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Detection of EMPs generated in interactions of intense lasers with matter by dielectric and conductive probes

The measurement of intense electromagnetic fields in the radiofrequency-microwave regime in experiments of laser interaction with matter is a hot topic both in laser-plasma particle-acceleration context and in inertial-confinement-fusion one. Fields up to MV/m intensity are generated in powerful interactions, but their accurate characterization is a very delicate and complex issue, especially when using classical conductive probes. In this work we describe the three-dimensional measurements of these fields by means of electro-optic methods based on Pockels effect, capable to give accurate field characterization in very harsh environments for laser intensities up to the petawatt range. We describe also techniques used to achieve suitable field measurements also by means of classical conductive probes, and we compare in detail pros and cons of the two methodologies [1].

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Primary author: CONSOLI, Fabrizio (ENEA)

Co-authors: DE ANGELIS, Riccardo (ENEA & Univ. Pisa); ANDREOLI, Pierluigi; CIPRIANI, Mattia (ENEA - CR Frascati); Dr CIKHARDT, Jakub (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czechia); CRISTOFARI, Giuseppe (ENEA); Mr DI GIORGIO, Giorgio (ENEA); Dr DE MARCO, Massimo (Institute of Physics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia); Dr DITTER, E.J. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London); Dr DUDZAK, Roman (Institute of Plasma Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia); Dr DUVILLARET, Lionel (Kapteos); Dr ETTLINGER, O.C. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London); Dr GILTRAP, S. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London); Dr HICKS, G.S. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London); Dr INGENITO, Francesco (ENEA); Prof. KLIR, Daniel (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czechia); KRASA, Josef (Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences); Dr MARGARONE, Daniele (Institute of Physics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia); Prof. NAJMUDIN, Z. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London); Ms NOTLEY, Margaret (STFC); Dr PFEIFER, Miroslav (Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia); Dr ROBINSON, T.S. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London); Prof. SMITH, Roland A. (The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London)

Presenter: CONSOLI, Fabrizio (ENEA)