Ion Source and Injector VNL Status and future opportunities

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Experiments on STS-500 to study beam optics



500 kV, 17 μs pulse, 1.0 μs time



10-cm diameter K+ AI-Si source with Pierce electrode



Merging high density beamlets for HIF injector is more compact and is today's preferred option



- need current density > 100 mA/cm² (Ar⁺)
- need merged total current > 0.5 A
- 20 μs, steady current, low emittance

<u>WARP-3D simulation is benchmarked</u> <u>as reliable design tool</u>





Merging Beamlets test will begin in September

- Apparatus is full scale in dimension, but
 1/4 scale in voltage, so 1/8 in current.
- The experiment will study emittance growth physics, beam matching parameters, and beam halos.
- Success in this experiment will establish the basis for building a (future) driver-scale injector.



Negative ion sources for HIF Drivers



- We have already demonstrated 45 mA/cm² of pure Cl⁻ ions with relatively low co-extracted electrons (7:1) from a single aperture.
- Current density scaled almost linearly with RF power (12.56 MHz).
- Current density of Cl⁺ ~ 1.3 x Cl⁻.
- A new experiment will run on STS-100 this summer to examine the negative ion production from a large source, measure emittance, and form an array of beamlets.

The accel-decel injector is an innovation to meet our HEDP challenge: build a low energy high current driver to hit target

• In an accel-decel injector, a long pulse is compressed when decelerates into a solenoid, the Super-High λ (line charge density) bunch is then accelerated without expansion.



- At 3.3 μ C/m, the HEDP λ is > 10x the present HCX experiment.
- Longitudinal emittance can coupling to transverse emittance
- Possible compression limit when the bunch's forward kinetic energy becomes comparable to the beam potential.

HEDP requires a 100 ns/ 10A ion source & injector



To do this we need:

- An ion source with J > 100 mA/cm².
- Boost the space charge CL limit by using high gradient
- A low energy beam transport system after the ion diode.

What kind of short pulse high current source to use?

One possibility is to use a laser source, if:

- It can produce a single charge state
- With high enough current (I) and current density (J)
- Low enough transverse and longitudinal emittance.



Since HEDP only requires short pulse and a single beam, it may be possible to select the right window of charge state and velocity spread by adjusting the drift geometry (even possible to add a magnetic bent.

A noval laser ion source approach

Combine the Alumino-silicate source with a laser trigger

- The alumino-silicate will be heated to about 900 degree C
- Flash heat the alumino-silicate with a laser beam, high enough intensity to release K+ but low enough not to ablate

