Research and Development for Linear Colliders

Owing to the inherent simplicity of the annihilation process, the study of electron-positron interactions has yielded a wealth of information about the basic constituents of matter and the forces which act between them. The incoming electrons and positrons annihilate to form a time-like electroweak current with well-defined quantum numbers which in turn couples directly to the basic constituents of matter. Thus, the cross-sections and the strength of the annihilation process leads to a well-defined final-state topology. New particles can therefore be easily found and their properties unambiguously determined in a clean environment. Conversely, a negative result in a search can be used to define mass-limits on new particles. Generally speaking, therefore, it is desirable to extend e⁺e⁻ experiments beyond the energies available at CERN’s LEP collider. Indeed, an e⁺e⁻ collider which covers the mass range between the W+W⁻ pair-production threshold and 500 GeV, with luminosities in excess of $10^{32}$ cm⁻²s⁻¹, will have a rich physics programme complementary to the programme at high hadron colliders.

The development of new accelerator technologies is an integral part of the research programme at DESY. The picture shows a nine-cell niobium cavity being chemically polished at DESY. The picture shows a nine-cell niobium cavity being prepared for chemical treatment. The development of superconducting cavities of high gradient is done in the framework of the international TESLA collaboration to prepare for the TESLA Test Facility.

The TESLA Approach

The maximum accelerating gradient which can be reached in a well-designed superconducting niobium cavity is limited to values of around 50 mV/m by the maximum strength of the magnetic field at the cavity surface. At present, the gradient is limited to much lower values by field emission from localized regions on the surface. An analysis shows that emission is not due to any inherent properties of the niobium, but is instead caused by the maximum strength of the magnetic field at the cavity surface. A combination of stringent measures to keep the cavity surface clean and methods to remove any emitters that remain are therefore needed in order to reproducibly reach gradients above 20 mV/m. Indeed, multicell cavities made of high-purity niobium materials, chemically polished and processed at high temperatures in a low-pressure Ti atmosphere (1500 °C, 10⁻⁷ torr) or subjected to an RF treatment at a high peak power, consistently reach accelerating gradients of 15-20 mV/m.

Very encouraging results on 5-cell 1.3 GHz cavities designed for the TESLA machine have been obtained in a collaboration between Cornell, DESY and Fermilab, using existing facilities at Cornell. Three cavities, made of high-purity solid niobium, were chemically polished and then subjected to a high peak-power treatment. They reached the design gradient of 25 mV/m or higher at the design impedance value of $3 \times 10^9$.

The TESLA Collaboration, which at present consists of scientists from IHEP Beijing, TU Berlin, CERN, Cornell, TH Darmstadt, DESY, Fermilab, the University of Frankfurt/Main, INFN Frascati, INFN Milan, IPN Orsay, KFK Karlsruhe, the University of Karlsruhe, LAL Orsay, CEA Saclay, SEFT Helsinki, UCLA, and the University of Wuppertal, has constructed a large facility at DESY to process and test niobium cavities. The processing section, which includes a high-purity chemical polishing facility, clean rooms, a high-temperature, high-vacuum furnace, a 1.5 K cryogenic plant feeding vertical and horizontal test cryostats, and a 4.5 MW, 1.3 GHz high peak-power treatment installation, is, in the process of being commissioned. A total of fourteen 1.3 GHz, 9-cell cavities made from high-purity solid niobium are on order. Two have already been delivered, and the first test results are expected later this summer.

The next step is to reduce the cost per metre of the active cavity. To this end, eight 1.03 m niobium cavities will be installed in a single 12 m long, low thermal loss cryostat. The number of auxiliary components such as higher order mode absorbers, power couplers, tuners, vacuum insulation valves, etc. has been reduced considerably compared to earlier designs in order to reduce costs. The helium transfer lines are incorporated into the cryostat.

The first prototype cryostat of the new design is presently being constructed in Italy and the delivery is scheduled for late-1994. The expected static heat loss is less than 0.5 W/m at 1.8 K, a factor of 10 improvement over present designs. Components such as tuners, higher order mode couplers and power couplers have been designed and in part constructed and tested. Superconducting focusing quadrupoles, beam-position monitors and steering magnets will be mounted at the end of each cryomodule (the design of these components is well advanced). The first 12 m long cryomodule, including all the auxiliaries, is expected to be ready for cool-down in the autumn of 1995.

As an integrated system test, the TESLA group is proposing to accelerate an electron beam through a string of four of the cryomodules. The 15 MV injector for the project is presently being designed and built in a collaborative effort between laboratories at Orsay and Saclay. One 4.5 MW peak power klystron with RF pulse length of 1.5 ms will feed 16 cavities in two cryomodules. Two klystrons have been delivered and the first modulator, designed and constructed at Fermilab is available. Operation of the 500 MeV superconducting linac, which is scheduled for 1997, will be used to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the TESLA approach and provide the basis for a firm cost-estimate.
would be the best approach, from almost every perspective, for a linear collider. The main problem, however, is the costs of such a machine. Only superconducting linacs with accelerating gradients of 25 mV/m (a factor of 5-times the gradient in systems operating today), built at a cost per metre of less than 25% of present systems, can compete on a cost basis with other approaches for a linear collider. Recent advances in superconducting radio-frequency technology make it appear that such a goal is not out of reach. The TESLA study at DESY aims to develop these technologies and to build a 500 MV prototype linac.

The SBLC Approach

In order to keep costs down, the SBLC collaboration is considering accelerating waveguides of 6 m in length. They will be used in pairs, with two waveguides powered by a single 150 MW klystron. Special techniques ensure that the accelerating structure remains straight to better than 0.02 mm. In order to avoid multibunch instabilities (125 bunches are to be accelerated in a 2 μs long pulse) all the beam-guiding elements are of the constant-gradient type. This provides for a variation in frequency of all deflecting modes along the waveguide. Also, different accelerating guides are built differently to further spread out deflecting mode frequencies. A system of higher (deflecting) mode absorbers on the accelerating waveguides damps deflecting modes while allowing wave-guide alignment for minimum deflecting mode amplitudes.

A particular problem of most linear colliders is the extremely small beam emittance, which makes the machines very susceptible to vibrations of the focusing quadrupoles. A solution may involve active vibration control systems which are being investigated by the SBLC collaboration.

Co-operation Essential

In recent decades, particle physicists have increasingly concentrated their efforts on a few large-scale projects. Groups of scientists from many countries are therefore collaborating in constructing new particle accelerators and detectors. In Europe, CERN and DESY provide outstanding resources for pursuing and in collaboration with DESY, to gain experience and a wealth of data exists on this type of machine.

The aim of the on-going SBLC study is the construction of a 400 MeV S-band linac built in such a way that it would be suitable for a 30 km long linear collider. This prototype linac will not only allow the study and development of technical components such as superconducting klystrons, klystron modulators, accelerating guides with high straightness and high power modulators, accelerating guides with high straightness and high power, and quadrupole magnets with active vibration control, etc., but it will also allow the study of higher order mode excitation and its effect in deliberately misaligned accelerating guides. In this way it will be possible to verify the computer simulations being developed to study the effect of emittance preservation. All of the work mentioned is in progress and the SBLC prototype linac is expected to be complete in 1996.

Co-operation among the experimentalists is even more important to the successful construction of the HERA accelerator complex. Many European enterprises were thereby able, in collaboration with DESY, to gain experience in very modern technologies, particularly in the field of superconductivity and associated areas.

Co-operation among the experimentalists is even more multi-national and far-reaching. In the case of the experiments H1 and ZEUS, where foreign financial involvement amounts to 60%, it is hardly possible any longer to talk about international "participation" as they are truly international enterprises. A characteristic feature of such a co-operation in an experiment is the fact that the development and construction of individual detector components takes place under the sole technical and financial responsibility of the participating institutes.

Scientists from institutes in more than 20 countries around the world are carrying out research at HERA in trying to gain insight into the structure of matter. They will continue to be involved for many years in the analysis of data generated at HERA's experiments. Scientific co-operation with institutes from the former eastern bloc will continue under this framework, which was successfully established long before the end of the east-west conflict.