

Photonic crystals for planar laser sources: new functionalities and outlook

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O. Gauthier-Lafaye, S. Bonnefont, F. Lozes-Dupuy

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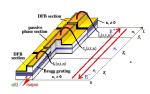
Photonics Group, CNRS-LAAS, Toulouse





Introduction

Good old distributed feedback laser

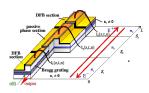


Introduction

 λ control



Good old distributed feedback laser



DFB are cutting edge but:

• Inherently dual-mode

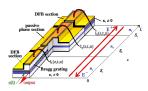
PhC DFB

 λ control

Q control



Good old distributed feedback laser



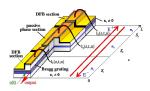
- Inherently dual-mode
- Wavelength engineering is hard

PhC DFB Introduction λ control

Q control



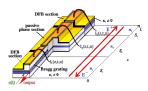
Good old distributed feedback laser



- Inherently dual-mode
- Wavelength engineering is hard
- Integration in array still a challenge



Good old distributed feedback laser



- Inherently dual-mode
- · Wavelength engineering is hard
- Integration in array still a challenge
- Beware of optical feedback



Introduction

Conclu

Menu

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Photonic crystal waveguide for single-mode DFB laser
- 3 Wavelength control using affine deformation
- 4 Double deformation for Q control
- **5** Conclusion

The waveguide we use ...







The waveguide we use ...

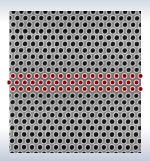


W3 ΓK PhC defect waveguide

Hexagonal lattice Photonic Crystal



The waveguide we use ...

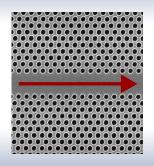


W3 FK PhC defect waveguide

- Hexagonal lattice Photonic Crystal
- 3 rows of holes missing



The waveguide we use ...



W3 **FK** PhC defect waveguide

- Hexagonal lattice Photonic Crystal
- 3 rows of holes missing in ΓK direction



The waveguide we use ...

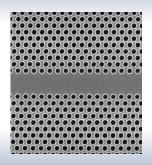


W3 ΓK PhC defect waveguide

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Guiding and DFB properties?

The waveguide we use ...



W3 \(\Gamma K\) PhC defect waveguide

- Hexagonal lattice Photonic Crystal
- 3 rows of holes missing in ΓK direction

Guiding and DFB properties:

 band diagram from PWEM (mpb from MIT)



The waveguide we use ...



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Guiding and DFB properties:

- band diagram from PWEM (mpb from MIT)
- infinitely long waveguide (periodic boundary conditions)



The waveguide we use ...



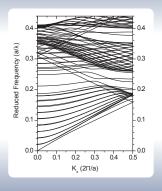
W3 FK PhC defect waveguide

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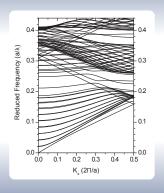
Guiding and DFB properties:

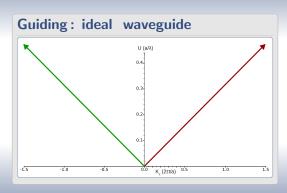
- band diagram from PWEM (mpb from MIT)
- infinitely long waveguide (periodic boundary conditions)
- $n_{eff} \simeq 3.27$ / hole filling factor $\simeq 0.25$

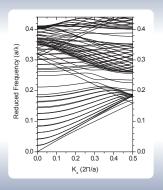
W3 ΓK band diagram

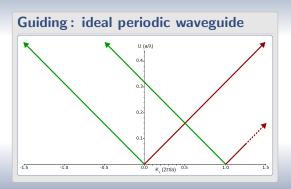


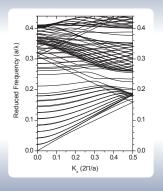
Guiding?

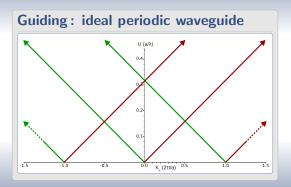


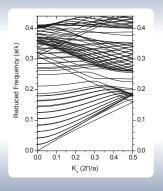


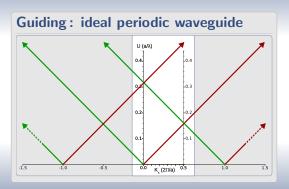


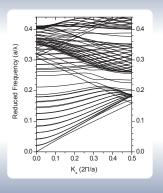


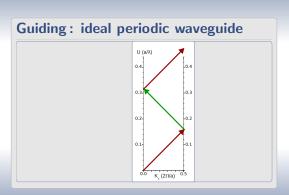


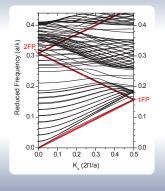




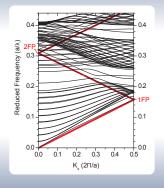






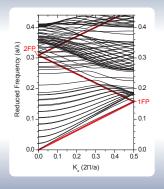


Guiding: W3 ΓK



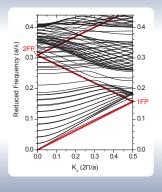
Guiding: W3 ΓK

• W3 ΓK acts like a waveguide

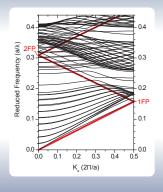


Guiding: W3 ΓK

- W3 ΓK acts like a waveguide
- Magic occurs at the Folding Points (1FP, 2FP, ...)

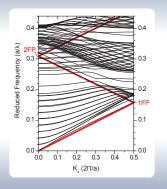


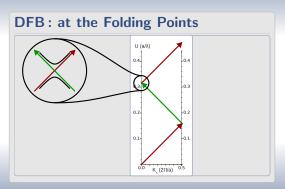
DFB?

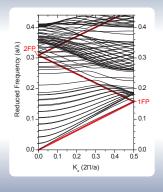


DFB: at the Folding Points

Coupling of counterpropagative waves

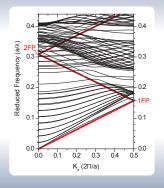






DFB: at the Folding Points

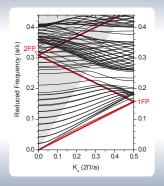
Coupling of counterpropagative waves



DFB: at the Folding Points

- Coupling of counterpropagative waves
- Two degenerated DFB modes^a ...

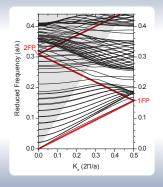
^aX. Checoury et al, APL 85, p5502, 2004



DFB: at the Folding Points

- Coupling of counterpropagative waves
- Two degenerated DFB modes^a ...
- ... but single mode DFB at the 2FP^b (above light cone & symmetry)

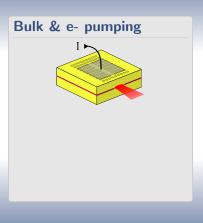
^aX. Checoury et al, APL 85, p5502, 2004 ^bR. Kazarinov et al, JQE, 21, p144, 1985

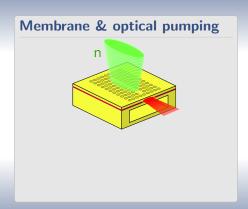


DFB: at the Folding Points

- Coupling of counterpropagative waves
- Two degenerated DFB modes^a ...
- ... but single mode DFB at the 2FP^b
 (above light cone & symmetry)
- $\lambda \simeq 1000$ nm, $a \simeq 300$ nm, $r \simeq 80$ nm
- ^aX. Checoury et al, APL 85, p5502, 2004
- ^bR. Kazarinov et al, JQE, 21, p144, 1985

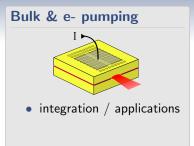
In practice: experimental demonstration

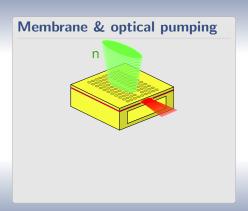






In practice: experimental demonstration

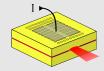






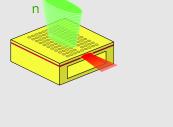
In practice: experimental demonstration

Bulk & e- pumping



- integration / applications
- deep etching:

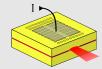
Membrane & optical pumping





In practice: experimental demonstration

Bulk & e- pumping



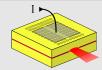
- integration / applications
- deep etching:
- ... time consuming

Membrane & optical pumping



In practice: experimental demonstration

Bulk & e- pumping



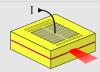
- integration / applications
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- ... time consuming
- ... open problem on GaAs

Membrane & optical pumping



In practice: experimental demonstration

Bulk & e- pumping



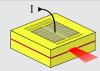
- integration / applications
- deep etching:
- ... time consuming
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Membrane & optical pumping fast and easy



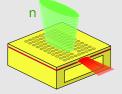
In practice: experimental demonstration

Bulk & e- pumping



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- deep etching:
- ... time consuming
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Membrane & optical pumping

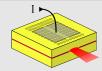


- fast and easy
- systematic studies



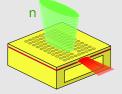
In practice: experimental demonstration

Bulk & e- pumping



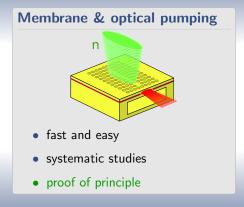
- integration / applications
- deep etching:
- ... time consuming
- ... open problem on GaAs

Membrane & optical pumping



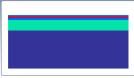
- fast and easy
- systematic studies
- proof of principle

In practice: experimental demonstration



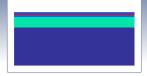


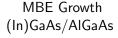


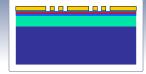


MBE Growth (In)GaAs/AlGaAs









Resist spin coating & e-beam



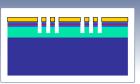
Membrane Fabrication: 5 steps



MBE Growth (In)GaAs/AlGaAs



Resist spin coating & e-beam

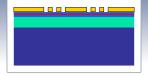


PhC etching (ICP Cl_2/N_2)

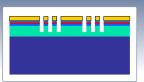




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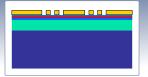


Membrane freeing (HF etching)

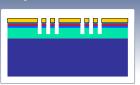




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PhC etching (ICP Cl_2/N_2)

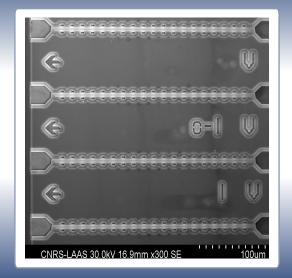


Membrane freeing (HF etching)



Thinning & Cleavage





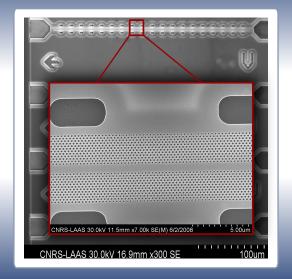
Conclu

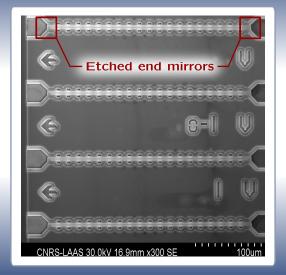


Photonic crystal waveguide for single-mode DFB laser

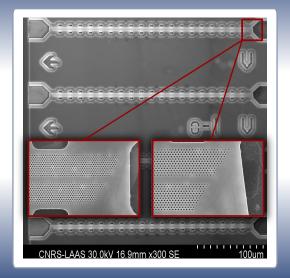






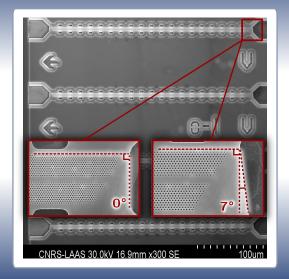






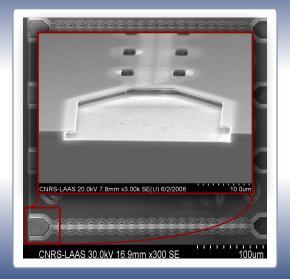
Conclu







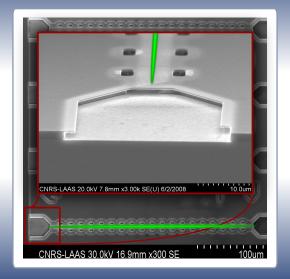
PhC DFB laser on a membrane



Conclu

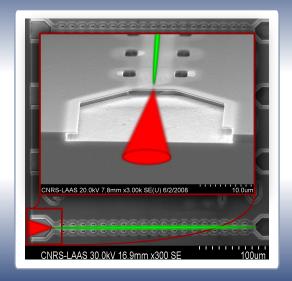


PhC DFB laser on a membrane

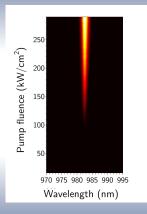


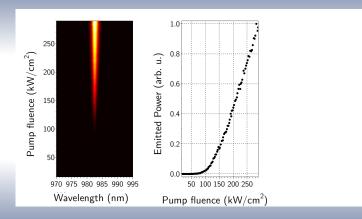
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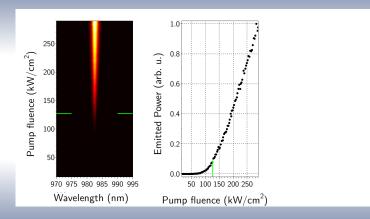




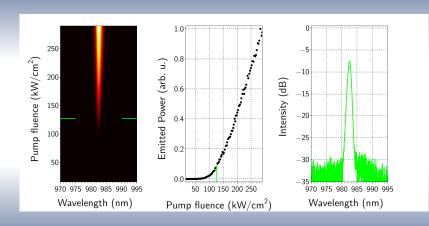




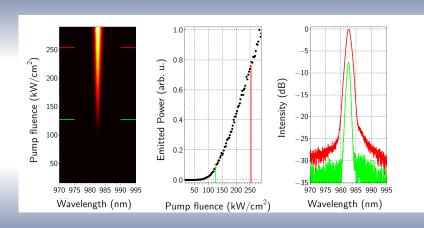














W3 ΓK waveguide laser:

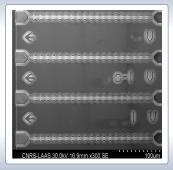


Let's sum it up!

Conclu



W3 ΓK waveguide laser:

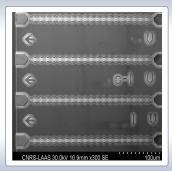


Let's sum it up!

• Inherently single-mode DFB lasing



W3 ΓK waveguide laser:

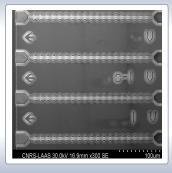


Let's sum it up!

- Inherently single-mode DFB lasing
- No mode-hoping, low chirp



W3 ΓK waveguide laser:

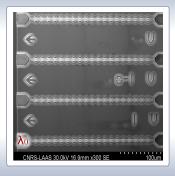


Let's sum it up!

- Inherently single-mode DFB lasing
- No mode-hoping, low chirp
- 2D PhC allows for array integration



W3 ΓK waveguide laser:



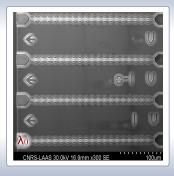
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Wavelength engineering?



W3 ΓK waveguide laser:



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Wavelength engineering?

• Integrated array of DFB lasers



W3 ΓK waveguide laser:



Let's sum it up!

- Inherently single-mode DFB lasing
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- 2D PhC allows for array integration

Wavelength engineering?

- Integrated array of DFB lasers
- Fine and controlled λ spacing



 $Wavelength\ control\ using\ affine\ deformation$

λ control through lattice constant

Maxwell to the rescue!

Wavelength control using affine deformation



λ control through lattice constant

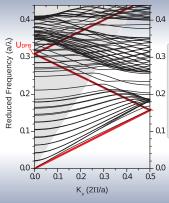


Maxwell to the rescue!

• Maxwell's equations are scale invariant

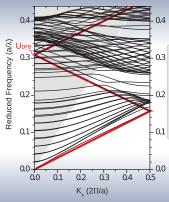
Wavelength control using affine deformation

λ control through lattice constant



Maxwell to the rescue!

- Maxwell's equations are scale invariant
- Reduced frequency $U_{DFB} = a/\lambda_{DFB}$



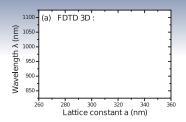
Maxwell to the rescue!

- Maxwell's equations are scale invariant
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- Scaling $a \Rightarrow Scaling \lambda$

λ control through lattice constant

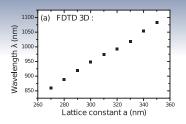
Numerically

Experimentally



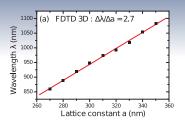
Numerically

• Finite Difference in Time Domain



Numerically

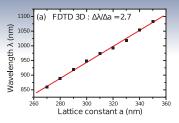
- Finite Difference in Time Domain
- Linear control of λ with a

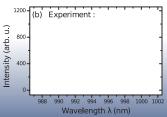


Numerically

- Finite Difference in Time Domain
- Linear control of λ with a
- $\Delta a = 1 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow \Delta \lambda \simeq 2.7 \text{ nm}$







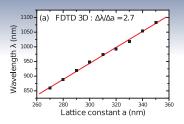
Numerically

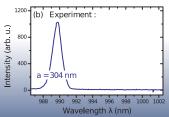
- Finite Difference in Time Domain
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Experimentally

• Array of DFB with varying a







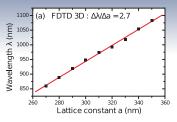
Numerically

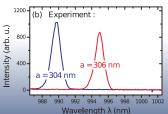
- Finite Difference in Time Domain
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- $\Delta a = 1 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow \Delta \lambda \simeq 2.7 \text{ nm}$

- Array of DFB with varying a
- ... from $a = 304 \, \text{nm}$



λ control through lattice constant



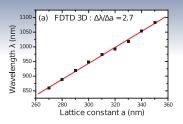


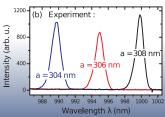
Numerically

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- Array of DFB with varying a
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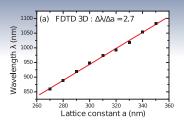
Numerically

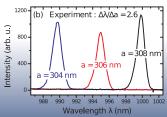
- Finite Difference in Time Domain
- Linear control of λ with a
- $\Delta a = 1 \, \text{nm} \Rightarrow \Delta \lambda \simeq 2.7 \, \text{nm}$

- Array of DFB with varying a
- ... from $a = 304 \,\mathrm{nm}$ to $a = 308 \,\mathrm{nm}$



λ control through lattice constant





Numerically

- Finite Difference in Time Domain
- Linear control of λ with a
- $\Delta a = 1 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow \Delta \lambda \simeq 2.7 \text{ nm}$

- Array of DFB with varying a
- ... from $a = 304 \, \text{nm}$ to $a = 308 \, \text{nm}$
- $\Delta a = 1 \, \text{nm} \Rightarrow \Delta \lambda \simeq 2.6 \, \text{nm}$



λ control through lattice constant

It does work well



λ control through lattice constant

It does work well

Smooth and linear control



λ control through lattice constant

It does not work well enough

Smooth and linear control



λ control through lattice constant

It does not work well enough

- Smooth and linear control
- Sensitivity of $\Delta \lambda/\Delta a \simeq 3$: too coarse



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- e-beam lithography: $\delta a > 1 \, \text{nm} \Rightarrow \delta \lambda > 3 \, \text{nm}$



λ control through lattice constant

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Wavelength control using affine deformation

λ control through lattice constant

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How to build dense array of single-mode DFB?



λ control through lattice constant

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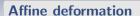
How to build dense array of single-mode DFB?

Hint: 2D PhC are 2D!



What is affine deformation?

Undeformed Lattice $\alpha=1.0$



What is affine deformation?

Undeformed Lattice α=1.0

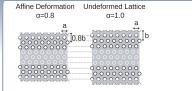


Affine deformation

Scale ⊥ lattice constant b

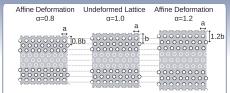


What is affine deformation?



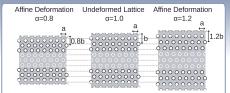
Affine deformation

Scale ⊥ lattice constant b



Affine deformation

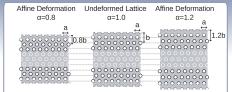
• Scale \perp lattice constant b



- Scale ⊥ lattice constant b
- α is the deformation



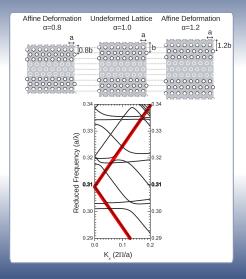
What is affine deformation?



- Scale ⊥ lattice constant b
- α is the deformation
- $d = (\alpha 1)b$ is the displacement

Wavelength control using affine deformation

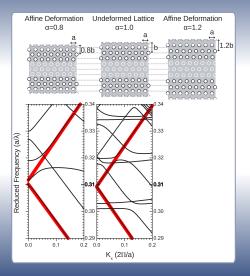
What is affine deformation?



- Scale ⊥ lattice constant b
- α is the **deformation**
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Wavelength control using affine deformation

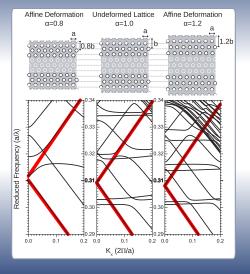
What is affine deformation?



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What is affine deformation?

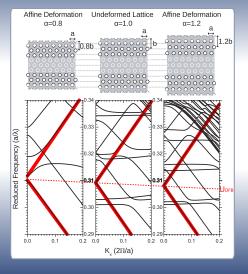


- Scale ⊥ lattice constant b
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What is affine deformation?

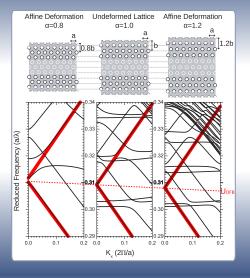
 $(\lambda \text{ control})$



- Scale ⊥ lattice constant b
- α is the deformation
- $d = (\alpha 1)b$ is the displacement
- U_{DFB} linear in α , d

Wavelength control using affine deformation

What is affine deformation?



Affine deformation

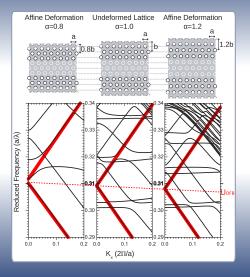
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Sensitivity (theory)

• $\Delta \lambda / \Delta d \simeq 0.035$



What is affine deformation?



Affine deformation

- Scale ⊥ lattice constant b
- α is the **deformation**
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Sensitivity (theory)

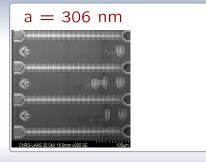
- $\Delta \lambda / \Delta d \simeq 0.035$
- 100× improvement!

Sample

• Several DFB arrays



Affine deformation: experimentally

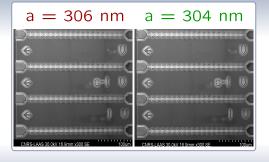


Sample

• Several DFB arrays a = 306



Affine deformation: experimentally

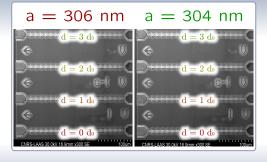


Sample

• Several DFB arrays a = 306 & 304 nm



Affine deformation: experimentally

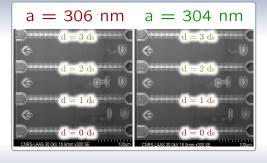


Sample

- Several DFB arrays a = 306 & 304 nm
- / displacement d

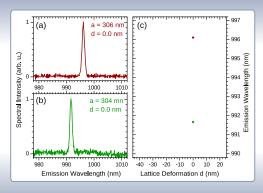


Affine deformation: experimentally



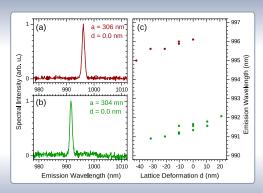
Sample

- Several DFB arrays a = 306 & 304 nm
- / displacement d
- Spectrum $\Rightarrow \lambda(d)$



Results

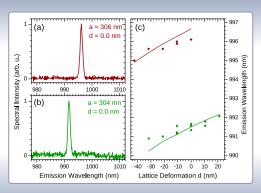
A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008



A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

Results

• Fairly linear control

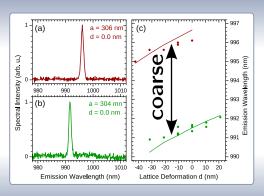


A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

Results

- Fairly linear control
- $\Delta \lambda / \Delta d \simeq 0.025$

Affine deformation: experimentally

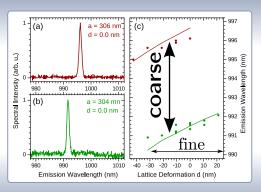


A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

Results

- Fairly linear control
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- a for coarse control

Affine deformation: experimentally



A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

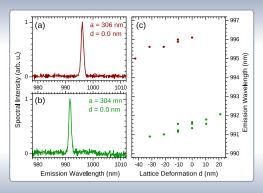
Results

- Fairly linear control
- $\Delta \lambda / \Delta d \simeq 0.025$
- a for coarse control
- d for fine control



Wavelength control using affine deformation

Affine deformation: experimentally



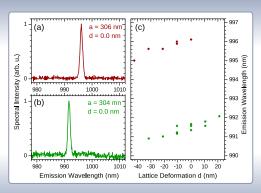
Nice results but ...

A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008



Wavelength control using affine deformation

Affine deformation: experimentally



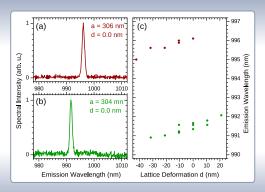
A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

Nice results but ...

• Random λ shift



Affine deformation: experimentally



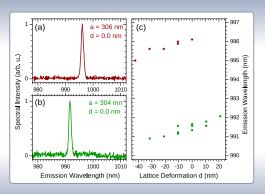
A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

Nice results but ...

- Random λ shift
- Other lasing modes



Affine deformation: experimentally



A. Larrue et al, PTL, 20, pp. 2120, 2008

Nice results but ...

- Random λ shift
- Other lasing modes
- ... optical feedback!



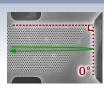
Wavelength control using affine deformation

Optical feedback is to blame

© .84 W C .94 W C .1 W

Optical feedback is to blame

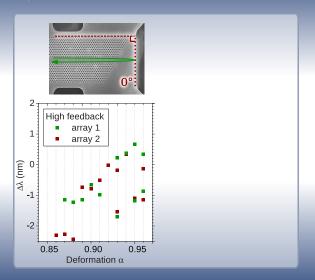
Wavelength control using affine deformation





Intro

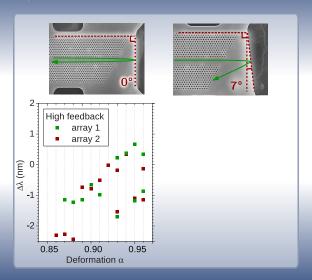
Optical feedback is to blame



Conclu



Optical feedback is to blame

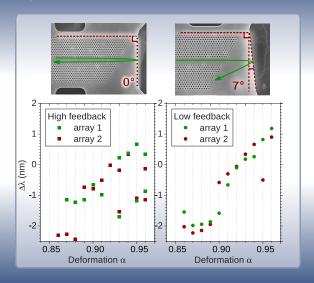


Conclu

Intro

Wavelength control using affine deformation

Optical feedback is to blame



How to deal with optical feedback

Tools and recipes

• Reduce feedback to minimum (end mirror engineering)

Wavelength control using affine deformation

How to deal with optical feedback

Tools and recipes

Reduce feedback to minimum (end mirror engineering)



Wavelength control using affine deformation

How to deal with optical feedback

Tools and recipes

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- Increase DBF robustness towards feedback

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How to deal with optical feedback

Tools and recipes

- Reduce feedback to minimum (end mirror engineering)
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 - Improve Q1 (Q factor of best DFB mode)
 - Improve $\Delta Q = Q_1 Q_2$ (mode selectivity)

Affine deformation is not enough

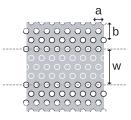
1 handle (α) for 2 controls (λ and Q)





Double deformation: two handles

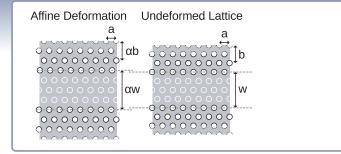
Undeformed Lattice



Q control



Double deformation: two handles



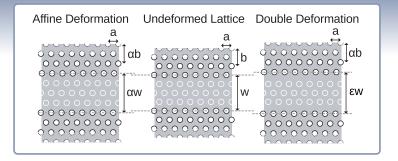
Affine deformation

 \perp lattice constant **b** and defect width **w** scaled by α

Q control



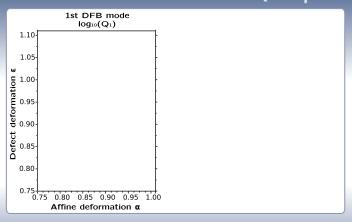
Double deformation: two handles



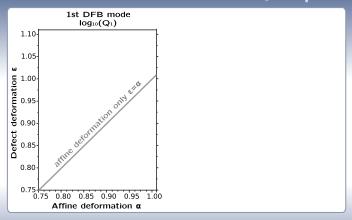
Double deformation

 \perp lattice constant b scaled by α defect width w scaled independently by ε



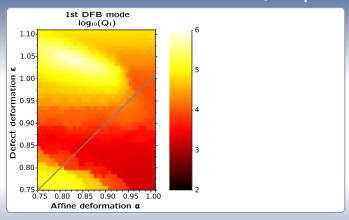








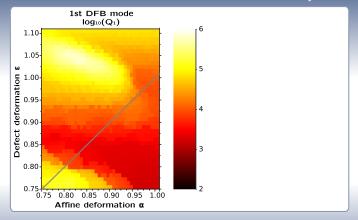




(Q control)



Double deformation: 2D Q maps



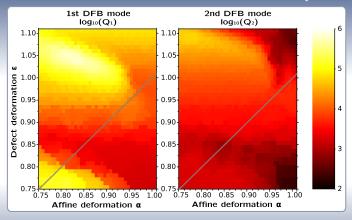
Q factor improvement

 $Q_1 \simeq 6.7 \ 10^5$: two order of magnitude better

(Q control)



Double deformation: 2D Q maps

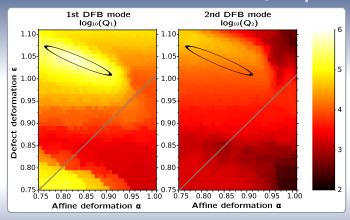


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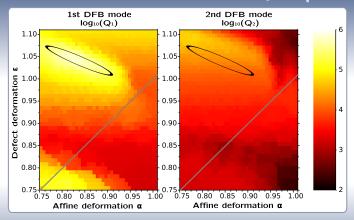




Q control



Double deformation: 2D Q maps

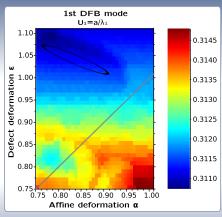


Mode selectivity improvement

 $\Delta Q > 2.4 \ 10^4$: one order of magnitude better



Double deformation: 2D U map



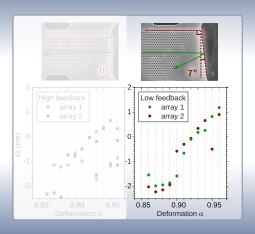
Conclu



Intro

Double deformation: 2D U map

Remember affine deformation?

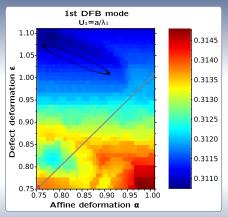


Conclu





Double deformation: 2D U map



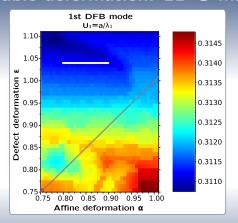
U control improvement

Slow variation and no mode-hoping

(Q control)

Intro

Double deformation: 2D U map



Experimental demonstration

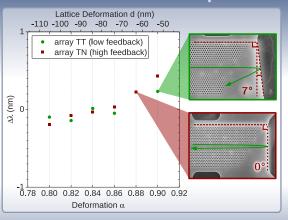
 $\varepsilon = 1.04$ and α in [0.8, 0.9]



Intro

Double deformation for ${\sf Q}$ control

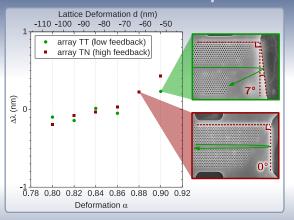
Double deformation: experimentally





Double deformation: experimentally

(Q control)



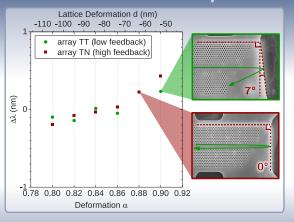
Robustness towards optical feedback

 $\Delta \lambda < 0.2 \, \text{nm}$: tenfold improvement



Double deformation: experimentally

(Q control)

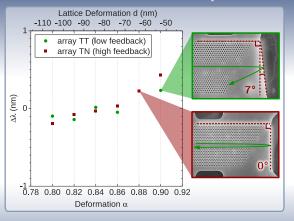


Robustness towards optical feedback No mode hoping, all single-mode lasers



Intro

Double deformation: experimentally



Improved λ control

Sensitivity $\Delta \lambda/\Delta d \simeq 0.009~3 \times improvement$

PhC DFB Conclusion λ control





Conclusion 1/3

2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

Powerful and versatile tool

 λ control





Conclusion 1/3

2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

- Powerful and versatile tool
- ullet Coarse, fine and finer λ control

 λ control





Conclusion 1/3

2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

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- High robustness towards feedback



2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

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BUT ... proof of principle!

 λ control





Conclusion 1/3

2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

- Powerful and versatile tool
- ullet Coarse, fine and finer λ control
- High robustness towards feedback

BUT ... proof of principle!

• We're on a membrane

 λ control





Conclusion 1/3

2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

- Powerful and versatile tool
- ullet Coarse, fine and finer λ control
- High robustness towards feedback

BUT ... proof of principle!

- We're on a membrane
- Integration / electrical pumping?



2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

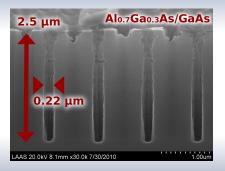
- Powerful and versatile tool
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BUT ... proof of principle!

- We're on a membrane
- Integration / electrical pumping
 ⇒ deep etching!



Deep etching of GaAs/GaAlAs

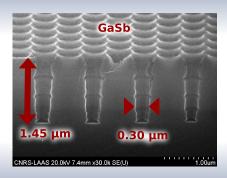


Conclusion



Deep etching of GaAs/GaAlAs & GaSb







2D Photonic Crystal for DFB array

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Towards bulk e- pumping



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Proof of principle (brick 1)



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Towards bulk e- pumping

- Proof of principle (brick 1)
- Deep etching (brick 2)



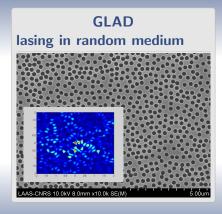
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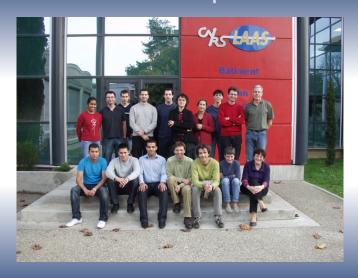
- Proof of principle (brick 1)
- Deep etching (brick 2)
- Simply merge the two!

Conclusion 3/3: beyond DFB





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Intro

Shameless advertising

Looking for post-doc!

Post-doc position starting January 2011

Optical sensor for undersea detection of methane

Contact: lozes@laas.fr (or come and see me)