Linacs

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Joint Universities Accelerator School





~10⁴ LINACs operating around the world



LINAC: BASIC DEFINITION AND MAIN COMPONENTS

LINAC (linear accelerator) is a **system that allows to accelerate charged particles through a linear trajectory** by electromagnetic fields.



LINAC TECHNOLOGY COMPLEXITY



LINAC: BASIC DEFINITION AND MAIN COMPONENTS

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LORENTZ FORCE: ACCELERATION AND FOCUSING

The basic equation that describes the acceleration/bending/focusing processes is the Lorentz Force. Particles are accelerated through electric fields and are bended and focused through magnetic fields.

 $\vec{p} = momentum$

m = mass

$$\vec{v} = velocity$$

$\frac{dp}{dt} = q\left(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}\right)$ q = charge**BENDING AND FOCUSING ACCELERATION** 2nd term always perpendicular to motion => no To accelerate, we need a force in the energy gain direction of motion beam

Longitudinal Dynamics



ACCELERATION: SIMPLE CASE

The first historical linear particle accelerator was built by the Nobel prize Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (1900). It consisted in a vacuum tube containing a cathode connected to the negative pole of a DC voltage generator. **Electrons emitted by the heated cathode** were accelerated while flowing to another electrode connected to the positive generator pole (anode). Collisions between the energetic electrons and the anode produced **X-rays**.



The **energy gained** by the electrons travelling from the cathode to the anode is equal to their charge multiplied the DC voltage between the two electrodes.

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = q\vec{E} \implies \Delta E = q\Delta V$$

 $\vec{p} = momentum$ q = chargeE = energy Particle energies are typically expressed in electron-volt [eV], equal to the energy gained by 1 electron accelerated through an electrostatic potential of 1 volt: $1 \text{ eV}=1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$



PARTICLE VELOCITY VS ENERGY: LIGHT AND HEAVY PARTICLES

β

rest mass m_o **Relativistic factor** rest energy E_0 (= m_0c^2) β**=ν/c** (<1) total energy E **Relativistic factor** Single relativistic mass m *γ=E/E*₀ (≥1) particle velocity v momentum *p* (=*mv*) $E^2 = E_0^2 + p^2 c^2$ Kinetic energy $W=E-E_0$ β 1 Light particles 0,8 Heavy particles 0,6 ⊃//= 0,4 0,2 Kin. Energy [MeV] 0,01 10.000 100 1.000 0,1 100.000 electron (E_o=0.511 MeV) 10.000 proton (E₀=938 MeV) 1.000 0100[™] m/m=γ 0,01 0.1 10 100 1.000 10.000

$$\beta = \sqrt{1 - 1/\gamma^2} \qquad (m = \gamma m_0)$$

$$W = E - E_0 = (\gamma - 1)m_0 c^2 \underset{\text{if } \beta < 1}{\approx} \frac{1}{2}m_0 v^2$$

$$= \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{\gamma^2}} = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{E_0}{E}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{E_0}{E_0 + W}\right)^2}$$

⇒Light particles (as electrons) are practically fully relativistic ($\beta \cong 1$, $\gamma >>1$) at relatively low energy and reach a constant velocity (~c). The acceleration process occurs at constant particle velocity

 \Rightarrow Heavy particles (protons and ions) are typically weakly relativistic and reach a constant velocity only at very high energy. The velocity changes a lot during the acceleration process.

 \Rightarrow This implies **important differences** in the technical characteristics of the **accelerating structures**. In particular for **protons and ions** we need different types of accelerating structures, **optimized for different velocities** and/or the accelerating structure has to vary its geometry to take into account the velocity variation.

PARTICLE ACCELERATION: ELECTRIC FIELD

Particles accelerated through are electric fields Incandescent cathode anode filament E Vacuum chamber **Electron beam** 1000 V electron cathode beam accelerating anodes Energy gain ∞ V 1 V focus 10^{9} - 10^{10} V anode deflection coils phosphorescent 100-200 V screen 10⁵ V Precision Graphics

ELECTROSTATIC ACCELERATORS

To increase the achievable maximum energy, Van de Graaff invented an electrostatic generator based on a **dielectric belt** transporting positive charges to an isolated electrode hosting an ion source. The positive ions generated in a large positive potential were accelerated toward ground by the static electric field.

DC voltage as large as ~10 MV can be obtained (E~10 MeV). The main limit in the achievable insulation



APPLICATIONS OF DC ACCELERATORS

voltage is the **breakdown** due to

LIMITS OF ELECTROSTATIC ACCELERATORS

DC particle accelerators are in operation worldwide, typically at V<15MV (E_{max}=15 MeV), I<100mA. They are used for:

 \Rightarrow material analysis

problems.

 \Rightarrow X-ray production,

 \Rightarrow ion implantation for semiconductors

 \Rightarrow first stage of acceleration (particle sources)

750 kV Cockcroft-Walton Linac2 injector at CERN from 1978 to 1992



RF ACCELERATORS : WIDERÖE "DRIFT TUBE LINAC" (DTL)

(protons and ions)

Basic idea: the particles are accelerated by the electric field in the gap between electrodes connected alternatively to the poles of an AC generator. This original idea of Ising (1924) was e⁻-implemented by Wideroe (1927) who applied a sine-wave voltage to a sequence of drift tubes. The particles do not experience any force while travelling inside the tubes (equipotential regions) and are accelerated across the gaps. This kind of structure is called Drift Tube LINAC (DTL).



 \Rightarrow If the length of the tubes (or, equivalently, the distances between the centers of the accelerating gaps) increases with the particle velocity during the acceleration such that the time of flight between gaps is kept constant and equal to half of the RF period, the particles are subject to a synchronous accelerating voltage and experience an energy gain of $\Delta E = q\Delta V$ at each gap crossing.

 \Rightarrow In principle a single **RF generator** can be used to indefinitely accelerate a beam, **avoiding the breakdown limitation** affecting the electrostatic accelerators.



DC ACCELERATION: ENERGY GAIN

We consider the acceleration between two electrodes in DC.

relation



RF ACCELERATION: BUNCHED BEAM

We consider now the acceleration between two electrodes fed by an RF generator



RF ACCELERATION: ACCELERATING FIELD CALCULATION

We consider now the acceleration between two electrodes fed by an RF generator



PHASOR NOTATION

With a more general notation we can consider the phasors of the accelerating field.



DRIFT TUBE LENGTH AND FIELD SYNCHRONIZATION (protons and ions or electrons at extremely low energy)

If now we consider a DTL structure, we have that at each gap the maximum energy gain is $\Delta E_n = qV_{acc}$ and the particle increase its velocity accordingly to the previous relativistic formulae. It is convenient to refer to the center of each gap as follows:



ACCELERATION WITH HIGH RF FREQUENCIES: RF CAVITIES

There are two important **consequences** of the previous obtained formulae:



The condition $L_n << \lambda_{RF}$ (necessary to model the tube as an equipotential region) requires $\beta << 1$. \Rightarrow The Wideröe technique can not be applied to relativistic particles.

$$\frac{\Delta E}{\Delta L} = \frac{qV_{acc}}{L_n} = qE_{acc} = \frac{2qV_{acc}}{\lambda_{RF}\overline{\beta}_n}$$

Moreover when particles get high velocities the drift spaces get longer and one looses on the efficiency. The **average accelerating** gradient (E_{acc} [V/m]) increase pushes towards small λ_{RF} (high frequencies).

High frequency, high power sources became available after the 2^{nd} world war pushed by military technology needs (such as radar). Moreover, the concept of equipotential DT can not be applied at small λ_{RF} and the power lost by radiation is proportional to the RF frequency.

As a consequence we must consider accelerating structures different from drift tubes. \Rightarrow The solution consists of **enclosing the system in a cavity** which resonant frequency matches the RF generator frequency.

 \Rightarrow Each cavity can be independently powered from the RF generator



RF CAVITIES

В

 \Rightarrow High frequency RF accelerating fields are confined in , cavities.

 \Rightarrow The cavities are **metallic closed volumes** were the e.m fields has a particular spatial configuration (**resonant modes**) whose components, including the accelerating field \mathbf{E}_{z} , oscillate at some specific frequencies \mathbf{f}_{RF} (resonant frequency) characteristic of the mode.

 \Rightarrow The modes are excited by **RF generators** that are **coupled to the cavities** through waveguides, coaxial cables, etc...

⇒The resonant modes are called **Standing Wave (SW) modes** (spatial fixed configuration, oscillating in time).

 \Rightarrow The spatial and temporal field profiles in a cavity have to be computed (analytically or numerically) **by solving the Maxwell equations** with the proper boundary conditions.





Ε





Courtesy E. Jensen

ALVAREZ STRUCTURES (protons and ions)

E_z

Quadrupole

drift tubes

Alvarez's structure can be described as a special DTL in which the electrodes are part of a resonant macrostructure.



 \Rightarrow The DTL operates in **0 mode** for **protons and ions** in the range β =0.05-0.5 (f_{RF}=50-400 MHz, λ_{RF} =6-0.7 m) 1-100 MeV;

 \Rightarrow The beam is inside the "drift tubes" when the electric field is decelerating. The electric field is concentrated between gaps;

 \Rightarrow The drift tubes are suspended by **stems**;

 \Rightarrow **Quadrupole** (for transverse focusing) can fit inside the drift tubes.

 \Rightarrow In order to be synchronous with the accelerating field at each gap the **length of the n-th drift tube** L_n has to be:

Example β =0.1, f_{RF} =100 MHz, λ_{RF} =3 m, L_n =-0.3 m)

© Encyclopaedia Britannica, inc Drift tub

radio-frequency

power source

cavity

beam

7



ALVAREZ STRUCTURES: EXAMPLES



CERN LINAC 2 tank 1: 200 MHz 7 m x 3 tanks, 1 m diameter, final energy 50 MeV.





CERN LINAC 4: 352 MHz frequency, Tank diameter 500 mm, 3 resonators (tanks), Length 19 m, 120 Drift Tubes, Energy: 3 MeV to 50 MeV, β =0.08 to 0.31 \rightarrow cell length from 68mm to 264mm.



HIGH β CAVITIES: CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURES (electrons or protons and ions at high energy)

 \Rightarrow When the β of the particles increases (>0.5) one has to use **higher RF frequencies** (>400-500 MHz) to increase the accelerating gradient per unit length

⇒the **DTL structures became less efficient** (effective accelerating voltage per unit length for a given RF power);

Real cylindrical cavity

(TM₀₁₀-like mode because of the shape and presence of beam tubes and couplers)

Cylindrical single (or multiple cavities) working on the $\rm TM_{010}\mathchar`-like$ mode are used

For a **pure cylindrical structure** (also called **pillbox cavity**) the first accelerating mode (i.e. with non zero longitudinal electric field on axis) is the **TM**₀₁₀ **mode**. It has a well known analytical solution from Maxwell equation.



SW CAVITIES PARAMETERS: V_{acc}, P_{diss}, W

To compare and qualify different cavities is necessary to define some parameter that characterize each accelerating structure.

ACCELERATING VOLTAGE

We suppose that the cavities are powered at a **constant frequency** f_{RF} . The **maximum energy gain** of a particle crossing the cavity at a velocity v (~c for electrons) is obtained integrating the time-varying accelerating field sampled by the particle along the trajectory:

$$\hat{V}_{acc} = \left| \int_{cavity} \tilde{E}_z(z) e^{j\omega_{RF} \frac{z}{v}} dz \right|$$

DISSIPATED POWER

Real cavities have losses.

Surface currents (related to the surface magnetic field $\vec{J} = \vec{n} \times \vec{H}$) "sees" a **surface resistance** R_s and dissipate energy, so that a certain amount of RF power must be provided from the outside to keep the accelerating field at the desired level. The total dissipated power is:

$$P_{diss} = \int_{\substack{cavity \\ wall}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} R_s |H_{tan}|^2}_{Wall} dS \qquad \text{NC cavity (Cu } R_s \approx 10 \text{ m}\Omega \text{ at 1 GHz)} \\ \text{SC cavity (Nb at 2 K } R_s \approx 10 \text{ n}\Omega \text{ at 1 GHz)}$$



MODE TM₀₁₀

STORED ENERGY

The total e.m. energy stored in the cavity:

$$W = \int_{\substack{\text{cavity}\\\text{volume}}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{4}\varepsilon \left|\vec{E}\right|^2 + \frac{1}{4}\mu \left|\vec{H}\right|^2\right)}_{dV} dV$$

SW CAVITIES PARAMETERS: R, Q, R/Q



NC cavity R~1M Ω



SC cavity R~1T Ω



The R/Q is a **pure geometric qualification factor**. It does not depend on the cavity wall conductivity. R/Q of a single cell is of the order of 100.

Example:

 $R \sim 1M\Omega$ $P_{diss} = 1 MW$ $V_{acc} = 1 MV$

For a cavity working at 1 GHz with a structure length of 10 cm we have an average accelerating field of 10 MV/m

SW CAVITIES : EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT AND BANDWIDTH

The previous quantities plays crucial roles in the evaluation of the **cavity performances**. Let us consider the case of a cavity powered by a source (klystron) at a constant frequency in CW and at a fixed power (P_{in}).

P_{in}=1 MW R/Q=100 Critical coupling (P_{diss}=P_{in}) f_{res}=1 GHz



SW CAVITIES : FILLING TIME AND DISSIPATED POWER

Let us now consider the case of a cavity powered by a source (klystron) in **pulsed mode** at a frequency $f_{RE}=f_{res}$. Let as calculate the power we need from the klystron (and the dissipated one) to obtain a given accelerating voltage



protected!)

time [µs]

 $\tau_F|_{SC} > 100ms$



- In a multi-cell structure there is one RF input coupler. As a consequence the total number of RF sources is reduced, with a simplification of the layout and reduction of the costs;
- The shunt impedance is n time the impedance of a single cavity
- They are more complicated to fabricate than single cell cavities;
- The fields of adjacent cells couple through the cell **irises** and/or through properly designed coupling **slots**.





MULTI-CELL SW CAVITIES: π **MODE STRUCTURES** (electrons or protons and ions at high energy)

- The N-cell structure behaves like a system composed by N coupled oscillators with N coupled multi-cell resonant modes.
- The modes are characterized by a cell-to-cell phase advance given by:

$$\Delta \phi_n = \frac{n\pi}{N-1} \qquad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

- The multi cell mode generally used for acceleration is the π , $\pi/2$ and 0 mode (DTL as example operate in the 0 mode).
- The cell lengths have to be chosen in order to synchronize the accelerating field with the particle traveling into the structure at a certain velocity





 \Rightarrow For **ions and protons** the cell lengths have to be increased along the linac that will be a sequence of different accelerating structures matched to the ion/proton velocity.

 \Rightarrow For **electron**, β =1, d= $\lambda_{RF}/2$ and the linac will be made of an injector followed by a series of identical accelerating structures, with cells all the same length.

π mode structures: examples

LINAC 4 (CERN) PIMS (PI Mode Structure) for protons: f_{RF} =352 MHz, β >0.4







European XFEL (Desy): electrons

800 accelerating cavities 1.3 GHz / 23.6 MV/m



MULTI-CELL SW CAVITIES: $\pi/2$ MODE STRUCTURES

(electrons or protons and ions at high energy)

 \Rightarrow It is possible to demonstrate that **over a certain number of cavities** (>10) working on the π mode, the **overlap between adjacent modes** can be a problem (as example the field uniformity due to machining errors is difficult to tune).

⇒The criticality of a working mode depend on the **frequency** separation between the working mode and the adjacent mode

 \Rightarrow the $\pi/2$ mode from this point of view is the most stable mode. For this mode it is possible to demonstrate that the accelerating field is zero every two cells. For this reason the empty cells are put of axis and coupling slots are opened from the accelerating cells to the empty cells.

 \Rightarrow this allow to increase the number of cells to >20-30 without problems



 $f_{\text{RF}}\text{=}800$ - 3000 MHz for proton ($\beta\text{=}0.5\text{-}1\text{)}$ and electrons

SCC STRUCTURES: EXAMPLES

Spallation Neutron Source Coupled Cavity Linac (protons)



4 modules, each containing 12 accelerator segments CCL and 11 bridge couplers. The CCL section is a RF Linac, operating at **805 MHz** that accelerates the beam **from 87 to 186 MeV** and has a physical installed length of slightly over **55 meters.**







TRAVELLING WAVE (TW) STRUCTURES

 \Rightarrow To accelerate charged particles, the electromagnetic field must have an electric field along the direction of propagation of the particle.

 \Rightarrow The field has to be synchronous with the particle velocity.

 \Rightarrow Up to now we have analyzed the standing **standing wave (SW)** structures in which the field has basically a given profile and oscillate in time (as example in DTL or **resonant cavities operating on the** TM₀₁₀-like).



 \Rightarrow There is another possibility to accelerate particles: using a **travelling wave (TW)** structure in which the RF wave is **co-propagating** with the beam with a **phase velocity equal to the beam velocity**.

 \Rightarrow Typically these structures **are used for electrons** because in this case the **phase velocity can be constant** all over the structure and equal to c. On the other hand it is difficult to modulate the phase velocity itself very quickly for a low β particle that changes its velocity during acceleration.



TW CAVITIES: CIRCULAR WAVEGUIDE AND DISPERSION CURVE (electrons)

In **TW structures** an e.m. wave with $E_z \neq 0$ travel together with the beam in a special guide in which the **phase velocity of the wave matches the particle velocity (v)**. In this case the beam absorbs energy from the wave and it is **continuously accelerated**.



As example if we consider a simple circular waveguide the first propagating mode with $E_z \neq 0$ is the TM₀₁ mode. Nevertheless by solving the wave equation it turns out that an e.m. wave propagating in this **constant cross section waveguide** will **never be synchronous with a particle beam** since the **phase velocity is always larger than the speed of light c**.

$$E_{z}|_{TM_{01}} = E_{0}(r)\cos(\omega_{RF}t - k^{*}z) \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad v_{ph} = \frac{\omega_{RF}}{k^{*}} > c$$

$$J_{0}\left(\frac{p_{01}}{a}r\right)$$



TW CAVITIES: IRIS LOADED STRUCTURES (electrons)

In order to slow-down the wave phase velocity, iris-loaded periodic structure have to be used.

 \mathbf{k}^*

π/D



 \Rightarrow The structure can be designed to have the **phase** velocity equal to the speed of the particles.

 \Rightarrow This allows acceleration over large distances (few meters, hundred of cells) with just an input coupler and a relatively **simple geometry**.

 \Rightarrow They are used especially for electrons (constant particle velocity-constant phase velocity, same distance between irises, easy realization)

TW CAVITIES PARAMETERS: r, α , v_g

Similarly to the SW cavities it is possible to define some figure of merit for the TW structures







Shunt impedance per unit length [Ω/m]. Similarly to SW structures the higher is r, the higher the available accelerating field for a given RF power.

Field attenuation constant [1/m]: because of the wall dissipation, the RF power flux and the accelerating field decrease along the structure.

Group velocity [m/s]: the velocity of the energy flow in the structure (~1-2% of c).

Working mode [rad]: defined as the phase advance over a period *D*. For several reasons the most common mode is the $2\pi/3$

$$\hat{V}_{acc} = \left| \int_{0}^{D} E_{acc} \cdot e^{j\omega_{RF}\frac{z}{c}} dz \right|$$
$$\hat{E}_{acc} = \frac{\hat{V}_{acc}}{D}$$
$$P_{F} = \int_{Section} \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}\left(\vec{E} \times \vec{H}^{*}\right) \cdot \hat{z} dS$$

$$P_{diss} = \frac{1}{2} R_s \int_{\substack{cavity\\ wall}} \left| H_{tan} \right|^2 dS$$

$$p_{diss} = \frac{P_{diss}}{D}$$

 $w = \frac{W}{-}$

In

$$W = \int_{\substack{\text{cavity} \\ \text{volume}}} \left(\frac{1}{4} \varepsilon \left| \vec{E} \right|^2 + \frac{1}{4} \mu \left| \vec{H} \right|^2 \right) dV$$

row doncity

average input power (flux power)

single cell accelerating voltage

average dissipated power in the cell

average dissipated power per unit length

stored energy in the cell Q

average stored energy per unit length

 $r = \frac{\overline{E_{acc}^2}}{p_{diss}}$

$$\alpha = \frac{p_{diss}}{2p}$$

$$2P_F$$

 P_F

W

$$Q = \omega_{RF} \frac{W}{P_{diss}}$$

$$\Delta \phi = k \mathbf{D}$$

TW CAVITIES: EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT AND FILLING TIME

In a TW structure, the **RF power enters** into the cavity through an **input coupler**, flows (travels) through the cavity in the same direction as the beam and an **output coupler at the end** of the structure is connected to a **matched power load**.

If there is no beam, the input power, reduced by the cavity losses, goes to the power load where it is dissipated.

In the presence of a large beam current, however, a fraction of the TW power is transferred to the beam.







In a purely periodic structure made by a sequence of **identica**. **cells** (also called "**constant impedance structure**"), α does not depend on z and both the RF power flux and the intensity of the accelerating field decay exponentially along the structure :

$$E_{acc}(z) = E_{INPUT}e^{-\alpha z} P_F(z) = P_{INPUT}e^{-z}$$

The **filling time** is the time necessary to propagate the RF wave-front from the input to the end of the section of length *L* is:

$$\tau_F = \frac{L}{v_g}$$

Differently from SW cavities after one filling time the cavity is completely full of energy



High group velocities allow reducing the duration of the RF pulse powering the structure. However:

 $v_g = \frac{P_F}{W}$ $\frac{P_F}{W} = W \propto E_{acc}^2$

Low group velocity is preferable to increase the effective accelerating field for a given power flowing in the structure.

TW CAVITIES: PERFORMANCES



TW CAVITIES: CONSTANT GRADIENT STRUCTURES

In order to keep the **accelerating field constant along the LINAC structure,** the group velocity has to be reduced along the structure itself. This can be achieved by a reduction of the iris diameters.



NC TW STRUCTURES: RF WAVEGUIDE NETWORK AND POWER SOURCES

TW structures require high peak power pulsed sources. To this purpose **klystron+RF compression systems** (SLED) are usually adopted



LINAC TECHNOLOGY





ACCELERATING CAVITY TECHNOLOGY

 \Rightarrow The cavities (and the related LINAC technology) can be of different material:

- copper for normal conducting (NC, both SW than TW) cavities;
- Niobium for superconducting cavities (SC, SW);

 \Rightarrow We can choose between NC or the SC technology depending on the required performances in term of:

- accelerating gradient (MV/m);
- **RF pulse length** (how many bunches we can contemporary accelerate);
- Duty cycle (see next slide): pulsed operation (i.e. 10-100 Hz) or continuous wave (CW) operation;
- Average beam current.





10⁵-10⁶







RF STRUCTURE AND BEAM STRUCTURE: NC vs SC

The "beam structure" in a LINAC is directly related to the "RF structure". There are two possible type of operations:

• **CW** (Continuous Wave) operation \Rightarrow allow, in principle, to operate with a continuous (bunched) beam

10³-10⁸ RF periods

Amplitude

• **PULSED** operation \Rightarrow there are RF pulses at a certain repetition rate (**Duty Cycle (DC)=pulsed width/period**)



 \Rightarrow SC structures allow operation at very high Duty Cycle (>1%) up to a CW operation (DC=100%) (because of the extremely low dissipated power) with relatively high gradient (>20 MV/m). This means that a continuous (bunched) beam can be accelerated.

 \Rightarrow NC structures can operate in pulsed mode at very low DC (10⁻²-10⁻¹ %) (because of the higher dissipated power) with, in principle, **larger peak** accelerating gradient(>30 MV/m). This means that one or few tens of bunches can be, in general, accelerated. NB: NC structures can also operate in CW but at very low gradient because of the dissipated power.