

Lasers for External FEL Seeding (Experience and critical aspects of external laser seeding at FERMI)

*Miltcho Danailov
Elettra-Sincrotrone Trieste*

OUTLINE

- **Introduction**
- **HGHG, EEHG, Direct seeding: brief comparison and ideal laser source parameters**
- **HGHG seeding**
 - **Present solution at FERMI: system evolution and critical aspects**
 - **Single cascade**
 - **Double cascade**
 - **Seed Laser Layout**
 - **Synchronization aspects**
 - **Beam transport and Dispersion Compensation aspects**
- **EEHG**
 - **Layout used at FERMI**
 - **Possible layout for implementation on FEL1**
- **Alternative laser sources for HGHG/EEHG**
 - **Yb-based systems (DESY and X-FEL approach)**
 - **Stretched Hollow-fibre based seed**
- **Conclusions**

INTRODUCTION

MAIN REQUESTS TO AN EXTERNALLY SEEDED EUV/SOFT X-RAY FEL

Wavelength range: 2-120 nm (~620-10 eV)

Continuous 'push-button' tunability 1-20% around the wavelength of interest

Energy Per pulse : 10-500 μ J



STABILITY

- Wavelength stability: $\sim 10^{-4}$
- Pulse energy stability : <20% RMS acceptable, <10% RMS often requested and typically available, <5% RMS ideal

SPATIAL QUALITY : close to Gaussian TEM₀₀

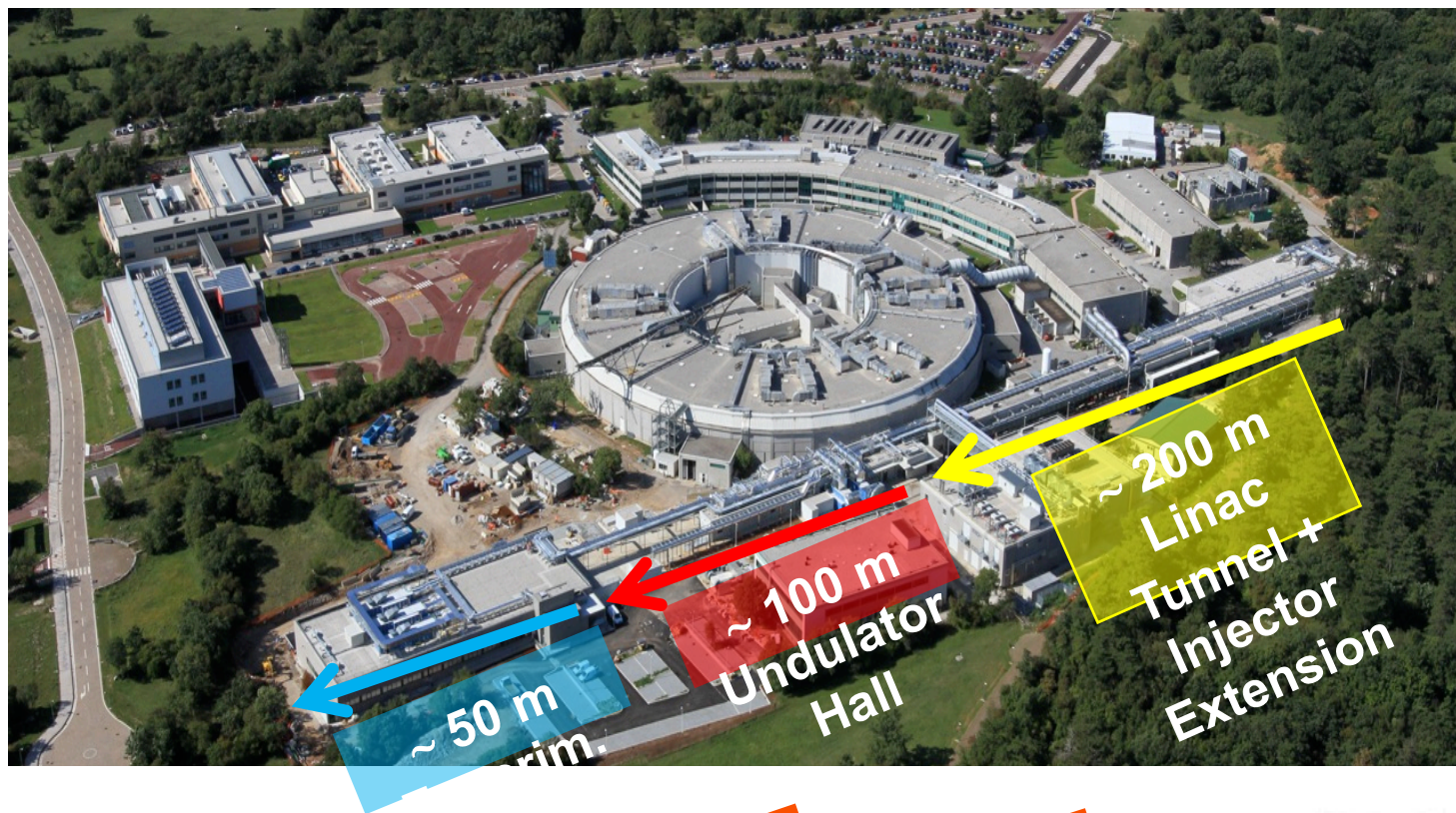
HIGH FLEXIBILITY

- Pulse duration: few fs-1 ps
- Bandwidth: few meV-0.2 eV
- Bandwidth/pulse duration may be adjustable to user needs
- Possibility for double X-ray pulse generation with variable delay/wavelength
- Simultaneous harmonics with fine-tunable phase relation
- Variable polarization

ENABLING HIGH ACCURACY PUMP-PROBE EXPERIMENTS

- Timing jitter with respect to a synchronized optical laser: <10 fs

Seeded FEL



Femtosecond OPA



MAIN EXTERNAL SEEDING SCHEMES

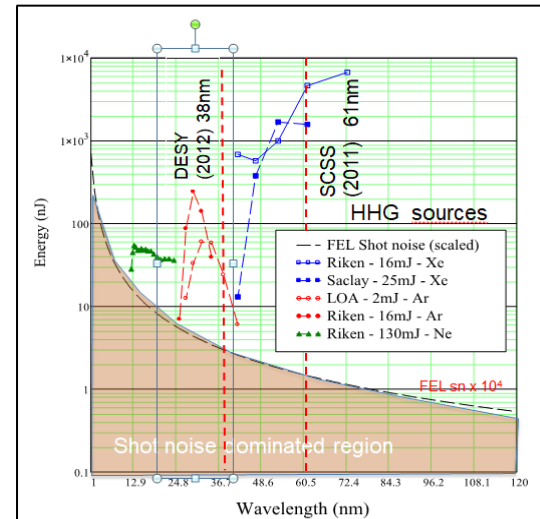
❑ Direct (Injection) Seeding

$$\lambda_{\text{FEL}} = \lambda_{\text{seed}}$$

$$P_{\text{seed}} \geq 100 \times P_{\text{spont}}$$

A TW-level pump laser is needed

Courtesy Luca Giannessy



- data from B. Carré, *Colloque AEC - Slicing, Paris 2004*

- Shot noise estimate includes transport and matching to e-beam – *Seeded FELs Workshop, Frascati 10-12 (2008)*

1-W. Boutu, M. Ducouso, J.-F. Hergott and H. Merdji on HHG and 2-M.E. Couprie and L. G. on Seeded FELs, both in *Springer Series in Optical Sciences 197 (2015)* ISBN 978-3-662-47442-6 DOI 10.1007/978-3-662-47443-3

❑ High Gain Harmonic Generation (Yu, L. H., *Phys. Rev. A* **44** (1991))

FERMI (4-110 nm), DALIAN (50-180 nm)

- Seeding in the Deep UV range, $P_{\text{DUV}} \sim 200\text{-}500$ MW \rightarrow 50-100 GW IR Pump laser
- Seeding a cascade in the VUV-EUV, $P \sim 400$ kW \rightarrow TW level IR pump laser (Dunning et al, *Journal of Mod. Optics* **16** (2011))

❑ Echo Enabled Harmonic Generation (G. Stupakov, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 074801 (2009))

- Seed 1 UV, Seed 2 Deep UV, $P_{\text{DUV}} \sim 200\text{-}500$ MW \rightarrow 50-100 GW IR Pump laser

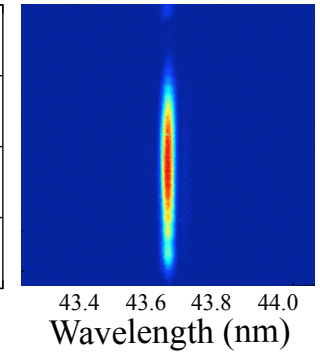
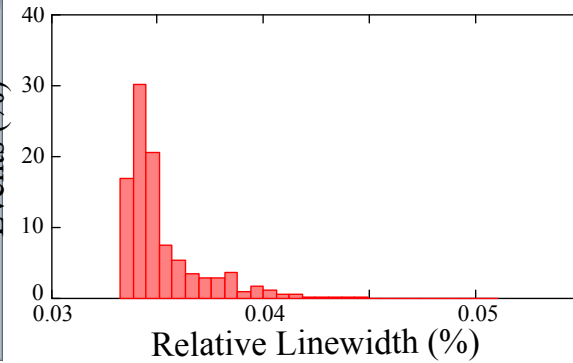
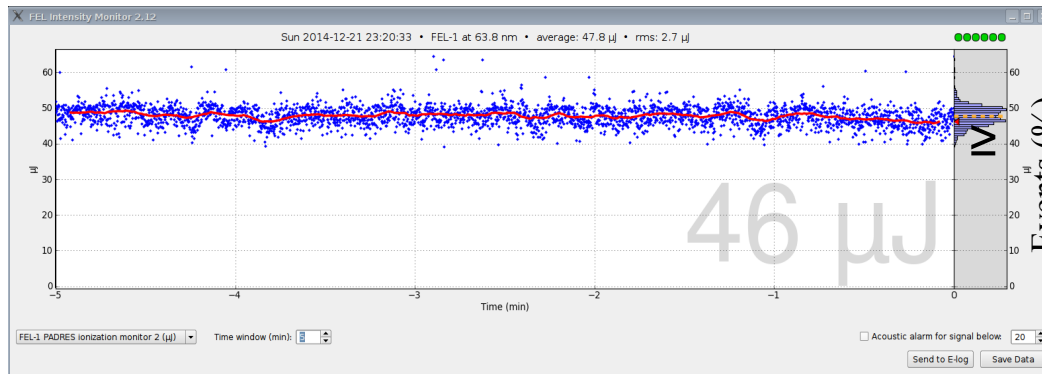
❑ Enhanced SASE, Slicing, ...

HGHG EXTERNAL SEEDING

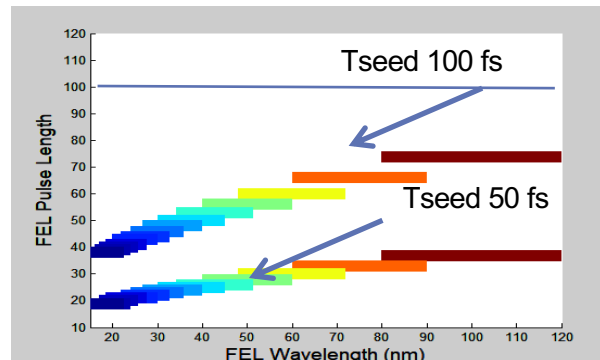
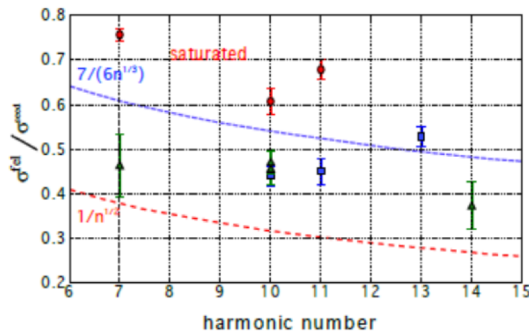
SINGLE STAGE (e.g. FERMI FEL1)



-Wavelength range 15-120 nm , H=3-15, typical energy per pulse 25-500 uJ (up to 1.2mJ)

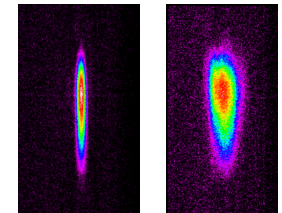


-FEL Pulse duration $T_{SEED} * n^{-1/2} < T_{FEL} < (7/6) T_{SEED} * n^{-1/3}$



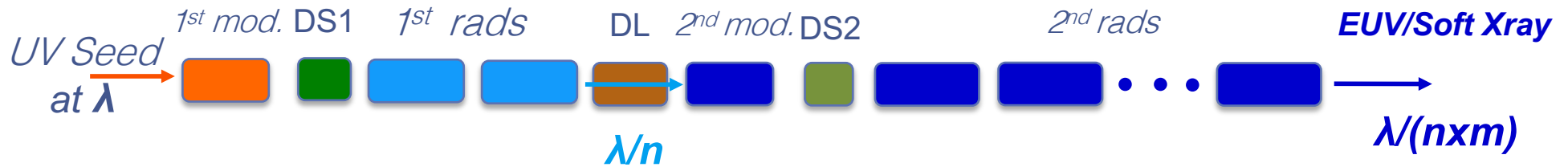
IDEAL SEED

- $\lambda=240-360$ nm
- $P \geq 150$ MW in Modulator (i.e. ≥ 300 MW at the source)
- $\Delta\lambda/\lambda \sim 10^{-4}$
- $\Delta P/P \leq 1-2 \times 10^{-2}$
- 2-3 different nearly TL pulse duration and chirp options

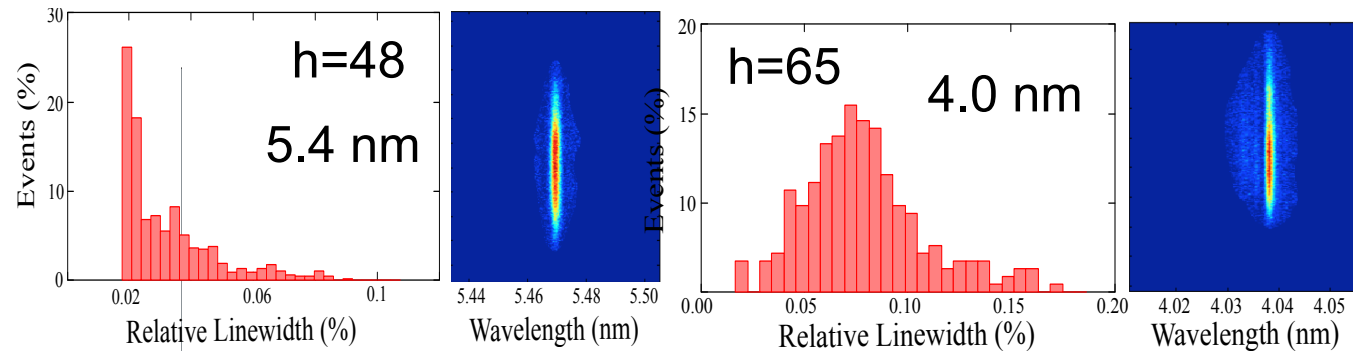
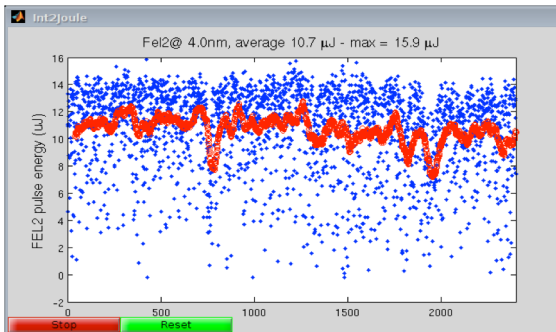


HGHG EXTERNAL SEEDING

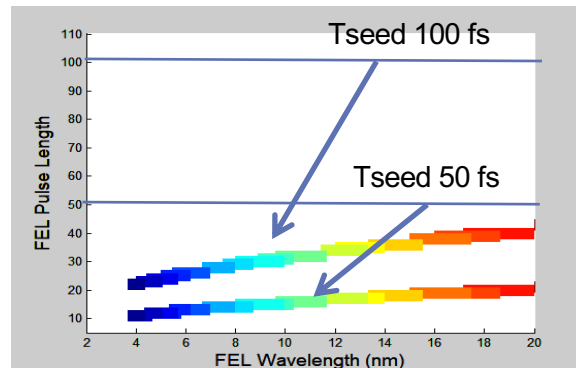
DOUBLE CASCADE FRESH-BUNCH (e.g. FERMI FEL2)



-Wavelength range 4-20 nm , H=12-65 (excluding prime numbers) , typical energy per pulse 10-100 μ J



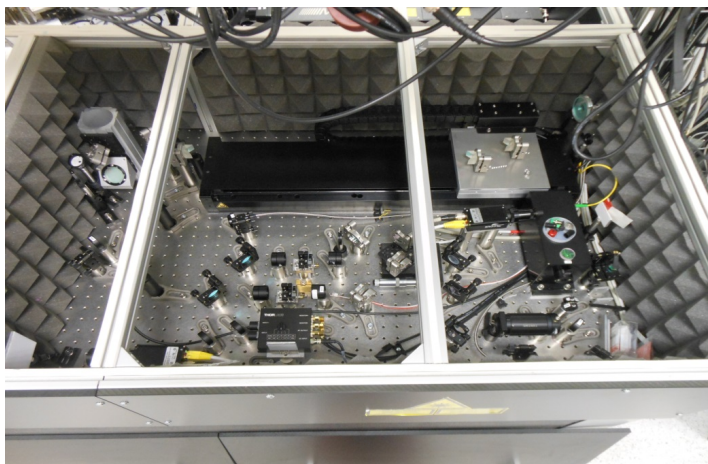
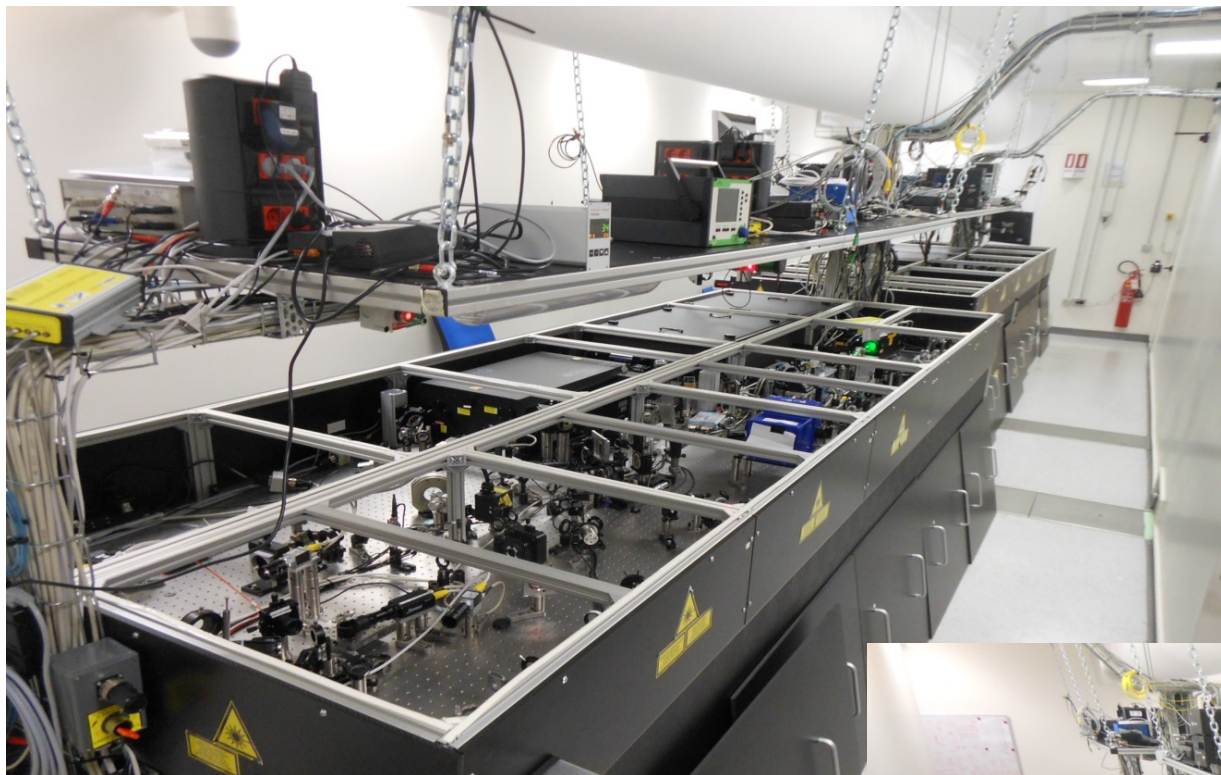
-FEL Pulse duration $T_{SEED}*(nxm)^{-1/2} < T_{FEL} < (7/6) T_{SEED}*(nxm)^{-1/3}$



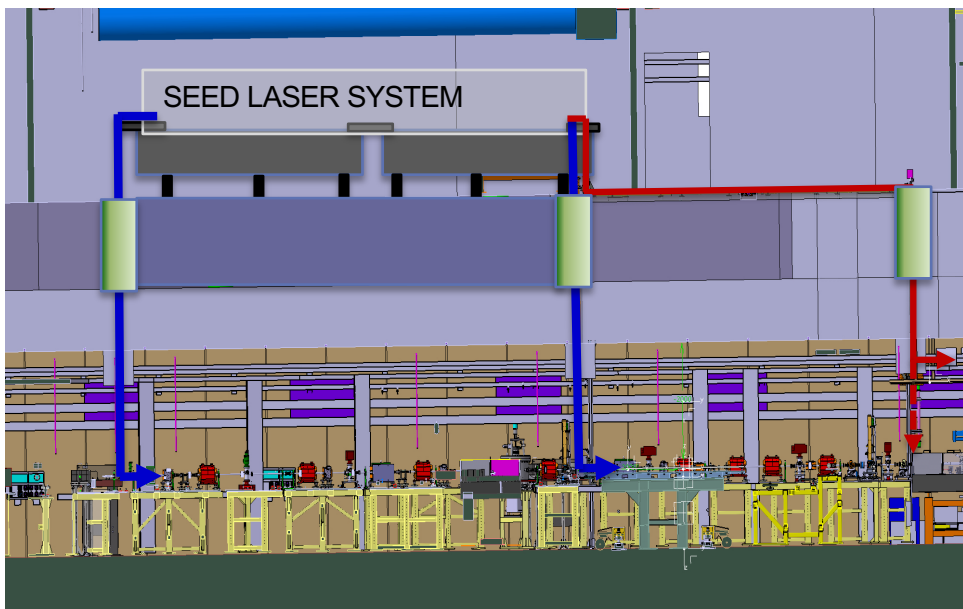
'IDEAL' SEED

- $\lambda=240-280$ nm
- $P \geq 300$ MW in MOD1
- i.e. ≥ 600 MW at the source
- $\Delta\lambda/\lambda \sim 10^{-4}$
- $\Delta P/P \leq 1-2 \times 10^{-2}$
- Low spectral phase distortions: pulse as close as possible to TL

THE FERMI SEED LASER



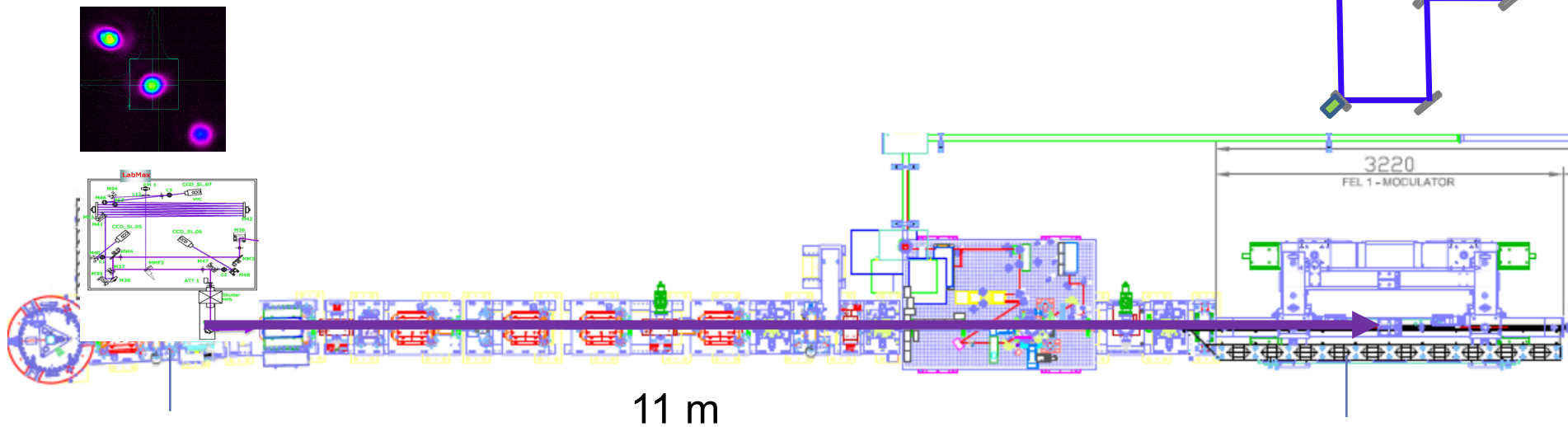
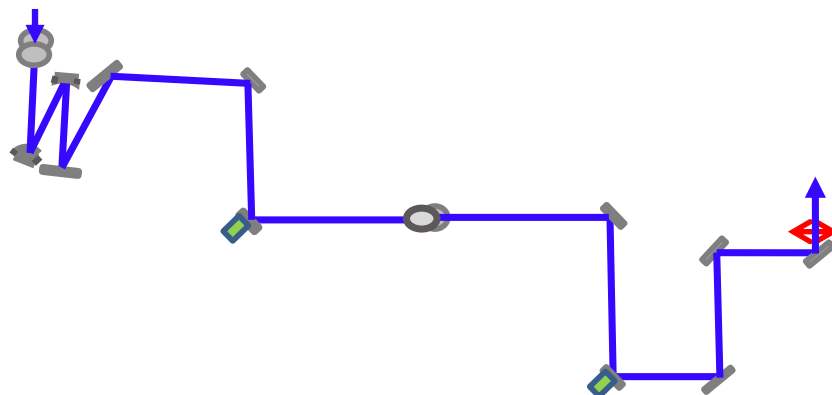
THE FERMI SEED LASER



Boundary conditions :

- Distance from laser telescope to modulator centre: ~ 25 m
- Distance from last window to modulator center: ~ 11 m
- Input polarization horizontal
- No access to the used seed beam

- BT contains 14-15 mirrors, including 45P and 0 deg
- Beam pointing feedback a 'must'
- 'Virtual' undulator is not common path



THE FERMI SEED LASER

FEL1

**Main seed option: IR OPA with up-conversion to UV
(modified OPERA-SOLO) mode:**

Main range R1: 232-267 nm,

Second range R2: 300-360 nm

Peak power > 150 MW

Pulse duration R1~110-120 fs and R2~ 90-100 fs
(with precompression for the BT)

Wavelength stability: <math><10^{-4}</math>

Pulse energy stability: <math><1.5\% \text{ RMS}</math>

Position stability: <math><20 \mu\text{m RMS}</math> (piezo **tip-tilt feedback essential)**

Timing jitter UV pulse: <math><7 \text{ fs RMS}</math> with respect to the timing

THG based fixed wavelength mode:

Wavelength : 261-265 nm (tunability $\pm 1 \text{ nm}$),

UV peak power $\geq 800 \text{ MW}$ (energy per pulse $>80 \mu\text{J}$)

Energy stability <math><0.8\% \text{ RMS}</math>

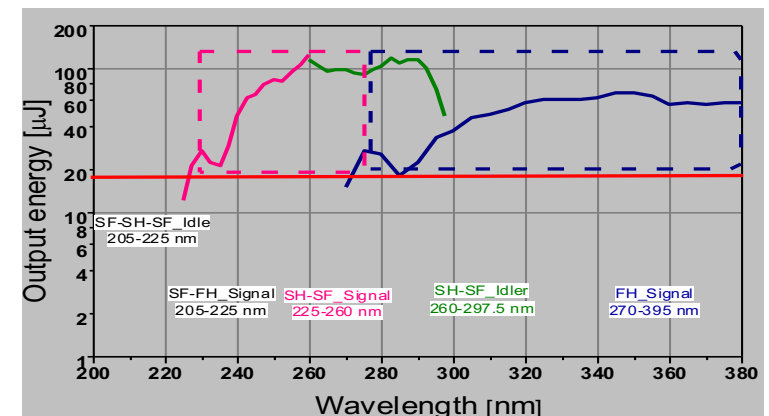
Pulse duration (FWHM): 100-350 fs range

(negative or positive linear chirp of up to can be added)

Typical bandwidth 0.75 nm

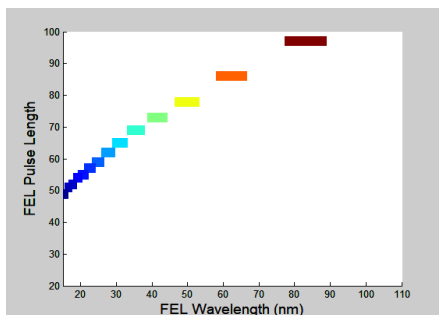
Mostly used in machine studies, FEL2 , Chirped Pulse

Seeding or twin-seed mode

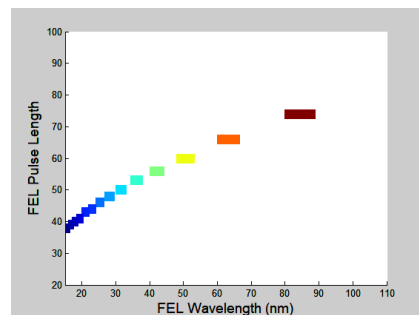


FEL1 SEEDING OPTIONS

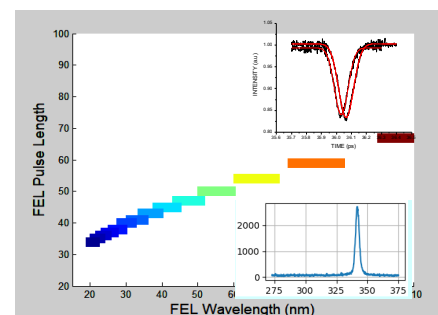
Main Seed Wavelength ranges for FEL1



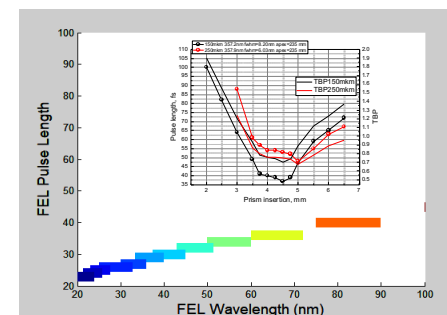
SeedR1: 232-267 nm, 130 fs,
H=3-16



SeedR1m: 240-267 nm, 110 fs,
H=3-16



SeedR2: 300-360 nm, 90 fs;
H=3-16



SeedR2SP 300-360 nm, 60 fs
H=3-16, (under development)

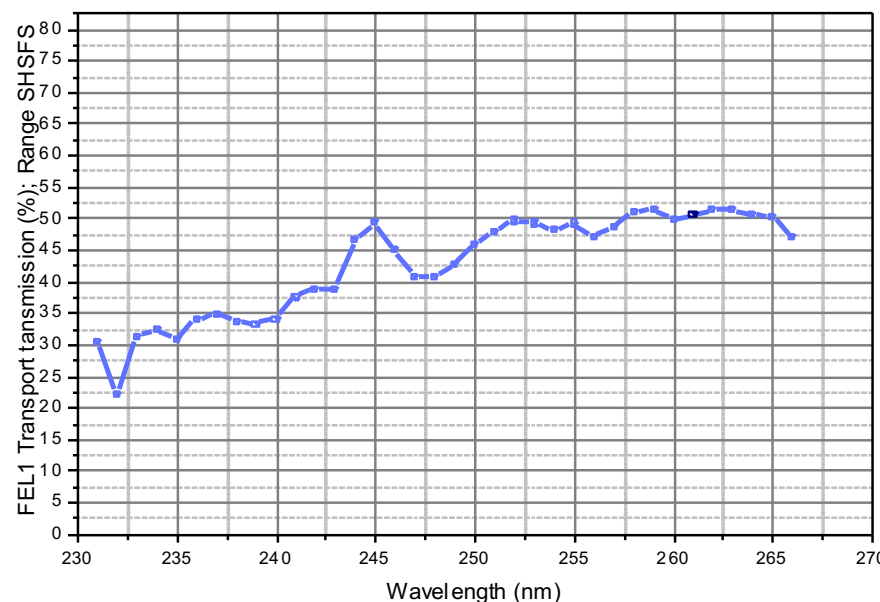
Beam transport issues:

➤ Minimum amount of material (vacuum windows, bear
Solution: Transmission grating compressor

- BT transmission $\leq 50\%$: mirrors, grating comp
- Beam pointing stabilization : virtual undulator

Solution:

- Holed screen inside FEL : installed, under tes
- Beam sampling grating
- Enlarge 1st Disp Section for inserting an out-
- May be allowed by the redesign for the EEHC

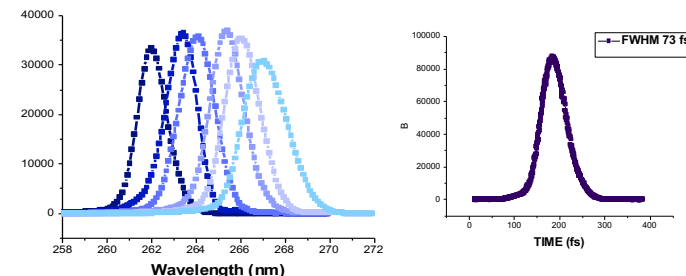
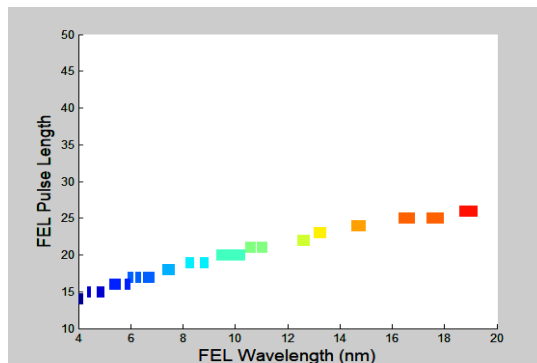
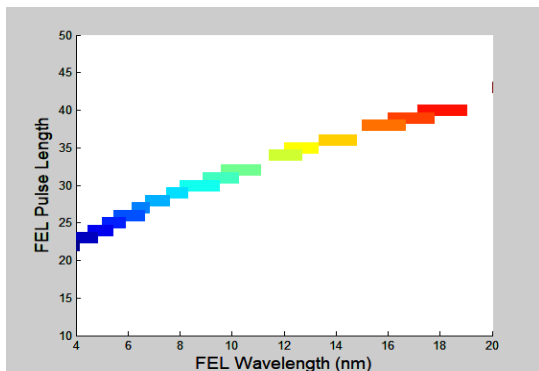


compensation
on with WL

$$\approx I_{laser}(z) dz$$

FEL2 SEEDING

Seed Options

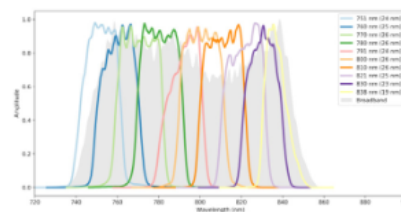
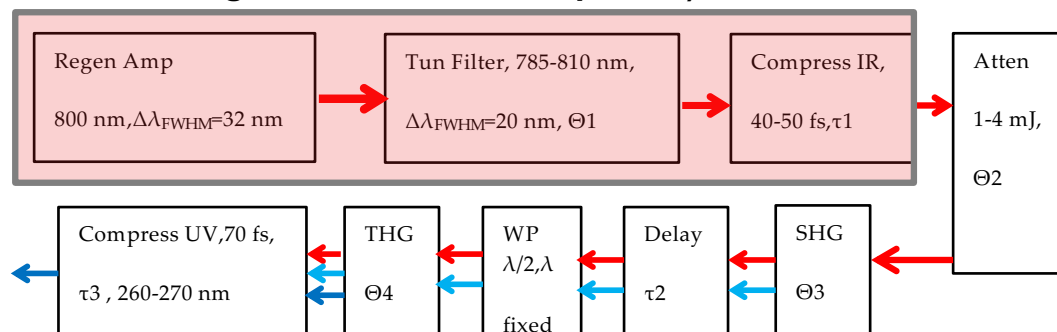


OPA Seed: 240-267 nm, 100 fs,
H1=3-13, H2=2-7
(Present OPA seed Range FEL2)

a.260-270 nm, 70 fs,
H1=3-13, H2=2-7
(THG seed Range FEL2 under development)

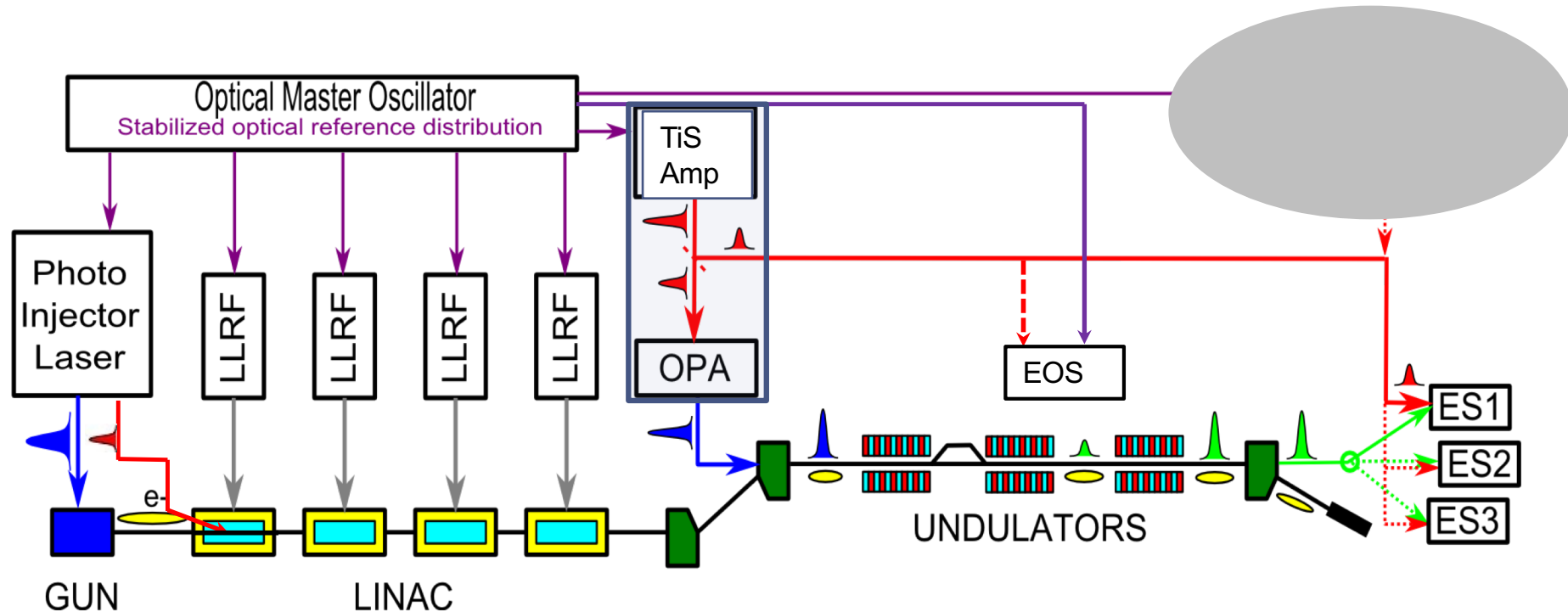
Scheme: fixed wavelength BB

Possible alternative approach:
Tunable RG , e.g. with intracavity
wavelength selection , e.g. ARCO
(Amplitude)
Main concern: reproducible WL tuning
and WL stability



For < 20 fs duration
tunability over 100 nm with Mazzler

SYNCHRONIZATION ASPECTS



MUST HAVE

- Low phase noise Timing Ref distribution with drift compensation: stabilized fibre link based
- Seed Laser&Pump-probe laser:
- Low phase noise mode-locked oscillator(s) with optical locking (BOCC based) to the timing Ref
- Timing drift stabilization of Regen Amplifiers

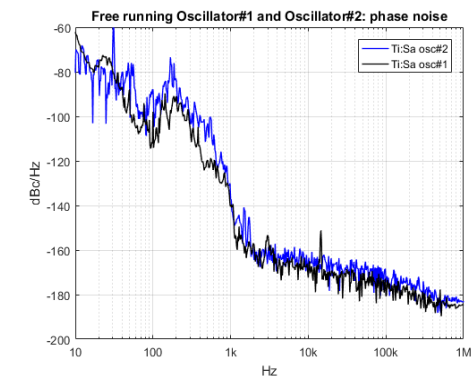
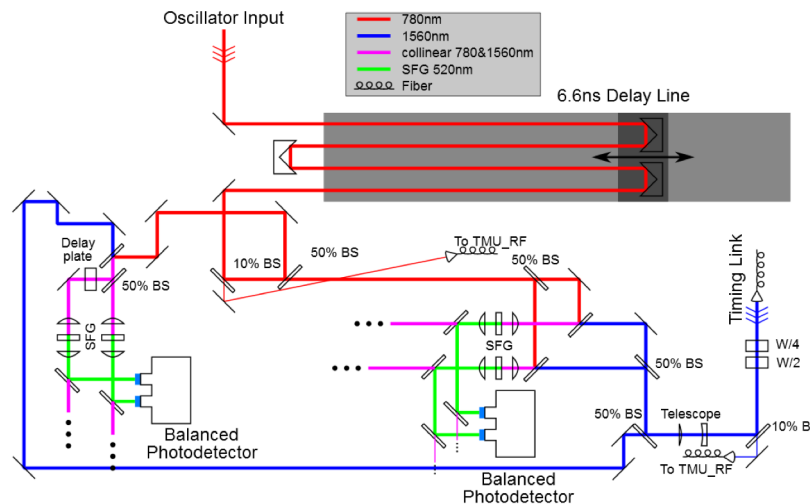
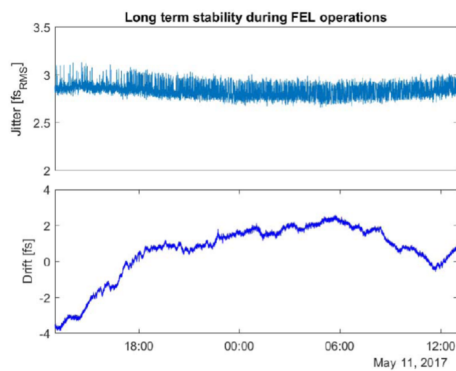
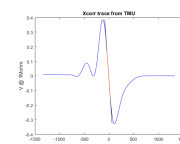
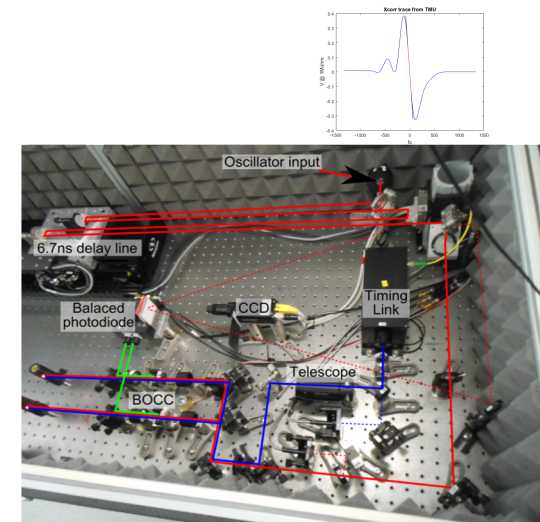
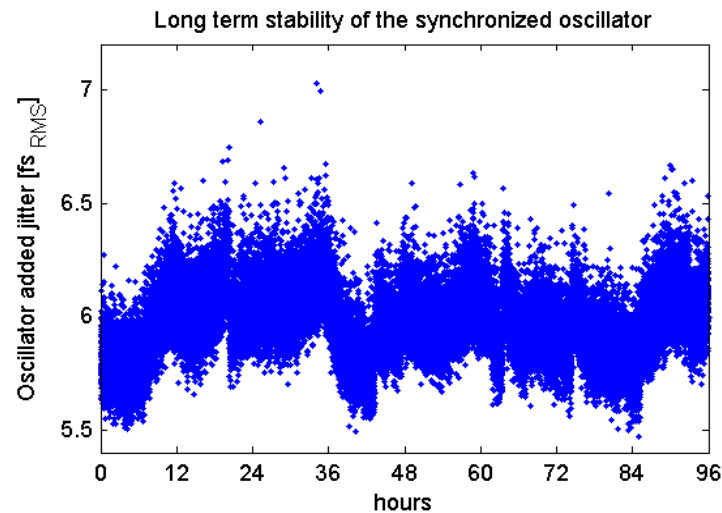
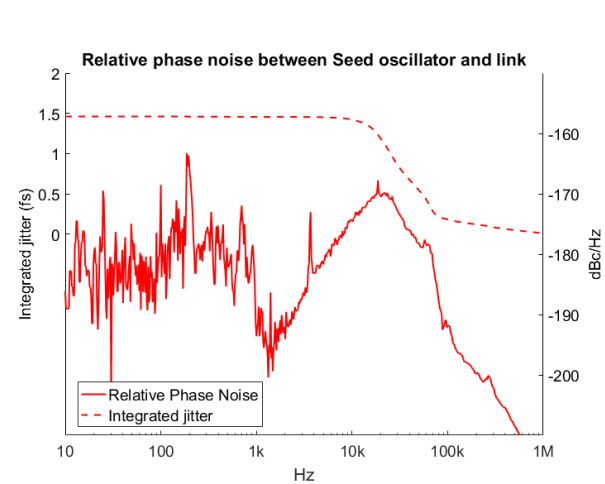
GOOD TO HAVE

- Seed Beam transport drift stabilization
- Timing tool at experimental stations in case of sub-5 fs Pump-Probe resolution request

SYNCHRONIZATION ASPECTS

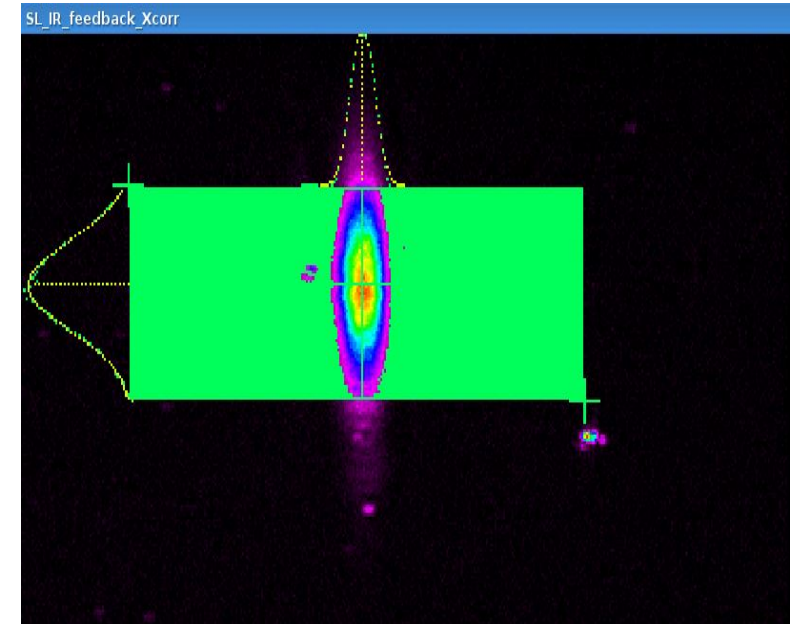
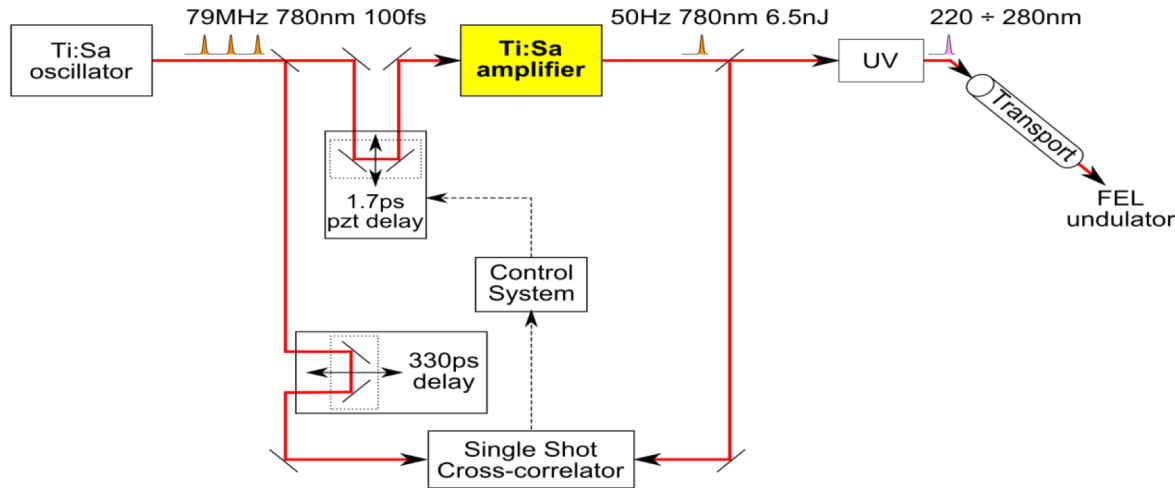
Mode Locked Oscillator Timing stabilization

Ti:Sapphire oscillator: a custom version of the Coherent Vitara and a home-developed BOCC

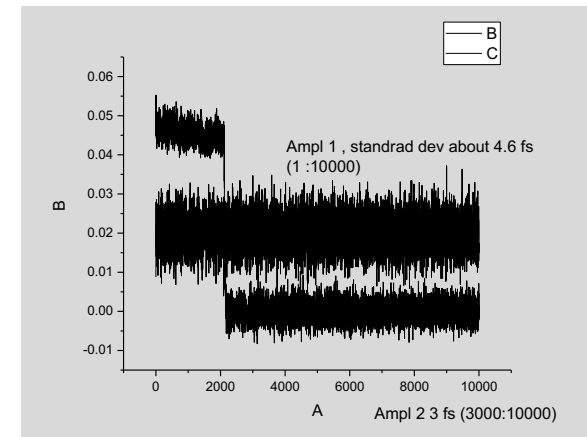
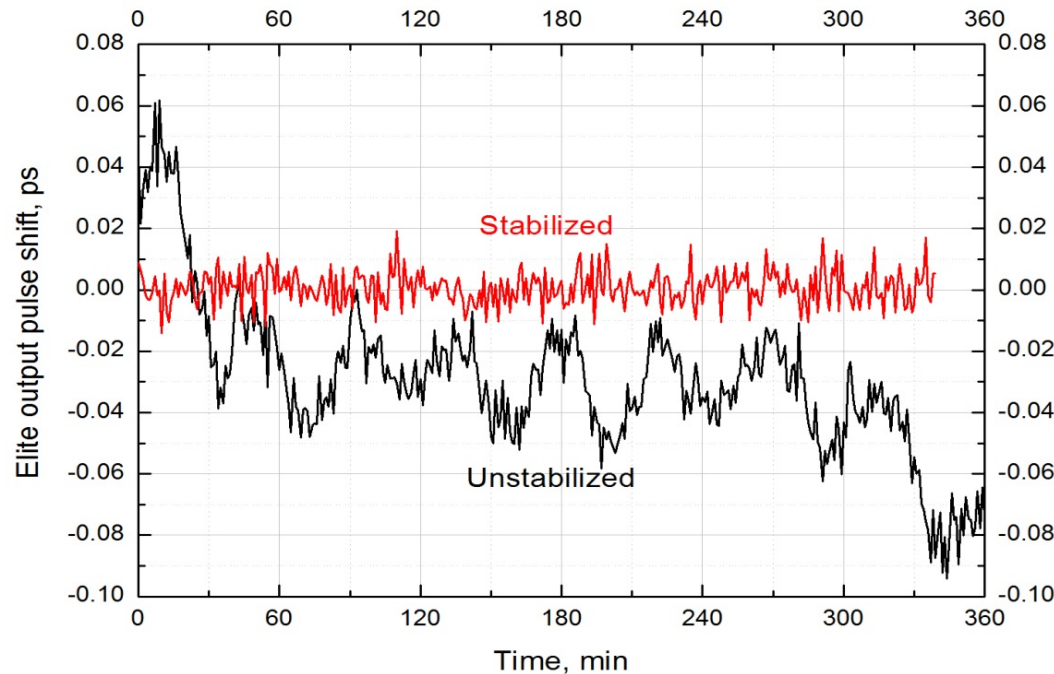


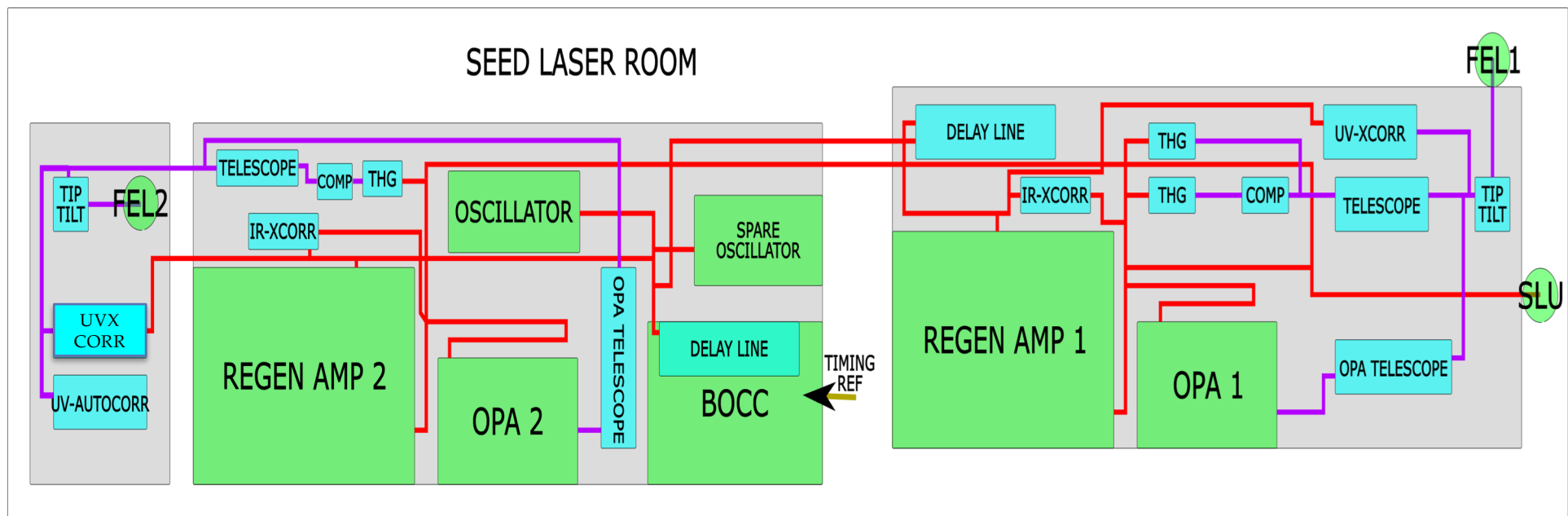
SYNCHRONIZATION ASPECTS

Timing Stabilization Regenerative Amplifiers

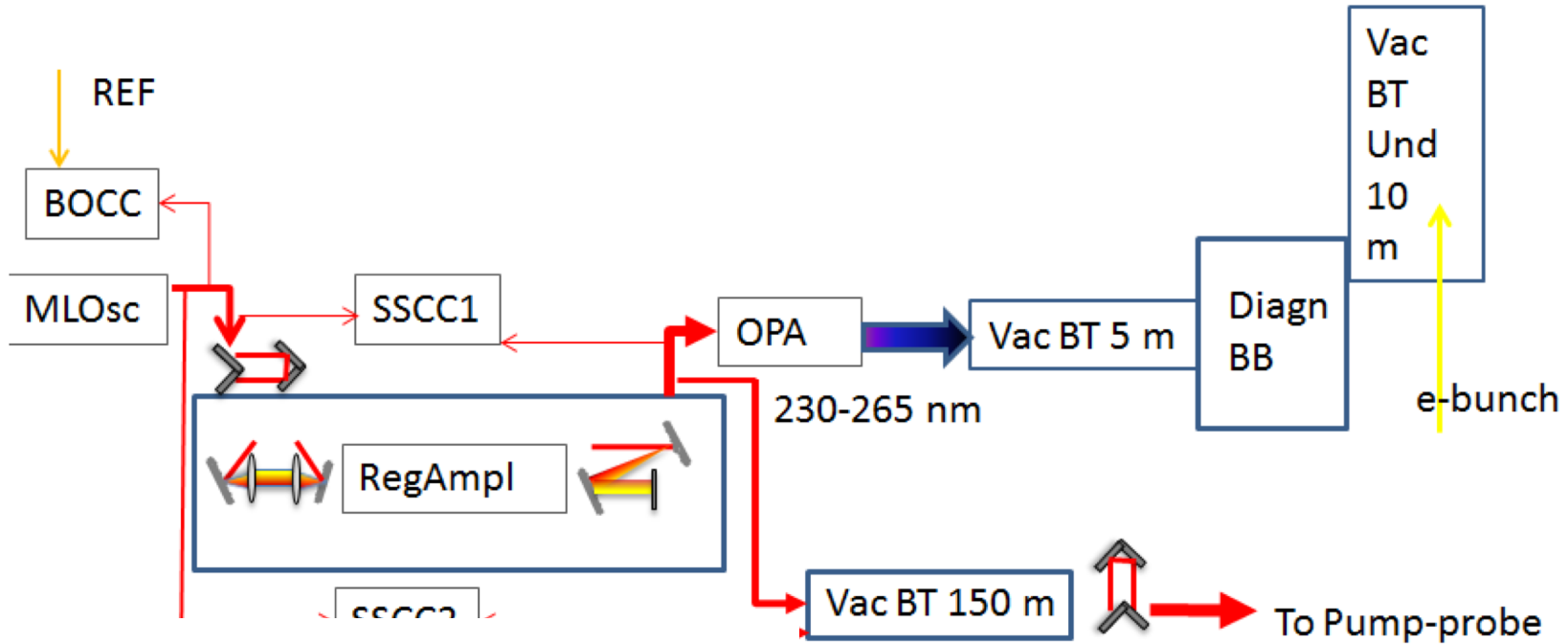


Time drift of the Ti:Sa amplifier is fully compensated, the short term jitter is below 6fs RMS



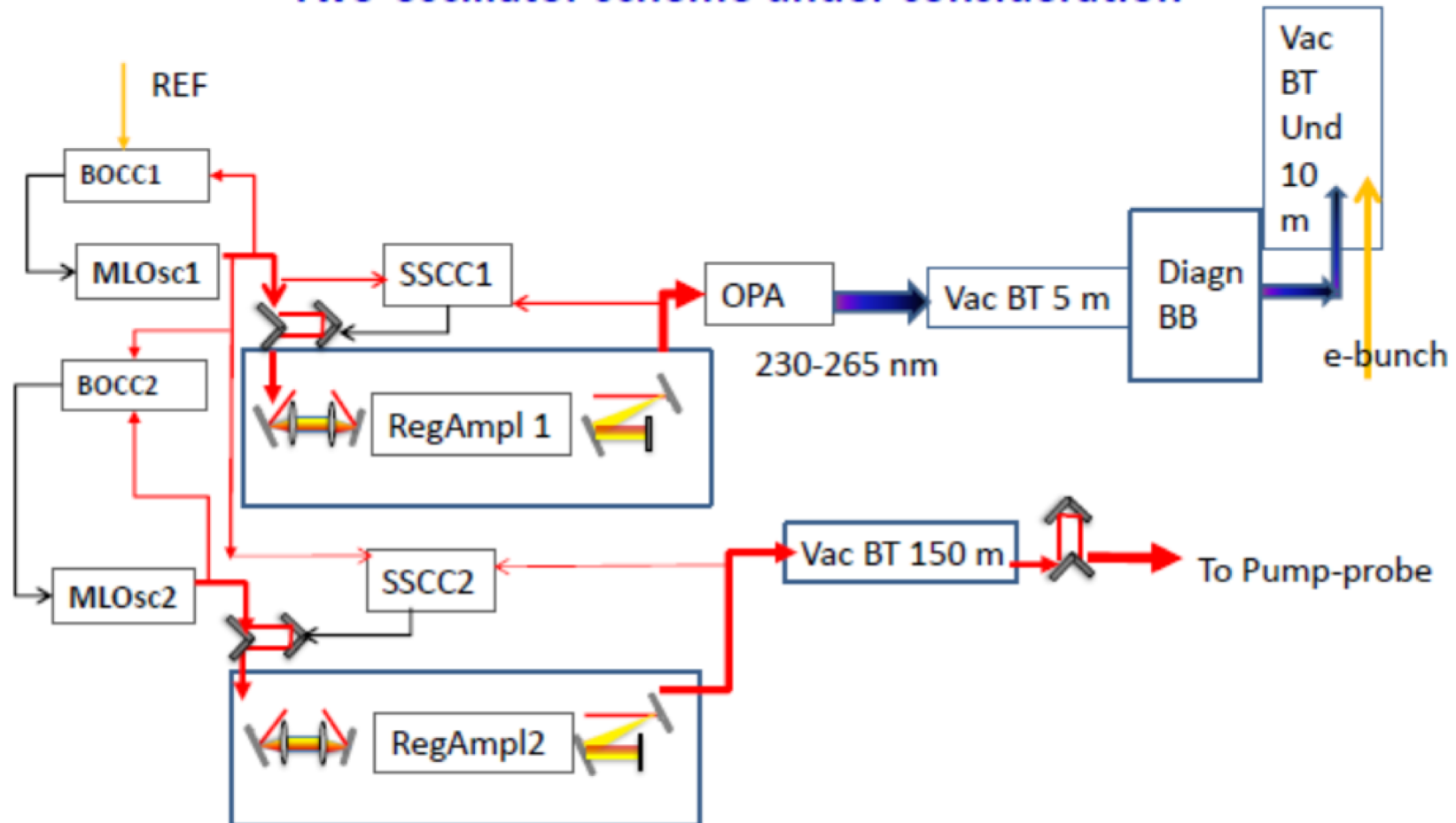


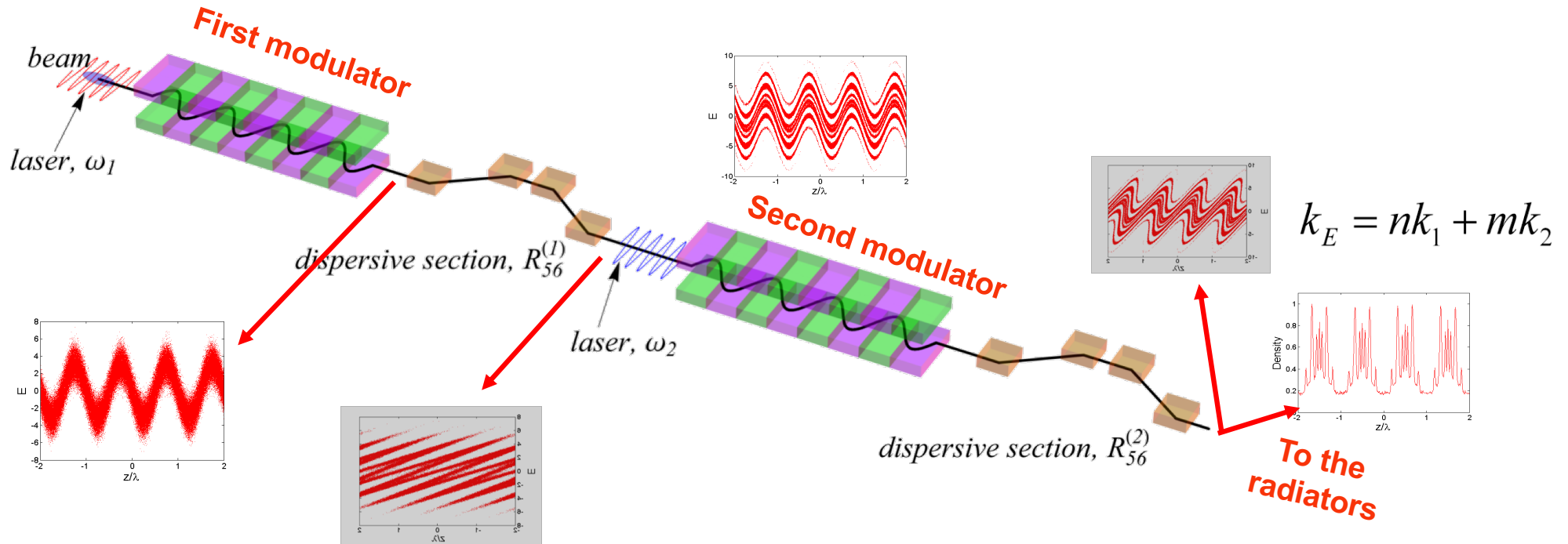
SEED LASER TIMING LAYOUT



FUTURE SEED LASER TIMING LAYOUT?

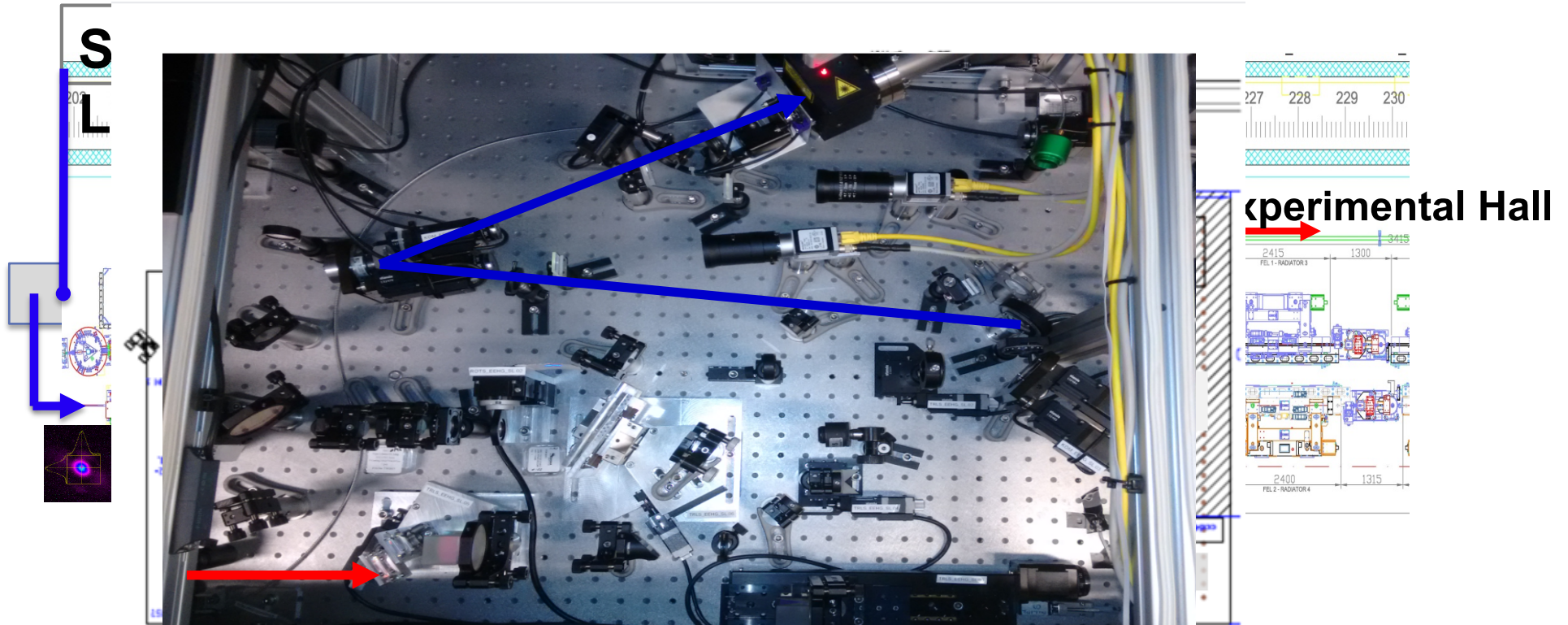
Two-oscillator scheme under consideration





The single stage seeded FEL range can be extended to higher harmonics by EEHG (G.Stupakov , Phys. Rev. Lett. **102**, 074801)

- A first laser generates energy modulation in electron beam.
- A strong chicane creates stripes in the longitudinal phase space.
- A second laser imprints energy modulation.
- The second chicane converts energy modulation into harmonic density modulation.



First seed pulse: 120 fs range, 264 nm , with possibility for chirp variation
 Second Seed Pulse: 80-100 fs range, **nearly FT limited**,
 Timing: no carrier phase stability required, timing jitter <10 fs,
 Feedback on pointing stability and remote control on pulse parameters,
 including UV compressor for fine chirp adjustment

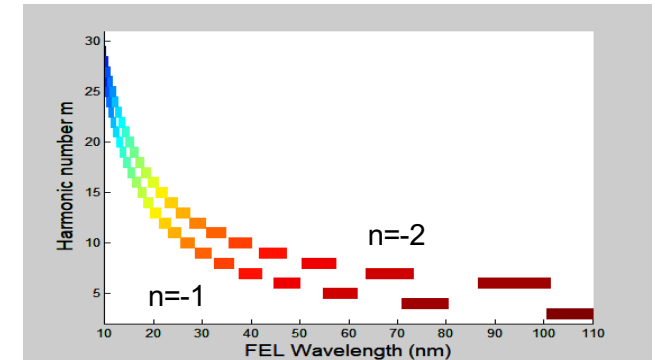
Main motivation: extend FEL1 range to 10 nm and below

➤ Additional advantages:

- Less sensitive to microbunching, narrower bandwidth
- Single Seed2 OPA range can cover 10-110 nm
- Easier twin-pulse implementation compared to double-cascade

➤ Boundary conditions :

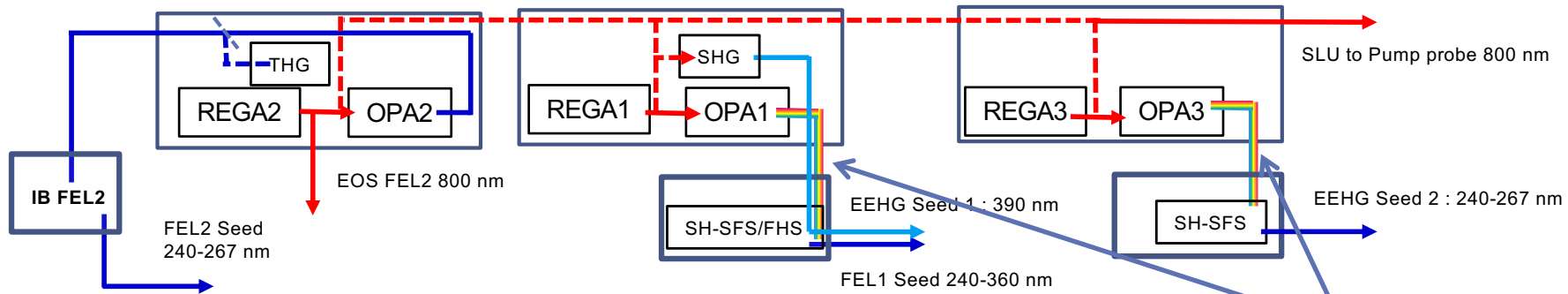
- Coexistence with standard FEL1 operation
- FEL2 operation unaffected
- SLU operation unaffected
- EEHG Seed 2 pulse beam highest quality
- If possible single BT optics



$$\lambda_{\text{seed1}} = 390 \text{ nm}$$

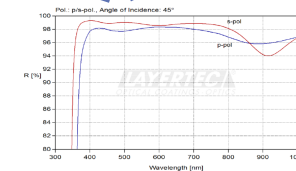
$$\lambda_{\text{seed2}} = 240\text{-}267 \text{ nm}$$

A new laser has to be added



Layout under consideration:

- Last up-conversion process at the insertion breadboard in UH
- BT and dispersion management of pulses in the visible (SFS, SHS, SHF)

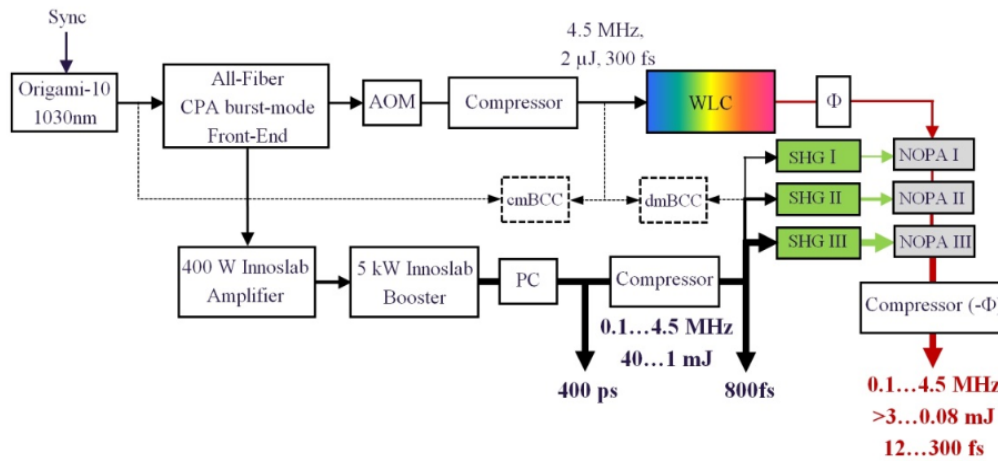


ALTERNATIVE SEED LASER TECHNOLOGIES

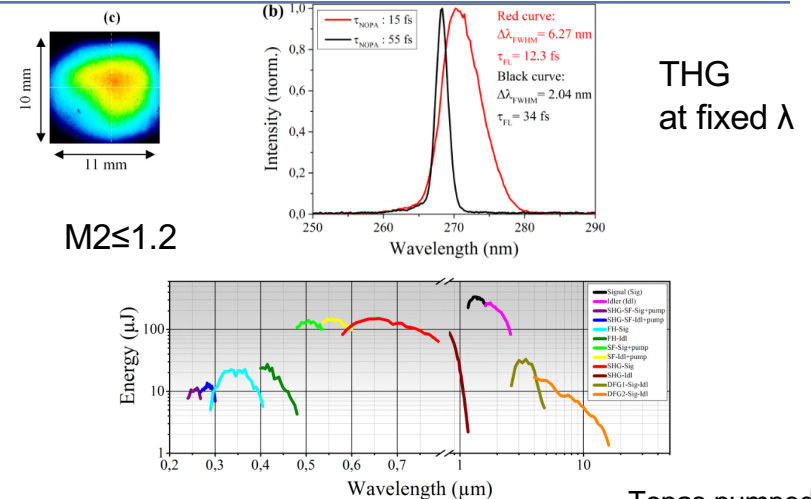
Motivation: High-Repetition rate Burst mode needs very high average power (a few kW) pump laser, not within reach by Ti:Sapphire technology

Solution: **Yb-based** technology (1030 nm) for pumping OPCPA/NOPA systems

Example: Systems developed at X-FEL and DESY for the pump-probe laser
(a similar approach is also under development at LCLS)

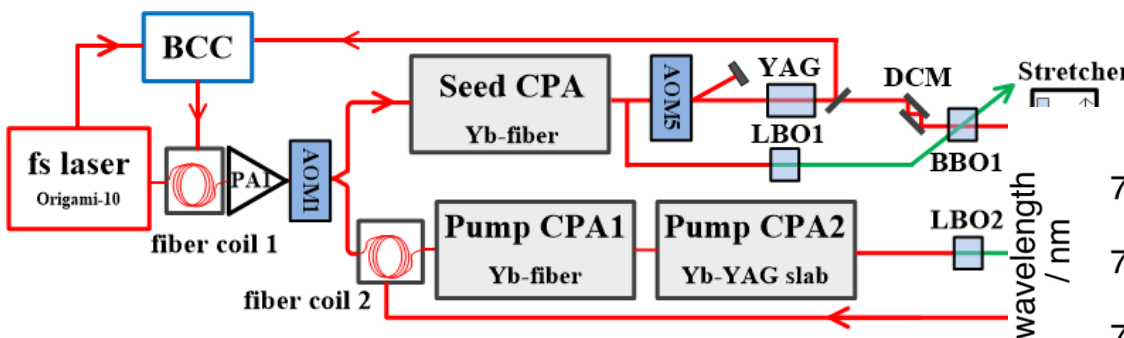


M. Pergament et al, *Opt.Express* **24** 29349-29359 (2016)

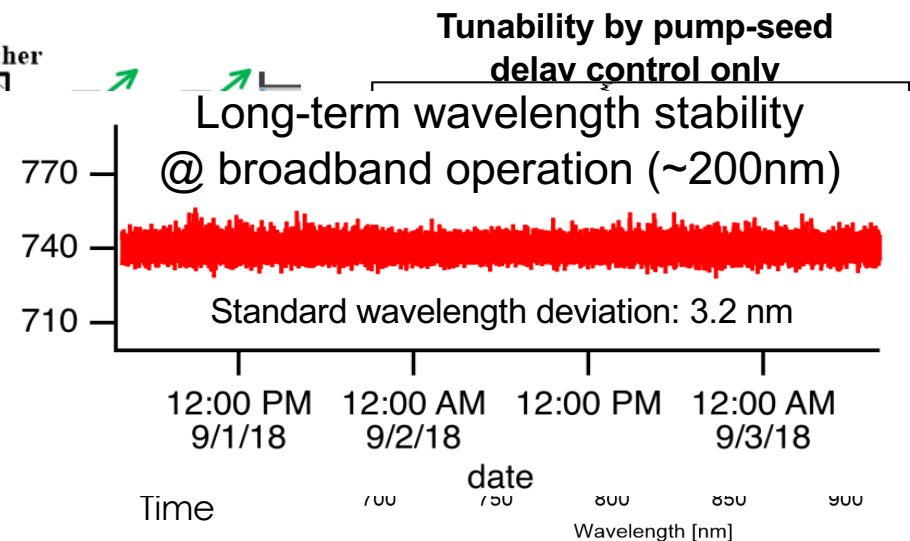
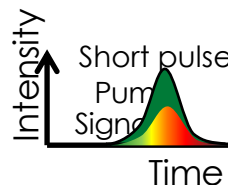


M2 ≤ 1.2

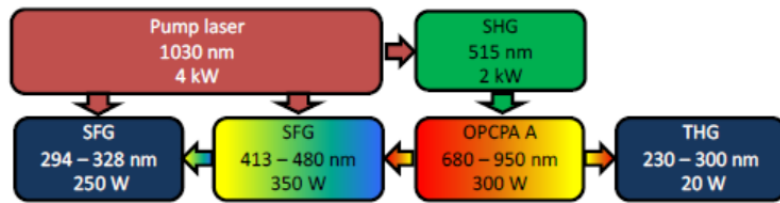
Topas pumped
By NOPAIII



FLASH Pump-probe laser (Courtesy T.Lang)
see poster at this workshop

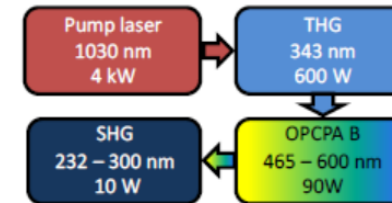


ALTERNATIVE SEED LASER TECHNOLOGIES



**SHG pumped OPCPA
+ cascaded SFG**

**SHG pumped OPCPA +
THG**



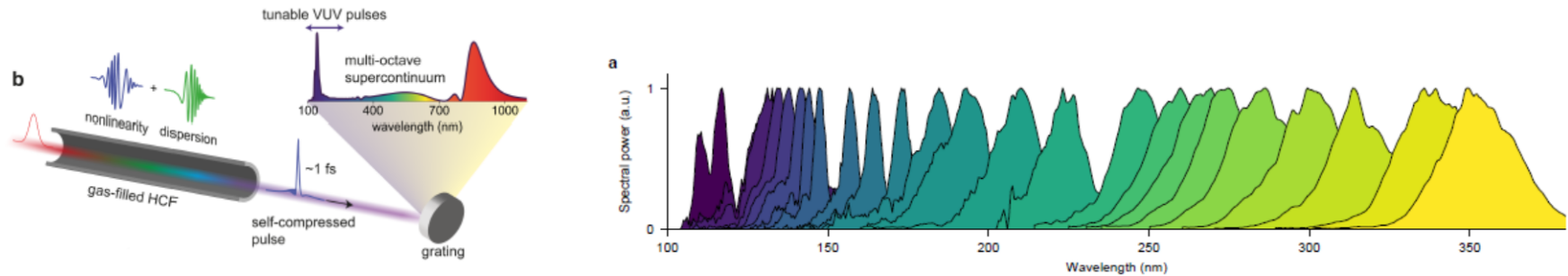
**SHG pumped OPCPA +
THG**

	Average power in 1ms burst (compressed before beam transport) (W)	Compressed pulse energy @ 100 kHz before beam transport (mJ)	Compressed pulse energy @ 1 MHz before beam transport (mJ)	Tunability (nm)
Pump laser as reported in (Pergament et al., 2016).	4000	40.0	4.00	1030
OPCPA A (515nm pump, as reported in (Pergament et al., 2016)	300	3.0	0.30	690 – 900
OPCPA B (343nm pump, alternate concept, simulation)	90	0.9	0.09	465 – 600
Visible output OPCPA A (sum frequency simulation)	350	3.5	0.35	413 – 480
UV output – OPCPA A (cascaded sum frequency, simulation)	250	2.5	0.25	294 – 328
UV output – OPCPA A (THG, simulation)	20	0.2	0.02	230 – 300
UV output – OPCPA B (SHG, estimation)	10	0.1	0.01	232 – 300

Schemes under investigation for FLASH 2020+ seeding , expected power and efficiency
Courtesy T.Lang, see poster for details

DUV/VUV generation and wavelength tuning without OPA : Soliton self-compression and dispersive wave emission in gas-filled hollow core fibre

J.Travers et al, *Nature Photonics* **13**, 547-554 (2019)



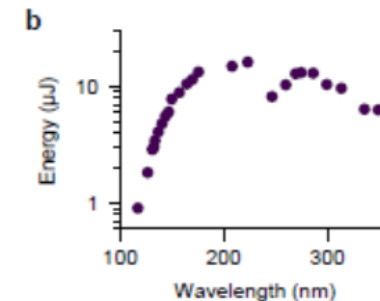
Advantages:

- Ultrabroadband-tunability by only gas pressure change
- Simple setup
- Sufficiently high peak power also in the VUV
- Pulse duration down to few fs
- High spatial quality
- Energy scaling possible by increasing diameter/length of the fibre

Aspects to be studied:

- Pulse spectrum/structure long-term stability and reproducibility
- Narrow-band long-pulse option may not be feasible:

May be extremely suitable as a complementary seed source and pump-probe laser



CONCLUSIONS

FEL SEEDING ALLOWS VERY GOOD PERFORMANCE IN TERMS OF

STABILITY

SPECTRAL AND SPATIAL QUALITY

FLEXIBILITY

PUMP-PROBE EXPERIMENTS ACCURACY

**THERE ARE REALISTIC ROOTS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS
BASED ALSO ON FURTHER SEED LASER DEVELOPMENTS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



*Ivaylo
Nikolov*



*Paolo
Sigalotti*



*Alexander
Demidovich*



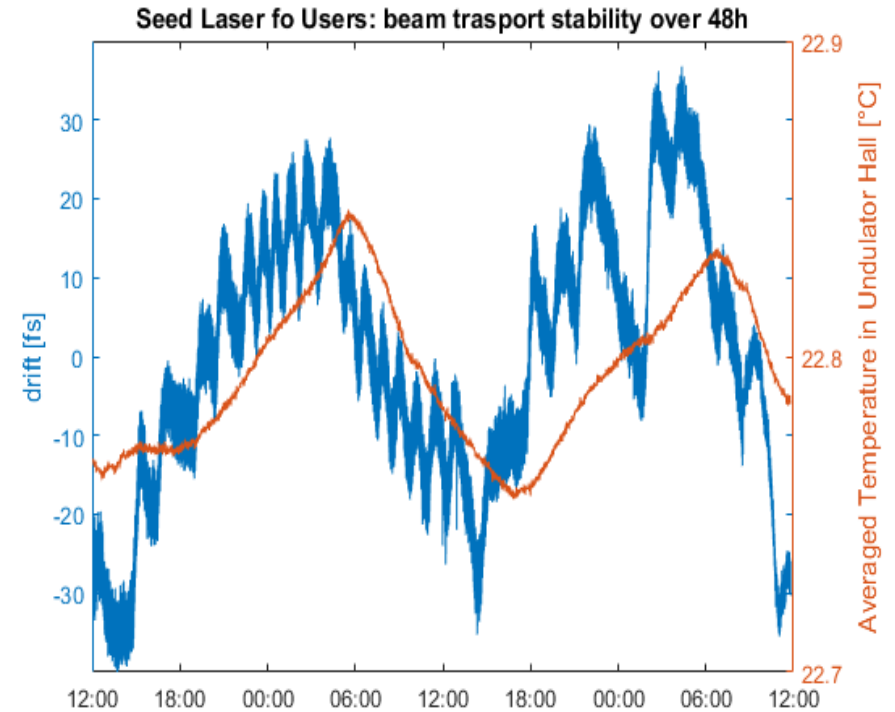
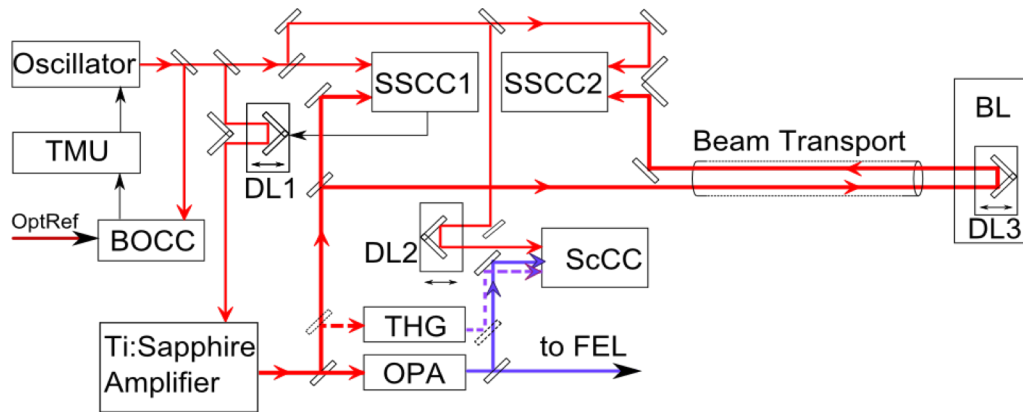
*Gabor
Kurdi*



*Paolo
Cinquegrana*

and to the FERMI Team

LONG BEAM TRANSPORT TIMING DRIFTS



Cross-correlator measurement of the optical beam transport timing drift
BOCC stands for balanced cross-correlator, ScCC- a scanning cross-correlator, SSCC1 and SSCC2 – single shot cross-correlators; BL- beamline chamber; DL1,DL2 and DL3 – delay lines.