Particle Production in High-Intensity Lasers*)

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with A.I. Titov, H. Takabe, A. Hosaka, et al.D. Blaschke, S. Smolyansky, S. Schmidt et al.D. Seipt, T. Nousch, A. Otto, H. Oppitz et al.

*) Schwinger, Breit-Wheeler (Short & Strong Laser Pulses)





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Disapparence of Anti-Matter in the Universe



Disapparence of Anti-Matter in the Universe

(ii) T ~0.5 MeV: annihilation of positrons





from $\eta = 10^{-10}$ and charge neutrality

mystery: high-energy e+ from AMS



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13 Gy later: discoveries of the positron

first detection:Skobelzin 1929



Dirac (1928): e+ and e-Matter & Antimatter





544him (IT) (24 38.54

Laser-Matter Interaction \rightarrow Antimatter

Cowan et al. (1999): using Nova at LLNL



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Engines of Particle Production

gravity: R(t) in expanding universe; tunneling from vacuum

..., Baseler, BK (1988)

chiral mass shift: m(t) from strong interact.

Michler, Greiner (2013)

electric field: $A \sim t$, E = const

Schwinger (1951), Sauter (1931)



decay of the vacuum

alternating e.m. field (laser): dyn. Schwinger effect

Brezin, Itzykson (1970)





super-critical fields

string breaking

Greiner et al. (> 1970)



~ 2000 Ec for Uranium

vacuum breakdown

Lund string model: hadron production

Casher, Neuberger, Nussimov (1979) Andersson et al. (1977)



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task: recreation of anti-matter (by lasers)

1. (optical) laser facilities

ultra-intensity: projects = ELI, HiPER, IZEST, ..., high-energy: NIF, XCELS/Sarov/Nishni Nowgorod





Helmholtz (Dresden-Rossendorf): Draco, Penelope



150 TW / PW Ti:Saphir Laser

optical photons: O(1 eV)



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Texas Petawatt Laser

pulse containes186 J of energy, 167 fs in duration based on optical parametric chirped pulse amplification and mixed Nd:glass amplification. (2008)





POLARIS in HIJ



Visions: ILE appolon $10^{24} \frac{W}{cm^2}$ from 10 PW HiPER 10^{26} W/cm² from 100 PW



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2. XFELs x-ray photons: O(1-10 keV)

LCLS, SACLA, Europ. XFEL @ Desy (Helmholtz), ...

LCLS (former SLAC)



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European XFEL in Hamburg/Desy

Total length	3.4 kilometres	The facility will run from the DESY site in Hamburg in a northwestern direction to the border of the town of Schenefeld (Schleswig-Holstein).
Number of sites	3	The three sites are: DESY-Bahrenfeld (ca. 2 hectares), Osdorfer Born (ca. 1.5 hectares) and Schenefeld (ca. 15 hectares). The research campus will be located in Schenefeld.
Depth of the tunnels	6 to 38 metres	The tunnels are covered by at least 6 metres of soil.
Construction costs including preparation and commissioning	1.15 billion euro (price levels of 2005)	As the host country, Germany (Federation, Hamburg, and Schleswig-Holstein) covers 58% of the construction costs. Russia takes over 27% and the other international partners between 1% and 3% of the construction costs each.

The European XFEL will provide light sources (beamlines) for X-ray flashes with different properties.

When electron bunches are induced to follow a slalom course in the magnet arrangements – the so-called undulators – of the European XFEL, they emit flashes of X-ray radiation. The European XFEL will comprise different undulators, i.e. different light sources providing X-ray flashes with different properties. HIBEF collab.: 400 members (lead inst.: HZDR)





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$$a_0 = 7.5 \sqrt{I_L / 10^{20} \frac{W}{cm^2}} \frac{eV}{\omega_L}$$
$$\kappa = 6.10^{-2} \sqrt{I_L / 10^{20} \frac{W}{\omega_L}}$$

inv. Keldysh parameter:

a0 << 1: weak-field regime → pQED a0 > 1: strong-field regime → sQED (Furry picture)

 $\kappa = 6 \ 10^{-2} \sqrt{I_L \ / 10^{20} \ \frac{W}{cm^2} \frac{\omega_1}{GeV}}$

Ritus parameter for pair production

2005: the Vulcan laser was the highest-intensity focussed laser producing a Petawatt laser beam with a focused intensity of 10^21 W/cm^2

 $= 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2$

max. = 10^22 W/cm^2

laser beams focussed in space & time

20 m x 20 m

 $I_c = 4.3 \times 10^{29} W/cm^{2_{\text{ResDEN}}}$

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1. Dynamically Assisted Schwinger Process (Pair Production from "Vacuum")

quantum kinetic eqs.

e.g. Grib, Mamaev, Mostepanenko (1988) Eq. (9.73)

$$\begin{split} \dot{f}(\boldsymbol{p},t) &= Q(\boldsymbol{p},t) \int_{t_0} \mathrm{d}t' \, Q(\boldsymbol{p},t') \left[1 - \eta f(\boldsymbol{p},t') \right] \cos 2 \left[\Theta(\boldsymbol{p},t) - \Theta(\boldsymbol{p},t') \right] \\ &= 2 \text{ for spin ½ Fermions} \\ (\Rightarrow \text{ Pauli blocking}) \end{split}$$

$$\mathbf{f} &= \frac{d \, N}{d^3 p \ d^3 x}$$

$$\Theta(\boldsymbol{p},t) &= \int_{t_0}^t \mathrm{d}t' \, \omega(\boldsymbol{p},t') \ , \quad \text{dyn. phase, non-Markovian process}$$

$$\omega(\boldsymbol{p},t) &= \sqrt{\epsilon_{\perp}^2 + \left(p_{\parallel} - e \mathbf{A}(t) \right)^2} \quad \text{quasi-energy}$$

$$Q(\boldsymbol{p},t) &= \frac{e \mathbf{E}(t) \epsilon_{\perp}}{\omega^2(\boldsymbol{p},t)} \ , \quad \text{amplitude of vacuum decay}$$

concept

Dynamically assisted Schwinger effect

Schutzhold, Gies, Dunne (2008) Dunna, Gies, Schutzhold (2009)



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Heros: Dirac & Bogolyubov





In theoretical physics, the Bogoliubov transformation is a unitary transformation from a unitary representation of some canonical commutation relation algebra or canonical anticommutation relation algebra into another unitary representation, induced by an isomorphism of the commutation relation algebra.

The Bogoliubov transformation is often used to diagonalize Hamiltonians, which yields the steady-state solutions of the corresponding Schrödinger equation. (Wikipedia)



a few technicalities in solving the Dirac eq. H. Oppitz 2013

$$\Psi(\vec{r},t) = \int d^3p \langle \vec{r} | \vec{p} \rangle \langle \vec{p} | \Psi \rangle = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}} \phi(\vec{p},t) \qquad \stackrel{\text{mode expansion}}{\stackrel{\text{if } E(t)}{\text{ f } E(t)}}$$

$$\phi(\vec{p},t) = \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left(u_j(\vec{p},t) a_j(\vec{p}) + v_j(-\vec{p},t) b_j^{\dagger}(-\vec{p}) \right) \qquad \stackrel{\text{2nd quantisation, suitable spinor basis}}{}$$

Hamiltonian is not diagonal \rightarrow Bogolyubov transormation to time-dependent operators

$$\begin{split} A_{j}(\vec{p},t) &= \alpha(\vec{p},t)a_{j}(\vec{p}) - \beta^{*}(\vec{p},t)b_{j}^{\dagger}(-\vec{p}) \\ B_{j}^{\dagger}(-\vec{p},t) &= \beta(\vec{p},t)a_{j}(\vec{p}) + \alpha^{*}(\vec{p},t)b_{j}^{\dagger}(-\vec{p}) \end{split} \quad |\alpha(\vec{p},t)|^{2} + |\beta(\vec{p},t)|^{2} = 1 \\ \text{unitary transformation} \\ \phi(\vec{p},t) &= \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left(U_{j}(\vec{p},t)A_{j}(\vec{p},t) + V_{j}(-\vec{p},t)B_{j}^{\dagger}(-\vec{p},t) \right) \qquad \text{not unique} \\ \hat{H}(t) &= \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{3}} \bar{\phi}(\vec{p},t) \left(\vec{\gamma} \cdot \vec{\pi}(\vec{p},t) + m \right) \phi(\vec{p},t) \\ &= \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{3}p}{(2\pi)^{3}} \sum_{j=1}^{2} \omega(\vec{p},t) \left(A_{j}^{\dagger}(\vec{p},t)A_{j}(\vec{p},t) + B_{j}^{\dagger}(-\vec{p},t)B_{j}(-\vec{p},t) \right) \\ \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} \dot{\alpha}(\vec{p},t) &= \frac{1}{2}Q(\vec{p},t)\beta(\vec{p},t)\mathrm{e}^{2i\Theta(\vec{p},t_0,t)},\\ \dot{\beta}(\vec{p},t) &= -\frac{1}{2}Q(\vec{p},t)\alpha(\vec{p},t)\mathrm{e}^{-2i\Theta(\vec{p},t_0,t)} \end{split}$$

evolution eqs. for Bogolyubov coeffs.

$$\rho(\vec{p},t) = -2 \operatorname{Re} \left(\alpha^*(\vec{p},t)\beta(\vec{p},t)e^{2i\Theta(\vec{p},t_0,t)} \right)$$
$$\xi(\vec{p},t) = -2 \operatorname{Im} \left(\alpha^*(\vec{p},t)\beta(\vec{p},t)e^{2i\Theta(\vec{p},t_0,t)} \right)$$

aux. functions

$$\begin{split} \dot{f}(\vec{p},t) &= Q(\vec{p},t)\rho(\vec{p},t), & \text{system of ODEs, equivalen to} \\ \dot{\rho}(\vec{p},t) &= Q(\vec{p},t)\left(1 - f(\vec{p},t)\right) - 2\omega(\vec{p},t)\xi(\vec{p},t), \\ \dot{\xi}(\vec{p},t) &= 2\omega(\vec{p},t)\rho(\vec{p},t). \end{split}$$



time dependent vacuum & Bogoyubov transformation

$$\begin{split} A_{j}(\vec{p}, t_{-\infty}) &|0\rangle = a_{j}(\vec{p}) &|0\rangle = 0, \\ B_{j}(-\vec{p}, t_{-\infty}) &|0\rangle = b_{j}(-\vec{p}) &|0\rangle = 0 \\ & \rightarrow \quad A_{j}(\vec{p}, t) &|\Omega(t)\rangle = B_{j}(-\vec{p}, t) &|\Omega(t)\rangle = 0 \\ \frac{\langle \Omega(t) &| n_{j}^{e^{-}}(\vec{p}) &|\Omega(t)\rangle}{V} =: f_{j}(\vec{p}, t) = \frac{|\beta(\vec{p}, t)|^{2}\delta(0)}{V} \quad \text{definition of divibution function} \end{split}$$

exact solutions (cf. Hebenstreit 2011) parab. cylinder functs. Schwinger: E = const, A = - E t \rightarrow f(t) = p(t) /x - y/^2 Sauter: $E = E0 / \cosh^2 t / T \rightarrow f(t) = P(t) / X - Y / ^2$

Narozhny, Nikishov 1974



equivalent formulations (approximations)

- two or three ODEs
- Riccati eq. \rightarrow quantum scattering fomulation with eff. pot. ~ ω
 - world line formalism
- density matrix, Wigner formalism
-
- WKB approximation



The uncritical "critical field strength"

Schwinger (1951): w ~ exp{- π Ec / E} + ...

Sauter-Schwinger:
$$E_c = \frac{m^2}{e}$$
 in natural units
= 1.3 x 10¹⁶ V/cm

qualitative picture:

virtual e+e- fluctuations are lifted on mass shell





simply field doubling



enhancement by
$$\exp\{+\pi \frac{E_c}{2E}\}$$

Narozhny et al. (2004) multiple beams at XCELS



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Schutzhold, Dunne, Gies (2008): tunneling + multi-photon





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$$n \approx 2\pi^2 \sum_{\ell=\ell_{\min}}^{\infty} p_{\perp}^{(\ell)^2} / |\Omega'(p_{\perp}^{(\ell)}, 0)| |F_{\ell}(p_{\perp}^{(\ell)}, 0)|^2 t_{\text{f.t.}}$$

linear due to shell shrinking





low-density approximation
(= w/o Pauli blocking)

$$f(\boldsymbol{p}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left| I(\boldsymbol{p}, t) \right|^2 ,$$
$$I(\boldsymbol{p}, t) = \int_{0}^{t} dt' \frac{eE(t')\epsilon_{\perp}}{\omega(\boldsymbol{p}, t')^2} e^{2i\Theta(\boldsymbol{p}, t')}$$

N = integer: Fourier + Fourier

$$I(\boldsymbol{p},t) = \sum_{\ell} iF_{\ell}(\boldsymbol{p}) \frac{e^{-i(\ell\nu - 2\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}))t} - 1}{(\ell\nu - 2\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}))} \xrightarrow{} \text{shell width}$$
shrinking

shell occupation kinematics, shell structure $F_{\ell}(\boldsymbol{p}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{0}^{T} dt F(\boldsymbol{p}, t) e^{i\ell\nu t} \qquad \Omega(\boldsymbol{p}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{0}^{T} dt \,\omega(\boldsymbol{p}, t) = \text{Fourier zero mode}$ $f(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left| iF_{l}(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)})t + \sum_{k \neq \ell} iF_{k}(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)}) \frac{e^{i(k\nu - 2\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)}))t} - 1}{k\nu - 2\Omega(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)})} \right|^{2}$ $= \frac{1}{2} \left| F_{\ell}(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)}) \right|^{2} t^{2} + G(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)}, t)t + H(\boldsymbol{p}^{(\ell)}, t),$ flat-top time $\int transient$





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Brezin, Itzykson (1970): 1 periodic field (stat. phase, steepest desc.) \rightarrow 1 pole with Re vt = pi/2, Im vt = arsh g



kinematics (shell positions) $\Omega = Fourier zero mode of \omega$



analog to channel closing in ATI

increasing E1 or E2 or both \rightarrow up-shift of parabola

Popov (1973, 1974): 1 periodic field


defining the spectral envelope ------









envelope of f ~ exp{ - # G12}







Dynamics (disclaimer: only t \rightarrow infty is relevant)





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spatial focussing \rightarrow gradients: E(t, x)

rotating E fields



Circ. Pol.

twisted photons

Schwinger process as prototype for Hawking radiation, Unruh effect, cosmological particle production



Interim Summary of §1: Schwinger pairs

- Huge enhancement of "nearly nothing" by assisted dyn. Schwinger effect is mostly not enough, unless
- 2. E1 is sufficiently large (or "not too small") AND

w2 is O(m)

3. Optimization theory is useful for scanning the parameter space Orthaber,..., Alkofer (2014)



2. Breit-Wheeler and Beyond



 $2 \rightarrow 2$: s, t crossing of Compton time reversed annihilation

2 null fields

Mandelstam: $s = 2\omega_1\omega_L(1 - \cos\Theta_{\vec{k}_1\vec{k}_L})$

threshold:
$$s_{th} = 4 m^2 \rightarrow \sigma_{BW} (s < s_{th}) = 0$$

sub-threshold pair production: non-linear BW (multi-photon) Nikishov, Ritus > 1960



sQED (Furry) Breit-Wheeler n.I. Breit-Wheeler/higher harmonics

emphasis on short pulses & intensity effects: Nousch, Seipt, BK, Titov PLB (2012), Titov, Takabe, BK, Hosaka PRL (2012), PRA (2013)

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IPA: infinitely-long pulse approx. (plane wave)



Pair Production in Short Laser Pulses

FPA: finite pulse approx. (plane wave)



T. Nousch, diploma thesis, Dresden 2011 supervisor: D. Seipt



Pair Production in Ultra-Short Laser Pulses

lin. polarization, sigma [mb]

pulse shape: $g(\varphi) = cos^2(\varphi/2N)$



Nousch, Seipt, BK, Titov PLB (2012), Titov, Takabe, BK, Hosaka PRL (2012)

N dependence



harmonics & finite bandwidth effects $\rightarrow \omega = \omega_L + \Delta$ laser enabled subthreshold production

Seipt, BK, PLB 2012: folding model(s) - intensity vs. frequency variation \rightarrow spectrum

IPA & FPA: Asymmetry in Longitudinal Direction

Titov, BK, Takabe, Hosaka PRA (2013)

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Fourier Transforms

$$dW = \frac{\alpha \zeta^{1/2}}{2\pi N_0 M_e} \int_{\zeta}^{\infty} dl \ |M_{fi}(l)|^2 \frac{d\vec{p}}{2p_0} \frac{d\vec{p}'}{2p'_0} \delta^4(k' + lk - p - p') .$$

$$\int_{N_0}^{\infty} S \, dz \, (\mathbf{E}_{FPA}^2 + \mathbf{B}_{FPA}^2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\phi \, (f^2(\phi) + f'^2(\phi)),$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} S \, dz \, (\mathbf{E}_{IPA}^2 + \mathbf{B}_{IPA}^2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\phi \, (f^2(\phi) + f'^2(\phi)),$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} sub-threshold = \frac{10^3}{10^3} \int_{0}^{10^3} \frac{10^3}{10^5} \int_{10^3}^{10^3} \frac{10^3}{10^5} \int_{10^3}^{10$$

two regimes: (i) $\xi \varsigma \ll 1$ $\int s_{th}/s_{intensity}$

(ii) ξ ≫ 1

(*iii*) $\xi \sim 1$

Titov, BK, Takbe, Hoska PRA (2013)

N < 2: high Fourier components enhance W

pulse shape and duration unimportant (dominant contribution from central pulse section) FPA ~ IPA complicated interplay of all effects

work in progress (T. Nousch):

IPA: Jansen, Muller (2013), Wu, Xue (2014)

Compton backscattering

Caustics in laser assisted Breit-Wheeler process

Figure 1: $a_{0L} = 1$, $a_{0X} = 10^{-5}$, $\sqrt{s} = 1.2$ MeV, $\omega_{ph} = \omega_X = 0.6$ MeV, $\omega_L = 1$ keV, $\tau_L = 4\pi$, $\tau_X = 5.1/\kappa$, $\kappa = \omega_L/\omega_X \simeq 1.67 \times 10^{-3}$, $g_L = \cos^2$, $g_X =$ Gauss, lineare Polarisation, $\phi_{pos} = \pi$, z = 0

QED cascades and ultimate electric field?

PHYSICAL REVIEW SPECIAL TOPICS - ACCELERATORS AND BEAMS 14, 054401 (2011)

QED cascades induced by circularly polarized laser fields

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(Received 22 October 2010; published 12 May 2011)

Monte-Carlo simulations

includes radiation friction

fully quantum treatment needed

from G. Dunne, PIF 2013

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Photon-Photon Scattering Quantum- Reflection

- Use different wavelengths, polarisation
- Ensure good vacuum
- Eliminate shots with ions present.
- Reflectivity from refractive index variation due to intense laser focus.
 - Giess, Karbstein, Seegert on arXiv:1305.2320
- Reflectivity about 10⁻¹⁹ for 200TW laser focus
- Few photons refelected per shot for 200TW class lasers

Vacuum Birefringence

rotation of polarization in external (laser) field (test of "material properties" of vacuum)

a project at HIBEF key: polarizers (HIJ)

Member of the Helmholtz Association B. Kampfer 1 Institute of Radiation Physics 1 www.hzdr.de Interim Summary of § 2: Breit-Wheeler Process

light \rightarrow matter + anti-matter

- finite pulses \rightarrow bandwidth effects
- higher harmonics
- intensity effects

Breit-Wheeler = crossing channel of Compton

X rays for pump probe exps.

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pairs = particles & anti-particles (anti-matter)

Schwinger: strong assistance by 2nd field

Breit-Wheeler: sub-threshold, pulse length, pulse shape, intensity

elementary processes – prospects for laser matter interaction

Compton: ultra-short pulses, probing multi-photon effects

laser-assisted scattering of x-rays: Seipt, BK PRA (2014) entangled 2-photon emission: Seipt, BK PRD (2012)

Outlook

Searching a Dark (U) Photon

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searching a signal in background



Kolomogorov-Smirnov test, Cousins-Feldman method



Muon Pair Production



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Neutrino Pair Production





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SM Higgs: Mass Matters (Die Masse macht's)





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D. Seipt: Folding Model (i)

$$\langle \sigma_n \rangle(s) = R_n \frac{\int_0^\infty d\ell \, G(\ell-1)^{2n} \sigma_n^{(0)}(\ell s)}{\int_0^\infty d\ell \, G(\ell-1)^{2n}},$$

Fourier transform of g weak field harmonics

a0 = 0.1



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3. Compton: ultra-short pulses





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