Nanophotonics

Michal Lipson Cornell University





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Outline

- Motivation for Silicon Photonics
- Wave Guiding Theory
- Ultra Low Loss Waveguides and Ring Resonators
- Electro-Optics Modulation
- Integrating Silicon Photonics with CMOS
- Athermal Photonic Devices



Motivation for Silicon Photonics



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Photonics drives telecom



We are experiencing this drive on-chip!



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Luxtera CMOS photonics technology

Silicon 10G Modulators driven with on-chip circuitry highest quality signal low loss, low power consumption



Flip-chip bonded lasers wavelength 1550nm passive alignment non-modulated = low cost/reliable Silicon Optical Filters - DWDM electrically tunable integrated w/ control circuitry enables >100Gb in single mode fiber



Complete 10G Receive Path Ge photodetectors trans-impedance amplifiers output driver circuitry

The Toolkit is Complete 10Gb modulators and receivers
Integration with CMOS electronics
Cost effective, reliable light source
Standard packaging technology



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Ceramic Package

Fiber cable plugs here

Silicon photonics on-chip





Silicon photonics for multi-core interconnect







Bergman-Columbia, J. Kash, IBM

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Wave Guiding Theory



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How is light guided?

Total internal reflection!



 $\theta > \theta_{crit} = sin^{-1}(n_L/n_H)$

The larger is the index-the easier it is to guide.



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Is it a ray or is it a wave?



Why not every angle (wavector) can propagate?



 $2k_o nhcos \theta + \emptyset_{down} + \emptyset_{up} = q2\pi$ q=1,2,3....

or $\cos \theta \sim q \pi/nk_o h$



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Wavector of propagation

Light propagating in a medium with index n: $v_p = c/n$ $\lambda = \lambda_o/n$



Different modes in a waveguide

 $k_o n_{core}$ k_{f} $\beta^2 = (k_o^2 n_{core}^2 - k_f^2)$ β $\beta = k_o n_{eff} > k_o n_{cladd}$ and $< k_o n_{slab}$ Lower order $E \sim \cos k_f x e^{-\gamma x}$ Higher orde $\gamma = \operatorname{sqrt}(\beta^2 - k_o^2 n_{clad}^2)$ V **Cornell University** Prof. Michal Lipson 14

High index contrast leads to high confinement





Bending light on-chip



Work only with high confinement, single mode waveguides!



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High confinement waveguides for functional devices 450nm × 250nm Light

- Intensity in the waveguides can be orders of magnitude higher than the intensity in the core of single mode optical fiber.
- Nonlinear optical effect can be excited with moderate optical power in short distances.

Silicon waveguides:

• High index contrast (very small waveguides: 3 orders of magnitude light enhancement when compared to fibers)

• Compatible with CMOS microelectronics.

• Ability of large-scale integration.



Fabrication





Orientation of the waveguides



Highly polarization dependent



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A very small waveguide

 $\cos \theta^{\gamma} q \pi / nk_{o}h$

If q=1 and h small cos $\theta^{\pi}/nk_{o}h$ is large (small angle)

Small angle means very large evanescent field!



Inverse taper





Simulations





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Fabrication



<1dB losses

Almeida, V. R., Panepucci, R. R., and M. Lipson, Optics Letters, 28, 1302 (2003).



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Strong light confining structures



Device is very sensitive to small perturbations in the Silicon



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Fabrication

Scanning electron micrograph of a ring resonator







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Ultra Low Loss Waveguides and Ring Resonators



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State of art



Jaime Cardenas, Carl B. Poitras, Jacob T. Robinson, Kyle Preston, Long Chen, and Michal Lipson, "Low loss etchless silicon photonic waveguides," Opt. Express **17**, 4752-4757 (2009) Maziar P. Nezhad, Olesya Bondarenko, Mercedeh Khajavikhan, Aleksandar Simic, and Yeshaiahu Fainman, "Etch-free low loss silicon waveguides using hydrogen silsesquioxane oxidation masks," Opt. Express **19**, 18827-18832 (2011)

Boris Desiatov, Ilya Goykhman, and Uriel Levy, "Demonstration of submicron square-like silicon waveguide using optimized LOCOS process," Opt. Express **18**, 18592-18597 (2010)



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Decreasing Losses in Silicon Waveguides

Etched Channel Waveguide: 1 – 2 dB/cm



F. Xia, L. Sekaric, and Y. Vlasov, "Ultracompact optical buffers on a silicon chip," Nat. Photonics 1, 65-71 (2007)

M. Gnan, S. Thoms, D. S. Macintyre, R. M. De La Rue, and M. Sorel, "Fabrication of low-loss photonic wires in silicon-on-insulator using hydrogen silsesquioxane electron-beam resist," Electron. Lett. 44, 115-116 (2008)



Decreasing Losses in Silicon Waveguides

Shallow Etch Rib: 0.3dB/cm



Po Dong, Wei Qian, Shirong Liao, Hong Liang, Cheng-Chih Kung, Ning-Ning Feng, Roshanak Shafiiha, Joan Fong, Dazeng Feng, Ashok V. Krishnamoorthy, and Mehdi Asghari, "Low loss shallow-ridge silicon waveguides," Opt. Express **18**, 14474-14479 (2010)



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Oxidized Shallow Rib: 0.4dB/cm



R. Pafchek, R. Tummidi, J. Li, M. A. Webster, E. Chen, and T. L. Koch, "Low-loss silicon-oninsulator shallow-ridge TE and TM waveguides formed using thermal oxidation," Appl. Opt. **48**, 958-963 (2009)

> Prof. Michal Lipson Prof. Michal Lipson

Etchless waveguides



Cardenas, J., Poitras, C.B., Robinson, J.T., Preston, K., Chen, L. and Lipson, M., *Low loss etchless silicon photonic waveguides, Optics Express, Vol. 17, No. 6, 4752, 16 Mar. 2009.*



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Etchless waveguides

Waveguides dimensions: 315-nm high by 1- μ m wide.





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Results

- Etchless waveguide has a loss < 0.3 dB/cm.
- Waveguide is 1- μ m wide by 70-nm high with an 8-nm slab.





Etchless cavities



Lian-Wee Luo, Gustavo S. Wiederhecker, Jaime Cardenas, and Michal Lipson, High quality factor etchless silicon photonic ring resonators, Optics Express, 2011 (submitted)





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Lian-Wee Luo, Gustavo S. Wiederhecker, Jaime Cardenas, and Michal Lipson, High quality factor etchless silicon photonic ring resonators, Optics Express, 2011 (submitted)



Electro-Optics Modulation



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Overview

Electro-optical modulation in pure-silicon platform relies on free carrier dispersion (FCD)FCD is a change in refractive index of a material due to change in free carrier density within the material.

FCD always comes with free carrier absorption(FCA), due to Kramers-Kronig relation.



MOS Modulators

First all-silicon modulator with >1GHz BW Changes carrier density in optical region by using the accumulation laver modulation in a MOS channel area.



Paniccia, M. et al., "A high-speed silicon optical modulator based on a metal-oxidesemiconductor capacitor" (2004)



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Forward PIN

Based on injection of carriers in a forward bias diode operation.

Can achieve very high index change per applied voltage due to exponential I-V characteristic of a diode. Limited in speed due to carrier dynamics



Manipatruni, S. et al., "High speed carrier injection 18 gb/s silicon micro-ring electro-optic modulator" (2007)

Reverse PN

Based on depletion width modulation in reverse bias of a PN junction

 Number of free carriers are lower in depletion region, resulting in index change

Carrier dynamics permit much faster operations, into > 40GHz.





(2011)

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Li, G. et al., "25 Gb/S 1V- driving CMOS ring

modulator with integrated thermal tuning"



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Implemented structures

FCD induces refractive index change, which changes the phase of an optical signal.

 This phase modulation needs to be converted to amplitude modulation for On-Off-Keying (OOK) signal.

Two common structures are :

- Microring / Microdisk resonators
- Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



Microring/Disk Modulator

Leverages the resonant transfer function to convert small change in index to large change in amplitude.

Allows for very small foot print (<20um in diameter)

Temperature sensitivity is a parasitic effect that needs to be controlled.



Watts, M. R. et al., "Vertical junction silicon microdisk modulators and switches" (2011)



Manipatruni, M. et al., "Ultra-low voltage, ultra-small mode volume silicon microring modulator" (2010)



Mach-Zehnder Modulator

Uses MZI's sinusoidal transfer function of phase to modulate amplitude.

Relatively big, due to large phase shift requirement.

Non-resonant and differential, eliminating

temperature sensitivity.

Thomson, D.J. et al., "High contrast 40 gbits/s optical modulation in silicon" (2011)





Compact all-optical modulator on Silicon (carrier injection)



High confinement waveguides: Enhancement of the two-photon absorption

High Q cavity: Increase in sensitivity of the device to small index changes

Pump+probe (λ_{probe} ~ λ_{pump} ~1.5 μ m)

Almeida, V. R., Barrios, C. A., Panepucci, R. R., Lipson, M., "All-Optical control of light on a Silicon chip", Nature, pp1081-1084 (Oct 28th, 2004) Almeida, V. R., Barrios, C. A., Panepucci, R. R., Lipson, M., Foster, M.A., Quzounov, D. G., and A. L. Gaeta, "All-optical switching on a silicon chip", Optics Letters 29 (Dec. 2004)



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All-optical modulation



Opening gate: from opaque to transparent



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Ring resonator based electro-optic modulator on silicon-on-insulator-microns in size





Liu, A. et al. Nature 427, 615 (2004)

Q. Xu, B. Schmidt, M. Lipson, Nature, May 19 March 2005



Modulation results (DC)





Dynamic response

0.4 Gbit/s generated with 3.3 Vpp in micron-size device!



Q. Xu, B. Schmidt, M. Lipson, Nature, May 19 March 2005



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Microring modulator : experiments



1 Input

4 Gbit/s NRZ



Gate-like transfer function. Gb/s modulation with overdrive.



Q. Xu, B. Schmidt, S. Pradhan, & M. Lipson, Nature 435, 325 (2005)



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Increasing the modulation speed

Pre-emphasis



Q. Xu, B. Schmidt, S. Pradhan, & M. Lipson, *Nature* 435, 325 (2005)

Q. Xu, S. Manipatruni, B. Schmidt, J. Shakya, & M. Lipson, *Opt. Express* 15, 430 (2007)



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Micrometer Scale Silicon Electrooptic Modulator At 20 gbps





PRBS 210-1

>9dB modulation depth!

Q. Xu, M. Lipson, Optics Express Feb 2007





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Nonlinear interactions in Si structures

- High index contrast tight optical confinement
 - compact structures, much smaller than the wavelength
 - enhanced nonlinearity (100X silica)
 - dispersion engineering
- Massively parallel devices enable ultrahigh bandwidth processing





Dispersion control in Si waveguides

Intel, IBM, Columbia, NTT, UCLA (all narrow band or no amplification)

 Waveguide Group Velocity Dispersion (GVD) can be tuned/tailored by controlling shape and size.

Simulated dispersion



Turner, Foster, Sharping, Schmidt, Lipson, and Gaeta, Opt. Express (2006).



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Signal

Amplified Signal

Pump

Pump

Signa



Broad-band gain and efficient wavelength conversion

- Fabricate waveguides with dispersion
- Large increase in FWM efficiency.
- First observation of broadband gain in Si



Foster, Turner, Sharping, Schmidt, Lipson, and Gaeta, *Nature* 441, 960 (2006).





Strong light confining structures



Q~2300

Device is very sensitive to small perturbations in the Silicon



Ultra-low power frequency conversion









Demonstration of Switch: Opening Gate





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Micrometer-scale devices



State of the art: 18 Gbps

- S. Manipatruni, M. Lipson, et al., LEOS 2007
- 1. Xu, Q., Schmidt, B., Pradhan, S., and Lipson, M., "Micrometer-scale Silicon Electro-Optic Modulator," **Nature**, Vol. 435, pp. 325-327, June 2005.

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18 Gbps modulator



S. Manipatruni, M. Lipson, et al., LEOS 2007







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Integrating Silicon Photonics with CMOS Microelectronics



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Overview

There are three distinct approaches to combining photonics and electronics

- 'Traditional' SOI photonics by IBM, Luxtera, etc
- 'Photonic Bridge Chip' (e.g. by Oracle)
- 'Localized Substrate Removal (LSR)' bulk CMOS photonics (e.g. by MIT)
- 'Deposited optics multi-chip module (MCM)' (e.g. by Cornell)

Pros and Cons of each approach is discussed.



'Traditional' SOI photonics

This platform chooses the SOI based CMOS, in which one incorporates both the electronics and optical devices in the same layer



Pinguet, T et al., "Monolithically integrated high-speed CMOS photonic transceivers" (2008)



Figure 1. Schematic cross-section of SOI CMOS Photonics process Cornell University

'Traditional' SOI photonics

Pros:

-tightest integration (physically on same layer)-no need for any post processing / packaging



'Traditional' SOI photonics

Cons :

-Electronic real estate taken up by comparatively 'large' optical devices (sub 100nm vs greater than 400nm)

-waveguide routing becomes difficult due to lack of multiple optical layer

-Buried oxide needs to be thick enough(~1um minimum) to prevent excessive optical leakage into substrate. This is directly against requirement for advanced SOI fets (PD or FD) that requires BOX to be 100's of nm or thinner.

-Cannot form optically connected multi-chip module

-requires some modification of CMOS fabrication process



Photonic Bridge Chip

This platform builds electronics and photonics on separate chips, than uses solder bumps to flipchip mount photonics on top of VLSI die.



Fig. 1. Macrochip is a logically contiguous piece of densely interconnected silicon that integrates CPUs, memory, and a systemwide optical interconnect.



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Cunningham, J.E et al., "Integration and Packaging of a Macrochip with silicon

nanophotonic links" (2011)

Photonic Bridge Chip

Pros:

-Separate, optimized process for electronic and photonics

-allows optically connecting discrete electronic dies

-can potentially reuse die resulting from a faulty flipchip processing to increase effective yield



Photonic Bridge Chip

Cons :

- -Requires nontrivial precision alignment and solder bumping process
- -Solder bumps adds non-negligible parasitics (~25fF)
- -Optical connectivity limited to point-to-point between nearest neighbors
- -Potential mechanical stability issues


Localized Substrate Removal (LSR) bulk CMOS photonics

This platform uses polysilicon gate material in bulk CMOS to form optical devices. The silicon bulk underneath the photonic device is removed through post processing to enable waveguiding.



Orcutt, J.S. et al., "Nanophotonic integration in state-of-the-art CMOS foundries" (2010)



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Localized Substrate Removal (LSR) bulk CMOS photonics

Pros:

-Leverages bulk CMOS technology, which accounts for a majority of CMOS logic production.

-Requires no changes to CMOS process

-Optical devices are very close to transistors, reducing electrical parasitics



Localized Substrate Removal (LSR) bulk CMOS photonics

Cons:

-Photonics and transistor compete for valuable front-end silicon real estate.

-waveguide has relatively high loss

-Substrate removal may have negative effect in reliability



Deposited optics Multi Chip Module (MCM)

This platform takes multiple dies and securely attaches them onto a carrier substrate, on which multiple optical layer is deposited to enable intra- and inter- die connectivity







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Lee, Y.H.D. "Backend monolithic integration of passive optical devices on 90nm bulk CMOS chip" (2012)

Deposited optics MCM

- Pros:
- -CMOS process is untouched
- -Discrete dies can be optically connected with ease.
- -Allows multiple optical layers (passive and / or active)
 - +Leaves valuable front-end silicon for transistors
- -Mechanically robust
- -Completely based on planar processing



Deposited optics MCM

Cons :

-optical devices are not as ideal as SOI variants due to use of poly-Si

- -relatively low process thermal budget of ~450C, limiting optical process flexibility
- -reprocessing of dies is not easy if optical layer is tested to be faulty during processing.



Deposited Silicon





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Silicon photonics

Chip-scale optical data communication





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Silicon photonics

Chip-scale optical data communication



Want electro-optic devices that are *fast*, *small*, and *closely integrated with silicon microelectronics*



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Requirements of photonics



No Real-Estate Available in the Front-End!



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Silicon photonics integration



Intel 2010



Luxtera 2005



Kotura 2008



Cornell 2010



HUJI 2010



MIT 2008



Deposited Silicon



Grain size ≈ Device size



Deposited optical materials

Waveguides: PECVD silicon nitride

Intel, GT

<u>Modulator:</u> Electro-optic polymers

Polycrystalline silicon

Block, Young et al. (Intel) Hochberg et al. (U.Wash) others

Lipson et al. (Cornell) Ram et al. (MIT) Kwong et al. (A*STAR)



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Polysilicon ring resonator modulator Preston et al., *OpEx* 2009





Backend photonics

Increased Density in 3D





Poly rings





K. Preston, M. Lipson, et al., Opt. Exp. 2007





Cross-section (not to scale)



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Cross-section (not to scale)



Top view (microscope)





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Resonator electro-optic modulation



Expected changes in polysilicon material system:

- Moderately lower Q
- More forward bias voltage (higher resistance)
- Less reverse bias voltage (faster carrier recombination)



Polysilicon electro-optic modulator

10 micron device:





2.5 Gb/s NRZ 2⁷-1 PRBS electrical signal applied, \pm 4 V swing, 4 V DC bias

- 10 dB modulation depth
- No reverse bias (fast recombination)
- Power consumption ~ 2 mW (<1 pJ/bit)

K. Preston, M. Lipson, et al., Opt. Express Vol. 17, No. 7 (2009)



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LCD Industry: laser annealing

Deposit low-temperature amorphous-Si Melt and crystallize Si with fast laser pulse Currently used in mass production for high quality TFT-LCD displays







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Excimer laser annealing



- Analogous to stepper photolithography
- Homebuilt system: 3.5 mm spot size, 10 Hz fire rate
- Transient reflectance for surface melt detection



Deposit 150 nm amorphous silicon: e-gun evaporation at room temperature

Amorphous silicon
Oxide
Si substrate



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Deposit PECVD oxide capping layer: 150 nm

- Antireflective coating for λ = 308 nm
- Stabilizes top surface of silicon





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Excimer laser anneal

- Pulse absorbed in top 10 nm
- Silicon melts down from top
- Crystallizes back up from bottom







AFM: Roughness ~ 5 nm r.m.s.





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AFM: Roughness ~ 5 nm r.m.s. Reduce to ~ 1 nm with CMP





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E-beam lithography Chlorine-based ICP-RIE etch PECVD oxide deposition





SEM



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Thin devices

Thinner silicon layer

- \rightarrow lower UV pulse energy
 - \rightarrow lower transient temperature for complete melt
 - \rightarrow don't require ultra-pure a-Si material







Polysilicon ring resonator



Q = 3000, good for high-speed electro-optic modulation

Preston et al., OpEx 2009

Low temperature fabrication < 400 °C



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Passive SiN waveguides

Increased Density in 3D





Silicon Nitride

Silicon Nitride, Si₃N₄ n=2 λ>400nm Propagation Losses <0.1 dB/cm Low nonlinear absorption







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Previous work







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Silicon Nitride process flow





Silicon Nitride process flow











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Backend integration


Vertically coupled rings



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Low-temp 3D results









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Nicolás Sherwood-Droz, Michal Lipson, Multi-Layer Deposited CMOS Photonics for Microelectronics Backend Integration, CLEO 2011 (Submitted)



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Integration of photonics on CMOS





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Athermal Photonic Devices



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Si ring modulator



- Index changes are translated into large modulations in output power.
- The modulated light can be switched on and off at a high speed.





Decrease optical path length (n L) with temperature



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Active compensation







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Passive compensation



Polymer as top cladding

J. Teng, R. Baets et. al., Opt.Exp. 14627, Vol. 17, 2009



Getting blueshift



Guha, B., Gondarenko, A. and Lipson, M., *Minimizing temperature sensitivity of silicon Mach-Zehnder interferometers*, Optics Express, Vol. 18, No. 3, Feb. 2010.



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Getting blueshift



 $m\lambda = n_{eff}\Delta L + \Delta n_{eff}L$

Thermal characteristics can be designed independently from spectral characteristics.

Guha, B., Gondarenko, A. and Lipson, M., *Minimizing temperature sensitivity of silicon Mach-Zehnder interferometers*, Optics Express, Vol. 18, No. 3, Feb. 2010.



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Controlling thermal response





Athermal ring resonators



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Working principle



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Self restoring resonances



Guha, B., Kyotoku, B.B.C. and Lipson, M., CMOS-compatible athermal silicon microring resonators, Optics Express, Vol. 18, No. 4, Feb. 2010.



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Measured spectra



Guha, B., Kyotoku, B.B.C. and Lipson, M., CMOS-compatible athermal silicon microring resonators, Optics Express, Vol. 18, No. 4, Feb. 2010.



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Athermal modulator



- Fix laser at resonance wavelength.
- Measure modulation characteristics as a function of temperature.



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2 Gbps modulation

Set Laser at resonance 15 °C 10° 15 °C 25 °C 25 °C 10° 25 °C 10° 10°



35 ^oC





40 °C







Hands on

- Calculate the approximate mode size of a taper designed to couple a waveguide with a fiber with effective index 1.505. The taper core index=3, cladding index=1.5. What is the effective angle of propagation in the taper?
- 2. Consider ~10^17/cm^3 carriers being injected in a 10Gb/sec ring resonator (when operated under 1V forward bias) with radius 30 micron and a cross of the modulator? what is the approximate power consumption of this modulator? How would you decrease this power? What would you then be trading off?

