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High Repetition rate Plasma sources

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In view of the realization of the EuPRAXIA@SPARC LAB facility, designed to operate a plasma-driven FEL source at 100-400 Hz, the capability of plasma sources to operate at high repetition rates plays a key role. Concerning gas-filled plasma discharge capillaries, which allow direct control over plasma properties, a crucial aspect is related to the longevity of the material, exposed to the heat flux delivered by high voltage plasma discharges. In this regard, the innovative design of gas-filled discharge capillaries, based on the use of ceramic materials, represents a reliable solution in terms of high temperature resistance and cost-effectiveness. In addition, a suitable option for high repetition rate plasma sources is given by laser-induced plasma filaments, which can sustain high repetition rate operation without material overheating, due to the low thermal load delivered onto the capillary walls by few-mJ femtosecond laser pulses. Furthermore, plasma filaments are characterized by high stability and tunable parameters, such as filament length and density, thus meeting the requirements outlined in the EuPRAXIA scientific case.

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