## Pulse Control in a Free Electron Laser Amplifier

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FEL is a very special laser amplifier: medium "free" amplification mechanism. Only electrons interacting with an "artificial" potential made by the undulator and the laser field

Full control of the resonances: amplification is possible in a spectral range of many orders of magnitude

Experiments have demonstrated the possibility both of increasing the temporal coherence and of reducing the amplifier length required to reach saturation, by seeding it with an external source.We are learning how to influence the amplification process and modify the properties of radiation according to our needs, e.g. for

- Generation of ultrashort pulses
- Generation of higher order harmonics
- Multiple pulses for pump & probe

Several experiments in this framework were carried out at SPARC and FERMI, that are the two places that where I had the privilege to give my contribution. Here is my personal (incomplete) overview.



Seeding and HGHG FELs

## STARTUP



## Direct seeding an amplifier: the seed power required to overcome the shot noise scale with the inverse of the wavelength





data from B. Carré, Colloque AEC - Slicing, Paris 2004 Estimate includes transport and matching to e-beam – Seeded FELs Workshop, Frascati 10-12 (2008)

 $\cap$ 







### FERMI FEL-1: nominal range 100 – 20nm



## FERMI FEL-2: The Fresh Bunch Injection Technique\*

2<sup>nd</sup> mod

1<sup>st</sup> mod.

Position:

Elettra

The seed @260nm is on the tail of the e-beam

The first stage converts the seed to the n<sup>th</sup> harmonic (8<sup>th</sup> harmonic @32.5nm) n<sup>th</sup> harmonic (e.g. 32.5 nm)

DS

e-beam

1st rad.

n<sup>th</sup> x m<sup>th</sup> harmonic (e.g. 10.8 nm)

2<sup>nd</sup> rad

The delay line shifts the first stage output to a fresh portion of the e-beam

The second stage converts the first stage to the  $n^{th} x m^{th}$  harmonic of the seed

\*L. H. Yu, I. Ben-Zvi, Nim 1993

## **FEL-2 brief history**

•Run 13 (September 2012) 1.0 GeV • FIRST LASING @ 14.4 & 10.8 nm

Run 15 (March 2013) 1.25 GeV 8.1 & 6.5 nm test of BC1+BC2 compression

Run 16 (June 2013) 1.45 GeV 6.5 nm -> 4 nm BC1, BC2 & Ramped PI Laser Shape

Run 17 (September 2013) 1.25 GeV Increase energy & stability @7.5 nm BC1 Tested higher compression factors

Run 20 (May-June2014) 1.5 GeV Increased energy & stability @4nm (10 uJ) Measured higher order harmonics



### FEL-1: Two Color Pump-probe experiments

E. Allaria et al. Nat. Comm. 4:2476 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms3476

The FEL can be seeded with two pulses, even separated in frequency, so long as supported by the amplifier gain bandwidth





Single spike, comb structures and chirped pulse amplification

## GAIN "SHAPING"

## Single spike amplification

A simple example of gain shaping consist in limiting the bunch capability of lasing, by spoiling the bunch properties where lasing is not desired

P. Emma et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 92, 074801 (2004) Y. Ding et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 254802 (2012)

Or by compressing the bunch to a length (≈2π) shorter than the FEL cooperation length

$$l_c=rac{\lambda_0}{4\pi
ho}$$

*J. Rosenzweig et al. NIM A593, 39* (2008)



An FEL amplifier with  $\rho \approx 10^{-3}$  has sufficent bandwidth to support sub-fs (fwhm) pulses below 1 nm and sub-10 fs below 10 nm.



## Measurement of pulse length

Assuming a Fourier limited pulse, the spectral width indicated a (rms) pulse length  $\approx$  50 fs, but a direct measurement of the pulse length was missing.

Collaboration with J. Rosenzweig, UCLA, G. Marcus designed and realized this FROG specifically for SPARC

G. Marcus et al., APL 101, 134102 (2012)









(c) GENESIS FROG Trace

(a) Experimental FROG Trace

(b) Reconstructed FROG Trace

Measured (fwhm) pulse length of 98 fs (TBP ≈ 1.2)

### Shorter than the cooperation length ...

High harmonic attosecond pulse train amplification in a free electron laser (*B.W. J. McNeil et al. J. Phys. B* 44 065404 (2011))

The attosecond structure of the HH seed can be amplified to saturation using a modelocked optical klystron FEL amplifier configuration

 $\overline{A}$ Two characteristic spatial periods lead to a frequency modulated emission spectrum, and gain function, with resonances at  $\omega \pm n \Omega$  (bi-harmonic undulator)

Similar situation is obtained lasing with two beams of different energies, at the same longitudinal

position, if



Electron delay

*V. Petrillo et al. PRL 111,* **11**4802 (2013)





## Combining gain bandwidth & seed: Chirped Pulse Amplification

Ultrashort pulses can be obtained chirping the seed and the electron beam in phase space to widen the gain bandwidth and preserve resonance and optically re-compressing the pulse after amplification.

- The idea to use CPA for generating short and powerful FEL pulses from a seeded FEL has been proposed for the first time in *L. H. Yu at al*, *Phys. Rev. E* 49 (1994)
- We studied the application to a SASE FEL (SPARX) in F. Frassetto, L. Giannessi, L. Poletto, Nucl. Inst. Meth. A 593 (2008).



## Modulator

Parameters =			
"Frame"	"O of 40"	"Position (m)"	"0"
"Parameters@"	"1h"	"3h"	"5h"
"Energy (uJ)"	2.133	0	0
"length (rms, fs)"	147.936	0	0
"width (rms, %)"	0.374	1.121	1.868





Power (a.u., 1st harmonic)









wavelength (nm)







t (fs)

600

FERMI FEL-1 configuration – D. Gauthier with Perseo



## CPA compared to short bunch

### **Higher Compression**

Low charge – low pulse energy High Current – higher gain, shorter gain length - Higher efficiency (I<sup>1/3</sup>) Less sensitivity to beam parameters

### CON

PRO

Beam quality preservation with compr.

FERMI FEL-1 and FEL-2

- Spectral quality preservation
- Stability & Time jitter

### PRO

Higher charge involved
Higher e-beam quality because of lower compression
Spectral quality

**CPA** 

- Beam quality preservation with large chirp & sensitivity to e-beam phase space lin.
- Efficiency of re-compression

Project idea on CPA (Coord. G. De Ninno) - collaborations with UN. Padova, Un. N. Gorica, LOA, Instituto Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear, Lisbona & Max Planck for a test experiment @ 26 nm - See G. De Ninno MOP073

Future steps following proposal from A. Cavalleri & A. Cavalieri (MPI) for dedicated beamline for ultrashort pulses & CPA on FEL-2 (up to 500 eV) (and FEL-1 at 90-100 eV)

Pulse splitting and superradiance

## SATURATION



## Pulse splitting observed at FERMI since winter 2010...

Seed frequency chirp generated by propagating through the different optical components (lenses, windows), and by self-phase modulation due to high intensity

Temporal separation limited by seed pulse length:

Generating long (chirped) seed pulses with significant local power tails is an issue.

High intensity may give multiple local maxima (observed) B. Mahieu et al. Optics Express 21, 22728 (2013)



Superradiance Pioneered by R. Bonifacio and co-workers see e.g. R. Bonifacio et al. Riv. N. Cim. 13, 1 (1990)

**Slippage:** The light advances over the electrons of a distance N $\lambda$  in N undulator periods

**Saturation:** When the FEL laser power reaches  $\sim \rho P_{F_{e}}$  saturation occurs: there is a cyclic energy exchange between electrons and field (in steady state regime)

the pulse length is comparable to the distance covered in a synchrotron period



# Pulse shape not determined by the seed: after saturation the seed turns into a solitary wave (in scaled coordinates)

Scaling relations (in 1-D)

Duration  $\sigma_t \propto z^{-1/2}$ Energy  $E \propto z^{3/2}$ 

*Power*  $P \propto z^2$ 

See Xi Yang

Poster MOP079

**Emission of high order harmonics** 

2. Behavior in a FEL cascaded configuration











### Evolution of a superradiant pulse in a cascade

#### Modulator

Seed

#### Radiator



## Harmonic Cascaded FEL

UM2

L. Giannessi, P. Musumeci New Journal of Physics 8 (2006) 294

Resonant at  $\lambda_2 = \frac{m}{2} \lambda_1, \ m \neq n$ 

Bunching at  $\lambda_n = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_n}$ 

 $\lambda_1$ 

Resonant at

UM1

### **Advantages:**

- Higher order harmonic coupling in the final radiator extends the wavelength operation range
- 2. Larger slippage in the final radiator. Pulse energy is proportional to slippage.

Harmonics Spectrum of the two undulators1° Undulator2° Undulator

Emitted wavelength:

 $\lambda_m = \frac{\lambda_2}{-} = \lambda_n$ 



## Superradiant Cascade at SPARC

L. Giannessi et al. PRL 110, 044801 (2013)

### Seed @ 400 nm 2 uJ

1 UM tuned at 400 nm

## Progressively closing the remaining 5 UM tuned @ 200nm





## FERMI FEL-2: Fresh bunch injection & harmonic cascade

The seed @260nm is on the tail of the e-beam

The first stage converts the seed to the  $12^{th}$ harmonic @ 21.4 nm

mod.

e-beam 12th harmonic

DS1

The delay line shifts the first stage output to a fresh portion of the e-beam 12<sup>th</sup> x 4<sup>th</sup> harmonic 5.4 nm

The second

stage converts

the first stage

harmonic of the

seed (a) 5.4nm

to the  $48^{th}$ 

DS2

12<sup>th</sup> x 4<sup>th</sup> x 4<sup>th</sup> harmonic 1.36 nm

Helical pol.

nm

The third stage radiator, 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic, is resonant with the 4<sup>th</sup> harmonic bunching of the second stage radiator, corresponding to h 192 @ 1.36nm

Linear pol.

4.08 nm

## FEL-2 - June 2014 - RUN 20

#### Not Ideal:

- The relatively long seed pulse (120-140 fs) do not ensure a "single spike" superradiant pulse
- Sudden cascade transitions by factors of x10 or more do not leave sufficient propagation length for shortening the pulse from one stage another

### LDM Beamline

(C. Callegari resp., with support from M. Coreno, P. Finetti, F. Frassetto, R. Godnig, P. Miotti, L. Poletto)

Dedicated Spectrometer High sensitivity CCD detector Spectral range up to ≈ 1 keV See P. Finetti, MOP020





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