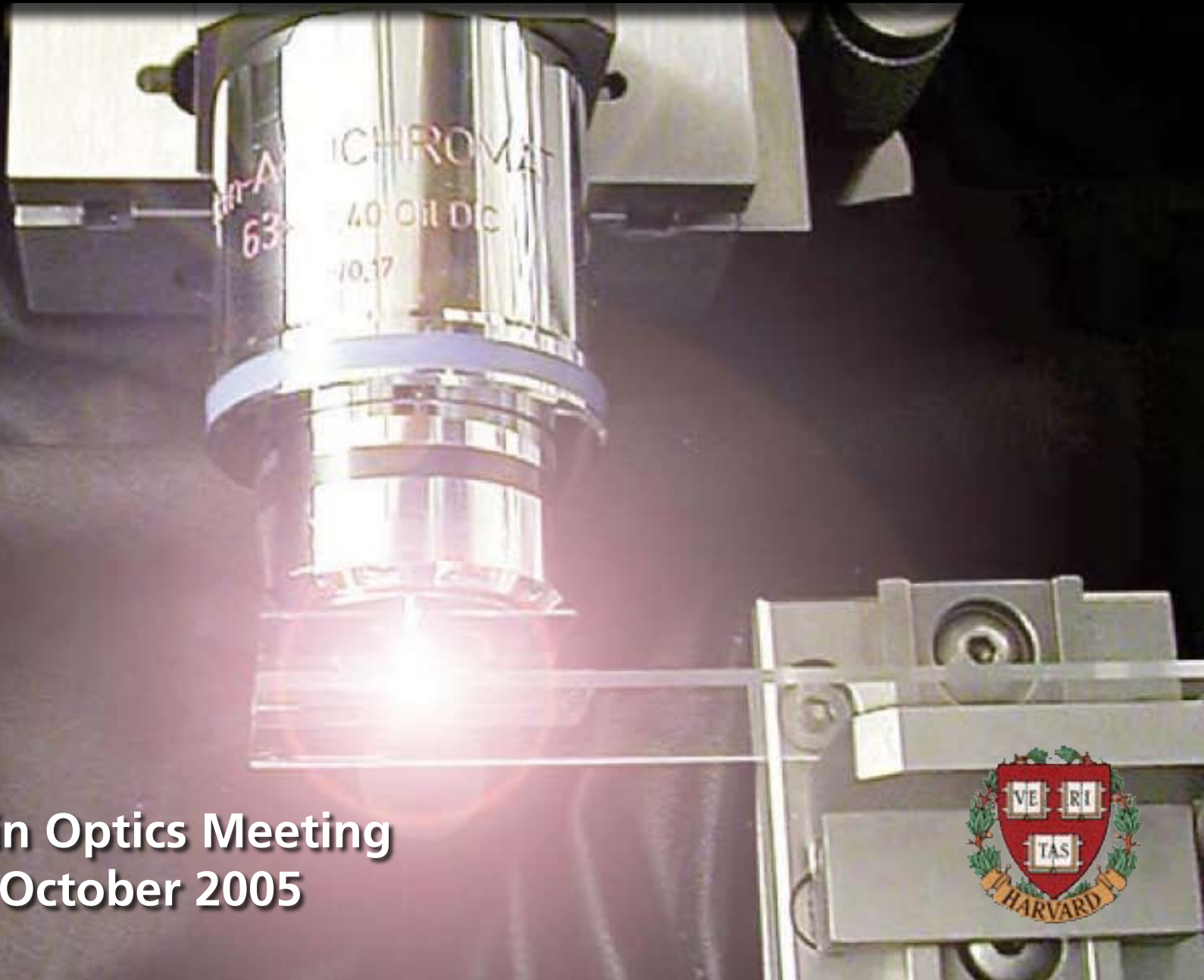
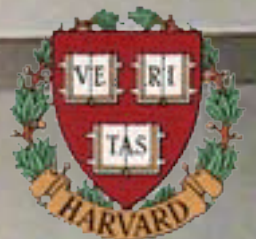


# Materials Processing Using Ultrashort Laser Pulses



OSA Frontiers in Optics Meeting  
Tucson, AZ, 19 October 2005





**Rafael Gattass**



**Loren Cerami**



**Tina Shih**



**Masanao Kamata**

**and also....**

**Iva Maxwell**

**Eli Glezer**

**Chris Schaffer**

**Nozomi Nishimura**

**Jonathan Ashcom**

**Jeremy Hwang**

**Nan Shen**

**Dr. André Brodeur**

**Dr. Sanjoy Kumar**

**Dr. Limin Tong**

**Dr. Prissana Thamboon**

**Prof. Igor Khruschev (Aston University)**

**Prof. Denise Krol (UC Davis)**

**Dr. Yossi Chay (Sagitta, Inc.)**

**Dr. S.K. Sundaram (PNNL)**

**Prof. Minoru Obara (Keio University)**

**Prof. Don Ingber (Harvard Medical School)**

**Prof. Aravi Samuel (Harvard)**

# My message

**fs micromachining: great technique for manipulating matter**



# Introduction



# Introduction

216

J. Opt. Soc. Am. B/Vol. 13, No. 1/January 1996

## Breakdown threshold and plasma formation in femtosecond laser–solid interaction

D. von der Linde and H. Schüler

Institut für Laser- und Plasmaphysik, Universität Essen, D-45117 Essen, Germany

Received March 6, 1995; revised manuscript received June 15, 1995

Combining femtosecond pump–probe techniques with optical microscopy, we have studied laser-induced optical breakdown in optically transparent solids with high temporal and spatial resolution. The threshold of plasma formation has been determined from measurements of the changes of the optical reflectivity associated with the developing plasma. It is shown that plasma generation occurs at the surface. We have observed a remarkable resistance to optical breakdown and material damage in the interaction of femtosecond laser pulses with bulk optical materials. © 1996 Optical Society of America

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The interaction of intense femtosecond laser pulses with solids offers the possibility of producing a new class of plasmas having approximately solid-state density and spatial density scale lengths much smaller than the wavelength of light. These high-density plasmas with extremely sharp density gradients are currently of great interest, particularly from the point of view of generating bright, ultrashort x-ray pulses. To produce such a plasma, the laser pulse should rise from the intensity level corresponding to the threshold of plasma formation to the peak value in a time much shorter than the time scale of plasma expansion. Thus the specification of the total intensity background or of the acceptable amount of plasma expansion requires some knowledge of the physical processes of the target material.

One of the key points in the research of Bloembergen and his co-workers was the use of very tightly focused laser beams, which allowed them to reach the breakdown threshold of the materials while staying well below the critical power of self-focusing. Self-focusing is one of the major problems in the measurement of bulk breakdown thresholds. In a more recent review Soileau *et al.*<sup>5</sup> carefully examined the role of self-focusing in experiments measuring laser-induced breakdown of bulk dielectric materials. They concluded that the breakdown and damage thresholds are also strongly influenced by extrinsic effects.

Thus far, the issue of breakdown thresholds in femtosecond laser–solid interaction has barely been touched. Very recently, Du *et al.*<sup>6</sup> carried out laser-induced breakdown experiments on fused silica with pulses ranging in duration from 7 ns to as low as 150 fs. They reported an interesting dependence of the fluence threshold on pulse duration, particularly a pronounced increase of the threshold with decreasing pulse duration below 10 ps. These observations were interpreted in terms of the Stuart–Lamb model. In related research, Stuart and his co-workers<sup>7</sup> reported a strong dependence of the breakdown threshold on the pulse width dependence of the threshold fluence of materials and the break varia-

D. von der Linde and H. Schüler

# Introduction

216

J. Opt. Soc. Am. B/Vol. 13, No. 1/January 1996

D. von der Linde and H. Schüler

**"... clear evidence that no bulk plasmas...  
[and] ... no bulk damage could be produced  
with femtosecond laser pulses"**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The interaction of intense femtosecond laser pulses with solids offers the possibility of producing a new class of plasmas having approximately solid-state density and spatial density scale lengths much smaller than the wavelength of light. These high-density plasmas with extremely sharp density gradients are currently of great interest, particularly from the point of view of generating short x-ray pulses. To produce such a plasma, the laser pulse must rise from the intensity level corresponding to the threshold of plasma formation to the peak value in a time much shorter than the characteristic plasma expansion. Thus the specification of the intensity background or of the acceptable amount of plasma expansion requires some knowledge of the target material.

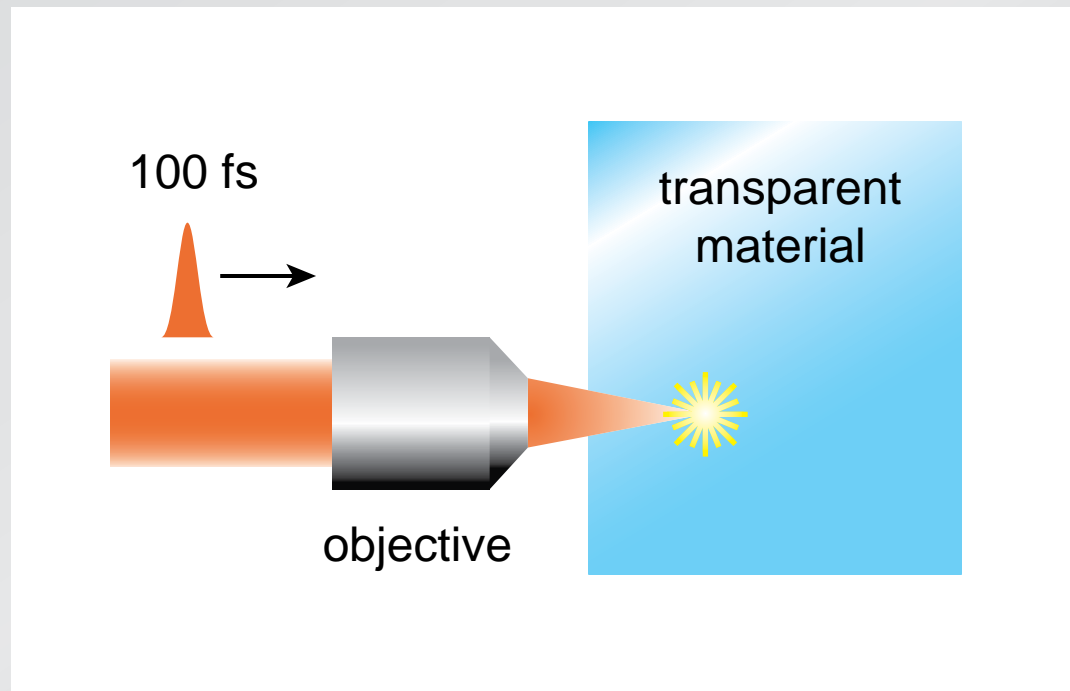
One of the key points in the research of Bloembergen and his co-workers was the use of very tightly focused laser beams, which allowed them to reach the breakdown threshold of the materials while staying well below the critical power of self-focusing. Self-focusing is one of the major problems in the measurement of bulk breakdown thresholds. In a more recent review Soileau *et al.*<sup>5</sup> carefully examined the role of self-focusing in experiments measuring laser-induced breakdown of bulk dielectric materials. They concluded that the breakdown and damage thresholds are also strongly influenced by extrinsic effects.

Thus far, the issue of breakdown thresholds in femtosecond laser-solid interaction has barely been touched. Very recently, Du *et al.*<sup>6</sup> carried out laser-induced breakdown experiments on fused silica with pulses ranging in duration from 7 ns to as low as 150 fs. They reported an interesting dependence of the fluence threshold on pulse duration, particularly a pronounced increase of the threshold with decreasing pulse duration below 10 ps. These observations were interpreted in terms of the breakdown model. In related research, Stuart and co-workers<sup>7</sup> investigated the dependence of the threshold fluence of materials and the break varia-

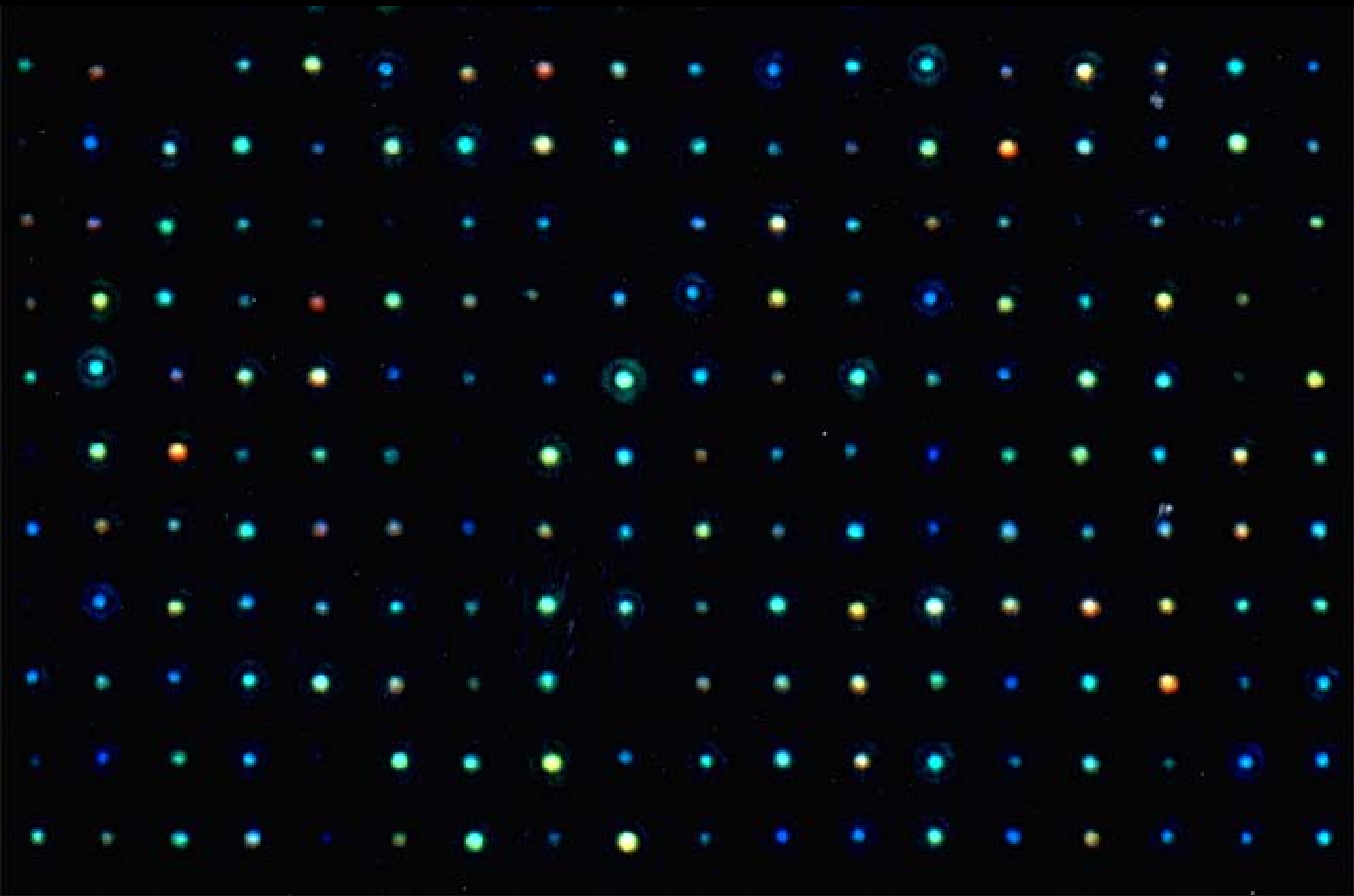
von der Linde, *et al.*, *J. Opt. Soc. Am. B* **13**, 216 (1996)

# Introduction

focus laser beam inside material



# Introduction



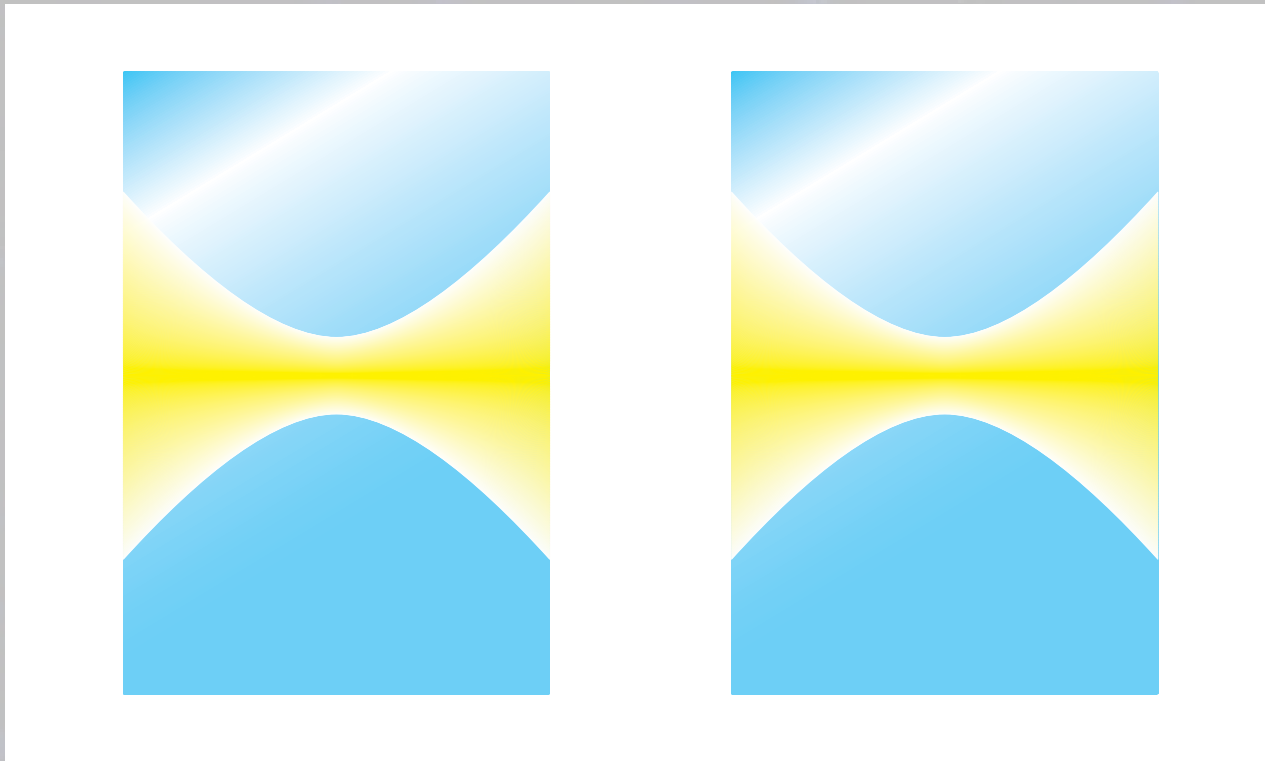


# Introduction

photon energy  $<$  bandgap  $\longrightarrow$  nonlinear interaction

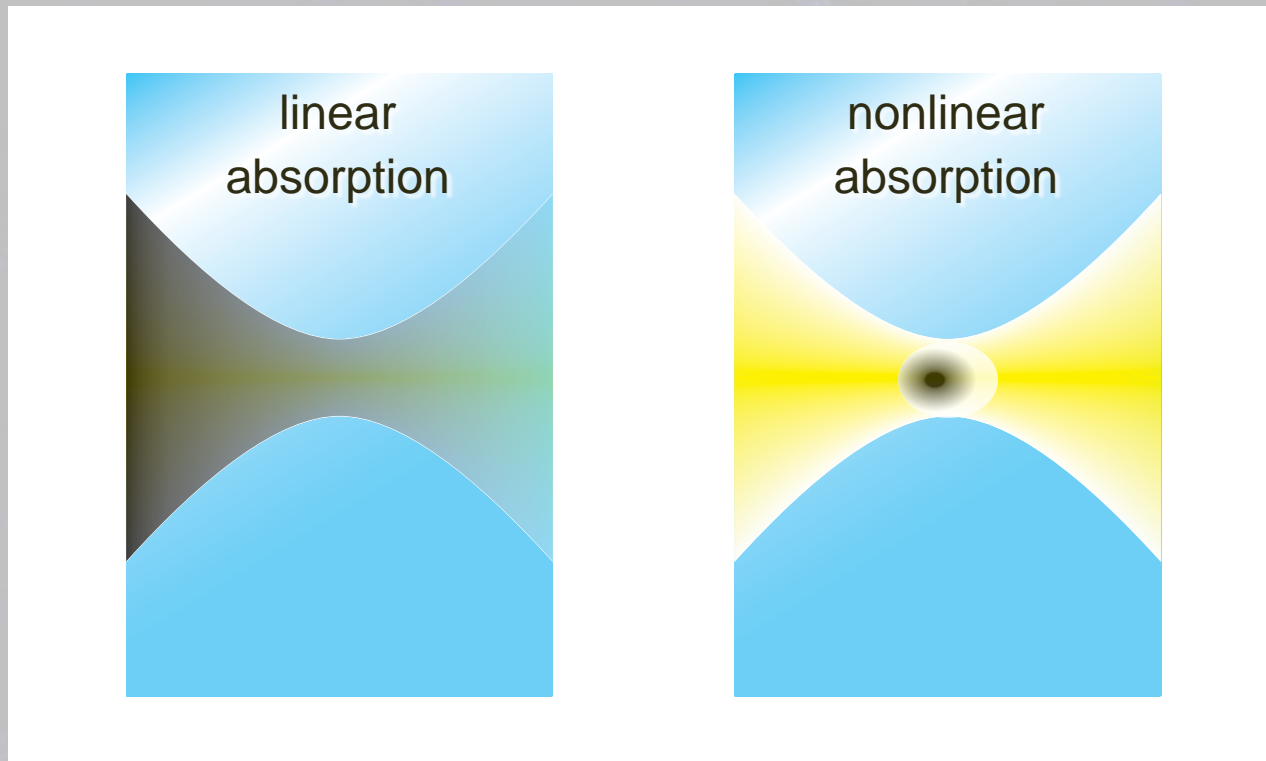
# Introduction

nonlinear interaction provides bulk confinement



# Introduction

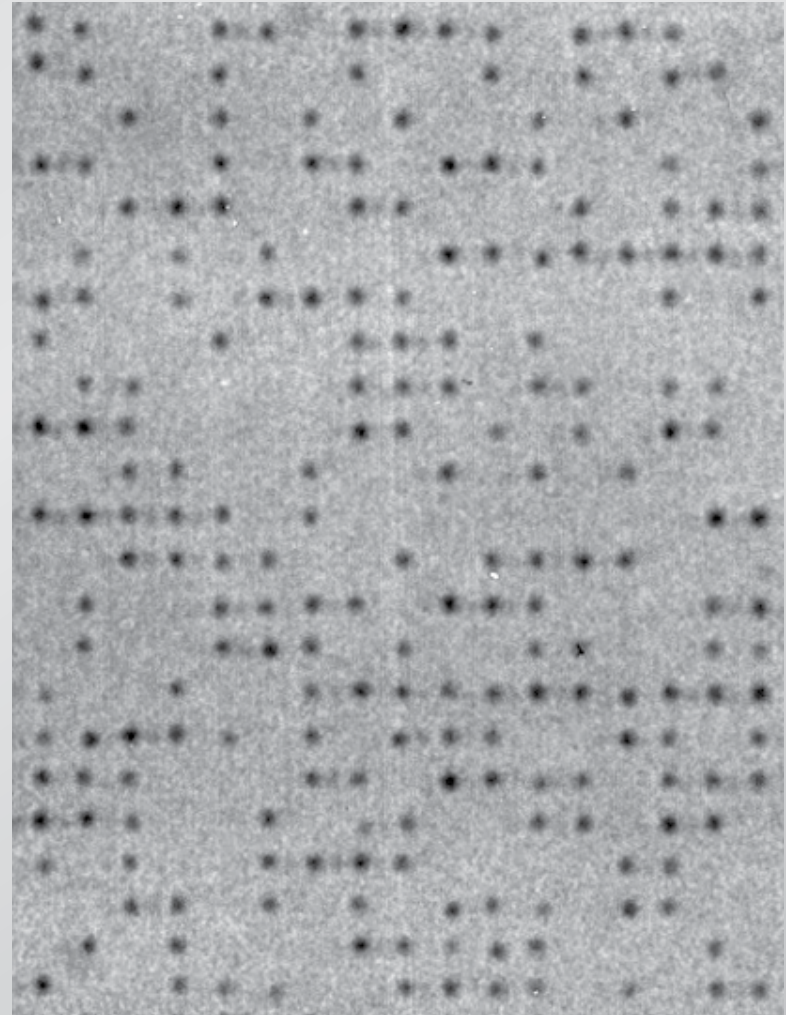
nonlinear interaction provides bulk confinement



# Femtosecond micromachining

**Some applications:**

- **data storage**
- **waveguides**
- **microfluidics**



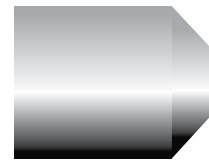
# Outline

- femtosecond micromachining
- low-energy machining
- applications



# Femtosecond micromachining

## Dark-field scattering



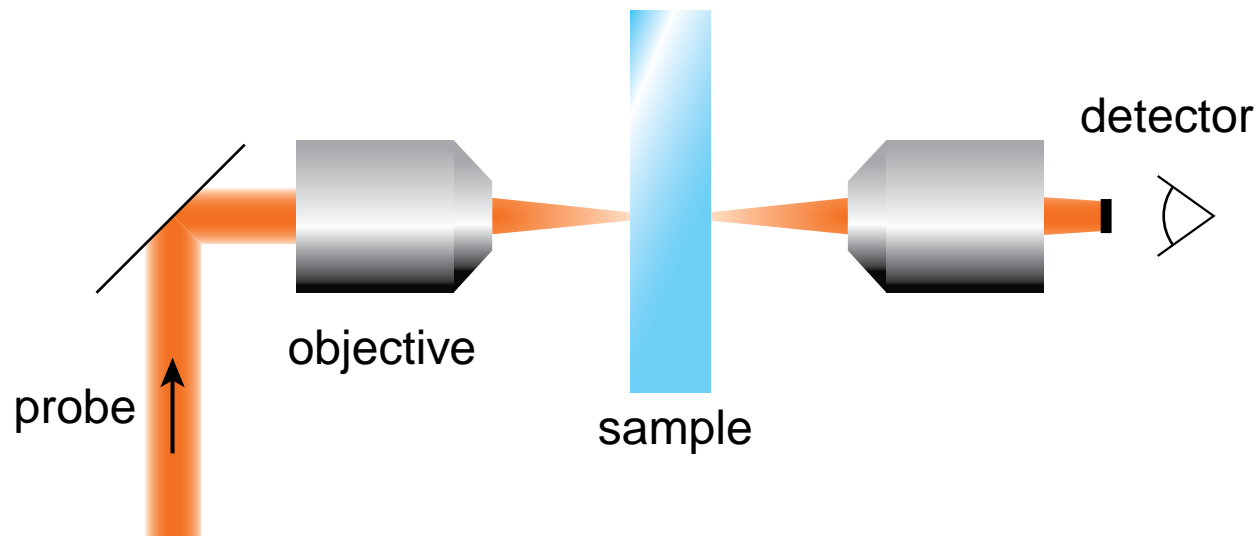
objective



sample

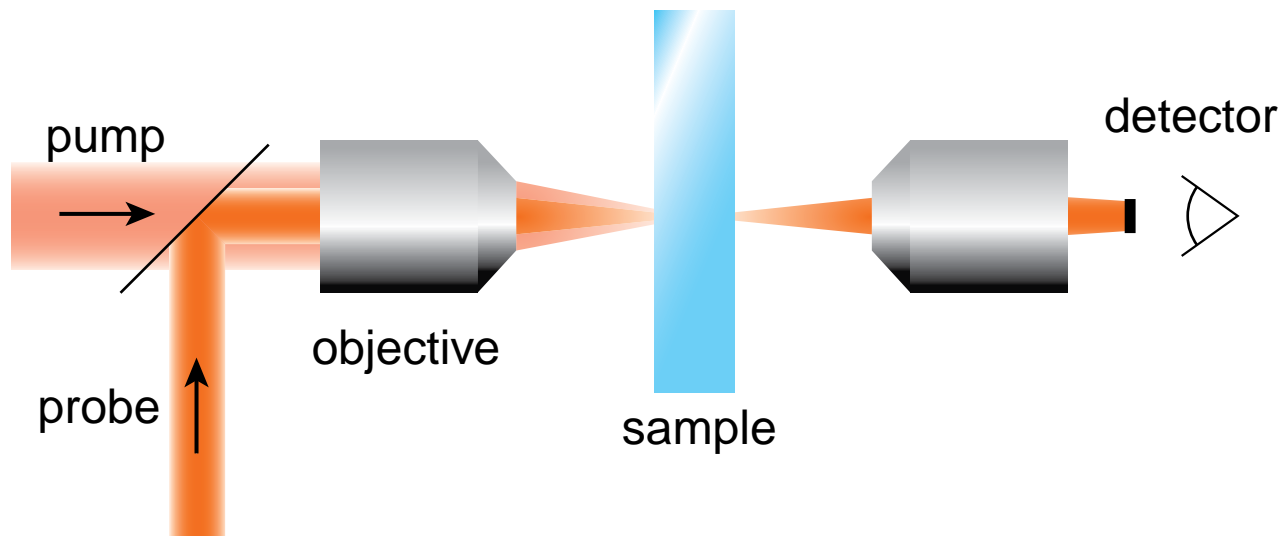
# Femtosecond micromachining

block probe beam...



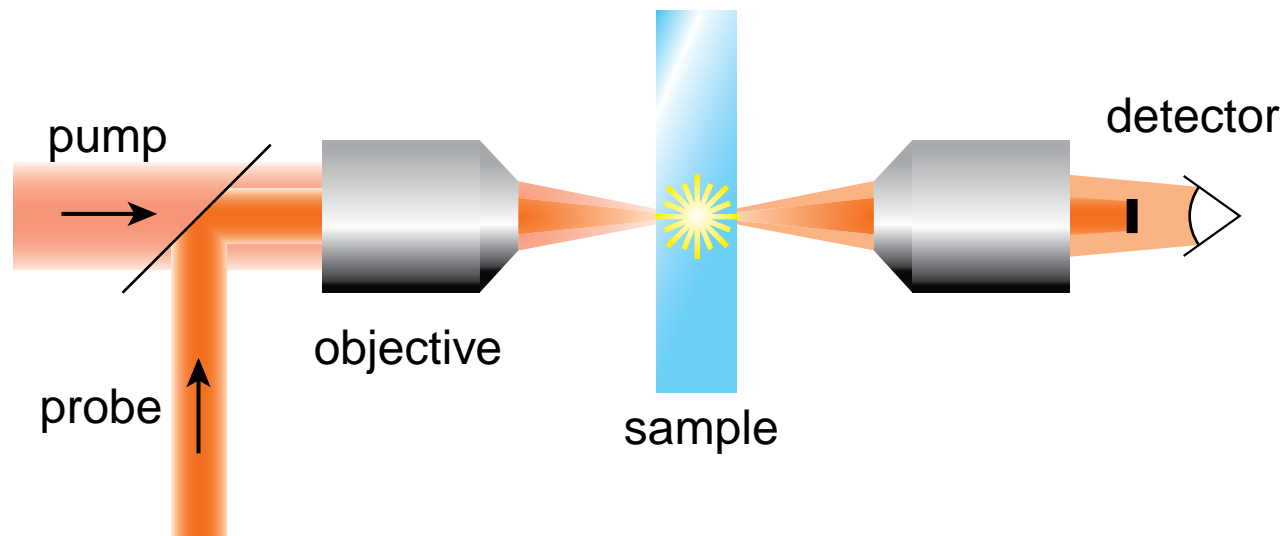
# Femtosecond micromachining

... bring in pump beam...



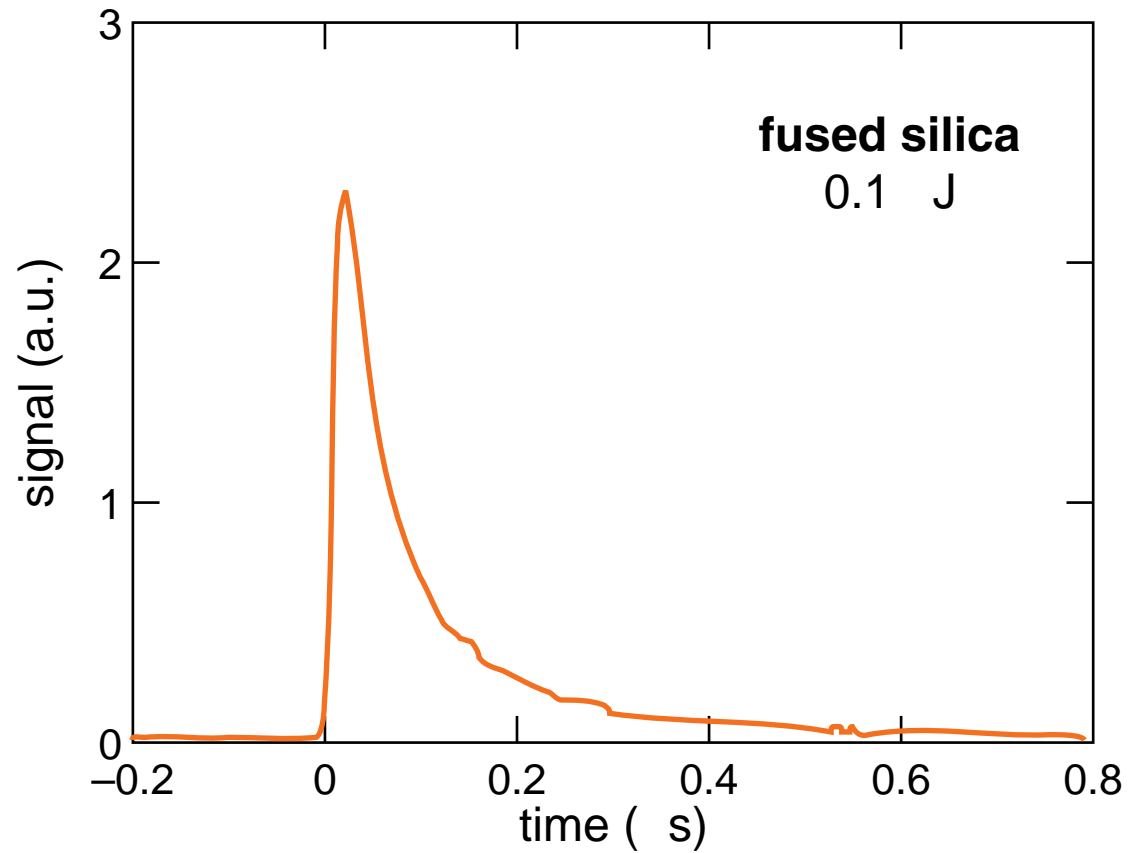
# Femtosecond micromachining

... damage scatters probe beam



# Femtosecond micromachining

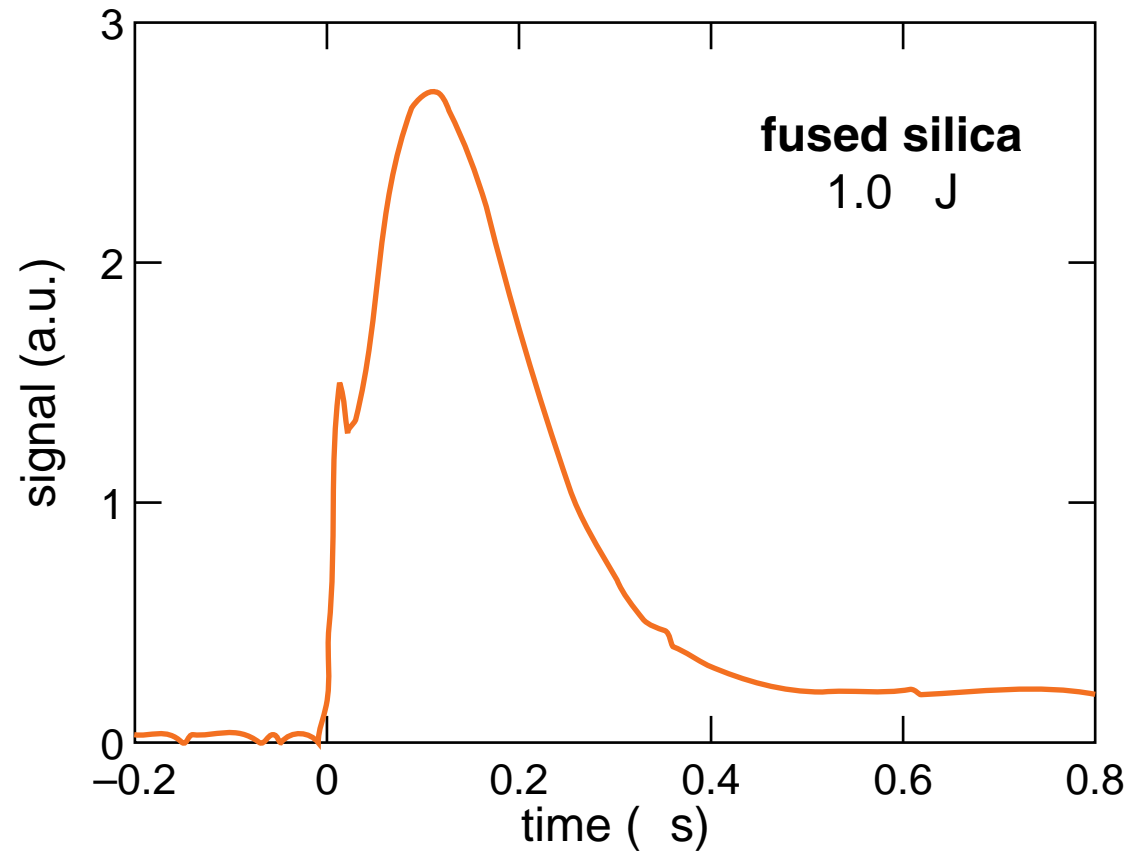
scattered signal





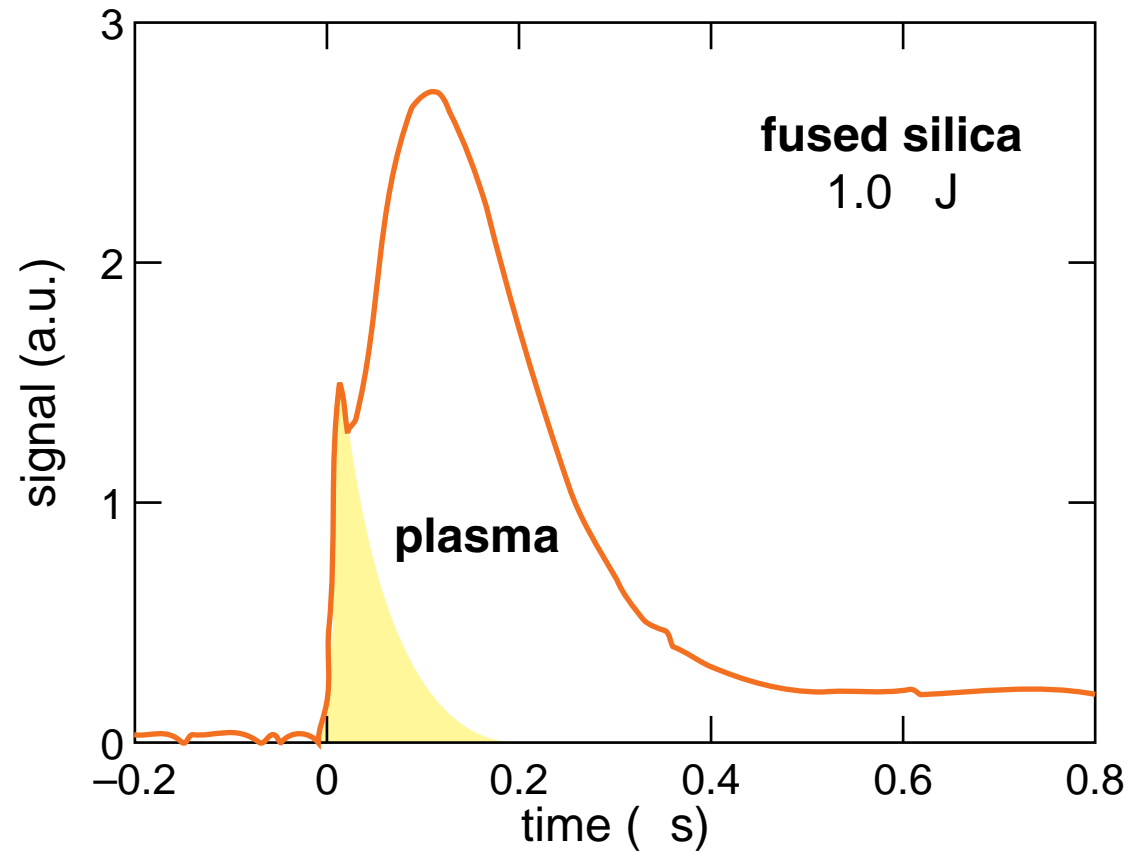
# Femtosecond micromachining

scattered signal



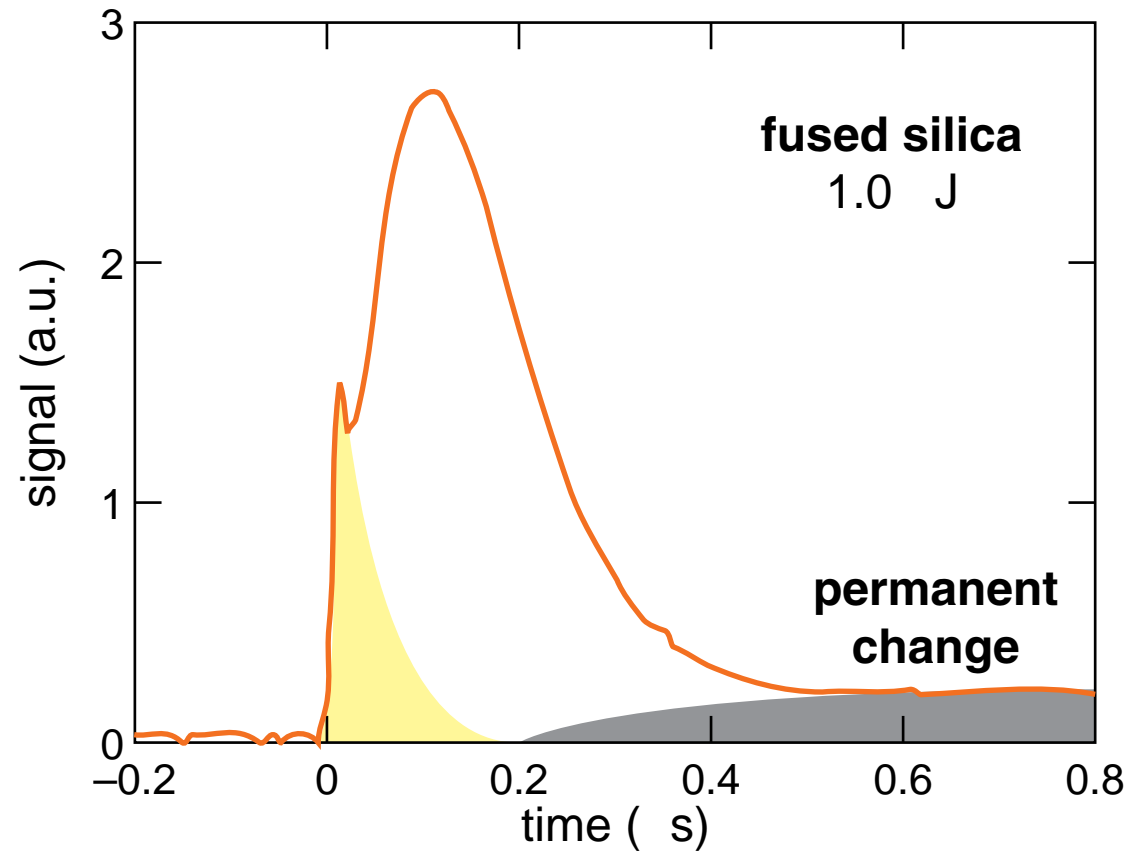
# Femtosecond micromachining

scattered signal



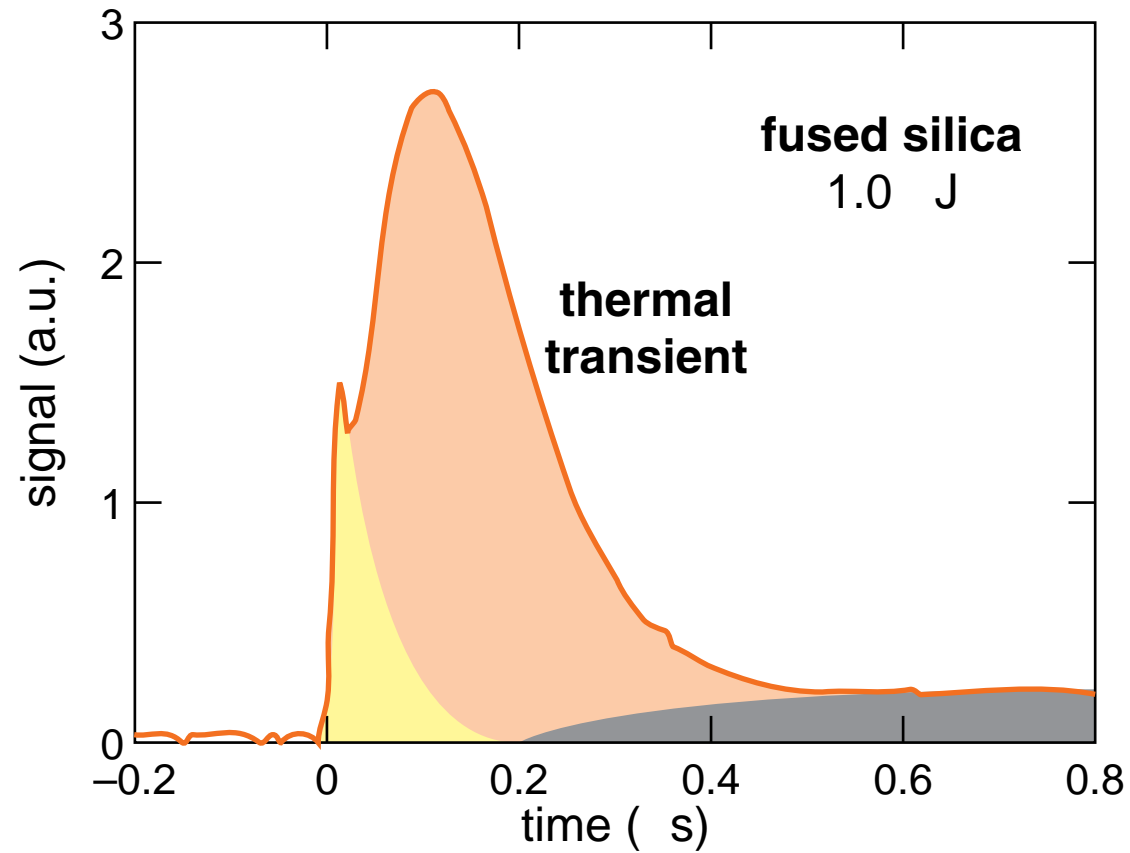
# Femtosecond micromachining

scattered signal



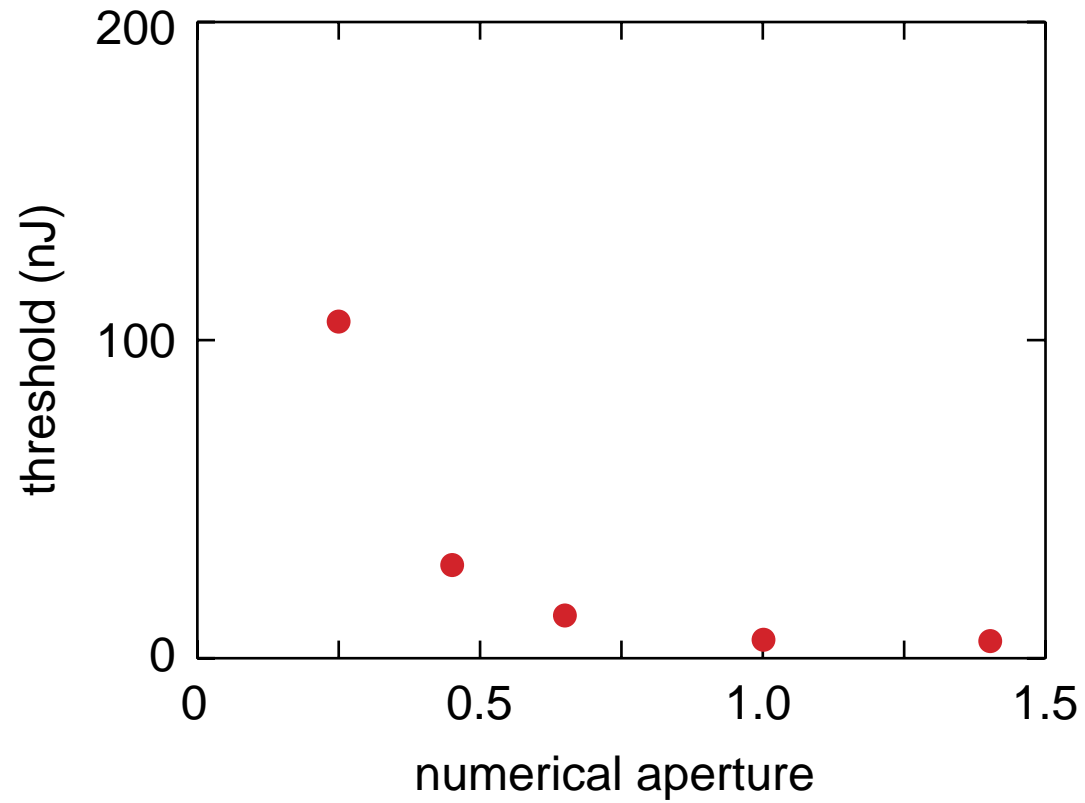
# Femtosecond micromachining

scattered signal



# Femtosecond micromachining

vary numerical aperture





# Femtosecond micromachining

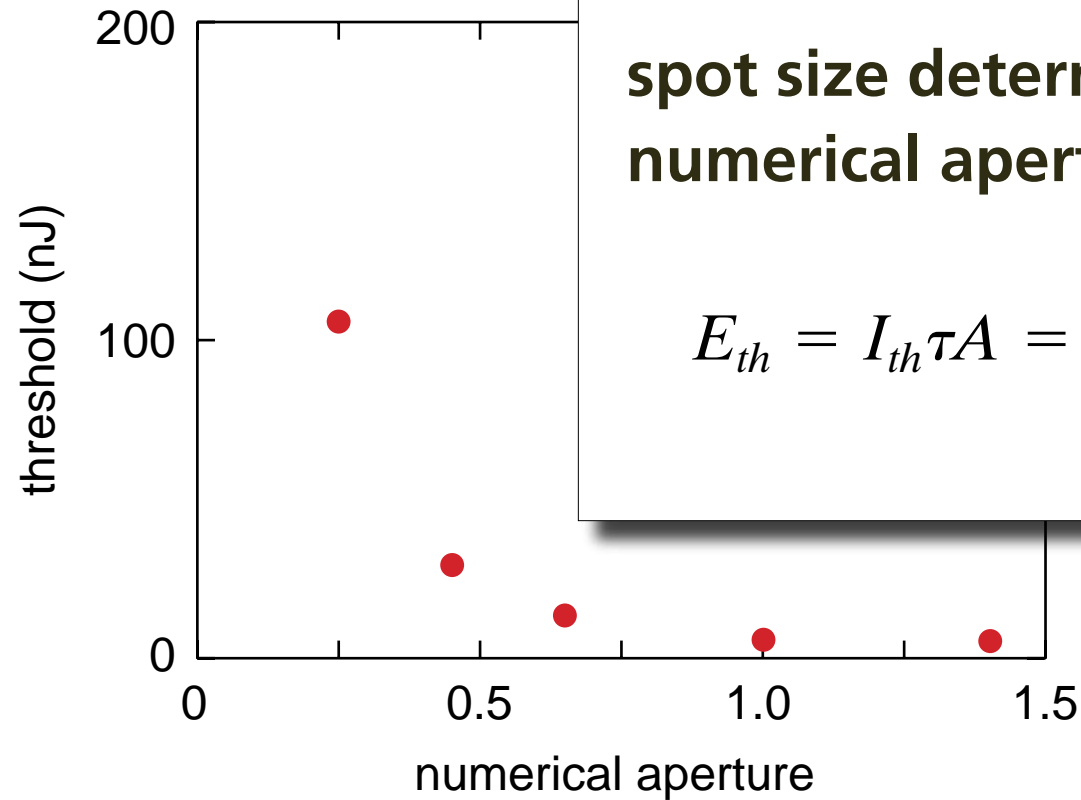
vary numerical

intensity threshold:

$$E_{th} = I_{th} \tau A$$

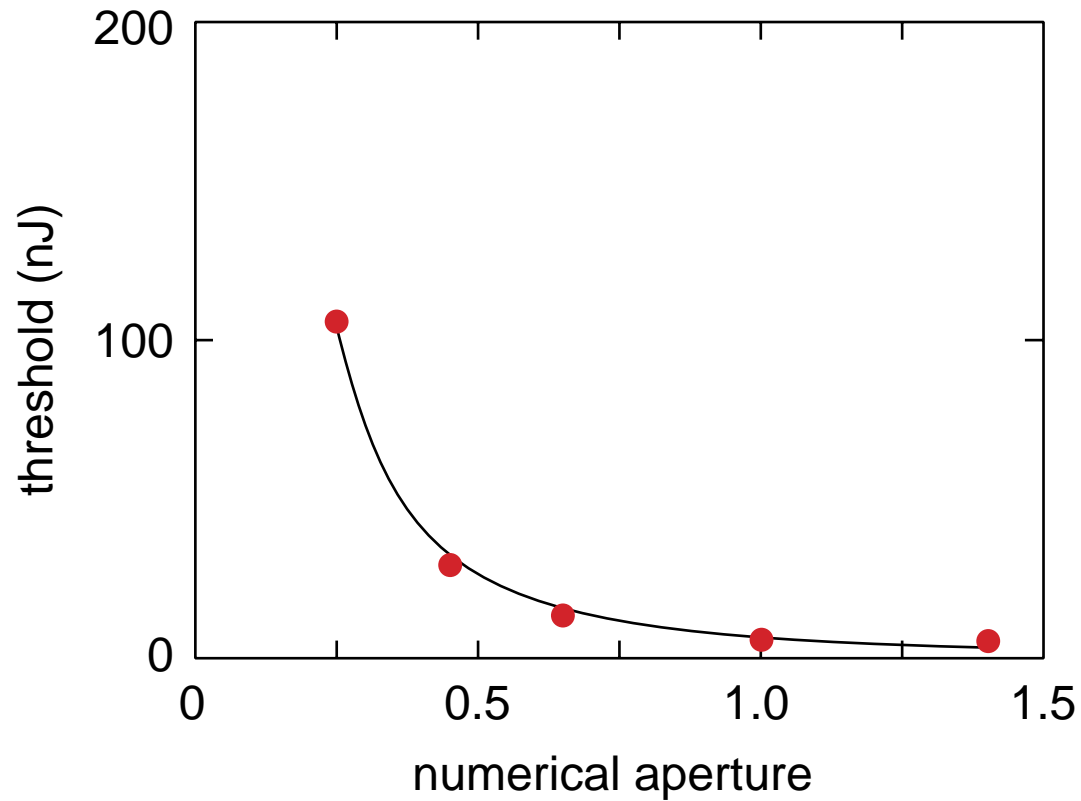
spot size determined by  
numerical aperture:

$$E_{th} = I_{th} \tau A = \frac{I_{th} \tau \lambda^2}{\pi (\text{NA})^2}$$



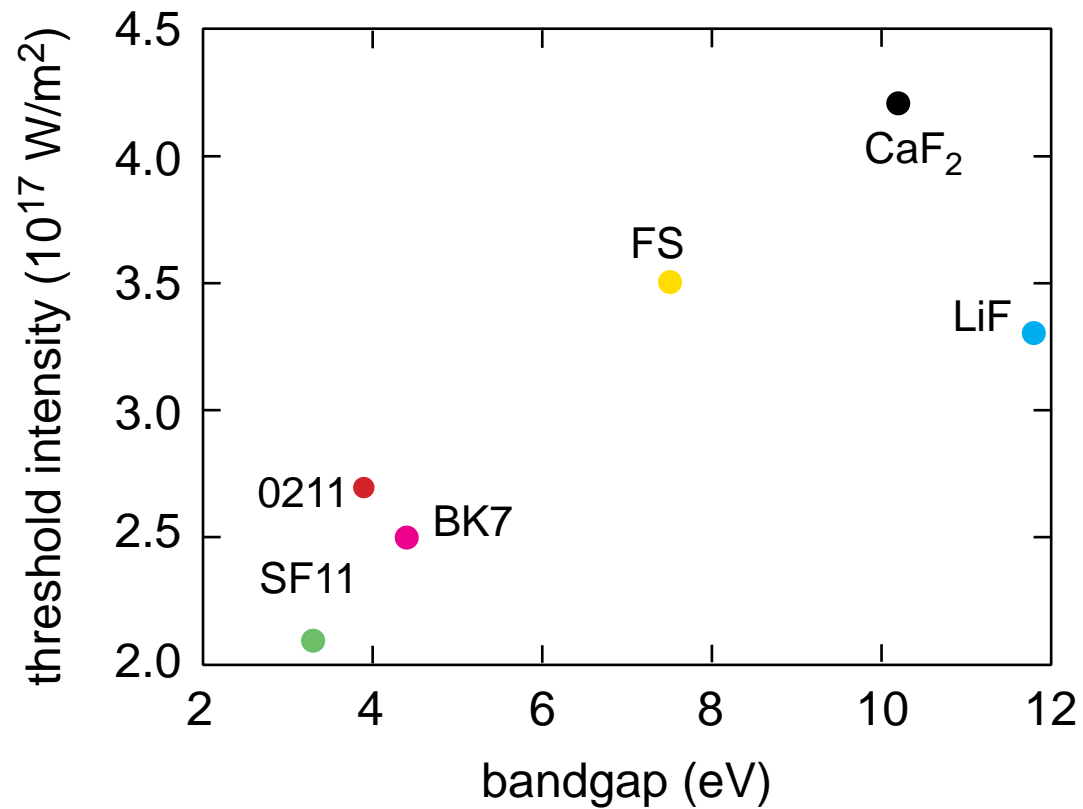
# Femtosecond micromachining

fit gives threshold intensity:  $I_{th} = 2.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ W/m}^2$



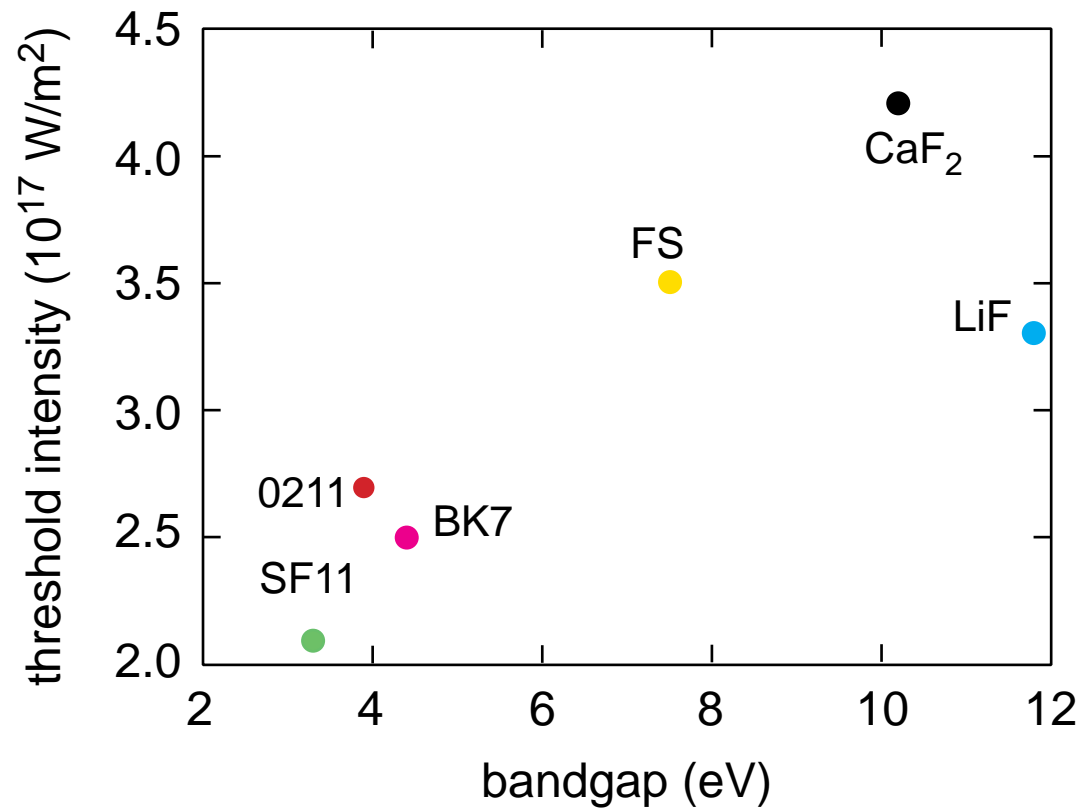
# Femtosecond micromachining

vary material...



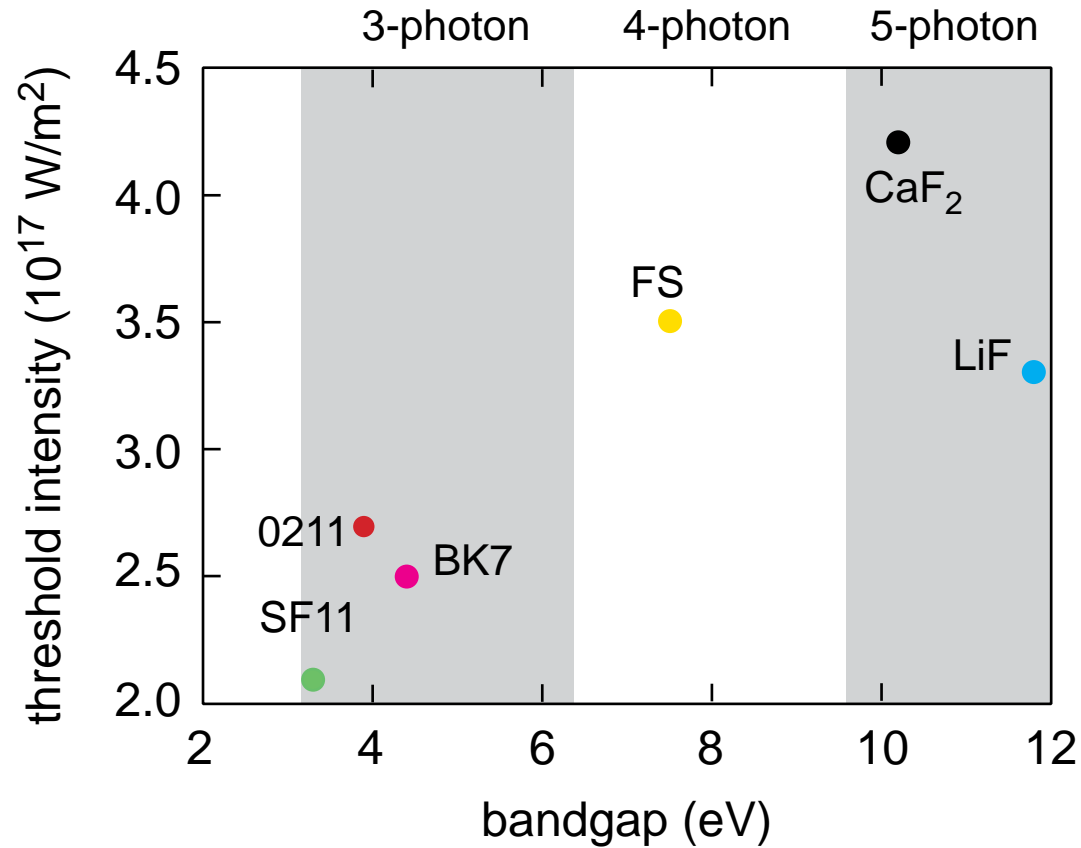
# Femtosecond micromachining

...threshold varies with band gap (but not much!)



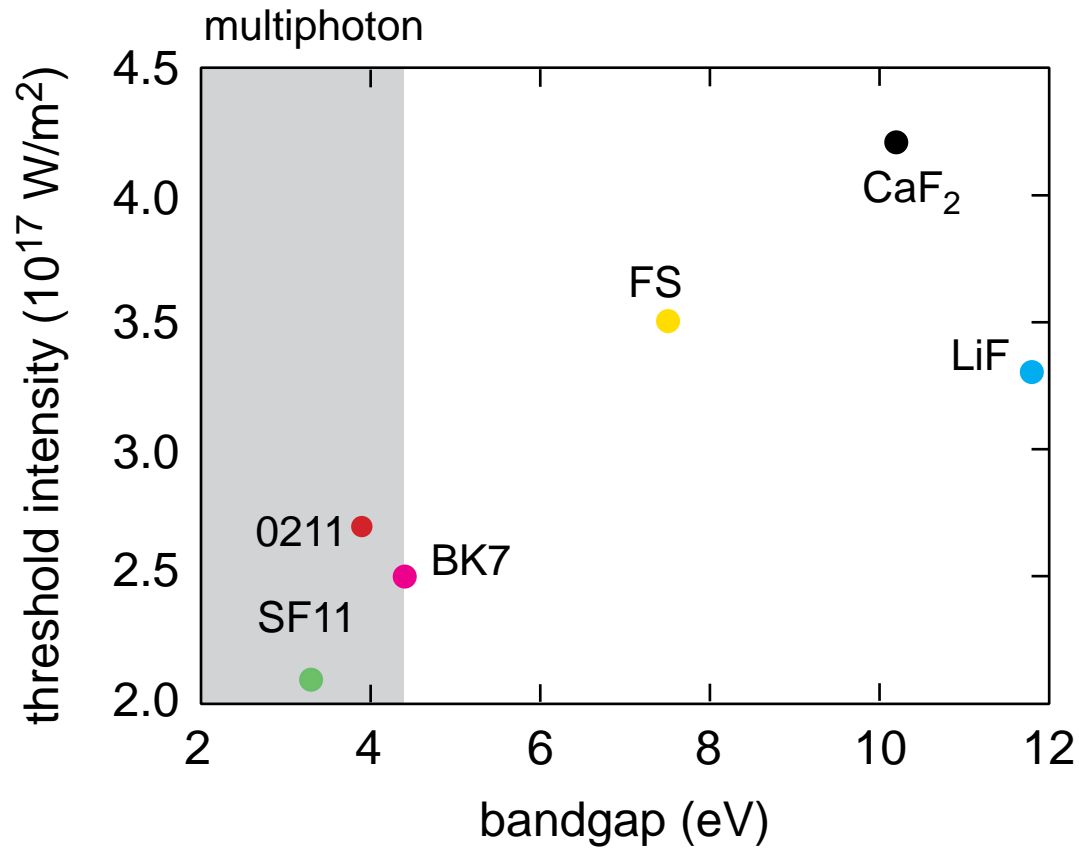
# Femtosecond micromachining

would expect much more than a factor of 2



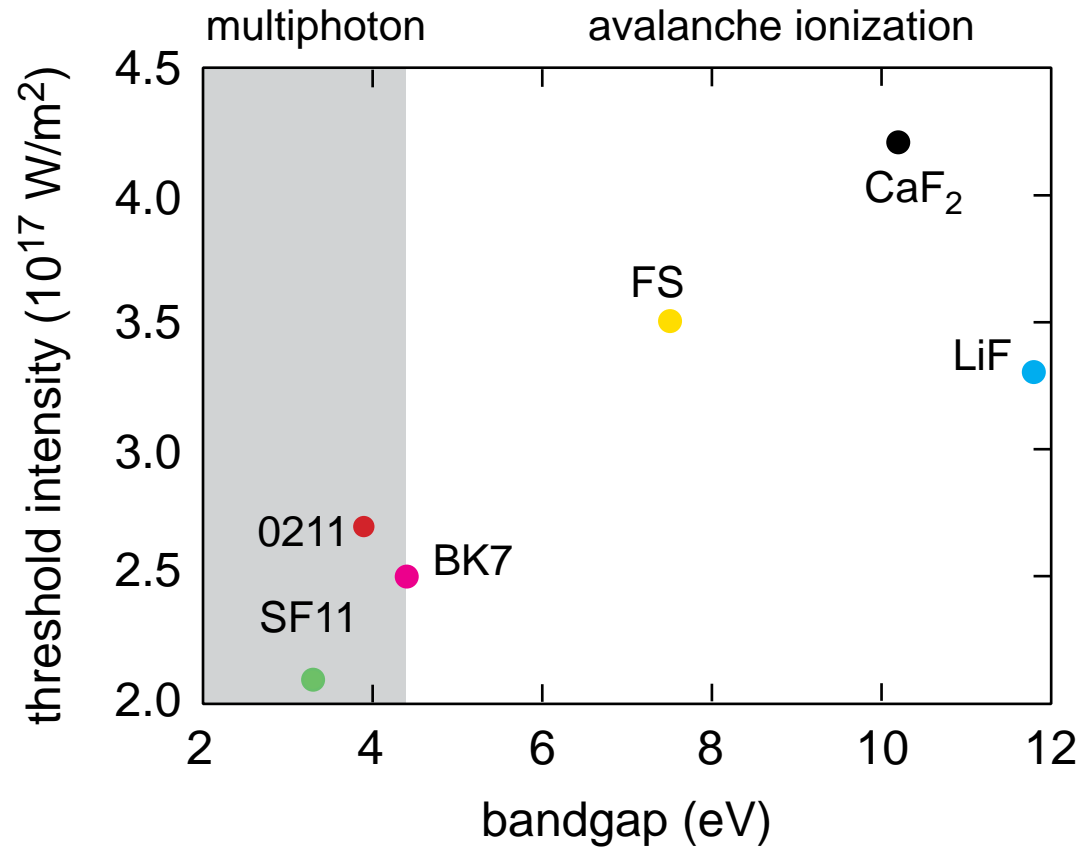
# Femtosecond micromachining

critical density reached by multiphoton for low gap only



# Femtosecond micromachining

avalanche ionization important at high gap





# Femtosecond micromachining

**what prevents damage at low NA?**

# Femtosecond micromachining

**Competing nonlinear effects:**

- **multiphoton absorption**
- **supercontinuum generation**
- **self-focusing**

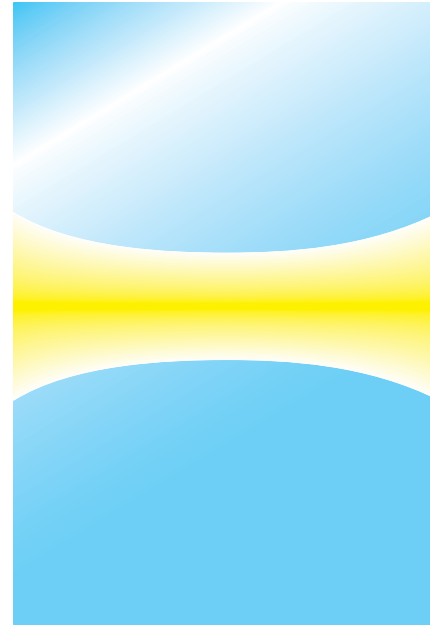
# Femtosecond micromachining

why the difference?

high NA



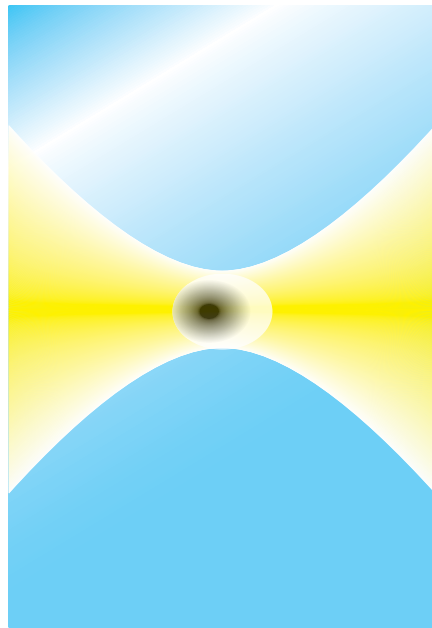
low NA



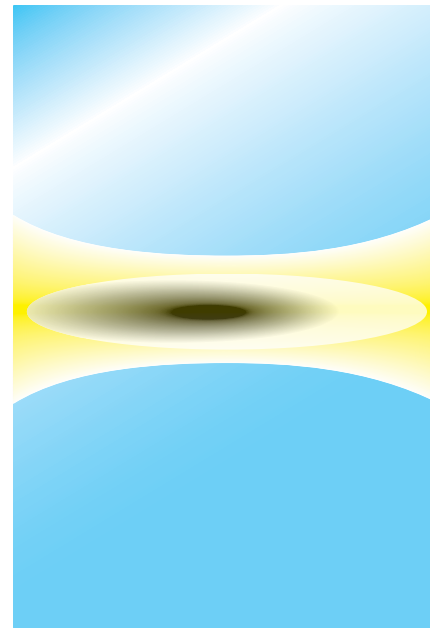
# Femtosecond micromachining

very different confocal length/interaction length

high NA



low NA

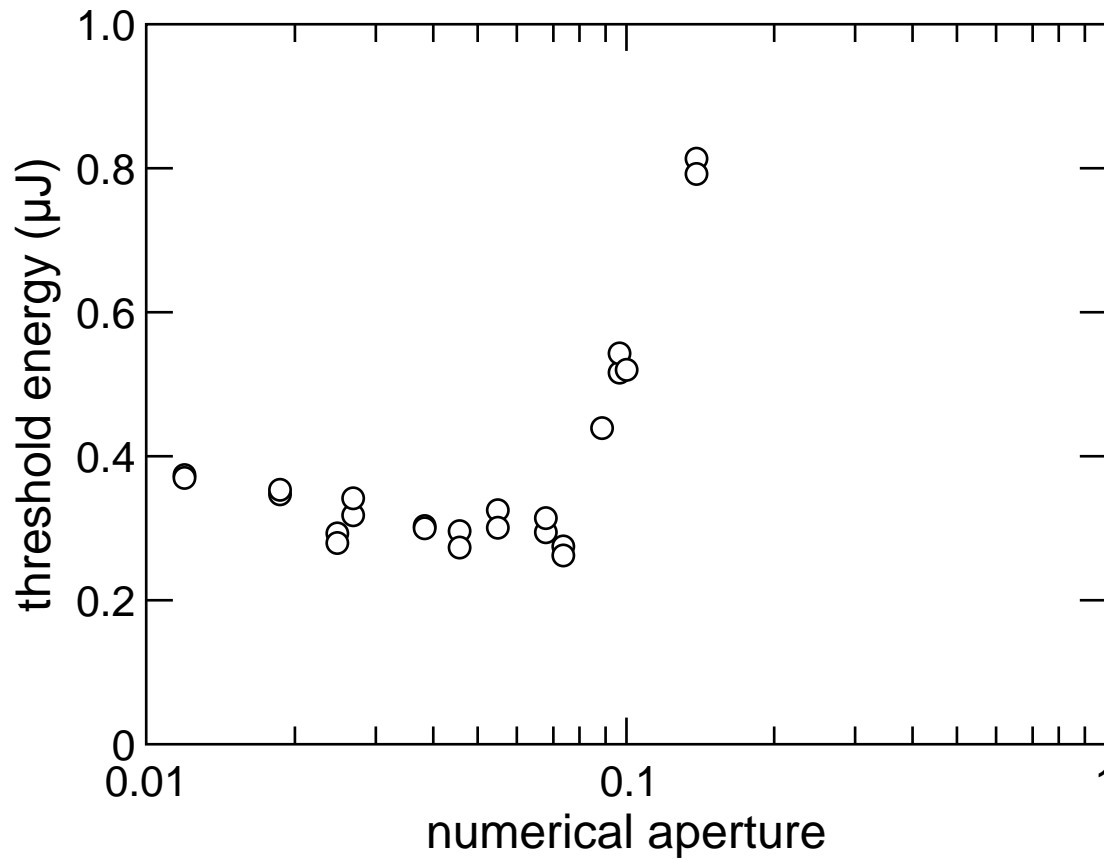


# Femtosecond micromachining

**high NA: interaction length too short for self-focusing**

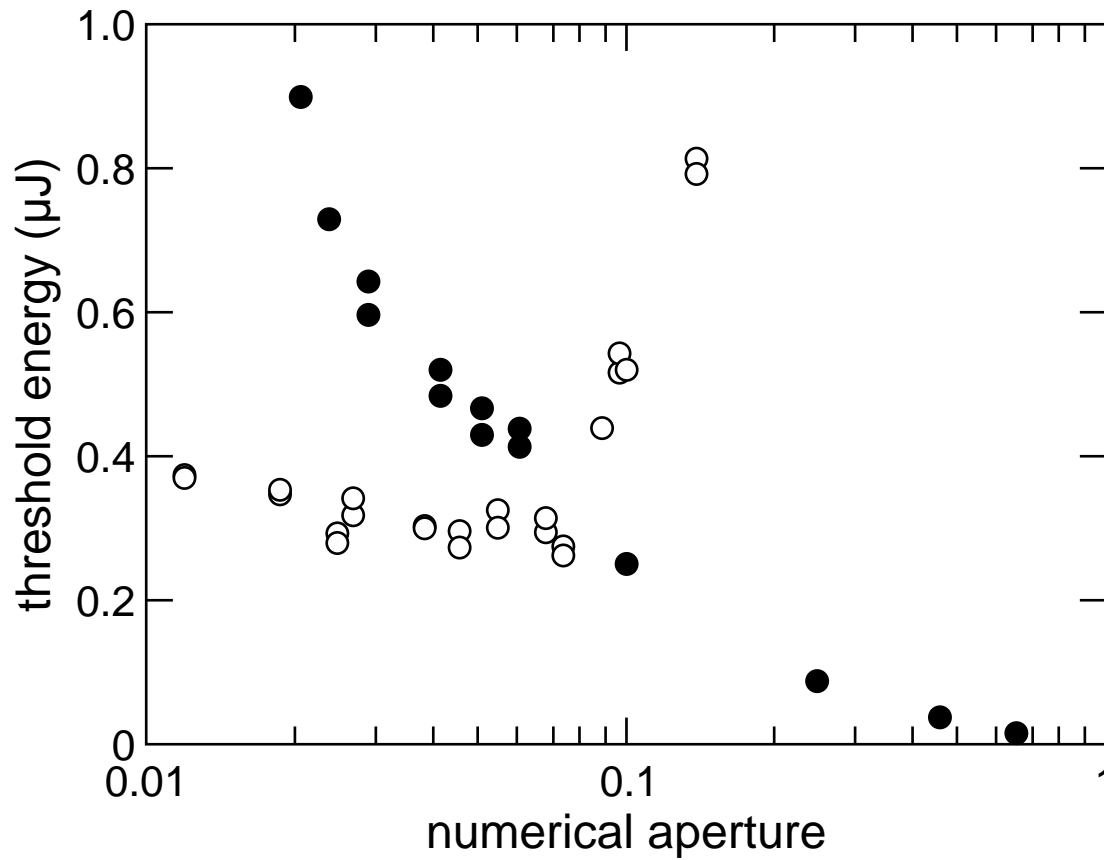
# Femtosecond micromachining

threshold for supercontinuum generation



# Femtosecond micromachining

threshold for damage



# Femtosecond micromachining

**Points to keep in mind:**

- **threshold critically dependent on NA**
- **surprisingly little material dependence**
- **avalanche ionization important**

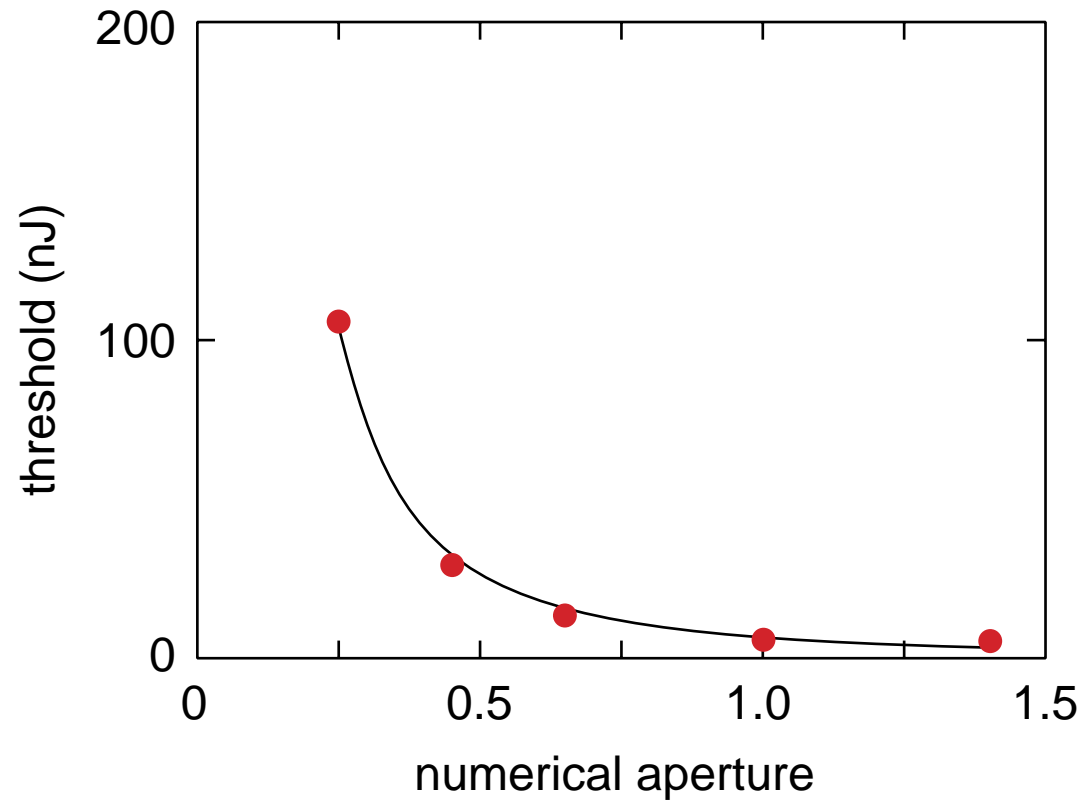


# Outline

- femtosecond micromachining
- low-energy machining
- applications

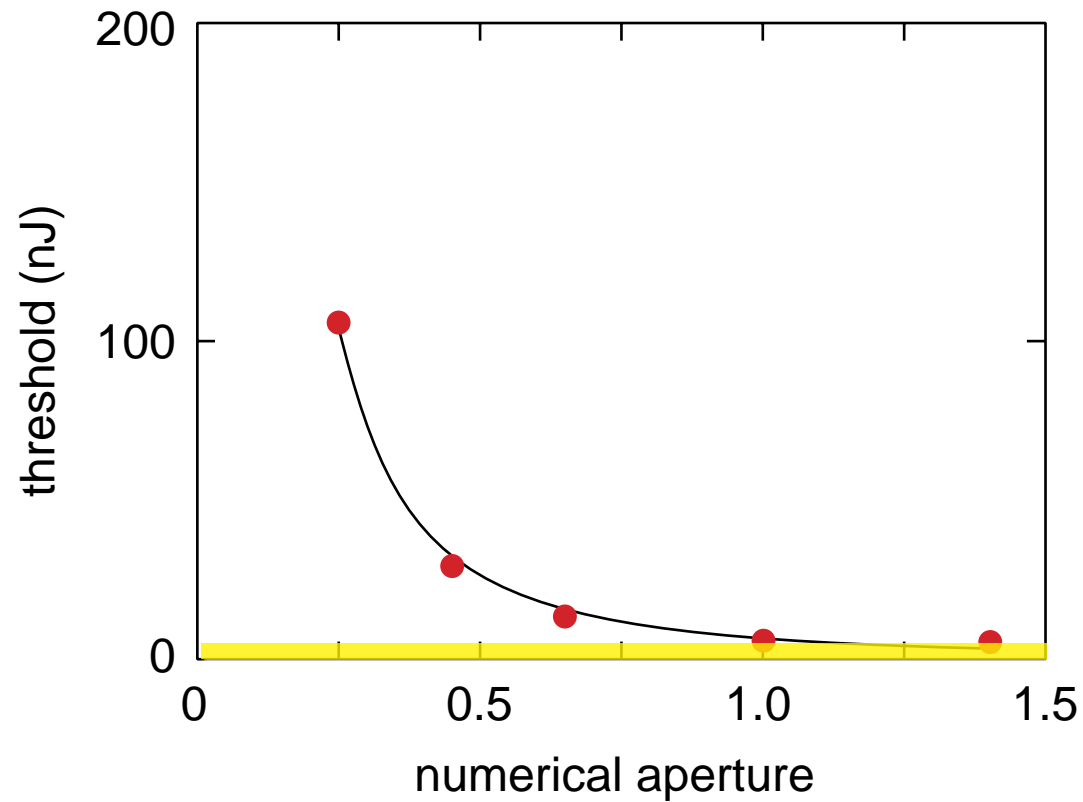
# Low-energy machining

threshold decreases with increasing numerical aperture



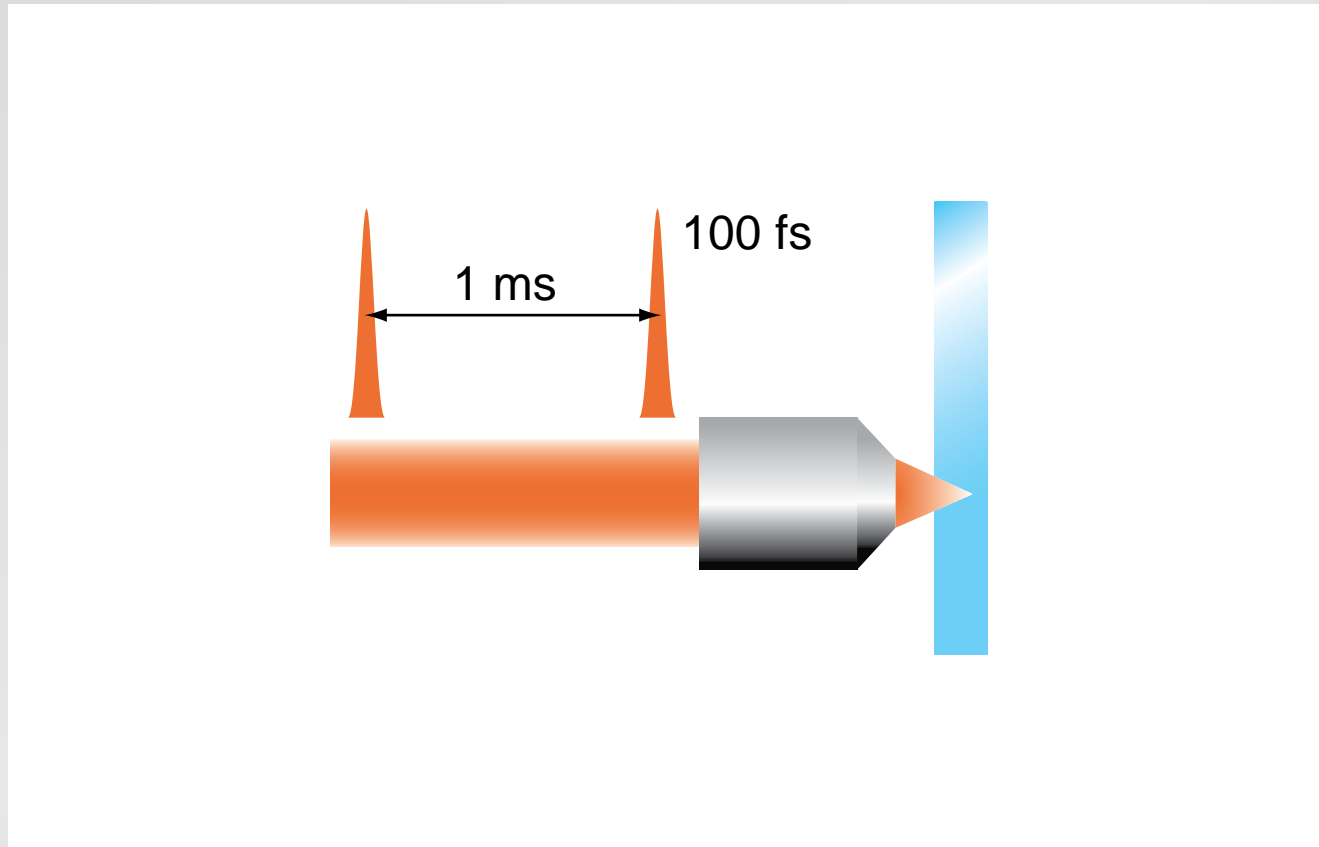
# Low-energy machining

less than 10 nJ at high numerical aperture!



# Low-energy machining

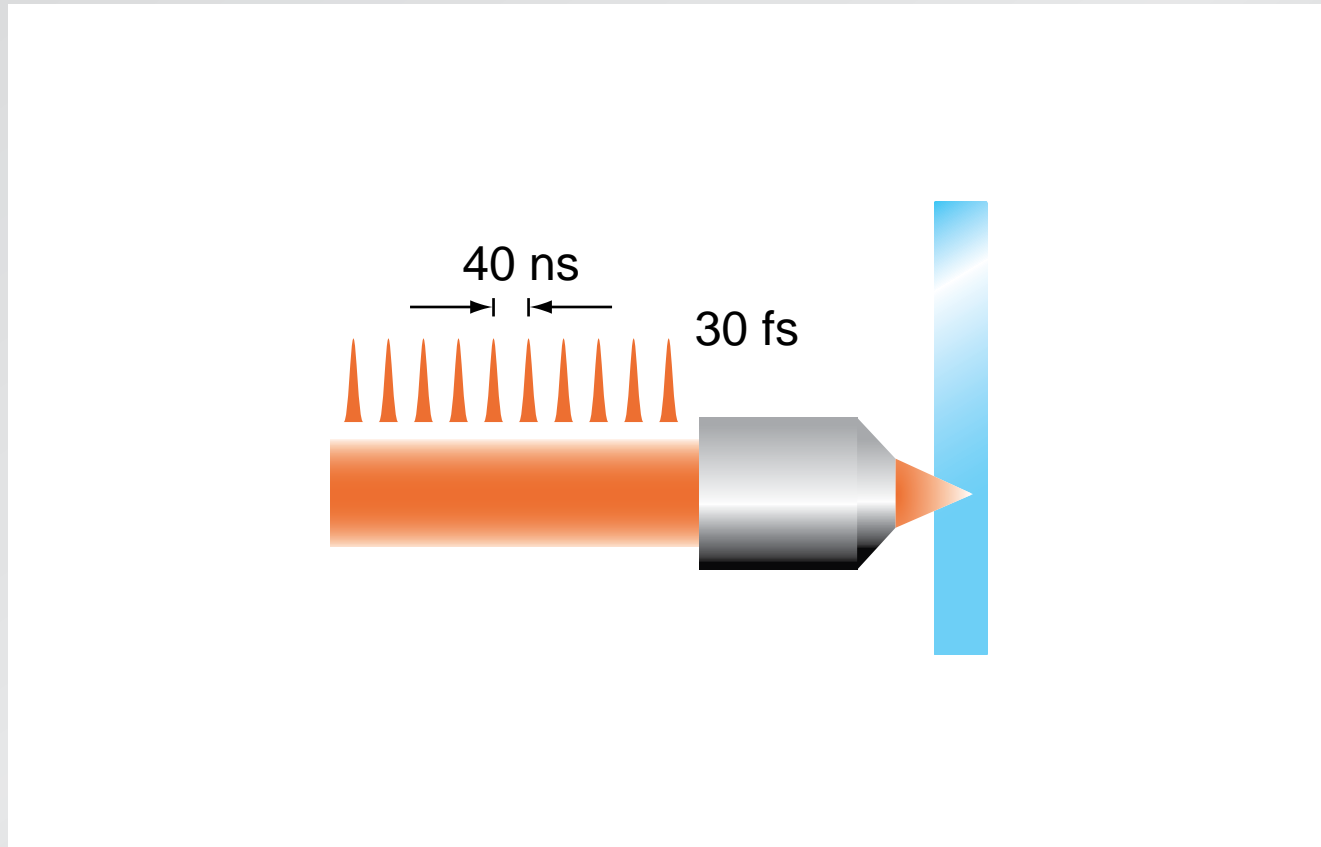
amplified laser: 1 kHz, 1 mJ



heat diffusion time:  $\tau_{diff} \approx 1 \mu\text{s}$

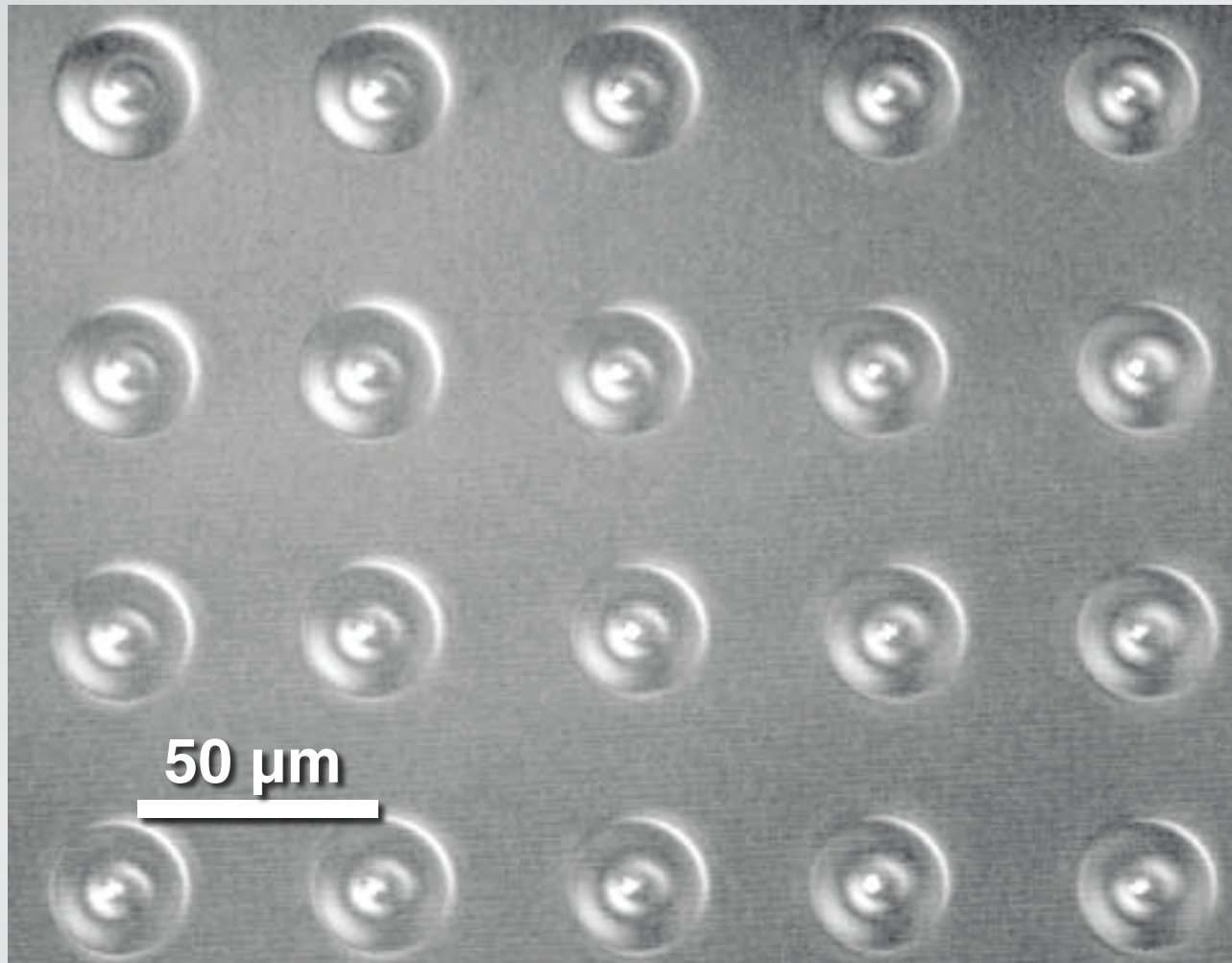
# Low-energy machining

long cavity oscillator: 25 MHz, 25 nJ



heat diffusion time:  $\tau_{diff} \approx 1 \mu\text{s}$

# Low-energy machining



# Low-energy machining

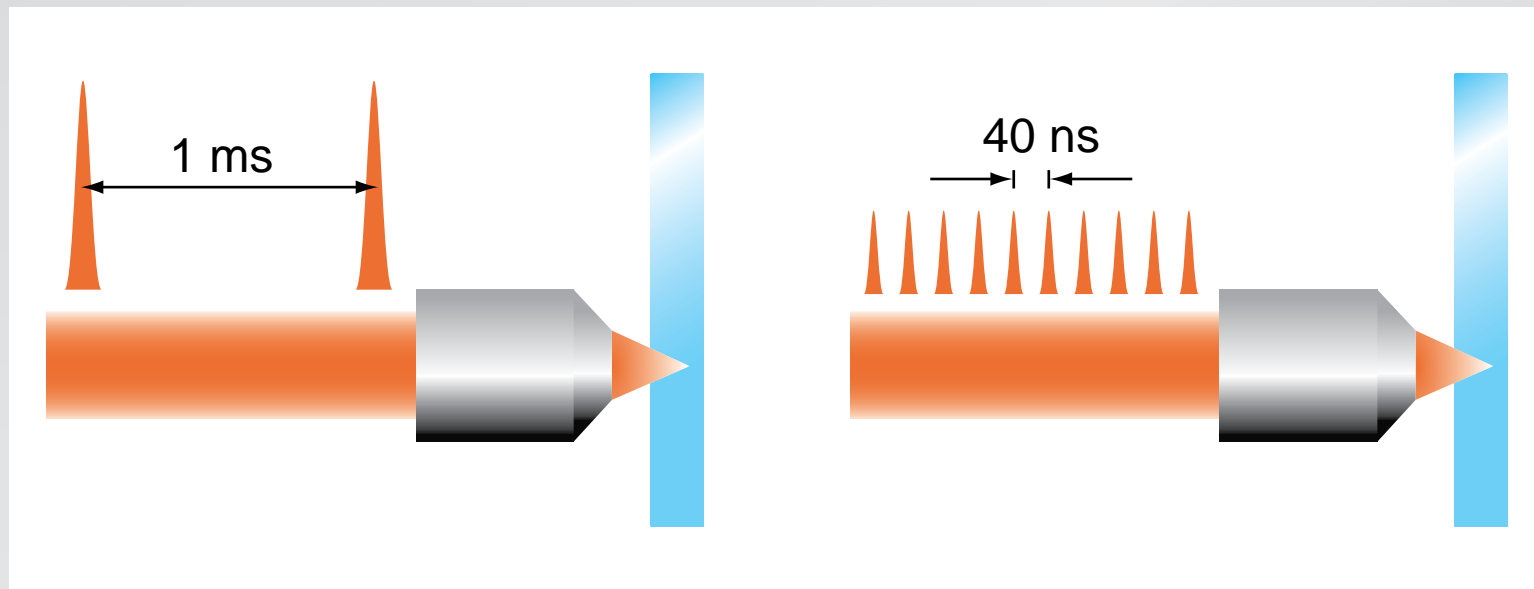
**High repetition-rate micromachining:**

- **structural changes exceed focal volume**
- **spherical structures**
- **density change caused by melting**

# Low-energy machining

amplified laser

oscillator



repetitive

cumulative

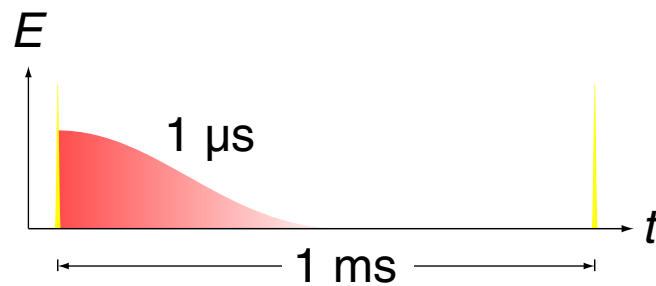


# Low-energy machining

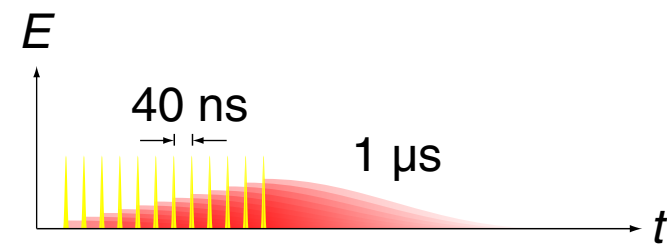
amplified laser

oscillator

low repetition rate



high repetition rate

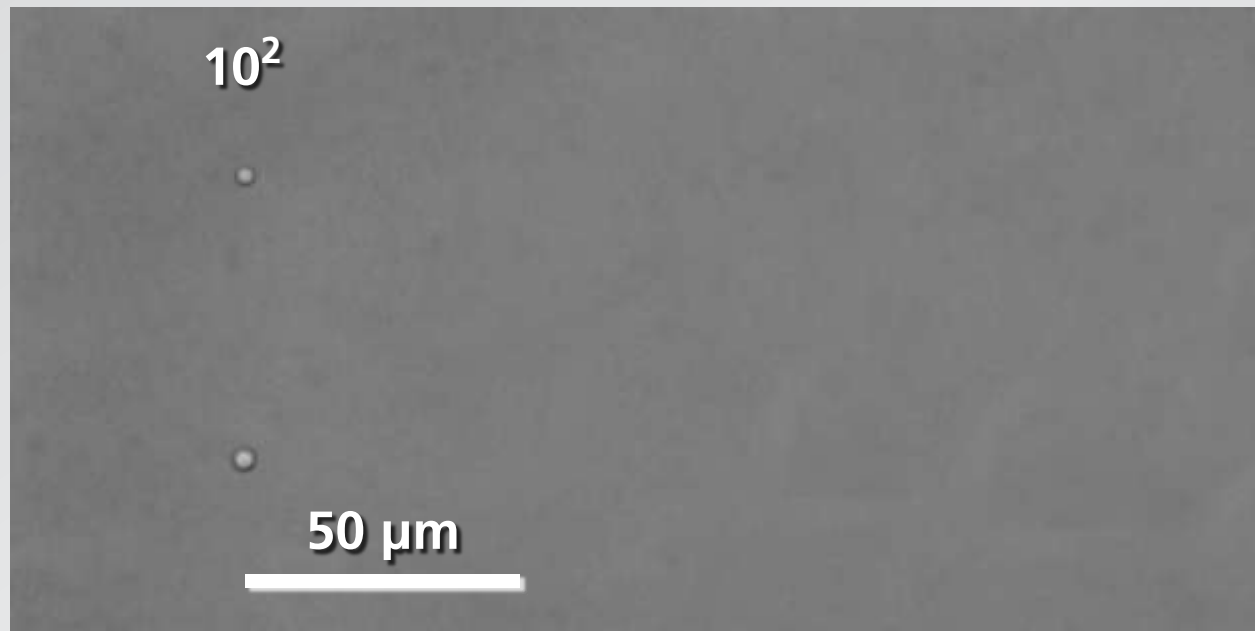


repetitive

cumulative

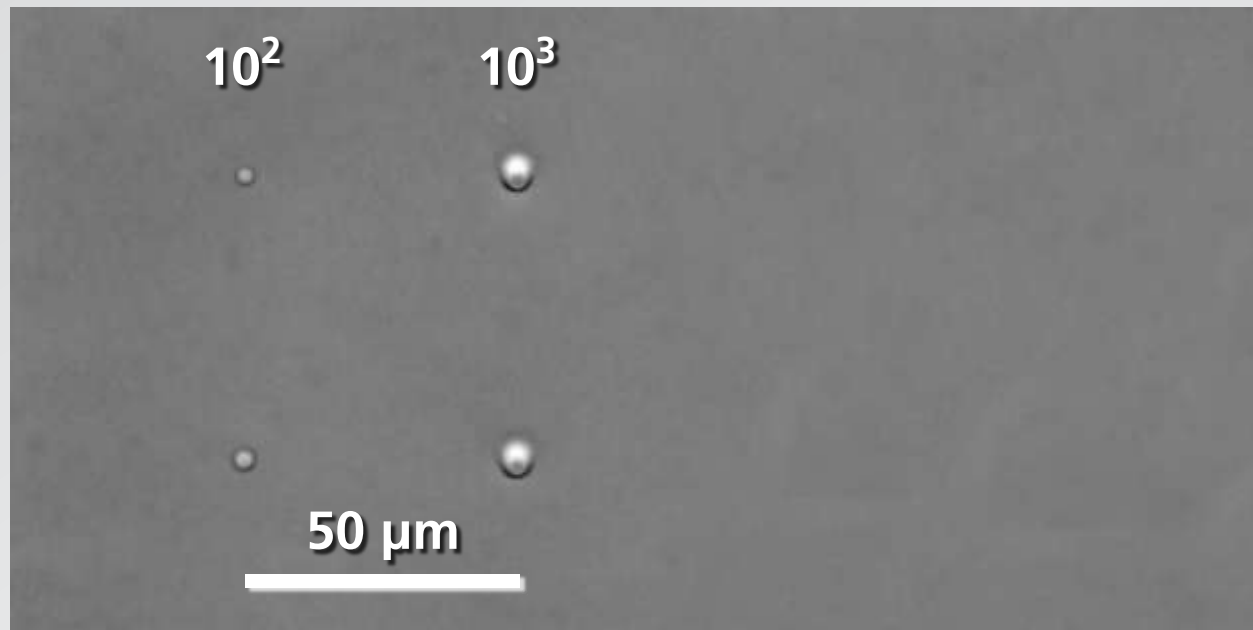
# Low-energy machining

the longer the irradiation...



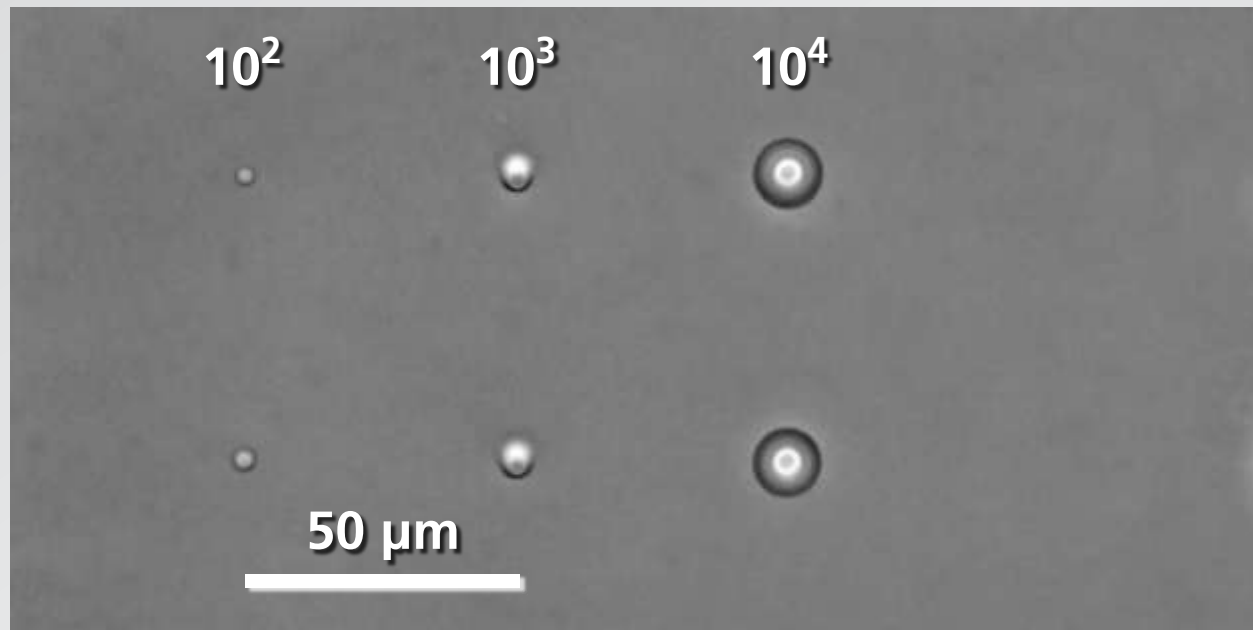
# Low-energy machining

the longer the irradiation...



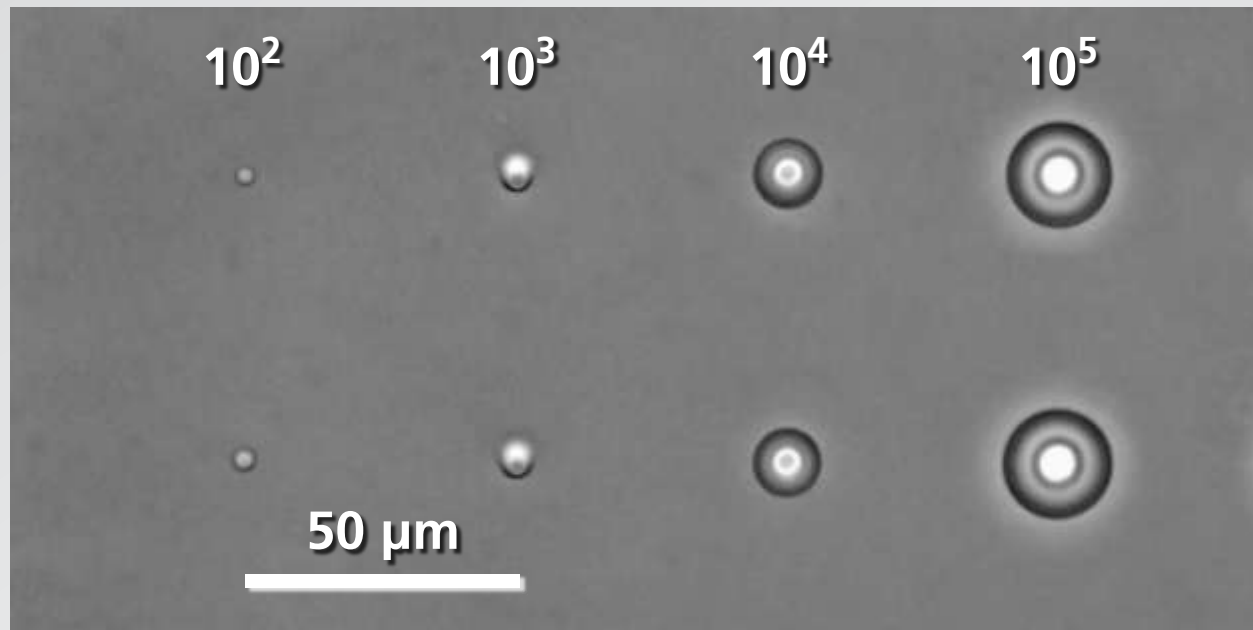
# Low-energy machining

the longer the irradiation...



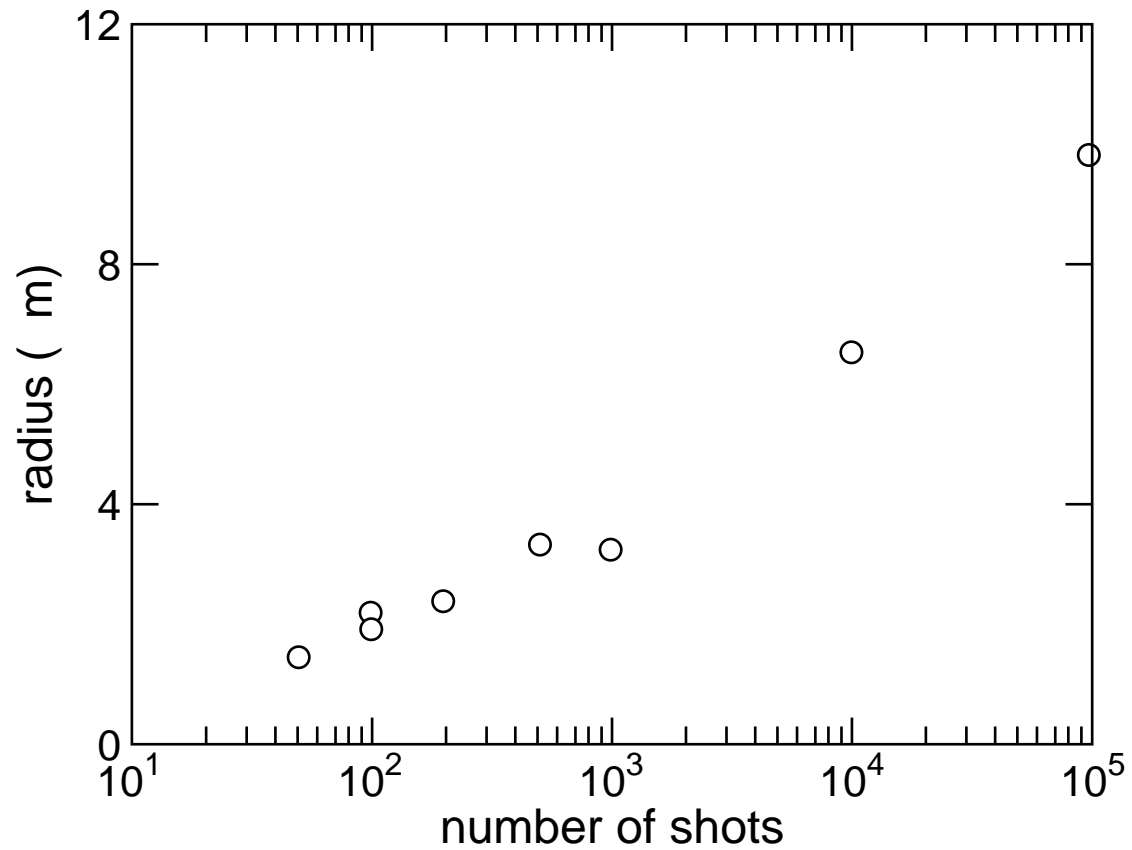
# Low-energy machining

the longer the irradiation...



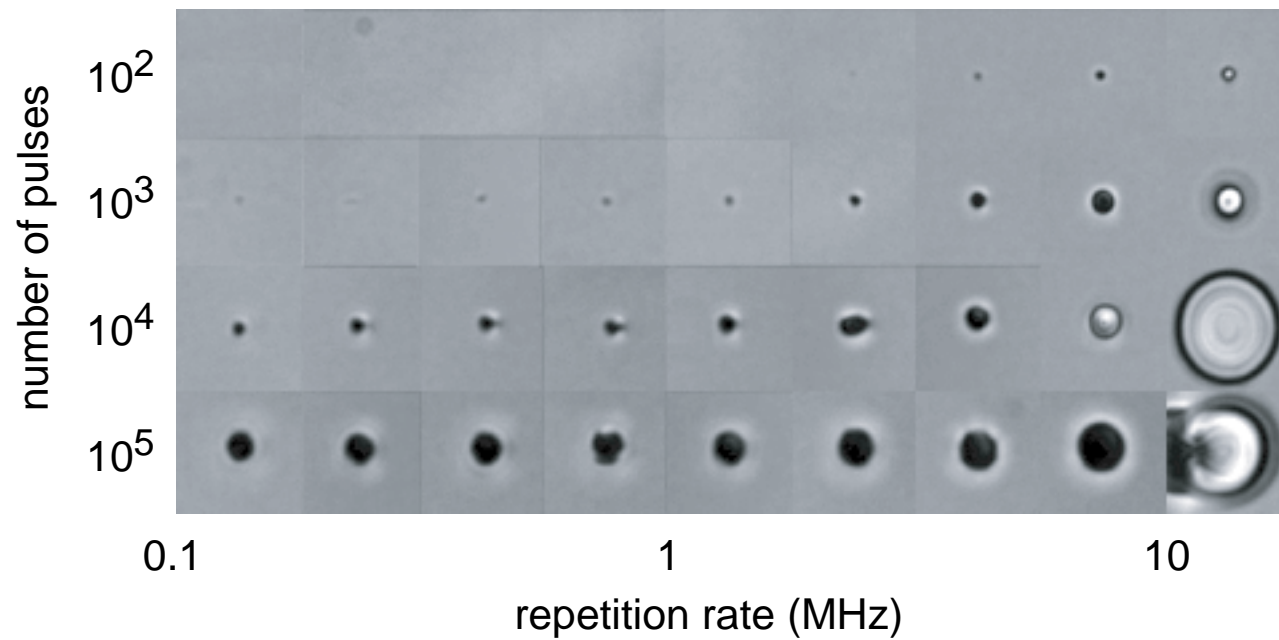
... the larger the radius

# Low-energy machining



# Low-energy machining

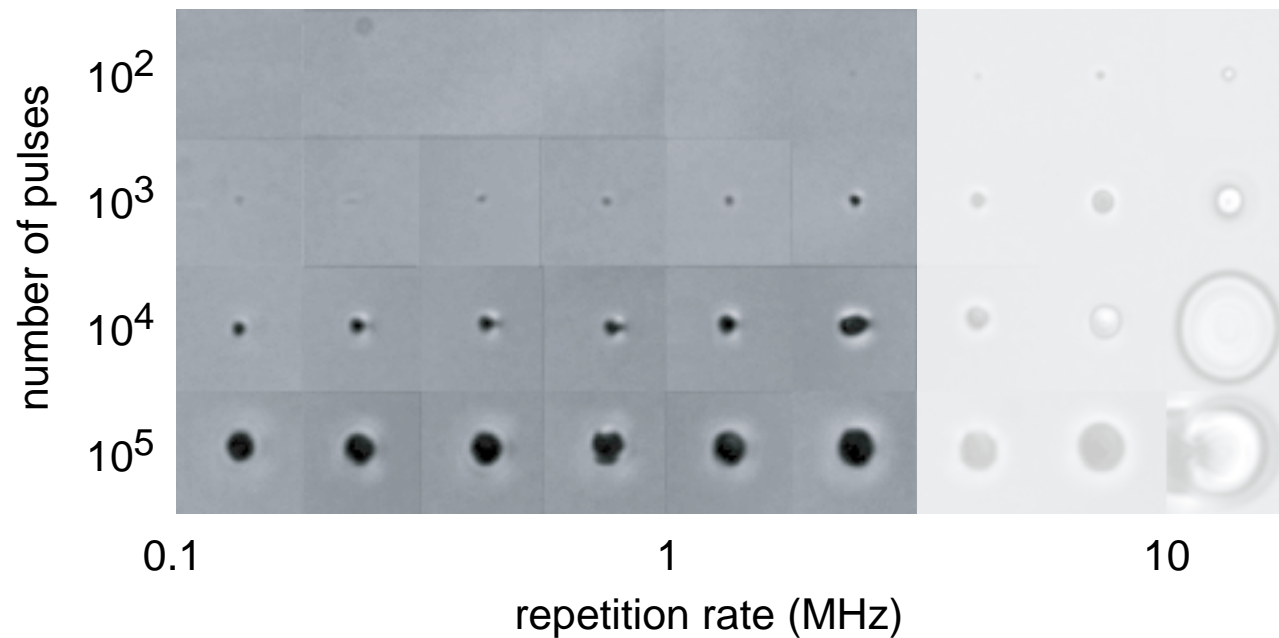
repetition-rate dependence



**$\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ , 100 fs, 7 nJ**

# Low-energy machining

repetition-rate dependence

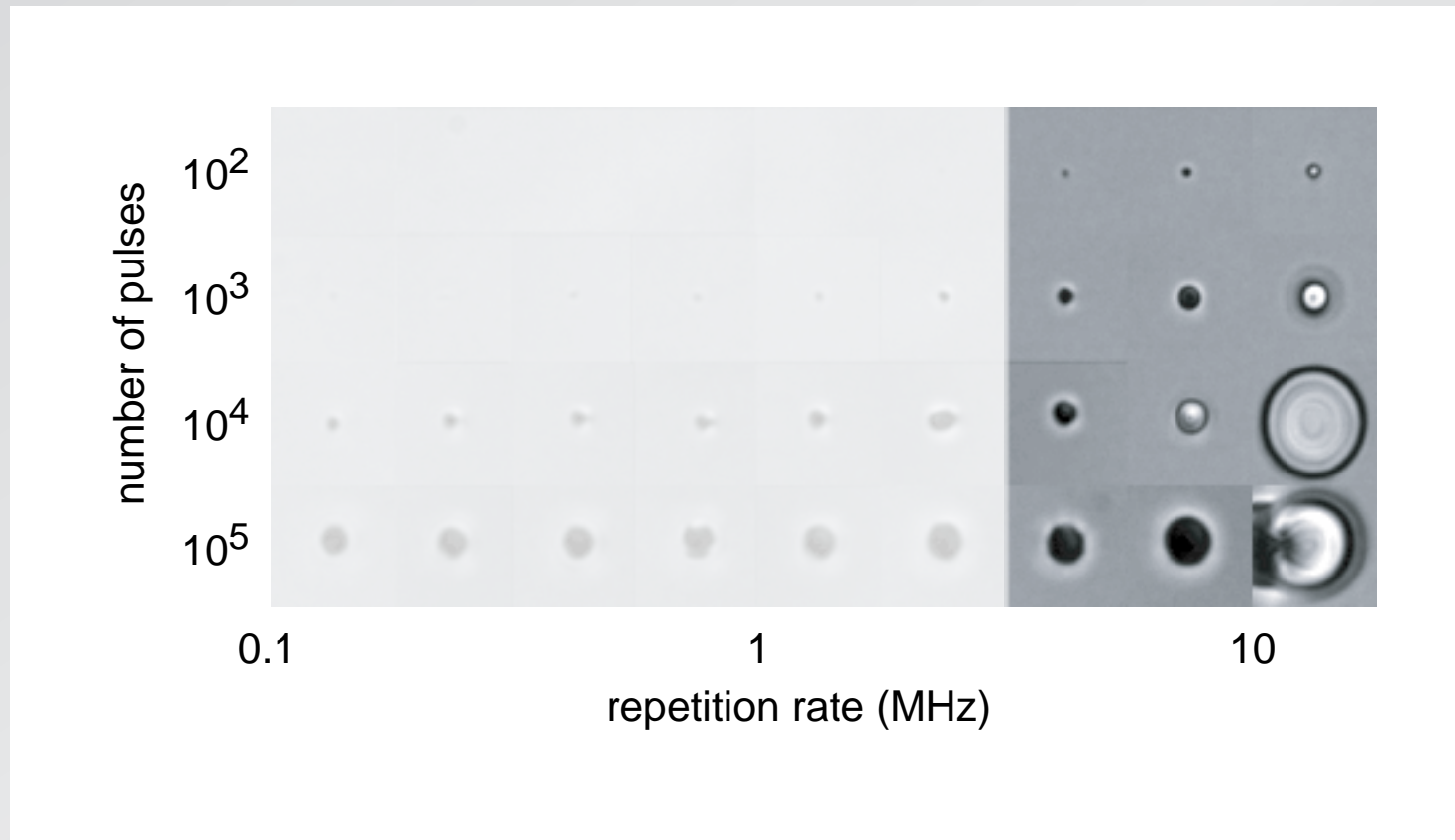


$\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ , 100 fs, 7 nJ



# Low-energy machining

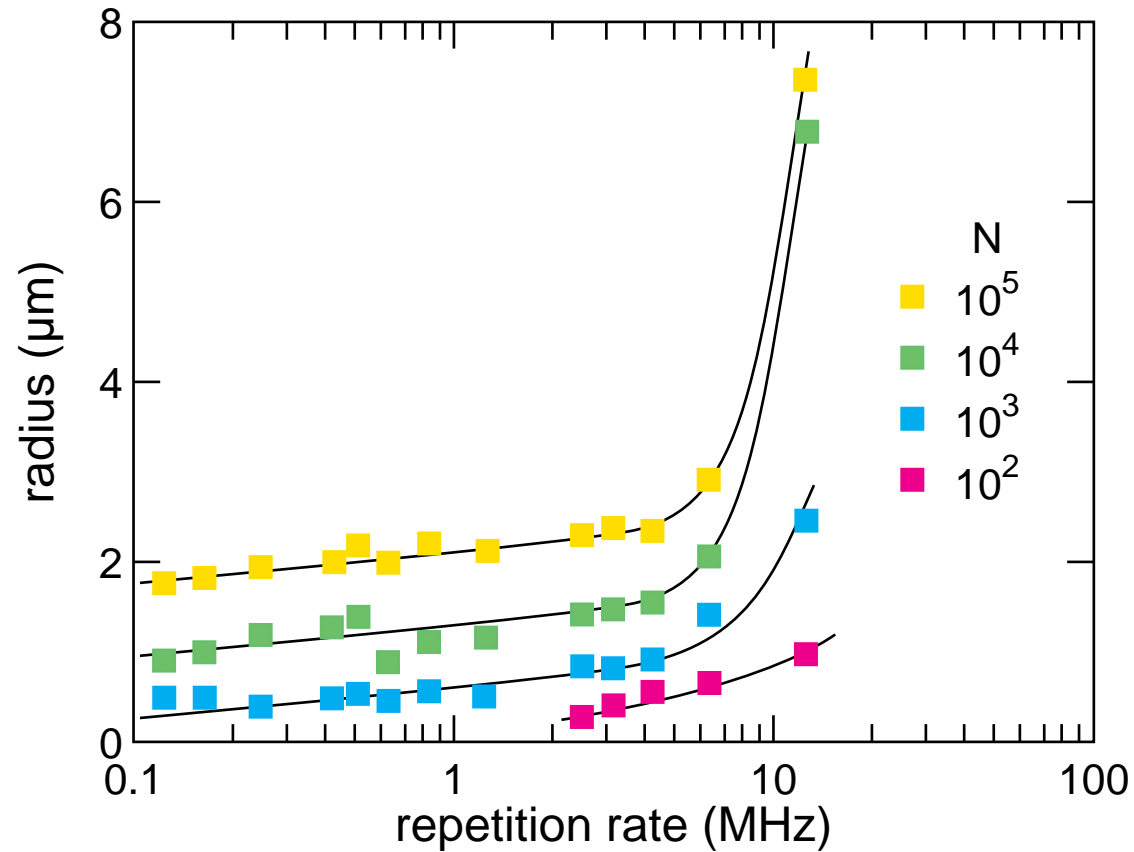
repetition-rate dependence



$\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ , 100 fs, 7 nJ

# Low-energy machining

repetition-rate dependence



$\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ , 100 fs, 7 nJ

# Low-energy machining

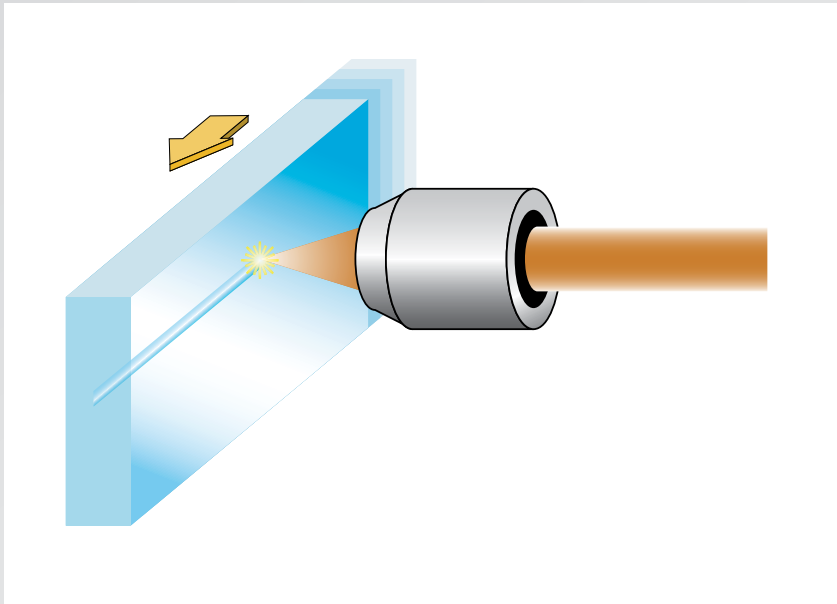
**above 5 MHz: internal “point-source of heat”**

# Outline

- femtosecond micromachining
- low-energy machining
- applications

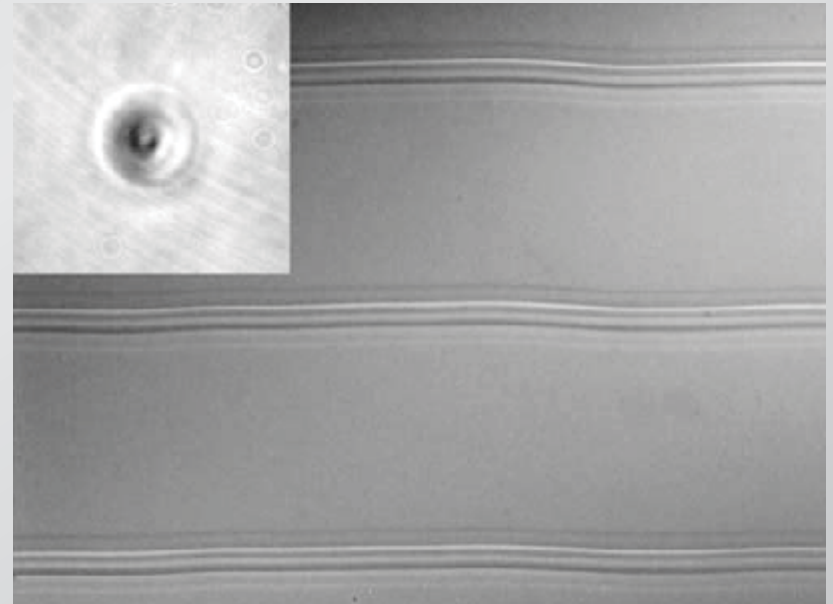
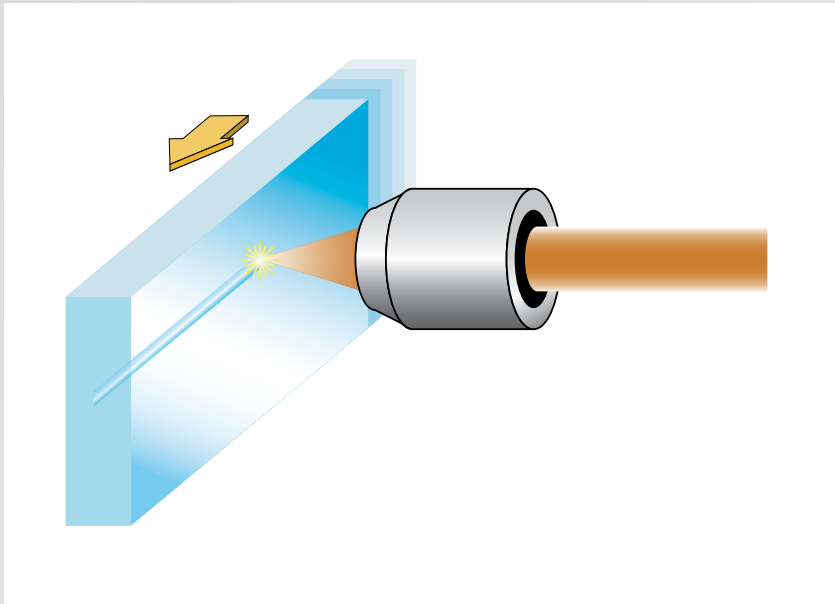
# Low-energy machining

## waveguide micromachining



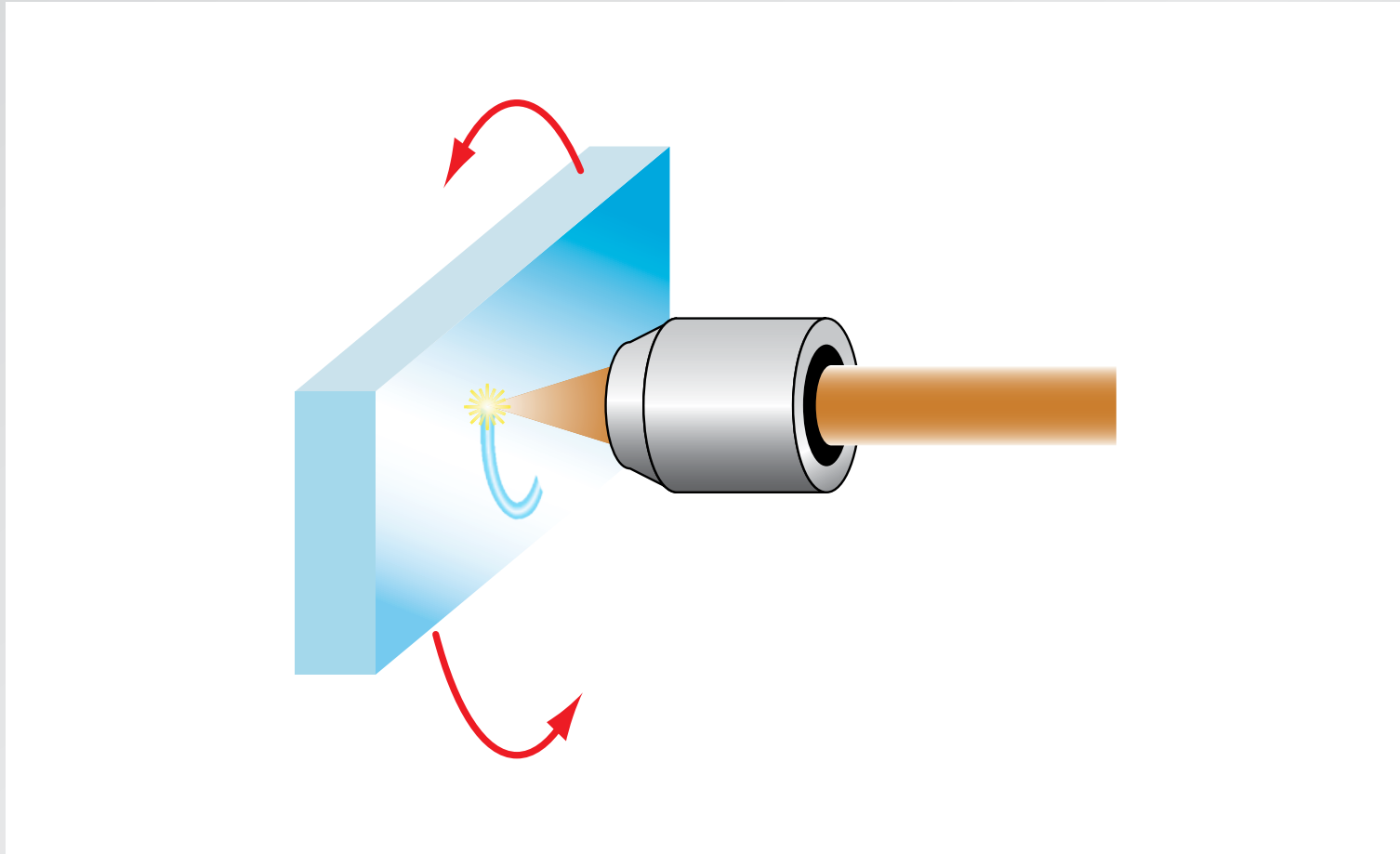
# Low-energy machining

## waveguide micromachining



# Applications

curved waveguides



# Applications

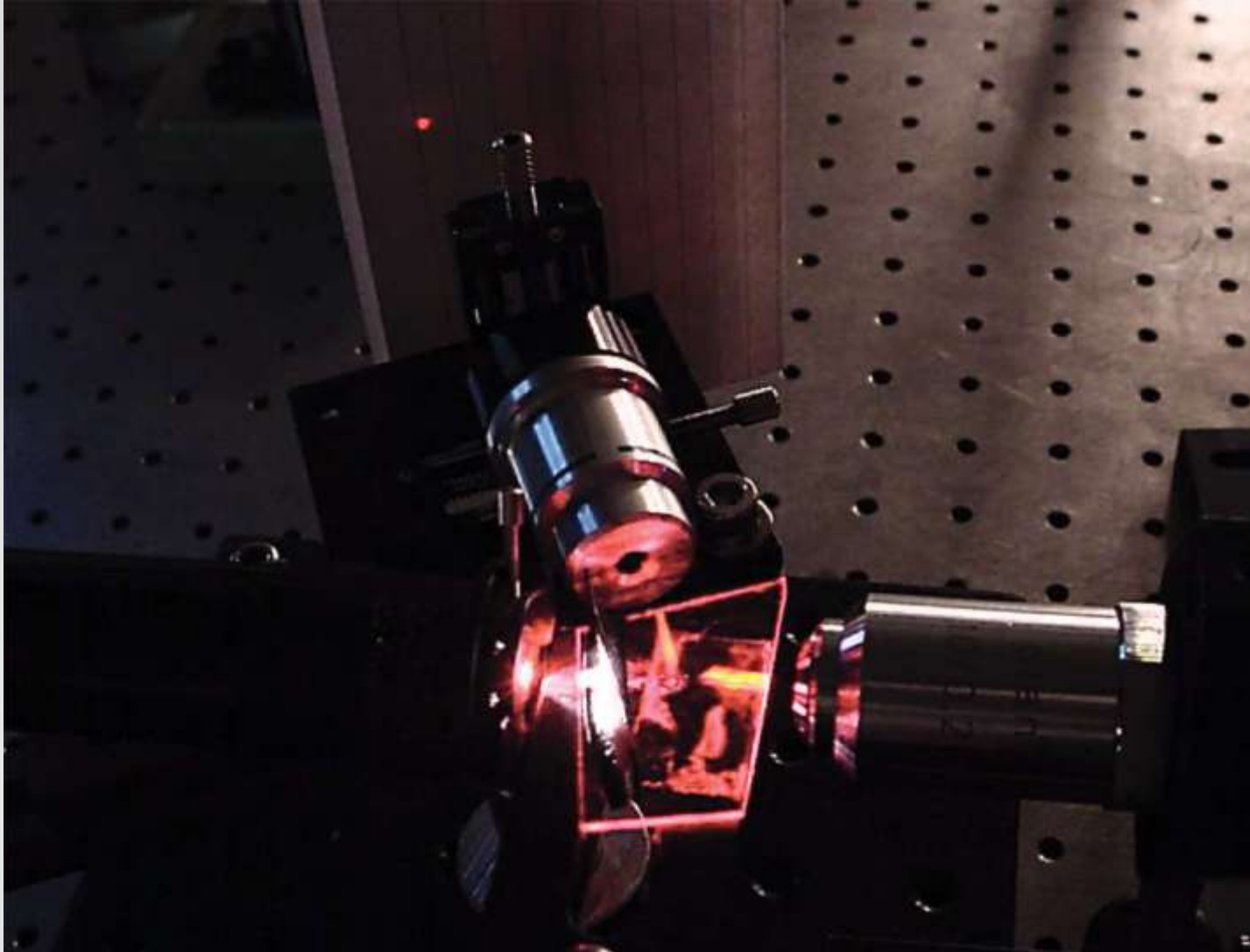
curved waveguides





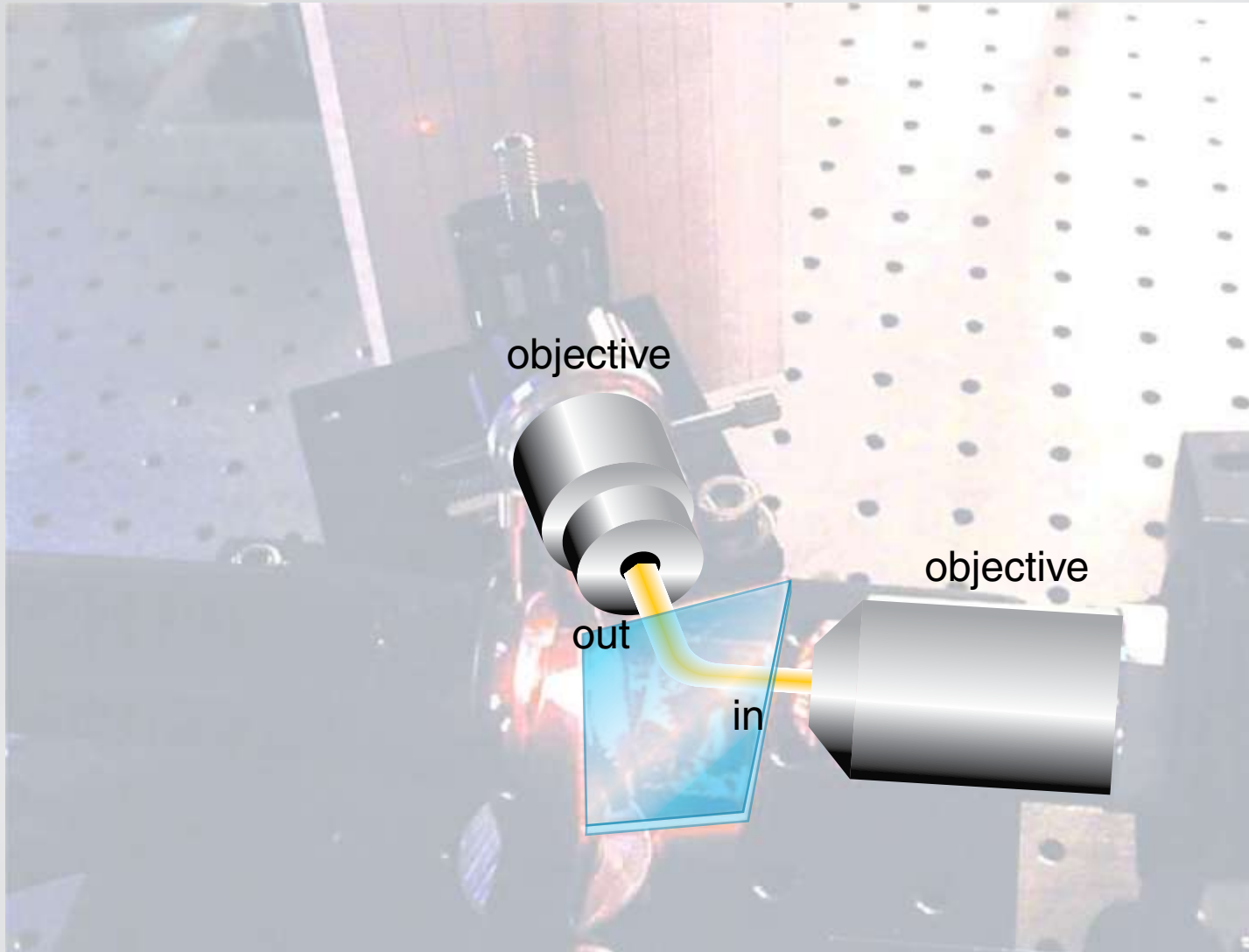
# Applications

curved waveguides



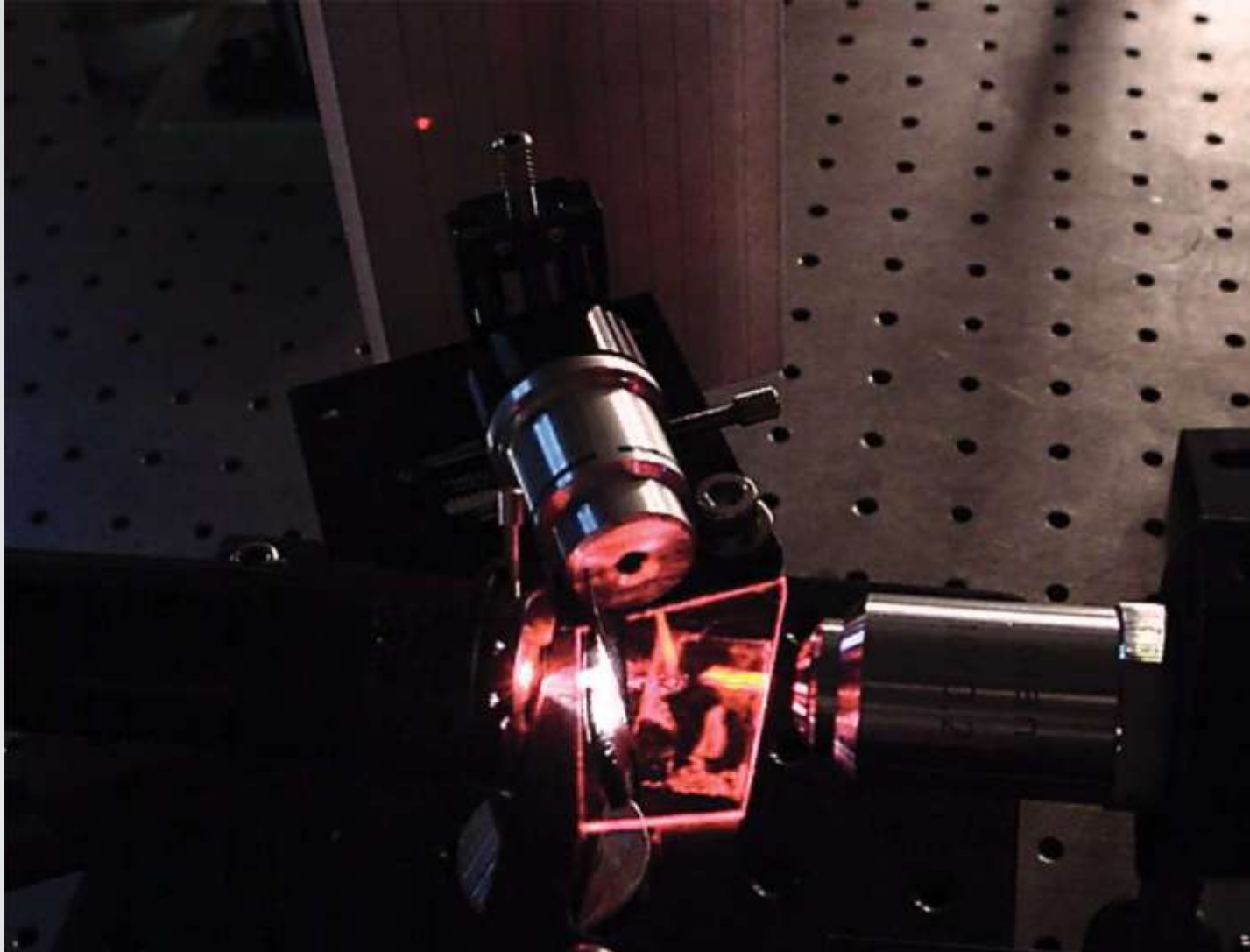
# Applications

## curved waveguides



# Applications

curved waveguides



# Applications

## photonic fabrication techniques

	fs micromachining	other
loss (dB/cm)	< 3	0.1–3
bending radius	36 mm	30–40 mm
$\Delta n$	$2 \times 10^{-3}$	$10^{-4} - 0.5$
3D integration	Y	N

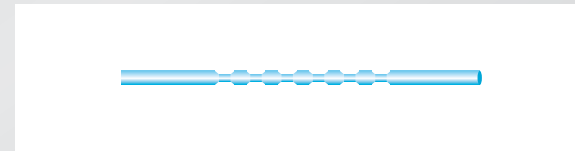
# Applications

## photonic devices

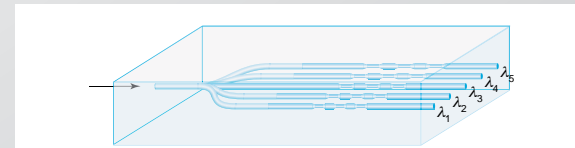
3D splitter



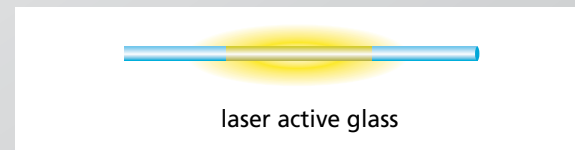
Bragg grating



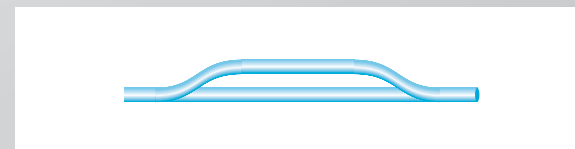
demultiplexer



amplifier



interferometer



# Applications

all-optical sensor



substrate

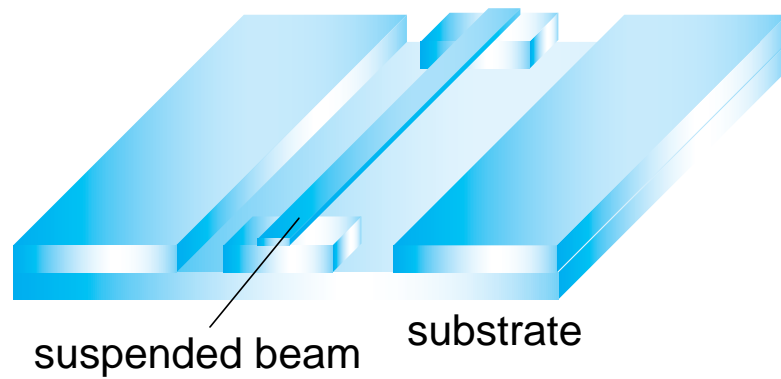
# Applications

all-optical sensor



# Applications

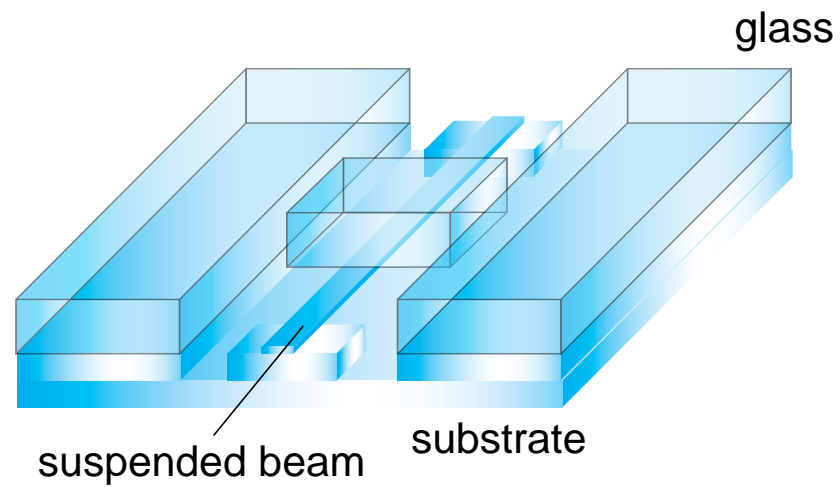
## all-optical sensor





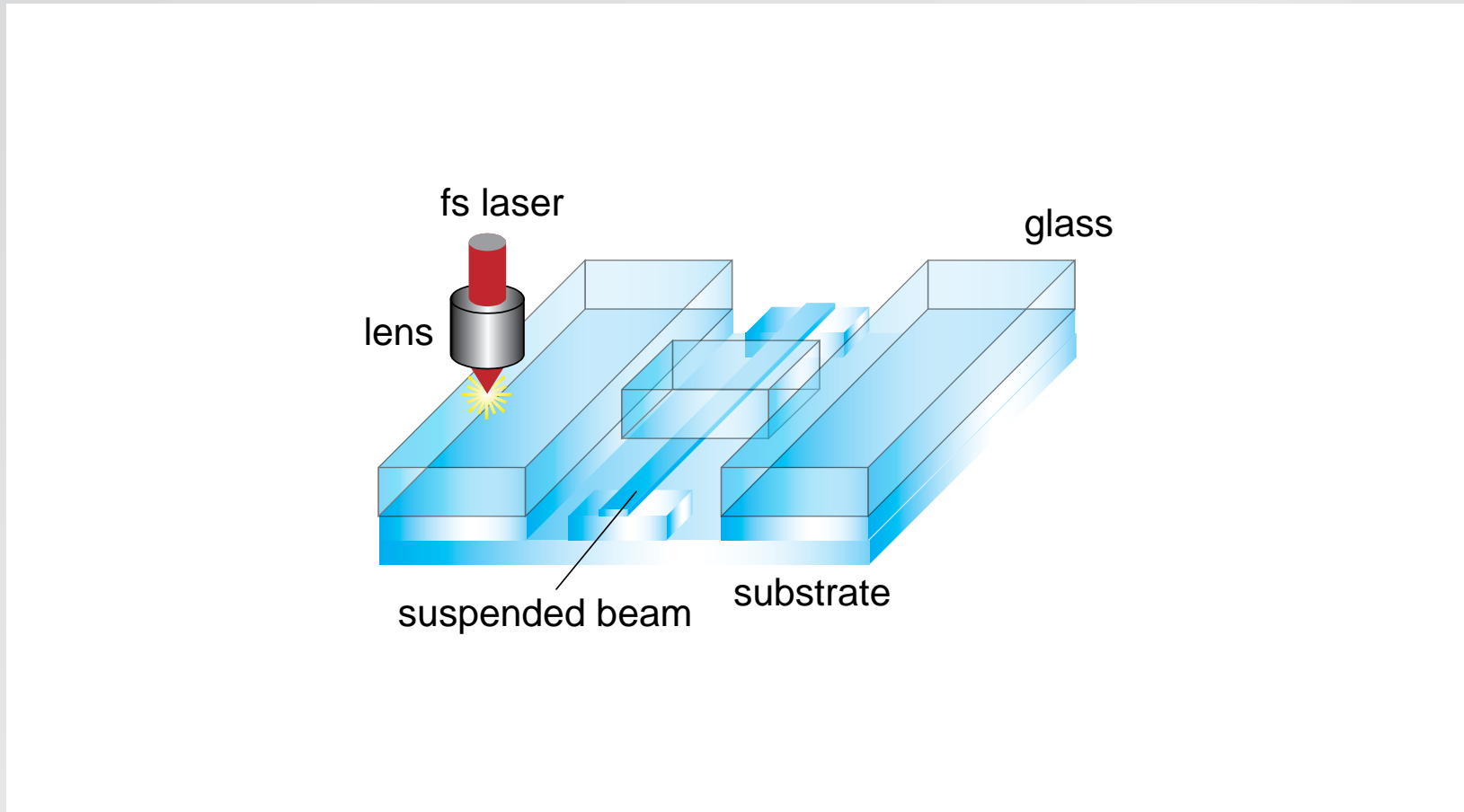
# Applications

## all-optical sensor



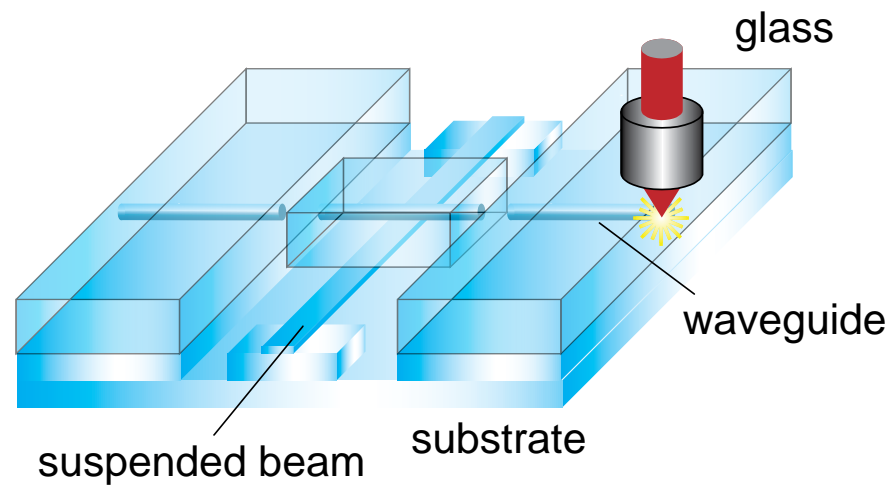
# Applications

## all-optical sensor



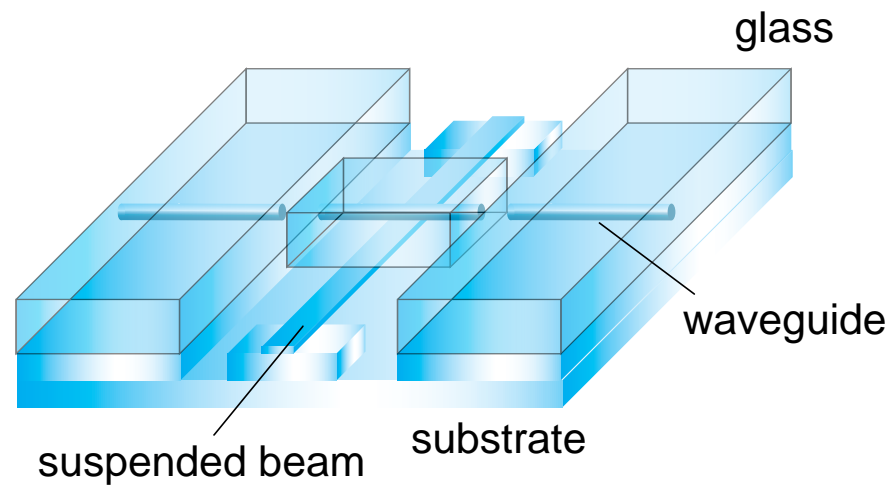
# Applications

## all-optical sensor



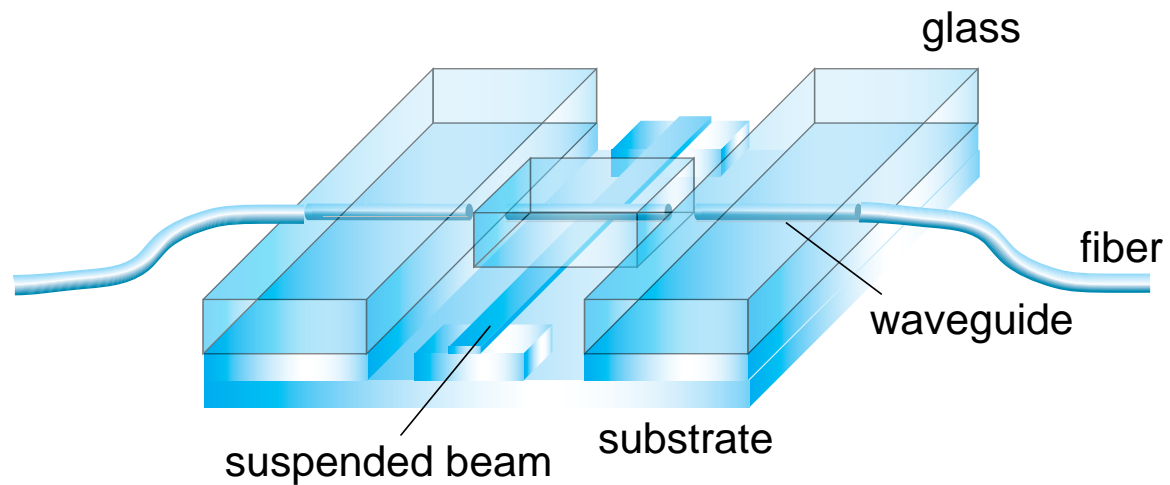
# Applications

## all-optical sensor

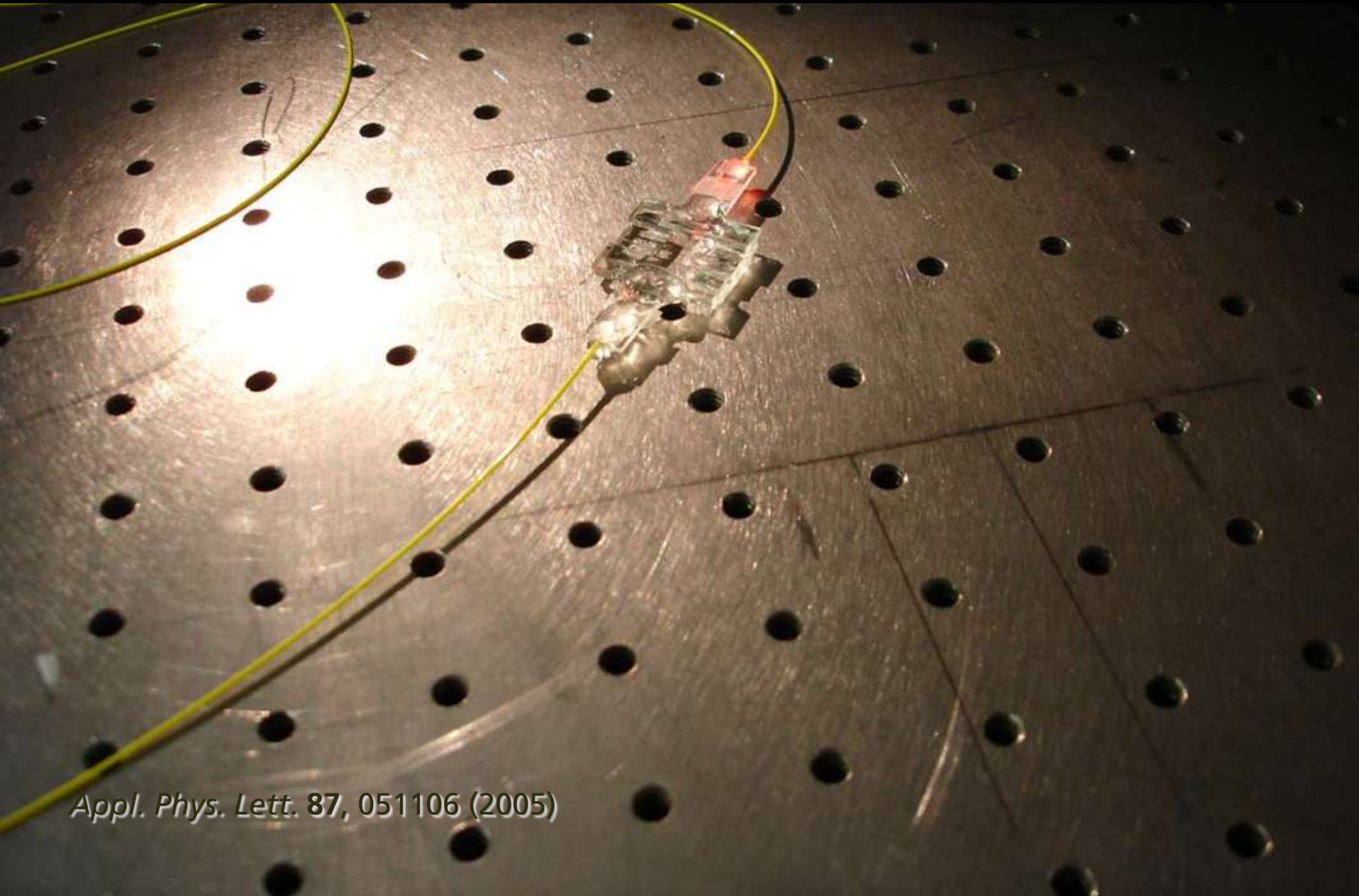


# Applications

## all-optical sensor



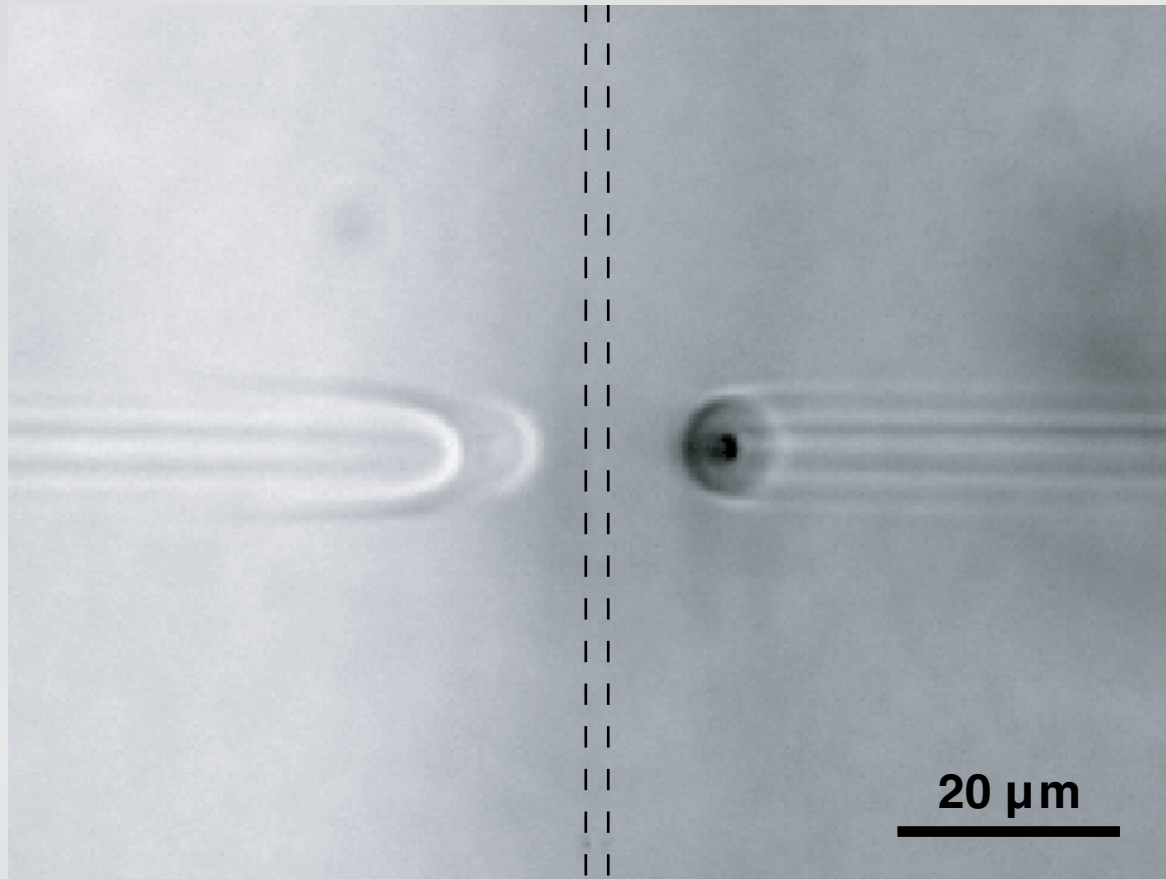
# Applications



*Appl. Phys. Lett.* 87, 051106 (2005)

# Applications

sensor gap

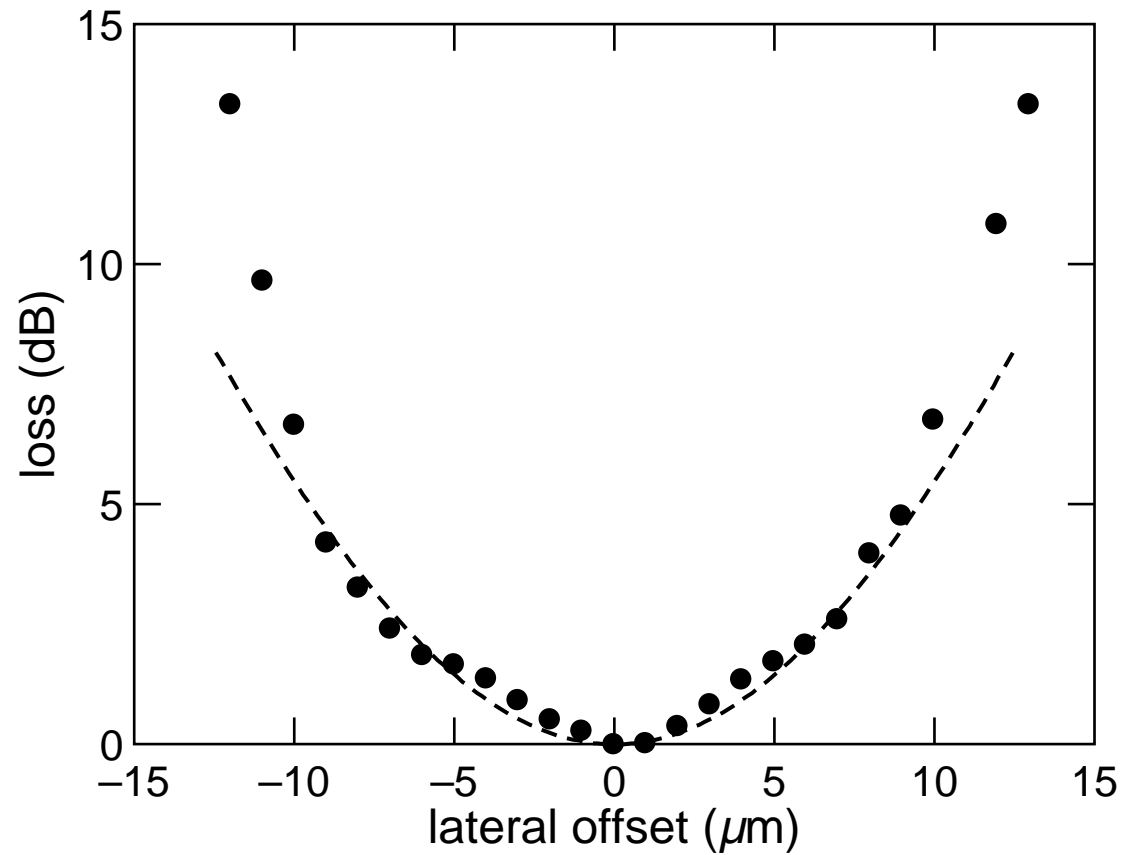


*Appl. Phys. Lett.* **87**, 051106 (2005)



# Applications

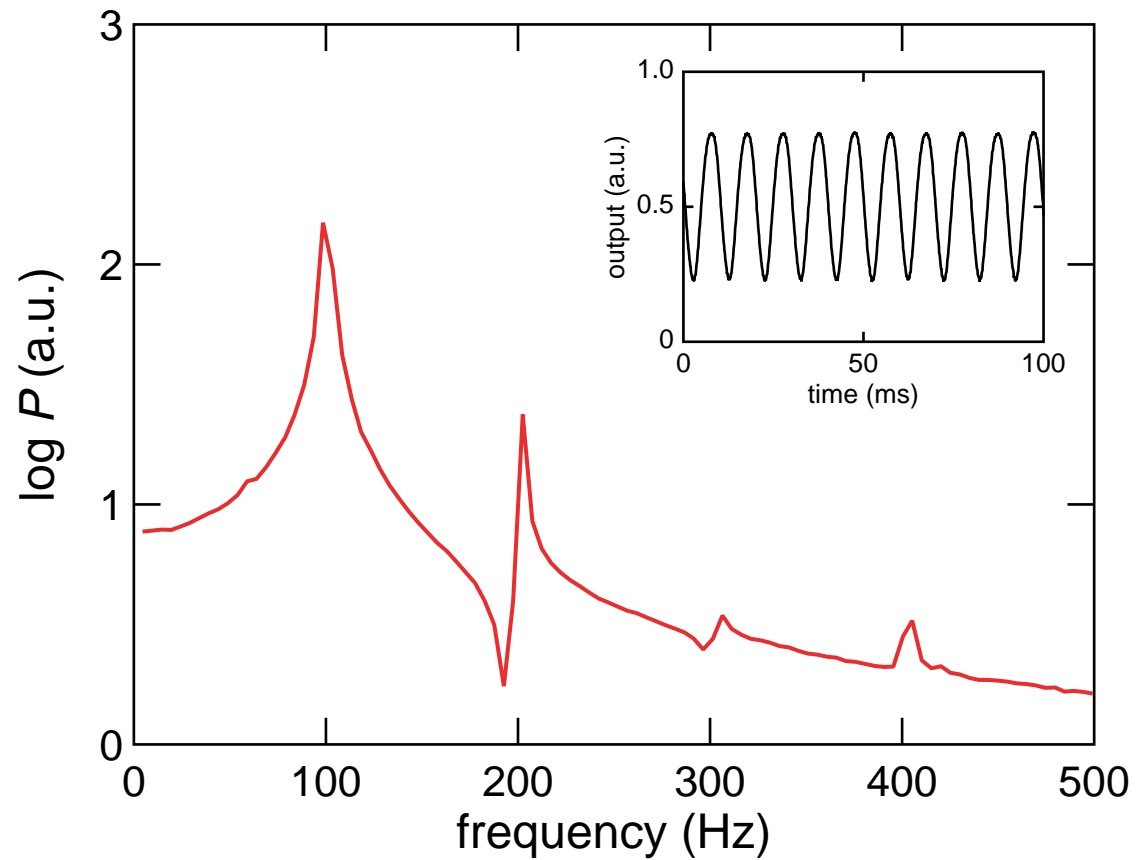
## calibration





# Applications

sensor response to 100 Hz acoustic wave



# Applications

**ideal tool for ablating (living) tissue**

# Applications

- **standard biochemical tools: species selective**
- **fs laser “nanosurgery”: site specific**



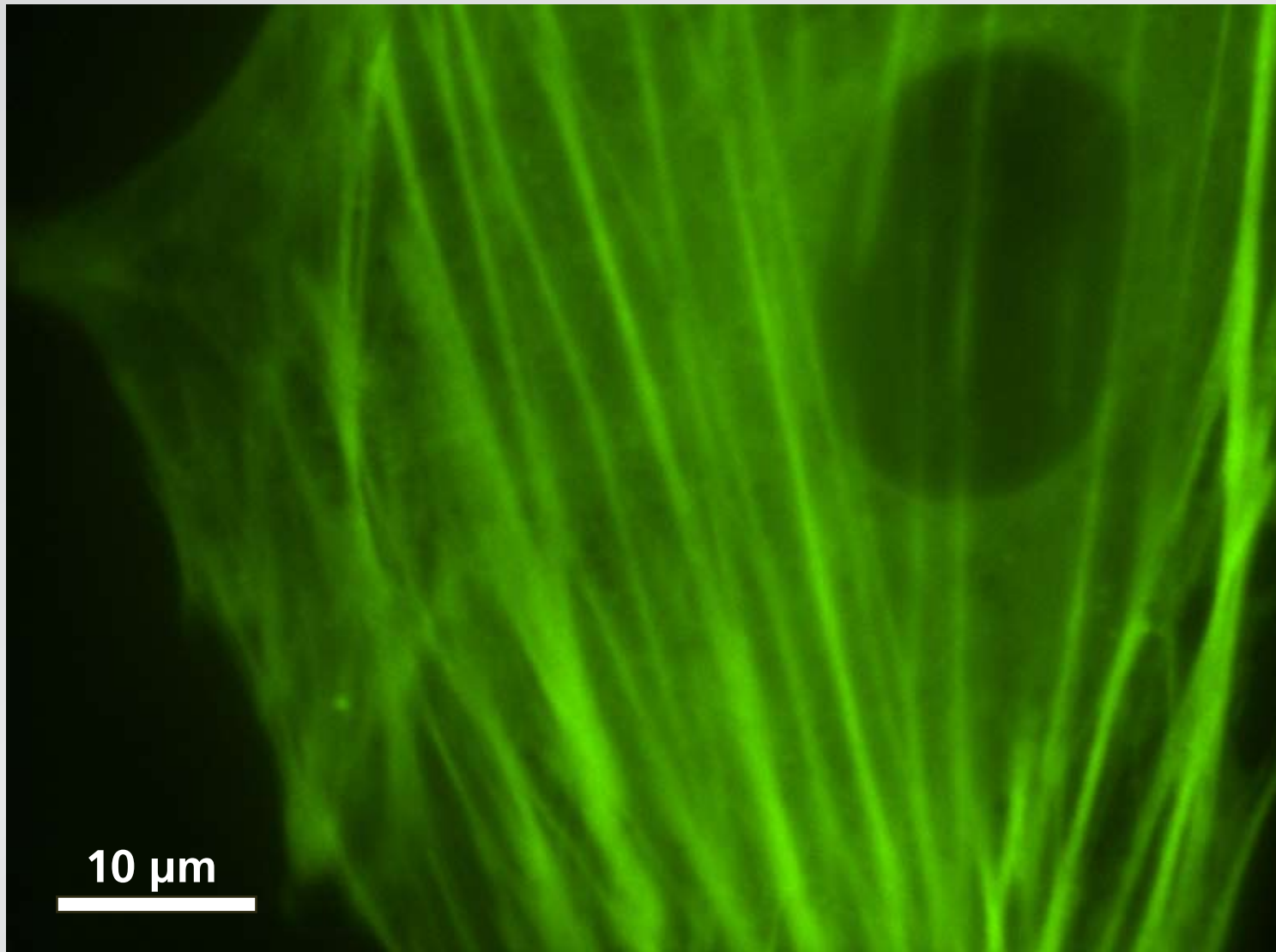
# Applications

*Q:* can we probe the dynamics of the cytoskeleton?



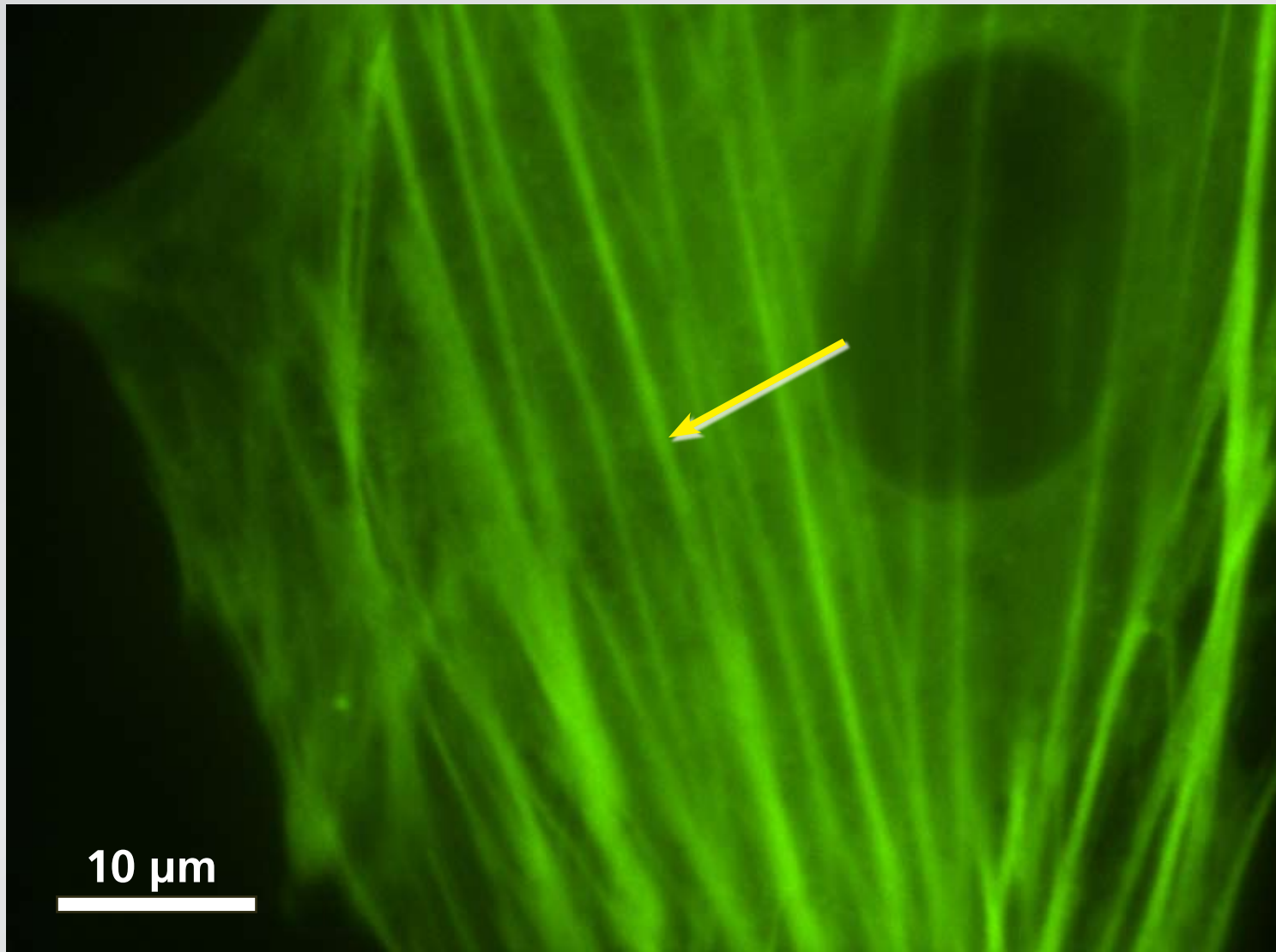
# Applications

actin fiber network of a live cell



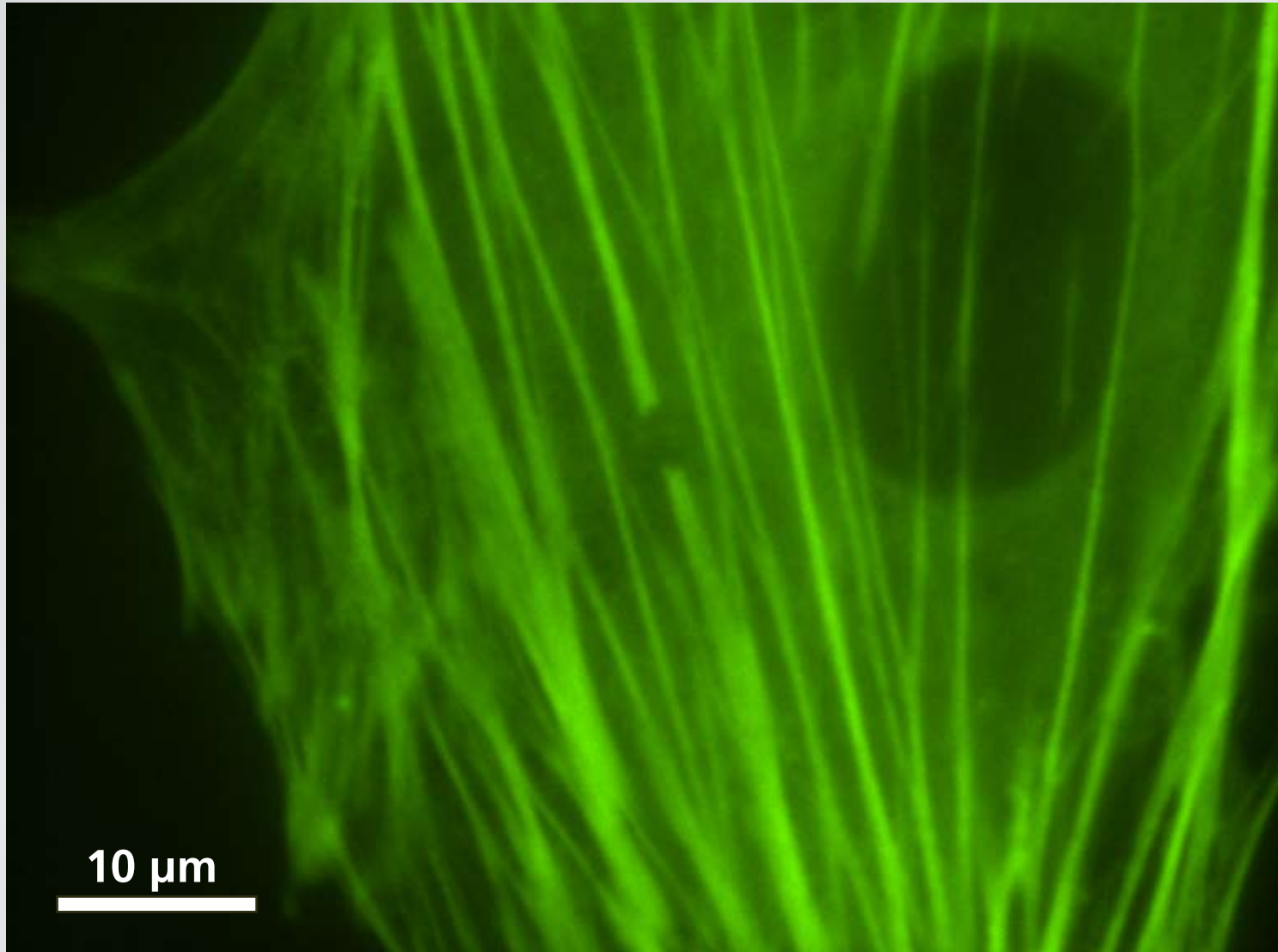
# Applications

cut a single fiber bundle



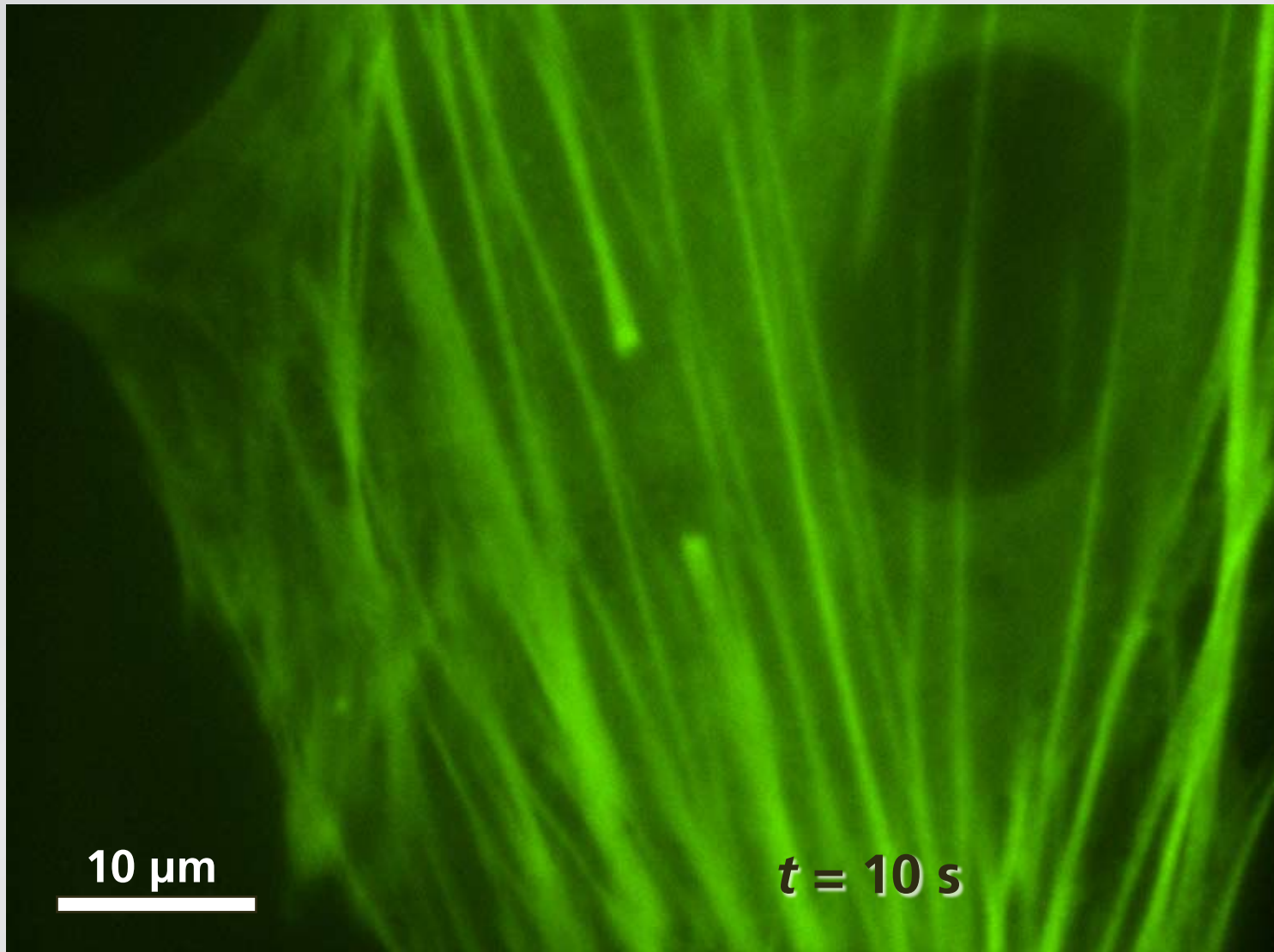
# Applications

cut a single fiber bundle



# Applications

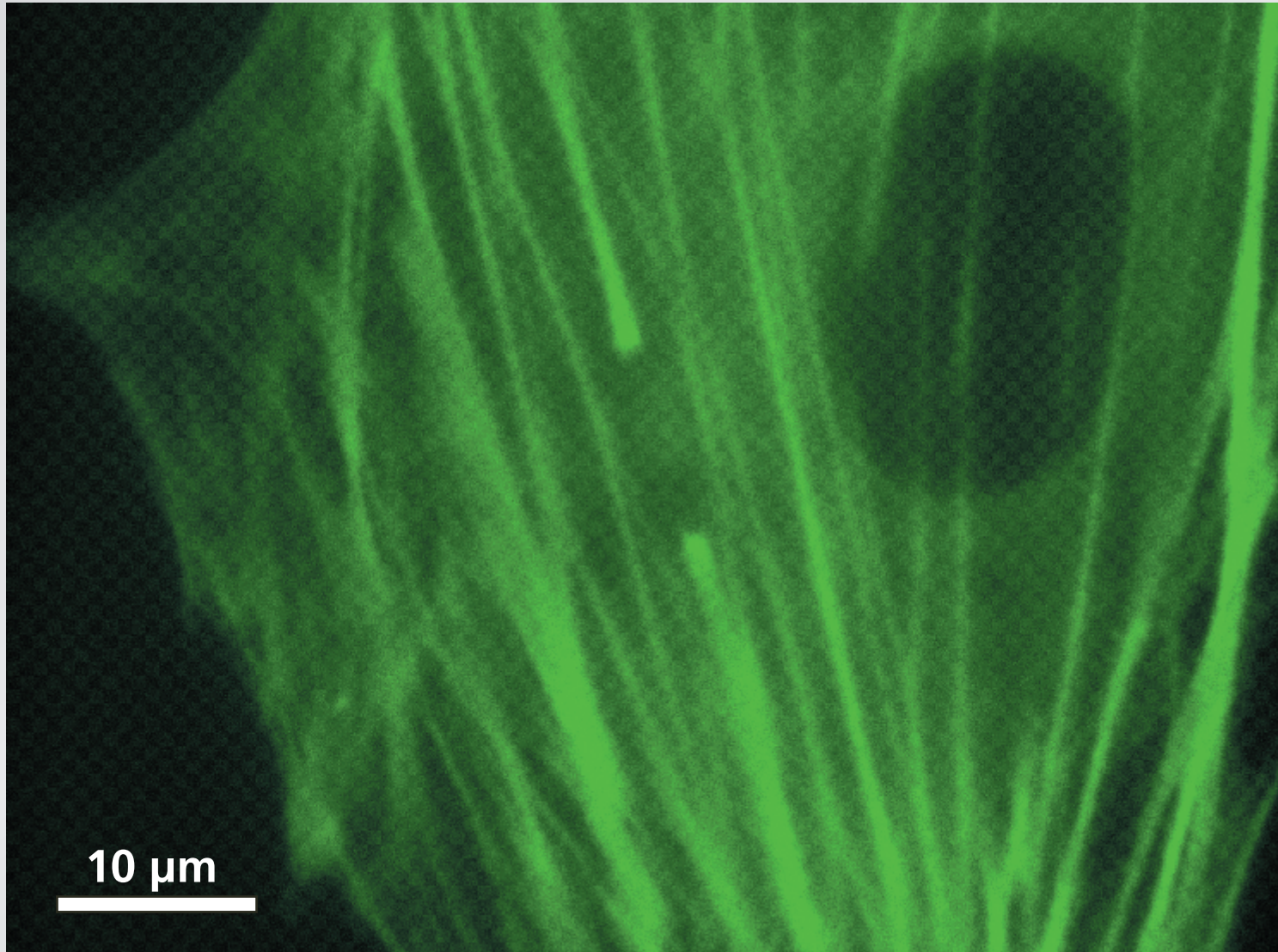
gap widens with time





# Applications

dynamics provides information on *in vivo* mechanics



# Applications

**Q: can we probe the neurological origins of behavior?**



# Applications

## *Caenorhabditis Elegans*



Juergen Berger & Ralph Sommer  
Max-Planck Institute for Developmental Biology

# Applications

## *Caenorhabditis Elegans*

- simple model organism
- similarities to higher organisms
- genome fully sequenced
- easy to handle

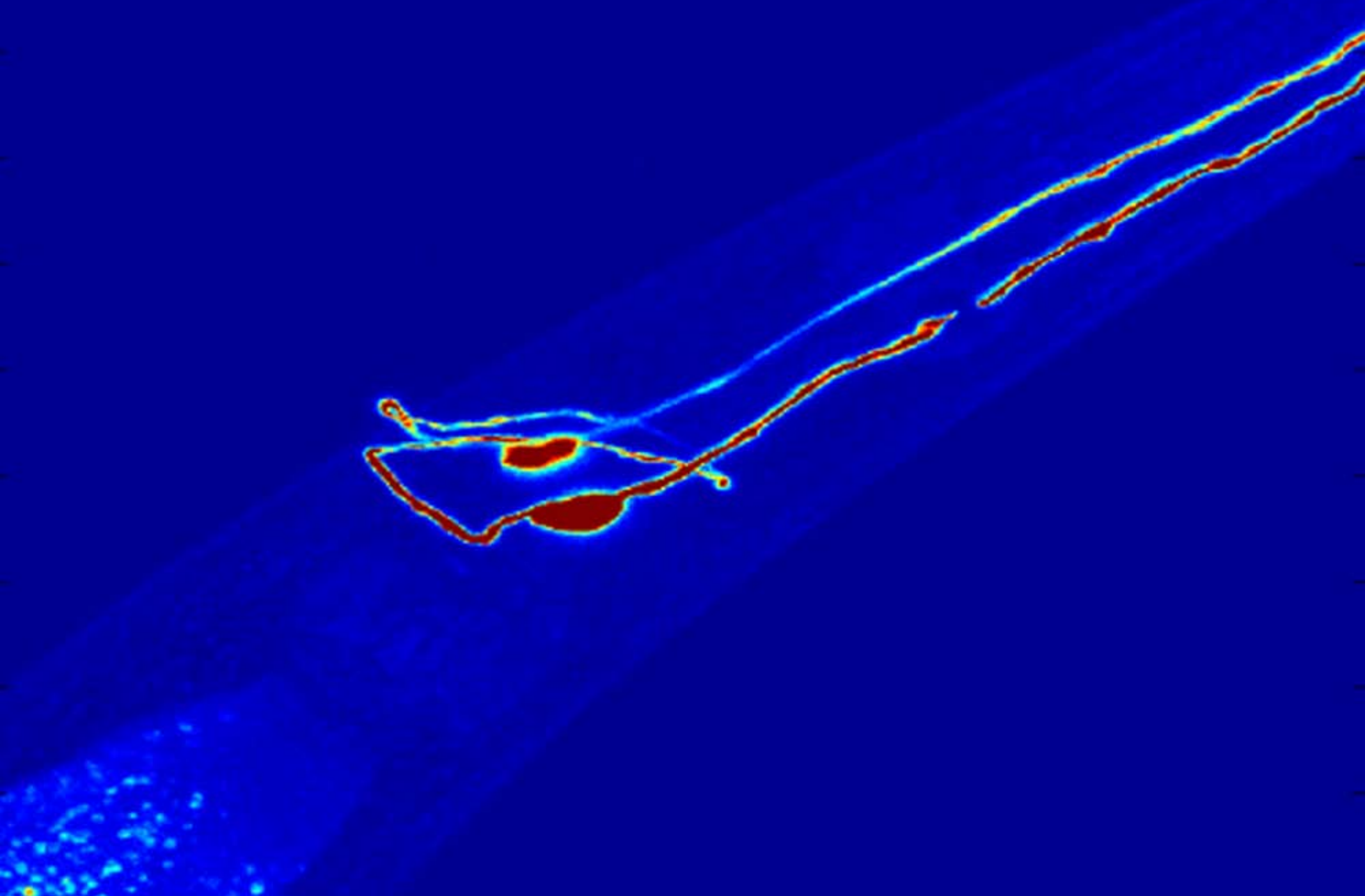
# Applications

## *Caenorhabditis Elegans*

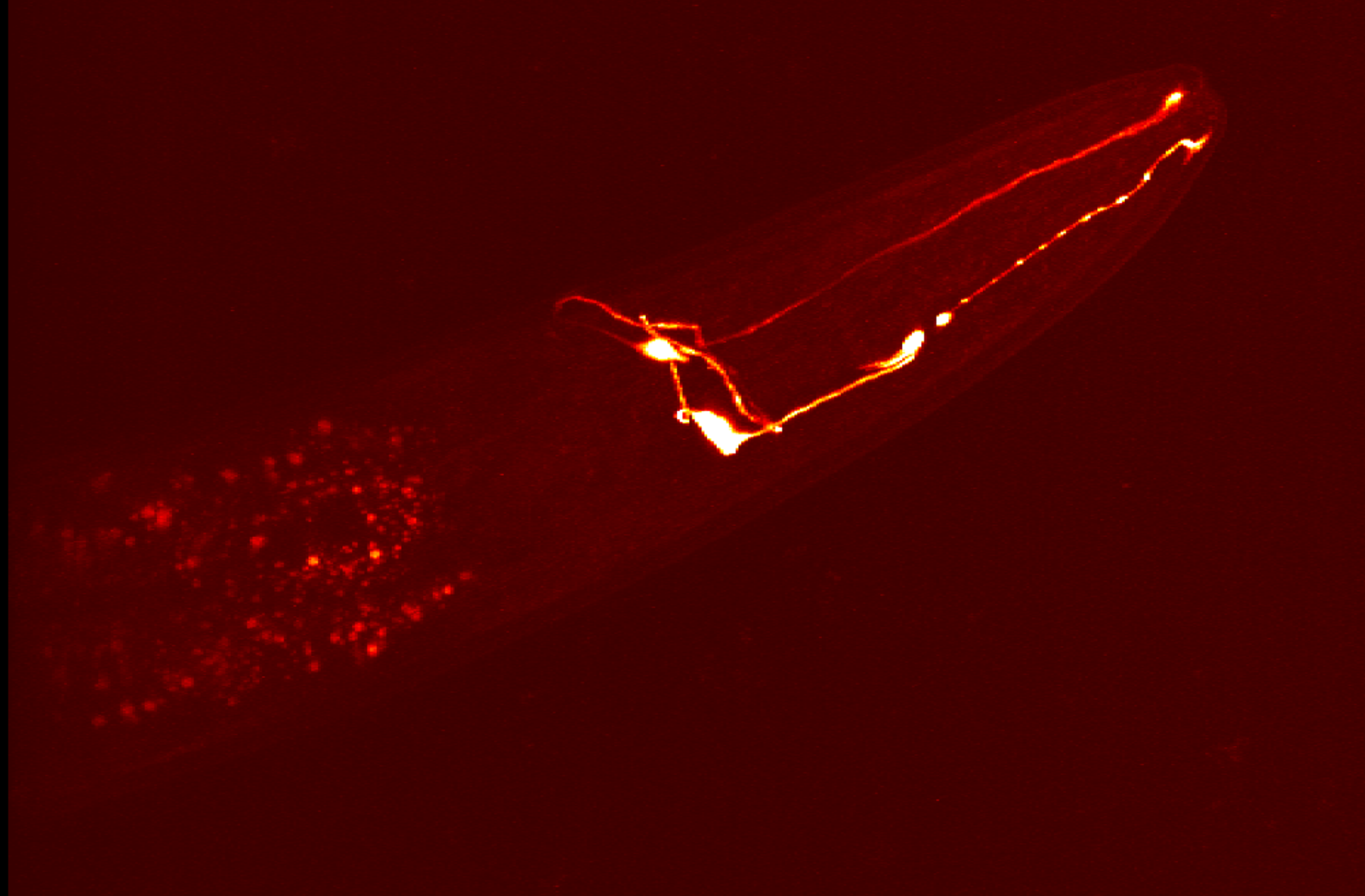
- 80  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1 mm
- about 1300 cells
- 302 neurons
- invariant wiring diagram
- neuronal system completely encodes behavior



# Applications

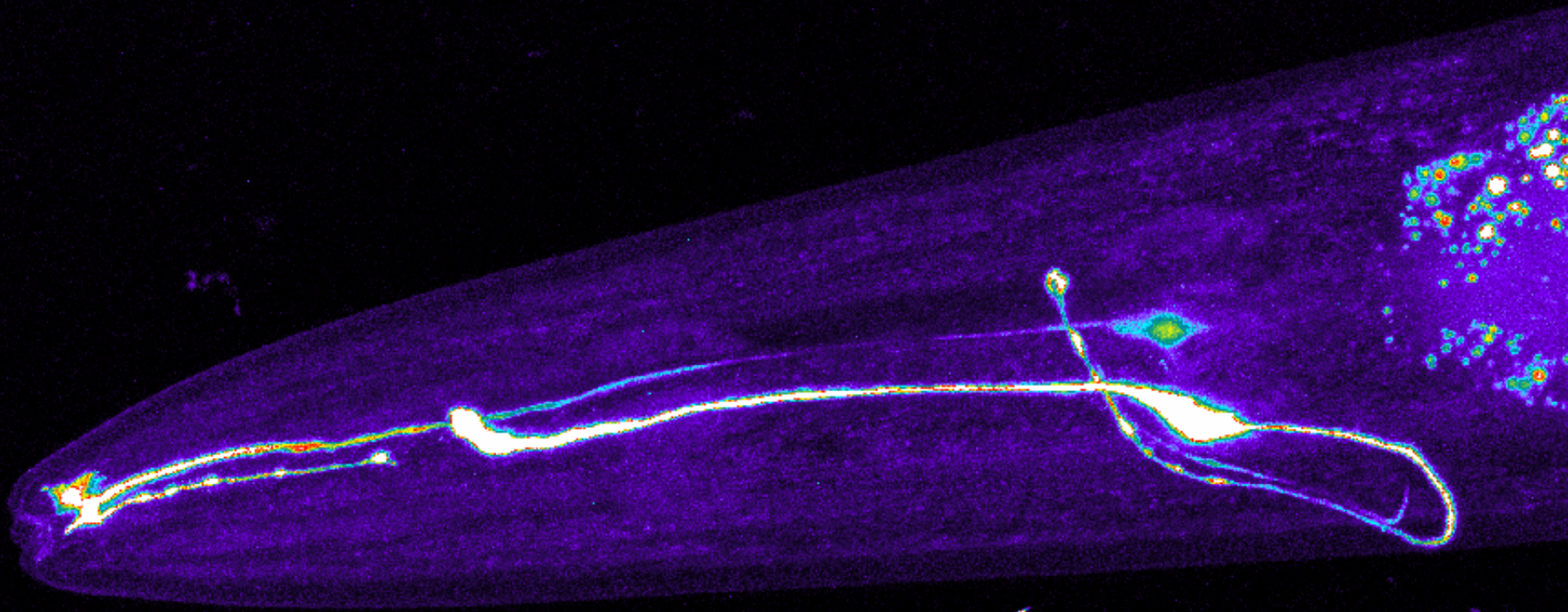


# Applications



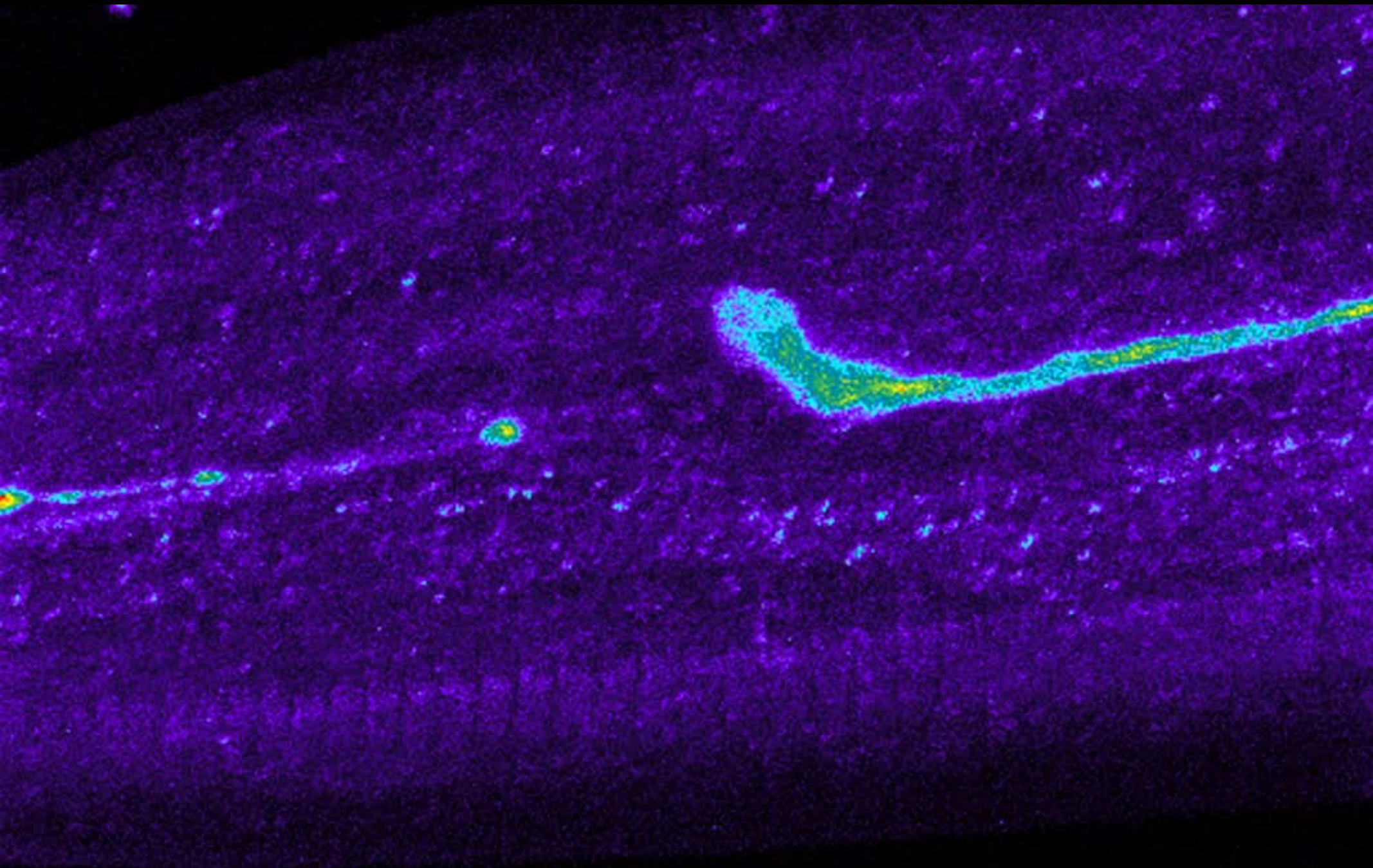


# Applications





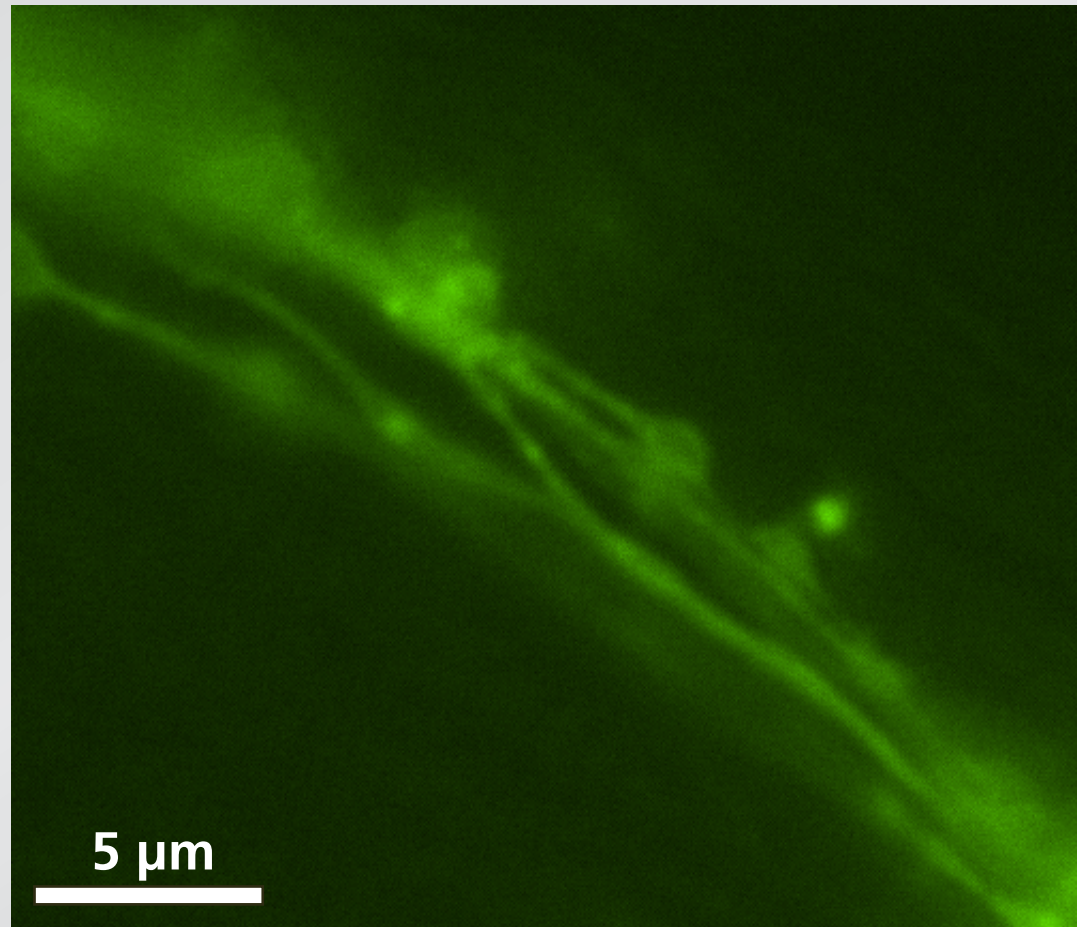
# Applications





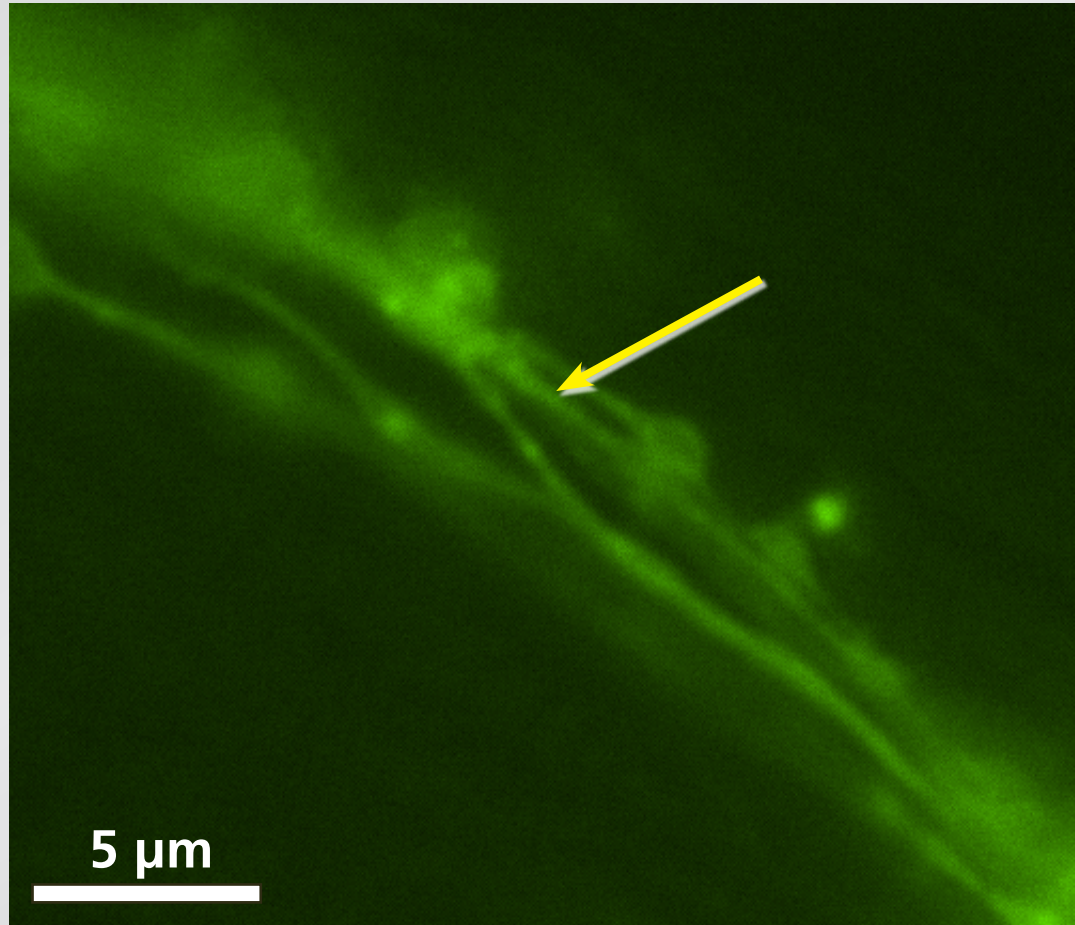
# Applications

cut single dendrite in amphid bundle



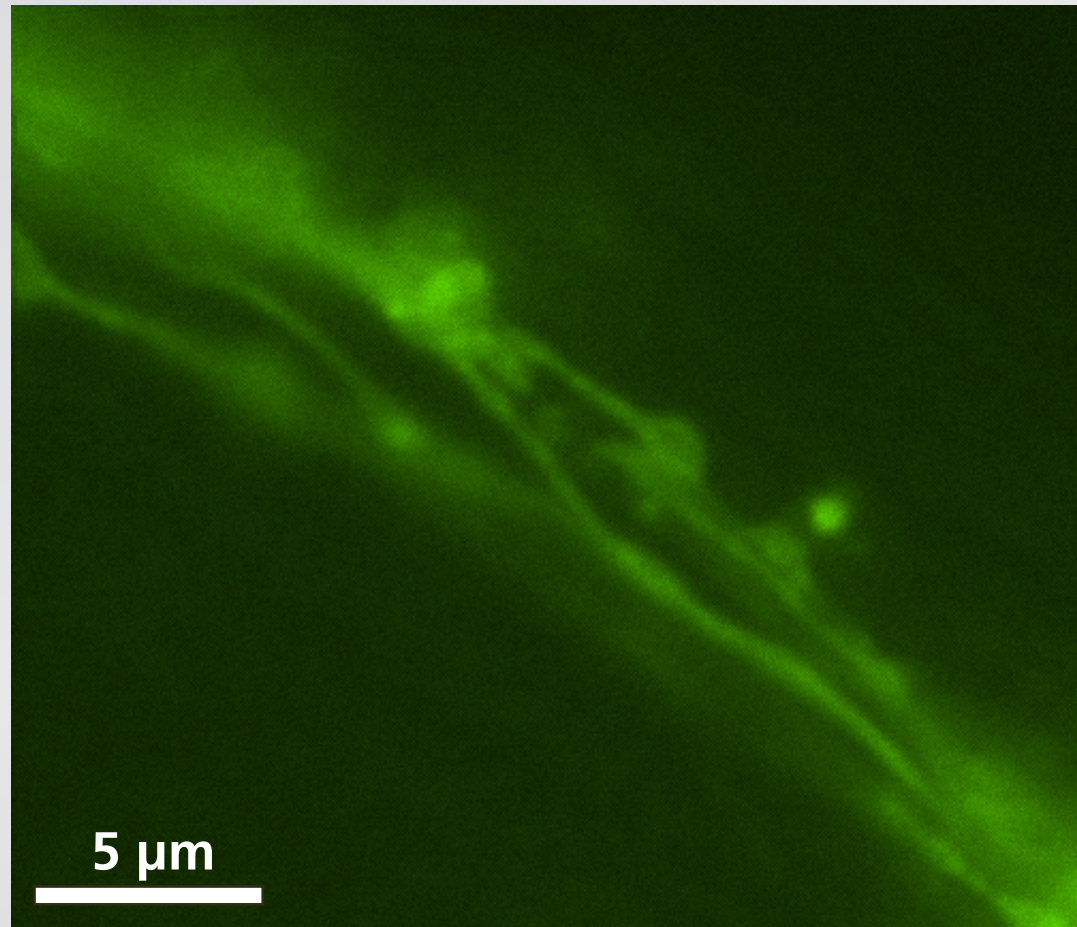
# Applications

cut single dendrite in amphid bundle



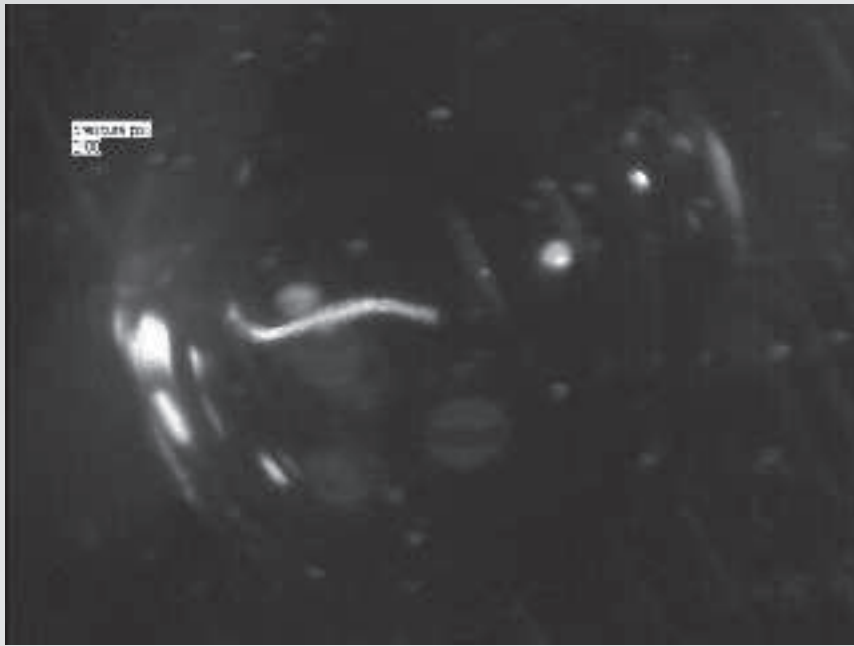
# Applications

cut single dendrite in amphid bundle



# Applications

surgery results in quantifiable behavior changes



before



after



# Summary

great tool for

- "wiring light"
- micromanipulating the machinery of life

# Summary

- **important parameters: focusing, energy, repetition rate**
- **nearly material independent**
- **two regimes: low and high repetition rate**
- **high-repetition rate (thermal) machining fast, convenient**

GORDON MCKAY  
LABORATORY OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE





GORDON WICKAY  
LABORATORY OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE

**Funding:**

**National Science Foundation**



**for a copy of this presentation:**

**<http://mazur-www.harvard.edu>**

Google™

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Google™

mazur

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Google™

mazur

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

# Google™

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

GORDON WICKAY  
LABORATORY OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE

**Funding:**

**National Science Foundation**



**for a copy of this presentation:**

**<http://mazur-www.harvard.edu>**