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Single-shot electron imaging of NIR-induced He nanoplasmas

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Nanoplasmas formed from doped helium nanodroplets by irradiation with intense near-infrared fs-pulses feature peculiar properties. A helium ionization avalanche is triggered by tunnel ionization of the dopant cluster at comparatively low light intensities ($\sim 10^{14}$ W/cm²). Subsequent light absorption is enhanced by resonances due to nanoplasma anisotropies [PRL 107, 173402 (2011)] and expansion [NJP 14 075016 (2012)]. Consequently, dopant and helium atoms charge up to high charge states [J. Mod. Opt. 64, 1061 (2017)], and energetic ions and electrons are emitted by Coulomb explosion. Surprisingly, our single-shot velocity-map images of nanoplasma electrons display sharp electron energies peaked at $\sim$ eV energies. We discuss the systematics of electron and ion spectra, as well as possible interpretations based on classical MD simulations.

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