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Integrated Photonics: Materials, Devices, and Applications

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Contents

vii	Conference Committee
ix	Introduction

SESSION 1 VLSI PHOTONICS

- 8069 04 **Demonstration of ITU channel interleaver in SOI with large cross section single mode waveguides** [8069-03]
G. R. Bhatt, B. K. Das, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (India)
- 8069 05 **Widely tunable single-mode high power quantum cascade lasers (Invited Paper)** [8069-10]
M. Razei, B. Gökden, S. Tsao, A. Haddadi, N. Bandyopadhyay, S. Slivken, Northwestern Univ. (United States)

SESSION 2 DISCRETE PHOTONIC DEVICES

- 8069 06 **Polarized optical injection in long-wavelength vertical-cavity surface emitting lasers (Invited Paper)** [8069-05]
A. Hurtado, K. Schires, N. Khan, R. Al-Seyab, I. D. Henning, M. J. Adams, Univ. of Essex (United Kingdom)
- 8069 07 **Development of a high-speed wideband frequency tunable infrared laser source for real time wind turbine array sensing applications** [8069-06]
P. Mitchell, Oclaro, Inc. (United Kingdom) and Univ. of Bolton (United Kingdom); A. Janssen, B. Partov Poor, Oclaro, Inc. (United Kingdom)
- 8069 08 **UV diamond power switches** [8069-07]
P. Calvani, M. Girolami, G. Ricciotti, G. Conte, Univ. degli Studi di Roma Tre (Italy)
- 8069 0A **Thermal behavior of waveguide gratings** [8069-09]
M. R. Saleem, Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland) and National Univ. of Sciences and Technology (Pakistan); M. B. Khan, Z. M. Khan, National Univ. of Sciences and Technology (Pakistan); P. A. Stenberg, Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland); T. Alasaarela, Aalto Univ. (Finland); S. Honkanen, Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland) and Aalto Univ. (Finland); B. Bai, Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland) and Tsinghua Univ. (China); J. Turunen, P. Vahimaa, Univ. of Eastern Finland (Finland)

SESSION 3 QUANTUM PHOTONIC DEVICES AND MATERIALS

- 8069 0B **Fabrication and evaluation of photorefractive waveguide in LiNbO₃:Fe** [8069-41]
N. Tarjányi, D. Káčik, Univ. of Žilina (Slovakia)
- 8069 0D **Dynamic response of CVD monocrystalline diamond to low-energy x-ray beam** [8069-12]
D. M. Trucchi, CNR-IMIP (Italy); P. Allegrini, Univ. degli Studi di Roma Tre (Italy); S. Spadaro, G. Conte, Univ. degli Studi di Roma Tre (Italy) and INFN-Roma Tre (Italy)

- 8069 OE **Quantum state transfer among crystallographic groups of N-V centers in diamond (Invited Paper)** [8069-13]
Ö. E. Müstecaplıoğlu, Koç Univ. (Turkey)

SESSION 4 PHOTONIC ATOM AND CRYSTALS

- 8069 OG **Super-directive beam from metamaterials** [8069-15]
V. Mocella, P. Dardano, I. Rendina, CNR-IMM (Italy); S. Cabrini, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (United States)
- 8069 OI **Hybrid colloidal crystal for photonic application (Invited Paper)** [8069-17]
A. Chiappini, C. Armellini, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy); N. Bazzanella, Univ. degli Studi di Trento (Italy); A. Carpentiero, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy); G. C. Righini, CNR-IFAC (Italy); M. Ferrari, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy)

SESSION 5 PHOTONIC ATOM AND WAVEGUIDES

- 8069 OK **Development and optical characterization of vertical tapers in SiON waveguides using gray-scale lithography** [8069-19]
B. Han, Univ. degli Studi di Trento (Italy) and Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Italy); E. Rigo, Univ. degli Studi di Trento (Italy) and Univ. di Modena e Reggio Emilia (Italy); R. Guider, S. Larcheri, Univ. degli Studi di Trento (Italy); G. Nunzi Conti, CNR-IFAC, MDF Lab. (Italy); M. R. Vanacharla, Univ. degli Studi di Trento (Italy); A. Chiasera, M. Ferrari, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy); L. Pavesi, Univ. degli Studi di Trento (Italy); G. Pucker, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Italy); G. C. Righini, CNR-IFAC, MDF Lab. (Italy); M. Ghulinyan, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Italy)
- 8069 OL **Electro-optical modulation with silicon microspheres in liquid crystal** [8069-20]
H. Yilmaz, A. Serpengüzel, Koç Univ. (Turkey)

SESSION 6 MATERIALS

- 8069 ON **Down-converter based on rare earth doped fluoride glass to improve Si-based solar cell efficiency** [8069-23]
G. Alombert Goget, D. Ristic, A. Chiasera, S. Varas, M. Ferrari, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy); G. C. Righini, CNR-IFAC, MDF Lab. (Italy); B. Dieudonné, B. Boulard, LdOF Lab., CNRS, Univ. du Maine (France)
- 8069 OP **Characterisation of thin LPCVD silicon-rich oxide films** [8069-25]
D. Ristić, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy) and Ruđer Bošković Institute (Croatia); M. Ivanda, M. Marciuš, Ruđer Bošković Institute (Croatia); V. Holý, Charles Univ. in Prague (Czech Republic); Z. Siketić, I. Bogdanović-Radović, Ruđer Bošković Institute (Croatia); O. Gamulin, Univ. of Zagreb (Croatia); K. Furić, M. Ristić, S. Musić, M. Buljan, Ruđer Bošković Institute (Croatia); M. Ferrari, A. Chiasera, A. Chiappini, CNR-IFN, CSMFO Lab. (Italy); G. C. Righini, CNR-IFAC, MDF Lab (Italy)

- 8069 OS **PECVD deposition and characterization of silicon oxynitride for optical applications** [8069-28]
A. B. Alamin Dow, K. Leong, A. B. Gougam, H. Alizadeh, N. P. Kherani, Univ. of Toronto (Canada)

SESSION 7 FABRICATION

- 8069 OU **UV-imprinting of single-mode polymeric waveguides** [8069-30]
J. Hiltunen, VTT Technical Research Ctr. of Finland (Finland); M. Wang, Univ. of Oulu (Finland); M. Hiltunen, VTT Technical Research Ctr. of Finland (Finland); J. Puustinen, J. Lappalainen, Univ. of Oulu (Finland); S. Pearce, M. Charlton, Univ. of Southampton (United Kingdom); P. Karioja, VTT Technical Research Ctr. of Finland (Finland)
- 8069 OV **Assembly of a photonic wavelength-division multiplexing device using laser-based soldering** [8069-31]
T. Burkhardt, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany) and Friedrich-Schiller-Univ. (Germany); M. Hornaff, A. Kamm, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany); M. Rütz, T. Possner, Grintech GmbH (Germany); E. Beckert, R. Eberhardt, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany); A. Tünnermann, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany) and Friedrich-Schiller-Univ. (Germany)
- 8069 OW **Process optimization to design titanium-indiffused lithium niobate channel waveguides for Mach-Zehnder interferometer switch** [8069-33]
G. Singh, S. Gupta, S. Bothra, V. Janyani, R. P. Yadav, Malaviya National Institute of Technology (India)

SESSION 8 APPLICATIONS

- 8069 OY **Gas-phase diagnostic by time-resolved rotational coherent anti-Stokes Raman spectroscopy (Invited Paper)** [8069-35]
T. Seeger, Univ. Siegen (Germany) and Friedrich-Alexander-Univ. Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany); A. Leipertz, Friedrich-Alexander-Univ. Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)
- 8069 OZ **A speckle-based CMOS sensor array for arbitrary surface movement detection** [8069-36]
C. Wang, S. Tanner, P.-A. Farine, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 8069 IO **Polarization gratings allow for real-time and artifact-free circular dichroism measurements** [8069-37]
P. Pagliusi, Univ. of Calabria (Italy) and CNR-IPCF (Italy); E. Lepera, C. Provenzano, Univ. of Calabria (Italy); A. Mazzulla, CNR-IPCF (Italy); G. Cipparrone, Univ. of Calabria (Italy) and CNR-IPCF (Italy)

POSTER SESSION

- 8069 14 **Optical characteristics of triangular microresonator with long evanescent field on the total internal reflection mirror** [8069-42]
D. G. Kim, S. H. Kim, H. C. Ki, W.-G. Jang, D.-K. Lee, H. J. Kim, T. U. Kim, H. J. Kim, Korea Photonics Technology Institute (Korea, Republic of); G.-Y. Oh, Y. W. Choi, Chung-Ang Univ. (Korea, Republic of)
- 8069 17 **Tuning of optical resonances of a microsphere with liquid crystal** [8069-45]
H. Yilmaz, Koç Univ. (Turkey); M. S. Tamer, O. Gürlü, İstanbul Technical Univ. (Turkey); A. Serpengüzel, Koç Univ. (Turkey)

SESSION 9 VLSI PHOTONICS II

- 8069 19 **Novel optical interconnect devices and coupling methods applying self-written waveguide technology (Invited Paper)** [8069-04]
K. Nakama, O. Mikami, Tokai Univ. (Japan)

Author Index

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- 1 VLSI Photonics
Giancarlo C. Righini, Istituto di Fisica Applicata Nello Carrara (Italy)
- 2 Discrete Photonic Devices
El-Hang Lee, Inha University (Korea, Republic of)
- 3 Quantum Photonic Devices and Materials
Antonio Hurtado, University of Essex (United Kingdom)
- 4 Photonic Atom and Crystals
Özgür E. Müstecaplıoğlu, Koç University (Turkey)
- 5 Photonic Atom and Waveguides
Mher Ghulinyan, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (Italy)
- 6 Materials
Patrice Féron, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences Appliquées et de Technologie (France)
- 7 Fabrication
Özgür E. Müstecaplıoğlu, Koç University (Turkey)
- 8 Applications
Alfred Leipertz, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

Introduction

Optical science and photonics engineering are developing at a faster pace. The optoelectronic and photonic engineer of the 21st century will make use of the tools available to design ever improved photonic devices and systems, whereas the optical and photonic scientist of the 21st century will be busy supplying novel materials, fabrication methods, and applications. Beginning with the new millennium, countries are officially including optics and photonics in their research and development plans and programs to cover application fields from automotive and home lighting to information and communications technologies, from life sciences and health to multidimensional displays, from remote sensing to nondestructive diagnostics, and from material processing to renewable energy. More and more academic degree programs are being offered in optical sciences and photonics engineering all over the world. Soon, this novel discipline will grow out of the more conventional science and engineering departments and establish itself as the discipline of the 21st century.

The scope of this conference on integrated photonics materials, devices, and applications has been to bring together optical scientists and photonics engineers who work on the different aspects of this fascinating science and technology in academia, industry, government laboratories, and research centers throughout the planet. The aim was to provide an interdisciplinary update and review of innovations in integrated photonic materials, devices, and applications, as well as theoretical, experimental, and numerical tools that support these innovations. The conference included topics such as very large scale integrated (VLSI) photonics, discrete photonic devices, quantum photonic devices and materials, photonic atoms and crystals, photonic atoms and waveguides, novel photonic materials, fabrication methods, and applications.

Integrated photonics comes about with the VLSI of photonics based on micro- and nanodevices and waveguides. Discrete photonic devices are to be assembled on optical printed circuit boards (PCBs). Quantum photonic structures are investigated for novel application areas as well as for contribution to the fundamental science. Ordered photonic atoms leading to photonic crystals, and disordered ones leading to photonic glasses, are fascinating. Novel materials, fabrication techniques, and applications are abundant.

Although this volume includes a fraction of our ever shrinking planet's research and development efforts in the vast field of integrated photonics, we hope that these papers by world renowned experts pave the path for all of us towards the upcoming photonics integration.

Ali Serpengüzel
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Alfred Leipertz