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The longitudinal stability of intense nonrelativistic particle bunches in resistive structures

Paul J. Channell
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Andrew M. Sessler and Jonathan S. Wurtele
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720

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The longitudinal stability of intense particle bunches is investigated theoretically in the limit of small wall resistivity compared to total reactance. It is shown that both in the absence of resistivity and to lowest order in the resistance that an intense bunch is stable against longitudinal collective modes. An expression is derived for the lowest order instability rate. Application of these results is made to drivers for heavy ion inertial fusion.

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Heavy ion fusion is envisioned as having for a driver either an rf linac with storage rings or an induction linac.\textsuperscript{1} In the rf linac approach the major current multiplication, so as to reach the requisite power level, is done in the storage rings. The induction linac, on the other hand, must accelerate significant currents directly to the target. Either approach has difficulties (such as the manipulation of beams in and out of storage rings in the rf linac approach), but common to both methods is the need for the stability of intense bunches of particles. Much effort has been devoted to this subject.\textsuperscript{1,2}

For a bunch in an induction linac an estimate can be obtained by employing the analysis which has been developed for circular machines and modifying it for a linear structure.\textsuperscript{3} First, we note that one is "below transition" or in a positive mass regime, so that only in the presence of resistivity is there instability. One finds, for above threshold, that the e-folding length \(\lambda\) is given by

\[
\lambda^{-1} = (R/Z_0) \left( \frac{4\pi^2 q^2}{1 + 2 \ln (b/a)} \frac{M_p}{M} \frac{N}{L} r_p \right)^{1/2},
\]

where \(Z = R + i\chi\) is the impedance per unit length, \(N/L\) is the line density of ions, \(r_p\) is the classical proton radius, \(Z_0\) is the free-space impedance (or 377 \(\Omega\)), \(q\) is the degree of ionization of the ions, and \(M/M_p\) is the mass of the ions in units of the proton mass.

Putting in \(R = 200 \Omega/m, q = 2, M_p/M = 1/200, N/L = 10^{15}/20 m,\) and \(b/a = 1.5,\) Eq. (1) yields a length \(\lambda\) of 300 m, which is uncomfortably short for a linac of the length required.

For a storage ring a similar method may be employed and yields growth times which are also uncomfortably short.\textsuperscript{4}

It is the purpose of this communication to report on a theoretical analysis which directly applies to the storage ring or the induction linac of heavy ion fusion. We show that to lowest order there is, for any finite bunch, no net resistive instability so that the situation is much better than estimated above. We also allow in our formalism for an arbitrary impedance of the structure which, at least for the induction linac, is an important effect. Our work is a generalization of that of Kim, who first showed no instability for a finite bunch of uniform charge, with a step-function distribution in momentum, and the impedance of a uniform structure.\textsuperscript{5}

Removing the special assumptions of Kim is important for it allows us to conclude that either in a practical linear induction accelerator or in a realistic storage ring intense particle bunches will not be subject to significant longitudinal instability and, hence, from this very important theoretical point of view heavy ion fusion is a viable and interesting possibility.

The ions, which are collisionless, are described by the nonrelativistic nonlinear Vlasov equation

\[
\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \left( \frac{q e}{M} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \right) f(z, v, t) = 0,
\]

where \(z\) is the longitudinal coordinate, \(v\) is the velocity associated with the \(z\) coordinate, \(e\) is the proton charge, \(t\) is the time, and the ion distribution function is the unknown \(f\).

The longitudinal electric field consists of an applied field \(E_A\) and a functional \(E_S(n)\) of the line charge density \(n(z, t)\), where

\[
n(z, t) = \int f(z, v, t) dv.
\]

We may take moments of the Vlasov equation and close the hierarchy by noting that in our applications the particle thermal velocity is small compared to the collective motion density wave phase velocity. Stopping after two moments we obtain fluid equations which can be combined to yield

\[
\frac{\partial^2 n(z, t)}{\partial t^2} + \frac{q e}{M} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( E n(z, t) \right) = 0.
\]

This equation may be linearized about an equilibrium charge distribution \(n_0(z)\) which can, in this approximation, be arbitrary; i.e., we can choose an applied field so as to make any \(n_0(z)\) stationary. Introduce space and time Fourier transforms by means of

\[
\tilde{n}_1(k, \omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dz n_1(z, t) e^{ikz - \omega t},
\]

where \(n_1\) is the perturbed density. We thus obtain

\[
-\omega^2 \tilde{n}_1(k, \omega) + \frac{q e}{M} ik \int dz e^{ikz} n_0(z) E_S(n_1) = 0.
\]
The self-electric field, $E_z(n)$, can be related to $n_1$ by means of an impedance function

$$\vec{F}_z(k, \omega) = -Z(k, \omega) \vec{n}_1(k, \omega).$$

(7)

The entire effect of the storage ring or the induction linac is contained in the function $Z(k, \omega)$, which describes the reaction of the structure to a disturbance of laboratory frequency $\omega'$. The laboratory frequency $\omega'$ is $\omega' = kv_b + \omega$, where $v_b$ is the beam velocity and the term in $\omega$ is due to motion of the disturbance in the beam frame. To good approximation the term in $\omega$ can be neglected, and then $Z(k, \omega)$ is a function of $k$ alone. We use this approximation in most of our work, but take the $\omega$ in account in $Z(k, \omega)$ when we calculate to second order [Eq. (17)].

We combine Eqs. (6) and (7) and the approximation for $Z(k, \omega)$ to obtain

$$-\omega^2 \vec{n}_1(k, \omega) + \frac{qe}{M} \frac{ik}{2\pi} \int dk_1 \vec{n}_0(k-k_1) \times Z(k_1) \vec{n}_1(k_1, \omega) = 0,$$

(8)

where clearly $n_0(k)$ is related to the equilibrium density $n_0(z)$ by an equation analogous to Eq. (5).

It is easy to see that Eq. (8) yields a growth rate as given by Eq. (1) under the same circumstances. For a long wavelength disturbance, on a beam of radius $b$ in a structure of radius $a$, the impedance is

$$Z(k) = -\frac{qe}{M} i k (1 + 2 \ln b/a) - qev_b R,$$

(9)

where $v_b$ is the beam velocity. For a uniform beam $n_0(z)$ is a constant and $n_1(z, t)$ varies sinusoidally in space and time. For a long wavelength disturbance and for a uniform beam, Eq. (8) and Eq. (9) yield Eq. (1).

For a bunched beam, however, we can show two consequences of Eq. (8); namely there is no instability if the impedance is purely imaginary (i.e., purely reactive) and furthermore that there is no instability if the resistance is small. First, consider the case in which there is no resistance, so that we may write

$$Z(k) = i X(k),$$

(10)

where the reactance $X$ is odd. We assume $X$ is negative for positive $k$, in order to be in the positive mass regime, and it is under this condition that there is stability.

Multiplying Eq. (8) by $n_1^*(k) Z^*(k)/k$, and integrating we obtain

$$-\omega^2 \int dk_1 \left| \tilde{n}_1(k) \right|^2 \frac{Z^*(k)}{k} dk + \frac{qe}{M^2} \int dk_1 \int dk \int dk_1 \frac{Z^*(k)}{k} \times Z(k_1) \vec{n}_1^*(k_1) \vec{n}_0(k-k_1) \vec{n}_1(k_1) = 0.$$

(11)

We use Eq. (10) and the theorem that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(k) G^*(k) dk = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) G^*(x) dx,$$

(12)

with

$$\tilde{F}(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk_1 \vec{n}_0(k-k_1) Z(k_1) \vec{n}_1(k_1),$$

$$\tilde{G}^*(k) = Z^*(k) \vec{n}_1^*(k),$$

(13)

to write Eq. (11) in the form:

$$-\omega^2 \int dk_1 \left| \tilde{n}_1(k) \right|^2 \frac{X(k)}{k} dk + \frac{qe}{M} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n_0(z) |G(z)|^2 dz = 0.$$

(14)

In this form it is clear that $\omega^2$ is real and positive and, hence, there is stability.

Secondly, consider the case in which

$$Z(k) = i X(k) + R(k),$$

(15)

and $R(k)$ is real and symmetric and small; i.e., $R(k) \ll X(k).$ For a nonrelativistic bunch this will generally be true, since the self-term in the reactance is non-negligible. Employing perturbation theory we find that $R(k)$ creates a frequency shift $\delta \omega_n$ of the $n$th mode frequency $\omega_n$ given by

$$\delta \omega_n = \frac{qe}{M^2} \int dk_1 \int dk \int dk_1 \frac{dX(k) \vec{n}_1^*(k_1) \vec{n}_0(k-k_1) R(k_1)}{2 \omega_n^2 (2\pi)^2 2\pi^2 d|\vec{n}_0(k)|^2 |X(k)/k|}.$$

(16)

where $\vec{n}_0(k)$ is the eigenfunction of the $n$th mode. For a symmetric unperturbed bunch, and provided the modes $\omega_n$ are nondegenerate, it is easy to show that $\delta \omega_n$ is zero.

With these results we conclude that the growth distance (or time) is greatly increased over what is given by Eq. (1). Explicit calculation must employ improved equations and a particular model for $n_0(z)$ [and hence $\vec{n}_1(k)$ and $\omega_n$].

This work, which will be described elsewhere, yields

$$\lambda^{-1} = \lambda_{\text{uniform beam}}^{-1} \left( \frac{v_p}{v_b} \right) g(n),$$

(17)

where $\lambda_{\text{uniform beam}}^{-1}$ is given by Eq. (1), $g(n)$ is a dimensionless function of mode number $n$ and

$$v_p = \frac{qe}{M} \left( n_0(1 + 2 \ln b/a) / M \right)^{1/2}.$$

(18)

For typical parameters the additional factor in Eq. (17), over Eq. (1), is $\approx 500$.

We have shown that to lowest order there is no instability, whereas Wang and Pellegrini have shown that, under certain circumstances, bunches are unstable. An important difference between our work and theirs is that they, working with relativistic particles, take $Z(k)$ to have a broad resonance and no self-term, so that an expansion in $R(k)/X(k)$ would be invalid. On the other hand, for the nonrelativistic particles of heavy ion fusion an expansion in $R/X$—and hence a very different conclusion—is valid.

Although we have shown that to lowest order there is neither an absolute or a convective instability, there is still the possibility of transient spatial amplification. We have estimated this effect, using uniform beam theory, the impe-
dance one expects in practice, and the time for a disturbance to reach a bunch end. We find that less than one e folding occurs.

Finally, we have been concerned that our results depend upon reflection of disturbances at bunch ends, which is exactly where our analysis is invalid because we have linearized about an unperturbed distribution which is, in fact, going to zero at the bunch end. We have, consequently, examined a more realistic model for the impedance than Eq. (9); namely a model in which (neglecting resistance)

\[ Z(k) = c_1 k / (c_2 + k^2), \]  

(19)

where \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) are constants. For small \( k \) this model can be matched to Eq. (9), but for short wavelengths Eq. (19) converts to a plasma oscillation in which the structure is not important. For an impedance given by Eq. (19) we are able to reduce Eq. (8) to a second-order differential equation and show that a wave reflects before it reaches a bunch end; i.e., before the linear approximation becomes invalid. This work, which will be described elsewhere, lays to rest our concern about the validity of the results reported herein.

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