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Authors

HAY, M. J.
BARNARD, J. J.
PERKINS, L. J.
et al.

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Low-Isentrope, High-Efficiency Heavy Ion Direct Drive Capsule
Simulations

by

M. J. Hay, LBNL, J. J. Barnard, L. J. Perkins, LLNL, B. G. Logan,
LBNL

AFRD

Accelerator and Fusion Research Division
Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Berkeley, California 94720

and

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

and

University of California, Berkeley

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Low-Isentrope, High-Efficiency Heavy Ion Direct Drive Capsule Simulations

M. J. Hay, LBNL, J. J. Barnard, L. J. Perkins, LLNL, B. G. Logan, LBNL

We build upon recent work [1] that presented simulations of heavy ion beams' passive range lengthening in directly-driven DT targets by now raising the ion energy over the course of the drive to follow the ablation front inward. We have scaled the target from ref. [1] to reactor grade and have chosen a higher-energy driving ion species to reduce beam permeances. While an arbitrarily strong shock cannot compress the fuel by more than a finite factor (4X in a perfect monatomic gas), there is no bound on the entropy it can add. We present 1-D implosion calculations that demonstrate the approach to adiabatic compression with an increasing number of shocks tailored to keep the fuel nearly Fermi degenerate. We have studied capsule performance using either two discrete ion beam energies or a steadily ramped main pulse energy. These simulations show that a linear energy ramp reduces heating of the fuel early in the main pulse and improves coupling as ablated plasma accumulates. [1] B. G. Logan, L. J. Perkins, and J. J. Barnard, *Phys. Plasmas* **15**, 072701 (2008).

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