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Toward pump-probe experiments of defect dynamics with pulsed ion beams

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A novel linear induction accelerator, the Neutralized Drift Compression eXperiment-II (NDCX-II), is currently being used at Berkeley Lab to explore intense beam physics and intense-beam material interactions. For the latter topic, fluences range from overlapping cascades of lattice disorder to eventually heating solids to ~1 eV on a timescale similar to the hydrodynamic expansion. This accelerator is designed to deliver intense (up to 3x10^11 ions/pulse), 1 to ~600 ns duration pulses of 0.13 to 1.2 MeV lithium ions at a rate of about 2 pulses per minute onto 1 to 10 mm scale target areas. At lower beam power densities, the short excitation pulse with tunable intensity and time profile enables pump-probe type studies of defect dynamics in a broad range of materials. We briefly describe the accelerator concept and design, present results from beam pulse shaping experiments and discuss examples of pump-probe type studies of defect dynamics using Li+ ions.

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