

Abstract Submitted
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Line-RALF Doppler Velocimetry MARIO FA-
JARDO, AFRL/RWME, Energetic Materials Branch, Ordnance Division, U.S. Air
Force Research Lab, 2306 Perimeter Rd., Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5910. — We report
the successful proof-of-concept demonstration of a 1D spatially-dependent variant
of our Rubidium Atomic Line Filtered (RALF) Doppler velocimetry technique,¹ us-
ing streak camera detection of laser light reflected from 1-mm-diameter laser-driven
flyers traveling at 1 km/s. RALF employs the frequency-dependent near-resonant
optical absorption of a heated Rb/N₂ gas cell to convert the Doppler shift of reflected
780.24 nm light directly into transmitted light intensity. This approach results in
each individual pixel in a RALF image constituting an independent velocity mea-
surement. RALF advantages over conventional interferometric Doppler velocimetry
methods include: a time response limited only by the optoelectronic detection sys-
tem, and facile adaptation for 1D, and even 2D, imaging velocimetry applications.
RALF disadvantages include: the direct conversion of image intensity noise into
calculated velocity noise, extreme sensitivity to loss of signal upon shock breakout,
and poor tolerance of parasitic reflections of unshifted illumination laser light. 1.
M.E. Fajardo, C.D. Molek, and A.L. Vesely, AIP Conf. Proc. **1793**, 160011 (2017).
“Rubidium Atomic Line Filtered (RALF) Doppler Velocimetry.”

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