Laser-Driven High-Energy-Density Plasmas and Their Diagnostics



Lan Gao Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Princeton University

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- Introduction
 - High energy density (HED) physics
 - Inertial confinement fusion
 - Laser-driven HED systems
 - Diagnostic requirement
- Basic diagnostic building blocks
 - Electromagnetic field
 - Particles
 - X rays
 - Pinhole imaging
 - Streak cameras
 - Framing cameras
 - Plasma conditions



High energy density (HED) physics concerns the study of matter at high densities and extreme temperatures*



^{*} Frontiers in high energy density physics : The X-games of contemporary science. (The National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2003).

Laboratory for laser energetics (LLE) at University of Rochester operates two of the world's large lasers for HED physics research



OMEGA Laser System

- Operating at LLE since 1995
- Up to 1500 shots/year
- Fully instrumented
- 60 beams
- >30-kJ UV on target
- 1% to 2% irradiation nonuniformity
- Flexible pulse shaping
- Short shot cycle (1 h)

More than half of OMEGA's shots are for external users.

OMEGA EP Laser System

- Completed 25 April 2008
- Four NIF-like beamlines; 6.5-kJ UV (10 ns)

OMEGA EP Laser Bay

- Two beams can be high-energy petawatt
 - 2.6-kJ IR in 10 ps
 - can propagate to the OMEGA or OMEGA EP target chamber

The National Ignition Facility (NIF) at LLNL aims at demonstrating fusion ignition

- The NIF is a 1.8-MJ laser system (60× OMEGA's energy); NIF is a \$3.5 billion facility completed in 2009
- The NIF is performing experiments with the goal of achieving ignition



The achievement of ignition—a national "grand challenge" on the NIF will change the fusion landscape.

Ablation is used to generate the extreme pressures required to compress a fusion capsule to ignition



"Hot-spot" ignition requires the core temperature to be at least 5 keV and the core fuel areal density to exceed ~300 mg/cm².



- Hydrodynamic instabilities
- Compressibility

Intense lasers create HED conditions in the laboratory through ablation



*J. D. Lindl, Inertial Confinement Fusion: The Quest for Ignition and Energy Gain Using Indirect Drive (Springer-Verlag, New York, 1998).

If you look at the OMEGA target chamber





OMEGA

OMEGA EP

If you look at the OMEGA target chamber



The NIF target chamber







VET NOV TES TAM EN TYM

The NIF target chamber







High-energy-density-physics (HEDP) systems are diagnosed by optical, x-ray, particle and nuclear means



- HEDP systems generate some or all of
 - Visible light
 - UV and x-ray photons
 - Charged particles
 - Neutrons
 - Strong fields
- A comprehensive diagnostic suite makes it possible to learn a great deal about the systems: field strength and their impact, plasma parameters (n_e, n_i, T_e, v), particles, instabilities, yield, etc...
- Diagnosing HED systems require very high temporal (sub-ns, ps) and spatial (~10 µm) resolution

Diagnostic performance is determined by the resolution and signal-to-noise levels



- Spatial, temporal, or energy resolution determines the diagnostic properties
- The resolution depends on the design and on the signal-tonoise (background) ratio
- The signal level depends on
 - Source brightness
 - Solid angle of the detector $\Delta \Omega = A_{det}/4\pi D^2$, where A is the effective diagnostic area, and D is the distance from the source to the diagnostic
- The noise (background) level is determined by design and intrinsic noise level (e.g., photon statistics)
- For example, when low number of particles (N) are detected, the uncertainty scales as sqrt(N)/N





- Basic diagnostic building blocks
 - Electromagnetic field
 - Proton radiography
 - Particles
 - RCF stack / Proton activation pack / Electron spectrometer / Thomson parabola
 - X rays
 - Pinhole camera (time integrated) / 1-D streak camera / 2-D framing camera
 - Plasma conditions
 - High-resolution x-ray spectroscopy / Thomson scattering / Neutrons / x-ray radiography





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Target Normal Sheath Acceleration (TNSA)* generates MeV proton beams in intense (>10¹⁸ W/cm²) laser-solid interactions



- Hot electrons escape from the rear side of the target
- An electrostatic field is built up, with a field gradient of the order of MeV/ μ m
- Protons are accelerated to tens of MeV



Laser-driven protons are ultra bright, extremely collimated, and have high peak energy (58 MeV) and short burst duration (picosecond scale).

^{*}S. C. Wilks et al., Phys. Plasma 8, 542 (2001)

The virtual proton source is much smaller than the laser spot*





Very high

spatial resolution!







Ultrafast laser-driven proton radiography is developed on OMEGA EP





The laser-driven target is subjected to the Rayleigh-Taylor (RT) instability

Laser-driven target



Classical

Heavy

Light

Heavy

Light

Time





The RT instability has linear and nonlinear stages*



Linear regime (classical)**:

 $\eta = \eta_0 e^{\gamma t}$

$$\gamma = \sqrt{AKg}, \quad A = \frac{\rho_h - \rho_l}{\rho_h + \rho_l}$$

Linear regime (ablative)**:

$$\gamma = \alpha \sqrt{\frac{Kg}{1+\epsilon KL}} - \beta K V_a$$

• Nonlinear regime***: $\eta \ge 0.1\lambda$ Slower growth

Bubbles and spikes

Bubble competition and merger



*Shengtai Li and Hui Li. "Parallel AMR Code for Compressible MHD or HD Equations". Los Alamos National Laboratory (2006).

**J. D. Kilkenny et al., Phys. Plasmas 1, 1379 (1994).

*** R. Betti and J. Sanz, Phy. Rev. Lett. 97, 205002 (2006).

Magnetic fields are generated by the Biermann battery mechanism



Azimuthal magnetic fields are generated by $\nabla n_e \times \nabla T_{e.}$

- *K. Mima et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 41, 1715 (1978);
- R. G. Evans, Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion., 28, 1021 (1986);
- B. Srinivasan et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 108, 165002 (2012).
- M. Manuel et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 108, 255006 (2012).

Magnetic-field generation has been studied in side-on and face-on geometries using the acceleration of planar plastic targets



Side-on geometry

Proton radiography of 15-µm-thick foils reveals magnetic field generation and its evolution*



*L. Gao et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 115001 (2012).

Face-on geometry

Face-on probing reveals magnetic field generation by the RT instability



Proton radiograph





t = *t*₀ + 2.6 ns

Face-on geometry

The number of magnetic cells decreases and the magnetic cell diameter increases with time





Magnetic cell diameter (μ m)

Face-on geometry

The normalized magnetic-field spatial distribution evolves self-similarly





The evolution of the magnetic-field spatial distribution is consistent with an RT bubble competition and merger model*



- *O. Sadot et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. <u>95</u>, 265001 (2005);
- D. Oron et al., Phys. Plasmas 8, 2883 (2001);
- U. Alon et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 72, 2867 (1994).
- **L. Gao et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 185003 (2013).

Dynamo

The origin and amplification of the magnetic field in the universe is a central astrophysical problem





- Sources of magnetic fields
- Amplification by the dynamo process
- Flow-dominated systems are common in astrophysics
 - Particle acceleration, nonthermal emission

Dynamo

NIF

Two classes of experiments are proposed towards the first realization of a full MHD turbulence and dynamo in the HED systems using the NIF



AIT Plasma Science & Fusion Center



National Laboratory





- Collisionless shocks are believed to sites for cosmic ray acceleration
- A magnetized, supersonic jet has been successfully demonstrated in the FY16 campaign, in collaboration with Rice, LLE and MIT
- The next goal is to collide the jets for collionless shock

Precision mapping of the laser-driven magnetic fields



*L. Gao et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 114, 215003 (2015).

Ultrafast proton radiography directly measured 100s of Tesla magnetic fields generated by a laser-driven capacitor coil target







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Radiochromic film allows simple detection of high-energy photons and particles



- Radiochromic film is self-developing and insensitive to visible light
- Multiple layers of film and filters allow energy discrimination





Experiments were performed on OMEGA EP to characterize energetic protons





Nuclear activation of copper stacks determined the energy spectrum of the forward-accelerated protons



- Radiochromic film shows proton beam profile
- ⁶³Cu (p, n) ⁶³Zn
 ⁶⁵Cu (p, 3n) ⁶³Zn
- Coincidence counter absolutely calibrated using known source Na₂₂
- Response functions using stopping power* and cross-section data**
- An iterative method to recover the energy spectrum



* http://physics.nist.gov/Star. ** http://www.nndc.bnl.gov/exfor/.

Nuclear activation of copper stacks determined the nergy spectrum of the forward-accelerated protons





The energy spectrum of high-energy charged particles can be measured with a magnetic spectrometer



- Some issues
 - must know the detector
 - response as a function of $oldsymbol{arepsilon}$
 - $-\frac{\Delta \varepsilon}{\varepsilon}$ is smaller at higher energy
 - the design can be optimized
 - magnet geometry
 - detector-plane orientation
- A major limitation is that the spectrometer cannot resolve among particles with the same sign of charge but different q, m, ε degenerate
 - A magnetic spectrometer works well for
 - electrons, positrons
 - ions when only a single species is present—typically protons



Ch5 +10° 50 mm length

A Thomson parabola uses parallel electric and magnetic fields to deflect particles onto parabolic curves that resolve q/m





- Deflection caused by magnetic field ~q/p
- Deflection caused by electric field ~q/KE
- Ion traces form parabolic curves on detector plane







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Kodak Brownie camera



- Magnification = $\frac{d_2}{d_1}$
- Infinite depth of field (variable magnification)
- Pinhole diameter determines
 - resolution ~a

- light collection:
$$\Delta \Omega = \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{a^2}{d_1^2}$$

Imaging optics (e.g., lenses) can be used for higher resolutions with larger solid angles.

2-D time-integrated images can be recorded on film or electric detectors







- A 2-D detector is required for a pinhole camera
 - film—requires processing
 - electronic
 - semiconductor arrays—signal proportional to incident flux per pixel (CCD or CID)
 - array of ionization detectors
 - single-photon counters—limited dynamic range





- The building block of a framing camera is a gated microchannelplate detector (MCP).
- An MCP is a plate covered with small holes.



Multiple electrons are produced each time an electron or photon hits the wall.



- Temporal resolution = 35 to 40 ps
- Imaging array: Pinholes: 10- to 12-μm resolution, 1 to 4 keV
- Space-resolved x-ray spectra can be obtained by using Bragg crystals and imaging slits

Two-dimensional time-resolved images are recorded using x-ray framing camera



X-ray framing camera: self-emission of the magnetized jet



Proton radiography: magnetic fields around the magnetized jet

temporal resolution and observes features not seen with NIF's last century gated x-ray cameras hv rf Pulse Photocathode **Photomultiplier Array** Incident **Time-Dilated** Anode Mesh Photon Electron Signal Signal Drift Space

NIF's gated x-ray framing camera DIXI has 10-ps

*T. J. Hilsabeck et al., RSI 81, 10E317 (2010)

DIXI takes clearer pictures of the hot spot evolution around peak x-ray emission





DIXI's 10X higher temporal resolution (reduced temporal blur) reveals details in the evolution of implosions at NIF never before possible, using the slower cameras.

N141116

A streak camera provides temporal resolution of 1-D data



A streak camera can provide 2-D information







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High-resolution x-ray spectroscopy is well-established on **Tokamaks for measuring plasma conditions**





High-resolution x-ray spectroscopy is well-established on Tokamaks for measuring plasma conditions

5



X-ray Crystal Spectrometer Makes Debut at C-Mod

New Technique a Major Advance for ITER

PPPL/Alcator C-Mod collaboration has resulted in the demonstration of a greatly improved X-ray crystal spectrometer for application to ITER and fusion reactors. Experiments conducted by a PPPL/MIT team in April mark the beginning of a new era in the ability of such devices to determine radial profiles of the ion temperature and the rotational velocity of high temperature plasmas without the need for diagnostic beams. Their success will benefit substantially ITER ar



From the left are: Alex Ince-Cushman, MIT; Ken Hill, PPPL; Manfred Bitter, PPPL; John Rice, MIT; and Christian Broennimann of the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland.

will benefit substantially ITER and other advanced fusion energy systems.

impurity by the pattern of frequencies, or spectrum, of the light emitted and they can determine the

PPPL designed high-resolution x-ray spectrometer has been identified as one of the 8 National Transformative Diagnostics





DHIRES contains three spectrometer channels and one imaging channel







T. Hall geometry: J.Phys. E. 17, 110 (1984)

DHIRES contains three spectrometer channels and one imaging channel







DHIRES is fully calibrated at the PPPL x-ray lab*





- Source Alignment
- Crystal Evaluation
- Energy Calibration and Crystal Dispersion
- Spectrum Manipulation
- Source Displacement and Insertion Error
- Absolute Throughput Measurement and NIF Signal Level Prediction
- Optical Alignment



The spectral resolution is ~10 eV

*L. Gao et al, RSI invited, accepted





Energy

*H. Whitley, PDXP team

Ratio of resonance peak to satellite peak will yield a measure of $T_{e}(t)$







The time-integrated channel will be used to cross calibrate the two streaked channels









E00004

A bubble merger is predicted in the nonlinear phase of the RT instability*





X-ray photons are sensitive to density modulations.

*D. Oron et al., Phys. Plasmas 8, 2883 (2001);

U. Alon et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 72, 2867 (1994).

^{**}V. A. Smalyuk et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 81, 5342 (1998).

Optical Thomson scattering is used to diagnose local plasma conditions by observing the spectrum of light scattered from a probe beam over a small interaction volume Ks Probe laser f/6.7 focusing optics 1-m (IAW) k k₀ system Thomson-scattering f/20 focusing f/10 focusing 100-*µ*m 70 μm volume (50 \times 50 \times 70 μ m³) optics optics aperture stops 1/3-m (EPW) 50 *µ*m \$ system Background Beam splitter

collection region

Plasma

*R. Follet et al, RSI 87, 11E401 (2016)

Plasma parameters are inferred by comparing measured Thomson-scattering spectra to calculated spectra





*R. Follet et al, RSI 87, 11E401 (2016)

Electron density and temperature, ion temperature, and flow velocity were measured inside the magnetized jet



OMEGA beams:

- Ring 1: 17, 22, 46, 56, 61
- Ring 2: 11, 26, 31, 55, 68
- Ring 3: 10, 13, 20, 28, 33, 48, 52, 58, 65, 66

OMEGA EP BL:

- Maximum energy, 10 ps (may switch to 1 ps)
- Best focus
- 8 mm from TCC toward H7

Diagnostics:

- TIM 5: Titled CPRM as the proton detector Distance is 16.5 cm from TCC
- TIM 6: TS collection system
- TIM 3: TTPS for the main plastic target
- TIM 4: XRFC (changed from TIM 2 to TIM 4)
- H2: EP proton generation assembly target stalk



Electron density and temperature, ion temperature, and flow velocity were measured inside the magnetized jet

IAW feature (d=400 µm)



EPW feature (d=400 µm)





The neutron spectrum provides information on ρR , Ti and yield – essential for assessing the implosion performance





Summary/Conclusions



A large suite of diagnostics have been developed for HEDP facilities

- HEDP systems generate some or all of
 - Visible light
 - UV and x-ray photons
 - Charged particles
 - Neutrons
 - Strong fields
- A comprehensive diagnostic suite makes it possible to learn a great deal about the systems: field strength and their impact, plasma parameters (n_e, n_i, T_e, v), particles, instabilities, yield, etc...
- Diagnosing HED systems require very high temporal (sub-ns, ps) and spatial (~10 µm) resolution
- Advances in technology and diagnostics enable understanding of new physics

