Author's Accepted Manuscript

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www.elsevier.com/locate/nima

PII: S0168-9002(15)01310-8

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2015.10.076

Reference: NIMA58207

To appear in: Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A

Received date: 1 September 2015 Revised date: 14 October 2015 Accepted date: 21 October 2015

Cite this article as: XiaoHui Chen, XiaoYa Li, YunCan Ma, ZhaoKui Wu, Jun Li and WenJun Zhu, Optimization of a femtosecond laser generated x-ray source fo pulsed radiography, *Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research*, *A* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2015.10.076

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Optimization of a femtosecond laser generated x-ray source for

pulsed radiography

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Abstract

X-ray radiography is an important tool in medicine as well as in life science and

materials science. It is $K\alpha$ radiation that is of primary interest in the fields of x-ray

diffraction, whereas the whole x-ray flux receives most attention in the x-ray imaging

application. We present a general Monte Carlo model of x-ray generation in

femtosecond laser-irradiated solid material. Bremsstrahlung radiation is taken into

account explicitly, permitting both whole x-ray and Kα emission to be calculated for

arbitrary experimental conditions (i.e. target material, target thickness, target shape as

well as laser intensity). The optimal thickness of both the whole x-ray and Kα

emission from Titanium (Ti) foils irradiated with femtosecond laser pulse has been

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