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Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion & Cylindrical Dynamic Materials Properties Experiments on the Z Pulsed-Power Accelerator

Ryan D. McBride

Physicist & Senior Member of the Technical Staff Sandia National Laboratories

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Thanks to many collaborators:



S. A. Slutz,¹ C. A. Jennings,¹ R. W. Lemke,¹ M. R. Martin,¹ D. C. Rovang,¹
J. B. Greenly,² D. B. Sinars,¹ M. E. Cuneo,¹ M. C. Herrmann,¹
D. D. Ryutov,³ B. E. Blue,⁴ K. Tomlinson,⁴ K. Killebrew,^{1,4} D. Schroen,⁴
R. M. Stamm,⁴ G. E. Smith,⁵ J. K. Moore,⁵ J.-P. Davis,¹ D. H. Dolan,¹
D. G. Flicker,¹ M. R. Gomez,¹ R. A. Vesey,¹ K. J. Peterson,¹ A. B. Sefkow,¹
C. W. Nakhleh,¹ P. F. Knapp,¹ T. J. Awe,¹ E. C. Harding,¹ T. J. Rogers,¹
A. Laspe,¹ M. R. Lopez,¹ I. C. Smith,¹ B. W. Atherton,¹ M. Savage,¹
W. A. Stygar,¹ J. L. Porter,¹ M. K. Matzen,¹ and many more...

¹Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM ²Laboratory of Plasma Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY ³Lawerence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA ⁴General Atomics, San Diego, CA

⁵Raytheon Ktech, Albuquerque, NM

The Z pulsed-power facility combines a compact MJ-class target physics platform (the Z accelerator) with a TW-class laser (ZBL)



10,000 ft²

2-kJ Z Beamlet Laser (ZBL) for radiography and MagLIF fuel preheating

22 MJ peak stored energy 26 MA peak current 100–300 ns pulse lengths



10 to 50 MGauss drive fields 1-100 Mbar drive pressures 15% coupling to load

















Pulsed-Power and Cylindrical Geometry for HEDP

Magnetically-Driven Cylindrical Geometry (Static Case):



140 Mbar is generated by a 300-eV radiation drive





Pulsed-Power and Liner Implosions for HEDP

Magnetically-Driven Cylindrical Implosion (Implosion Drive Pressure is Divergent!):

$$P = \frac{B^2}{2\mu_o} = 140 \cdot \left(\frac{I_{\rm [MA]}/30}{R(t)_{\rm [mm]}}\right)^2 \text{ [Mbar]}$$

140 Mbar is generated by a 300-eV radiation drive







* S. A. Slutz et al., PoP 17, 056303 (2010). S. A. Slutz and R. A. Vesey, PRL 108, 025003 (2012).

MagLIF Timing Overview



- ~ 100-ns implosion times
- ~ adiabatic fuel compression (thus preheating the fuel is necessary)
- ~ 5-keV fuel stagnation temperatures
- ~ 1-g/cc fuel stagnation densities
- ~ 5-Gbar fuel stagnation pressures



Preheat is necessary for the adiabatic compression and heating of MagLIF fuel









- Typically for ICF (e.g., NIF), faster implosions shock-heat the fuel, not so for MagLIF
- Magnetization is used to keep the preheated fuel from cooling off during the implosion

The presence of a magnetic field strongly reduces transport, e.g. heat conduction





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High magnetic fields can be obtained by flux compression



Target Scale-Size



Targets fabricated by General Atomics



Target Hardware Scale-Size





The Z pulsed-power facility combines a compact MJ-class target physics platform (the Z accelerator) with a TW-class laser (ZBL) – Accelerator Scale Size



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The Z-Beamlet Laser (ZBL) at Sandia* can be used to heat fusion fuel and to radiograph liner targets – Facility Scale Size





ZBL was originally a prototype laser for the National Ignition Facility (NIF)

Today ZBL is located at Sandia and is routinely used to deliver ~2.4 kJ of 2ω light in 2 pulses for radiographing Z experiments

Filling out the booster amps would enable longer pulses (5–7 ns) which would extract up to 6 kJ of 1 ω , for 4.2 kJ of 2 ω . This energy could be used to heat fusion fuel to a few hundred eV.

Fully integrated 2D simulations have been performed using both Lasnex and Hydra





- Laser interaction with foil and gas
- Axial heat loss at electrodes
- Loss of DT or D2 gas through LEH
- Liner implosion driven by Z
 circuit model

Fully integrated Lasnex simulations support the point design

- 6 kJ of laser energy
- Lithium liner
- Initial field of 10 Tesla
- 400 kJ



Hydra MagLIF Movie time=0.0





Hydra MagLIF Movie time=120.0





Hydra MagLIF Movie time=123.0





Hydra MagLIF Movie time=144.0





Hydra MagLIF Movie time=153.0





There is broad interest in magnetized fuel for several inertial confinement fusion (ICF) concepts





Basko, Kemp, Meyer-ter-Vehn, *Nucl. Fusion* 40, 59 (2000) Kemp, Basko, Meyer-ter-Vehn, *Nucl. Fusion* 43, 16 (2003)

U. Rochester LLE



Direct drive laser implosion of cylinders -- shock pre-heating, high implosion velocity

> Gotchev *et al.*, *Bull. Am. Phys. Soc.* 52, 250 (2007) Gotchev *et al.*, *Rev. Sci. Instr.* 80, 043504 (2009)

Los Alamos / Air Force Research Lab

Field Reversed Configuration Shiva Star generator ~20 μs, 0.5 cm/μs liner implosion

Taccetti, Intrator, Wurden *et al., Rev. Sci, Instr.* 74, 4314 (2003) Degnan *et al., IEEE Trans. Plas. Sci.* 36, 80 (2008)

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Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion Laser preheated magnetized fuel Backlighting to diagnose the implosions (stability) LASNEX simulations indicate interesting yields





Plasma injector



ear implosion system

High Yields can be obtained with MagLIF





High yields could be used to investigate stewardship applications of ignition

High Gain (Yield) is obtained by only heating a small central portion of the fuel during compression
minimizes compressive heating
burn wave propagates into cold fuel as a deflagration

B_Z decreases radial heat transport
increases self-heating in the hot spot
decreases burn wave propagation into cold fuel
There is an optimal field strength
The large ρr of MagLIF liners provides adequate burn time

Initial gas density increases with current •not at vapor pressure •laser energy =>22 KJ •pulse length => 30 ns

¹S.A. Slutz and R.A. Vesey Physical Review Letters 108, 025003 (2012)

High Gain is required for Fusion Energy





¹S.A. Slutz and R.A. Vesey Physical Review Letters 108, 025003 (2012)

The potential of MagLIF



Fuel magnetization allows slow implosions thus greatly reducing the driver cost

Simulations indicate that MagLIF could produce significant fusion yields on Z

Simulations further indicate that High-Yield MagLIF is possible on future higher-current accelerators

- Gains of 1000
- Yields of 10 GJ/cm (useful for stockpile stewardship)

MagLIF will provide a platform to evaluate critical physics for any magnetized inertial fusion concept:

- Magnetic flux compression
- Generalized Ohms law terms such as the Nernst effect
- Anomalous thermal transport
- Cooling flows
- Magnetized Knudsen layers
- Magnetic inhibition of the Rayleigh-Taylor Instability
- Fusion from anisotropic ion distributions
- Magnetic inhibition of alpha particle transport

Experimental campaigns are now investigating the important physics that need to be understood and modeled to bring MagLIF from concept to reality

Sandia plans to address key science and engineering research questions related to MagLIF in the next 3-5 years





- Research can be subdivided into several broad categories:
 - Liner implosion dynamics
 - Fuel preheating
 - Impact of fuel magnetization
 - Fuel assembly & stagnation
- MagLIF requires new capabilities to address some of these issues
- MagLIF leverages and benefits ongoing ICF/Science campaign research on Z, NIF, and OMEGA

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2D LASNEX simulations of MagLIF suggest an optimum at an aspect ratio (AR) of 6*





* S. A. Slutz et al., Phys. Plasmas 17, 056303 (2010).

We have already done significant work to date on liner implosion dynamics that is relevant to MagLIF



- A 3-year LDRD (Laboratory Directed Research & Development) on "Stability of Fusion Target Concepts on Z", (FY09-FY11) focused heavily on liner dynamics
- Dan Sinars won an OFES DOE Early Career Award (2011-2016) for "Fundamental instability measurements in magnetically-driven z-pinch liner implosions" which will continue to look at this
- We will now briefly summarize several recent MagLIF-relevant liner dynamics publications:
 - D.B. Sinars *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 185001 (2010).
 - D.B. Sinars *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 18, 056301 (2011).
 - M.R. Martin *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 19, 056310 (2012).
 - R.D. McBride *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 135004 (2012)
 - R.D. McBride *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 20, 056309 (2013)
 - K.J. Peterson *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 19, 092701 (2012)
 - K.J. Peterson *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 20, 056305 (2013)
- The bottom line is that the original MagLIF calculations are consistent with the experimental data obtained to date, we will continue to evaluate this

We tested MRT growth predictions in controlled experiments on Z using Al liners with small sinusoidal perturbations (λ =200, 400- μ m)



- Solid cylindrical liner (Al 1100 alloy)
- 6.5 mm tall, 6.34 mm diameter, AR=10
- 10 nm surface finish (diamond-turned)
- 12 sinusoidal perturbations

Targets made by General Atomics

Two-frame monochromatic (6151±0.5 eV) crystal backlighting diagnostic to study liner dynamics on Z*



- Spherically-bent quartz crystals (2243)
- Monochromatic (~0.5 eV bandpass)
- 15 micron resolution (edge-spread)
- Large field of view (10 mm x 4 mm)
- We can see through imploding beryllium (not so for aluminum and other higher-opacity materials)

Original concept

S.A. Pikuz *et al.,* RSI (1997).

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- 1.865 keV backlighter at NRL
 - Y. Aglitskiy *et al.*, RSI (1999).
- Explored as NIF diagnostic option
 - J.A. Koch *et al.*, RSI (1999).
- Single-frame 1.865 keV and 6.151 keV implemented on Z facility
 - D.B. Sinars *et al.*, RSI (2004).
- Two-frame 6.151 keV on Z facility
 - G.R. Bennett et al., RSI (2008).

Example 6.151 keV radiograph (Pre-shot)





D.B. Sinars et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2010); D.B. Sinars et al., Phys. Plasmas (2011).

Zooming in, we see ablation, jetting, and small-scale instabilities in addition to the seeded instability growth



D.B. Sinars et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2010); D.B. Sinars et al., Phys. Plasmas (2011).

We observe excellent agreement between simulation and experiment in single-mode MRT growth experiments, using the same methodology as used in MagLIF calculations



ζ >
 200 μm



Ablated material coalesces in valleys to form jets visible in the radiographs

Simulated density map with rB_{θ} contours

LASNEX: T_{jets} ~30 eV; T_{valley} ~100 eV



- Fine-structure details such as jetting and ablation were successfully predicted
- Amplitude of the resulting growth versus time was also predicted, and matches that expected by theory

D.B. Sinars et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2010); D.B. Sinars et al., Phys. Plasmas (2011).

The lower opacity of beryllium at 6.151 keV allows us to take penetrating radiographs of the liner implosions





High opacity of Al means that we only see the edge of the liner

Lower opacity of Be means that we can see through the liner and the "spikes" show up as dark bands

Machining of beryllium targets is done at General Atomics in La Jolla, CA

Beryllium MRT Data

































































Beryllium experiments show surprisingly correlated instability growth at late times that appears to be related to the initial surface roughness



R.D. McBride et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 135004 (2012).

Our liners are diamond-turned on a lathe to provide smooth surfaces, but this process leaves azimuthally-correlated tool marks



We have just started investigating whether a different surface structure affects the results

Recent experiments used 2 μm Al just inside the Be liner to enhance the contrast of the liner's inner surface*





R. D. McBride et al., Phys. Plasmas 20, 056309 (2013).

Radiographs at a convergence ratio of ~5 show remarkably good stability for inner liner surface

Note: MagLIF requires final compression

to on-axis rod



LASNEX 2D from S. A. Slutz, *et al.*, PoP (2010)



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Experiment

R. D. McBride et al., Phys. Plasmas 20, 056309 (2013).

Relatively thick insulating coatings suppress liner instabilities (that are seeded by the electro-thermal instability*







New data from K.J. Peterson *et al.*, manuscript in preparation

Coated Uncoated

* K.J. Peterson *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 19, 092701 (2012); K.J. Peterson *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas 20, 056305 (2013).



Shock vs. Shockless (Quasi-Isentropic) Compression



R. D. McBride et al., Phys. Plasmas 20, 056309 (2013).

Most Recent Be ICE to >5 Mbar





M. R. Martin

M. R. Martin, R. W. Lemke, R. D. McBride et al., Phys. Plasmas 19, 056310 (2012).

Sandia plans to address key science and engineering research questions related to MagLIF in the next 3-5 years





- Liner implosion dynamics
- Fuel preheating
- Impact of fuel magnetization
- Fuel assembly & stagnation

The Z-Beamlet laser at Sandia* can be used to radiograph liner targets and heat fusion fuel





Z-Beamlet and Z-Petawatt lasers

Z-Beamlet (ZBL) is routinely used to deliver ~ 2.4 kJ of 2ω light in 2 pulses for backlighting experiments on Z

Filling out the booster amps would enable longer pulses (5-7 ns) which would extract up to 6 kJ of 1ω , for 4.2 kJ of 2ω . This energy could be used to heat fusion fuel to a few hundred eV.

This capability would be useful for both MagLIF and x-ray Thomson scattering (being developed for dynamic materials experiments)

* P. K. Rambo et al., Applied Optics 44, 2421 (2005).

Preheating plasmas using 2ω light seems feasible, and experimental testing on Z has begun



polyimide membrane

Prior work* found agreement between experiments and Hydra simulations assuming classical absorption of 2ω for $n_e/n_{cr} \sim 0.05$ to 0.15 gasbag targets on the HELEN Laser

Other work^{**} showed efficient coupling of 2ω to $0.13n_{cr}$ gasbag plasmas at intensities $<3x10^{14}$ W/cm², even without beam smoothing



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Standalone preheat experiments on Z using a 2-kJ ZBL beam have begun to test our HYDRA predictions; we are also looking at the possibility of OMEGA experiments to study heated plasma lifetimes in the presence of a magnetic field

* N.B. Meezan et al., Phys. Plasmas (2004); ** J.D. Moody et al., Phys. Plasmas (2009).

We will begin integrating laser preheating into Z experiments in July 2013 and will continue to assess the relevant physics

- MagLIF requires laser light to be delivered on or very close to the axis
- Concern about damaging final laser optics
- We will begin testing engineering solutions to the debris concerns next month (July, 2013)



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Prototype coils have been demonstrated that generate 10 T axial fields over a several cm³ volume for MagLIF with full diagnostic access



10T Shot #17, SN001

10 Tesla point design

Time to peak field = 3.49 ms

Long time scale needed to allow field to diffuse through the liner without deformation

D.C. Rovang et al., see http://www.sandia.gov/pulsedpower/maglifpres/Agenda.html

An 8 mF, 15 kV, 900 kJ capacitor bank has been installed on Z to drive the coils

- Two identical units (repurposed from ion beam facilities) allows for high-fidelity surrogacy testing in separate test facility
- We believe 900 kJ is enough to meet our short and long term goals (30 T)



Photo of capacitor bank w/o covers; with covers -



Commissioning of coils in the Z chamber completed in Feb. 2013





D.C. Rovang et al., see http://www.sandia.gov/pulsedpower/maglifpres/Agenda.html





Pre-shot photo of coils & target hardware

Post-shot photo



associated with late-time instabilities

T. J. Awe et al., manuscript in preparation (2013).

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We plan to apply the extensive suite of neutron and spectroscopy diagnostics on Z to measure the stagnation conditions created by MagLIF targets



- MagLIF is predicted to produce significant yield on Z at pressures of only ~5 Gbar—want to diagnose the plasma conditions and not just measure a neutron yield
 - Numerous x-ray spectroscopy diagnostics developed for ICF and Science campaigns can help assess electron temperature and density
 - ICF program already has extensive experience with neutron yield, nTOF, and imaging diagnostics
 - Nonetheless, diagnosing some conditions at stagnation (e.g., magnetic field strength) would require new capabilities due to the small spatial and time scales
- We have made substantial progress in these areas on Z as part of other work, and we are also benefiting from the experiences and diagnostics developed on NIF

We should be able to evaluate the promise of magnetized in Sandia liberatorie liner inertial fusion in the next 3 years

- Magnetic field coil capability was commissioned in February 2013
- Laser preheating capability to be commissioned in July 2013
- First integrated MagLIF experiments planned for August 2013 using existing capabilities (10 T, 2 kJ preheat, 16-18 MA, D2 fuel)
- Already working on improvements to reach conditions needed for MagLIF (e.g., 30 T, 6 kJ preheat, ~25 MA)
- Magnetic fields are ubiquitous in nature and HEDP experiments, and are of increasing interest worldwide



Primary Test Stand (China) 7.2 MJ, 8-10 MA, 90 ns rise



