



AWAKE, the Advanced Proton Driven Plasma Wakefield Acceleration Experiment at CERN

Edda Gschwendtner, CERN for the AWAKE Collaboration

Outline

- Motivation
- Plasma Wakefield Acceleration
- AWAKE
- Outlook

Motivation: Increase Particle Energies

- Increasing particle energies probe smaller and smaller scales of matter
 - **1910:** Rutherford: scattering of MeV scale alpha particles revealed structure of atom
 - 1950ies: scattering of GeV scale electron revealed finite size of proton and neutron
 - **Early 1970ies:** scattering of tens of GeV electrons revealed internal structure of proton/neutron, ie quarks.
- Increasing energies makes particles of larger and larger mass accessible
 - GeV type masses in 1950ies, 60ies (Antiproton, Omega, hadron resonances...
 - Up to 10 GeV in 1970ies (J/Psi, Ypsilon...)
 - Up to ~100 GeV since 1980ies (W, Z, top, Higgs...)
- Increasing particle energies probe earlier times in the evolution of the universe.
 - Temperatures at early universe were at levels of energies that are achieved by particle accelerators today
 - Understand the origin of the universe
- Discoveries went hand in hand with theoretical understanding of underlying laws of nature
 - → Standard Model of particle physics





Motivation: High Energy Accelerators

- Large list of unsolved problems:
 - What is dark matter made of? What is the reason for the baryon-asymmetry in the universe? What is the nature of the cosmological constant? ...
- Need particle accelerators with new energy frontier

→ 30'000 accelerators worldwide!

Also application of accelerators outside particle physics in medicine, material science, biology, etc...

LHC



Circular Collider

Electron/positron colliders:

 \rightarrow limited by synchrotron radiation

Hadron colliders:→ limited by magnet strength

FCC, Future Circular Collider

80 – 100 km diameter

Electron/positron colliders: \rightarrow 350 GeV

Hadron (pp) collider: \rightarrow 100 TeV \rightarrow \rightarrow 20 T dipole magnets.



Linear Colliders

Particles are accelerated in a single pass.

Amount of acceleration achieved in a given distances is the 'accelerating gradient'.

 \rightarrow Limited by accelerating field.

CLIC

48 km length 3 TeV (e⁺e⁻)

Accelerating elements: Cavities: 100 MV/m



Conventional Accelerating Technology

Today's RF cavities or microwave technology:

- Very successfully used in all accelerators (hospitals, scientific labs,...) in the last 100 years.
- Typical gradients:
 - LHC: 5 MV/m
 - ILC: 35 MV/m
 - CLIC: 100 MV/m

However:

- accelerating fields are limited to <100 MV/m
 - In metallic structures, a too high field level leads to break down of surfaces, creating discharge.
 - Fields cannot be sustained, structures might be damaged.
- several tens of kilometers for future linear colliders





Saturation at Energy Frontier for Accelerators



➔ Project size and cost increase with energy

Motivation

New directions in science are launched by new tools much more often than by new concepts.

The effect of a concept-driven revolution is to explain old things in new ways.

The effect of a tool-driven revolution is to discover new things that have to be explained.



From Freeman Dyson 'Imagined Worlds'

Plasma Wakefield Acceleration

Wakefield excitation



Particle acceleration



Cavities vs. Plasma

• ILC Cavity: 35 MV/m

1000 mm



• Plasma cell: 35 GV/m → 35 MV/mm!!



With this new technology: No magnets, no RF, no vacuum needed

Linear Colliders



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Seminal Paper 1979, T. Tajima, J. Dawson

Use a plasma to convert the transverse space charge force of a beam driver into a longitudinal electrical field in the plasma

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

23 JULY 1979

Laser Electron Accelerator

T. Tajima and J. M. Dawson Department of Physics, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024 (Received 9 March 1979)

An intense electromagnetic pulse can create a weak of plasma oscillations through the action of the nonlinear ponderomotive force. Electrons trapped in the wake can be accelerated to high energy. Existing glass lasers of power density 10^{18} W/cm² shone on plasmas of densities 10^{18} cm⁻³ can yield gigaelectronvolts of electron energy per centimeter of acceleration distance. This acceleration mechanism is demonstrated through computer simulation. Applications to accelerators and pulsers are examined.

Collective plasma accelerators have recently received considerable theoretical and experimental investigation. Earlier Fermi¹ and McMillan² considered cosmic-ray particle acceleration by moving magnetic fields¹ or electromagnetic waves.² In terms of the realizable laboratory technology for collective accelerators, present-day electron beams³ yield electric fields of ~10⁷ V/cm and power densities of 10¹³ W/cm².

the wavelength of the plasma waves in the wake:

$$L_t = \lambda_w / 2 = \pi c / \omega_p \,. \tag{2}$$

An alternative way of exciting the plasmon is to inject two laser beams with slightly different frequencies (with frequency difference $\Delta \omega \sim \omega_p$) so that the beat distance of the packet becomes $2\pi c/\omega_p$. The mechanism for generating the wakes can be simply seen by the following approximate

Plasma Wakefield



Plasma is already ionized or "broken-down" and can sustain electric fields up to three orders of magnitude higher gradients \rightarrow order of 100 GV/m.

Quasi-neutrality: the overall charge of a plasma is about zero.

Collective effects: Charged particles must be close enough together that each particle influences many nearby charged particles.

Electrostatic interactions dominate over collisions or ordinary gas kinetics.

What is a plasma wakefield?



Fields created by collective motion of plasma particles are called plasma wakefields.

Plasma Baseline Parameters

• A plasma of density n_{pe} is characterized by the plasma frequency

$$\omega_{pe} = \sqrt{\frac{n_{pe}}{m_{e}} \epsilon_{0}^{2}} \rightarrow \frac{c}{\omega_{pe}} \dots \text{ unit of plasma [m]} \qquad k_{pe} = \frac{\omega_{pe}}{c}$$
Example: $n_{pe} = 7x10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (AWAKE) $\rightarrow \omega_{pe} = 1.25x10^{12} \text{ rad/s} \rightarrow \frac{c}{\omega_{pe}} = 0.2 \text{ mm} \rightarrow k_{pe} = 5 \text{ mm}^{-1}$

• This translates into a wavelength of the plasma oscillation

$$\lambda_{pe} = 2\pi \frac{c}{\omega_{pe}} \rightarrow \lambda_{pe} \approx 1 \text{ mm } \sqrt{\frac{10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}}{n_{pe}}}$$
$$\lambda_{pe} \approx 1 \text{ mm } \sqrt{\frac{10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}}{n_{pe}}}$$

How to Create a Plasma Wakefield?



Using plasma to convert **the transverse electric field** of the drive bunch into a **longitudinal electric field in the plasma**. The more energy is available, the longer (distance-wise) these plasma wakefields can be driven.

How to Create a Plasma Wakefield?



Principle of Plasma Wakefield Acceleration

• Laser drive beam

- ➔ Ponderomotive force
- Charged particle drive beam
 - → Transverse space charge field
 - Reverses sign for negatively (blow-out) or positively (suck-in) charged beam



- Plasma wave/wake excited by relativistic particle bunch
- Plasma e⁻ are expelled by space charge force
- Plasma e⁻ rush back on axis
- Ultra-relativistic driver ultra-relativistic wake → no dephasing
- Acceleration physics identical for LWFA, PWFA

Where to Place the Witness Beam (Surfer)?



Accelerating for e⁻
 Decelerating for e⁻
 Focusing for e⁻
 Defocusing for e⁻



Linear Theory (P. Chen, R. Ruth 1986)

When drive beam density is smaller than plasma density $(n_b << n_p) \rightarrow$ linear theory.

• Peak accelerating field in plasma resulting from drive beam with Gaussian distribution:

$$eE_{z} = \sqrt{n_{p}} \frac{n_{b}}{n_{p}} \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}k_{p}\sigma_{z}e^{-k_{p}^{2}\sigma_{z}^{2}/2}}{1 + \frac{1}{k_{p}^{2}\sigma_{r}^{2}}} \sin k_{p}(z - ct) \quad (eV/cm) \quad \Rightarrow eE_{z} \approx N/\sigma_{z}^{2}$$

E. Blue 2003

- Wakefield excited by bunch oscillates sinusoidally with frequency determined by plasma density
- Fields excited by electrons and protons/positrons are equal in magnitude but opposite in phase
- The accelerating field is maximized for a value of

Β.

$$k_{pe} \sigma_z \approx \sqrt{2}$$

 $k_{pe} \sigma_r \leq 1$



Example: $n_{pe} = 7x10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (AWAKE), $k_{pe} = 5 \text{ mm}^{-1} \rightarrow \text{ drive beam: } \sigma_z = 300 \mu \text{m}, \sigma_r = 200 \mu \text{m}$

Linear Theory

• Maximum accelerating electric field reached with drive beam of N and σ_z :

$$E_{acc} = 110 \frac{MV}{m} \frac{N/(2 \times 10^{10})}{(\sigma_z / 0.6 \text{mm})^2}$$
 Drive beam fulfills: $k_{pe} \sigma_z \approx \sqrt{2}$

Examples of accelerating fields for different beam parameters and plasma parameters fields:

N =
$$3x10^{10}$$
, $\sigma_z = 300\mu m$, $n_{pe} = 7x10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3} \rightarrow E_{acc} = 600 \text{ MV/m}$
N = $3x10^{10}$, $\sigma_z = 20\mu m$, $n_{pe} = 2x10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3} \rightarrow E_{acc} = 15 \text{ GV/m}$

From Linear to Non-Linear



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Blow-out Regime



- Space-charge force of the driver blows away all the plasma electrons in its path, leaving a uniform layer of ions behind (ions move on a slower time scale).
- Plasma electrons form a narrow sheath around the evacuated area, and are pulled back by the ion-channel after the drive beam has passed
- An accelerating cavity is formed in the plasma
- The back of the blown-out region: ideal for electron acceleration

→ High efficiencies for energy transfer from drive beam to loaded witness bunch (80-90% according to sim.)

- ightarrow High charge witness acceleration possible ightarrow charge ratio to witness of same order
- \rightarrow Linear focusing in r, for electrons; very strong quadrupole (MT/m)
- → High transformer ratios (>2) can be achieved by shaping the drive bunch
- \rightarrow E_r independent of x, can preserve incoming emittance of witness beam

Self-Injection Scheme



4.25 GeV beams obtained from 9cm plasma channel powered by 310TW laser pulse (15 J)

W.P.Leemans et al., PRL 2014





Hybrid Scheme

- Beam-driven plasma wakefield using low-ionization-threshold gas such as Li
- Laser-controlled electron injection via ionization of high-ionization threshold gas such as He

B. Hidding et al., PRL 108, 035001 (2012)

Ultra-high brightness beams:

- Sub-µm spot size
- fs pulses
- Small emittance



He-electrons with low transverse momentum released in focus of laser, inside accelerating and focusing phase of the Li blowout

Experimental Results

SLAC Experiment, I. Blumenfeld et al, Nature 455, p 741 (2007)

- Gaussian electron beam with 42 GeV, 3nC @ 10 Hz, σ_{x} = 10 $\mu m,$ 50 fs
- Reached accelerating gradient of 50 GeV/m
- Accelerated electrons from 42 GeV to 85 GeV in 85 cm.



High-Efficiency acceleration of an electron beam in a plasma wakefield accelerator, M. Litos et al., doi, Nature, 6 Nov 2014, 10.1038/nature 13992

- 1.7 GeV energy gain in 30 cm of pre-ionized Li vapour plasma
- 6 GeV energy in 1.3 m of plasma
- Total efficiency is <29.1%> with a maximum of 50%.
- Final energy spread of 0.7 % (2% average)



Electric field in plasma wake is loaded by presence of witness bunch
Allows efficient energy extraction from the plasma wake

Many, Many Electron and Laser Driven Plasma Wakefield Experiments...!



Beam-Driven Wakefield Acceleration: Landscape

| Facility | Where | Drive (D) beam | Witness (W) beam | Start | End | Goal |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------|--------------|--|
| AWAKE | CERN, Geneva, Switzerland | 400 GeV protons | Externally injected electron beam (PHIN 15 MeV) | 2016 | 2020+ | Use for future high energy e-/e+ collider. Study Self-Modulation Instability (SMI). Accelerate externally injected electrons. Demonstrate scalability of acceleration scheme. |
| SLAC-FACET | SLAC, Stanford, USA | 20 GeV electrons and positrons | Two-bunch formed with mask (e ⁻ /e ⁺ and e ⁻ -e ⁺ bunches) | 2012 | Sept 2016 | Acceleration of witness bunch with high quality and efficiency Acceleration of positrons FACET II preparation, starting 2018 |
| DESY-Zeuthen | PITZ, DESY, Zeuthen, Germany | 20 MeV electron beam | No witness (W) beam, only D beam from RF-gun. | 2015 | ~2017 | - Study Self-Modulation Instability (SMI) |
| DESY-FLASH Forward | DESY, Hamburg, Germany | X-ray FEL type electron beam 1 GeV | D + W in FEL bunch. Or independent W-bunch (LWFA). | 2016 | 2020+ | Application (mostly) for x-ray FEL Energy-doubling of Flash-beam energy Upgrade-stage: use 2 GeV FEL D beam |
| Brookhaven ATF | BNL, Brookhaven, USA | 60 MeV electrons | Several bunches, D+W formed with mask. | On going | | Study quasi-nonlinear PWFA regime. Study PWFA driven by multiple bunches Visualisation with optical techniques |
| SPARC Lab | Frascati, Italy | 150 MeV | Several bunches | On going | | Multi-purpose user facility: includes laser- and beam-driven plasma wakefield experiments |

High Energy Plasma Wakefield Accelerators

Drive beams:

Lasers: ~40 J/pulse Electron drive beam: 30 J/bunch Proton drive beam: SPS 19kJ/pulse, LHC 300kJ/bunch Witness beams: Electrons: 10¹⁰ particles @ 1 TeV ~few kJ

To reach TeV scale:

- Electron/laser driven PWA: need several stages, and challenging wrt to relative timing, tolerances, matching, etc...
 - effective gradient reduced because of long sections between accelerating elements....



- **Proton drivers**: large energy content in proton bunches \rightarrow allows to consider single stage acceleration:
 - A single SPS/LHC bunch could produce an ILC bunch in a single PDWA stage.



Self-Modulation Instability

- In order to create plasma wakefields efficiently, the drive bunch length has to be in the order of the plasma wavelength.
- CERN SPS proton bunch: very long!
- Longitudinal beam size ($\sigma_z = 12 \text{ cm}$) is much longer than plasma wavelength ($\lambda = 1 \text{ mm}$)
- L 104, 255003 (2010) PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS week ending 25 JUNE 2010

Self-Modulation Instability of a Long Proton Bunch in Plasmas

Naveen Kumar[®] and Alexander Pukhov Institut für Theoretische Physik I, Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Däsneldorf D-40225 Germany

Konstattin Lotov Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics and Novosibirsk State University, 630090 Novosibirsk, Russia (Received 16 April 2010; published 25 June 2010)

Self-Modulation Instability

- Modulate long bunch to produce a series of 'micro-bunches' in a plasma with a spacing of plasma wavelength λ_p . \rightarrow Strong self-modulation effect of proton beam due to transverse wakefield in plasma \rightarrow Resonantly drives the longitudinal wakefield





Seeded Self-Modulation of a Long Proton Bunch in Plasma



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AWAKE at CERN



Advanced Proton Driven Plasma Wakefield Acceleration Experiment

- Proof-of-Principle Accelerator R&D experiment at CERN
- Final Goal: Design high quality & high energy electron accelerator based on acquired knowledge.
- AWAKE Collaboration: 16 institutes + 3 associate
- Approved in August 2013
- First beam end 2016



Run 1 – until LS2 of the LHC.

After LS2 – proposing Run 2 of AWAKE (during Run 3 of LHC)

After Run 2 – kick off particle physics driven applications



First Experiment: Seeded Self-Modulation

Phase 1: 2016/17: Understand the physics of the seeded self-modulation processes in plasma.



Self-modulated proton bunch resonantly driving plasma wakefields.





AWAKE Proton Beam Line

| Parameter | Protons |
|---|-------------------|
| Momentum [MeV/c] | 400 000 |
| Momentum spread [%] | ±0.035 |
| Particles per bunch | $3 \cdot 10^{11}$ |
| Charge per bunch [nC] | 48 |
| Bunch length [mm] | (120 (0.4 ns) |
| Norm. emittance [mm·mrad] | 3.5 |
| Repetition rate [Hz] | 0.033 |
| 1σ spot size at focal point [μ m] | 200 ± 20 |
| β -function at focal point [m] | 5 |
| Dispersion at focal point [m] | 0 |





The AWAKE Plasma Cell

F. Batsch, F. Braunmueller, E. Oez, P. Muggli, (MPP, Munich) R. Kerservan (CERN), G. Plyushchev (EPFL)

- \rightarrow 10 m long, 4 cm diameter
- →Rubidium vapor
- \rightarrow Laser field ionization: threshold ~10¹² W/cm²
- → Rb density measured with 0.3% accuracy using white light interferometry

Requirements:

- Density adjustable from 10¹⁴ 10¹⁵ cm⁻³ (7x10¹⁴ cm⁻³)
- $\Delta n_e/n_e$ density uniformity better than 0.2%
 - Impose very uniform T: → Fluid-heated system (~220 deg)
 - Complex control system: 79 Temperature probes, valves → measured ΔT/T ~0.1%
- few cm n_e ramp: transition between plasma and vacuum as sharp as possible
 - Rb vapor expands into vacuum and sticks to cold walls
 - Scale length ~ diameter aperture: 1cm





The AWAKE Plasma Cell







Downstream Expansion Chamber

Laser and Laser Line

V. Fedosseev, F. Friebel, CERN J. Moody, M. Huether, A. Bachmann, MTP

Fiber/Ti-Sapphire laser

- Laser beam line to plasma cell
 - λ = 780 nm, t_{pulse} = 100-120 fs, E = 450 mJ
- Diagnostic beam line ("virtual plasma")
- Laser beam line to electron gun (installed in 2017)





→ Short laser pulse creates the plasma, which seeds the self-modulation





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Seeded Self-Modulation Diagnostics I



Direct SSM diagnostic: Measure frequency of modulation.



Direct Seeded Self-Modulation Results



 n_{Rb} =3.7x10¹⁴cm⁻³ $\rightarrow \lambda_{Rb-plasma}$ = 1.8 mm $\rightarrow f_{mod}$ ~164 GHz

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N<sub>protons</sub>=3x10<sup>11</sup>
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- \rightarrow Timing at the ps scale
- \rightarrow Effect starts at laser timing \rightarrow SM seeding
- → Density modulation at the ps-scale visible



Direct Seeded Self-Modulation Results



Direct Seeded Self-Modulation Results



→ Observation of strong, persistent micro bunches for a range of plasma densities
 → Seeding is critical ingredient for producing many periods of micro bunches along the beam

Seeded Self-Modulation Diagnostics II



Indirect SSM Measurement: Image protons that got defocused by the strong plasma wakefields.



Boreen 1 $\leftarrow 8m \rightarrow$ Screen 2 $20 \qquad e=2000.0 \text{ us}$ $0 \qquad e=2000.0 \text{ us}$ $0 \qquad e=2000.0 \text{ us}$ $0 \qquad e=2000.0 \text{ us}$

M. Turner, CERN

Two imaging stations (IS) to measure the radial proton beam

distribution 2 and 10 m downstream the end of the plasma.

 \rightarrow Growth of tails governed by transverse fields in the plasma.

ounts / bin

Indirect Seeded Self-Modulation Results



Indirect SSM Measurement: Image protons that got defocused by the strong plasma wakefields.



AWAKE Experiment: Electron Acceleration 2017/18

Phase 1: 2016/17: Understand **the physics of the seeded self-modulation** processes in plasma.

Phase 2: 2017/18: Probe the accelerating wakefields with externally injected electrons.







| Electron beam | Baseline |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Momentum | 16 MeV/c |
| Electrons/bunch (bunch charge) | 1.25 E9 |
| Bunch charge | 0.2 nC |
| Bunch length | σ_z =4ps (1.2mm) |
| Bunch size at focus | σ* _{x,y} = 250 μm |
| Normalized emittance (r.m.s.) | 2 mm mrad |
| Relative energy spread | $\Delta p/p = 0.5\%$ |

Externally inject electrons and accelerate e^- to GeV energy with ~GeV/m gradient and finite $\Delta E/E$ \rightarrow Start end 2017 50

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AWAKE Run 2

Proposing Run 2 for 2021 after CERN Long Shutdown 2

Goals:

- Accelerate an electron beam to high energy
- Preserve electron beam quality as well as possible
- **Demonstrate scalability** of the AWAKE concept

Preliminary Run 2 electron beam parameters

| Parameter | Value | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Acc. gradient | >0.5 GV/m | | |
| Energy gain | 10 GeV | | |
| Injection energy | $\gtrsim 50 \text{ MeV}$ | | |
| Bunch length, rms | 40–60 µm (120–180 fs) | | |
| Peak current | 200–400 A | | |
| Bunch charge | 67–200 pC | | |
| Final energy spread, rms | few % | | |
| Final emittance | $\lesssim 10 \ \mu m$ | | |



E. Adli (AWAKE Collaboration), IPAC 2016 proceedings, p.2557 (WEPMY008)

Application of Proton Driven Wakefield Acceleration Technology

- Use of electron beam for test-beam infrastructure, either/or for detector characterization and as an accelerator test facility.
- Fixed target experiments using electron beams, e.g. deep inelastic scattering.
 - Measure events at high parton momentum fraction, have polarized particles and look at spin structure; consider different targets.
- Search for dark photons a la NA64.
 - AWAKE-like electron beam driven by SPS proton bunch. Assuming 10⁹ electrons/bunch, would give **3 orders of magnitude** increase compared to NA64 today.



Application of Proton Driven Wakefield Acceleration Technology: Electron-Proton or Electron-Ion Collider

LHeC-Like:

- Focus on QCD: Large cross sections \rightarrow low luminosity enough (HERA level)
- Many open physics questions !
- \rightarrow High energy ep collider: E_e up to O(50 GeV), colliding with LHC proton;
- \rightarrow e.g. E_e = 10 GeV, Ep = 7 TeV, Vs = 530 GeV already exceeds HERA cm energy.



Create ~50 GeV electron beam within 50–100 m of plasma driven by SPS protons, But luminosity < 10³⁰ cm⁻² s⁻¹.



- Choose $E_e = 3$ TeV as a baseline and with $E_P = 7$ TeV yields $\sqrt{s} = 9$ TeV. Can vary.
- Centre-of-mass energy ~30 higher than HERA.
- Reach in (high) Q² and (low) Bjorken x extended by ~1000 compared to HERA.
- Opens new physics perspectives
- Luminosity ~ $10^{28} 10^{29}$ cm⁻² s⁻¹ gives ~ 1 pb-1 per year.

VHEeP: A. Caldwell and M. Wing, Eur. Phys. J. C 76 (2016) 463

Summary

- Plasma wakefield acceleration is an exciting and growing field with a huge potential.
- Many encouraging results in plasma wakefield acceleration technology.
- AWAKE is the first proton driven plasma wakefield acceleration experiment
 - Successfully observed the seeded Self-Modulation of the proton bunch in AWAKE.
 - Acceleration of electrons in the plasma wakefield driven by proton beam in 2018.
 - Short term prospects: demonstration of stable acceleration and good electron bunch properties.
 - Long term prospects: develop particle physics program that could be pursued with an AWAKE-like beam.