

1 Introduction

In this experiment we analyzed the behavior of an FBG (Fiber Bragg Grating). The FBG uses the Bragg Mirror, which is a specific type of photonic crystal that acts as a mirror for a given range of frequencies. This photonic crystal can be modeled as a multilayer film where two materials with different refractive index are alternated. Imagining an ideal Bragg mirror the reflected wavelength is defined as $\lambda_{BRAGG} = \frac{2\pi}{k_{BRAGG}}$, where k_{BRAGG} is the propagation constant and respects the rule $k_{BRAGG} \cdot (L_1 + L_2) = m \cdot \pi$ with $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and L_1, L_2 that are the two lengths of the films. By inserting a Bragg mirror into the fiber we obtain a mechanical coupling between the two with respect to compression and elongation. In fact, pulling the fiber also the mirror is pulled and then modified the period $(L_1 + L_2)$ which turns into a changes of λ_{BRAGG} . From this physical effect we can then relate elongation with the reflected frequency. This mirror, however, is also sensitive to temperature variations, in fact, in addition to creating an expansion or compression of the period, it introduces a variation of the silica refraction index induced by the thermo-optic effect.

The setup we use is composed of an optical amplifier that produces broad-band light that is inserted into a fiber containing an FBG, the light that is reflected then passes through an optical circulator that sends it to a spectrum analyzer (Fig.1).

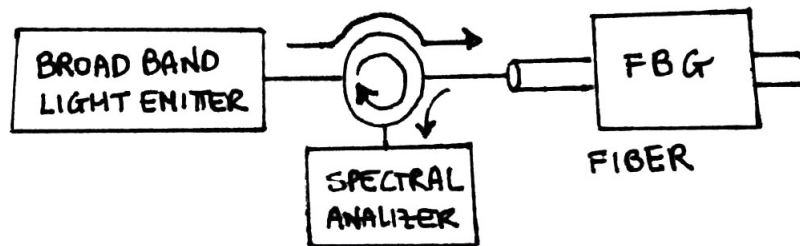


Figura 1: Setup.

What is done in this experiment is to measure the reflected wave frequency according to the applied elongation. In this case the elongation is performed by turning a circular manual tensioner (ring): each rotation corresponds to an elongation of $0.5[mm]$ and on the ring there are 50 notches

and therefore we have an elongation of $0.01[mm]$ for notch. Our fiber started from a length of $14[mm]$ and we elongated it by $0.75[mm]$. The measurements we have performed are shown in (Tab.1), where for each rotation the value of the reflected frequency calculated by eye was reported. The table has three measuring columns because more consecutive measurements have been made starting from $14[mm]$ and reaching $14.75[mm]$ then going back to $14[mm]$ and then returning to $14.75[mm]$. The table also specifies with (x) the measurements where the spectrum was stored for computer analysis. From a first analysis we obtain the curve shown in (Fig.2).

Position [mm]	λ_B [nm]	λ_B [nm]	λ_B [nm]
14	1534,691	1534,682(x)	1534,682
14.05	1534.861	1534.87	1534.861
14.1	1535.032	1535.032	1535.041(x)
14.15	1535.229	1535.186	1535.212
14.2	1535.391	1535.357	1535.391(x)
14.25	1535.604(x)	1535.562(x)	1535.587
14.3	1535.784	1535.749	1535.767(x)
14.35	1535.937	1535.92	1535.946
14.4	1536.125	1536.108	1536.108(x)
14.45	1536.305	1536.262	1536.305
14.5	1536.509(x)	1536.45 (x)	1536.467(x)
14.55	1536.663	1536.646	1536.646
14.6	1536.851	1536.851	1536.842(x)
14.65	1537.03	1537.005	1537.005
14.7	1537.184	1537.184	1537.184(x)
14.75	1537.389(x)	1537.389	1537.38

Tabella 1: measurements.

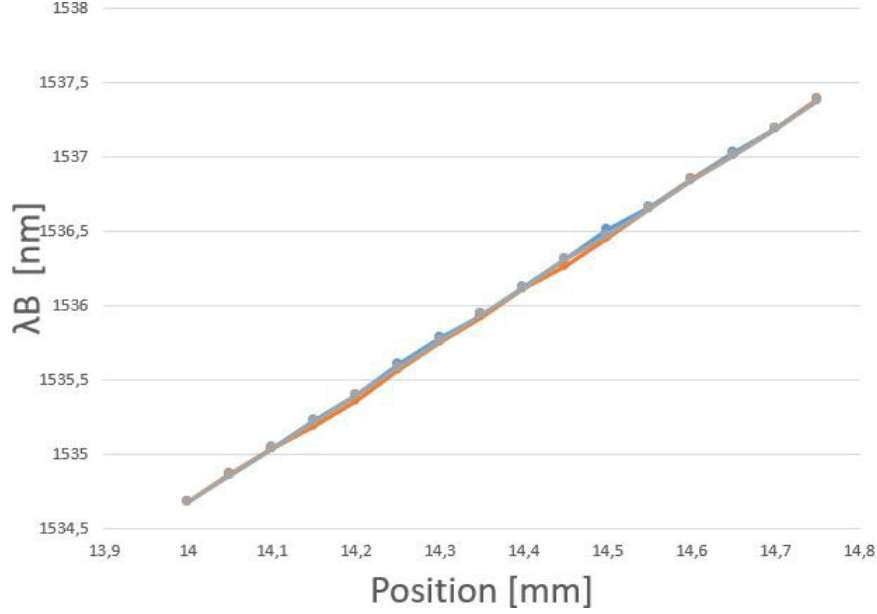


Figura 2: First analysis.

2 Analysis

First of all, the 13 files were imported. They contain the data related to the spectral measurements by the spectrometer and contain the two values of starting frequency and frequency step in THz and then the list of reflected power values read in dB. The importation was made by converting the frequency values into wavelength values through the physical relation $\lambda = \frac{c_0}{f}$. To each of these values the corresponding power value has been assigned as shown in (Fig.3). From this figure it is also possible to clearly identify the peak to be analyzed, since the signal has values lower than $-50[dB]$ and peak has a value of approximately $-30[dB]$.

At this point, for each file, the value of the wavelength corresponding to the maximum point is searched. To improve the analysis an interpolation of the points is performed through a quadratic function. A key point was to choose which points to consider in the approximation. The selection of the points was made by choosing all the points that are above 90% of the peak as we can see from the figure (Fig.4), checking to have at least 4 points of analysis that correspond to one point more than degrees of freedom (3).

We then calculated the elongation values by setting our value of $14[mm]$ as 0, thus obtaining a maximum elongation value of $0.75[mm]$. At this point we calculated the strain by dividing these values by the rest length of the fiber $L = 310.5[mm]$ which we subsequently correlated with the previously measured peaks as shown in the graph (Fig.5). From here we can obtain the

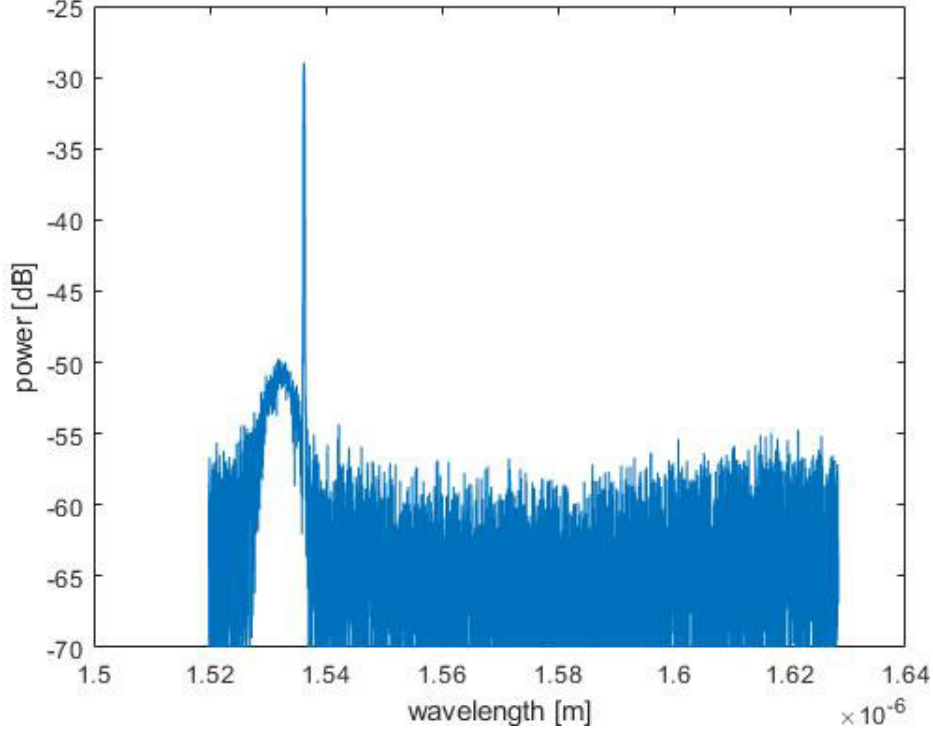


Figure 3: Spectral power for 14[mm] of elongation.

angular coefficient that takes the unit of measure of:

$$\frac{\lambda}{strain} \left[\frac{\mu m}{\epsilon} \right] = \frac{\lambda}{strain} \left[\frac{pm}{\mu \epsilon} \right]$$

and it is

$$a = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\Delta strain} = 1.114 \left[\frac{pm}{\mu \epsilon} \right]$$

which corresponds to our value of sensitivity:

$$s = a = 1.1 \left[\frac{pm}{\mu \epsilon} \right]$$

To estimate the uncertainty provided by the sensor we can exploit the deviation that the points have in the y-axis from the function with which we have made the fit $rmse = 1.68 \cdot 10^{-5}[\mu m]$. Applying the correction where $M = 2$ are the points of freedom and $N = 13$ are the points taken $q = \frac{rmse}{\sqrt{N-M}}[\mu m]$ and inverting the relationship with the angular coefficient we obtain:

$$e = \frac{q \cdot 10^6[pm]}{a \left[\frac{pm}{\mu \epsilon} \right]} = 5[\mu \epsilon]$$

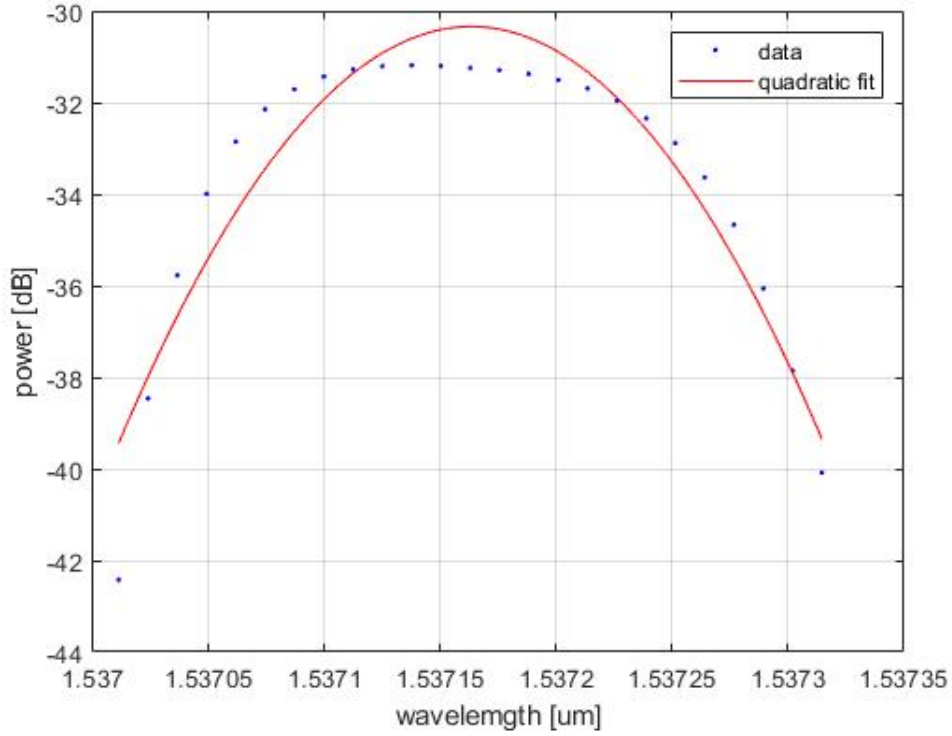


Figura 4: Quadratic approximation for the points above the 90% of maximum value of the function.

3 Conclusion

The performance of the data collected was excellent because they produced a linear trend as we expected with a deviation of $rmse = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-5}[\mu m]$.

The uncertainty $e = 5[\mu\epsilon]$ is slightly higher than the typical value of $1[\mu\epsilon]$ compared to the usual sensors, but we can not make more precise evaluations because we do not have the specific data of that sensor.

The value obtained is very similar to the typical values for sensors of this type:

$$s = 1.1 \left[\frac{pm}{\mu\epsilon} \right] \approx 1.2 \left[\frac{pm}{\mu\epsilon} \right]$$

this difference in value can be given by the uncertainty of the measurements made on the length of the fiber and on the rotations made by the tensioner, in addition there is also a component that depends on temperature, even if of minor influence, since the experiment lasted about two hours and hence the room had the chance to warm up.

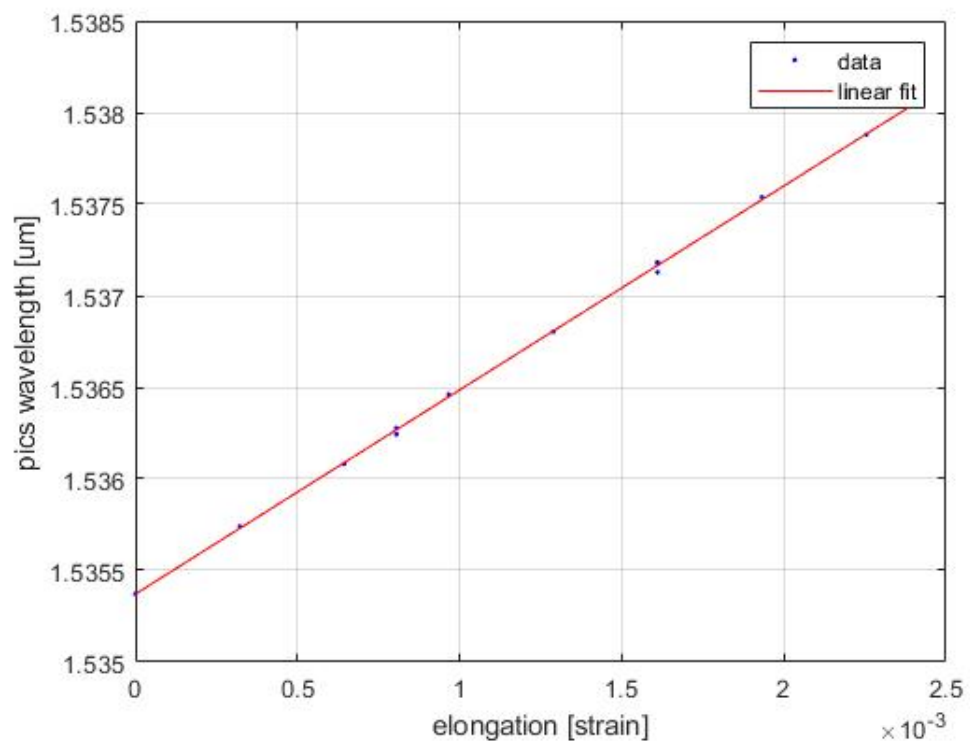


Figura 5: Elongation.