

Thomson-Scattering Measurements of Ion-Acoustic Wave Amplitudes Driven by the Two-Plasmon-Decay Instability



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Ion-acoustic waves (IAW) driven by ponderomotive beating of electron-plasma waves from two-plasmon decay (TPD) have been observed



- Previous work shows that beating of electron-plasma waves drives density perturbations through the ponderomotive force*
- Time-resolved Thomson-scattering spectra at quarter critical show that the amplitude of the ion-acoustic waves follow the amplitude of the $3/2\omega$ emission (a TPD signature)
- Ion-acoustic waves grow rapidly to large amplitudes ($\delta n_e/n_e \sim 0.01\%$) once a threshold in electron-plasma wave amplitude is reached
- ZAK simulations show similar behavior**†

ZAK simulations indicate beating of electron-plasma waves.

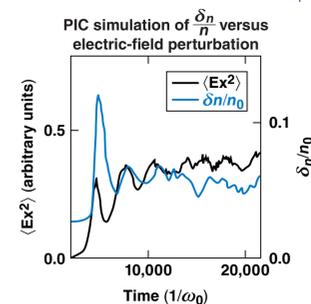
*R. Yan et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 175002 (2009).
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†D. A. Russell, presented at the Workshop on Laser Plasma Instabilities, Livermore, CA, 3-5 April 2002.

E21319

Several potential TPD saturation mechanisms have been studied both experimentally and theoretically



- Beating of EPW's either at different angles or frequencies, creates spatial variations in the E field, which can drive density perturbations through the ponderomotive force*
- This effect has been simulated at quarter-critical using 2-D particle-in-cell (PIC) codes*
- Previous experiments have seen indications of this effect using $10.6\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ light and 2ω TS**

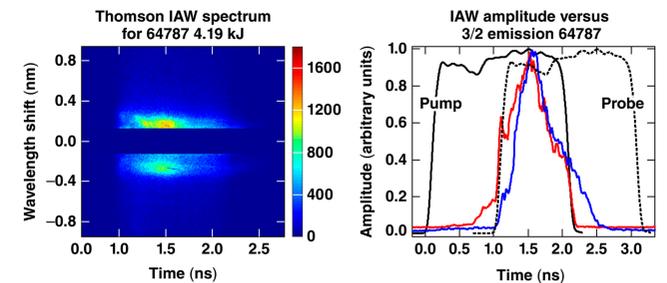


Ion-acoustic waves are produced by ponderomotive beating of electron-plasma waves.

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E21322

The ion-wave amplitude quickly turns off once two-plasmon decay is no longer driven

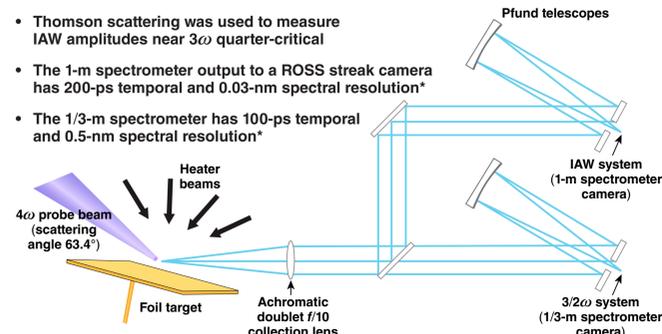


E21324

The experimental setup involves a Thomson telescope coupled to spectrometers and streak cameras



- 2-ns OMEGA pulses with 20 beams were used to heat $90\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ (30 CH/30 Mo/30 CH) targets
- Thomson scattering was used to measure IAW amplitudes near 3ω quarter-critical
- The 1-m spectrometer output to a ROSS streak camera has 200-ps temporal and 0.03-nm spectral resolution*
- The 1/3-m spectrometer has 100-ps temporal and 0.5-nm spectral resolution*



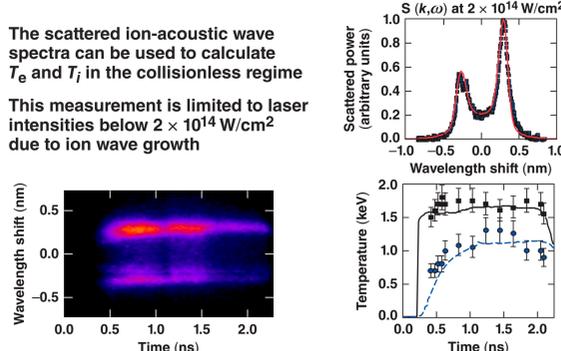
*J. Katz et al., "A Reflective Optical Transport for Streaked Thomson Scattering and Gated Imaging on OMEGA," submitted to Review of Scientific Instruments.

E21320

Thomson scattering (TS) at quarter critical allows for assessment of the plasma conditions and verification of the hydro modeling



- The scattered ion-acoustic wave spectra can be used to calculate T_e and T_i in the collisionless regime
- This measurement is limited to laser intensities below $2 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$ due to ion wave growth



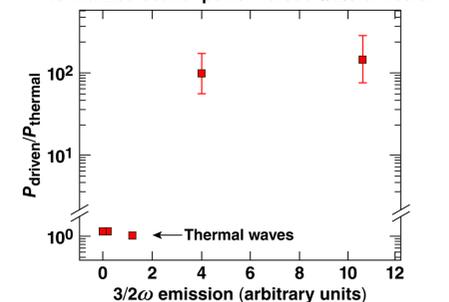
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E21321

The scattered power from ion-acoustic waves is compared to $3/2\omega$ emission



Normalized scatter power versus $3/2\omega$ emission



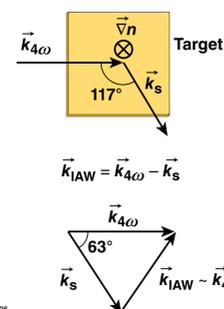
There is a clear correlation between the $3/2\omega$ and ion-acoustic wave amplitudes.

E21325

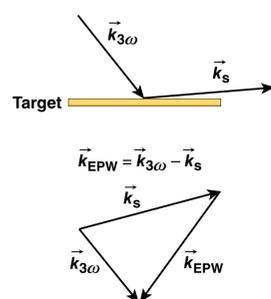
The Thomson scattering geometry looks at ion-acoustic wave k -vectors near the plane of the target



The 4ω Thomson geometry is in a plane perpendicular to the primary common-wave growth vectors

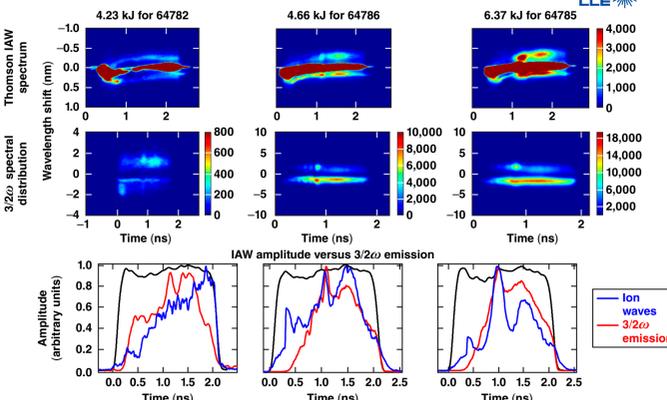


The $3/2\omega$ scattering geometry is in a plane transverse to the target plane allowing for detection of $3/2\omega$ light scattered off TPD EPW's



E21326

Time-resolved spectra are used to compare the temporal evolution of ion-acoustic wave and $3/2\omega$ amplitudes



Ion-wave amplitudes follow the amplitude of $3/2\omega$ emission.

E21323

Ion-density perturbations are compared to ZAK simulations*† and a similar growth threshold is observed



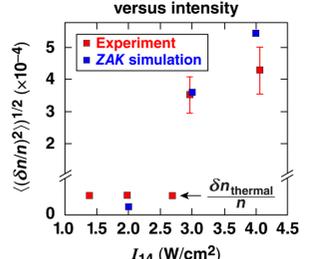
- $\delta n/n$ can be calculated using the ratio of the driven to thermal scattered power† and compared to ZAK simulations

$$P_{\text{thermal}} = \frac{1}{2} r_0^2 n_e L P_i d\Omega$$

$$P_{\text{driven}} = \frac{1}{4} r_0^2 n_e^2 \lambda_i^2 L^2 P_i \left(\frac{\delta n}{n_e} \right)^2$$

$$\frac{\delta n}{n_e} = \sqrt{\frac{P_{\text{driven}}}{P_{\text{thermal}}} \frac{2d\Omega}{n_e \lambda_i^2 L}}$$

rms ion-acoustic wave amplitude versus intensity



The threshold for ion-acoustic wave growth in both ZAK simulations and experiments is between 2 and $3 \times 10^{14} \text{ W/cm}^2$.

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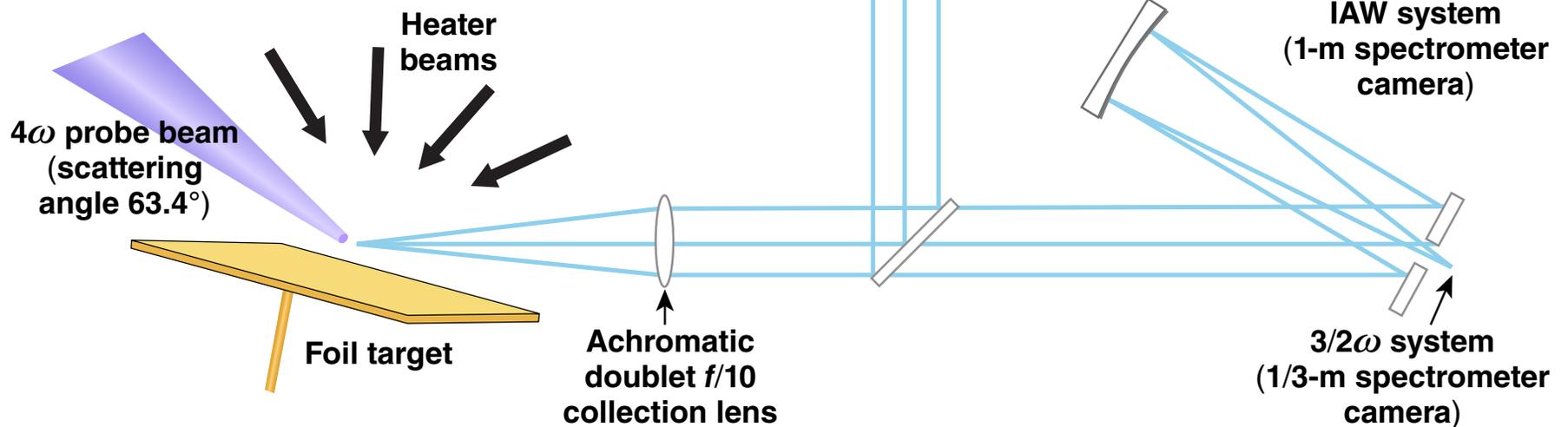
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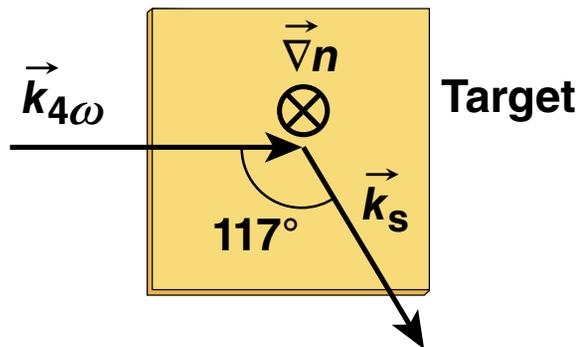
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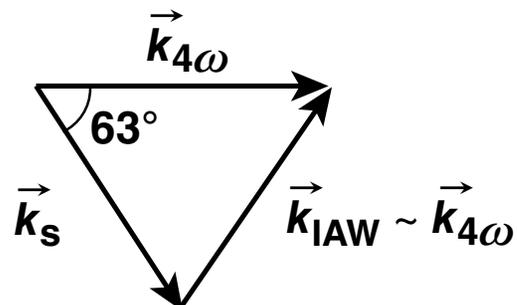
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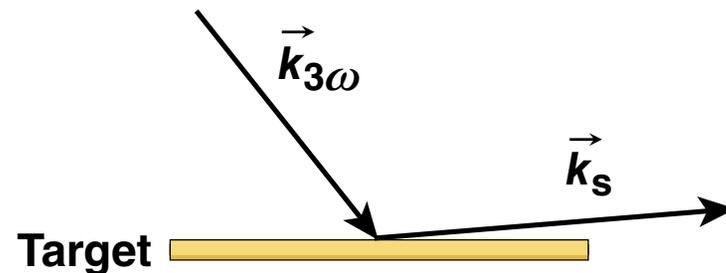
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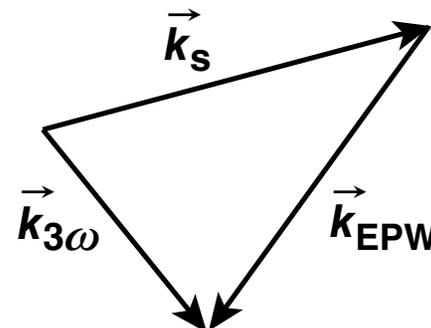
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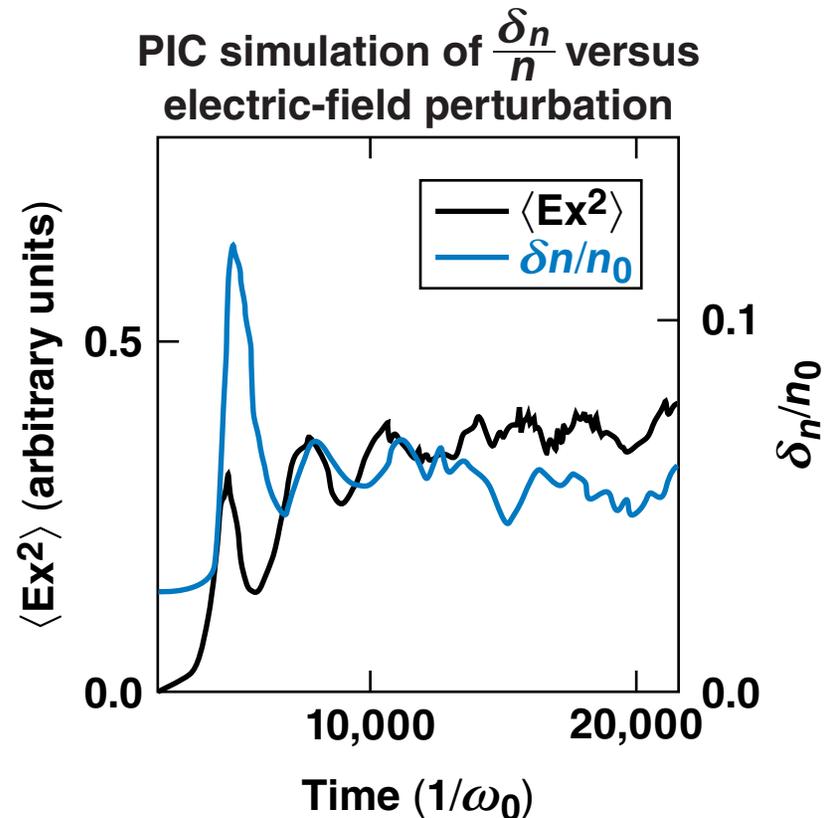


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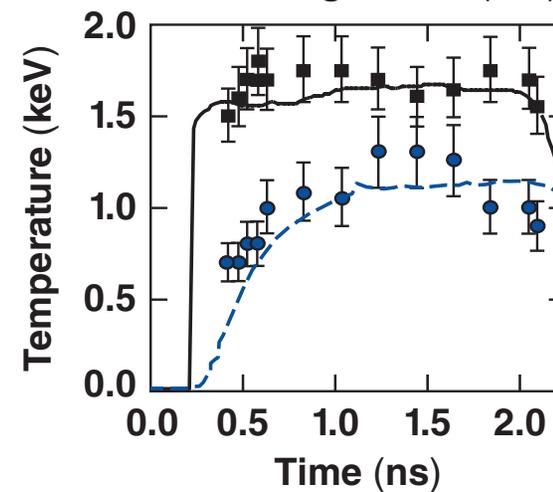
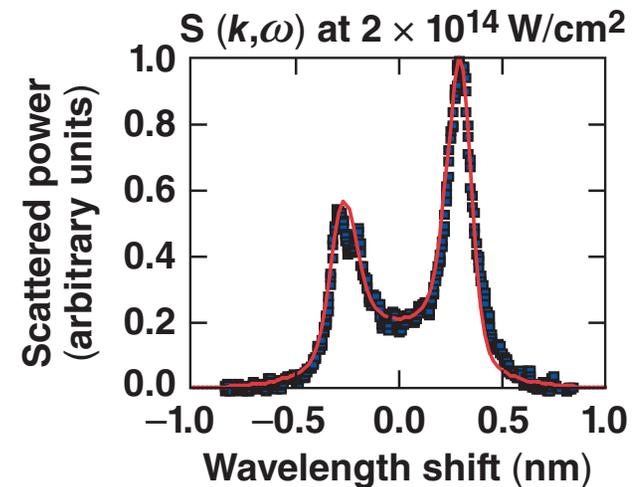
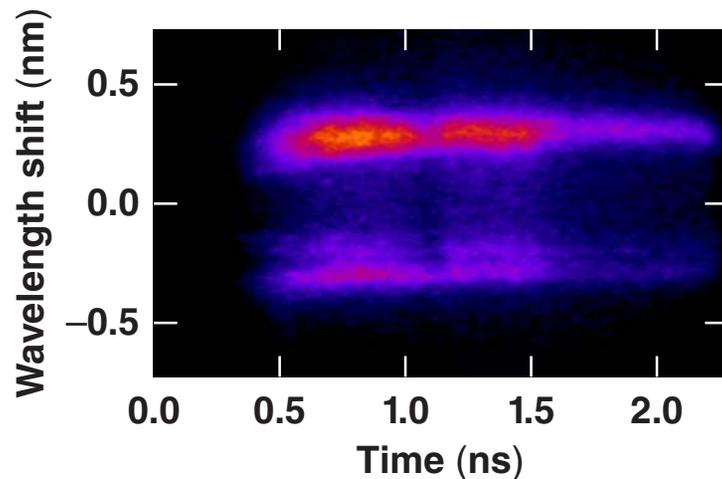
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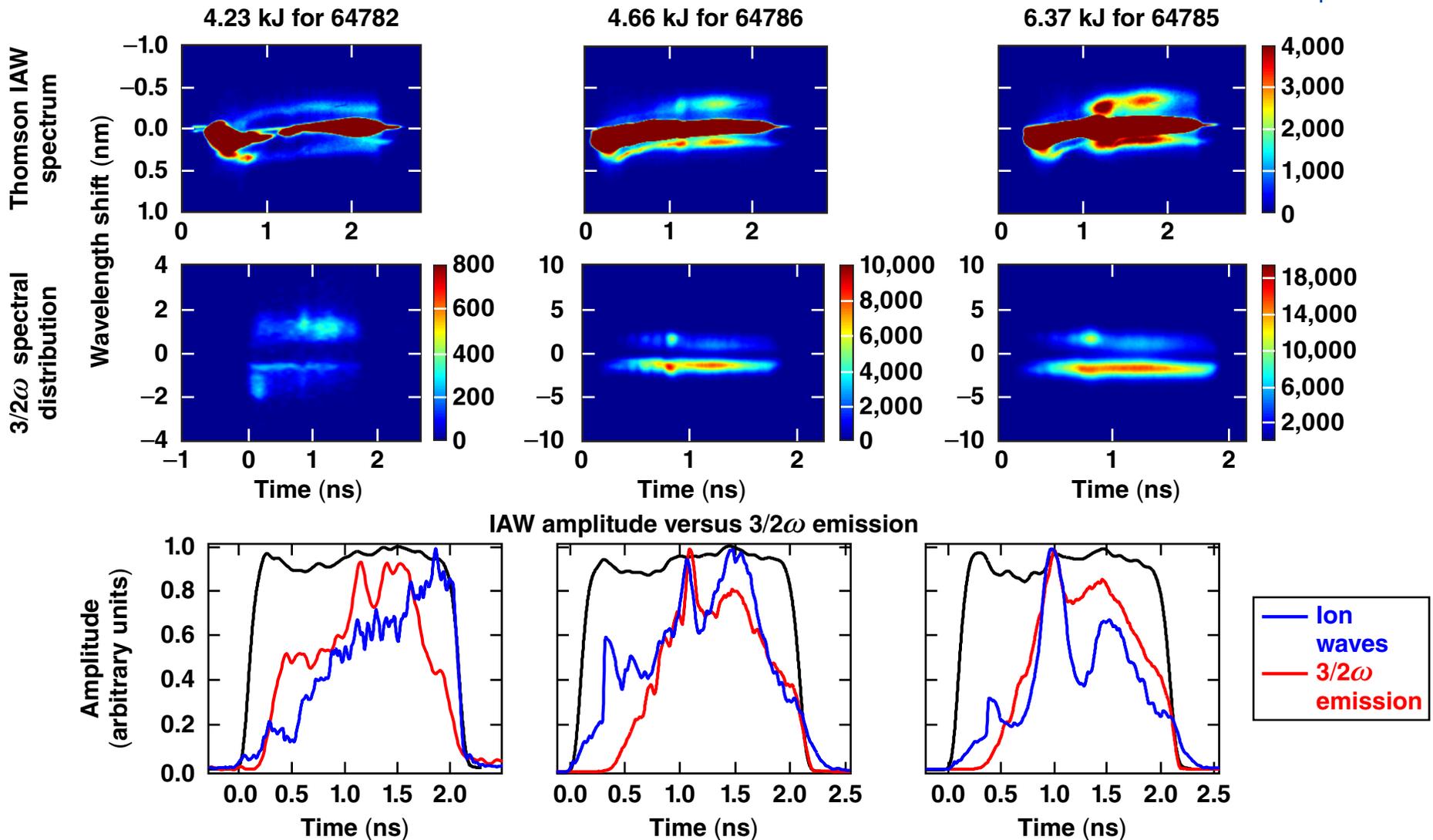
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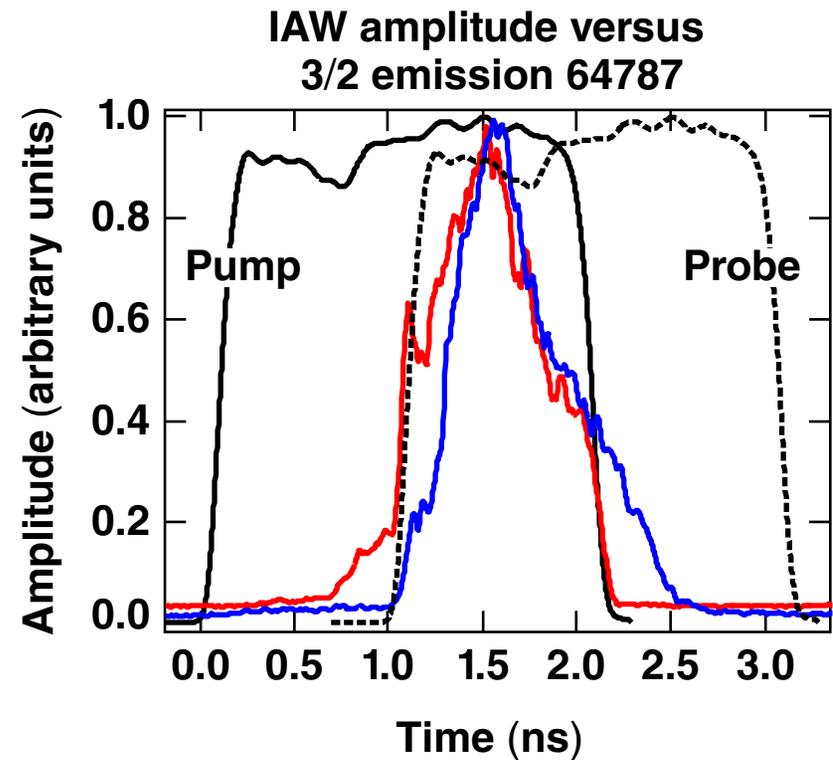
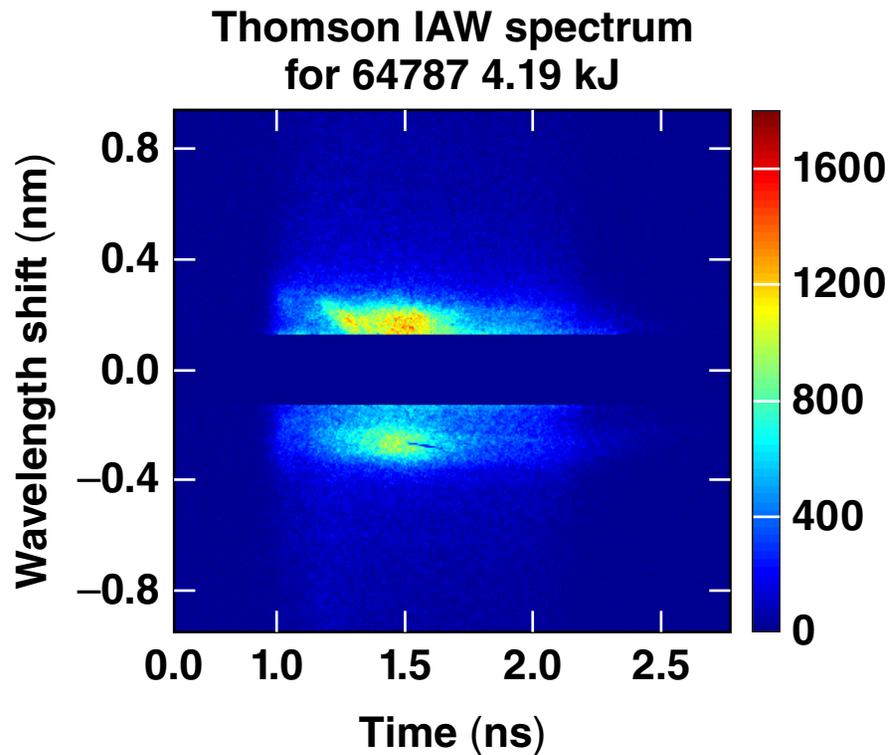
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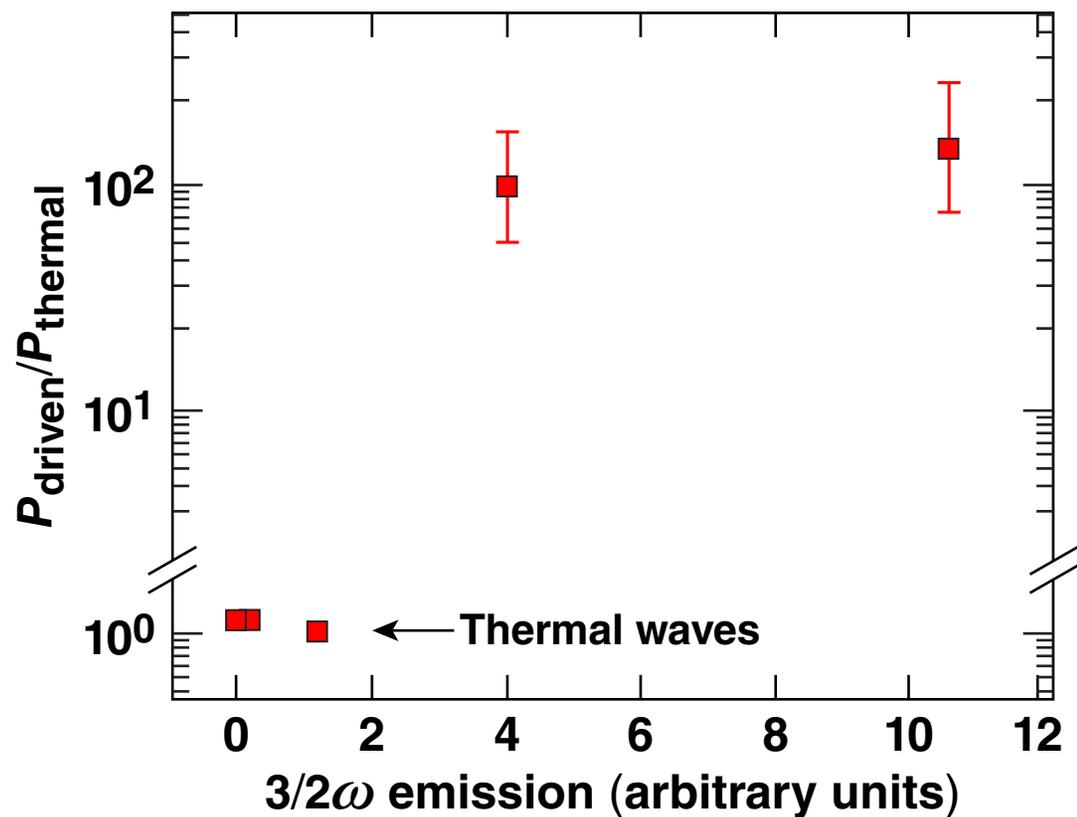
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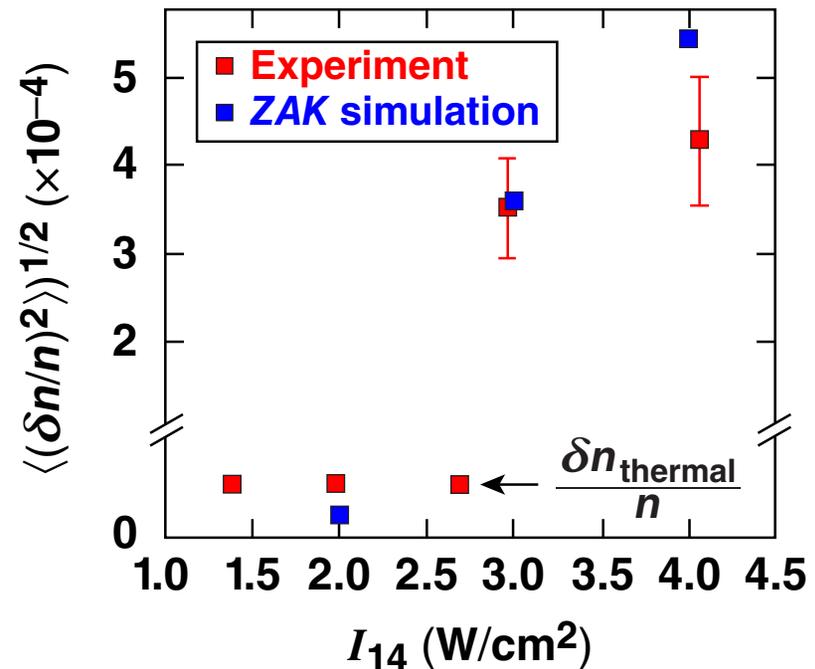
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