

ASET Seminar

# Recent Advances in Normal-Conducting Radiofrequency Linacs

**Xueying Lu**

Northern Illinois University (NIU)  
& Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)

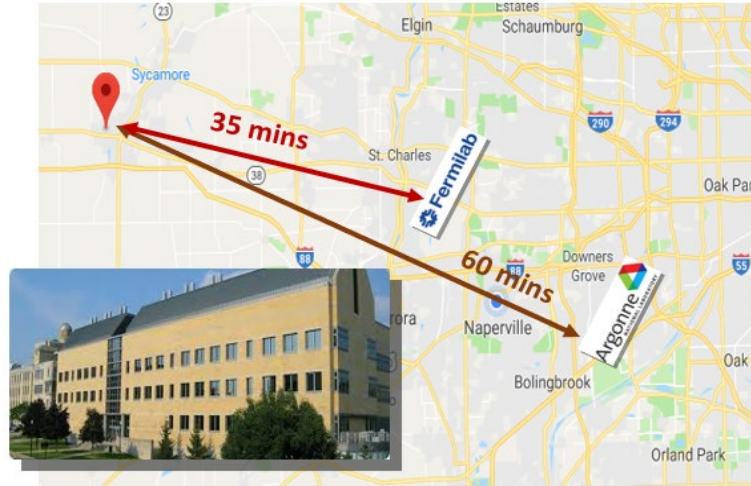
November 1, 2024  
Michigan State University



**Northern Illinois  
University**

# Hello from your friends at the CAST Traineeship

- Accelerator and Beam Physics at Northern Illinois University
  - We co-run the Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship (**CAST**) with Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)
  - Many students stationed at Argonne (including the **Argonne Wakefield Accelerator, AWA**) and Fermilab



# Outline

- Normal-conducting RF (**NCRF**) accelerators
  - Where are they used? How to accelerate?
- Quest for high-gradient compact NCRF accelerators
  - Towards the “holy grail”: Understanding the field/gradient limitations from **RF breakdown**
- Overview of recent advances in pulsed NCRF linacs
  - Innovative approaches to **various aspects** of NCRF accelerators
  - Corresponding **collider proposals** based on some advances
- Future applications
  - Colliders, light sources, industrial and medical applications, ...

**Exciting time for NCRF linacs towards various applications!**

# Where can you find accelerators?

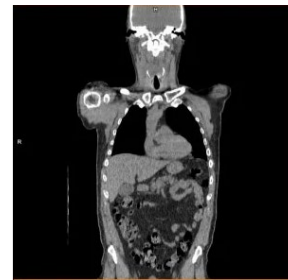
- Industrial and societal applications:
  - About 30,000 accelerators in use world wide, with sales >\$2B/yr



Shrink-Wrapped Turkeys



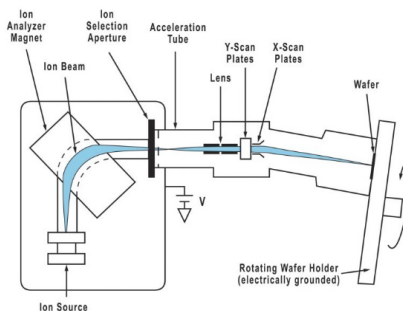
Cancer therapy



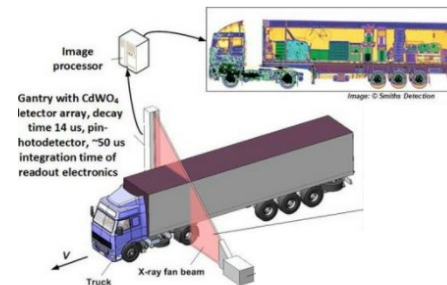
Medical Imaging



Studying cultural artifacts



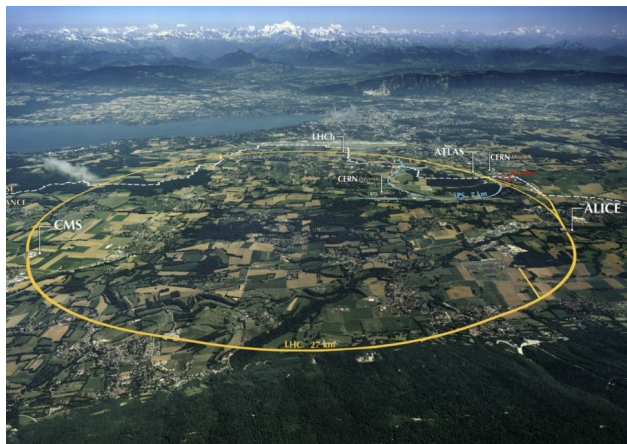
Ion Implantation



Cargo Inspection

# Where can you find accelerators?

- Science discovery:
  - High Energy Physics (HEP)
  - Basic Energy Sciences (BES)
  - Nuclear Physics (NP)



Large Hadron Collider (LHC)



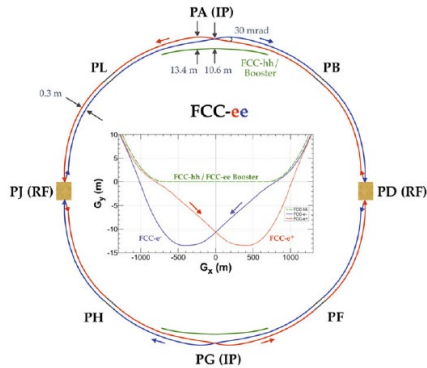
Advanced Photon Source (APS)



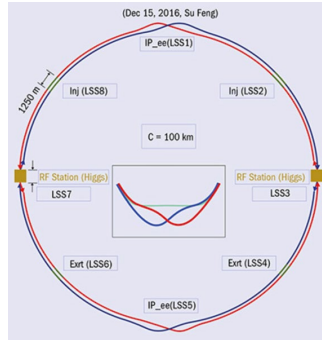
Right here 😊

# Future HEP colliders: what's next after LHC?

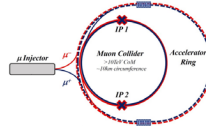
- “Examples of future colliders on the menu



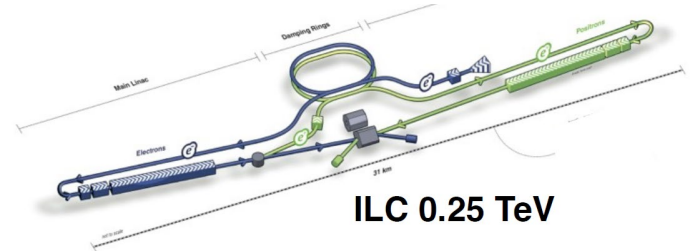
FCC-ee 0.24 TeV  
 FCC-hh 100 TeV  
 FCC-eh 3.5 TeV



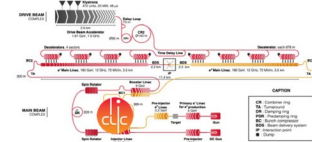
CEPC 0.24 TeV  
 SPPC 125 TeV  
 SPPC-CEPC 5.5 TeV



MC 10 TeV



ILC 0.25 TeV



CLIC 0.24 TeV

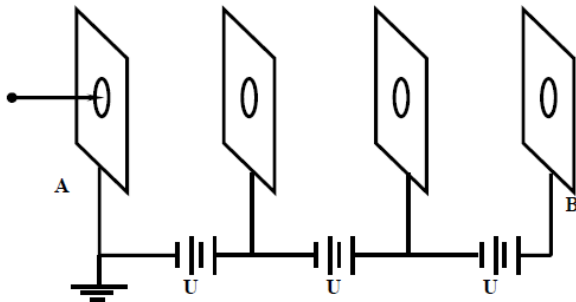
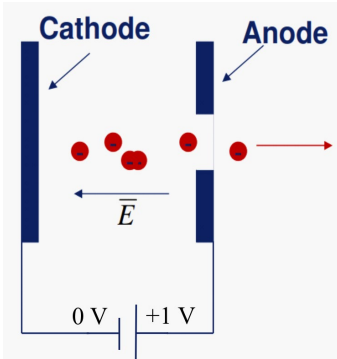


CCC 0.25 TeV

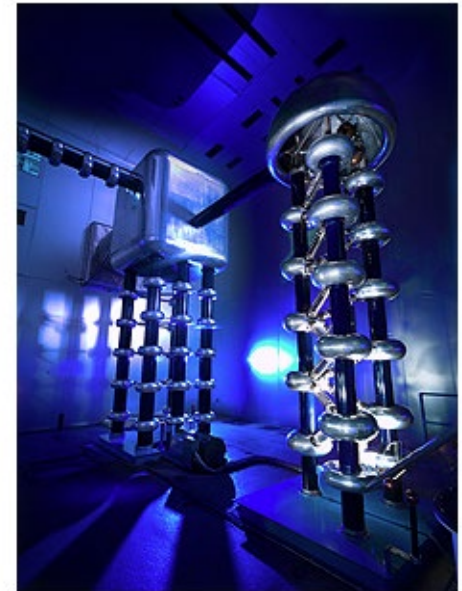
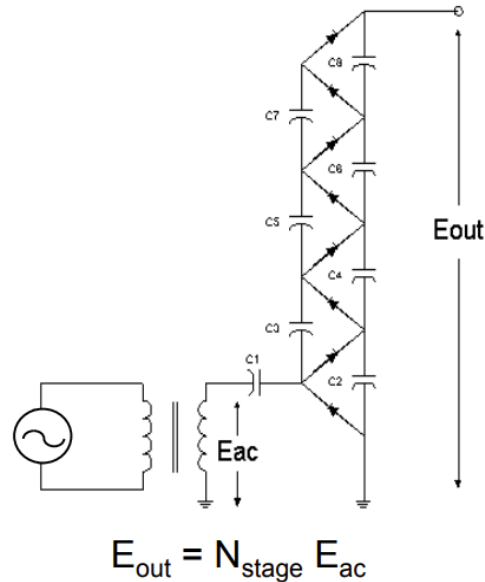
- “Support **vigorous R&D toward a cost-effective 10 TeV pCM collider** based on proton, muon, or possible wakefield technologies, including an evaluation of options for US siting of such a machine, with a goal of being ready to build **major test facilities and demonstrator facilities within the next 10 years**” – 2023 P5 report 6

# Direct-current (DC) accelerator

- Electrostatic acceleration



- High-voltage acceleration by stacking  
– e.g. Cockcroft-Walton generator

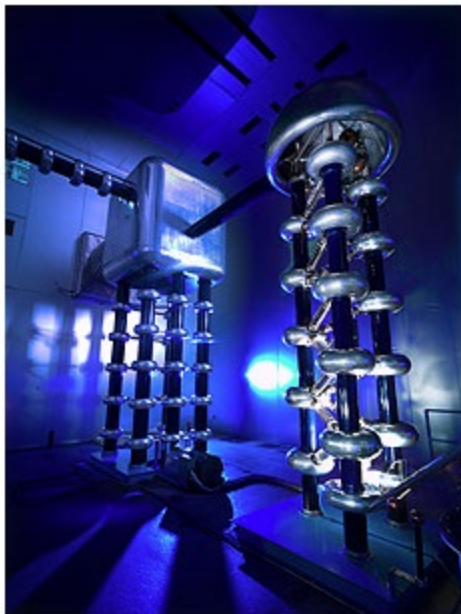


@Fermilab

# But the photo is actually taken from-

## So long, Cockcroft-Walton

August 21, 2012 | Joseph Piergrossi



"People who work on these things have come to love them, but it's time to move on and **modernize**."



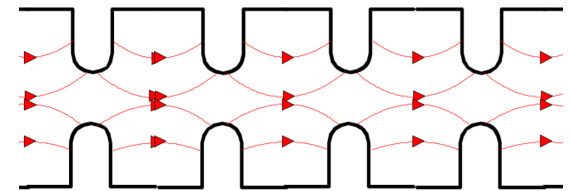
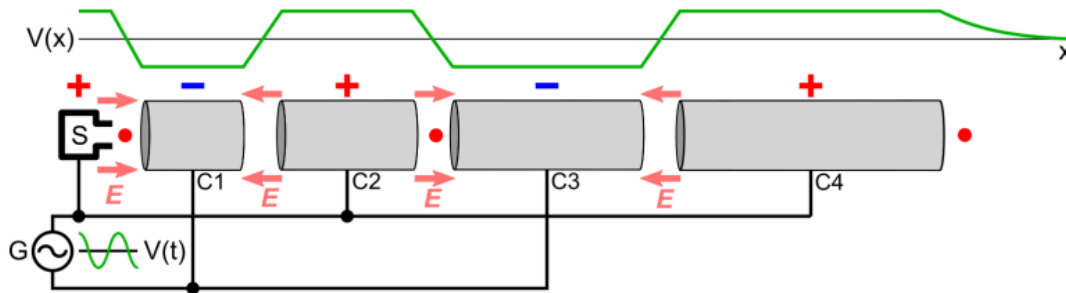
# Limitations of DC accelerators

- Electric field limited by “electrical breakdown”
  - Sparking electric field limits (Kilpatrick model)
    - About 10 kV/cm, or 1 MV/m
  - Large size
  - Exposure to high-voltage terminals
- DC accelerators are still good for applications which prefer/require:
  - Simplicity
  - A steady environment
  - Continuous beam

# RF Acceleration

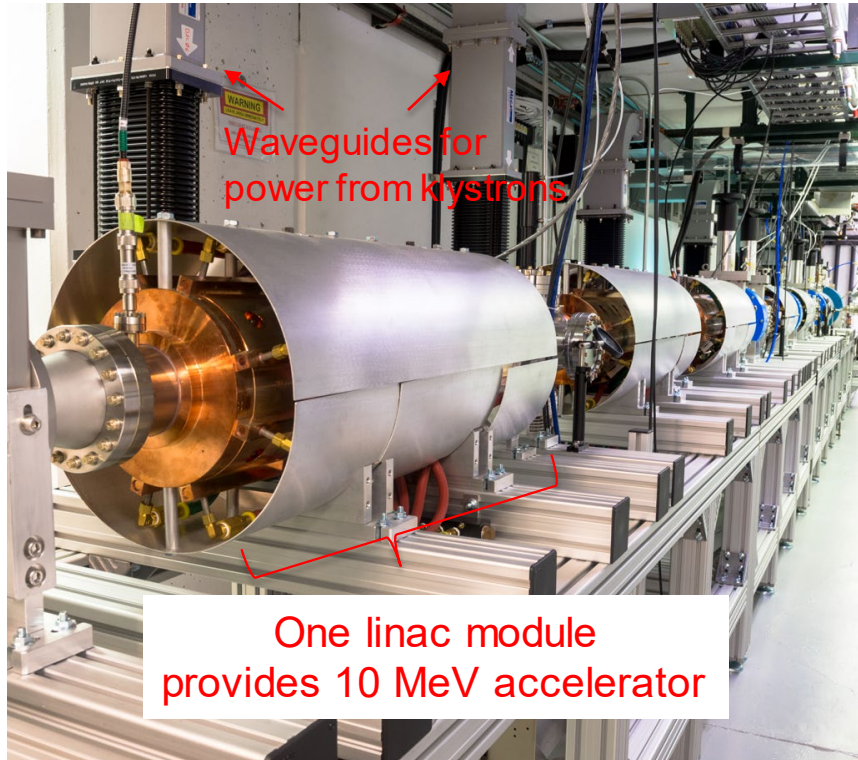
- RF acceleration allows **higher energy** and **higher efficiency** in **smaller (more compact)** accelerators
  - **Sinusoidal** electric field
  - Bunched beam to occupy a **small fraction** of the wavelength
  - Beam can gain energy when positioned at the correct **phase**

- Accelerating cavities need to provide a longitudinal electric field
  - Lorentz force
$$\vec{F} = q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$
  - B field cannot provide acceleration
  - E field can provide acceleration

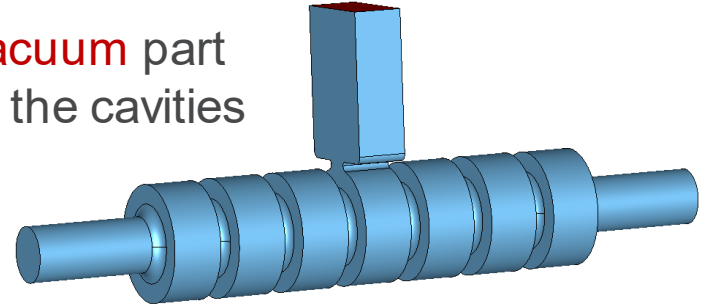


Electric field plot

# Example: L-band (1.3 GHz) linac at AWA

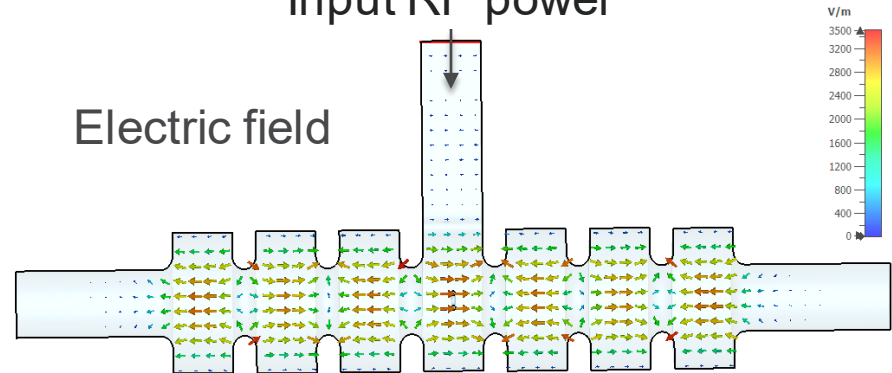


Vacuum part  
of the cavities



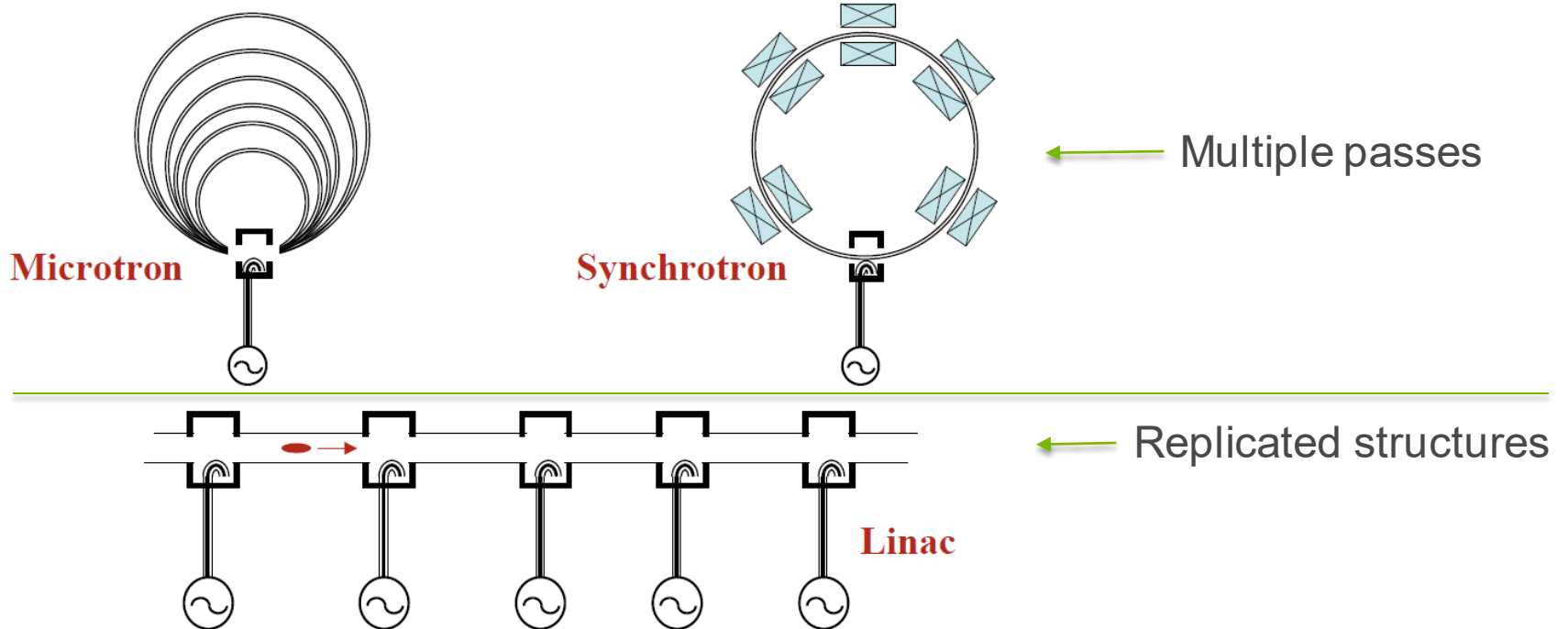
Input RF power

Electric field



# How to use RF structures in an accelerator?

- Two different schemes:
  - RF acceleration in **circular** vs. **linear** machines



# Linear RF Accelerators



Stanford Linear Collider  
2 miles, 100 GeV collision energy for  $e^+/e^-$

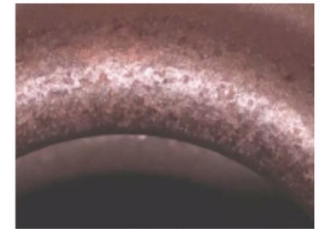
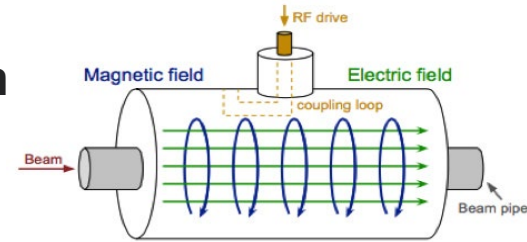
*(now mostly used as a laser)*

$$\text{Energy} = \text{Length} \times \text{Gradient}$$

High gradient  $\rightarrow$  Compact linear accelerators

# High-gradient acceleration using NCRF structures

- NCRF structures: **copper** structures (traditionally) at **room temperatures** (water cooled traditionally)
- High gradient → **Compact** linear accelerators
  - (Other considerations than the gradient: short- and long-range wakefield, RF power, beam loss, cooling...)
- Limiting factor in high-gradient operation: **RF breakdown**
  - Accelerating gradient currently limited to 10-100 MV/m in conventional NCRF accelerators
- RF breakdown is unwanted
  - Occurs with relatively high surface field
  - Dark current, outgassing or plasma discharge, visible flash
  - Possible irreversible structure damage
- Often presented as breakdown rate (BDR)

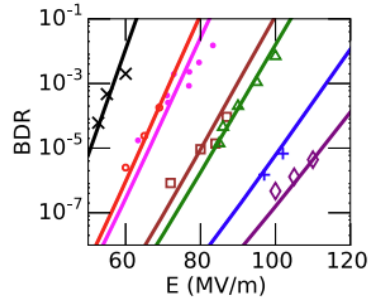


Breakdown-induced pitting in a copper structure

# Physics understanding of RF breakdown—

- Greatly deepened through both theoretical and experimental studies
  - Modeling
    - Analytical models (vacancy/ dislocation...) and simulations

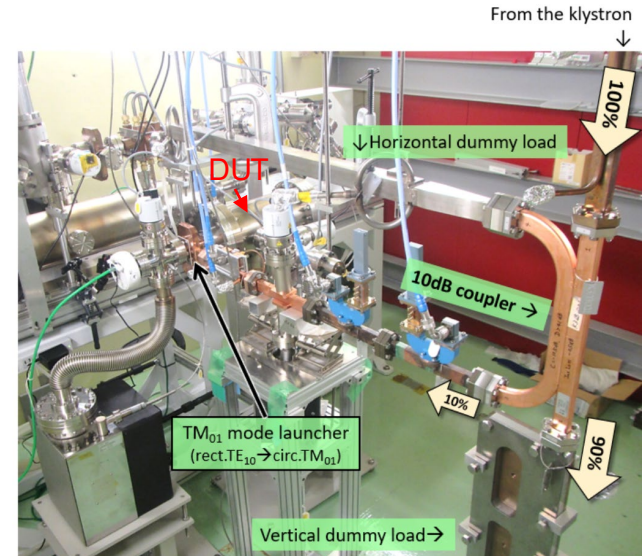
Stochastic model describing breakdown nucleation fitted with structure testing data



E. Engelberg *et al.*, PRL 120, 124801 (2018)

- RF breakdown test

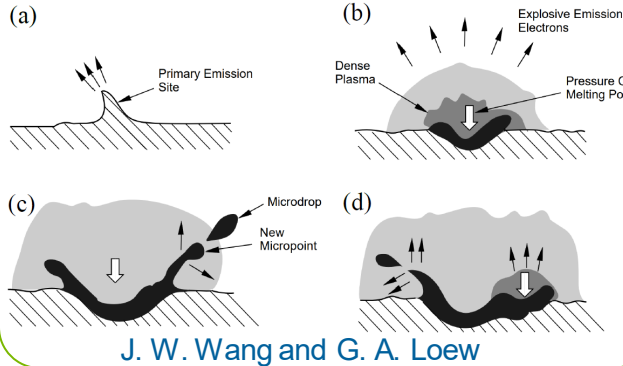
Nextef2  
@KEK,  
Japan



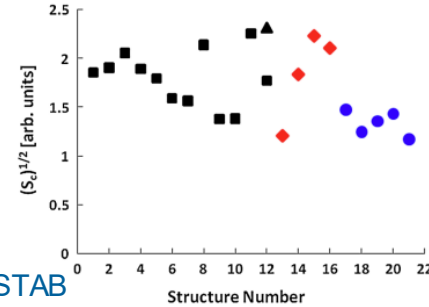
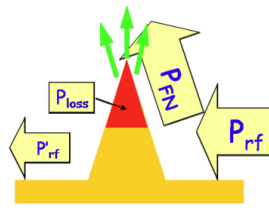
- While the physics mechanism is not fully understood, we can make predictions about structure performance based on empirical understanding of a few factors—

# Field quantities that matter in RF breakdown

## Electric field: field emission



## Power flow / Local power coupling



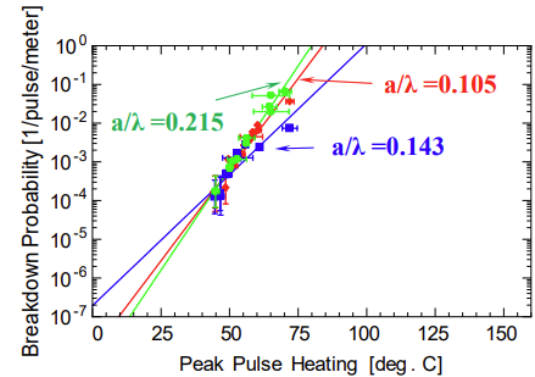
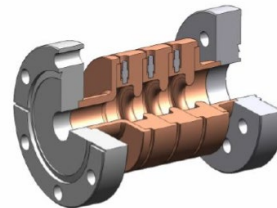
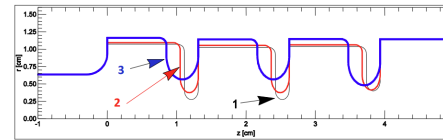
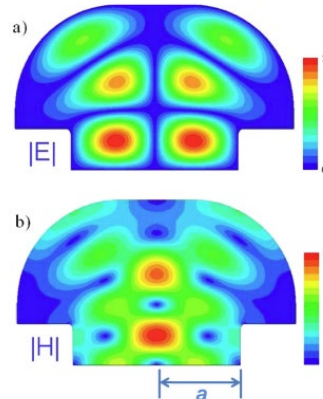
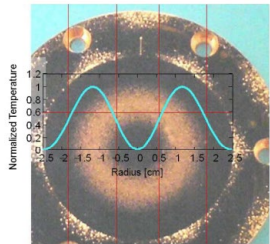
$$S_c = \|\Re\{\bar{S}\}\| + g_c \cdot \|\Im\{\bar{S}\}\|$$

$$E^* = E_0 - f(E^*)R_{bd}/l_{ant}$$

A. Grudiev, et al., PRSTAB 12, 102001 (2009)

J. Paszkiewicz, et al., 2022

## Magnetic field: pulsed heating



L. Laurent, et al., PRSTAB 14 041001 (2011)

V. Dolgashev, et al., APL 97, 171501 (2010).



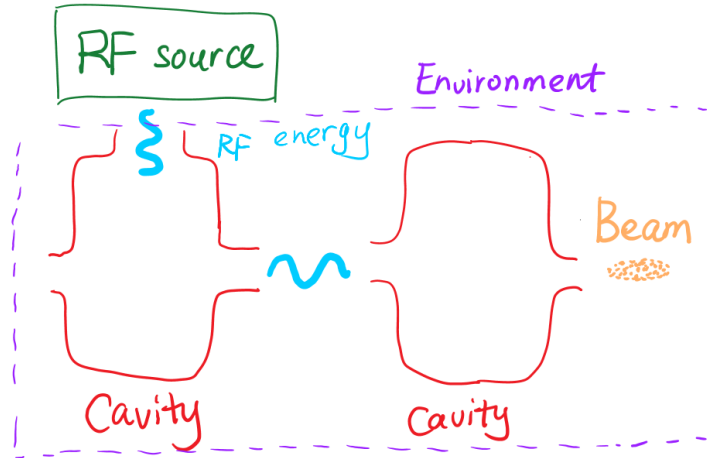
# Where can improvements happen?

## RF sources:

- Improvements in RF sources
- Alternative source with structure wakefield acceleration

## Cavity properties:

- Geometry optimization
- Advanced structures
- Frequency
- Copper materials



## Environment:

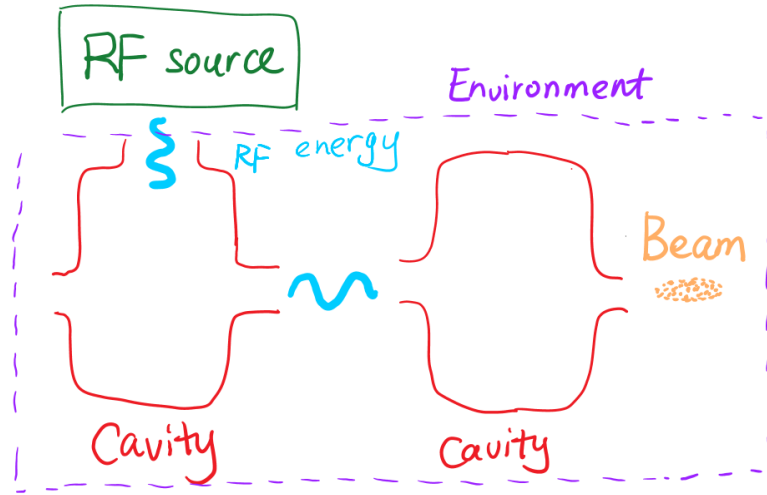
- Cryogenic operation
- High magnetic field

## Power coupling:

- RF couplers and windows
- Distributed coupling

## Beam acceleration:

- High-order mode detuning and damping



### Cavity properties:

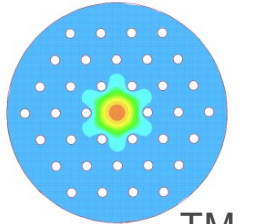
- Geometry optimization
- Advanced structures
- Frequency
- Copper materials

# Cavity geometry

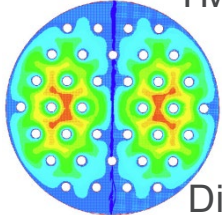
- General optimization goals for NCRF **accelerating** structures:
  - High “shunt impedance”
  - Low surface E/H field to gradient ratios
  - Minimum acceptable beam aperture
  - Higher-order modes (HOM) damping
  - ...
  
- NCRF structures for other purposes:
  - Transverse deflecting cavities for diagnostics
  - Crab cavities for colliders
  - Beam position monitor cavities
  - Storage cavities (e.g. recent spherical cavities)
  - RF kickers
  - ...

# Advanced RF structures

## Photonic bandgap structures

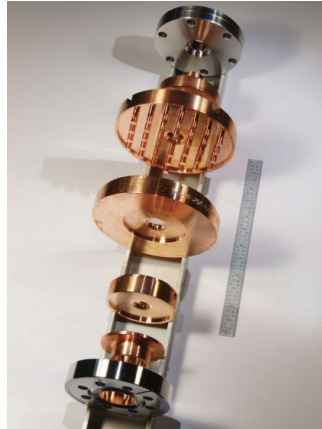


$TM_{01}$



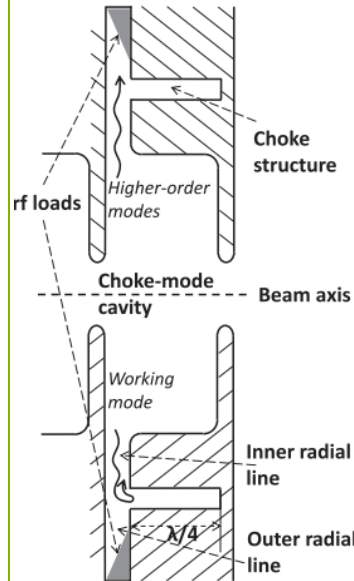
Dipole

E. Smirnova *et al.*



R. Marsh *et al.*

## Choke-mode structures

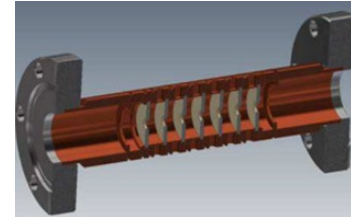


H. Zha *et al.*

## Dielectric structures

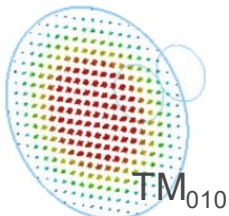


C. Jing *et al.*



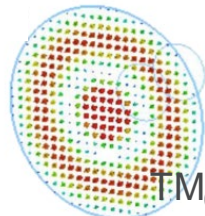
J. Shao *et al.*

## Bi-modal structures



$TM_{010}$

1.29 GHz

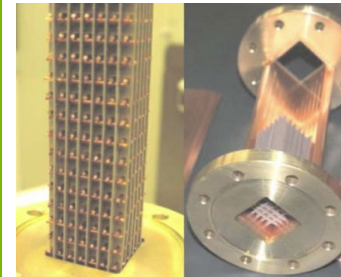


$TM_{020}$

2.58 GHz

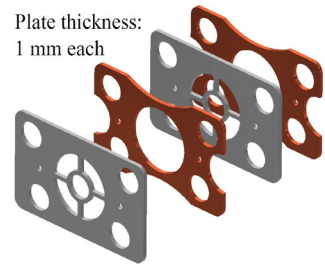
H. Feng *et al.*

## Metamaterial structures



S. Antipov *et al.*

Plate thickness:  
1 mm each

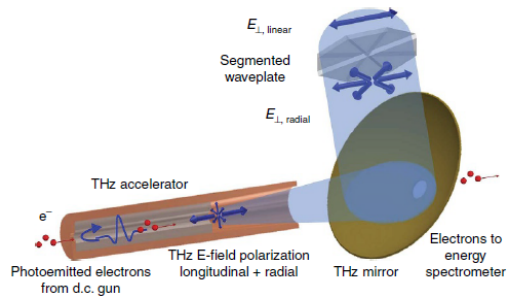


X. Lu, J. Picard, *et al.*

# Sub-terahertz and terahertz acceleration

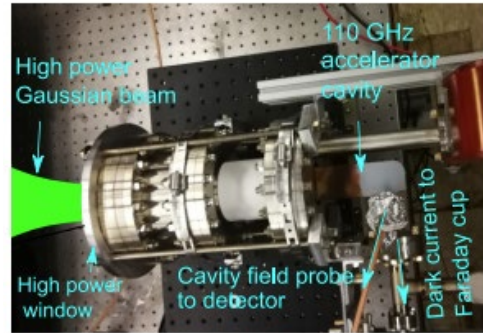
- Higher gradients from the frequency scaling of shunt impedance
- Key challenges:
  - Fabrication
  - Power sources

## THz pulses



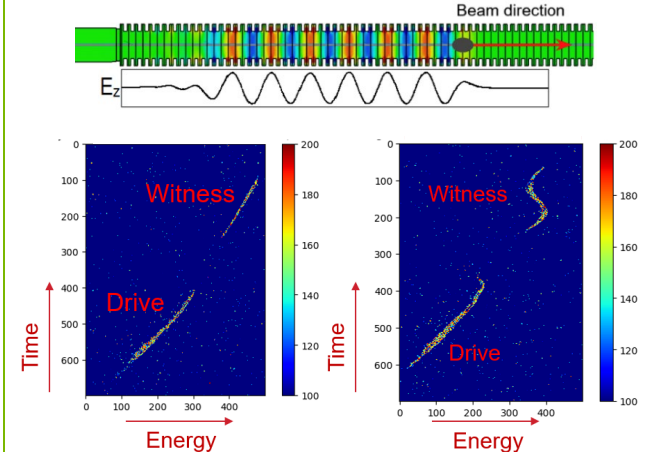
E. Nanni *et al.*

## mm-wave RF sources



M. Othman *et al.*

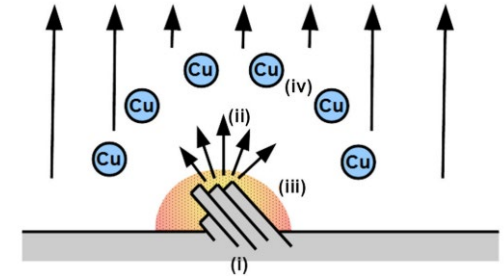
## Electron beam



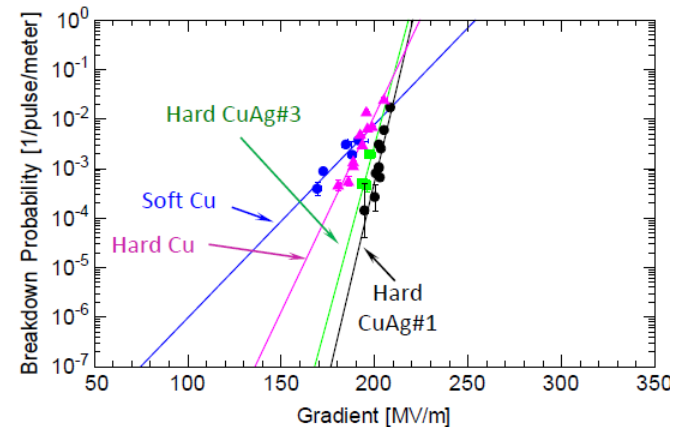
B. Leung *et al.*

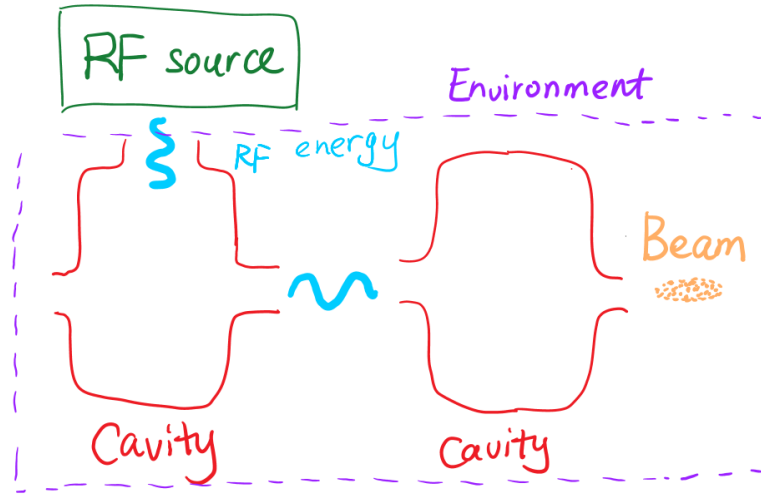
# Cavity materials: Hard copper and copper alloys

- **Hard** copper materials
  - **Harder** materials with **lower mobility** of crystal defects such as dislocations are expected to reduce RF breakdown
- Material design to study the trade-off **between higher mechanical strengths (good) and lower electrical conductivity (bad)** ← G. Wang, et al., APL 120, 134101 (2022)
- High-power testing of hard Cu, CuAg
  - New methods of building structures: e-beam welding, TIG welding, clamping, additive manufacturing



V.A. Dolgashev, “High gradient, X-band and above, metallic RF structures”, EAAC 2015





### Environment:

- Cryogenic operation
- High magnetic field

# Cryogenic operation

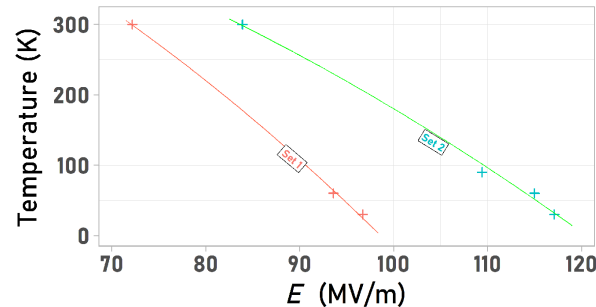
- Cooling copper cavities down
  - Higher breakdown resilience from lowering crystal defects mobility and thermal stress
  - Lower resistivity → higher quality factor

## Theory

$$T = \frac{-E_f + \epsilon_0 \Delta V E^2}{k_b (\ln BDR - \ln a)}$$

K. Nordlund and F. Djurabekova,  
PRSTAB 15, 071002 (2012).

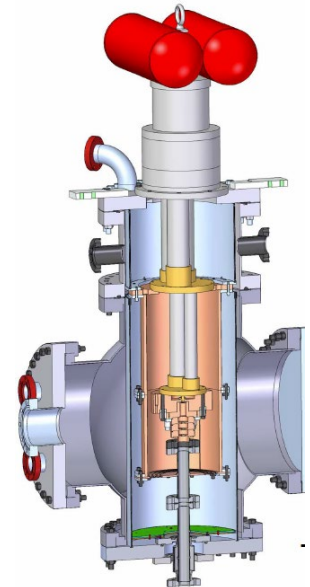
## Pulsed DC testing



M. Jacewicz *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Appl. 14,  
061002 (2020)

## RF testing

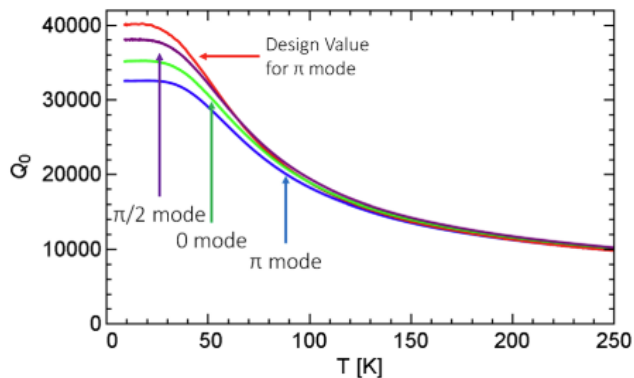
A. D. Cahill *et al.*,  
PRAB 21,  
102002 (2018)



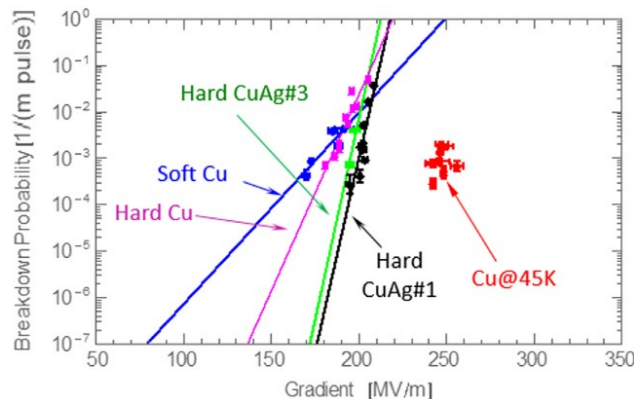


# Cryogenic NCRF structures testing

X-band copper structures at cryogenic temperatures

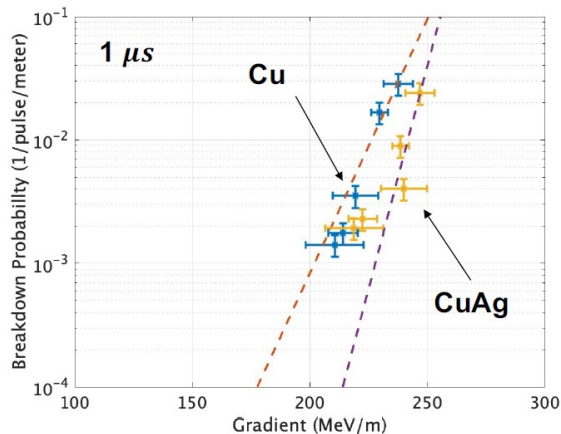


Cu@45 K outperformed others



C-band copper structures tested at 77 K

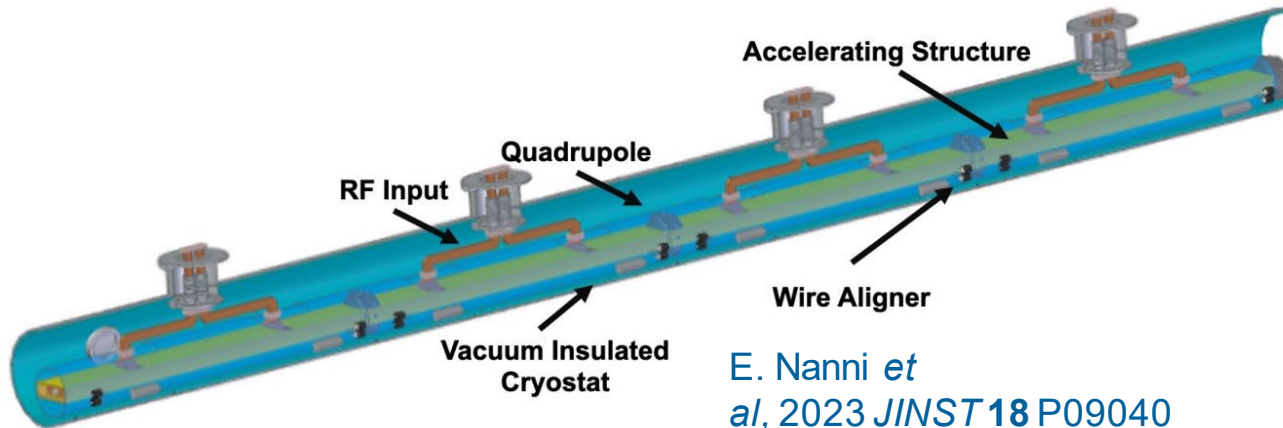
- Qualify factor improved by 2.5 X for Cu and 2.9X for CuAg from cold test
- High-power test



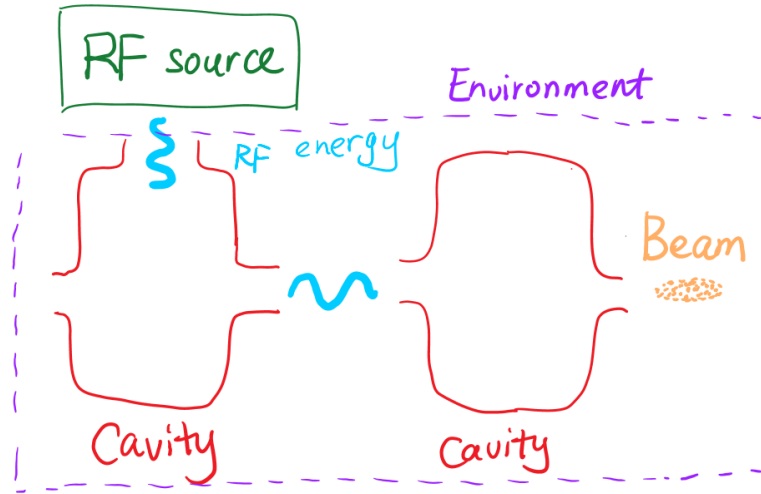
# Corresponding collider proposal

- **Cool copper collider (C<sup>3</sup>)**

- Cryogenic copper accelerators, C-band, liquid nitrogen
- 8 km footprint for 250/550 GeV CoM  $\Rightarrow$  70/120 MeV/m



E. Nanni *et al.*, 2023 *JINST* **18** P09040

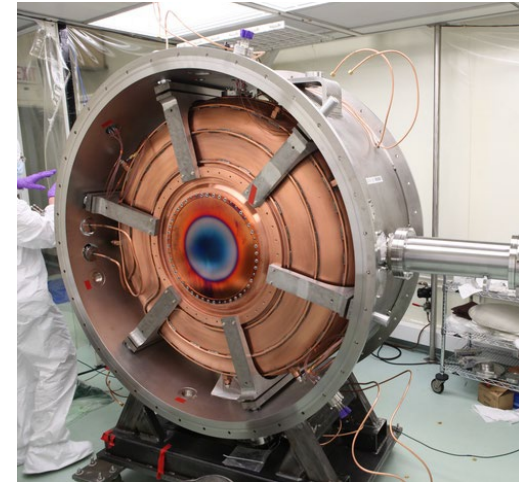
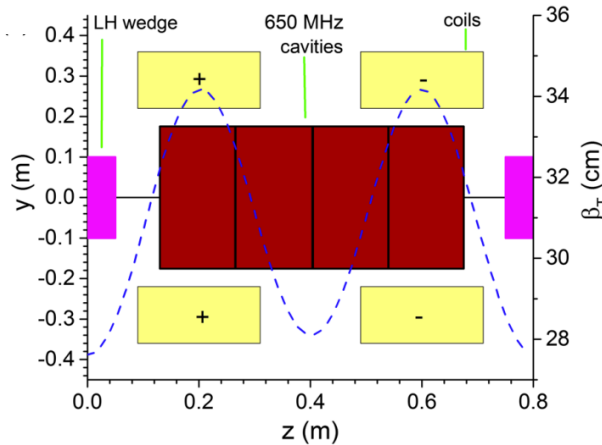
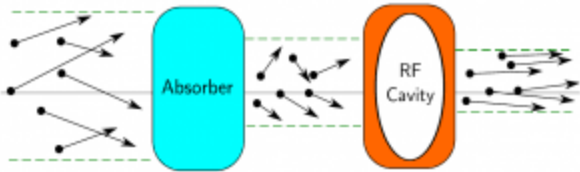


### Environment:

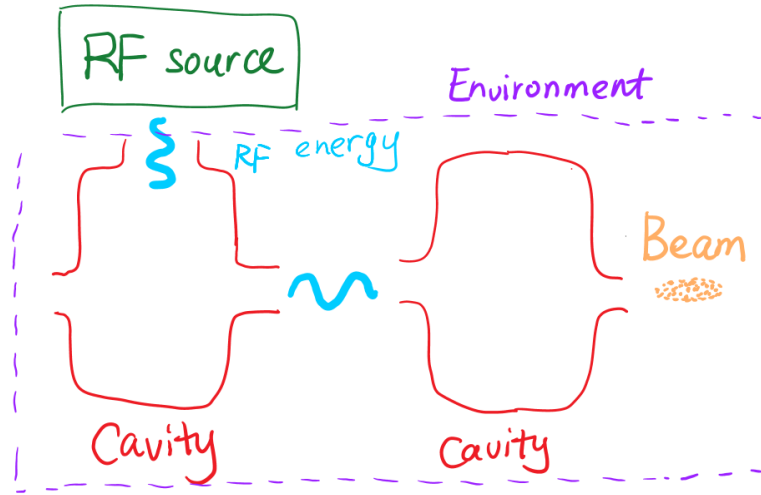
- Cryogenic operation
- High magnetic field

# RF cavities in strong magnetic field

- NCRF cavities in a strong solenoid magnet **muon ionization cooling**, a key technology towards the **Muon Collider**
  - Key characteristics of muons:
    - elementary particles
    - $m_\mu = 207m_e$
    - lifetime =  $2.2 \mu\text{s}$



D. Stratakis and R. Palmer Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams 18, 031003 (2015);  
MICE collaboration. Nature 578, 53–59 (2020).

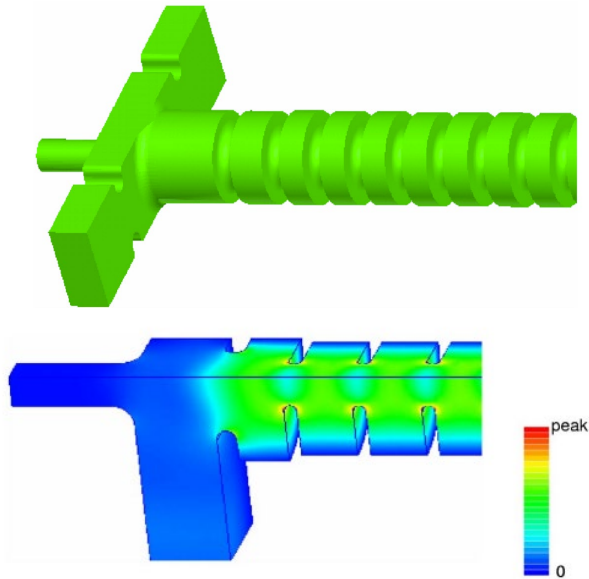


### Power coupling:

- RF couplers and windows
- Distributed coupling

# RF couplers and windows

## TM<sub>01</sub> mode-launcher coupler

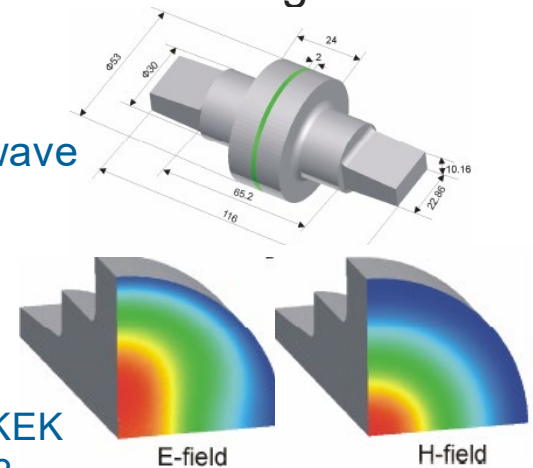


C. Nantista *et al.*, PRSTAB 7, 072001 (2004)

## RF windows

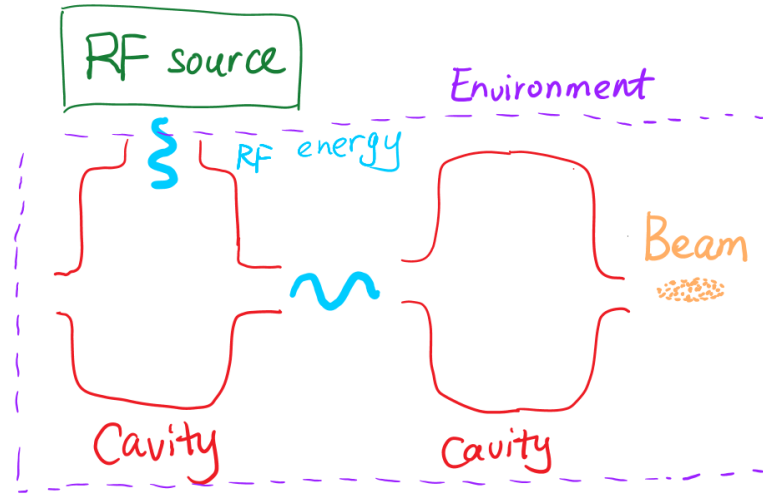
- Coax or waveguide
- Ceramic materials
- Coating
- RF design to lower electric field
- Thermal stress management

## Traveling-wave windows



S. Kazakov, KEK  
preprint, 1998





### Beam acceleration:

- Higher-order mode detuning and damping

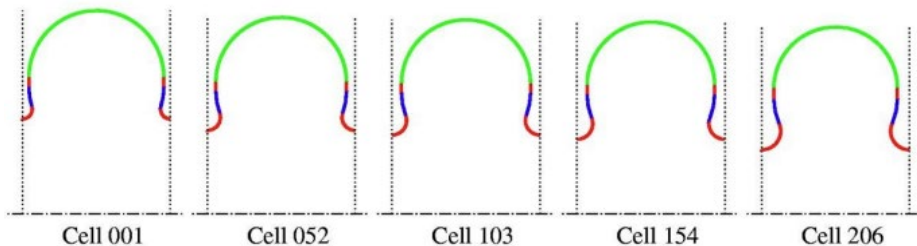
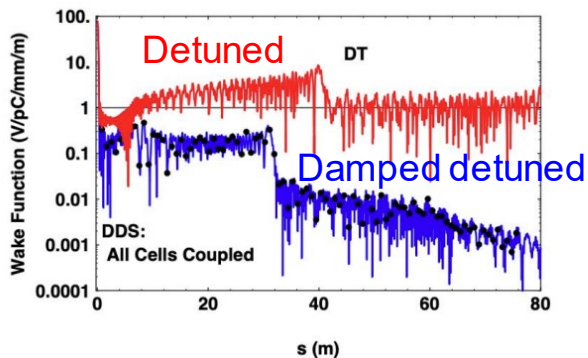


# Higher-order modes detuning and damping

For NLC/JLC

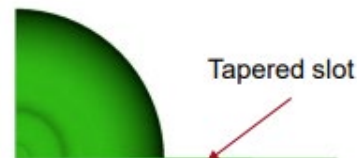
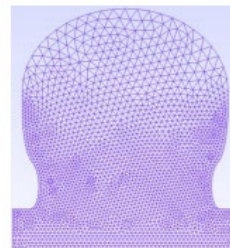


Round Damped Detuned Structure (RDDS)

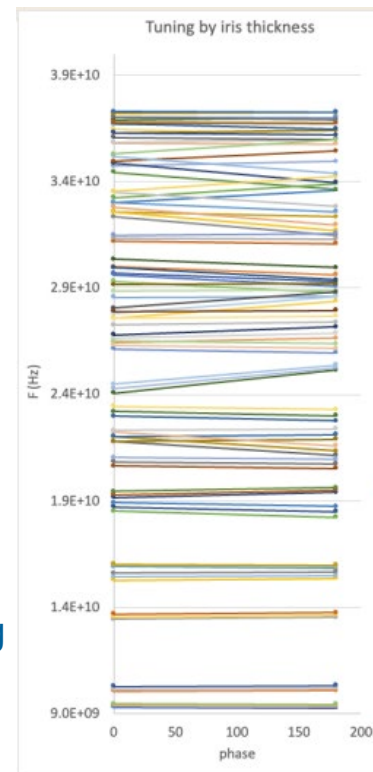


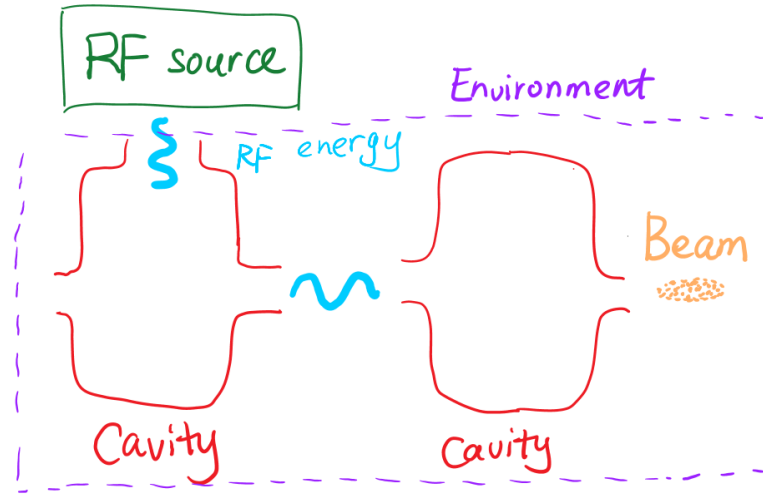
Z. Li *et al.*, PAC 1999

For C<sup>3</sup>



Z. Li, "HOM Detuning and Damping of C-Band Distributed Coupling Structure", LCWS, July 2024





### RF sources:

- RF sources (compact, low cost/voltage, high efficiency)
- Alternative sources with structure wakefield acceleration

# Improvements in RF sources

- Solid-state amplifiers (especially at low frequencies)
- Compact, low-cost and low-voltage **klystrons**
- Auxiliary RF components: power combiners, pulse compressors, power distribution networks, circulators, (RF windows), ...



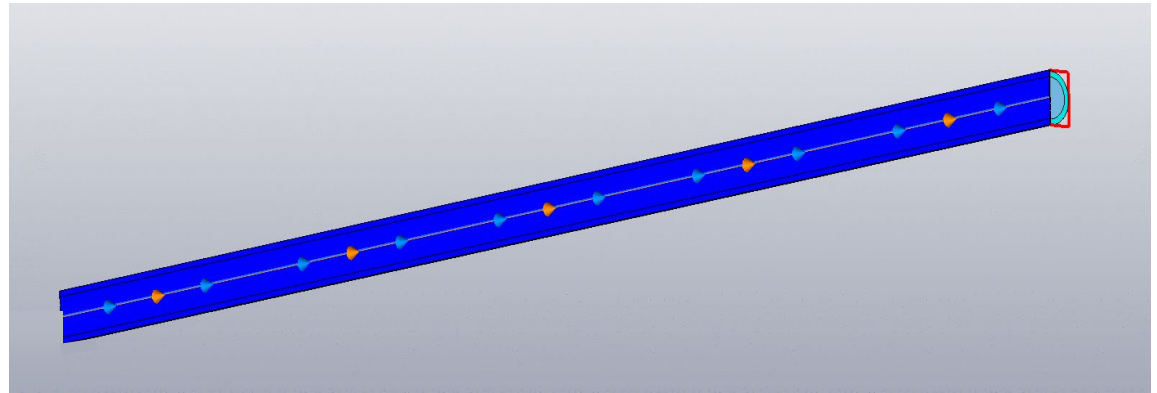
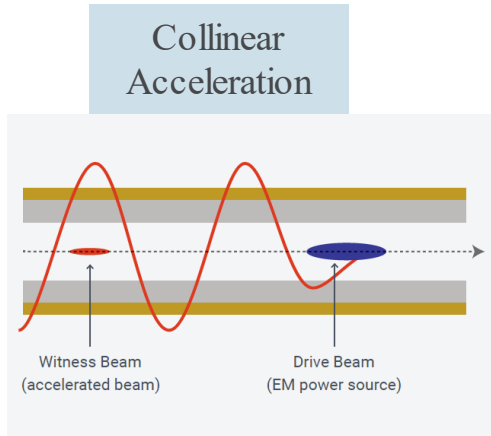
X-Band Multi-Beam  
Klystron @SLAC



352 MHz solid-state amplifier  
modules @ APS

# Structure wakefield acceleration (SWFA)

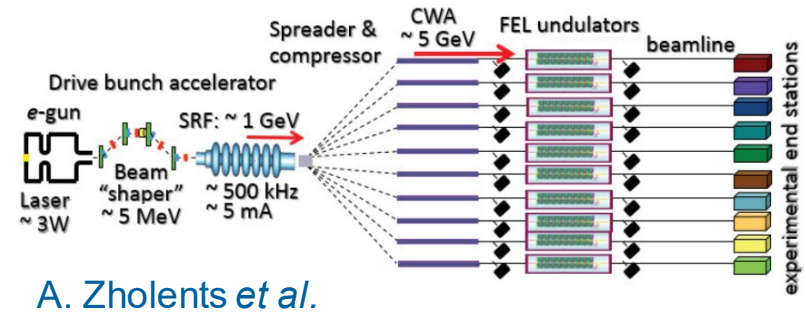
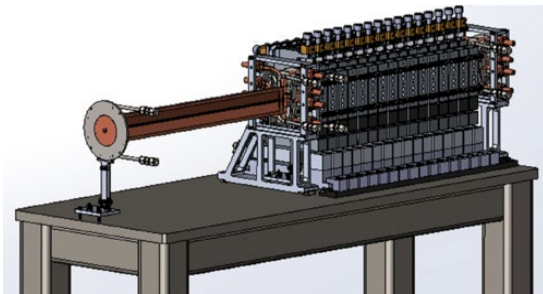
- Driven by short ultrarelativistic electron bunches
  - Beam-driven wakefield acceleration (one advanced accelerator concept)
  - Extract wakefield from a “drive” beam to accelerate a “witness” beam



# Collinear wakefield accelerator (CWA) R&D

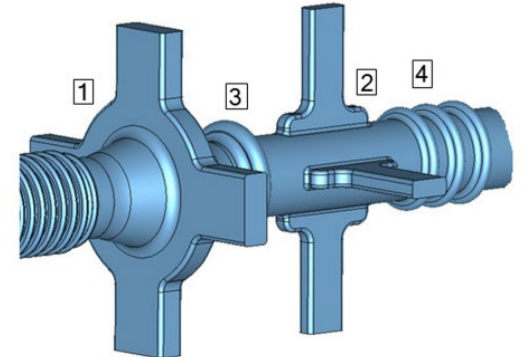
- An application being developed at ANL
  - A compact multi-user XFEL
  - CWA in 180 GHz corrugated waveguides
- Advantages:
  - Compact, high efficiency, high rep rate
- Addressing key challenges:
  - Beam breakup instabilities

Solution: Strong permanent magnet



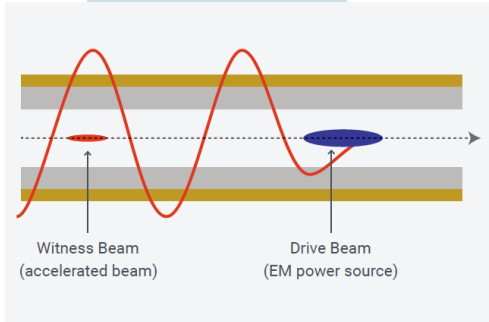
- Thermal loading and HOM

Solution: Transition section to remove unused energy and to extract HOM

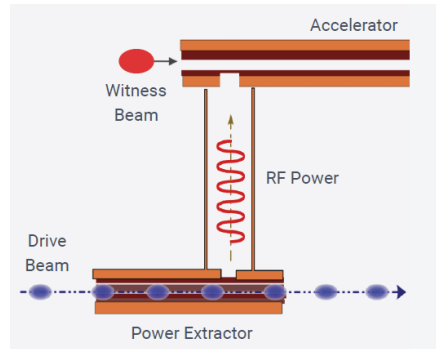


# Two-beam acceleration (TBA)

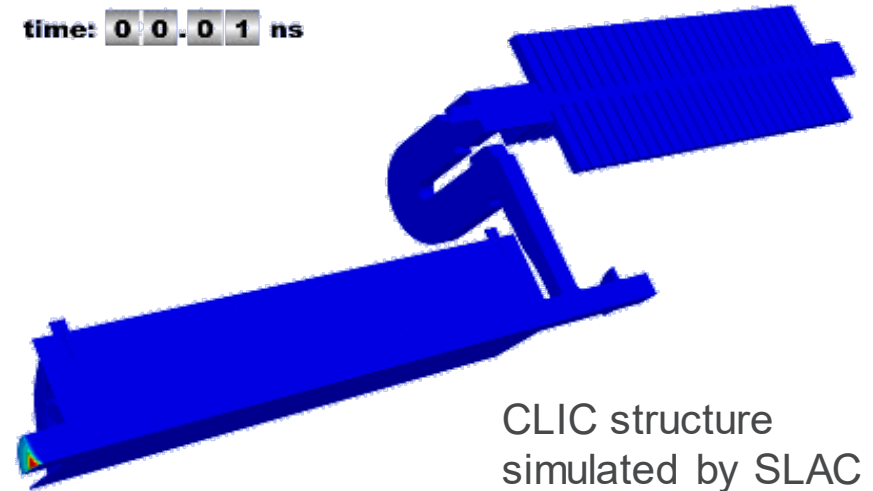
Collinear Acceleration



Two-Beam Acceleration



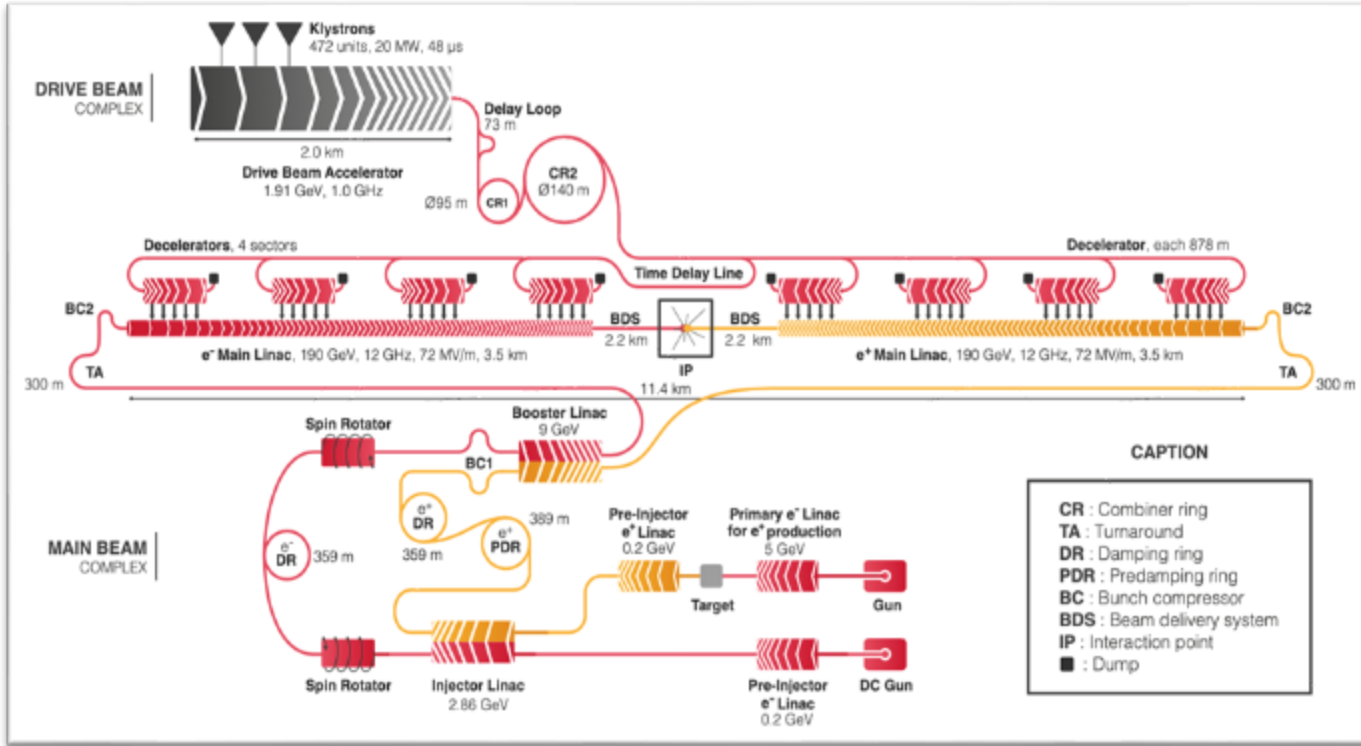
time: 0 0 . 0 1 ns



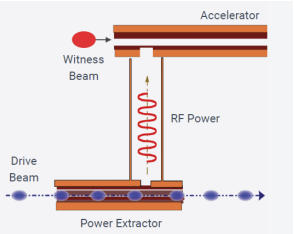
- Two-beam acceleration (TBA) is a more mature technology for a linear collider
  - Compact Linear Collider (CLIC)** CDR
  - Recent high-gradient demonstration at the **Argonne Wakefield Accelerator (AWA)** by using short-pulse acceleration (a few nanoseconds)

# Compact Linear Collider (CLIC)

- NCRF 12 GHz at 72 MV/m with two-beam scheme (drive beam at 1 GHz), with a pulse length of 244 ns

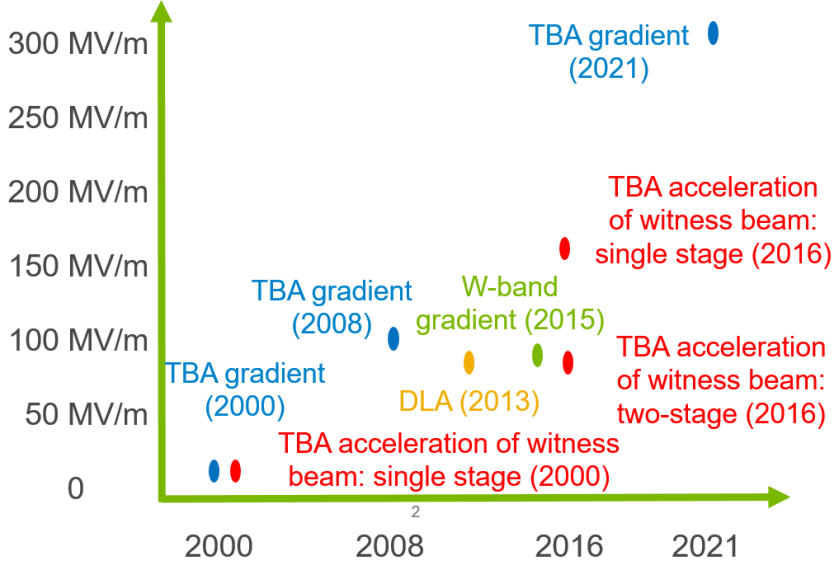
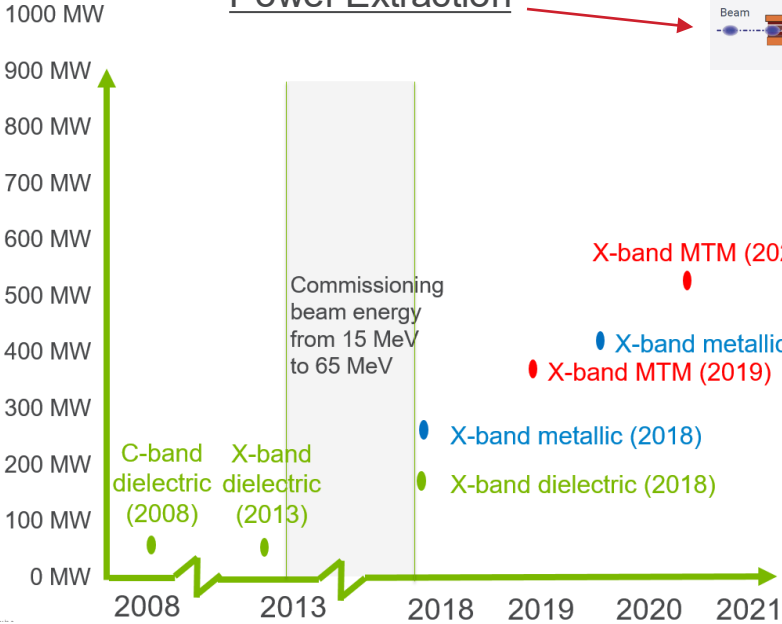


# Progress in two-beam acceleration at AWA



Power Extraction

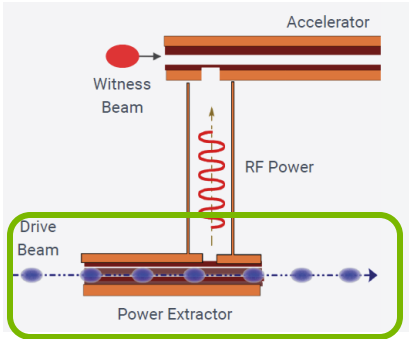
Acceleration Gradient



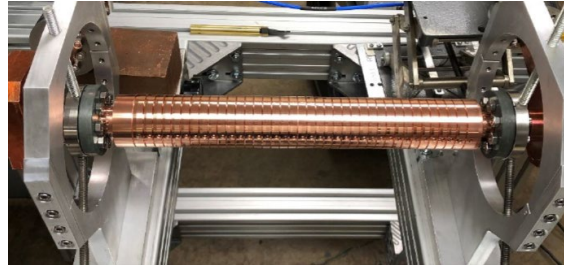
[www.anl.gov/awa/virtual-tours](http://www.anl.gov/awa/virtual-tours)



# Unique SWFA-based short-pulse RF source

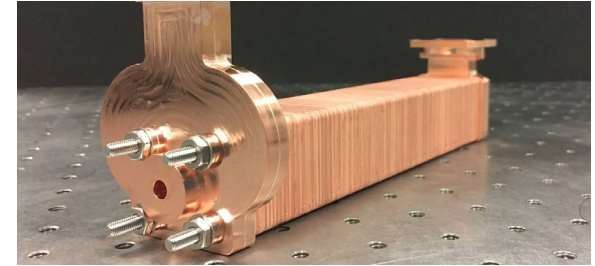


Metallic disk-loaded, 400 MW, 6 ns FWHM



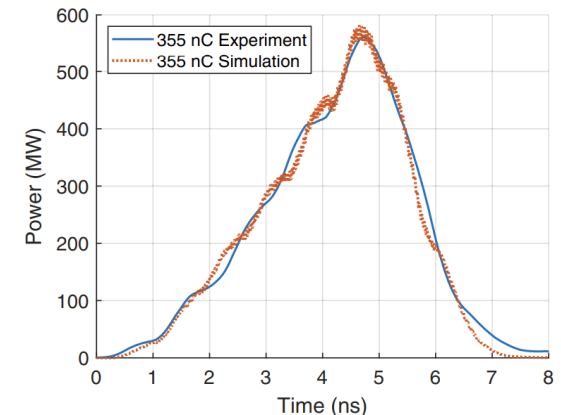
M. Peng *et al*, IPAC 2019, MOPRB069

Metamaterial, 565 MW, 6 ns FWHM



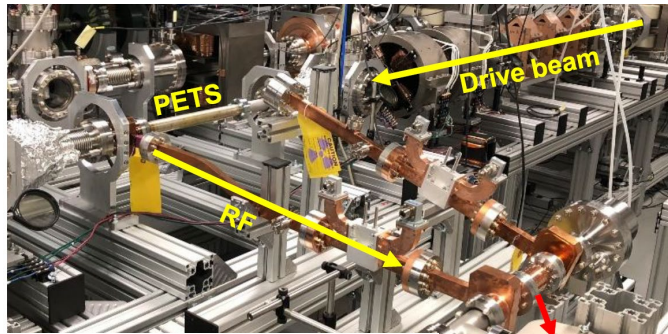
J. Picard *et al*, PRAB **25**, 051301 (2022)

- SWFA power extractors as short-pulse RF sources
  - New operation regime of accelerators
  - Enabled by the high-charge bunch trains at AWA

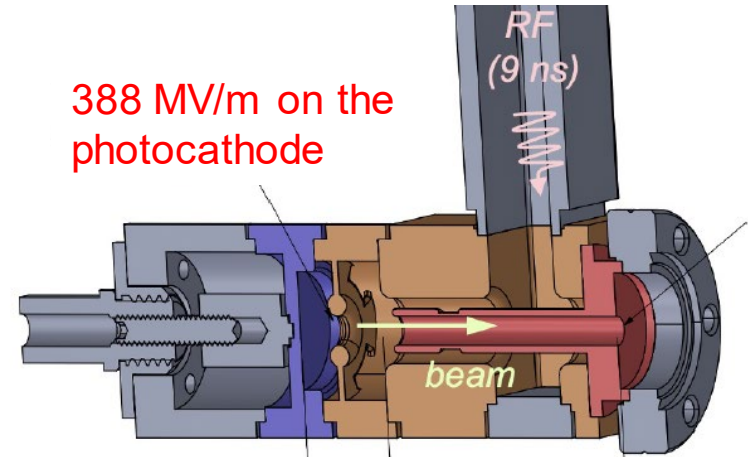
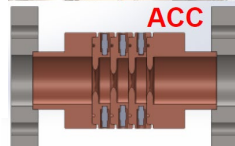


# Short-pulse operation: path to high gradient

- Close to **400 MV/m** measured on an X-band photocathode surface
- Breakdown insensitive acceleration regime
  - Empirical scaling law: Breakdown rate (BDR)  $\propto E^{30} \tau^5$
  - Reduces pulsed heating, multipacting; little time for plasma expansion
- **To be demonstrated:** high-brightness beam generation, high-quality beam acceleration (e.g. impact of beam loading)



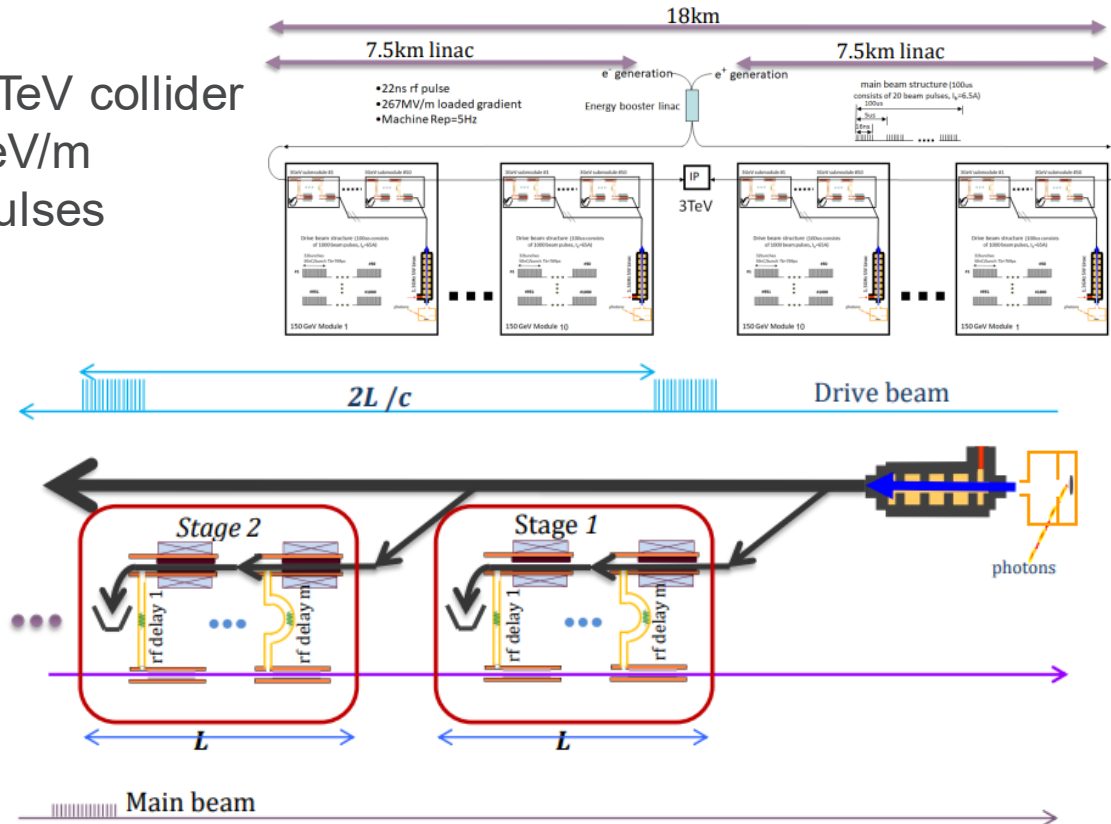
300 MV/m gradient in a single-cell accelerator



# Short-pulse SWFA-based linear collider

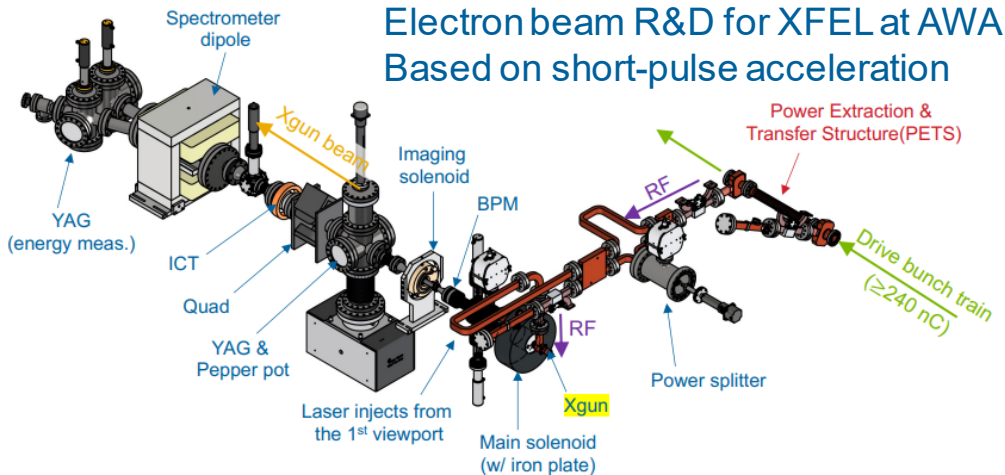
## Argonne Flexible Linear Collider (AFLC)

Conceptual 3 TeV collider  
 267 MeV/m  
 20 ns pulses

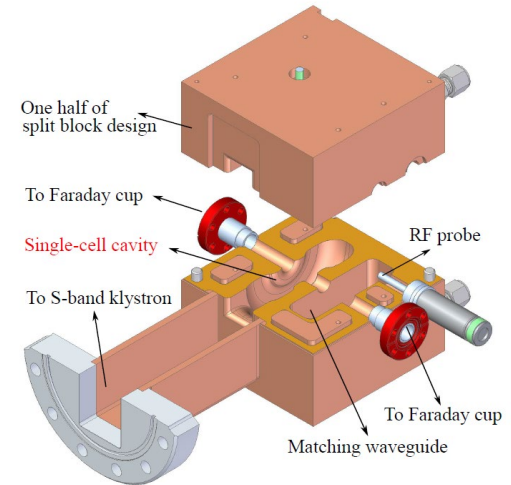


# Nearer-term: light sources, medical applications, ...

- A good-quality beam is quite useful, in:
  - Driving a free electron laser:
    - Ultra-Compact XFEL (UC-XFEL), cryogenic operation
    - Compact XFEL demo at AWA, two-beam acceleration
  - Medical accelerators with compact linacs



## RF energy modulator for proton therapy



X. Lu *et al*, RSI 92, 024705 (2021)

# Conclusions

- NCRF accelerators are critical in many applications, including future colliders.
- Numerous exciting concepts have emerged in recent years.
- Continuous R&D will be rewarding.
- My personal views:
  - **Invest in innovative ideas:** Transformation of brilliant concepts into various applications with remarkable performance improvement
  - **Learn from the past:** Especially in the planning of large-scale projects
  - **The science is fun after all:** The decades-long mystery of fundamental RF breakdown physics is inherently multidisciplinary, and input from other communities would be valuable.
  - **We need more people:** “There is a shortage of engineers and scientists trained to work in high-power RF.” – 2017 DOE RF Accelerator R&D Strategy Report