

TUNGSTEN TRIOXIDE INTEGRATED ALL-FIBER PHASE SHIFTER

By

NORHANIE BINTI BAHTIAR AFFENDY

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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October 2021

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All-fiber phase shifter is said to be one of the important components in optical communication and signal processing systems. Additionally, all-fiber phase shifter offers usage in electro-optic systems, fiber lasers, and sensors. The all fiber configuration is attractive due to advantages such as coupling simplicity and low insertion loss. Other than that, they also have a compact packaging and remote usage capability. Weak nonlinearity in conventional fiber imposes the use of extended length of fiber in order to trigger phase shifting. Another way to induce phase shifting includes introducing disruption into the fiber via mechanical deformation as well as acousto-optic effect. There is also effort in developing phase shifters using nonlinear optical phase modulation through cross-phase modulation and stimulated Brillouin scattering. Recently, researchers found another method of utilizing the thermal effect of nanomaterial attached to the microfiber. Previous works had introduced the usage of nanomaterials such as black phosphorus, graphene, and Au nanorods with all exhibiting promising performance. This work was focused on the development of optical fiber taper phase shifter deposited with tungsten trioxide (WO₃), a nanomaterial that has recently been explored for various optical applications. The taper profile used across the experiment are; up and down taper of 5 mm, waist length of 10 mm and waist diameter of 12 µm. Tungsten trioxide (WO₃) was synthesized via the mixing of WO₃ solution with polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS). The concentration of WO₃ was fixed using 5mg/mL for all the variation of spin coating time from 30 s to 150 s with the interval of 30 s and was then tested. The success of the nanomaterial deposition process was validated using UV Vis spectrometer, Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM), Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis (EDX), Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) and RAMAN Spectroscopy. For phase shifter characterization, pump power was varied from 0 to 220 mW with the interval of 20 mW. The thickness of coating was found to be a factor in the ability of WO₃ to induce phase shifting effect. A blueshift with maximum phase shift of 2.52π and spectral shift efficiency of 0.011 π /mW were obtained for tungsten trioxide integrated all-fiber phase shifter with 120 s spin coating time. Phase shifter with the optimum spin coating time was then tested in a ring cavity laser. Phase shifting performance was observed at lasing threshold of 40 mW and maximum pump power of 100 mW. The wavelength coefficient obtained was 0.066 nm/mW and 0.057 nm/mW, respectively. This is because stronger gain from higher laser pump power has produced a stronger mode competition. From the results obtained, it is proven that WO_3 can be used in phase shifter as it can induce thermo-optic effect. This work had offered advantage which cannot be offered by non-fiber phase shifter which it has a compact setup to suit current need in communication field.



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TUNGSTEN TRIOKSIDA BERSEPADU SEMUA GENTIAN PENGANJAK FASA

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Penganjak fasa semua gentian adalah merupakan salah satu komponen penting dalam sistem komunikasi optik dan sistem pemprosesan isyarat. Tambahan pula, penganjak fasa semua gentian menawarkan penggunaan dalam sistem elektro-optik, gentian laser dan penderia. Binaan semua gentian adalah menarik kerana mempunyai keistimewaan seperti mudah untuk digandingkan dan rendah dalam kehilangan sisipan. Selain daripada itu, ia juga mempunyai pembungkusan yang padat dan kebolehan digunakan secara kawalan jauh. Kelemahan tidak linear gentian konvensional memerlukan penggunaan gentian yang panjang untuk membolehkan pertukaran fasa dilakukan. Cara lain untuk mendapatkan pertukaran fasa termasuklah memperkenalkan gangguan kedalam gentian melalui perubahan bentuk mekanikal dan juga kesan akousto-optik. Terdapat juga usaha dalam membangunkan penganjak fasa menggunakan modul fasa optik tidak linear melalui modul fasa-silang dan serakan Brillouin yang dirangsang. Baru-baru ini, pengkaji menemui kaedah lain iaitu menggunakan kesan haba dari bahan nano yang dilekatkan diatas gentian optik tirus. Kajian terdahulu memperkenalkan penggunaan bahan nano seperti fosforus hitam, grafin dan nanorod emas yang menunjukkan prestasi yang bagus. Kerja ini memfokuskan kepada pembinaan penganjak fasa gentian optik tirus yang dienap dengan tungsten trioksida (WO₃), bahan nano yang terkini dikaji dalam pelbagai aplikasi optik. Profil tirus yang digunakan sepanjang eksperimen adalah kepanjangan atas dan bawah tirus 5 mm, panjang pinggang gentian 10 mm dan lebar pinggang gentian 12 µm. Tungsten trioksida (WO₃) disintesis dengan mencampurkan larutan WO₃ dengan polidimetilsiloksina (PDMS). Kepekatan WO3 adalah tetap iaitu 5mg/mL untuk semua masa salutan putaran bermula dari 30 s sehngga 150 s dengan selang waktu 30 s setiap satu. Keberkesanan proses pemendapan bahan nano ditentukan oleh spektrometer UV Vis, mikroskop pengimbas elektron emisi medan, analisis penyebaran tenaga sinar-X, mikroskop daya atom dan spektroskopi RAMAN. Bagi mengenal pasti ciri-ciri penganjak fasa, kuasa pam divariasikan mulai dari 0 hingga 220 mW dengan selang kuasa 20 mW setiap satu. Ketebalan salutan ditemui sebagai satu faktor yang mempengaruhi kebolehan WO₃ dalam mewujudkan pertukaran fasa. Anjakan biru pada pertukaran fasa maksimum iaitu 2.52π dan keberkesanan pertukaran spektra adalah 0.011 π /mW telah diperolehi untuk tungsten trioksida integrasi penganjak fasa semua gentian dengan masa putaran salutan 120 s. Penganjak fasa dengan masa putaran salutan paling optimum tersebut dikaji di dalam laser berkaviti bulat. Tahap keberkesanan penganjak fasa diperhatikan pada ambang laser di 40 mW dan kuasa pam maksimum iaitu 100 mW. Keberkesanan panjang gelombang diperolehi adalah 0.066 nm/mW dan 0.057 nm/mW. Ini adalah kerana gandaan yang lebih kuat terhasil daripada kuasa pam laser yang tinggi meyebabkan persaingan mod. Daripada dapatan keputusan, terbukti bahawa WO₃ boleh digunakan sebagai penganjak fasa kerana ia mampu untuk mewujudkan kesan termo-optik. Kerja ini menawarkan keistimewaan yang tidak dapat ditawarkan oleh binaan bukan serat termasuklah mempunyai binaan padat bagi memnuhi keperluan bidang komunikasi.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFM	Atomic Force Microscope
AIN	Adaptive Instance Normalization
ASE	Amplified Spontaneous Emission
AuNPs	Gold Nanoparticles
BP	Black Phosphorus
C-band	Conventional-wavelength band (1530 nm to 1565 nm)
EDF	Erbium-Doped Fiber
EW	Evanescent Waves
FESEM	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy
FSR	Free Spectral Range
GNR	Gold Nanorod
HCGs	High index Contrast Gratings
ITO	Indium-Tin-Oxide
LDM	Low Dimensional Material
NaCl	Sodium Chloride
NIR	Near Infra-Red
OPM	Optical Power Meter
OSA	Optical Spectrum Analyzer
PDMS	Polydimethylsiloxane
PST	Phase Shifting Transformer
RI	Refractive Index
RF	Radio Frequency
SMF	Single Mode Fiber
SBS	Stimulated Brillouin Scattering

SOISilicon-On-InsulatorTMDsTransition Metal DichalcogenidesTiNTitanium NitrideWDMWavelength Division MultiplexerWO3Tungsten Trioxide



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Phase shifter is a device that is used in communication systems to change the phase of an incoming signal, which is an important element in applications such as signal processing and laser beam combining [1] [2]. It works by introducing a small amount of delay into the incoming signal and mix it back with the original signal (without delay) at a certain frequency thus resulting in interference [3]. Phase shifter can be classified as either analog or digital device [4]. Analog tuning phase shifter controlled by tuning voltage level while digital phase shifter controlled via computer interface [5].

Optical phase shifter comes in various forms including free space [6] and waveguide device [7] [8]. As optical communication employs mainly optical fiber as transmission medium, the introduction of all-fiber phase shifter is handy because of their advantages such as coupling simplicity [9], polarization insensitivity [10], and low loss [11]. Allfiber phase shifter can be implemented into various devices such as wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) fiber communication as well as fiber laser generation [12]. A common method to achieve phase shifting in optical fiber is by using the nonlinearity of the fiber itself but the drawback of this method is it needs either a special nonlinear fiber or a long conventional fiber thus making it inconvenient to use in small device [2]. In order to address this drawback, the all-fiber phase shifter is improved to work based on various techniques such as mechanical deformation [13], acousto-optic [7], electro-optic [9] and also thermo-optic effects [14]. Recent studies have looked into the use of thermooptic effect due to its lower energy consumption in comparison to other effects [15]. Fundamental theory of thermo-optic effect works based on the injection of pump light that act as energy supply to thermo-optic element and induce refractive index (RI) changes [16] [17] [18].

Researchers have also investigated the concept of doping the fiber with either transition metal ions, rare earths or color center which will help in altering the RI via pump-induced thermal effect or ground state depletion [14]. A simpler method would be to employ tapered optical fiber coated with suitable nanomaterial as phase shifting transducer. The excitation of evanescence wave facilitates interaction with the surrounding material along the tapered region leading to change in temperature and RI that is subsequently reflected in terms of phase shift [19]. Nanomaterials that have been tested for this scheme include graphene and bismuthene [10] [20]. This approach has shown remarkable output in obtaining shorter rise and fall time compared to conventional phase shifter that use non-fiber waveguide configuration instead of all-fiber configuration [21].

1.2 Problem Statement

All-fiber phase shifters based on the integration of tapered optical fiber and nanomaterial are the current trend thanks to its promising performance and fabrication simplicity. Despite the potential, the aim is still to obtain a significant phase shifting effect from the employed nanomaterial. Additionally, nanomaterials employed in all-fiber phase shifter have exhibited susceptibility to external perturbations and incur additional loss due their wide range of absorption wavelength. Some nanomaterials such as bismuthene and boron require complicated fabrication process before it can be utilized as phase shifter. Therefore, continuous effort is still given to find feasible nanomaterials that can be integrated in all-fiber phase shifter. The performance of nanomaterial phase shifter in tunable fiber laser is also a point of investigation considering the constant interest in fiber laser.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The research work is focused on integrating tungsten trioxide (WO_3) in all-fiber phase shifter. The significance of depositing the nanomaterial on tapered fiber lies in the capability of WO_3 to generate thermo-optic effect leading to phase shifts. The objectives of the study are:

- i. To fabricate an all-fiber phase shifter based on tapered fiber with WO₃ coating.
- ii. To characterize the performance of the fabricated phase shifter.
- iii. To design a tunable fiber laser based on the fabricated phase shifter.

1.4 Scope of Work

The scope of work in this research is summarized in Figure 1.1. Basically, the study is focused on the design and development of phase shifter, an integral component in optical communication system. The all-fiber optical phase shifter is favored because of qualities such as seamless integration and low loss polarization insensitivity. Nanomaterial was introduced to assist in enhancing phase shifting effect. Tungsten trioxide is used for this work because of the ability to absorb near-infrared (NIR) light also efficient in the conversion of light-to-heat properties. Beside that, it has high mechanical strength and adequate thermal also chemical stability. Nanomaterial is the agent in delivering thermo-optic effect through temperature-induced RI changes. Although it is known that the phase shifting based on thermo-optic effect can be induced in the material, it is difficult to measure the exact temperature of the phase shifter during the operation due to the lack of proper equipment. The other limitation of the all-fiber phase shifter using nanomaterial is that the fabrication proves might take up time and the material itself is quite expensive. Lastly, considerations have to be given to the external factor such as temperature fluctuation that can also effect the phase shifter performance.

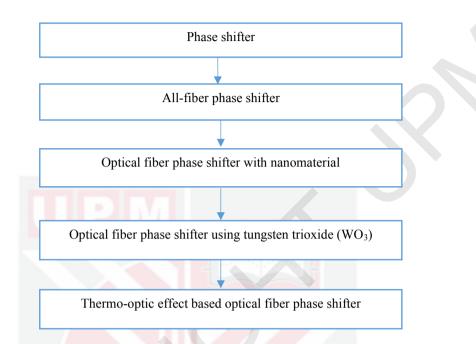


Figure 1.1: Scope of Work

1.5 Organization of Thesis

The organization of the thesis is explained as following:

Chapter 1 consists of the introduction and overview of the research work. It provides a brief background on optical fiber phase shifter and its current applications. The challenges related to all-fiber phase shifter is highlighted along with the aim and objectives of this work. The scope of work and thesis organization are also included in this chapter.

Chapter 2 describes the fundamental theory related to phase shifter, especially all-fiber phase shifter. The rise of nanomaterial usage in all-fiber phase shifter is also discussed in this chapter. Relevant past studies are cited and reviewed to elucidate the position of this work in the current research field.

Chapter 3 elucidates the methodology used throughout the research together with the results gained from the experimental work. The experimental design and rationale of each stage of work starting with taper fabrication until the final tunable laser design are

also discussed. The results are presented in the forms of images and graphs alongside their analysis.

Finally, chapter 4 concludes the whole research work. All the important findings correlated to the earlier objectives are highlighted and some recommendations for future work are also inserted here.



C

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