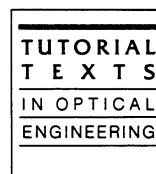


Infrared Fiber Optics

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Foreword

Tutor: to teach or guide, usually individually, in a specific subject

The aim of the Tutorial Texts series is to fulfill the essential role of a tutor for selected topics in optical science and engineering. The Tutorial Texts are based on the SPIE short course program. The attendance and the evaluations of those attending a course provide a measure of the degree of interest in the subject matter as well as a qualitative statement about the potential of the course curriculum and lecture notes developing into a book.

This new series has been undertaken with much enthusiasm on the part of the SPIE Optical Engineering Press. These volumes reflect the excitement of working with our short course instructors to translate a series of lecture notes into stand-alone texts of a tutorial nature. Indeed, the Tutorial Texts are intended to accomplish, in book format, what the instructor/author does in the course environment. The scope, content, and presentation level are essentially the same in course and book.

This Tutorial Text on Infrared Fiber Optics provides the reader with a current view of the field of infrared fibers along with tutorial material for understanding the possibilities for future applications.

Roy F. Potter
Western Washington University
1 August 1989

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Introduction	1
1.1	Need for Infrared (IR) Fiber Optics	3
1.2	IR Versus Visible Fiber Optics	4
1.3	Fundamentals of IR Fiber Optics	8
1.3.1	Propagation	8
1.3.2	Attenuation	12
1.3.3	Dispersion	24
1.4	References	28
2	IR Materials and Fibers	31
2.1	Halide Glasses	33
2.1.1	Composition	33
2.1.2	Material Preparation	37
2.1.3	Physical Properties	40
2.1.4	Waveguide Fabrication	46
2.1.5	Waveguide Properties of Fluoride Fibers	52
2.1.6	Mechanical Properties of Fluoride Fibers	56
2.1.7	Durability and Toughness	58
2.2	Chalcogenide Glasses	61
2.2.1	Composition	61
2.2.2	Materials Preparation	64
2.2.3	Physical Properties	66
2.2.4	Waveguide Fabrication	72
2.2.5	Waveguide Properties	77
2.3	Crystalline Materials	89
2.3.1	Composition	89
2.3.2	Materials Preparation	89
2.3.3	Physical Properties	90
2.3.4	Waveguide Fabrication	92
2.3.5	Waveguide Properties	98
2.4	IR Oxide Glasses	104
2.5	Hollow Waveguides	109
2.6	Summary	112
2.7	References	114
2.7.1	Subsection 2.1	114
2.7.2	Subsection 2.2	116
2.7.3	Subsection 2.3	118
2.7.4	Subsection 2.4	120
2.7.5	Subsection 2.5	120
2.7.6	Subsection 2.6	120
3	Applications of IR Fiber Optics	121
3.1	Overview	123
3.1.1	General Areas of Application for IR Fibers	123
3.1.2	IR Laser Propagation	123
3.1.3	IR Imaging	124
3.1.4	Active Components—Fiber Lasers	125
3.1.5	Sensors	125

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

<i>Section</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
3.1.6	Radiation-Hardened Links	125
3.1.7	Medical Uses	126
3.1.8	Nonlinear Optics	126
3.2	Telecommunications	127
3.3	IR Fiber Bundles Applications	131
3.3.1	Image Bundle	131
3.3.2	Tapered Bundle	135
3.3.3	IR Fiber Optic Reformatter	137
3.4	Single IR Fiber Applications	139
3.4.1	Temperature Sensor	139
3.4.2	Pressure Sensor	140
3.4.3	Remote Location of Detector or Source	141
3.5	References	146

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Attenuation Versus Wavelength for SiO ₂	5
2	Attenuation Versus Wavelength for Oxides, Halides, and Chalcogenides	6
3	Diagram of Light Propagation in Stepped-Index, Graded-Index, and Single-Mode Optical Fibers	9
4	Hollow, Rectangular, Combination Metal-Dielectric Waveguide, TE ₁₀	11
5	TE ₁₀ Mode in Hollow, Cylindrical, Metal Waveguide	11
6	Optical Attenuation Versus Wavelength	13
7	Band-Gap Absorption	15
8	Absorption Plots for Various Materials Classes	16
9	Water Absorption	17
10	Rare-Earth and Transition-Metal Absorption	18
11	V-Plot	21
12	Optical Fiber Attenuation Mechanisms	22
13	Intramodal Dispersion, Multimode Fibers Only	25
14	Intramodal Dispersion, Multimode and Single-Mode Fibers	25
15	Thermal Analysis	36
16	Fluoride Glass Fiber Materials, Thermal Analysis	37
17	Spectral Attenuation of Fluoride Glass Fiber (NTT)	38
18	Effect of REDOX Melting Conditions on the Optical Absorption in Fluoride Glasses	39
19	OH Absorption	39
20	Comparison of Optical Transmission of Fluoride Glasses with Silica	41
21	Scattering Loss Spectra for Bulk Fluoride Glasses	41
22	Light Scattering in Fluoride Glass and Silica	42
23	Refractive Index Spectra of Fluorozirconate Glasses	42
24	IR Edge for Various Fluoride Glass Compositions and Fiber	43
25	Material Dispersion of Fluoride Glasses	43
26	Absorption Spectra of Irradiated Fluorozirconate Glass	44
27	Fiber Drawing	47
28	Adding Core Glass To Create Solid Preform	49
29	Rotational Casting Process	49
30	Index of Refraction Across Preform	50
31	Reactive Vapor Transport Fluoride Glass Fiber	50
32	Refractive Index Versus Tube Wall Thickness for RVT Fibers	51
33	Localized Heat Zone Furnace for Drawing Fluoride Glass Fibers	52
34	Attenuation of Fluoride Glass Fibers	53
35	Loss Spectrum of a Fluoride Glass Fiber Produced at NRL	53
36	Transmission Loss Spectra for Step-Index Multimode Fibers	54
37	Comparison of Losses for Various Fluoride Glass Fibers	54
38	Breakdown of Total Loss in Fluoride Fiber	55
39	Measured Scatter Loss of Fluoride Fiber	55
40	IR Fiber Spectral Loss Measurement System	56
41	Strength of Fluoride Glass Fibers	57
42	Strength of ZBLA Fibers in Water	57
43	Leach Rates of ZBLA Glass with Pyrex	59
44	Water Absorption of Coated Fluoride Glasses	60
45	Glass-Forming Compositions of GeSbSe	62
46	Glass-Forming Composition Region of Systems SiSbS, SiSbSe, and GeAsSe	62

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (CONTINUED)

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
47	GeAsTe Composition Diagram	63
48	Composition Diagram for GePS Glass System	63
49	Fabrication of Chalcogenide Glasses	65
50	Distillation Process Schematic Diagram	65
51	IR Transmissions of Purified Sulfide Glasses in Atomic Percent (Dashed curves show impurity bands)	66
52	IR Spectra of As_2Se_3 ($R =$ reflection coefficient)	67
53	IR Spectra of As_2SeTe_2 ($R =$ reflection coefficient)	67
54	IR Spectra of $Ge_{10}As_{50}Te_{40}$ ($R =$ reflection coefficient)	68
55	IR Spectra of $Ge_{15}As_{10}Se_{75}$ ($R =$ reflection coefficient)	68
56	IR Spectra of $Ge_{28}Sb_{12}Se_{60}$ and $Ge_{25}Se_{75}$	69
57	Optical Transmittance of 2-mm-Thick Disk of GeSeTe Glass, Showing (Solid Curve) Removal of Absorption Band at $13.0 \mu m$ by Heating Glass in Hydrogen	69
58	IR Transmission of Some GePTe Glasses Atomic Ratio	70
59	Apparatus for Fiber Drawing and Typical Data for Temperature Gradient at Neck-Down Region of Glass Rod	73
60	Preforms: (A) Square Extruded (B) Cast Cylindrical	73
61	Various Fibers	74
62	Drawing Apparatus of Chalcogenide Glass Fibers	75
63	Pyrex Glass Double Crucible Assembly for Preparing Arsenic-Sulfur Glass Fibers	76
64	Fiber Pulling Setup	76
65	Theoretical Attenuation in GeS Glasses	77
66	Spectral Dependence of Material Dispersion $M(\lambda)$ of Glassy As_2S_3 and Region of Minimum Optical Losses in Glassy As_2S_3 (1) and As_2Se_3 (2)	78
67	Material Dispersion Versus Wavelength for $Ge_{28}Sb_{12}Se_{60}$	78
68	Intrinsic Attenuation Coefficient Versus Wavelength for $Ge_{25}Se_{75}$ and $Ge_{28}Sb_{12}Se_{60}$	79
69	Chalcogenide Glass Fiber Attenuation	80
70	Chalcogenide Glass Fiber Attenuation	82
71	IR Fiber Absorption Versus Wavelength	83
72	Transmission Loss Spectrum for $Ge_{20}Se_{80}$ Chalcogenide Glass Fiber	83
73	Chalcogenide Glass Fiber Attenuation ($\phi =$ diameter)	84
74	Transmission Loss Spectrum Around $10.6 \mu m$ for a $Ge_{22}Se_{20}Te_{58}$ Glass Optical Fiber	85
75	Spectra of the Optical Losses in Fibers Made of Chalcogenide Glasses	85
76	Drawing Process for Chalcogenide Fiber Bundles	86
77	Cross-Sectional Picture of IR Fiber Bundle, 2.0 mm in Diameter Including 200 AsS Glass Fiber Cores, Each $90 \mu m$ in Diameter	87
78	Coherent Image Bundle, 25- μm -Diameter Chalcogenide Glass Fibers, Shown in a Transmission IR Microscope	87
79	IR Fiber Optic Prototypes	88
80	Crystalline Fiber Extrusion	92
81	Schematic of Fiber Crystal-Growing Apparatus	93
82	Schematic Diagram of Laser-Heated Pedestal Growth System	93
83	Crystal Fiber Growth	94
84	Extruded KCl, 0.25 Inch in Diameter, $8\times$	96
85	KRS-5 Fiber From Laser Pedestal Growth Method	97

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (CONTINUED)

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
86	Demonstration of Flexibility of a 150- μm C-Axis Sapphire Fiber (Ruler is marked in inches.)	97
87	Projected Transmission in IR Fibers	98
88	Projected Transmission in Crystalline IR Fibers	99
89	Projected Transmission Loss in IR Fibers	99
90	IR Loss Spectra for CaBr Fibers Grown in Different Atmospheres	100
91	Total Loss Spectrum of KRS-5 Fiber Measured by Cut-Back Method	101
92	Extruded Crystalline Fiber of KRS-5/KRS-6 Core/Clad	102
93	Refractive Index Variation with Wavelength for Five Glasses of Table 29	105
94	IR Transmission Spectrum of Germanate Glasses Prepared by Crucible Method and by VAD Method	105
95	Schematics of Porous Preform Preparation and Sintering Method	106
96	Calculated Theoretical Loss Spectrum of Germanate Glass Fiber	106
97	Measured Loss Spectrum of Germanate Glass Fibers with Silicone Resin Coating (Dashed Line) and without Any Coating (Solid Line)	107
98	Complex Index and Reflection Coefficient for SiO_2 and Pb-Glass	108
99	Experimental Result for Transmission of Pb-Glass Hollow-Core Fiber for CO_2 Laser Light (940 cm^{-1}) (Inner diameter is 1.0 mm; measured loss is for multimode transmission)	109
100	Transmission of Hollow Metallic Waveguide of Cylindrical Cross Section as Function of Inverse Bend Radius	110
101	Experimental and Theoretical Bending Losses of Nickel Cylindrical Waveguides Uncoated and Coated by Ge and PbF_2 Where X and O Correspond to Measured E_{\parallel} and E_{\perp} , Respectively	110
102	Experimental Arrangement for Measuring 2.7- μm Power Transmission Properties (X-Y plotter and minicomputer were used for laser printer)	130
103	Coherent IR Fiber Optic Bundles	132
104	IR Fiber Optic Bundle Allowing Simultaneous Imaging at Two Different Wavelength Regions	133
105	Flexible Coherent Image Bundle (Detectors and cryogenics can be removed, allowing more unobstructed image)	133
106	IR Image Bundle Configurations	134
107	IR Fiber Bundle, Field Flattener	134
108	Taper IR Fiber Bundle	135
109	Nonuniform Magnifying IR Bundle	136
110	IR Fiber Optic Image Reformation (Coherent)	137
111	Operation of Spectrometer Having IR Fiber Optic Reformatter	138
112	Temperature Sensor Diagram	139
113	Simplified Diagram of Pressure Sensor	141
114	IR Threat-Warning Receiver Diagram	142
115	CO_2 Laser Guide	144
116	FLIR Boresighting	145
117	Remote CO_2 Gas Analyzer/Remote Radiometry	145

LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Comparison of Silica-Based Versus IR Optical Material Compositions for Fiber Optics	5
2	General Comparison Between Silica-Based and IR Fiber Optics Technologies	6
3	Comparison Between Silica-Based and IR Fiber Optics in Terms of Attenuation, Dispersion and Propagation	7
4	Summary of Specific Absorption Coefficients	17
5	Wavelengths at Which Vibrational Absorptions of Various Impurities Are Active	19
6	Typical Heavy Metal Fluoride Glasses Used in the Fabrication of IR Fibers	34
7	Glass-Forming Systems Not Containing ZrF ₄ or HfF ₄ and Guide to Available Data	35
8	Compositions of Heavy-Metal Fluoride Glasses and Their Acronyms as Used in the Text	36
9	Purification Requirements in Fluoride Glasses Impurity Levels (PPB) Causing 0.01 dB/km Loss	38
10	Optical Properties of Fluoride Glasses	44
11	Mechanical Properties of Fluorizirconate Glasses	45
12	Elastic Properties of Fluorides Compared With Oxides	46
13	Physical and Thermal Properties of Fluorides	46
14	Promising Methods for Further Toughening Fluoride Glasses	60
15	Chalcogenide Glass Compositions; Various Atomic Ratios	61
16	Absorption Coefficients in Bulk Chalcogenide Glasses	70
17	Physical Properties of Chalcogenide Glasses	71
18	Comparison of Attenuation Minima and Material Dispersion Zeros in Chalcogenide Glasses	79
19	Laser Power Transfer in Chalcogenide Glass Optical Fibers	86
20	Strength of Chalcogenide Glass Optical Fibers	86
21	Materials for Infrared Fibers	89
22	IR Transmission in Crystalline Materials for Fibers	90
23	Absorption Coefficients of IR Crystalline Materials for Fibers	91
24	Physical Properties of IR Crystalline Materials for Fibers	91
25	Fabrication Parameters of IR Crystalline Fibers	95
26	Material Dispersion Zeros and Theoretical Attenuation Minimum in Crystalline IR Fibers	101
27	Attenuation in Crystalline IR Fibers	103
28	Composition and Some Properties of IR Oxide Glasses	104
29	Optical Properties of Glasses in Table 28	107
30	Hollow Waveguide Transmission	111
31	Summary of IR Optical Fibers	113
32	Applications of Infrared Fibers	124
33	Most Promising Candidates for Ultralong Link, Underwater Mid-IR Fiber Optics Systems	128
34	Proposed 2- to 5- μ m Semiconductor Lasers: Important Features	128
35	Performance of Color Center Lasers	129
36	Potential Detectors for Mid-IR Fiber Optics	129
37	Criteria for Fiber Optic Image Bundle	131

Preface

We first taught the SPIE short course from which this book is adapted in May 1984. We agreed to teach the course for two reasons: first, to explain and demonstrate the potential of IR fiber technology and to encourage its application, and second, because it afforded us the opportunity to pull together and review the many different infrared fiber optic technologies.

Due to the diversity of applications and the many different IR fiber technologies under development, this Tutorial Text necessarily covers a lot of material. A general review of the fundamental principles of propagation, attenuation, and dispersion as they relate to dielectric and hollow waveguides made of oxide, halide, or chalcogenide glasses and metals is the starting point. This is intended to allow the reader to move through the chapters on each fiber technology and its applications recognizing its advantages, disadvantages, the relative state of the art, and its future potential. The book moves from the fundamentals through materials, fabrication, physical properties, and finally applications.

As an adaptation from a short course, the book gives a complete overview of the entire field but often with brevity. The general level of the book is intended to allow someone new to the field to gain a useful insight, as well as someone established in the field to have access to a comprehensive review of the different IR fiber optic technologies.

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