Collimation Tests on a Coherent Photon Beam from a Silicon Target

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Abstract

We have looked at the narrow coherent spikes produced in strongly collimated bremsstrahlung spectra from thin silicon crystals. Dependence of the spectra on crystal thickness and collimation has been confirmed. The quality of the spectra obtained from internal synchrotron targets is seen to be limited because of the primary divergence of the electron beam.

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Thin crystalline targets inserted into an electron beam and properly oriented are a source of useful bremsstrahlung spectra for photoproduction experiments.\textsuperscript{1-3} These spectra have two features of particular interest: 1) coherent spikes in the photon energy distributions which dominate the lower half of the spectrum and rise above a background of incoherent radiation, and 2) high polarization of the photons at these spikes.

Several authors\textsuperscript{4,5} have pointed out the possibility of improving the monochromaticity and polarization at the spikes in the crystal spectra by strongly collimating the incident electron beam and the outgoing photon beam, and by using targets whose thicknesses are $10^{-3}$ radiation lengths or less. We have therefore studied strongly collimated spectra from silicon crystals of various thicknesses which were inserted into the internal beam of the DESY synchrotron at primary energies of about 2 GeV.

The experimental results show that, although the dependence of the spectra on crystal thickness and collimation can be seen, primary electron divergence in the synchrotron limits the improvement of the spectra. Our studies confirm the theoretically expected effect of collimation on coherent bremsstrahlung and lead us to the conclusion that real improvement of the coherent beam can only be achieved with an external electron beam where the divergence of electrons striking the crystal radiator can be controlled.

Collimation has two effects on a crystal spectrum. First, it narrows the width of the spikes without reducing their peak intensity. Second, it reduces the incoherent part of the spectrum. The incoherent part is reduced by a factor $f'$, which depends on the collimation angle as well as the primary angular distribution of electrons producing bremsstrahlung. We estimate $f'$ from the following two limiting cases: a) In the idealized situation in which the crystal is infinitely thin and the primary divergence of electrons is zero, the intensity of the incoherent part of
the bremsstrahlung is proportional to a factor $f$ which depends on
the relative collimation angle $\psi_c = \theta_c / \theta_0$, where $\theta_c$ is the collima-
tion angle, $\theta_0 = mc^2/E_0$ is the mean photon emission angle, $m$ is
the electron mass, and $E_0$ the primary electron energy. This factor $f$
is found from integrating the bremsstrahlung distribution over the
photon emission angle up to $\theta_c$.

\[ f(x) = x^2/(1 + x^2), \quad x = \psi_c \]  

(1)

b) On the other hand, for the case of infinitely sharp collimation
($\theta_c = 0$) but finite electron divergence, the intensity of the incoher-
ent bremsstrahlung is proportional to a factor of the same form which
now depends on the size of the relative angle of divergence $\psi_e = \theta_e / \theta_0$,
where $\theta_e$ is the mean angle of the electron angular distribution.

In the actual experimental situation, we assume that the proportionality
factor $f'$ will depend to a first approximation on both $\psi_c$ and $\psi_e$
in the following way:

\[ f'(\psi_c, \psi_e) = f(\psi_c) + f(\psi_e) - f(\psi_c) \cdot f(\psi_e) \]  

(2)

$f'$ approaches unity whenever one of the two variables becomes large,
and it depends only on $\psi_c$ when $\psi_e$ is extremely small and vice versa.
The reduction of the incoherent part of the spectrum is significant for
collimated spectra because the coherent part, to a good approximation,
is not reduced by collimation. Hence the ratio of coherent to incoherent
intensities displays the experimental effect of collimation.

The effect of collimation on the coherent spikes is seen principally in
their widths. The low energy tail of a spike is cut off at an energy
($\kappa - \lambda \lambda$), where $\kappa$ is the peak energy of the spike measured in units
of $E_0$, and the width of the spike,
\[ \Delta x = \frac{x_g \cdot \mathcal{H}_C}{1 + \mathcal{H}_C^2} \] 

is a function of the relative angle of collimation \( \mathcal{H}_C \). There is a slight intensity reduction from the electron angular spread which tends to smear out the exact experimental definition of crystal orientation. Therefore we have averaged the spectrum over the orientation angles in the range of the electron spread \( \sigma_e \) or over the collimation angle \( \mathcal{H}_C \), whichever is smaller (in the same way as described in Ref.2). We find that this averaging has an effect of only a few per cent on the peak height of the spikes for the synchrotron energies at which data were taken.

We have measured spectra from silicon monocrystals which were mounted in a goniometer in the DRES internal beam. Silicon was used because it has a rather high Debye temperature and can be obtained in thin samples. The crystals had thicknesses of 1000, 200, and 40 microns \((1 \mu = 10^{-3} \text{ mm})\). They were usually oriented to give the most prominent coherent radiation from nuclei in the 220 or 220 crystalline planes. The 2 GeV energy region was chosen because the electron beam occupies the smallest phase space in the synchrotron near this energy, and we thus expect the smallest possible primary divergence of electrons striking the target. In addition the relative collimation angle is reduced by using small energy values.

Bremsstrahlung spectra for the 1000 and 40 micron crystals are shown in Figures 1 and II respectively. The curves drawn on the figures represent theoretical spectra obtained from the bremsstrahlung cross section formulae. These plots follow the bremsstrahlung convention of References 2 and 3:

\[ I \propto \left( \frac{x}{\sigma_0} \right) \cdot N \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{dx} \]

\[ \alpha = \frac{k}{E_0} \]

\[ \sigma_0 = 5.78 z^2 \cdot 10^{-28} \text{ cm}^2 \]

\[ N = \text{number of target atoms} \]

\[ \frac{d\sigma}{dx} = \text{differential cross section} \]
The fitting procedure is essentially three steps. First the collimation angle $\Theta_c$ is calculated from the collimator size and position and corrected for finite target spot. Secondly, the angle of divergence is taken to be:

$$\Theta_e = (\Theta_{ns}^2 + \Theta_d^2)^{1/2}$$

(4)

$\Theta_{ns}$ is the multiple scattering angle given by the Molière formula and $\Theta_d$ is the electron divergence of the synchrotron beam. Finally the free parameter $\Theta_d$ is used to fit the observed relative intensity of the incoherent part of the spectrum to its coherent part. The experimental points are normalized to the theoretical curve at the high energy end of the spectrum. An expanded discussion can be found in the Diplom Thesis of H. Sadrozinski. (DESY Report soon to be issued).

The thick crystal spectrum and the thin crystal spectrum gave experimental values of $f' = 0.94$ and 0.50 respectively. The collimation angles used to fit the data in these two cases were $\Theta_c = 0.18 \pm 0.01$ and $0.16 \pm 0.01$ mrad. Although actual collimator size and position gave 0.10 mrad, the target spot extension due to multiple scattering or multiple traversals increases the effective collimation angle. For the thick crystal spectrum the electron beam divergence is much smaller than the multiple scattering angle $\Theta_{ns} = 0.75$ mrad, so the fit is obtained with $\Theta_d \ll \Theta_{ns}$. For the thin crystal spectrum we have $\Theta_{ns} = 0.14$ mrad, and the fit requires $\Theta_d = 0.17$ mrad which determines the electron beam divergence to be $\Theta_d = 0.10 \pm 0.02$ mrad. This electron beam divergence is due to the multiple traversals of the beam through the thin target as well as to the primary divergence of the synchrotron beam itself.

Although we tried to obtain better spectra by using movable tantalum blocks ahead of the crystalline target, these attempts failed. Scraper blocks do cut the number of multiple traversals (by two orders to magnitude for a target $10^{-5}$ radiation lengths thick) but the electron beam divergence remains approximately the same, and the spectra are no better. However to reduce the target spot extension, it was found most practical to use a target whose horizontal dimension in the synchrotron was small, i.e. about 2 mm. Such a target was used in the case of Fig.II.
For our thin crystal spectrum we can calculate the proportionality factor for the actual collimation $\theta_C = 0.10$ mrad, assuming no target spot extension, and for $\theta_d \ll \theta_{ng}$, assuming no sources of divergence except multiple scattering. In this case $f' = 0.35$. (See Fig. 11b). We note that, while such large reductions of incoherent background in thin crystal bremsstrahlung spectra are probably not possible for an internal target arrangement like ours at DESY, such reductions appear feasible for experiments carried out in an external beam.

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References


Figure Captions

Fig. I: Bremsstrahlung spectrum from 1000 micron Si crystal. The curve represents the theoretical spectrum obtained from the bremsstrahlung cross section formula, following the convention of Refs. 2 and 3. For this case, \( f' = 0.94 \), \( \theta_c = 0.18 \pm 0.01 \) mrad, \( \theta_{ms} = 0.75 \) mrad, and \( \theta_m \gg \theta_d \).

Fig. IIa: Bremsstrahlung spectrum from 40 micron Si crystal, target width: 2 mm. This spectrum gives \( f' = 0.50 \), and the theoretical spectrum is fit by \( \theta_c = 0.16 \pm 0.01 \) mrad, \( \theta_{ms} = 0.14 \) mrad, and \( \theta_d = 0.08 \pm 0.03 \) mrad. Electron beam divergence is due to multiple traversals as well as the primary divergence of the synchrotron beam.

Fig. IIb: Theoretical spectrum for 40 micron Si crystal for the case \( \theta_c = 0.10, \theta_{ms} = 0.14 \) mrad, and \( \theta_d \ll \theta_{ms} \). This spectrum gives \( f' = 0.35 \). Such a spectrum appears feasible in an external electron beam.
$E_0 = 1.99$ GeV
220 - Orientation

Fig. I
$E_0 = 1.98$ GeV
$\bar{2}20 -$ Orientation

Fig. II