

INTRODUCTION TO LASER-PLASMA-ACCELERATOR-DRIVEN ELECTRON SOURCES

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So-called “Discovery machines” are widely used outside science, too!



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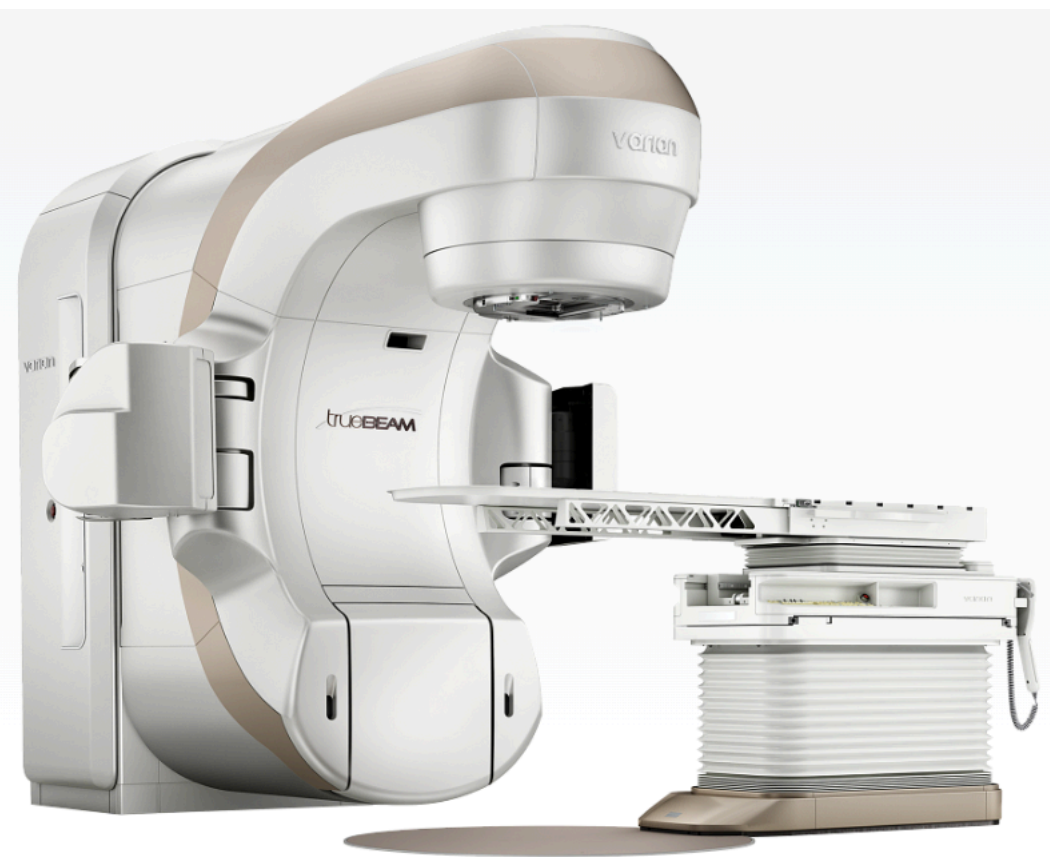
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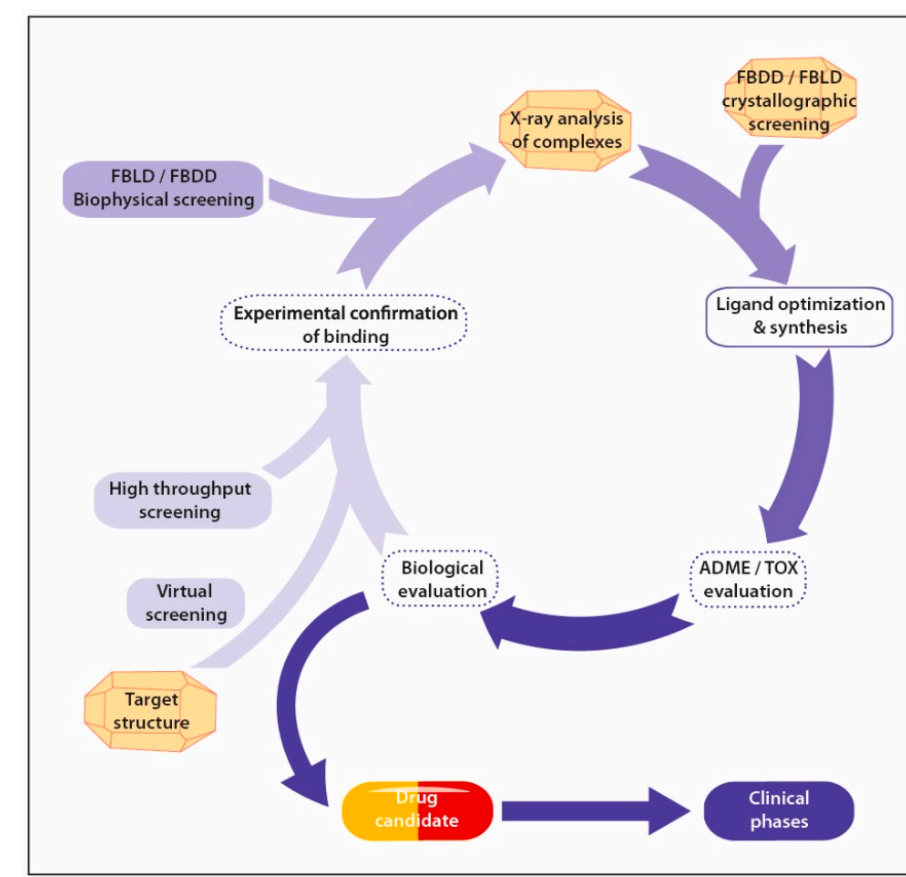
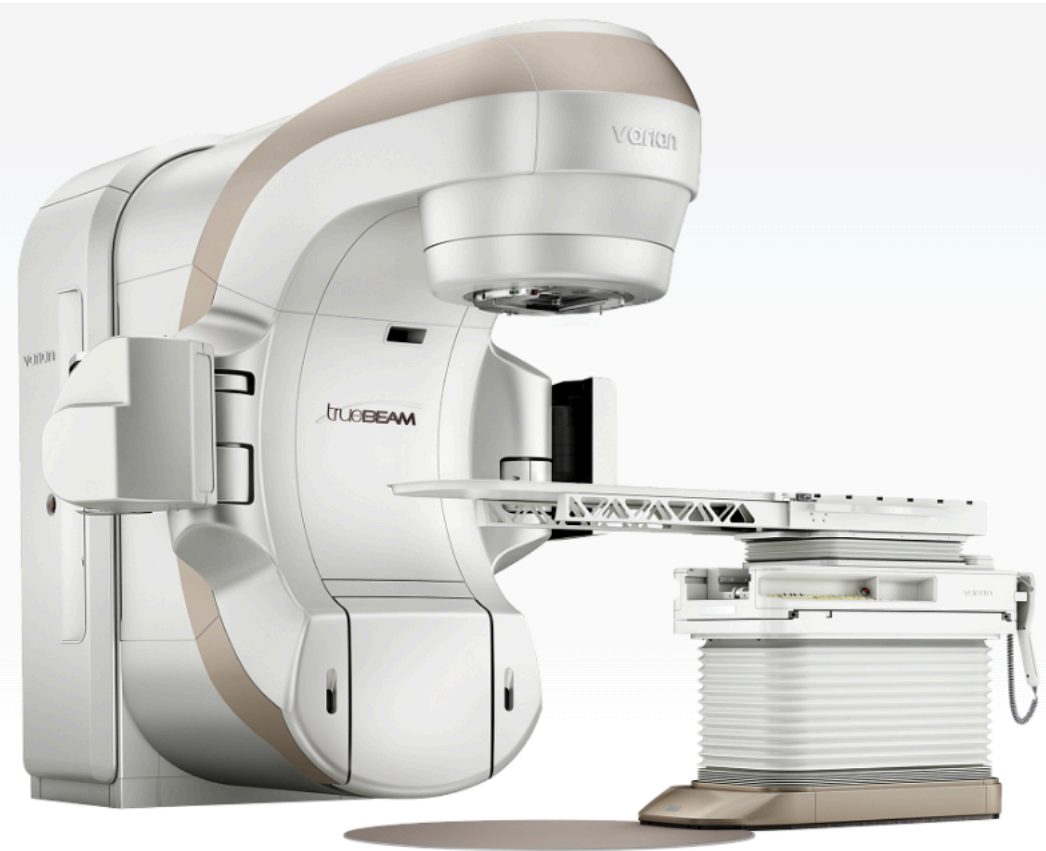
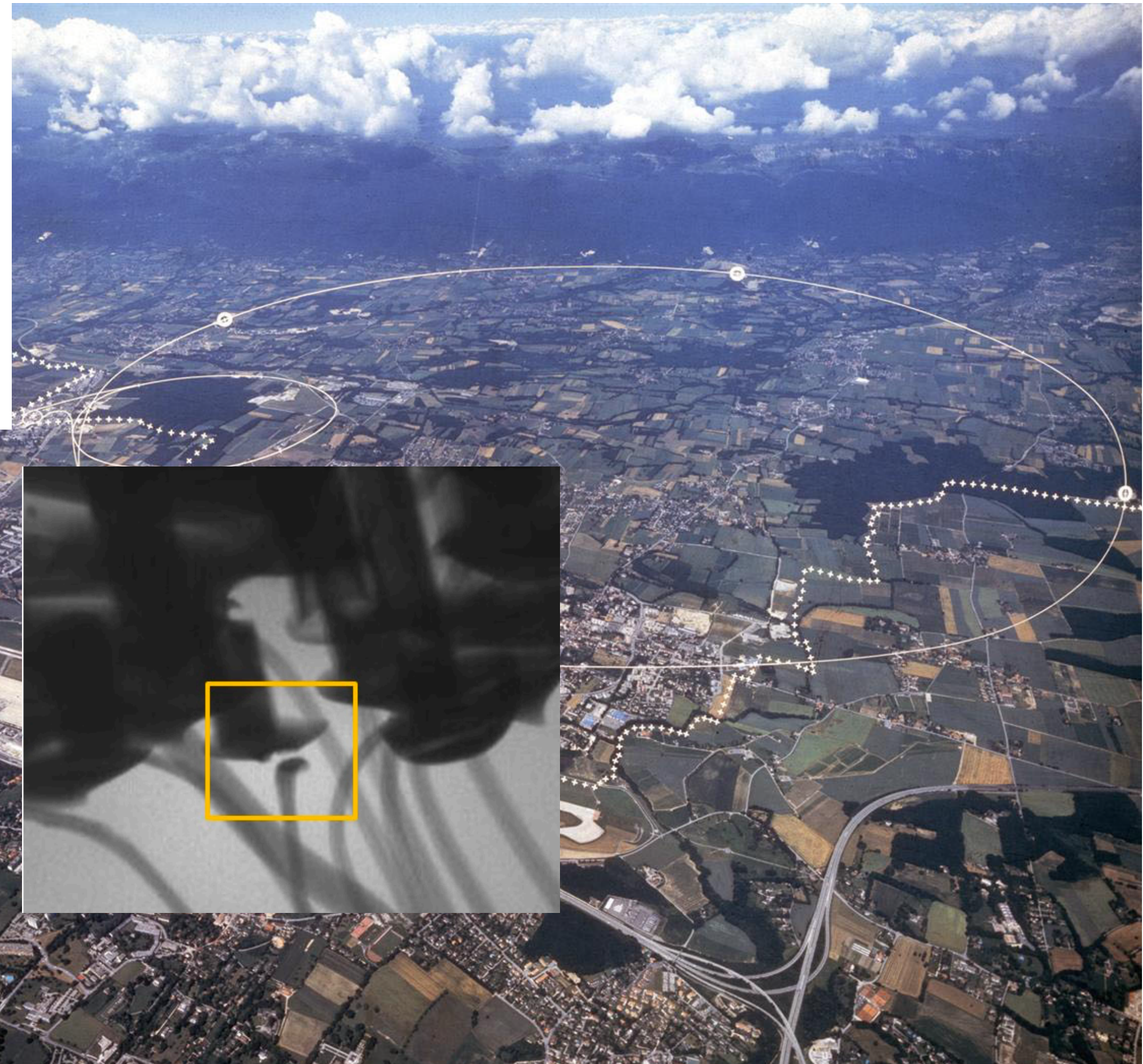
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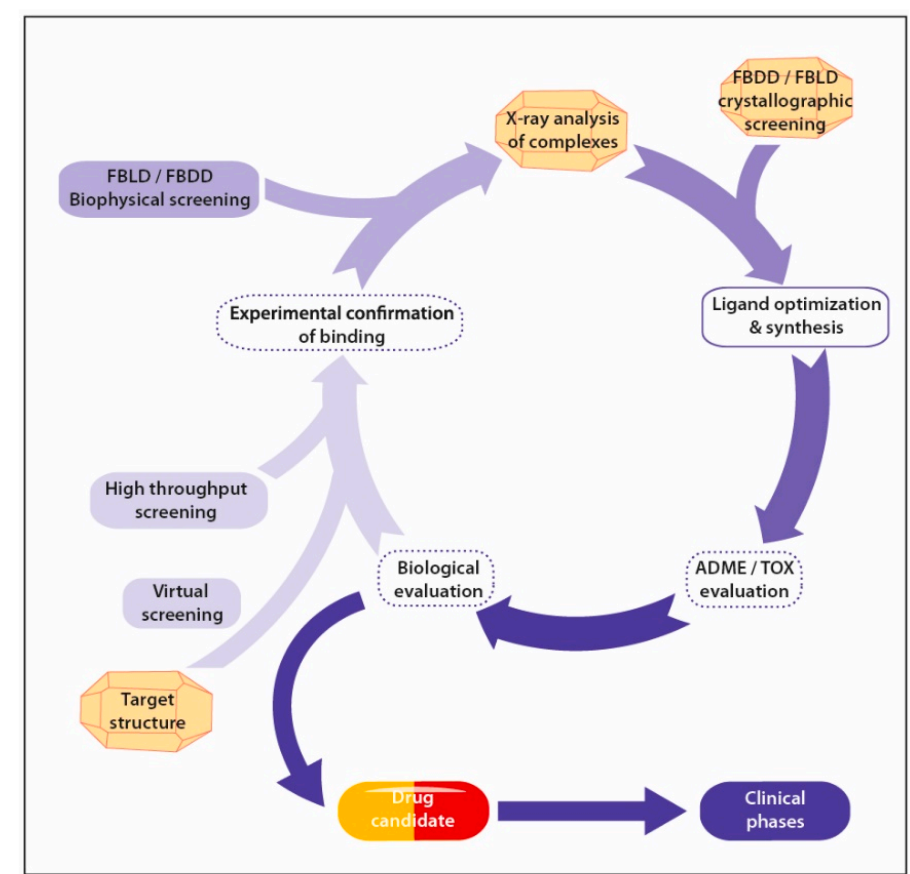
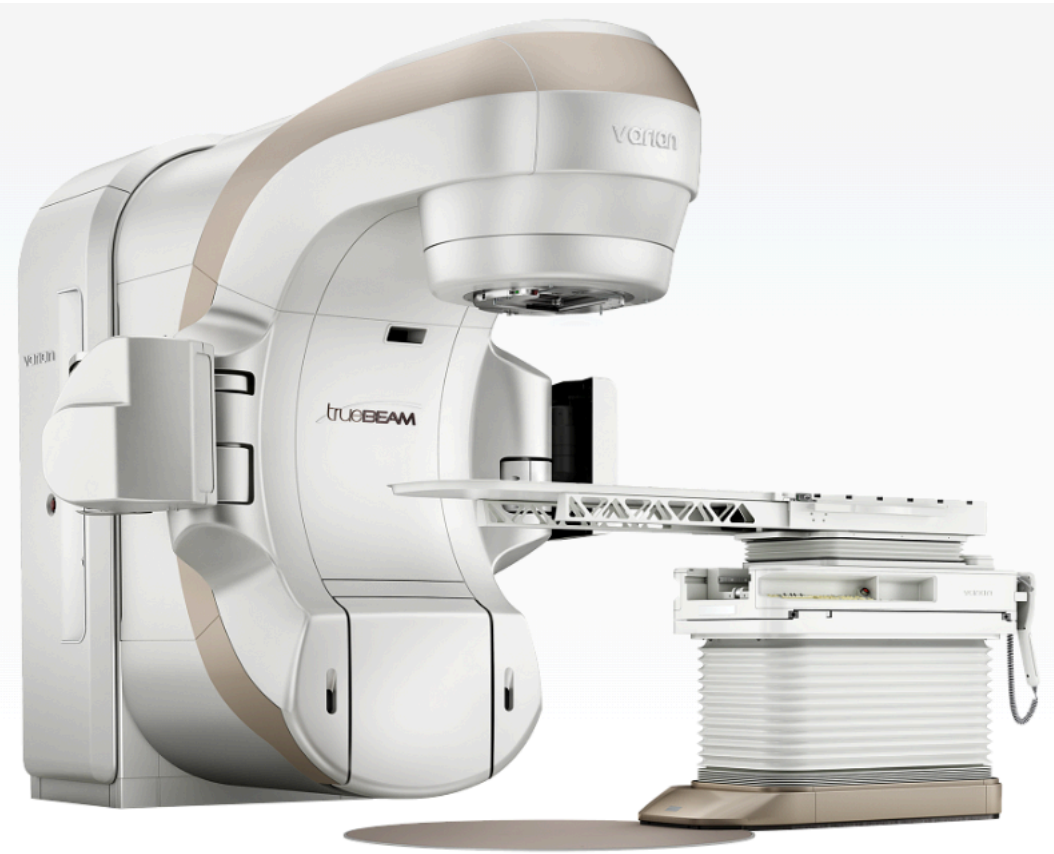
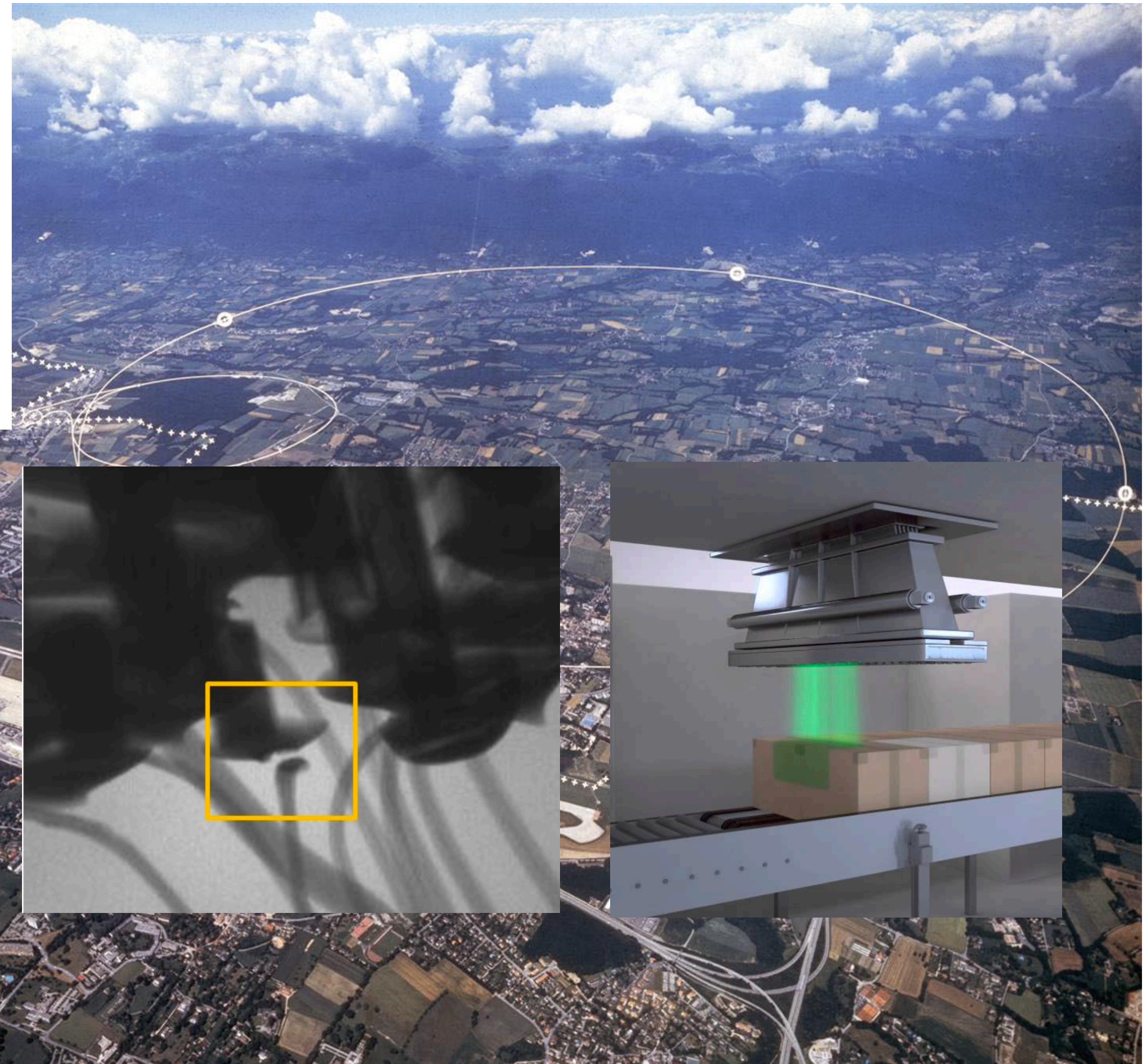


1 km

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Currently used accelerator technology is limited

Acceleration gradient limit leads to some 'interesting' ideas

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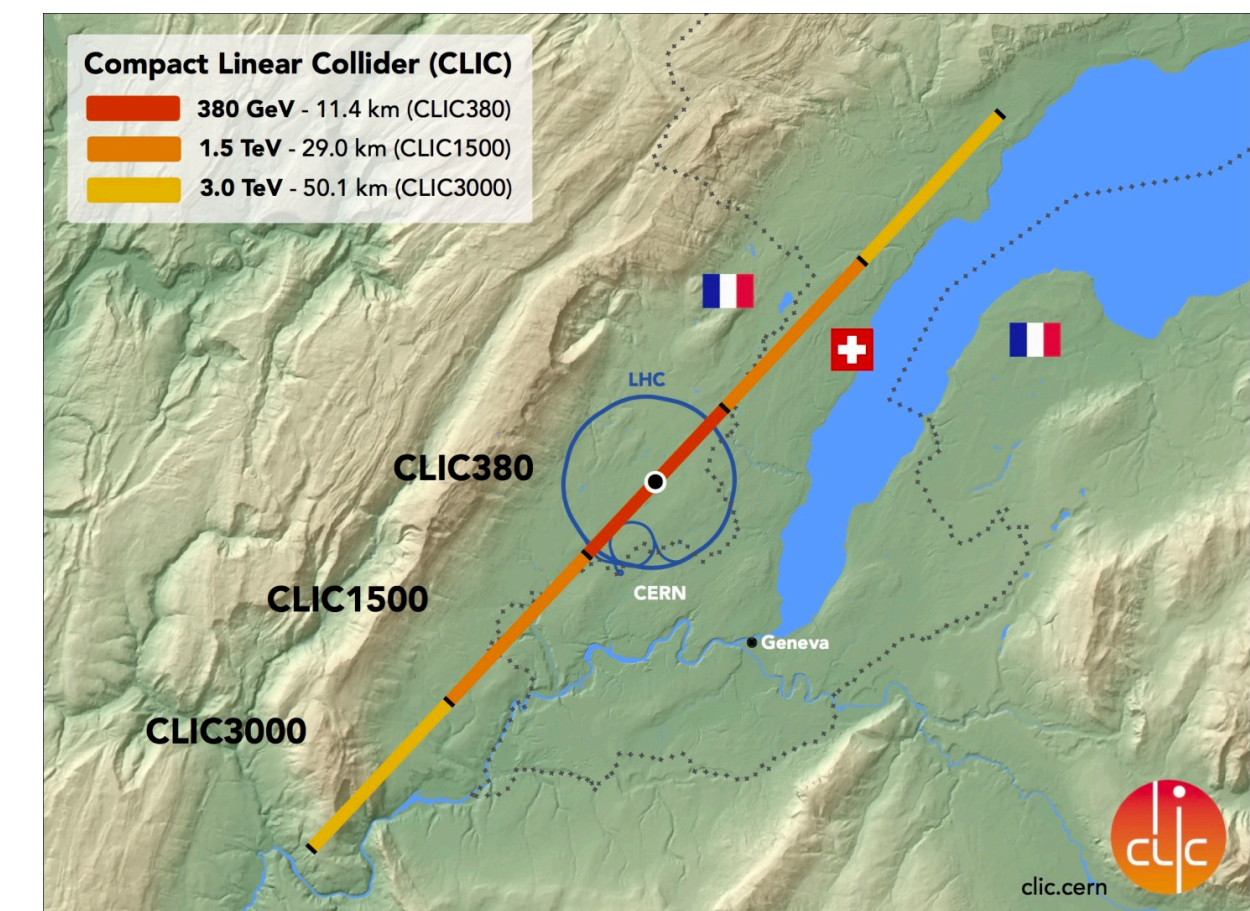
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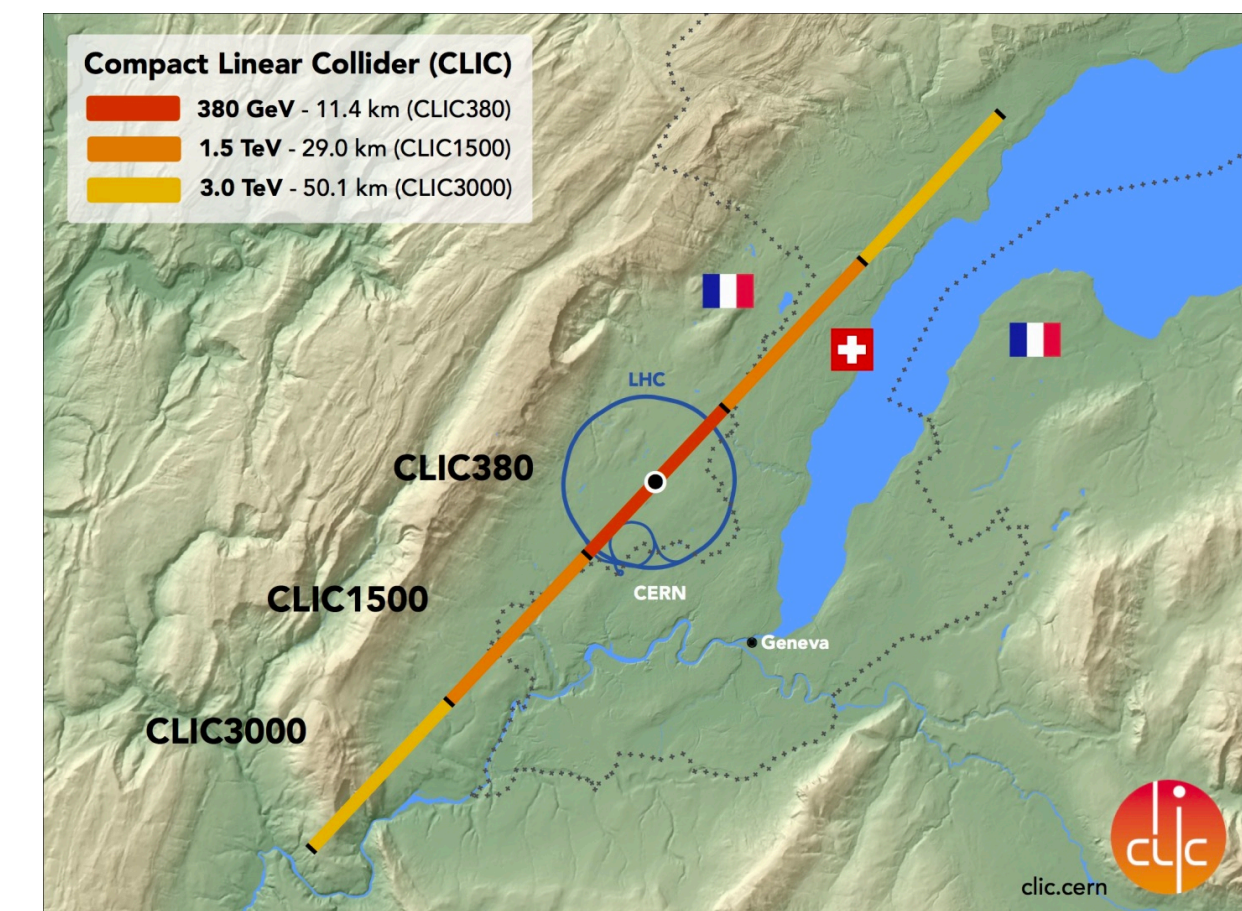
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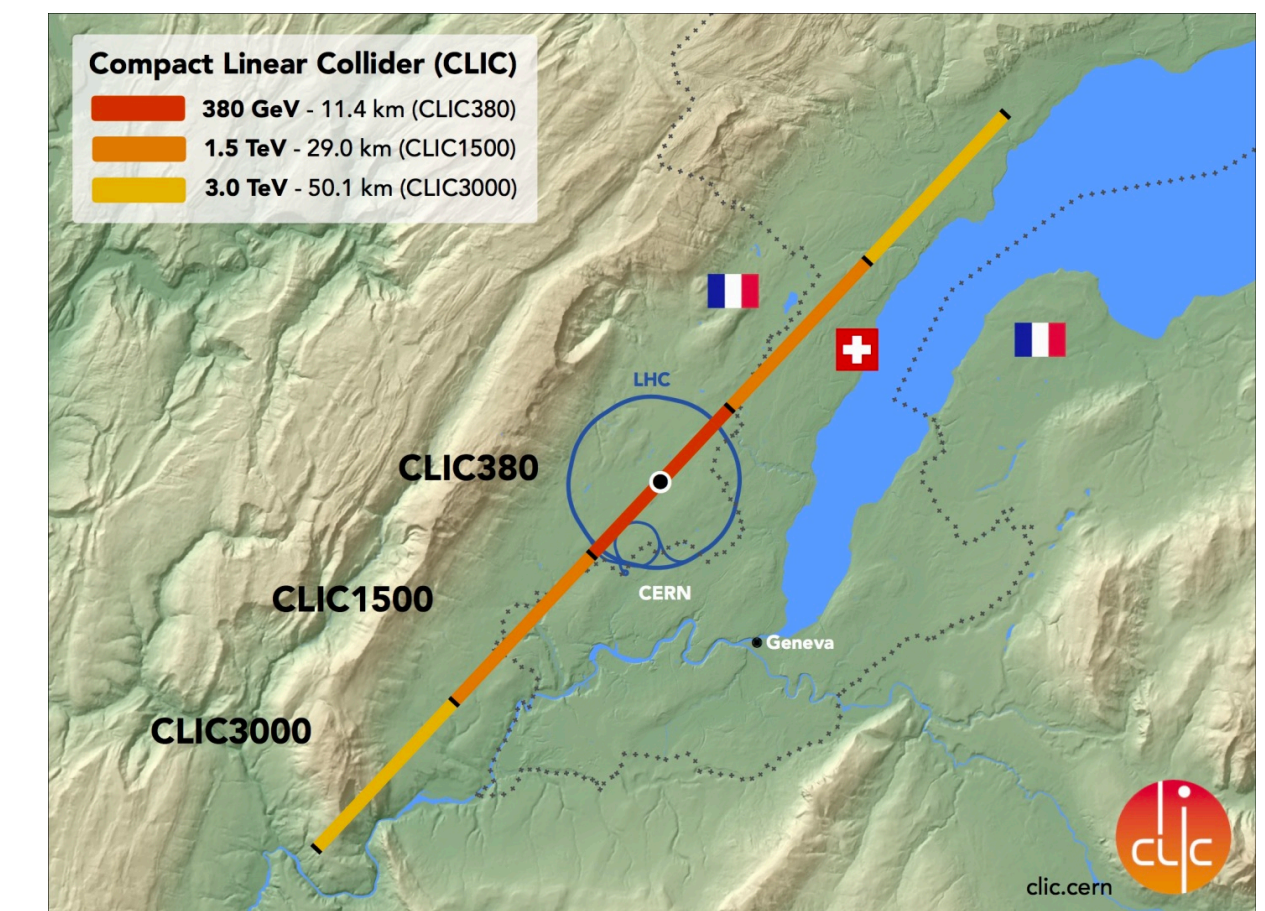
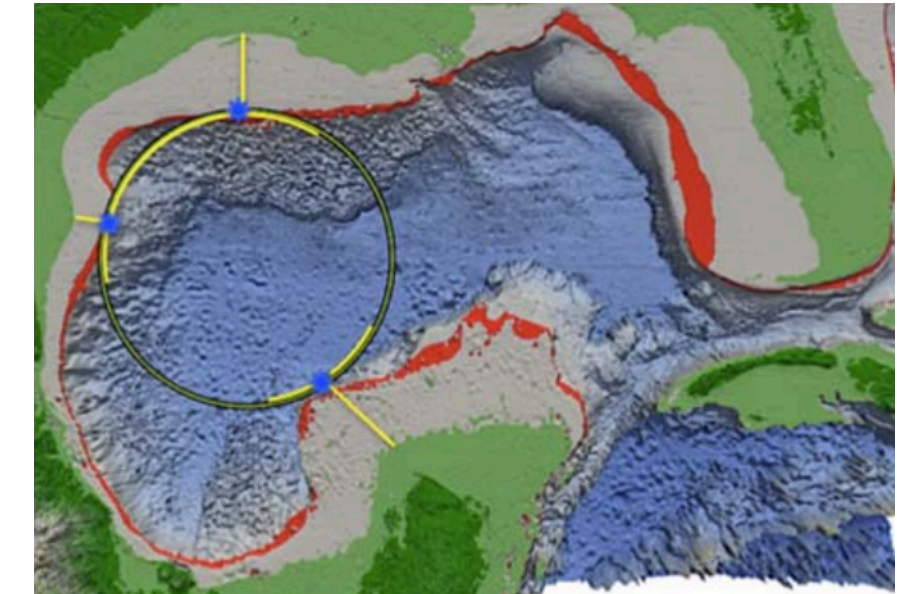
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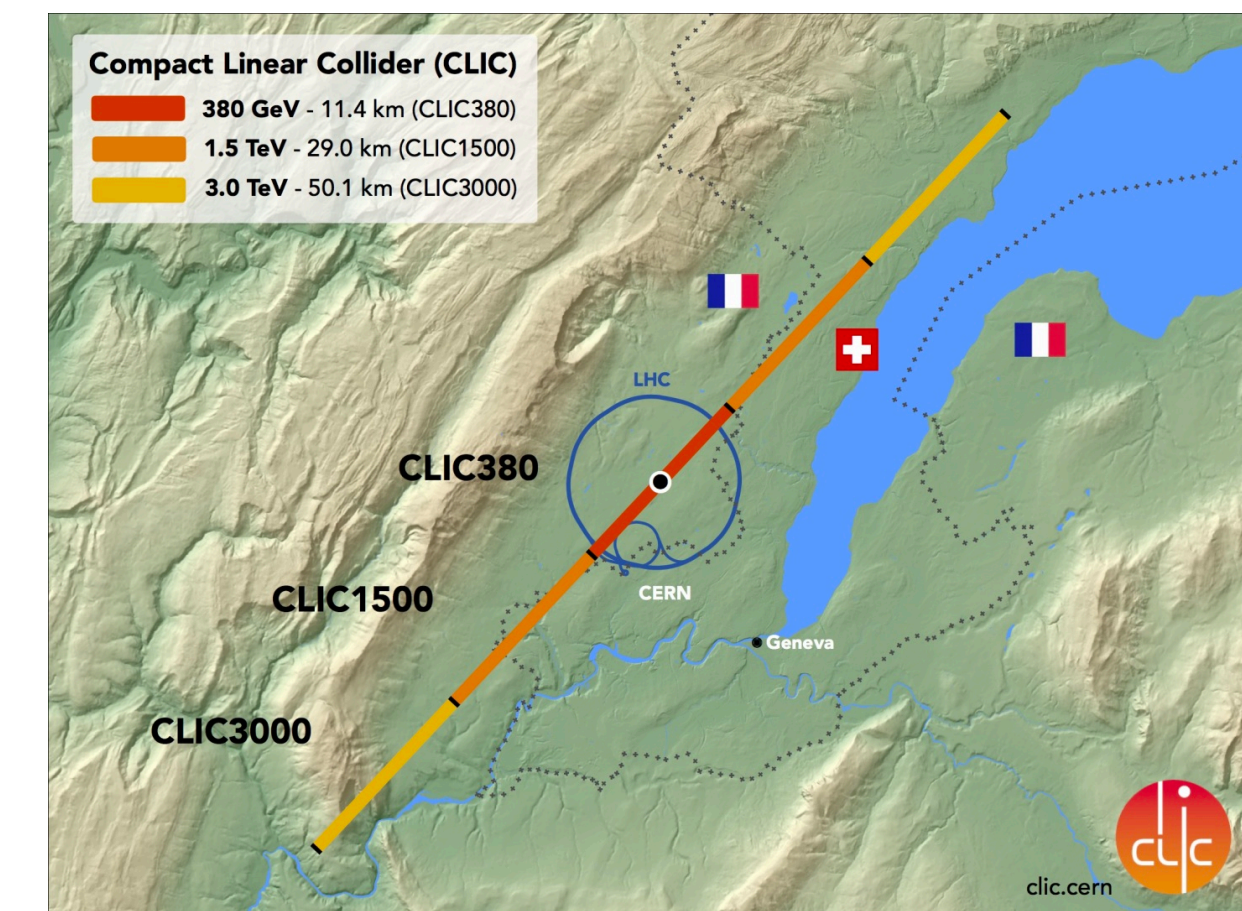
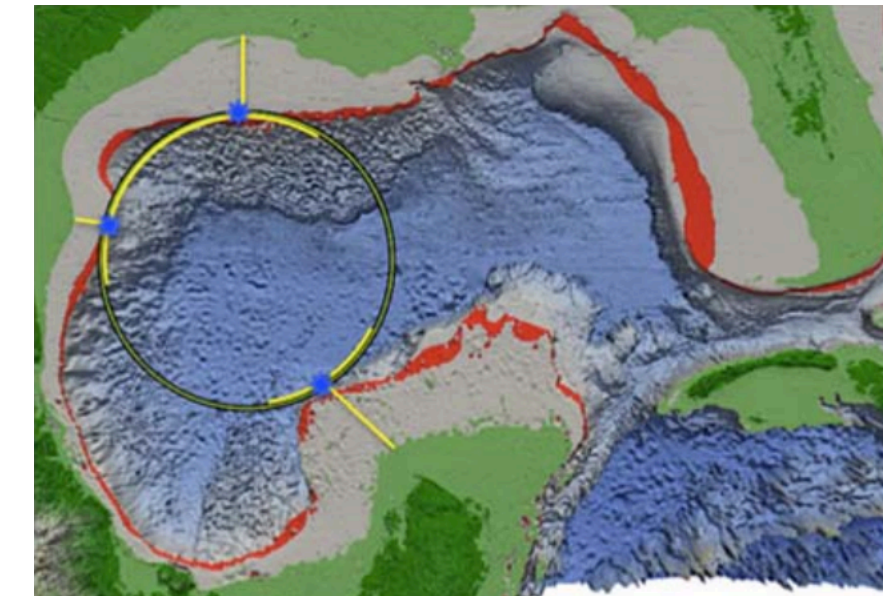


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A very high energy hadron collider on the Moon

James Beacham^{1,*} and Frank Zimmermann^{2,†}

¹Duke University, Durham, N.C., United States

²CERN, Meyrin, Switzerland

(Dated: June 17, 2021)

The long-term prospect of building a hadron collider around the circumference of a great circle of the Moon is sketched. A Circular Collider on the Moon (CCM) of ~ 11000 km in circumference could reach a proton-proton center-of-mass collision energy of 14 PeV — a thousand times higher than the Large Hadron Collider at CERN — optimistically assuming a dipole magnetic field of 20 T. Siting and construction considerations are presented. Machine parameters, powering, and vacuum needs are explored. An injection scheme is delineated.

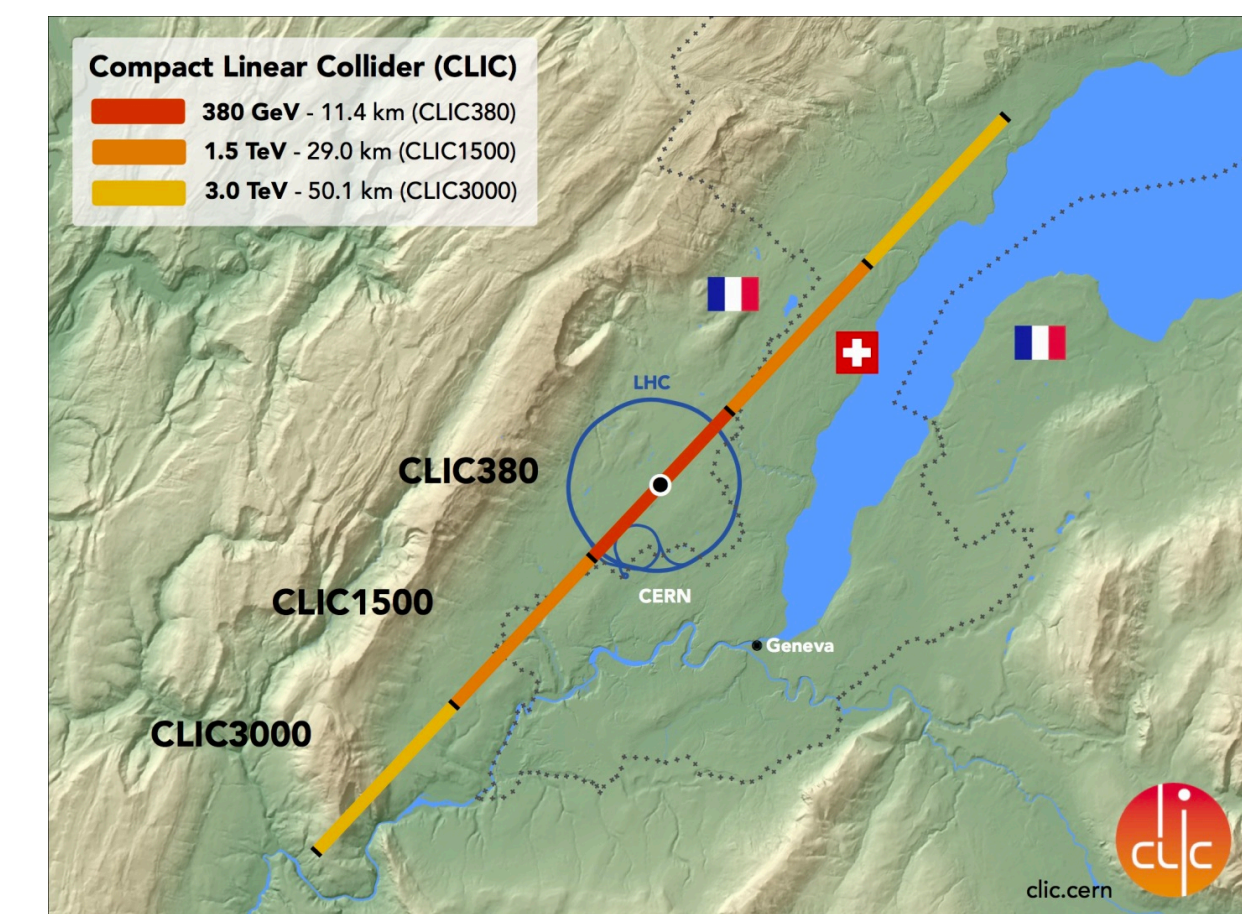
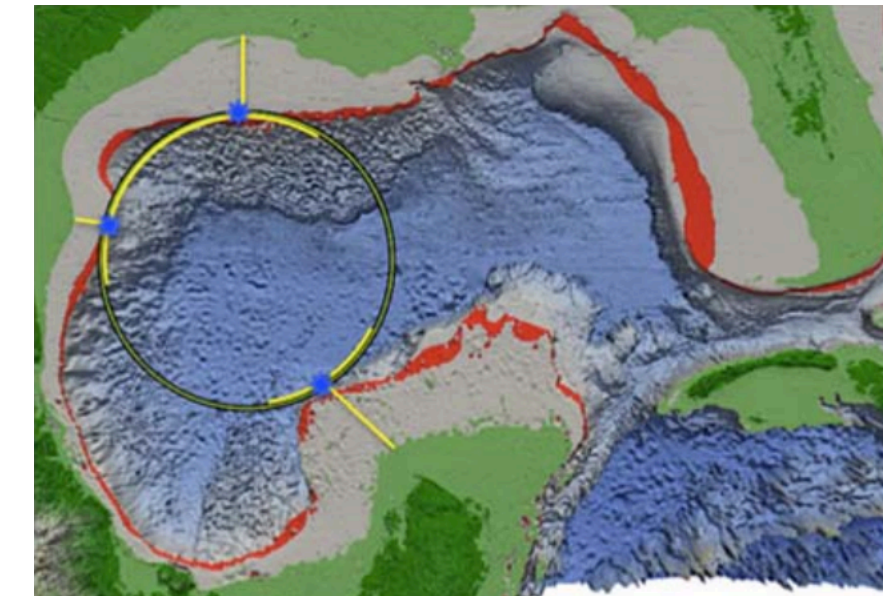
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Potential solution: use materials already broken down!

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VOLUME 43, NUMBER 4

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

23 JULY 1979

Laser Electron Accelerator

T. Tajima and J. M. Dawson

Department of Physics, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024

(Received 9 March 1979)

An intense electromagnetic pulse can create a weak of plasma oscillations through the action of the nonlinear ponderomotive force. Electrons trapped in the wake can be accelerated to high energy. Existing glass lasers of power density 10^{18}W/cm^2 shone on plasmas of densities 10^{18}cm^{-3} can yield gigaelectronvolts of electron energy per centimeter of acceleration distance. This acceleration mechanism is demonstrated through computer simulation. Applications to accelerators and pulsers are examined.

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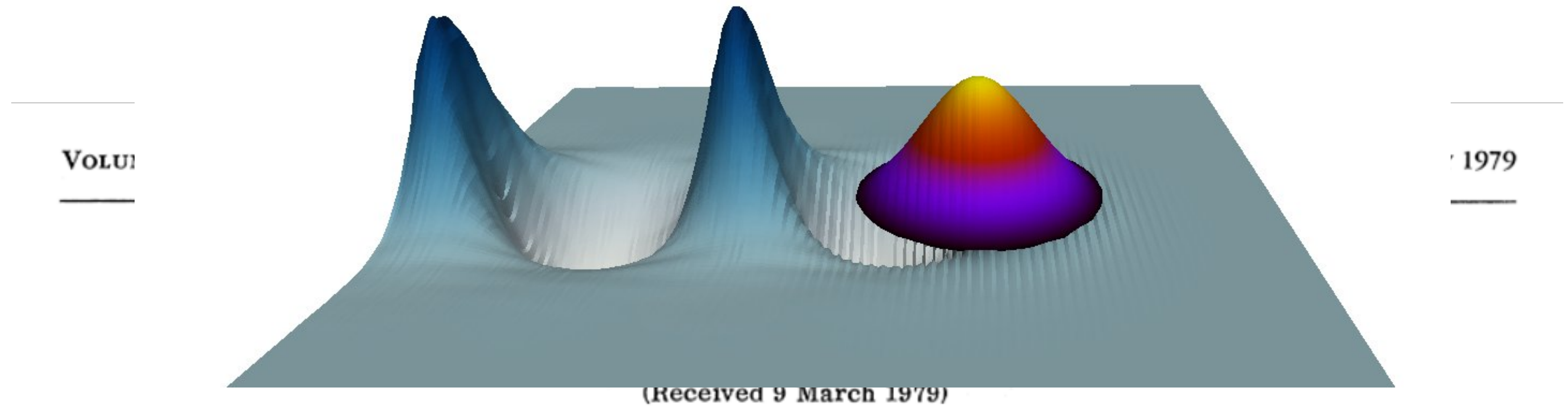
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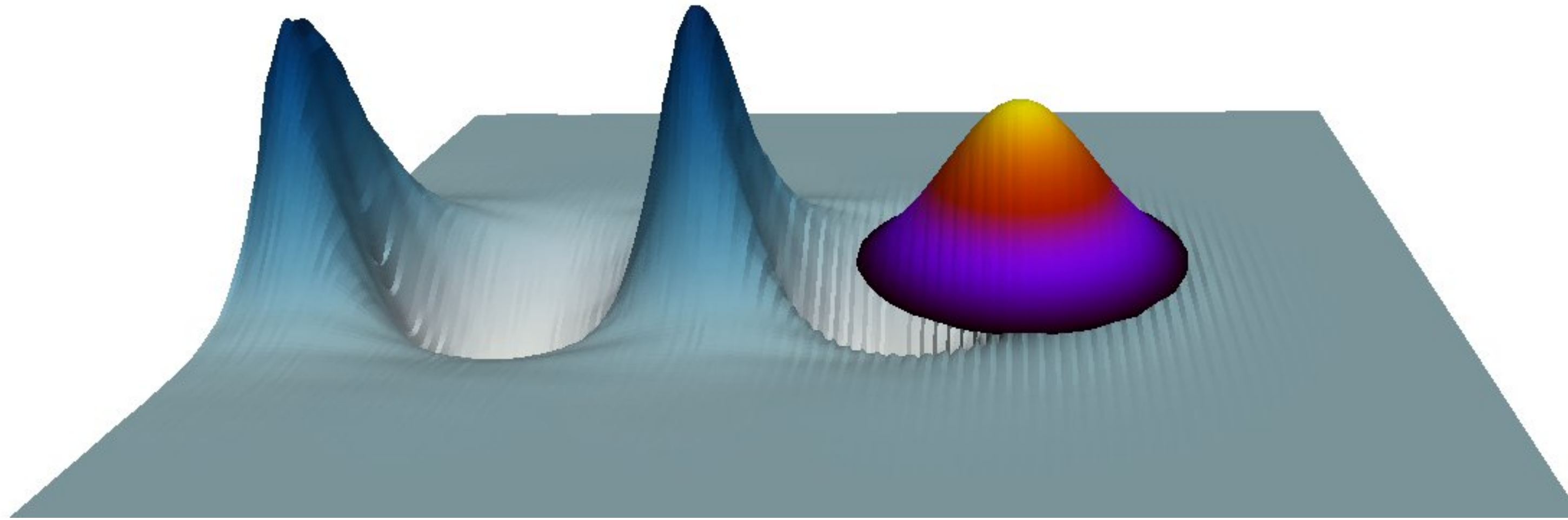
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Basic physics of laser plasma accelerators

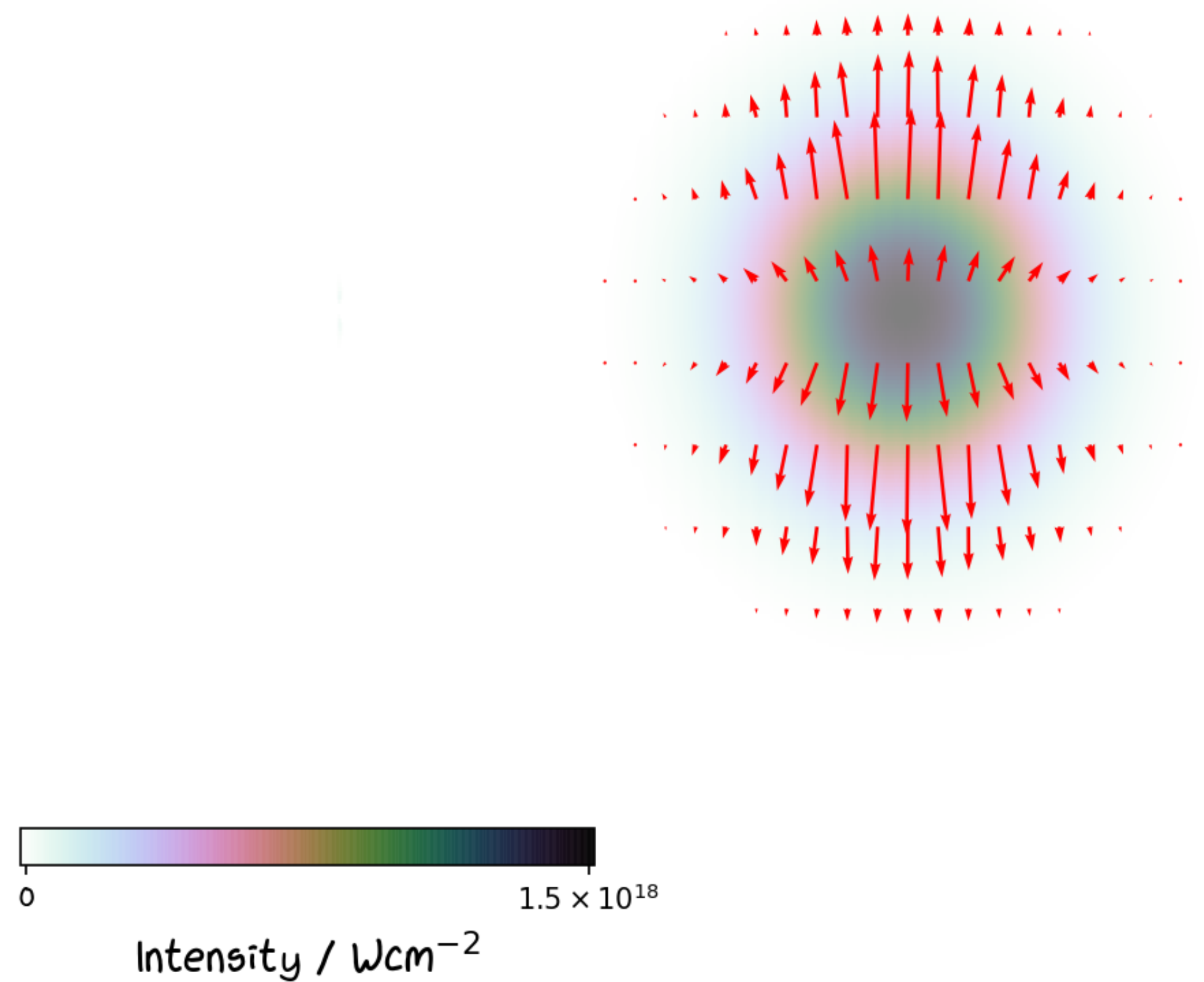
Driver beam creates plasma wave in its wake, supporting fields beyond 100 GV/m



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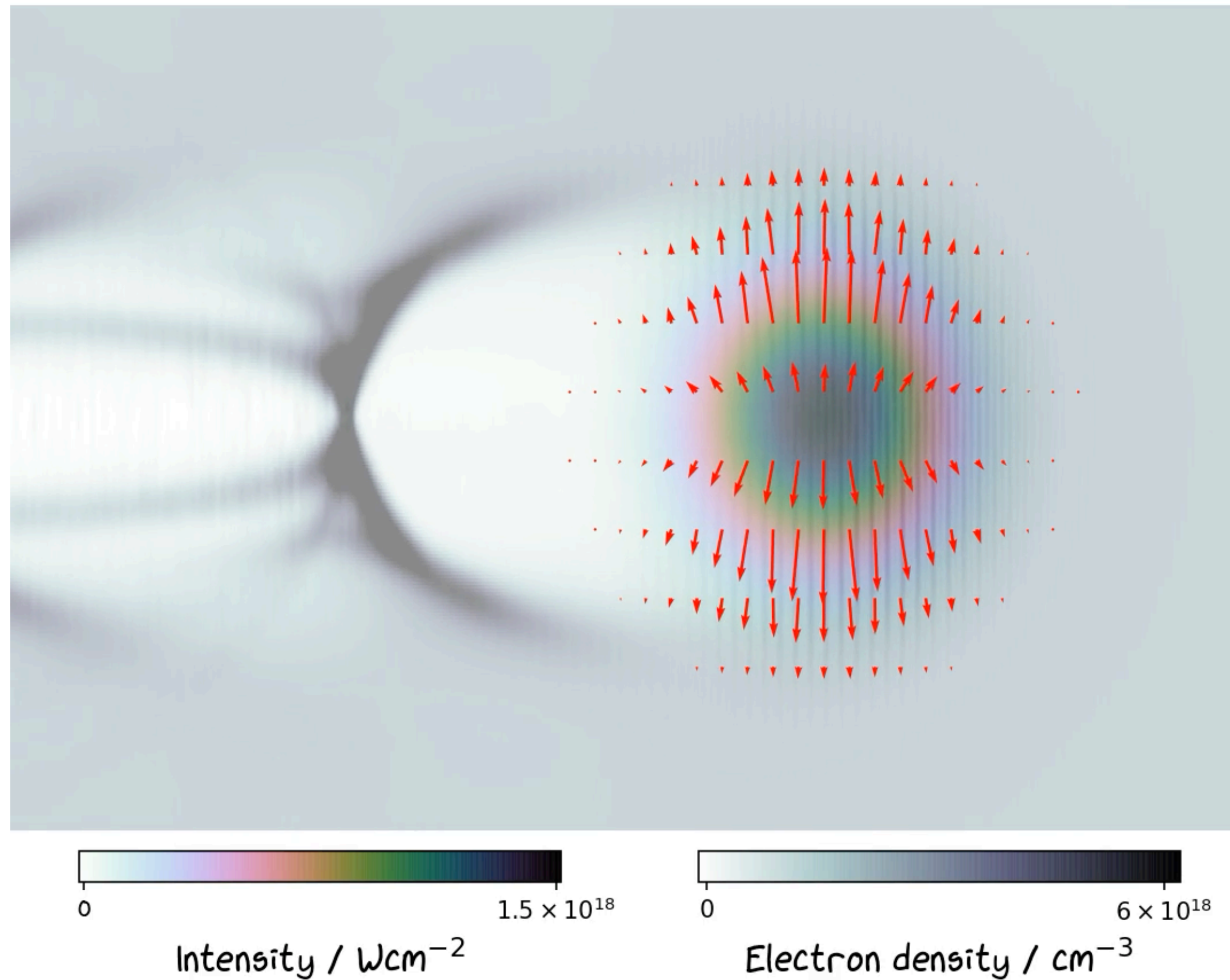
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$$\vec{F} = -\nabla I$$



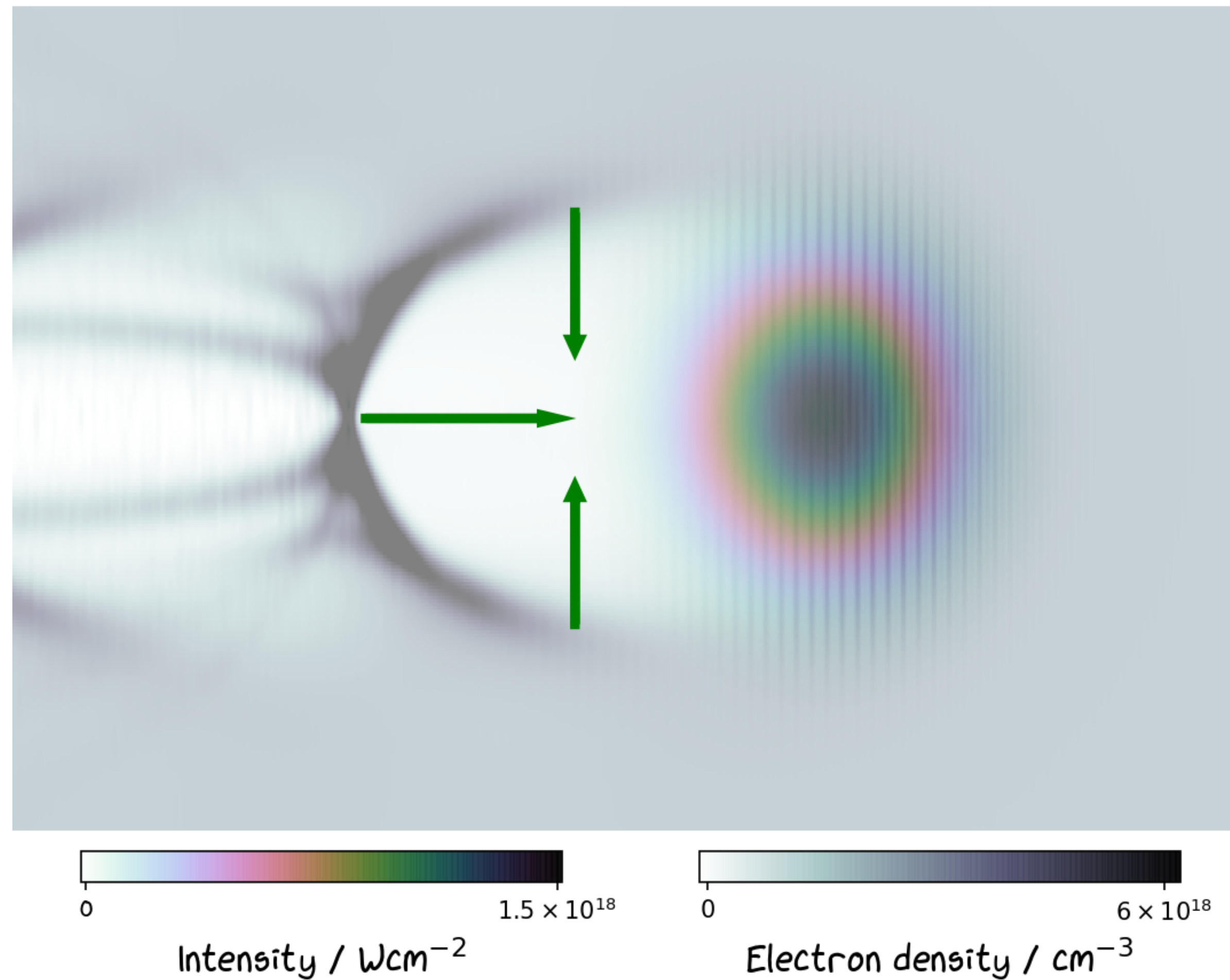
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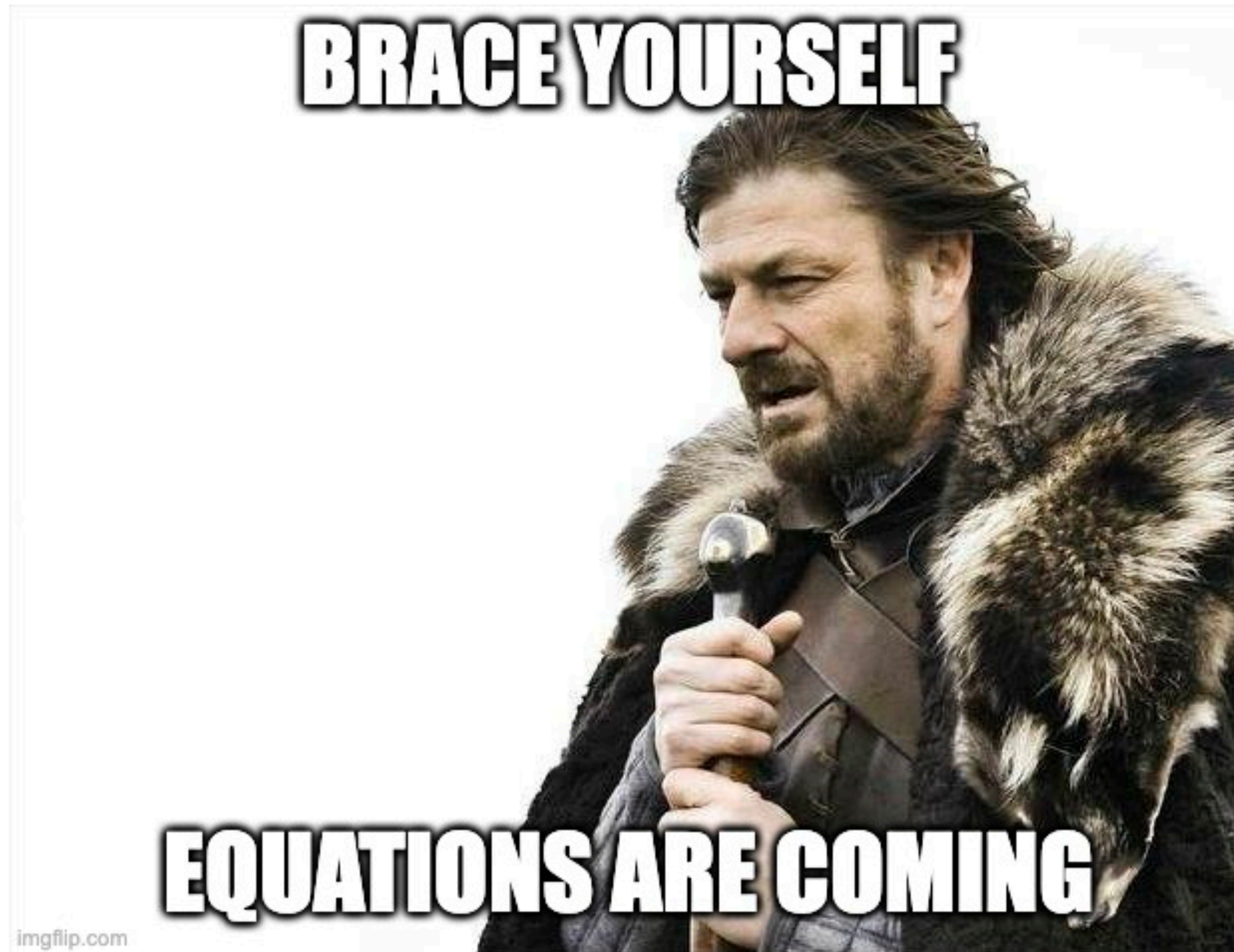
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BRACE YOURSELF

EQUATIONS ARE COMING

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**For Gen Z: this is a 'meme'. It depicts Ned Stark from Game of Thrones*

LPAs are based on plasma electron waves

Plasma like to oscillate^⑤ and can do so sustaining very high amplitudes

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Plasma like to oscillate[©] and can do so sustaining very high amplitudes

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- > 100 GV/m fields possible!

Laser propagation in plasmas

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- > Laser intensity determines plasma response. Convenient to work with normalised vector potential

$$a_0 = \frac{eE}{m_e \omega_p c} \approx 0.856 \lambda_L [\mu\text{m}] \sqrt{I [10^{18} \text{W/cm}^2]}$$

Laser pulses drive plasma waves

Resonant driving of wake-fields leads to high accelerating fields



⁽⁶⁾ Gorbunov et al, Soviet Physics JETP **66**, 290 (1987)

⁽⁷⁾ Spangle et al, Appl Phys Lett **53**, 2146 (1998)

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- > The 3D response of the plasma to a propagating laser is given by ^(6,7)

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + \omega_p^2 \right) \frac{n_1}{n_0} = c^2 \nabla^2 \frac{a^2}{2}$$

- > Driven oscillator, driving term is ponderomotive force!

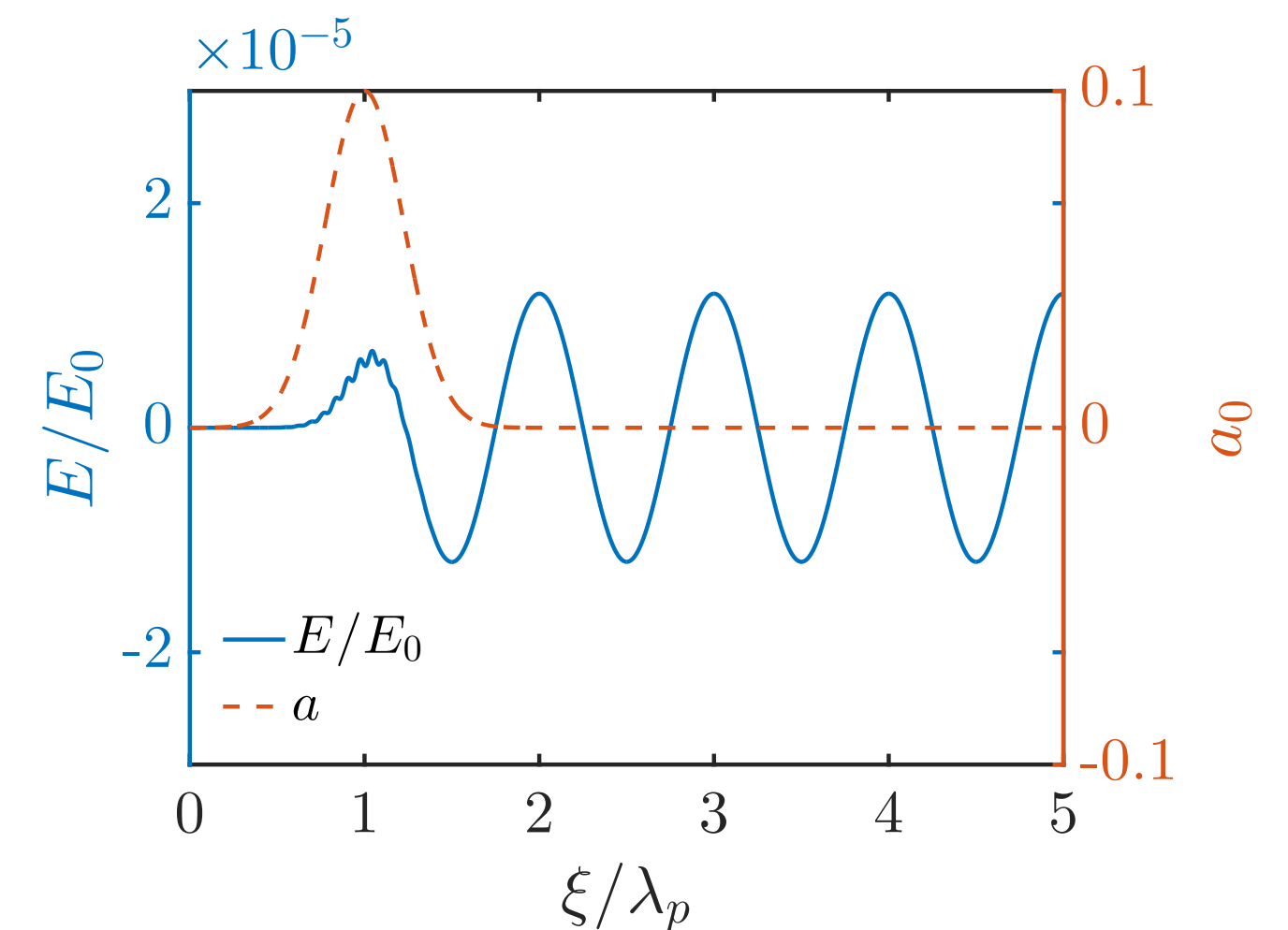
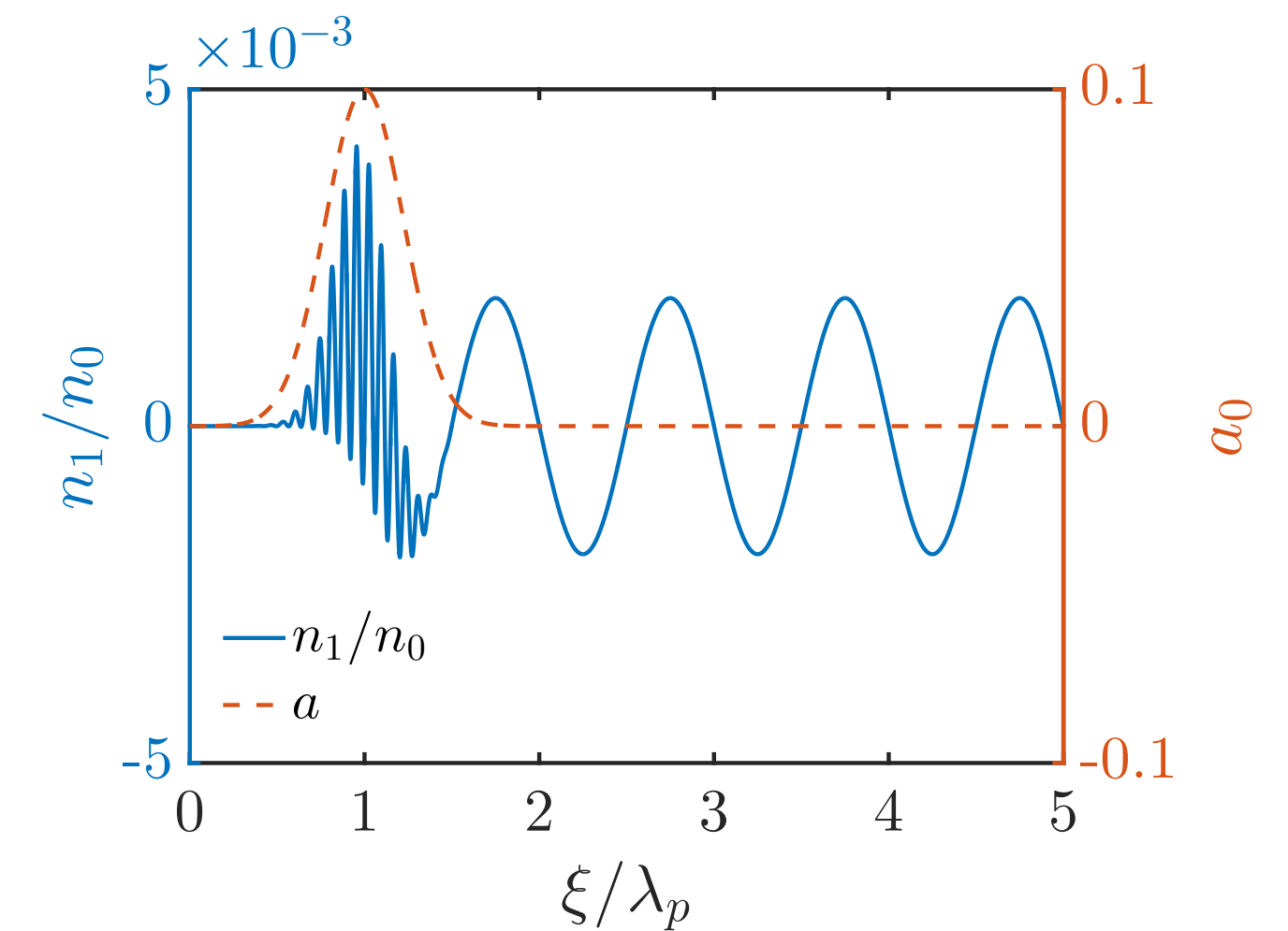
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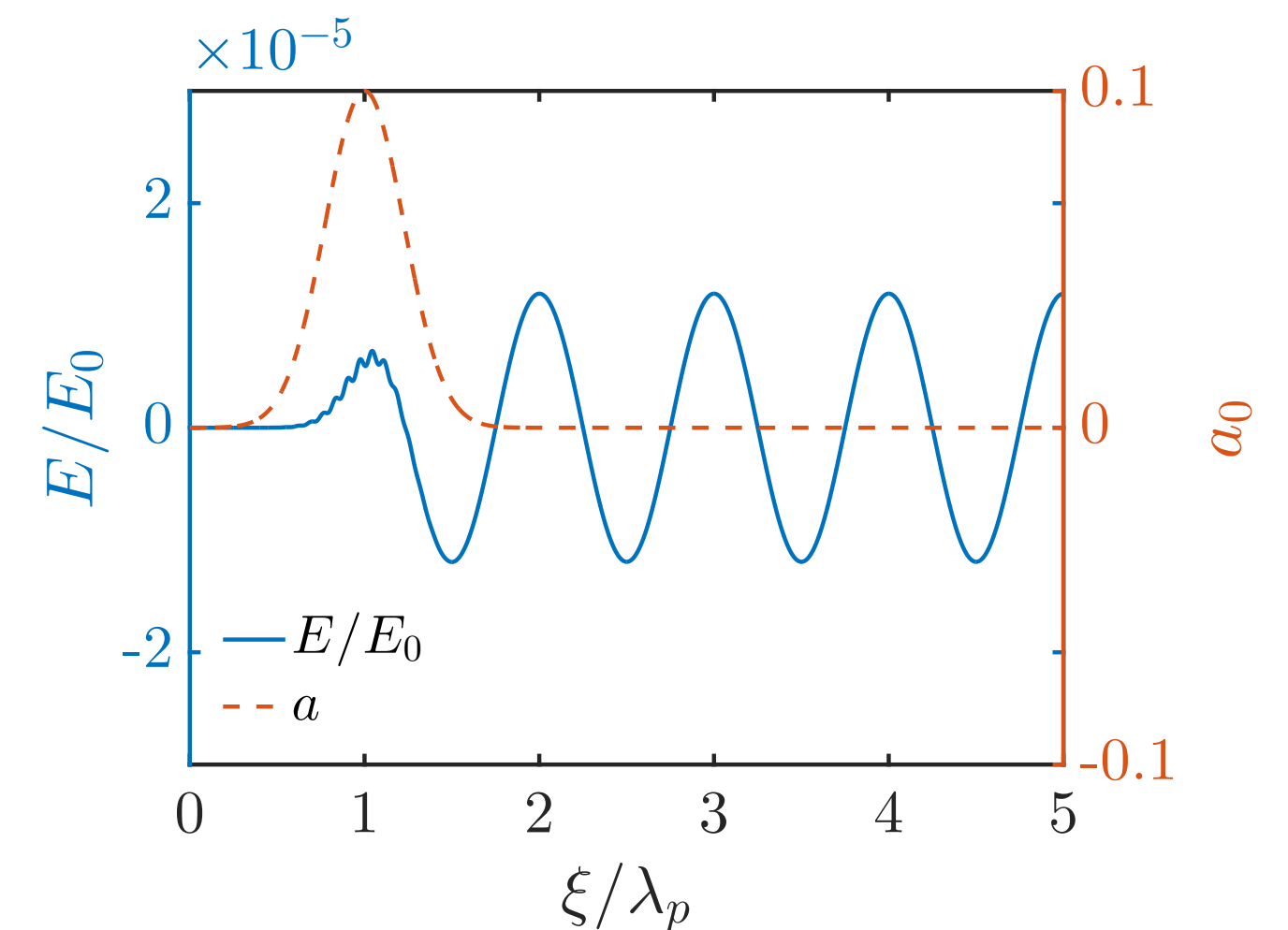
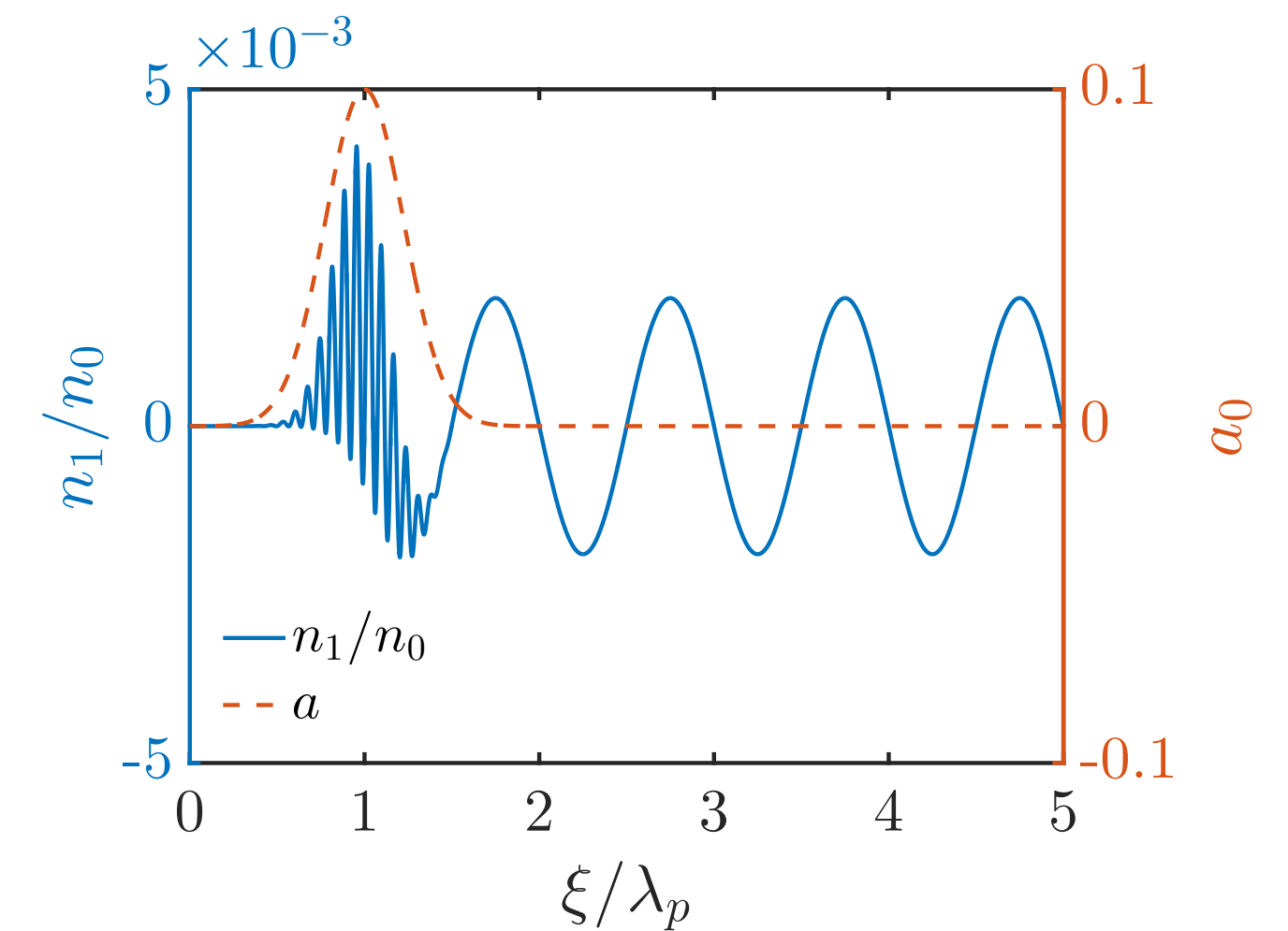
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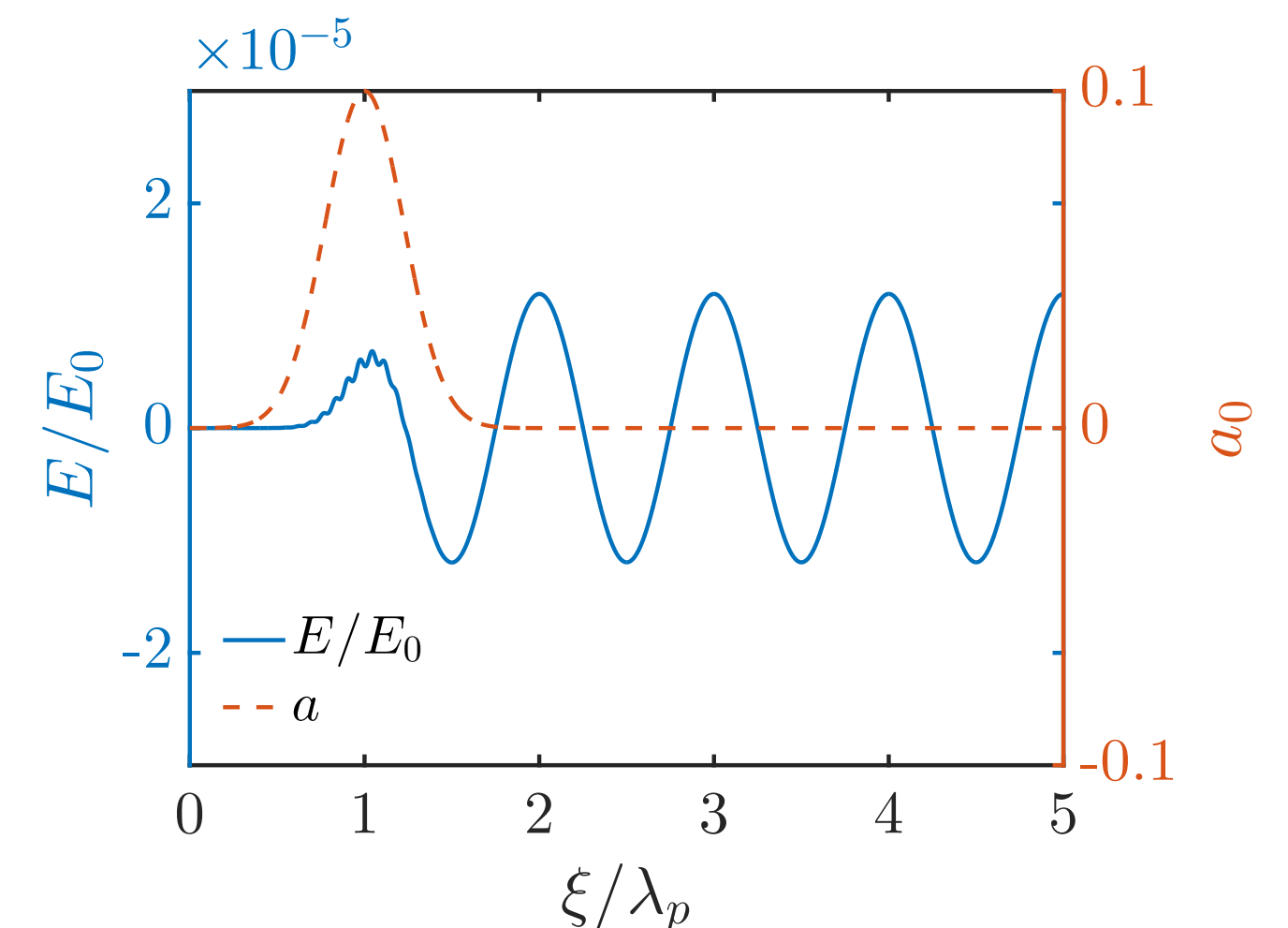
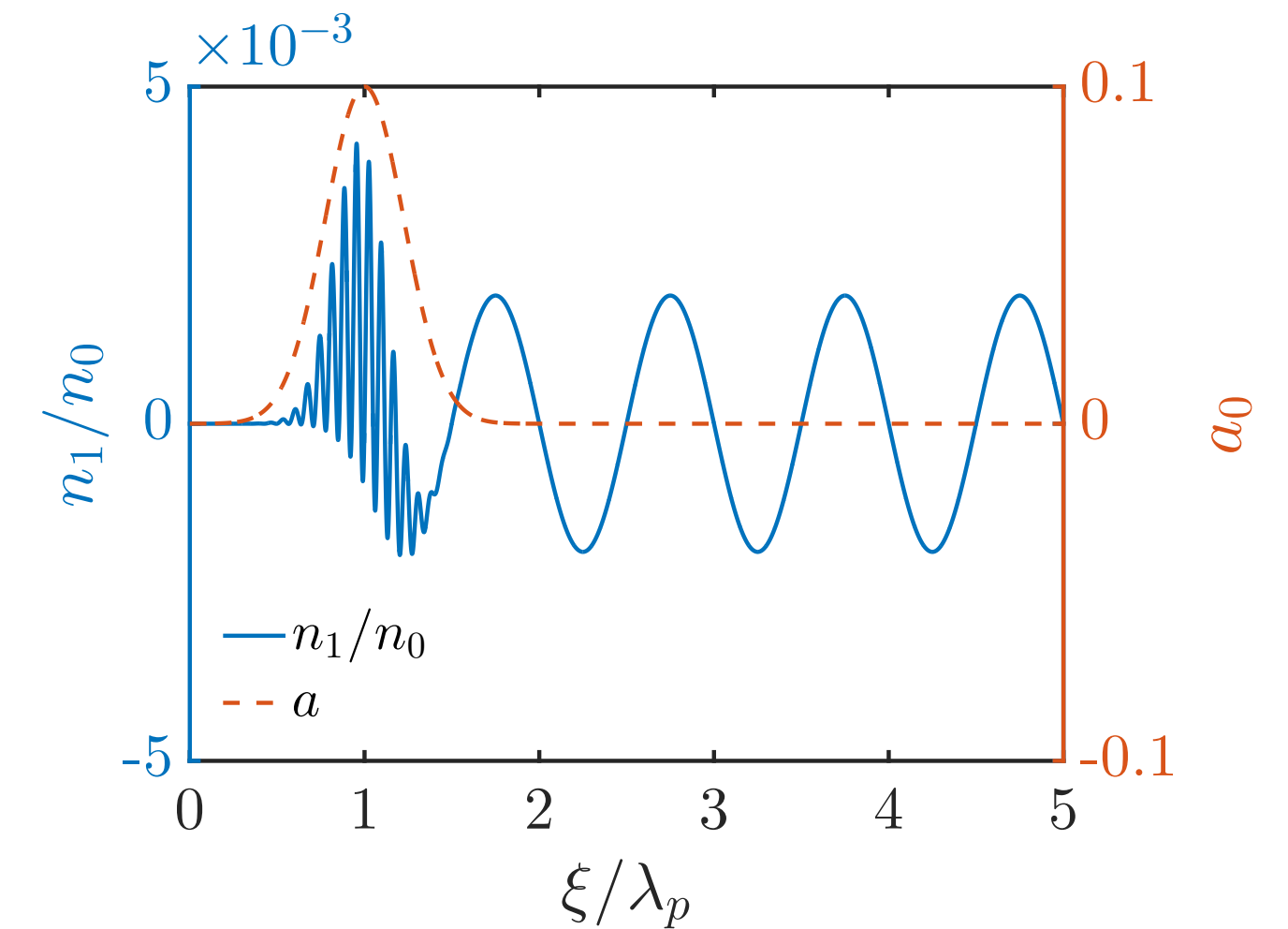
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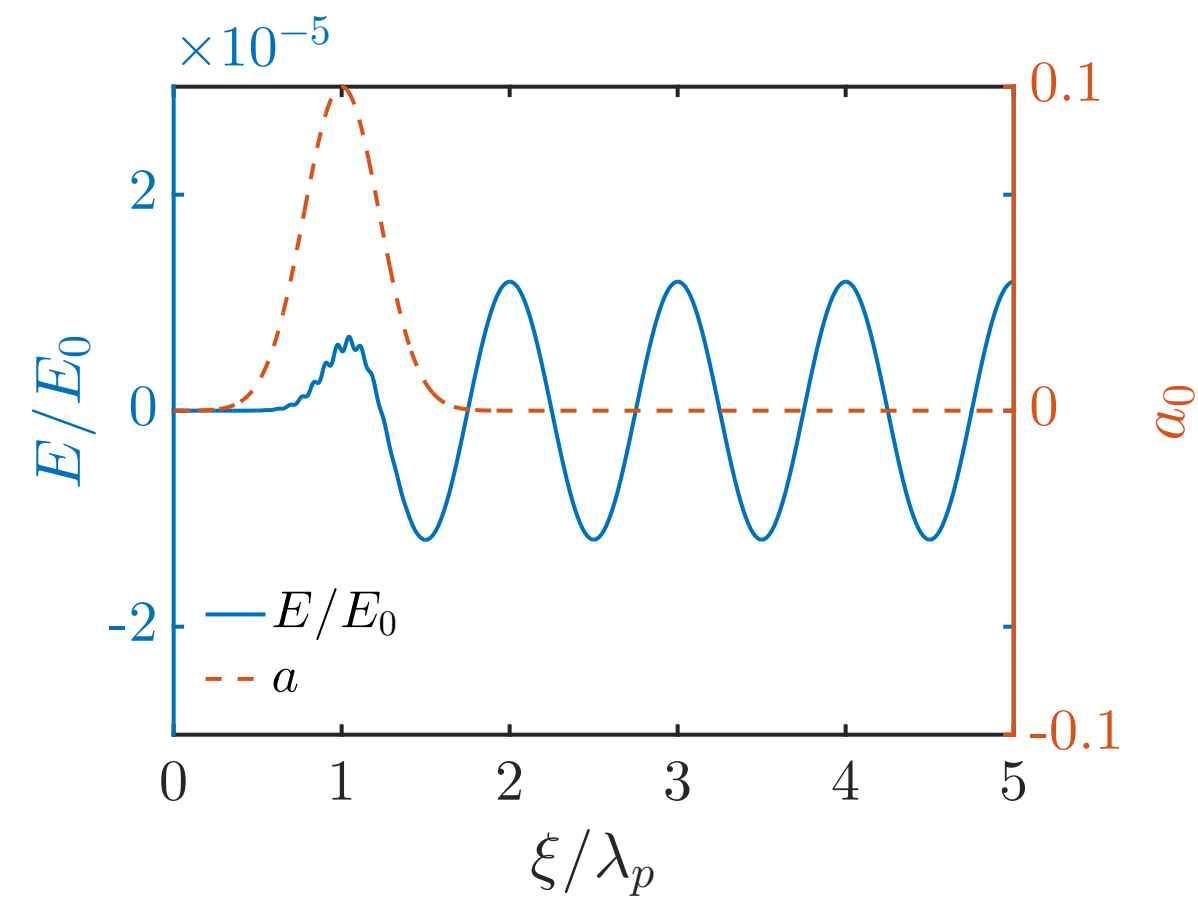
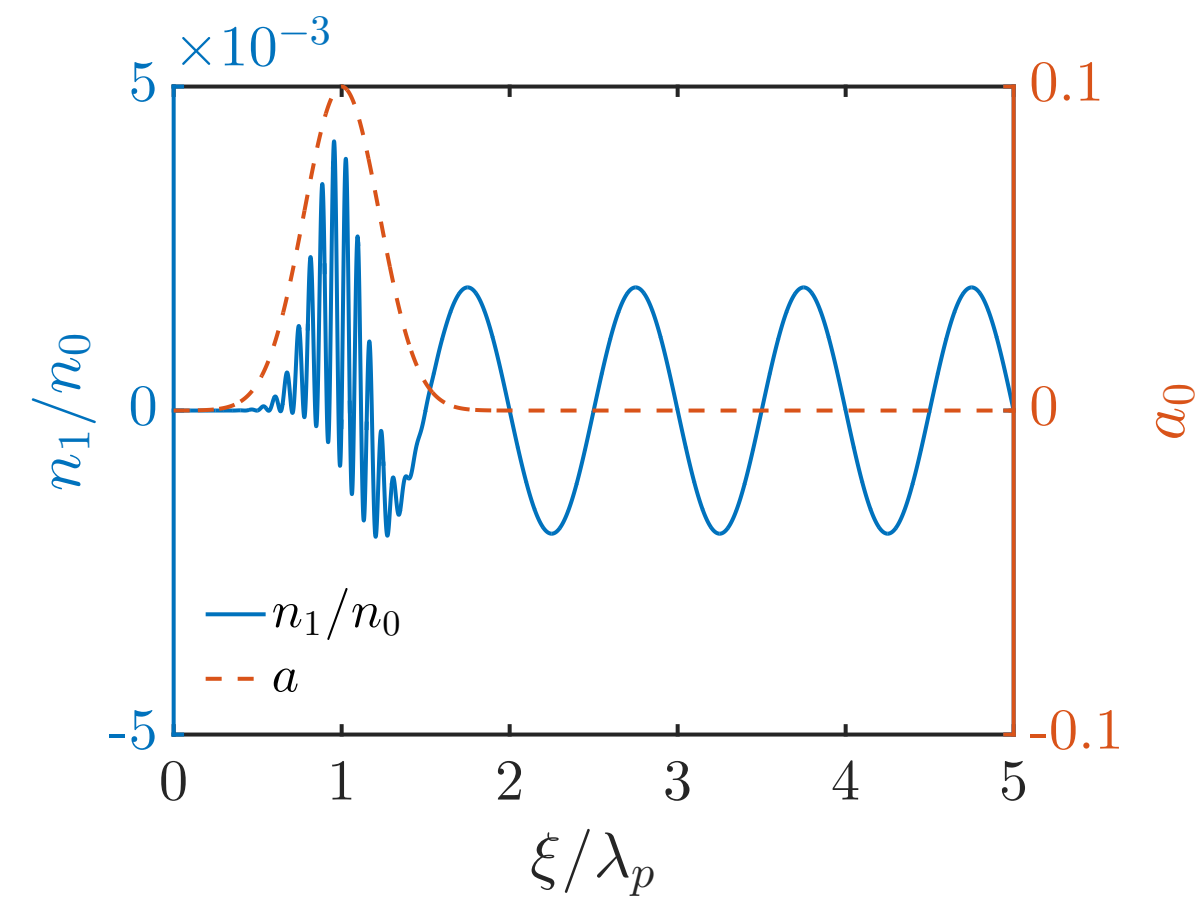
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- > Phase velocity of the plasma wave given by group velocity of laser, for underdone plasmas one has

$$\gamma_p = \frac{\omega_L}{\omega_p} = \sqrt{\frac{n_c}{n_e}}$$



High laser intensities lead to relativistic non-linear effects

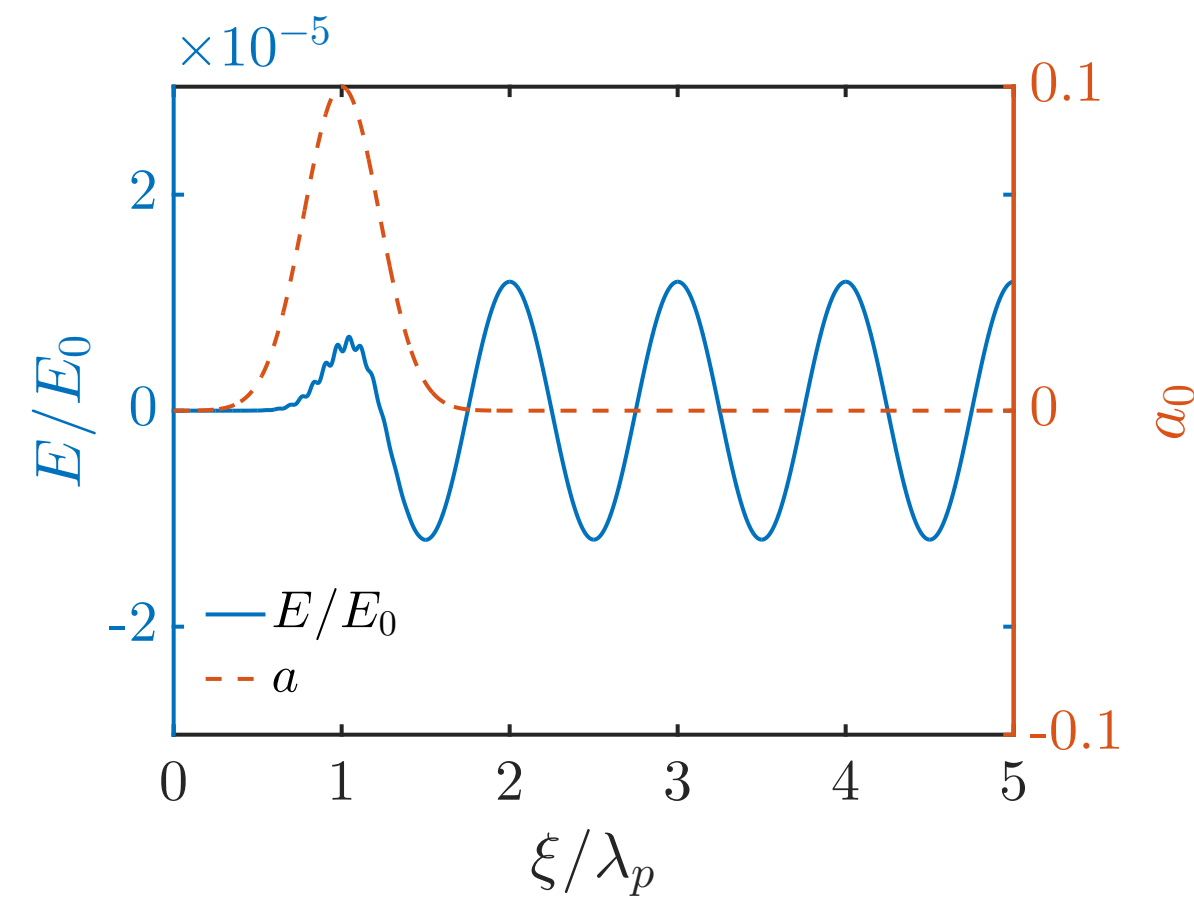
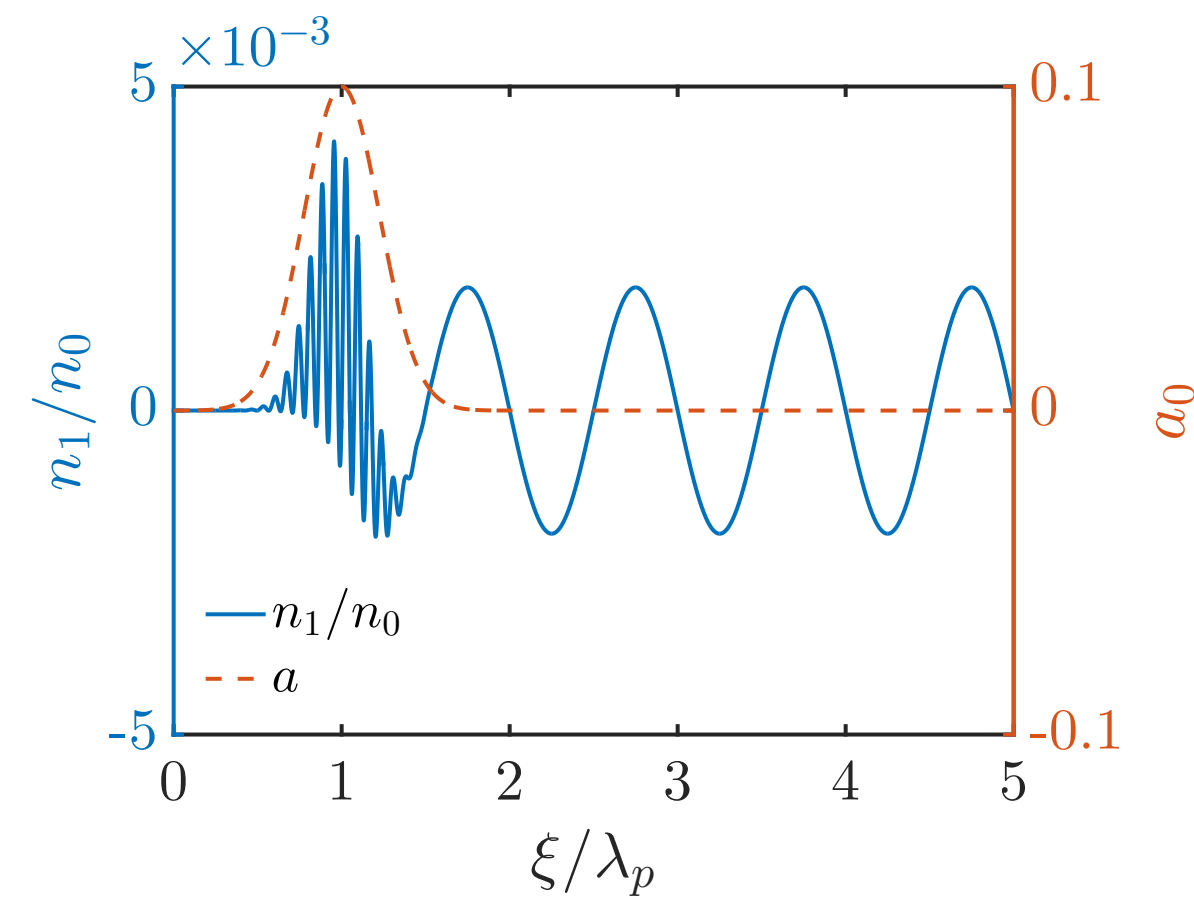
Non-linearly increased accelerating field beneficial for LPAs



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Non-linearly increased accelerating field beneficial for LPAs

- > Electron motion becomes relativistic for $a_0 \sim 1$
- > Momentum similar to rest mass

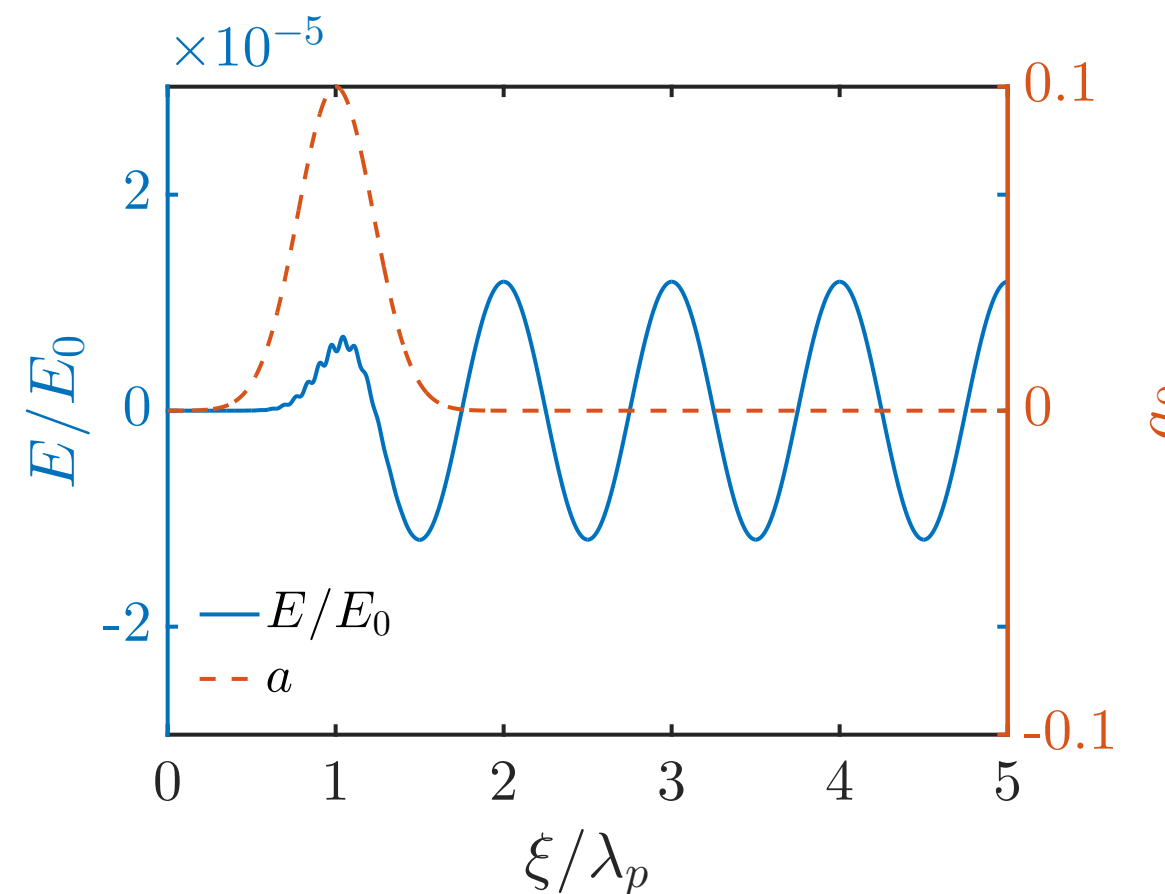
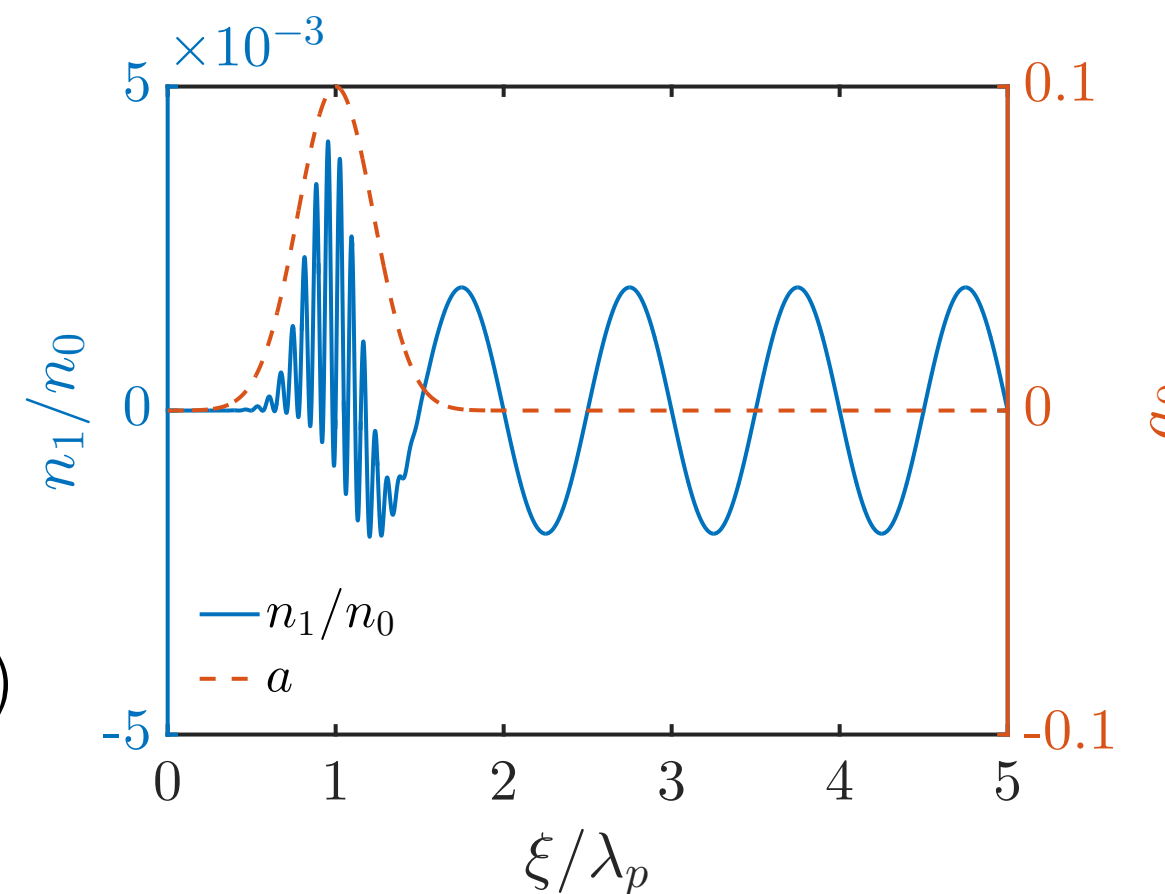


High laser intensities lead to relativistic non-linear effects

Non-linearly increased accelerating field beneficial for LPAs

- > Electron motion becomes relativistic for $a_0 \sim 1$
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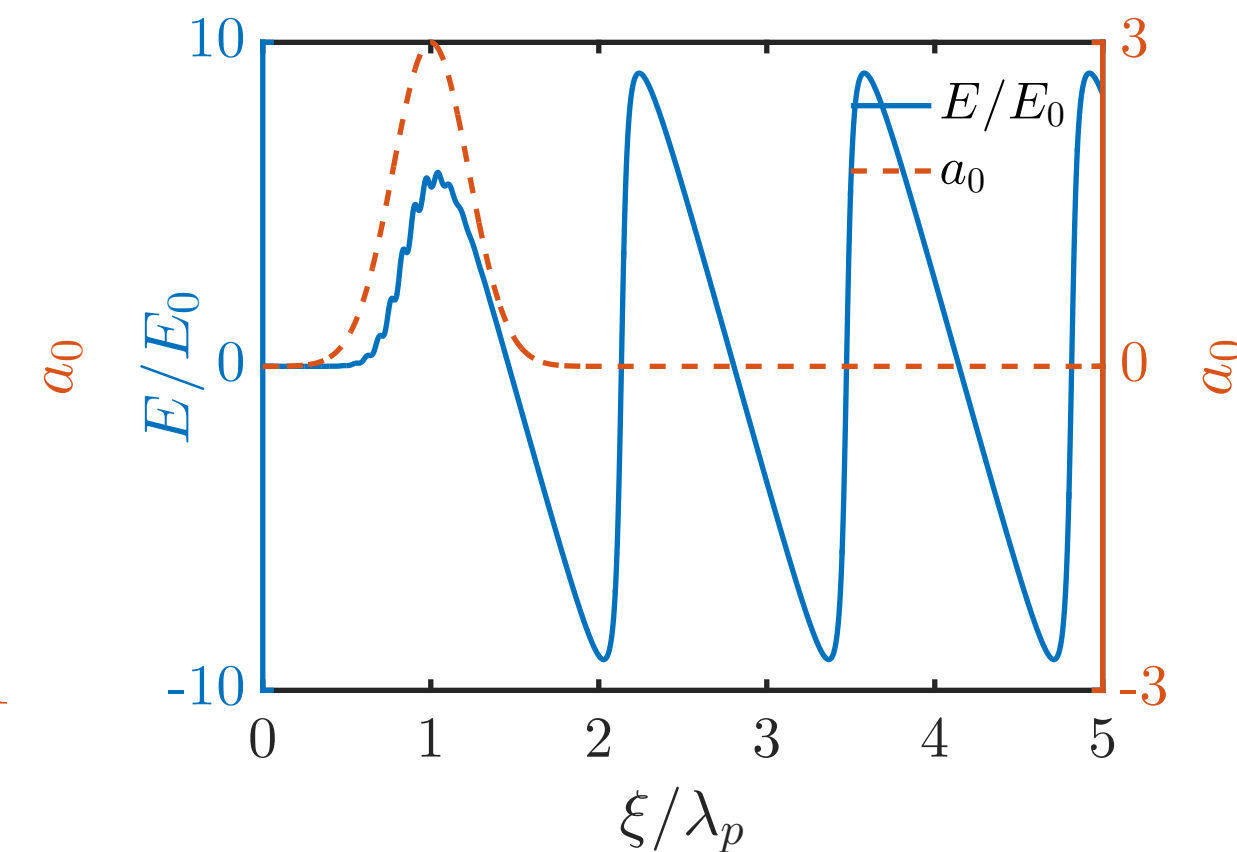
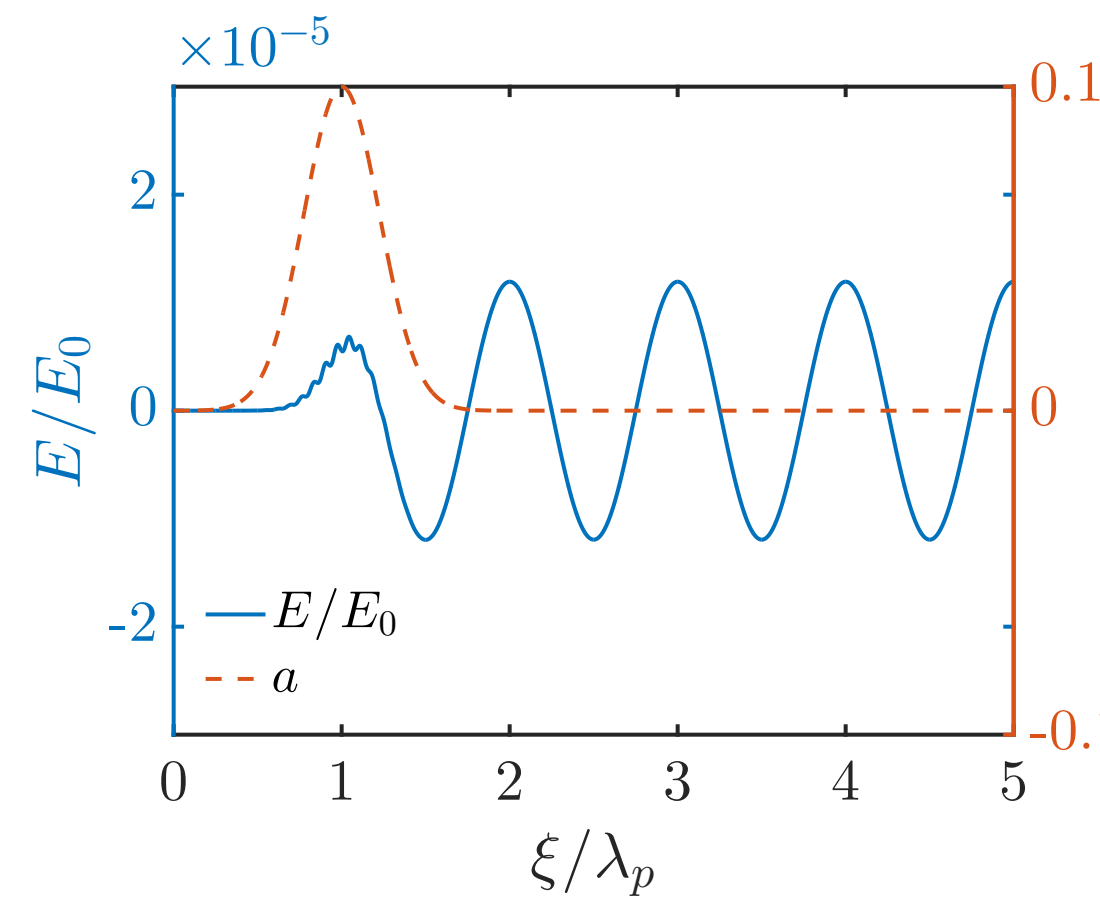
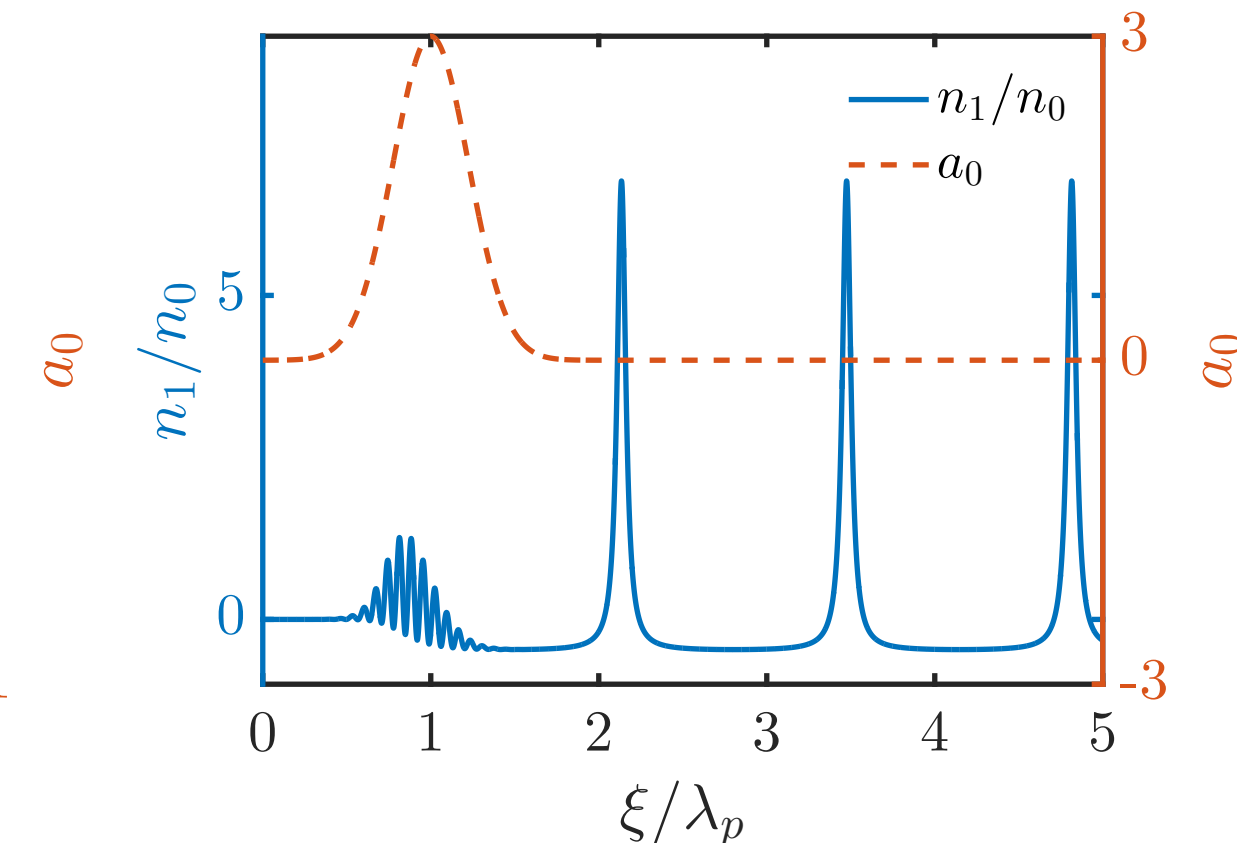
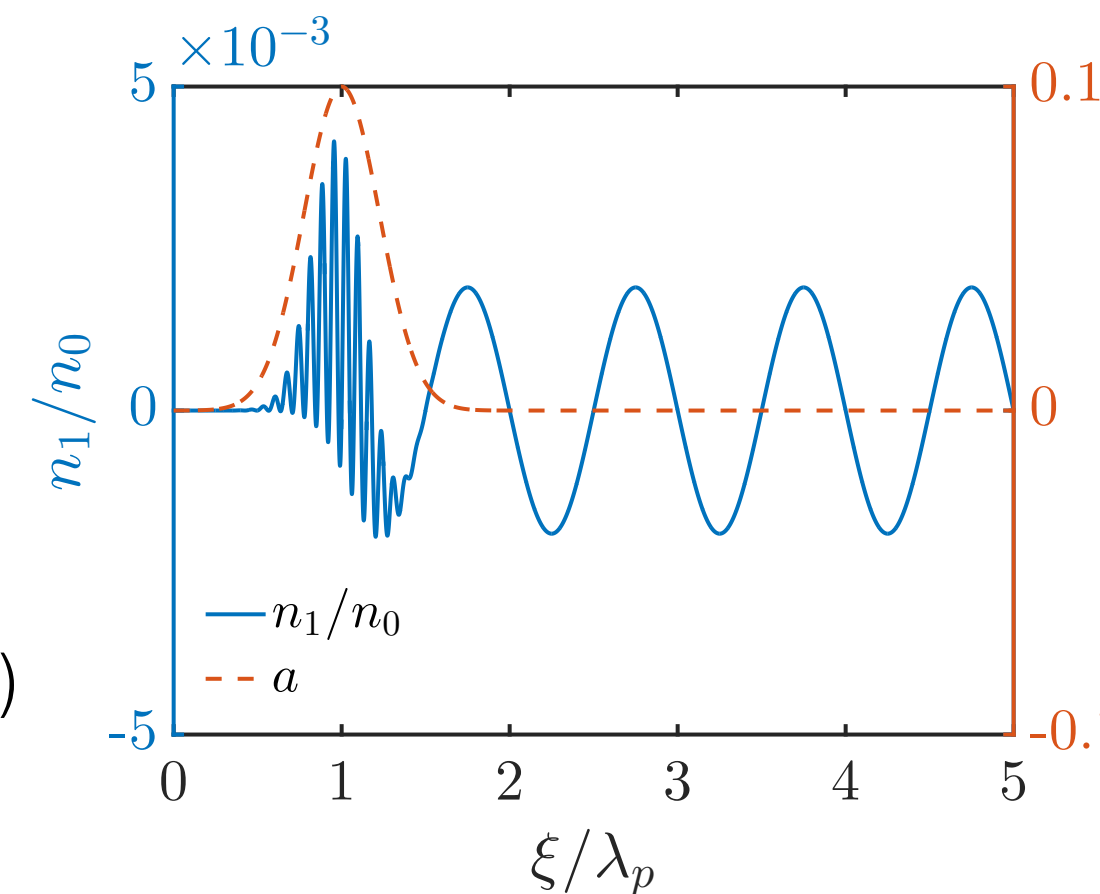


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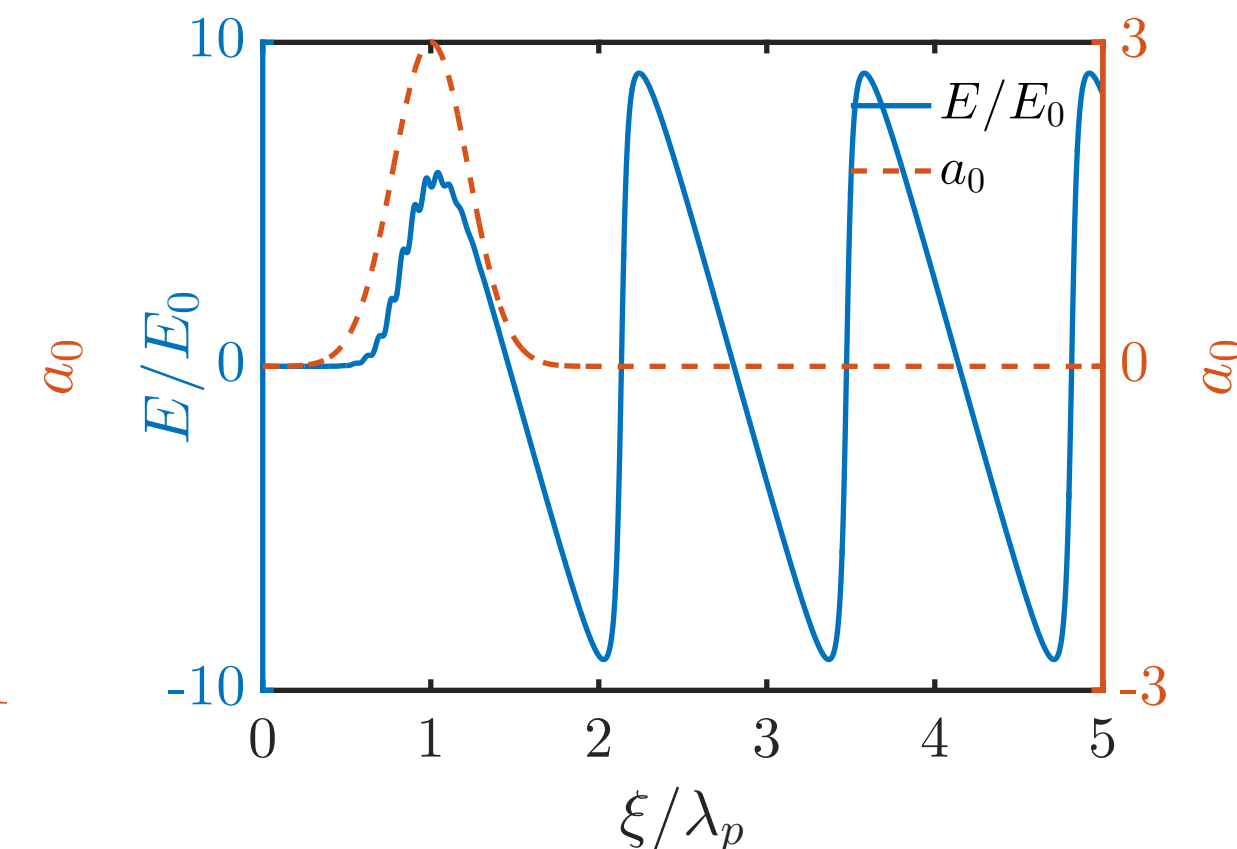
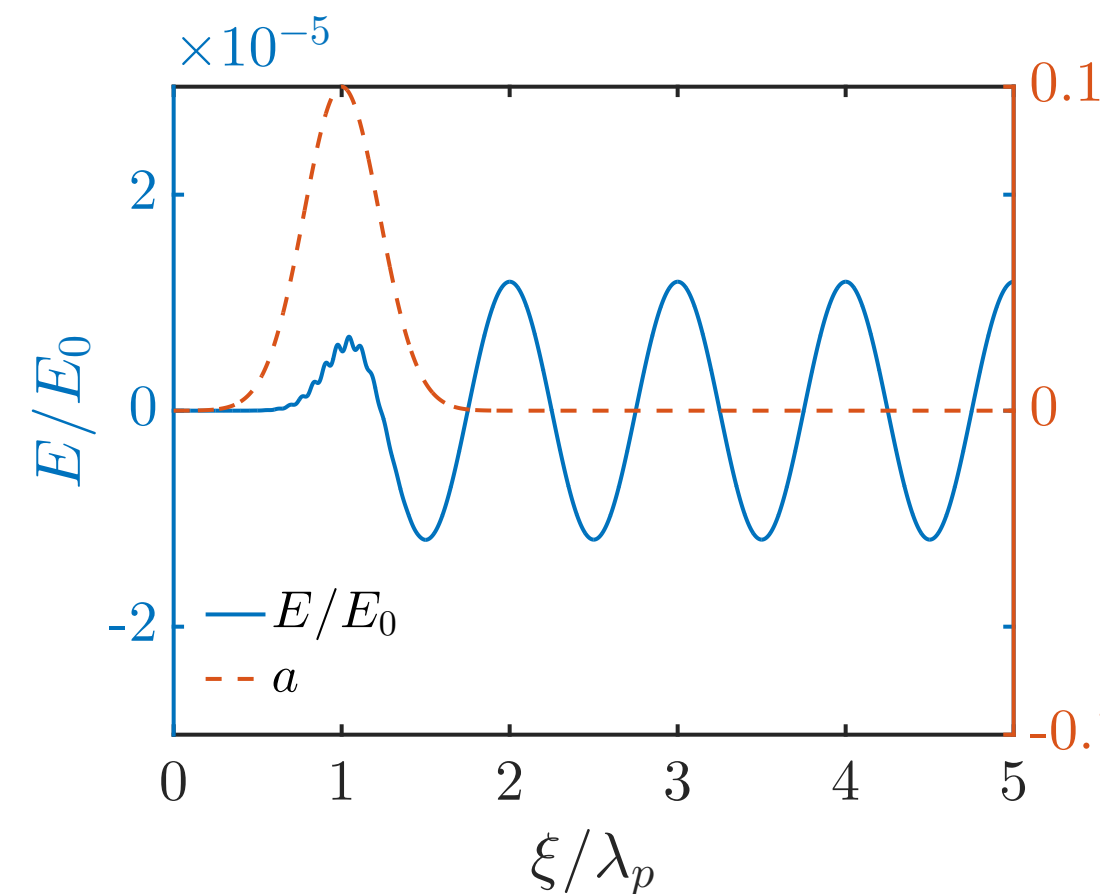
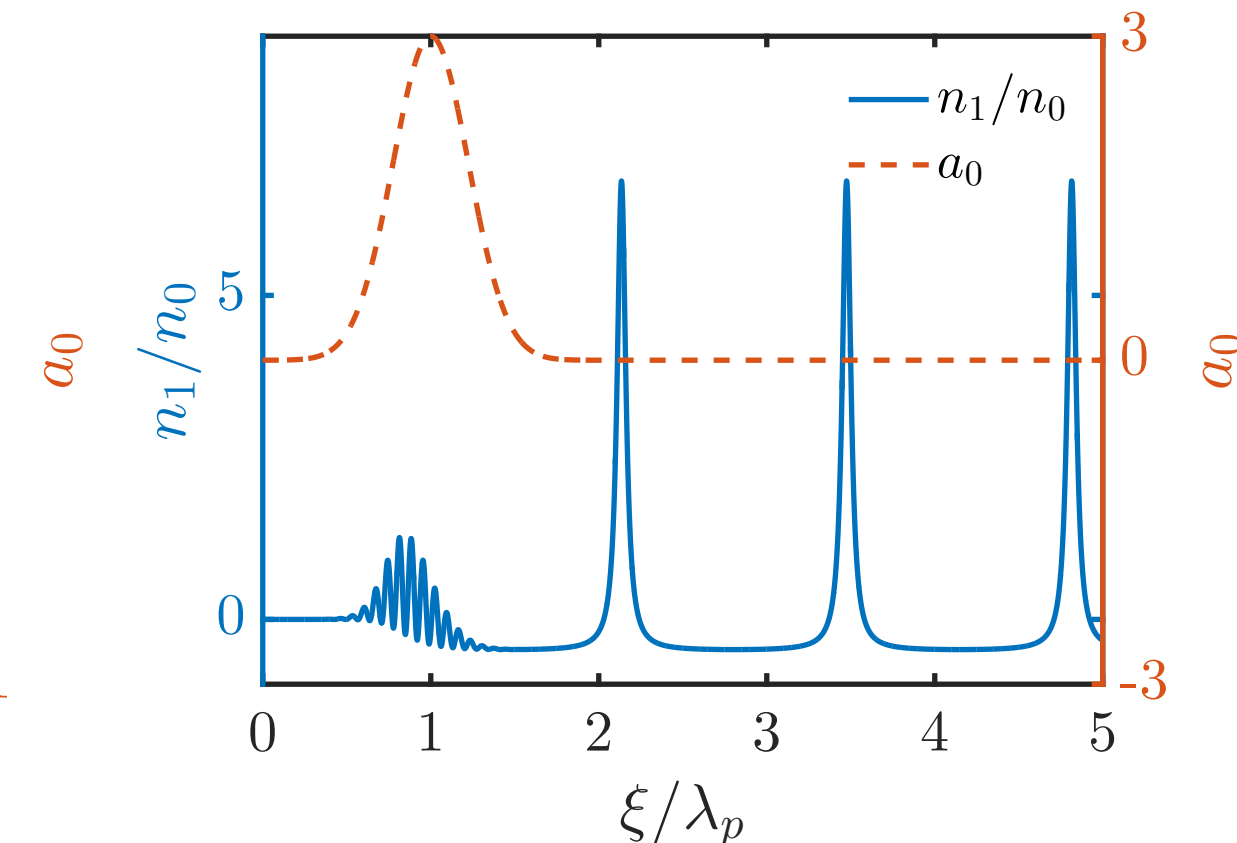
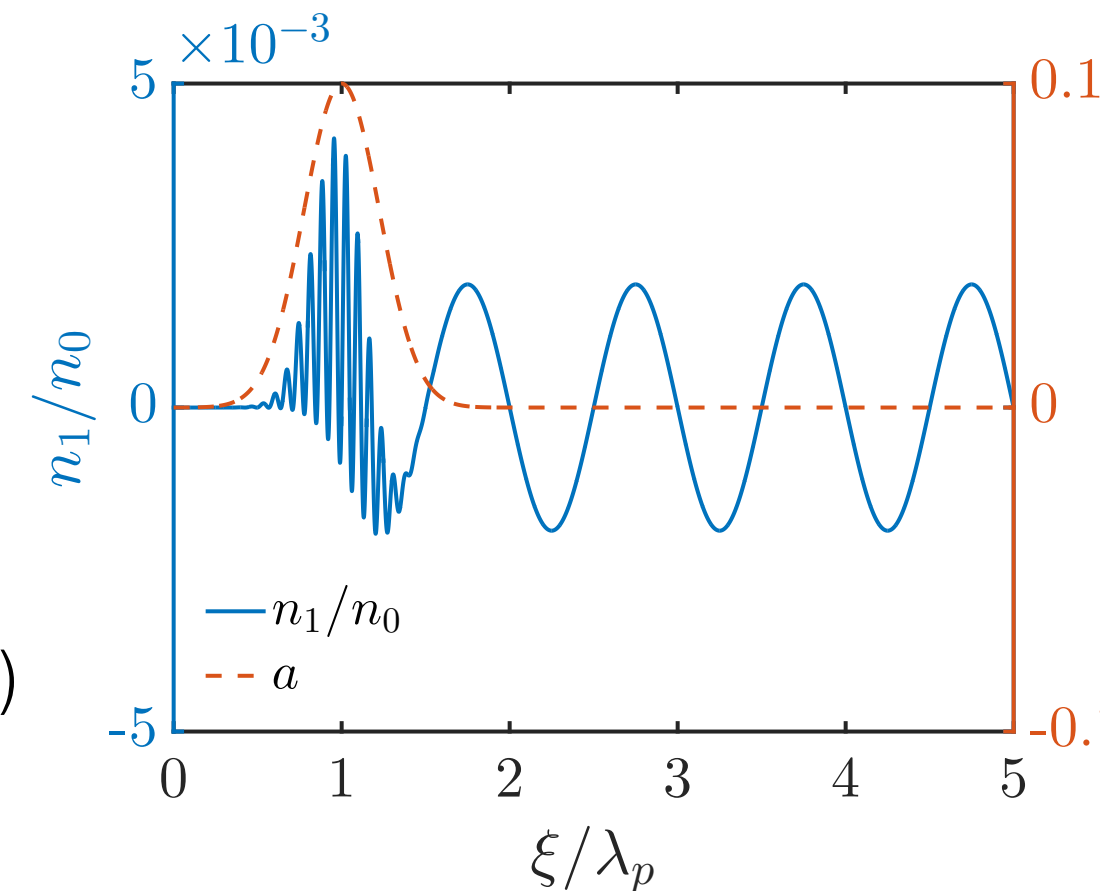
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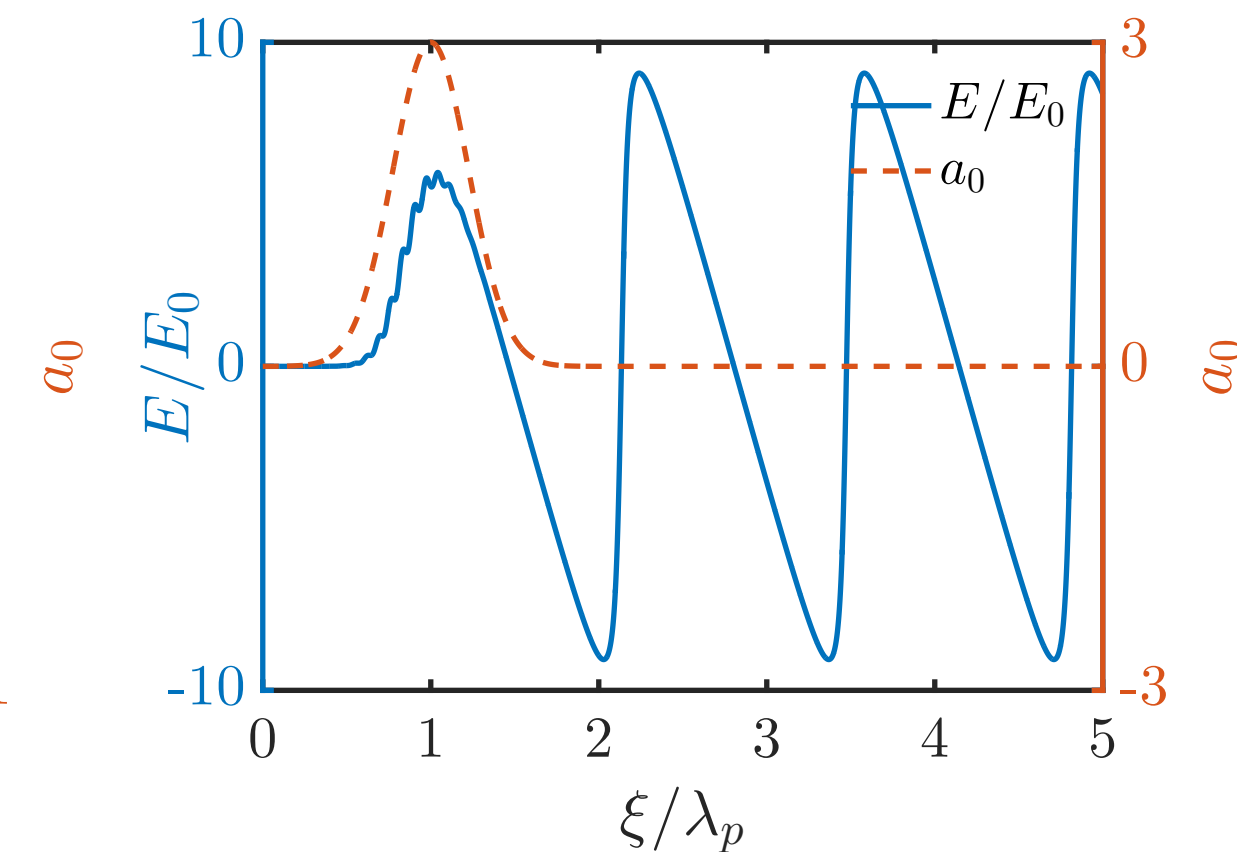
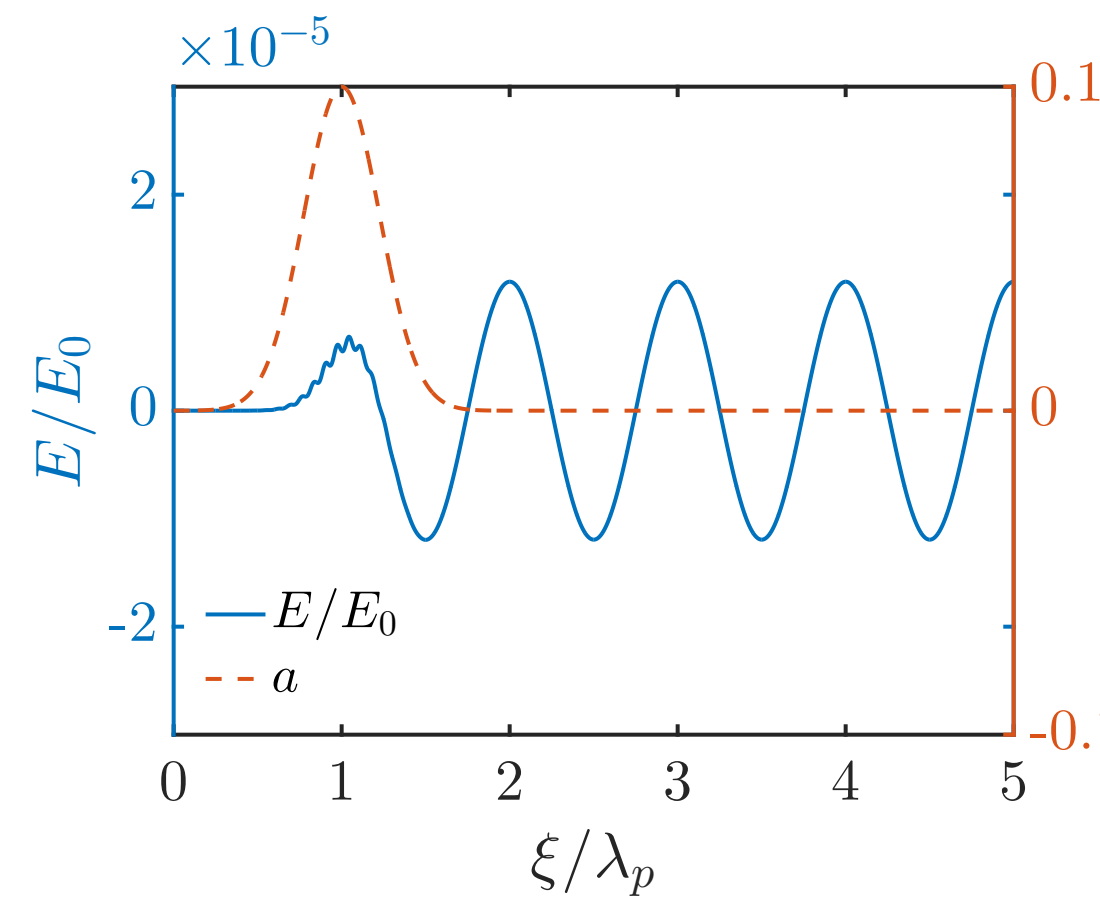
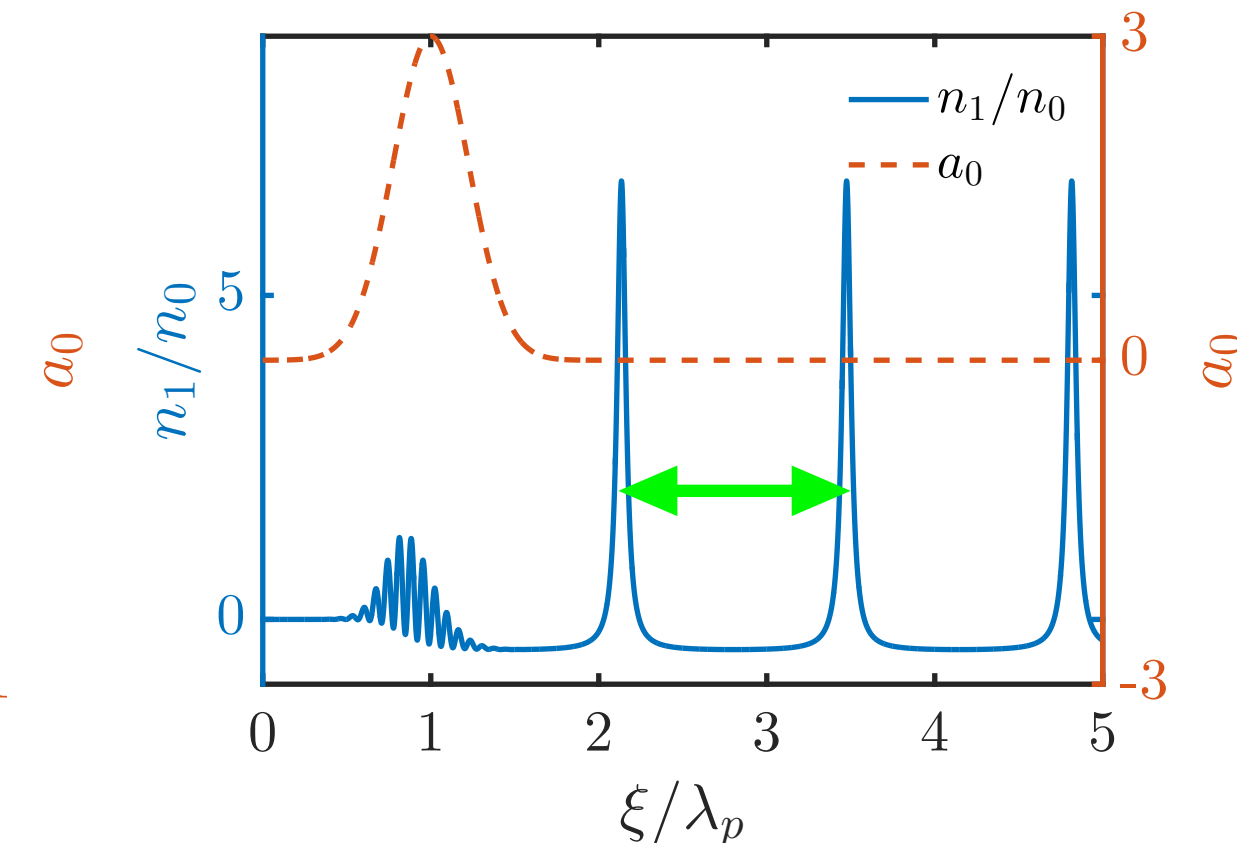
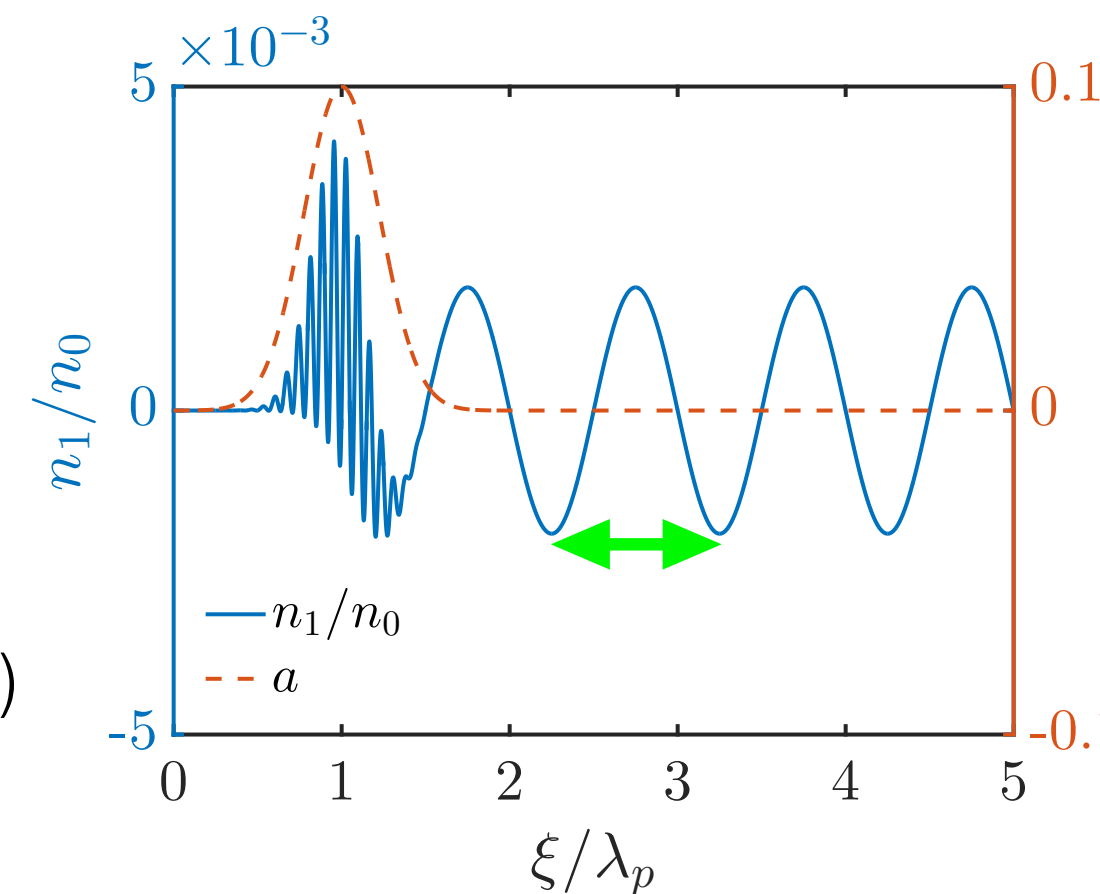
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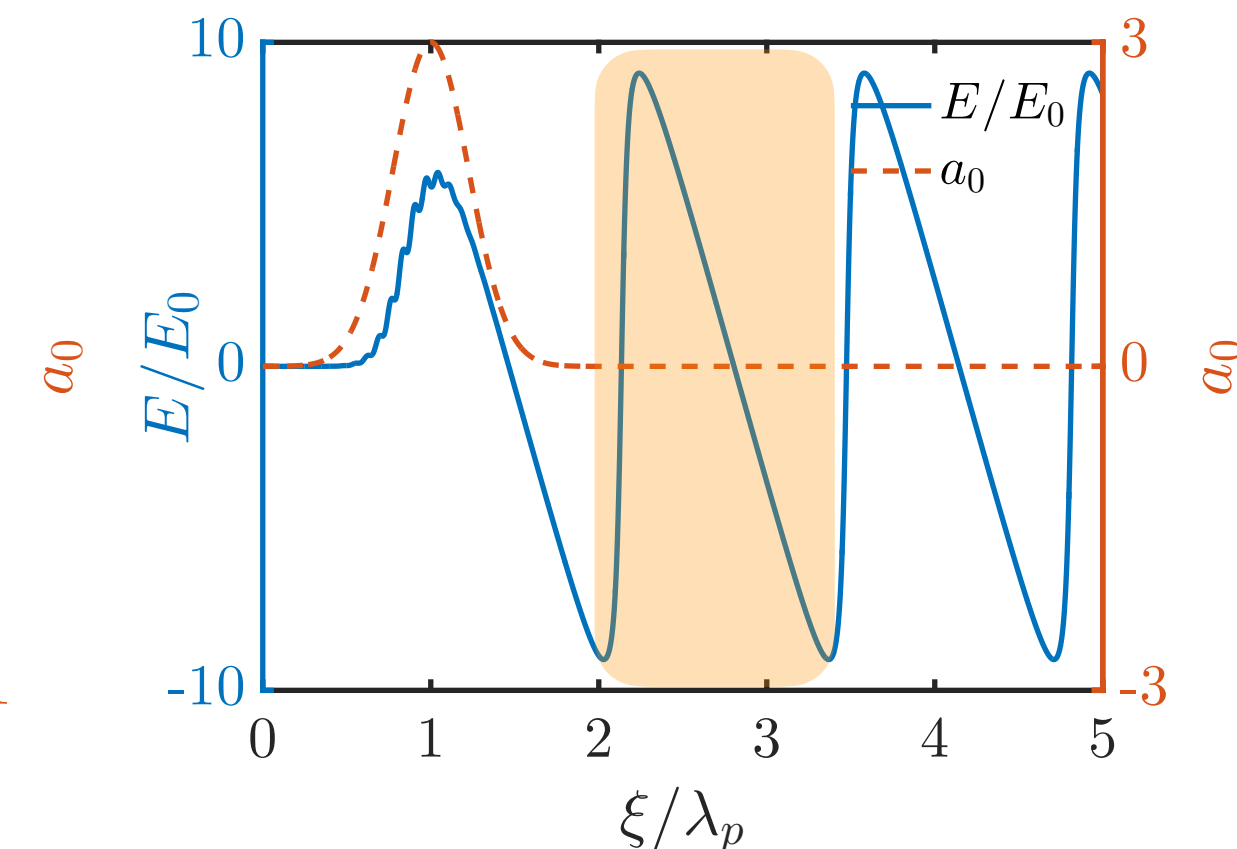
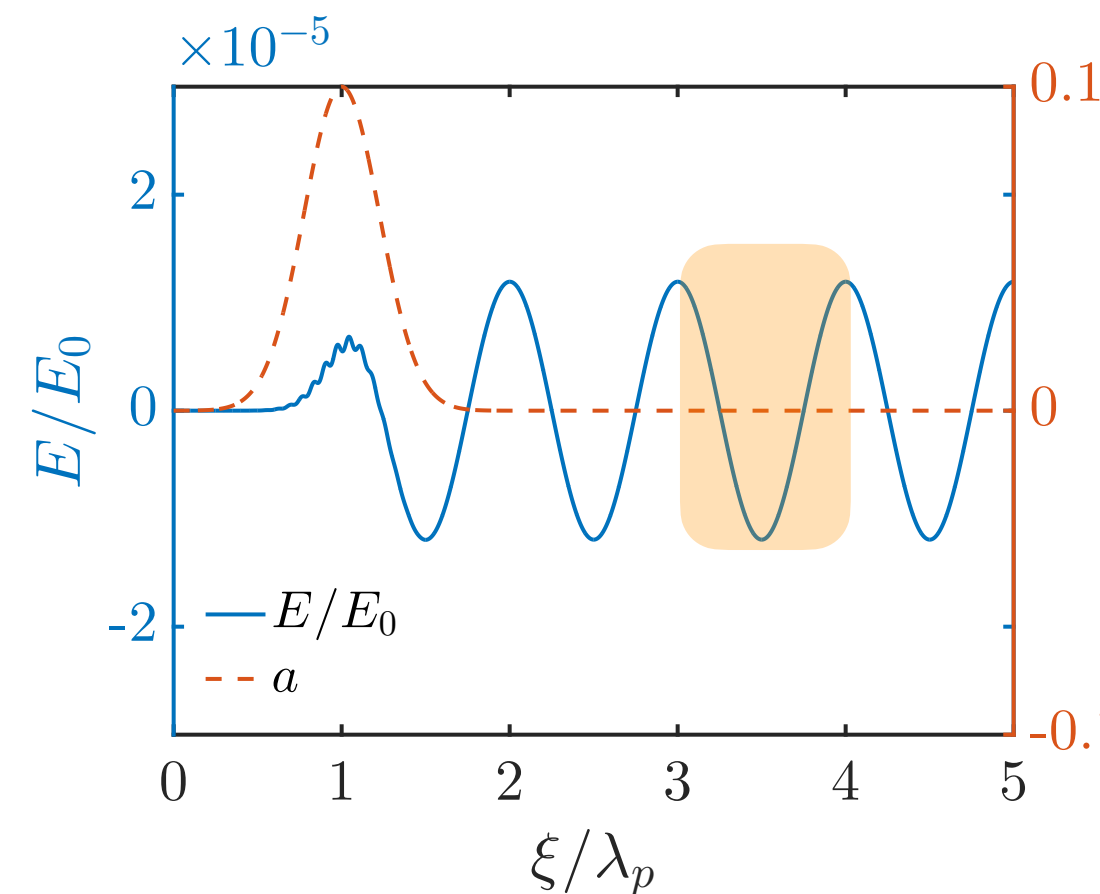
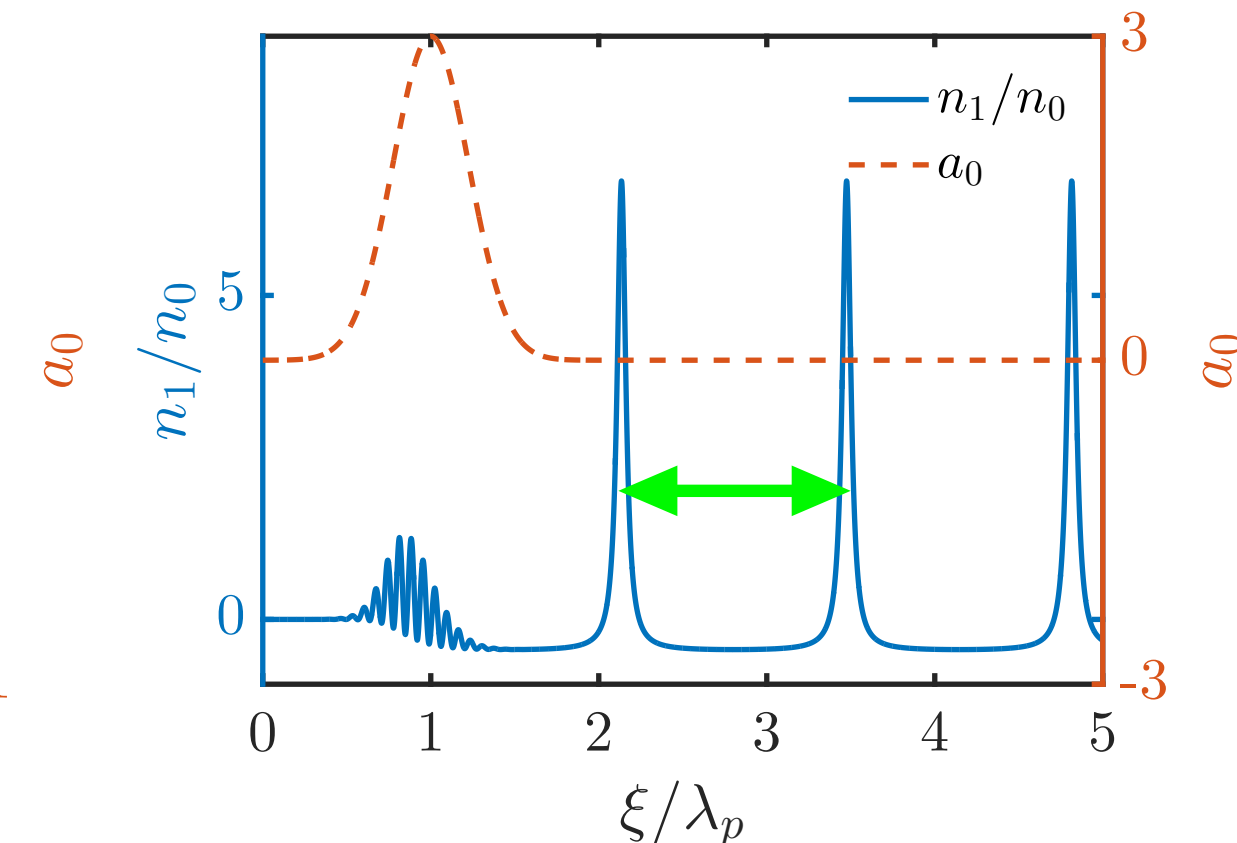
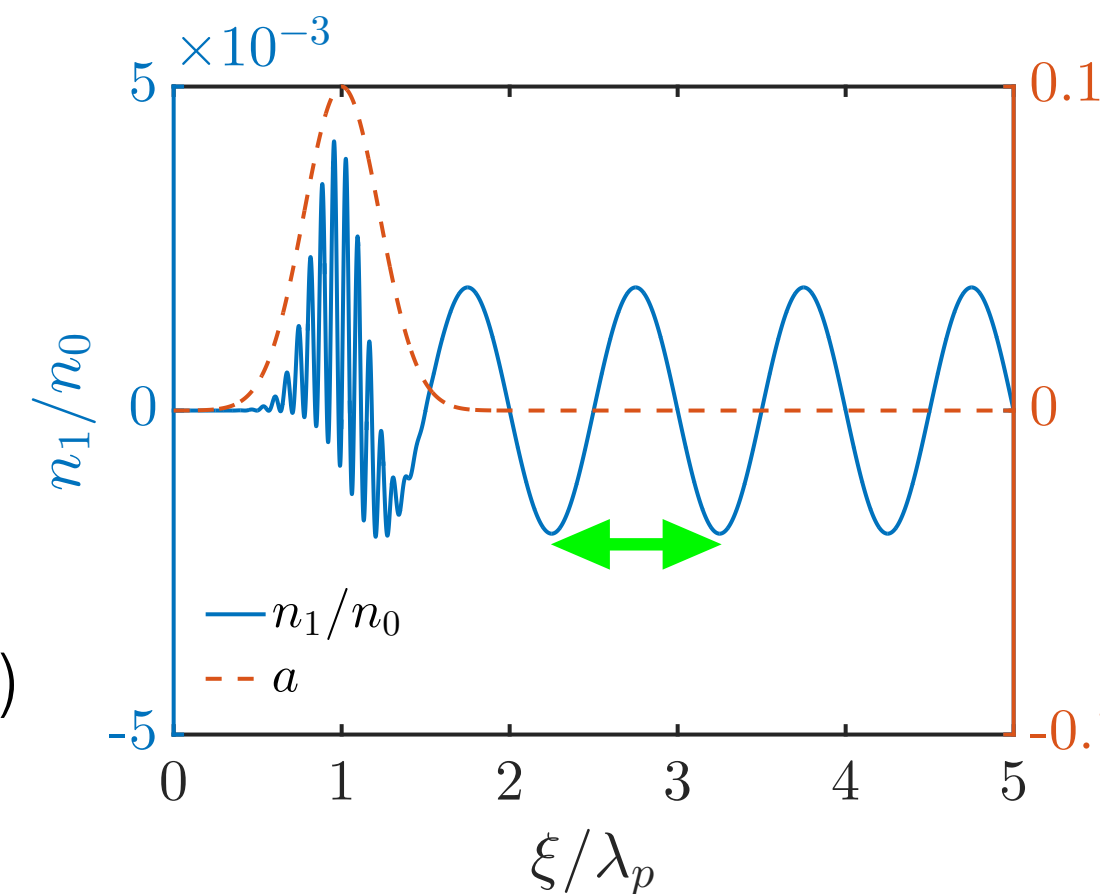
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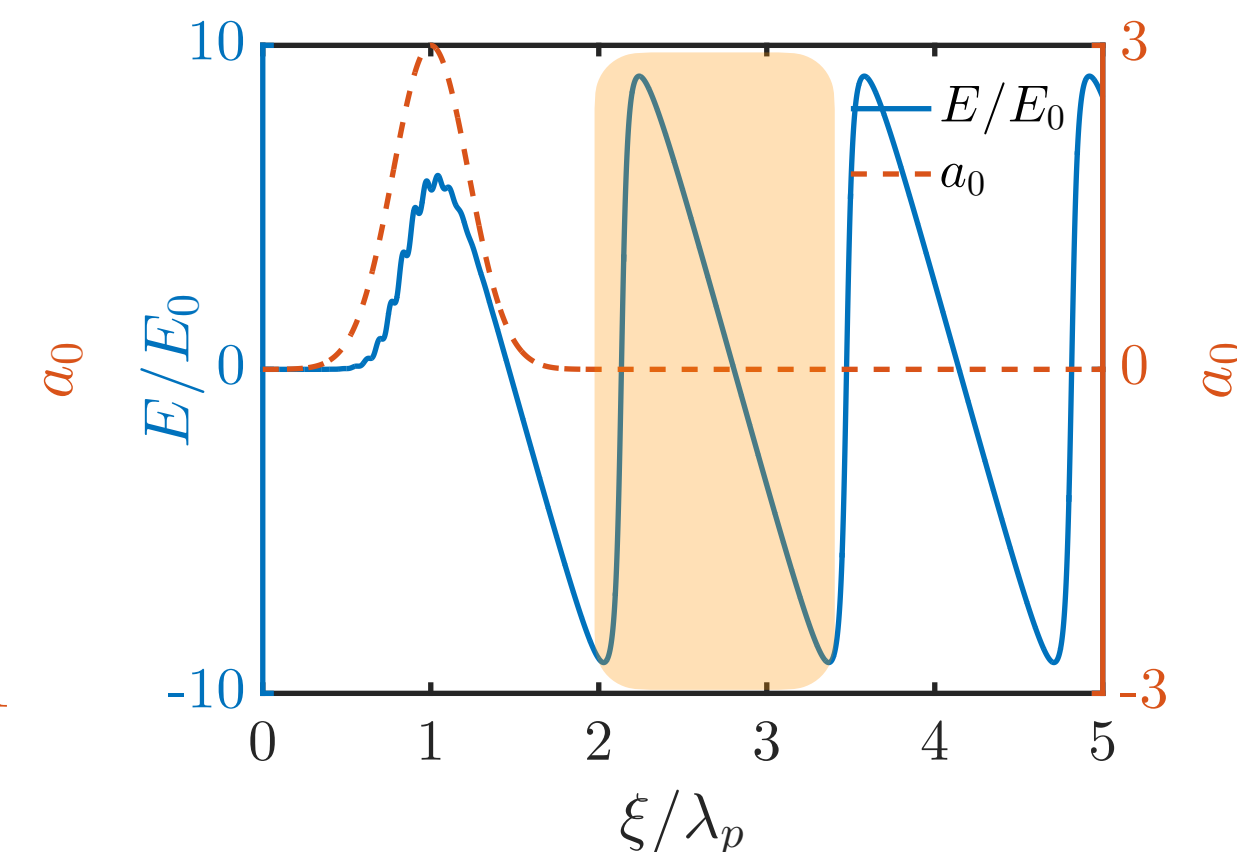
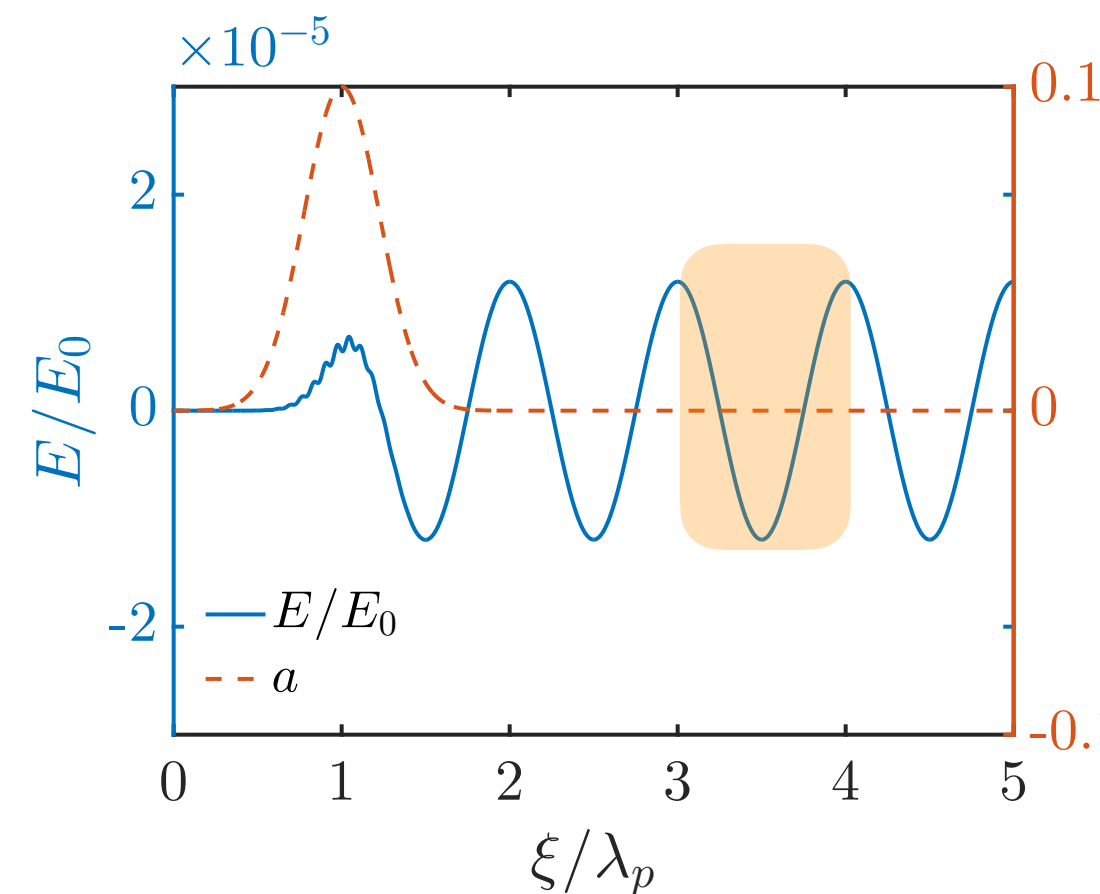
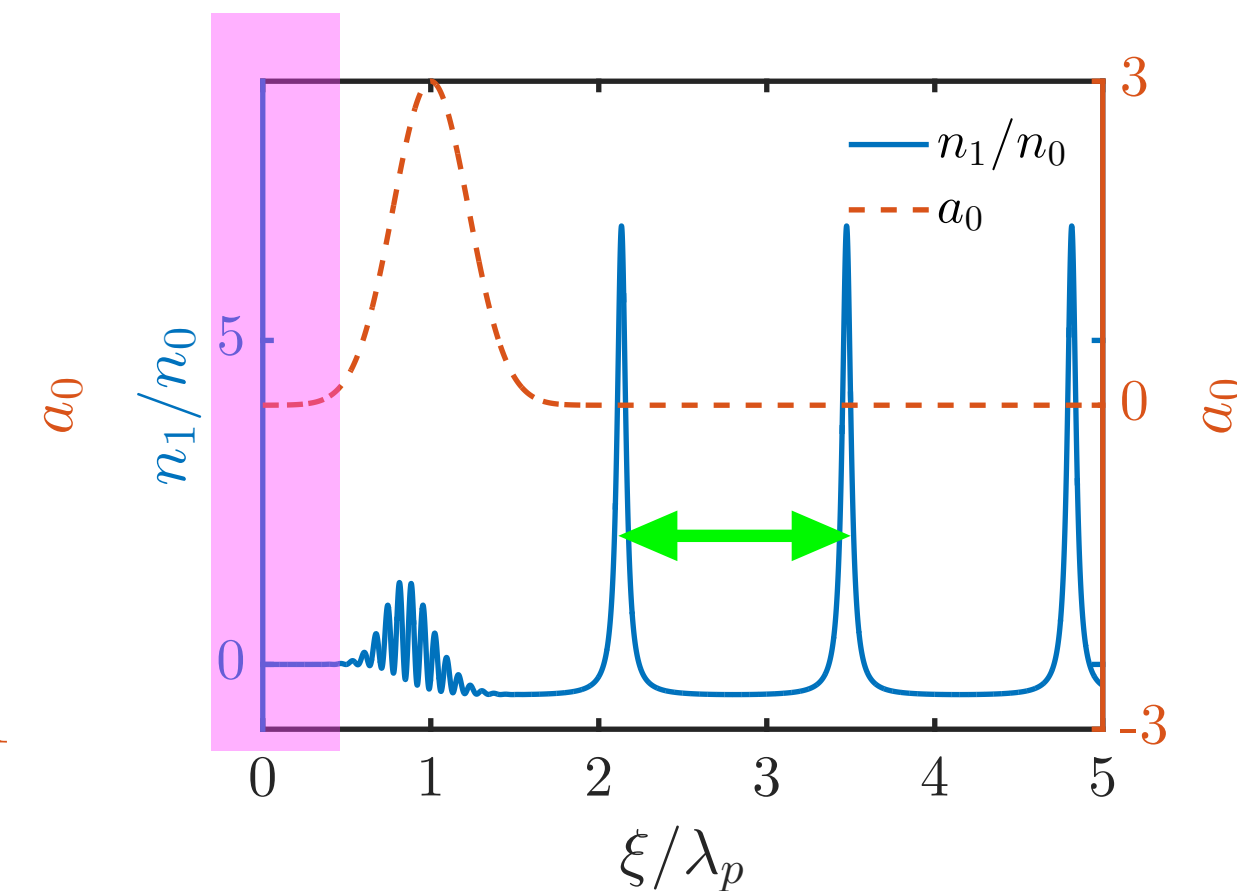
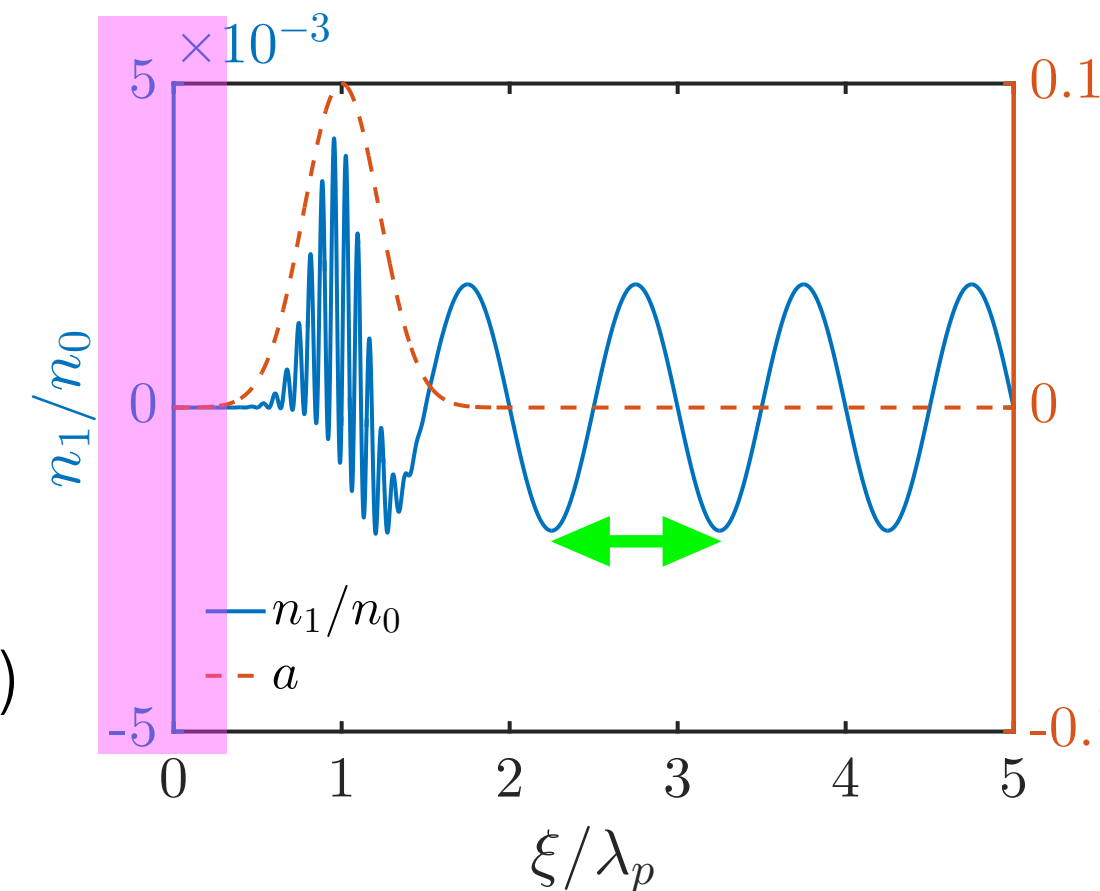
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 - > Non-linear amplitude increase



Most modern LPA operate in the 'bubble' regime

$a_0 > 2$ leads to 'bubble' - spherical accelerator cavity moving at nearly speed of light



⁽¹⁰⁾ Lu et al, Phys Rev Lett **96**, 165002 (2006)

⁽¹¹⁾ Golovanov et al, Phys Rev Lett **130**, 105001 (2023)

⁽¹²⁾ Lu et al, Phys Rev STAB **10**, 061301 (2007)

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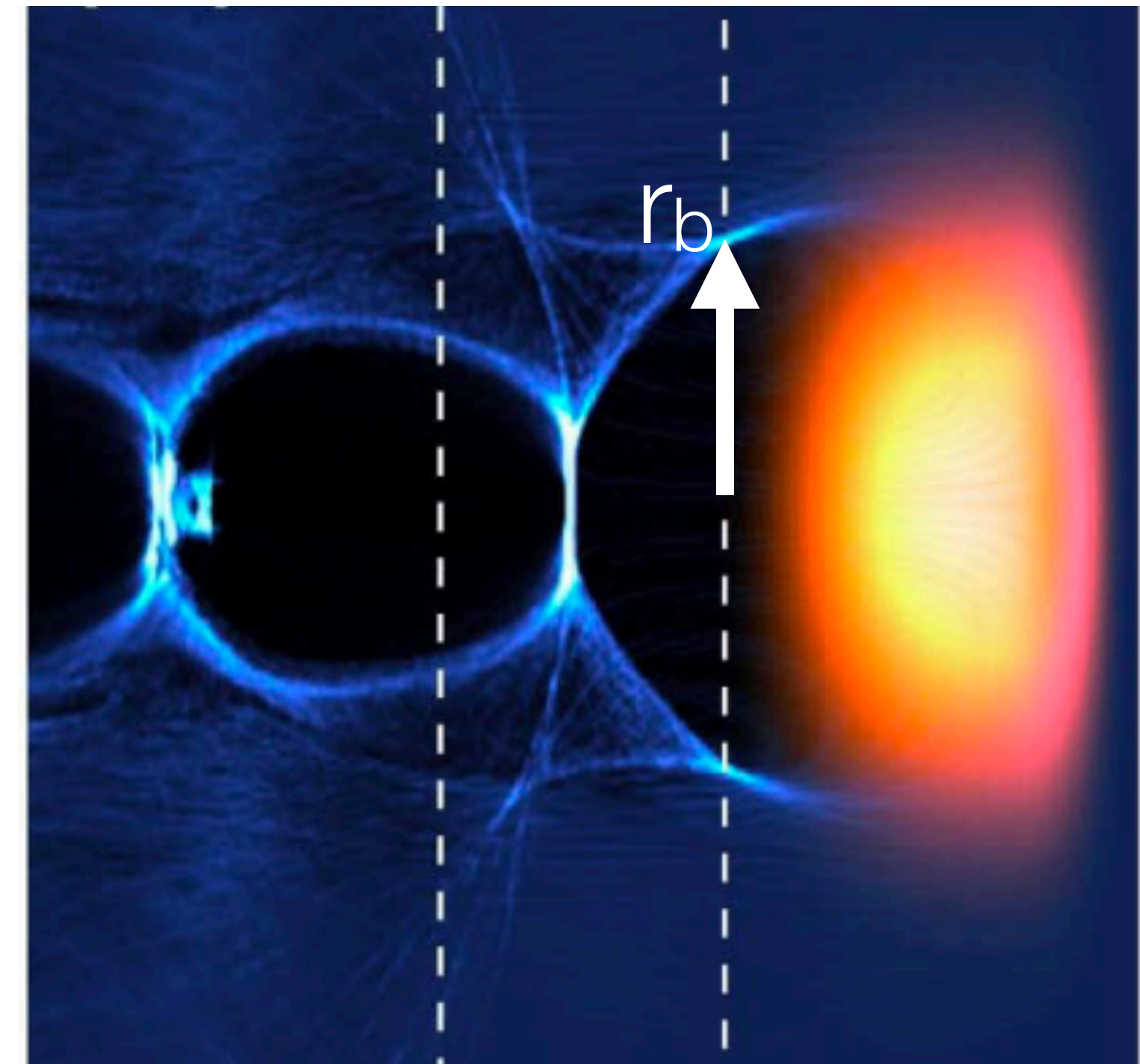
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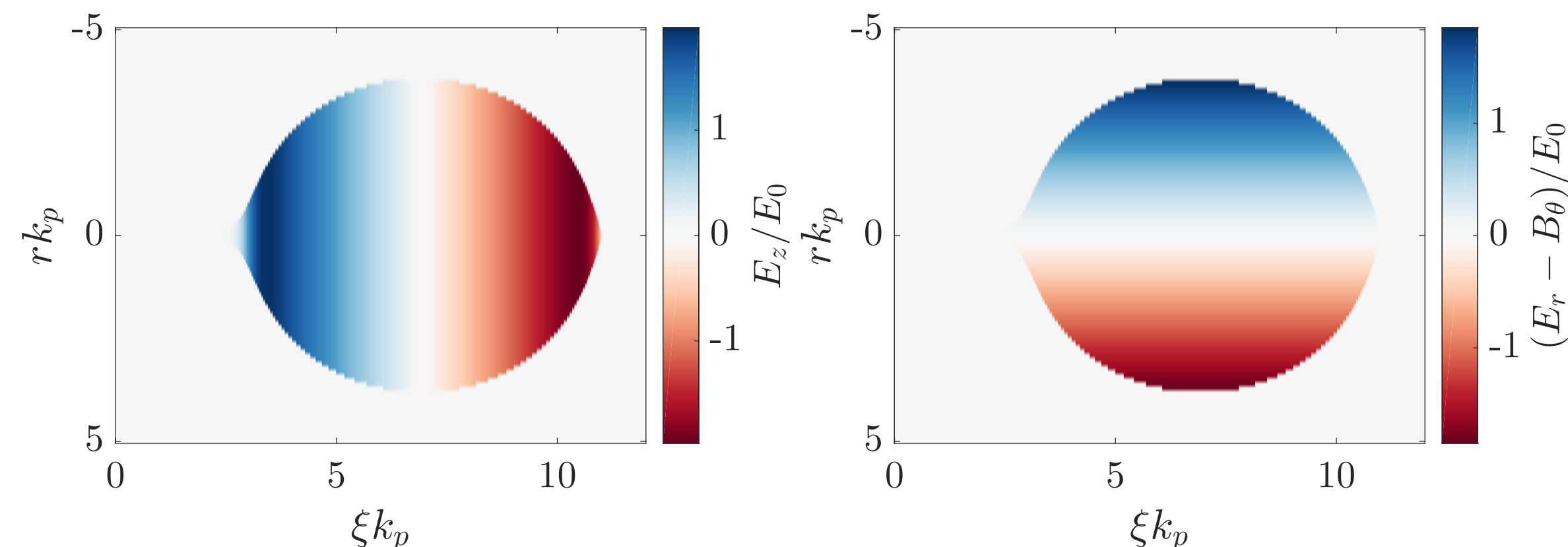
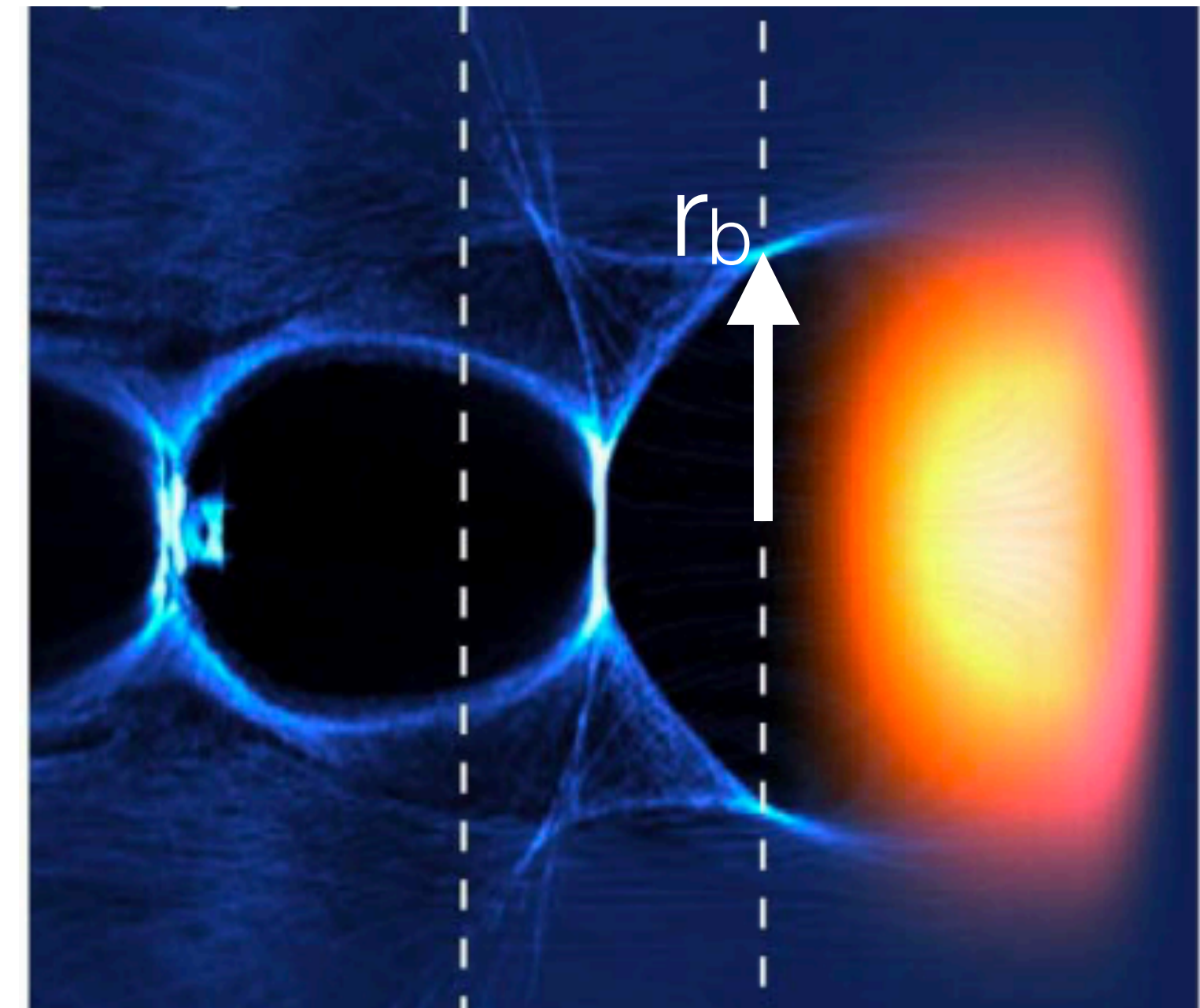
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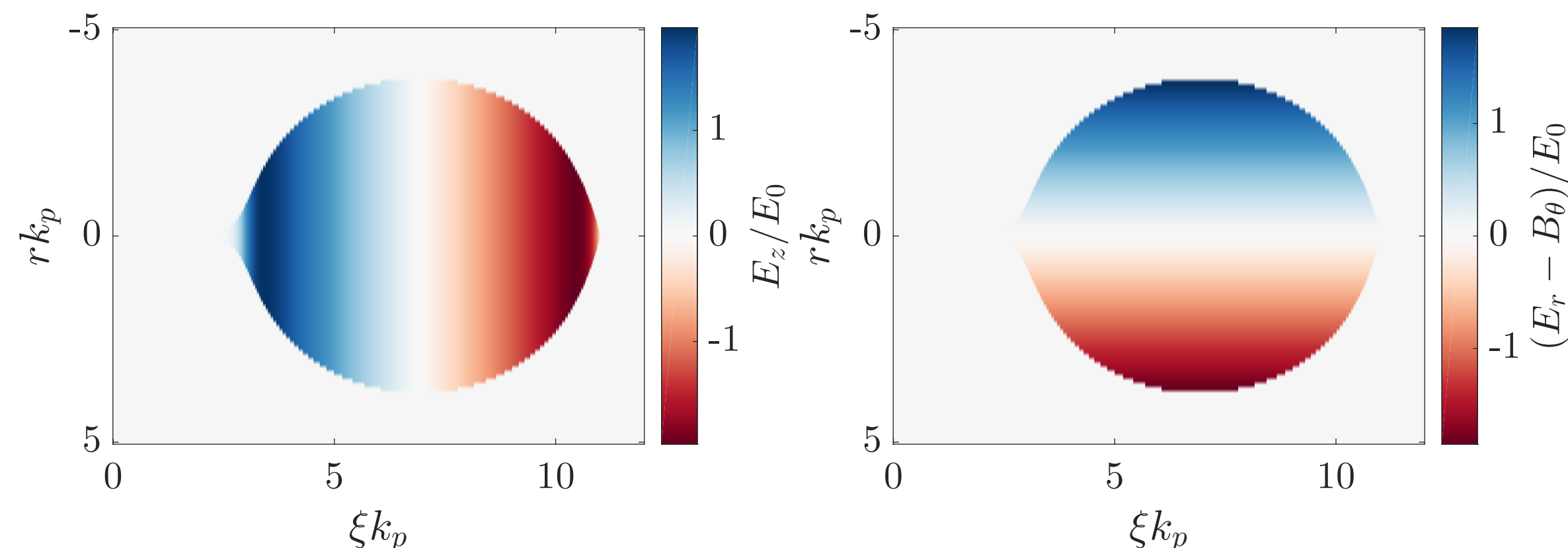
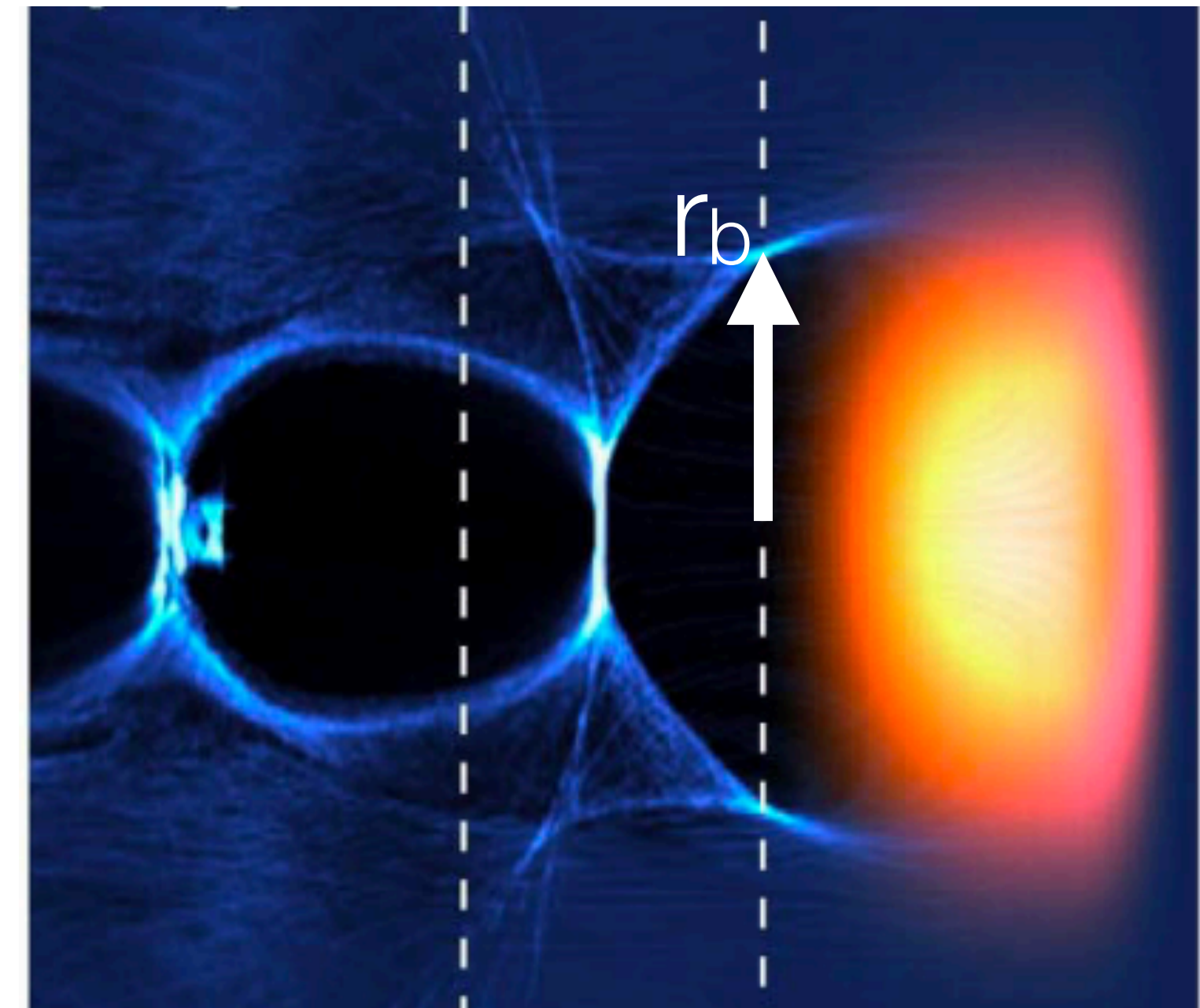
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- > Linear acceleration and focussing forces!
- > Intensity dependent matched spot size

$$k_p w_0 \simeq 2\sqrt{a_0}$$



Injection is key to beam quality in plasma accelerators

Different injection techniques lead to greatly differing beam parameters and use cases

⁽⁵⁾ Esarey et al, Rev Mod Phys **81**, 1229 (2009)

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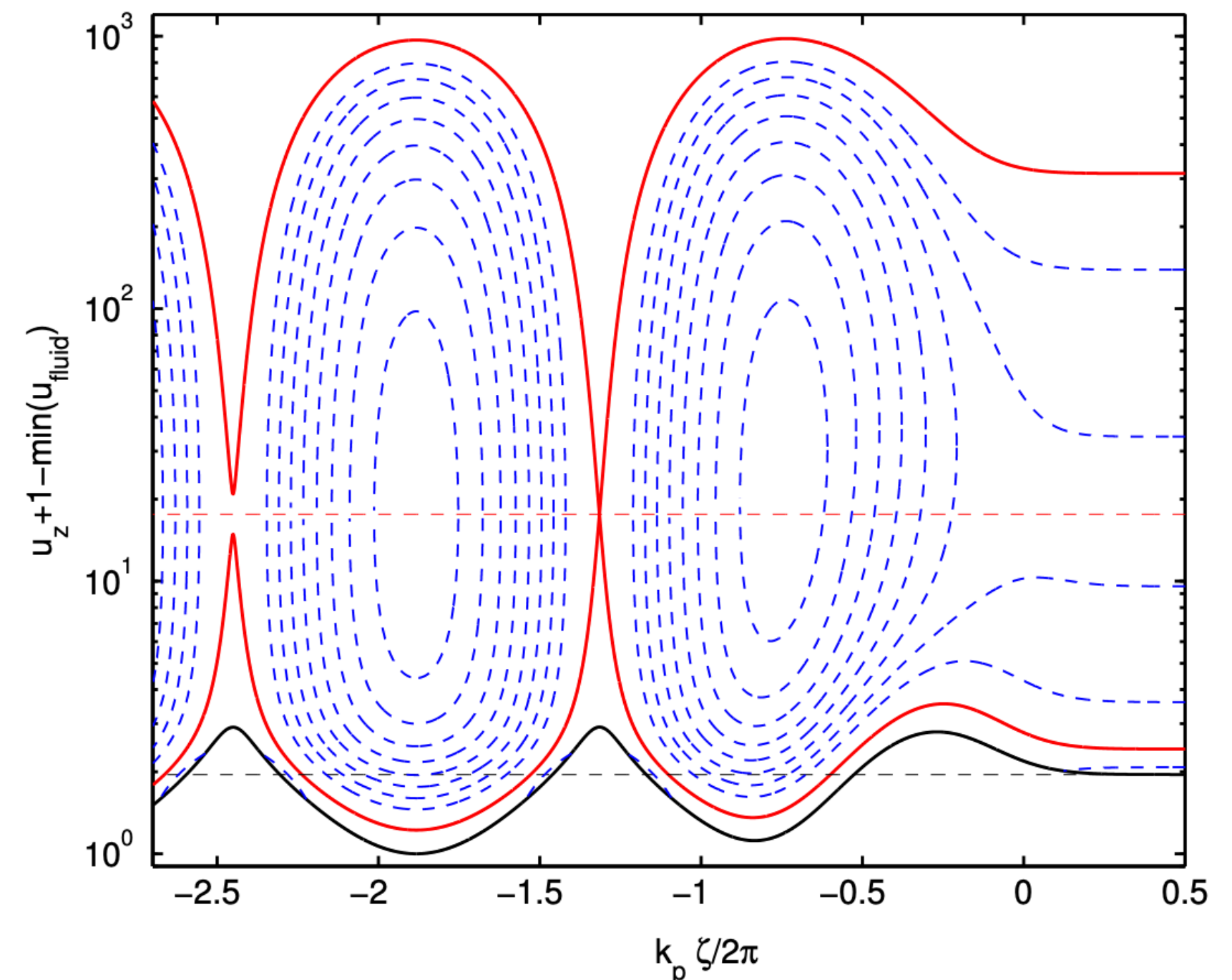
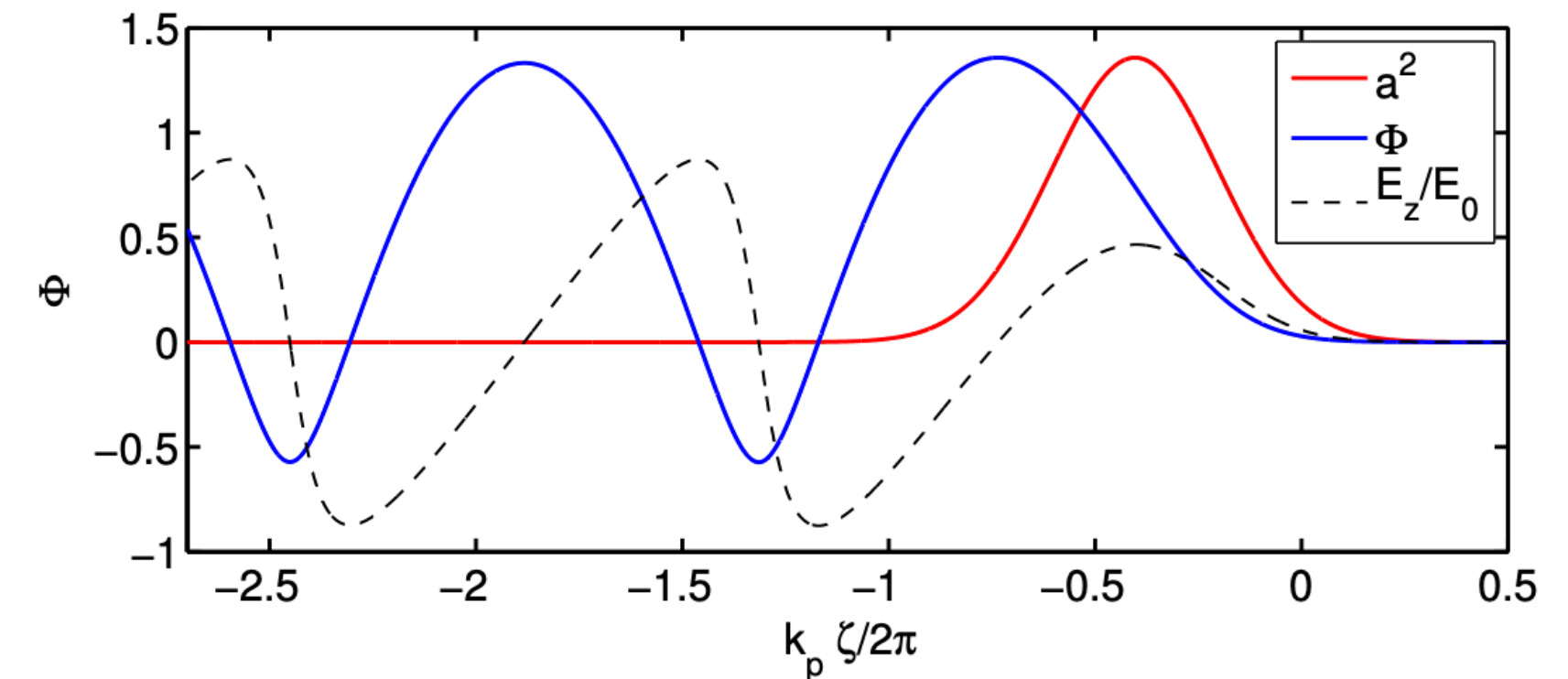
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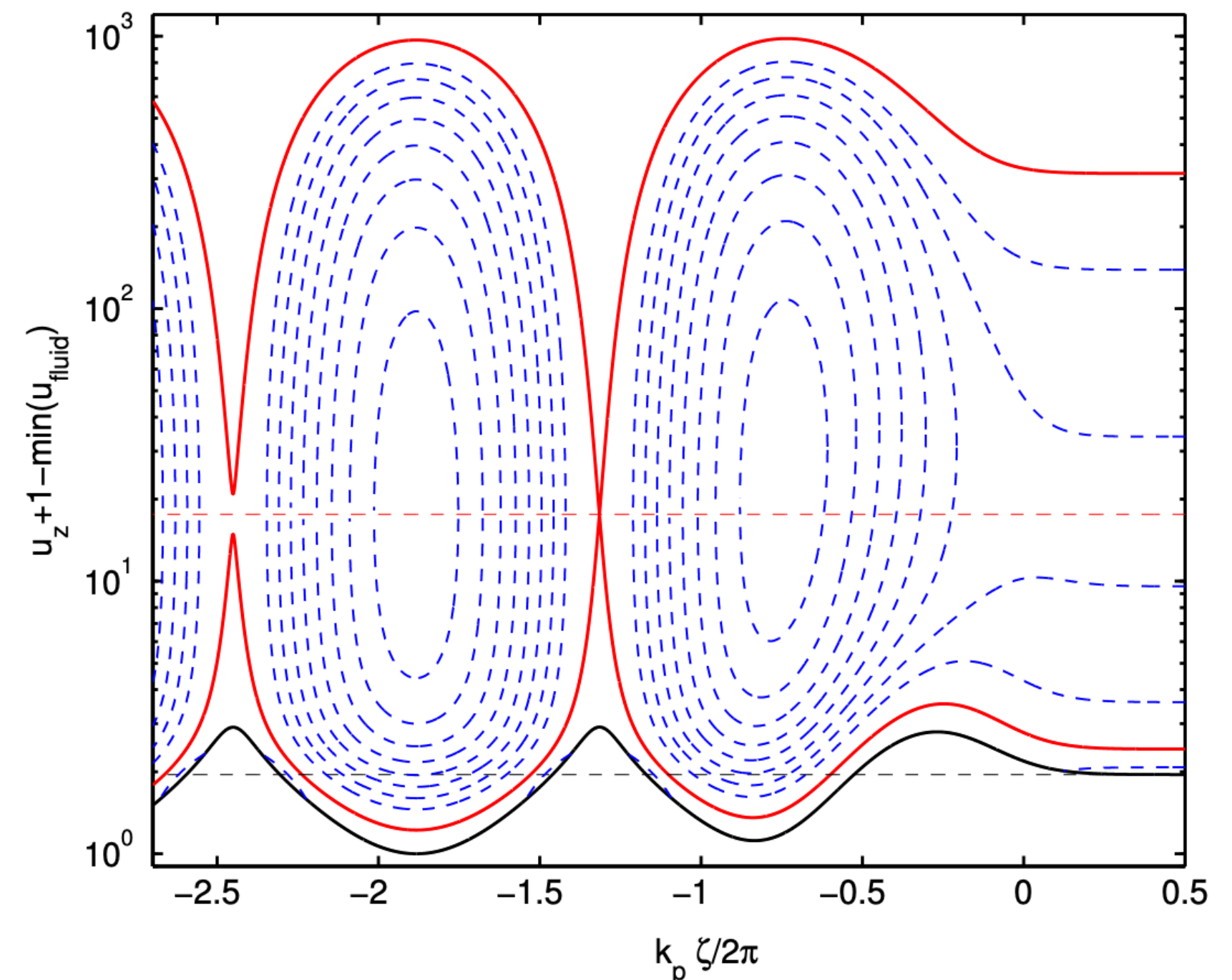
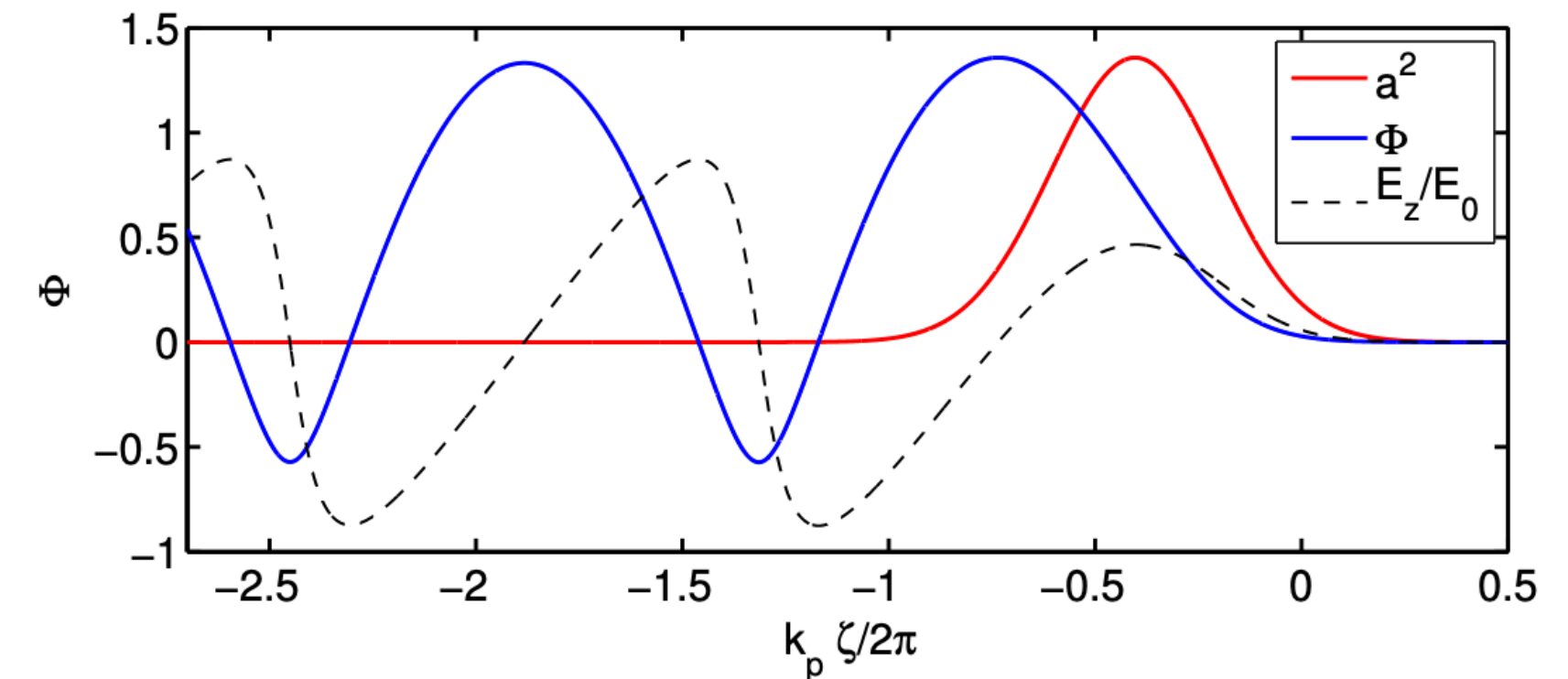
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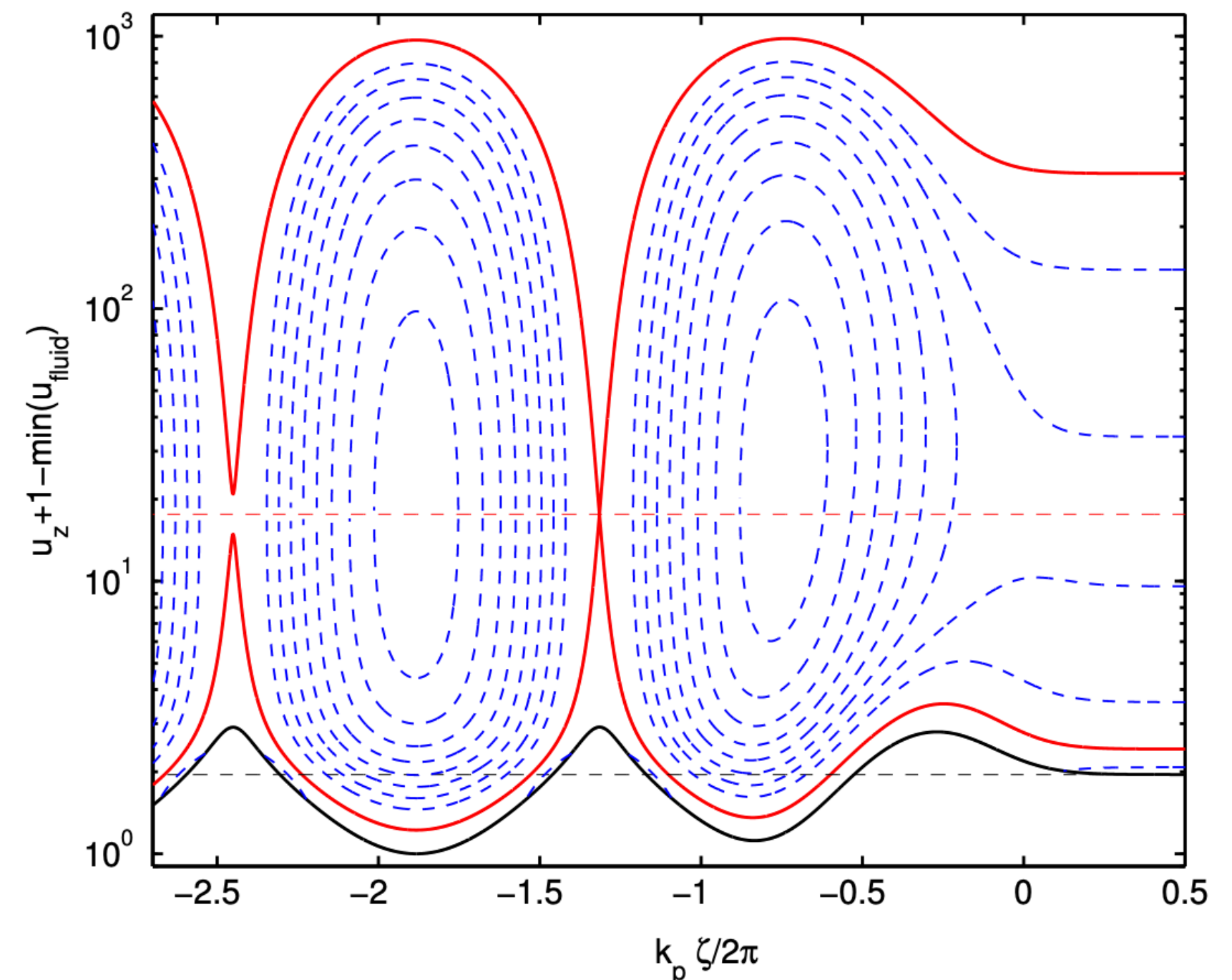
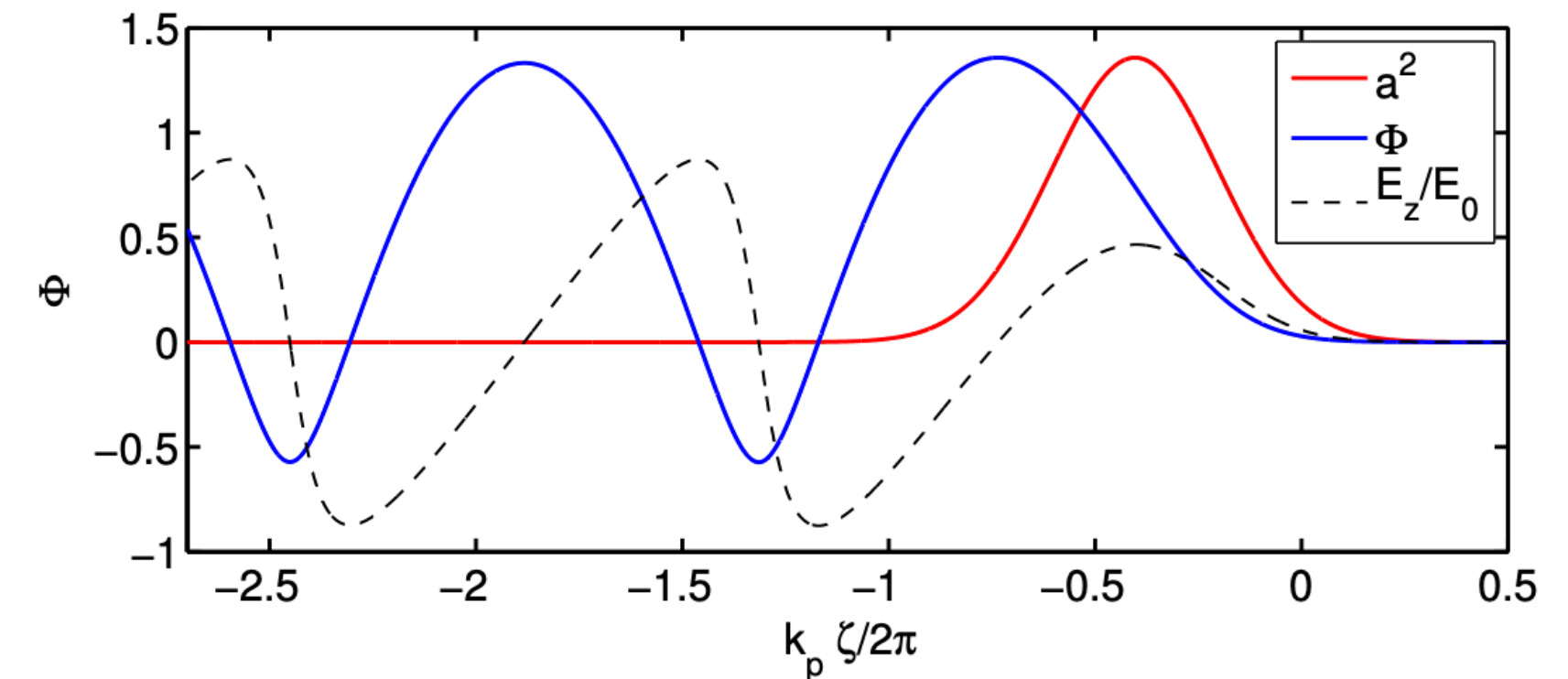
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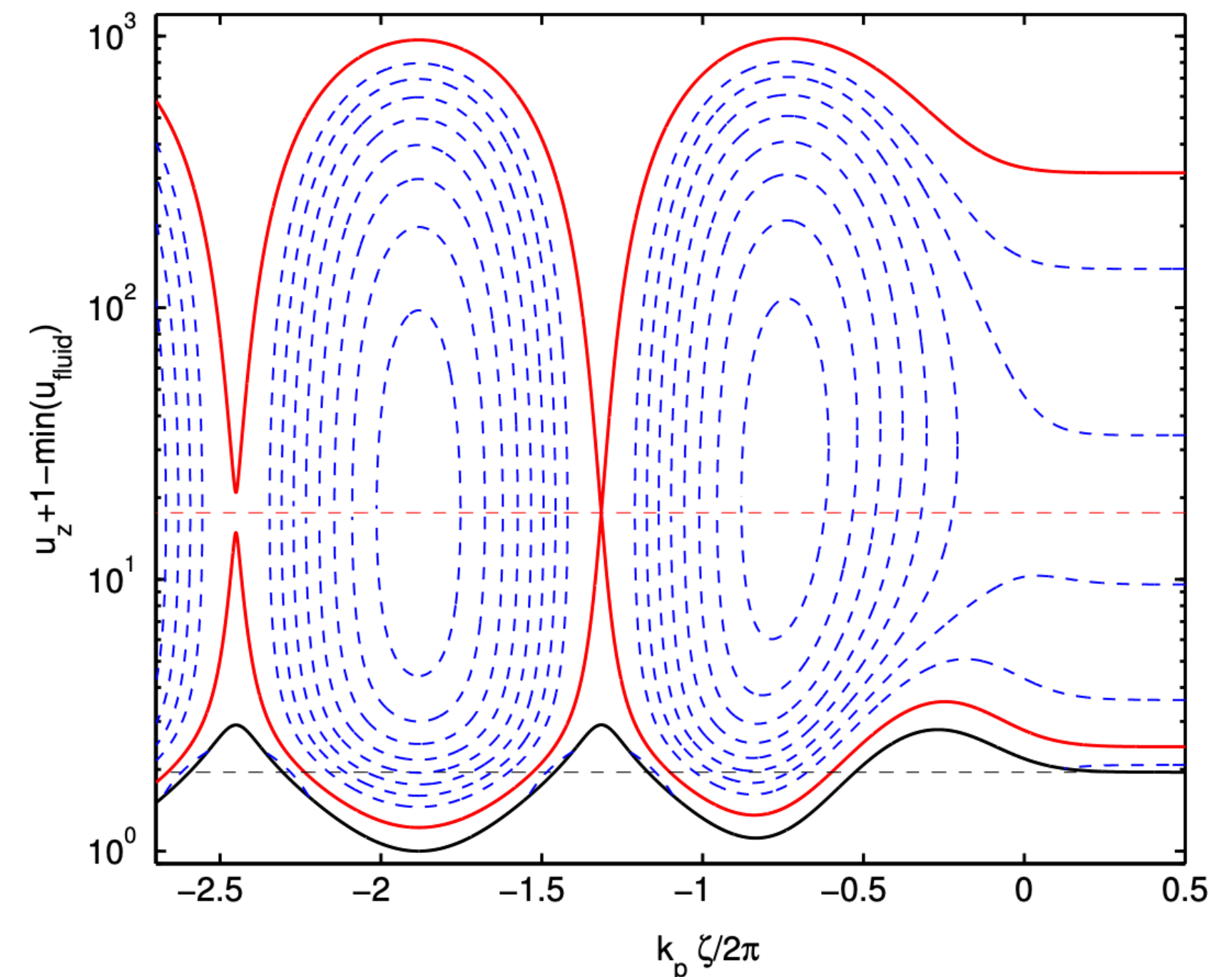
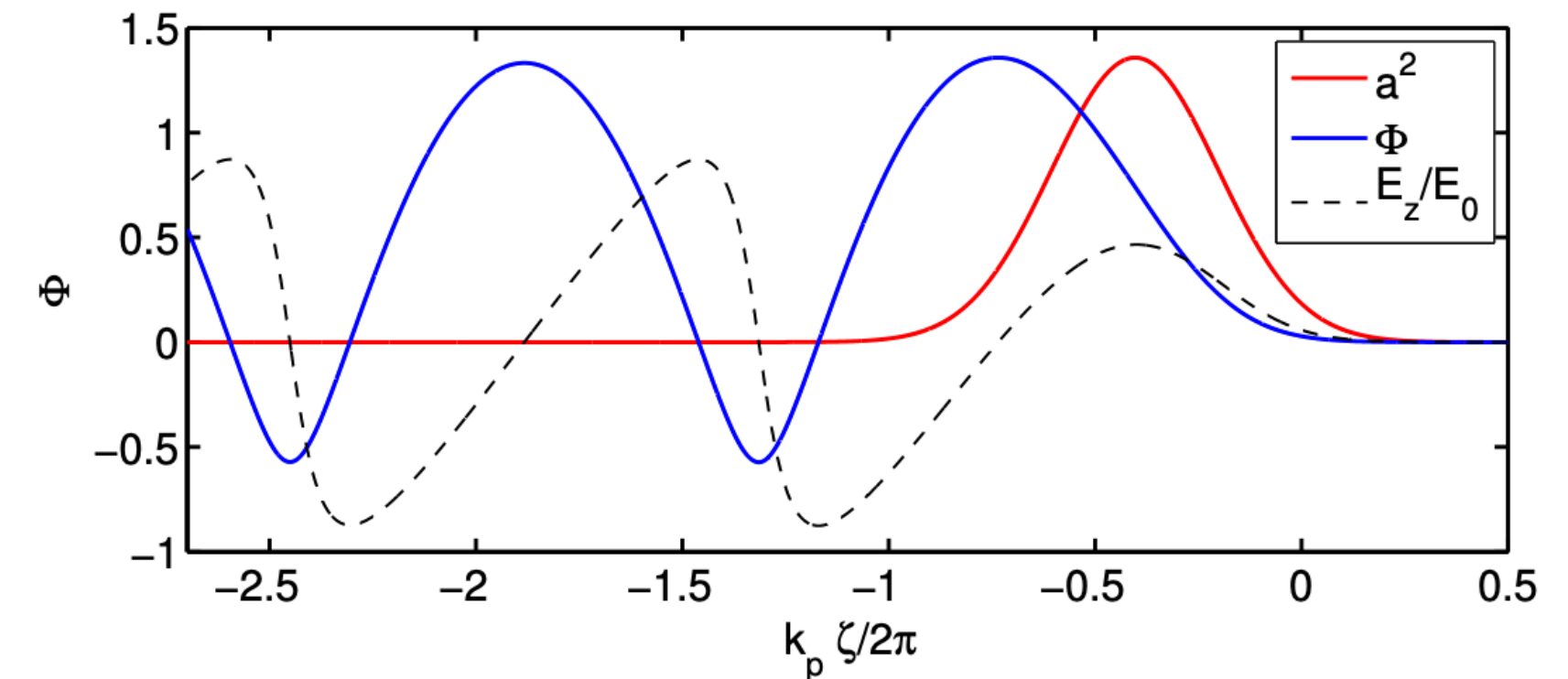
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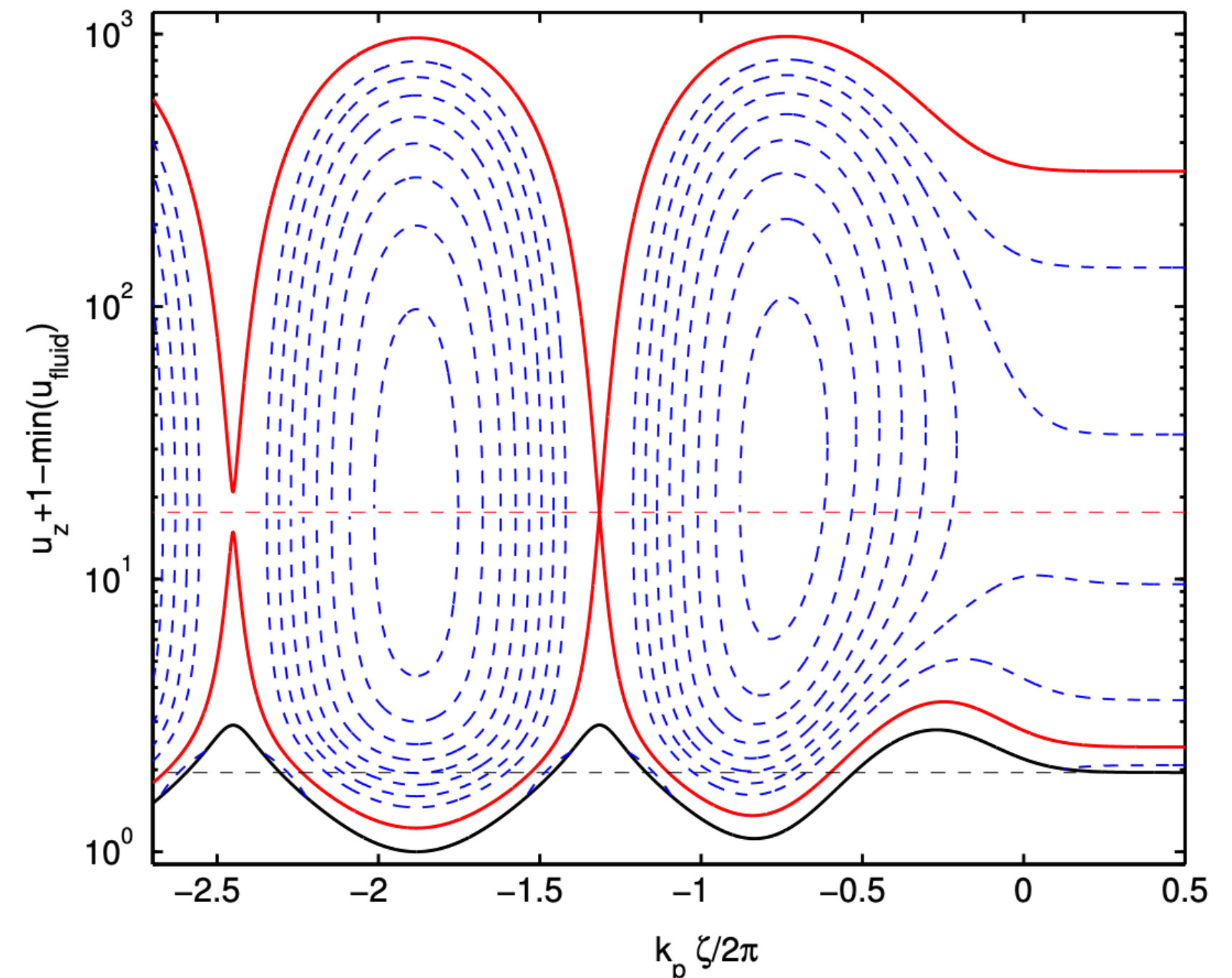
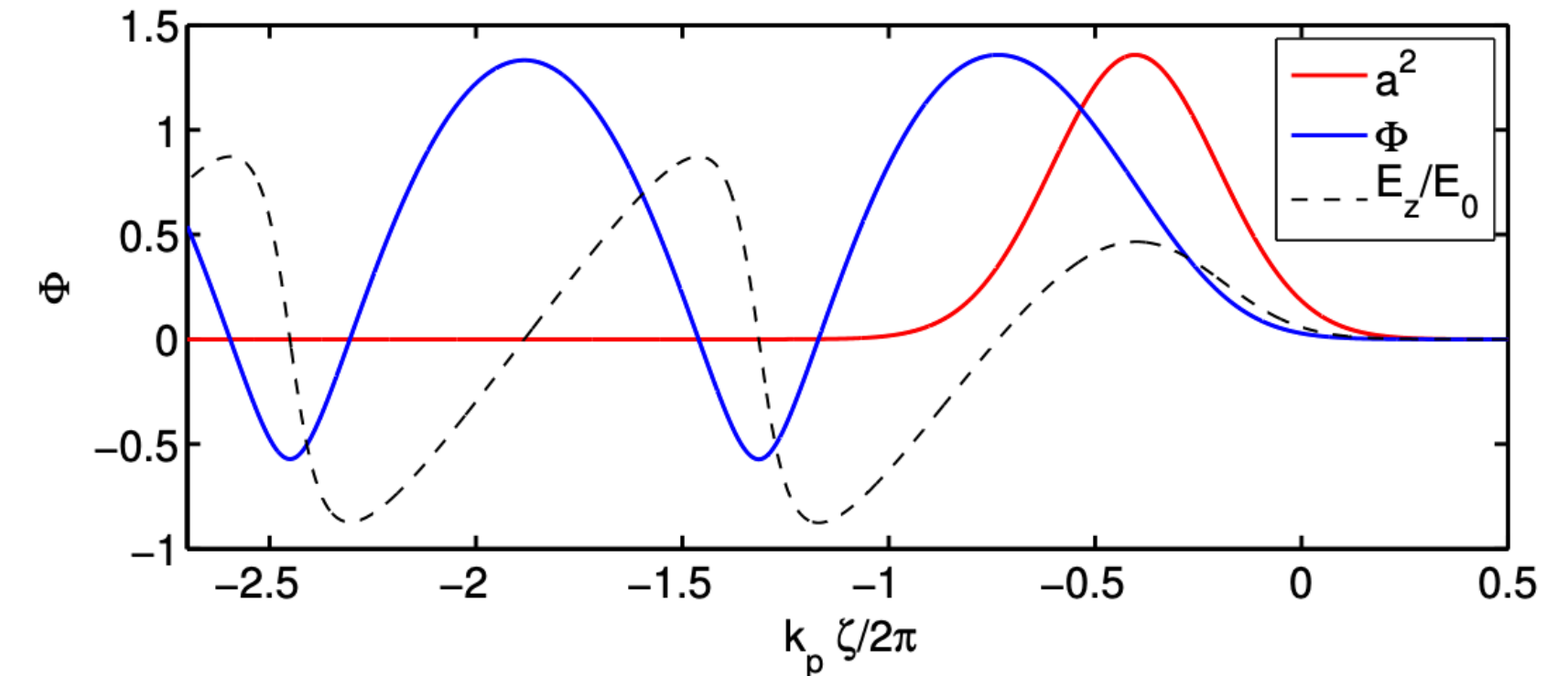
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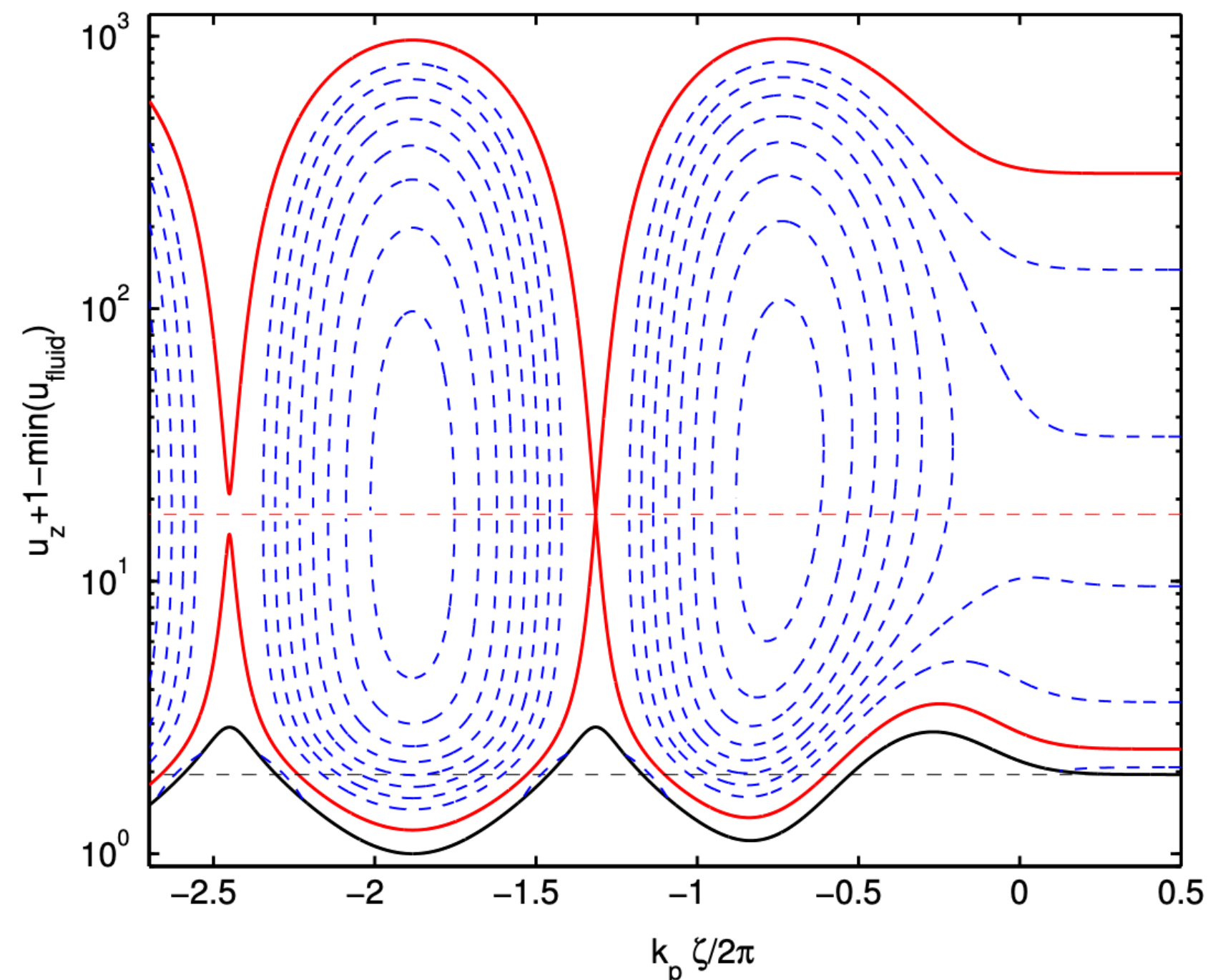
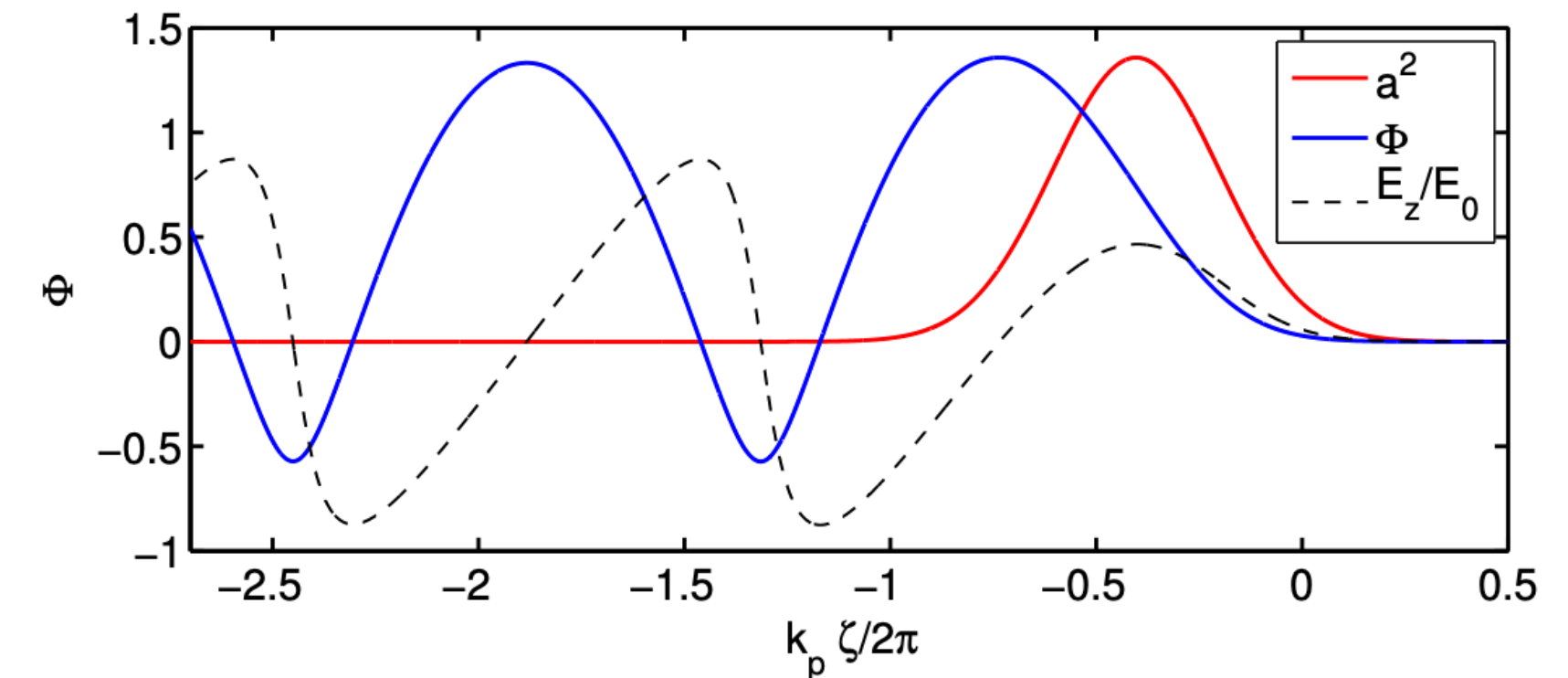
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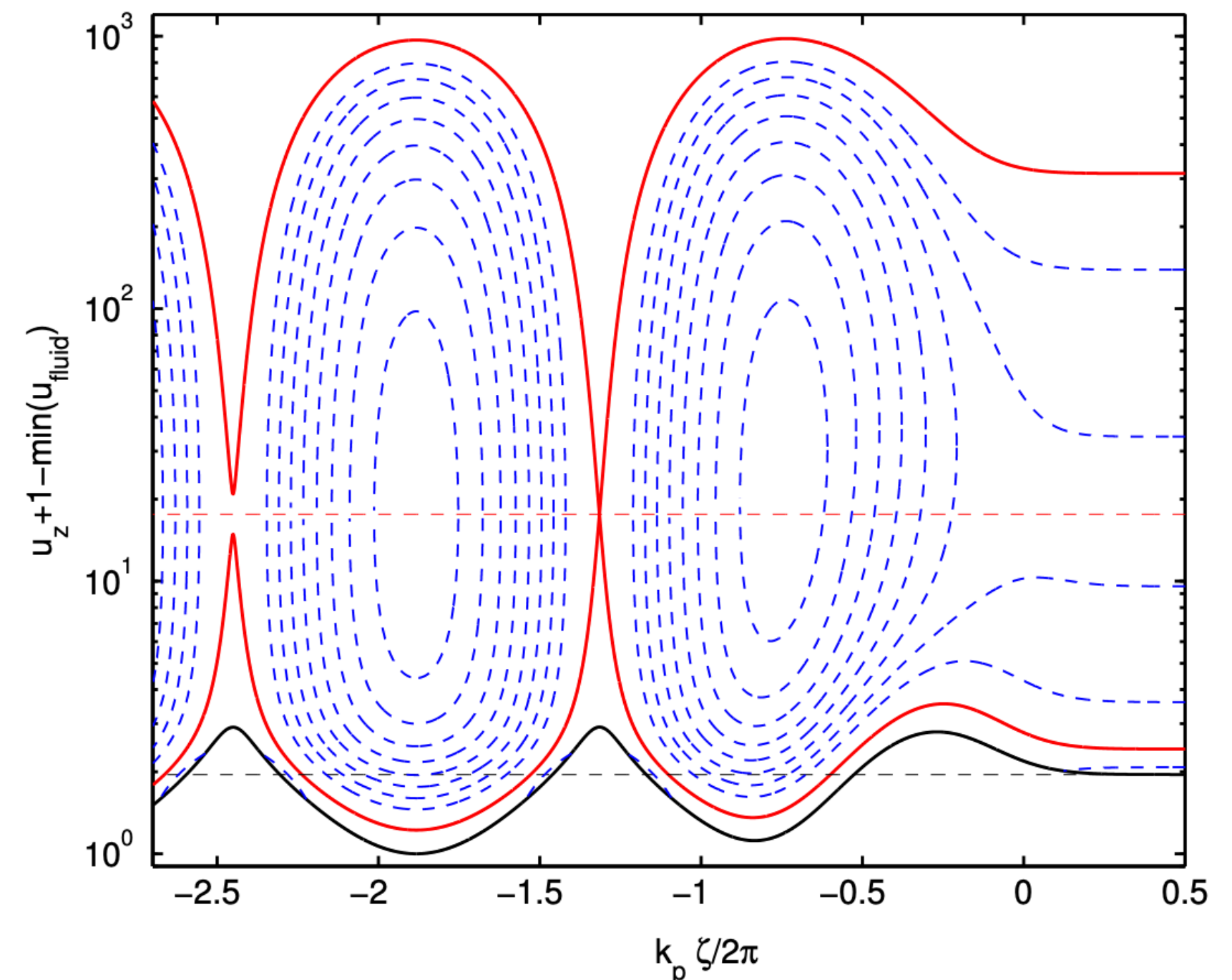
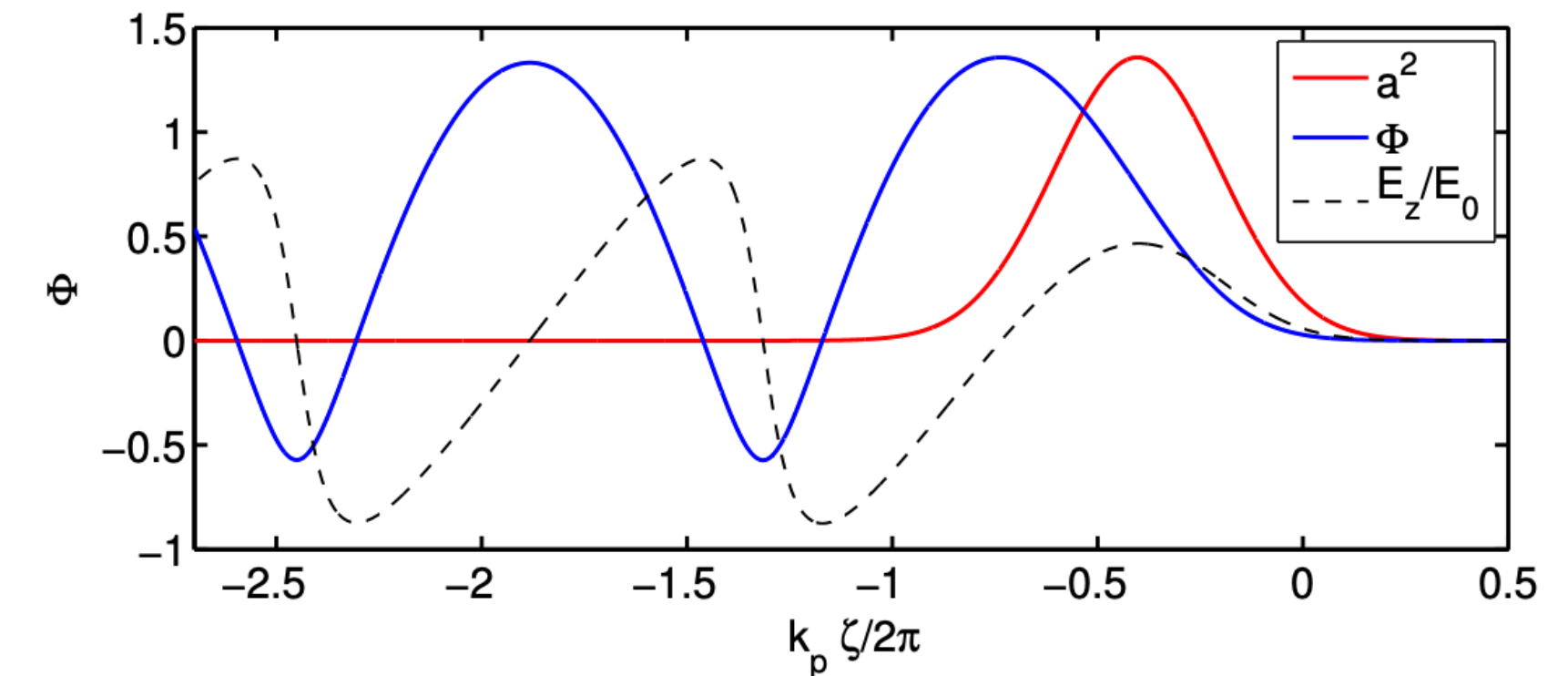
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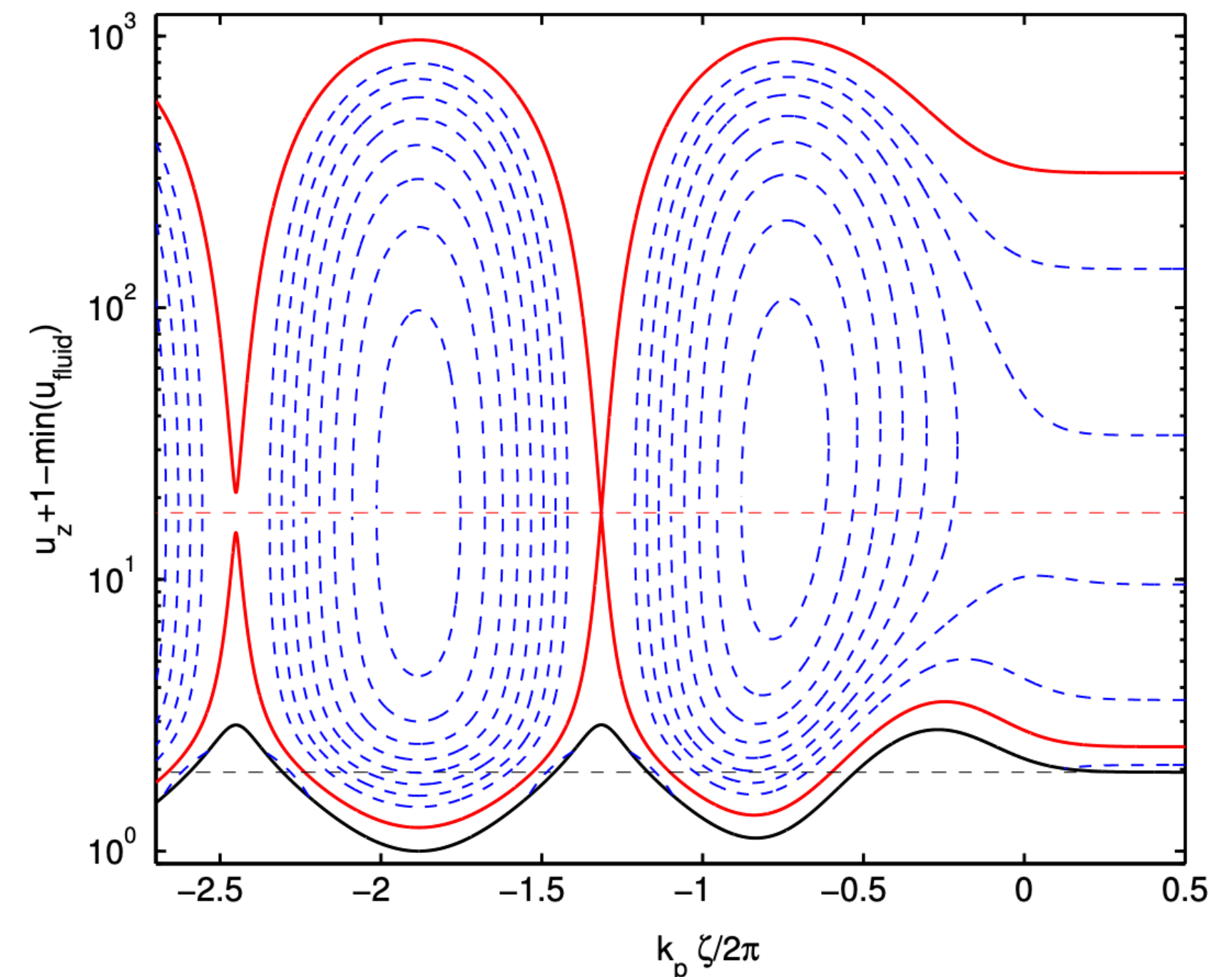
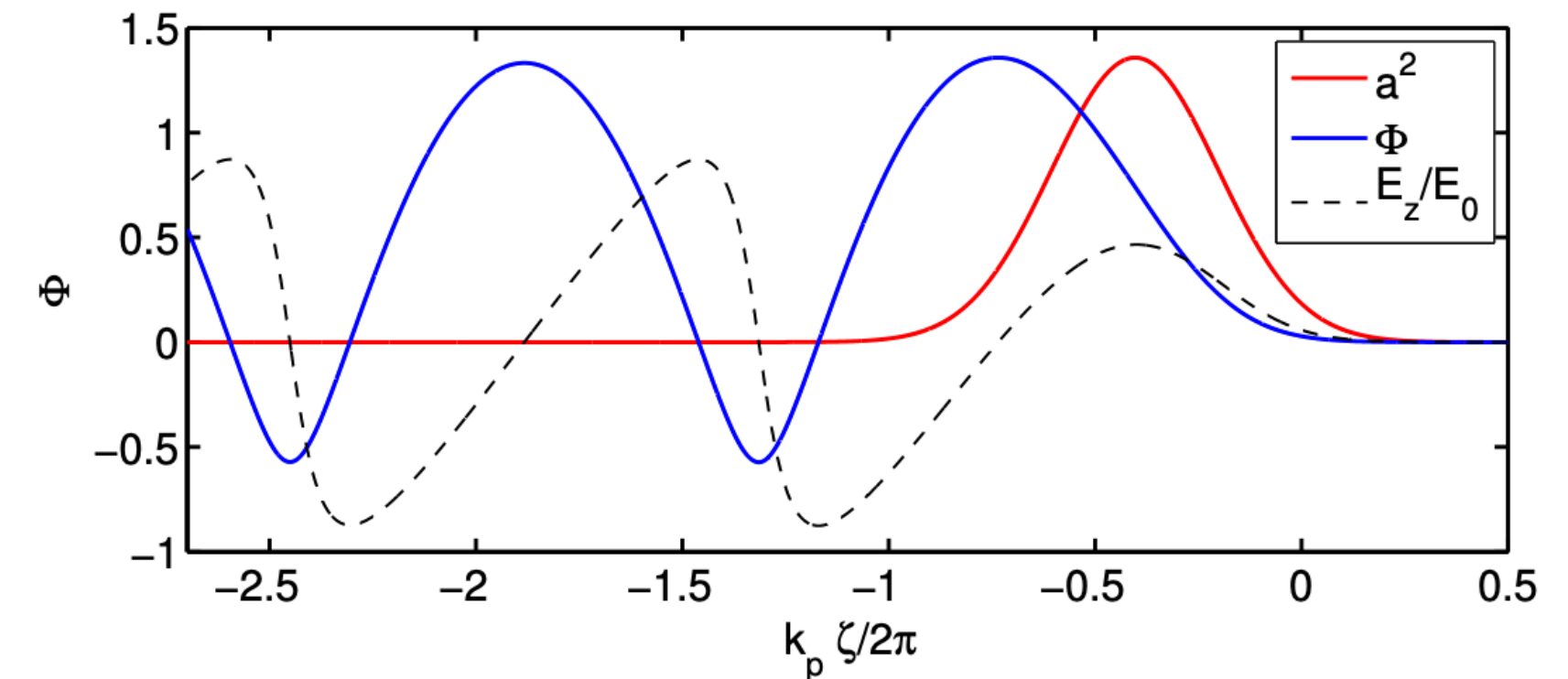
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- > Injection is the process of putting electrons into the acceleration cavity (5,13)
 - > Wake moves at $\sim c$, plasma electrons \sim stationary.
 - > Plasma electrons need long. momentum!
- > Many techniques demonstrated
 - > Self-injection (14,15)
 - > Ionisation injection (16)
 - > Density down ramp injection (17)
 - > Colliding pulse injection (18)
 - > 2-colour ionisation injection (19)
 - > Ponderomotive injection (20)



(5) Esarey et al, Rev Mod Phys **81**, 1229 (2009)

(13) Faure, CERN Yellow Report CERN-2016-001 (2016)

(14) Mangles et al, Nature **431**, 535 (2004)

(15) Kalmykov et al, Phys Rev Lett **103**, 135004 (2009)

(16) Pak et al, Phys Rev Lett **104**, 025003 (2010)

(17) Suk et al, Phys Rev Lett **86**, 1011 (2001)

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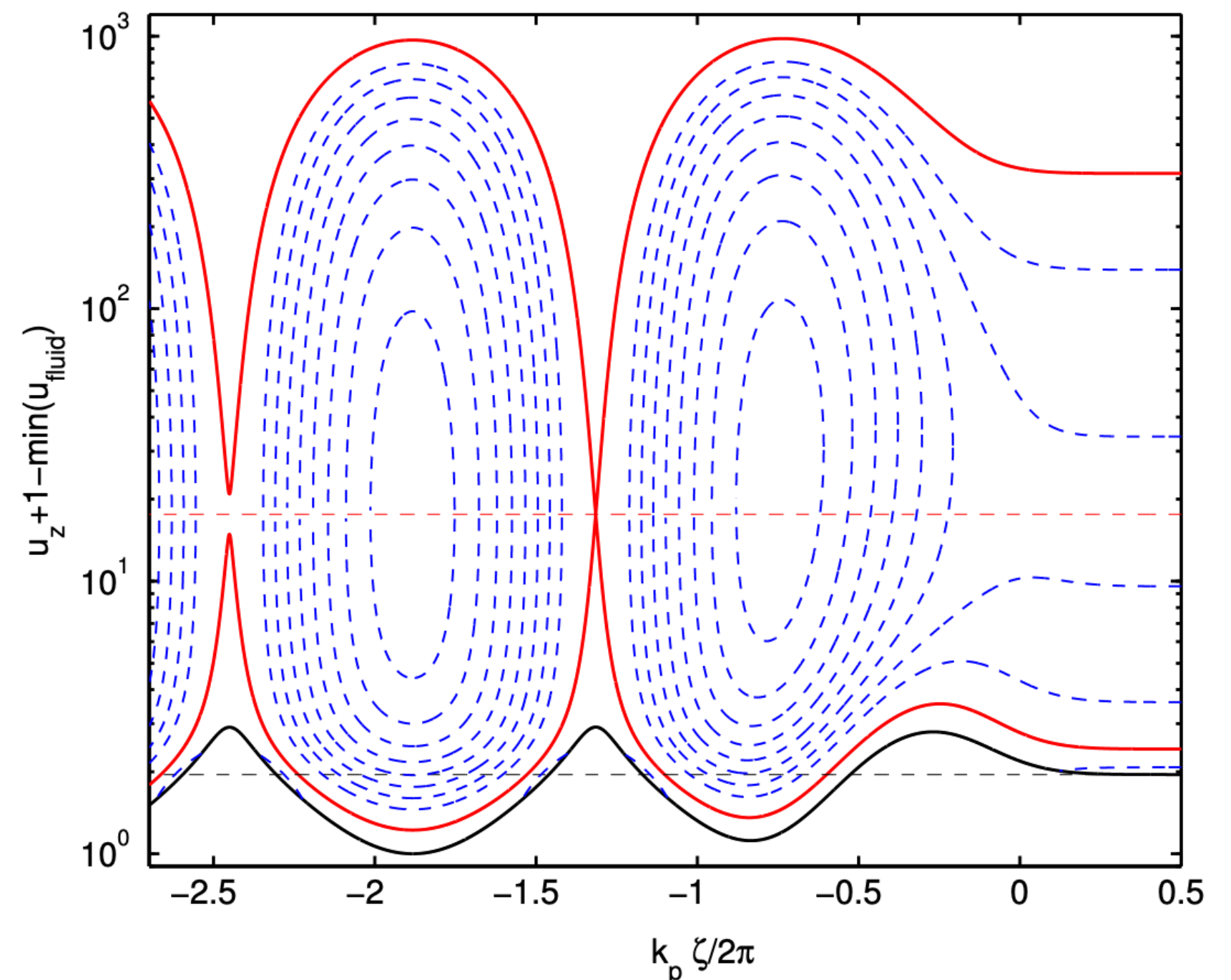
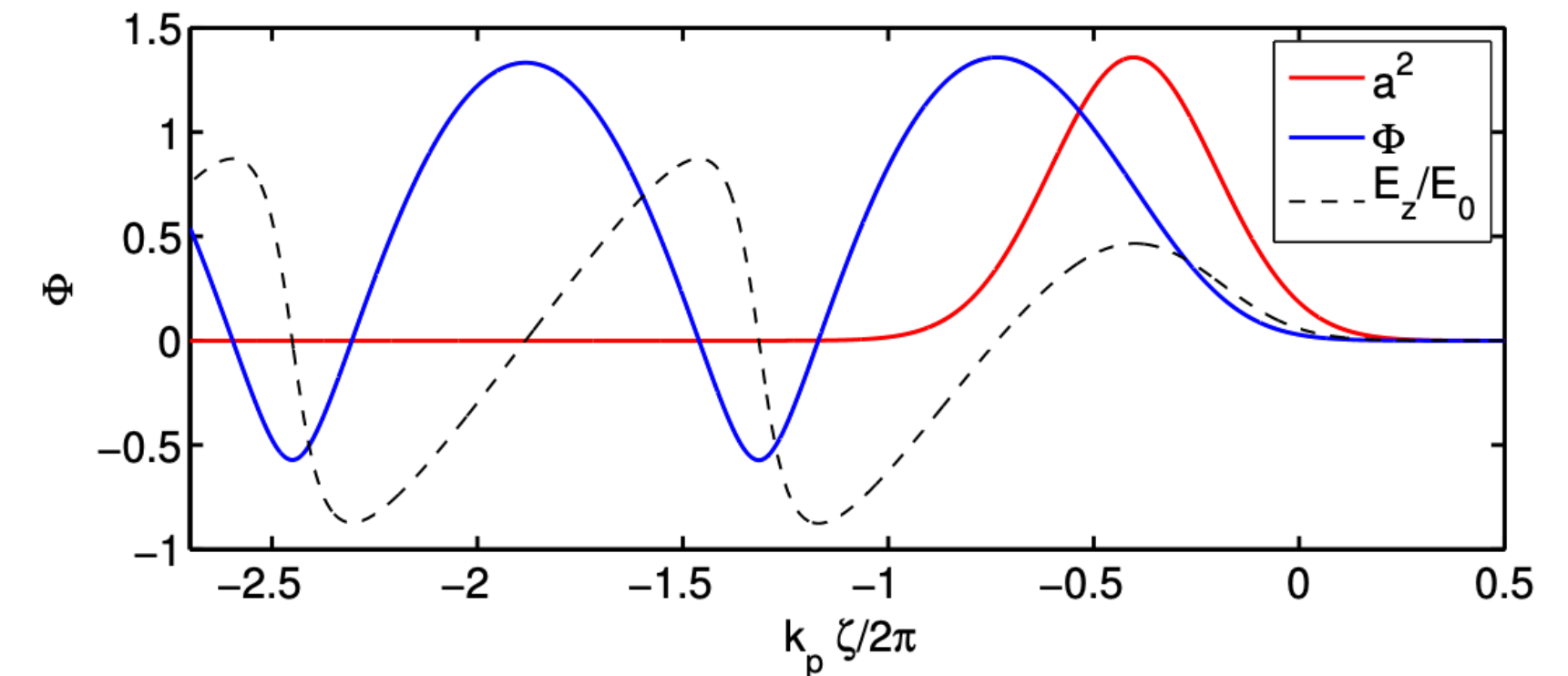
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Limitations of plasma accelerators

The so called 3Ds are fundamental limits for LPAs - but can be overcome with clever design

Dephasing

$$v_{e^-} > v_g$$

Relativistic electrons
outrun the wake

$$k_p L_d = \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{\omega_L}{\omega_p} \right)^2 \sqrt{a_0}$$

Need lower or tailored
plasma density

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Diffraction

$$z_R = \frac{\pi w_0^2}{\lambda_L}$$

Laser beam diffraction reduces wake amplitude

Can be overcome by guiding channels or self-guiding

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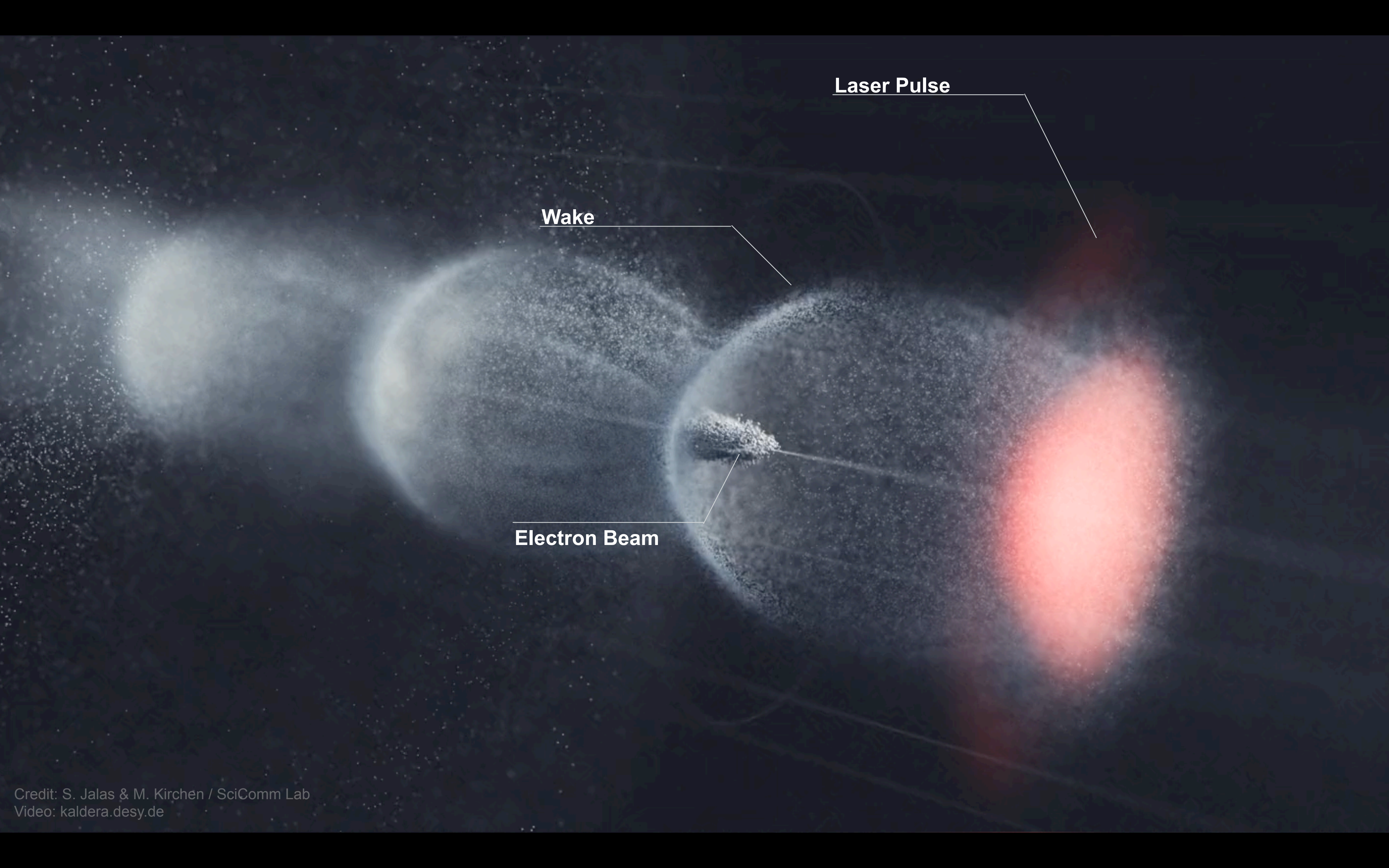
Depletion

$$v_{etch} = c \left(\frac{\omega_p}{\omega_L} \right)^2$$

Laser pulse loses its energy driving the wake

$$L_{pd} = \left(\frac{\omega_L}{\omega_p} \right)^2 c\tau$$

Need longer pulse durations



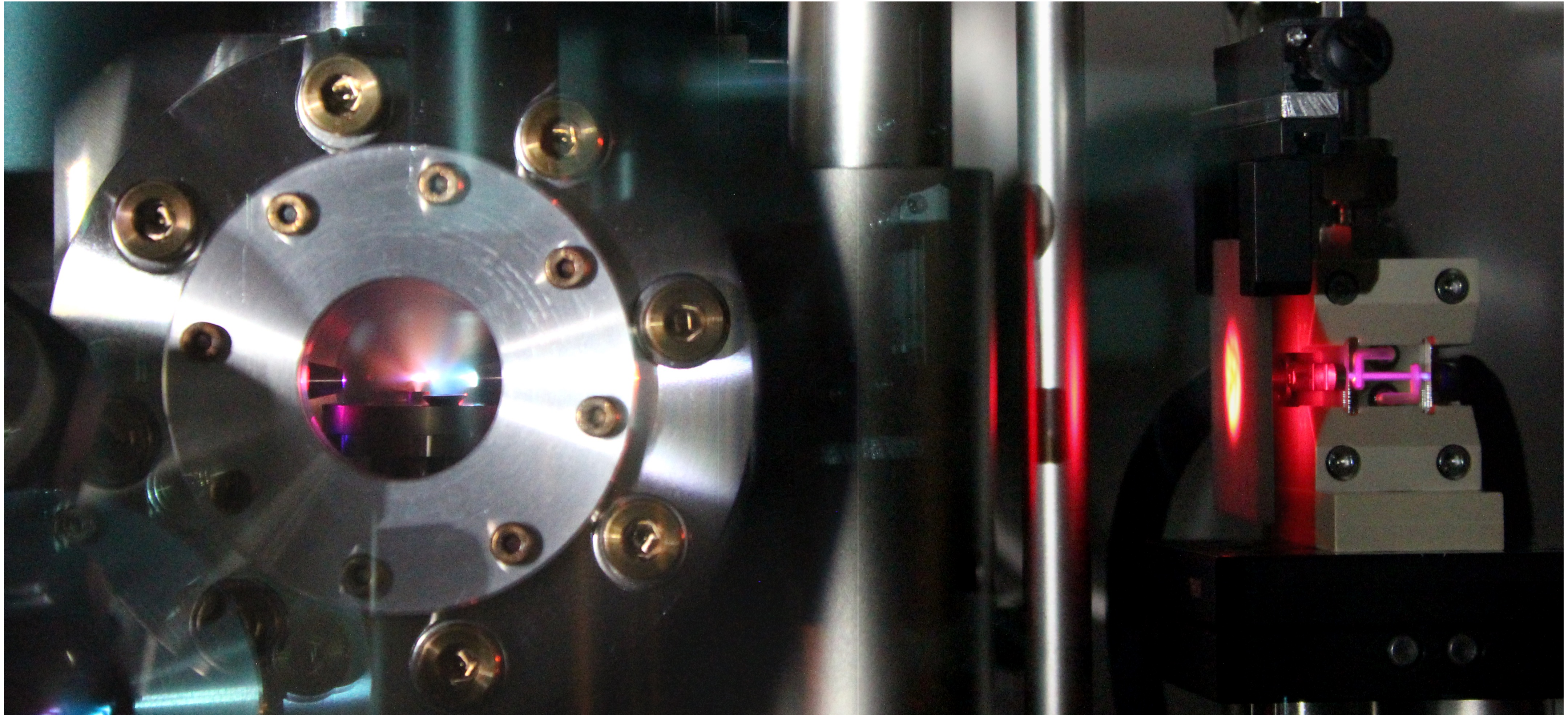
Laser Pulse

Wake

Electron Beam

Laser plasma accelerator in action

Compact plasma technology also spans plasma-based focussing optics



Plasma accelerators have undergone huge progress

2004 “Dream Beam” experiments sparked intense effort across the world

letters to nature

Monoenergetic beams of relativistic electrons from intense laser–plasma interactions

S. P. D. Mangles¹, C. D. Murphy^{1,2}, Z. Najmudin¹, A. G. R. Thomas¹, J. L. Collier², A. E. Dangor¹, E. J. Divall², P. S. Foster², J. G. Gallacher³, C. J. Hooker², D. A. Jaroszynski³, A. J. Langley², W. B. Mori⁴, P. A. Norreys², F. S. Tsung⁴, R. Viskup³, B. R. Walton¹ & K. Krushelnick¹

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LETTERS

GeV electron beams from a centimetre-scale accelerator

W. P. LEEMANS^{1*}, B. NAGLER¹, A. J. GONSALVES², Cs. TÓTH¹, K. NAKAMURA^{1,3}, C. G. R. GEDDES¹, E. ESAREY^{1*}, C. B. SCHROEDER¹ AND S. M. HOOKER²

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*Also at: Physics Department, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557, USA
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ARTICLE

Received 2 Dec 2012 | Accepted 8 May 2013 | Published 11 Jun 2013

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OPEN

Quasi-monoenergetic laser-plasma acceleration of electrons to 2 GeV

Xiaoming Wang¹, Rafal Zgadzaj¹, Neil Fazel¹, Zhengyan Li¹, S. A. Yi¹, Xi Zhang¹, Watson Henderson¹, Y.-Y. Chang¹, R. Korzekwa¹, H.-E. Tsai¹, C.-H. Pai¹, H. Quevedo¹, G. Dyer¹, E. Gaul¹, M. Martinez¹, A. C. Bernstein¹, T. Borger¹, M. Spinks¹, M. Donovan¹, V. Khudik¹, G. Shvets¹, T. Ditmire¹ & M. C. Downer¹



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PRL 113, 245002 (2014) Selected for a Viewpoint in Physics PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS week ending 12 DECEMBER 2014

Multi-GeV Electron Beams from Capillary-Discharge-Guided Subpetawatt Laser Pulses in the Self-Trapping Regime

W. P. Leemans,^{1,2,*} A. J. Gonsalves,¹ H.-S. Mao,¹ K. Nakamura,¹ C. Benedetti,¹ C. B. Schroeder,¹ Cs. Tóth,¹ J. Daniels,¹ D. E. Mittelberger,^{2,1} S. S. Bulanov,^{2,1} J.-L. Vay,¹ C. G. R. Geddes,¹ and E. Esarey¹

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²Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, USA

(Received 3 July 2014; revised manuscript received 11 September 2014; published 8 December 2014)

Multi-GeV electron beams with energy up to 4.2 GeV, 6% rms energy spread, 6 pC charge, and 0.3 mrad rms divergence have been produced from a 9-cm-long capillary discharge waveguide with a plasma density of $\approx 7 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ powered by laser pulses with peak power up to 0.3 PW. Preformed plasma waveguides



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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **122**, 084801 (2019)

Editors' Suggestion

Featured in Physics

Petawatt Laser Guiding and Electron Beam Acceleration to 8 GeV in a Laser-Heated Capillary Discharge Waveguide

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⁴National Research Nuclear University MEPhI (Moscow Engineering Physics Institute), Moscow 115409, Russia

⁵Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering, CTU in Prague, Brehova 7, Prague 1, Czech Republic

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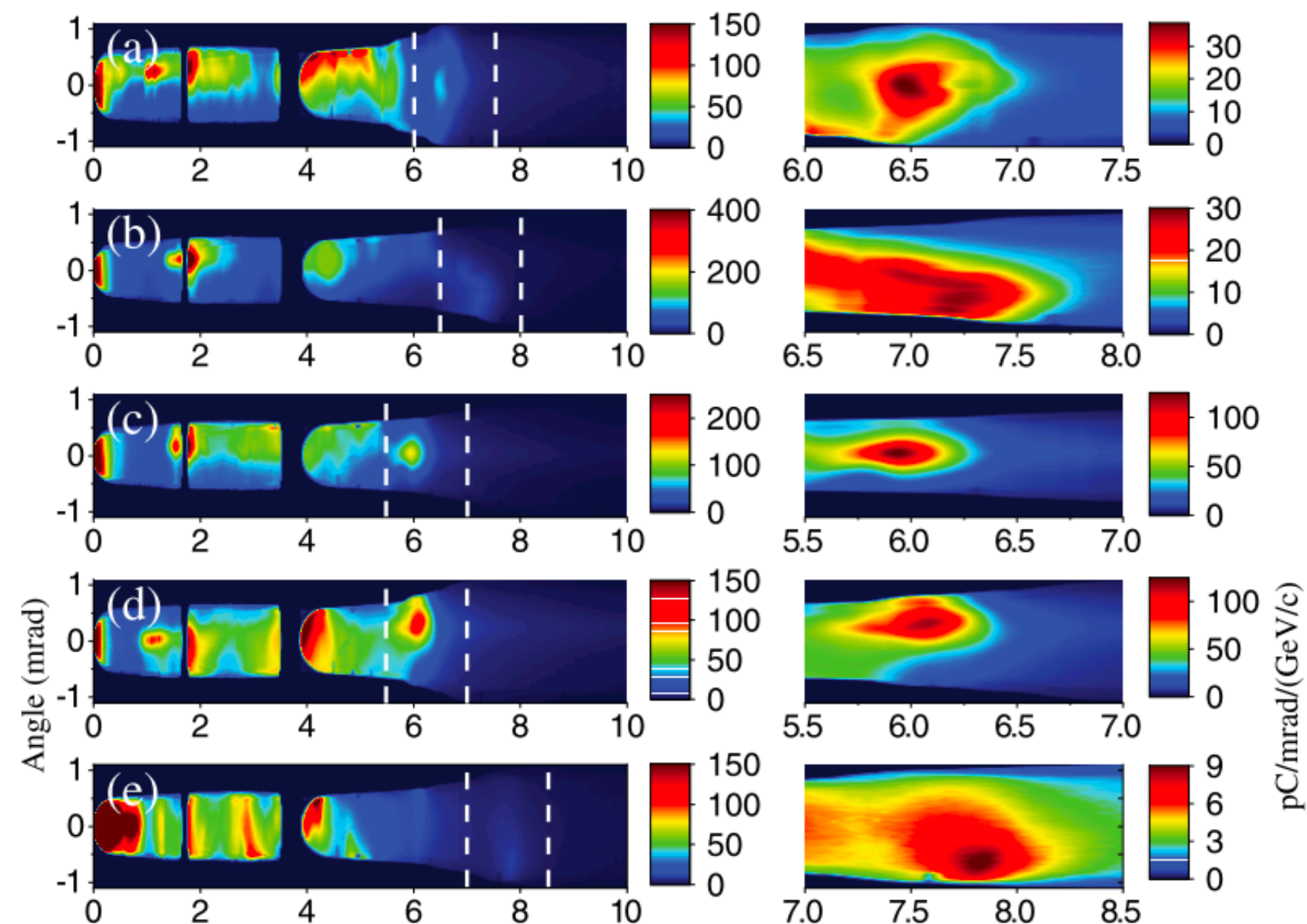
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Experiment



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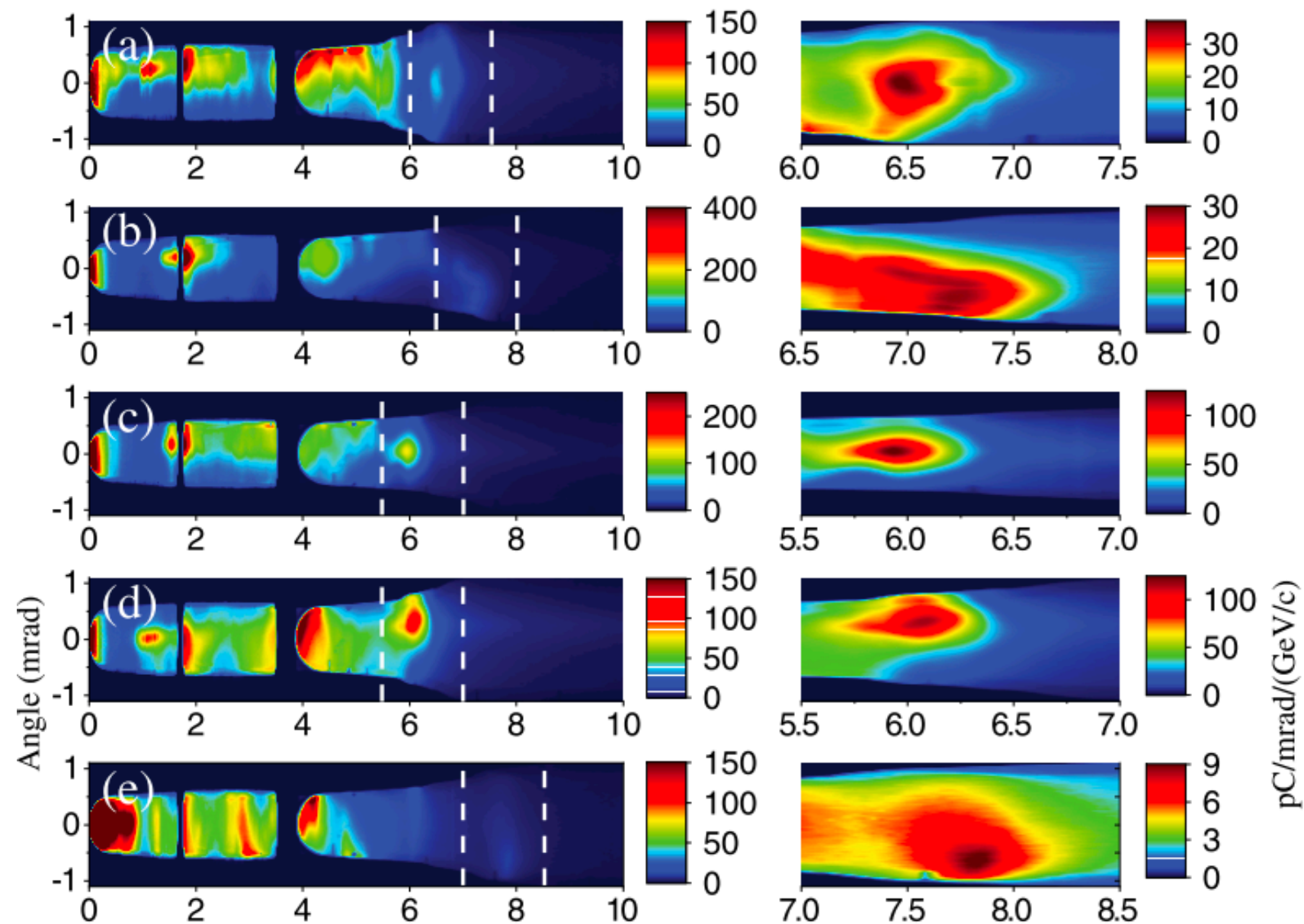
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⁴National Technical University of Athens, Athens 15701, Greece
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⁶Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Moscow State University, Moscow 119898, Russia

8 GeV, 0.2m: 40 GV/m!

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Vol 445 | 15 February 2007 | doi:10.1038/nature05538

nature

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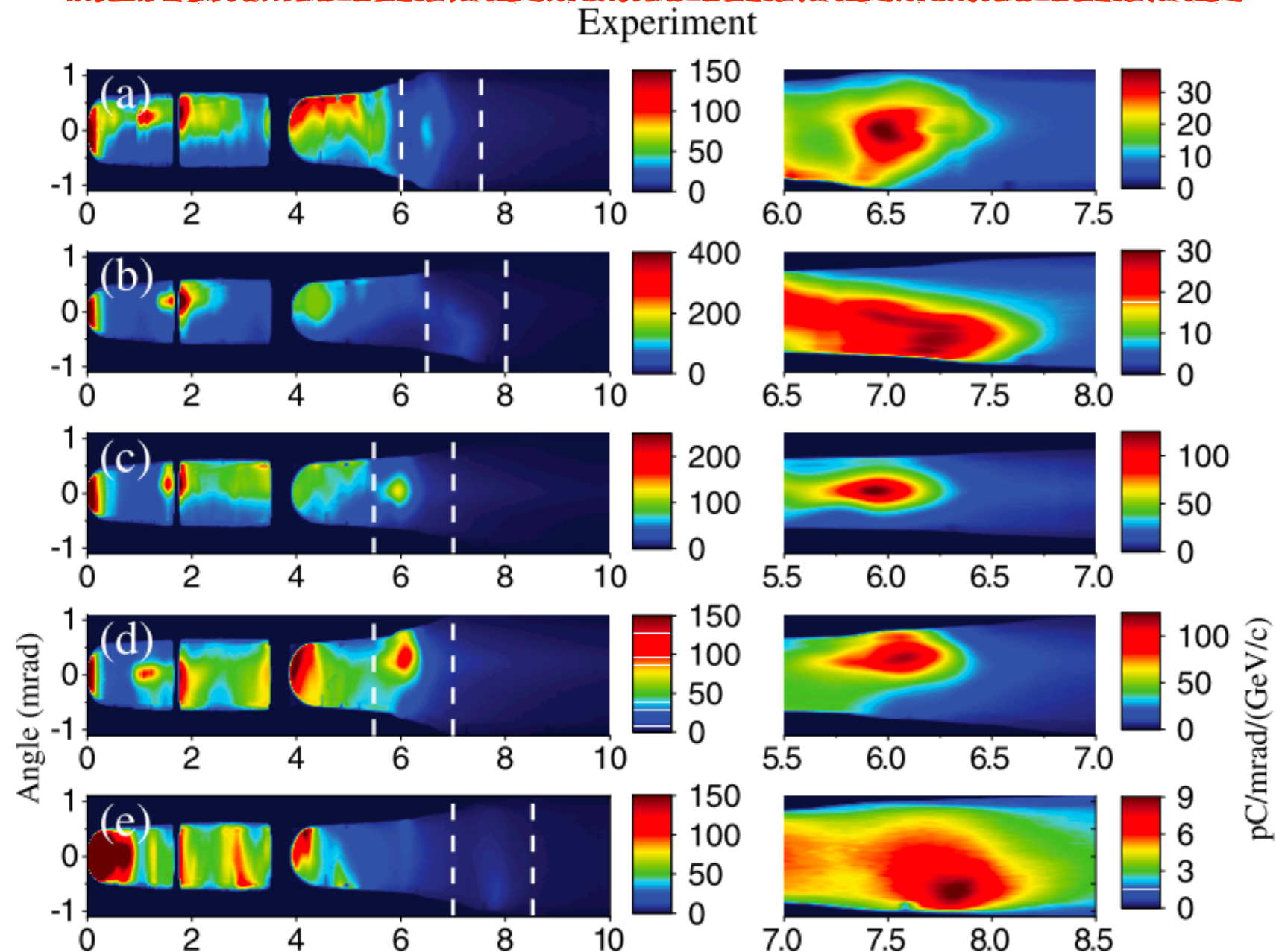
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⁴National Science Foundation, Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA
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Energy doubling of 42 GeV electrons in a metre-scale plasma wakefield accelerator

Ian Blumenfeld¹, Christopher E. Clayton², Franz-Josef Decker¹, Mark J. Hogan¹, Chengkun Huang², Rasmus Ischebeck¹, Richard Iverson¹, Chandrashekhhar Joshi², Thomas Katsouleas³, Neil Kirby¹, Wei Lu², Kenneth A. Marsh², Warren B. Mori², Patric Muggli³, Erdem Oz³, Robert H. Siemann¹, Dieter Walz¹ & Miaomiao Zhou²



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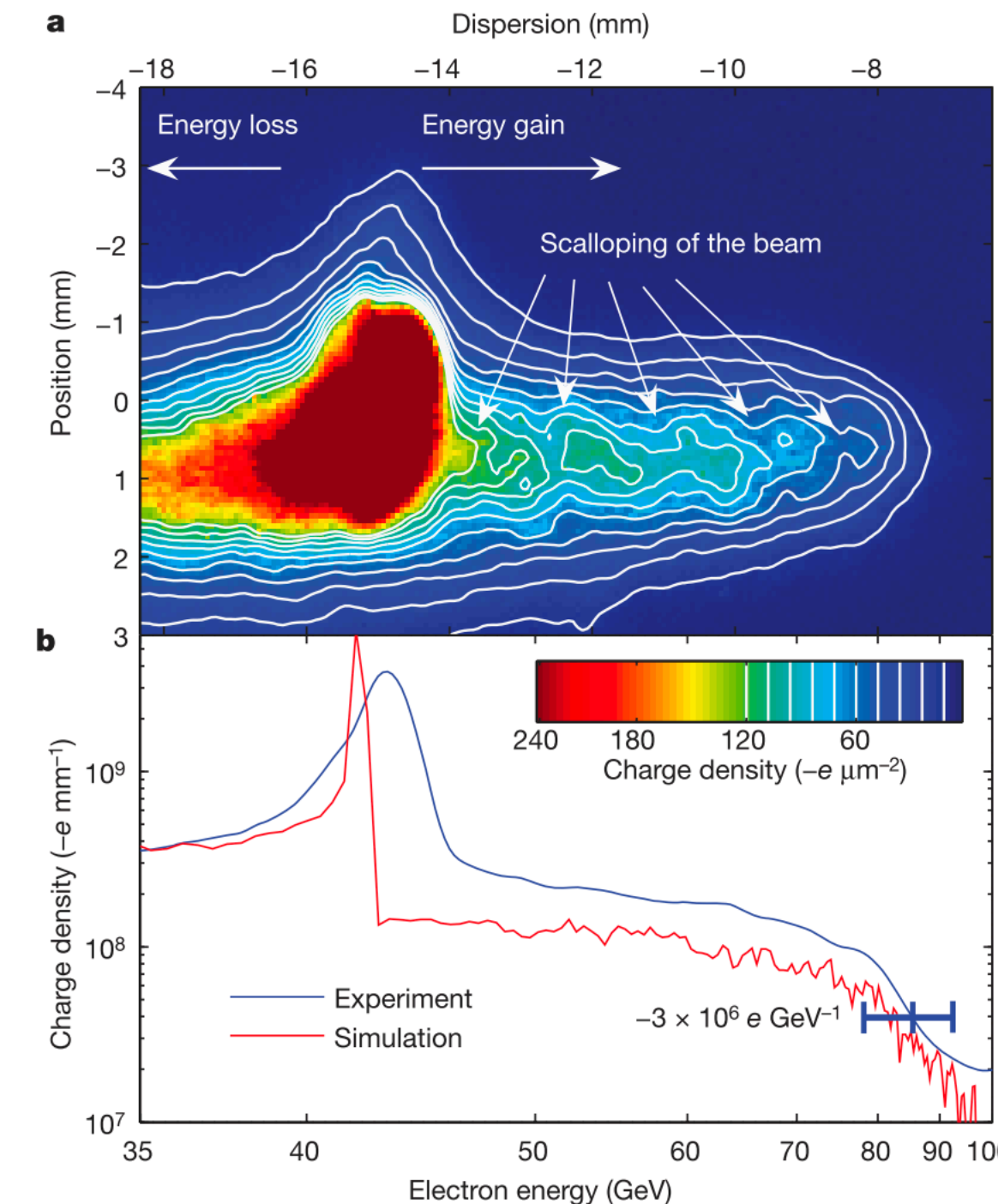
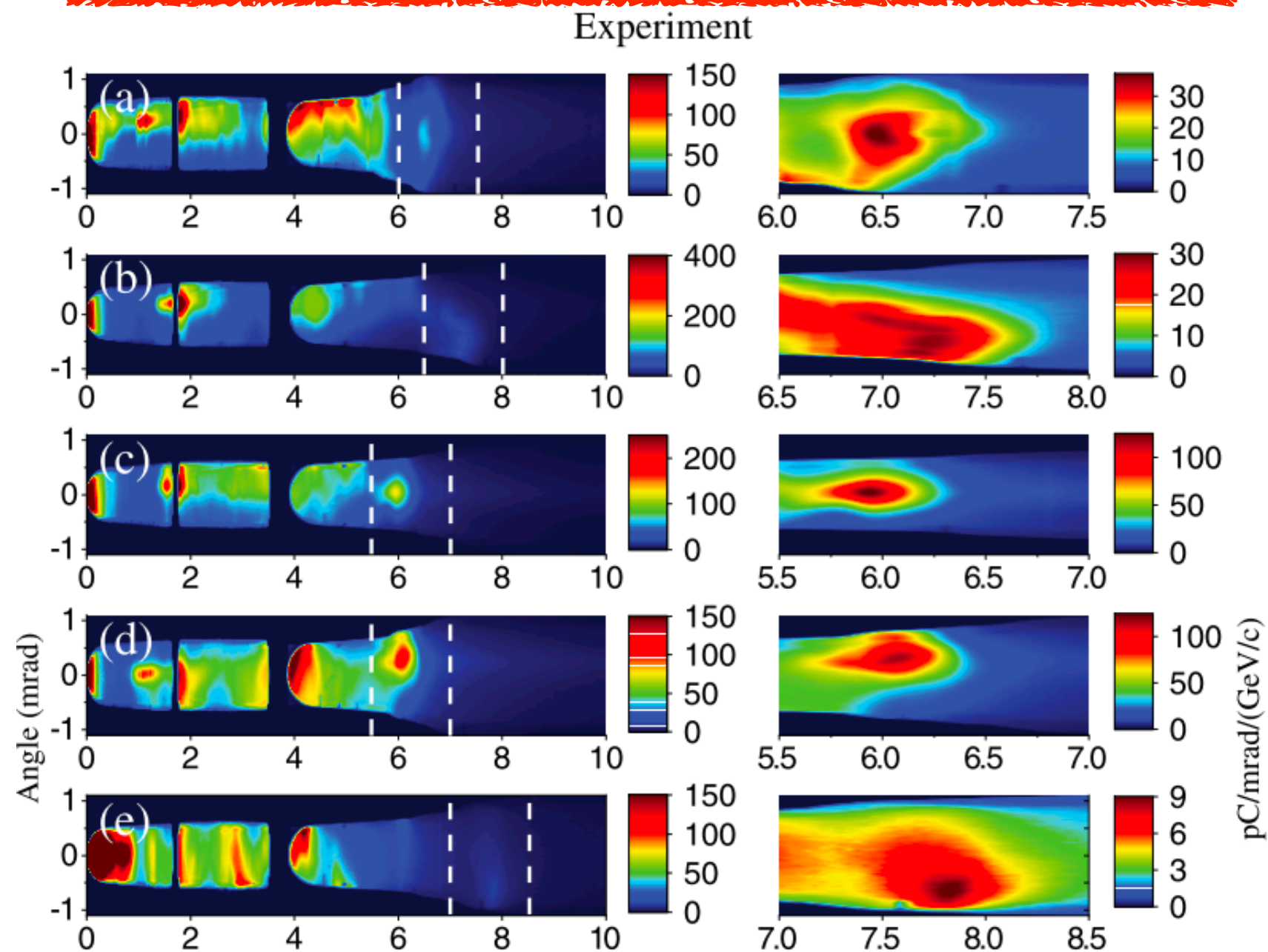
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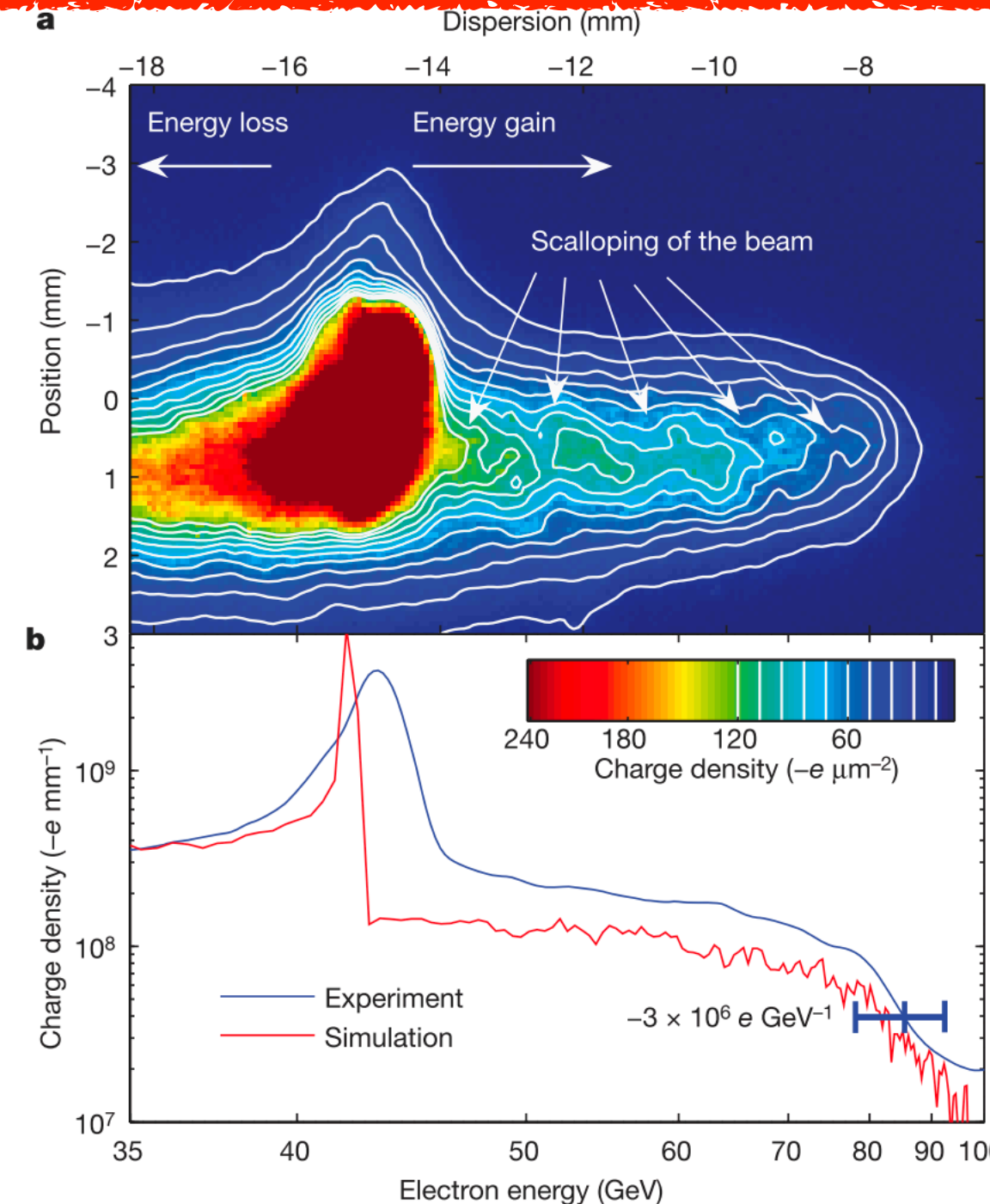
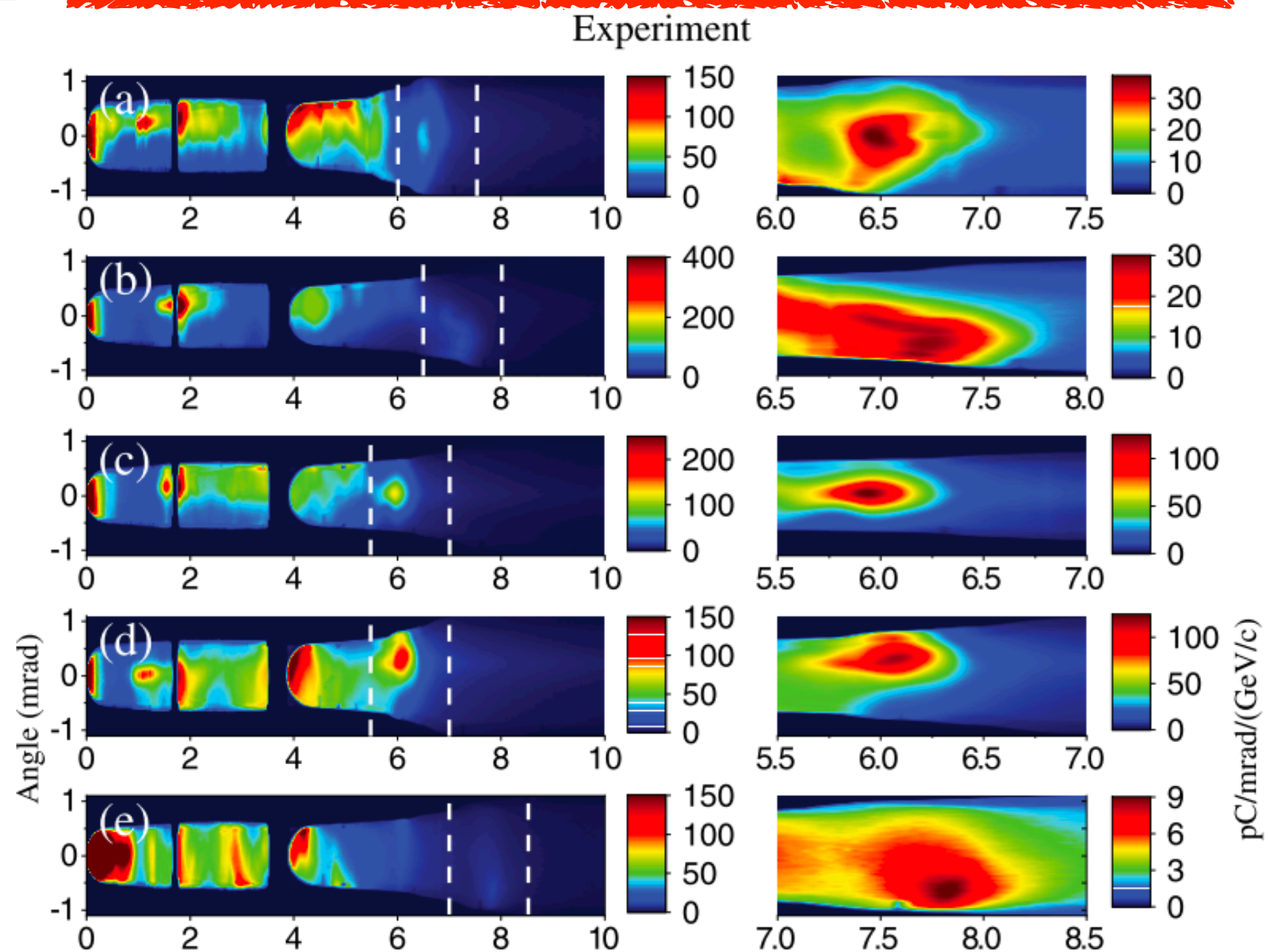
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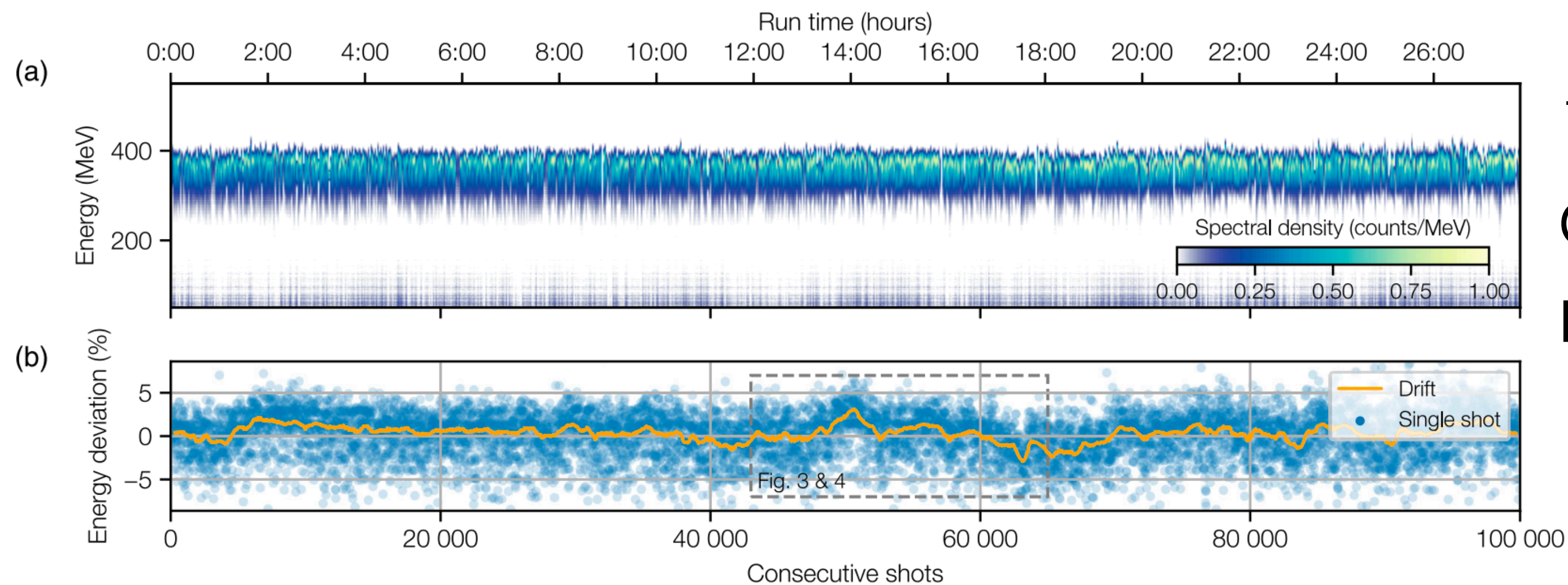
Ian Blum,¹ Rasmus Jensen,¹ Kenneth C. Marano,¹ & Miaomiao Zhou¹

44 GeV, 0.85m: 52 GV/m!



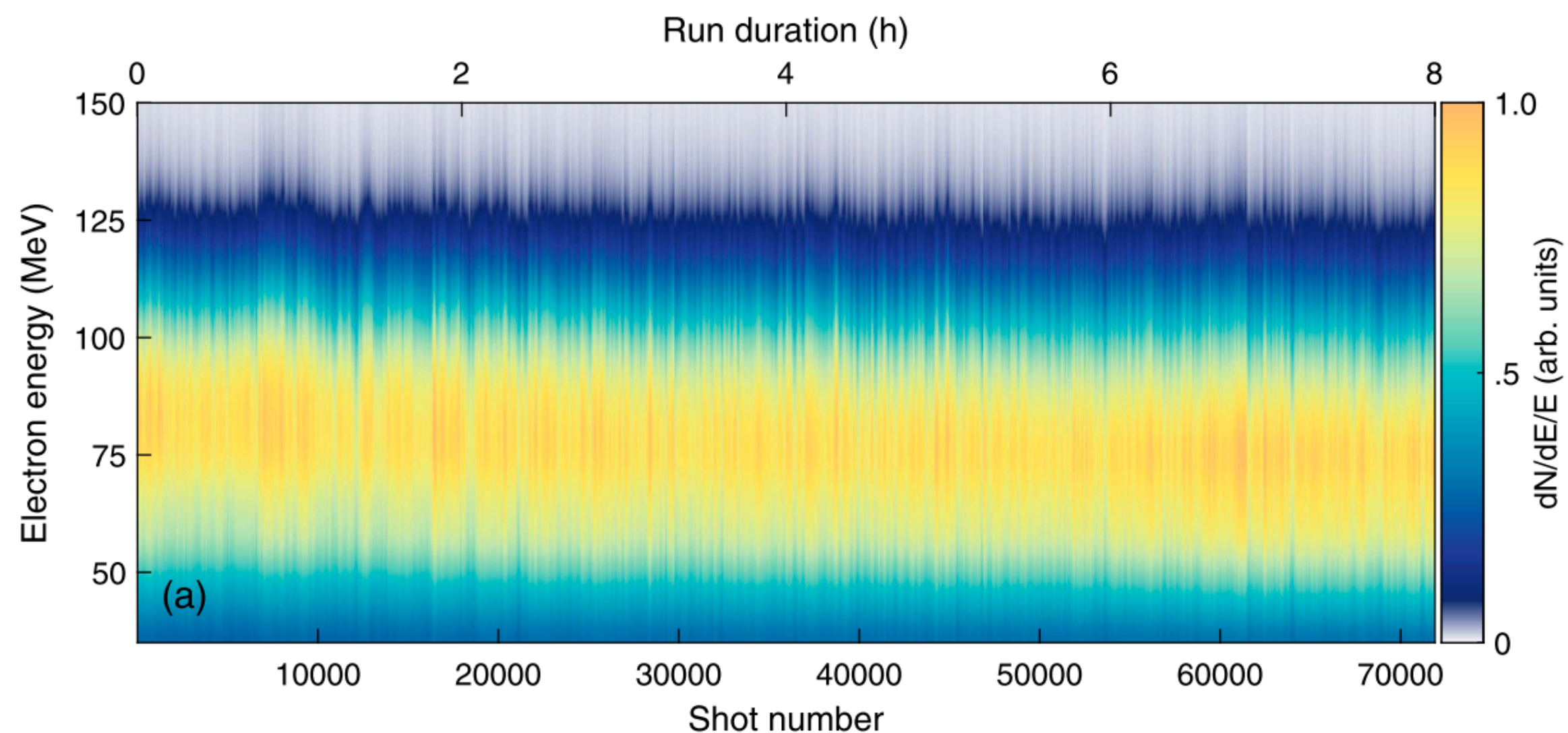
LPAs are moving towards mainstream acceptance

Demonstration of reliability, fine-control and beam quality pave way for wide-spread adoption



100-TW LPA
operated 28h in a
row!

12-TW LPA
operated 8h in a
row!

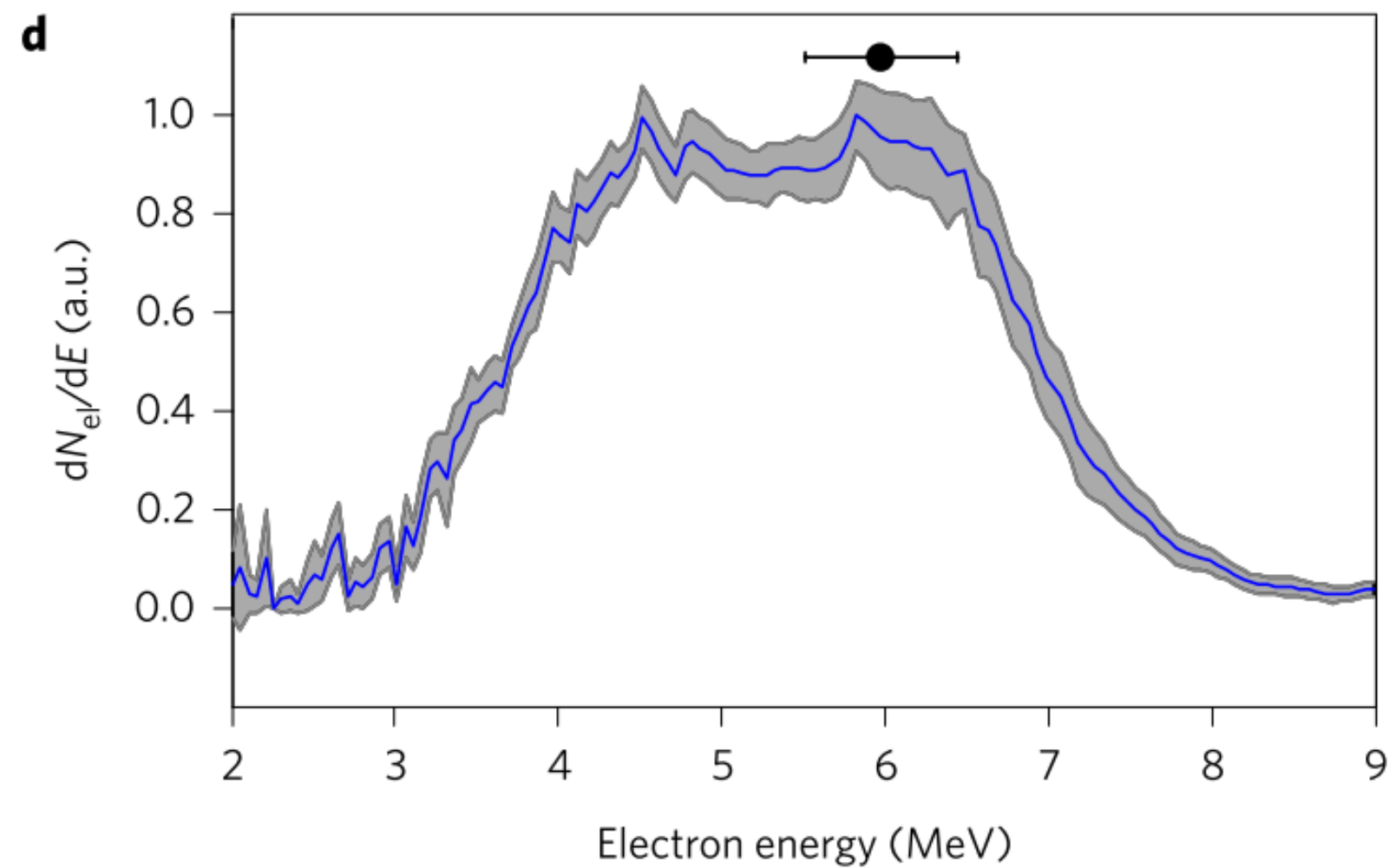


⁽²¹⁾ Maier et al, Phys Rev X **10**, 031039 (2020)

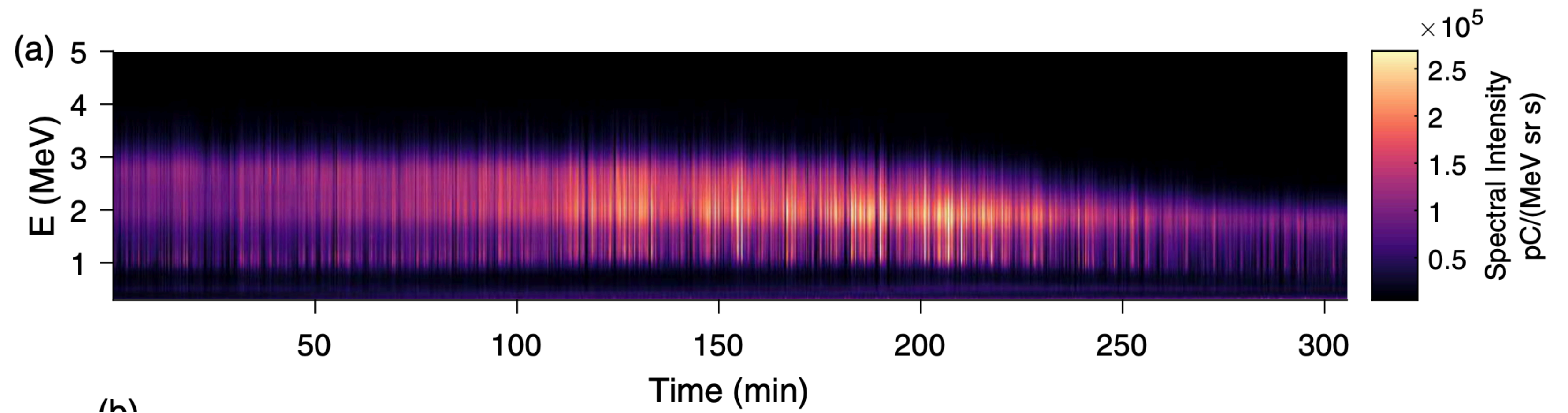
⁽²²⁾ Bohlen et al, Phys Rev AB **25**, 031301 (2022)

LPAs have demonstrated key milestones

Demonstration of reliability, fine-control and beam quality pave way for wide-spread acceptance



Single-cycle, mJ system
delivers kHz electrons



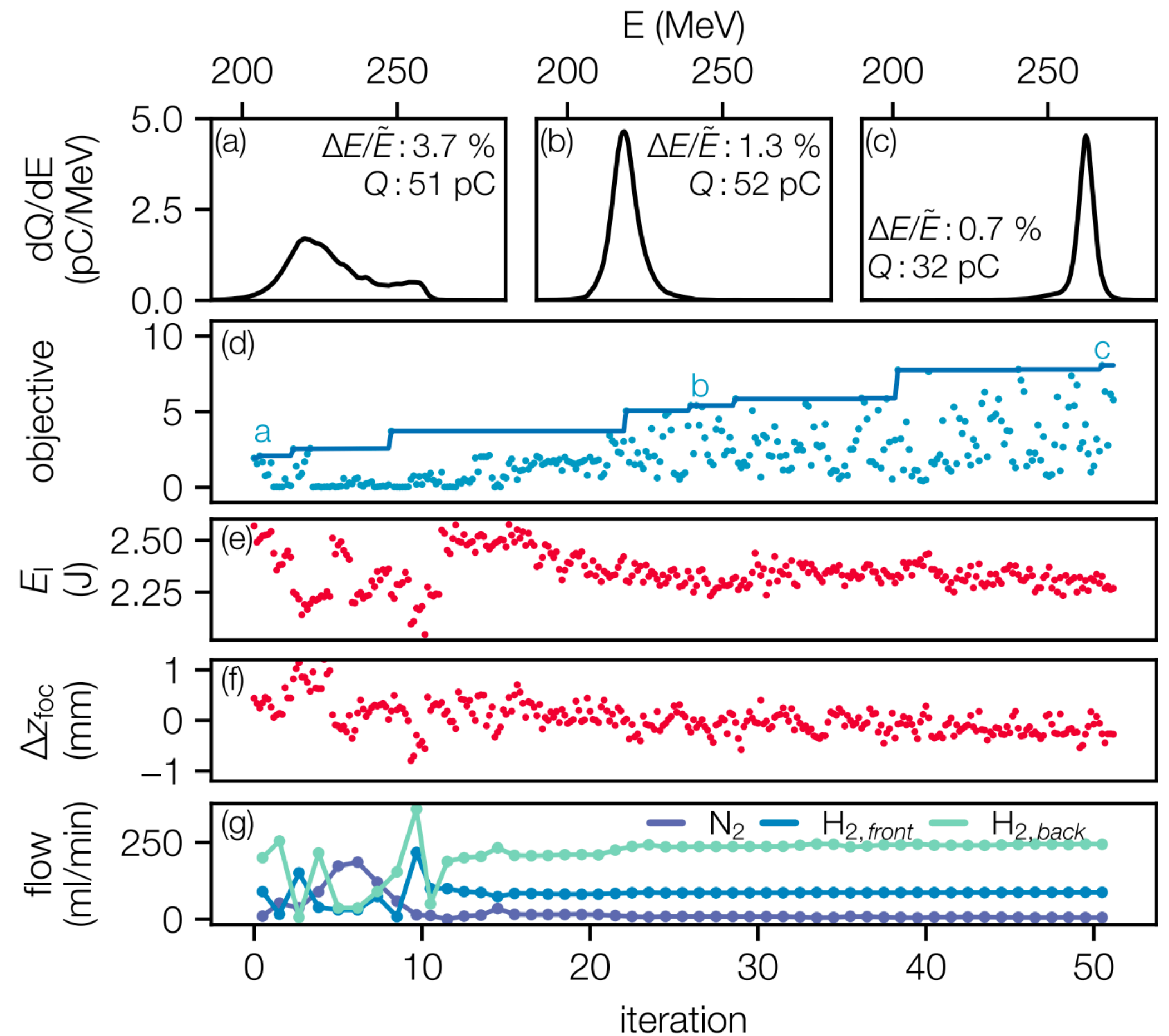
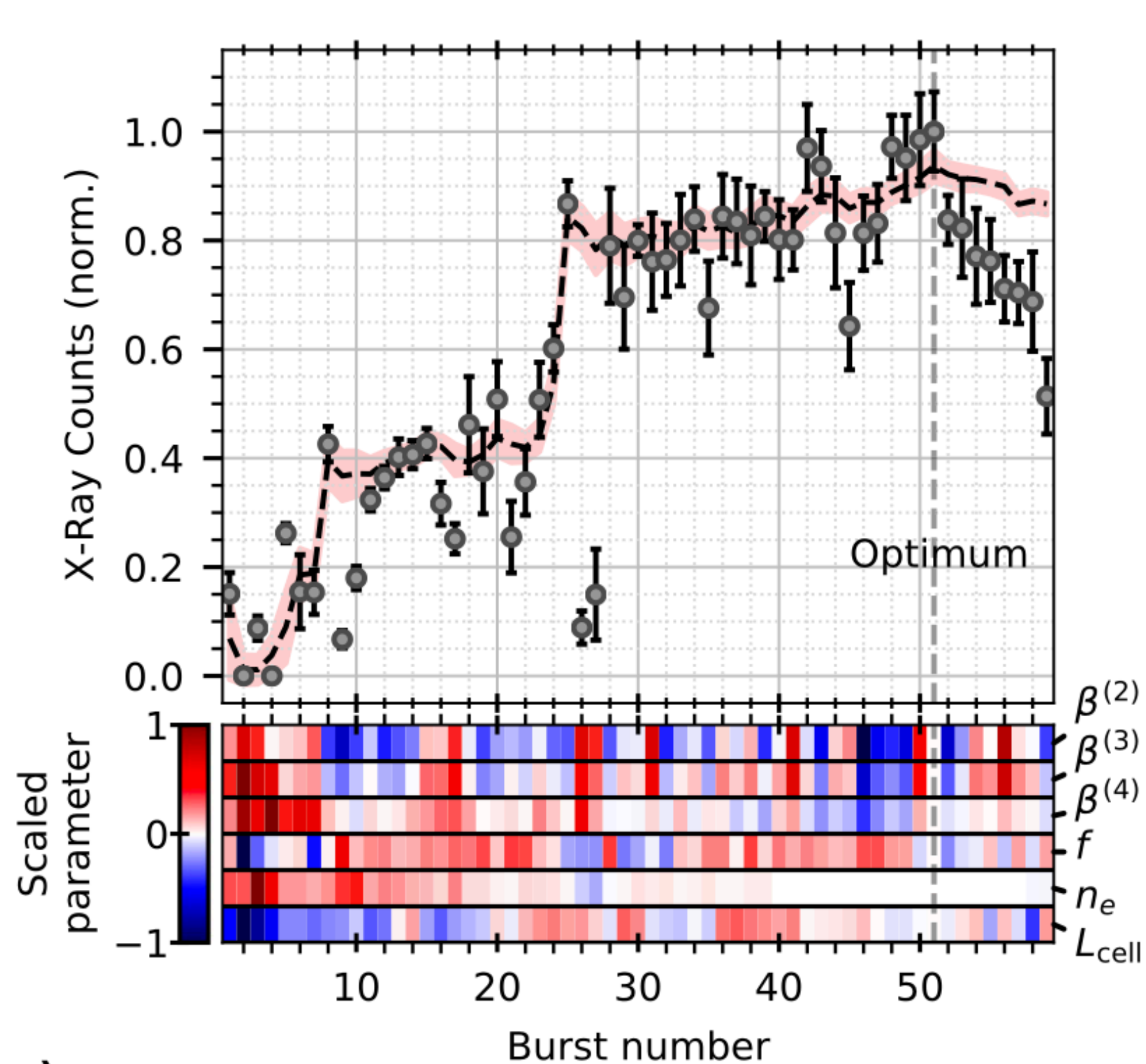
⁽²³⁾ Guenot et al, Nat Phot **11**, 293 (2017)

⁽²⁴⁾ Rovige et al, Phys Rev AB **23**, 093401 (2020)

LPAs have demonstrated key milestones

Demonstration of reliability, fine-control and beam quality pave way for wide-spread acceptance

Machine-learning-driven optimisation of LPAs



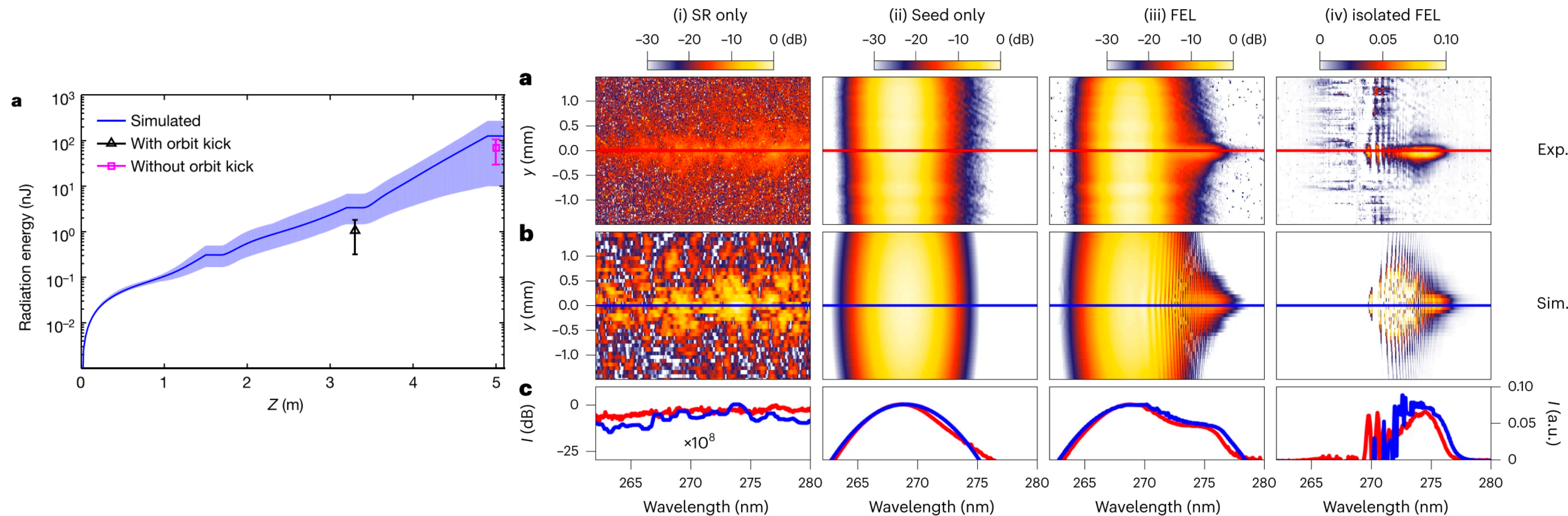
a)

(25) Shaloo et al, Nat Comm **11**, 6355 (2020)
(26) Jalas et al, Phys Rev Lett **126**, 104801 (2021)

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FEL lasing achieved with an LPA driver



⁽²⁷⁾ Wang et al, Nature **595**, 516-520 (2021)

⁽²⁸⁾ Labat et al, Nat Phot. **17**, 150 (2022)

State-of-the-art LPAs

Depending on driver laser, very different beam parameters can be generated

State-of-the-art LPAs

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 - > Small laser can fire more often!

State-of-the-art LPAs

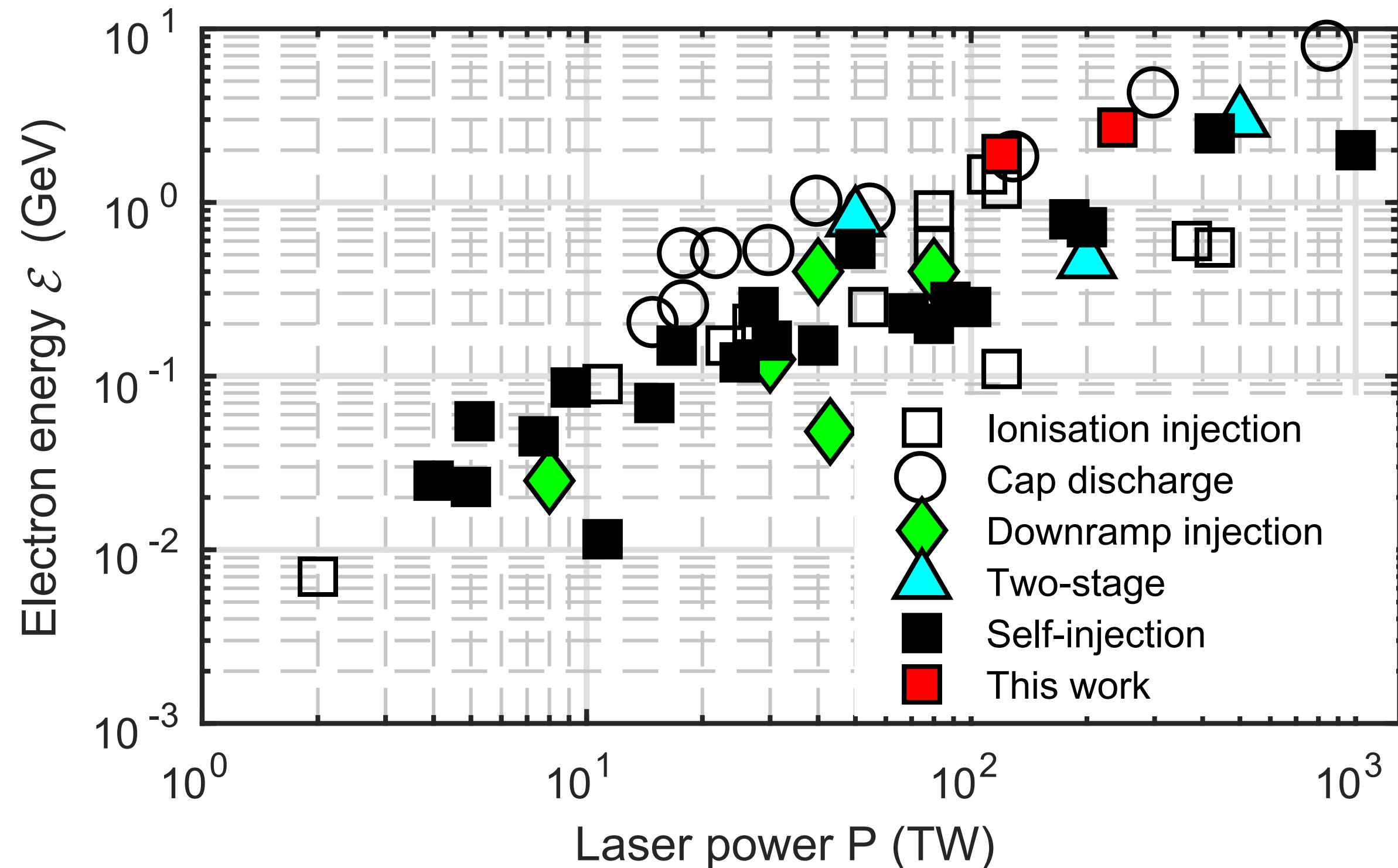
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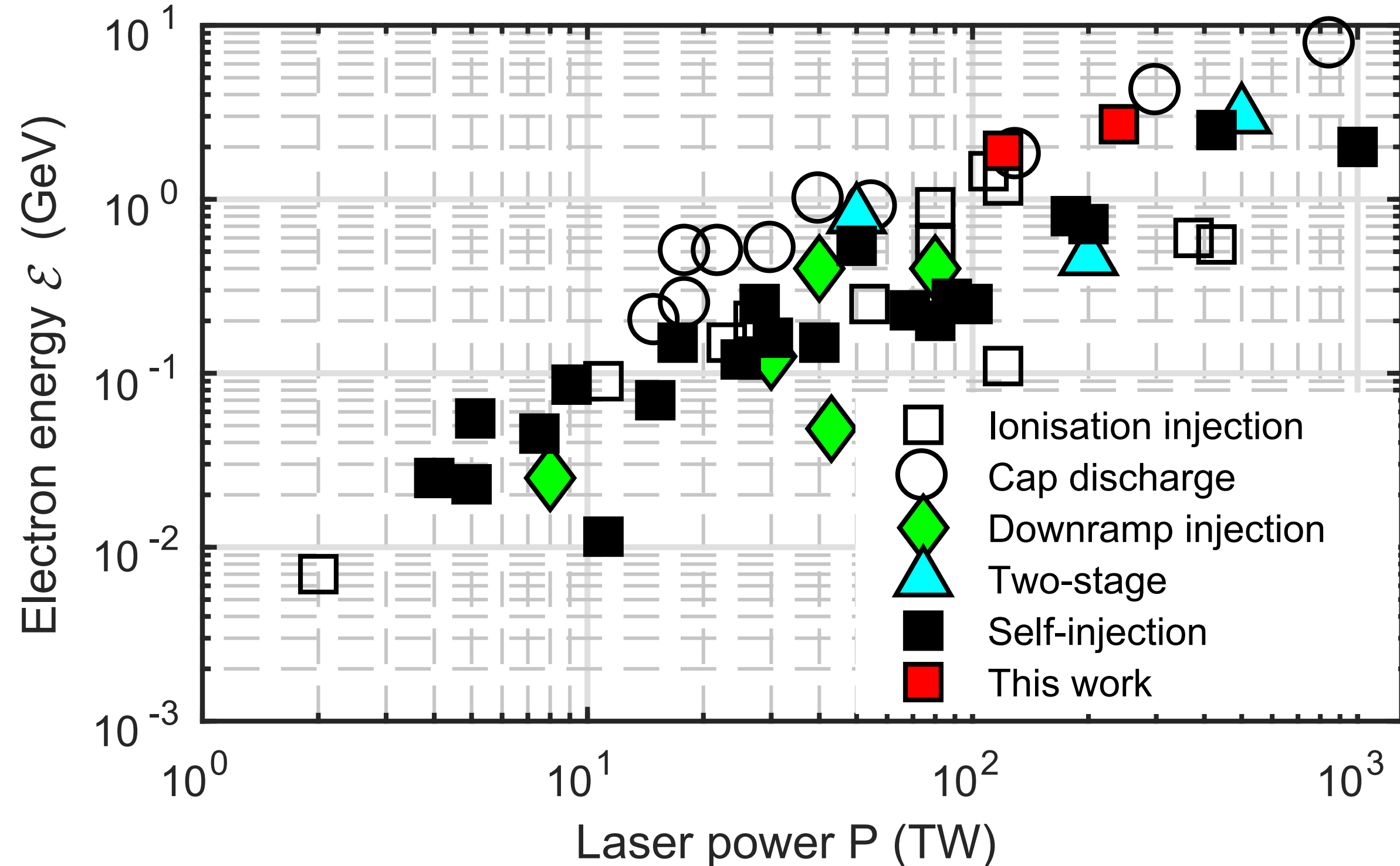
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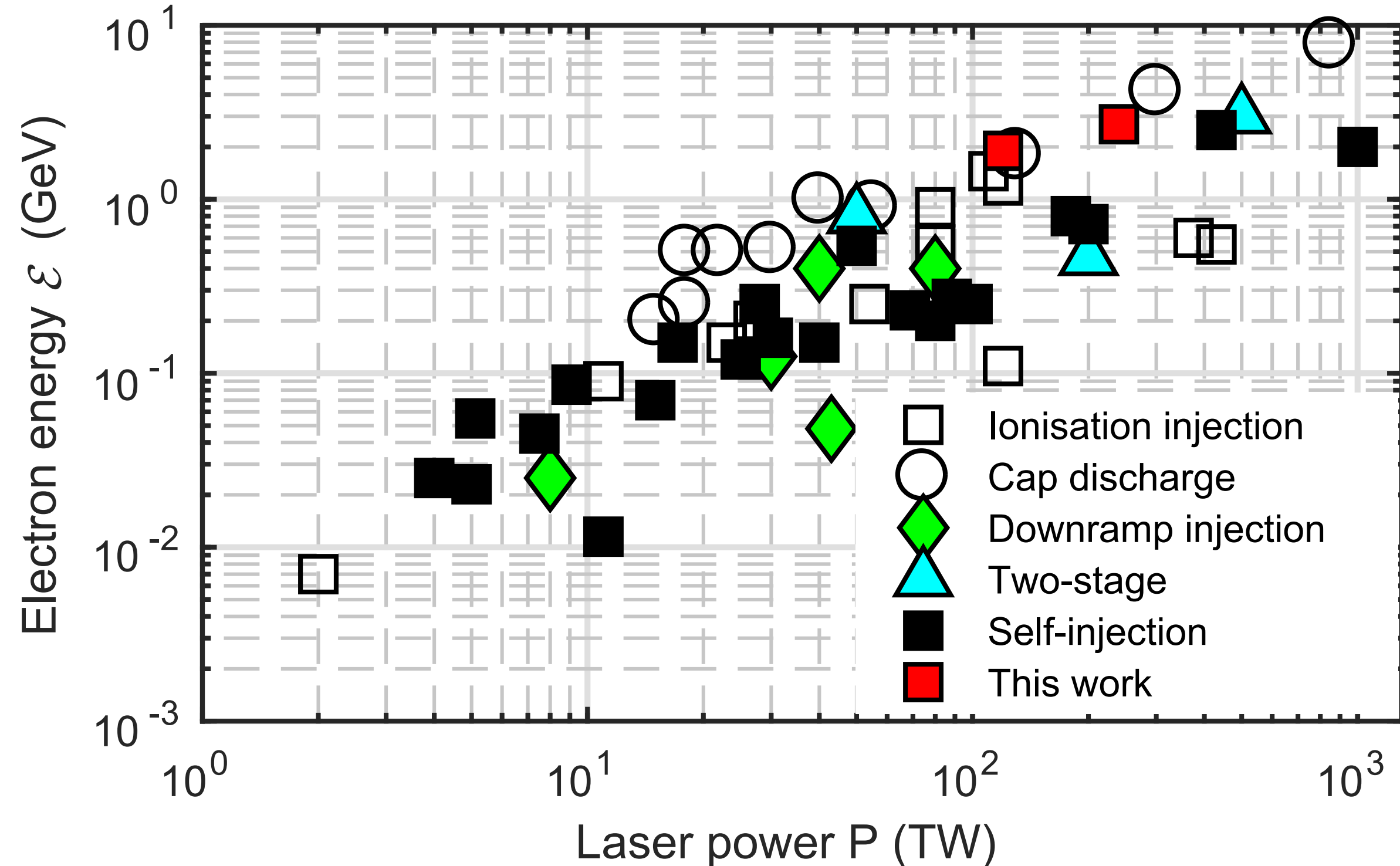
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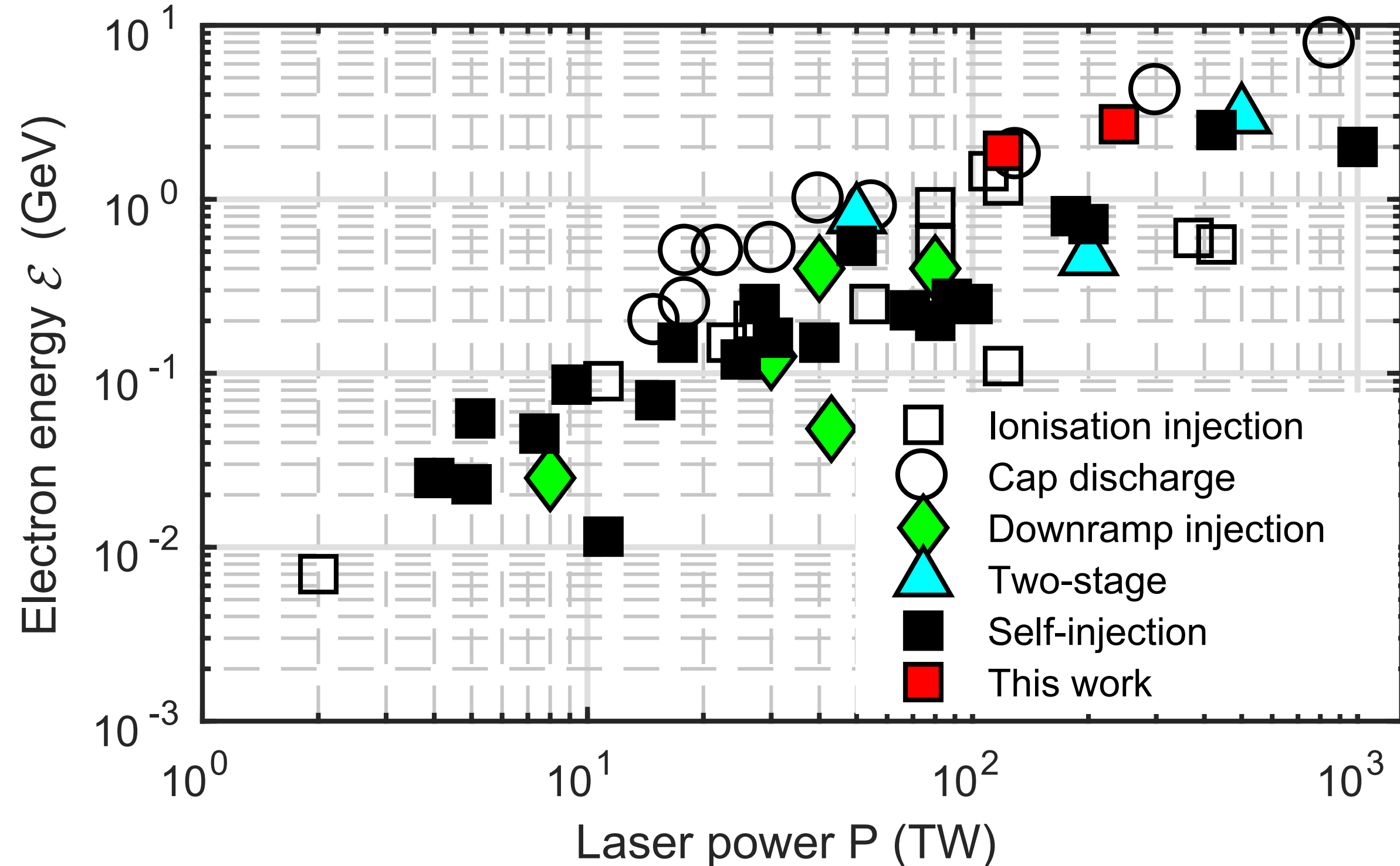
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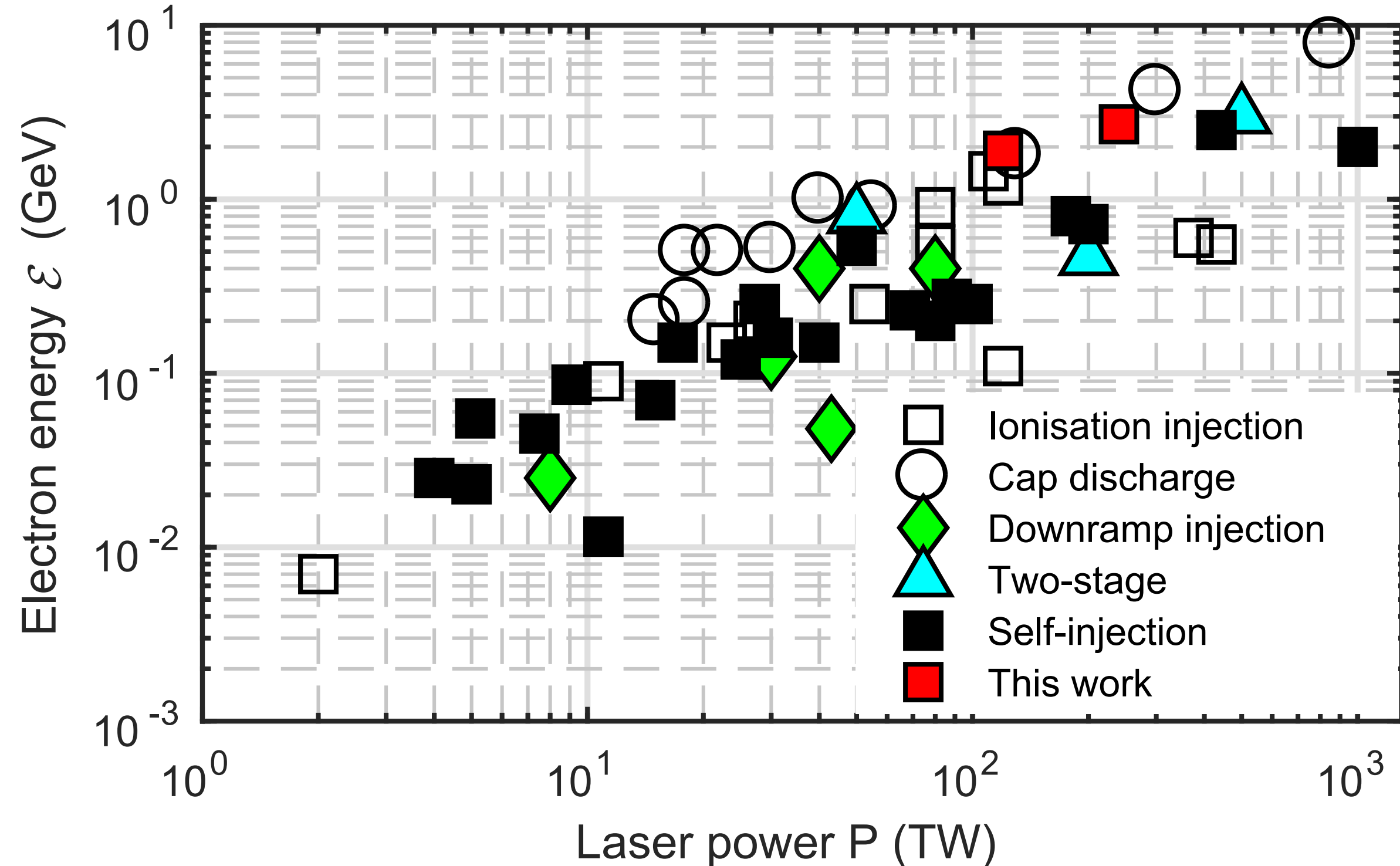
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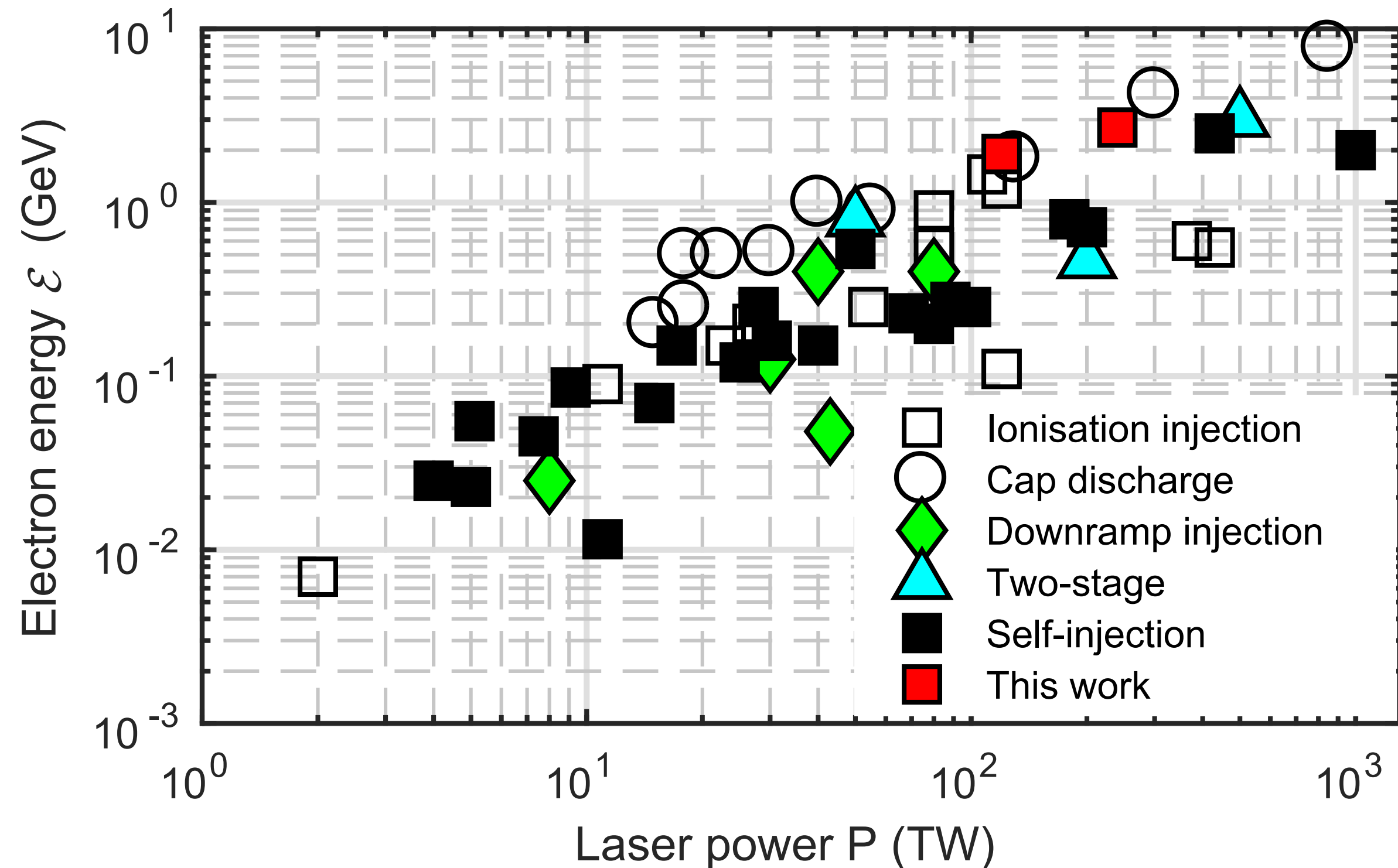
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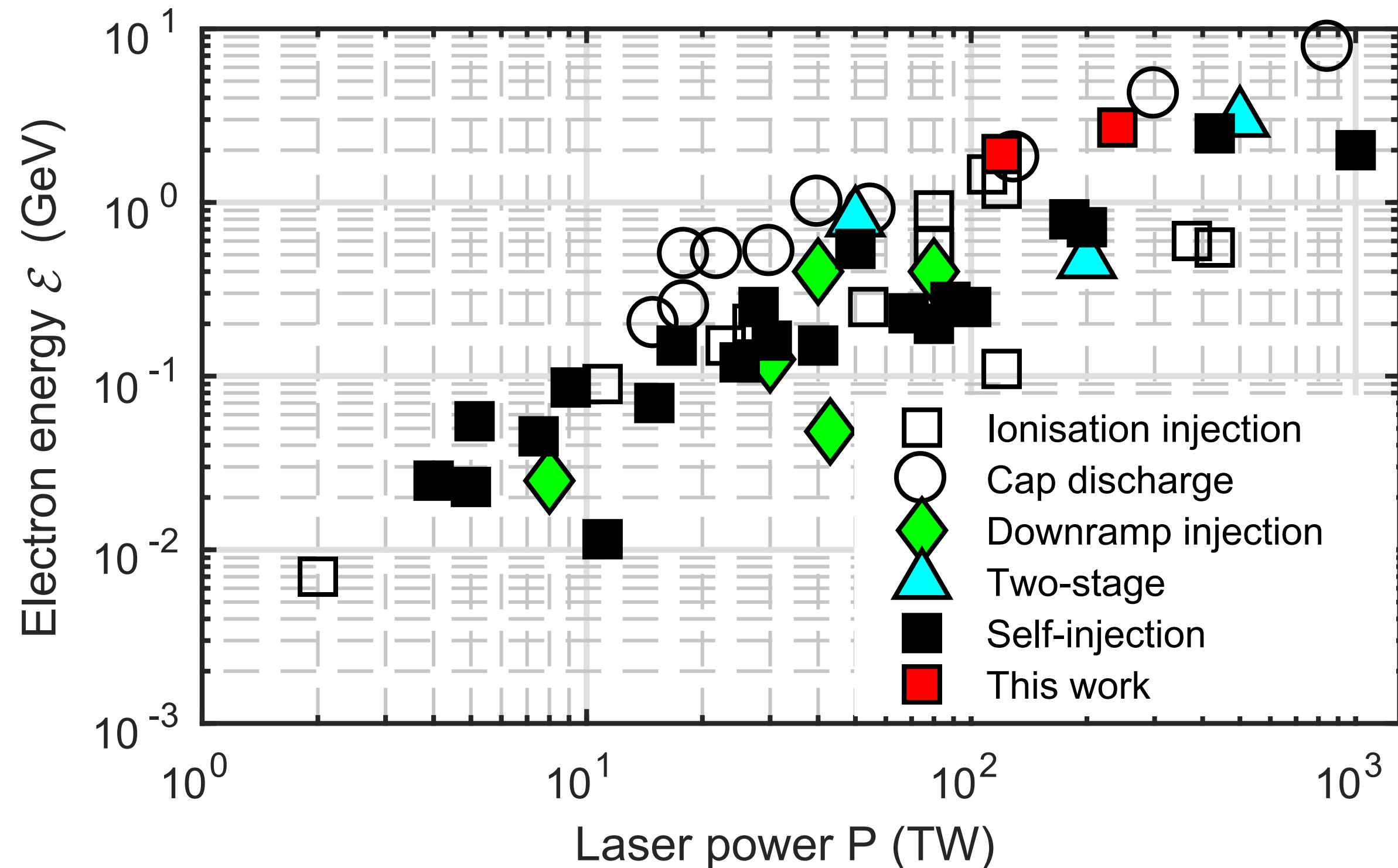
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- > Stability: down to a few percent
- > Efficiency: up to 30% laser-to-electrons



Plasma acceleration is a core priority at DESY

Research focus on high average power and development of practical applications

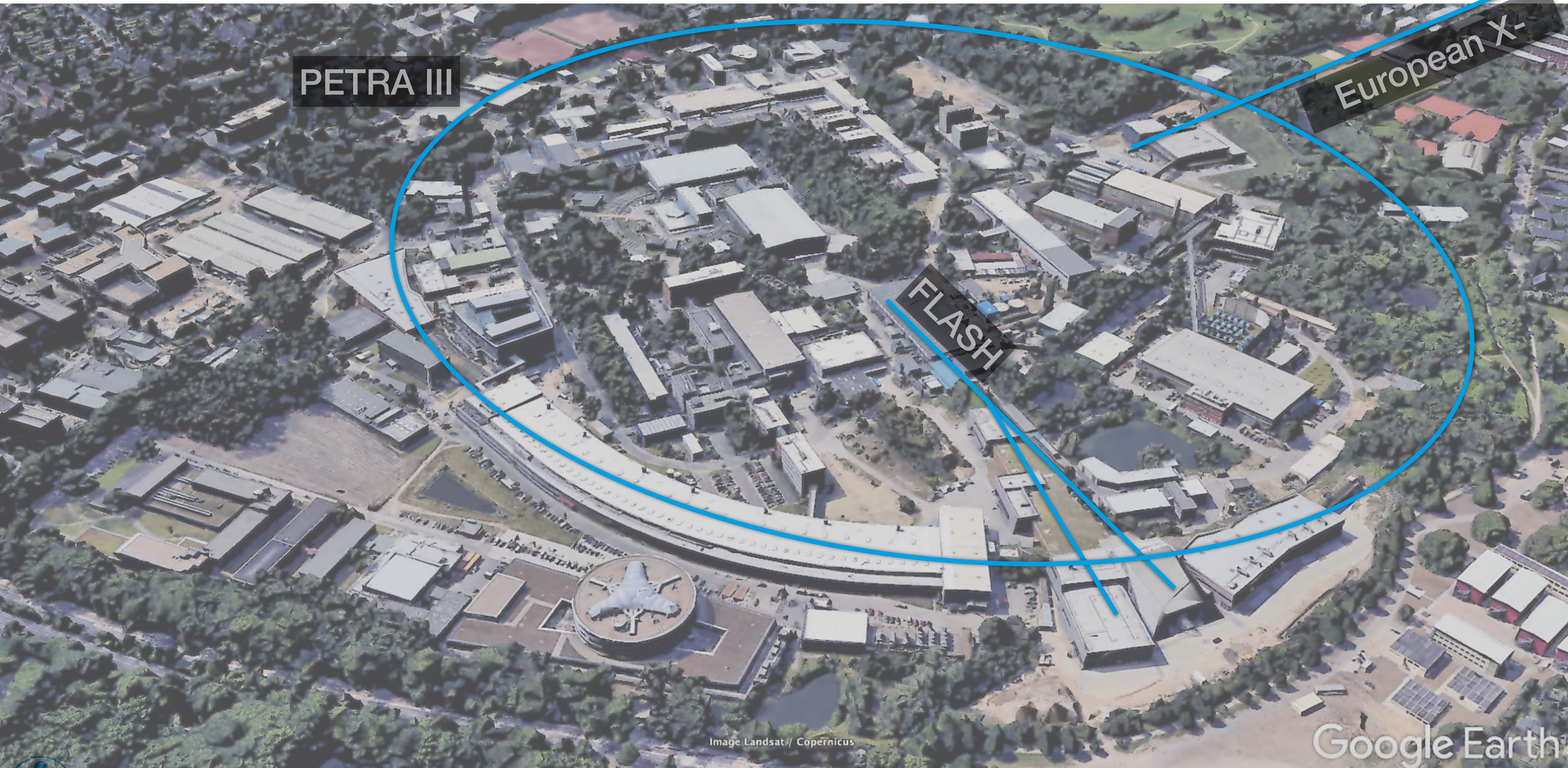


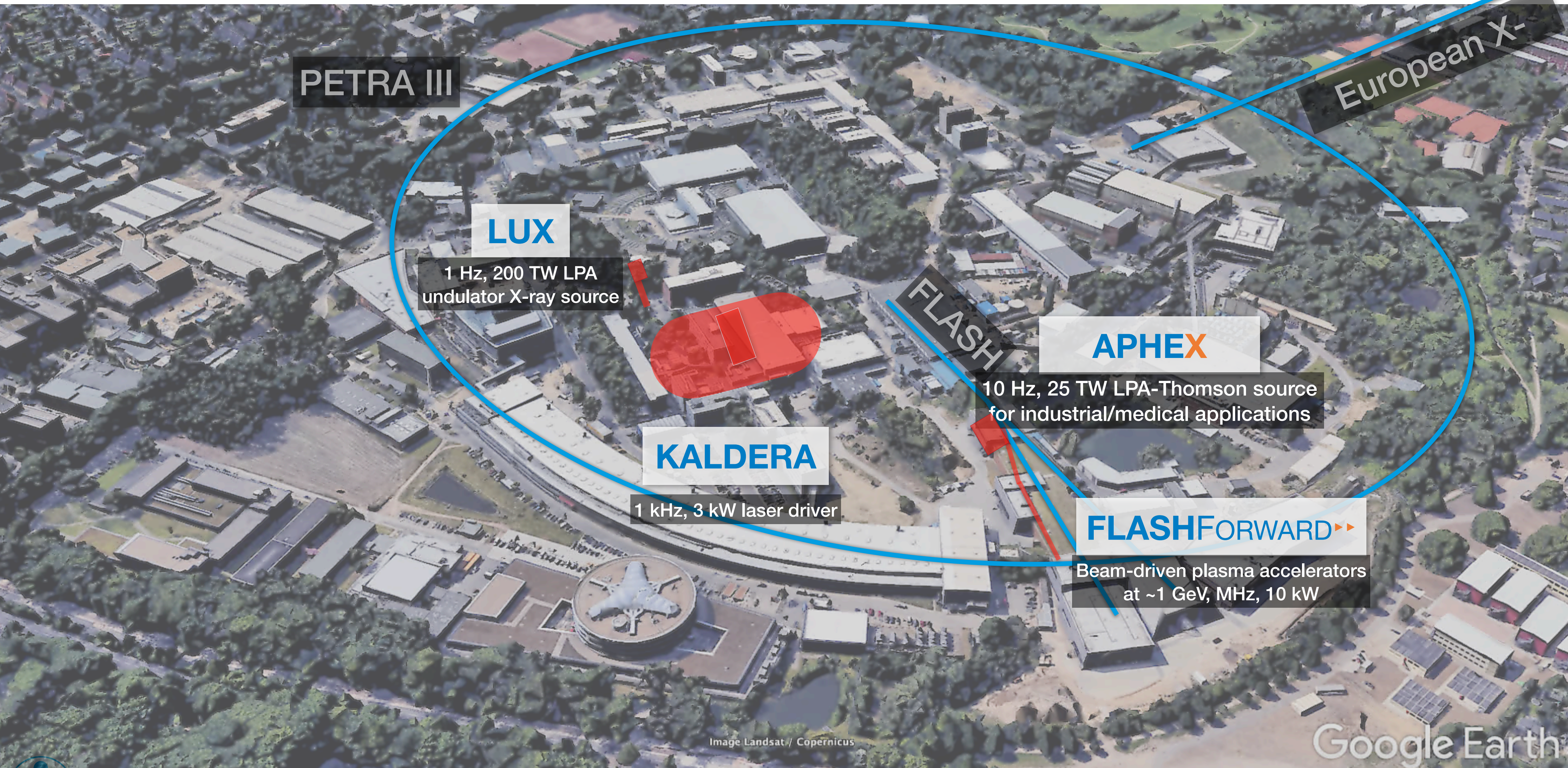
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth



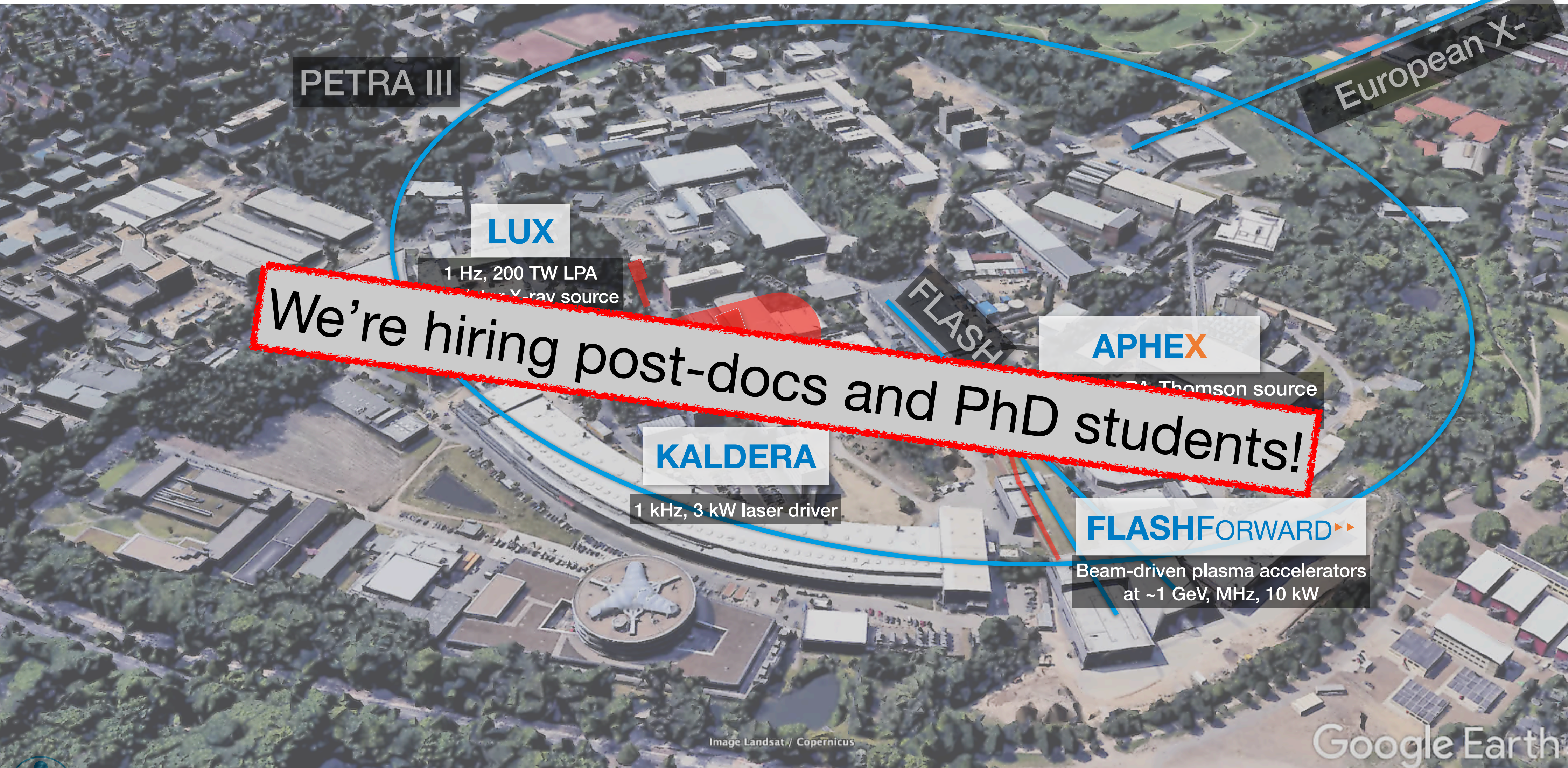
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Plasma acceleration is a core priority at DESY

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We're hiring post-docs and PhD students!

PETRA III

LUX

1 Hz, 200 TW LPA
X-ray source

FLASH

APHEX

Thomson source

KALDERA

1 kHz, 3 kW laser driver

FLASHFORWARD

Beam-driven plasma accelerators
at ~1 GeV, MHz, 10 kW

European X-

Image Landsat / Copernicus

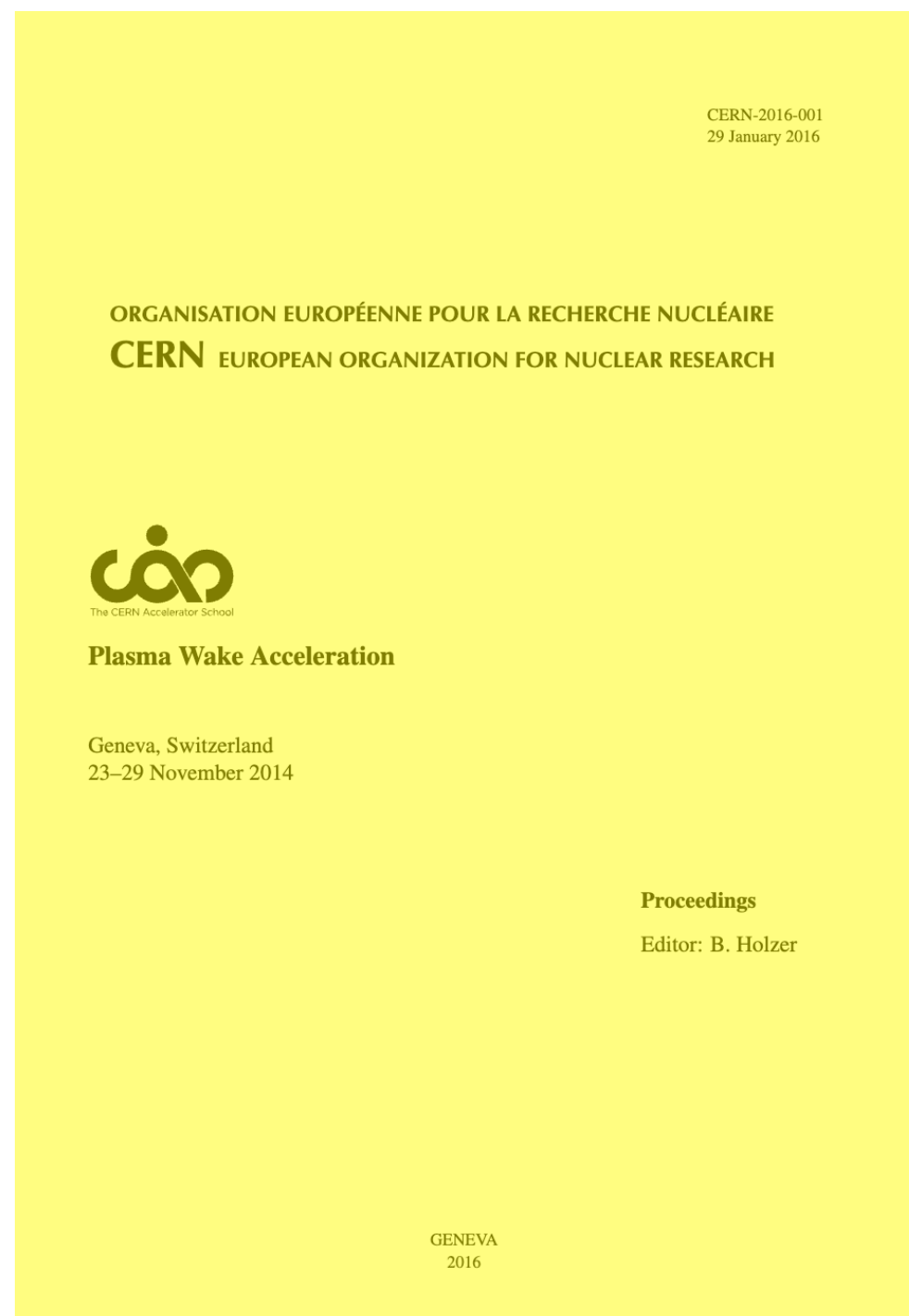
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Towards summary: places for further reading

The preceding slides have only served to ‘whet your appetite’: the main meals are below!

<https://doi.org/10.5170/CERN-2016-001>



<https://doi.org/10.1103/RevModPhys.81.1229>

REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 81, JULY–SEPTEMBER 2009

Physics of laser-driven plasma-based electron accelerators

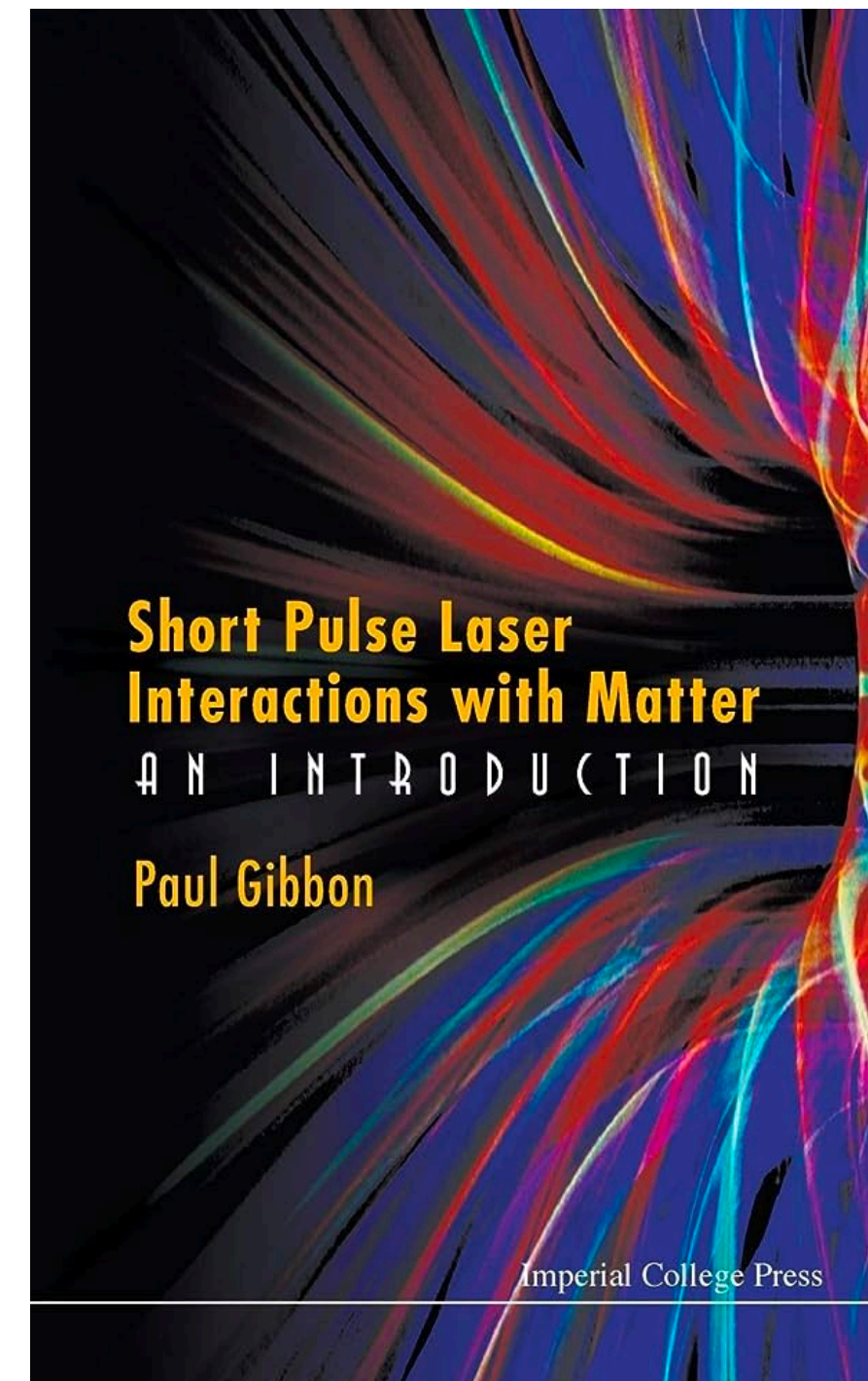
E. Esarey, C. B. Schroeder, and W. P. Leemans
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, USA
(Published 27 August 2009)

Laser-driven plasma-based accelerators, which are capable of supporting fields in excess of 100 GV/m, are reviewed. This includes the laser wakefield accelerator, the plasma beat wave accelerator, the self-modulated laser wakefield accelerator, plasma waves driven by multiple laser pulses, and highly nonlinear regimes. The properties of linear and nonlinear plasma waves are discussed, as well as electron acceleration in plasma waves. Methods for injecting and trapping plasma electrons in plasma waves are also discussed. Limits to the electron energy gain are summarized, including laser pulse diffraction, electron dephasing, laser pulse energy depletion, and beam loading limitations. The basic physics of laser pulse evolution in underdense plasmas is also reviewed. This includes the propagation, self-focusing, and guiding of laser pulses in uniform plasmas and with preformed density channels. Instabilities relevant to intense short-pulse laser-plasma interactions, such as Raman, self-modulation, and hose instabilities, are discussed. Experiments demonstrating key physics, such as the production of high-quality electron bunches at energies of 0.1–1 GeV, are summarized.

DOI: 10.1103/RevModPhys.81.1229 PACS number(s): 52.38.Kd, 41.75.Lx, 52.40.Mj

CONTENTS			
I. Introduction	1229	1. Raman backward scattering	1269
A. Acceleration in plasma	1230	2. Raman forward scattering	1269
B. Acceleration in vacuum and gases	1231	B. Self-modulation and laser-hose instabilities	1270
II. Plasma Waves and Acceleration	1232	VII. High-Quality Bunch Production	1273
A. Ponderomotive force	1233	A. High-quality bunches at the 100 MeV level	1274
B. Linear plasma waves	1233	B. High-quality bunches at the 1 GeV level	1275
C. Nonlinear plasma waves	1234	C. High-quality bunches from colliding pulse injection	1276
D. Wave breaking	1234	D. High-quality bunches from density transitions	1277
E. Electron acceleration and dephasing	1237	VIII. Conclusions	1277
F. Plasma wave phase velocity	1238	Acknowledgments	1280
G. Photon acceleration	1239	References	1280
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B. Plasma beat wave accelerator	1243		
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D. Self-modulated laser wakefield accelerator	1248		
E. Blow-out regime	1251		
F. Other laser wakefield acceleration regimes	1252		
G. Acceleration limits and scaling laws	1253		
H. Beam loading	1255		
IV. Electron Trapping and Injection	1256		
A. Trapping and dark current	1256		
B. Trapping in the self-modulated LWFA	1257		
C. Optical injection techniques	1257		
1. Ponderomotive injection	1257		
2. Colliding pulse injection	1260		
D. Density transitions	1261		
V. Pulse Propagation and Guiding	1262		
A. Optical guiding in plasmas	1263		
B. Relativistic optical guiding	1264		
C. Preformed plasma density channels	1267		
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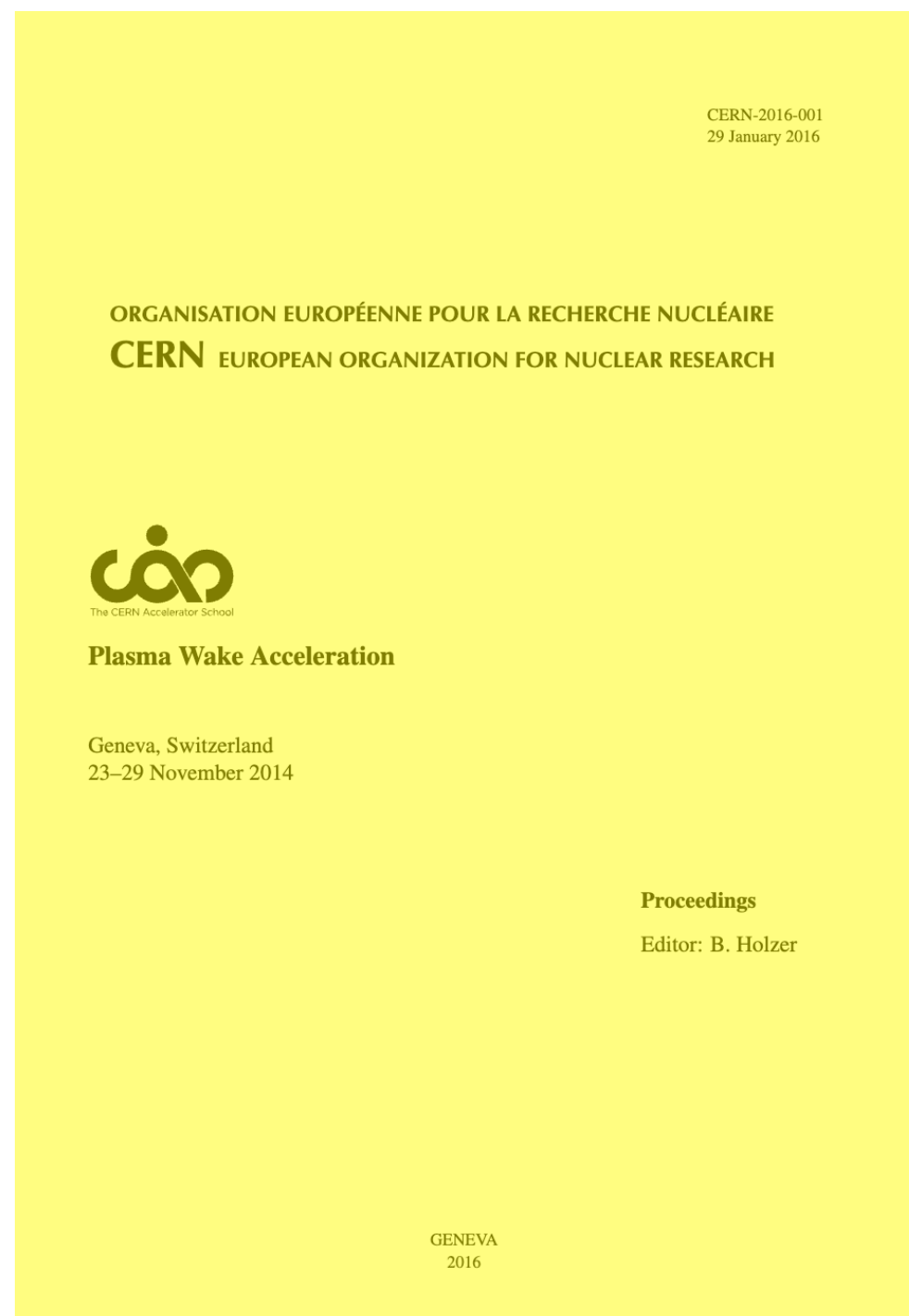
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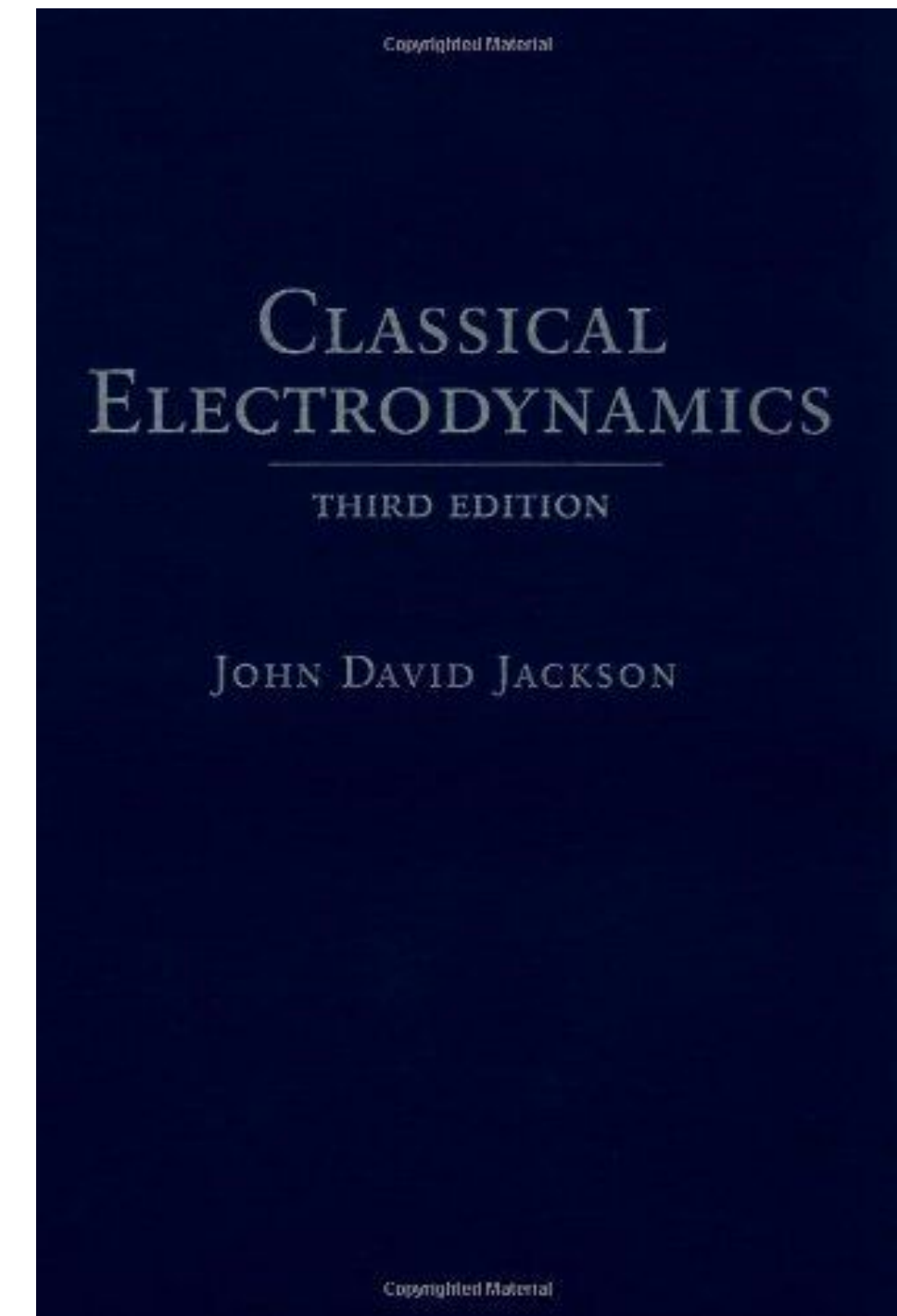
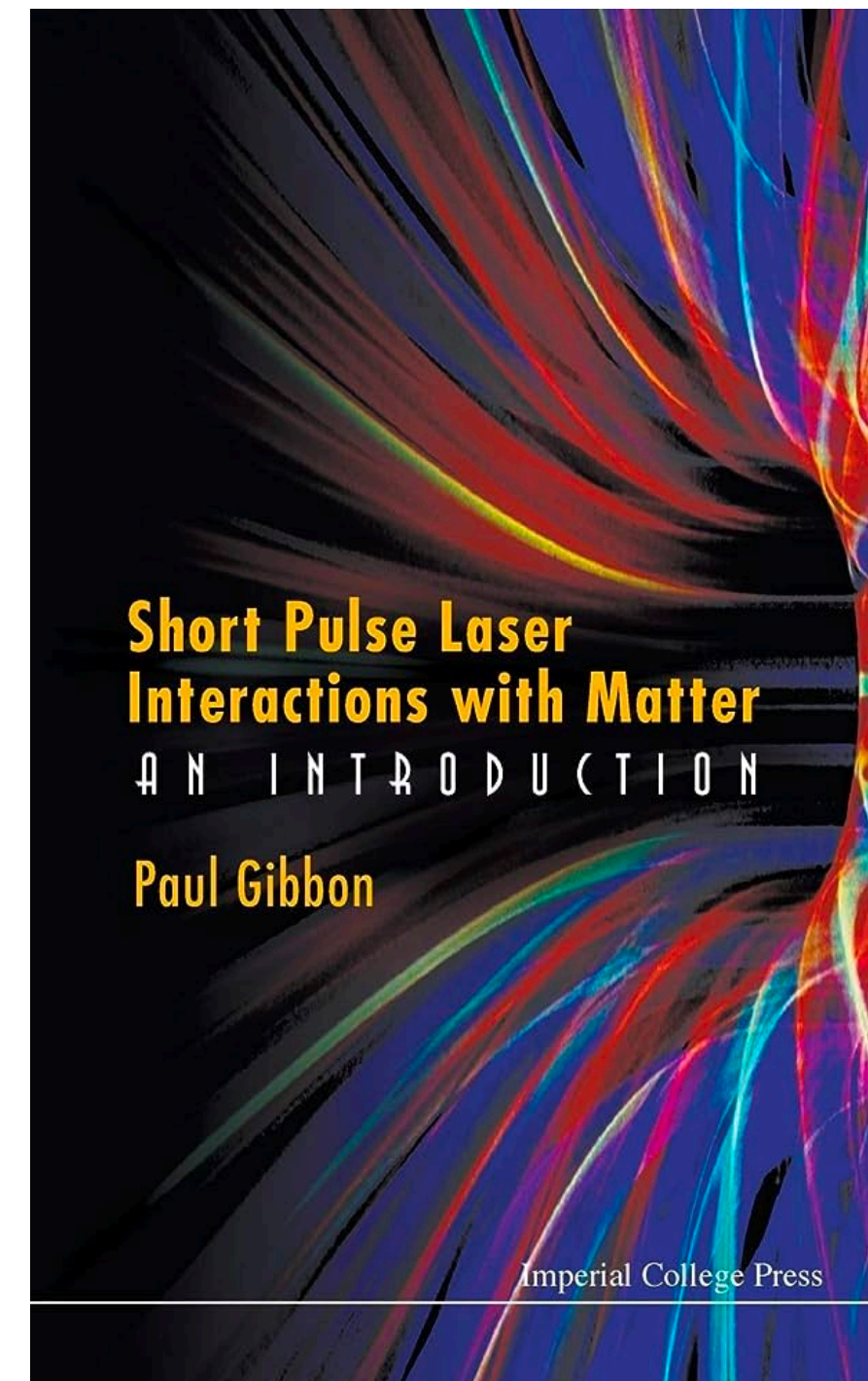
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Only under adult supervision!!!

Summary: LPAs are novel flexible sources of electrons

High current, inherent optical synchronisation and compactness allow for novel applications

- > Laser plasma accelerators are a compact source of electron beams
 - > Applications include X-ray generation, non-destructive testing, radiotherapy, ultrafast diffraction,
- > LPAs are complex non-linear systems
- > 100 MeV energies possible from mm-long plasmas
- > Energy spread, beam transport can be challenging
- > Stability requires further work: mostly down to laser stability
- > Vibrant, rapidly growing field on the cusp of real-life applications

