



About the Cover:

Polar direct drive (PDD) shows promise for achieving direct-drive ignition while the National Ignition Facility is in its initial indirect-drive configuration. The front cover shows a photograph of a Saturn target comprising a fusion-fuel-containing capsule surrounded by a ring. Eight spider silk strands position the capsule at the center of the ring. The entire target is compared with a penny in the lower left-hand corner. The plasma formed around the low-atomic-number ring refracts the illuminating beams near the equator and permits time-dependent tuning of the capsule drive uniformity. Both experiment and theory suggest that Saturn targets can be tuned to permit highly symmetric PDD implosions.

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The work described in this volume includes current research at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, which is supported by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the University of Rochester, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Inertial Confinement Fusion under Cooperative Agreement No. DE-FC52-92SF19460, and other agencies.

Printed in the United States of America
Available from
National Technical Information Services
U.S. Department of Commerce
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161

Price codes: Printed Copy A04
Microfiche A01

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Worldwide-Web Home Page: <http://www.lle.rochester.edu/>