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# **Plasma Accelerators**

## **Overview of different schemes**

**DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DI BASE** E APPLICATE PER L'INGEGNERIA

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# **Outline**

- Basic principle of plasma-based acceleration
	- Issues contributing to improving acceleration techniques
- Current research highlights
- Other uses for plasma in the accelerator field
	- Plasma lenses
	- Plasma wigglers/undulators
- Conclusions

# **Relativistic Plasma Waves**



*Courtesy of M. Ferrario*

# **Relativistic Plasma Waves**



# **Relativistic Plasma Waves**



Surface electric field

$$
E_{\rm x}=-\sigma/\varepsilon_0=-e\,n\,\delta x/\varepsilon_0
$$

Restoring force  
\n
$$
m \frac{d^2 \delta x}{dt^2} = e E_x = -m \omega_p^2 \delta x
$$
  
\nPlasma oscillations  
\n $\delta x = (\delta x)_0 \cos (\omega_p t)$   
\nPlasma frequency  
\n $\omega_p^2 = \frac{n e^2}{\epsilon_0 m}$ Collective behavior!!

#### **Relativistic Electron Electrostatic Plasma Wave**

$$
\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{n_0 e^2}{m_e \varepsilon_0}}
$$

Plasma angular frequency/regular frequency  $f_p$ 

$$
=\frac{\omega_p}{2\pi}\approx 9\sqrt{n_0}
$$

- The oscillations lead to local compression (bunching) and rarefaction in the electron density
	- Electron oscillations are fast, ions are regarded as stationary



- The disturbance does not propagate as a wave
	- Plasma oscillation is purely an electrostatic oscillation

# **Acceleration in Plasma Waves**

- When electrons are disturbed by a suitable phase relation, their oscillations consist  $\bullet$ of a traveling wave whose  $v_p$  can range from a few times the electron thermal velocity to infinity
- The basic equation for waves propagation in the cold plasmas is the Klein-Gordon  $\bullet$ equation:

$$
\overrightarrow{\nabla} \times (\overrightarrow{\nabla} \times \overrightarrow{E}) + \frac{1}{c^2} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \overrightarrow{E}}{\partial t^2} + \omega_p^2 \overrightarrow{E} \right] = 0
$$

**Plane wave solution** 

 $\overrightarrow{E} = \overrightarrow{E}_0 e^{i(\overrightarrow{k} \cdot \overrightarrow{r} - \omega t)}$ 

 $\vec{k}$  = wave vector

$$
\frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial t}}{\overrightarrow{v} \equiv i\overrightarrow{k}} \qquad \qquad \overrightarrow{q} \times (i\overrightarrow{k} \times \overrightarrow{E}) + \frac{1}{c^2}(-\omega^2 + \omega_p^2)\overrightarrow{E} = 0 \qquad \qquad \text{New Klein-}
$$

If  $E$  and  $k$  are in the same direction  $\Rightarrow$  longitudinal wave with

 $\omega = \omega_p$ 

# **Cold Wavebreaking Field**



**Characteristic scale length** 

of the accelerating field, i.e. the plasma wake, is the plasma wavelength **λ<sup>p</sup>**

$$
\lambda_p[\mu m] \approx \frac{3.3 \cdot 10^{10}}{\sqrt{n_0 [cm^{-3}]}}
$$

- The **ionized plasma can sustain** accelerating gradient 2-3 orders of magnitude larger than in conventional RF-based accelerators
- Maximum accelerating field a plasma can sustain: **Cold wave breaking field**

$$
E_{Max}[V/m] = \frac{m_e c \omega_p}{e} \approx 100 \sqrt{n_0 [cm^{-3}]} \qquad \qquad n_0 = 10^{16} \div 10^{18} cm^{-3}
$$

# **Plasma Definition**

- A partially or completely ionized gas, globally neutral, is a plasma if it exhibits a **collective behavior** 
	- Coulomb shielding
		- Dimensions >> Debye length
	- Plasma Oscillations
		- Temporal response  $> \infty$ <sub>p</sub><sup>-1</sup>

$$
\lambda_D = \sqrt{\frac{kT\varepsilon_0}{ne^2}}
$$

$$
\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{ne^2}{m \varepsilon_0}}
$$

• The large electric fields a plasma can sustain are supported by collective motion of plasma electrons, forming a **space charge disturbance** moving at a speed slightly smaller than *c* 

## **Collective Fields to Accelerate Charged Particles**

#### *First Ideas*

- 1956, G I Budker and V I Veksler of the (then) USSR (Budker G I 1986 Proc. CERN Symp. on High Energy Accelerators vol 1 (Geneva: CERN) pp 68–80)
	- Use of the fields generated in a plasma by the passage of a medium-energy electron beam to accelerate ions to high energy
- Toshi Tajima and John Dawson of UCLA (Phys. Rev. Lett. 43 267 (1979))
	- Use of a relativistically propagating disturbance or a wake created in a plasma by the passage of a short laser pulse to accelerate electrons to ultrahigh energies in a short distance Short laser pulse  $\mathbf{a}$

**Laser Wakefield Accelerator** 



- Pisin Chen at al., (Phys. Rev. Lett. 54 693 (1985))
	- instead of a laser pulse, one can use a high-current bunch of electrons to generate very high electric fields in a plasma that can be used to accelerate particles extremely rapidly **Plasma Wakefield Accelerator**

The plasmas does not only provide high acceleration gradients, ~GV/m, but they also serve to focus accelerated beam to micrometer scale spot size



# **Basic Assumptions**

- Upstream from the laser or beam driver, each fluid can be treated as at rest or cold
- For **underdense plasmas**, the phase velocity of the excited wakefields is roughly the speed of light, *c*
	- Compared with this speed, all the initial thermal velocities of plasma particles can be treated as zero
- Wavelike assumption
	- Fields in the wake depend on the variable *ct−z*, where the phase velocity of the wave is essentially *c*
- Quasi-static approximation
	- The driver evolves on a time scale much longer than the plasma response
		- **the driver can be consider as non-evolving when calculating the plasma response**. Therefore, the wake depends weakly on the distance the driver has moved into the plasma

# **Plasma States**

#### *In Nature and in Laboratory*



# **Plasma States**

#### *In Nature and in Laboratory*



# **Plasma Source**

## *Gas-filled capillary*



# **Response of a homogeneous plasma to a high frequency field**

• Let's consider a charge *q* in an oscillating electric field with a non-uniform envelope

 $\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = \vec{E}_s(\vec{r},t)\cos{(\omega t)}$ Laser Field (LWFA)

- 1. Slowly varying envelope approximation (**SVEA**):
- **2. Non relativistic** equation of motion

$$
\vec{v} \times \vec{B}(\vec{r},t) \ll \vec{E}(\vec{r},t)
$$

but not negligible (**II order theory**)

 $\vec{E}_s(\vec{r},t) \approx \vec{E}_s(\vec{r})$ 

 $m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = q\left[\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}(\vec{r},t)\right]$ 

3. Position of q = "slow" drift + "fast" oscillation

$$
\vec{r}(t) = \vec{r}_0(t) + \vec{r}_1(t) \ll \vec{r}_0(t) \qquad |\vec{v}_0| \ll |\vec{v}_1|
$$

$$
\left| \frac{d\vec{v}_0}{dt} \right| \ll \left| \frac{d\vec{v}_1}{dt} \right|
$$

 $\delta$ 

# **Fast Oscillations of Electrons**

 $\vec{r}_0(t)$ • Let's first neglect the **B** field and Taylor expand the **E** field around

 $m\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = m\frac{d\vec{v}_0}{dt} + m\frac{d\vec{v}_1}{dt} = q\left[\vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) + (\delta\vec{r}_1 \cdot \nabla)\vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0)\right]\cos{(\omega t)}$  $\text{Hyp.} \quad \text{III} \quad \longrightarrow \quad m \frac{d\vec{v}_1}{dt} \approx q \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cos(\omega t)$  $\vec{v}_1 = \frac{q}{m\omega}\vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0)\sin{(\omega t)}$  $\delta \vec{r}_1 = -\frac{q}{mc^2} \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cos{(\omega t)}$ 

From III Maxwell equation:  
\n
$$
\nabla \times \vec{E} = \left[ \nabla \times \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \right] \cos (\omega t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \qquad \vec{B}(\vec{r}_0, t) = -\frac{1}{\omega} \left[ \nabla \times \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \right] \sin (\omega t)
$$
\nThe particle motion equation can be written as  
\n
$$
m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = q \left[ \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) \right]
$$
\n
$$
m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = m \frac{d\vec{v}_0}{dt} + m \frac{d\vec{v}_1}{dt} = q \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cos (\omega t) + \left[ \frac{-q^2}{m\omega^2} \left( \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cdot \nabla \right) \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cos (\omega t) \right]
$$
\n
$$
- \frac{-q^2}{m\omega^2} \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \times \left( \nabla \times \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \right) \sin (\omega t)^2 \right]
$$
\n
$$
m \frac{d\vec{v}_0}{dt} = \frac{-q^2}{m\omega^2} \left[ \left( \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cdot \nabla \right) \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cos (\omega t)^2 + \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \times \left( \nabla \times \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \right) \sin (\omega t)^2 \right]
$$

**Ponderomotive Force**

\n
$$
\left\langle m \frac{d\vec{v}_0}{dt} \right\rangle_T = \frac{-q^2}{2m\omega^2} \left[ \left( \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \cdot \nabla \right) \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) + \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \times \left( \nabla \times \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0) \right) \right]
$$
\n
$$
\frac{1}{2} \nabla \left[ E_s(\vec{r}_0)^2 \right]
$$
\n
$$
\left\langle m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} \right\rangle_T = \left\langle m \frac{d\vec{v}_0}{dt} \right\rangle_T = \frac{-q^2}{4m\omega^2} \nabla \left[ \vec{E}_s(\vec{r}_0)^2 \right]
$$
\nPonderomotive force

\nPonderomotive force

\n
$$
n \frac{-q^2}{4m\omega^2 \epsilon_0} \nabla \left[ \epsilon_0 E_s(\vec{r}_0)^2 \right] = -\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \nabla \left[ \frac{\langle \epsilon_0 E^2 \rangle}{2} \right]
$$
\nFrom  $\alpha \propto -q^2 \frac{\nabla(\text{wave intensity})}{m} = -q^2 \frac{\nabla I}{m}$ 

\nProof

\n
$$
F_{\text{pond}} \propto -q^2 \frac{\nabla(\text{wave intensity})}{m} = -q^2 \frac{\nabla I}{m}
$$
\n
$$
F_{\text{pond}} \propto \frac{\nabla I}{\nabla I}
$$

# **Acceleration Mechanism**



- The driver, creating the bubble, can be either a  $\frac{d^2\phi}{dt^2}$ 
	- dense relativistic particle beam (PWFA) of subps duration and kA level peak current
	- ultra-intense laser pulse (LWFA),  $\sim$ 10<sup>18</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>,  $\sigma_{\rm g}^{\rm b}$ of few 10s fs duration
- The witness can be either self-injected or  $\frac{1}{2}$ externally injected
- Rapid acceleration of injected electrons to ultra-relativistic energies, inside the micrometer-sized structured plasma environment
	- \* the trapped electron beam remains short, dense, and free of significant space-charge driven emittance degradation

# **The Dawn of Compact Accelerators**

## *September 2004*

#### **Monoenergetic beams of relativistic** electrons from intense laser-plasma **interactions**

S. P. D. Mangles<sup>1</sup>, C. D. Murphy<sup>1,2</sup>, Z. Najmudin<sup>1</sup>, A. G. R. Thomas<sup>1</sup>, J. L. Collier<sup>2</sup>, A. E. Dangor<sup>1</sup>, E. J. Divall<sup>2</sup>, P. S. Foster<sup>2</sup>, J. G. Gallacher<sup>3</sup>, C. J. Hooker<sup>2</sup>, D. A. Jaroszynski<sup>3</sup>, A. J. Langley<sup>2</sup>, W. B. Mori<sup>4</sup>, **P. A. Norreys<sup>2</sup>, F. S. Tsung<sup>4</sup>, R. Viskup<sup>3</sup>, B. R. Walton<sup>1</sup> & K. Krushelnick<sup>1</sup>** 

#### **High-quality electron beams from a** laser wakefield accelerator using plasma-channel guiding

C. G. R. Geddes<sup>1,2</sup>, Cs. Toth<sup>1</sup>, J. van Tilborg<sup>1,3</sup>, E. Esarey<sup>1</sup>, C. B. Schroeder<sup>1</sup>, D. Bruhwiler<sup>4</sup>, C. Nieter<sup>4</sup>, J. Cary<sup>4,5</sup> & W. P. Leemans<sup>1</sup>

#### A laser-plasma accelerator producing monoenergetic electron beams

J. Faure<sup>1</sup>, Y. Glinec<sup>1</sup>, A. Pukhov<sup>2</sup>, S. Kiselev<sup>2</sup>, S. Gordienko<sup>2</sup>, E. Lefebvre<sup>3</sup>, **J.-P. Rousseau<sup>1</sup>, F. Burgy<sup>1</sup> & V. Malka<sup>1</sup>** 

#### 30 September 2004 International weekly journal of science naure

## **Dream beam**

The dawn of compact particle accelerators

**Offshore** tuna ranches A threat to US waters?

**The Earth's hum** Sounds of air and sea

technology feature RNA interference

**Protein folding Escape** from the ribosome

**Human ancestry** One from all and all from one

# **The Dawn of Compact Accelerators**

**Acceleration** 

## *September 2004*

# **Monoenergetic beams of relativistic<br>electrons from intense laser-plasma<br>interactions<br>interactions**<br> $\begin{array}{l}\n\text{S.} \text{P. D. Mampb}^{\text{S.}}\n\end{array}$ <br>  $\begin{array}{l}\n\text{S. A. J. K. D. M. D.} \text{A. J. K. D.} \text{A. J. L. D.} \text{A. J. L. D.} \end{array}$ <br>  $\begin{array}{l}\$ **interactions**

C. G. R. Geddes $^{1,2}$ , ( D. Bruhwiler<sup>4</sup>, C. N.

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ekly journal of science

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## **Particle-driven Plasma Wakefield Acceleration**

#### *Single bunch*

- The high-gradient wakefield is driven by an intense, high-energy charged particle beam as it passes through the plasma.
- The space-charge of the electron bunch blows out plasma electrons which rush back in and overshoot setting up a plasma oscillation



- First demonstration of the excitation of a wakefield by a relativistic beam in the linear regime, i.e. beam density typically less than the plasma density => J. Rosenzweig et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 61, 98 (**1988**)
- Peak acceleration gradient ~ 1.6 MeV/m, but the experiment clearly showed the wakefield persisting for several plasma wavelengths

# **PWFA: Energy doubling in a meter scale**





- Gaussian electron beam with 42 GeV, 3nC @ 10 Hz,  $sx = 10 \mu m$ , 50 fs
- 85cm Lithium vapour source, 2.7x10<sup>17</sup>cm<sup>-3</sup>
	- Accelerated electrons **from 42 GeV to 85 GeV in 85 cm**

#### Reached **accelerating gradient of 52 GeV/m**

- Energy gain of the 3 km-long SLAC linac
- **Single bunch** 
	- **∆E/E** >> 1%

# **Two-bunch Train PWFA**



- Bunch length of tens of fs down to **fs scale** 
	- A second, appropriately phased accelerating beam (**witness beam**), containing fewer particles than the **drive beam**, is then accelerated by the wake
		- Bunch train (D+W) for bunch acceleration (**∆E/E<<1**)  $\triangleright$

# **PWFA: High-efficiency acceleration**



# **Limitation of PWFA**

#### *Energy gain*

- **PWFA** acting as an **energy transformer** has the great potential to double beam energy in a single stage
- The energy transfer from the drive bunch to the plasma is optimized by maximizing the transformer ratio

$$
R=\frac{|E_{+,max}|}{|E_{-,max}|}
$$

#### **Wakefield theorem\***

Symmetric drive bunch current profile in a singlemode structure: the maximum accelerating field behind the drive bunch cannot exceed 2 times the maximum decelerating field amplitude along the drive bunch

\*V. V. Tsakanov, Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res., Sect. A 432, 202 (1999)



F. Massimo et al., NIM A 740, 242-245 (2014)

# **Limitation of PWFA**

## *Energy gain*

The transformer ratio critically depends on the bunch shape and on the density ratio



# **Enhancing Transformer Ratio**

• By properly **tailoring the driver bunch shape**, the witness beam energy might be more than doubled when

The maximum possible transformer ratio for a bunch with given length and total *charge corresponds to that charge distribution which causes all particles in the bunch to see the same retarding field\** 

- Tailoring longitudinal current profile such that all longitudinal slices lose energy at the same rate
	- **Asymmetric drive bunch current profile**, i.e. triangular, double triangle, doorstep-like distributions, or **multiple ramped bunch trains**, overcome this limit (R.Ruth et al., PA 1985; W. Lu et al.,PAC 2009)



\*K. Bane, P. Chen, and P. B. Wilson, *SLAC-PUB-3662*,1985

# **PWFA: High-efficiency acceleration**



# **Resonant PWFA**

*Multi-bunch shaping*

**Driver**  $\Delta z = \lambda_p$ Witness  $\Delta z' \approx \frac{\lambda_p}{2}$ 



• Bunch spacing depends on the plasma density

**Scale length of the plasma wake**

\n
$$
\lambda_p[\mu m] \approx \frac{3.3 \cdot 10^{10}}{\sqrt{n_0 [cm^{-3}]}}
$$
\n**Acceleration gradient**

\n
$$
E_z \propto \left(\frac{N}{\sigma_z}\right)^2 N_T \ge G V/m
$$
\nIncrease in energy of a trailing particle

\n
$$
\Delta p_{\text{mec}^2 \sim eE + \text{maxLd} = R \gamma \text{bmec}^2}
$$

- Preservation of witness emittance and length
- Better control of the energy spread

# From Linear Regime: nb<<no

#### *Focusing force is sinusoidal*





- Lower wakefields
- Transverse forces not linear in *r*  $\overline{a}$
- Symmetric for positive and negative  $\blacksquare$ witness bunches
- Well described by theory $\blacksquare$

# **to Quasi-Linear and Non-Linear Regime**

#### *The wake structure depends on the driver pulse «intensity»*





- Higher wakefields  $\blacksquare$
- transverse forces linear in r (emittance preservation)
- High charge witness acceleration possible
- Requires more intense drivers  $\overline{a}$
- Not ideal for positron acceleration $\Box$

# **Quasi-non Linear Regime**

- Condition for blow-out
- $n_b$  $n_{n}$  $> 1$
- Bubble formation w/o wavebreaking,  $\lambda_p$  is constant
	- Resonant scheme in blowout
- Linear focusing force => emittance preservation
- A measure of non-linearity is the normalised charge

$$
\tilde{Q} \equiv \frac{N_b k_p^3}{n_p} = 4\pi k_p r_e N_b
$$



**<<1 linear regime >1 blowout regime**

• Using low emittance, high brightness beams

$$
Q < 1 \text{ and } \frac{n_b}{n_p} > 1
$$

• **Quasi-non Linear Regime**

$$
n_p = 10^{16} \text{cm}^{-3}
$$
,  $Q_b = 200 \text{pC}$ ,  $\sigma_t = 180 \text{fs}$ ,  $\sigma_x = 5.5 \text{µm} = \text{Sn}_b \approx 5 \text{n}_p$  and  $\mathbf{Q} \approx \mathbf{0.8}$ 





# **Towards the Applications**

- Extraction from plasma accelerating module
	- plasma fields stronger than in conventional accelerators

$$
G(MT/m) = \frac{F_r}{ecr} \approx 3n(10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3})
$$

• beams experience huge transverse size variation when propagating from the plasma outer surface to the conventional focusing optics

$$
\sigma_x \sim \mu m \qquad \qquad \sigma_{x'} \sim mrad
$$

- the particle transverse motion becomes extremely sensitive to energy spread
	- the beam angular divergence has to be reduced and the transverse spot size increased to limit the chromatic induced emittance degradation in vacuum

$$
\varepsilon_n^2 = <\gamma>^2(\sigma_E^2\sigma_x^2\sigma_{x'}^2+\varepsilon^2)\approx <\gamma>^2(\sigma_E^2\sigma_{x'}^4s^2+\varepsilon^2)
$$

*M. Migliorati et al., PRST AB 16, 011302 (2013)*

# **Active Plasma Lenses**

THE REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1950

#### A Focusing Device for the External 350-Mev Proton Beam of the

#### 184-Inch Cyclotron at Berkeley

W. K. H. PANOFSKY AND W. R. BAKER Department of Physics, Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California (Received January 11, 1950)

A device has been constructed to focus the external beam of the 184-in. cyclotron at Berkeley. The device consists of a cylindrical tube 4 ft. in length and 3 in. in diameter, which contains a longitudinal arc of nearly uniform current density. Such a device will focus any beam of cylindrical symmetry. Owing to the large power requirements of such a device it is applicable only to very short pulsed beams.

• Discharge current in gas-filled capillary

$$
B_{\phi}(r) = \frac{\mu_0}{r} \int_0^r J(r')r' dr'
$$

- Cylindrical symmetry
	- purely radial focusing effect
- **Tunability**
- Focusing strength *k*∝*γ -1*
- High focusing gradient  $\sim kT/m$ 
	- short focal length
	- weak chromaticity





# **Active Plasma Lens**

#### *Measurements at SPARC\_LAB*



# **Plasma lens vs conventional focusing**

Single Quadrupole Magnet



#### Single Plasma Lens









# **Extraction Beamline**

## *EuPRAXIA@SPARC\_LAB Case*



The witness is preserved in charge and quality and the driver is almost completely removed



# **Plasma Wigglers**

#### *Betatron radiation based radiator*



Can reach up to 100 MeV with dense plasma.

Plasma wigglers can give magnet field equivalent  $B<sub>u</sub>$ >100 T with sub-cm wavelength

# **Conclusions**

- Plasma-based acceleration techniques have demonstrated accelerating gradients up to 3 orders of magnitudes beyond presently used RF technologies
- Plasma-based acceleration techniques have provided solid feasibility proofs of FEL lasing paving the way to applications
- Successful efforts on improving beam quality
- R&D on **beam stability, staging and continuous operation**, as necessary steps towards the realization of compact plasma-based accelerator facilities
	- Challenges in high repetition rate
- Plasma-based, ultra-high gradient accelerators therefore open the realistic vision of very compact accelerators for scientific, commercial and medical applications