

## 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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