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Cherenkov Diffraction radiation from long dielectric material: An intense source of photons in the NIR-THz range

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Unlike Synchrotron Radiation, which is naturally emitted as particles are deflected in undulators, wigglers or bending magnets, Diffraction Radiation (DR) [1] is produced as charged particles pass in the close vicinity of a dielectric or a metal.

For highly relativistic particles, diffraction radiation can produce non-negligible amount of photons in standard beam conditions. DR from slits and holes has been investigated during the last 15 years for beam diagnostics as non-interceptive beam size monitors [2, 3]. An experimental set-up has been developed and used already for some years on the Cornell storage ring using 2.1 GeV electrons. With a 1mm aperture slit, the radiated power becomes high enough for beam diagnostic purposes [4] but remains low enough to be considered for others applications.

We are currently preparing a test to produce incoherent Cherenkov Diffraction Radiation (CHDR) in the near infrared spectral range from a 1cm long fused silica crystal. In such conditions the light output power would be significantly large compared to the typical diffraction radiation power emitted from a slit of similar aperture. The target design and the detection set-up are presented in detail with simulations describing the expected properties of the emitted Cherenkov diffraction radiation, in terms of light intensity and spectral bandwidth. Finally, potential applications of CHDR are discussed

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[3] A. Cianchi, M. Castellano, L. Catani, E. Chiadroni, K. Honkavaara, and G. Kube, “Nonintercepting electron beam size monitor using optical diffraction radiation interference”, Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams 14, 102803 (2011)

[4] L. Bobb, T. Aumeyr, P. Karataev, E. Bravin, T. Lefevre, S. Mazzoni, H. Schmickler, M. Billing, J. Conway, “Vertical Beam Size Measurement at CESRTA Using Diffraction Radiation”, IBIC 2014: Proceedings of the 3rd International Beam Instrumentation Conference, Monterey, CA, 2014

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