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Contents

xi	<i>Authors</i>
xv	<i>Conference Committee</i>
xix	<i>Introduction</i>
xxi	<i>Invited Lectures</i>

PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL SENSORS

9916 02	Effects from detuning the resonant coupling between fiber gratings and localized surface plasmons [9916-2]
9916 03	Curvature sensor based on a Fabry-Perot interferometer [9916-3]
9916 04	High temperature stability testing of Ge-doped and F-doped Fabry-Perot fibre optical sensors [9916-16]
9916 05	Novel ultrahigh resolution optical fibre temperature sensor [9916-26]
9916 06	High-resolution transversal load sensor using a random distributed feedback fiber laser [9916-30]
9916 07	Quasi-distributed fiber Bragg grating temperature sensors for stator bars monitoring of large electric generators [9916-52]
9916 08	Utilising a loop structure to allow a microfiber coupler with larger taper diameters to be used for sensing [9916-68]
9916 09	Visible wavelength fiber Bragg gratings: thermal and strain sensitivities [9916-70]
9916 0A	Embedded fiber Bragg grating sensors for true temperature monitoring in Nb₃Sn superconducting magnets for high energy physics [9916-71]
9916 0B	Modulated fiber ring laser and its application in high-sensitivity temperature sensors [9916-98]
9916 0C	Simultaneous temperature and humidity measurements in a mechanical ventilator using an optical fibre sensor [9916-100]
9916 0D	Optical fiber sensor for low dose gamma irradiation monitoring [9916-106]
9916 0E	Sensitivity enhancement using annealed polymer optical-fibre-based sensors for pressure sensing applications [9916-113]
9916 0F	Optical-fiber pyrometer positioning accuracy analysis [9916-136]

- 9916 OG **High resolution strain sensor for earthquake precursor observation and earthquake monitoring** [9916-150]
- 9916 OH **Perfluorinated polymer optical fiber for gamma radiation monitoring** [9916-11]
- 9916 OI **Field test of fiber optic ocean bottom seismograph** [9916-12]
- 9916 OJ **Stainless steel component with compressed fiber Bragg grating for high temperature sensing applications** [9916-51]
- 9916 OK **Construction and laboratory test of a fibre optic sensor for rotational events recording** [9916-54]
- 9916 OL **Study of a fibre optics current sensor for the measurement of plasma current in ITER** [9916-88]
- 9916 OM **Nonlinear temperature dependence of glue-induced birefringence in polarization maintaining FBG sensors** [9916-95]
- 9916 ON **Optical fiber load sensor based on a semi-auxetic structure: a proof of concept** [9916-110]
- 9916 OO **Iterative matrix inversion technique for simultaneous strain and temperature sensing in an extended temperature range** [9916-102]
- 9916 OP **Optimization of the accelerated curing process of concrete using a fibre Bragg grating-based control system and microwave technology** [9916-104]
- 9916 OQ **Increased sensitivity of femtosecond laser micro-machined in-fiber Mach-Zehnder interferometer for small-scale refractive index sensing** [9916-120]
- 9916 OR **Low temperature fiber optic pyrometer for fast time resolved temperature measurements** [9916-127]
- 9916 OS **Triaxial fiber optic magnetic field sensor for MRI applications** [9916-128]
- 9916 OT **Optical fibre luminescence sensor for real-time LDR brachytherapy dosimetry** [9916-149]
- 9916 OU **Distributed fiber optic sensors for monitoring reinforced concrete piles using Brillouin scattering** [9916-67]

CHEMICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND MEDICAL SENSORS

- 9916 OV **Fibre optic chemical sensor based on graphene oxide-coated long period grating** [9916-14]
- 9916 OW **Rapid screening of wheat bran contaminated by deoxynivalenol mycotoxin using Raman spectroscopy: a preliminary experiment** [9916-21]
- 9916 OX **Characterization of long-term stability of PDMS-based chemo-optical transducer driving distributed fiber optic sensor of ammonia gas** [9916-81]

- 9916 0Y **Fabrication of fiber optic long period gratings operating at the phase matching turning point using an amplitude mask** [9916-112]
- 9916 0Z **Regeneration of titanium oxide nano-coated long-period grating biosensor** [9916-114]
- 9916 10 **A simple Fabry-Perot pressure sensor fabricated on fiber optic tip** [9916-130]
- 9916 11 **Thermal annealing of tilted fiber Bragg gratings** [9916-134]
- 9916 12 **Surface plasmon resonance-based fibre optic chemical sensor for the detection of cocaine** [9916-138]
- 9916 13 **Simultaneous, inherently temperature and strain insensitive bio-sensors based on dual-resonance long-period gratings** [9916-154]
- 9916 14 **Fibre optic sensors for temperature and pressure monitoring in laser ablation: experiments on ex-vivo animal model** [9916-8]
- 9916 15 **Cavity ring-down technique for remote sensing: a proof-of-concept for displacement measurement** [9916-23]
- 9916 16 **Fiber probe microcavities for refractive index and temperature discrimination** [9916-24]
- 9916 17 **Optical fibre pressure and temperature sensor system designed for urodynamic applications** [9916-27]
- 9916 18 **Measurement of mandibular movements in parafunctional patient using occlusal splint with Bragg gratings: pilot study** [9916-49]
- 9916 19 **SPR-based PCF D-type sensor based on a metamaterial composed of planar metals for refractive index sensing** [9916-53]
- 9916 1A **Contactless optical fiber refractive index sensor for liquid and solid samples** [9916-56]
- 9916 1B **Thin metal bilayer for surface plasmon resonance sensors in a multimode plastic optical fiber: the case of palladium and gold metal films** [9916-58]
- 9916 1C **A thermo-stabilized flow cell for surface plasmon resonance sensors in D-shaped plastic optical fibers** [9916-64]
- 9916 1D **Metal-coated second-order fibre Bragg gratings produced by infrared femtosecond radiation for dual temperature and strain sensing** [9916-65]
- 9916 1E **Lab in a needle for epidural space identification** [9916-78]
- 9916 1F **Highly sensitive contact pressure measurements using FBG patch in endotracheal tube cuff** [9916-105]
- 9916 1G **Refractive index sensitivity of optical fiber lossy-mode resonance sensors based on atomic layer deposited TiO_x thin overlay** [9916-125]

- 9916 1H **Ammonia sensing using lossy mode resonances in a tapered optical fibre coated with porphyrin-incorporated titanium dioxide** [9916-132]
- 9916 1I **Ammonium sensing in aqueous solutions with plastic optical fiber modified by molecular imprinting** [9916-139]

NEW CONCEPTS/ADVANCED WAVEGUIDING STRUCTURES FOR PHOTONICS; SMART STRUCTURES; SMART MATERIALS

- 9916 1J **Enhanced accuracy sensors using multicore optical fibres based on RFBGs for temperatures up to 1000°C** [9916-61]
- 9916 1K **Absolute Bragg wavelength and dispersion determination in dispersive incoherent OFDR interrogators** [9916-73]
- 9916 1L **High-sensitivity label-free optical fiber optrodes based on the excitation of Bloch surface waves** [9916-77]
- 9916 1M **Microgel photonics and lab on fiber technology for advanced label-free fiber optic nanoprobe** [9916-90]
- 9916 1N **Special diffractive elements for optical trapping fabricated on optical fiber tips using the focused ion beam** [9916-144]
- 9916 1O **Temperature-independent strain sensor based on a tapered Bragg fibre fabricated using a CO₂ laser** [9916-5]
- 9916 1P **Sensitive interferometric force sensor based on multicore optical fibre** [9916-7]
- 9916 1Q **Reflection-based fiber specklegram sensor** [9916-15]
- 9916 1R **Hydrostatic pressure sensor based on fiber Bragg grating written in single-ring suspended fiber** [9916-17]
- 9916 1S **Nanosphere lithography for advanced all fiber sensors probes** [9916-22]
- 9916 1T **SnO₂-MOF-Fabry-Perot humidity optical sensor system based on fast Fourier transform technique** [9916-29]
- 9916 1U **Optical fiber internal-mirror-based fiber in-line Mach-Zehnder interferometer** [9916-36]
- 9916 1V **Meta-tips for lab-on-fiber optrodes** [9916-39]
- 9916 1W **Resonant couplings between core and cladding modes in a helical core fiber with large core offset** [9916-43]
- 9916 1X **Bragg gratings inscription in step-index PMMA optical fiber by femtosecond laser pulses at 400 nm** [9916-48]
- 9916 1Y **Porous silica coated spherical microresonator for vapor phase sensing of ammonia at a sub-ppm level** [9916-50]

- 9916 1Z **Dual-wavelength speckle-based SI-POF sensor for frequency detection and localization of remote vibrations** [9916-91]
- 9916 20 **Fabrication and characterisation of FBG sensors in low loss polymer optical fibre** [9916-92]
- 9916 21 **Force and temperature characteristics of a fs-laser machined locally micro-structured FBG** [9916-93]
- 9916 22 **Long period gratings written in fluorine-doped fibers by electric arc discharge technique** [9916-96]
- 9916 23 **Polymeric fibre optic sensor based on a SiO₂ nanoparticle film for humidity sensing on wounds** [9916-97]
- 9916 24 **Phase-OFDR for distributed disturbance measurement** [9916-101]
- 9916 25 **Results in standardization of FOS to support the use of SHM systems** [9916-108]
- 9916 26 **Integrated FBG sensors interrogator in silicon photonic platform using active interferometer monitoring** [9916-121]
- 9916 27 **Theoretical study on the interference pattern of femtosecond pulses diffracted by a phase mask** [9916-122]
- 9916 28 **FBGs cascade interrogation technique based on wavelength-to-delay mapping and KLT analysis** [9916-123]
- 9916 29 **Temperature influence on the cladding mode distribution in highly localized point-by-point fibre Bragg gratings** [9916-124]
- 9916 2A **Reaching millikelvin resolution in Raman distributed temperature sensing using image processing** [9916-137]
- 9916 2B **Interrogation of fibre Bragg gratings through a fibre optic rotary joint on a geotechnical centrifuge** [9916-143]
- 9916 2C **Modified femtosecond laser inscription method for tailored grating sensors in encapsulated silica and low-loss polymer optical fibres** [9916-146]
- 9916 2D **LPG-based sensor for curvature and vibration** [9916-147]
- 9916 2E **3D printed sensing patches with embedded polymer optical fibre Bragg gratings** [9916-152]
- 9916 2F **Compact fibre Bragg grating-based thermometer for on-line temperature monitoring of drill bits** [9916-20]

DISTRIBUTED SENSING, MULTIPLEXING, AND SENSOR NETWORKING

- 9916 2G **Serial FBG sensor network allowing overlapping spectra** [9916-6]

- 9916 2H **High-coherence light extraction through a compact Brillouin/erbium fiber laser** [9916-45]
- 9916 2I **Practical limitations of the slope assisted BOTDA method in dynamic strain sensing** [9916-72]
- 9916 2J **Gamma radiation influence on silica optical fibers measured by optical backscatter reflectometry and Brillouin sensing technique** [9916-79]
- 9916 2K **Spectral scanning-free measurement of Brillouin frequency shift using transient analysis** [9916-86]
- 9916 2L **Brillouin frequency shift estimation in BOTDA via subpixel processing** [9916-107]
- 9916 2M **High-resolution Brillouin analysis in a carbon-fiber-composite unmanned aerial vehicle model wing** [9916-126]
- 9916 2N **Optimal detection bandwidth for phase-sensitive optical time-domain reflectometry** [9916-140]
- 9916 2O **Characterisation of an electrical heating method for metallic-coated optical fibres for distributed sensing applications** [9916-141]
- 9916 2P **Distributed fibre optic strain measurements on a driven pile** [9916-145]
- 9916 2Q **Dynamic distributed measurement of temperature changes using phase-sensitive OTDR with chirped pulses** [9916-28]
- 9916 2R **Distributed detection of temperature gradients with single-wavelength phase-sensitive OTDR and speckle analysis methods** [9916-33]
- 9916 2S **157km BOTDA with pulse coding and image processing** [9916-44]
- 9916 2T **Influence of laser phase noise on Brillouin optical time-domain analysis sensors** [9916-62]
- 9916 2U **Brillouin distributed temperature sensing system for monitoring of submarine export cables of off-shore wind farms** [9916-63]
- 9916 2V **Optical fibre multi-parameter sensing with secure cloud-based signal capture and processing** [9916-66]
- 9916 2W **SNR characterization in distributed acoustic sensing** [9916-69]
- 9916 2X **Damage detection in a cantilever beam under dynamic conditions using a distributed, fast, and high spatial resolution Brillouin interrogator** [9916-85]
- 9916 2Y **Distributed acoustic fibre optic sensors for condition monitoring of pipelines** [9916-87]
- 9916 2Z **High spatial resolution, dynamic, and distributed fiber optic strain sensing based on phasorial Brillouin dynamic gratings reflectometry** [9916-89]
- 9916 30 **Performance improvement in high-speed random accessibility of Brillouin optical correlation domain analysis** [9916-103]

- 9916 31 **Gain vs phase in BOTDA setups [9916-117]**
- 9916 32 **High-temperature distributed sensor system via BOTDA and multimode gold-coated fiber [9916-118]**
- 9916 33 **Novel technique for distributed fibre sensing based on coherent Rayleigh scattering measurements of birefringence [9916-129]**
- 9916 34 **Brillouin optical time-domain analysis sensor with amplification of pump pulses and tolerant to non-local effects [9916-131]**
- 9916 35 **Sub-metric spatial resolution over an extended range using differential time-domain Brillouin sensing [9916-133]**
- 9916 36 **Gain dependence of measured spectra in coherent Brillouin optical time-domain analysis sensors [9916-135]**

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.

Abbenseth, S., 2G	Cennamo, Nunzio, 1B, 1C
Abe, Ilda, 18	Chah, K., 1D, 1X, 27, 29
Adilzhan, Abzal, 14	Chen, Mo, 2H
Adler, Gadi, 2M	Chen, Wei, 2H
Ahrens, A., 2G	Chen, Xianfeng, 0V
Aiello, Marco, 0S	Chesini, G., 2D
Aliakhmet, Kamilla, 14	Chiamenti, Ismael, 02, 09
Aliberti, A., 1M	Chiavaioli, F., 1C
Amezcuá-Correa, R., 1P	Chikh-Bled, H., 29
Amorizzo, E., 1E	Chiuchiolo, A., 0A
Andrasan, Alina, 0L	Chruscicki, Sebastian, 2Y
André, Ricardo M., 16	Ciaccheri, L., 0W
Angulo-Vinuesa, Xabier, 31	Clement, J., 1K
Antman, Yair, 2K, 2M	Cobo, A., 1Q
Antonio-Lopez, E., 1P	Consales, M., 0A, 1V
Arregui, F. J., 1T	Cordeiro, Cristiano M. B., 2D
Ascorbe, J., 1T	Correia, Ricardo, 0C, 0Y, 1F, 2B
Aubrecht, Jan, 0X	Corres, J. M., 1T
Auguste, J.-L., 1T	Corso, Alain J., 1B
Bacco, Davide, 1B	Crescitelli, A., 1V
Bai, Yun, 0P	Cusano, Andrea, 0A, 0S, 1E, 1L, 1M, 1S, 1V
Bajas, H., 0A	Cutolo, Antonello, 0S, 1E, 1M, 1V
Bajko, M., 0A	da Silva, Erlon Wagner, 07
Baldini, F., 1C	Daum, Werner, 25
Banda, M., 0R	Davidi, R., 2X
Bang, O., 0E, 2E	Davino, Daniele, 0S
Baptista, J. M., 19, 2D	de Andrés, Ana I., 0D
Barrera, D., 1J, 28	de Battista, N., 0U
Bartelt, Hartmut, 16	De Girolamo, A., 0W
Becker, Martin, 16	Dębowska, Anna K., 0Q
Bergman, A., 2X, 2Z	Delli Veneri, P., 1S
Bierlich, Jörg, 03	Dellith, Jan, 16
Biffe Di Renzo, André, 07	DeMiguel-Soto, V., 06
Bilro, L., 1I	Díaz-Álvarez, J., 0F
Blackman, O. R., 1F	Di Palma, Pasquale, 10
Bock, Wojtek J., 0Q, 0Z, 13	Di Pasquale, Fabrizio, 26
Bosselmann, T., 0R	Dominguez-López, Alejandro, 31, 35
Botsev, Y., 2X	Dominik, M., 0Z
Bueno, A., 27	Dooly, Gerard, 05, 17
Buntebarth, Christian, 2U	Dreß, Albrecht, 2U
Burnat, Dariusz, 1G	Dreyer, Uilian José, 07
Cai, Qi, 0V	Duarte, D., 1I
Campopiano, Stefania, 10, 22	Duraibabu, Dineshbabu, 05, 14, 17
Cardozo da Silva, Jean Carlos, 07	Dutz, Franz J., 21
Carotenuto, B., 1E	Elosua, C., 1T
Castaldi, G., 1L, 1V	Embid, Miguel, 0D
Catalano, Angelo, 0S	Erro, M. J., 0B
Catalano, E., 2I	Esposito, E., 1V
Caucheteur, C., 11, 1D, 1X, 27, 29	Esposito, Flavio, 22

Esteban, Óscar, 0D
 Evans, D., 0C
 Evans, D., 1F
 Eyal, Avishay, 2W
 Fabian, Matthias, 0P
 Fabris, José L., 02
 Farrell, Gerald, 08, 1Y
 Fernández-Pousa, Carlos R., 1K, 28
 Ferreira, Marta S., 03
 Février, S., 1O
 Filograno, Massimo L., 0S
 Flood, Hugh, 17
 Fojtikova, Jaroslava, 0X
 Forte, Ernesto, 0S
 Franco, Ana Paula G. O., 18
 Frazão, Orlando, 03, 15, 16, 1O
 Gabai, Haniel, 2W
 Gaenshirt, D., 0R
 Galdi, V., 1L, 1V
 Galeotti, Francesco, 1S
 Galtarossa, Andrea, 0N
 García, E., 0F
 Garcia-Ruiz, Andres, 2Q, 2R
 Gasulla, I., 1J
 Gebert, Andréa O., 18
 Giannetti, A., 1C
 Giaquinto, M., 1M
 Gieratowska, Sylwia, 1G
 Giordano, M., 0A
 Godlewski, Marek, 0Z, 1G
 Gomes, M. T. S. R., 1I
 Gomez, David, 23
 Gong, H., 1U
 Gonzalez-Herraez, Miguel, 2Q, 2R, 31, 35
 González-Vila, A., 11, 29
 Grattan, Kenneth T. V., 0P, 12
 Grisci, Giorgio, 1S
 Guerreiro, A., 19, 1N
 Gusarov, Andrei, 0L
 Habel, Wolfgang R., 25
 Habib, Abdelkarim, 2Y
 Hahami, M., 2X
 Hand, Duncan P., 0J
 Hardman, J. G., 0C
 Harvey, D., 0C
 Hayden, Martin, 2P
 Hayes-Gill, Barrie R., 0C, 1F, 23
 Heidemann, Bárbara R., 02
 Hernandez, F. U., 0C, 1F
 Heron, Charles, 2B
 Hervás, J., 1J, 1K, 28
 Hey Tow, Kenny, 2F
 Hill, Wieland, 2U
 Hopf, Barbara, 0M, 0O
 Hotate, Kazuo, 3O
 Hromadka, J., 0Y
 Htein, Lin, 1R
 Hu, X., 1X
 Huang, Wenzhu, 0G, 0I
 Huber, Heinz P., 2I
 Hussels, Maria-Teresa, 2Y
 Iadicicco, Agostino, 1O, 22
 James, Stephen W., 1F, 1H, 2B
 Jamier, R., 1O, 1T
 Janik, Monika, 0Q
 Jaroszewicz, Leszek R., 0K
 Jeranoski, Lorena, 18
 Jia, Yaodong, 0P
 Jorge, P. A. S., 1N, 2D
 Kaiser, J., 0R
 Kalinowski, Hypolito José, 09, 18
 Kalli, Kyriacos, 2O, 2C
 Kalvoda, Ladislav, 0X
 Kavungal, Vishnu, 1Y
 Kechavarzi, C., 0U
 Kelly, Niall, 17
 Kinet, D., 1D, 1X, 27, 29
 Kishi, Masato, 3O
 Koba, Marcin, 0Q, 1G
 Kobelke, Jens, 03
 Koch, Alexander W., 0M, 0O
 Kofinas, Marios, 2C
 Kohno, Yuta, 3O
 Kolm, Frederick, 2U
 Korposh, Serhiy, 0C, 0Y, 1F, 1H, 23, 2B
 Kowalski, Jerzy K., 0K
 Krajewski, Zbigniew, 0K
 Krebber, Katerina, 0H, 24, 25, 2J, 2Y
 Kurzych, Anna, 0K
 Laarossi, I., 2L, 32
 Lacraz, Amédée, 2O, 2C
 La Ferrara, V., 1V
 Langer, T., 2Z
 Lasri, B., 29
 Latifi, H., 16
 Le Floch, Sébastien, 2F
 Leandro, D., 06
 Lee, Seung-Woo, 1H
 Leen, Gabriel, 05, 14, 17, 2V
 Lewis, Elfed, 05, 14, 17, 2V
 Li, Fang, 0G, 0I
 Li, Li, 0G, 0I
 Liehr, Sascha, 24
 Lippolis, V., 0W
 Liu, Chen, 0V
 Liu, Dejun, 1Y
 Liu, H., 1U
 Liu, Wenyi, 0G, 0I
 Liu, Zhengyong, 1R
 Llera, Miguel, 2F
 Loayssa, Alayn, 34, 36
 Lochmann, S., 2G
 Lomer, M., 1Q
 London, Yosef, 2K, 2M
 Lopez-Aldaba, A., 1T
 Lopez-Amo, Manuel, 06, 0B, 1T
 Lopez-Gil, Alexia, 3I
 López-Higuera, José Miguel, 11, 1Q, 2L, 32
 Lopez-Torres, D., 1T
 Loren Inácio, Patrícia, 09

Lu, Xin, 2N, 2O, 33
 Luo, Yingbo, 0I
 MacPherson, William N., 04, 0J
 Maier, Robert R. J., 04, 0J
 Mallik, Arun Kumar, 1Y
 Mani Tripathi, Saurabh, 13
 Marchi, Gabriele, 2I
 Marín, Y. E., 26
 Mariñelarena, Jon, 36
 Marques, C. A. F., 0E
 Marques, Manuel B., 15, 16, 1O
 Marshall, Alec, 2B
 Martelli, Cicero, 07
 Martin-Lopez, Sonia, 2Q, 2R, 31, 35
 Martins, Hugo F., 2Q, 2R
 Martins, T. J. M., 1O
 Marx, Benjamin, 2U
 Mathew, Jinesh, 04, 0J
 McCague, Colum, 0P
 McGrath, Deirdre, 17
 Meere, Damien, 2V
 Mégret, Patrice, 0L, 11, 1X, 27
 Mencaglia, A. A., 0W
 Meng, Zhou, 2H
 Mercaldo, L., 1S
 Mercieri, M., 1E
 Micco, Alberto, 1E, 1M, 1S, 1V
 Mignani, A. G., 0W
 Miguélez, M. H., 0F
 Mihai, L., 0H
 Mikulic, Predrag, 0Z, 13
 Minardo, A., 2I, 2T
 Mirapeix, J., 2L, 32
 Mompó, Juan José, 34
 Monsberger, Christoph, 2P
 Monteiro, Catarina, 03
 Montero, D. S., 1Z
 Monzón-Hernández, D., 1A
 Moreau, Philippe, 0L
 Moreno-Hernández, Carlos, 1A
 Morgan, Stephen P., 0C, 1F, 23
 Motil, A., 2X
 Mullaney, Kevin, 1H
 Muller, Marcia, 02
 Nannipieri, T., 26
 Napiorkowski, Maciej, 1W
 Nascimento, I. M., 2D
 Natale, Daniele, 10
 Neğüt, D., 0H, 2J
 Newe, Thomas, 2V
 Nguyen, T. Hien, 12
 Ni, K., 1U
 Niedziółka-Jönsson, J., 0Z
 Nielsen, K., 0E, 2E
 Nogueira, R., 1I
 Norris, A., 0C, 1F
 O'Connell, Eoin, 2V
 O'Keeffe, Sinead, 0T, 2V
 Oliveira, Marcela M., 02
 Oliveira, Valmir, 09

Oton, C. J., 26
 Palmieri, Luca, 0N
 Pascale, M., 0W
 Pastor-Graells, Juan, 2Q, 2R
 Pasuto, Alessandro, 0N
 Pelizzo, Maria G., 1B
 Pereira, Júlia C., 02
 Perez, J. C., 0A
 Perez-Herrera, R. A., 0B
 Pesavento, Maria, 1B
 Pinzón, P. J., 1Z
 Pisco, Marco, 0S, 1S
 Poeggel, Sven, 05, 14, 17
 Polis, Michalis, 20
 Polyzos, Dimitrios, 04
 Pospori, A., 0E
 Preter, Eyal, 2K, 2M
 Principe, M., 1V
 Qian, Xianyang, 2S
 Quero, Giuseppe, 1S
 Quintela, M. A., 32
 Ramírez, Jaime A., 2A
 Ranjan, Rajeev, 22
 Rao, Yunjiang, 2S
 Rath, Alexander, 2U
 Rehm, B., 2G
 Ricciardi, A., 1E, 1M
 Rodrigues Ribeiro, R. S., 1N
 Rodríguez-Cobo, L., 11, 1Q, 2L
 Rota-Rodrigo, S., 1T
 Rothhardt, Manfred, 16
 Roths, Johannes, 0M, 0O, 21
 Roy, P., 1O, 1T
 Roźniecka, E., 0Z
 Rudnitskaya, A., 1I
 Ruiz-Lomber, R., 1Q, 2L, 32
 Ruvo, M., 1M
 Saccomandi, Paola, 14
 Sáez-Rodríguez, D., 0E, 2E
 Sales, Salvador, 1J, 28
 Salvadé, Yves, 2F
 Santos, D. F., 19
 Scaravilli, M., 1L
 Schena, Emiliano, 14
 Schenato, Luca, 0N
 Schröder, Andreas, 2U
 Schülzgen, A., 1P
 Schuster, Kay, 03
 Semenova, Yuliya, 08, 1Y
 Sequeira, F., 1I
 Shi, Shi, 0P
 Shlomi, Orel, 2K, 2M
 Silbiger, Maayan, 2M
 Silva, Susana, 15
 Silvestri, Sergio, 14
 Sinha, R., 0C
 Śmietana, Mateusz, 0Q, 0Z, 1G
 Soga, K., 0U
 Soricelli, Andrea, 0S
 Soto, Marcelo A., 2A, 2N, 2O, 31, 33, 35

Souza, Mauren A., 18	Zhang, Wentao, 0G, 0I
Sporea, Dan, 0H, 22, 2J	Zhao, C. L., 1U
Stajanca, P., 0H	Zhao, Jianlong, 0V
Stăncălie, Andrei, 22	Zibaii, M. I., 16
Stephan, Valentin, 21	Zubel, Michal G., 2E
Stern, Yonatan, 2M	Zubia, J., 1P
Sualehe, Ivenso da Silva Vasco, 09	Zuppella, Paola, 1B
Sugden, Kate, 2E	
Sullivan, F. J., 0T	
Sun, Shilin, 2H	
Sun, Tong, 0P, 12	
Sun, Wei, 2S	
Sun, Zhongyuan, 0V	
Tainta, S., 0B	
Tam, Hwa-Yaw, 1R	
Tapetado, A., 0F, 1Z	
Tatam, Ralph P., 1H	
Theodosiou, Andreas, 20, 2C	
Thévenaz, Luc, 2A, 2F, 2N, 2O, 31, 33, 35	
Tiwari, Divya, 1H	
Tombelli, S., 1C	
Torregrosa, G., 1K	
Torres, J. C., 1Z	
Tosi, Daniele, 14, 17	
Trono, C., 1C	
Tur, Moshe, 2X, 2Z	
Urbanczyk, Wacław, 1W	
Urricelqui, Javier, 34, 36	
van Newkirk, A., 1P	
Vanus, Benoît, 0L	
Vázquez, C., 0F, 1Z	
Verma, Deep Shikha, 13	
Viegas, J., 1N	
Villatoro, Joel, 1A, 1P	
Villnow, M., 0R	
Visone, Ciro, 0S	
Wachnicki, Łukasz, 0Z, 1G	
Wang, D. N., 1U	
Wang, Jianfei, 2H	
Wang, Song, 2S	
Wang, Zhaogang, 0I	
Wang, Zinan, 2S	
Warren-Smith, Stephen C., 16	
Webb, D. J., 0E	
Wei, Fangfang, 08	
Willsch, M., 0R	
Woschitz, Helmut, 2P	
Wosniok, A., 2J	
Woulfe, P., 0T	
Wu, Qiang, 08, 1Y	
Wuilpart, Marc, 0L	
Xu, Baojian, 0V	
Xu, B., 1U	
Xue, Naifan, 2S	
Yuan, Hongwei, 17, 2V	
Zadok, Avi, 2K, 2M	
Zeni, Luigi, 1B, 1C, 2I, 2T	
Zhang, Bin, 2S	
Zhang, Li, 2S	
Zhang, Lin, 0V	

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Introduction

Welcome to the University of Limerick, Ireland and to the sixth edition of the European Workshop on Optical Fibre Sensors, 6th EWOFs'2016. Following the successful events in Peebles (1998), Santander (2004), Napoli (2007), Porto (2010) and Krakow (2013), the University of Limerick has the privilege to host and organize the 2016 meeting, EWOFs'2016.

This unique meeting aims at promoting a scientific agenda with a high level of interaction between participants, enabling an open debate and the assessment of new concepts, technologies and applications in the domain of optical fibre sensors, as well as establishment of new collaborations and networks. EWOFs'2016 also intends to complement in time and geographical location the international conferences in this area, and in particular the International Conference on Optical Fibre Sensors (OFS).

Addressing scientific achievements, technological applications and commercial exploitation, our goal is to create a programme that will be attractive for academics and professionals working in this area. The meeting will include a set of high-level invited speakers that will consider topics related to optical fibre sensors as well as other scientific domains that may cause an impact on their future development. Also, we will seek to strengthen the Workshops' unique features, including the discussion of technical contributions between early stage researchers and experienced practitioners, identifying and highlighting the most significant contributions. Many contributors will also be from an industrial background which is indicative of the growth of Optical Fibre Sensors in the commercial arena. The Workshop will include an invigorating and appealing Social Programme that will complement the scientific focus of the event and encourage real socialisation amongst all attendees.

Since past and future meet in the present, we intend to make EWOFs'2016 an opportunity to promote the productive interaction between early stage scientists, engineers and mature practitioners in this scientific and technological adventure around the subject of optical fibre sensors. At the same time, we want to honour the pioneers who have significantly contributed to its development, and encourage young researchers who have chosen to work in this field.

As we progress through the early part of this new century and millennium, humankind continues to face great challenges in the search for a future characterized by global justice, fair and sustainable progress, as well as economic and social wealth. This is a demanding goal, and it is essential that Science and Technology create opportunities so that society may evolve with that purpose. In its specific domain of Optical Fibre Sensors, EWOFs'2016 continues to encourage scientific and technological advances, and provide a forum where early stage

and experienced researchers and entrepreneurs may interact in a mutually profitable relationship that is oriented to the development of optical fibre sensors and their impact on society. Pursuing this central objective, we are committed to giving our utmost for the delivery of the best possible technical and social atmosphere at EWOFs'2016. Our ultimate wish is that you will enjoy your visit to the University of Limerick and the surrounding regions of Mid-West Ireland in May/June 2016.

Elfed Lewis
Brian Culshaw
José Miguel López-Higuera
Andrea Cusano
José Luís Santos
Leszek R. Jaroszewicz

Invited Lectures

Sensing rotation with light: from the fiber optic gyroscope to slow-light structures

Michel Digonnet, Stanford Univ. (United States)

First proposed 40 years ago, the fiber optic gyroscope (FOG) is one of the most complex and interesting fiber sensors, and it was also paradoxically one of the first to be fully developed and commercialized. This keynote will describe the physical principles of the FOG, and the clever optical engineering solutions that have led to its extraordinary precision. Recent research efforts to implement broadened lasers and photonic-bandgap fibers to improve its performance and achieve inertial navigation of aircraft will also be presented. The talk will end with a discussion of the resonant fiber optic gyroscope and other slow-light rotation sensors.

Hybrid multi-material optoelectronic fibers

Fabien Sorin, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

The development of multi-material fibers that combine materials with different optical, electrical and optoelectronic properties has heralded a novel path towards optical fiber-based sensing. Complex optoelectronic functionalities can be achieved by combining all of the required materials into a macroscopic preform and using the thermal drawing process to stretch these structures into very long, thin, and flexible functional devices. In this talk, I will present the development of multi-material optoelectronic fibres amenable to the distributed detection of optical radiation. After describing the fabrication approach and materials requirements, I will show how successive milestones have enabled improved performance and functionality by engineering new materials and increasingly complex cross-sectional structures. I will conclude by highlighting some directions that the field may take in terms of new materials, structures and functionalities.

Is LMR the new SPR?

Francisco J. Arregui, Public University of Navarra (Spain)

Recently, the potential use of optical sensors based on Lossy Mode Resonances (LMR) has been proposed, simulated and experimentally demonstrated in the literature. LMR sensors have some similarities with Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) sensors, the gold standard in label-free, real-time biomolecular interaction analysis. These hardly explored and studied LMR sensors are based on a non-metallic nano-cladding deposited on the core of an optical fiber. If this nanocoating fulfils the conditions explained in this work, coupling of light to the cladding modes happens at certain resonance wavelengths. The refractometric response of the LMR sensors,

in the same way that SPR sensors, opens the door to numerous applications. In this early stage of research, a giant sensitivity of 304,360 nm per refractive index unit (nm/RIU) has been already observed.

Bio/medical detection using optical fibers

Robert Lieberman, Lumoptix LLC (United States)

A variety of fiber optic sensors have been developed to address specific problems in biochemical detection, biomedical diagnosis, and medical treatment. Point-of-care testing, real-time health monitoring, environmental quality determination, surgical procedures, and fundamental cellular physiology studies all benefit from the unique advantages offered by light-based approaches to quantitative measurement. This presentation summarizes the principles of several different physical and chemical biosensors, both "active" and "passive," and gives examples of practical applications and future prospects for devices and systems based on these principles.

Biochemical sensing using advanced metrology methods on an optical fiber surface

Jacques Albert, Carleton Univ. (Canada)

New understanding on how very specific vector cladding modes can be excited in optical fibers by weakly tilted FBGs provides new tools for measuring optical properties and probing biomolecular reactions at the fiber surface. The presentation will discuss these advances and highlight recent results that are pushing detection limits close to those obtained by conventional laboratory instrumentation.

Hybrid optoplasmonic platforms for sensing and spectroscopy: from new physics to new functionalities

Svetlana V. Boriskina, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States)

I will discuss our efforts in developing hybrid optoplasmonic architectures to tailor resonant energy transfer between photons, plasmons, quantum emitters and elementary heat carriers. Near- and far-field electromagnetic coupling between plasmonic and photonics elements can be tailored to trigger new physical effects, which add new functionalities to optoplasmonic platforms. Among the emergent properties of optoplasmonic structures is their ability to simultaneously achieve extreme spectral and spatial localization of light, making possible ultrasensitive schemes for optical detection, spectroscopy, and imaging. Counter-intuitively, the enhanced light focusing in optoplasmonic structures may be accompanied by reduced absorption in their metal constituents. Furthermore, hybrid systems can be designed to provide passive cooling via radiative heat extraction. A combination

of the strong light localization and spectral selectivity achievable under lower operating temperatures in optoplasmonic devices yields many applications in ultrasensitive detection, spectroscopy, imaging, thermal emission manipulation and radiative cooling.

Liquid and solid nanowires in fibers: a new base for plasmonic nanoprobe and single virus sensing

Markus A. Schmidt, Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology e. V. (Germany)

Hybrid optical fibers are fibers which include sophisticated materials which are traditionally not used within fiber optics. As a result, fiber-based devices with unprecedented properties can be envisioned, ultimately opening up new fields for fiber optics such as plasmonics or optofluidics. I will discuss that the plasmons on metallic nanowires can be described as spiraling planar plasmons which are strongly influenced by curvature-induced geometric momenta, and presents our first results on fiber-integrated nearfield nanoprobe. During the second part I will report on tracking the Brownian motion of nanoparticles inside optofluidic nanobore fibers, allowing the detection of single viruses with diameters below 20 nm via elastic light scattering.

Distributed acoustic sensing: technology and applications

Arthur Hartog, Schlumberger Fiber-Optic Technology Ctr. (United Kingdom)

The paper discusses the different approaches to providing a measure of the distribution of vibration along an optical fibre, both as a measure of the acoustic energy and as a transducer of the local vibration signal. We discuss the optics of the interrogation and nature of the measurement particularly as it applies to borehole geophysical surveying. Some examples of results obtained in recent downhole seismic acquisitions will be shown. Limitations, challenges and opportunities will be addressed.

Opto-mechanical analysis of liquids outside the cladding of standard fibre

Avi Zadok, Bar-Ilan Univ. (Israel)

Current fiber sensors of surrounding media rely on spatial overlap between the optical mode and the substance under test, which mandates structural modifications. This work reports the analysis of liquids outside the cladding of standard, unmodified fiber, using optical waveforms that are confined to the core. Measurements are based on the stimulation and probing of acoustic modes of the fiber structure, and recover the acoustic cavity lifetime and the acoustic reflectivity at the outer boundary of the cladding. The acoustic impedance of water and ethanol is measured with 1% accuracy. Measurements distinguish between aqueous solutions with different levels of salinity.