Applications of (Electron) Accelerators



Introduction to Free-Electron Lasers

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Outline of Talk

Introduction: What is a Free-Electron Laser?
How does an FEL work?
Choosing the required parameters
FEL Output Characteristics
FEL vs Conventional Laser
Current Trends

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Some Sources of information

- Brian McNeil Cockcroft Institute lecture notes on FELs: <u>http://www.cockcroft.ac.uk/education/academic0708.html</u>
- ★ J.B. Murphy & C. Pelligrini, "Introduction to the Physics of the Free Electron Laser", Laser Handbook, vol. 6, p 9-69 (1990).
- R. Bonifacio et al, "Physics of the High-Gain Free Electron Laser & Superradiance", Rivista del Nuovo Cimento, Vol. 13, no. 9 p1-69 (1990) [see also Rivista del Nuovo Cimento, Vol. 15, no. 11 p1-52 (1992)]
- ★ The World Wide Web Virtual Library: Free Electron Laser research and applications <u>http://sbfel3.ucsb.edu/www/vl_fel.html</u>
- ★ Saldin E.L., Schneidmiller E.A., Yurkov M.V. The physics of free electron lasers, Springer, Berlin 2000 (Advanced texts in physics, ISSN 1439-2674).
- Charles Brau, Free Electron Lasers (Academic Press, 1990), slightly outdated but good basics
- ★ European XFEL TDR, <u>http://xfel.desy.de/tdr/index_eng.html</u>
- ★ Many other useful sources on web: e.g. <u>www.4gls.ac.uk</u>

What is a Free-Electron Laser ?

A beam of relativistic electrons

co-propagating with an optical field through a spatially periodic magnetic field

- ★ Undulator causes transverse electron oscillations
- Transverse electron velocity couples to E-component (transverse)
 of optical field giving *energy transfer*
- Interaction between electron beam and optical field causes
 microbunching of electron beam on scale of radiation wavelength,
 leading to *coherent emission of radiation*

What is an FEL?

FEL output is radiation that is

- ★ tunable (over a wide range)
- ★ powerful
- ★ coherent

FEL Basic Components



Principle of FEL oscillator

Typical Undulator

FELs can be small



FELIX Facility,

Rijnhuizen, The Netherlands



Or big











Two basic types of FEL:

★ AMPLIFIER (HIGH GAIN) FEL

- ★ Long undulator (no optical cavity *)
- ★ Spontaneous emission from start of undulator interacts with electron beam.
- ★ Interaction between light and electrons grows, producing microbunching
- ★ Increasing intensity gives stronger bunching, yielding stronger emission
- \star >>> High optical intensity achieved in single pass

(SASE)

★ OSCILLATOR (LOW GAIN) FEL

- ★ Short undulator
- ★ Spontaneous emission trapped in an optical cavity
- Trapped light interacts with successive electron bunches leading to microbunching and coherent emission
- ★ >>> High optical intensity achieved over many passes

How does a free-electron laser work?







How does an FEL work?

★ Basic physics: Work = Force x Distance

- ★ Sufficient to understand basic FEL mechanism
- ★ Electric field of light wave produces a force on electron and work is done!

$$\triangle W = -e \int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = -e \int \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E} dt$$

- ★ No undulator = No energy transfer
 - i.e. If electron velocity is entirely longitudinal then v = 0
- ★ Basic mechanism very simple !!

Generation of EM Radiation



non-relativistic charge source

Relativistic Emission

stationary electron



Energy emission confined to directions perpendicular to axis of oscillation

relativistic electron

$$v \sim \leq c \qquad \beta = v/c$$



Most energy confined to the relativistic emission cone

 $|\theta_{\rm r} = \gamma^{-1}$

- 1. Relativistic electrons "see" Lorentz-contracted undulator (by a factor γ). \rightarrow emit radiation due to large transverse oscillations
- Radiation emitted in *rest frame* of electrons.
 Transforming back to *LAB frame upshifts* frequency by *another factor* γ



So emitted wavelength is:

$$\lambda_L = \frac{\lambda_w}{2\gamma^2} \left(1 + \frac{K^2}{2} \right)$$

$$K = \frac{e}{2\pi mc} B_0 \lambda_w$$

magnetic field gives <u>both</u> transverse <u>and</u> longitudinal velocity additions – hence "figure-of-eight"

High K \Rightarrow copious harmonics !

Electron beam from radiofrequency accelerator comes in <u>short bunches</u>

... so must synchronise e-bunches with laser pulses circulating in optical cavity





Schematic diagram of a free-electron laser oscillator operating on the pulsed electron beam from an rf accelerator

FEL wavelength can therefore be varied using 2 parameters: λ_u and γ



How does an FEL work?

★ Basic mechanism described explains energy transfer between SINGLE electron and an optical field.

But in practice need to create the right conditions for :

CONTINUOUS energy transfer

in the **RIGHT DIRECTION**

with a **REAL ELECTRON BEAM**

★ Q. How do we ensure continuous energy transfer over length of undulator ?

★ A. Inject at **RESONANT ENERGY**:

$$\gamma_r = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_w}{2\lambda_L} \left(1 + \frac{K^2}{2}\right)}$$

 λ_w = wiggler(undulator) wavelength λ_L = FEL output wavelength K is pptl to magnetic field strength

- This is the energy at which the electron slips back 1 radiation wavelength per undulator period: relative phase between electron transverse velocity and optical field REMAINS CONSTANT
- ★ Why does it slip back? Because electron longitudinal velocity < c :
 - ★ Electrons not 100% relativistic
 - ★ Path length increased by transverse oscillations (undulations)

How does an FEL work?

- ★ Q. Which way does the energy flow ?
- ★ A. Depends on the electron phase
 - Depending on phase, electron either:
 - loses energy to optical field and decelerates:
 GAIN
 - takes energy from optical field and accelerates: ABSORPTION



★ **Q**. What about the situation with a real e-beam?

★ A. Electrons distributed evenly in phase:

- ★ For every electron with phase corresponding to gain there is another with phase corresponding to absorption
- **★** So at resonant energy Net gain is zero

So is this the end of the story??

No! There is a way to proceed:

- Energy modulation gives bunching.
- At resonant energy, bunching is around phase for zero net gain.
- By giving the electrons a bit of an energy kick we can shift them along in phase a bit and get bunching around a phase corresponding to positive net gain.

How does an FEL work?

★ Bunching



Phase corresponding to GAIN

Phase corresponding to ABSORPTION



E = RESONANT ENERGY Bunching around phase corresponding to ZERO NET GAIN





simulation example

★ Inject 20 electrons at resonance energy: zero detuning



- Bunching around phase correponding to zero gain
- 10 electrons lose energy
- 10 electrons gain energy

simulation example

★ Inject 20 electrons above resonance energy: +ve detuning



- Bunching around
 phase correponding to +ve gain
- 11 electrons lose energy
- 9 electrons gain energy

How does an FEL work?

For GAIN > ABSORPTION inject electrons at energy slightly higher than resonant energy

'POSITIVE DETUNING'

>>>> NET TRANSFER of energy to optical field

NB: This is only true for LOW GAIN (OSCILLATOR) FELs.

For a HIGH GAIN FEL the maximum gain occurs at a positive detuning much closer to zero. But that's another story....

Small-Signal Gain Curve



Energy detuning δ

- Shows how gain varies as a function of detuning
- ★ Detuning parameter
 - \star δ = 4πN(ΔE/E)
 - **★** Maximum gain for $\delta = 2.6$

★ Madey Theorem

 ★ "Gain curve is proportional to negative derivative of spontaneous emission spectrum"

Broadening of natural linewidth causes gain degradation



Energy detuning δ

The Oscillator FEL



incoherent emission

radiation wavelength: coherent emission

Coherent action is what counts ...



The Oscillator FEL

- ★ For oscillator FEL the single pass gain is small
- The emitted radiation is contained in a resonator to produce a FEEDBACK system
- ★ In each pass the radiation is further amplified
- ★ Some radiation is extracted, most radiation reflected
- ★ Increasing cavity intensity strengthens interaction leading to exponential growth:

$$\triangle W = -e \int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = -e \int \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E} dt$$

Energy transfer depends on cavity intensity

Saturation: Oscillator

- ★ For **ZERO** cavity loss intensity would increase indefinitely!
- In practice we have passive loss (diffraction, absorption) and active loss (outcoupling)
- ★ Power lost is proportional to cavity intensity
- ★ As intensity rises so does power loss
- ★ Finite extraction efficiency
- ★ Eventually power lost = power extracted from electrons
- ★ No more growth. **SATURATION.**
- ★ (Equivalently gain falls until it equals cavity losses)

Saturation: Oscillator

★ Parameters: cavity loss = 4%



Choosing the required parameters

To achieve lasing with our Oscillator FEL the following parameters must be optimised :

★ Electron beam parameters

★ Energy, Peak Current, Emittance, Energy spread

- ★ Undulator parameters
 - ★ K, Period, Number of periods ("wavelengths")
- ★ Resonator parameters
 - ★ Length, mirror radii of curvature

For lasing must have GAIN > LOSSES

Required parameters

★ To 'first order'

★ Select base parameters to optimise gain

★ To 'second order'

★ Optimise other parameters to minimise gain degradation

Gain Scaling

★ We can get an idea of how the gain should scale with various parameters by looking at our familiar equation


Small Signal Gain

★ In fact, small-signal, single-pass maximum gain is given by:



Small Signal Gain

- ★ To summarise, at a given wavelength we need:
 - ★ A long enough undulator

To allow sufficient interaction time

 A good peak current and a tightly focussed electron beam To provide high charge density

★ A small optical cross section

To provide high E field

Electron beam quality

★ Now we've selected parameters to optimise the gain, we need to minimise the gain degradation

★ Gain is degraded due to

- ★ energy spread
- ★ emittance

For optimum FEL performance a high quality electron beam is required.

Electron Energy Spread



* SMALL SIGNAL GAIN CURVE:

- Small energy range for positive gain
- If energy spread is too large electrons fall outside detuning for positive gain

GAIN DEGRADATION

Electron Energy Spread

★ Derivation of Limit on Energy Spread:

★ FEL wavelength given by:

$$\lambda_L = \frac{\lambda_w}{2\gamma^2} \left(1 + \frac{K^2}{2} \right) \longrightarrow$$

 Expand this in Taylor se giving linewidth spread to energy perturbation



Energy detuning δ

 Require that spread is less than the natural line halfwidth so that no broadening occurs and gain is not reduced Typical IRFEL: N=42 Gives rms energy spread of < 0.1% for negligible gain degradation



Electron Beam Emittance

★ The emittance controls :

- ★ 1. BEAM DIVERGENCE: this effects overlap between electron beam and optical mode
- ★ 2. BEAM SIZE: this affects quality of undulator field seen by electrons
- ★ We can do a separate analysis for each case to see how small an emittance we need to avoid gain degradation

Emittance 1: overlap

• We need the electron beam contained within the optical beam over the whole interaction length



Emittance 1: overlap

- ★ Electron beam envelope equation at a waist gives electron beam Rayleigh length:
- Similarly, Gaussian beam equations in laser resonator give optical Rayleigh length:
- ★ For electron beam confinement need:

$$z_E = \frac{\gamma r_0}{\varepsilon_n}$$

2

$$z_R = \frac{\pi w_0^2}{\lambda_L}$$

$$z_E \ge z_R$$

★ So:

$$\varepsilon_n < \frac{\gamma \lambda_L}{\pi} \left(\frac{r_0}{w_o}\right)^2$$



Typical IRFEL:

Gives normalised emittance of < 10 mm-mrad

Emittance 2 : broadening

- ★ As emittance increases beam size increases, so electrons move more off-axis
- ★ Undulator field has a sinusoidal z-dependence on axis, so off-axis electrons experience a different field (because curl B = 0) and thus a different K.

★ By requiring that linewidth broadening is within the natural linewidth, the following restriction can be derived:

$$\varepsilon_n < \frac{\gamma^2 \lambda_L}{NK}$$



Typical IRFEL:

Gives normalised emittance of < 500 mm-mrad

Longitudinal effects

- ★ So far we've only considered an 'infinitely long' electron beam: we haven't worried about the ends.
- ★ Known as the STEADY STATE solution
- ★ In reality we have finite electron bunches
- ★ Need to extend model accordingly to include effects of PULSE PROPAGATION

2D MODEL (transverse effects)



3D MODEL (transverse + longitudinal effects)

Longitudinal effects

★ Slippage

 Resonance condition: Electrons slip back by one radiation wavelength per undulator period

Slippage per complete undulator traverse = N x wavelength.
This is known as the slippage length.

★ For short electron bunch and/or long wavelength we have slippage length ≈ bunch length

Effective interaction length reduced: GAIN DEGRADED.

Pulse effects: Slippage



Conventional laser vs FEL pulses

Active medium

Conventional laser pulse interacts with all of the active medium

Z.

Pulse effects: Lethargy

 \star The electrons slip back over the optical pulse:

- ★ bunching increases, and maximum emission occurs at end of undulator where bunching is strongest
- ★ RESULT: optical pulse peaks at rear and centroid of pulse has velocity < c.</p>
- ★ Synchronism between pulse and electron bunch on next pass is not perfect

★ Known as laser lethargy



Pulse effects: Lethargy

★ Lethargy can be offset by slightly reducing cavity length : CAVITY LENGTH DETUNING

- Centroid of optical pulse is then synchronised with e-bunch on successive passes
- ★ BUT: as intensity increases
 - \star back of pulse saturates first
 - then rest of pulse saturates, returning centroid velocity to vacuum value c.
- So a single detuning can't compensate for lethargy in both growth and saturation phases.
- Different detunings exist for gain optimisation and power optimisation

Cavity length detuning



Summary



FEL Output: power

Gain curve can be used to estimate maximum output power:



FEL Output

- ★ At saturation, pulse length matches electron bunch length
- ★ Linewidth depends on pulse length (Fourier):

$$\left(\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega}\right)_L \sim \frac{\lambda_r}{2\pi\sigma_z}$$

★ Brightness: output is coherent, so assuming a diffractionlimited beam: **Typical IRFEL:**

★ High power enables high brightness!

= 8 MW

Comparative Brilliances



FEL Output

TUNABLE OUTPUT !

$$\lambda_L = \frac{\lambda_w}{2\gamma^2} \left(1 + \frac{K^2}{2} \right)$$

A typical FEL facility operates at certain fixed beam energies then tunes over wavelength sub-ranges by varying undulator gap (and hence *K*)

High Gain (Amplifier) FEL

- No optical cavity / feedback
- Relies on growth of microbunching from shot noise
- Requires very long undulator(s)
- Essential for short-wavelength FELs (XFELs)
- Need to have ultra-precise control of electron beam emittance, size and position



Single pass high-gain amplifier (long undulator)





Early experimental observation of microbunching at the 60 µm FEL Firefly, Stanford University

Examples of high-gain FELs:

- LCLS at SLAC, California
- XFEL at DESY, Hamburg
- SPring8 at Hyogo, Japan
- SwissFEL at PSI, Villigen



FEL pulses starting from noise in a High-Gain amplifier (SASE)



Many regions of radiation pulse evolve independently from other regions

Self Amplified Spontaneous Emission (SASE) in the X-ray regime

SASE Power output

SASE spectrum



Figure 5: Typical temporal (left) and spectral (right) structure of the radiation pulse from a SASE XFEL at a wavelength of 1Å. The red lines correspond to averaged values. The dashed line represents the axial density profile of the electron bunch. Note that the growth rate in the electron bunch tail is reduced due to the reduced current. Therefore, the radiation pulse length of 100fs (FWHM) is about a factor of two shorter than the electron bunch.

Contrast \rightarrow Seeded FEL



Longitudinal coherence of radiation pulse is inherited from that of seed if $P_{seed} >> P_{noise}$

FEL vs Conventional Laser

★ Conventional Laser

Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
Electrons in bound states - discrete energy levels
Waste heat in medium ejected at speed of SOUND

Limited tunability

Limited power

Continuous tunability

High power

★ Free-Electron Laser

- ★ Light Amplification by Synchronised Electron Retardation ??
- ★ Electrons free continuum of energy levels

★ Waste heat in e-beam ejected at speed of LIGHT (and recovered in ERL)

Some advantages of FELs

- Tuneable by varying electron energy γ or undulator parameters (B_u and/or λ_u)
- Spectral reach THz, VUV to X-ray
- Cannot damage lasing medium (e⁻-beam)
- High peak powers (>GW)
- Very bright [>10³⁰ ph/(s mm² mrad² 0.1% B.W.)]
- High average powers e.g. >10kW at Jefferson Lab
- Short pulses (<100 $fs \rightarrow 100$'s of $as(10^{-18}s)$)

The next generation of FELs will ensure that these sources are at the forefront of light source provision for many years to come. Other sources are unable to meet all of the qualities of FELs by orders of magnitude in at least one respect.





... or at least this was not your response.

The End

An electron trajectory in an undulator



The angle the electron makes with respect to the undulator axis can be approximated as:

$$\tan \theta_{j} = \frac{d x_{j}}{dz} \approx -\frac{a_{u}}{\gamma_{0}} \cos(k_{u}z)$$
$$\Rightarrow \theta_{j} \propto \frac{a_{u}}{\gamma_{0}} \text{ for } \gamma_{0} \Box a_{u}$$

The radiated power is confined mainly to an angle $\theta_r \approx 1/\gamma_0$.

Hence if: $\theta_j >> \theta_r$ i.e. $a_u \square 1$,

The emitted power behaves like a 'searchlight' when viewed at end of the undulator.


Undulator Equation

Substituting for the average longitudinal velocity of the electron, $\overline{\beta}_z$, for the earlier planar case:

Substitute
$$\overline{\beta}_{z} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2\gamma_{0}^{2}} \left(1 + \frac{a_{u}^{2}}{2} \right)$$
 into $n\lambda_{r} = \frac{\lambda_{u}}{\overline{\beta}_{z}} - \lambda_{u} \cos \theta$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_{r} = \frac{\lambda_{u}}{2n\gamma_{0}^{2}} \left(1 + \overline{a}_{u}^{2} + \theta^{2}\gamma_{0}^{2} \right) \qquad \text{Includit} \\ \text{dep}$$

Including angular dependence

 $\overline{a}_{u} = \frac{e\lambda_{u}B_{u}^{RMS}}{2\pi mc}$ is the RMS "wiggler/undulator parameter" - In this form also valid for helical undulators

For a 3 GeV electron passing through a 5 cm period undulator with $\overline{a}_{u} = 3$, the wavelength of the first harmonic (n = 1) on axis ($\theta = 0$) is ~ 4 nm

The expression for the fundamental resonant wavelength shows us the origin of the FEL tunability:

$$\lambda_r = \left(\frac{1 + \overline{a_u}^2}{2\gamma_0^2}\right)\lambda_u$$

As the beam energy is increased, the spontaneous emission peak moves to shorter wavelengths.

For an undulator parameter $\overline{a}_u \approx 1$ and $\lambda_u = 1$ cm :

For mildly relativistic beams ($\gamma \approx 3$) : $\lambda_r \approx 1$ mm (microwaves) more relativistic beams ($\gamma \approx 30$) : $\lambda_r \approx 10 \mu$ m (infra-red) ultra-relativistic beams ($\gamma \approx 30000$) : $\lambda_r \approx 0.1$ nm (X-ray)

Further tunability is possible through B_u and λ_u as $\overline{a}_u \propto B_u \lambda_u$

High charge densities give rise to strong electro-magnetic fields generated by the electron bunches. Electrons within the bunch experience these fields. ectron trajecto 15

Coherent Synchrotron Radiation Δl CSR trajectory ending radius. Space Charge fields Uniform Gaussian 2σ Wake fields K. Schindl



10

5

M. Dohlus

tail

head

10

