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Waveguide structuring and Bragg grating fabrication by ultraviolet light induced refractive index changes in photosensitive optical materials

By Frank Knappe

Cuvillier Verlag Nov 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 212x149x12 mm. Neuware - The refractive index of photosensitive optical materials can be permanently changed by UV-irradiation. The objective of this thesis was to use such refractive index changes for the fabrication of waveguides and Bragg gratings. Integrated optics allows for the integration of optical functionality on a small footprint. A technique to realize integrated optical waveguides is the direct writing technique where a focused UV-laser is scanned over a photosensitive sample. This fabrication method is of particular interest as no mask technology is involved, which is advantageous during the prototyping phase of new devices. UV-induced refractive index changes in excess of 10×10^{-3} were achieved in hydrogen-loaded germanium-doped silica layers and employed to fabricate straight waveguides, S-bends, directional couplers and multi-mode interference couplers. In one of the tested material systems the refractive index was decreased by the UV-irradiation rather than increased. Without any presensitization refractive index changes down by -10×10^{-3} were observed. Waveguides were realized in this material system by the negative direct writing technique, i.e. the waveguide cladding instead of the core was written. The fabrication of waveguide structures by UV-induced refractive index changes is not limited to layered material...

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