LASER-AIDED PLASMA DIAGNOSTICS: **A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

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OUTLINE

- \blacktriangleright Brief definition of lasers
- Laser as a tool for plasma diagnostics
 - Ion velocity distribution function via LIF
 - Laser for plasma interferometry —
 - Laser scattering as a tool to probe the plasma
- > Summary



INTERACTION OF LIGHT AND MATTER

In 1917 Einstein introduced a model of the interaction of radiation and matter.



absorption:

an incident photon is absorbed while the atomic state is elevated from energy level E_1 to E_2

spontaneous emission: a photon is emitted while the atomic system descends from energy level E_2 to E_1

Radiative processes:





stimulated emission:

an additional photon is emitted when an atomic system is under the action of an incident photon→ *light* amplification / LASER





LIGHT AMPLIFICATION IS NOT COMMON IN NATURE

- Thermal equilibrium between light and matter
 - Absorption of light is much more dominant over gain because of the Boltzmann's distribution of matter.

Probability for transitions resulting in emission at optical frequencies at room temperature is about e⁻⁴⁰

For a good theoretical description of the conditions for optical gain/light amplification see Simon Hooker and Colin Webb in Laser Physics





LIGHT AMPLIFICATION/POPULATION INVERSION

- Population per state must be greater in the upper state than in the lower state: this is called population inversion
- Condition for the required population inversion:
 - Selective pumping: upper level is pumped more rapidly than lower level
 - Favorable lifetime ratio
 - Favorable degeneracy
- Practical: Need some sort of external pump to raise atomic population from lower to upper energy level



EXAMPLE OF PUMPING



Examples of crystals?





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LASER-INDUCED-FLUORESCENCE (LIF)

Optical diagnostic technique that provides local measurements of the velocity distribution function (ions or neutrals)



Knowledge of distribution function $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, t)$ for each species can help understand phenomena:

- Vlasov equation —
- Landau damping —
- lon heating by waves ____
- Other moments can be determined. ____





PRINCIPLE AND GOVERNING EQUATIONS



Assume the laser beam propagating through a plasma

The absorption rate can be described:

Where
$$L(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\gamma^2}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + (\frac{\gamma}{2})^2}$$





PRINCIPLE AND GOVERNING EQUATIONS



$$\frac{dN}{d\Omega} = \frac{\gamma}{8\pi} \frac{I_0}{h\omega_0} \lambda^2 f_{k_{laser}} \left(\frac{\omega_{laser} - \omega_0}{k_{laser}}\right) \text{ #Photons/}$$

Assume the laser beam propagating through a plasma The absorption rate can be described:

$$Doppler shift$$

$$Doppler shift$$

$$(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{\lambda_0^2 I_0}{8\pi h\omega_0} \gamma \int d\omega \Phi(\omega) L(\omega - \mathbf{k_{laser}} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \quad \text{[photons]}$$

$$\mathbf{f} \qquad \mathbf{f} \qquad \mathbf{f}$$
Spontaneous Laser spectral emission rate profile Ion velocity

Where
$$L(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\gamma^2}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + (\frac{\gamma}{2})^2}$$

The velocity distribution can in principle be extracted by sweeping the laser wavelength!

/s/solide angle







PRACTICAL APPLICATION



- pump and induced fluorescence.
 - Analysis requires the rate equation for all three levels.
- commercial laser.



In practice, a three-level system is preferred: facilitate the discrimination between

LIF approach is limited to low temperature plasmas with spectral lines accessible with



EXAMPLE OF MEASURED AR II DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION (IVDF)

Measurements are performed in a linearly magnetized Ar II plasma





Diallo PhD Thesis 2005



LIF IS USED TO PROBE THE IVDF VIA THE METASTABLE OF XEI



Hall Thruster @ PPPL



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Figure 1: Photo of the PPS®1350-G thruster in operation

Pump laser



Understand the contribution of ubiquitous coherent instabilities to cross-field transport of thrusters

START BY THE HARMONIC DECOMPOSITION OF THE IVDF

each ion velocity class and spatial location:

$$f(t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) = f^{0}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) + \sum_{n>0} f^{n}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) \sin(n\omega_{D}t + \theta_{n}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}))$$
Time averaged WDE

Ime-averaged IVDF

 $f^{0}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) \rightarrow \omega_{laser}$ $f^1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) \rightarrow \omega_{laser} \pm \omega_D$ $f^n(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) \rightarrow \omega_{laser} \pm n\omega_D$

... and the IVDF(t) can be reconstructed!

> We mix the above with the modulation of the laser beam (ω_{laser}), and observed for

breatning mode

HARMONIC BASED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TIME-RESOLVED IVDF (WITH UP TO N=1)

Reconstructed time-dependent IVDF



Diallo et al., RSI 86(3):033506, 2015. ¹⁵





 Optical tagging enables to track the evolution of a small volume in phase space.



OTHER LIF APPLICATIONS

Using the Stark effect, on can probe the local electric field:

- caveat: this is possible if the various broadening mechanisms are small.
 - Please describe the various broadening mechanisms?
- To circumvent the broadening issues, we proposed a method probing the Rydberg state directly.

via Zeeman effect.

- Reymond, Diallo, Vekselman, "Using Laser-Induced Rydberg Spectroscopy diagnostic for direct measurements of the local electric field in the edge region of NSTX/NSTX-U: Modeling", Review of Scientific Instrument, vol. 89, 10C106, 2018.
- In certain case (weak field), LIF can provide measurements of the local magnetic field



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BASICS OF LASER INTERFEROMETRY

Relies on measurements of plasma optical refractivity -

- The index of refraction is given:

$$n = \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}\right)^{1/2} \sim 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}$$

Observations of the shift of the interference fringes with and without intervening gas



Plasma frequency

 $\omega_p = 1$

$$= L(n-1)/\lambda \Rightarrow -4.46 \times 10^{-14} n_e L\lambda$$



THINGS TO CONSIDER

> Good interferometric techniques should allow fringe shifts of $1/100 \lambda$

—

> What if there are **non-electronic** contributions to the index of refraction? *Number density of atoms*

$$n-1=2\pi\alpha n_a$$

Polarizability

Electronic effects can be separated from atomic effects by making fringe-shift vibrations).

$$\lambda_1 \Delta \phi_1 - \lambda_1 \Delta \phi_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\nu_p^2}{c^2} L \left[\lambda_1^2 - \lambda_2^2 \right]$$

Example: for $\lambda = 500$ nm, a minimum detectable electron density is about 10¹⁶ electrons/cm³

$$\lambda_1 \Delta \phi_1 = \left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\nu_p^2}{c^2} + (n_a - 1) \right] I$$

measurements at two different wavelengths (can be also used to separate mechanic







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SCATTERING OF LASER RADIATION BY PLASMA PARTICLE

The scattering of laser radiation by plasma particles is an extremely important tool in the diagnosis of plasmas and in studying microscopic fluctuation phenomena occurring in plasmas.

Important for characterizing the plasmas through the determination of electron and ion temperatures and the electron density.

Important to the kinetic theory of a system of interacting, charged particles by characterizing instabilities in most laboratory plasmas.



THOMSON SCATTERING: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?



Sir J, J Thomson 1856-1940

English physicist and Nobel laureate in physics, credited with the discovery and identification of the electron; and with the discovery of the first subatomic particle.

Plasma in scattering volume





THOMSON SCATTERING (TS) APPROACH

- Thomson scattering is a powerful and non-perturbing diagnostic technique.
- \blacktriangleright It provides detailed information about the electron density and temperature.



TS provides direct and localized measurements of electrons properties

scattered

waves

Prunty Phys. Scr. 89 128001 (2014)

oscillating free electron





GENERAL THOMSON SCATTERING SCHEME

Picture from H. Meiden thesis





RELATIVISTIC THOMSON SCATTERING - ESTIMATES FOR ITER

E and **B** : $E_{laser} = 5 J @ 200 ps \rightarrow 25 GW$ Beam diameter = 5 cm \rightarrow Poynting vector is $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}$ $S = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 cE^2 \rightarrow E \simeq 10^8 \text{V/m} \text{ and } B = \frac{E}{c} \simeq 0.3 \text{T}$

$$v = \frac{eE}{m_0\omega}\sin(\omega t) \simeq 3 \times$$

What is the effect of the laser field on the single electron?

- $S = 1.27 \times 10^{13} W/m^2$

Typical velocity acquired by the electron in the field of the light wave $10^4 \mathrm{m/s}$ assuming $\lambda_i = 1064 \mathrm{nm}$

Let's estimate the thermal velocity of the electron for ITER?



RELATIVISTIC THOMSON SCATTERING - ESTIMATES FOR ITER

 $T_e = 40 \text{ keV} : v = 1.2 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} \rightarrow \beta = \frac{v}{c} \sim 0.4$

E and **B** : $E_{laser} = 5 J @ 200 ps \rightarrow 25 GW$ Beam diameter = 5 cm \rightarrow Poynting vector is $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}$ $S = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 cE^2 \rightarrow E \simeq 10^8 \text{V/m} \text{ and } B = \frac{E}{c} \simeq 0.3 \text{T}$

$$v = \frac{eE}{m_0\omega}\sin(\omega t) \simeq 3 \times$$

This is considerably less than the actual electron velocities, so the laser beam does not influence the electron motion ("unperturbed electron velocity approximation").

The B-field of the light wave cannot be neglect

 $S = 1.27 \times 10^{13} W/m^2$

Typical velocity acquired by the electron in the field of the light wave

 $10^4 \mathrm{m/s}$ assuming $\lambda_i = 1064 \mathrm{nm}$





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APPROACH TO DETERMINE THE SPECTRUM

Equation of motion for an electron

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left| \frac{m_0 \mathbf{v}}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \right| = -e \left(\mathbf{E}_i + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}_i \right)$$

in field of light wave (laser)

Thomson spectrum!



Coordinate system



Prunty Phys. Scr. 89 (2014) 128001



SCATTERING GEOMETRY DEFINITION

direction of detection



The observation wave vector properties are defined by the incident wave vector and

 $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_s - \mathbf{k}_i$ $\omega = \omega_s - \omega_i$ Bragg detector relation

$|k| \cong 2 |k_i| \sin(\theta/2)$







SINGLE ELECTRON SCATTERING

Power per unit solid angle scattered by electron

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = r_e^2 \sin^2 \phi \ c\varepsilon_0 \left| E_i^2 \right|$$

It is common to define a differential crosssection ratio of scattered power to incident power per unit area

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = r_e^2 \, sin^2 \phi$$



THOMSON SCATTERED POWER

General form of the Thomson scattered power per unit solid angle, a distance R from the scattering volume

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{cR^2}{4\pi} \left(\frac{NE_s^2}{2} + N(N-1)\overline{(\mathbf{E}_j \cdot \mathbf{E}_l)}_{j \neq l} \right)$$

Two different scattering regimes emerge



or, separating terms into j = l, and $j \neq l$:



INCOHERENT VS COHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING [PART 1]

- \blacktriangleright The phase factor **k**.**r**_{po} depends on the electron's location and the vector **k**



 \blacktriangleright Electrons lying on the locus defines by **k**. $\mathbf{r}_{po} = \mathbf{C}$, a constant gives rise to the same phase.

plane

Equation of a plane whose normal is k and all electron lying on this plan scatter in phase





GEOMETRY





IN PHASE SCATTERING

Hence:-

.

$$\vec{k} \cdot \left(\vec{r}_{po} + \Delta \vec{r}_{po}\right) = C + 2$$

$$\left|\Delta \vec{r}_{po}\right| = rac{2\pi}{\left|\vec{k}\right|}$$
 This (mean of the second second

Now:-
$$\left|\vec{k}\right| = \sqrt{\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}} = \sqrt{\left(\vec{k}_s - \vec{k}_i\right) \cdot \left(\vec{k}_s - \vec{k}_i\right) \cdot \left(\vec{k}_$$

 θ is the scattering angle.

Hence:-
$$\left|\vec{k}\right| = \frac{1}{c}\sqrt{\omega_s^2 + \omega_i^2 - 2\omega_s}$$

As $\omega_s \approx \omega_i$ $\left|\vec{k}\right| = \frac{1}{c}\sqrt{2\omega_i^2 - 2\omega_i^2 \cos\theta} = \frac{\omega_i\sqrt{2}}{c}\sqrt{1 - \cos\theta}$

$$\left|\vec{k}\right| = \frac{2\omega_i}{c} \sin\frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{4}{c}$$

2π

quantity is the scale-length for scattering; asures resolution on which plasma events viewed in a scattering experiment)



INCOHERENT VS COHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING [PART 2] > The scale length for scattering is $2\pi/k$ - resolution

- Correlated interactions between the plasma electrons only occur at or above a certain scale length - so called Debye length $\lambda_{D.}$





Which one represents the incoherent scattering?



INCOHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING



Incoherent scattering: random distribution of particles \gg phases add up destructively

 $(-1)(\mathbf{E}_{j} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{l})_{j \neq l}$





INFORMATION FROM INCOHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING

Electron density Scattered power $P_s = P_i n_e \Delta L \Omega \frac{d\sigma_T}{d\Omega} S(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$ Injected power $S(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F_k(v_k) \delta[\omega_i - \omega_s(\mathbf{v})] dv_k$

 $F_k(v_k) = \frac{1}{c_0\sqrt{\pi}} \exp\left[-(v_k/a)^2\right]$ wł

spectral density function or form factor

velocity distribution function along k

here
$$c_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2k_BT_e}{m_e}}$$







INFORMATION FROM INCOHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING

Scattered power

$$P_s = P_i n_e \Delta L \Omega \frac{d\sigma_T}{d\Omega} S(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

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$$S(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F_k(v_k) \delta[\omega_i - \omega_s(\mathbf{v})] dv_k$$

velocity distribution

$$F_k(v_k) = \frac{1}{c_0 \sqrt{\pi}} \exp[-(v_k/a)^2]$$
 where $c_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T_e}{m_e}}$

scattered spectrum area proportional to n_e spectrum width proportional to

Spectral density function or form factor

$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_s - \mathbf{k}_i$$
$$\omega = \omega_s - \omega_i$$

n function along k

$$\sqrt{T_e}$$







BREAKTHROUGH FOR TOKAMAKS WAS DEMONSTRATED USING THOMSON SCATTERING

N.J. Peacock, D.C. Robinson, M.J. Forrest, P.D. Wilcock and V.V. Sannikov in "Measurement of the Electron Temperature by Thomson Scattering in Tokamak T3", Nature Vol. 224, November 1, 1969



Drawing from the talk "Evolution of the Tokamak" given in 1988 by B.B. Kadomtsev at Culham.



THOMSON SCATTERING SYSTEM ON NSTX-U





PROFILES FOR THE LAST NSTX-U CAMPAIGN



INCOHERENT VS COHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING

- > The scale length for scattering is $2\pi/k$ resolution
- Correlated interactions between the plasma electrons only occur at or above a certain scale length - so called Debye length $\lambda_{D.}$





COHERENT THOMSON SCATTERING

 $\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{cR^2}{4\pi}$ Recall general form for scattered power:

coherent scattering: particle positions **not** random, instead correlated **m** > phases add up constructively

$$\frac{dP}{d\Omega} = \frac{cR^2}{4\pi} \left(\frac{NE_s^2}{2} + N(N-1)\overline{(\mathbf{E_j} \cdot \mathbf{E_l})}_{j \neq l} \right)$$

Scattering takes place on structured "bunches" of electrons For observation length scale is larger than the electron screening length

$$\left(\frac{NE_s^2}{2} + N(N-1)\overline{(\mathbf{E_j}\cdot\mathbf{E_l})}_{j\neq l}\right)$$

this term now dominates









INFORMATION FROM COHERENT SCATTERING

Scattered

power

$$P(\mathbf{R}, \omega_s) \ d\Omega d\omega_s = \frac{P_i r_e^2}{A2\pi} \ d\Omega d\omega \left| \hat{s} \times (\hat{s} \times \hat{E}_{io}) \right|^2 NS(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$

 $S(\mathbf{k},\omega) \equiv T$

Density fluctuations visible depending on scale observed

- - highly complex information depending on the plasma properties!

spectral density function/form factor

$$\lim_{N \to \infty, V \to \infty} \frac{1}{TV} \left\langle \frac{|n_e(\mathbf{k}, \omega)|^2}{n_o} \right\rangle \qquad \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_s - \mathbf{k}_i \\ \omega = \omega_s - \omega_i$$

> Electrons and ions have distinct contributions to the form factor in the collective scattering regime:





high frequency fluctuations linked to fast electron dynamics



: electron, ion plasma frequencies - natural oscillation frequencies $\omega_{pe}, \ \omega_{pi}$ $\alpha \equiv 1/k\lambda_D$: scattering parameter (> 1 = coherent regime) Z: ion charge T_e , T_i : electron, ion temperatures

low frequency fluctuations linked to slower ion dynamics



Froula, Glenzer, Luhmann and Sheffield Plasma scattering of electromagnetic radiation Acad. Press, 2nd edition





APPLICATIONS TO WARM DENSE MATTER (WDM)

Ions are strongly coupled

Electrons are fully or partially degenerate

The equation of state of light elements is essential to state (EOS) in the WDM regime is largely unknown.



X-RAY THOMSON SCATTERING (XRTS)

Scattering vector: $k = (4\pi/\lambda_0)\sin(\theta/2)$



Dynamic structure factor (Chihara 1987, 2000):

 $S_{ee}^{tot}(k,\omega) = |f_I(k) + q(k)|^2 S_{ii}(k,\omega) + Z_f S_{ee}^0(k,\omega) + Z_c \int \tilde{S}_{ce}(k,\omega-\omega') S_s(k,\omega') d\omega'$

Bound electrons/ following motion of the ions



(Thomas-Fermi length)



(Debye length)





XRTS IN WARM DENSE DEUTERIUM

Rayleigh peak: elastic scattering (bound electrons)

Compton peak: inelastic scattering (free/metallic electrons)



Determine the elements of the EOS from features of the scattering spectra:

- T_e from width of the inelastic peak
- Ne from the downshift of the plasmon peak
- Ion temperature from electric scattering strength
- Average ionization state from intensity ratio of Rayleigh and Compton peaks
- Atomics structure from bound-free tail contribution

Froula, Glenzer, Luhmann and Sheffield Plasma scattering of electromagnetic radiation Acad. Press, 2nd edition



SUMMARY

- Brief description of lasers
- distribution function.
- Laser for plasma interferometry
- Laser scattering as a tool to probe the plasma: Incoherent vs coherent Thomson scattering and finally XRTS.

Optical diagnostic technique that provides local measurements of the ion velocity



LITERATURE FOR THOMSON SCATTERING — IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

- Pechacek and Trivelpiece (Phys. Fluids, Vol 10, 1668 (1967))
 - first consistent treatment of relativistic Thomson scattering
- Sheffield (Plasma Scattering of Electromagnetic Radiation, Academic Press, New York, 1975)
 - carried out a relativistic correction to first order in v/c (15% error at 25 keV)
- Zhuravlev and Petrov (Sov. J. Plasma Phys., Vol 5, 3 (1979))
 - integrated the relativistic scattering integral analytically (neglecting depolarization).
- Selden (Phys. Lett., Vol 79A, 405 (1980))
- used the analytic formula of Zhurvlev and Petrov with a stated accuracy of approximately 1% up to 100 keV. Matoba et al (Jap. J. Appl. Phys., Vol. 18, No. 6, 1127 (1979))
 - derived an integral equation and approximated this by an analytic expression to second order in v/c (10% error at 25 keV)
- Naito et al (Phys. Fluids B, Vol. 5, No. 11, 4256, (1993))
 - derived an analytic formula using the treatment of Hutchinson (Principles of Plasma Diagnostics, Cambridge University Press 1987) with depolarization taken into account, and they went on to derive a rational approximation with high accuracy (error < 0.1% at 100 keV)
- I. H. Hutchinson, Principles of Plasma Diagnostics, Cambridge University Press 1987.





BACKUP

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INTRA-CAVITY LASER INTERFEROMETRY

- light is reflected back to itself by an external mirror.
 - reflected beam.
- the index of refraction.



Ashby and Jephcott, Appl. Phys. Letters, vol. 3, pp. 13-16, 1963.

> This approach relies on changes of the amplitude of the laser emission when the laser

- Interference between the cavity oscillations and the reflected beam strongly modulates the laser intensity. Such modulation depends on the phase of the

Application to plasmas: modulation of the laser intensity is related to the changes of









GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Spectrally resolved detection systems.
 - Avalanche photo-Diodes.

Cascade of interference filters 3 – 8 wavelength channels 1 APD for each wavelength



T.N. Carlstom et al., RSI 63 (1992) 4901



Assume Maxwellian electron distribution!



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Spectrally resolved detection systems.
 - Intensified image detectors. _
 - Avalanche photo-Diodes.
- Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) TS system
 - The measurement position can be retrieved from time of flight of the laser pulse.
 - The spatial resolution is determined by the physical length of the laser pulse and the temporal response of the detection system.
 - spatial resolution is in the range of 50 100 mm
 - Of interest for large fusion devices JET & ITER





REQUIRED LASER POWER AND DETECTION EFFICIENCY

number of photoelectrons



Parameters

Energy per laser pulse

f-number of viewing lens

Solid angle

Length of the scattering volume

Differential cross-section

Overall transmission

Effective quantum efficiency

Electron density

 $N_{pe} = \frac{E}{hv_0} \Delta L \Omega n_e \frac{d\sigma_T}{d\Omega} \tau_{overall} \eta$

Symbol	Units/Remarks
E	J
f/nr	rad
$\Omega = \pi (f/nr)/4$	Sr
ΔL	m
$d\sigma T/d\Omega = 7.94 \ge 10-30$	m2/sr
τoverall	
η	%
ne	m-3



CALIBRATIONS

- Absolute calibration using a known gas pressure
 - This can be done using Raman or Raleigh scattering to determine the ABSOLUTE sensitivity of the detection

NRaman or Rayleigh

pe hv_0





