



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
DEGREE IN PHYSICS – LAUREA IN FISICA

THESIS

Phase-matching by temperature control method
of degenerate Four-Wave Mixing phenomena

Thesis Advisor:
Mattia Mancinelli

Student:
Davide Bazzanella

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Abstract: studying degenerate Four-Wave Mixing phenomena in a rectangular silicon-based waveguide. Analyze its behaviour at different temperatures to maximize phase-match. Developing a project to build an actual prototype.

1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

1.2 Degenerate Four-Wave Mixing

Four-Wave Mixing (FWM) is a nonlinear optical effect

2 Linear optics

A linear dielectric medium is characterized by a linear relation between the polarization density and the electric field, $\mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \chi \mathbf{E}$, where ε_0 is the permittivity of free space and χ is the susceptibility of the medium.

In linear optics the technology for transmitting a light wave by confining it in a finite space is the guided-wave optics. The instruments employed for achieving such purpose are called waveguides.

2.1 Silicon waveguides

Silicon waveguides are dielectric waveguides and make use of the interface between two media with different refractive index. Precisely they exploit the phenomenon of total internal reflection: if a propagating wave reaches a boundary between two mediums, one with higher refractive index (n_H) and another with lower refractive index (n_L), with an angle of incidence greater than the *critical angle*, then the wave is completely reflected in the first medium. Angles are defined relative to the normal vector of the interface and the critical angle can be obtained by the Snell law:

$$\theta_C = \arcsin \left(\frac{n_L}{n_H} \right)$$

Silicon waveguides are composed by core and cladding (?). The former is the higher refractive index medium in which the wave is confined, the latter is the lower refractive index medium which surrounds the core, thus creating the interface. Theoretically the cladding could also be vacuum.

Considering an ideal dielectric waveguide (no absorption) and the total field distribution as sum of transverse electromagnetic (TEM) plane waves is possible to study the propagation of the wave along the waveguide with an electromagnetic analysis. Furthermore it can be shown that not all field distribution are transmitted through the waveguide without energy loss.

Those field distributions, which maintain the same transverse distribution and polarization at all locations along the waveguide axis, are called modes. These modes can be categorized in two main groups, depending on the polarization of the wave: transverse electric (TE) modes and transverse magnetic (TM) modes, which have respectively the electric and magnetic field transverse to the waveguide axis. Both TE and TM modes can be again classified by their order, that is proportional to the number of maxima of the modulus of the electric and magnetic fields in the core section.

2.2 Rectangular dielectric waveguides

In a rectangular dielectric waveguide the classification of modes need two indexes because we have two degrees of freedom.

3 Non-linear optics

A nonlinear dielectric medium is characterized by a nonlinear relation between P and E , such as

$$P = \varepsilon_0 \chi E + 2dE^2 + 4\chi^{(3)}E^3 + \dots$$

In everyday condition linear effects are much larger than nonlinear ones. The relation between P and E becomes nonlinear when E has a value comparable to interatomic electric fields, which are typically $\sim 10^5 - 10^8 \text{ V m}^{-1}$

3.1 Third order effect: Four-Wave Mixing

4 Simulating and coding ?

5 Prototyping

5.1 Heater configurations

5.2 Different geometries

References

- [1] G. Agrawal. Nonlinear Fiber Optics, 5th edition. 2013
- [2] B. E. A. Saleh, M. C. Teich. Fundamentals of photonics, 2nd edition. 2007