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Investigation of Laser-Induced Breakdown in Air

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Poster Presentation P43

INVESTIGATION OF LASER-INDUCED BREAKDOWN IN AIR

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Here we investigate some properties of laser-induced optical breakdown. Focusing a Q-switched YAG laser in air generated the breakdown, as manifested through the formation of a visible plasma spark. Some of the properties we studied included the angular distribution of the scattered laser light, plasma temperature, and plasma evolution. In particular, we have obtained angular distributions from time averaged frequency resolved measurements involving simultaneous scattering of the three YAG harmonics at 1064nm, 532nm, and 355nm.