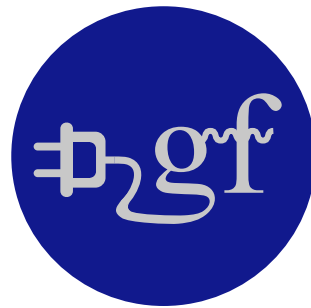


Gamma Factory's high intensity particle beams and their potential impact on the future accelerator-technology-driven research.



*EPS conference Marseille
the 10th of July 2024*

Mieczyslaw Witold Krasny (Gamma Factory)

LPNHE, CNRS and University Paris Sorbonne and CERN, BE-ABP

"New directions in science are launched by new tools much more often than by new concepts."

The effect of a concept-driven revolution is to explain old things in new ways.

The effect of a tool-driven revolution is to discover new things that have to be explained" - F. Dyson



“Gamma Factory”

The Gamma Factory proposal for CERN[†]

[†] An Executive Summary of the proposal addressed to the CERN management.

Mieczyslaw Witold Krasny*

LPNHE, Universités Paris VI et VII and CNRS-IN2P3, Paris, France

e-Print: [1511.07794](#) [hep-ex]

~100 physicists from 40 institutions have contributed so far to the Gamma Factory studies

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*Gamma Factory studies are anchored and supported by the CERN **Physics Beyond Colliders (PBC)** framework.*

More info on all the GF group activities:

<https://indico.cern.ch/category/10874>

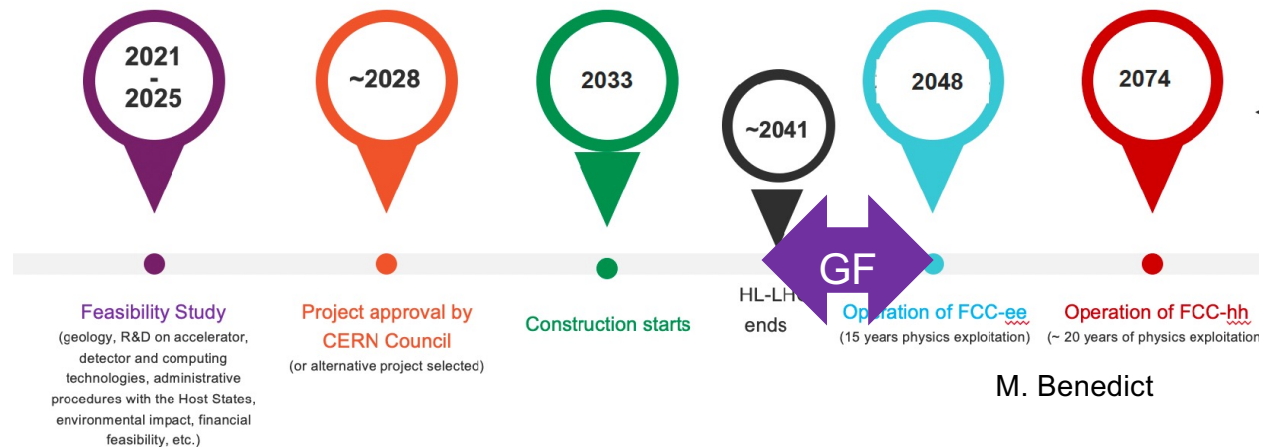
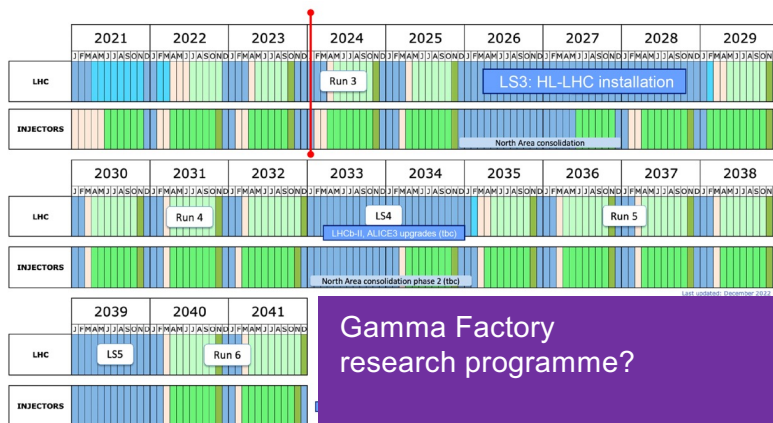
*We acknowledge the crucial role of the **CERN PBC “framework”** in bringing our accelerator tests, GF-PoP experiment preparation and software development to their present stage!*

Outline of the talk

- *Rationale behind the Gamma Factory initiative*
- *Basic principles*
- *Gamma Factory beams*
- *Feasibility studies*
- *Proof-of-Principle experiment at the SPS*

*Rationale behind the Gamma Factory
initiative*

Gamma Factory – novel research tools and a significant extension of the CERN research programme using the existing CERN accelerator infrastructure



M. Benedict

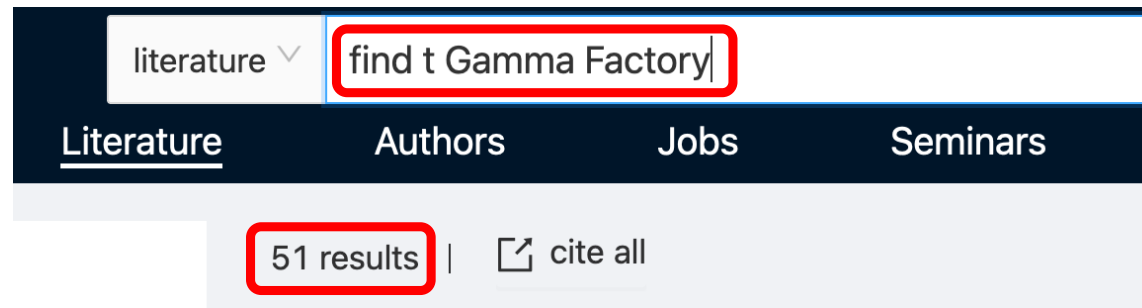
- Maximal LHC pp-luminosity and maximal intensity of the PS, PS-Booster and SPS extracted beams will be reached by **the LS4 time**. New paradigms/concepts of **using the existing CERN accelerator infrastructure** will be badly needed.
- Gamma Factory** broad research programme can fill the gap between the end of the HL-LHC programme and the beginning of the next high-energy-frontier collider operation ... at a relatively low cost ($O(MCHF)$) with the novel-type, unprecedented-intensity particle beams produced with high plug-power efficiency.

Gamma Factory: “A multidisciplinary research programme”

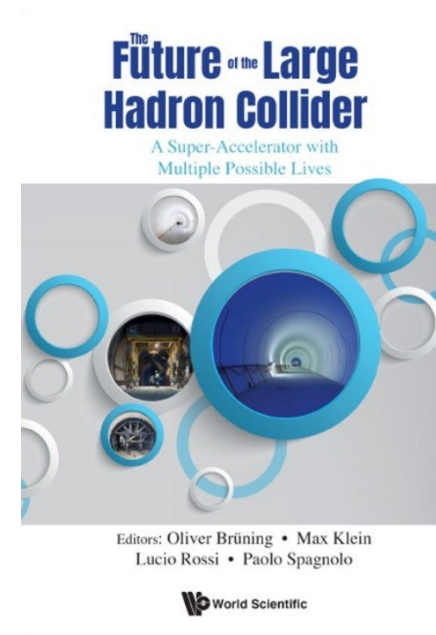
- **particle physics** (precision QED and EW studies, vacuum birefringence, Higgs physics in $\gamma\gamma$ collision mode, rare muon decays, precision neutrino physics, QCD-confinement studies, ...);
- **nuclear physics** (nuclear spectroscopy, cross-talk of nuclear and atomic processes, GDR, nuclear photo-physics, photo-fission research, gamma polarimetry, physics of rare radioactive nuclides, ...);
- **atomic physics** (highly charged atoms, electronic and muonic atoms, pionic and kaonic atoms);
- **astrophysics** (dark matter searches, gravitational waves detection, $^{16}\text{O}(\gamma,\alpha)^{12}\text{C}$ reaction and S-factors...);
- **fundamental physics** (studies of the basic symmetries of the universe, atomic interferometry,...);
- **accelerator physics** (beam cooling techniques, low emittance hadronic beams, high intensity polarised positron and muon sources, beams of radioactive ions and neutrons, very narrow band, and flavour-tagged neutrino beams, ...);
- **applied physics** (accelerator driven energy sources, fusion research, medical isotopes and isomers precision lithography).

GF studies: published papers and books (Inspire)

papers



books



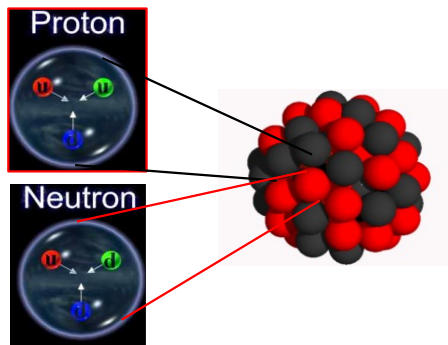
Gamma Factory: “Novel research tools made from light”

1. Atomic traps of highly-charged atoms (*connecting domains of atomic, nuclear and particle physics*)
2. High intensity polarised photon(γ)-beams – (*intensity leap by~7 orders of magnitude*)
3. Novel, high intensity sources of polarised electrons, polarised positrons, polarised muons, (potentially) CP and flavour-tagged neutrinos, neutrons and radioactive ions (*intensity/brightness leap >3 orders of magnitude*)
4. Laser cooling methods of high-energy hadronic beams (*unprecedented precision of controlling particle beams and reaching highest partonic luminosities at high energy hadronic colliders*)
5. New type of the photon-beam--driven energy source (*covering the plug-power consumption of CERN*)
6. Electron beam for ep collisions in the LHC interaction points (*unique partonic emittance diagnostic tool for high energy hadron colliders*)
7. ...

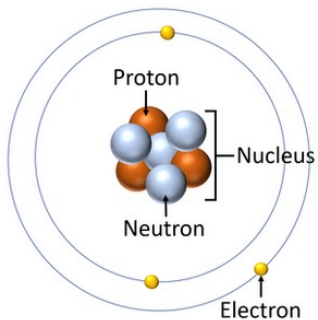
Basic principles

Gamma Factory requirements

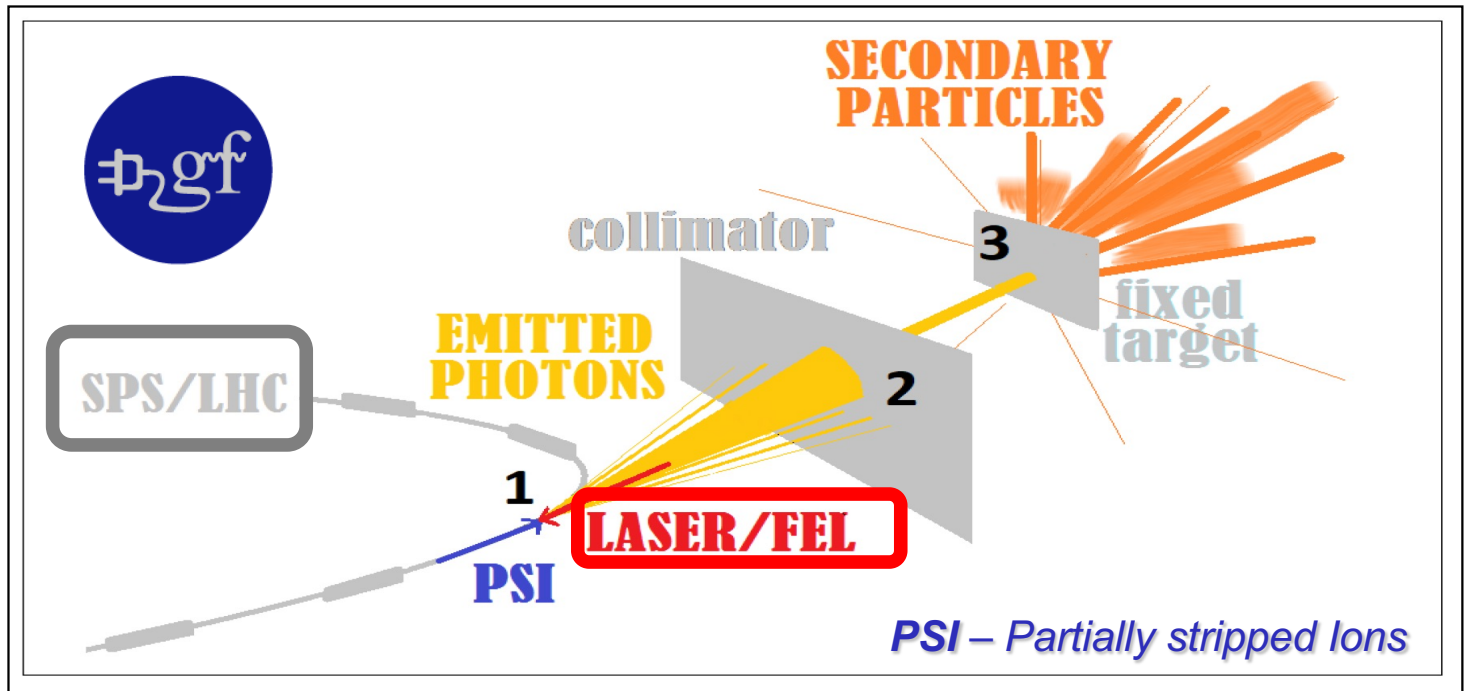
LHC beams



include



- Include **atomic beams of partially stripped ions** in the LHC menu
- Collide them with laser pulses to produce beams of polarized photons polarized electrons, positrons, muons, neutrons, radioactive ions



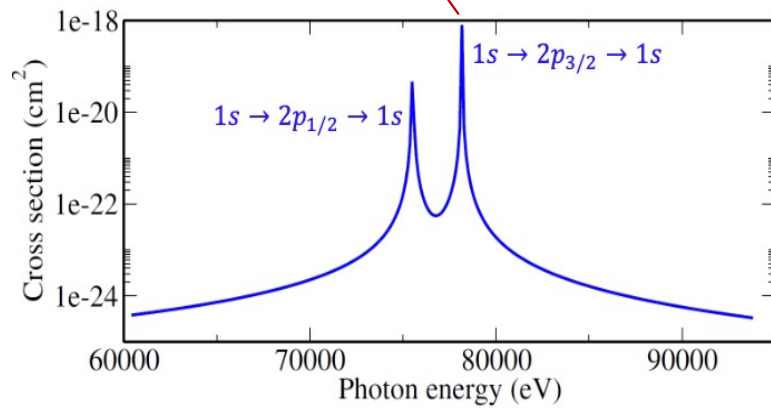
Gamma Factory: exploiting the resonant photon collisions

photons

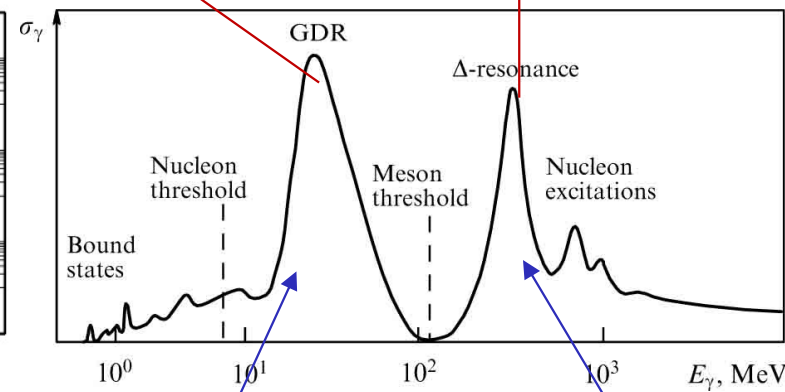
neutrons

pions, muons, neutrinos

Higgs bosons

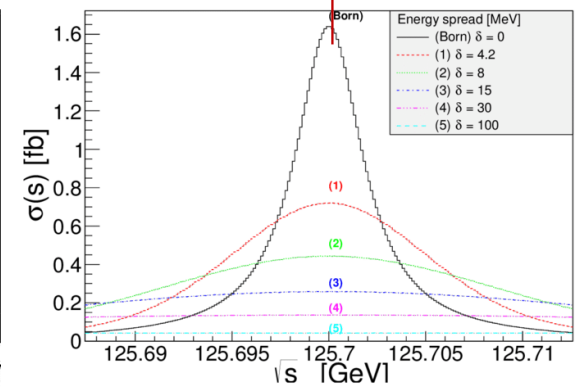


Exciting atoms



Exciting nuclei

Exciting nucleons

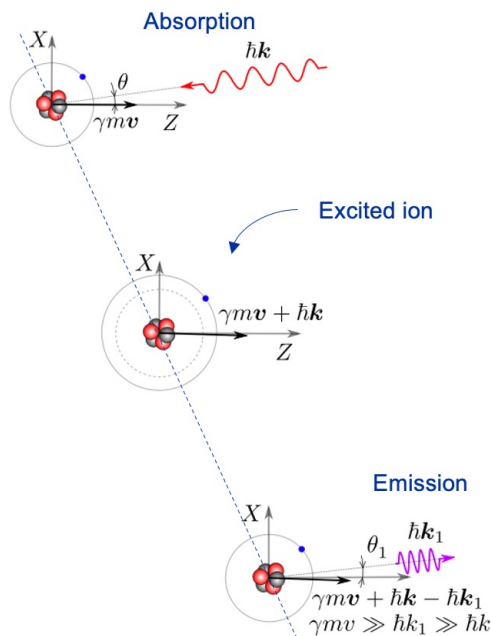


Exciting vacuum

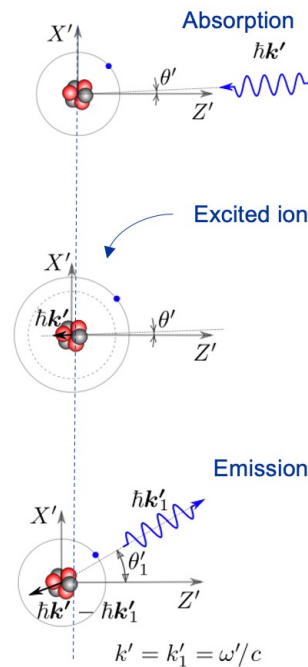
“Photon acceleration”:

High energy atomic beams play the role of passive light-frequency converters:

In the lab frame



In the ion frame



Absorption

Lorentz transformation

$$\omega' \sin \theta' = \omega \sin \theta, \quad \Delta \theta' \approx \frac{\Delta \theta}{2\gamma}$$

$$\omega' = (1 + \beta \cos \theta) \gamma \omega \approx \left(1 + \beta - \beta \frac{\theta^2}{2}\right) \gamma \omega \approx 2\gamma \omega.$$

Emission

$$\omega_1 \sin \theta_1 = \omega' \sin \theta'_1 \Rightarrow \sin \theta_1 = \frac{\sin \theta'_1}{\gamma(1 + \beta \cos \theta'_1)},$$

$$\omega_1 = \gamma(1 + \beta \cos \theta'_1) \omega' \approx 2\gamma^2(1 + \beta \cos \theta'_1) \omega.$$

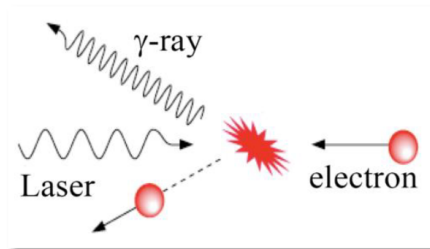
$$v^{\max} \rightarrow (4 \gamma_L^2) v_i$$

$\gamma_L = E/M$ - Lorentz factor for the ion beam

(100 - 3000 for CERN beams!)

Photon acceleration – Intensity and efficiency leap: large cross-section for atomic collisions

Inverse Compton scattering



cross-section

Electrons:

$$\sigma_e = 8\pi/3 \times r_e^2$$

r_e - classical electron radius

$$\sigma_e = 6.6 \times 10^{-25} \text{ cm}^2$$

efficiency

$$E_{\text{beam}} = 1.5 \text{ GeV}$$

LINAC or LWFA

Electron fractional energy loss:

emission of 150 MeV photon:

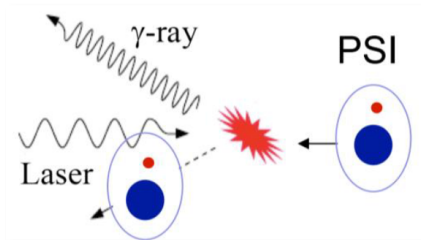
$$E_\gamma/E_{\text{beam}} = 0.1$$

(electron is lost!)



$$\sigma \times 10^9$$

Gamma Factory



Example: Pb, hydrogen-like ions,
stored in LHC $\gamma_L = 2887$

Partially Stripped Ions:

$$\sigma_{\text{res}} = \lambda_{\text{res}}^2 / 2\pi$$

λ_{res} - photon wavelength in
the ion rest frame

$$\sigma_{\text{res}} = 5.9 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^2$$

$$E_{\text{beam}} = 574\,000 \text{ GeV}$$

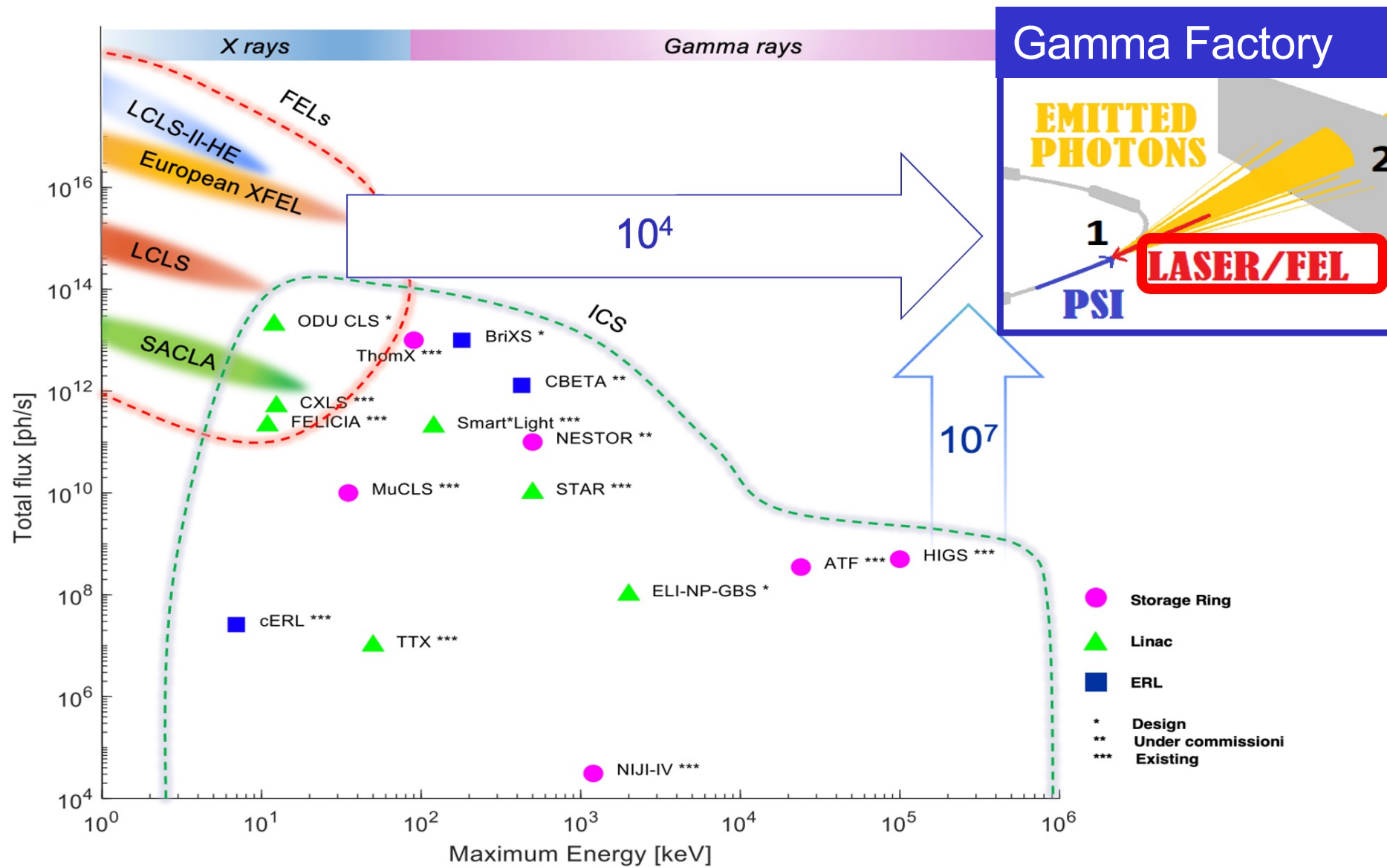
(LHC)

Electron fractional energy loss:

emission of 150 MeV photon:

$$E_\gamma/E_{\text{beam}} = 2.6 \times 10^{-7}$$

(ion undisturbed!)



Extraordinary properties of the GF photon source

1. Point-like, small divergence

- $\Delta z \sim l_{\text{PSI-bunch}} < 7 \text{ cm}$, $\Delta x, \Delta y \sim \sigma_{x,y}^{\text{PSI}} < 50 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $\Delta(\theta_x), \Delta(\theta_y) \sim 1/\gamma_L < 1 \text{ mrad}$

2. Huge jump in intensity:

- **More than 7 orders of magnitude** w.r.t. existing (being constructed) γ -sources

3. Very wide range of tuneable energy photon beam :

- **10 keV – 400 MeV** -- extending, by a factor of **~1000**, the energy range of the FEL photon sources

4. Tuneable polarisation (Pauli blocking):

- γ -**polarisation transmission** from laser photons to γ -beams of **up to 99%**

5. Unprecedented plug power efficiency (energy footprint):

- **LHC RF power can be converted to the photon beam power.** Wall-plug power efficiency of the GF photon source is by a factor of **~300 better than that of the DESY-XFEL!**
(assuming power consumption of 200 MW - CERN and 19 MW - DESY)

Gamma Factory beams

Gamma Factory proposes to create and store in the LHC novel type of beams of:

- Hydrogen-like and Helium-like ions (*unpolarised and polarised*),
 - Low emittance, cold (isoscalar) ions (*high precision EW studies, Higgs studies*)
 - Nuclear isomers, ...e.g. ^{229m}Th (*nuclear clock*)
 - Electrons, circulating in the LHC and colliding with the LHC proton beams (*PIE collider*).
- ... and control/manipulate them with unprecedented precision using lasers*

Gamma Factory can improve the present intensity limits of the:

- Polarised γ -beams *by a factor $>10^7$* , $\rightarrow 10^{18} \gamma/\text{sec}$
- Muon beams *by a factor of 10^3* , $\rightarrow 7 \times 10^{13} \mu^+, \mu^-/\text{sec}$
- Polarised positron beams *by a factor of 10^3* . $\rightarrow 10^{16} e^+/\text{sec}$

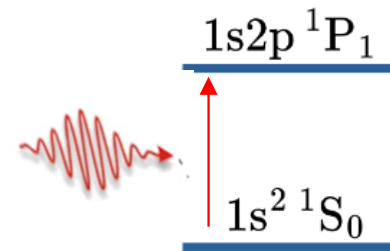
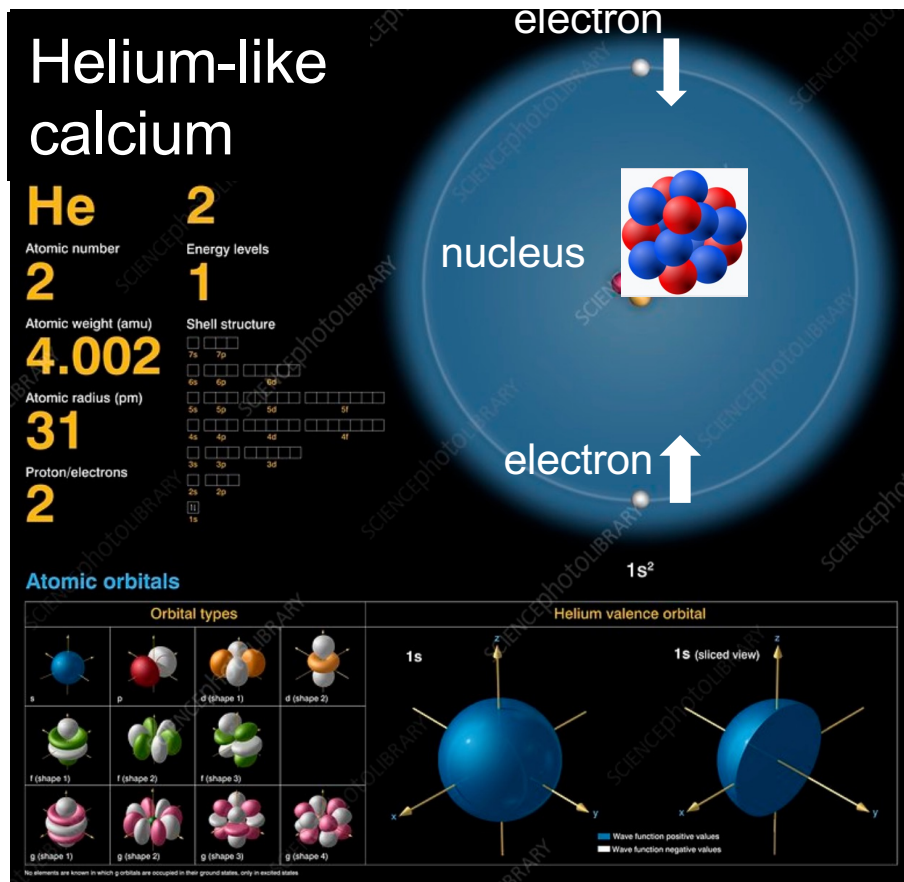
Gamma Factory can also deliver :

- monochromatic neutron beams, $\rightarrow 10^{17} n/\text{sec}$
- radioactive ion beams. $\rightarrow 10^{12} \text{ extracted r.i./sec,}$

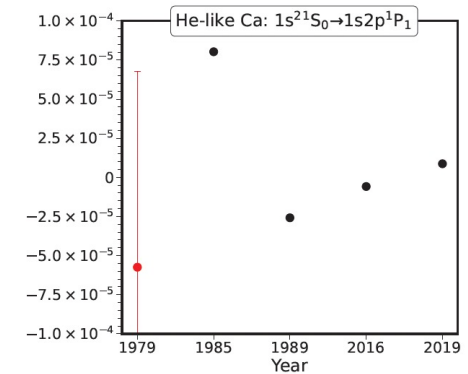
... complementary to those delivered by the presently operating and future facilities

examples 

Novel type of beam particles with internal degrees of freedom -
LHC beam energy calibration can be improved by a factor of >100



Atomic transition energy precision



Tuning γ_L to the atomic transition resonance:

$$\omega_{\text{ion}} = (1 + \beta \cos \Theta) \gamma_L \omega_{\text{lab}}$$

Atomic transition energy

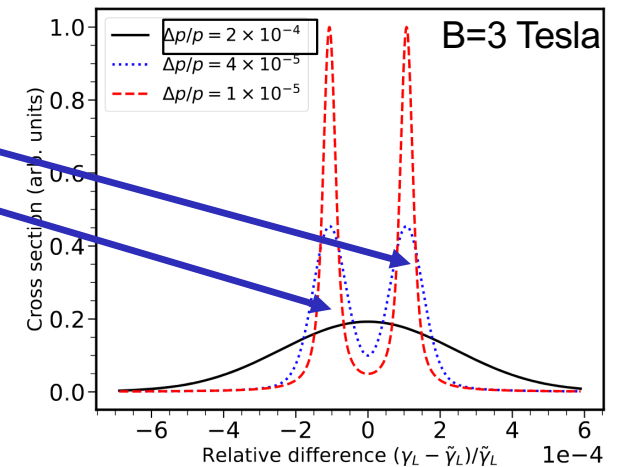
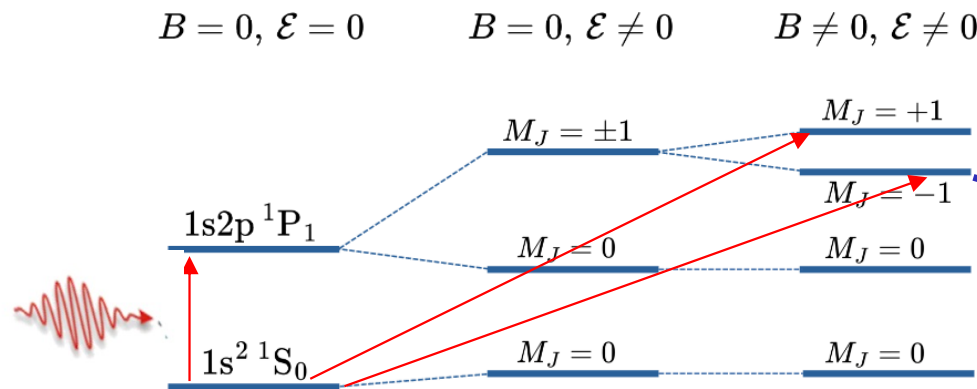
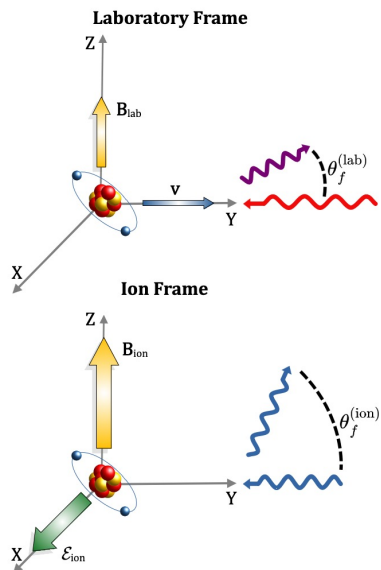
collision angle

Lorentz factor of the beam

Laser photon energy

Novel type of beam particles with internal degrees of freedom **Ultra-precise control of the stability and the emittance of the LHC beams**

Collisions in a dipole magnet



Observing Zeman splitting of the $M_J = \pm 1$ sublevels of the excited He-like Ca atoms allows us to control the LHC beam energy fluctuations to better than $\sim 10^{-7}$ relative precision at ~ 10 kHz frequency (better than LEP) \rightarrow **a path to the gravitational wave detection in the high-energy storage rings?** In addition, we can polarise ions using polarised laser photons!

OPEN ACCESS

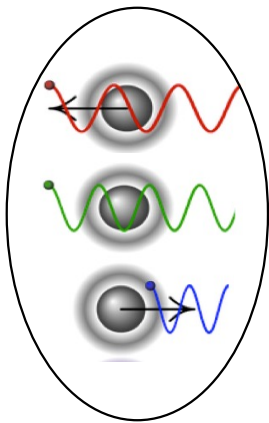
Resonant photon scattering in the presence of external fields and its applications for the CERN Gamma Factory project

Jan Richter^{1,2,*}, Mieczyslaw Witold Krasny^{3,4}, Jan Gilles^{5,6}, and Andrey Surzhykov^{1,7}

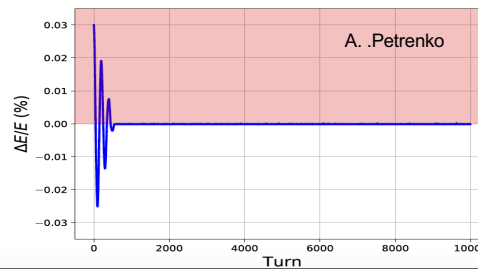
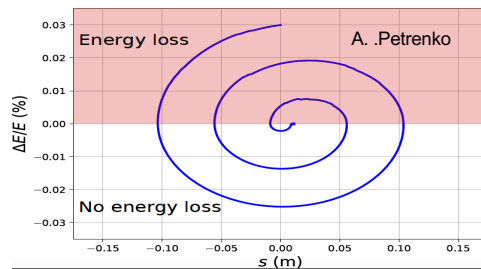
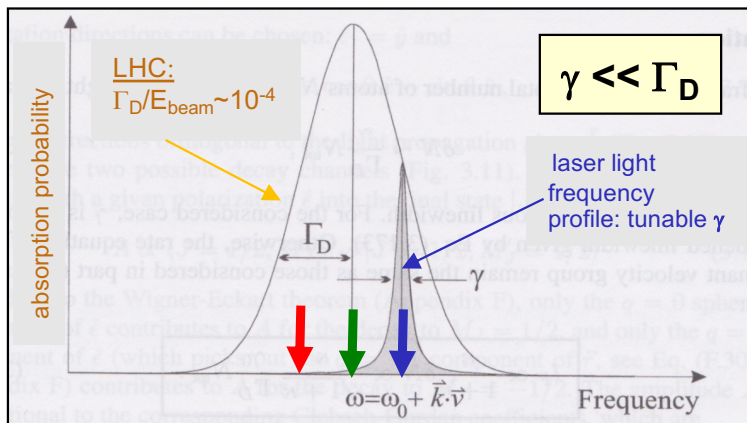
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Phys. Rev. A 111, 062820 – Published 24 June, 2025

Gamma Factory's “cold” ion beams

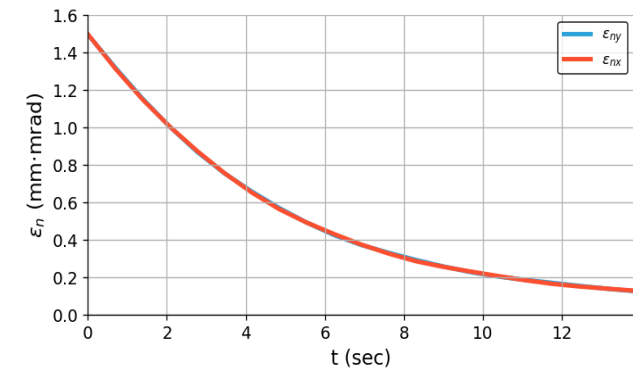


Bunch



Beam cooling speed: the laser wavelength band is chosen such that only the ions moving in the laser pulse direction (in the bunch rest frame) can resonantly absorb photons.

Opens a possibility of forming at CERN hadronic beams of the required longitudinal and transverse emittances within a seconds-long time scale



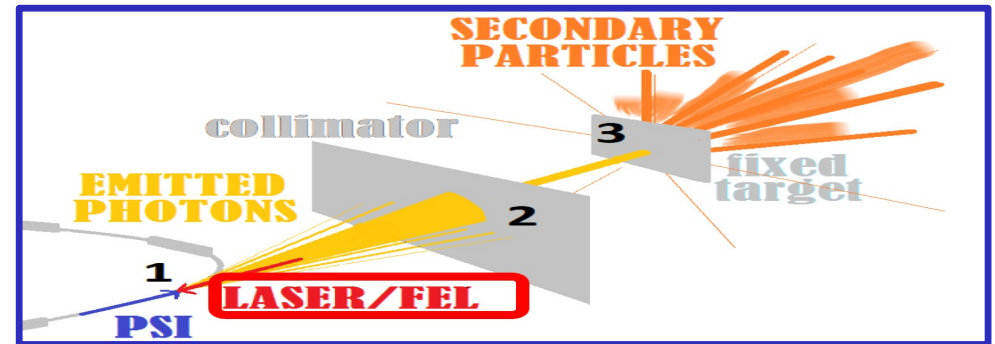
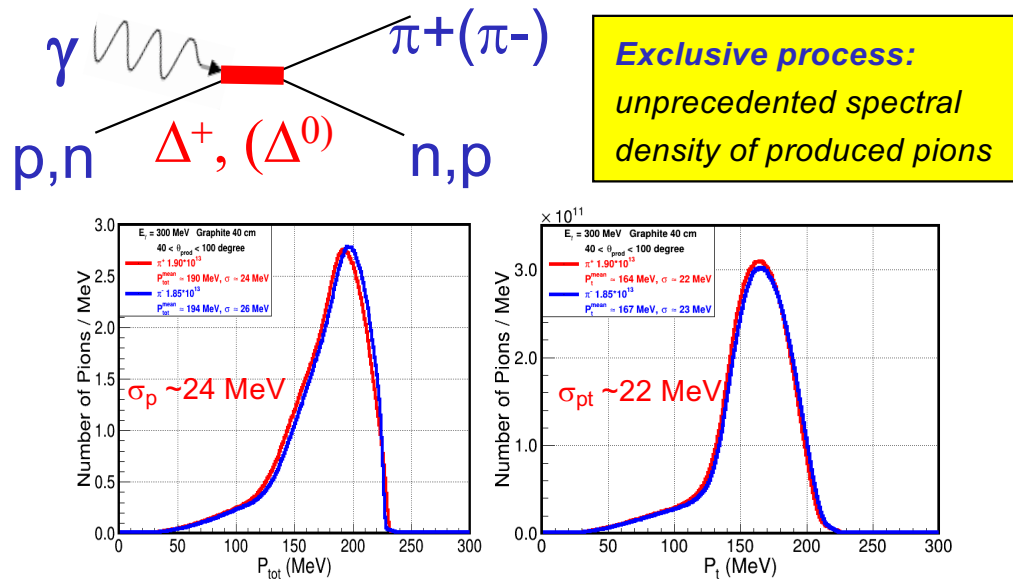
Simulation of laser cooling of the lithium-like Ca(+17) bunches in the SPS: **transverse emittance evolution**.

High-luminosity Large Hadron Collider with laser-cooled isoscalar ion beams

M.W. Krasny (Paris U., VI-VII and CERN), A. Petrenko (CERN and Novosibirsk, IYF), W. Płaczek (Jagiellonian U.) (Mar 25, 2020)

Published in: *Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys.* 114 (2020) 103792 • e-Print: [2003.11407](#) [physics.acc-ph]

Gamma Factory muon and positron source

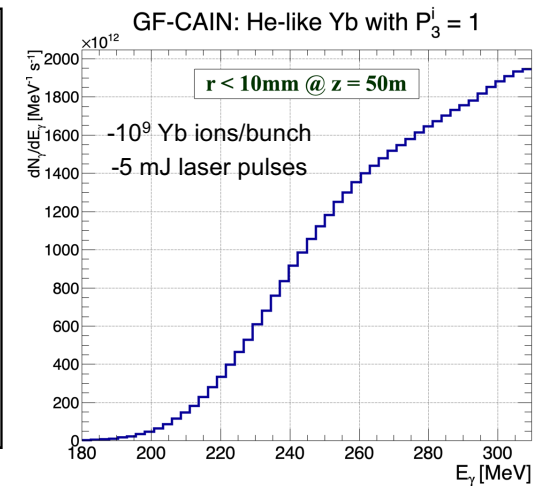


GF photon beam

γ -beam spectrum

For 1X0 graphite target
 $2\text{-}7 \times 10^{13} \mu^+$ and μ^-/s ,
for 2-6 MW γ beam

Intensity jump with
respect to HiMB@PSI
prospects >2025 – $1.2 \times 10^{11} \mu^+/\text{s}$



PHYSICAL REVIEW ACCELERATORS AND BEAMS **26**, 083401 (2023)

Gamma Factory high-intensity muon and positron source: Exploratory studies

Armen Apyan^{1,*}, Mieczyslaw Witold Krasny^{2,3} and Wiesław Płaczek⁴

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²LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Université de Paris, CNRS/IN2P3,

Tour 33, RdC, 4, pl. Jussieu, 75005 Paris, France

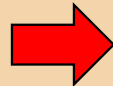
³CERN, BE-ABP, 1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

⁴Institute of Applied Computer Science and Mark Kac Center for Complex Systems Research, Jagiellonian University, ul. Łojasiewicza 11, 30-348 Krakow, Poland

The merit of quasi-monochromatic pion source: muon **longitudinal** polarisation

Precise control of CP and flavour composition of the polarised μ -beam driven neutrino source

- The GF source for isoscalar targets is “charge-symmetric”!
- Selection of $\nu_e \bar{\nu}_\mu$ or $\bar{\nu}_e \nu_\mu$ beam by changing the sign of collected pions
- Control of the relative $\bar{\nu}_e/\nu_\mu$ ($\nu_e/\bar{\nu}_\mu$) fluxes by changing muon polarisation



$$\mu^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm + \nu_e(\bar{\nu}_e) + \bar{\nu}_\mu(\nu_\mu)$$

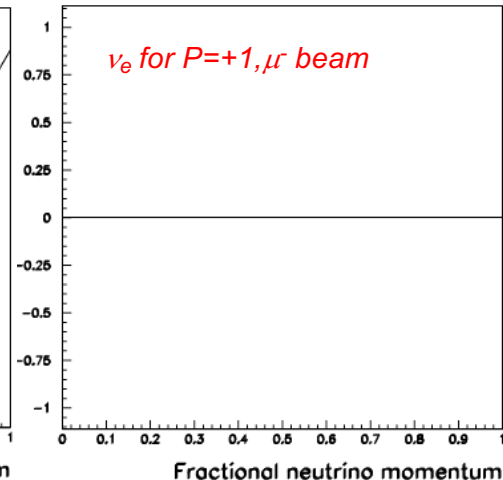
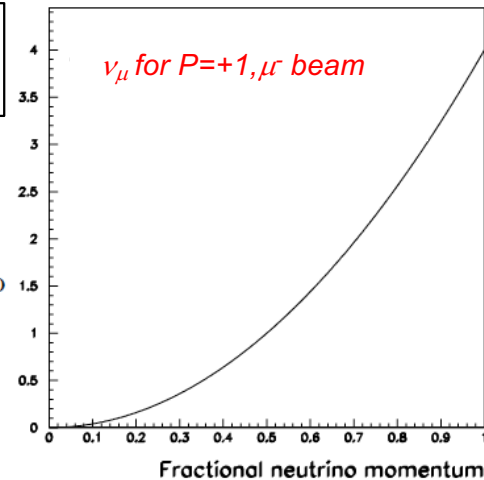
$$\frac{d^2 N}{dx d\Omega} = \frac{1}{4\pi} [f_0(x) \mp \mathcal{P}_\mu f_1(x) \cos \theta]$$

$$x = 2E_\nu/m_\mu$$

\mathcal{P}_μ is the muon polarization

θ is the angle between the neutrino momentum vector and the muon spin direction

	$f_0(x)$	$f_1(x)$
$\nu_{\mu, e}$	$2x^2(3-2x)$	$2x^2(1-2x)$
ν_e	$12x^2(1-x)$	$12x^2(1-x)$



Gamm Factory, γ -beam driven high intensity **neutron source**: resonant photo-excitation of the Giant Dipole Resonance

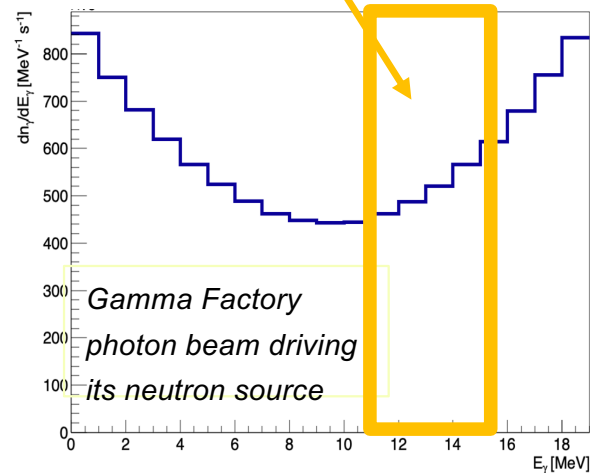
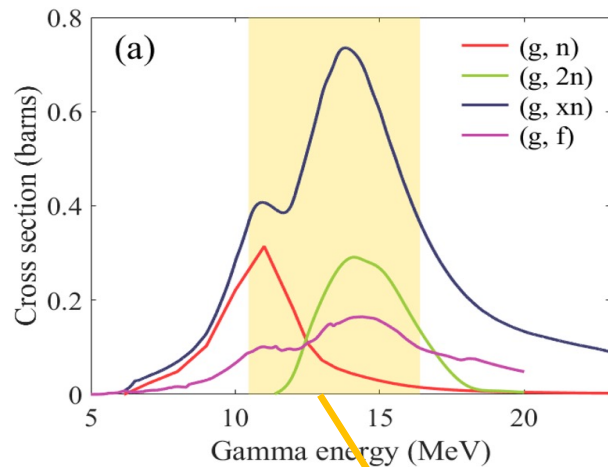


Table 1: Input parameters of the GF-CAIN simulations for the He-like Ca beam.

PSI beam	$^{40}\text{Ca}^{18+}$
m – ion mass	37.332 GeV/c ²
E – mean energy	91.07 TeV
$\gamma_L = E/mc^2$ – mean Lorentz relativistic factor	2439.5
N – number ions per bunch	3×10^9
σ_E/E – RMS relative energy spread	2×10^{-4}
$\beta_x = \beta_y$ – β -function at IP	50 m
$\varepsilon_x = \varepsilon_y$ – beam geometric emittance	3×10^{-10} m × rad
σ_z – RMS bunch length	1.5 cm
Bunch repetition rate	20 MHz
Laser	Erbium
λ – photon wavelength	1550 nm
$\hbar\omega$ – photon energy	0.799898 eV
σ_λ/λ – RMS relative band spread	2×10^{-4}
U – single pulse energy at IP	5 mJ
$\sigma_x = \sigma_y$ – RMS transverse intensity distribution at IP	300 μ m
σ_z – RMS pulse length	2.99792 cm
θ_l – collision angle	1 deg
N_l – number of laser stations	20
Atomic transition of $^{40}\text{Ca}^{18+}$	$1s^2\ ^1S_0 \rightarrow 1s2p\ ^1P_1$
$\hbar\omega'_r$ – resonance energy	3.902 keV
τ' – mean lifetime of spontaneous emission	6×10^{-15} s
g_1, g_2 – degeneracy factors of the ground and excited states	1, 3
$d\sigma/d\Omega'_\gamma$ – angular distribution of emitted photons in ion rest-frame	$\propto (1 + \cos^2 \theta'_\gamma)$
$\hbar\omega_r^{\text{max}}$ – maximum emitted photon energy	19.04 MeV

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Efficient transmutation of long-lived fission products in a Gamma Factory beam driven advanced nuclear energy system

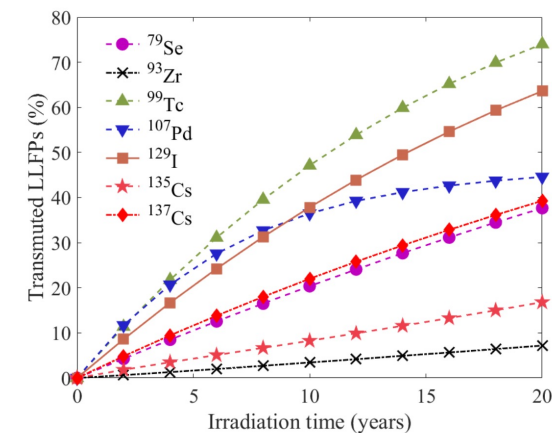
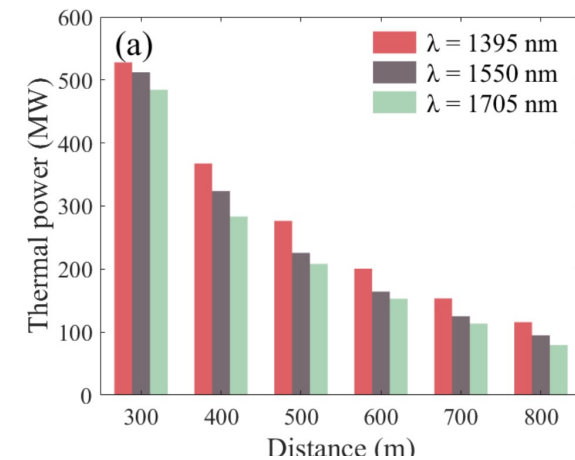
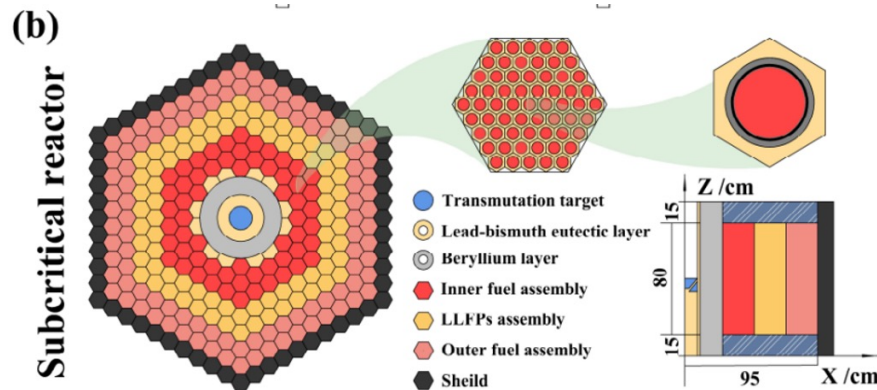
Baolong Hu, Mieczysław Witold Krasny , Wiesław Płaczek, Yun Yuan, Xiaoming Shi, Kaijun Luo & Wen Luo 

Scientific Reports **15**, Article number: 12562 (2025) | [Cite this article](#)

Gamma Factory photon-beam-driven energy source

Satisfying three conditions;

- requisite power for the present and future CERN scientific programme
- operation safety (**a subcritical reactor**)
- efficient transmutation of the nuclear waste



[nature](#) > [scientific reports](#) > [articles](#) > [article](#)

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 12 April 2025

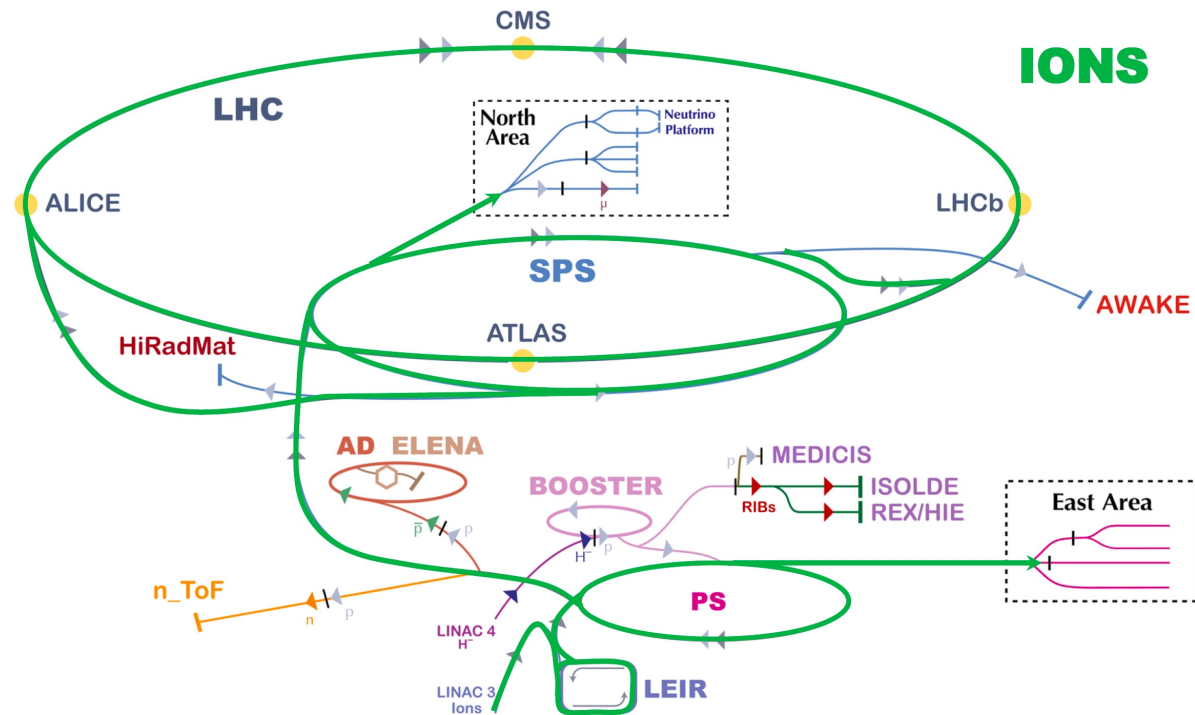
Efficient transmutation of long-lived fission products in a Gamma Factory beam driven advanced nuclear energy system

[Baolong Hu](#), [Mieczysław Witold Krasny](#) , [Wiesław Płaczek](#), [Yun Yuan](#), [Xiaoming Shi](#), [Kaijun Luo](#) & [Wen Luo](#) 

[Scientific Reports](#) **15**, Article number: 12562 (2025) | [Cite this article](#)

Feasibility studies

Re-use of the already existing CERN accelerator infrastructure

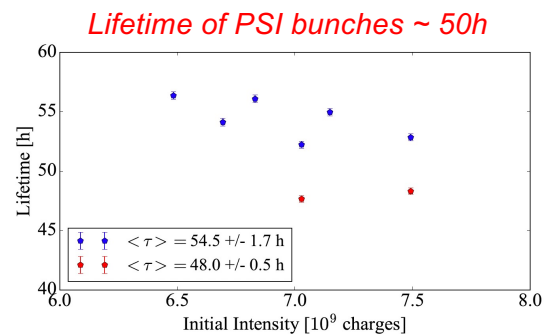
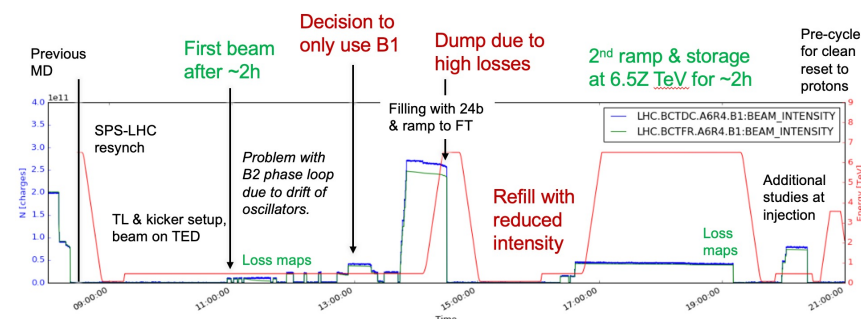


Gamma Factory requirements:

- modification of the ion stripping scheme,
- storage of atomic beams

Atomic beams stored in in the SPS and LHC

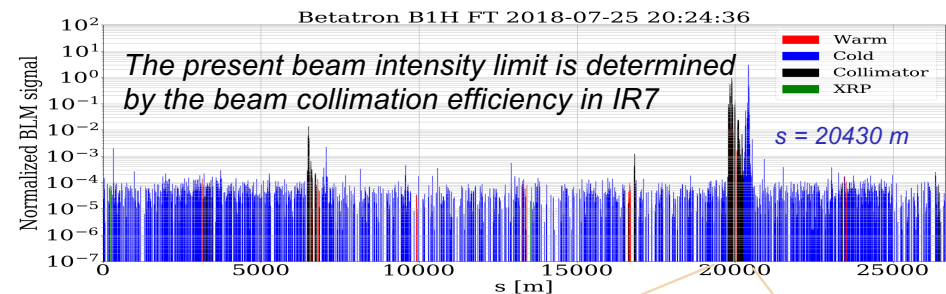
Lifetime of H-like Pb ions in the LHC



CERN-ACC-NOTE-2019-0012
8 May 2019
Michaela.Schaumann@cern.ch

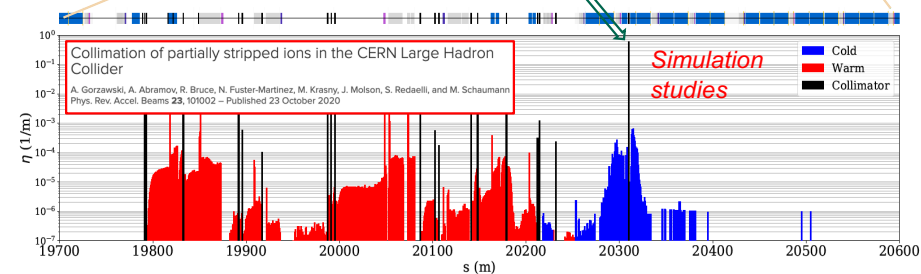
MD3284: Partially Stripped Ions in the LHC

M. Schaumann, A. Abramov, R. Alemany Fernandez, T. Argyropoulos, H. Bartosik, N. Biancacci, T. Bohl, C. Bracco, R. Bruce, S. Burger, K. Cornelis, N. Fuster Martinez, B. Goddard, A. Gorzawski, R. Giachino, G.H. Hemelsloet, S. Hirlander, M. Jebramcik, J.M. Jowett, V. Kain, M.W. Krasny, J. Molson, G. Papotti, M. Solfaroli Camillocci, H. Timko, D. Valuch, F. Velotti, J. Wenninger
CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23

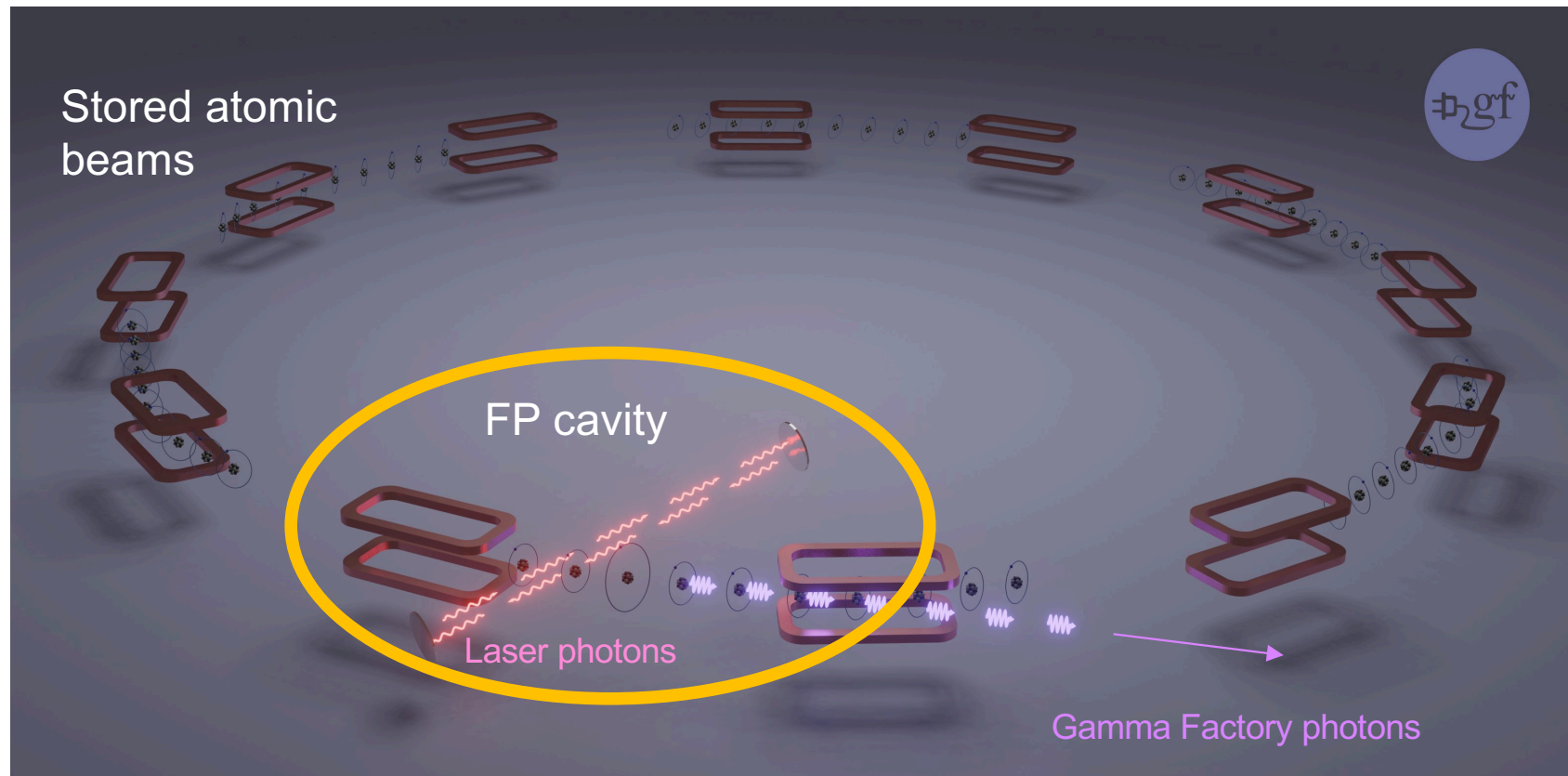


Mitigation strategies:

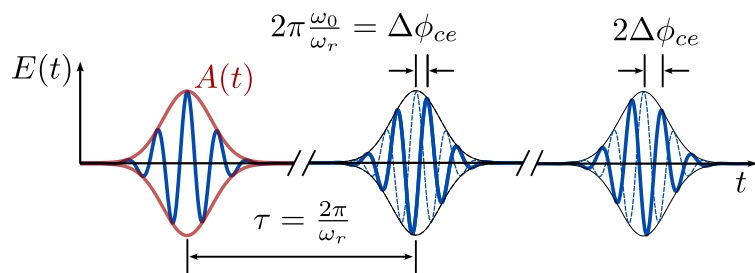
1. Dispersion suppressor collimator (TCLD)
2. Crystal collimation
3. Laser collimation.



Laser + FP cavity system

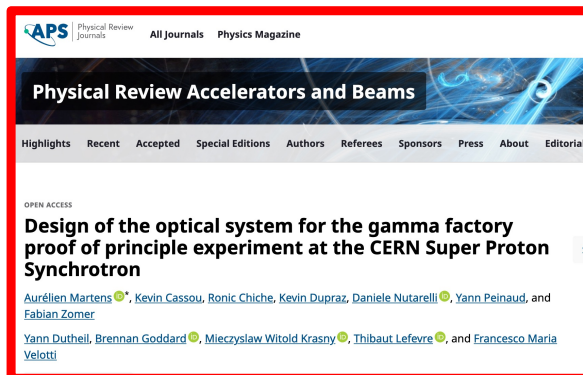
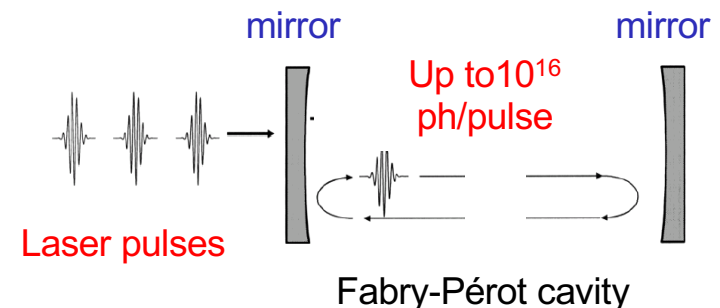


Towards the first integration of the Fabry-Pérot (FP) cavity in the hadron storage ring



GF requirements:

- < 5mJ pulses @ 20MHz,
- **(100kW photon beam)**



Yb-based high-power frequency combs for high-intensity laser-particle interactions

Eva Roiková,^{1,2,a)} Ruslan Chulkov,² Vitaliy Goryashko,^{3,2,b)} Mieczysław Witold Krasny,^{1,4} Andrea Latina,¹ Aurélien Martens,⁵ Vlad Musat,^{1,6} and Eduardo Granados^{1,c)}

¹⁾CERN

²⁾Uppsala University

³⁾RIKEN, SPring-8 Center

⁴⁾LPNHE, Paris Diderot Sorbonne Paris Cité, CNRSIN2P3, Sorbonne Université, Paris, 75781 France

⁵⁾Université Paris-Saclay, CNRSIN2P3, IJCLab, 91405 Orsay, France

⁶⁾IAI, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

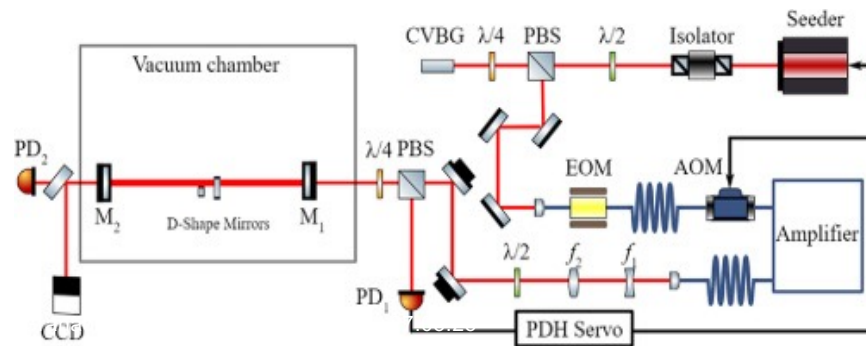
(Dated: 30 June 2025)

AIP Publishing

APL Photonics

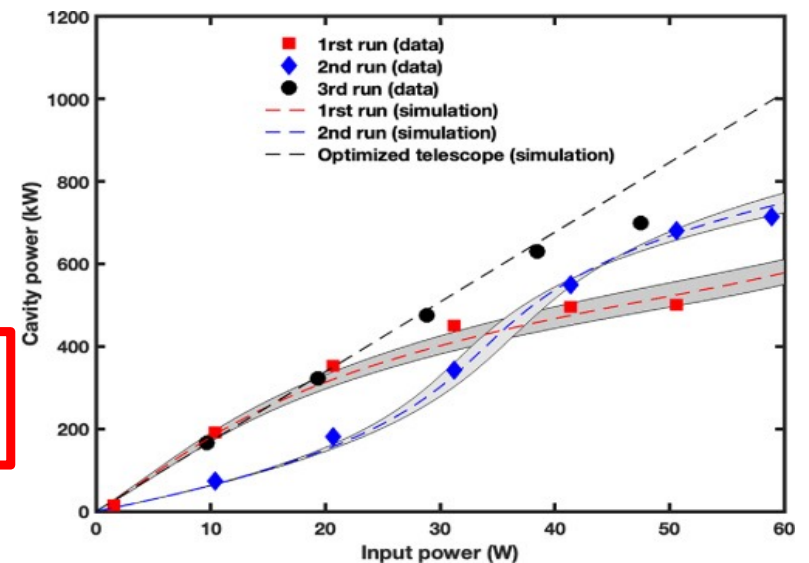
Optical Cavity tests at IJCLab

2 mirror cavity test



"710 kW stable average power in a 45,000 finesse two-mirror optical cavity," *Opt. Lett.* 49, 6884-6887 (2024)

World record in the stored power of photon pulses !



What have we achieved?

- *Demonstration of efficient production, storage and operation of the atomic beams in the SPS and LHC*
- *Demonstration of the stable, high power, laser photon beam storage in the Fabry-Perot cavity (world record of 700 kW stored, average power)*
- *Demonstration of the requisite precision of the beam steering in the collision point of laser pulses with atomic beam bunches*
- *Creation and benchmarking of the requisite software to simulate the production of the atomic beams, GF-photon beams and tertiary beams*

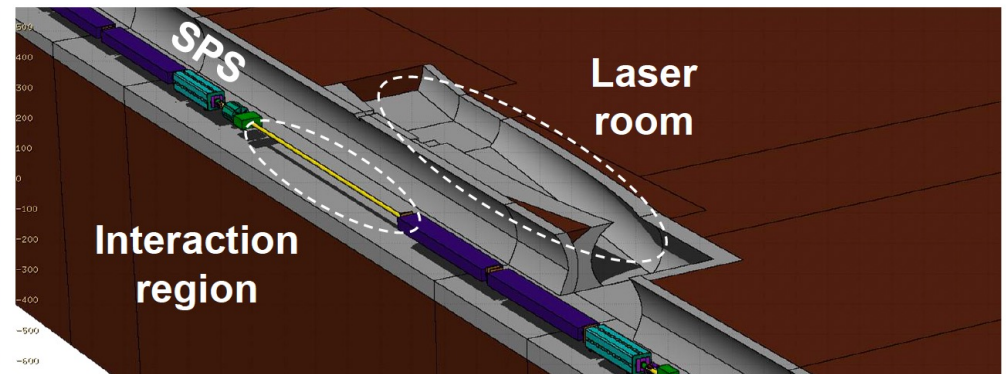
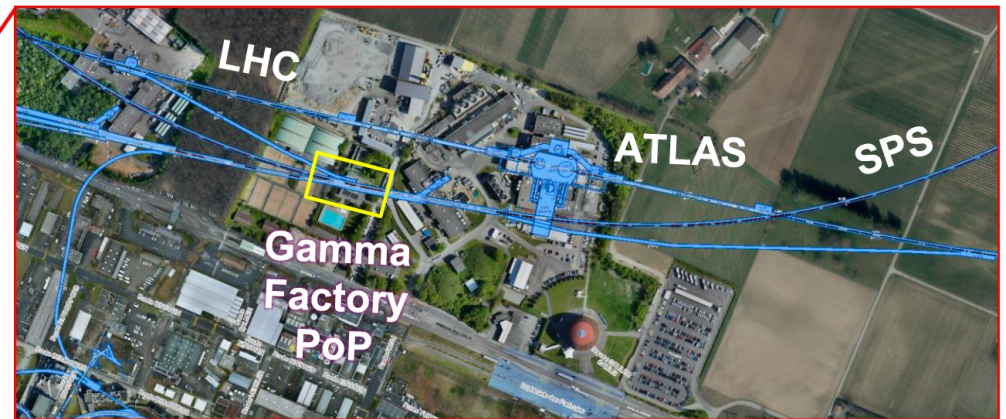
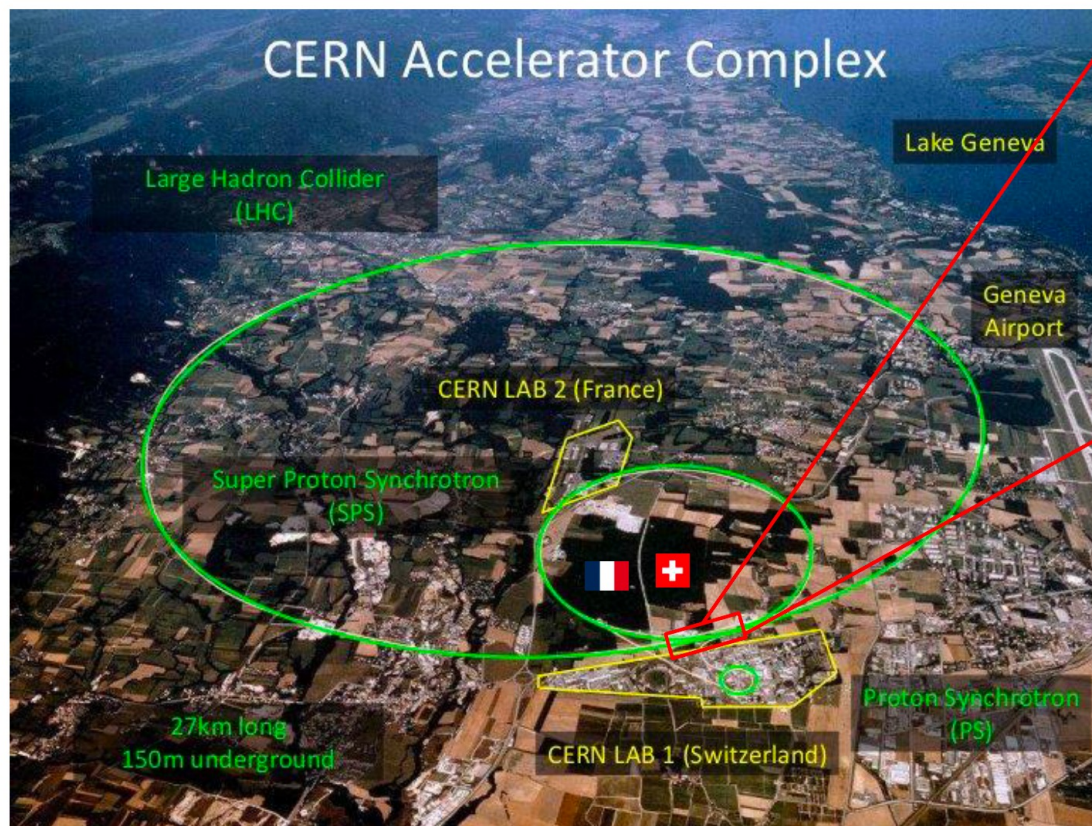
What remains to be demonstrated?

Proof of the stable remote operation of the laser + FP system incorporated to hadronic rings

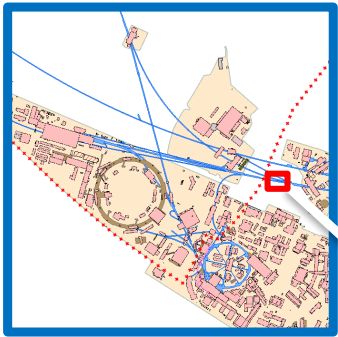
*→ **The Gamma Factory Proof-of-Principle (PoP) experiment***

Proof-of-Principle experiment at the SPS

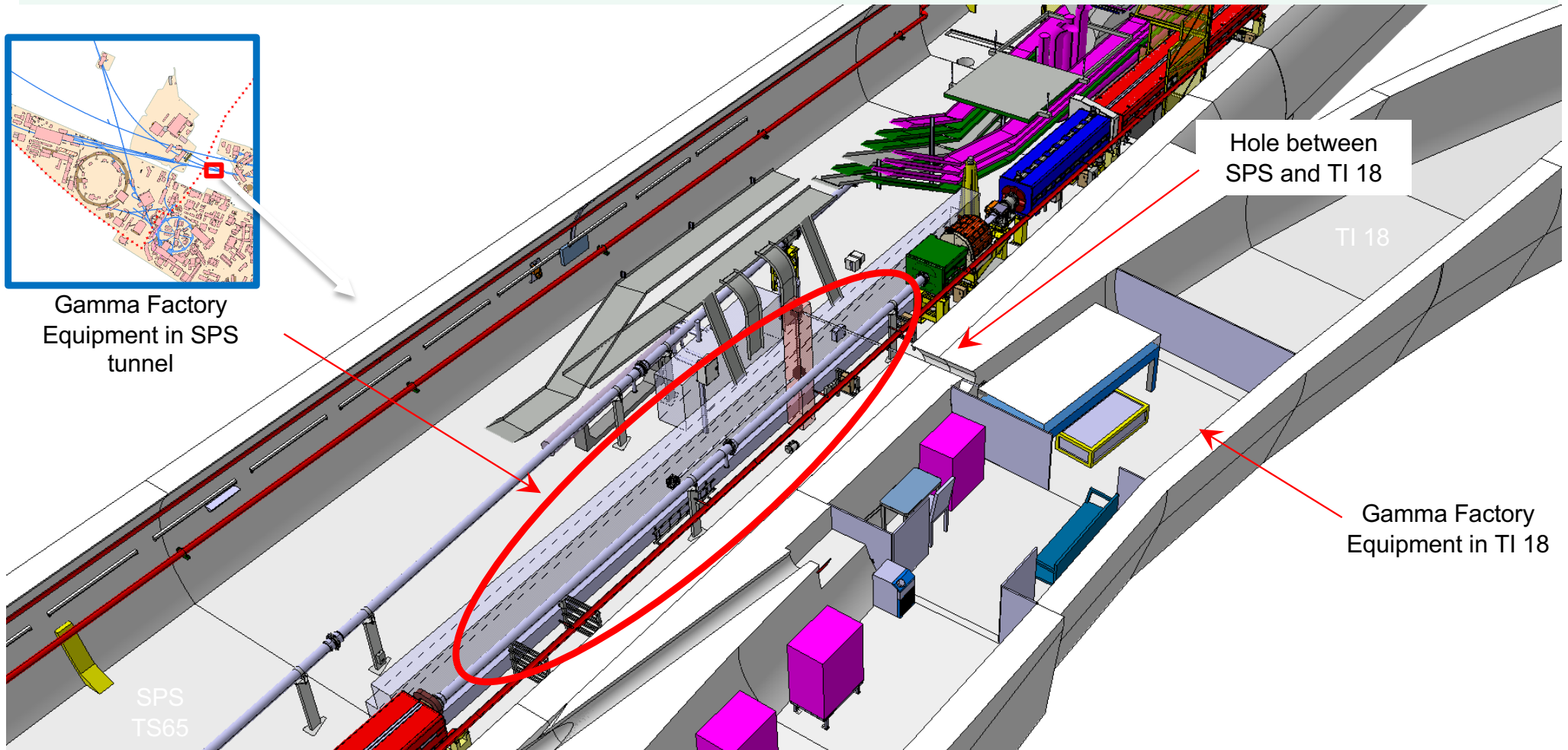
Gamma Factory Proof-of-Principle experiment location



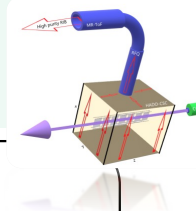
Gamma Factory Proof-of-principle experiment



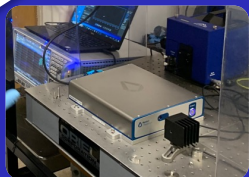
Gamma Factory Equipment in SPS tunnel



Status of the Gamma Factory PoP experiment



PROCURED



Laser system

- Laser oscillator procured, accepted, tested...
- Successful demonstration paired to enhancement cavity (>700 kW!)
- Tender for 100 W amplifier completed, will be sent to IJCLab (addendum #2 to MoU) in 2025.

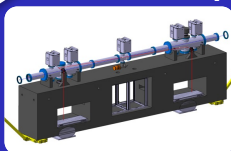
INSTALLED



Laser beamline

- Measurement of SPS vibrations with interferometer.
- Simulations of laser coupling and structure resonances completed
- Beamline support was designed, constructed, installed at SPS

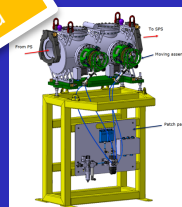
STARTED



Fabry Perot cavity

- Working with EN-MME on a design update.
- Test at IJCLab were performed at a higher repetition rate, need to perform at 40 MHz
- Mock-up construction at CERN + testing is currently being considered.

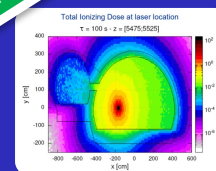
Completed



PSI beam studies

- Design and implementation of the of the electron stripper
- Successful SPS tests with Xe and Pb PSI beams
- Successful LHC tests with H-like Pb beam
- Successful beam control studies

COMPLETED



Radiation studies

- Installation of BATMONs (waiting for readout).
- FLUKA simulations have been carried out
- To be determined: the suitable electronics that can be used for the control systems (with R2E).

COMPLETED



TI-18 tunnel (laser lab)

- Opening and inspection was carried out at the end of 2023
- 3D scan completed
- Cabling requests were completed + PLAN already in the schedule for LS3. Resources not committed.

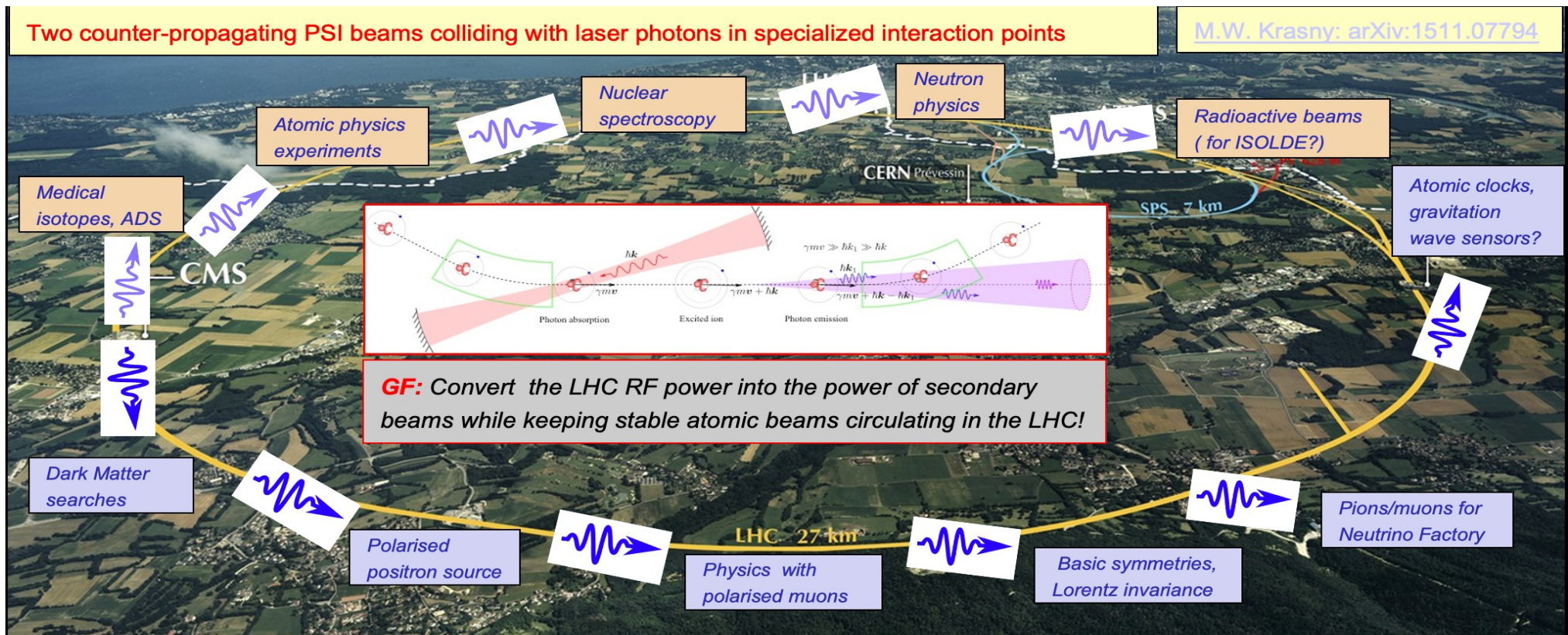
Conclusions and outlook

Conclusions

- ❑ *Gamma Factory can create, at CERN, a variety of novel beams, which can open novel research opportunities in a very broad domain of basic and applied science (not limited to high energy physics) ... (documented in ~40 published papers)*
- ❑ *The Gamma Factory research programme plans to reuse the existing CERN accelerator infrastructure in a novel way– it requires minor infrastructure investments*
- ❑ *Its “quest for diversity of research subjects and communities” is of particular importance in the present phase of accelerator-based research, as we neither have any solid theoretical guidance for a new physics “just around the corner”, accessible by FCC, ILC, or CLIC, nor an established, “reasonable cost” technology for a leap into very high energy “terra incognita”*
- ❑ *Gamma Factory project needs to make the last step in its feasibility studies -- execution of the SPS GF-Proof-of-Principle experiment... the question if the present CERN community would accept novel research methods and new research communities -- co-using its accelerator infrastructure -- remains open ...*

Gamma Factory research programme with the extracted beams

-- a very significant extension of the present CERN research programme

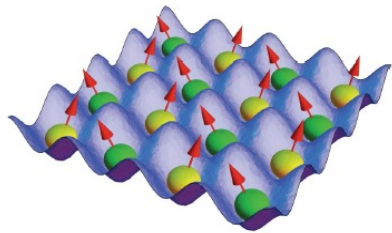
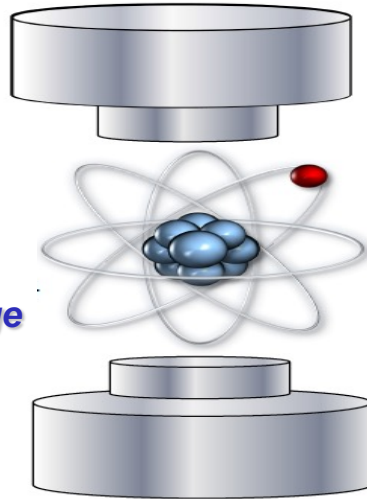


Supplementary slides

Experimental programme with “small-size” atoms

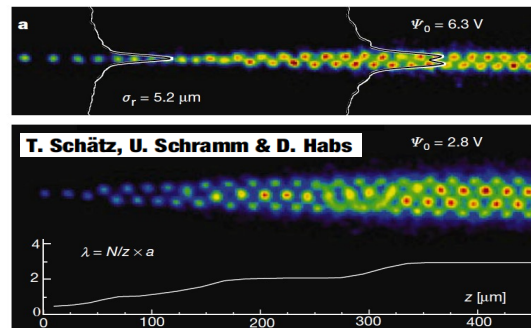
Atomic rest-frame

*Trapped stationary atoms
Exposed to pulsed magnetic
and electric fields of the storage
ring*



Crystalline beams?

letters to nature



Opening new research opportunities in atomic physics:

- Highly-charged atoms – very strong ($\sim 10^{16} \text{ V/cm}$) electric field (QED-vacuum effects)
- Small size atoms (electroweak effects, $\sin^2 \theta_W$, ...)
- Hydrogen-like and Helium-like atomic structure (calculation precision and simplicity)
- Atomic degrees of freedom of trapped highly-charged atoms can be resonantly excited by lasers



Feature Article | Open Access |

Atomic Physics Studies at the Gamma Factory at CERN

Dmitry Budker , José R. Crespo López-Urrutia, Andrei Derevianko, Victor V. Flambaum, Mieczysław Witold Krasny, Alexey Petrenko, Szymon Pustelny, Andrey Surzhykov , Vladimir A. Yerokhin, Max Zolotarev ... [See fewer authors](#) ^

First published: 09 July 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/andp.202000204>

Gamma Factory (complementary) path to HL-LHC:

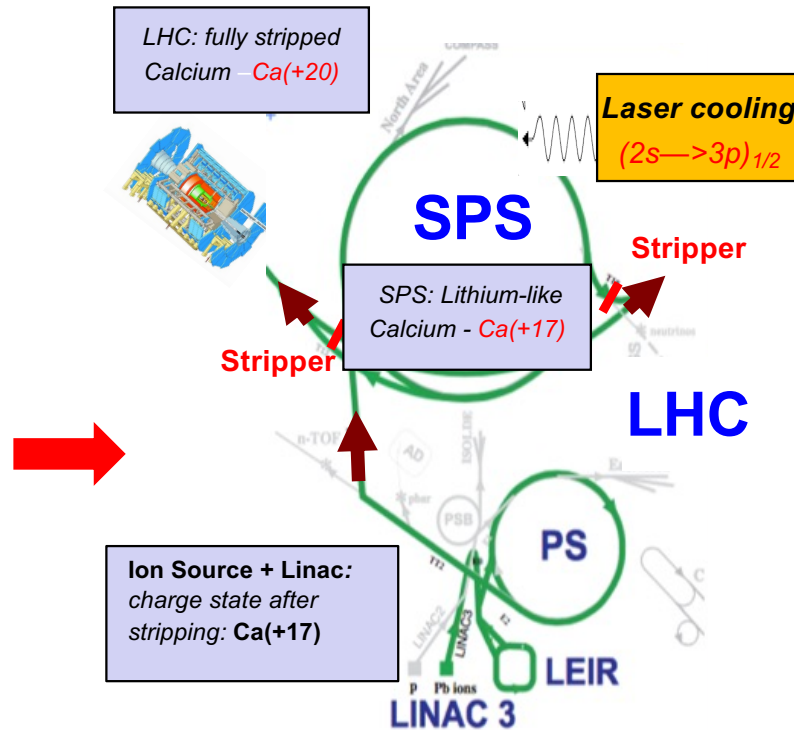
Studies of the implementation scheme with laser-cooled **isoscalar Ca beams**

$$\mathcal{L} = f \frac{n_1 n_2}{4\pi \sqrt{\epsilon_x \beta_x^* \epsilon_y \beta_y^*}}$$

Two complementary ways to increase collider luminosity for fixed n_1, n_2 , and f :

- **reduce β_x^* and β_y^***
- **reduce ϵ_x and ϵ_y**

HL-LHC – β^* reduction by a factor of 3.7 (new inner triplet)




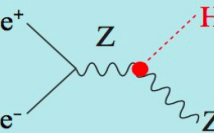
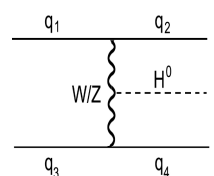
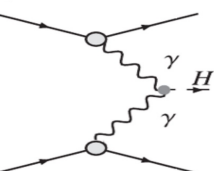
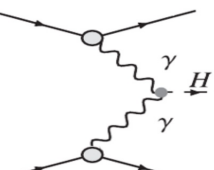
Reduction of the transverse x,y, emittances by a factor of 5 can be achieved in 9 seconds (top SPS energy)

The merits of cold isoscalar beams

- **higher precision** in measuring **SM parameters** in CaCa than in pp collisions
- Possible unique access to **exclusive Higgs boson production** in photon–photon collisions?
- **Lower pileup background** at equivalent nucleon-nucleon (partonic) luminosity.
- New research opportunities for the **EW symmetry breaking sector**.

Optical stochastic cooling time for the Ca beam at the LHC injection energy $t_{cool} \sim 1.5$ hours (**V. Lebedev**)

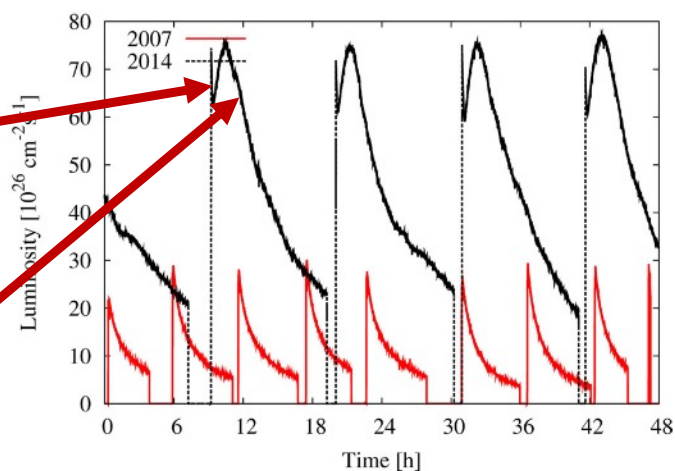
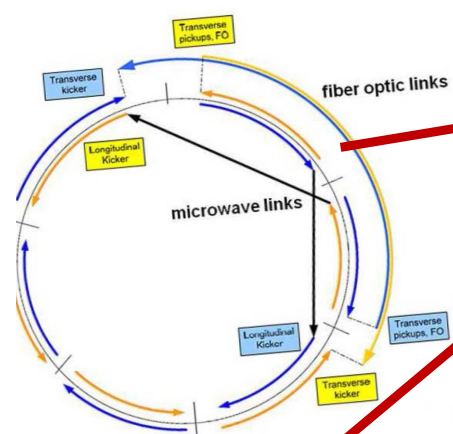
Higgs physics reach: FCC-ee, LHeC and *HL(AA)LHC**

 Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics Volume 114, September 2020, 103792 Review High-luminosity Large Hadron Collider with laser-cooled isoscalar ion beams ☆ M.W. Krasny ^{a, b, *} , A. Petrenko ^{c, b, *} , W. Płaczek ^d	Diagram	σ_{prod} [pb]	Higgs/year	Collider	Experiment	Backg.
FCC-ee semi-inclusive (HZ)		200	200000 (1000fb ⁻¹)	To be constructed	To be constructed	tiny
LHeC inclusive		0.033	33 (100fb ⁻¹)	To be constructed	To be constructed	large
HL(AA)LHC* Exclusive $\gamma\gamma$		550	260 (0.47fb ⁻¹)	existing	4 exp. existing	small (no nuclear remnants)
HL-HE-(AA)LHC* Exclusive $\gamma\gamma$		2600	1220 (0.47fb ⁻¹)	New LHC dipoles	4 exp existing	small (no nuclear remnants)

*) *HL(AA)LHC*: (1) BNL-like performance of the ion injectors, (2) *GF beam cooling at the SPS*, (3) BNL-like performance of stochastic cooling at the LHC injection (presented table: CaCa collisions)

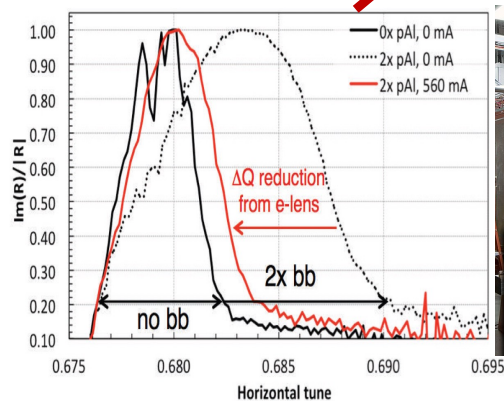
Gamma Factory path to HL(AA)-LHC:

BNL performance – ion beams and their collisions at RHIC

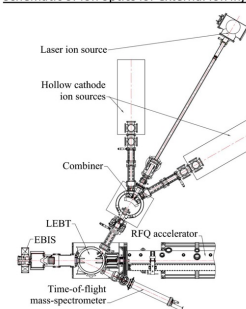


parameter	unit	design	achieved 2000 [†]	2016	upgrade ≥2022
circumference C	km		—	3.834	—
beam energy E	GeV/n		—	100	—
bunch intensity N_b	10^9	1.0		2.0	2.5
no of bunches k_b	...	60		111	111
stored beam energy	MJ/beam	0.12		0.70	0.88
rms emittance ϵ_n	μm		—	2.5	—
rms bunch length σ_s	m		—	0.3	—
beam-beam ξ/IP	10^{-3}	2.3		3.1	3.8
lattice β^*	m	2.0		0.7	0.6
luminosity \mathcal{L}_{peak}	$10^{26} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	8		130	200
luminosity \mathcal{L}_{avg}	$10^{26} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	2		83	160

[†] Column gives the design values. 2000 is the first year of operation.



Schematic of ion optics for external ion injection



Principal difference between BNL and CERN:

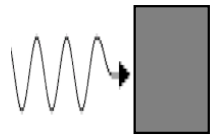
- N_{Au}/bunch (BNL-RHIC) = 2.5×10^9
- N_{Pb}/bunch (CERN-SPS/LHC) = 1.6×10^8

(approximate BNL scaling $N_A \times A = N_{nucl} \sim N_p$)

DM searches and studies (ALP example)

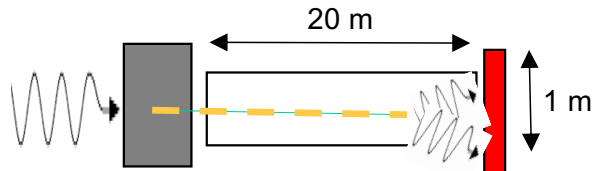
Search phase

Example: beam-dump mode

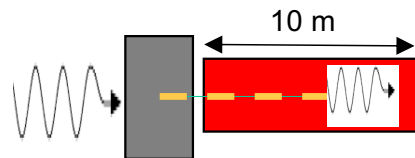


$\gamma_{GF}-A$ collisions
1.6, 0.2, 0.02 GeV
beams (A,B,C)

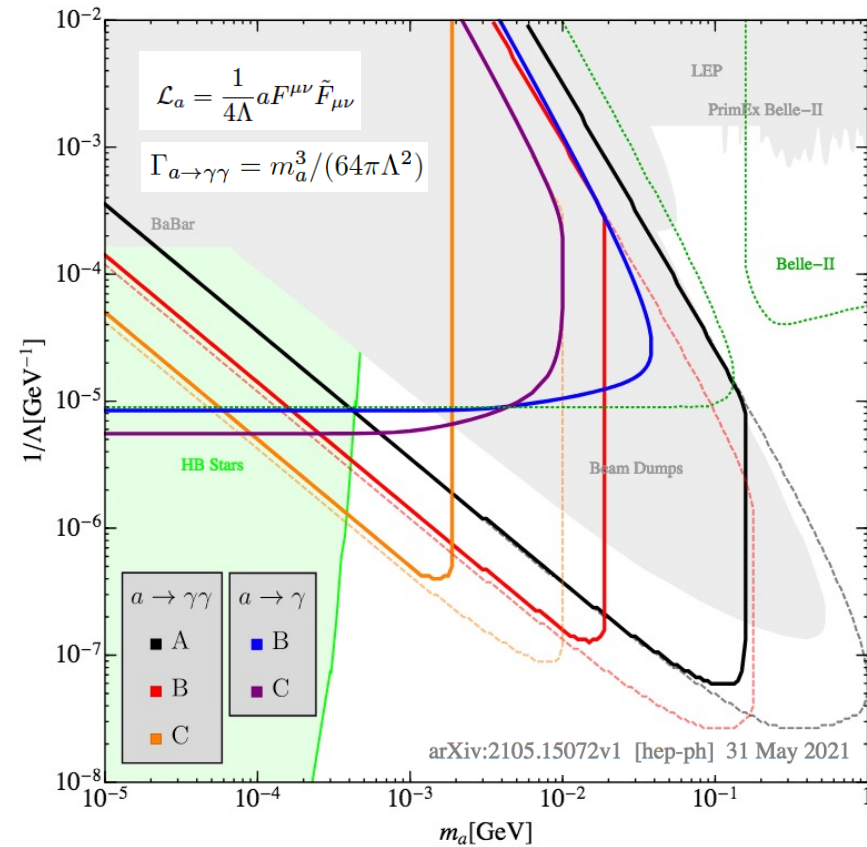
Two appearance modes:



➤ decay: $a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (A,B,C)

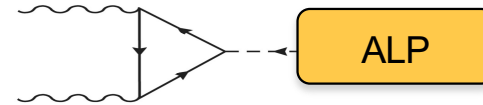


➤ reconversion: $aN \rightarrow \gamma N$ (B,C)

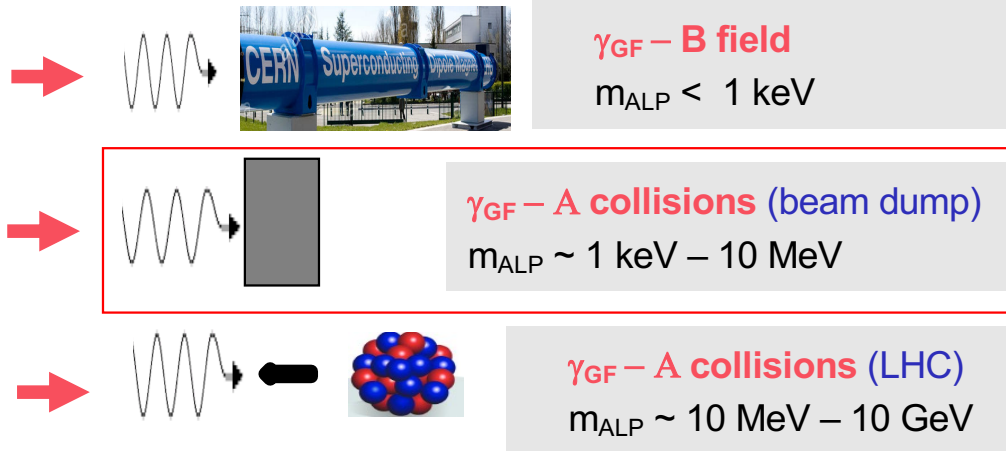


DM searches and studies (if discovered), ALP example

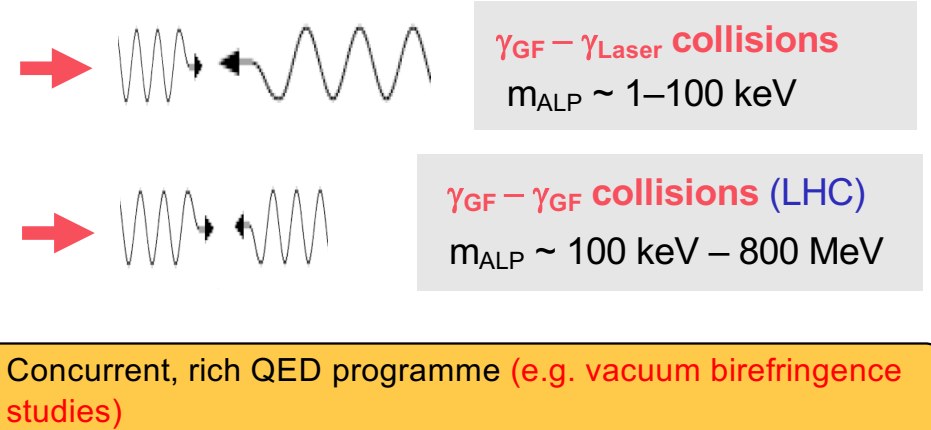
Collision schemes for ALP production:



Search phase



“Production” phase

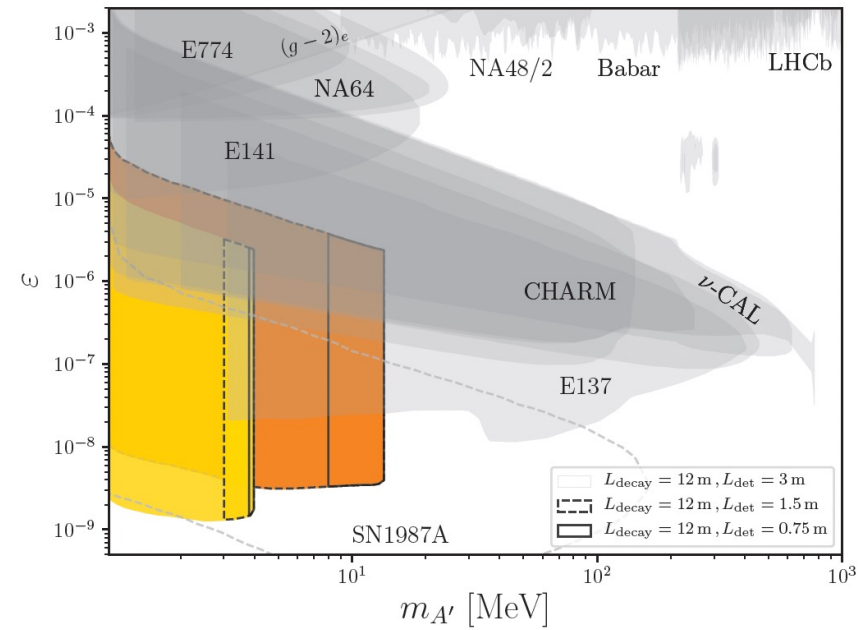
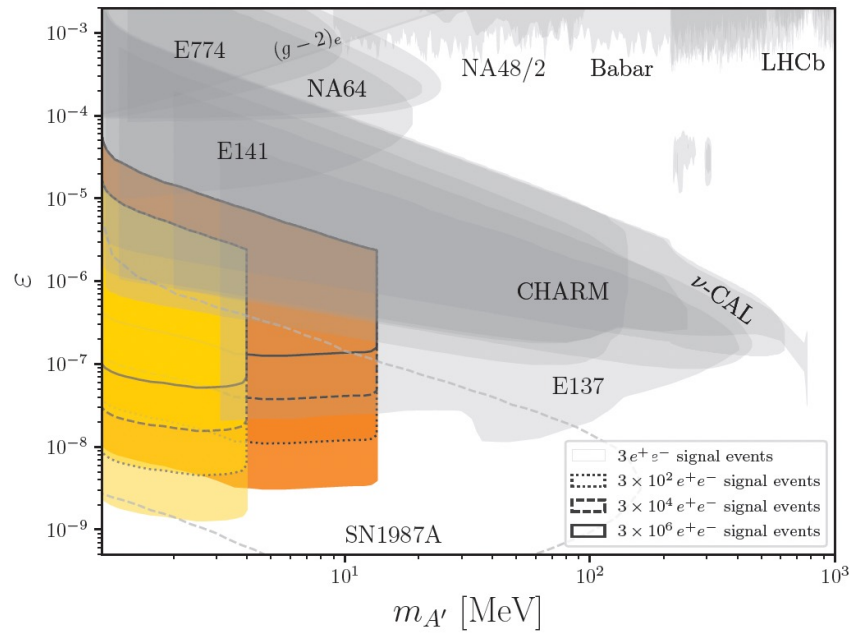


Three principal advantages of the Gamma Factory photon beams:

- **Large fluxes:** $\sim 10^{25}$ photons on target over year (SHIP – 10^{20} protons on target)
- **Multiple ALP production schemes** covering a vast region of ALP masses (**sub eV – GeV**)
- **Once ALP candidate seen** \rightarrow a unique possibility to **tune** the GF beam **energy** to the **resonance**.

DM searches and studies (dark photon example)

arXiv:2105.10289v1 [hep-ph] 21 May 2021

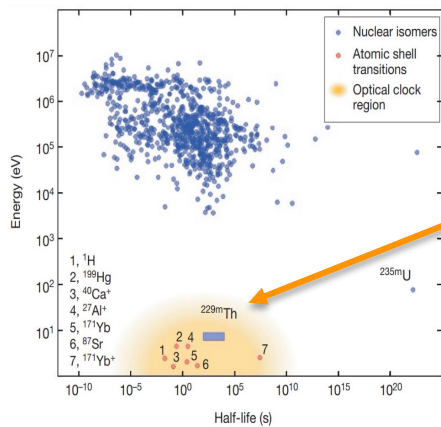
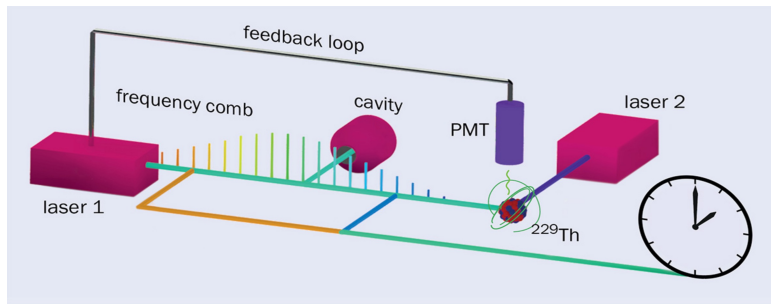


Gamma Factory nuclear clocks: $^{229\text{m}}\text{Th}$ isomer beam

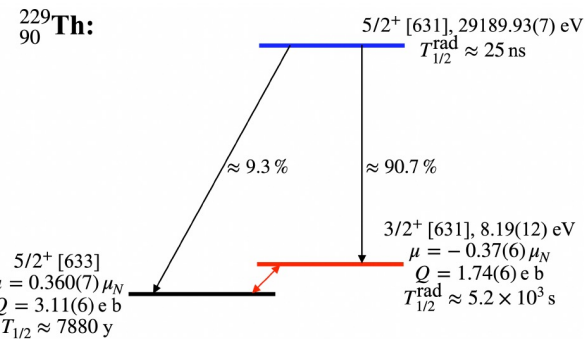
CERN COURIER

APPLICATIONS | FEATURE

From atomic to nuclear clocks



230U	231U	232U	233U	234U
229Pa	230Pa	231Pa	232Pa	233Pa
228Th	229Th	230Th	231Th	232Th
227Ac	228Ac	229Ac	230Ac	231Ac
226Ra	227Ra	228Ra	229Ra	230Ra
225Fr	226Fr	227Fr	228Fr	229Fr



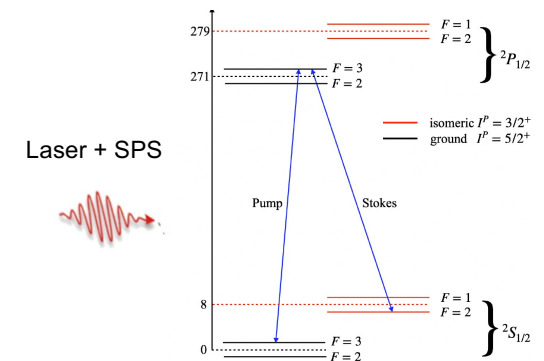
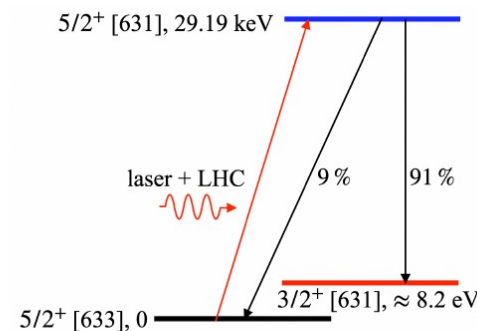
Excitation and probing of low-energy nuclear states at high-energy storage rings

Junlan Jin^{1,2,*}, Hendrik Bekker^{3,4}, Tobias Kirschbaum⁵, Yuri A. Litvinov⁶, Adriana Pálffy⁶, Jonas Sommerfeld^{7,8}, Andrey Surzhykov^{7,8}, Peter G. Thirolf⁹, and Dmitry Budker^{3,4,10,†}

Phys. Rev. Research 5, 023134 – Published 30 May, 2023
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevResearch.5.023134>

Two “GF” ways of producing $^{229\text{m}}\text{Th}$ isomer with high efficiency

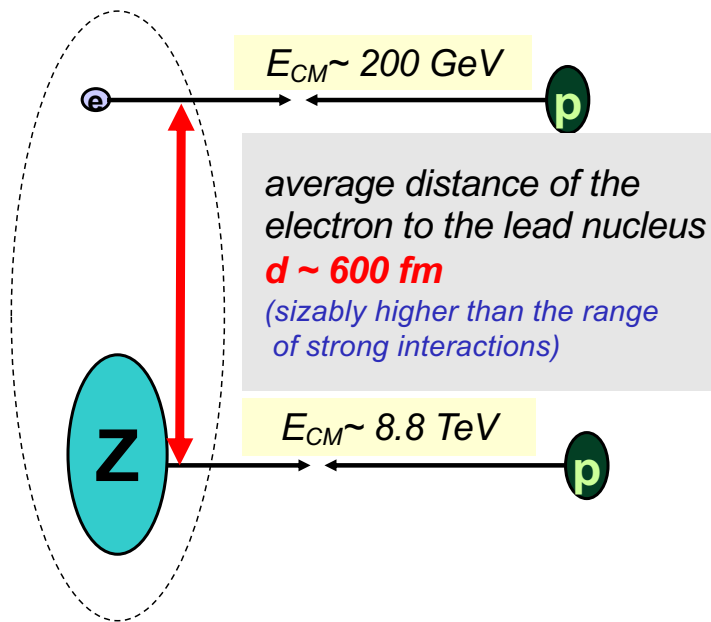
1. Excitation in bare Th nuclei
2. Excitation in H- or Li- like Th ions



Studies of ep collisions at LHC

(in the ATLAS, CMS, ALICE and LHCb interaction points)

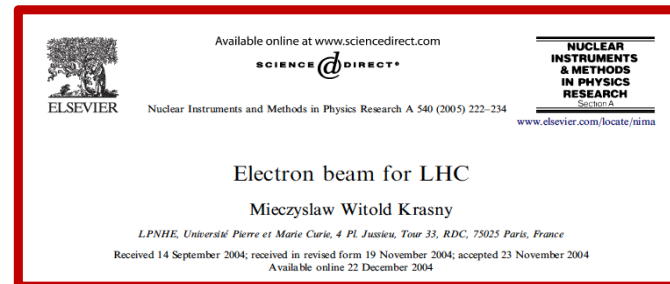
Hydrogen-like lead



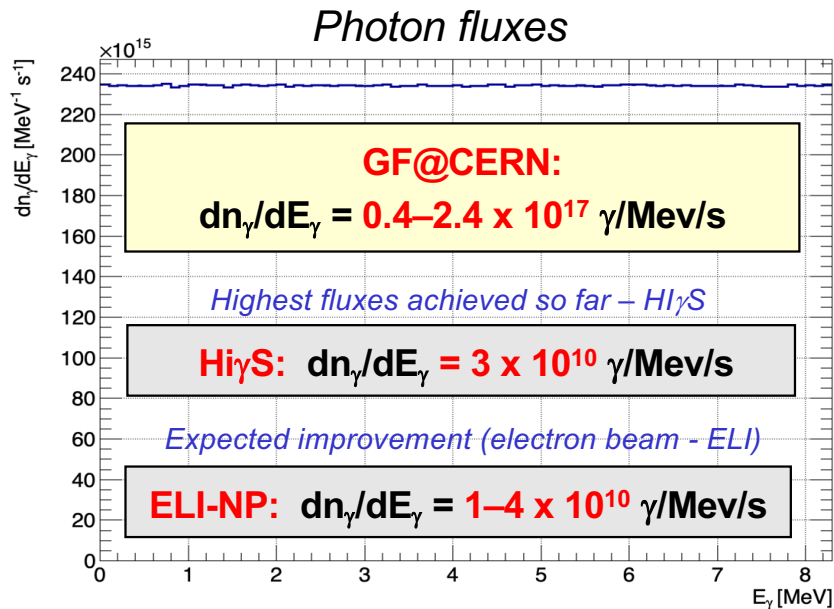
Atomic beams can be considered as **independent electron and nuclear beams** as long as the incoming proton scatters with the momentum transfer $q \gg 300 \text{ KeV!}$

Opens the possibility of collecting, by each of the LHC detectors, over one day of the **Pb+81-p** operation, the effective ep-collision luminosity comparable to the HERA integrated luminosity in the first year of its operation (1992) – *in-situ diagnostic of the emittance of partonic beams at the LHC!*

Initial studies:



A concrete example: Nuclear physics application: H-like, Calcium beam (LHC), ($1s_{1/2} \rightarrow 2p_{1/2}$) transition, TiSa laser, 20 MHz FP cavity

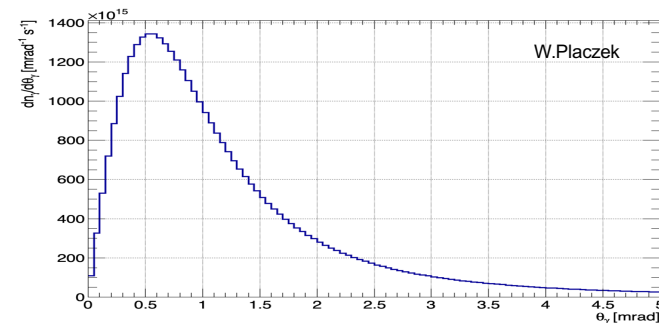
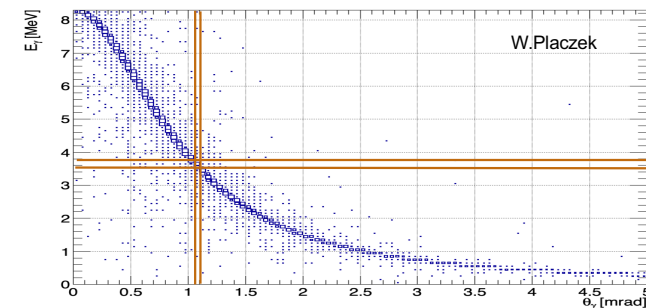


laser pulse parameters

- Gaussian spatial and time profiles,
- photon energy: $E_{\text{photon}} = 1.8338 \text{ eV}$
- photon pulse energy spread: $\sigma_{\omega}/\omega = 2 \times 10^{-4}$,
- photon wavelength: $\lambda = 676 \text{ nm}$,
- pulse energy: $W_{\text{f}} = 5 \text{ mJ}$,
- peak power density $1.12 \times 10^{13} \text{ W/m}^2$
- r.m.s. transverse beam size at focus: $\sigma_{\text{x}} = \sigma_{\text{y}} = 150 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (micrometers),
- Rayleigh length: $R_{\text{L,x}} = R_{\text{L,y}} = 7.5 \text{ cm}$,
- r.m.s. pulse length: $l_{\text{f}} = 15 \text{ cm}$.

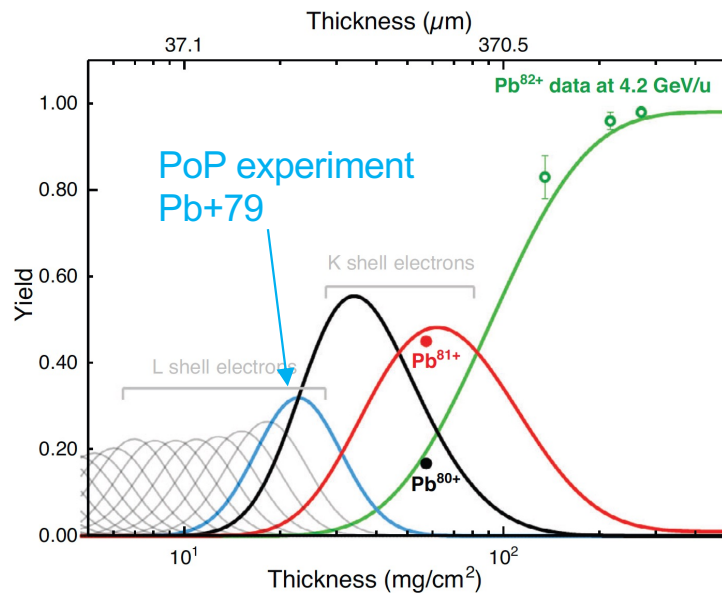
Highly-collimated monochromatic γ -beams:

- the beam power is concentrated in a narrow angular region (*facilitates beam extraction*),
- the $(E_{\gamma}, \Theta_{\gamma})$ correlation can be used (collimation) to “monochomatize” the beam



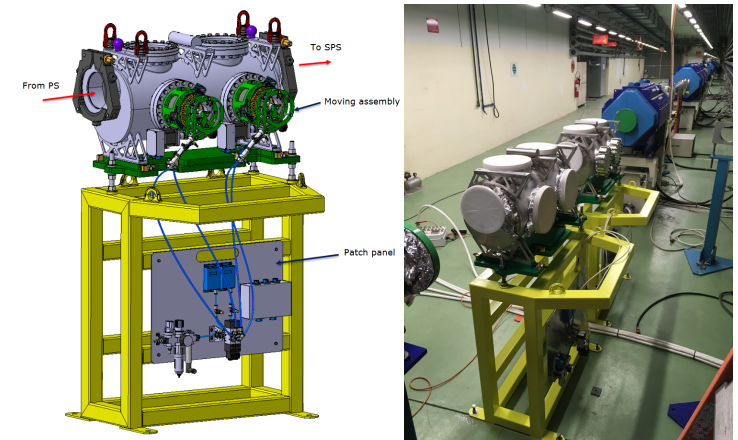
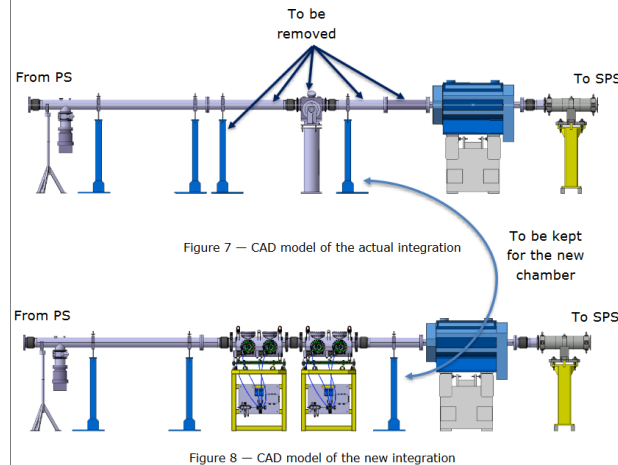
Requisite TT2 stripper system installed

Example: Stripping of Pb+54 ions in the TT2 PS→ SPS transfer line



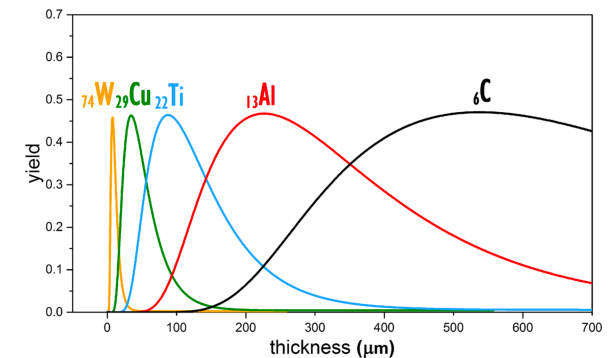
Charge-State Distributions of Highly Charged Lead Ions at Relativistic Collision Energies

Felix M. Krüger,* Günter Weber, Simon Hirlandaer, Reyes Alemany-Fernandez, Mieczysław W. Krasny, Thomas Stöhlker, Inga Yu. Tolstikhina, and Viacheslav P. Shevelko



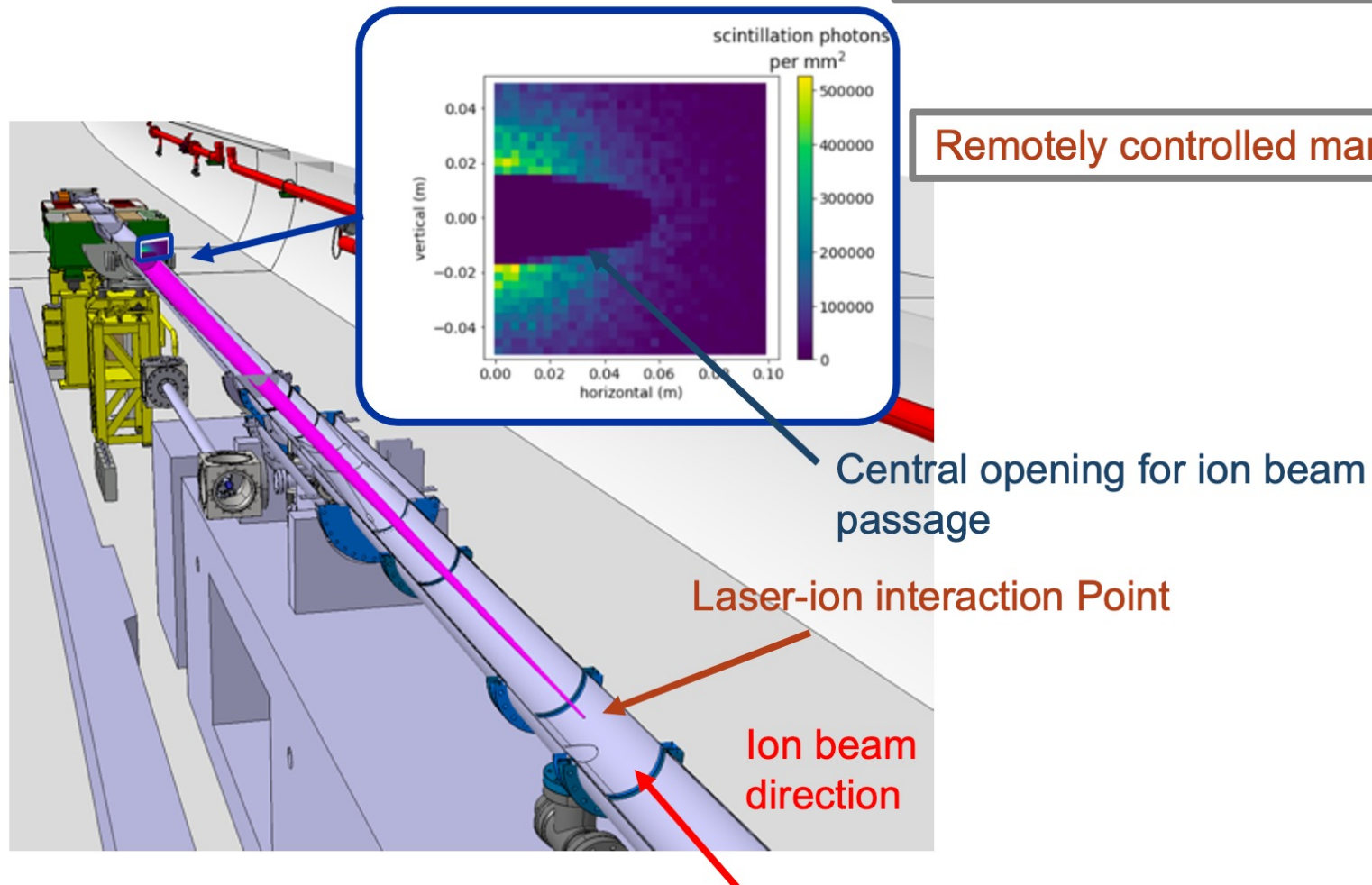
R. Alemany-Fernandez (BE.OP), E. Grenier-Boley and D. Baillard (SY.STI)

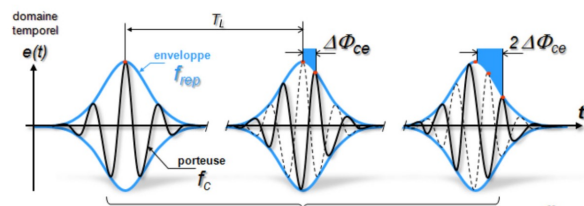
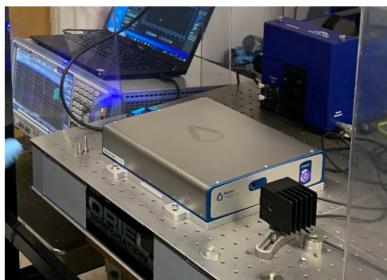
The two tanks of the new stripper system **were installed during YETS 2021-2022 and YETS 2022-2023**. Four stripper foil mechanisms are operating at ~Hz frequency.



'BTV' system: YAG:Ce + camera

Remotely controlled manipulator





Ultra low-noise
frequency comb
200 fs @ 1034 nm

Power amplifier to
100 W

2.5 μ J, 2.8 ps
40 MHz rep rate

5 mJ, 40 MHz
200 kW

SPS
 $^{208}\text{Pb}^{79+}$
18.6 TeV
 $\gamma_L = 96.3$

Fabry-Perot enhancement cavity

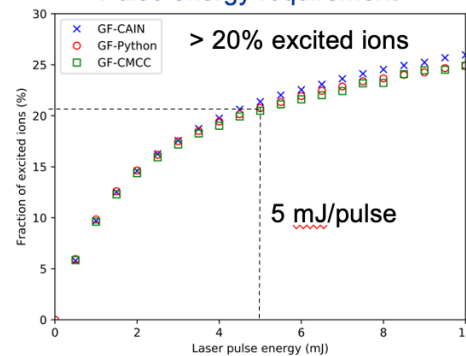
Finesse $\sim 10,000$

$2s \rightarrow 2p_{1/2}$
(230.81 eV)

Frequency comb
linewidth < 2 kHz

"LIGO-type"
mirrors

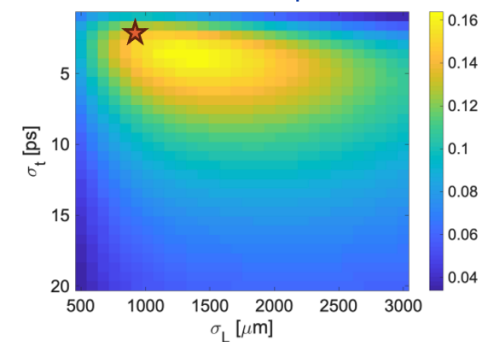
Pulse energy requirement



Gamma-ray output

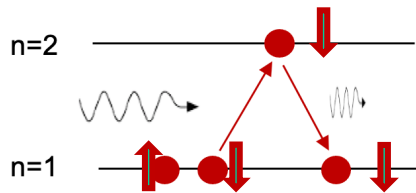
Up to 44 keV
 10^{15} ph/s
40 MHz rep rate

Pulse duration / spot size



Polarised (and/or twisted) GF photon beams

Novel concept: **Pauli blocking**

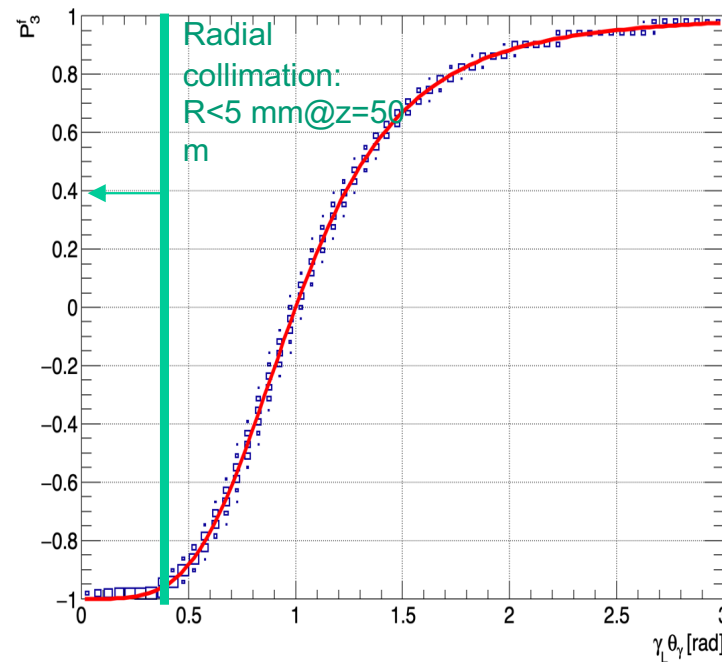


$$nS_0 \rightarrow n'P_1 \rightarrow nS_0$$

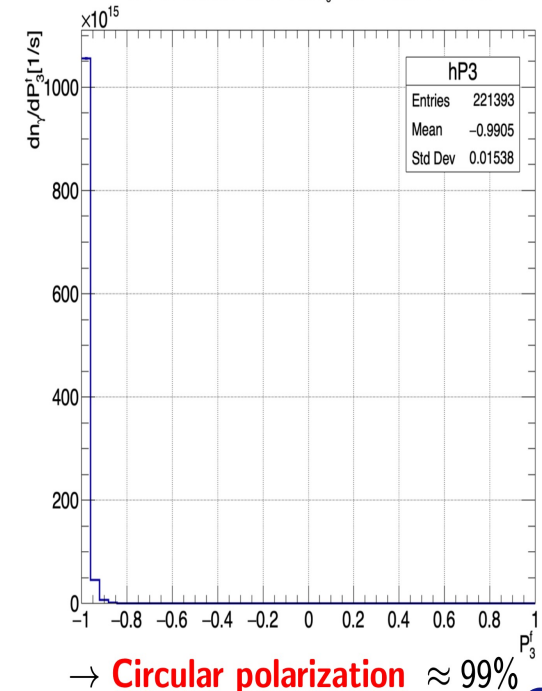
Closed transition in Helium-like atoms ($n=1, n'=2$) preserve initial polarisation of the laser light

$1s^2 1S_0 \rightarrow 1s^1 2p^1 1P_1$ transition in He-like atoms

GF-POL-CAIN: He-like Ca with $P_3^i = 1$



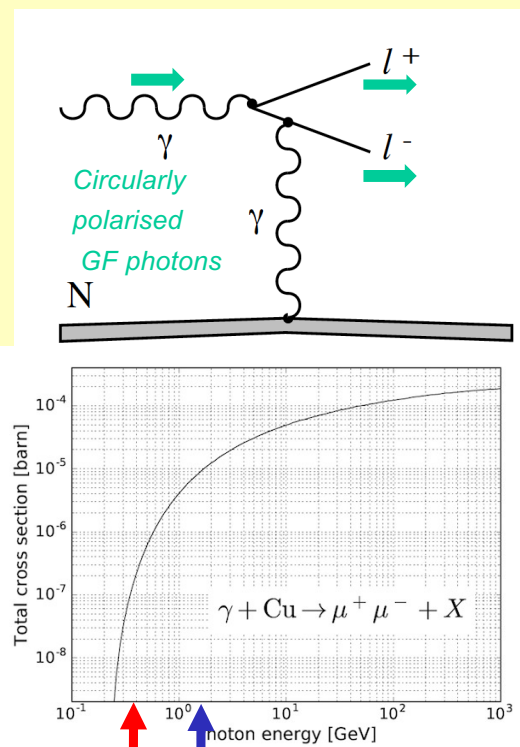
GF-POL-CAIN: He-like Yb with $P_3^i = 1, r < 5 \text{ mm} @ z = 50 \text{ m}$



For more details see presentations at our recent, Gamma Factory workshop: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1076086/>

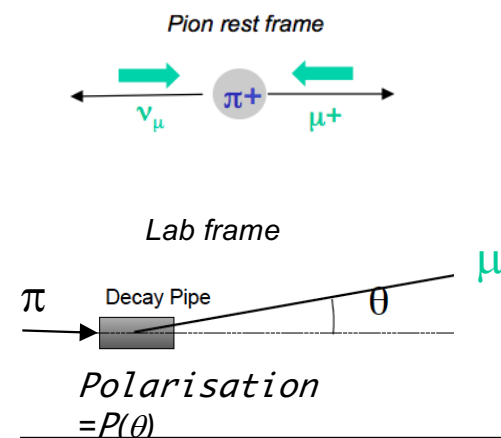
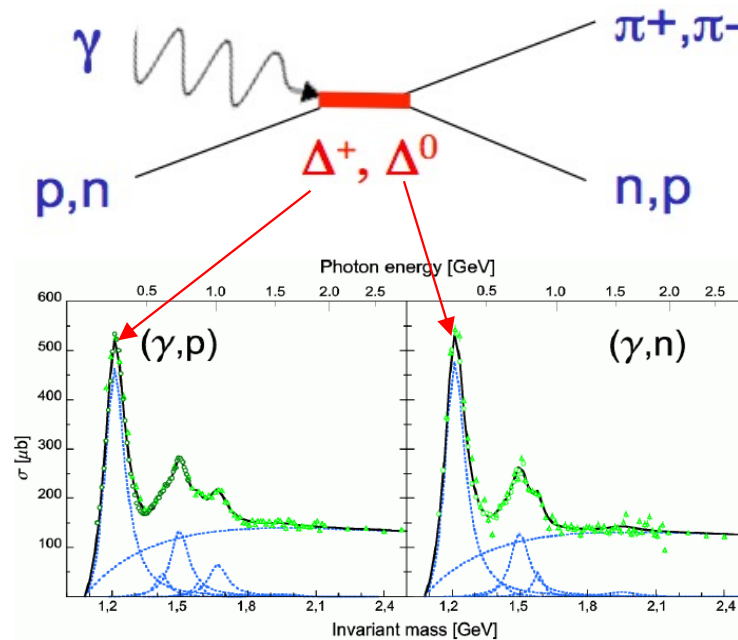
GF provides two ways of producing polarised muons

Novel concept



GF@LHC GF@HE-LHC

$\sim 10^{10}$ polarised μ/s source
(Mass threshold effect)



Requires quasi-monochromatic pion beam ...and θ -dependent packing of muons into successive RF buckets to minimise the polarisation smearing!