# **Merging Beamlet Experiment Review**

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# **Ion Beams for Heavy Ion Inertial Fusion**



Power amplification to the required 10<sup>14</sup>-10<sup>15</sup> W is achieved by beam combining, acceleration and longitudinal bunching.

- Heavy ion beams have significant space-charge effects
- Multiple beams provide better target illumination symmetry and a better match to the beam transport limits.



## **HIF Drivers require Injectors of Bright Beams**

Ion mass	> 100 amu for driver, 39 amu for HCX		
Total charge delivered	~ 1 mC		
Beam current per beam	~ 0.5 ampere (transport limit)		
Delta I/ I	$\pm 0.2 \%$		
Total beam current	$\geq$ 50 ampere		
Number of beams	$\approx 100$		
Injector voltage	$\sim 1.5$ - 2.0 MV		
(Delta V)/ V	$\pm 0.1\%$		
Line charge density per beam	$\geq 0.2 \ \mu C/m$		
Pulse length	$pprox 10$ - 20 $\mu s$		
Rise time	< 1 µs	Achieved parameters are in red fonts	
Current density uniformity	± 10%		
Emittance (each 0.5 A beam)	< 1 $\pi$ -mm-mrad (adequate, but smaller is better)		
Life time	$\sim 5 \text{ Hz x } 3.15 \text{x} 10^7 \text{ sec/yr} = 1.6 \text{x} 10^8 \text{ pulses}$		



#### **Traditional HIF Injectors use large surface sources**

- Surface ionization source diameter ≥ 10 cm, solid emitter boundary.
- Current density < 10 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> of K<sup>+</sup>.
- 750 kV pre-accelerator before ESQ.





**Specifications**:

1.8 MV 0.6 A K<sup>+</sup> 1 π-mm-mrad



# Good agreement between experimental results and simulation predictions



#### 10-cm diameter K+ Alumino-silicate source

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# A 84-beam array injector is very large (and costly)



#### Is there a better way for HIF injector system?





# **Beam Extraction Scaling Law**

$$J_{CL} = \chi \frac{V^{\frac{3}{2}}}{d^2}$$
  $I_{CL} = \pi \chi \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)^2 V^{\frac{3}{2}}$ 



• Space-charge-limited flow in the extraction diode is governed by Child-Langmuir equation.

where  $\chi = (4\varepsilon_0/9)(2q/M)^{1/2}$ with *q* and *M* being the charge and mass of the ions respectively, *a* is the aperture radius, *d* the diode length, and *V* is the extraction voltage.

- V is limited by breakdown
  V ~ d for d < 1 cm</li>
  V ~ d<sup>0.5</sup> for d > 1 cm
  so large ion diode needs high V
  but produces low J.
- Spherical aberration depends on the aspect ratio *a/d* (typically < 0.5) thus I<sub>max</sub> ~ V<sup>3/2</sup>
- Conclusion: high current needs large V and d but results in low J, so the brightness is limited.



## **High Current Density Option**

- For effective LEBT, high brightness miniature beamlets (≈5 mA ea) can be accelerated to ≈ 1.2 MeV before they are merged into a single beam (≈ 1 ampere).
- Beamlets can be aimed and steered to rapidly match into an ESQ channel.
- Beamlet merging will introduce emittance growth, thus the miniature beamlets must be very bright.



# The mini-beamlet approach can drastically reduce the size of a multiple beam injector



- The merging beamlet approach requires a high current density ion source. It can tolerate a higher intrinsic ion temperature, so there are more ion source options.
- Merging beamlets produces emittance growth.





# The purpose of the Merging Beamlets Experiment was to develop a prototype injector for IRE

- With the recent improvements in alumino-silicate sources, the single aperture source is probably still the optimum choice for single beam experiments
- Merging beamlets type injector is preferred for drivers with multiple beams
- We want to demonstrate that we have solutions to all the critical issues—high J, high gradient, tolerance etc.
- Study the physics of emittance growth from merging beamlets
- Benchmarking the simulation code will enable us to control beam profiles and halos.



### The Merging Beamlets Experimental Plan

- Built an RF-driven argon plasma source that can deliver the current density over a large extraction area
- Built a high voltage test stand—a 500 kV column is just about the maximum voltage that can run in air. Higher voltage will require a compressed-air enclosure and cost more.
- Develop and test high gradient insulators and vacuum gaps: aim at 35 kV/cm and 100 kV/cm respectively.
- Do the experiment in three phases—(1) test the source, extraction and Einzel lens on STS-100, (2) experiment with full gradient beamlets up to the first 400 kV of a full size injector, (3) experiment with a ¼ scaled voltage (but full size) merging beamlets at 400 kV.



#### **Testing a multi-beamlet Ar<sup>+</sup> RF-plasma source**







 $\begin{array}{l} \text{500} \mu\text{s}, \, \text{20kW}, \, \text{\sim} \, \text{10 MHz} \\ \text{Compact RF oscillator} \end{array}$ 



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# Schematic Diagram of the RF-Source Experiment on STS-100

- Faraday cup to measure total beam current
- 2nd Faraday cup to measure Time of Flight (TOF)
- Doube-slit scanner to measure projectional emittance
- Dipole plates to measure energy dispersion





# Argon plasma source has produced beamlets near the required current density

- Current peaks when a beam fills the exit aperture.
- Optimum optics at perveance = 5.3 mA / 80 kV<sup>(3/2)</sup>

Obtained 3.9 mA from d=0.25 cm aperture ⇒ 80 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>. (compare to 8.3 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> for hot-plate source)





#### **Charge states measurements**



020924Zi.xls



#### **Emittance measurements**

- Measured emittance showed  $T_{eff} \approx 2 \text{ eV}$ , which is adequate for use in merging beamlets.
- Possible emittance reduction by improving beam optics.



## **Energy dispersion can result from charge exchange loss during acceleration**

- Use an energy analyser to measure the beam energy spread
- Compare results as a function of gas pressure in the source chamber





4ms on gas valve ~ 2 mTorr chamber pressure



# **Charge Exchange Loss**





# **Recent Results from Argon RF Plasma Source**

#### Single Beamlet:

Parameters	<u>Results</u>	<u>Status</u>
Current density	100 mA/cm² (5 mA)	met goal
Emittance	T <sub>eff</sub> < 2 eV	met goal
Charge states	> 90% in Ar⁺	met goal
Energy spread	< a few % beam suffers CX	met goal?

RF Source:



#### Multiple Beamlet:

Image on Kapton:





#### **Results of the Einzel lens multi-beamlet experiment**

#### Einzel lens using flat electrodes HGI held 35kV/cm



Grid parameters: 61 beamlets, Pierce aperture diam. 2.21 mm lens aperture diam. 4.0 mm Spacing is 6.0 mm Image on Kapton film





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#### Kapton data:

Measured radius = 2.25 mm at 10 mm downstream.

Actual Einzel lens voltage: 10 < V < 20 due to <u>lens drawing</u> <u>current from the</u> <u>power supply</u>

See 031117 presentation

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#### **Beamlet profile measured from a slit scanner**



#### **PBGUNs simulation was consistent with data**



### The Merging Beamlet Experiment has a conservative extractor design

Designed operating point for the merging beamlet experiment is  $\sim 58 \text{ mA}$ 





#### The Full-Gradient test will be installed this month

To demonstrate a full current density array, the vacuum gap voltage gradient (> 100 kV/cm) and check for interaction between beamlets.



#### We will use Faraday cup, and take images of the beamlets

#### The Final Phase will merge beamlets into an ESQ Channel





