European Advanced Accelerator Concepts Workshop (**EAAC2019**), 15-21 September 2019 Hotel Hermitage, La Biodola Bay, Isola d'Elba, Italy



CHALLENGES IN THE DESIGN OF A LASER DRIVER FOR A PLASMA ACCELERATOR

Leonida Antonio GIZZI

Intense Laser irradiation laboratory Istituto Nazionale di Ottica, CNR, Pisa, Italy and INFN, Sezione di Pisa, Italy

In collaboration with:

L. Labate ILIL, CNR-INO, Pisa, Italy

F. Mathieu LULI, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique, 91128 Palaiseau, France

G. Toci CNR-INO, Sesto Fiorentino, Italy

www.ino.cnr.it

CNR-INO Intense Laser Irradiation Lab Pisa, Italy A node of the Italian ELI Network

A founding member of the EuPRAXIA infrastructure project



Intense Laser Irradiation Laboratory

Istituto Nazionale di Ottica – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche



CNR Campus in Pisa



SPEE

and and and and

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Area della Ricerca di Pisa

HIII MAL MIL



PEOPLE

- Leonida A. GIZZI
- Fernando BRANDI
- Gabriele CRISTOFORETTI
- Petra KOESTER
- Luca LABATE
- Federica BAFFIGI
- Lorenzo FULGENTINI
- Paolo TOMASSINI
- Daniele PALLA
- Davide TERZANI
- Antonio GIULIETTI
- Sanjeev KUMAR
- Federico AVELLA









Contributions to this workshop L. Labate, WG4, Mon. 16.40 L.A. Gizzi, WG7, Mon, 18.20 D. Terzani, WG6, Wed, 18.40 P. Tomassini, Poster, Wed, 19.00 L.A. Gizzi, Poster, Wed, 19.00 F. Brandi, Plenary, Fri, 9am



Sub-PW Experimental Laser Facility



Control Room

Laser-Driven Particles and Radiation 10 TW, 10 Hz

Power Amplifier Up to 250 TW

TNSA, Thomson Scattering, γ rays ...



Roadmap of Advanced and Novel Accelerators



International Committee for Future Accelerators

Panel on Advanced and Novel Accelerators







HOW TO ASSESS DRIVER NEEDS?



A three years extensive conceptual design work from international leading groups



Detailed concept from lasers to applications







HIGH POWER LASER REQUIREMENTS



Major effort required to fill the gap between **existing** and **required** laser technology







KEY REQUIRED LASER FEATURES

- Short pulse PW-kW laser technology (CPA, diode pumping);
- High repetition rate to allow user operation while enabling active stabilization via feedback loops;
- Average power ranging from 1kW to 10 kW;
- Controlled **beam transport**, focusing, diagnostics.
- Main issues: pump lasers, amplifiers heat management and compressor gratings at high rep-rate.









- up to ten kW average laser power with PW peak power and high(est possible) repetition rate;
- Ti:Sa technology pumped by diode-pumped solid state (DPSSL) lasers provides a relatively safe ground, with major <u>industrial</u> and research endeavour in place;
- Recent developments, with DPSSL prototype pump lasers offer kW performances at the required Ti:Sa pumping wavelength of 0.5 μm;





- Other technologies are developing aiming at >kW, higher rep. rates, higher average power levels and even more efficient configurations (k-BELLA@LBNL, Kaldera@Desy, LEAP@CELIA ...);
- Fiber laser technology offers the best WPE >50% in CW mode and coherent combination is being developed (FSU Jena-Fraunhofer IOF and Ecole Polytechnique-Thales in France).
 Suited for lower energy per pulse >10 kHz or for future upgrades; see anso XCAN project;
- Direct Chirped Pulse Amplification with lasing media pumped directly by diodes is ideal for higher efficiency and higher reprate;



www.ino.it

KEY PARAMETERS OF LASING MEDIA



Main parameters governing laser amplifiers:

- Spectral gain **bandwidth**: short pulse duration
- Thermal conductivity: limits repetition rate
- Abs. and emis. **cross sections**: gain, pump absorption and saturation
- Fluorescence lifetime: sets conditions on pumping
- dn/dT: limits beam quality

Crystals	Nd: YAG	Yb: YAG	Ti: Sa	Yb: CaF_2
Fluorescence lifetime (ms)	0.23	0.96	0.0032	2.4
Stimulated-em. $\sigma(\times 10^{-20}/\text{cm})$	20 to 30	2.1	30	0.2
Fluorescence wavelengths (nm)	1064	1030	660-1100	1033
Absorption wavelengths (nm)	808	940	514 to 532	980
Fluorescence BW (FWHM) (nm)	0.67	10	440	70
Absorption BW (FWHM) (nm)	1.9	>10	200	10
Pumping quantum efficiency	0.76	0.91	0.55	0.5
Saturation fluence (J/cm ²)	0.67	9.2	0.9	80
Thermal conductivity (W/m/°K)	0.14	11	35	9.7
dn/dT (1E-6/K)	7.3	7.8	13	-11.3







GAIN MATERIAL: TITANIUM SAPPHIRE

Currently, most PW-scale CPA lasers are based on Ti:Sapphire pumped by frequency doubled Nd:YAG lasers







Large gain bandwidth (680 nm – 1080 nm)

- High quantum efficiency
- Long lifetime: 3 µs
- Thermal conductivity: 35 WK⁻¹m⁻¹
- Pumped in the green

Active bandwitdth control crucial to overcome gain narrowing and enable sub-50 fs pulses



EUROPEAN PLASMA RESEARCH ACCELERATOR WITH EXCELLENCE IN APPLICATIONS

The EuPRAXIA Project: COMPACT EUROPEAN PLASMA ACCELERATOR WITH SUPERIOR BEAM QUALITY



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 653782.

http://eupraxia-project.eu





- EuPRAXIA is a conceptual design study for a 5 GeV electron plasma accelerator as a European research infrastructure.
- P. Tomassini on "FEL-quality 5GeV e-bunches with the Resonant Multi Pulse Ionization injection scheme (ReMPI). **Poster on Wed**
- FEL requires low (total) energy spread (<1%) and low emittance (<1mm mrad):
 - <u>Validate</u> technical components and schemes in plasma accelerator concepts producing already GeV class beams:
 - <u>Establish</u> laser driver technology
 - Combine efforts with **laser industry and laser institutes** to improve rep. rate & efficiency (incorporate all viable laser technologies with higher efficiency).





Three independent front-end sections seeded by the same laser oscillator





EUPRAXIA 5GeV: Driver Specifications



Laser Driver 5 GeV (Laser 3)				
Parameter	Label	P0 [*]	P1 ^{**}	
Wavelength (nm)	$\lambda_{2 (nm)}$	800	800	
Maximum energy on target (J) *	E ₂	50	100	
Energy tuning resolution (% of targeted value)	dE	7	5	
Shortest pulse length (FWHM) (fs)	τ_2	60	50	
Repetition rate (Hz)	f ₂	20	100	
Contrast at 100 ps	C ₁ (100 ps)	1,00E+11	1,00E+12	
Contrast at 50 ps	C ₁ (50 ps)	1,00E+10	1,00E+11	
Contrast at 10 ps	C ₁ (10 ps)	1,00E+10	1,00E+10	
Contrast at 1 ps	C ₁ (1 ps)	1,00E+06	1,00E+08	
Contrast at 100 fs	C ₁ (100 fs)	1,00E+02	1,00E+03	
Number of beams	N ₂	1	1	
Synchro. to global reference (P-V) (fs)	$\sigma_{\Delta t}$	10	5	
Beam intensity distribution (x-y) in focal plane	-	Gaussian	Supergaussian (n=10)	
Polarization in focal plane	P ₁	linear	linear, circular	
Max ellipticity of focal spot (Am/AM)		0.8	0,95	
Polarization purity (%)		1	1	
Requirement on energy stability (RMS) %	$\sigma_{}$	5	1	
Requirement on focal size & Z _L stab. (RMS) %	$\sigma_{}$	10	5	
Focal spot size stability (on target plane) (RMS) %	$\sigma_{}/w_0$	20	10	
Pointing stability <mark>(RMS) (μrad)</mark>	σ _{<x'></x'>} , σ _{<y'></y'>}	5	1	



Detailed scheme









Design guidelines

- Modularity: same amplification stages in the different laser chains;
- Scalability: upgrade "simply" by increasing pump energy and rep rate
- High extraction efficiency (esp. at P1) to reduce pump energy requirements
- Thermal management issues

Design methodology

- Evaluation of the amplification parameters (energy, spectrum, beam size, stability, parasitic lasing) with **numerical simulations** (MIRO CEA);
- -Validation of modelling with existing systems up to multi-J level;
- Preliminary thermomechanical evaluation by means of FEA simulations (LAS-CAD);

Results

- Main parameters for each stage: pump energy, extracted energy, beam size, spectral shift, parasitic gain ...

- Energy stability vs pump and seed energy fluctuations
- Evaluation of thermal aberrations
- Cooling strategies: liquid flow cooling
- ASE/PL mitigation strategies: Extraction during pumping



Thermal management



Transmission vs. "active mirror" configuration is currently being evaluated to account for thermal management



Input beam Pumn ecycling mirrors Pumr beam Ti:Sapphire crvstal

Ouput beam

Reflective coating (cooled side)

Ti:Sapphire crystals

Multipass mirrors

Pro: Well established concept with no propagation through cooling fluid **Con**: limited cooling (single face), to be modelled

"Active mirror" geometry



Pro: More efficient (double-side) cooling and reduced complexity;

Con: propagation through flowing cooling liquid

*) Water cooled Ti:Sa amplifier ("Active Mirror" configuration) under development at ELI-HU (After V. Cvhykov et al., Opt. Lett, 41, 3017, 2016) **) Fluid (D₂O) cooled Nd:YAG laser, 20 kW CW pump power, D₂O (After X. Fu et al., Opt. Express, 22, 18421 (2014)

***) Fluid (Siloxane) cooled Nd:YLF laser, 5 kW CW pump power (After Z. Ye et al., Opt. Express, 24, 1758 (2016)













- Industrial developments of high average power pump lasers;
- DPSSL implementation on currently available industrial flash-lamp pumped systems for 20-50 Hz performance;
- Link to available effort in prototyping from **industry** and research labs for enhanced performance;
- High power diode developments for future 100 Hz / 1 kHz upgrade.

EUPRAXIA INDUSTRIAL SUBSYSTEMS: PUMP LASERS



Industrial unit (P60): conversion to diode pumping fully designed



Flashlamp pumped Nd:YAG/ DPSSL possible 80 J output energy demonstrated @ 10 Hz, 1064 nm 60 J SHG energy @ 532 nm : design target (40 J demonstrated)

- Cost of diode still an issue – currently 5x total (including operational) costs compared to flashlamps.
- Expected to decrease in 5-10 yrs.
- Maintenance free operation for 25-30 yrs.



DiPOLE 100













Detailed scheme









Main challenges: large optics, mechanical stability, cooling of gratings, beam quality control, beam pointing stability ...



R&D at existing laser labs (APOLLON(FR), RAL(UK), ILIL(IT) etc ...)









FOCAL SPOT BEAM QUALITY

As larger gain media and optics are used, optical aberrations become important and limit the focusability of laser pulses



PHASE FRONT DISTORTIONS





ADAPTIVE OPTICS for high power lasers

Active spatial phase control technique can be used to **correct severe to moderate phase distortions**;

Sensors are used to measure intensity and phase map of the beam;

Deformable mirrors are used to correct the measured wave front distortions in a closed loop;











Key enabling component to reach high intensity



Grating heating experiment*





Compressor Area: PM = power meter; Cth = Thermal camera; G1 = first compressor grating; G2 = second compressor grating (gold, 56°,1480l/mm); DM = Dihedral Mirror. Diode Area: F = imaging lens; PBS = Polarizing Beam Splitter.

Image of the heating diode laser beam and of the fs laser beam on G1. The laser diode beam has a top hat profile, with a spot size of 0.82 mm x 1.63 mm (surface ~ 1 cm2). (b) G1 thermal image for 130 W sent on each spot. (c) Temperature profiles for the beam spots (b); left profile: input spot; right profile: output spot.



G. Toci et al. Instruments, 3, 40 (2019)

*using *Apollon* front-end test compressor



Strehl ratio degradation





Upper line: far field at 760 nm, 820 nm, 880 nm for 0 W heating power. Lower line: far field at 760 nm, 820 nm, 880 nm for 52 W heating power.

G. Toci et al. Instruments, 3, 40 (2019)



POINTING STABILITY



Requirements for beam pointing stability are extremely demanding (1-5 µrad). Both passive and active control will be required. Prior to the implementation of control strategies, tools are being developed to **measure pointing stability** performances at EuPRAXIA facilities and labs.



B. Canuel et al., Sub-nanoradiant beam pointing monitoring [...], Appl. Opt. 2014, 53, 2906-2916



The Resonant Multi-Pulse Ionization Injection*

- The Resonant Multi-Pulse Ionization injection [P. Tomassini et al., Phys. Plasmas 24 (2017)] is a new bunch injection scheme aiming at generating extremely low-emittance bunches [as low as 0.06 mm mrad]
- ReMPI requires ONE short-pulse 100-TW class (e.g Ti:Sa) laser system. Since a unique very largeamplitude Ti:Sa pulse would fully ionize the atoms (N5+ or Ar8+), the pulse is shaped as a resonant sequence of sub-threshold amplitude pulses.



PRAXIA Pulse train for resonant wakefield



Michelson interferometer approach [1] as a baseline, but needs large optics and leads to significant losses Use birefringent plates of increasing (doubling) thicknesses and crossed polarization [2]. Complex setup, to be implemented on the compressed (large) beam

- Intensity homogeneity issues among the different pulses of the same train
- Possibly leading to very high energy losses (up to 50%) \leftarrow relevant for the EuPRAXIA laser design

Our approach: quasi lossless Train gEneration by an early aMplitude dIvision (TEMPI) [3,4]:Splitting occurs upstream in the laser chain. Small aperture and negligible energy losses. Effects due to pulse interference manageable.



Simulation carried out using the MIRO code

Test experiment in progress at CNR ILIL laboratory Energy losses negligible as compared to the overall pump energy Compact and simple setup [4]



Alternative scheme: delay mask [5]

[1] C. W. Siders et al., Appl. Opt, **37**, 5302–5305 (1998)

- [2] B. Dromey et al., Appl. Opt. 46, 5142 (2007)
- [3] L. Labate, G. Toci, P. Tomassini, L.A. Gizzi, submitted
- [4] G. Toci et al. Instruments, 3, 40 (2019)
- [5] G. Vantaggiato et al., NIM-A, <u>909</u>, 114, (2018)





- Laser driver for a plasma accelerator designed to seamlessly drive a user laser-plasma accelerator;
- Current required drivers, 100-1kHz Hz, 10-100J, is beyond existing technologies;
- Conceptual design relies on the latest industrial and lab components of high power lasers;
- 20 Hz operation relies on demonstrated components (TRL 5 to TRL 7);
- 100 Hz operation (TRL2 to TRL3) is evolving along with diode pumping developments (prototyping);
- Heat management of amplifier head (TRL3-TRL4) requires validation at the relevant component scale.



>kHz repetition rate ?



Plasma accelerators will require higher and higher repetition lasers with high ٠ efficiency. Direct pumping of lasing medium with diodes is most efficient:

Direct CPA may become a solution for >100Hz due to wall-plug efficiency limitations.



Power [MW per 10-kW of short pulsed output]

C. Siders et al., EAAC 2017



We need a **gain medium** that can support amplification on a large bandwidth and can be pumped **directly** with diode lasers.



Direct diode pumping



Crystals	Nd: YAG	Yb: YAG	Ti: Sa	Yb: CaF ₂
Fluorescence lifetime (ms)	0.23	0.96	0.0032	2.4
Stimulated-em. $\sigma(\times 10^{-20}/\text{cm})$	20 to 30	2.1	30	0.2
Fluorescence wavelengths (nm)	1064	1030	660-1100	1033
Absorption wavelengths (nm)	808	940	514 to 532	980
Fluorescence BW (FWHM) (nm)	0.67	10	440	70
Absorption BW (FWHM) (nm)	1.9	>10	200	10
Pumping quantum efficiency	0.76	0.91	0.55	0.5
Saturation fluence (J/cm ²)	0.67	9.2	0.9	80
Thermal conductivity (W/m/°K)	0.14	11	35	9.7
dn/dT (1E-6/K)	7.3	7.8	13	-11.3

- Available direct CPA concepts (Yb:CaF₂, Yb:YAG ...) limited in pulse duration, heat extraction and scaling;
- Developments in progress also with Tm:YLF



A possible solution: Tm:YLF

Currently under investigation[1]: Tm:YLF

- Emission at 1,9 µm, eye safe;
- Ultrashort pulse (<100 fs;
- High peak power ≈ PW;
- High average power(scalable from kW to 300 kW);
- Direct pumping at 808 nm, using diodes operating in CW mode (available and scalable);
- Multi-pulse extraction at high repetition rate
 > 10 kHz; Ideal for accelerator technology;
- High efficiency;
- Mature material technology (crystal growth);





T.C. Galvin et al., Proc . of SPIE Voi. 110331103303 (2019)

Tm: YLF Full specifications

Absorption peak wavelength	792 nm
Absorption cross-section at peak	0.55×10-20 cm2
Absorption bandwidth at peak wavelength	16 nm
Laser wavelength	1900 nm
Lifetime of 3F4 thulium energy level	16 ms
Emission cross-section @1900 nm	0.4×10-20 cm2
Refractive index @1064 nm	no=1.448, ne=1.470
Crystal structure	tetragonal
Density	3.95 g/cm3
Mohs' hardness	5
Thermal conductivity	6 Wm-1K-1
dn/dT	-4.6×10-6 (//c) K-1
Thermal expansion coefficient	10.1 × 10-6 (//c) K-
Typical dopina level	2-4 at.%

High Efficiency enabled by multipulse extraction

Relatively new approach for short pulse operation: needs R&D in progress



(1)C. Haefner et al., EAAC 2017





Broader view on driver R&D



Laser driver relies on industrial development in:

- Pumping technology: diode (direct or indirect) pumping;
- Gain media: material should be industrially available at laser quality, scalable in size and capable of supporting large bandwidth and efficient cooling;
- Grating technology to improve for higher damage threshold and smaller beam size
- Optics Damage threshold
- Thermal load, management, dissipation
- Vacuum technology

E^[•]PRA IA

• Mechanical stabilization (active and passive);













Major R&D and technology transfer to embed in final systems





Cluster on laser technology (EuP-LASTECH):

Main Scientific and Technical issues Amplifier configuration:

Prototyping of Ti:Sa amplifiers

Build a test amplifier to test Thermal load, Cooling;

Pumping technology:

Scaled 100 Hz rep rep. rate, high energy pumping;

Addressing 100 Hz pump lasers developments

Optical compressor technology:

Thermal management of compressor gratings

Run high average power illumination tests at existing facilities, to make assessments on

LIDT, Thermal load, Cooling. Lifetime;

Pointing stability :

Stability (pointing & more) and active control

Build tools and run tests at existing facilities; define route for active stabilization;

Temporal and Spatial Shaping:

Synchronization

Develop efficient pulse train, temporal contrast, AO control and measurements.





Cluster on laser technology (EuP-LASTECH):

High Repetition Rate Developments

The current layout of the EuPRAXIA laser foresees up to 100 Hz configuration. Beyond this, totally alternative systems based on direct diode pumping of different gain media are being explored like Yb:YAG and Yb:CaF₂ Tm:YLF. Cluster coordination will foster these explorations.

Participating Institutes:



Exploring funding opportunities. Two proposals submitted to TIARA-ARIES.

SUMMARY

- Ti:Sa as a viable options for first generation laser driver
- Addressing open issues
 - Thermal management of
 - Amplifiers
 - Compressor gratings
- Stability (pointing & more) and active control
- Synchronization
- Driver pulse temporal shaping (multi-pulse)
- Longer term solutions with direct diode pumping
- Major need of R&D -> Cluster approach

Contributors

CNR – Italy

Leonida A. GIZZI, Istituto Nazionale di Ottica-CNR, Pisa Petra KOESTER INO-CNR, (EuPRAXIA contract), Pisa Luca LABATE, INO-CNR, Pisa Fernando BRANDI, INO-CNR, Pisa Gian Carlo BUSSOLINO, INO-CNR, Pisa Barbara PATRIZI, INO-CNR, Firenze Guido TOCI, INO-CNR, Firenze Matteo VANNINI, INO-CNR, Firenze

CNRS – France

François MATHIEU, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique Zeudi MAZZOTTA, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique (Eupraxia contract) Dimitrios PAPADOPOULOS, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique Catherine LE BLANC, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique Bruno LE GARREC, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique Audrey BELUZE, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique Jean-Luc PAILLARD, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique

Collaborators

Franck FALCOZ Amplitude Technologie Christophe SIMON BOISSON Sandrine RICAUD		Rajeev PATTATHIL Klaus ERTEL Paul MASON Marco GALIMBERTI	STFC Rutherford Ap Laboratory	pleton
Sebastien LAUX Thales Group	Andy BAYRAMIAN Constantin HAEFNER		Oliver KARGER Alexander KNETSCH	Hamburg University
Paul CRUMP Ferdinand-Braun- Institut, Germany	Craig W. SIDERS Tom SPINKA K. CHESTNUT E. ERLANDSON	Lawrence Livermore National	Maria Pia ANANIA Fabrizio BISESTO Dario GIOVE	INFN
laboratories shaded major contributors/collaborators	T. GALVIN K. SHAFFERS E. SISTRUNK	Laboratory	M. BELLAVEGLIA S. GALLO	LNF 43

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

.