

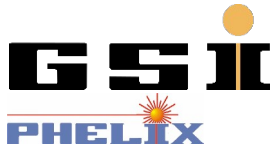
Assemblée Générale

14.11.2023

Laser-plasma ion acceleration with a gas jet target



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- E. d'Humières
- J. Santos
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- V. Tikhonchuk



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- M. Tarisien



- P. Loiseau



- J. L. Henares

Motivations

Improve ASE using a high contrast laser and a prepulse to tailor the gas jet and to generate a clear shock.

BEFORE

Hydrodynamic simulation of 1kbar H2

Laval nozzle

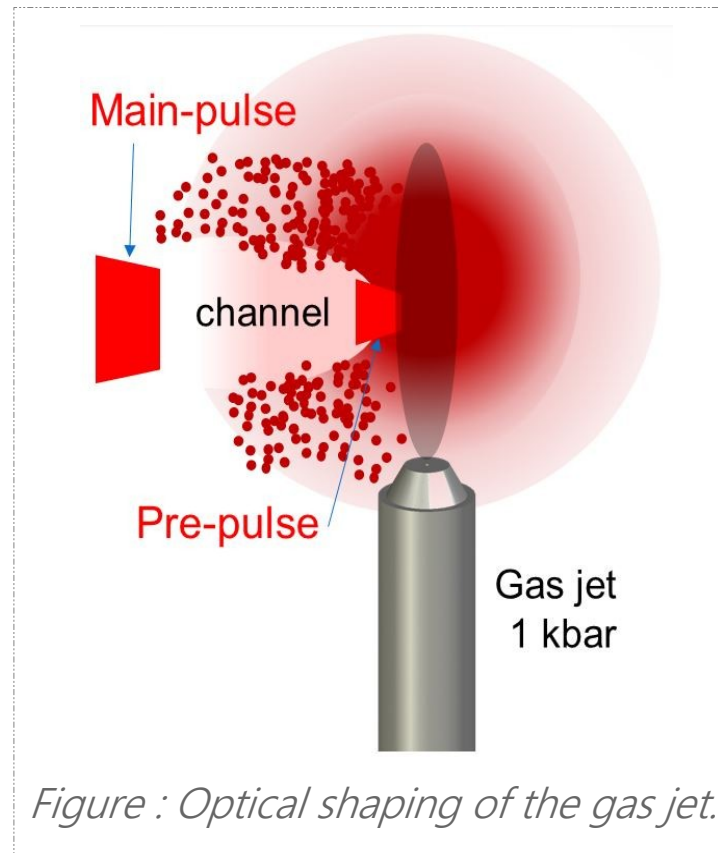
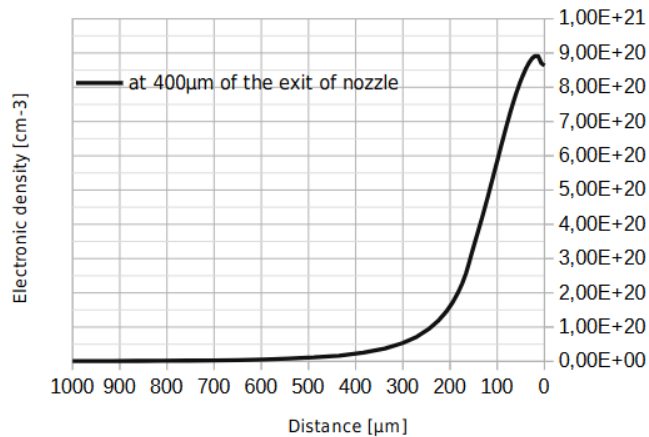


Figure : Optical shaping of the gas jet.

AFTER

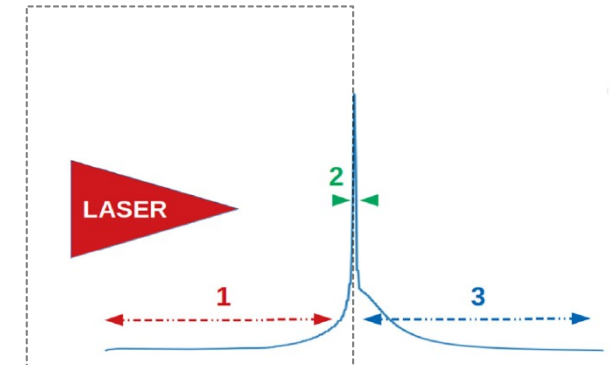


FIG. 1. Optimized gas density profile needed for efficient ion acceleration by laser-driven electrostatic shock: (1) A low density pedestal to avoid that the laser undergoes filamentation, self-focusing, and Raman scattering, and loses a large part of its energy. (2) A narrow high density region with the maximum density close to the relativistic critical density (n_c) is used to produce a strong shock. (3) An upstream region crossed by the shock should present a smooth density profile to avoid TNSA competition. The typical widths of these three layers are of several tens of micrometers for layers (1) and (3) and thinner (several micrometers) for layer (2).

2021, Bonvalet et al

[DOI:10.1063/5.0062503](https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0062503)

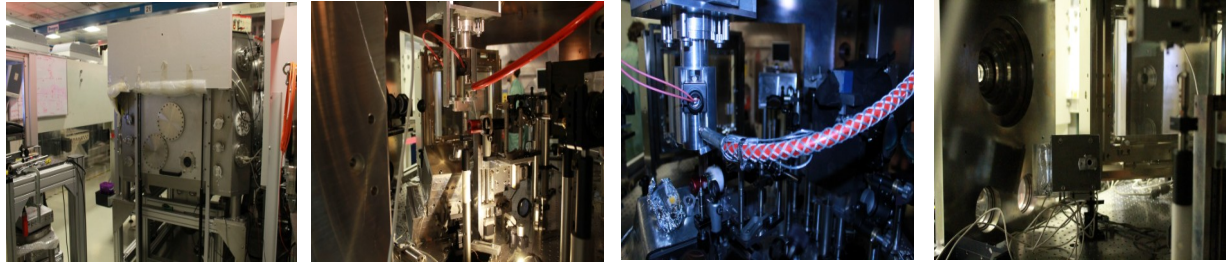
OBJECTIVES


- Reach high energy at high repetition rate along the direction of propagation of high energy main pulse.
- Stable beam.
- High amount of protons ($10^{12}p+$)
- Medical, nuclear applications
- 2007, Ute et al DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevSTAB.10.094801](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevSTAB.10.094801)
- This campaign : improve on LULI2019 setup with ASE using a high contrast laser and a prepulse.

Outline

1. Experimental setup

- 1.1. Description
- 1.2. Thomson parabola
- 1.3. Shadowgraphy



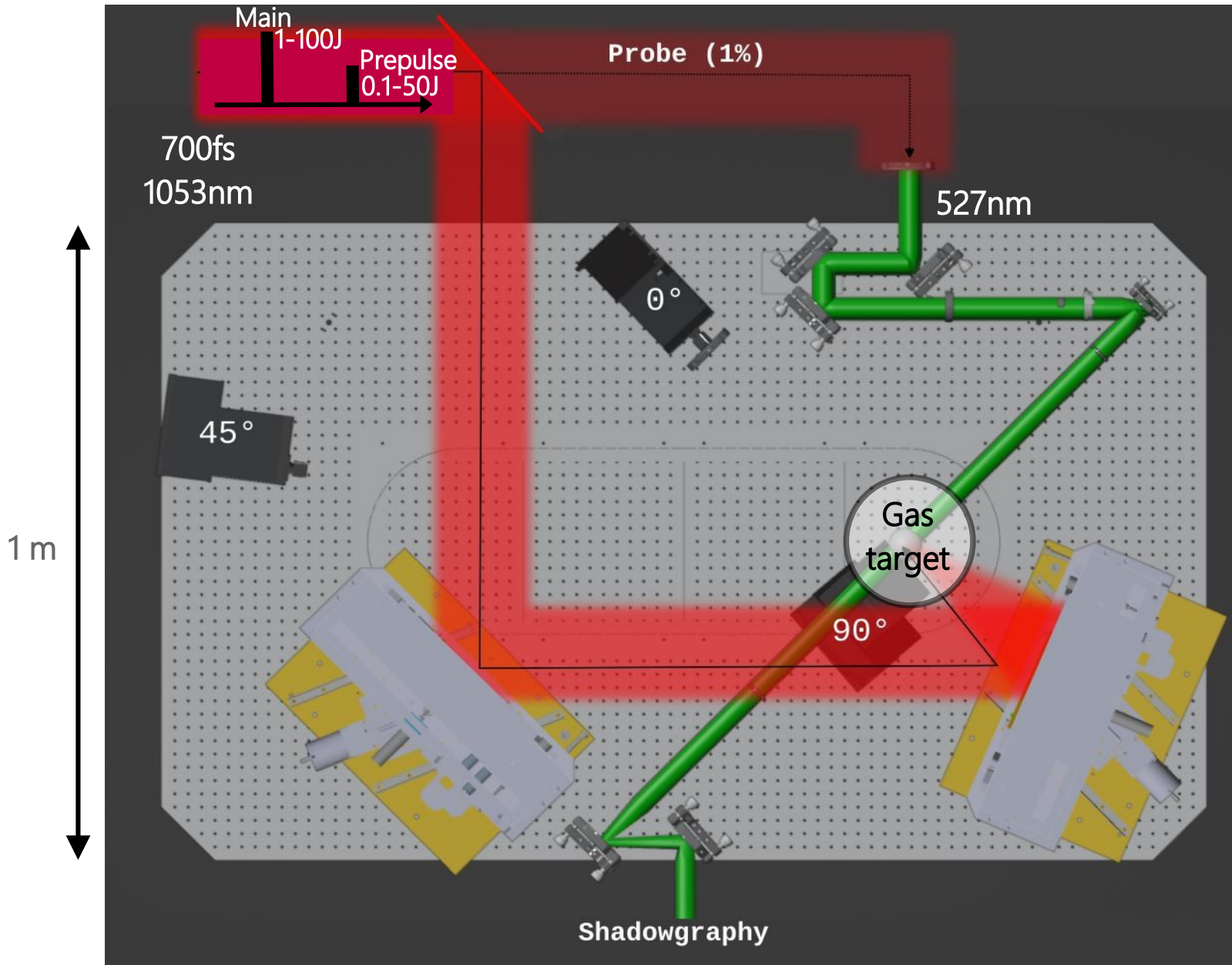
Photos of P21-00004 experimental campaign on 

2. Results

- 2.1. Effect of the prepulse at $E_{\text{main}} = 5\text{J}$ on the interaction point.
- 2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra
 - 2.2.1. Main at high energy ($E_{\text{main}} = 100\text{J}$) without prepulse
 - 2.2.2. Case 1 : Main at high energy ($E_{\text{main}} = 100\text{J}$) with a low energy prepulse (0,1J) and 2 different delays:
-100ps and -10ps
 - 2.2.3. Case 2 & 3 : Delay scan and energy of the prepulse : 1J-100J & 50J-50J
 - 2.2.4. 3 cases comparison : energy scan at -100ps delay of the prepulse.

1. Experimental setup

1.1 Description



1. Experimental setup

1.2. Thomson parabola : Imaging the energy of the protons.

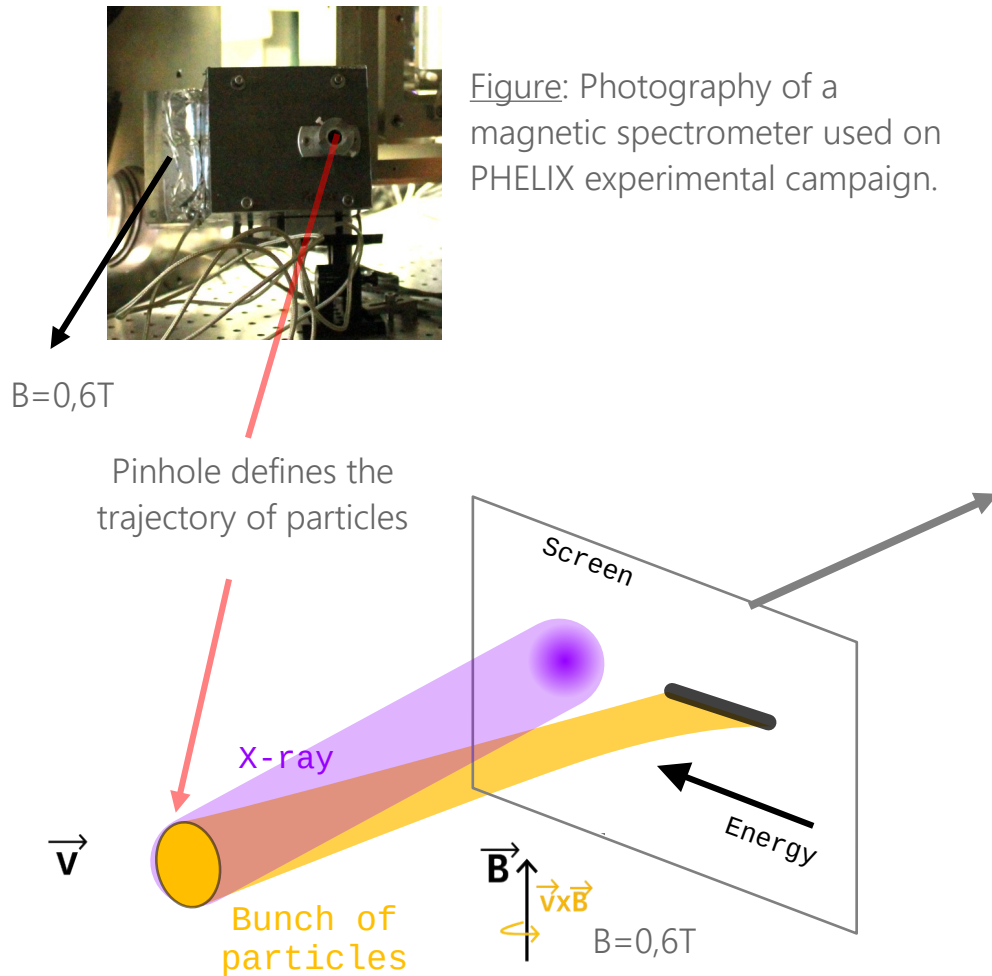


Figure: Photography of a magnetic spectrometer used on PHELIX experimental campaign.

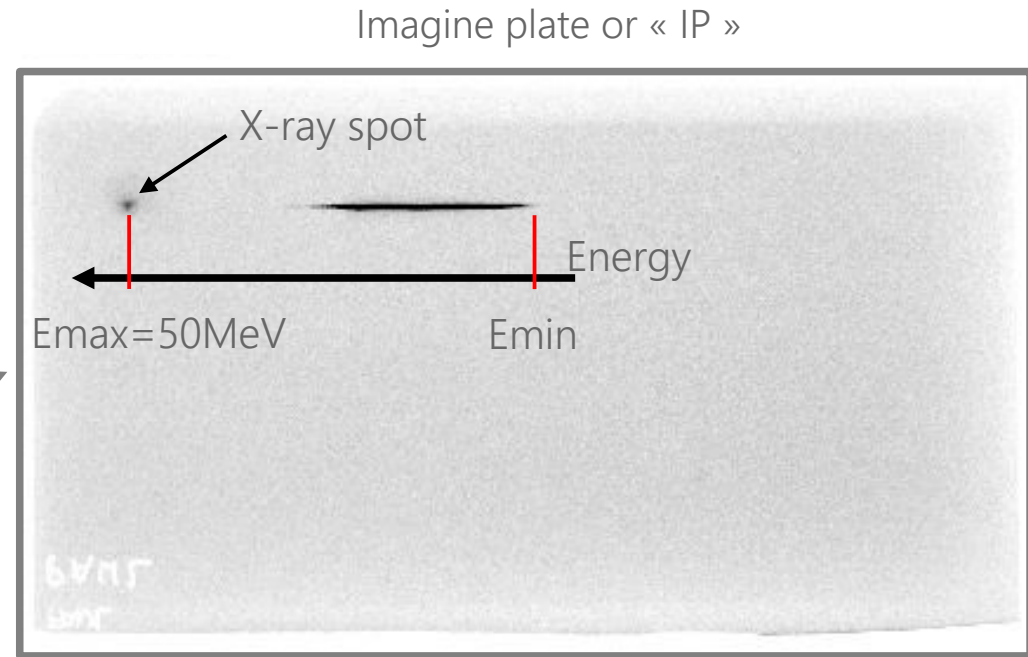


Figure: Image obtained from a magnetic spectrometer with a H_2 target on this campaign.

Figure : Scheme of the principle of a dispersive spectrometer. B deflects charged particles by the Lorentz force $F_L=qv \times B$ (by velocity).

1. Experimental setup

1.3. Shadowgraphy : Imaging the spatial distribution of the plasma density.

How is the probe is affected by crossing the target near the optical axis ?

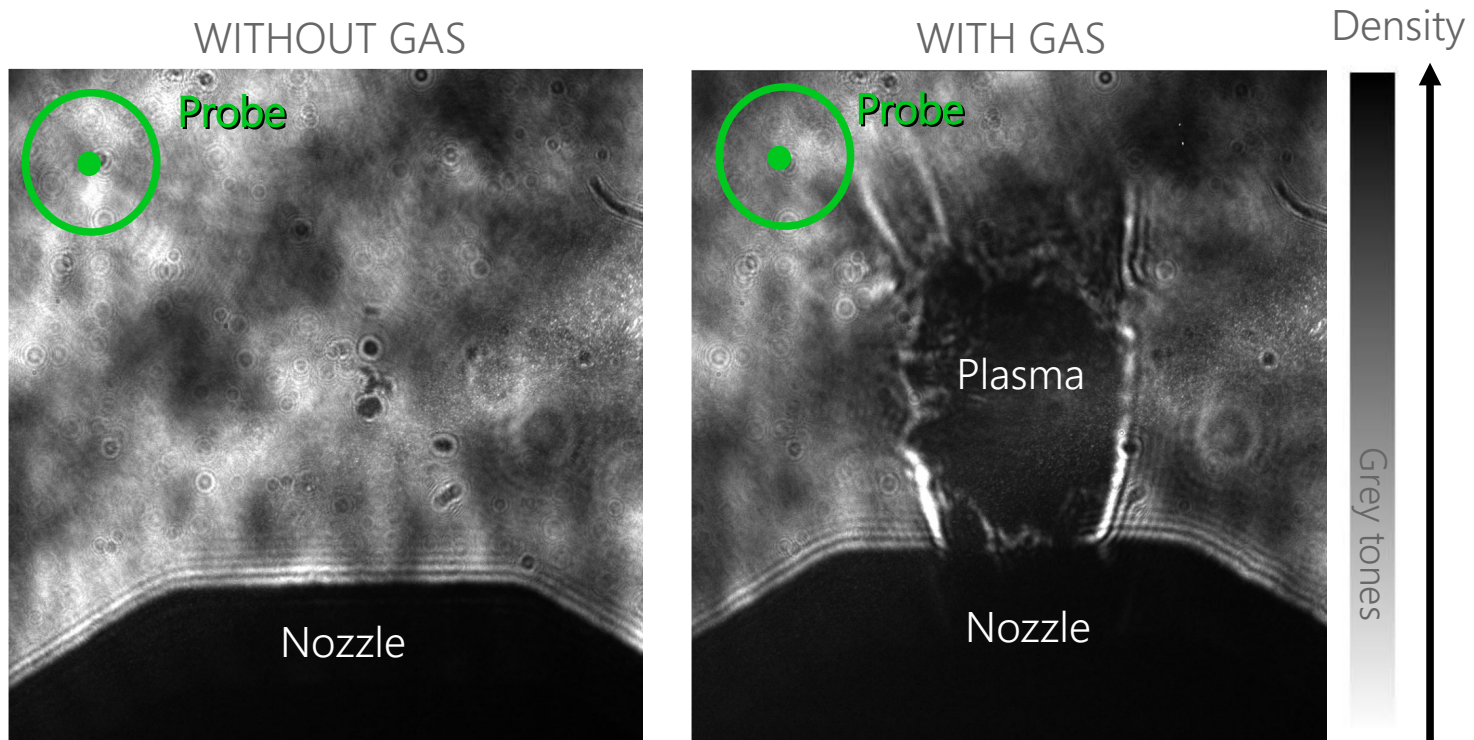


Figure : Shadowgraphy images from a shot from that experimental campaign.



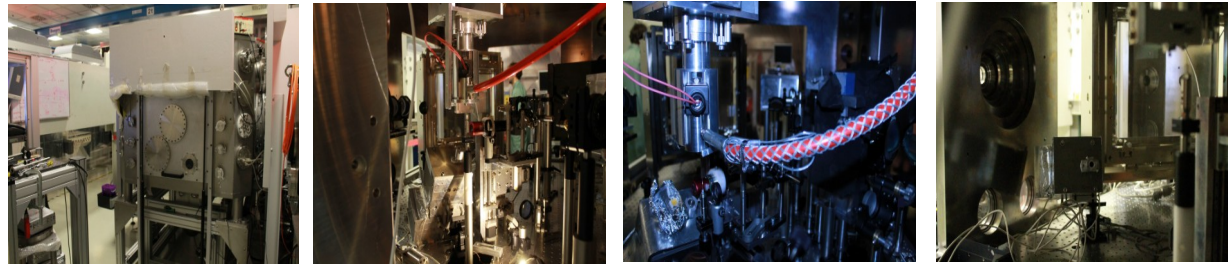
Warning : In this diagnostic, the size of the plasma is bigger than in reality because plasma refract light like a lens. Some light rays don't reach the camera.


J-R Marques and al., 2023, doi :10.48550/arXiv.2309.16277

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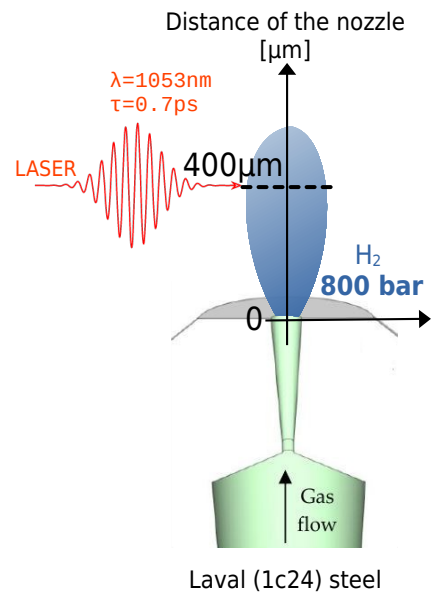
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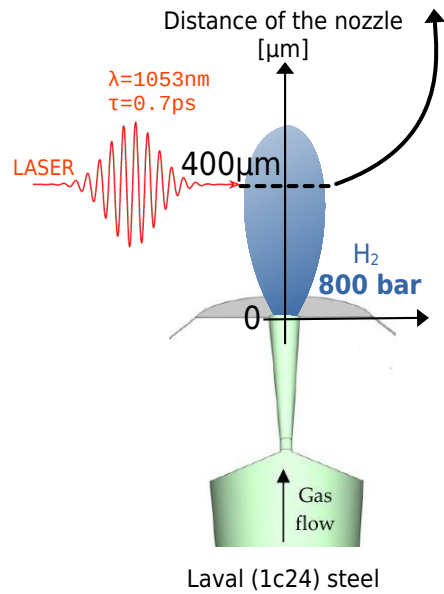
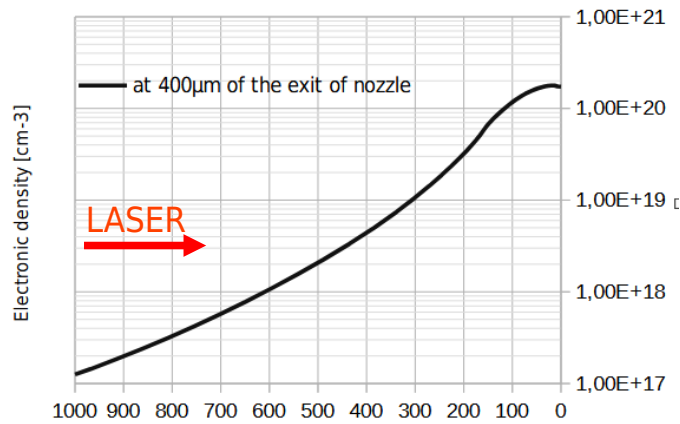
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Seen on shadowgraphy with 2w generation displacement.



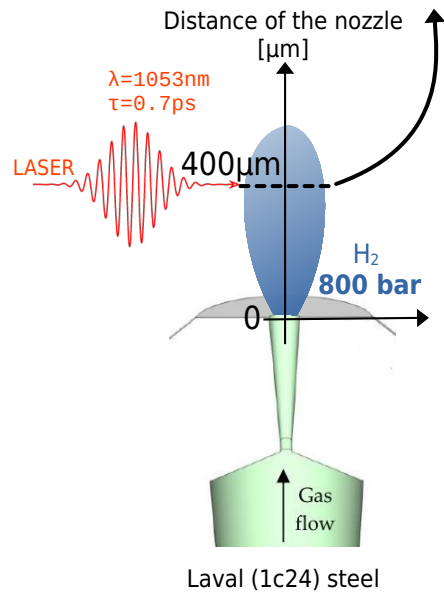
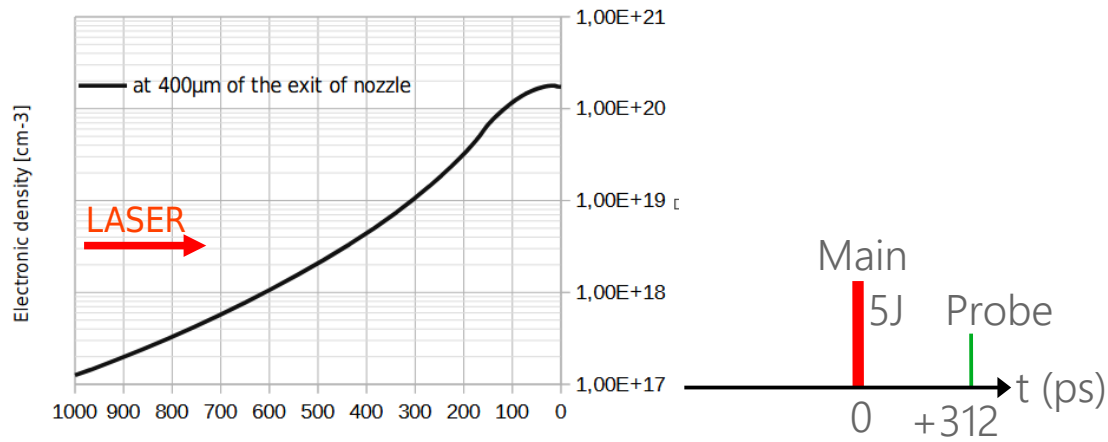
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Seen on shadowgraphy with 2w generation displacement.



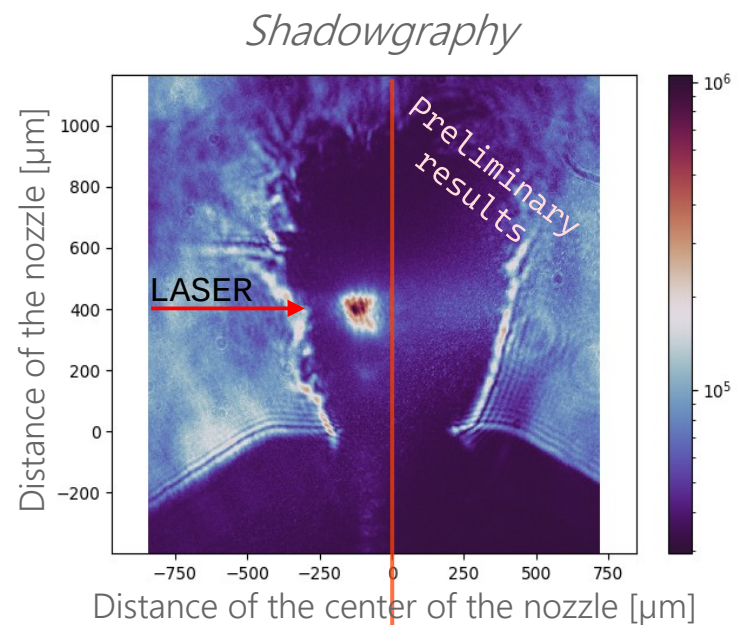
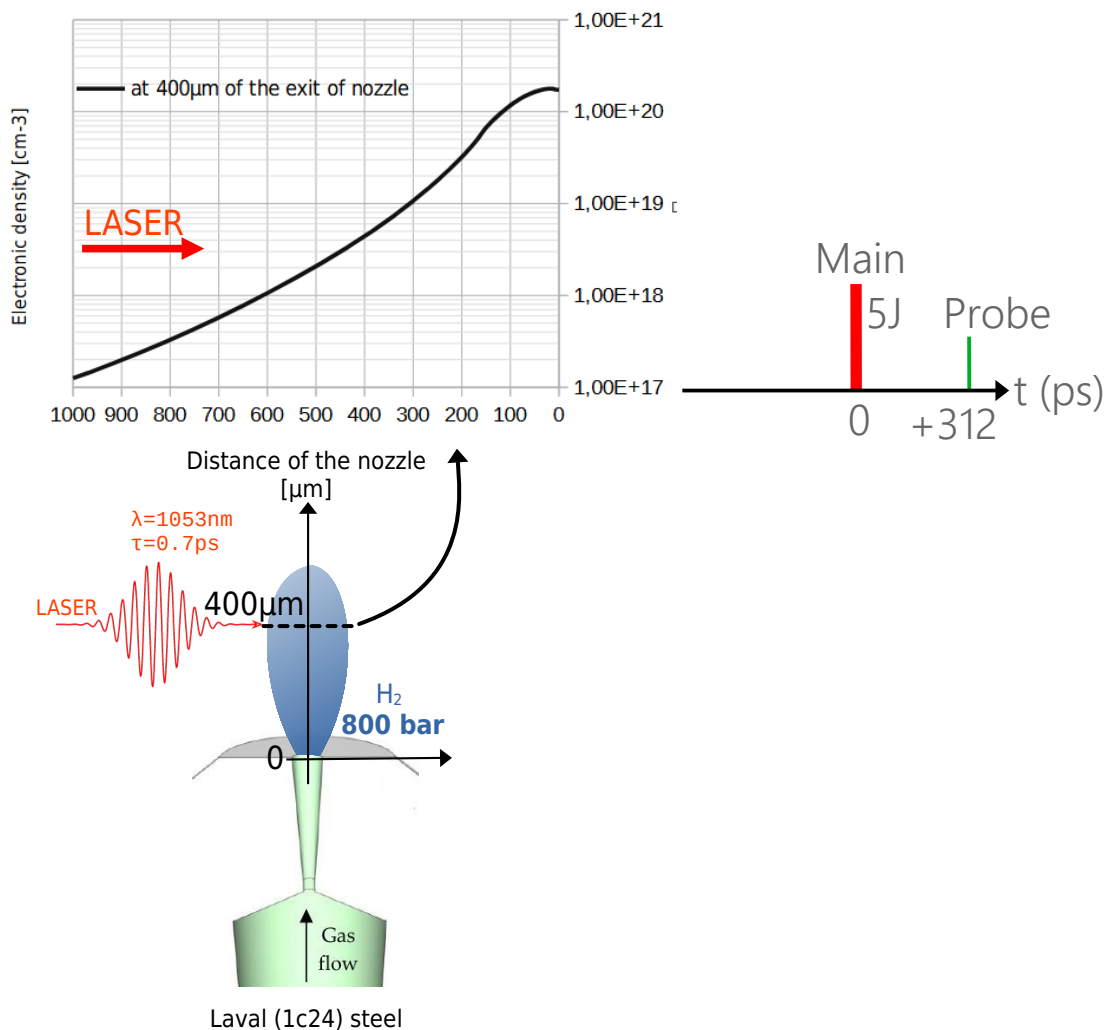
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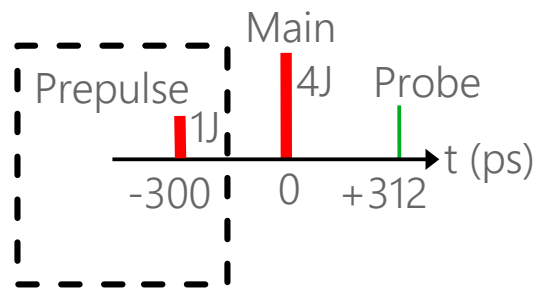
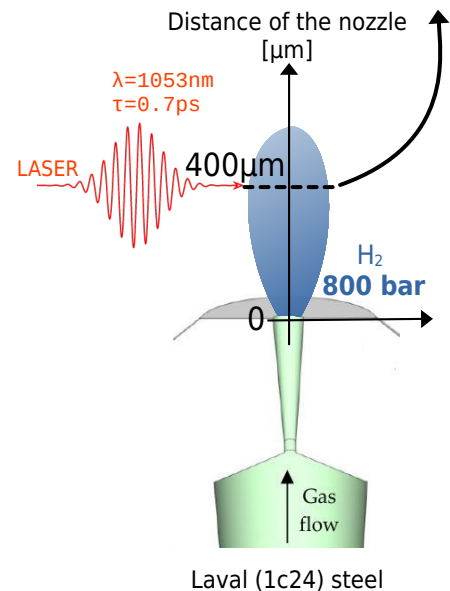
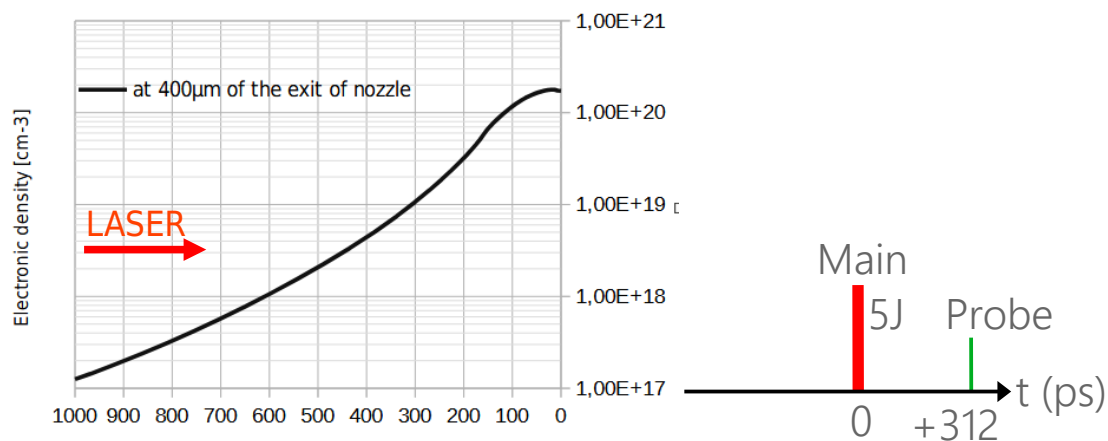
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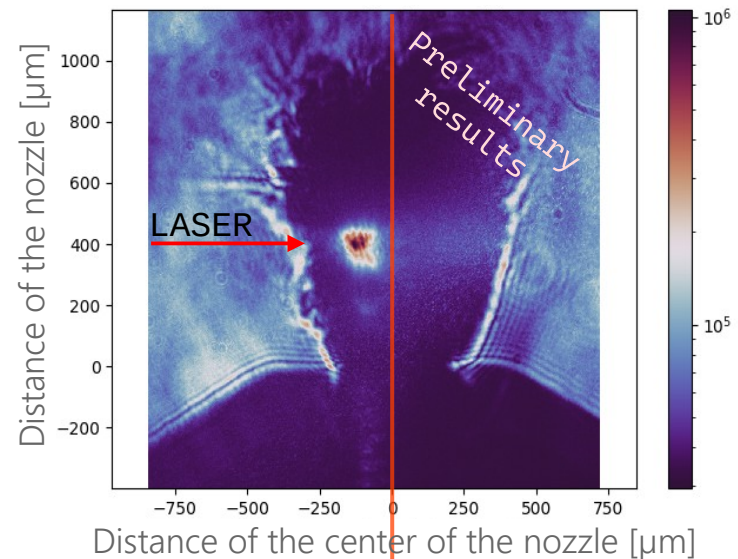


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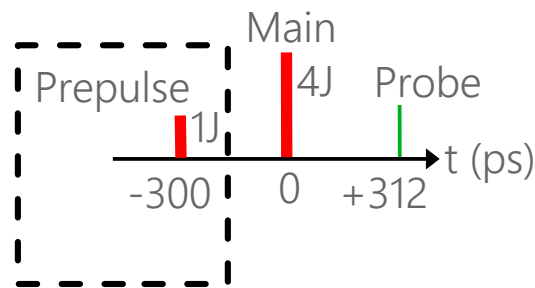
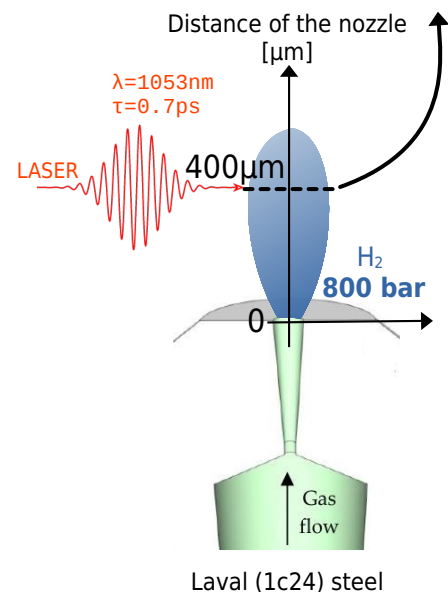
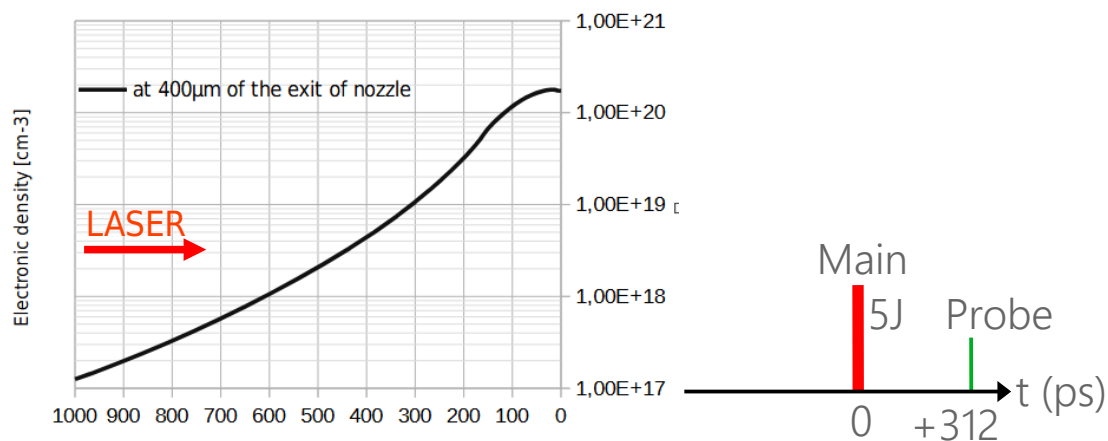


Shadowgraphy

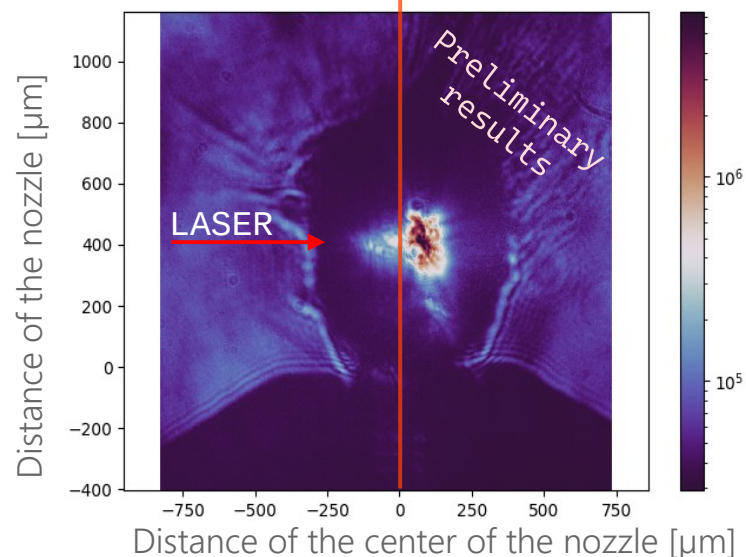
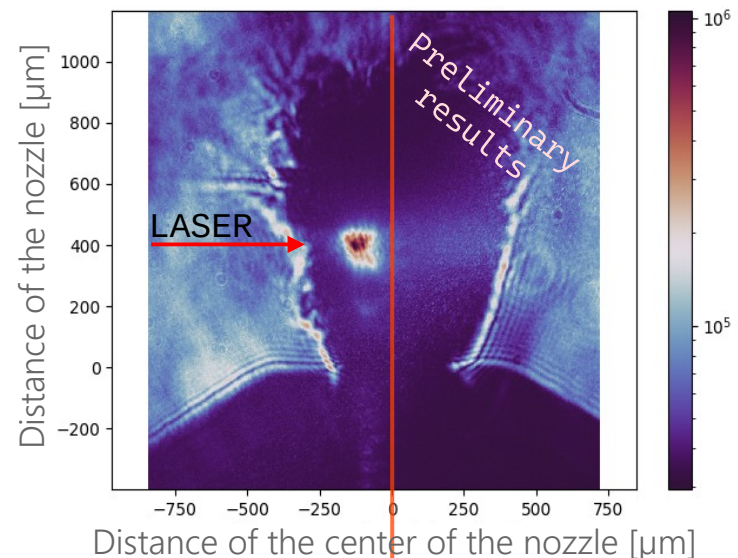


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Shadowgraphy

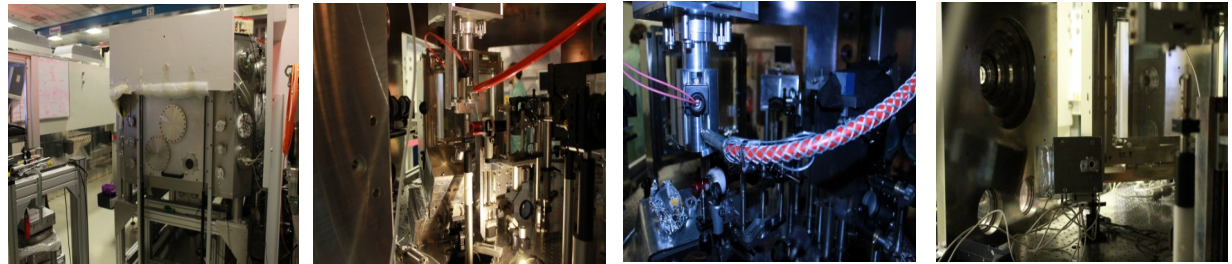



Prepulse allows the main pulse to interact with the core of the target : a sharp gradient and a high electronic density.

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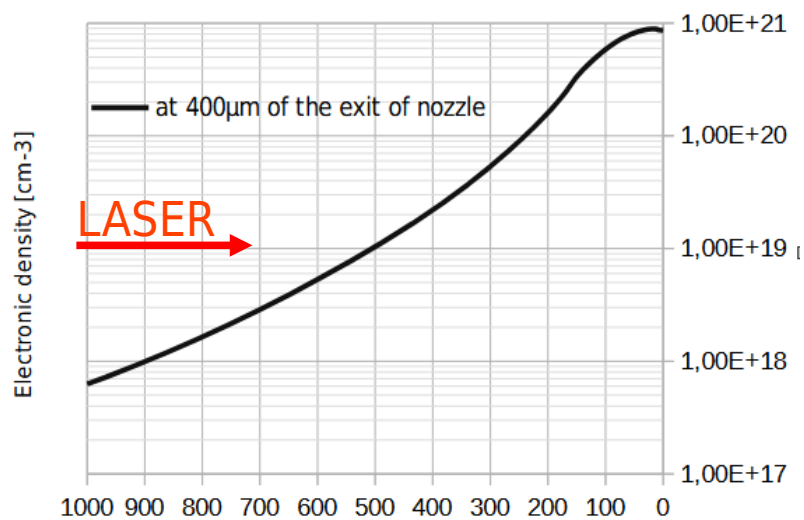
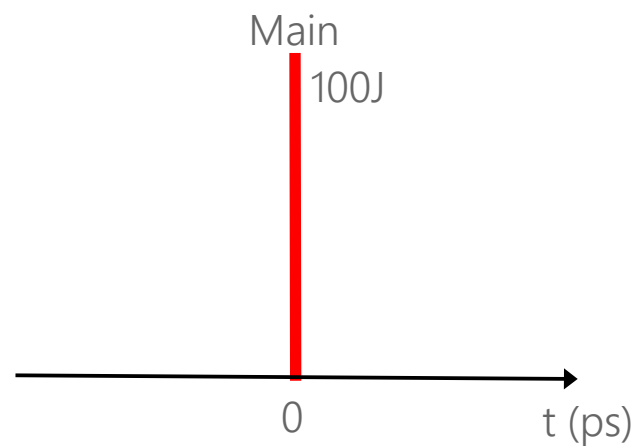
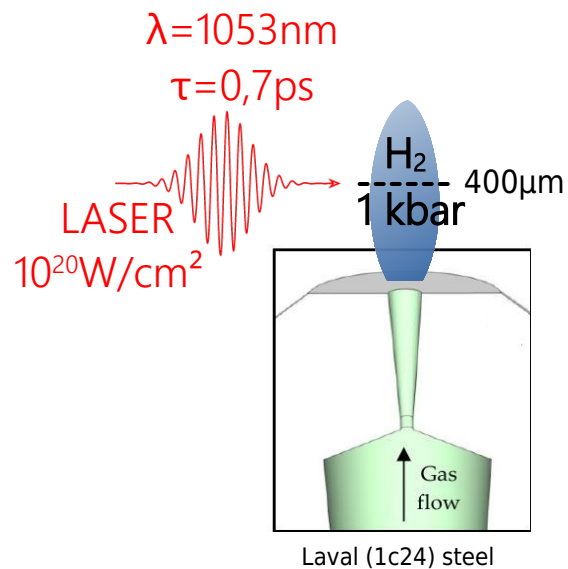
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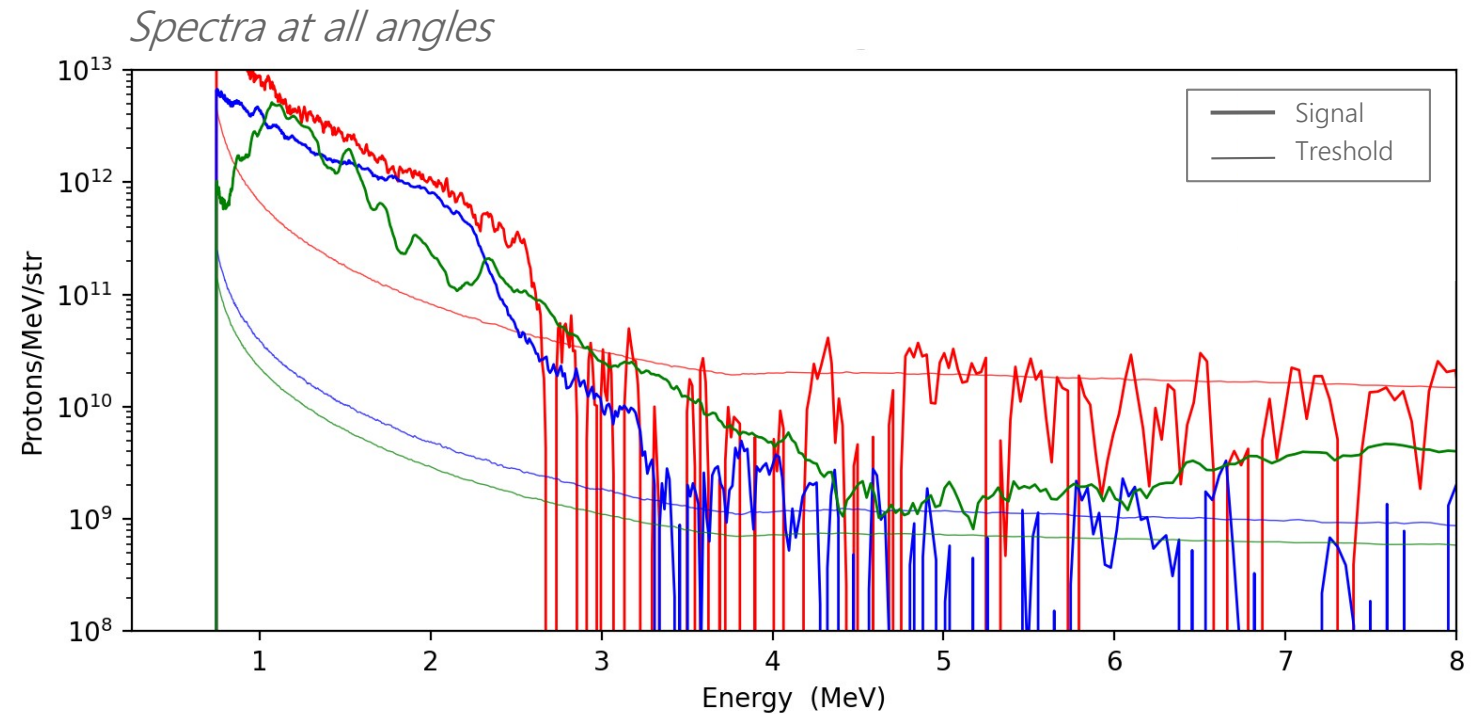
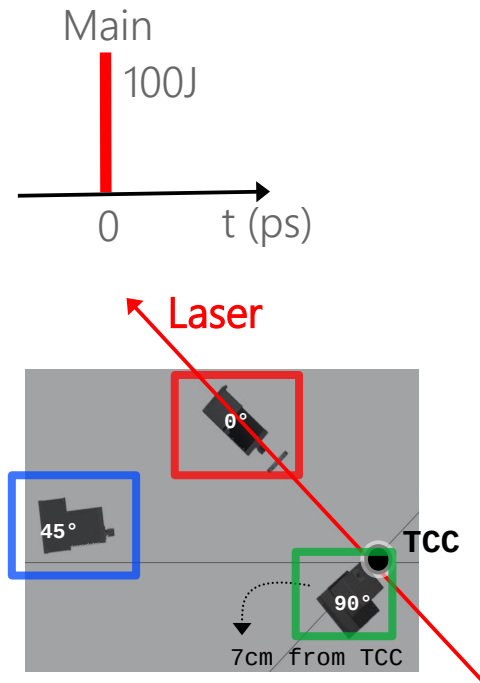
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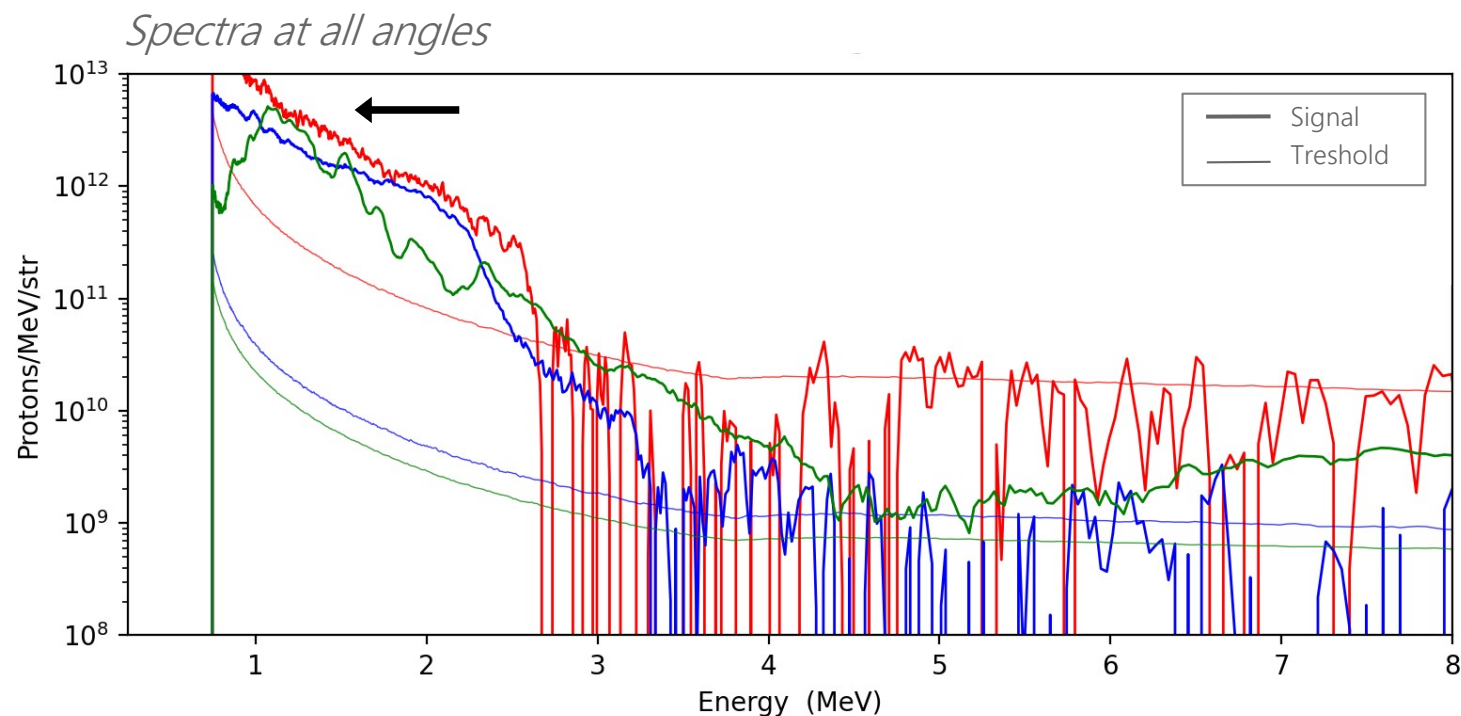
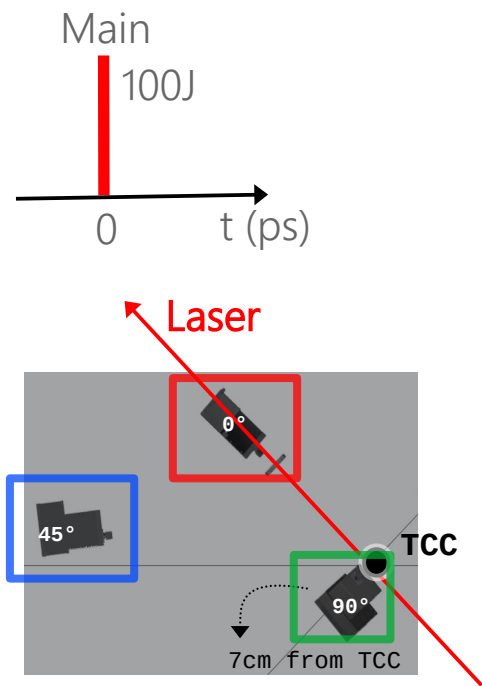


- Different tresholds (X-ray coming from e^- at 0deg)
- Similar spectra at all angles
 - Same maximal number of protons at low energy.
 - Decrease of proton number by energy.
 - 0° : Cutoff energy at 2,5MeV.

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

2.2.1. Main at high energy ($E_{main} = 100J$) without prepulse



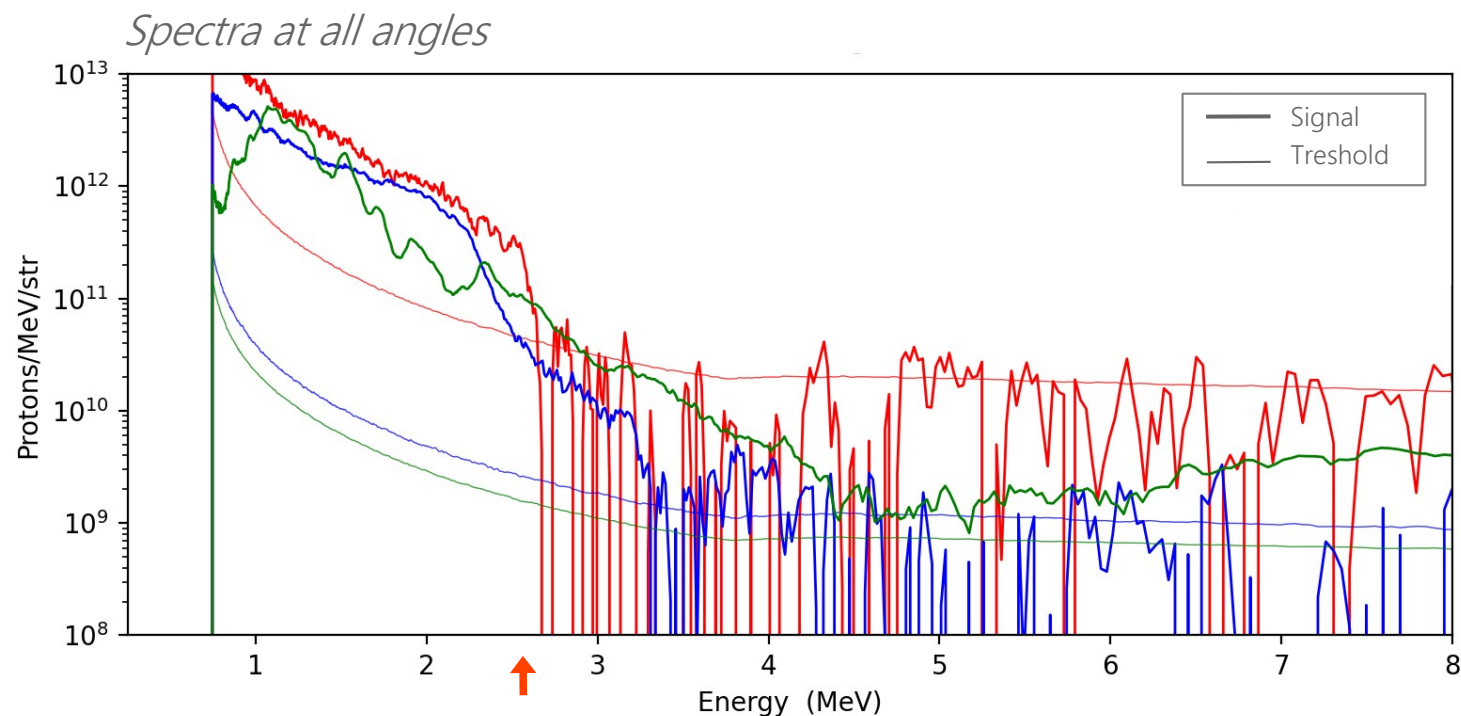
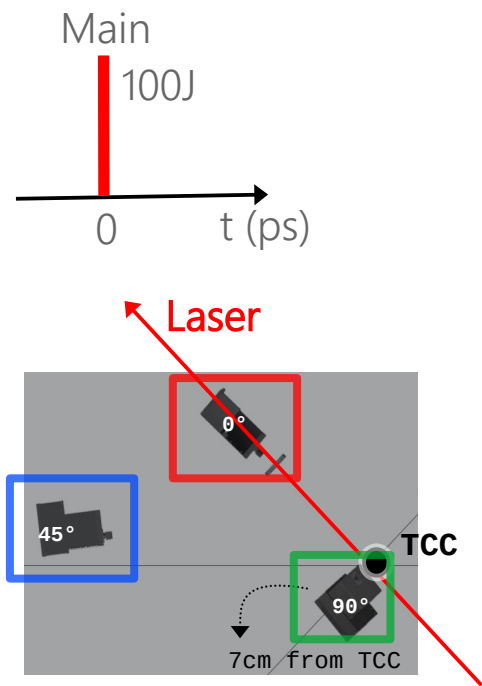
- Different tresholds (X-ray coming from e^- at 0deg)
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Coulomb explosion

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

2.2.1. Main at high energy (E_{main} = 100J) without prepulse



- Different tresholds (X-ray coming from e⁻ at 0deg)
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Coulomb explosion

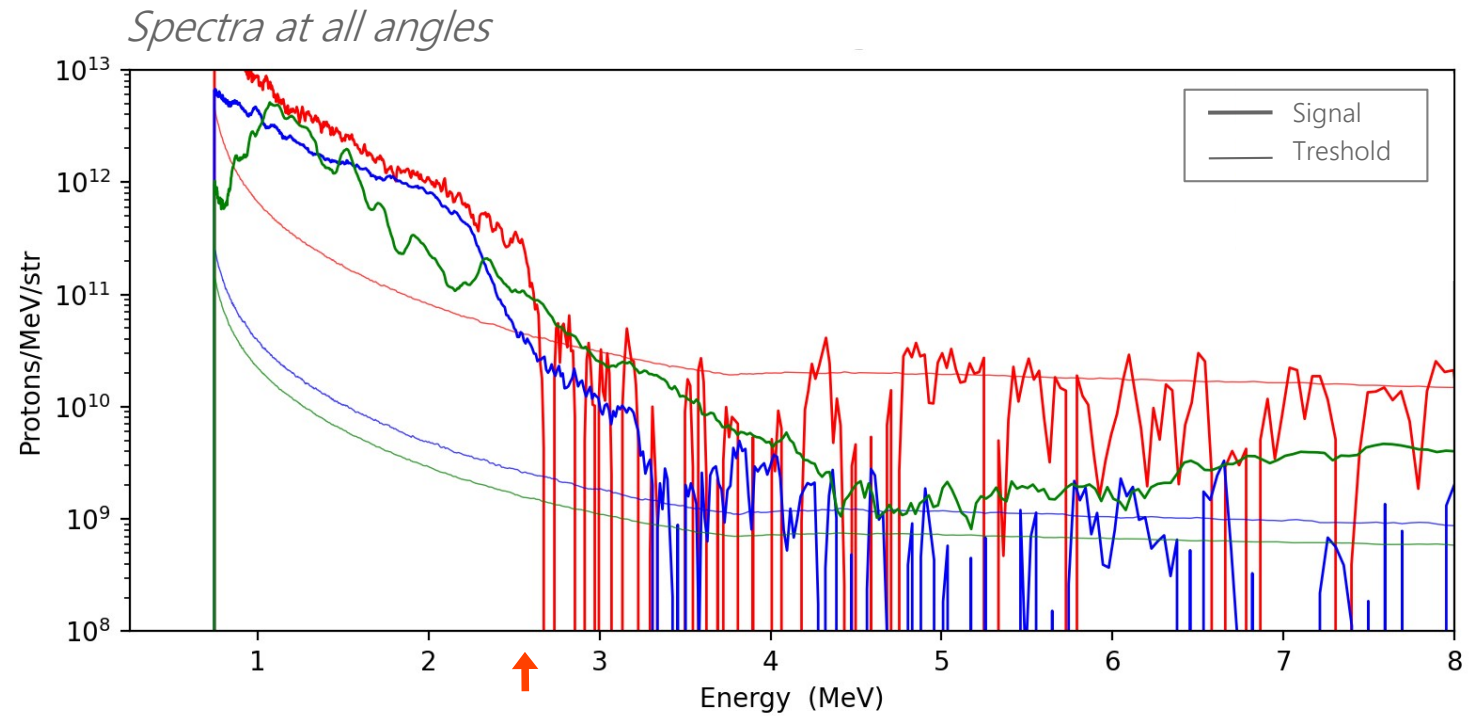
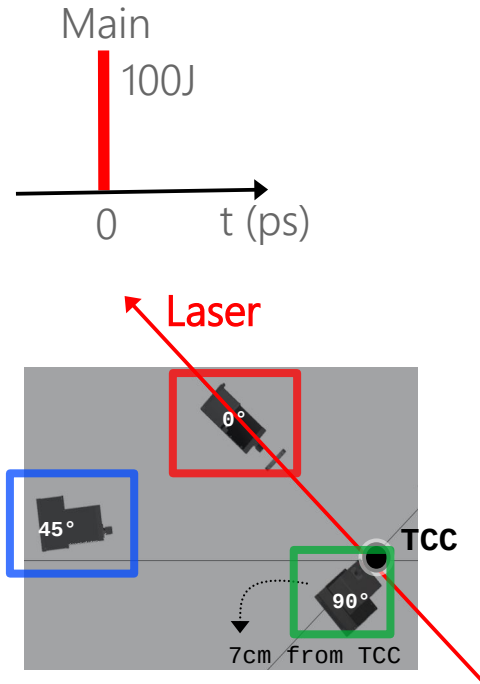
TNSA-like

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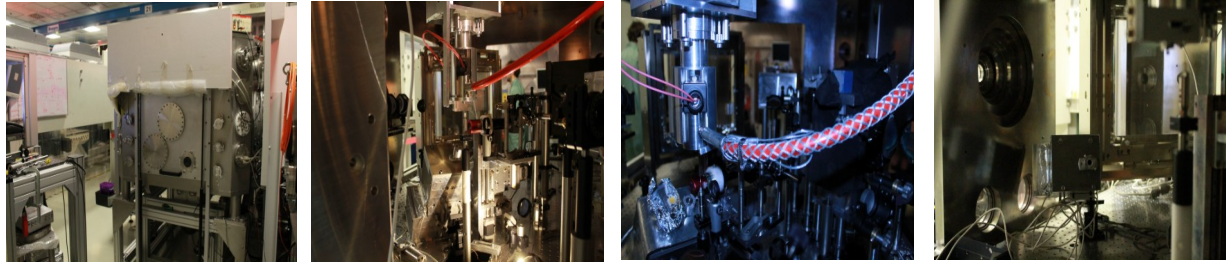
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No privileged direction of acceleration (isotropic).

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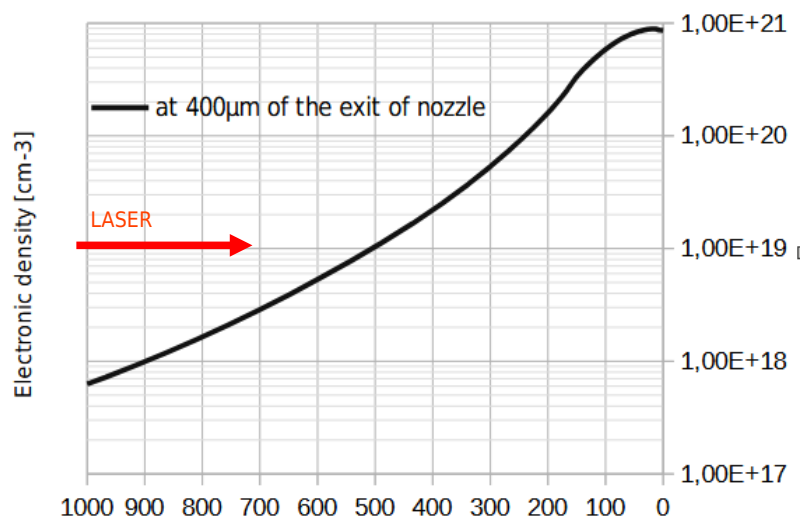
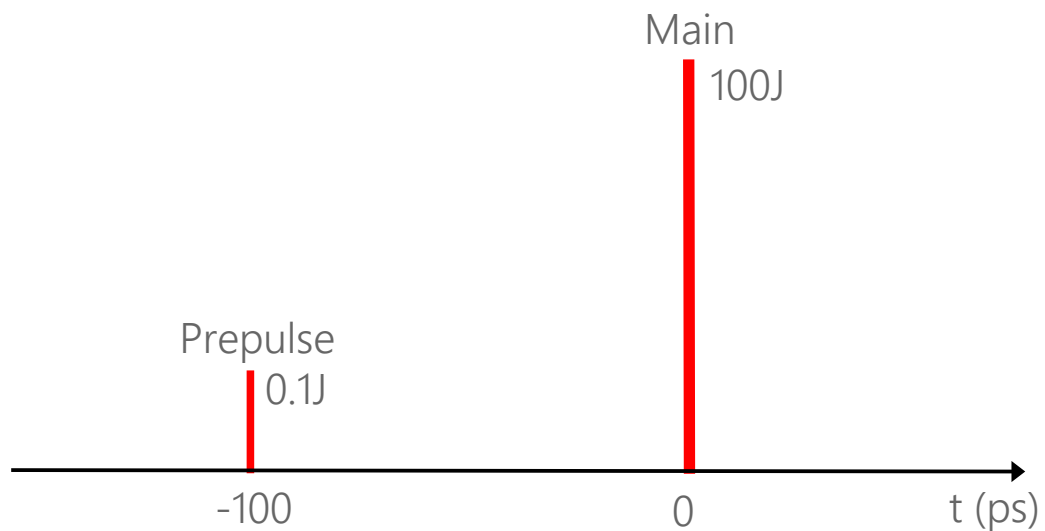
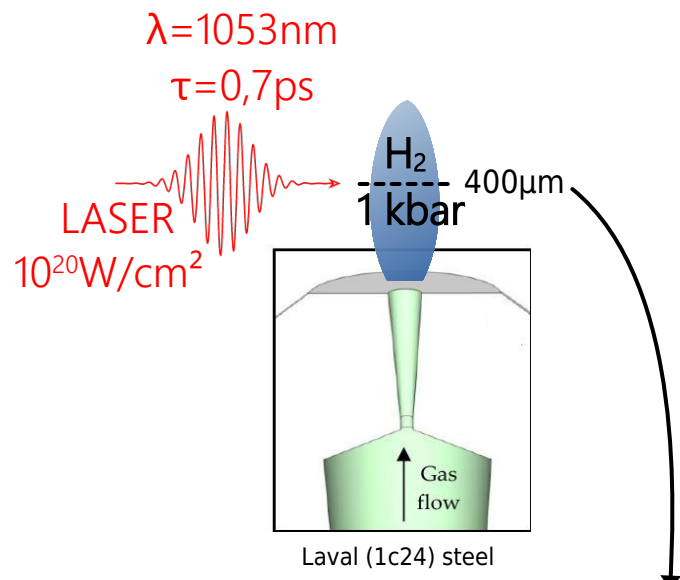
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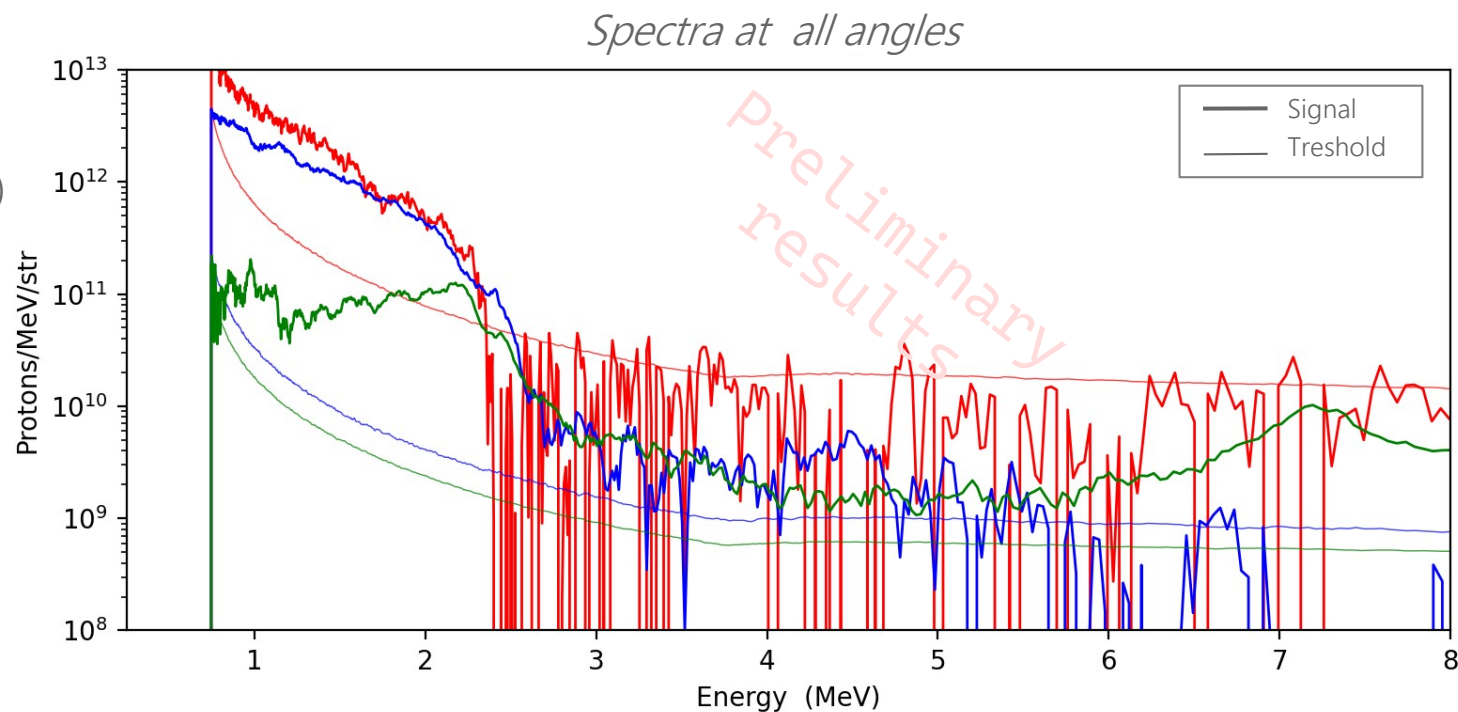
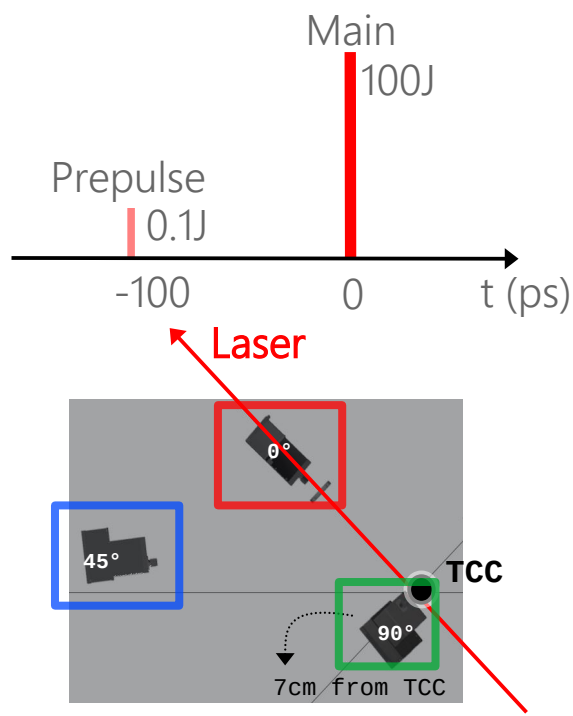
2.2.2. Main at high energy (100J) with a low energy prepulse (0,1J) and 2 differents delays: {100;10}ps



2. Results

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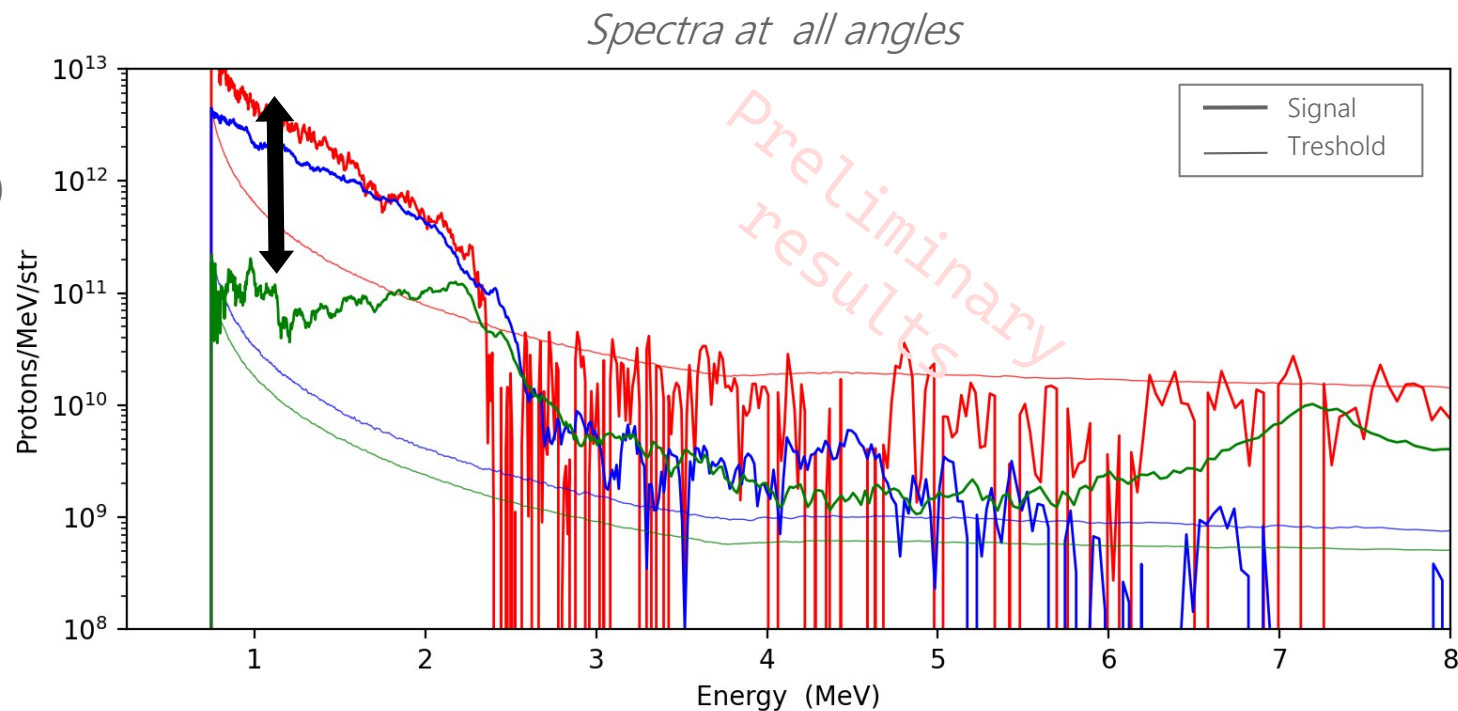
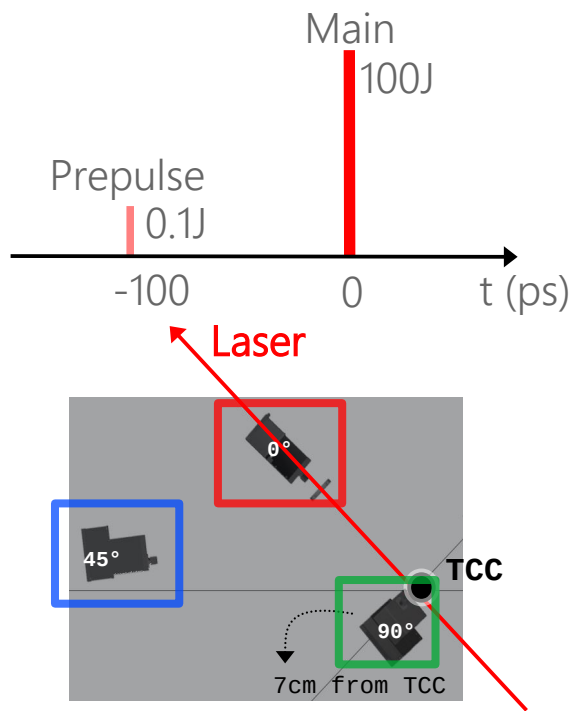


- Adding a prepulse change spectrum at 90° from laser axis :
 - Transverse acceleration more structured
 - There is less protons at low energy → directional
 - x1 structure at 7MeV

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

2.2.2. Main at high energy (100J) with a low energy prepulse (0,1J) and 2 different delays: {100;10}ps



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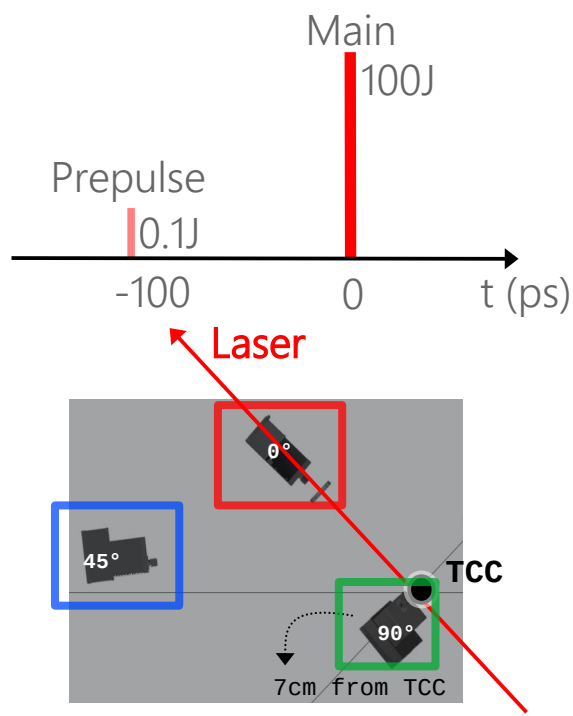
Less coulomb explosion



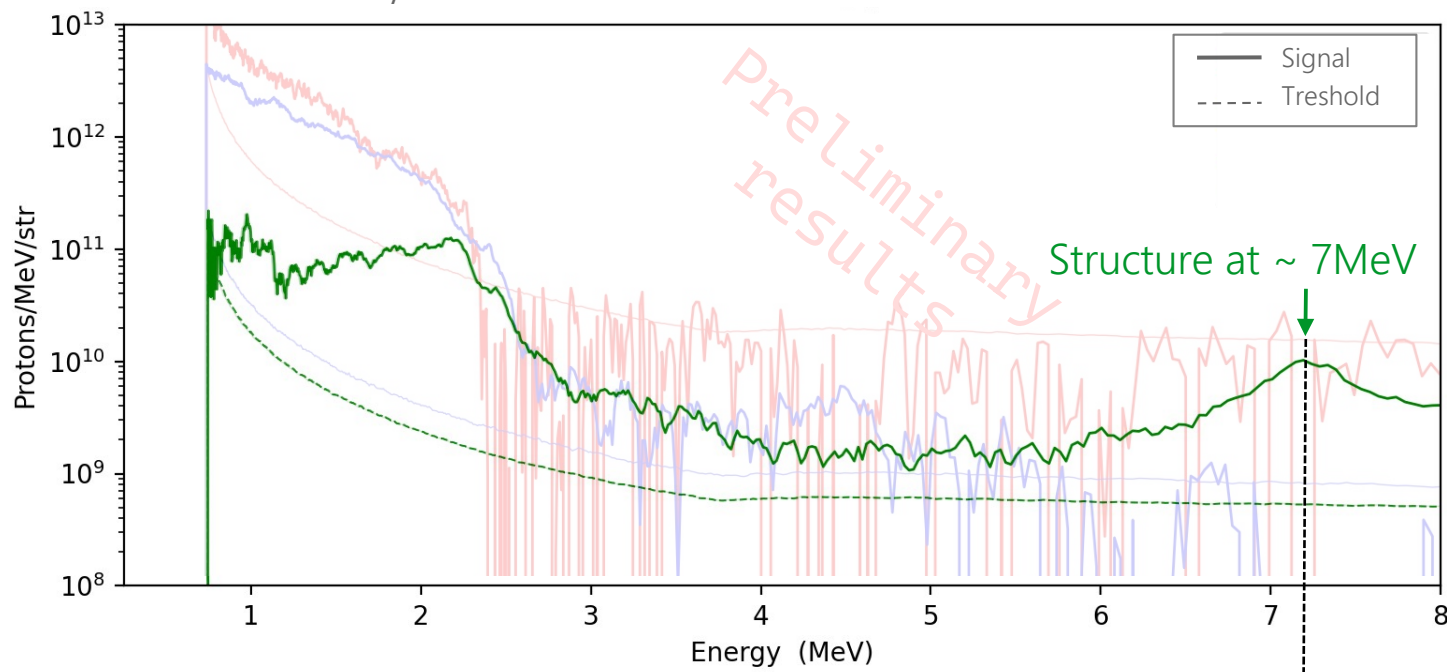
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Spectra at 90° from the main laser direction



- Adding a prepulse change spectrum at 90° from laser axis :
 - Transverse acceleration is more structured
- There is less protons at low energy → directional
- x1 structure at 7MeV

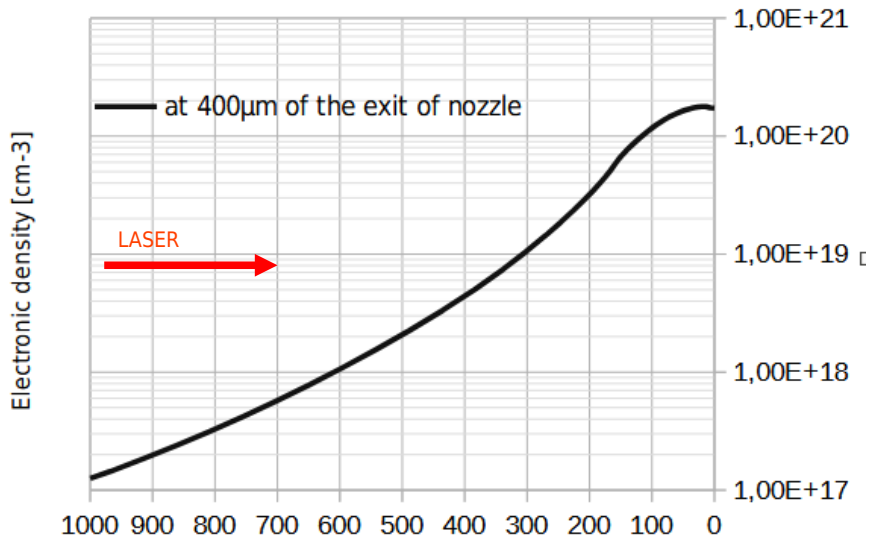
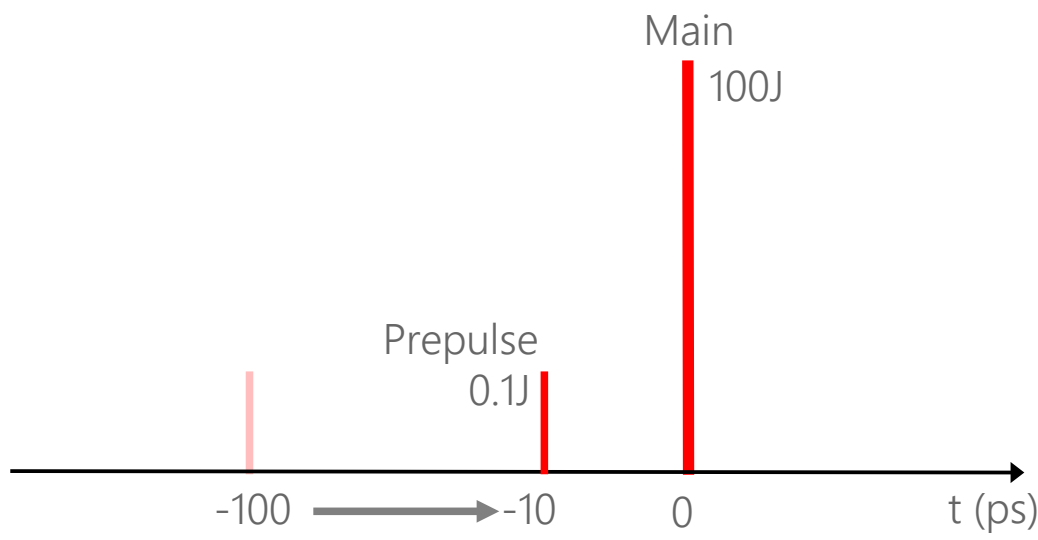
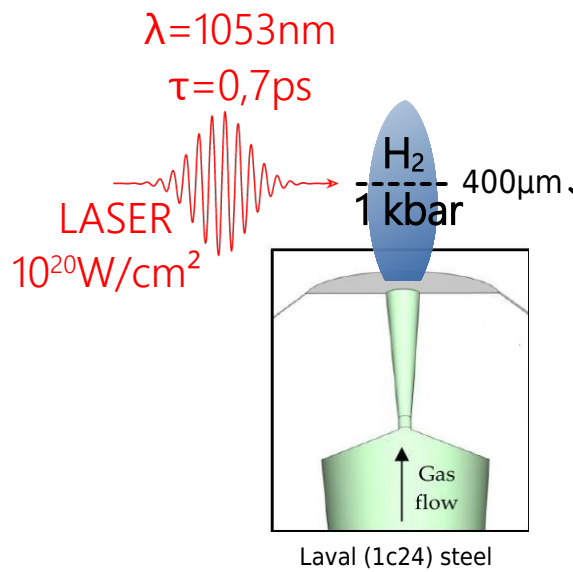
Less coulomb explosion

HBA + CSA

2. Results

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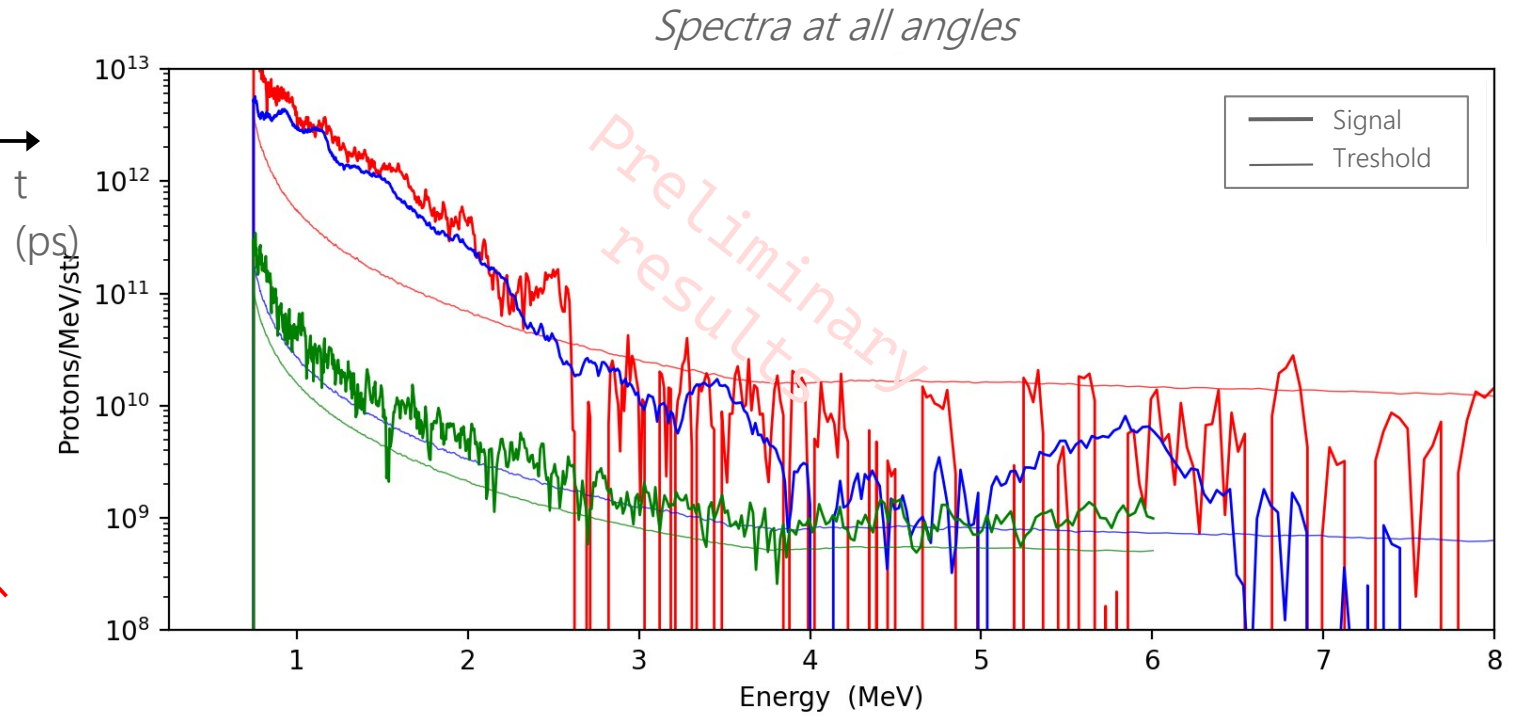
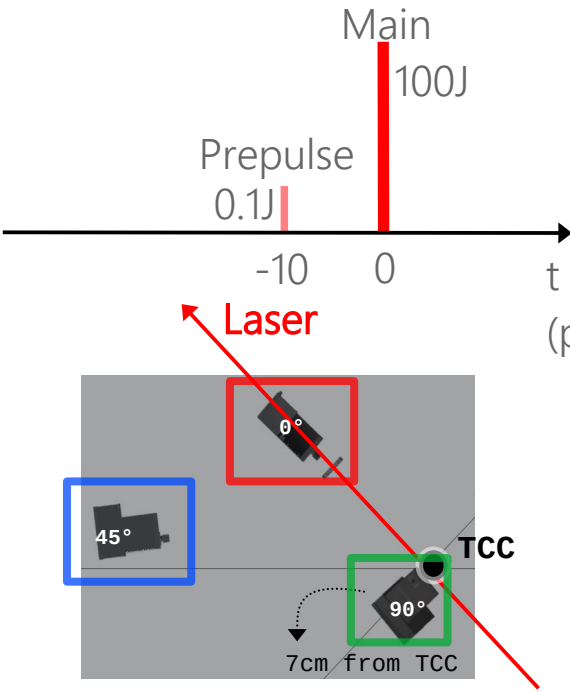
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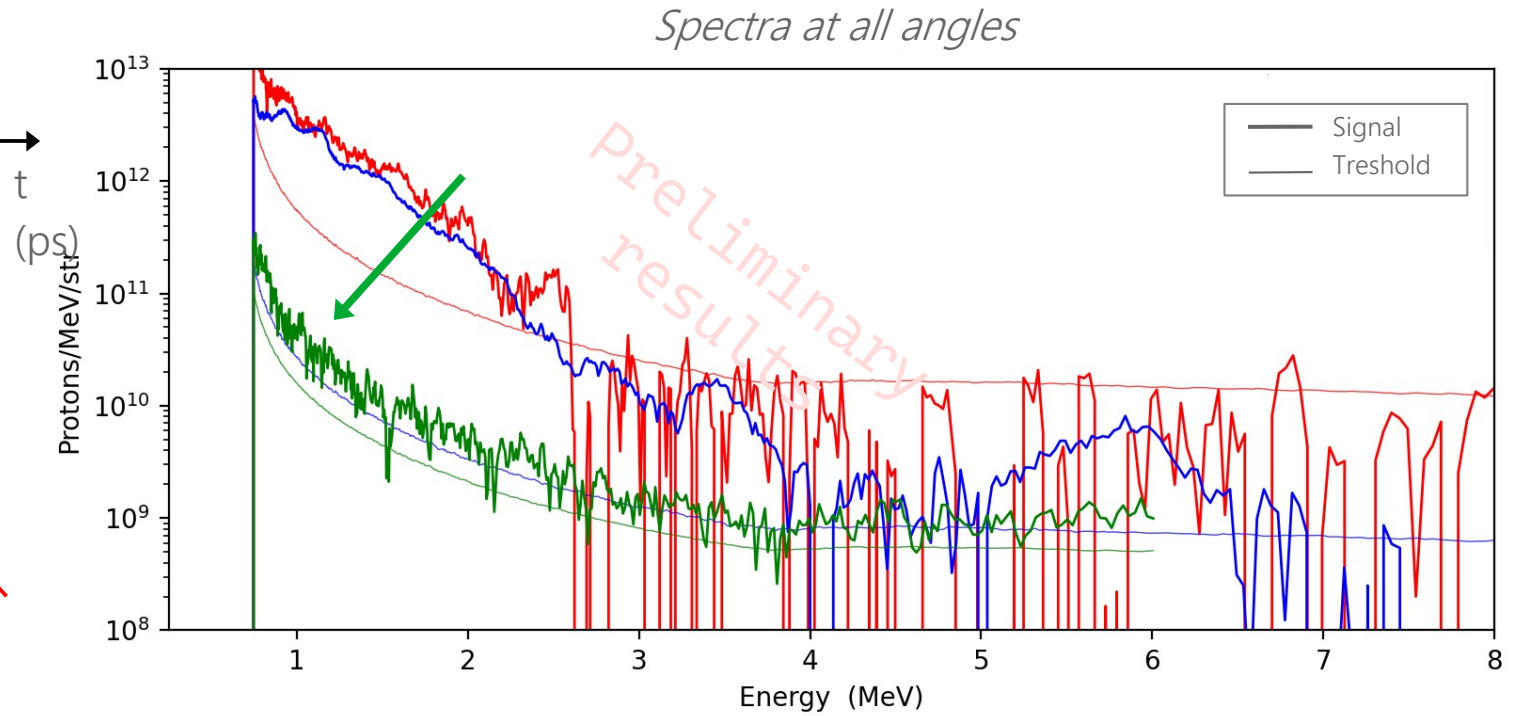
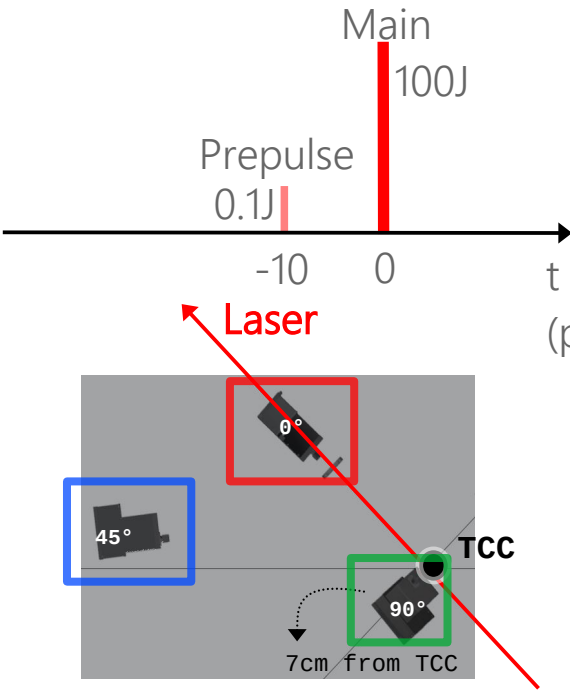
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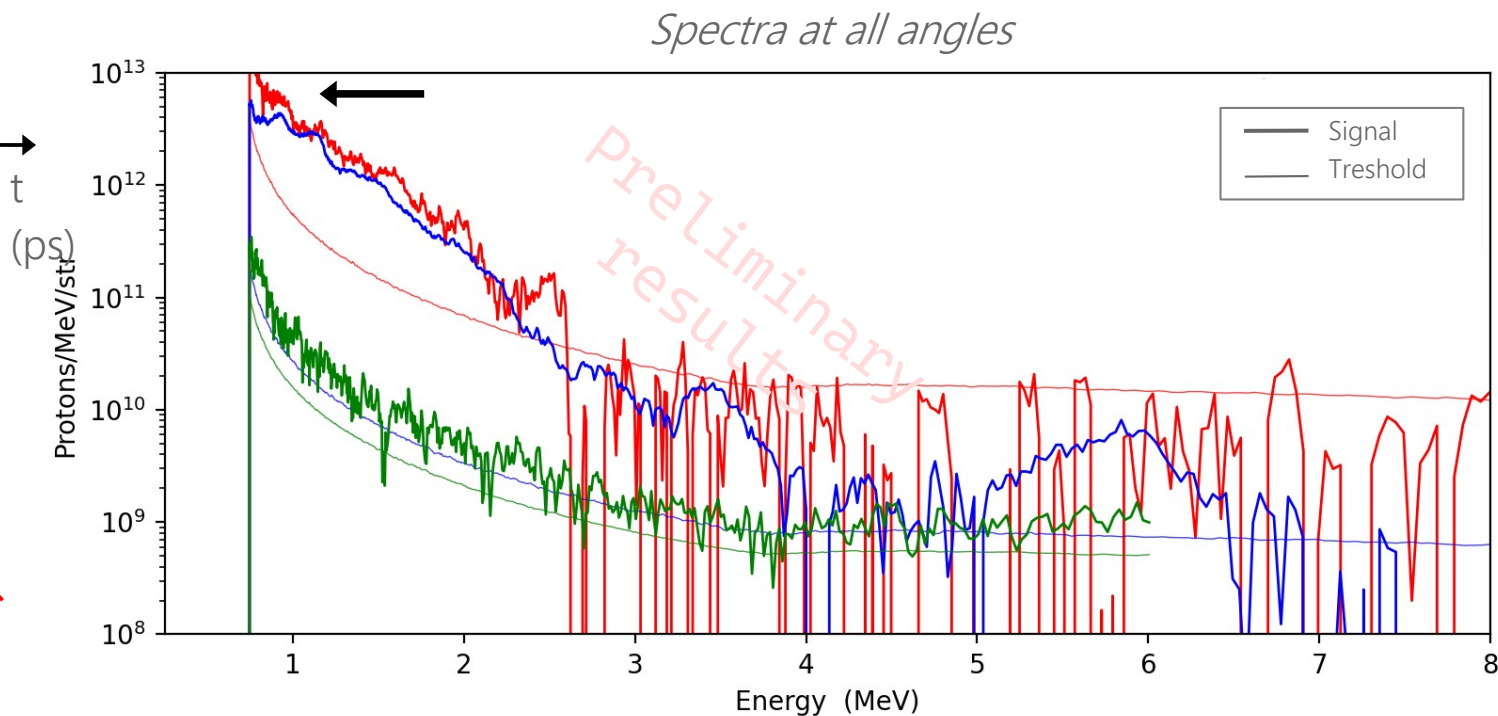
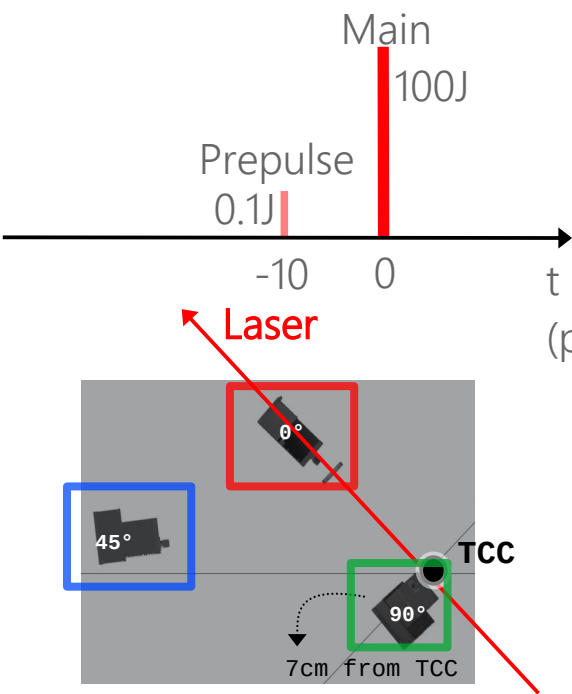


- No signal at 90°
- 0 & 45°
 - The maximum number of protons is almost identical
 - 45° : there are x2 structures

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

2.2.2. Main at high energy (100J) with a low energy prepulse (0,1J) and 2 different delays: {100;10}ps



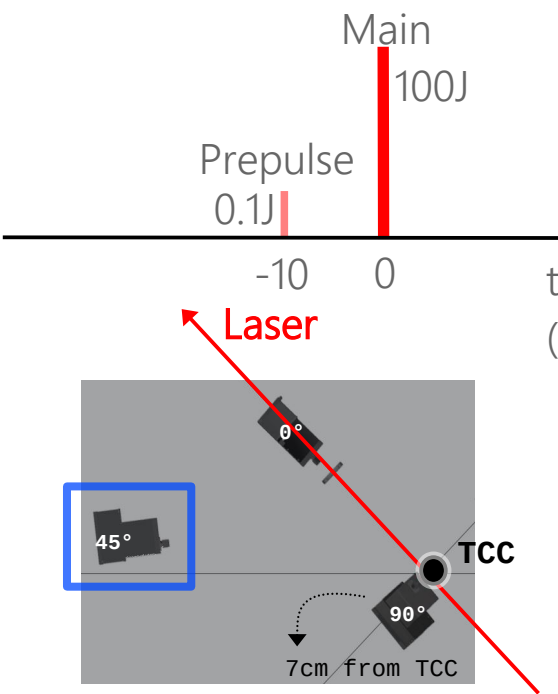
- No signal at 90°
- 0 & 45°
 - The maximum number of protons is almost identical
 - 45° : there are x2 structures

Coulomb explosion ←

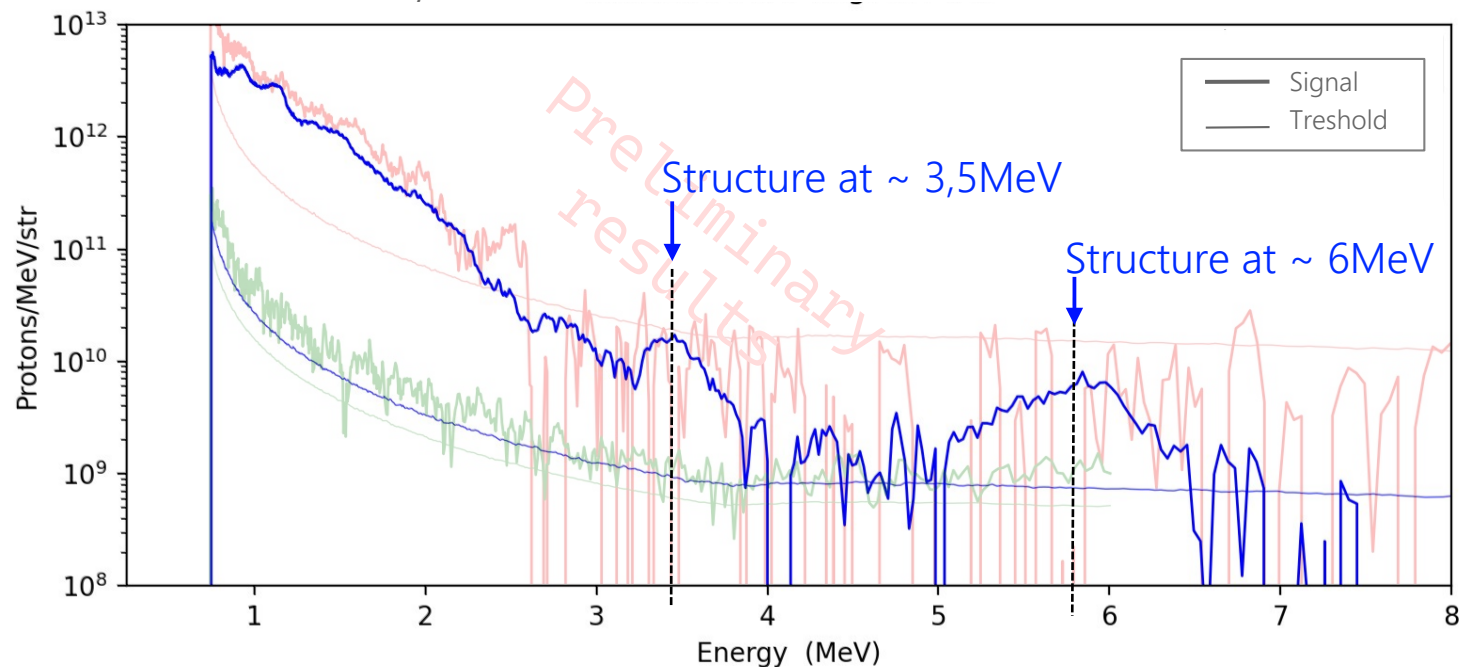
2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

2.2.2. Main at high energy (100J) with a low energy prepulse (0,1J) and 2 different delays: {100;10}ps



Spectra at 45° from the main laser direction



- No signal at 90°
- 0 & 45°
 - The maximum number of protons is almost identical
- 45° : there are x2 structures

Coulomb explosion ←

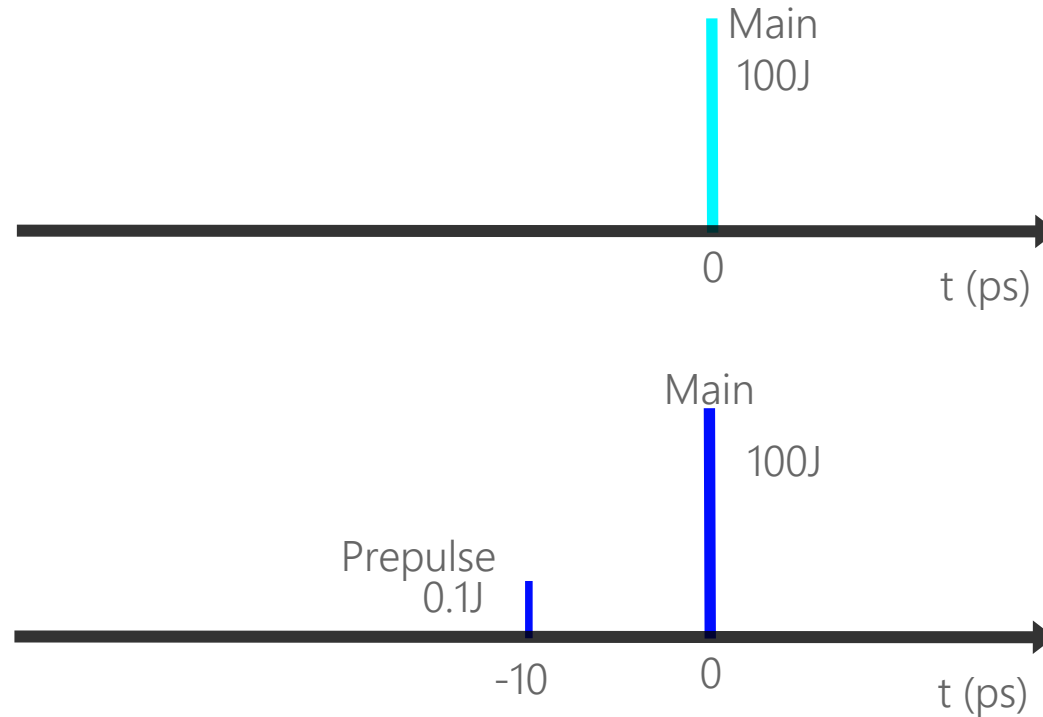
HBA + CSA ←

2. Results

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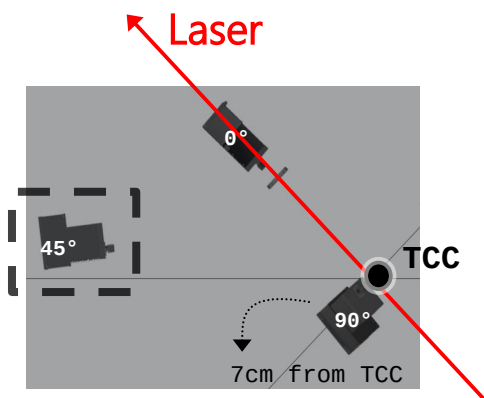
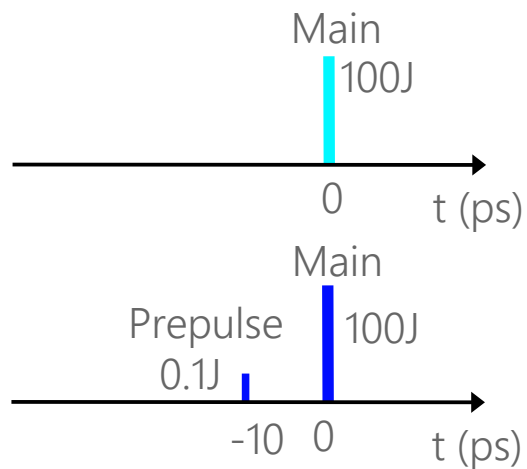
Comparing with the configuration of reference



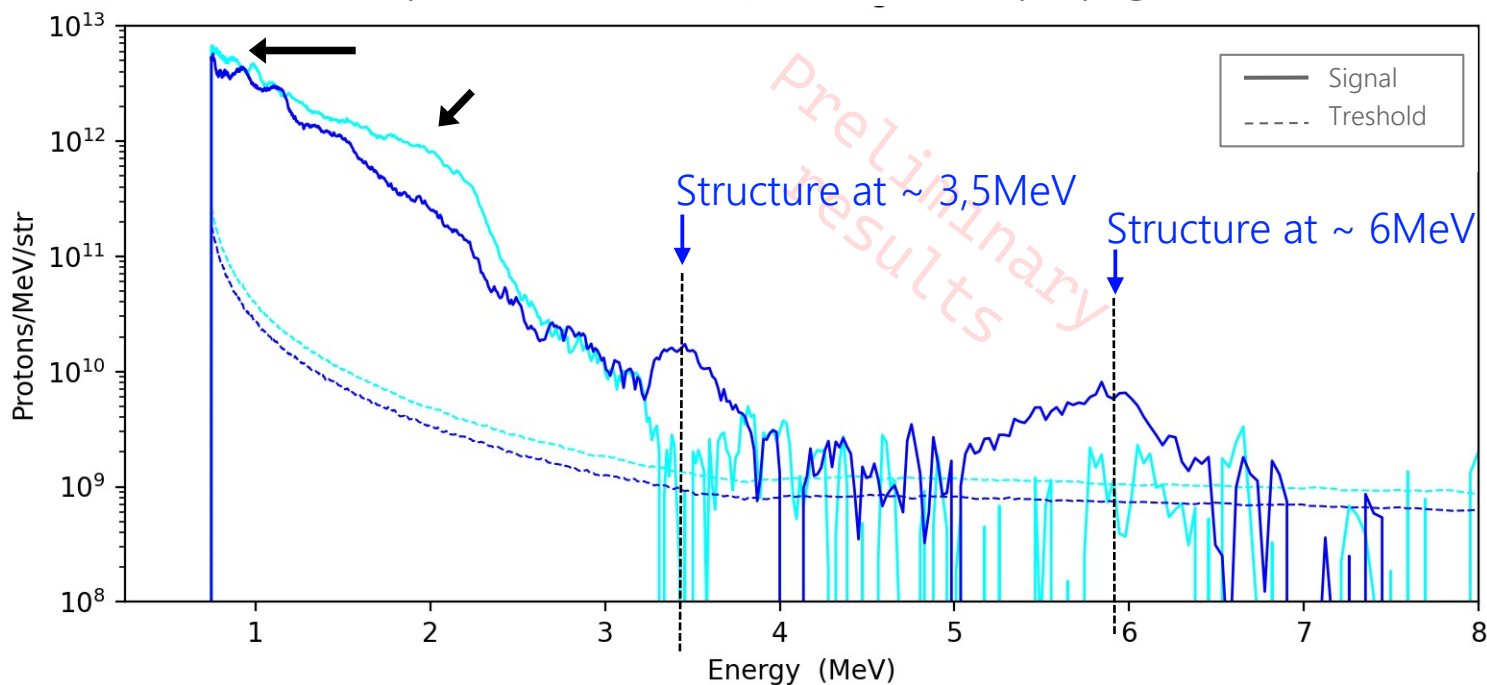
2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

2.2.2. Main at high energy (100J) with a low energy prepulse (0,1J) and 2 different delays: {100;10}ps



Spectra at 45° from the main laser propagation



Preliminary results

Coulomb explosion

Other mechanisms ?

- Same maximal number of protons at low energy.
- Less proton at low energy (around 2 MeV)

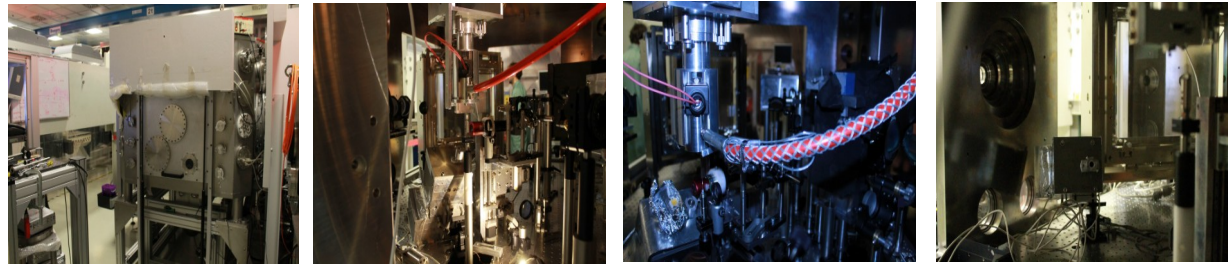
Take-home message :


A prepulse change the shape of the energy spectra.

Outline

1. Experimental setup

- 1.1. Description
- 1.2. Thomson parabola
- 1.3. Shadowgraphy



Photos of P21-00004 experimental campaign on 

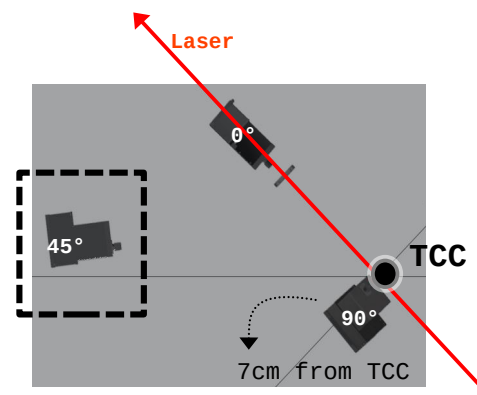
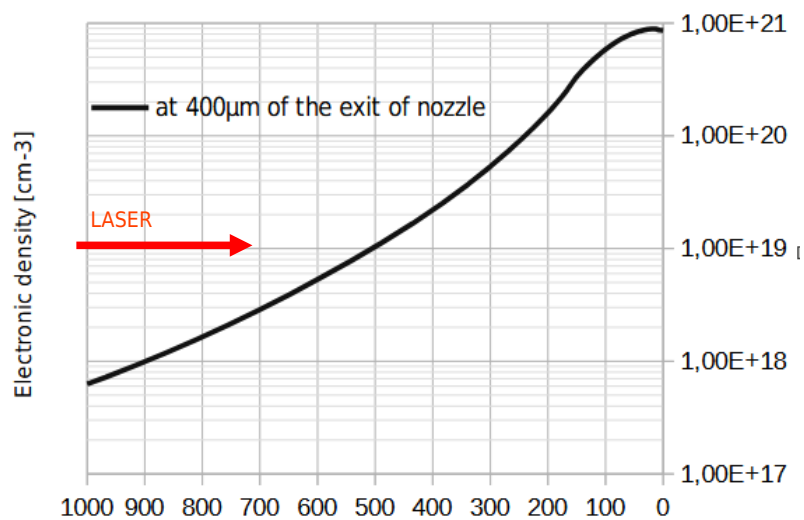
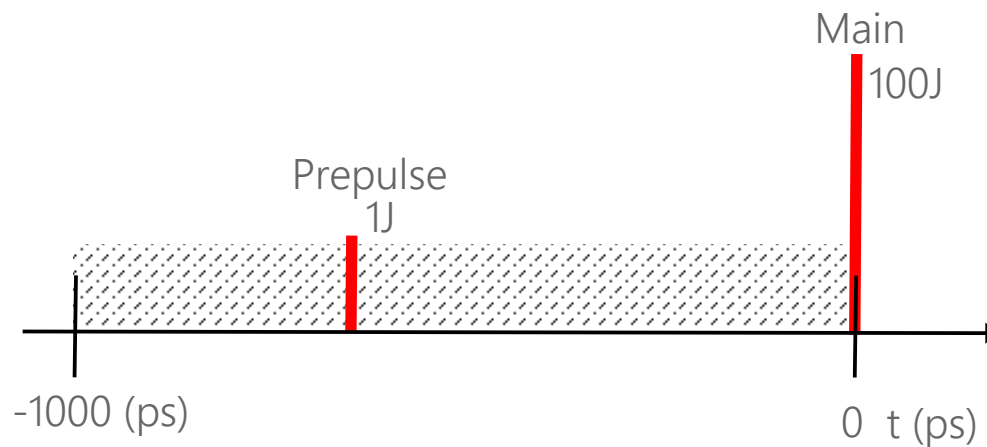
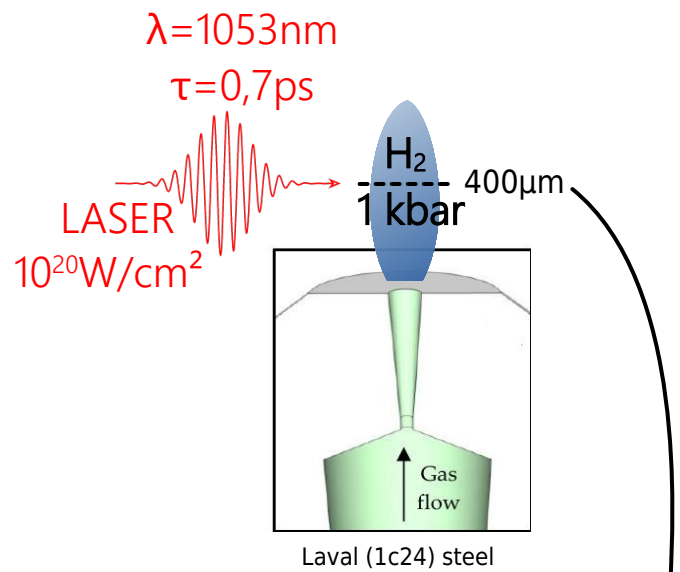
2. Results

- 2.1. Effect of the prepulse at $E_{\text{main}} = 5\text{J}$ on the interaction point.
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2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

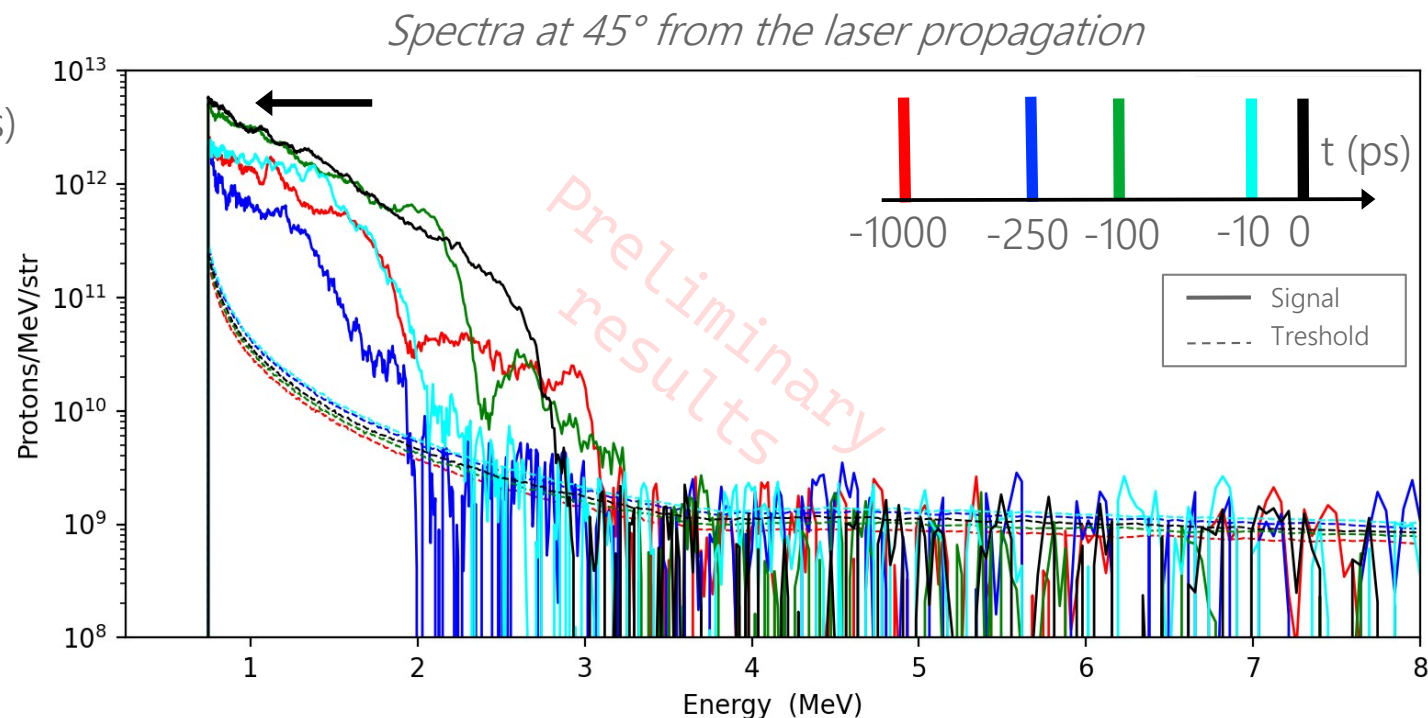
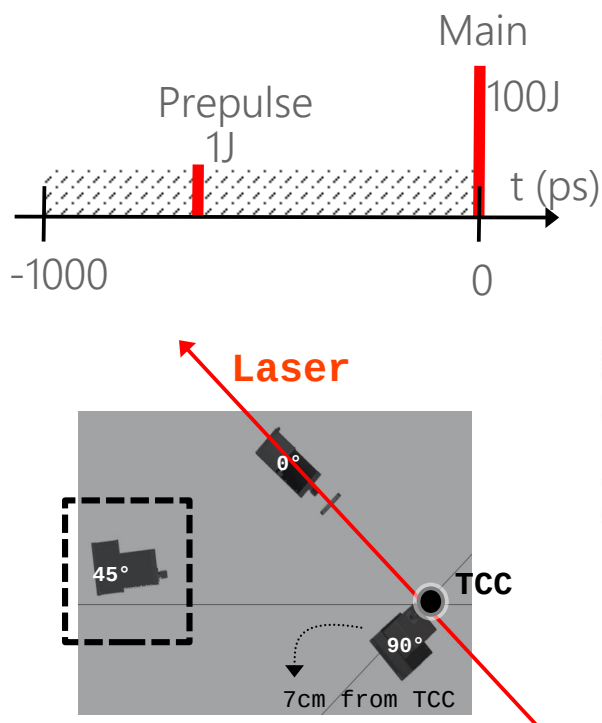
2.2.3. Delay scan and energy of the prepulse : 1J-100J & 50J-50J



2. Results

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2.2.3. Delay scan and energy of the prepulse : 1J-100J & 50J-50J



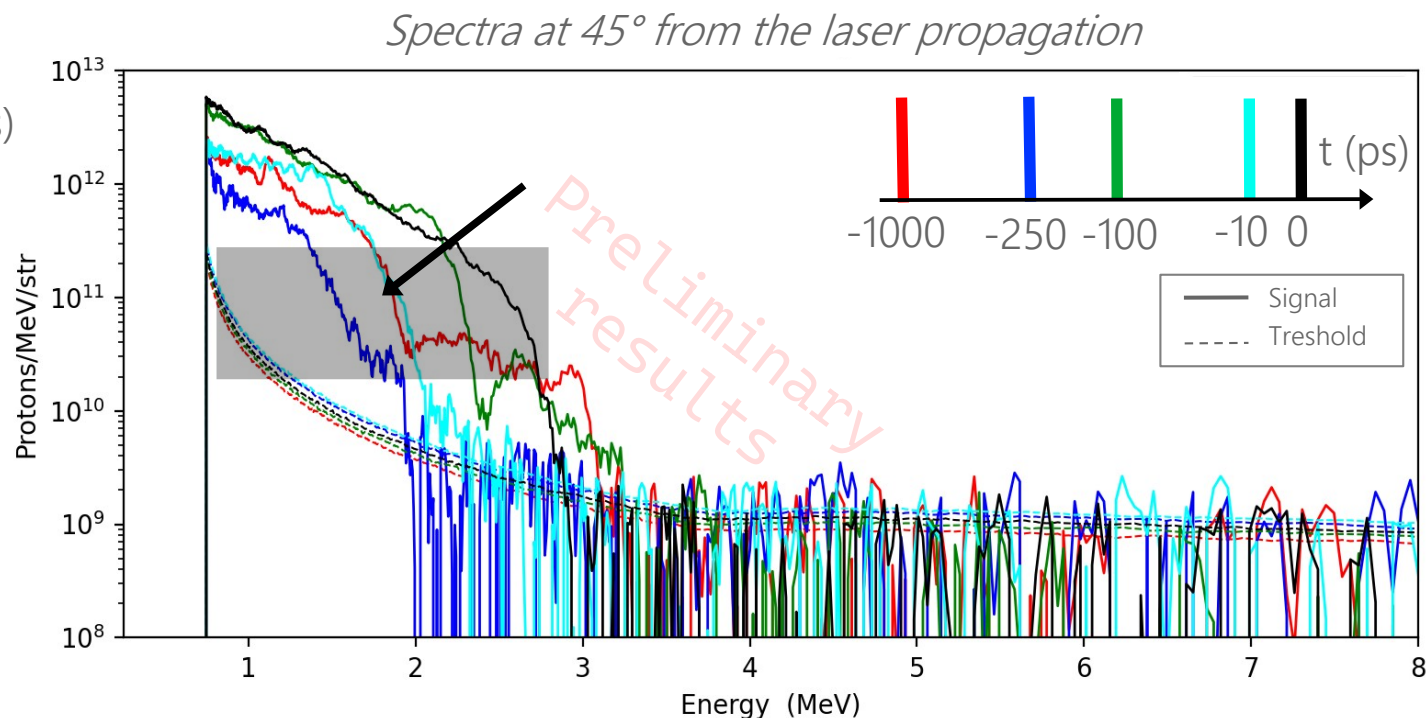
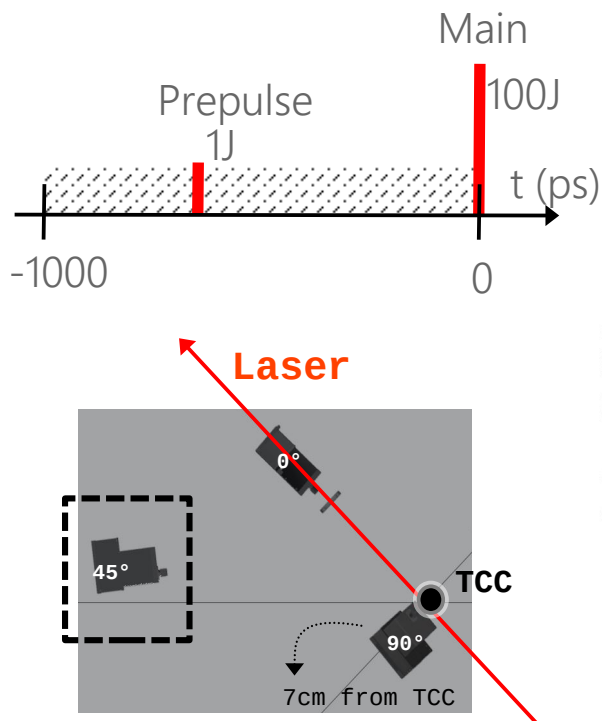
Coulomb explosion

- No clear relation between prepulse delays and maximum number of protons.
- -100ps delay reach the maximum of energy : 3 MeV.
- Loss of low energy protons
- The acceleration is directional for the -100ps delay

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

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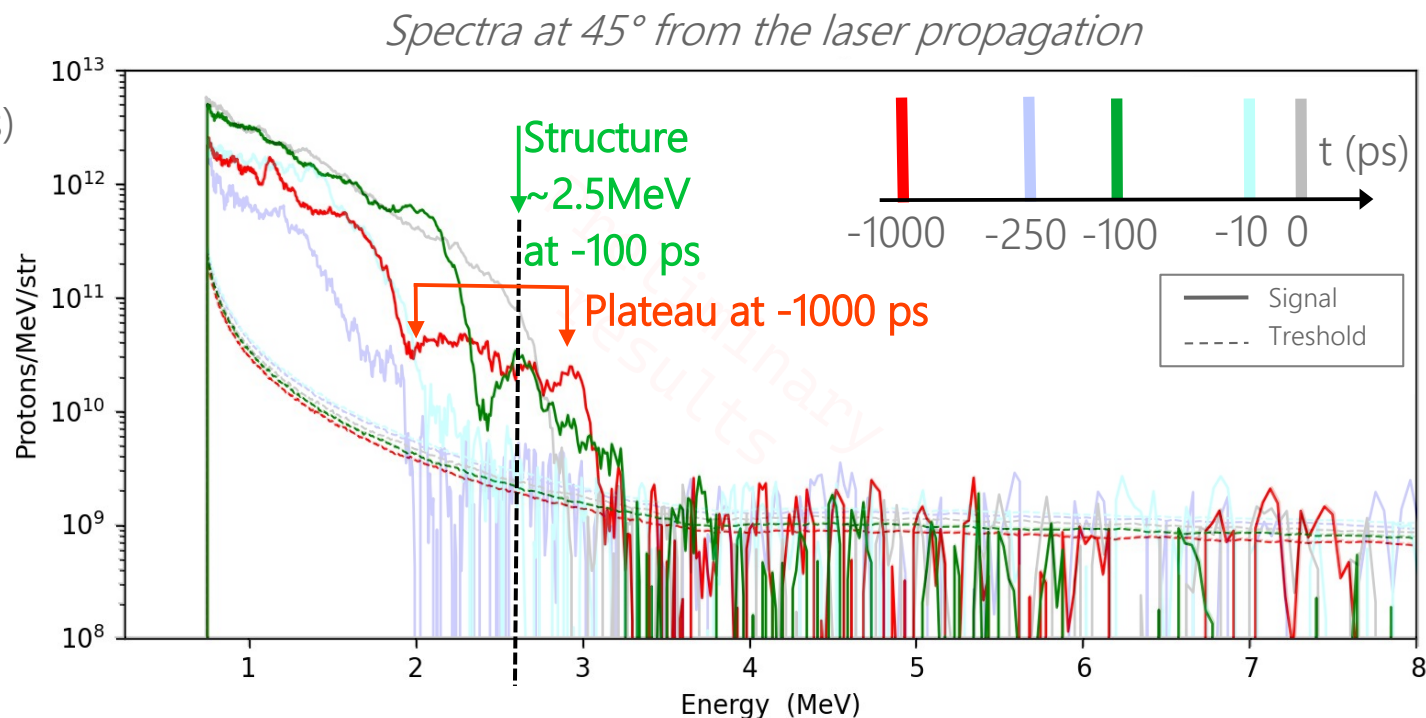
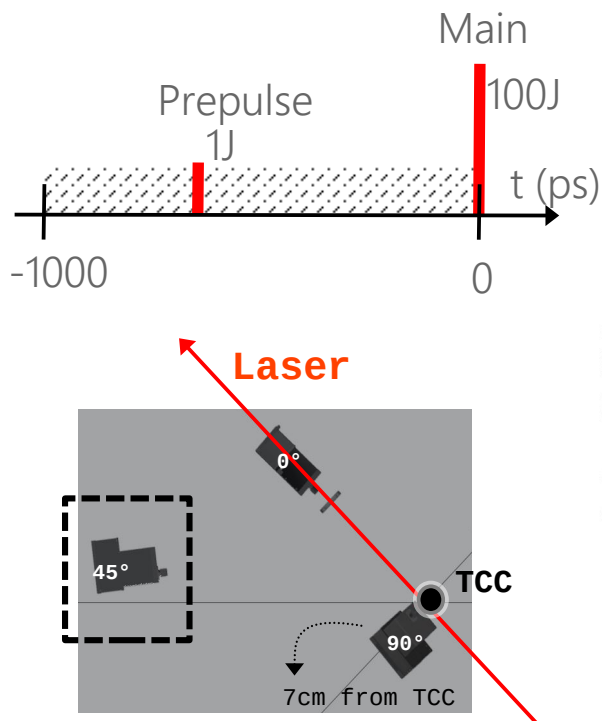
Less coulomb explosion

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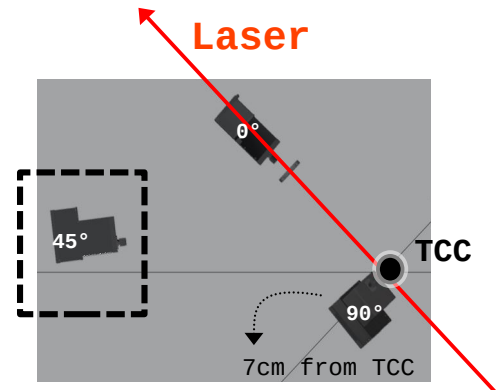
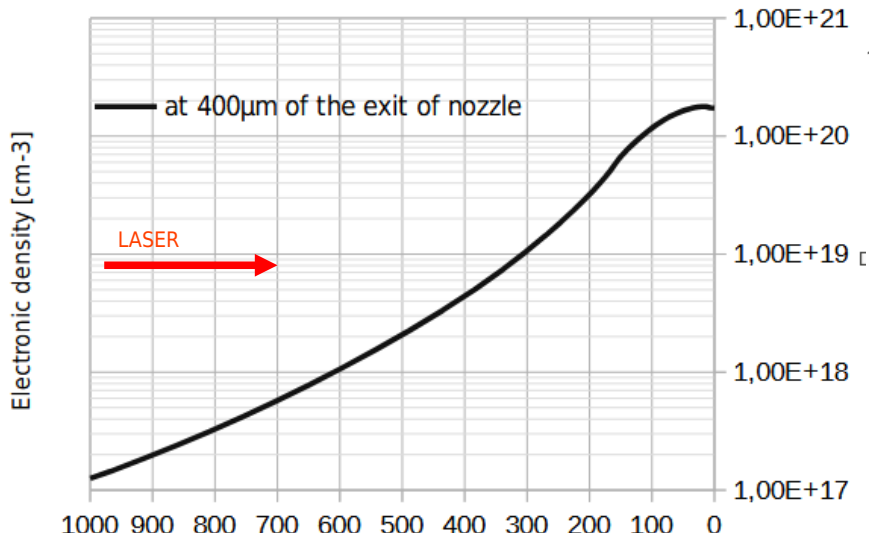
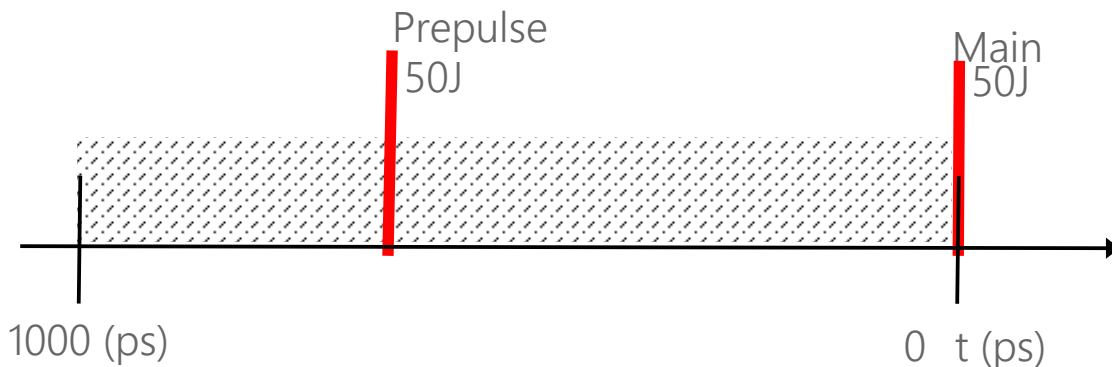
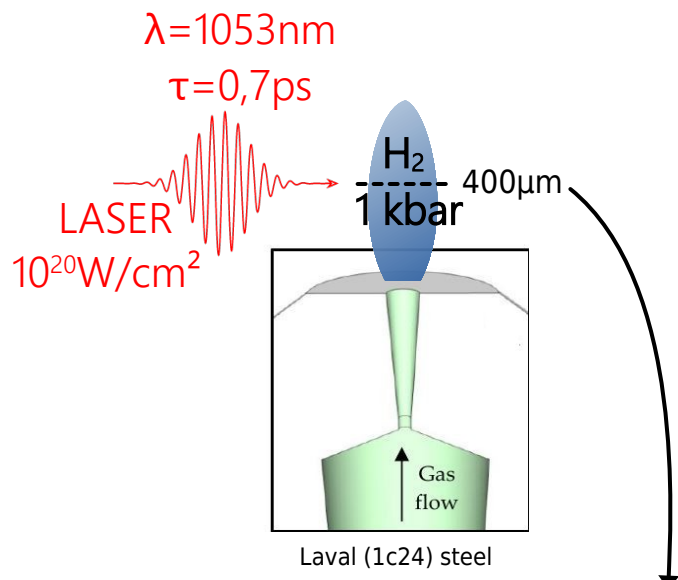
HBA + CSA

- ← The acceleration is directional for the **-100ps delay**

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

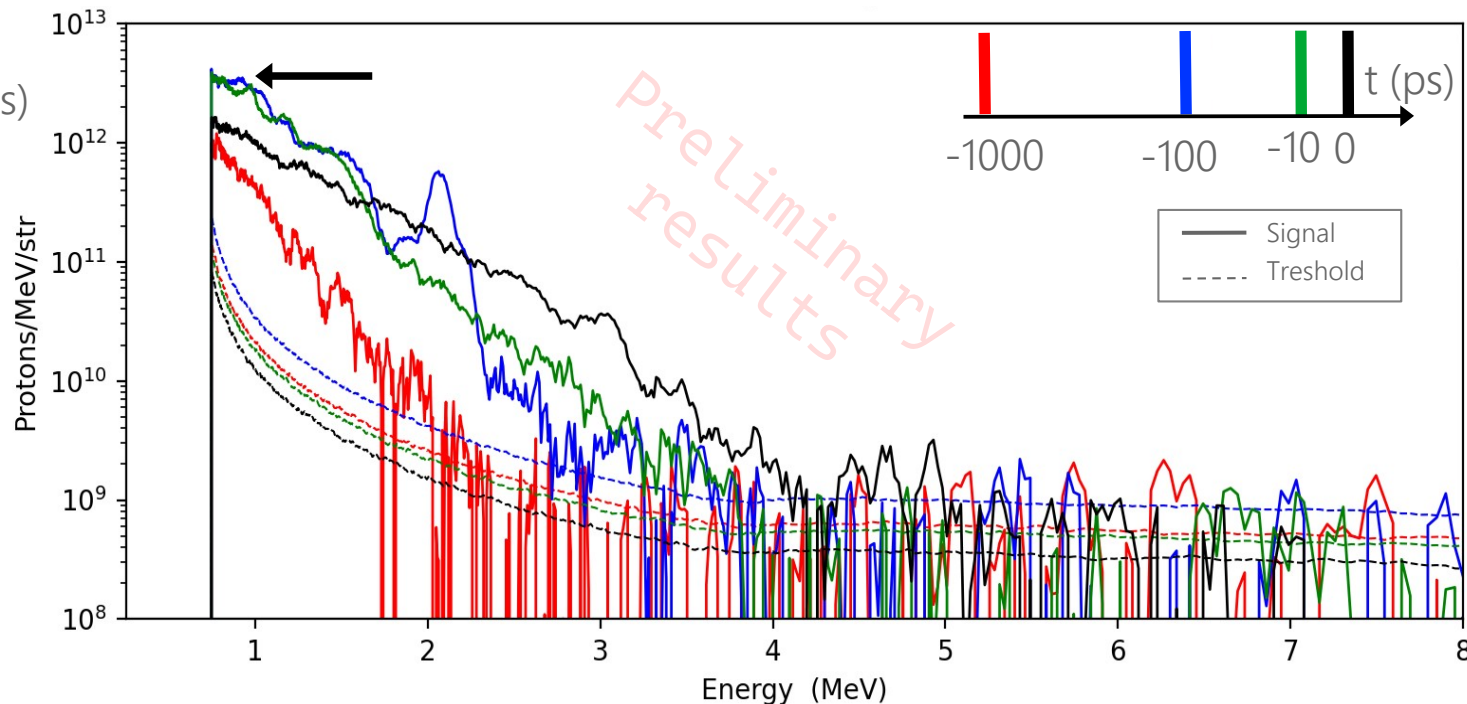
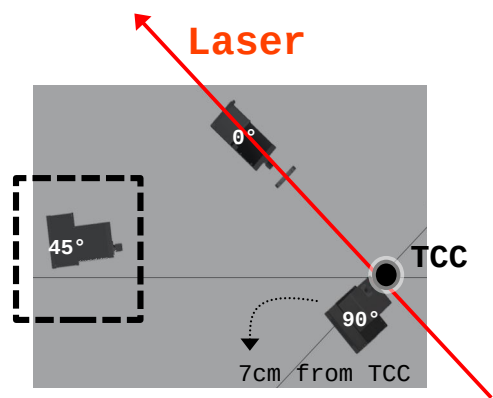
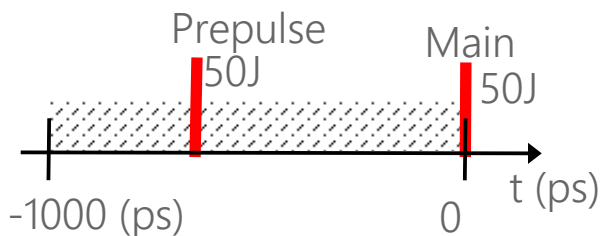
2.2.3. Delay scan and energy of the prepulse: 1J-100J & 50J-50J



2. Results

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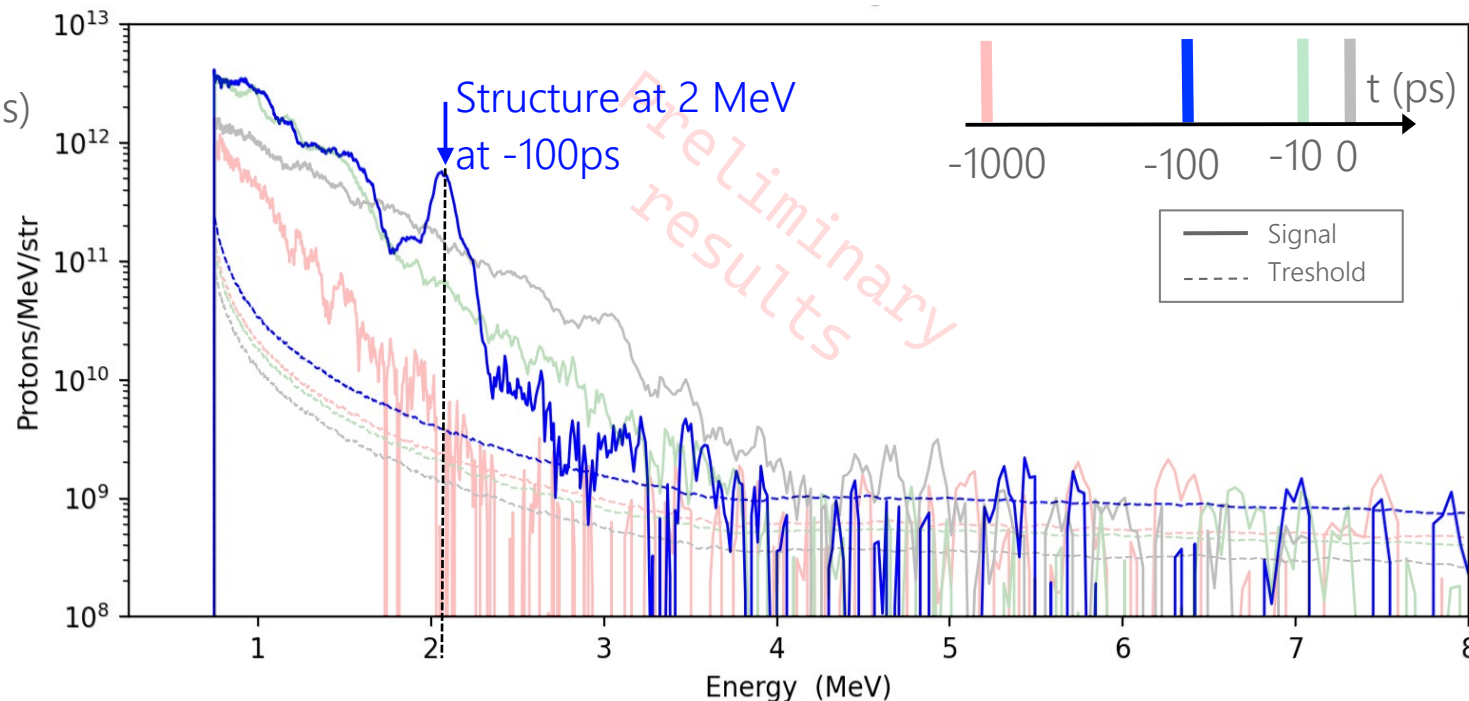
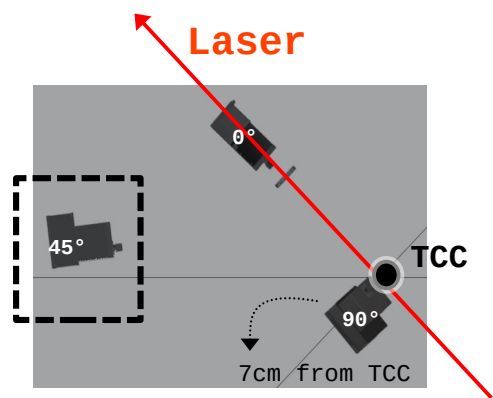
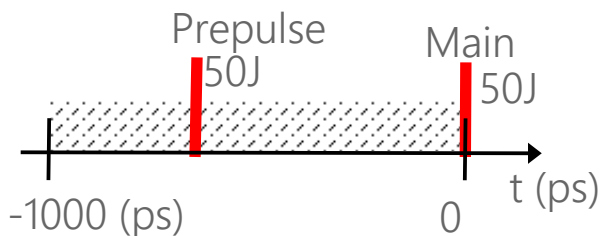
Coulomb explosion

- No relation between prepulse delays and maximum number of protons is observed.
- Directional acceleration at 45° with high number of protons (10^{12})

2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

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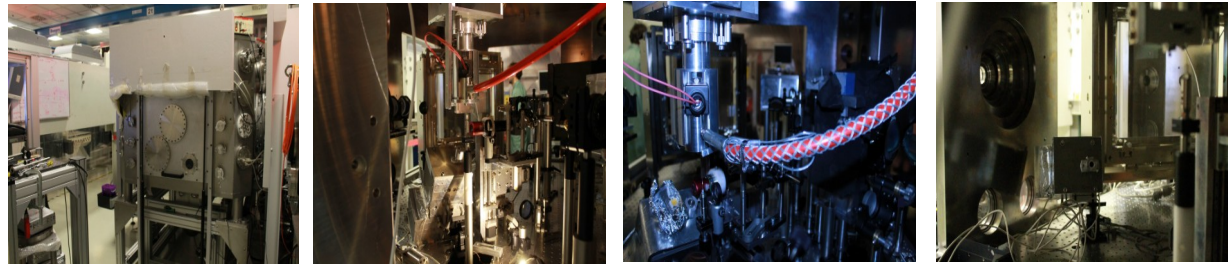
← • Directional acceleration at 45° with high number of protons (10^{12})


For this 2 energy configurations (0,1J-100J & 50J-50J), a prepulse with a delay of **-100ps** changes ions spectra.

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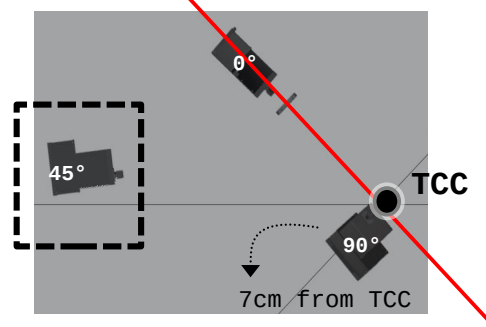
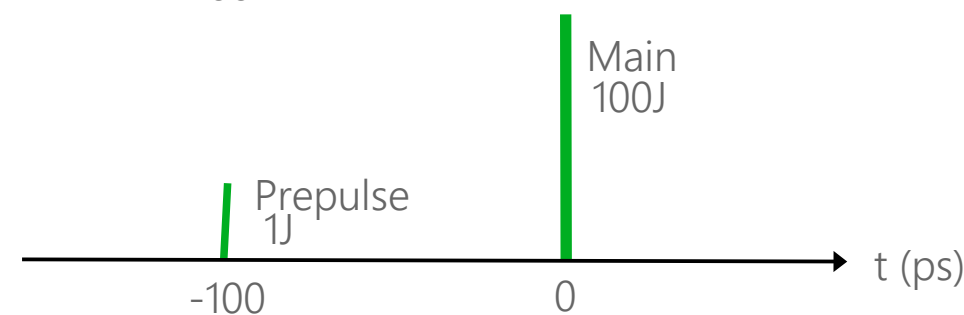
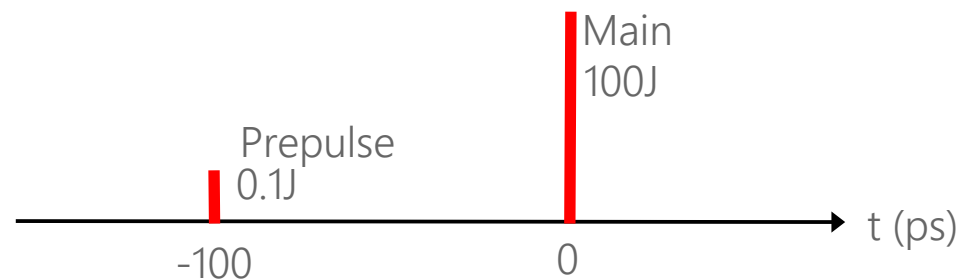
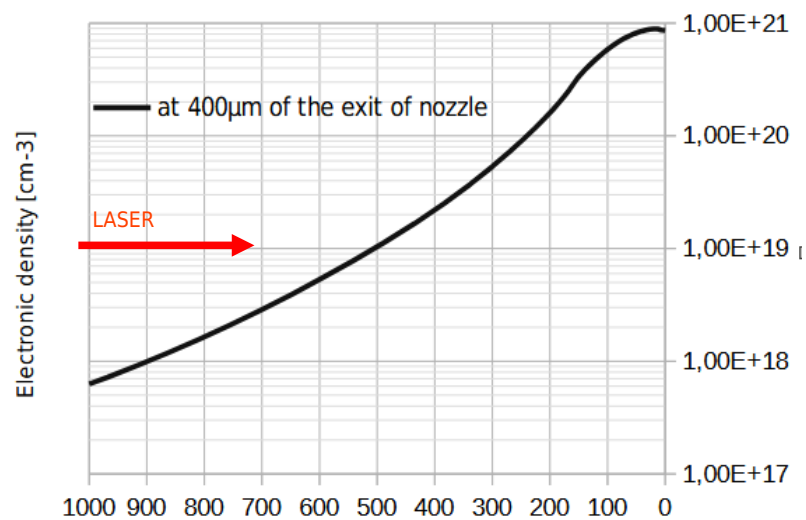
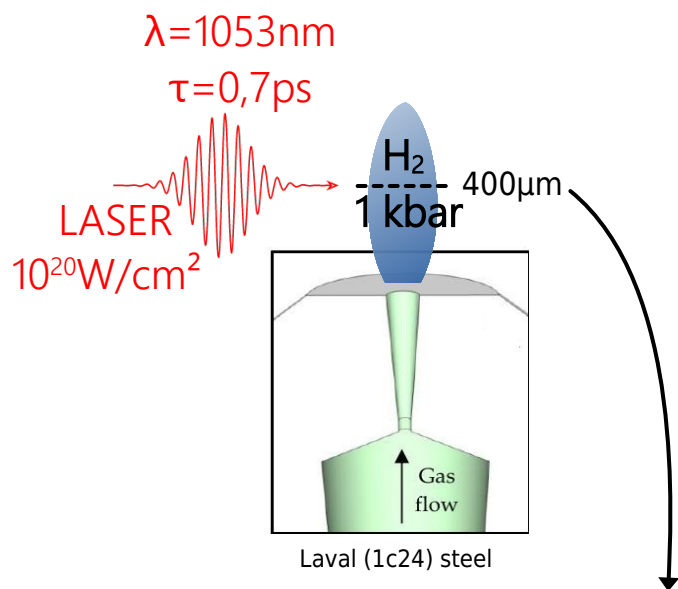
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2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

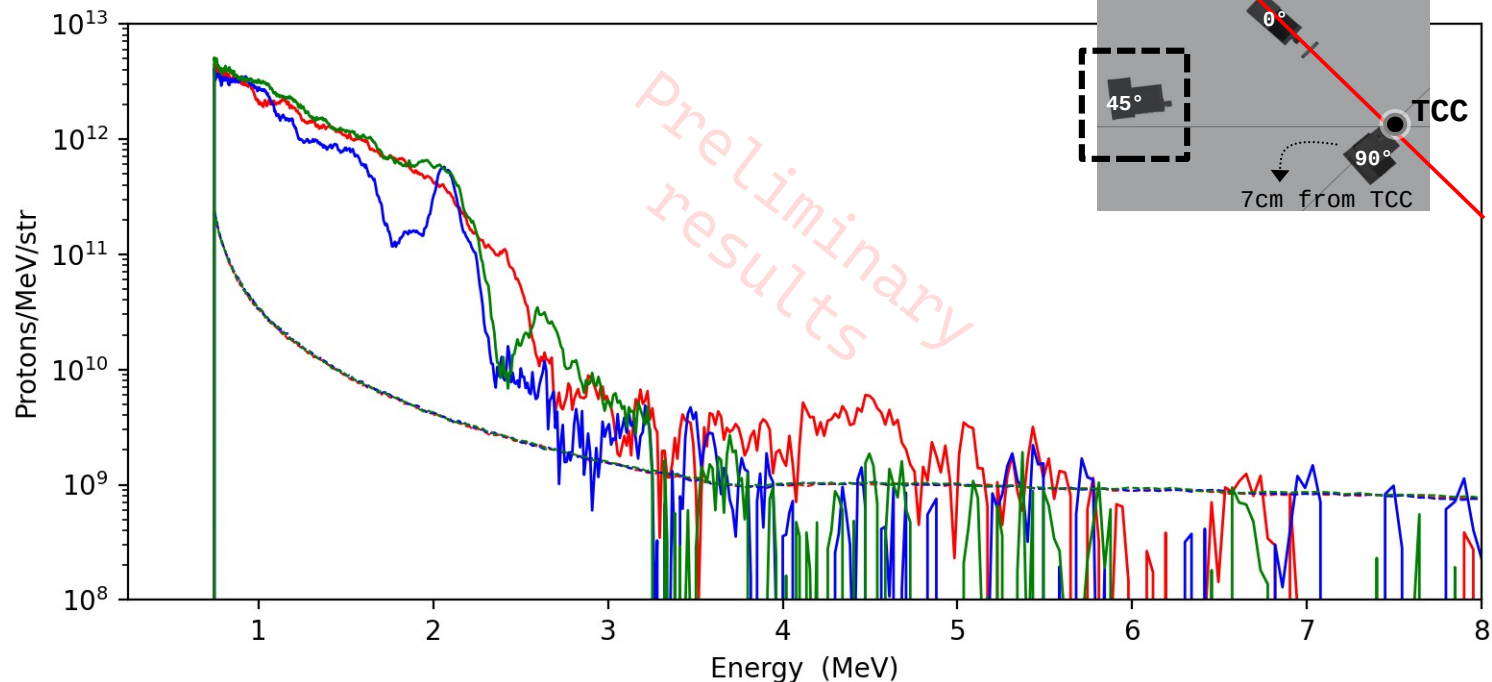
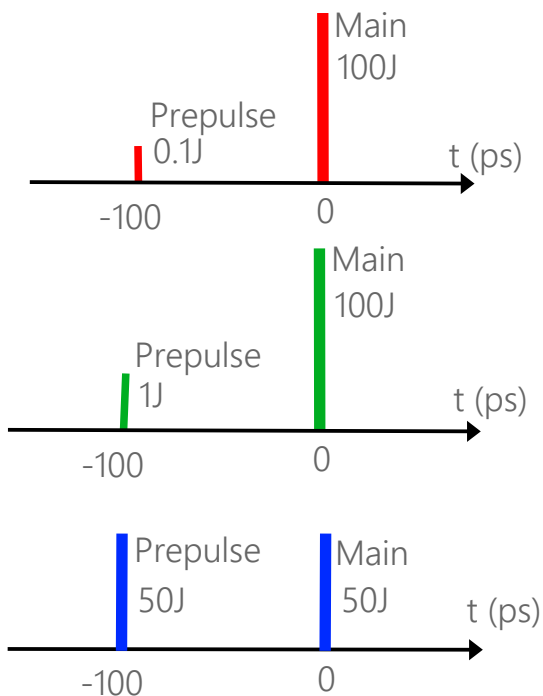
2.2.4. Energy scan at 100 ps delay of the prepulse.



2. Results

2.2. Effect of the prepulse on ions spectra

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Preliminary results

TNSA-Like

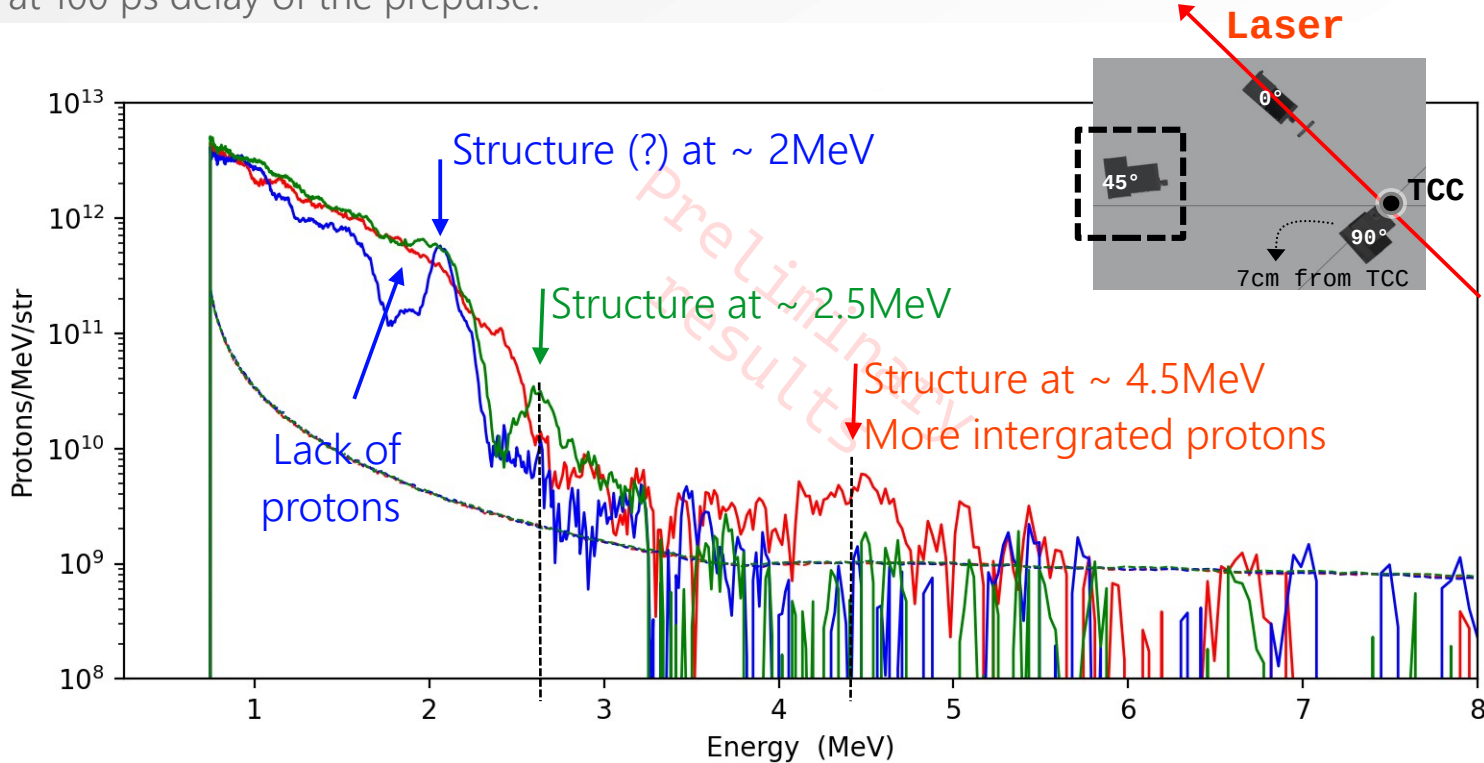
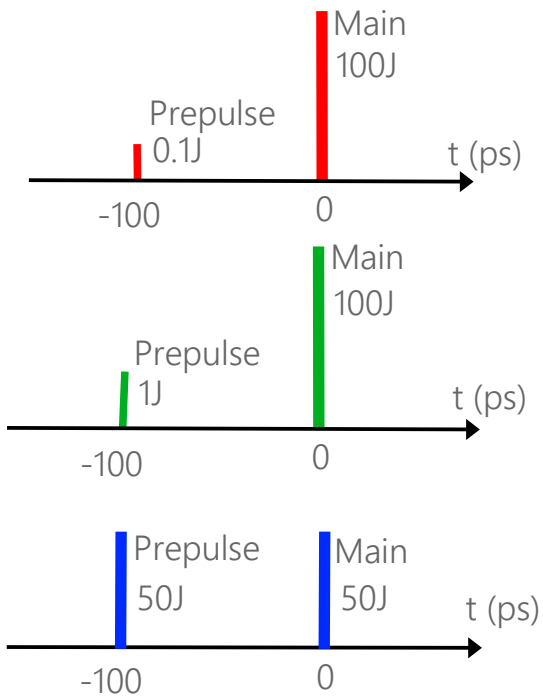
Coulomb explosion

- Similarities :
- Tendancies.
- Maximum number of protons at low energy
- Directionnal acceleration at 45° with different structures depending of the energy.

2. Results

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2.2.4. Energy scan at 100 ps delay of the prepulse.



TNSA-Like

Coulomb explosion

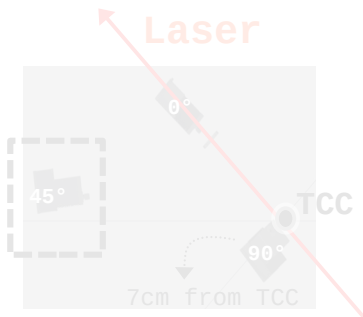
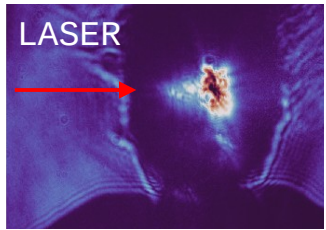
HBA + CSA

- Similarities :
- Tendancies.
- Maximum number of protons at low energy
- Directionnal acceleration at 45° with different structures depending of the energy.

Delay and energy must be chosen together

The energy of the prepulse must be <1J to not completely alter the target.

Summary and perspectives



Smilei)

Powerlite DLS 8000

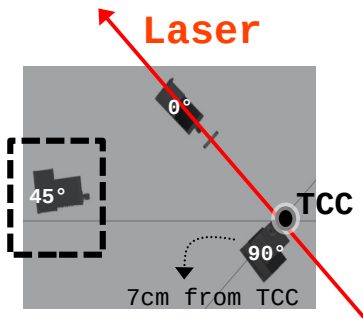
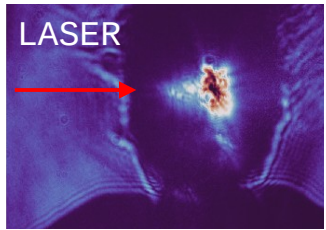


- A low energy prepulse interacting with a gaz jet formed by a laval nozzle allows the main pulse to reach the **core** of the target : high gradient and high electronic density.
- It enables to **favour angle** of acceleration : Mainly situated at 45° from propagation direction with energy up to 6MeV. It can reach 7MeV at 90° → CSA ? We need reproducibility studies.
- Prepulse **delay** and **energy** have to be determined **together**.
- Many other acceleration mecanisms than CSA (TNSA-Like, Coulomb explosion, HBA) → We need **simulations** to identify them.

2D/3D simulations with several hydrodynamics input profiles wich will reproduce this experiment.

- Experimental campaigns at LP2IB : prepulse studies with differents shapes, at different probe delays on two type of target with a YAG Laser (Powerlite DLS 8000) 1J,8ns, FWHM $\sim 50\mu\text{m}$.
- Direct application on an ultra high intensity laser facility with a ns YAG laser.
- Study reproducibility.

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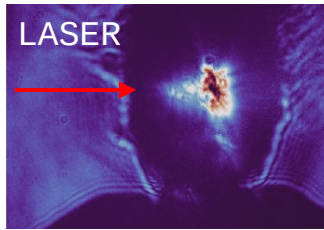
Smilei)

Powerlite DLS 8000

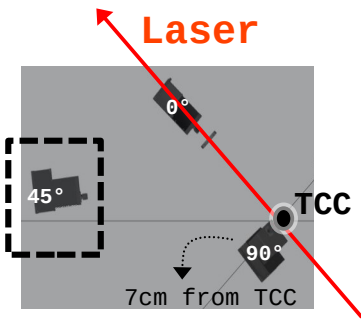


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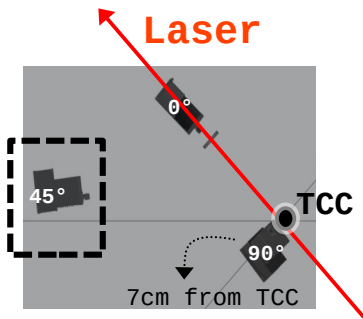
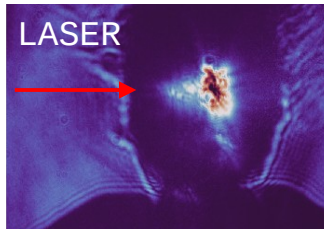
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Powerlite DLS 8000



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Summary and perspectives



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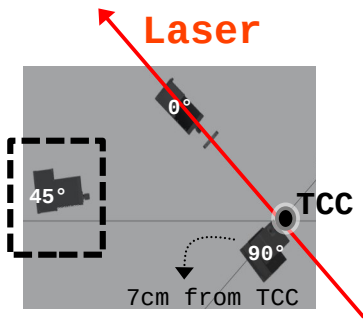
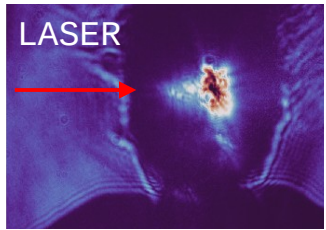
Smilei)

Powerlite DLS 8000



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Summary and perspectives



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- Study reproducibility.



Thank you
for your attention.



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Questions ?

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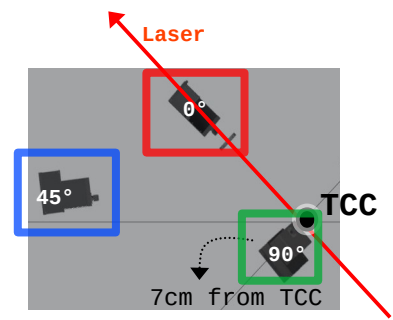
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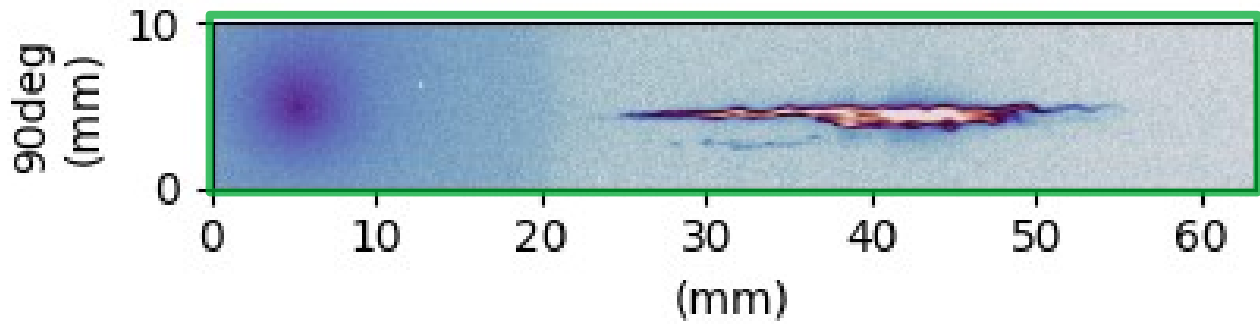
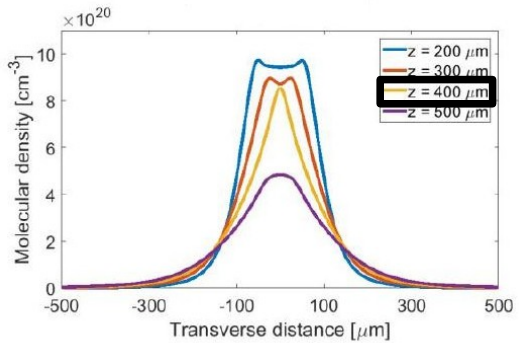
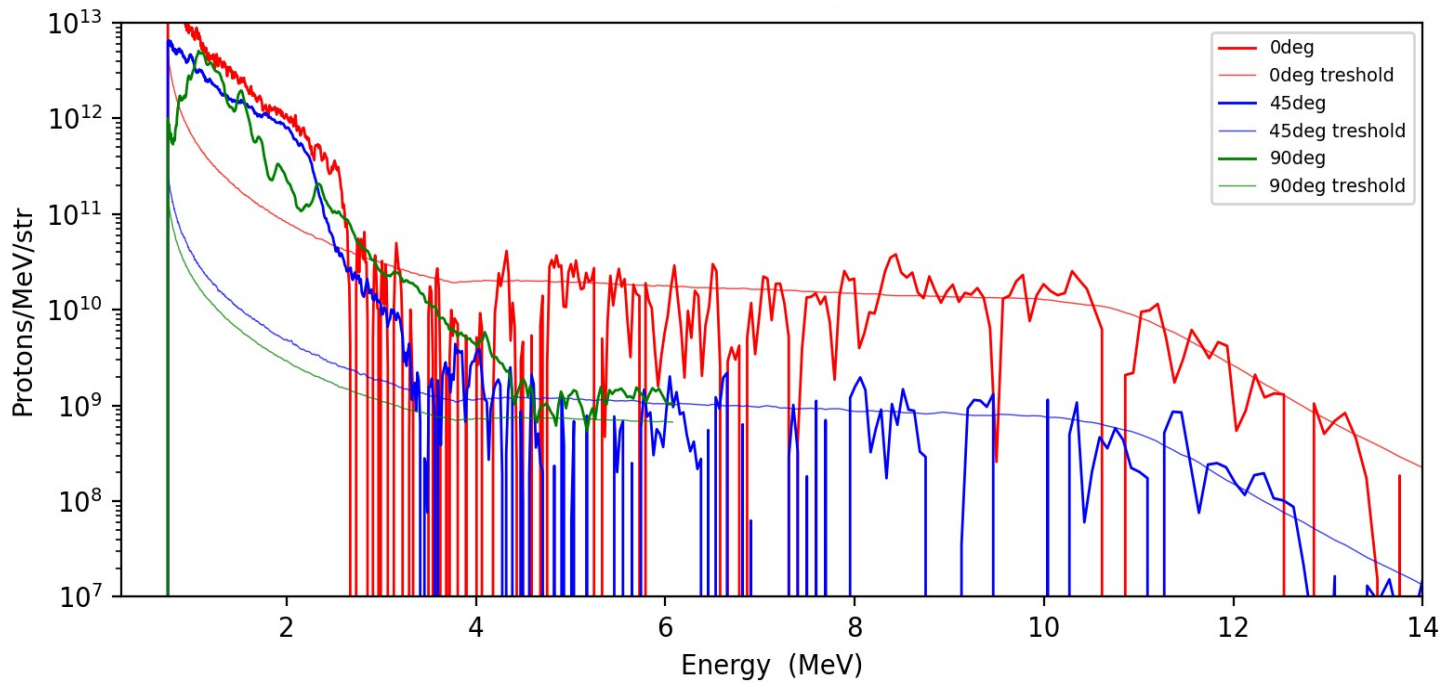
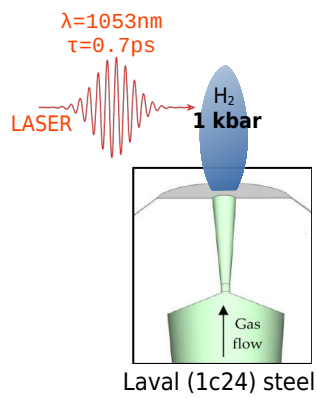
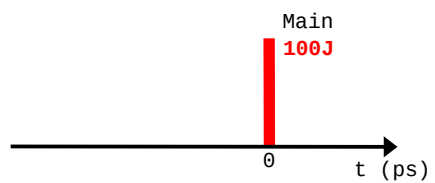
Backup

Results

Angular scan with a high energy main pulse (100J) without pre-pulse



Configuration	Spectrum at 45°
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1 Experimental setup

2 Results

Effect on 2w generation Delay scan Angular scan without prepulse

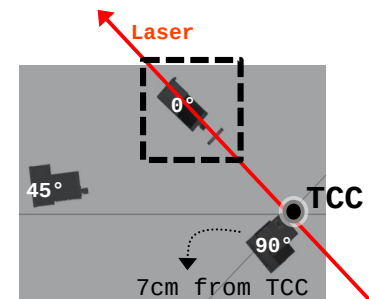
Results

Delay scan 50J-50J pre-main pulse energies.

1 Experimental setup

2 Results

Delay scan 1/1/100J - 50J/50J - Comparison



Configuration	Spectrum at 90°
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