Irreversible* material dynamics studied with time-resolved X-ray scattering

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*not in a thermodynamical sense

XFEL applications in Material Sciences and Nanotechnology, Warsaw, 5. - 6. Dec. 2024

Strong laser-excitation of solids



- strong electronic excitation (fs)
- ⇒ changes of interatomic forces non-thermal processes
- rapid heating (≈ ps)
 - \Rightarrow states at high (T,P)
 - \Rightarrow overheating & melting
 - \Rightarrow solid-plasma transition
- material expansion & cooling (10 ps μs)
 - \Rightarrow ablation
 - \Rightarrow supercooling & rapid solidification
 - ⇒ mesoscale structure formation



⇒ strong thermal & mechanical nonequilibrium

Applications of ultrafast lasers



cardiovascular implants



fuel injection nozzel





photomask repair



nano-particle synthesis

 \Rightarrow **irreversible** material dynamics



waveguide X-coupler



photonic crystal



ophtomalogy



Time-resolved wide- and small angle X-ray scattering: Optical pump – X-ray probe experiment



- Outline:
- ultrafast melting in fs-excited Fe
 - fs laser ablation
 - laser-induced period surface structures (LIPSS)



Acknowledgements



fs laser-induced melting of Fe



Strong laser excitation: Covalently bonded materials vs. metals

covalently bonded materials:



J.C. Philipps, "Bonds and bands in semiconductors"



metals:





Why Fe?



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=> talk by R. Sobierajski

Ultrafast melting of metals

 $\tau_{min}\approx 3.5~ps$

 $\tau_{min}\approx 10\ -\ 12\ ps$



Mo et al. Science **360**, 1451 (2018) see also: Assefa et al., Sci. Adv. **6**, eaax2445 (2020)



 $\tau_{min}\approx 2.5~ps$

Unpublished



fs laser-induced ablation (of Au)



Fundamental aspects of laser ablation

laser ablation:

- removal of macroscopic amounts of material
- transition from condensed phase into volatile state.







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Time-resolved SAXS & WAXS (XPP@LCLS)



 $F_{inc} = 6.3 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ SAXS}$ WAXS 10³ 10² ðt (ps) 10¹ 10² 10 -1 10 -2 10 -3 200 111 3.0 0.02 0.03 0.04 0.05 0.06 2.6 2.8 0.01 - 12 nm Q (Å-1) 2.35 Å 60 nm 🗲





Large scale molecular dynamics





Y. Sun et al., (submitted, 2024) arXiv:2407.10505v1



Laser-Induced Periodic Surface Structures (LIPSS)



LIPSS: periodic modifications of laser-irradiated surfaces



Fused silica



J. Bonse & S. Gräf, Laser & Phot. Rev. 14 2000215, (2020)

LSFL- Low spatial frequency LIPSS $\Lambda \approx \lambda$

HSFL- High spatial frequency LIPSS $\Lambda \ll \lambda$

depend on ...

- material
- polarization
- pulse duration
- fluence
- number of pulses
- environment

• ...



J. Reif, *Surface Functionalization by Laser-Induced Structuring,* in: Springer Series in Materials Science 274, 63 (2018)

night vision



10MP sensor (sionyx.com)





LIPSS: mechanisms



adapted from: O. Varlamova & J. Reif, J. of Laser Micro/Nanoengeering 8, 300 (2013)

essentially no time-resolved information on the relevant (nm/sub-µm) length scales



LIPSS on Ti: t.r. small-angle X-ray scattering (SCS@EuXFEL)



Thank you!

