

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis entitled, ELECTRON ACCELERATION BY LASER IN VACUUM AND PLASMAS, has been prepared by me under the guidance of Dr. Niti Kant, Associate Professor of Physics, Lovely Professional University. No part of the thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.

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CERTIFICATE

I certify that Harjit Singh Ghotra has prepared his thesis entitled, ELECTRON ACCELERATION BY LASER IN VACUUM AND PLASMAS, for the award of Ph. D. degree of the Lovely Professional University under my guidance. He has carried out the work at the Department of Physics, Lovely Professional University.

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ABSTRACT

Laser induced acceleration of electron in vacuum and plasmas has been studied. In chapter-3, the role of azimuthal magnetic field has been realized theoretically for electron acceleration by linearly polarized (LP) as well as circularly polarized (CP) laser pulse in vacuum. The results obtained indicate the confined trajectory of electron under the influence of azimuthal magnetic field for longer distance than that without magnetic field. The energy gain by the electron with a CP laser pulse is seen higher than that with a LP laser for same intensity.

In chapter-4, we employ a LP chirped laser pulse for electron acceleration with azimuthal magnetic field. The accelerating distance is observed to be of three times the Rayleigh length. We observe electron energy gain of about 1.47GeV with azimuthal magnetic field of about 438kG with an intense LP chirped laser pulse of peak intensity of about $3.4 \times 10^{21} \text{W/cm}^2$.

In chapter-5, the acceleration of electron with a frequency chirped CP laser pulse in vacuum under the impact of an azimuthal magnetic field has been studied. Linear frequency chirp plays a vital role to extend the time of interaction of laser pulse with electron and hence enforces the resonance for longer duration. The presence of azimuthal magnetic field strengthens the electron acceleration and keeps the electron motion close to the direction of propagation of laser pulse. Thus, resonant enhancement appears due to the combined role of azimuthal magnetic field and CP chirped laser pulse. Pre-accelerated electron with few MeV of initial energy gains high energy of the order of GeV from laser field of CP chirped laser pulse.

In chapter-6, we examine the acceleration of electron by a radially polarized (RP) laser pulse in vacuum under influence of a strong axial magnetic field. The presence of axial magnetic field improves the contribution of $\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$ force which supports the retaining of betatron resonance for longer durations. Up to 70% enhancement is observed in electron energy gain with an axial magnetic field of about 3MG . We observe the sensitiveness of axial magnetic field on the acceleration of electron. Our results also show

relatively smaller scattering of the electrons under influence of externally applied axial magnetic field.

In chapter-7, a relativistic single particle simulation for the acceleration of electron with a high intensity RP chirped laser pulse in vacuum has been presented. An electron gains ultrahigh energy and retains it for longer duration due to a RP chirped laser pulse. The energy gain variation with chirp parameters of linear and periodic functions has been studied. It is observed that the maximum energy gain by an electron with a RP periodic chirp laser pulse is about two times higher than that with a linear chirp. Our observations reveal electron energy gain of about 10.5GeV with a periodic chirped RP petawatt laser pulse in vacuum.

In chapter-8, we present a scheme for electron injection for enhanced energy gain with a RP laser pulse in vacuum under the influence of magnetic wiggler. Four times higher electron energy is observed with a RP laser pulse of peak intensity $8.5 \times 10^{20} \text{ W/cm}^2$ under existence of magnetic wiggler of 10.69kG than without magnetic wiggler. We have analyzed the electron injection for enhanced energy gain by the electron and observe that this gain is relatively higher with a sideways injection than that of axial injection of electron. Injection angle δ is optimized and found that at $\delta = 10^\circ$ to the direction parallel to the propagation of laser pulse, the maximum energy is obtained.

In chapter-9, we analyze the effect of laser beam width parameter on electron acceleration in magnetized plasma. An electron accelerates during interaction with a CP Gaussian laser pulse in plasma. The variations of laser spot size for different intensity parameters have been presented graphically for electron acceleration. Electron accelerates and gain energy due to strong laser field where beam width parameter is small and loss energy where field is weak due to large beam width parameter. A significant enhancement in electron acceleration gets maintained for larger propagation distance in the presence of axial magnetic field in plasma. We have observed an energy gain above 1GeV for laser intensity of about $I \sim 6.8 \times 10^{21} \text{ W/cm}^2$ with laser spot size $\sim 75\mu\text{m}$ in the presence of axial magnetic field of about 15MG in plasma.

In chapter-10, the electron acceleration by a circularly polarized (CP) Hermite-Gaussian (HG) laser beam in the plasma has been investigated theoretically for the different mode indices (m, n) as (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3), and (0, 4). HG beam possesses higher trapping forces compared to standard Gaussian beam fields due to their propagation characteristics during laser electron interaction. A single particle simulation indicates a resonant enhancement of electron acceleration with HG laser beam. The dependence of beam width parameter on acceleration distance effectively influences the electron dynamics. Electron acceleration for longer distance is observed with the lower modes. However, the higher electron energy gain is observed with higher modes for shorter distance of propagation.

In chapter-11, we examine the electron acceleration during laser-cluster interaction. In addition to the electrostatic fields of individual clusters, and field of short pulse laser, there exists an external transverse wiggler magnetic field. Single particle simulation has been presented with a short pulse linearly polarized (LP) as well as circularly polarized (CP) laser pulses for electron acceleration in cluster. The persisted Coulomb field during laser-cluster interaction enforces the electron to be in phase with laser pulse. Thus, ensures an efficient energy gain by the electron from laser fields. The wiggler field increases the field strength which enhances the electron acceleration. A long duration resonance appears with an optimized magnetic wiggler of field about $3.4kG$. Hence, the relativistic energy gain by the electron is enhanced up-to the order of higher MeV energies with an intense short pulse laser of intensity in the order of $10^{18}W/cm^2$.

PREFACE

The acceleration of electron by laser in vacuum and plasmas is studied. In this work, we examine the laser induced dynamics of electron in vacuum and plasmas. We study the electron trajectory under interaction with laser pulse with variation of laser parameters. Electron acceleration by laser is widely studied by researchers and scientists as the accelerated electron attain high energy during interaction with laser pulse. We analyze that the attained energy by an electron during interaction with laser pulse is further enhanced by considering applied magnetic field in vacuum and plasma. We examine the role of polarization of laser beam, beam width parameter, frequency chirp and electron injection for electron acceleration. We have focused our attention on enhancing the electron energy gain by the proper selection of various parameters of laser, magnetic field and electron injection for laser electron interaction in vacuum and plasma. We have investigated the mode indices based electron acceleration by Hermite-Gaussian laser beam in plasma. Finally, we present the electron acceleration due to laser-cluster interactions. The enhancement in electron energy gain by laser pulse has been observed and reported in the present study.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	i
Certificate	ii
Abstract	iii
Preface	vi
Table of Contents	vii
List of Figures	xi
List of Tables	xx
Chapter-1 Introduction and Overview	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Electron acceleration by laser	3
1.3 Polarization characteristics of laser pulse	5
1.4 Chirped laser pulse	6
1.5 Magnetic field assisted electron acceleration	7
1.6 Electron injection for enhanced energy gain	7
1.7 Influence of laser beam width parameter	8
1.8 Laser-cluster interactions	8
Chapter-2 Review of Literature	9
2.1 Literature review	9
Chapter-3 Electron acceleration by a laser pulse in vacuum in the presence of azimuthal magnetic field	17
3.1 Introduction	17
3.2 Field distribution for linearly and circularly polarized laser pulses	19
3.3 Azimuthal Magnetic field	20
3.4 Electron dynamics and resonance condition	21
3.5 Results and discussion	22
3.6 Conclusion	30

Chapter-4	Electron acceleration by a chirped laser pulse in vacuum under the influence of magnetic field	31
4.1	Introduction	31
4.2	Linear frequency chirp	32
4.3	Field distribution for linearly polarized chirped laser pulse.....	32
4.4	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis.....	33
4.5	Results and discussion.....	34
4.5	Conclusion.....	40
Chapter-5	Electron acceleration to GeV energy by a chirped laser pulse in vacuum in the presence of azimuthal magnetic field	41
5.1	Introduction	41
5.2	Field distribution for circularly polarized chirped laser pulse.....	44
5.3	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis.....	45
5.4	Results and discussion.....	46
5.4	Conclusion	54
Chapter-6	Sensitiveness of axial magnetic field on electron acceleration by a radially polarized laser pulse in vacuum.....	55
6.1	Introduction	55
6.2	Field distribution for radially polarized laser pulse.....	57
6.3	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis.....	58
6.4	Results and discussion.....	59
6.5	Conclusion.....	65
Chapter-7	Effect of periodic frequency chirp on electron acceleration on electron acceleration by radially polarized laser pulse in vacuum.....	66
7.1	Introduction	66
7.2	Periodic frequency chirp	68
7.3	Field distribution for radially polarized chirped laser pulse.....	69

7.4	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis	70
7.5	Results and discussion.....	70
7.6	Conclusion.....	78
Chapter-8	Electron injection for enhanced energy gain by a radially polarized laser pulse in vacuum under the effect of magnetic wiggler.....	80
8.1	Introduction	80
8.2	Wiggler magnetic field.....	82
8.3	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis.....	82
8.4	Results and discussion.....	84
8.5	Conclusion.....	92
Chapter-9	Effect of laser beam width parameter on electron acceleration in magnetized plasma	93
9.1	Introduction	93
9.2	Field distribution and beam width parameter for a Gaussian beam	95
9.3	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis.....	97
9.4	Results and discussion.....	98
9.5	Conclusion.....	107
Chapter-10	Electron acceleration by Hermite Gaussian laser beam in plasma: Role of TEM modes	108
10.1	Introduction	108
10.2	Field distribution for a Hermite Gaussian beam	109
10.3	Intensity distribution for different modes of HG beam.....	111
10.4	Electron dynamics and relativistic analysis.....	112
10.5	Results and discussion.....	113
10.6	Conclusion.....	118
Chapter-11	Wiggler magnetic field assisted electron acceleration during laser-cluster interaction.....	119

11.1	Introduction	119
11.2	Field distribution and electron dynamics for laser-cluster interaction	120
11.3	Results and discussion.....	122
11.5	Conclusion.....	129
Chapter-12 Summary and Conclusion.....		130
Chapter-13 Bibliography.....		134
List of Publications		147
Published research papers		

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 3.1 Schematic of laser induced acceleration of electron in vacuum with azimuthal magnetic field. (a) The angle δ at which the electron is injected with respect to the direction parallel to the propagation of laser pulse and (b) The direction of external azimuthal magnetic field. 21
- Figure 3.2 Trajectory of electron in 3D plane without and with magnetic field for $a_0 = 2.5$ and $p_0' = 2.5$. (a) $b_0 = 0$ with LP, (b) $b_0 = 0$ with CP, (c) $b_0 = 0.005$ with LP, and (d) $b_0 = 0.005$ with CP laser pulse. The other parameters are $r_0' = 900$, $\tau' = 70$, $\delta = 10^\circ$, $\phi_0 = 0$, and $z_L' = -300$. 24
- Figure 3.3 Electron Energy gain γ with normalized magnetic field b_0 for distinct and normalized values of initial momentum and intensity parameter for LP and CP laser pulses. (a) $p_0' = 1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0 = 2.5$, (b) $p_0' = 1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0 = 5$, and (c) $a_0 = 5, 6$, and 7.5 at $p_0' = 1$. The rest of parameters are same as referred in fig. 3.2. 26
- Figure 3.4 Electron energy gain γ with normalized distance z' for distinct values of magnetic field for LP and CP laser pulses. (a) $p_0' = 1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0 = 2.5$, (b) $p_0' = 1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0 = 5$, and (c) $a_0 = 5, 6$, and 7.5 at $p_0' = 1$. The rest parameters are same as referred in fig. 3.2. 28
- Figure 3.5 Normalized parallel velocity β_z and perpendicular velocities β_x and β_y with normalized propagation distance z' for CP laser pulse with $a_0 = 10$, $p_0' = 1.5$, and $b_0 = 0.005$. The rest of the parameters are same as taken in fig. 3.2. 29

- Figure 3.6 Acceleration gradient $d\gamma/dz$ and energy gain γ with accelerating distance z for CP laser pulse with $a_0=10$, $p_0'=1.5$, and $b_0=0.005$. The other parameters are same as taken in fig. 3.2. 29
- Figure 4.1 A schematic showing the vacuum acceleration of electron by a LP chirped laser pulse in the presence of an azimuthal magnetic field. 35
- Figure 4.2 Trajectory of electron in 3D plane without and with chirping for LP laser pulse with $a_0=2.5$ and $p_0'=1$. (a) $\alpha'=0$, $b_0=0$ (b) $\alpha'=0$, $b_0=0.009$ and (c) $\alpha'=0.0005$ and $b_0=0.009$. The other parameters are $r_0=900$, $\sigma'=70$, $\phi_0=0$, $\delta=10^\circ$ and $z_0'=-300$. 36
- Figure 4.3 Energy gain γ with normalized magnetic field b_0 for different values of normalized initial momentum and intensity parameters for LP laser pulse. (a) $p_0'=1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0=2.5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.00085$ (b) $p_0'=1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0=5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.00085$ and (c) $a_0=10, 20, 30, 40$ and 50 at $p_0'=2.5$. Rest of the parameters are same as taken in fig. 4.2. 38
- Figure 4.4 Electron energy gain γ with accelerating distance z normalized with Rayleigh length Z_R for distinct values of normalized magnetic field for LP laser pulse. (a) $p_0'=1.5, 2$, and 2.5 at $a_0=2.5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.00085$, (b) $p_0'=1.5, 2$, and 2.5 at $a_0=5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.00085$, and (c) $a_0=10, 20, 30, 40$, and 50 at $p_0'=2.5$. Rest of the parameters are same as taken in fig. 4.2. 39
- Figure 5.1 A schematic showing the vacuum acceleration of electron by a chirped circularly polarized (CP) laser pulse with an azimuthal magnetic field. 46
- Figure 5.2 Electron trajectory in 3D plane without and with chirping for CP laser pulse at $a_0=2.5$, $b_0=0.005$ and $p_0'=1$. (a) $\alpha'=0$ and (b)

$\alpha'=0.003$. The other parameters are $r_0'=900$, $\sigma'=70$, $\phi_0=0$, $\delta=10^\circ$ and $z_0'=-300$. 48

Figure 5.3 Energy gain with normalized magnetic field for the different values of normalized initial momentum and intensity parameters for CP laser pulses. (a) $p_0'=1.5, 2$, and 2.5 at $a_0=2.5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.0015$, (b) $p_0'=1.5, 2$, and 2.5 at $a_0=5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.0011$, and (c) $a_0=6, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15$, and 20 at $p_0'=1.5$ with $\alpha'=0.000975, 0.00088, 0.00078, 0.000725, 0.00069$, and 0.00065 respectively. Rest parameters remain same as taken in fig. 5.2. 49

Figure 5.4 Energy gain γ with normalized distance z' for different values of normalized initial momentum p_0' and intensity parameters a_0 for CP laser pulses. (a) $p_0'=1.5, 2$, and 2.5 at $a_0=2.5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.0015$, (b) $p_0'=1.5, 2$ and 2.5 at $a_0=5$ with $\alpha'=0$ and $\alpha'=0.0011$, and (c) $a_0=6, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15$, and 20 at $p_0'=1.5$ with $b_0=0.00145, 0.0012, 0.001, 0.00094, 0.0009$, and 0.000875 and $\alpha'=0.000975, 0.00088, 0.00078, 0.000725, 0.00069$, and 0.00065 respectively. Rest parameters are same as taken in fig.5.2. 51

Figure 5.5 Electron acceleration gradient as a function of distance z for CP laser pulse with intensity parameter $a_0=2.5, 5, 10$, and 20 for $p_0'=1.5$ and optimum values of magnetic field and chirp parameters. Rest parameters are same as taken in fig. 5.2. 52

Figure 5.6 Electron energy gain γ calibration curve for normalized magnetic field b_0 , chirping parameter α' and normalized energy gain γ as a function of normalized intensity a_0 . Rest parameters are same as taken in fig. 5.2. 52

Figure 6.1 A schematic for vacuum acceleration of electron by a Radially polarized (RP) laser pulse with axial magnetic field. 60

Figure 6.2 Electron energy gain as a function of normalized magnetic field b_0 with $r_0 = a_0 / 2$ and $r_i = r_0 / 2$ for laser intensity parameter $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and 100 . The other parameters are $\tau = 200, z_L = 0, z_0 = 0, \phi_0 = \pi,$ and $\tau_b = 10^9$. 60

Figure 6.3 Electron energy gain variation with initial phase ϕ_0 with $r_0 = a_0 / 2$ and $r_i = r_0 / 2$ for laser intensity parameter $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and 100 with respective values of normalized magnetic field as obtained from figure 2. The other parameters are $\tau = 200, z_L = 0, z_0 = 0,$ and $\tau_b = 10^9$. 61

Figure 6.4 Trajectory of electron in the $r - z$ plane without and with magnetic field for $r_i = r_0 / 2$ and laser intensity parameters $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and 100 . (a) $r_0 = a_0 / 2$ and (b) $r_0 = a_0$. The other parameters are $\tau = 200, z_L = 0, z_0 = 0, \phi_0 = \pi,$ and $\tau_b = 10^9$. 62

Figure 6.5 Energy gain by electron with normalized distance without and with magnetic field with $r_i = r_0 / 2$ for laser intensity parameters $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and 100 . (a) $r_0 = a_0 / 2$ and (b) $r_0 = a_0$. The other parameters are same as taken in fig. 6.4. 62

Figure 6.6 Trajectory of electron in the $r - z$ plane in the absence and presence of a magnetic field with $r_i = r_0 / 5$ and $r_0 = a_0$ for laser intensity parameters $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and 100 . Rest parameters are same as taken in fig. 6.4. 64

Figure 6.7 Electron energy gain with normalized distance without and with magnetic field for $r_i = r_0 / 5$ and $r_0 = a_0$ for laser intensity parameters $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and 100 . The other parameters are same as taken in fig. 6.4. 64

Figure 7.1 Electron energy variation with normalized distance z' in the absence and presence of linear chirp function $\omega_0(1 + \alpha\xi)$ at distinct values of laser intensity parameter a_0 . (a) $a_0 = 25$ and $\alpha = 0,$

0.005, 0.01, and 0.015 (b) $a_0 = 50$ and $\alpha = 0, 0.0045, 0.005,$ and 0.0055 (c) $a_0 = 75$ and $\alpha = 0, 0.025, 0.0275,$ and $0.03,$ and (d) $a_0 = 100,$ and $\alpha = 0, 0.023, 0.025$ and $0.03.$ The other parameters are $p_0' = 1, r_0' = 700, \sigma' = 70, \xi_0' = -100, z_i' = 0, r_i' = 0,$ and $\phi_0 = 0.$ 71

Figure 7.2 Electron energy variation with chirp parameters α and β with laser intensity $a_0 = 25$ (a) Linear chirp function $\omega_0(1 + \alpha\xi),$ (b) Periodic chirp function $\omega_0(1 + \alpha \sin(\beta\xi + \phi_0))$ with $\alpha = 0.08$ and (c) Periodic chirp function $\omega_0(1 + \alpha \sin(\beta\xi + \phi_0))$ with $\beta = 1.62.$ The other parameters are same as used in fig. 7.1 and $\phi_0 = 0.$ 73

Figure 7.3 Electron energy variation with normalized distance z' for periodic chirp function $\omega_0(1 + \alpha \sin(\beta\xi + \phi_0))$ at different values of chirp parameters α and β for laser intensity $a_0 = 25.$ (a) $\alpha = 0.08$ and $\beta = 1.2, 1.6, 1.62, 1.66,$ and $1.8,$ (b) $\beta = 1.62$ and $\alpha = 0.06, 0.08, 0.09, 0.17,$ and $0.20.$ The other parameters are same as used in fig. 7.1 and $\phi_0 = 0.$ 75

Figure 7.4 Electron energy with normalized distance z' with periodic chirp functions at different values of laser intensity parameter $a_0 = 25, 50, 75,$ and $100.$ (a) $\omega_0(1 + \alpha \tan(\beta\xi + \phi_0)),$ and (b) $\omega_0(1 + \alpha \sin(\beta\xi + \phi_0)).$ The other parameters are same as used in fig. 7.1 and $\phi_0 = 0.$ 75

Figure 7.5 Electron ejection angle with electron energy with a periodic chirp function $\omega_0(1 + \alpha \sin(\beta\xi + \phi_0))$ for laser intensity $a_0 = 25$ and $100.$ The other parameters are as referred fig. 7.1 and $\phi_0 = 0.$ 77

Figure 8.1 A schematic showing the vacuum electron acceleration by a Radially polarized (RP) laser pulse with wiggler magnetic field. 83

Figure 8.2 Electron energy variation with normalized distance z' in the absence and presence of normalized wiggler magnetic field b_{w0} at distinct values of laser intensity parameter $a_0.$ (a) $a_0 = 25$ and

$b_{w0} = 0, 9 \times 10^{-5}$, and 10×10^{-5} (b) $a_0 = 50$ and $b_{w0} = 0, 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$, and 2×10^{-5} , and (c) $a_0 = 100$, and $b_{w0} = 0, 1 \times 10^{-6}$, and 2×10^{-6} . The other parameters are $p'_0 = 1, r'_0 = 700, \sigma = 70, z'_0 = -100, z_i = 0, r_i = 0, \delta = 10^\circ$, and $\phi_0 = 0$.

85

Figure 8.3 Electron energy for $a_0 = 25$ as a function of (a) Normalized wiggler wavelength λ_w / λ_L with $\theta = 40^\circ, b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\theta = 30^\circ, b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}$, (b) Normalized wiggler magnetic field b_{w0} with $\theta = 40^\circ, \lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500$ and $\theta = 30^\circ, \lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500$, and (c) Azimuthal angle θ with $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500, b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500, b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}$. The other parameters remain same as taken in fig. 8.2.

87

Figure 8.4 Electron energy for $a_0 = 25$ as a function normalized distance z' for (a) Normalized wiggler wavelength $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500, 6800$ with $\theta = 40^\circ, b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500, 6000$ with $\theta = 30^\circ, b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}$ (b) Normalized wiggler magnetic field $b_{w0} = 1 \times 10^{-4}, b_{w0} = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ with $\theta = 40^\circ, \lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500$ and $b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}, b_{w0} = 6 \times 10^{-5}$ $\theta = 30^\circ, \lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500$ and (c) Azimuthal angle $\theta = 40^\circ, 60^\circ$ with $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500, b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\theta = 30^\circ, 50^\circ$ with $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500, b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}$. The other parameters are same as taken in fig. 8.2.

88

Figure 8.5 Normalized parallel velocity β_z and perpendicular velocity β_r with normalized propagation distance z' for $a_0 = 25$ with $b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}, \lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500, \theta = 40^\circ$ and angle of electron injection as (a) $\delta = 0^\circ$ and (b) $\delta = 10^\circ$. Rest parameters are same as taken in fig. 8.2.

89

Figure 8.6 Electron energy variation for $a_0 = 25$ with normalized distance z' for two different values of angle of electron injection $\delta = 0^\circ$ and

$\delta = 10^\circ$ with $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500$, $\theta = 40^\circ$, $b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500$, $\theta = 30^\circ$, $b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}$. Rests of the parameters are same as taken in fig. 8.2. 90

Figure 8.7 Acceleration gradient variations with normalized distance z' for $a_0 = 25$ with two different values of angle of electron injection $\delta = 0^\circ$ and $\delta = 10^\circ$ at $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 8500$, $\theta = 40^\circ$, $b_{w0} = 10 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\lambda_w / \lambda_L = 4500$, $\theta = 30^\circ$, $b_{w0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}$. The other parameters are same as taken in fig. 8.2. 90

Figure 9.1 Schematic diagram for the acceleration of electron by a CP Gaussian laser pulse in plasma under the influence of axial magnetic field. 99

Figure 9.2 Variation plot for electron energy gain with normalized distance and beam width parameter for the distinct values of laser spot size and intensity parameters. The other parameters are $\tau_L' = 70$, $\phi_0 = 0$, $p_0' = 1$, $z_L' = 0$, $x_i' = 0$, $y_i' = 0$, and $z_i' = 0$. 99

Figure 9.3 Variation plot for electron energy gain with normalized axial magnetic field b_0 for distinct values of laser spot size r_0' and intensity parameters $a_0 = 5, 25$, and 50 . (a) $r_0' = 150$, (b) $r_0' = 300$, and (c) $r_0' = 450$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 9.2. 101

Figure 9.4 Variation plots for electron energy gain with normalized propagation distance ξ for distinct values of normalized magnetic field with laser spot size $r_0' = 150$ and intensity parameters: (a) $a_0 = 5$, (b) $a_0 = 25$, and (c) $a_0 = 50$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 9.2. 102

Figure 9.5 Variation plot for electron energy gain with normalized propagation distance ξ for distinct values of normalized magnetic field b_0 and intensity parameters with laser spot size as: (a) $a_0 = 5$, $r_0' = 300$ (b) $a_0 = 25$, $r_0' = 300$ (c) $a_0 = 50$, $r_0' = 300$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 9.2. 103

- Figure 9.6 Variation plot for electron energy gain with normalized propagation distance ξ for distinct values of normalized magnetic field b_0 and intensity parameters with laser spot size as: (a) $a_0 = 5$, $r_0' = 450$ (b) $a_0 = 25$, $r_0' = 450$ and (c) $a_0 = 50$, $r_0' = 450$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 9.2. 104
- Figure 10.1 Variation plot for electron energy gain for the mode $(m, n) = (0, 1)$ with normalized propagation distance ξ and beam width parameter $f(z)$ for the distinct values of laser spot size r_0' and intensity parameters $a_0 = 5, 25$, and 50 . (a) $r_0' = 75$, (b) $r_0' = 150$, (c) $r_0' = 300$, and (d) $r_0' = 450$. The other parameters are $\tau_L' = 70$, $\phi_0 = 0$, $p_0' = 1$, $z_L' = 0$, $x_i' = 0$, $y_i' = 0$, and $z_i' = 0$. 114
- Figure 10.2 Variation plots for electron energy gain for the mode $(m, n) = (0, 2)$ with normalized propagation distance ξ for distinct values of intensity parameter $a_0 = 5, 25$ and 50 with laser spot size: (a) $r_0' = 150$, (b) $r_0' = 300$, and (c) $r_0' = 450$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 10.1. 115
- Figure 10.3 Variation plots for electron energy gain for the mode $(m, n) = (0, 3)$ with normalized propagation distance ξ for distinct values of intensity parameter $a_0 = 5, 25$ and 50 with laser spot size: (a) $r_0' = 150$, (b) $r_0' = 300$, and (c) $r_0' = 450$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 10.1. 116
- Figure 10.4 Variation plots for electron energy gain for the mode $(m, n) = (0, 4)$ with normalized propagation distance ξ for distinct values of intensity parameter $a_0 = 5, 25$ and 50 with laser spot size: (a) $r_0' = 150$, (b) $r_0' = 300$, and (c) $r_0' = 450$. Rest of the parameters are as referred in fig. 10.1. 117
- Figure 11.1 Variation plot for electron energy gain with normalized propagation distance with laser intensity $a_0 = 2.5$ for LP and,

$a_0 = 1.76$ for CP laser pulse with and without magnetic wiggler in cluster. The other parameters are $r_0' = 300$, $\tau' = 70$, $z_L' = -300$, $N = 10^5$, $\sigma = 10$, and $\phi_0 = 0$. 124

Figure 11.2 Variation plot for cluster field felt by electron with normalized propagation distance with laser intensity $a_0 = 2.5$ for LP and, $a_0 = 1.76$ for CP laser pulse. The other parameters are same as referred in fig. 11.1. 124

Figure 11.3 Variation plot for normalized longitudinal (p_z') and transverse (p_x') components of accelerated electron momentum with normalized propagation distance for $a_0 = 2.5$ for LP and, $a_0 = 1.76$ for CP laser pulses. The other parameters are same as referred in fig. 11.1. 125

Figure 11.4 Variation plot for normalized wiggler magnetic field b_w experienced by accelerated electron with normalized propagation distance with normalized initial value of wiggler magnetic field is $b_{w0} = 3.2 \times 10^5$. The other parameters are same as referred in fig. 11.1. 125

Figure 11.5 Variation plot for scattering of accelerated electron with normalized propagation distance. The other parameters are same as referred in fig. 11.1. 127

Figure 11.6 Variation plot for electron energy gain with normalized propagation distance at laser intensity $a_0 = 5$ for LP and, $a_0 = 3.53$ for CP laser pulse with and without magnetic wiggler. The other parameters are same as taken for fig. 11.1. 127

Figure 11.7 Acceleration gradient as a function of distance z with laser intensity $a_0 = 5$ for LP and, $a_0 = 3.53$ for CP laser pulse with and without magnetic wiggler. The other parameters are same as taken for fig. 11.1. 128

LIST OF TABLES

Table 7.1	Optimized chip parameters (α , β) for maximum energy gain γ_{\max} by electron with intensity parameter a_0 .	77
Table 10.1	Hermite polynomials (H_m , H_n) and Intensity factor, $I \propto (H_m H_n)^2$ with different mode indices (m , n) for a Circularly Polarized Hermite-Gaussian laser beam.	111