

RECENT ON-LINE TAPER OPTIMIZATION ON LCLS*

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Abstract

High-brightness XFELs are in high demand, in particular for certain types of imaging applications. Self-seeding XFELs can respond to a heavily tapered undulator more effectively, therefore seeded tapered FELs are considered a path to high-power FELs in the terawatt level. Due to many effects, including the synchrotron motion, the optimization of the taper profile is intrinsically multi-dimensional and computationally expensive. With an operating XFEL, such as LCLS, the on-line optimization becomes more economical than numerical simulation. Here we report recent on-line taper optimization on LCLS taking full advantage of nonlinear optimizers as well as up-to-date development of artificial intelligence: deep machine learning and neural networks.

TAPERED FEL TO REACH HIGH POWER

Ultra-fast hard X-ray Free electron laser (FEL) pulse providing atomic and femtosecond spatial-temporal resolution [1,2] makes it a revolutionary tool attracting world-wide interests for frontier scientific research. Among these, single particle imaging is one of the applications demanding terawatts (TW) level peak power [3]. To reach TW FEL peak power, using a tapered undulator to keep the FEL further extracting kinetic energy from the high energy electron bunch is an active research direction [4]. However, the FEL after exponential growth saturation has to have good temporal coherence to better respond to a heavily tapered undulator [5]. While the SASE FEL provides high spatial coherence, the

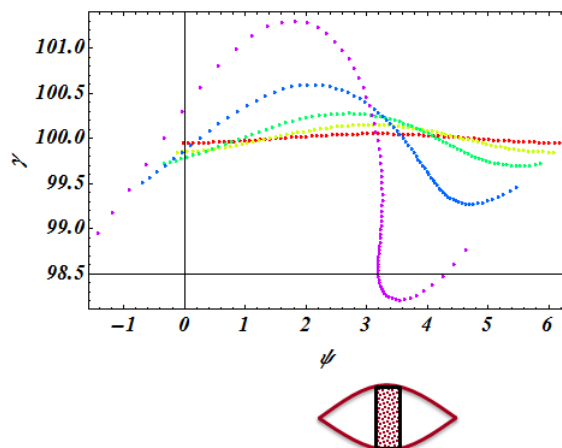


Figure 1: The electrons experience a quarter of a synchrotron motion period and microbunch with a central phase of $\psi \sim \pi$.

temporal coherence is rather poor at exponential growth saturation point. To improve the temporal coherence, seeding approaches: both external [6, 7] and self-seeding [8, 9] and Slippage-enhanced SASE (SeSASE) [10–13] can produce an FEL pulse with good temporal coherence at the exponential growth saturation region. In this paper, we conduct our study with a self-seeding tapered FEL [14–17].

The physics changes from high-gain to low-gain FEL after the exponential growth saturates. In the high-gain region, the FEL power grows exponentially [18]:

$$P_{\text{FEL}}(z) = P_0 \exp[z/L_G], \quad (1)$$

where P_0 is the start-up power, L_G is the power gain length, and z is the coordinate along the electron forward traveling direction in the undulator. The electrons experience a quarter of a synchrotron motion period from red, yellow, green, blue, and purple; they eventually microbunch with a central coordinate of $\psi \sim \pi$ as shown in Fig. 1. The electrons together with the FEL bucket are illustrated in the lower part of Fig. 1 indicating microbunching at $\psi \sim \pi$.

After the exponential growth saturation, the FEL system evolves into coherence emission. Assuming a transversely round electron beam, a constant bunching factor b_1 , and no

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beam loss, so that the peak current I_{pk} is also a constant, the coherent radiation power is [16]:

$$P_{\text{coh}} = \frac{Z_0 K^2 [JJ]^2 I_{pk}^2 b_1^2 z^2}{32\sqrt{2}\pi\sigma_x^2 \gamma^2}, \quad (2)$$

where Z_0 is the vacuum impedance, K is the peak undulator parameter, $\sigma_x (= \sigma_y)$ is the rms transverse round electron bunch size, γ is the relativistic factor, and

$$JJ = J_0 \left[\frac{K^2}{4(1+K^2/2)} \right] - J_1 \left[\frac{K^2}{4(1+K^2/2)} \right], \quad (3)$$

with J_0 and J_1 are the zeroth-order and first-order Bessel function.

Due to energy conservation, the resonance energy γ_r evolves according to:

$$\frac{d\gamma_r}{dz} = -\mathcal{A} \frac{K^2 z}{\gamma_r^2}, \quad (4)$$

with

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{e [JJ]^2 Z_0 I_{pk} b_1}{2^{11/4} m c^2 \pi w_0 \sigma_x} \sin(\psi_r), \quad (5)$$

ψ_r is the synchronous phase of the electrons, e is the electron charge, m electron static mass, and w_0 the waist size of the FEL beam.

To maintain the resonance condition for a z -dependent energy, the taper profile is then z -dependent as [16]

$$K(z) \approx K_0 \left[1 - \frac{\mathcal{A} \mathcal{B}^2 \gamma_{r0}}{2K_0^2} (z - z_0)^2 \right] \text{ for } z > z_0, \quad (6)$$

where $\gamma_{r0}^2 = \gamma_r(z_0)^2$, $K_0 = K(z_0)$, and

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{4\lambda_r}{\lambda_w}. \quad (7)$$

At this point, we want to make some comments. According to Eq. (4) with Eq. (5), the overall energy exchange between the electrons and the FEL bucket will be almost zero, if we set $\psi_r \sim \pi$. Unfortunately, when the electrons microbunched during the high-gain region, they are microbunched around $\psi \sim \pi$. Indeed, when we do FEL simulation with Genesis code [19], we do find that the electron evolves to a different central phase away from $\psi_r \sim \pi$ when the electrons initially microbunched at the end of the exponential growth region. The details of a particular example are shown in Fig. 2 where the red, green, blue, magenta, cyan, and brown dots stand for the electrons 30, 60, 80, 100, 110, and 120 m into the tapered undulator.

Besides the common feature that the central phase is away from $\psi \sim \pi$, the electrons' central phase is evolving as well as shown schematically as the electron together with the FEL bucket in the right column in Fig. 2. At $z = 120$ m in this particular case, the electron (shown as brown dots) detrapped from the FEL bucket and the FEL reaches the taper

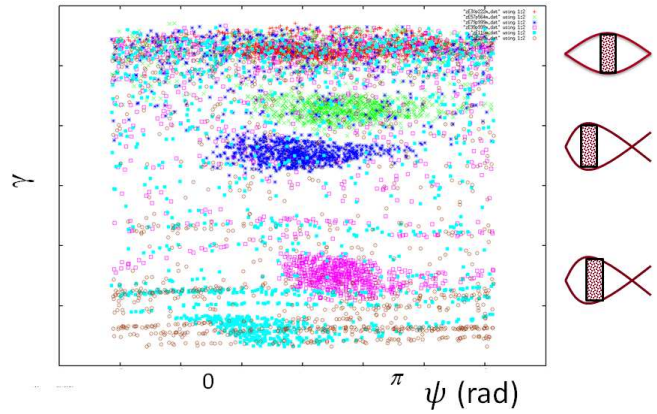


Figure 2: The electrons evolve to a different central phase away from $\psi \sim \pi$ during the post-saturation tapered region.

saturation point, the so-called the second saturation point, to be distinguished from the exponential growth saturation point, the first saturation point.

During the transition region from high-gain (before first saturation) to low-gain in the tapered undulator, the microbunched electrons will have to migrate from $\psi_r \sim \pi$ away to a new phase to achieve best efficiency. In addition, according to Fig. 2, the electron will be doing 2-D motion even in a tapered undulator.

TAPER OPTIMIZATION

For the original LCLS configuration, there were 33 planar undulator sections. Right now, the 9th and the 16th undulator section were removed and replaced with a by-pass chicane together with a grating-based monochromator in section 9 for Soft X-Ray Self-Seeding (SXRSS) and a by-pass chicane with a thin diamond crystal monochromator for Hard X-Ray Self-Seeding (HXRSS) in section 16. Also, the 33th planar undulator is now replaced with a helical undulator. So, the layout is shown in Fig. 3 with each yellow bar standing for one undulator section, the two gaps for two self-seeding station, and the last long yellow bar for the helical undulator.

Taper Profile

Continuous Taper Based on the analysis in the previous section, the taper should be approximately quadratic [16]. In the on-line optimization, we add the quartic term based on the simulation results analyzed in Ref. [16] to have:

$$K(z) = K_0 \left[1 - b_2 \left(\frac{z - z_2}{L_w - z_2} \right)^2 - b_4 \left(\frac{z - z_4}{L_w - z_4} \right)^4 \right], \quad (8)$$

where L_w is the undulator length, b_2 and b_4 stand for the strength of the taper ratio; while z_2 and z_4 for the starting point of the quadratic and quartic taper.

Discrete Taper In this case, we optimize piecewise for the 17th to the 32nd undulator sections.

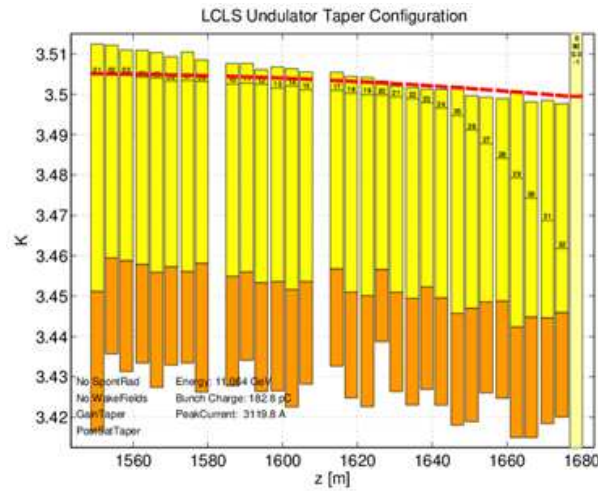


Figure 3: The schematics of the LCLS undulator system. Each yellow bar stands for an undulator section. The two gaps at the 9th and 16th slot host the two monochromators for self-seeding operation.

Optimizer

For the past few years, our team has been working on the following algorithms: Robust Conjugate Direction Search (RCDS) [20], Multi-Object Genetic Algorithm (MOGA) [16], Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) [21], Extreme Seeking (ES) [22], Simulated Annealing (SA) [23], Reinforcement Learning (RL), and Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC).

Experiment Details in Setting Up the Undulators

In the experiments, we separate the undulator system into three sessions.

Session I Session I consists of sections 1 to 8 for SASE mode, or sections 4 to 8 for 4.5-keV self-seeding mode. The reason why we do not use the first three sections 1 to 3 for the 4.5-keV self-seeding mode is because in the self-seeding mode, the same electron bunch which generates the SASE FEL before the monochromator will be used to amplify the coherent seed in the undulator sections after the monochromator. So, we do not want the slice energy spread of the electron bunch gets too large. In the SASE FEL sections before the monochromator, the electron bunch must not lase too much and maintains a relatively small slice energy spread for later amplification purpose. For a 4.5-keV FEL, the undulator is set up as:

$$K_j = K_{1,(4)} \left[1 - b_1 \frac{j - 1(,4)}{8 - 1(,4)} \right] \quad (9)$$

where $j \in [1, 8]$ in SASE mode or $j \in [4, 8]$ for self-seeding.

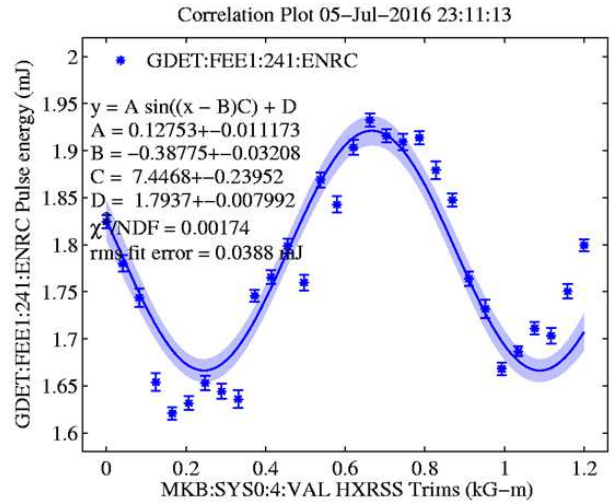


Figure 4: Temporal (phase) matching between the seed and the electron bunching by adjusting the chicane magnet trim coils.

Session II Session II consists of undulator sections 10 to 15. For $j \in [10, 15]$, the undulator setup is:

$$K_j = (K_8 + \Delta K_{10}) \left[1 - b_1 \frac{j - 10}{5} \right]. \quad (10)$$

Session III Session II consists of undulator sections 17 to 32. For $j \in [17, 32]$, the undulator setup is:

$$K_j = (K_{15} + \Delta K_{17}) \left[1 - b_1 \frac{j - 17}{15} - b_2 \left(\frac{j - j_2}{32 - j_2} \right)^2 - b_4 \left(\frac{j - j_4}{32 - j_4} \right)^4 \right]. \quad (11)$$

In the above setup for the undulator strength, b_1 takes care of the spontaneous emission and the wakefield effect. This is a linear taper. We introduce ΔK_{10} and ΔK_{17} for detuning and phase matching. j_2 and j_4 stand for the starting point for the quadratic and quartic taper.

Additional Experiment Details

Besides the details of setting up the undulator system as mentioned above, some additional details have to be carefully taken care of.

Seeding Phase Matching Even though, in principle, the SASE microbunching should be washed out to have a temporally uniform distribution when the electron bunch traverses the by-pass chicane; there is still an overall temporal (phase) matching to be performed as shown in Fig. 4 using the chicane magnet trim coils.

Orbit and Beta-Matching The by-pass chicane is relative weakly; yet, the orbit of the electrons after traversing the chicane has to be carefully adjusted to make sure the electron

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- Self-seeding with the monochromator at U16; U17 – U32 for amplification
- Use Diamond [-1,1,1] plane to configure self-seeding at **4.5 keV**
- Electron bunch: 150 pC, 3 kA, U4-U15 → SASE FEL, seed FEL > 1 mJ

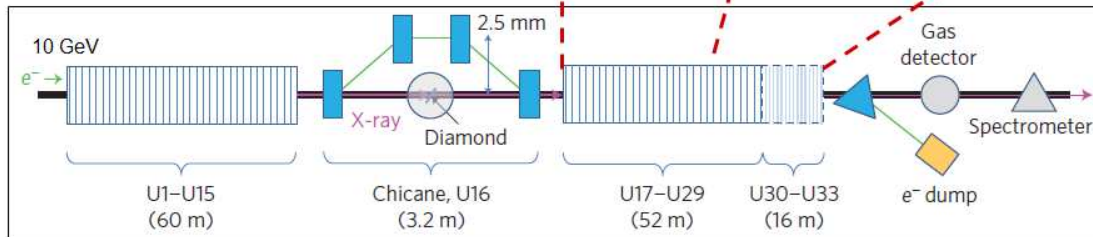
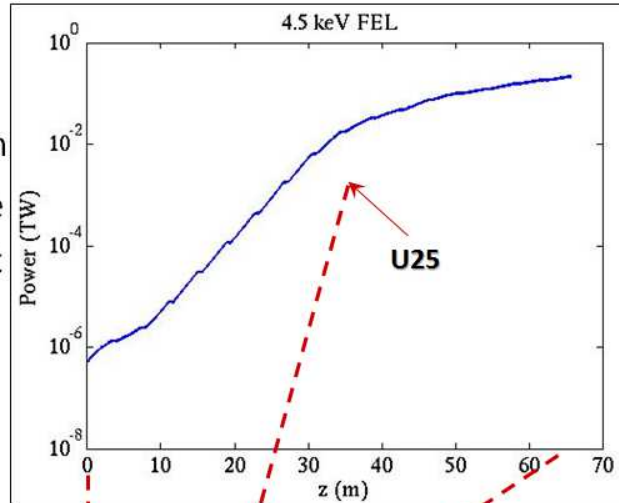


Figure 5: Details of the experiment setup for the 4.5-keV self-seeding tapered FEL.

- 4.5 keV FEL > 1 mJ in 10 fs → > 100 GW
- FWHM Bandwidth: ~ 1 eV → 2E-04

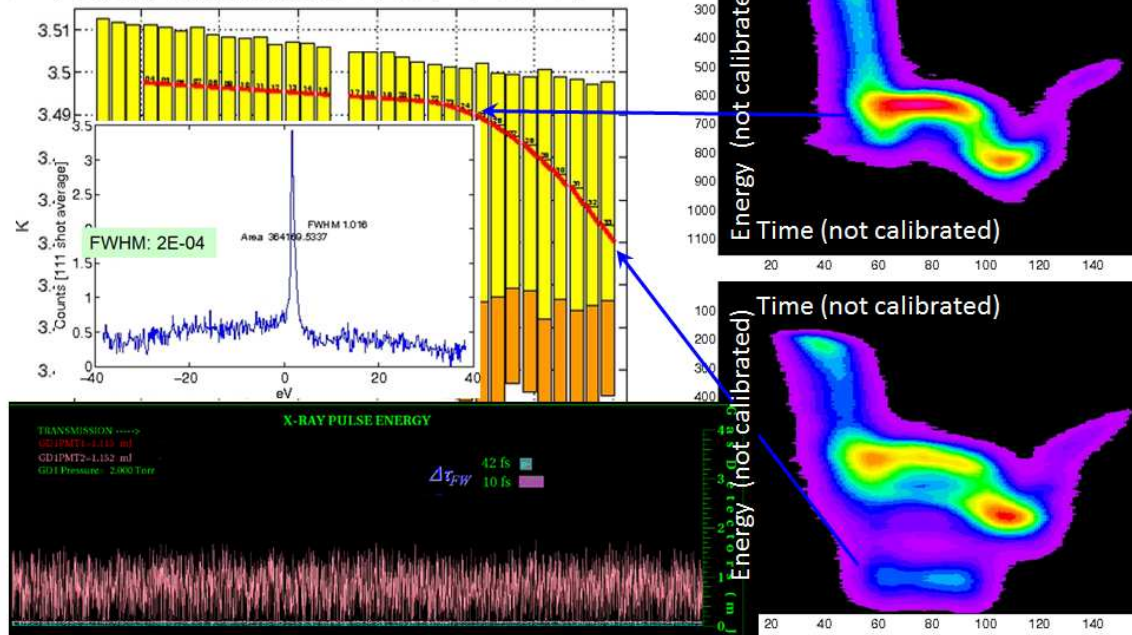


Figure 6: Experimental results from the 4.5-keV self-seeding tapered FEL.

➤ 5.5 KeV Self-Seeding Tapered FEL

- Doubled FEL pulse energy
- Zig-zag taper profile: ~ 1 mJ in 10 fs

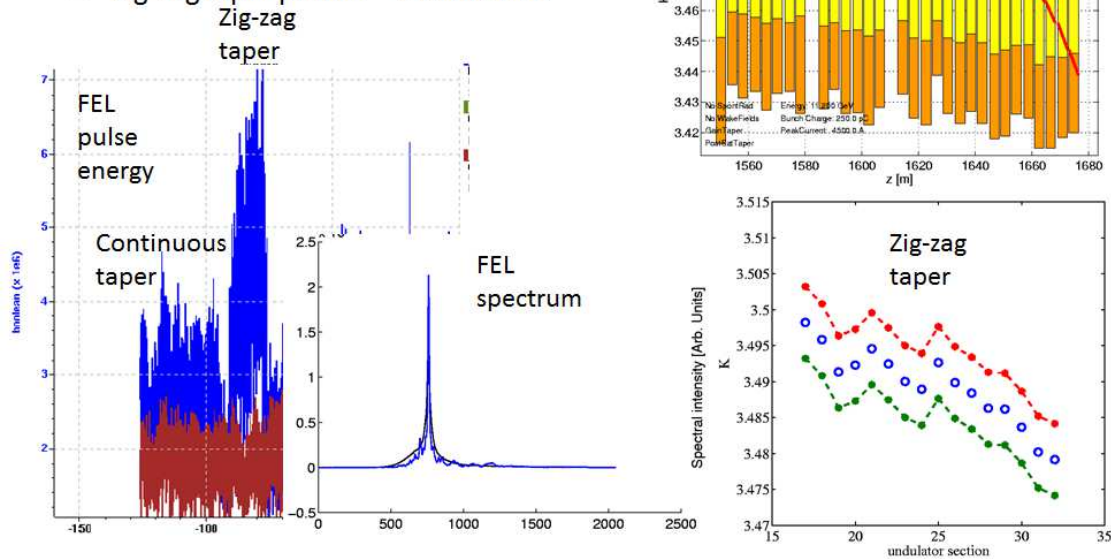


Figure 7: Experimental results from the 5.5-keV self-seeding tapered FEL.

bunch and the seed can spatially best overlap with each other. In addition, rematching the beta-function is important with the by-pass chicane turned on.

Overall Residual Chirp For a self-seeding tapered FEL to have good efficiency, the electron bunch longitudinal phase space should be flat. With an X-band Transverse deflecting cavity (XTCAV), fine tuning of the electron bunch longitudinal phase space is important and necessary.

4.5-keV FEL REACHING 100 GW

With the above mentioned details of theoretical thinking as well as the experimental set up, we here report a 4.5-keV self-seeding experiment generating 100-GW peak power with the LCLS undulator system which provides a maximum of 0.8% taper ratio, *i.e.*, $[K_0 - K(L_w)]/K_0 \leq 0.8\%$. The details of this experiment setup is shown in Fig. 5. In this experiment, the monochromator is configured with the diamond (-1,1,1) plane as the reflection plane and works in the Bragg condition. The electron bunch has 150-pC charge and a peak current of 3 kA. Undulator sections 1 to 3 were turned off to keep the electron bunch slice energy spread to be relatively small.

The coherent seed at 4.5 keV after the monochromator is about 500 kW in peak power. It is then amplified in the undulator section 17 to 32. The seeded FEL exponential growth saturates at the 25th undulator. After that the optimum taper is on-line obtained. In this case, a continuous

taper model was adopted as shown in Fig. 6. Using the XTCAV, the electron-bunch phase space is clearly shown in the two subplot in the right column in Fig. 6. At the 25th undulator, the electrons does not lose much energy yet as shown in the upper right subplot. Due to the tapered undulator, the trapped electrons keep losing energy to the FEL, so as shown in the lower right subplot, there is clearly a band of electrons well separated form the others. These electrons in the capture band are the ones who keep giving their kinetic energy to the FEL. This finally leads to an FEL pulse about 10-fs FWHM duration with 1-mJ pulse energy. This indicates that the FEL peak power reaches $P_{FEL} \sim 100$ GW. The FEL FWHM bandwidth is about 1 eV, or $\Delta\omega/\omega \sim 2 \times 10^{-4}$.

5.5-keV FEL: MACHINE LEARNING

With more and more simulation as well as experimental results, we conducted deep machine learning for the taper optimization. In details, we adopt reinforcement learning for LCLS tapered FEL optimization. Using a Clustering technique, we characterize the XTCAV image as *state* information. Spectrometer and Gas detector measure the FEL pulse energy and give the system *reward*. The undulator *K* adjustment is then the *action*. With this setup, and a discrete taper setting, the result is a zig-zag taper profile as shown in Fig. 7. In this experiment, we worked with 5.5-keV self-seeding tapered FEL. We started with a continuous taper profile and optimized to get the optimal profile shown as the red curve in the upper right subplot. The corresponding FEL

pulse energy is shown as the blue dots in the lower left subplot. With the optimal zig-zag taper, the FEL pulse energy is doubled as shown in the lower left subplot of Fig. 7. In this experiment, for a 5.5-keV self-seeding tapered FEL, we also reached - mJ FEL pulse energy in about 10-fs duration.

CONCLUSION

Over the past a few years, we conducted extensive theoretical and numerical studies, and created on-line optimization packages with these optimizers (both local and global) including reinforcement learning. For the 4.5-keV and 5.5-keV self-seeding tapered FEL at LCLS, the FEL pulse energy can reach 1 mJ with 10-fs duration, generating a peak power of $P_{\text{FEL}} \sim 100$ GW.

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