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Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Diagnostics for Laser-Wakefield Accelerators





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- (One of the) Central goal(s) of EuPRAXIA:
 - Realize a free-electron laser based on electron pulses from a LWFA
- What are the requirements to reach this goal?
 - Provide a stable/reliable/controllable
 GeV-class LWFA-driven electron source
- How does a LWFA work?
- Which e-beam parameters are essential?
 - How are they correlated with accelerator structure (plasma wakefield)?
 - How can they be measured?
- Beyond existing (and possible) diagnostics:
 - machine-learning algorithms, Bayesian optimization models
- Summary and outlook









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- N_e / MeV 1 10⁹ 10 6 5 · 3 5 10⁸ шц 0 -5 -10200 400 E, MeV b -20 -15 -10-25 A. Pukhov et al., APB 74, 355 (2002)
- Acceleration of electrons in a (laser-driven) plasma wave

• Injection of background electrons into accelerating phase of the plasma wave

μm

Laser Wakefield Acceleration of Electrons @ JETI: Setup







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- energy spectrum:
 - energy of (mono-energetic?) peak
 - background?
- charge

- pulse duration
- source size
- divergence
- pointing (stability)







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- High-resolution images of plasma wave:
 - Formation and evolution of e-bunch
 -> e-pulse duration in the plasma
- Visualize evolution of accelerator structure (plasma wave)
 - visualize point of injection of e-bunch
 -> acceleration length -> peak energy
- Detection of betatron radiation
 -> source size of electron pulse
- Measure intensity evolution of driving main pulse via RECR
 - Indirect measurement of acceleration fields
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- Visualize transverse scattering of laser pulse
 -> spatio-temporal couplings in main pulse
 -> e-beam direction/steering





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transverse optical probing

main pulse



electrons X-rays,...







transverse optical probing

main pulse

imaging lens



electrons X-rays,...



probe pulse

gas-jet



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• Transverse probing of B-fields in under dense plasma with linearly polarized probe pulse: when $\vec{k}_{\text{probe}} \parallel \vec{B} \Rightarrow$ different η for circularly polarized probe-components ("Faraday-effect")

 \Rightarrow Rotation of probe polarization:

$$\phi_{\rm rot} = \frac{e}{2m_{\rm e}c} \int \frac{n_{\rm e}(\vec{r})}{n_{\rm cr}} \vec{B}(\vec{r}) \cdot \frac{\vec{k}_{\rm probe}}{k_{\rm probe}} \,\mathrm{d}s$$

- \Rightarrow measure ϕ_{rot} to deduce B-field distribution!
 - J. A. Stamper et al., PRL (1975)



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MCK et al., PRL 105 115002 (2010)



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Electron bunch length: $\Delta z = 4 \ \mu m$ $\tau_{FWHM} = (6\pm 2) \ fs, \tau_{RMS} = (2.5\pm 0.9) \ fs$

A. Buck, MCK et al., Nature Physics 7, 543 (2011)





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Laser Wakefield Acceleration of Electrons: Betatron Radiation

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Non-invasive diagnostic of intensity evolution during interaction based on relativistic electron cyclotron resonance





M. B. Schwab, MCK et al. Phys. Rev. AB 23, 032801 (2020)

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Observation of Stimulated Raman Sidescattering, diagnostic for spatio-temporal couplings of main pulse (PFT) and electron beam steering

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C. Zepter, MCK et al. Phys. Rev. Research **5**, L012023 (2023)



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- When electron pulse cannot be measured non-invasively
 - Deduce/estimate e-beam parameters from other parameters (which can be measured non-invasively)
 - Possible, when exact correlations between parameters are known (not yet!)
 - Use machine-learning algorithms + Bayesian optimization models to find such correlations





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Summary and Outlook

- LWFA-based FEL as one of the central goals of EuPRAXIA seems within reach
- essential for its optimization:
 - high-resolution diagnostics for
 - driving laser,
 - plasma/accelerator structure,
 - particle pulses,
 - find correlations between different parameters also using machine-learning methods
- Feedback loops for stabilization of laser and particle pulses.

Thank you for your attention!



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• Generation of few-cycle probe pulses @ JETI via frequency broadening





JETI input pulses: 32 fs, ~1 mJ

- \Rightarrow (5.9±0.4) fs @ 300 μ J, (2.8±0.4) fs @ 200 μ J
- ⇒ shadowgraphy, Faraday-rotation, interferometry, ... possible

M. Schwab, MCK *et al.*, Applied Physics Letters **103**, 191118 (2013) D. Adolph, MCK *et al.*, Applied Physics Letters **110**, 081105 (2017)

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- Polarimetry: Visualization of e-bunches via B-fields
- Variation of delay between pump and probe pulse:
 ⇒ Evolution of e-pulse generation!



• First online observation of e-bunch generation!

A. Buck, MCK et al., Nature Physics 7, 543 (2011)



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 Shadowgraphy: Visualization of the plasma wave



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 Shadowgraphy: Visualization of the plasma
 wave

 Variation of plasma density
 ⇒ change of plasma wave length

$$\lambda_{\rm p} = v_{\rm ph} T_{\rm p} \approx \frac{2\pi c}{\omega_{\rm p}} = 2\pi c \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon_0 m_{\rm e}}{n_{\rm e} e^2}}$$



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• Polarimetry + Shadowgraphy:

Measurement of e-bunch position within the plasma wave:

e-pulse is indeed accelerated within the 1st wave period!





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"well behaved"



"beam loading" dominated



"single bubble" regime



"multi bubble" regime



Elongation of 1st plasma wave period starts before injection of electrons.

A. Sävert, MCK et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **115**, 055002 (2015)



no "beam loading" but main pulse amplification.

 $\lambda_p^*\approx\lambda_p$ Helmholtz Institute Jena

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 $\lambda_p^* \approx \lambda_p \left(1 + \frac{a_0^2}{2}\right)^{1/4}$ HIJENA 37

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A. Sävert, MCK et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 055002 (2015)