

Opportunities for High Energy Density Science

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• UK-FEL Meeting, Royal Society, 16th July 2019

Summary

- "High Energy Density Science" (HEDS) broadly encompasses matter with energy densities exceeding ~ 10¹¹ Jm⁻³ : i.e. 'cold' solid matter at Mbar pressures, or dilute matter at millions of Kelvin.
- Effectively these are the conditions met deep in the cores of planets, stars, and within other astrophysical objects.
- The research field allows us to pursue fundamental science (e.g. astrophysics in the laboratory), but also has potential application (high pressure superconductivity, novel material synthesis, understanding of deformation at the atomic level...).
- X-Ray FELs have revolutionised this field both by providing means to, on their own, create such conditions, but also, in conjunction with high power optical lasers, to probe conditions made by other means with exquisite resolution.
- The UK has led this field at existing FELs, but is uniquely placed to construct its own facility with capabilities unparalleled worldwide.



A sample of topics being studied

- Solids heated isochorically by an x-ray laser to millions of Kelvin can mimic conditions half way to the centre of the sun the FEL heats the sample before it has time to expand.
- Plasmas in these conditions are poorly understood at high density and temperature where do bound states 'end' and the continuum starts?
- What are the transport coefficients, and what is the equation of state when these plasmas are strongly coupled (thermal effects and coulomb energies are comparable).
- Optical lasers can, via ablation, subject matter to pressures far greater than possible by any other means. Compression only lasts a few nanoseconds, but the femtosecond FEL can then obtain high-quality diffraction patterns in 100 femtoseconds, recording the new phases. We thus can explore conditions deep within the planets in our own solar system and beyond.
- Tracking new phases in real time may allow us to generate new materials with new properties optical, electrical, mechanical...
- Material deformation occurs by the generation and movement of defects can we track these in real time during 'impact physics'?

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The experiment at the Linac Coherent Light Source X-ray Free-Electron Laser



LCLS pulse

Photon energy: 1460–1830 eV Pulse length < 60 fs Pulse Energy ~1.5 mJ Bandwidth ~ 0.4%







Vinko et al., Nature **482**, 59 (2012) Ciricosta et al., PRL **109**, 065002 (2012)



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FELs can isochorically create high energy density plasmas



16th July 2019



Electronic structure of Aluminium

Neutral Al



Core-hole lifetime ~1fs, although we diagnose via observing K-alpha, it is not the dominant decay mechanism.



Electronic structure of Aluminium

Neutral Al



Radiationless Auger decay is 30 times more probable, ejecting L electrons into the continuum, that heat the other electrons within ~fsec



Photo-ejection of electrons, and Auger heating strips the Al ions

Neutral AI:





As ionisation proceeds, note that both the K-edge energy, and the K-a energy increase with increasing there are fewer L electrons to provide shielding.

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Important to note: the heated continuum - many tens of eV, can further collisionally ionise the system. No K-α will be seen if the K-edge energy of an ion exceeds the photon energy of the X-Ray Laser.

How do we model ionization at high densities, where screening and or Pauli exclusion forces are strong

Continuum lowering models are challenged at high density



Physical Review Letters **109** 245003 (2012). Screening/fluctuations/equilibration

Insulating plasma



Transparent Na



Dai PRL 14

Pauli exclusion/fluctuations

Publications on IPD since 2012



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

XFELs can clock sub-femtosecond electron collisional dynamics

- · How quickly do electrons collisionally ionize in hot-dense plasmas?
- What are the timescales for electron 'damage' in dense systems?



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Recent Fe opacity data from Bailey suggest a need to explore radiation transport mechanisms in stars



LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature14048

A higher-than-predicted measurement of iron opacity at solar interior temperatures

J. E. Bailey¹, T. Nagayama¹, G. P. Loisel¹, G. A. Rochau¹, C. Blancard², J. Colgan³, Ph. Cosse², G. Faussurier², C. J. Fontes³, F. Gilleron², I. Golovkin⁴, S. B. Hansen¹, C. A. Iglesias⁵, D. P. Kilcrease³, J. J. MacFarlane⁴, R. C. Mancini⁶, S. N. Nahar⁷, C. Orban⁷, J.-C. Pain², A. K. Pradhan⁷, M. Sherrill³ & B. G. Wilson⁵



A new way to look at radiation transport and opacity in solid density systems via emission spectroscopy





Volumetric photo-absorption on foils of different thicknesses, all thinner than 1 absorption depth

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Laser Ablation

- •Nanosecond laser irradiates an ablation and launches a pressure wave (or shock).
- The FEL records the diffraction pattern during the compression.
- Interferometry from the rear surface motion provides pressure diagnosis



Nanosecond lasers can induce multi-TPa pressures for times of a few nanoseconds in

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Just a few years ago, ultrahigh-pressure phase diagrams, for matter with core electrons, were very simple



Many materials are now predicted to exhibit exotic behavior at HED pressure





Creation of Host-Guest Structures





No of atoms/cell = $16_{justin} 2 \times (C_{H}/C_G)$





Creation of Host-Guest Structures on nanosecond timescales via shock compression





Recently discovered planets contain matter at millions (100's GPa) to billions (100's TPa) of atmosphere pressure, this is HEDS



Each circle is a planet

Observational data are limited

Need EOS and transport data/theory

Transport properties and temperature can in principle be provided by inelastic scattering from ion fluctuations (phonons)

> D. Swift, et al., 2012 S. Seager 2007 J. Eggert exoplanet.eu/catalog/







Observation of ion acoustic waves in dense plasmas (modelled with Bohm-MD



Quantum bodies are treated as an ensemble of classical trajectories, but with the addition of a non-local potential, giving full electron and ion dynamics

xford

hysics "

- No need to introduce an unknown parameter (electron-ion collision frequency)
- Bohm-MD simulations performed with 1024 atoms (on a laptop), giving >10⁴ increase in speed with comparable TDDFT simulations!
- Bohm-MD can be implemented in a fitting algorithm to predict plasma conditions



A 100J laser (DiPOLE) gets us to several Mbar easily - higher with convergent geometries. kJ systems get us to the TPa regime





 100 J, 10 Hz, nanosecond DiPOLE laser now commissioned and ready to be shipped to European XFEL



Short-Pulse Physics

- Thus far we have been looking at x-ray only experiments, and interactions with matter compressed with nanosecond optical lasers.
- There is also a plethora of physics that can be pursued with femtosecond optical lasers in the high intensity regime.
- The European XFEL has a 100-200 TW (40-fsec) optical laser alongside the x-ray laser.
- A variety of fundamental physics experiments have been proposed...



Measurements of Vacuum Birefringence



- Highly polarised x-ray beams can be generated from multiple diffraction in channel cut crystals
- Rotation of some of the x-ray photons in an intense optical pulse measures the birefringence of the vacuum.
- The effect is highly non-linear in optical laser energy and x-ray wavelength.

• Figure from Felix Karbstein, Jena

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Gravity analogues and strong field QED

ћа

 $=\frac{1}{2\pi c}$

Electrons accelerated by lasers provide means to test fundamental physics

- → Photons scattered by accelerated electrons experience a frequency shift due to ponderomotive motion (mass shift)
- → Accelerated detector (the electron) would see Unruh radiation
- → $a=10^{25}$ g (laser intensity $\approx 10^{19}$ W/cm²) corresponds to T=10⁴ K
- → Even if the laser intensity is below the Schwinger's limit, axion production is achievable (possible tests for dark matter theories)



We have proposed an experiment to look for acceleration effects in scattering

- → For I≈10¹⁹ W/cm², E_{xrav} ≈500 eV, θ ≈15° we get (T_{eff}-T) is a few hundred eV (measurable!)
- → The original proposal required phase stabilized optical laser and FEL
 - Circularly polarized optical laser will relax this requirement and make the experiment technically feasible





European Relativistic laser-matter interactions: HI laser

Phys. Plasmas 21, 033110 (2014) lons & electrons High power laser XFEL Finite spot electron energy density fast current laser pulse Laser scattering wing dow return current 10^{13} A/cm², > 1000 T, 10^{13} V/m,

~keV, solid density



30



 $m_ec^2n_e$

- 27.2

- 13.6

0

- electron transport, return ٠ current neutralization
- filamentation, hole boring ٠
- e-e & e-i equilibration ٠
- quasi-static fields ٠

May 9, 2016 - Science seminar, University of Oxford Ulf Zastrau – Group Leader HED



Opportunities for the UK

- The UK HED community has been at the forefront of the use of 4th generation light sources.
- To date, the optical lasers that have accompanied such FEL sources have, to a large degree, been 'bolted on' to a fixed end-station design.
- Whilst both the construction and possible siting of a UK-FEL have yet to be decided, there is real-estate at RAL which would clearly allow a UK-FEL to be co-located with the existing Central Laser Facility allowing a fully integrated approach to HED science from the start.
- A personal view is that such thinking should be incorporated into the UK-FEL review process.
- We should be asking what new world-leading science is enabled by synergistically upgrading UK high power laser facilities to be compatible with a UK-FEL capability (e.g. multi-kJ long pulse systems at high repetition rate, co-location of FEL with Petawatt lasers etc. etc.).



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- Come to the workshop (October 2nd, University of Edinburgh) please get involved.



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