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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:


ISSN: 0277-786X
ISBN: 9781628416978

Published by
SPIE
P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA
Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445
SPIE.org

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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vii</td>
<td>Authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix</td>
<td>Conference Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiii</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HIGH POWER LASER DAMAGE, UV THROUGH IR I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9532 05</td>
<td>Time-resolved shadowgraphy of optical breakdown in fused silica [9532-4]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HIGH POWER LASER DAMAGE, UV THROUGH IR II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9532 08</td>
<td>Numerical simulation on 1 on 1 surface damage threshold test of fused SiO₂ with Monte Carlo method [9532-7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9532 09</td>
<td>Femtosecond laser-induced pre-damage dynamics in Al₂O₃/SiO₂ mirror [9532-8]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HIGH POWER LASER DAMAGE, UV THROUGH IR III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9532 0A</td>
<td>Damage-controlled high power lasers and plasma mirror application (Plenary Paper) [9532-9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9532 0B</td>
<td>Investigations of laser induced damage in KTiOPO₄ and Rb:KTiOPO₄ at 1 μm and 2 μm (Invited Paper) [9532-10]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9532 0C</td>
<td>Laser-induced damage of SiO₂ and CaF₂ under 263 nm [9532-11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9532 0D</td>
<td>Effects of groove structure on grating properties [9532-12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9532 0E</td>
<td>The effect of laser pulse width on laser-induced damage at K9 and UBK7 components surface [9532-13]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DEFECTS, CONTAMINATION, POLISHING, AND SURFACE DAMAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9532 0H</td>
<td>Producing fused silica optics with high UV-damage resistance to nanosecond pulsed lasers (Invited Paper) [9532-15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9532 0J</td>
<td>How laser damage resistance of HfO₂/SiO₂ optical coatings is affected by embedded contamination caused by pausing the deposition process [9532-17]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LASER ABLATION AND LASER MACHINING

9532 0M  Three-dimensional femtosecond laser micromachining of dielectric crystals for photonic waveguiding applications (Invited Paper) [9532-20]

9532 0O  Propagation of focused ultrashort pulse laser during micromachining of sapphire [9532-22]

NONLINEAR LASER CRYSTALS

9532 0W  Wavelength dependence of refractive index in scintillation (Lu0.9Y0.1)2SiO5 single crystal [9532-30]

9532 0Y  Organic noncentrosymmetric complexes of 4-nitrophenol for second harmonic generation [9532-32]

OPTICAL GLASSES AND FIBERS

9532 0Z  Absorption dynamics and structural changes due to laser-induced breakdown in transparent dielectrics (Invited Paper) [9532-33]

9532 11  (6+1) × 1 fiber combiner based on thermally expanded core technique for high power amplifiers [9532-35]

MECHANISMS, MODELING, AND SIMULATIONS I

9532 12  The stochastic nature of growth of laser-induced damage (Plenary Paper) [9532-37]

9532 13  Ultrashort-pulse laser excitation and damage of dielectric materials: experiments and modeling (Invited Paper) [9532-38]

9532 14  Mechanism of internal modification in bulk borosilicate glass with picosecond laser pulses at high repetition rates [9532-39]

9532 15  Laser-induced structural modification in bulk of single-crystal sapphire [9532-40]

MECHANISMS, MODELING, AND SIMULATIONS II

9532 16  Mechanism study of initial filamentary damage in optical components owing to surface contamination particles [9532-44]

9532 17  High power femtosecond laser for generation of coherent extreme ultraviolet radiation (Invited Paper) [9532-42]
CHARACTERIZATION TECHNIQUES AND MEASUREMENT PROTOCOLS

9532 19 Laser damage measurement techniques for the femtosecond regime (Invited Paper) [9532-45]

9532 1C Laser-induced fluorescence of fused silica irradiated by KrF laser [9532-48]

HIGH LASER DAMAGE RESISTANT COATINGS

9532 1F Effects of annealing on properties of Al2O3 monolayer film at 355 nm [9532-54]

9532 1G Comparison of the damage features of the silica films prepared by the sol-gel and e-beam deposition methods [9532-52]

9532 1I Analysis of laser damage tests on a coating for broad bandwidth high reflection of femtosecond pulses (Invited Paper) [9532-50]

POSTER SESSION

9532 1K A novel micro-processing of waveguide coupler in birefringent crystal by twin tracks of single-scan femtosecond laser writing [9532-56]

9532 1M Relationship between large-aperture optical components of striated surface shape and focal spot characteristics in the far-field [9532-58]

9532 1P Study on a splitting-light optical system for spectrometer [9532-41]

9532 1Q Experiments of glucose solution measurement based on the tunable pulsed laser induced photoacoustic spectroscopy method [9532-61]

9532 1R Near-field optical properties of multilayer ridge metal/multilayer-dielectric gratings for pulse compressor [9532-62]

9532 1T Study on the laser damage character of fused silica by different fusing atmosphere and heat treatment process [9532-64]

9532 1Z The particle behavior analysis and design in the improvement of KDP finishing [9532-70]

9532 21 Improving UV laser damage threshold of fused silica optics by wet chemical etching technique [9532-71]

9532 23 Numerical investigation of temperature field induced by dual wavelength lasers in sub-microsecond laser annealing technology for insulated gate bipolar transistor [9532-73]

9532 24 Influence of thickness and annealing temperature on the structure properties of random mask deposited by magnetron sputtering [9532-74]

9532 26 Study of hafina-silica mixed coatings with different compositions prepared by E-beam co-evaporation [9532-76]
Research and validation of key measurement technologies of large aperture optical elements [9532-80]

Investigation on optical surface defect extraction algorithm based on background correction and image segmentation method [9532-83]

Dynamic thermal model of photovoltaic cell illuminated by laser beam [9532-84]

Lamping process and application of ultra small U-shaped, whispery gallery mode (WGM) based optic fiber sensors [9532-123]

Diauxic growth and microstructure of grain interfaces in thermal bonding Yb:LuAG/LuAG ceramic [9532-129]
Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the six-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first four digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Ba, Rongsheng, 08, 0E
Bai, Feng, 0O
Balling, Peter, 13
Bao, Zongjie, 0O
Bellum, John, 0J, 1I
Bulanov, Sergei V., 0A
Canalias, Carles, 08
Cao, Hui, 2A
Carr, C. Wren, 12
Chai, Yingjie, 24, 26
Chang, Yuan Cheng, 2F
Chen, Bo, 08, 0E
Chen, Feng, 0M, 1K
Chen, Lei, 2A
Chen, Xianhua, 0H
Chen, Zhe, 1R
Chen, Zilun, 11
Cheng, Chen, 1K
Chiang, Chia Chin, 2F
Chrayteh, M., 19
Coetzee, Riaan S., 08
Commandré, M., 19
Cross, David A., 12
Cui, GuoDong, 23
Cui, Yanyan, 1G
Cui, Yun, 0D
Dao, L. V., 17
Denisyuk, Igor Yu., 0Y
Ding, Lei, 08
Dinh, K. B., 17
Douli, D.-B. L., 19
Draguta, Sergiu, 0Y
Du, Juan, 09
Eppelt, Urs, 14
Fan, Diayuan, 16, 1M
Fan, Jintai, 21
Fan, Wenzhong, 0O
Fang, Yongzheng, 2I
Field, Elia, 0J, 11
Fokina, Maria I., 0Y
Gallais, L., 19
Gao, W., 12
Gao, Yanqi, 0C
Gao, Zhixing, 1C, 1T
Grigorov, Yavor V., 05, 0Z
Guana, Heyuan, 1R
Guo, Jialu, 24
Guo, Renhui, 2A
Guo, Tong, 2E
Guo, Yajing, 0C
Haahr-Lillevang, Lasse, 13
Han, Dongjia, 24
Hannaford, P., 17
He, Chongjun, 0W
He, Hongbo, 24
Hu, Huling, 0W
Hua, Wenshen, 2E
Huang, Chenze, 1R
Huang, Haopeng, 0D
Huang, W., 1Z
Huang, Zhen, 1P, 1Q
Itakura, Ryoji, 0A
Janulewicz, Karol A., 05, 0Z, 15
Ji, F., 12
Ji, Lailin, 0C
Jiang, Benxue, 2I
Jiang, Chao, 2A
Jiang, Houman, 11
Jiang, Xiaqian, 0C
Jin, Yunxia, 0D, 1R
Jung, W. G., 15
Kando, Masaki, 0A
Kato, Yoshiaki, 0A
Kawachi, Tetsuya, 0A
Kim, B. J., 15
Kimmel, Mark, 11
Kiriyma, Hiromitsu, 0A
Klepecska, Daron, 0J, 11
Kobayashi, Takayoshi, 09
Kondo, Kimitoshi, 0A
Kong, Fanyu, 0D, 2D
Kyeong, K., 15
Lamagnere, Laurent, 11
Lan, Yanping, 23
Le, NaT., 05, 0Z, 15
Lei, Zemin, 16, 1M
Leng, Yuxin, 09
Li, X. Y., 12
Li, Haiyuan, 1G
Li, Wenhong, 08, 0E
Li, Yaguo, 0H, 21
Li, Yangbo, 0O
Li, Zehan, 09
Liao, Zhi M., 12
Lin, Zunjie, 0C
Liu, Dong, 0C
Liu, Guodong, 1P, 1Q
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1  High Power Laser Damage, UV through IR I
   Takahisa Jitsuno, Osaka University (Japan)
   Long Zhang, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

2  High Power Laser Damage, UV through IR II
   Wolfgang Rudolph, The University of New Mexico (United States)
   Yuxin Leng, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

3  High Power Laser Damage, UV through IR III
   Jean-Yves Natoli, Institut Fresnel (France)
   Jianda Shao, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

4  Defects, Contamination, Polishing, and Surface Damage
   Zhouling Wu, ZC Optoelectronic Technologies, Ltd. (China)
   Karol Adam Janulewicz, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (Korea, Republic of)

5  Laser Ablation and Laser Machining
   Yoshiaki Kato, The Graduate School for the Creation of New Photonics Industries (Japan)
   Ya Cheng, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

6  Laser Ceramics
   Takunori Taira, Institute for Molecular Science (Japan)

7  Nonlinear Laser Crystals
   Feng Chen, Shandong University (China)
   Long Zhang, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

8  Optical Glasses and Fibers
   Ya Cheng, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)
   Lili Hu, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

9  Mechanisms, Modeling, and Simulations I
   Wolfgang Rudolph, The University of New Mexico (United States)
   Hongbo He, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)

10 Mechanisms, Modeling, and Simulations II
    Jean-Yves Natoli, Institut Fresnel (France)
11 Characterization Techniques and Measurement Protocols
Yongfeng Lu, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (United States)
Zhouling Wu, ZC Optoelectronic Technologies, Ltd. (China)

12 High Laser Damage Resistant Coatings
Takahisa Jitsuno, Osaka University (Japan)
Hongbo He, Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (China)
Introduction

These proceedings contain the papers presented as oral and poster presentations at the Pacific-Rim Laser Damage 2015 IV Symposium on Optical Materials for High Power Lasers. The symposium was co-organized by SPIE and Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (SIOM), and was held on 17–20 May in Shanghai. The symposium aims to provide an opportunity for world-wide researchers, especially in the Pacific Rim, to communicate efficiently and to exchange information on new problems, solutions, and technologies in the field of laser damage as well as optical materials.

The symposium brought together more than 130 scientists, engineers and researchers from 13 countries or districts. 92 papers were accepted for presentations, including 54 oral papers and 38 poster papers.

The symposium was divided into nine sessions, including High power laser damage, UV through IR; Laser ablation and laser machining; High laser damage resistant coatings; Defects, contamination, polishing, and surface damage; Characterization techniques and measurement protocols; Mechanisms, modeling, and simulations; Nonlinear laser crystals; Laser ceramics; and Optical glasses and fibers.

This year, the “High Power Laser Damage, UV through IR” sessions received the most submissions among all the topics. Developments in high power laser systems were introduced including high power lasers at KPSI, JAEA (Japan), the high power femtosecond laser at Swinburne University of Technology (Australia), and the CPA/OPCPA hybrid laser system at SIOM (China), allowing the participants to quickly review the recent status of high power laser systems across the world. A significant number of presentations focused on the laser damage resistance of laser components like fused silica, optical fibers, KDP/DKDP crystals, coatings, gratings, and so on. Defects and contamination continue to be an area of active interest. Take optical coatings as an example, defects induced in the substrate, deposition process, as well as during usage, have been reported by groups in SIOM (China), Sandia National Laboratories (United States) and Osaka University (Japan), respectively. Research on the stochastic nature of the growth of laser-induced damage in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (United States) was also been presented.

These papers show participants the recent work on laser damage threshold, as well as the damage mechanism of laser materials and laser components. We continue to see interest in laser ablation and laser machining, such as work on glass welding by femtosecond double pulse irradiation performed by a group at RIKEN (Japan), the results of three dimensional nanofabrication presented by groups in Shandong University (China) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (United States). In addition, a fair amount of papers deal with characterization
techniques and measurement protocols, including the characterization of optical properties and laser induced effects, enabling a better understanding of laser-related measurements.

The Pacific-Rim Laser Damage 2016, V Symposium on Optical Materials for High Power Lasers, will be held on 17–20 May 2016, as a part of OPIC, venue by Pacifico Yokohama (Yokohama, Japan). The principal topics in 2016 will be similar as those mentioned above. We are looking forward to seeing more scientists and engineers from related fields at Pacific-Rim Laser Damage 2016.

We thank SPIE for their hard work on this symposium. We also highly appreciate the International Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, and session chairs who have so generously given of their time and advice to make this symposium possible. The symposium would not be possible without the dedicated contribution of our participants and members — thanks to all.

Jianda Shao
Takahisa Jitsuno
Wolfgang Rudolph