

Numerical design of novel synchronous waveguides for Dielectric Laser Accelerators

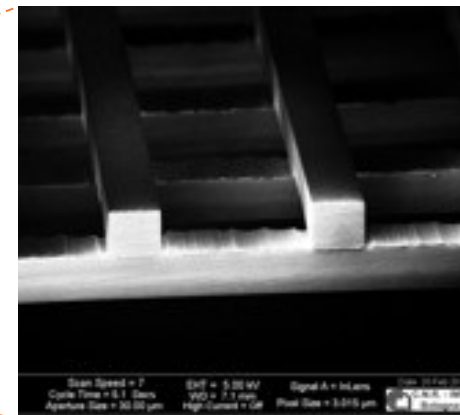
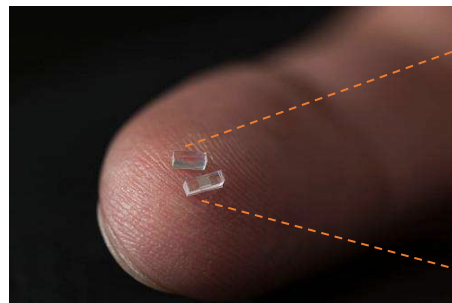
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- Dielectric Laser Accelerators: introduction
- Co-propagating dielectric structures
- Beam-dynamics simulation results and fabrication tests
- Conclusion and perspectives

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Dielectric Laser Accelerators (DLA) : introduction

- **MOTIVATION:** strong need of particle accelerators working at higher and higher frequencies ($\lambda = 2$ or $5 \mu\text{m}$) to obtain high energy particle beams and **high accelerating gradient** for **research and medical applications**.
- Conventional radio frequency (RF) metallic accelerators are not suitable for the task because of electrical breakdown in metals and their high losses at high frequencies.

SOLUTION: employing dielectric structures

Main advantages of DLA:

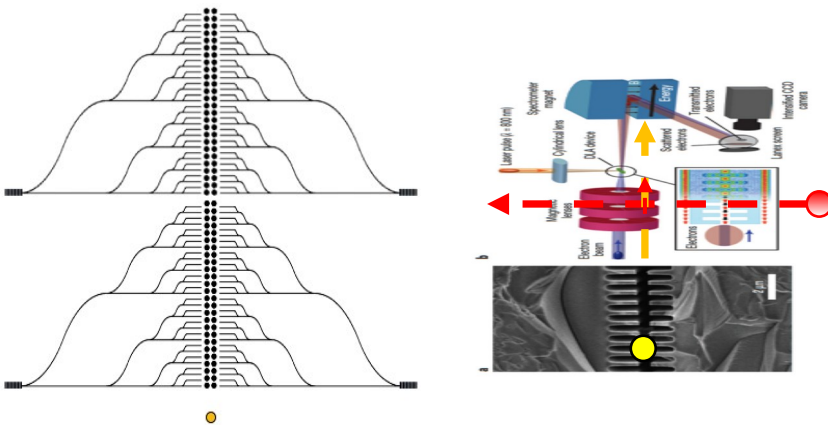
- a) larger damage threshold of dielectrics near infrared with respect to metals;
 - b) with the same maximum electric field, **shorter wavelength** means **higher accelerating gradients per unit length**;
 - c) consequential reduction of size and fabrication costs.
- Compact DLAs are possible by employing Electromagnetic Band Gap (EBG) structures based on the photonic crystals.

Dielectric Laser Accelerators (DLA) : introduction

Cross-propagating schemes

side-pumped configurations Power Delivery

[Tyler W. Hughes et al. Phys. Rev. Applied, 9:054017, 2018]



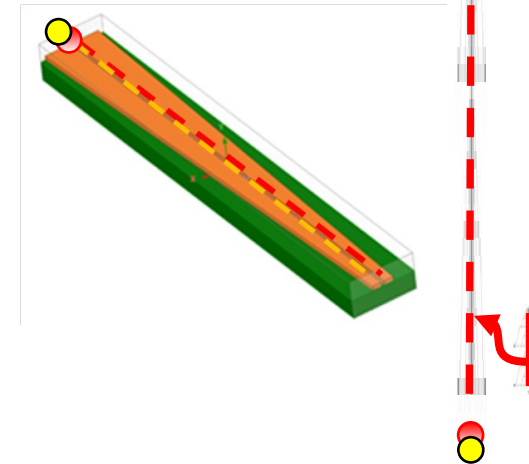
- require a complex **2D feeding** network with a **large footprint proportional to L^2**
- Not very efficient in terms of length effectively employed for particle accelerations

Copropagating schemes

CW collinear hollow-core scheme Power Delivery

- Laser
- Particle

- ✓ guiding structure
- ✓ field confinement
- ✓ Strong longitudinal field component

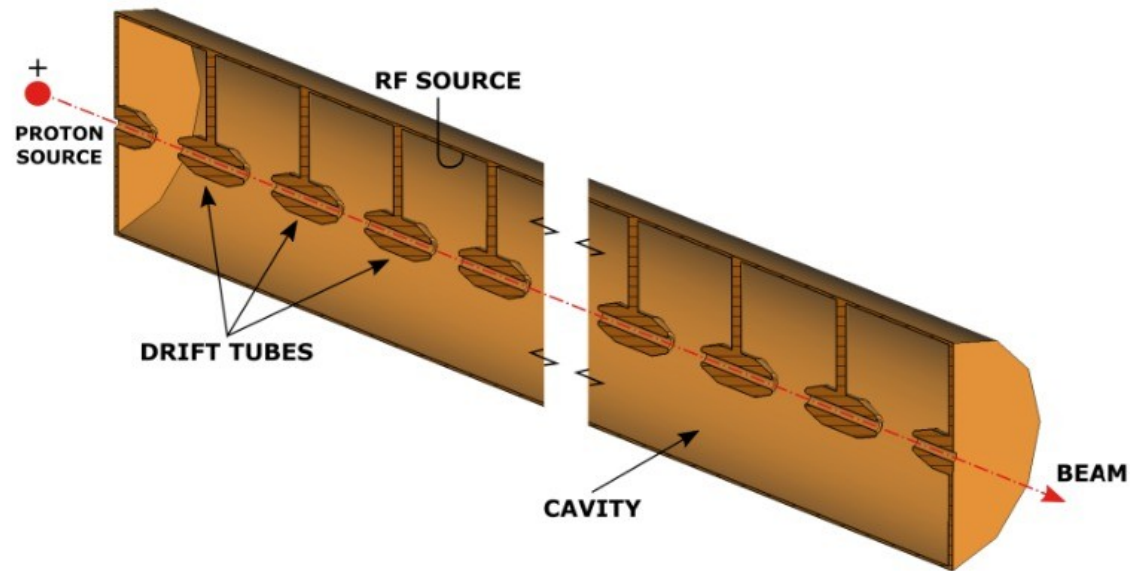


- based on hollow-core waveguides
- reaching a final energy **scales linearly with the structure length L**

Dielectric Laser Accelerators (DLA) : introduction

1 M€

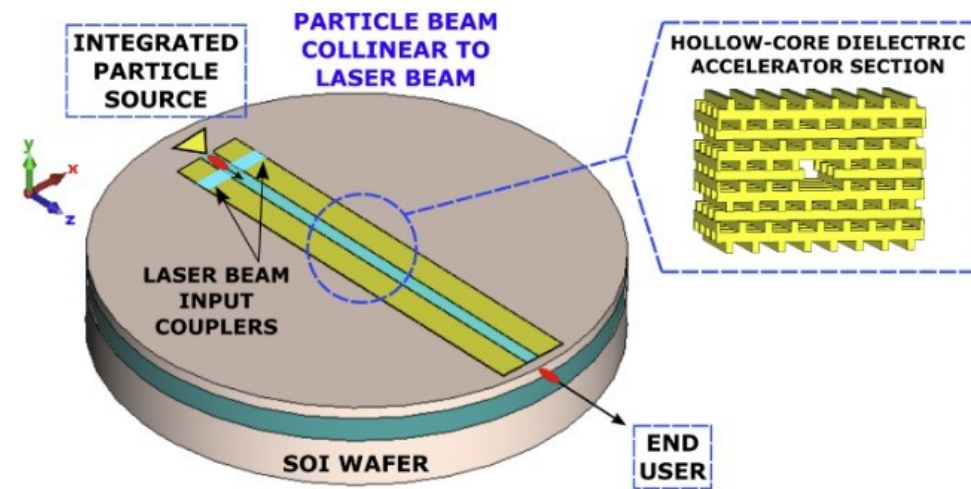
CONVENTIONAL ACCELERATOR



Total length ~ 100 m

Envisaged DLA structure

10 k€



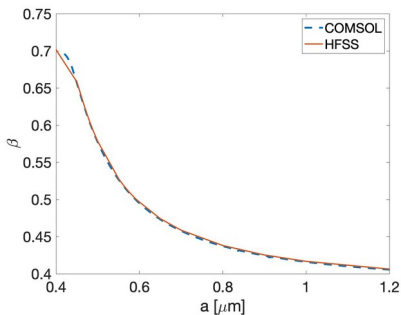
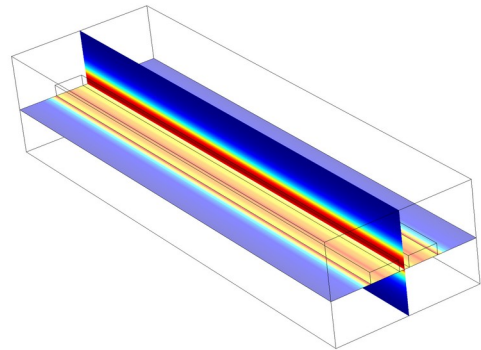
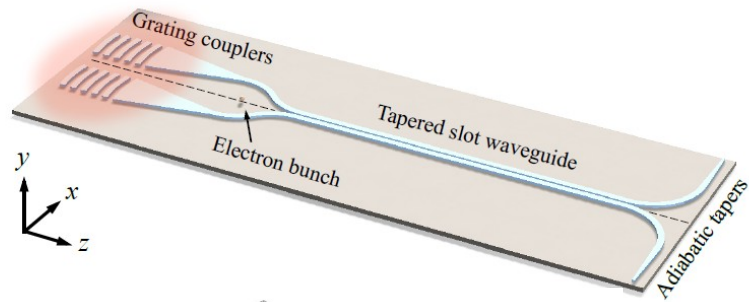
Total length ~ 10 cm

- Dielectric Laser Accelerators: introduction
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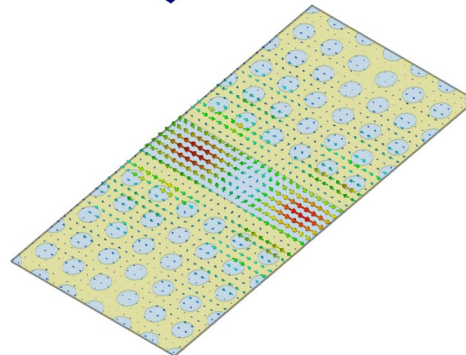
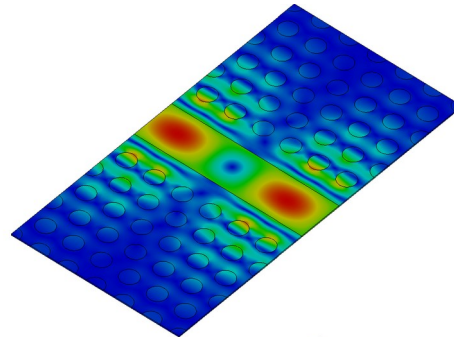
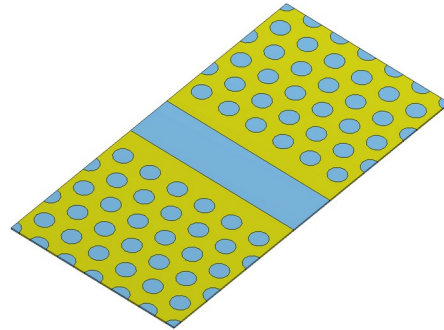
Copropagating schemes for Dielectric Laser Accelerators

Accelerators

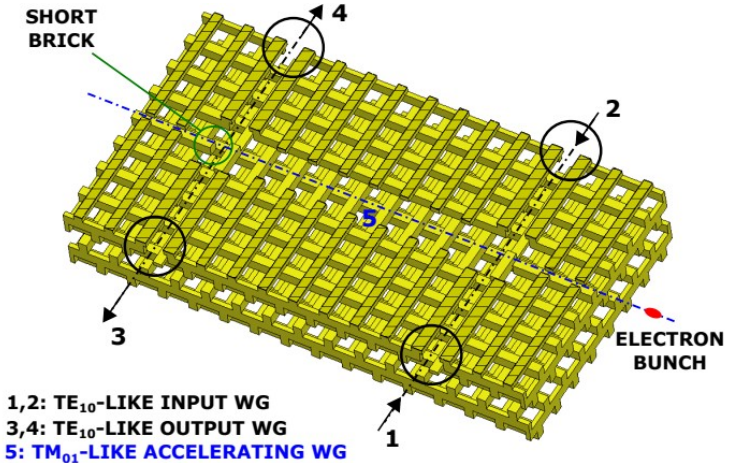
1) Slotted waveguide @ 2 μm



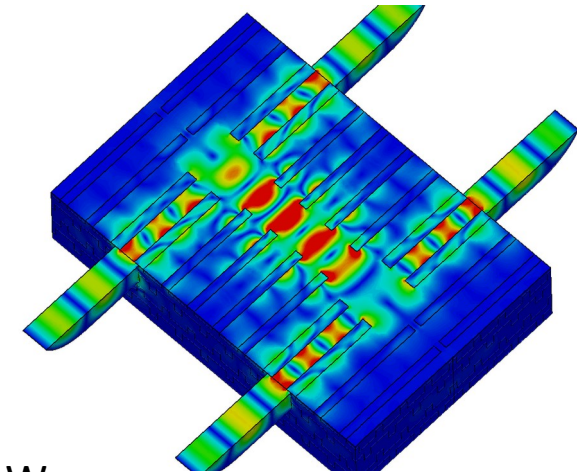
2) 2D PhC waveguide @ 5 μm



3) Woodpile @ 5 μm



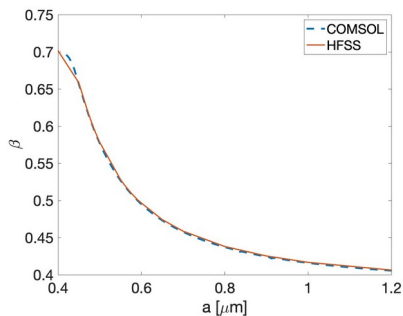
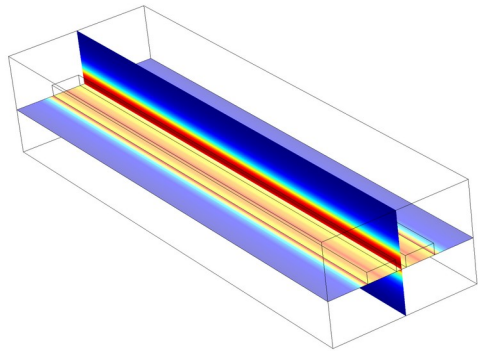
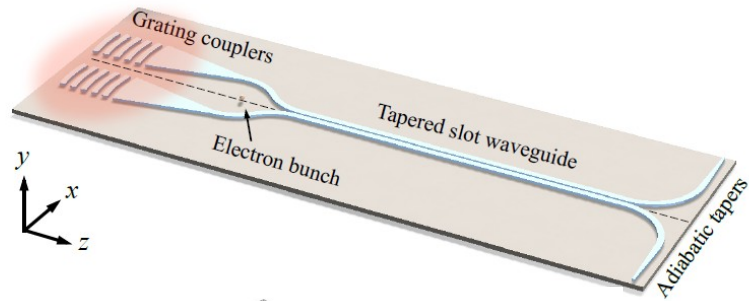
1,2: TE₁₀-LIKE INPUT WG
3,4: TE₁₀-LIKE OUTPUT WG
5: TM₀₁-LIKE ACCELERATING WG



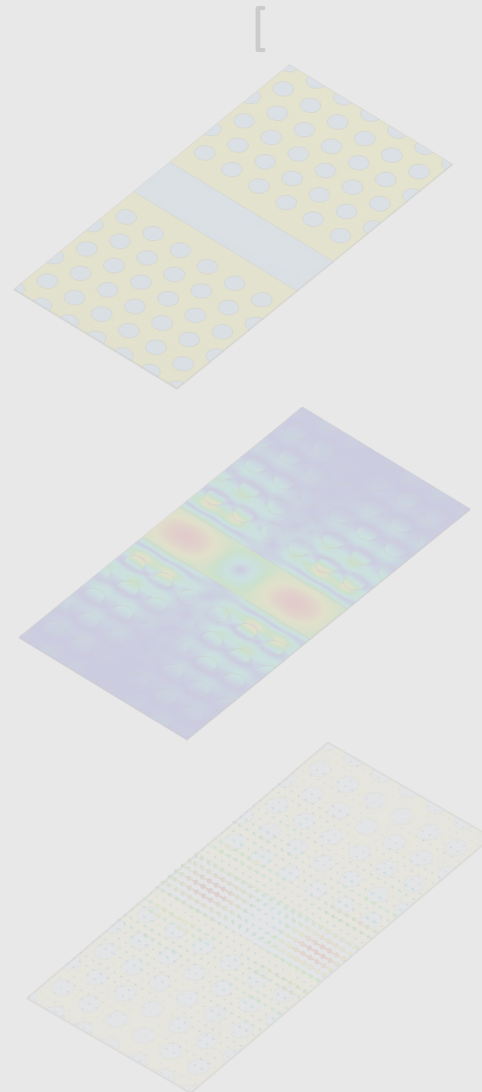
1 GV/m
@ P_{INJ} = 500 W

Copropagating schemes for Dielectric Laser Accelerators

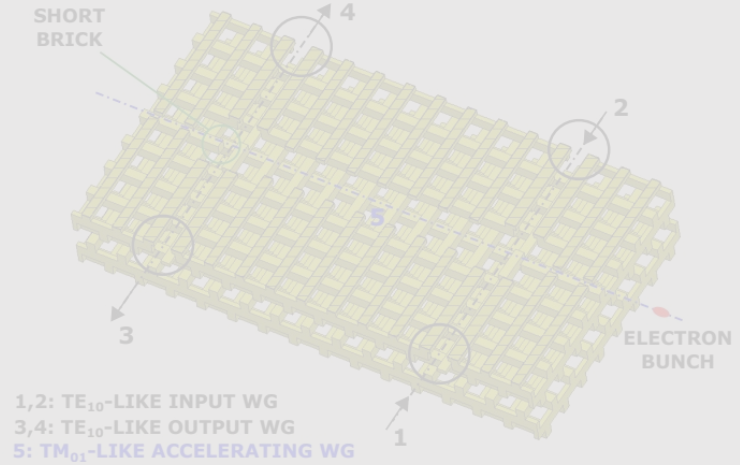
1) Slotted waveguide @ 2 μm [=1.5 k]



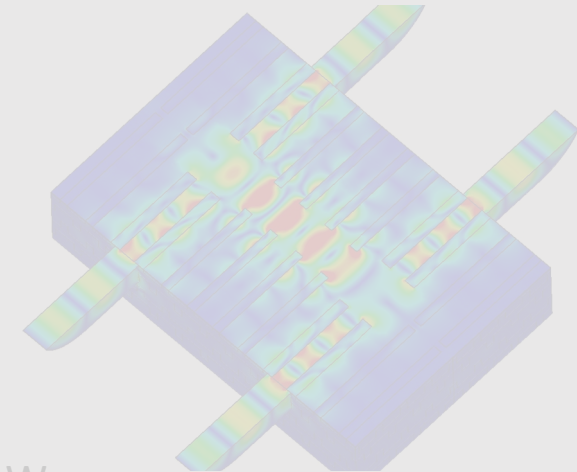
2) 2D PhC waveguide @ 5 μm



3) Woodpile @ 5 μm

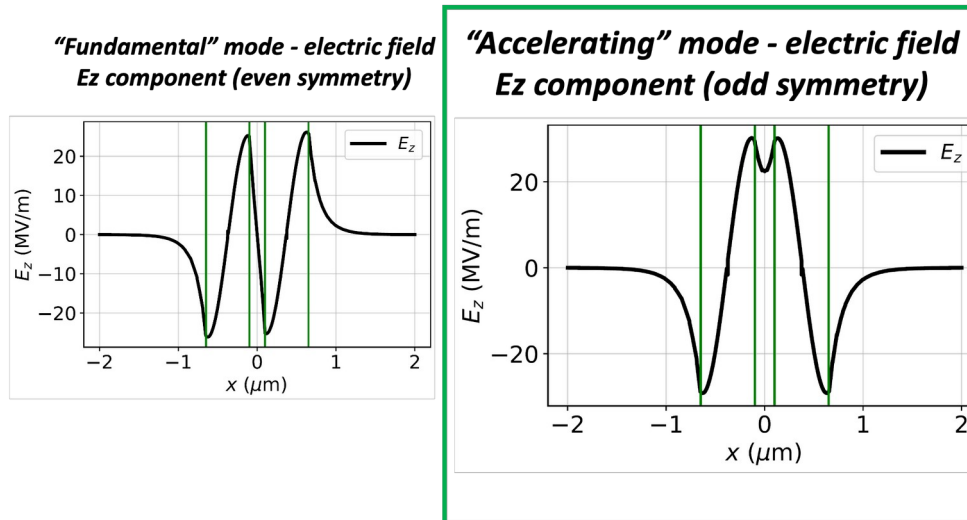
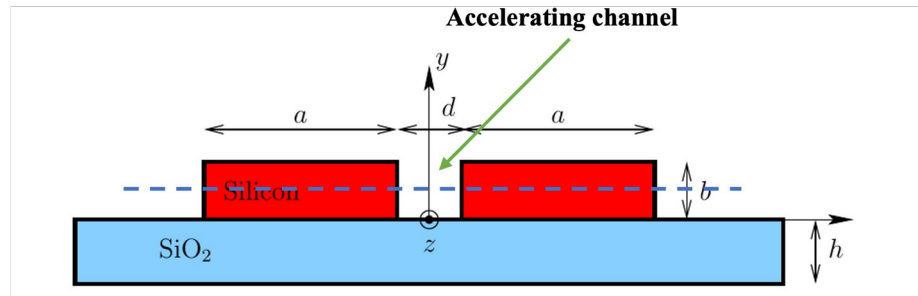


1 GV/m
@ $P_{\text{INJ}} = 500 \text{ W}$

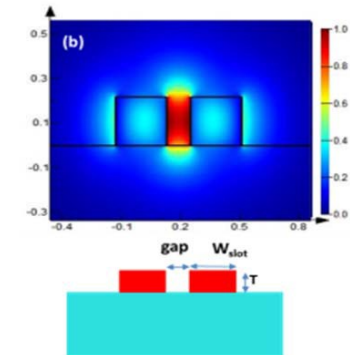
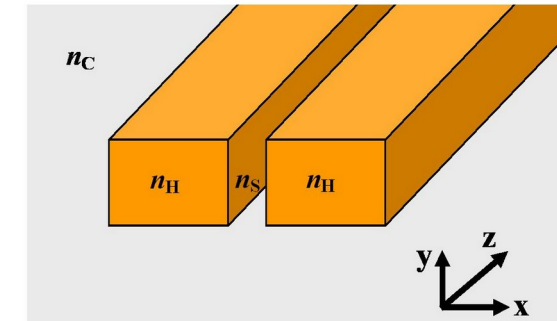


Slotted waveguide

- High-index (silicon) strips separated by a small gap
- Fundamental (even) mode, accelerating (odd) mode
- Selective excitation of the accelerating mode
- Tuning of cross section to synchronize sub-relativistic particles



Schematic of a slot waveguide



Slotted waveguide

Synchronicity: for a varying particle velocity, we need a non-uniform slot waveguide

Electron traveling
with velocity $v_e(z)$

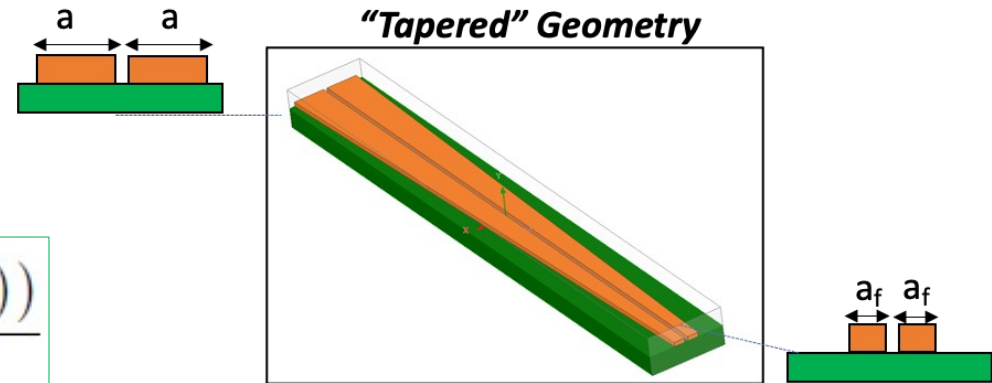
$$\Delta W = -eE_0 \int_0^{L_{acc}} \cos \left[\omega \left(t_0 + \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{v_e(z')} - \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{v_\phi(z')} \right) + \phi_0 \right] dz$$

SYNCHRONOUS CONDITION IS
FULFILLED WHEN:

$$\frac{v_e(z)}{c} = \beta_e(z) = \beta_\phi(a(z)) = \frac{v_\phi(a(z))}{c}$$



$$a = a(z) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \beta_\phi(a(z)) = \beta_e(z)$$



non-uniform slot waveguide

Slotted waveguide: physics-based design

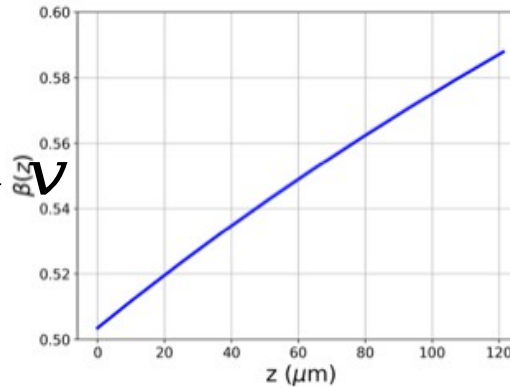
STEP 1: Relativistic dynamic evaluation

$$\Delta W = q \int_0^L E_z(z, t) dz = q \int_0^L E_0 \cos \left\{ \omega \left[\int_0^z \frac{1}{v_{\text{part}}(z')} dz' - \int_0^z \frac{1}{v_{\text{ph}}(z')} dz' \right] \right\} dz$$

=1 for ΔW maximization

$$E(z, t) = E_0 @ 1^{\text{st}} \text{ STEP 1}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dp}{dt} = qE(z, t) \\ \frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{p}{\sqrt{\frac{p^2}{c^2} + m_0^2}} \end{cases} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}(z, t) \rightarrow \beta(z)$$



Theoretical ideal
BD result

Slotted waveguide: physics-based design

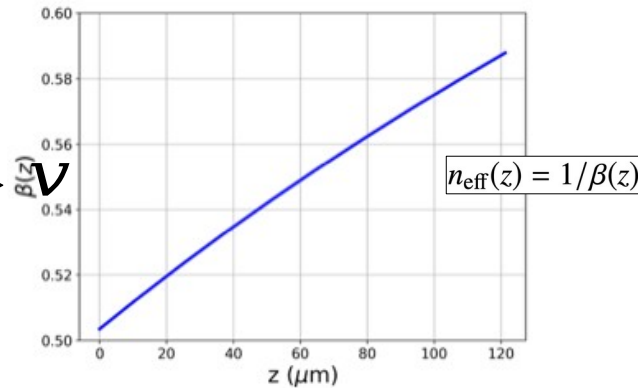
STEP 2: Derivation of a calibration curve

$$\Delta W = q \int_0^L E_z(z, t) dz = q \int_0^L E_0 \cos \left\{ \omega \left[\int_0^z \frac{1}{v_{\text{part}}(z')} dz' - \int_0^z \frac{1}{v_{\text{ph}}(z')} dz' \right] \right\} dz$$

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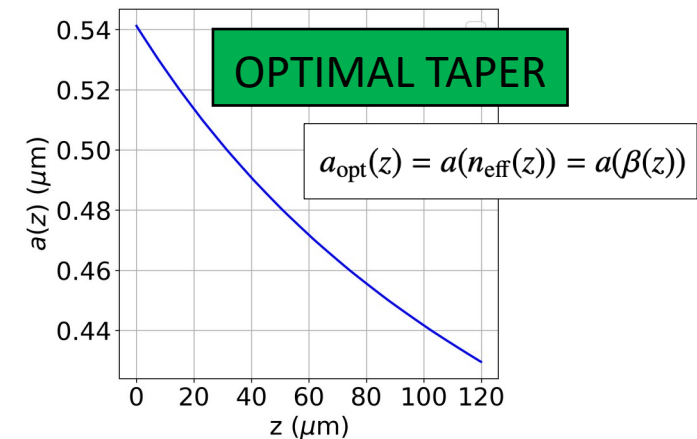
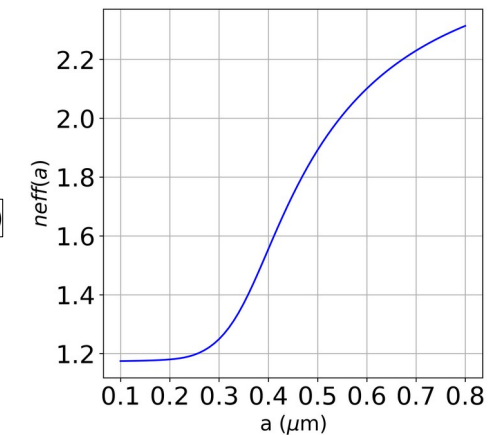
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Theoretical ideal
BD result

parametric study in COMSOL

Calibration Curve



Slotted waveguide: physics-based design

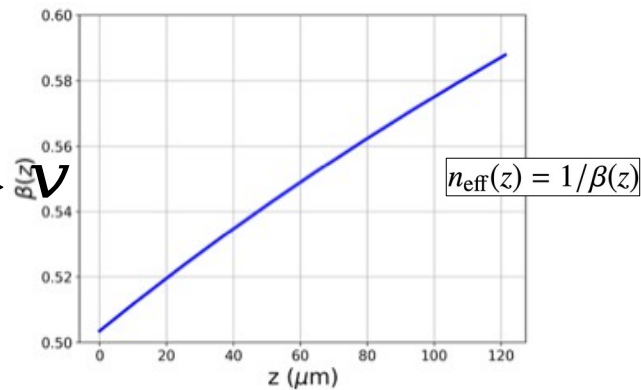
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=1 for ΔW maximization

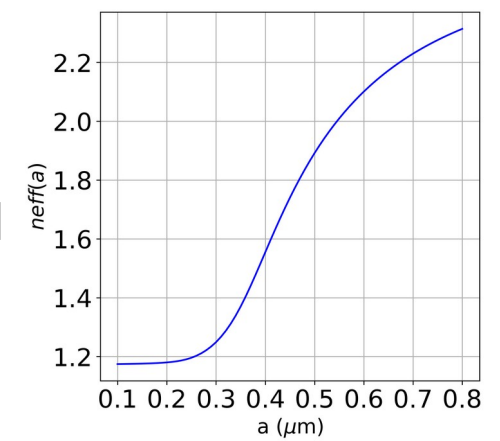
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Theoretical ideal
BD result

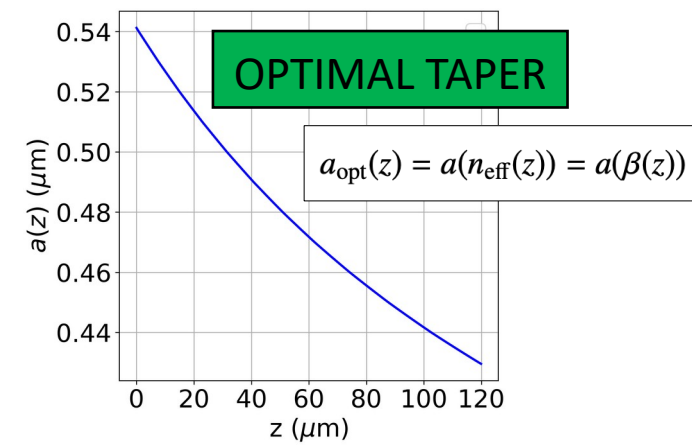
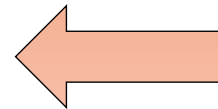
parametric study in COMSOL

Calibration Curve



$E(z, t)$

STEP 3: Testing of the taper (3D) through EM COMSOL simulation



Slotted waveguide: physics-based design

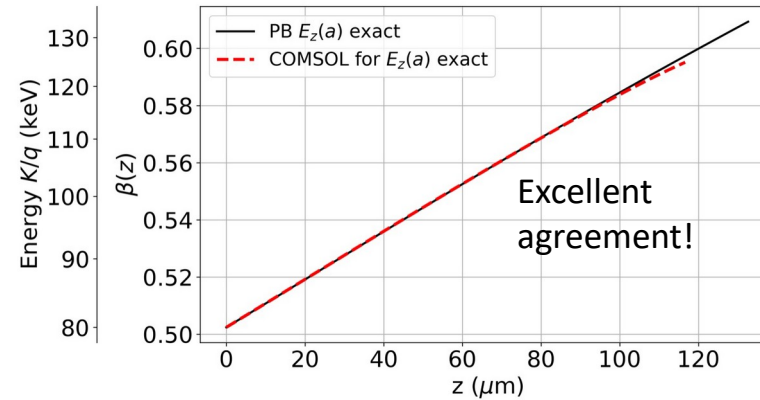
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=1 for ΔW maximization

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dp}{dt} = qE(z, t) \\ \frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{p}{\sqrt{\frac{p^2}{c^2} + m_0^2}} \end{cases}$$

$E(z, t)$

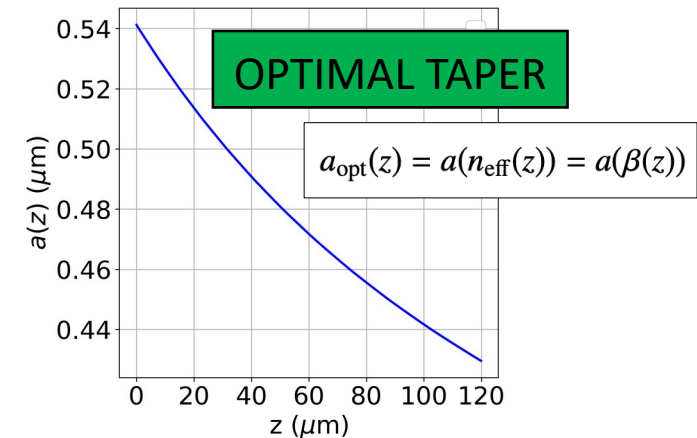
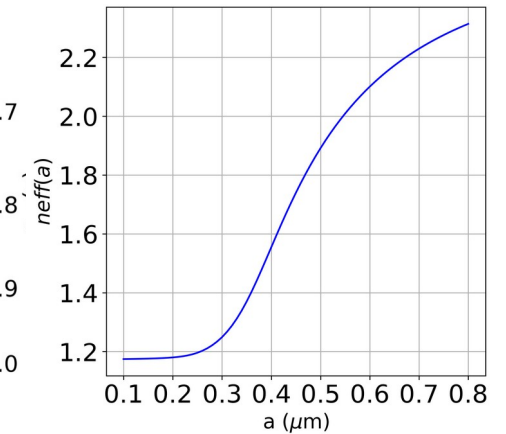


-Theoretical ideal
vs
- - - Numerical
BD result

STEP 2: Derivation of a calibration curve

parametric study in COMSOL

Calibration Curve



STEP 3: Testing of the taper (3D) through EM COMSOL simulation

Slotted waveguide: summary

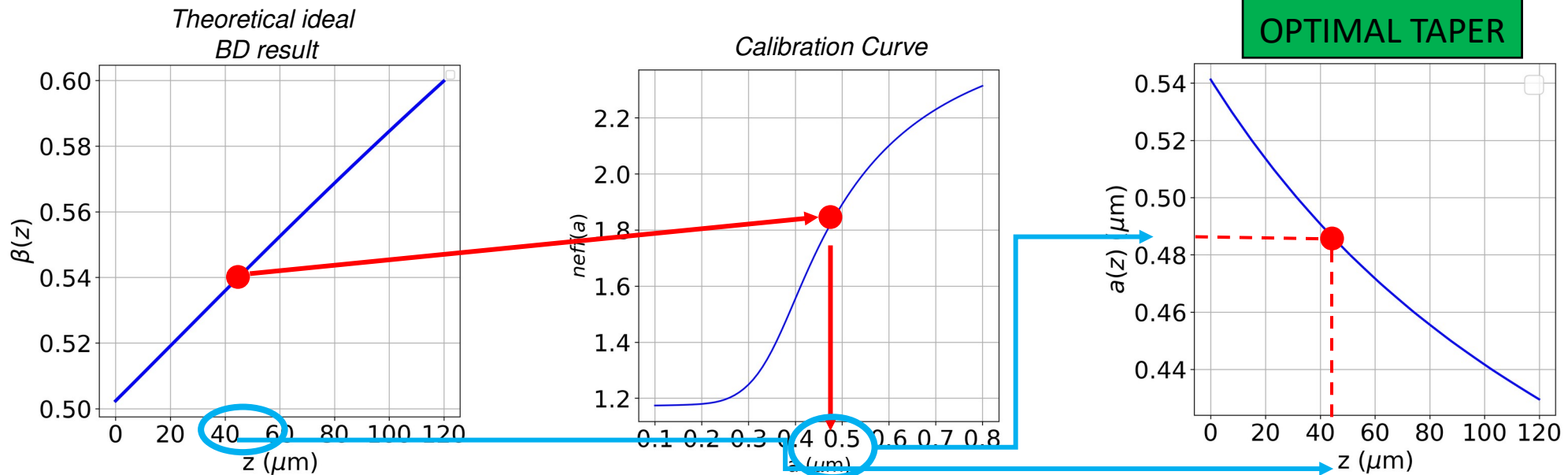
[Palmeri, R., et al. "Optimization of sub-relativistic co-propagating accelerating structures." *Optics Express* 31.23, 2023.]

In formula:

$$E_z(z, t) = E_0 \cos \left[\omega t - \int_0^z k_z(z') dz' \right] \quad \text{Accelerating field}$$

$$\Delta W = q \int_0^L E_z(z, t) dz = q \int_0^L E_0(z') \cos \left\{ \omega \left[\int_0^z \frac{1}{v_{\text{part}}(z')} dz' - \int_0^z \frac{1}{v_{\text{ph}}(z')} dz' \right] \right\} dz \quad \text{Energy gain}$$

=1 for maximization

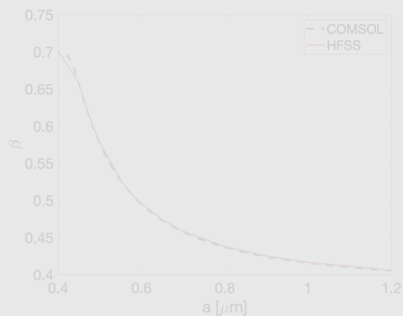
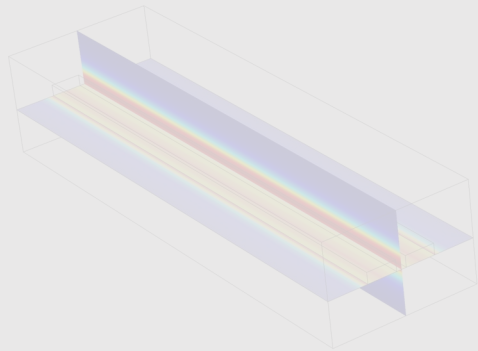
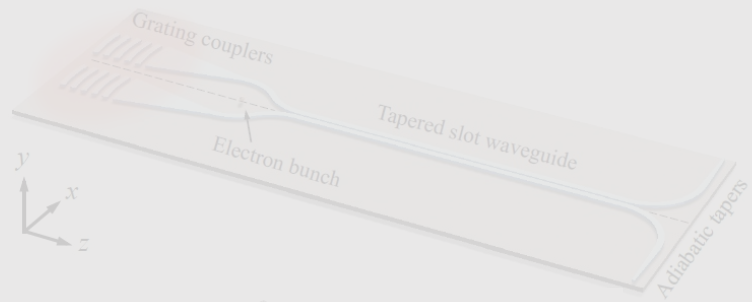


Copropagating schemes for Dielectric Laser Accelerators

Accelerators

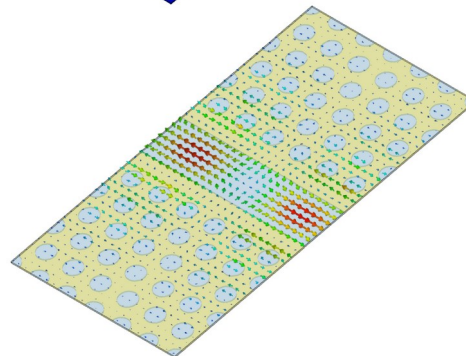
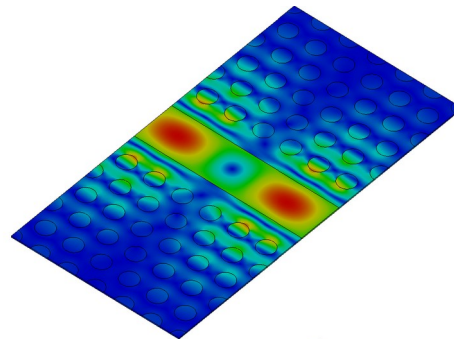
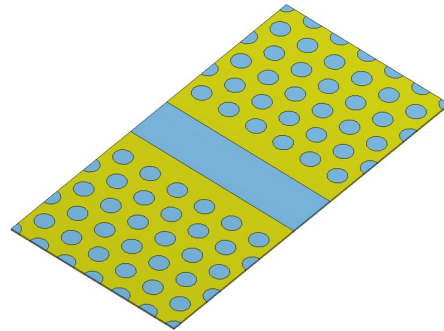
1) Slotted waveguide @ 2 μm

□



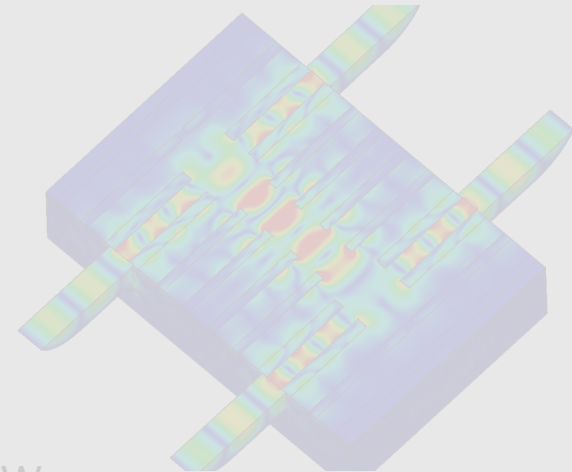
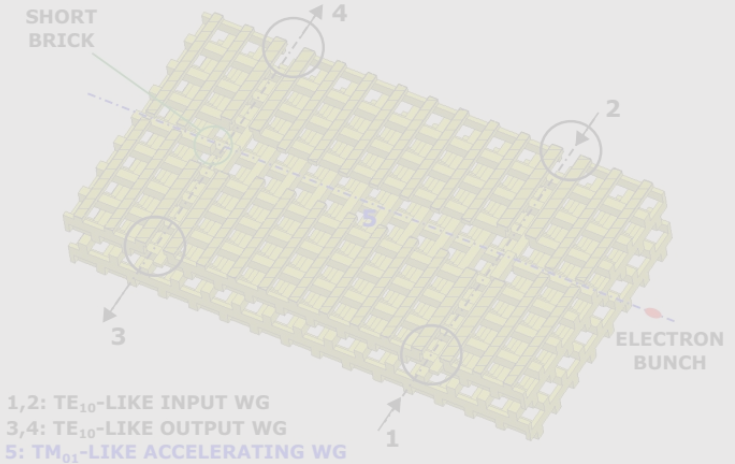
2) 2D PhC waveguide @ 5 μm

[



3) Woodpile @ 5 μm

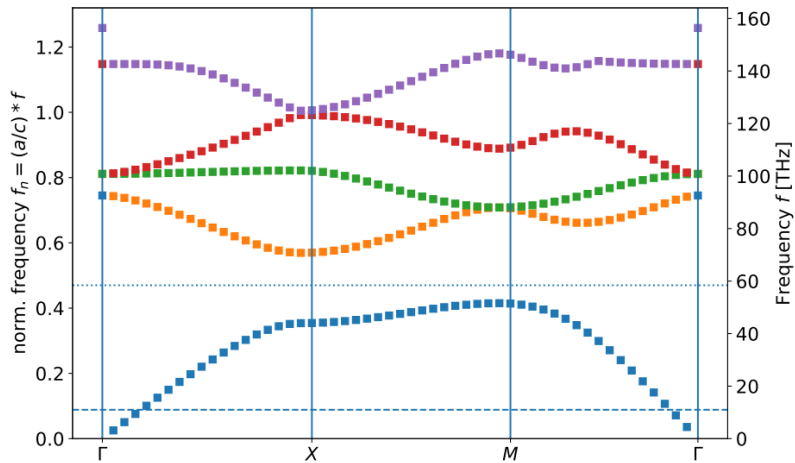
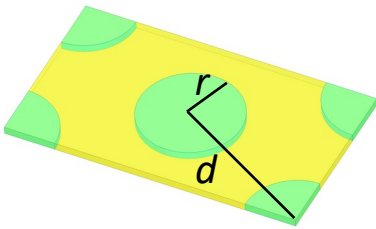
□



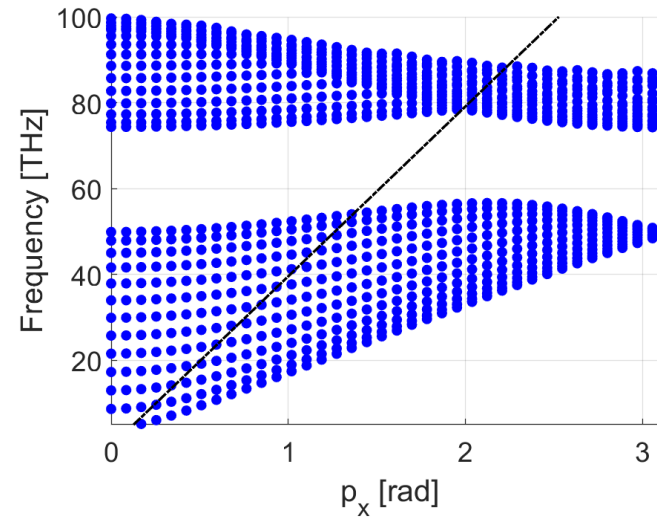
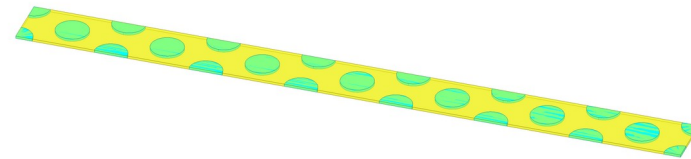
1 GV/m
@ $P_{\text{INJ}} = 500 \text{ W}$

2D photonic crystal waveguide

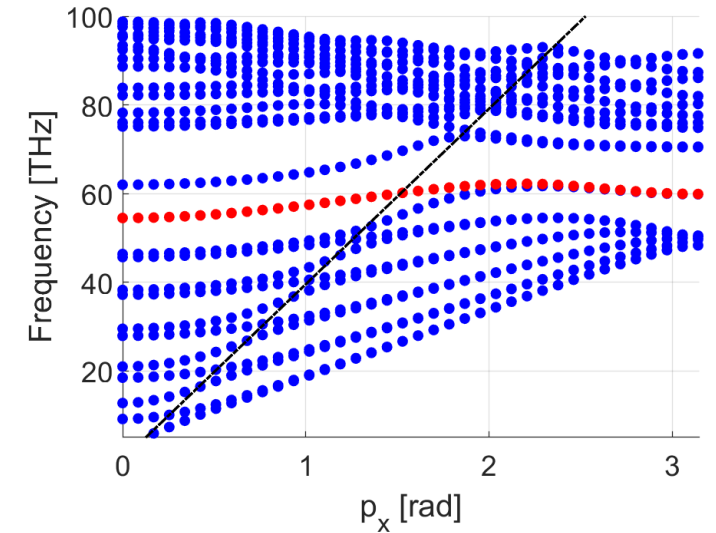
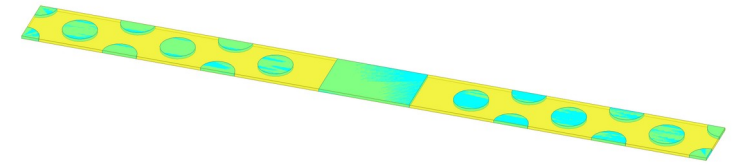
a) computation of the **band diagram** of the triangular lattice primitive cell



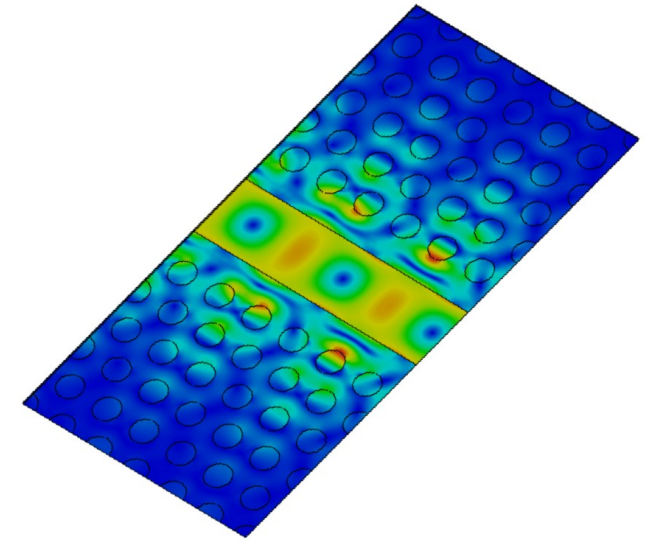
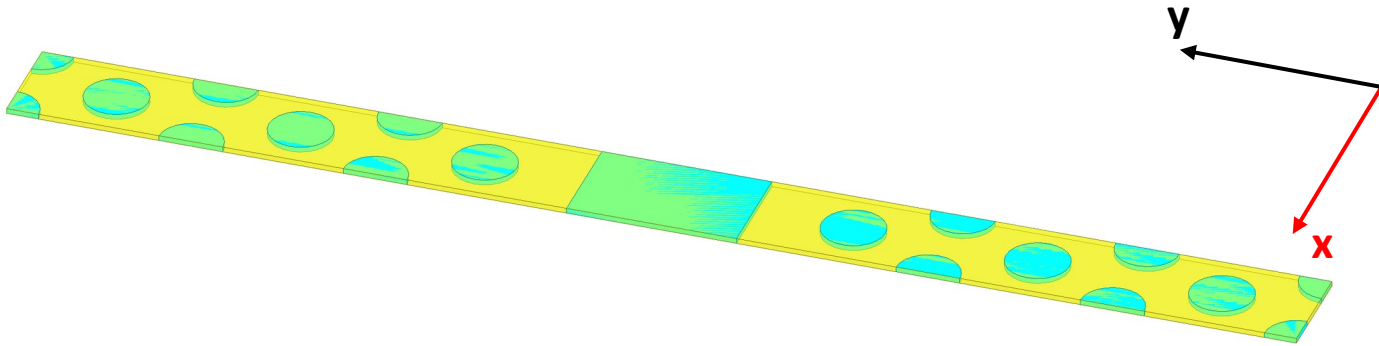
b) computation of the **projected band diagram** of a triangular lattice supercell



c) add a **hollow-core linear defect** to the supercell

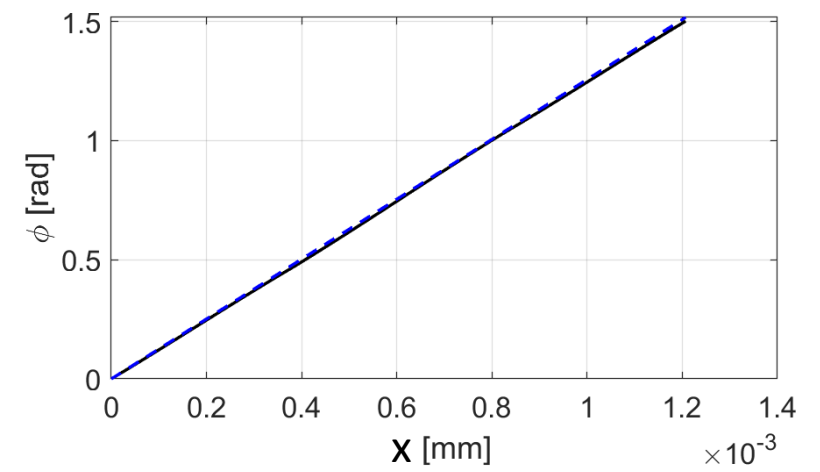
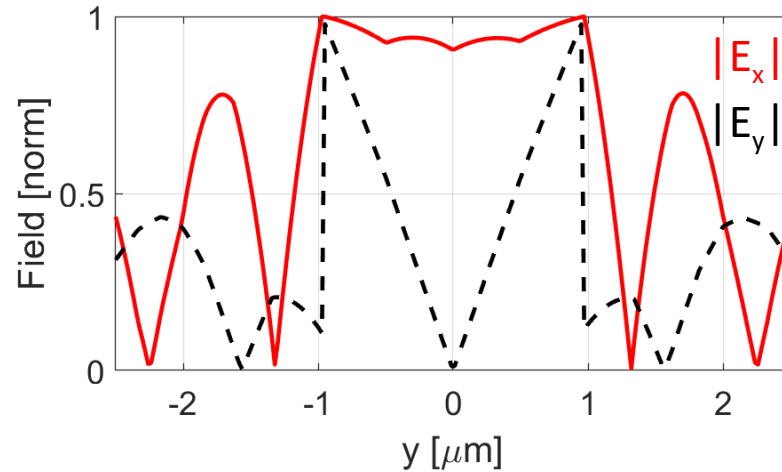
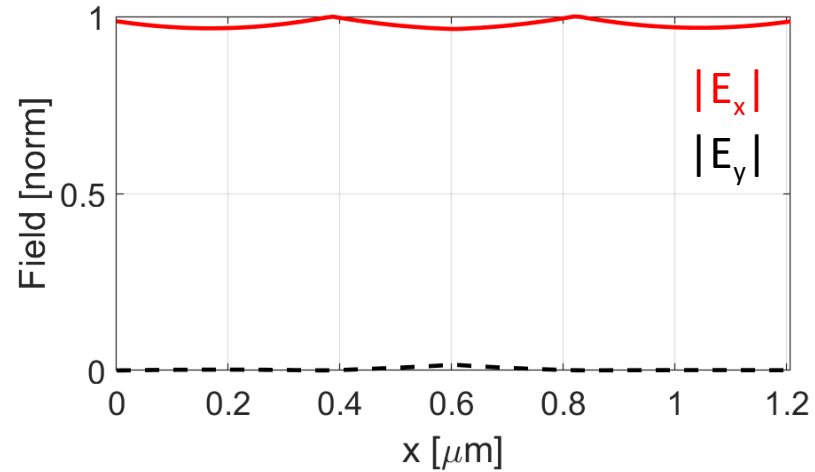


2D photonic crystal waveguide



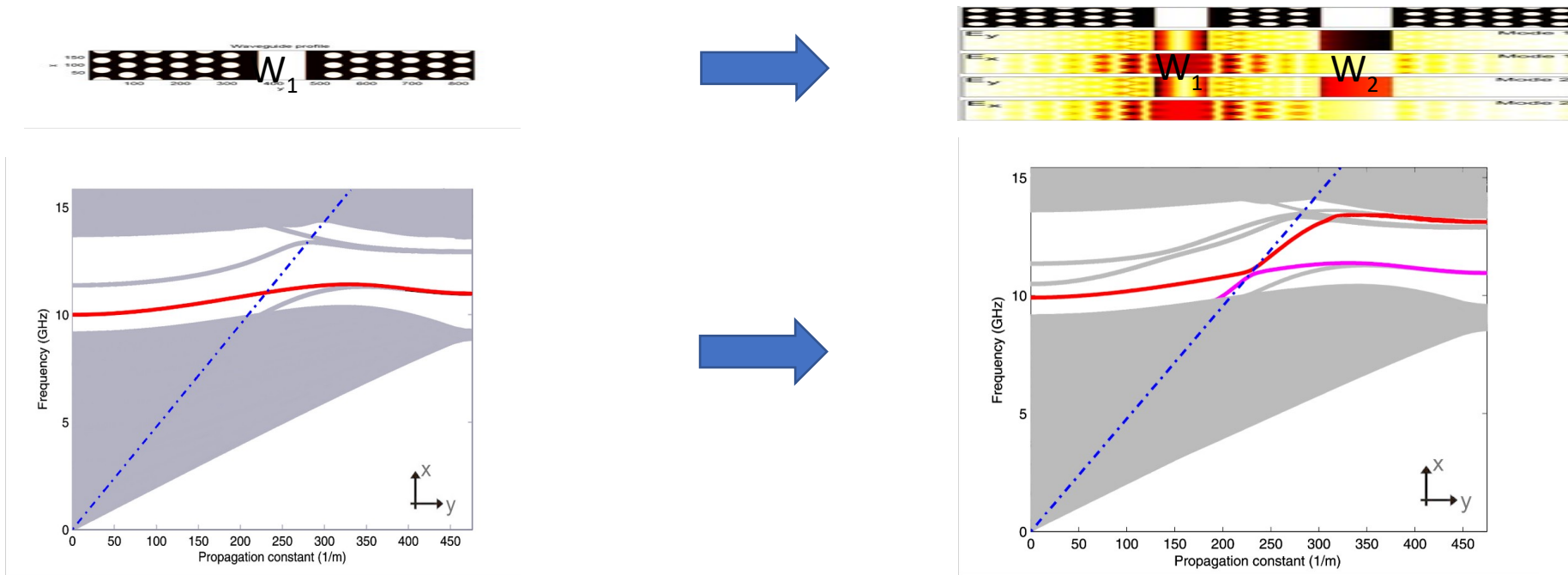
Confined TM₀₁-like mode

Phase of E_x along x vs.



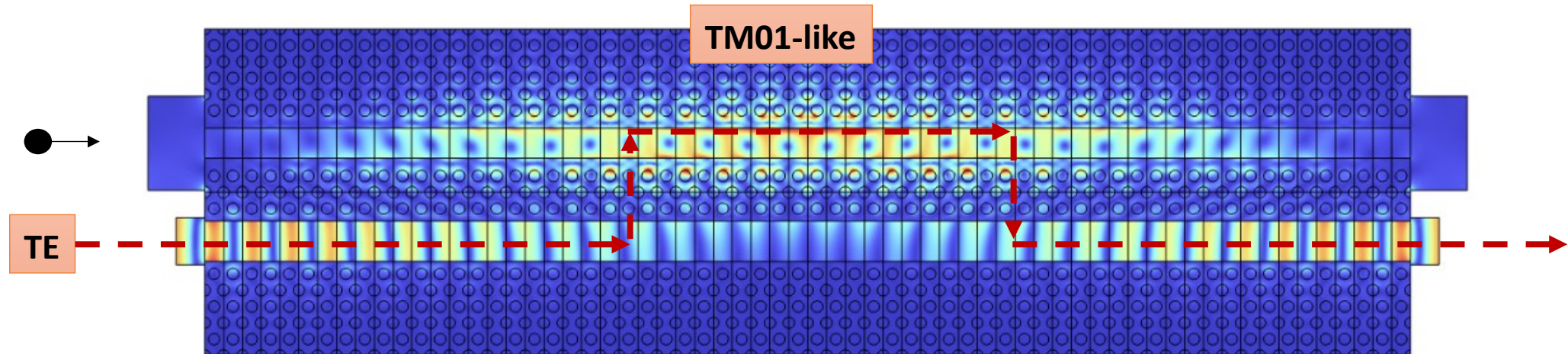
2D photonic crystal waveguide coupler – first attempt

- The first waveguide (width $W_1 = 1.6d$) supports an **accelerating mode**.
- The second one (width $W_2 = 2.13d$) supports a **transverse mode**.
- Synchronization of an accelerating and a transverse mode by W variation.
- **When the waveguides couple, efficient energy exchange is possible.**



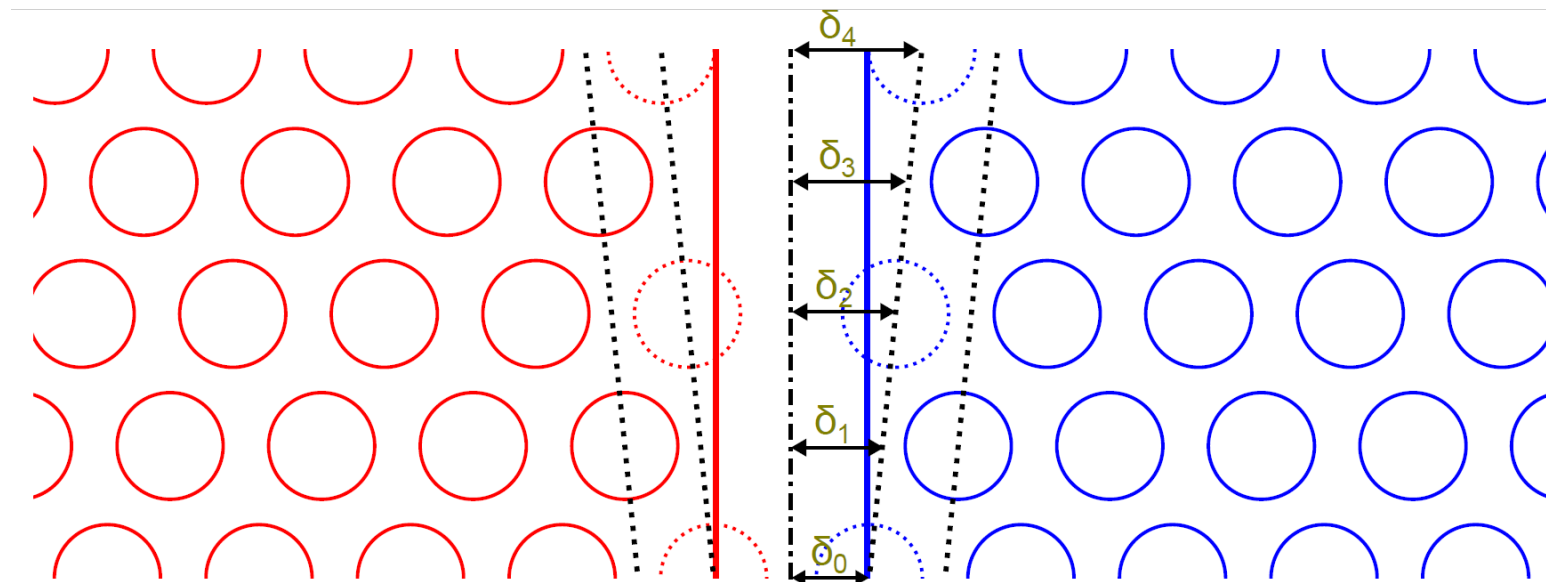
2D photonic crystal waveguide coupler – first attempt

64-periods 2D PhC waveguide coupler COMSOL simulation



Tapered 2D PhC waveguide

- By modifying the waveguide width, it is possible to decrease the normalized wave phase velocity of the guided mode.
 - In particular, the triangular lattice waveguide, we obtain $0.7 < \beta < 1$.
- The decrease in waveguide width necessary to obtain a lower β is accomplished by a shift of the air rods along the transversal direction.



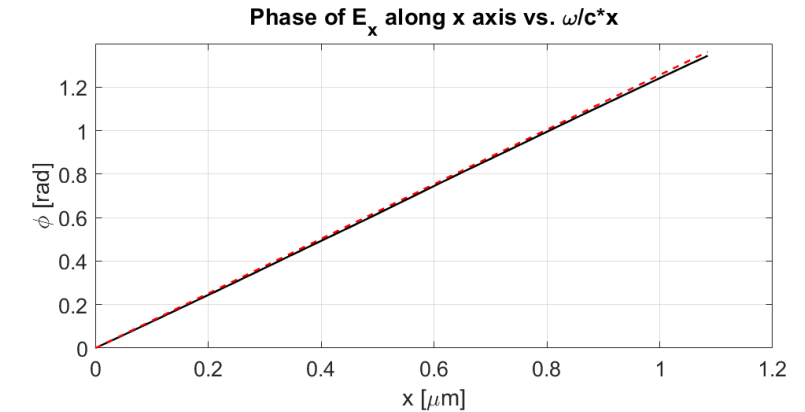
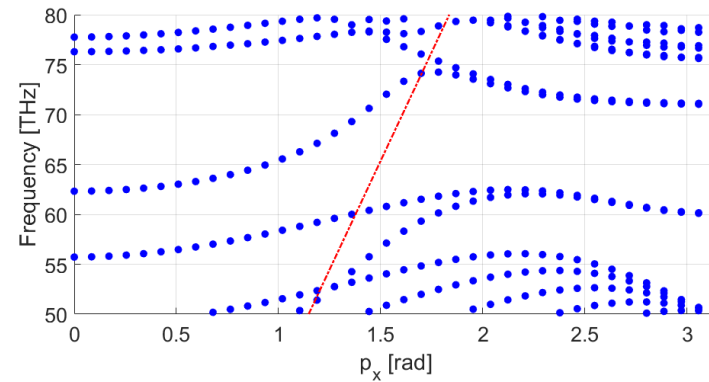
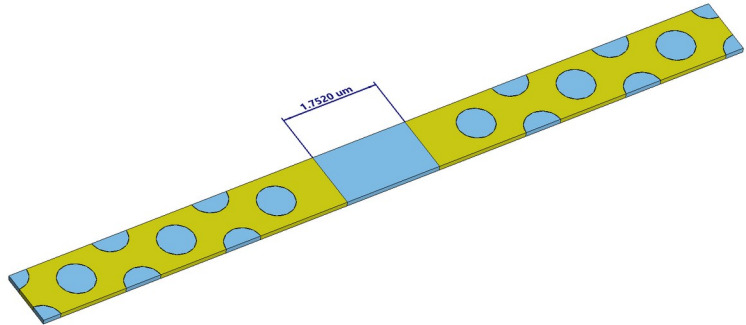
$$\delta_i = \frac{i}{N} \frac{w_p}{2}$$

Where:

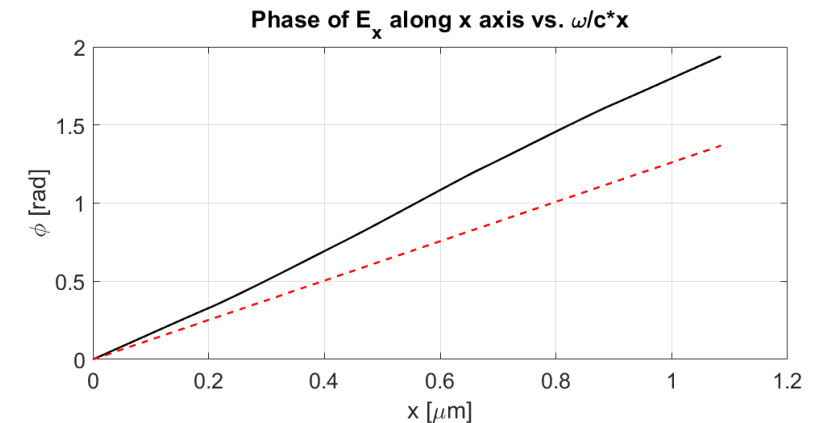
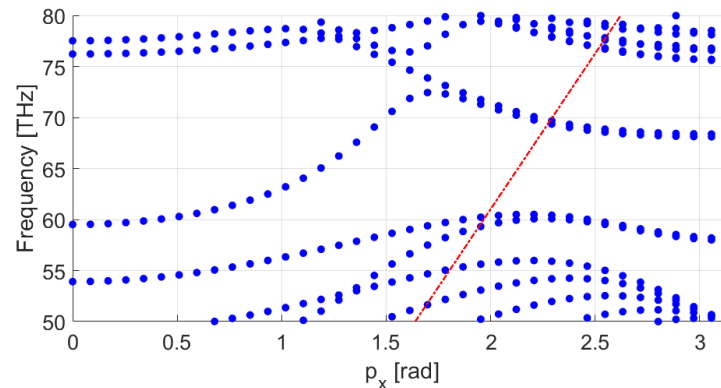
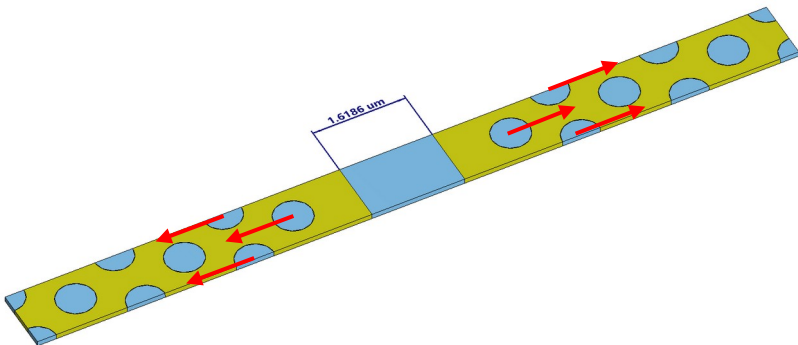
- N is fixed by the taper length
- w_p is the padding width to obtain a specific β

Tapered 2D PhC waveguide

- Phase velocity modification procedure:
 - design a PhC waveguide supercell, choosing the hollow-core defect width in order to obtain a suitable confined mode. In our case, the mode will be **TM01-like with $\beta = 1$ @ $\lambda_0 = 5 \mu\text{m}$** .



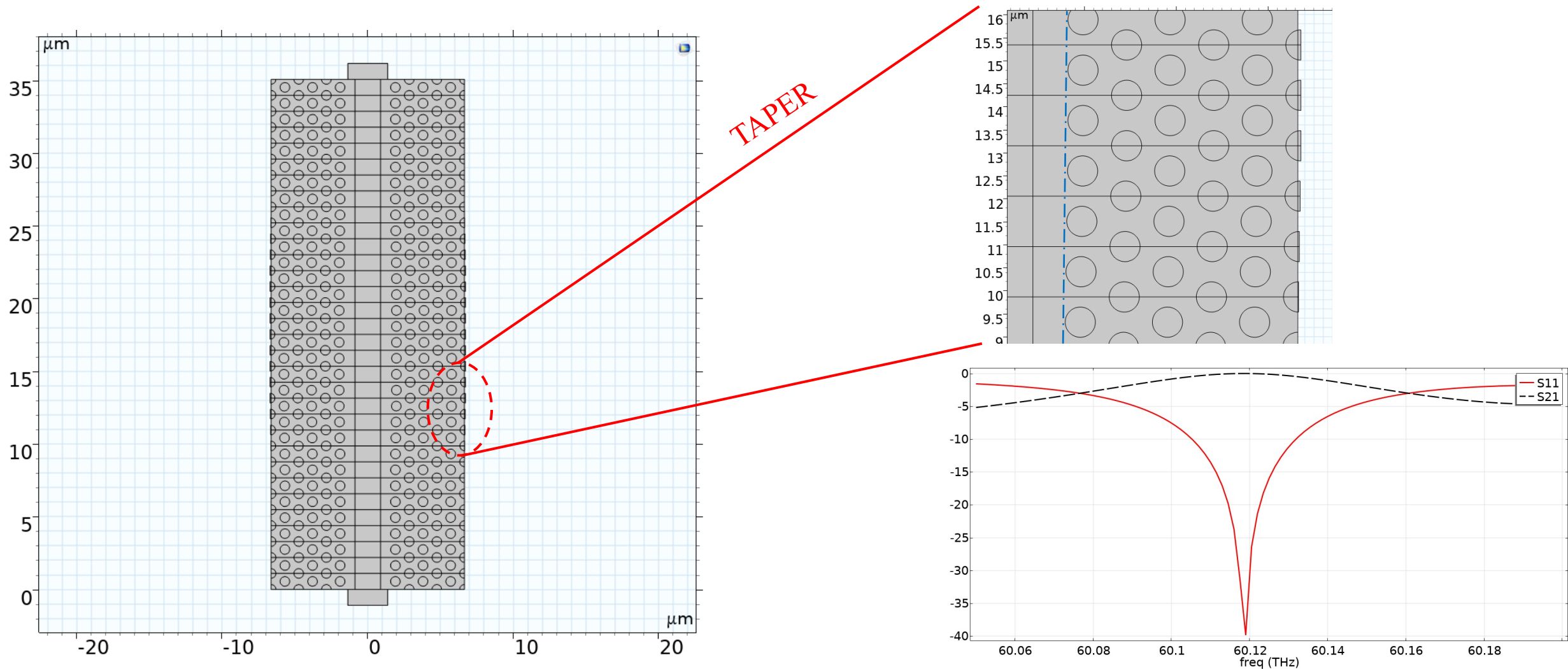
- introduce a waveguide ‘padding’ through a suitable air rod side-shift. This way the confined TM01-like mode will intersect the frequency of interest at another value of k_x : here the mode will have **$\beta < 1$** .



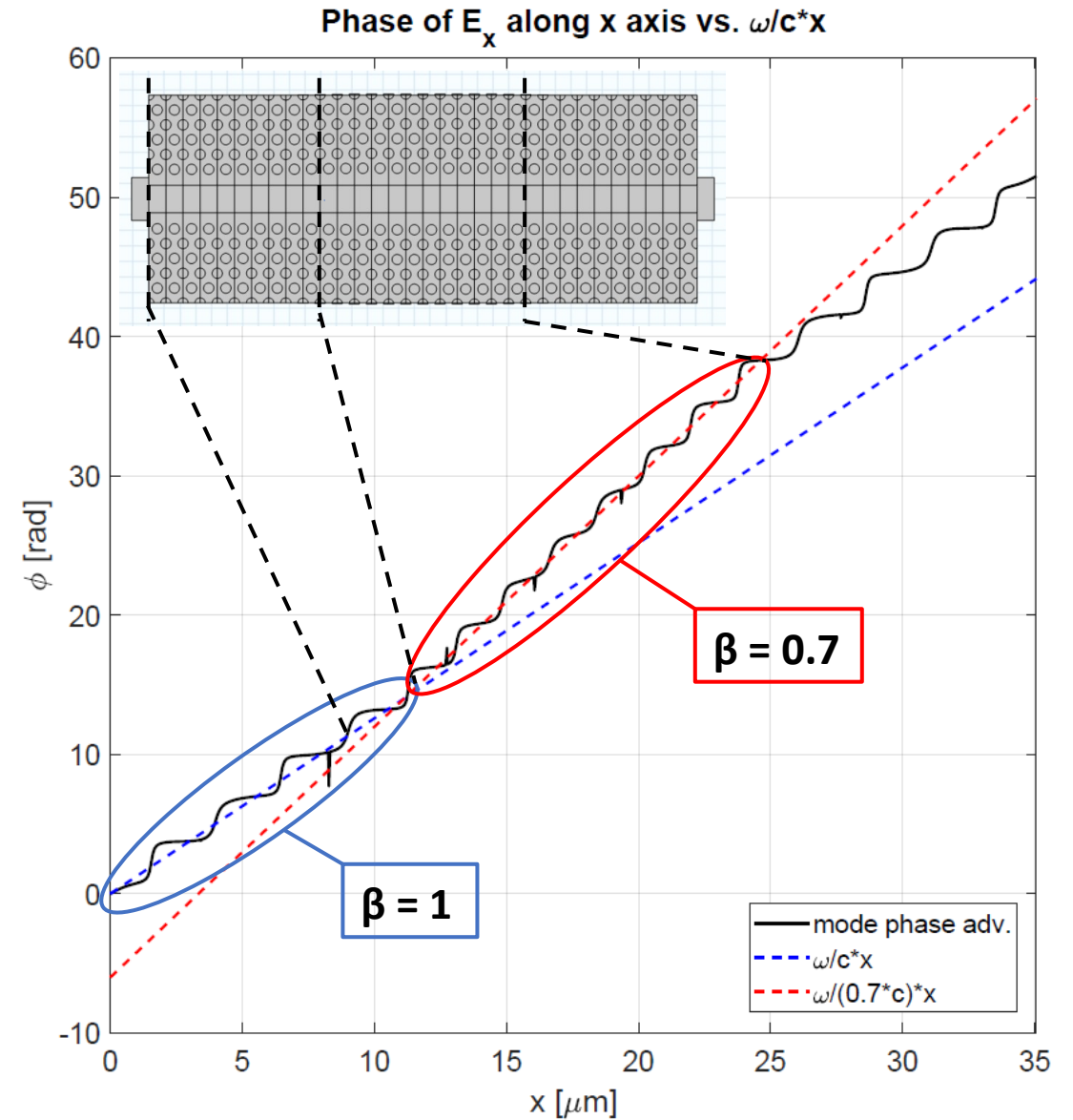
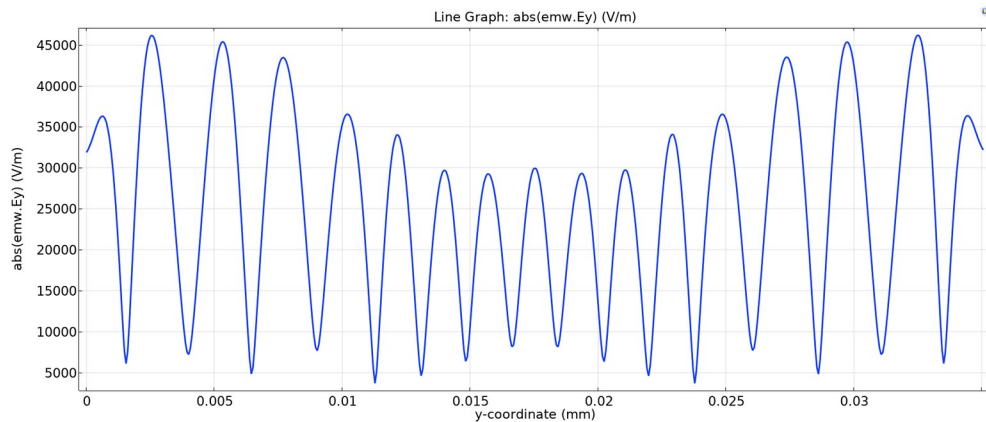
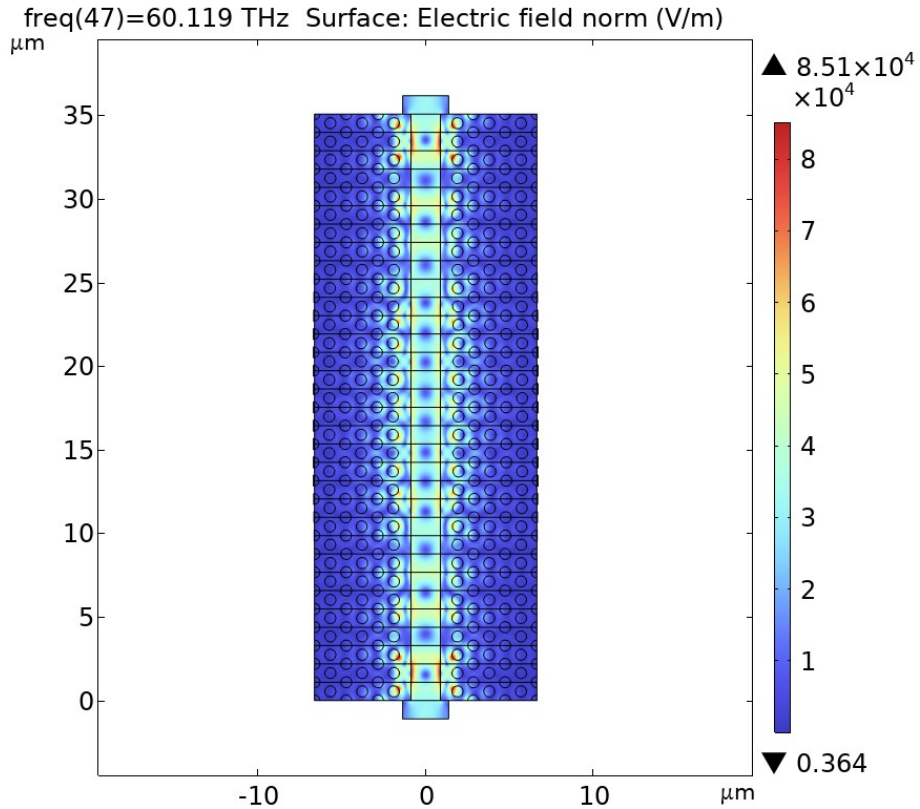
- NOTE: to perform this procedure the chosen mode needs to have the correct slope!**

5 μm PhC waveguide in triangular lattice

- After the CST periodic boundary condition simulations, necessary to select the accelerating mode ($0.7 < \beta < 1$), a 2D 'driven' COMSOL simulation has been performed.
- Waveguide is made of **32 periods** and works in b2b configuration.

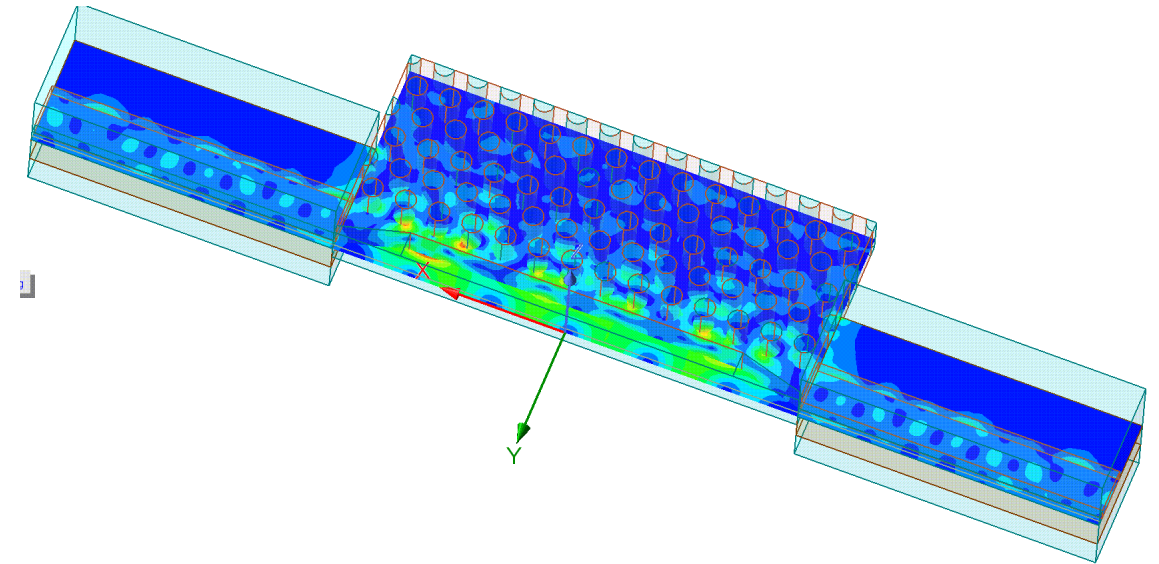
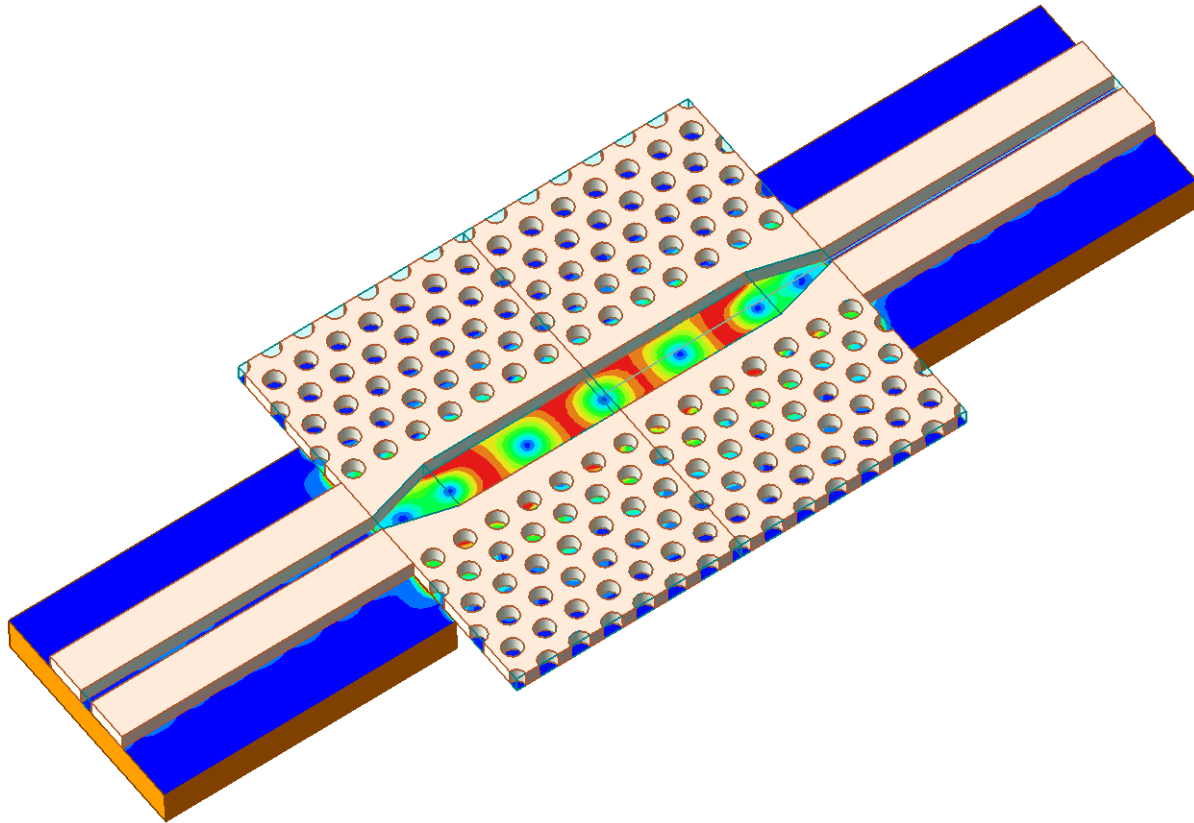


5 μm PhC waveguide in triangular lattice



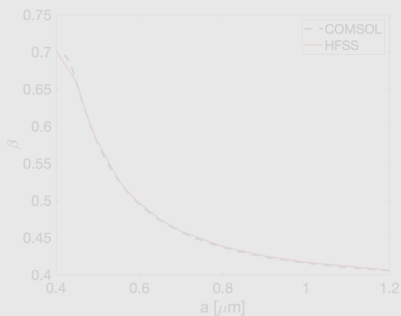
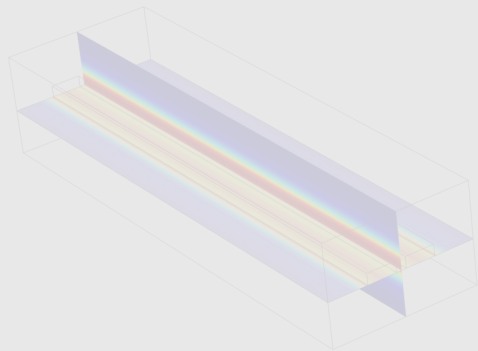
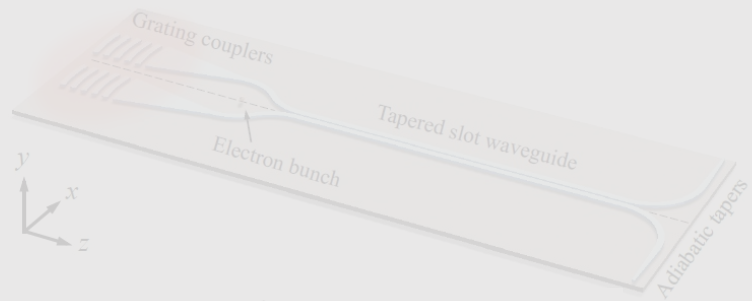
Next steps

- Sub-relativistic to relativistic ($0.4 < \beta < 1$) slot waveguide to silicon triangular lattice PhC accelerating waveguide.

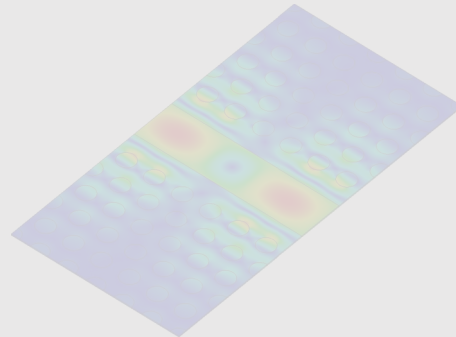
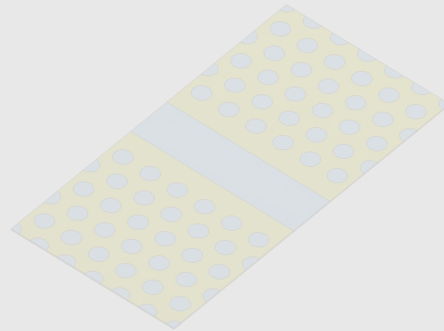


Copropagating schemes for Dielectric Laser Accelerators

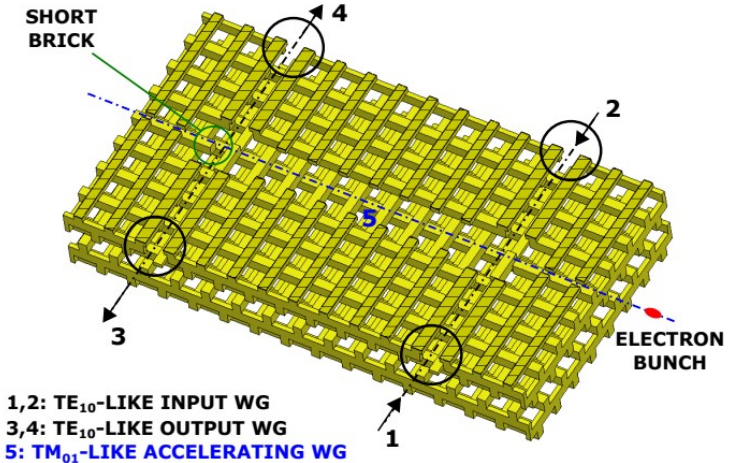
1) Slotted waveguide @ 2 μm



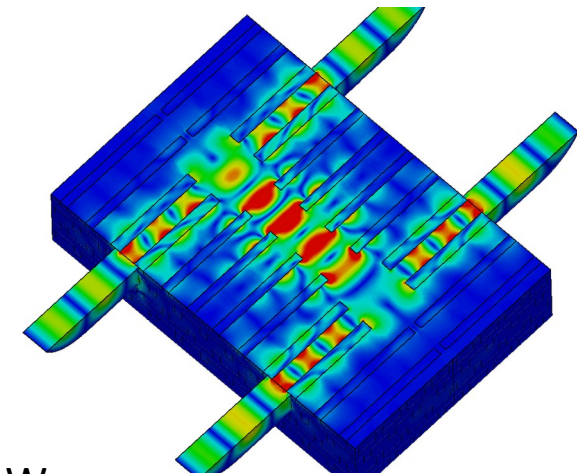
2) 2D PhC waveguide @ 5 μm



3) Woodpile @ 5 μm



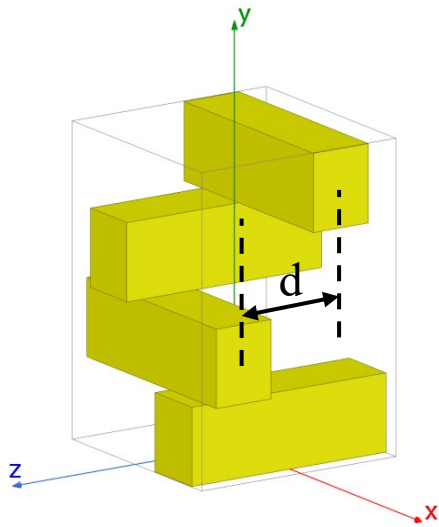
1,2: TE₁₀-LIKE INPUT WG
3,4: TE₁₀-LIKE OUTPUT WG
5: TM₀₁-LIKE ACCELERATING WG



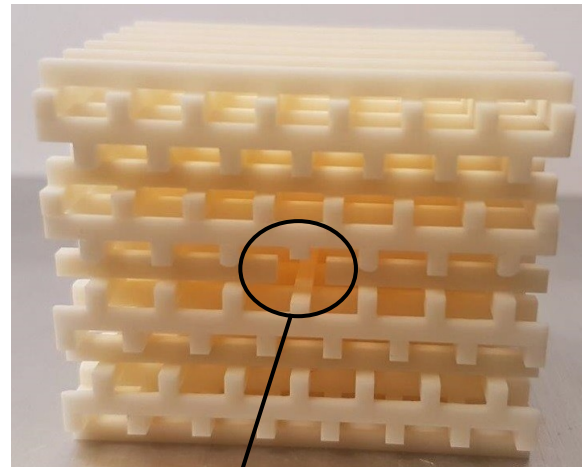
1 GV/m
@ P_{INJ} = 500 W

3D woodpile structure

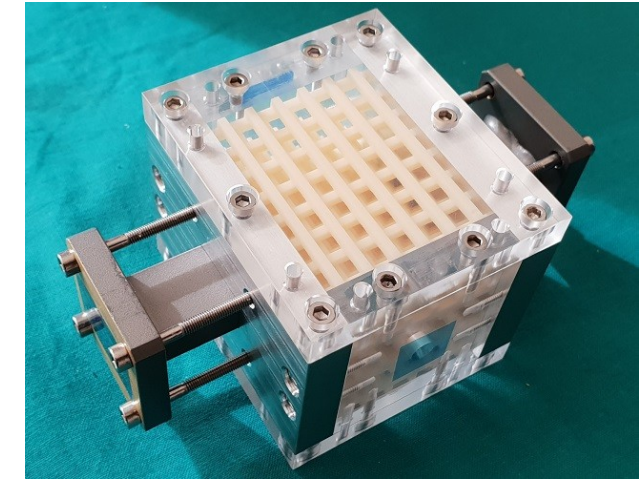
- Composed by a “pile” of rectangular $w \times h$ bricks disposed in layers stacked in the vertical direction, each layer rotated of 90° with respect from the layer below, whose centers are distant a period d .
- Creating a so called “defect channel”, one or more modes can be trapped inside the defect and thus a waveguide is obtained.
- The guided mode can be either a ‘launch’ transverse electric mode (**TE₁₀-like**) or a mode suitable for particle acceleration (**TM₀₁-like**).



Woodpile unit cell



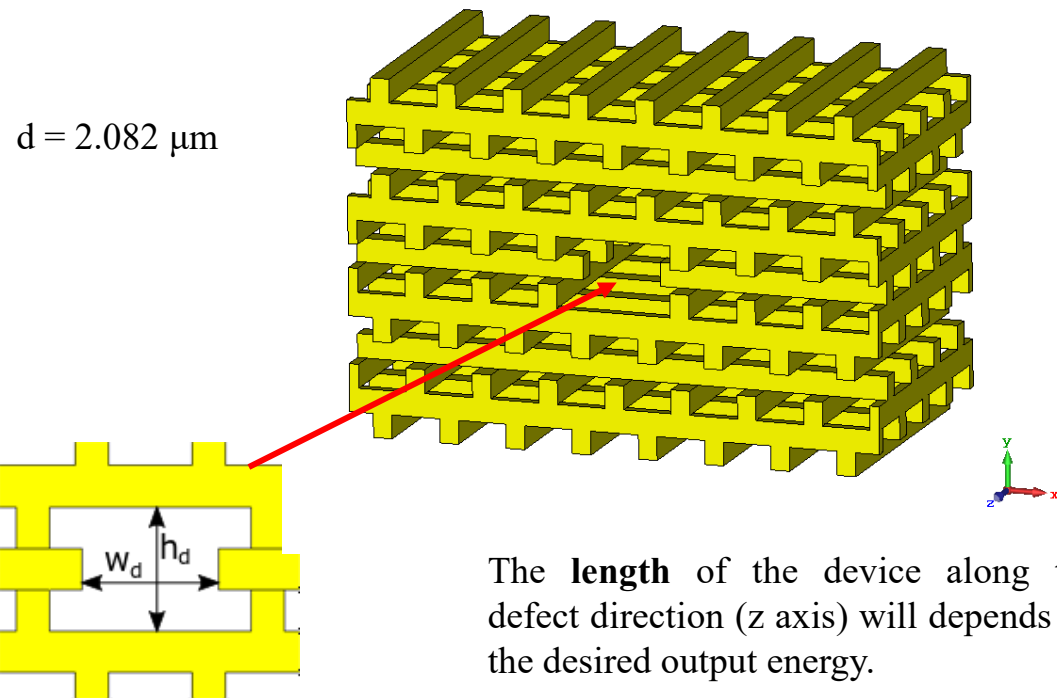
‘Hollow-core’ defect channel



Woodpile waveguide

3D woodpile structure

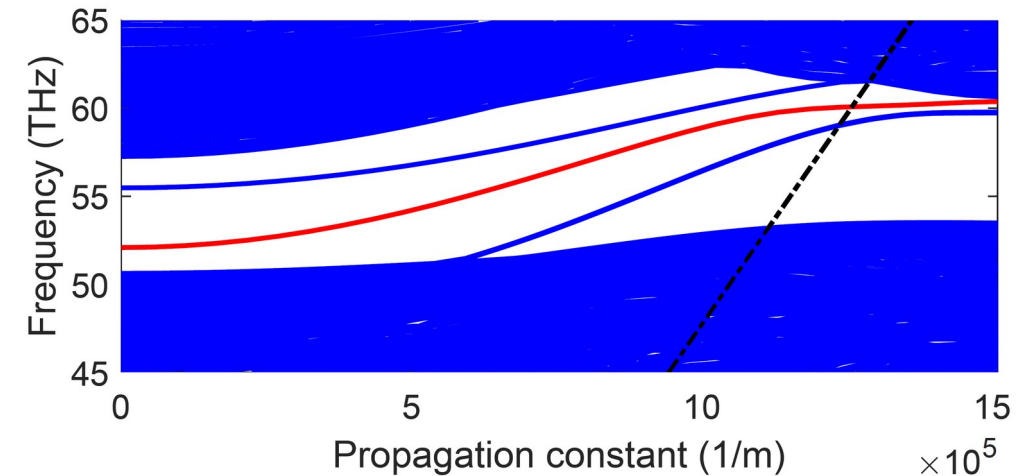
- Once the configuration that presents the largest band gap has been found, a supercell is realized and a hollow core defect is introduced.
- This defect can be tuned to support an electromagnetic mode that can be guided along the structure in the way to form a waveguide.



Hollow core defect dimensions:

$$w_d = 2.429 \mu\text{m}$$

$$h_d = 2.209 \mu\text{m}$$

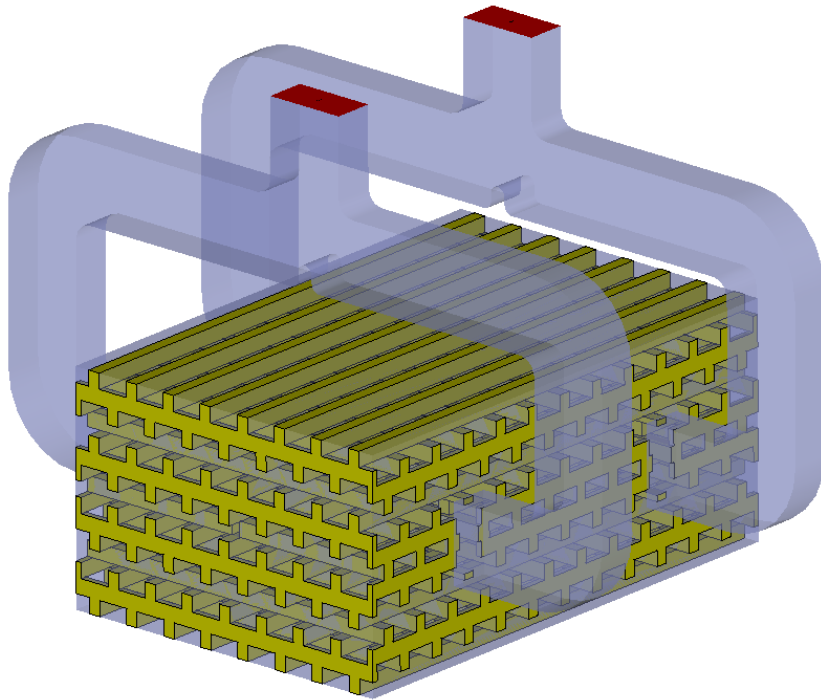


'Projected' band diagram of the accelerating waveguide, calculated along the defect propagating axis (z axis).

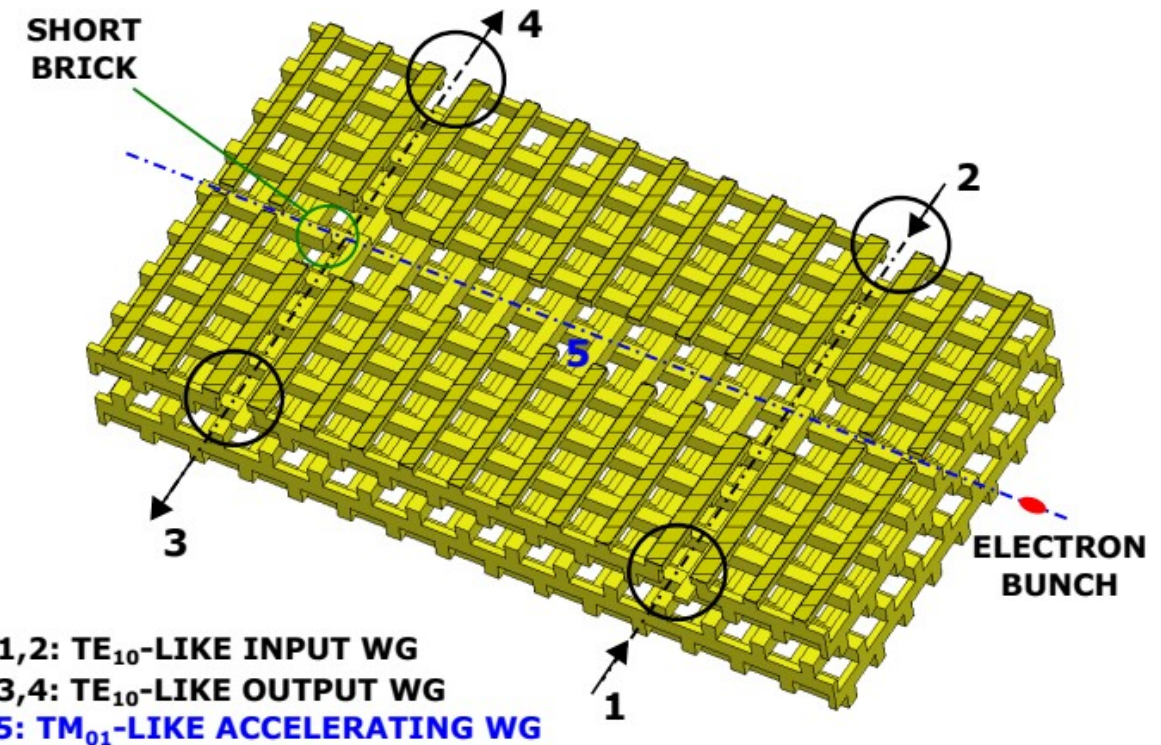
The confined TM01-like mode (red line) is clearly visible.

5 μm hollow-core woodpile coupler

- The side-coupler consists of:
 1. a **right-angled bend mode converter**, from **TE₁₀-like launch mode** to **TM₀₁-like mode** suitable for particle acceleration;
 2. an **accelerating waveguide** whose length can be tuned in order to obtain the final energy.

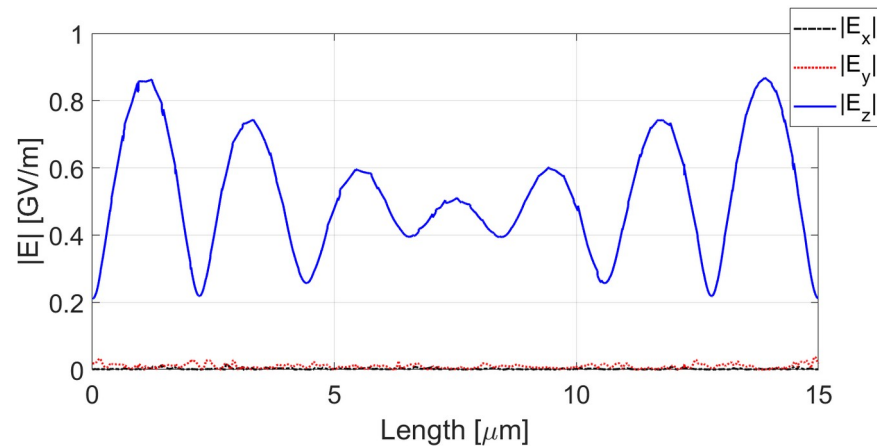
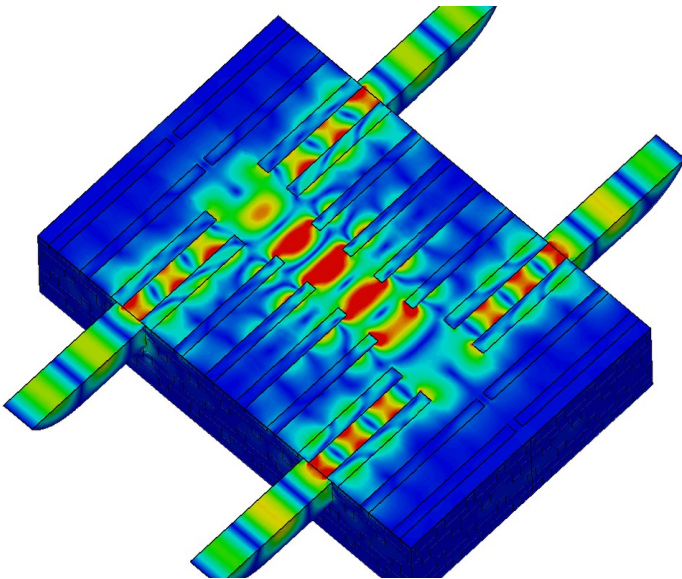
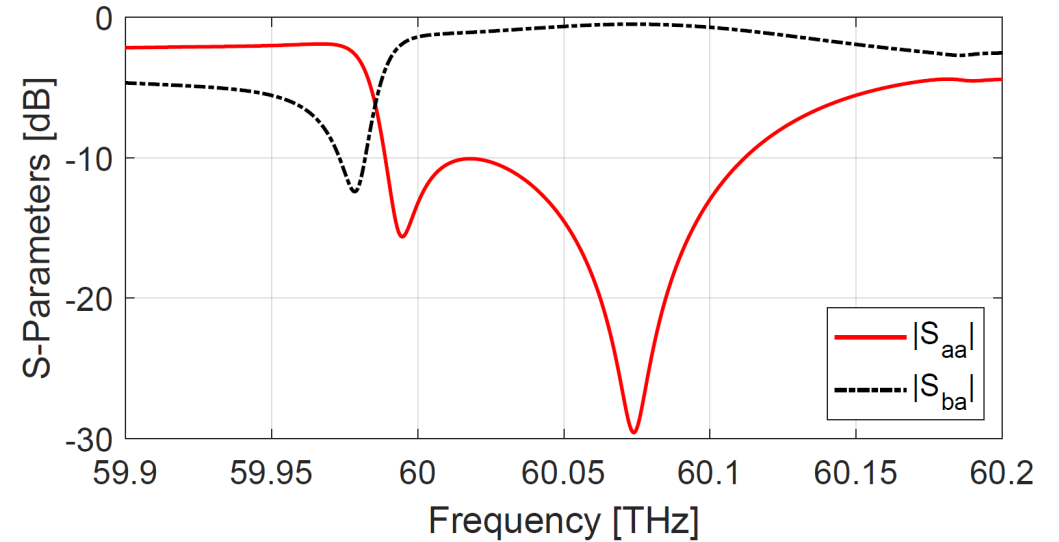


Structure dimensions: 16.7 μm x 11 μm x 31 μm



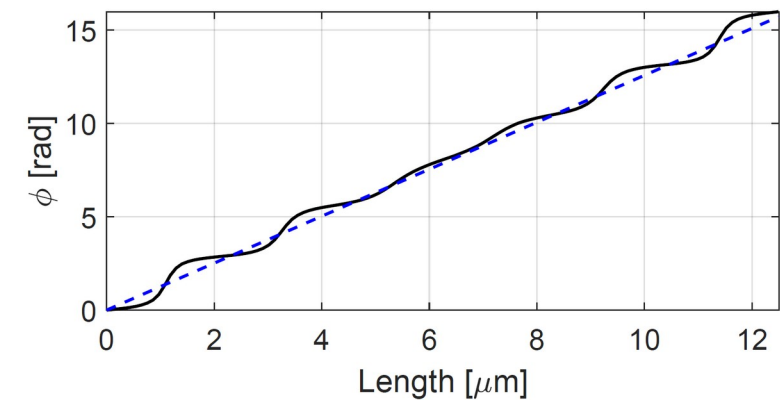
5 μm hollow-core woodpile coupler

- Woodpile coupler tuned, in terms of S-parameters, to:
 - maximize the I/O wave transmission;
 - improve the TE₁₀ to TM₀₁-like mode conversion.
- Full mode conversion at $f_0 \approx 60.074$ THz.



Acc. gradient of about 0.5 GV/m along hollow-core channel with 500 W input power.

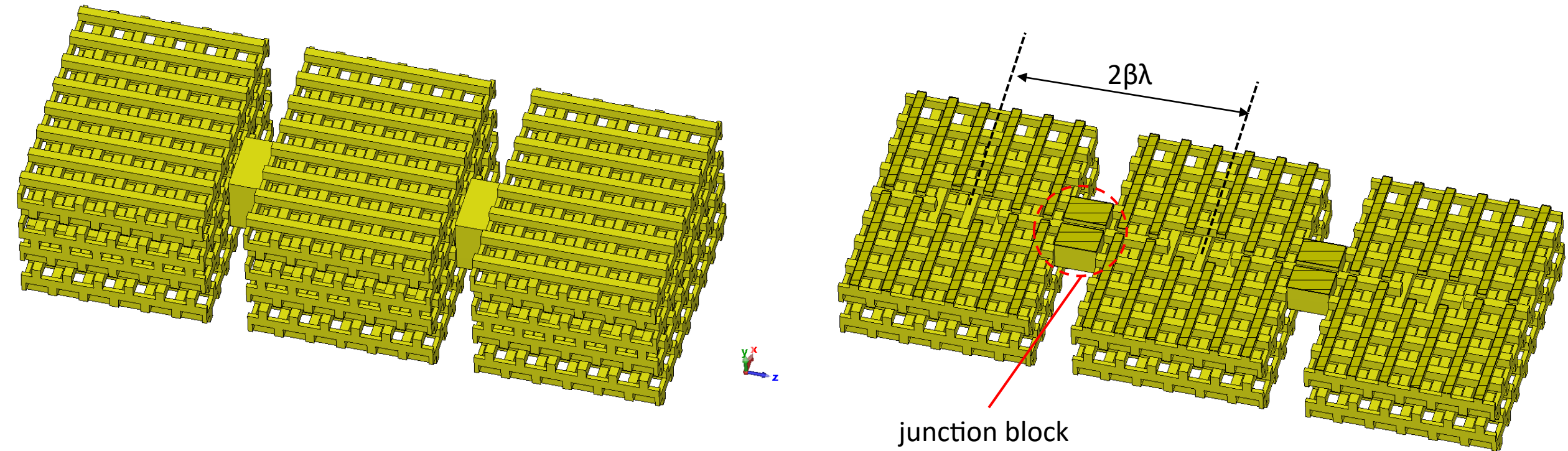
Phase of E_z along z vs.



TM₀₁-like mode synchronous with speed of light @ op. frequency.

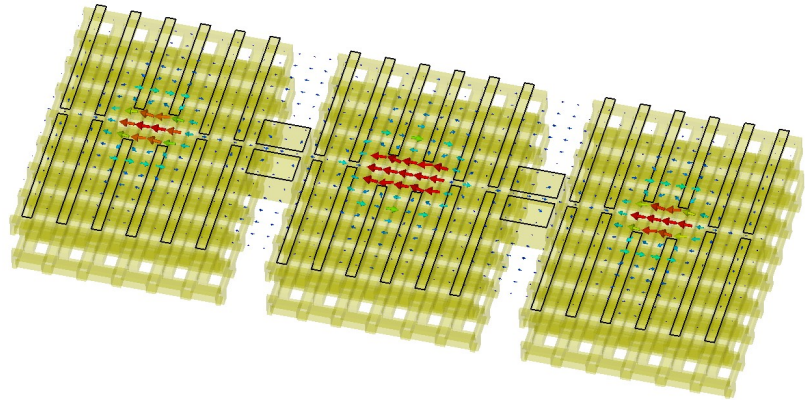
Woodpile standing wave structures

- 3-cell SW structure working in the **TM₀₁₀-like** mode, $\lambda_0 = 5 \mu\text{m}$.
- From the theory, for 3 cells the TM₀₁₀-like mode bandwidth comprises 3 modes: $0, \pi/2, \pi$.

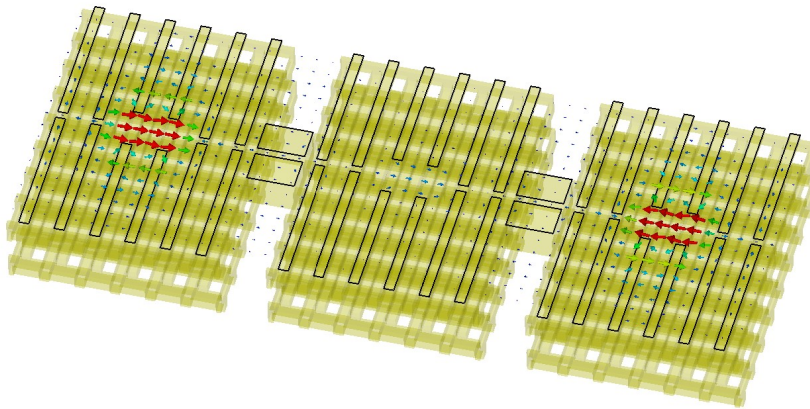
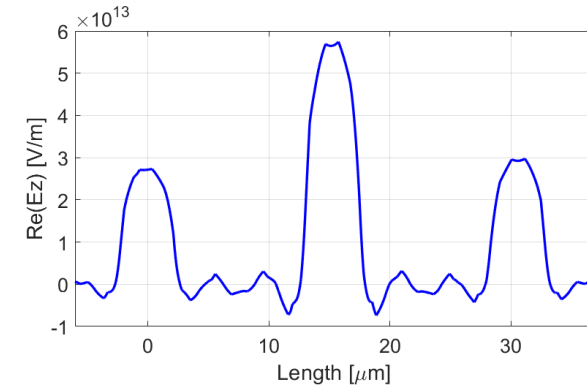


- Distance between two cavity centres is equal to $2\beta\lambda$ (0-mode operation).
- The 3 woodpile cavities are connected by two silicon 'junction blocks' of proper length.
- **This design has strong analogies with the equivalent, metallic DTL structures.**

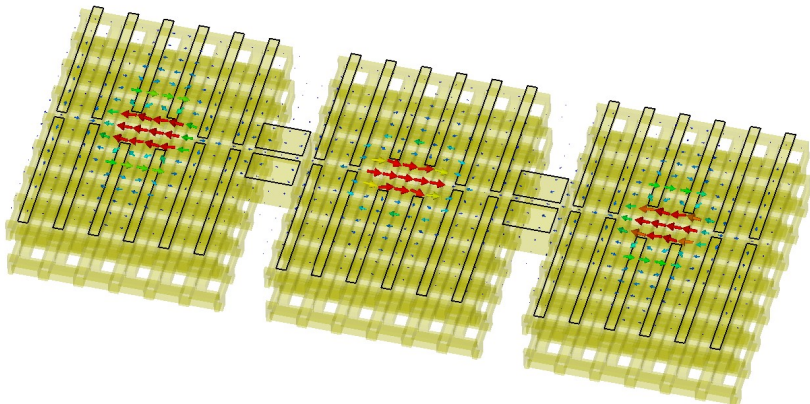
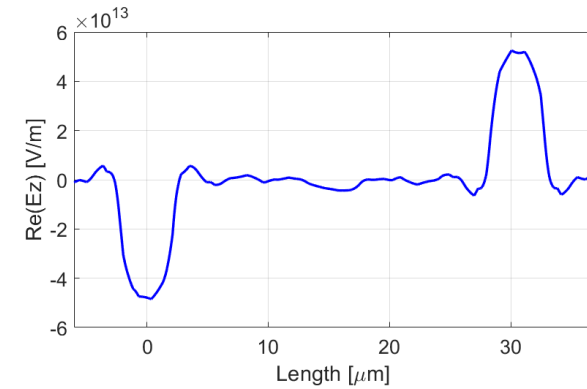
Woodpile standing wave structures



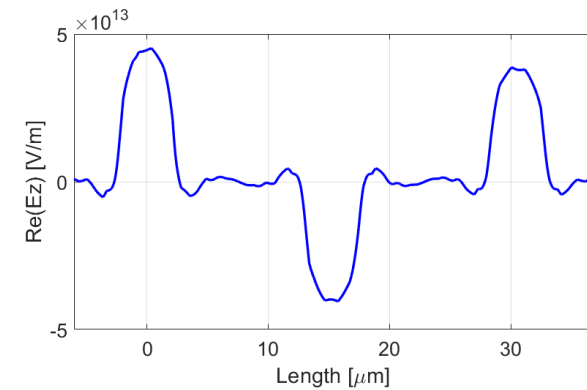
$$f_{0_TM010-0} = 54.18 \text{ THz}$$



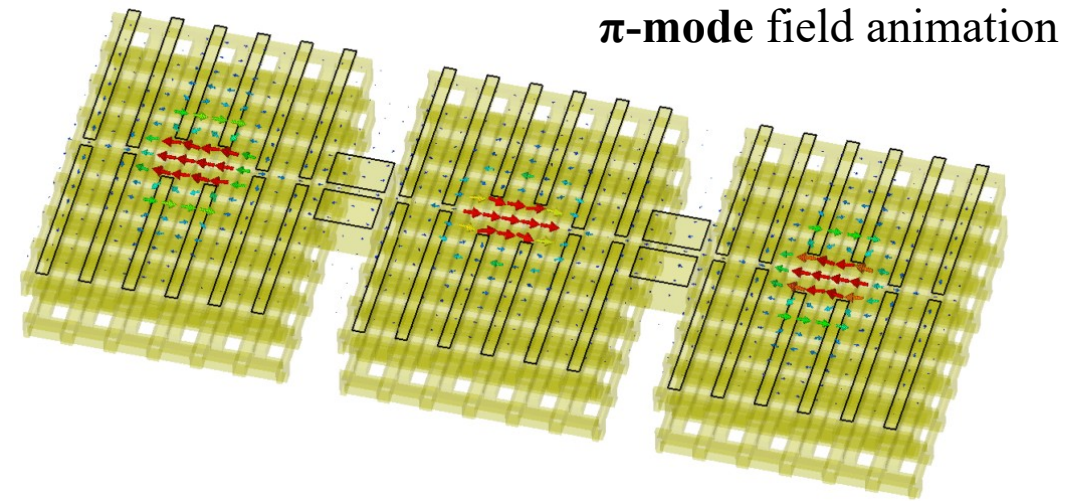
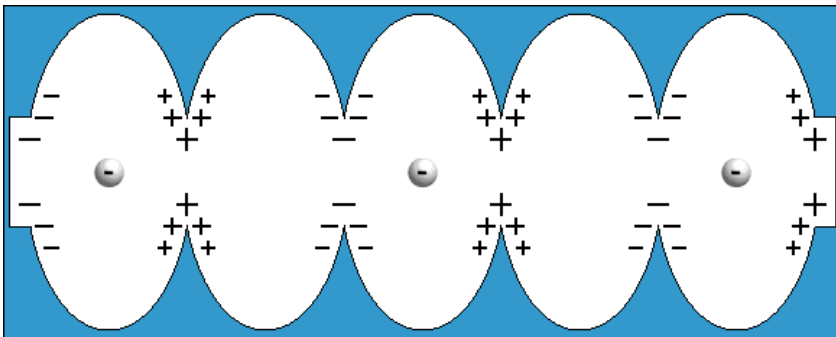
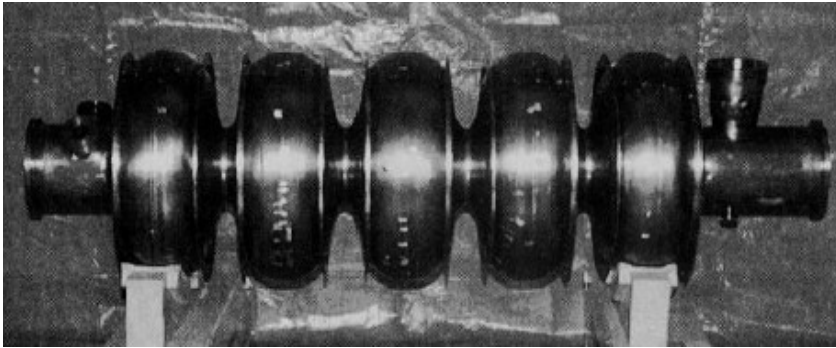
$$f_{0_TM010-\pi/2} = 54.13 \text{ THz}$$



$$f_{0_TM010-\pi} = 54.10 \text{ THz}$$



Woodpile standing wave structures

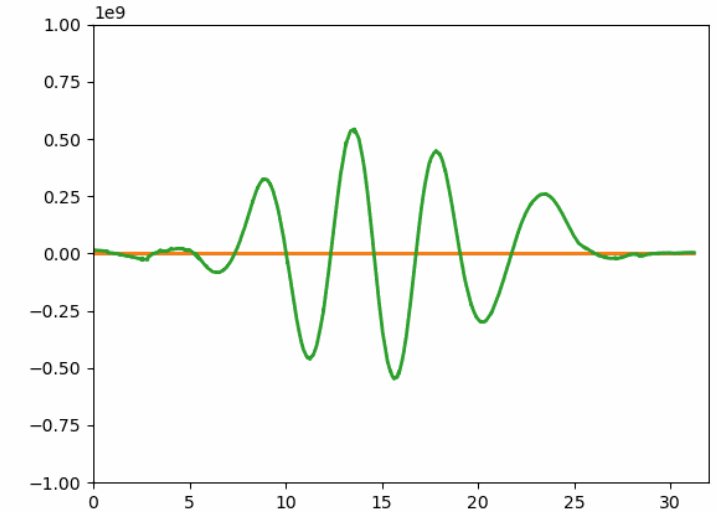
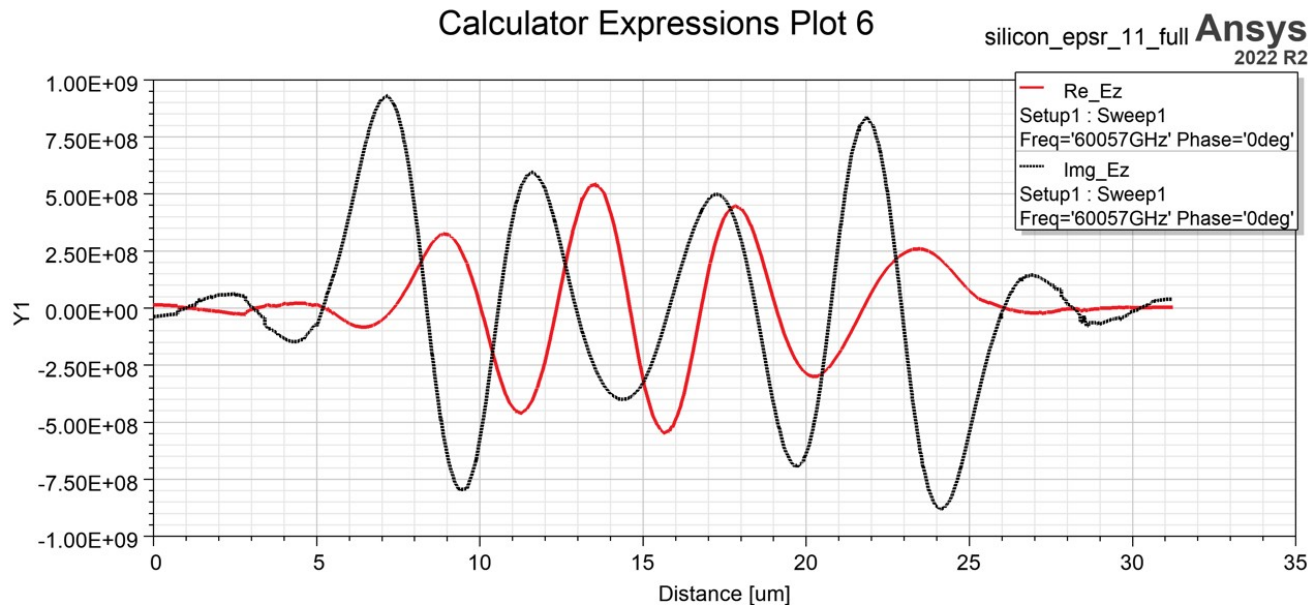


➤ Next step: design of a proper dielectric cavity coupler.

- Dielectric Laser Accelerators: introduction
- Co-propagating dielectric structures
- **Beam-dynamics simulation results and fabrication tests**
- Conclusion and perspectives

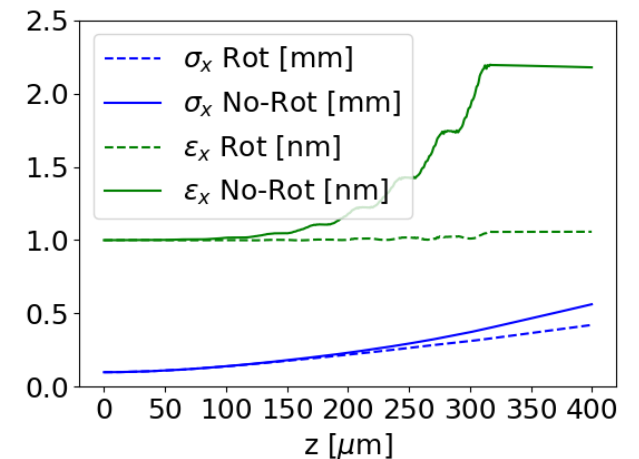
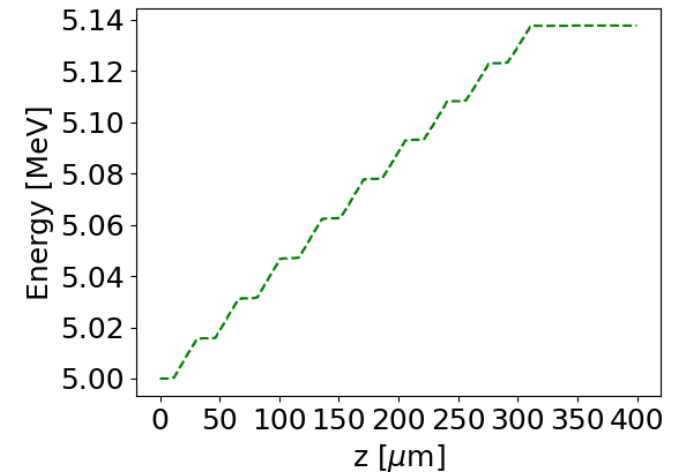
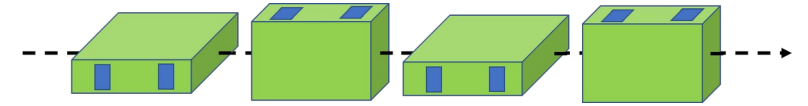
Hollow-core woodpile coupler – Astra BD results

- **September-October 2022:** after various tests, it was possible to correct import and employ a TW in Astra, for BD calculations.
- Astra employs the field calculated and extrated from Ansys HFSS considering a woodpile structure working at $\lambda = 5 \mu\text{m}$ with total length $L = 30 \mu\text{m}$.



Hollow-core woodpile coupler – Astra BD results

- In order to increase the overall energy gain, a staging of nine $L \approx 30 \mu\text{m}$ accelerating structures ($\lambda = 5 \mu\text{m}$) has been considered to perform the simulations over a total length of $\approx 300 \mu\text{m}$.
- A bunch charge of 10 fC and a normalized transverse emittance $\epsilon_x = \epsilon_y = 1 \text{ nm}$ have been considered at the entrance of the woodpile stages.
- Considering an input power $P_{\text{inj}} = 250 \text{ W}$, an energy gain of **140 keV** has been obtained, which corresponds to an average accelerating gradient of $\sim 470 \text{ MV/m}$.
- The guided mode radial field asymmetry, coming from the fact that **the defect is not cylindrical**, has **negative effect on the beam** that, while is not large when considering a single stage, it becomes evident cascading nine structures, resulting in a **strong transverse emittance degradation**.
- The effect can be **mitigated by rotating each accelerating $\approx 30 \mu\text{m}$ long stage of 90-deg relative to each other**. This resulted in a **quasi-perfect preservation of the bunch entrance transverse emittance value**.

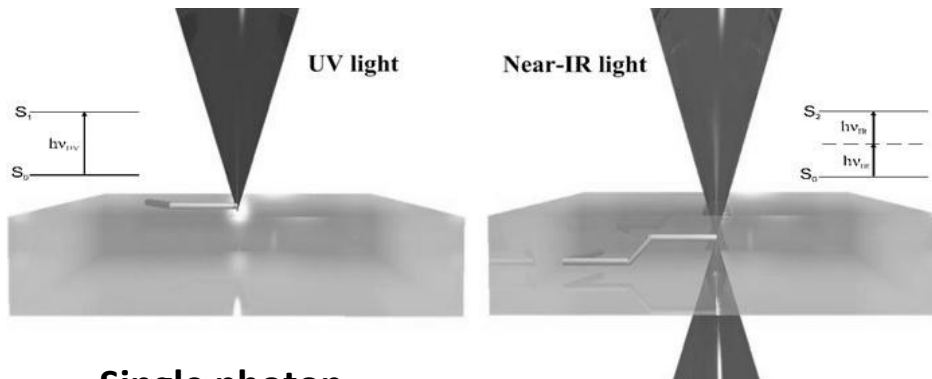


Hollow-core woodpile coupler – fabrication tests

3D printing at the micro/nano scale

Two photo-polymerization (TPP)

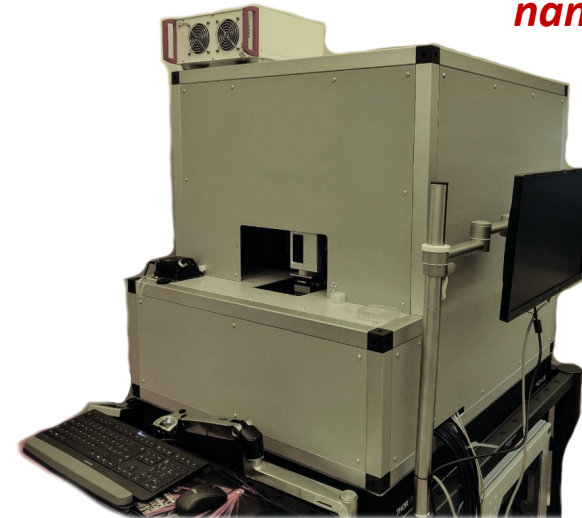
Femtosecond pulsed laser to induce resist polymerization



Single photon polymerization (standard): lower resolution, surface polymerization

Two photon polymerization (2PP): higher resolution, polymerization inside volume

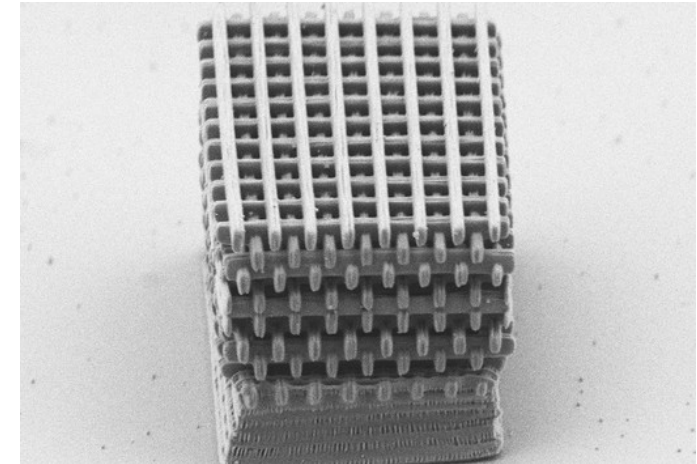
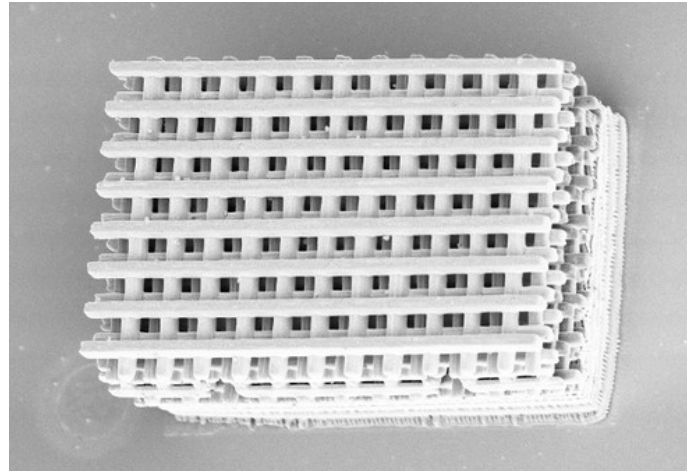
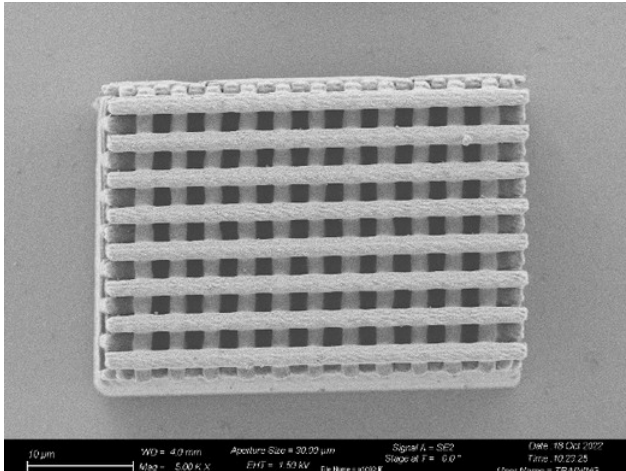
Laser
nanoFab



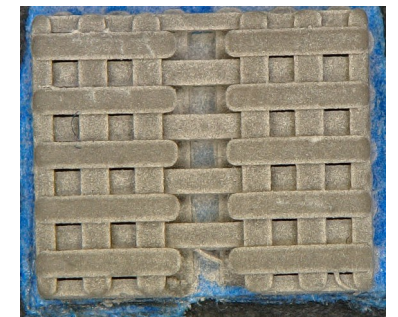
M4D System by Laser
nanoFab
TPP setup

Hollow-core woodpile coupler – fabrication tests

- **March 2024: latest results (woodpile @ $\lambda = 5 \mu\text{m}$)**
- Employed material: FemtoBond resin.



- **Future work: print a $\lambda = 3.3 \text{ mm}$ structure** with a lab-made resin possessing alumina-like electrical characteristics.
- **Characterization of the $\lambda = 3.3 \text{ mm}$ structure** with standard laboratory equipment:
 1. Measurement of S-parameters with W-band VNA;
 2. Measurement of the on-axis electric field through the bead-pull technique.



Funding and resources

INTERNAL

- INFN Project Miniaturised aCceleRatOrs Network (MICRON) (2022-2024) [~300 k€]



EXTERNAL

- Italian Project PRIN DOSE (Dielectric Optical acceleratorS for hEalth) (2024-2025) [~ 232 k€]
- Italian Project PRIN IDEAS (Inverse Design of tErahertz interAction Structures) (2024-2025) [~150 k€]
- PNRR SAMOTHRACE (2023-2025) [150 k€]
- EIC Pathfinder MODAL [~3 M€] *submitted*

THESIS

- Master Thesis DFA-UniCT: “Modelling of Tapered Co-propagating Structures for Dielectric Laser-driven Accelerators” (DLA) A. Leiva Genre;
- “Numerical study of transverse beam dynamics for non-relativistic electrons in Dielectric Laser Accelerators”, S. Quevedo *on going*
- *UniCT Master Thesis, Marta Maria Costanza*

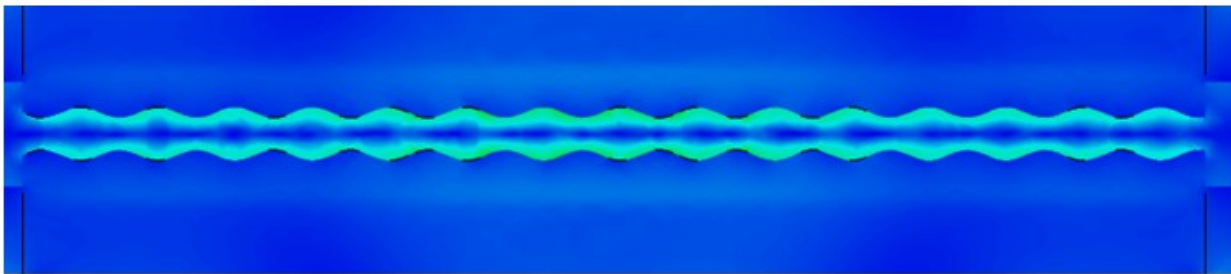
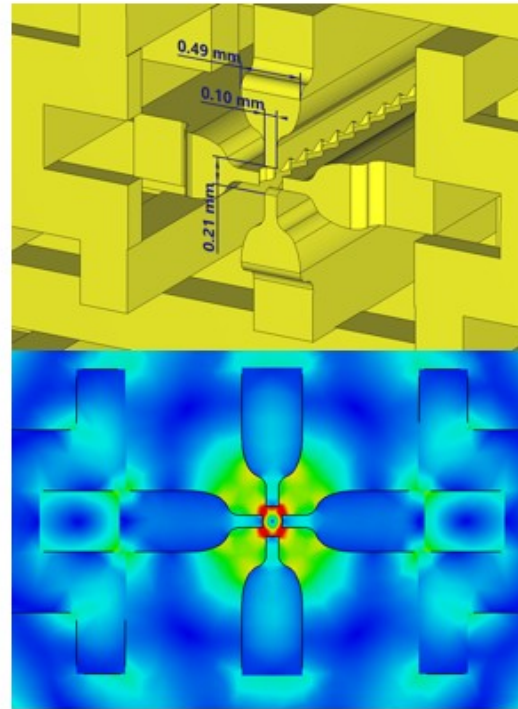
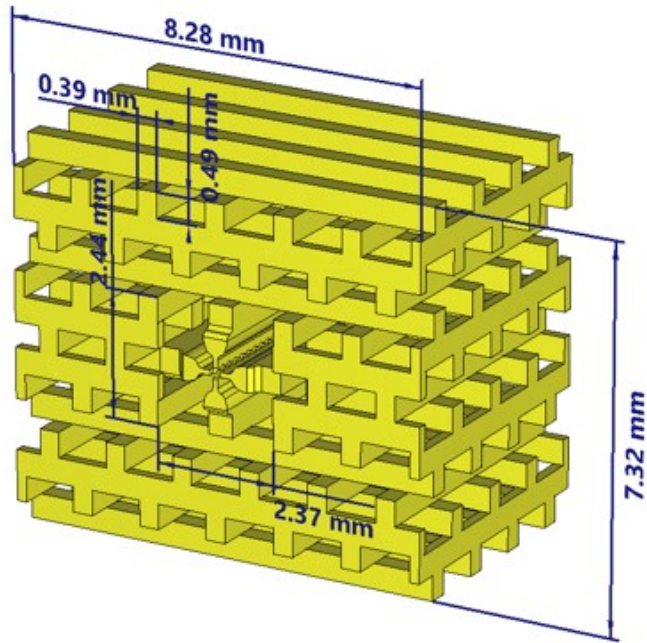
- Dielectric Laser Accelerators: introduction
- Co-propagating dielectric structures
- Beam-dynamics simulation results and fabrication tests
- Conclusion and perspectives

Conclusion and perspectives

- The design of compact dielectric structures, based on PhCs, for future DLAs setups, has been presented.
 - These devices allow co-propagation of the accelerating wave and the beam.
 - Improvements: **energy gain efficiency** and **structure compactness**.
 - **MICRON** (**M**iniaturised **aC**cele**R**at**O**rs **N**etwork): INFN 5th Nat. Committee project. Ongoing.
- **Next step: woodpile 3.3 mm prototype realization and characterization.**
- **Next step: numerical study of a sub-relativistic to relativistic structure (slotted wg + PhC wg).**

Preliminary design of very low β structures

➤ **Preliminary numerical study of DLA structures for low- (0.05 to 0.2) particle acceleration (protons).**



Patent

Metodo per progettare una struttura accelerante dielettrica che supporta un modo TE_{210} -like perturbato
(Ita. Patent pending n. 102021000021158)

By: G. S. Mauro, G. Torrisi, D. Mascali, G. Sorbello, S. Gammino (INFN-LNS),
G. Della Valle (PoliMi)

Electromagnetic design of novel synchronous waveguides for Dielectric Laser Accelerators

G. S. Mauro, G. Torrisi, D. Mascali, *INFN-LNS*

A. Bacci, A. Locatelli, *INFN-Milano, UniBS*

R. Rizzoli, *CNR-IMM*, V. Bertana, S. Marasso, *PoliTo*

R. Palmeri, *UniRC, CNR-IREA*

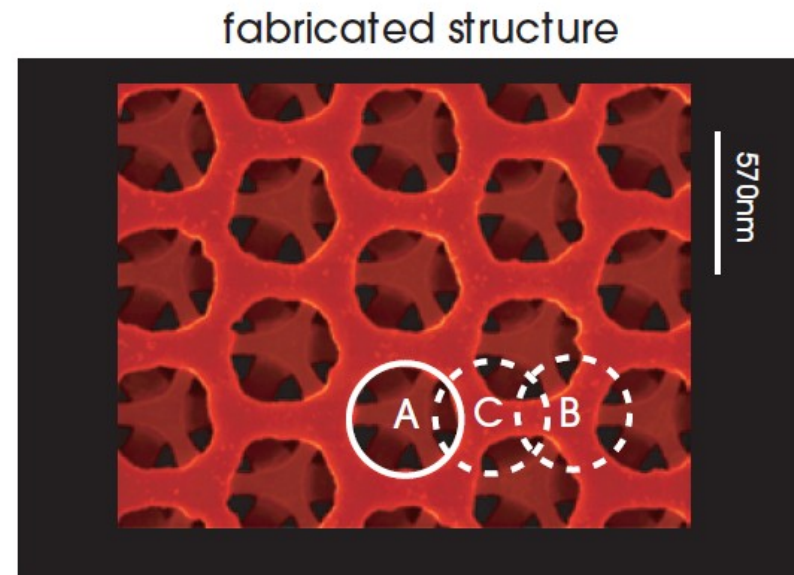
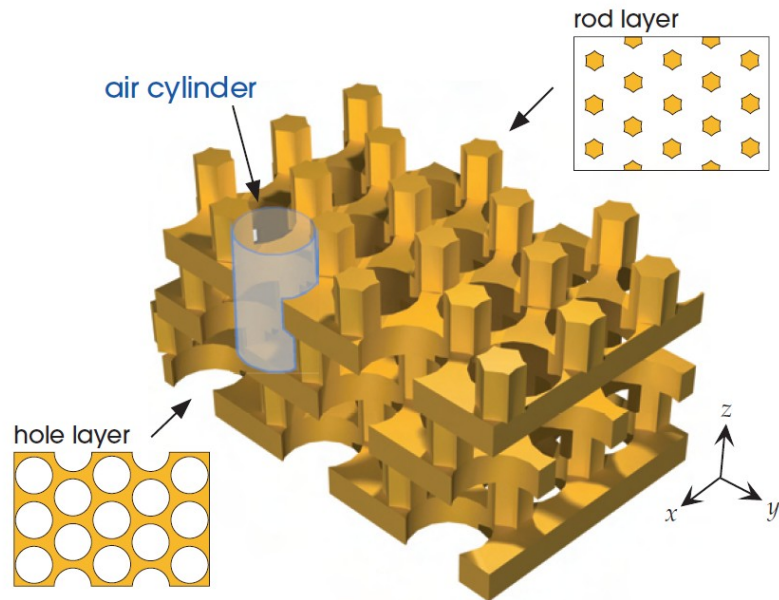
G. Sorbello, *UniCT*

Thank You!

Backup

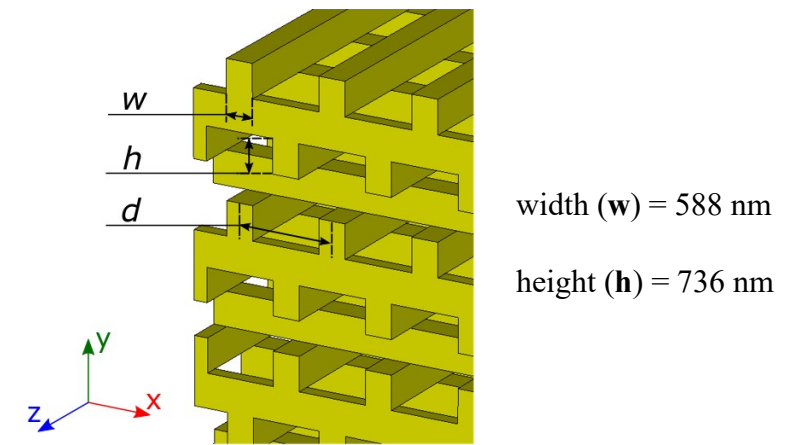
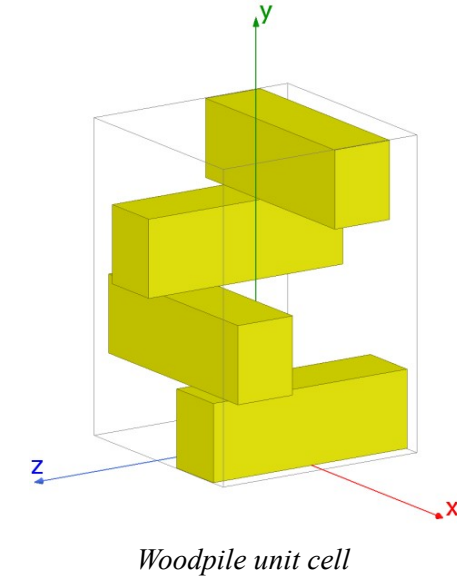
Issues and next steps

- Current issue being investigated: E-field of the confined mode presents some stationarity when passing from CST PBC Eigenmode simulation to 'driven' COMSOL simulation.
- This may be due to incorrect COMSOL BCs...
- **Future work:**
 1. try to realize a full-3D design of the PhC waveguide in triangular lattice;
 2. Selection of the proper vertical 'enclosure'.



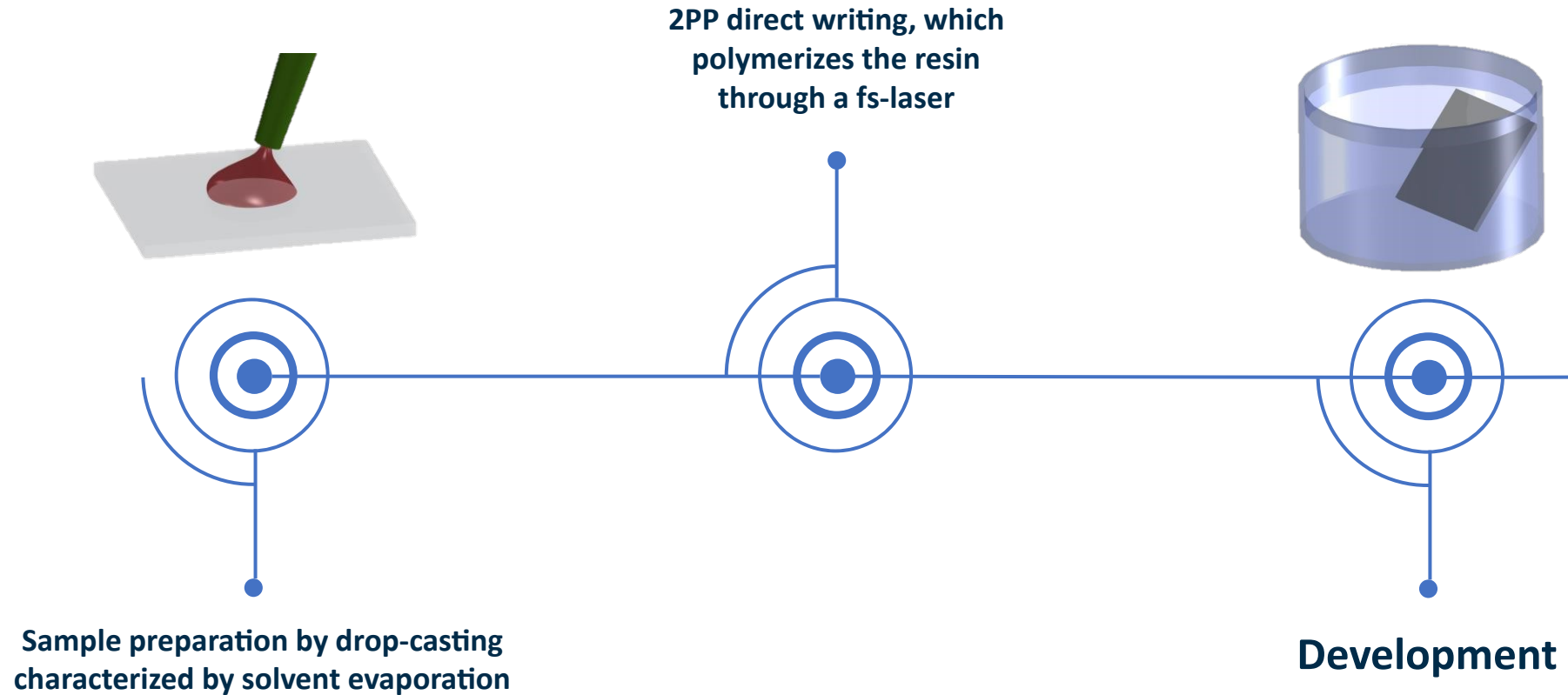
3D woodpile structure

- The **periodic structure** repeats in the stacking direction each four layers, creating a **frequency band-gap** where the EM propagation is suppressed.
- The band-gap can be calculated using the MIT Photonic Bands (MPB) tool considering an **unit cell with periodic boundary conditions**.
- Design procedure carried out using **normalized frequency and normalized dimensions**.
- Once the fundamental (normalized) parameters have been obtained, the structure can be scaled at the **final operating frequency**.
- By setting the period ***d*** the operating frequency can be selected : in order to operate at **$f_c = 60$ THz**, we choose **$d = 2.082$ μm** .

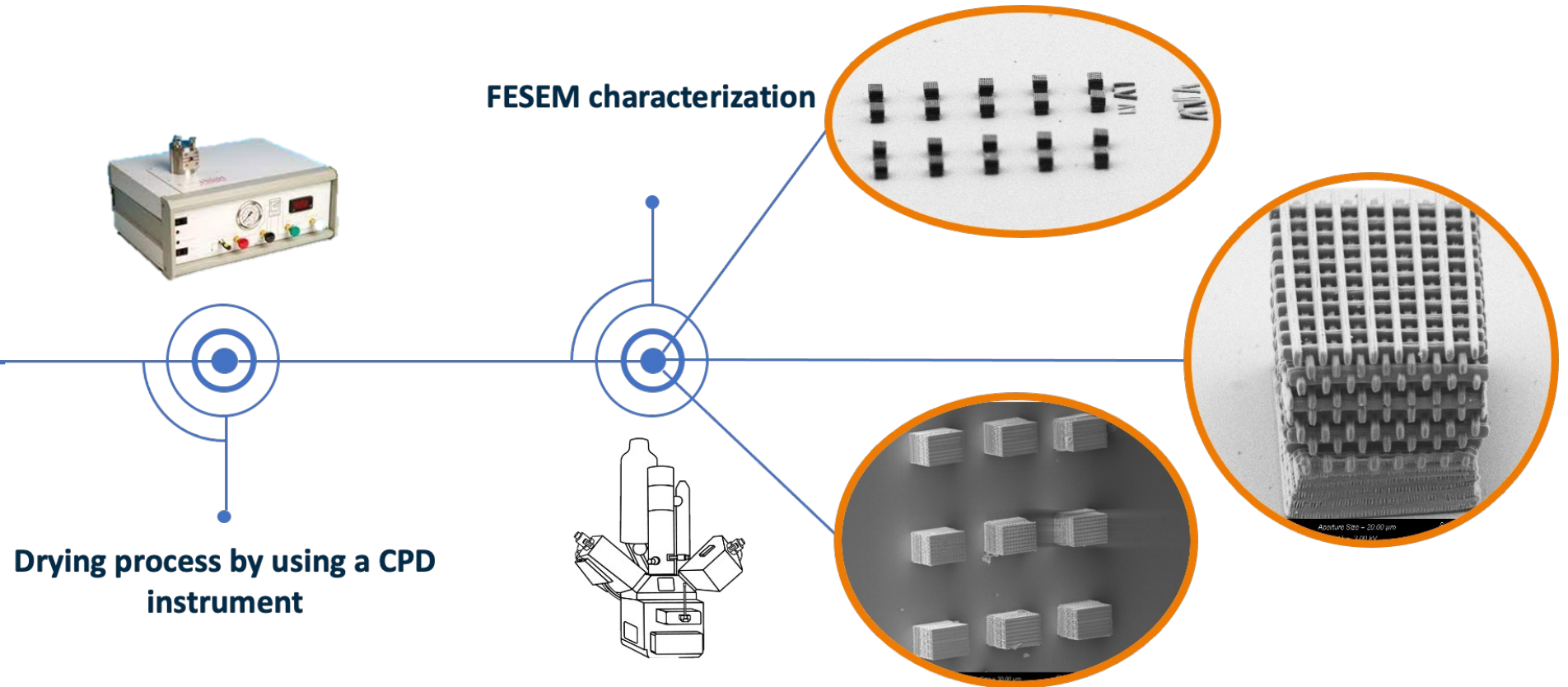


$$f_c \text{ (THz)} \approx f_{\text{norm}} \times c/d$$

Hollow-core woodpile coupler – fabrication tests



Hollow-core woodpile coupler - fabrication tests



Accelerating gradient comparison

$$Z_c = \frac{(E_0 T \lambda)^2}{P_{inj}} \rightarrow$$

Slotted waveguide	2D PhC waveguide	3D woodpile
$Z_c = 1.5 \text{ k}\Omega$	$Z'_c = Z_c h = 37.6 \text{ }\Omega$	$Z_c = 11.4 \text{ k}\Omega$
$P_{inj} = 250 \text{ W}$	$P_{inj} = 250 \text{ W}$	$P_{inj} = 500 \text{ W}$
$E_0 = 0.4 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 1.55 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$E_0 = 63 \text{ MV/m @ } \lambda = 1.55 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$E_0 = 1.63 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 1.55 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$
$E_0 = 0.32 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 2 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$E_0 = 48.5 \text{ MV/m @ } \lambda = 2 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$E_0 = 1.3 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 2 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$
$E_0 = 0.13 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$E_0 = 19.4 \text{ MV/m @ } \lambda = 5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$E_0 = 0.5 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$

Example: 3D woodpile, $E_0 = 0.5 \text{ GV/m @ } \lambda = 5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

To reach a final energy of 100 MeV, only a 21 cm long accelerating channel is sufficient.

Extremely-compact structure!