

Experimental Demonstration of Colliding-Beam-Lifetime Improvement by Electron Lenses

V. Shiltsev,¹ Y. Alexahin,¹ K. Bishofberger,² V. Kamerdzhev,¹ G. Kuznetsov,¹ and X.-L. Zhang¹

¹Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, P.O. Box 500, Batavia, Illinois 60510, USA

²Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA

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We report the successful application of space-charge forces of a low-energy electron beam for improvement of particle lifetime determined by beam-beam interaction at a high-energy collider. In our experiments, an electron lens, a novel instrument developed for the beam-beam compensation, was set on a 980-GeV proton bunch at the Fermilab Tevatron proton-antiproton collider. The proton-bunch losses due to its interaction with the antiproton beam were reduced by a factor of 2 when the electron lens was operating. We describe the principle of electron lens operation and present experimental results.

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The luminosity of storage ring colliders is limited by the effects of the electromagnetic (EM) interaction of one beam on the particles of the other beam which leads to a blowup of beam sizes, a loss of beam intensities, and unacceptable background rates in the high-energy physics (HEP) detectors. This beam-beam interaction is parametrized by a dimensionless *beam-beam parameter* $\xi \equiv r_0 N / 4\pi\epsilon$, where $r_0 = e^2/mc^2$ denotes the particle's classical radius, N is the number of particles in the opposing bunch, and ϵ is its rms normalized emittance related to transverse rms beam size σ at the interaction point (IP) as $\epsilon = \gamma\sigma^2/\beta^*$, $\gamma \gg 1$ is the relativistic gamma factor, and β^* is the value at the IP of the beta function which describes the focusing properties of the ring's magnetic lattice (for simplicity here, we consider a collider with round Gaussian beams). This dimensionless parameter is equal to the shift of the betatron tune $Q = f_\beta/f_0$ of core particles due to beam-beam forces. (The tune $Q_{x,y}$, a key stability parameter, is the number of periods of the particle's horizontal or vertical oscillations in the focusing lattice in one turn around the ring.) While core particles undergo a significant tune shift, halo particles with large oscillation amplitudes experience negligible tune shift. The EM forces drive nonlinear resonances which can result in instability of particle motion and loss. The beam-beam limit in modern hadron colliders is at $\xi^{\max} N_{\text{IP}} \approx 0.01\text{--}0.02$ (N_{IP} is the number of IPs), while it can exceed $\xi^{\max} N_{\text{IP}} \approx 0.1$ in high-energy e^+e^- colliders [1]. Operation with a greater number of bunches allows a proportional increase of luminosity but requires careful spatial separation of two beams everywhere except at the main IPs. *Long-range* (as opposed to *head-on*) EM interactions of separated beams are also nonlinear, usually vary from bunch to bunch, and contribute to the limit on collider performance.

Besides the technique of electron lenses, the subject of this Letter, there are few beam-beam compensation (BBC) schemes tested experimentally. The 0.8-GeV Dispositif de Collisions dans l'Igloo (DCI) storage ring at the Laboratoire de l'Accelérateur Lineaire (Orsay, France)

had four colliding beams—one positron and one electron coming from each direction. Full space charge and current compensation could be achieved if all the beams had the same intensities and dimensions, but the observed beam-beam limit was not significantly different than with just two beams [2]. These results are attributed to strong coherent beam-beam effects which are characterized by rapid correlated variations of the beam distributions [3]. Octupole magnets were used for compensation of the cubic nonlinearity in the beam-beam force at the VEPP-4 e^+e^- collider (Novosibirsk, Russia) [4]. Although a several-fold reduction of electron halo loss rate was demonstrated at optimal octupole current, the technique has not found wide application because its efficiency is strongly dependent on the machine tune. Compensation of the EM fields of *separated* beams by placing a current conducting wire at the same distance to the beam as the opposite beam was proposed in [5]. Some 20% reduction of the e^+ loss rate due to such a method was observed at the phi-factory DAFNE (Frascati, Italy) [6]. The wire-compensation technique is less efficient if multiple beam-beam interactions occur at different distances and betatron phases, and, of course, it is useless for head-on BBC.

Electron lenses were proposed for compensation of both long-range and head-on beam-beam effects in the Fermilab Tevatron collider (Batavia, IL) [7]. The lens employs a low-energy $\beta_e = v/c \ll 1$ beam of electrons which collides with the high-energy bunches over an extended length L_e . Electron space-charge forces are linear at distances smaller than the characteristic beam radius $r < a_e$, but scale as $1/r$ for $r > a_e$. Correspondingly, such a lens can be used for linear and nonlinear force compensation depending on the beam-size ratio a_e/σ and the current-density distribution $j_e(r)$. Main advantages of the electron lens compensation are (a) the electron beam acts on high-energy beams only through EM forces (no nuclear interaction), eliminating radiation issues; (b) fresh electrons interact with the high-energy particles each turn, leaving no possibility for coherent instabilities; (c) the electron current profile (and thus the EM field profiles) can easily

be changed for different applications; (d) the electron-beam current can be adjusted between each of the bunches, equalizing the bunch-to-bunch differences and optimizing the performance of all of the bunches in multibunch colliders.

Two Tevatron electron lenses (TELs) were built and installed in two different locations of the Tevatron ring, A11 and F48. Figure 1 depicts a general layout of the TELs. The TEL and relevant Tevatron parameters are given in Table I. In order to keep the electron beam straight and its distribution unaffected by its own space-charge and main beam EM fields, the electron beam is immersed in a strong magnetic field—about $B_g = 3$ kG at the electron-gun cathode and some $B_m = 30$ kG inside the main superconducting (SC) solenoid. The deviations of the magnetic field lines from a straight line are less than ± 100 μm over the entire length of the SC solenoid. The electron beam, following the field lines, therefore does not deviate from the straight Tevatron beam trajectory by more than 20% of the Tevatron beam rms size $\sigma \approx 0.5$ – 0.7 mm in the location of the TELs.

The electron beam's transverse alignment on the proton or antiproton bunches (within 0.2–0.5 mm all along the interaction length) is crucial for successful BBC. The electron-beam steering is done by adjusting currents in superconducting dipole correctors installed inside the main solenoid cryostat. It is also important that the electron gun generates electron current distribution with wide flat top and smooth radial edges. Such a distribution is generated in the 7.5-mm radius convex cathode electron gun with an optimized electrode geometry [8]. The TEL magnetic system compresses the electron-beam cross-section area in the interaction region by the factor of $B_m/B_g \approx 10$ (variable from 2 to 30), proportionally increasing the current density of the electron beam in the interaction region. Most current experiments have not required more than 0.6 A, though previous tests up to 3 A have been performed. In order to enable operation on a single bunch in the Tevatron with bunch spacing of 396 ns, the anode voltage and consequently the beam current are modulated with a characteristic on-off time of about 0.6 μs and a repetition rate equal to the Tevatron revolution frequency of $f_0 = 47.7$ kHz by using a high voltage (HV) Marx pulse generator or a HV rf tube base amplifier. The electron pulse

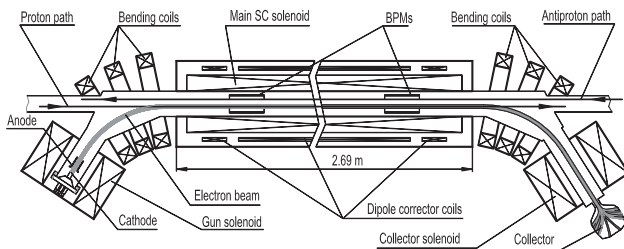


FIG. 1. Layout of the Tevatron electron lens.

timing jitter is less than 1 ns and the peak current is stable to better than 1%, so, the TEL operation does not incur any significant emittance growth. A detailed description of the TEL is given in [9].

The high-energy protons are focused by the TEL and experience a positive betatron tune shift given by [7]

$$dQ_{x,y} = + \frac{\beta_{x,y} L_e r_0}{2\gamma e c} j_e \left(\frac{1 - \beta_e}{\beta_e} \right). \quad (1)$$

The tune shift is about the same for most protons in the bunch since $a_e \approx 3\sigma$. Figure 2 presents results of the measurements of the vertical tune shift dQ_y of 980-GeV protons vs. electron current in the TEL installed at the A11 location with a vertical beta function of $\beta_y = 150$ m, in good agreement with Eq. (1) using the values of $\beta_e = 0.14$ for 5-keV electron energy and $j_e \equiv J_e/\pi a_e^2 = 0.05$ A/mm² for a 0.6-A beam with an effective radius of about 2 mm—see the solid line.

One of the most detrimental effects of the beam-beam interaction in the Tevatron is the significant attrition rate of protons due to their interaction with the antiproton bunches in the main IPs (B0 and D0) and due to numerous long-range interactions [10]. The effect is especially large at the beginning of the HEP stores where the positive proton tune shift due to focusing by antiprotons at the main IPs can reach $2\xi^p = 0.016$. Figure 3 shows a typical distribution of proton loss rates at the beginning of an HEP store. In the

TABLE I. Electron lens and Tevatron collider parameters.

Parameter	Symbol	Value	Unit
<i>Tevatron electron lens</i>			
<i>e</i> -beam energy (oper./max)	U_e	5/10	kV
Peak <i>e</i> -current (oper./max)	J_e	0.6/3	A
Magnetic field in main solenoid	B_m	30.1	kG
<i>e</i> -beam radius in main solenoid	a_e	2.3	mm
<i>e</i> -pulse repetition period	T_0	21	μs
<i>e</i> -pulse width, "0 to 0"	T_e	0.6	μs
Interaction length	L_e	2.0	m
<i>Tevatron collider</i>			
Circumference	C	6.28	km
Proton(<i>p</i>)/antiproton(<i>a</i>) energy	E	980	GeV
<i>p</i> -bunch intensity	N_p	250	10^9
<i>a</i> -bunch intensity (max.)	N_a	100	10^9
Number of bunches	N_B	36	
Bunch spacing	T_b	396	ns
<i>p</i> -emittance (normalized, rms)	ε_p	≈ 2.8	μm
<i>a</i> -emittance (normalized, rms)	ε_a	≈ 1.4	μm
Max. initial luminosity/ 10^{32}	L_0	2.9	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$
Beta functions at A11 TEL	$\beta_{y,x}$	150/68	m
Beta functions at F48 TEL	$\beta_{y,x}$	29/104	m
<i>p</i> -head-on tune shift (per IP)	ξ^p	0.008	
<i>a</i> -head-on tune shift (per IP)	ξ^a	0.012	
<i>p</i> -long-range tune shift (max.)	ΔQ^p	0.003	
<i>a</i> -long-range tune shift (max.)	ΔQ^a	0.006	

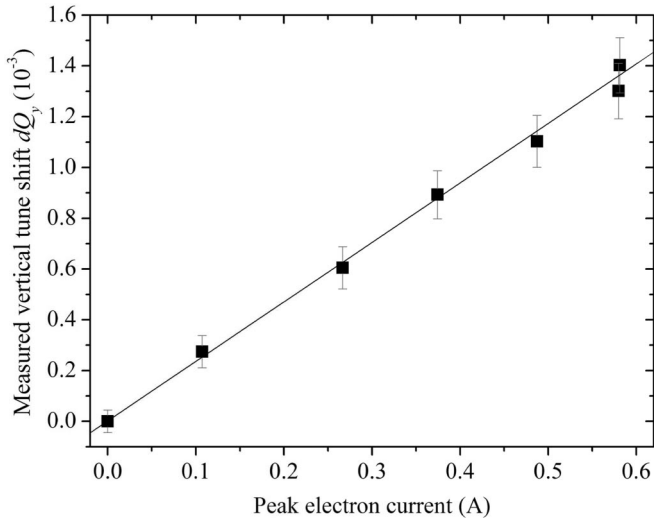


FIG. 2. Vertical betatron tune shift of the 980-GeV proton bunch vs. the peak electron current in the A11 TEL.

Tevatron, 36 bunches in each beam are arranged in 3 trains of 12 bunches separated by 2.6- μ s-long abort gaps. Most of the bunches lose only (4–6)% of their intensity per hour while due to a unique schedule of long-range beam-beam interactions proton bunches #12, #24, and #36 at the end of each bunch train typically lose about 9%/h. These losses are a very significant part of the total luminosity decay rate of about 20%/h (again, at the beginning of the high luminosity stores). The losses due to inelastic proton-antiproton interactions at the two main IPs are much smaller (1.1%–1.5%/h). Figure 3 shows large bunch-to-bunch variations in the beam-beam induced proton losses within each bunch train, but similar rates for equivalent bunches, e.g., #12, #24, and #36.

In the BBC demonstration experiment, we centered and timed the electron beam of the A11 TEL onto bunch #12

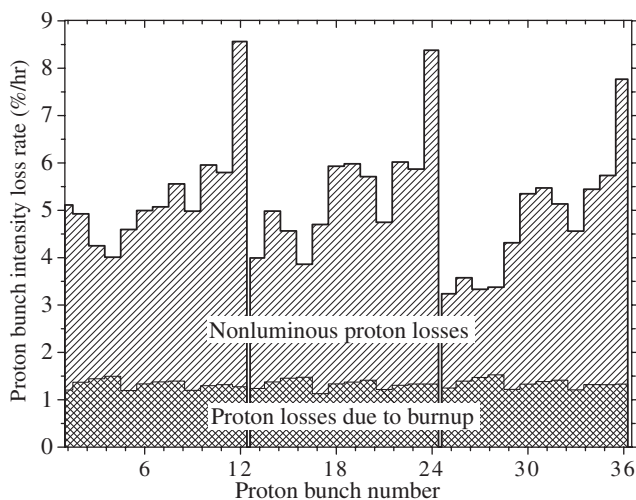


FIG. 3. Proton-bunch intensity loss rates at the beginning of store #5155 with $L_0 = 2.5 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

without affecting any other bunches. When the TEL peak current was increased to $J_e = 0.6 \text{ A}$, the lifetime $\tau = N/(dN/dt)$ of bunch #12 went up to 26.6 h from about 12 h—see Fig. 4. At the same time, the lifetime of bunch #36, an equivalent bunch in the third bunch train, remained low and did not change significantly (at 13.4-h lifetime). When the TEL current was turned off for 15 min, the lifetimes of both bunches were, as expected, nearly identical (16 h). The TEL was then turned on again, and once again the lifetime for bunch #12 improved significantly to 43 h while bunch #36 stayed poor at 23.5 h. This experiment demonstrates a factor of 2 improvement in the proton lifetime due to compensation of beam-beam effects with the TEL.

The proton lifetime, dominated by beam-beam effects, gradually improves and reaches roughly 100 h after 6–8 h of collisions; this is explained by a decrease in antiproton population and an increase in antiproton emittance, both contributing to a reduction of the beam-beam parameter ξ^p . To study the effectiveness of BBC later in the store, the TEL was repeatedly turned on and off every half hour for 16 h, again on bunch #12. The relative improvement R , defined as the ratio of the proton lifetime with the TEL and without, is plotted in Fig. 5. The first two data points correspond to $J_e = 0.6 \text{ A}$ (as is Fig. 4 and the above description), but subsequent points were taken with $J_e = 0.3 \text{ A}$ to observe dependence of the compensation effect on electron current. The change of the current resulted in a drop of the relative improvement from $R = 2.03$ to $R = 1.4$. A gradual decrease in the relative improvement is visible until after about 10 h, where the ratio reaches 1.0 (no gain in lifetime). At this point, the beam-beam effects have become very small, providing little to compensate. Similar experiments in several other stores with initial luminosities ranging from $L_0 = 1.5 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ to $2.5 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ repeated these results.

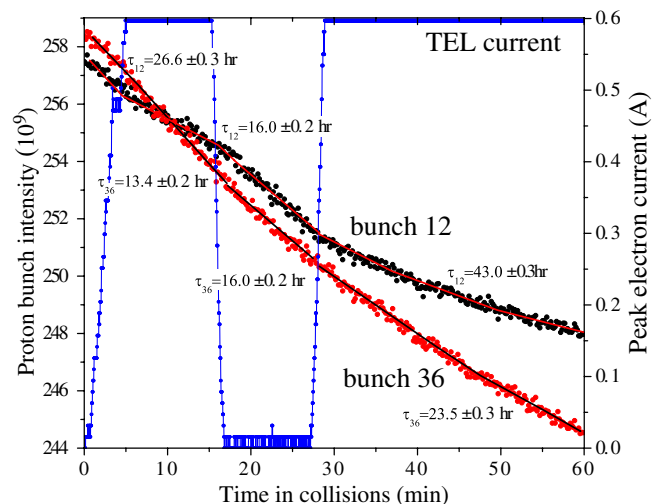


FIG. 4 (color online). Intensities of proton bunches #12 and #36 early in store #5119 with $L_0 = 1.6 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

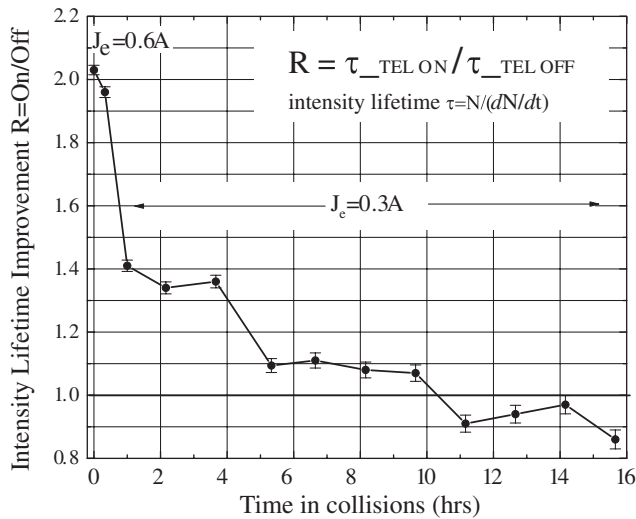


FIG. 5. Relative improvement of proton-bunch #12 lifetime induced by TEL vs. time in store #5119.

The lifetime improvement due to the TEL can be explained in part by the positive shift of vertical tune of protons $dQ_y \approx 0.0015$ which makes the detrimental effects of the 12th order resonance $Q_y = 7/12 = 0.583$ weaker. The average Tevatron proton tune $Q_y = 0.589$ (which is carefully optimized to minimize overall losses) is just above this resonance, and the bunches at the end of each train, which have vertical tunes lower by $\Delta Q_y = -(0.002-0.003)$ due to the unique pattern of long-range interactions, are subject to stronger beam-beam effects [10]. The TEL moves those protons away from the resonance, thus, resulting in significant reduction of the losses. It is noteworthy that the TEL operation with $J_e = 0.6$ A resulted in bunch #12 having one of the lowest loss rates among all bunches, while its tune still remained lower $dQ_y < |\Delta Q_y|$.

In conclusion, we have developed an electron lens—a new instrument for compensation of beam-beam effects in high-energy colliders. Such a lens significantly and reliably improves the lifetime of the Tevatron proton bunches. The observed improvement of the proton lifetime at the beginning of an HEP store, when beam brightness and luminosity are the highest and the beam-beam interaction is the strongest, has been as large as a factor of 2. Ten hours into a store, the beam-beam effects, and therefore the utility of BBC, decrease significantly. Currently, we continue to study electron lens effects in further detail and work toward incorporation of the TELs into the Tevatron collider operation.

The versatility of electron lenses allows their use in many other applications also. For example, the TEL installed at the F48 location in the Tevatron is routinely used for removing unwanted dc beam particles out of abort gaps between the bunch trains [11]. Similar electron lens concepts have been proposed for reduction of a tune spread in proton-proton or like-charge colliding beams [7,12].

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