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Authors: Lanzhi Zhang, Tingting Xi, Zuoqiang Hao

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Multiple refocusing of femtosecond filamentation in air:

experiment and simulation

Lanzhi Zhang^a, Tingting Xi ^{b,*}, Zuoqiang Hao^{a,*}

^a School of Science, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun 130022, China

^b School of Physics, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 101407, China

* Corresponding authors.

E-mail addresses: zqhao@cust.edu.cn (Z.Q. Hao), ttxi@ucas.ac.cn (T.T. Xi).

Abstract

Multiple refocusing of intense femtosecond laser pulses in air was studied both

experimentally and numerically. Using fluorescence measurement and acoustic

diagnostics simultaneously, filamentation and multiple refocusing of laser pulses were

observed. It is found that the refocusing phenomenon is attributed to the dynamic

transformation of laser energy over the transverse beam section. The roles of the

different regions of the beam cross section were further analyzed.

Keywords: Filamentation, Multiple refocusing, Energy reservoir

1. Introduction

For sufficiently high laser intensities, air itself can be considered as a nonlinear

optical medium. When an intense femtosecond laser pulse propagates in air, the beam

self-focuses due to Kerr effect. When the laser power exceeds a critical power of

about 10 GW in air, the self-focusing effect overcomes diffraction and leads to the

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