An Overview: Reference Distribution and Synchronization Systems,

from Sub-picoseconds to Sub-femtoseconds Stability.

Marie Kristin Czwalinna, Sebastian Schulz, Holger Schlarb On behalf of : group for accelerator beam controls (DESY, MSK)





HELMHOLTZ

Agenda

1 Motivation

User Requirements

2 Introduction

- Sources of Jitter & Drift
- **3** Synchronization Schemes

4 Hybrid Systems

- Details about Pulsed Optical Synchronization
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- **6 Data Driven Approach**
- 7 Conclusion

Motivation

Motivation

X-ray/Optical Pump-Probe Experiments with Femtosecond Temporal Resolution



But, if post-sorting of data no option:

\rightarrow Level of synchronization limiting factor

(experiments with low interaction rates / small cross-sections / averaging detectors)

Pump-probe experiment, With 2 or more disjunct sources

Limitations for achievable resolution:

$$\tau_{resolution} = \sqrt{(\tau_{XUV}^2 + \tau_{Laser}^2 + \sigma_{jitter}^2)}$$

Data post-sorting with timing information:



Achieving few-femtosecond time-sorting at hard X-ray free-electron lasers

M. Harmand¹¹*, R. Coffee², M. R. Bionta^{2,3}, M. Chollet², D. French², D. Zhu², D. M. Fritz², H. T. Lemke², N. Medvedev⁴, B. Ziaja^{4,5}, S. Toleikis¹ and M. Cammarata^{6*}

Recently, few-femtosecond pulses have become available at hard X-ray free-electron lasers. Coupled with the available sub-10 fs optical pulses, investigations into few-femtosecond dynamics are not far off. However, achieving sufficient synchroization between optical lasers and X-ray pulses continues to be challenging. We report a 'measure-and-sort' approach, which achieves sub-10 fs root-mean-squared (r.m.s.) error measurement at hard X-ray FELs, far beyond the 100-200 fs r.m.s. jitter s. This timing diagnostic, now routinely available at the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), is based on ultrafast generation in optically transparent materials. tween two inde nents enables s demonstration of ${\sim}6$ fs r.m.s. error in reporting the optical/X-ray delay, with single shot error suggesting the possibility of reaching few-femtosecond resolution. The advent of femtosecond lasers has opened the way to study the

 hard X-ray FEL facilities (wavelength-specific⁸ or impractical for long facilities^{9,10}) or require specific installations for a terahertz beamline¹¹, which introduces significant complexity and cost.

Induced ultrafast optical switching of bulk refractive indices is a common cross-correlation technique¹²⁻¹⁴ that has been recently extended to VUV or soft X-ray FEL pulse excitation^{16,11-17}. Absorption of a fraction of the X-ray beam intensity can produce a rapid change in the free carrier density by photoionization and subsequent cascade ionization^{19,11}. This technique, pioneered at the FEL in Hamburg (FLASH)^{16,31} and further developed at the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) at the National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC)^{31,01,72}, has been demonstrated for soft X-rays where the short penetration depth (~2008 of nanometres) ensures the creation of a high density of free carriers. For hard X-rays, this density will be one to two orders of magnitude lower.

The advent of femtosecond lasers has opened the way to study the dynamics of matter with high time resolution (tens of femtosecalls) Utility of the study in the study of th

Timing Jitter and Drift Considerations

Overview.

- time and length scales
- duration

- short range 10 µs ... 1 ms
- mid range 1 ms ... 10 s
- long range 10 s ... days



- power supplies, EMI, electronics, materials properties
- **s** acoustics, seismic activities, air/water flow, fans, ...
 - thermal effects, humidity, air pressure, ...



Introduction

Sources of Timing Jitter from Distribution system

In Straight Sections of the Accelerator:



Sources of Timing Jitter: Beam

Electron Bunch Acceleration and Compression

RF acc. fields defines arrival a)



RF acc. fields large impact on longitudinal phase space b)



Conclusions

Use multiple compressors

Compression factor C:

- **RF field control is critical** •
- **RF** reference vs. PP-laser closely locked

Sources of Timing Jitter and Drift: Laser Systems and Beam Delivery

Example: Pump-Probe Laser System at SA1 Beamlines at EuXFEL

- common seeder & FE
- 20 Hz operation
- two separate NOPAs
 - SPB/SFX and FXE
- 800 nm / 15 fs
- 1030 nm / sub-ps
- different pulse patterns

Set point	Repetition rate (MHz)	E1030 nm (mJ)	NOPA stages	E800 nm (mJ)
1	4.5	1	I+II	0.05
2	1.13	4	I+II	0.3
3	0.188	21	I+II+III	1.5
4	0.1	40	I+II+III	2.5



Influence of Air Condition on Laser Pulse Propagation Time

Ciddor's Equation - Around Nominal Parameters of 1550 nm, 45% RH, 101.325 kPa, 450 ppm

•	temperature	3.1 fs/m/K		●●● E ~ < > ③ 锁 E ≜ emtoolbox.nist.gov/Wav ௸ ♂ A A Ů + △ ℃		
•	relative humidity	0.04 fs/%/m				
•	air pressure	-0.9 fs/mbar/m			Е	NGINEERING METROLOGY TOOLBOX
•	CO ₂ concentration	−0.5 as/ppm/m		Refractive Index of Air Calculator Based on Ciddor Equation		
	1566 APPLIED OPTICS / Vol. 35, No. 9 / 20 March 1996 Refractive index of air: new equations for the visible and near infrared Philip E. Ciddor			Refractive Index of Air Calculator is a web-based tool for calculating the index of refraction of air and wavelength of light in air as a function of various input parameters, using the Ciddor Equation or a modified version of the Edlén Equation.		
				Index of Refraction of Air Jack A. Stone and Jay H. Zimmerman Vacuum Wavelength and Ambient Conditions Based on Ciddor Equation		
	The precision of modern length	The precision of modern length interferometry and geodetic surveying far exceeds the accuracy, which is				
	ultimately limited by the ina atmosphere. I have criticall International Bureau of Weigh	uacy of currently used equations for the refractive index of the viewed recent research at the National Physical Laboratory, the nd Measures, and elsewhere that has led to revised formulas and data	Input	Amount		
	for the dispersion and density of the major components of the atmosphere. I have combined se formulas from these sources to yield a set of equations that match recently reported measurement with the there is a set of the		bined selected surements to	Vacuum Wavelength:	1550	Nanometers [nm] (300 to 1700)
	within the experimental error, parameters and wavelength. <i>Key words:</i> Refractive int	r, and that are expected to be reliable over very wide ranges of atmospheric ndex, atmospheric optics, geodesy, metrology, interferometry. © 1996	Air Temperature:	23.5	Degrees Celsius (-40 to 100)	
	Optical Society of America		Atmospheric Pressure:	101.325	Kilopascals [kPa] (10 to 140)	
				Carbon Dioxide Content:	45	Micromole per Mole (parts per million, ppm) (0 to 2000)
	1. Introduction An accurate knowledge of the refractive index of a is essential to precise length interferometry or ge detic surveying. Where overall uncertainties of a proximately 1 part in 10^7 are sought, the refractive index should be known to a few perter in 10^8	research. Some of these new results incorporated in a recent revision by Birch a (corrected in Ref. 4), with greatly improved data at a wavelength of 633 nm. How study was restricted to conditions likely to controlled laboratory. The Intermational	have been ind Downs ³ d fits to the vever, this o occur in a d Associa-		C	alculate Wavelength in Ambient Air and Refractive Index of Air Reset

Synchronization Techniques

Different Synchronization Techniques

RF Distribution - active or passive





Jitter

Short range = 1us...1ms PS, EMI, Material Properties, Electronic Noise...

Mid range = 1ms...10s Acoustic, Seismic, Air flow, Water flow, ..

Drift

Long range = 10s ... days Temperature, Rel. Humidity, Air Pressure, ... →For Details Basics of RF Reference Signal Generation and Synchronization Systems

📰 30 Oct 2024, 17:00

Krzysztof Czuba (Warsaw University of Technology)

Different Synchronization Techniques

Continuous Wave (CW) Optical Distribution / RF-over-Fiber

- Transmits Amplitude (AM) or frequency (FM) modulated signals
 - Relatively low costs while still reaching ~10 fs sync. level
 - Mitigation to <1 ps drift over days, requires more complex design
 - Phase-detectors may suffer from AM-to-PM detection errors



RF-Distribution \rightarrow **CW** optical Links

Phase drift correction by the reflectometry technique :







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Different Synchronization Techniques

Pulsed Optical System – Versatile Client Systems



Jitter

Short range = 1us...1ms PS, EMI, Material Properties, Electronic Noise...

Mid range = 1ms...10s Acoustic, Seismic, Air flow, Water flow, ..

Drift

Long range = 10s ... days Temperature, Rel. Humidity, Air Pressure, ...

- Uses Mode-locked laser oscillators, ultra-short pulses (~100 fs FWHM, ~pJ...nJ pulse energy)
 - typically require highest investment costs (infrastructure, components)
 - → allows for all-optical non-linear mixing techniques: high resolution (10..100 as) immune to AM-to-PM errors
 - \rightarrow Delivers precise time markers for arrival time monitors
 - → Laser-to-RF direct conversion + selecting of harmonics suited for heterodyne mixing techniques



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Courtesy: H.Schlarb

Hybrid Approaches: SwissFEL

Pulsed Optical Synchronisation + RF-over-Fibre Links



cw fibre links

- collaboration with I-Tech
- transmitter/receiver units
- amplitude modulation (AM)
- two optical fibres per link
 - active drift stabilisation
 - "low jitter link"
- at Rx side, both signals are demodulated to RF
- 40 fs peak-to-peak (24 h)
- sub-10 fs rms [10 Hz, 10 MHz]

P. Orel et al., in Proc. NA-PAC2013, pp. 1358-1360 S. Hunziker et al., in Proc. IBIC2014, pp. 29-33

Hybrid Approaches: PAL-XFEL

RF Distribution (Temperature Stabilised) + Beam-based FB (X-ray Photon Pulse Arrival-ime Monitor)



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PID

50

100

XFEL

Hybrid Approach: EuXFEL

RF Backbone (Re-Sync'ed to Optical Source) + Pulsed Optical Links.





State-of-the-Art Building Blocks







Reference Sources

Ultra-Low Absolute Phase Noise.



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Courtesy: F.Ludwig, H. Pryschelski, T. Lamb Page 20



Detection & Feedback

objective

 minimise phase error between controlled oscillator and reference oscillator ("synchronisation")

how

1. Detection

 $\mathsf{RF} \leftarrow \rightarrow \mathsf{RF}$ or, $\mathsf{RF} \leftarrow \rightarrow$ optical or, optical $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ optical

2. Feedback

via phase control of tuneable oscillator, usually PI sufficient







$$u(t) = K_P e(t) + K_I \int_0^t e(\tau) d\tau \qquad C(s) = K_P + \frac{K_I}{s}$$

Low 1/f-noise RF-Oscillator
Low noise optical reference
Noise modelling, optimal BWs

MZM-based, Balanced Laser to RF Phase Detector



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Courtesy: T. Lamb Page 22

REFM-OPT \rightarrow **Re-Synchronize 1.3GHz RF** to **MLO**

Local Drift Compensation of RF Input to LLRF Systems.





Arrival-time Monitoring & Active Feedbacks

Electro-optical Bunch-Arrival-time Monitors

Few femtoseconds single-shot resolution.



New record stability @European XFEL



Intra-train arrival-time feeback = L-IBFB with <4fs rms residual jitter.



Laser Pulse Arrival Time Monitor

Two-Colour Balanced Optical Cross-Correlator

- foundation: established monolithic platform
 - all-optical scheme, very high sensitivity
 - balanced collinear nonlinear cross-correlation



- can include 5 ns user experiment delay control
- adaptable to different laser parameters ... real.,.



Advanced Laser Pulse Arrival Time Measurements

One Challenge: Covering a Huge Spectral Range for User Experiments

/ fundamentals: 800 nm and 1030 nm

- SHG, THG, FHG: 400 nm, 266 nm, 515 nm, 343 nm, 258 nm
- NOPA, SFG, DFG, e.g. with Topas:



• signal separation (dichroic mirrors), GDD?

→ non-collinear phase matching to the rescue?! would allow for automated crystal tilting WL tuning





Evaluation of the Synchronization Performance

- Residual noise of optical links
- Correlation FEL $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ Electron Bunch
- Laser Pulse Drift Compensation

Short-term Stability → Jitter Performance



Long-Term Effects: Timing Drift vs. Environmental Parameters

Most Prominent -And Uncontrollable- Effect: Air Pressure



Photon Arrival-times vs. Electron Bunch Arrival-times



Courtesy : Jia Liu, XFEL (XPD) Page 33

Drift Correction in Laser Beam Delivery for Experiments



Laser Arrival-time Monitor Feedback



External Disturbances, → Seismic Influence

Long-haul Effects from P and S Waves

Body Waves Inside the Earth

P or compressional wave

• velocity typically 6 km/s

S or shear wave

- velocity ~**3.4 km/s** close to surface
- no propagation through liquid material





https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/events/1906calif/18april/earthwaves.php

L or Love wave, R or Rayleigh wave

European XFEL Building Overview

Tunnels, Halls, Shaft Buildings



Building structure

Halls, shaft building connected with tunnels (buffer zones included)

Optical fiber installation

- horizontally in ducts (XTL) and on trays (XTDs)
- vertically on trays in shaft buildings
- within rigid protective tubing

Atlantic & North Sea Ocean Waves Detected on Long-haul Fiber Links

3.5 km-long with typical noise increase at 0.2Hz.



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Courtesy: M. Schuette Page 38

Cross-Check in Main Synchronisation Lab to Rule out Other Causes

2.0 km Mechanically Decoupled Fiber Spool Link Verifies : 0.2Hz noise is dependent on Elongation.



Ocean Waves Appearing in Beam-based Measurements

Relative Arrival-times Revealed Periodic Disturbance with ~ 0.2Hz.



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Measurable Effect @EuXFEL from Micro-seismics 100..400mHz

Ocean Waves, Verified by Distributed Accousted Sensing (iDAS).



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See http://wave-hamburg.eu Page 41

Exceptional Events: Earth Quakes

Fibre Link Stabilisation (Partly Failing)







Micro-Seismics, Long-term Effects (~ mHz)

Earth & Ocean Tide \rightarrow 100..300fs T0 Timing Drift \rightarrow Possibility of Drift Suppression Demonstrated



Data-driven Approach → Fault Detection, Controller Optimisation, ...

Data Acquisition and Storage

Dedicated DAQ System for the Laser-Based Synchronisation System

- deep integration into the control system
- foundation of ML applications



- data sources ~47k control system channels
 - controller I/O of all feedback systems
 - configuration
 - environment (*T*, relative humidity, air pressure)
- dCache volume ~250 TB since 2021
 - 10 Hz acquisition rate
 - daily 10-second long snapshots of "fast" data



Data-Driven Condition Monitoring

The Bathtub Curve - Failure Rates Over the Lifetime of a System





Typical Life-time of a System

- a) infant mortality phase
 - manufacturing defects, installation issues
- b) stable life phase
 - low and stable failure rate, random/unexpected failures due to sudden, not age-related events

c) wear-out phase

• aging effects, components wearing out

Goals

Enhance reliability

- early fault detection,
- consistent performance,
- extended lifespan

Ensure availability

- minimisation of unplanned downtime,
- avoidance of unnecessary maintenance activities

Example: Main Laser Oscillator PLL Signal

Project : Fault Analysis & Classification of States



- difference w.r.t. ground truth
- ground truth / healthy state
 - defined by operator
- problem: external influence
 - metadata capturing
- work in progress



Summary & Outlook

Conclusion 1

Goal of ~1 fs stability [mHz...MHz] facility-wide is feasible, but controlling drifts is challenging !



		Achieved :
•	Laser-based Phase detectors	< 100 as
•	Stability of optical reference [kHzMHz]	< 700 as
•	Electron beam stabilization [10HzMHz]	< 4 fs
		Observed :
•	Impact of ocean waves (in winter) [~0.2Hz]	~ 2 fs/km
•	Pump-laser system jitter	~ 10-20 fs
•	Earth & Ocean tide effects, [mHz]	~ 150 fs/km

Conclusion 2

Matured Synchronization & FeedbackTechniques → Continuous Effort to Further Improve

Criteria for choice of synchronization system :	novel techniques & approaches :
 Has to match performance demands from users / applications Robustness & reliability of the critical subsystems is a vital Costs for installation, operation and maintenance 	 Data-driven applications & machine learning optimisation of controller design fault diagnosis & prediction
further developments identified,	novel problems and issues :
\rightarrow approaching the few 100 attosecond accuracy regime :	 ocean waves and other seismic activity
 improvements of the MO, ultra-low noise RF field receivers, higher resolution of the bunch arrival time monitors, development of versatile laser pulse arrival time monitors 	 → yet another field of expertise required (geophysics) → communication & knowledge exchange is key

Thank you . Acknowledgements

• <u>WAVE-Hamburg Seismic Network</u> in the Science City Hamburg, Bahrenfeld

- FLASH
 - Operation team, photon instrumentation and laser groups
- European XFEL GmbH,
 - photon diagnostics (XPD), photon instruments (SPB/SFX, SQS/SCS), lasers (LAS)
 - MXL, DESY group for EuXFEL operation





FLASH

Free-Electron Laser FLASH

Contact

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY Czwalinna, Marie Kristin

marie.kristin.czwalinna@desy.de
+49 (0)40 8998 9 2912

www.desy.de