

# First Lasing of the THz SASE FEL at PITZ

R&D of high-power tunable accelerator-based THz source at the Photo Injector Test facility at DESY in Zeuthen for the European XFEL (THz@PITZ)

Prach Boonpornprasert for the THz@PITZ Team

The 8th annual MT meeting, DESY Hamburg, 26-27.09.2022

HELMHOLTZ

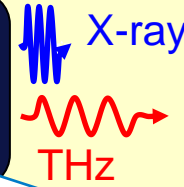


# Background

## Prototype THz source for pump-probe experiments at European XFEL

European XFEL (~3.4 km)

PITZ-like accelerator-based THz source (~20 m)

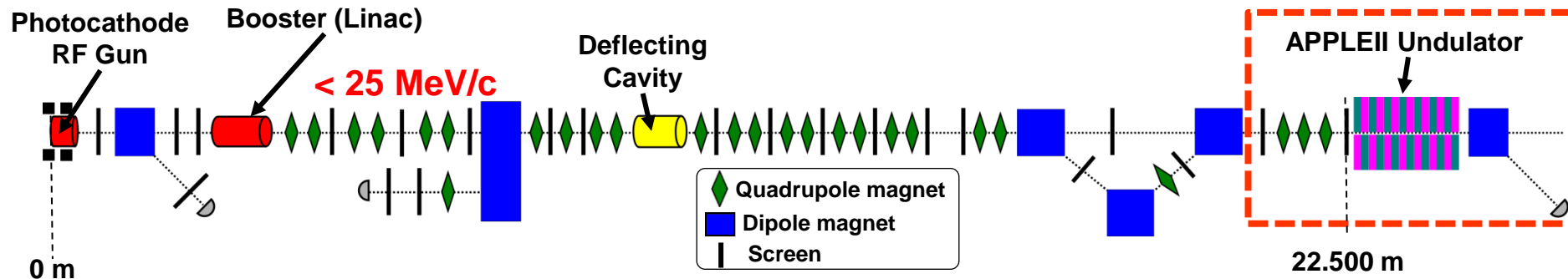


Pump & probe

THz pulses from PITZ-like accelerator

- High-power
- Tunable
- Synchronization with X-ray pulses

Reference: E. Schneidmiller, M. Yurkov, M. Krasilnikov, and F. Stephan, in Proc. FEL2012, paper WEPD55.



PITZ beamline layout (2014) including an extension for SASE FEL simulations (in red-dashed box)

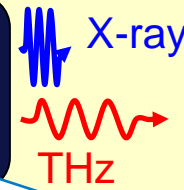
Reference: P. Boonpornprasert, PhD thesis, University of Hamburg, 2020.

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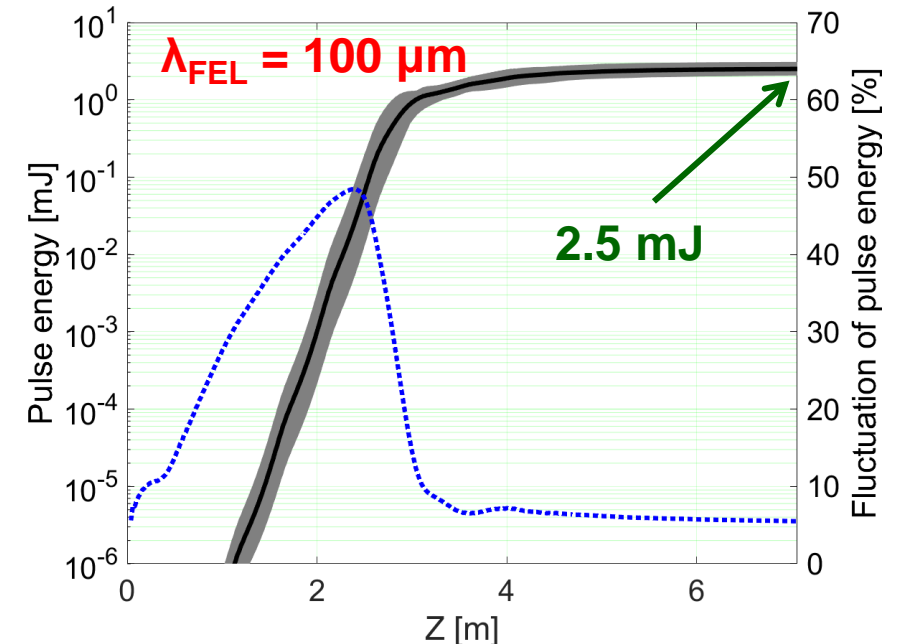
### PITZ Highlights:

- Pulse **train** structure
- High **charge** feasibility (up to 6 nC), high QE photocathodes
- Advanced photocathode laser pulse **shaping**

### SASE FEL simulations

- Genesis 1.3 code
- Helical undulator with  $\lambda_u = 40$  mm
- Electron beam with
  - Momentum of **15 MeV/c**
  - RMS bunch length of ~2 mm
  - Bunch charge of **4 nC**
  - Peak current **~200 A**

Reference: P. Boonpornprasert, PhD thesis, University of Hamburg, 2020.




# Proof-of-principle experiment on THz SASE FEL at PITZ

Using LCLS-I undulators (available on loan from SLAC, USA)



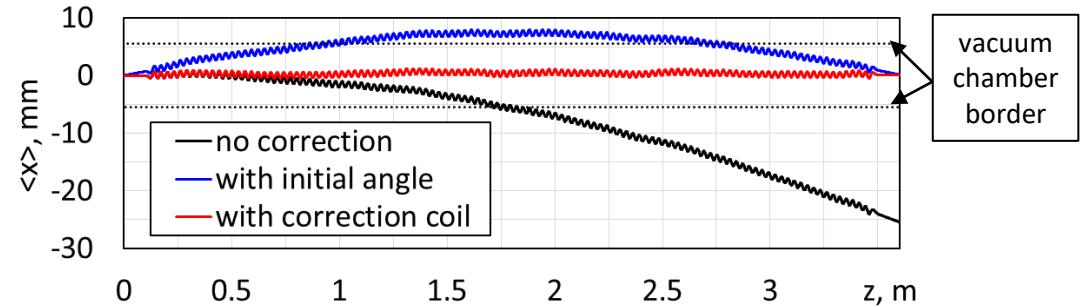
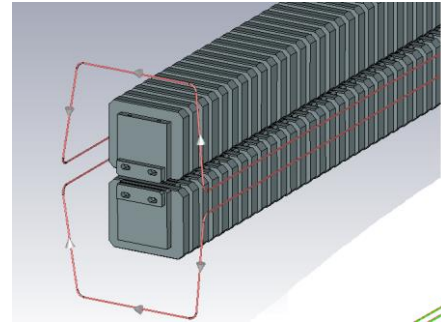
Some Properties of the LCLS-I undulator

Properties	Details
Type	<b>planar hybrid</b> (NdFeB)
K-value	3.585 (3.49)
Period length	30 mm
Periods / a module	113 periods
Total length	3.4 m
Vacuum chamber size	<b>11 mm x 5 mm</b> 

**~17 MeV/c** →  $\lambda_{\text{rad}} \sim 100 \mu\text{m}$

## Main challenges:

- Space charge effect
- Waveguide effect
- Wakefields effect
- Strong horizontal gradient



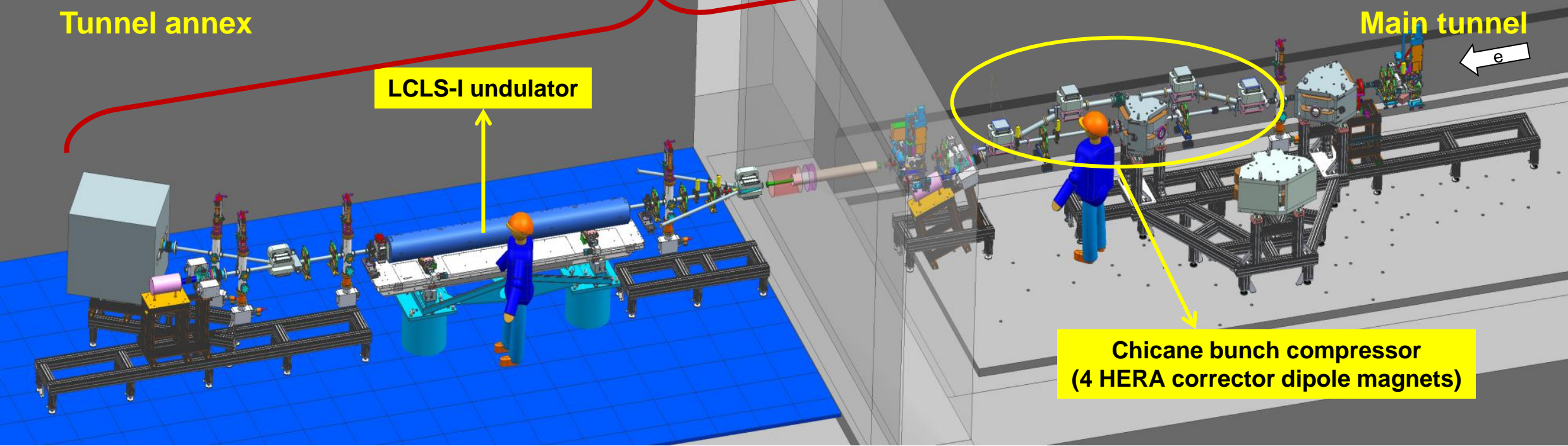
Reference particle trajectories in the undulator with horizontal gradient

The project “**Conceptual design of a THz source for pump-probe experiments at the European XFEL based on a PITZ-like photo injector**” was approved by **the European XFEL Management Board**  
 → PITZ + LCLS-I undulator for Proof-of-principle experiments (2019-2023)

# Beamline Extension

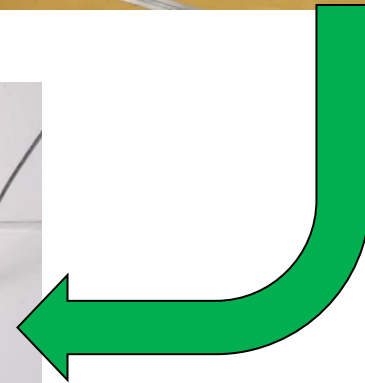
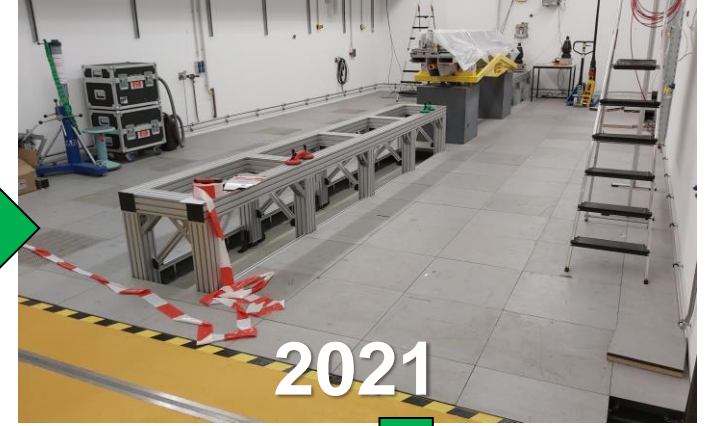
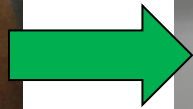
PITZ upgrade for the proof-of-principle experiment

New Installations (~17m!)



# Construction and Installation

## History of the tunnel annex



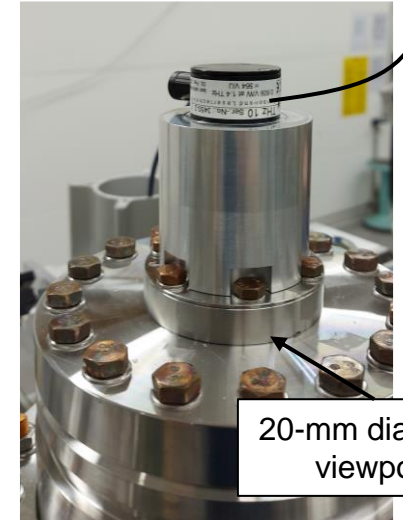
# First Commissioning with E-Beam

Transport and matching of e-beam with bunch charges of 100 pC → 1 nC (end of July 2022)

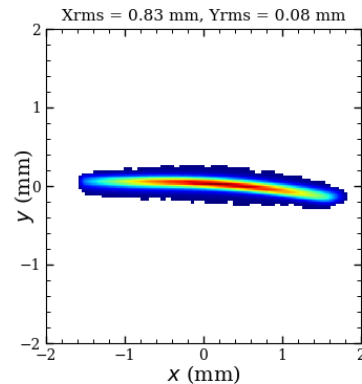


Oscilloscope

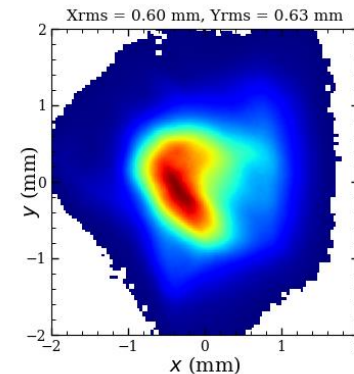
THz10 Pyroelectric detector for THz radiation



In-vacuum mirror



Measured transverse profile of **100 pC** beam



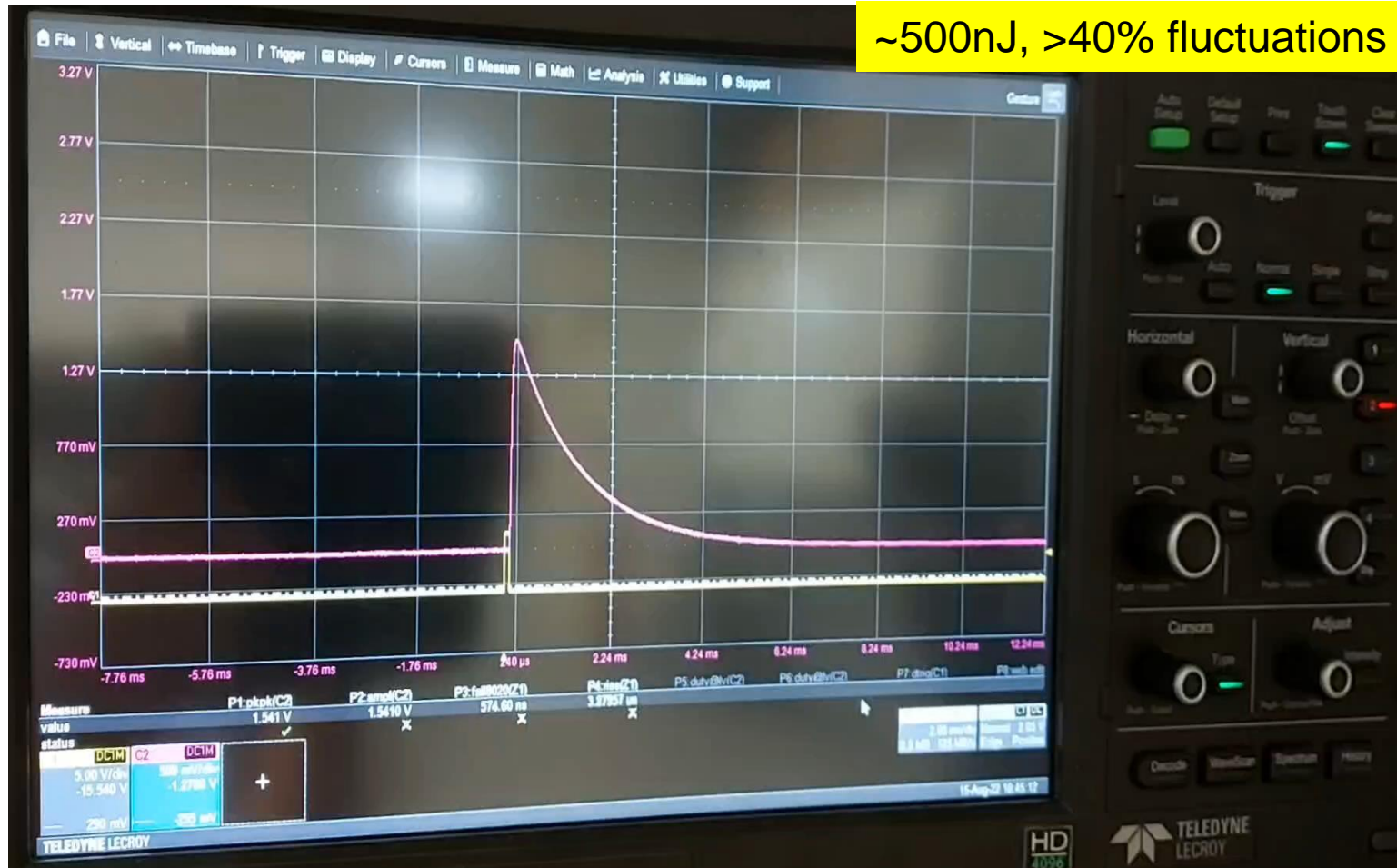
Measured transverse profile of **1 nC** beam

Advanced approach of space-charge dominated beam matching was used.

Reference: X-K. Li et al., in Proc. IPAC2021, paper WEPAB257.

# 1st Lasing from 1 nC Beam

Pyroelectric detector signal from the oscilloscope (beginning of August 2022)



~17 MeV/c →  $\lambda_{\text{rad}} \sim 100 \mu\text{m}$

## Next steps to confirm SASE FEL

- Go to higher bunch charges
- Measure energy gain curves
- Analyze probability distribution of measured pulse energy

← Probability distribution of SASE FEL in linear regime is a gamma distribution

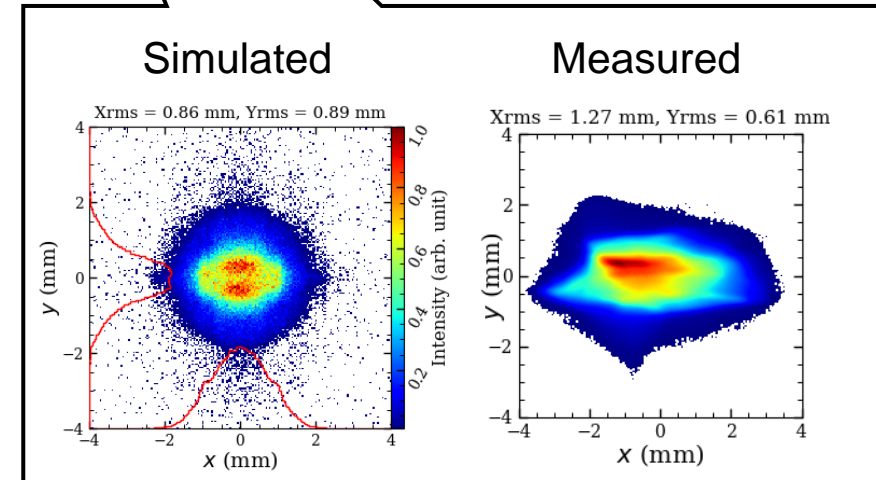
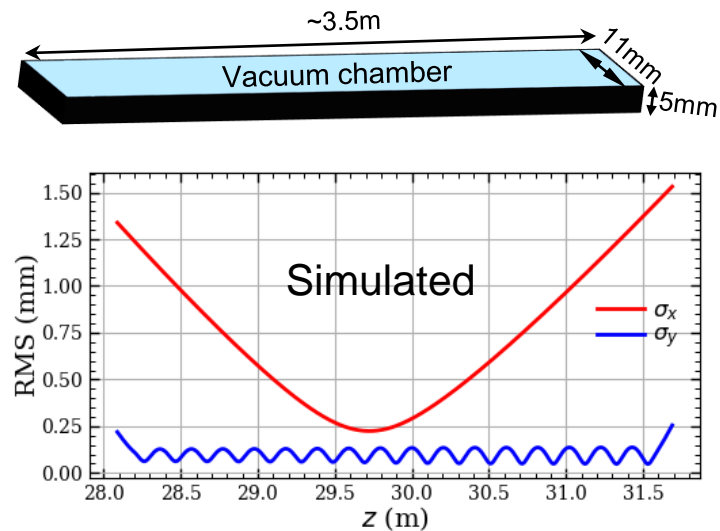
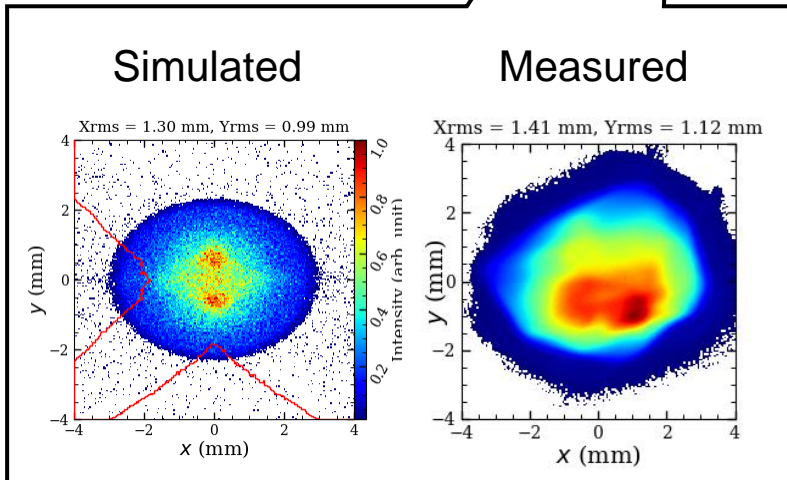
(Reference: E.L. Saldin et al. NIM A 407 (1998), 291-295.)



# 2 nC Beam Transport and Matching

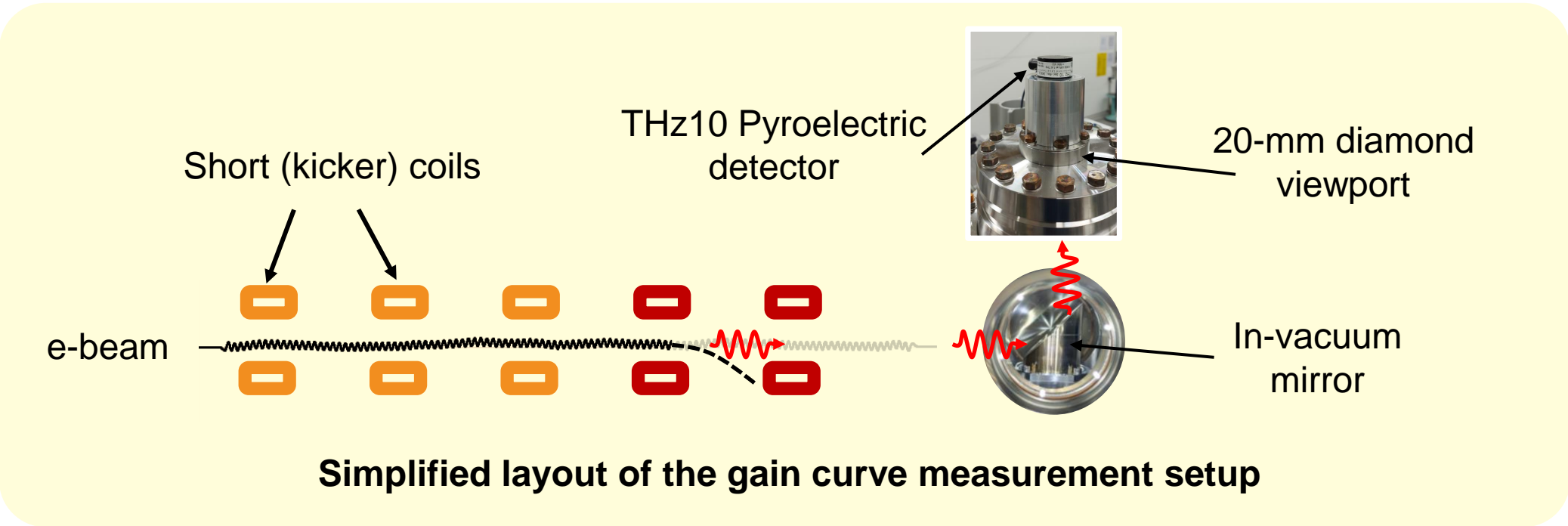
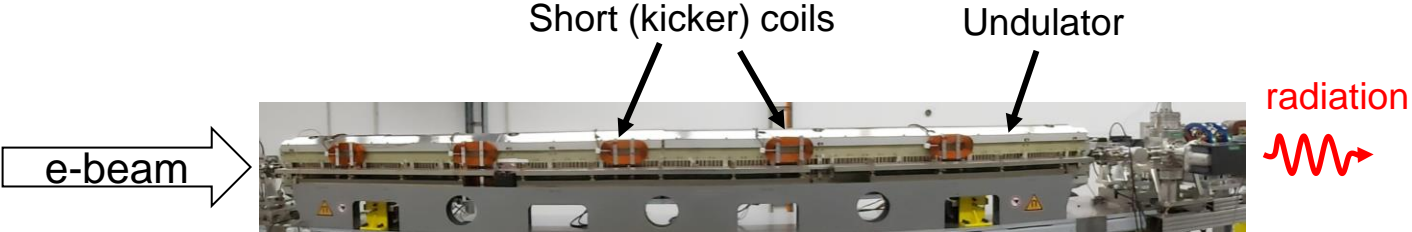
## Comparison with simulations

~17 MeV/c  
e-beam



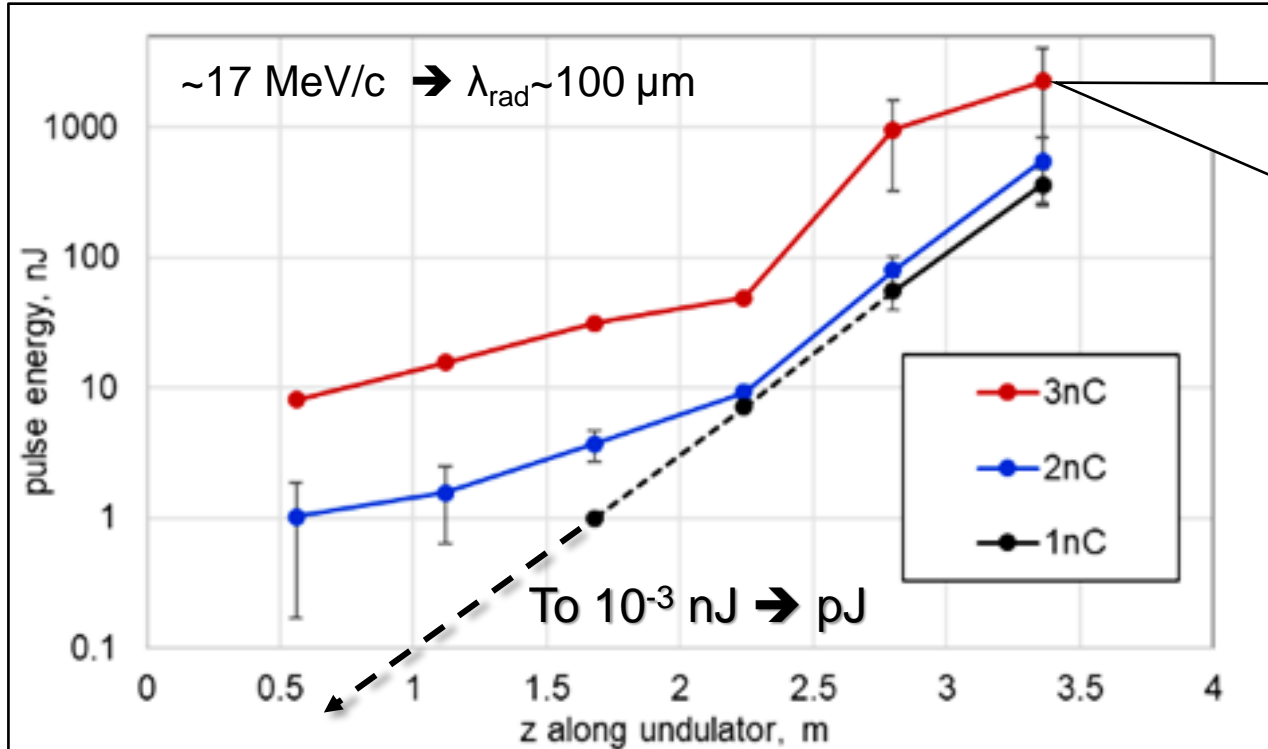
# Gain Curve Measurement Setup

Using kicker coils to change “effective length” of the undulator

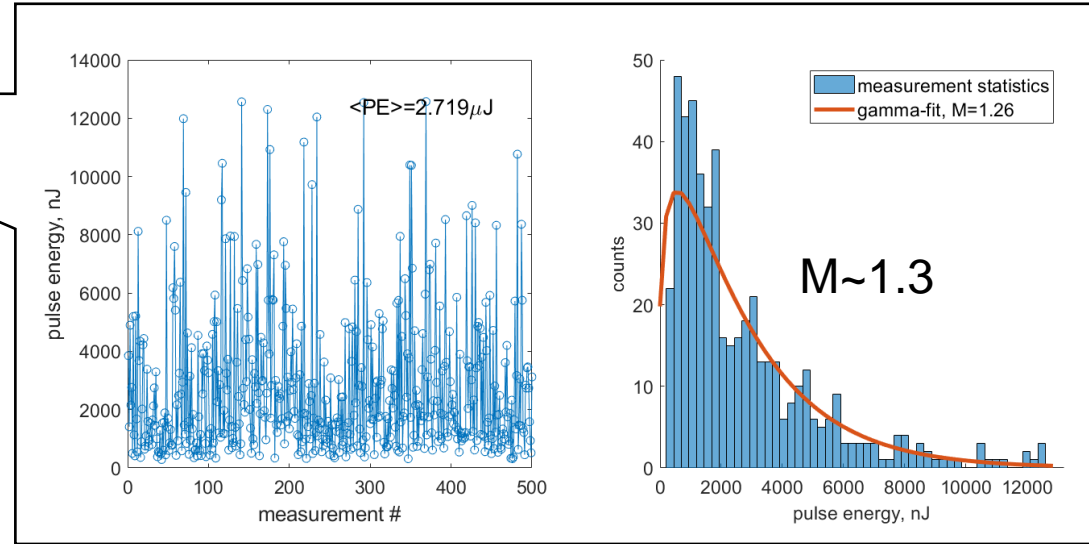


# Gain Curve Measurements

## First Characterization of FEL Gain Curves at 1, 2 and 3 nC



**Energy gain pJ to  $\mu\text{J}$  in 3.5 m**  
 **$\rightarrow$  high gain FEL at PITZ!**



**Gamma probability distribution**

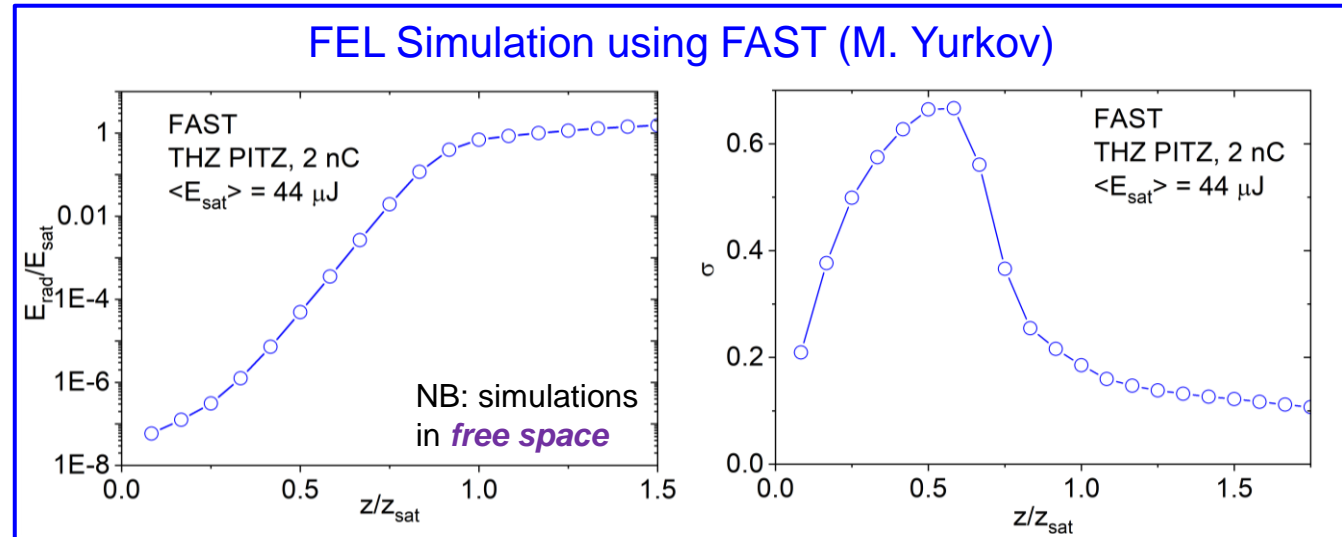
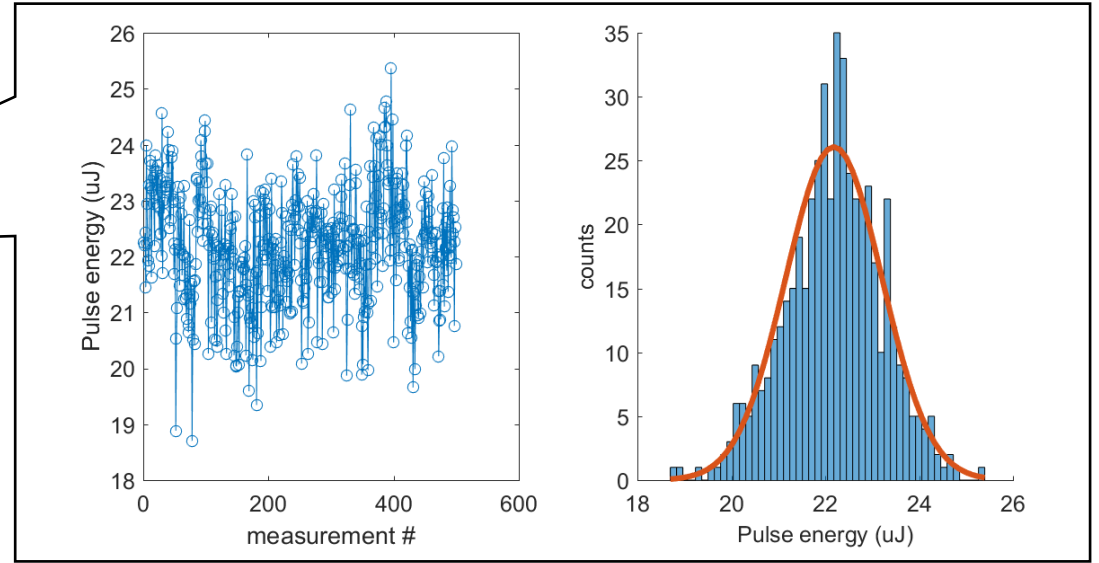
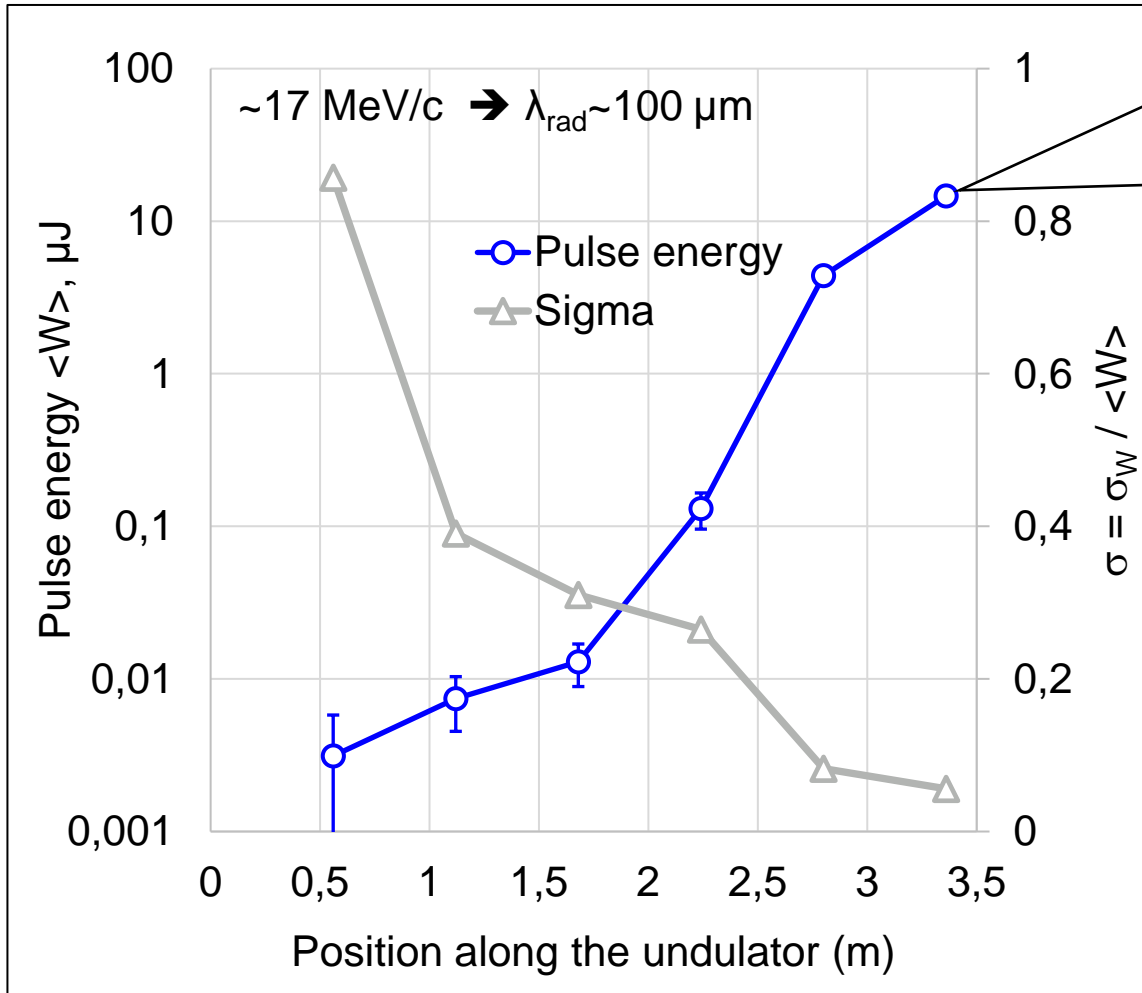
**$\rightarrow$  SASE FEL in linear regime**

**Remark:** Strong dependence of measured pulse energy on beam current and beam transport/matching

Reference: M. Krasilnikov et al. presented in FEL2022, MOA08.

# Further Tuning

Saturation observed for 2 nC: max  $\langle W \rangle \sim 22 \mu\text{J}$



NB: strong *waveguide regime* of SASE FEL

# Summary and Outlook

## THz SASE FEL at PITZ

- **Proof-of-principle** experiment of THz SASE FEL is ongoing @PITZ (supported by E-XFEL):
  - ➔ first electrons through the LCLS-I undulator → End of July 2022
  - ➔ **1<sup>st</sup> THz SASE FEL Lasing → Beginning of August 2022**
  - ➔ High gain FEL measured at ~ 3THz!
  - ➔ Strong dependence on beam current and transport /matching
  - ➔ FEL saturation at > 20 μJ with 2 nC
- THz SASE FEL was demonstrated experimentally at PITZ
- The concept of PITZ-like accelerator-based THz FEL is working
- **Next steps:**
  - Detailed tuning of high-charge beam transport/matching
  - Setup full THz diagnostics (spectral characterization and band pass filters)
  - Other dedicated studies (bunch compressor, seeded THz FEL)

# Acknowledgements

## THz@PITZ Team and Collaboration

### DESY Zeuthen

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- G. Vashchenko
- T. Weilbach
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- N. Holtkamp
- H.-D. Nuhn

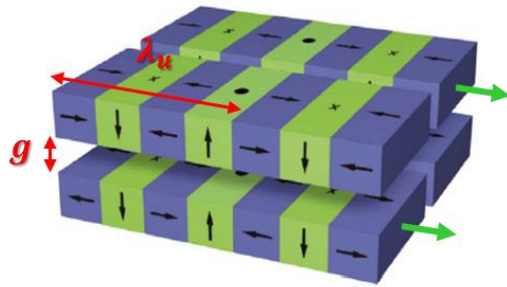


# Backup slides

# THz SASE FEL at PITZ

## Undulator and beam parameter space

### APPLE- II Undulator\*



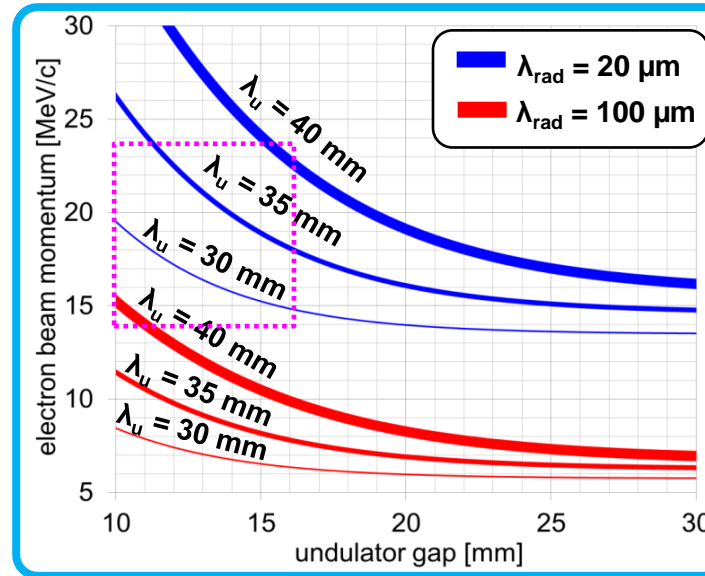
Radiation wavelength

$$\lambda_{rad} = \frac{\lambda_u}{2\gamma^2} (1 + K_{rms}^2)$$

$$K_{rms} = 0.66 \cdot B_0 [T] \cdot \lambda_u [cm]$$

$$B_0 = 1.54e^{(-4.46 \frac{g}{\lambda_u} + 0.43 (\frac{g}{\lambda_u})^2)}$$

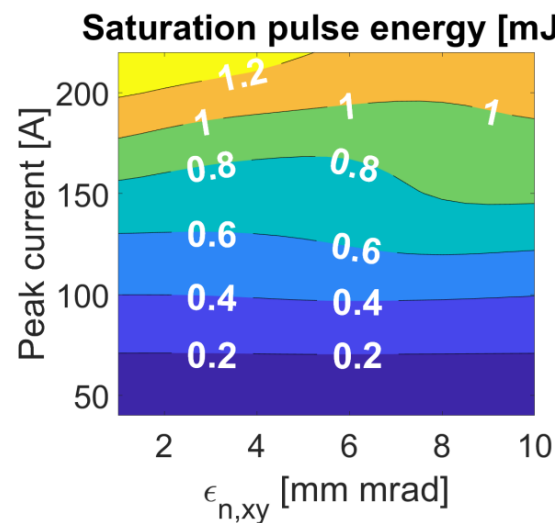
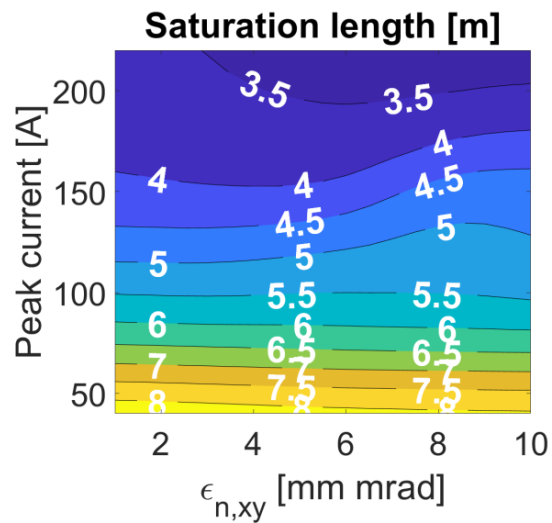
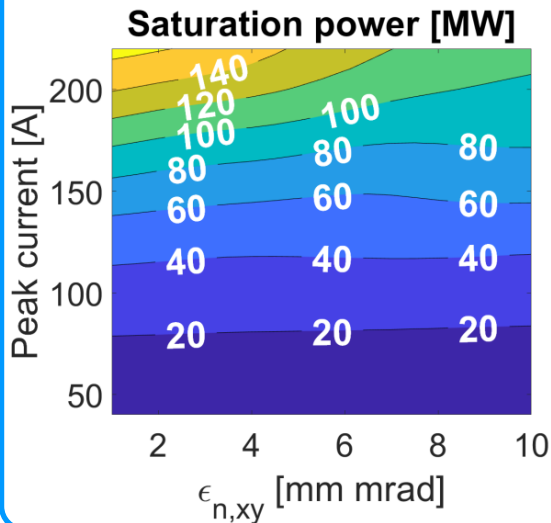
\*Conceptual Design Report ST/F-TN-07/12, Fermi@Elettra, 2007



**Conditions :**  
 $\lambda_{rad}$  of 20 – 100  $\mu m$   
 Max  $P_z \sim 22$  MeV/c  
 gap  $g \geq 10$  mm

**Selections :**  
 $\lambda_u$  of 40 mm  
 22 MeV/c for 20  $\mu m$   
 15 MeV/c for 100  $\mu m$

## THz SASE FEL Parameter Space with GENESIS ( $\lambda = 100 \mu m$ )



### SASE FEL simulations assuming:

- Helical undulator with  $\lambda_u = 40$  mm
- 4 nC electron beam with 15 MeV/c and  $\sim 2$  mm rms bunch length

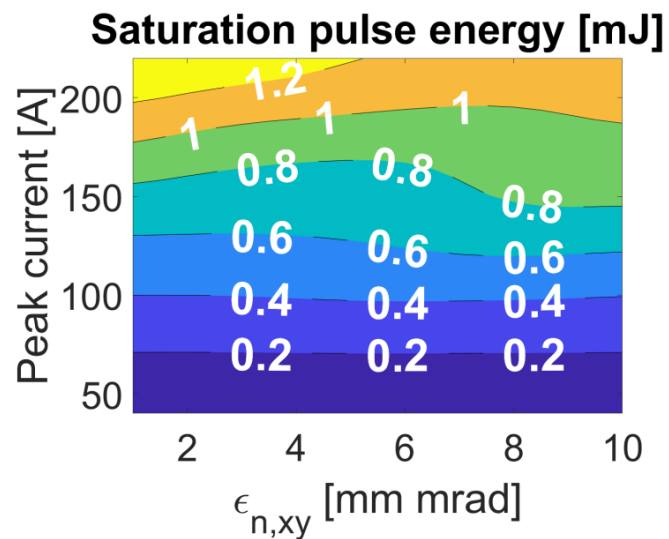
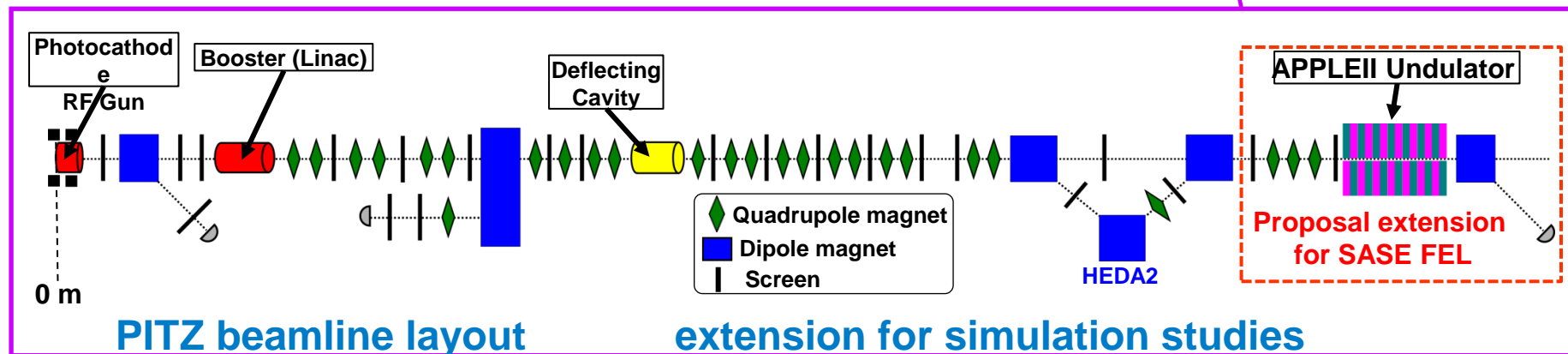
### Preliminary conclusions:

- Beam **peak current** (charge)  $\rightarrow$  most impact
- Transverse normalized emittance  $\epsilon_n$  has almost no impact on saturation power



# THz@PITZ: original proposals (2018)

PITZ as prototype for an accelerator based tunable THz source for pump-probe experiments at the European XFEL



Peak current: 50 to **200 A**  
Emittance: 1 to 10 mm mrad

FEL properties from Start-to-End (S2E) simulations

Property	Detail
Central wavelength	106.4 $\mu\text{m}$
Saturation length	2.94 m
Pulse energy at saturation & U.exit	0.78 mJ & <b>2.51 mJ</b>
Peak power at saturation & U.exit	95 MW & 188.7 MW
Radiation pulse duration	18 ps (FWHM)
Spectral width	10 $\mu\text{m}$ (9.4%)

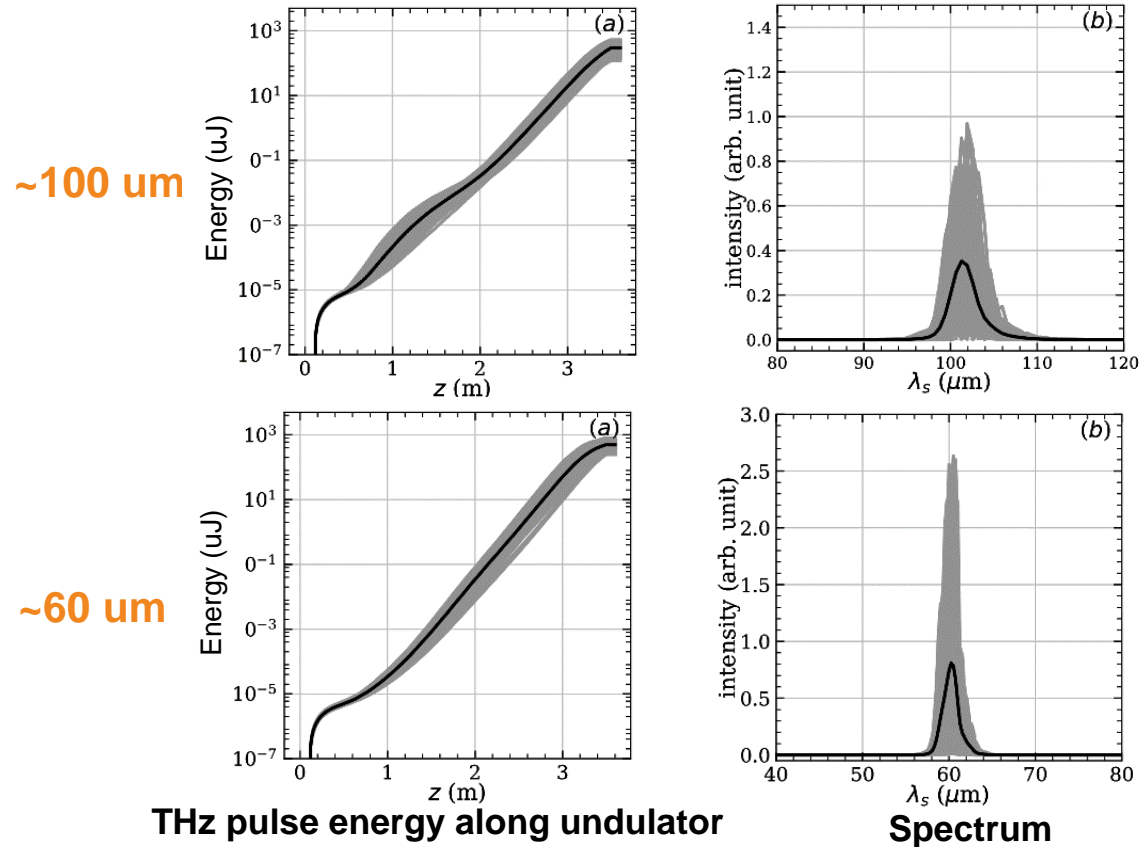
Properties of the APPLE-II undulator used in simulations

Property	Detail
Undulator type	Helical
K-value	1.82
Period length & total length	40 mm & 7 m (175 periods)

# Start-to-end simulation

## Proof-of-principle experiment on THz SASE FEL at PITZ

- **Astra**: Photocathode to Undulator entrance
- **Genesis 1.3**: FEL simulation (input from Astra)



Case	100 μm	60μm	Unit
Momentum	17	22	MeV/c
Pulse energy	<b>493.1±109.8</b>	<b>294.8±83.8</b>	μJ
Arrival time jitter	1.5	1.1	ps
Center wavelength	<b>101.8±0.7</b>	<b>60.3±0.3</b>	μm
Spectrum width	2.0±0.4	1.0±0.2	μm

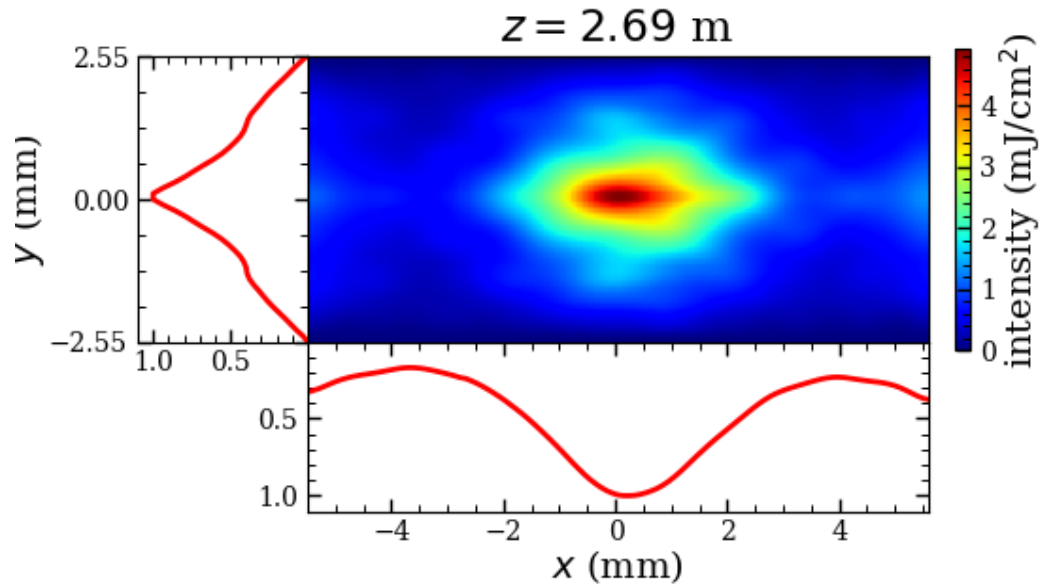
Summary of Genesis 1.3 simulation

Courtesy:  
X.-K. Li

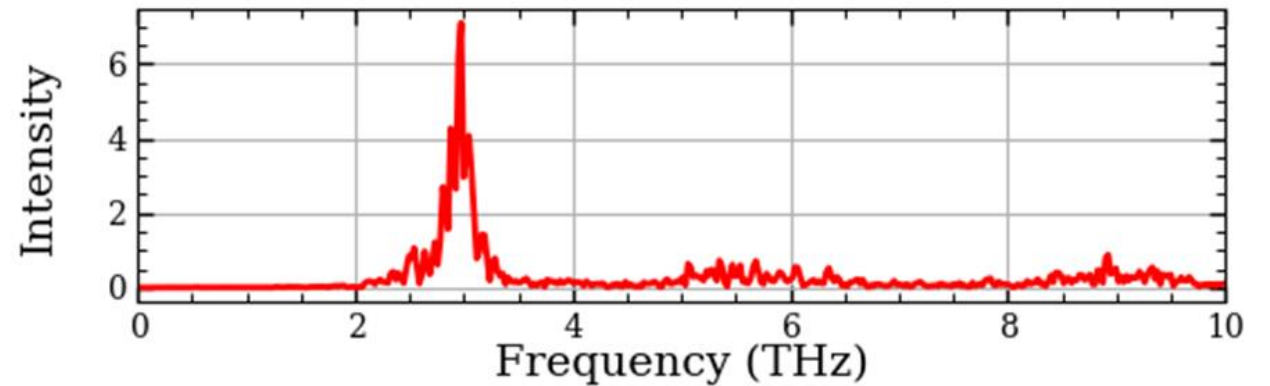
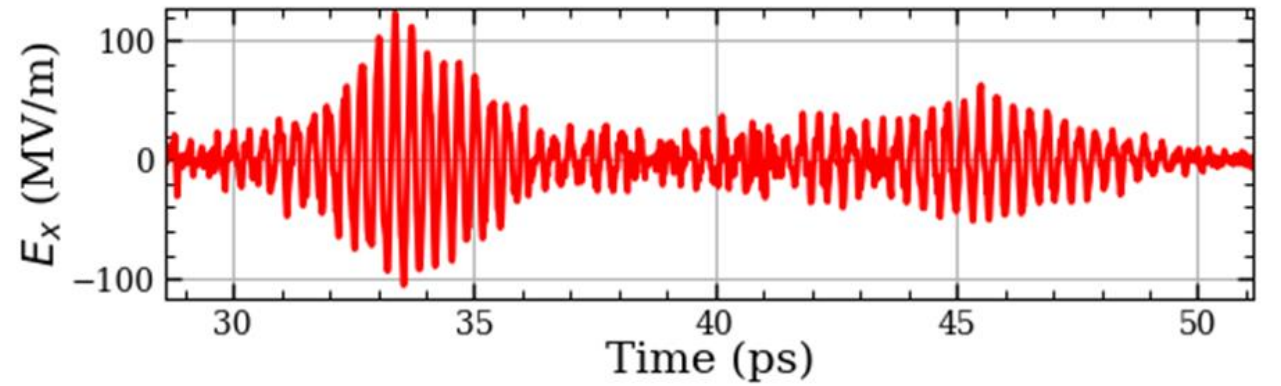
# Start-to-end simulation

## Proof-of-principle experiment on THz SASE FEL at PITZ

- **Warp:** Waveguide effect simulation (100  $\mu\text{m}$ )



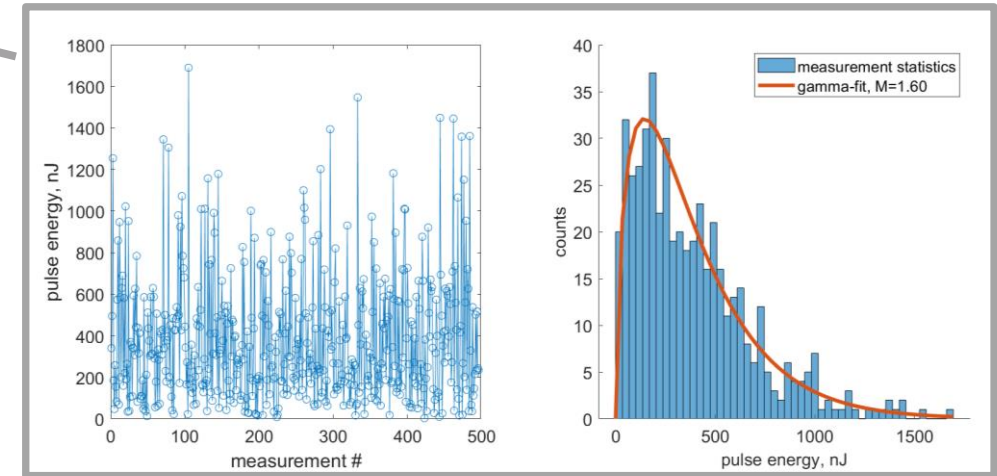
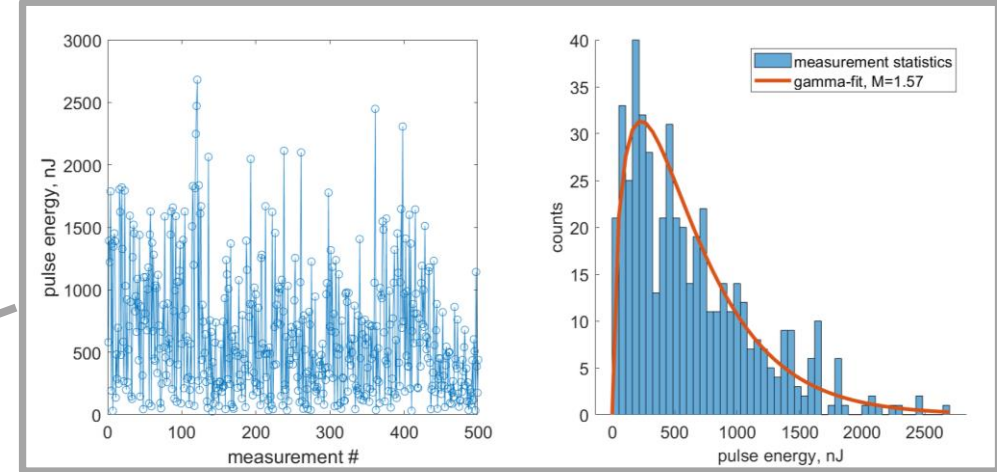
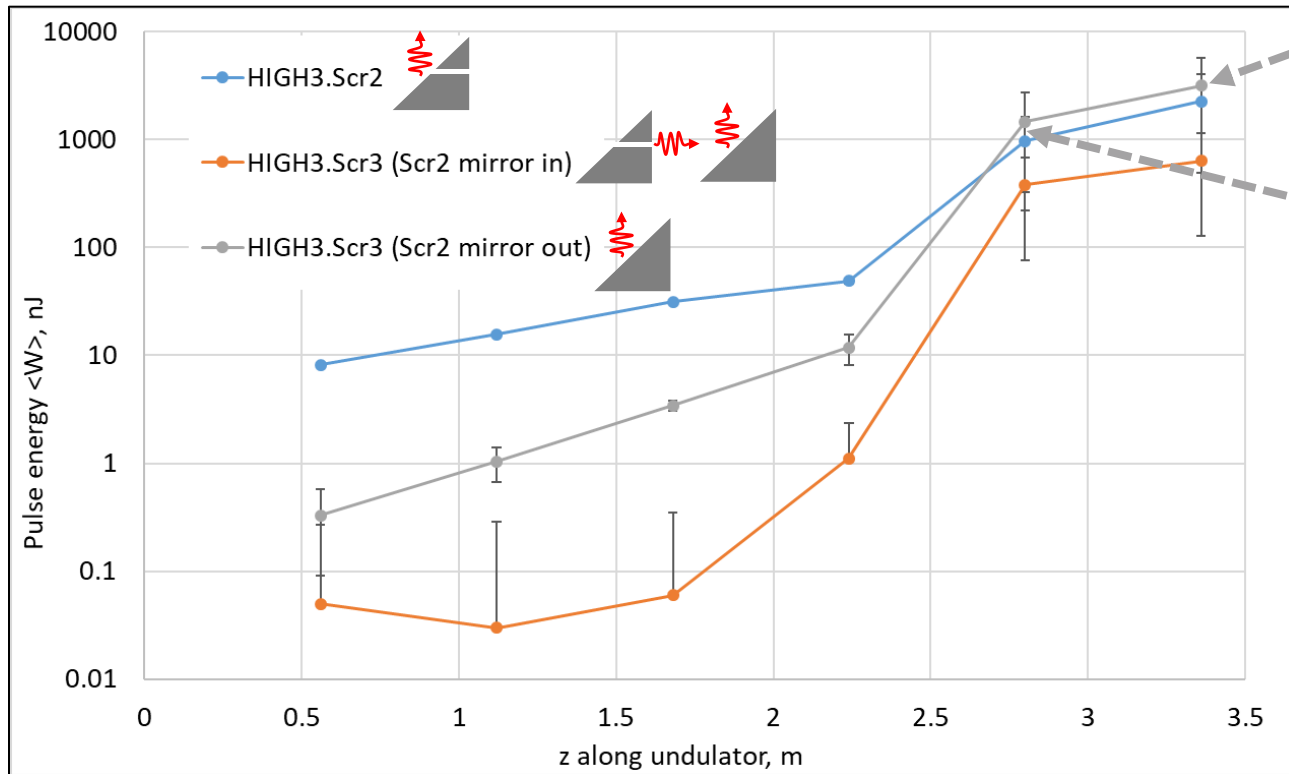
Particle-in-cell code;  
Treat vacuum  
chamber (11x5 mm)  
as conducting  
boundaries



Courtesy:  
X.-K. Li

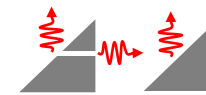
# Gain Curve Measurements (3nC)

Measured pulse energy vs position along undulator for different locations



2.3  $\mu$ J 0.6  $\mu$ J

3.1  $\mu$ J



# Simulation of Seeding Option for THz FEL at PITZ

G. Georgiev et al., Presented in FEL2022, TUP40.

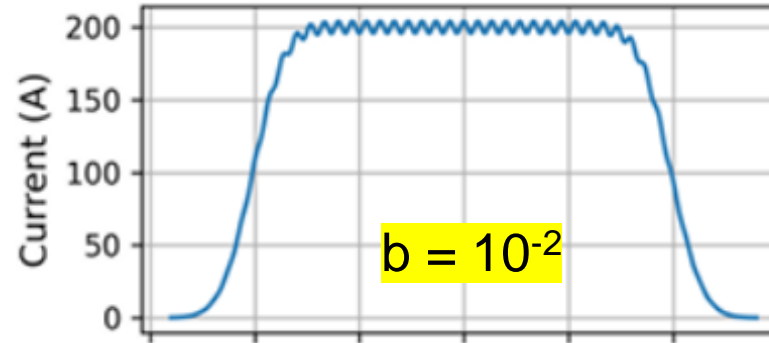
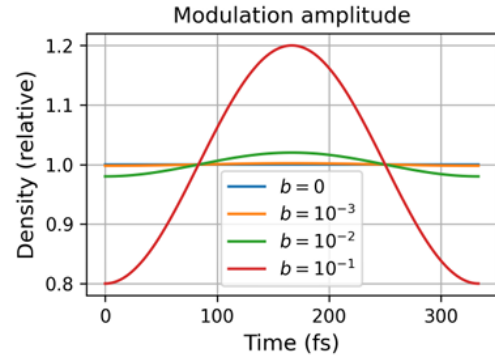


Figure 2: Electron beam current modulation along the duration of one period for different bunching values.

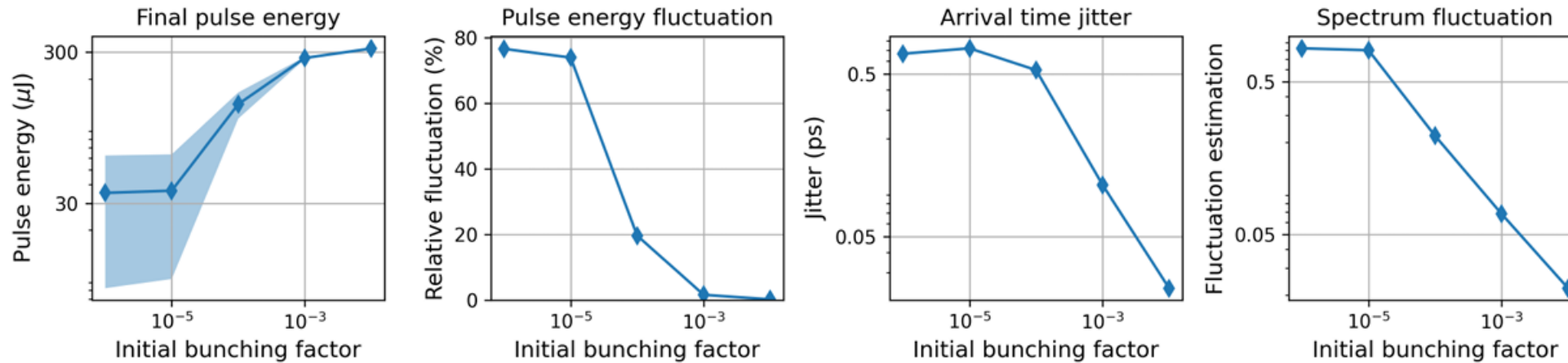


Figure 4: Summary of simulation results with pre-bunched electron beam. The bunching factor varies from  $10^{-6}$  to  $10^{-2}$ .