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Ionisation Phenomena in Stored Highly Charged Ions at Relativistic Laser Intensities

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Interaction of high-intensity lasers with highly charged atomic ions is widely explored field in theory while there is still a lack in experimental data. In the past, several experiments have analyzed high-intensity laser ionization of gases. However, experiments of relativistic laser beams targeting highly charged ions would allow for addressing only the weakest bound electron in the target ion which can be described more precisely by the elaborated theoretical models. Nevertheless, such experiments remain scarce due to the complexity of the needed setup which calls for a combination of highly charged ions together with the ability to trap, analyze and control the ions to pinpoint accuracy while still being able to expose the ions to a high-intensity laser. In our working HILITE setup, highly charged ions are created in an electron beam ion trap, species selected by a Wien filter, and finally stored, analyzed and confined a Penning trap for several seconds in a defined position. We have connected this setup to the 200 Terawatt Femtosecond Laser system JETi200 and perform ionization dynamics beyond 10^{19} W/cm^2 . We will present the experiment's purpose and preliminary results.

Autor: Dr. RINGLEB, Stefan (GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung)

Co-Autoren: VOGEL, Manuel (GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH(GSI)); Dr. KIESEL, Stefan (Helmholtz Institute Jena); STÖHLKER, Thomas (GSI , HI Jena and Uni Jena)

Vortragende(r): Dr. RINGLEB, Stefan (GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung)

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