Ultra-short Pulse Diagnostic with Spectral Phase Interferometry

Dr. F. Tavella, DESY Hamburg

Application Note

Introduction
SPIDER (Spectral Phase Interferometry for direct Electric Field reconstruction) is an essential tool used for the characterization of ultrashort pulses (Fig. 1) [1, 2]. We use this diagnostic tool for the development of a multi-mJ high repetition rate optical parametric chirped pulse amplifier systems which will be used to generate the XUV seed for a free electron laser at the FLASH-FEL facility in Hamburg (DESY). A lower ionization fraction is obtained with ultra-short pulse (sub-10 fs, e.g. Fig. 2) compared to longer pulses with the same focusing geometry in a gas-jet for higher order harmonic generation. This allows to use higher focal intensities with sub-10 fs pulse, thus increasing the harmonic cut-off frequency.

Detector for spectral phase interferometry
We’ve decided for a Shamrock SR-303i spectrometer in combination with an iDus CCD-detector DV420A-OE. The advantages of high detector sensitivity and the negligible dark current at low operation temperature are important for the acquisition of SPIDER signals to resolve the fringes with high accuracy even at very low input signal. The possibility to tune the spectrometer within a large spectral acquisition range (turret with 3 gratings) is an additional very valuable feature of the Andor spectrometer series.

References


Contact
Dr. Franz Tavella
HASYLAB
Deutsches Elektronensynchrotron DESY
Notkestrasse 85,
D-22607 Hamburg
Germany

Phone: +49 (40) 8998 1517
E-Mail: franz.tavella@desy.de
Web: http://hasylab.desy.de