BEAM DYNAMICS SIMULATIONS FOR THE NEW SUPERCONDUCTING CW HEAVY ION LINAC AT GSI[*]

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Abstract

For future experiments with heavy ions near the coulomb barrier within the super-heavy element (SHE) research project a multi-stage R&D program of GSI/HIM and IAP is currently in progress. It aims at developing a superconducting (sc) continuous wave (CW) LINAC with multiple CH cavities as key components downstream the High Charge State Injector (HLI) at GSI. The LINAC design is challenging due to the requirement of intense beams in CW mode up to a mass-to-charge ratio of 6, while covering a broad output energy range from 3.5 to 7.3 MeV/u with the same minimum energy spread. Testing of the first CH-cavity in 2016 demonstrated a promising maximum accelerating gradient of $E_a = 9.6$ MV/m; the worldwide first beam test with this sc multi-gap CH-cavity in 2017 was a milestone in the R&D work of GSI/HIM and IAP. In the light of experience gained in this research so far, the beam dynamics layout for the entire LINAC has recently been updated and optimized.

INTRODUCTION

In the last decades the periodic table was essentially extended up to the nuclei with proton number $Z = 118$ and neutron number $N = 177$. Compared to the heaviest known stable nuclei, $^{208}_{82}$Pb and $^{209}_{83}$Bi, the mass of the heaviest nucleus was continuously increased. Most recently by more than 40 % with the discovery of $^{294}_{118}$Og [1]. It turned out, that the most successful methods for the laboratory synthesis of heavy elements are fusion-evaporation reactions using heavy-element targets, recoil-separation techniques and the identification of the nuclei by known daughter decays [2]. For the production of SHE, hot fusion reactions with ^{48}Ca projectiles and targets made of actinide elements ranging from ^{231}Pa to ^{254}Es are considered promising.

To sum it up, all of the experiments have the common challenge of very low cross sections and therefore require the separation of very rare events within weeks of beamtime from intense backgrounds [3]. Fortunately, the yield of SHE and therefore the number of events per unit time depends not only on the cross section but also on the projectile beam intensity, overall beam quality and target thickness. Thus, progress in SHE research is highly driven by technical developments in this fields [4]. Furthermore, the scientific fields

of nuclear chemistry and spectroscopy as well as materials research and biology could benefit from these developments.

At GSI a comprehensive upgrade programme is performed. In this context, the UNILAC (Universal Linear Accelerator) is upgraded to the requirements of FAIR and will be used as injector [5–10]. The duty factor will be relatively low (below 1 %). Conversely, for SHE experiments a high duty factor is required, which is why the presently available duty cycle of 25 % (5 ms pulse length @50 Hz) will be upgraded to CW-mode (duty cycle = 100 %) [11, 12]. Consequently a superconducting CW-LINAC was proposed [13] and is further investigated and developed [14–20].

BEAM DYNAMICS CONCEPT

Up to now, the reference design for the CW LINAC dates back to the publication of Minaev et al. in 2009 [13]. Meanwhile many experiences have been gained in design, fabrication and operation of superconducting CH-cavities and the associated components. In this context, a revision of the beam dynamics layout was recommended. Optimized cavity layouts resulted in modified voltage distributions. Furthermore, the cryomodule layout and intertank sections were specified in more details. Promising RF- and beam testing with the 15-gap CH0 showed, that higher accelerating gradients can be achieved [21], thus leading to a more efficient design approach. Consequently, extensive beam dynamics studies are carried out to fix the best layout with respect to the beam and all other RF and mechanical requirements. The beam dynamics concept for the CW-LINAC is based on multicell CH-type DTL-cavities operating at 216.816 MHz ($f_{HLI} = 108.408$ MHz) and focusing by superconducting solenoids. The main requirements and boundary conditions for the LINAC design are as follows:

$\oplus$ $W_{in} = 1.4$ MeV/u (at the HLI exit)

$\oplus$ $W_{out} = 3.5$–7.3 MeV/u

$\oplus$ $\Delta W_{out} = \pm 3$ keV/u

$\oplus$ $I \leq 1$ mA

$\oplus$ $A/q \leq 6$

With a relatively low beam current, CW-operation and limited longitudinal space, this LINAC is predestined to be operated in the superconducting mode. Further thoughts on the choice of technology with regard to superconducting or room-temperature operation can be found at [22].
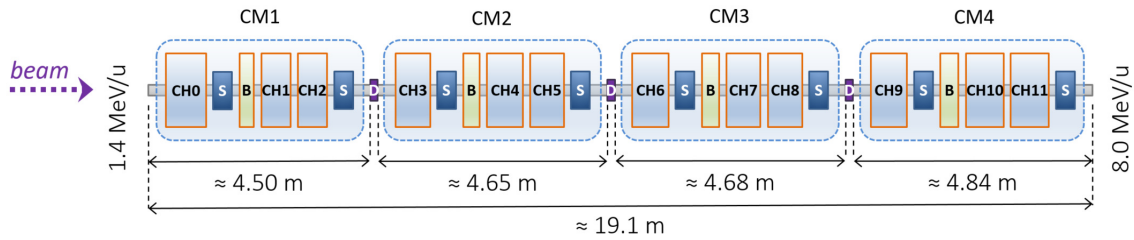
Figure 1: CW-LINAC layout with twelve superconducting CH-cavities in four cryomodules. Captions: CM = Cryomodule, S = Solenoid, B = 2-Gap-Buncher, D = Diagnostics.
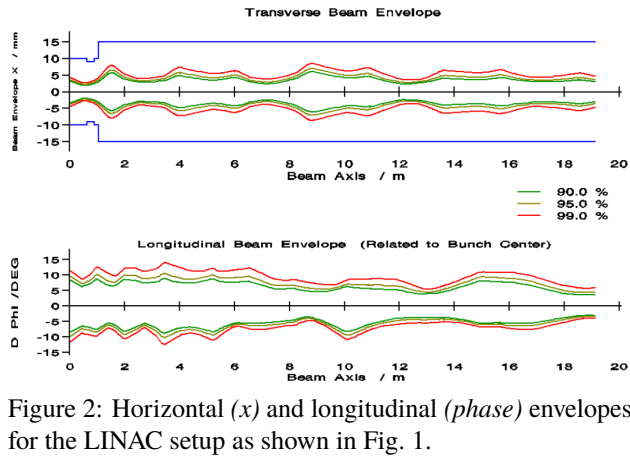

Figure 2: Horizontal *(x)* and longitudinal *(phase)* envelopes for the LINAC setup as shown in Fig. 1.
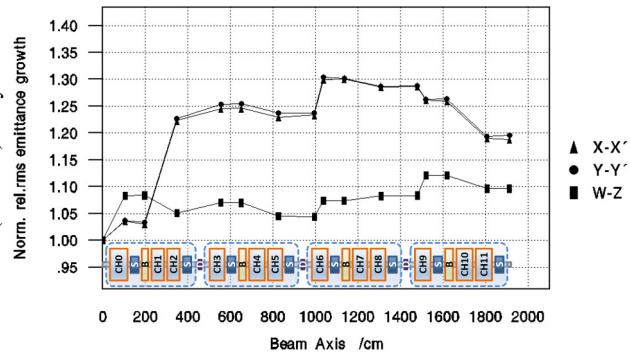

Figure 3: Normalized relative rms-emittance growth.

Figure 4: Phase space distributions for the recent beam dynamics layout simulated with LORASR: $x - x'$ *(top)*, $\Delta\varphi - \Delta W$ *(bottom)*, input for first cryomodule *(left)*, output of fourth cryomodule *(right)*.

Recent Beam Dynamics Layout

To optimize the beam dynamics design in terms of acceleration efficiency and therefore relating to total LINAC length, $E_a = 7.1$ MV/m was chosen as design gradient for the upcoming CH-cavities in the nominal case of $A/q = 6$ (see Table 1). This allows to keep the LINAC length comparably short. A revised cryomodule (CM) layout was studied and simulated with LORASR (100,001 particles, $I = 0$ mA, $A/q = 6$) [23]. It comprises three CH-DTL cavities, two solenoids and a 2-gap rebuncher-cavity. This approach partly reduces the overall drift lengths compared to the former consideration of CMs equipped with 2 CH-cavities. This approach was periodically extended to four cryomodules (see Fig. 1). The transverse (only *x* is depicted due to plane symmetry) and longitudinal envelopes are shown in Fig. 2. The
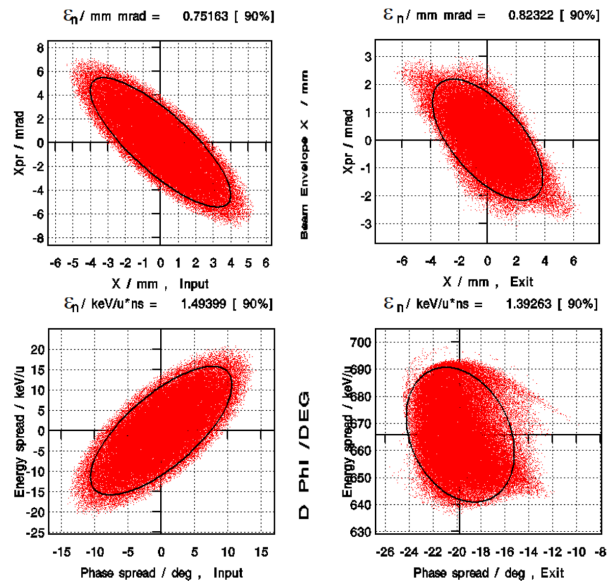
final rms-emittance growth is below 10 % for the longitudinal and below 20 % for the transverse planes (see Fig. 3). An additional slight increase is expected for a beam current of 1 mA. In this beam dynamics layout, the solenoids provide a magnetic field of up to 7 T for beam focusing. While final transverse matching is not completely optimized, emittance growth and a slight deformation of the beam in transverse phase space is inevitable. The longitudinal phase space distribution stays largely compact through the whole LINAC design, overcoming the challenge of high accelerating gradients and several drifts due to the boundary conditions of a superconducting design (see Fig. 4).

This layout even exceeds the final design energy of 7.3 MeV/u and thus giving opportunities for modifications of the last cryomodule. Among others, these include the elimination of the last rebuncher-cavity or of CH11, which is object of further investigation. On its way to the experimental area (> 20 m), the bunch length grows to about 160° (@216.816 MHz). The bunch can be easily rotated in phase space by a rebuncher-cavity, resulting in the required energy spread of less then $\Delta W_\text{out} = \pm 3$ keV/u.

Table 1: Cavity Specifications Overview

	Gaps	$(\beta\lambda/2)/\,$mm	$E_a/(\,$MV/m$)$
CH0	15	40.8	5.75
B1	2	44.1	5.67
CH1	8	47.7	6.00
CH2	8	47.7	7.10
CH3	8	57.0	7.10
B2	2	57.5	5.57
CH4	8	60.6	7.10
CH5	7	62.7	7.10
CH6	7	70.6	7.10
B3	2	71.0	5.35
CH7	6	73.6	7.10
CH8	6	74.9	7.10
CH9	6	81.7	7.10
B4	2	81.7	5.14
CH10	6	85.4	7.10
CH11	6	86.0	7.10

Outlook

Beside the presented simulations, extensive beam dynamics studies are ongoing, to finally optimize the current CW-LINAC design. Further simulations for the acceleration of a wide range of different ions (protons to uranium) with this LINAC are in progress. In-depth benchmarking the layout with TraceWin [24] including 3D field maps from RF-simulations for the cavities and with DYNAMION [25] as well as comprehensive error studies are envisaged.

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