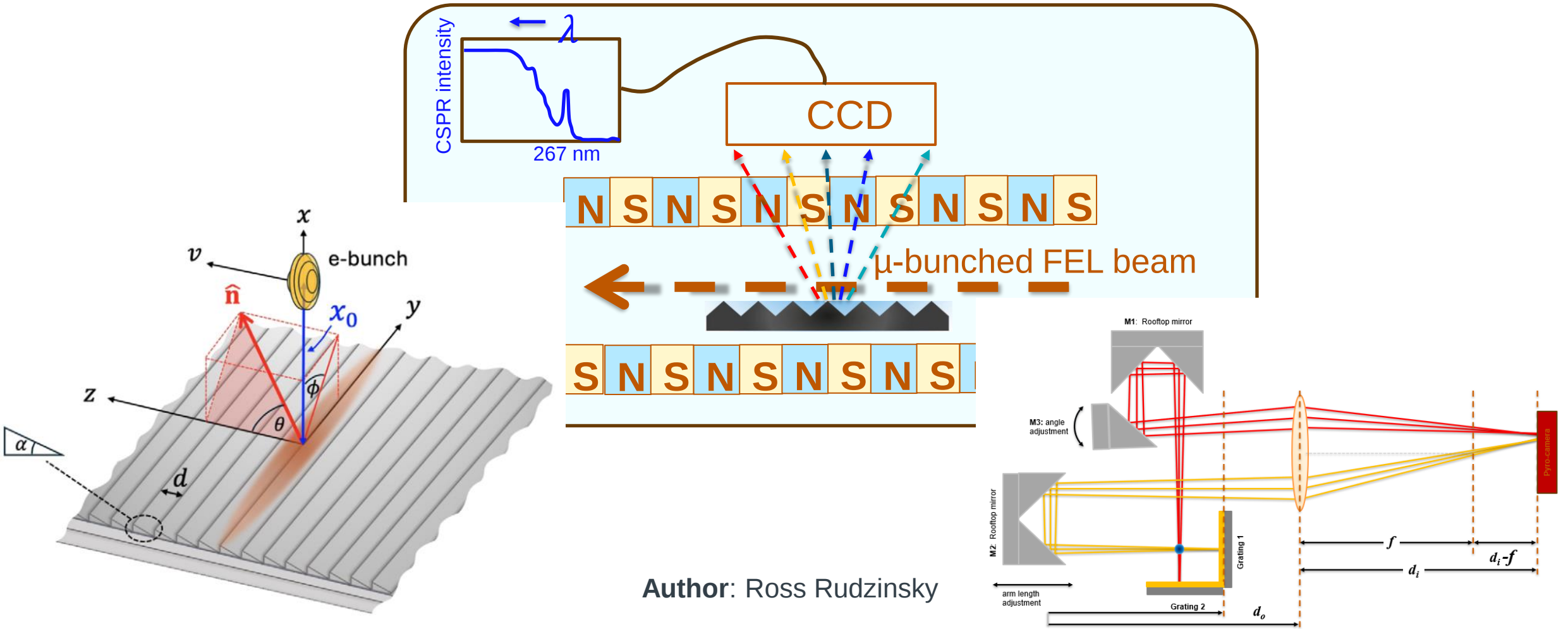


# The role of coherent Smith-Purcell radiation for LWFA e-beam diagnosis



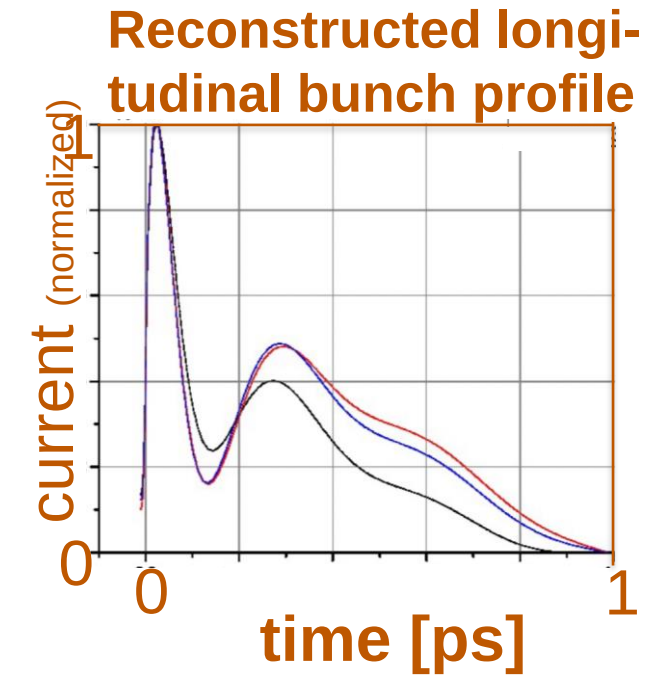
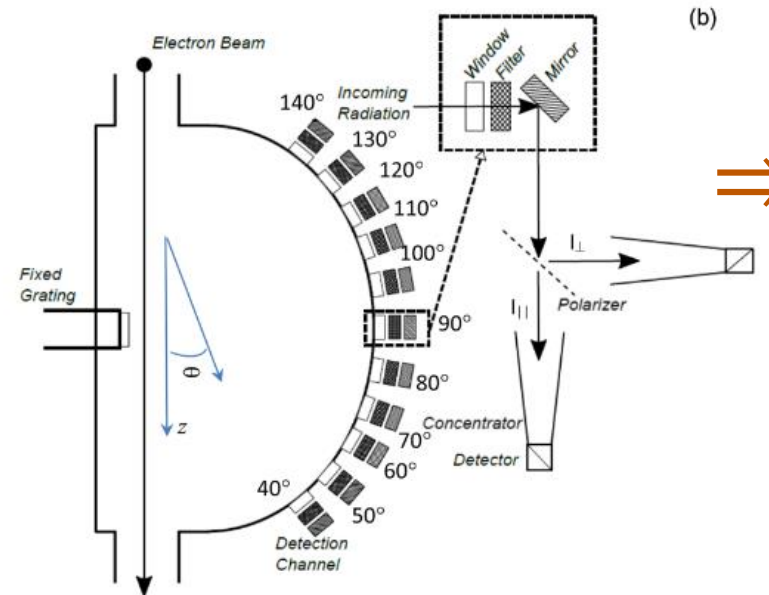
Author: Ross Rudzinsky

**Co-authors:** Z. Ouyang, B. Dinh, J. Brooks, L. Zhang, R. Zgadzaj, M. Downer<sup>1</sup>, A. Irman, Y.-Y. Chang, J. M. Klopff, M. LaBerge, P. Ufer, S. Schöbel, F. Herrmann, J. C. Deinert, S. Kovalev, U. Schramm, T. Cowan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Physics, 2515 Speedway, Austin, Texas <sup>2</sup>Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf, Institute of Radiation Physics, Bautzner Landstr. 400, 01328, Dresden, Germany

# Previous work on bunch reconstruction

- Used conventional RF linacs, with bunch durations  **$\sim 2.5$  ps**
- Electron bunches in MeV to GeV range
- mm-wave regime

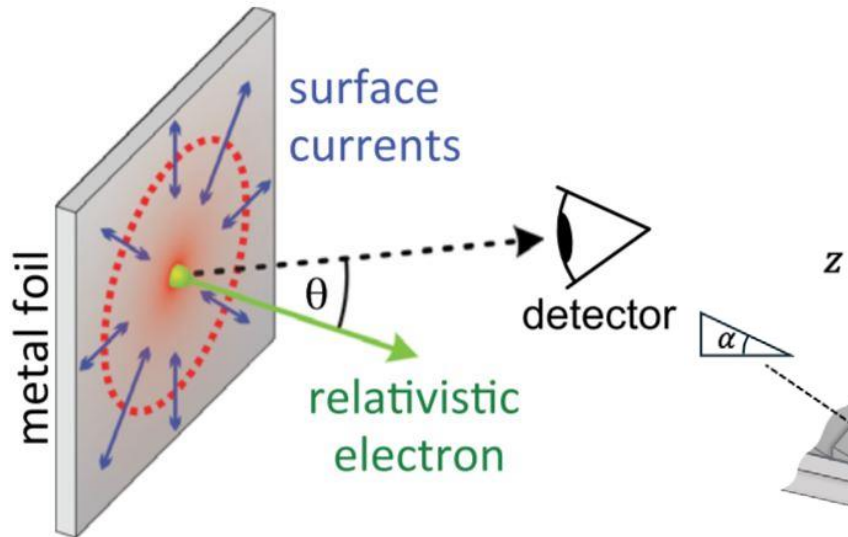


- 1.) Blackmore V., et. al., “First measurements of the longitudinal bunch profile of a 28.5 GeV beam using coherent Smith-Purcell radiation”, Phys. Rev. Spec. Topics – Acc. And Beams, **12**, 032803, (2009)
- 2.) Andrews H. L., et. al., “Reconstruction of the time profile of 20.35 GeV, subpicosecond long electron bunches by means of coherent Smith-Purcell radiation”, Phys. Rev. Spec. Topics – Acc. And Beams, **17**, 052802, (2014)
- 3.) Konoplev I. V., et. al., “Single shot, nondestructive monitor for longitudinal subpicosecond bunch profile measurements with femtosecond resolution”, Phys. Rev. Acc. And Beams, **24**, 022801, (2021)

# State of the art LWFA e-beam diagnostics

- Electron bunches from LWFA: **fs-level** bunch duration
  - Requires diagnostics that are sensitive to this ultrashort structure

## Coherent Transition Radiation (CTR)



## Coherent Smith-Purcell Radiation (CSPR)

And/or talk on Thursday:  
Mike Downer, 5:20 PM,  
Legacy A (Luskin)

810 Vol. 13, No. 5 / May 2026 / Optica

Research Article

### Coherent terahertz Smith–Purcell radiation from laser-wakefield-accelerated electron bunches

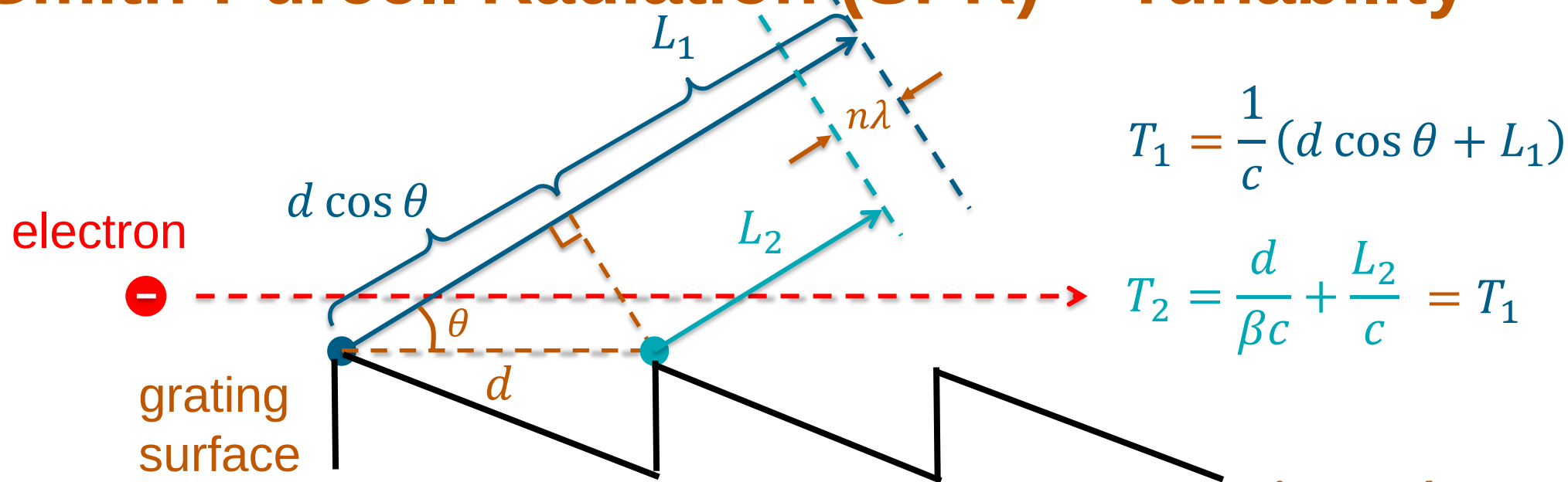
ROSS RUDZINSKY,<sup>1</sup> MAXWELL LABERGE,<sup>2</sup> ARIE IRMAN,<sup>2</sup> J. MICHAEL KLOPF,<sup>2</sup>   
 YEN-YU CHANG,<sup>2</sup> ALEXANDER DEBUS,<sup>2</sup> FRANZISKA M. HERRMANN,<sup>2,3</sup> PATRICK UFER,<sup>2,3</sup>  
 SUSANNE SCHÖBEL,<sup>2,3</sup> ZE OUYANG,<sup>1</sup> JASON BROOKS,<sup>1</sup> BRYAN DINH,<sup>1</sup> LESLIE ZHANG,<sup>1</sup>  
 RAFAL ZGADZAJ,<sup>1</sup> ULRICH SCHRAMM,<sup>2,3</sup> THOMAS E. COWAN,<sup>2,3</sup> AND M. C. DOWNER<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Austin, 2515 Speedway, Austin, Texas 78712, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf, Institute of Radiation Physics, Bautzner Landstrasse 109, D-01115 Dresden, Germany  
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 \*downer@physics.utexas.edu

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See Poster Session  
later today!! #42

# Smith-Purcell Radiation (SPR) – Tunability

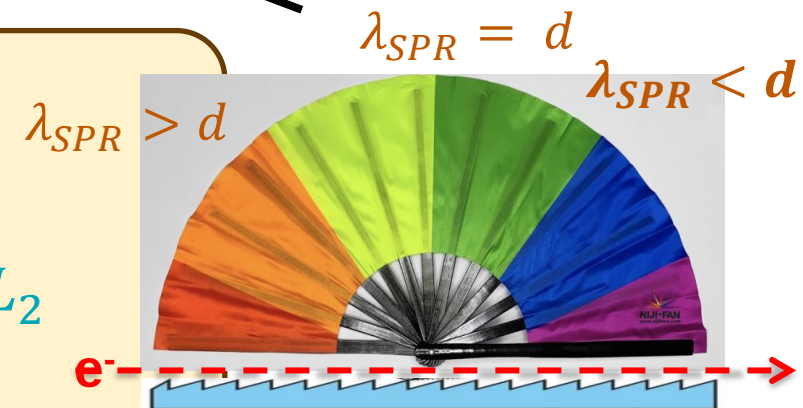


For constructive interference:

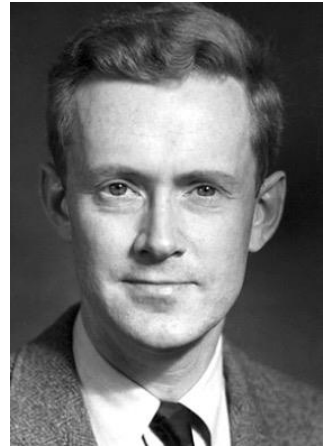
$$L_1 - L_2 = n\lambda$$

$$c(T_1 - T_2) = d \cos \theta - \frac{d}{\beta} + L_1 - L_2$$

$$\lambda = \frac{d}{n} \left( \frac{1}{\beta} - \cos \theta \right)$$



**Wavelength tunability**

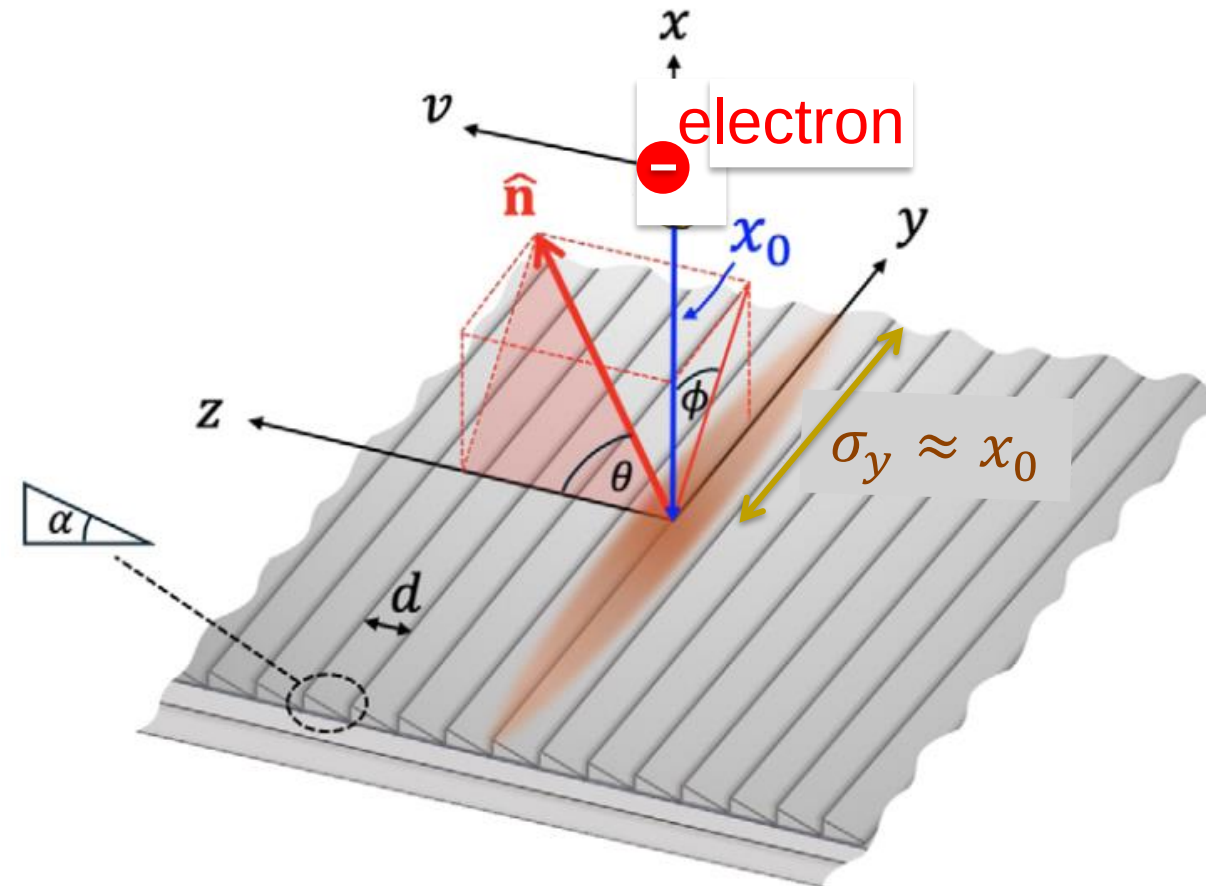


**Edward M. Purcell**  
 1912-1997  
 (Nobel Prize 1952)



**Stephen J. Smith**  
 1925-2017  
 (EMP PhD student)

J. H. Brownell, J. Walsh, & G. Doucas, "Spontaneous Smith-Purcell radiation described through induced surface currents," *Phys. Rev. E* **57**, 1975 (1998)



## Flat conducting surface ( $\alpha = 0$ )

Induced charge:  $\Sigma(y, \zeta) = \frac{e\gamma x_0}{2\pi(\gamma^2 \zeta^2 + y^2 + x_0^2)^{3/2}}$   
 $\zeta \equiv z - vt$

"Footprint":

$$\sigma_y \approx x_0,$$

$$\sigma_z \approx x_0/\gamma$$

Induced current:  $\mathbf{K}(y, \zeta) = \Sigma(y, \zeta) \mathbf{v}(y, \zeta)$   
 (non-radiating)  
 $v_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + v \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

## Grating surface ( $\alpha > 0$ )

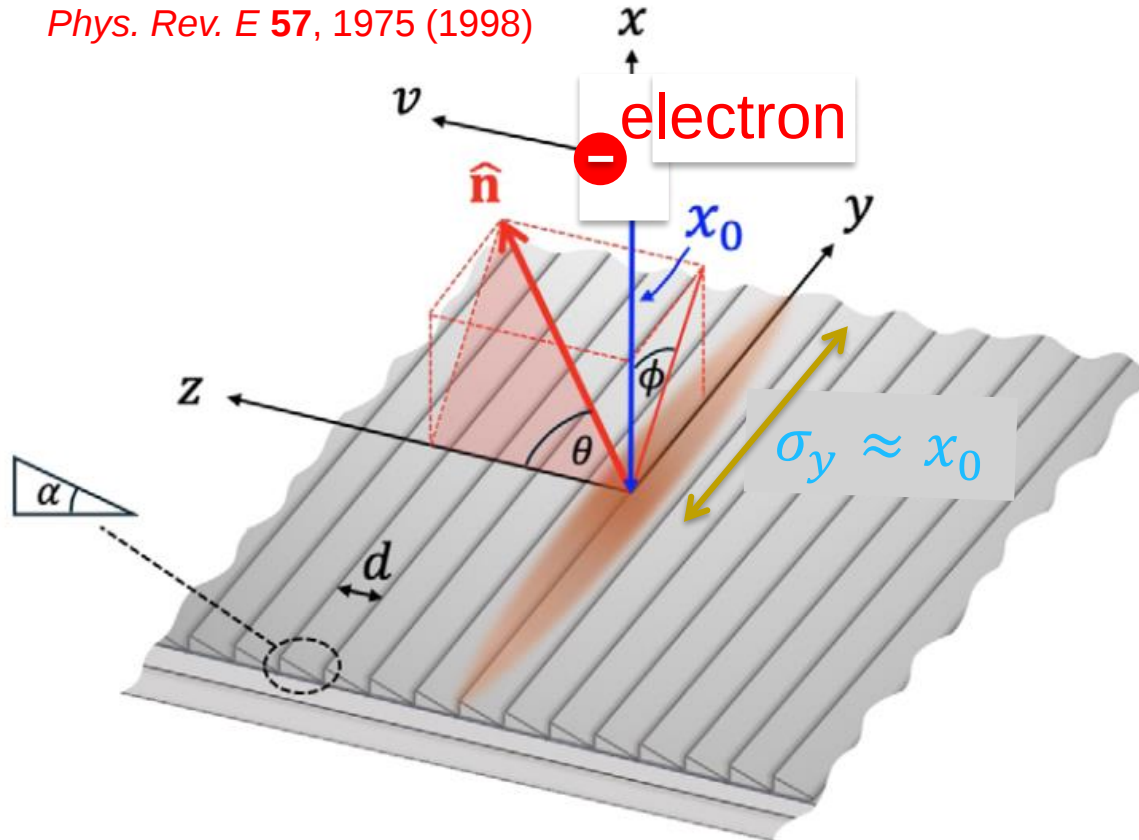
Induced current:  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, t) \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t)$

Energy radiated into far field per unit  $\omega$  per unit  $\Omega$ :

Jackson, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Eq. 14.67

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial^2 W_e}{\partial \omega \partial \Omega} &= \frac{\omega^2}{4\pi^2 c^3} \int dt \int d^3x \hat{\mathbf{n}} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}} \times \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t) e^{i(\omega t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})} \\
 &= \left( \frac{dW_e}{d\Omega} \right) \underbrace{\delta(\omega - \omega_n)}_{\text{SP condition}} \frac{2\pi n c}{d(\beta^{-1} - \cos \theta)}
 \end{aligned}$$

J. H. Brownell, J. Walsh, & G. Doucas, "Spontaneous Smith-Purcell radiation described through induced surface currents," *Phys. Rev. E* **57**, 1975 (1998)



**Ex.** For highly relativistic electrons ( $\gamma \gg 1$ ) and near-normal emission ( $\sin \theta \approx 1$ ):

$$\left(\frac{dW_e}{d\Omega}\right)_1 \propto \exp\left[\frac{-2x_0}{\lambda_e}\right] R^2$$

Evanescent wavelength ( $\lambda_e$ )      Decaying exponential      Grating efficiency ( $R^2$ )

$$\lambda_e(\theta, \phi) = \frac{\gamma \lambda}{2\pi \sqrt{1 + \gamma^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi}}$$

$$x_0 \lesssim \lambda_e \Rightarrow \text{strong SPR}$$

Decaying exponential =  $1/e \rightarrow x_0 = \lambda_e/2$       460 MeV

$$\lambda_e^{(max)}(\phi = 0) = \frac{\gamma \lambda}{2\pi} = \begin{cases} 1.4 \text{ mm } (\lambda = 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}, \gamma = 900) \\ 3.1 \text{ cm } (\lambda = 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}, \gamma = 2000) \end{cases}$$

$$\lambda_e(\phi = \frac{\pi}{180}) = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\phi} = \begin{cases} 0.09 \text{ mm } (\lambda = 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}, \gamma = 900) \\ 0.09 \text{ mm } (\lambda = 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}, \gamma = 2000) \end{cases}$$

1 GeV

**Example:**

**detected wavelength:**

**electron bunch:**  $\lambda_{SPR} \approx 10 \mu\text{m}$

$\gamma \approx 900$  ( $E_e \approx 450 \text{ MeV}$ )

$N \approx 3 \times 10^9$  ( $Q \approx 0.5 \text{ nC}$ )

$\sigma_z \approx 3 \mu\text{m}$  ( $\sigma_z/c \approx 10 \text{ fs}$ )

$\bar{x}_0 \approx 200 \mu\text{m}$

**grating:** **Detection geometry:**

$d = 10 \mu\text{m}$

$\theta \approx 90^\circ$

$R^2 = 0.42$

$\phi \approx 0$

$\alpha = 27^\circ$

$\Omega_{det} = 0.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ sr}$

$L = 2.5 \text{ cm}$

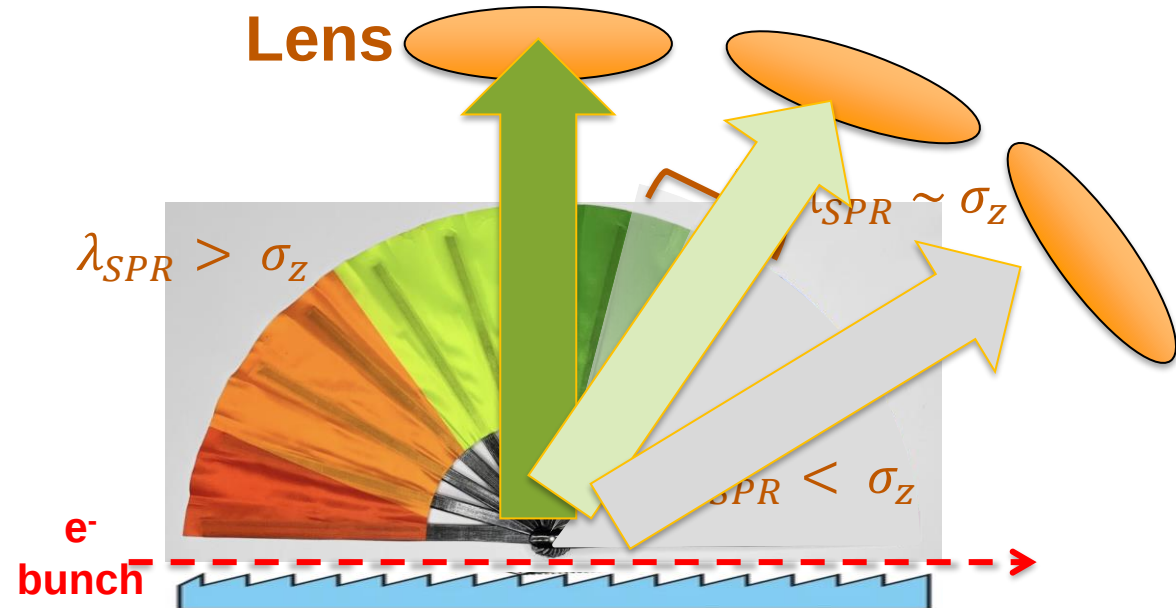
**derived quantities:**

$\lambda_e = 1.4 \text{ mm}$

$S_{inc} \approx S_{coh} \approx 0.6$

$$W_{SPR} = \underbrace{N \int_{\Omega_{det}} S_{inc} \left( \frac{dW}{d\Omega} \right)_1^{(\bar{x}_0)} d\Omega}_{\sim 3 \times 10^{-15} \text{ J} \quad (N \text{ electrons})} + \underbrace{N^2 \int_{\Omega_{det}} S_{coh} \left( \frac{dW}{d\Omega} \right)_1^{(\bar{x}_0)} d\Omega}_{\sim 10^{-5} \text{ J}}$$

$\sim 10^{-24} \text{ J} \text{ (1 electron)}$        $\sim 10^{-24} \text{ J}$



**“Cutoff” in SPR spectrum:**

# Simulation Results for various simple bunch shapes

## Example:

**detected wavelength:**

**electron bunch:**  $\lambda_{SPR} \approx 10 \mu\text{m}$

$\gamma \approx 900$  ( $E_e \approx 450 \text{ MeV}$ )

$N \approx 3 \times 10^9$  ( $Q \approx 0.5 \text{ nC}$ )

$\sigma_z \approx 3 \mu\text{m}$  ( $\sigma_z/c \approx 10 \text{ fs}$ )

$\bar{x}_0 \approx 200 \mu\text{m}$

**grating:** **Detection geometry:**

$d = 10 \mu\text{m}$

$\theta \approx \text{varied}$

$R^2 = 0.42$

$\phi \approx 0$

$\alpha = 27^\circ$

$\Omega_{det} = 0.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ sr}$

$L = 2.5 \text{ cm}$

**derived quantities:**

$\lambda_e = 1.4 \text{ mm}$

$S_{inc} \approx S_{coh} \approx 0.6$

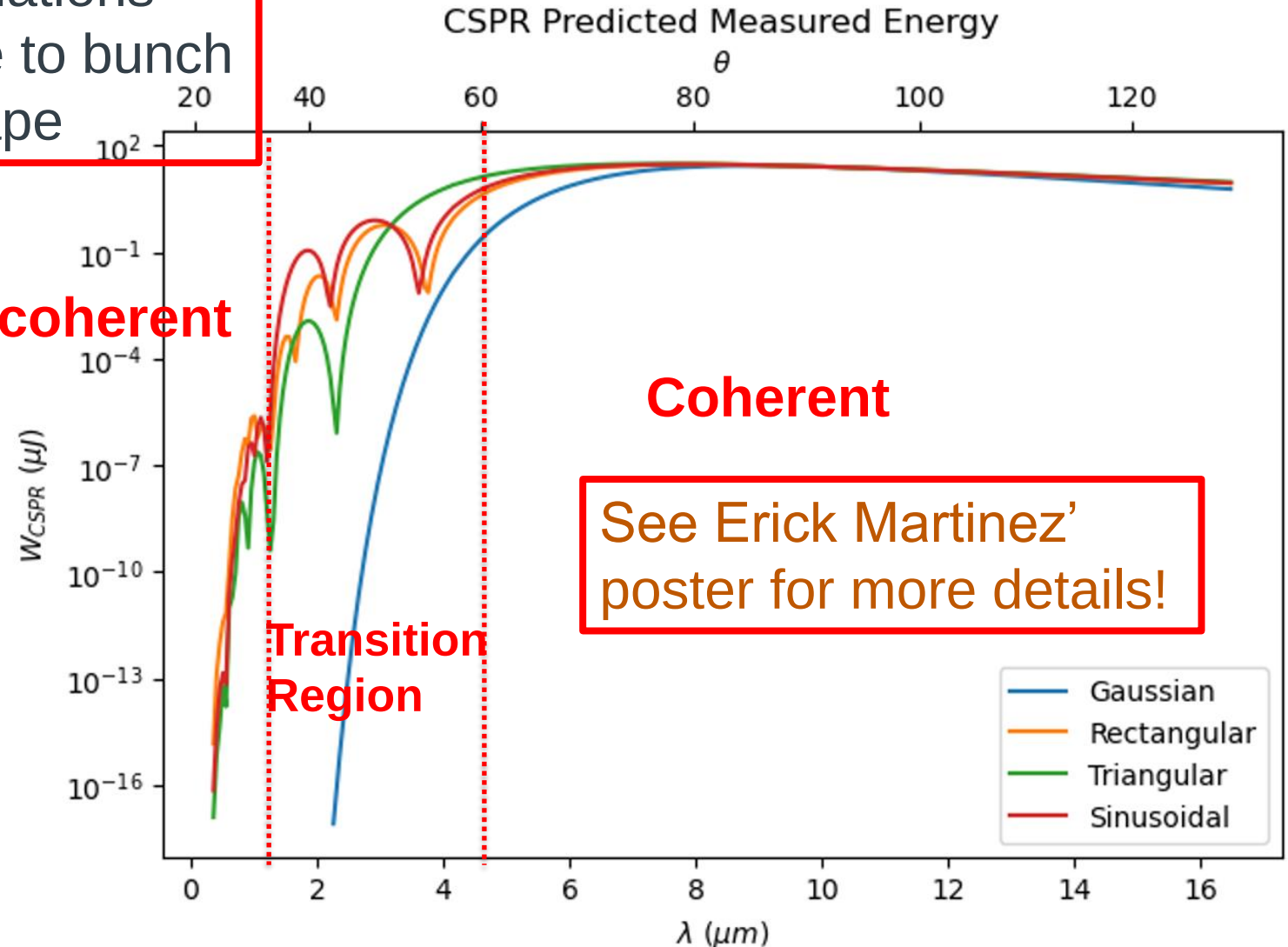
Variations  
due to bunch  
shape

Incoherent

Coherent

Transition  
Region

See Erick Martinez'  
poster for more details!

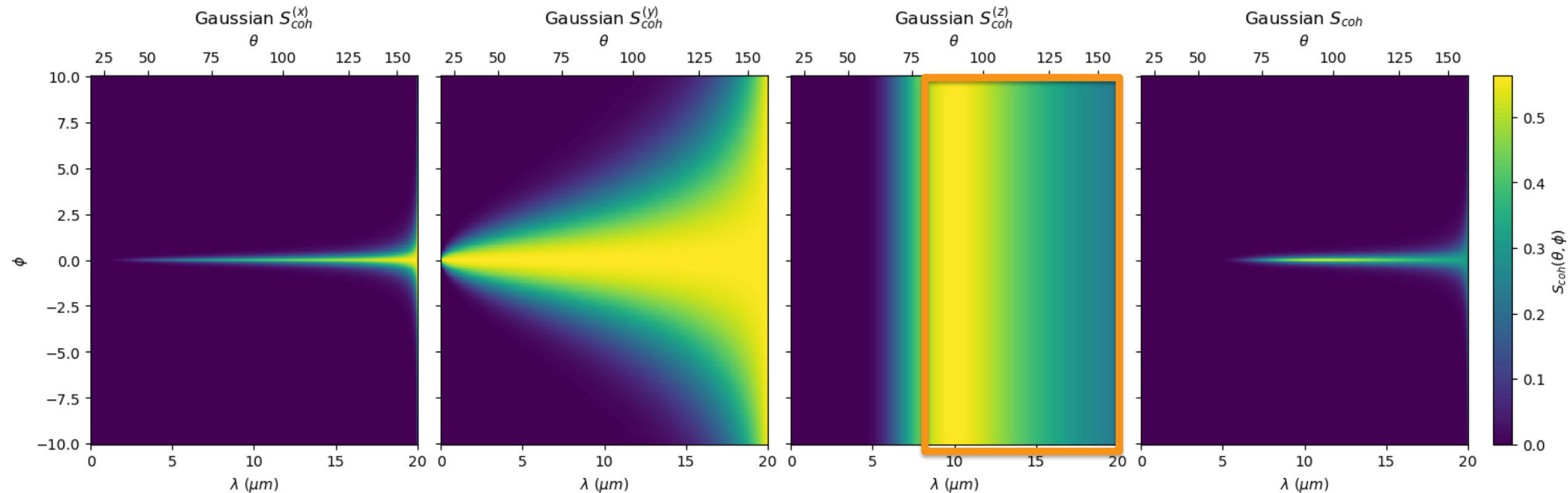


How would one extract bunch information from this curve?

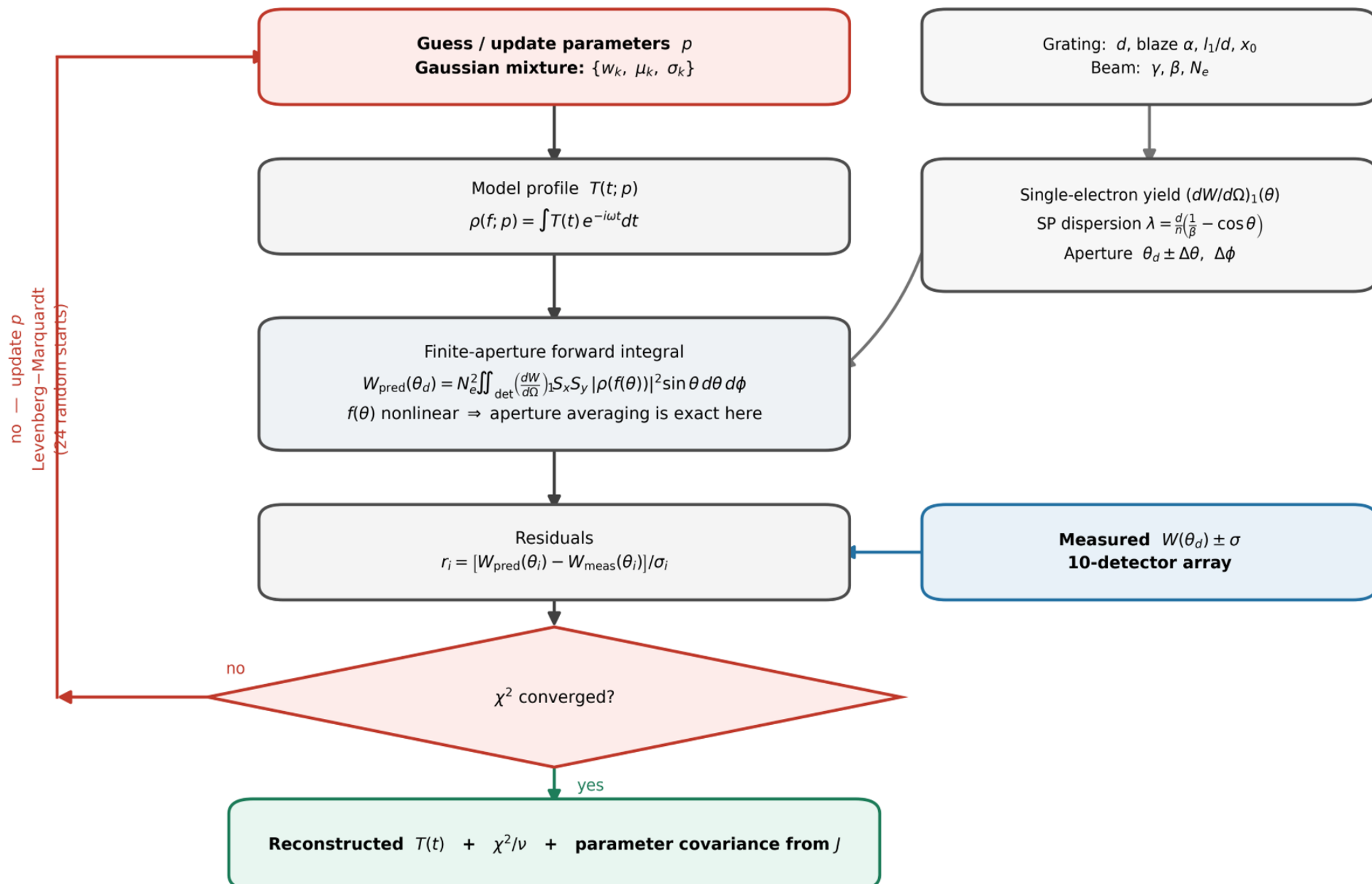
$$W_{SPR} = N^2 \int_{\Omega_{det}} S_{coh} \left( \frac{dW}{d\Omega} \right)_1^{(\bar{x}_0)} d\Omega$$

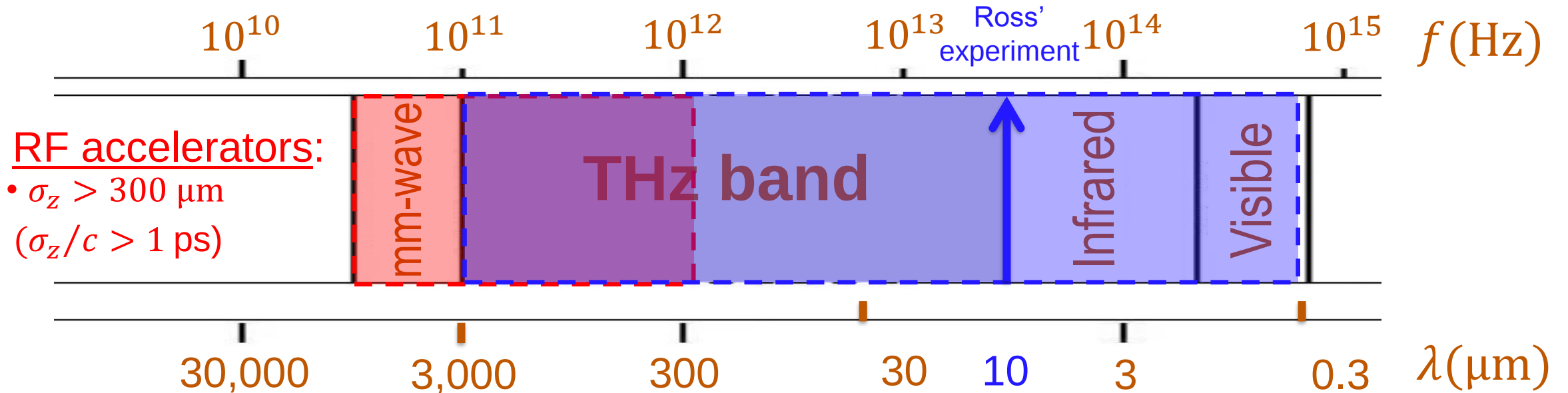
**For the Gaussian e-bunch case:**

Beam Profile Transverse and Logintudinal Coherent Factors



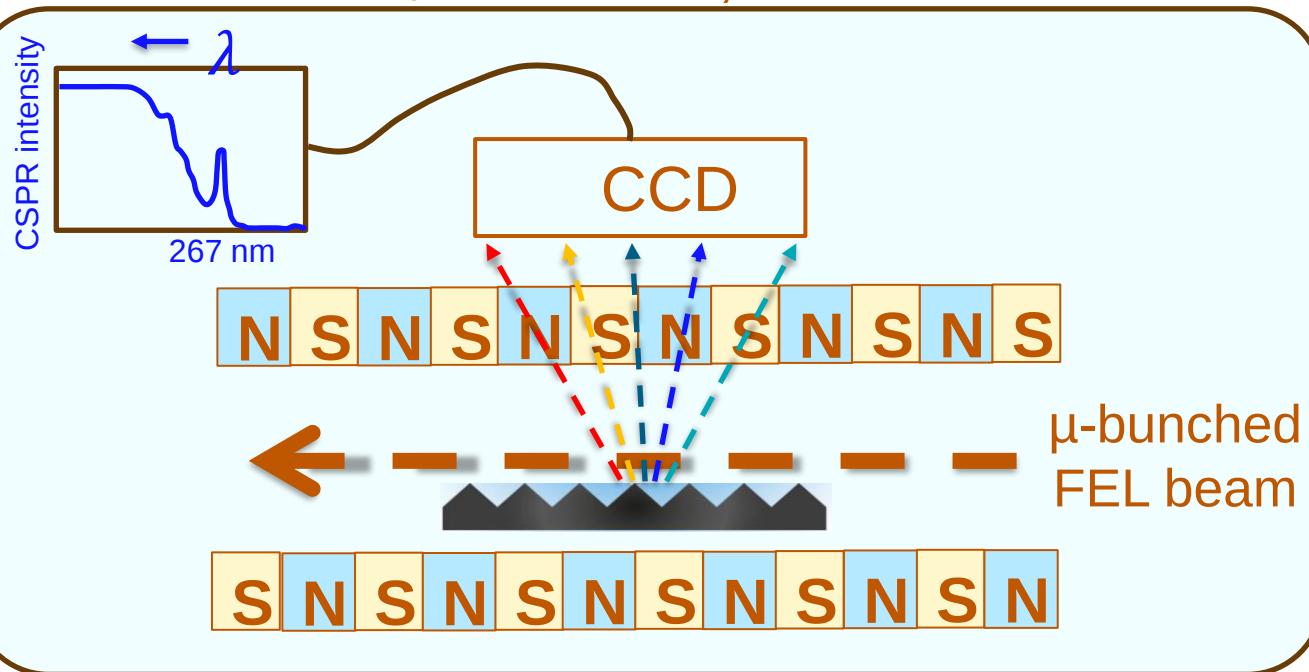
# Forward-fitting workflow for CSPR longitudinal-profile reconstruction





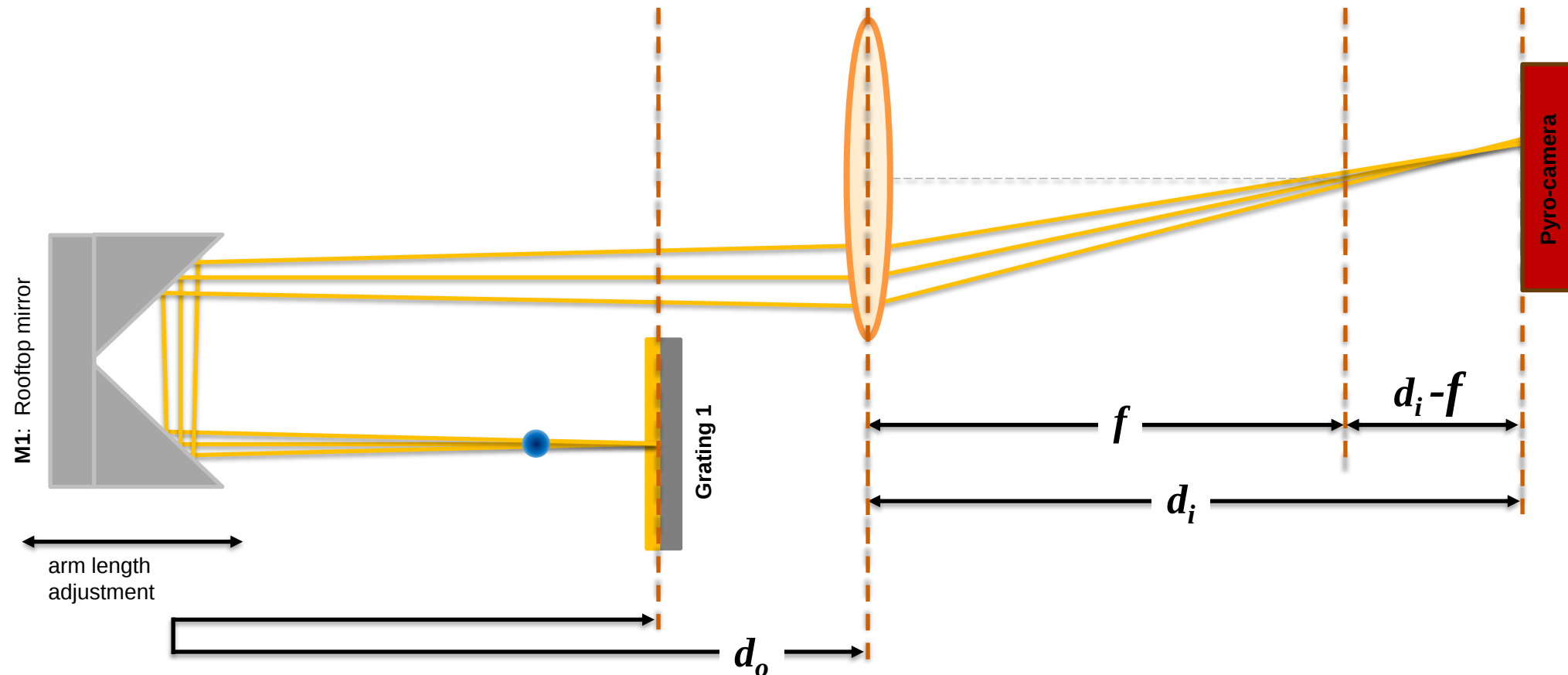
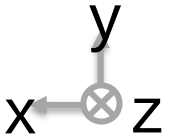
### Laser-driven wakefield accelerators

- $0.3 < \sigma_z < 3 \mu\text{m}$  ( $1 < \sigma_z/c < 10 \text{ fs}$ )
- noninvasive diagnostic of fs e-bunches**
  - intra-FEL operation in real time
  - observe UV signatures of microbunching
  - incorporate into COTR-based diagnostic suite
  - distribute SPR gratings along e-beam path



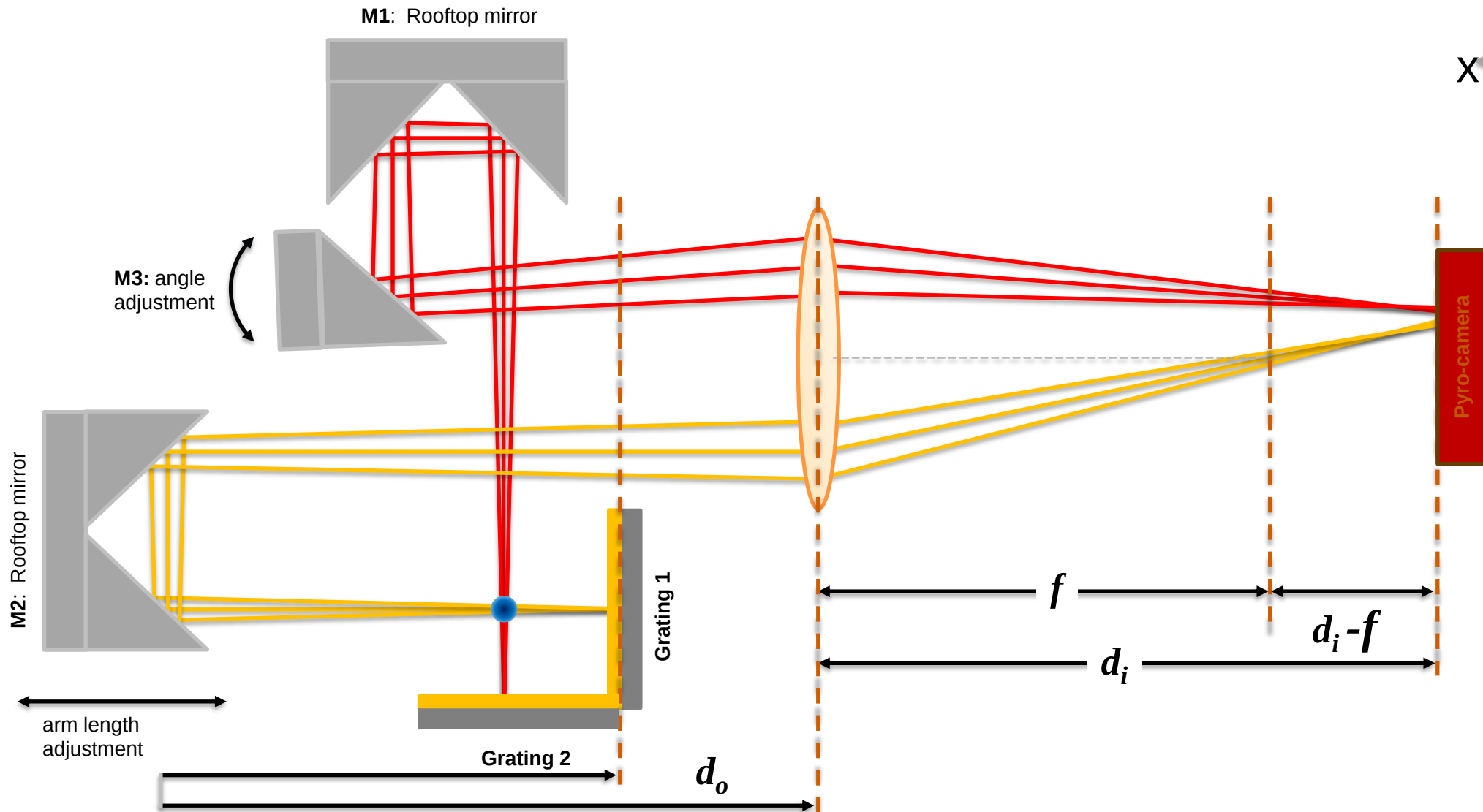
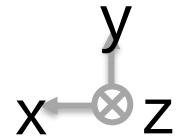
# Using cSPR as a beam position monitor

Side View



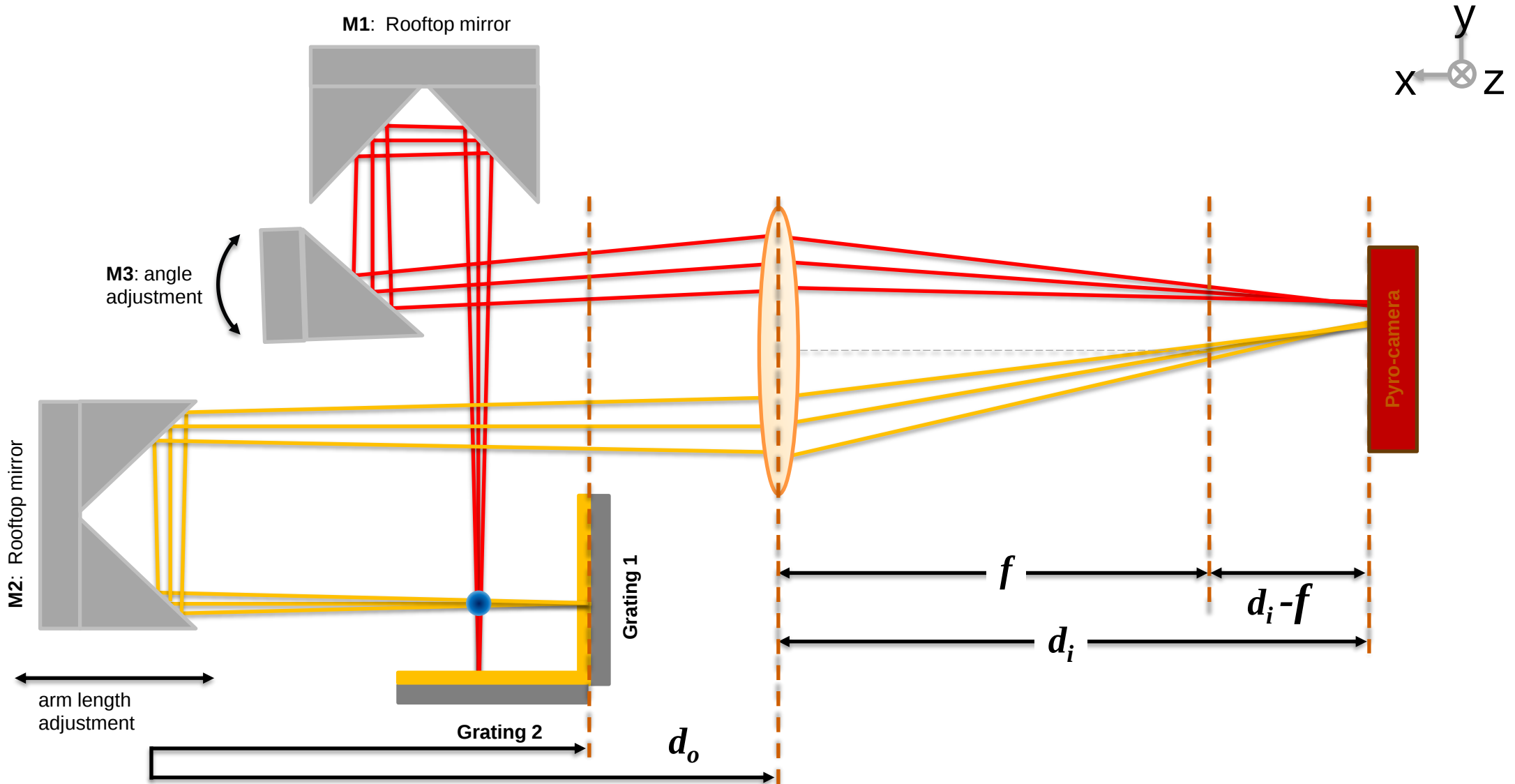
# Using cSPR as a beam position monitor

Side View



# Using cSPR as a beam position monitor

Side View



# Summary – Thank you!

- cSPR is a promising mechanism for which a LWFA electron bunch can be probed non-invasively

**Funding.** "U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of High Energy Physics (DE SC0011617); Helmholtz Association; Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung.

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# Appendix Slide – $R^2 + S_{\text{coh}}$

$$R^2 \approx \left[ \frac{1}{\sin \theta - \tan \alpha_1 (1 + \cos \theta)} \right]^2 \times \tan^2 \alpha_1 \sin^2 \theta \frac{\sin^2 \left[ \frac{kh \sin \theta}{2} \right]}{\left[ \frac{kh \sin \theta}{2} \right]^2} \quad (4)$$