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Laser-plasma interactions and hot electron generation in shock ignition<sup>1</sup> RUI YAN, CHUANG REN, JUN LI, University of Rochester — We present particle-in-cell (PIC) simulations for laser-plasma interactions in the recent 40+20-beam spherical shock ignition experiments on the Omega laser facility. Two-dimensional PIC simulations including electron-ion collisions and lasting more than 10 ps show a bursting pattern in both plasma waves and hot electron fluxes, which are attributed to the interplay between stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) and two-plasmon decay (TPD) instabilities. SRS is the main source for hot electrons but TPD can produce >100 keV ones. The observed hot electron temperatures compare favorably to those measured in the experiments.

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