

Gyrotrons from magnetic fusion to THz applications

S. Alberti

Centre de Recherche en Physique des Plasmas, EPFL,
Station 13, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Acknowledgements

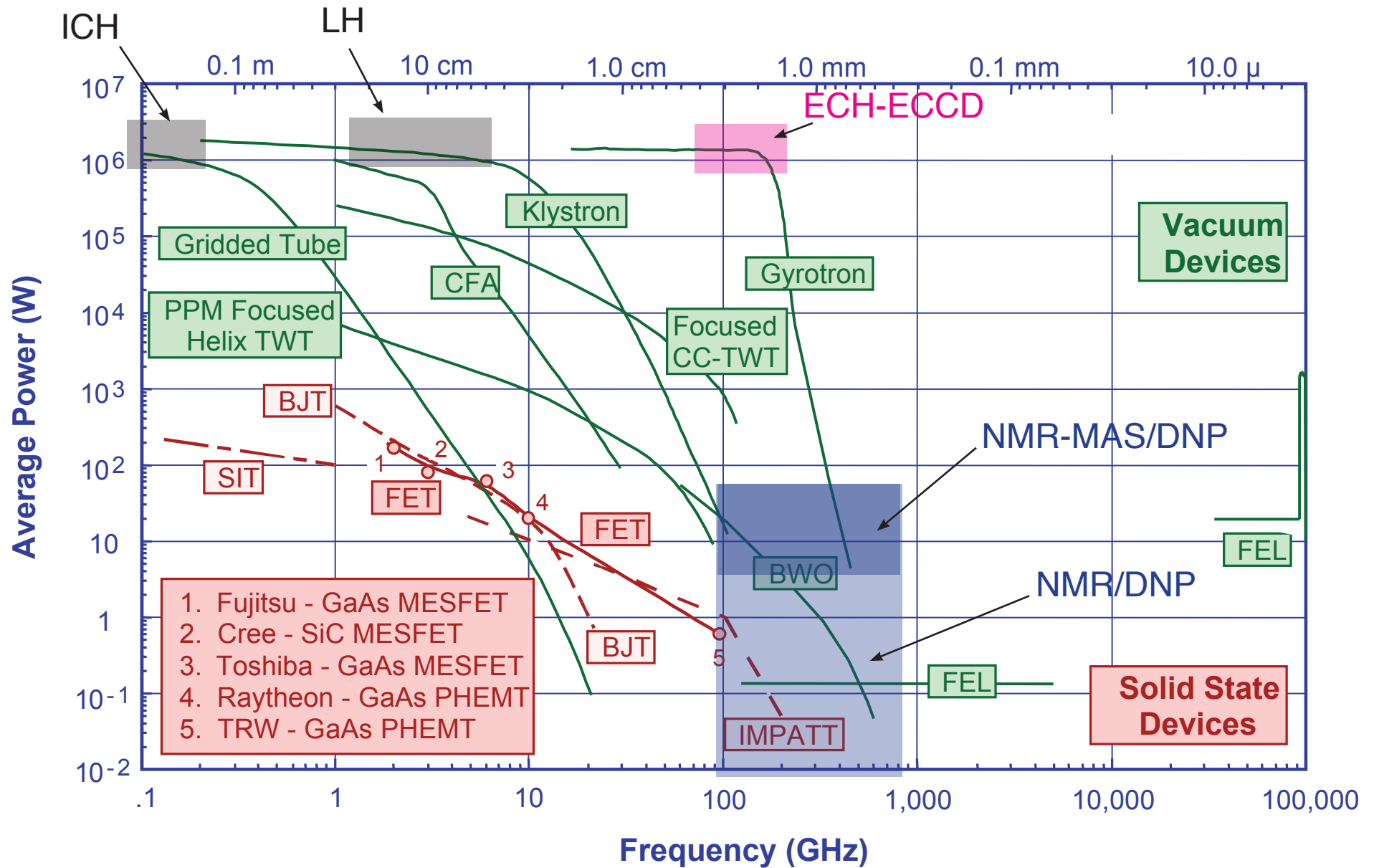
- The material presented in this course is the result of a longstanding collaborative effort within the European gyrotron development activity which includes a variety of European research institutes (CRPP, EPFL, KIT, HELLAS, CEA, TEKES), Swiss and European agencies (SNSF, EFDA, F4E) and an industrial partner (THALES Electron Devices).



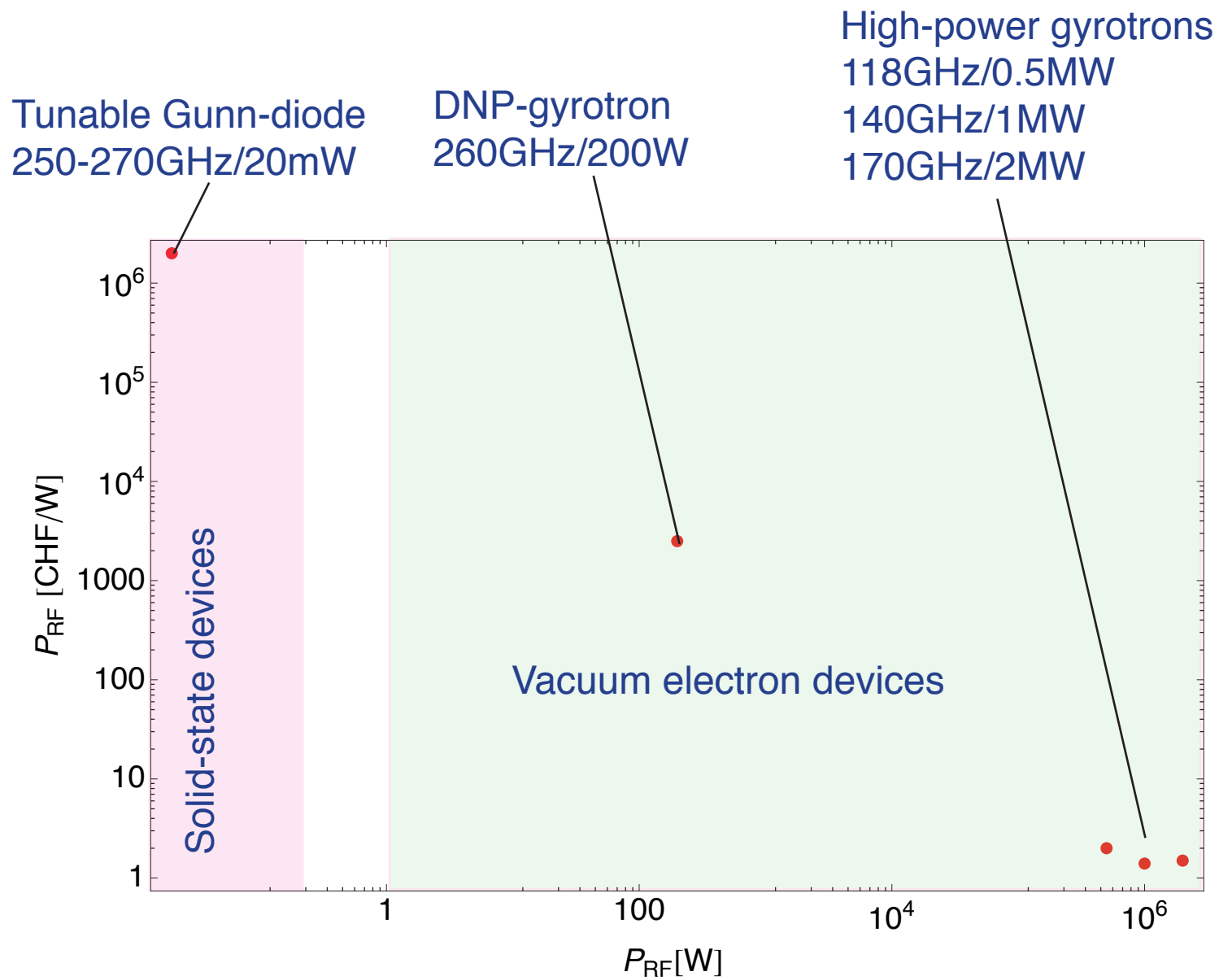
OUTLINE

- Gyrotron as a coherent THz source based on electron beams
- Electron Cyclotron Maser, basic concepts
- Gyrotron modeling capabilities
- Layout of DNP/NMR experiment
- Experimental results of frequency-tunable gyrotron
- From linear to chaotic regimes
- Future prospects
- Conclusions

Gyrotron among mm-wave sources



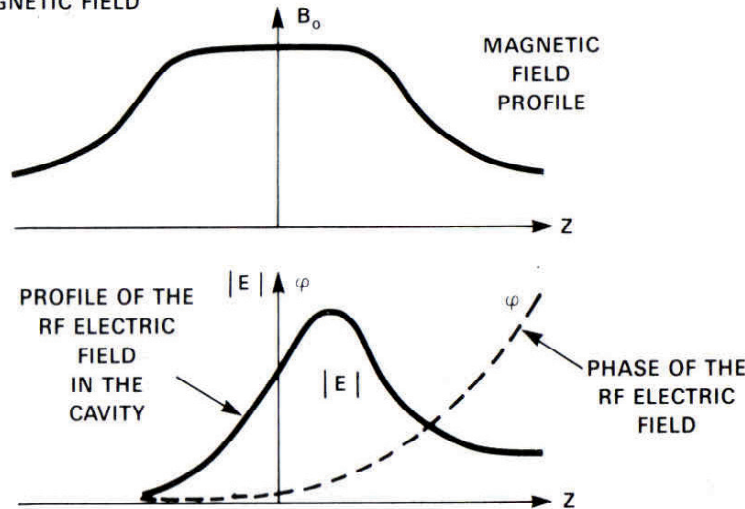
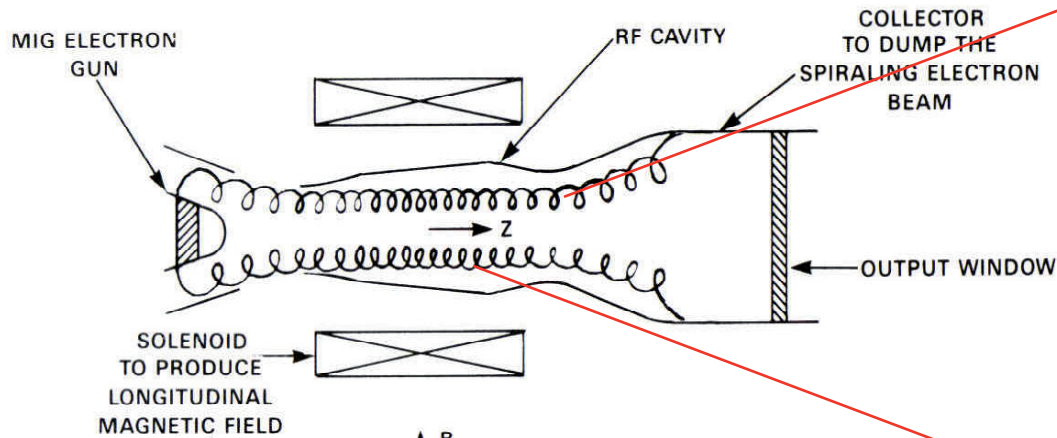
THz CW/RF source: cost per unit power



Worldwide R&D of «commercial» gyrotrons

	Fusion	DNP-NMR
Europe	EGYC/F4E/THALES	CRPP/EPFL/THALES
Russia	IAP/GYCOM	IAP/GYCOM
US	CPI/MIT	CPI/MIT
Japan	Toshiba/Jaeri	Fukui University

The Gyrotron: Cyclotron Resonance Maser (CRM)



- **Magnetized weakly-relativistic electron beam** (non-neutral plasma)

- **Electron cyclotron frequency:**

$$\Omega_c = -eB_0/m_0\gamma_0; \quad \gamma_0 = 1 + E_0/m_0c^2$$

- **Electron-beam** distribution function

$$f_0(p_\perp, p_\parallel) = \frac{1}{2\pi p_{\perp 0}} \delta(p_\perp - p_{\perp 0}) \delta(p_\parallel - p_{\parallel 0})$$

f_0 is CRM unstable

- EM cavity resonant at frequency ω_{THz}

- **Resonance condition:**

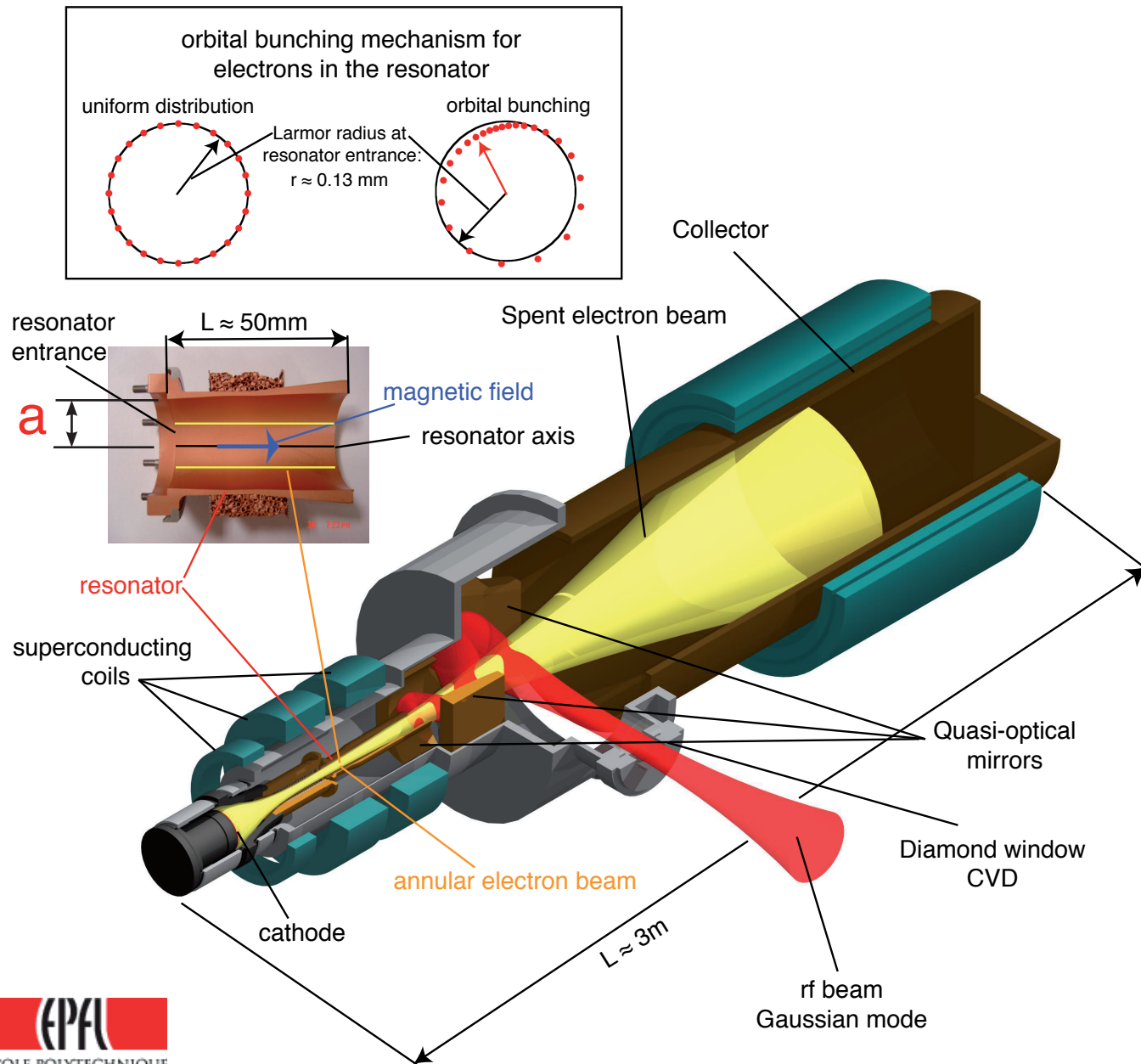
$$s \Omega_c \approx \omega_{\text{THz}}$$

(s, harmonic number)

$$f_{\text{THz}} = s / \gamma_0 B \text{ 28GHz/T } (\gamma_0 = 1.02-1.04) \\ (E_0 = 10-20 \text{ keV})$$

- Kinetic rotational (perpendicular) energy efficiently converted into EM waves (max $\eta_{\text{perp}} = P_{\text{EM}}/P_{\text{rot}} = 70\%$)

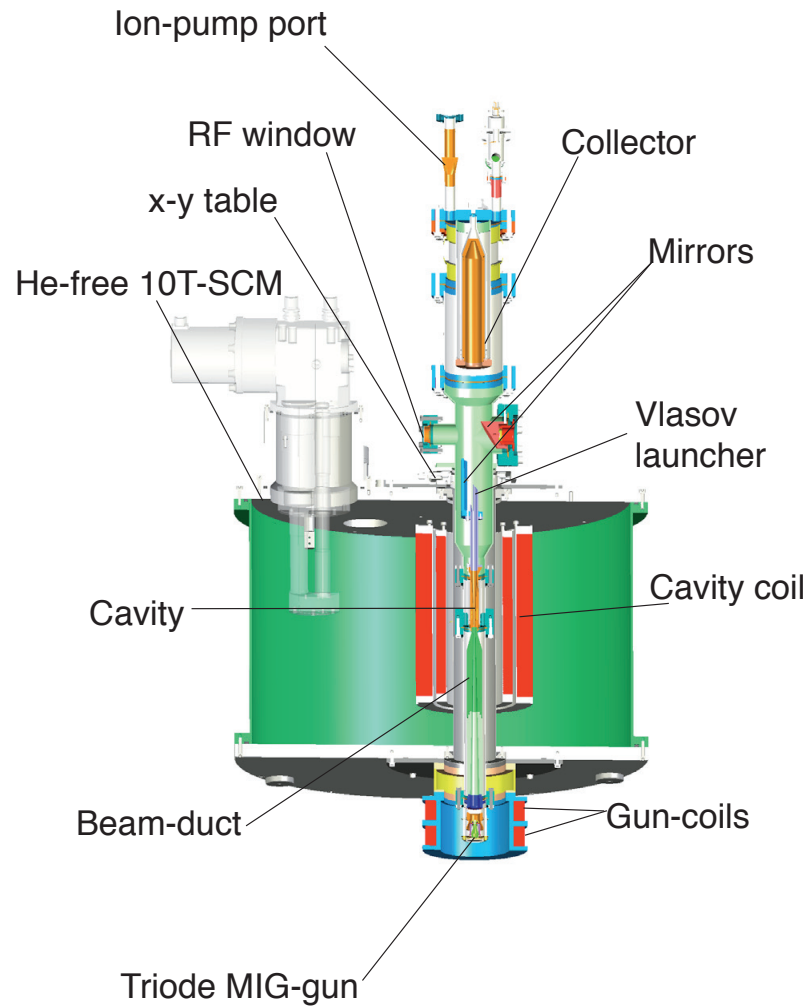
Gyrotron for magnetic fusion application: $a/\lambda \approx 10-15$



2MW 170GHz Coaxial Gyrotron



Gyrotron for DNP/NMR application: $a/\lambda \approx 2-3$



Gyrotron: wave-particle interaction

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{E}_0 \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - i\omega t)$$

EM wave: plane wave approximation
valid in free space

(in a gyrotron cavity $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ has to satisfy boundary conditions \rightarrow eigenmodes, TE (TM) modes)

$$x_{\parallel} = v_{\parallel} t + x_0$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{\perp} = \text{Re}[r_L(\mathbf{e}_x + i\mathbf{e}_y) \exp[i(\Omega_c t + \phi_0)]]$$

electron: unperturbed trajectory

electron-wave interaction

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = -e\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{e}{2} \text{Re} \sum_{s=-\infty}^{s=+\infty} \{ [(v_{\perp}(J_{s-1}(\chi)E_{(+)} + J_{s+1}(\chi)E_{(-)}) + v_{\parallel}J_s(\chi)E_{\parallel})] \exp\{i[\psi(t)]\}$$

Circularly polarized component co-rotating with electrons

$$\chi = k_{\perp} r_L$$

resonant interaction if $\psi(t) \sim \text{constant}$:

$$\psi(t) = \psi_0 + \omega t - k_{\parallel} v_{\parallel} t - s\Omega_c t$$

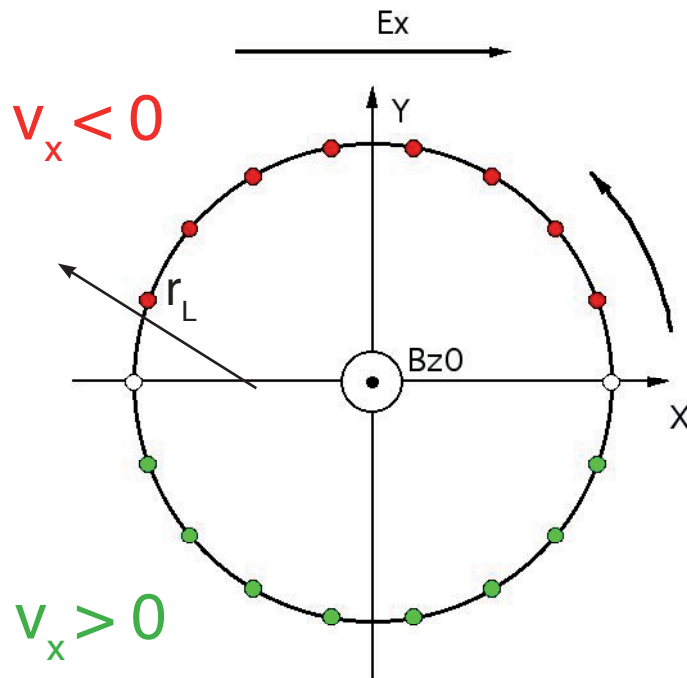
$$\omega = k_{\parallel} v_{\parallel} + s\Omega_c$$

Negative mass instability

Fast-wave device: phase velocity: $\omega/k_{\parallel} > c$

- CRM mechanism: $k_{\parallel} \approx 0$
Cyclotron frequency depends on energy

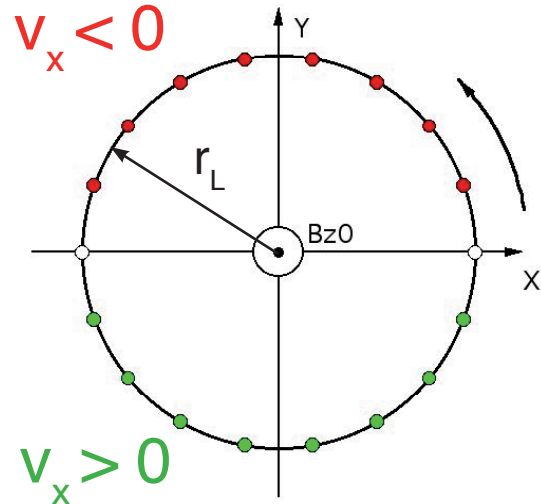
$$\Omega_c = \frac{eB_{z0}}{\gamma m_0} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{if } \gamma \uparrow \Rightarrow \Omega_c \downarrow \\ \text{if } \gamma \downarrow \Rightarrow \Omega_c \uparrow \end{cases}$$



Take an electron set and make 'snapshots' at every wave period

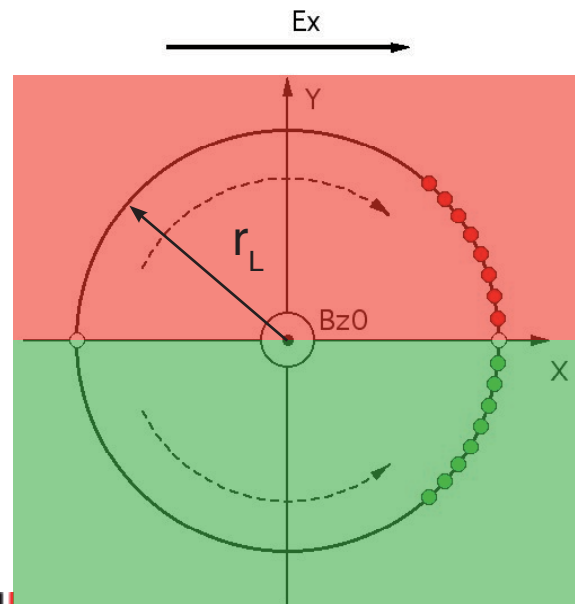
$$\tau_i = i \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$

Negative mass instability



Case A: $E_x = 0, \omega = \Omega_c$
Nothing happens

$$dW/dt = -e v_x E_x$$



Case B: $E_x > 0, \omega = \Omega_c$

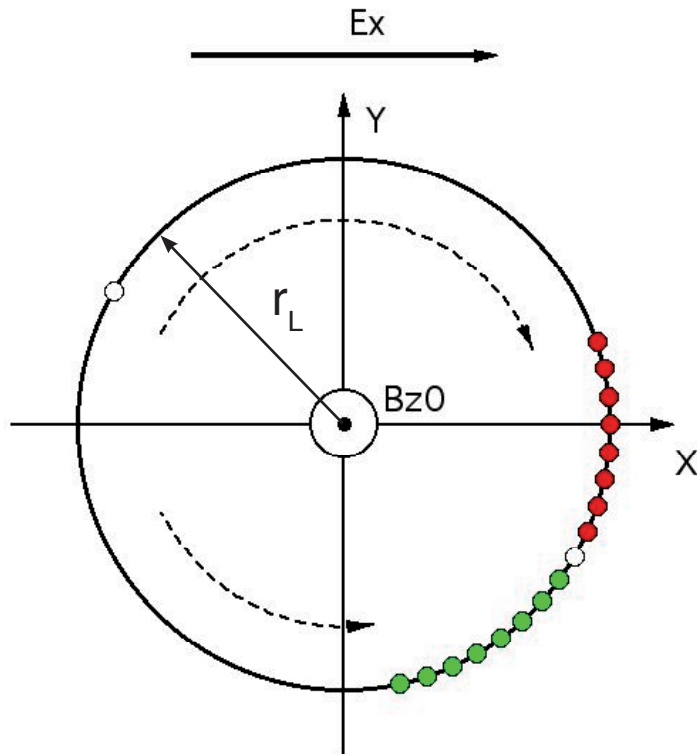
Red electrons gain energy, rotate slower and accumulate (bunch), at $X=r_L$

Green electrons lose energy, rotate faster and accumulate at $X=-r_L$ too

bunching

But no net energy exchange

Negative-mass instability



Case C: $E_x > 0, \omega > \Omega_c$

In addition to bunching, all the picture is rotated clockwise

Bunching takes place in a region where the electrons are losing energy.

Net energy loss from electrons.

Energy conservation \Leftrightarrow Electric field increases

The negative-mass instability (Cyclotron Maser Instability) is a relativistic instability.

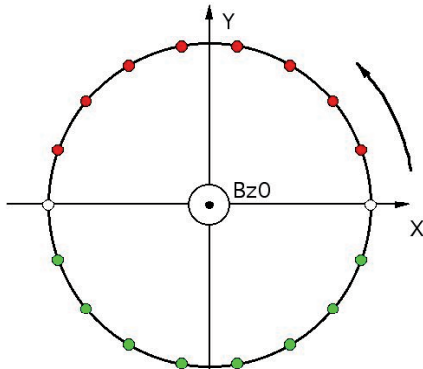
If $\omega > \Omega_c$ the EM energy increases exponentially in the linear regime

Classical analogies between ECR and ESR

Gyrotron

Magnetized free electron:

$$d\mathbf{v}/dt = \mathbf{v} \wedge \Omega_c$$



electron rotation

Electron Cyclotron frequency

$$\Omega_c = - (e/m_0 \gamma_0) \mathbf{B}$$

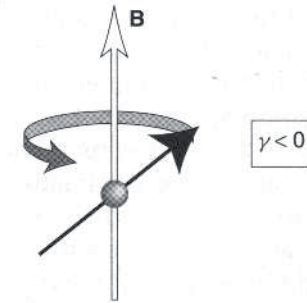
Wave-particle interaction

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{THZ}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = E_{\text{THZ}}(\mathbf{r}) \exp(i \omega_{\text{THZ}} t)$$

DNP/NMR sample

Magnetized free electron spin:

$$d\boldsymbol{\mu}_S/dt = \boldsymbol{\mu}_S \wedge \omega_S$$



Spin precession

Larmor frequency

$$\omega_S = - g_s (e/2m_e) \mathbf{B} = \gamma_S \mathbf{B}$$

$$g_s = 2.0024$$

Wave-particle interaction

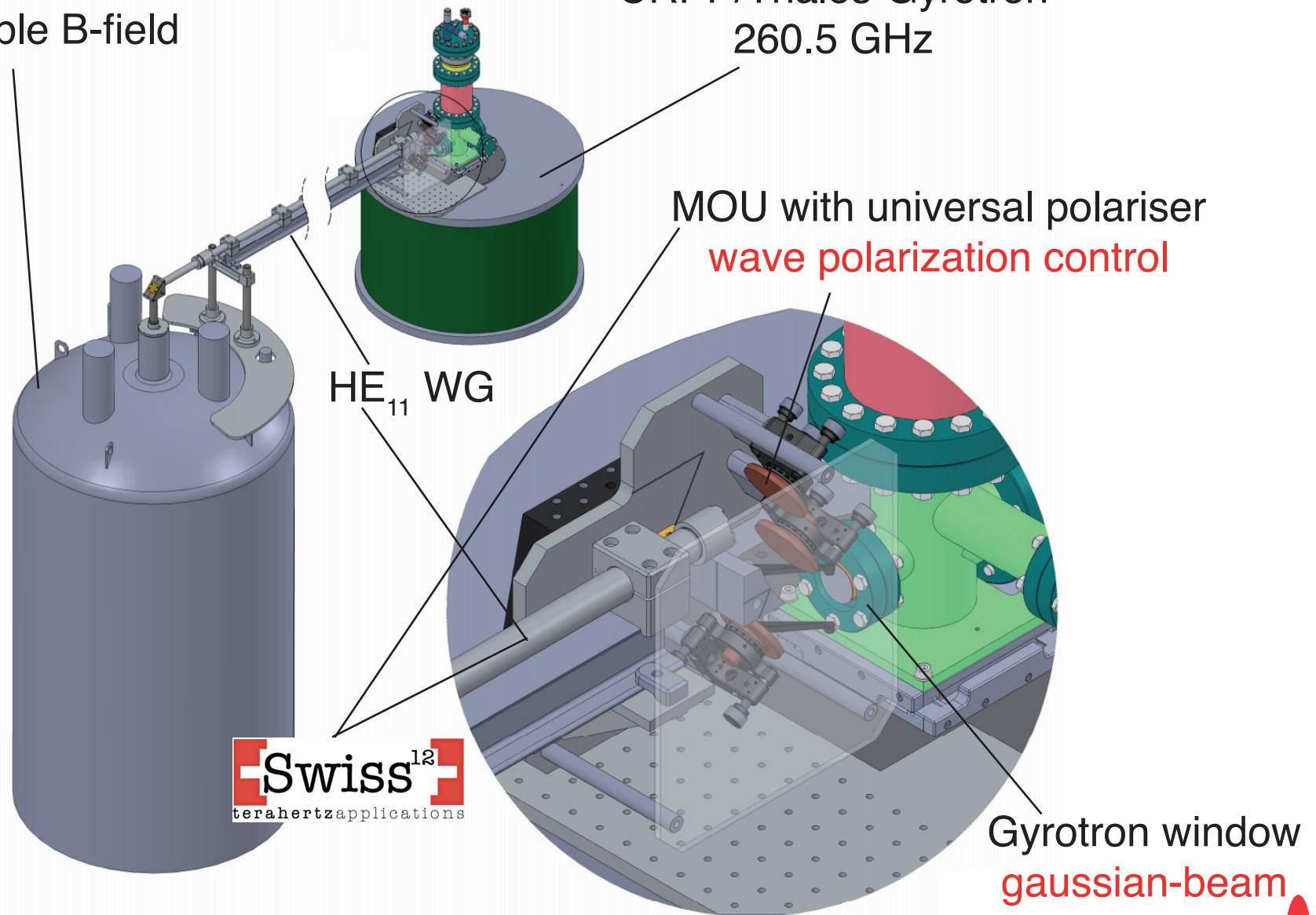
$$\mathbf{B}_{\text{THZ}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = B_{\text{THZ}}(\mathbf{r}) \exp(i \omega_{\text{THZ}} t)$$

$$\Omega_c \approx \omega_{\text{THZ}} \approx \omega_S$$

Frequency-tunable DNP/NMR (263GHz/400MHz) @ EPFL/LPMN

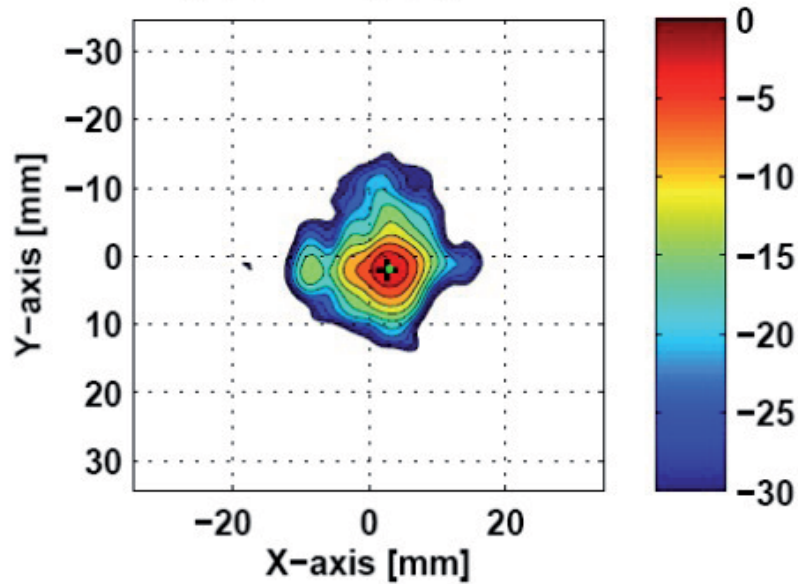
NMR Spectrometer/ 400MHz
sweepable B-field

CRPP/Thales-Gyrotron
260.5 GHz

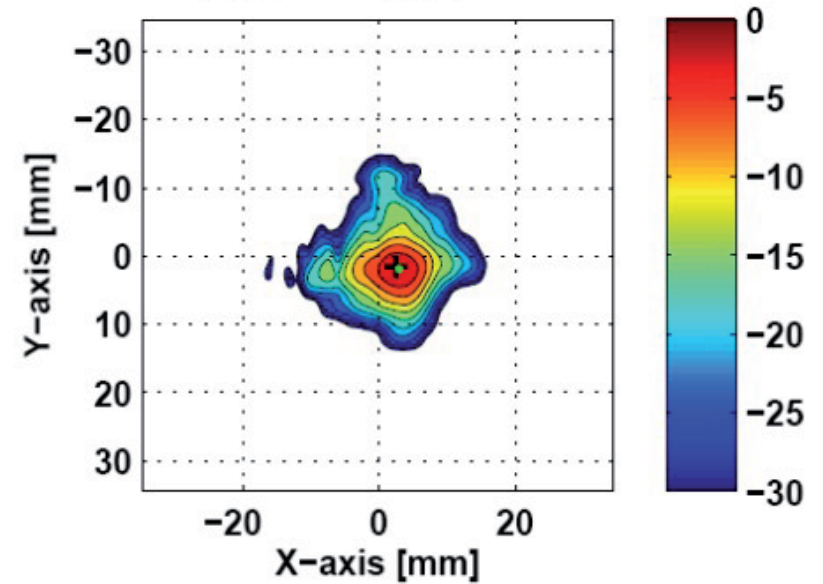


THz waves: quasi-optical propagation

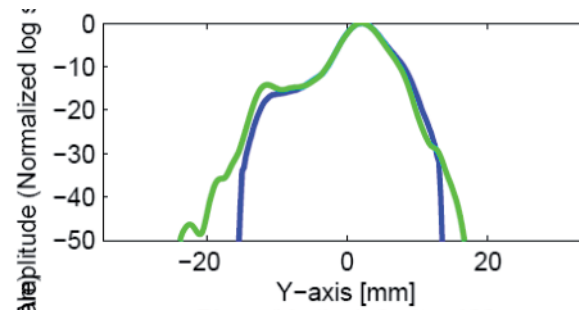
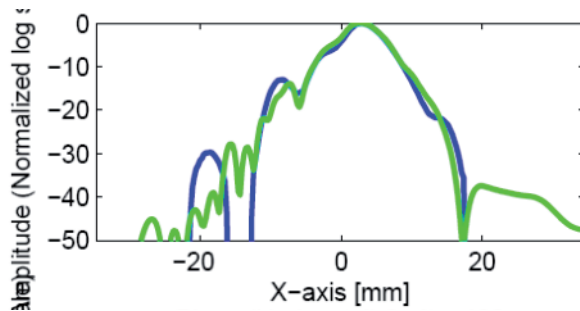
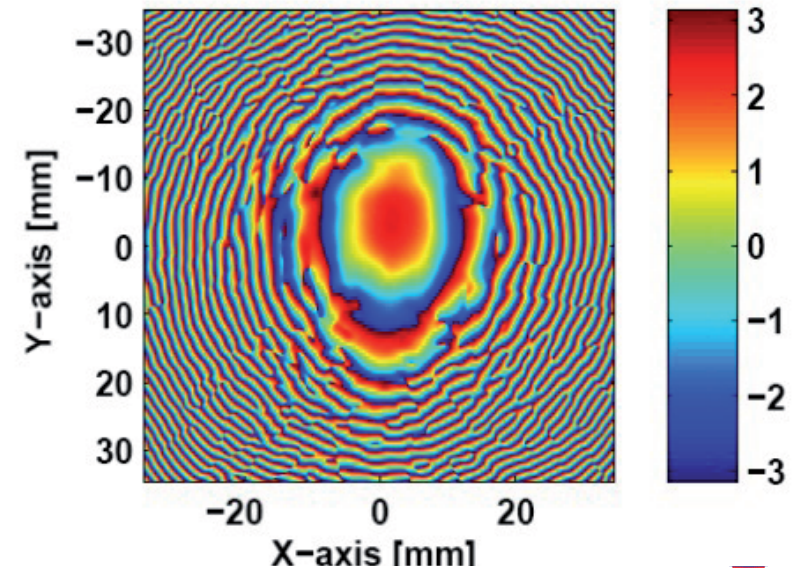
Measured amplitude



Reconstructed amplitude



Reconstructed phase

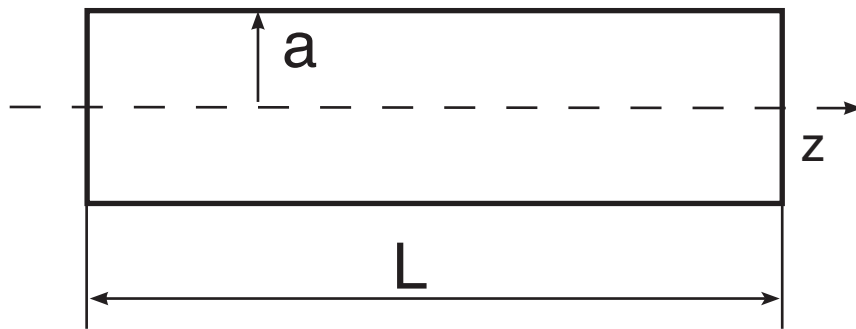


«Gaussian» beam with simple-astigmatism

Phase reconstruction based on a diffraction-optics
inverse problem

TE mode in cylindrical closed cavity

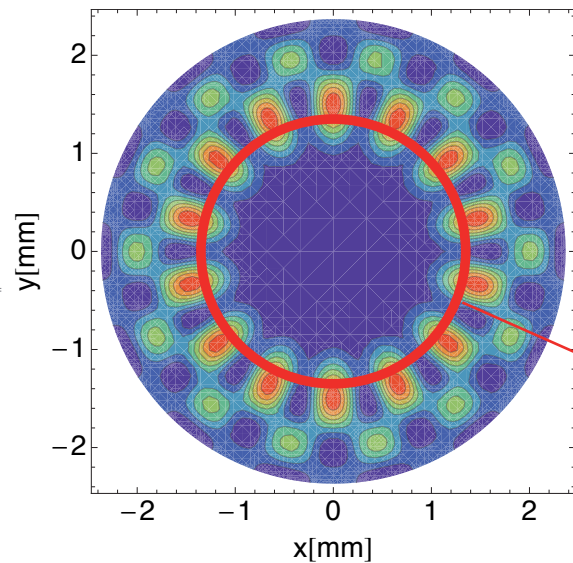
Closed cylindrical cavity w/o losses



$TE_{7,2}$

$a = 2.693\text{mm}; L = 22\text{mm}$

freq = 263GHz



TE mode: $E_z = 0$

EM wave dispersion relation:

$$\omega = c\sqrt{k_{\perp}^2 + k_{\parallel}^2} \simeq ck_{\perp}$$

$$k_{\perp} = \frac{\nu_{nm}}{a}; \quad \mathbf{k}_{\parallel} = \frac{q\pi}{L}; \quad k_{\perp} \gg k_{\parallel}$$

$$E_{\theta}(r, \theta, z) = E_0 \underbrace{J'_m(k_{\perp}r) \cos(m\theta)}_{\text{transverse eigenmode}} \underbrace{\sin\left(\frac{q\pi z}{L}\right)}_{f_q(z)}$$

annular electron beam

longitudinal eigenmode

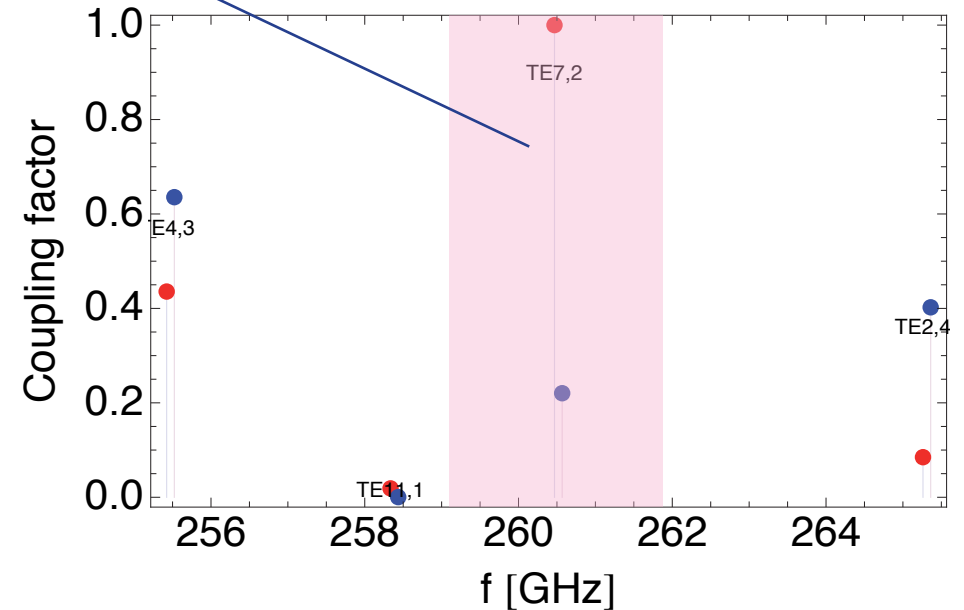
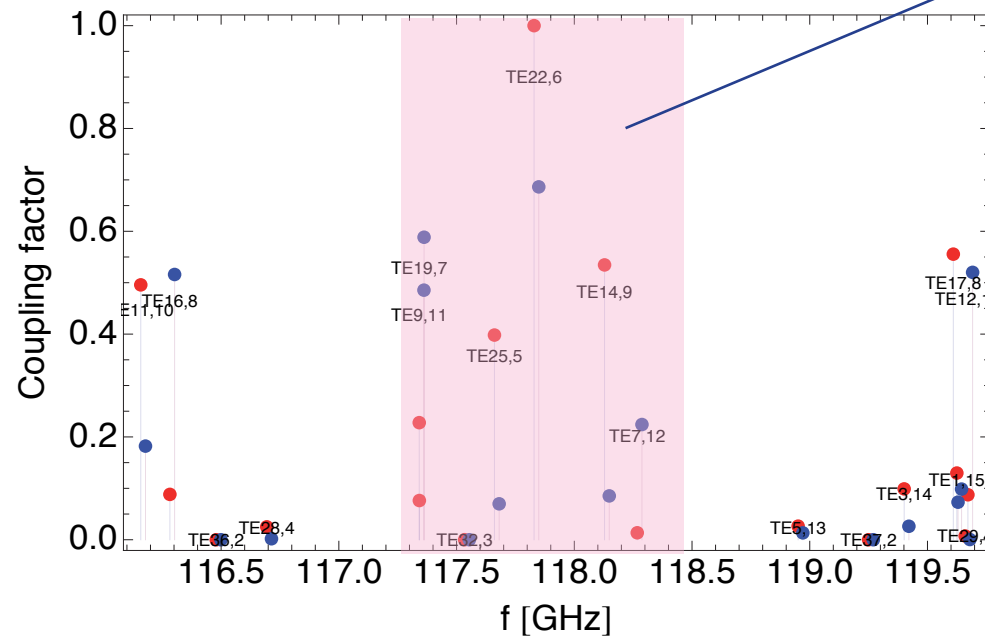
- For a given $TE_{m,n,q}$ mode, the frequency is essentially determined by the resonator radius, a

Density of transverse mode

High-Power gyrotron for fusion applications
 $a/\lambda \approx 10-15$

DNP gyrotron
 $a/\lambda \approx 2-3$

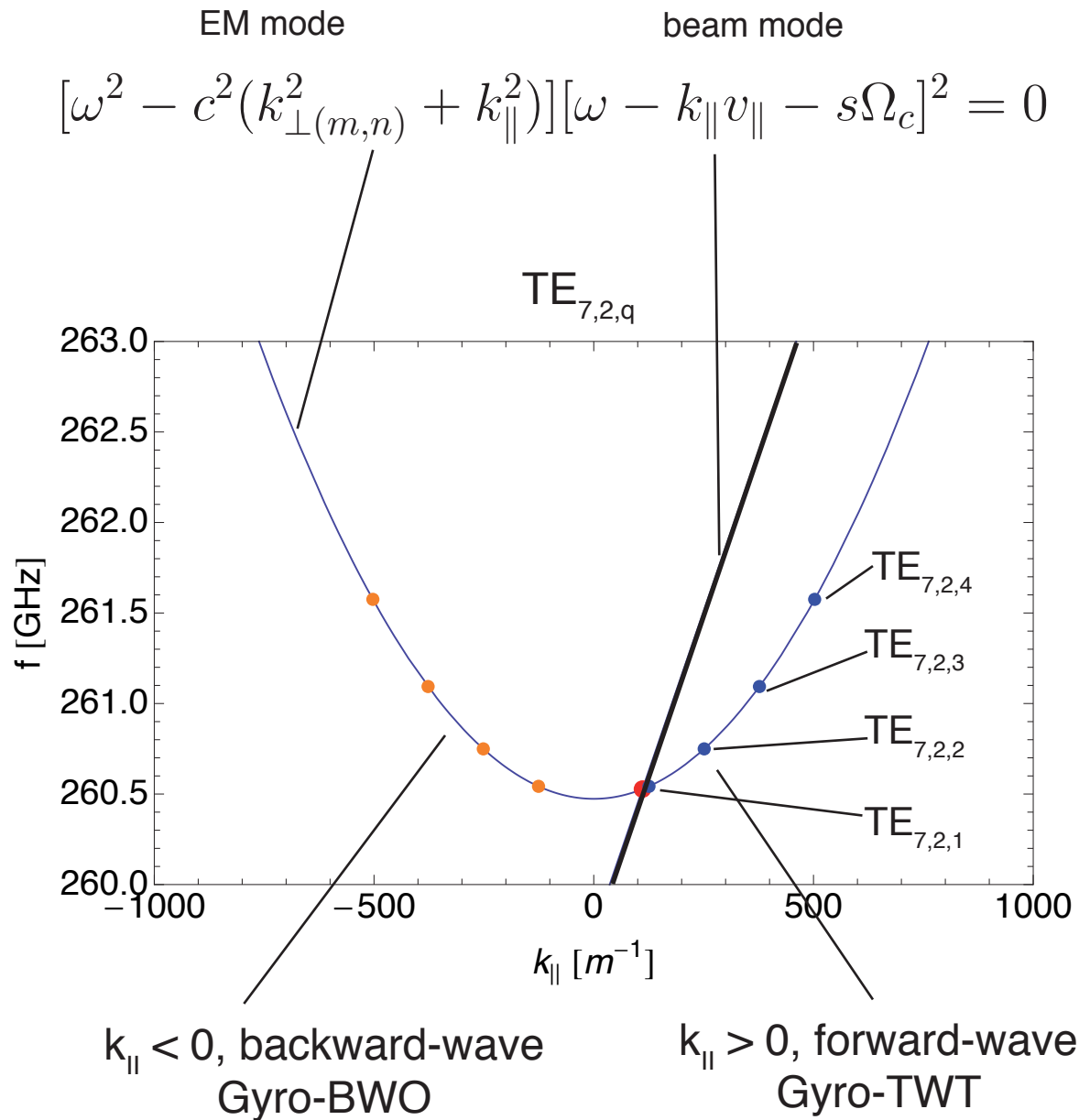
Instability bandwidth $df/f \approx 1\%$



Multimode
 dynamics dominated by
 transverse mode competition $TE_{m,n}$

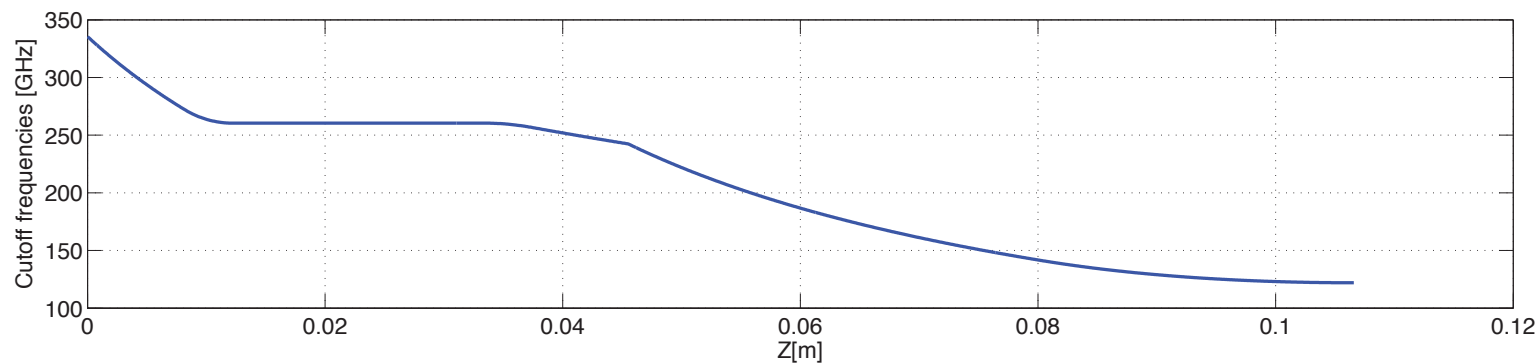
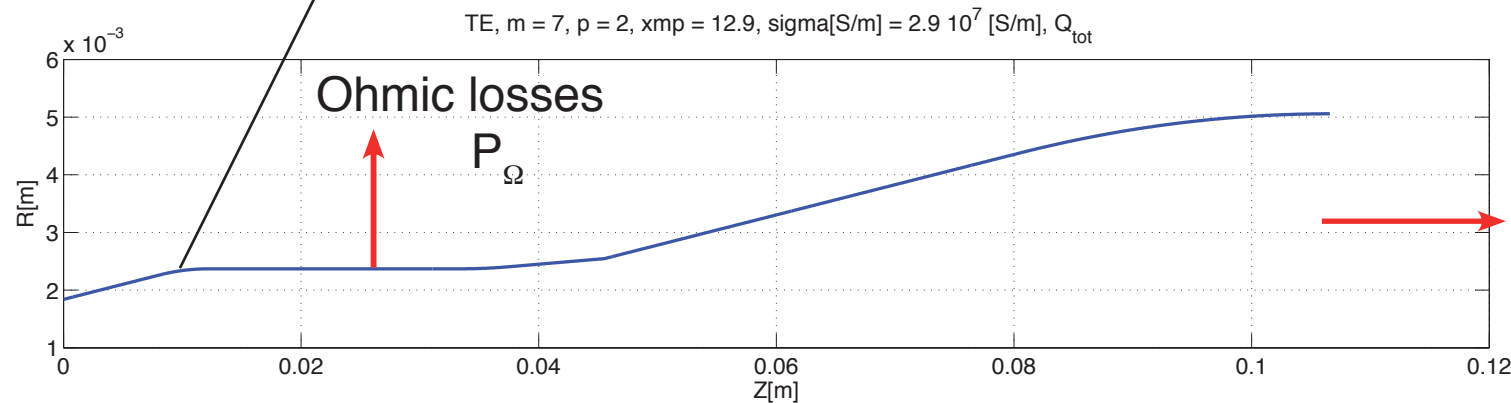
Single transverse mode (monomode)
 dynamics dominated by
 longitudinal mode competition $TE_{7,2,q}$

DNP Gyrotron: longitudinal mode competition



Open gyrotron resonator with radiation & ohmic losses

cavity radius: $a = a(z) \Rightarrow$ finite & inhomogeneous system, finite conductivity σ



DNP-gyrotron

$$P_{\Omega} \approx P_{rad}$$

Longitudinal profile $f(z)$ of EM field solution of eigenvalue problem:

$$dW_{EM}/dt + (\omega/Q) W_{EM} = 0$$

$$W_{EM}(t) = W_{EM}(0) \exp(-t/\tau_c)$$

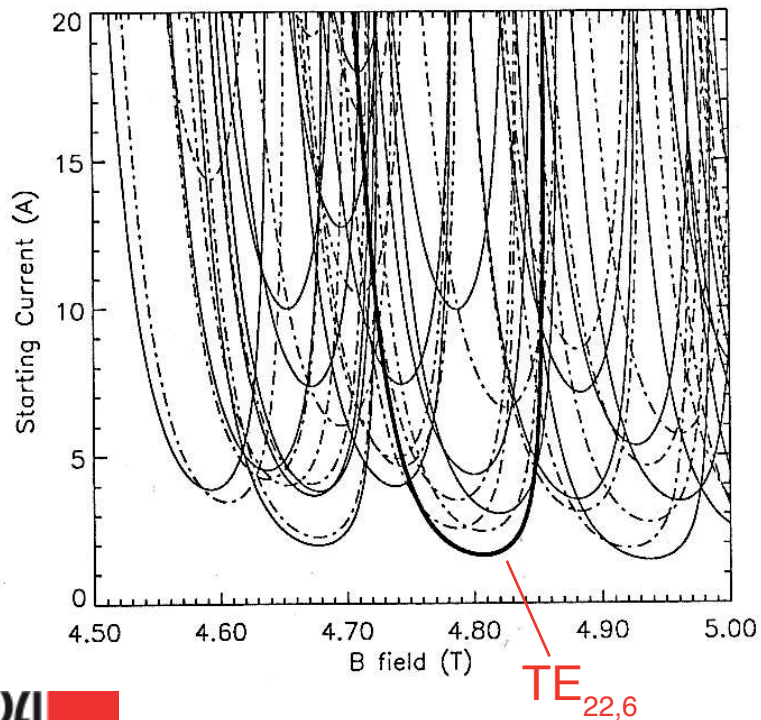
Linear regime: starting current

Gain has to overcome losses

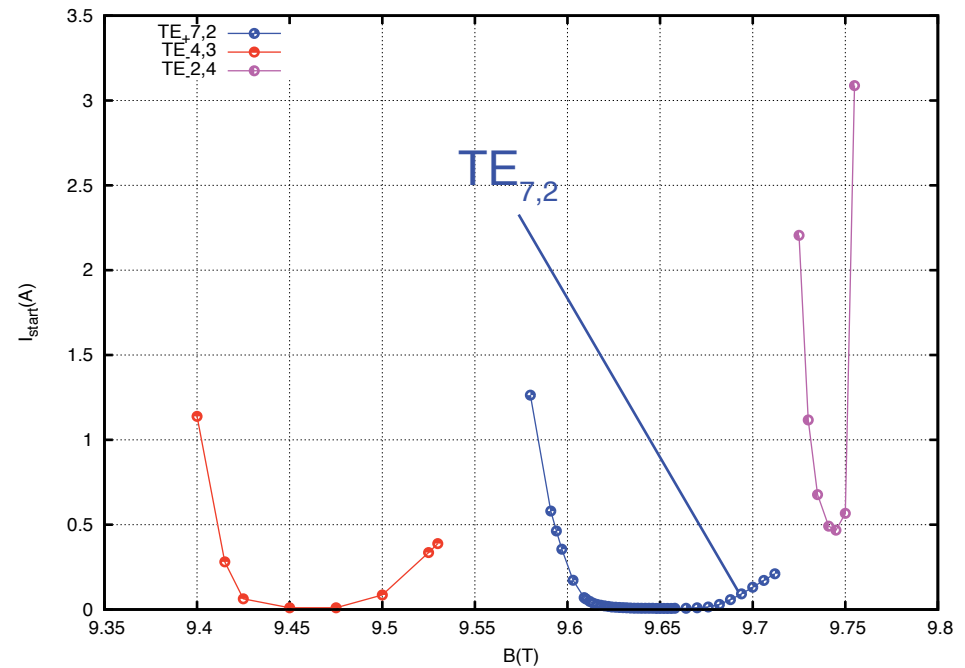
$$dW_{EM}/dt + (\omega/Q) W_{EM} = \text{Gain}(I_b) W_{EM}$$

Starting current curves $I_{st}(B)$ (fixed L, γ_0, \dots)

High-power gyrotron



DNP/NMR Gyrotron



Time scales in THz-gyrotron dynamics

- Electron cyclotron period

$$\tau_{\text{cycl}} = 2\pi m_0 \gamma / eB_0 \approx 1-10\text{ps}$$

- Non-linear longitudinal mode competition

$$\tau_{\text{non-lin}} = 2\tau_w \approx 1-5\text{ns}$$

- Linear instability growth time

$$\tau_{\text{lin}} = Q/\omega / (I_b/I_{\text{st}} - 1) \approx 10-100\text{ns}$$

- Start-up conditions and ext. parameters control

$$\tau_{\text{ext}} \approx 1\mu\text{s}-1\text{ms}$$

- Electron-beam space-charge neutralization

$$\tau_{\text{sc}} = 1/n_n \sigma v_b \approx 10-100\text{ms}$$

- Cavity thermo-mechanical effects

$$\tau_{\text{thermal}} \approx 100-500\text{ms}$$

simulations

3-4 order of magnitudes

12 order of magnitudes

Gyrotron modeling

- General comment: in gyrotrons we are dealing with strongly overmoded electromagnetic structures ($\lambda \ll a$). This implies that commercially available finite-elements and/or PIC codes are practically unusable.
- 2.5D/3D Electron beam optics codes.
Electrostatic space-charge effects are essential for characterizing the e-beam properties in the cavity.
- Cyclotron-wave interaction.
 - Self-consistent monomode interaction codes.
 - Self-consistent multimode interaction codes.
 - Specific models for studying spurious oscillations.
- Quasi-optical converter.
Efficient conversion of a cavity TE-eigenmode to the fundamental eigenmode in free-space propagation (gaussian beam). Diffraction-optics models.

System integration

Diagnostics

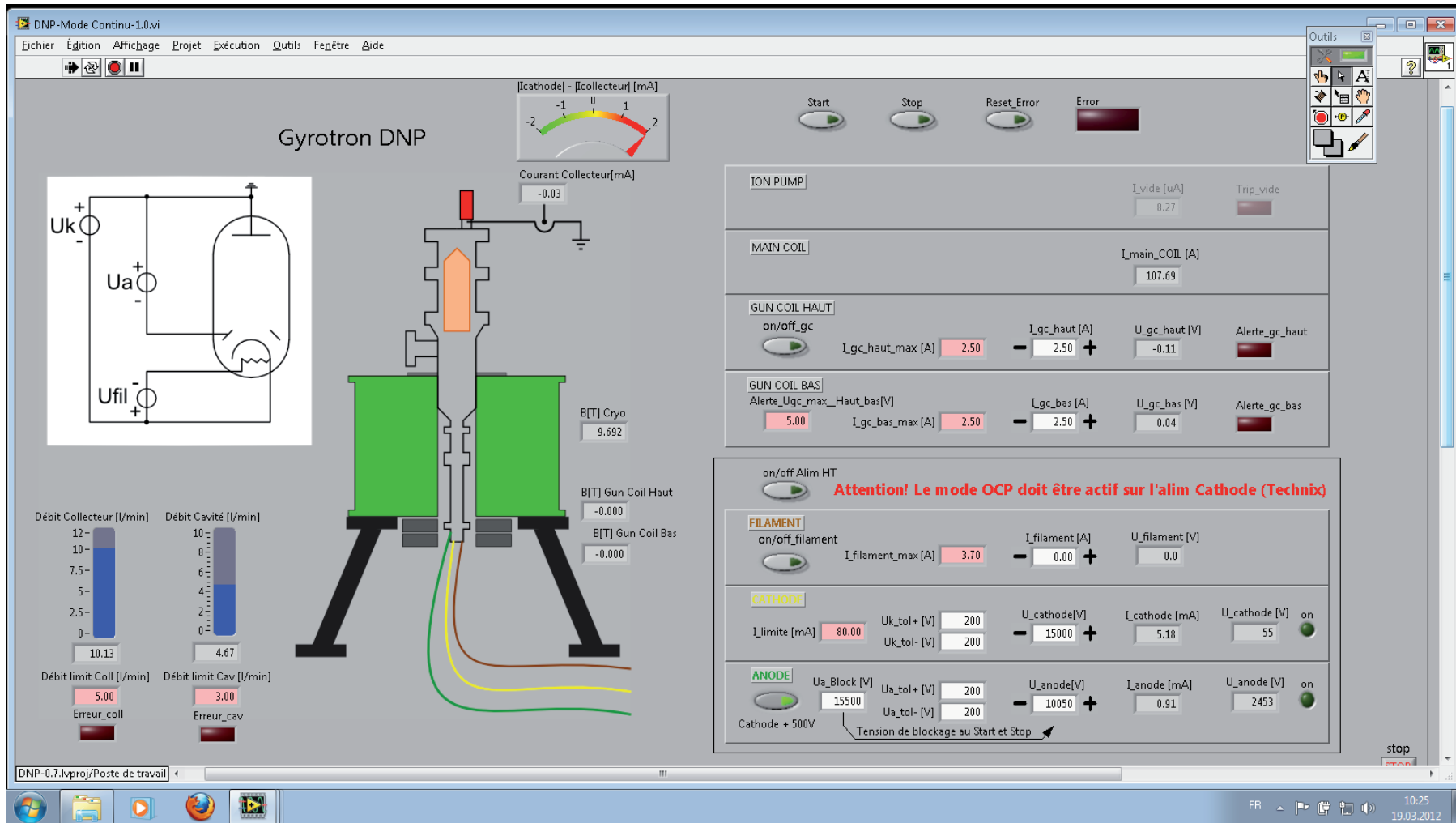
Gyrotron

Labview interface

Auxiliary systems



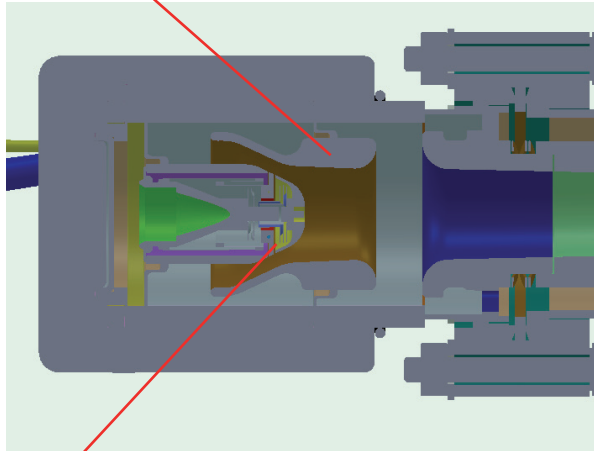
LabView Control and protection system



Control parameters

Triode MIG-gun

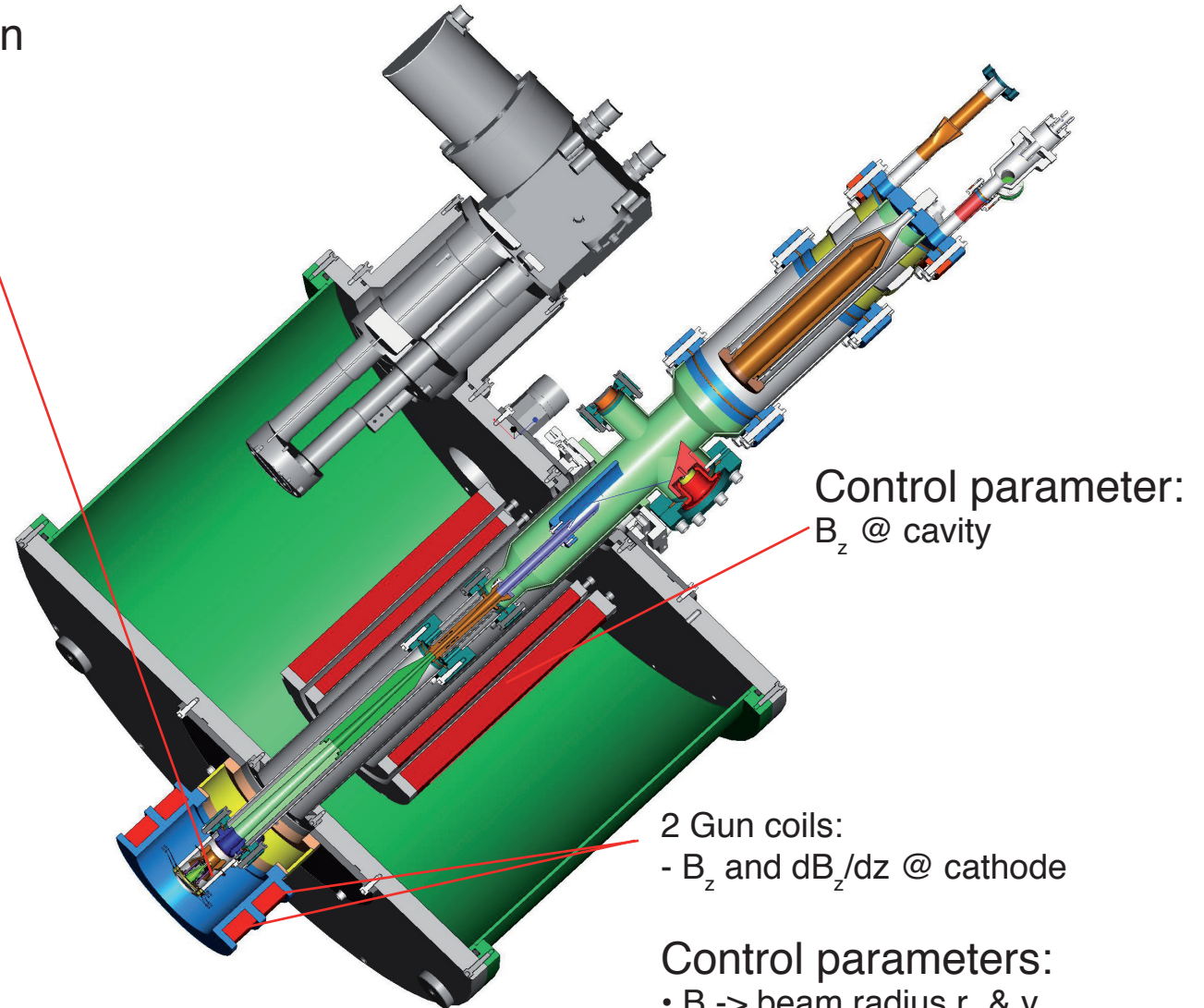
Anode:
- anode voltage, V_a



Cathode:
- cathode temperature T_{cath}
- cathode voltage, V_b
- anode voltage, V_a

Control parameters:

- T_{cath} -> beam current I_b
- V_b -> beam energy, γ
- V_a -> pitch angle, $\alpha = v_{\perp} / v_{\parallel}$



Control parameter:
 B_z @ cavity

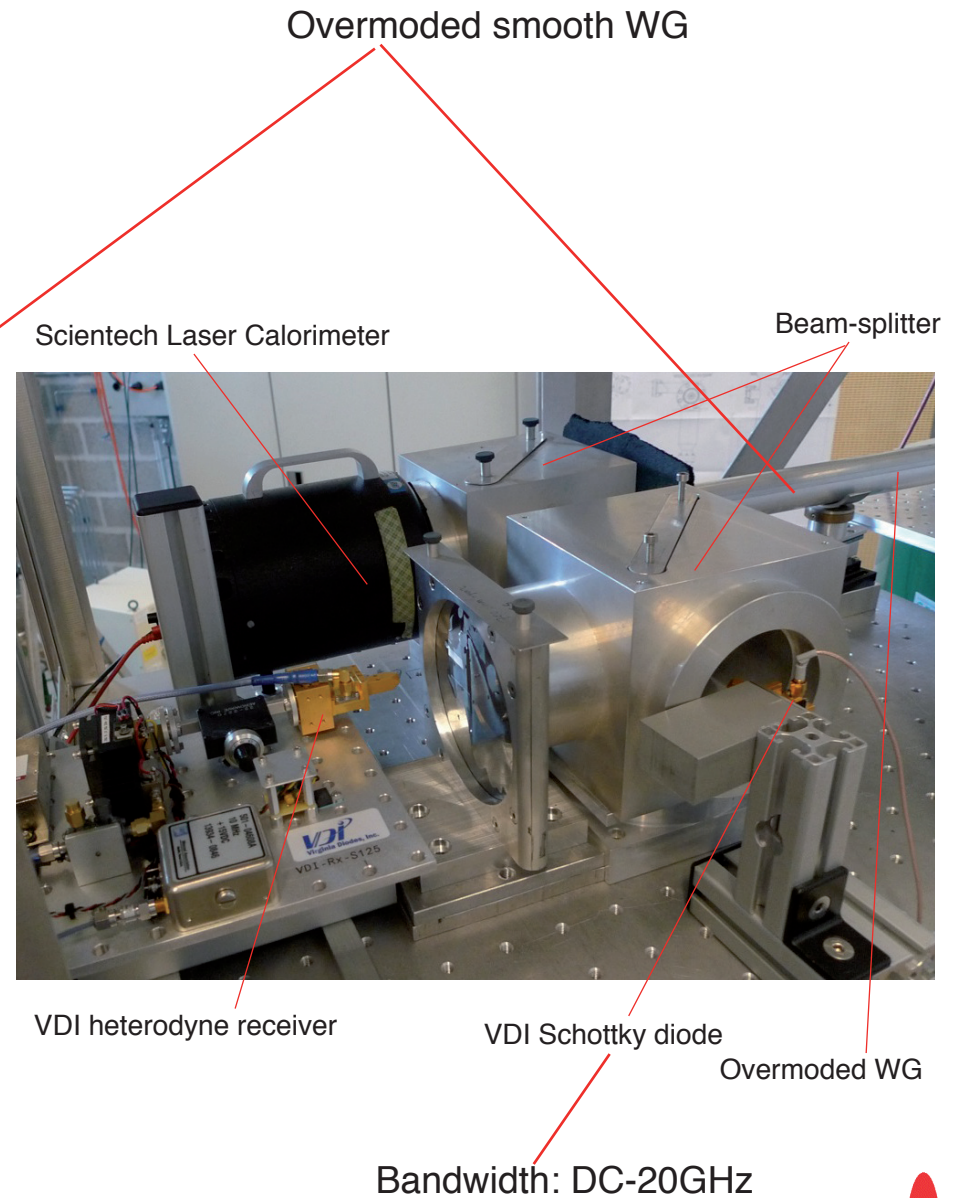
2 Gun coils:
- B_z and dB_z/dz @ cathode

Control parameters:
• B_z -> beam radius r_b & v_{perp}
• dB_z/dz -> T_{perp} (spread)

DNP-gyrotron Diagnostics



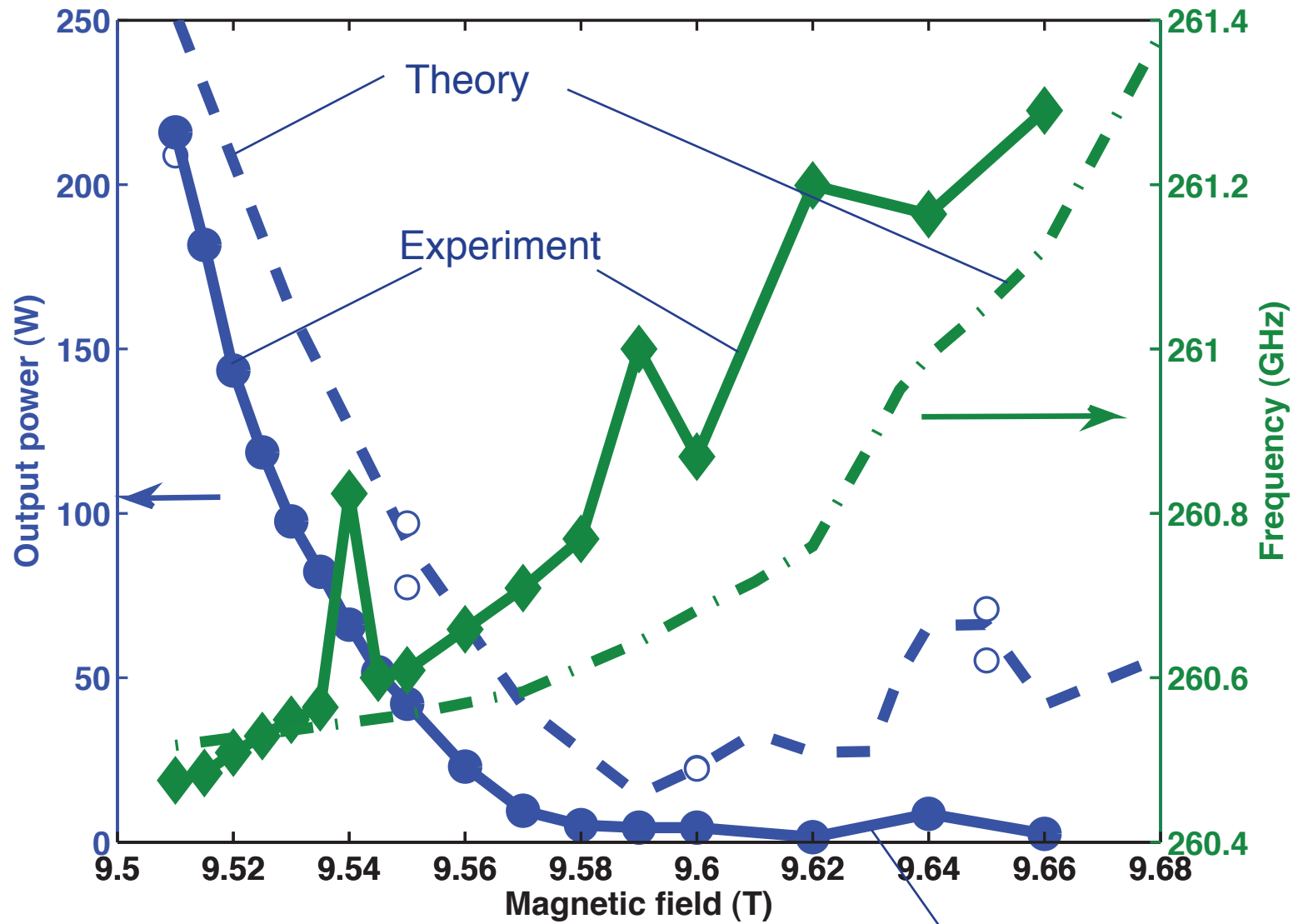
gyrotron window



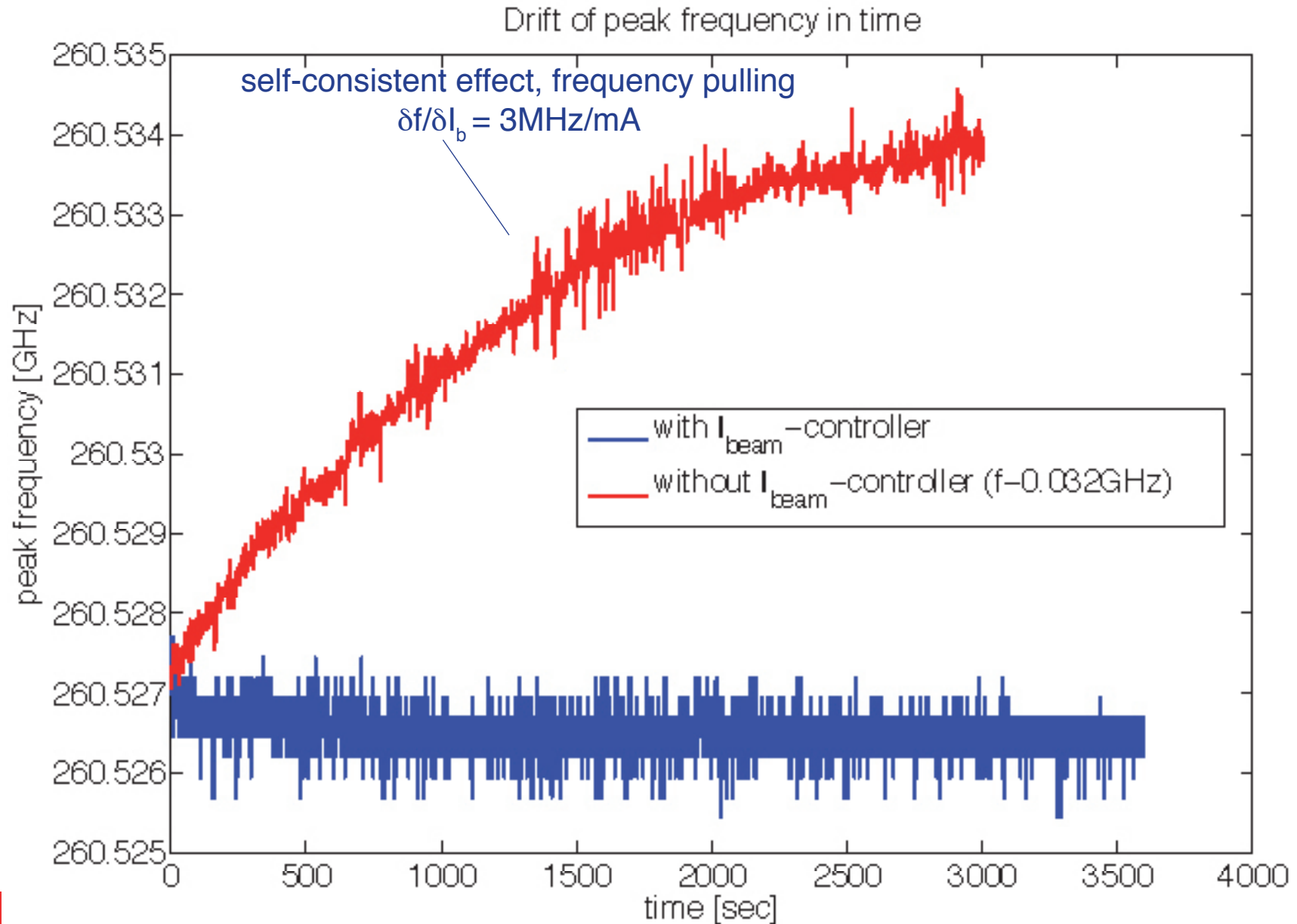
Technology of low-power high-frequency CW gyrotron

- First prototype designed by CRPP and manufactured by Thales
- After installation, t_0 , first electron beam obtained after $\sim t_0 + 4\text{h}$
- First RF obtained after $\sim t_0 + 6\text{h}$
- Conditioning to CW operation $\sim t_0 + 36\text{h}$
- CW operation ($>1\text{h}$) routinely obtained with nearly no outgassing ($2\mu\text{A}$ cathode heating, $0.3\text{-}0.5\mu\text{A}$ in CW at nominal parameters)
- Arcing events practically inexistent and the gyrotron CW and/or pulsed operation is extremely easy and reliable

RF power & frequency versus versus cavity B field

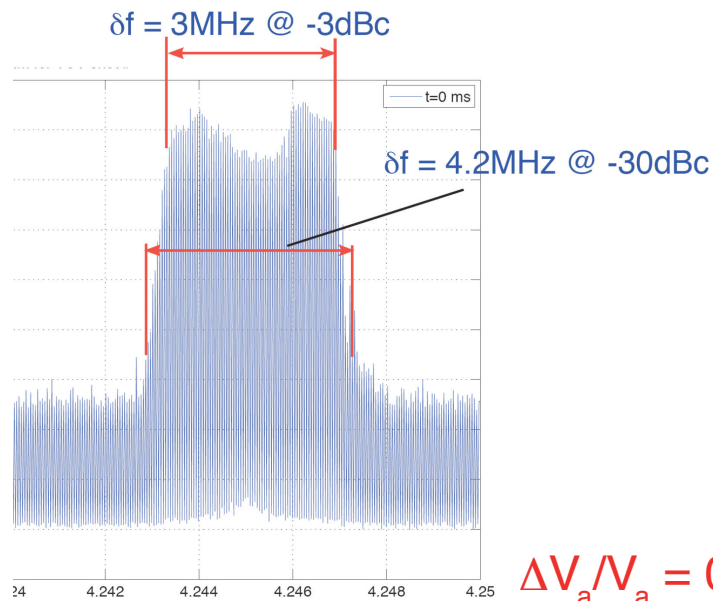


Stabilized frequency with PI controller on beam current



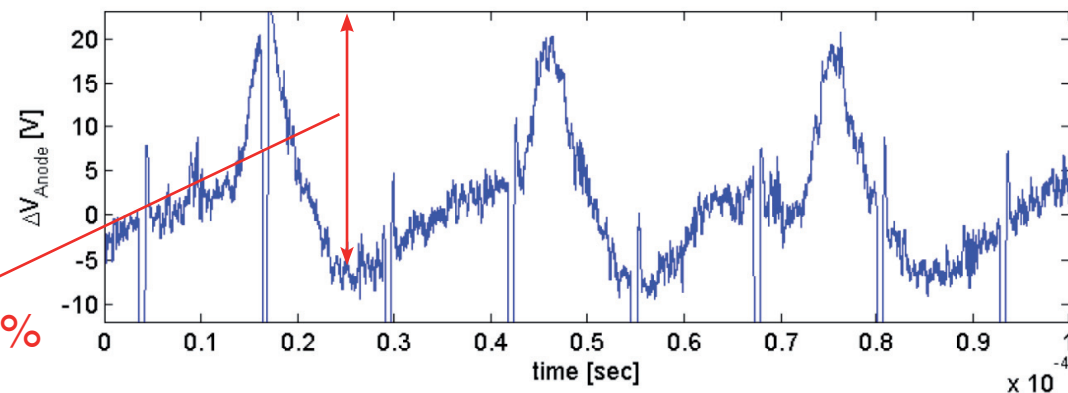
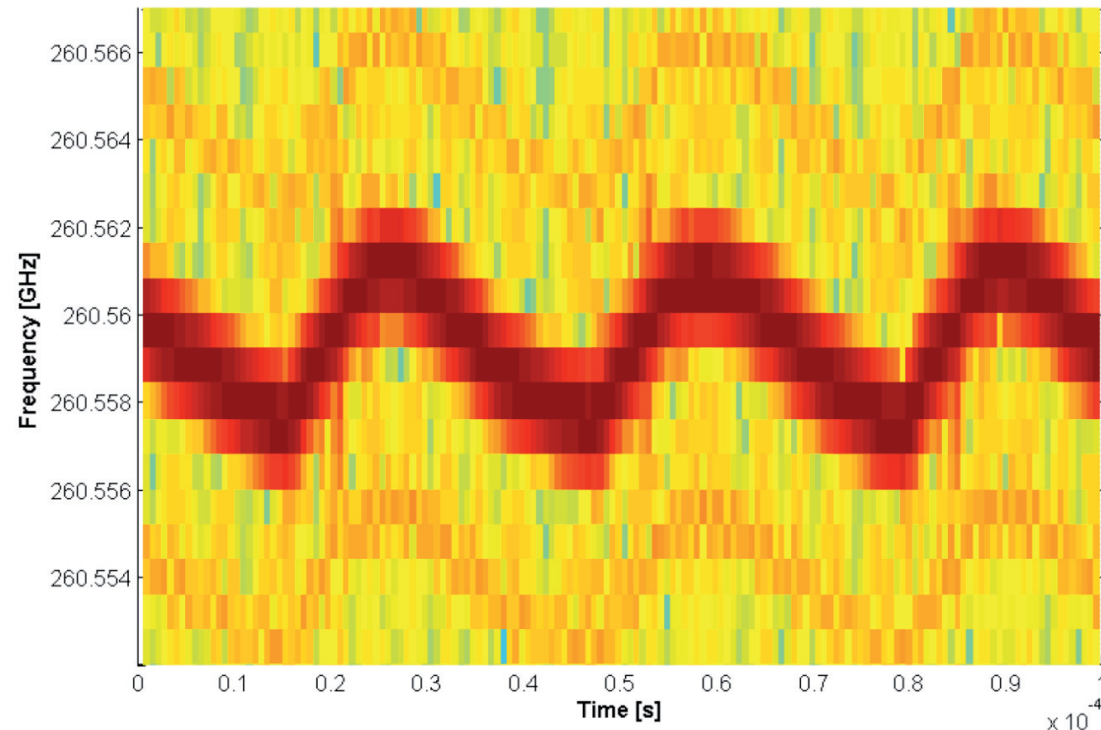
Radiation Spectral properties

- Time-averaging in spectrum analyzer over fluctuating frequency
- Fluctuation of anode-voltage causes 'frequency-pulling' (synchronous)



$$\Delta V_a / V_a = 0.3\%$$

Spectrogram of heterodyne system



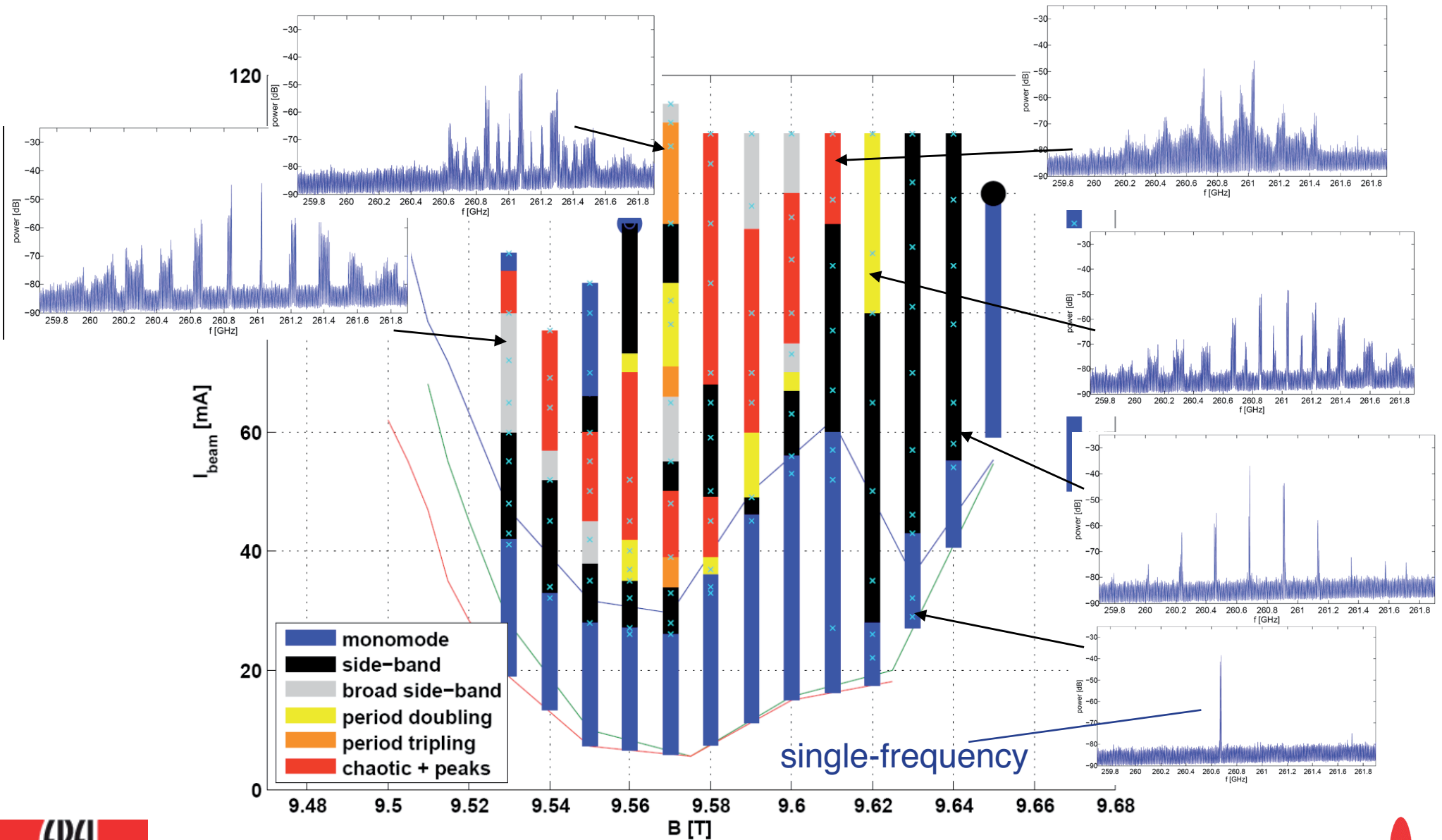
Pulsed mode with anode control: 30 μ s to DC



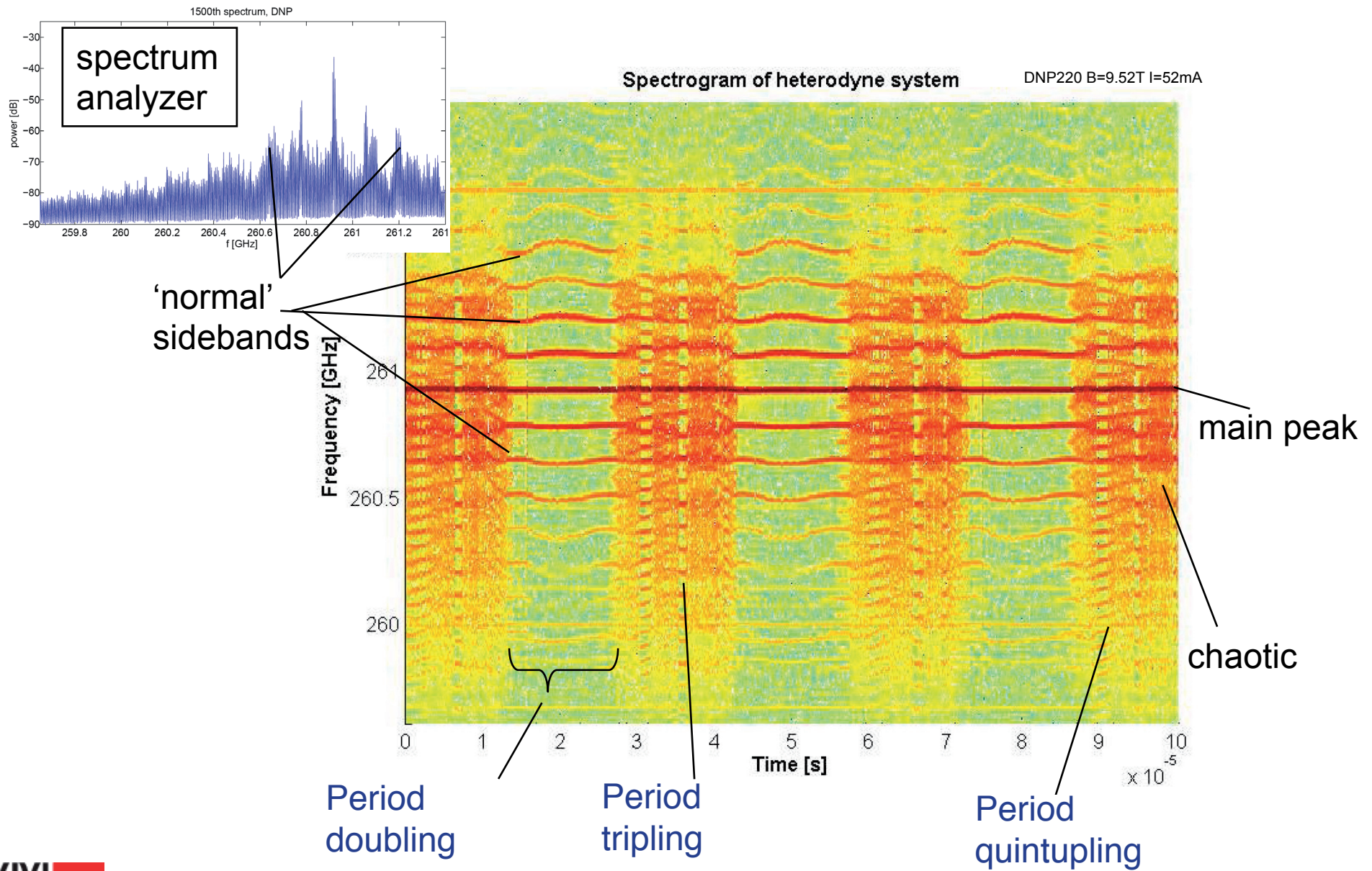
30 μ s
 limited by anode PS
 arbitrary duty-cycle

Anode voltage

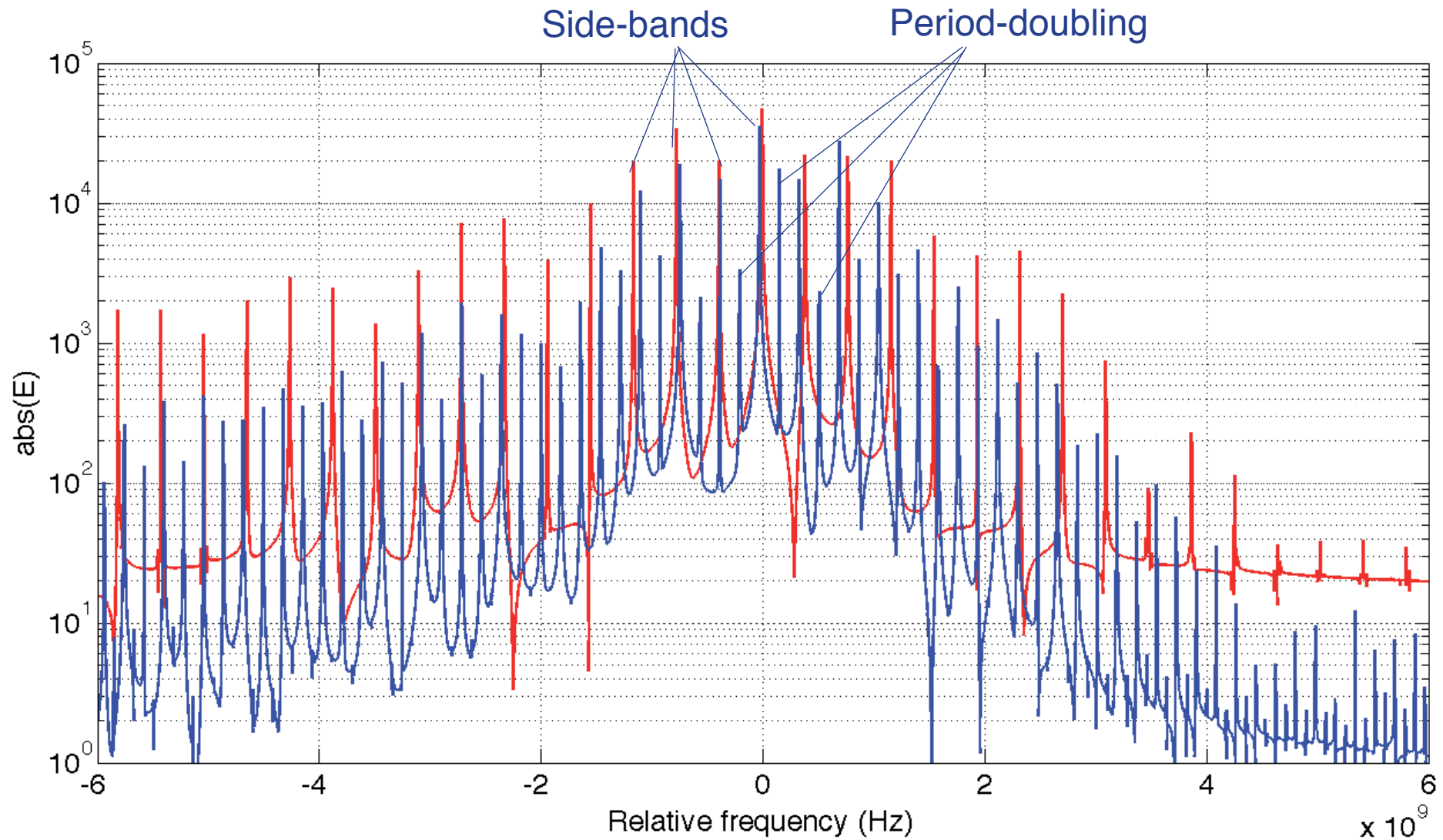
From linear to chaotic regimes



Chaos via period doubling cascade



Numerical simulations with TWANG



Future prospects

- Short-pulse regime ($< 1\text{ns}$) will be investigated both experimentally and theoretically.
- Phase locking with priming will be investigated
- The DNP-gyrotron will be integrated in the NMR spectrometer at LPMN in the next months.
- The modular design concept eventually allows to study different cavity concepts at the fundamental (263GHz) or 2nd cyclotron (526GHz) harmonics.

Conclusions

- For DNP/NMR experiments on a variable field NMR system the present gyrotron fulfills the requirements.
- Novel operational regimes intrinsically related to the strongly non-linear dynamics have been experimental investigated.
- Advanced modeling of the non-linear dynamics has been extensively validated
- Novel operational regimes with side-bands may open up new applications for gyrotrons.