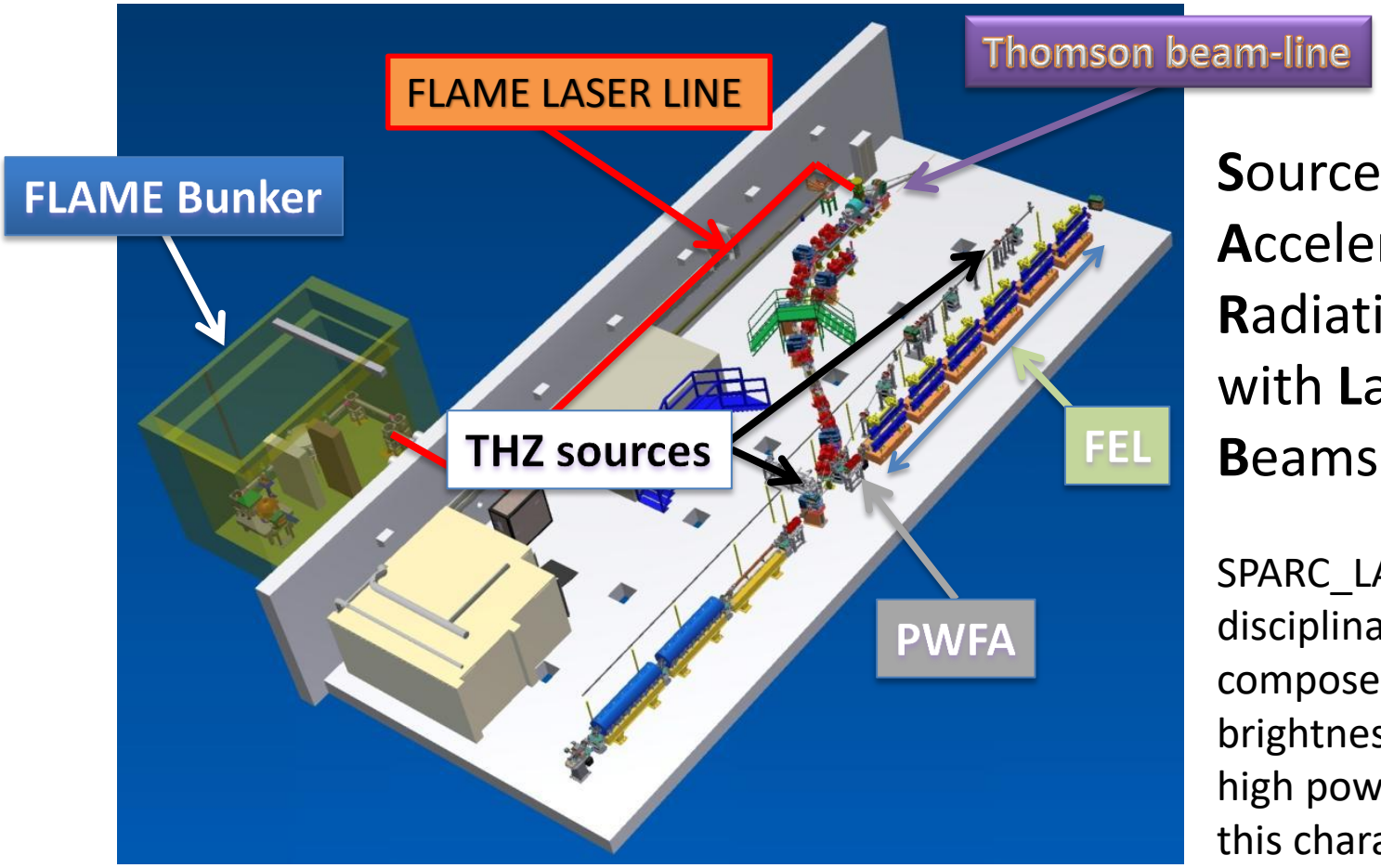
Innovative Single-Shot Diagnostics for Electrons From Laser WakeField Acceleration at FLAME

F.G. Bisesto

On behalf of SPARC_LAB collaboration

SPARC_LAB Facility

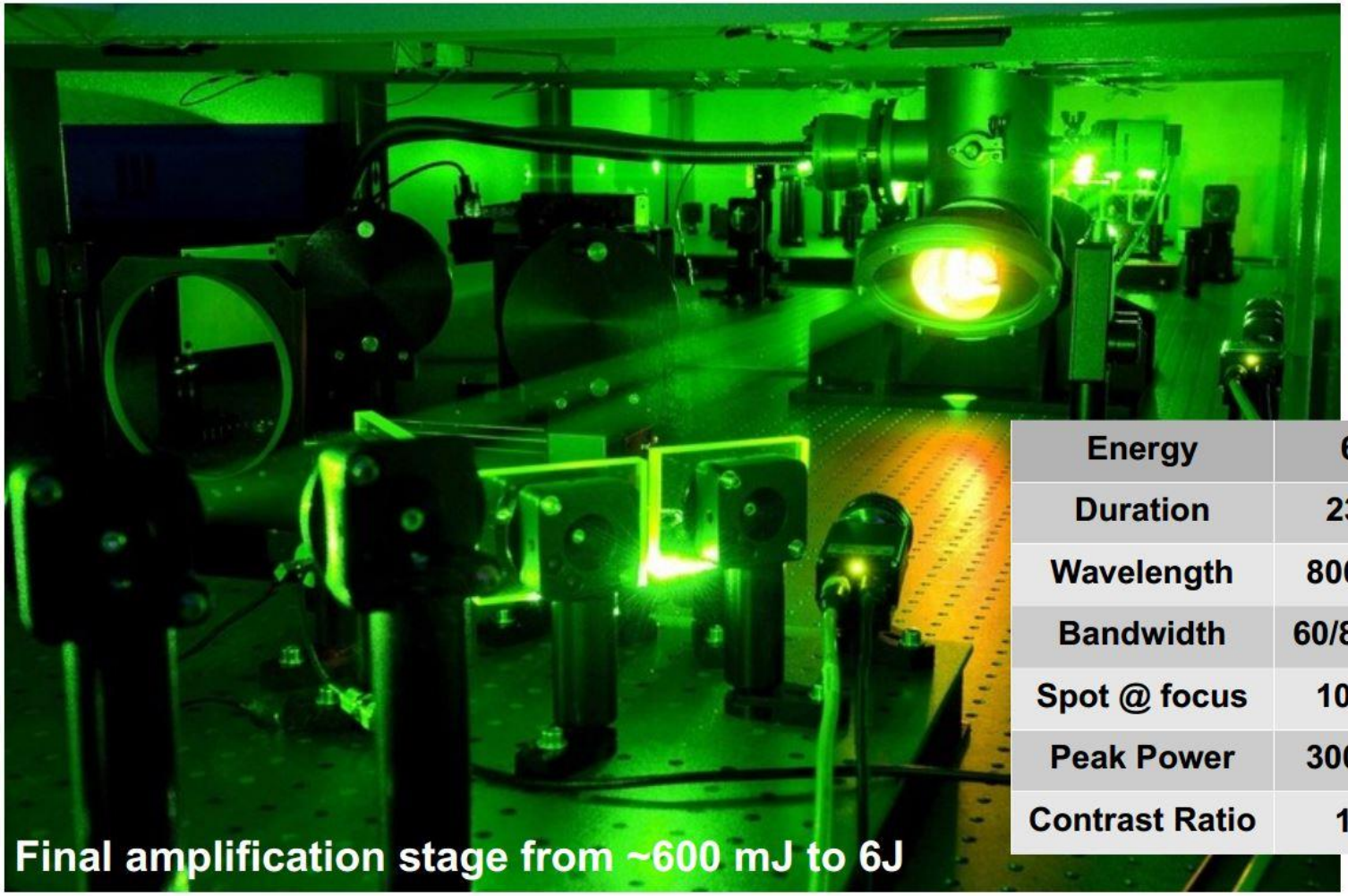


Sources for **P**lasma **A**ccelerators and **R**adiation **C**ompton with **L**asers and **B**eams

SPARC_LAB is a multi-disciplinary TEST Facility composed by a high brightness LINAC and the high power laser FLAME: this characteristic makes it unique.

Ferrario, M., et al. "SPARC_LAB present and future." NIMB 309 (2013): 183-188

FLAME laser

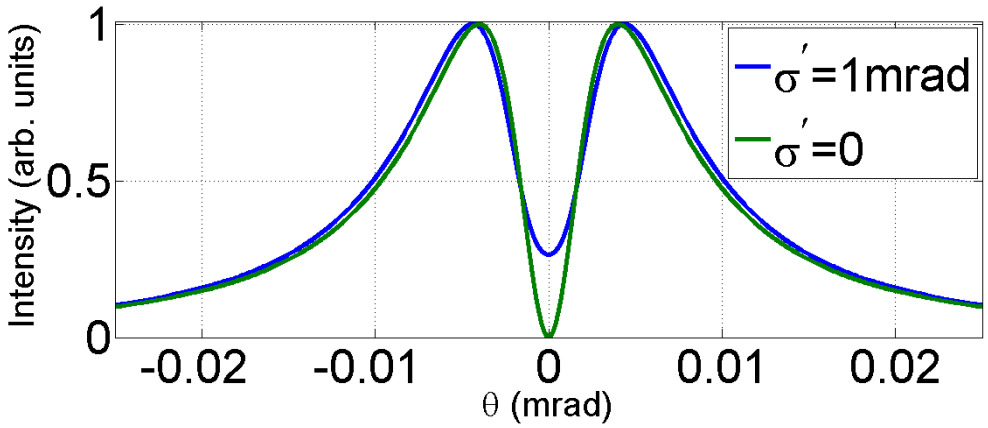


Energy	6 J
Duration	23 fs
Wavelength	800 nm
Bandwidth	60/80 nm
Spot @ focus	10 μm
Peak Power	300 TW
Contrast Ratio	10^{10}

Importance of single shot diagnostics

- Plasma accelerators allow to achieve extremely high accelerating gradient (>100GV/m).
- Electron beams from plasma are still characterized by:
  - Relatively large energy spread (~5%);
  - Shot-to-shot instabilities.
- Single shot diagnostics are very helpful to properly characterize plasma beams.
- Emittance measurement: development of a scheme based on incoherent **Optical Transition Radiation** (OTR).

Single shot emittance measurements based on incoherent OTR



The angular distribution of incoherent TR is **sensitive to beam divergence**: the central minimum is not zero.

Emittance:

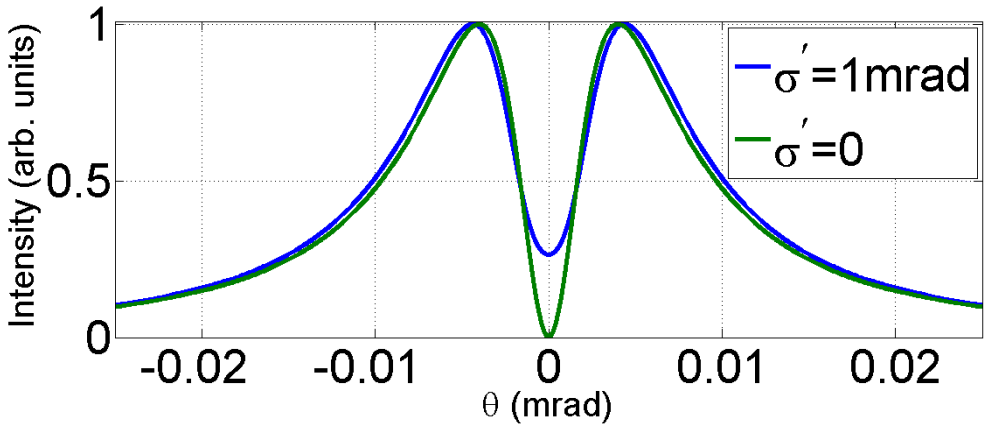
$$\varepsilon = \sqrt{< x^2 >< x'^2 > - < xx' >^2}$$

?

From spot size

From angular distribution

Single shot emittance measurements based on incoherent OTR



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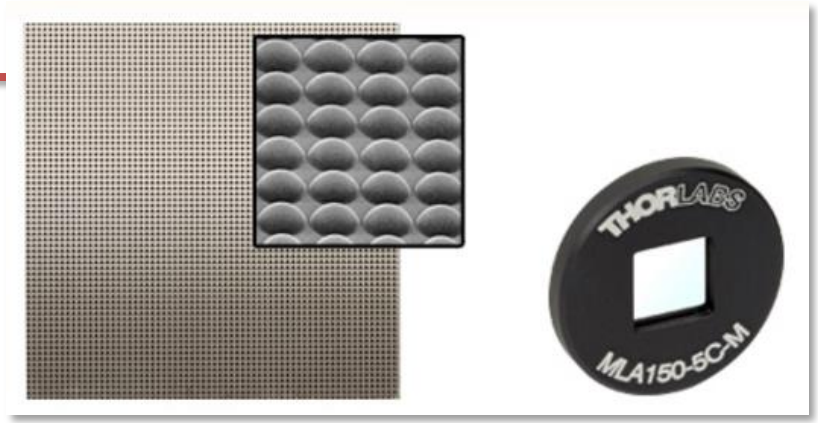
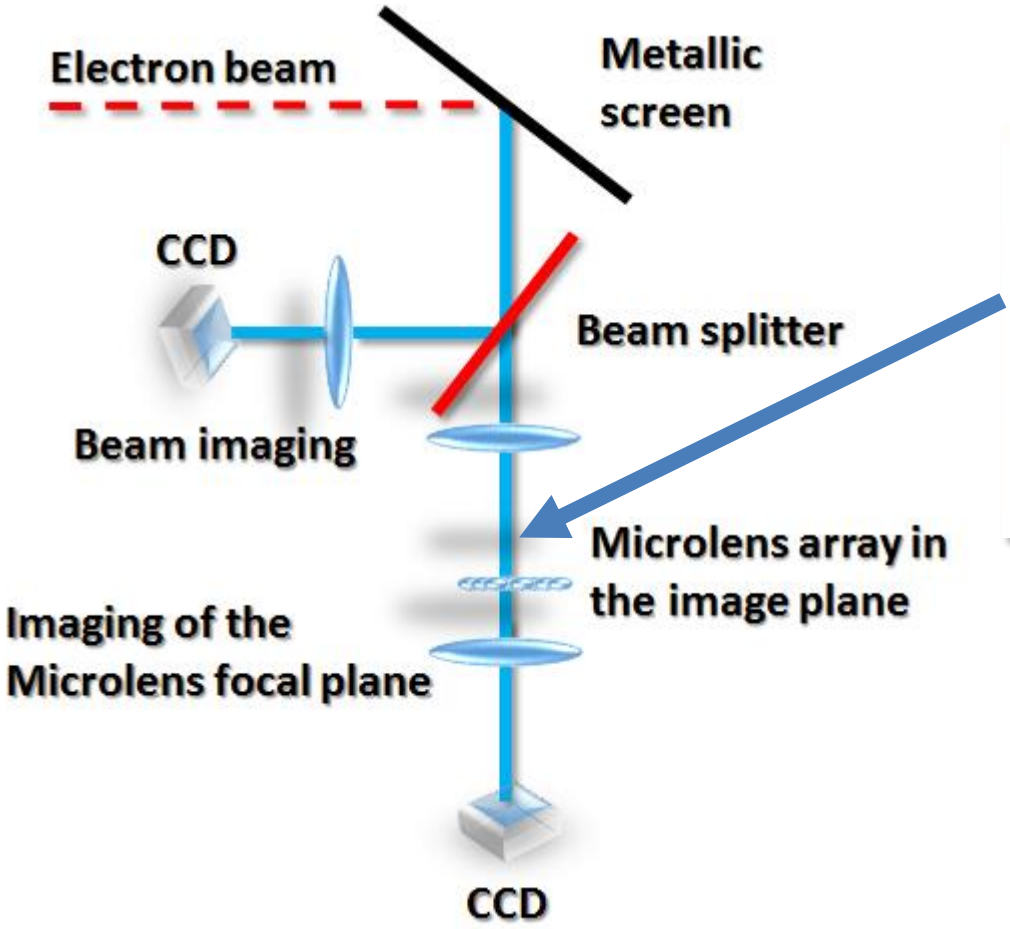
From spot size

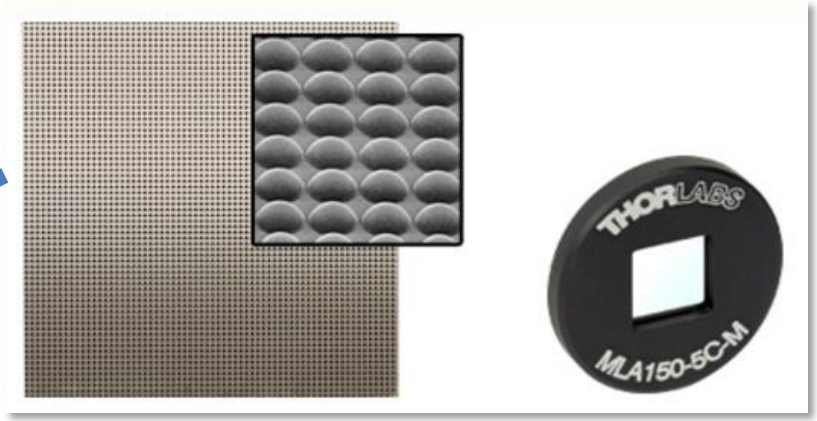
From angular distribution

IDEA: Microlens array!



Experimental setup



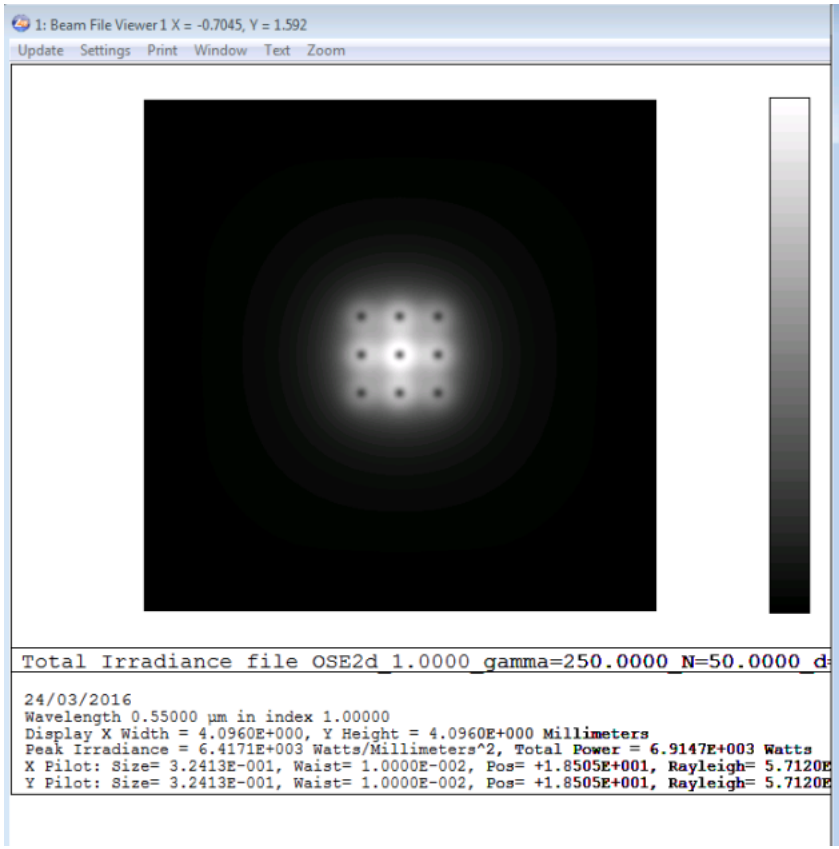


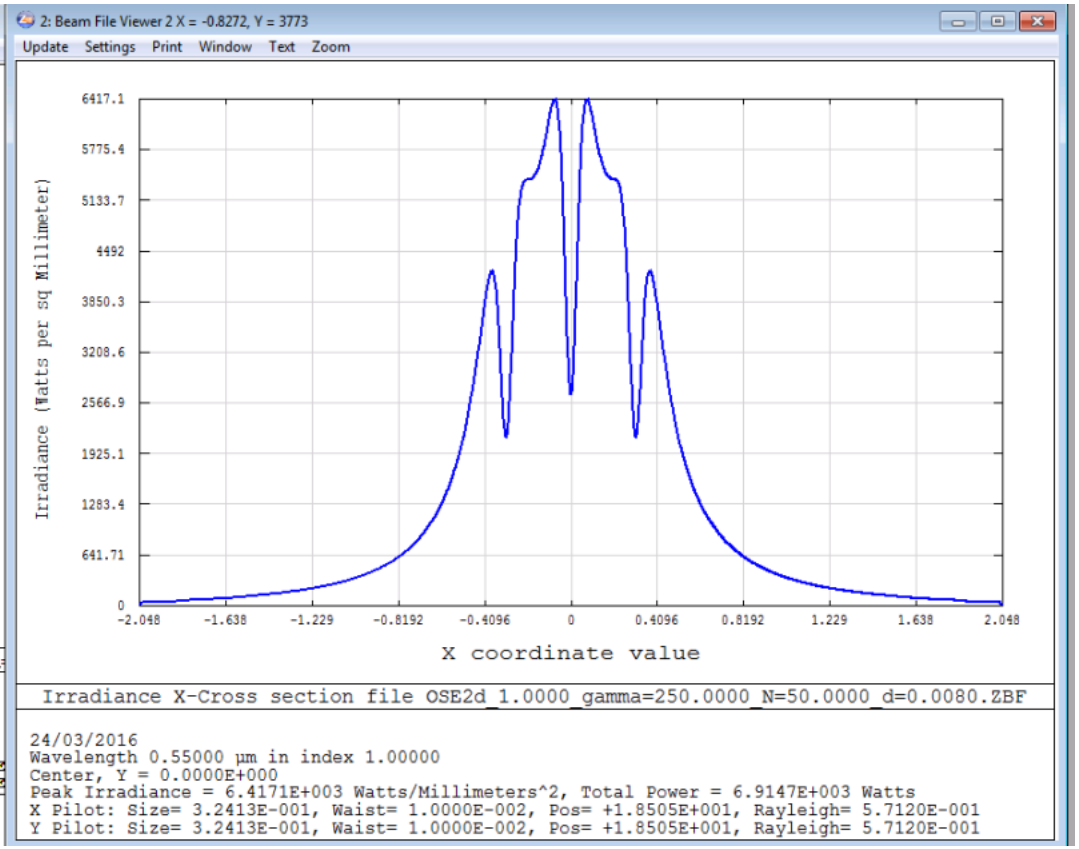
9x9mm array, 300um pitch,
18.5mm focal length

Cianchi, A., Bisesto, F. et al. " Transverse emittance diagnostics for high brightness electron beams." NIMA (2016)

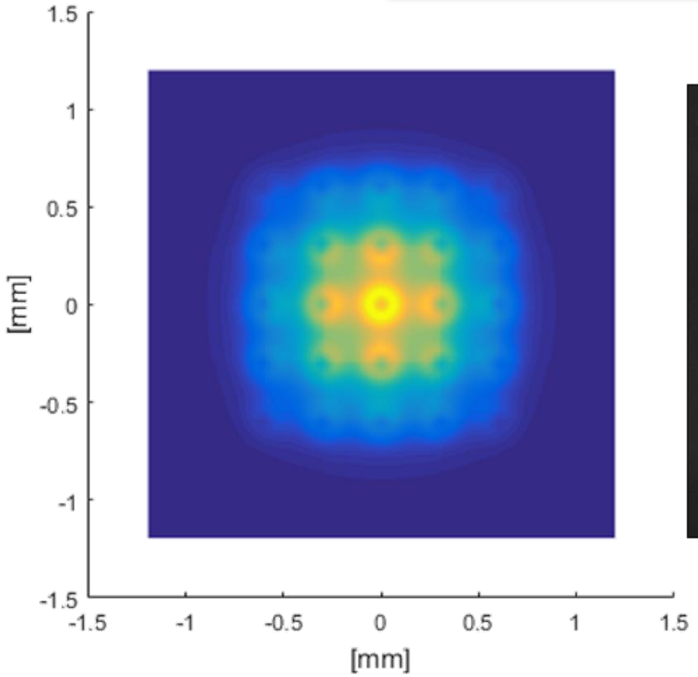
ZEMAX Simulations

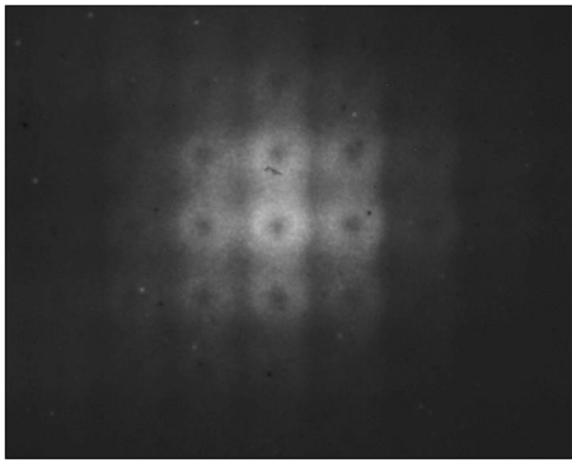
Custom code written in Zemax Programming Language
to simulate the OTR from the whole beam





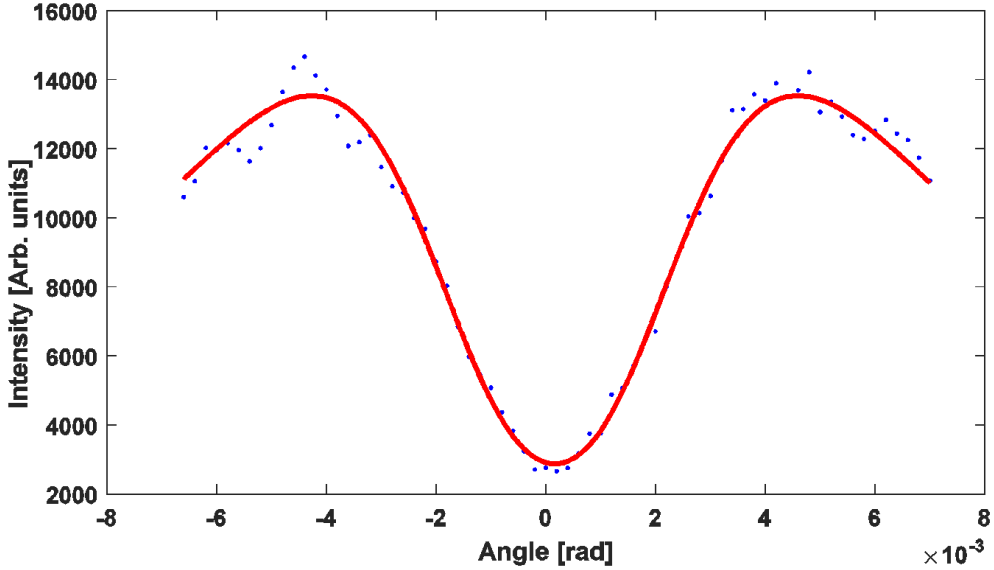
Results





Comparison between simulation and measurements

Angular distribution from the central microlens



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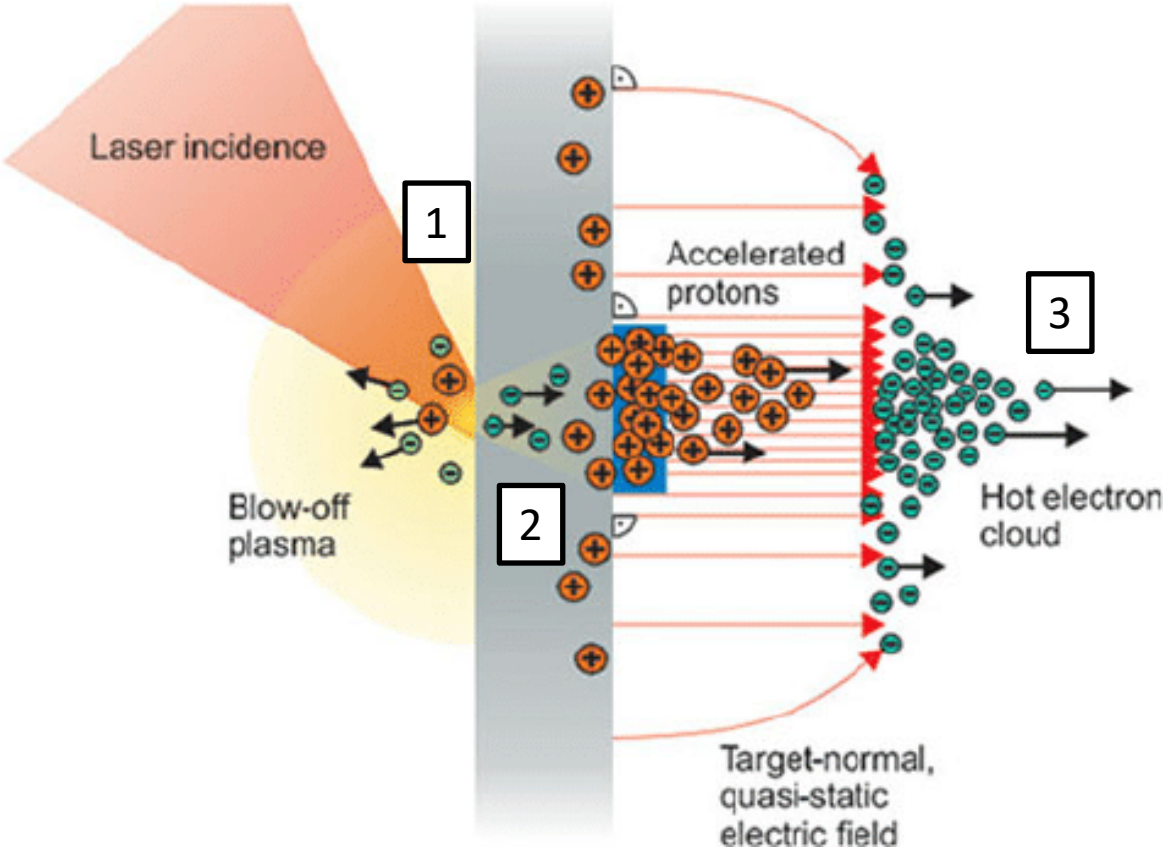
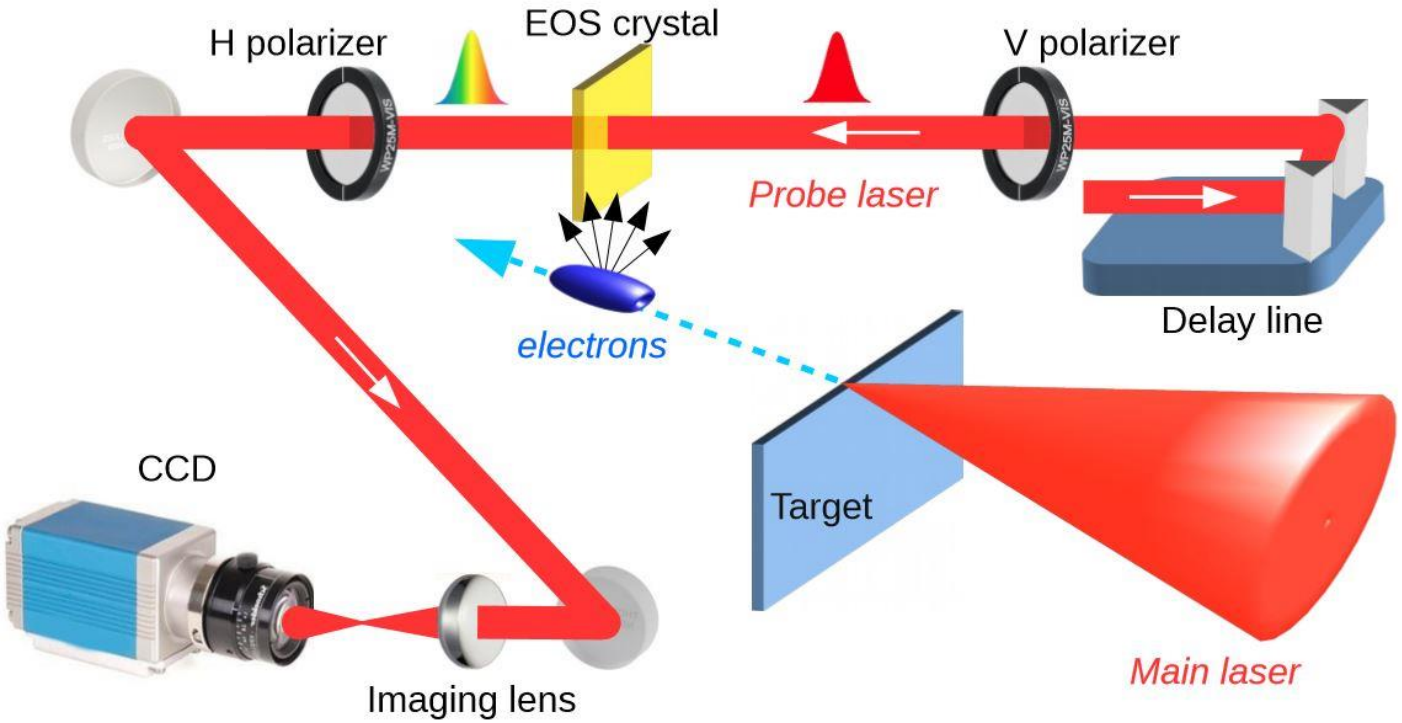
TNSA: Target Normal Sheath Acceleration



1) Laser interacts with pre-formed plasma.
2) Electron acceleration and positive charge left on target.
3) Only more energetic electrons (**fast electrons**) escape and their electric field causes ion acceleration.

H. Schwoerer et al., *Nature* 439, 445-448 (2006)

Experimental Setup

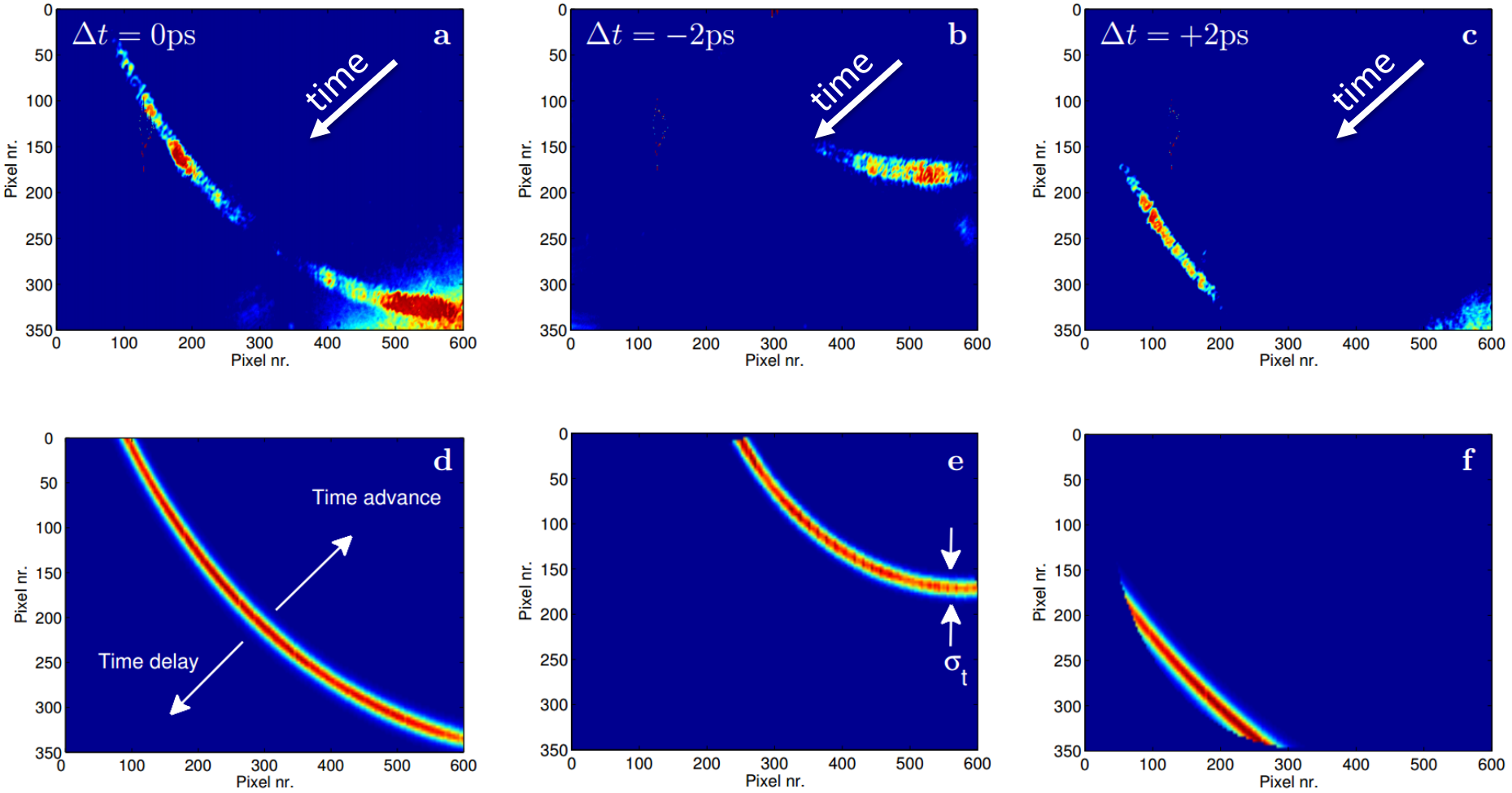


LASER PARAMETERS:

- Energy 4J
- 35fs FWHM
- w_0=30µm

Pompili, R., et al. "Sub-picosecond snapshots of fast electrons from high intensity laser-matter interactions ." Opt.Exp. 24 (2016)

Experimental results



Temporal window: 10 ps.

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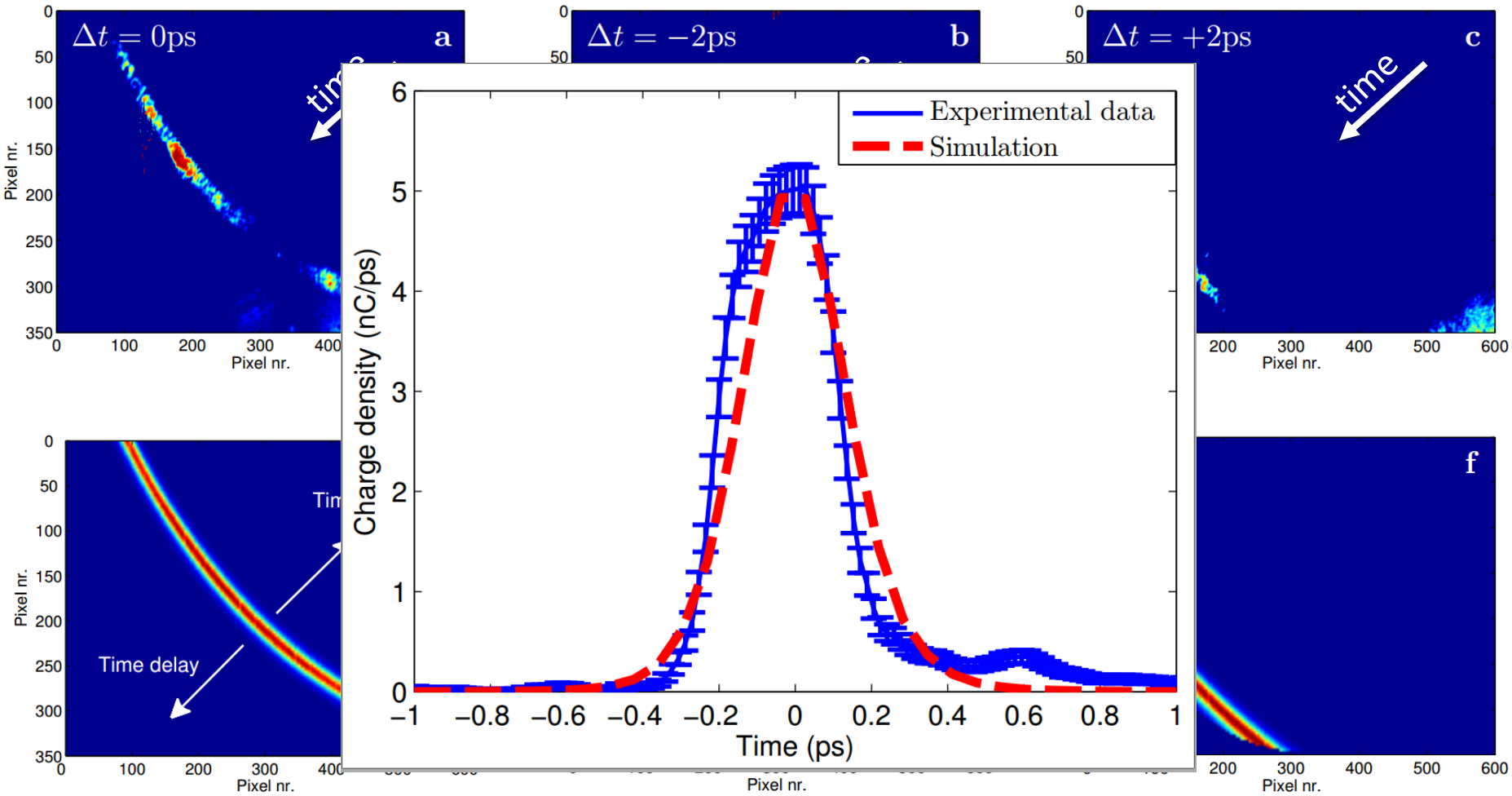

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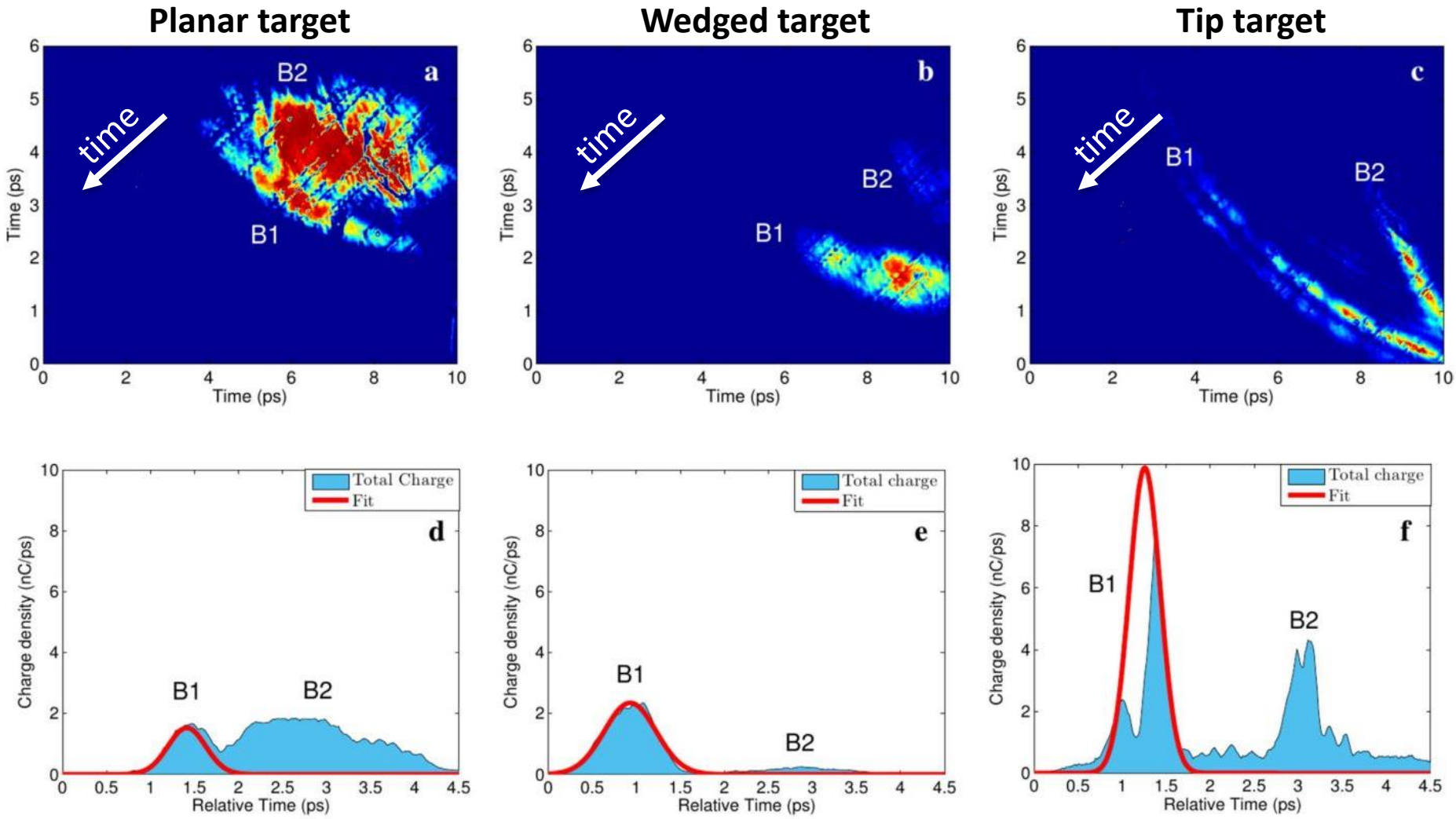
Influence of target shape



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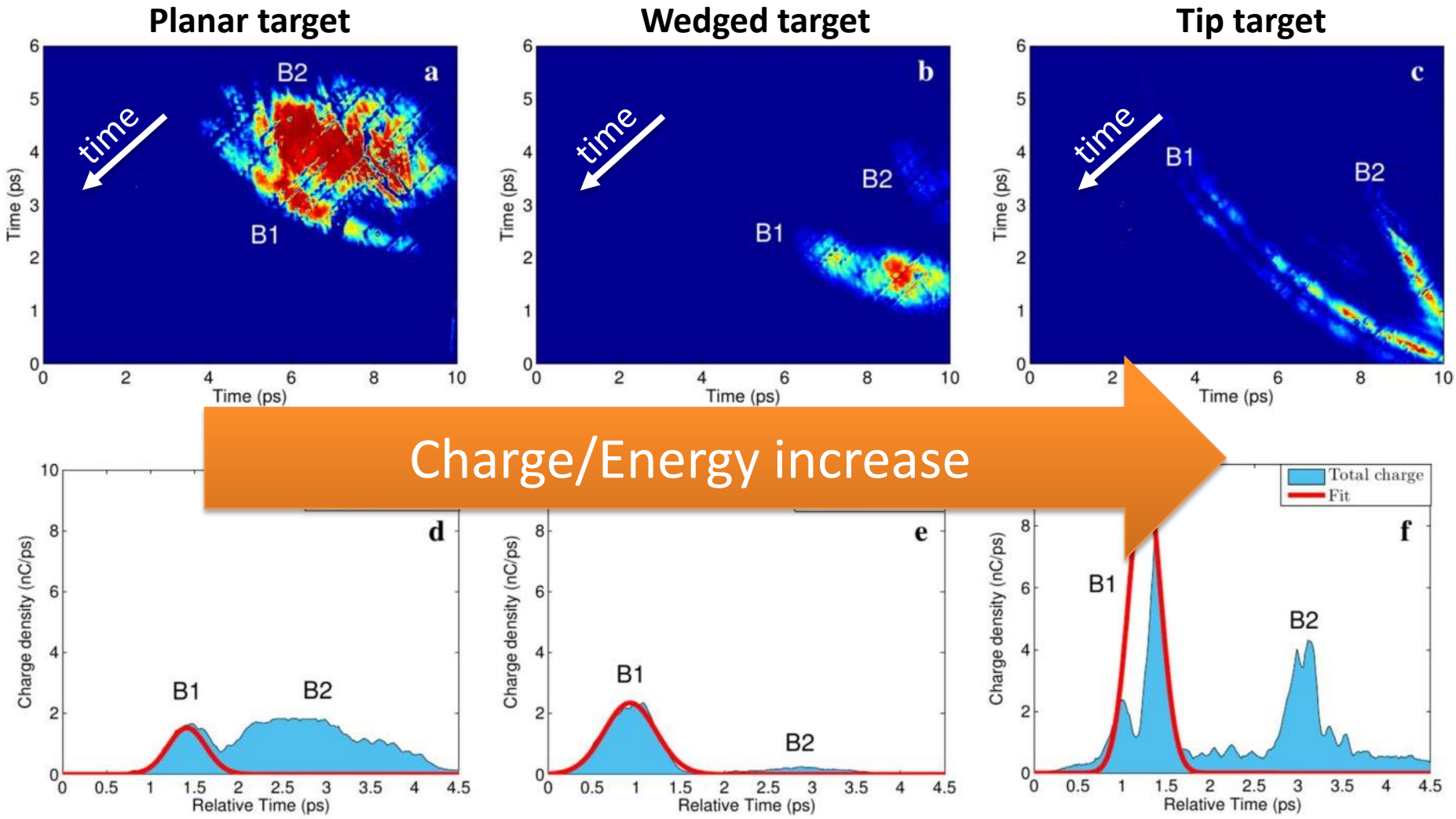

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Conclusions

- A novel scheme for **single shot emittance** measurements based on incoherent OTR has been reported.
  - First tests on RF LINAC have represented a **proof of principle** of this system.
  - A new experimental run is foreseen in the next future.
- We presented the **first time-resolved measurements** probing the emitted **fast electrons** from TNSA based on EOS technique.
  - We studied the influence of target shape: a field enhancement has been measured.
  - A new experimental run has started in the last two weeks.

Thanks for your attention!

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