First Experimental Self-modulation Results

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The LAOLA@PITZ Team



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EAAC Workshop 2015: Edda Gschwendtner – The AWAKE Facility at CERN



Simulated Self-modulation Experiment at PITZ



Lithium Plasma Cell Design: Novel Cross Shape







Specialty: Lithium Transport with Grooves

> Grooves were eroded into the steel block – here seen filled with Lithium







Ionization Laser (ArF Excimer Laser; 193 nm)

Coherent COMPexPro 201*: up to 400 mJ / pulse; 10 Hz



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Lithium Plasma Cell Inserted Into PITZ Beamline







Plasma Cell with Ionization Laser Beam Expander

> Advantage: Well defined and adjustable plasma channel length

Option: Add filter to implement density ramps or other plasma profiles



Experimental Conditions

Gun/booster at MMMG phases

- 6.5MW in the gun (6.5 MeV/c electron momentum) with 650μs pulse length
- 3.0MW (22 MeV/c electron momentum downstream) in the booster with 200µs pulse length
- > Electron bunches
 - Longitudinal: flat top with 26ps length and about 2ps rise and fall times
 - Strong focusing into plasma cell: transverse size about 100 μm rms
- Plasma cell: lithium with argon buffer gas at 0.8 mbar, heated up to 700°C
- Ionization laser: ArF with about 150 mJ pulse energy delivered to plasma cell





Experimental Results: 1) Time Resolved Bunch



> Clear signature of self-modulation

Q=0.97 nC Matt Plasma density: ≈10¹⁴ cm⁻³

Experimental Results: 2) Energy Spectrum



Booster is slightly off-crest to emphasize side peaks





Experimental Results: 3) Longitudinal Phase space



Momentum modulation with 200 keV/c amplitude





Experimental Results: Self-Modulation vs. Plasma Density



Measured time resolved electron bunch for different delays of the electron bunch arrival time relative to the ionization laser pulse





Discharge Plasma Cell





- Ar/H₂ gas at 0.1 10 mbar (sealed > Plasma densities up to several off)
 10¹⁶ cm⁻³ possible
- > 10 cm plasma length

- Pre-ionisation via glow discharge
- Max. voltage 2 kV, max. current 2 kA





SMI Experimental results with Discharge Plasma Cell

Self-modulated bunch vs. discharge to electron beam delay

- Vertical axis: time (streaked with TDS)
- Horizontal axis: momentum





- Self-modulation also seen with this plasma cell
- Is utilized to measure plasma density (novel method)





Latest SMI Results with Discharge Plasma Cell

> Time resolved bunches at high plasma densities ($d \cdot 10^{15}$ cm⁻³)







Latest SMI Results with Discharge Plasma Cell (LPS)

For highest plasma density (2x10¹⁵ cm⁻³) growth of modulation amplitude along the bunch (sign of SMI?) Plasma off 2 x 10¹⁵ cm⁻³

Data to be published





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22.8

21.8

22.8 Momentum [MeV/c]

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SMI Simulation Results

- Start-to-end of plasma cell simulation:
 - Beam transport to plasma cell with ASTRA
 - Beam-plasma interaction PIC simulation with HiPACE
 - Beam and plasma properties as in selfmodulation experiment (Oct. 2016)
- Simulated transverse wakefield shows strong growth (starting point depends on beam focusing) and saturation
 - As expected if self-modulation instability is causing this behavior



- Maximum transverse wakefields along the simulation box (solid lines)
- E_Z field of first maximum (dashdotted lines)
- > 3 focusing solenoid currents





SMI Simulation Results

Comparison of measured and simulated longitudinal phase space







Summary

- Two plasma cells were built and put into operation at PITZ
 - Novel cross-shaped plasma cell with grooves (lithium heat pipe oven)
 - Discharge plasma cell
- > Experimental results
 - Time resolved measurement: transverse oscillations
 - Energy spectrum: widening / side peaks
 - Longitudinal phase space: energy modulations
- Conclusions
 - Self-modulation was shown with strong indirect evidence that this is caused by the self-modulation instability

Outlook

 More experiments are planned, e.g. self-modulation amplitude vs. plasma channel length (movable beam block in ionization laser beam path) → direct demonstration of SMI



