



Contribution ID: 216

Type: talk

Kinetic and finite ion mass effects on the transition to relativistic self-induced transparency in laser-driven ion acceleration

Wednesday, 27 September 2017 18:20 (20 minutes)

We study kinetic effects responsible for the transition to relativistic self-induced transparency in the interaction of a circularly-polarized laser-pulse with an overdense plasma and their relation to hole-boring and ion acceleration. It is demonstrated using particle-in-cell simulations and an analysis of separatrices in single-electron phase-space, that ion motion can suppress fast electron escape to the vacuum, which would otherwise lead to transition to the relativistic transparency regime. A simple analytical estimate shows that for large laser pulse amplitude the time scale over which ion motion becomes important is much shorter than usually anticipated. As a result, the threshold density above which hole-boring occurs decreases with the charge-to-mass ratio. Moreover, the transition threshold is seen to depend on the laser temporal profile, due to the effect that the latter has on electron heating. Finally, we report a new regime in which a transition from relativistic transparency to hole-boring occurs dynamically during the course of the interaction. It is shown that, for a fixed laser intensity, this dynamic transition regime allows optimal ion acceleration in terms of both energy and energy spread.

Primary author: Dr SIMINOS, Evangelos (Chalmers University of Technology)

Co-authors: Mr SVEDUNG WETTERVIK, Benjamin (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden); Dr GRECH, Mickael (LULI, CNRS, UPMC, Ecole Polytechnique, CEA, France); Prof. FÜLLÖP, Tünde (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden)

Presenter: Dr SIMINOS, Evangelos (Chalmers University of Technology)

Session Classification: WG2_Parallel

Track Classification: WG2 - Ion Beams from Plasmas