Abstract Submitted
for the DPP07 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Heavy-ion direct-drive T-lean targets for self-T breeding and plasma MHD direct conversion[1] B. GRANT LOGAN, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, L. JOHN PERKINS, KAI N. LAFORTUNE, JOHN J. BARNARD, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — Transverse and longitudinal beam compression in neutralizing plasma enable heavy ion beam direct drive in the ablative rocket regime at high rocket efficiency with ion ranges a fraction of the initial ablator thickness for low adiabat implosions. Ions can couple energy into thick fuel capsule ablators at the peak in rocket efficiency as efficiently as x-rays do in hohlraums, but without conversion loss of beam energy into x-rays. High ablation velocities with heavy ion direct drive mitigate hydrodynamic instabilities like x-ray drive. An analytic implosion model with a heavy-ion dE/dx deposition model, together with hydrodynamic implosion calculations (LASNEX and HYDRA) explore beam requirements for heavy ion direct drive for small 1 MJ drive DT targets and larger Tritium-lean ($> 90\%$ DD) targets. Both model and implosion codes indicate ion beams can couple $>15\%$ of their incident energy into compressed fuel assemblies. Increasing ion energy during the drive pulse can reduce the parasitic beam losses on ablated plasma.

[1]Auspices of the U.S. DOE by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory under Contract Number DE-AC03-76SF00098 and W-7405-Eng-48.

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Date submitted: 20 Jul 2007 Electronic form version 1.4