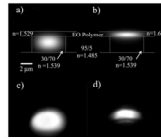




E-O polymer enabled low drive voltage, low loss hybrid polymer/sol-gel modulators

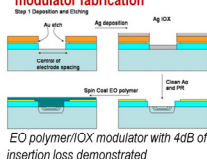


ACHIEVEMENTS: The primary achievement in this period has been the reduction of device loss (< 4dB) through the development of hybrid EO polymer/ion exchange glass modulators (1.5 cm long). The high speed performance of our sol-gels has been confirmed by high frequency dielectric loss measurements on coplanar structures, while high speed packaging has been enabled by the development of wirebonding. A new Mach-Zehnder EO polymer characterization system has been developed and provides direct measurement of electro-optic and piezo tensor coefficients.



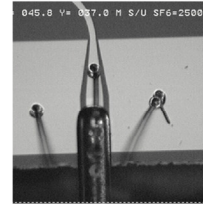
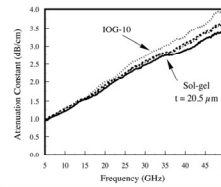
Strip loaded hybrid modulator 2.8V, 5.7dB IL, *Optics Express* 17, 3317

Hybrid EO polymer/IOX glass modulator fabrication

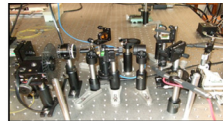


Impact: We have continued the drive towards low insertion loss, low-voltage modulator. A hybrid approach has been developed that combines low-loss (0.1 dB/cm) ion exchange waveguides, grey scale masking and versatile EO polymers such as AJL50. Results demonstrate passive waveguide losses < 4dB, unprecedented for EO polymers. A wavelength/frequency agile MZ EO polymer characterization system enables direct measurement of properties crucial for coplanar waveguide devices and spatial light modulators. Excellent microwave performance has been confirmed for our sol-gels (@40GHz) and we have demonstrated wire-bonding for reliable, microwave contact.

High-speed device development



Mach-Zehnder EO characterization system



MZ EO polymer measurement system provides measurement of r_{33} , r_{13} , their ratio and piezoelectric coefficient

- Measurements on UW "blind" samples in excellent agreement with Teng-Man measurements
- Critical information obtained needed for IOX coplanar electrode modulator design and optimization of SLM and modulator devices

Center on Materials & Devices for Information Technology Research
 An NSF Science & Technology Center, DMR-0120967

IMPACT: We have continued the drive towards low insertion loss, low-voltage modulator. A hybrid approach has been developed that combines low-loss (0.1 dB/cm) ion exchange waveguides, grey scale masking and versatile EO polymers such as AJL50. Results demonstrate passive waveguide losses < 4dB, unprecedented for EO polymers. A wavelength/frequency agile MZ EO polymer characterization system enables direct measurement of properties crucial for coplanar waveguide devices and spatial light modulators. Excellent microwave performance has been confirmed for our sol-gels (@40GHz) and we have demonstrated wirebonding for reliable, microwave contact.

DISCUSSION: The full promise of polymer-based EO modulator technology will be realized when devices become available that combine low drive voltage (~ 1V), low insertion loss (~3dB) and ultrahigh bandwidth (40GHz and above) in a single device that can be reproducibly manufactured with high yield and reasonable cost. During this period we initially demonstrated a low-loss (5.7dB), low voltage (2.8V) strip loaded modulator, values which are directly competitive with commercially available lithium niobate modulators. Subsequent efforts have been focused in two directions: (1) demonstrate low microwave loss for both sol-gel and ion exchange glass passive materials as well as robust low-loss microwave contacts and (2) pursue even lower loss modulators by adopting ultra low loss (0.1 dB/cm) ion exchange glass as the passive waveguide medium in a hybrid EO polymer device. As shown above, low microwave loss at 40GHz and above has been verified for sol-gel and ion exchange glass; furthermore, wirebonding has been established as a robust, manufacturable method for making microwave contact. Our efforts on the hybrid EO polymer/ion exchange modulator have demonstrated < 4dB insertion loss for unpoled devices a promising indicator of exceptional modulator performance. We note that at these low levels of insertion loss each additional dB has a 25-30% impact on the figure of merit. In order to enable full optimization of EO polymer materials for coplanar modulators and SLMs, we have developed a wavelength and frequency agile Mach-Zehnder interferometer system for measuring r_{33} , r_{13} , the tensor ratio, and piezoelectric tensor elements as well. This system will also provide important input for hybrid EO polymer/silicon photonics devices, which are highly anticipated and desired for rapidly growing data center networking applications.

KEY PERSONNEL:

University of Arizona - Chris DeRose, Emre Araci, Charles Greenlee, Anael Guilmo, Roland Himmelhuber, David Mathine, Shabnam Virji, Ram Voorakaranam, Robert Norwood, Mahmoud Fallahi, and Nasser Peyghambarian
 University of Washington - Jingdong Luo, Alex K.-Y. Jen