Breaking the 70 MeV Proton Energy Threshold in Laser Proton Acceleration and Guiding Beams to Applications



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Requirements for ion acceleration



The requirements strongly depend on the application: a few examples



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- Ion source as a new injector:
 - Rep rate matched to conventional accelerator structures (e.g. 50 Hz)
 - Ion energy a few tens of MeV
 - Radial beam shaping for divergence optimization
 - Ion species selectable
 - Energy matched to particle number acceptable to acc structure



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- Medical Application:
 - Ion energy >250 MeV for protons and >400 MeV/u for e.g. Carbon (prob. no TNSA)
 - High contrast
 - Rep rate 10 to 30 Hz
 - Energy stability better 3%
 - Relatively low particle numbers required (10¹¹ or 10⁹ per patient)
 - •Uniform ion beam --> Laser beam shaping



Requirements for ion acceleration (cont.)





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Fusion (FI)

- Tailored energy spectrum up to a few tens of MeV (TNSA might be ok)
- High conversion efficiency
- High particle numbers (high laser energy)
- Pulse length can be up to ps
- Beam overlay, beam synchronization
- 10 Hz rep rate



Requirements for ion acceleration (cont.)



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- Pulse length can be up to ps
- Beam overlay, beam synchronization
- 10 Hz rep rate
- Security applications
 - relaxed rep rate
 - Ion energy up to GeV
 - High contrast
 - Mobile / compact



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Requirements for ion acceleration (cont.)



- Accelerators (all optical)
 - High gradients
 - High Particle numbers
 - High Rep Rate
 - Staging
 - High Average Power
 - Many Beamlines (...100)





Proton acceleration with lasers : Static electric fields





Ion Acceleration Mechanisms



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Ion acceleration mechanism	Acronym	Ion Accel. process
Target-Normal Sheath Acceleration S. Hatchett <i>et al.,</i> Phys. Plas. 7 , 2076 (2000)	TNSA	Charge separation GeV protons? X



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Ion Acceleration Mechanisms



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Target-Normal Sheath Acceleration	TNSA	Charge separation	
S. Hatchett <i>et al.,</i> Phys. Plas. 7 , 2076 (2000)		GeV protons? X	40 20 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60
Break out afterburner L. Yin <i>et al.,</i> Laser Part. Beams 24 , 291 (2006) ; Phys. Plasmas 14 , 056706 (2007)	BOA	Kinetic Process (Buneman): relative <i>e-i</i> drift GeV protons? ✓ Linear Polar.	$BOA n' t*\omega_{pe} = 5500.00$ $from proton$
			x (micron)

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Phys. Plasmas 14, 056706 (2007)		GeV protons? ✓ Linear Polar.	N -5 -10 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Radiation Pressure Acceleration, Aka Plasma Piston	RPA	Charge separation	× (micron) 250 200 1.5
E.g., A.P.L. Robinson, <i>et al.</i> , New J. Phys. 10 , 013021 (2008)		GeV protons? ✓ Circular Polar.	

x (c/ω_L)

TNSA vs. BOA



Accessible with moderate contrast lasers Micrometer sized targets Spectrum limited to 70 MeV Surface acceleration

> High contrast lasers needed Sub-Micrometer sized targets Ion energies exceeding 120 MeV/u Volume acceleration Heavy ions (deuterons) at same speed as protons Lower EMP and less debris









a) Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA) phase

b) Intermediate phase

c) Laser Breakout Afterburner (BOA) phase

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a) Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA) phase

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(MeV) 700 100 Energy (a 600 t₁: relativistic transparent 80 500 $n' > 1 \ge n'/\gamma$ ne/n_{cr} Kinetic lase laser 60 400 300 40 t_2 : classically underdense $\stackrel{\bullet}{\searrow}$ C⁺6 200 n' < 1Maximum 20 100 0 С 200 400 600 800 1000 200 400 600 800 1000 0 0 time (fs) time (fs) UNIVERSITAT

Break out Afterburner (BOA)

a) Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA) phase

b) Intermediate phase

target

preplasma

laser

c) Laser Breakout Afterburner (BOA) phase





accelerated

Ð

ions



critical density

hot electrons



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Break out Afterburner (BOA)

a) Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA) phase

b) Intermediate phase

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c) Laser Breakout Afterburner (BOA) phase

VPIC: 100nm CH2 target & Trident laser with 2x10²⁰W/cm²

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	Max. energy	proton	carbon
	Ideal laser	132 MeV	450 MeV
2	Real laser	121 MeV	447 MeV

Break out Afterburner (BOA)



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Targets for BOA



CH₂ Targets

- Poly(4-methyl-1-pentene), trade name TPX (Mitsui, Inc.)
- Soluble in cyclohexane
- Full density films (800 mg/mL) dip- or spin-cast (<200 nm 1 um)
- Low density foams (5 50 mg/mL) produced by freeze-dip-casting, freeze drying (~50 um)

Full-density film



Low-density film



- Deuteropolyethylene(85% D content)
- Soluble in hot toluene/ xylenes
- Full density films (940 mg/mL) drop-cast onto warm Si wafers (300 nm- 1um)



High contrast Lasers (PHELIX)





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Nuclear activation imaging spectroscopy TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT (NAIS) DARMSTADT M. Günther et al., Rev. Sci. Instr. 84, 073305 (2013) 10¹ PICF-data: N(E) per 1 MeV particular N(E) per lave Number of Protons per Energy in MeV 40 Ο 20 EXFOR database 10 $^{63}Cu(p,n)^{63}Zn$ 600 600 10 (mbarns) 103 Protons 400 400 Section 10 20 Energy (MeV) 10 30 $^{63}Cu(p,2n)^{62}Zn$ $Y = N_T \int_{S}^{T} \sigma \left(E_p \right) N_p \left(E_p \right) dE_p$ Cross 200 200 22.5 MeV 511 keV 20.5 MeV 0 / 63Zn 20 40 0 Counts in 7 minutes 18.3 MeV 62Zn Incident Energy (MeV) 15.9 MeV 13.0 MeV 10.8 MeV .9 MeV MeV 500 400 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 Energy (keV)

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Volume instead of surface acceleration







Using CD targets: No cleaning needed one order of magnitude more deuterons than protons when using BOA

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Ultimate test of ion energies using NAIS

PROTONS



DEUTERONS

 63.8
 86.0
 109.6
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 113.0
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Demonstration of BOA at the PHELIX laser







Demonstration of BOA at the PHELIX laser







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Demonstration of BOA at the PHELIX laser











Laser Ion Generation Handling and Transport







Laser Ion Generation Handling and Transport







Coil design from HZDR





bunch characterization for cavity







cavity







phase rotation



S. Busold et al., PR-STAB 17, 031302 (2014)





Ingo Hofmann Helmholtz Institut Jena / GSI





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Helmholtz Institut Jena / GSI





•Experimental proof that BOA, based on relativistic transparency of solids works



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•more than 130 MeV protons @ trident and 70 MeV @ PHELIX (only 40 J on target)



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•Ion beams physics and neutron science becomes available to universities using short pulse lasers

Thanks to



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