

Table of contents

Introduction	1
<u>Chapter 1. Laser induced optical breakdown</u>	5
1.1 ENERGY DEPOSITION IN LASER IRRADIATED MATERIALS.....	5
1.2 FLUX-DOUBLING MODEL.....	12
1.3 SOLUTIONS OF THE KINETIC EQUATION.....	16
1.4 LATTICE HEATING AND THERMAL PROCESSES	24
<u>Chapter 2. Experiment</u>	29
2.1 RADIATION SOURCES	29
2.2 MASS SPECTROMETRY AND TOF DETECTION.....	32
2.3 EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES.....	38
<u>Chapter 3. Incubation.....</u>	43
3.1 TOPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS	43
3.2 INCUBATION.....	53
3.3 SUMMARY.....	70
<u>Chapter 4. Non-thermal and thermal processes.....</u>	71
4.1 COULOMB EXPLOSION AND PHASE EXPLOSION	71
4.2 ELECTRON MEASUREMENT.....	98
4.3 SUMMARY.....	100
<u>Chapter 5. Dynamics of material removal</u>	103
5.1 FEMTOSECOND LASER PUMP-PROBE MEASUREMENTS: IONS.....	103
5.2 FEMTOSECOND LASER PUMP-PROBE MEASUREMENTS: EMITTED ELECTRONS	114
5.3 SUMMARY.....	116
<u>Chapter 6. Applications</u>	117
6.1 LASER MICROMACHINING OF DIELECTRICS.....	118
6.2 SUMMARY.....	123
<u>Chapter 7. Conclusions</u>	125
Appendix 1	129
Appendix 2.....	131
Bibliography	133