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Ninth Conference on Optics: Micro- to Nanophotonics II

Valentin I. Vlad
Editor

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Contents

vii	Conference Committees
ix	Introduction

SESSION 1 LASERS AND RADIATION SOURCES

- 7469 02 **Ultrafast science and development at the Artemis facility (Plenary paper)** [7469-01]
I. C. E. Turcu, E. Springate, C. A. Froud, C. M. Cacho, Rutherford Appleton Lab. (United Kingdom); J. L. Collier, W. A. Bryan, G. R. A. J. Nemeth, Rutherford Appleton Lab. (United Kingdom) and Swansea Univ. (United Kingdom); J. P. Marangos, J. W. G. Tisch, R. Torres, T. Siegel, L. Brugnera, Imperial College London (United Kingdom); J. G. Underwood, Imperial College London (United Kingdom) and Univ. College London (United Kingdom); I. Procino, W. R. Newell, Univ. College London (United Kingdom); C. Altucci, R. Velotta, Univ. degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy); R. B. King, J. D. Alexander, C. R. Calvert, O. Kelly, J. B. Greenwood, I. D. Williams, Queen's Univ. Belfast (United Kingdom); A. Cavalleri, J. C. Petersen, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom) and Univ. Hamburg (Germany); N. Dean, Univ. of Oxford (United Kingdom); S. S. Dhesi, Diamond Light Source Ltd. (United Kingdom); L. Poletto, LUXOR, CNR-INFN (Italy); P. Villorresi, LUXOR, CNR-INFN (Italy) and Univ. degli Studi di Padova (Italy); F. Frassetto, S. Bonora, LUXOR, CNR-INFN (Italy); M. D. Roper, Daresbury Lab. (United Kingdom)
- 7469 03 **High peak-power passively Q-switched all-ceramics Nd:YAG/Cr⁴⁺:YAG lasers** [7469-02]
N. Pavel, Institute for Molecular Science (Japan) and National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); M. Tsunekane, T. Taira, Institute for Molecular Science (Japan)
- 7469 04 **New nonlinear Gd_{1-x}R_xCa₄O(BO₃)₃ (R = Lu, Sc) crystals for 400-nm blue-violet light generation by type-I noncritical phase-matching frequency doubling processes** [7469-03]
L. Gheorghe, A. Achim, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); P. Loiseau, G. Aka, Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris, LCMCP, CNRS (France)
- 7469 05 **Two-photon cooperative scattering lasing stimulated by stream of atoms** [7469-04]
N. Enaki, M. Turcan, Institute of Applied Physics (Moldova)

SESSION 2 LASERS IN MATERIAL SCIENCE

- 7469 06 **Power laser application for security glass production** [7469-05]
V. Abashkin, E. Achimova, Institute of Applied Physics (Moldova)
- 7469 07 **Spectroscopic study of the plasmas generated by nanosecond laser ablation of Er³⁺-doped Ti:LiNbO₃ targets** [7469-06]
M. Stafe, C. Negutu, I. Vladoiu, S. S. Ciobanu, B. Savu, N. N. Puscas, Polytechnical Univ. of Bucharest (Romania)

SESSION 3 NANOPHOTONICS AND QUANTUM OPTICS

- 7469 08 **The use of nanocrystals with emission in the visible or near infrared and their applications for photonics and optoelectronics (Invited Paper)** [7469-07]
S. G. Hickey, V. Lesnyak, L. Liebscher, S. Miao, S. Tschardtke, C. Waurisch, N. Gaponik, A. Eychmüller, Technische Univ. Dresden (Germany)
- 7469 09 **Quantum entanglement of two-mode continuous variable states in a thermal reservoir (Invited Paper)** [7469-08]
A. Isar, National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (Romania)
- 7469 0A **Optical limiting in CdTe nanocrystals embedded in polystyrene** [7469-09]
I. Dancus, V. I. Vlad, A. Petris, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); V. Lesnyak, N. Gaponik, A. Eychmüller, Technische Univ. Dresden (Germany)
- 7469 0B **Using CHODIN to simulate the dynamics of coherent light scattering on nanofluids** [7469-10]
D. Chicea, Univ. Lucian Blaga din Sibiu (Romania)
- 7469 0C **Optical and morphologic properties of YVO₄:Eu phosphor** [7469-11]
S. Georgescu, A. M. Voiculescu, E. Cotoi, O. Toma, L. Gheorghe, A. Achim, C. Matei, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); I. Enculescu, E. Matei, National Institute for Materials Physics (Romania); M. Osiac, Univ. of Craiova (Romania)
- 7469 0D **Effective nonlinear refractive index of nano-porous silicon and its dependence on porosity and light wavelength** [7469-12]
T. Bazaru, V. I. Vlad, A. Petris, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); M. Miu, National Institute for Research and Development in Microtechnologies (Romania)
- 7469 0E **Fourier transform spectra of quantum dots** [7469-13]
V. Damian, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); I. Ardelean, Institute of Biology (Romania); A. Armășelu, Univ. Transilvania din Brasov (Romania); D. Apostol, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania)

SESSION 4 NONLINEAR AND INFORMATION OPTICS

- 7469 0F **Phase locked harmonic localization and enhancement in an absorbing semiconductor cavity (Invited Paper)** [7469-14]
V. Roppo, Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain) and U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (United States); C. Cojocaru, Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain); G. D'Aguanno, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (United States) and AEGIS Technologies Inc. (United States); F. Raineri, Lab. de Photonique et de Nanostructures, CNRS (France) and Univ. Paris-Diderot (France); J. Trull, Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain); Y. Halioua, Lab de Photonique et de Nanostructures, CNRS (France) and Univ. Gent-IMEC (Belgium); R. Vilaseca, Univ. Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain); R. Raj, Lab de Photonique et de Nanostructures, CNRS (France); M. Scalora, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (United States)
- 7469 0G **Speckle-based fiber optic method for registration of IR radiation (Invited Paper)** [7469-15]
I. P. Culeac, Iu. H. Nistor, M. S. Iovu, A. M. Andriesh, Institute of Applied Physics (Moldova)

- 7469 OH **Formation and stability of multidimensional structures in optics and atomic condensate: recent theoretical studies** [7469-16]
D. Mihalache, Horia Hulubei National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH) (Romania) and Academy of Romanian Scientists (Romania)
- 7469 OI **Fast writing of soliton waveguides in lithium niobate with a low-power blue-violet laser** [7469-17]
S. T. Popescu, A. Petris, V. I. Vlad, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); E. Fazio, Univ. degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza (Italy)
- 7469 OJ **The electromagnetic degree of coherence in the near field** [7469-18]
O. V. Angelsky, C. Yu. Zenkova, M. P. Gorsky, N. V. Gorodys'ka, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National Univ. (Ukraine)
- 7469 OK **Electro-optic effect in nematic liquid crystals aligned with conductive polymer** [7469-19]
M. Raicopol, C. Dascalu, R. Atasiei, A.-L. Alexe-Ionescu, Polytechnical Univ. of Bucharest (Romania)
- 7469 OL **The qualitative analysis of the nonlinear equations using integral relations for solitons in photorefractive nonlinear crystals** [7469-20]
V. Babin, C. Radu, National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics (Romania)

SESSION 5 BIOPHOTONICS AND OPTICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

- 7469 OM **Wandering of laser beams: a useful tool for local atmospheric investigations (Invited paper)** [7469-21]
A. Consortini, C. Innocenti, Univ. degli Studi di Firenze (Italy)
- 7469 ON **The flexibility of hydrated bovine serum albumin investigated by THz spectroscopy and molecular modeling** [7469-22]
M. Mernea, O. Calborean, L. Petrescu, M. P. Dinca, Univ. of Bucharest (Romania); A. Leca, D. Apostol, T. Dascalu, National Institute for Lasers, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); D. Mihailescu, Univ. of Bucharest (Romania)
- 7469 OO **Investigating nanoparticle aggregation dynamics in an aqueous magnetic fluid by light scattering anisotropy** [7469-23]
D. Chicea, Univ. Lucian Blaga din Sibiu (Romania)
- 7469 OP **Measuring very small concentrations in organic suspensions by coherent light scattering** [7469-24]
D. Chicea, Univ. Lucian Blaga din Sibiu (Romania)
- 7469 OQ **Multispectral and multitemporal satellite remote sensing imagery for Bucharest land cover dynamics assessment** [7469-25]
M. A. Zoran, R. Savastru, D. Savastru, M. Tautan, S. Miclos, National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics (Romania)
- 7469 OR **Analysis of climatic and anthropogenic changes effects on spectral vegetation indices in forest areas derived from satellite data** [7469-26]
M. A. Zoran, National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics (Romania)

SESSION 6   OPTOELECTRONICS AND OPTICAL COMPONENTS

- 7469 OS   **Novel optoelectronic system for fast acquisition of reflection spectra** [7469-27]
V. Teplov, L. Fauch, R. Saarenheimo, E. Nippolainen, A. A. Kamshilin, Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland)
- 7469 OT   **Effects of layer-by-layer deposition on the structural and optical characteristics of thin films** [7469-28]
P. Prepelita, R. Medianu, F. Garoi, A. Moldovan, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania); A. M. Vlaicu, National Institute of Material Physics (Romania)
- 7469 OU   **Excimer laser micro-machining optimization using beam-homogenizers-based optical system** [7469-29]
V. Sava, Univ. of Bucharest (Romania); C. Ilie, M. Popa, National Institute of Research and Development for Optoelectronics (Romania); M. Stoica, M. Udrea, National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (Romania)
- 7469 OV   **Optical choppers: modulators and attenuators** [7469-30]
V.-F. Duma, M. F. Nicolov, M. Kiss, Aurel Vlaicu Univ. of Arad (Romania)
- 7469 OW   **Modeling of the Er³⁺-doped Ti:LiNbO₃ optical waveguide couplers** [7469-31]
N. N. Puscas, S. S. Ciobanu, C. Negutu, M. Stafe, Polytechnical Univ. of Bucharest (Romania)

Author Index

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Introduction

The conference on Micro- to Nano-Photonics II - ROMOPTO 2009 is the ninth in a series of international conferences dedicated to optics and photonics, held every three years in Romania. The first three conferences were organized by Acad. Ioan Ursu in collaboration with Acad. A. M. Prokhorov under the name "Trends in Quantum Electronics." The topics of this conference are related to the modern micro- and nano-photonics and reflect the fast evolution of optics and its applications in material science, information science and technology, optoelectronics, biology and medicine, sensing and metrology. The results in these fields demonstrate the important role of photonics in the progress of the modern society, in the 21st century.

The purpose of ROMOPTO 2009 is to provide an opportunity for the optics scientists to share experiences, to discuss their newest results, to stimulate interdisciplinary research, and to consider the perspective of applications. The position of our country, Romania, in central-eastern Europe plays an important role in the promotion of the scientific contacts in this region. Since January 2007, Romania is a member of European Union and is actively participating in the EU-R&D Programs. In the national strategy in R&D, photonics plays an important role both in basic research and in technological platforms. An actual challenge for all of us is the financial and economic crisis, which affects research funding, participation in our conference, and many others.

The organization of ROMOPTO 2009 was possible by the actions and support of several national and international institutions. We want to mention and thank the Romanian Academy, the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, the National Institute for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics (NILPRP), the University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu, the Division of Optics and Quantum Electronics of the Romanian Physical Society (which is a territorial committee of ICO and EOS), the Romanian Photonics Society, the National Institute of Optoelectronics (NIOE 2000), and the University of Bucharest.

Thanks are due to the cosponsoring institutions of this conference: International Commission for Optics (ICO), the "Abdus Salam" International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Trieste, Italy), and the European Optical Society (EOS). Particularly, I express my entire gratitude to Prof. Maria Calvo, Prof. A. Friesem, Prof. Anna Consortini, Prof. A. Friberg and Prof. G. von Bally (ICO), Prof. Maria Yzuel, Dr. E. Arthurs, Mr. E. Pepper (SPIE), Prof. K.R. Sreenivasan, Prof. J. Niemela and Prof. G. Thompson (ICTP), Prof. Roberta Ramponi (EOS), Prof. C. Sheppard, Prof. E. Fazio and Prof. J.P. Huignard, for their important support to the ROMOPTO 2009 conference and to our optics community.

By the efforts of the scientific advisory committee, coordinated by Prof. M. Bertolotti and the efforts of the programme committee, 120 scientific

papers by authors from 15 countries have been selected for presentation at ROMOPTO 2009, in 8 plenary lectures, 27 invited lectures, 38 oral presentations and 47 posters. I express my entire gratitude to the members of these committees, referees, to the invited professors and to all participants for their high level work. Some of these papers, reviewed by an international referee board, are published in this SPIE Proceedings volume, which hopefully will attract the interest of the optics community.

The joy of meeting so many friends at ROMOPTO 2009 was shadowed by the passing from this world of two of the strongest Romanian supporters of this conference: Acad. Ioan Ursu (in 2007), the Director of the Institute of Atomic Physics, a President of EPS and the founder of this conference series and Acad. Radu Grigorovici (in 2008), the Director of the Institute of Physics and a Vice-president of the Romanian Academy, exceptional men and friends. Requiescant in Pace!

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the international scientific advisory committee, programme and organizing committees of ROMOPTO 2009 for their hard work. My gratitude is specially conveyed to Prof. C. Oprean, the Rector of the University "L. Blaga" of Sibiu, Prof. I. Isarie, former Rector, Prof. I. Bondrea, the Dean of Faculty of Engineering "H. Oberth" and to the local organizing team: Prof. Toderita Nemes, Prof. V. Petrescu, Prof. Cl. Isarie, Prof. D. Chicea and Dr. Eng. V. Fagarasan (University Protocol), who are hosting admirably this conference. Special address and thanks are to Dr. R. Medianu, the General Director of the Natl. Inst. for Laser, Plasma and Radiation Physics, Dr. Adrian Petris, the coordinator of the organizing committee, my PhD student, Tatiana Bazaru for conference programme preparation and other organization matters, and Mariana Buzatu for financial matters and social events, for their important efforts in all steps of conference organization, Dr. M. Udrea for sponsorship by "Apel Laser" and transports, Dipl. Eng. S. T. Popescu for the design and updating the conference web site, to my PhD students, I. Dancus for conference poster, banner and programme cover and Petronela Gheorghe for site information and social programme. The financial skill of our treasurer, Alexandra Olteanu is also acknowledged.

Finally, I hope that the participants in ROMOPTO 2009 enjoyed the scientific sessions, met in Sibiu-Hermannstadt friends, have had the opportunity to start new scientific collaborations and will remember their visit in Romania, in Alba-Iulia (Apulum) and Western Carpathians from the Transylvania County.

Valentin I. Vlad
Chair of ROMOPTO 2009