Synchrotron and collisional damping effects on runaway electron distributions

by

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with

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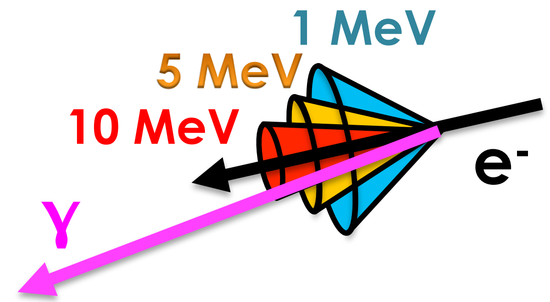

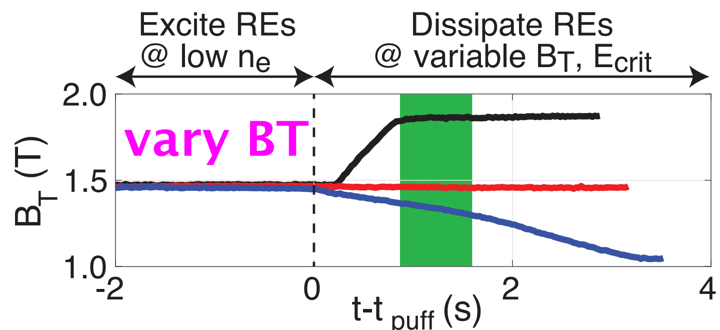

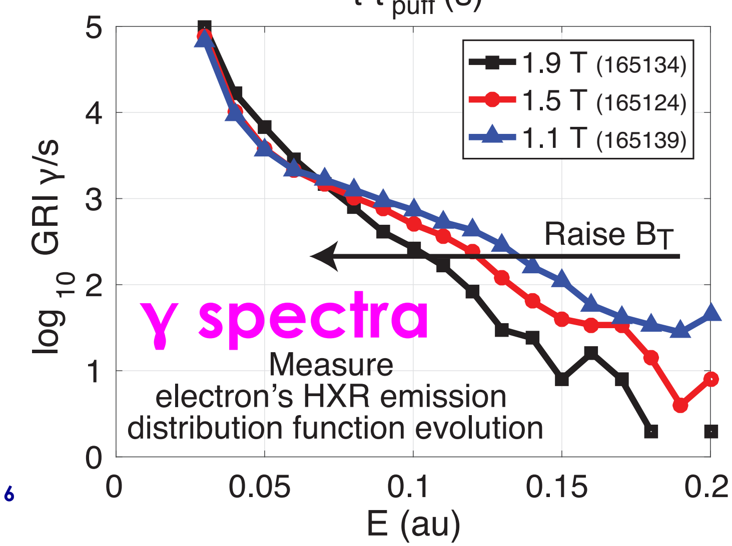

Presented at

PPPL TSDW, July 21st 2016

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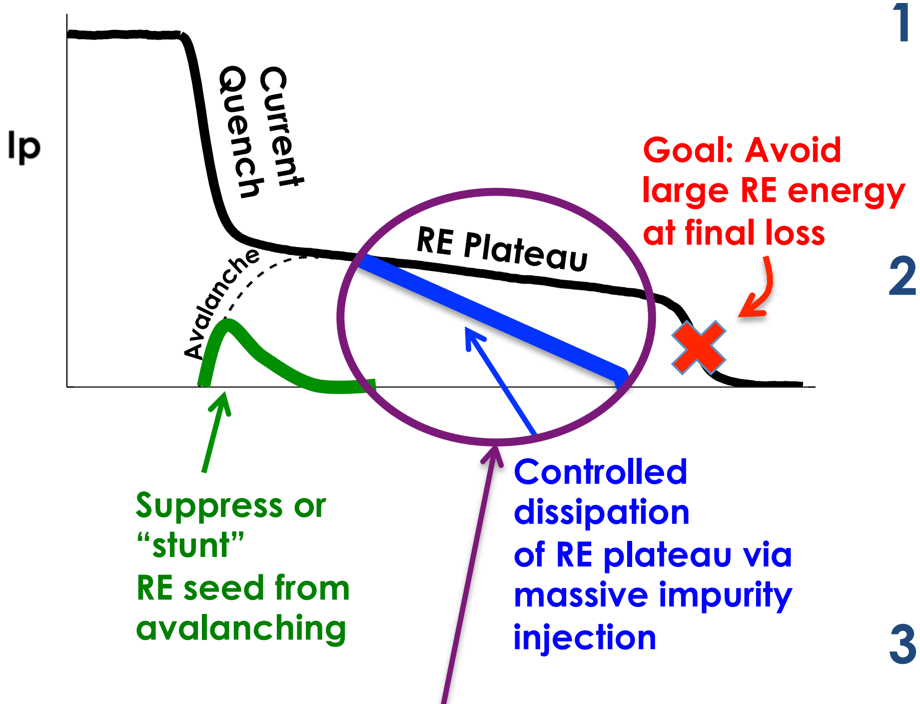
DIII-D Runaway Electron Research Seeks to Provide Reliable Extrapolation of RE Generation, Dissipation, and Termination for ITER



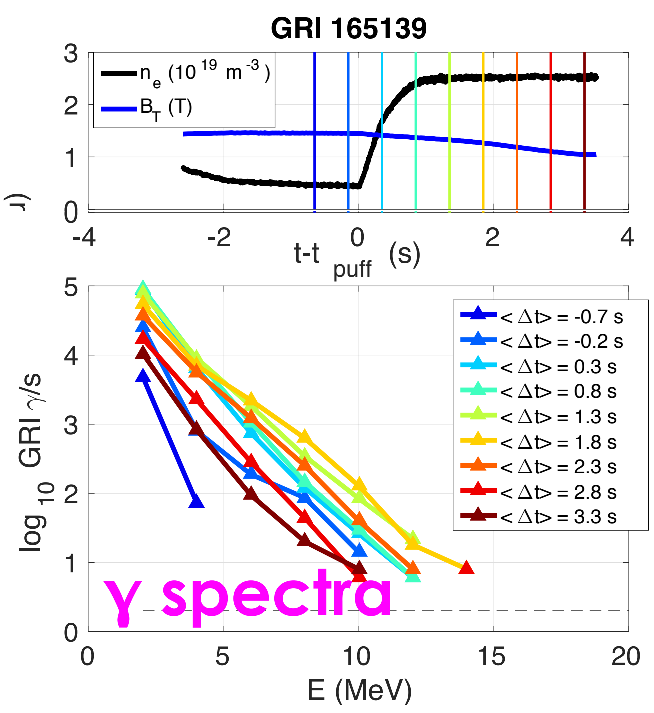
Experiments can help benchmark RE dissipation models

We divide RE problem into:

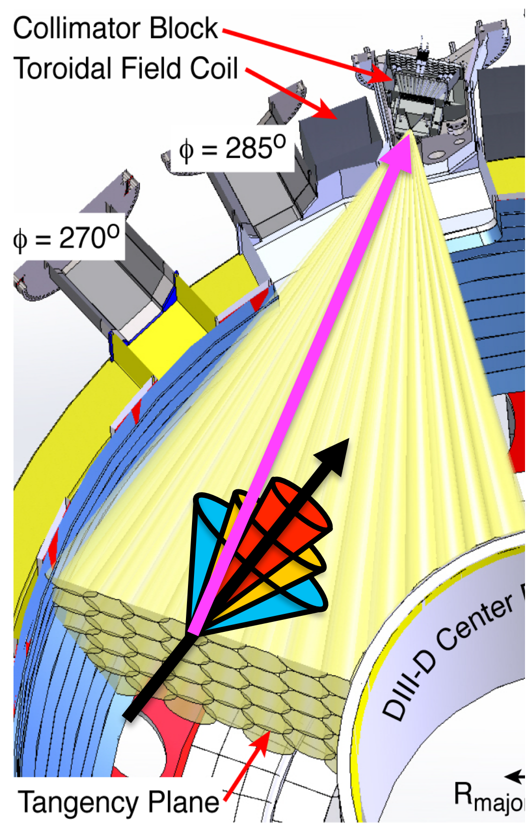
1. **RE generation physics and possibilities for suppression**
   - Difficult to study, since RE seeds are small/variable on DIII-D scale devices
2. **Dissipation of a fully formed RE plateau**
   - Model-based understanding necessary (**risk in ITER too great**)
   - Dissipation physics carries over to avalanche suppression
3. **RE termination physics determines requirements for dissipation**
   - Tolerable RE energy may be very low

DIII-D low density "QRE" experiments provide "wind-tunnel" to validate theories of RE dissipation

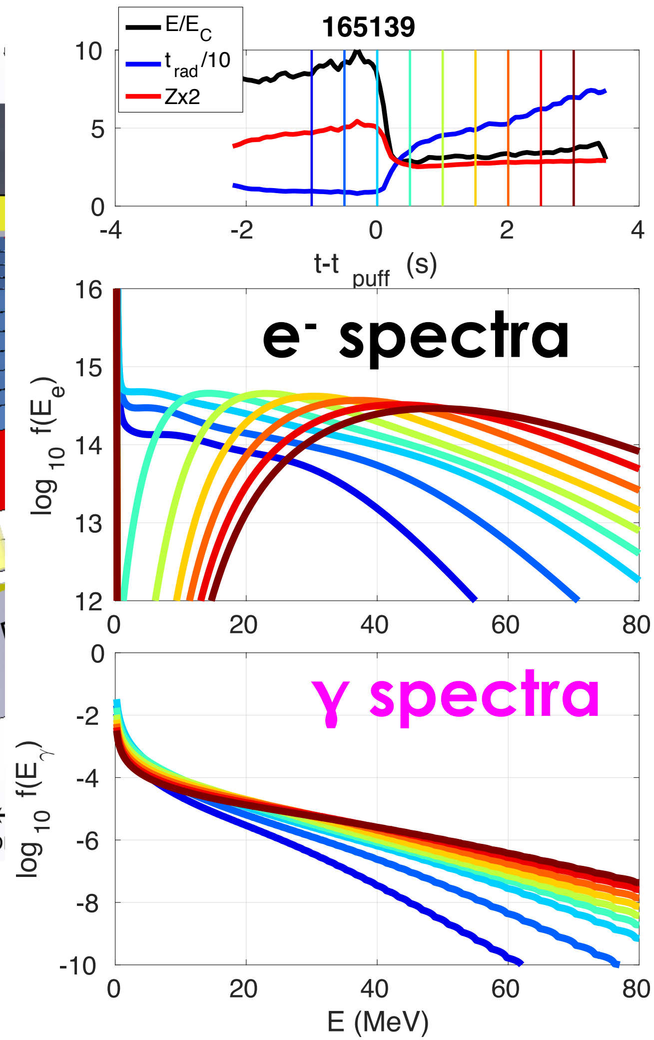
Controlled Experiment



Novel Diagnostic



Detailed Modeling



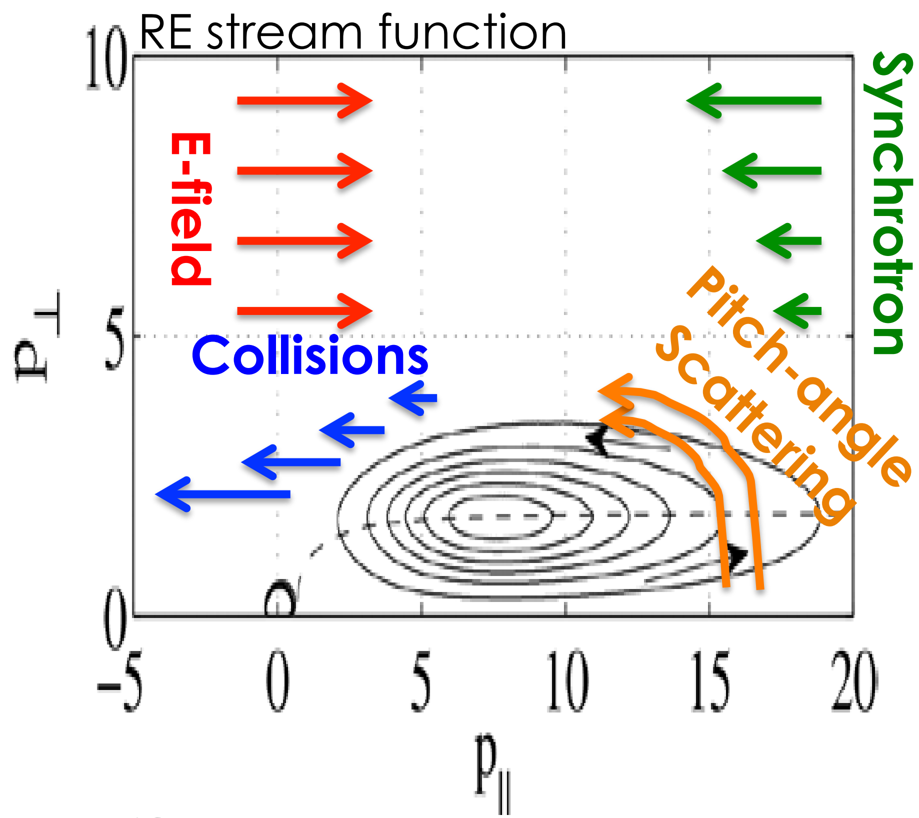
Outline:

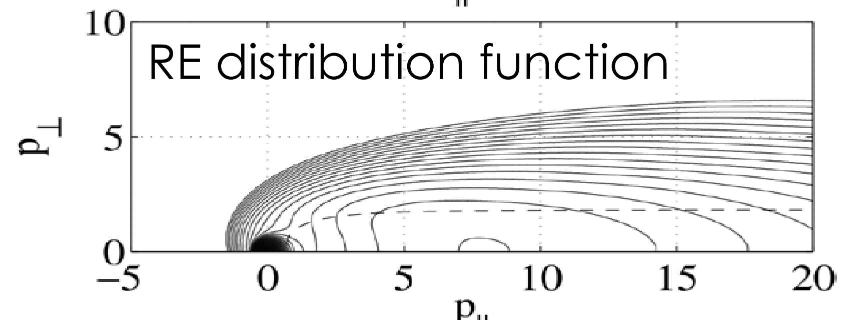
- **Recap of Theory Progress and Important Parameters**
- **Recap of QRE Regime to Study RE Dissipation**
- **Introduction to GRI Diagnostic and f(E) Inversion**
- **Spectrum Effect of Electron Density (Collisions)**
- **Spectrum Effect of Toroidal Field (Synchrotron)**
- **Conclusion and Future Directions**

Competition between physical effects gives complex phase space redistributions and "bump" formation

- **Acceleration due to E-field**
  - **E/E_{crit}**
- **Energy loss to synchrotron**
  - Depends on perp-energy
  - **t-rad-hat**
- **Pitch angle scattering on ions, from parallel to perp**
  - **Z_{eff}**
  - Energy is conserved

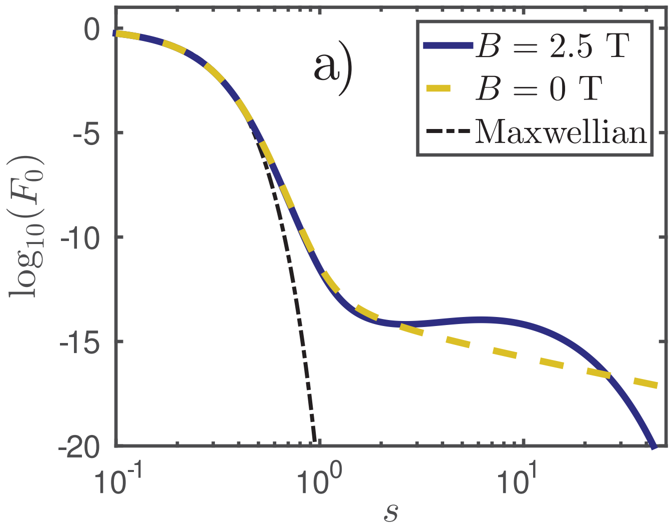
- **These effects give phase-space circulation that piles up electrons in a bump**



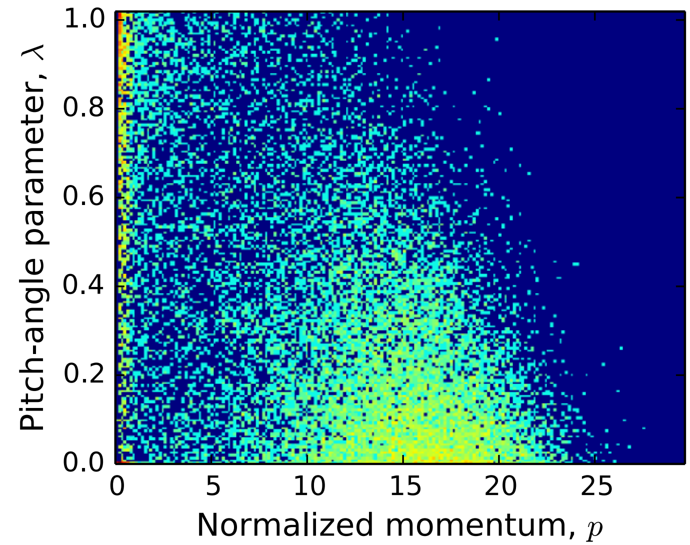


J. Decker et al, PPCF '16

Convergence of recent theoretical work on idea of phase-space attractors that pile up runaway electrons

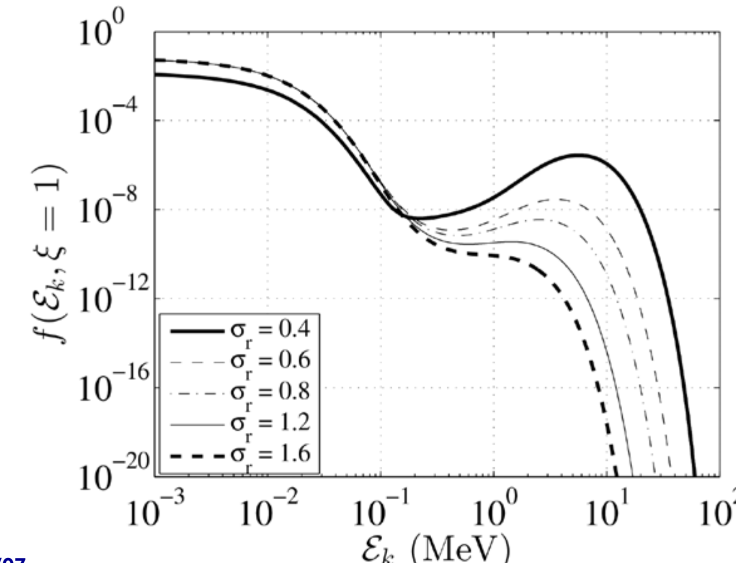


E. Hirvijoki et al, JPP 2015



P. Aleynikov et al, PRL 2015, IAEA 2014

- **Note important (?) effects are left out:**
  - Radial transport / losses
  - Kinetic instabilities



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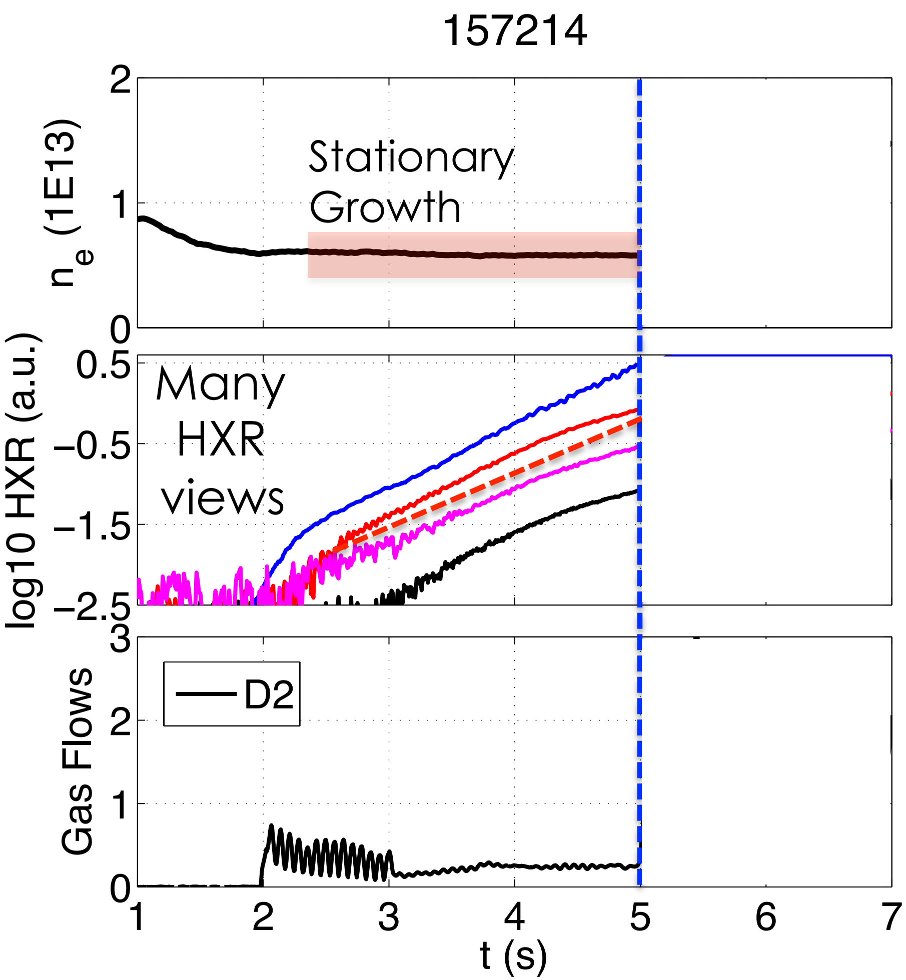
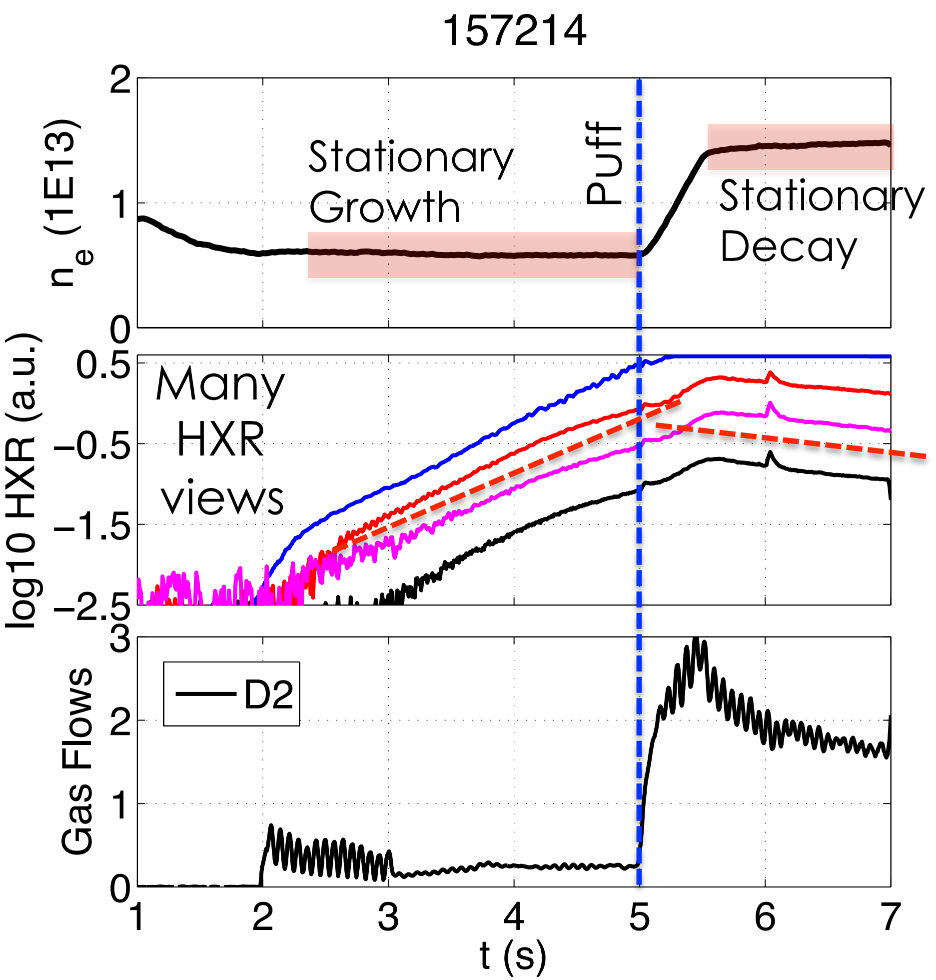
Low density yields long-timescale growth of QREs

- **Either turn off gas or feedback to low level**
- **Await buildup of REs until a control system alarm is tripped**

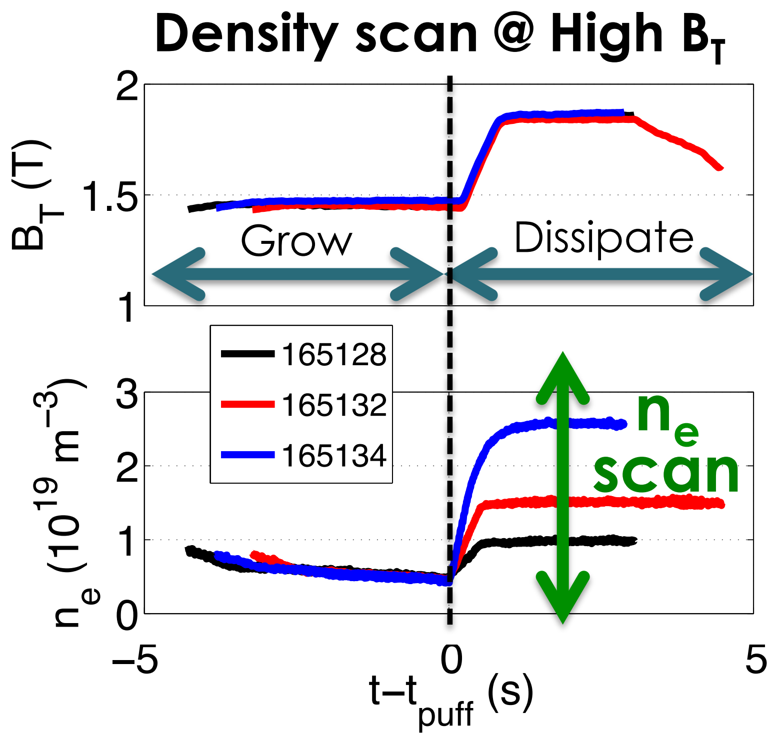


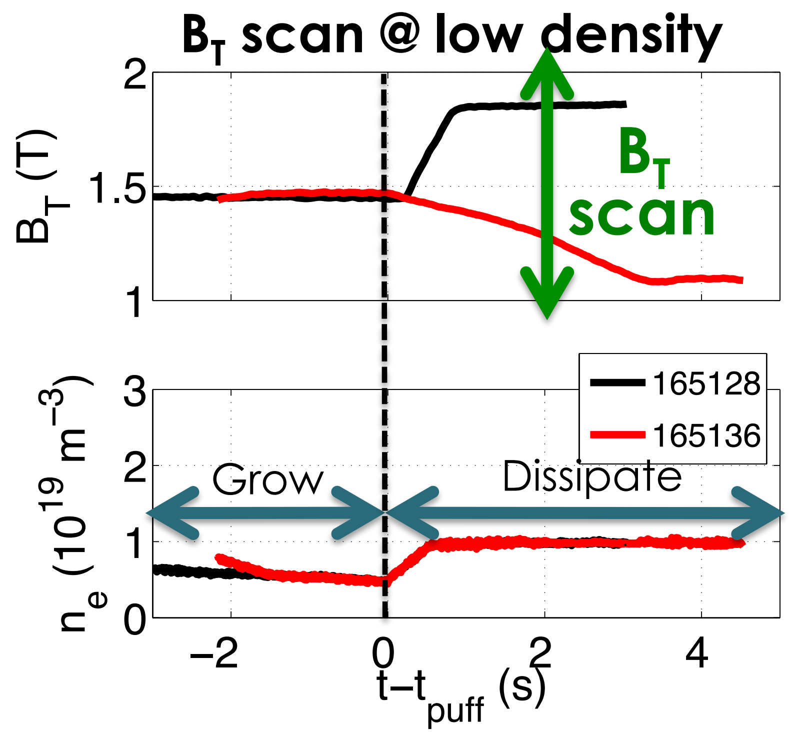
Low density yields long-timescale growth of QREs … dissipation phase is then triggered

- **Either turn off gas or feedback to low level**
- **Await buildup of REs until a control system alarm is tripped**
  - Trip level ensures similar RE populations pre-dissipation
- **Vary experimental actuators only in dissipation phase:**
  - **Density (E/E_{crit})**
  - **B_T (t-rad-hat)**
  - **Z_{eff} (pitch-angle scattering)**



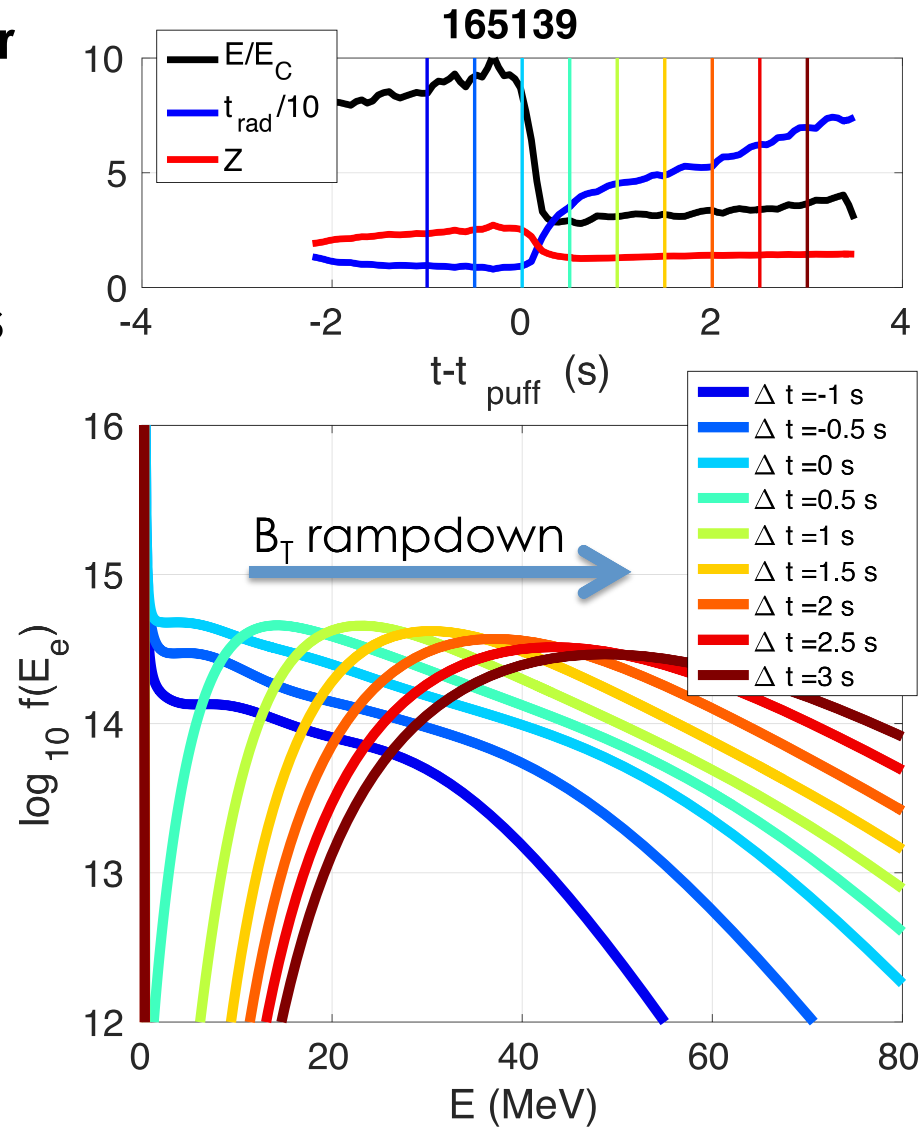
New experiments in 2016 varied B_T, density, Z_{eff}
→ Thanks to this community for support to get D3D time





Well-diagnosed plasmas allow complete simulation of RE distribution function evolution during shot

- **f(E) equation solved in time for continuously varying inputs**
- **Demonstrates formation of phase-space attractor and its evolution in time as t-rad-hat (B_T) ramped**
  - Initial simulations had avalanche term turned off
  - More on this later



P. Aleynikov model

Paz-Solda..,

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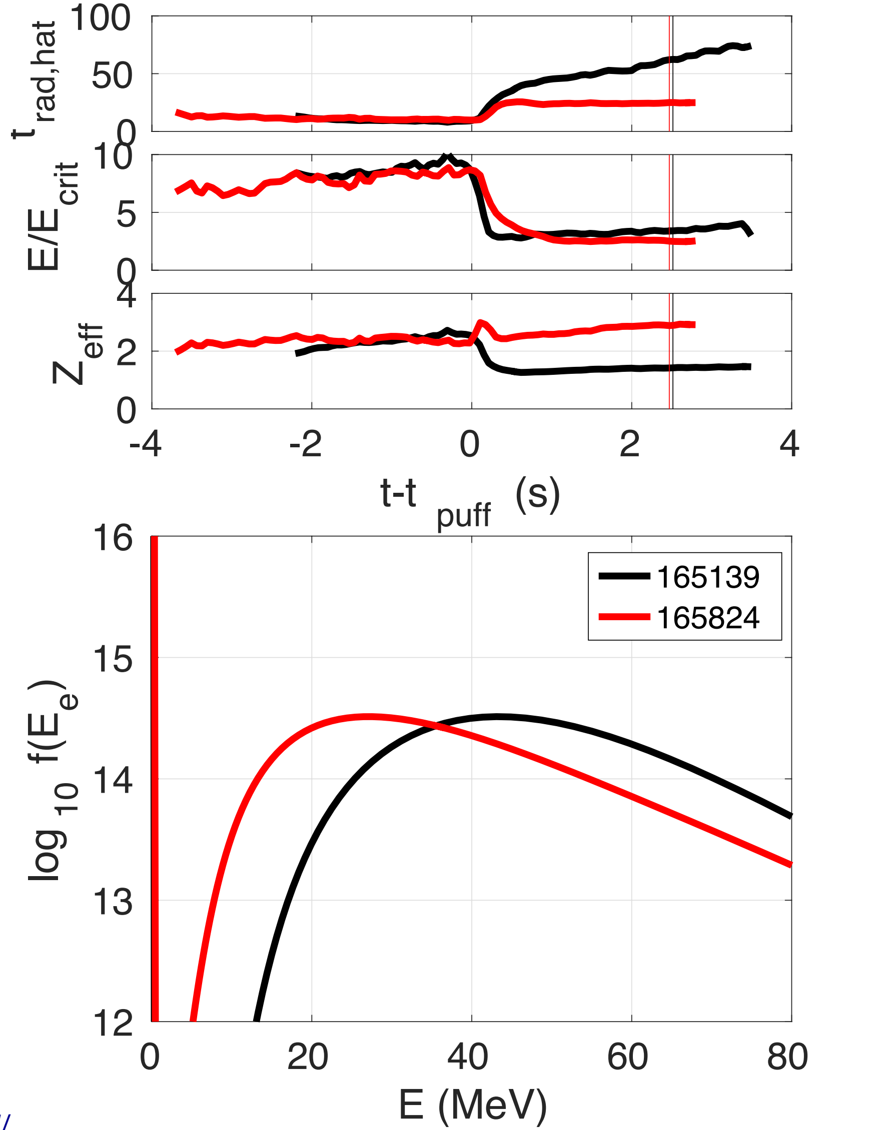
- **Changes in experimental parameters map to changes in predicted distribution functions**



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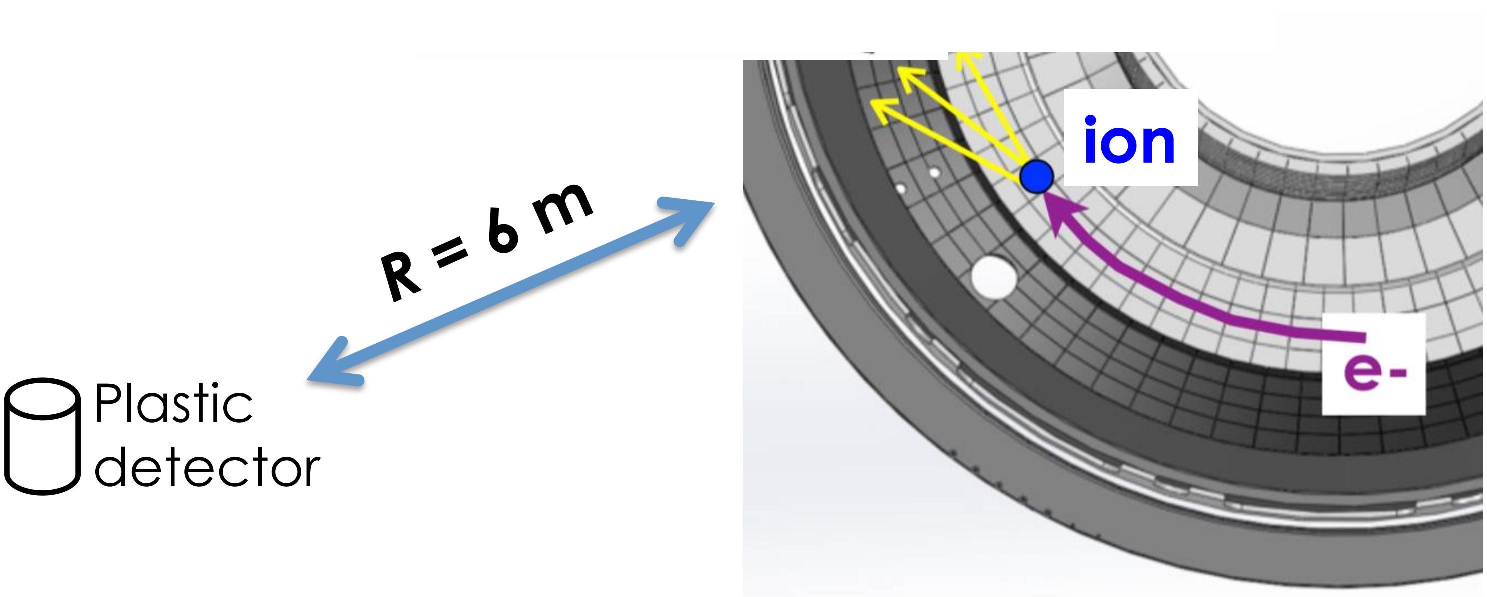
Previous studies relied on distant hard X-ray flux detector (HXR) for majority of analysis



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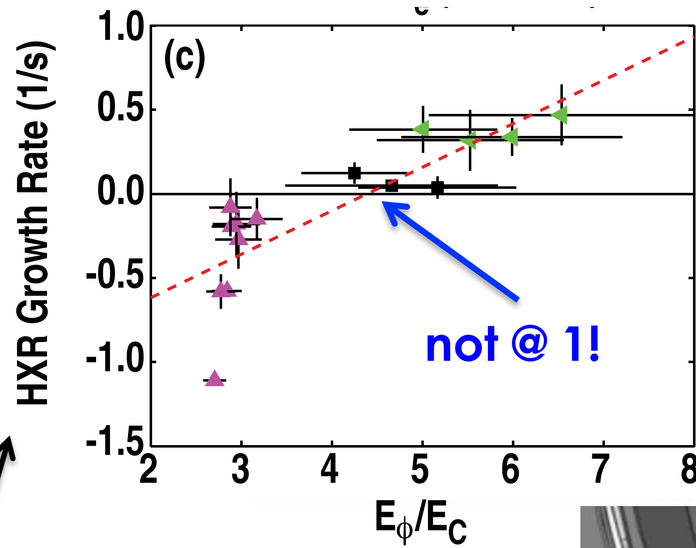
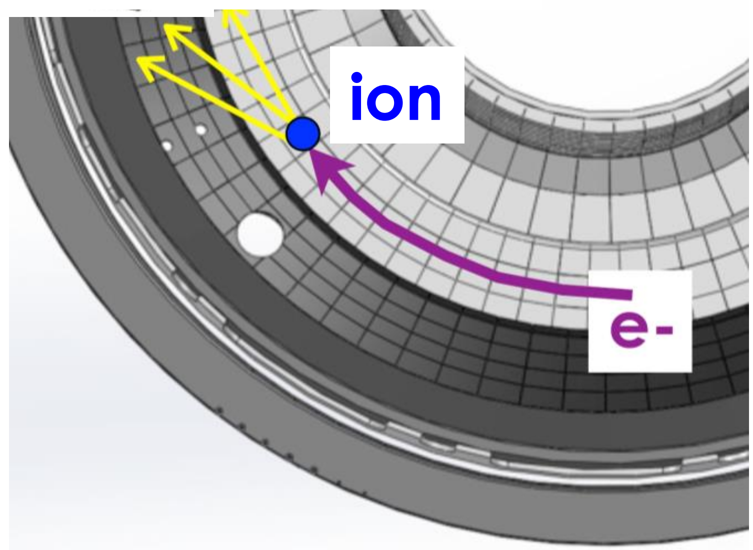
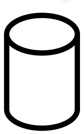


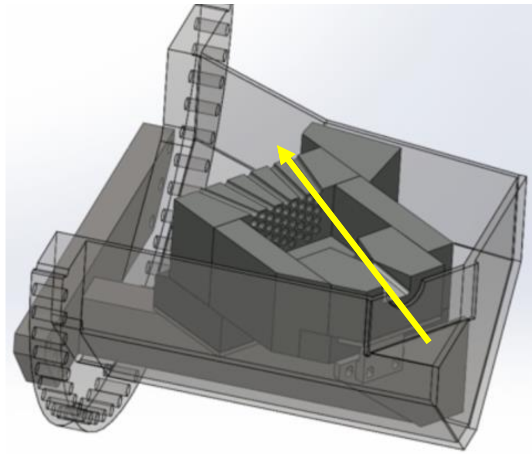
Paz-Soldan et al, PoP 2014
also in **Granetz et al, PoP 2014**
and **Granetz invited IAEA, APS**

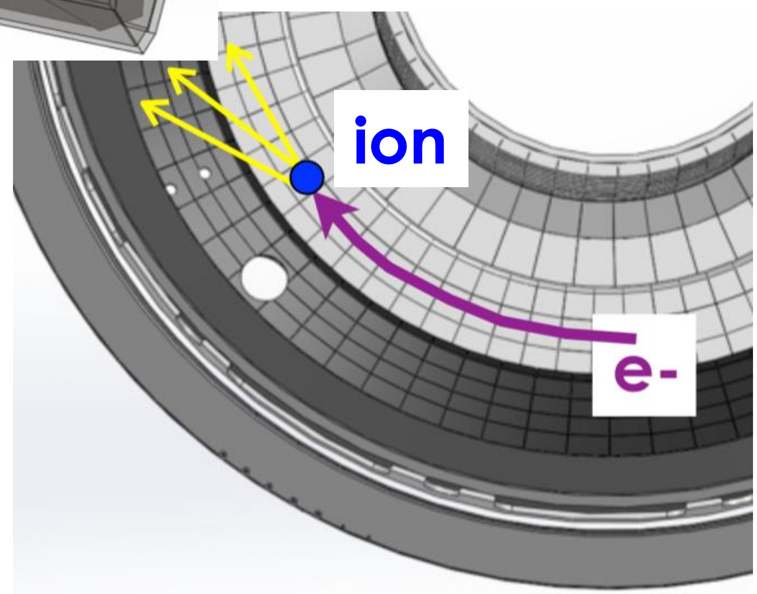




Plastic detector
R = 6 m

New Gamma Ray Imager (GRI) deployed to measure spatial and energy-resolved f(E)





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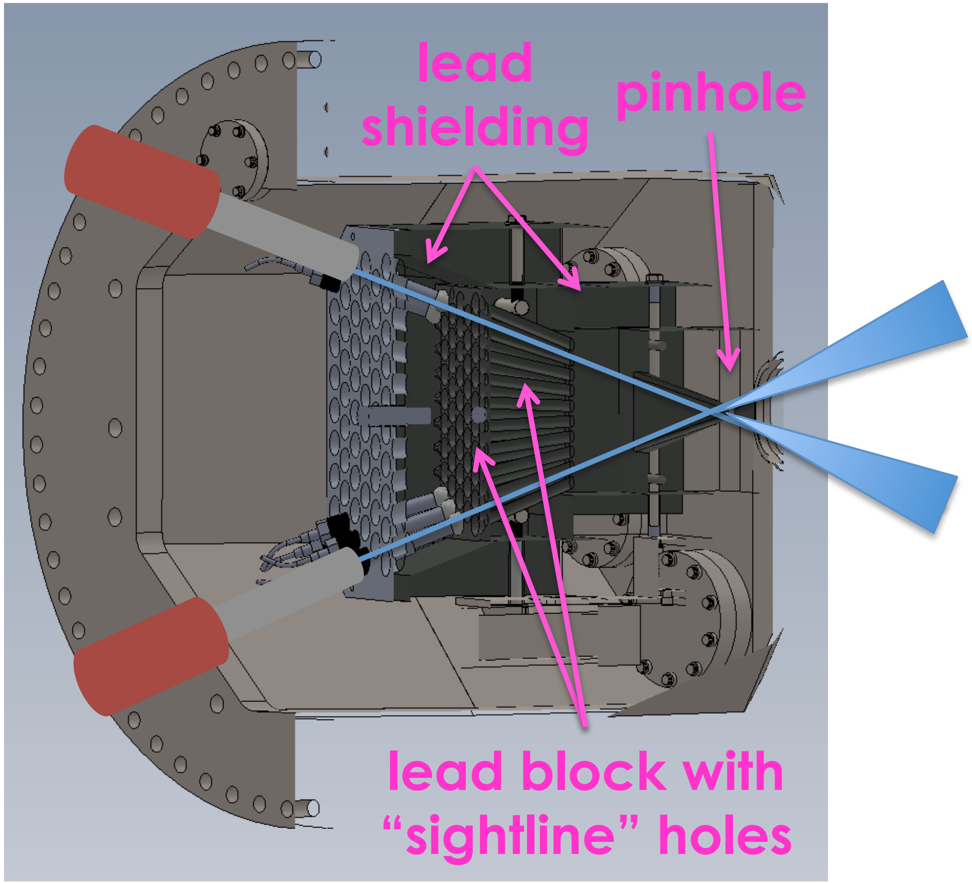
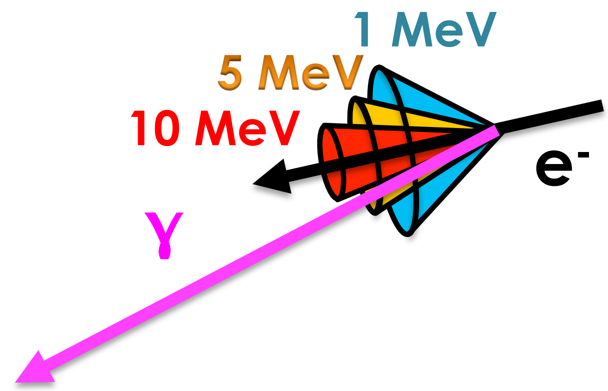
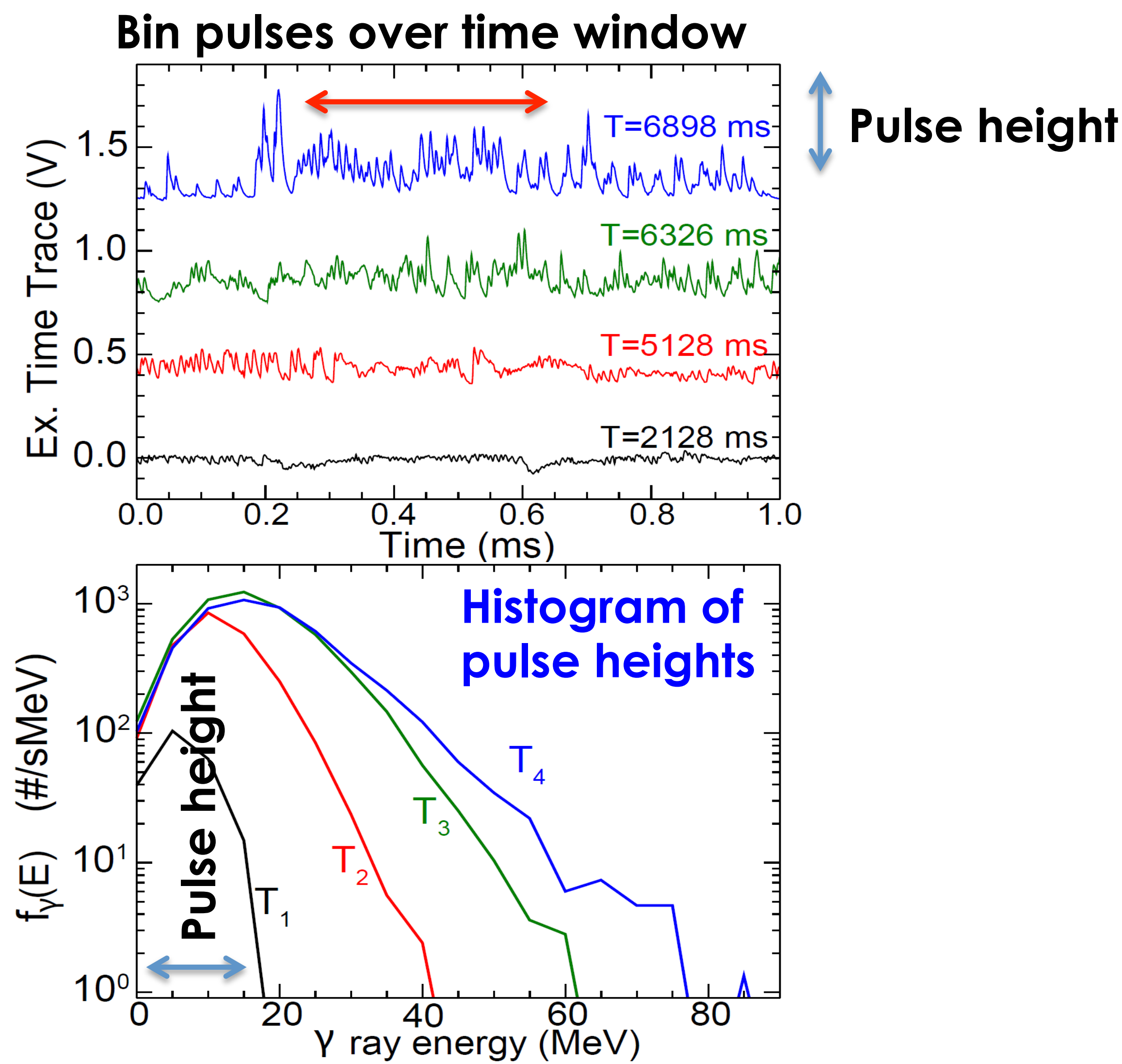




GRI counts discrete pulses from bremsstrahlung radiation (HXR), and bins in time to yield distributions



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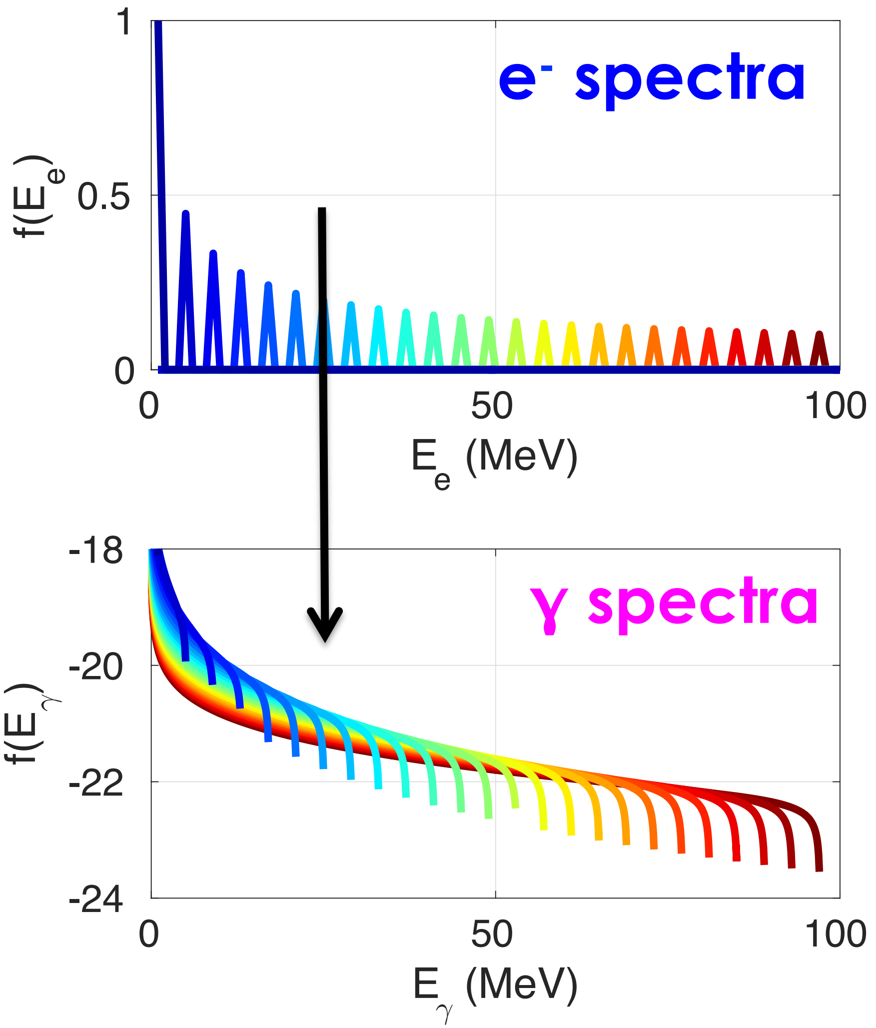
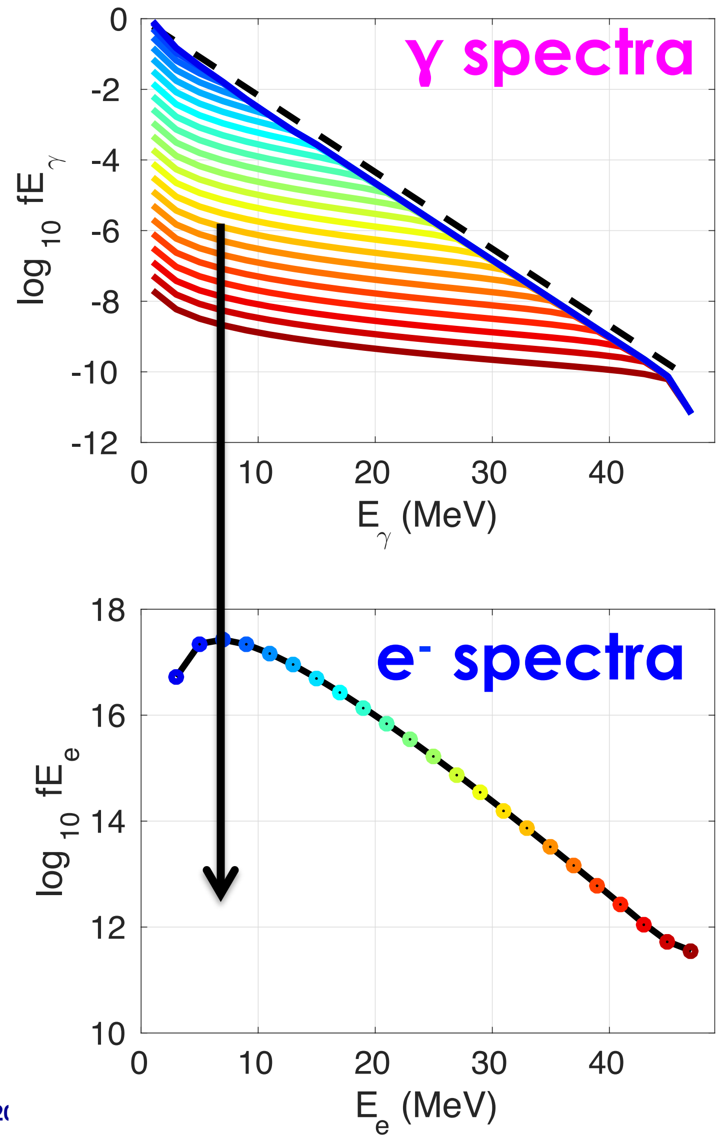
A mono-energetic electron produces a spray of HXRs

- **Use a synthetic diagnostic that takes into account detector sightline and equilibrium fields**
- **Causality exists in energy domain:**
  - gamma must be equal or lower energy than electron



A mono-energetic electron produces a spray of HXRs … inversion possible working from high energy down

- **Use a synthetic diagnostic that takes into account detector sightline and equilibrium fields**
- **Causality exists in energy domain:**
  - gamma must be equal or lower energy than electron
- **Onion peel method from high energy down can be used to go from gamma to electron spectrum**
  - Must assume zero pitch angle
  - … and spatial homogeneity



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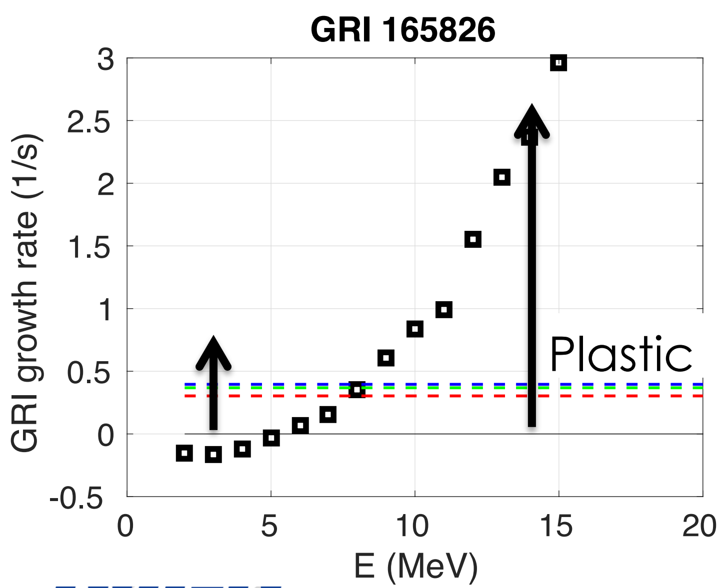
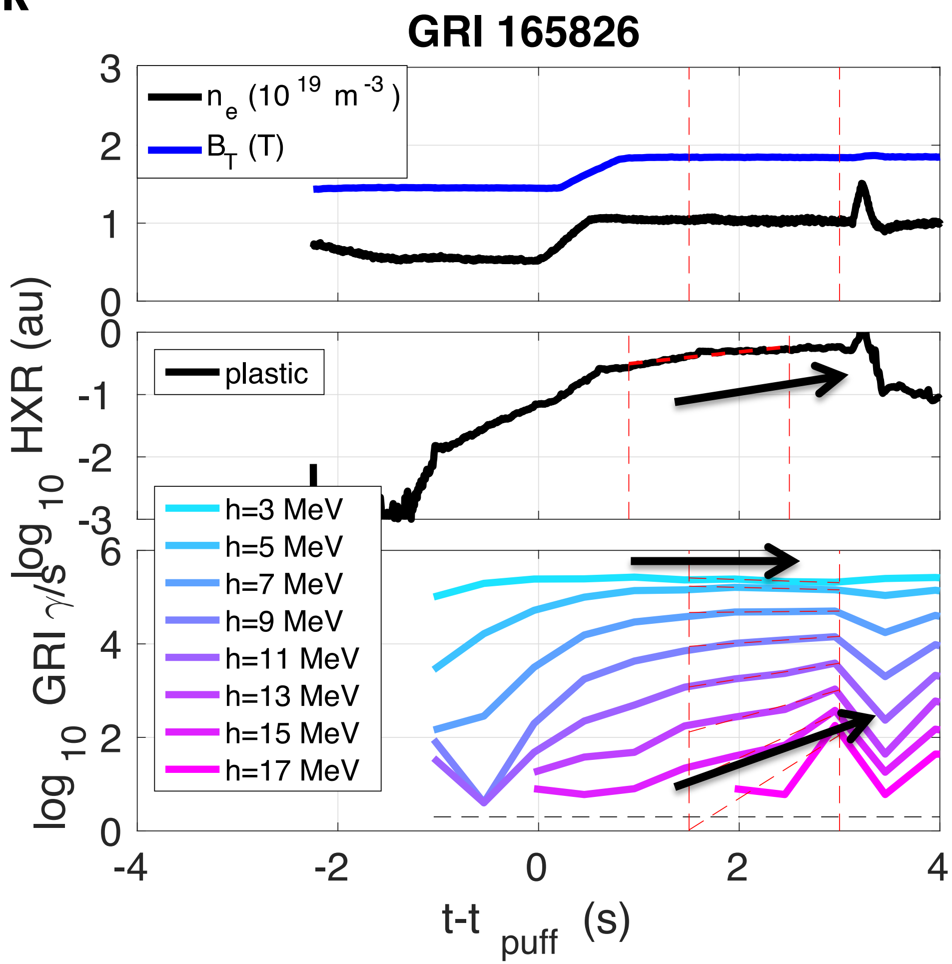
GRI demonstrates energy-dependent growth rate in the HXR spectrum

- **Growth rate of individual HXR energy ranges increases with energy**
  - High energy HXR grows faster than low energy HXR and plastic
- **Indicates phase space re-arrangements present**





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GRI demonstrates energy-dependent growth rate in the HXR spectrum … modeling qualitatively agrees

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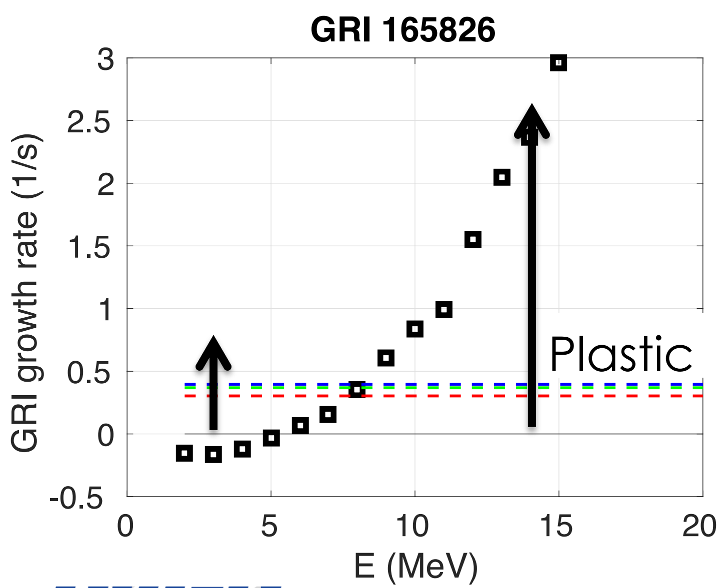
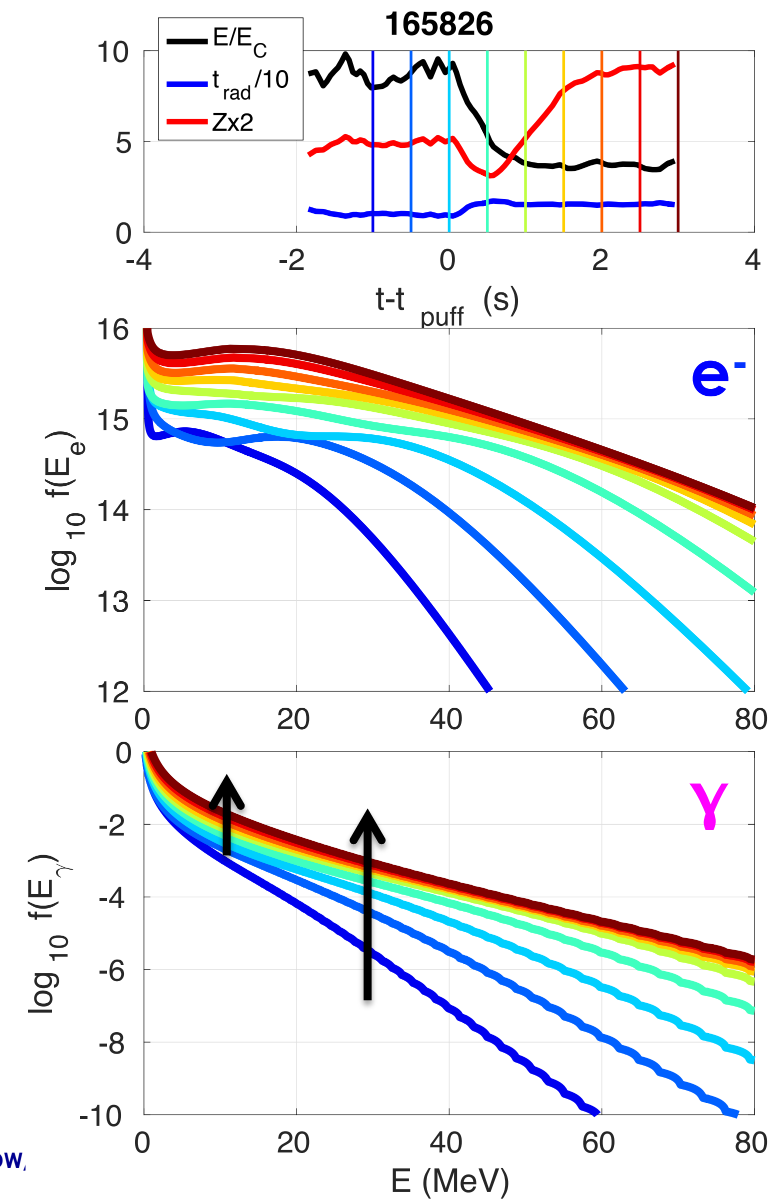
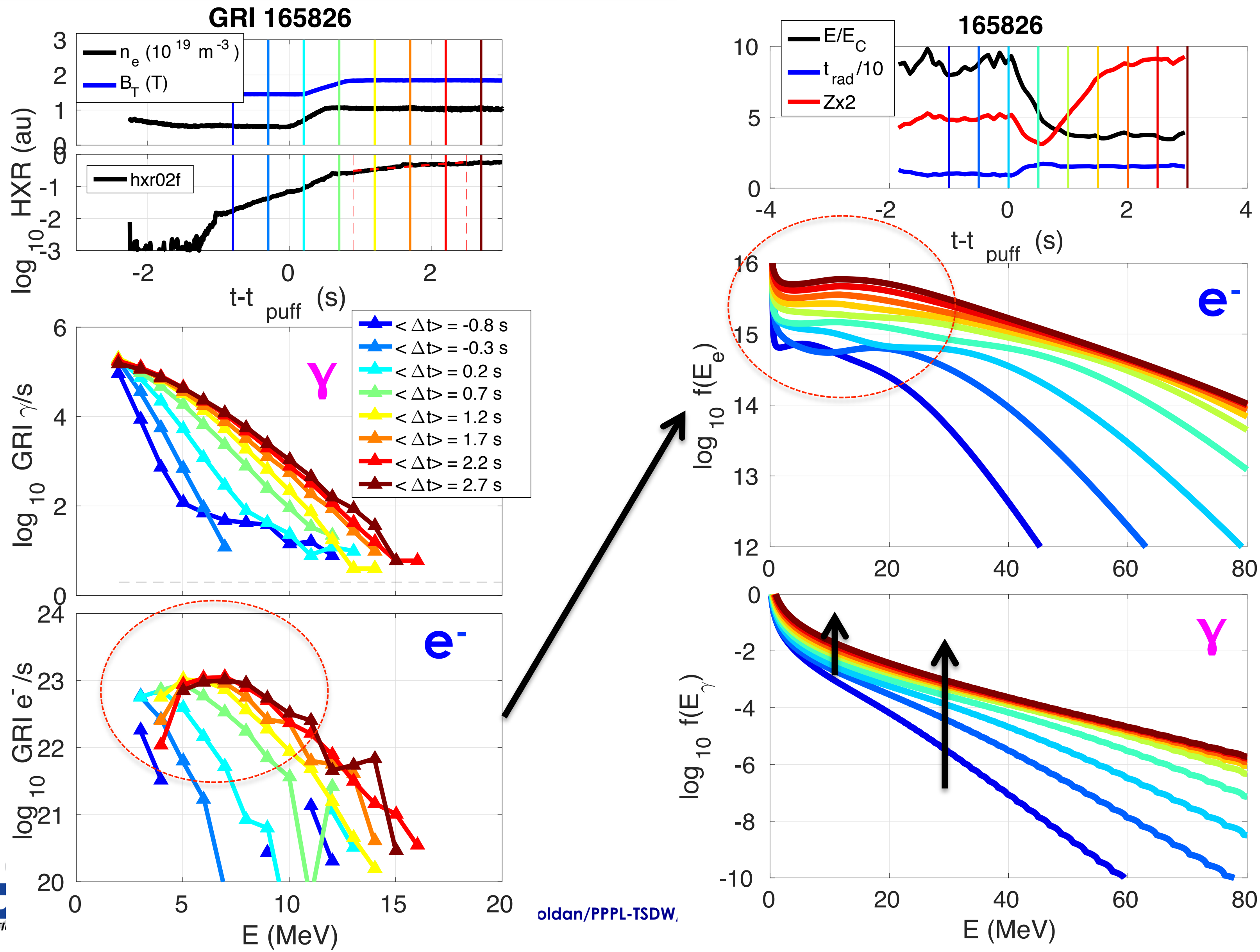
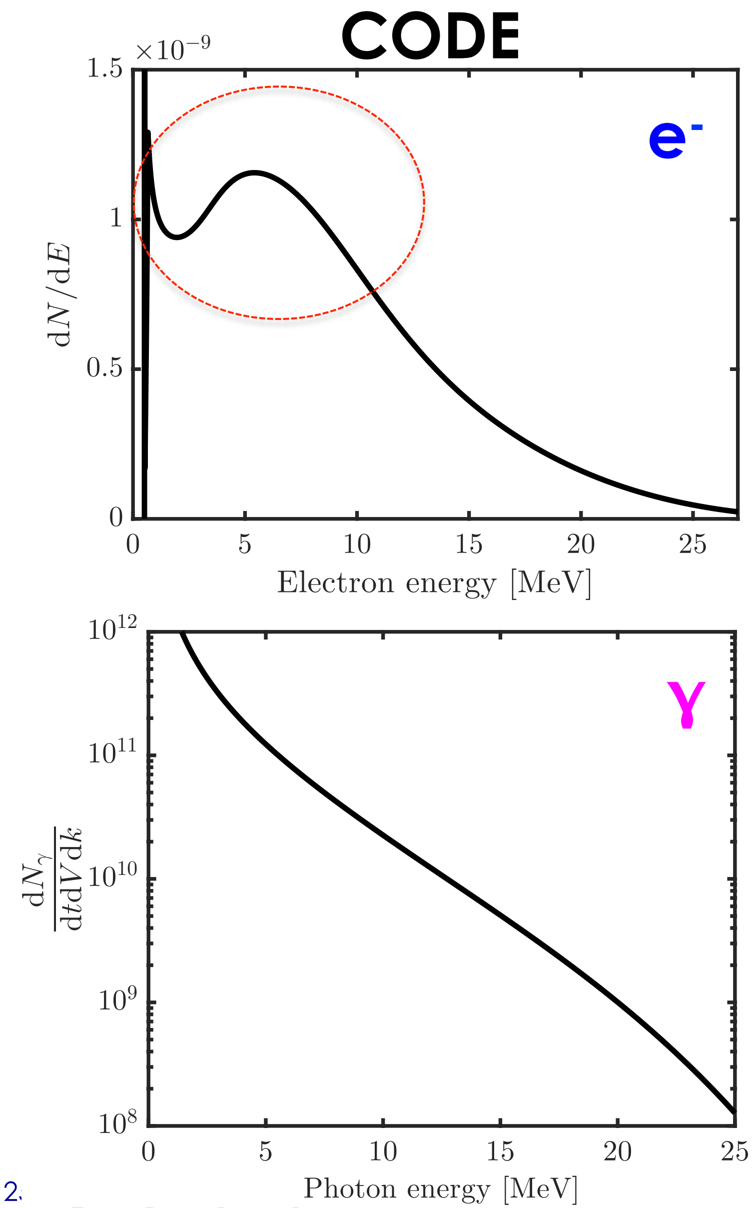


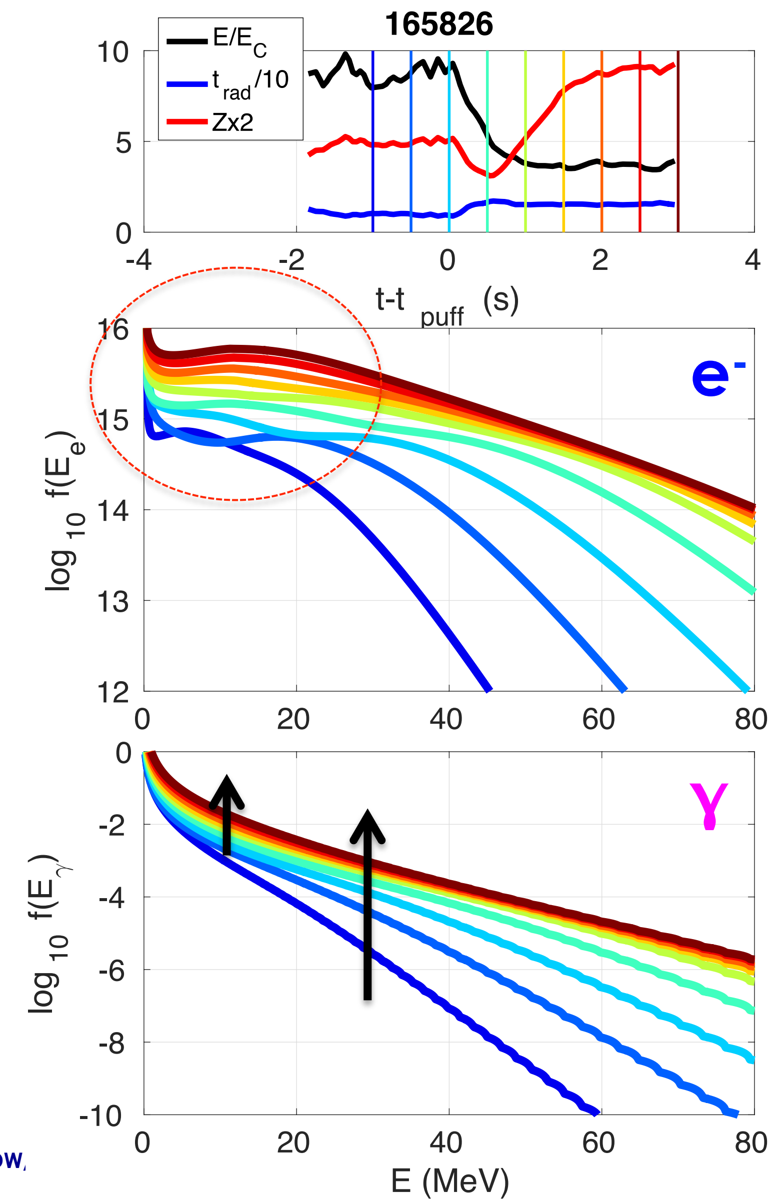


First-look inversions of experimental HXR spectra are promising, bump-like feature in appears in both



Both Aleynikov analytic model and CODE computation find (small) bump formation for 165826



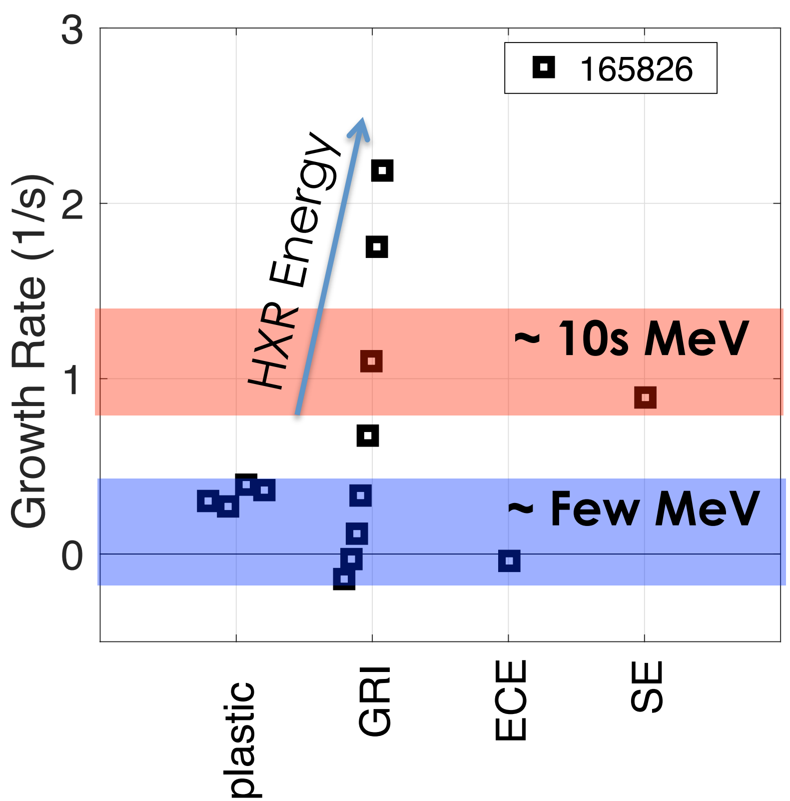


Growth rates across diagnostics are not the same … further evidence of f(E) re-arrangements

- **Note low energy GRI looks more like plastic, electron cyclotron emission (ECE)**

- **High energy GRI looks more like synchrotron (SE)**

- **This is expected based on sensitivity of ECE, SE**

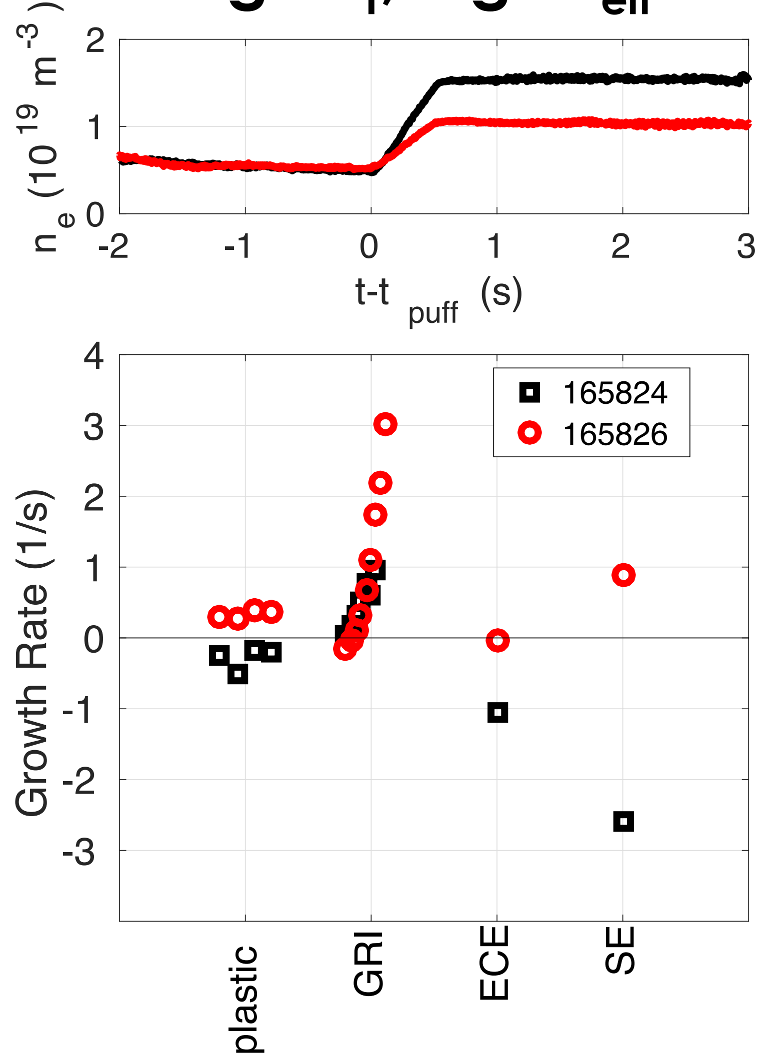


Paz-Soldan/PPPL-TSDW/07-2016

All diagnostics confirm faster decay rate when density is increased

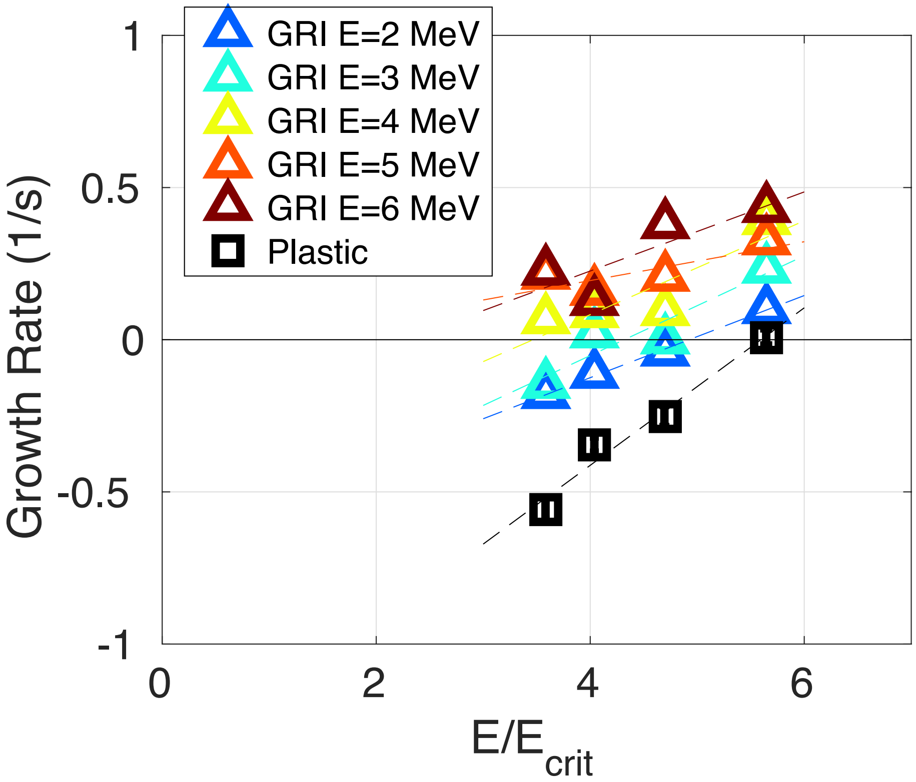
- **All boats are sunk by increasing density**
- **But, high energy GRI still grows!**

High B_T, high Z_{eff}



GRI energy resolved measurements demonstrate anomalously high E/E_{crit} limited to low energy HXRs

- **2014 plastic HXR growth-decay transition reproduced in 2016 E/E_{crit} scans**
- **Higher energy HXR pulses still grow, extrapolate to lower E/E_{crit}**
- **Demonstrates energy redistribution effects are taking place**
  - Simultaneous decay @ low E and growth @ high E



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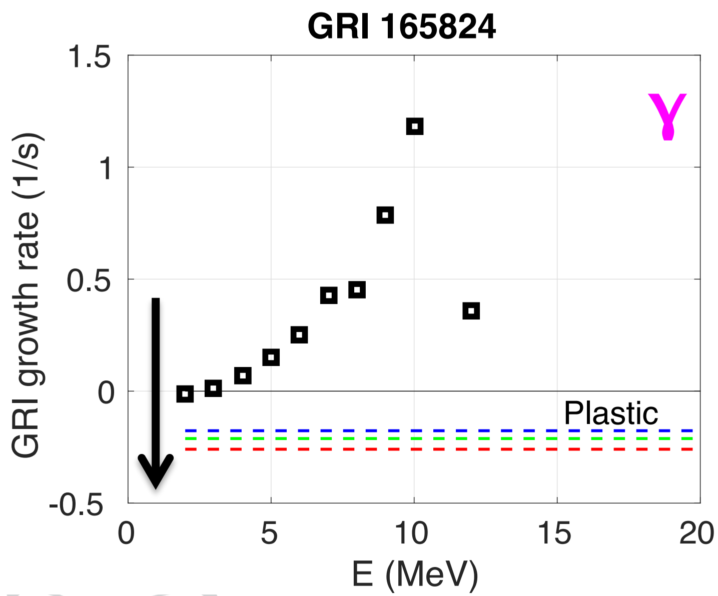
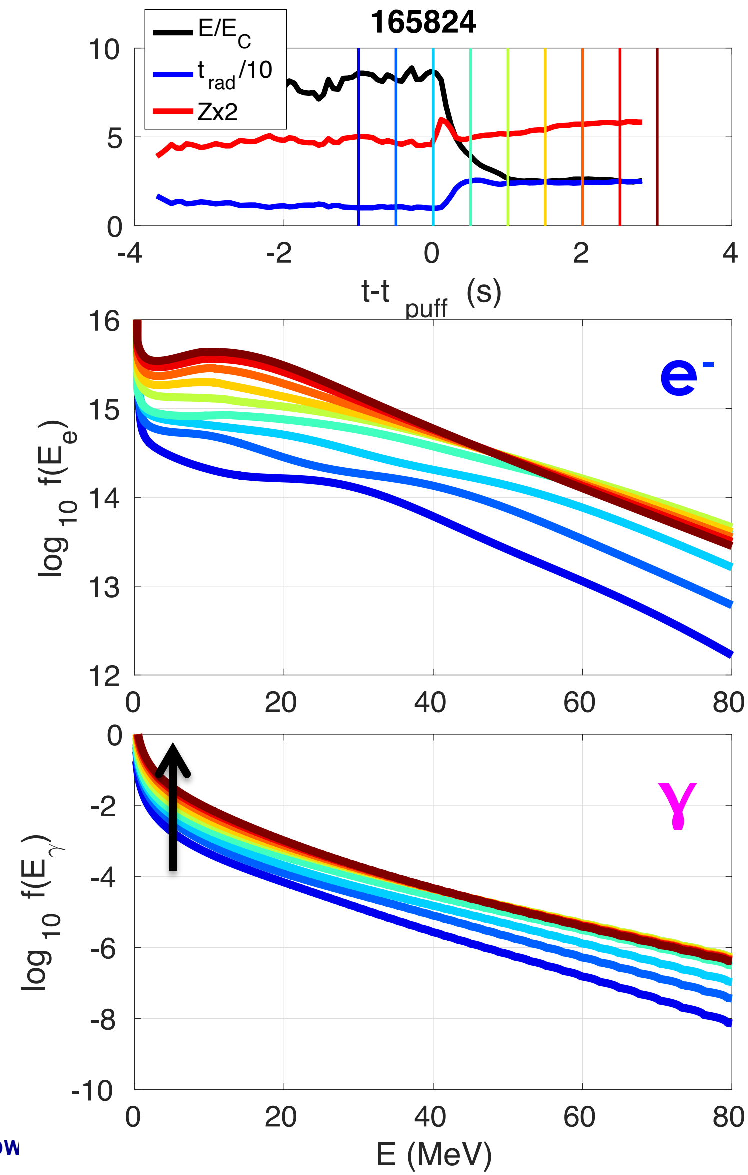
Reduction of low energy (and plastic) is still anomalous as compared to modeling

- **Decaying plastic HXR and low energy GRI not consistent with distribution function modeling**
  - "Anomalous loss" still present





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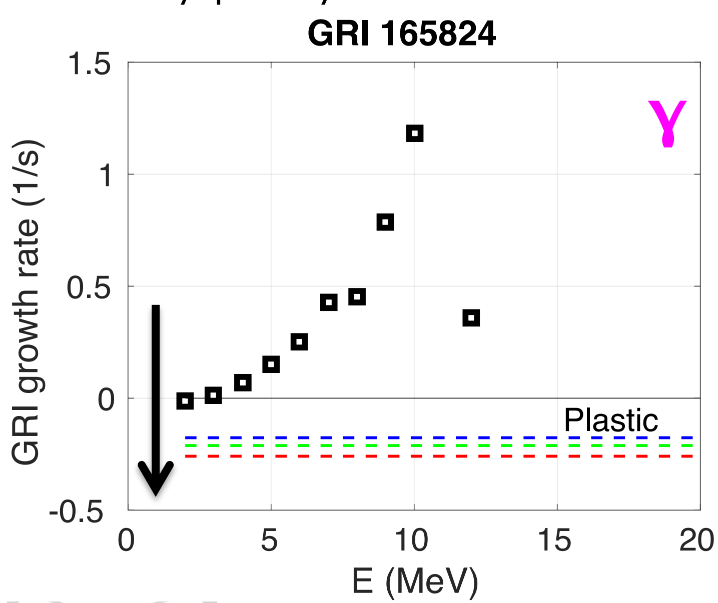
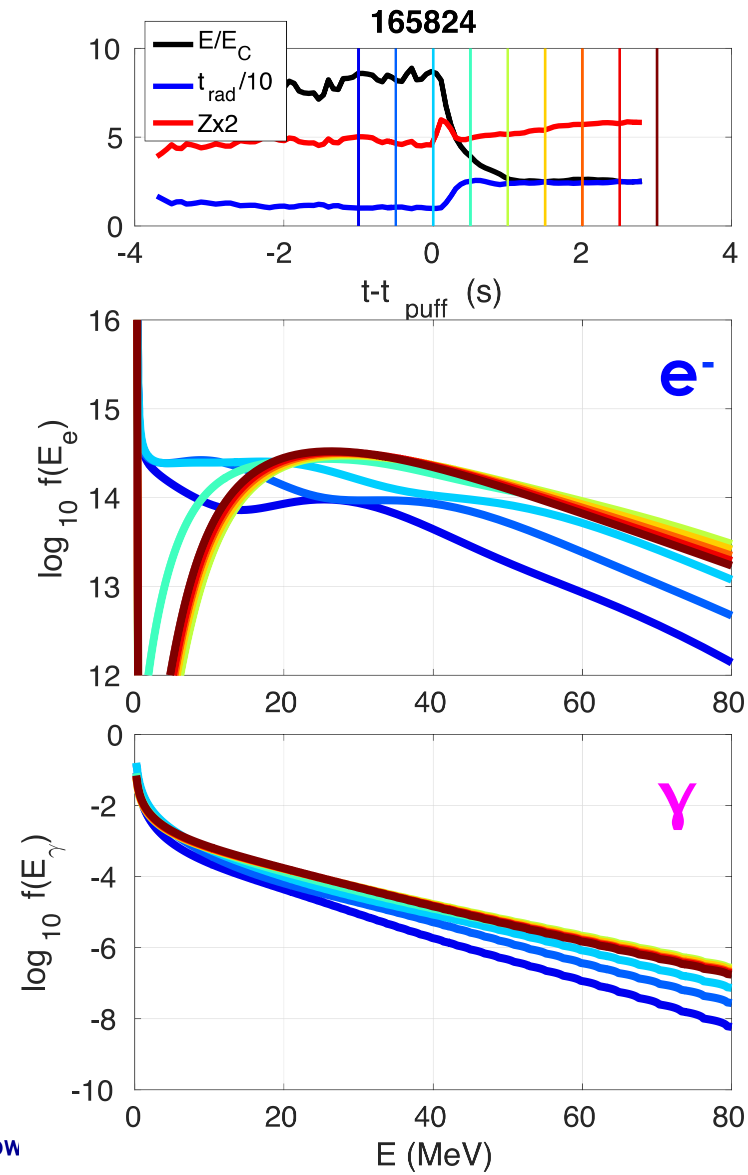
- **Decaying plastic HXR and low energy GRI not consistent with distribution function modeling**
  - "Anomalous loss" still present
- **Artificially turning off avalanche term improves agreement (??)**
  - Likely proxy for losses





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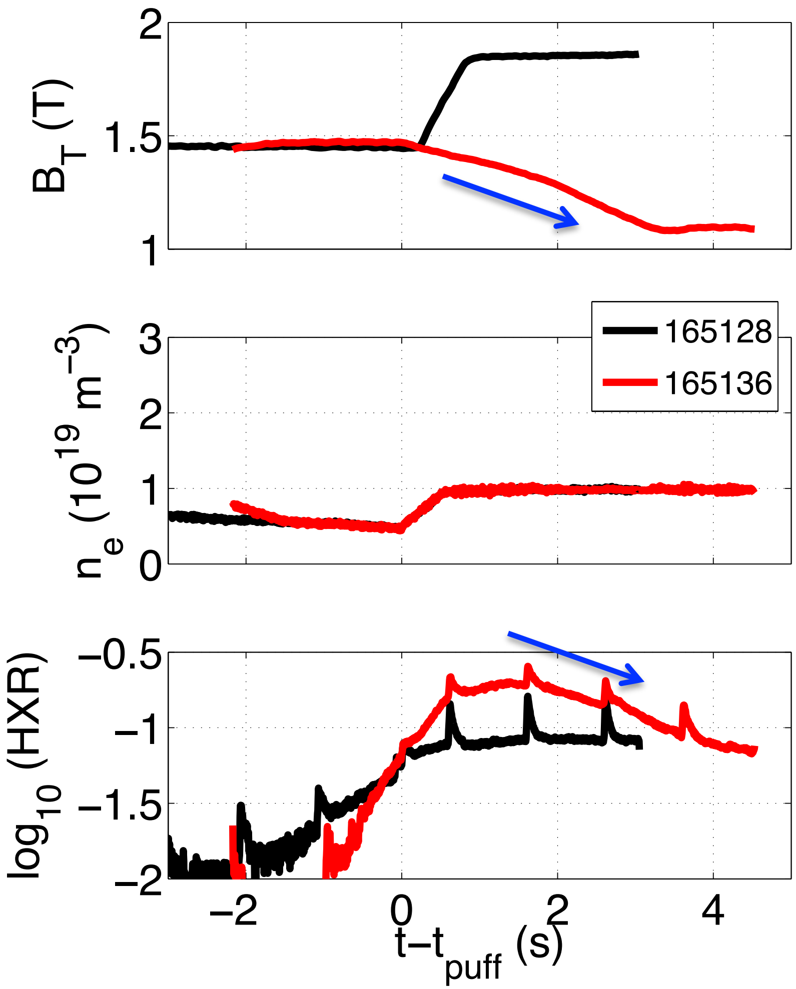
BT effect on plastic HXR was clear – lower BT made faster HXR decay (thus loss of low energy REs)

- **Vary BT at constant density**
  - Same low density front end
- **Low BT causes faster decay of plastic HXR**



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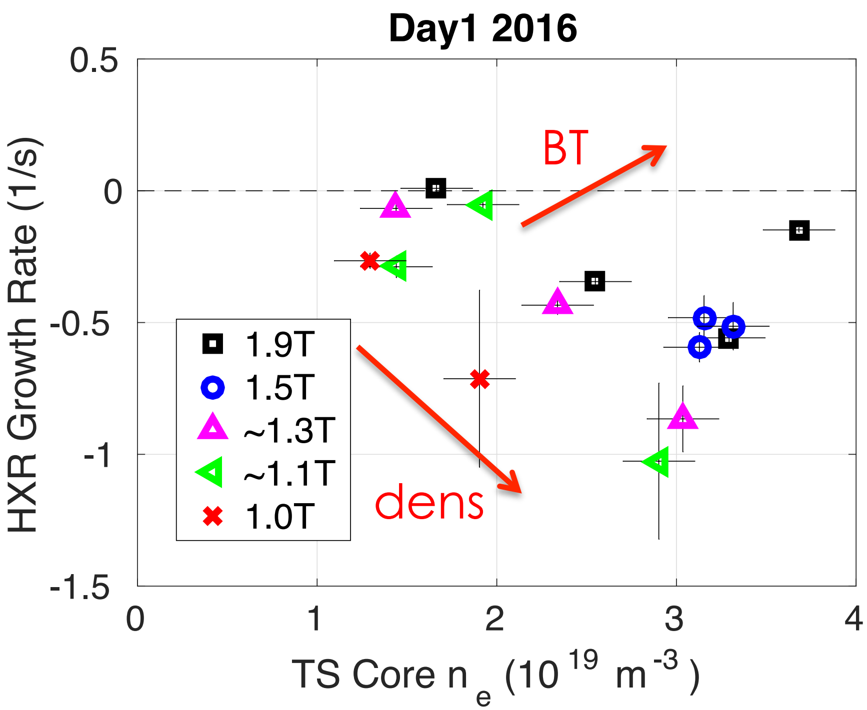

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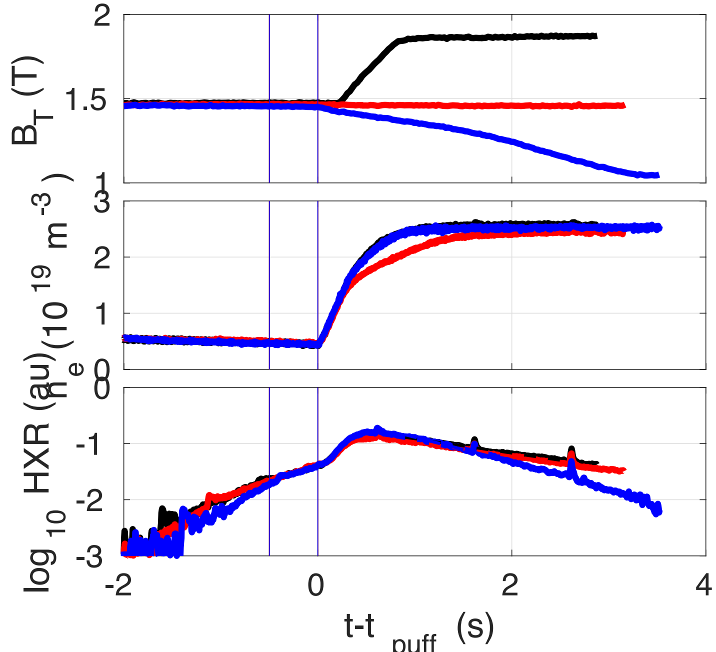
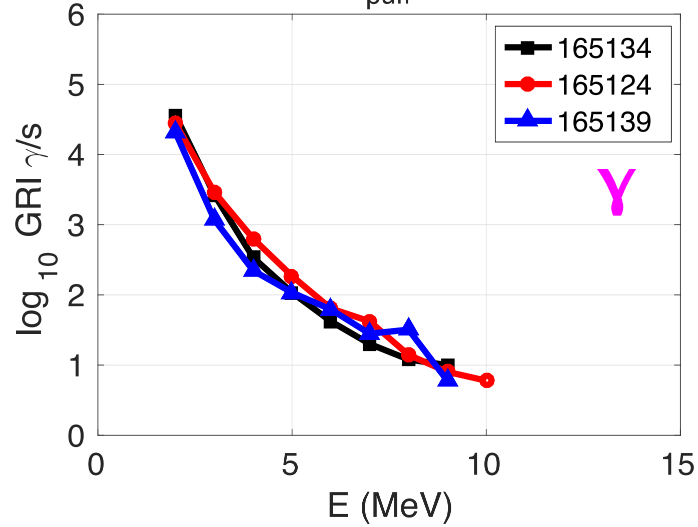
GRI spectrum hardness varies based on BT level: Synchrotron energy limit likely observed

- **Consider 3 shots with very similar pre-puff seed populations**
  - Different post-puff trajectories





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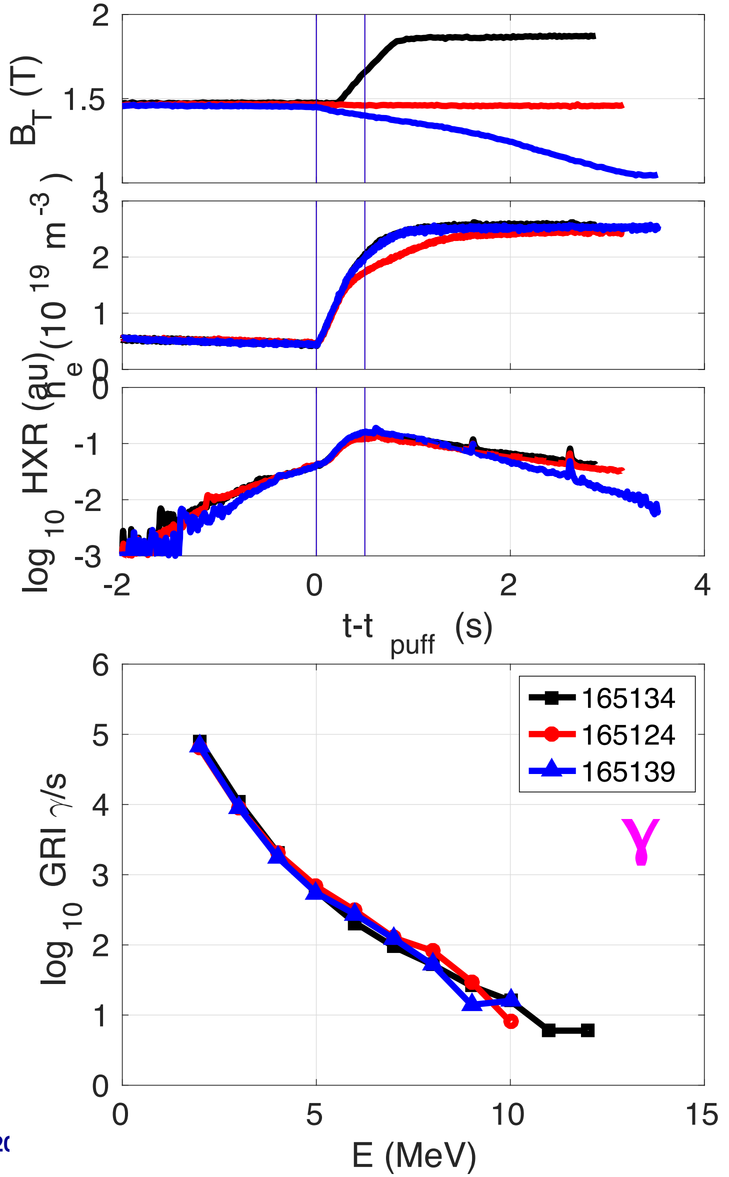

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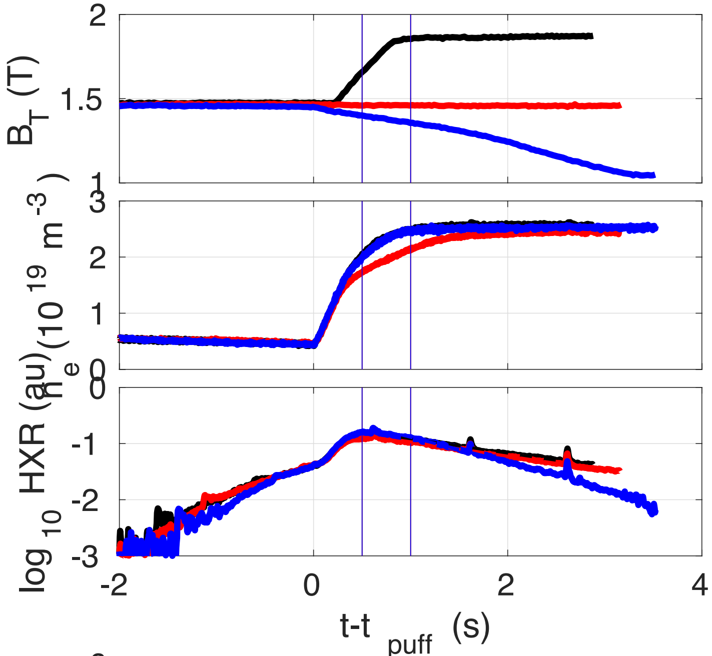

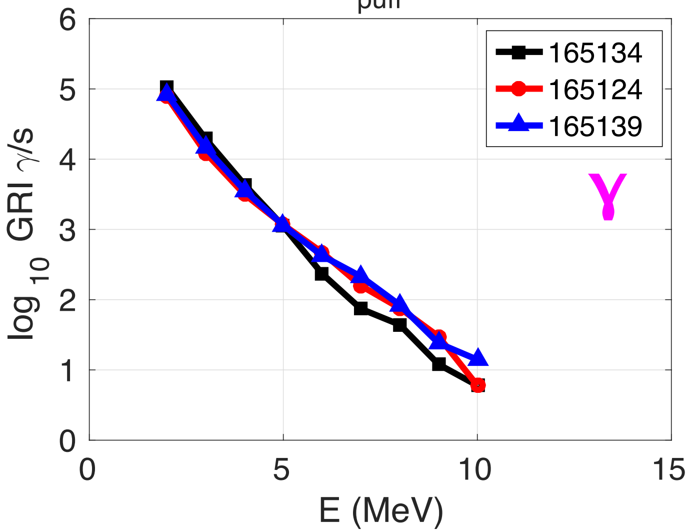

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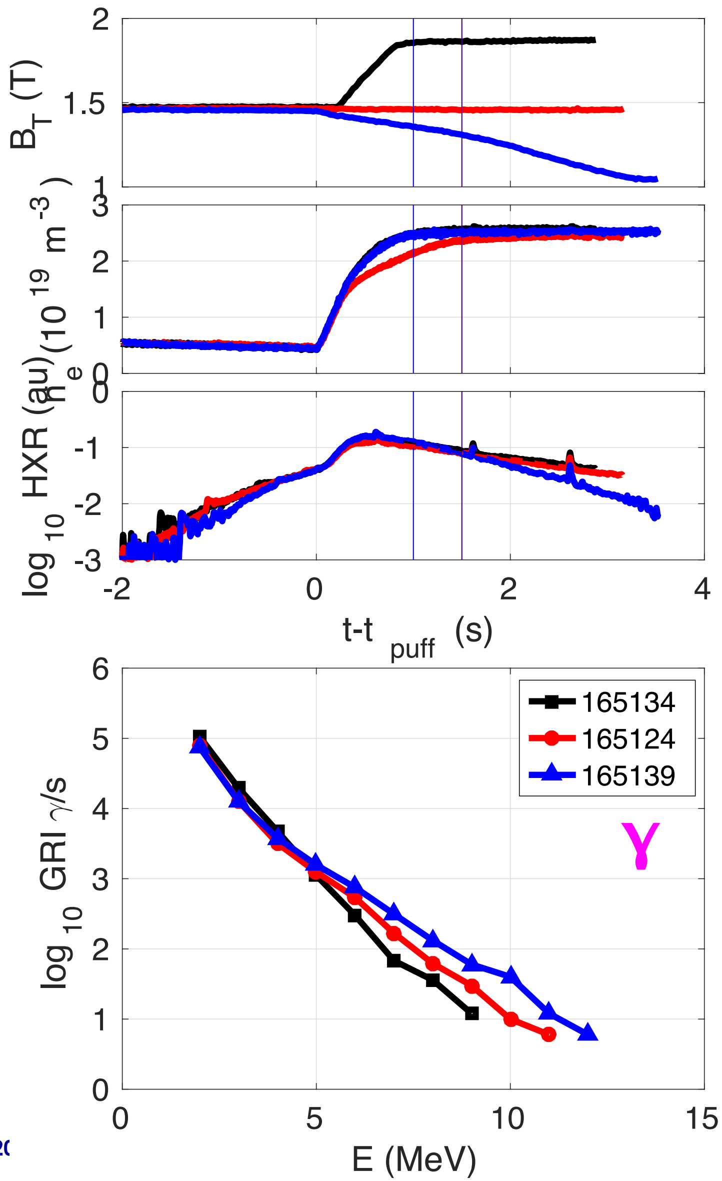

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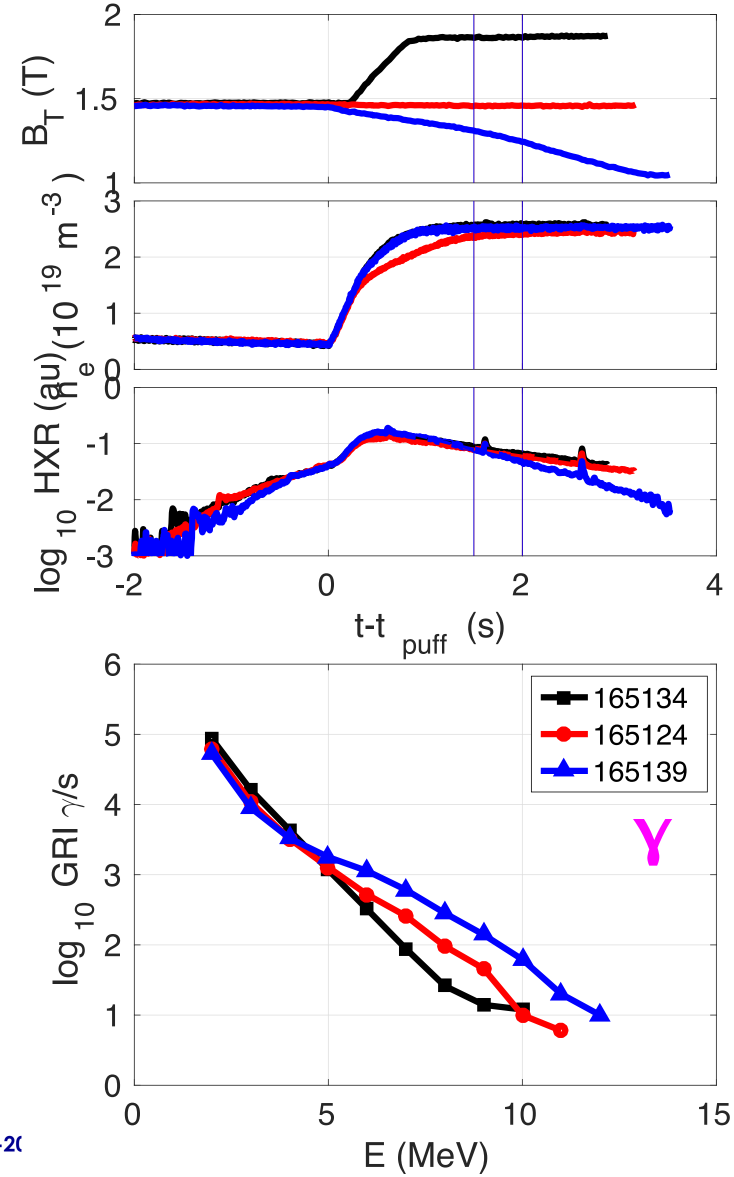
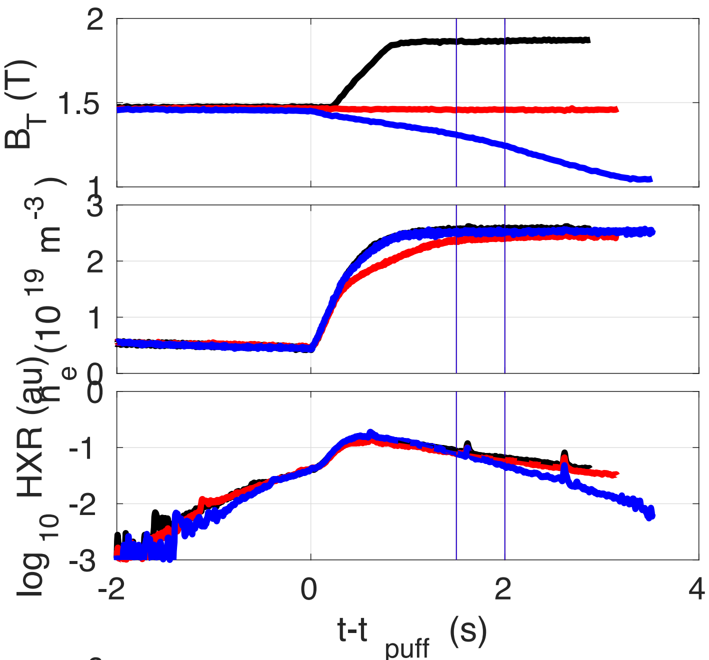
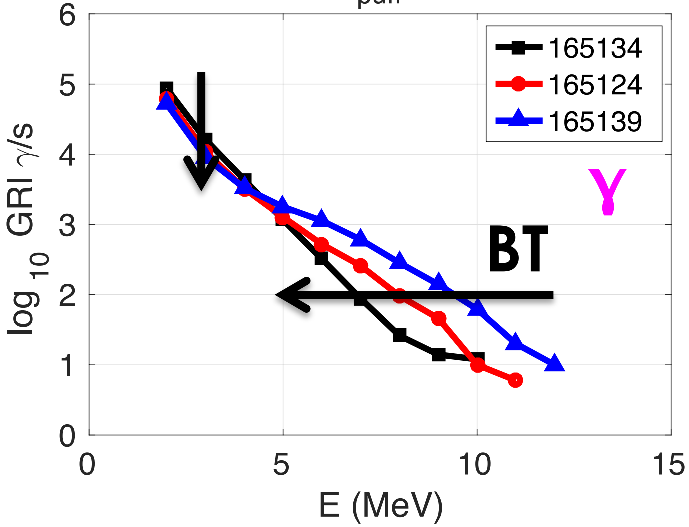
  - Different post-puff trajectories



GRI spectrum hardness varies based on BT level: Synchrotron energy limit likely observed

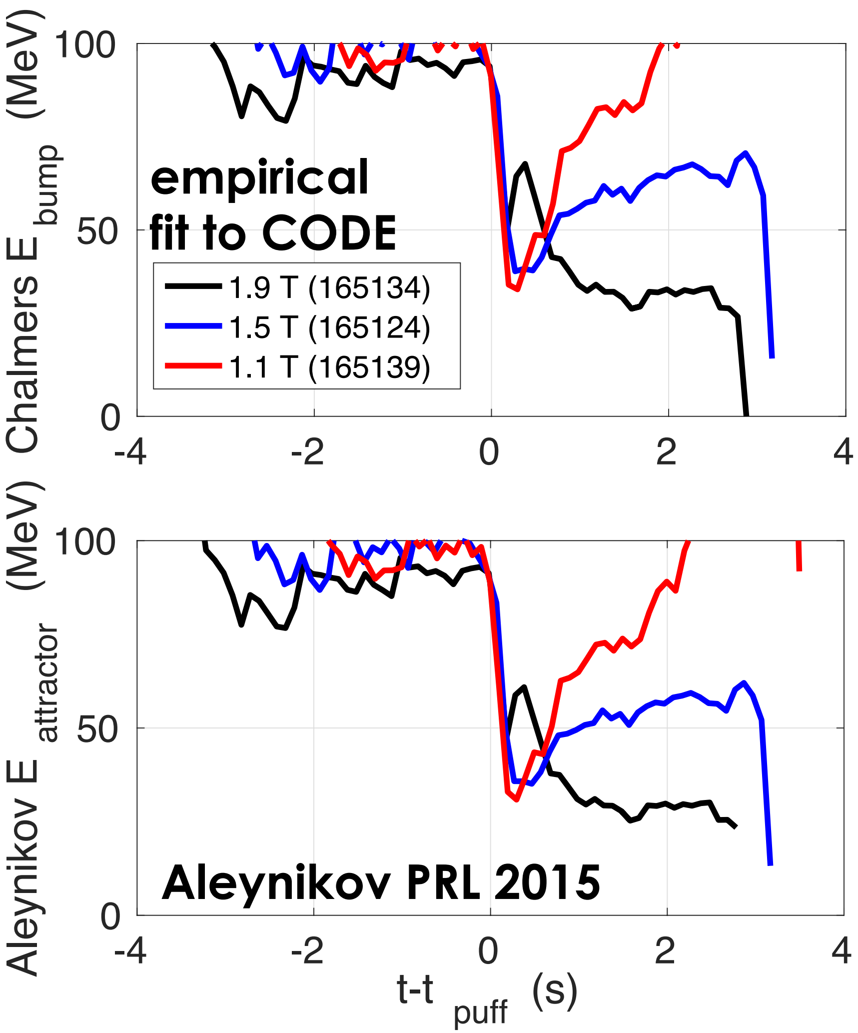
- **Consider 3 shots with very similar pre-puff seed populations**
  - Different post-puff trajectories
- **After puff, lower BT discharges contain higher energy gammas**
- **Opposite trend at low energy**
  - Confirms plastic HXR picture





Modeling of evolution of phase space attractor reveals higher energy attractor at low BT

- **Model evolution of discharge and track location of phase space attractor**
  - Excellent agreement between two different computations



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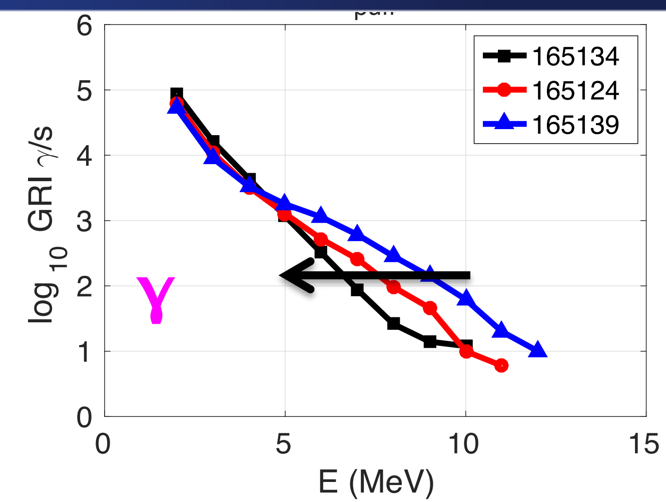
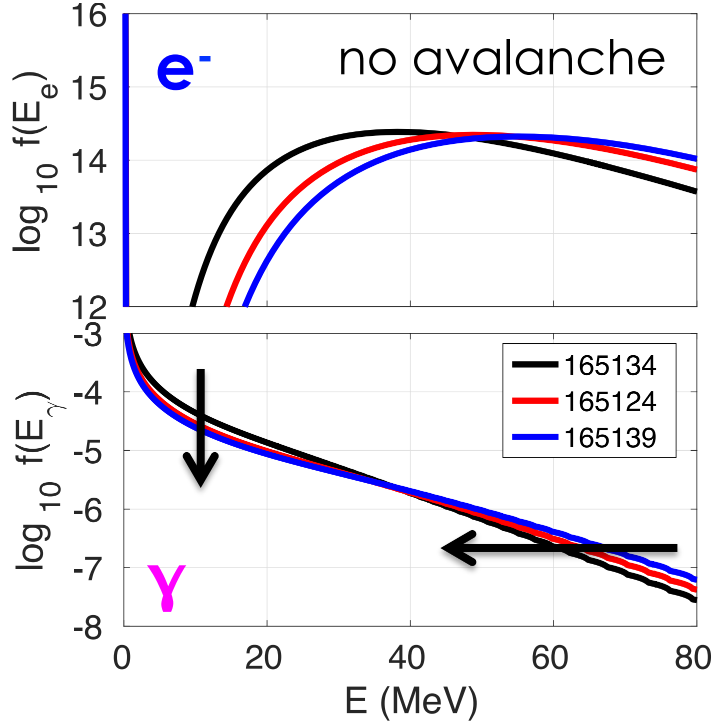
  – … but GRI effect much stronger
  – … but avalanche turned off again





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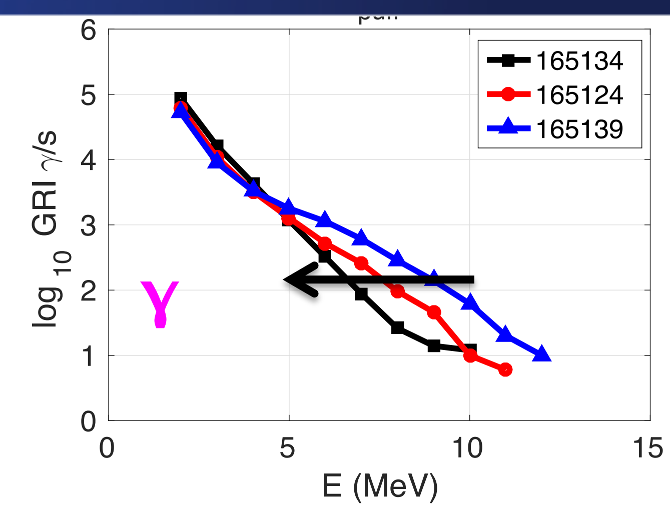
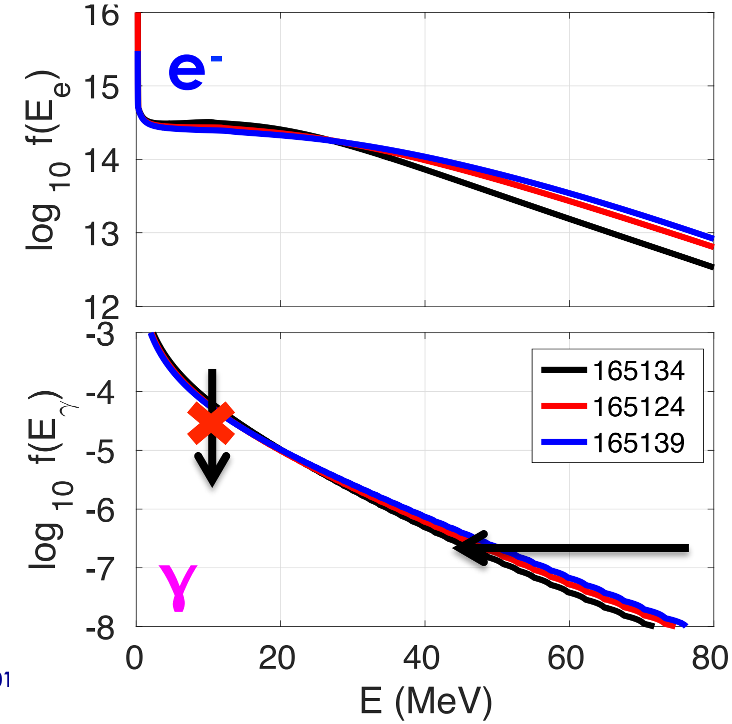
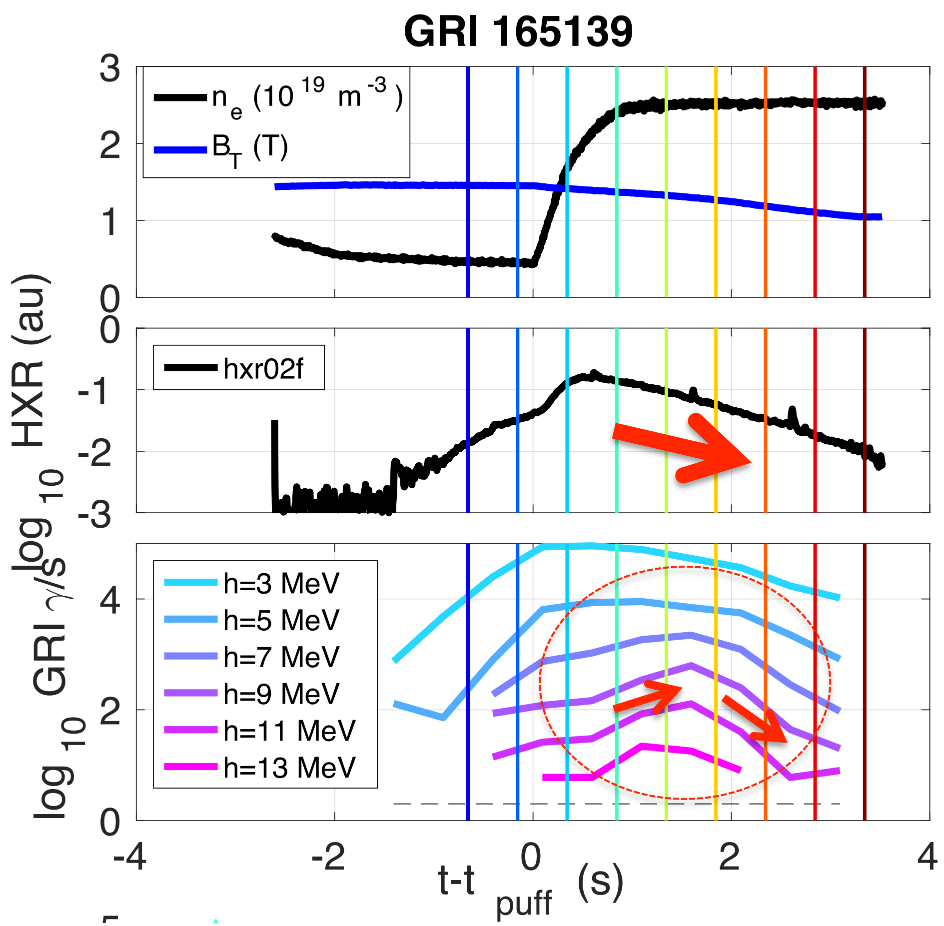
- **Turning on avalanche again causes diagreement in low energy region**





At low toroidal field limit, bulk RE deconfinement appears to be occurring

- **Early in BT rampdown, GRI high energy grows quickly**
  - Simultaneously with GRI low energy and plastic decay
- **Spectrum hardness reaches maximum, then high energy lost as well**
  - Deconfinement ?



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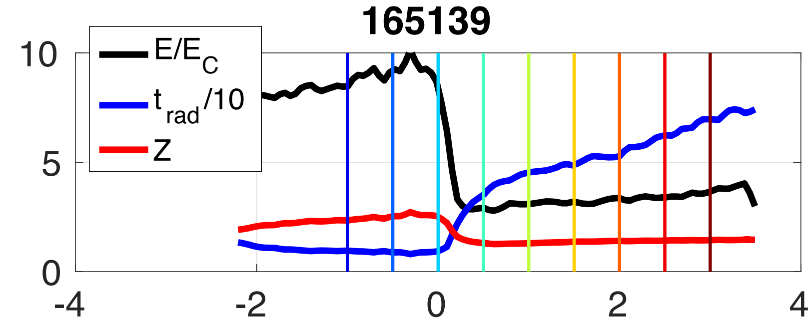
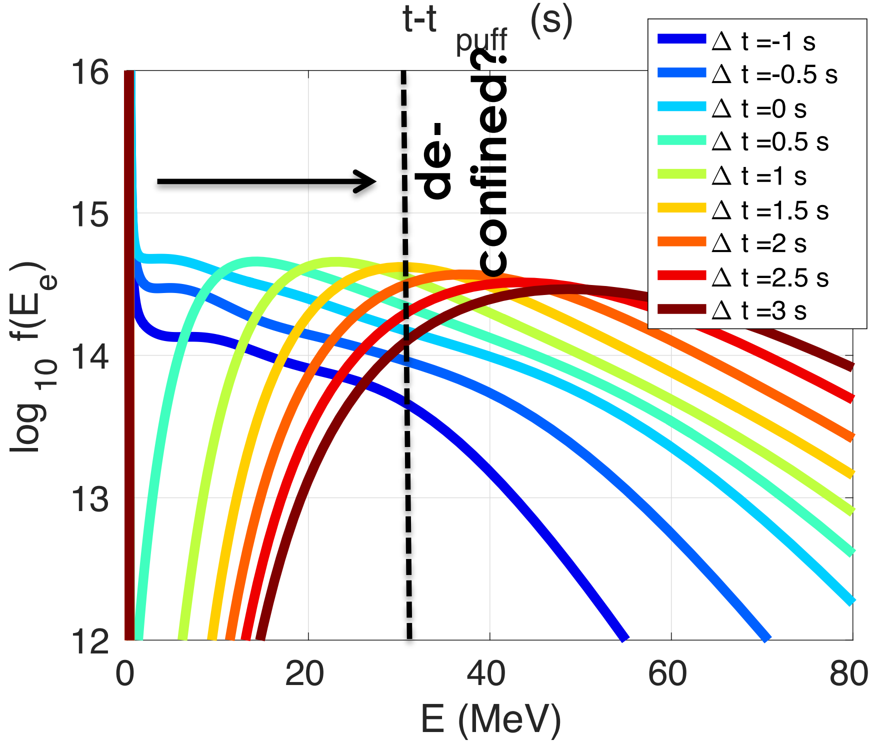
  - Deconfinement ?
- **Recall modeling predicts phase-space attractor moves to very high energy**
  - (ignoring avalanche for illustration)





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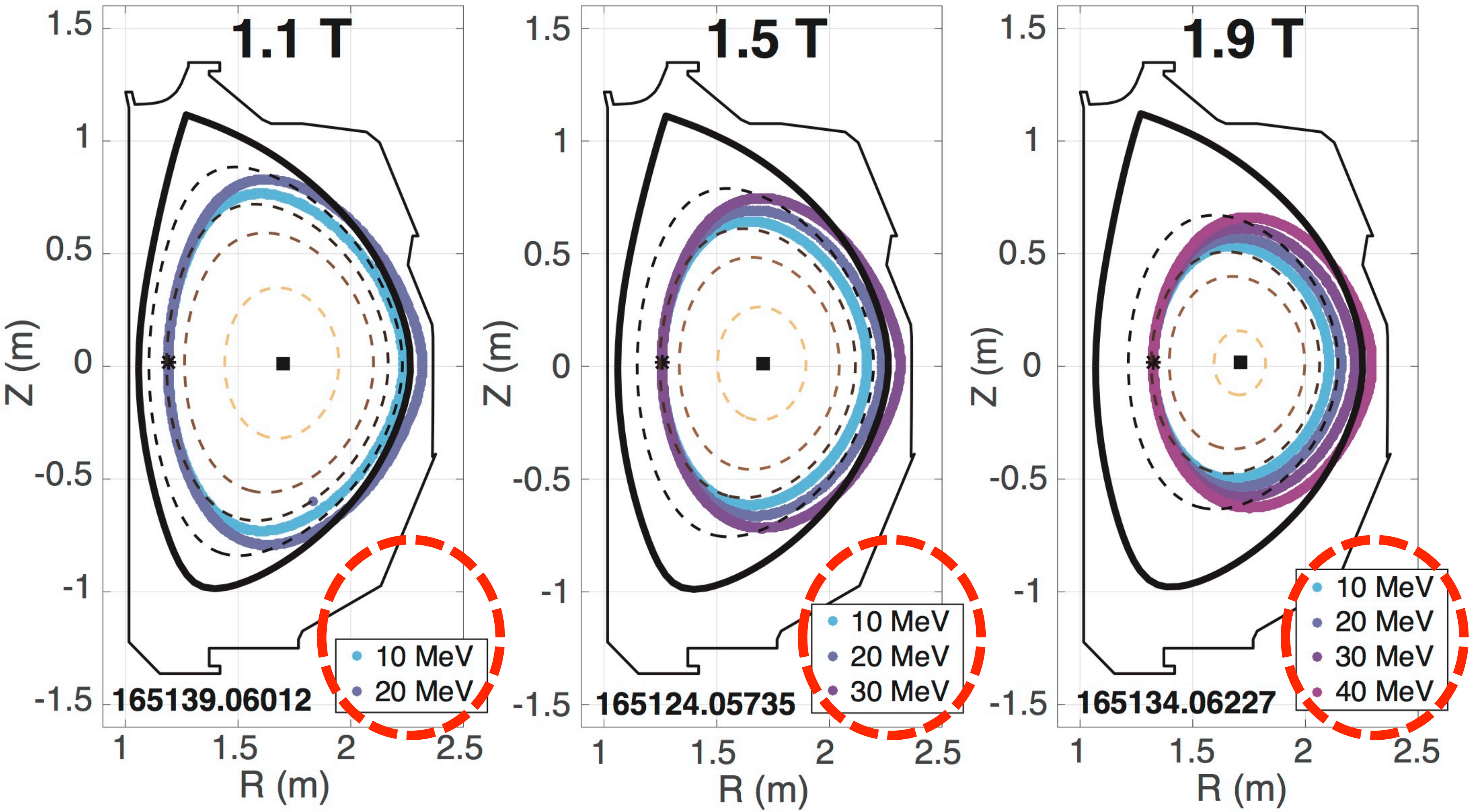
Changing BT also affects drift-orbits and RE confinement … about 10 MeV max RE energy drop per BT step



RE orbits courtesy A. Wingen, ORNL

Outline:

- Recap of Theory Progress and Important Parameters
- Recap of QRE Regime to Study RE Dissipation
- Introduction to GRI Diagnostic and f(E) Inversion
- Spectrum Effect of Electron Density (Collisions)
- Spectrum Effect of Toroidal Field (Synchrotron)
- **Conclusion and Future Directions**

Conclusion: Much more can be said about evolution of runaway distributions during controlled dissipation

- **Dissipated similar RE populations with variable E/E_{crit}, $t_{rad\text{-}hat}$, Z_{eff}**
  - Thanks to this group for supporting experiment. It was worth it!
- **Evidence found for phase-space attractors and bump formation in some conditions**
  - When synchrotron and pitch angle scattering are largest
  - When avalanche is weakest (in modeling)
- **Low energy HXR decay observed simultaneously with high energy HXR growth**
  - Direct evidence of f(E) re-distribution taking place
  - Plastic HXR detector only tells the low energy story
  - Anomalous E/E_{crit} observation does not extend to high energy REs
- **"Anomalous" loss still needed to explain low energy RE decay**

Conclusion: Much more can be said about evolution of runaway distributions during controlled dissipation

- **Lowering E/E_{crit} was found to cause more decay in all diagnostics (HXR, ECE, Sync)**
  - Collisional damping compresses the time-axis
- **B_T scan demonstrates effect of synchrotron on the most energetic particles**
  - Maximum energy constrained by synchrotron
  - Effect appears stronger experimentally than in modeling
- **Enhanced decay of low energy REs with low B_T appears to be simply due to flow of REs to higher energy (due to weaker synchrotron)**
- **At low enough B_T, the REs are likely lost due to deconfinement**
  - Peculiar to DIII-D, limit of experimental technique

Future Directions: much also remains to be done …
... what can we say about losses, kinetic instability?

- **Can we utilize ad-hoc RE loss terms in modeling to better match experiment? What does that actually teach us?**

- **Other diagnostics can be deployed in model-experiment comparison: Electron cyclotron and Synchrotron emission**
  - Spectral data available for both!
  - Chalmers group has excellent synchrotron synthetic diagnostics
  - PPPL group developing ECE synthetic diagnostics

- **Looking ahead: Can we create conditions to maximize observation of kinetic instability in controlled RE beam?**

- **GRI hardware improvements are planned:**
  - 1) Detector and grounding to improve signal/noise ratio
  - 2) More shielding for intense HXR fluxes found in post-disruption RE