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"Nonlinear Optical Waveguides" - I

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These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants.

Nonlinear Waveguides in Microstructured Media: Materials, Devices, and Applications

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• Nonlinear optics $P \propto \chi^{(1)}E + \chi^{(2)}E^2 + \chi^{(3)}E^3 + \dots$



 $\chi^{(2)}$ mixes frequencies harmonic generation sum/difference parametric amplification

• Why waveguide nonlinear interactions?



- waveguide confinement enhances efficiency
- efficient operation with milliwatt powers

Typical Waveguide $\chi^{(2)}$ Devices

- Generation of coherent radiation
 - SHG: $\omega_{out} = 2\omega_p$
 - 810 nm \rightarrow 405 nm
 - NGK-Matsushita for ODS

$$\omega_{in}$$
 $\omega_{out} = 2\omega_{in}$
 ω_{in}



- Optical signal processing
 - Cascaded DFG: $\omega_{out} = 2\omega_p \omega_{in}$
 - convert within 1.5 μ m band
 - Lighbit for telecom applications

$$2\omega_{p}$$

$$\omega_{p}$$

$$\omega_{in}$$

$$\omega_{out} = 2\omega_{p} - \omega_{in}$$



Examples of Applications of Highly Nonlinear Waveguides





- Efficiency
 - how much output for given inputs
 - evade limitations imposed by inherently small nonlinearities
 - enabled by waveguide devices

$$\eta \equiv \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}}$$

- Phasematching
 - momentum must be conserved
 - not unless medium dispersionless

 $k = n\omega/c$ $n_{2\omega} \neq n_{\omega}$

- Quasi-phasematching
 - periodic structure compensates for mismatch
 - micron-scale features needed
 - microstructured materials essential



How to incorporate nonlinearity into EM equations?

Total polarization response: $P \propto \chi^{(1)}E + \chi^{(2)}E^2 + \chi^{(3)}E^3 + ...$

$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r},t) = \varepsilon \varepsilon_0 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) + \mathbf{P}_{NL}(\mathbf{r},t)$$
 separate out
"interesting" nonlinear
contribution to the total
polarization. Lump
linear response into $\varepsilon = 1 + \chi^{(1)}$

Can manipulate Maxwell equations into forced wave equation:

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t)}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t) = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r},t) + \frac{\partial \mathbf{P}_{NL}(\mathbf{r},t)}{\partial t} \right]$$
note that time dependent polarization acts like a current:
 $\partial \mathbf{P}_{NL} / \partial t \leftrightarrow \mathbf{J}$

Monochromatic: $e^{i\omega t}$

$$\omega^2 \frac{\varepsilon}{c^2} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) + \nabla^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = -\omega^2 \mu_0 \mathbf{P}_{NL}(\mathbf{r})$$

Plane-Wave Second Harmonic Generation (SHG)



Second Harmonic Generation

Nonlinear polarization \approx oscillating current •

$$P_{2\omega} \propto \chi^{(1)} E_{2\omega} + \chi^{(2)} E_{\omega}^2 + \dots \qquad j_{2\omega} \propto \dot{P}_{2\omega}$$

Output field is sum of contributions from whole crystal •

$$E_{\omega} \longrightarrow P_{2\omega}$$

$$P_{2\omega}$$

$$P_{2\omega}$$

$$P_{2\omega}$$

$$E_{\omega}(L) \propto \int_{0}^{L} E_{\omega}^{2} \chi^{(2)} \exp(i\Delta k z) dz$$

$$\rightarrow E_{\omega}^{2} \chi^{(2)} \sin(\Delta k L/2) / \Delta k$$
Phase velocity matching essential
$$E_{2\omega} \bigwedge \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k l_{c} = \pi$$

$$\int \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k l_{c} = \pi$$

$$\int \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k l_{c} = \pi$$

$$\int \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k l_{c} = \pi$$

$$\int \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k l_{c} = \pi$$

$$\int \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k l_{c} = \pi$$

$$\int \Delta k = 0$$

$$\Delta k =$$

λ

 $\lambda/2$

Undepleted Pump SHG



$$E_{2\omega}(L) = \frac{i\omega}{2n_2c} \int_0^L \chi^{(2)} E_\omega^2 e^{i\Delta k z} dz$$

• Undepleted pump: $E_{\omega}(z) \approx \text{const}$ uniform nonlinear coefficient, $\chi^{(2)} = \text{const}$

$$E_{2\omega}(L) = \frac{i\omega}{2n_2c} \chi^{(2)} E_{\omega}^2 \int_0^L e^{i\Delta k z} dz$$

- Phasematched case: $\Delta k = 0$ - field grows linearly with *L*
 - intensity grows quadratically with L
 - material parameter C^2 [W⁻¹]
 - convenient form for efficiency η plane wave efficiency η_0

 $E_{2\omega}(L) = \frac{i\omega}{2n_2c} \chi^{(2)} E_{\omega}^2 L$

$$I_{2}(L) = C^{2} L^{2} I_{1}^{2}$$
$$C^{2} = \frac{2\pi^{2} \chi^{(2)2}}{n_{2} n_{1}^{2} c \varepsilon_{0} \lambda^{2}}$$

$$\eta \equiv I_2 / I_1 = \eta_0 = C^2 L^2 I_1$$

$$\eta = \frac{P_{2\omega}}{P_{\omega}} = C^2 L^2 \frac{P_{\omega}}{\pi w^2}$$

- Allow nonzero mismatch: $\Delta k_0 \neq 0$
 - retain undepleted pump assumption
 - can be written conveniently with plane wave efficiency η_0

$$E_{2\omega}(L) = \frac{i\omega}{2n_2c} \chi^{(2)} E_{\omega}^2 \int_0^L e^{i\Delta k z} dz$$

$$E_{2\omega}(L) = \frac{i\omega}{2n_2c} \chi^{(2)} E_{\omega}^2 L\operatorname{sinc}(\Delta k L/2)$$

$$\eta = \eta_0 \operatorname{sinc}^2(\Delta k L/2)$$



width scales inversely with length



- Dielectric waveguide: $n(x, y, z) = n_{cl} + (n_{co} n_{cl}) f(x, y)$
- Supports discrete eigenmodes: $E_n(x, y, z)e^{i\omega t} = \mathsf{E}_n(x, y)e^{-i\beta_n z}e^{i\omega t}$
 - modal field $E_n(x, y)$

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- propagation constant $\beta_n \equiv \frac{\omega}{c} n_{eff}(\omega)$
- Discrete modes have $n_{cl} < n_{eff}(\omega) < n_{co}$





Map PW NLO onto WG



- Waveguide case maps simply onto plane-wave description
- Describe evolution in terms of z-dependent amplitude, A(z)

$$E_n(x, y, z)e^{i\omega t} = A(z) \mathsf{E}_n(x, y)e^{-i\beta_n z} e^{i\omega t}$$

• Propagation equation for amplitudes:

$$\frac{dA_{2\omega}}{dz} \propto \chi^{(2)} J A_{\omega}^{2} e^{i\Delta\beta z} \quad \text{vs plane wave:} \quad \frac{dE_{2\omega}}{dz} \propto \chi^{(2)}(z) E_{\omega}^{2} e^{i\Delta kz}$$

modal phase mismatch: $\Delta\beta \equiv \beta_{2\omega} - 2\beta_{\omega}$
 $\Delta k \equiv k_{2\omega} - 2k_{\omega}$
modal overlap: $J \equiv \int \mathsf{E}_{2\omega}(x, y) \mathsf{E}_{\omega}^{2}(x, y) dx dy$

Two Major Waveguide Effects on NLO

- Waveguide dispersion
 - intramodal dispersion is "normal" -- adds to material dispersion does not help for phasematching
 - intermodal dispersion
 can be used for phasematching between modes usually difficult to use
 - output in undesirable high-order mode
 - imperfect waveguide geometry spoils phasematching contributes to tight fabrication tolerances



modal phasematching only possible if $n_{co}(2\omega) - n_{co}(\omega) < n_{co} - n_{cl}$

Two Major Waveguide Effects on NLO

- Modal overlap
 - large mode overlap *J* important for efficiency
 - favors fundamental mode, tight confinement
 - some interactions (odd-even mode) forbidden
 - can state as "effective area"

area of a plane wave that would have the same efficiency



Early Work in Waveguide NLO

- Frequently used linear waveguide on nonlinear substrate •
- "Cerenkov" phasematching ۲
 - generate radiation mode
 - low efficiency

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complicated beam patterns





P.K. Tien, Appl. Phys. Lett. 17 447 (1970).



G. Stegeman, Appl. Phys. Lett. 58 R57 (1985).

Y. Suematsu, IEEE JQE 10 222 (1974)

Early Waveguide NLO 2

- Diffused waveguides in crystalline substrates soon used
 - could take advantage of birefringent crystals for phasematching
 - combination of birefringence and modal dispersion for PM
 - better overlap
 - looser tolerances
 - operating range limited by birefringence
- Common process: indiffuse Ti film
 - raises refractive index in doped region





tune birefringence with temperature

Alternative to True Phasematching

- Problem was due to slip of phase between $P_{2\omega}$ and $E_{2\omega}$
 - due to phase velocity mismatch



- Introduce an abrupt phase shift in $P_{2\omega}$ after phase slip of π
 - field and polarization now in phase, and growth continues



• Since $P_{2\omega} \propto \chi^{(2)} E_{\omega}^2$, sign change in $\chi^{(2)}$ gives desired result – repeat periodically every coherence length



Eliminates dependence on birefringence for phasematching

- Any interaction within transparency range
 - even in non-birefringent materials
- Noncritical phasematching
 - eliminates Poynting vector walkoff
 - especially important for OPOs
- Any desired polarizations
 - use large diagonal nonlinear coefficients
 - for LiNbO₃: $d_{33}/d_{31} = 7$
- Aperiodic gratings

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- shape temporal, spatial, spectral response



- base technology on readily available commodity material

Generic Nonlinear Material

BUT: need patternable material for micron scale features



Microstructured Materials Essential for QPM



Crystal quartz (ferrobielastic)

Ferroelectrics

- Spontaneous electric dipole moment, P_s
 - appears below Curie temperature
 - forms into domains
 - "poling": reorients for applied field > E_c
 - analogous to ferromagnets
- Domain reversal like 180° rotation
 - changes sign of odd-rank tensors
 - electrooptic, piezoelectric, nonlinear

Lines and Glass, Principles and Applications of Ferroelectrics, Oxford 1977

- Periodic domain array for QPM:
 - periodic sign change in d_{eff}
- Early work based on periodically perturbed growth
 - control again difficult
- Current techniques use lithographic control
 - micron scale patterning
 - periodic electrode controls domain pattern





Microstructured Ferroelectrics Important for QPM



Waveguide Devices Processing compatible



Early Work on Lithographically Patterned Ferroelectrics

- Early work in lithographic patterning based on indiffused dopants
 - Ti in LiNbO₃ [Lim 1989]
 - Li in LiNbO₃ [Webjorn 1989]
 - H in LiTaO₃ [Mizuuchi 1991] [Ahlfeldt 1991]
 - Ba,Rb in K(TiO)PO₄ (KTP): [van der Poel 1990]
 - early work reviewed in Fejer [1992b]
- Generally created shallow domain inverted regions
 - suited to waveguide, but not bulk interactions
- Waveguide devices
 - annealed proton exchange in $LiNbO_3$ and $LiTaO_3$
 - Ba, Rb exchange in KTP
 - powers 1 10 mW
 - efficiencies 50 100%/W-cm² demonstrated limitations due to overlap of modes with shallow domains





Next major breakthrough: electric field poling discuss after QPM background

Electric Field Poling of LiNbO₃



Basic HV Technology for Poling

- High voltage
 - 20 60 kV/mm
 - short shaped pulses
 1- 1000 ms
- Thin wafer - 0.2 - 1 mm
- Electrode affects pattern
- Fixture design
 - low fringe fields
 - resists corona
 - liquid contact
 - holds off 60 kV/mm



Stages in Periodic Poling



Fabrication of APE PPLN Waveguides



Keys to efficient waveguide devices

- Confinement / overlap of modes
 - systematic design requires waveguide model [Bortz 1994]
 - proton diffusion, index change vs concentration
- Device length
 - length ² scaling
- Homogeneity (of waveguide)
 - waveguide lithography: +/- 0.1 μm (3 cm) full wafer processing required
 - proton exchange (PE): +/- 0.03 °C (3 cm)
 - waveguide anneal: +/- 0.05 °C (3 cm)
- Transverse mode control (more later)
 - multimoded waveguide at pump wavelength in DFG devices

APE PPLN Fabrication Process





Temperature range from 300 to 360 °C

Test of model



Channel APE waveguide SHG QPM period Λ =14.75 µm λ_{qpm} = 2 Λ (n_{eff}(2 ω) – n_{eff}(ω))



$$\delta \lambda_{qpm} \sim 1nm \implies \delta(n_{eff}(2\omega) - n_{eff}(\omega)) \sim 3 \times 10^{-5}$$

Mode Overlaps



[Bortz 1993] [Bortz 1994]

- With refractive index profile, can calculate modes
- With modes and nonlinear coefficient vs depth can calculate overlap integrals
- Nonlinear coefficient near zero in exchanged layer, unchanged below
- Requires looser confinement so modes overlap in region with recovered nonlinear coefficient



- A 5-cm long device is \sim 5x10⁴ wavelengths long
 - a variation of 10⁻⁵ in the effective index will lead to a π phase shift
 - will spoil the quasi-phasematching
 - limits useful length of the device
 - leads to very strict tolerances on process



- Solution: noncritical designs
 - QPM depends only on difference of propagation constants $n_{eff,2\omega} n_{eff,\omega}$
 - non-critical design has

$$\frac{d(n_{eff,2\omega} - n_{eff,\omega})}{dw} = 0$$

- thus no first order dependence on errors in waveguide size
- greatly facilitates fabrication

Noncritical Designs for Fabrication Tolerance



[Bortz 1994] detailed discussion: [Khanarian 2001]

- Annealed proton exchange creates monotonic refractive index profile
- Asymmetry of refractive index profile limits overlap of modal fields



- Reverse proton exchange creates buried refractive index profile
 - protons removed from surface of APE waveguide
- Modal fields symmetric in depth
 - modal overlap improved



- After annealing, sample is immersed in a lithium-rich melt
- Protons diffuse *out*, and Li⁺ ions diffuse *in*
- LiNO₃ alone damages sample surface other nitrates prevent this
- Beaker placed in a cylindrical tube furnace at 328°C (this is close to the annealing temperature, facilitating design)



High efficiency PPLN Waveguides





- Solution: adiabatically tapered waveguide
 - Issue: fabrication difficultly



Width: by lithography

Depth: difficult

Key mode launching components: taper and coupler

- Adiabatic taper
 - arbitrary mode size/number transformation
 - implemented with periodically segmented waveguides
 - allows independent optimization of coupling and mixing regions



$$\Delta n_{eq}(z) = [L(z)/\Lambda] \Delta n$$

- WDM coupler
 - taper is cut-off for signal
 - combine local oscillator and signal with coupler





- Annealed proton exchange waveguides
 - 10 μ m channel in SiO₂ mask
 - 15 hours at 160°C in benzoic acid
 - 27 hour anneal at 325°C
- Mode size
 - $-2 \mu m x 6 \mu m$ in mixing region
 - 1/e field 8.5 μ m in input coupling region (1.3:1 ellipticity)
- Passive insertion loss:
 - approx 2 dB fiber to fiber at 1.5 μm for 5 cm long device
- Mixing region "noncritical"
 - no first order dependence on mask dimension

Basic Device Performance

- Combining all these methods:
- Efficiency at 1.5 µm:
 - 150%/W-cm²
 - ~3000%/W in 5-cm device
- Insertion loss
 - 0.1 -- 0.2 dB/cm loss
 - ~2 dB fiber-fiber



1536.5

λ (nm)

1537

1537.5

1538

•Will look at applications to optical signal processing in next lecture

20

1535.5

1536

Narrow vs wide tuning



- Remarkably nonlinear devices
 - 3000%/W \Rightarrow 50% efficiency for 16 mW pump
 - 10³ -- 10⁴ higher than bulk media
- Some issues remain:
- Notably lifetime
 - OK in IR
 - "photorefractive" effects limit lifetime with visible light devices
- Size (several cm) inconvenient in some contexts
- Alternative media attempt to address these and related issues

DFG in Ti:PPLN Waveguides

- Ti:LiNbO₃ waveguides attractive for QPM
 - well developed technology
 - low-loss
 - guide both polarizations
- Recent work demonstrates compatibility with PPLN
- DFG of 2.8 μ m with efficiency of 71%/W in 5 cm waveguide



Hofman, Schreiber, Haase, Herrmann, Ricken, Sohler, Opt. Lett. 1999

APE PPLN results comparable: ~100 µW @ 4 µm [Petrov 2000]

Toward Commercial UV Source

- Ongoing effort at Matsushita to produce practical SHG diode for DVD
- MgO:LiNbO₃ chosen for photorefractive damage resistance and substrate availability
 - in-plane poling required for packaging with TE-polarized diode lasers
 - presents challenge for conventional poling
 - two-d field application on x-cut substrate creates appropriate domains
- 17 mW at 426 nm for 55 mW diode pump (31% efficient)
 - 1 cm long waveguide -- 800%/W-cm² (1500%/W-cm² with multimode Ti:S)



Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental setup for two-dimensional high-voltage application for an off-cut MgO:LiNbO₃.





[Sugita 1999] [Sugita 2001] (100 mW!)

Packaging important for practical use

- NGK/Matsushita developed package for violet DVD source
 - 3 piece: silicon submount with laser butt-coupled to SHG chip
 - temperature tracking of laser wavelength and QPM peak obviate temp. control



QPM techniques in Semiconductors

90° rotation changes sign of d_{eff}

- Stack of plates
 - rotate to change sign of d_{eff}
 - difficult assembly, lossy
- Diffusion-bonded stacks [Gordon 1993] [Lallier 1998]
 - intimate bond reduces losses
 - difficult assembly
- Patterned film growth
 - template substrate forces twinning
 - lithographic patterning
 - growth techniques emerging



[110]

- [110]



heat

Gordon, Woods, Eckardt, Route, Feigelson, Fejer, Byer, *Elec. Lett.* **29**, 1942 (1993) Lallier, Brevignon, Ledoux, *Opt. Lett.* **23**, 1511 (1998)

Orientation Patterned GaAs Waveguides

- OMCVD film grown on template substrate
- Substrate lithographically patterned on wafer-bonded thin film
- Device used for waveguide DFG
 wavelength converter for telecom application
- Waveguide corrugations contribute significant loss

• All-epitaxial template offers potentially attractive alternative for thick and thin films



Polymers

- Polymer films attractive: easy fabrication ٠
 - orient random chromophores to induce patterned $\chi^{(2)}$ apply electric field to align dipoles
 - typically suffer high losses, low nonlinearity



Electrode

- Recent result with PEI-DAS among best ۲
 - 14 pm/V for 100 V/µm poling field
 - absorption:
 - waveguide loss: 2.1 dB/cm @ 1.5 µm, 7 dB/cm
 - overall, efficiency 2.2%/W-cm²

Wavelengths (nm)

1552

776

1550

-10

-20

-30

-40

-50

-60

775

Output powers (dBm)



(a)

Jung Jin Ju, Opt. Lett. 29, 89 (2004)

- Application of large electric fields induces a $\chi^{(2)}$ in fused silica
 - thermal poling: fiber held at elevated temperature during poling induced nonlinearity ≈ <1 pm/V
 - UV poling: fiber irradiated with 193 nm during poling induced nonlinearity 6 pm/V reported
- Poling with periodic electrode can be used for QPM
- Single-mode fibers attractive as medium for QPM
 - long lengths, low loss
 - low dispersion, low thermooptic effects
 - easy interface to fiber sources and systems
- Recent SHG experiment with 2 ns 4 kHz seeded EDFA pump
 - 30 % efficiency, 7 mW 780 nm output





Pruneri, Bonfrate, Kazansky, Richardson, ..., Opt. Lett. 24, 208 (1999)

[Bonfrate 1999] parametric fluorescence in QPM fiber Chen [2003], UV generation



- These highly nonlinear devices can be used for all-optical signal processing
- Look at this application and devices modified to suit these needs
 in next lecture