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# Radiotherapy Application of High-Density Laser Wakefield Acceleration (LWFA)

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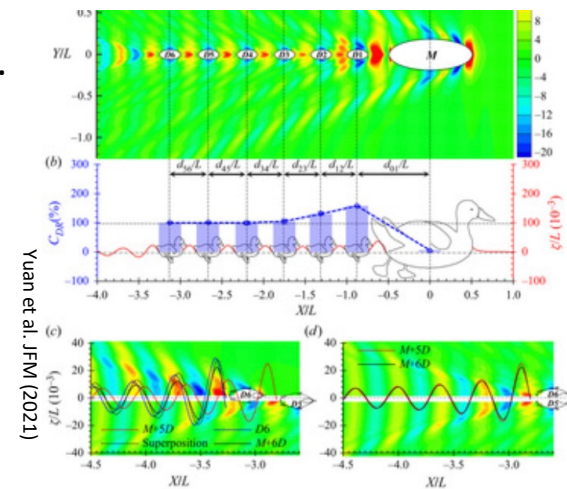
# Laser wakefield accelerator (LWFA) in high energies → nonrelativistic LWFA

1. **Wakefields**: in nature and laser-driven (LWFA)
2. High energy LWFA vs. **nonrelativistic** LWFA
3. Near **critical density** LWFA → **beat wave** approach
4. **Fiber laser** technology
5. **Endoscopic** fiber electron radiotherapy
6. Nanomolecule **vectored** cancer therapy

# Wake acceleration

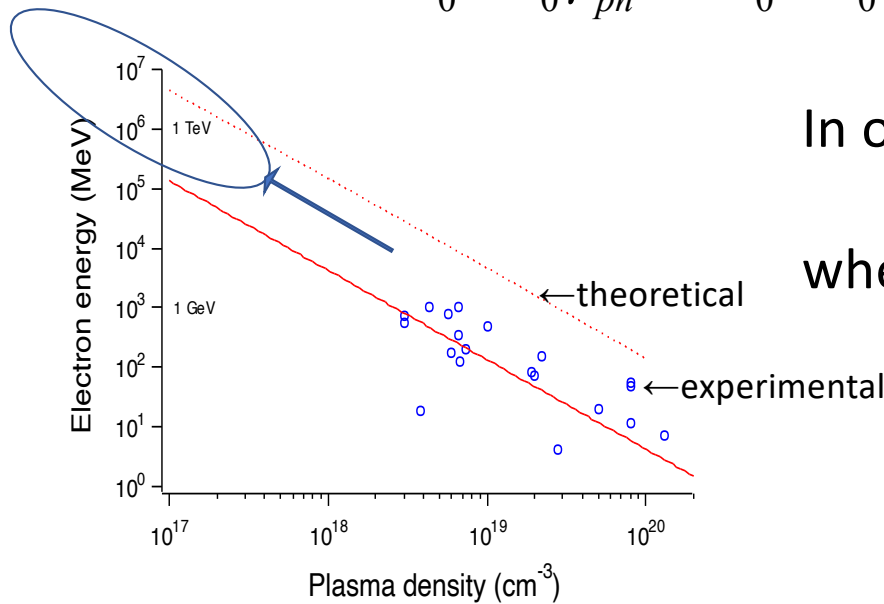


Bow wake and stern wake  
Nature (or mother duck) shows us.



# Theory of **wakefield** toward extreme energy

$$\Delta E \approx 2m_0c^2 a_0^2 \gamma_{ph}^2 = 2m_0c^2 a_0^2 \left( \frac{n_{cr}}{n_e} \right), \quad (\text{when 1D theory applies Tajima / Dawson, 1979})$$



In order to avoid wavebreak,

$$a_0 < \gamma_{ph}^{1/2},$$

where

$$\gamma_{ph} = [n_{cr}(\omega) / n_e]^{1/2}$$

$$n_{cr} = 10^{21}/\text{cc (1eV photon)}$$

$$\rightarrow 10^{29} \text{ (10keV photon)}$$

$$n_e = 10^{16} \text{ (gas)} \rightarrow 10^{21}/\text{cc (porous solid)}$$

$$L_d = \frac{2}{\pi} \lambda_p a_0^2 \left( \frac{n_{cr}}{n_e} \right), \quad L_p = \frac{1}{3\pi} \lambda_p a_0 \left( \frac{n_{cr}}{n_e} \right),$$

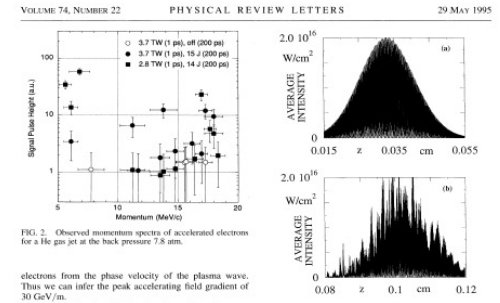
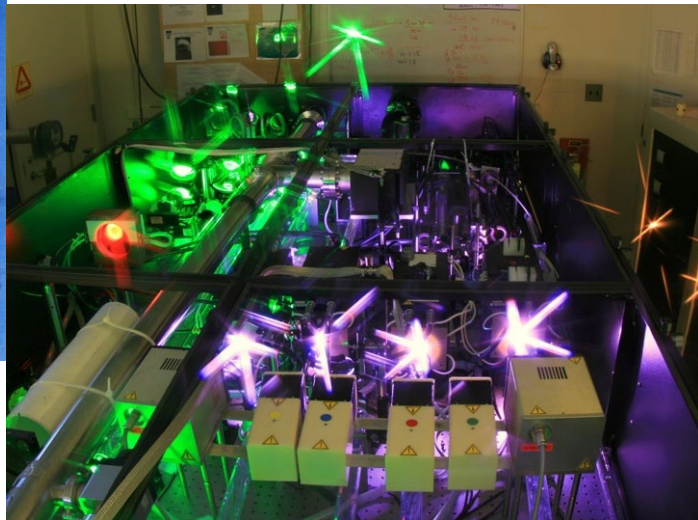
dephasing length

pump depletion length

# Demonstration (1994), realization, and applications of laser wakefield accelerators

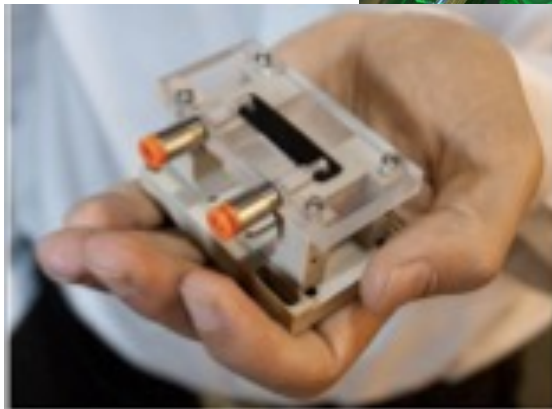


(2004)



(Michigan)

Nakajima, et al (1994, 1995)



4 GeV laser accelerator LBL



3GeV Synchrotron SOLEIL



# Relativistic vs Nonrelativistic LWFA

1. **High phase velocity paradigm:** Tajima-Dawson (1979)  $v_{ph} \rightarrow$  large (close to  $c$ )

2. **Relativistic amplitude of LWFA :**  $a_0 > 1$

3. **Relativistic coherence** (Tajima, 2010)

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

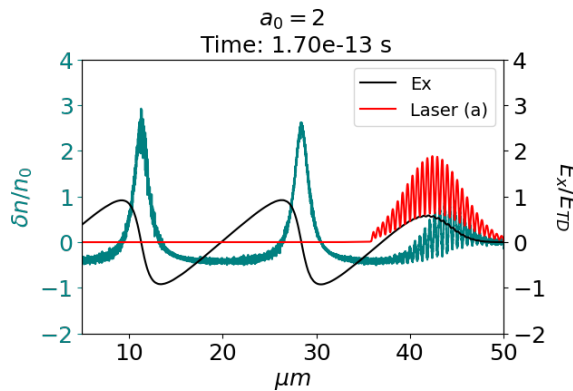
**Relativistic coherence** enhances beyond the Tajima-Dawson field:  $E = m\omega_p c a_0 / e$  ( $\sim$  GeV/cm)

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

Wave **breaks** at  $v < c$  at non-relativistic regime

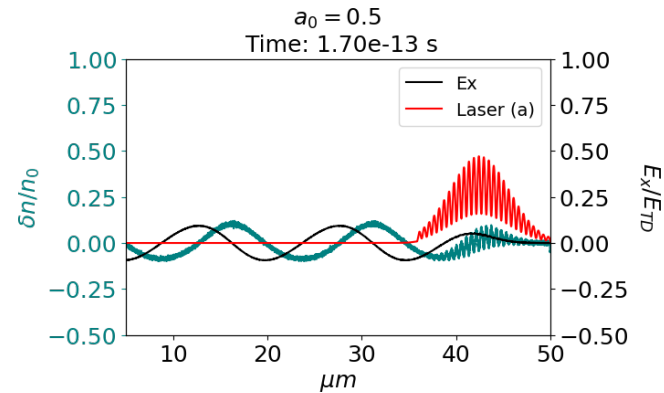
**Relativistic coherence** (Tajima, 2010) vs

**Nonrelativistic cases** (today: more to follow)



$a_0 > 1$

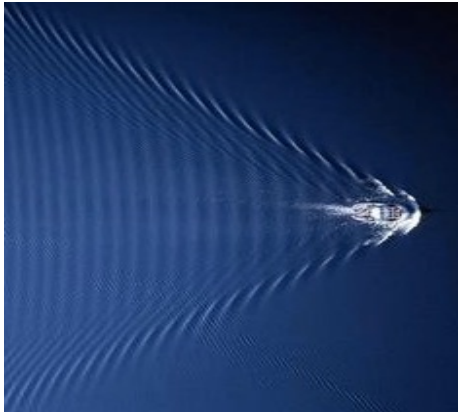
vs



$a_0 < 1$

# Laser Wakefield (LWFA):

Wake phase velocity  $\gg$  water movement speed  
maintains **coherent** and **smooth** structure



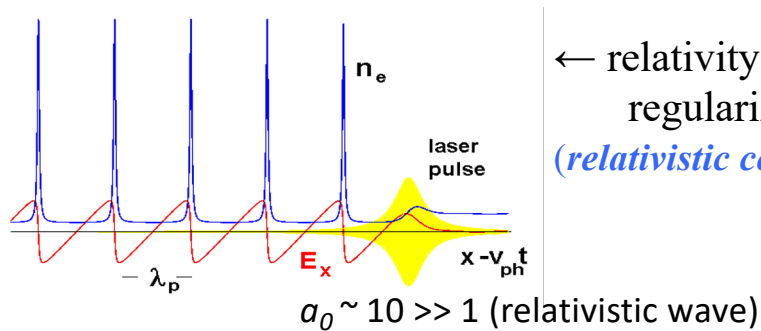
VS

Tsunami phase velocity becomes  $\sim 0$ ,  
causes **easier trapping** and **acceleration of more #**



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*)

Tajima-Dawson field  $E = m\omega_p c / e$  ( $\sim$  GeV/cm)

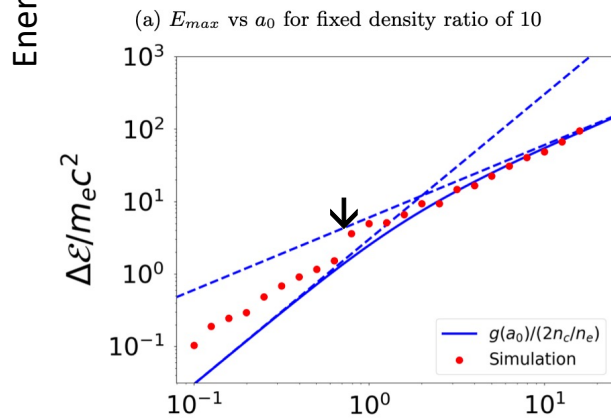
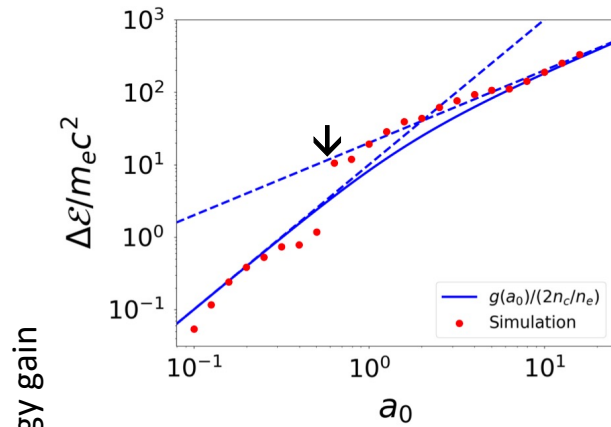
Multiple of waves at  $v < c$



With low phase velocity  
**More particle trapping**

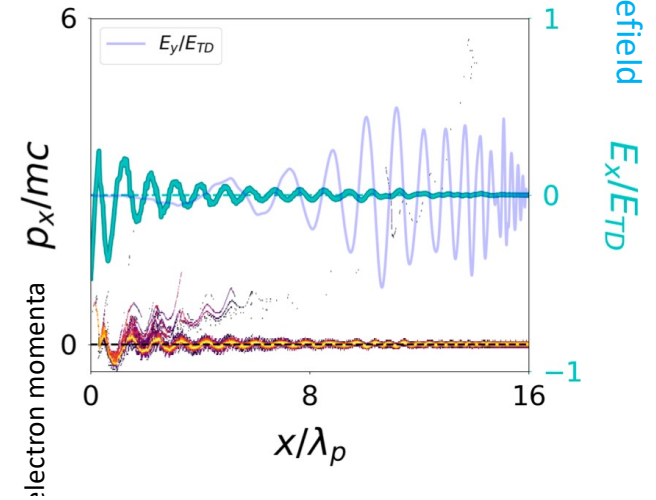
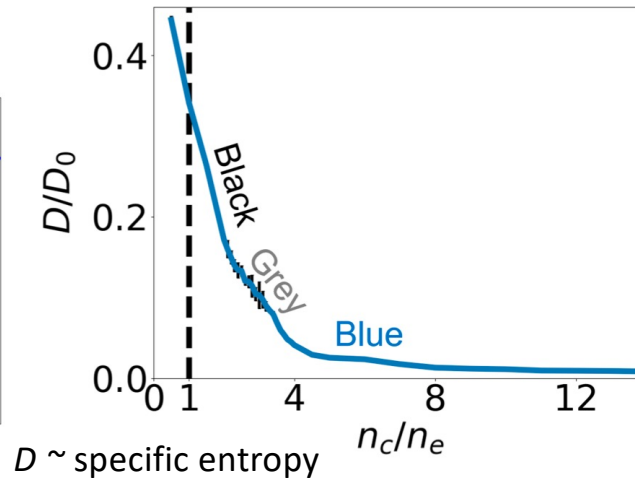
# Transition to $a_0 < 1$ regime

## Transition to near-critical density $n_e \sim n_{cr}$



$v_g$  (group velocity of photon) =  $v_p$  (phase velocity of plasma wave)  $\ll c$

$n_e \sim n_{cr}$



(S. Nicks)

wakefield

$E_x/E_{TD}$



# Laser Wakefield Acceleration near critical density

Near critical density  $\sim n_e = 10^{21} / \text{cc}$

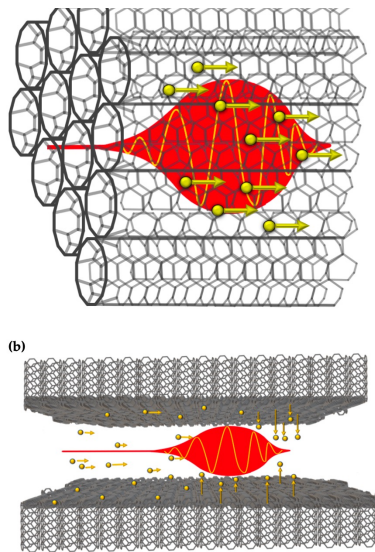
gaseous plasma  $\rightarrow$  **solid nanotube**

Excitation of electron acceleration possible with  $I \sim 10^{14} \text{ W} / \text{cm}^3$

Coupling gets **stronger** near  $n_e = 10^{21} / \text{cc}$

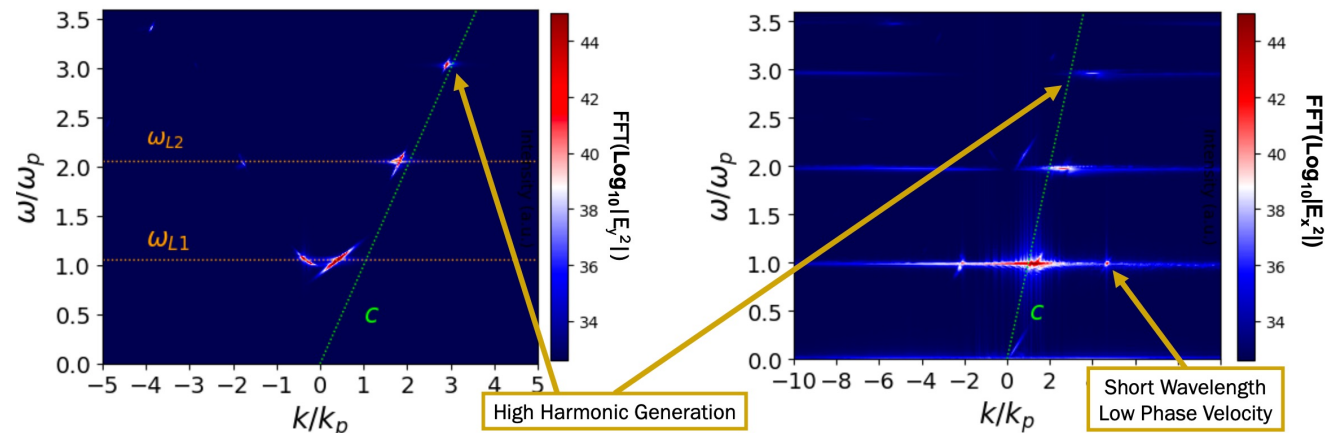
$\leftarrow$  overlap of **plasma waves** with different  $v_p$

$\leftarrow$  curved laser  $\omega(k)$ , varied  $v_g$



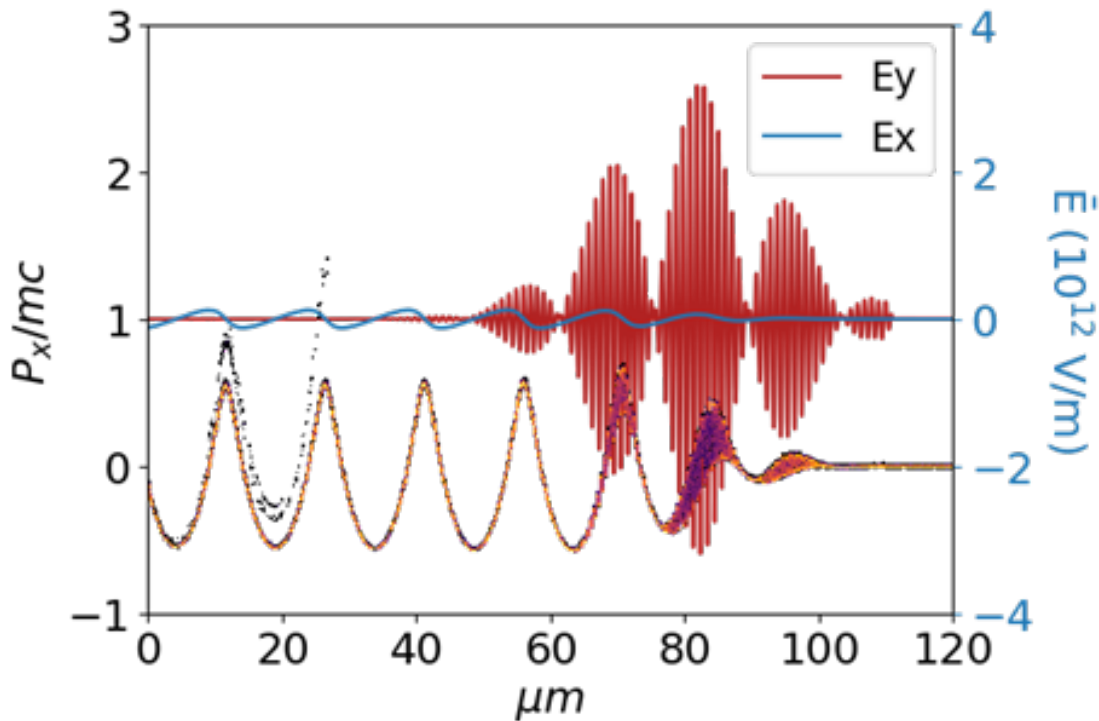
## Dispersion Relation: FFT(Log<sub>10</sub>E)

- High Harmonic Generation
- Short Wavelength and Low Phase Velocity Electrostatic Waves allow for more efficient particle acceleration



# Laser beat wave excitation of wakefield

Beat of two **lasers** ( $\omega_0, k_0$ ) ( $\omega_1, k_1$ ) to match with the **plasma** eigenmode ( $\omega_p, k_0 - k_1$ ),  
 → **wakefield**



$$v_{ph} = \frac{\omega_p}{k_p} = \frac{\omega_0 - \omega_1}{k_0 - k_1}$$

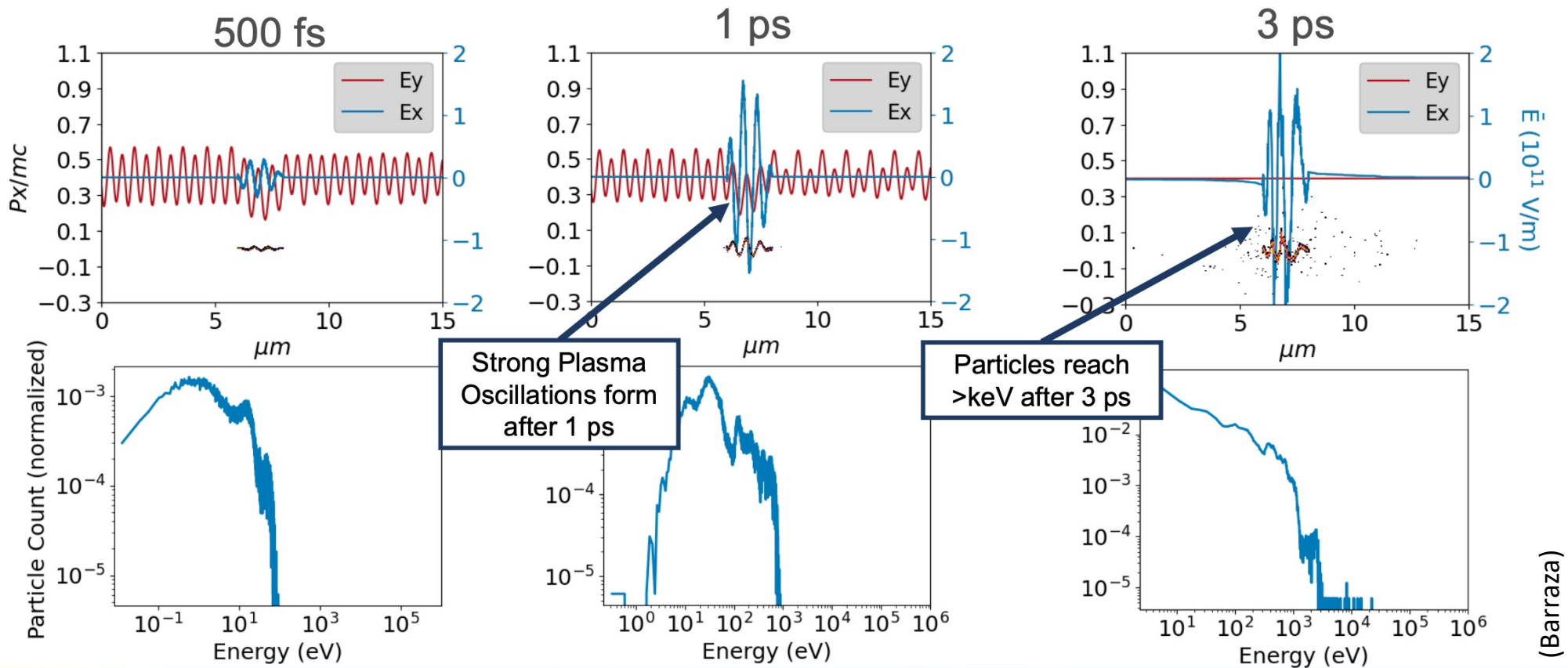
$$v_g = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{1 - n_e/n_c}}$$

Nonrelativistic limit of energy gain

$$W_{max, nr} = \frac{\pi}{2} m v_{ph}^2 a_0^2 \left( \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_p} \right).$$

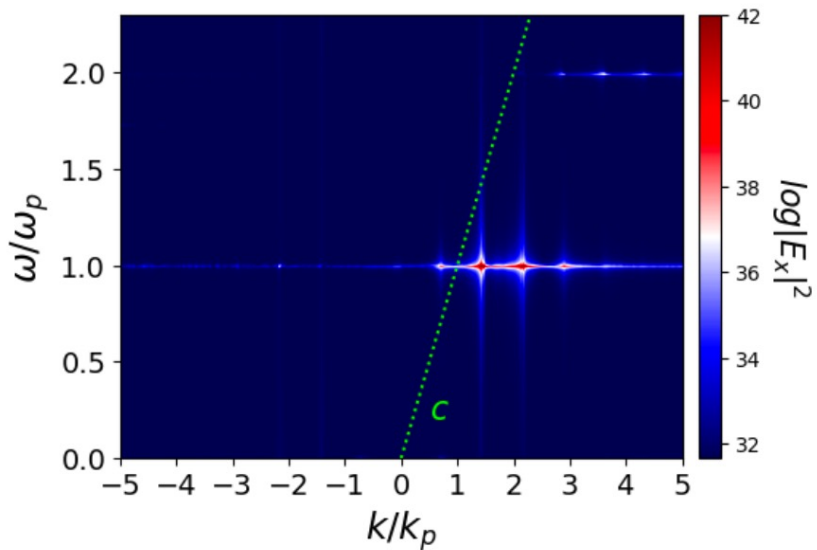
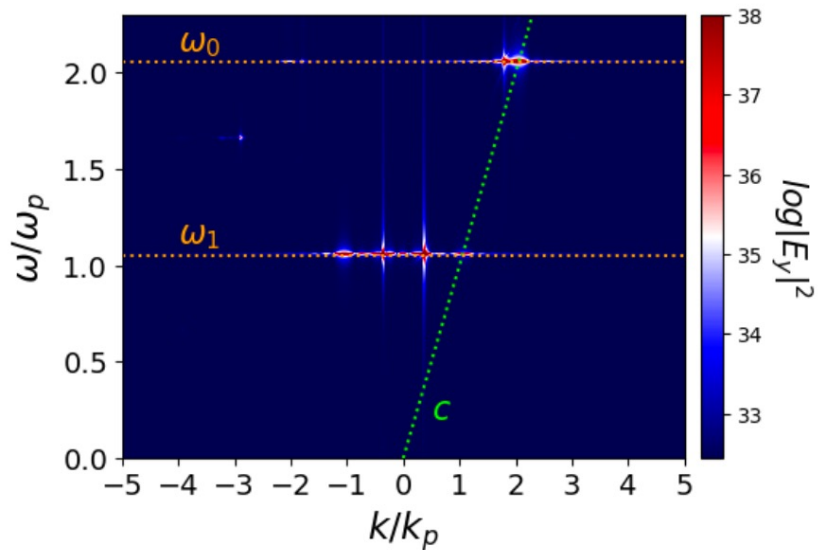
# Target Foil Simulations in time:

$a_0 = 0.007 \rightarrow 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$  with  $2 \mu\text{m}$  Target



# Beat wave excitation of plasma wave

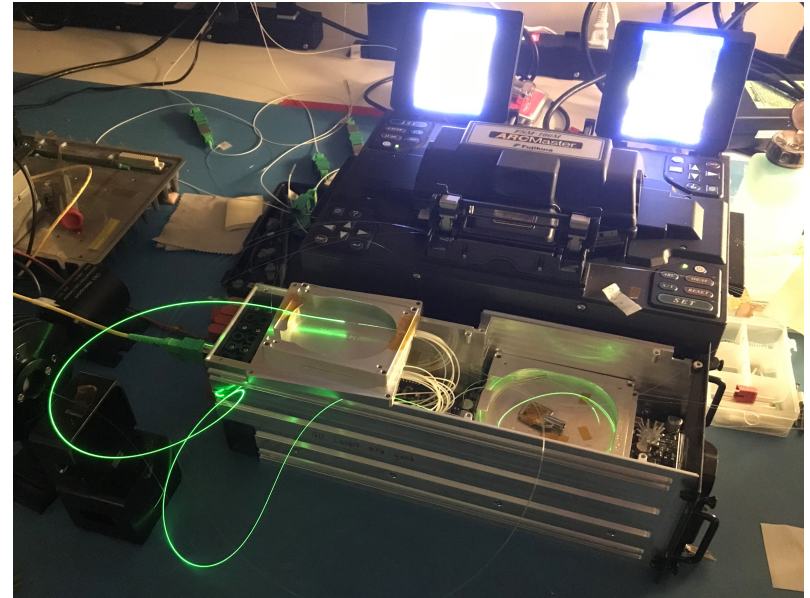
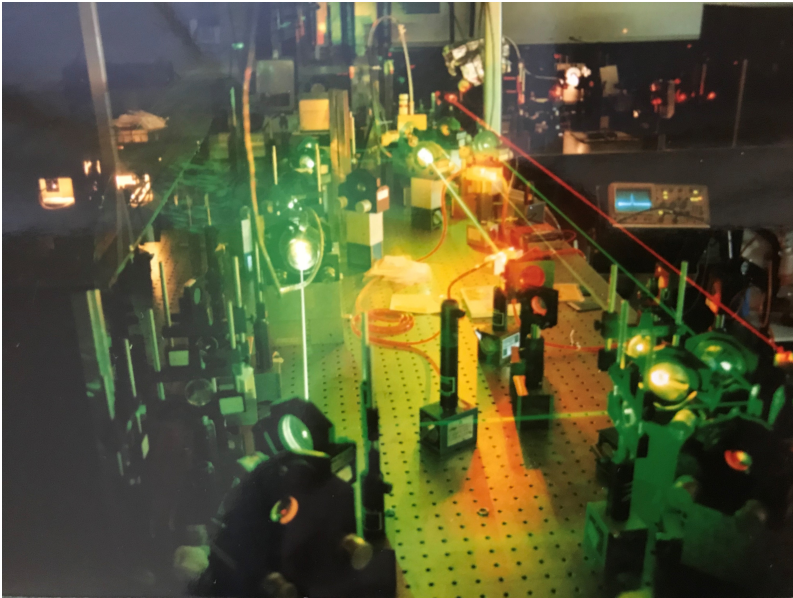
Raman forward scattering



When  $n_e \sim n_{cr}$ , i.e.  $\omega_1 \sim \omega_p$

(E. Barraza)

# Free-Space Laser vs. **Fiber Laser**



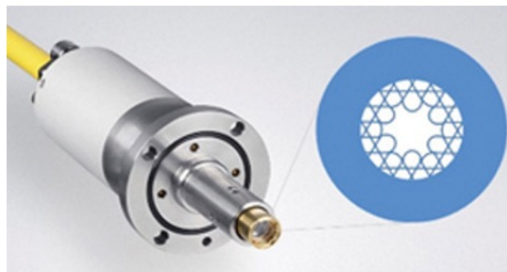
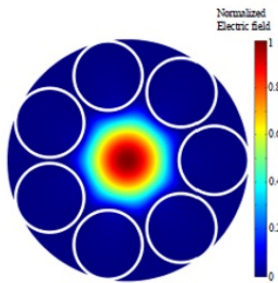
# Fiber laser technology

Application	Average Power	Pulse Width	Peak Power	Spatial Mode	Focused Intensity
Metal cutting (heat)	1 to 100 kW	Continuous	same as average	MM	$10^7 \text{ W/cm}^2$ (CW)
Semiconductor Processing	10 to 1000 W	1 to 100 ns	MW ( $10^6 \text{ W}$ )	MM/SM	$10^9 \text{ W/cm}^2$ (peak)
Glass cutting (cold ablation)	> 10 W	$\leq 0.5 \text{ ps}$	Hundreds of MW	SM	$10^{13} \text{ W/cm}^2$ (peak)
Portable LWFA (>10 keV electrons)	1 to 10 W	$\leq 1 \text{ ps}$	$\geq \text{GW}$ ( $10^9 \text{ W}$ )	SM	$\geq 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ (peak)

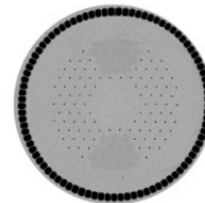
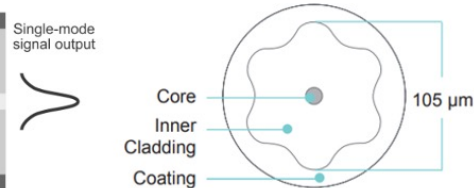
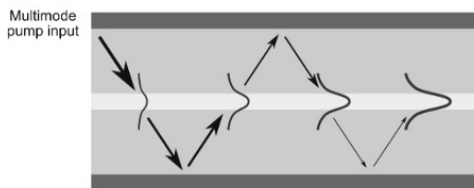


MM: multi-mode (spatial)

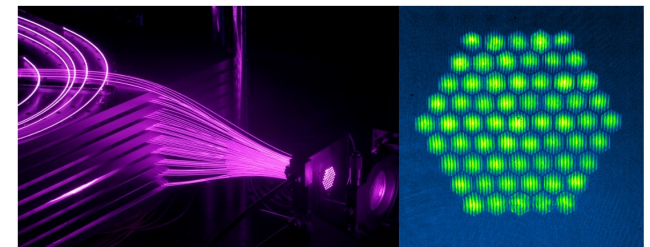
SM: single mode



hollow fiber laser



CAN fiber lasers



# Conventional electron accelerator (and X-ray) for Therapy

← 5-10m

(next room) →

Electron energies by accelerator: 6-20MeV

→ X-rays

(Varian)

LWFA could provide high dose “FLASH” therapy

Furthermore, much tinier with **fiber**

$L_e \sim 10 \text{ cm} / 10\text{MeV} \rightarrow 10 \text{ micron} / 10\text{keV}$

^

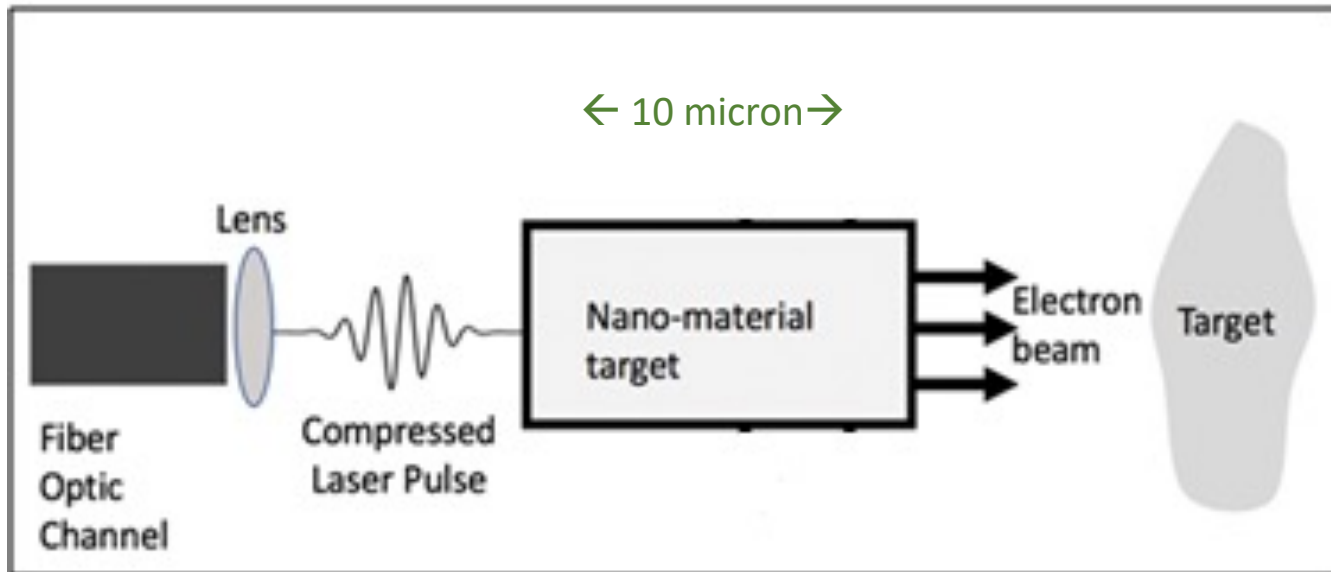
Body penetration

↑

Cancer cell size



# *In situ* / endoscopic fiber delivery of electron radiotherapy of cancer



**Fiber laser** drives *in situ* **nanotube** target  
in front of **cancer cells**

→ **Compactification**, **accurate** (no collateral damage), and **cheap**



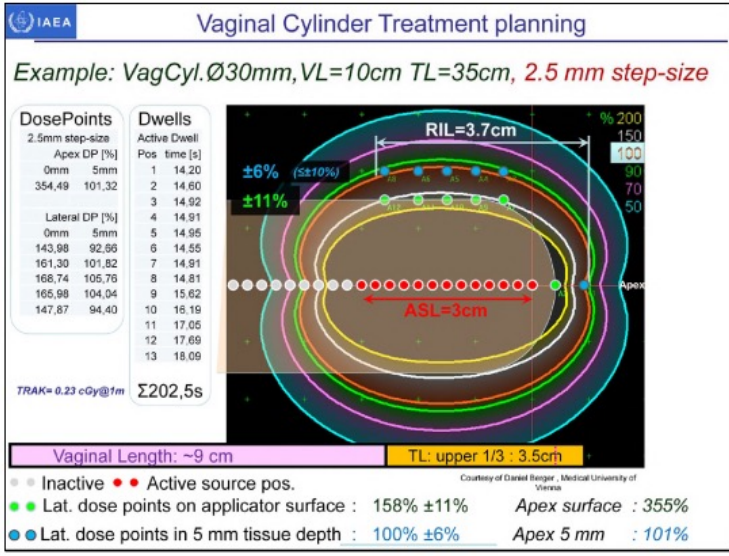
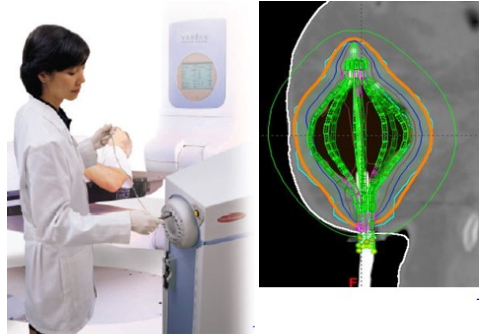
# Cost estimate comparison with Brachy therapies



Item	<u>LWFA – HDR</u>	Iridium-192–HDR	Cobalt-60–HDR
Purchase Estimate	\$100K - \$300K	\$700K - \$900K	\$700K - \$900K
Room Shielding	None	\$200K - \$500K	\$200K - \$500K
Source Replacement	None	~\$10K every 4-6 months	~130K every 60 months
Downtime due to Source Replacement	None	1-2 days	1-2 days

(Prof. D. Roa, preliminary estimate)

# Current treatment applications (from skin, vagina, uterine, breast, etc.)



→ Much smaller, **endoscopic** in ours

(Prof. D. Roa)

# Vector nanomolecule with high-Z metal to target cancer cells for electron radiotherapy

High-Z: stop **electrons**  
Nanomolecule **vector**:  
attached to cancer cell



Nanomolecular vector medicine, (after F. Tamanoi, 2022)

# Summary

1. Near **critical density** (e.g. nanotube material) → low phase velocity LWFA
2. Low energy electrons ( $> 10\text{keV}$ ,  $< \text{MeV}$ ), large amount with modest laser power (using Raman forward process)
3. **Fiber laser** technology (s.a. hollow fiber laser)
4. **Endoscopic** (through fiber) delivery of electrons for radiotherapy  
← replacing Brachy therapy
5. With **nanomolecule vector** (with high-Z particle attached), further accuracy, focus of electrons

Recent advancements in generation of intense X-ray laser ultrashort pulses open opportunities for particle acceleration in solid-state plasmas. Wakefield acceleration in crystals or carbon nanotubes shows promise of unmatched ultra-high accelerating gradients and possibility to shape the future of high energy physics colliders. This book summarizes the discussions of the "Workshop on Beam Acceleration in Crystals and Nanostructures" (Fermilab, June 24–25, 2019), presents next steps in theory and modeling and outlines major physics and technology challenges toward proof-of-principle demonstration experiments.

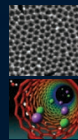
# Thank you very much!

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BEAM ACCELERATION IN  
CRYSTALS AND NANOSTRUCTURES

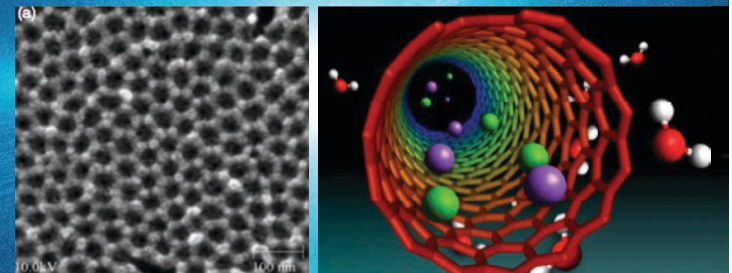


Chattopadhyay • Mourou  
Shiltsev • Tajima

# BEAM ACCELERATION IN CRYSTALS AND NANOSTRUCTURES

Edited by

Swapan Chattopadhyay • Gérard Mourou  
Vladimir D. Shiltsev • Toshiki Tajima



Book published (2020)

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Appendix to p. 15:  
Conventional electron accelerator for radiotherapy

