

# Atto-second pulses generation and amplification in laser plasmas

#### A.Andreev<sup>1,2,3</sup>

1. ELI-ALPS, Szeged, Hungary

2. St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia

3. Max-Born Institute, Berlin, Germany

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### Outline

Motivation

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- Atto-pulses production from gas/plasma by intense laser radiation
- Atto-pulses production from solid by high intense laser radiation
- Fast particle generation and atto-pulses production from nano-structure targets at ultra-high laser intensity
- Amplification of ultra-short pulses
- Conclusion

# High intensity lasers and its applications



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## Different regimes of laser matter interaction



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#### More Intense, Shorter Pulses



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**Shorter, more intense.** An inverse linear dependence exists over 18 orders of magnitude between the pulduration of coherent light emission and the laser intensity. These entries encompass different underlyir physical regimes that exhibit molecular, bound atomic electron, relativistic plasma, ultrarelativistic, ar vacuum nonlinearities. Blue patches represent experimental data; red patches denote simulation or theory

G.Mourou et al., SCIENCE (2011)

## Laser pulse harmonic generation in nonlinear media



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#### Three steps mechanism



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#### Simple model

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Wavelength dependence



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Resonant harmonic enhancement: comparison of the experimental, numerical and analytical results



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#### **Relativistic oscillating electron**

$$\begin{split} \frac{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{p}}{\mathrm{d}t} &= -\boldsymbol{e}\boldsymbol{E} - \frac{\boldsymbol{e}}{\boldsymbol{c}}[\boldsymbol{v}\boldsymbol{H}], \qquad \boldsymbol{v}(0) = \boldsymbol{v}_{0}, \boldsymbol{r}(0) = \boldsymbol{r}_{0}.\\ E_{x} &= E_{0}(x,y,\xi)\sqrt{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}}\cos\varphi,\\ E_{y} &= \mp E_{0}(x,y,\xi)\sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}\sin\varphi, \qquad \varepsilon = \lambda/(2\pi\rho_{0}),\\ E_{z} &= -2E_{0}(x,y,\xi)\frac{\varepsilon}{\rho}\Big(\sqrt{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}}x\sin\bar{\varphi} \pm \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}y\cos\bar{\varphi}\Big),\\ H_{x} &= -E_{y}, \quad H_{y} = E_{x}, \qquad \rho(z) = \rho_{0}(1+z^{2}/z_{\mathrm{R}}^{2})^{1/2}.\\ H_{z} &= 2E_{0}(x,y,\xi)\frac{\varepsilon}{\rho}\Big(-\sqrt{\frac{1+\alpha}{2}}y\sin\bar{\varphi} \pm \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}x\cos\bar{\varphi}\Big)\\ \varphi &= \frac{2\pi c\xi}{\lambda} + \arctan\frac{z}{z_{\mathrm{R}}} - \frac{zr^{2}}{z_{\mathrm{R}}\rho^{2}} - \varphi_{0};\\ \bar{\varphi} &= \varphi + \arctan\frac{z}{2_{\mathrm{R}}}; \qquad \xi = t - z/c; z_{\mathrm{d}},\\ E_{0}(x,y,\xi) &= \frac{E_{m}\rho_{0}}{\rho}\exp\Big[-\Big(\frac{\xi - z_{\mathrm{d}}/c}{\tau}\Big)^{q} - \frac{x^{2} + y^{2}}{\rho^{2}}\Big]; \end{split}$$

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Wr/(mc2) = 128.

ct/l = 1.5 q = 2 r0/l = 1 lm/lr = 5000A. Andreev, QE (2011).

#### **Radiation of zepto-second pulses**



## High harmonic generation from solid



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### Nonlinear fluid model

The starting point for most theoretical analyses of HHG is the usual set of Lorentz-Maxwell equations for a preionized, quasineutral, collisionless plasma slab. The ions are assumed to form a fixed background density  $Zn_i \equiv n_0$ , where Z is the average ionization degree, ni is the ion density, and n0 is the initial electron density; the electrons are fluid-like and driven by the laser fields incident on the surface. For normally incident light, these fields can be represented by a vector potential  $A = (0, A_v \{x, t\}, 0)$ ,

In this geometry, the transverse electron momentum is  $p_y = eA_y/c$ ,

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$$\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 A_y}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 A_y = \frac{4\pi}{c} J_y. \qquad \qquad J_y = -en_e v_y = \frac{e^2 n_e}{mc} \frac{A_y}{\gamma}, \qquad \qquad \gamma = \left(1 + \frac{p_x^2 + p_y^2}{m_e^2 c^2}\right)^{1/2}.$$

$$\frac{dp_x}{dt} = e \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} - \frac{e^2}{2m_e c^2 \gamma} \frac{\partial A_y^2}{\partial x}. \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial n_e}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{n_e p_x}{m_e \gamma}\right) = 0, \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x^2} = 4\pi e(n_e - n_0)$$

Lorentz transformation of fluid variables to frame moving along the plasma surface with velocity  $v_y = ck_y = c \sin \theta$  (

$$\frac{dp_x}{dt} = e\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial x} - \frac{e^2}{2m_ec^2\gamma}\frac{\partial A_y^2}{\partial x} + \frac{e}{m_ec\gamma}p_0\frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x}, \qquad \gamma^{-1} = \frac{(1+p_x^2/m_e^2c^2)^{1/2}}{[1+(|\mathbf{p}|^2/m_e^2c^2)\cos^2\theta - (p_y/m_ec)\sin 2\theta]^{1/2}}.$$
$$\mathbf{p}_0 = -\hat{\mathbf{y}}m_ec\,\tan\,\theta = -p_0\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

These equations form a closed set that is in principle sufficient to determine the reflected wave form Ay(x,t) for arbitrary laser amplitude at oblique incidence angle

Akhiezer and Polovin (1956); Bourdier (1983); Bulanov (1994); Lichters (1996); Gibbon (2005).

#### **Coherent Wake Emission**



Excitation of plasma oscillations by Brunel electrons. The selected Brunel electrons, whose trajectories are shown by the yellow lines, cross in the density gradient and form a peak of electron density that travels through the plasma and excites in its wake plasma oscillations.

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Quéré, Phys. Rev. Lett. 2006

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$$V_{\rm max} \approx \omega_{\rm pe} / \omega_{\rm L}$$

(a) Contour plot of the Bz field (purple), the plasma oscillations, which are initially longitudinal, acquire transverse component and can radiate e.m. wave
(b) Spatially resolved emission spectrum (blue) and plasma frequency profile (straight line)

0.0

0.0

-0.5

-0.2

0.5

 $y/\lambda_{r}$ 

0.2

 $x/\lambda$ 

1.0

15

-10 ુ€

.5

0.4

#### **Relativistic Oscillating Mirror**



 $a_1 = 10.00$  $\varphi_{...} = 0.00$  $v_m(t)$ -0.5 0.0 0.5 -1.0 1.0  $t/T_t$ 5-field -0.50.0 0.5 1.0 -1.0 10 (C)  $n_{co} = 402$ -6 10 ~(1)-5/2  $10^{-12}$ 10 100 1000 10000  $\omega/\omega_I$ 

**Figure 1.** Scheme showing the basic idea of the oscillating mirror model. An E-M wave is incident on an electron surface oscillating around an immovable ion background. The phase of the reflected E-M wave as seen by the observer depends on the position of the electron surface at the moment of the reflection. This retardation effect gives rise to a distorted waveform rich in harmonics of the fundamental frequency.

Bulanov et al, Phys. Plasmas (1994)  $n_{
m cutoff} = 4\gamma_{
m max}^2$   $I_{\omega} \sim \omega^{-5/2}$ 

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Baeva et al, Phys. Rev.E (2006)  $n_{\rm cutoff} = \sqrt{8\alpha} \gamma_{\rm max}^3$ 

 $\gamma_{max}$  ~ is the maximum rel. factor of the surface

 $\alpha \sim 1$  is related to the plasma-surface  $I_n \propto 1/n^{8/3}$  acceleration

**Figure 2.** Predictions of the oscillating mirror model for  $a_L = 10$ . (a) Motion of the mirror in its own frame (\_\_\_\_\_) and as seen by the incident wave (-\_\_\_). (b) The incident (\_\_\_\_) and the reflected (-\_\_\_) E-M field as seen by the observer. (c) The power spectrum is obtained by Fourier transforming the reflected field. The roll-off follows closely the predicted power law  $1/\omega^q$  with  $q \approx 5/2$ . a >>1 Tsakiris NJP (2006)

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#### Sliding mirror model



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Physically the  $\gamma^3$  cutoff originates from the finite time over which the mirror electrons are accelerated. In fact, there is a close analogy here with synchrotron radiation, which also contains harmonics up to a maximum  $\omega_c \approx 3c\gamma^3 / R$ 

where R is the radius of curvature of the device.

A further variation on this approach is the sliding mirror model. This is valid for highly overdense, thin plasma slabs in which the electron motion along the density gradient can be neglected owing to the high charge-separation field. The only motion relevant for harmonic generation is then along the target surface. The figure of merit characterizing this regime is the socalled normalized plasma density  $\varepsilon_p = \frac{\pi dn_e}{\lambda_0 n_c}$ 

where *d* is the slab thickness. The sliding mirror regime is defined by  $\varepsilon_p > a_0$ In this case, the spectrum is predicted to fall off as  $\omega^{-2}$  up to a critical frequency  $\omega_{cr} \approx a_0 \omega_0$ , after which it decays exponentially. Pirozhkov, PoP (2006)

#### **Coherent Synchrotron Emission**



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Radiation in time (c) and spectral (d) domain for the simulations: "normal" incidence, plasma density Ne=250Nc, sharp edged profile; (c) and (d) correspond to the nanobunching case: plasma density ramp up to a maximum density of Ne=95Nc laboratory frame, oblique incidence at 63° angle p-polarized. Laser field amplitude is a0 =60. In (d), the dotted black line represents an 8/3 power law, the light gray/red dashed line corresponds to the 1D synchrotron spectrum with  $i(t, \mathbf{x}) = i(t) f[\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_{-}(t)]$ 

$$E_{sy}(t,x) = \frac{2\pi}{c} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} j \left( t + \frac{x - x'}{c}, x' \right) dx' \qquad j(t) = \alpha_0 t$$
  

$$\widetilde{E}_{sy}(\omega) = 2\pi c^{-1} \widetilde{f}(\omega) \int j(t) \exp\{-i\omega [t + x_{el}(t)/c]\} dt.$$
  

$$I(\omega) \propto |\widetilde{f}(\omega)|^2 \omega^{-4/3} \left\{ \operatorname{Ai'} \left[ \left( \frac{\omega}{\omega_{rs}} \right)^{2/3} \right] \right\}^2, \qquad x_{el}(t) = -v_0 t + \alpha_1 t^3 / 5.$$
  
ted  
on with  $\omega_{rs} \approx 2^{3/2} \sqrt{\alpha_1} \gamma_0^3$ , where  $\gamma_0 = (1 - v_0^2)^{-1/2}$ 

The electron density and contour lines (cyan) of emitte harmonics radiation for a) BGP and b) the synchrotron regime. Pukhov PoP (2010)

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### Model for atto pulse generation

$$c \sin(\theta_{0}) \quad \omega' = \omega_{L} \cos \theta_{0} \quad y' = (y - ct \sin \theta_{0}) / \cos \theta_{0} \quad t' = (t - y \sin \theta_{0} / c) / \cos \theta_{0}$$
Moving frame
$$(\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \xi'^{2}} + \frac{\omega^{2}}{\omega_{p}^{2}})a'_{y1}(\xi') = (\theta(\xi') + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \xi'^{2}}\sqrt{1 + (a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0})^{2}} \frac{2}{\pi}E(\frac{\pi}{2}; \frac{a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0}}{\sqrt{1 + (a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0})^{2}}})) \times$$

$$\times \frac{a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0}}{\sqrt{1 + (a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0})^{2}}} \frac{2}{\pi}F(\frac{\pi}{2}; \frac{a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0}}{\sqrt{1 + (a'_{y1} - tg\theta_{0})^{2}}})) \quad \text{Equation for first laser harmonic}$$

$$m_{e} \frac{d}{dt'}\dot{x}'_{x}\sqrt{\frac{1 + p'_{y}^{2} / m_{e}^{2}c^{2}}{1 - \dot{x}'^{2} / c^{2}}} = -2\pi e^{2} \frac{Zn_{0}}{\cos\theta_{0}}x'_{s}(t) - \frac{ep'_{y}}{m_{e}c}\sqrt{\frac{1 - \dot{x}'^{2} / c^{2}}{1 + p'_{y}^{2} / m_{e}^{2}c^{2}}}} \frac{\partial A'_{y}(x'_{s}, t)}{\partial x'_{s}}$$

$$p'_{y} = -eA'_{y} / c - m_{e}c tg(\theta_{0}), \quad A'_{y} = m_{e}c^{2}a_{y1}'(\omega_{p}x'_{s}/c)\cos(\omega't') \quad \text{Eq. of plasma surface dynamic}$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2}A'_{yy}(x', t')}{\partial x'^{2}} - \frac{1}{c^{2}} \frac{\partial^{2}A'_{y}(x', t')}{\partial t'^{2}} = j_{y}(x', t') \quad \text{Eq. of atto pulse field}$$

$$j_{y}(x', t') = -4\pi en_{e}\theta(x' - x'_{s}(t))\theta(x'_{s}(t) - x' - l_{s}) \frac{p'_{y}}{m_{e}c}\sqrt{\frac{1 - \dot{x}'_{s}^{2} / c^{2}}{1 + p'_{y}^{2} / m_{e}^{2}c^{2}}}$$

$$\frac{eE'_{yr}(x',t')}{m_e c\omega_L} = 2\frac{\omega_p}{\omega_L l_s} \int_0^{l_s} \frac{j_y(t^*,x')}{Zen_0} dx' \approx 2\frac{\omega_p}{\omega_L} \frac{j_y(t^*,x_s(t^*))}{Zen_0} \qquad \text{atto pulse field} \\ t'-t^*-|x'-x'_s(t^*)|/c=0$$

### Generation of electron nano-bunches from semilimited foil at laser pulse oblique incidence



# Nano-scale electron bunch formation at oblique incidence of intense laser pulse on a foil

Length of electrons extraction

$$l_{extr} = E_0 \sin \theta_0 / en_e = 2\lambda_L \sin \theta_0 (n_c / n_e) \sqrt{1.37 I_{18}}$$

Number of electrons in the bunch propagating in specular direction

 $N_b \approx n_e l_{extr} S$   $S \approx d_L \cdot d_b$ 

Angle of electron front in the target

$$\sin \theta_n = \frac{\cos \theta_e \sin \theta_0}{\sqrt{1 + \sin^2 \theta_0 - 2\sin \theta_e \sin \theta_0}}$$

$$\sin \theta_e \approx \sqrt{(\gamma - 1)/(\gamma + 1)} \sin \theta_0$$

 $10^{20}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> 26 fs, linear pol, diameter 4 mkm, C<sup>+6</sup>H<sup>+1</sup> target, density 6  $10^{22}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, thickness1 mkm, 75 <sup>0</sup> angle



E/laser field (white, black),

hot (>0.5 MeV) electron density (red) at t = 56 fs.

### **Electron bunch parameters**



(a) Max electron energy for s-bunch in dependence on laser incidence angle

(b) Max electron energy in s-bunch on laser intensity (angle 75<sup>0</sup>), solid line is limited target (of laser spot size), dot line – nonlimited, dash line (1.5 laser spot size)

(c) number of electrons in d-bunches (squares) and s-bunches (circles). Lines - scaling formulas.

s-bunches (specular direction)  $\mathcal{E}_{e}(MeV) \approx 1.0 I_{18}^{0.7}$ d-bunches (laser beam direction)  $\mathcal{E}_{e}(MeV) \approx 0.6 * I_{18}^{0.6}$ Number of s-bunches=number of laser pulse periods, but number of d-bunches – two times more. Efficiency: 3.7% d-bunches, 0.3% s-bunches

### **Atto-pulses parameters**



#### Experimental set-up and results



Adaptive Mirror (AM) and double plasma mirror (DPM) for wave front and contrast enhancement; The laser pulse is focused by f/2.5 off axis parabola at 45 degrees on a polished target  $SiO_2$ ;  $\tau_L = 45 fs$ EUV spectrometer: a combination of a toroidal mirror and a SVLS Hitachi grating; allows the detection in a wide spectral range of 10nm to 80nm. The spectrometer has a spectral resolution of better than  $\Delta \lambda / \lambda = 10^{-2}$  in the spectral range of 17nm-50nm. Kn ~10<sup>11</sup>



#### 1D PIC simulation results for the experiment



#### Substructure of high harmonics



#### High harmonics enhancement in laser plasma



Setup for a two laser pulse experiment in counterpropagating geometry. The intensity of the drive pulse is 6x10^19 W/cm2 at ultrahigh laser contrast. The second, less intense laser pulse hits the targets backside.



erence drive only

photon energy [nm]

At a time difference of two laser pulses of about ps a remarkable enhancement of the harmonic emission in forward direction was found. The polarization is both for laser pulses linear perpendicular, the target is CH foil with D=35 nm

*I*<sub>1</sub>=5x10<sup>19</sup>Wcm<sup>-2</sup>, *t*<sub>1</sub>=35 fs, Rectangle profile, *I*<sub>4</sub>=35/105 nm, C<sup>+6</sup>, *n*<sub>2</sub>= 198/66*n*<sub>27</sub>

# Generation of electron bunch and atto-pulse from nano-foils (DREAM target)



#### Generation of electron bunch and atto-pulse



### Atto-spiral generation upon interaction of circularly polarized intense laser pulses with cone-like targets



Sketch of the simulation domain and parameters.

The obtained atto-pulse (<100 as) generation and focusing with energy conversion efficiency of a few percent by cone-shaped target enables the peak intensity of the filtered fields in the focus to reach the value of the incident radiation. The calculated spectral intensity shows a much weaker decay (~  $1/n^2$ ) with the harmonic number n than in the ROM and other models.

The calculated isosurface of the electromagnetic energy density produced with (a) cylinder and (b) cone targets is shown at t = 20 fs for the values:  $3x10^{13}$  J/m3 (a) and  $12x10^{13}$  J/m3 (b). Here a frequencies five times higher than the fundamental are included. The Gaussian laser pulse has 10 fs FWHM, with a peak intensity  $10^{20}$  W/cm2, wavelength is 0.8 µm and the focal spot size is 2 µm. z.Lech&A.Andreev PRE (2016)

#### The comparison of cone and cylinder targets



# Ultra-high temporal contrast with help of plasma mirrors and XPW

MBI TW Ti:Sa Laser

#### **Initial Parameter**

- pulse energy > 1.2 J
- pulse duration < 45 fs
- ns ASE contrast: 10<sup>-6</sup> 10<sup>-7</sup>





#### Fs laser induced quasi-periodic nanostructure



**FESEM** image of metal nanorods

(b)

S.Das, A.Andreev et al., APJ (2016)



The results on ripples on Cu created with fs pulses at 800 nm.



 $d_1 \sim d_2 \sim 100nm, h \sim 1000nm$ b) LIPSS - laser induced periodic surface structuring.  $d_1 \sim d_2 \leq 300nm, h \leq 500nm$ 

A.Lubke, A.Andreev et al. Sci.Rep. (2017)



5 s exposure, 10  $\mu$ J on target by reduction of beam diameter. Under these conditions we were able to generate LIPSS

#### Nano-structure (dynamic) target



#### Efficiency of a structure targets



#### **Optimal structure target parameters**

 $r_{eh} = \frac{\lambda_L}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{1.37I_{18}}{1 + 0.7I_{18}}} \quad \text{os}$ Size of electron vacuum orbit  $(E_L - laser field)$  $d_2 \approx 2r_{eb}$ Optimal distance between ledges  $d2/\lambda_1$ 0.3 Electron extraction length due to laser field action 0.2  $l_{extr} \approx E_L / en_e = 4\pi \frac{c}{\omega_{pe}} \frac{\omega}{\omega_{pe}} \sqrt{1.37 I_{18}}$ 0.1  $d1/\lambda$ ,  $d_1 \ge 2l_{extr}$ 1×10<sup>20</sup> 1×10<sup>18</sup> 1×10<sup>19</sup> 1×10<sup>17</sup> 1×10<sup>21</sup> Optimal ledge size I W/cm<sup>2</sup>

Optimal relief height h when vacuum electron excursion is about target period

$$h \approx 0.05(d_1 + d_2) \frac{\omega t_L}{\sqrt{I_{18}}}$$

For  $I_{18} = 100$ ,  $\tau_L = 15 \ fs$ ,  $\lambda_L = 0.8 \ \mu m$   $d_1 = 0.15 \ \mu m$ ,  $d_2 = 0.4 \ \mu m$ ,  $h = 0.2 \ \mu m$ It's closed to the calculated optimum

#### Limitations of a nanostructure targets

Thermal (prepulse) smoothing

$$l_T \approx \sqrt{T_p \cdot \tau_p} / m_e v_{ei} > s \qquad T_p \sim \eta_p I_p \tau_p / Z_p n_i s$$

$$\tau_p \sqrt{Z_p T_p / m_i} = \tau_p \sqrt{\eta_p I_p \tau_p / m_i n_i s} < 0.5 d_2$$

$$I_p \le 10^9 W / cm^2$$
,  $\tau_p \le 1ns$   $K_m \ge 10^{10}$ ,  $I_L \ge 10^{19} W / cm^2$ 

Pondermotive (main pulse) smoothing

$$E_L^{2} / 4\pi < (en_e h)^{2} / 8\pi$$

$$(I / 1.37 \cdot 10^{18} W / cm^{2})^{0.5} < 2 n_e h / n_{cr} \lambda_L$$

$$I_L \le 10^{21} W / cm^{2}$$

#### "Ripple" targets



# Manipulation of laser beam by reflection from relief target



#### Electron transport efficiency in nano-wires



#### Analytical model of electron transport in "nano-wire" target



#### Production of atto-pulses from nano-wire target



## Laser-driven bright X/y-ray emission



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#### Ultra-bright y-ray flashes



#### Betatron radiations in nanowire targets



### Atto-pulse enhancement by two reflections



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2D simulations comparing two-pass (a) and one-pass (b) interactions. An incident laser (red, a0 =20,  $\tau$  =5 fs) interacts with two (a) or one (b) plasma surfaces (white, N =200), showing substantially enhanced high-order harmonics (yellow/green) in the two-pass case.

M. R. Edwards, M. Mikhailova, PRA (2016)

a) The transverse distribution of reflected intensity from 2D simulation, showing spatial narrowing, after one pass (blue, lower line) and two passes (red, upper line). Inset :spectra of reflected fields in both cases (b) Spatial FWHM of fundamental (red), moderate harmonics  $4 < \omega/\omega L < 20$ (blue) and high harmonics  $25 < \omega/\omega L < 40$  (gray) for focused two-pass interaction.

#### Amplification of Surface High Harmonics via multiple reflections of intense pulses



When an intense laser pulses impinges on a flat target surface it gets reflected by the ionized layer, which behaves by a longitudinally oscillating mirror. Main part is reflected back with a distorted wave front. This modulation is generated by the relativistic motion of the plasma mirror. The high frequency components appearing in the reflected spectrum are exactly the harmonics. Here we use the reflected pulse, containing its harmonics, to induce SHHG on a second clean surface.



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Schematics of the multiple reflection setup. The two foils are parallel and are moved perpendicular to the interaction plane with 100 cm/s velocity.





In our setup we assume a pulse of 10-100 mJ energy in the case of high repetition rate lasers, or 1-10 J in the case of high peak power lasers, compressed to about 10 fs time duration and focused to about a few tens  $\mu$ m2 spot area. A focal length of about 10 cm ensures a small beam divergence, smaller than the incidence angle which can be 20 degrees. Lecz&Andreev JOSA B (2018)

### Spectral intensity of reflected pulse at normal incidence

C)

25

30



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(a) Intensity distribution of harmonics  $(n_i)$  for different laser amplitudes. (b) Amplification factor of each harmonics after the 8th reflection.

Spectral intensity distribution of the pulse after reflections for different laser intensity and plasma density in the case of normal incidence.



## Reflection at oblique incidence of laser pulse

Lecz&Andreev JOSA B (2018)



Intensity evolution of harmonics generated during consecutive reflections for a0 = 2 and for different initial incidence angles; a,b) S – polarisation; c,d) P - polarisation  $\log_{10}(s_{i,g}/s_{i,1})$ 



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Intensity evolution of several harmonics for different plasma density scale lengths with P (I) and S (r) polarizations. Here: a0 = 3, np/nc = 45,  $\theta = 100$ .

Harmonic amplification factor after 8 reflections for same density.

#### **2D SIMULATIONS**



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Spectra of laser pulse after consecutive reflections for S and P polarization and with preformed plasma for a0 = 5. The fields within 1  $\mu$ m distance from the laser propagation axis are included.

#### **Amplification in low density plasmas**

In the second phase of ELI-ALPS operation, the secondary sources are anticipated to produce weak ( $\sim pJ$ ) ultra-short (< fs) pulses; the tentative achievable intensity of these secondary pulses are very weak and for practical significance need to be amplified. We examine the possibility to utilize resonant Backward Raman amplification (BRA) as an efficient mechanism in plasma to amplify such weak pulses.



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A schematic of the feasible BRA setup, relevant to ALPS infrastructure.

 $k_0 - k_1 = k_2 \qquad \omega_0 = \omega_1 + \omega_2$   $\omega_{0,1}^2 = \omega_p^2 + c^2 k_{0,1}^2 \qquad \omega_2^2 = \omega_p^2 + \upsilon_{th}^2 k_2^2$ Approximate energy transfer:  $\omega_2 / \omega_0$ 

#### A case study for ELI-ALPS parameter access

Primary Laser: SYLOS: Energy: 20mJ, Duration: 10fs, Spectrum: (0.3-1.3) μm
Secondary pulse: Energy: μJ-pJ, Duration: fs-as, Spectrum: (3-120) nm
Primary sources at present setup are not consistent for BRAmp processing
Alternative pump: FEL setup (driven by primary lasers) like DESY-FLASH FEL sources: 6.5-47 nm, 10-50fs, 1-5GW
Spot optimization: K-B Geometry of reflective optics (Spot: 0.01-1μm)
Plasma slab: (1-10) μm: laser illumination: isochoric heating of solid Mishra&Andreev JOSA B (2018)

#### Optimization of resonant BRA physical parameters

Applicability of SVEA to ultra-short pulses

$$\partial_t^2 A \ll \omega \partial_t A \Longrightarrow \tau_l(as) \gg (1/2)\lambda(nm) \equiv \tau_o(as) \gg 5\lambda(nm)$$

Seed-pump propagation

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$$\omega_2 = \omega_0 - \omega_1 < \omega_1 \Longrightarrow 1/2 < \lambda_0 / \lambda_1 < 1$$

#### •L-wave breaking $I_0 < I_{br} = (n_e / n_{cr})^{3/2} (4\omega_1\omega_0 / c^2k_2^2)I_M, I_M \approx (n_{cr}m_ec^3 / 16)$ •Shortest achievable duration of the seed leading spike $\Delta t_{s,fs} \sim 0.1(\lambda_1 / \lambda_0)(\Lambda_0\lambda_0^{nm} / I_0^{18})^{1/3}, \Lambda_0 e^{-2\Lambda_0} \approx \left[I_{1o}\Delta t_{1o}^2(1 - \lambda_0 / \lambda_1) / (4m_e^2c^3 / e^2)\right]$ •Largest achievable intensity of the seed leading spike

$$I_{1m}^{(18)} \approx 1.2 \cdot 10^3 \left[ (\lambda_0 / \lambda_1)^2 / (1 - \lambda_0 / \lambda_1) \right] (I_0^{(18)} / \Lambda_0 \lambda_0^{nm})^{2/3}$$

Malkin et al. PRE 90, 063110 (2014).

Mishra & Andreev, PoP 23, 083108 (2016);

#### Parametric space for laser/ plasma parameters to achieve efficient resonant BRA

#### PIC simulation results (with ELI-ALPS configuration)

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# Plausible resonant BRAmp configuration

Plausible Pump laser parameters	
wave length $\lambda_0$	~40 nm
Pulse freq. ω₀	~4.71 × 10 <sup>16</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Pulse length τ <sub>0</sub>	~10 fs
Peak intensity (I₀)	~ 10 <sup>17</sup> W/cm <sup>2</sup> (spot size ~10 µm)
Plausible seed laser parameters	
wave length $\lambda_1$	60 nm
Pulse freq. ω <sub>1</sub>	3 × 10 <sup>16</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Pulse length T <sub>1</sub>	0.8 fs
Pulse energy ε <sub>1</sub>	~10 nJ
Peak power W <sub>1</sub>	~10 MW
Peak intensity I <sub>1</sub>	~10 <sup>14</sup> W/cm <sup>2</sup> (spot size ~10 $\mu$ m <sup>2</sup> )
Output results	
Wave breaking Int. I <sub>br</sub>	1.2×10 <sup>19</sup> W/cm <sup>2</sup>
Plasma density	7.8 × 10 <sup>22</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup>
L-w freq.	1.57 × 10 <sup>16</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Pulse duration ()	0.9 fs
Output fluence w <sub>1m</sub>	1.6 × 10 <sup>4</sup> J/cm <sup>2</sup>
Output intensity I <sub>1m</sub>	7 × 10 <sup>18</sup> W/cm <sup>2</sup>
Amplification factor ( )	7 × 10 <sup>4</sup>
Maximum amplification time ( )	160 fs
Maximum plasma thickness ( )	48 µm

I eli

#### Conclusion

- Optimal structure of the considered targets permits to get almost total absorption of laser pulse. Profile shape has a weak influence on the absorption. In our case, degradation of a structure by a laser prepulse is the most important factor. For this scheme to work, one needs a very high-contrast laser-pulse and a nanosecond laser pre-pulse duration
- It is shown that relativistic intensity laser wave can be effectively (~ percent) converted into sequence of atto-pulses of minimal duration at the reflection from a foil with a big angle of incidence.
- We have shown a line splitting in the harmonic spectra. Our simulations demonstrated that an additive accelerated motion of the oscillating plasma surface during laser pulse is causing the substructure in the harmonic spectra. The surfaces movement and so the substructure in the harmonic spectra, increases with the plasma density gradient.
- Nano-wires exhibit a large coefficient of laser energy conversion to kinetic energy of a fast electrons. Its bunch can propagate as far as several hundred micrometers in such targets.
- The obtained atto-pulse generation and focusing with energy conversion efficiency of a few percent by cone-shaped target enables the peak intensity of the filtered fields in the focus to reach the value of the incident radiation.
- It may be concluded that the BRA schema operating in XUV regime may efficiently be utilized to amplify and compress the weak ultra-short pulses to EW/cm<sup>2</sup> and sub fs time scale.
- It is shown that in the weakly relativistic regime the intensity of high harmonics can be amplified by three orders of magnitude with help of the method of multi-reflections thus, significantly increase the generated weak atto-pulses.

### **Contributors**



Thank you to them

Z.Lecz, S.Mishra (ELI-ALPS) M.Schnuerer's group (Max Born Institute), K.Yu.Platonov (SPb State University),

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