

Abstract Submitted
for the DPP07 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Preheat

Measurements for Supernova Hydrodynamics Experiments¹ CHRISTINE KRAULAND, CAROLYN KURANZ, PAUL DRAKE, MIKE GROSSKOPF, DUNCAN CAMPBELL, University of Michigan, TOM BOEHLIY COLLABORATION — The use of multi-kilojoule, ns lasers to launch shock waves has become a standard method for initiating hydrodynamic experiments in the field of Laboratory Astrophysics. However, the intense laser ablation that creates moving plasma also leads to the production of unwanted energetic x-rays and suprathermal electrons, both of which can be sources of material preheating. In principle, this preheat can alter the conditions of the experimental setup prior to the desired experiment actually taking place. At the University of Michigan, ongoing Rayleigh-Taylor instability experiments are defined by precise initial conditions, and potential deformation due to preheat could greatly affect their accuracy. An experiment devised and executed in an attempt to assess the preheat in this specific case will be presented, along with the quantitative analysis of the data obtained.

¹This research was sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration through DOE Research Grants DE-FG52-07NA28058, DE-FG52-04NA00064, and other grants and contracts.

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Date submitted: 20 Jul 2007

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