



Contribution ID: 857

Type: **Invited talk**

From Nonlinear Optics to High-Intensity Laser Physics

Monday 12 December 2022 09:00 (45 minutes)

The laser increased the intensity of light that can be generated by orders of magnitude and thus brought about nonlinear optical interactions with matter. Chirped pulse amplification, also known as CPA, changed the intensity level by a few more orders of magnitude and helped usher in a new type of laser-matter interaction that is referred to as high-intensity laser physics. In this talk, I will discuss the differences between nonlinear optics and high-intensity laser physics. The development of CPA and why short, intense laser pulses can cut transparent material will also be included. I will also discuss future applications.

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Session Classification: Plenary

Track Classification: PLENARY: Plenary