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Accession number:20121414923164

Title:Physical mechanism for detecting a terahertz wave from acoustic emission enhancement in a gas plasma

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Source title:Journal of Modern Optics

Abbreviated source title:J. Mod. Opt.

Volume:59

Issue:7

Issue date:April 10, 2012

Publication year:2012

Pages:663-666

Language:English

ISSN:09500340

E-ISSN:13623044

CODEN:JMOPEW

Document type:Journal article (JA)

Publisher:Taylor and Francis Ltd., 4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4RN, United Kingdom

Abstract:A physical mechanism is described for detection of a terahertz wave from acoustic emission enhancement in a gas plasma. First the air is ionized by an 800nm laser pulse, and collision processes are neglected during this pulse time. When the pulse is gone, electron-molecule and electron-ion collisions begin to be considered, and the energy transferred to the molecules and ions leads to the temperature rising, thus an acoustic pressure can be achieved. If irradiating the gas plasma with a terahertz wave after the 800nm laser pulse, the translation motion of electrons and molecules can be enhanced, thus heating the plasma to a higher temperature and achieving a larger acoustic pressure. The enhanced acoustic pressure $\Delta p(t)$ whether or not with a terahertz wave has a dependence on the terahertz amplitude. Theoretical analysis shows that the terahertz field modulus can be obtained by $|E_{\text{THZ}}(t)| \propto |\Delta p(t)/dt|$. © 2012 Copyright Taylor and Francis Group, LLC.

Number of references:18

Main heading:Plasmas

Controlled terms:Acoustic emissions - Ionization of gases - Laser pulses - Terahertz waves

Uncontrolled terms:Acoustic pressures - Electron molecules - Electron-ion collision - Emission enhancement - gas plasma - Higher temperatures - Molecules and ions - Physical mechanism - Pulse time - Temperature rising - Tera Hertz - Terahertz fields - Translation motion

Classification code:711 Electromagnetic Waves - 744.1 Lasers, General - 751.2 Acoustic Properties of Materials - 802.2 Chemical Reactions - 932.3 Plasma Physics

DOI:10.1080/09500340.2012.656147

Database:Compendex

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