Micromachining with fs-pulses

Prof. Dr. Cleber R. Mendonça

Instituto de Física de São Carlos Universidade de São Paulo

Microfabrication

Microfabricate and microstructure materials using fs-laser and nonlinear optical processes



Microfabrication

 $1 \text{ fs} = 10^{-15} \text{ s}$



how short is a femtosecond pulse ?



Microfabrication



Very intense light

Laser intensities ~ 100 GW/cm² 1 x 10^{11} W/cm²

Laser pointer: 1 mW/cm² (1 x10⁻³ W/ cm²)

fs-laser micromachining



Very intense light

Nonlinear Optical Phenomena

Nonlinear Optics



high light intensity



anharmonic oscillator

nonlinear polarization response

$$P = \varepsilon_0 \left(\chi^{(1)} E + \chi^{(2)} E^2 + \chi^{(3)} E^3 + \dots \right)$$

Nonlinear Optics

 $\chi^{(3)}$ is a complex quantity

$$\chi^{(3)} = \operatorname{Re}(\chi^{(3)}) + \operatorname{iIm}(\chi^{(3)})$$

Related to intensity dependent refractive index

Related to two-photon absorption



Nonlinear Optics

Third order processes: $\chi^{(3)}$

Refractive process:

 $n = n_0 + n_2 I$



self-phase modulation
lens-like effect

Absorptive process:

 $\alpha = \alpha_0 + \beta I$



nonlinear absorption

two-photon absorption

Two-photon absorption

Phenomenon does not described for the Classical Physics and does not observed until the development of the Laser.



Theoretical model: Maria Göppert-Mayer, 1931

Two photons from an intense laser light beam are simultaneously absorbed in the same "quantum act", leading the molecule to some excited state with energy equivalent to the absorbed two photons.

Two-photon absorption



fs-laser microfabrication

photon energy < bandgap



nonlinear interaction

fs-laser microfabrication

nonlinear interaction



fs-laser microfabrication

nonlinear interaction



multiphoton absorption

multiphoton absorption

nonlinear interaction



spatial confinement of excitation

two-photon absorption



$$\alpha = \alpha_0 + \beta I$$
$$R \propto I^2$$

feature exploited for microfabrication



fs-micromachining



heat diffusion time: $t_{diff} \thicksim 1~\mu s$

fs-micromachining

amplified laser

oscillator

low repetition laser



high repetition laser



repetitive



high repetition rate micromaching

- material's change cause by accumulative effects
- spherical structuring region
- structured region exceeds the focal volume

fs-micromachining: focusing



The angle μ is one-half the angular aperture A

 $NA = n \sin \mu$

fs-micromachining: focusing



NA = 0.12 NA = 0.34 NA = 0.87

 $\mu = 7^{\circ}$ $\mu = 20^{\circ}$ $\mu = 60^{\circ}$

what is the difference ?



$$w_0 = \frac{\lambda}{\pi NA} \sqrt{1 - NA^2}$$

very different confocal lenght/interaction length



microfabrication can be controlled by

- objective NA
- number of pulses scanning speed
- pulse energy

- fs-laser micromachining/microstructuring
- microfabrication via two-photon polymerization

fs-laser microstructuring experimental setup



fs-laser micromachining



laser microfabrication: super hydrophobic surface

examples of fabricated surfaces





microstructuring polymer



flat surface

 $\theta = 118^{\circ}$



microstructured surface

 $\theta = 160^{\circ}$

fs-laser micromachining



Generation of Ag nanoparticles



Generation of Ag nanoparticles

Silver doped barium borate glass (Ag:BBO)

Sample after irradiation with the amplified fs-laser (1 kHz) and subsequent thermal treatment at 400 C for 1 h







Sample after irradiation with the 5 MHz fs-laser

Generation of Ag nanoparticles



Absorption spectrum of the Ag:BBO sample as prepared (a), after irradiation with the 5 MHz fs-laser (b) and after irradiation with the amplified fs-laser (1 kHz) and subsequent thermal treatment.



Waveguides fabrication



Waveguides fabricated using the 5-MHz laser system (50 fs) with 37 nJ/pulse and $\,v$ = 10 $\mu m/s$



Waveguides fabrication

Coupling light into the waveguides







image of the waveguide output
Structuring amorphous silicon films

Experimental setup uses a pair of scanning mirrors



150 fs, 775 nm, 1 KHz, v = 5 mm/s, f= 20 cm

AFM micrographs of aSi microstructures at different laser intensities





Micro-Raman analysis reveals the crystallization of the aSi upon fslaser irradiation

The crystalline volume fraction

$$X_{c} = I_{cp} / (I_{cp} - \sigma I_{ap})$$

in which I_{cp} and I_{ap} are the intensities of the crystalline peak and at the center of the amorphous band

Pulse energy (µJ)	X_{c} (%)	Raman peak (cm ⁻¹)	Nanocrystal diameter (nm)
4	0	-	-
5	43	519	9
6	48	518	6
8	62	517	5
10	73	516	4

AFM image of a a-Si:H sample irradiated with 5 μ J (a) and its corresponding segmentation obtained using the Voroni's diagram method (b).





Height histograms of the domains on the sample surface (a) before laser irradiation

- (b) $E = 4 \mu J$
- (c) E = $5 \mu J$
- (d) E = 6 μ J

fs-laser microfabrication



Two-photon polymerization



Two-photon polymerization setup





bellow the diffraction limit

Two-photon polymerization



even higher spatial resolution

Two-photon polymerization



After the fabrication, the sample is immersed in ethanol to wash away any unsolidified resin and then dried

Resin preparation

Monomers



reduces the shrinkage upon polymerization

Monomer B



gives hardness to the polymeric structure



Appl. Phys. A, 90, 633–636 (2008)

two-photon polymerization

Microstructure fabricated by two-photon polymerization





Two-photon polymerization

Microstructures fabricated by two-photon polymerization







Doping microstructures

Microstructures containing active compounds





- Fluorescence
- Electro Luminescent
- Conductive

Do we have waveguiding in the microstructure ?









20 µm 🔳



Appl. Phys. Lett., 95 1133091-3 (2009)







20 µm 🔳



low index substrate

waveguiding of the microstructure fabricated on porous silica substrate (n= 1.185)

Applications: micro-laser; fluorescent microstructures; conductive microstructures

Microstructures with ZnO nanowires



Microstructures with ZnO nanowires







Microstructures with ZnO nanowires





Doping microstructures

• microstructures containing biopolymer - chitosan







micro-environment to study cells and bacteria

microfabrication of special microstructures to biology

• 3D cell migration studies in micro-scaffolds

SEM of the scaffolds











 $52 \ \mu m$ pore size

• 3D cell migration studies in micro-scaffolds





Advanced Materials, 20, 4494-4498 (2008)

Guiding bacterial growth in a micro-environment

to study bacterial growth it was needed to develop **double doped microstructures**

microstructure containing Fluorescein and Rhodamine



(a) SEM of a double-doped microstructure (top view).(b) Confocal fluorescent microscopy image of the same microstructure.

Guiding bacterial growth in a micro-environment

Study the development of E. coli in micro-environments:





micro-environment in which the central structure contains antibiotic.


Study the development of E. coli in micro-environments:



after 3 hours, we observed that a small region around the doped structure does not show bacterial growth.

such inhibition zone was analyzed by determining the bacterial density in concentric rings



the density of bacteria grows monotonically with r_i

saturating when r_i reaches approximately 12 μm in about 0.7 bacteria/ μm^2

the inhibition zone has a maximum range of approximately 10 μ m, being more effective as one gets closer to the microstructure impregnated with ciprofloxacin

Bacteria microtraps



using micro-environments to study the dynamics of bacterial migration

Bacteria microtraps



Bacteria microtraps



using micro-environments to study the dynamics of bacterial migration

Optical circuit









Optical circuit

- microfabrication
- silica nanowires
- coupling microstructures

nanowires fabrication process







coupling light into nanowires



coupling light into nanowires



coupling light into nanowires

Manipulating the nanowires

















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Team

Daniel S Correa Marcos R Cardoso Juliana Almeida *Adriano Otuka Gustavo Almeida* Vinicius Tribuzi Ruben Fonseca Renato Martins Paulo H. D. Ferreira



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