Radiation Transport in Saturn Targets Used for Polar Direct Drive



47th Annual Meeting of the American Physical Society Division of Plasma Physics Denver, CO 24–28 October 2005

R. S. Craxton, F. J. Marshall, et al. University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics Summary

When allowance is made for radiation transport, Saturn targets on OMEGA perform almost as well as symmetrically irradiated targets

- The initial experiments suffered from excessive drive on the equator.
- A new radiation model in SAGE shows that this was due to x rays from the ring being absorbed in the capsule.
- Yields up to ~75% of symmetric have been obtained after adjusting the beam pointings.



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- Saturn targets
- Experimental results for original beam pointings
- Radiation model in SAGE
- Experimental results for adjusted beam pointings
 - see following paper by F. J. Marshall

As the critical surface moves in, the ring of the Saturn target refracts rays back toward the equator



Framing-camera backlit images of the original Saturn experiment showed increased drive on the equator

P6 view (26.6° above equator) t = 1.27 ns t = 1.52 ns t = 1.77 ns

500 μm

Backlighter Imploding spot shell

SAGE models the radiation from the ring plasma to the capsule using a new model

- The model is similar to "view-factor" models.
- Full directional and spectral information is retained.

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- The model is implemented within the SAGE optical ray-tracing package.
- The algorithm is divided into two stages:
 - transport
 - deposition

In the "transport" stage, the incident spectral intensity is calculated as a function of angle and wavelength



In the "deposition" stage, rays with known incident energy are propagated into the capsule and attenuated



Along ray:
$$\frac{d}{ds}\delta E = -\kappa_V \delta E$$

The incident spectrum is dominated by x rays between 300 and 1000 eV



The x-ray energy deposition is mostly localized on the outer portion of the CH shell



Run 4731–sa04c TC7093

The deposited x-ray energy peaks at the equator



Run 4731–sa04b TC7094

The additional drive at the equator for the original Saturn target is due to radiation



Shot 37428 Run 4730 TC7095

The best Saturn targets perform almost as well as symmetrically irradiated targets



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Summary/Conclusions

When allowance is made for radiation transport, Saturn targets on OMEGA perform almost as well as symmetrically irradiated targets

- The initial experiments suffered from excessive drive on the equator.
- A new radiation model in *SAGE* shows that this was due to x rays from the ring being absorbed in the capsule.
- Yields up to ~75% of symmetric have been obtained after adjusting the beam pointings.

These results strengthen the prospects for direct-drive ignition on the NIF.

- See also F. J. Marshall, RO1, 2:12 pm
 - I. V. Igumenshchev, RO1, 2:24 pm

- S. Skupsky, RO2, 3:00 pm
- J. A. Marozas, Friday, UI1