

High Intensity Laser-Beam Propagation in the Earth Atmosphere

Roland Sauerbrey¹⁾, S. Niedermeier^{1),2)}, Y.-B. André³⁾, M. Franco³⁾, J. Kasparian^{1),2)},
D. Mondelain²⁾, A. Mysyrowicz³⁾, B. Prade³⁾, M. Rodriguez⁴⁾, S. Tzortzakis³⁾, H. Wille⁴⁾, J.-
P. Wolf²⁾, L. Wöste⁴⁾, J. Yu²⁾

“**Teramobile**“, Joint CNRS/DFG Project, Berlin, Jena, Lyon, Palaiseau

¹⁾Institute for Optics and Quantum Electronics, Friedrich Schiller University Jena,
Max-Wien-Platz 1, 07743 Jena, GERMANY Phone: +49 3641 947200 Fax:+49 3641
947202, e-mail: sauerbrey@qe.physik.uni-jena.de

²⁾Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 1, Laboratoire de Spectrometrie Ionique et
Moleculaire,(LASIM, UMR NRS 5579), 69622 Villeurbanne Cedex, FRANCE

³⁾Laboratoire d'Optique Appliquée, CNRS UMR 7639, École Polytechnique –
ENSTA, 91761 Palaiseau, FRANCE

⁴⁾Prof. Ludger Wöste, Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Experimentalphysik,
Arnimallee 14, 14195 Berlin, GERMANY

Abstract

Femtosecond laser beams with powers in the terawatt range propagate over long distances in the atmosphere and emit a white light continuum. New investigations show that the white light laser channels are electrically conducting, their spectrum extends into infrared to at least 4 μm and that the white light emission is anisotropic. Applications of these phenomenon to LIDAR are discussed.