

EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH

CERN - PS DIVISION

CERN/PS 95-11 (LP)
CLIC Note 275

CLIC TEST FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS AND RESULTS

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Abstract

The CLIC Test Facility (CTF) has produced 30 GHz power pulses of up to 76 MW, thus exceeding the 60 MW level necessary to test CLIC prototype accelerating structures with the nominal gradient of 80 MV/m.

Beam performances in single and multi-bunch mode are reported. Experiences with Cs₂Te photocathodes as well as developments concerning RF pulse compression, laser train generation and emittance measurements are described. The design of a new RF gun, which is under construction, and the design of a just installed magnetic bunch compressor, are discussed.

1995 Particle Accelerator Conference, Dallas, USA, 30 April - 5 May 1995

Geneva, Switzerland
8/5/95

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INTRODUCTION

The objectives of the CLIC Test Facility (CTF) are to study the generation of short intense electron bunches using a laser driven photocathode in an RF gun, to generate 30 GHz RF power for high gradient tests of prototype CLIC components, and to test beam position monitors. The performance of the CTF has improved dramatically in the course of the past year and highlights are presented here. The layout of the CTF is shown in Fig. 1.

The RF gun now has a Cs_2Te photocathode, enabling the use of the fourth harmonic of the YLF laser system (262 nm). Laser pulse lengths down to 8 ps full-width-half-height (FWHM) and energies of 0.5 mJ have been produced. The CTF operates with a repetition rate of 10 Hz with either single bunches or trains of up to 48 bunches. Trains are produced by splitting the laser pulse. The RF gun consists of a 1 1/2 cell cavity, a photocathode, a focusing solenoid and a 4 cell booster cavity. The beam exits the gun with a momentum of 4.5 MeV/c and is then accelerated up to 92 MeV/c by the S-band travelling wave accelerating section. 30 GHz power is generated when the beam is passed through the - un-powered - prototype CLIC main linac accelerating section [1]. The power is fed to the second prototype main linac accelerating section and the accelerating gradient produced in it is directly measured by reaccelerating the lead bunch of the drive train.

PERFORMANCES

In the 1994 run, the CTF produced 30 GHz powers of up to 76 MW, which corresponds to a peak gradient of 123 MV/m in the 30 GHz decelerating section and an average gradient of 94 MV/m in the 30 GHz accelerating section. Consistency between accelerating fields determined through RF power measurement and reacceleration was confirmed up to 76 MV/m. There has never been any sign of

RF breakdown in either accelerating section, any 30 GHz component or waveguide at any power level achieved so far. In addition, the output periodically loaded waveguide of a prototype transfer structure was tested to 60 MW without RF breakdown. These results show that CLIC can be operated at nominal field levels with little or no conditioning.

The maximum power achieved in the 1994 CTF run was almost a factor 2 higher than that achieved in the 1993 run [2]. This improvement is mainly due to an increased beam energy of 92 MeV which reduces the detrimental effect of long range transverse wakefields in the decelerating section. A second modulator and klystron allowed the generation of the extra 3 GHz power. Further improvement came from raising the number of bunches to 48 which increased the charge passing through the decelerating section. This was made possible by an upgrade of the laser pulse train generator. The train generator upgrade has also given the capability to vary the laser pulse lengths. A longer laser pulse length reduces the effect of space charge in the RF gun and has given a single bunch charge at the gun output to 35 nC. This charge is more than twice the previous CTF record. The electron bunch length at this charge was $\sigma_z = 2.4$ mm and thus further improvement can be expected. The maximum charges achieved in the CTF are summarized in Table 1. The single bunch charge is limited by space charge effects in the gun and short range transverse wakefields in the 3 GHz structure. Multibunch charge at the RF gun exit is limited by the available laser energy. The downstream charge is further limited by long range transverse wakefields and chromatic effects due to beam-loading in the S-band accelerating structure. The highest 30 GHz powers were produced by a 48 bunch train with a total charge of 80 nC transmitted through the 30 GHz decelerating section. For this charge the measured bunch length was $\sigma_z \approx 1$ mm which corresponds to the resolution limit of the streak camera.

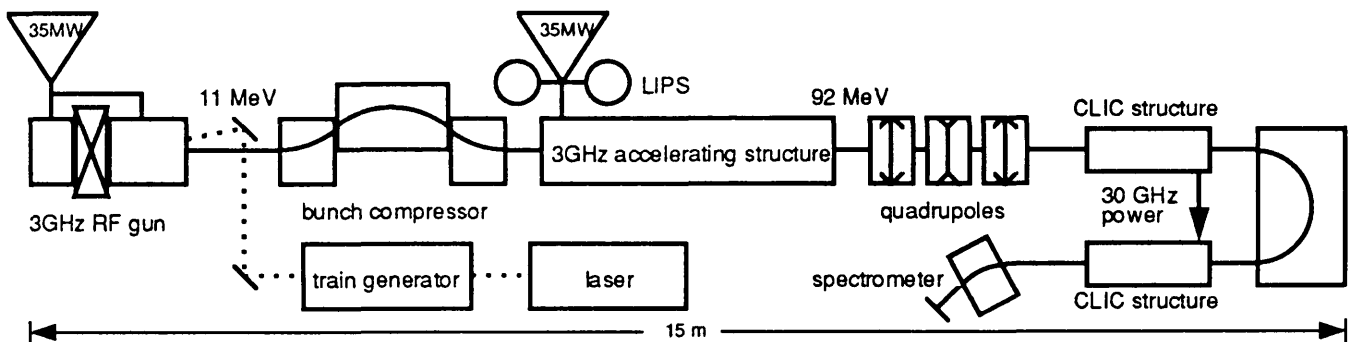


Figure 1: Layout of the CTF planned for 1995

position in beamline	single bunch [nC]	48 bunches [nC]
RF Gun exit	35	450
3GHz structure exit	20	160
30GHz structure exit	7	81

Table 1: Maximum measured charges

EMITTANCE MEASUREMENTS

Emittance measurements were performed with single bunches by varying the strengths of two quadrupoles downstream of the 3 GHz structure and measuring the beam profiles on a transition radiation screen just upstream of the 30 GHz accelerating section. The measurement results together with simulation results from PARMELA are shown in Fig. 2 [3]. The normalized, 1σ , rms emittance is used. For these measurements the laser spot on the photocathode had a radius of 5 mm and a duration of 8 ps FWHH. The phase difference between the zero crossing of the electric field in the gun and the arrival of the laser pulse was 30° . Although the variation of emittance with bunch charge is qualitatively similar for measured and computed values, the measured emittances are systematically higher. This effect is not understood. The large error bars on measured emittances at high charges are caused by unstable beam conditions.

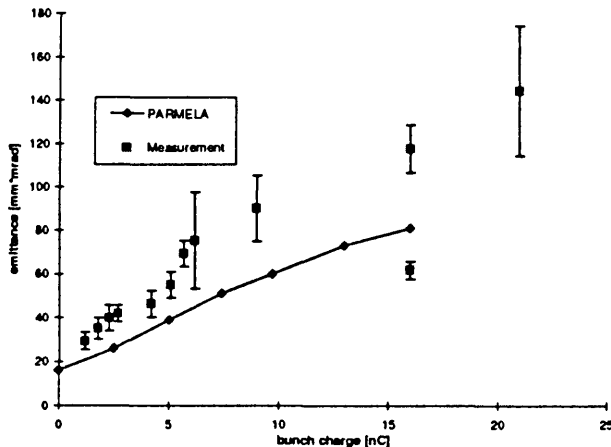


Figure 2: Emittance as a function of bunch charge

RF PULSE COMPRESSION

The 3 GHz accelerating section is powered by a 35 MW klystron with a $4.5\ \mu\text{s}$ long pulse compressed to $1.2\ \mu\text{s}$ by two LIPS cavities as shown in Fig. 1. This type of pulse compression requires a phase shift near the end of the klystron output pulse [4]. Using a new programmable 3 GHz low level RF phase shifter, three phase shift schemes were tested.

A: A phase jump of 180° $1.2\ \mu\text{s}$ before the end of the RF pulse. This has been the standard mode of operation before the programmable phase shifter was available.

B: A phase jump of $+68^\circ$ $1.2\ \mu\text{s}$ before the end of the RF pulse, followed by a gradual phase shift from $+68^\circ$ to $+180^\circ$ during the remainder of the pulse.

C: A linearly decreasing phase by -30° during the first $3.3\ \mu\text{s}$, then a jump of $+68^\circ$, followed by a linear phase shift of $+112^\circ$ during $1.2\ \mu\text{s}$.

Scheme A produced a sharp rise followed by an exponential decay with an overshoot 2.5 times larger than the average pulse power. Scheme B delivered a nearly flat power pulse with an overshoot of only 20% above the average power. Nonetheless scheme B provided 10% less acceleration of the beam than method A. This occurred because scheme B introduces a frequency shift of about 30 kHz at the output of the LIPS cavities. This has been compensated in scheme C by the negative phase ramp at the beginning of the RF pulse. The energy gain of the beam with scheme C is 5% lower than scheme A for constant klystron power. Because the beam energy was not limited by klystron power but rather RF breakdowns in the 3 GHz accelerating section the lower overshoot of scheme C is more important. An energy gain of 87 MeV was achieved with scheme C and only 70 MeV with scheme A.

PHOTOCATHODES

Nine photocathodes have been used in the RF gun during the 1994 CTF run. Four Cs_2Te cathodes were used at 100 MV/m for a total of 159 days. However, three others worked only at a lower field, 70 MV/m, and were used for only a total of 22 days. The typical starting quantum efficiency (QE) was about 5%, measured in a dc gun at 8 MV/m. The QE was found to increase with increasing electric field during measurements with the photocathode in the RF gun, see Fig. 3.

The QE does not show a strictly exponential degradation with time. During a period of 4 to 5 days after installation in the RF gun, a rather fast decay with a $1/e$ lifetime of approximately 6 days is observed, while afterwards the QE decreases more slowly, with the $1/e$ decay time varying between 34 and 67 days for the next two months (the beam duty factor is typically 30%). Measurements with closely spaced laser pulses have demonstrated that the relaxation time of electrons in the photocathode material is less than a few picoseconds. Two new photocathode materials which can be transported in air, unlike Cs_2Te which requires a vacuum transfer system and preparation chamber, were tested. CsI with a thin layer of germanium has a QE of 0.19% at 100 MV/m. A magnesium layer on a copper substrate has a QE of only 0.027% for the same electric field.

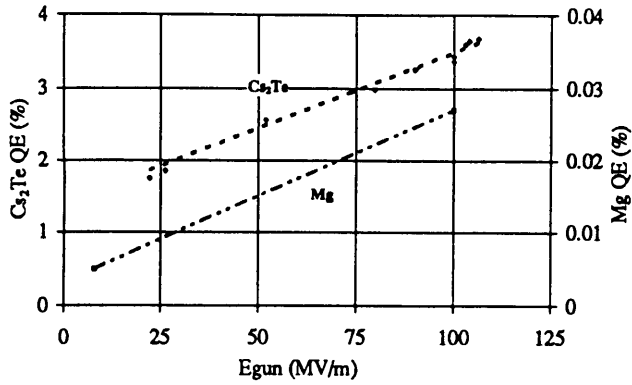


Figure 3: Quantum efficiency versus electric field for Cs₂Te and Mg photocathodes.

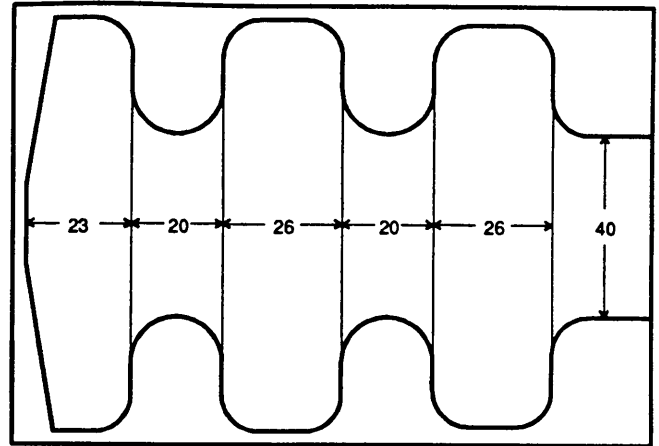


Figure 4: Sketch of the new RF gun (distances in mm)

MODIFICATIONS FOR THE 1995 RUN

In order to reduce the beam-loading and transverse wakefields in the 3 GHz accelerating section, the old spare LIL section used until now will be replaced by a high gradient, 1 m long structure borrowed from LAL [5].

A magnetic chicane bunch compressor between the RF gun assembly and the accelerating structure will be used in the 1995 run. An energy/phase correlation in a bunch (introduced by appropriate phasing of the booster cavity) together with the energy/path length dependence in the chicane compresses the bunch. The chicane consists of two 15 cm long left bending magnets and a 30 cm long right bending magnet [6]. Two quadrupoles upstream of the chicane and four downstream (not shown in Fig. 1) are used to match the beam in the transverse plane.

In order to increase the high charge performance of CTF, a new RF gun is being constructed. A drawing of the RF geometry is shown in Fig. 4, and the main parameters are listed in Table 2. The design goals were to maximize aperture to allow a large beam radius, maximize acceleration in the first cell to keep the effect of space charge small, and to minimize the r/Q to minimize energy spread in bunch trains. These goals are achieved with a large iris aperture, a 10° concave cone around the cathode, and re-optimized cell lengths.

number of cells	3
iris diameter [mm]	40
cone angle	10°
frequency [MHz]	2998.55
output energy [MeV]	6.58
input power [MW]	13.6
max. field on photo cath. [MV/m]	100

Table 2: Parameters of the new RF gun

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