Matter in Extreme Conditions Upgrade PW (30J, 30 fs) Flagship Experiments

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Status of current flagships with HAPLS-like PW*



Ion fast ignition physics

Proton/ion heating requires high flux. E = 30 J cannot generate enough flux to heat materials to inertial fusion relevant conditions. Future studies will be significantly impacted.



Courtesy of F. Fuiza, et al.

Petawatt laser-matter interactions

Collisonless shocks and filaments require long pulse durations. 30 fs is not long enough to generate necessary instabilities and shock generation. Future studies may not be possible.

*Does not include changes to High Rep-Rate Long Pulse laser as a consequence of reduced pulse energy

Ultrafast science enabled by HAPLS-like PW

Femtosecond-scale broadband high energy X-ray sources that are coupled to XFEL pulse duration



Peak brightness with HAPLS-like laser is equivalent to ELI beamlines



Peak Brightness compared to Synchrotrons and XFELs

Peak Brightness compared to experiments



Single Shot Femtosecond X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (FXAS)



Proof-of-principle scientific concept

B. Mahieu et al., Nature Comms. 9 (2018)



**PW-Betatron can also be guasi-monochromatic allowing Enrope > K-edge

Hard X-ray Phase Contrast Imaging (HXPCI)



Proof-of-principle scientific concept

U. Chaulagain et al., Photonics 9 (2022)

Configuration 1 (PCI of dense materials/shocks) - FG

PW-Betatron PCI probe (δ t) (E > 25 keV) E-filter X-ray probe (δ t) XRTS X-ray probe (δ t) XRTS Laser-shock load (KJ/J)

Configuration 2 (PCI of ultrafast ionization/heating)



Dynamic Hard X-ray Laue Diffraction



Laue diffraction from LiF, X-rays from 15 keV -35 keV Mo X-pinch. The spectral photon flux (photons/eV/mrad²) delivered by the betatron source is an order of magnitude more than the X-pinch source.

Configuration 1 (XRD of dense materials/shocks)



Configuration 2 (XRD of dense materials/shocks)



Non-Equilibrium/Energy Relaxation Physics



Science opportunities enabled

Stellar Opacities



K, L, M edge spectroscopy; continuum lowering, solar iron abundance and opacity measurements of dense plasmas relevant to IFE conditions

W. Ball (2009) – google images

Flagship (FG) experiment titles:

"Spectroscopic determination of the solar iron abundance"

Non-LTE Physics



Ultrafast non-equilibrium dynamics; auger and fast electron kinetics, ionization rate equations of atomic transitions in HDM, radiation transport and conductivity of plasmas

S. Ren et al., Communications Phys. (2023)

"Electron-Ion equilibration in dense hydrogen plasmas"

Shock Dynamics of Dense Materials



Solid phase transitions; visualization of strength and plasticity under extreme shock compression, twinning and lattice dynamics in dense materials

F. González-Cataldo et al., Phys. Rev. B (2021)

"BC8 phase transition in shock compressed diamond"

Nuclear Excitation by Electron Transition/Capture (NEET/NEEC)

Micro-scale fusion from nanowire arrays b -7 fs Deuteron energy (MeV) 60 fs 140 fs d С

"stretch" flagship experiment

Configuration 1 (NEET/NEEC)



A. Curtis et al., Nature Comms. 9 (2018)

Extra slides

Preliminary KPPs

	Performance Measure	Threshold	Objective
Optical Laser Systems	High repetition rate short pulse laser	30 J	150 J
		300 fs	150 fs
		1 Hz	10 Hz
	High energy long pulse laser ^[1]	200 J	1000 J
		10 ns	10 ns
		1 shot per 60 min	1 shot per 30 min
X-ray Beam Delivery	Photon energy ^[2]	5-25 keV	5-45 keV
Experimental Systems	Re-entrant diagnostic inserters ^[3]	4	9

^[1] 2nd harmonic and temporally square pulses.

^[2] Requirement on MEC-U provided optics after LCLS mirror directing X-rays to target chamber center. The X-ray beam repetition rate is 120 Hz.

^[3] Cost performance parameter.

Threshold KPPs define the mandatory high-level deliverables required for the completion of the MEC-U Project. Objective KPPs define the full operational capabilities that are enabled by, but not necessarily demonstrated by the Project.

Extra slides





-Nucleus in ground state -Atomic shell vacancies (or free electrons)

Electrons transition (captured into atomic states) → Nucleus is excited

Radiative decay by gamma-ray emission

Radiative decay by Internal Conversion





MEC-U is positioned to be a major facility for both HEDLP and IFE research

Fundamental plasma properties under ICF conditions

• "first-principles" temperature, viscosity, sound speed, atomic kinetics, structure, density, and thermal diffusivity with unmatched accuracy and precision

Driving towards true continuous high repetition rate plasma science

- Machine learning feedback loops from plasma data [1]
- Facility infrastructure built for multiple "mega-shot" petawatt experiments
- Continuous structured target feed

IFE ablator studies

- Microphysics of wetted foams: (multi-frame) imaging and tomography
- Diamond EOS and microphysics of defect evolution (single shot multi-frame)
- Motivates upgrade to 5 kJ and 3ω with converging beams for highest pressures

Ion fast ignition science

- Microphysics of high intensity laser matter interaction and particle acceleration
- Precise ion stopping power in compressed ICF-relevant states
- Can motivate both dual-beam PW and 5 kJ upgrades



