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Contents

xi Conference Committees
xvii Introduction
xix Welcome Address
xxi Conference Photos
xxxiii SPIE Best Student Presentation Award
xxxv CSSF Young Scientist Prize
xxxvii Sponsors

PLENARY SESSION

7138 02  Theodore Harold Maiman and the invention of laser (Plenary Paper) [7138-01]
A. H. Rawicz, Simon Fraser Univ. (Canada)

7138 03  Disk, fiber, rod, slab: new laser concepts open new application perspectives (Plenary Paper) [7138-02]
R. Poprawe, A. Gillner, H.-D. Hoffmann, S. Kaierle, Fraunhofer-Institute for Laser Technology (Germany); P. Loosen, RWTH Aachen Univ. (Germany); W. Meiners, R. Noll, E. Willenborg, Fraunhofer-Institute for Laser Technology (Germany)

LASERS AND PHOTODETECTORS IN INDUSTRY, IMAGING, AND SENSORS

7138 04  Tilted cavity concept for the high-power wavelength stabilized diode lasers (Invited Paper) [7138-03]
L. Ya. Karachinsky, A.F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute (Russian Federation) and Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany); I. I. Novikov, A.F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute (Russian Federation); G. Fiol, M. Kuntz, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany); Yu. M. Shernyakov, N. Y. Gordeev, M. V. Maximov, M. B. Lifshits, A.F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute (Russian Federation); T. Kettler, K. Posilovic, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany); V. A. Shchukin, N. N. Ledentsov, A.F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute (Germany) and Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany); S. S. Mikhrin, Innolume GmbH (Germany); D. Bimberg, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany)

7138 05  Evaluation of focus measures under different wavefront aberrations for deformable mirror control in adaptive optics systems (Invited Paper) [7138-04]
H. Cho, X. Tao, D. Hong, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Korea, Republic of)

7138 06  Performance of microstructure and capillary fibers for detection of toluene and ethanol in gaseous phase [7138-05]
V. Matejec, O. Podrasky, M. Hayer, M. Pospisilova, D. Berkova, Institute of Photonics and Electronics (Czech Republic)
7138 07 Pulsed 1.55 µm all-fiber laser combining high energy, ultranarrow linewidth and optimal spatial beam quality [7138-06]
F. Liégeois, Faculté Polytechnique de Mons (Belgium) and Multitel A.S.B.L. (Belgium); Y. Hernandez, D. Kinet, D. Giannone, Multitel A.S.B.L. (Belgium); T. Robin, B. Cadier, iXFiber (France)

7138 08 Monte Carlo technique for uncertainty evaluation of gauge block calibration using laser interferometry [7138-07]
V. Álvarez-Valado, H. González-Jorge, LOMG (Spain); B. V. Dorrío, Univ. de Vigo (Spain); F. J. Yebra, J. L. Valencia, J. Rodríguez, LOMG (Spain)

7138 09 Optical and magneto-optical properties of as-quenched CoFeSiB amorphous ribbons [7138-08]
O. Životský, K. Hrabovská, A. Hendrych, K. Postava, L. Klimša, J. Pištora, VŠB-TU Ostrava (Czech Republic)

7138 0A Optical sensor based on sensitive polymer layer [7138-09]
M. Will, CiS-Institute for Micro Sensors GmbH (Germany); T. Marlan, CiS-Institute for Micro Sensors GmbH (Germany) and Institute of Photonics and Electronics (Czech Republic); R. Müller, O. Brodersen, CiS-Institute for Micro Sensors GmbH (Germany); G. J. Mohr, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany)

7138 0B Radiation at wavelength of 747 nm generated by flash-lamp pumped Pr:YAP laser [7138-10]
M. Fibrich, H. Jelínková, J. Šulc, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic); K. Nejezchleb, V. Škoda, Crytur Ltd. (Czech Republic)

7138 0C Photon counting detector for space applications optimized for both gated and non-gated operation [7138-11]
I. Prochazka, J. Blazej, J. Kodeť, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)

7138 0D Laser prototype system for creating high density patterns on PCB [7138-12]
R. Barbucha, M. Tański, M. Kočik, The Szewalski Institute of Fluid Flow Machinery (Poland); J. Mizeraczyk, The Szewalski Institute of Fluid Flow Machinery (Poland) and Gdynia Maritime University (Poland); G. Koziot, J. Borecki, Tele & Radio Research Institute (Poland)

LASERS FOR MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

7138 0E High-power laser diode array system for optical pumping of Rb [7138-13]
Z. Buchta, O. Číp, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic); J. Rychnovský, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic) and Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic); J. Lazar, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic)

7138 0F Diode pumped Nd:GdVO₄ laser tunable at 1.06 µm [7138-14]
V. Kubček, M. Drahokoupil, P. Zátor, M. Čech, P. Hiršl, Czech Technical Univ. (Czech Republic)

7138 0G Biocompatible layers fabricated using KrF laser [7138-15]
M. Jelínek, T. Kocourek, Institute of Physics (Czech Republic) and Czech Technical Univ. (Czech Republic); M. Vrbová, D. Koňařík, Czech Technical Univ. (Czech Republic); J. Remsa, Institute of Physics (Czech Republic)
| 7138 0H | **Contrast limiting factors of optical fiber bundles for flexible endoscopy** [7138-16]  
N. Ortega-Quijano, J. L. Arce-Diego, F. Fanjul-Vélez, Univ. of Cantabria (Spain) |
| 7138 0I | **Determination of the pathological state of skin samples by optical polarimetry parameters** [7138-17]  
F. Fanjul-Vélez, N. Ortega-Quijano, L. Buelta, J. L. Arce-Diego, Univ. of Cantabria (Spain) |
| 7138 0J | **Analysis of photodynamic therapy applied to skin disorders by a topical photosensitizer** [7138-18]  
F. Fanjul-Vélez, Univ. of Cantabria (Spain); O. G. Romanov, Belarusian State Univ. (Belarus);  
M. López-Escobar, Marqués de Valdecilla Univ. Hospital (Spain);  
M. A. Rodríguez-Colmenares, N. Ortega-Quijano, J. L. Arce-Diego, Univ. of Cantabria (Spain) |
| 7138 0K | **Photodynamic detection in visualisation of cutaneous and oral mucosa premalignant and malignant lesions: two clinical cases** [7138-19]  
K. Jurczyszyn, P. Ziółkowski, B. Osiecka, H. Gerber, Wroclaw Medical Univ. (Poland);  
M. Dziedzic, Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz (Poland) |
| 7138 0L | **Lasers for lithotripsy** [7138-20]  
P. Koranda, M. Němec, H. Jelinková, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic);  
J. Pokorný, O. Köhler, P. Drilik, Central Military Hospital (Czech Republic);  
M. Miyagi, K. Iwai, Sendai National College of Technology (Japan); Y.-W. Shi, Fudan Univ. (China); Y. Matsuura, Tohoku Univ. (Japan) |

**PHOTONIC BIOSENSORS**

| 7138 0M | **Digital holographic phase contrast microscopy: a new technology in biophotonics (Invited Paper)** [7138-21]  
G. von Bally, Univ. of Muenster (Germany) |
| 7138 0N | **Polymer waveguide based biosensor** [7138-22]  
R. Bruck, R. Hainberger, Nano-System-Technologies (Austria) |

**DESIGN, SIMULATION, AND MODELIZATION OF PHOTONIC DEVICES**

| 7138 0O | **Phase sensitive optical switching in semiconductor microresonators** [7138-23]  
R. Kheradmand, Univ. of Tabriz (Iran, Islamic Republic of); F. Aghaieifar, Univ. of Tabriz (Iran, Islamic Republic of) and Univ. of Paaim nor-Naghadeh-Iran (Iran, Islamic Republic of) |
| 7138 0P | **Fast gain-transient recovery of cascaded EDFAs in WDM networks using a disturbance observer with a PID controller** [7138-24]  
S. Shin, S. Kim, Myongji Univ. (Korea, Republic of); S. Song, Hallim Univ. (Korea, Republic of) |
| 7138 0Q | **Pixel shift selectivity of the collinear holographic storage system** [7138-25]  
Y.-W. Yu, S.-C. Hsieh, T.-C. Teng, C.-Y. Cheng, C.-C. Sun, National Central Univ. (Taiwan) |
| 7138 0R | **Design of x-ray waveguides for the single-mode propagation** [7138-26]  
J. Choi, Y. Park, J. Kim, Dankook Univ. (Korea, Republic of) |
Electrical modeling of single defect in a photonic crystal waveguide [7138-27]  
P. B. Patil, R. K. Shevgaonkar, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (India)  

Research of built-in-type high precision angle encoder: emulation and experiment [7138-28]  
V. P. Kiryanov, A. V. Kiryanov, I. F. Klistorin, Technological Design Institute of Scientific Instrument Engineering (Russian Federation)  

Considerations on cloaking in geometrical optics [7138-29]  
M. Bertolotti, A. Mandatori, A. Benedetti, C. Sibilia, Univ. La Sapienza di Roma (Italy)  

Light scattering properties of random media with a structure of laser speckle [7138-30]  
T. Okamoto, M. Miyamoto, S. Tanaka, Kyushu Institute of Technology (Japan)  

The hybrid photonic planar integrated receiver with a polymer optical waveguide [7138-31]  
K. Bušek, V. Jerábek, J. Armas Arciniega, V. Pražíler, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)  

Apodized and chirped fiber Bragg gratings for optical communication systems: influence of grating profile on spectral reflectance [7138-32]  
E. Gemzický, J. Müllerová, Univ. of Žilina (Slovakia)  

Design and simulation of fiber Bragg gratings with 760 nm central wavelength [7138-33]  
B. Mikel, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic); R. Helan, Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic); O. Cip, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic)  

Tapered optical fibres for sensing [7138-34]  
T. Martan, Institute of Photonics and Electronics (Czech Republic) and CiS-Institute for Micro Sensors GmbH (Germany); J. Kanka, I. Kasik, V. Matejec, Institute of Photonics and Electronics (Czech Republic)  

Design of photonic crystal fibers with low bending losses [7138-35]  
M. Lucki, L. Bohac, J. Vodrázka, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)  

Electromagnetic waves and ballistic electrons in nanostructures [7138-36]  
M. Horák, Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic)  

A robust full-vectorial mode solver for metalized fiber taper [7138-37]  
P. Tobíška, J. Čtyroký, Institute of Photonics and Electronics (Czech Republic)  

Photovoltaic detector based on type II p-InAs/AlSb/InAsSb/AlSb/p-GaSb heterostructures with a single quantum well for mid-infrared spectral range [7138-38]  

Design and construction of a VHGT-attached WDM-type triplex transceiver module using polymer PLC hybrid integration technology [7138-39]  
V. Jerábek, I. Hüttel, V. Pražíler, K. Bušek, P. Seliger, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)
Spectral-domain interferometric technique used to measure group index dispersion of holey fibers [7138-40]
P. Hlubina, D. Ciprian, R. Chlebus, Technical Univ. Ostrava (Czech Republic)

Photonic crystal properties of opal-hematite and opal-magnetite films [7138-41]

Linear and nonlinear light localization within optically induced photonic superlattices in lithium niobate [7138-42]
K. Shandarova, V. Shandarov, State Univ. of Control Systems and Radioelectronics (Russian Federation); Y. Tan, F. Chen, Shandong Univ. (China); C. Rüter, D. Kip, Clausthal Univ. of Technology (Germany)

Natural modes and resonances in a dispersive stratified N-layer medium [7138-43]
W. Broer, B. J. Hoenders, Univ. of Groningen (Netherlands)

A 2D honeycomb photonic crystal under applied magnetic fields [7138-44]
C. A. Duque, Univ. Estadual de Campinas (Brazil) and Univ. de Antioquia (Colombia); N. Porras-Montenegro, Univ. Estadual de Campinas (Brazil) and Univ. del Valle (Colombia); S. B. Cavalcanti, Univ. Federal de Alagoas (Brazil) and Inmetro (Brazil); L. E. Oliveira, Univ. Estadual de Campinas (Brazil) and Inmetro (Brazil)

Band-edge states of the zeroth-order gap in quasi-periodic photonic superlattices [7138-45]
A. Bruno-Alfonso, Univ. Estadual Paulista (Brazil); E. Reyes-Gómez, Univ. de Antioquia (Colombia); S. B. Cavalcanti, Univ. Federal de Alagoas (Brazil) and Inmetro (Brazil); L. E. Oliveira, Inmetro (Brazil) and Univ. Estadual de Campinas (Brazil)

Investigation of GaN layers doped with Er³⁺ and Er³⁺+Yb³⁺ ions using the transmittance measurement [7138-46]
V. Prajzler, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic); I. Hüttel, J. Špírková, Institute of Chemical Technology (Czech Republic); J. Oswald, Institute of Physics (Czech Republic); V. Perina, Nuclear Physics Institute (Czech Republic); V. Jeřábek, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)

Photonic-crystal superradiant laser: effects of homogeneous and inhomogeneous broadening of an active medium [7138-47]

Synthesized holography with resolution 500,000 dpi, holographic dust, computer read holograms, and nanogravure (Invited Paper) [7138-48]
L. Kotačka, Optaglio s.r.o. (Czech Republic)
**GUIDED WAVE PHOTONICS**

7138 1E **Characterization and application of new photopolymer recording media for usage in holography** [7138-49]
V. Lédl, Technical Univ. of Liberec (Czech Republic); M. Květoň, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)

7138 1F **Extended optimization for 350X zoom optics via hybrid Tagushi genetic algorithm** [7138-50]
C.-M. Tsai, Kun Shan Univ. (Taiwan); Y. C. Fang, H.-C. Lin, National Kaohsiung Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan)

7138 1G **In situ measurement of humidity induced changes in the refractive index and thickness of polyethylene glycol thin films** [7138-51]
B. Bilen, Dogus Univ. (Turkey); Y. Skarlatos, G. Aktas, M. N. Inci, T. Dispınar, M. M. Kose, A. Sanyal, Bogazici Univ. (Turkey)

7138 1H **Design and realization of a side-polished single-mode fiber optic high-sensitive temperature sensor** [7138-52]
B. Nagaraju, R. K. Varshney, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (India); B. P. Pal, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (India) and Lab. de Physique de la Matière Condensée, CNRS, Univ. de Nice Sophia Antipolis (France); G. Monnom, B. Dussardier, Lab. de Physique de la Matière Condensée, CNRS, Univ. de Nice Sophia Antipolis (France)

7138 1I **Finite element modeling of microstructured optical fibers: leaky modes, twisted geometries, and spatial Kerr solitons** [7138-53]
A. Nicolet, F. Zolla, G. Renversez, Y. Ould Agha, F. Drouart, Institut Fresnel, CNRS, Univ. d'Aix-Marseille (France)

7138 1J **Modelling of magneto photonic waveguide using RCWA** [7138-54]
K. Postava, Institut d'Electronique Fondamentale, CNRS, Univ. Paris-Sud (France) and Technical Univ. of Ostrava (Czech Republic); M. Vanwolleghem, B. Dagens, P. Beauvillain, Institut d'Electronique Fondamentale, CNRS, Univ. Paris-Sud (France); J. Pištora, Technical Univ. of Ostrava (Czech Republic); Š. Višňovský, Charles Univ. of Prague (Czech Republic); J.-M. Lourtioz, Institut d'Electronique Fondamentale, CNRS, Univ. Paris-Sud (France)

7138 1K **Estimation of energy transfer parameters in thulium- and ytterbium-doped silica fibers** [7138-55]
P. Peterka, Institute of Photonics and Electronics (Czech Republic); W. Blanc, B. Dussardier, G. Monnom, Lab. de Physique de la Matière Condensée, CNRS, Univ. de Nice Sophia Antipolis (France); D. Simpson, G. Baxter, Victoria Univ. (Australia)

7138 1L **Full characterization of integrated optical ring-resonators by phase-sensitive time-domain interferometry** [7138-56]
A. Cianciamilla, Politecnico di Milano (Italy); F. Morichetti, Politecnico di Milano (Italy) and CoreCom—Consortium for Researches in Optical Processing and Switching (Italy); A. Melloni, Politecnico di Milano (Italy)
Dark spatial photovoltaic solitons and soliton-induced waveguide elements in ion-implanted planar lithium niobate waveguides [7138-57]  
V. G. Kruglov, V. M. Shandarov, Tomsk State Univ. of Control Systems and Radioelectronics (Russian Federation); Y. Tan, F. Chen, Shandong Univ. (China); D. Kip, Clausthal Univ. of Technology (Germany)

Optimization of pump wavelength for enhancing SC spectral broadening in silica fibers under CW-excitation [7138-58]  
L. Abrardi, S. Martín-López, A. Carrasco-Sanz, F. Rodríguez-Barrios, P. Corredera, M. L. Hernanz, Instituto de Física Aplicada, CSIC (Spain); M. González-Herráez, Univ. de Alcalá (Spain)

Double-clad planar waveguide Nd:YAG laser [7138-59]  
M. Jelinek, V. Kubeček, Z. Burian, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic); P. Hříbek, Univ. of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (Czech Republic)

Design and demonstration of OCDMA system with superior scalability (Invited Paper) [7138-60]  
I. Glesk, Princeton Univ. (United States) and Univ. of Strathclyde (United Kingdom); I. Andonovic, Univ. of Strathclyde (United Kingdom); P. R. Prucnal, Princeton Univ. (United States)

Soliton self-frequency shift in suspended core fibers [7138-61]  
B. Kibler, C. Finot, G. Millot, Univ. de Bourgogne (France); J. Wojcik, Maria Curie-Skłodowska Univ. (Poland); M. Szpunak, W. Urbanczyk, Wroclaw Univ. of Technology (Poland)

Intracavity synchronously pumped PPLN picosecond optical parametric oscillator [7138-62]  
A. Zavadilová, V. Kubeček, P. Hiršl, M. Čech, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic); J.-C. Diels, Univ. of New Mexico (United States)

All-optical triode with negative feedback effect induced by semiconductor optical amplifier module [7138-63]  
Y. Maeda, Kinki Univ. (Japan)

High power, short pulse generation in the near-infrared using BIBO [7138-64]  
M. Ghotbi, M. Beutler, V. Petrov, F. Noack, Max-Born-Institute for Nonlinear Optics and Ultrafast Spectroscopy (Germany)

Symmetric light beam splitting in sillenite crystals [7138-65]  
E. Yu. Ageyev, R. V. Litvinov, N. D. Hatkov, Tomsk State Univ. of Control Systems and Radioelectronics (Russian Federation)

Dynamics of layer crystal light absorption and the formation of optical bistability [7138-66]  
C. Yu. Ženkova, Chernivtsi National Univ. (Ukraine)

Lateral confinement in horizontal SOI slot waveguide structures [7138-67]  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7138 1X</td>
<td>Linear and nonlinear optical properties of Ge-As-S films [7138-68]</td>
<td>I. D. Tolmachov, A. V. Stronski, V. Lashkarev Institute of Semiconductor Physics (Ukraine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 1Y</td>
<td>Ultrafast properties of multilayer heterostructures based on GaAs/(AlGa)xOy [7138-69]</td>
<td>M. V. Ermolenko, S. A. Tikhomirov, V. V. Stankevich, O. V. Buganov, S. V. Gaponenko, B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics (Belarus); A. S. Shulenkov, Minsk Research Institute of Radiomaterials (Belarus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 1Z</td>
<td>The iterative detection network suppression of defocusing and thermal noise in black and white pictures shot by a camera with CCD/CMOS sensor [7138-70]</td>
<td>D. Kekrt, R. Podgorny, M. Klima, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 20</td>
<td>3D KLT compression algorithm for camera security systems [7138-71]</td>
<td>L. Fritsch, P. Páta, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 21</td>
<td>PSF model of wide-field optical system for restoration of space (in)variant astronomical image data [7138-72]</td>
<td>M. Řeřábek, P. Páta, Czech Technical Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 22</td>
<td>Delivery of multiparticle chains by an optical conveyor belt [7138-73]</td>
<td>M. Šiler, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic); T. Čižmár, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic) and Univ. of St. Andrews (United Kingdom); A. Jonáš, P. Zemánek, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 23</td>
<td>Decay rate measurement of perylene dye molecules attached to porous silicon nanostructures [7138-74]</td>
<td>M. N. Inci, Bogazici Univ. (Turkey); B. Bilen, Dogus Univ. (Turkey); S. Acikgoz, Bogazici Univ. (Turkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 24</td>
<td>Structural and optical characterization of photonics structures prepared by nanoimprint technology [7138-75]</td>
<td>D. Haško, International Laser Ctr. (Slovakia); J. Kováč, A. Šatka, International Laser Ctr. (Slovakia) and Slovak Univ. of Technology (Slovakia); M. Držík, F. Uherek, International Laser Ctr. (Slovakia); G. Hubbard, MacDermid Autotype Ltd. (United Kingdom); D. W. E. Allsopp, Univ. of Bath (United Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 25</td>
<td>Optically bound chain of microparticles [7138-76]</td>
<td>P. Zemánek, O. Brzobohatý, V. Karásek, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic); T. Čižmár, Institute of Scientific Instruments (Czech Republic) and Univ. of St. Andrews (United Kingdom); V. G. García-Chávez, K. Dholakia, Univ. of St. Andrews (United Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7138 26</td>
<td>Polariton mode lasing in a trap of Bose-condensate of indirect quantum-well excitons [7138-77]</td>
<td>P. A. Kalinin, Institute of Applied Physics (Russian Federation); V. V. Kozharovsky, Institute of Applied Physics (Russian Federation) and Texas A&amp;M Univ. (United States); Vl. V. Kozharovsky, Institute of Applied Physics (Russian Federation)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fiber coupled single photon receivers based on superconducting detectors for quantum communications and quantum cryptography [7138-78]

K. V. Smirnov, Yu. B. Vachtomin, R. V. Ozhegov, Moscow State Pedagogical Univ. (Russian Federation) and JSC (Russian Federation); I. V. Pentin, Moscow State Pedagogical Univ. (Russian Federation); E. V. Silivinskaya, JSC Superconducting Nanotechnology (Russian Federation); A. A. Korneev, G. N. Goltsman, Moscow State Pedagogical Univ. (Russian Federation)

Superconducting photon number resolving counter for near infrared applications [7138-79]

A. Korneev, A. Divochiy, Moscow State Pedagogical Univ. (Russian Federation); F. Marsili, D. Bitauld, A. Fiore, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland); V. Seleznev, N. Kaurova, M. Tarkhov, O. Minaeva, G. Chulkova, K. Smirnov, Moscow State Pedagogical Univ. (Russian Federation); A. Gaggero, R. Leoni, F. Mattioli, Istituto di Fotonica e Nanotecnologie (Italy); K. Lagoudakis, M. Benkhaoul, F. Lévy, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland); G. Goltsman, Moscow State Pedagogical Univ. (Russian Federation)

Nanooptics of locally induced photocurrent in monocrystalline Si solar cells [7138-80]

P. Škarvada, L. Grmela, I. F. Abuetwirat, P. Tománek, Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic)

Advanced light emitting devices for optoelectronic applications (Invited Paper) [7138-81]

J. Kováč, J. Jakabovič, M. Kytka, Slovak Univ. of Technology (Slovakia)

Novel approaches for light control of high power LEDs [7138-82]

L. Kuna, F. P. Wenzl, C. Sommer, A. Haase, E. Zinterl, J. R. Krenn, Joanneum Research Forschungsges.mbH (Austria); P. Hartmann, P. Pachler, M. Schweighart, S. Tasch, TridonicAtco Optoelectronics GmbH (Austria); G. Leising, Graz Univ. of Technology (Austria)

Novel solutions toward improved high power white LED light sources [7138-83]

F. P. Wenzl, C. Sommer, L. Kuna, E. Zinterl, J. R. Krenn, Joanneum Research Forschungsges.mbH (Austria); P. Hartmann, P. Pachler, M. Schweighart, S. Tasch, TridonicAtco Optoelectronics GmbH (Austria); G. Leising, Graz Univ. of Technology (Austria)

Phosphors-conversion white light LED with omni-directional reflector [7138-84]

S.-W. Chen, J.-C. Su, C.-L. Lu, S.-F. Song, National Taiwan Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan); J.-H. Chen, Feng Chia Univ. (Taiwan)

CdSe/ZnS/CdS core/shell quantum dots for white LEDs [7138-85]

S. Changyu, China Jiliang Univ. (China) and Zhejiang Univ. (China)

Optical enhancement passivation layer CsCl for the transparent organic light emitted diodes with Sr/Ag transparent cathode [7138-86]

C.-J. Lee, Korea Electronics Technology Institute (Korea, Republic of) and Hanyang Univ. (Korea, Republic of); D.-K. Choi, Hanyang Univ. (Korea, Republic of); D.-G. Moon, Soonchunhyang Univ. (Korea, Republic of); J.-I. Han, Korea Electronics Technology Institute (Korea, Republic of)
EDUCATION IN PHOTONICS

7138 2G Colour-matching functions as an eigenproblem solution [7138-87]
M. Dohnal, Univ.of Pardubice (Czech Republic)

7138 2H Education in our laboratory of coherent optics [7138-88]
D. Senderáková, M. Koyš, V. Mesároš, A. Štrba, Comenius Univ. (Slovakia)

7138 2I New trends in laser satellite communications: design and limitations [7138-89]
J. Císař, O. Wilfert, Brno Univ. of Technology (Czech Republic); F. Fanjul-Vélez,
N. Ortega-Quijano, J. L. Arce-Diego, Univ. de Cantabria (Spain)

Author Index
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Wolfgang Schleich, University of Ulm (Germany)
Dagmar Senderáková, Comenius University, Bratislava (Slovakia) and SPIE Czech and Slovak Chapter
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Plenary Sessions
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Pavel Tománek, Brno University of Technology (Czech Republic)

1 Lasers and Photodetectors in Industry, Imaging, and Sensors
Pavel Tománek, Brno University of Technology (Czech Republic)
Hyungseck Cho, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon (Korea, Republic of)

2 Lasers for Medical Applications
Jürgen Popp, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (Germany)
Helena Jelínková, Czech Technical University in Prague (Czech Republic)

3 Photonic Biosensors
Lars Thrane, Technical University of Denmark, Roskilde (Denmark)

4 Design, Simulation, and Modeling of Photonic Devices
Mario Bertolotti, University of Rome (Italy)
Theo Tschudi, Darmstadt University (Germany) and ICO
Bernard J. Hoenders, Groningen University (The Netherlands)

5 Photonic Crystals and Photonic Bandgap Structures
Jaroslav Kováč, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava (Slovakia)
Leonid Ya. Karachinsky, Ioffe Institute, St. Petersburg (Russia)

6 Diffractive Photonic Devices
Dagmar Senderáková, Comenius University, Bratislava (Slovakia)
7 Guided Wave Photonics  
Jiří Čtyroký, Institute of Photonics and Electronics, Prague (Czech Republic)  
Alexander I. Nosich, Institute of Radiophysics and Electronics, Kharkiv (Ukraine)

8 Organic Photonic Materials and Devices  
Roberto Morandotti, INRS-EMT, Varennes (Canada)

9 Nonlinear Materials, Devices, and Applications  
Ivan Glesk, Strathclyde University (United Kingdom)  
Pavel Cheben, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa (Canada)  
Vladimir V. Kocharovsky, Institute for Physics of Microstructures, Nizhni Novgorod (Russian Federation)

10 Photonics in Multimedia  
Miloš Klíma, Czech Technical University in Prague (Czech Republic)

11 Nanophotonics and Nanooptics  
Pavel Zemánek, Institute of Scientific Instruments, ASCR, Brno (Czech Republic)  
Romain Quidant, ICFO Castelldefels, Barcelona (Spain)  
Vassili A. Fedotov, University of Southampton (United Kingdom)

12 Solid State Lighting + LED, LD, OLED  
Reinhart Poprawe, Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology, Aachen (Germany)

13 Education in Photonics  
José L. Arce-Diego, University of Cantabria, Santander (Spain)
Introduction

This volume contains a selection of 89 papers from 135 contributions presented during the sixth Photonics Prague 2008 conference dedicated to the development of photonics particularly in the Eastern European countries, with special highlights on systems and devices in photonics.

The conference included 13 topical sessions covering various aspects of photonics such as:

1. Lasers and Photodetectors in Industry, Imaging, and Sensors
2. Lasers for Medical Applications
3. Photonic Biosensors
4. Design, Simulation, and Modelization of Photonic Devices
5. Photonic Crystals and Photonic Bandgap Structures
6. Diffractive Photonic Devices
7. Guided Wave Photonics
8. Organic Photonic Materials and Devices
9. Nonlinear Materials, Devices, and Applications
10. Photonics In Multimedia
11. Nanophotonic and Nanooptics
12. Solid State Lighting + LED, LD, OLED
13. Education In Photonics

All submitted papers were reviewed by members of the program committee.

We would like to thank all authors for their excellent contributions, which made for this outstanding high-level conference. We also thank the members of the program committee for their fine effort in preparing the conference technical program as well as for their opinions concerning the submitted papers. Last, but not least, we would like to thank the staff of SPIE for their support in preparing this proceedings.

We expect that this Photonics Prague series will continue and we are looking forward to inviting scientists from around the world to attend the next Photonics Prague conference in 2011.

Pavel Tománek
Dagmar Senderáková
Miroslav Hrabovský
Welcome Address

Ladies and gentlemen, dear participants, dear friends,

We welcome all of you, who come from countries all over the world, to the sixth International Conference of Photonics, Prague 2008 on “Photonics, Devices, and Systems,” held from 27–29 August 2008 at Artemis Olympik Hotel in Prague, Czech Republic.

This conference is the sixth one in a series. It follows the national Czech and Slovak Society for Photonics (CSSF) meeting held in Olomouc (1992) and four International conferences in Prague (1995, 1999, 2002, 2005), and traditionally represents the most important event organized by the CSSF, held every three years.

Photonics is an extraordinarily strong and dynamic field, one of the most important key technologies for markets in the 21st century. Its diverse applications play a vital role in the information society, ranging from industry to telecommunications, energy, medicine, and environment.

The principal idea of the organizers is to show the variety of photonic approaches to the current development of the high technology in Europe and worldwide in areas such as information and communication, lighting, manufacturing, security, and life science and health. Furthermore, this year the trend is very important in light of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission and increasing international collaboration.

The main target of the photonics conference series in Prague is to create an environment for open exchange of topical research information and to stimulate a discussion of novel concepts and fields of application. This conference series also represents an important regional forum for advances in the nature of physical phenomena used in photonics, instruments and device development, and a wide range of industrial photonics applications.

The conference program committee has suggested four plenary talks. We are very happy that we can start “historically” with a talk about Theodore Harold Maiman and his way to the invention of the laser source. Due to this discovery, the field of photonics was launched. A replica of this first laser setup using original contemporary components will also be shown here. Then, a cutting-edge development in disk, fiber, rod, and slab laser concepts which opens new application perspectives will be presented. Two following plenary talks, “Structured light fields for the biosciences” and “Controlling light at the nanoscale using plasmonic antennas and nanostructures” will show us the latest use of photonics in emerging bioscience and nanoscale areas.
From the numerous abstracts that have been submitted, 19 were selected as invited, 72 for oral presentation, and 51 for poster presentation, which will all be presented during a three-day meeting. The presentations are thematically distributed over 13 sessions. About 140 scientists from 34 countries are attending the conference. A quick glance at the program shows that most of participants are local (Czech) or from Eastern European countries. A more detailed look reveals the current trends in the research field.

This is the first time the conference is honored by a SPIE Best Student Paper Award. The student applicants and candidates for this award are almost exclusively young ladies, therefore the conference also contributed to the development of the SPIE Women in Optics program.

We acknowledge all the contributors for submitting the manuscripts in time and for preparing their oral or poster presentations.

We would like to thank the International program committee for its help in the selection of papers and the review procedures, and members of the local organizing committee for their efforts in preparing this conference. Especially we want to stress the importance of Action M Agency staff in the preparation as well as in assistance during the conference. Without its enthusiasm and good spirit the conference routing would not be excellent (which is one of our principal objectives).

We hope that you will profit not only from the conference program and its social events, but also from the beauties in the wonderful "hundred spires" city of Prague.

We wish you all an inspiring meeting, and we hope you will enjoy it.

Prague, August 27, 2008

Dr. Miroslav Jedlička
President of Czech and Slovak Society for Photonics

Prof. Dr. Pavel Tománek
Conference Chairperson
Wednesday, August 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – the Photonics Prague Conference is opened.

Pavel Tománek (Brno University of Technology) welcomes 146 participants from 34 countries.
Andrew Rawicz (Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Canada) begins his “historical” and emotional plenary talk on Theodore Maiman’s life and his way to the laser investigation.

Reinhart Poprawe (Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology, Aachen, Germany) explaining the cutting edge industrial applications of novel lasers.
Kishan Dholakia (University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK) is dancing during his plenary talk on biophotonics, while Olivier Martin (Ecole Fédérale Polytechnique, Lausanne, Switzerland) was heart and soul walking...during the topic of plasmonics and nanoworlds.
Gert von Bally (University of Muenster, Germany) explains the use of new technologies in biophotonics.

Jürgen Popp (Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Germany) presents advanced Raman spectroscopy in life sciences.
Amnon Yariv (Caltech, USA) is explaining, and Roberto Li Votti (Università di Roma I, Italy - left) and session chairman Hyungsuck Cho (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon, Korea – in the middle) are all ears.

Fruitful discussion during coffee break – Helena Jelínková (Czech Technical University in Prague) and Andrew Rawicz (Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada)
Poster session.

Poster session continues – Laura Abrardi (Spain).
I wonder but I am really here. You must read my poster first (Ksenia Shandarova - Russia)

How can I explain it?
The conference Welcome Banquet (Wednesday August 27, 2008) on the 19th level of Olympik Hotel is prepared and the first participants are arriving. Members of the local organizing committee welcome each participant.

Beautiful sunset in Prague seen from the Banquet Hall. Do not miss it next time in 2011.
How delicious the food and music is here.
Organizers Miroslav Jedlička, Milena Zeithamlová, and Ivan Glesk are satisfied, and participants (Santander group, Spain) too.
Preeti Patil (India) competes for the SPIE award while Vladimir Kocharovsky (Russia) evaluates her talk.

Conference information and tableau “Two-waves interference” by Jitka Brůnová-Lachmann.
“Who will be awarded by our prize?” Alex Pulchart (SPIE Europe) asks.

This year the conference honoured laureates with the first SPIE Best Student Presentation Award. This action was also our contribution to reinforce the role of SPIE Women in Optics program, because…all prizewinners are young ladies (next page).
SPIE Best Student Presentation Award Recipients

Pictured from left to right:

Pavel Tománek – Conference chair,
Alex Pulchart – SPIE Europe representative,

and the award recipients:

Kamila Hrabovská (Technical University Ostrava, Czech Republic – 3rd place) for her presentation on “Optical and magneto-optical properties of as-quenched CoFeSiB amorphous ribbons,”

Preeti B. Patil (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India – 2nd place) for her presentation on “Electrical modeling of single defects in photonic crystal waveguide”, and

Alena Zavadilová (Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic – winner) for her presentation on “Intracavity synchronously pumped PPLN picosecond optical parametric oscillator.”
The Czech and Slovak Society for Photonics (CSSF) contributes on the occasion of these Photonics Prague meetings its prize for Best Presentation by young Czech and Slovak Society scientists.

This time there were two coequal prizes:

Zdeněk Buchta, Institute of Scientific Instruments, Academy of Science, Brno, for his presentation on
“High-power laser diode array system for optical pumping of Rb”

and

Jan Fiala, Faculty of Nuclear Physics and Physical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, for his presentation on
“Study of enhanced optical transmission through subwavelength apertures.”

Jan Fiala (left) and Zdeněk Buchta (right) receive their diploma.
Conference Sponsors

We wish to thank following organizations for their contribution to the success of the conference.

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