

Photosensitive Fiber Bragg Grating



Overview

Fiber Bragg gratings are created by "inscribing" or "writing" systematic (periodic or aperiodic) variation of refractive index into the core of a special type of optical fiber using an intense (UV) source such as a UV. Two main processes are used: interference and masking. The method that is preferable depends on the type of grating to be manufactured. Although polymer optic fibers starting gaining research interest in the 2000s, -doped silica fiber is most commonly used. The germanium.

Key Takeaways

The photosensitivity of a fiber Bragg grating is the fiber's ability to change its refractive index in response to light exposure, enabling the formation of the grating structure. Definition and Mechanism

Photosensitivity in FBGs refers to the capacity of the optical fiber core to undergo a permanent refractive index change when exposed to ultraviolet (UV) light, typically through a phase mask or direct writing technique. This index modulation forms the periodic structure of the grating, which selectively reflects light at the Bragg wavelength while transmitting other wavelengths. Even small index changes, on the order of 10^{-4} to 10^{-5} , can produce high reflectivity if the grating is sufficiently long.

Factors Affecting Photosensitivity

- **Fiber Composition and Doping:** Fibers doped with germanium (Ge) or co-doped with boron and germanium exhibit high photosensitivity, allowing rapid inscription of FBGs with strong reflectivity. Hydrogen loading can further enhance photosensitivity, but some modern photosensitive fibers achieve high sensitivity without hydrogenation.

- **UV Exposure:** The intensity, wavelength, and duration of UV irradiation directly influence the index change. For example, exposure to 193 nm light from an ArF excimer laser can induce significant photosensitivity in phosphate glass fibers, with the final index modulation amplitude depending on the irradiation time rather than the initial seed grating or fiber type .
- **Thermal Effects:** Post-irradiation heating can enhance the growth of the grating reflectivity. Temperatures between 100–250 °C can increase the index modulation, demonstrating that photosensitivity is not only a function of UV exposure but also of thermal treatment .

Practical Implications

High photosensitivity is crucial for efficient FBG fabrication, enabling strong reflectivity in a short time and ensuring consistent performance for applications such as DWDM filters, fiber lasers, and optical sensors . The degree of photosensitivity also affects the long-term stability of the grating, as fibers with higher photosensitivity can achieve the desired index modulation more reliably and maintain performance after annealing or thermal cycling . In summary, the photosensitivity of a fiber Bragg grating determines how effectively the fiber can be inscribed with a periodic refractive index pattern, and it is influenced by fiber doping, UV exposure conditions, and thermal treatment, all of which are critical for producing high-quality, stable FBGs.

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Fiber Bragg grating

OverviewManufactureHistoryTheoryTypes of gratingsGrating structureApplicationsSee also

Fiber Bragg gratings are created by "inscribing" or "writing" systematic (periodic or aperiodic) variation of refractive index into the core of a special type of optical fiber using an intense ultraviolet (UV) source such as a UV laser. Two main processes are used: interference and masking. The method that is preferable depends on the type of grating to be manufactured. Although polymer optic fibers starting gaining research interest in the 2000s, germanium-doped silica fiber is most commonly used. The germanium

Fiber Bragg Gratings

A fiber Bragg grating is a structure within the core of an optical fiber with a periodic variation of the refractive index. It acts as a

Photosensitive Fiber

Fiber Bragg gratings (FBGs) are formed on a photosensitive optical fiber, generally on a germanosilicate fiber by either a UV light

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Beginning with the principles of FBGs, the book progresses to discuss photosensitization of optical fibers, Bragg grating

Fiber Bragg Gratings

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Photosensitive Fiber

Photosensitive fibers are defined as optical fibers that exhibit a permanent change in their effective refractive index when exposed to

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10 Fiber gratings: principles, fabrication and properties

10.2.1 Introduction to fiber photosensitivity The first demonstration of photosensitivity in optical fibers was in 1978 by Hill et al., who

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Bragg grating formation and germanosilicate fiber photosensitivity

The refractive index of germanosilicate and germano-aluminosilicate fiber can be increased by a few parts in 10⁵ to

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