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**Numerically Simulating Collisions of Plastic and Foam Laser-Driven Foils**<sup>1</sup> S.T. ZALESK, A.L. VELIKOVICH, A.J. SCHMITT, Plasma Physics Division, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC, Y. AGLITSKIY, N. METZLER, Science Applications International Corporation — Interest in experiments on colliding planar foils has recently been stimulated by (a) the Impact Fast Ignition approach to laser fusion [1], and (b) the approach to a high-repetition rate ignition facility based on direct drive with the KrF laser [2]. Simulating the evolution of perturbations to such foils can be a numerical challenge, especially if the initial perturbation amplitudes are small. We discuss the numerical issues involved in such simulations, describe their benchmarking against recently-developed analytic results, and present simulations of such experiments on NRL's Nike laser.

[1] M. Murakami *et al.*, Nucl. Fusion **46**, 99 (2006)

[2] S. P. Obenschain *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas **13**, 056320 (2006).

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Prefer Oral Session  
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