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**Diagnosing Implosion Velocity and Ablator Dynamics at NIF**

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BERG, CHARLIE CERJAN, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — An en-  
hanced understanding of the environment in a burning NIF capsule is of interest  
to both astrophysics and thermonuclear ignition. In this talk we introduce a new  
diagnostic idea, designed to measure dynamic aspects of the capsule implosion that  
are not currently accessible. During the burn, the NIF capsule ablator is moving  
relative to the 14.1 MeV dt neutrons that are traversing the capsule. The result-  
ing neutron-ablator Doppler shift causes a few unique nuclear reactions to become  
sensitive detectors of the ablator velocity at peak burn time. The “point-design”  
capsule at the NIF will be based on a  $^9\text{Be}$  ablator, and the  $^9\text{Be}(n,p)^9\text{Li}$  reaction has  
an energy threshold of 14.2 MeV, making it the ideal probe. As discussed in detail  
below, differences in the ablator velocity lead to significant differences in the rate  
of  $^9\text{Li}$  production. We present techniques for measuring this  $^9\text{Li}$  implosion velocity  
diagnostic at the NIF. The same experimental techniques, measuring neutron reac-  
tions on the ablator material, will allow us to determine other important dynamical  
quantities, such as the areal density and approximate thickness of the ablator at  
peak burn.

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