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The promotion effect of polymer nanoparticles on laser-induced thermal cavitation MAN HU, FENG WANG, DAOSHENG DENG, Fudan University, Shanghai, China — Laser impacting on liquids, ranging from a single droplet to soft biological tissues, can generate cavitation. By immersing nanoparticles into water, cavitation can be manipulated. Here, we report CO₂ laser impacting on distilled water with polymer nanoparticles immersed in to produce thermal cavitation at the air/water interface. The promotion effect of nanoparticles on the inception of cavitation is investigated. With proper concentration nanoparticles being introduced in, thermal cavitation is clearly observed at the air/water interface from high speed imaging, but no cavitation for water with no nanoparticles. Based on this phenomenon, three regimes (no cavitation, cavitation, and pseudo-cavitation) are identified within a broad range of nanoparticles concentration and size. Moreover, this interfacial cavitation allows the direct visualization of spatial-temporal evolution of temperature, which reveals that the polymer nanoparticles not only act as pre-existed nuclei to promote nucleation for cavitation, but also likely affect temperature to change the nucleation rate as well.

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