3D isobaric hotspot reconstruction from multiple neutron and Xray views on the NIF: quantifying radiative loss impact on DT implosion and other insights¹
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Moving beyond spatially averaged measurements of temperature and density for the central reacting deuterium and tritium plasma in inertial confinement fusion experiments gives a more complete understanding of the properties of the assembled hot spot and provide insight into mechanisms that degrade fusion energy production. In this work, the multi-axis time-integrated neutron imaging of a layered implosion on the NIF, under an isobaric assumption, allows the three-dimensional reconstruction of the density and temperature profile of the central hotspot during burn. The measured neutron yield and spectral width constrain the stagnation pressure. One can then look for signatures of various degradation mechanisms, such as spatial temperature gradients or neutron spectrum deviation from pure Gaussian. Multi-axis synthetic Xray images are calculated using DCA DT emissivity and compared to measurements, giving a 3D reconstruction of the ablator mix penetrating the hotspot. We quantify the absolute radiative loss due to discrete, spatially resolved features such as the fill-tube induced jet and meteors. The method is validated with HYDRA simulations and applied to a series of recent high-performing HDC and CH implosions. Finally, alpha heating, effective rho-r and pressure are compared to the usual 0/1D isobaric conduction-limited approach. 3D values are 10-20% lower on average.

¹This work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract DE-AC52-07NA27344. This document was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States government. Neither the United States government nor LLNS, LLC, nor any of their employees makes any warranty, expressed or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States government or LLNS, LLC. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States government or LLNS.