STERN: Superradiant THz Radiation Generation at XFEL

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY)

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HELMHOLTZ



2. Diffraction radiation

3. The STERN experimental layout

4. Broad-spectrum THz transport



Beam-based THz radiation generation

• THz automatically synced to machine/X-ray

repetition rate

- High-energy beam → high energy/power THz
- Form factor covers THz spectrum → coherent

emission





N. Lockmann, Dissertation (2021)



- Electron beam travels at
- Interface dielectric boundary: inside light travels slower
- The light experiences Cherenkov effect, coherent wavefront forms
- Electron beam is stripped of its electric field, loses energy in form of light

• Array of DLWs to cover freq. spectrum, held together in copper block



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- Array of DLWs to cover freq. spectrum, held together in copper block
- Using varying charge optimizes power/energy for given frequency





Broadband waveguides: tapering



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-1.0

s (mm)

-0.5

Sending bunch off-axis excites multiple HEM-modes

- \rightarrow Generate broadband pulse
- Incoupling horn to capture more

electric field in short structure



0.75

0.50

0.25

-1.5

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0.0

Vort in

Bunch

- Dielectric

Wall

-0.0001

– 2000.0– Electric Field (MV/m/nc)

-0.0004

Diffraction radiation

- Beam passes through hole in aluminum sheet \rightarrow excite broadband spectrum
- Electric field of bunch 'bounces off' and turns into light





Diffraction radiation: energy



High bandwidth pulses contain enough energy to satisfy user's wishes







- After production, radiation is transported to a safe diagnostics area
- How can we optimize mirror focal lengths for maximal transmission?
- ➔ Treat THz beam as a particle beam and use
 Ocelot



- Beam parameters are found by simulating travel through drift,
- Optimization done for inner ring of -field



- Optimize lattice in Ocelot for lowest frequency
- → Higher frequencies will also pass
- Result is similar to relay imaging



Outcoupling:

- Too close → radiation lost in electron through hole
- Too far → radiation lost at mirror edges
- ➔ Two mirrors for close and far regime, DLW on sliding rail



- First results promising: every frequency captured and transported at >70% efficiency
- Dotted line indicates which mirror transports more
- In practice, working point is experimentally determined





- Radiation generation methods:
 - Narrowband: dielectric-loaded waveguides
 - Broadband: tapered waveguides, diffraction radiation
- Radiation transport:
 - Modeled THz transport as lattice optimization problem (currently only DLW)
 - Preliminary result: source to lab efficiency of for to

Courtesy GPT-4

Thank you!

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