



Apollon 10PW
Advances, 1st Experimental Campaigns
Theory & Simulation developments

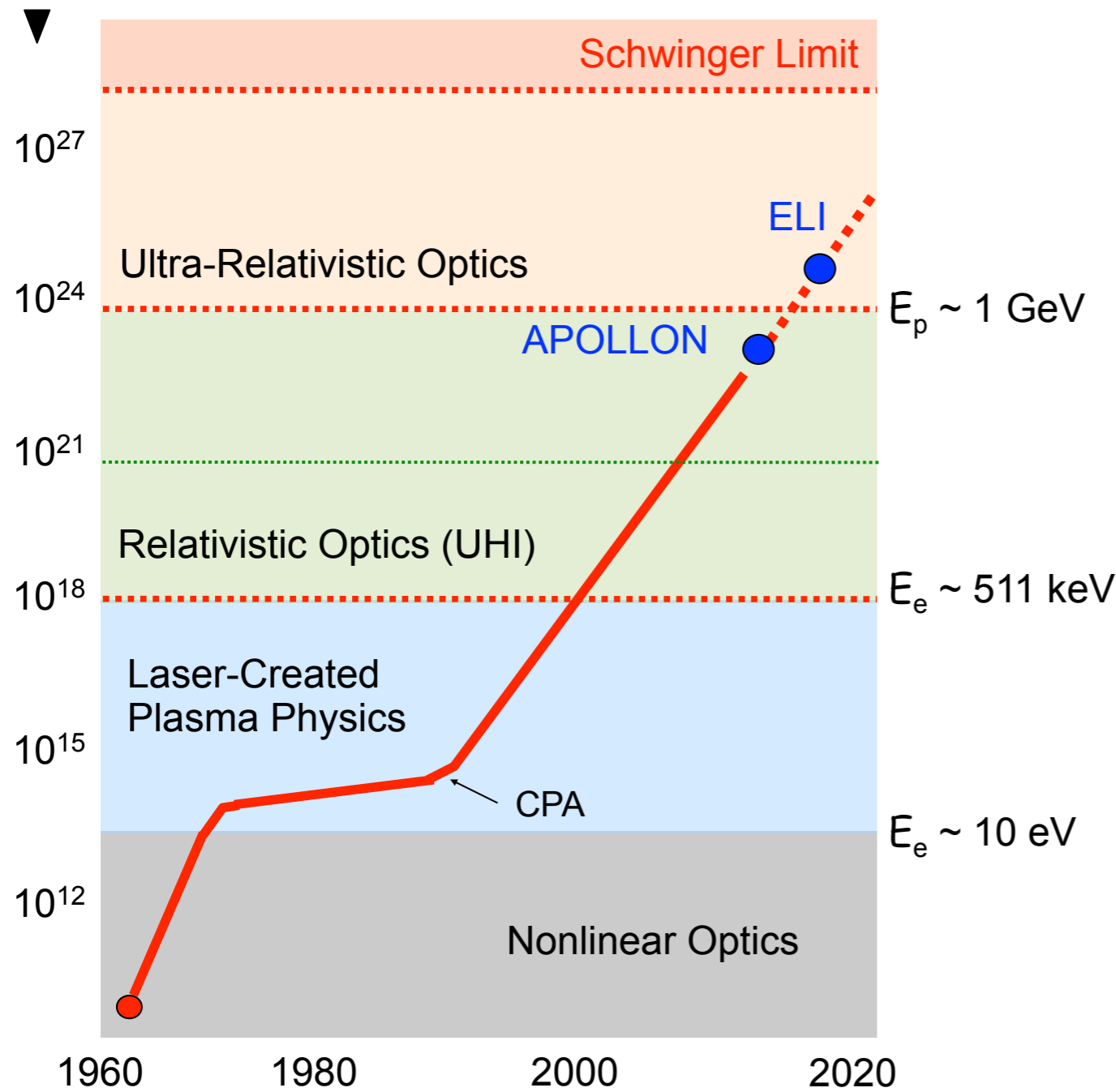
Mickael Grech
LULI, CNRS
Laboratoire d'Utilisation des Lasers Intenses

EMMI Day 2017, Darmstadt, Germany

From Ultra-High Intensity (UHI) to Extreme Light

New opportunities & challenges for laser-matter interaction

Focused Laser Intensity (W/cm²)



Electron-positron pair production

in the laser field (Breit-Wheeler)
in Coulomb fields (Bethe-Heitler, Trident)

High-energy photons & back-reaction

Radiation reaction

Laser-Plasma Acceleration

of electron (up to 4 GeV)
and ions (up to now below 100 MeV)

Ultra-short (as) ultra-bright X-UV sources

High-harmonic generation, betatron...

Inertial Fusion Plasma

High-energy density physics
& Warm dense Matter Studies

nanosecond kJ - MJ laser systems

From classical to quantum electrodynamics

Typical scales	CED m, e, c	QED m, e, c, \hbar
Energies	electron rest energy: $U_0 = mc^2 \simeq 0.511 \text{ MeV}$	
Lengths	classical radius of the electron $r_e = e^2/(mc^2) \simeq 2.8 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$	Compton length $\lambda_C = \hbar/(mc) \simeq 3.9 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}$
Times	$\tau_e = r_e/c \simeq 1.0 \times 10^{-23} \text{ s}$	$\tau_C = \lambda_C/c \simeq 1.3 \times 10^{-21} \text{ s}$
Fields	critical field of CED $E_{\text{CED}} = U_0/(er_e) \simeq 1.8 \times 10^{20} \text{ V/m}$	Schwinger field $E_S = U_0/(e\lambda_C) \simeq 1.3 \times 10^{18} \text{ V/m}$
Intensities	$I_{\text{CED}} = cE_{\text{CED}}^2/4\pi \simeq 8.6 \times 10^{33} \text{ W/cm}^2$	$I_S = cE_S^2/4\pi \simeq 4.6 \times 10^{29} \text{ W/cm}^2$

Introducing the fine-structure constant:

$$\alpha = e^2/(\hbar c) \simeq 1/137$$

gives a relation between CED & QED scales:

$$r_e = \alpha \lambda_C \simeq \lambda_C/137$$

$$E_{\text{CED}} = E_S/\alpha \simeq 137 E_S$$

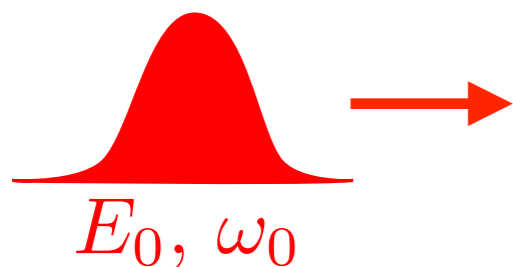
1

From classical to quantum electrodynamics

Typical scales	CED m, e, c	QED m, e, c, \hbar
Energies	electron rest energy: $U_0 = mc^2 \simeq 0.511 \text{ MeV}$	
Lengths	classical radius of the electron $r_e = e^2/(mc^2) \simeq 2.8 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$	Compton length $\lambda_C = \hbar/(mc) \simeq 3.9 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}$
Times	$\tau_e = r_e/c \simeq 1.0 \times 10^{-23} \text{ s}$	$\tau_C = \lambda_C/c \simeq 1.3 \times 10^{-21} \text{ s}$
Fields	critical field of CED $E_{\text{CED}} = U_0/(er_e) \simeq 1.8 \times 10^{20} \text{ V/m}$	Schwinger field $E_S = U_0/(e\lambda_C) \simeq 1.3 \times 10^{18} \text{ V/m}$
Intensities	$I_{\text{CED}} = cE_{\text{CED}}^2/4\pi \simeq 8.6 \times 10^{33} \text{ W/cm}^2$	$I_S = cE_S^2/4\pi \simeq 4.6 \times 10^{29} \text{ W/cm}^2$

For head-on collisions, a Lorentz boost leads to an increased field in the proper-frame of the particle:

②



$$U_{\text{kin}} = mc^2 \gamma$$

- (i) direct e-/laser head-on collision
- (ii) laser-solid interaction

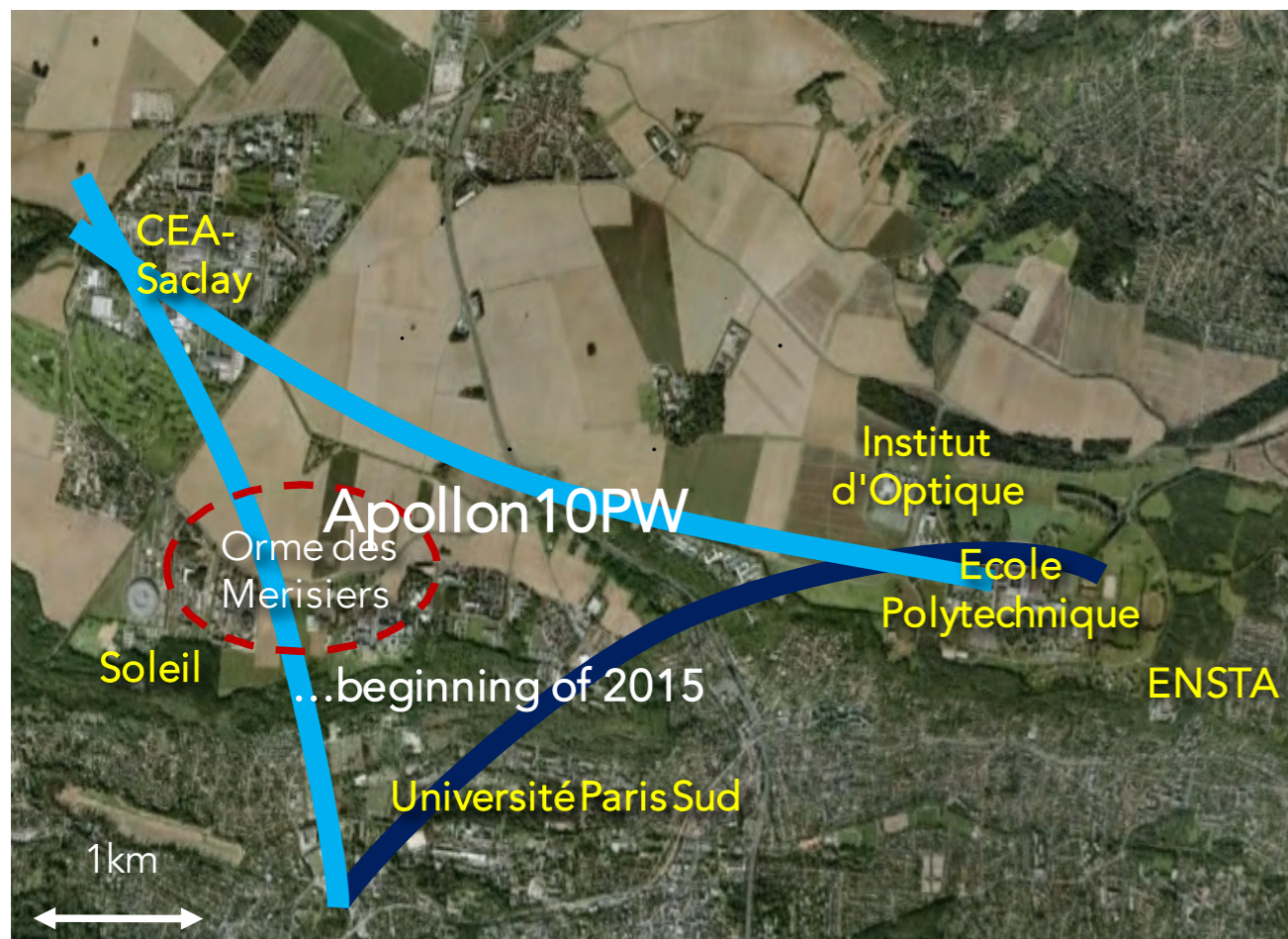
CILEX: Centre Interdisciplinaire Lumière Extrême

5 ultra-high intensity lasers:

- ELFIE 100 TW (30 J, 300 fs)
- UHI 100 (2.5 J, 25 fs)
- Salle Jaune (6 J, 30 fs)
- Laserix (@10nm, 4-5 μ J, 2 ps)
- Apollon 10PW laser (150 J, 15 fs)

Studying laser-plasma interaction under extreme light conditions:

- new diagnostics & experimental expertise
- simulation capability
- theoretical understanding



Former linear accelerator facility
(1969 – 2006)



A renewed building : 5000 m²,
radio-protected experimental areas

The Apollon 10PW laser

advances & 1st experimental campaigns

D. N. Papadopoulos, C. Le Blanc, J. P. Zou, P. Georges, F. Druon, L. Martin, A. Fréneaux, A. Beluze, C. Bonnin, N. Lebas, J. Albrecht, C. Evrard, J. Fuchs, L. Huret, L. Lancia, F. Pérez, F. Amiranoff, B. LeGarrec, F. Mathieu and P. Audebert

The Particle-In-Cell code SMILEI

an open-source, collaborative & multi-purpose code for plasma simulation

J. Derouillat, A. Beck, F. Pérez, T. Vinci, M. Chiaramello, A. Grassi, M. Flé, G. Bouchard, I. Plotnikov, N. Aunai, J. Dargent, C. Riconda and M. Grech

Bridging relativistic laser-plasma interaction & QED

high-energy photon emission & pair production in strong fields

F. Amiranoff, E. d'Humières, A. Di Piazza, R. Duclous, L. Gremillet, M. Lobet, F. Niel, C. Riconda and M. Grech

The Apollon 10PW laser

advances & 1st experimental campaigns

D. N. Papadopoulos, C. Le Blanc, J. P. Zou, P. Georges, F. Druon, L. Martin, A. Fréneaux, A. Beluze, C. Bonnin, N. Lebas, J. Albrecht, C. Evrard, J. Fuchs, L. Huret, L. Lancia, F. Pérez, F. Amiranoff, B. LeGarrec, F. Mathieu and P. Audebert

The Particle-In-Cell code SMILEI

an open-source, collaborative & multi-purpose code for plasma simulation

J. Derouillat, A. Beck, F. Pérez, T. Vinci, M. Chiaramello, A. Grassi, M. Flé, G. Bouchard, I. Plotnikov, N. Aunai, J. Dargent, C. Riconda and M. Grech

Bridging relativistic laser-plasma interaction & QED

high-energy photon emission & pair production in strong fields

F. Amiranoff, E. d'Humières, A. Di Piazza, R. Duclous, L. Gremillet, M. Lobet, F. Niel, C. Riconda and M. Grech

The multi-PW laser Apollon: Specifications

Ultra-high power and intensity:

- delivered on target: **150 J, 15 fs, 10 PW**
- intensity of **$\sim 2.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ W/cm}^2$** over $5 \times 5 \mu\text{m}^2$

High-repetition rate:

- **1 shot/min** (>300 shots/day)
- improved statistics

High-contrast ratio:

- **CR > 10^{12}**
- avoid pre-plasma formation

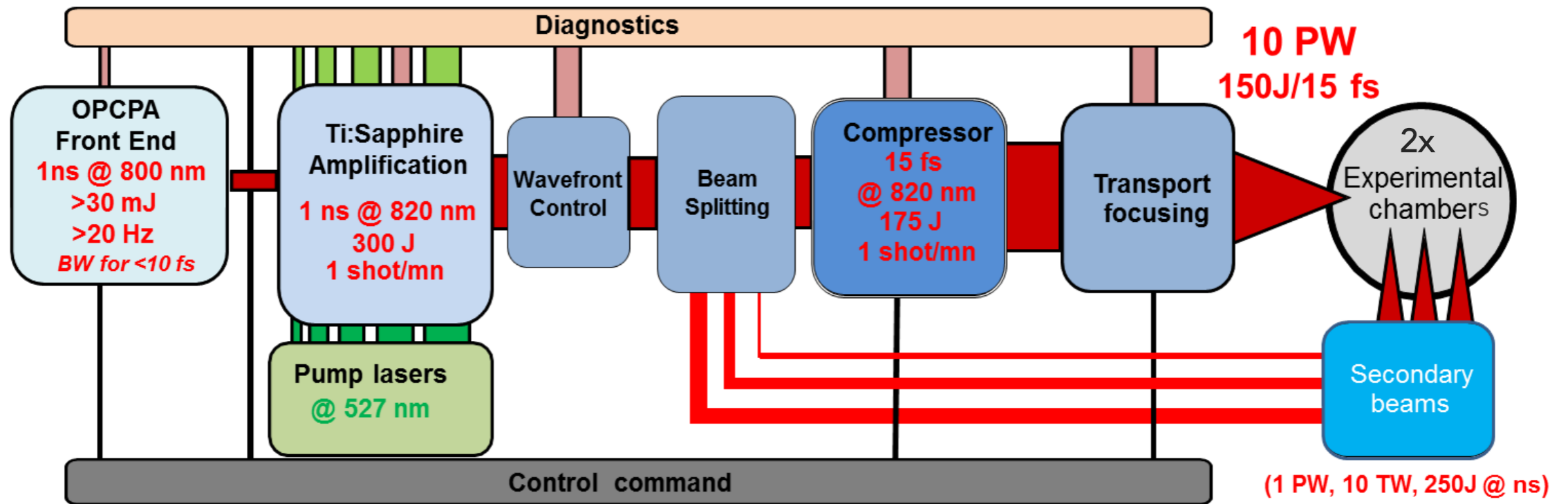
A Multiple-beam facility:

- **4 beam lines F1 [4-10 PW], F2 [1 PW], F3 [250 J (1ns)], F4 [0.2 J (<20 fs)]**
- pump-probe experiments
- multi-stage laser wakefield acceleration

2 experimental rooms

- **long focal** ($f = 8 - 32\text{m}$)
- **short focal** ($f = 1\text{m}$)

The multi-PW laser Apollon: Key features



Hybrid architecture: OPCPA + Ti:Sapphire Contrast + Bandwidth

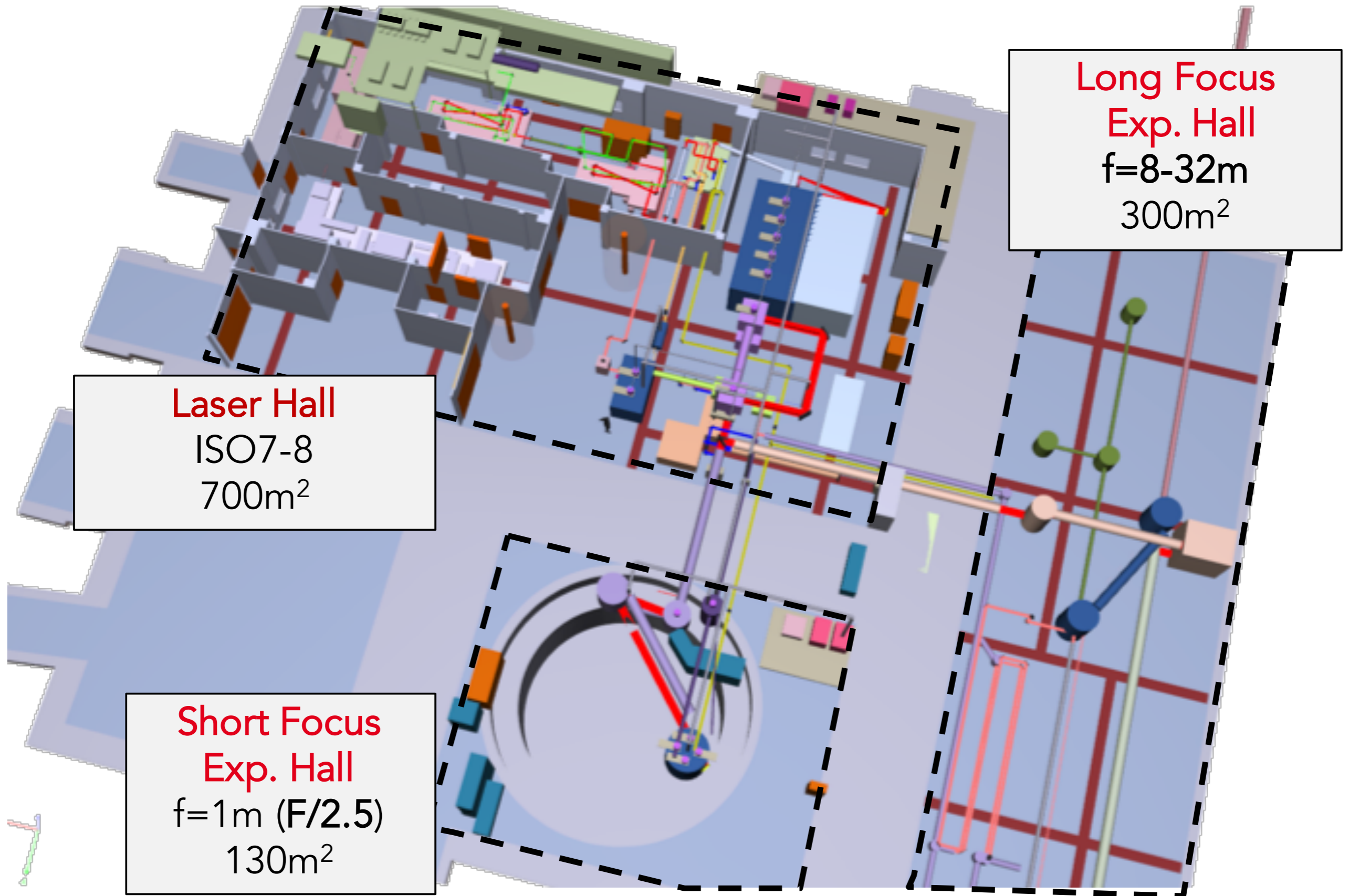
Unique Material: Φ 10-175mm Ti:Sapphire crystals, meter-size gold gratings, state-of-the-art optics

High energy pump sources: up to 700 J/min

Adaptive control: spatial (Deformable mirrors) and spectral phase (Dazzler)

4 beam lines/2 experimental halls

The multi-PW laser Apollon: The facility



Timeline & Operation of the facility



June 2016

32 J demonstrated
(before compression)

Sept. 2017

1PW (F2) commissioned

March 2018

demonstration full energy
(before compression)

December 2018

First experiments @ 1PW

Spring 2019

First multi-PW experiments
@4-5 PW

Facility open to international scientists

Independent Program Committee yearly

Beam time allocation per year

20 experimental campaigns

60 days Maintenance and configuration changes

50 days Laser development

Experiments

Experimental areas will perform in alternate way

Pulse sequences delivered on demand 5 h/day

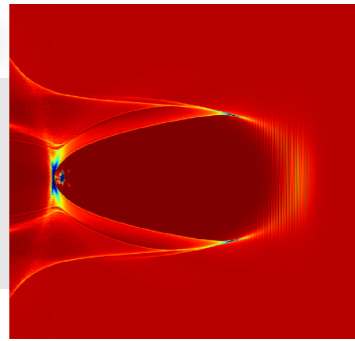
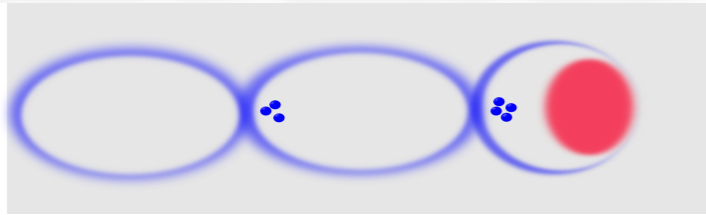
2 days for configuration (area switching)

4-week basis experiment

Physics studies at Apollon:

from new light & particle source to strong-field QED

Electron acceleration



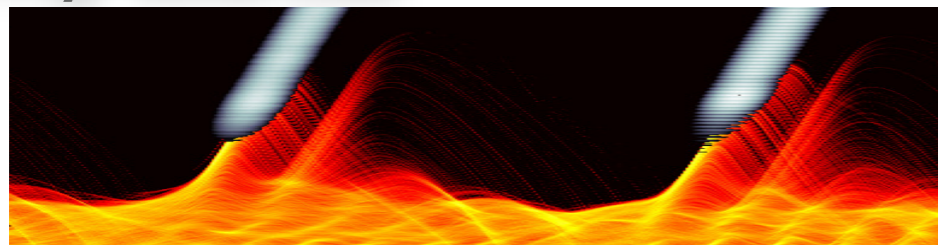
- wakefield / bubble acceleration
- multi-stage acceleration
- acceleration (up to 10s GeV) of elect. & posit.
- x-ray production (coupling to an undulator)

Ion acceleration



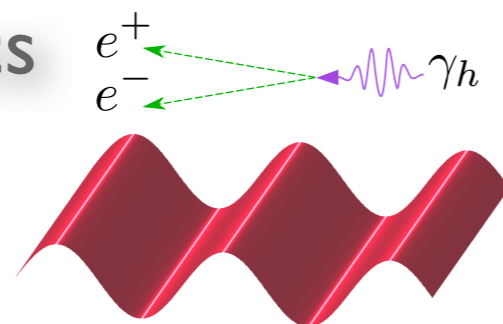
- breaking the 100 MeV limit
- advanced TNSA mechanisms
- radiation pressure acceleration
- warm dense matter, lab. relativistic astrophys.

x-ray sources



- plasma mirror & high-harmonic generation from solid targets
- x-ray laser
- betatron radiation

High-field physics



- QED effects in laser-plasma interaction
- high-energy gamma photon production and their back-reaction on the electron dynamics
- positron generation (in laser & Coulomb field)

Partners & support to the CILEX/Apollon project



The Apollon 10PW laser

advances & 1st experimental campaigns

D. N. Papadopoulos, C. Le Blanc, J. P. Zou, P. Georges, F. Druon, L. Martin, A. Fréneaux, A. Beluze, C. Bonnin, N. Lebas, J. Albrecht, C. Evrard, J. Fuchs, L. Huret, L. Lancia, F. Pérez, F. Amiranoff, B. LeGarrec, F. Mathieu and P. Audebert

The Particle-In-Cell code SMILEI

an open-source, collaborative & multi-purpose code for plasma simulation

J. Derouillat, A. Beck, F. Pérez, T. Vinci, M. Chiaramello, A. Grassi, M. Flé, G. Bouchard, I. Plotnikov, N. Aunai, J. Dargent, C. Riconda and M. Grech

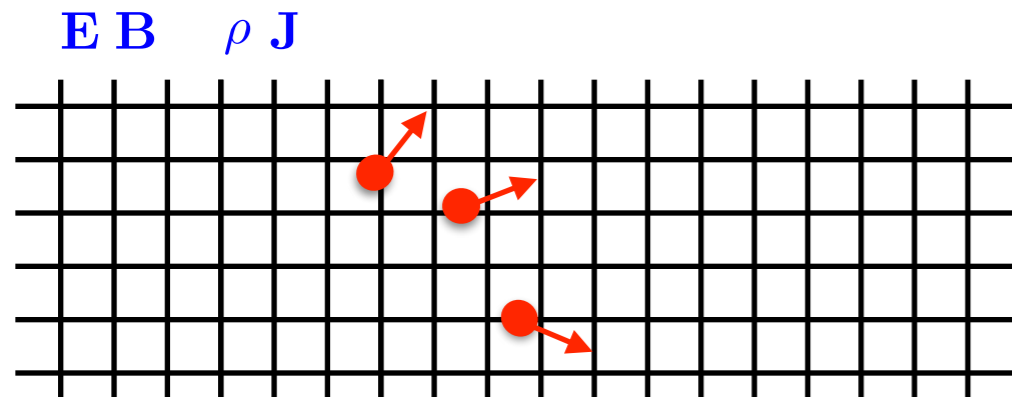
Bridging relativistic laser-plasma interaction & QED

high-energy photon emission & pair production in strong fields

F. Amiranoff, E. d'Humières, A. Di Piazza, R. Duclous, L. Gremillet, M. Lobet, F. Niel, C. Riconda and M. Grech

The Particle-In-Cell (PIC) method in a nutshell

Laser-plasma interaction at ultra-high intensity is supported by relativistic kinetic simulation



- Vlasov Eq. is solved using so-called macro-particles

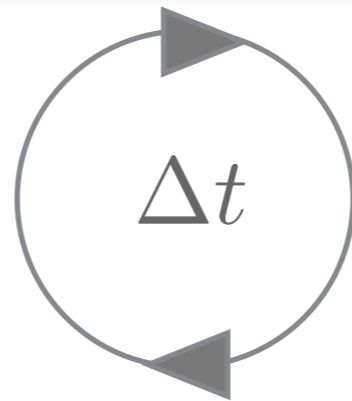
$$f_s(t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) = \sum_N w^N S(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^N(t)) \delta(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}^N(t))$$

Interpolation

$$\forall N [\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{E}^N, \mathbf{B}^N]$$

Maxwell Solver

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \mathbf{E} &= -\mathbf{J} + \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \\ \partial_t \mathbf{B} &= -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \end{aligned}$$



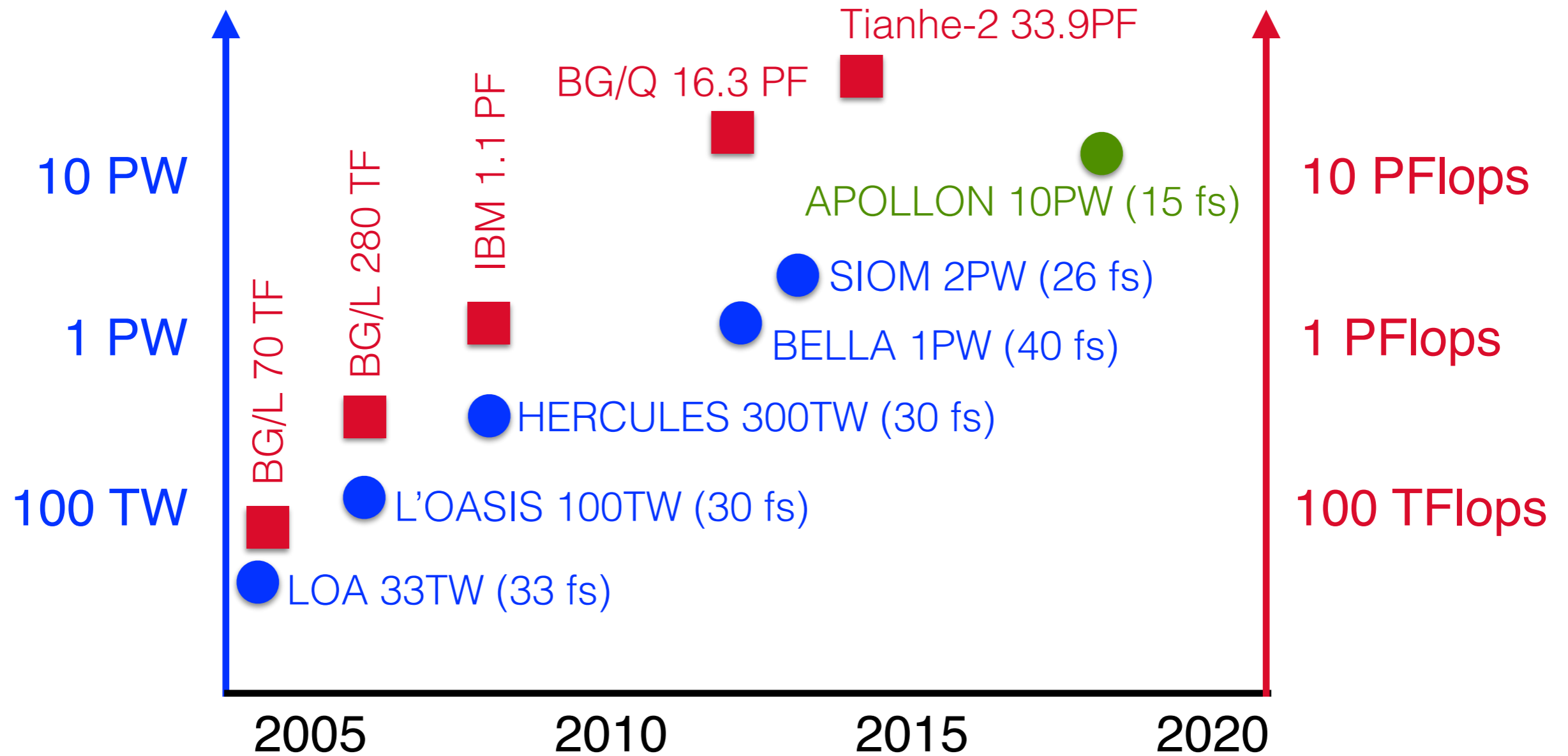
Pusher

$$\begin{aligned} \forall N \quad d_t \mathbf{p}^N &= \mathbf{F}_L^N \\ d_t \mathbf{x}^N &= \mathbf{p}^N / (m \gamma) \end{aligned}$$

Projection

$$\forall N [\mathbf{x}^N, \mathbf{p}^N] \rightarrow [\rho, \mathbf{J}]$$

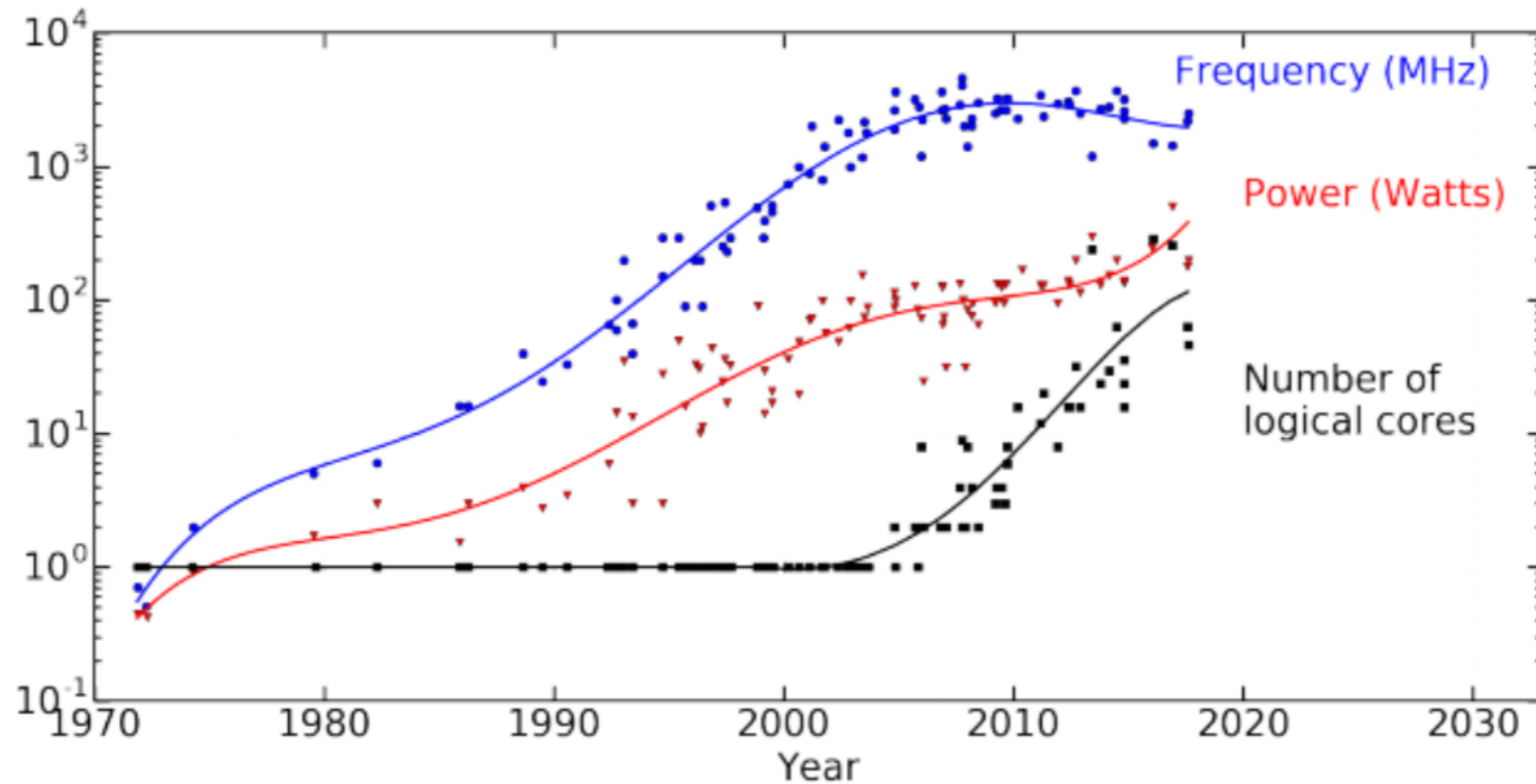
The cross-road of 2 fast-evolving technologies



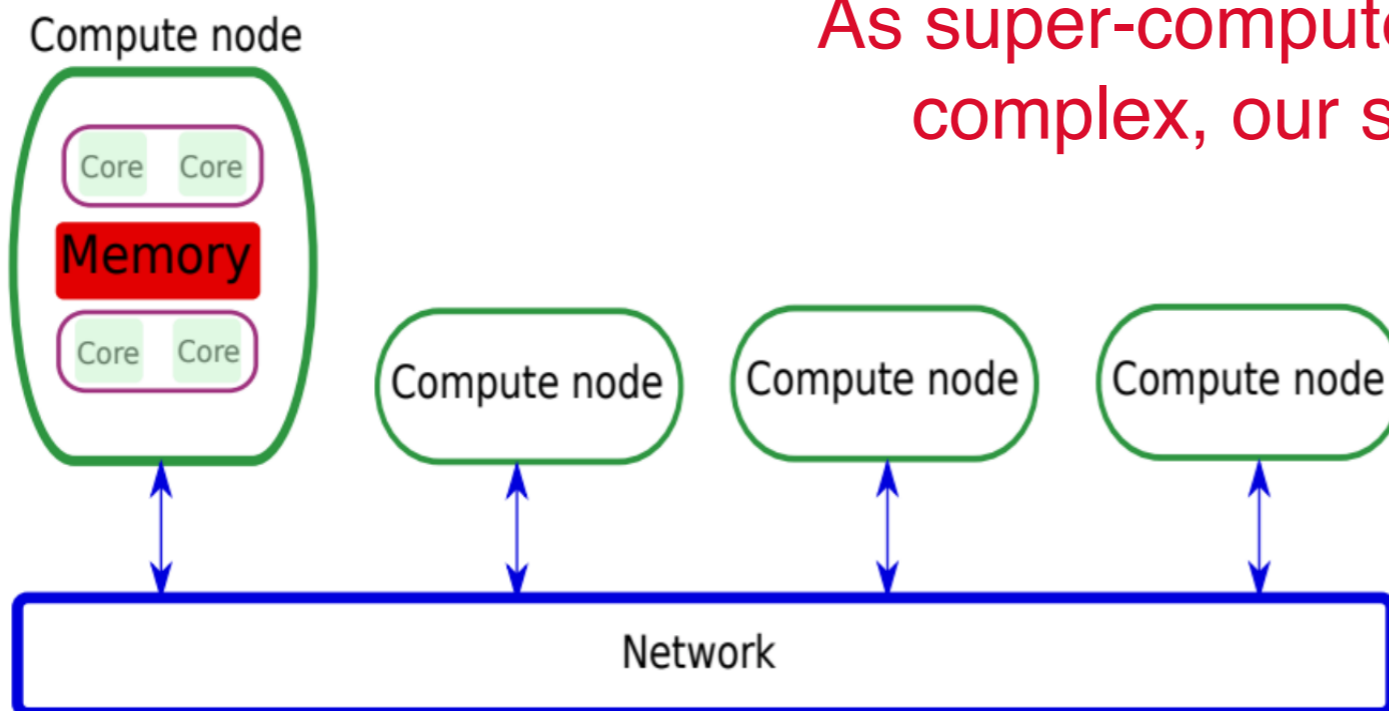
On the road to the exaFlops (by 2020):

Tianhe-2 34PFlops (17 MW) → 1 exaFlops (500 MW)

Emergence of new paradigms in High-Performance Computing (HPC)



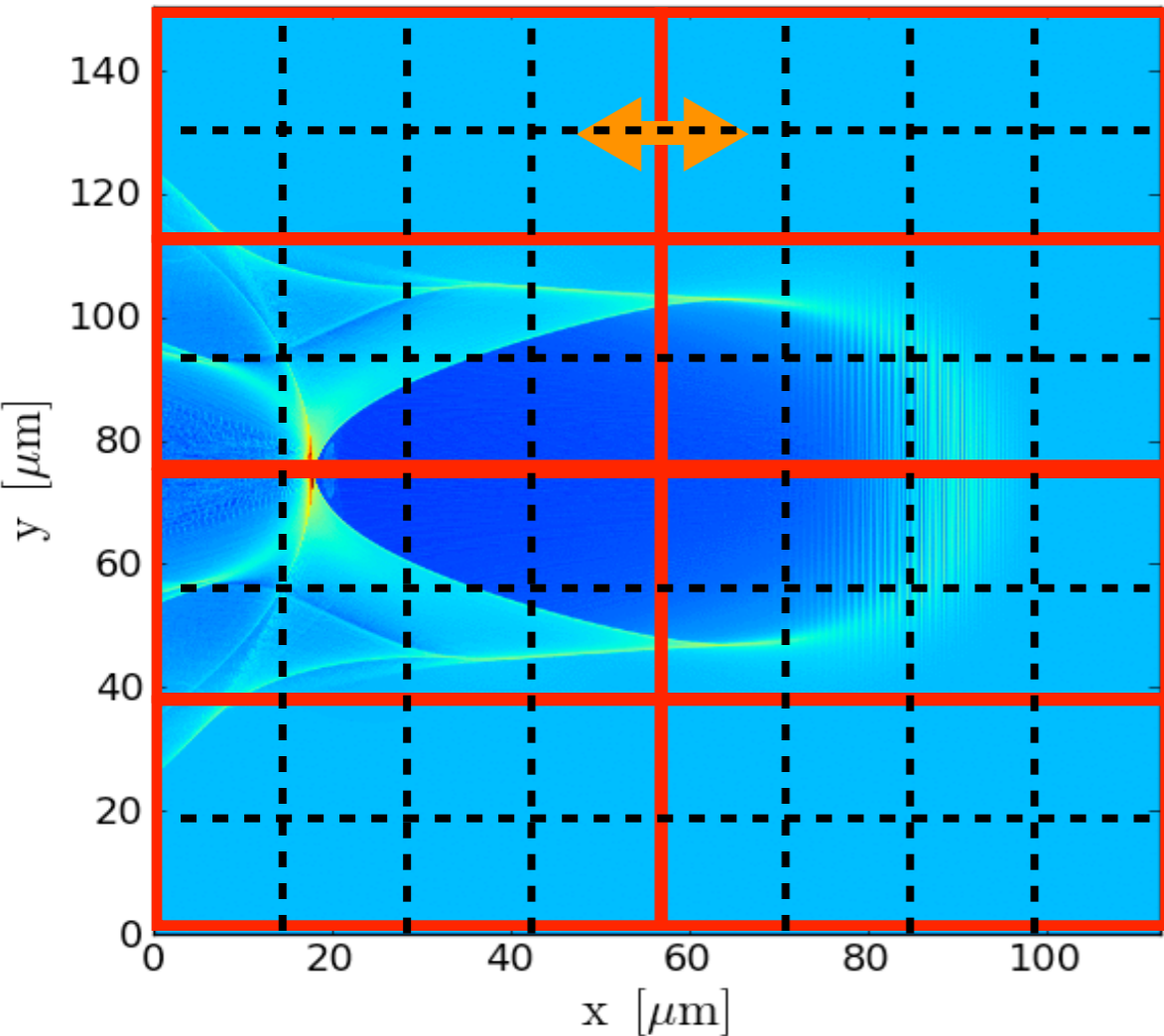
As super-computer architectures become more complex, our simulation tools need to adapt!



distributed memory
shared memory
cache issues
SIMD/vectorization
Parallel I/O management

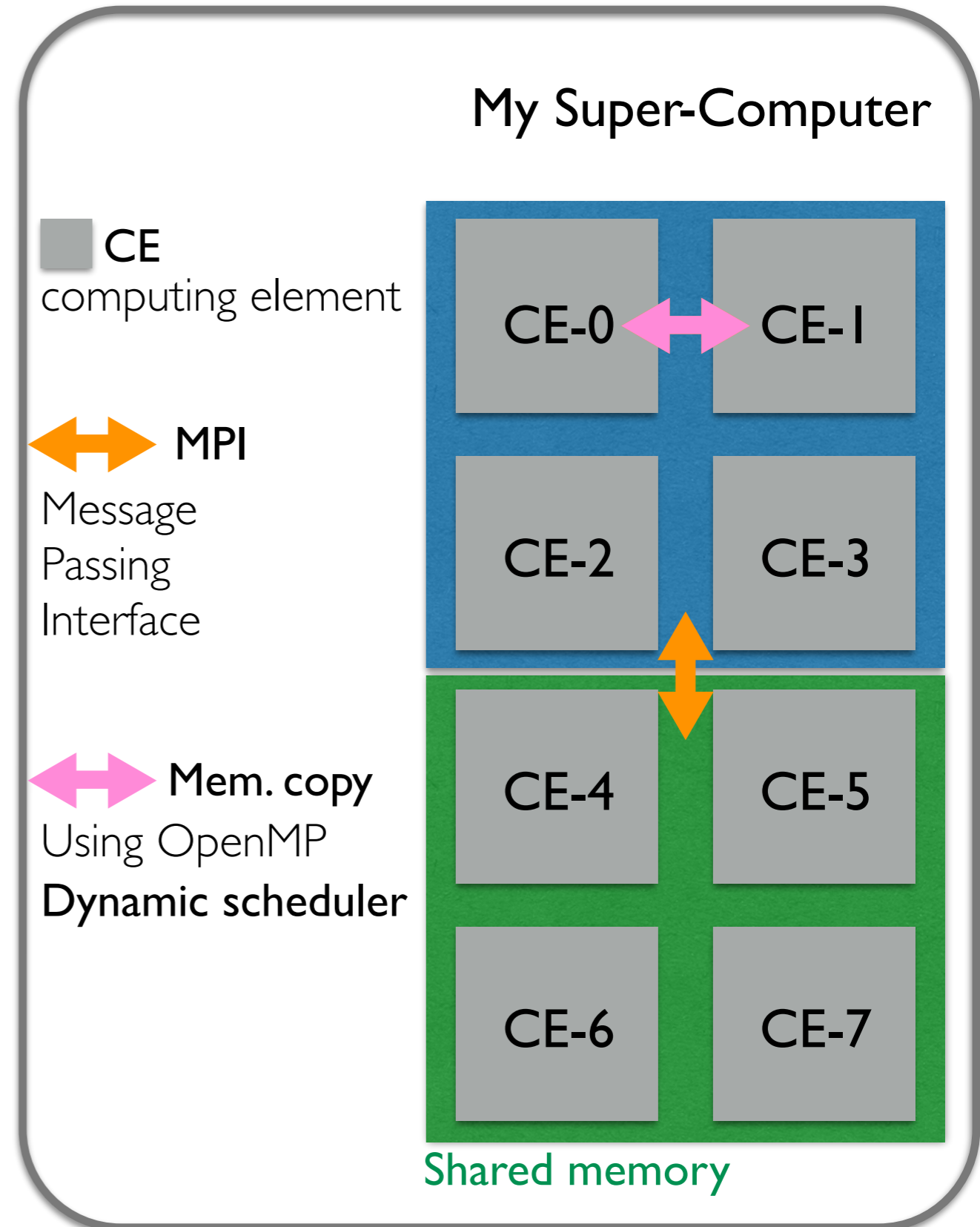
SMILEI: an open-source, collaborative, HPC-relevant PIC code for *Simulation Matter Irradiated by Light at Extreme Intensities*

Simulation of laser wakefield acceleration of electrons



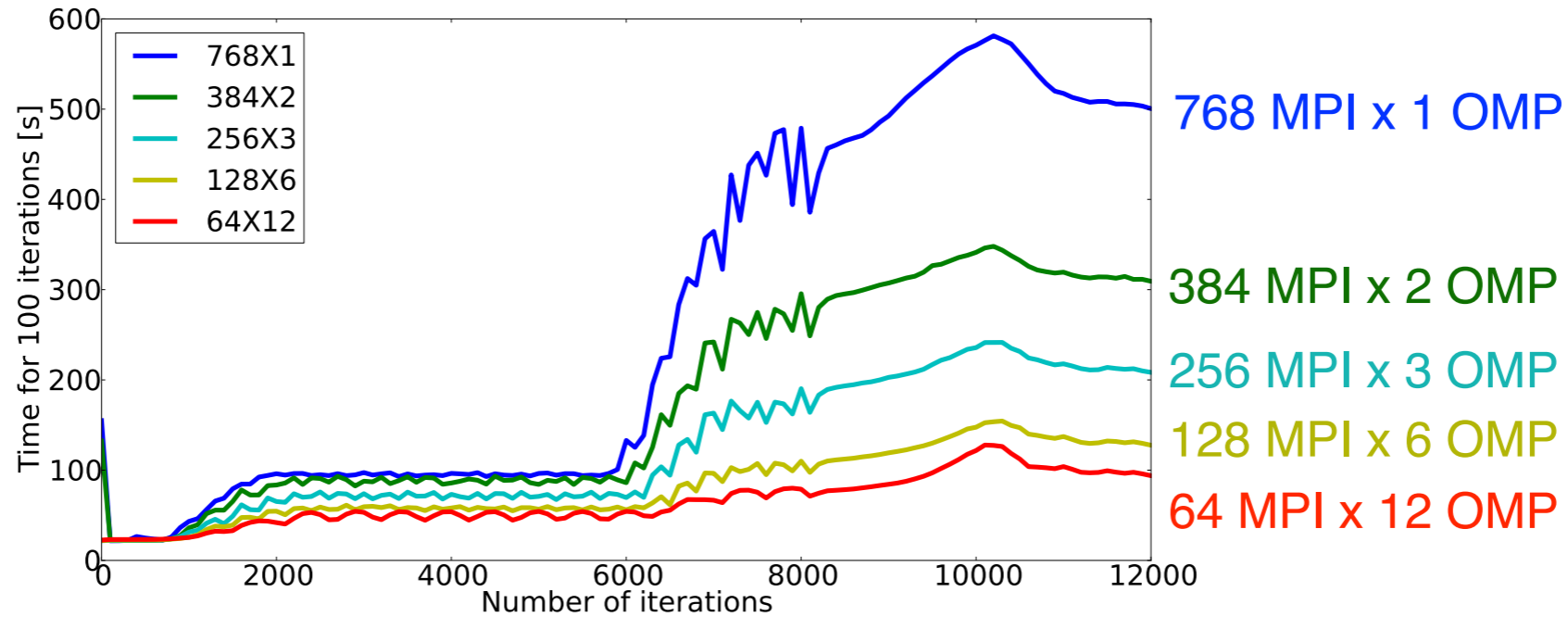
Domain decomp. is not enough!!!

- workload not optimally shared
- not adapted to new architectures!

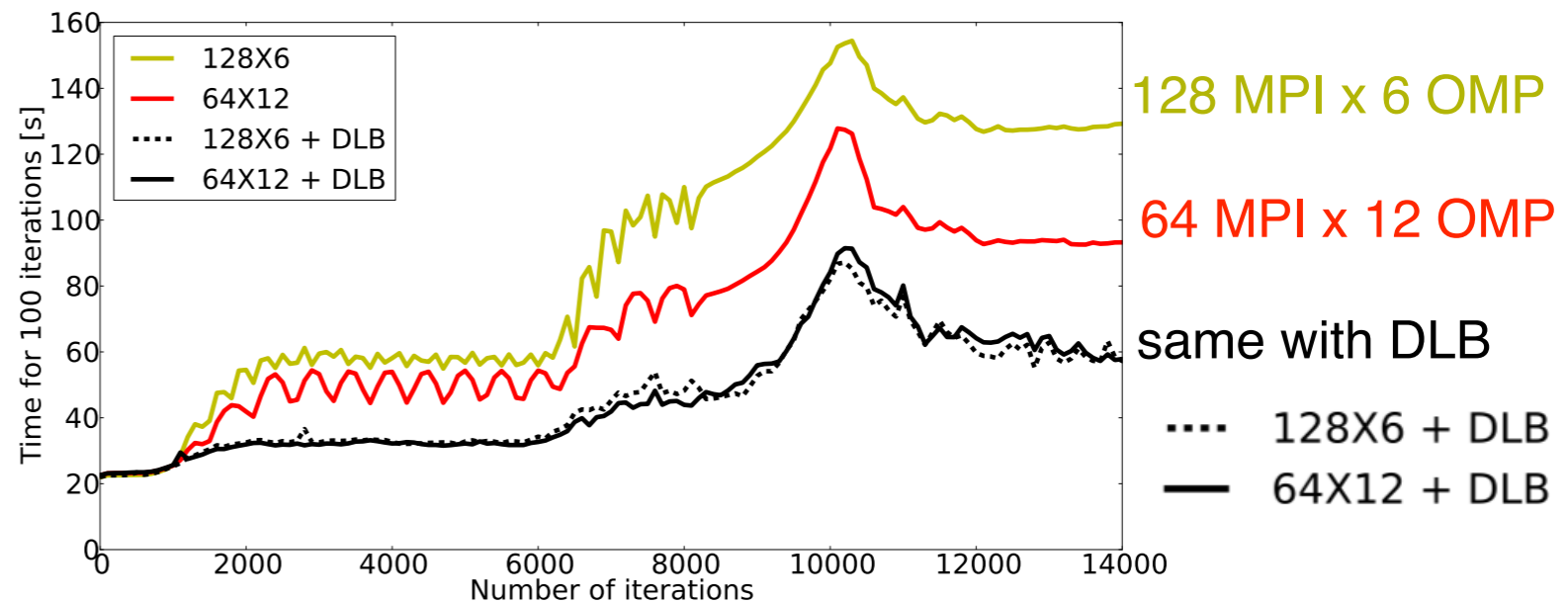
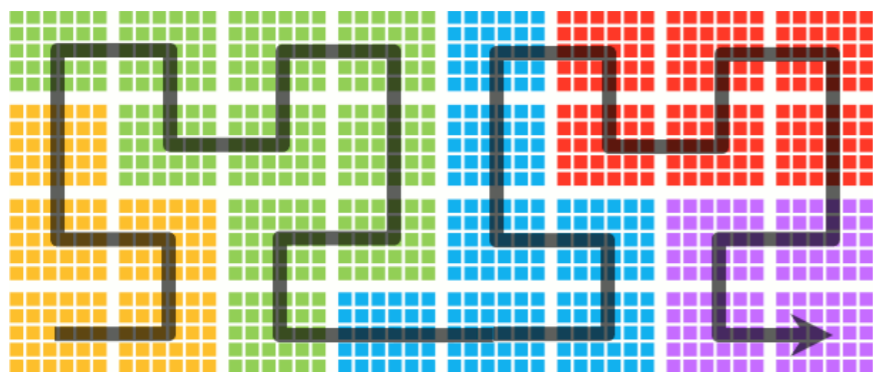


SMILEI uses an hybrid MPI-OpenMP parallelisation strategy

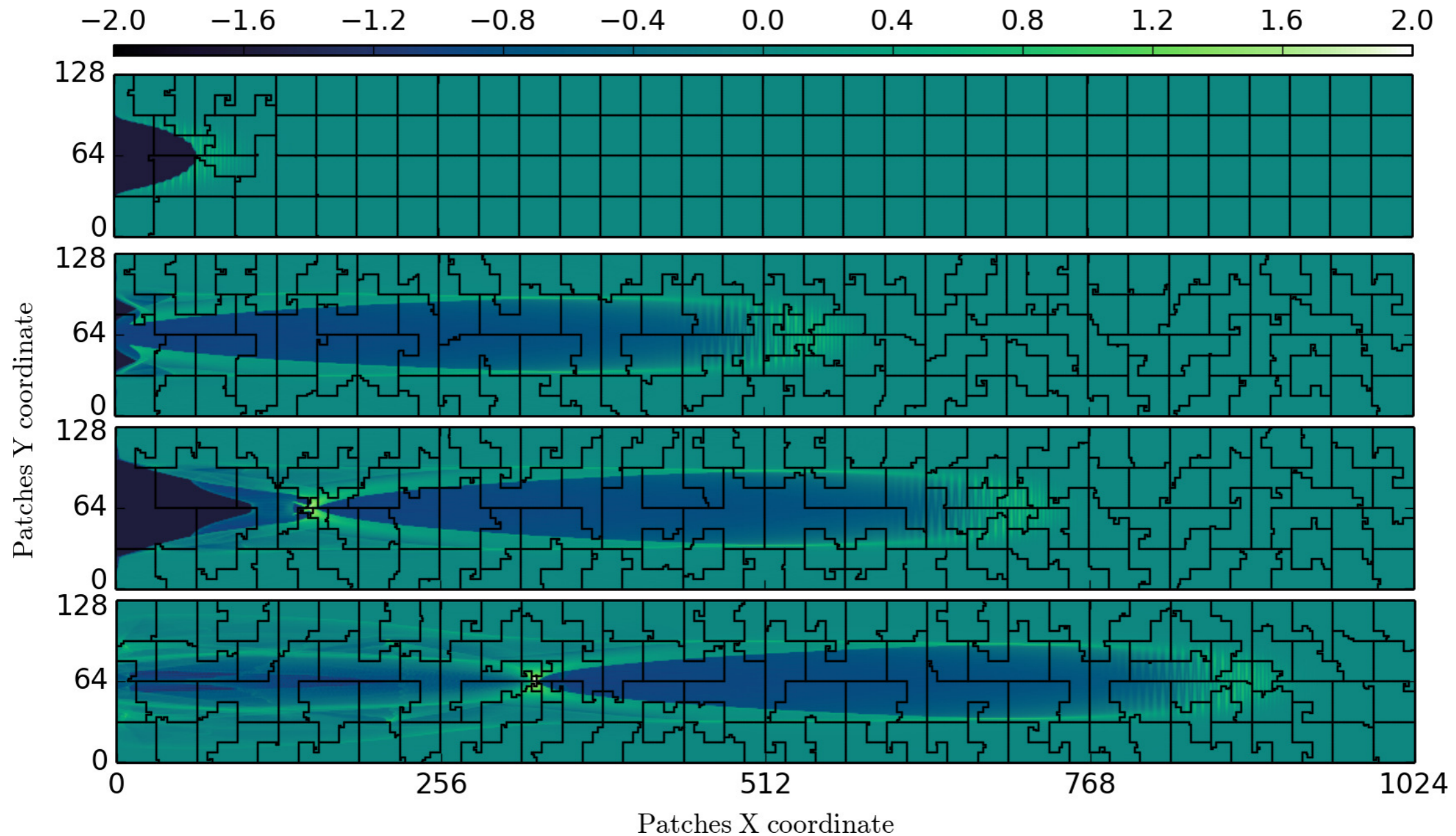
Hybrid MPI/Open parallelization significantly reduces computation time



Patch decomposition also allows for an 'easy' implementation of dynamic load balancing

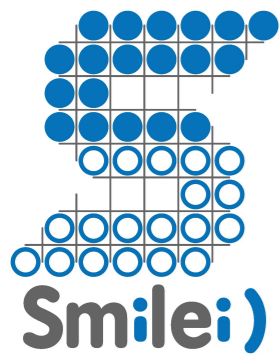


SMILEI's dynamic load balancing at work



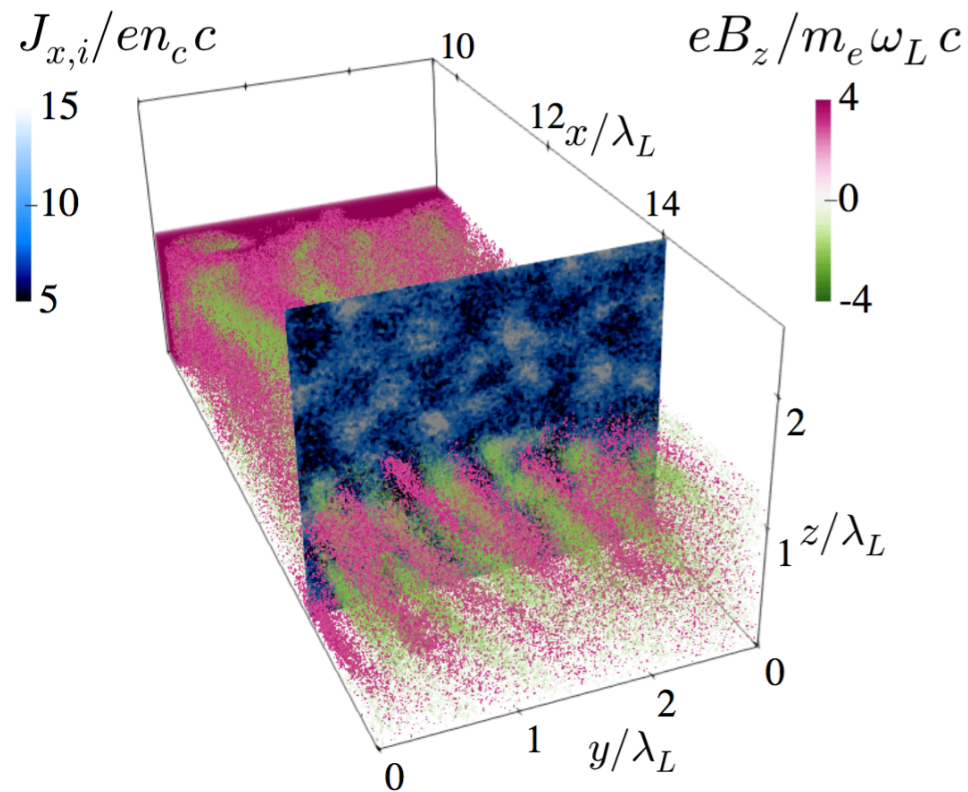
J. Derouillat et al., *Computer Phys. Comm.* **22**, 351 (2018)

www.maisondelasimulation.fr/smilei



Version 3.3 is now available online

[J. Déroutat et al., [Comp. Phys. Comm. \(2017\)](#)]



Code, processing tools and documentation available online at: www.maisondelasimulation.fr/smilei

1D, 2D, 3D Cartesian geometries

Advanced physics modules

- Charge conserving current deposition (Esirkepov)
- Advanced Maxwell solvers & filters
- Antenna & external electromagnetic fields
- Binary collisions & impact ionization
- **High-emission photon emission & back-reaction**
- **Breit-Wheeler electron-positron pair production**

User friendly

- Full (updated) doc
- Python I/O management
- Extensive (built-in) diagnostics
- Python post-processing tools

High-Performance oriented

- Hybrid MPI/OpenMP
- Dynamic Load Balancing
- HDF5 parallel I/O (OpenPMD compliant)
- Vectorization (available soon)



A research and teaching platform for plasma simulation, from laser-plasma interaction to astrophysics

A teaching platform:

- Plasma physics numerical hands at the Master level (UPMC)
- Training workshops (1st Nov. 2017)

7 PhD thesis in various fields:

- M. Chiaramello (LULI, UPMC), *Short laser pulse amplification* (2016)
A. Grassi (LULI, UPMC), *Relativistic lab. astrophysics* (2017)
J. Dargent (LPP/IRAP), *Magnetic reconnection in astrophysics* (2017)
G. Bouchard (LIDyL, Paris-Saclay), *High-harmonic generation* (2018)
F. Niel (LULI, UPMC), *QED processes at extreme light* (2018)
H. Kallala (MdIS, Paris-Saclay), *HPC-relevant Spectral solvers* (2019)
I. Zemzemi (LLR, Paris-Saclay), *Laser wakefield acceleration* (2020)

3 Postdoctoral fellows:

- A. Sgattoni (LULI, UPMC), *Solar wind astrophysics* (since 2015)
F. Massimo (LULI, UPMC), *Laser wakefield acceleration* (from 2017)
S. Marini (LULI, UPMC), *Surface plasma waves* (from 2018)



The Apollon 10PW laser

advances & 1st experimental campaigns

D. N. Papadopoulos, C. Le Blanc, J. P. Zou, P. Georges, F. Druon, L. Martin, A. Fréneaux, A. Beluze, C. Bonnin, N. Lebas, J. Albrecht, C. Evrard, J. Fuchs, L. Huret, L. Lancia, F. Pérez, F. Amiranoff, B. LeGarrec, F. Mathieu and P. Audebert

The Particle-In-Cell code SMILEI

an open-source, collaborative & multi-purpose code for plasma simulation

J. Derouillat, A. Beck, F. Pérez, T. Vinci, M. Chiaramello, A. Grassi, M. Flé, G. Bouchard, I. Plotnikov, N. Aunai, J. Dargent, C. Riconda and M. Grech

Bridging relativistic laser-plasma interaction & QED

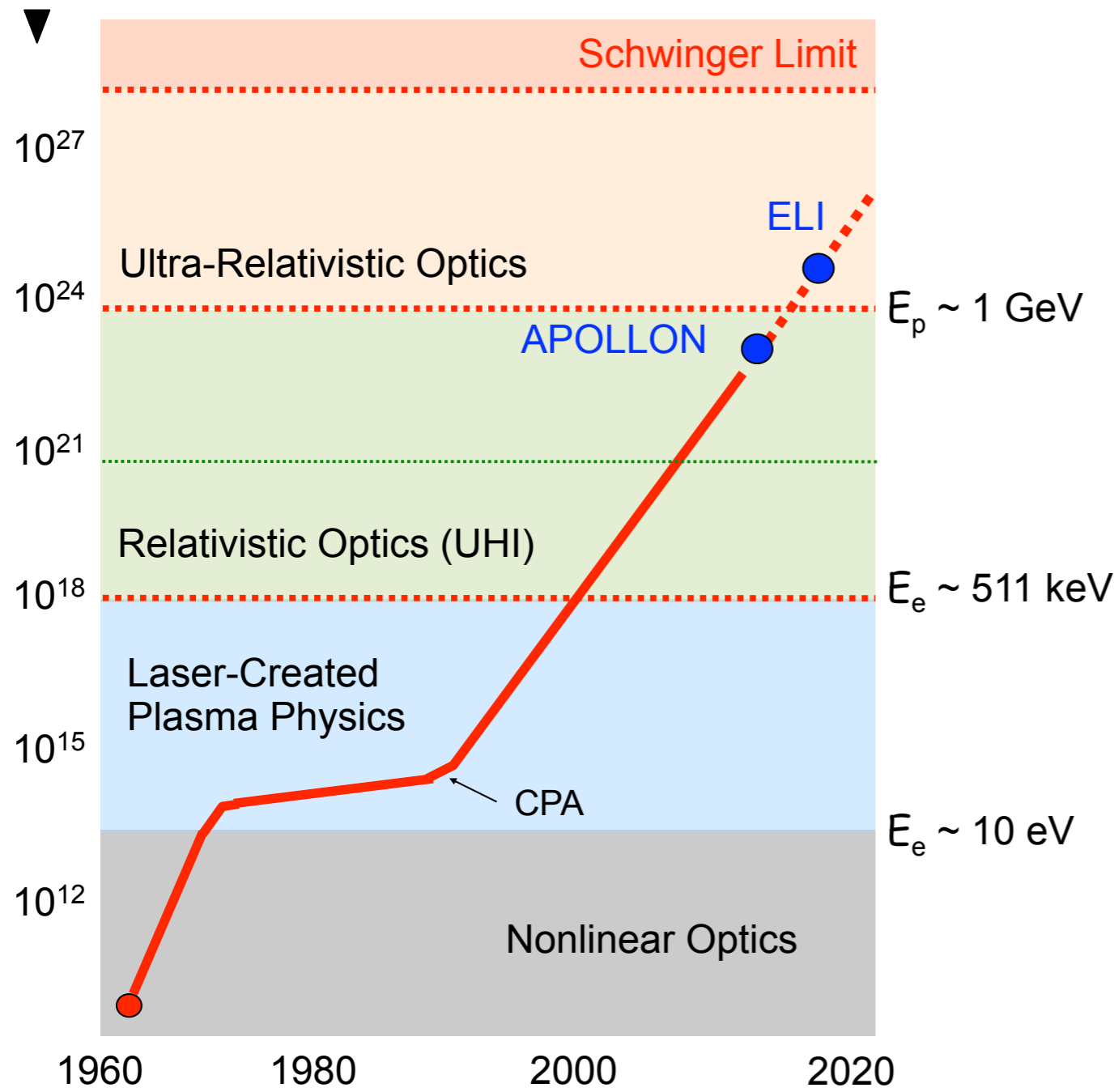
high-energy photon emission & pair production in strong fields

F. Amiranoff, E. d'Humières, A. Di Piazza, R. Duclous, L. Gremillet, M. Lobet, F. Niel, C. Riconda and M. Grech

From Ultra-High Intensity (UHI) to Extreme Light

New opportunities & challenges for laser-matter interaction

Focused Laser Intensity (W/cm²)



Electron-positron pair production

in the laser field (Breit-Wheeler)
in Coulomb fields (Bethe-Heitler, Trident)

High-energy photons & back-reaction

Radiation reaction

Laser-Plasma Acceleration

of electron (up to 4 GeV)
and ions (up to now below 100 MeV)

Ultra-short (as) ultra-bright X-UV sources

High-harmonic generation, betatron...

Inertial Fusion Plasma

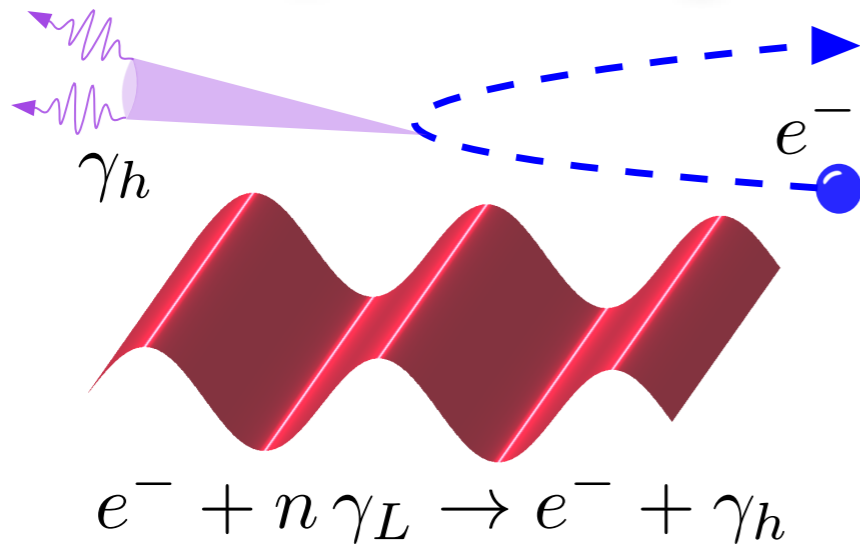
High-energy density physics
& Warm dense Matter Studies

nanosecond kJ - MJ laser systems

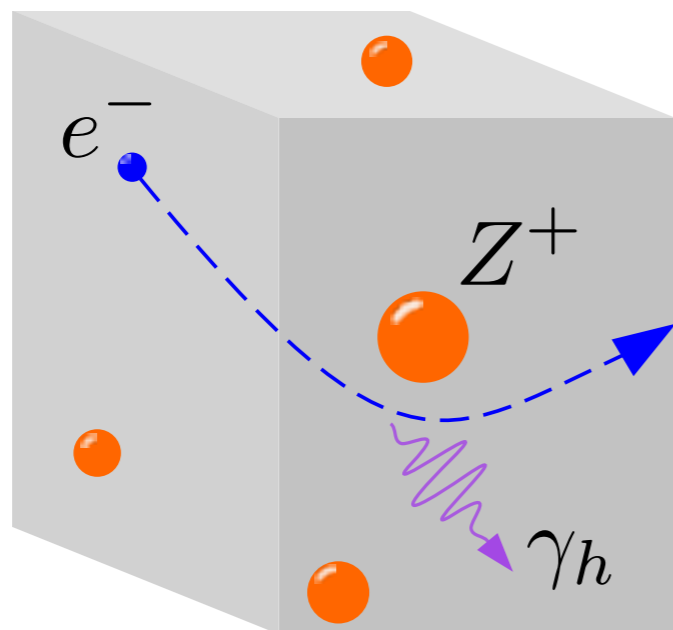
QED processes in extreme light laser-plasma interaction

High-Energy Photon Production

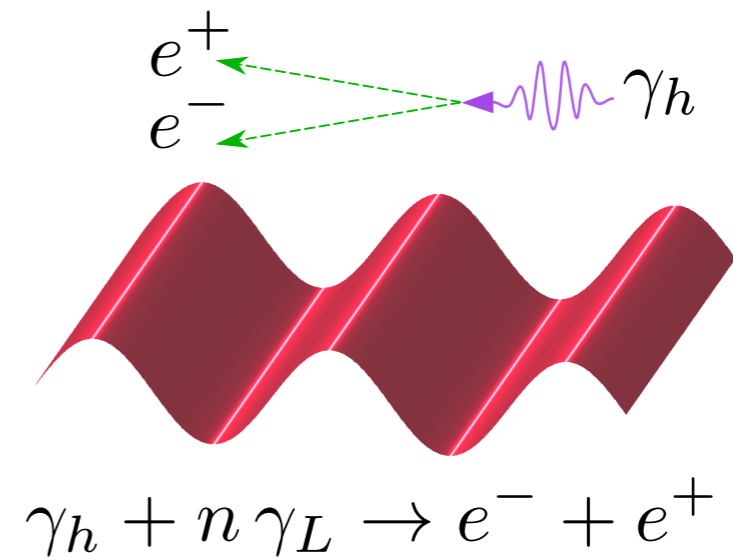
Nonlinear Thomson and Compton scattering



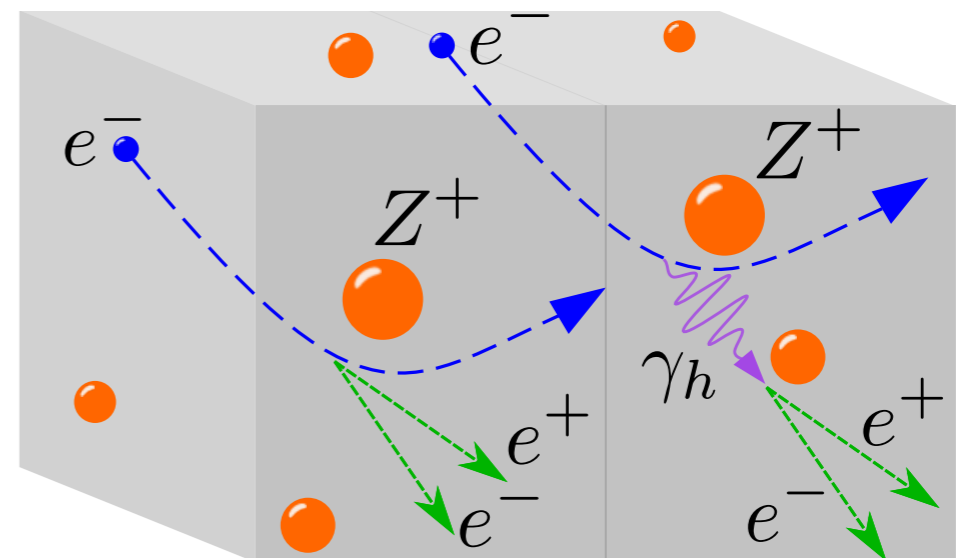
Bremsstrahlung



Multi-Photon Breit-Wheeler Process

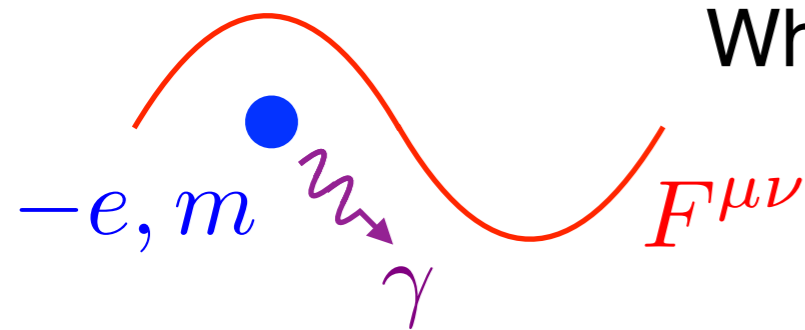


Pair production in strong Coulomb field



Electron-Positron Pair Production

A closer look at the so-called radiation reaction problem



What is the equation of motion of a charged particle in a *given* electromagnetic field?

High-energy (γ) photon emission and its back-reaction

- in **laser-matter interaction** under **extreme light** conditions
- in **relativistic astrophysics**:
e.g. γ -ray flares in the Crab nebulae

A closer look at the so-called radiation reaction problem

In CED, Radiation Reaction (RR) is modelled by a so-called radiation reaction force:

$$\frac{dp^\mu}{d\tau} = -\frac{e}{mc} F^{\mu\nu} p_\nu + g^\mu$$

The Landau-Lifshitz RR force:

$$g^\mu = -\frac{2}{3} \tau_e \left[\frac{e}{m^2 c} \partial_\eta F^{\mu\nu} p_\nu p^\eta + \frac{e^2}{m^2 c^2} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\eta\nu} p^\eta - \frac{e^2}{m^4 c^4} (F^{\nu\eta} p_\eta) (F_{\nu\alpha} p^\alpha) p^\mu \right]$$

Which for an ultra-relativistic radiating electron simplifies into a [friction force](#):

$$mc^2 \frac{d\gamma}{dt} = -ec \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{E} - P_{cl}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = -e (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{H}) - P_{cl} \mathbf{u} / (cu^2)$$

A closer look at the so-called radiation reaction problem

In QED, one needs to account for the discrete and stochastic nature of high-energy photon emission:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}f_e &= \int_0^{+\infty} d\gamma_\gamma w_\chi(\gamma + \gamma_\gamma, \gamma_\gamma) f_e(t, \mathbf{x}, \gamma + \gamma_\gamma, \boldsymbol{\Omega}) \\ &\quad - f_e(t, \mathbf{x}, \gamma, \boldsymbol{\Omega}) \int_0^{+\infty} d\gamma_\gamma w_\chi(\gamma, \gamma_\gamma), \\ \frac{d}{dt}f_\gamma &= \int_1^{+\infty} d\gamma w_\chi(\gamma + \gamma_\gamma, \gamma_\gamma) f_e(t, \mathbf{x}, \gamma + \gamma_\gamma, \boldsymbol{\Omega})\end{aligned}$$

with the emission rate:

$$w_\chi(\gamma, \gamma_\gamma) = \left. \frac{d^2 N}{dt d\gamma_\gamma} \right|_\chi(\gamma_\gamma, \gamma) = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\alpha^2}{\tau_e} \frac{\tilde{G}(\chi, \gamma_\gamma/\gamma)}{\gamma \gamma_\gamma}$$

Linear Boltzmann description \Leftrightarrow Monte-Carlo procedure (PIC)

A closer look at the so-called radiation reaction problem

The classical limit of RR corresponds to the cumulative effect of the emission of many photons each carrying a tiny fraction of the emitting electron energy $\gamma_\gamma \ll \gamma$.

This allow us to derive a [Fokker-Planck description](#):

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t f_e + \nabla \cdot [cu\boldsymbol{\Omega}f_e] - \frac{1}{mc^2} \partial_\gamma [ecu(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{E})f_e] \\ - \frac{e}{p} \nabla_\Omega \cdot [(\mathbf{1} - \boldsymbol{\Omega} \otimes \boldsymbol{\Omega}) \cdot (\mathbf{E} + u\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{H})f_e] = \mathcal{C} [f_e] , \end{aligned}$$

with the *Fokker Planck* operator:

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{FP}} [f_e] = \partial_\gamma [S(\chi)f_e] + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\gamma^2 [R(\chi, \gamma)f_e]$$

which is mathematically equivalent to the SDE:

$$d\mathbf{p} = -e(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{H})dt - \underbrace{mc^2 S(\chi) \mathbf{u}/(cu^2)}_{mc^2 S(\chi) = P_{cl} g(\chi)} dt + mc^2 \underbrace{\sqrt{R(\chi, \gamma)} dW}_{\text{Wiener process}} \mathbf{u}/(cu^2)$$



$$mc^2 S(\chi) = P_{cl} g(\chi)$$



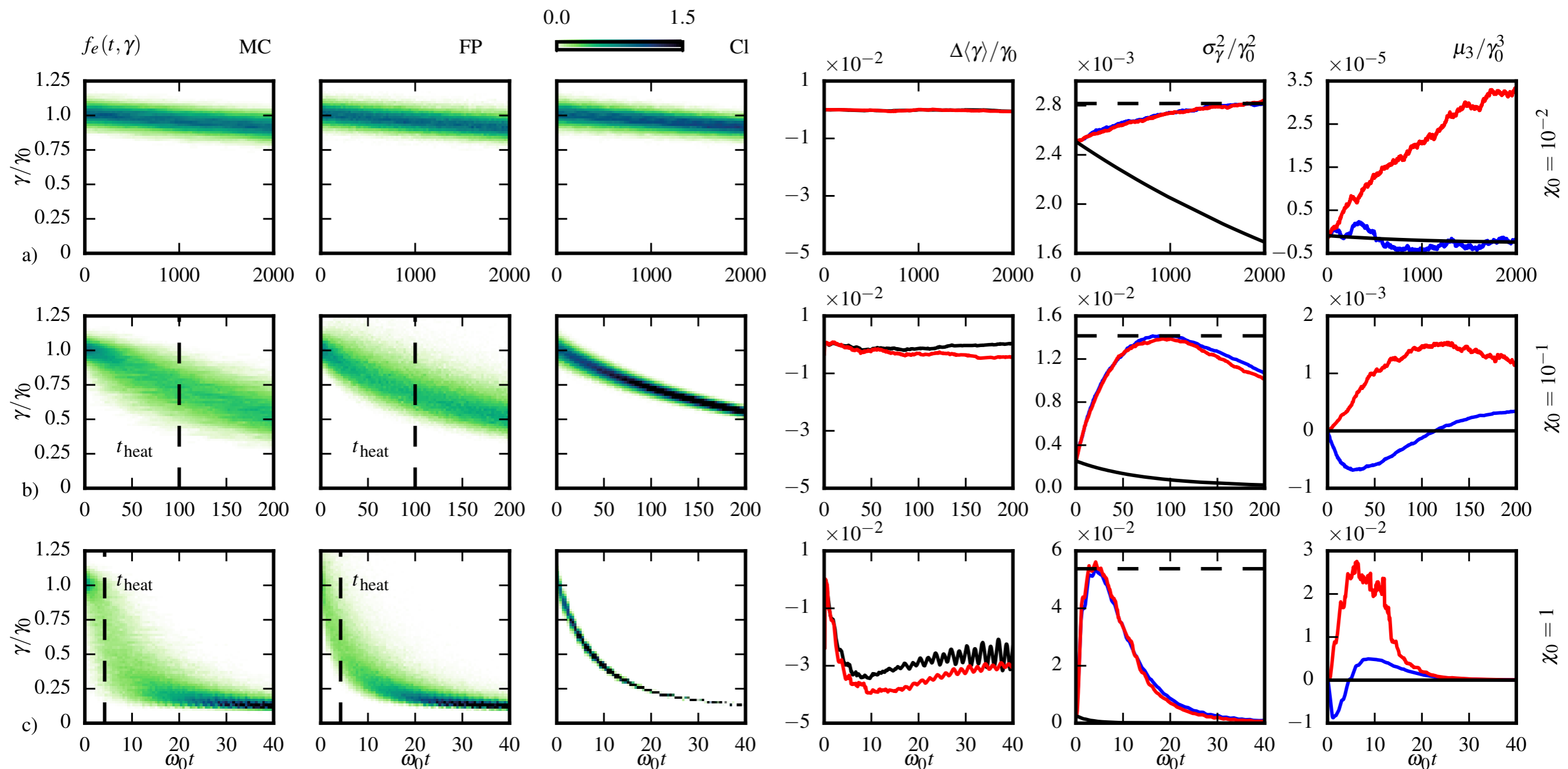
Wiener process

A closer look at the so-called radiation reaction problem

$$d\mathbf{p} = -e(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{H})dt - \underbrace{mc^2 S(\chi)}_{mc^2 S(\chi) = P_{cl} g(\chi)} \mathbf{u}/(cu^2)dt + \underbrace{mc^2 \sqrt{R(\chi, \gamma)} dW}_{\text{Wiener process}} \mathbf{u}/(cu^2)$$

$$mc^2 S(\chi) = P_{cl} g(\chi)$$

Wiener process



Conclusions

The Apollon laser:

- multi-beam, multi-PW laser facility
- first experimental campaigns in 2018
- open to the scientific community at the horizon 2020

Kinetic simulation of plasmas:

- the open-source, collaborative PIC code SMILEI
- available to scientific community
- laser-plasma interaction (LPI) & astrophysics
- research & teaching platform
- High-Performance Computing (co-development with HPC experts)

Bridging relativistic LPI & Quantum Electrodynamics (QED):

- high-energy photon emission & its back-reaction
- pair production in laser & Coulomb field
- theory & simulation