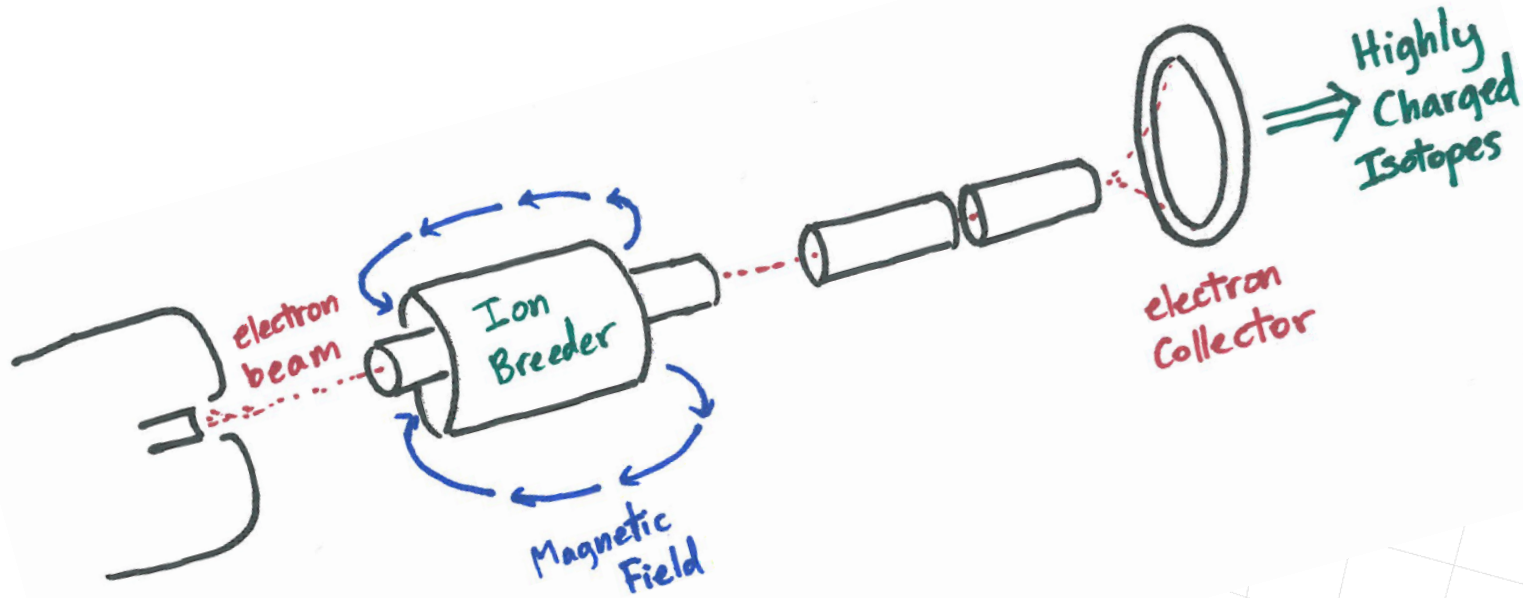


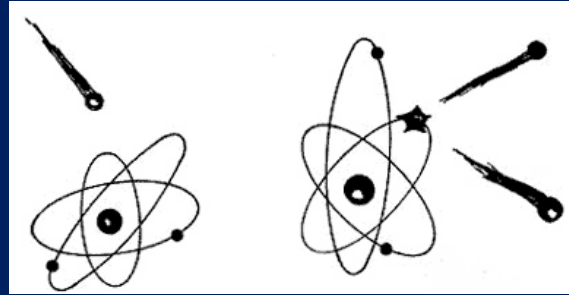
# How to make, trap and observe microscopically star plasmas in the laboratory, and use them as optical clocks



José R. Crespo López-Urrutia  
*Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik*

# What are highly charged ions?

- Atoms lose many electrons at high temperatures  $< 100000$  K due to collisions

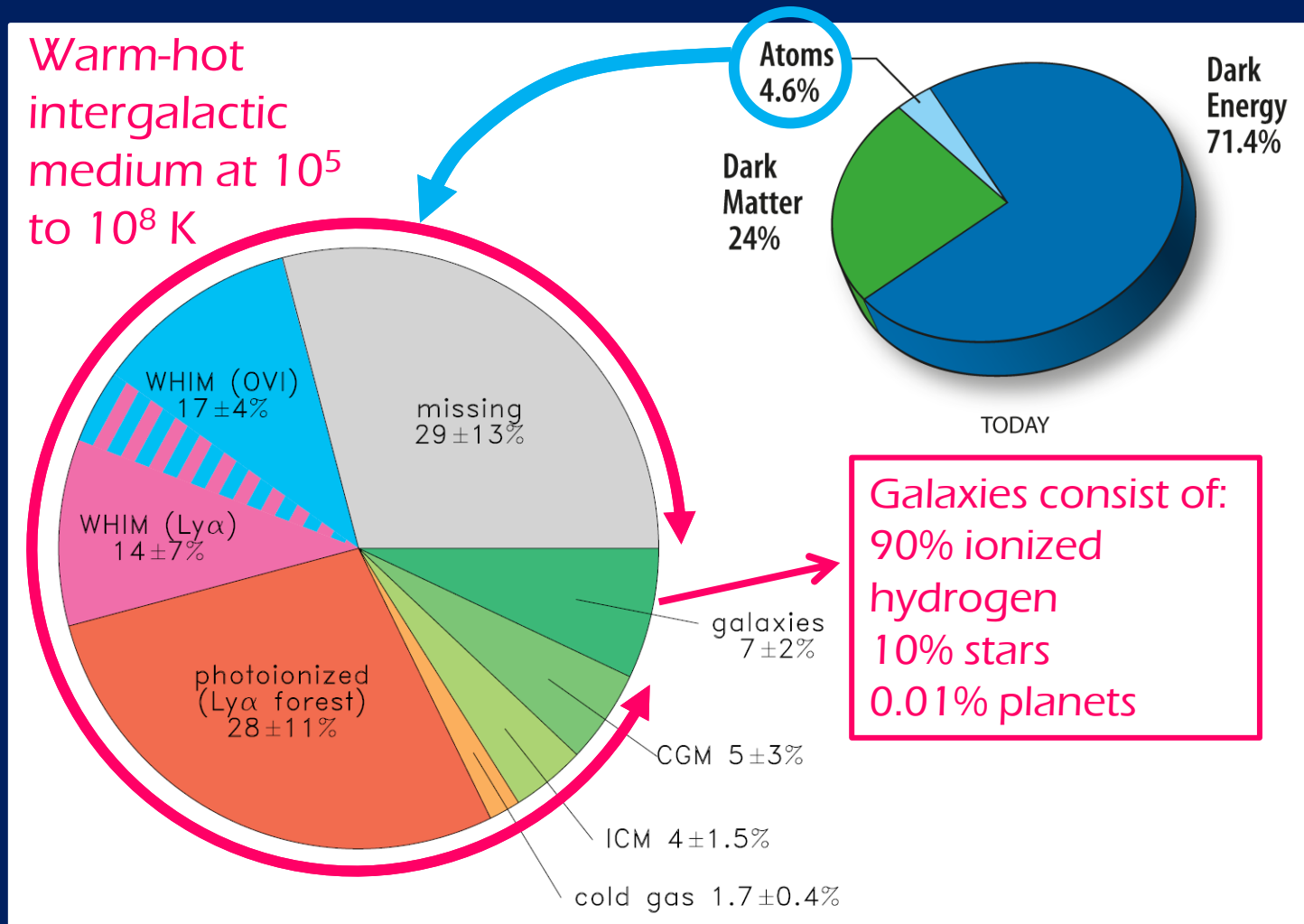


- The incomplete electronic shell **does not compensate the positive nuclear charge**
- The electronic structure of such positive ions with few electrons behaves like that of an atom

Example: Fe XXV =  $\text{Fe}^{24+}$  ion

From 26 electrons to only two electrons: Helium-like  $1s^2$

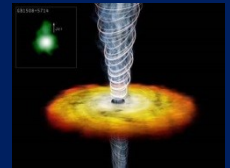
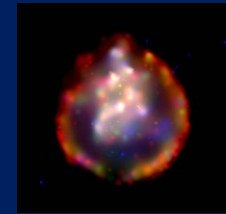
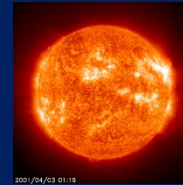
Baryonic matter (atoms) is **mostly highly ionized** in intergalactic medium, galaxy clusters and galaxies



Compilation of current observational measurements of the **low redshift baryon census** (Shull, Smith, & Danforth, ApJ 2012)

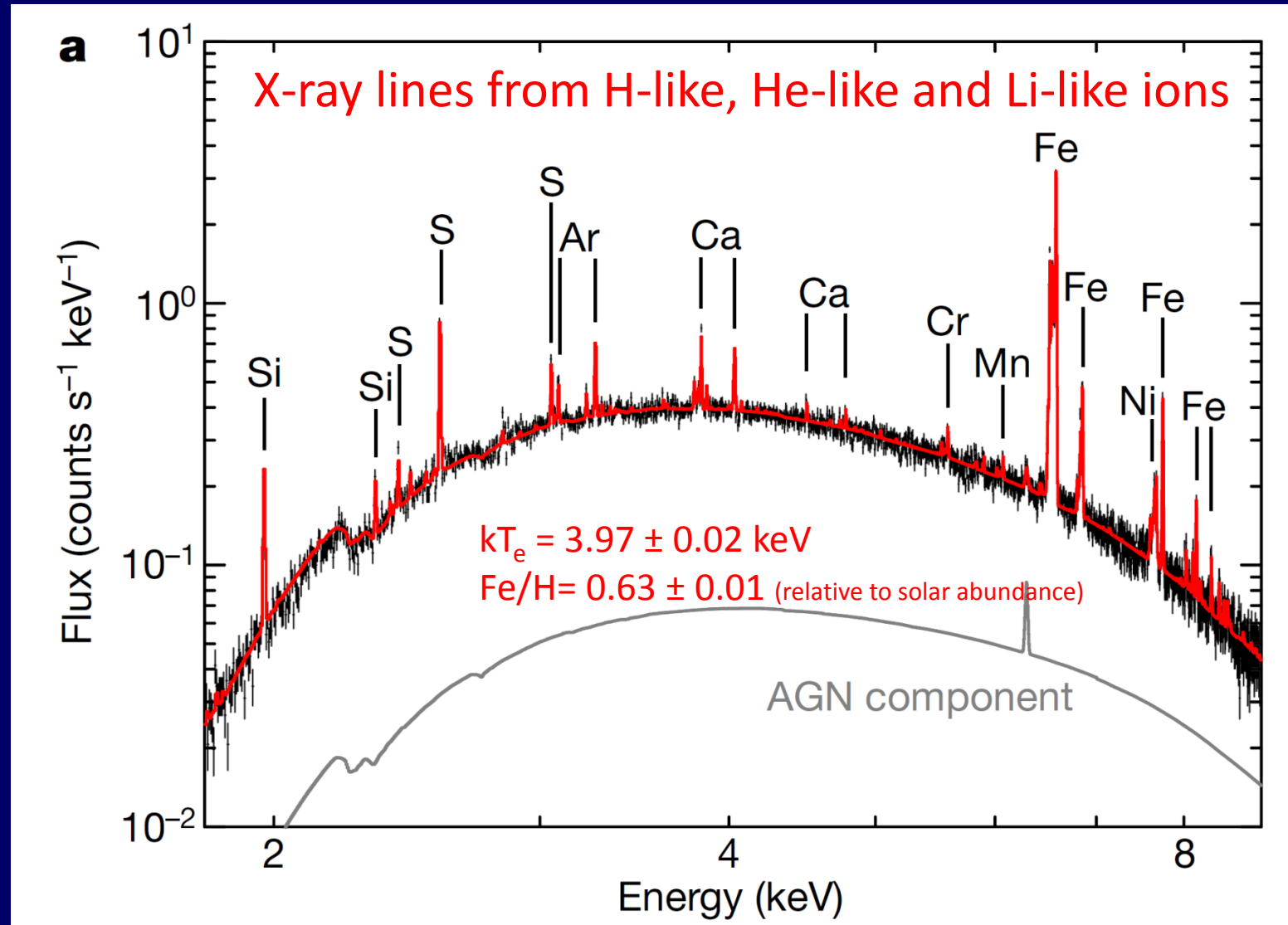
# In the Universe, elements are mostly highly ionized: **Highly charged ions (HCI)**

- Interior of the Sun (15 MK)
- Solar corona (2 MK)
- Solar wind (MK)
- Supernova remnants
- Active galactic nuclei (100 MK)
- Warm-hot intergalactic medium (0.1-1 MK)



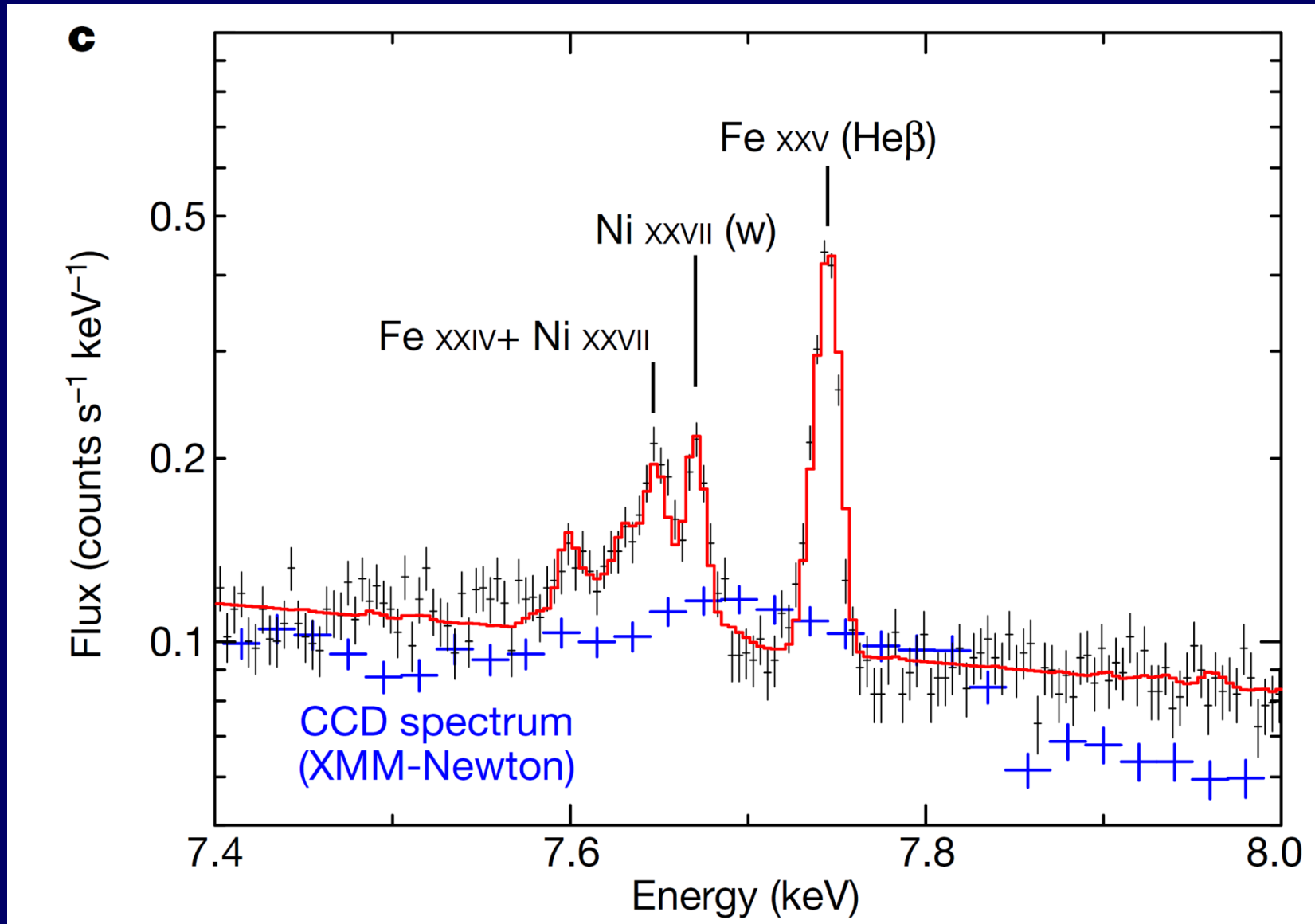


# Hitomi SXS spectra of the Perseus cluster of galaxies



Solar abundance ratios of the iron-peak elements in the Perseus cluster  
Hitomi Collaboration, Nature (2017)

# Hitomi SXS spectra of the Perseus cluster of galaxies



Solar abundance ratios of the iron-peak elements in the Perseus cluster  
Hitomi Collaboration, *Nature* (2017)

# State of the art in the field of HCI

- X-ray photon energies 1.5 ppm
- VUV photon energies 4 ppm
- Optical photon energies 0.3 ppm
- Lifetimes (ns... ms) 0.15 %
- Natural linewidths X-rays: resolved

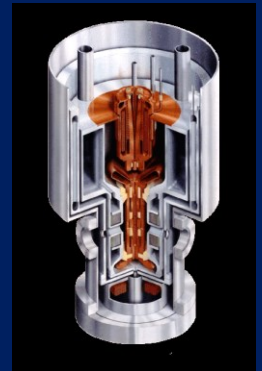
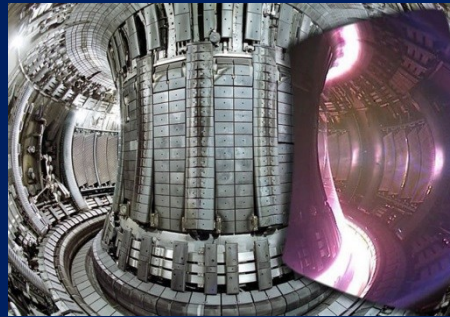
Accuracy is 10 orders of magnitude lower than in frequency metrology

Stone-age spectroscopy at the  $10^{-6}$  level

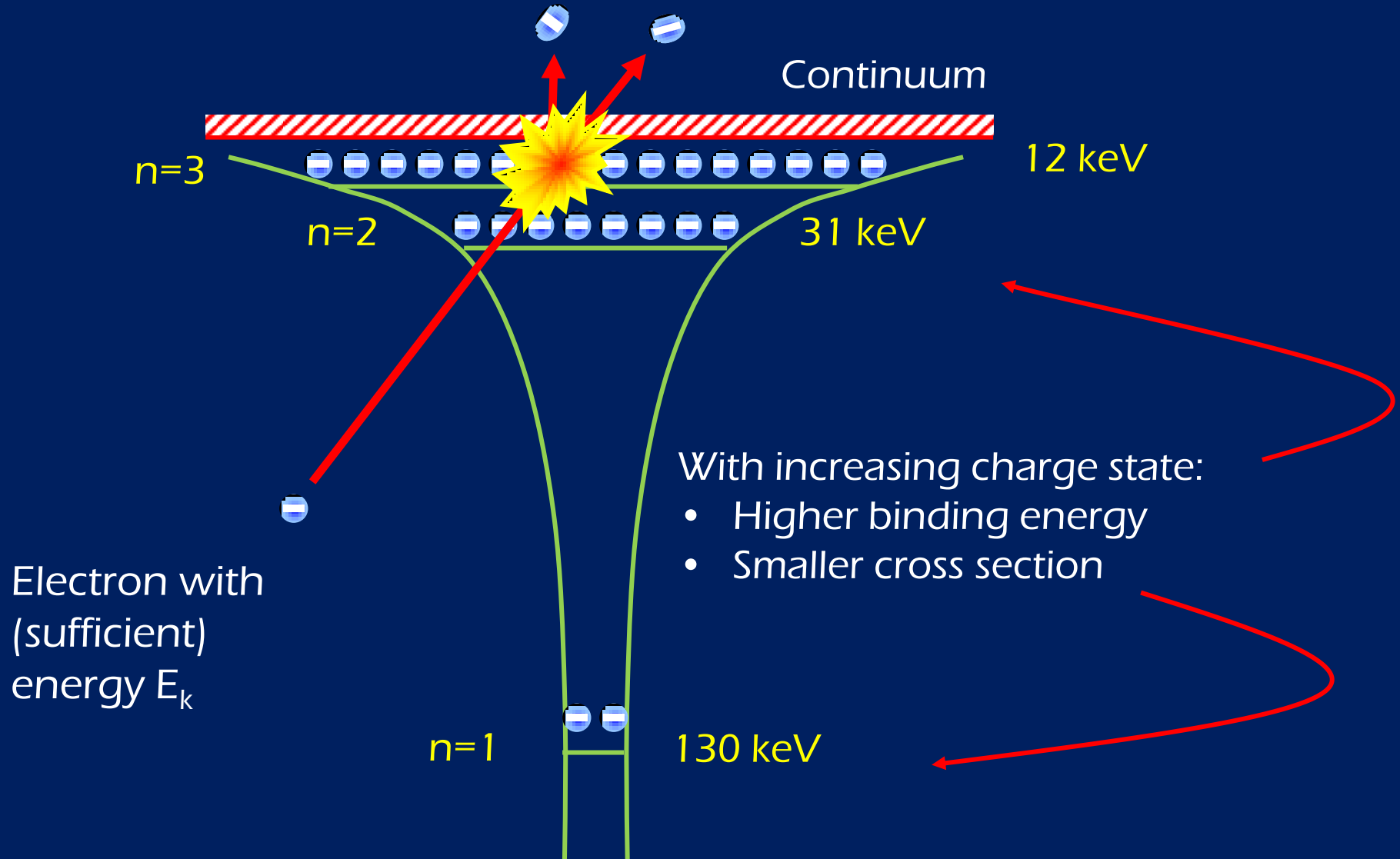


# How do we make them in the laboratory?

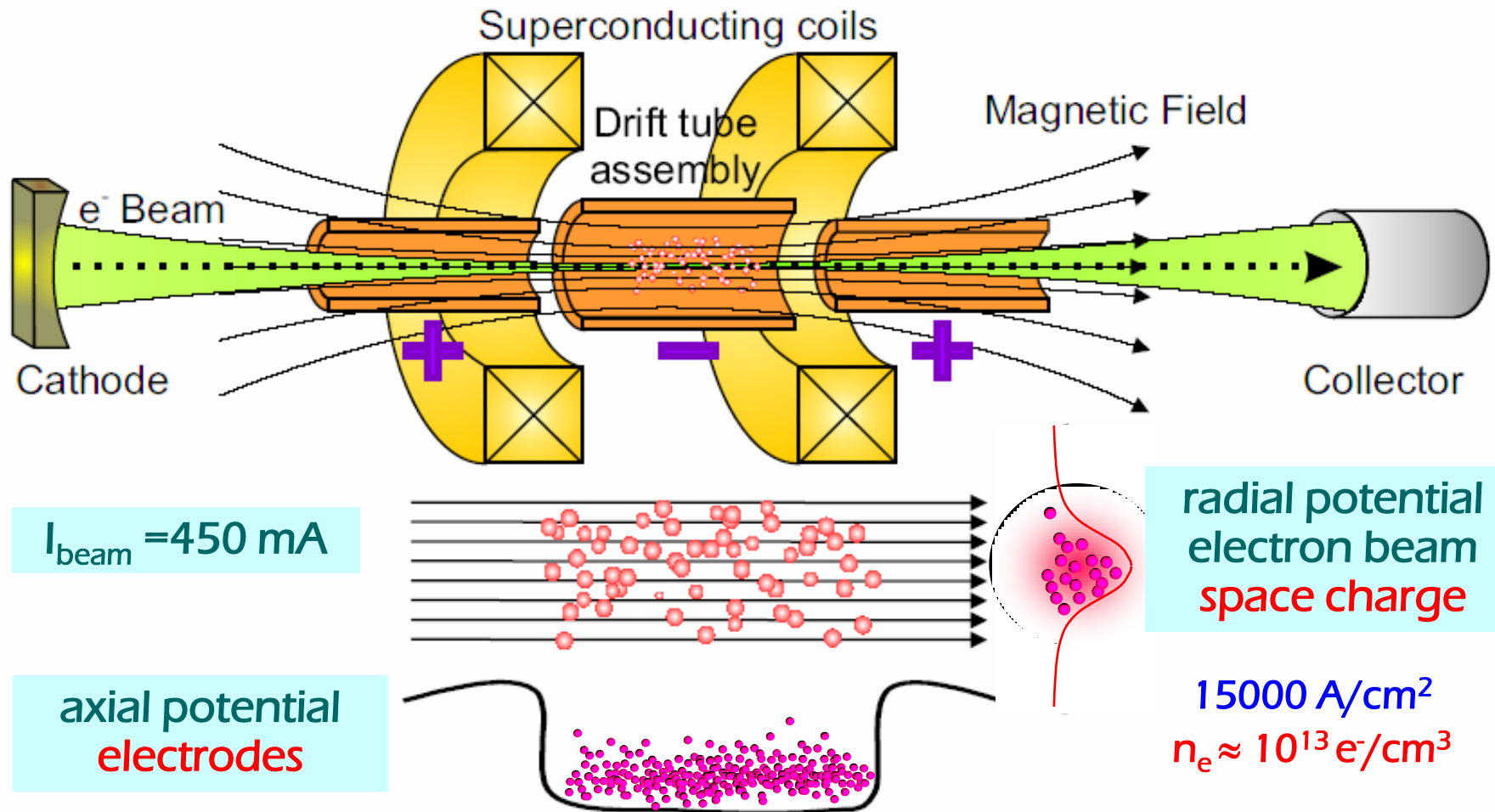
- **Fusion machines**, magnetically confined plasmas
- High power lasers, X-ray lasers
- Ion accelerators
- **Electron beam ion traps** (Levine & Marrs 1986)



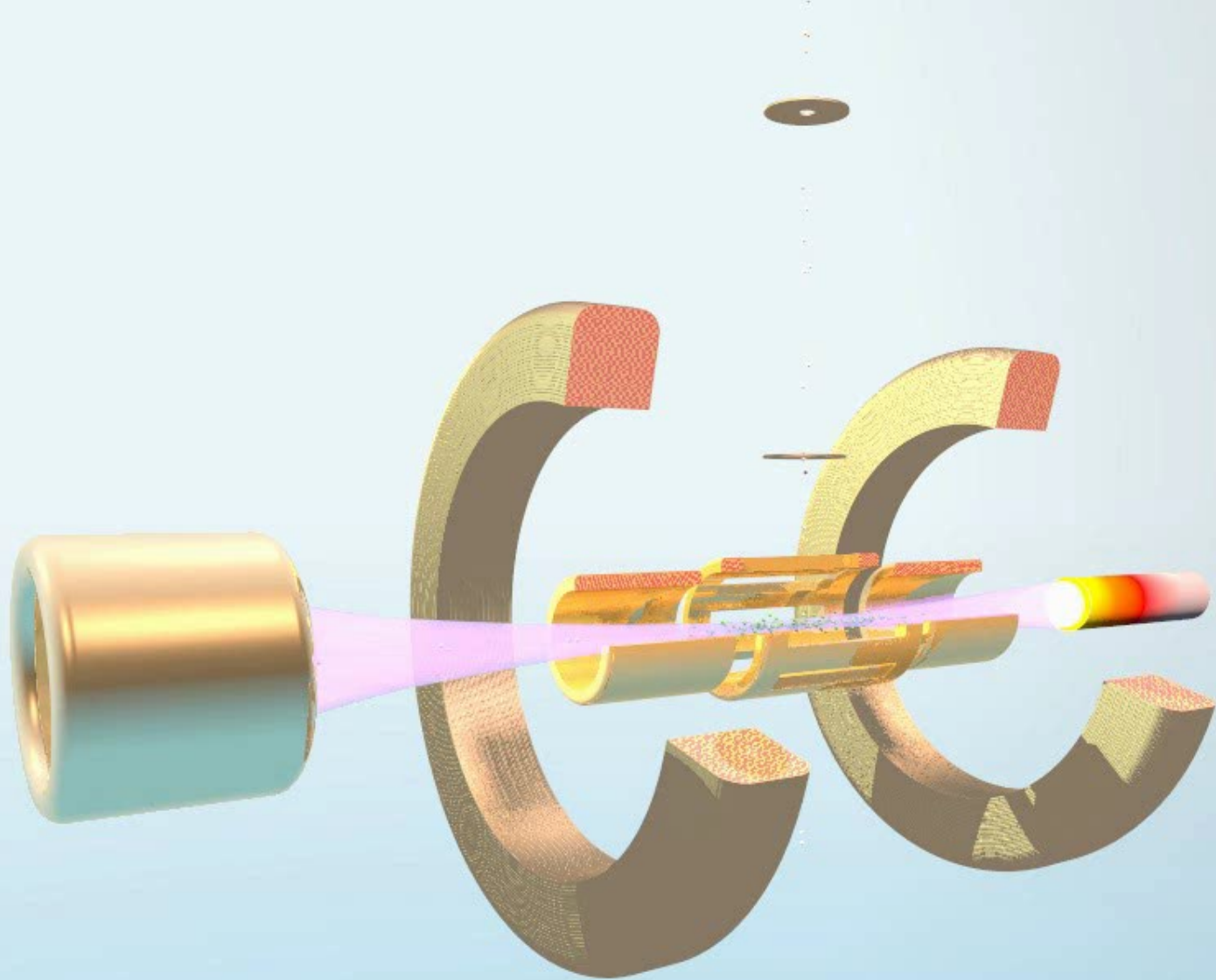
# Making HCl by electron impact ionization



# HCl production with electron beam ion trap

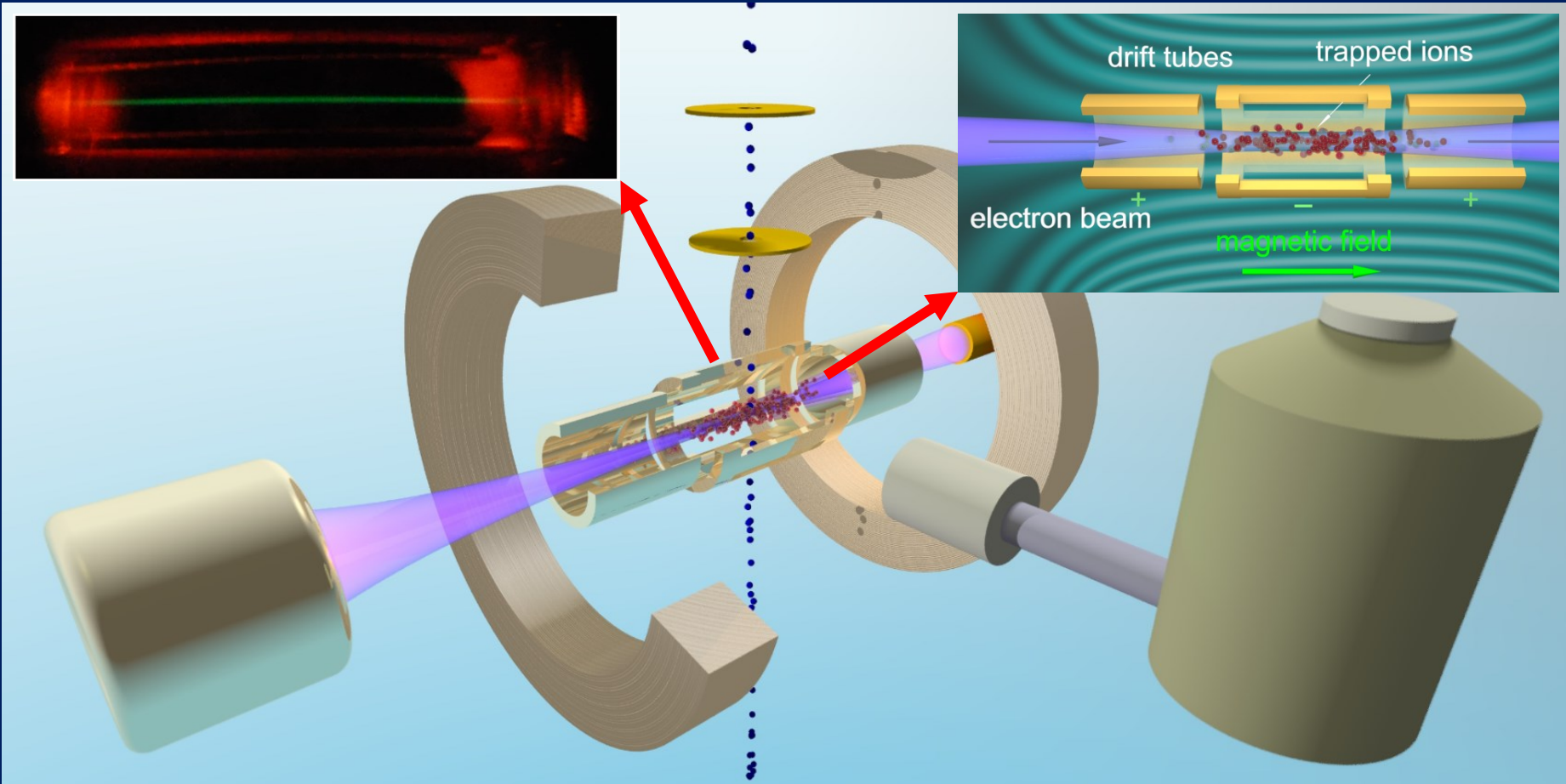


Electron beam drives ionization, excites and traps the ions inside a cylindrical volume





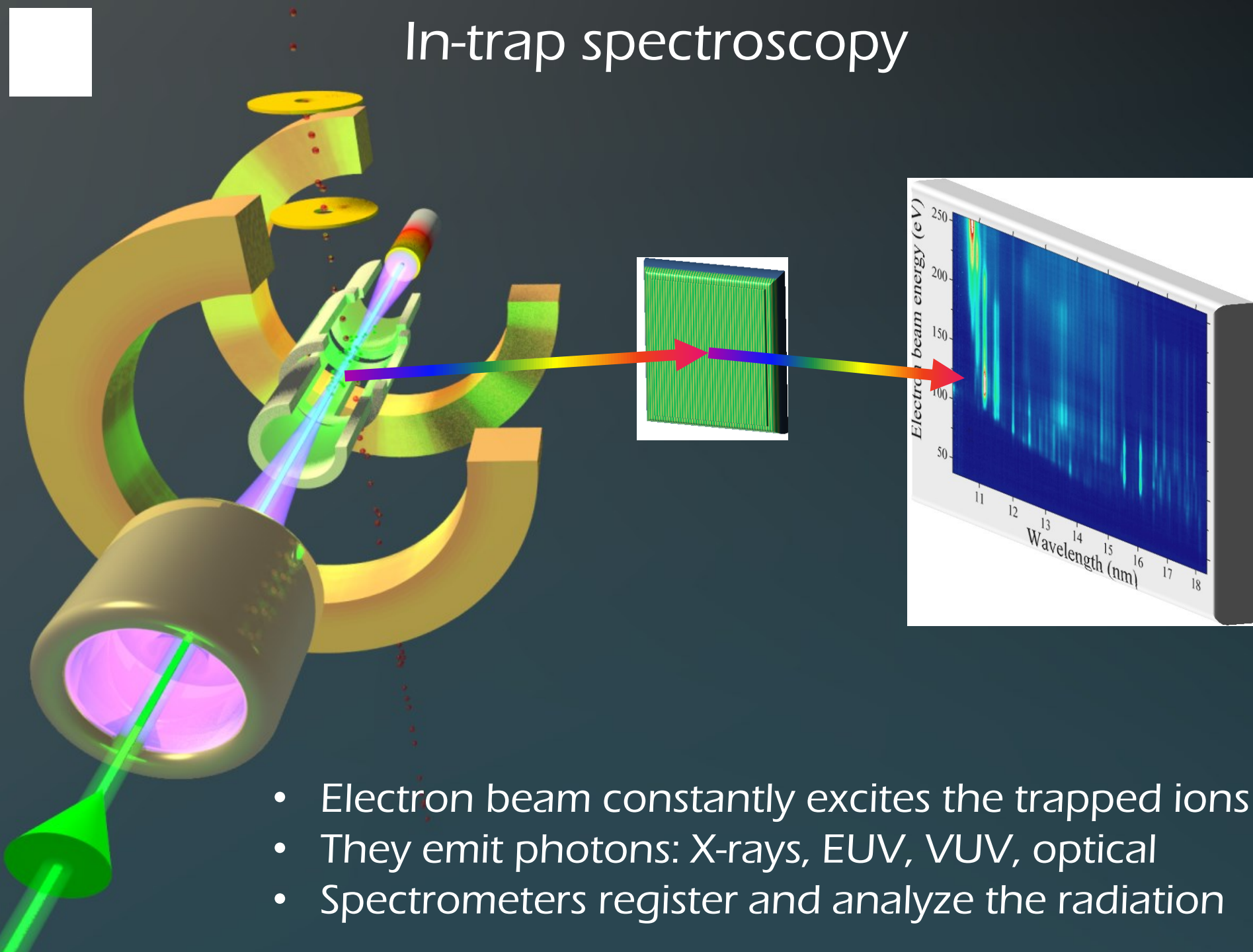
# Electron beam ion traps



- An **electron beam** produces, traps and excites HCl
- Diagnostics from the **optical to the hard x-ray** range
- Additional ionic species particle diagnostics
- Studies from  $N^{3+}$  to  $Hg^{78+}$

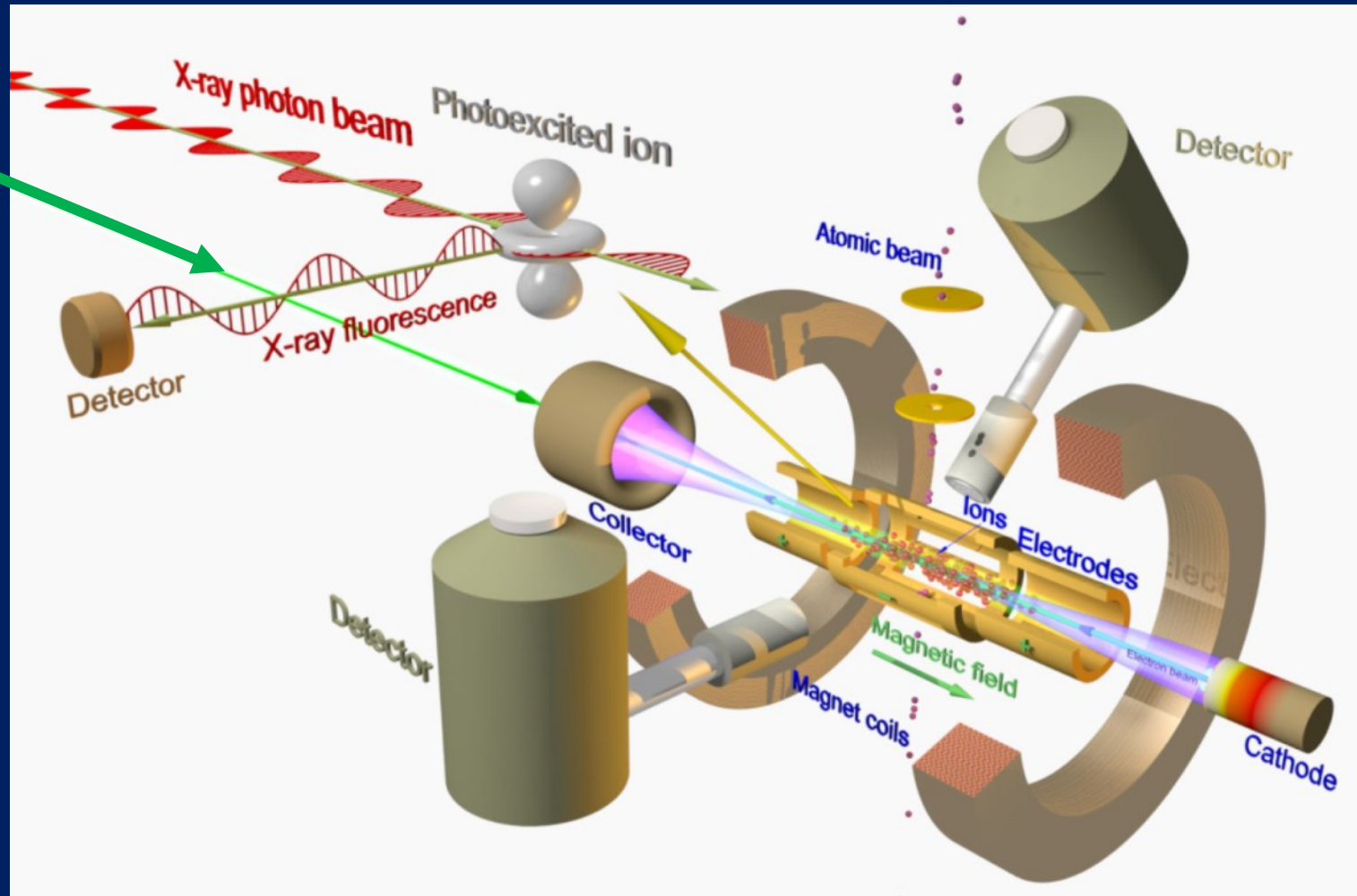


# In-trap spectroscopy



- Electron beam constantly excites the trapped ions
- They emit photons: X-rays, EUV, VUV, optical
- Spectrometers register and analyze the radiation

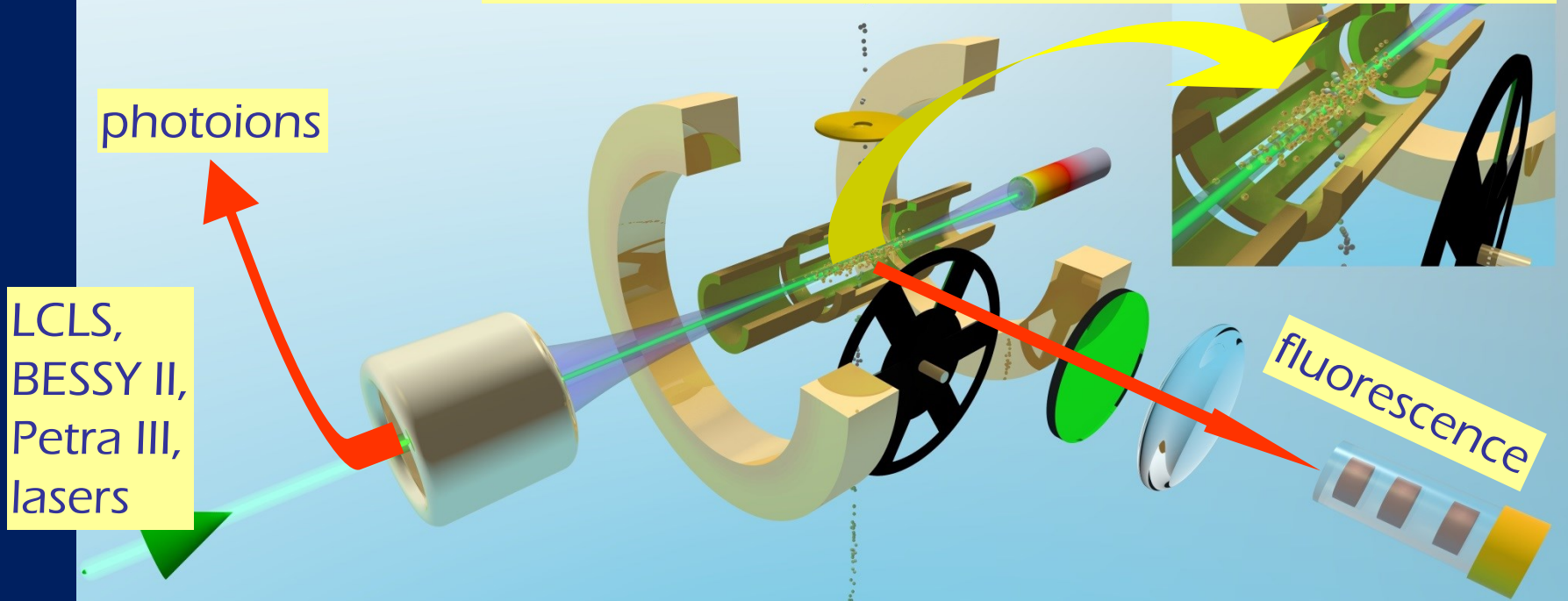
# X-ray laser spectroscopy in EBIT



- Synchrotron radiation (PETRA-III, BESSY-II),
  - Free-electron lasers (LCLS, FLASH) ,
- provide **X-rays with high power and energy resolution**

# Resonant photon excitation in EBITs

Photon beams interact with trapped ions



LCLS,  
BESSY II,  
Petra III,  
lasers

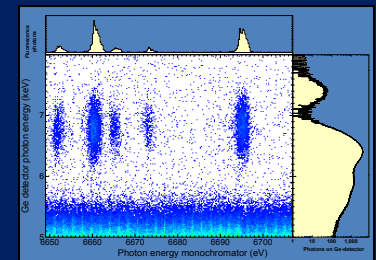
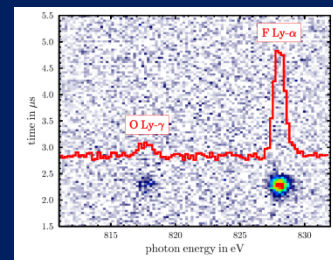
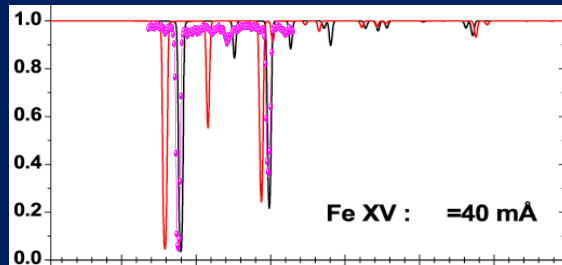
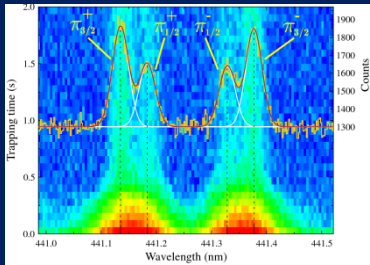
fluorescence

Visible M1  
 $\text{Ar}^{13+}$

Soft X-ray photoionization  
 $\text{Fe}^{14+}$

FEL 800 eV  
 $\text{Fe}^{16+}$

Synchrotron 6 keV  
 $\text{Fe}^{24+}$ , 13 keV  $\text{Kr}^{34+}$



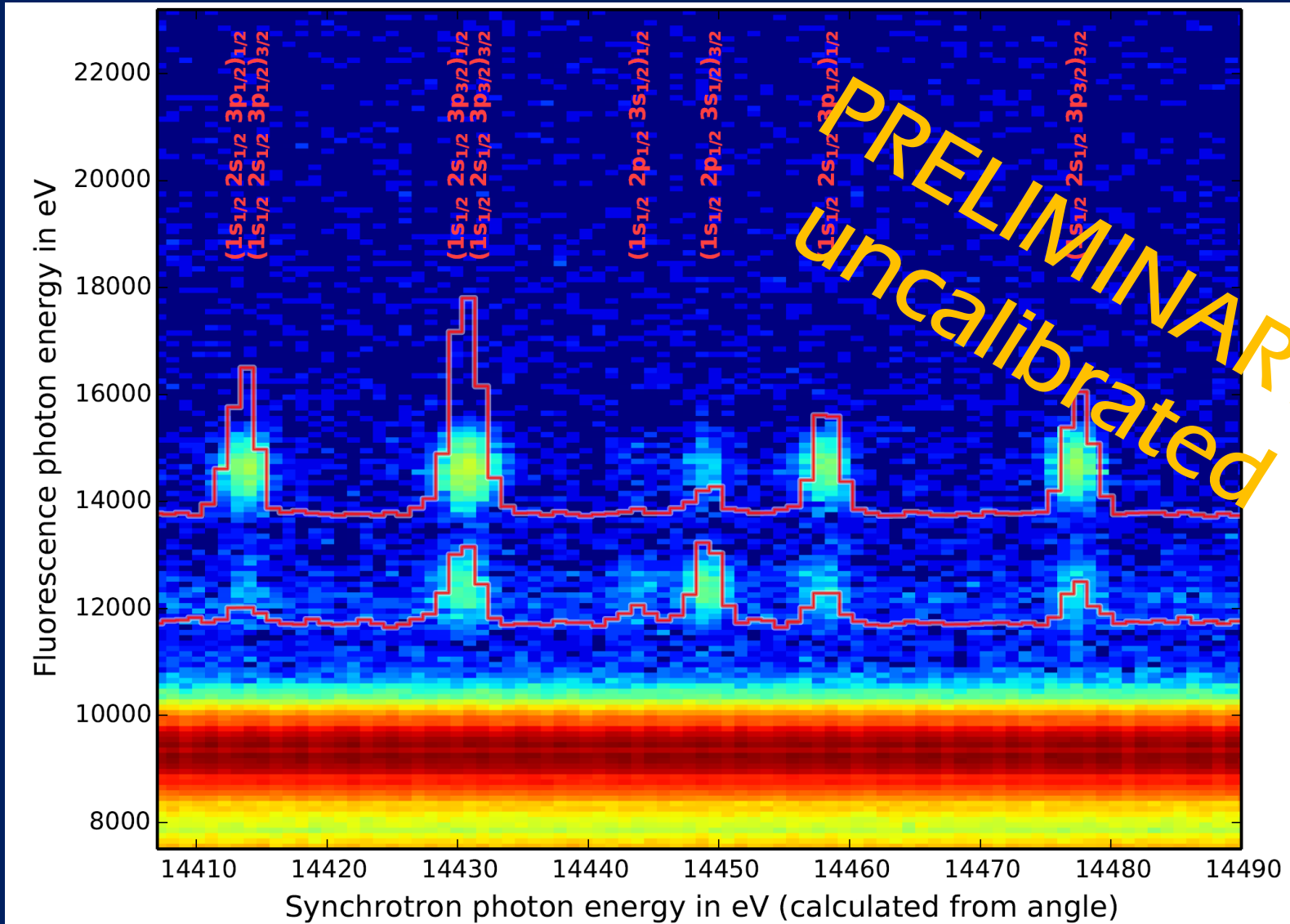
V. Mäkel et al.,  
PRL 107 143002 (2011)

M. C. Simon et al.,  
PRL 105 183001 (2010)

S. Bernitt et al.,  
Nature 492, 225 (2012)

J. Rudolph et al.,  
PRL 111, 103002 (2013)

# New results: Overview spectra of $\text{Br}^{33+}$ (Li-like)

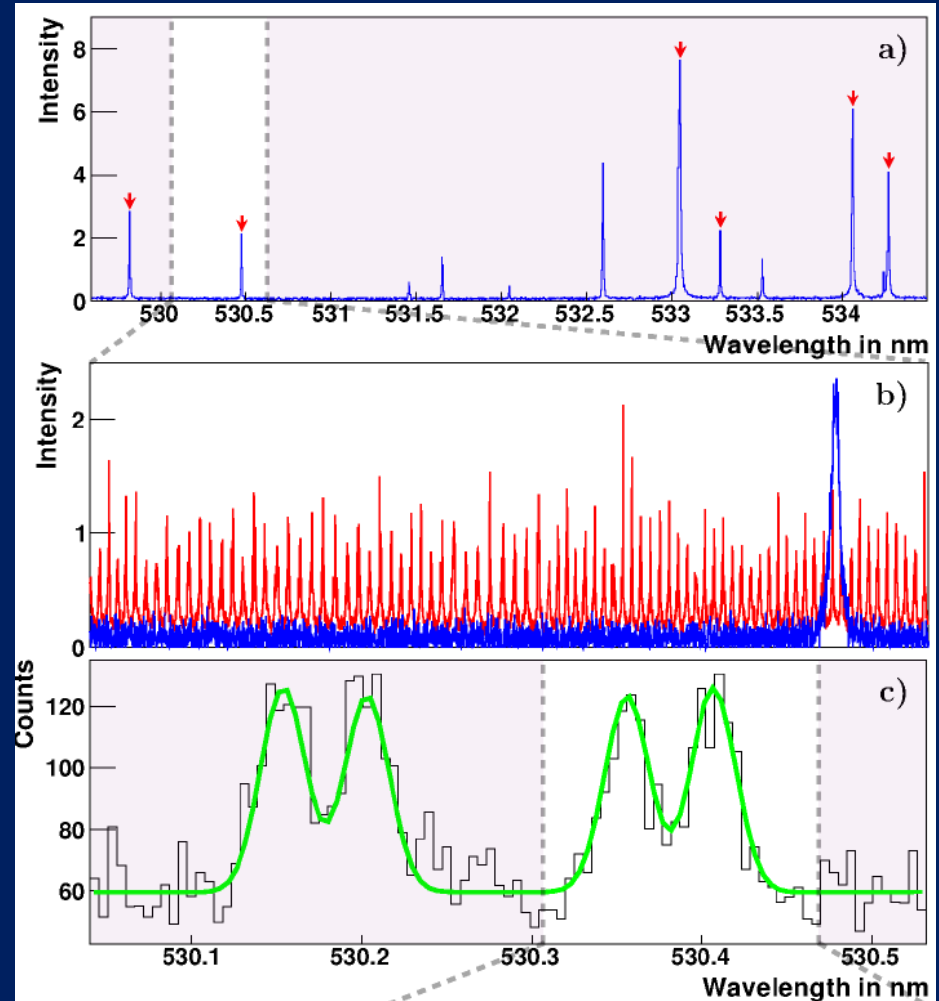
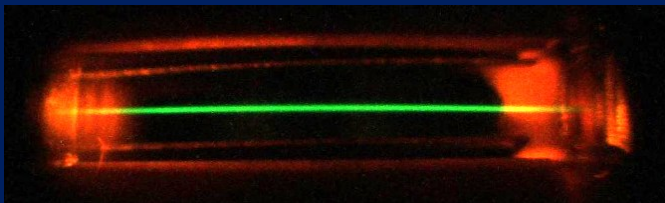
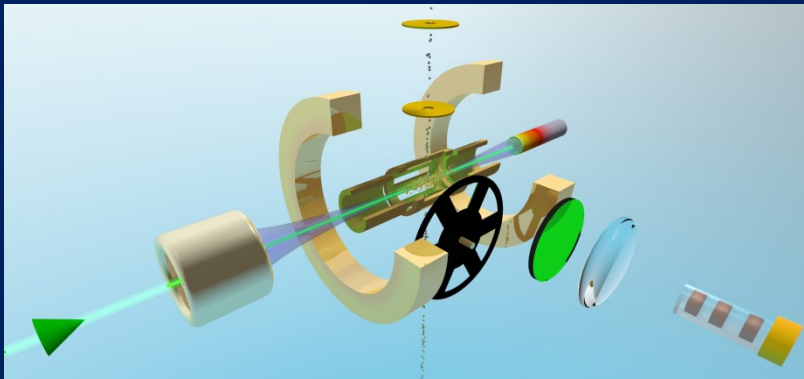
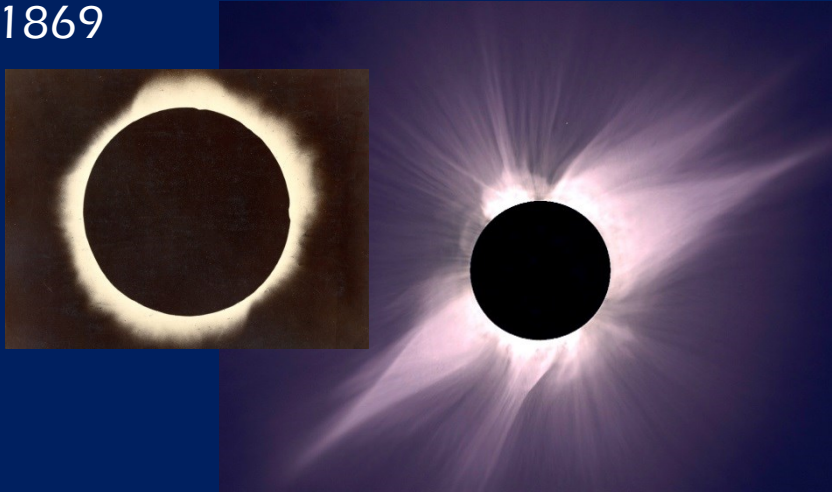


S. Bernitt, MPIK (2016)



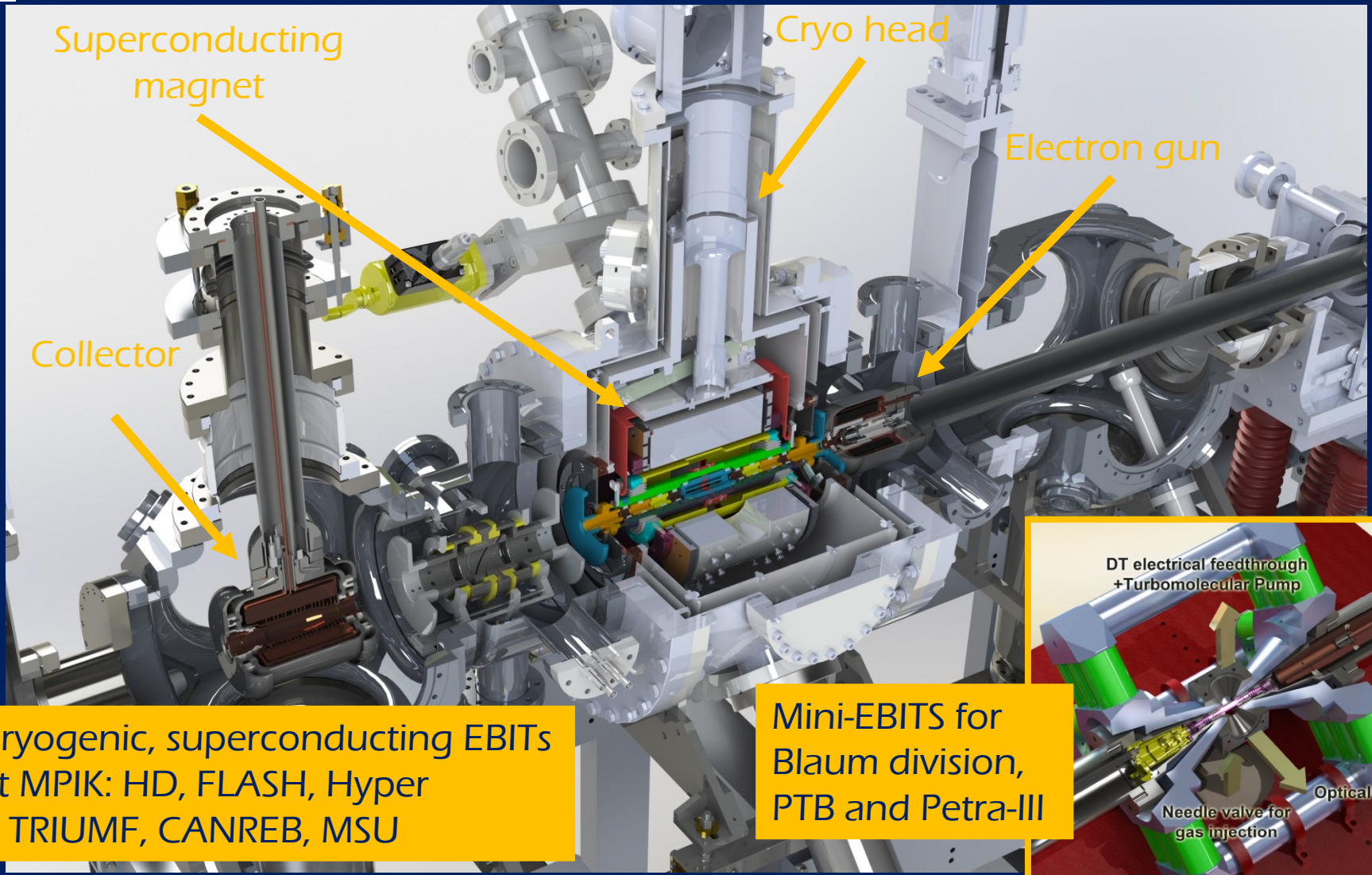
# Laser spectroscopy of forbidden M1 lines

First "coronium"  $\text{Fe}^{13+}$  (Fe XIV), the "green coronal line"  
1869



Still at  $2 \cdot 10^5$  K ion temperature!

# Electron beam ion traps big and small



Cryogenic, superconducting EBITs at MPIK: HD, FLASH, Hyper + TRIUMF, CANREB, MSU

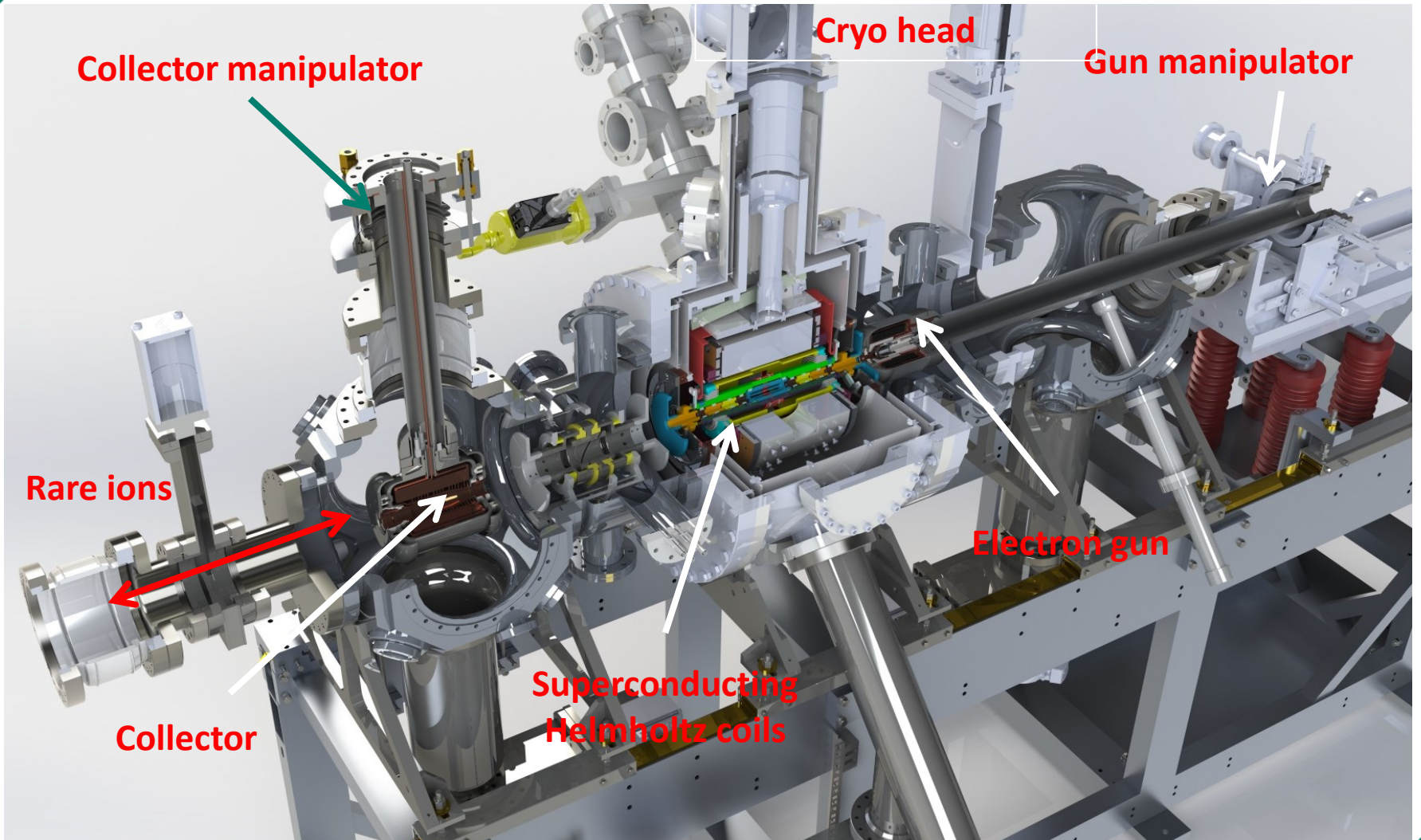
Mini-EBITs for Blaum division, PTB and Petra-III

- Unique facility at MPIK, supporting Pfeifer and Blaum division
- Out of ~20 research EBITs worldwide, 10 are at or come from MPIK

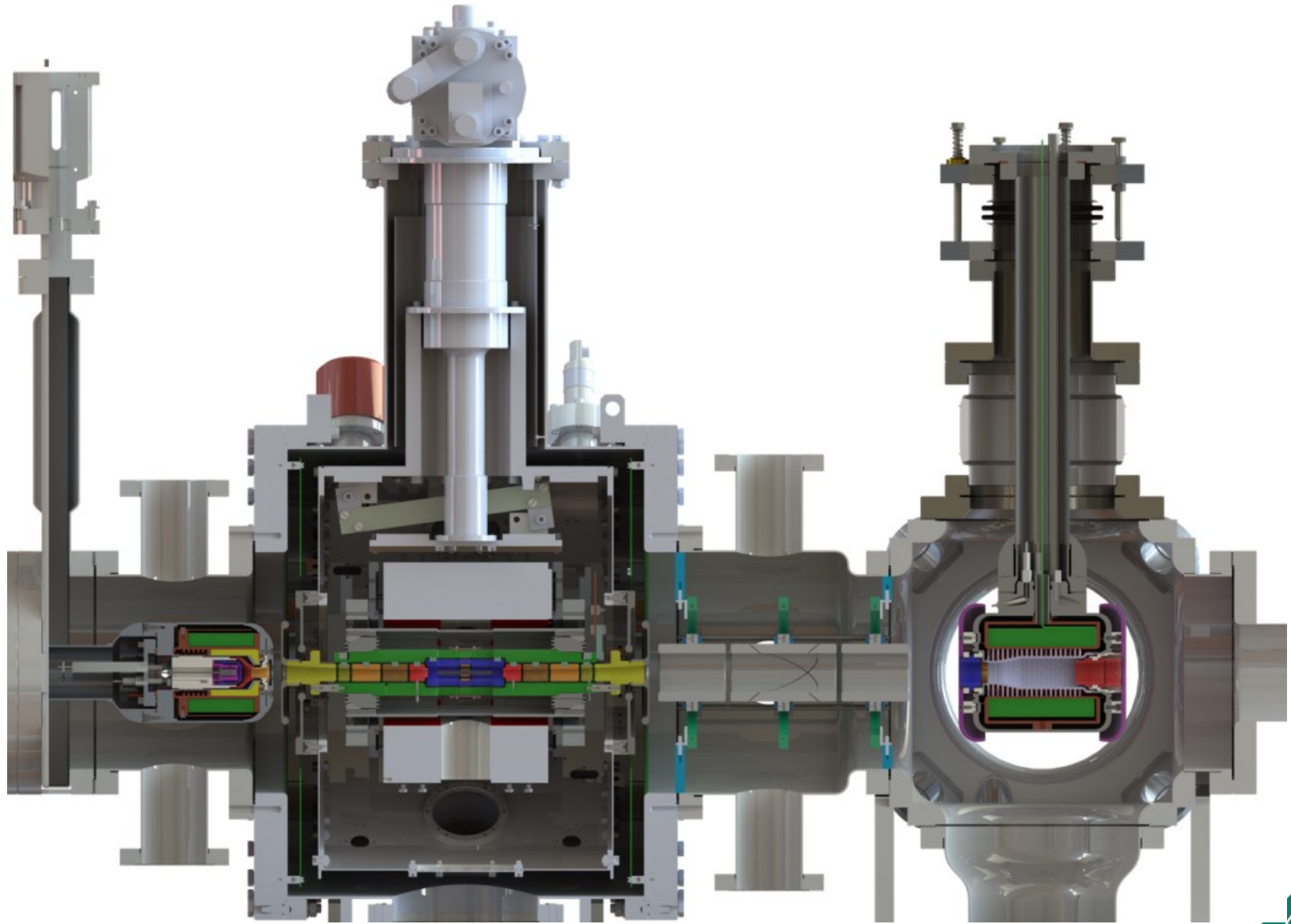




# Design



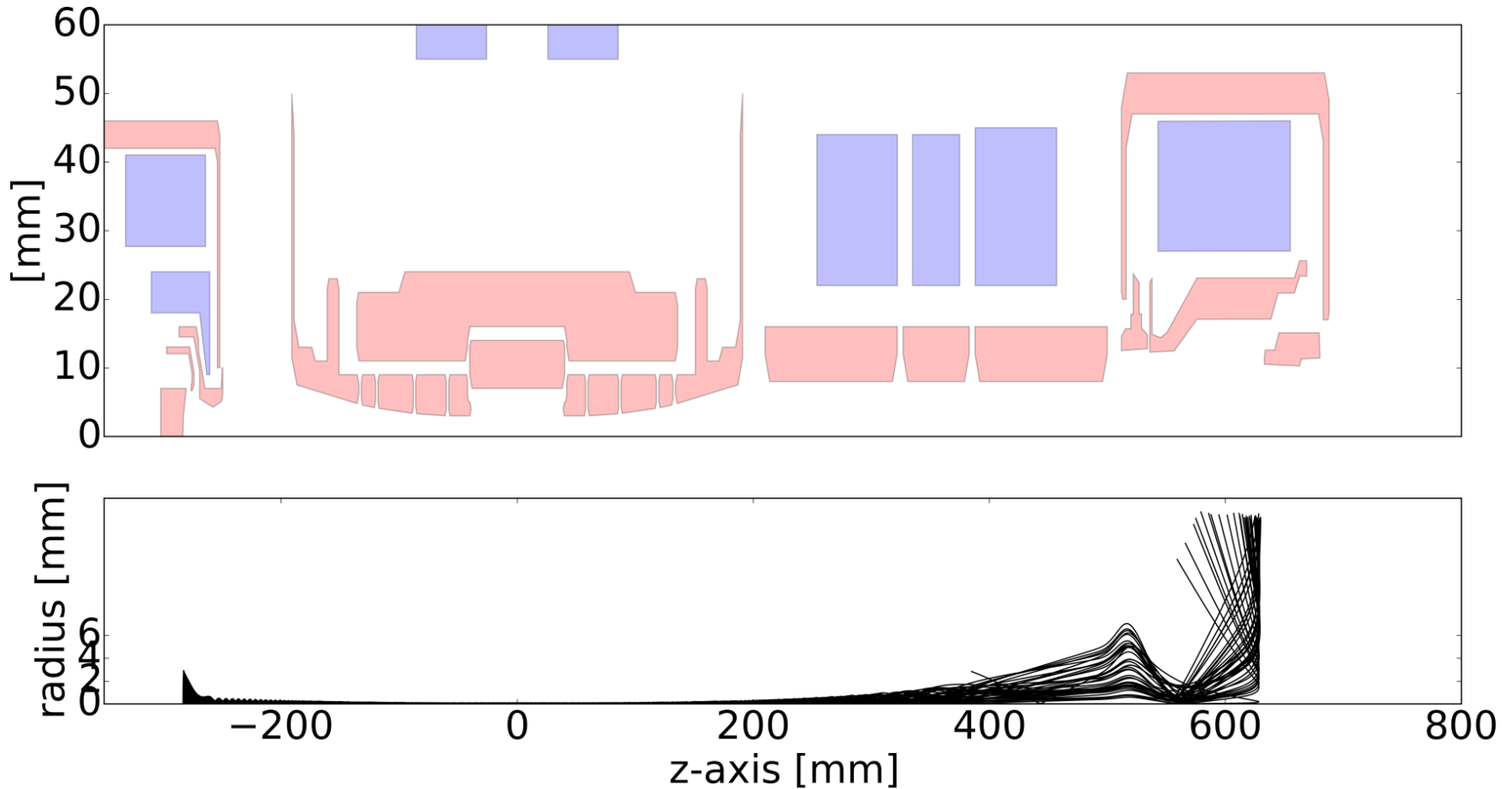
# Design





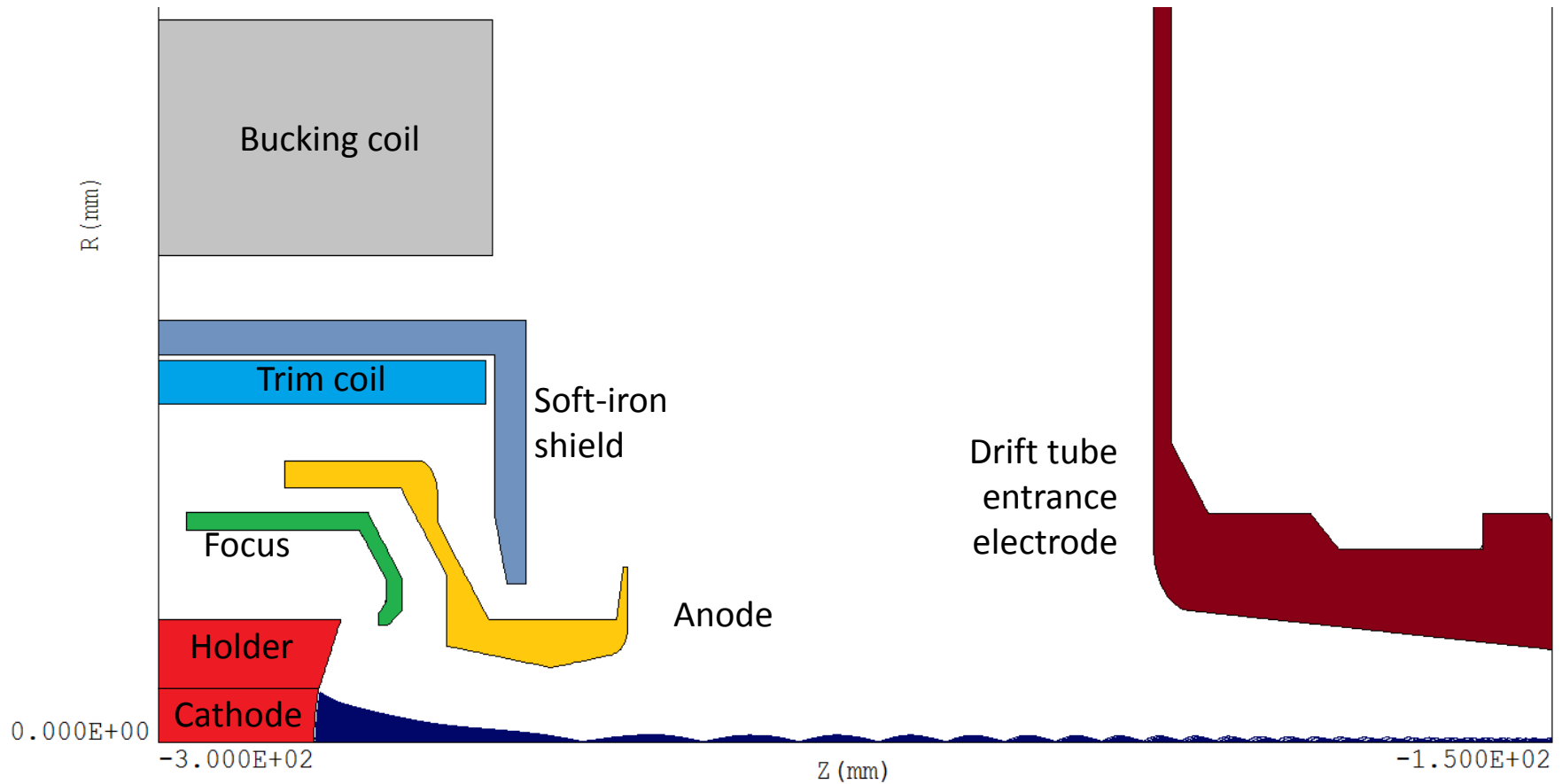


# Electron beam simulations



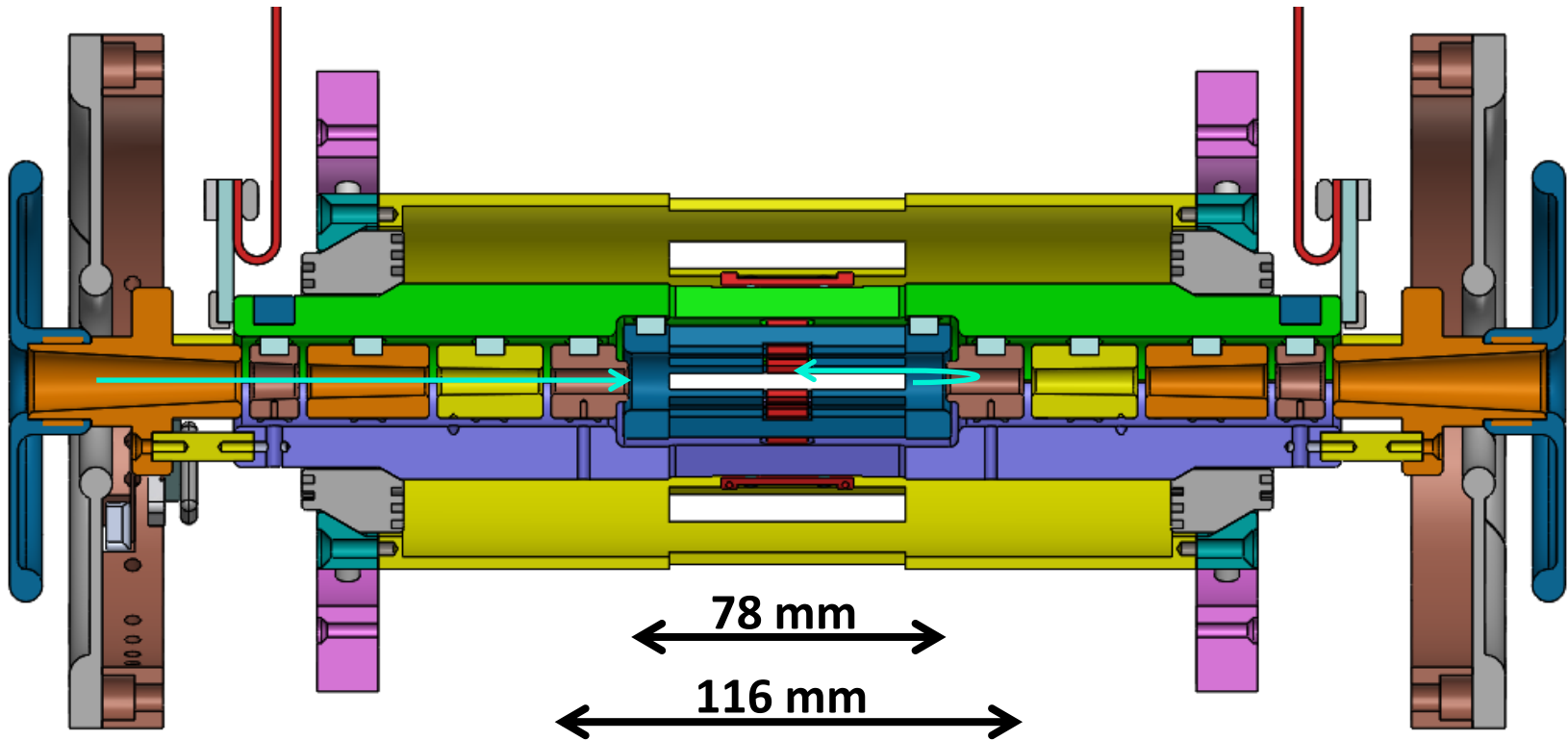
Electron beam simulations with TriCOMP, COMSOL, Simlon

# Electron beam simulation



- Space charge limited Pierce gun design
- Non-immersed

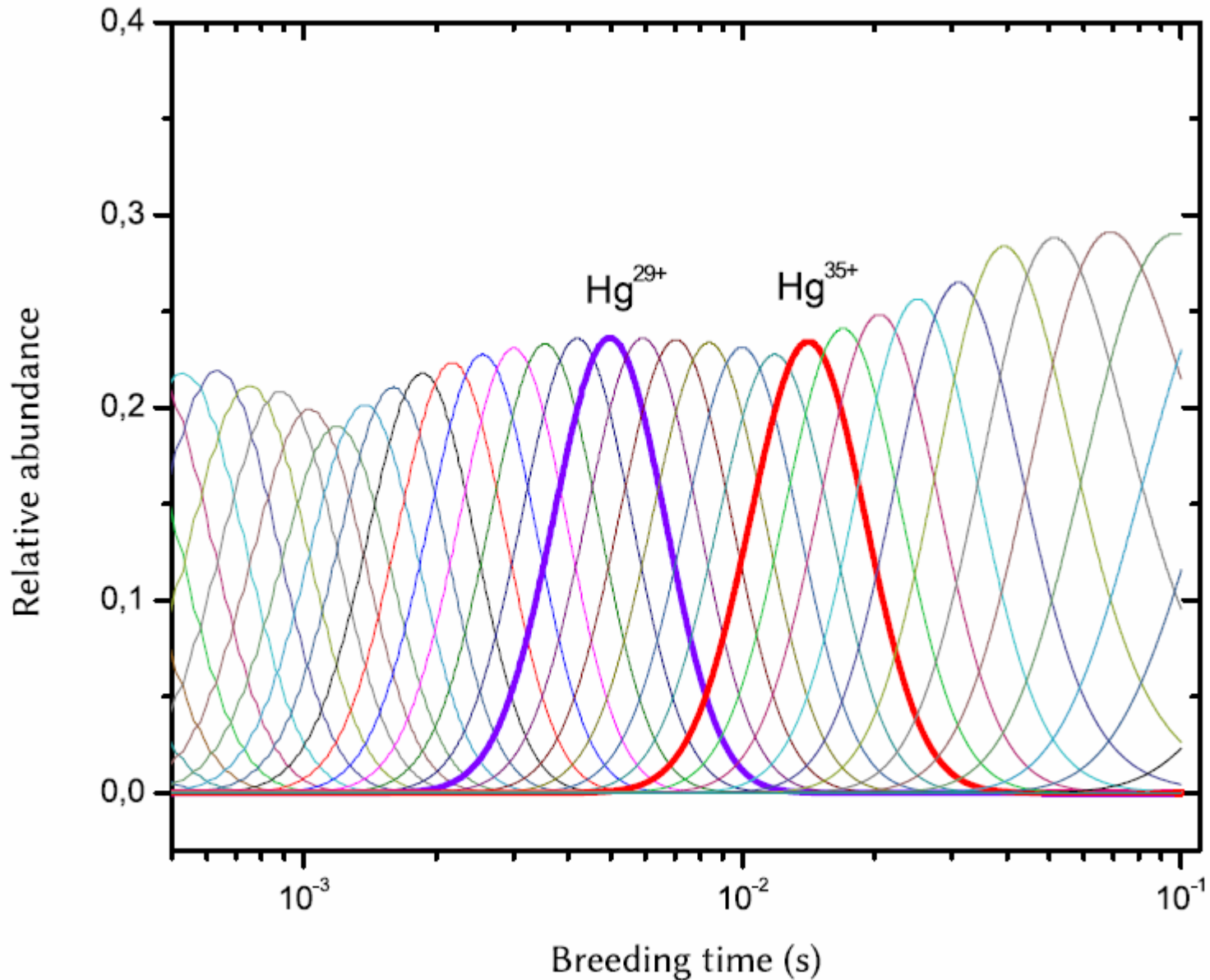
# Ion time of flight in the trap



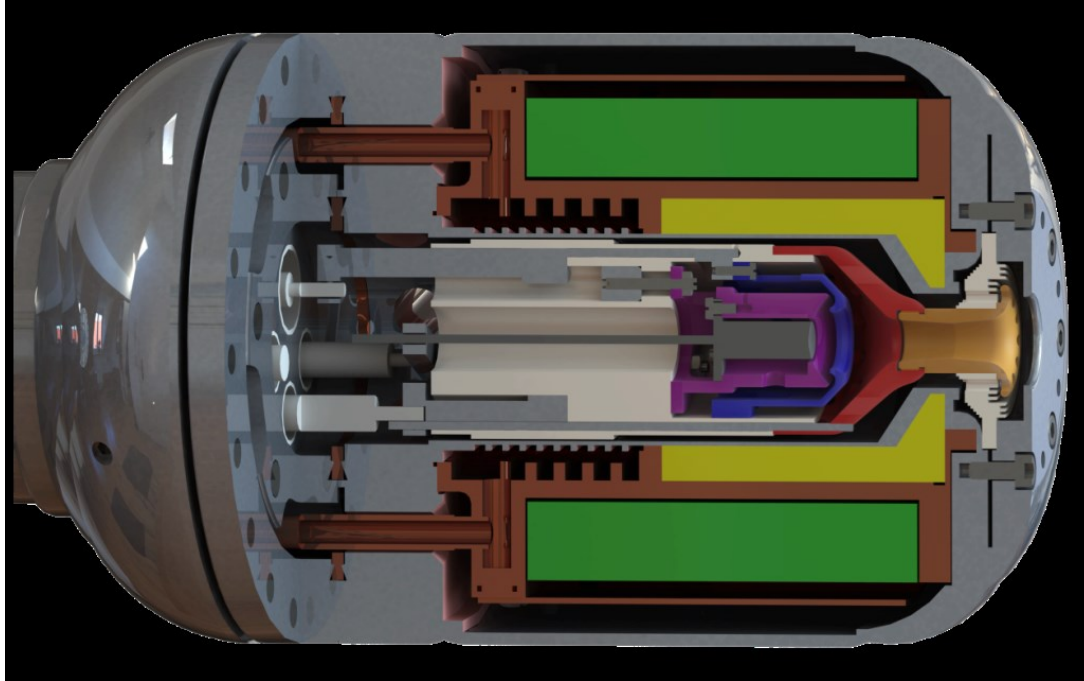
## Example calculations of time-of-flight (TOF):

- Kinetic energy in the trap: 500 eV
- TOF for 2 x 78 mm: 2.2  $\mu\text{s}$  ( $M = 20$ ); 5.8  $\mu\text{s}$  ( $M = 132$ )
- TOF for 2 x 116 mm: 3.3  $\mu\text{s}$  ( $M = 20$ ); 8.6  $\mu\text{s}$  ( $M = 132$ )

# Charge breeding simulation

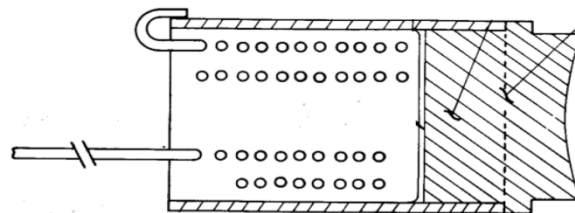


# Electron gun

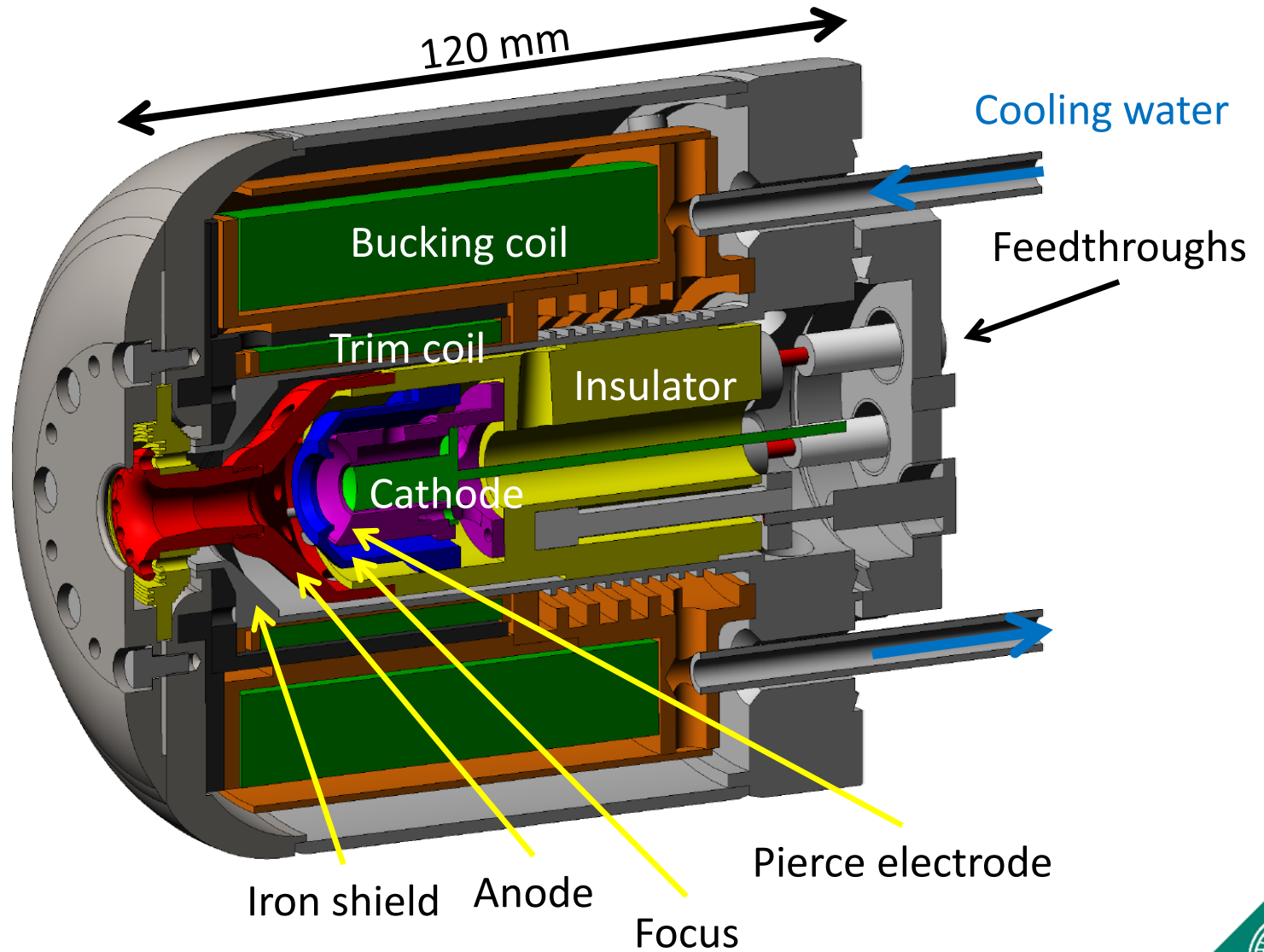


- $r_c = 3.175 \text{ mm}$
- max. emission  $I_c > 1 \text{ A}$
- Soft iron shield

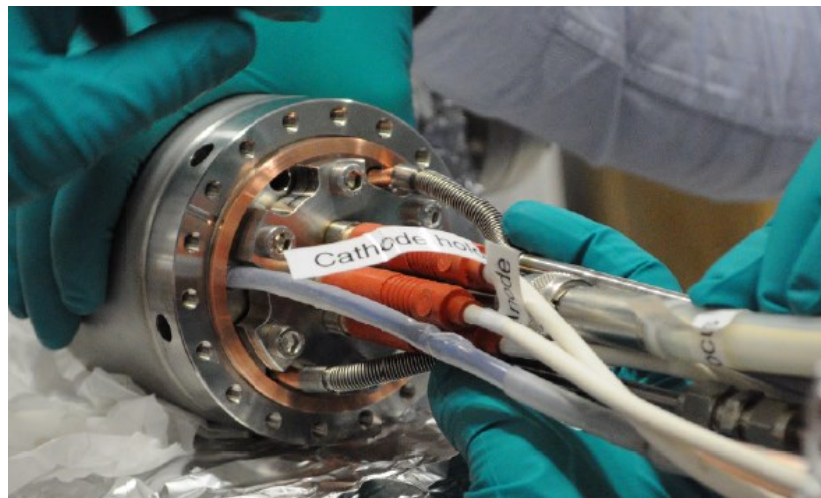
Dispenser-type Ba M-coating thermoionic cathode



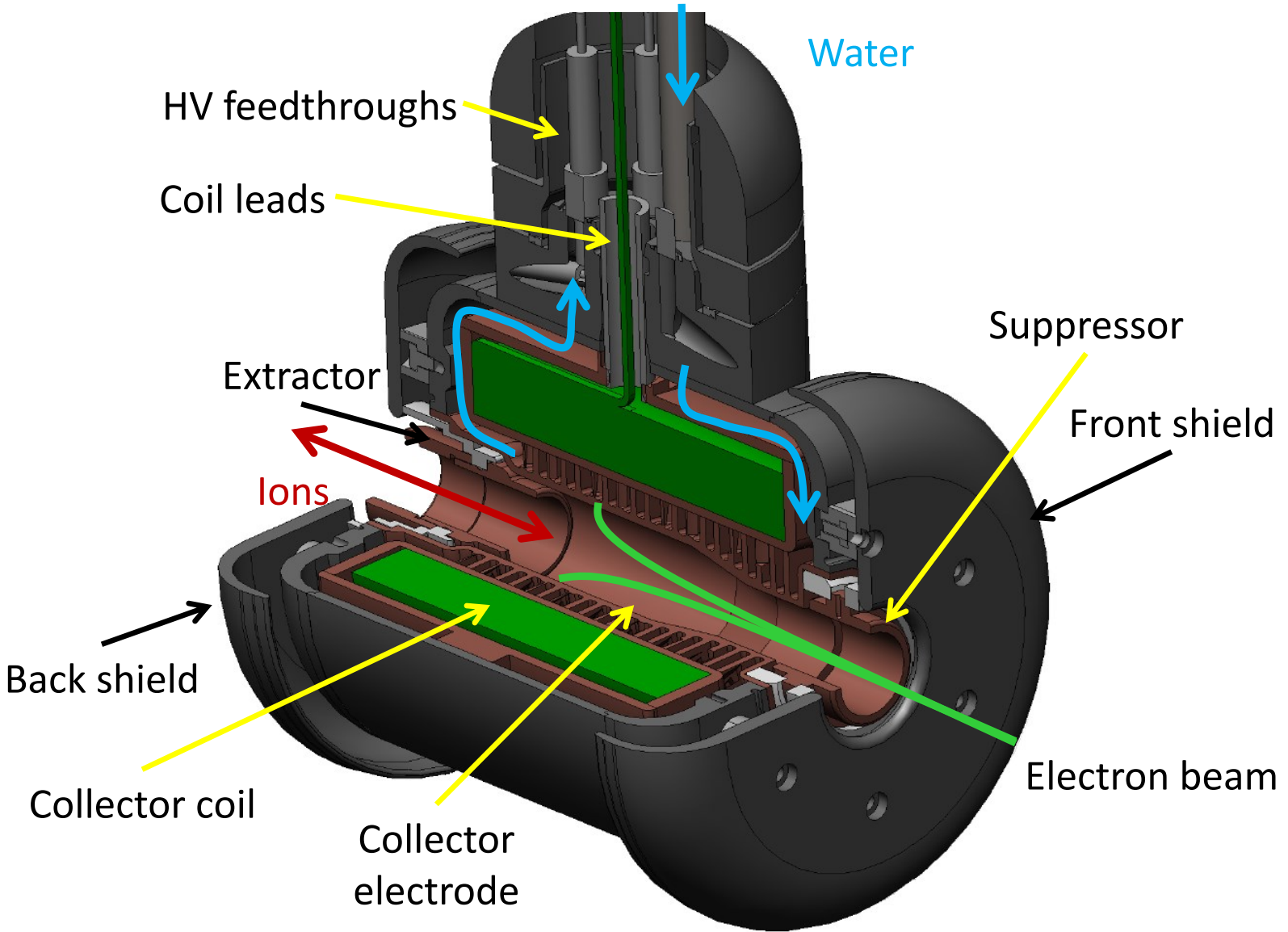
# Electron gun





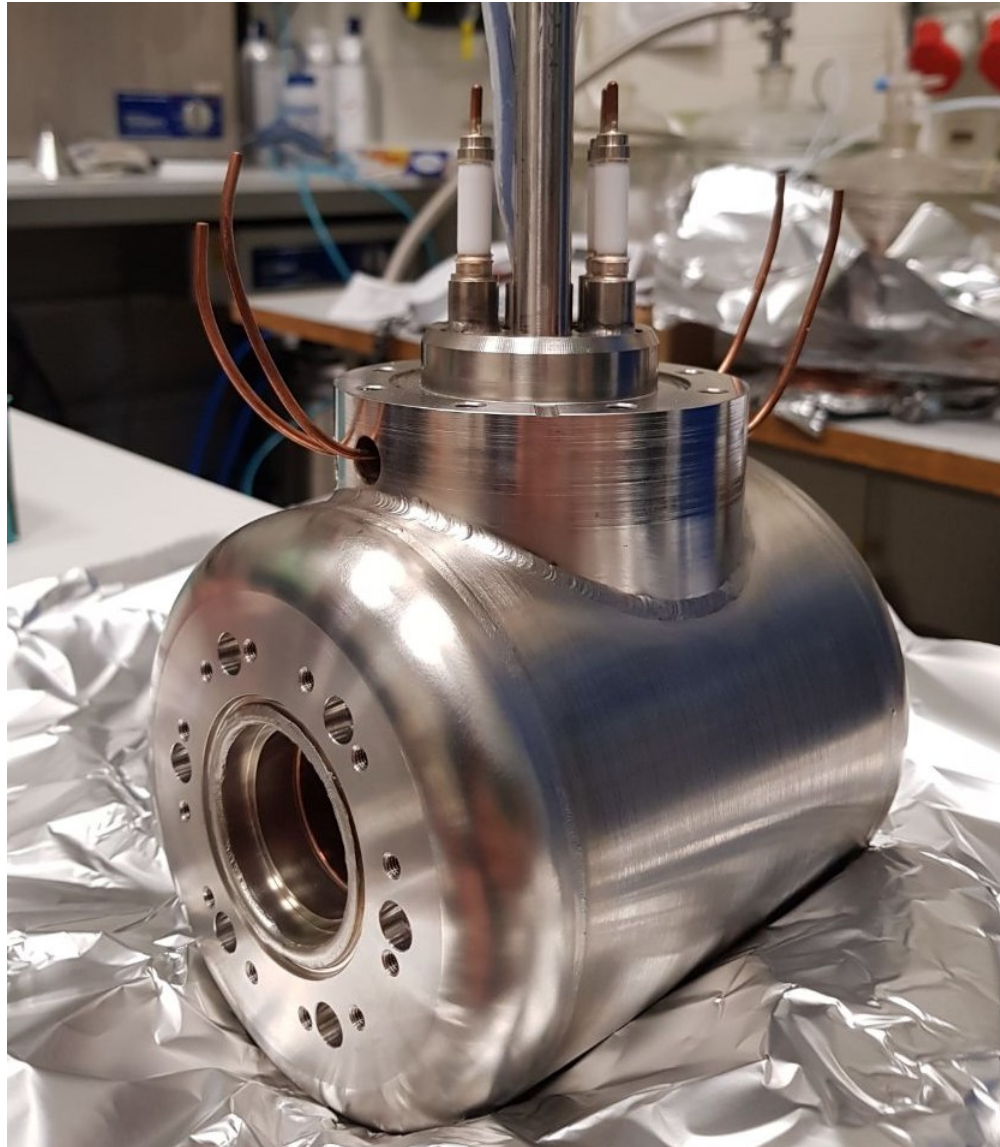


# Electron collector

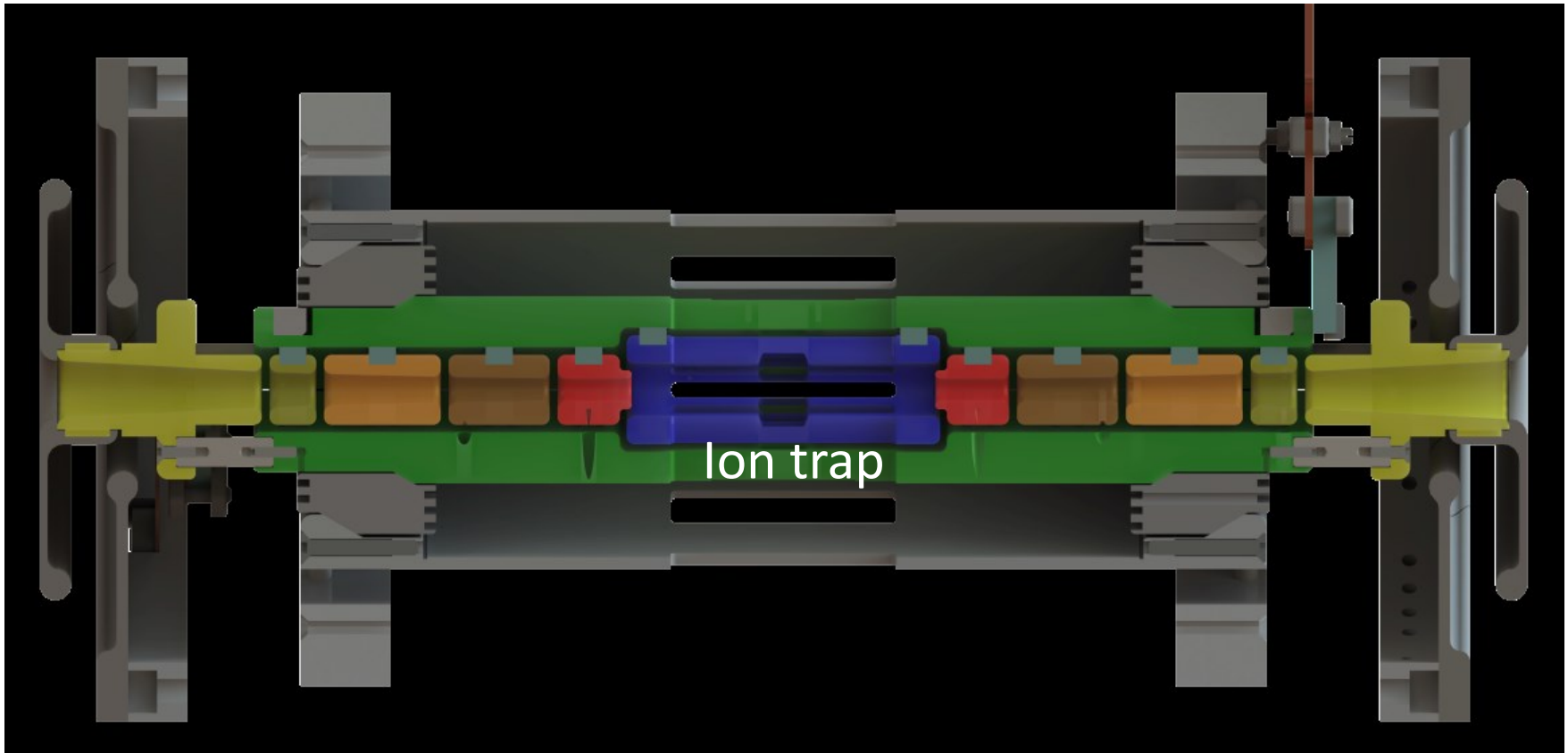




# Electron collector



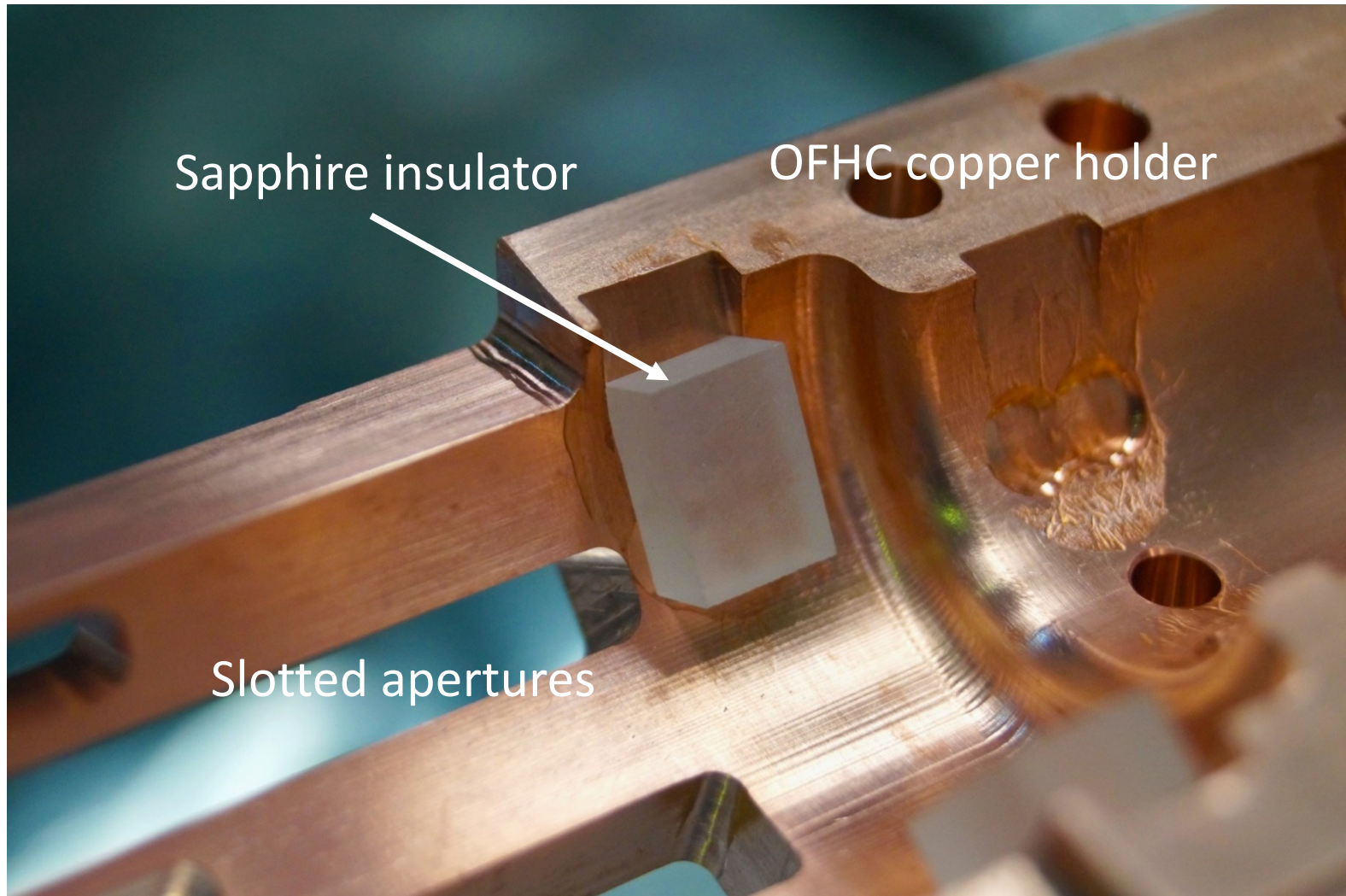
# Drift tube assembly



- Trap region length 80-270 mm
- 4 K operation
- Fast HV switching in sub- $\mu$ s range possible

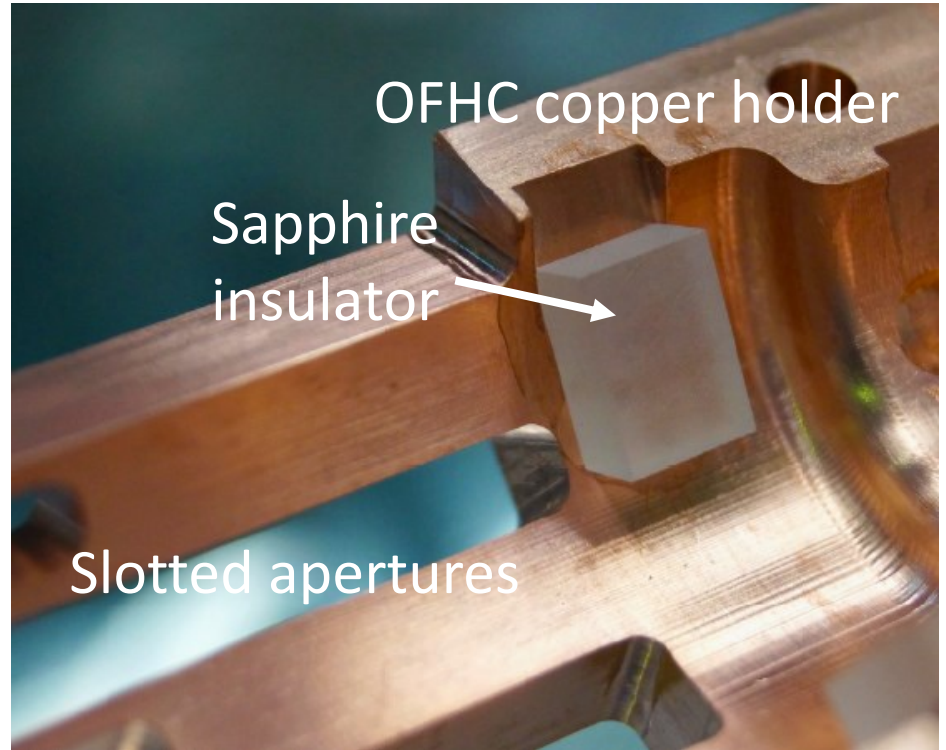
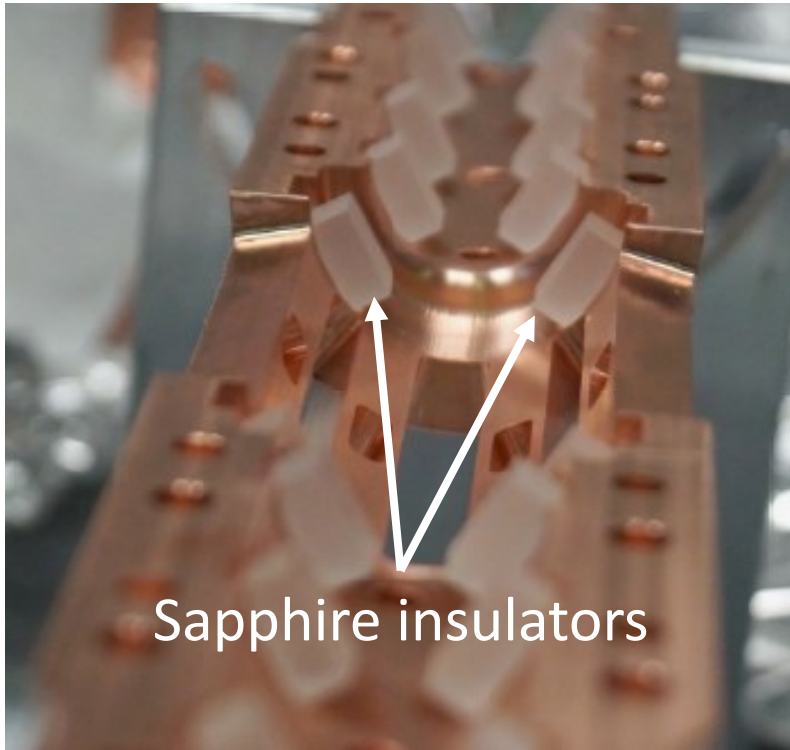


# Drift tube supports





# Drift tubes, electrode assembly

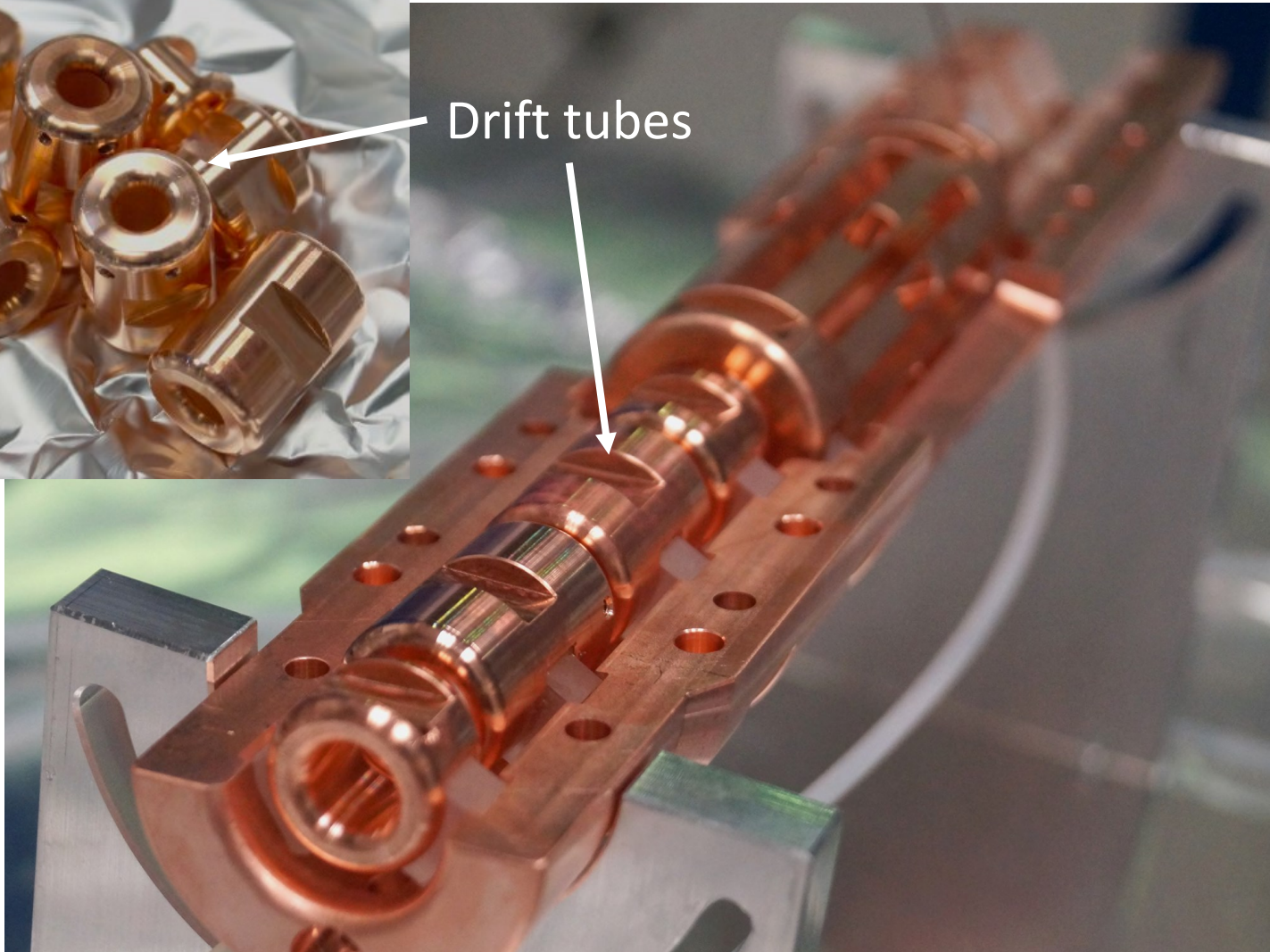




# Drift tubes, electrode assembly

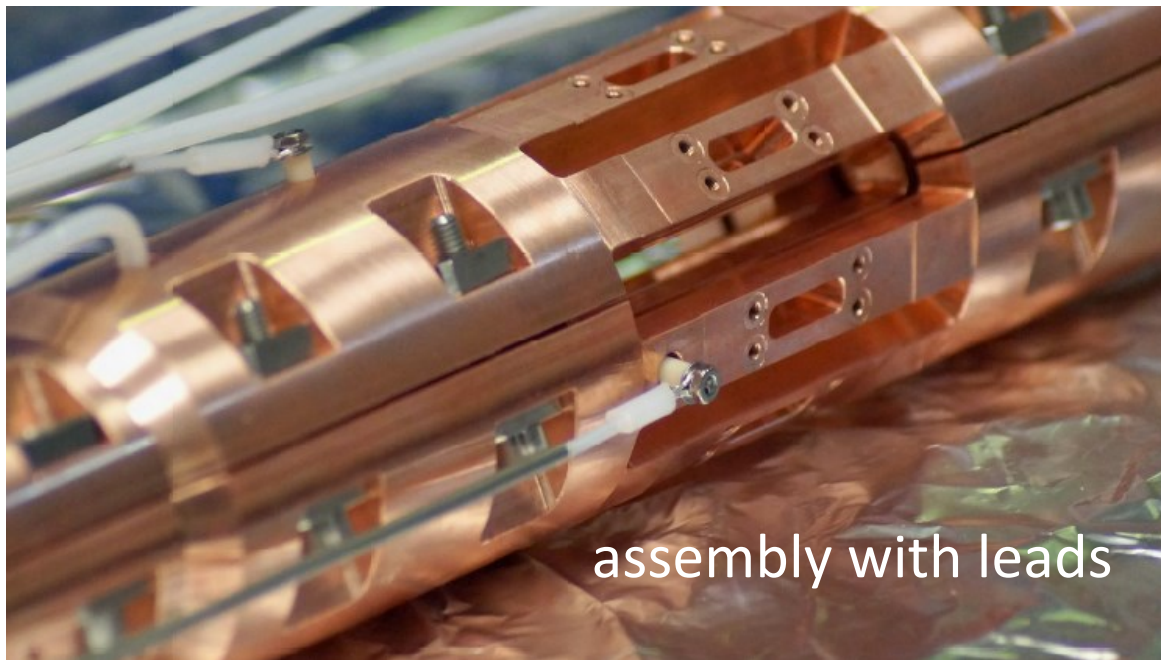


Drift tubes



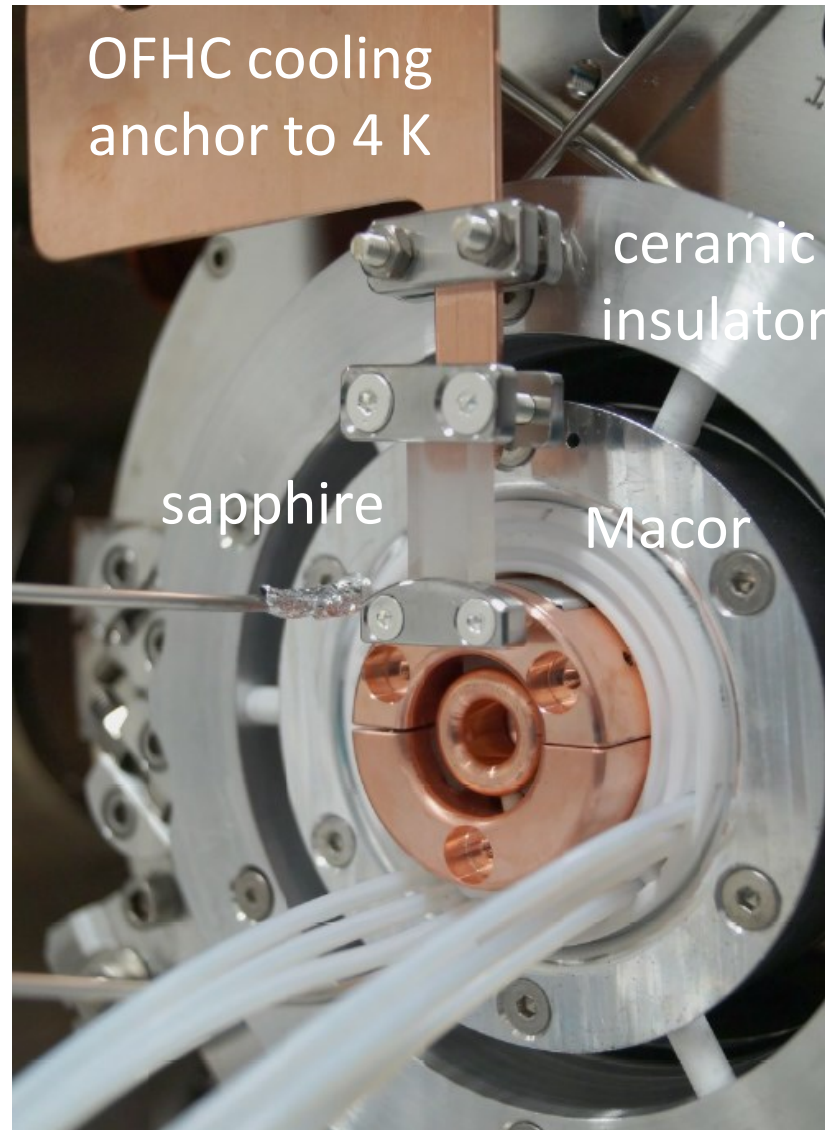


# Slotted central drift tube



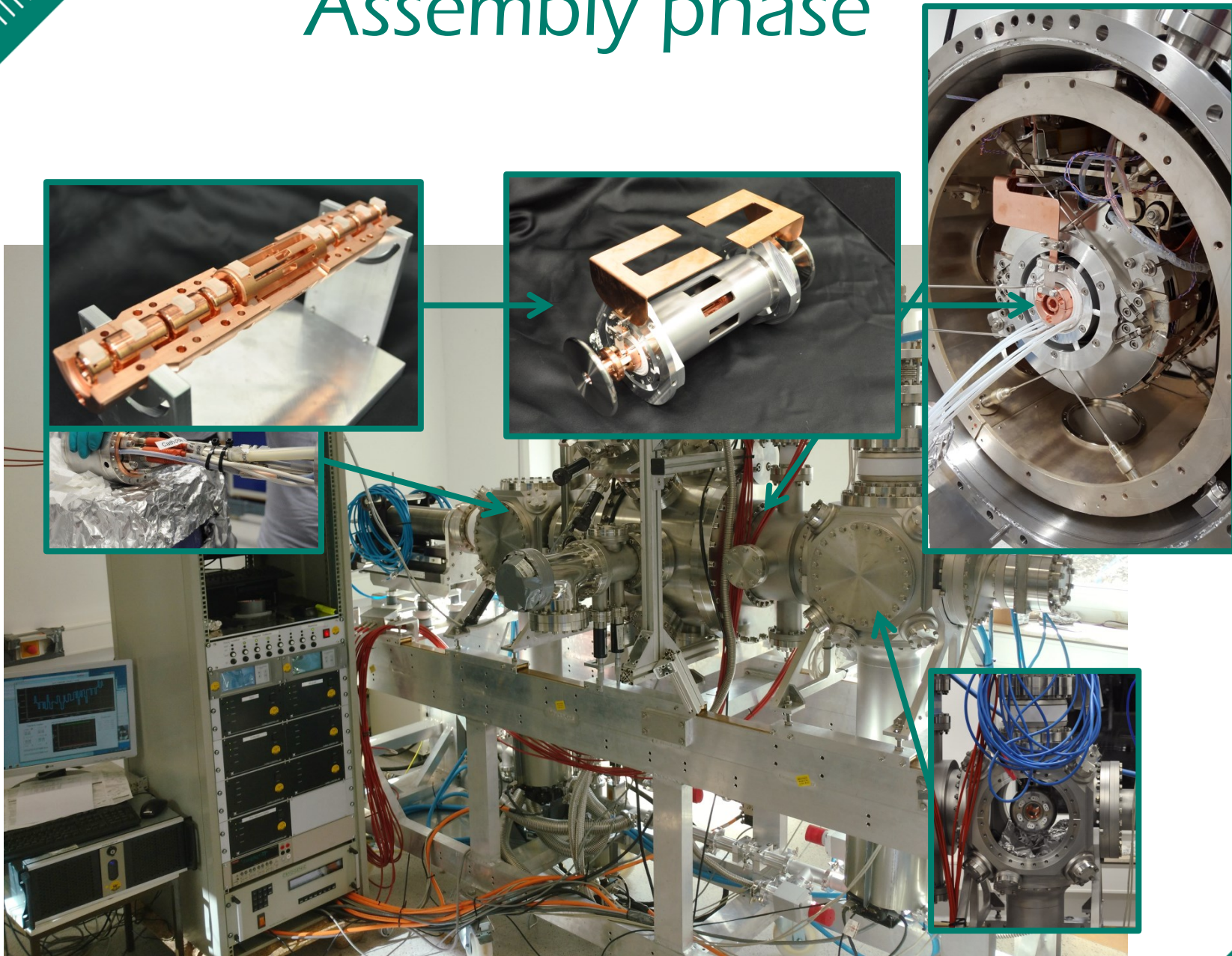


# Drift tube assembly in magnet bore



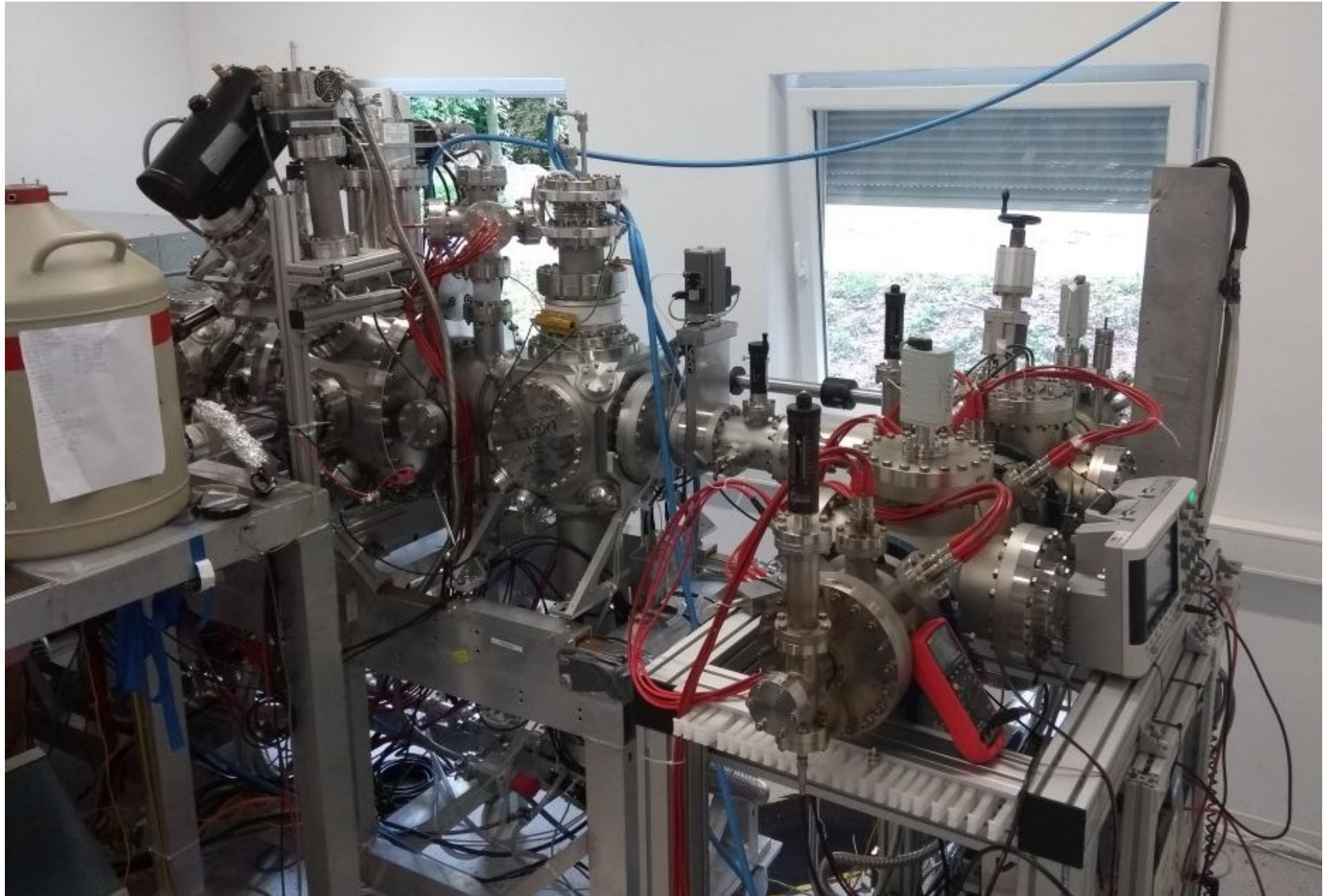


# Assembly phase

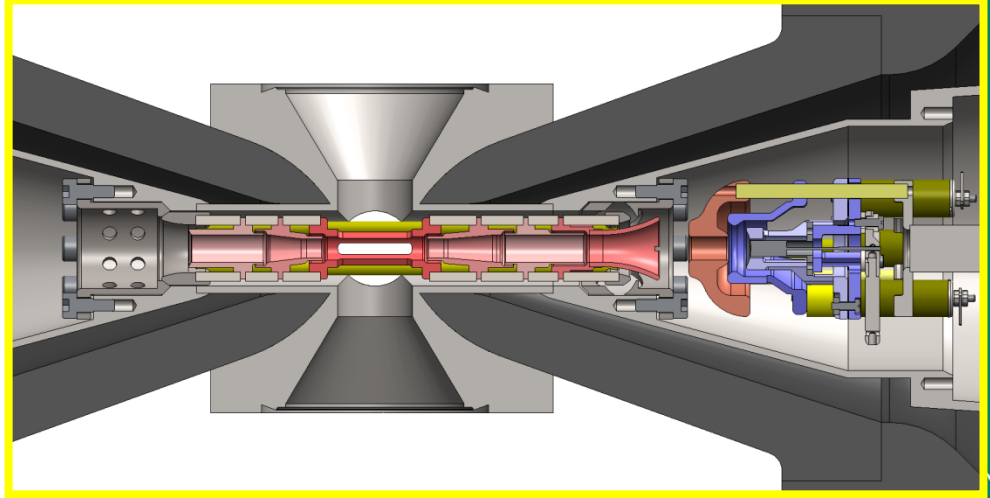
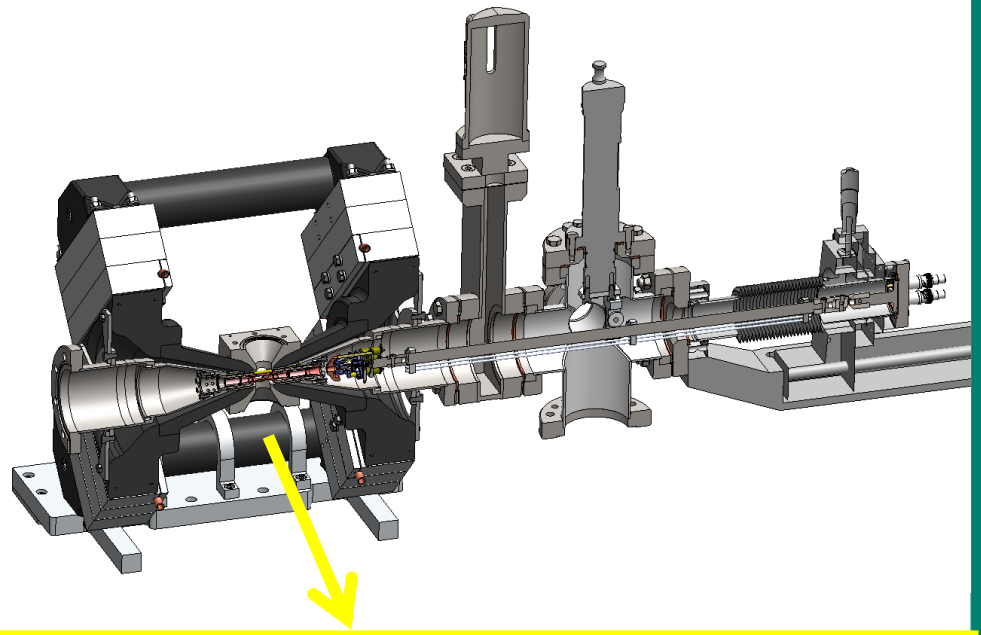
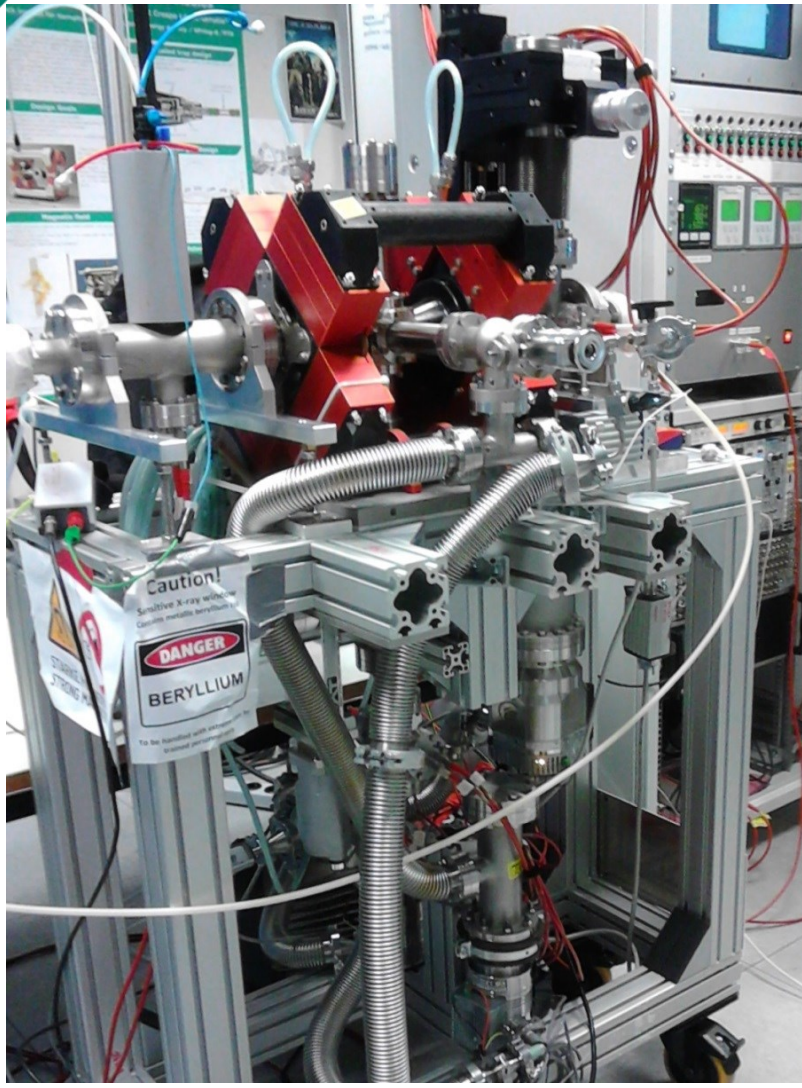




# Assembly lab

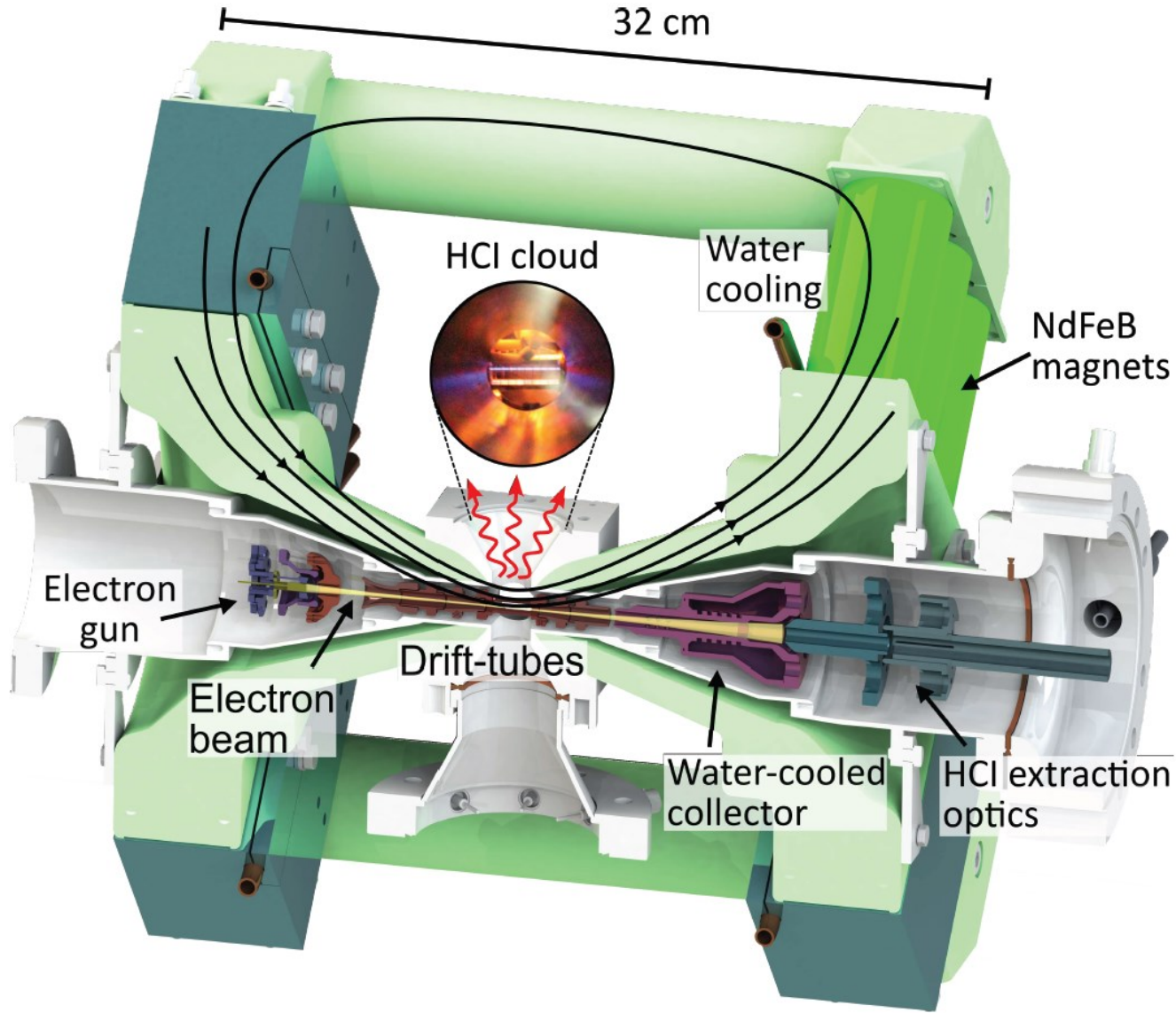


# Table-top EBITs for PTB, Petra-III, MPIK

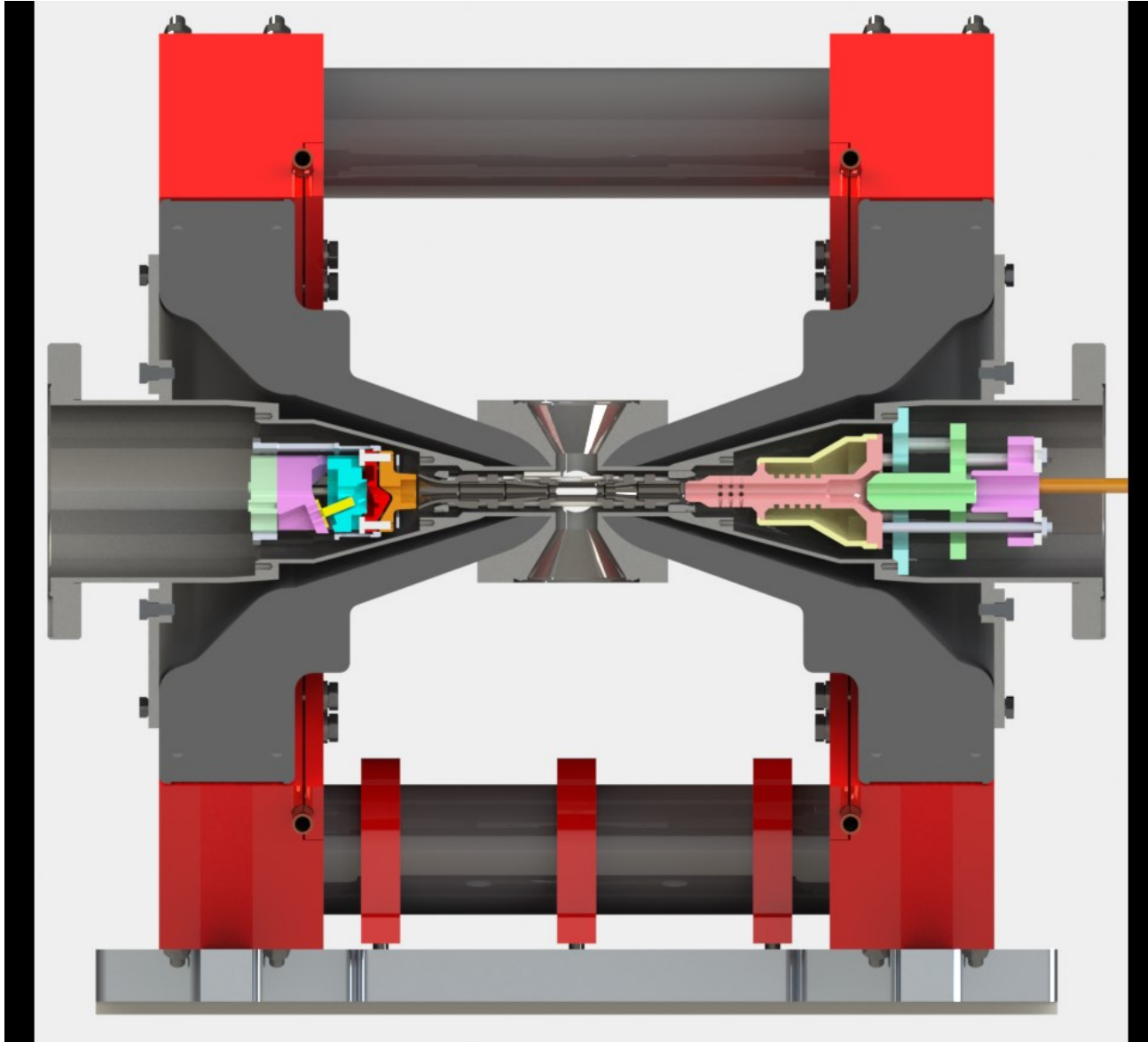




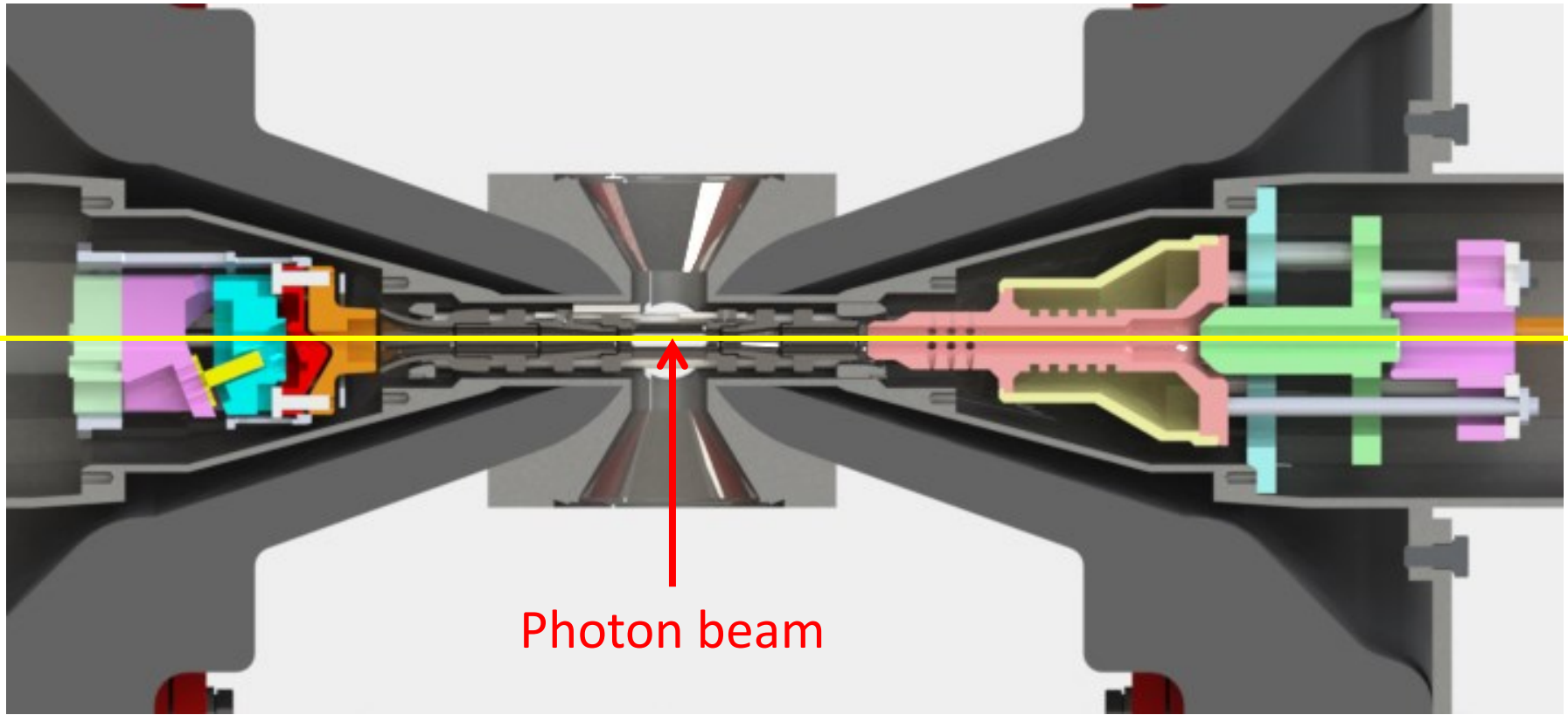
# Mini EBITS



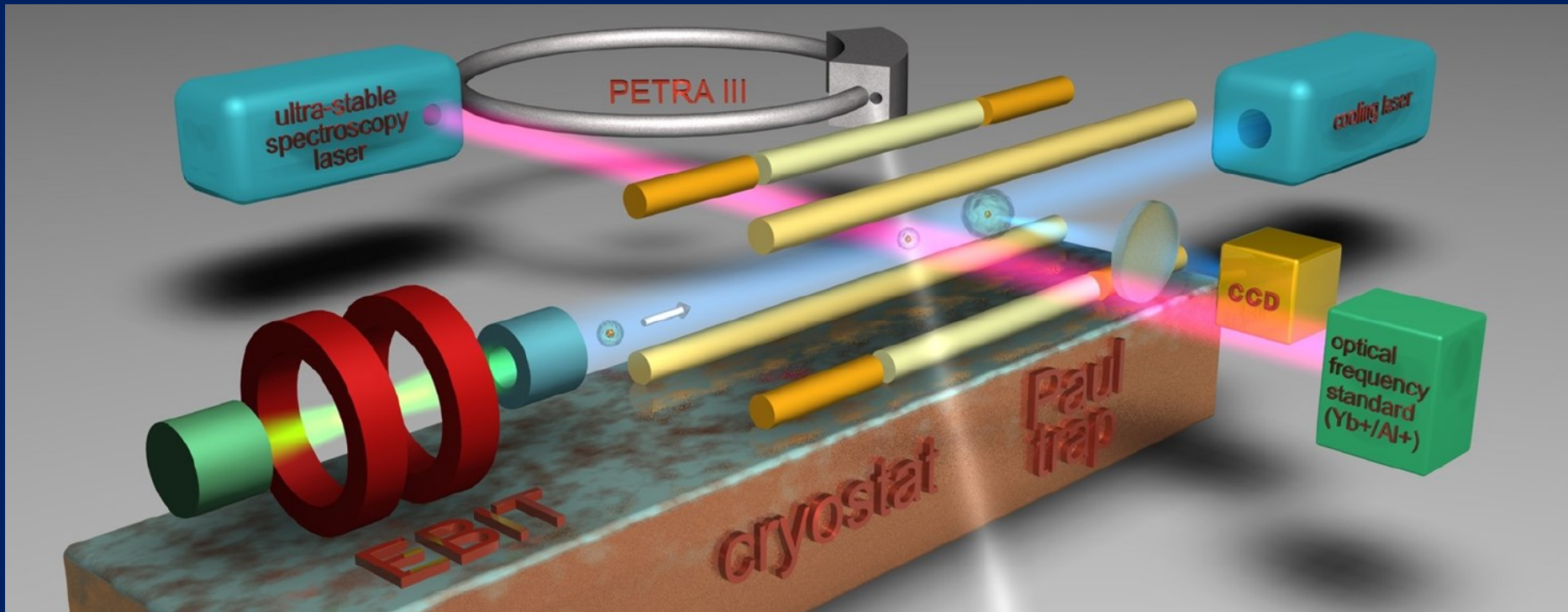
# Off-axis electron gun



# Off-axis electron gun



# Coulomb crystals with HCl for optical clocks



Collaboration with PTB (Piet O. Schmidt) for building an optical clock with an HCl as timekeeper

Deceleration, precooling, and multi-pass stopping of HCl in  $\text{Be}^+$  Coulomb crystals  
L. Schmöger, ... JRCLU et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 86, 103111 (2015)

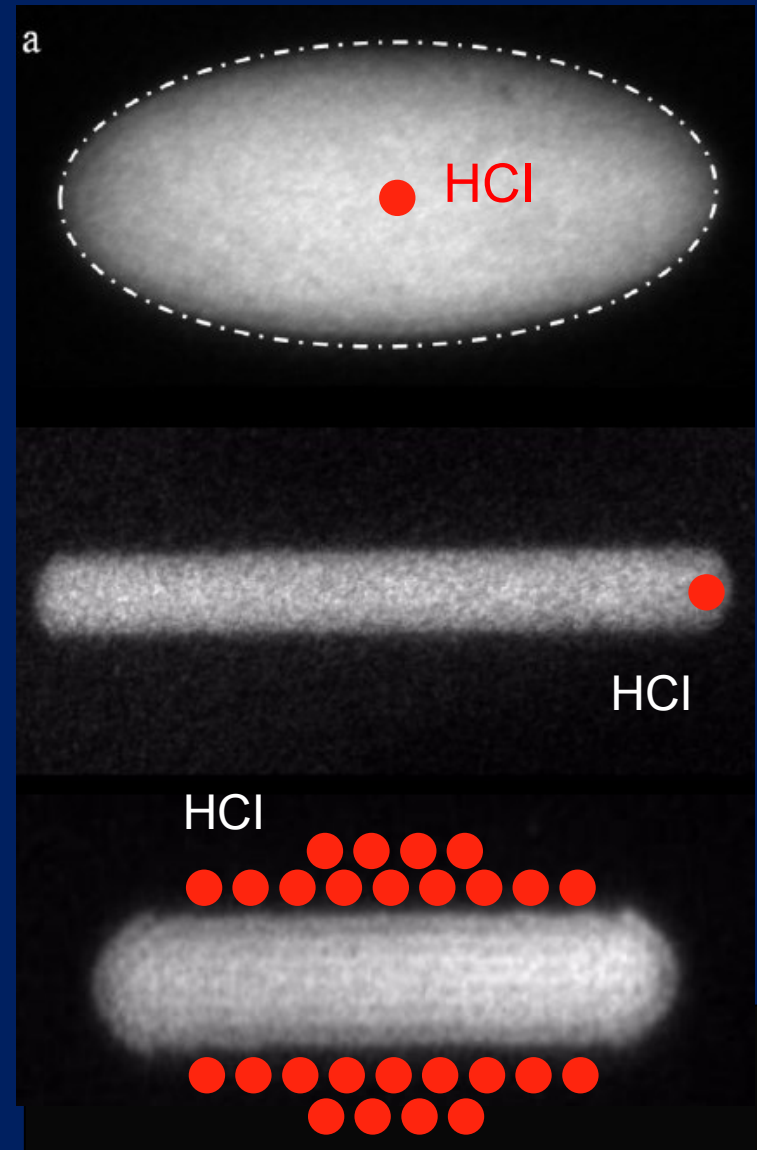
Cryogenic Linear Paul Trap...

M. Schwarz, ... JRCLU et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. 83, 083115 (2012)



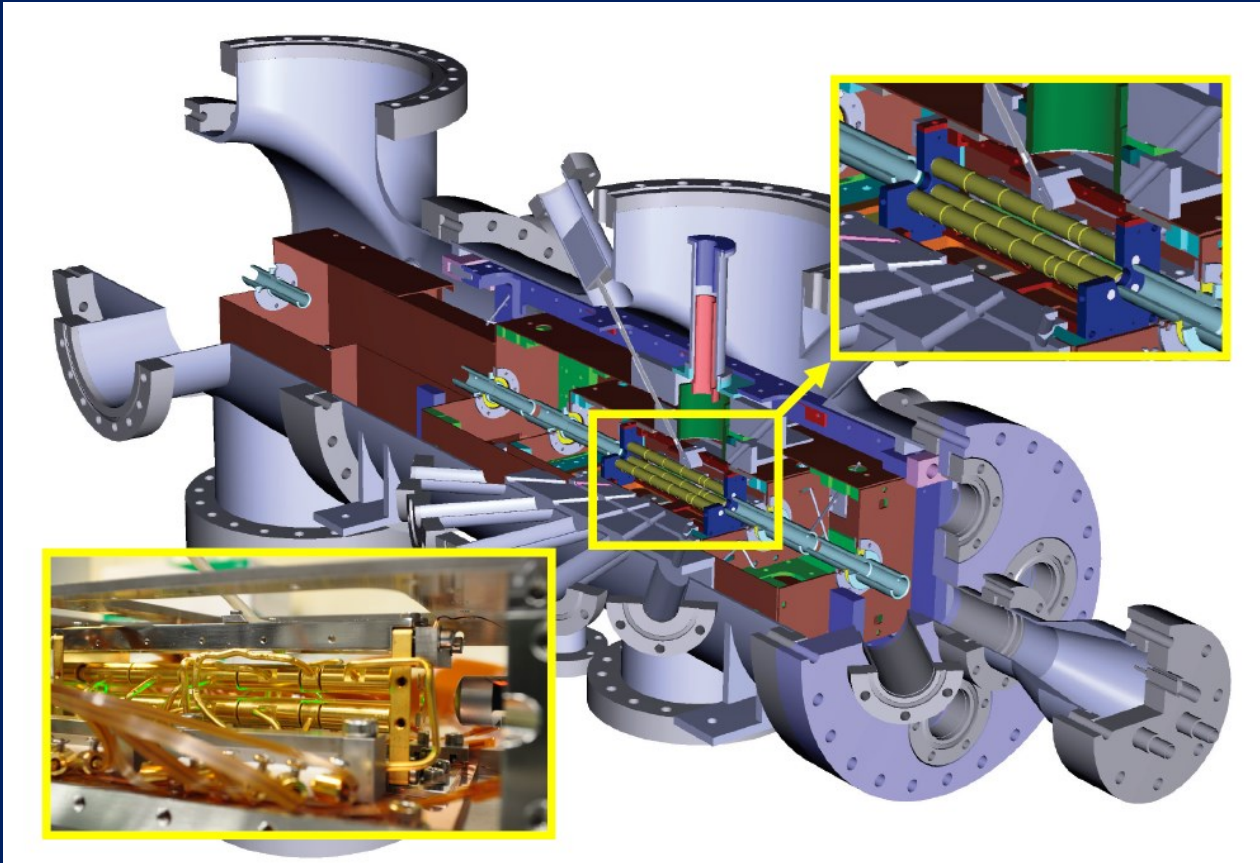
# Laser cooling in Paul trap: Ion crystals

- Ion crystals ( $\text{Be}^+$ ) at  $T=5$  mK  
**sympathetically cool** HCl
- $T_{\text{HCl}} = 10^6 \text{ K} \rightarrow 0.1 \text{ K}$
- **Doppler width** reduction
- **Low polarizability** of HCl suppresses black-body and light shifts
- Improved clocks: **search for time-variation of  $\alpha$**
- Cooling **applicable to X-ray laser** spectroscopy





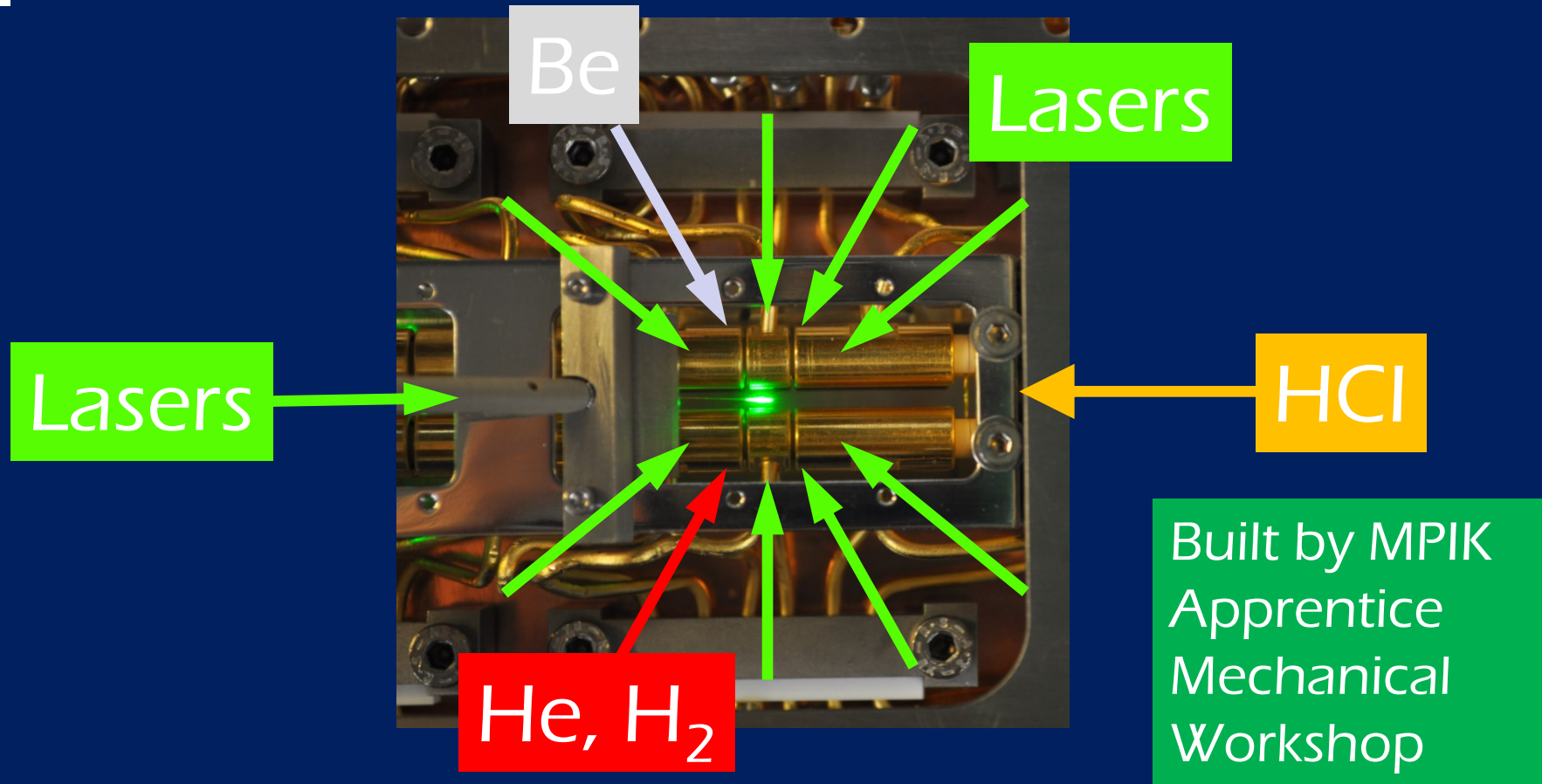
# CryPTEx: Cooling $T_{\text{ion}}$ down to 100 mK



The “**Cryogenic Paul Trap Experiment**” was designed for **sympathetic laser cooling** of highly charged and molecular ions

Design, construction 2010 (M. Schwarz, F. Brunner), tests 2011, operation 2012  
M. Schwarz et al. RSI (2012); O.O.Versolato et al., Hyperfine Int. (2013)

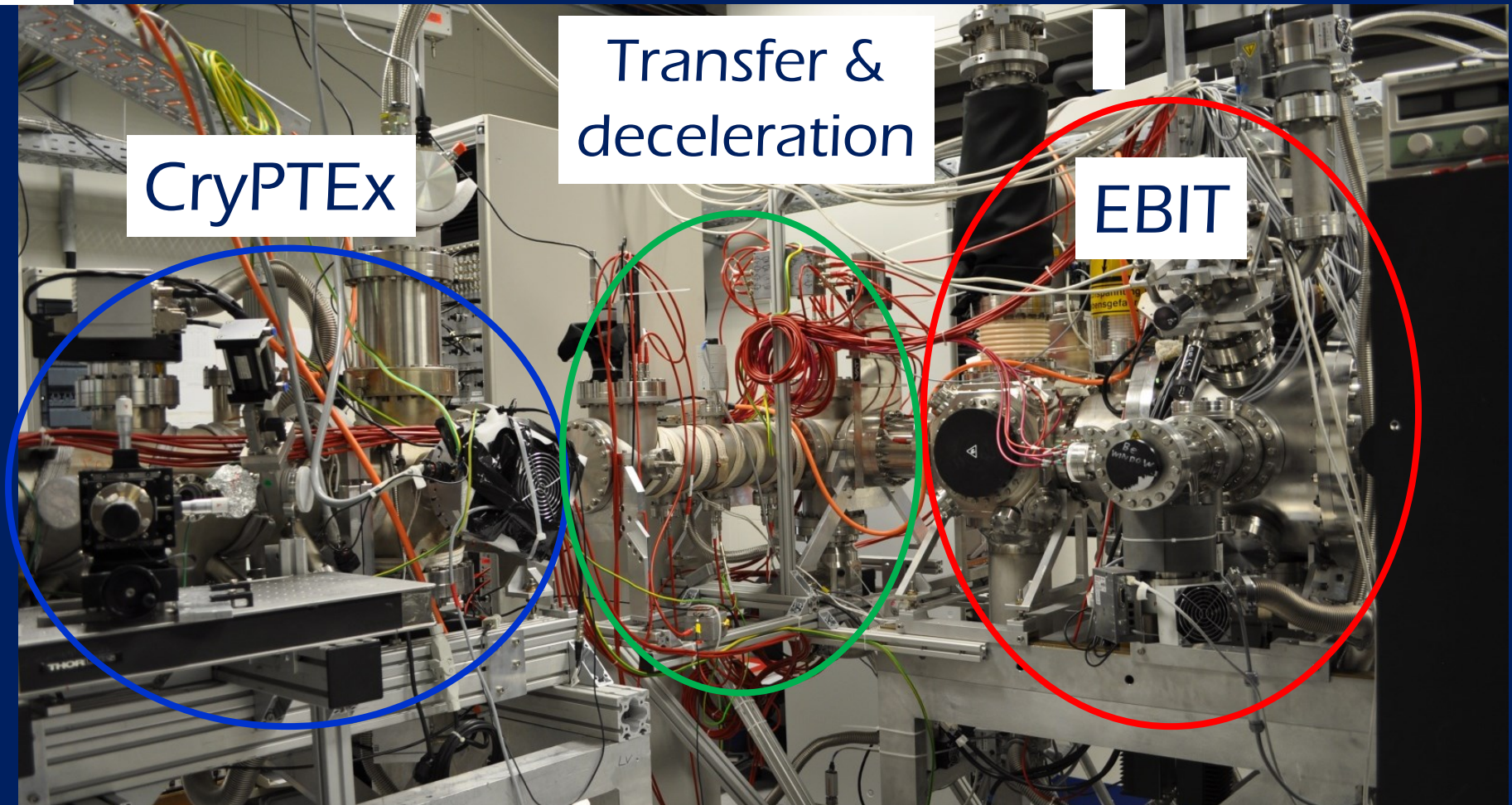
# 4K trap region accessible for HCl injection



- 16 access ports to 4K trap: *lasers, imaging, atoms, ions*
- *External ion sources* + in-trap photoionization
- Measured pressure  $10^{-15}$  mbar
- “Effective” black-body radiation temperature  $\sim 7.6$  K

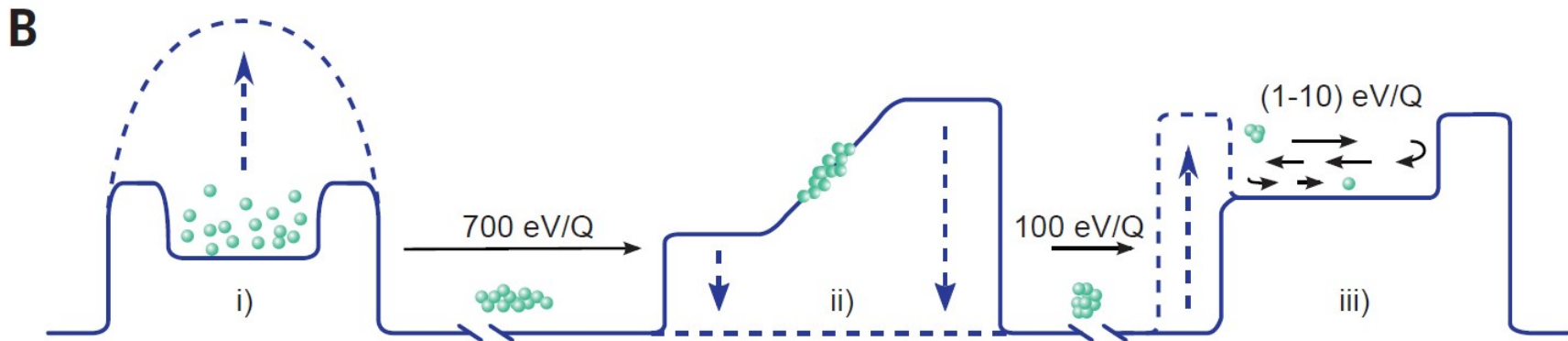
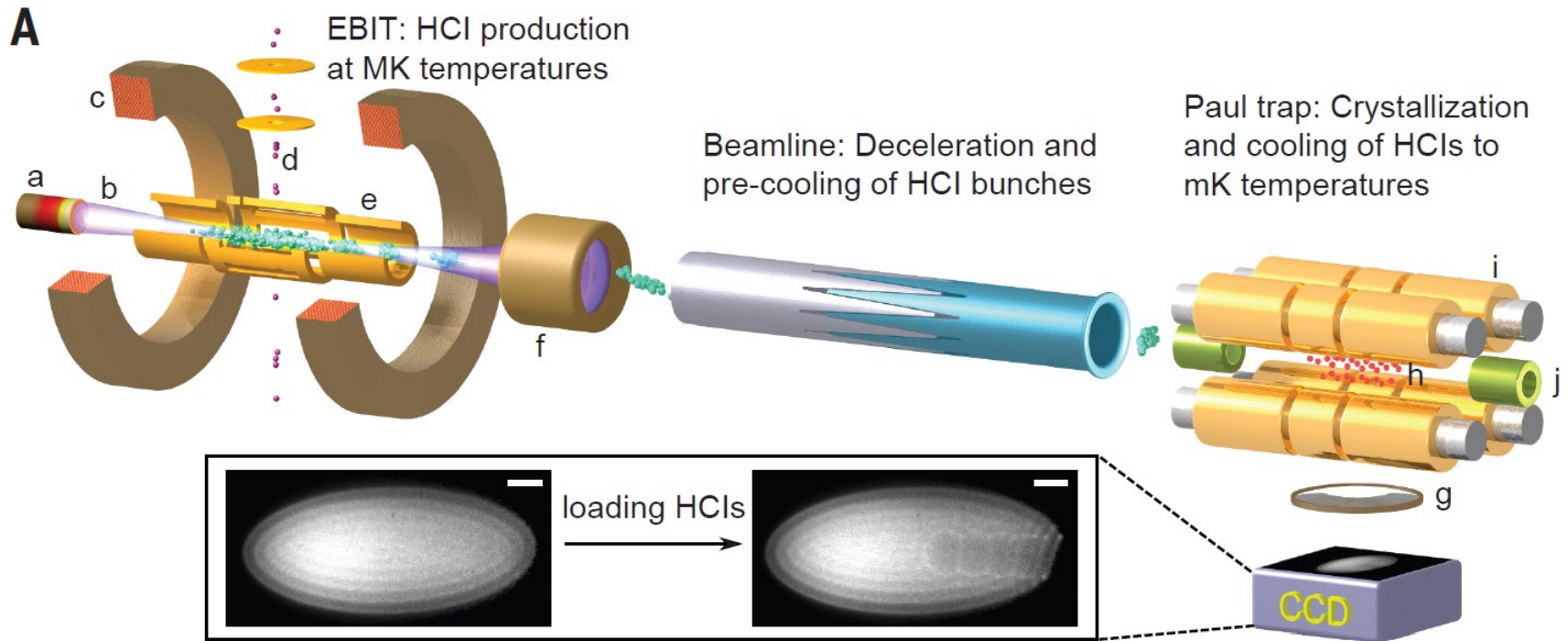


# HCI transfer and deceleration at MPIK

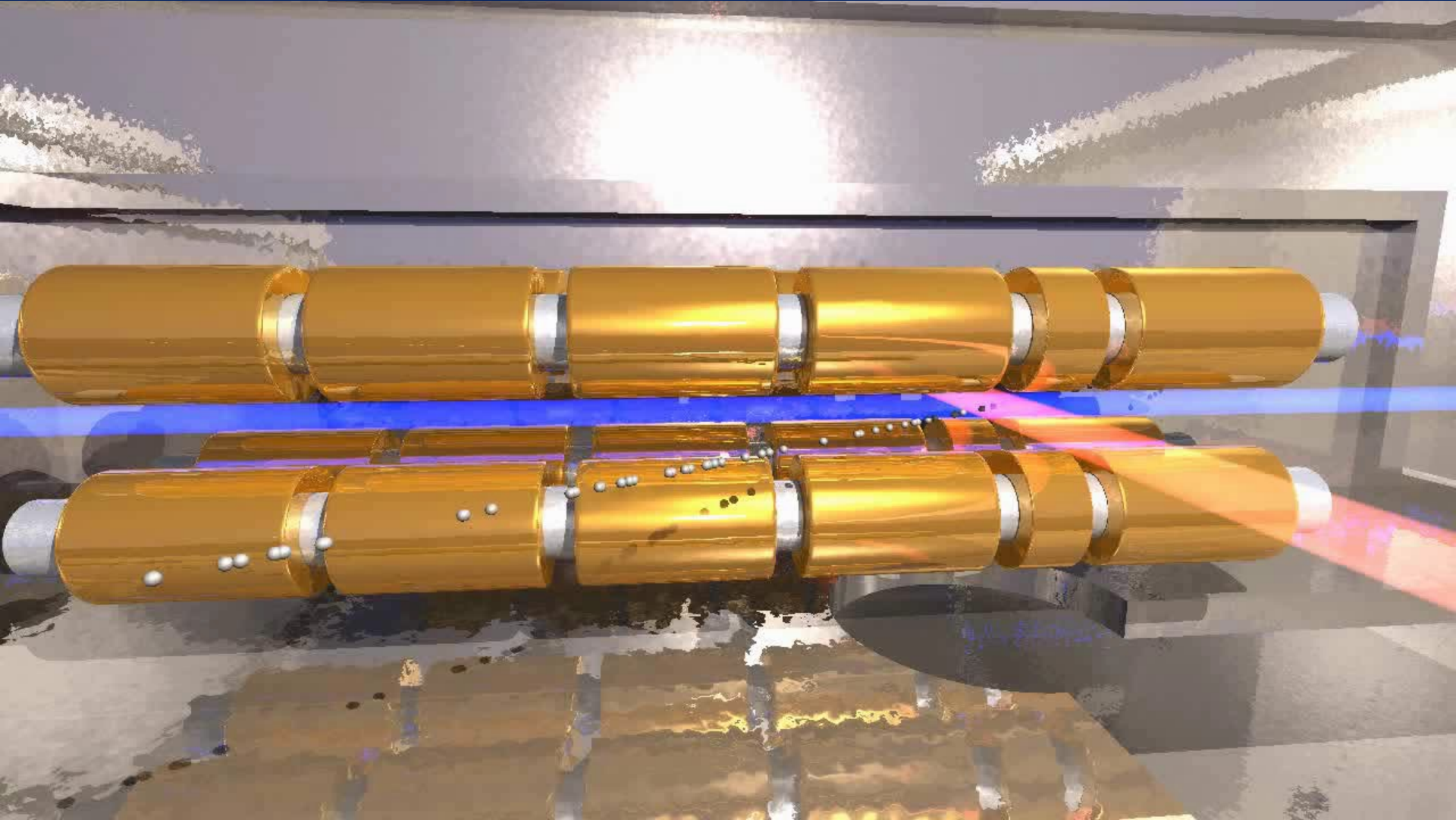


- HCI **extraction** from Hyper EBIT,
- **Deceleration** (pulse tube buncher)
- **Injection** into CryPTEEx

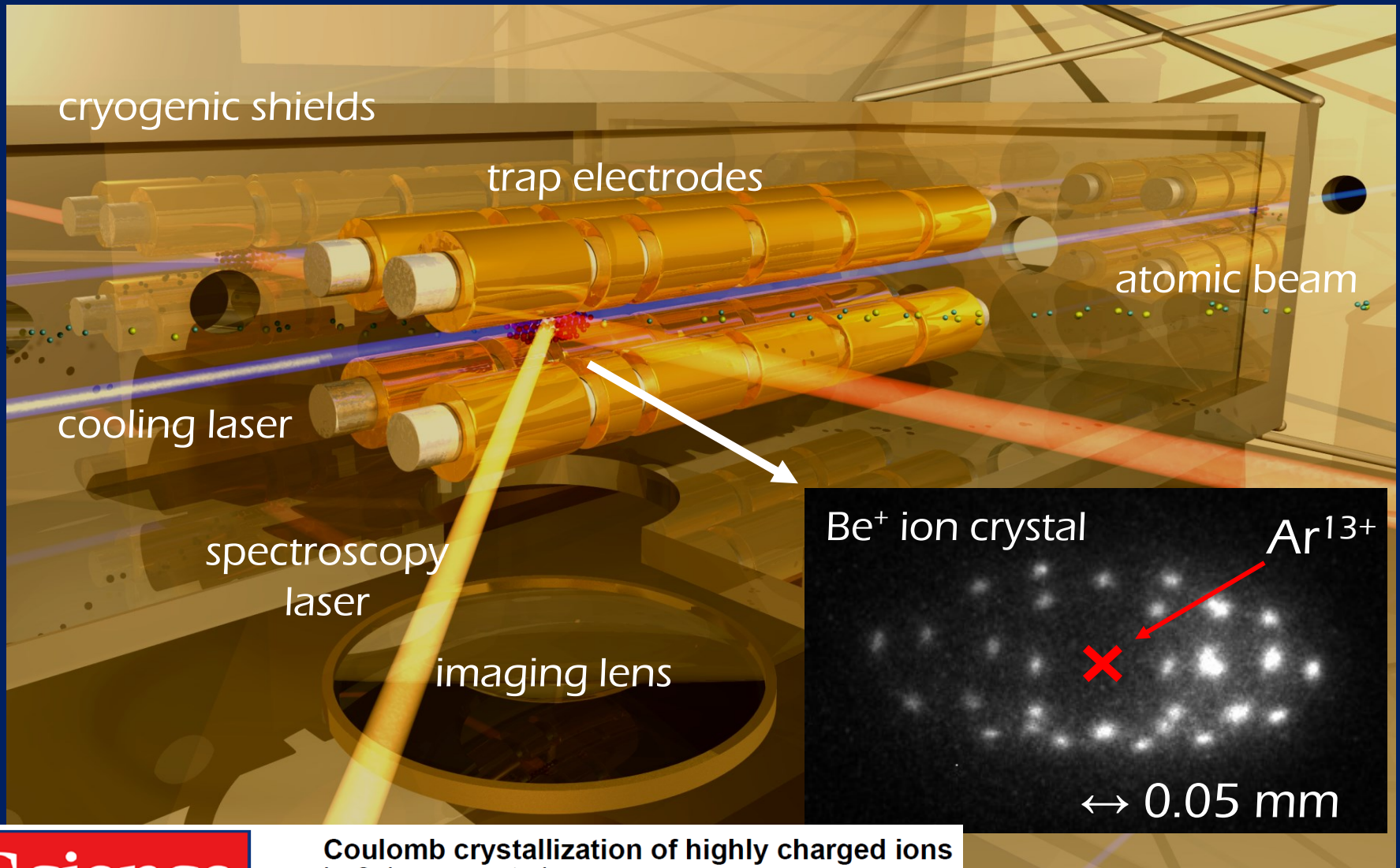
# HCI production, deceleration, implantation







# HCI production, deceleration, implantation



Science

AAAS

Coulomb crystallization of highly charged ions

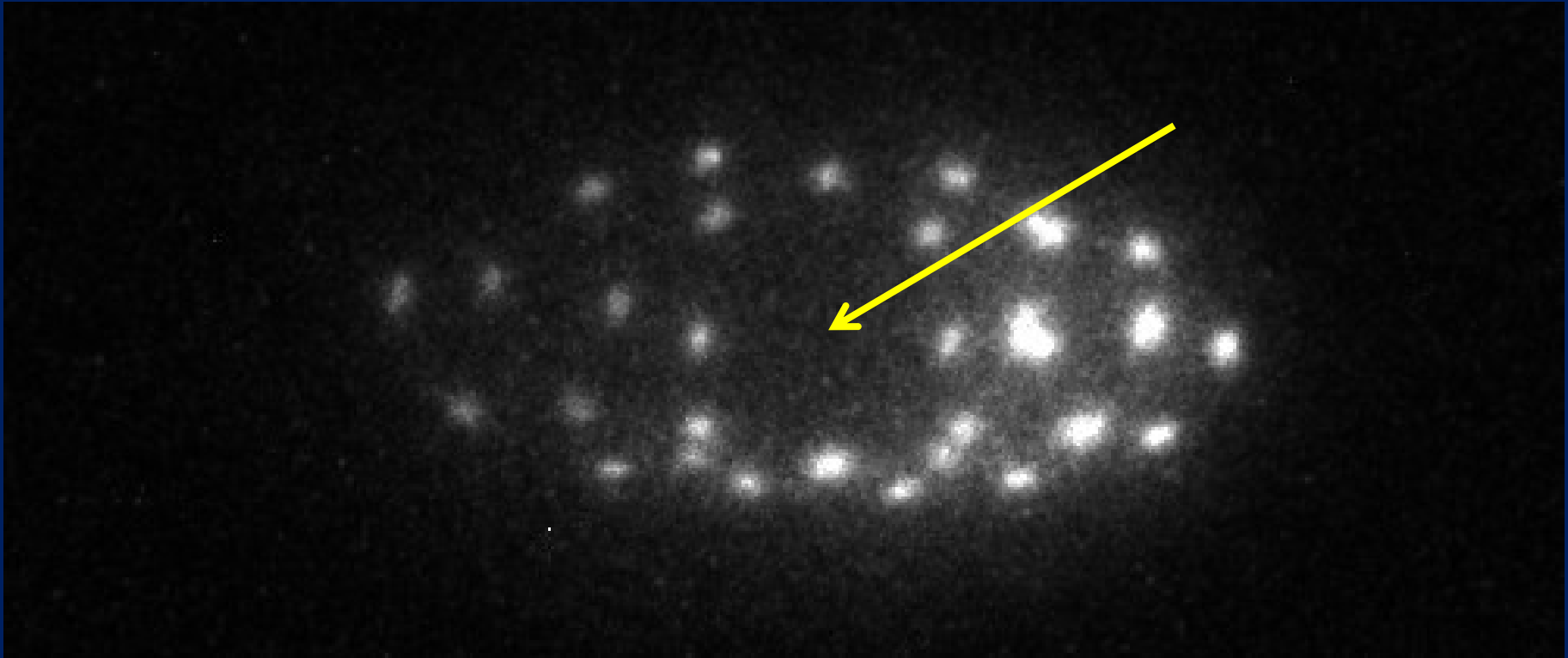
L. Schmöger *et al.*

*Science* **347**, 1233 (2015);

DOI: 10.1126/science.aaa2960

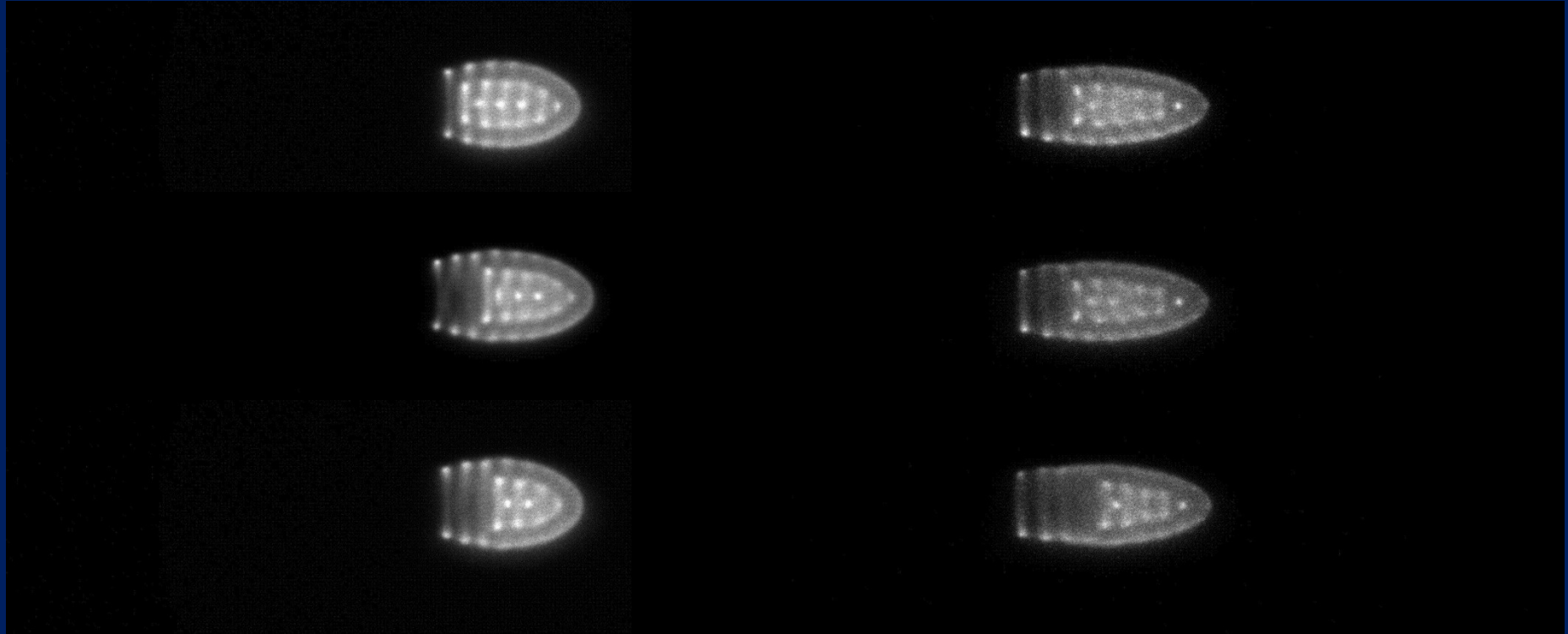


# HCI identification by image analysis

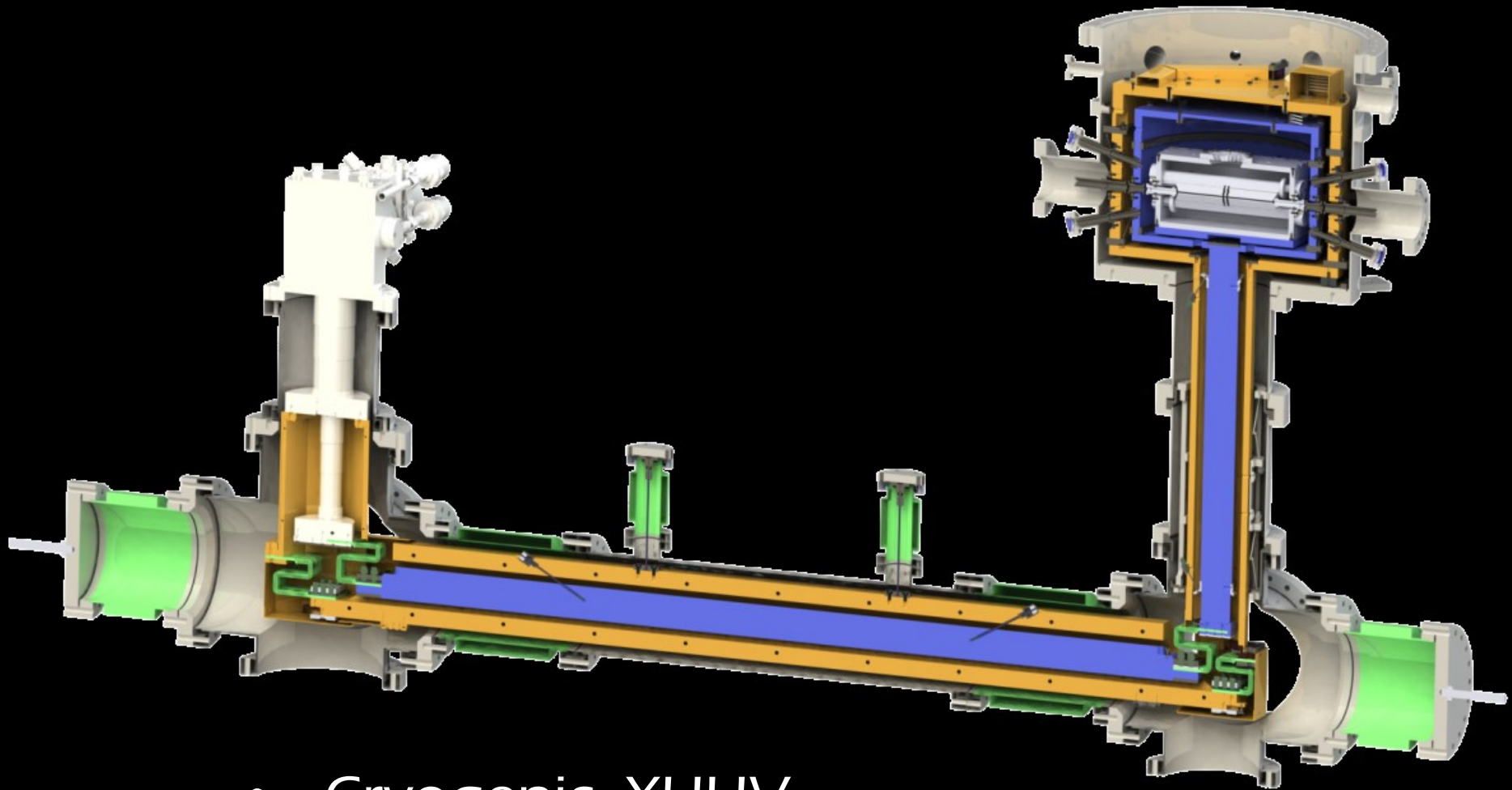


- The single HCI (here  $\text{Ar}^{13+}$ ) repels  $\text{Be}^+$  ions and produces a hole in the Coulomb crystal
- Addressing a single ion in the trap with a focused beam is possible due to large separation.

# Nice crystals

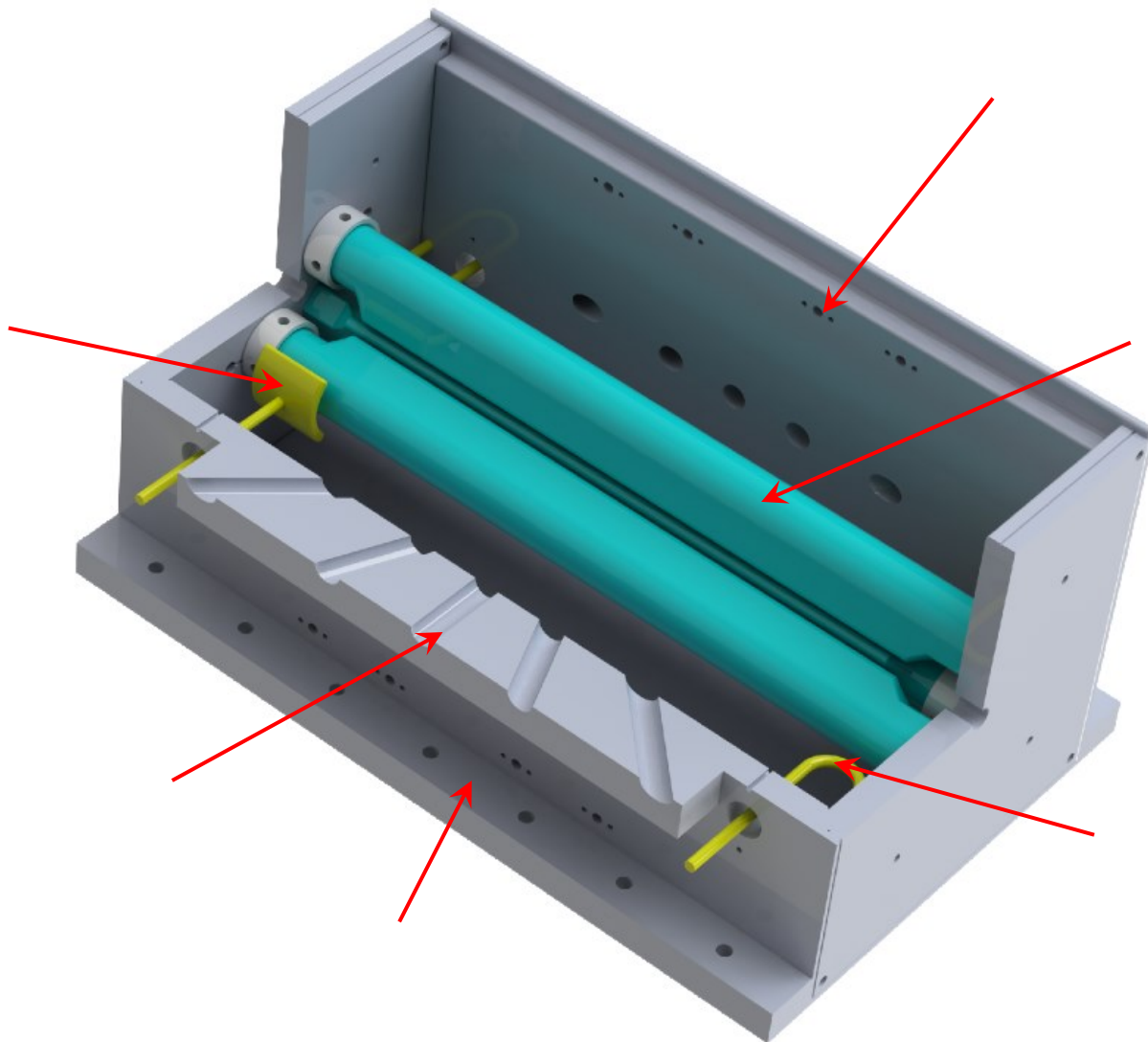


# Next generation cryogenic trap



- Cryogenic, XUHV
- Ultra-low vibration
- Superconducting high-Q RF resonator

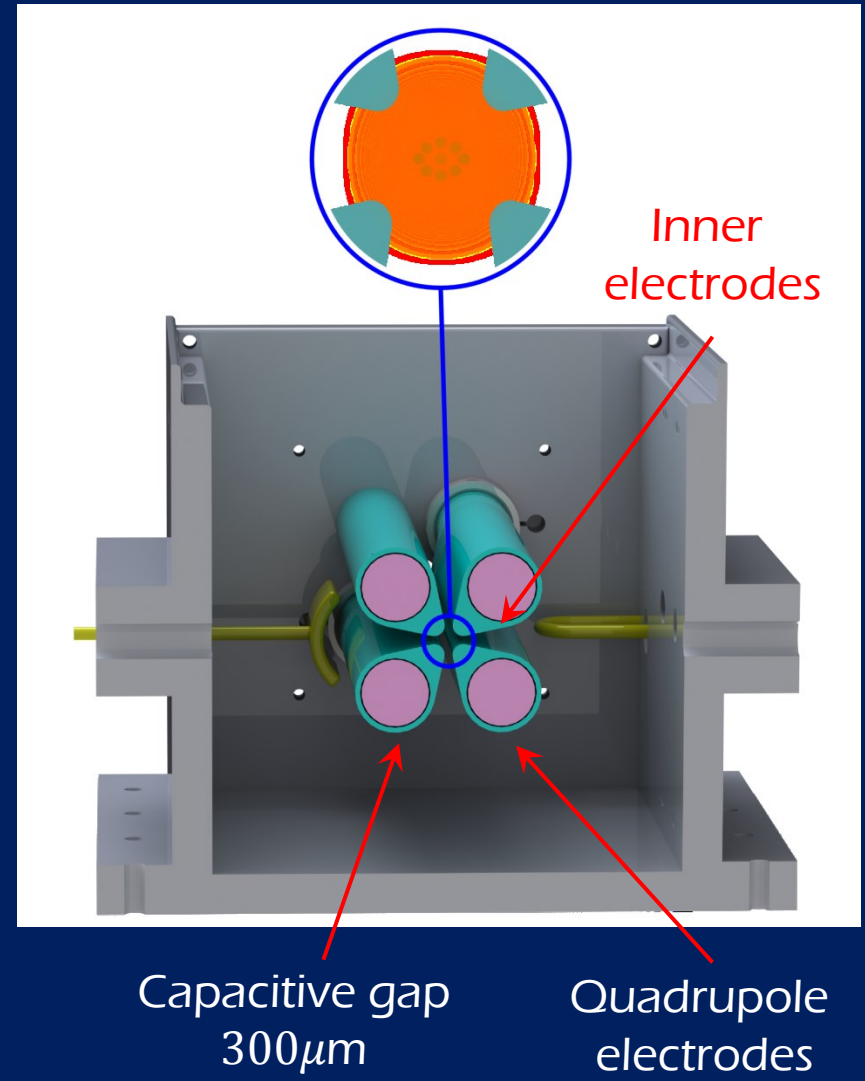
# Cryogenic RF resonator for Paul trap



Design by Julian Stark (MPIK)

# A prototype for a cryogenic resonator

- Integrated electrodes for high Q value and low coupling losses
- All RF electronics at  $T = 4\text{K}$



Design by Julian Stark (MPIK)



# Next generation cryogenic trap

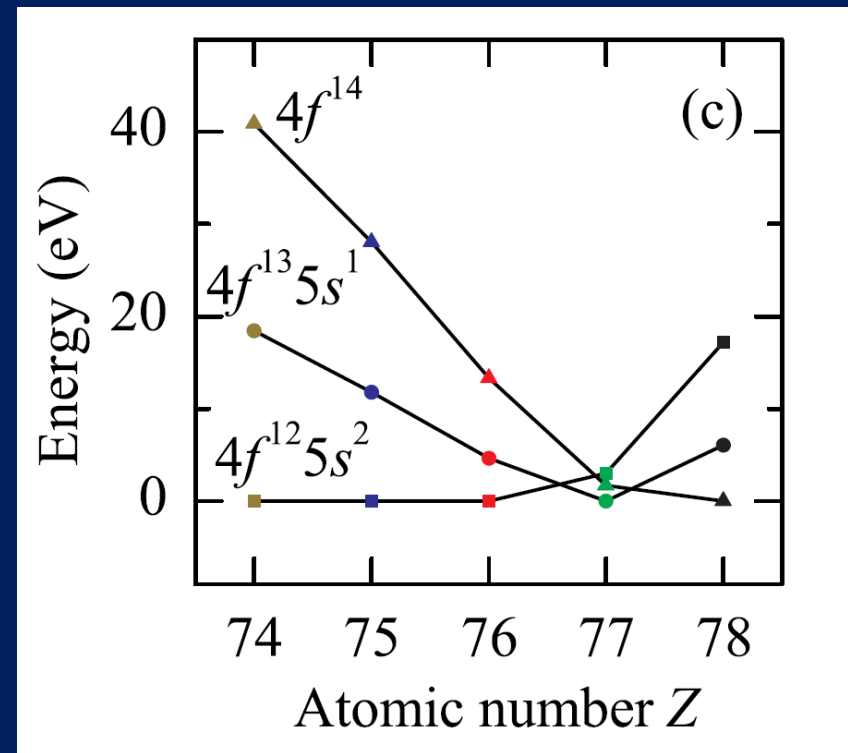


- Superconducting high-Q RF resonator



# Time variation of $\alpha$

- Limits for the time stability of  $\alpha$  are based on claimed astrophysical observations too small for checking them with the currently best optical clocks at a relative accuracy of  $10^{-17} / y$ .
- Forbidden optical transitions in HCl are very insensitive to external spurious fields, while scaling up the effect of a change in  $\alpha$  due to much larger relativistic effects than in atoms
- The highest possible sensitivity to  $\alpha$  is reached at specific  $5s-4f$  level crossings (e. g., at  $Z=77$  with  $\text{Ir}^{17+}$  ions)

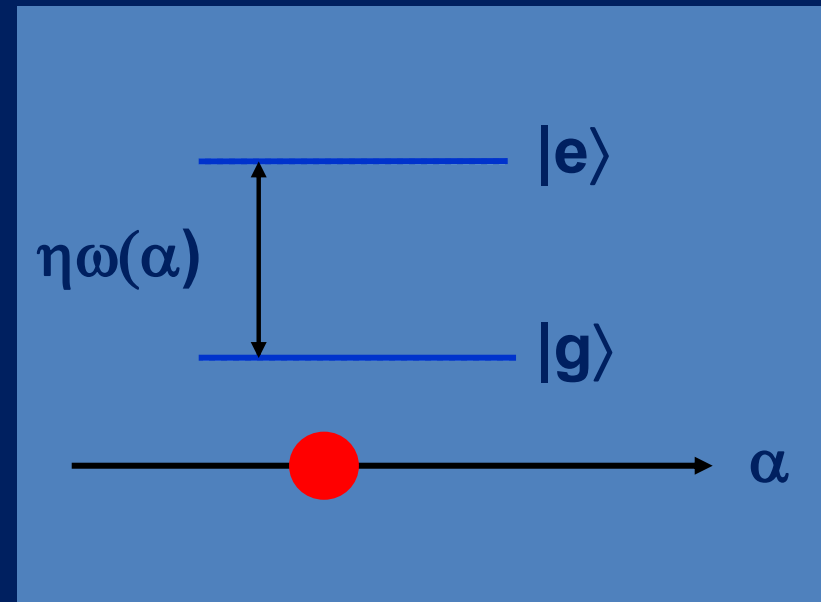


# Search for a time variation of $\alpha$ with cold HCl

- Astrophysical hints of an spatial dependence

Webb et al., PRL (2011)

- Test by comparing laser transitions that **depend differently on  $\alpha$**



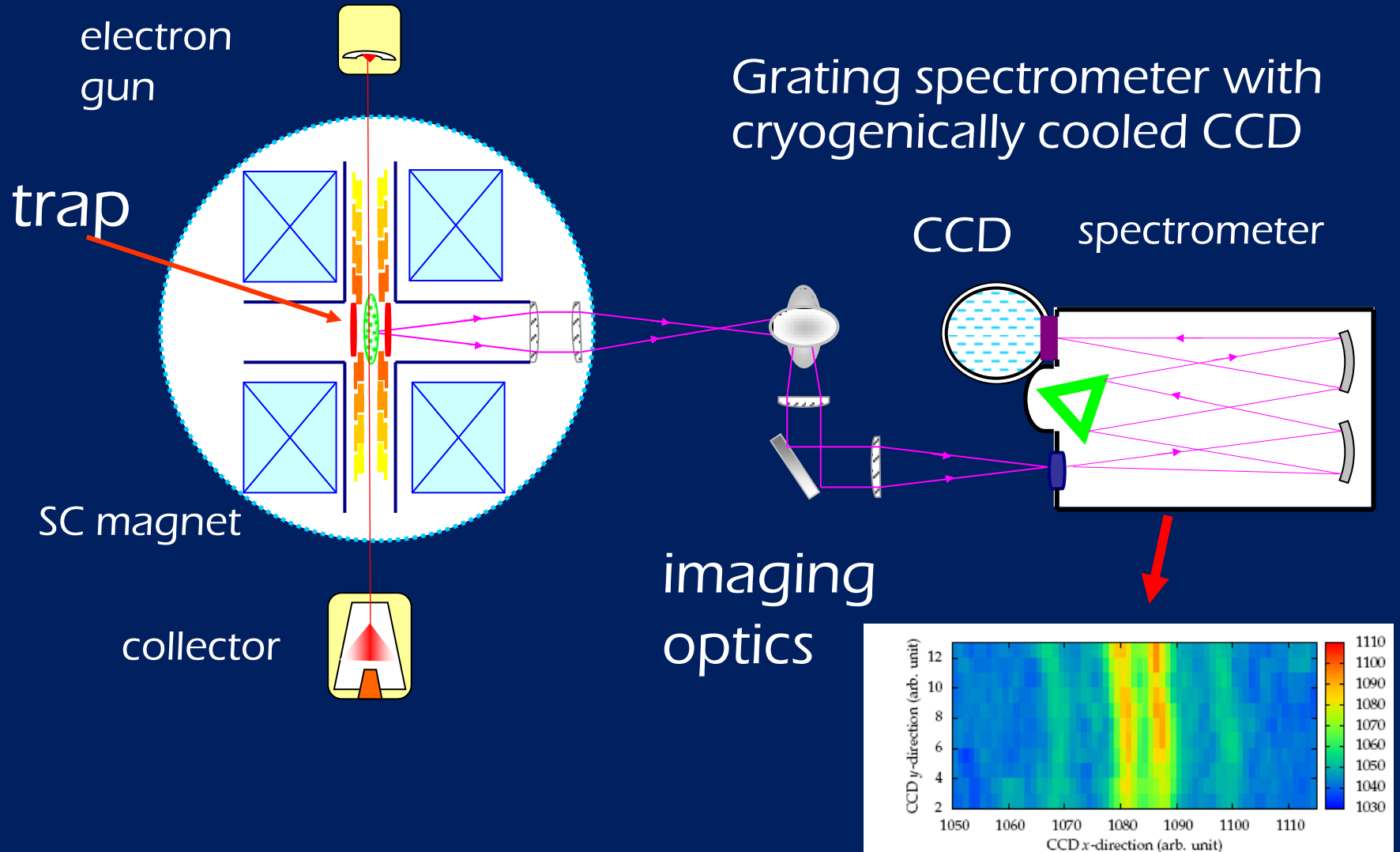
- Sensitivity coefficient  $q$  **~relativistic contributions**

$$\omega(\alpha) \approx \omega_0 + 2q \Delta\alpha/\alpha$$

- **HCl extremely sensitive:** Frequency metrology on forbidden transitions between **nearly degenerate states** (e. g.  $\text{Ir}^{17+}$ )

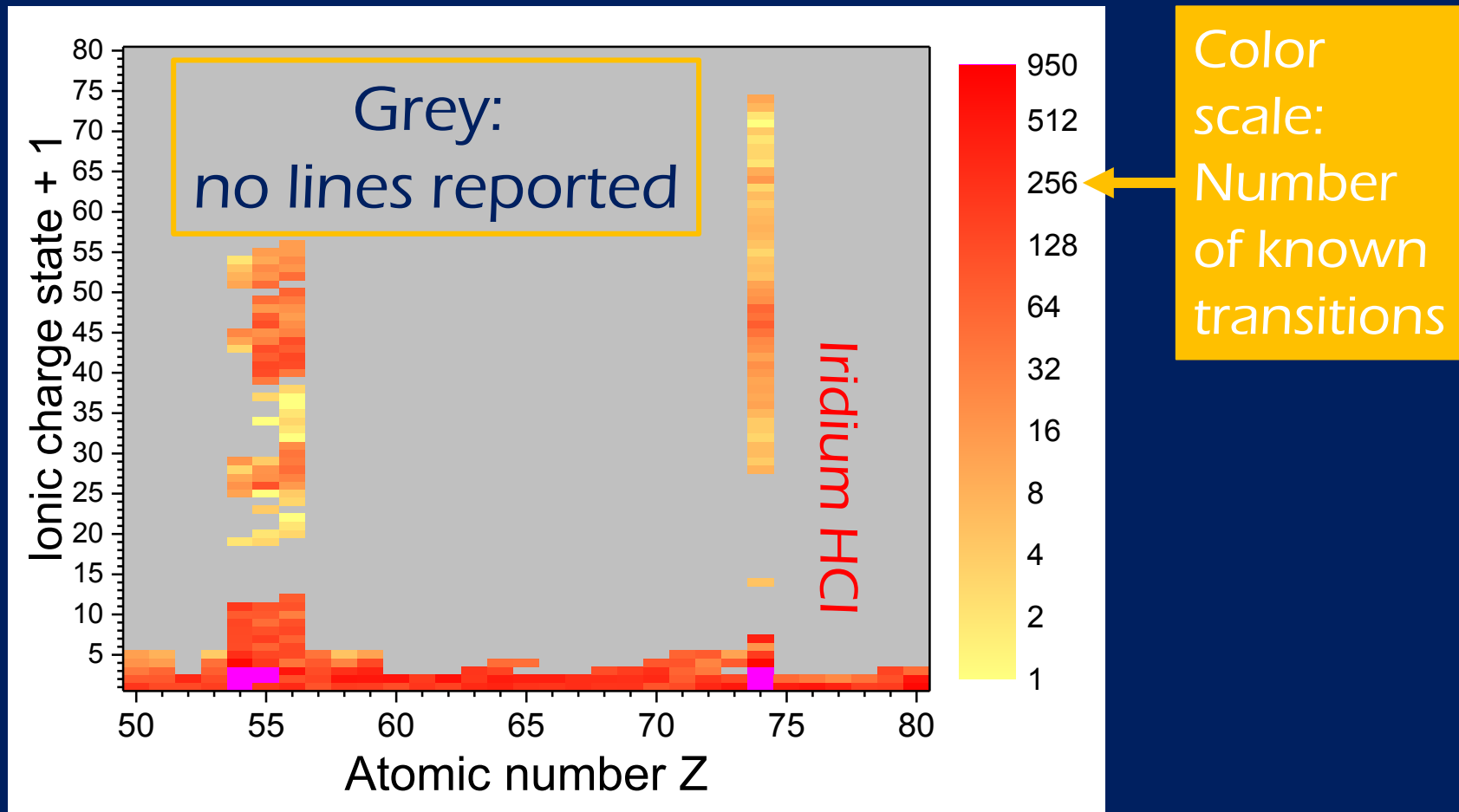


# Spectroscopy of few-electron ions in the visible range

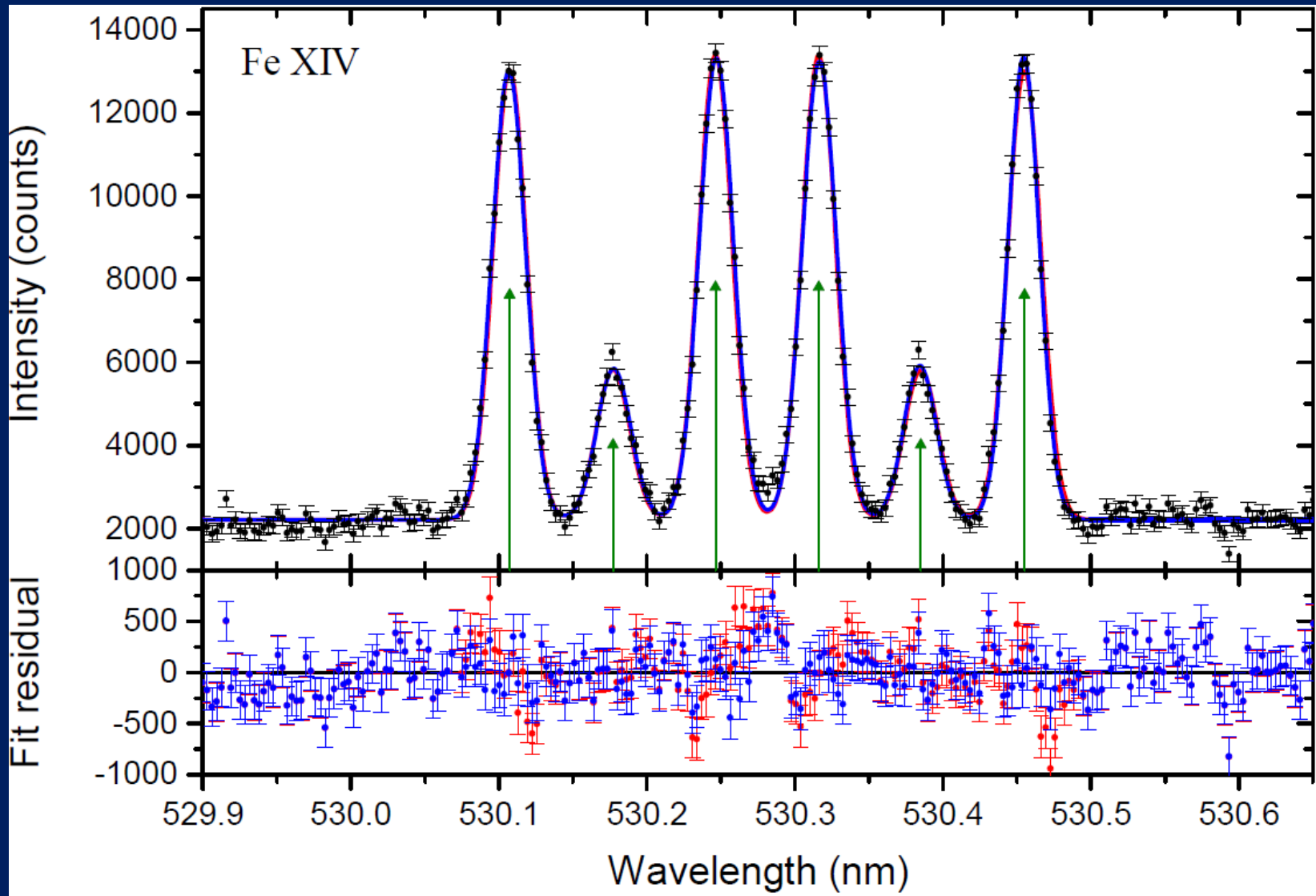


# Under way in the spectral desert

- No reports about the ions of interest and no transition data available for most ions!
- HCI production in EBIT easy, identification much harder

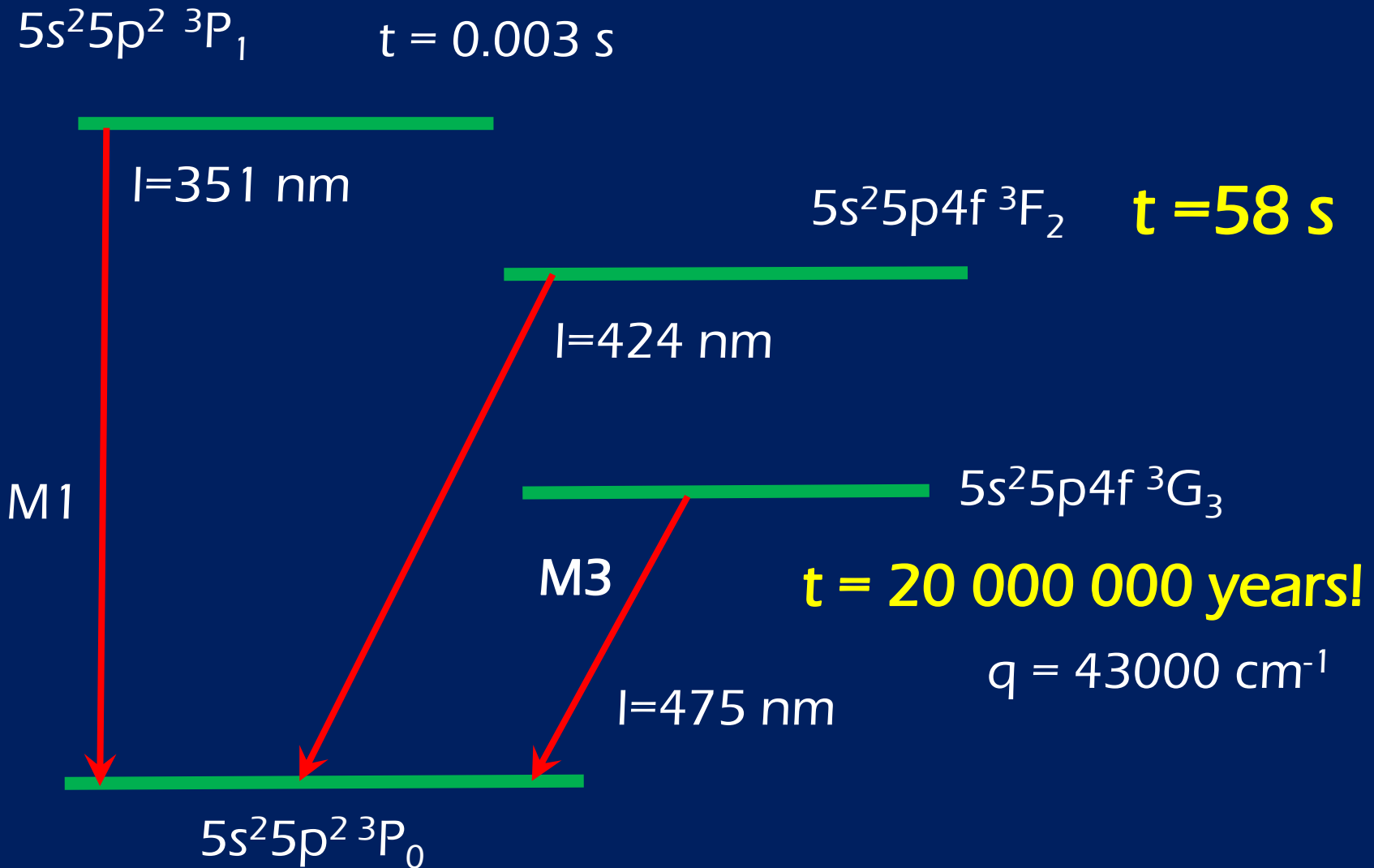


# $\text{Fe}^{13+}$ (Fe XIV): the "green coronal line"



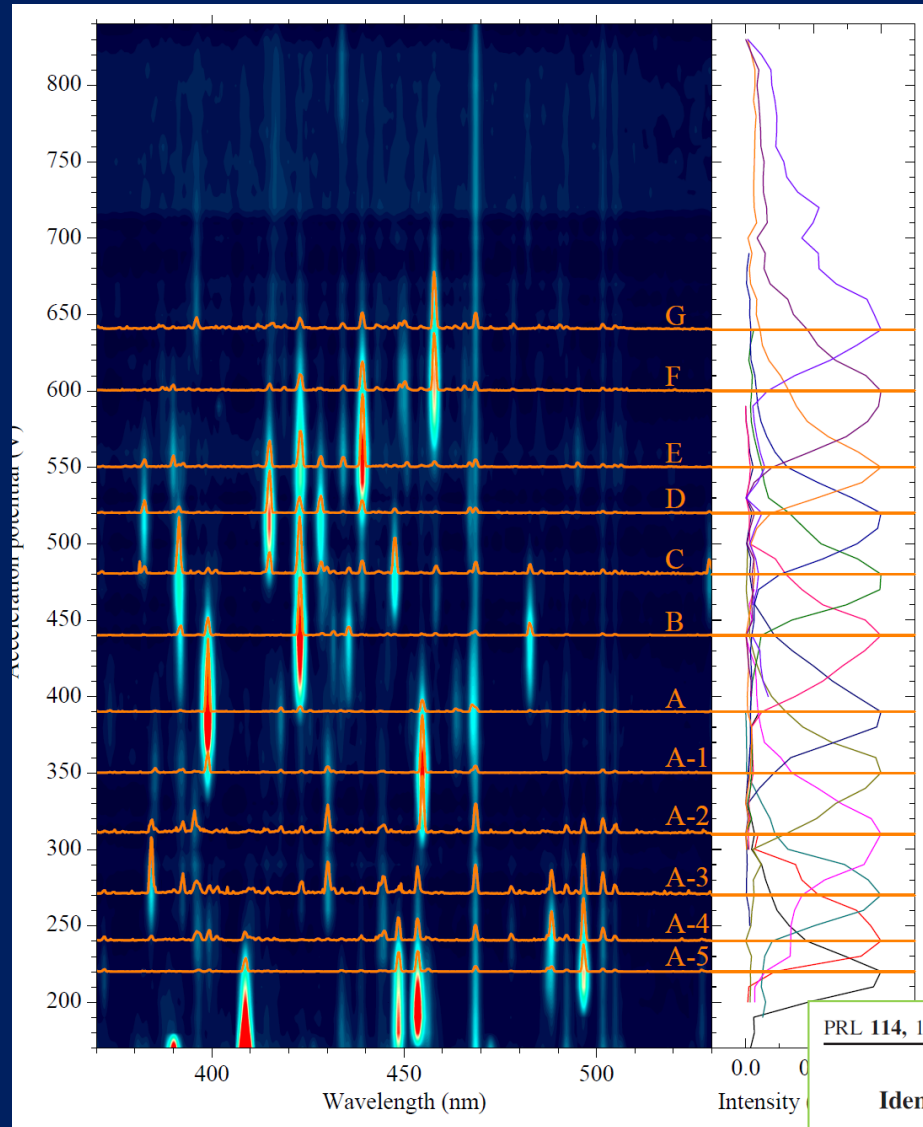
Hendrik Bekker, in preparation (for too long!)

# Pr<sup>9+</sup>: four valence electrons (Sn-like)





# Level crossings at $\text{Ir}^{17+}$ provide $\alpha$ sensitivity



- At certain charge state levels change order
- $4f$  goes below  $5s$  in  $\text{Ir}^{17+}$
- Opposite parities degenerate:  $4f^{12} 5s^2$ ,  $4f^{13} 5s$ ,  $4f^{14}$
- Many slow M1, E1, E2, M2, M3 transitions become possible
- Several long lived „ground states“ available

PRL 114, 150801 (2015)

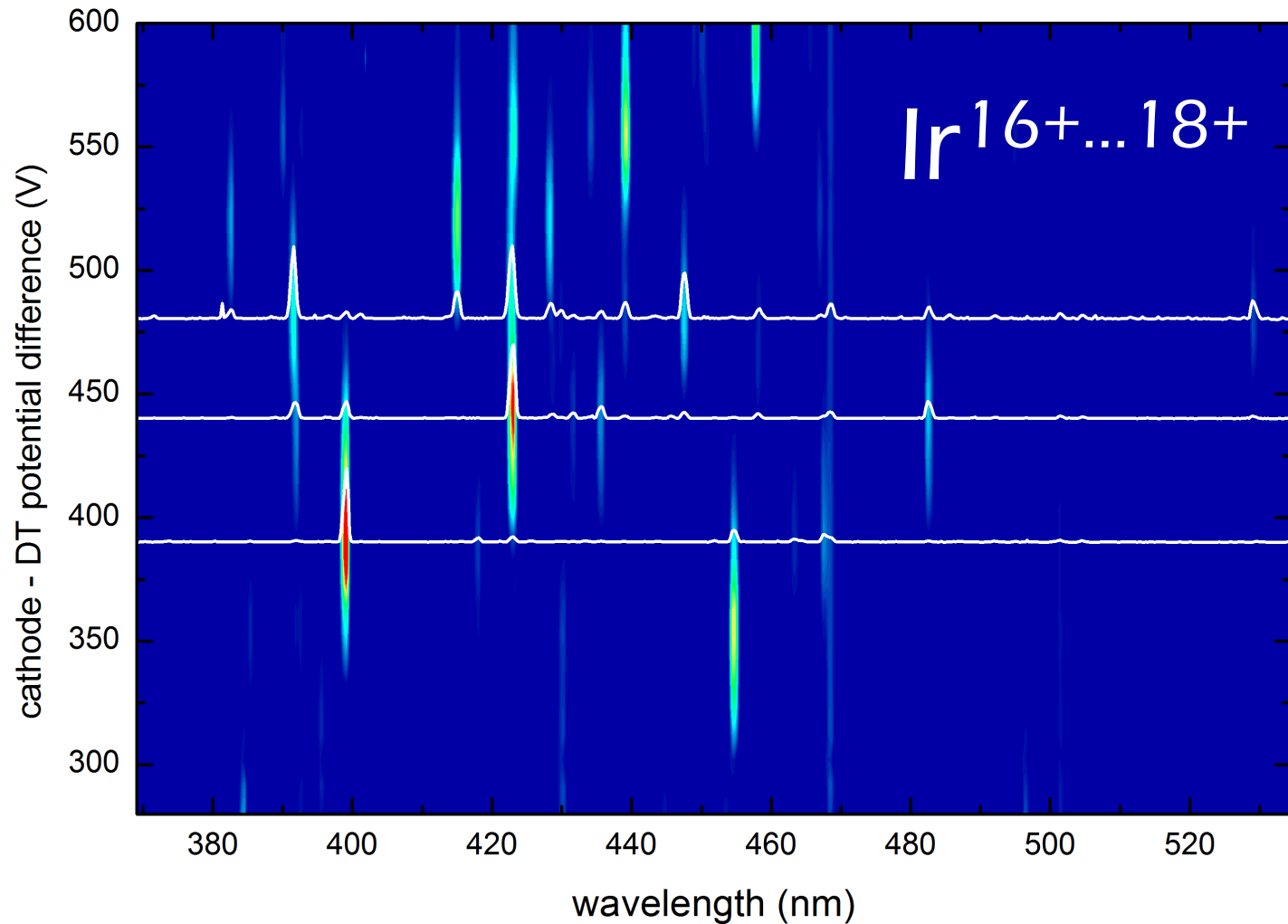
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
17 APRIL 2015

Identification of the Predicted  $5s$ - $4f$  Level Crossing Optical Lines with Applications to Metrology and Searches for the Variation of Fundamental Constants

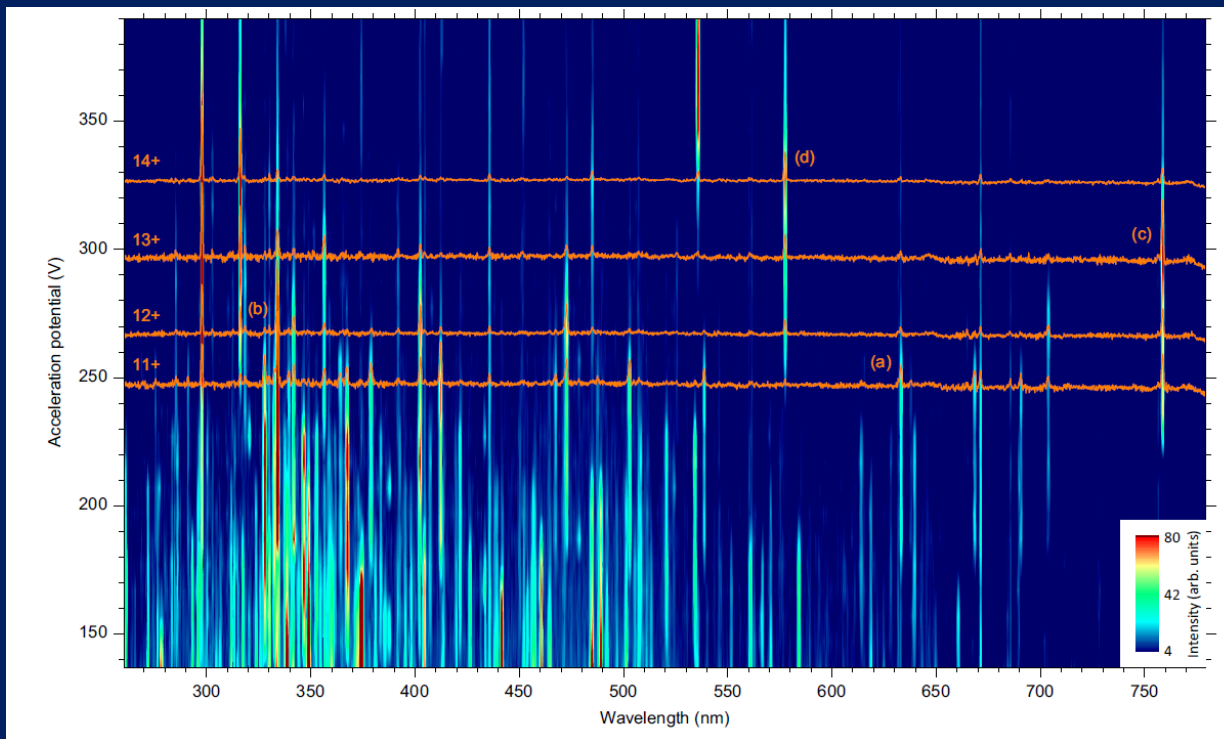
Windberger et al., PRL 114, 150801 (2015)

# Visible spectra of M1 lines in Ir ions



First observations; line identification difficult

# Application to Sn HCl for EUV nanolithography



## Collaboration ARCNL: EUV light-sources for nanolithography (ASML)

Analysis of the fine structure of  $\text{Sn}^{11+} - \text{Sn}^{14+}$  ions by optical spectroscopy in an electron-beam ion trap, A. Windberger..., JRCLU et al., PRA 94, 012506 (2016)

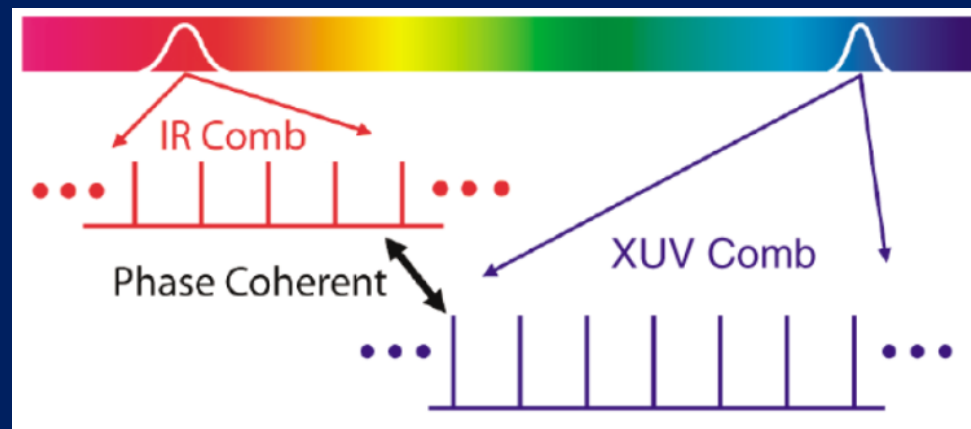
Identifications of and EUV transitions of promethium-like Pt, Ir, Os and Re  
H. Bekker, ..., JRCLU et al., J. Phys. B 48, 144018 (2015)

Optical spectroscopy of complex open 4d-shell ions  $\text{Sn}^{7+} - \text{Sn}^{10+}$

F Torretti, ..., JRCLU et al., arXiv:1612.00747, accepted, Phys. Rev. A

# Towards ultra-high precision spectroscopy in the ultraviolet regime (XUV)

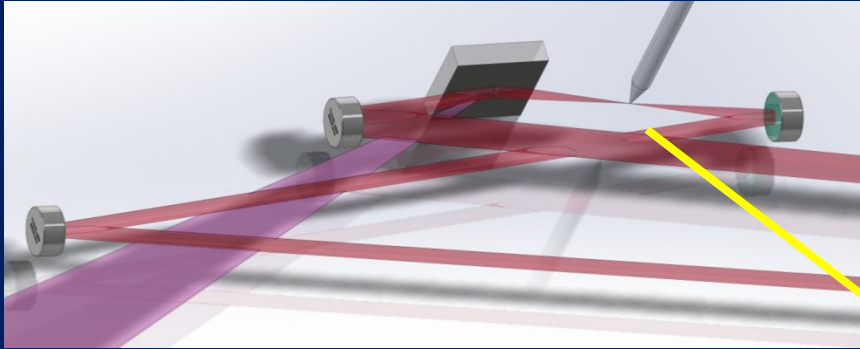
- Use HHG as light source for spectroscopy in XUV
- Coherently transfer comb modes from IR to XUV
- Perform direct frequency comb spectroscopy (DIFCOS)



- Challenge: Obtain enough intensity in XUV  
→ use enhancement cavity



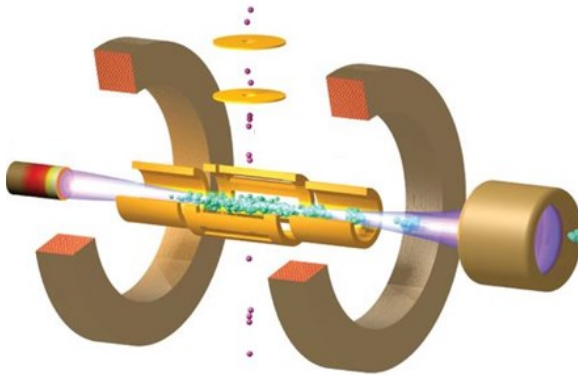
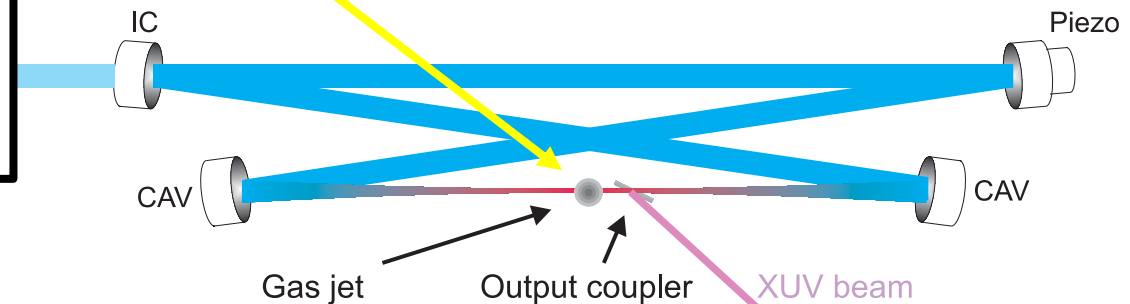
# High harmonics and HCI



## VUV frequency comb

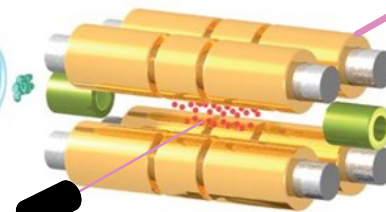
- in-vacuo enhancement cavity
- in 15  $\mu\text{m}$  focus  $\approx 10^{13} \text{ W/cm}^2$
- 100 MHz repetition rate
- Under development

Laser system  
(100 W, 100 MHz,  
150 fs)



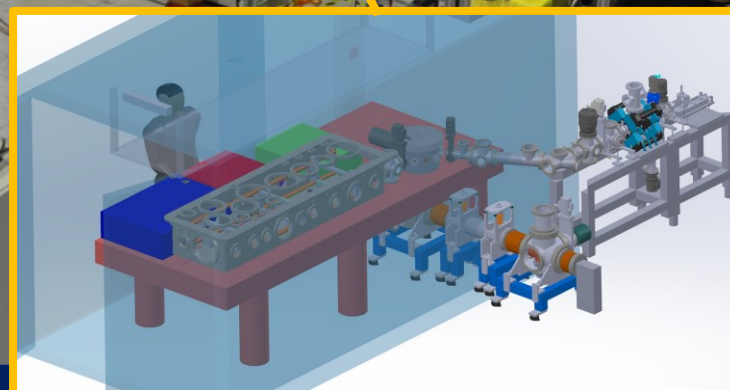
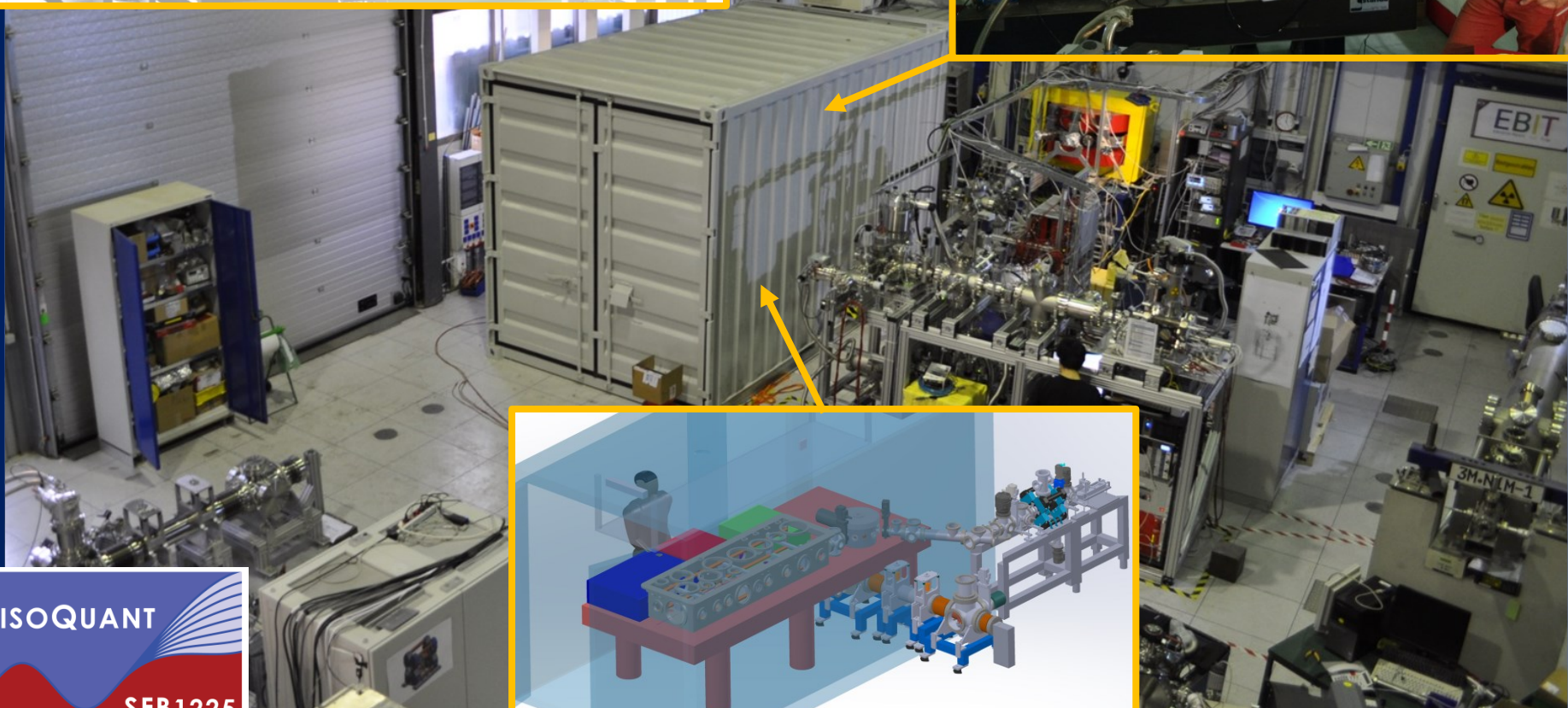
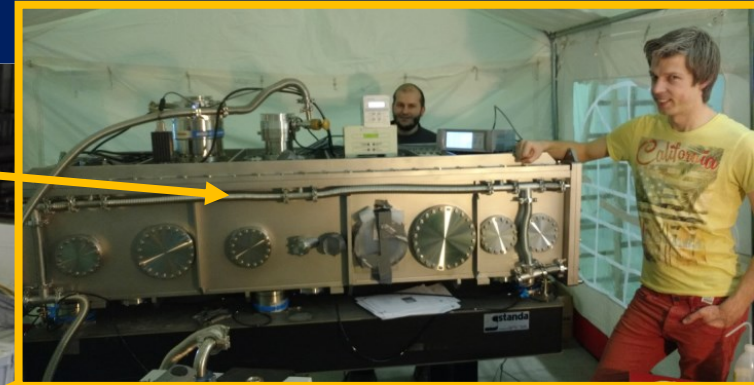
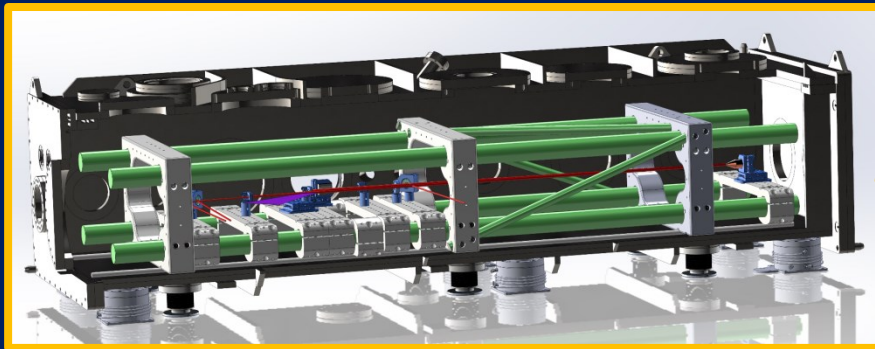
EBIT: HCI production  
at MK temperatures

Beamline: Deceleration and  
pre-cooling of HCI bunches



Paul trap: Crystallization  
and cooling of HCIs to  
mK temperatures

# Temperature-controlled container for HHG-frequency comb

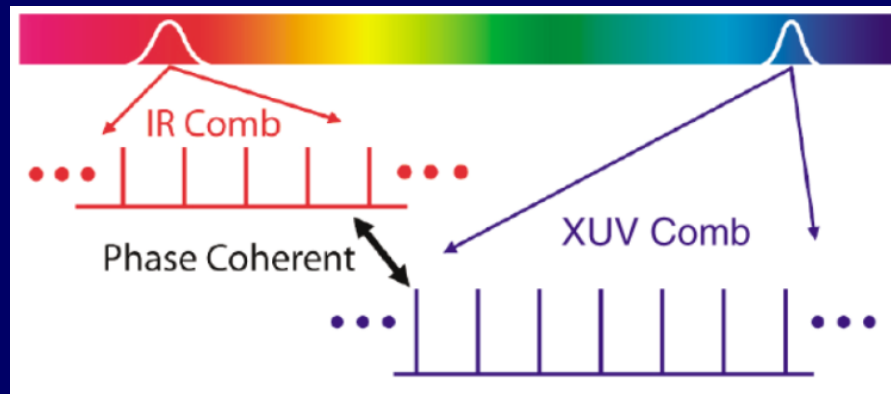


# Summary

- HCl are **ultra-stable, universal and reproducible** probes of fundamental physics with effects magnified by  $Z$ -scaling laws
- Insights into **QED, relativistic** as well as **nuclear interactions and few-electron** correlations in “tunable” admixtures
- Laboratory benchmarks for **interpreting astrophysical X-ray** observations
- HCl **frequency metrology enabled** by sympathetic cooling
- Optical clocks for studies of e. g.,  $\alpha$  variation, Lorentz invariance benefit from **insensitivity of HCl to perturbations**
- Extending frequency metrology to the **high-energy photon range with HCl** is a promising perspective

# Towards ultra-high precision spectroscopy in the ultraviolet regime (XUV)

- Use HHG as light source for spectroscopy in XUV
- Coherently transfer comb modes from IR to XUV
- Perform direct frequency comb spectroscopy (DIFCOS)

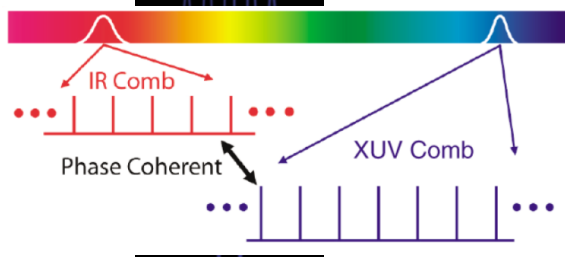


- Challenge:
  - Obtain enough intensity in XUV
  - use enhancement cavity



# HHG: high harmonic generation

- Transfer light to UV light

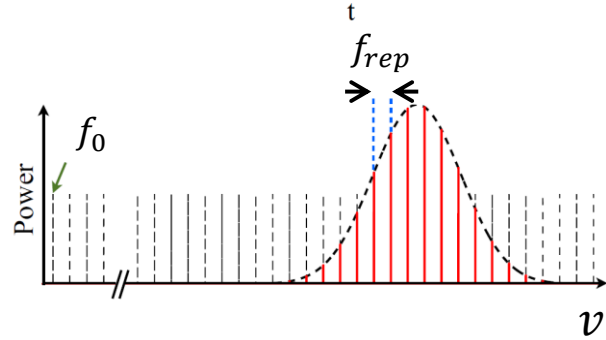
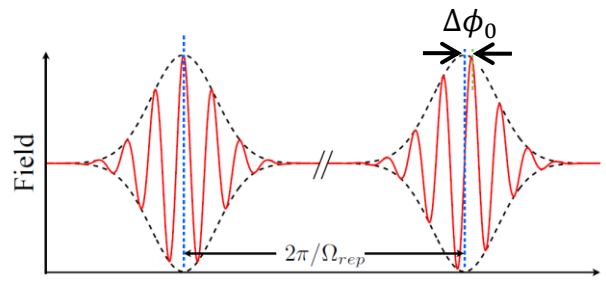


- But very high intensity  $n \approx 10^{13} \text{ W/cm}^2$ !

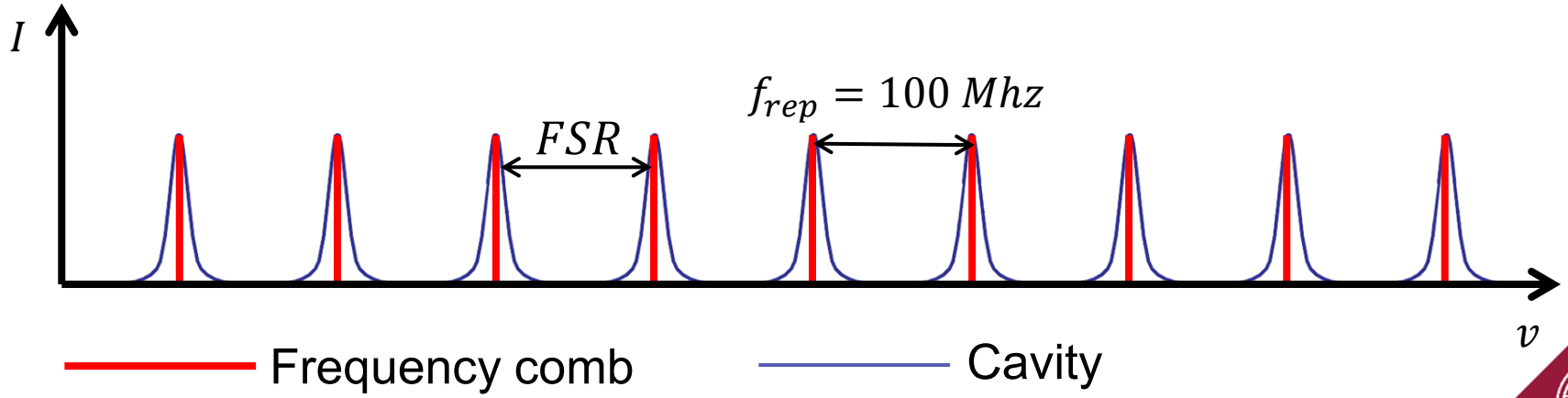
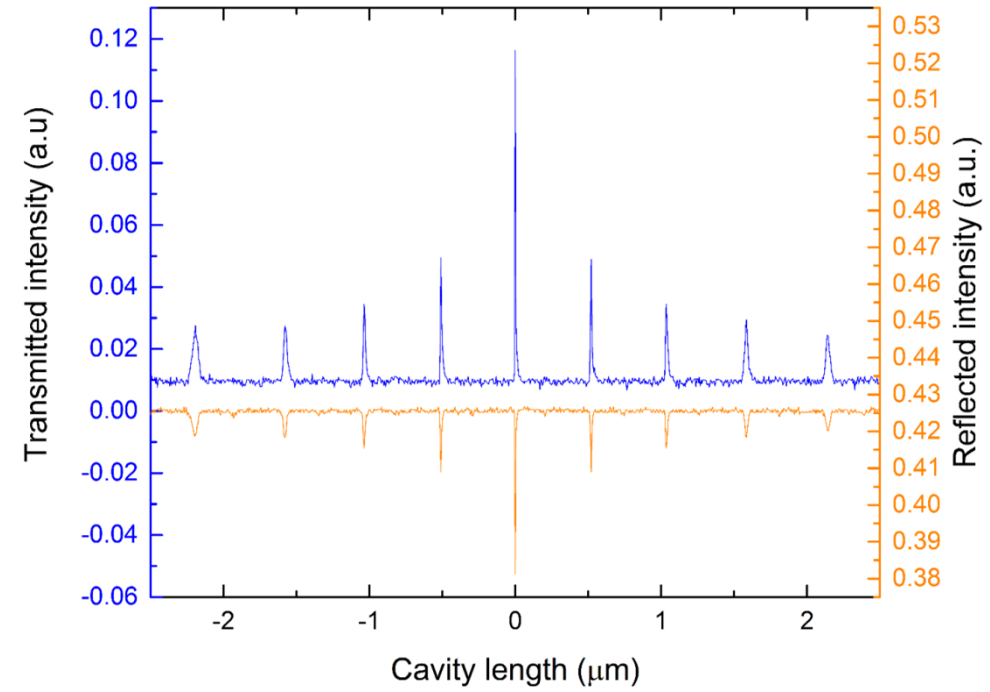
→ *use enhancement cavity to amplify pulses*



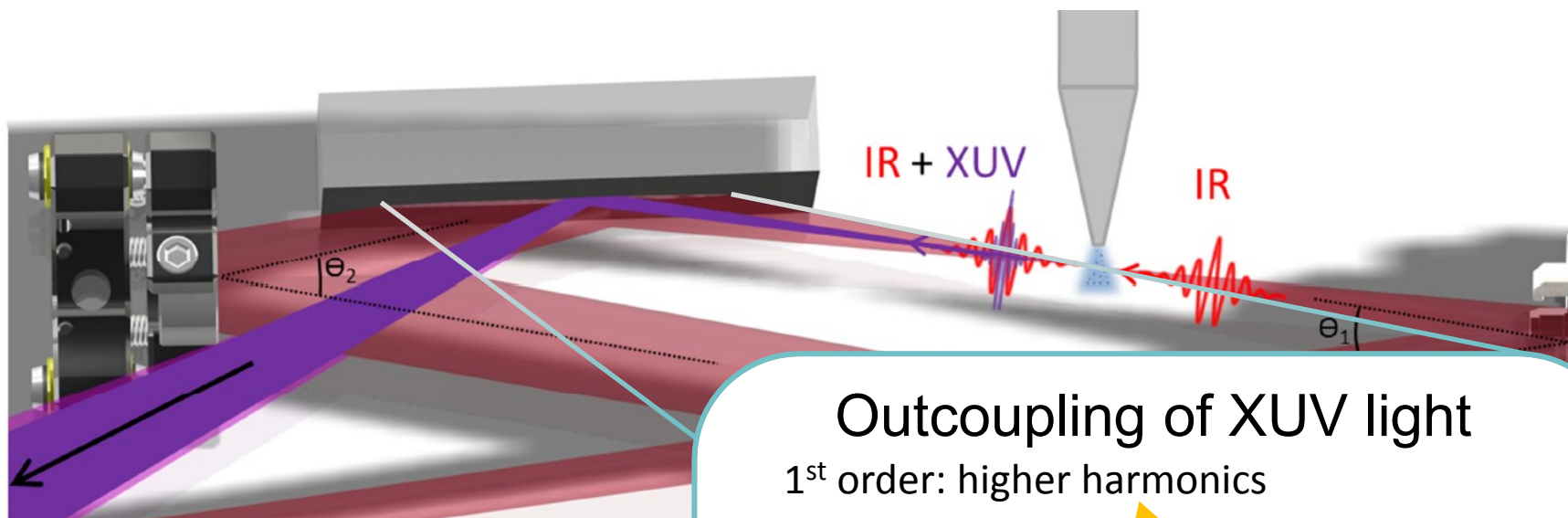
# Frequency comb in optical cavity



$$f_n = f_0 + n \cdot f_{rep}$$



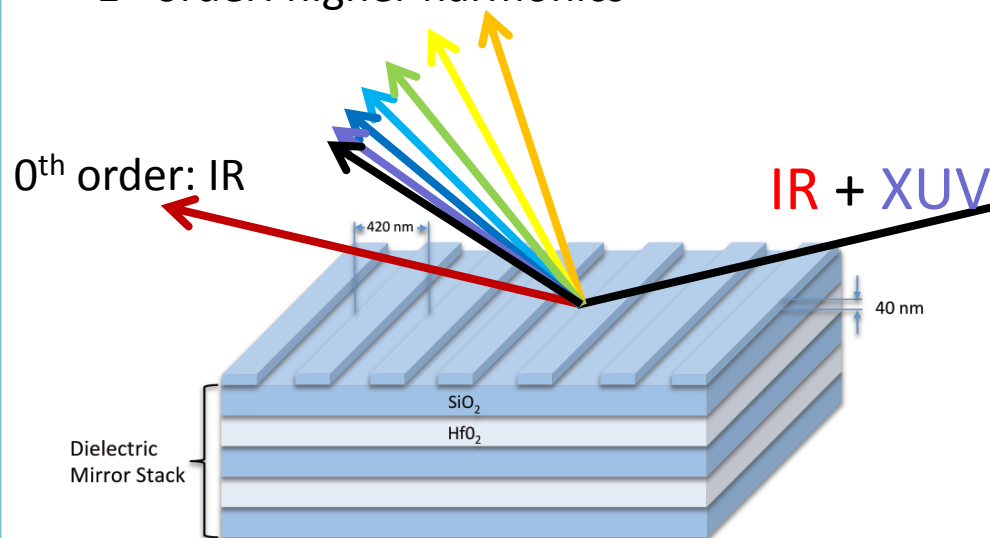
# Design of enhancement cavity



## Outcoupling of XUV light

1<sup>st</sup> order: higher harmonics

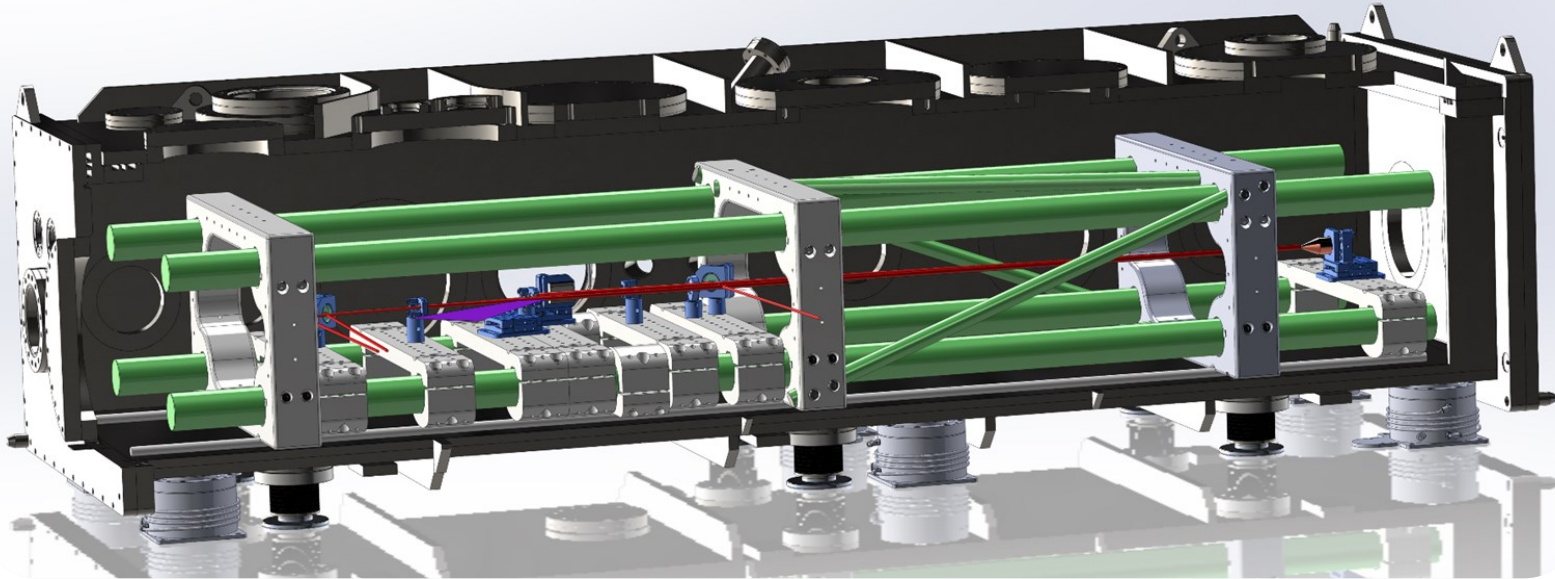
0<sup>th</sup> order: IR



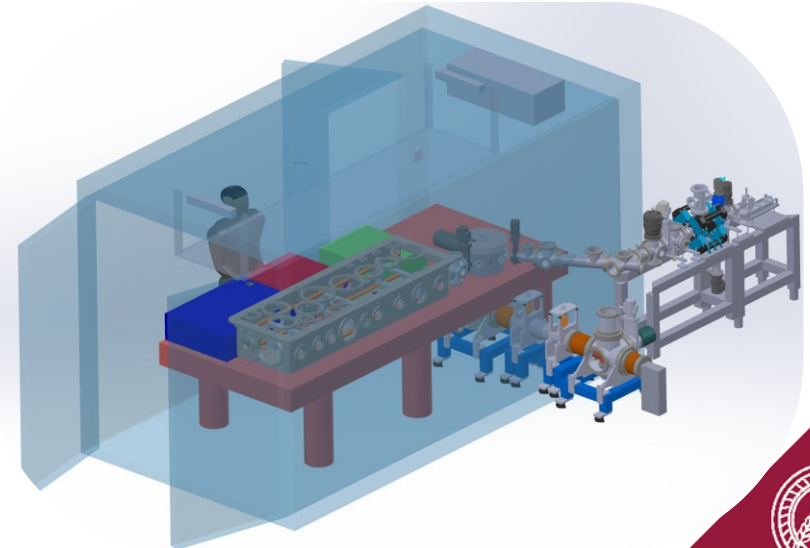
small period, shallow diffraction grating  
separates XUV from IR

- Feed target gas at cavity focus
- Tight focus enables HHG
- High harmonics are coupled out via grating
- XUV light available for ultra-high precision metrology

# Experimental setup

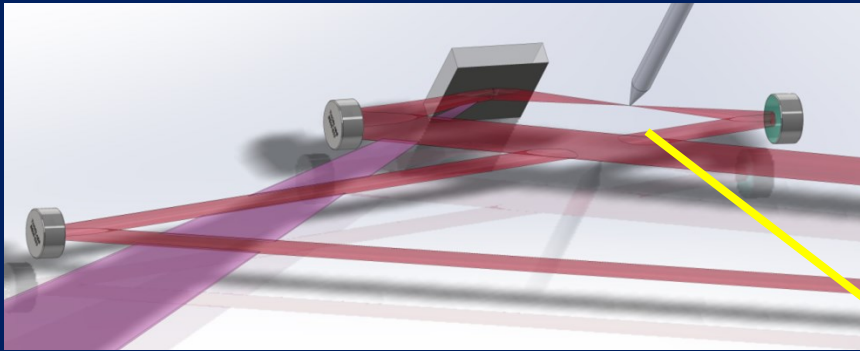


- Highly stable, vibration-free mounting of cavity optics in vacuum
- Frequency comb and Paul trap inside thermally and acoustically isolated container
- 100 Watt amplifier stage for reaching higher intensities





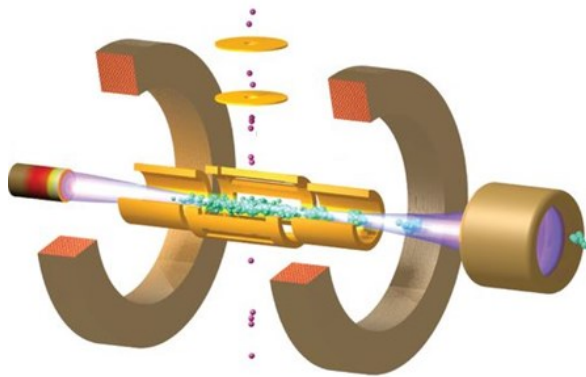
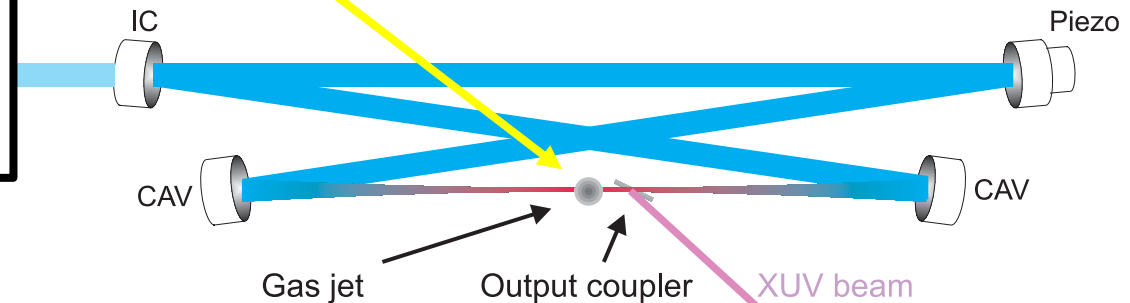
# High harmonics and HCI



## VUV frequency comb

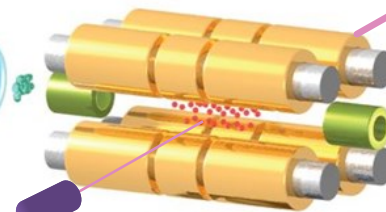
- in-vacuo enhancement cavity
- in 15  $\mu\text{m}$  focus  $\approx 10^{13} \text{ W/cm}^2$
- 100 MHz repetition rate
- Under development

Laser system  
(100 W, 100 MHz,  
150 fs)



EBIT: HCI production  
at MK temperatures

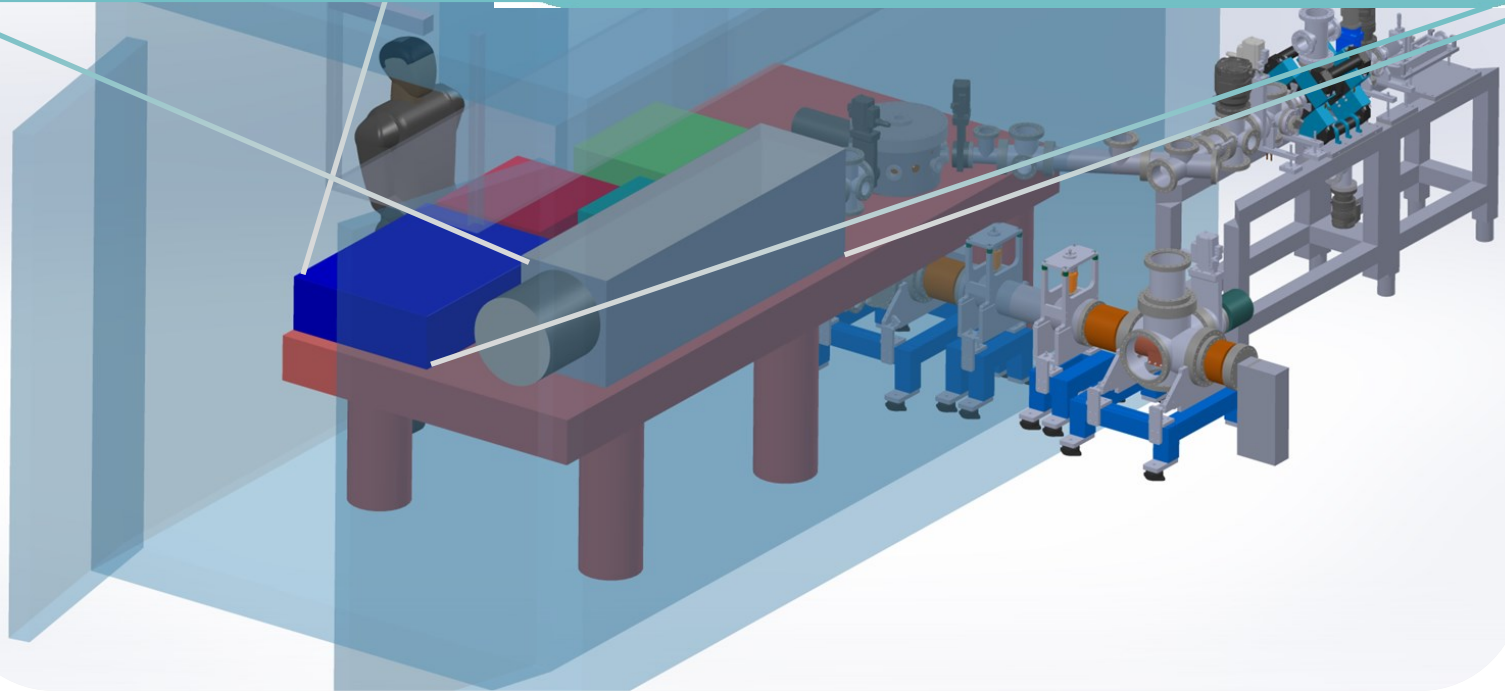
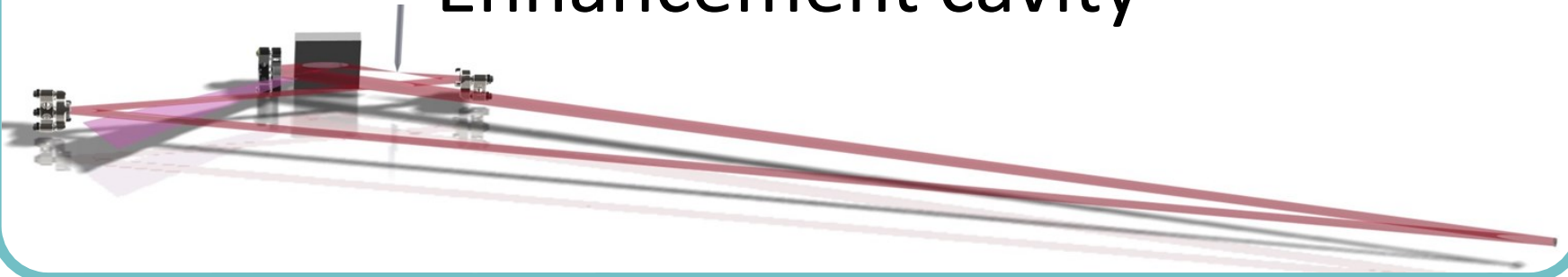
Beamline: Deceleration and  
pre-cooling of HCI bunches



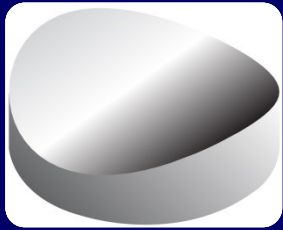
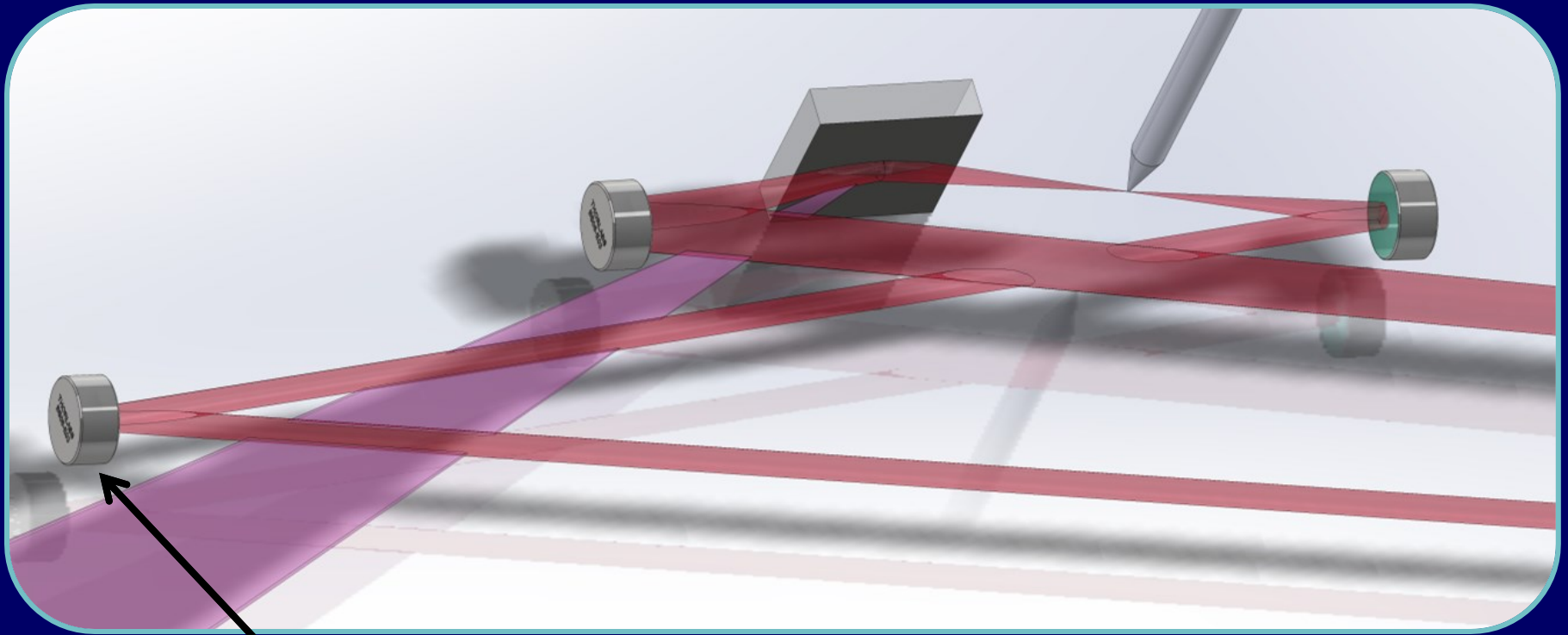
Paul trap: Crystallization  
and cooling of HCIs to  
mK temperatures

# Experimental overview

## Enhancement cavity



# Design of HHG focus

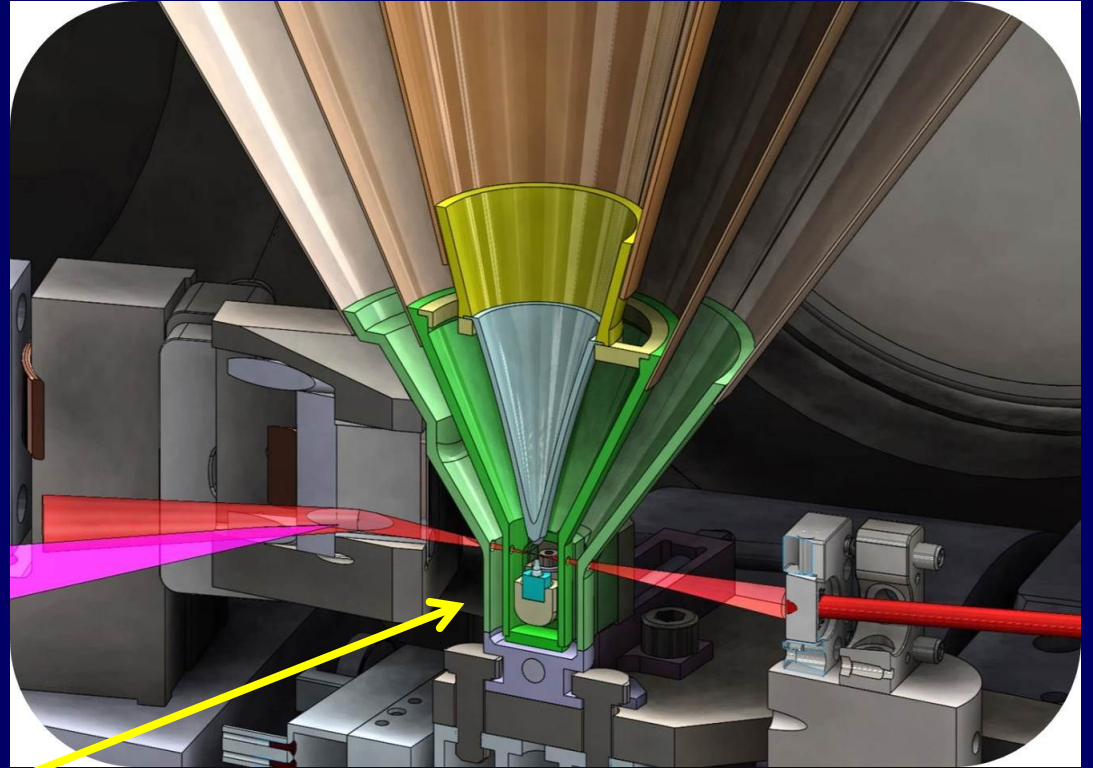
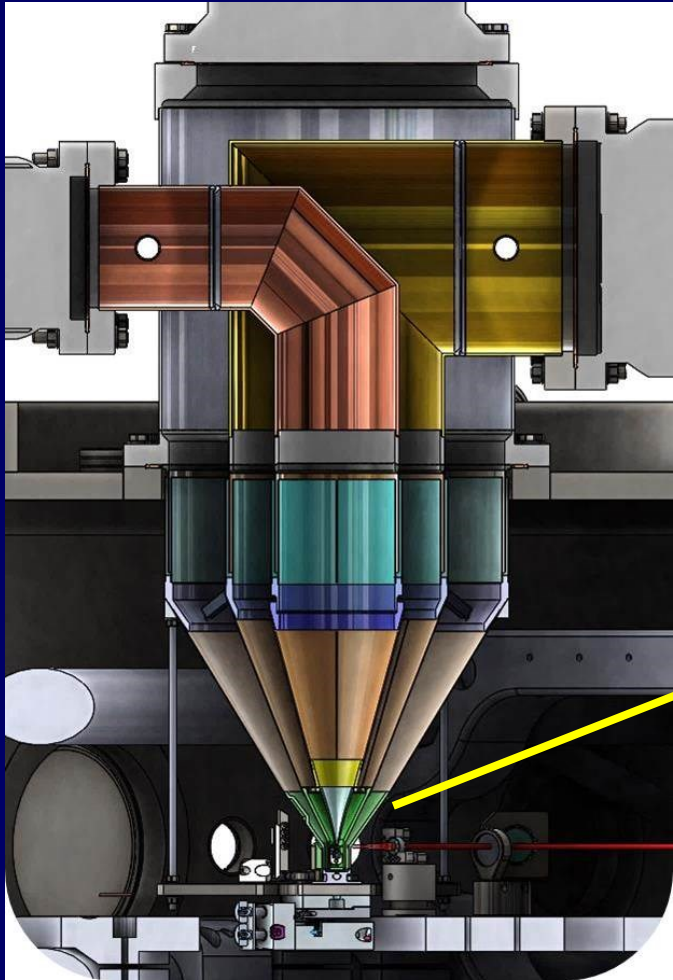


Idea: use cylindrical incoupling mirror to compensate astigmatism around focus region

Focus  $\approx 15 \mu\text{m}$

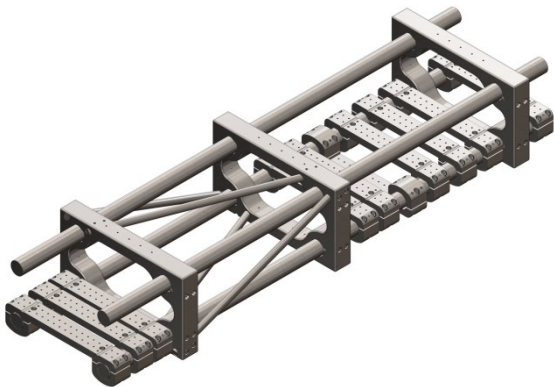
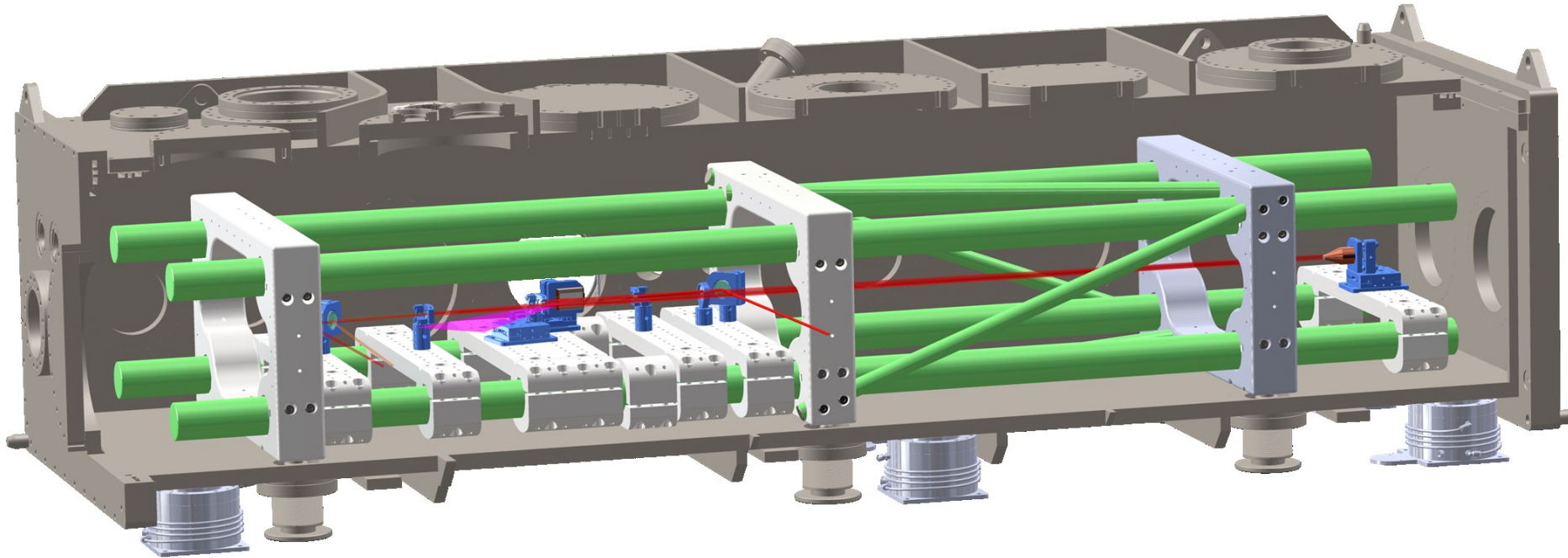
At 10 W with enhancement  $\approx 10^{13} \text{ W/cm}^2$

# Design of HHG focus

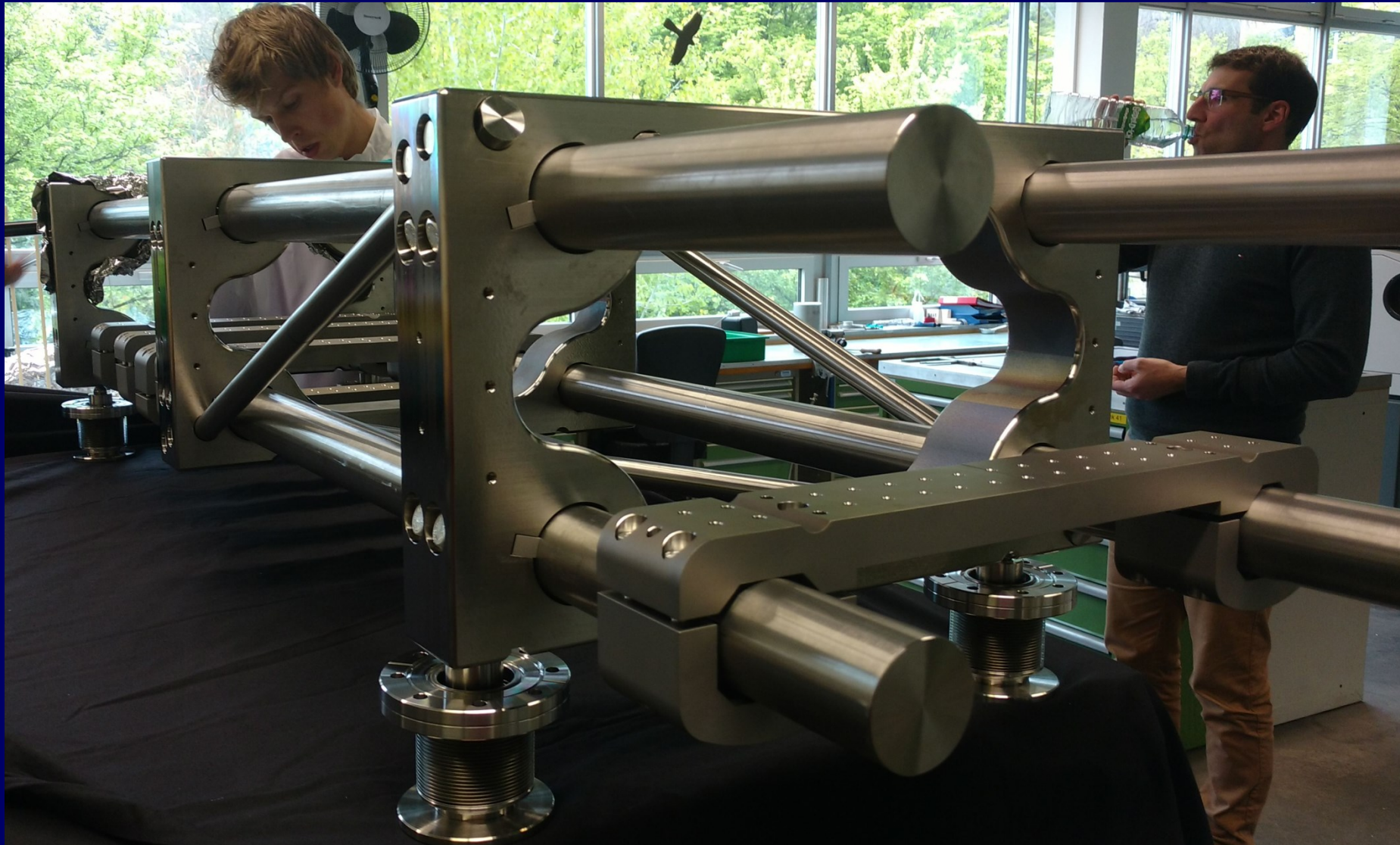




# UHV, high-stiffness optical enhancement cavity

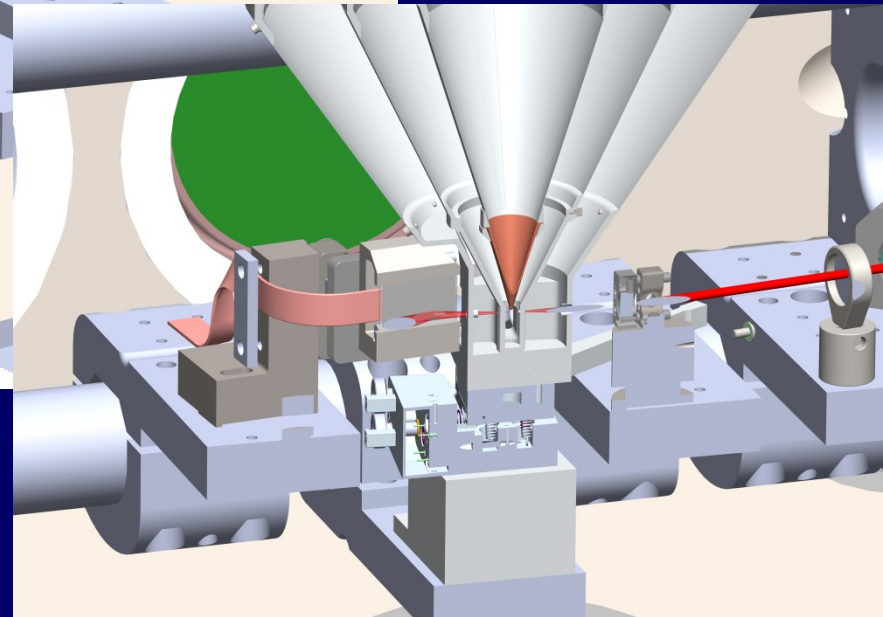
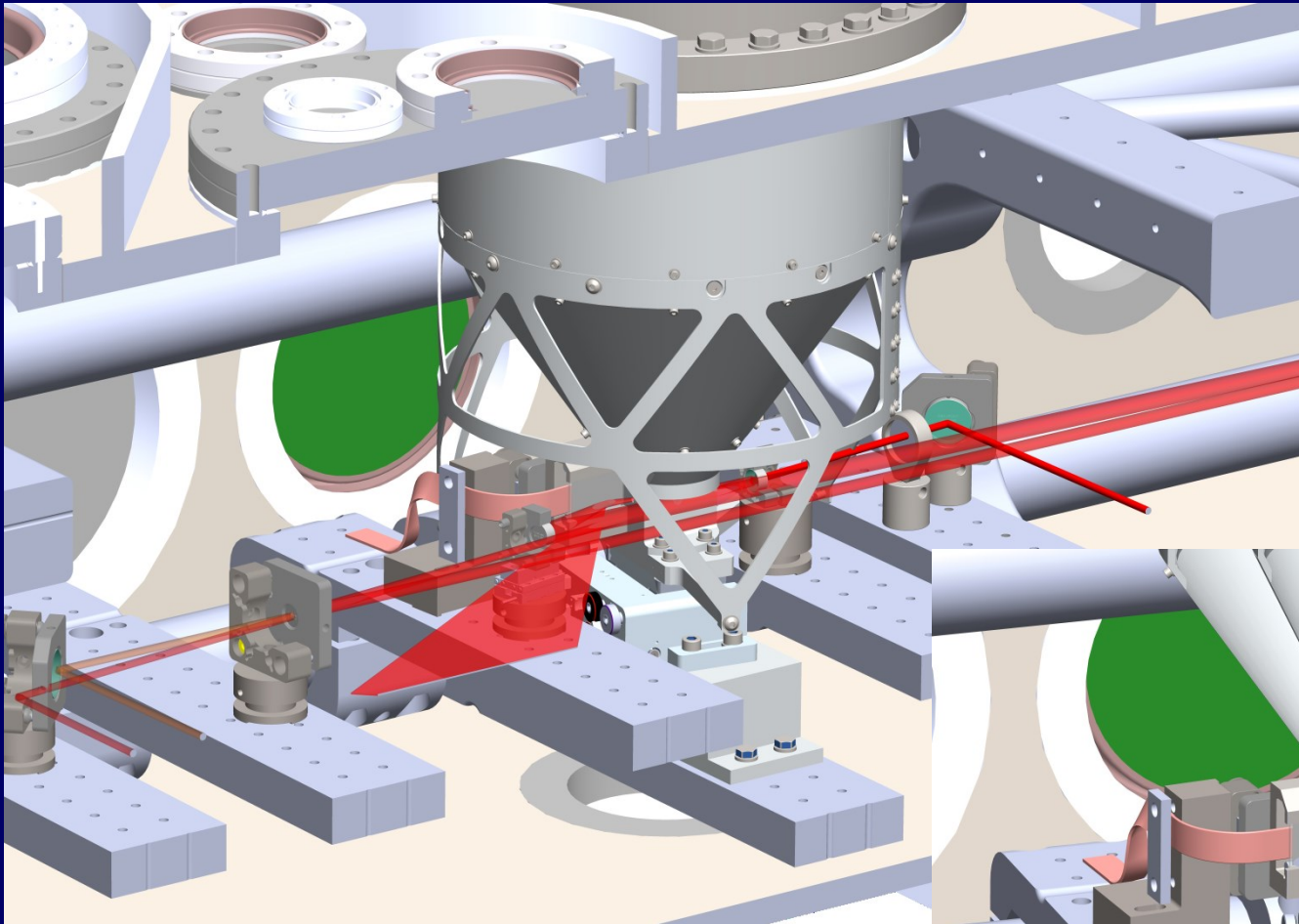


# UHV, high-stiffness optical enhancement cavity

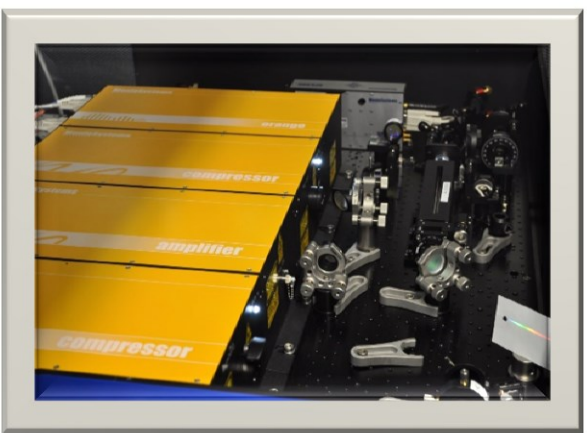
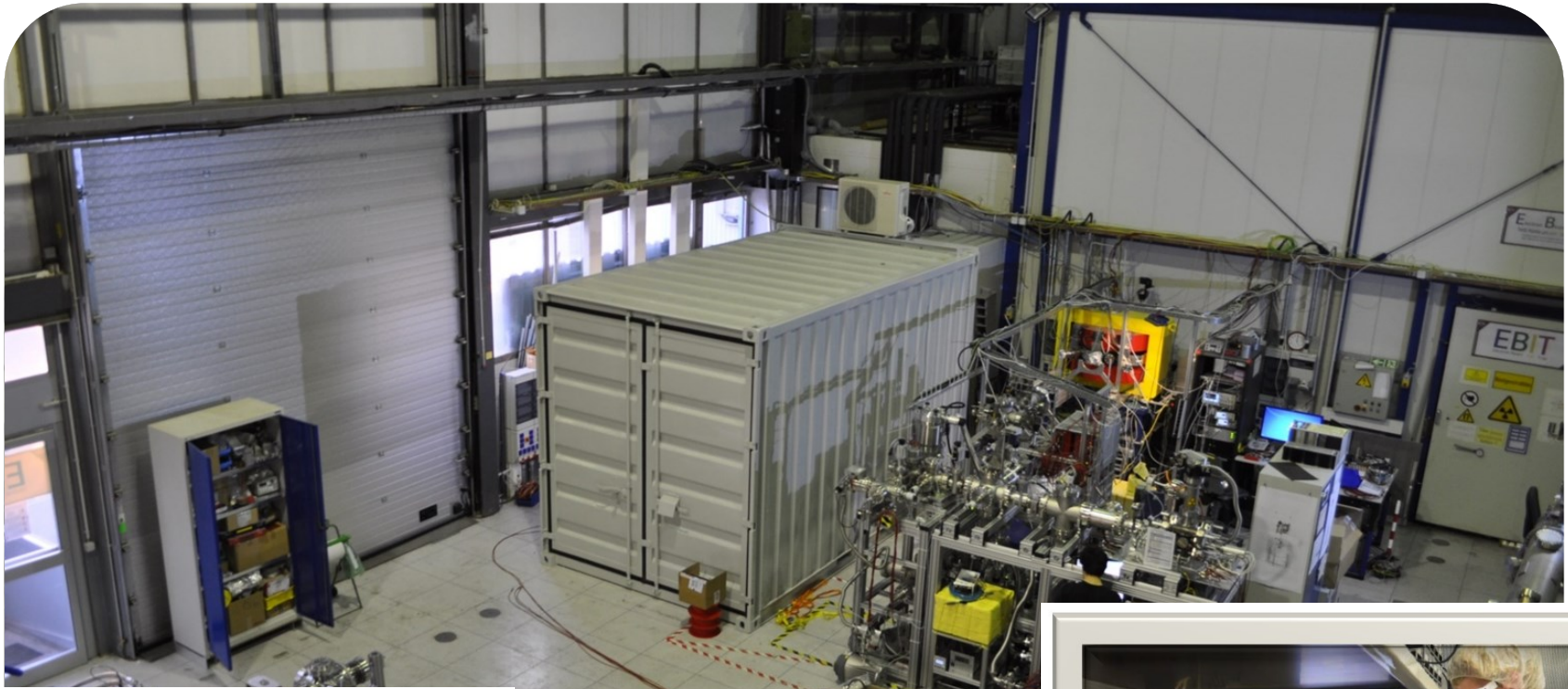




# Design of HHG focus



# Status & Outlook

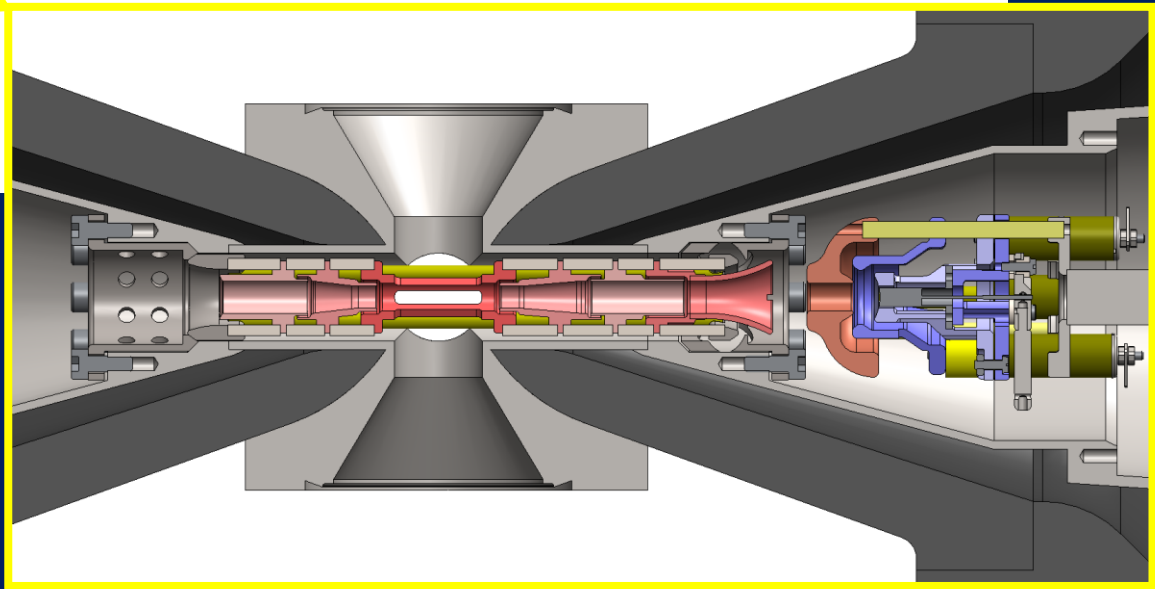
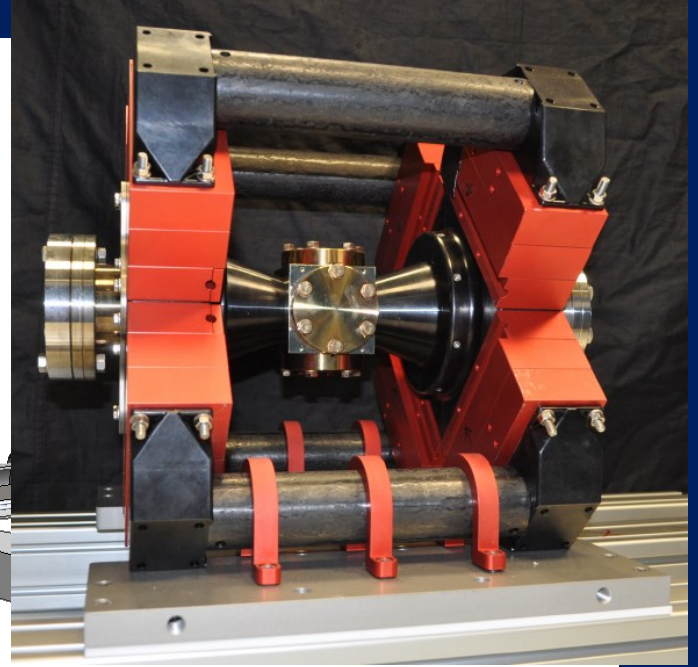
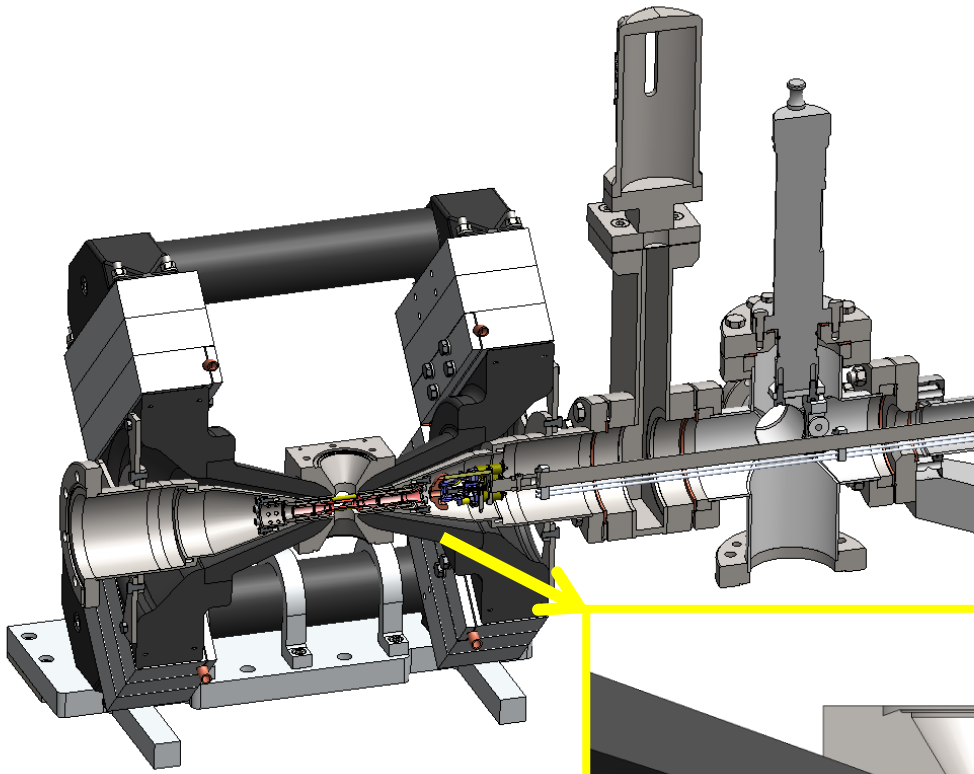




# Status & Outlook



# A table-top EBIT for PTB



# Possibilities through frequency metrology

- **Whole new class** of laser-accessible targets, with  $Z$  and **ionic charge** as parameters
- **Great variety of optical and EUV lines** from fine and hyperfine transitions up to the highest charge states
- **Stable up to X-ray region**
- **Forbidden transitions** suitable as frequency standards
- **Low sensitivity** to DC, AC Stark, Zeeman and blackbody shifts
- **Highest sensitivity to** fine-structure constant  $\alpha$  in atomic systems

# Summary

- Spectroscopy of HCl in EBITs **has suffered from high ion translational temperatures** in the MK range.
- CryPTEx is a linear RF trap to simultaneously confine **Be<sup>+</sup> cooling ions** and **HCl** extracted from an EBIT.
- **HCl implantation** into Coulomb crystal is **observed by imaging** the crystal and determining the **ion-ion separation** and the **motional excitation** frequencies.
- Sympathetic laser cooling already brings HCl from **1 MK to 100 mK** temperature, and possibly below.
- New opportunities for optical clocks and fundamental studies due to their insensitivity to perturbations.





# Current developments for frequency metrology at MPIK.

- Table-top EBIT for PTB experiments
- CryPTEx-II, a cryogenic Paul trap with vibration suppression for quantum logic at PTB.
- High Q-value (superconducting) RF resonator for a HCI Paul trap.
- High-harmonic frequency comb for the VUV range.

## MPIK

Lisa Schmöger, Oscar O. Versolato, Maria Schwarz, Janko Nauta, A. Borodin, Julian Stark, F. Brunner, S. Feuchtenbeiner, B. Piest, Hendrik Bekker, Alexander Windberger, E. Peper, Peter Micke, Steffen Kühn, Sven Bernitt, I. I. Draganic, A. Lapierre, R. Soria Orts, JRCLU, T. Pfeifer

## PTB

Piet O. Schmidt, Tobias Leopold, Matthias Kohnen, Joachim Ullrich

## UNSW

Julian Berengut

## Aarhus University

Michael Drewsen, L.Klosowski, A. Gingell, A. K. Hansen

