



# 3D SIMULATIONS CAPTURE THE PERSISTENT LOW MODE ASYMMETRIES EVIDENT IN LASER-DIRECT-DRIVE IMPLOSIONS ON OMEGA

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1. CELIA, BORDEAUX

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3. SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES\*, NM

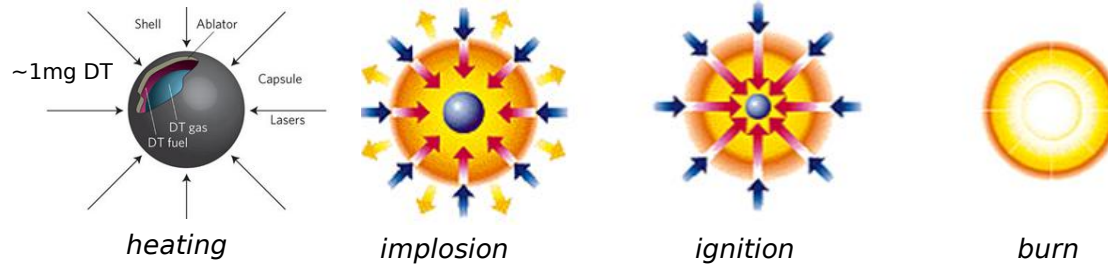
4. LLNL, LIVERMORE CA



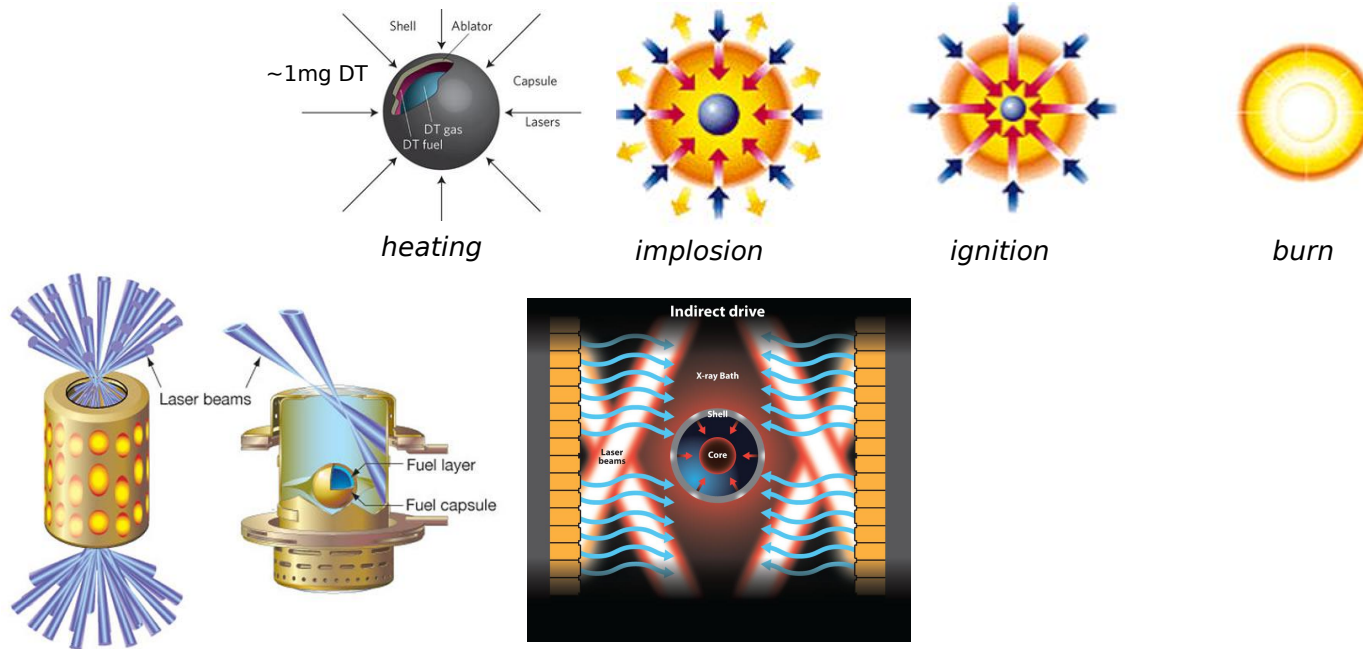
LLNL-PRES-XXXXXX

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# DIRECT-DRIVE ICF RELIES ON HIGH LEVELS OF SYMMETRY TO REACH HIGH GAINS, WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION



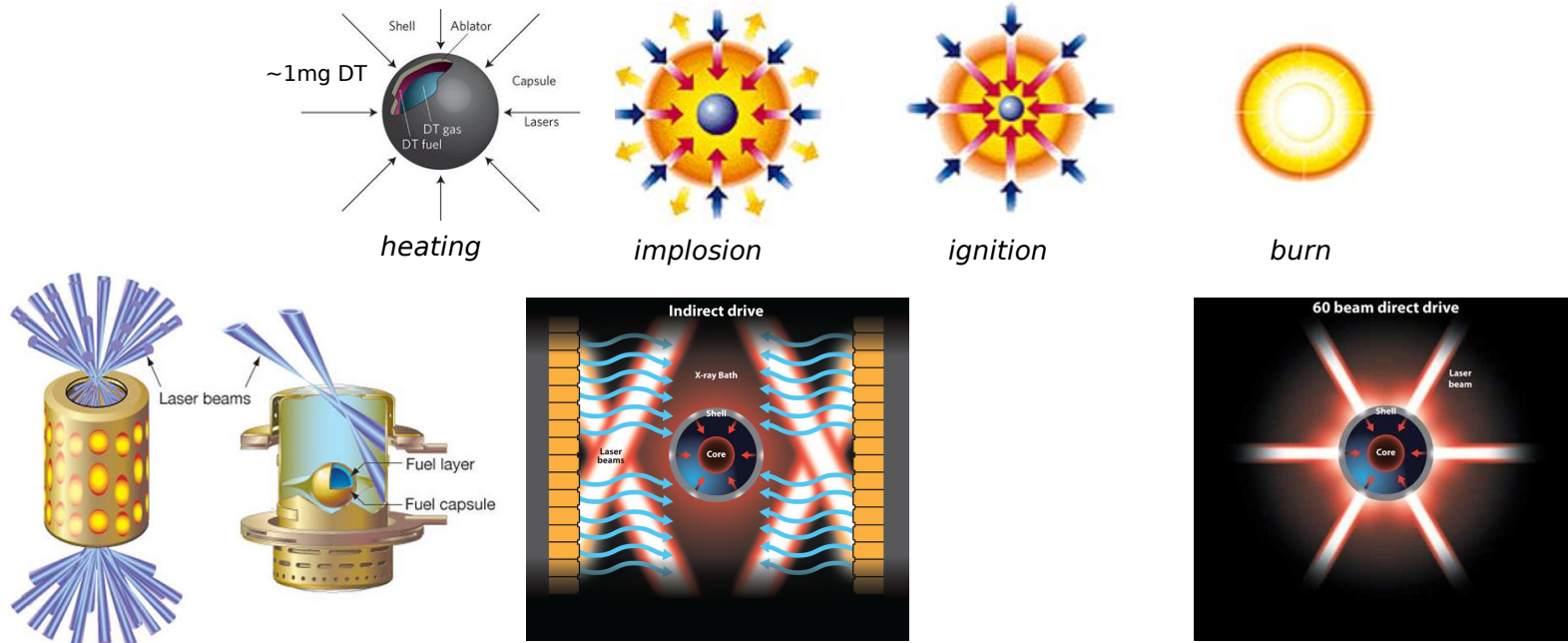
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## Indirect-drive approach

- Lower gain (X-ray conversion)
- Higher drive smoothness
- Time-dependant cylindrical drive to implode a spherical capsule

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## Direct-drive approach => favored for energy production

- Higher gain
- More sensitive to 3D laser effects (imbalance, alignment, etc) and beam smoothness

**Understanding the sources of implosion perturbations is key to reach high gains for inertial fusion energy**

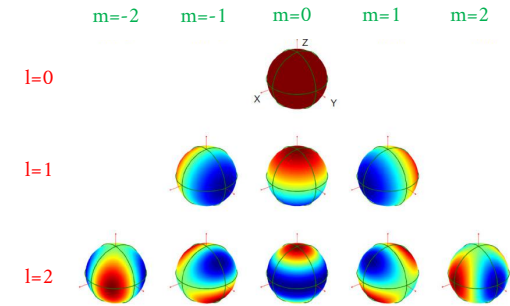


# BEST-SETUP EXPERIMENTS ON OMEGA IN 2019-2020 EXHIBIT SYSTEMATIC FLOW ANOMALIES

Database of 111 shots conducted in 2019-2020 on OMEGA

=> down-selection of 12 shots with:

- 60 beams, full SSD
- good ice thickness uniformity ( $<1\%$   $l=1$ )
- good ice surface roughness
- low pointing error ( $<2\%$   $l=1$ ,  $<2\%$   $l=2$  to  $<1\%$   $l=1$ )
- low power imbalance
- low target offset ( $<5$  microns to  $<1$  micron)



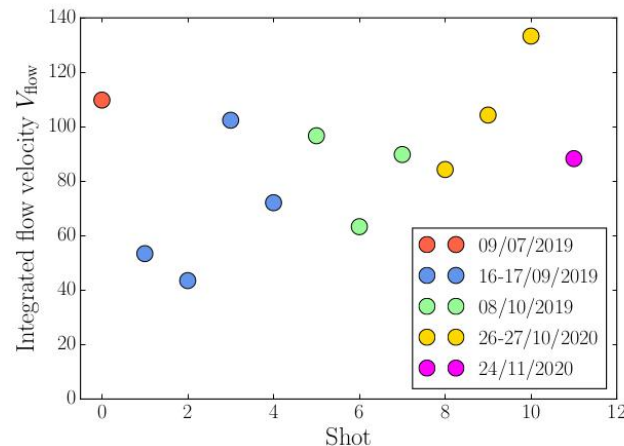
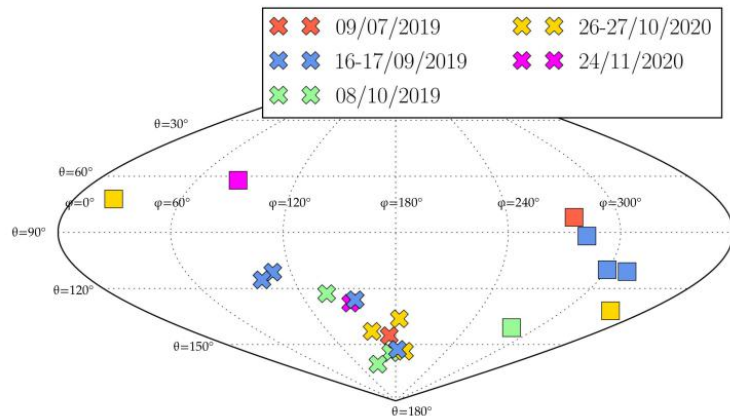
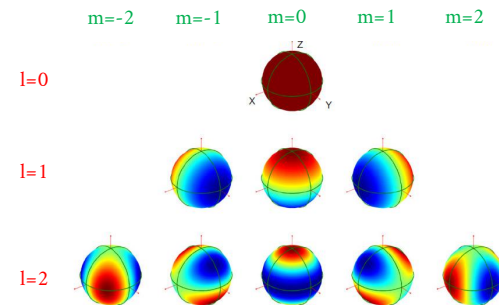
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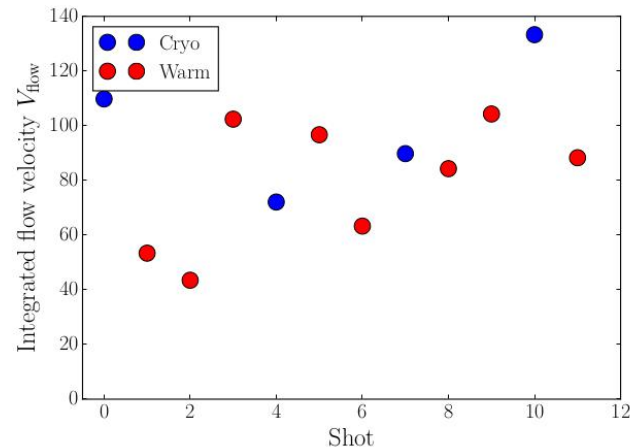
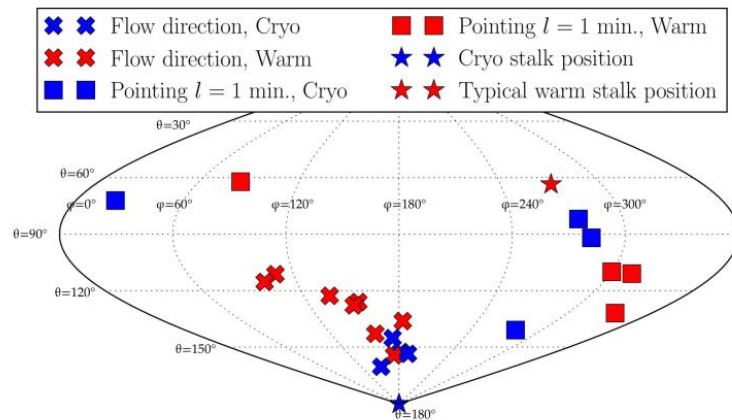
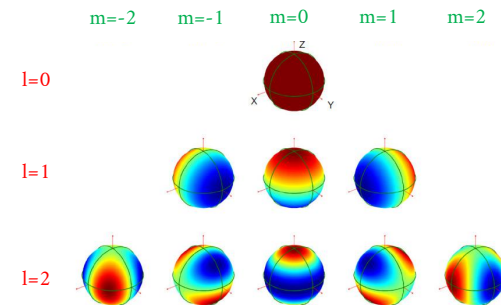
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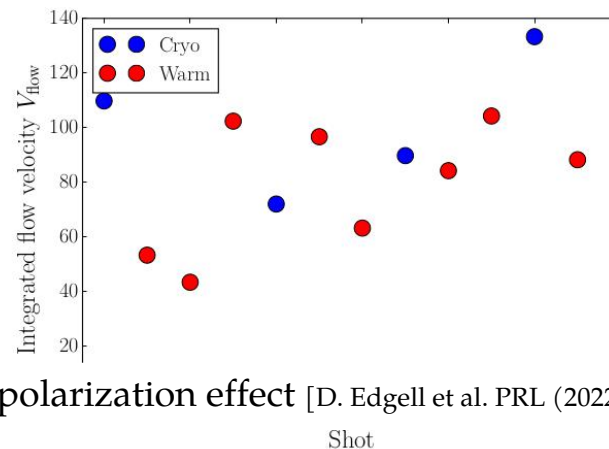
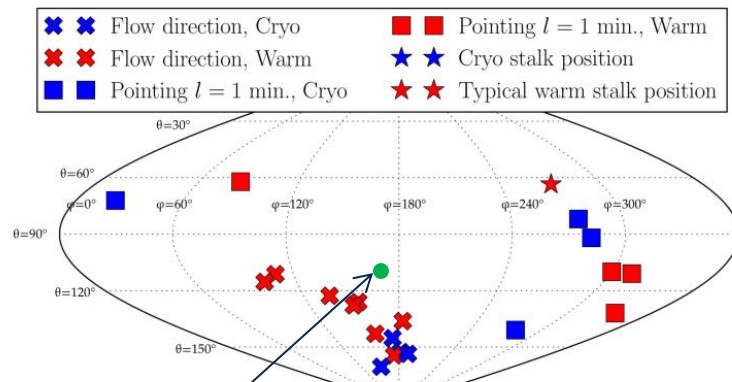
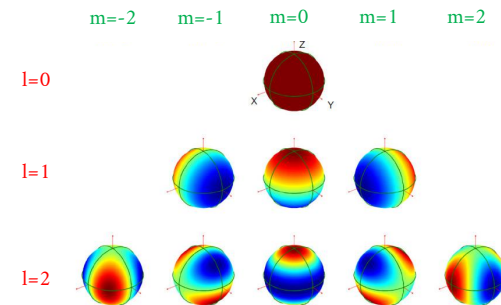


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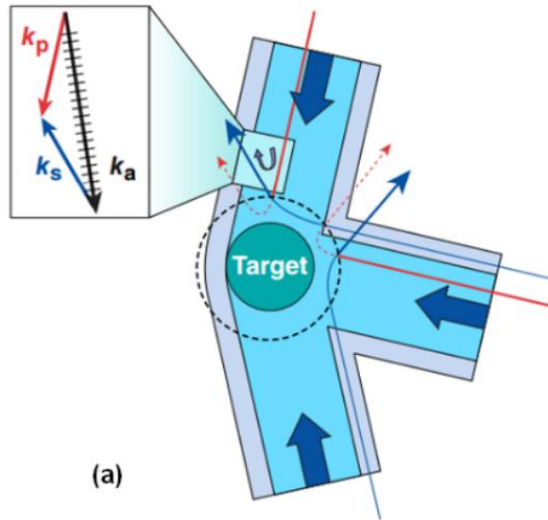
- Is the polarization effect of CBET responsible for the systematic anomaly ?
- If including most sources of low modes, can the modeling reproduce the OMEGA measurements for neutron data ? (is the modeling also accurate for NIF direct-drive expts ?)
- What is the relative contribution of these sources to yield degradation ?
- How to mitigate low modes ?
- Early results from inline CBET with bandwidth: 1% bandwidth on OMEGA



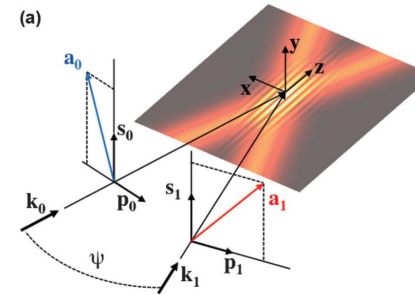
# UNPOLARIZED CBET FROM A SYMMETRIC BEAM PATTERN PRODUCES A SYMMETRIC IRRADIATION

Why would the polarization effect matter ... ?

Cross Beam Energy Transfer (CBET) transfers energy between beams through a shared IAW grating



[A. K. Davis et al. PoP (2016)]



[P. Michel et al. PoP 17 (2010)]

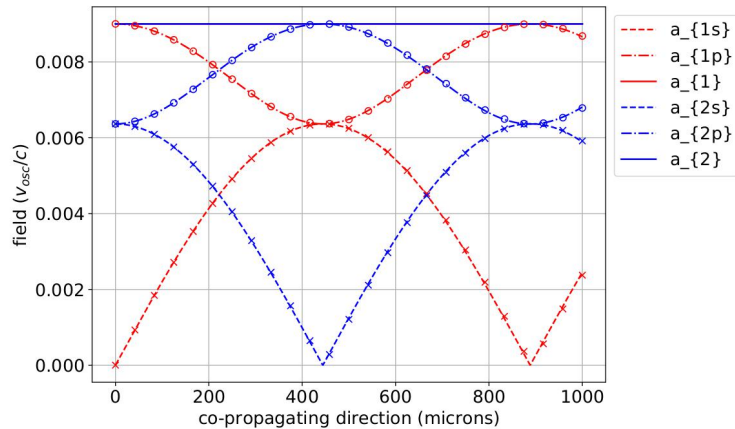
In direct-drive, reflected beams “steal” energy from incident beams

If the laser configuration is **perfectly symmetric**, the unpolarized CBET also remains symmetric

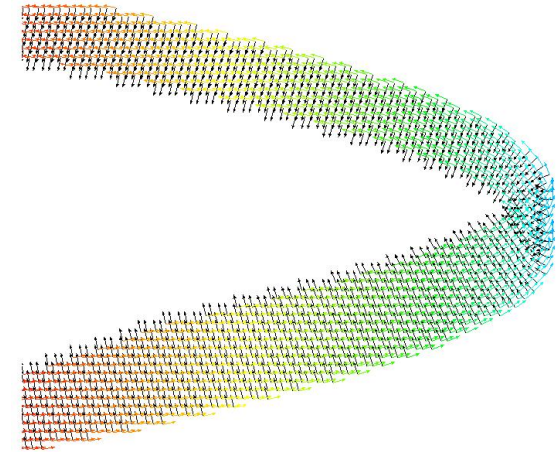
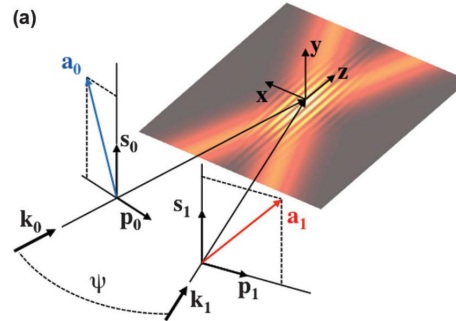
# POLARIZATION EFFECTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETAILS OF CBET AMPLIFICATION

Why would the polarization effect matter ... ?

- Ellipticity induced from propagation in a bi-refringent medium formed by the IAW grating
- Probe beam polarization rotation toward that of the pump
- Polarization transport through refraction

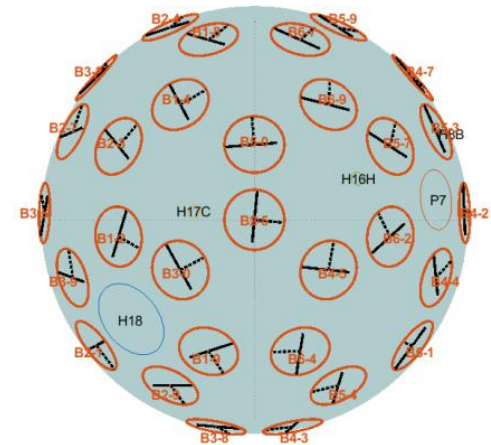
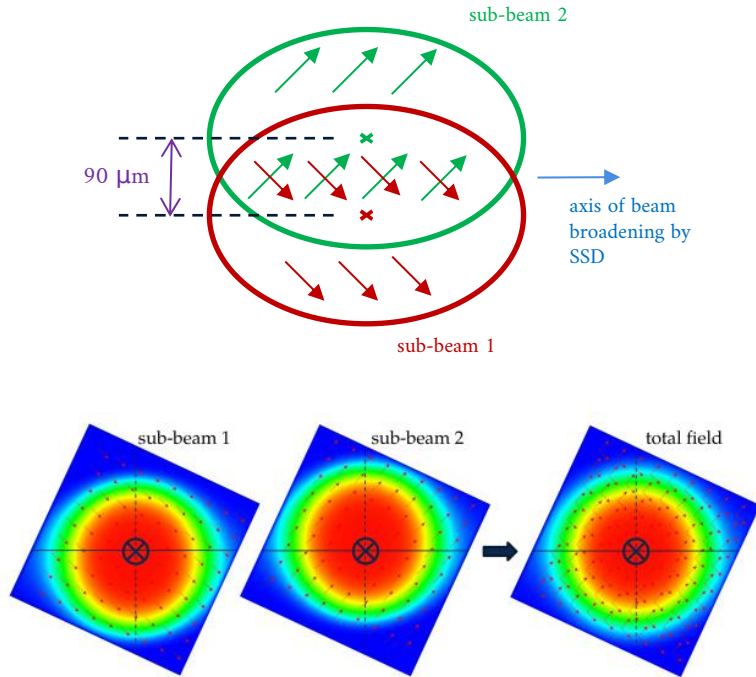


Beams interacting in a medium with  
 $\text{Im}(K) = 0$  and  $\text{Re}(K) \neq 0$



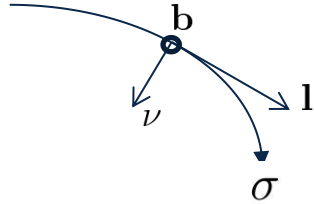
# THE POLARIZATION CONFIGURATION ON OMEGA IS NON-SYMMETRIC

Why would the polarization effect matter ... ?



# INLINE MODELING OF POLARIZED CBET RELIES ON DECOMPOSITION OF THE FIELD ON THE FRENET FRAME OF RAYS

Frenet reference frame



$$\boldsymbol{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\mathcal{K}\epsilon'} \nabla_{\perp} \epsilon'$$

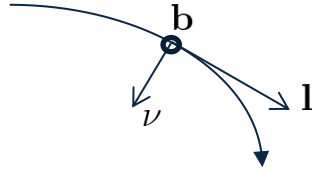
$$\mathcal{K} = \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{\nabla \epsilon'}{\epsilon'} \times \mathbf{1} \right|$$

$$\frac{d\boldsymbol{\nu}}{d\sigma} = -\mathcal{K}\mathbf{1} + \kappa\mathbf{b}$$

$$\kappa = \mathbf{b} \cdot \frac{d\boldsymbol{\nu}}{d\sigma}$$

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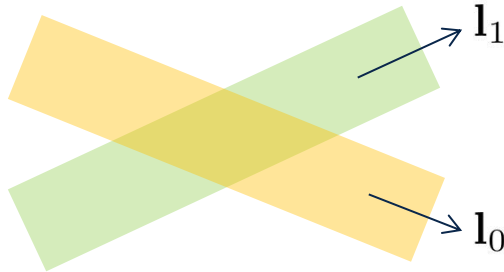
$$\mathcal{K} = \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{\nabla \epsilon'}{\epsilon'} \times \mathbf{l} \right|$$

$$\frac{d\nu}{d\sigma} = -\mathcal{K}\mathbf{l} + \kappa\mathbf{b}$$

$$\kappa = \mathbf{b} \cdot \frac{d\nu}{d\sigma}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}_1}{\partial \mathbf{l}_1} = \frac{i}{8k_1} K_{10} k_{b,10}^2 (\mathbf{a}_0^* \cdot \mathbf{a}_1) \mathbf{a}_0$$

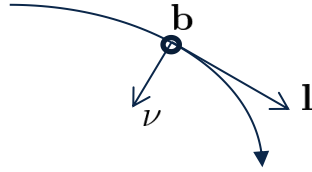
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}_0}{\partial \mathbf{l}_0} = \frac{i}{8k_0} K_{01} k_{b,01}^2 (\mathbf{a}_0 \cdot \mathbf{a}_1^*) \mathbf{a}_1$$





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Complex s/p components in the Frenet frame

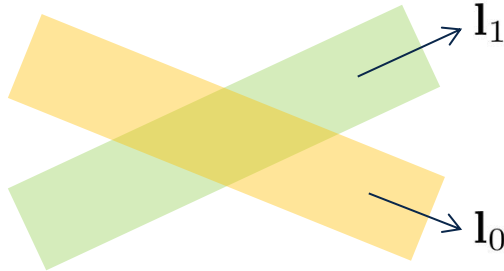
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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{l}_n} \begin{pmatrix} a_{n,\nu_n} \\ a_{n,b_n} \end{pmatrix} = \underline{\underline{\mathcal{D}_n}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_{n,\nu_n} \\ a_{n,b_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

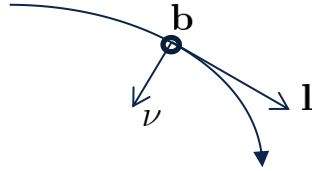
$$\underline{\underline{\mathcal{D}_n}} = \frac{i}{8k_n} \sum_{\substack{m \in \text{beams, sheets} \\ m \neq n}}^N K_{nm}^* k_{b,nm}^2 \underline{\underline{\mathbf{M}_{nm}}}$$

Complex kinetic plasma response  
Langdon and Dewandre effect  
Real part: induces **ellipticity**  
Imaginary part: depletion or gain



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Complex s/p components in the Frenet frame

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}_1}{\partial \mathbf{l}_1} = \frac{\imath}{8k_1} K_{10} k_{b,10}^2 (\mathbf{a}_0^* \cdot \mathbf{a}_1) \mathbf{a}_0$$

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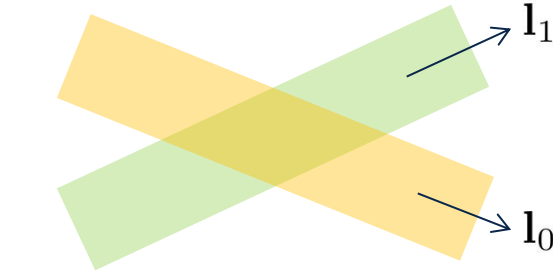
$$\underline{\underline{\mathbf{M}_{nm}}} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{m,\nu_n}^2 & a_{m,b_n}^* a_{m,\nu_n} \\ a_{m,b_n} a_{m,\nu_n}^* & a_{m,b_n}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix responsible for  
polarization rotation  
and ellipticity

"Usual" coupling

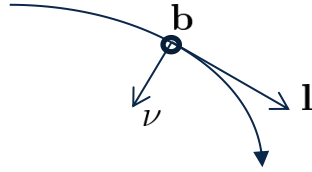
$$\begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{i,j,\nu_n} \\ \epsilon_{i,j,b_n} \end{pmatrix} = [\epsilon'_i + \imath(\epsilon''_{0,i} f_L + \underline{\underline{\mathcal{D}_{i,j}}})] \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Each polarization component sees a different permittivity



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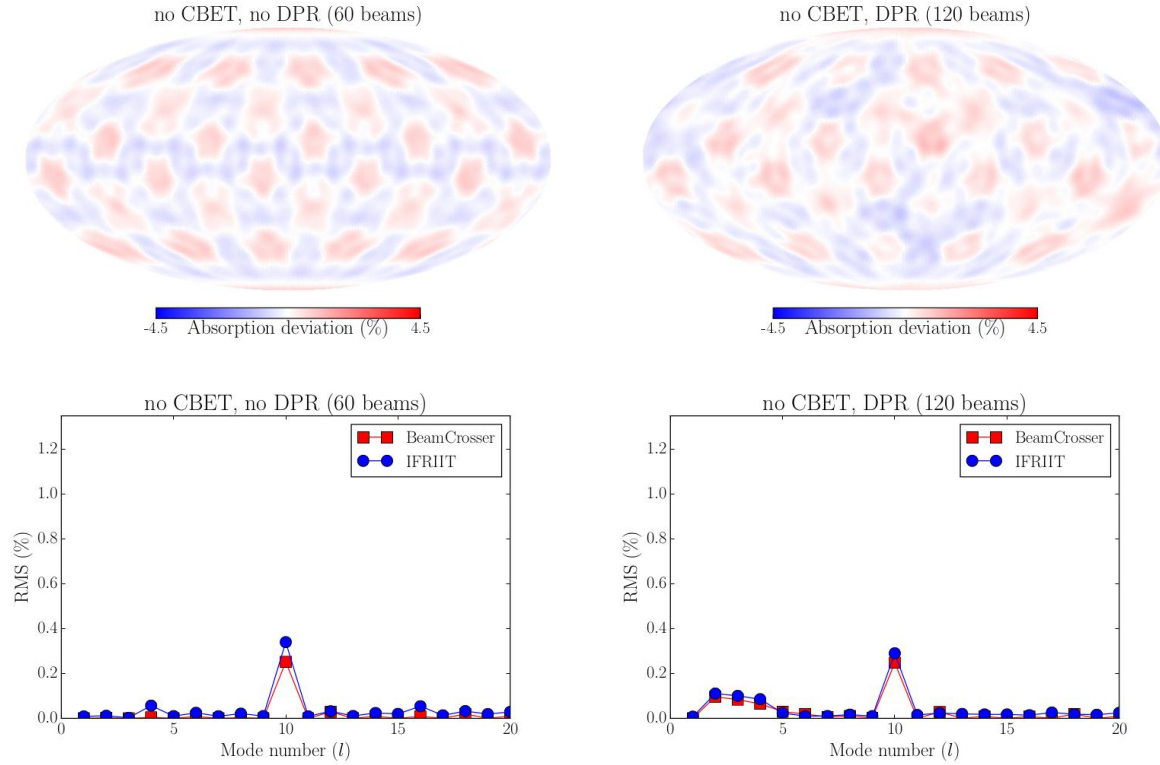
Matrix responsible for  
polarization rotation  
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"Usual" coupling

The Polarized model requires 8x more computations than the standard "unpolarized" model (2 DPR components x 2 polarization components x 2 {real + imaginary})

# THE UNPOLARIZED CBET ON OMEGA INDUCES NO SIGNIFICANT ASSYMETRY ON THE ENERGY DEPOSITION

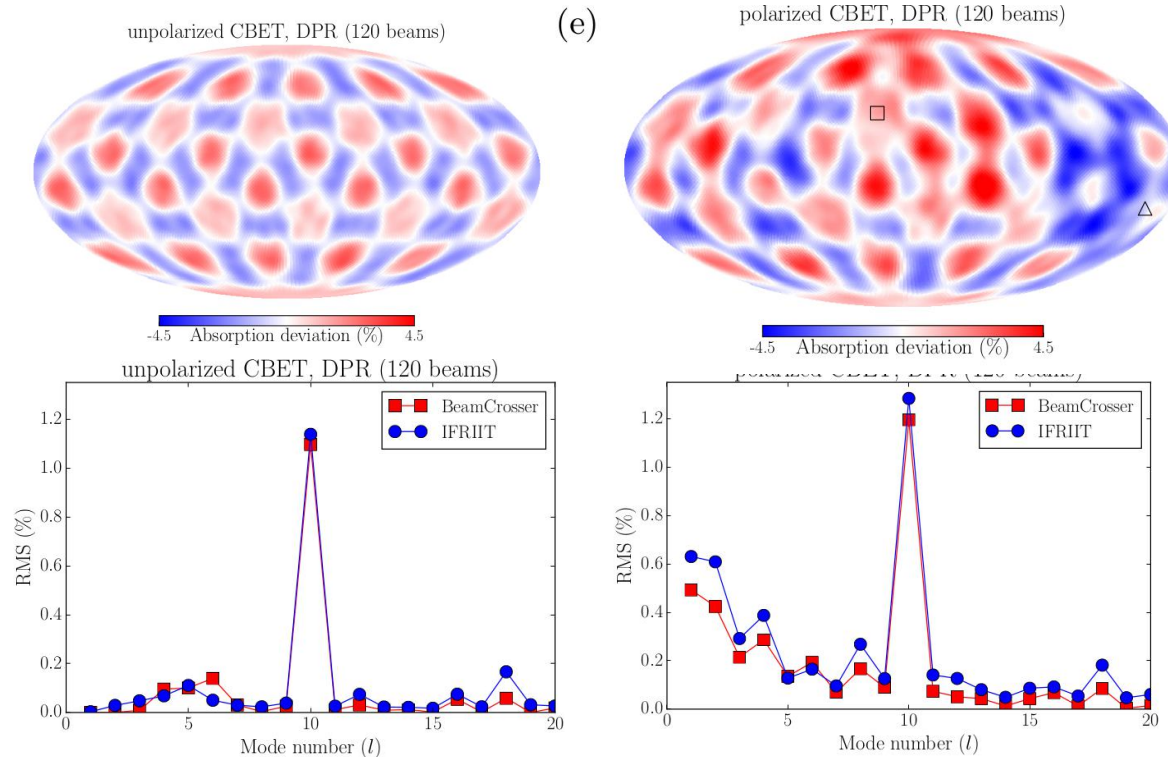
Heat source calculated in a 1D hydro profile - no CBET



The DPR system itself induces slight low modes, small effect

# THE POLARIZED CBET INDUCES A NON-NEGLIGIBLE LOW MODE ANOMALY ON THE ENERGY DEPOSITION PATTERN

Heat source calculated in a 1D hydro profile - CBET



The polarization effect induces significant low modes

Consistent with results from D. Edgell obtained using BeamletCROSSer postprocessor

What is the compound effect accounting for hydrodynamics feedback and other low mode sources ?

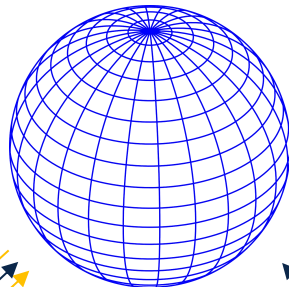


# THE ASTER+IFRIIT COUPLED CODE WAS DEVELOPPED TO STUDY ICF IMPLOSIONS CONSIDERING MOST LOW MODE SOURCES

## ASTER+IFRIIT code coupling

[A. Colaitis, I. V. Igumenshchev et al. JCP (2021)]

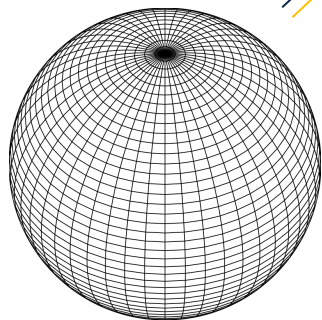
aster mesh  
typical size: 20-500M nodes



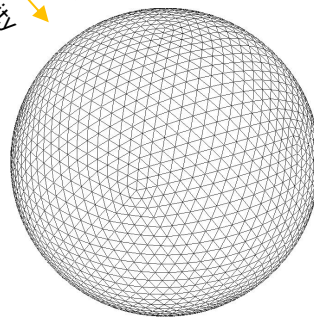
initial permittivity,  
 $T_e, T_i, n_e$  fractions,  $v$   
nodes coordinates,  
EM energy density

nodes coordinates  
initial permittivity

Langdon permittivity perturbation  
CBET permittivity per-sheet  
perturbations



observation mesh  
typical size: 0.5-1.5M nodes



raytracing mesh  
typical size: 1-10M nodes, 5-50M tetras

## ASTER 3-D radiative hydrodynamics code

- Eulerian spherical moving grid
- EOS, heat transport, radiation, hydro...
- High resolution, block-decomposed MPI

[I. V. Igumenshchev et al. PoP (2016),  
I. V. Igumenshchev et al. PoP (2017)]

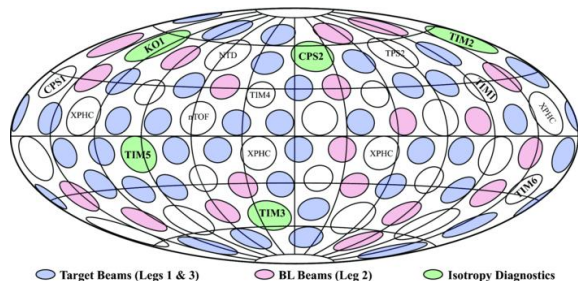
## IFRIIT 3-D laser propagation code

- Inverse Ray Tracing for fast and low noise field computations
- Caustic modeling with Etalon Integrals
- CBET with many physics models, including polarization
- Adaptive resolution, domain-duplicated MPI/OpenMP

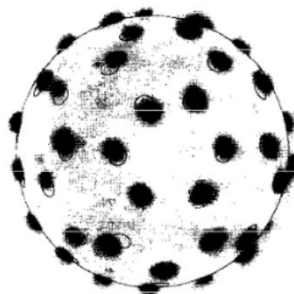
[A. Colaitis et al., PoP 26(3) (2019),  
A. Colaitis et al., PoP 26(7) (2019)]

# WE STUDY 4 SHOTS CONSIDERING MOST LOW MODE SOURCES

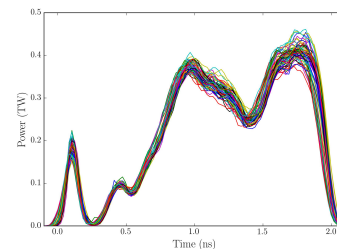
Shot number	Date	Type	$E_{\text{las}}$ (kJ)	$D_t$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Offset magnitude ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Pointing shot	Pointing	Balance $l = 1$ (% RMS)		
							$l = 1$ (% RMS)	picket	early drive	late drive
94343	09/07/2019	cryo	27.7	982	3.5	94336	1.26	2.58	0.48	1.45
94712	09/08/2019	cryo	28.4	961.4	7.0*	94708	5.94	4.52	0.35	1.34
98768	27/10/2020	cryo	28.4	1012	3.2	98762	1.08	1.72	0.43	1.7
98755	26/10/2020	warm	27.9	978.2	1.3	98754/98757	0.64/1.0	0.71	0.79	0.92



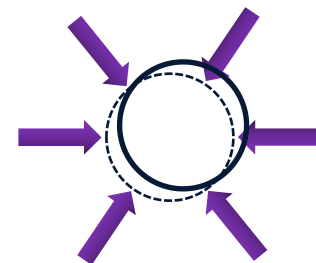
OMEGA detailed beam geometry  
120 DPR-split beams



XPC H7 View  
Measured beam pointing  
(from beginning and/or  
end of shot day)



Measured pulse shapes

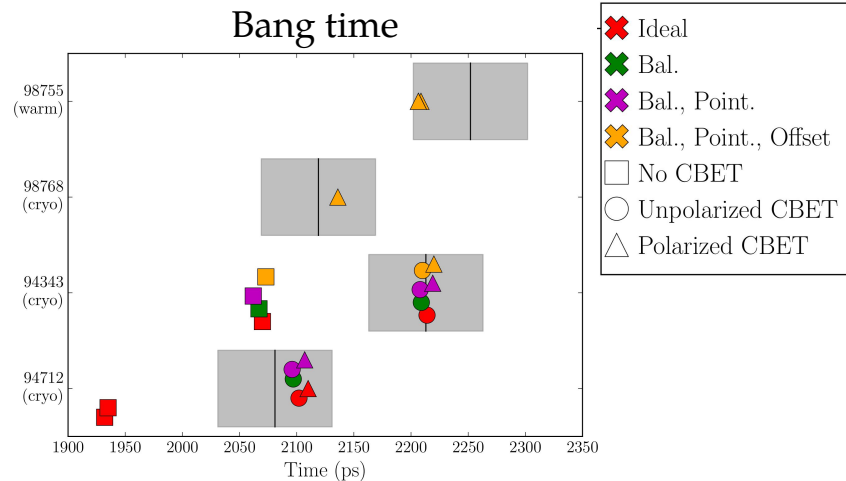


Measured offset (if  
available)

Important note: contrary to most inline approaches, the CBET model here has no “ad-hoc” parameter => thanks to the caustic modeling. No IAW saturation is assumed.

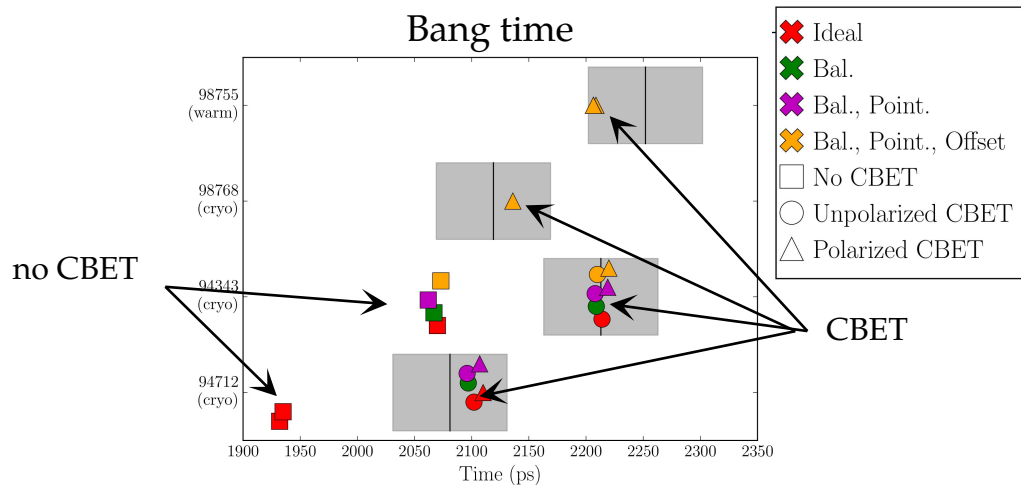
# THE 3D MODELING REPRODUCES THE EXPERIMENTALLY MEASURED BANG TIME AND NEUTRON YIELD

Simulation results presented for 4 shots are studied ; 3 cryogenic and one « warm » shot  
Total ~ 60M CPU hours of computation



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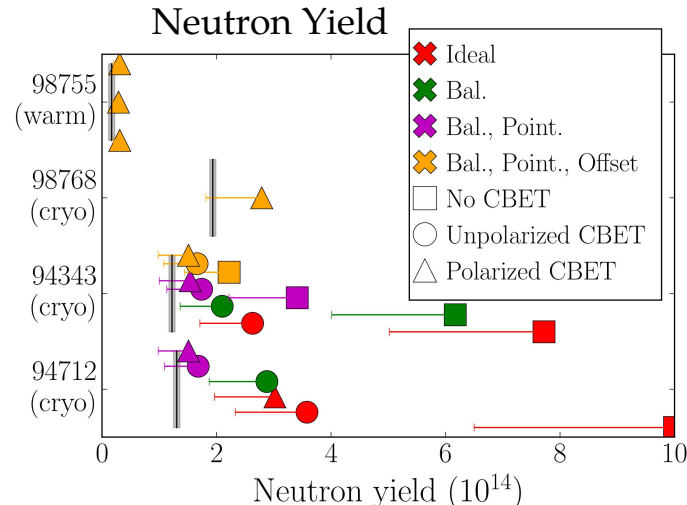
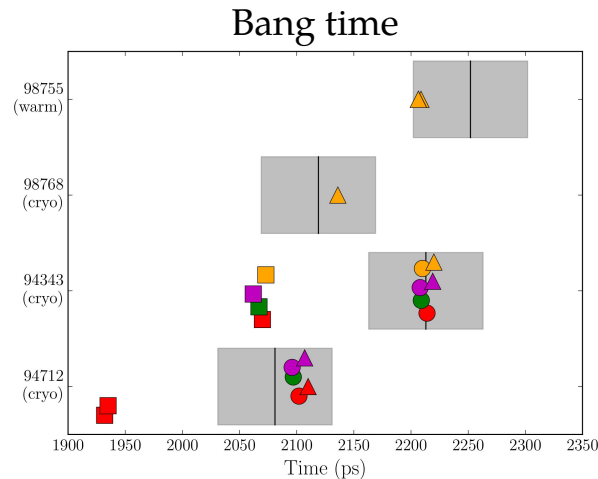
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(i) The CBET model alone gets the nuclear bang time correct (drive energetics is well modeled)

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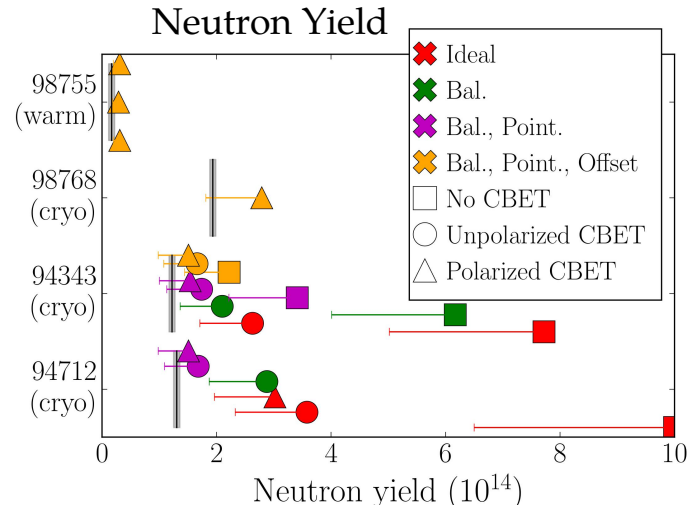
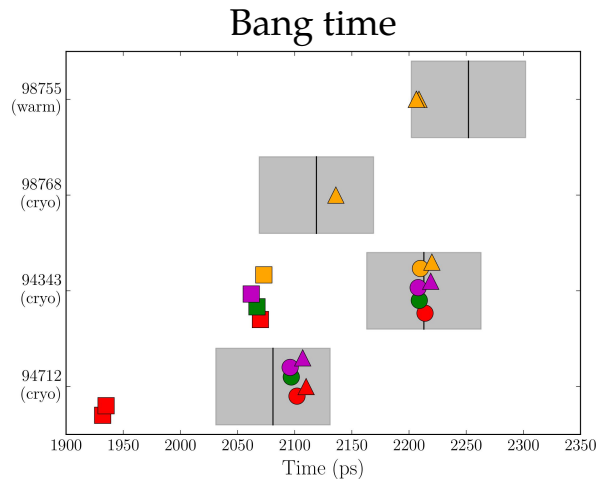
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Note:

- experimental yields are corrected for fuel aging (tritium decay,  $^3\text{He}$  contamination and radiological capsule damage)
- simulated yield include a “range” accounting for some of the high modes contributions

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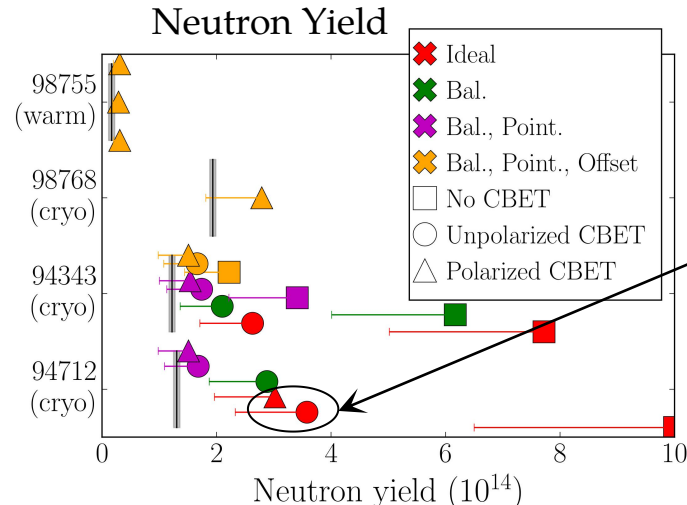
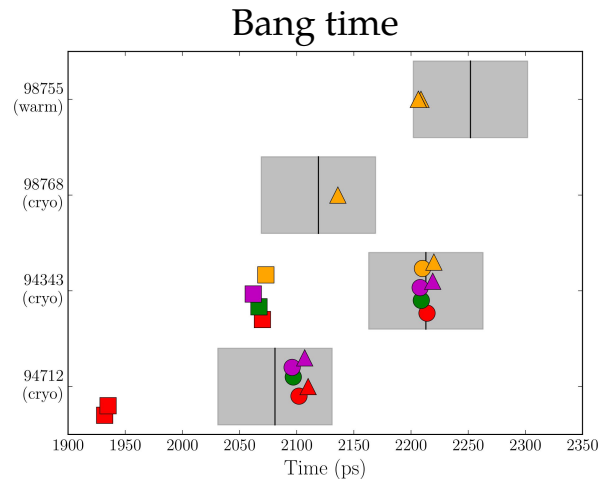
- (i) The CBET model alone gets the nuclear bang time correct (drive energetics is well modeled)
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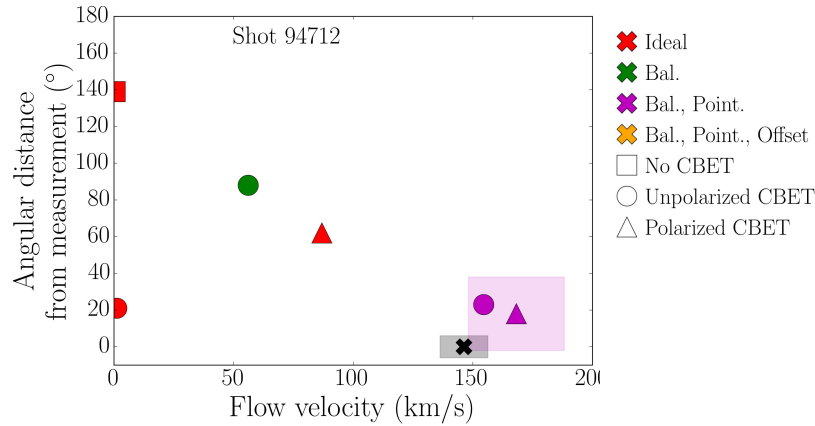
Polarization alone causes a 15% yield drop

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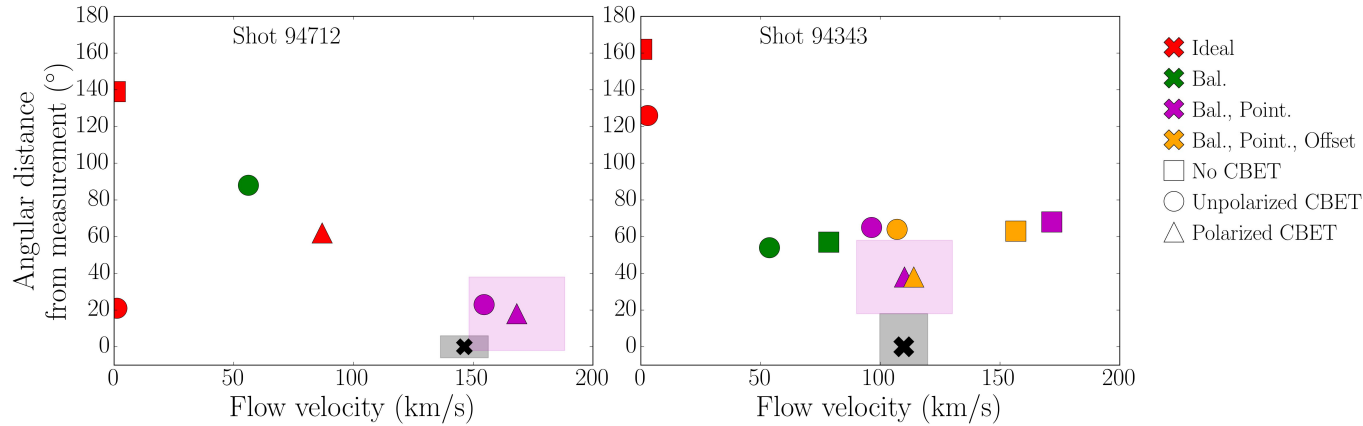
# THE 3D MODELING ALSO APPROACHES WELL THE FLOW VELOCITY MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION



(iii) CBET with power balance and pointing variations match the flow velocity vector for 94712 because the large pointing error dominates the low mode sources

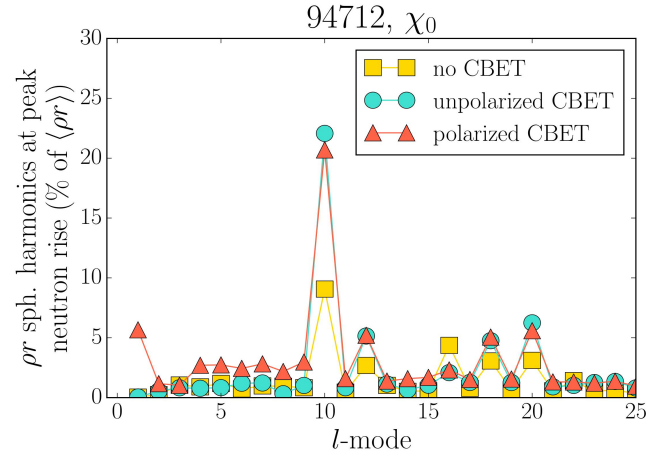
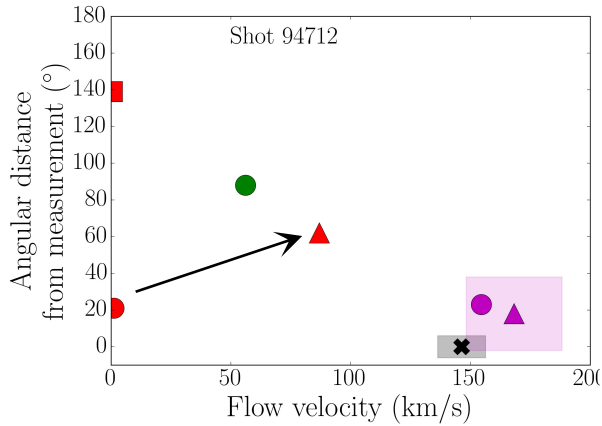


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- (iii) CBET with power balance and pointing variations match the flow velocity vector for 94712 because the large pointing error dominates the low mode sources
- (iv) Polarized CBET with power balance and pointing is needed to get the flow velocity correctly for the more accurately pointed shot 94343 => the polarization effect begins to be more important as other low mode sources become smaller

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Note the single effect of polarized CBET, that induces a  $\sim 80$  km/s flow in the ideal case

# SIMULATION OF LASER-TARGET COUPLING EXPERIMENTS ON THE NIF SHOWS THAT THE MODELING ALSO CAPTURES DRIVE AT NIF SCALE

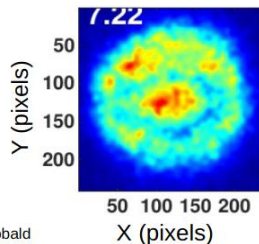
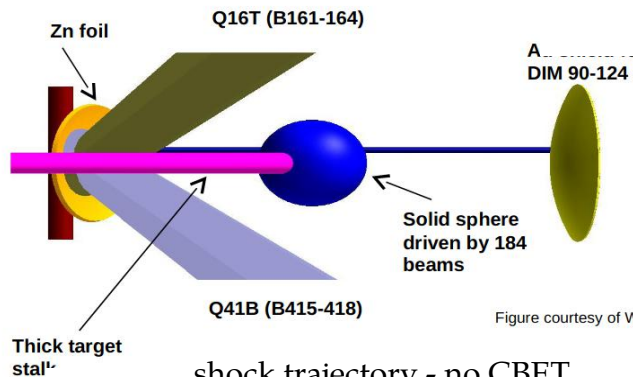
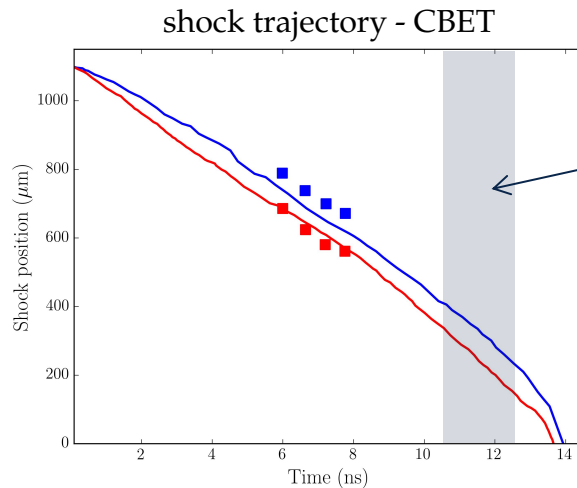
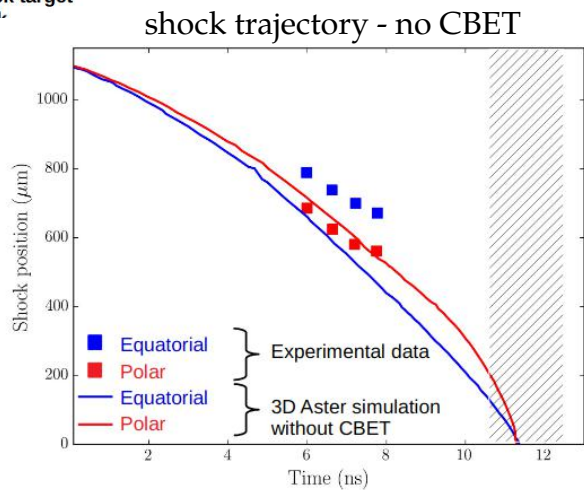


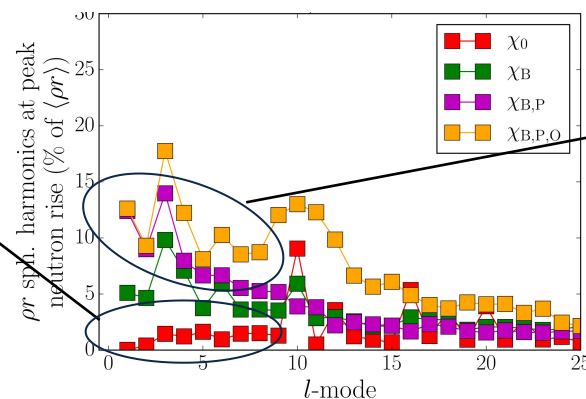
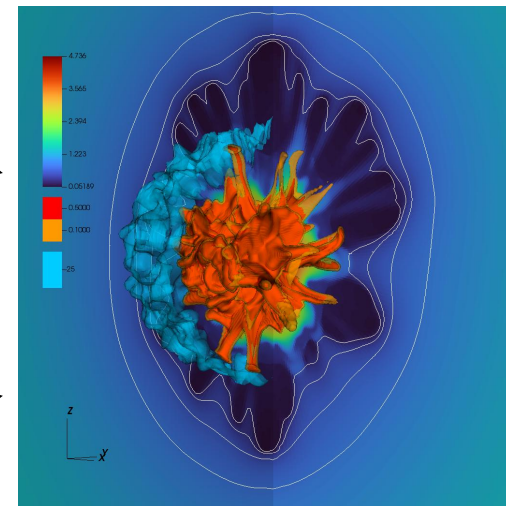
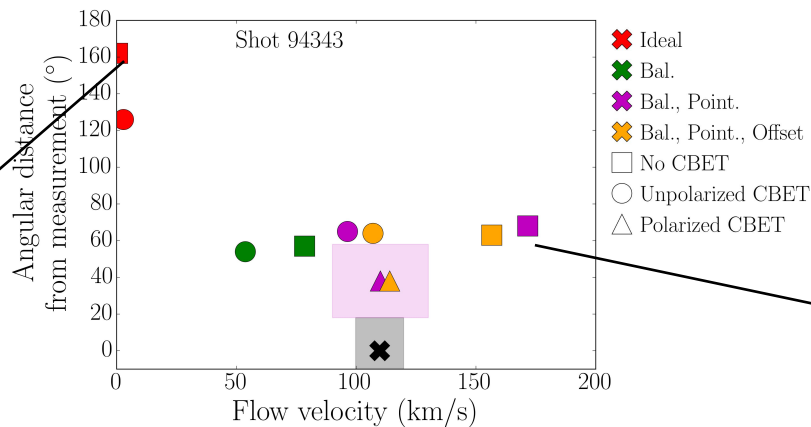
Figure courtesy of W. Theobald



region where no shock flash was observed in the data

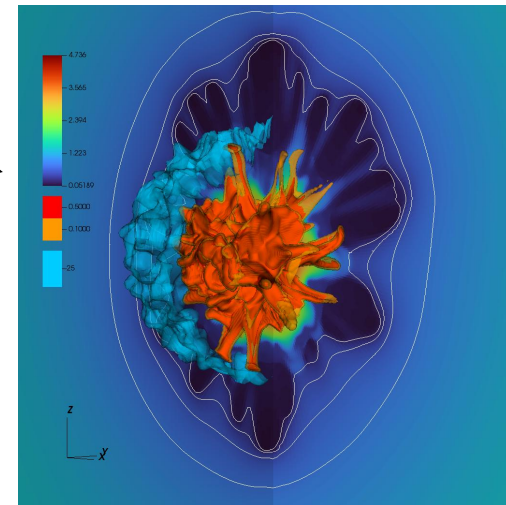
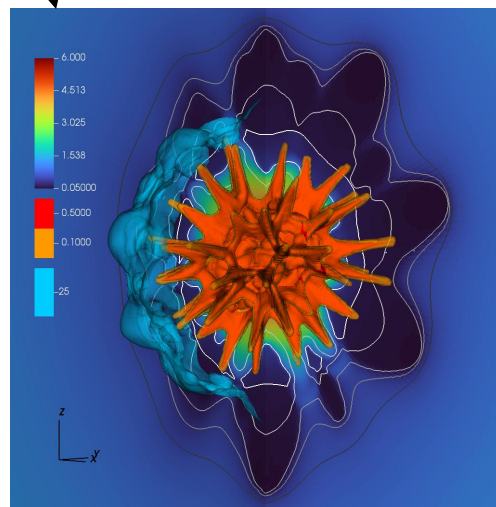
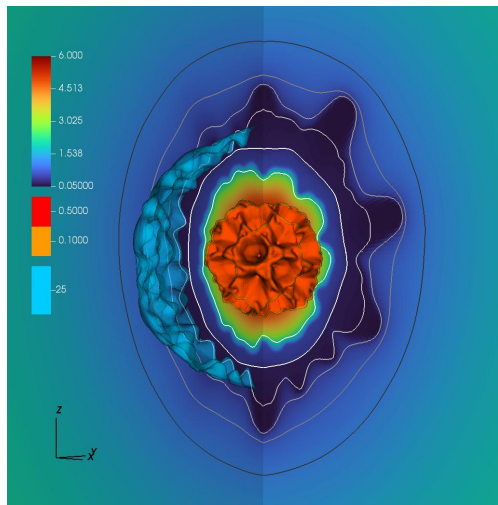
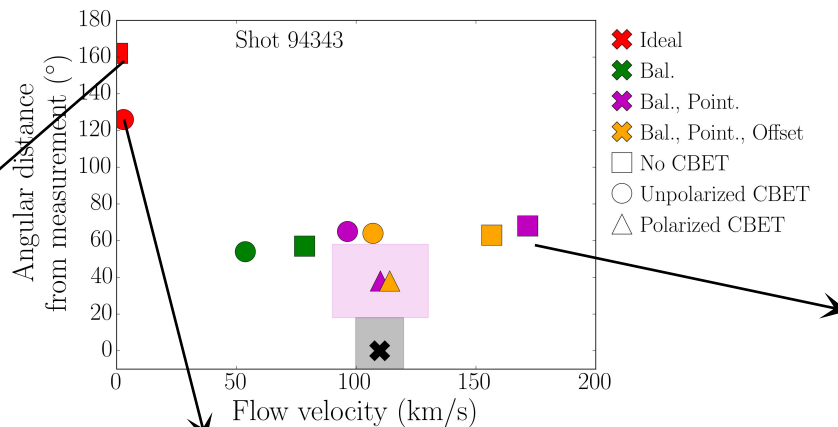
[D. Viala, manuscript in prep.]

# THE CURRENT BEST PERFORMANCES OF THE LASER SYSTEM CAN STILL CAUSE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FLOW ANOMALIES



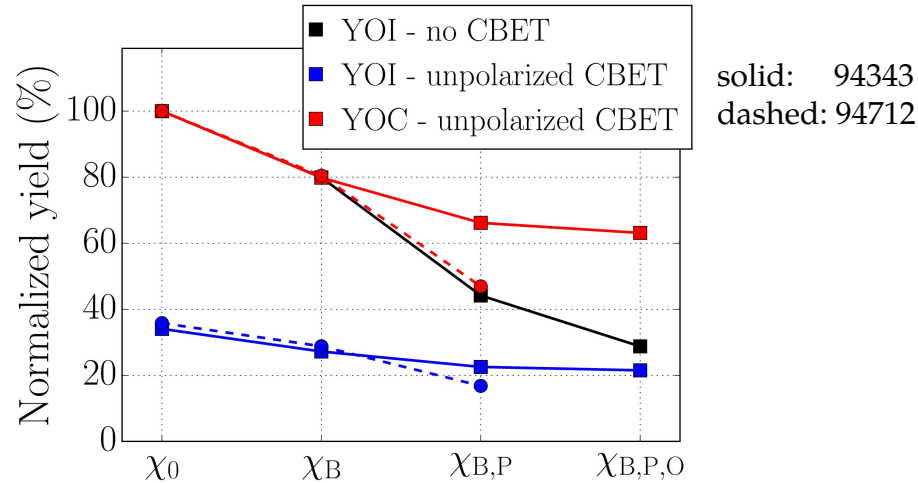
Without CBET, best levels of pointings, balance and offset introduce significant low modes at stagnation, with DT flows that can reach up to 170 km/s

# THE CURRENT BEST PERFORMANCES OF THE LASER SYSTEM CAN STILL CAUSE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FLOW ANOMALIES



**In ideal conditions, CBET amplifies mode 10 sufficiently to lead to target perforation**

# YIELD IS STRONGLY DRIVEN BY CBET AND SYSTEM LOW MODES



- **CBET alone reduces neutron yields by ~60 %** in the ideal case → a realistic fusion driver must remove CBET
- **System-induced low modes are mitigated by CBET** → designs without CBET must be made more robust to low modes

=> How to mitigate low modes ? We can explore two mitigation strategies (current and envisioned)

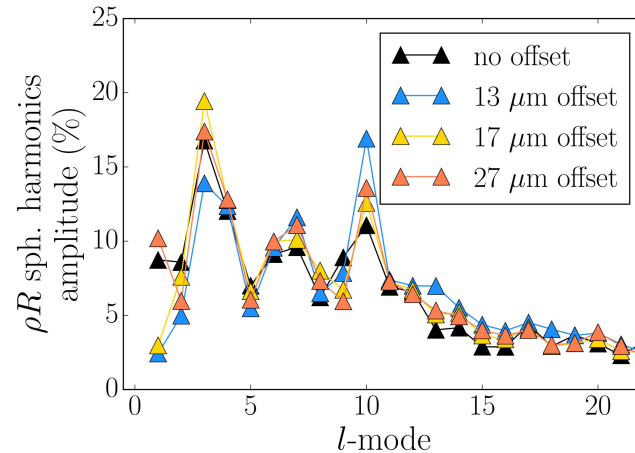
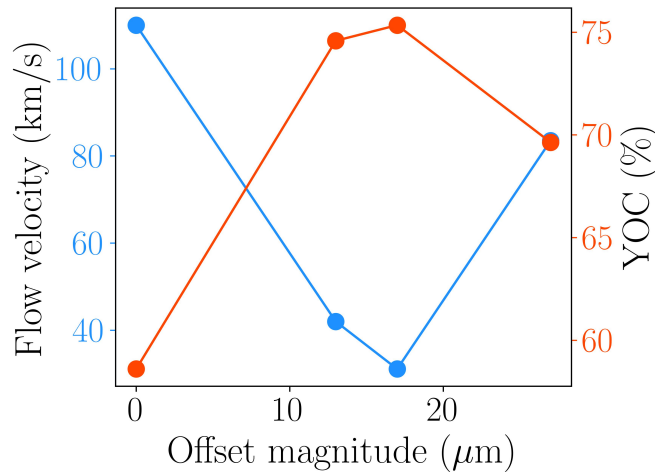
# MITIGATION OF LOW MODES BY TARGET OFFSET CAN ONLY RECOVER A FINITE AMOUNT OF YIELD

## Strategy 1 : offset mitigation

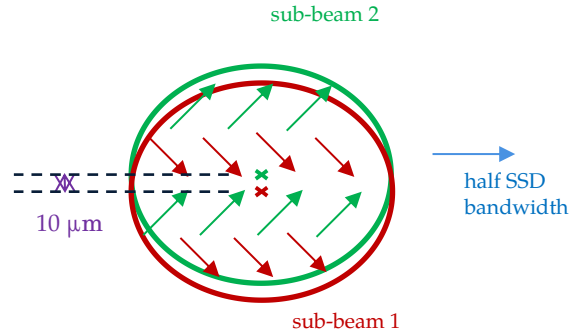
- In experiments, the target can be offset opposite to the direction of the measured flow anomaly (this is used routinely to improve yields)

Pros : Simple to implement, allows to recover ~15 % in yield at maximum here

Cons : The method rapidly reaches a maximum efficacy due to it mitigating only  $l=1$ . In particular, even in the ideal case, polarized CBET introduces other modes than  $l=1$ . It is also a post-hoc method.



# A RE-DESIGN OF THE OMEGA DPR SYSTEM IS A MORE VIABLE LONG TERM STRATEGY TO IMPROVE IMPLOSION PERFORMANCE



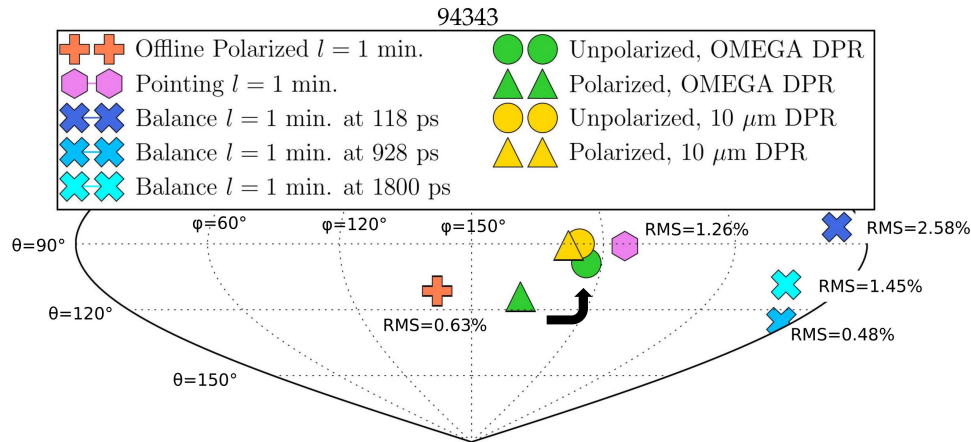
Strategy 2 :

- Re-design the DPR system on OMEGA to reduce the offset between polarizations

Pros : Allows to recover the unpolarized CBET result, effectively mitigating this source of low modes

Cons : difficult to implement, also requires to half the SSD bandwidth...

However, this anomaly does need to be corrected in the long run ...





# A LINE-BASED INLINE CBET MODEL HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN ASTER/IFRIIT

Recall: **CBET** alone **reduces neutron yields by ~60 %** in the ideal case

Bandwidth has been proposed as a way to mitigate CBET.

A ray-based bandwidth CBET model was implemented in IFRIIT\*: the spectrum is discretized in lines for which power is tracked along the rays. The modeling was validated against LPSE.

$$\delta\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{\chi_{i,j}c^2}{4\omega_{pe}^2} \left[ \sum_{\substack{l \in \text{beams} \\ m \in \text{sheets}}} |\mathbf{k}_{ij} - \mathbf{k}_{lm}|^2 |u_{lm}|^2 K_{lm} + \sum_{\substack{m \in \text{sheets} \\ m \neq j}} |\mathbf{k}_{ij} - \mathbf{k}_{im}|^2 |u_{im}|^2 K_{im} \right]$$

$$\delta\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{\chi_{i,j}c^2}{4\omega_{pe}^2} \left[ \sum_{\substack{l \in \text{beams} \\ m \in \text{sheets} \\ n \in \text{lines}}} |\mathbf{k}_{ij} - \mathbf{k}_{lm}|^2 |u_{lmn}|^2 K_{lmn} + \sum_{\substack{m \in \text{sheets} \\ m \neq j \\ n \in \text{lines}}} |\mathbf{k}_{ij} - \mathbf{k}_{im}|^2 |u_{imn}|^2 K_{imn} \right]$$

Unpolarized CBET for OMEGA  
(no DPR)

Track 120 wavefields  
(60 beams x 2 sheets)

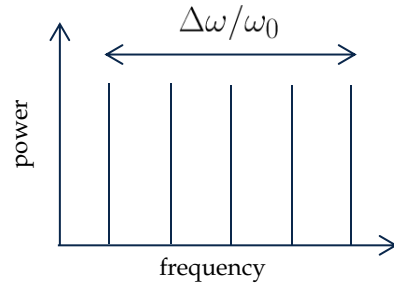


Track 600 wavefields

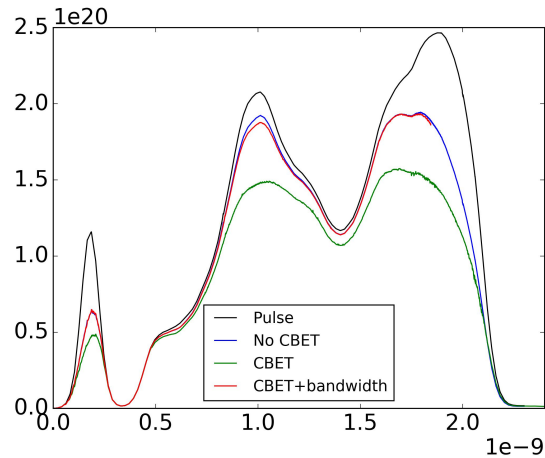
Note: a polarized calculation with bandwidth would require tracking 2400 wavefields

Note 2: recall that CBET cost scales as  $n_{\text{wavefields}}^2$ ; bandwidth calculation with 5 lines requires 25 more CBET coefficients evaluations

# EFFECT OF LASER BANDWIDTH ON A TYPICAL OMEGA IMPLOSION

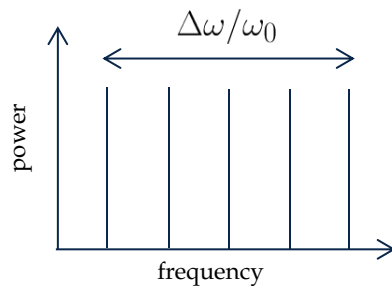


Case 94343 with 1% flat spectrum (worst-case scenario\*\*), modeled with 5 lines:

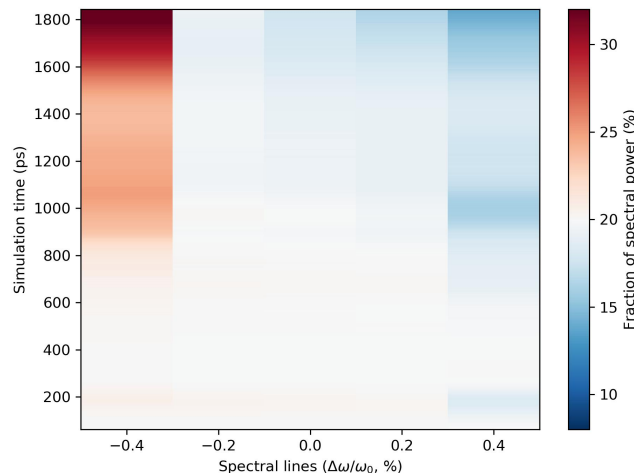
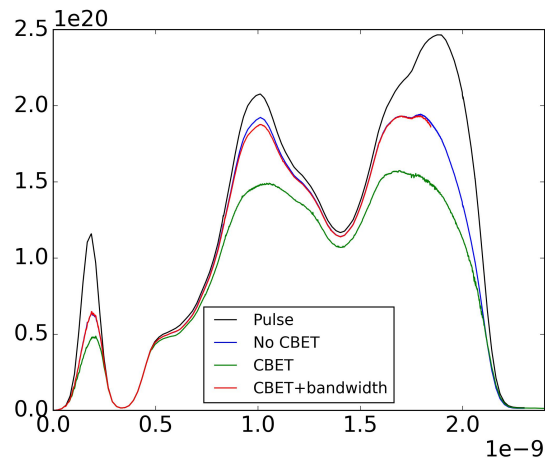


From a drive energetics point of view: efficient CBET mitigation at OMEGA scale with 1% bandwidth

# EFFECT OF LASER BANDWIDTH ON A TYPICAL OMEGA IMPLOSION



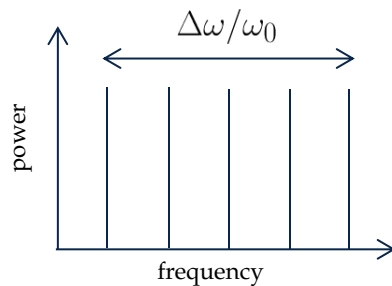
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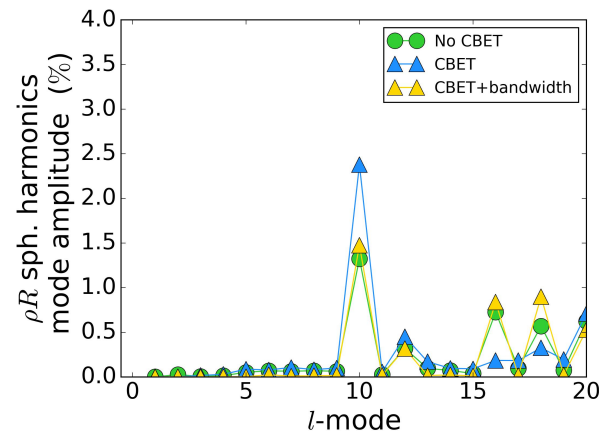
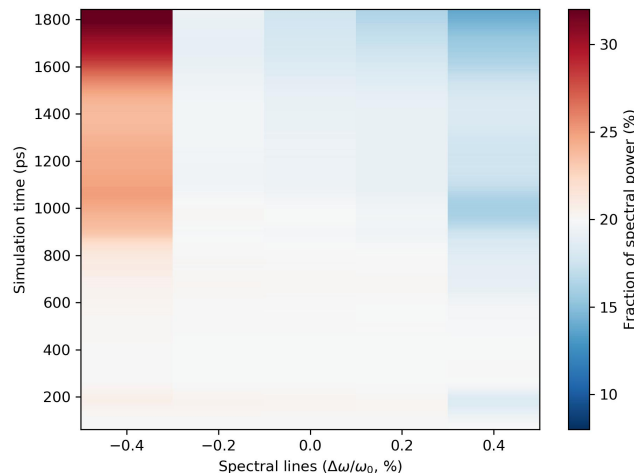
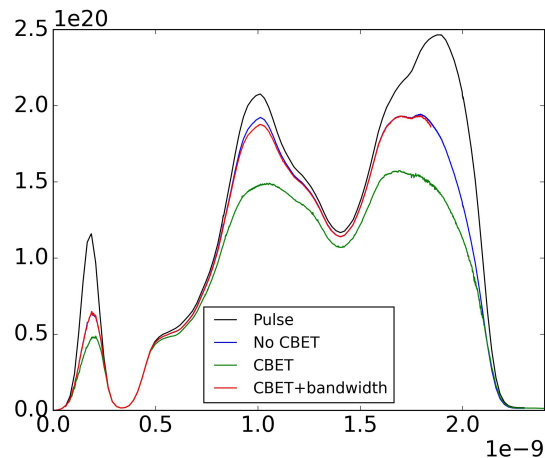
=> Scattered light spectrum skewed with red-shifted lines having up to 35% of the beam power (instead of 20%) -> reduces bandwidth efficiency but still enough

=> Same for all beams in the ideal drive case

# EFFECT OF LASER BANDWIDTH ON A TYPICAL OMEGA IMPLOSION



Case 94343 with 1% flat spectrum (worst-case scenario\*\*), modeled with 5 lines:



=> The CBET bandwidth cases recover the areal density modes of the no-CBET case

=> It remains to check if:

- low-modes from the drive change this picture
- this amount of bandwidth remains sufficient at ignition-scale

# CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

## Conclusions:

- The CBET models implemented in ASTER/IFRIIT reproduce the large scale dynamics of implosion experiments on OMEGA, without any tuning
- ... also holds for NIF-scale direct-drive experiments => good confidence in modeling capabilities
- Some limitations remain (stalk, high mode modeling coupled to CBET)
- Polarized CBET, in addition to current low modes, explains the observed anomaly of the last 2 years of OMEGA shots
- Polarization effect is responsible for ~15% yield drop on OMEGA and is mostly present when other low mode sources are low
- CBET reduces yields by at least 60% on OMEGA, even worse at NIF scale => must be mitigated in a fusion driver. However, this will make current designs more vulnerable to system errors -> need more robust schemes
- Preliminary 3D inline simulations confirm that 1% bandwidth fully mitigates CBET at OMEGA scale



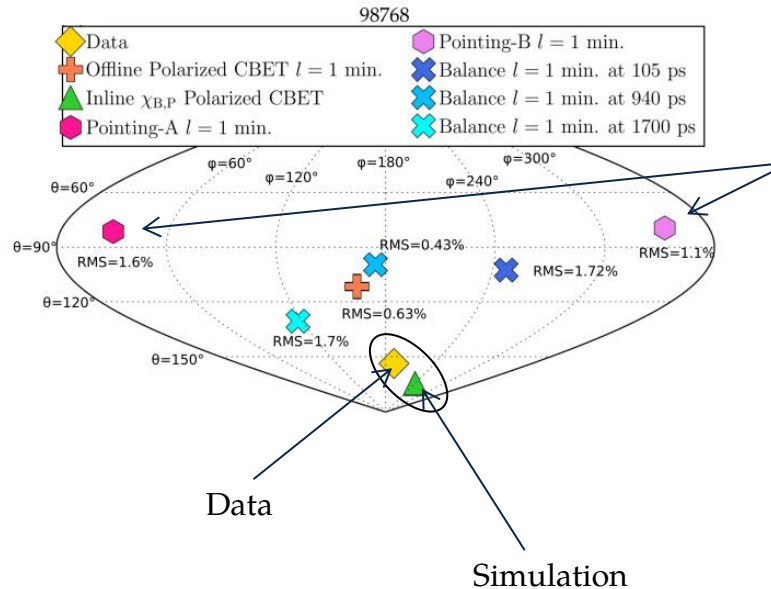
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# THE MODELING SYSTEMATICALLY APPROACHES THE MEASURED FLOW DIRECTION

Good agreement in flow direction also for 98768



Note:  $53^\circ$  between two pointing analysis of the same pointing shot

For this shot, the simulation underestimates the flow velocity (72 km/s vs 133 km/s measured)



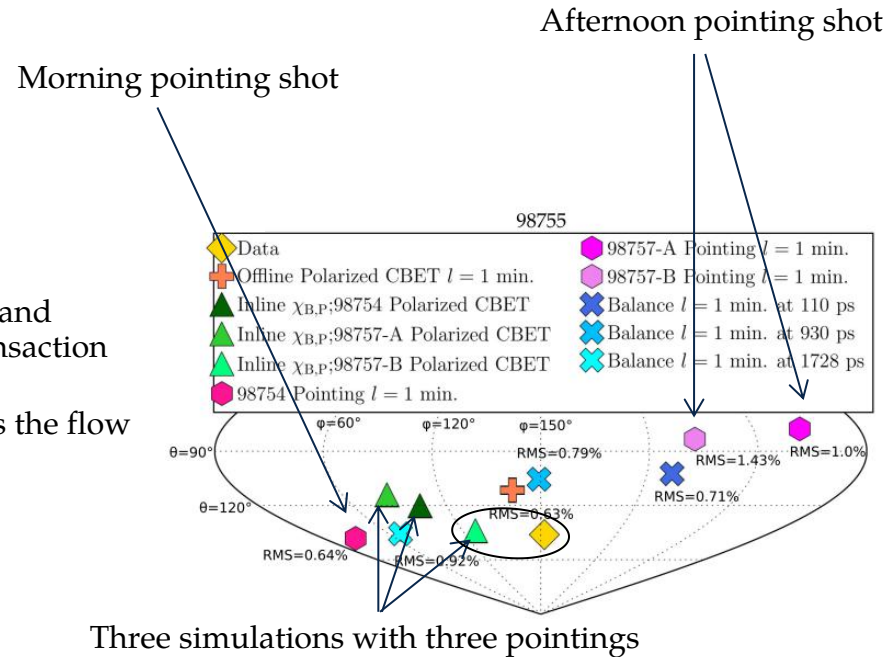
# THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACTUAL POINTING MODES IS LIMITING OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE DATA

Note:

- 80 to 100° difference between the morning and afternoon pointing shots despite no TIM transaction

For this shot, the simulations underestimate the flow velocity (50 km/s vs 84 km/s measured)

=> Knowledge of pointing limitates our predictability of flow direction

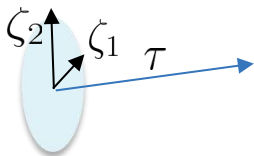


# REASONABLE NUMERICAL EFFICIENCY IS OBTAINED BY LEVERAGING INVERSE RAY TRACING

$$u = A \exp[ik_0\psi] ,$$

$$\psi''(\tau) = \int_0^\tau \epsilon''(\mathbf{r}(\hat{\tau})) d\hat{\tau} / 2 ,$$

$$A(\tau) = A(0) \left| \frac{D(0)}{D(\tau)} \right|^{1/2} ,$$



Step 1; manifold geometry

- compute the mapping from phase space  $(\zeta_1, \zeta_2)$  to real space  $(x, y)$
- compute the geometric part of the laser field
- compute the Airy Integral that gives the caustic field
- compute the full Frenet frame for each sheet of each beam at each gridpoint

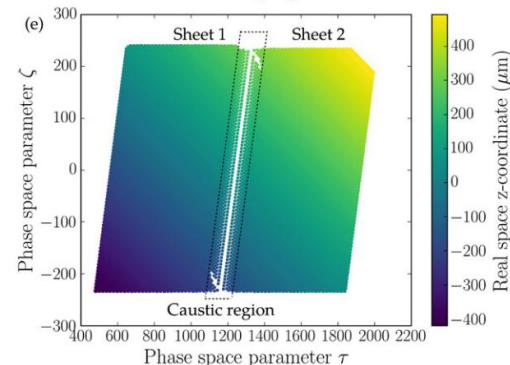
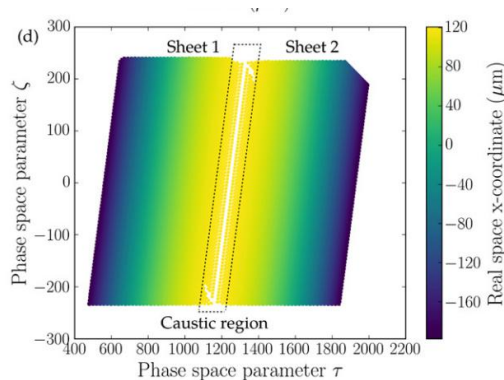
=> these are **geometric** factors stemming from the ray mapping fixed during one timestep

ne/nc

z

x

plane wave  
at an angle

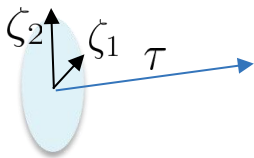


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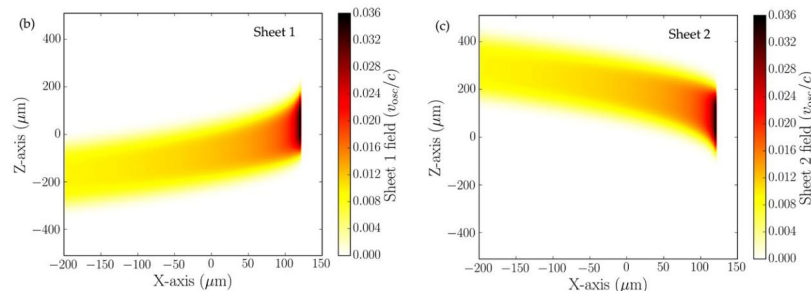
=> these are **geometric** factors stemming from the ray mapping fixed during one timestep

Step 2; fields

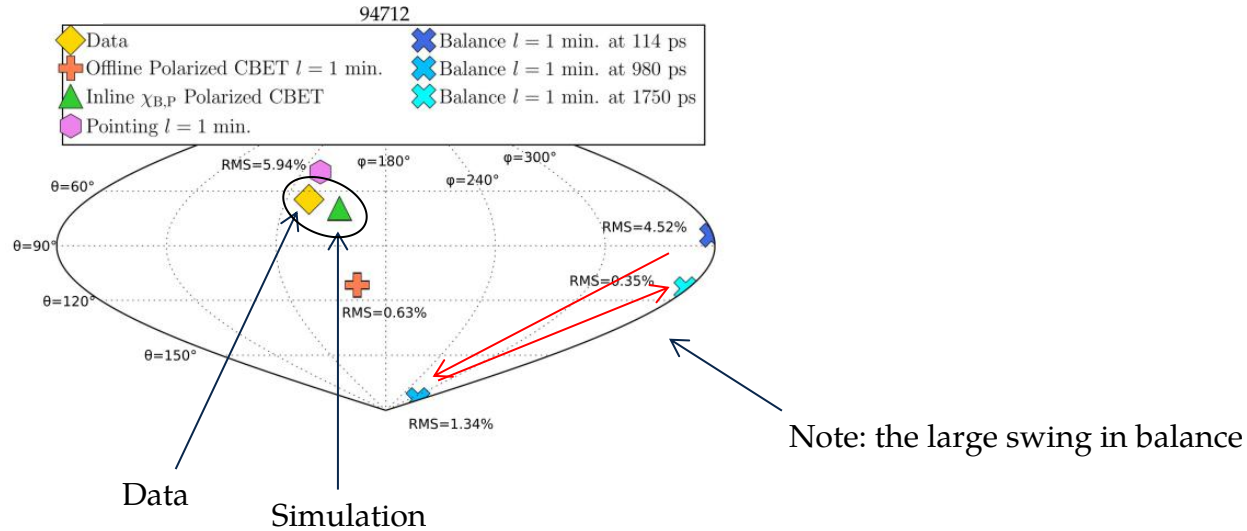
- compute the phase contribution to the fields
- compute the Langdon effect coefficient and the polarized CBET coupling term

$$\begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{i,j,\nu_n} \\ \epsilon_{i,j,b_n} \end{pmatrix} = [\epsilon'_i + i(\epsilon''_{0,i} f_L + \underline{\underline{D_{i,j}}})] \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Fixed point iteration with damping until convergence

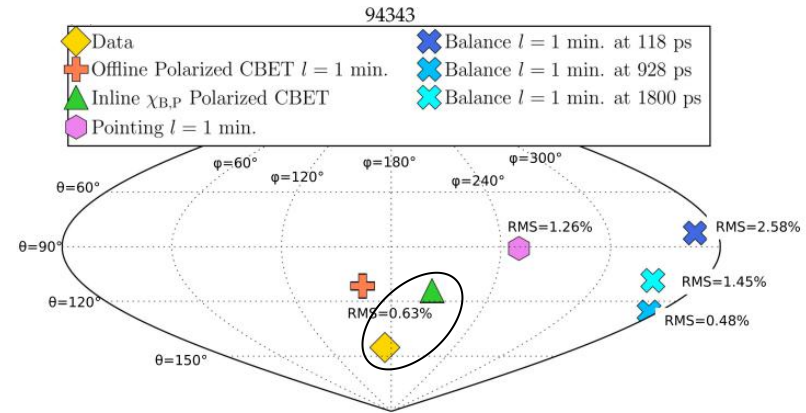
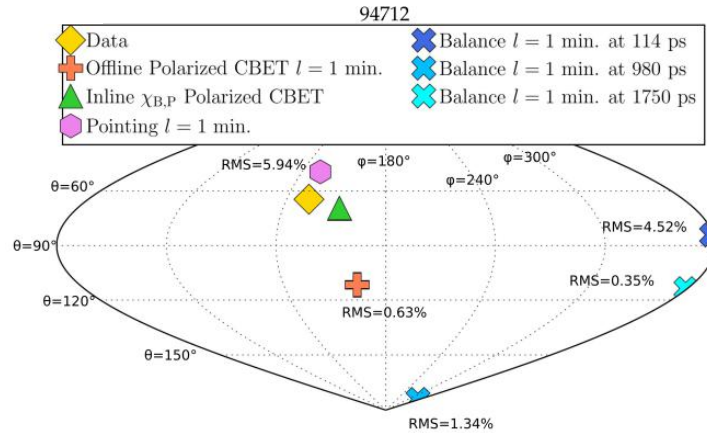


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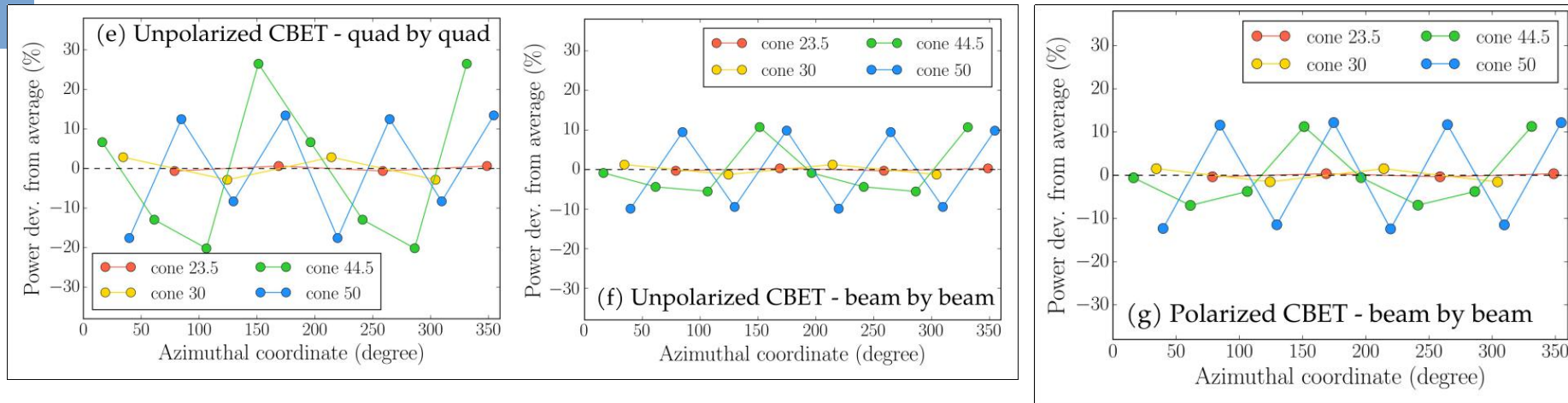
94712 was dominated by pointing:  
result is close to pointing anomaly

# THE MODELING SYSTEMATICALLY APPROACHES THE MEASURED FLOW DIRECTION



94343 had balanced low mode sources; the results is a non-trivial combination of those

# THE LARGEST EFFECT ON THE DETAILS OF CBET IS THAT OF BEAM-BY-BEAM CALCULATION VS UNPOLARIZED QUADS



- Cone-wise, there is little effect of polarization
- In more details; polarization effect leads to more energy transfer to outer beams in cone 30 and less to outer beams in cone 44.5
- Computing the CBET beam by beam instead of quad by quad leads to less azimuthal variability in power amplification (polarized or unpolarized)