

# PhotonMEADOW 2023

Contribution ID: 36

Type: Oral

## The new Pulse-Length Preserving Double Monochromator Beamline at FLASH

*Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:20 AM (20 minutes)*

FLASH, the soft X-ray free-electron laser (FEL) in Hamburg provides high-brilliance ultrashort femtosecond pulses at MHz repetition rate for user experiments. For high resolution spectroscopic and dynamical studies in various research fields a small FEL energy bandwidth and ultrashort pulses are a prerequisite. While single grating monochromators provide high-energy resolution they introduce a pulse-front tilt which effectively elongates the longitudinal pulse profile, thus decreasing the time resolution. In order to preserve a short pulse duration and still monochromatize the FEL radiation, the new pulse-length preserving monochromator beamline FL23 at FLASH2 uses a double-grating design. A first grating disperses the radiation and an intermediate slit reduces the spectral bandwidth, a second grating operating in compensating configuration turns back pulse front tilt, thereby preserving the ultrashort photon pulses.

The open port beamline covers the spectral range between 1.3 nm and 20 nm with a spectral resolving power of approximately 2000. The beamline can also be operated in a single grating configuration in order to maximize the transmission at the high energy end. The bendable Kirkpatrick-Baez mirror system provides flexible microfocusing at the experiment. A femtosecond optical laser synchronized to the FEL will be provided for pump-probe experiments. The beamline concept and design has been developed using ray tracing simulations and confirmed by wavefront propagation simulations.

Here, the pulse-length preserving double monochromator beamline concept will be introduced, the different operation modes and expected photon parameters at the experimental station will be discussed and the first commissioning results will also be shown.

### Journal of Synchrotron Radiation Special Issue: will you submit your contribution?

yes

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**Session Classification:** Beamline design and simulation