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Plasma-Based Acceleration of Decaying Particles

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Plasma-based accelerators achieve accelerating fields of 10-100 GV/m. While plasma wakefields naturally accelerate electrons due to their near-light-speed motion [1,2], heavier particles like muons [3] and pions, with lifetimes from microseconds to nanoseconds, struggle to be trapped due to velocity mismatch with the wake.

We use spatio-temporal spectral shaping [4,5,6] to control the group velocity of drive pulses, generating subluminal wakes suitable for slower particles. PIC simulations with OSIRIS [7] show non-relativistic particles accelerating to relativistic speeds. By tailoring the plasma density profile, we can extend the dephasing length, which sustains the acceleration process.
This method enables plasma-based acceleration of unstable particles, with applications in cooled muon injection and enhanced muon yield via pion acceleration and decay.

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Primary author: BADIALI, Chiara

Co-authors: MALACA, Bernardo (GoLP/ Instituto Superior Técnico); VIEIRA, Jorge (Instituto Superior Técnico); ALMEIDA, Rafael (GoLP / Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal); FONSECA, Ricardo (Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa); SILVA, Thales (GoLP/Instituto Superior Técnico (Lisbon))

Presenter: BADIALI, Chiara

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