

LEDS 2023



Widely tunable high power THz source based on ultrashort electron beams

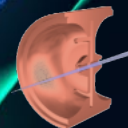
Lixin Yan, Zhuoyuan Liu

yanlx@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn

On behalf of Accelerator Laboratory of
Tsinghua University



ACCELERATOR LABORATORY
of TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY



Outline

■ Introduction

- ✓ Accelerators for THz & THz for accelerators
- ✓ Review of current accelerator-based THz sources

■ From single bunch to bunch train

- ✓ Superradiant radiation from bunched electrons
- ✓ THz bunch train generation

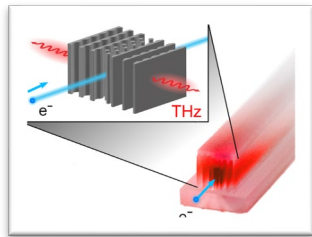
■ Experimental results on THz bunch train

- ✓ Generation and measurement of tunable e- bunch trains
- ✓ Generation and control of THz by electron beam

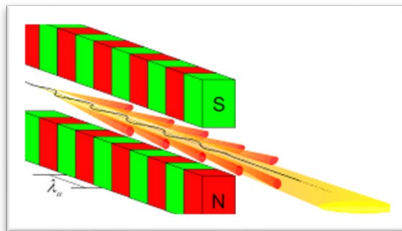
■ Summary

Accelerator for THz & THz for Accelerator

- Accelerators have great potential in high power THz radiation generation, especially in covering the so-called 'THz-gap' (1-10THz).

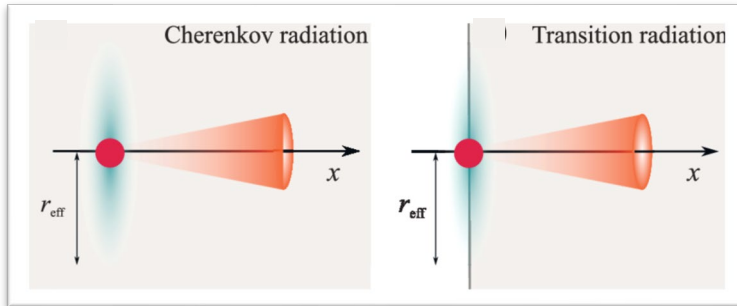


Waveguide



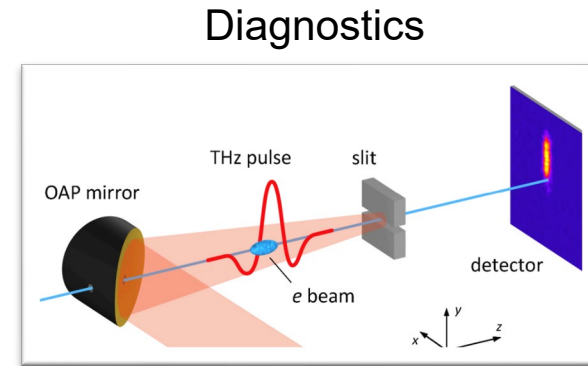
Undulator radiation

THz for Accelerator

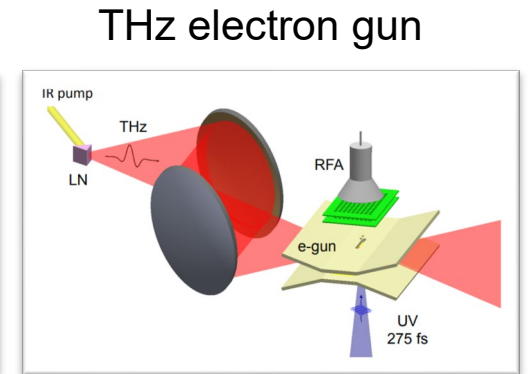


Cherenkov radiation Transition radiation

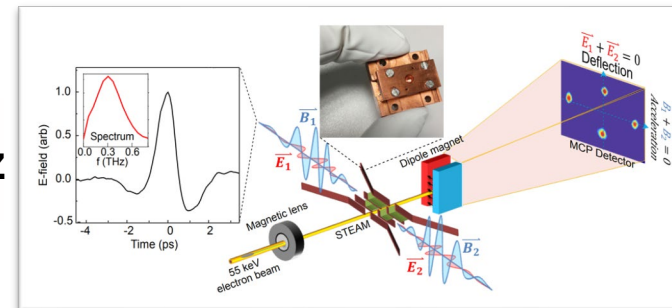
Accelerator for THz



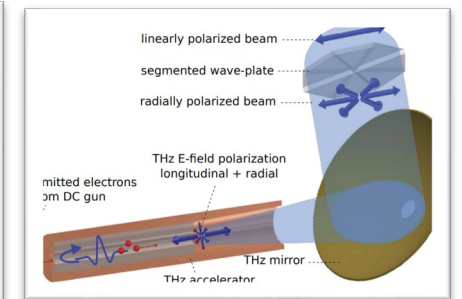
Diagnostics



THz electron gun



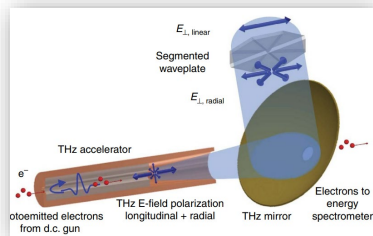
Phase space manipulation



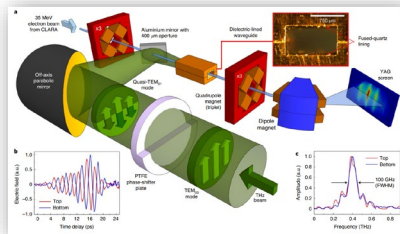
THz acceleration

THz for accelerator

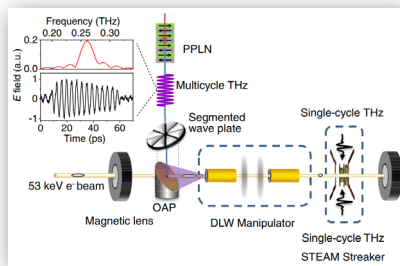
THz acceleration of electrons



THz acceleration



relativistic acceleration



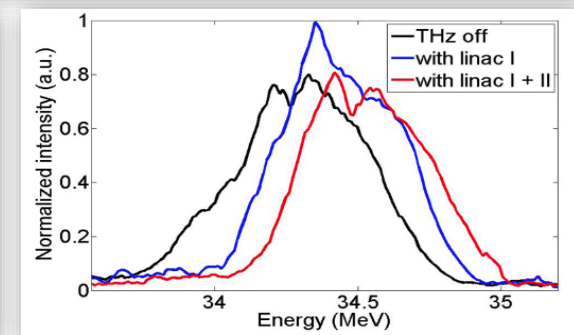
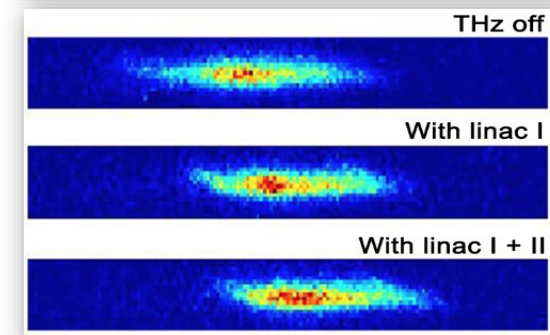
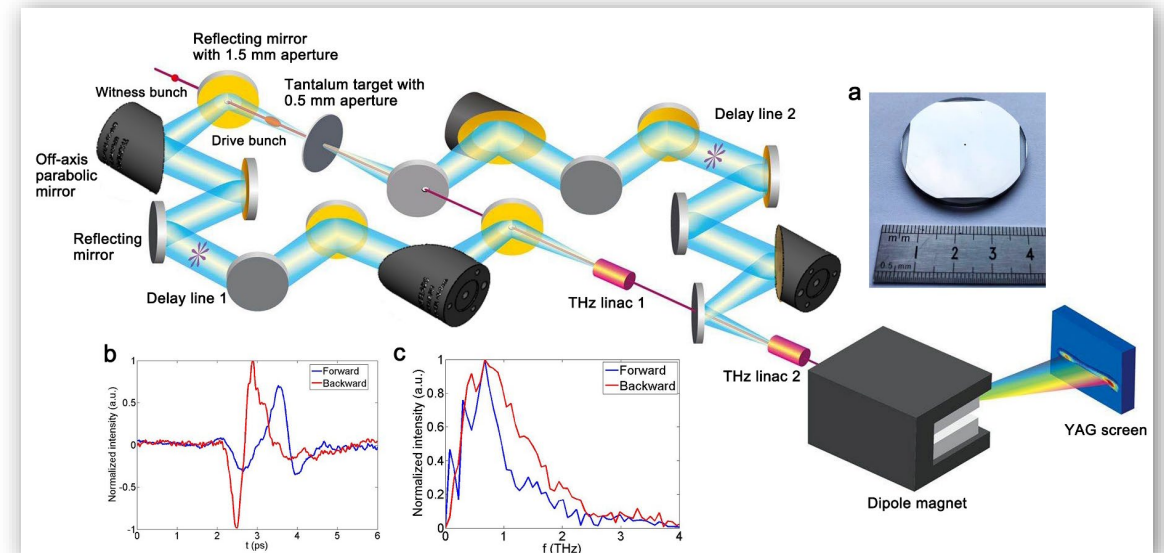
cascaded acceleration of low energy beam

Nature Comm
2015

Nature Photonics
2020

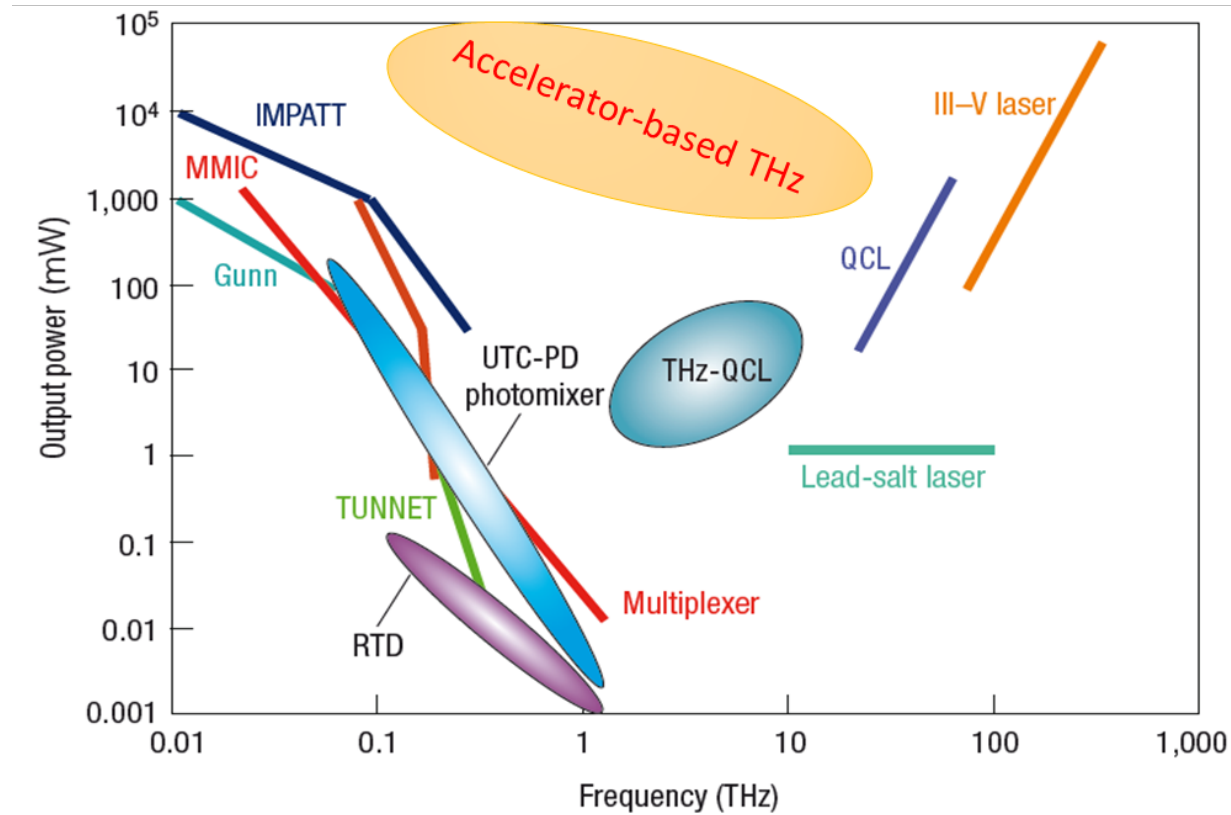
PRX 2020

Cascaded THz-driven acceleration of relativistic electron beams in DLWs using CTR from drive bunch



Accelerator for THz

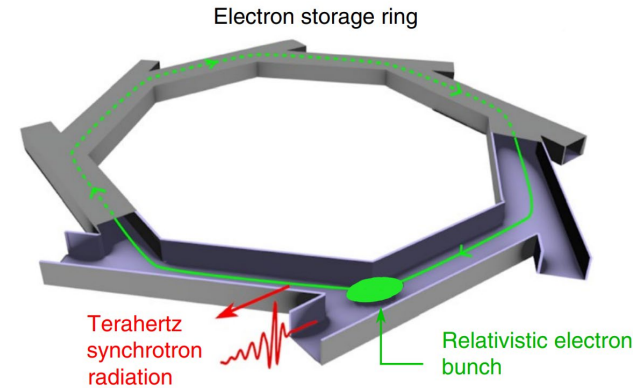
- Accelerators have great potential in high power THz radiation generation, especially in covering the so-called 'THz-gap' (1-10THz).



Review of current accelerator-based THz sources

■ Synchrotrons

THz Beamline	Peak Power	Pulse Energy
ANKA- IR ¹ (SR)	1.3W	2pJ
BL5a@DELTA ² (CHG)	10W	1nJ
MLS- IR ³ (Low- α)	35W	0.12nJ



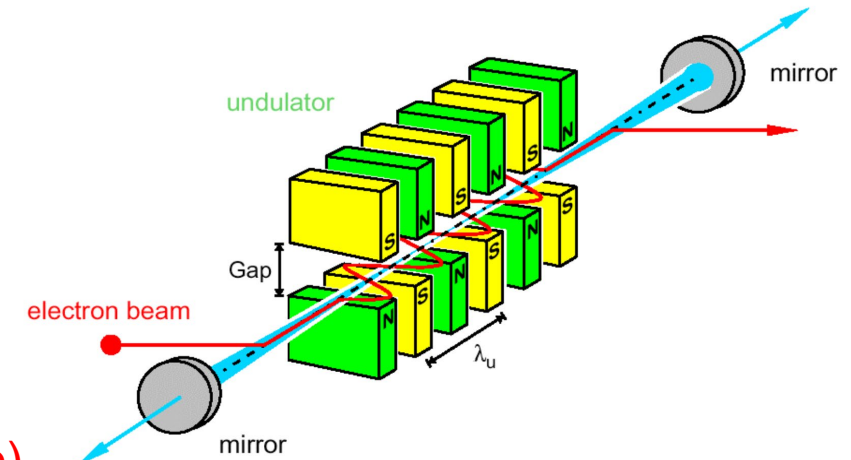
⇒ Generally incoherent
⇒ Low pulse energy
and large storage ring

■ Oscillators-based THz FEL

THz Beamline	THz Tuning Range	Peak Power	Micro Pulse Energy
FLARE ⁴	0.25- 3THz	100kW	<5 μ J
FELIX ⁴	2- 120THz	150MW	<40 μ J
CTFEL ⁵	0.67- 4.2THz	100kW	1 μ J



Moderate pulse energy and complicated design
(High rep-rate beam, Superconducting, THz Cavity, Multi-Beamline)



¹Müller, A. S., et al. Characterizing THz coherent synchrotron radiation at the ANKA storage ring. 14th European Particle Accelerator Conference. Proceedings of EPAC. 2008.

²Ungelenk, P., et al. Continuously tunable narrowband pulses in the THz gap from laser-modulated electron bunches in a storage ring. *Physical Review Accelerators and Beams* 20.2 (2017): 020706.

³Müller, R., et al. Status of the IR and THz beamlines at the Metrology Light Source. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*. Vol. 359. No. 1. IOP Publishing, 2012.

⁴Redlich, Britta. The infrared and THz user facility FELIX in Nijmegen.

⁵Kui, Zhou, et al. Status and upgrade plan of CAEP THz-FEL facility. *High Power Laser and Particle Beams* 34.10 (2022): 104013-1.

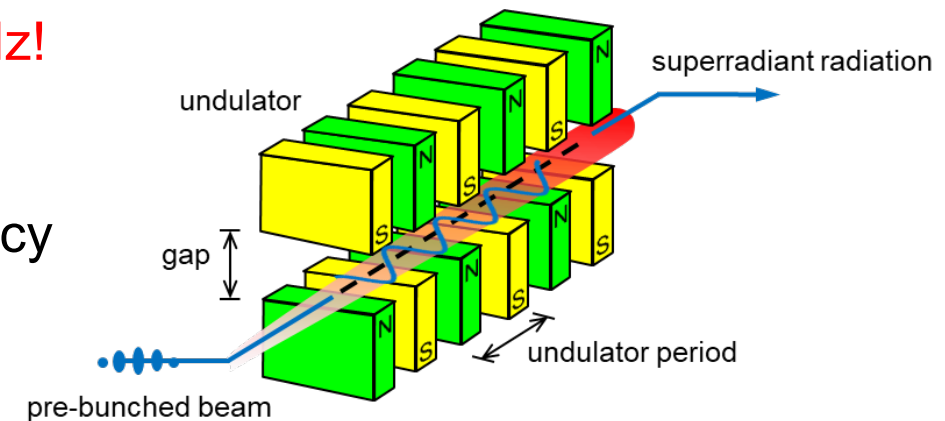
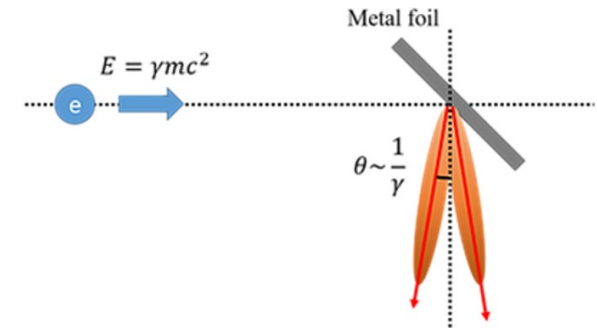
Towards a compact THz source

■ Single Pass THz Sources

Beamline	THz Tuning Range	Pulse Energy	
LCLS ¹	3-30THz	200μJ	} Broad-band CTR
FACET ¹	0.5-5THz	600μJ	
TELBE ²	0.1-3THz	2μJ	— Undulator radiation

⇓
High peak power (pulse energy)

- A compact beamline can be specifically optimized for THz!
- To obtain high power THz radiation in a wide range, pre-bunch techniques are to be extended to a larger frequency range with larger beam charge.



¹Wu Z, Fisher A S, Goodfellow J, et al. Intense terahertz pulses from SLAC electron beams using coherent transition radiation[J]. Review of Scientific Instruments, 2013, 84: 022701.

²Michel P. ELBE Center for High-Power Radiation Sources[J]. Journal of large-scale research facilities, 2016, 2, A39.

Superradiant Radiation from Bunched Electrons

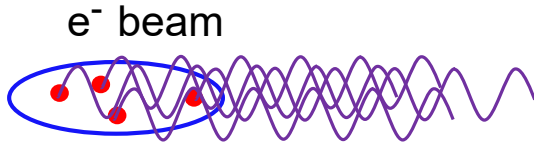
- Bunched electron beams can generate superradiant THz radiation

Total radiation power of electron bunch is formulated as:

$$P(\omega) = P_{point}(\omega)[N_e + N_e^2 b^2(\omega)]$$

$$\text{Bunching factor: } b^2(\omega) = f(\omega) = \left| \int e^{-i\omega z/c} S(z) dz \right|^2$$

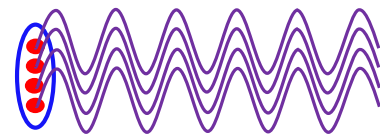
$$\sigma \gg \lambda$$



Incoherent radiation

$$P_\omega \propto NP_{point}$$

$$\sigma \ll \lambda$$

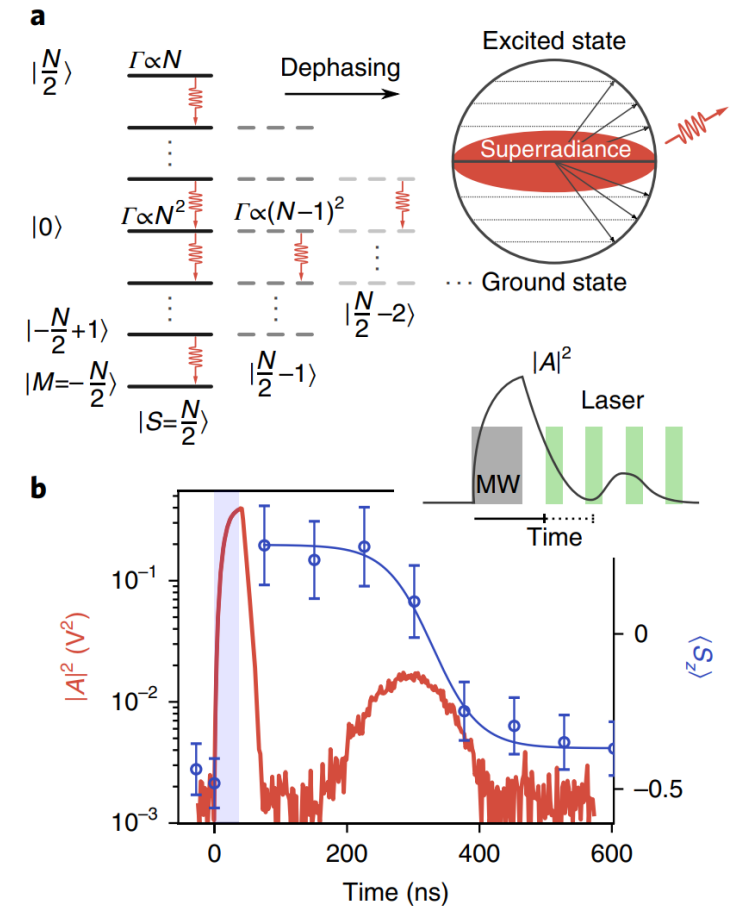


Coherent radiation

$$P_\omega \propto N^2 P_{point}$$

electron beams

oscillating free electron as dipole



atoms, quantum dots, color centers

Superradiant Radiation from Bunched Electrons

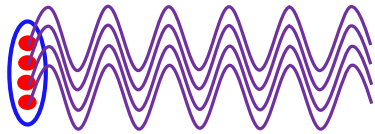
- Coherent THz radiation of e beam depends on the bunch length.

Total radiation power of electron bunch formulated as: $P(\omega) = P_{point}(\omega)[N_e + N_e^2 b^2(\omega)]$

$P_{point}(\omega)$: the radiated power from a single point electron

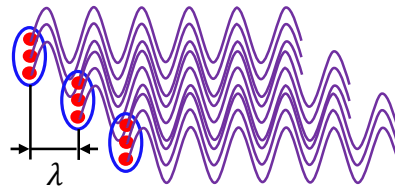
N_e : number of electrons in a bunch, 100pC ($N_e \sim 10^9$)

Bunching factor: $b^2(\omega) = f(\omega) = \left| \int e^{-i\omega z/c} S(z) dz \right|^2$



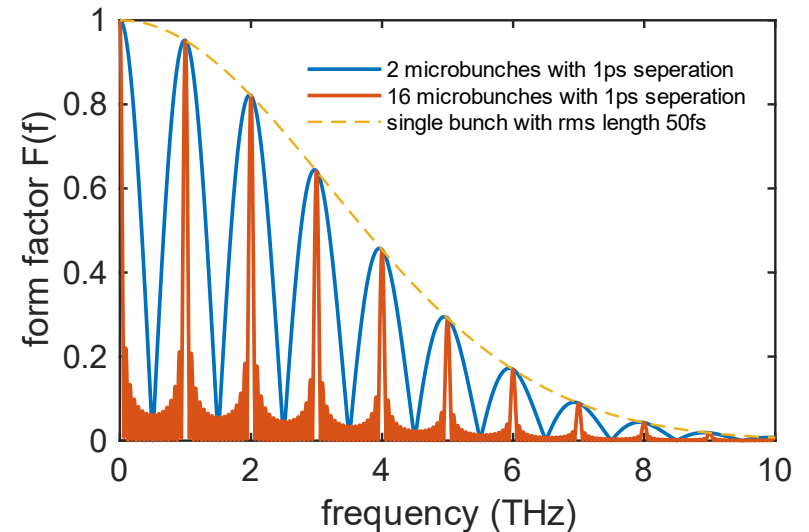
Coherent radiation

$$P_\omega \propto N^2 P_{point}$$



**Coherent radiation
from bunch train**

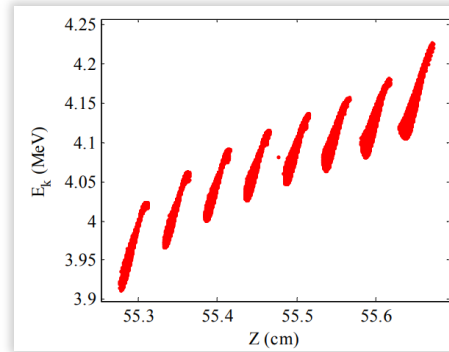
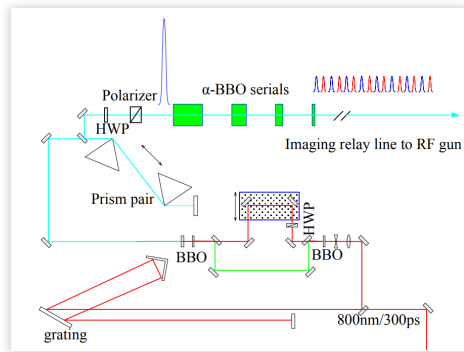
$$P_{\omega_0} \propto (MN)^2 P_{point}(\omega_0)$$



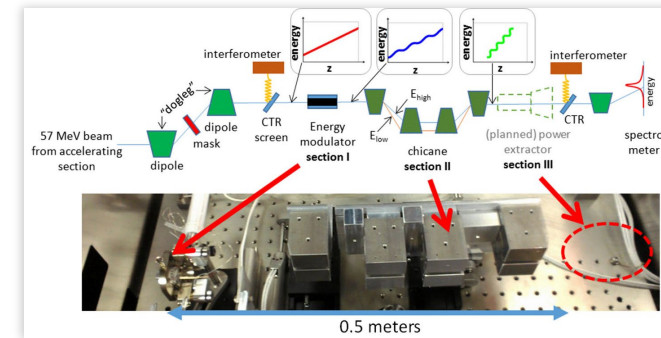
THz Bunch Train Generation: General Principle

■ To generate the density modulation at THz frequency range, we can

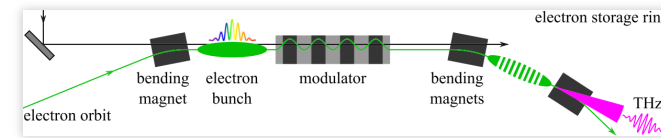
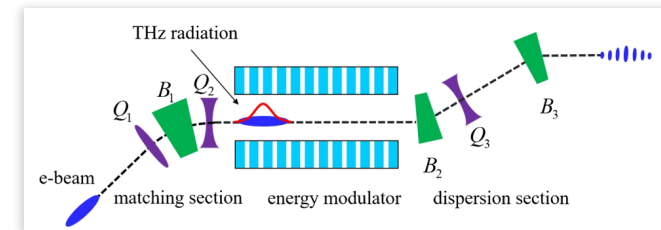
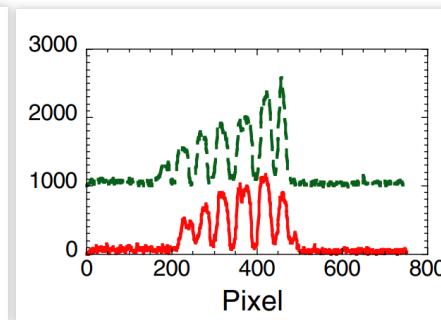
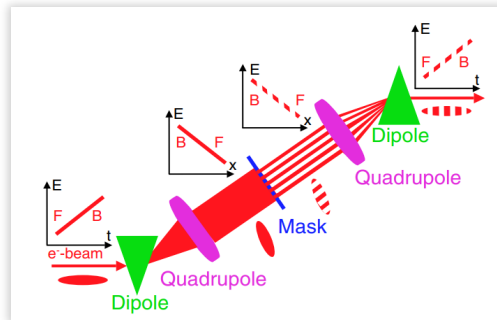
✓ Directly generate bunch train by modulated drive laser



✓ Modulate the energy profile and disperse the electron beam



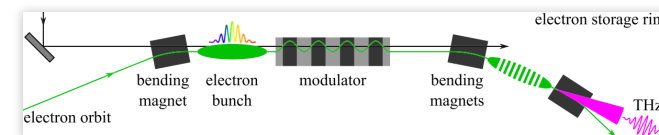
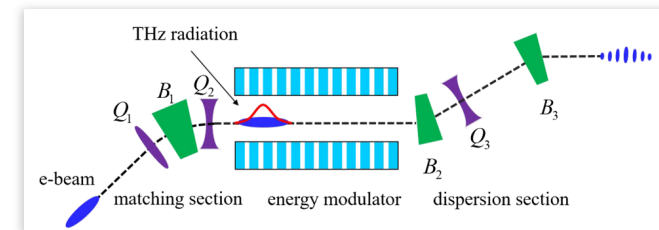
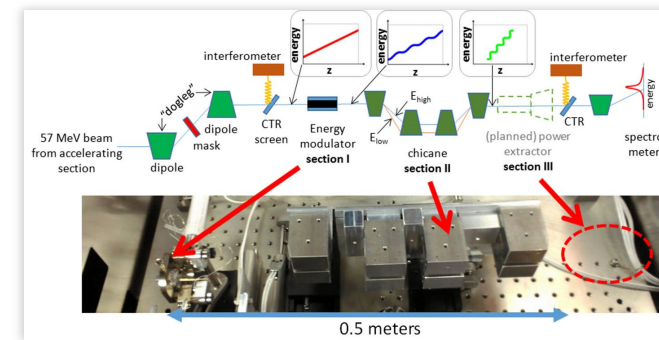
✓ Modulate the longitudinal profile by mask (emittance exchange)



THz Bunch Train Generation: General Principle

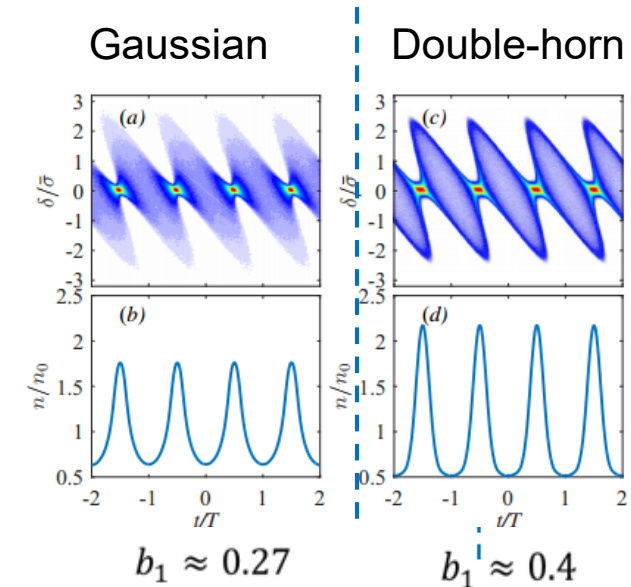
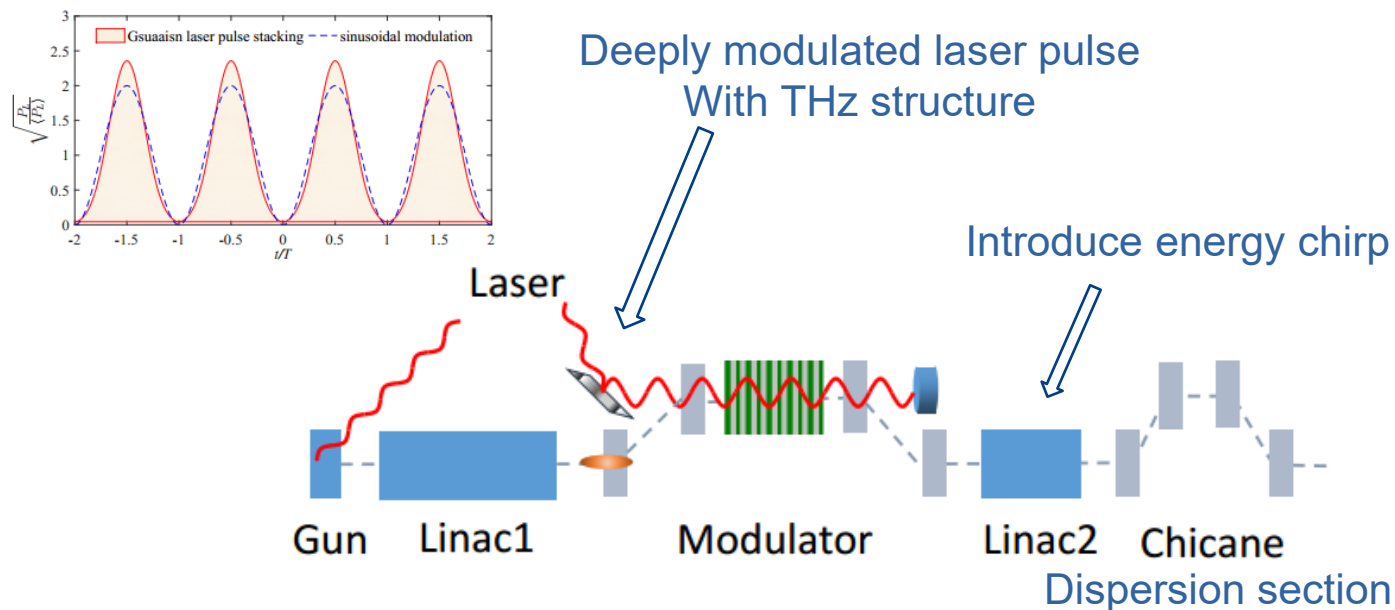
■ To generate the density modulation at THz frequency range, we can

✓ Modulate the energy profile and disperse the electron beam



THz Bunch Train Generation: Laser Modulation

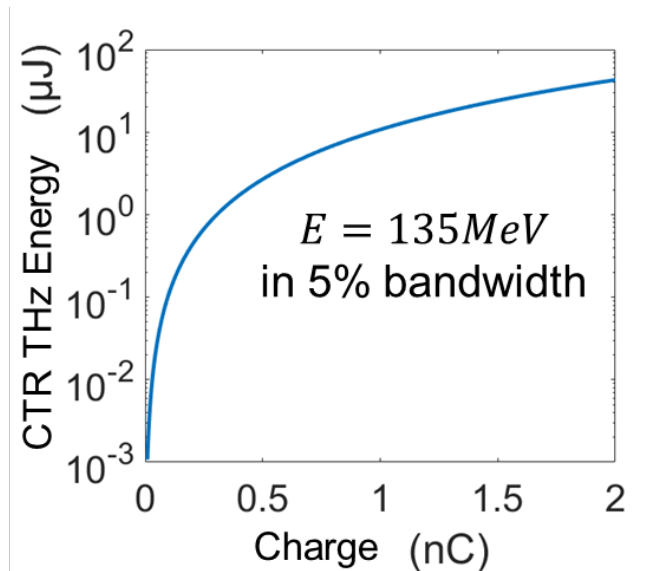
- To breakthrough the limitations of above methods, expanding to cover wider tuning range
- Seeking for new schemes to generate bunch trains with more flexibility.
 - ✓ We proposed a scheme to generate electron bunch train with *wide frequency range* (1~10THz) and *large bunching factor* (~ 0.4), suitable for *large beam charge*.
 - ✓ The method is based on laser-electron interaction to modulate the slice energy spread.



- ✓ The modulation happens after acceleration, so it is suitable for **large beam charge**.

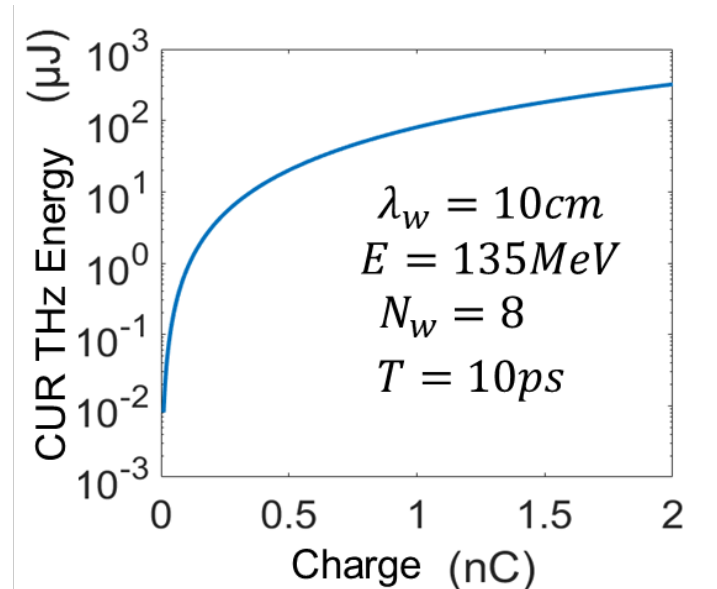
THz Bunch Train Generation: Laser Modulation

- By CTR, CUR, et al, tunable high power THz radiation can be generated. Radiation enhancement is expected by increasing beam charge.
- mJ level narrow band THz radiation energy (hundreds of MW power) with longer undulator.



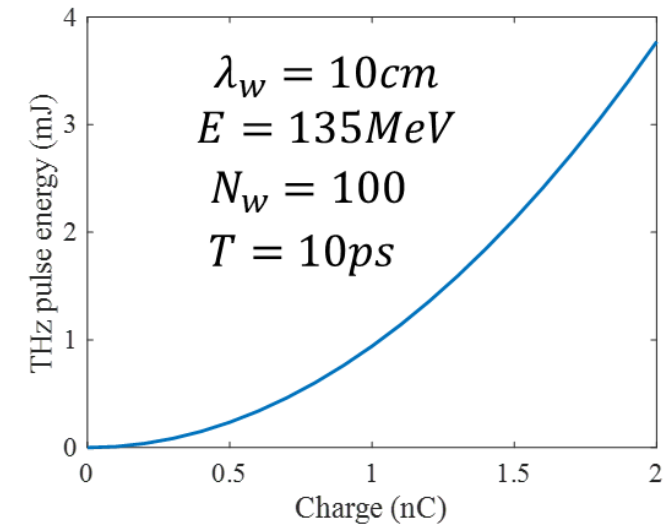
Coherent Transition Radiation

- >10 μJ , 1MW, 2THz@1nC
- >40 μJ , 4MW, 2THz@2nC



Coherent Undulator Radiation

- ~150 μJ , 15MW, 2THz@1nC
- ~600 μJ , 60MW, 2THz@2nC



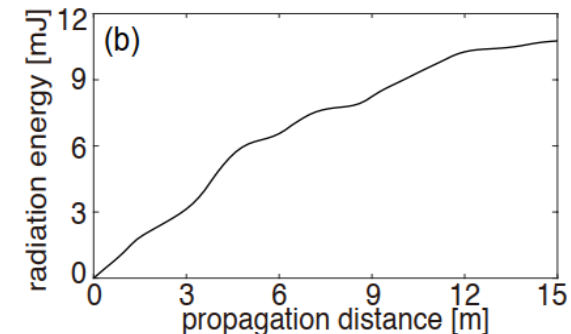
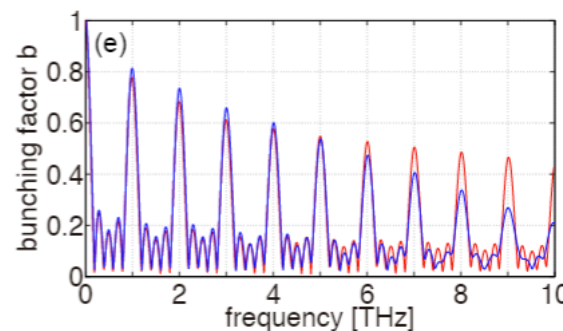
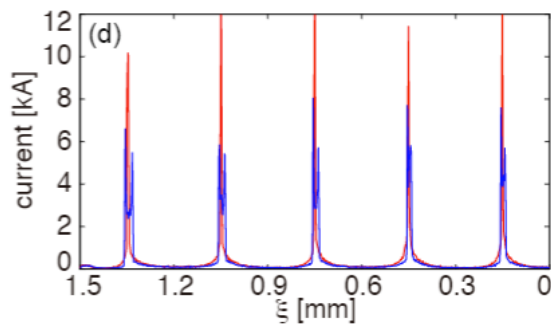
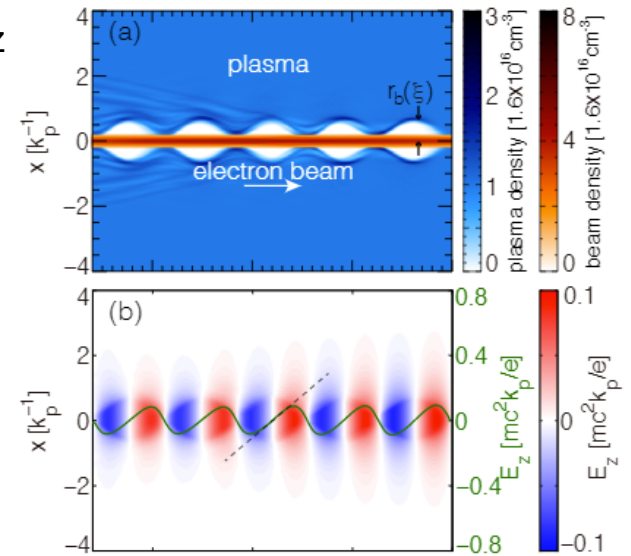
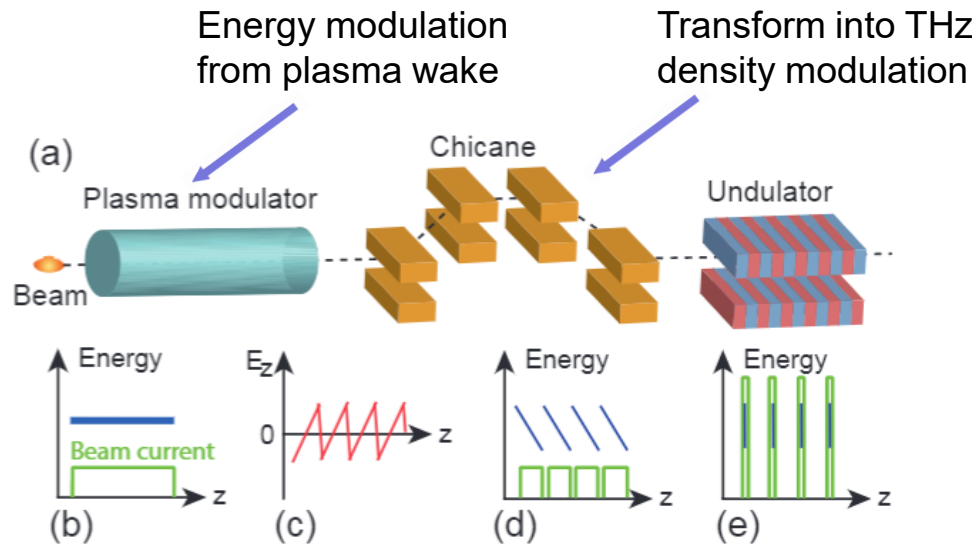
Coherent Undulator Radiation

- ~900 μJ , 90MW@2THz 1nC
- ~3.8 mJ, 380MW@2THz 2nC

THz Bunch Train Generation: Plasma Wake Modulation

- Using nonlinear plasma wake invoked by the e beam ($n_e > n_p$) to generate sawtooth-shape longitudinal energy modulation.
- Then with chicane to transform into density modulation thus form THz bunch train with high bunching factor (up to 0.8). Up to 10mJ THz energy and ~kW level average THz power

Parameter	Value	Units
Beam charge	2.5	nC
Beam energy	135	MeV
Slice energy spread	0.02	MeV
Peak current	0.5	kA
Flat top	5	ps
Normalized emittance	2	mm·mrad

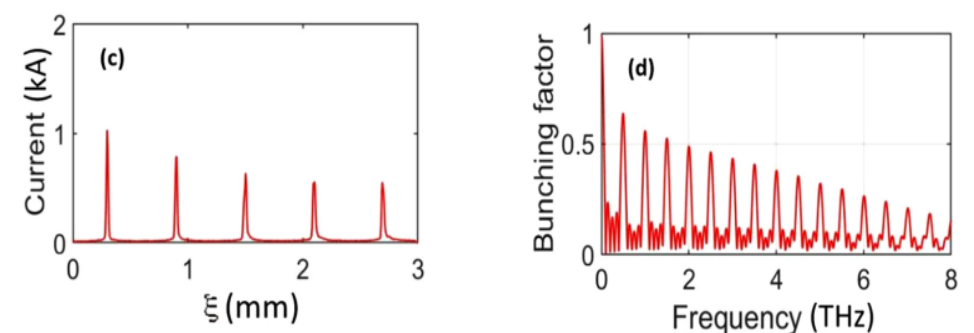
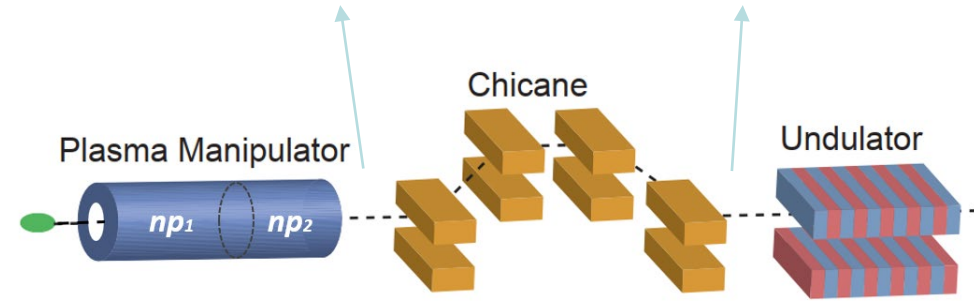
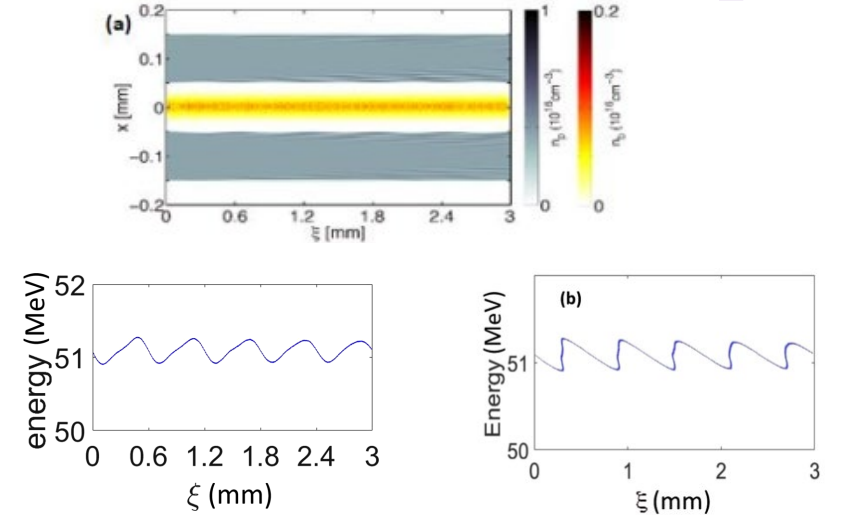
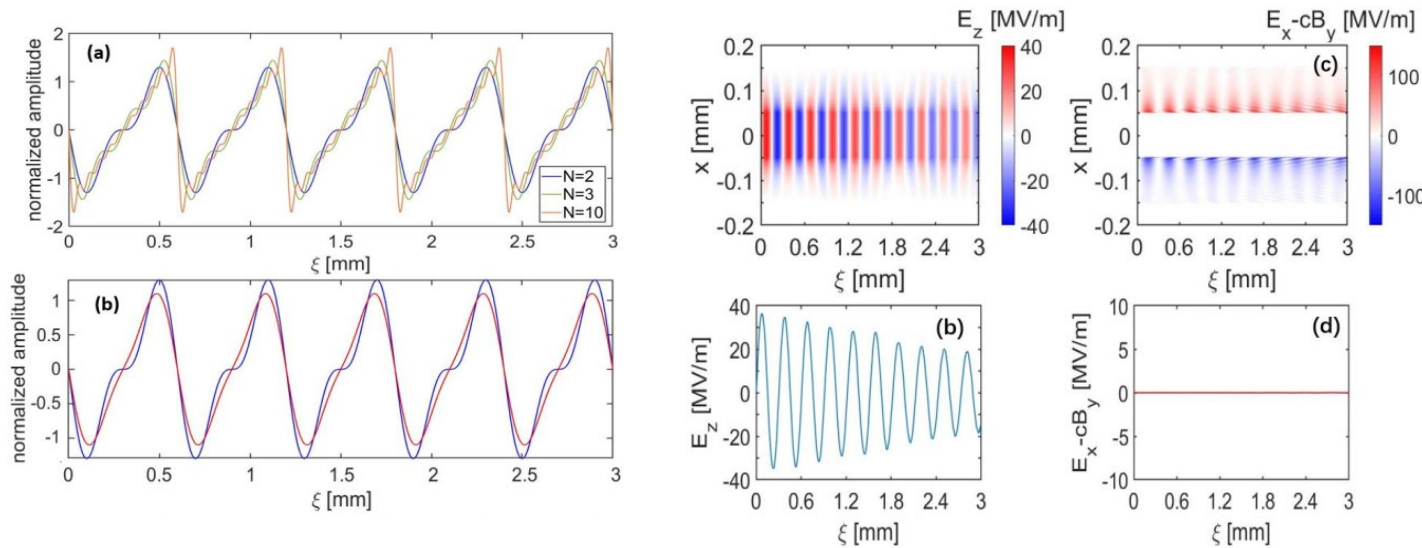


HQ Feng, et al,
PRApplied 15,
044032(2021)

THz Bunch Train Generation: Plasma Wake Modulation

- A scheme of using hollow plasma channel to modulate relatively low charge and low current beam is proposed.
- The combination of multistage hollow channel plasma with a chicane can generate high-quality microbunch trains with a bunching factor 0.7@0.5THz, 0.4@5THz.

SEGMENTED HOLLOW CHANNEL FOR ENERGY MODULATION



THz Bunch Train Generation: Experiments

- Summarize the performance of different methods for bunch train generation:

articles	organization	Beam charge/pC	Tuning range/THz	Bunching factor
<i>PRL 101, 054801 (2008)</i>	BNL	~50	0.7-1.4	
<i>PRL 105, 234801 (2010)</i>	FERMI	~15	0.37-0.86	
<i>PRL 106, 184801 (2011)</i>	UCLA	~22	1.0	~0.2
<i>PRL 107, 204801 (2011)</i>	BNL	~100	0.26-2.6	
<i>PRL 109, 074801 (2012)</i>	SLAC	~40	12-17	~0.02
<i>PRL 108, 144801 (2012)</i> <i>PRL 111, 134802 (2013)</i>	ANL	~100	0.68-0.9	~0.3
<i>PRL 116, 184801 (2016)</i>	THU	~700	0.6~1.6	~0.2
<i>PRL 109, 074801 (2019)</i>	DESY	~1100	0.19-0.3	~0.2
		<i>small</i>	<i>Very limited</i>	<i>small</i>

Nonlinear Space Charge Oscillation for THz Bunch Train

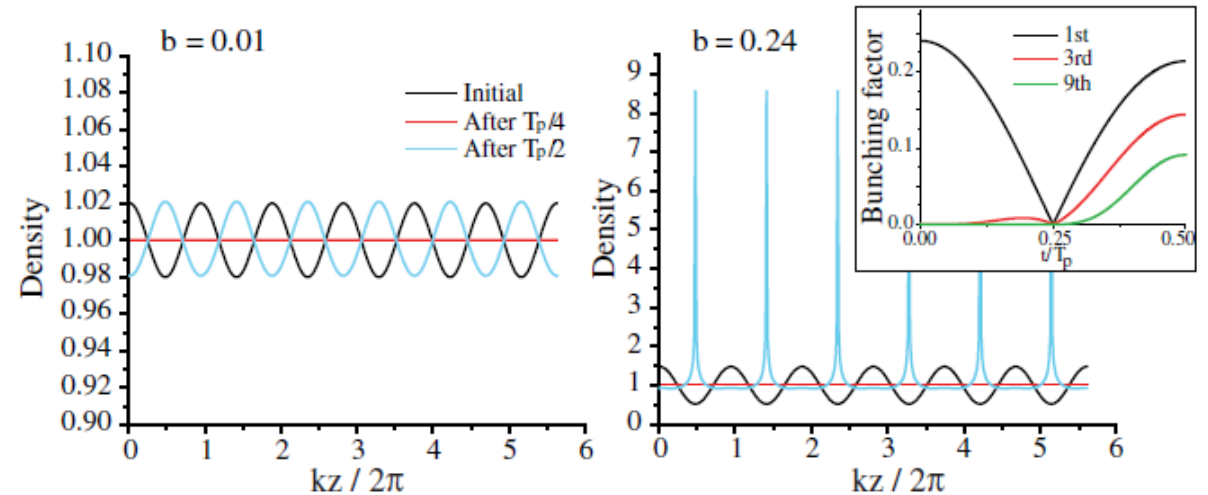
- **Space Charge Oscillation:** for electron beam with small initial density modulation, its density distribution oscillates during the beam transport where it converts into energy modulation after $\frac{1}{4}$ plasma oscillation period and revivals after $\frac{1}{2}$ period.
- **Nonlinear Space Charge Oscillation:** with large initial density modulation, the interference of higher spatial harmonics leads to density spikes.

$$n(z, t) = n_0 \left[1 + \cos(\omega_p t) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m c_m(t) \cos(mkz) \right]$$

$$\eta(z, t) = \frac{\gamma^2 k_p}{k} \sin(\omega_p t) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} c_m(t) \sin(mkz)$$

$$E(z, t) = -\frac{m_0 \omega_p^2}{ek} \cos(\omega_p t) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} c_m(t) \sin(mkz)$$

$$\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{e^2 n_0}{\epsilon_0 m_0 \gamma^3}}, c_m(t) = \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{m} \frac{2}{2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\omega_p t}{2}\right)} J_m\left(4mb \sin^2\left(\frac{\omega_p t}{2}\right)\right)$$

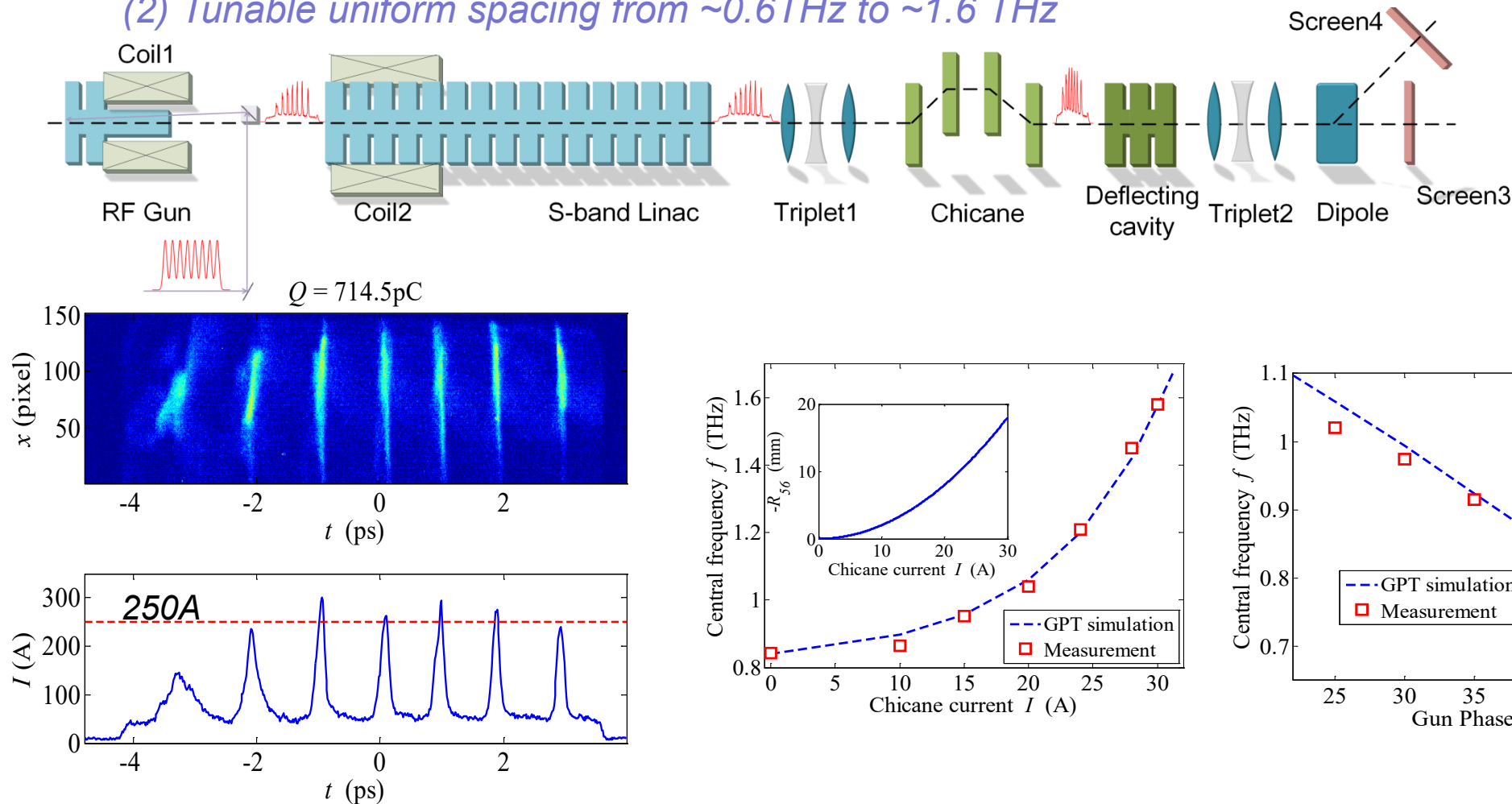


Nonlinear Space Charge Oscillation for THz Bunch Train

- We take advantage of NLSCO to generate multi-bunch trains with:

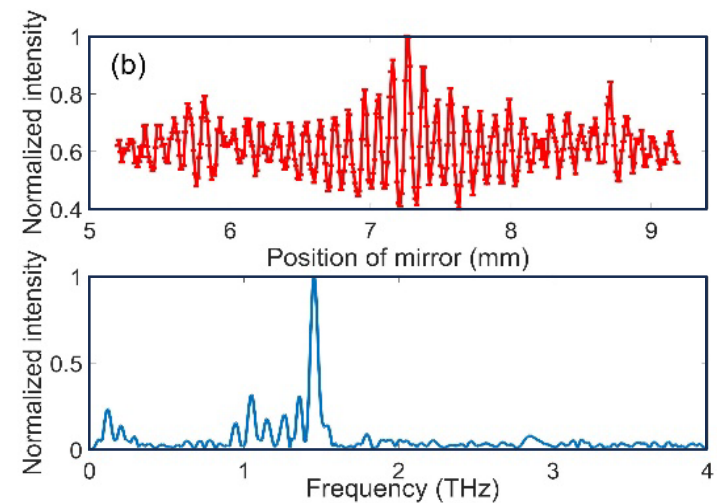
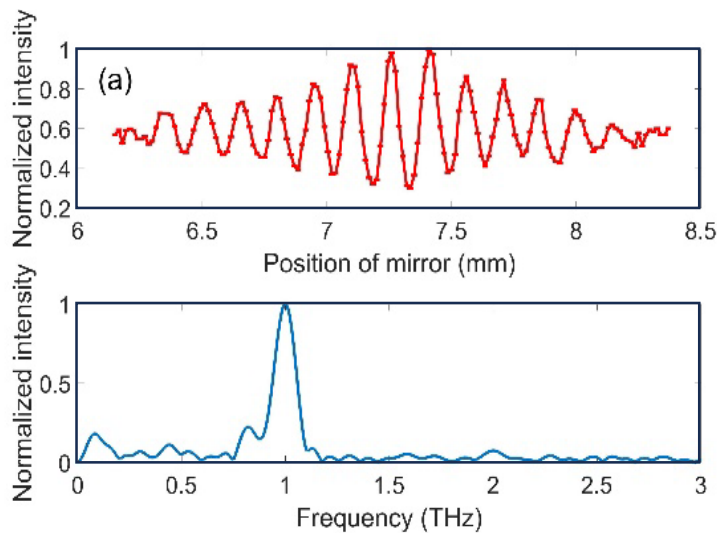
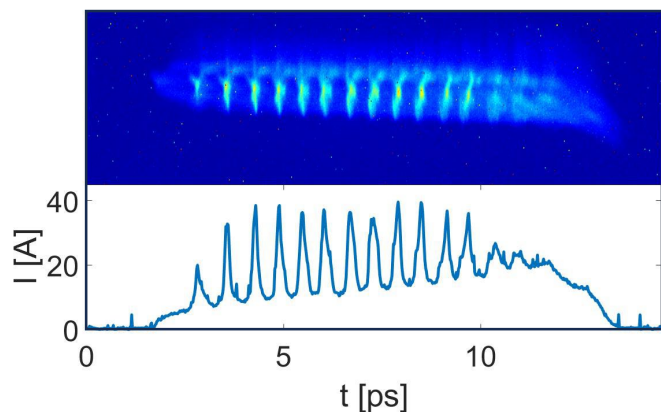
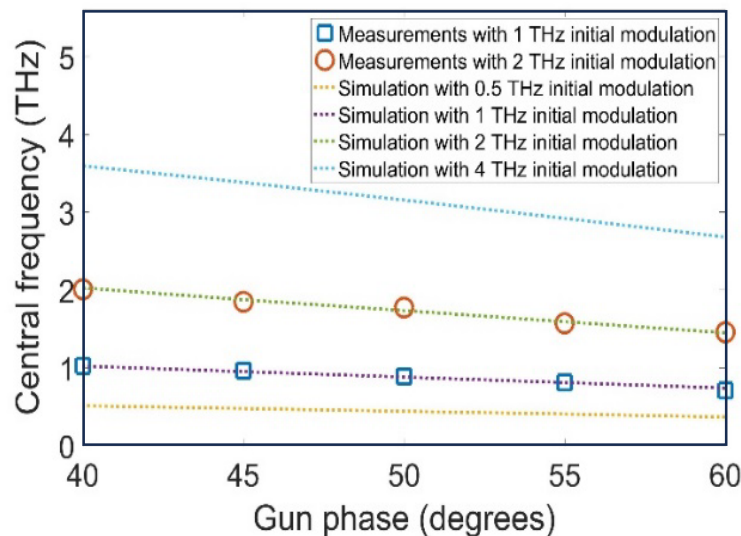
(1) Large charge ($\sim 700\text{pC}$) and high peak current ($\sim 300\text{A}$)

(2) Tunable uniform spacing from $\sim 0.6\text{THz}$ to $\sim 1.6\text{THz}$



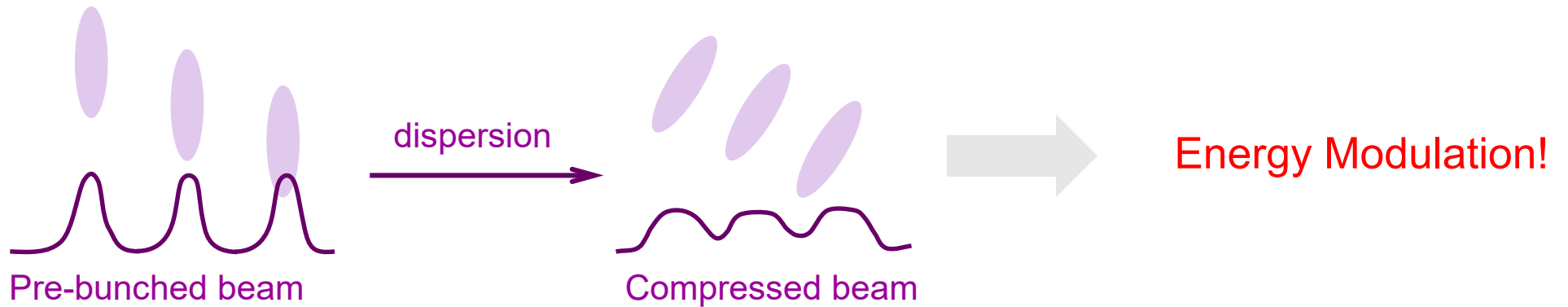
Extending the Tuning Range of NLSCO

- We further optimized the nonlinear space charge oscillation process. The bunching can be tuned between 0.6-2THz.



Nonlinear Space Charge Force for THz Bunch Train

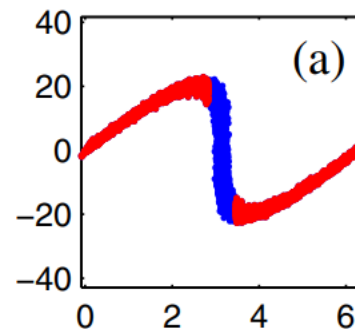
- If a pre-bunched beam is compressed or stretched, its uncorrelated energy spread will result in degradation of bunching:



- For sine energy modulated electron beam, the bunching factor it can achieve at the fundamental frequency after dispersion R_{56} is:

$$b_1 = \underbrace{J_1(k_0 R_{56} A)}_{\text{bunching factor limited by sinusoidal modulation}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} k_0^2 R_{56}^2 \sigma_\delta^2\right)$$

bunching factor limited by sinusoidal modulation



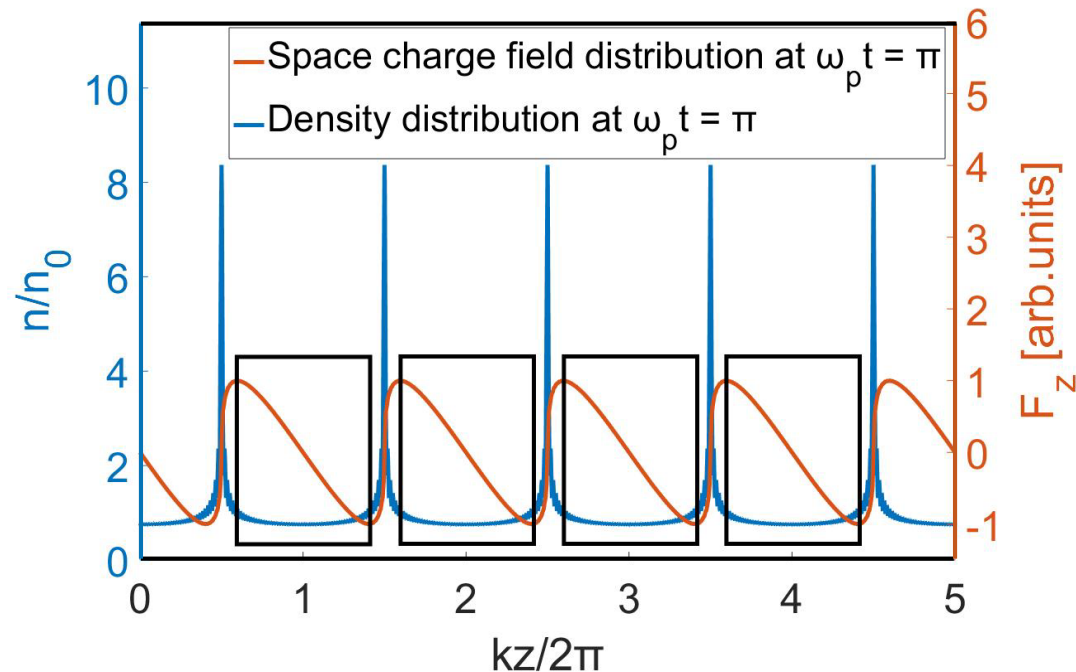
Quasi-linear Modulation!
Ultrashort Micro-bunch!

Nonlinear Space Charge Force for THz Bunch Train

- For NLSCO, after 1/2 plasma oscillation period: $\omega_p t = \pi$

$$n(z, 0) = n_0 \left(1 - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{m+1} J_m(4mb_0) \cos(mkz) \right) \quad \omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{e^2 n_0}{\epsilon_0 m_0 \gamma^3}}$$

$$F_z(z, 0) = \frac{m_e \omega_p^2}{k} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{m+1} \frac{1}{m} J_m(4mb_0) \sin(mkz)$$

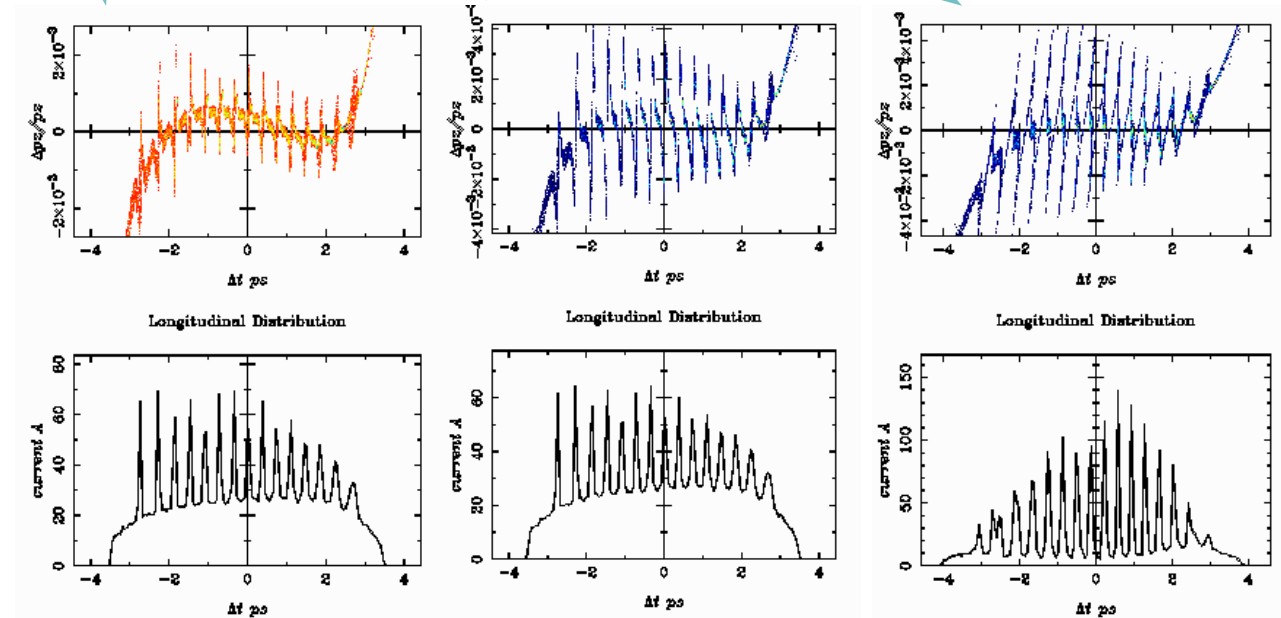
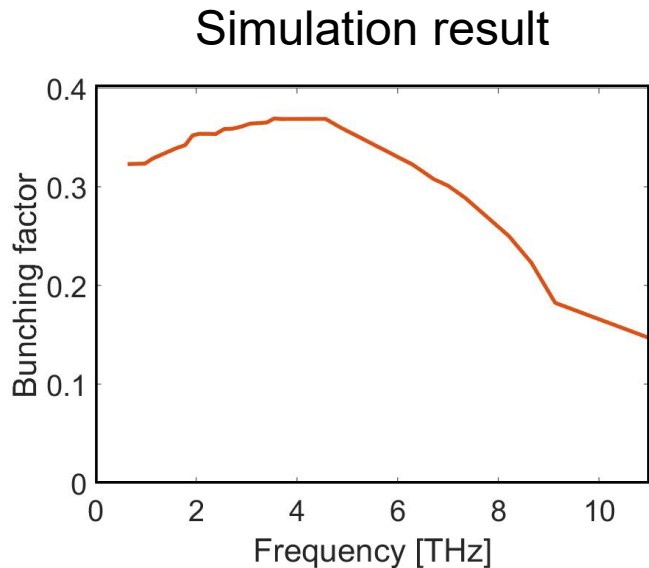
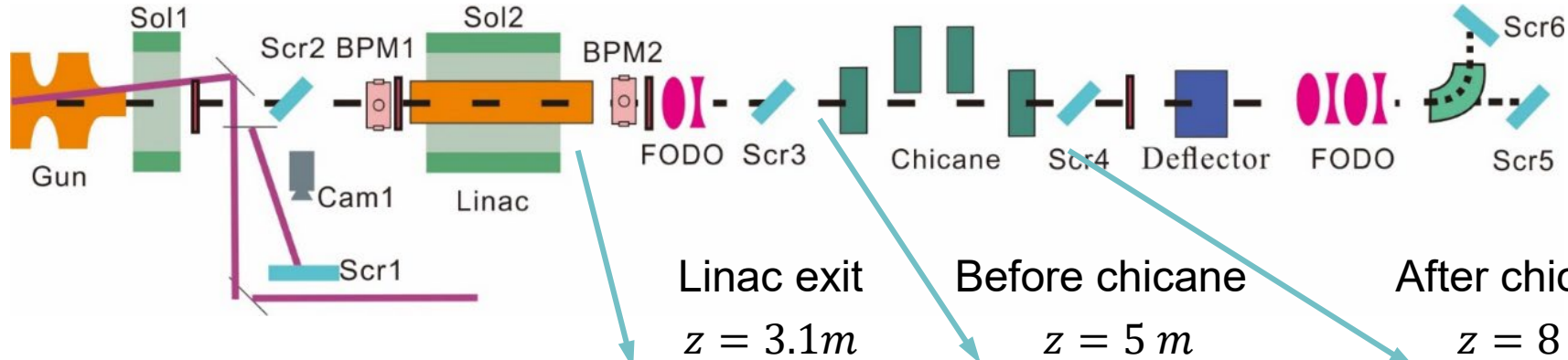


Quasi-linear Modulation
Ultrashort Micro-bunch

- The quasi-linear space charge force will induce linear energy modulation for the beam outside the peak. After dispersion ultrashort THz bunch trains can be generated.

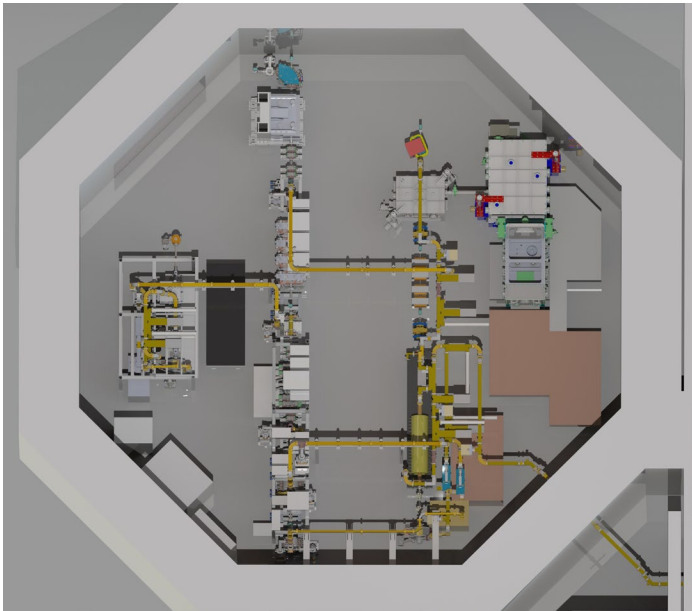
Nonlinear Space Charge Force for THz Bunch Train

- Simulations confirm this idea for tunable THz bunch train generation with large bunching factor covering 1-10THz by controlling space charge force to modulate the beam energy.



THz Beamline @AccLab of Tsinghua

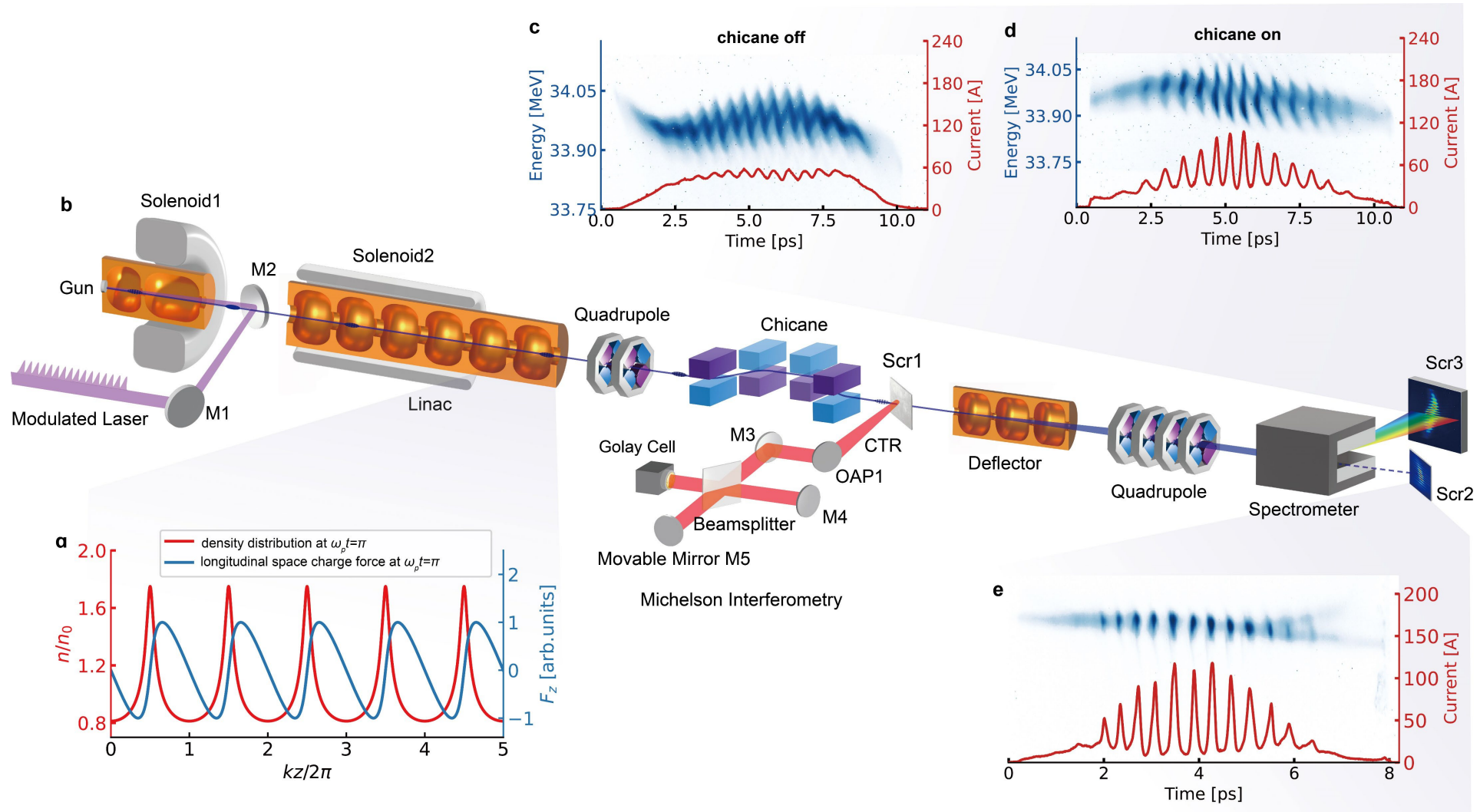
- For novel THz developments and applications, a new beam line has been designed and built up at our lab.
- After commissioning in Aug/2021, PoP experiments on novel THz bunch train generation schemes began.



Parameters	Value
Gradient of electron gun	110MV/m
Bunch charge	0-1000pC
Beam energy at gun exit	5MeV
Beam energy at linac exit	42MeV
Projected energy spread	0.2%
Voltage of deflecting cavity	3MV

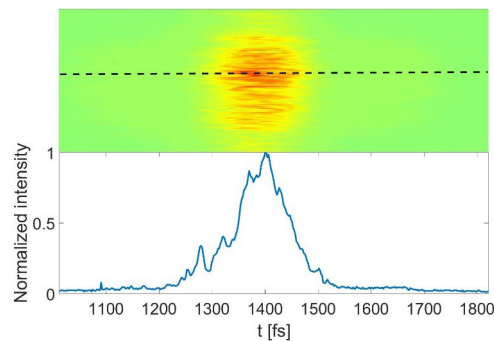
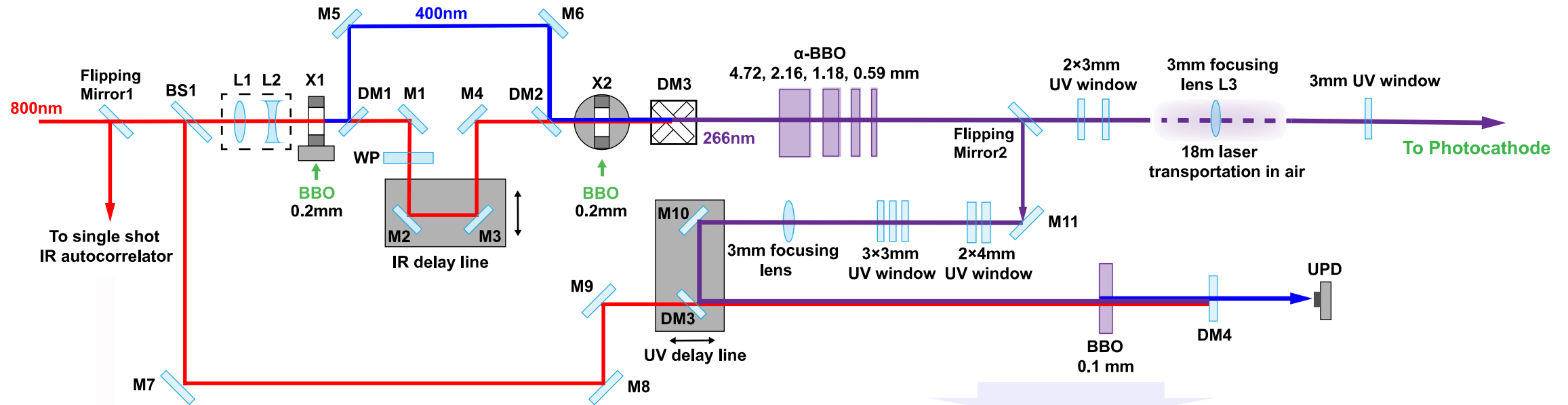
Experimental Demonstration of THz Bunch Train

■ Experimental layout

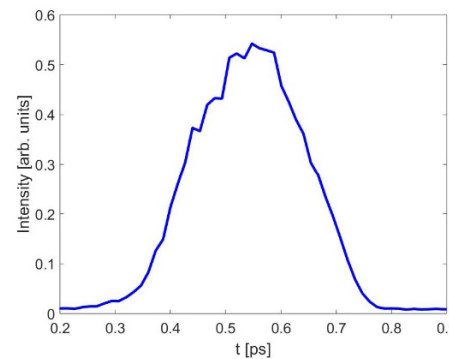


Experimental Demonstration of THz Bunch Train

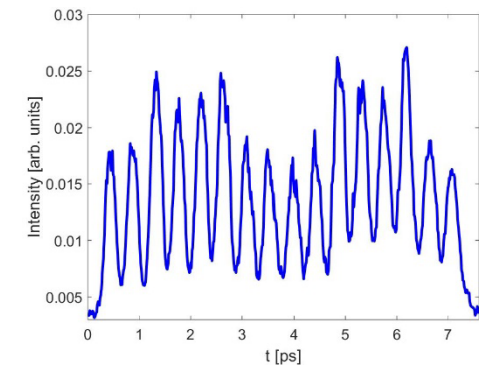
■ Drive laser system and diagnostics



IR laser



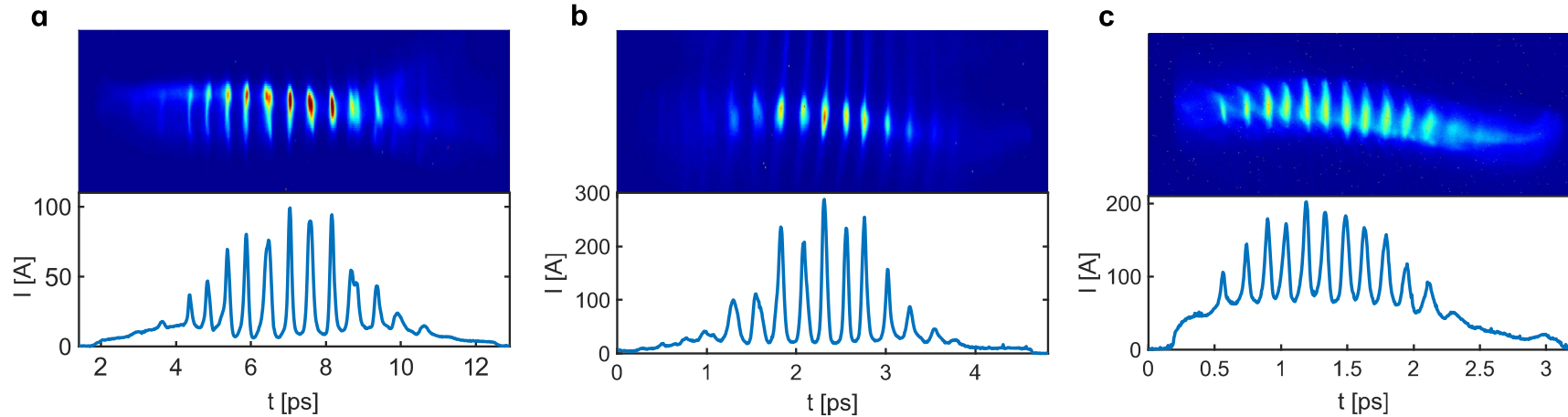
UV Before stacking



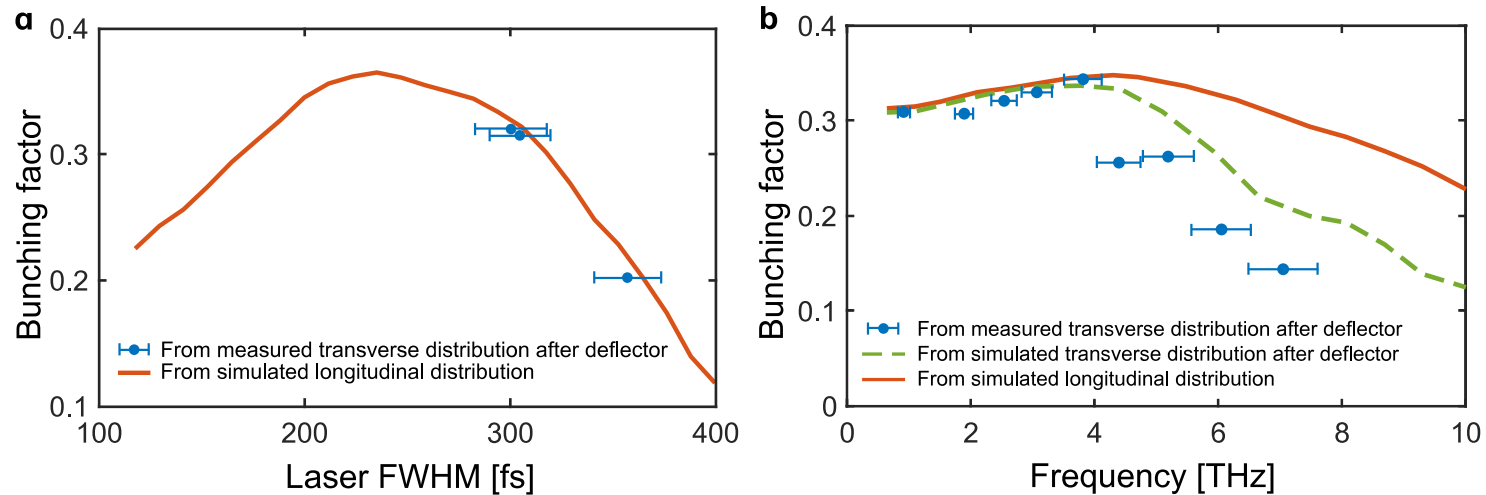
UV After stacking

Experimental Demonstration of THz Bunch Train

Measured longitudinal density distribution and projected density profile of the bunch trains

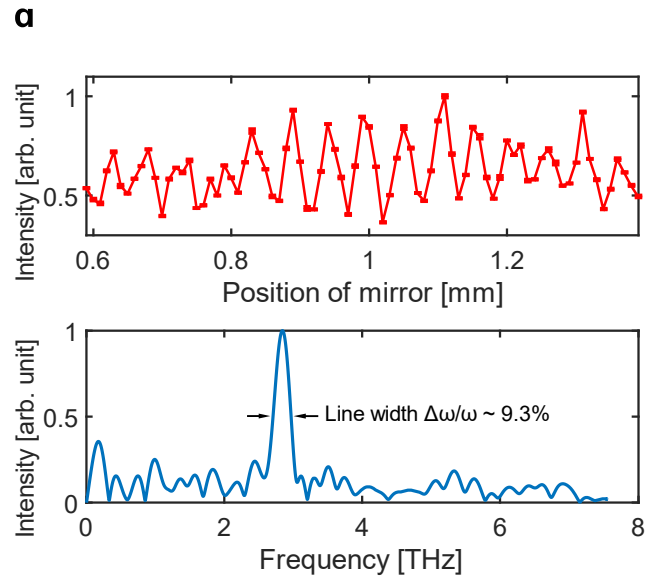


Bunching factor measurements

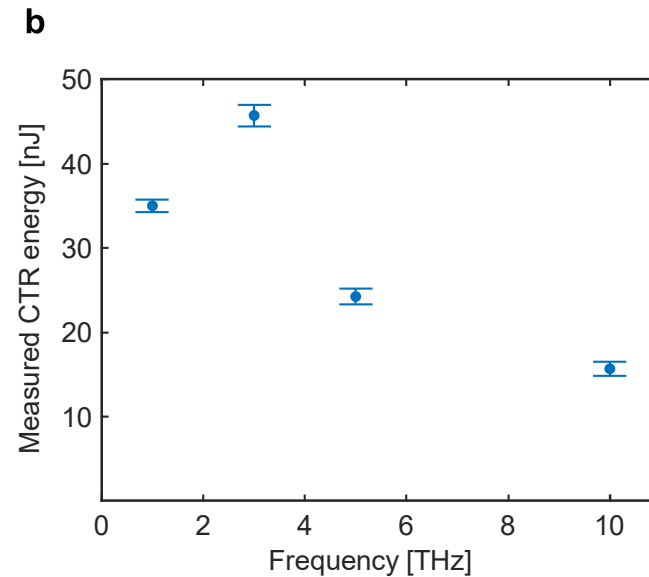


Experimental Demonstration of THz Bunch Train

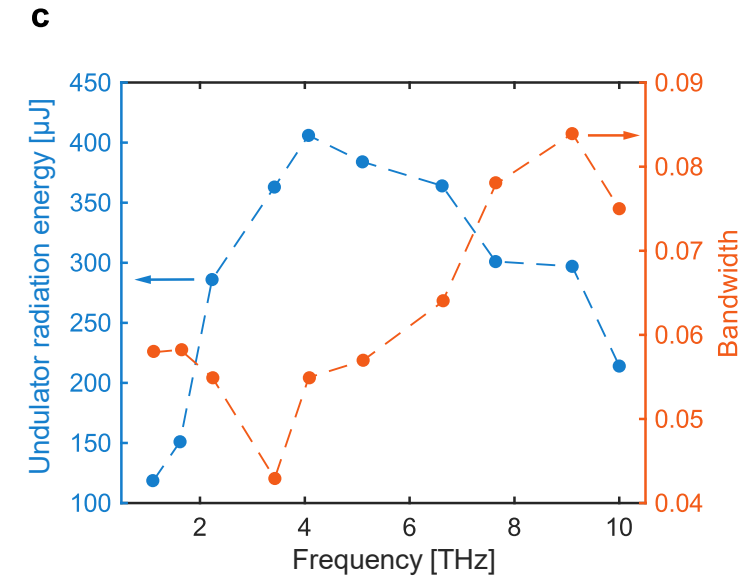
■ Characterization with THz radiation and simulation on THz generation



Autocorrelation measurements (top) and Fourier transform (bottom) (2.84THz)



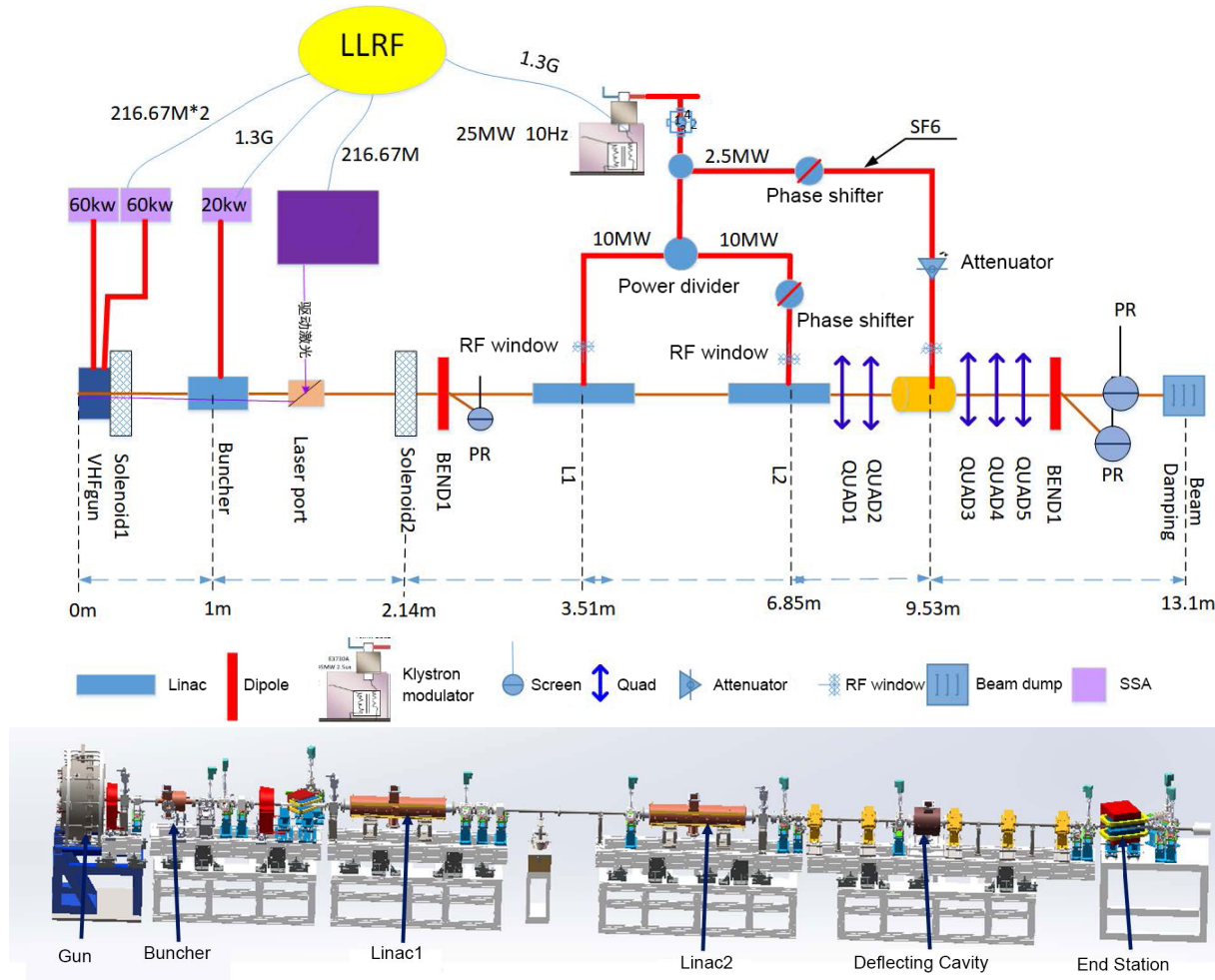
Measurements of the THz energy from the CTR. Four narrow-bandpass filters (1, 2.8, 5.1, 9.8 THz) were inserted before the Golay cell



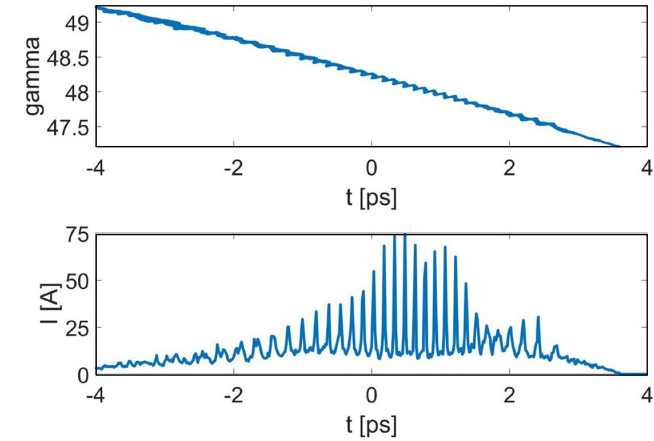
Simulation results of superradiant undulator radiation (1nC beam with 30 undulator periods)

Extending to Higher Repetition Rate

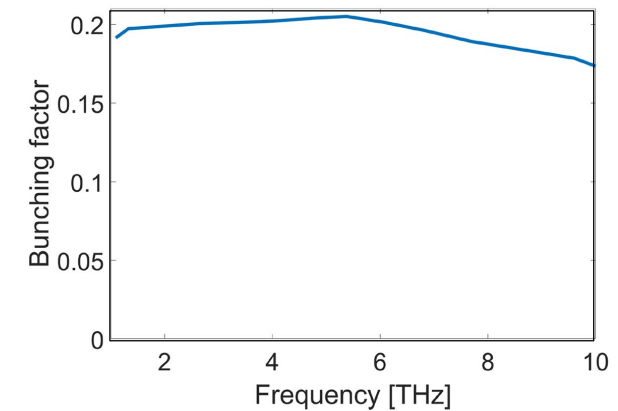
High average power THz generation with VHF gun



Longitudinal phase space @chicane exit



Bunching factor vs Frequency



Concluding Remarks

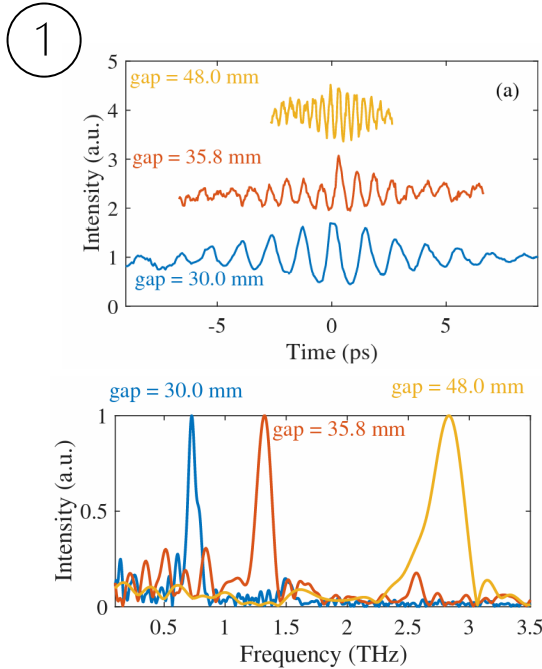
- The experimental parameters of bunch trains are:

Parameter	Value	Unit
Beam charge	200	pC
Beam energy	27-34	MeV
Bunching tunability	1-10	THz
Measured bunching factor	0.15-0.35	
Measured CTR bandwidth	9.3%	

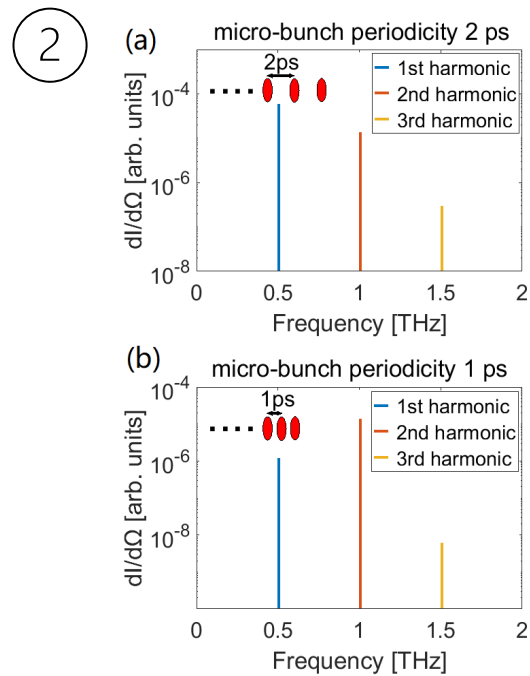
- First experimental demonstration of widely tunable THz source that can cover 1-10 THz. Compared to FEL oscillators, the setup does not need complicated design.
- The proposed scheme can be combined with high repetition rate beamline or burst mode beamline. Further extension to THz FEL oscillators is currently under investigation.

Concluding Remarks

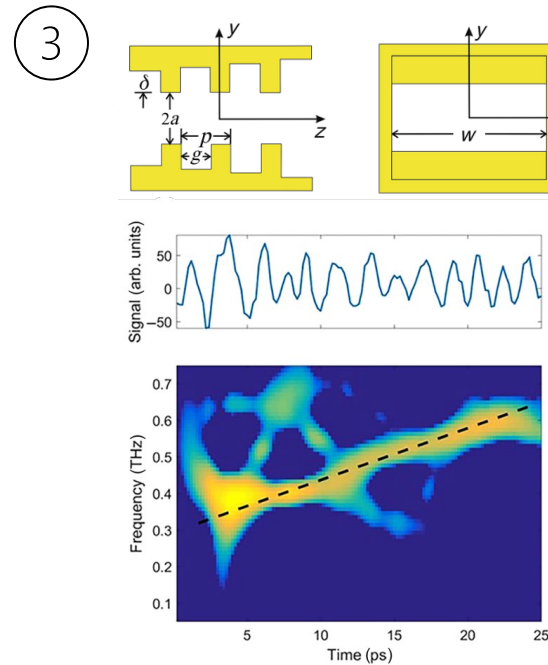
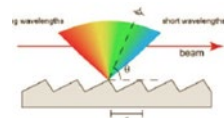
- What can we expect from these electron bunch trains?
High power THz radiation with tailored properties.



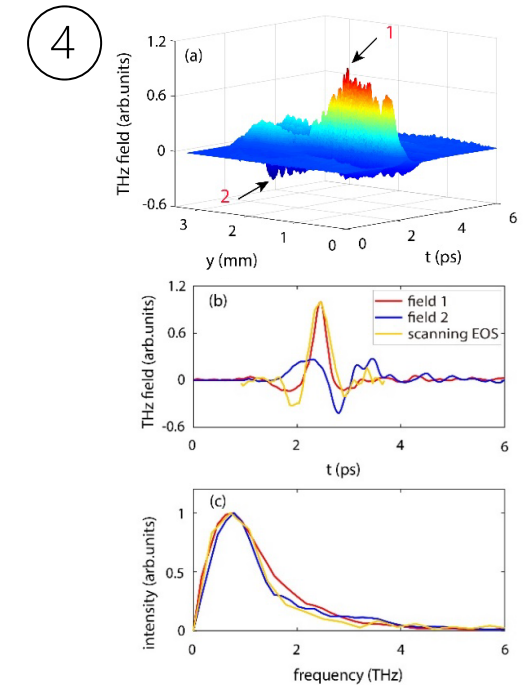
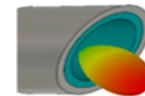
Superradiant undulator radiation¹



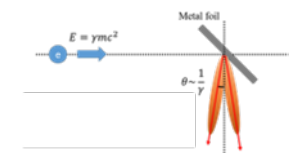
Smith-Purcell radiation²,
Selective mode excitation³



Wakefield radiation⁴,
Chirp control⁵



Transition radiation⁶



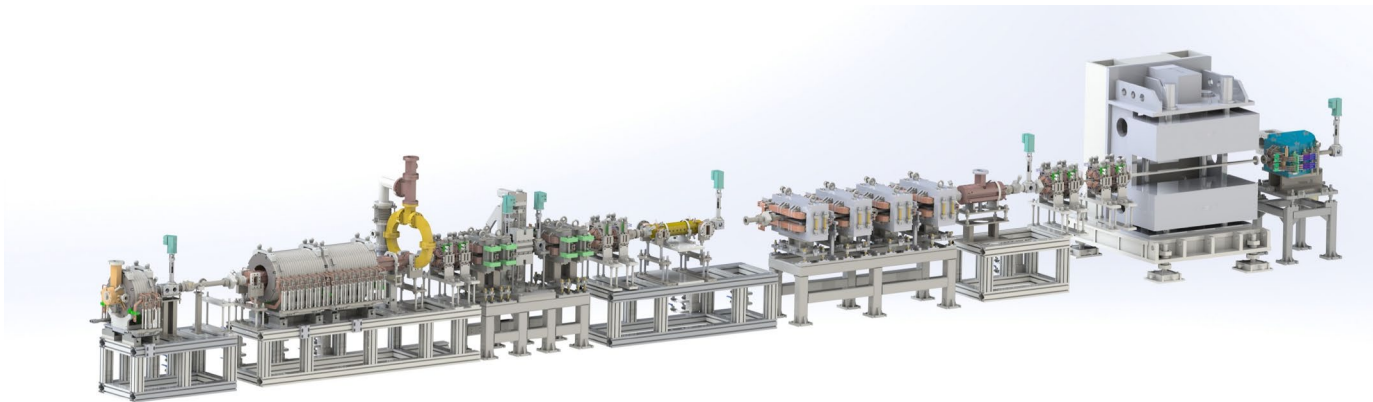
¹XL Su, et al, Rev. Sci. Instrum. 89, 013304(2018)
²YF Liang et al., APL 112, 053501 (2018).

³YF Liang et al., APL, 113, 171104(2018)
⁴D. Wang, et al., RSI,89, 093301 (2018)

⁵YF Liang et al. Physical Review Applied, 2023, 19(5): 054085.
⁶QL Tian, LX Yan, et al, PRAB, 23, 102802(2020)

Summary & Outlook

- Several new schemes to generate THz bunch trains with large bunching factor have been proposed, from which tunable narrow band high power THz can be hopefully developed.
- The PoP exp on generation of THz electron bunch train tunable between 1-10THz with bunching factor up to 0.35 by controlling NLSC forces has been demonstrated, which marks a significant advance in the development of narrow-band THz sources.
- A compact beamline devoted to novel high power coherent THz has been built. After the installation of THz undulator, it can be expected to be a powerful tool for broad scientific and industrial applications.



Acknowledgement

- Colleagues and students:

Yingchao Du, Renkai Li, Wenhui Huang, Chuanxiang Tang
Yifan Liang, Qili Tian, Zhuoyuan Liu, Hanqi Feng, Tong
Li.....

- Collaborators: Haixiao Deng, Zhirong Huang, Sergey Antipov

- **Thanks for support from NSFC: Grant No. 11835004**

Q&A