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Linear and nonlinear Thomson scattering from the PHOENIX x-ray source

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Development of advanced x-ray sources based on the laser-Thomson scattering mechanism is becoming important pushed by a strong demand for ultrashort hard x-ray pulses. These can serve as a tool for structural analysis of complex systems with unprecedented temporal and spatial resolution. We explored the spectral shape and bandwidth of the x-ray beam as a result from the interaction of electron and laser beam. The intensity dependence of the backscattered photon spectrum is investigated and compared to full-physics 3D ab-initio simulations. The realization of a non-linear Thomson scattering source qualifies as an initial step towards strong field physics research.

Primary author: Mr JOCHMANN, Axel (Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf)

Co-authors: Dr DEBUS, Alexander (Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf); Dr WAGNER, Andreas (HZDR); Dr IRMAN, Arie (Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf); Mr SEIPT, Daniel (Research Center Dresden-Rossendorf); Mr KRÄMER, Jakob (Danfysik A/S); Mr COUPERUS, Jurjen Pieter (HZDR); Dr BUDDE, Michael (Danfysik); Dr BUSS-MANN, Michael (Forschungszentrum Dresden-Rossendorf e.V.); Mr KUNTZSCH, Michael (HZDR); Prof. SAUER-BREY, Roland (HZDR); Prof. COWAN, Thomas (Forschungszentrum Dresden-Rossendorf); Dr LEHNERT, Ulf (HZDR); Prof. SCHRAMM, Ulrich (Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf)

Presenter: Mr JOCHMANN, Axel (Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf)

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