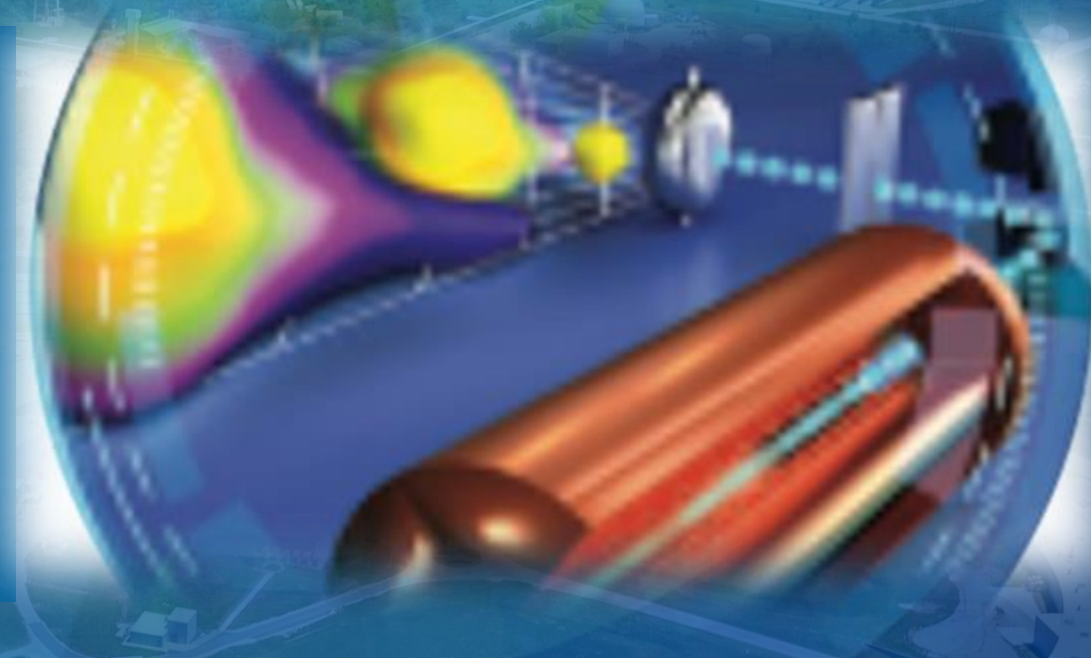


JAN-20-2026

NORMAL-CONDUCTING RF FOR BES ACCELERATORS



PHILIPPE PIOT

Argonne National Laboratory
*Argonne Accelerator Institute
& Argonne Wakefield Accelerator*

CONTRIBUTORS (DISCUSSIONS/BORROW MATERIALS):

ANL: M. Borland, G. Chen, B. Popovic, J. Power, Y. Sun, A. Zholents; BNL: W. Li, T. Shafiq, J. Rose; LBNL: T. Luo, F. Sannibale, J. Qing; ONRL: J. Moss, F. Pilat, H. Ren; SLAC: M. Bai, J. Safranek, F. Wang, F. Zhou, Z. Zhang.

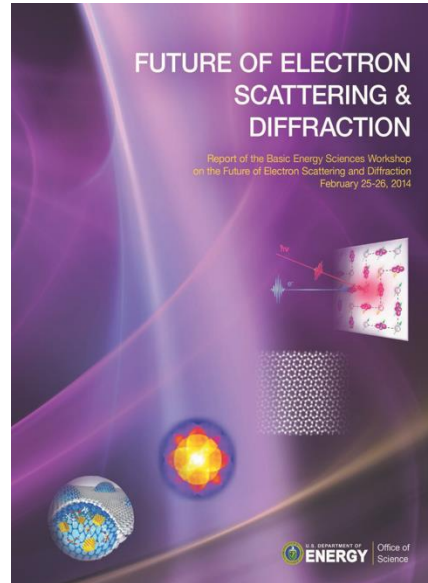
Picture credit: BRN on accelerator-based instrumentation (BES)

BACKGROUND

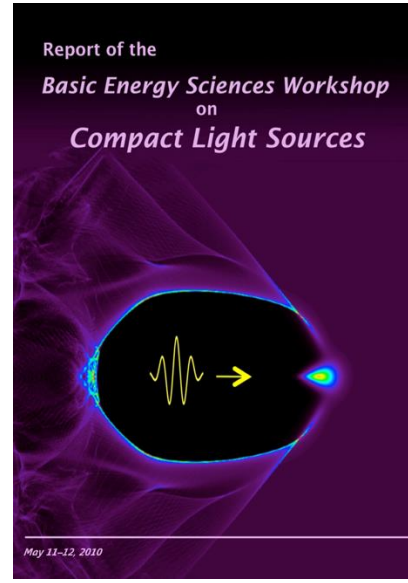
Relevant BES Round Tables and Basic Research Need (BRN) Workshops (non exhaustive list)



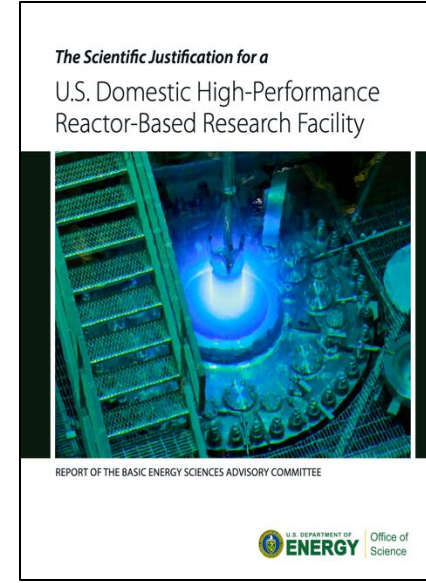
https://science.osti.gov/-/media/bes/pdf/reports/files/Future_of_Electron_Scattering.pdf



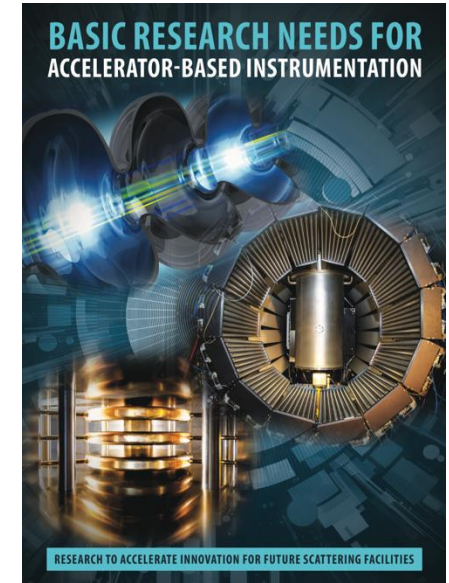
<https://doi.org/10.2172/1616511>



<https://doi.org/10.2172/1291139>



https://science.osti.gov/-/media/bes/besac/pdf/Reports/US_Domestic_High-Performance_Reactor-Based_Research_Facility.pdf



<https://science.osti.gov/-/media/bes/pdf/brochures/2024/24-G00737-BRN-ABI-brochure-Final.pdf>

INTRODUCTION (I)

BRN on accelerator-based instrumentation outcomes

- **Achieve Theoretical Performance Limits:** Advance high-power electronics, lasers, optics, detectors, and diagnostics towards physical and technological limits to maximize accelerator performance.
- **Beam Generation Fundamentals:** Research the fundamentals of beam generation and probe parameters' behavior to achieve max performances.
- **Develop Advanced Beam Manipulation:** Create methods and techniques to manipulate and multiplex beams with unprecedented precision and speed, improving beam quality and tunability for complex experiments.
- **Advance Accelerator Materials and Fabrication:** Develop new materials with controllable properties and advanced fabrication processes for particle sources, optics, and accelerator components.
- **Optimize Component Integration:** Couple precision design of complex accelerator components with modeling and optimization to create new paradigms for fabrication and integration.
- **Understand Performance-Limiting Mechanisms:** Identify and analyze key phenomena that hinder transformative changes in accelerator-based facility capabilities.



<https://science.osti.gov/-/media/bes/pdf/brochures/2024/24-G00737-BRN-ABI-brochure-Final.pdf>

INTRODUCTION (II)

NCRF as an enabling technology for BES applications

■ Use of NCRF in BES accelerators:

ACCELERATION

NCRF is pivotal for achieving high-gradient and high-duty cycle acceleration, enabling compact accelerator designs.

BEAM FORMATION

NCRF is essential for the generation and formation of charged-particle beams, including electron and proton beams, for BES applications.

MANIPULATION & DIAGNOSTICS

NCRF is increasingly utilized in the emerging field of phase-space tailoring and for precise beam diagnostics



■ Basic Energy Science applications:

- Currently includes X-ray and neutron scattering facilities (six national facilities: ALS@LBNL, APS@ANL, LCLS, NSLSII@BNL, SSRF@SLAC, SNS@ONRL)
- Mid-scale facilities electron scattering (pushing toward ultrafast imaging or diffraction)
- Contemplated next generation facilities: BESAC's green-field FEL, new capabilities at existing facilities

ACCELERATION (I)

High-gradient acceleration large aperture for direct injection in SRs

- Current **storage-ring (SR)** designs rely on staged injector chain:

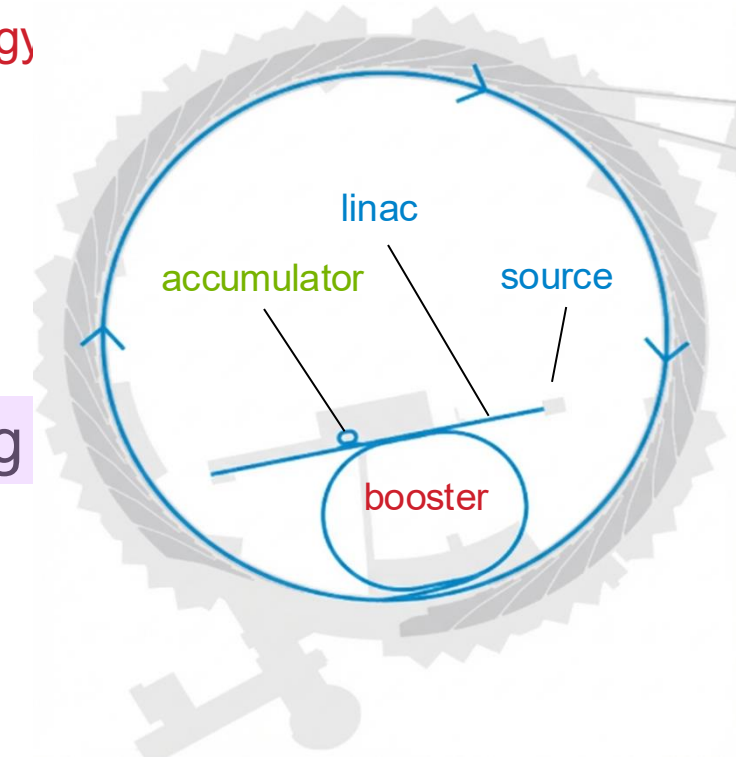
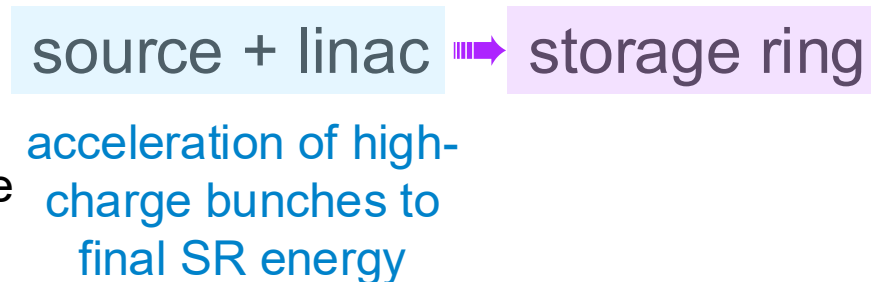


- Attaining higher stored current in SRs would benefit from direct injection (e.g., work at EBS@ESRF)

– $f_{rep} \sim \mathcal{O}(10)$ Hz

– Typical SR injection energies $\mathcal{O}(5)$ GeV

▣ high-gradient, large aperture (high-charge)



ACCELERATION (II)

High-gradient acceleration manipulation for FLS

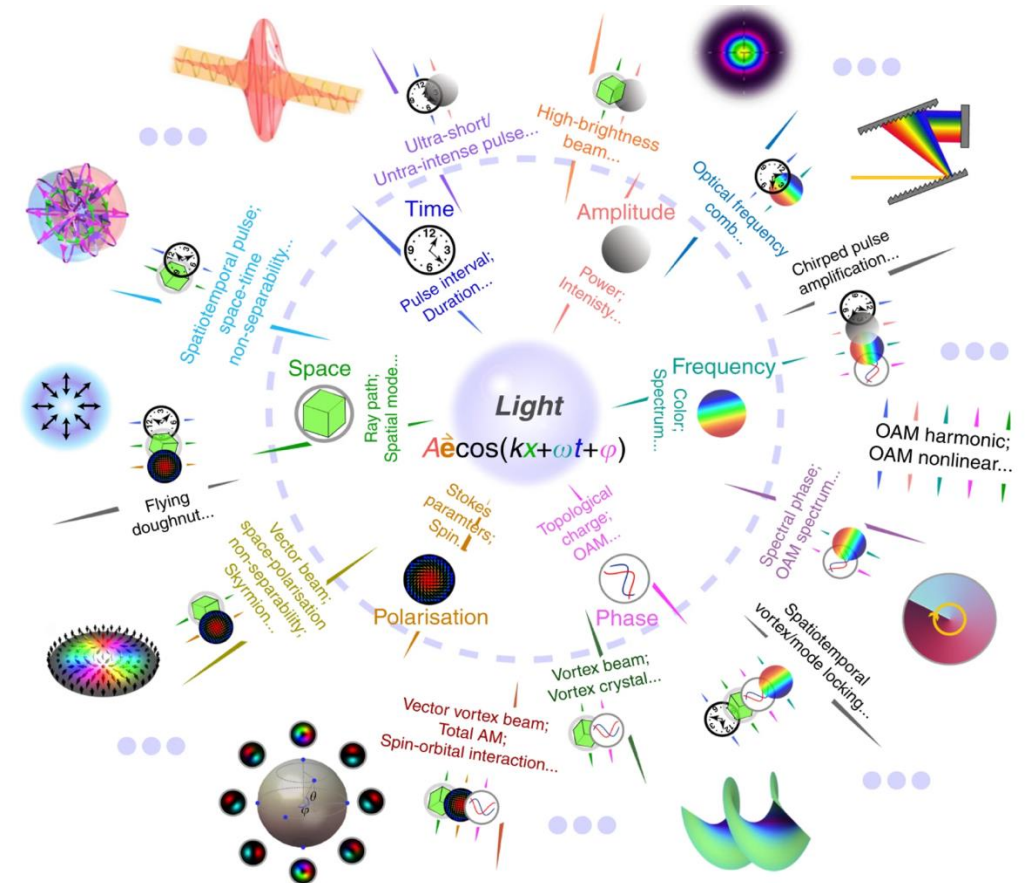
- Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee (BESAC) report of May 2024 recommends: “Future Light Source (FLS) – a ‘green field’ light source, location(s) TBD”
- Several concepts under exploration for FLS: a possible NCRF-related option is based on a *compact* ($\sim \mathcal{O}(100)$ m) versatile FEL based on high-gradient acceleration
 - bright e- bunches ~ 100 pC
 - High-repetition rate $\mathcal{O}(1)$ kHz
 - ➔ multiplexed user beamline
 - Attain tender to hard X rays
 - “structured” photon-pulse capabilities



THE
KAVLI
FOUNDATION

5715 Mesmer Ave.
Los Angeles, CA. 90230
Phone: 424-353-8800
www.kavlifoundation.org

<https://science.osti.gov/-/media/bes/besac/pdf/Reports/Report-to-BESAC-on-New-and-Upgraded-National-User-Facilities-2024-05-28Final.pdf>



<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41377-022-00897-3>

BEAM FORMATION (I): ELECTRONS

Bright electron beams for FEL & ultrafast electron scattering systems

- **Increasing Brightness:** Achieving higher surface electric fields on the cathode generally improves beam brightness.
- **Critical Role of Final Energy:** Final beam energy plays a crucial role in “freezing” the longitudinal beam dynamics and mitigating space charge effects
➔ split versus integrated injector designs.
- **Development of Robust NCRF Guns:** Focus on developing robust and reliable NCRF guns with high stability (ultra-low energy jitter for UES).
- **Extended Cathode Lifetime:** Low-MTE photocathodes typically require maintaining pristine UHV (10^{-10} Tor) conditions to prevent degradation
➔ frequency choice

The diagram illustrates the relationship between 4D brightness (B), final energy (E^v), and mean-transverse energy (MTE). The equation is $B \propto \frac{E^v}{MTE}$. A green arrow points from the text "4D brightness (ideally invariant)" to the B term. A blue arrow points from the text "E-field at the cathode surface" to the E^v term. A red arrow points from the text "Mean-transverse energy (material properties)" to the MTE term.

BEAM FORMATION (II): ELECTRONS

High-charge or high-Current electron beams

- **Higher-Current electron beams** for high-repetition rate FELs (e.g. LCLSX) and UED
 - Sub-GHz technologies (LBNL)
 - Adopted for LCLS-II, UED (HiRES), Shanghai and Shenzhen facilities
 - Limited field on cathode <40 MV/m
 - Demonstrated reliable operation of semiconductor photocathodes
 - Simpler than SRF guns
 - **R&D toward higher field needed**
 - ➔ path to higher brightness + simplified bunching scheme
- **Higher-Charge electron beams** for (i) direct injection in SR, and (ii) high-peak power (GW) generation for high-frequency structures
 - Currently based on GHz RF gun (AWA/CLIC)
 - **Reliability, rather than high beam quality, is critical**
these systems operate at low repetition rates (1 Hz)

Synergy with HEP:

Muon collider – ionization cooling require low-frequency cavities with high field (ideally)

Synergy with NP:

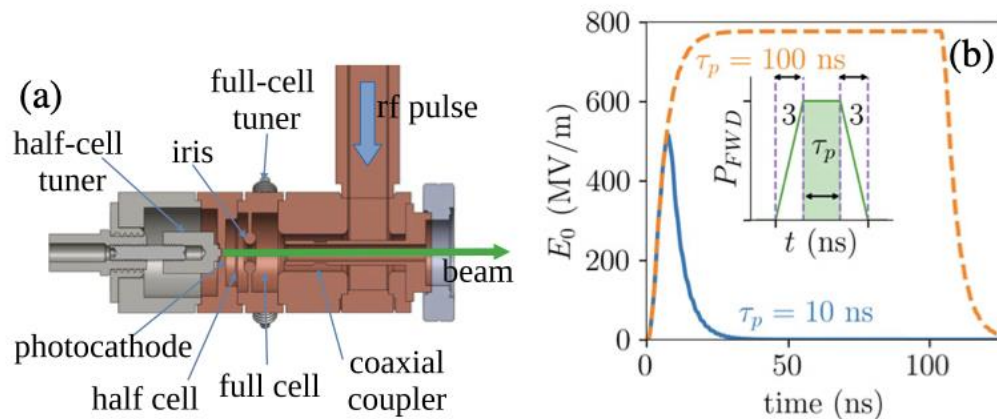
EIC – high-charge bunch generation and acceleration for electron cooling

TECHNOLOGIES FOR ELECTRONS GENERATION & ACCELERATION (I)

Bright electron beams for FEL & ultrafast electron-scattering systems

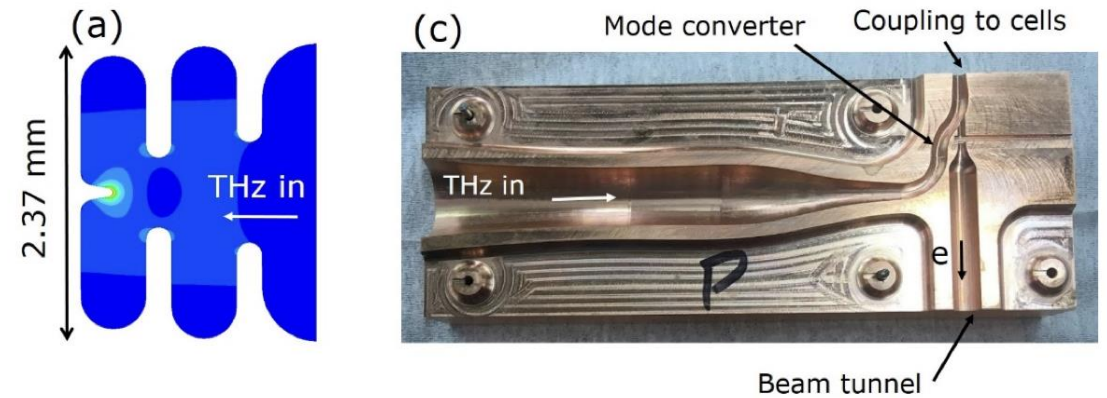
GUNS W/ SHORT-RF PULSES

- Several project based on X-band guns beam-driven and klystron-based)
- Experimentally achieved ~ 400 MV/m on cathode



“QUASI-OPTICAL” STRUCTURES

- High E-field using sub-THz frequencies (metals, dielectrics)
- Small aperture \rightarrow limited charge but OK for UED/M



<https://journals.aps.org/prab/pdf/10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.25.083402>

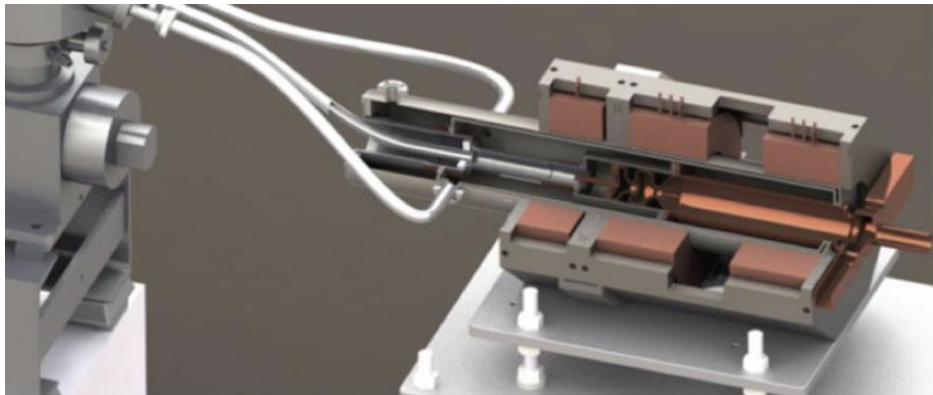
<https://www.irmmw-thz.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/pid6452933.pdf>

TECHNOLOGIES FOR ELECTRONS GENERATION & ACCELERATION (II)

Bright electron beams for FEL & ultrafast electron-scattering systems

CRYO-COOLED STRUCTURES

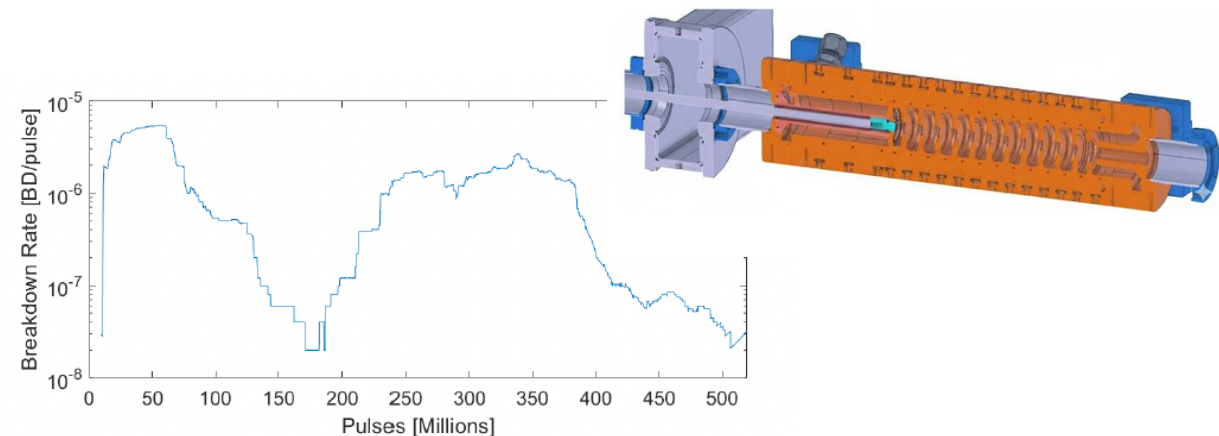
- Cryogenically-cooled (77 K) structures mitigate breakdown
- C- and S-band structures built
- C-band gun being tested at UCLA



<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.22.023403>

HIGH-FREQUENCY STRUCTURES

- Example of C-band klystron-power 1.5-cell TW RF gun for SwissFEL@PSI (PSI/INFN)
- So far 160 MV/m on cathode (50-200 ns pulses)

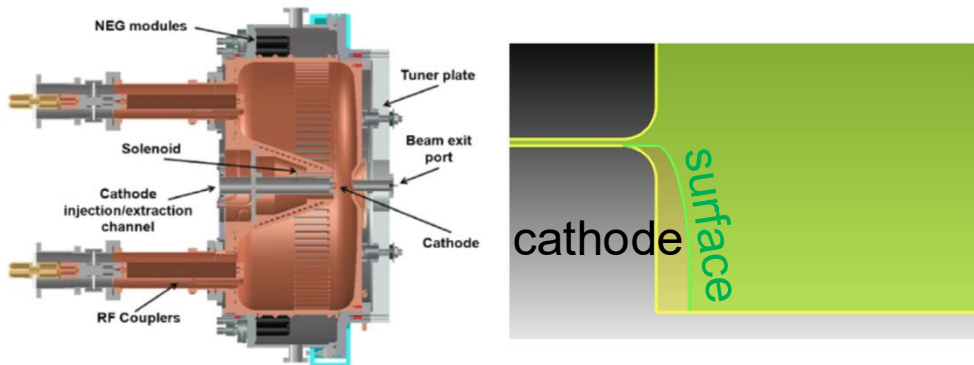


10.18429/JACoW-IPAC2024-WEPC69

TECHNOLOGIES FOR ELECTRONS GENERATION & ACCELERATION (III)

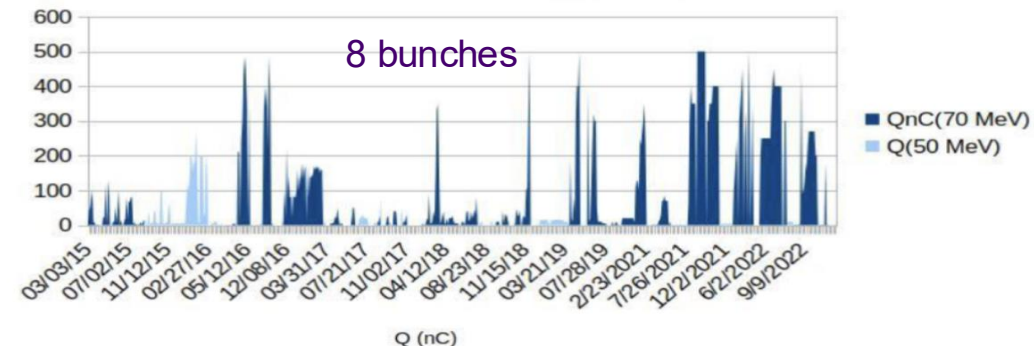
Bright electron beams for FEL & ultrafast electron-scattering systems

- **Higher-Current electron beams:** for high-repetition rate FELs (e.g. LCLSX) and UED
 - Designs follow LBNL VHF gun (~200 MHz),
 - CW operation at the cost of E field (limited to ~40 MV/m on cathode)
 - Low exit energy < 1 MeV → limit bunch charge < 1nC
 - Significant pumping → enables operation of high-QE/low-MTE photocathode
 - Work on improving dark-current emission



Communication from J. Qing & T. Luo

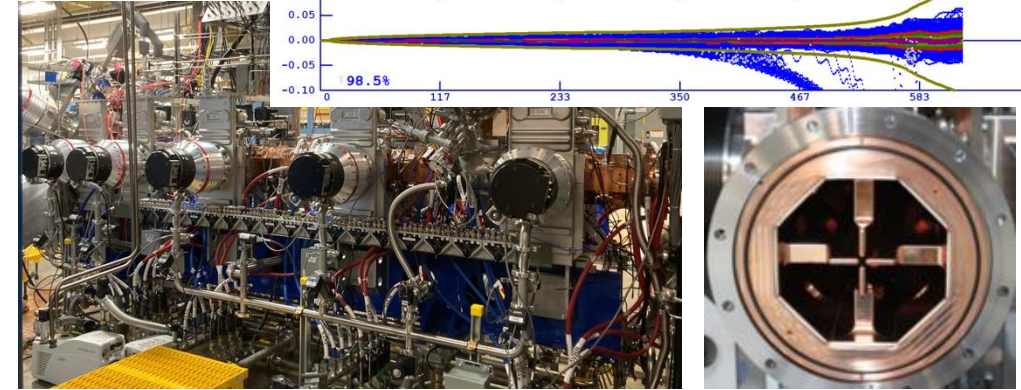
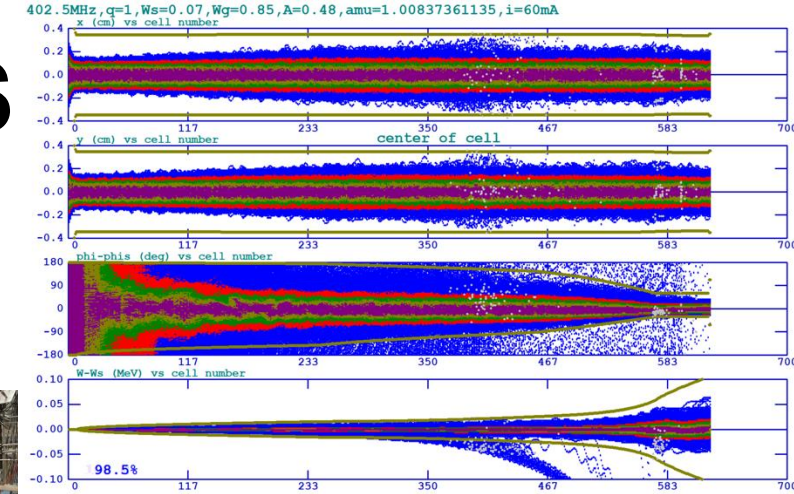
- **High bunch-charge generation:** for direct injection and high-peak-power generation
 - Example AWA (1.3 GHz 1+1/2-cell gun)
 - High-peak field on cathode 80 MV/m
 - Charge up to 50 nC/bunch (with up to 16 bunches in consecutive L-band buckets)
 - Next gen gun: symmetrized up to quadrupolar component
 - Mostly for R&D – not facility-like experience/reliability



BEAM FORMATION (III): PROTONS

Improving formation of intense proton beams

- **Radio-Frequency Quadrupole (RFQ) Performance and Lifetime Concerns:** Based on the performance of past versions of RFQs at SNS, the long-term operational lifetime of RFQs with consistent high performance is challenging.
- **Ongoing RFQ Development at SNS:** A new RFQ development effort is underway at SNS to explore innovative design concepts aimed at:
 - Accommodating higher beam loading,
 - Minimizing beam loss within the cavity,
 - Reducing performance degradation over time,
 - Enhancing overall beam brightness.
- Low-frequency NCRF cavities are also use in early-stage transport for proton beams (higher-field generally useful)



Communication from H. Ren (ORNL)

Synergy with NP: ion-beam formation.

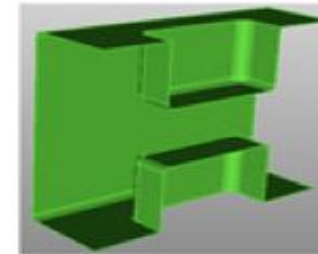
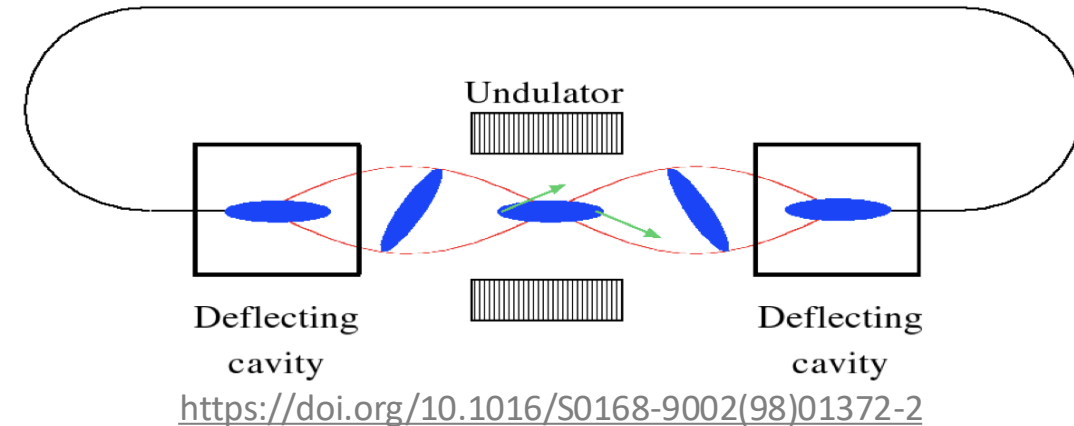
Synergy with HEP: intensity frontier, μ Collider.

Societal applications: e.g. medical radio-isotopes

BEAM MANIPULATIONS IN STORAGE RINGS

Pushing the performances of existing or future SR-based light sources

- Reduce X-ray pulse duration could increase resolution in pump-probe experiments
- Schemes to produce shorter X-ray pulses in SR have been proposed → use of deflecting cavities to impart proper (t, x') correlation on the X-ray pulse for collimation/compression
- NCRF offers a path to upgrading current SR to support short-pulse generation
- Challenges:
 - damping of LOM/HOM for high current operation in SR
 - developing design/lattice to minimize emittance degradations
 - Often require multiple frequency

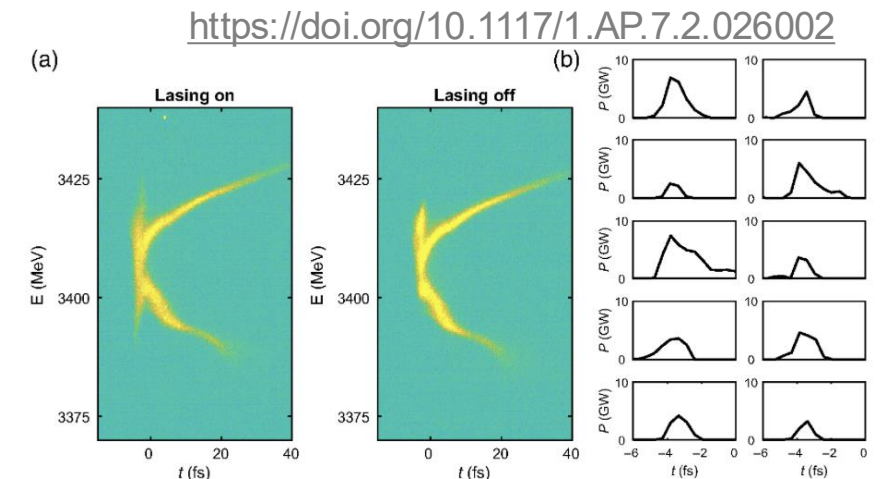
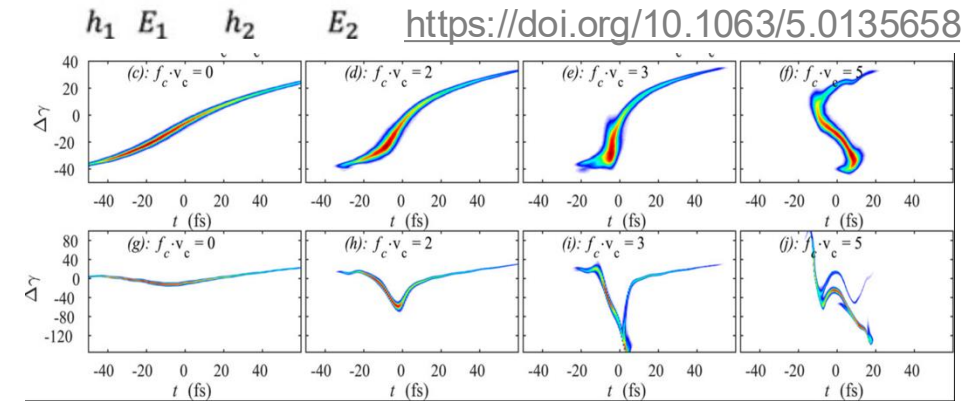
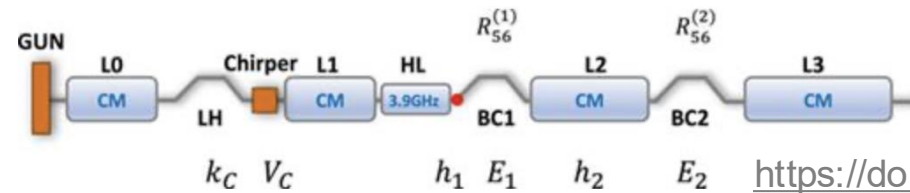


<https://inspirehep.net/files/0de19e9cf0a11f52ba73852d72a3bfc0>

BEAM MANIPULATIONS IN LINACS

Emerging new opportunities in Photon Sciences using tailored bunches

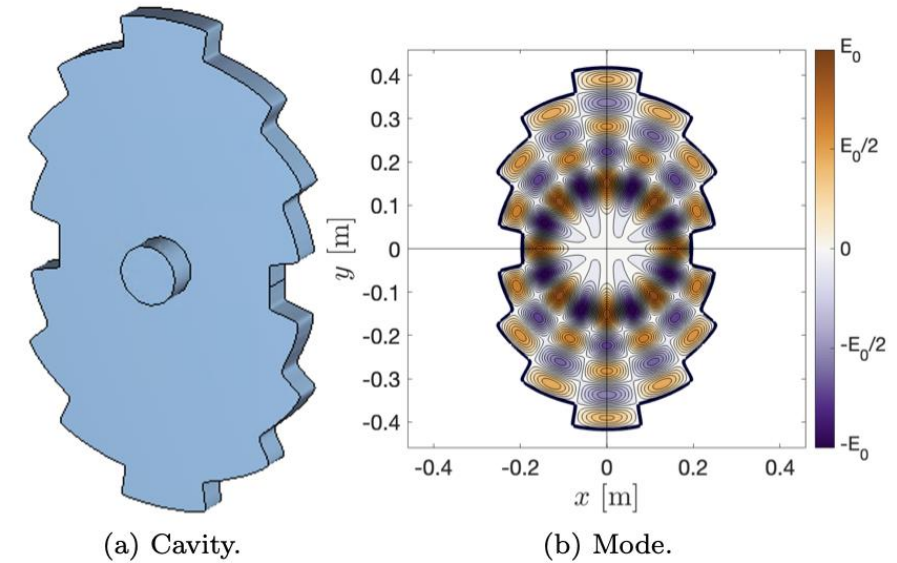
- NCRF in SCRF linac can support fast beam “on-demand”
- High-frequency structure provide precise control over local “area” in the phase space
 - Dechirper (passive, e.g. based on corrugated or dielectric-lined waveguides)
 - Comb generation (sub-THz slow-wave structures)
 - Two color FEL
- High-frequency structures also support
 - high-resolution phase space diagnostics
 - THz-pulse generation for pump-probe experiment at X-ray facilities (e.g. EuXFEL afterburner)



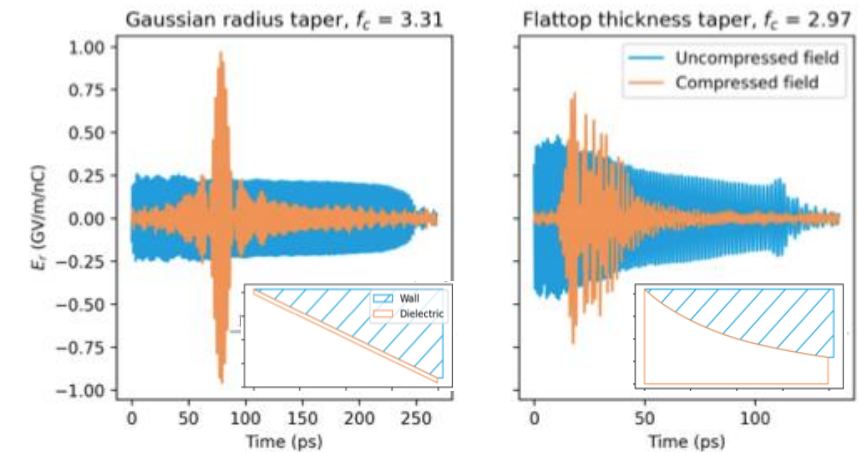
SUMMARY

Final comments & Emerging Opportunities

- **Ubiquitous Role of NCRF Cavities:** NCRF cavities play a critical role in beam generation and manipulation.
- **Complementary to SRF Technology:** NCRF cavities can complement SRF technology by serving as diagnostics tools or enabling fast beam manipulation (high fields and low Q)
- **Enhanced Phase-Space Control and Beam Multiplexing:** With the ability to generate arbitrary field topologies, NCRF cavities offer potential for increased precision in phase-space control and advanced beam multiplexing.
- **High-Frequency Structures:** sub-THz structures present a promising avenue for compact ultrafast electron diffraction (UED) sources, phase-space manipulation, acceleration of low-charge high-energy bunches, and radiation generation.
- **NCRF technology critical to proton drivers** (capture, bunch formation, and early transport) for neutron generation.



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2504.12780>



doi:10.1088/1742-6596/3010/1/012035