Relativistic electron acceleration with mJ lasers at Multi kHz repetition rates

M. Krishnamurthy*

TIFR Hyderabad

* Correspondence: mkrism@tifr.res.in

Abstract:

Intense ultrashort pulse lasers generate relativistic electrons when the intensity reaches relativistic scales, 10¹⁸ Wcm⁻² for 800nm pulses. This requires Terra watt class lasers that are complex, cumbersome, expensive and deliver typically 10 pulses per second. While the electron/x-rays/proton beams generated from such system have shown a lot of promise, developing applications on such systems is very challenging. I will talk about experiments where even at a 1/100th of laser intensity, it is feasible to generate relativistic electron beam of 1 MeV energy with multi kHz few mJ/pulse lasers. We show that plasma wave instabilities generated and manipulated with suitable targetry is the underlying mechanism. The source size of the short pulse electron beam is amenable for x-ray radiography and shadowgraphy.