

Physics and Applications of High Brightness Beams



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Radiation detection and coherent harmonic generation for the PAX Experiment at FACET-II

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The ongoing Plasma-driven Attosecond X-ray source experiment (PAX) at FACET-II aims to produce coherent soft X-ray pulses of attosecond duration using a Plasma Wakefield Accelerator [1]. These kinds of X-ray pulses can be used to study chemical processes where attosecond-scale electron motion is important. For this first stage of the experiment, PAX plans to demonstrate that <100 nm bunch length electron beams can be generated using the 10 GeV beam accelerated in the FACET-II linac and using the plasma cell to give it a percent-per-micron chirp. The strongly chirped beam is then compressed in a weak chicane to sub-100nm length, producing CSR in the final chicane magnet at wavelengths as low as 10s of nm. In this contribution we describe the results expected from this initial setup, as well as future iterations of the experiment in which we plan to use short undulators to drive coherent harmonic generation to produce attosecond, gigawatt X-ray pulses down to 1-2 nm.

[1] C. Emma, X.Xu et al APL Photonics 6, 076107 (2021)

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