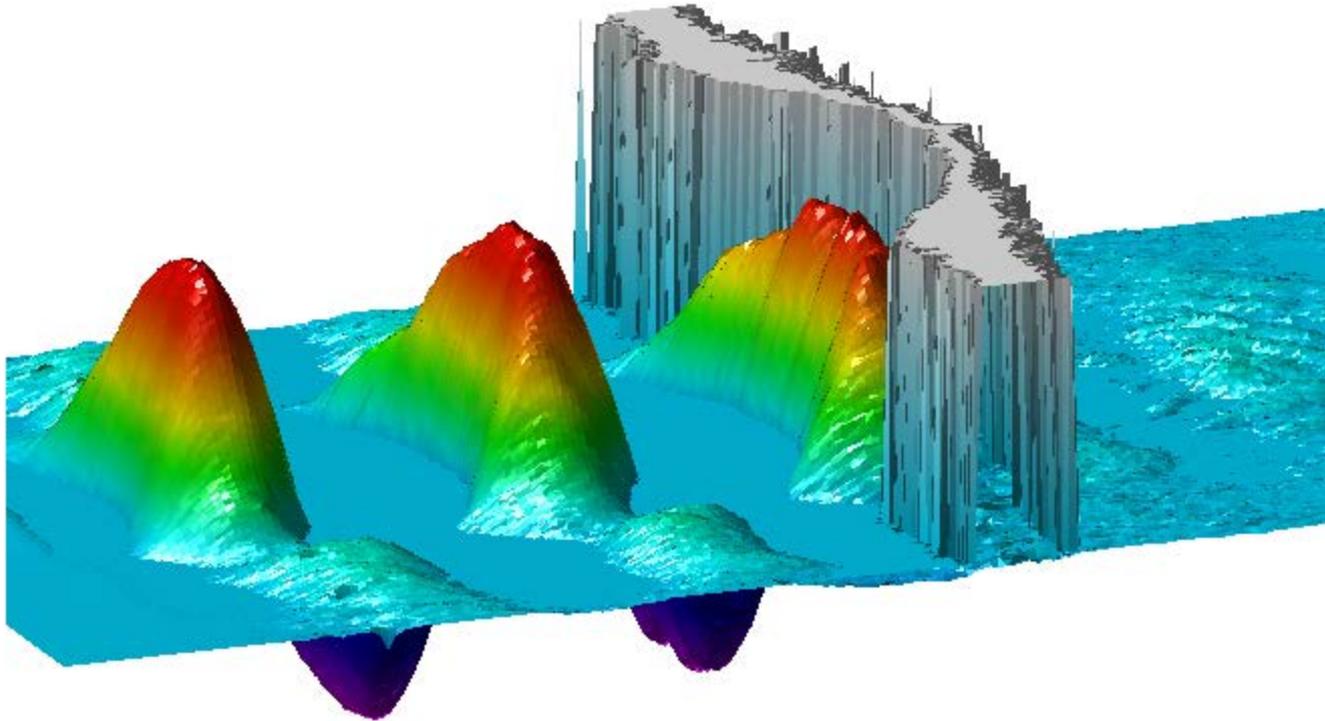
protons ↑



**Efficient  
when  
gradually  
accelerated**

Lesson #1: gradual acceleration → Relevant for ions

# Laser -Thin Foil Interaction

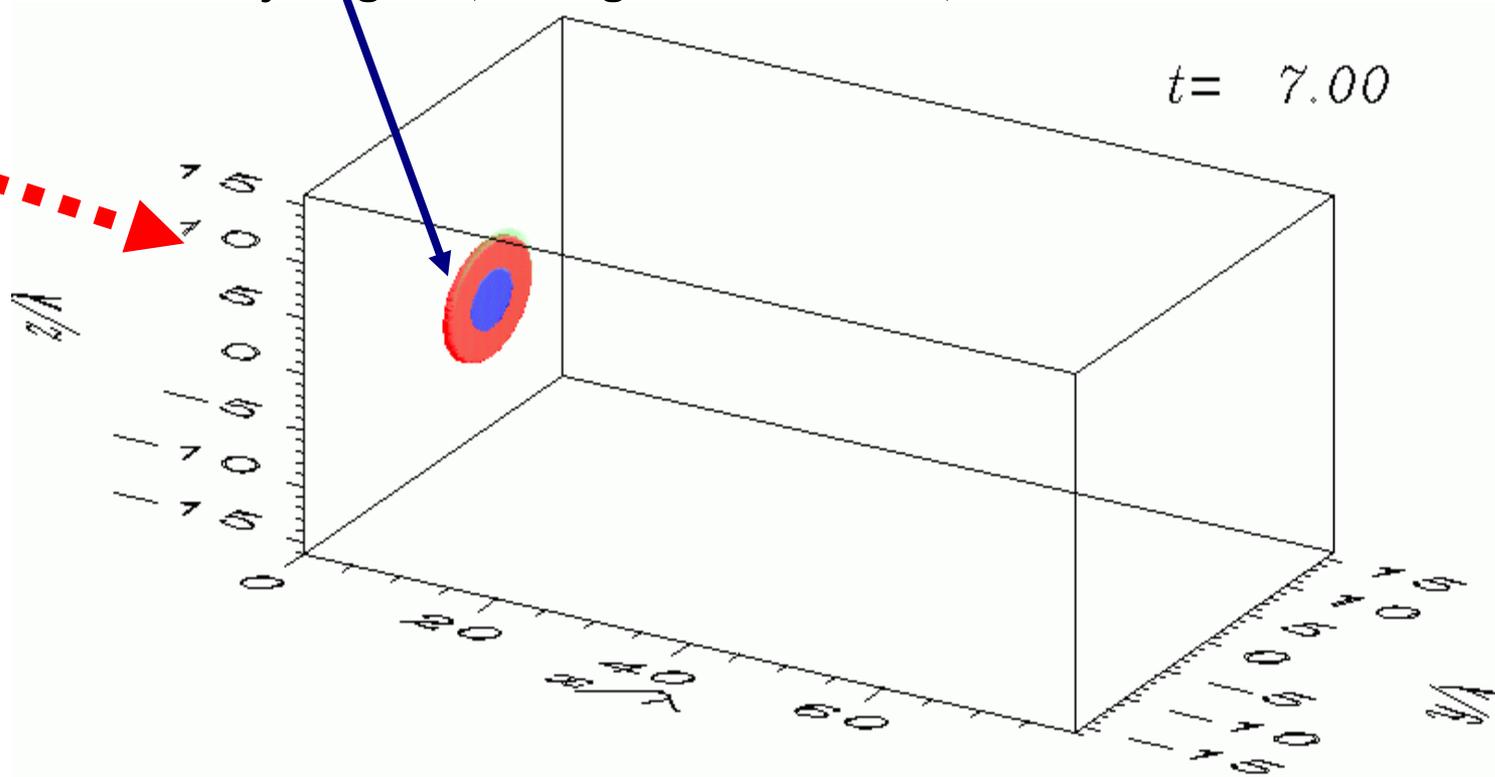


X. Yan et al., 2009

# Radiation (**Laser**) Pressure Acceleration

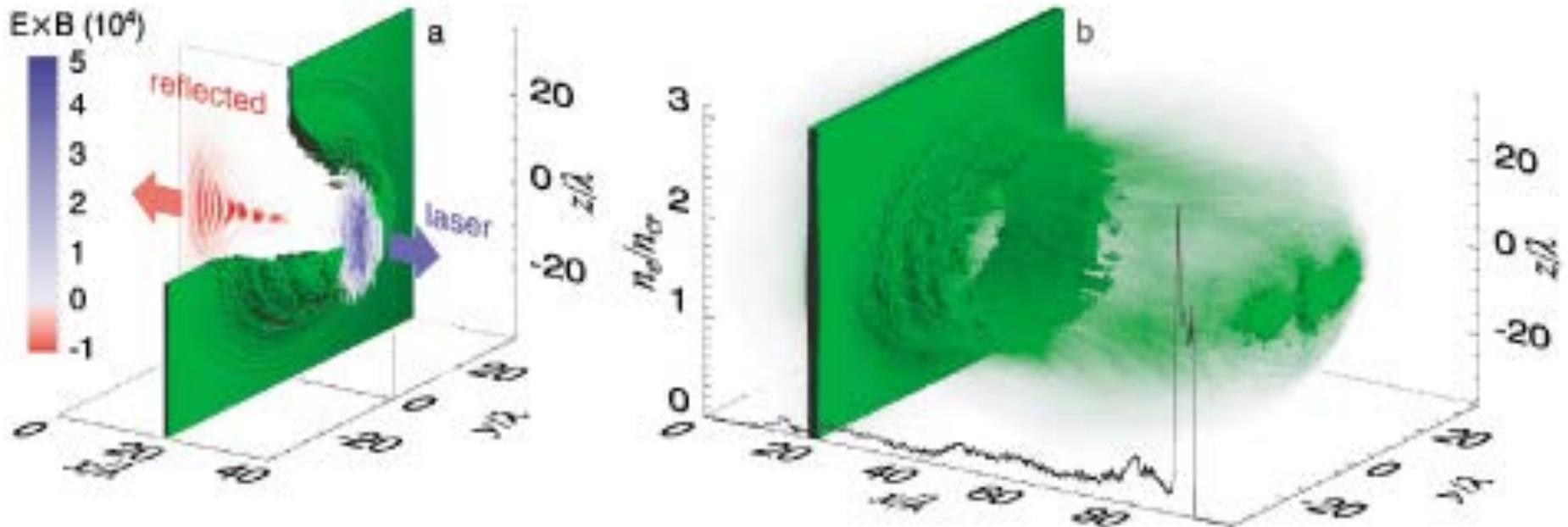
Double layer target (metal layer with smaller hydrogen (or light Z material))

laser



Esirkepov et al.(2002)

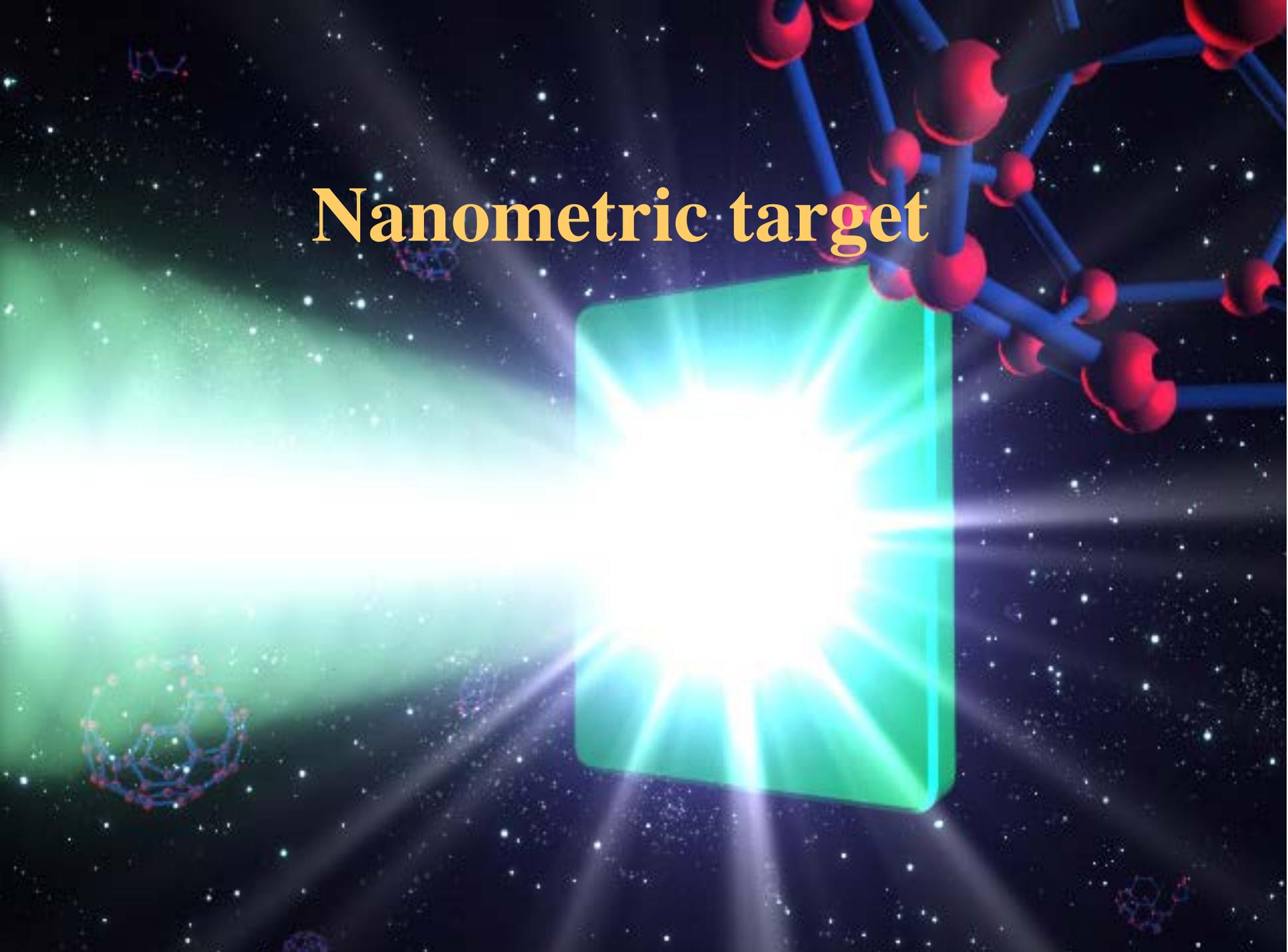
# Radiation (**Laser**) Pressure Acceleration



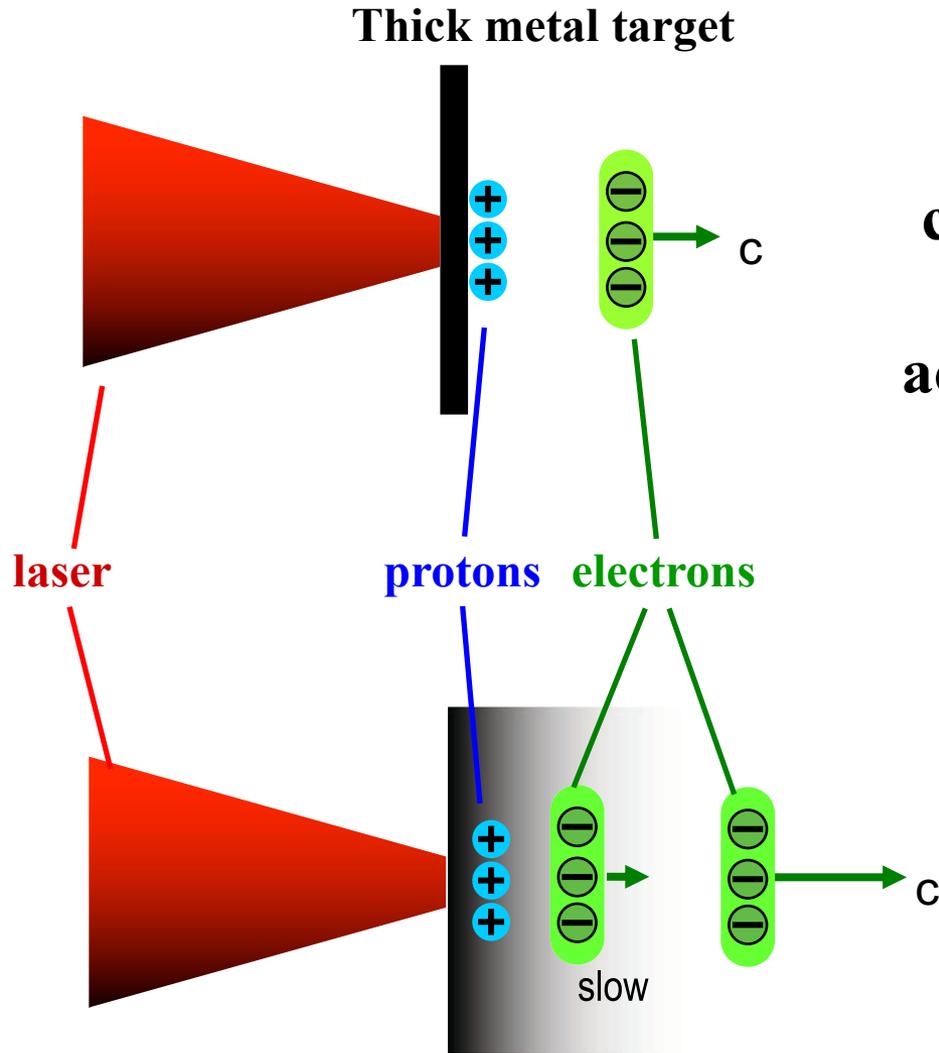
Radiation dominant regime

Esirkepov et al. (2004)

# Nanometric target



# Adiabatic acceleration (2)



Most experimental configurations of **laser** proton acceleration (2000-2009)

Innovation (“Adiabatic Acceleration”) by **laser** (2009-)

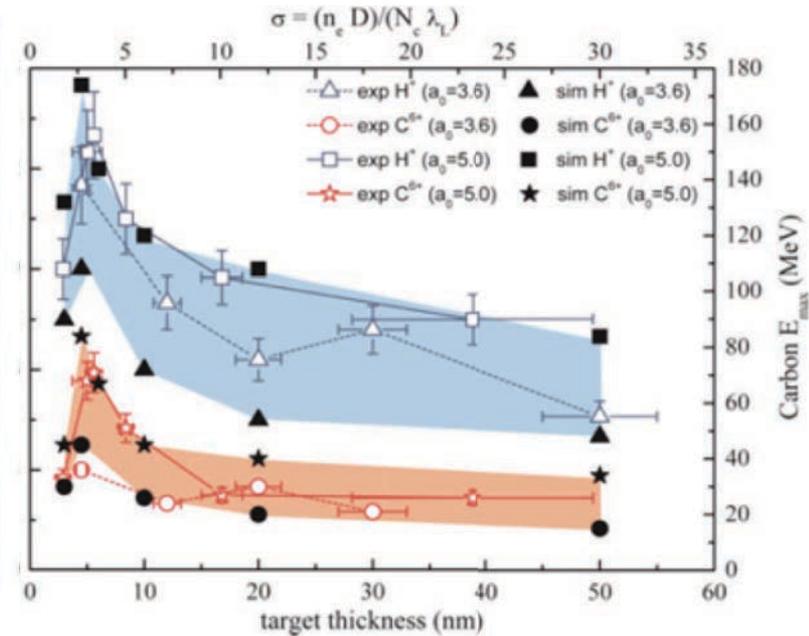
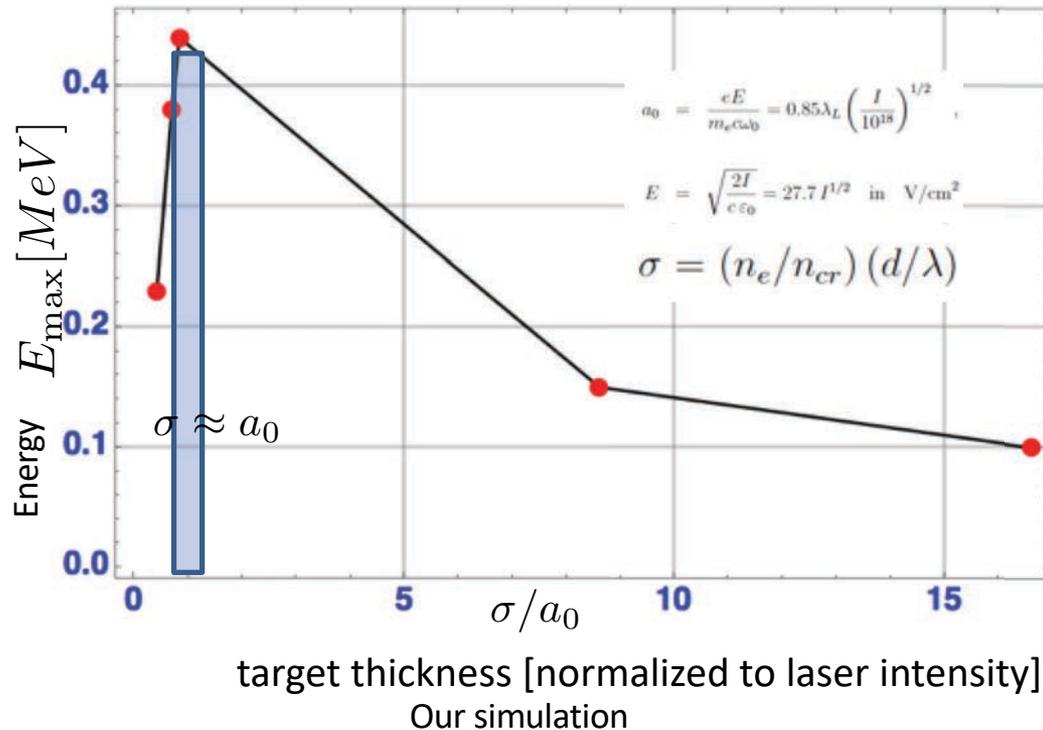
= Method to make the electrons within ion trapping width

Graded, thin (nm), or clustered target and/or circular polarization

# Target thickness scales with $a_0$

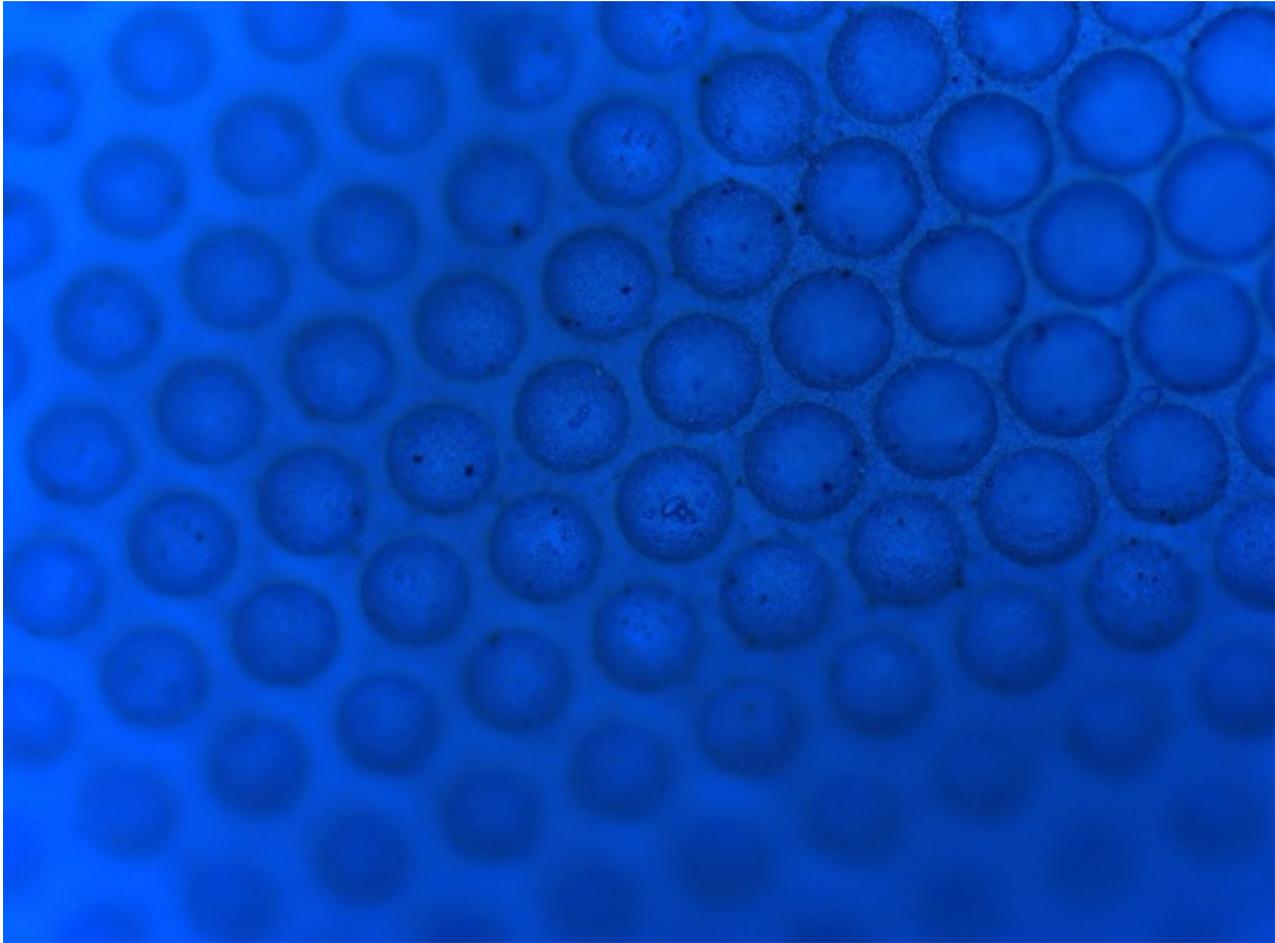
## Coherent Acceleration of Ions by Laser (CAIL)

Deuteron energy vs. thickness of foil



Optimum parameters (sweet-spot) for ion acceleration at  $\sigma \approx a_0$

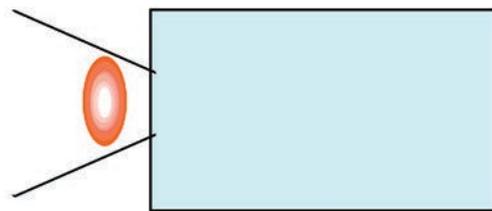
# Nanostructured target



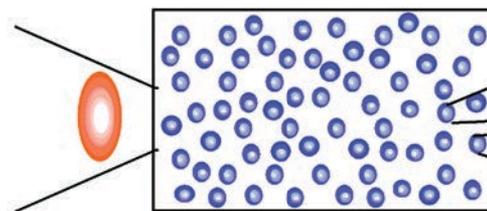
(Habs, 2009)

# Why is **Laser**-Cluster Interaction Strong?

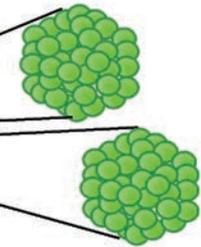
"clusterd phase" vs. "gas", "plasma", "solid phase"



gas • plasma • solid



cluster



like large molecular

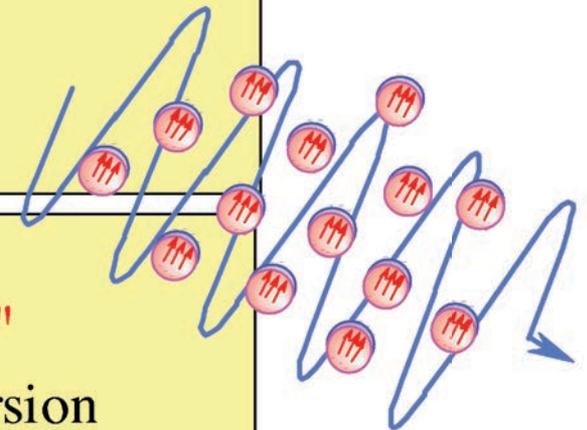
Transverse polarization manifest

- "Small particle system" and enhanced fluctuation

- free energy originated from the surface is NOT neglected.
- **energy** and **structual** deformation/fluctuation

- Freedom of tansverse polarization through "**surface**"

- different nature in linear and non-linear dispersion



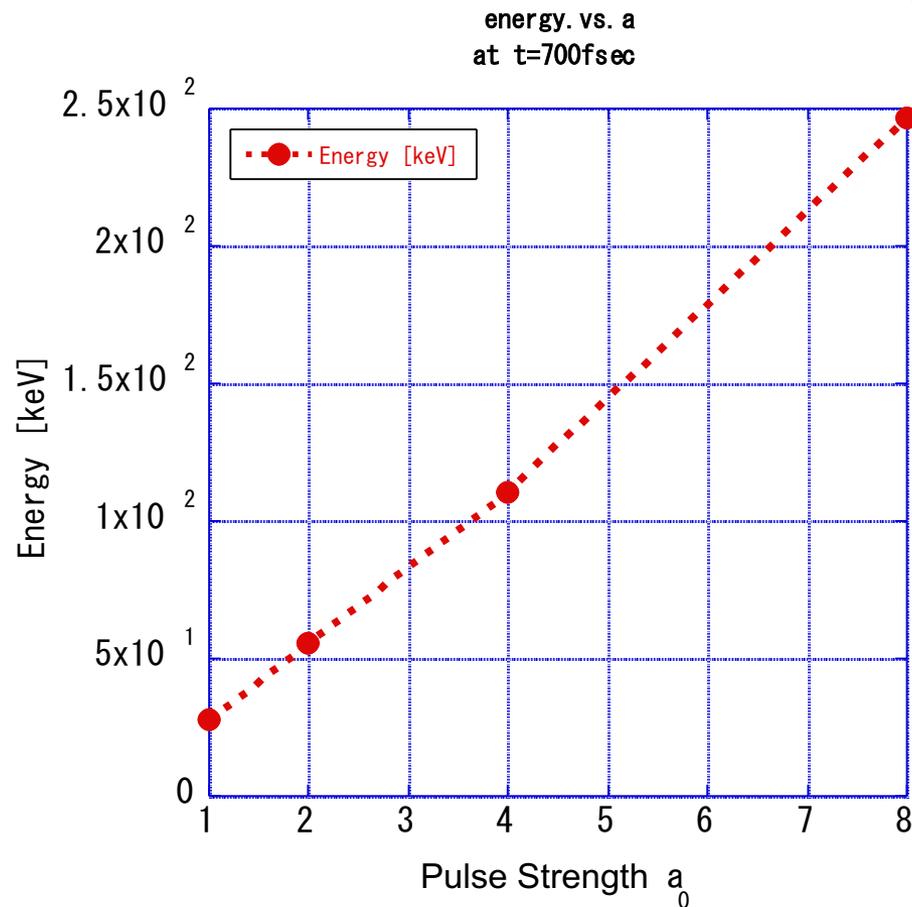
(Y.Kishimoto)

R. H. Doremus, J. Chem. Phys. 40, 2389 (1964)

A. Kawabata and R. Kubo, J. Phys. 40, 1765 (1966)

# Maximum energy vs. **laser** intensity

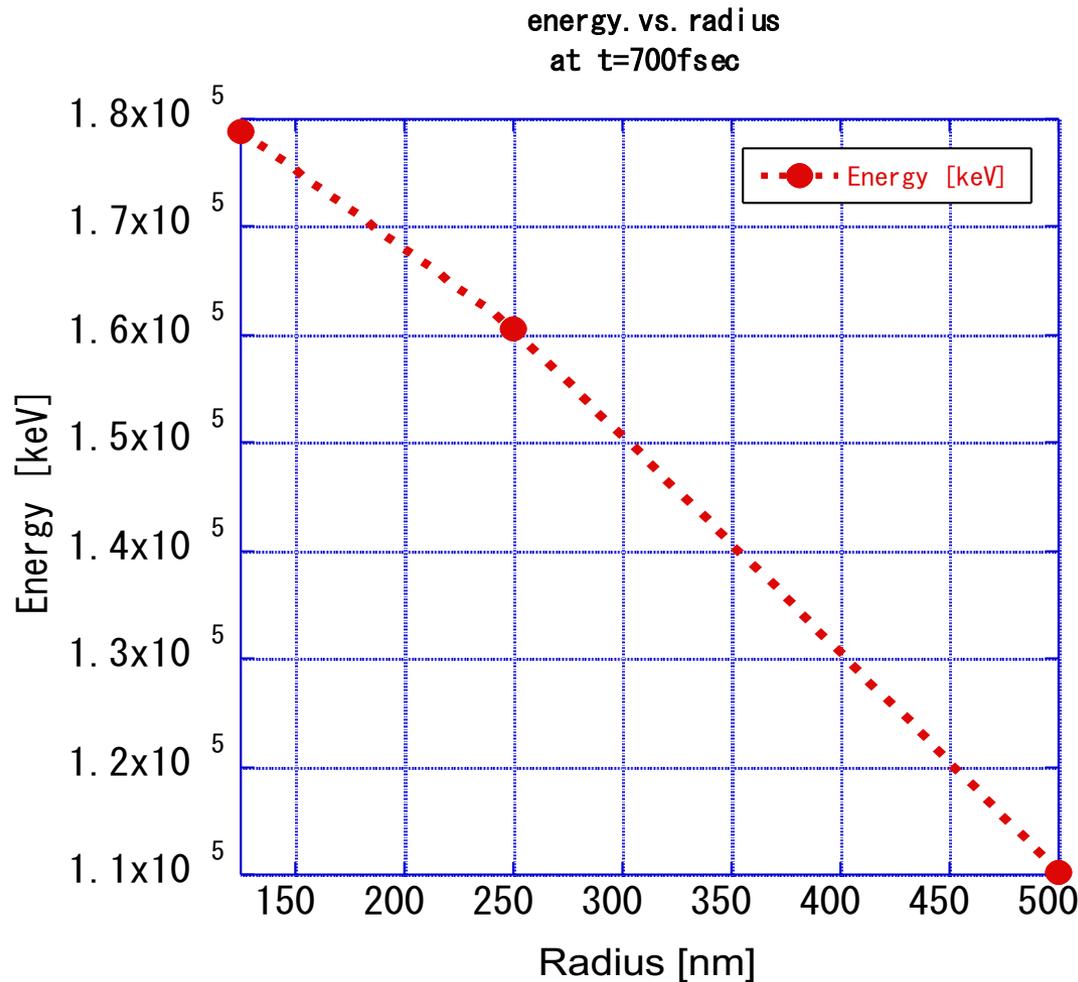
## Cluster target scaling



Consistent to the Theory by Yan et al. (2009), though it is based on thin film case

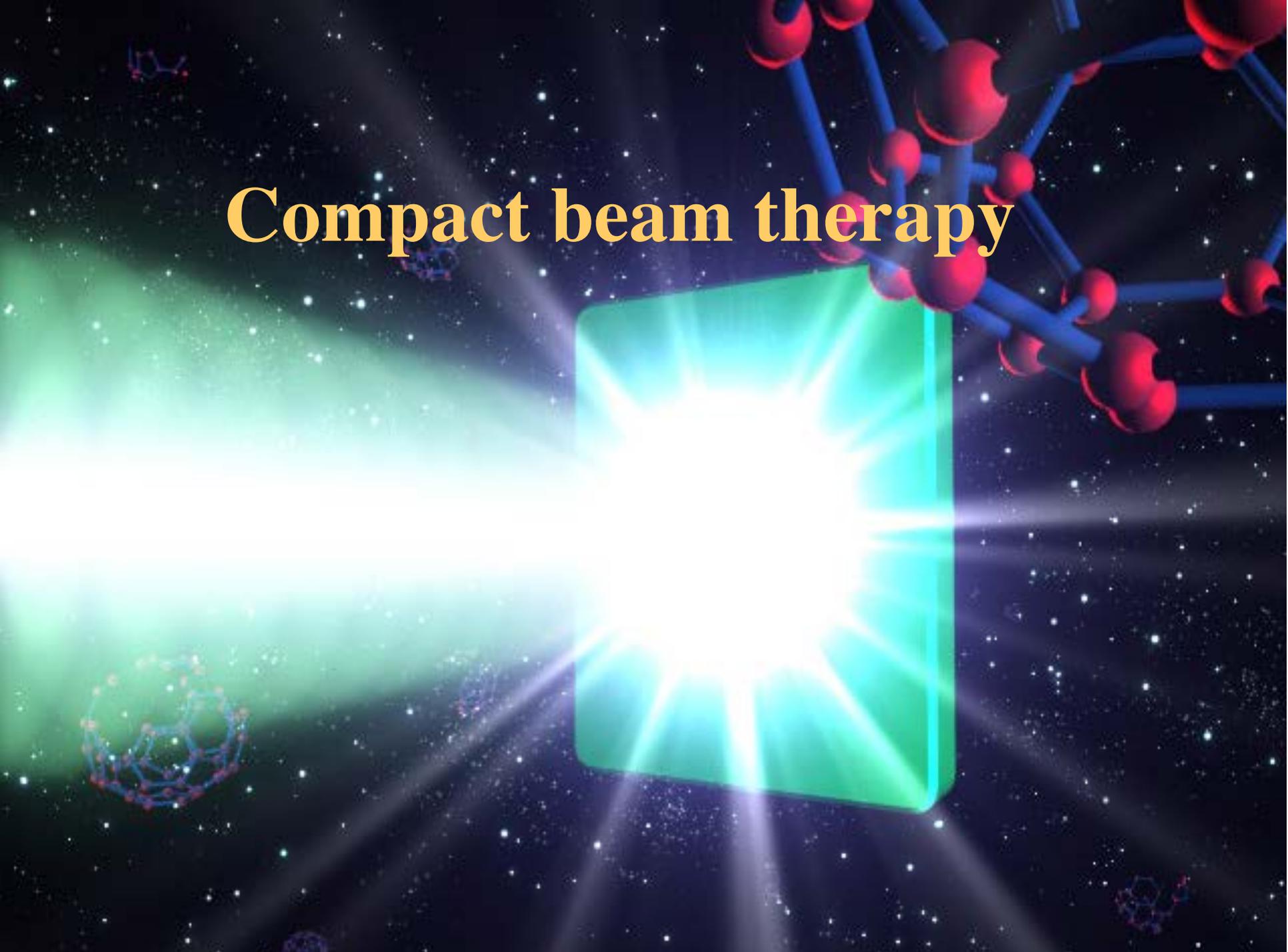
# Ion Energy vs. Cluster Radius

**Cluster target scaling: ion energy  $\sim$   $1/(\text{cluster radius})$**



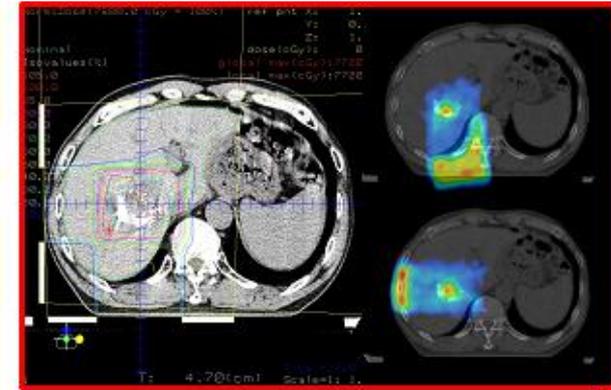
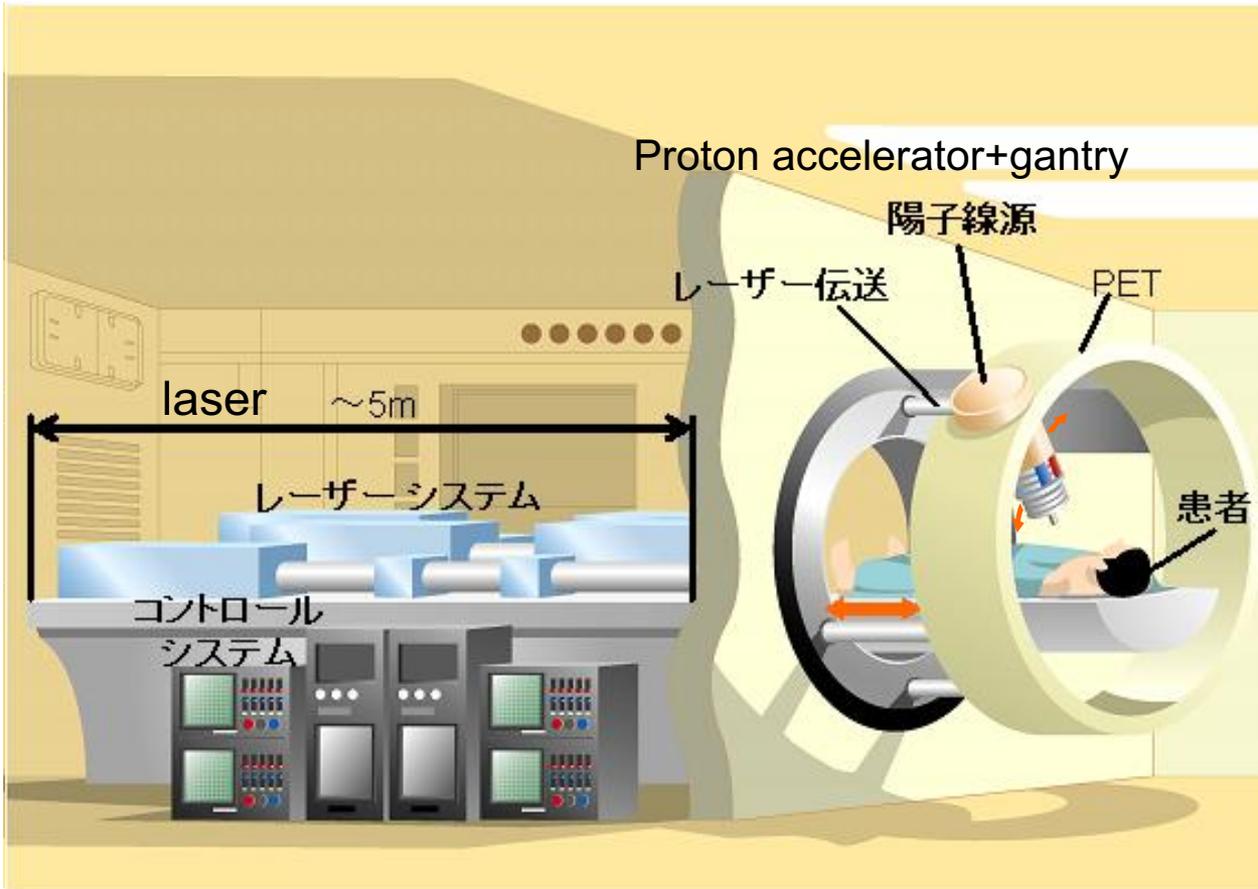
Kishimoto, Tajima  
(2009)

# Compact beam therapy



# Toward Compact **Laser**-Driven Ion Therapy

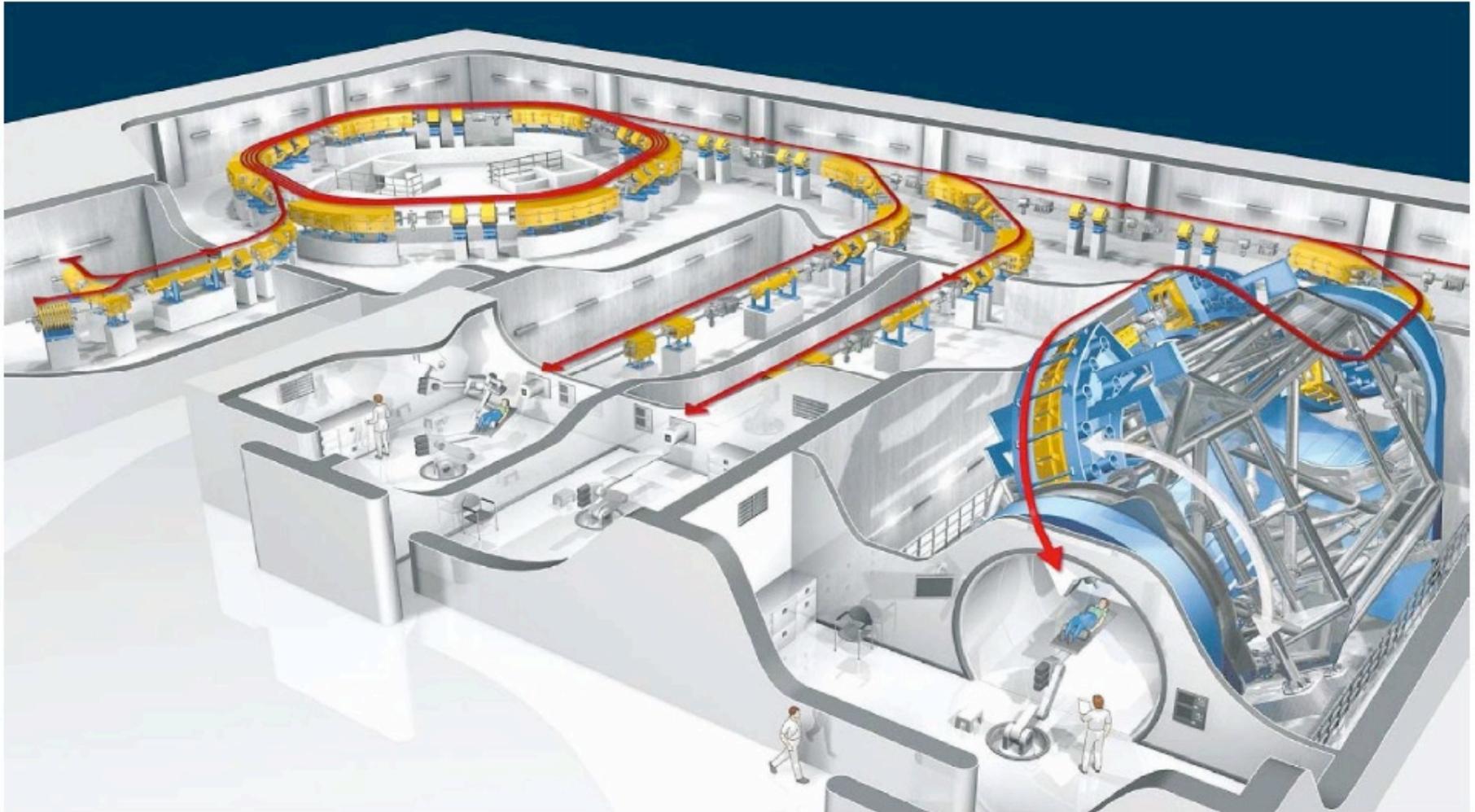
PET or  $\gamma$ ray image of autoradioactivation



治療計画 (診断と照射)

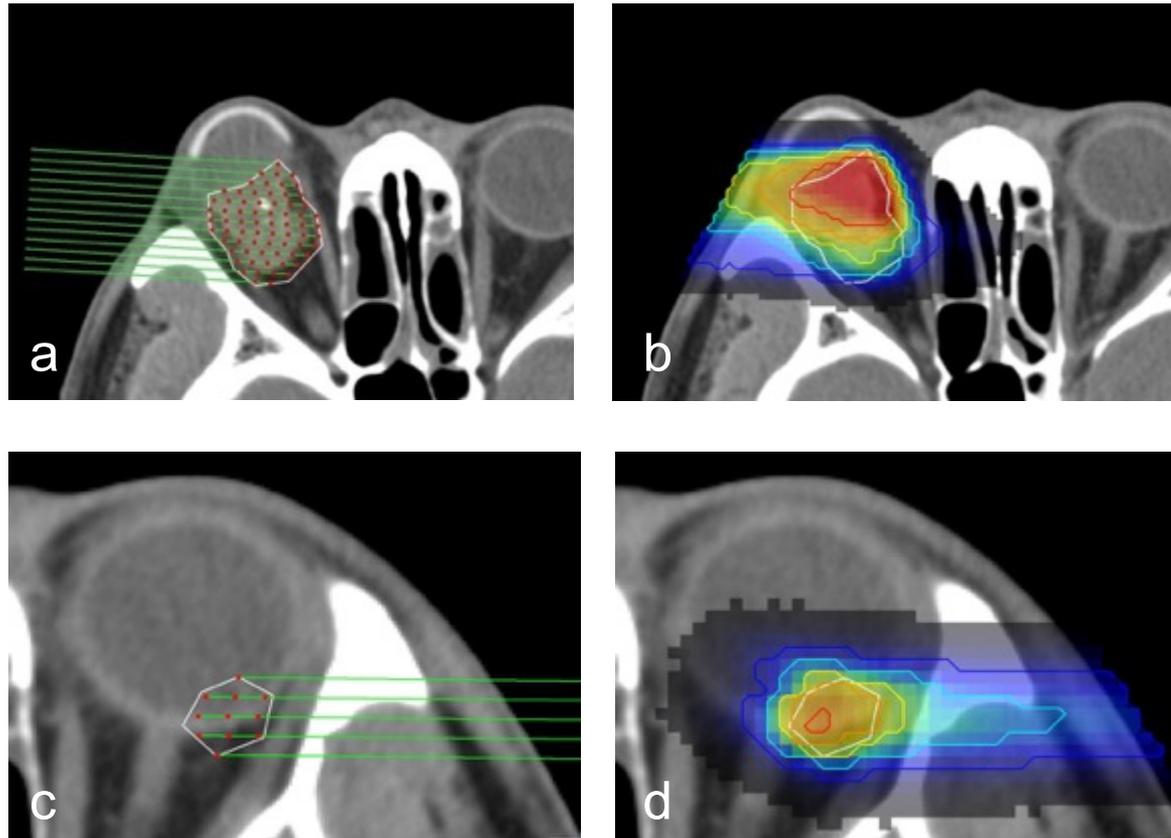
**Laser** particle therapy (image-guided diagnosis→irradiation→dose verification)  
targeting at smaller pre-metastasis tumors with more accuracy

# Artist's view of the Heavy Ion Therapy Center (HIT) in Heidelberg



# Spot-Scanning Simulation of **Laser** Proton Radiotherapy

(Simulation of dose distribution)

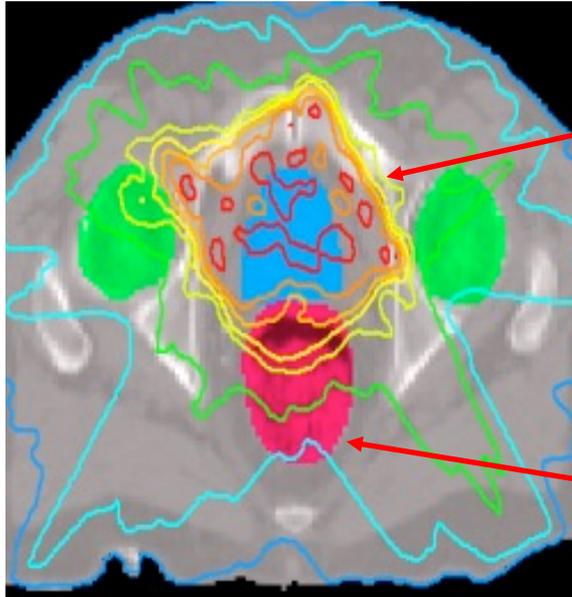


Spot-scanning simulation of **laser** proton radiotherapy for eye melanoma (a,b) and ARMD (c,d).

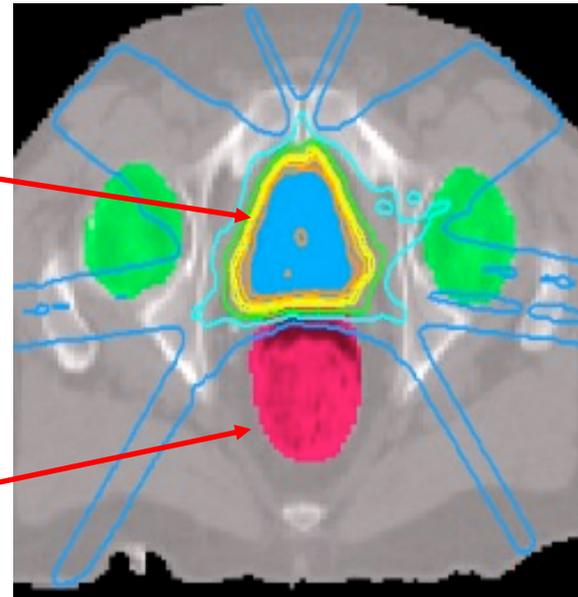
Particle-in-cell simulation (PIC) software which calculates the properties of **laser**-accelerated protons, Monte-Carlo simulation software, and visualization tools for the dose evaluation were used. Iso-dose curve: Blue: 25%, Sky blue: 50%, Yellow: 75%, Orange: 90%, Red: 110%.

# Comparison of radiotherapy with the Bragg peak: Intensity Modulated Radio Therapy

X-ray IMRT

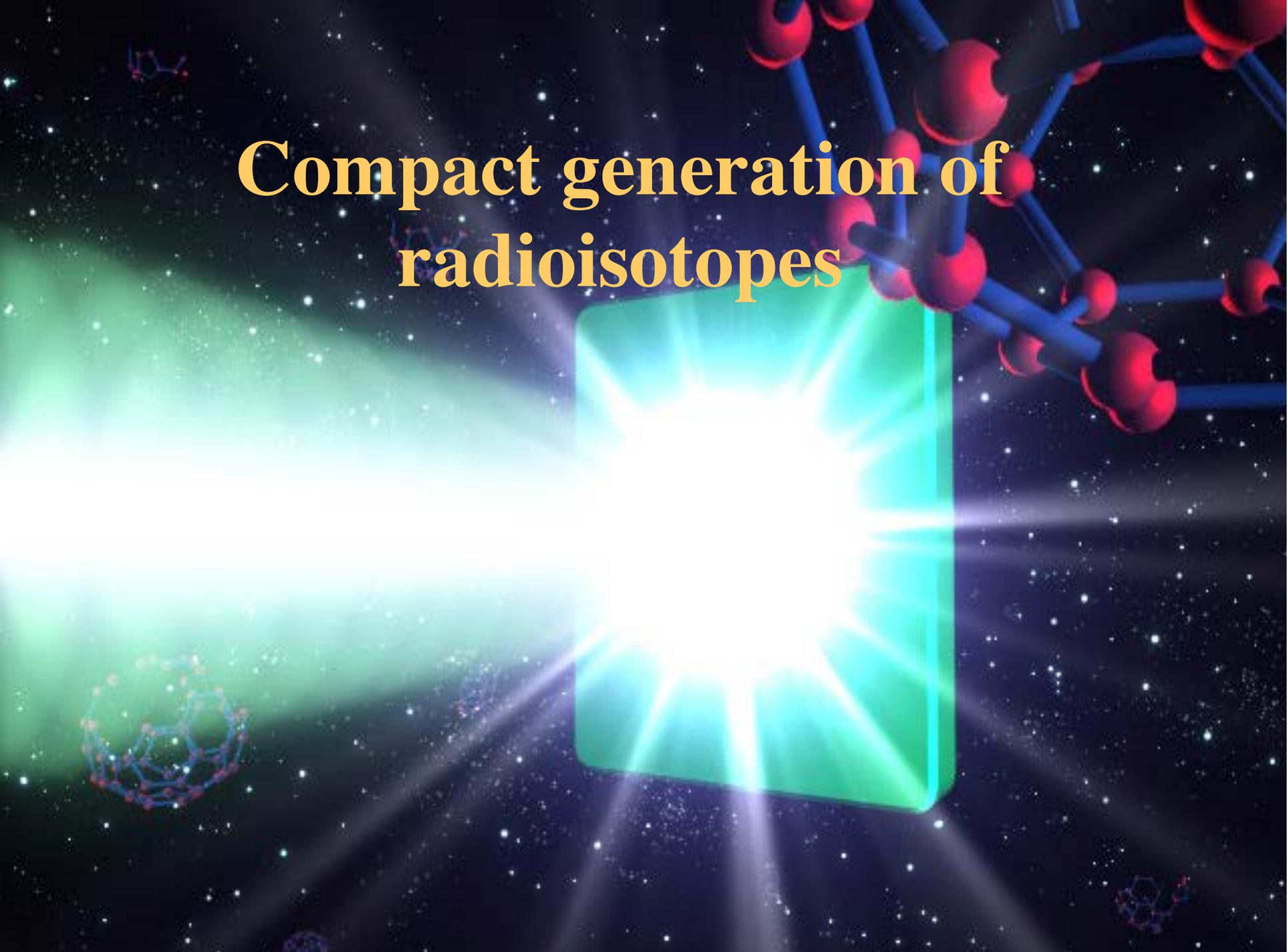


Proton IMRT



prostate cancer  
rectum

# Compact generation of radioisotopes



# Compact **laser**-driven **isotope** generation

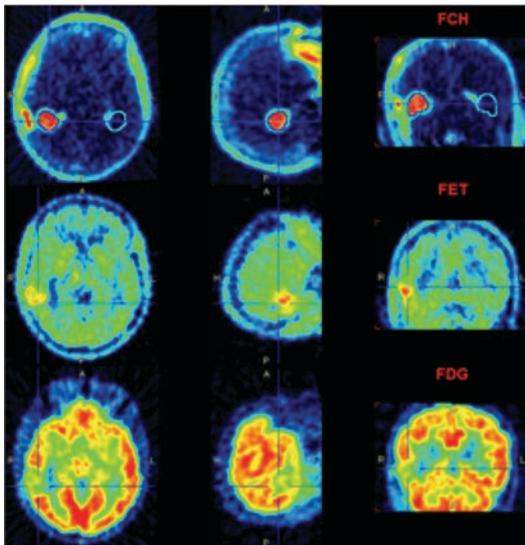
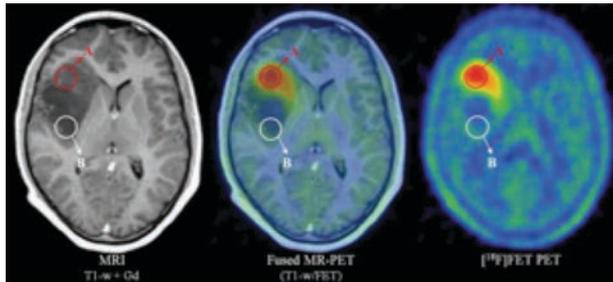
Some **isotopes**: so short life times that next door generation necessary

Compact sources for energy-specific electrons, ions, radio-isotopic ions, neutrons,  
monoenergetic energy-specific X-ray (and gamma) photons

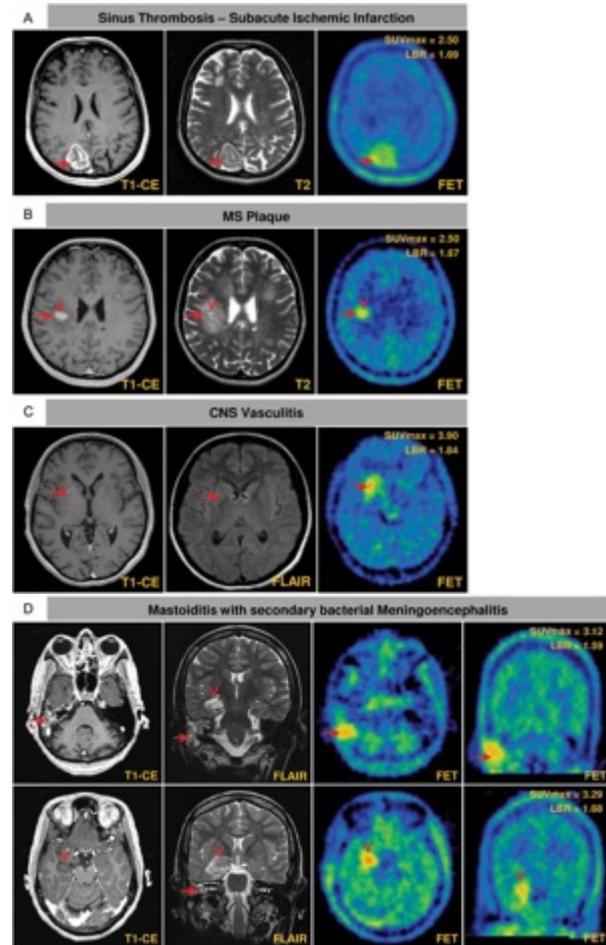
Technologies: **\*CPA** lasers, CAN fiber **lasers**, TFC (Thin film Compression),  
**CAIL** acceleration of ions, **wakefield** acceleration



# F-18-FET



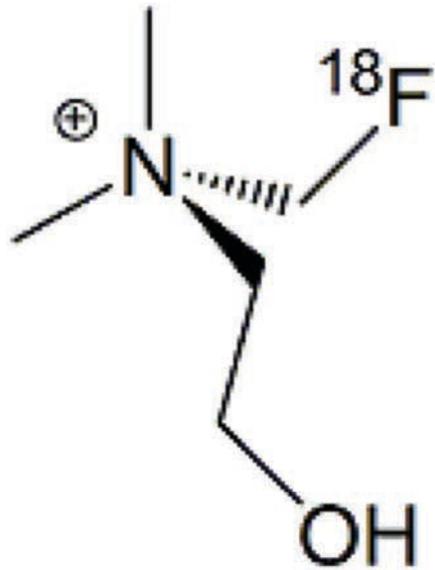
**Brain tumor**



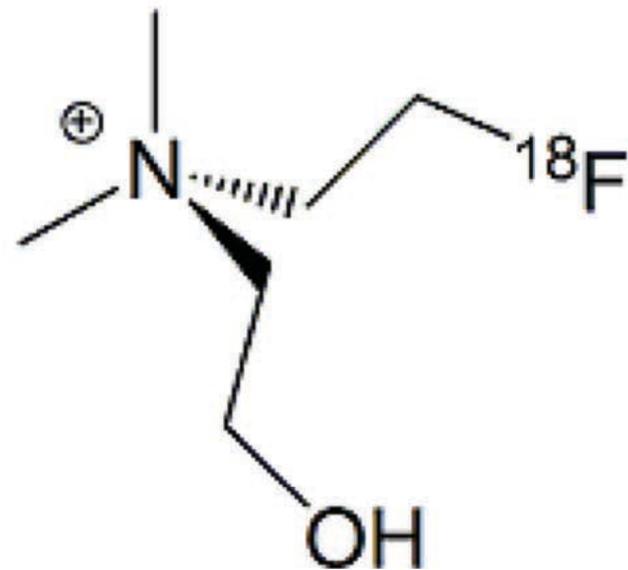
**Neuroinflammation**



# *[<sup>18</sup>F]CHOLINE*



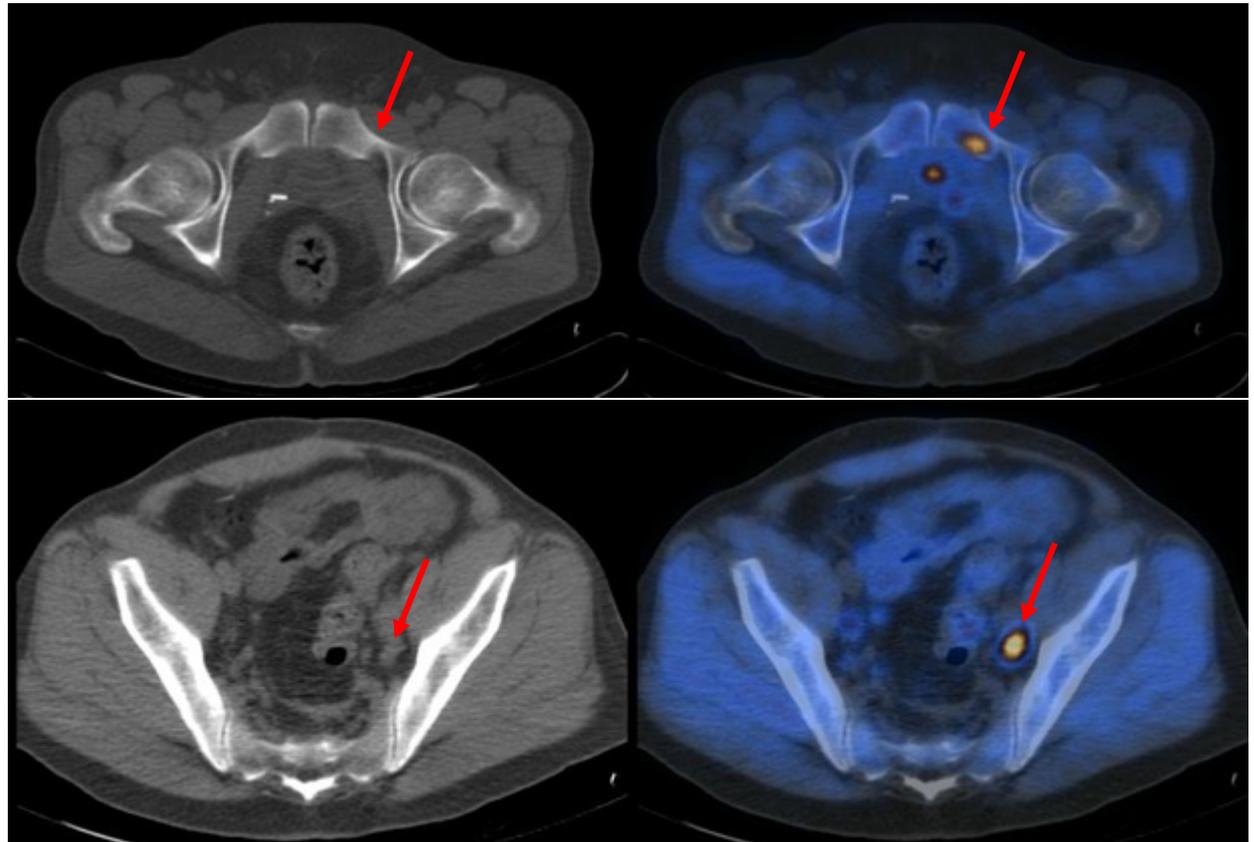
[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoromethylcholine



[<sup>18</sup>F]Fluoroethylcholine



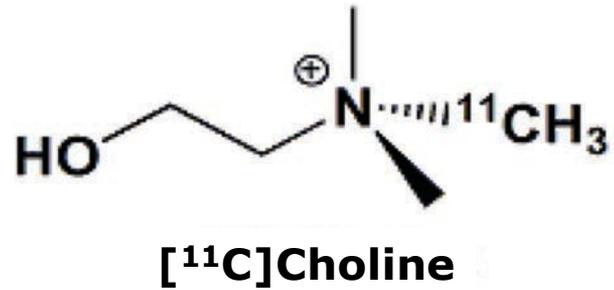
# *[<sup>18</sup>F]CHOLINE*



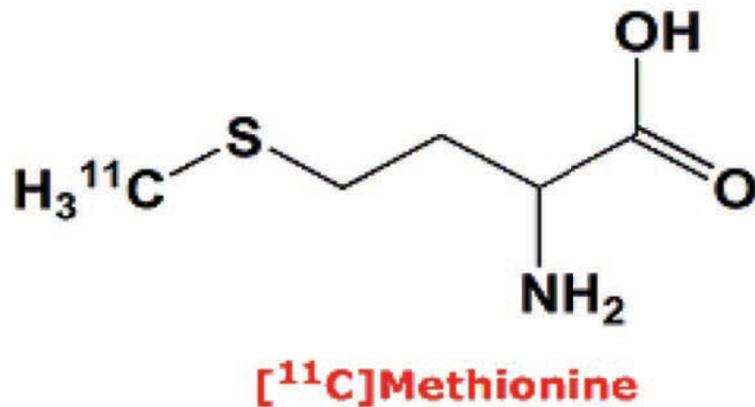
Prostate cancer



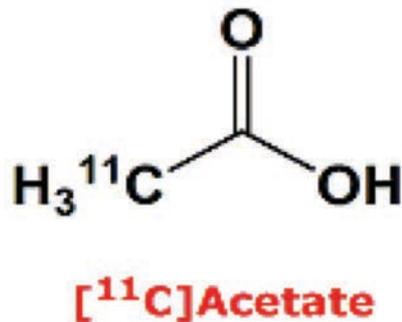
## *[<sup>11</sup>C]Tracers*



Synthesis of cell membrane phospholipids



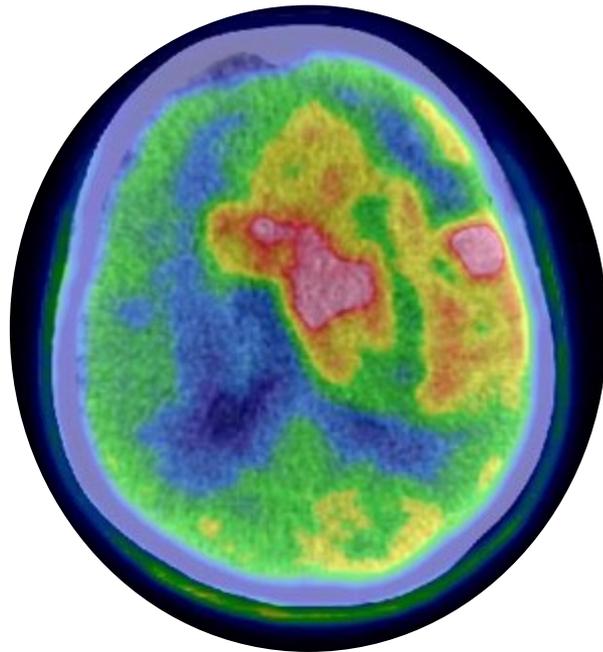
Protein synthesis



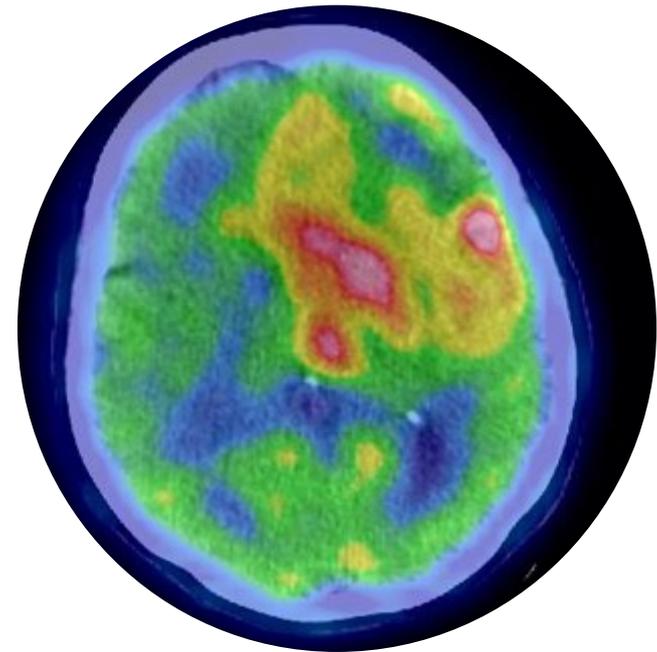
Fatty-acid metabolism



## *[<sup>11</sup>C]Methionine*



Before therapy



After therapy

Astrocytoma (no response)  
(courtesy by PET Centre St. Orsola Hospital, Bologna)



# Emerging radioisotopes and (alternative) production routes

All medical radioisotopes now produced in reactors **can be produced alternatively** or **can be replaced** by isotopes which can be produced other than in a nuclear reactor

## Particle Accelerators

### Linear

- Ge-68/Ga-68, and Sr-82/Rb-82, Zn-65, Mg-28, Fe-52, Rb-83 (200 MeV proton beam, 150 uA)

### Cyclotrons (10-100 MeV, up to 2 mA)

- F-18, Sr-82, Cu-64, O-15, C-11, Br-77, I-124, Y-86, Ga-66/68, Cu-60/61, Zr-89, Tc-99m

## New routes

Compact systems (Bench-scale electronic devices for achieving various high-energy nuclear reactions):

proton accelerator: production of F-18, In-111, I-123, C-11, N-13, O-15

alpha linac: Sn-117m, Ac-225, As-73, Fe-55, At-211, Cd-109, Y-88, Se-75, Po-210

neutron sources

## Electron-beam accelerator

- Bremsstrahlung 10-25 MeV electrons proposed for isotope production through:

- Photo-fission of heavy elements
- $(\gamma, n)$  reactions
- Photo-neutron activation and  $(n, 2n)$  reactions



# Emerging radioisotopes and (alternative) production routes

**Emerging medical radioisotopes:  $\beta$ -emitters and theragnostic agents – *in preclinical and clinical research*:** Lu-177, Ho-166, Re-186/188, Cu-67, Pm-149, Au-199, Y-90

Radio nuclide	Emission	Half-life (hrs)	Production Mechanism	Particle/gamma Energy (MeV)
$^{67}\text{Cu}$	$\beta$ (0.14 MeV) $\gamma$ (0.18 MeV)	62	$^{68}\text{Zn}(p, 2p)$ $^{70}\text{Zn}(p, \alpha)$ $^{67}\text{Zn}(n, p)$ $^{68}\text{Zn}(\gamma, p)$	$E_p$ ( $\gg 30$ ) $E_p$ ( $\gg 30$ ) Reactor $E_\gamma$ ( $>19$ ) $\sigma = 0.03$ barn
$^{47}\text{Sc}$	$\beta$ (0.16 MeV) $\gamma$ (0.16 MeV)	3.35 d	$^{48}\text{Ti}(\gamma, p)$	$E_\gamma$ ( $>27$ ) $\sigma = 0.01$ barn
$^{186}\text{Re}$	$\beta$ (0.35 MeV) $\gamma$ (0.14 MeV)	3.7 d	$^{187}\text{Re}(\gamma, n)$	$E_\gamma$ ( $>15$ ) $\sigma = 0.6$ barn
$^{149}\text{Pm}$	$\beta$ (1.072 MeV)	53.08	$^{150}\text{Nd}(\gamma, n)^{149}\text{Nd}$	$E_\gamma$ ( $>12.5$ ) $\sigma = 0.22$ barn
$^{152/155/161}\text{Tb}$	$\beta^+$ (1.08 MeV) EC (0.86, 0.10 MeV) $\beta^-$ (0.154 MeV), Auger	17.5/ 127,2 165.3	$^{152}\text{Tb}/^{155}\text{Tb}$ proton-induced spallation $^{160}\text{Gd}(n, \gamma)^{161}\text{Gd}$	Neutron source Reactor



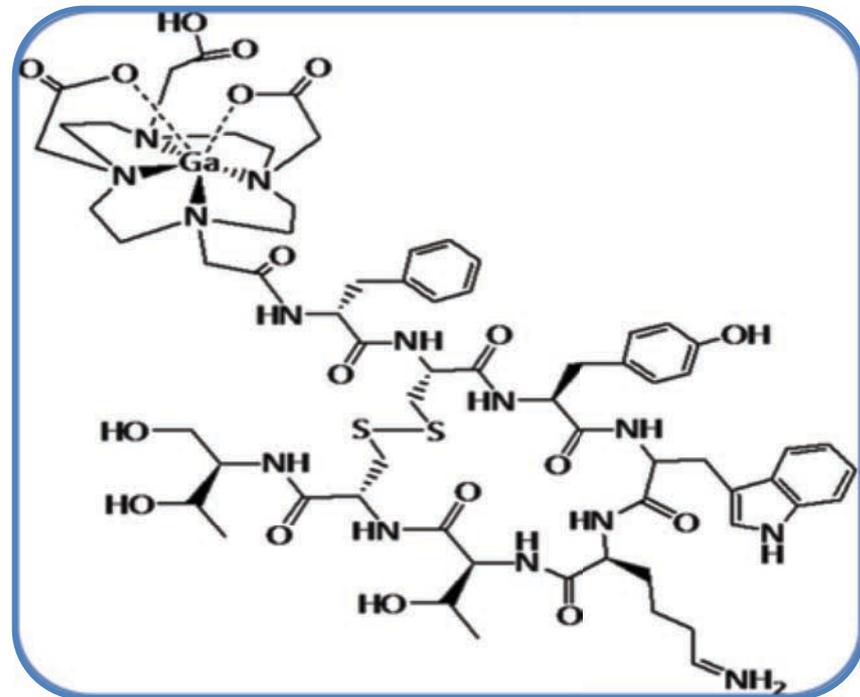
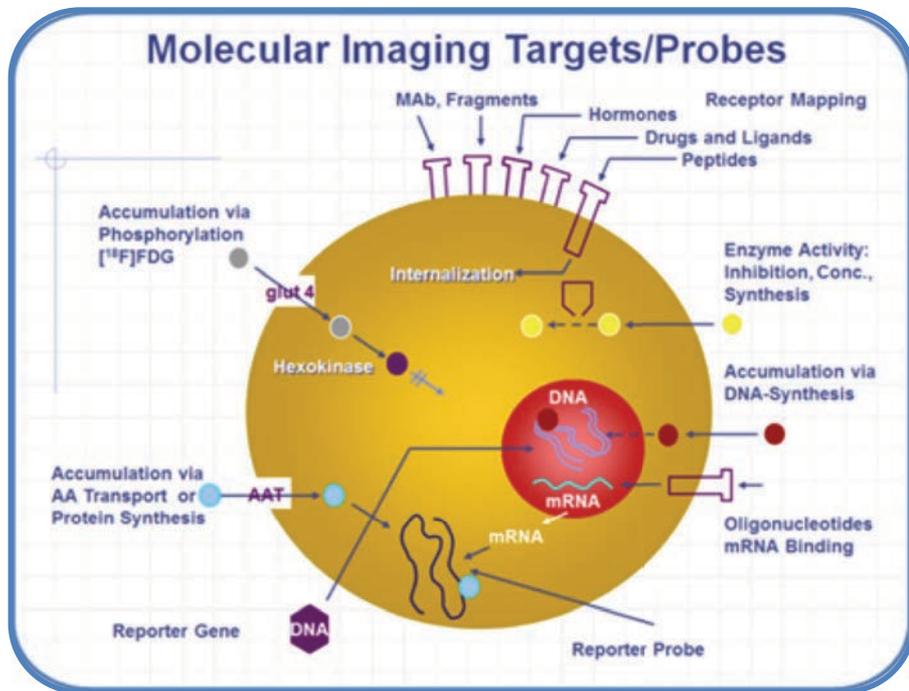
# Emerging radioisotopes and (alternative) production routes

## Emerging medical radioisotopes: $\alpha$ -emitters and Auger-electrons emitters

Radio nuclide	Emission	Half-life (hrs)	Production Mechanism	Particle Energy (MeV)
$^{211}\text{At}$	$\alpha$	7.2	$^{210}\text{Bi}(\alpha,2n)$	$E_{\alpha}$ (30)
$^{225}\text{Ac}$	$\alpha$ (5.8 MeV) $\beta$ (0.1 MeV)	240	$^{229}\text{Thorium}$ generator Ion exchange from $^{225}\text{Ra}$ $^{226}\text{Ra}(p,2n)$ $^{226}\text{Ra}(\gamma,p)$	Reactor $E_{\beta}$ (25–8) $E_{\gamma}$ (>19) $\sigma = 0.02$ barn
$^{224}\text{Ra}/$ $^{212}\text{Pb}/$ $^{212}\text{Bi}$	$\alpha$ (5.7 MeV)/ $\beta^-$ (0.1 MeV)/ $\alpha$ (6.0 MeV), $\beta$ (0.77 MeV)	3.7/ 10.64 h /60 .6 m	$^{226}\text{Ra}(\gamma,2n)$	$E_{\gamma}$ (>16) $\sigma = 0.1$ barn
$^{165}\text{Er}$	$A$ (0.038 MeV) $\gamma$ (0.05 MeV)	10.3	$^{166}\text{Er}(\gamma,n)$	$E_{\gamma}$ (>13) $\sigma = 0.3$ barn
$^{149}\text{Tb}$	$\alpha$ (3.967 MeV) $\beta$ (0.7MeV)	4.12	$^{152}\text{Gd}(p,4n)^{149}\text{Tb},$ $\text{Ta}(p, X)^{149}\text{Tb}$	



# MOLECULAR IMAGING / SYSTEMIC RADIOTHERAPY RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS



### Antibody

- + Diversity
- + Affinity
- + Specificity
- + Clinically approved
- Immunogenicity
- Long blood life
- Slow penetration

### Peptides

- + Diversity
- + Non-toxic
- + High affinity
- + Penetration
- + Clearance
- Unknown binding site
- Formulation is complex

### Aptamers

- + Diversity
- + Small size
- + Low immunogenicity
- Cost

### Affibody

- + High affinity
- + Small size
- + Short blood life
- + Penetration
- Formulation is complex

### Nanoparticle

- + Strong signal
- Penetration
- Toxicity

### Activatable probe

- + Specific signal
- + Signal:background ratio
- Formulation is complex
- Toxicity

# Compact monoenergetic X-rays



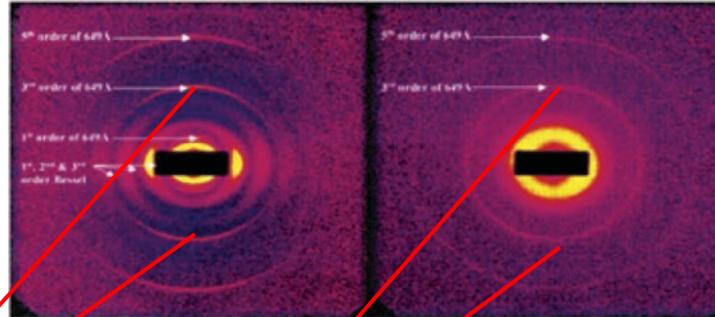
# Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS)

normal tissue contains collagen fibrils in regular, hexagonal-like arrangement



healthy

micro-x-ray beam



cancerous

cancer cells degrade regular structure of collagen fibrils, making them thinner and their axial period longer

vision: direct cancer diagnosis without biopsy

# State-of-the-art 3D phase-contrast tomography at highly brilliant synchrotron radiation sources (@ESRF Grenoble/ France)



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F. Pfeiffer et al., Phys. Med. Biol. 52, 6923 (2007)

# Small tumor detection and therapy

(by such method as Phase Contrast Imaging)

Early tumor detection:

- Less chance of metastasis
- Higher Quality-of-Life (QoL)
- Fit for **laser** acceleration approach

(compact **laser** accelerator:

not good for large dose)

# Conclusions

1. **Laser acceleration** introduced: compact, innovative, broad radio-sources (electrons, ions, neutrons, gamma/X-rays)
2. Wakefield: plasma's unique robust high energy state
3. Convergence of **laser** and **nanotechnology** (and biotechnology): matches well to produce new innovative **radio-sources** (s.a. ions, neutrons, X-rays)
4. Modes of compact **radio-sources**: intra-operative, fiber, portable, ultrafast, endoscopic, short-lived isotopes, theranostics

Thank you!

