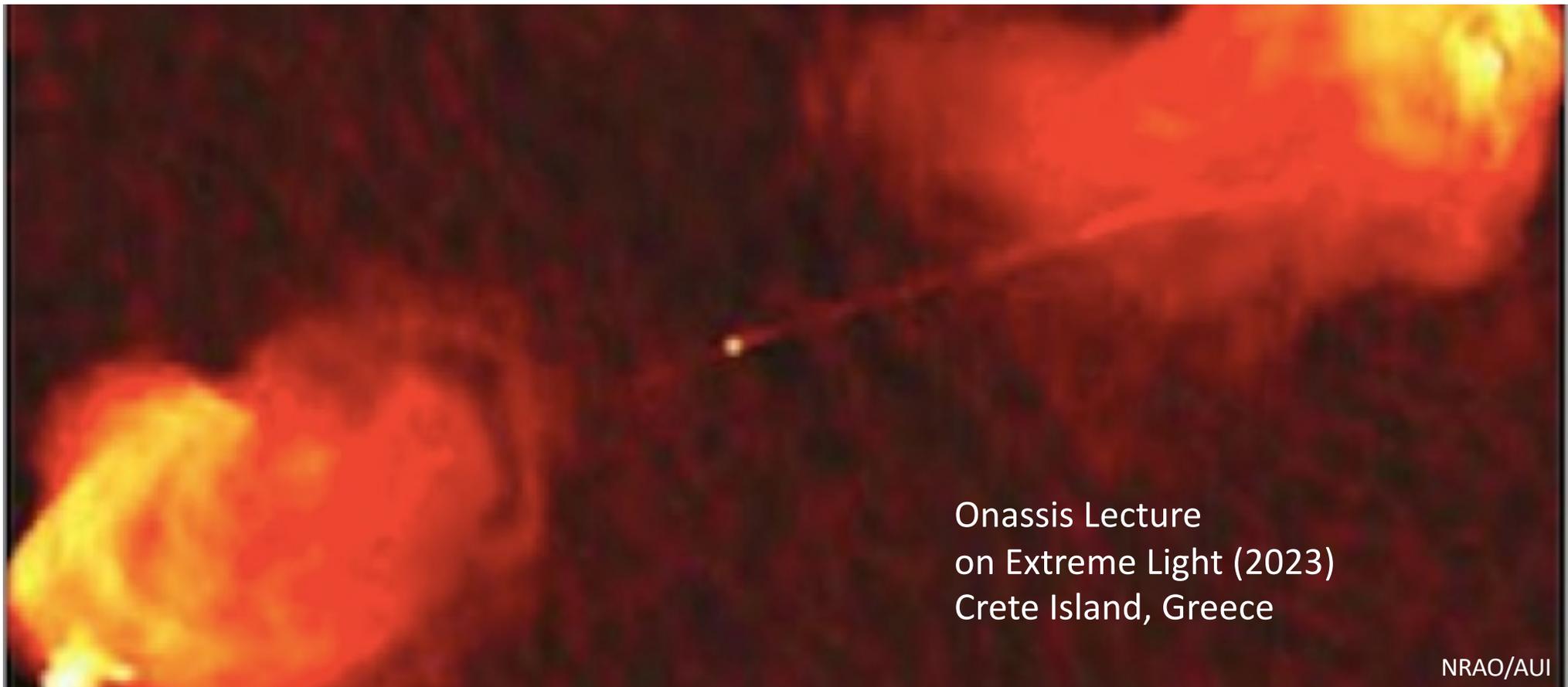


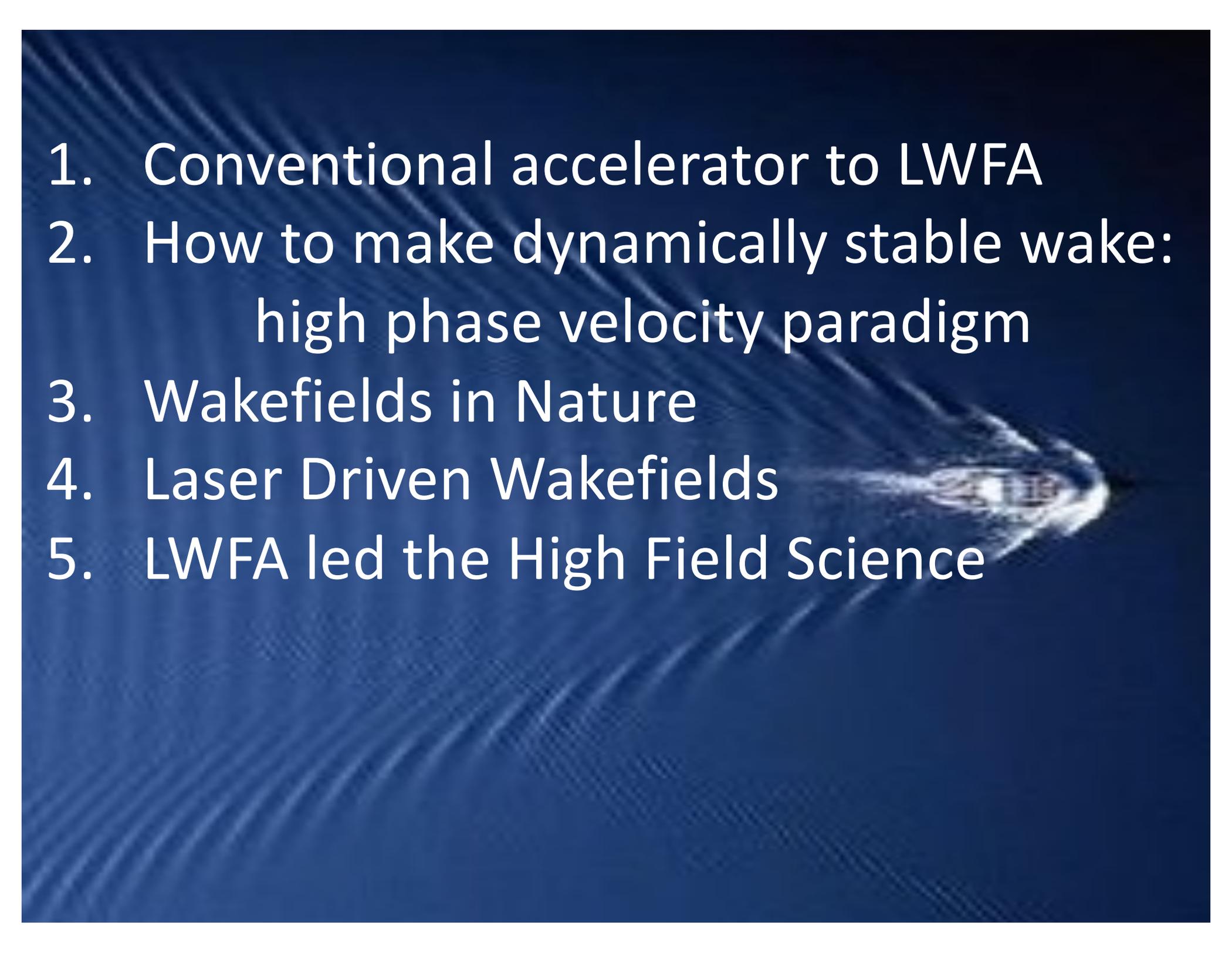
(7/4/2023)

# Laser wakefield acceleration: in Nature and lab applications

Toshiki Tajima, Norman Rostoker Chair Professor, UCI, USA  
part 1:



Onassis Lecture  
on Extreme Light (2023)  
Crete Island, Greece

- 
1. Conventional accelerator to LWFA
  2. How to make dynamically stable wake:  
high phase velocity paradigm
  3. Wakefields in Nature
  4. Laser Driven Wakefields
  5. LWFA led the High Field Science

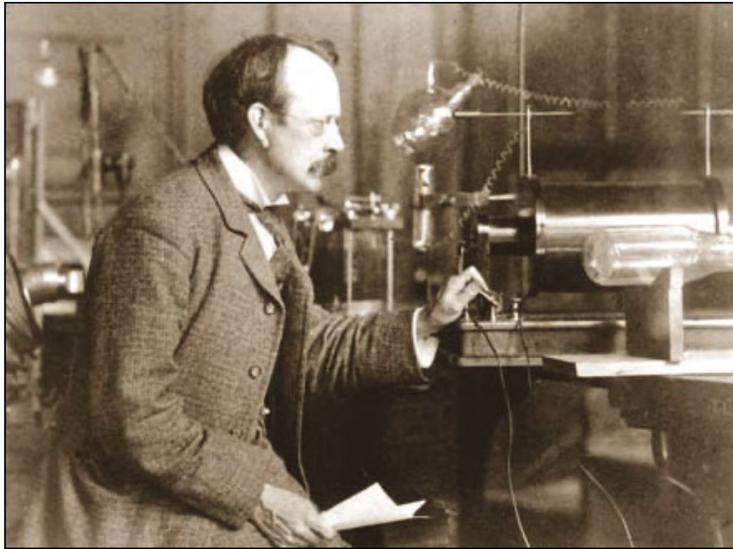
# From Conventional Accelerator to Laser Accelerator in Plasma



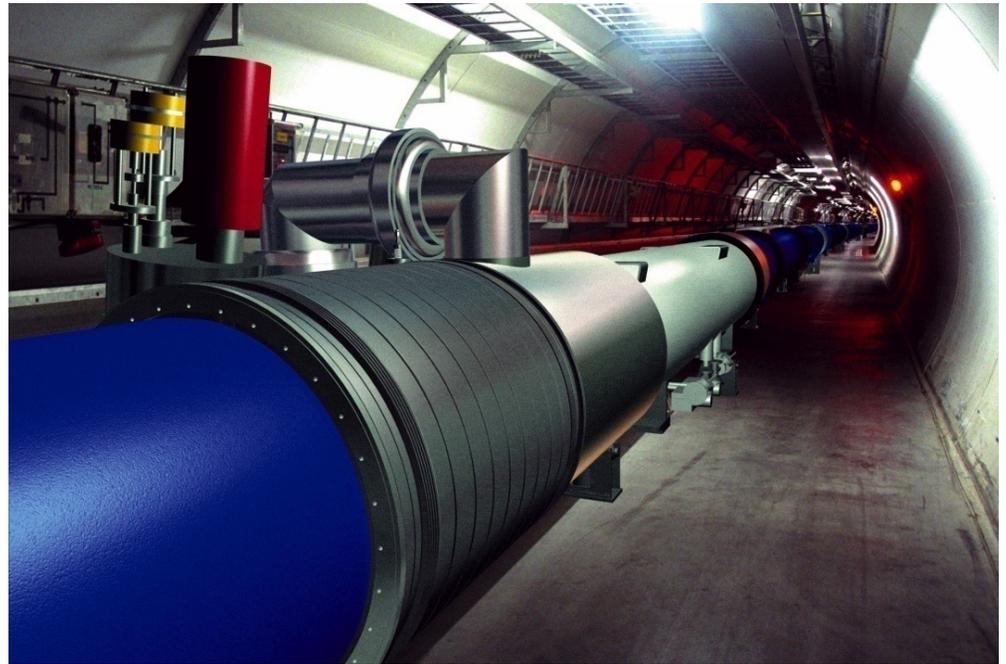


ZEST

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the **Electron** Century Basic Research Dominated by **Massive and Charged Particle Accelerators**



J. J. Thomson



→ Now photons (and photon-assisted electrons)

21<sup>st</sup> Century; the **Photon** Century  
Could basic research be driven  
by the massless and chargeless particles; **Photons**?



C. Townes (laser invention, 1960) →  
Mourou-Strickland (laser compression, 1985)  
G. Mourou (Inst. Zetta- Exawatt  
Science and Technology)

Tajima-Dawson (laser-driven wakefields, 1979)

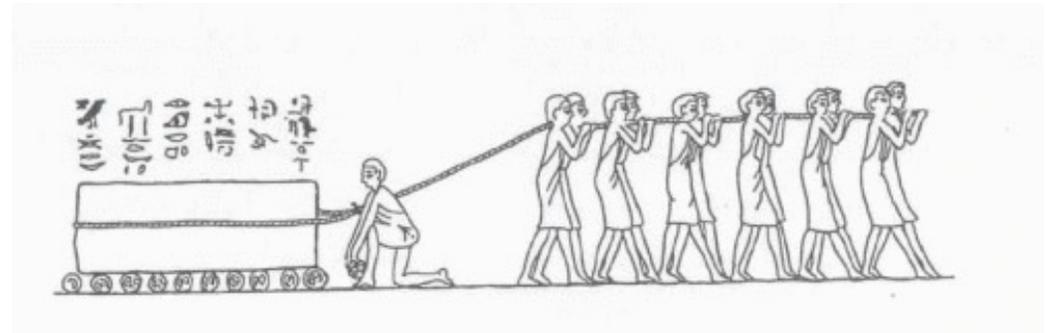
# Conventional accelerators → Laser Plasma Accelerators

- Atoms and solids:
  - nucleus vs. bound electrons
  - (applied large enough fields ( $< \text{MeV/cm}$ ) surface **breakdown**)
  - ionization
- Plasma (no more breakdown problem)
  - However, plasma is (often) unstable? → Can we make it stable?
  - no binding force** → need **new organizational** principle
  - Also collective force ( $\sim N^2$ ): large fields
- photons drive high phase velocity wakefields (stable)
  - Laser-driven collective (**large** GeV/ cm) **plasma** waves

# What is collective force?



How can a Pyramid have been built?



Individual particle dynamics → Coherent and collective movement

Some early learning from negative experiences (Veksler, 1956; Rostoker, 1960's)

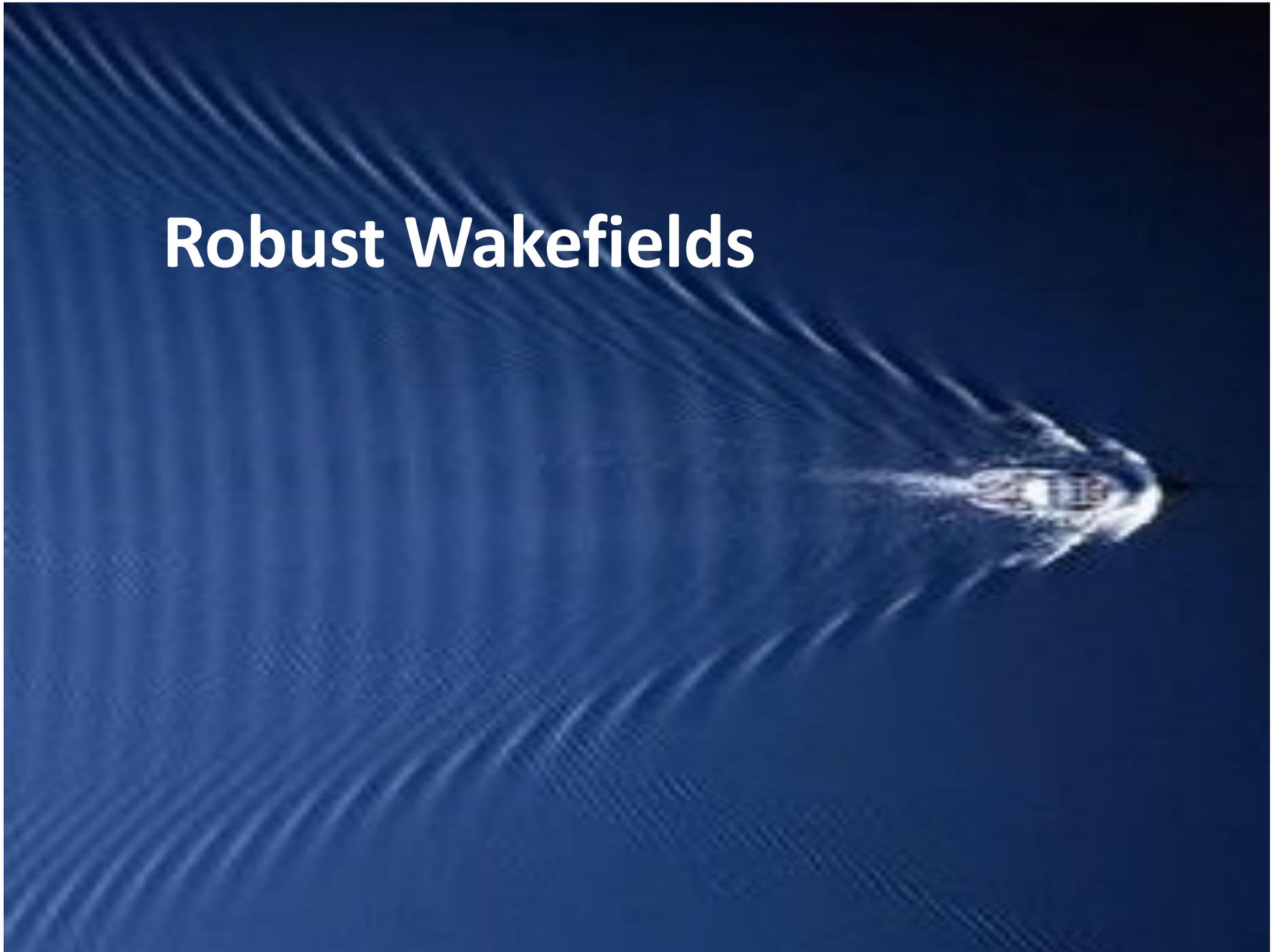
Collective acceleration (Veksler, 1956; Tajima & Dawson, 1979)

Collective radiation ( $N^2$  radiation)

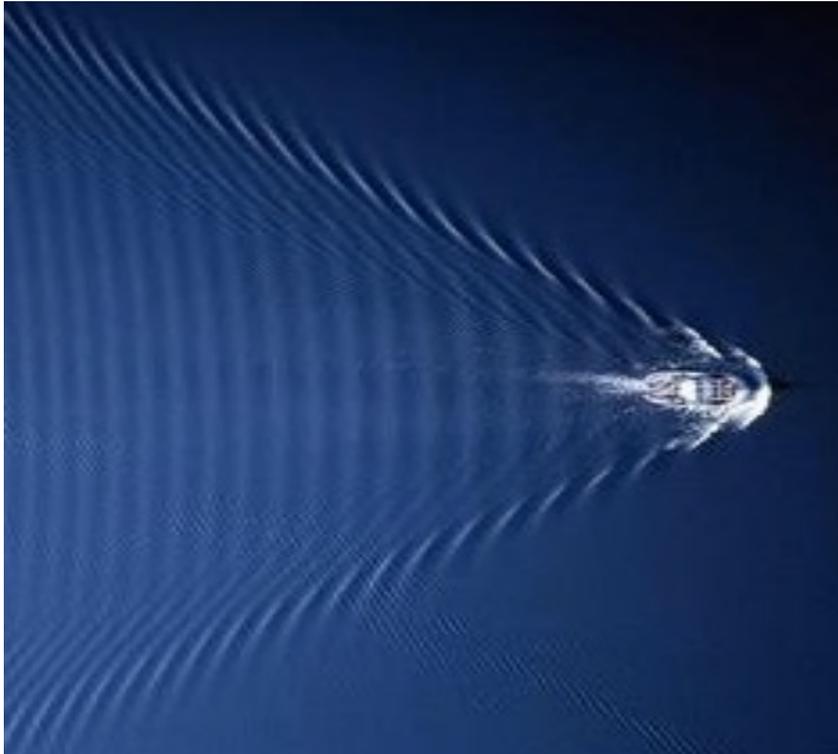
Collective ionization ( $N^2$  ionization)

Collective deceleration (Tajima & Chao, 2008; Ogata, 2009)

# Robust Wakefields



# Dynamically Sustained State in Plasma : Wakefield



Water structure that is moving is **dynamically stable**

Cf. "**Bicycle-tire principle**" for stability  
Some similarity and some difference  
with **wake**



**too slow**



**fast enough**

(Lessons I learned from early negative experiences --> next page)

# Phase velocity and **stability** (learn from the water wave case)



Example of water wave:

Phase velocity of water wave

$$v_p \sim \sqrt{d},$$

$d$ : water depth

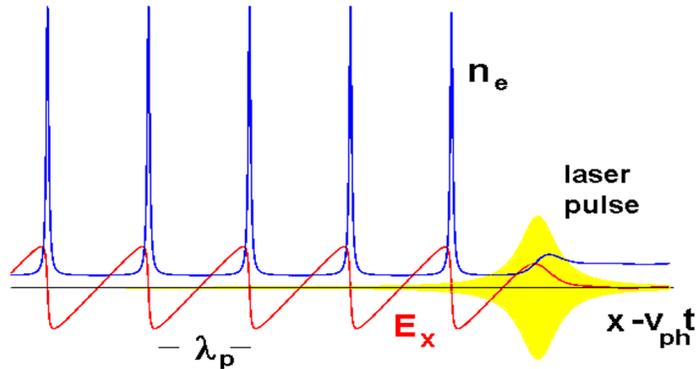
**Shallow** water

- 1. amplitude  $A \sim 1 / \sqrt{d}$
- 2. wave slows down:  $v_p \downarrow$
- 3. wave begins to **trap particles**  
begins to break  
(exceeds Tajima-Dawson field)

# Laser Wakefield (LWFA) (1979):

Wake phase velocity  $\gg$  water movement speed  
maintains **coherent** and **smooth** structure

Tsunami phase velocity becomes  $\sim 0$ ,  
causes **wavebreak** and **turbulence**



↑ relativity regularizes  
(*relativistic coherence*)



Strong beam (of **laser** / particles) drives plasma waves to saturation amplitude:  $E = m\omega v_{ph} / e$

No wave breaks and wake **peaks** at  $v \approx c$

Wave **breaks** at  $v < c$



Relativistic coherence  $\rightarrow$  relativistic structure formation

# Relativistic nonlinearity under intense **laser**

$$a_0 = \frac{eA_0}{mc^2} = \frac{eE_0 \lambda}{mc^2} = v_{os}/c \quad \text{Normalized intensity parameter}$$

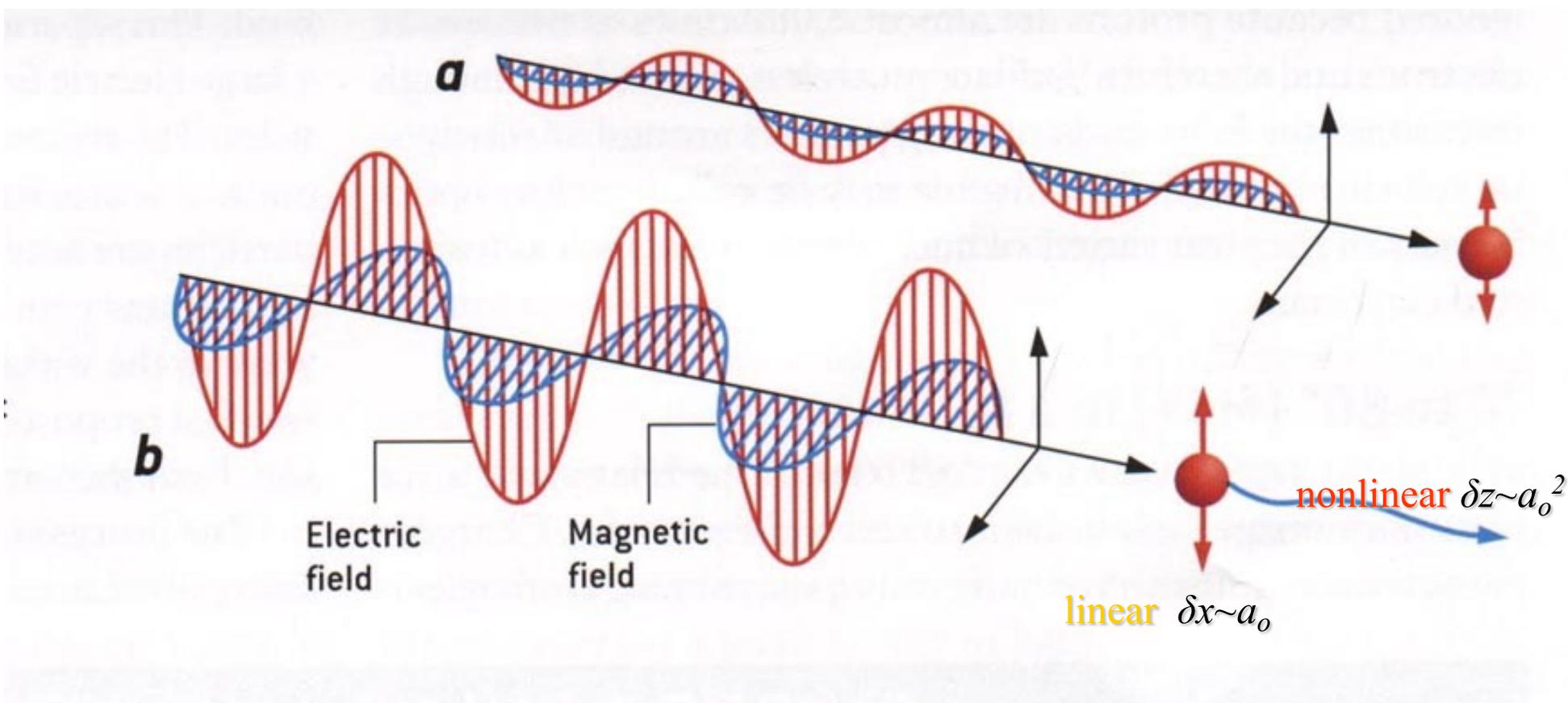
**ponderomotive force** ---- longitudinal → to erect **Wakefields**

a) **Classical** optics :  $v \ll c$ ,

b) **Relativistic** optics:  $v \sim c$

$a_0 \ll 1$ :  $\delta x$  only

$a_0 \gg 1$ :  $\delta z \gg \delta x$



# Basic Concepts

- **Ponderomotive force** (longitudinal)
  - ← magnetic Lorentz force of **laser**,  $a_0 v_g$
- **Wakefields**
  - ← triggered by **ponderomotive force** (charge separation----**plasma waves**,  $\omega_p v_{ph}$ )  
( Here  $v_{ph} \sim c \gg v_{th}$  )
  - ← resonance condition: **positive** side of wave ( $\pi / k_p$ )

## Plasma **instability**: how to avoid?

- **High phase velocity** paradigm
  - Wave **trapping** of particles: trapping width  $v_{tr}$  (O'Neil, 1965)
  - Tajima-Dawson Field**  $E = m\omega_p c / e$  (1979)
    - ← wave breaking (saturates and trapping when  $v_{ph} = v_{tr}$  )
- **Wakefield: dynamically sustained stable structure in plasma**  
Structure Formation (as opposed to plasma instabilities)

# Wakefield saturation

Wakefields excited: stay robust

← large phase velocity

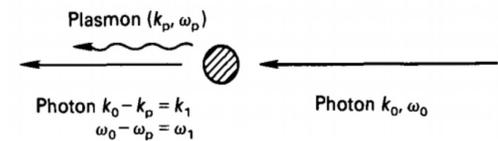
at the largest phase velocity that laser pulse group velocity can create, i.e.  $c$

Show [Homework #2] with  $v_{ph} = c$ :  $v_{tr} = \sqrt{eE/mk}$

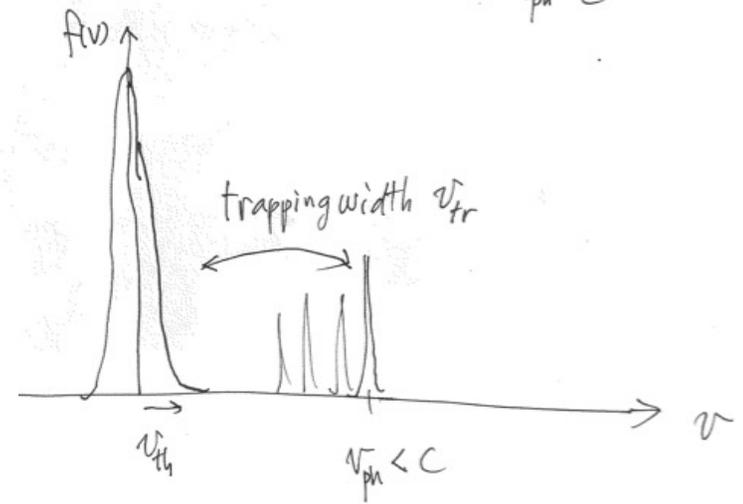
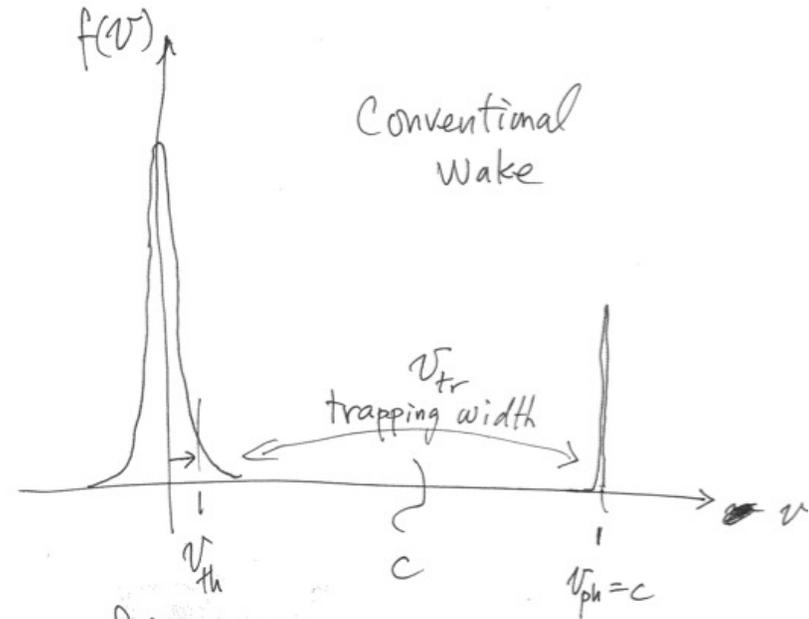
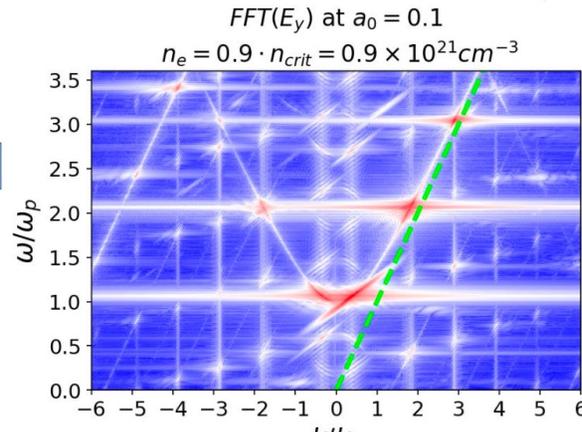
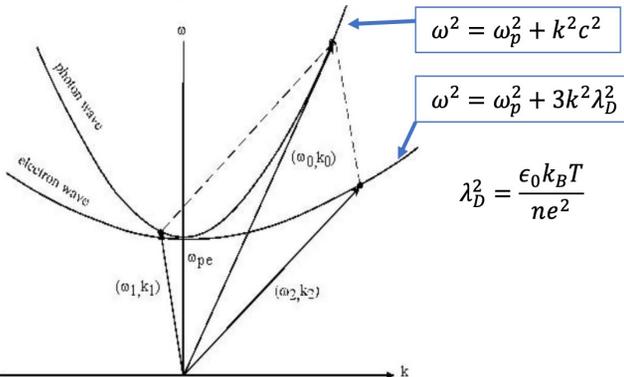
$v_{tr} = v_{ph} \rightarrow$  saturation field

$$E = E_{TD} = m\omega_p c / e$$

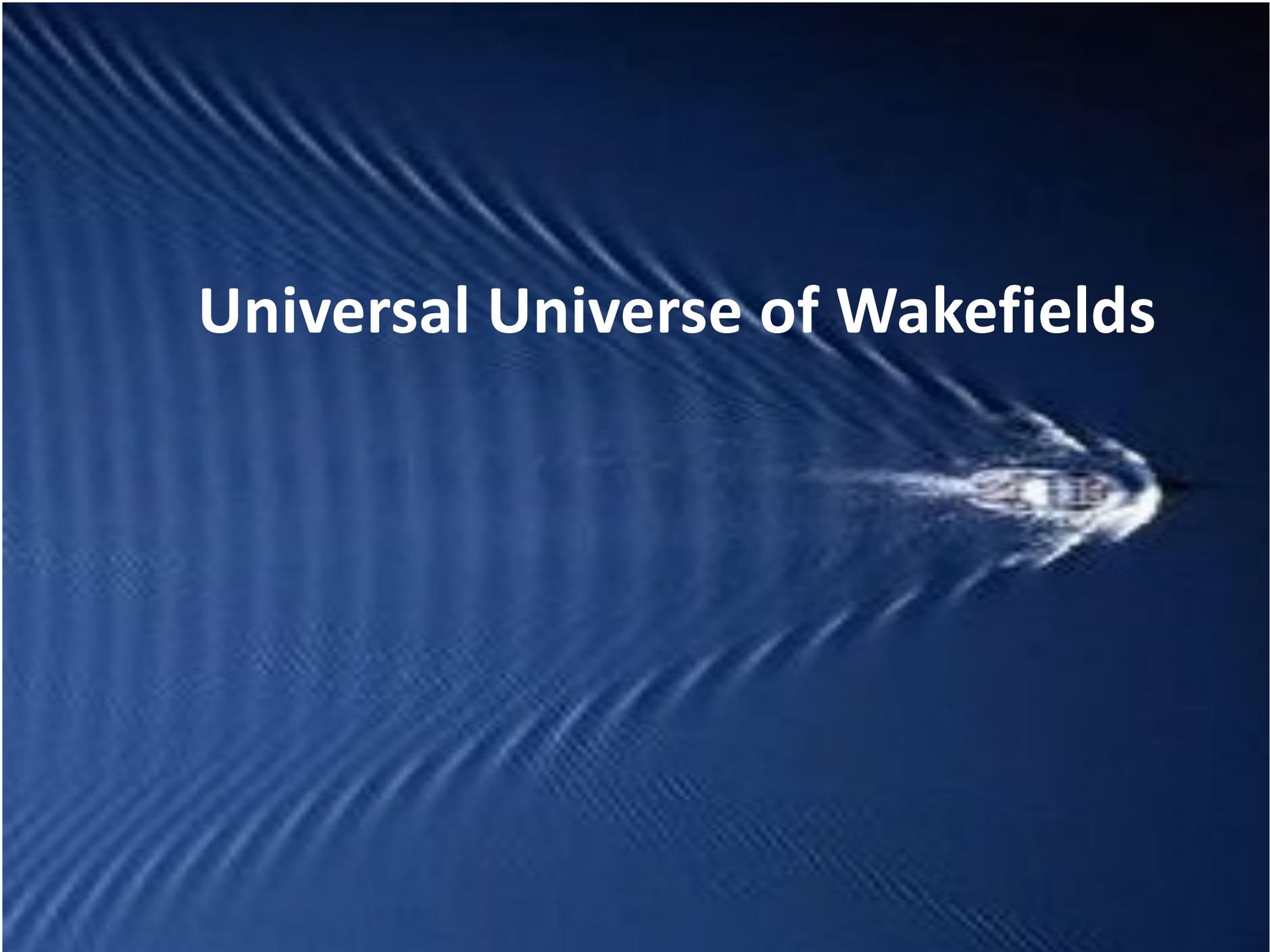
When  $v_{ph} < c$ ,  $\rightarrow v_{tr} = \sqrt{eE/mk} < c \rightarrow E < E_{TD}$



Tajima, T. (1985). High energy laser plasma accelerators. *Laser and Particle Beams*, 3(4), 351-413.



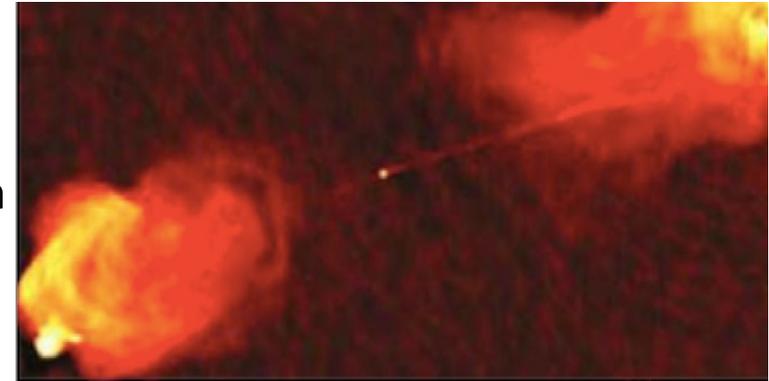
# Universal Universe of Wakefields



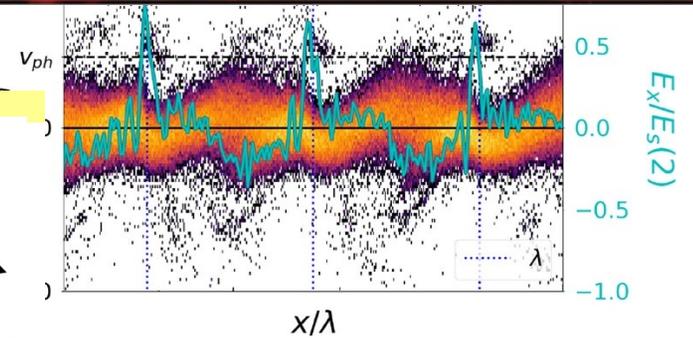
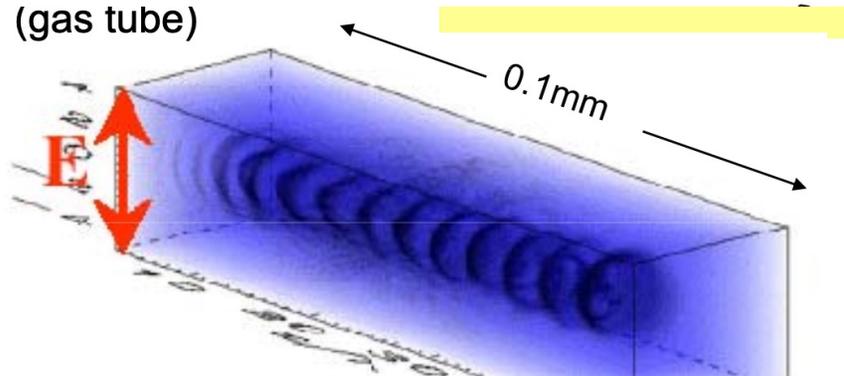
# Ranges of wakefields

$\lambda : 10^{-13} \text{ cm} \leftarrow \rightarrow 10^{19} \text{ cm}$

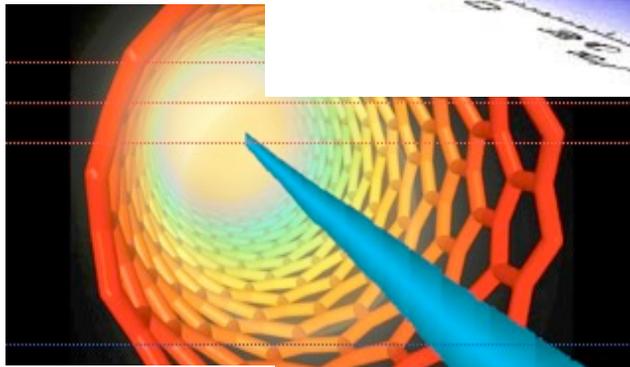
$\lambda = 10^{19} \text{ cm}$   
(AGN jets)



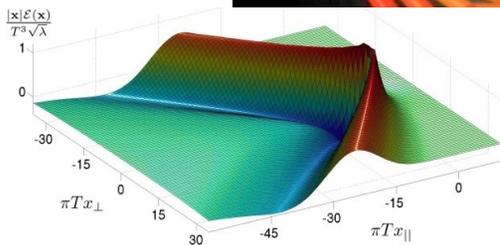
$\lambda = 10^{-4} \text{ cm}$  (LWFA, 2004)  
(gas tube)



$\lambda = 1 \text{ cm}$  (beam-driven fusion plasma, Nicks, 2021)



$\lambda = 10^{-7} \text{ cm}$   
(nanotube LWFA)



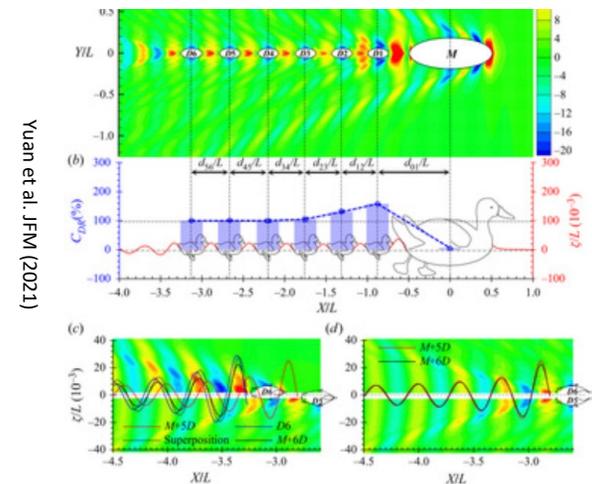
$\lambda = 10^{-13} \text{ cm}$  (nuclear QCD plasma)

# Wake

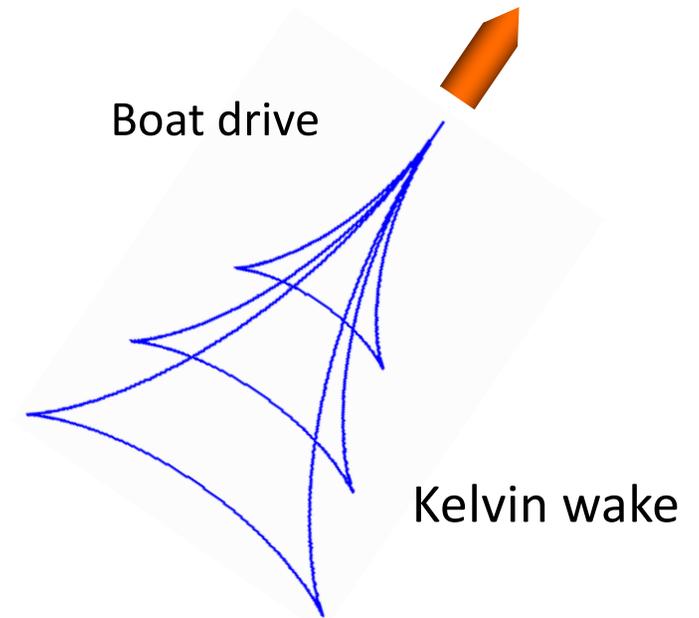
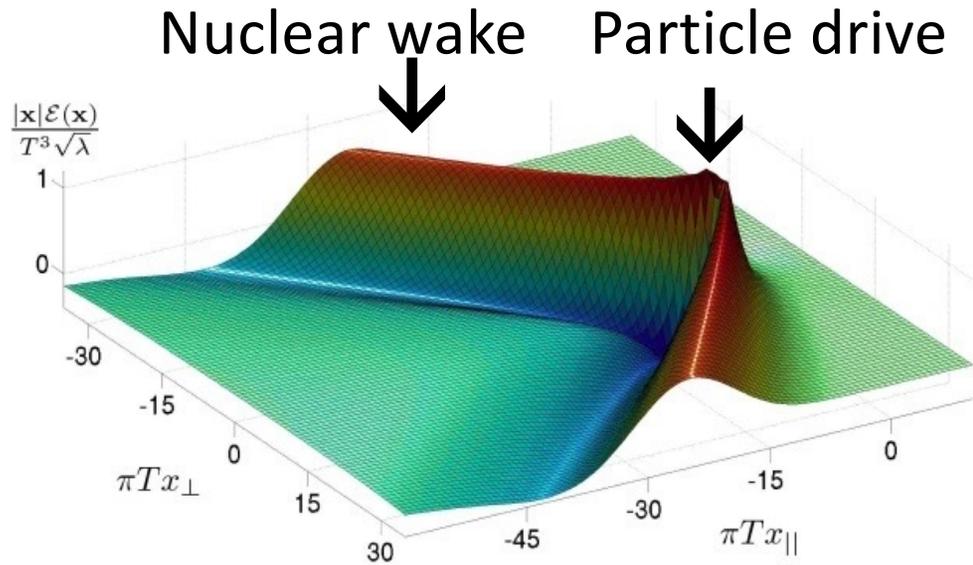


## Wake by a duck

Nature (or mother duck) showed me  
(1968-69) when I was an undergrad student  
Walking by a lake toward U. Tokyo.



# Wakefields in nuclei (in quark-gluon plasma)



Maldacena



Maldacena (string theory) method:  
QCD **wake** (Chesler/Yaffe 2008)

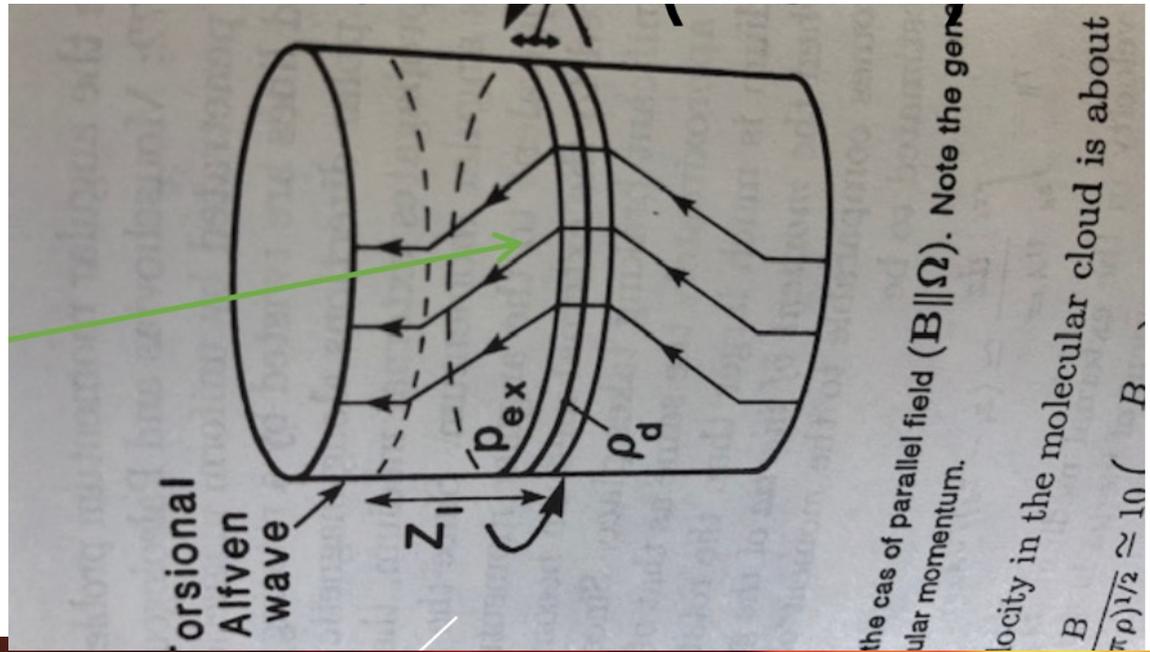


Рис. 71. Наблюдаемая картина корабельных волн. [Любезно предоставлено Aerofilms Ltd.]

Rotational twist onto magnetic field thrust →

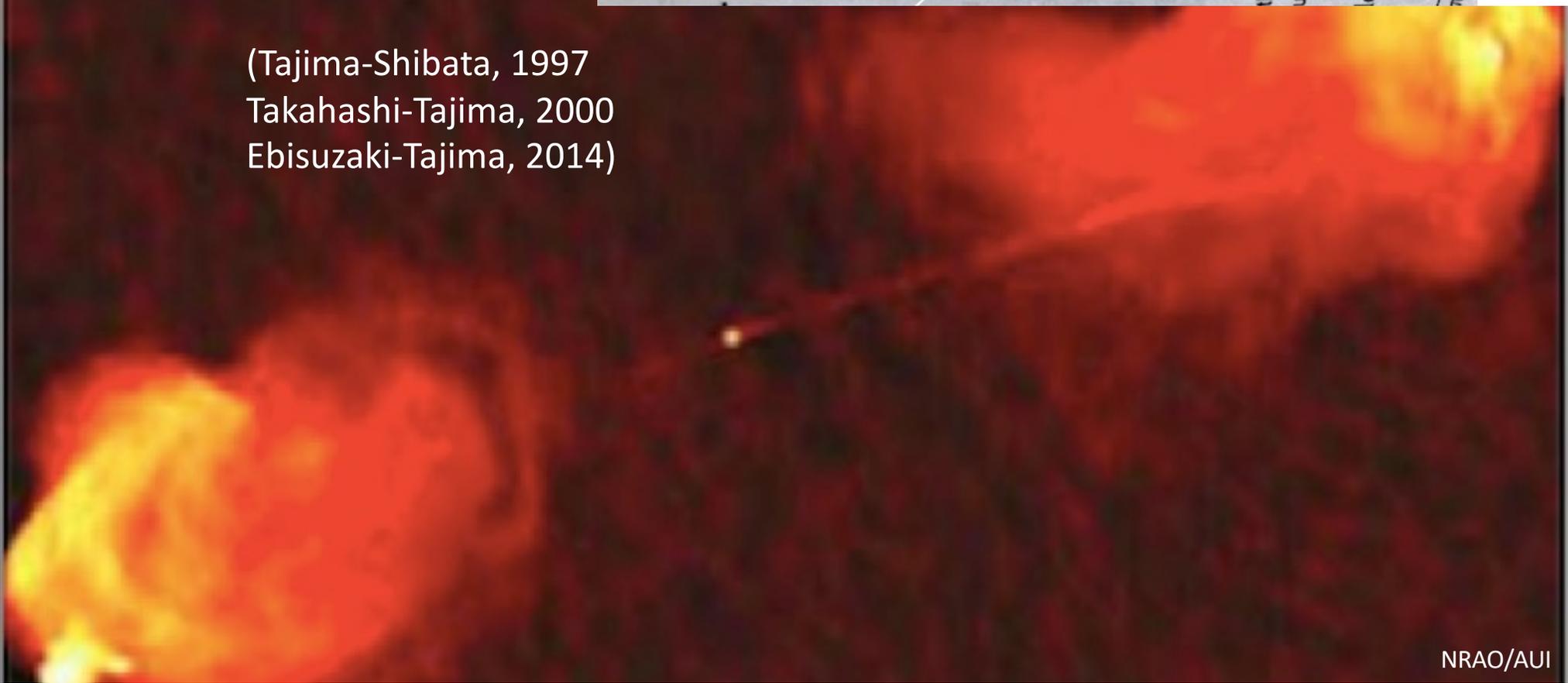
Jets and their elongation →

Stable plasma and wave propagation



Tajima-Shibata (1999)

(Tajima-Shibata, 1997  
Takahashi-Tajima, 2000  
Ebisuzaki-Tajima, 2014)



# Paradigm Shift in astrophysical plasma

- Instabilities dominant in plasma science



- Structure formation via nonlinear dynamics
  1. **jets**: structure, dynamically stable
  2. accretion disk disturbance (MRI) driven excitation of **wake at the root of the jets**

$$a_0 \sim \text{as large as } O(10^{10})$$

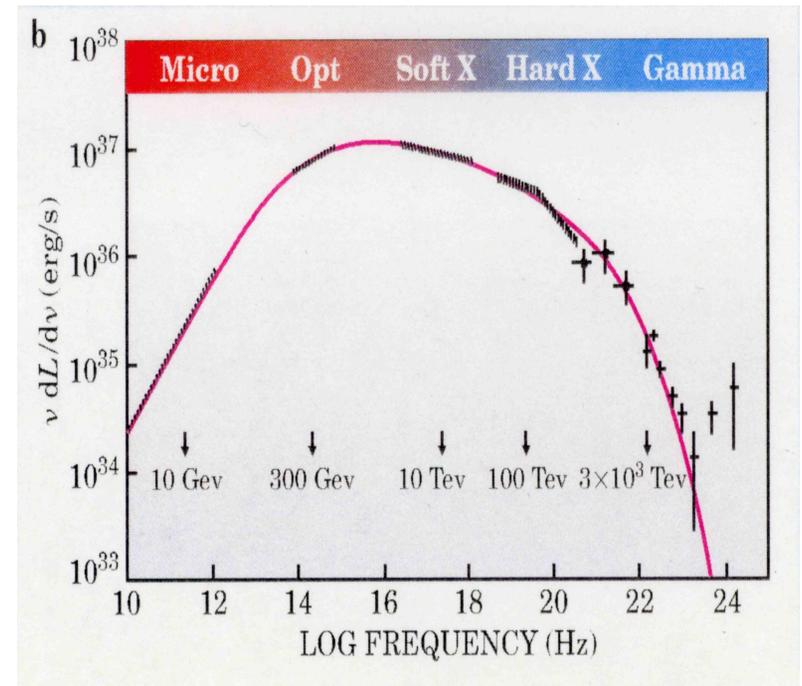
Philosophy espoused and reviewed in

Tajima et al., RMPP 4, 7 (2020), Ebisuzaki et al. (2014)

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41614-020-0043-z>

[Also in the textbook; T. Tajima and K. Shibata, “Plasma Astrophysics” (Addison-Wesley, 1997)]

# PeV $\gamma$ from Crab Nebula



Can we see manifestation of quantum gravity, Lorentz variance in high energy  $\gamma$ ?  
How PeV electrons accelerated?

The Crab Pulsar, a city-sized, magnetized neutron star spinning 30 times a second, lies at the center of this composite image of the inner region of the well-known Crab Nebula. The spectacular picture combines optical data (red) from the Hubble Space Telescope and x-ray images (blue) from the Chandra Observatory, also used in the popular Crab Pulsar movies. Like a cosmic dynamo the pulsar powers the x-ray and optical emission from the nebula, accelerating charged particles and producing the eerie, glowing x-ray jets. Ring-

Takahashi et al. (2000)

Prophetic picture  
(2000)

NS-NS collision  
triggers →

- QGP (Quark-Gluon plasma)
- Shocks / **gravitational waves**
- Accretion disk
- Jets
- Alfven waves and EM waves
- Wakefield acceleration**
- GRB (gamma bursts)**

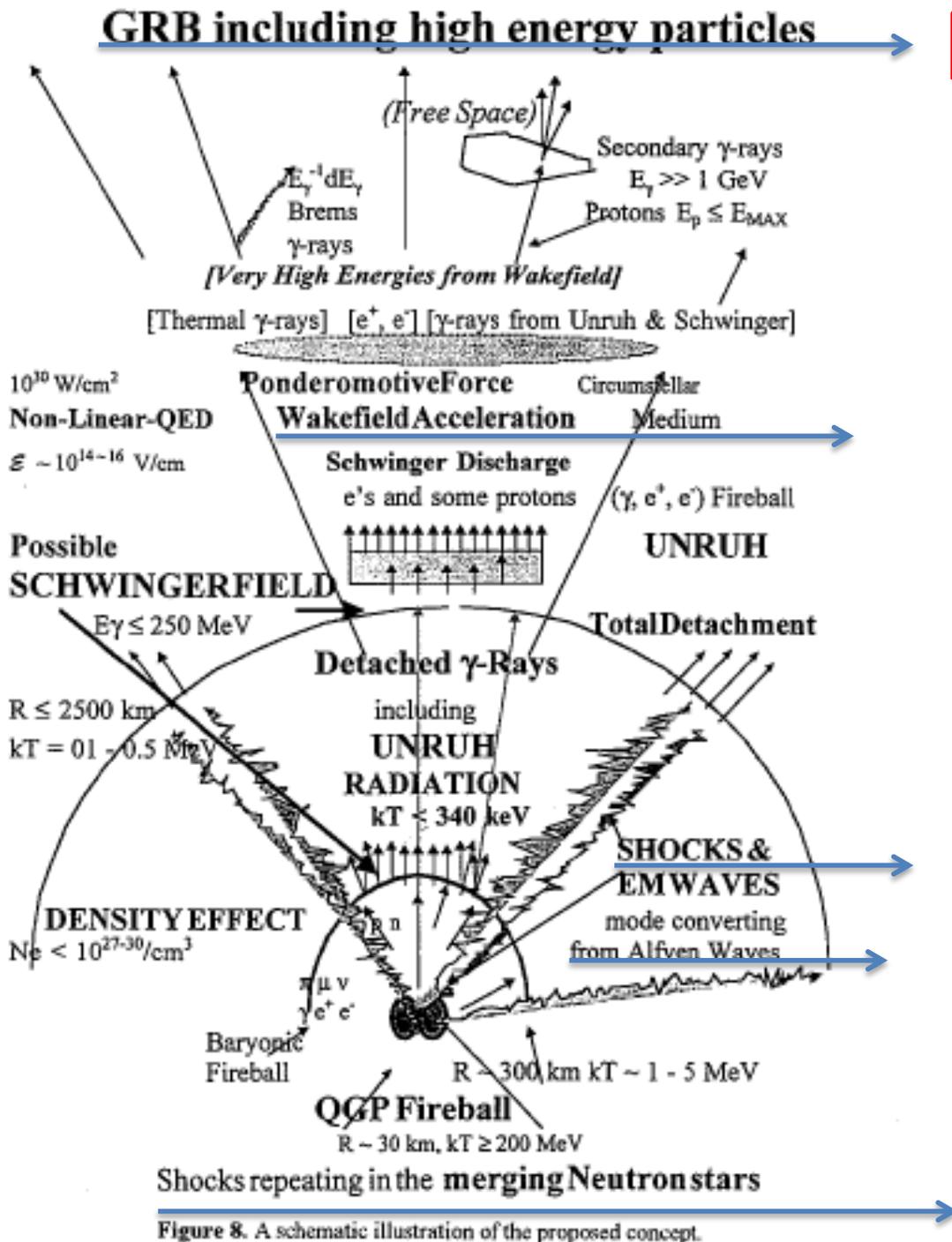
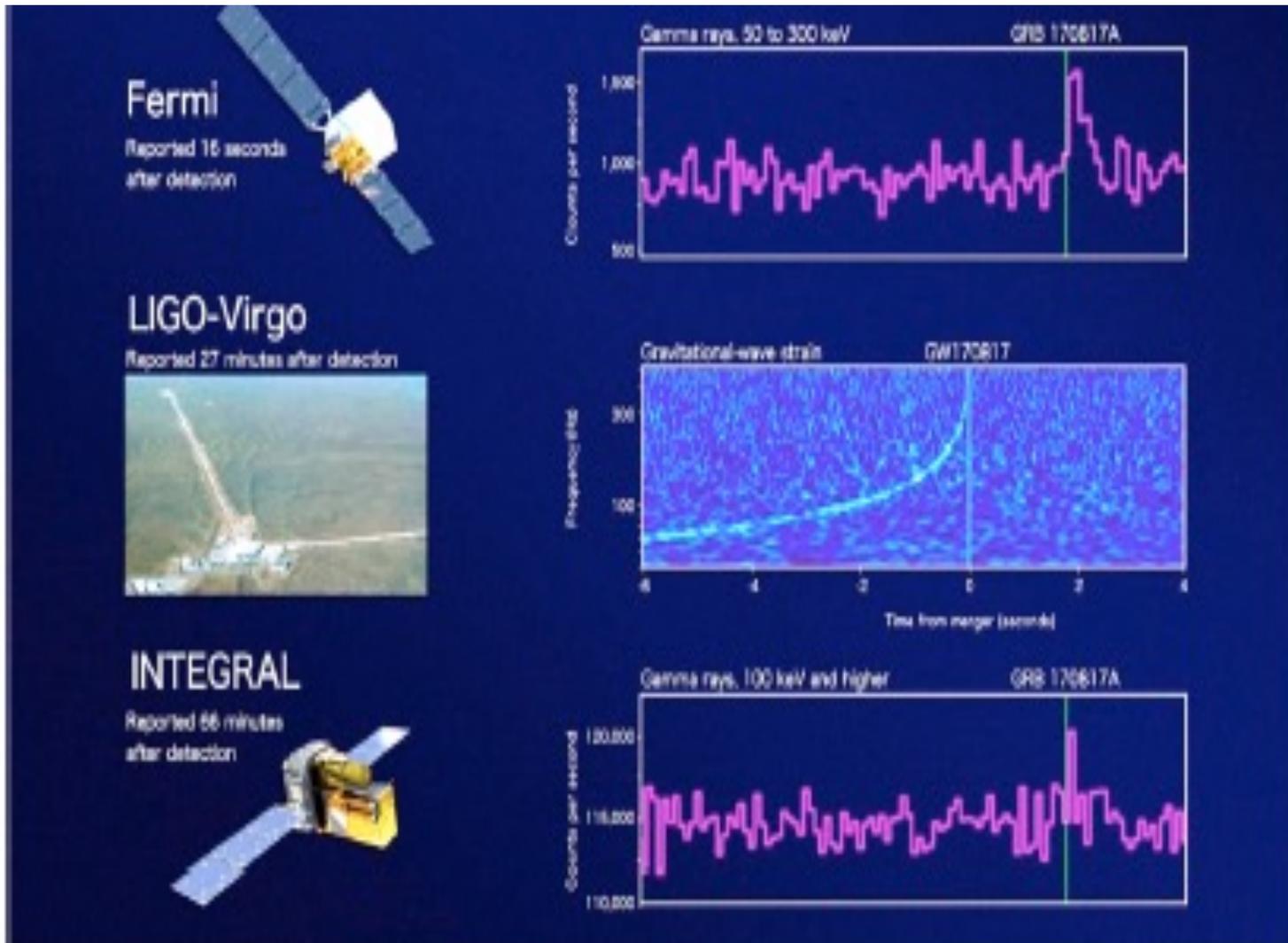


Figure 8. A schematic illustration of the proposed concept.

# Neutron star-neutron star collision



from accretion disk

and jets emanated from NS-NS collision →

GW emission and gamma emission

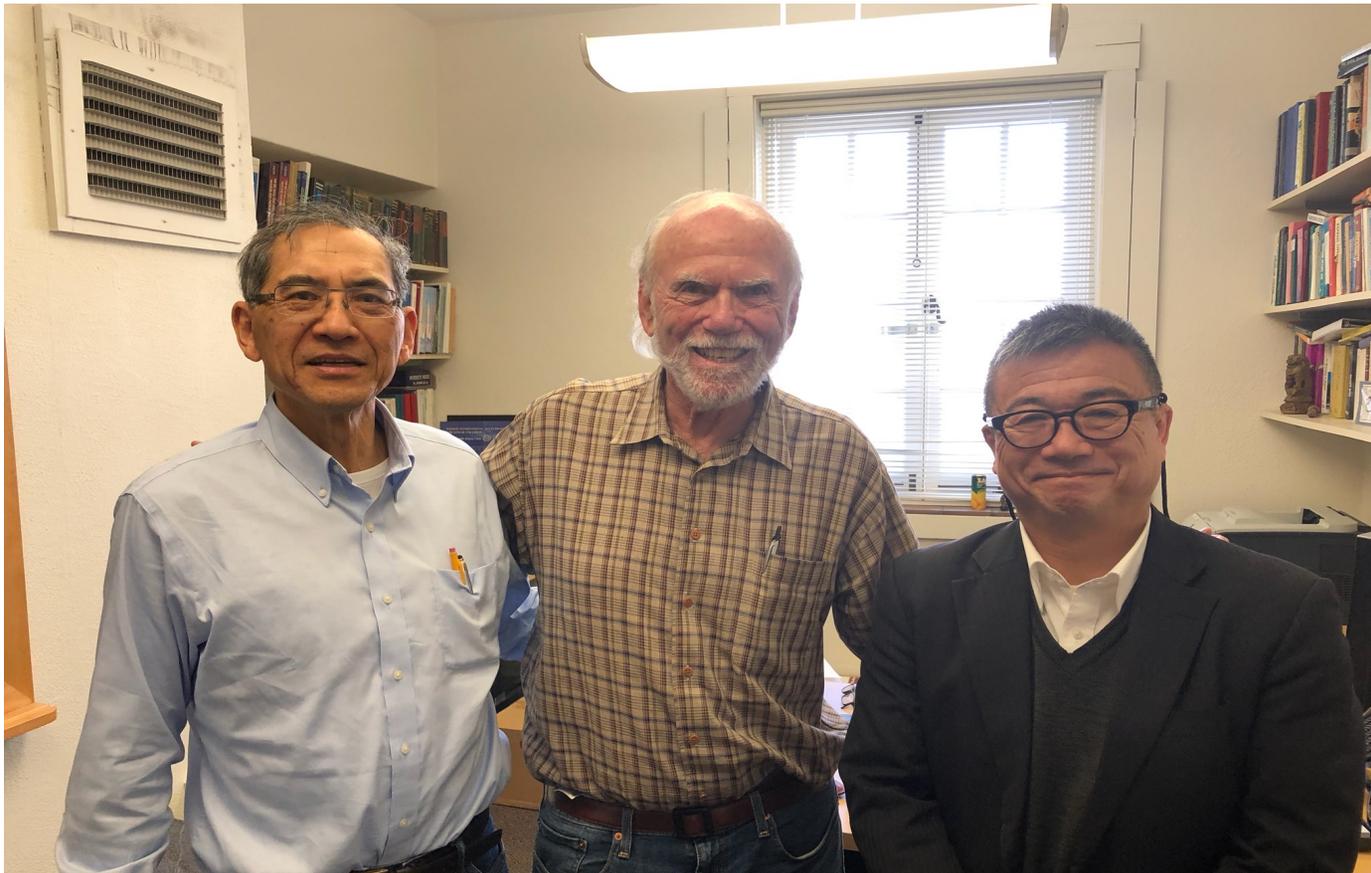
**LIGO** (2017)

(Laser Interferometric Gravitational wave Observatory)

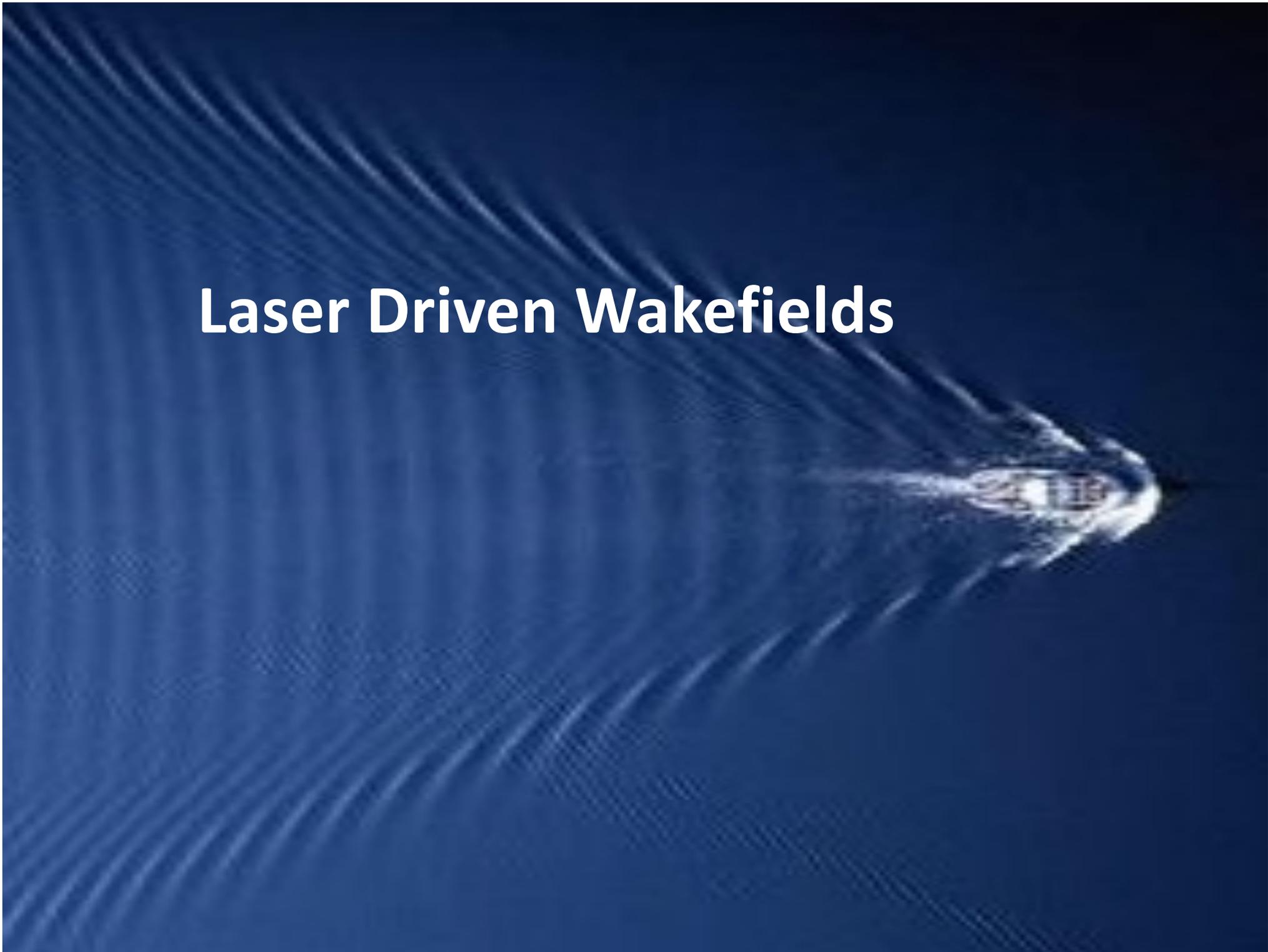
Fig. 5. Gamma-ray emission detected by Fermi and Integral satellites from the neutron star merging event (GW178017) delayed by 1.7 seconds compared with gravitational wave burst [79]. This time difference may be explained by the time to build-up the system for the acceleration of charged particles, described in the present

# Observation of **LWFA** evidence in Nature (astrophysics)

- Review article by us (**Ebisuzaki-Tajima-Barish**): IJMP D (2023)
- Prediction of gamma emission by **LWFA** by **NS-NS collision** (Tajima et al. book, 2000)
- Barish: discovery of simultaneous emission of gravitational wave with gamma from **NS-NS collision** (Nobel, 2017)

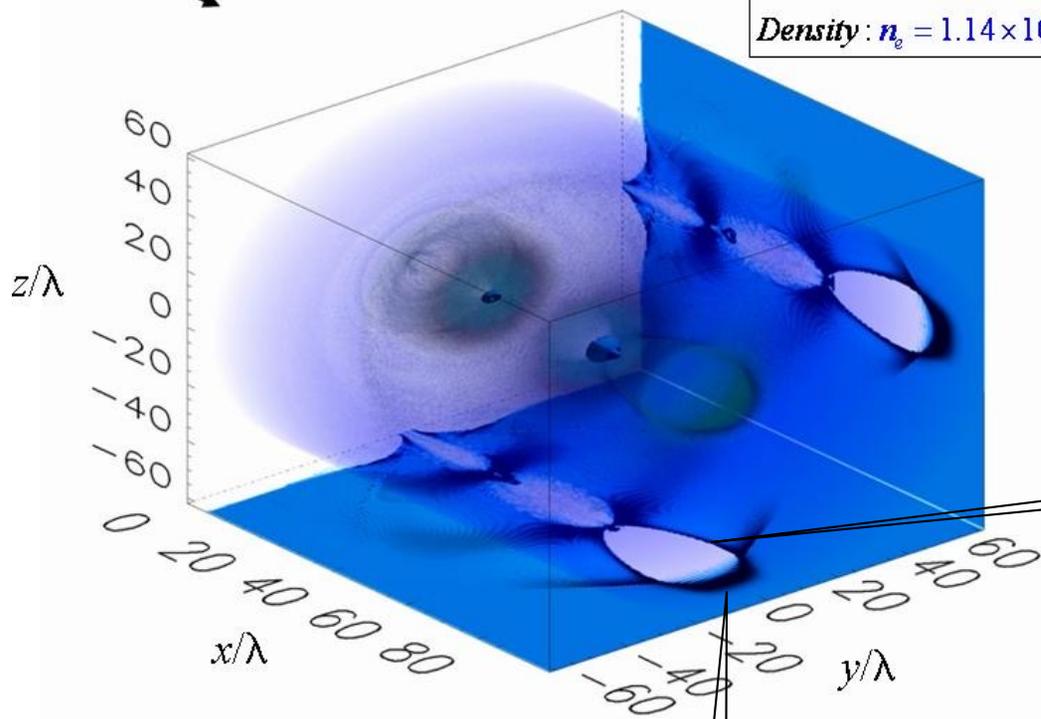


# Laser Driven Wakefields



# Laser-driven Bow and Wake

Density:  $n_e = 1.14 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



Wakefield acceleration

Wake Wave

(Bulanov, Esirkepov)

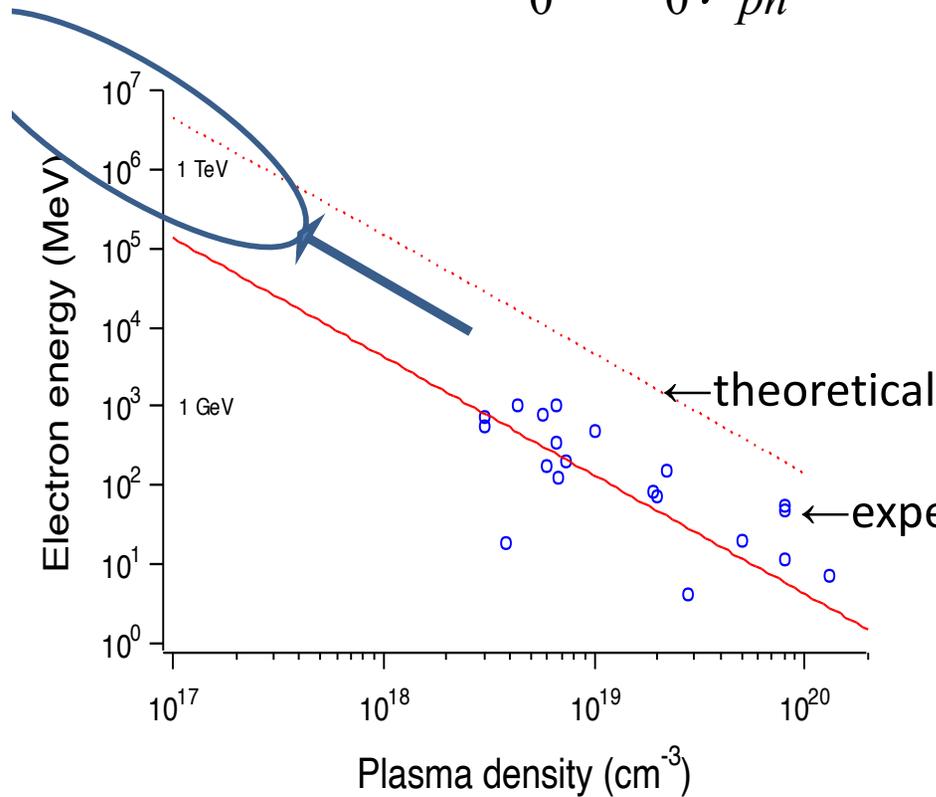


Bow Wave

Ponderomotive acceleration

# Theory of wakefield toward high energies

$$\Delta E \approx 2m_0c^2 a_0^2 \gamma_{ph}^2 = 2m_0c^2 a_0^2 \left( \frac{n_{cr}}{n_e} \right), \quad (\text{when 1D theory applies Tajima / Dawson, 1979})$$



In order to avoid wavebreak,

$$a_0 < \gamma_{ph}^{1/2},$$

where

$$\gamma_{ph} = [n_{cr}(\omega) / n_e]^{1/2}$$

$$n_{cr} = 10^{21}/\text{cc (1eV photon)}$$

$$\rightarrow 10^{29} \text{ (10keV photon)}$$

$$n_e = 10^{16} \text{ (gas)} \rightarrow 10^{23} / \text{cc (solid)}$$

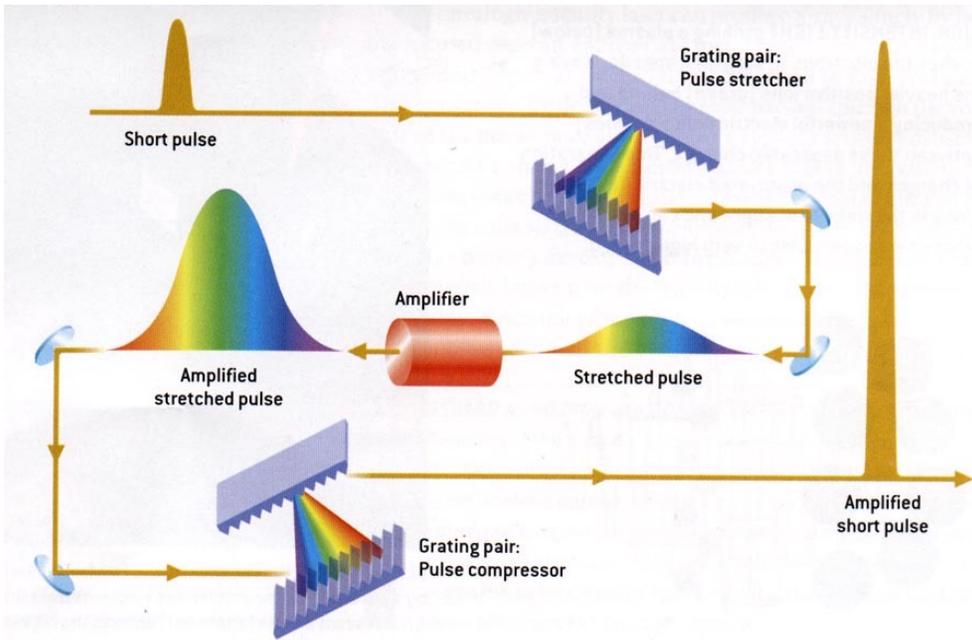
$$L_d = \frac{2}{\pi} \lambda_p a_0^2 \left( \frac{n_{cr}}{n_e} \right),$$

dephasing length

$$L_p = \frac{1}{3\pi} \lambda_p a_0 \left( \frac{n_{cr}}{n_e} \right),$$

pump depletion length

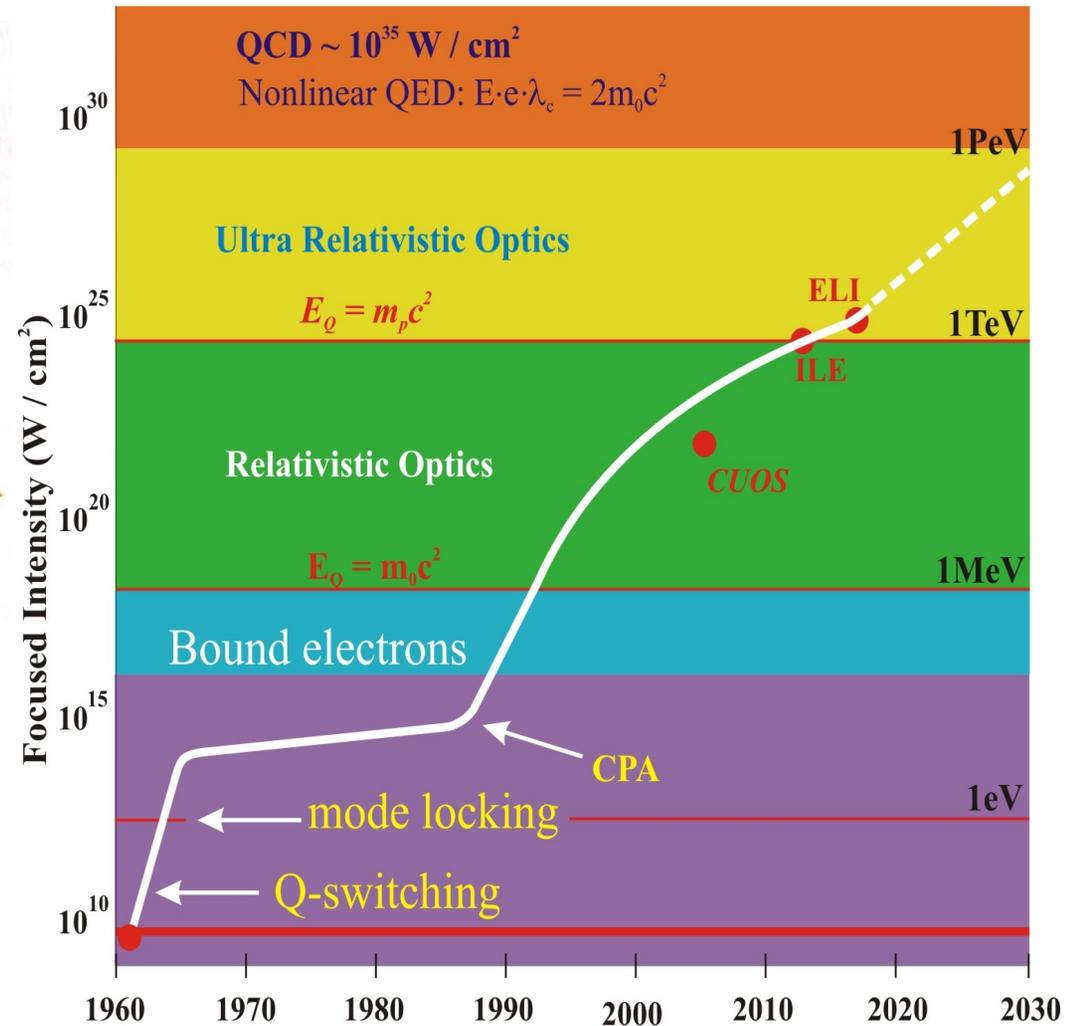
# Enabling technology: **laser** revolution



G. Mourou invented **Chirped Pulse Amplification** (1985)

**Laser** intensity exponentiated since,

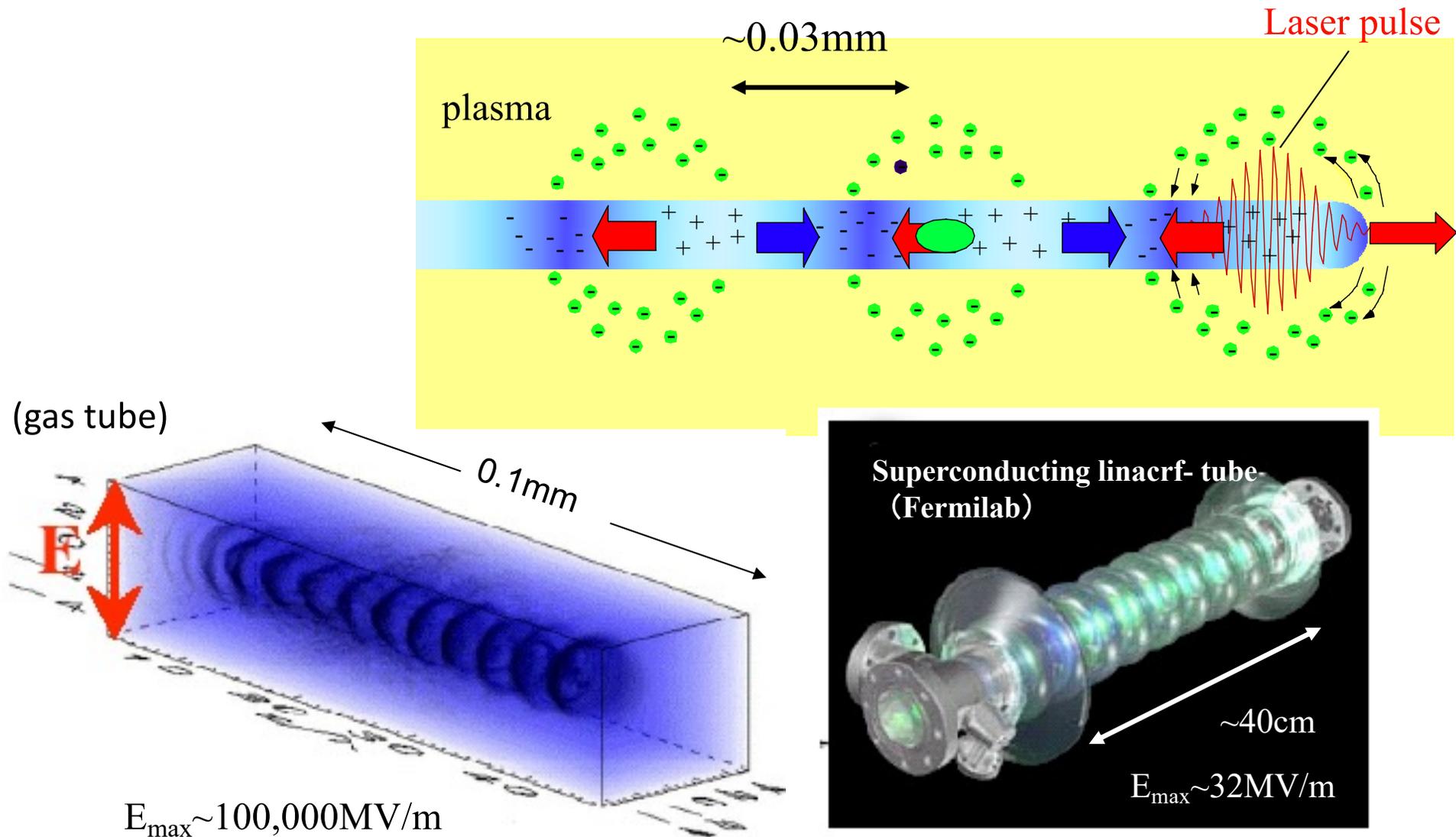
to match the required intensity for Tajima-Dawson's **LWFA** (1979)



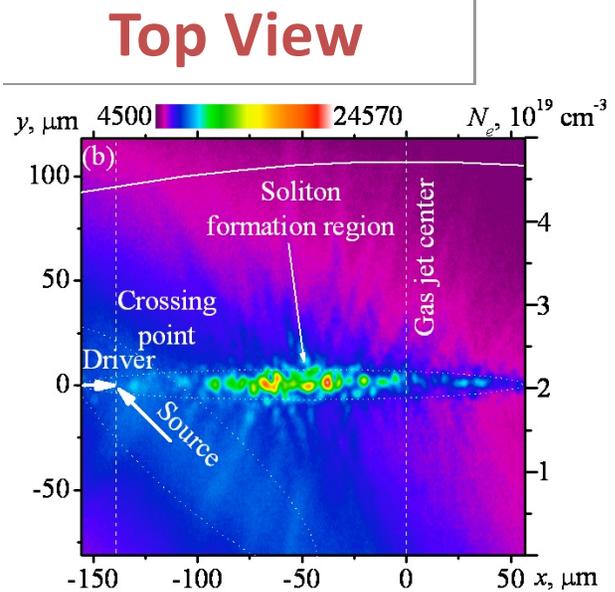
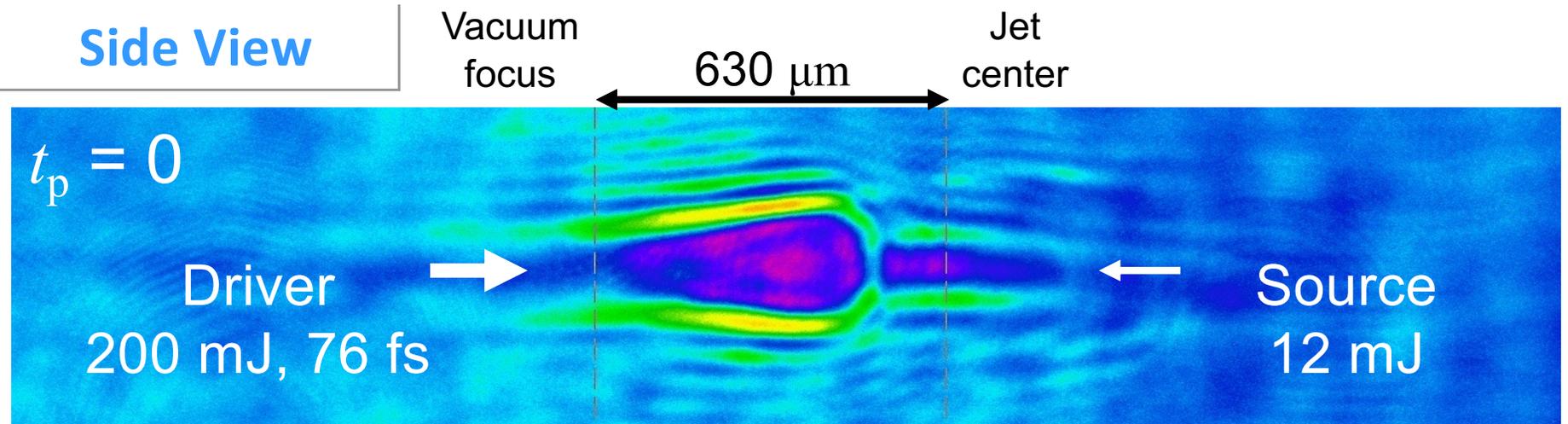
# Thousand-fold Compactification

**Laser wakefield:** thousand folds gradient (and emittance reduction)

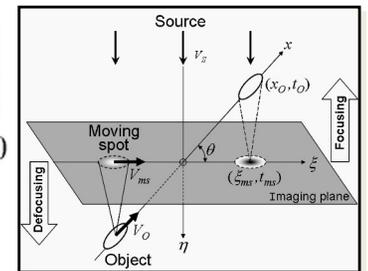
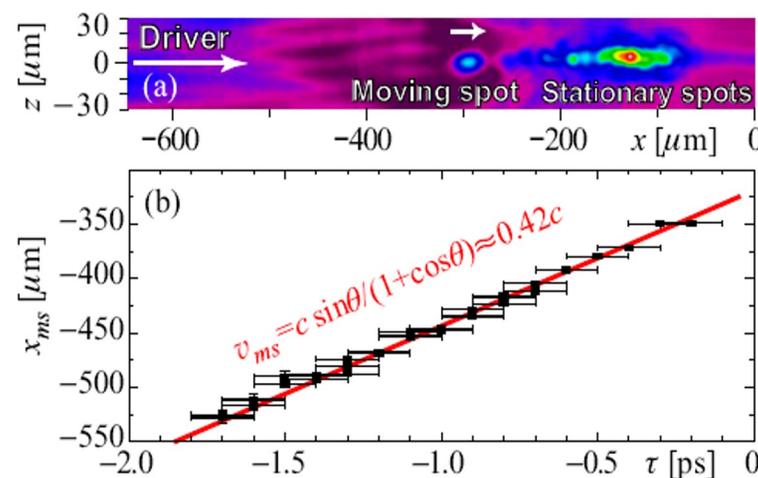
First experimental realization: Nakajima,....., Tajima, (1994)



# Laser pulse-driven stable wakfeields (plasma oscillations) : observed



## Relativistic Microlens

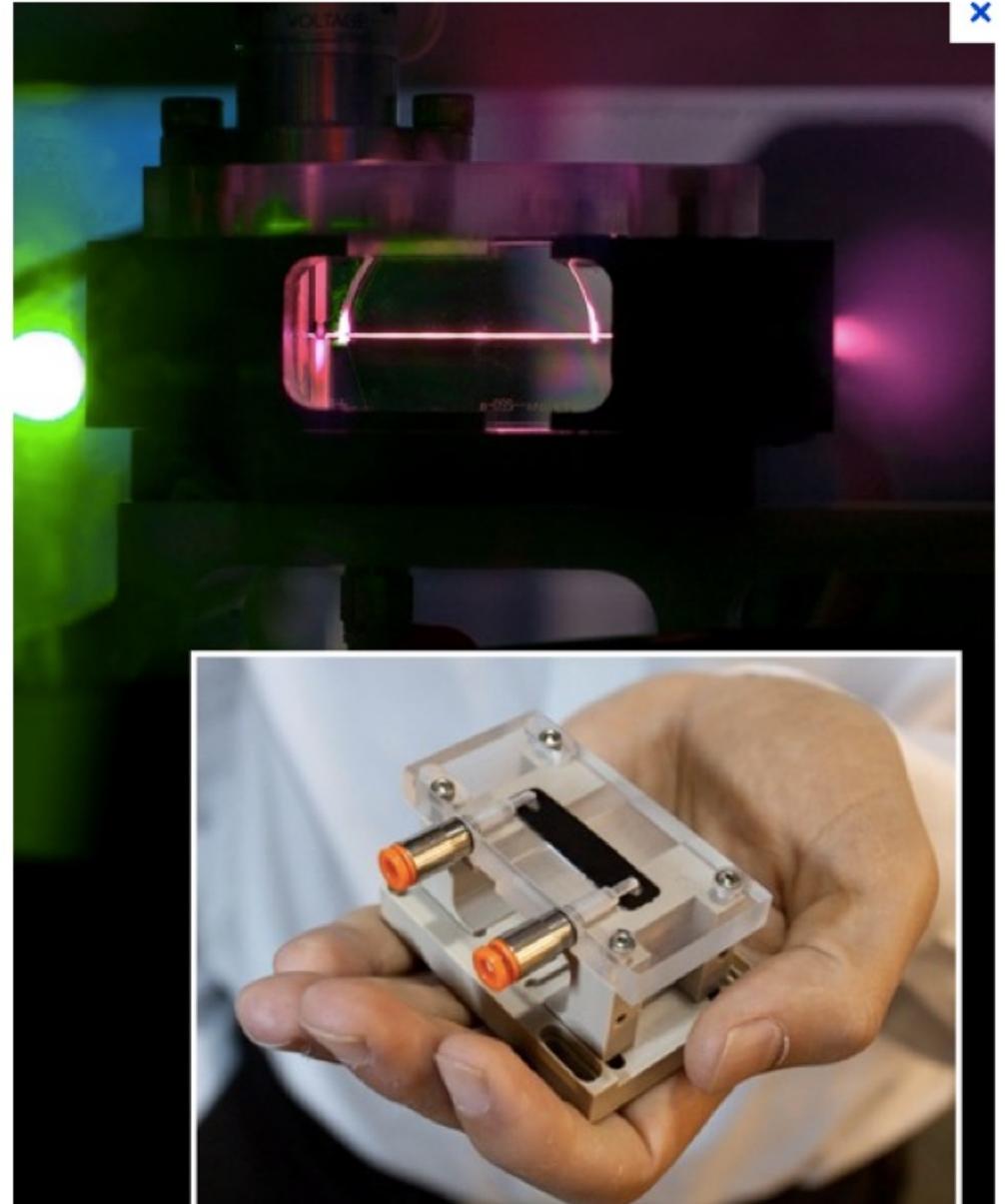


(Kando et al 2007)



# *GeV in the Palm*

*First GeV on few cm  
(W. Leemans et al)*



# The late Prof. Abdus Salam



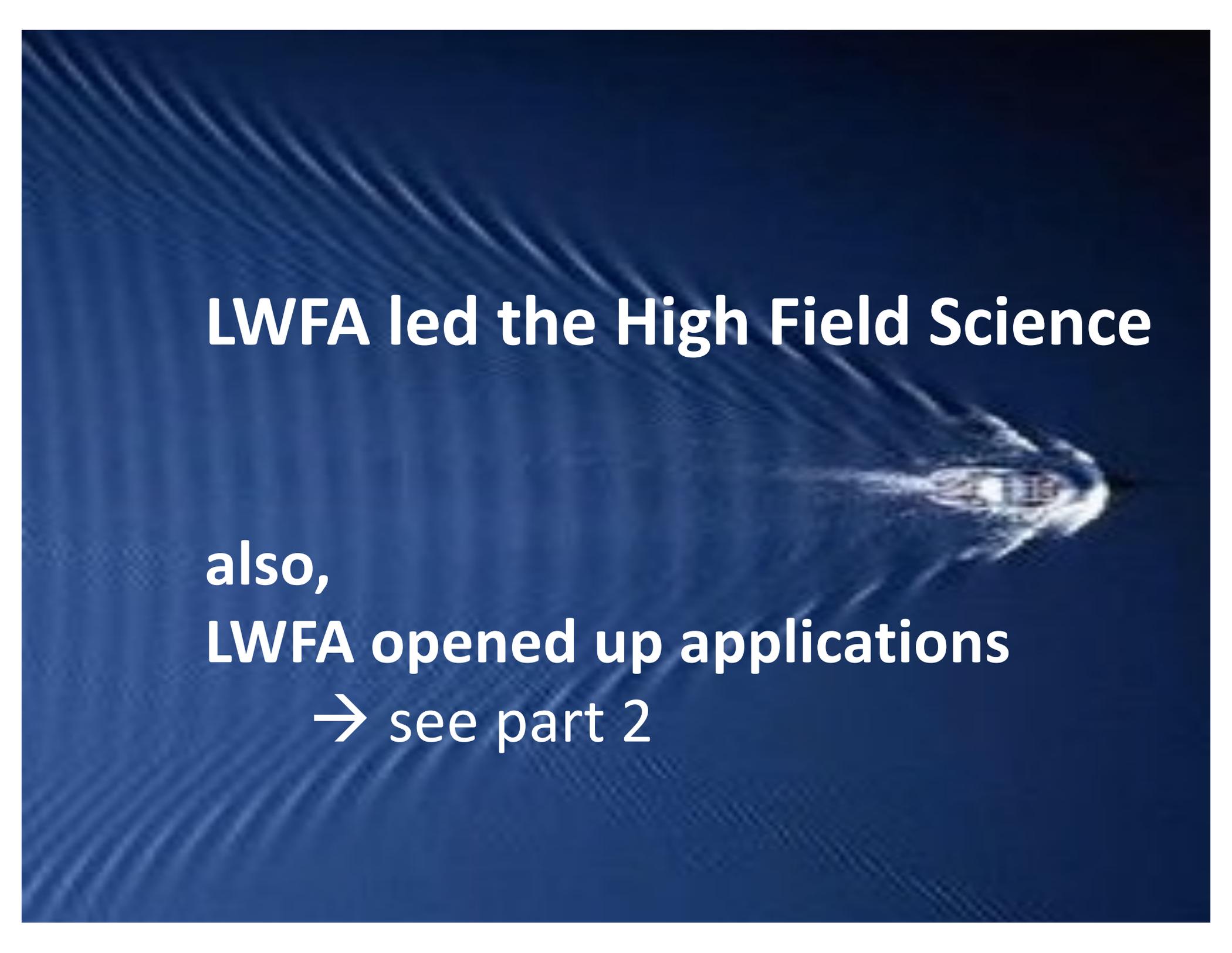
At ICTP Summer School (1981), Prof. Salam summoned me and discussed about **laser wakefield** acceleration.

Salam: *‘Scientists like me began feeling that we had less means to test our theory. However, with your laser acceleration, I am encouraged’*. (1981)

He organized the Oxford Workshop on **laser wakefield** accelerator in 1982.

Effort: many scientists over many years to realize his vision / dream  
High field science: spawned

(NB: Prof. C. Rubbia et al.  
discovered his bosons at CERN, 1983)



**LWFA led the High Field Science**

**also,**

**LWFA opened up applications**

**→ see part 2**

# International Committee for Ultra Intense **Lasers**



International promotion  
of highest intensity **lasers**  
and its applications (Oxford, 2004)

**We ignited world-wide interest: s.a.**

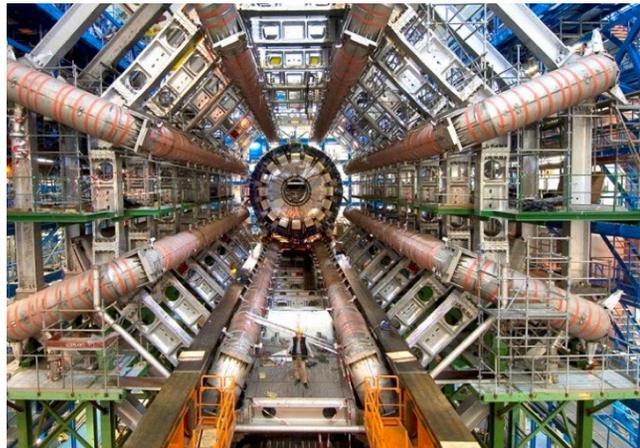
***IZEST*** (International Center for Zepto- and Exawatt science and Technology)

***ELI*** (Extreme Light Infrastructure)

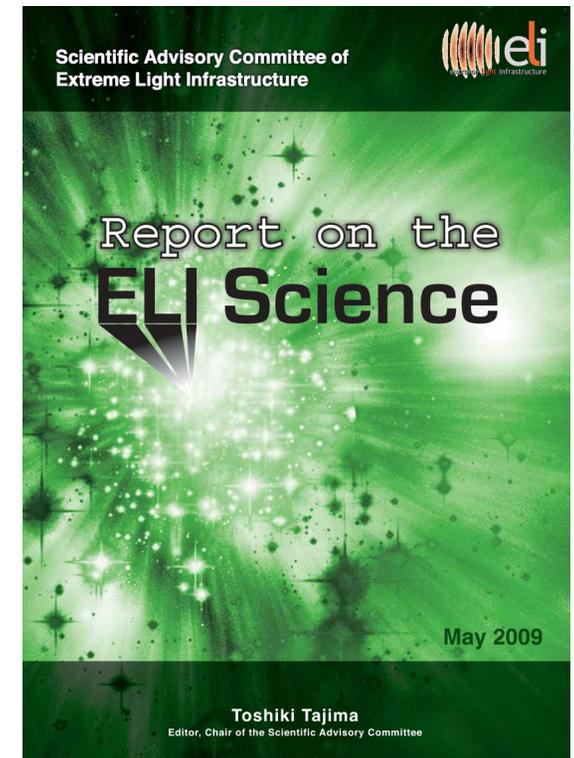
High Energy Physic (and intense **laser**) interests:



**Young-Kee Kim**  
**Then-Fermilab Deputy Director**  
**former President, APS**



**CERN**



# Thank you!

discussions and inspirations from:

G. Mourou, D. Strickland, late J. Dawson,  
late Norman Rostoker, K. Nakajima, B. Barish,  
T. Ebisuzaki, the late Y. Takahashi, K. Shibata,  
S. Bulanov, M. Downer, Y. K. Kim, T. Esirkepov,  
R. Heuer, G. Huxtable, C. Seiders, D. Fisher,  
Y. Papamastorakis

A latest book

