Pump Diode Lasers: Applications and Technology

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Pump Diode Lasers

- 1. Photonic Market
 - Global Photonic Market
 - High Power Diode Laser Applications
 - Photonic Manufacturing
- 2. Applications
 - Photonic Tools
 - Power Photonics
- 3. Narrow Stripe Pump Diode Lasers
 - Single Mode Devices
- 4. Broad Area Pump Diode Lasers
 - Multimode Devices
 - Optical coupling to fiber
 - Heat removal
- 5. Status, Trends, Opportunities
 - VCSEL

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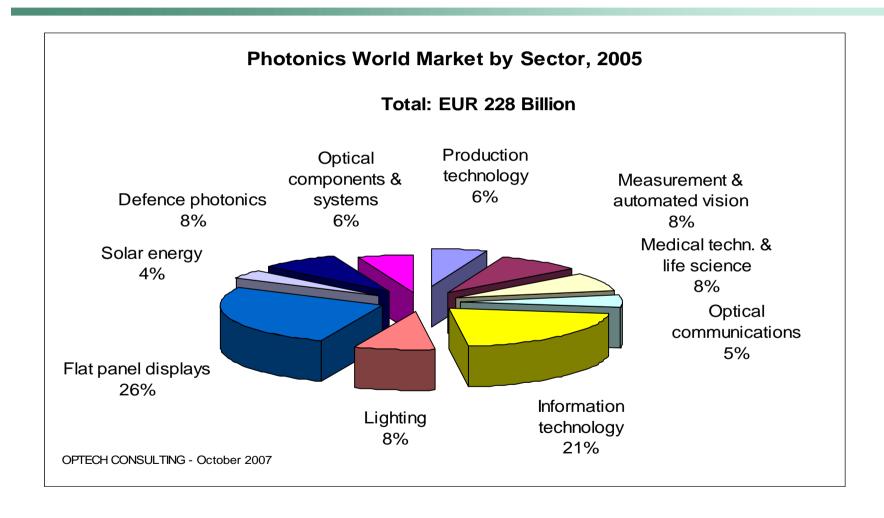
Based on Seminar by Berthold Schmidt: "High Power Laser Diodes: Technology and Applications" applications of High Power Semiconductor Lasers, San Diego, California, Oct 6, 2008

Reference: Optical Fiber Telecommunications, Academic Press, A: Components and Subsystems ISBN: 978-0-12-374171-4, chapter 5 "Pump Diode Lasers" by Ch. Harder

Global Photonic Market

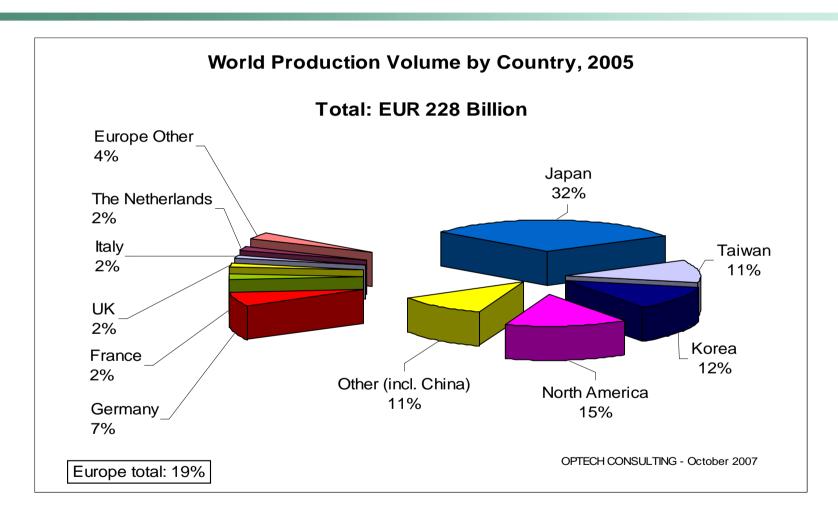
Opportunities – The Market World Market 2005 (production)





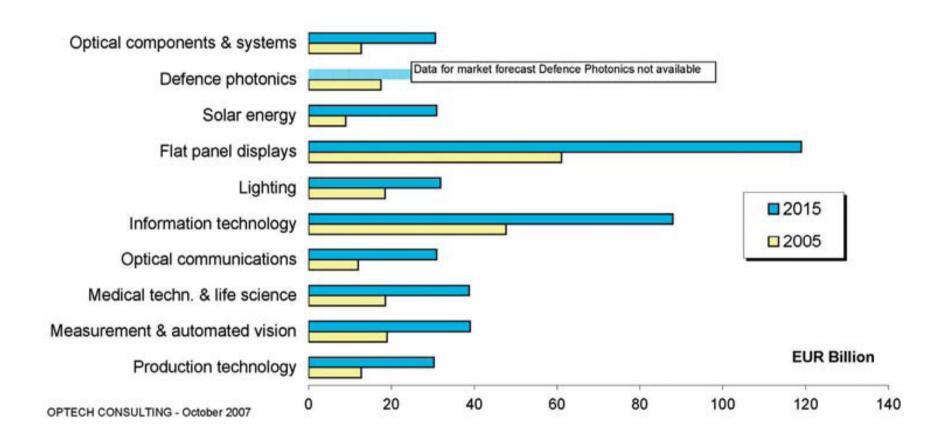
Opportunities – The Market World Production by country





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Projected Market Growth till 2015

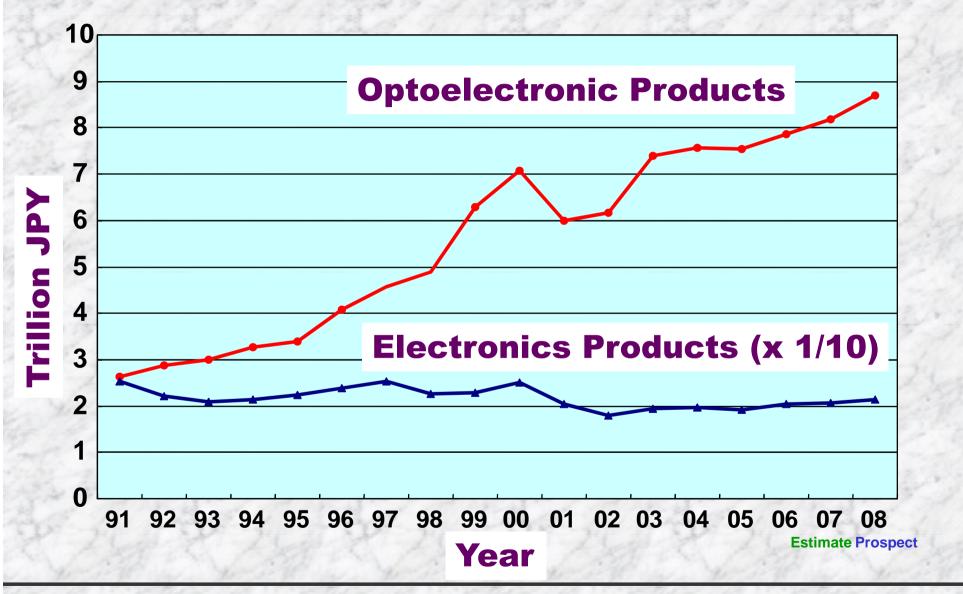


- Laser diode market in the range of only 1-2% of the overall photonics market
- Biggest Diode Share: Telecom, optical storage (75-90%)
- Gray areas: Value of material processing (system level), defense budget



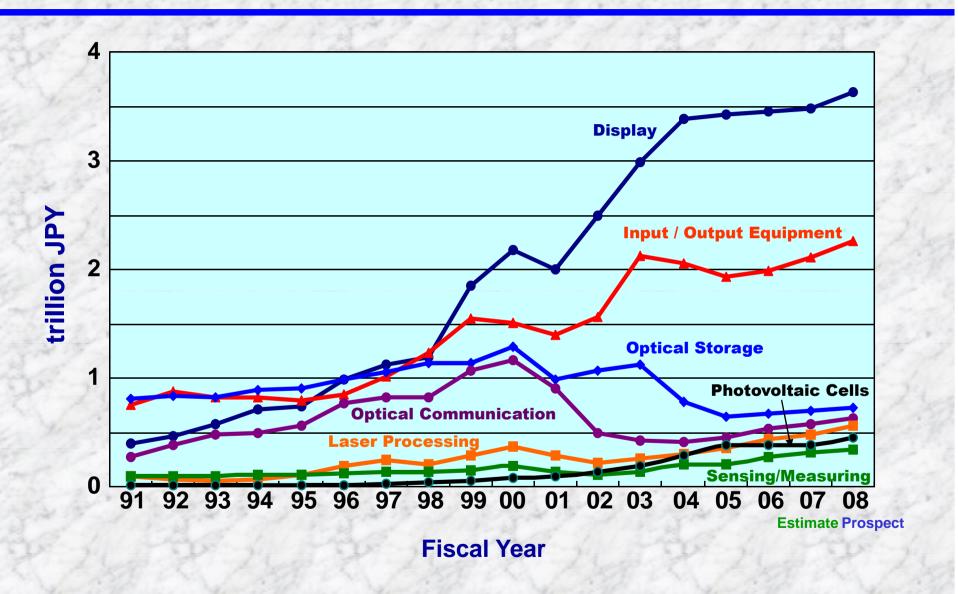
Global Photonic Market: Japan

Domestic Production - OE vs. Electronics





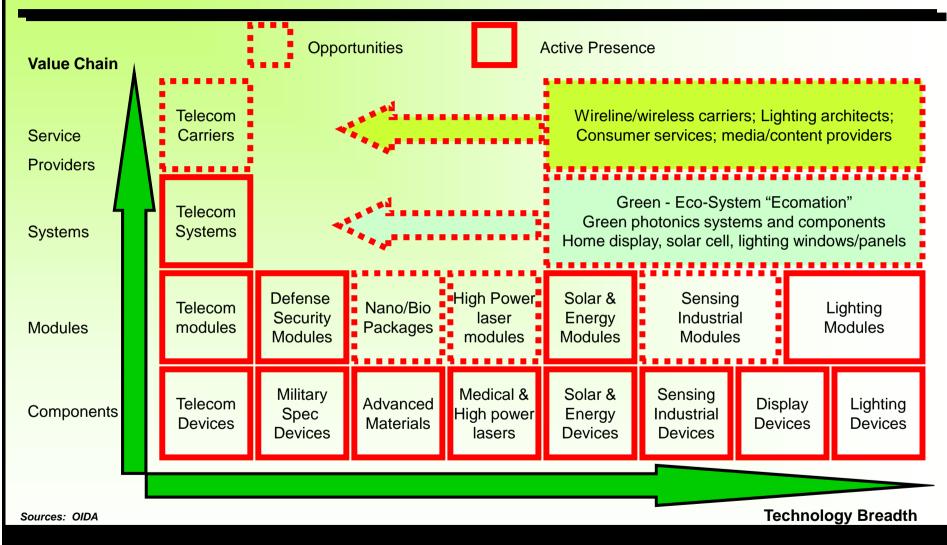
Domestic OE Products Trends by Field





Global Photonic Market: USA

OIDA is broadening optoelectronics with "Green photonics" opportunities

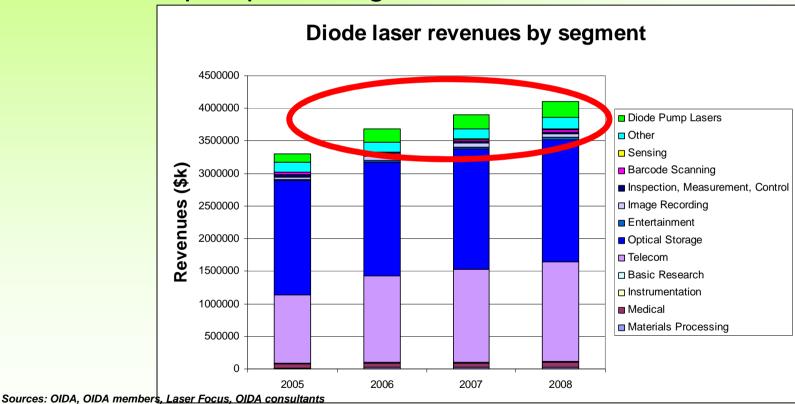




Common platforms for Green photonics...

Diode laser revenues by application

- Optical storage will continue to suffer margin erosion
- Diode pump lasers grow 62.8% in 2006 over 2005



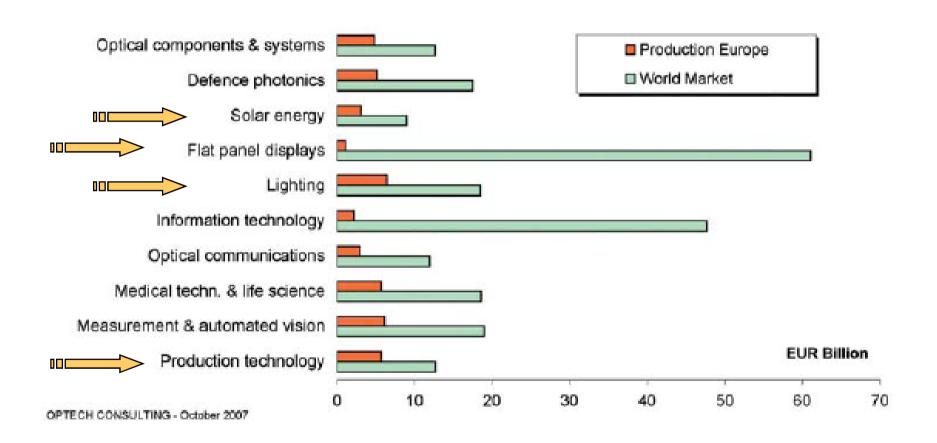


Michael Lebby (lebby@oida.org)

Global Photonic Market: Europe



European Production in a Global Context



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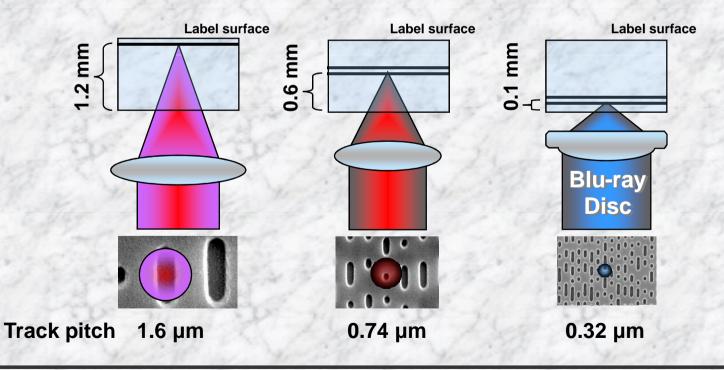
HPL Applications at a glance

material processing, analysis, measurement **Production technology Optical communication** Data transmission, Optical amplification Communication (inter satellite,..), distance **Defence & Aerospace** measurement, countermeasure, target designation, Illumination, LIDAR,... **Information Technology** Optical storage, printing, marking, display Aesthetics (Skin treatment,...), surgery, Medical therapy (PDD -Photodynamic disinfection-, PDT -therapy-,..), ophthalmology, Cancer treatment

High Power Diode Laser Applications: Information Technologies

Progress of Optical Storage

3/2 00	CD	DVD	BD
Wavelength	780 nm	650 nm	405 nm
NA	0.45	0.60	0.85
Capacity	700 MB	4.7 GB (1 layer)	25 GB (1 layer)
		8.5 GB (2 layers)	50 GB (2 layers)

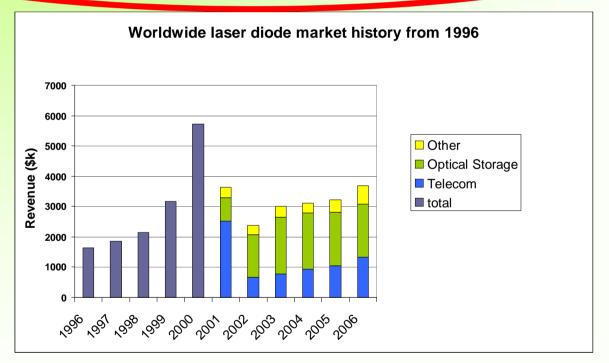




High Power Diode Laser Applications: Communication Technologies

Diode lasers will struggle to grow revenue

- Telecom experiencing margin erosion
- Optical storage squeezed out by flash



Sources: OIDA, OIDA members, Laser Focus, OIDA consultants



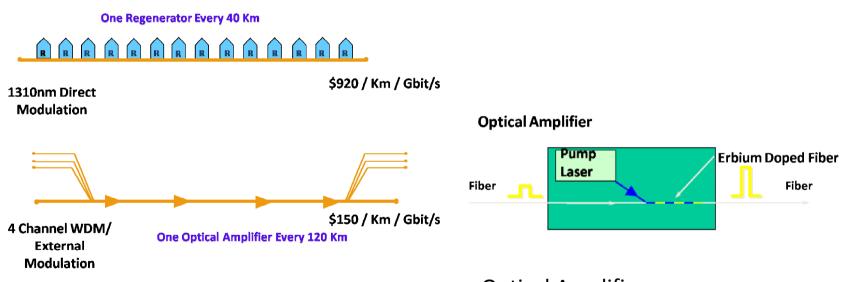
Michael Lebby (lebby@oida.org)

Telecom and storage entering maturity?

IBM Research Laboratory: 980 Diode Laser

Disruptive Technology:

Magic Fiber: Erbium doped fiber



Today:

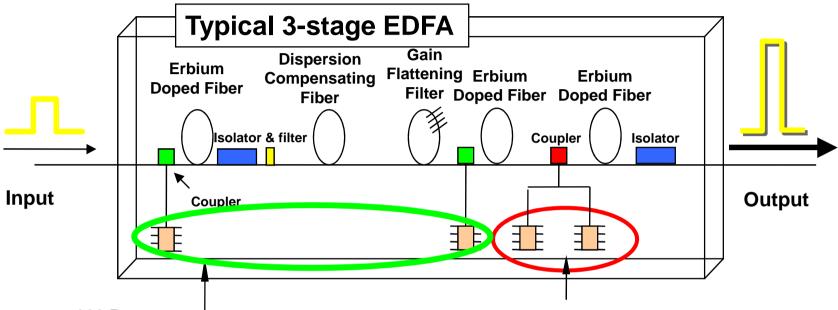
A few hundred channels at 10Gb/s over a few thousand km!

Optical Amplifier:

980nm pump laser as power supply
We were the only laser supplier for
high power and high reliability

Why High Power 980nm Pumps?





980 Pumps:
• Advantage:

- Low noise figure (3 level)
- Low heat load
- High laser efficiency
- Low cost coupler
- Un-cooled operation
- Disadvantage
 - Lower optical power conversion efficiency

1480 Pumps (now 980nm!):

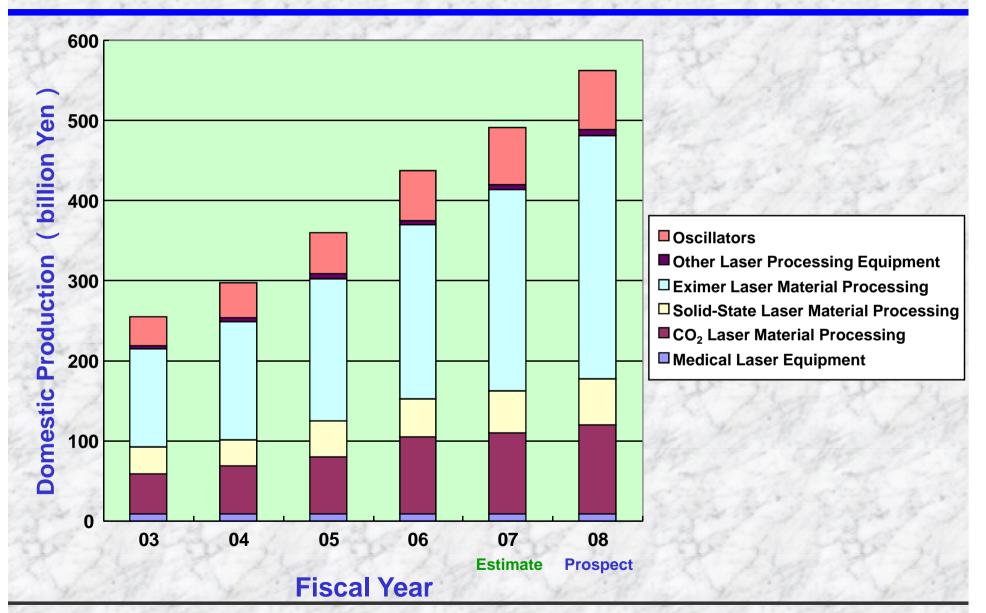
- Advantage:
 - higher optical conversion efficiency
- Disadvantage
 - Increased noise figure
 - More expensive coupler
 - High heat load, expensive cooling



High power 980 pumps enable low cost EDFAs

High Power Diode Laser Applications: Production Technologies

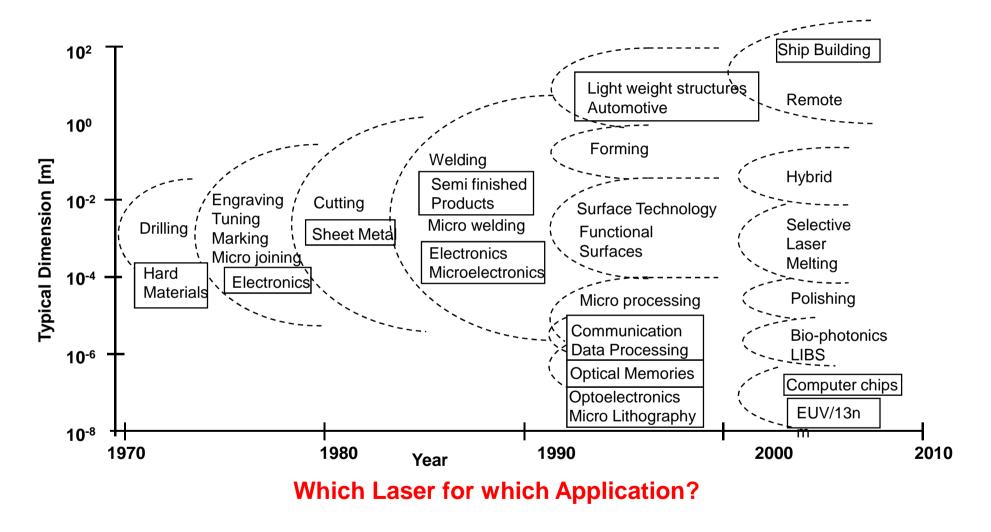
Domestic Output of Laser Processing





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Production Technologies: Geometric scaling of material processing



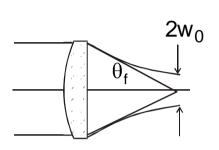
Source: Prof. Dr. Reinhart Poprawe, ILT (AKL 2008)

Production Technologies: Welding

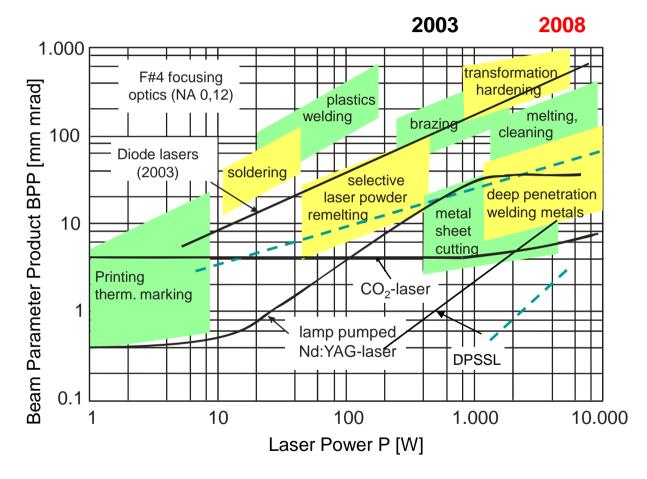
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Developing trends for Lasers and their applications

AL-welding (DDL system)



 $\mathsf{BPP} = \theta \cdot \mathsf{w}_0$



Source: Prof. Dr. Reinhart Poprawe, ILT (AKL 2008)

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Application example: welding of thin foils

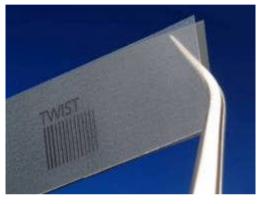
Foils

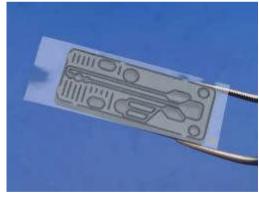
-Polypropylen (PP) transparent and black thickness 100 µm

Microfluidic device

- PMMA or PP sealing foil (75 μm)

P = 1.4 - 5.9 Wv= 50 to 250 mm/s $d_0 = 70 \, \mu m$ $d_{weld \; seam}$ = 150 to 500 μm



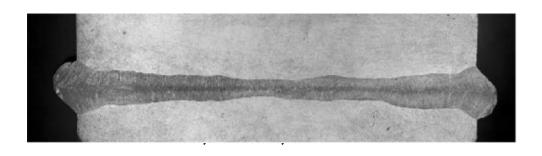




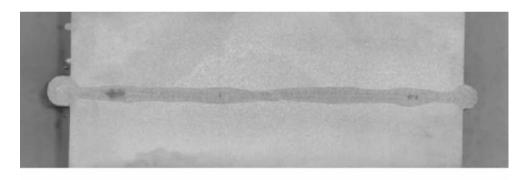


Source: Prof. Dr. Reinhart Poprawe, ILT (AKL 2008)

Double sided butt joint 30kW

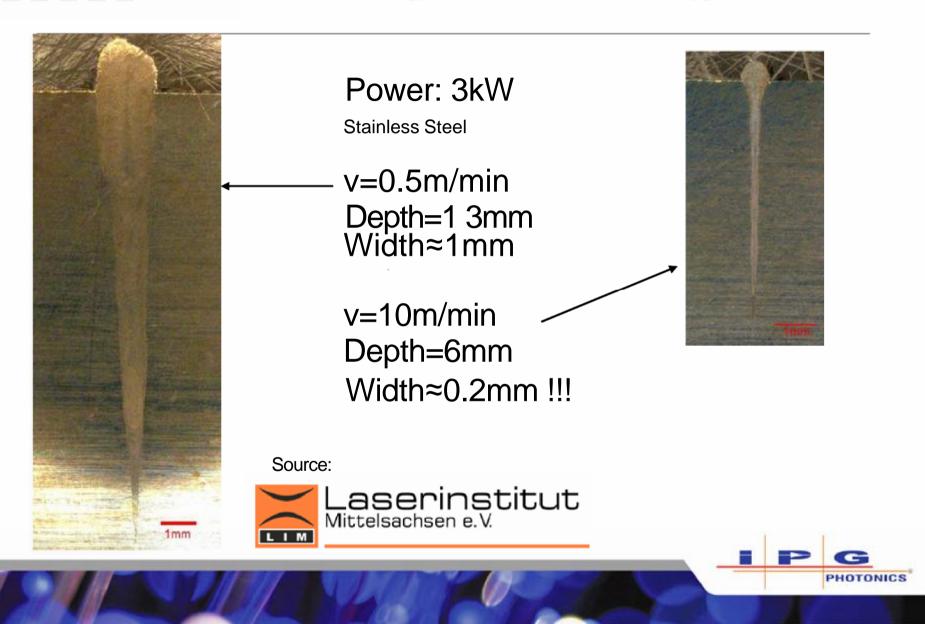


2" stainless steel

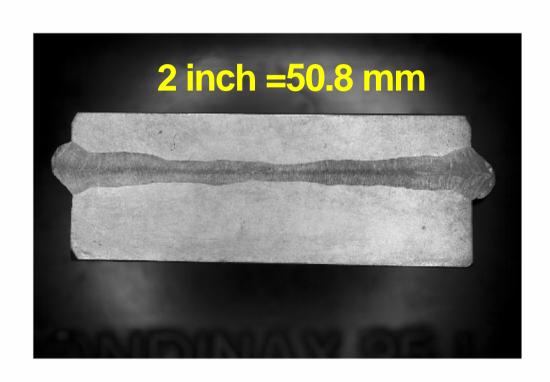


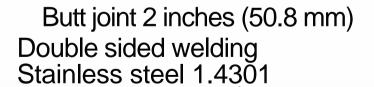
P=30 kW, v= 2,0 m/min

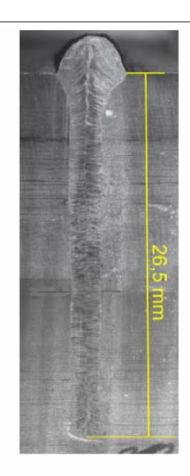
Single Mode Welding



Thick Section Welding YLR20000







Overlap joint 2x 15 mm Stainless steel 1.4301

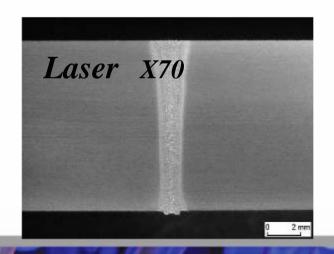


Thick Sheet Welding

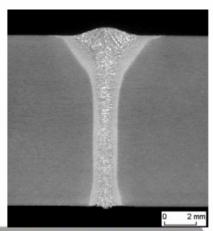
- -Tube fabrication (5 20 mm)
- -Pipeline Welding (10 20 mm)
- -Power plants (up to more the 50 mm)
- -Chemical reactors
- -Shipbuilding and Offshore technology



Source: IMG



Quelle: BIAS



Laser-Hybrid

t = 12 mm $P_L = 10.5 kW$ $v_S = 2.2 m/min$

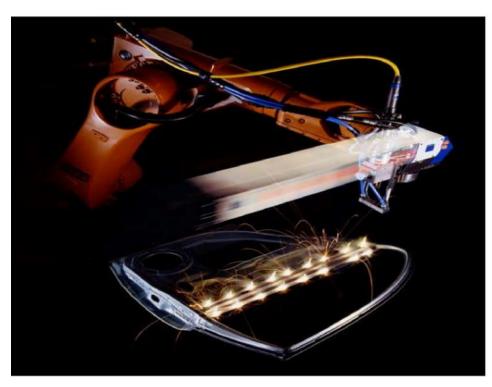


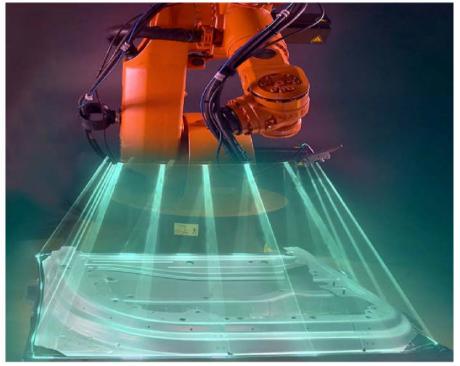


Scanner und KUKA RoboScan Scanner and KUKA RoboScan

Bewertungskriterien:

Versatzgeschwindigkeit - Schweißgeschwindigkeit - Taktzeit - Linienkonzept - Komponentenflexibilität - Arbeitsabstand - fixe und variable Kosten - Zugänglichkeit - Nahtgeometrie - Bauteilflexibilität - Lasernutzung - Schweißqualität





Assessment criteria:

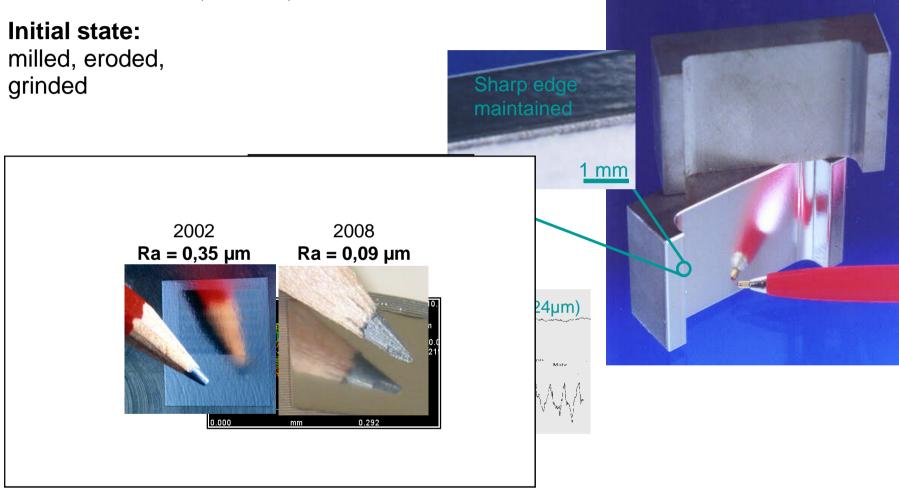
cross velocity - welding speed - cycle time - line concepts - flexibility of components - working distance - fix and variable costs - accessibility - seam geometry options - part flexibility - efficiency of laser source usage - weld quality

Production Technologies: Surface Finish

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Application example: laser polishing

Materials: 1.2343, 1.2344, 1.2316



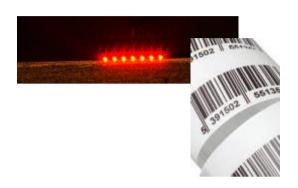


Source: Prof. Dr. Reinhart Poprawe, ILT (AKL 2008)

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Information technology: optical storage, printing, display





CTP Printing



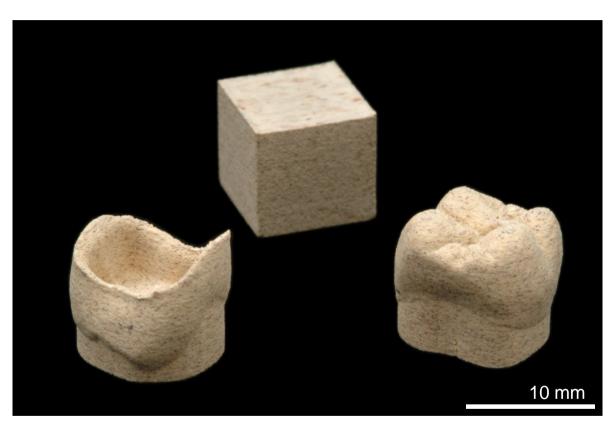
- Computer to plate (CTP)
 Printing
- Digital printing
- Display (RGB) technology
- Rear projection TV

Production Technologies: Rapid Prototyping

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Application Example SLM of ZrO₂-based Ceramics

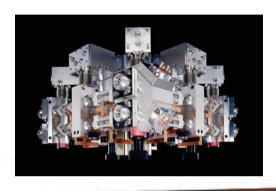
- Zirconium oxide (ZrO₂): max. bending strength, resistance to wear and tensile strength
- Principle of Selective **Laser Melting (SLM): Ceramic powder is fully** molten (no sintering)
- Potential Application: **Production of full-ceramic** dental prostheses



SLM demo parts

Production Technologies: Cutting

CO2







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Ophtalmology



Surgery

Medical applications:

Hair removal





Before

After

Skin Treatment: Tattoo / Hair Removal



Before



<u>After</u>

- Acne treatment
- Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)
- Photodynamic Disinfection (PDD)
- **Dental**

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Defence and homeland security applications: slowly evolving

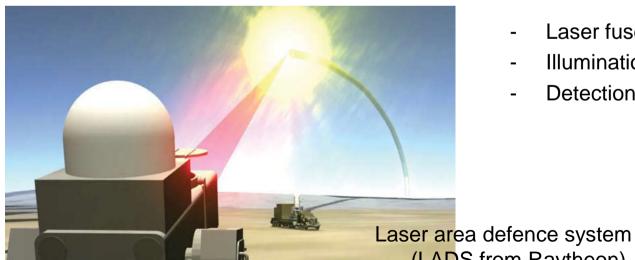


Laser countermeasure system against heat-seeking missiles **Example: Directional Infrared Countermeasure**

(DIRCM) from Northrop Grumman (public Information)



Distance measurement, Target designation



- Laser fuses
- Illumination
- Detection of chemicals

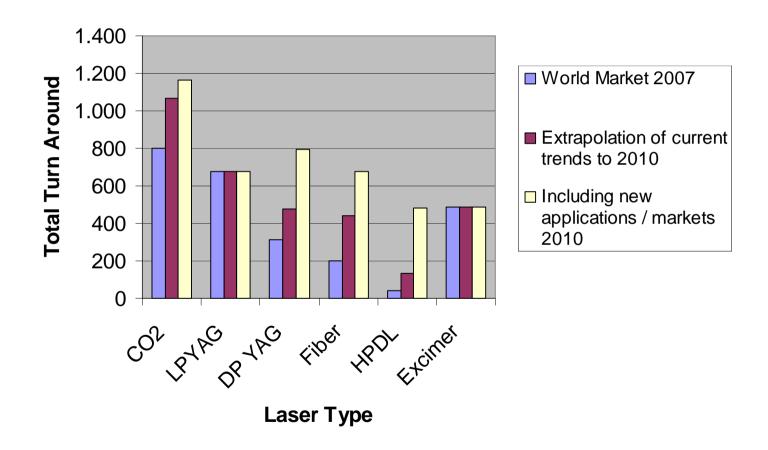
(LADS from Raytheon)

(public Information)

Photonic Tools:

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Laser Market Development by Laser Type



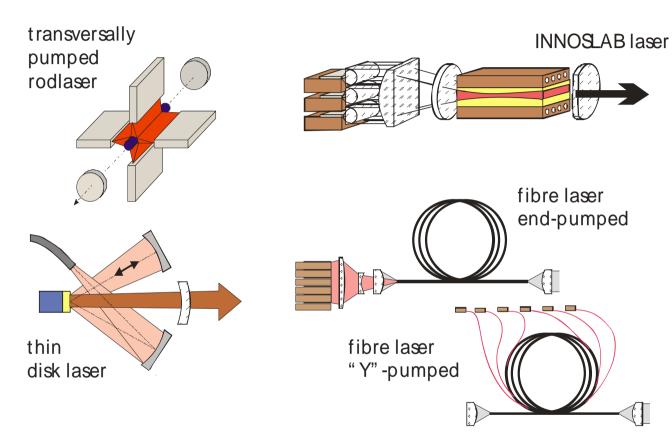


Source: Prof. Dr. Reinhart Poprawe, ILT (AKL 2008)

Photonic Tools: Overview

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Laser system design principles



All based on the same design principle requiring

- Mirrors (Cavity)
- Gain medium
- Pump source

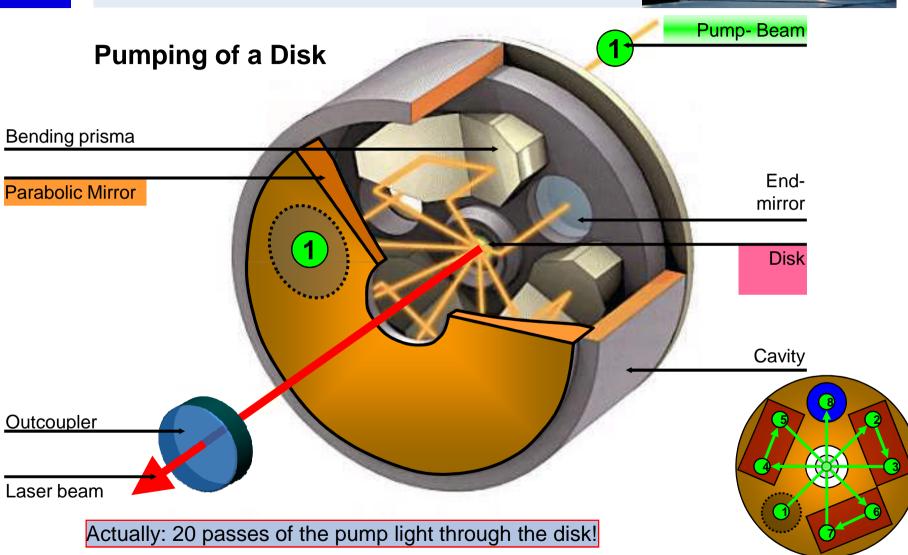
Extension... amplifier technology

Source: Prof. Dr. Reinhart Poprawe, ILT (AKL 2008)

Photonic Tools: Disk Laser

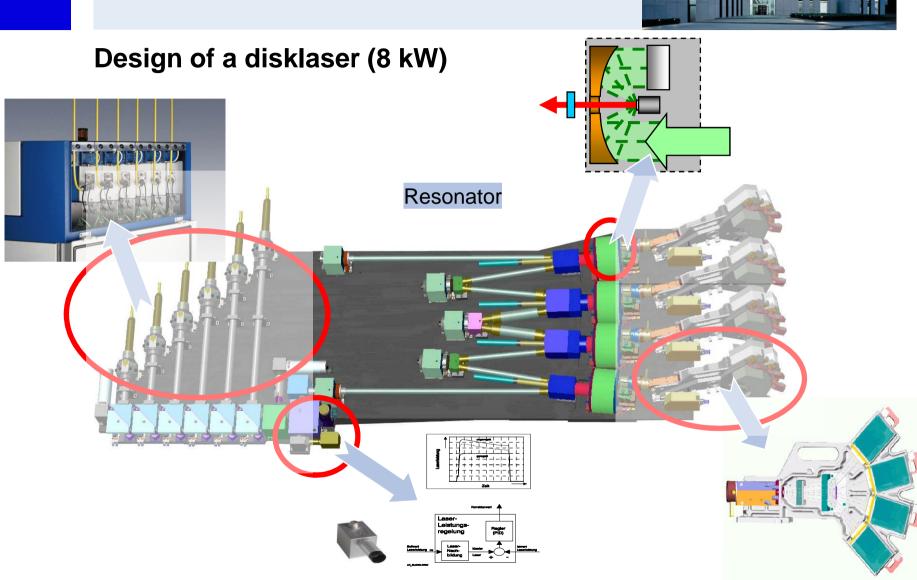
















Disklaser: TruDisk





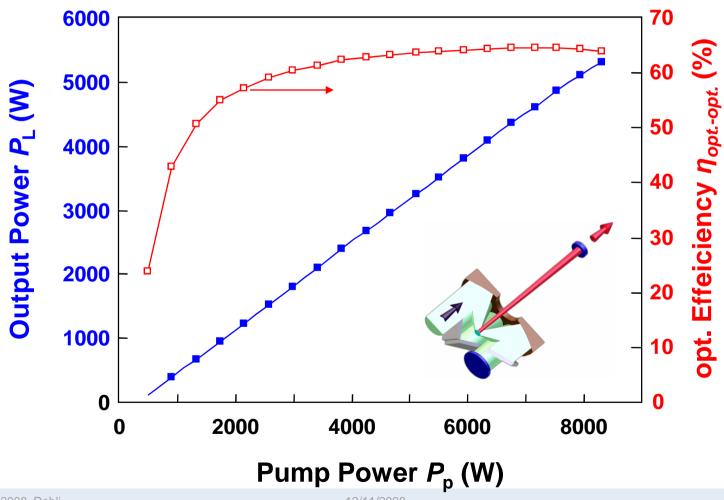
TruDisk 1000

TruDisk 8002





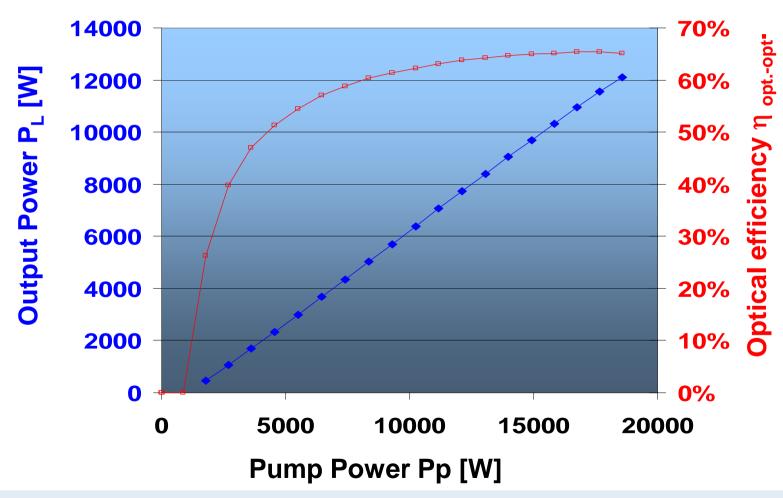
> 5 kW Output Power per Disk







TruDisk 10003 - 4 disk resonator



Power Photonics

Fiber combiner
Fused and Proximity

Fused: (6+1)*1

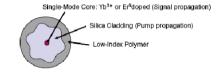


Figure 2 Cross-section of double-clad optical fiber for cladding pumping.

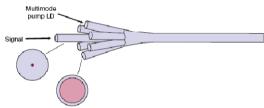
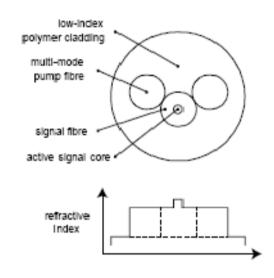


Figure 3 Schematic of tapered fiber bundle.

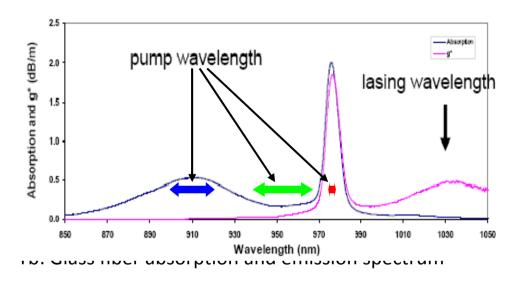
	Fiber	NA
Signal input	HI 1060	
Pump Ports	6*105um	0.22
Output	20um/400um	0.06/0.46

Proximity: (2+1)*1



- Fused can be extended to beyond 20 inputs
- Proximity needs high brightness pumps

Yb fiber wavelength: 9xx bands



Wide pump band: 870nm to 980nm

Blue band (915nm): Good absorption, wideband

Preferred for lower power, high gain stage

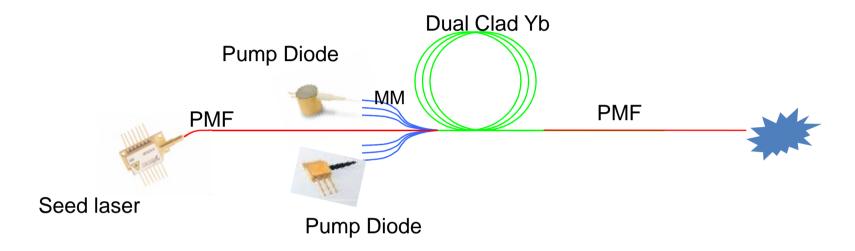
Green band (940nm..960nm): Lowest absorption, wideband, high optical conversion

Preferred for very high power stage

Red band (976nm): Highest absorption, narrow width

- Preferred for high gain amplifiers and q-switched lasers with short fiber (SBS)
- Pump diode challenge: Diode wavelength control (+/-2nm) necessary

Fiber Laser: MOPA



- Seed laser

 - Fiber laser: Good spectral control
 Need external modulators (Pockels Cell)
 Diode laser: Excellent dynamic control
 FP laser have poor spectral control, of no concern
 DFB have excellent spectral and dynamic control
- Pumplaser
 - Single emitter broad area MM diode

Photonic Tools: Fiber Laser

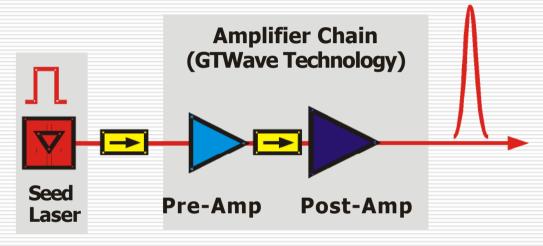
Yb fiber laser

SPI G3 Yb doped Pulsed Fibre Laser 1 064nm wavelength

MOPA (Master Oscillator Power Amplifier) architecture



directly modulated Laser Diode



Average Power: 20W

• Spot size: 40um with x3 Beam Expander, 9mm input beam diameter

Pulse width: 10-70ns FWHM

Peak Power: 14kW per pulse

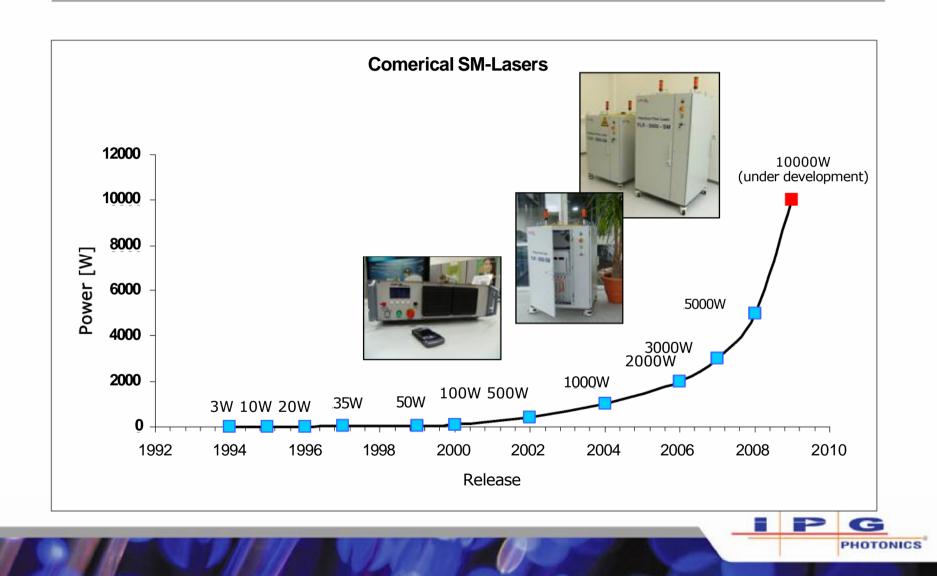
• Power density: up to 1GW/cm² for 40um spot size

• Pulse Energy: 0.8mJ max

Pulse frequency: up to 500KHz, 25 preset pulse waveforms

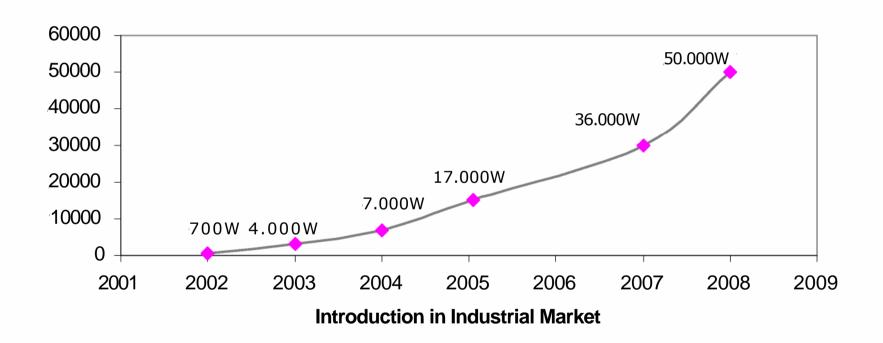


Status and Development of Single Mode **Fiber Lasers**



□□□□□ High Power Fiber Lasers - History

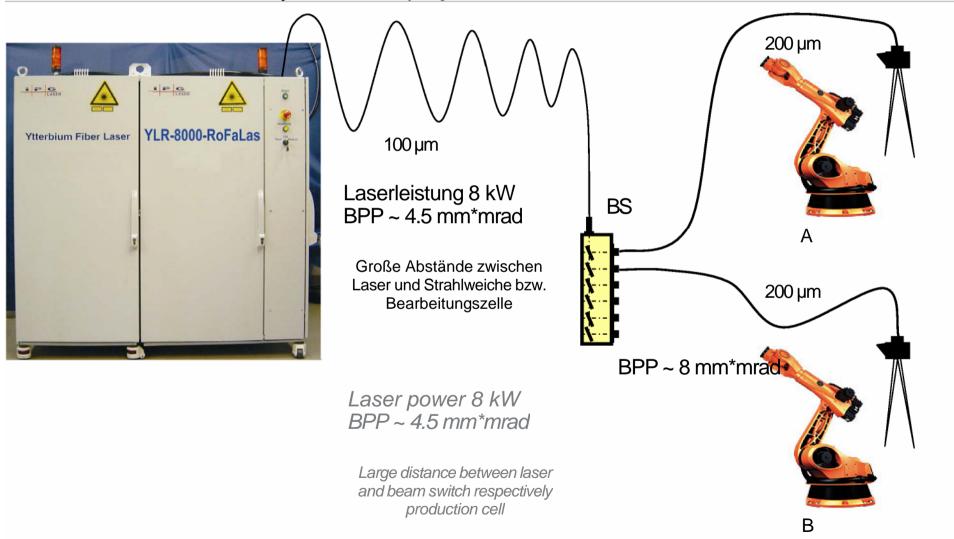
Power development of Low Order Mode Fiber Lasers







Aktivitäten im FüLas-Projekt - FüLas project activities



Single Mode

- Single Mode Fiber Pump Module
- Pump Diode Beam
- Pump Diode Beam: Slow axis
- Ridge waveguide
- Shift Kink
- Vertical epitaxial structure
- Length Scaling
- Spectral stabilization
- Passivation
- Packaging
- Reliability

Literature

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System Design Requirements

Majority of diode based laser systems have common design requirements:

- Efficient coupling into passive optics elements or an optical fiber (with low NA)
- High wall plug efficiency (low power consumption)
- Good system reliability
- Cost competitive
- Simple to use (cooling, turn on time, robustness,...)

From a diode perspective this relates to various design objectives....



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Laser diode design targets

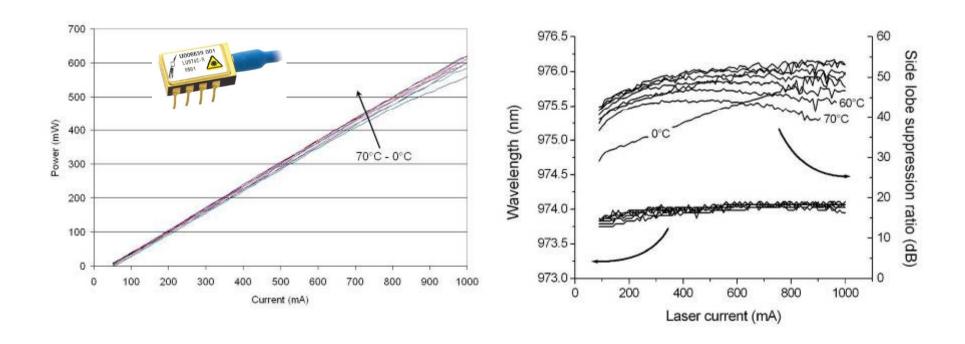
Common design requirements for high power laser (HPL) diodes:

- High output power
- High brightness
- High wall-plug and coupling efficiency (low power consumption)
- High reliability + robust
- Design capable for high volume manufacturing



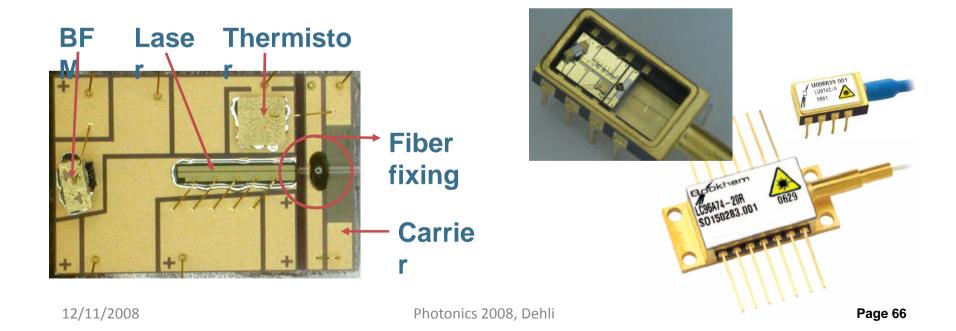
Single Mode Fiber Pump Module

- 600 mW Power at 1 A operating current
- Wavelength locked by FBG over 70 K with high side lobe suppression ratio

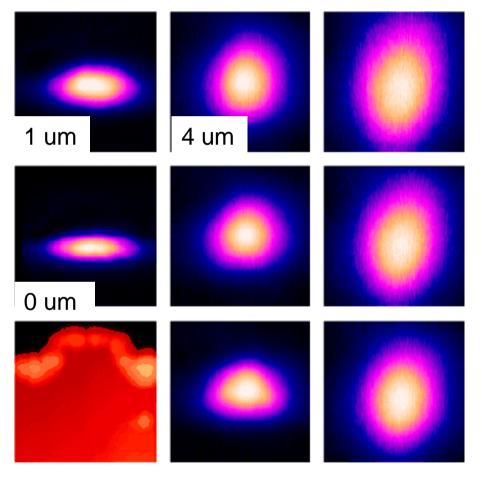


Single Mode Fiber Pump Module

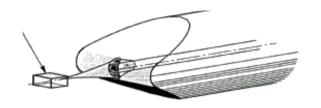
- Fully monolithic planar AIN substrate
 - Extremely low mechanical creep
 - Cost effective automation
 - Excellent thermal properties
- Used in Butterfly packages and coolerless MiniDIL
 - i.e. 400 mW Submarine MiniDIL, 600mW Butterfly



Pump Diode Beam



Prof. Unlü, Boston



Single Mode Fiber: NA=0.12

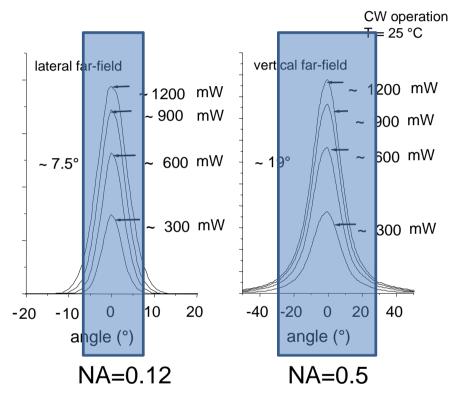
Laser Diode:

- In slow axis: NA=0.12, matched to NA of fiber
- In fast axis: NA=0.5, polish lens on fiber tip

Coupling

At distance of 4um: Profiles match

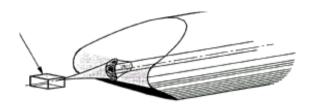
Pump Diode Beam



NA=sin(angle)~angle

Slow axis: NA=0.12 ~7deg

Fast axis: NA=0.5~30deg



Single Mode Fiber: NA=0.12

Coupling: NA matching

- Laser diode in slow axis:
 NA=0.12, matched to NA of fiber
- Laser diode in fast axis: NA=0.5, polish lens on fiber tip

Coupling: Amplitude matching

At distance of 4um: Profiles match

Pump Diode Beam: Slow axis

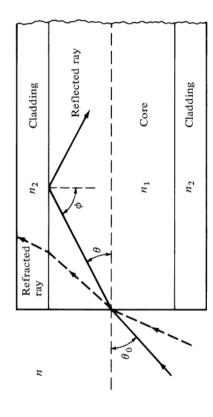
Pump Diode is dielectric waveguide

- Low loss through total internal reflection
- Can be decomposed in slow axis and fast axis
- Each a dielectric slab waveguide with

$$NA = n \sin \theta_{0,max} = (n_1^2 - n_2^2)^{1/2} \approx n_1 \sqrt{2\Delta}$$

$$dn=1/2*(NA/n)^2$$

For NA=0.12 and n=3.6 ->dn=5*10-4

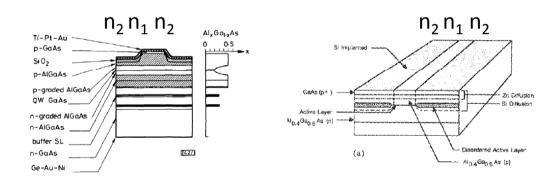


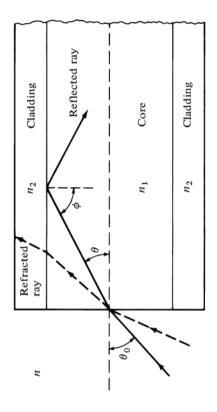
 Δ =dn=n₁-n₂

Pump Diode Beam: Slow axis

For slow axis: Need waveguide with small dn=5*10-4 n

How can this be achieved? By weak waveguide such as



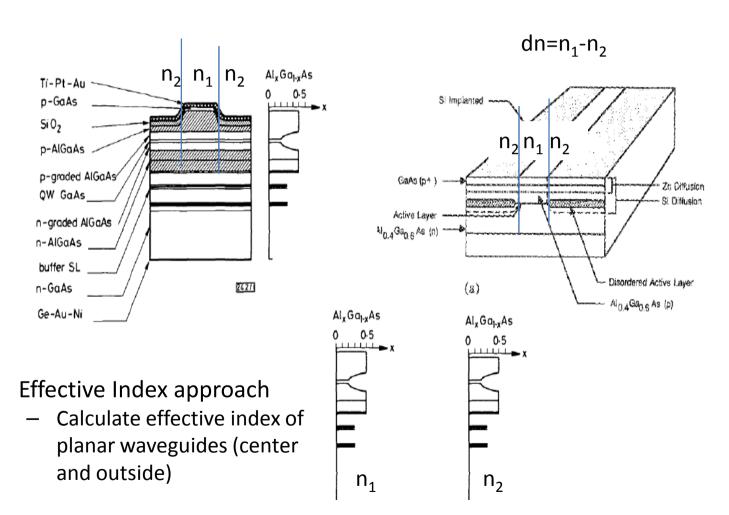


Ridge Waveguide

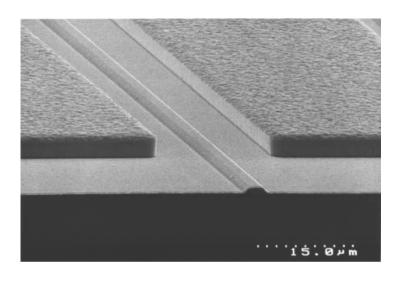
Disordered waveguide

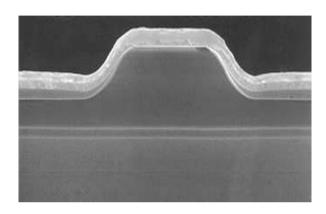
 $dn=n_1-n_2$

Pump Diode Beam: Slow axis Effective Index approach



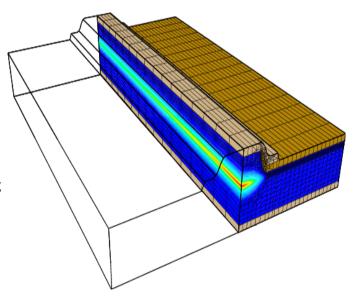
Ridge waveguide



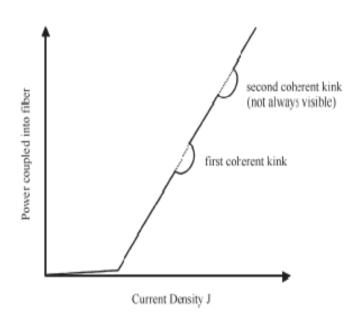


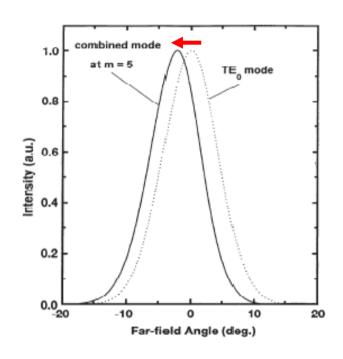
Ridge Waveguide

- One growth step, simple process
 - Built in reliability
 - InGaAlAs for best material properties
- Confinement
 - Index guided mode: High linear power and excellent coupling to fiber
 - Temperature insensitive current confinement
- Scalability
 - Increase power by making chip longer



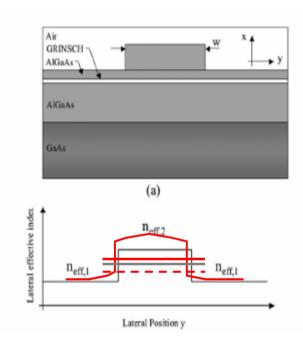
'Shift' Kink: Observation





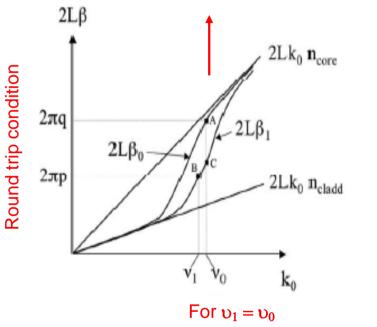
- Observation (1991)
 - Sudden kinks in fiber coupled power
- Farfield observation
 - Still single 'humped', but shifted during kink. Still single mode? (no!)
- Standard countermeasure:
 - Increasing loss for higher order modes (to keep them below threshold): Does not work

Shift Kink: Lateral Mode Locking



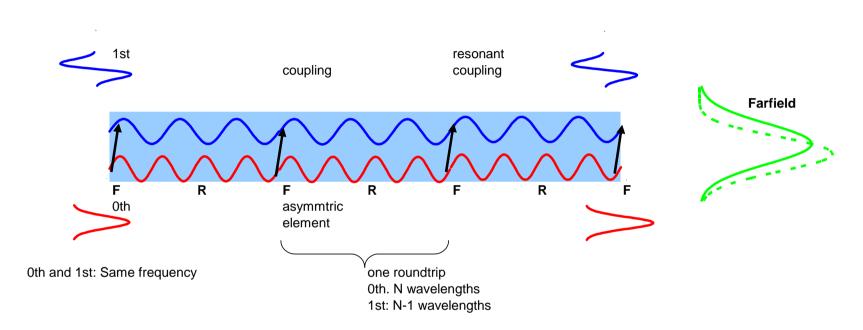
Index moving up with temperature profile (drive current)

Coherent coupling



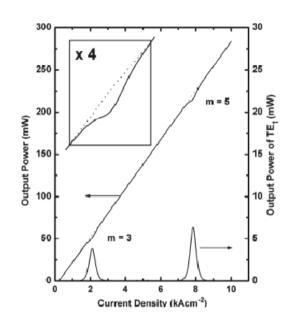
- Waveguide
 - Index increases with local heating
 - Waveguide becomes multimode
- Dispersion characteristics of waveguide
 - Phase lasing condition (integer number of wavelengths in one roundtrip) can be meet for one frequency $(v_0 = v_1)$ for fundamental and higher order modes at the same time

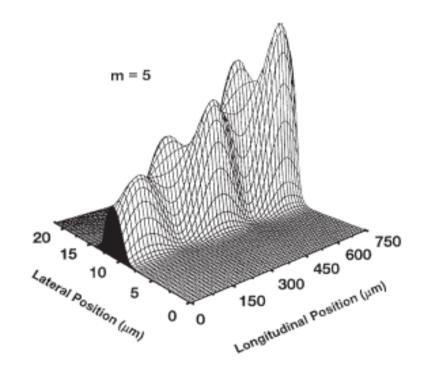
Shift Kink: Coherent Coupling



- Small asymmetry (e.g. at front mirror) couples power from fundamental to higher order mode
- Phasematch condition given at special dispersion point (temperatureprofile, i.e. drive current):
 - 'lateral mode locking' at this current > Coherent Supermode

Shift Kink: Lateral Mode Locking





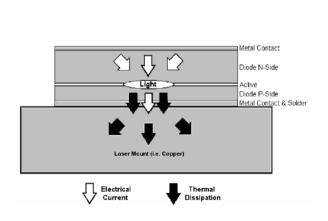
Coherent Supermode:

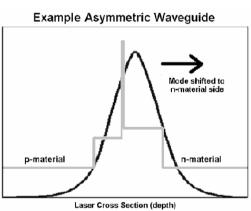
Introduction of loss for higher order modes just reduces overall efficiency Interference within waveguide

Achtenhagen, Hardy and Harder, JQE Vol24 pp2225

Epitaxial structure

- Fast axis NA:
 - As long as NA<=0.5: No concern
- Of concern
 - High efficiency
 - Low loss, low series resistance
 - Controlled, low overlap with gain, low gamma





Epitaxial Structure

$$\frac{P_{out}}{I \cdot V} = \eta_I \cdot \eta_V \cdot \eta_P$$

$$\eta_I = 1 - \frac{I_{th}}{I} - \frac{I_{leak}}{I}$$

$$\eta_V = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{eV}\right) \cdot \left(\Delta E_f - h \cdot V\right) - \left(\frac{1}{eV}\right) \cdot \left(\Delta E_{\delta Fh} + \Delta E_{\delta Fe}\right) - \left(\frac{I}{V}\right) \cdot \left(R_{sh} + R_{se}\right)$$

$$\eta_P = \frac{1}{1 + S_f + \frac{\ln(R_b)}{\ln(R_f)} + 2 \cdot \frac{\alpha L}{\ln(R_f)}}$$
Resitivity:
Series resistance
Density of States:
Free carrier absorption

Material limits: Even after optimized mirror losses (S_f, R_f, R_b) and low threshold current.

- Due to limited mobility and carrier mass there are always trade-offs in
 - $-\$ doping levels (series resistance R_{s} vs free carrier absorption) and
 - Bandgap discontinuities (leakage losses vs injection barriers)

Today's approach:

- InGaAlAs material system, Electrons with low mass
- Asymmetric (thin p-region), low aluminum, low confinement LOC, low doping levels
 - Electrons have low mass (high mobility and low density of states).
- Relatively low barriers for high mobility and good injection (some thermal and vertical leakage)

Epitaxial Structure

Bandgap design to optimize

Bandgap discontinuities

Thermal and vertical leakage Injection barriers

Doping design to optimize

Resitivity:

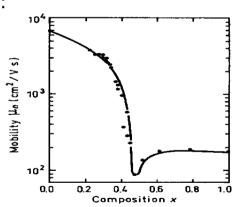
Series resistance

Density of States:

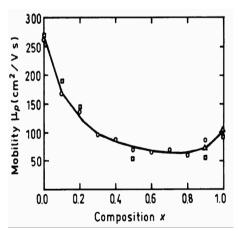
Free carrier absorption

Highly asymmetric physical parameters:

Electron mobility:



hole mobility



Free carrier absorption: $\alpha_p = 7 - 14 \cdot 10^{-18} p$ $\alpha_n = 3 - 6 \cdot 10^{-18} n$

-> Use asymmetric epitaxial structure

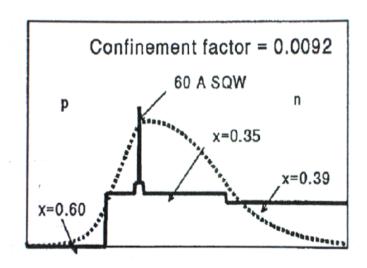
Epitaxial Structure

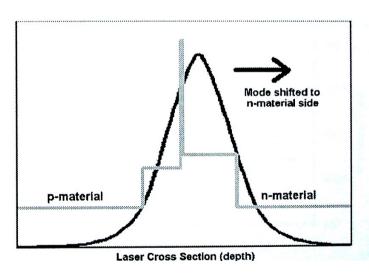
Asymmetric waveguides

Mode maximum shifted from the QW position: lower FC absorption in QW Values of a_{FC} as low as 0.4 cm⁻¹ were reported

Free carrier absorption in *p* material is higher than in *n* material:

- higher absorption cross section;
- higher doping for comparable conductivity required;
- => The design idea is to shift optical mode from p- to n-type material



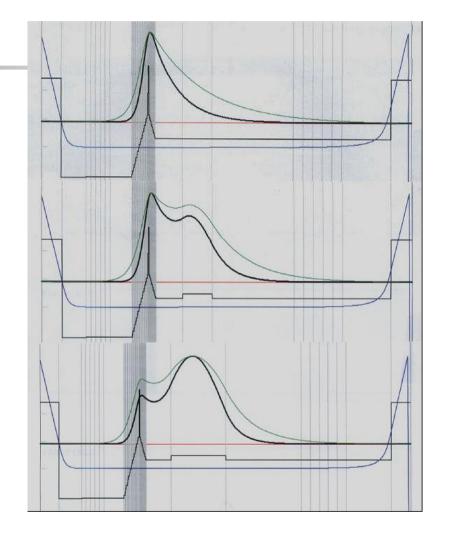


In addition higher order modes can be suppressed

Epi structures with low Γ



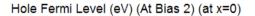
- Asymmetric, with optical trap on n side
- 1.7 times decrease in Γ (from 1 to 2) by using the trap
- Γ is changed by only changing the trap width (2 & 3) easy execution
- Advantages:
 - Lower attenuation coefficient
 - Lower thermal resistance
 - Narrow FF

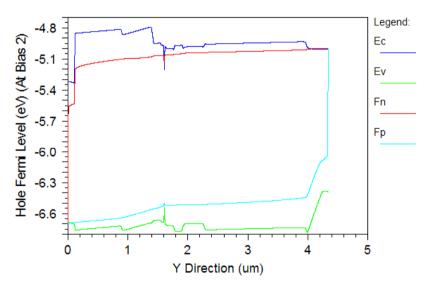




81

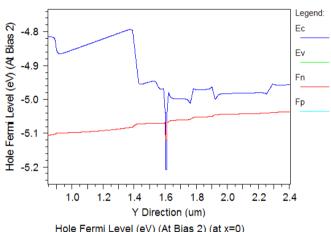
Epitaxial structures (Rsoft)



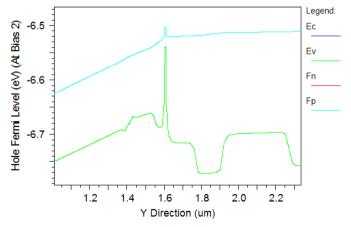


 At 5kA/cm2 (calculated with Mode from Rsoft)

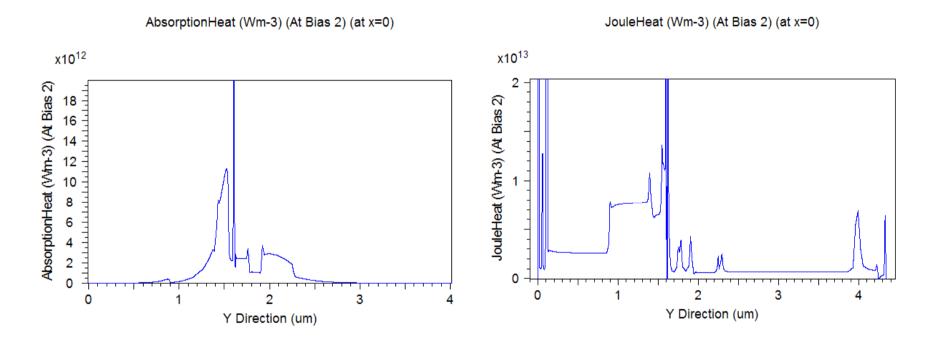
Hole Fermi Level (eV) (At Bias 2) (at x=0)



Hole Fermi Level (eV) (At Bias 2) (at x=0)



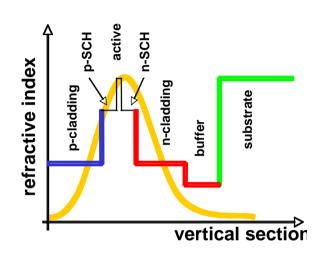
Epitaxial structures (Rsoft)



Free carrier absorption

Joule heating

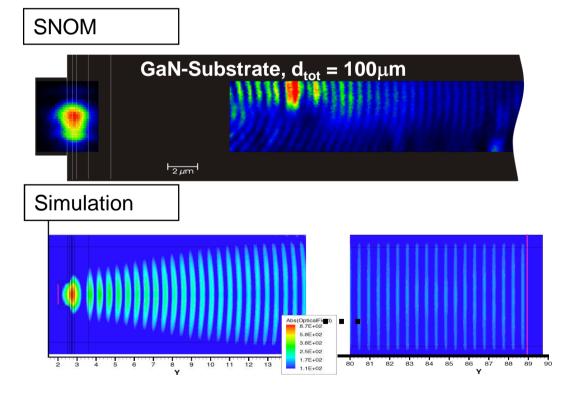
Optical Waveguide & Substrate modes: GaN* laser diode



Potential	Impact of
Substrate	Modes:

- optical loss
- gain oscillations

	GaN	SiC	Al2O3
Strain %	0.0	3.4	16
Refr. Index	2.52	2.75	1.78





Length Scaling

Length Scaling

- Increase power: Have to make laser longer to better remove the heat.
- Most important laser parameters:
 - Gain(G), efficincy(η), photon lifetime (τ ph), internal power ratio (Pr)
 - as function of absorption(α), lenght(L), confinement (Γ), front mirror refelctivity R (for backmirror reflectivity=1.

$$G = \left(\alpha + \frac{1}{2L} * \ln\left(\frac{1}{R}\right)\right) \! / \Gamma \ , \quad \ \, \eta = \left(\frac{1}{2L} * \ln\left(\frac{1}{R}\right)\right) \! / \left(\alpha + \frac{1}{2L} * \ln\left(\frac{1}{R}\right)\right)$$

$$\tau_{\rm ph} = 1/\left(v_{\rm gr}*\left(\alpha + \frac{1}{2L}*\ln\left(\frac{1}{R}\right)\right)\right), \quad \text{Pr} = (1+R)/(2*\sqrt{R})$$

- Scaling law: Keep internal power ratio constant
- Scaling rule for L

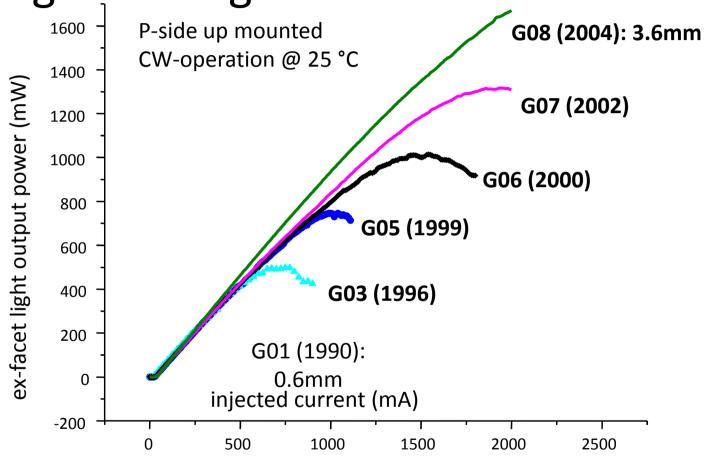
$$R(L) = R(L_0)$$

$$\Gamma(L) = \frac{L_0}{L} * \Gamma(L_0), \quad \alpha(L) = \frac{L_0}{L} * \alpha(L_0)$$

Need low loss and low confinement waveguide

980nm Single Mode Pump Diode:

Length Scaling



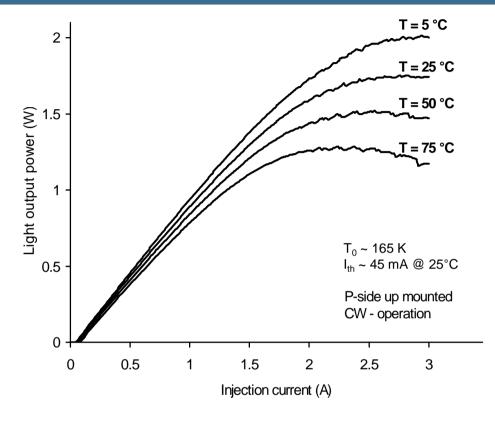
Improve performance by making laser chip longer

1. Low loss waveguide

12/11/2008 Need facets which can sustain high powers

980nm single mode pump chip: 2004



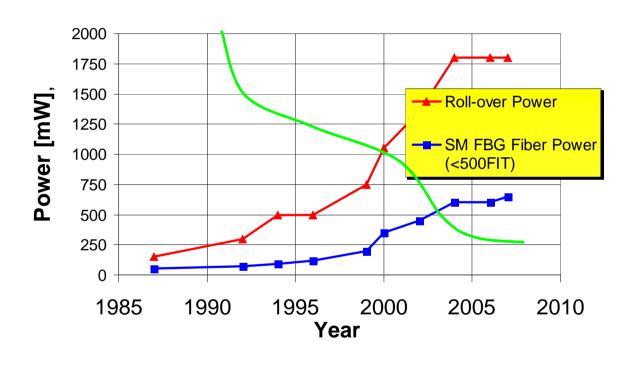


150MW/cm2

- Reliability
 - Better than 500FIT (0.5%/year) at Pop=850mW
- Wallplug Efficiency
 - >60% peak, >50% up to 800mW
- Beam
 - Single lateral mode beyond 1200mW, shift kink: solved
 - Emission spot: 0.7um*2um

980nm Single Mode Pump Diode: Evolution

Evolution of 980nm Single Mode Power



Price Reduction \$/mW

Factor of 10

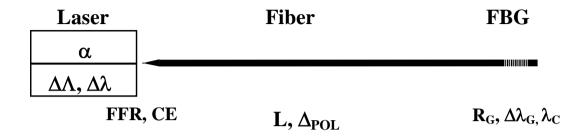
980nm Pump Diode Lasers: Matured

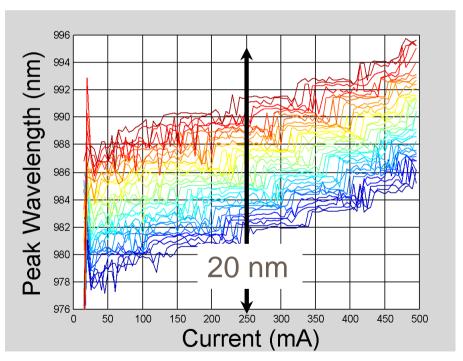
- -> Power has reached plateau at 600mW .. 650mW
- -> Cost reduction done: Assembly in China, One platfrom for various devices
- -> Spectral stability and noise: Done
- -> High efficiency: Done (Uncooled MiniDIL)
 Photonics 2008, Dehli

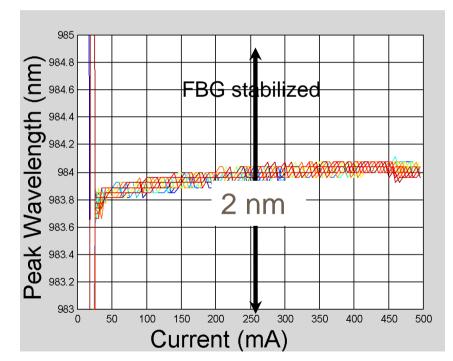
Spectral stability

Wavelength stability





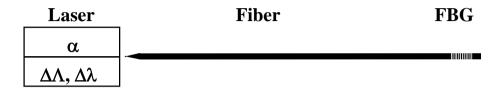


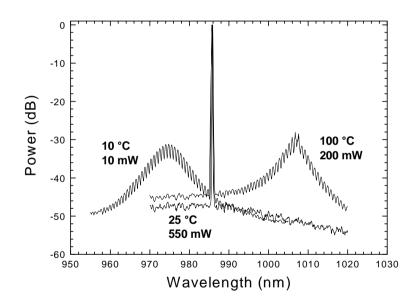


17nm Free Running Wavelength Shift for 25mA - 500mA & 10°C - 40°C => 0.33nm/°C and 0.015nm/mA

Wavelength Stability with FBG



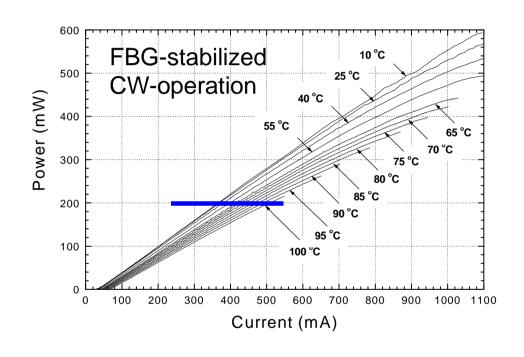




External fiber Bragg grating to lock wavelength

200mW G08 based un-cooled MiniDil







600 mW @ 10°C 400 mW @ 70°C 200 mW @ 100°C

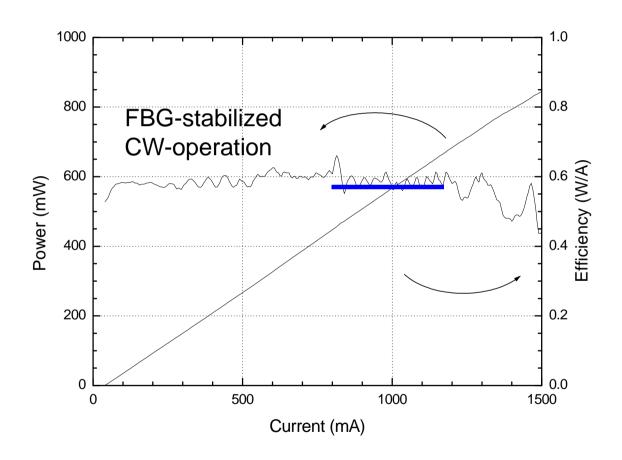
FBG stabilized within 1.2 nm wavelength shift from 10 °C..100 °C, 5 mW .. 200 mW

• Total power dissipation @ 200 mW in fiber, 70°C: 0.52 W

Power variation is lower than 0.15db (50kHz bandwidth)

600mW G08 based pump module



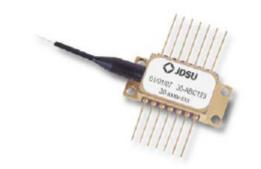


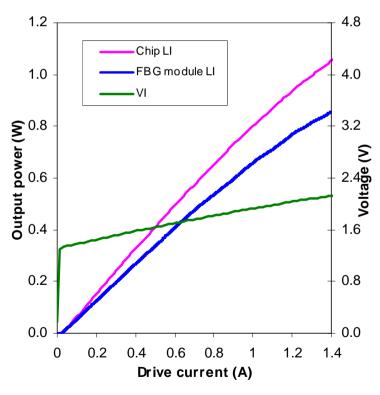


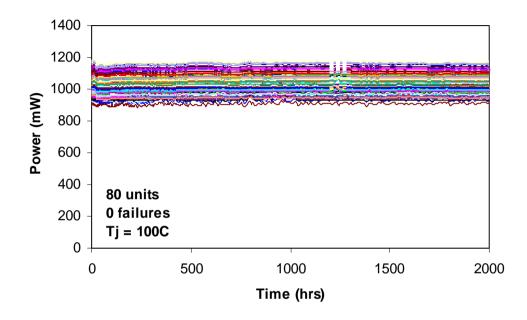
- Light output power
 - maximum module light output power ~850mW
 - fully FBG stabilized, low noise (<0.1dB)
 - no kink issue up to 1.5A
- Operation regime
 - mainly determined by 980nm pump reliability
- Module efficiency around ~0.7
 W/A in average

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JDSU 980nm Single Spatial Mode Pump







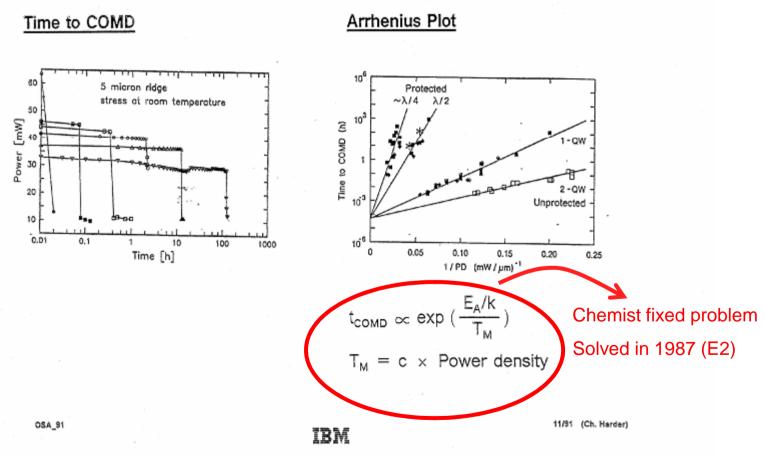
- New FBG-stabilized pump module
 - 660mW kink-free power
 - 45 FIT chip reliability at 830mW
- Mature package platform
 - 5 billion field hours
 - 5 FIT field reliability



Passivation

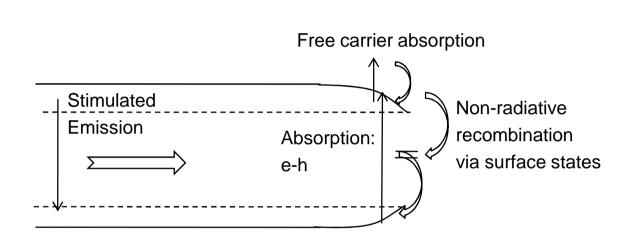
980nm Single Mode Pump Diode: Time to COMD

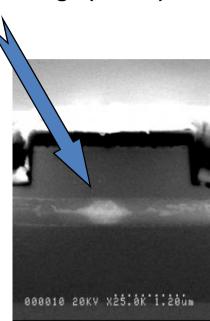
Mirror Passivation



Long term reliability & COMD protection

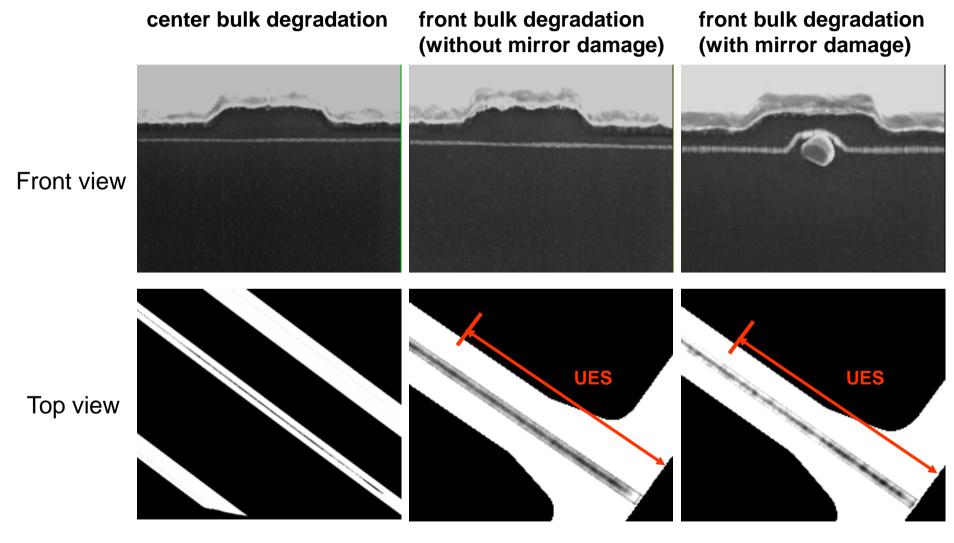
Catastrophic Optical Mirror Damage (COMD)





- Facet Degradation leads to formation surface states
- Surface states cause non-radiative recombination
- Non-radiative recombination leads to a local increase of current injection
- This leads to an increase of the local temperature
- Which causes a further shrinkage of the bandgap and thus an increase of free carriers (increased free carrier absorbtion)
- Additional generation of e-h pairs leads to further absorption
 of stimulated laser light causing an acceleration of the thermal run away COMD

FMA G08 : SEM / EBIC images



Avoiding COMD

Avoid or reduce formation of non-radiative recombination states

- E2 -> Cleaving in high vacuum and in-situ passivation of the cleaved surface
- Use of InGaAsP based barrier materials -> reduced oxidation ("Al-free") -> re-growth covering cleaved facets possible

Remove formation of non-radiative recombination states

- "Cleaving on air" -> Dry etching in vacuum -> in-situ nitridation or sulphation
- "Cleaving on air" -> low energy hydrogen plasma or ion beam cleaning
 -> in situ passivation (ZnSe, Si,...)

M. Gasser, E.E. Latta, "Method for mirror passivation of semiconductor laser diodes," U.S. Patent No. 5063173 M. Hu, L.D. Kinney,

M. Pessa, et al., "Aluminium-free 980-nm laser diodes for Er-doped optical fiber amplifiers," SPIE 1995, vol. 2397, 333-341

K. Hausler, N. Kirstaedter, "Method and device for passivation of the resonator end faces of semiconductor lasers based on III-V semiconductor material," U.S. Patent No. 7033852

L.K. Lindstrom, et al. "Method to obtain contamination free laser mirrors and passivation of these," U.S. Patent No. 6812152

H. Kawanishi, et al. "Semiconductor laser device with a sulfur-containing film provided between the facet and the protective film," U.S. Patent No. 5208468

E.C. Onyiriuka, M.X. Ouyang, C. E. Zah, "Passivation of semiconductor laser facets," U.S. Patent No. 6618409

P. Ressel et al. "Novel Passivation Process for the Mirror Facets of Al-Free Active-Region High-Power Semiconductor Diode Lasers," PTL 2005, vol. 17, no. 5, 962-964

Avoiding COMD

Reduce number of free carriers at the laser facet

 Reduce direct carrier injection without changing the bandgap (at wafer level process)

Front section isolation

 NAM (non absorbing mirrors) to reduce absorption, diffusion and thermalized carriers (at wafer level process)

Zn diffusion

Etching and subsequent re-growth of a III-V window

Si-doped and disordered windows

Vacancy induced windows (QWI)

B. Schmidt et al., US Patent 6782024 - High power semiconductor laser diode

H.O. Yonezu, M. Ueno, T. Kamejima and I. Hayashi, "An AlGaAs Window Structure Laser," JQE 1979, vol. 15, no. 8, 775-781

J. Ungar, N. Bar-Chaim and I. Ury, "High-Power GaAIAs Window Lasers," EL 1986, vol. 22, no. 5, 279-280

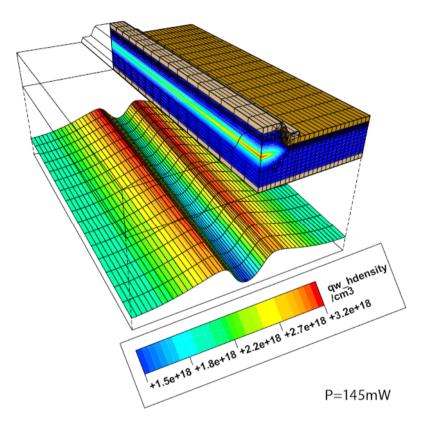
R.L. Thornton, D.F. Welch, R.D. Burnham, T L. Paoli and P.S. Cross, "High power (2.1 W) 10-stripe AlGaAs laser arrays with Si disordered facet windows," Appl Phys Lett 1986, vol. 49, no. 23, 1572-1574

S. Yamamura, K. Kawasaki, K. Shigihara, Y. Ota, T. Yagi and Y. Mitsui, "Highly Reliable Ridge Waveguide 980nm Pump Lasers Suitable for Submarine and Metro Application." OFC 2003, vol. 1, 398-399

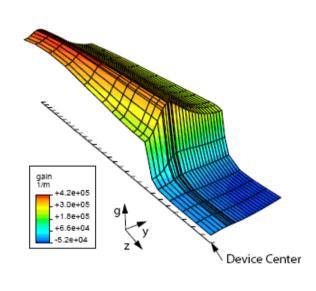
J.H. Marsh, C.J. Hamilton, "Semiconductor laser," U.S. Patent No. 6760355

Effect of front section isolation (*)

Standard Contact



Truncated Contact

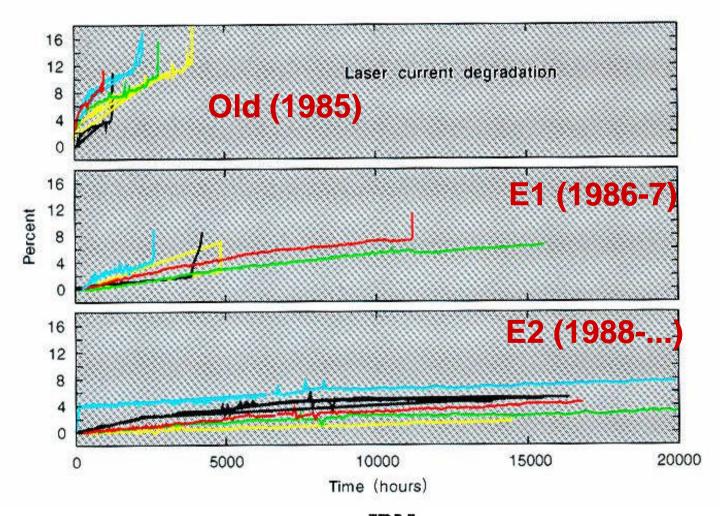


Reduction of current injection into front section (reduced local heating)
Reduction of free carriers (impact on the gain profile)



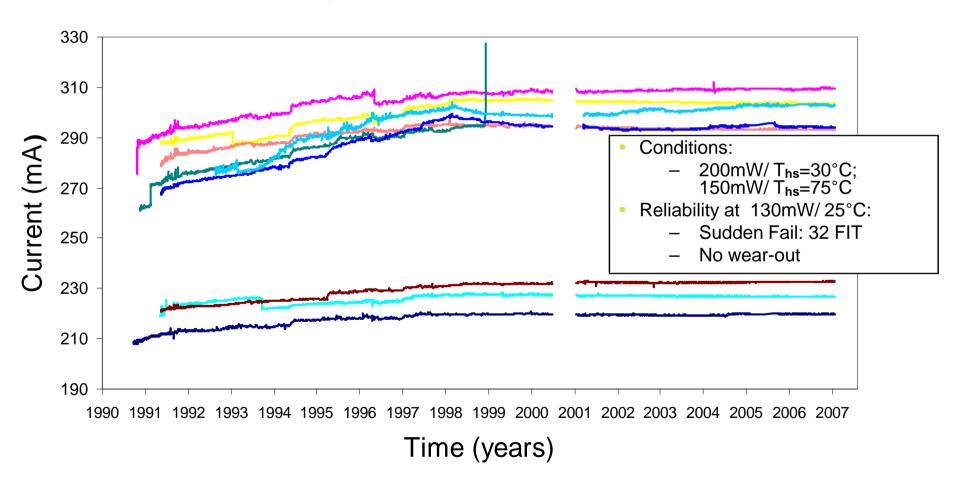
*Source: Prof. B. Witzigmann, ETH-Zurich

Single Mode Pump Diode: Facet passivation at 830nm and 980nm



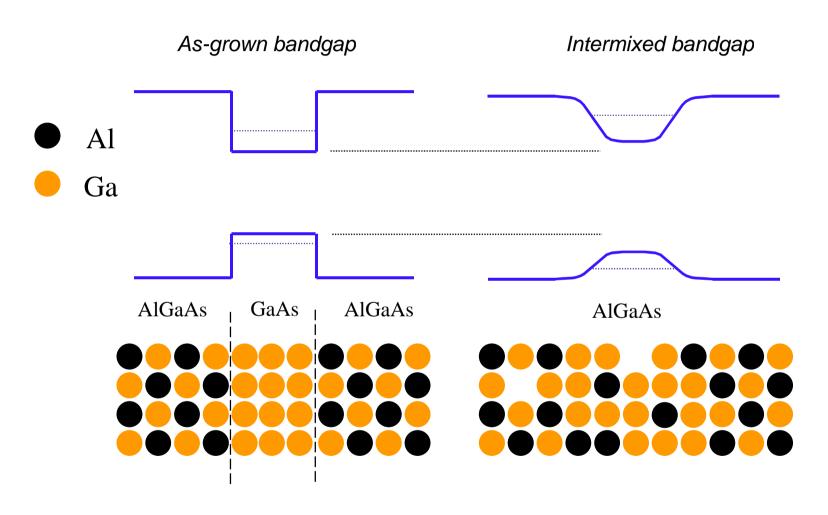


980nm Methuselah Lasers: 17 Years of Stress Test



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QWI process concept



QWI allows bandgap tuning in selected areas of the chip



QWI Process Steps

Intense QWI technology enables high power/brightness lasers to be produced in a manufacturing environment

- Dielectric caps are deposited on surface of wafer
- Wafer is annealed
- Quantum wells intermix with adjacent material altering the bandgap wavelength

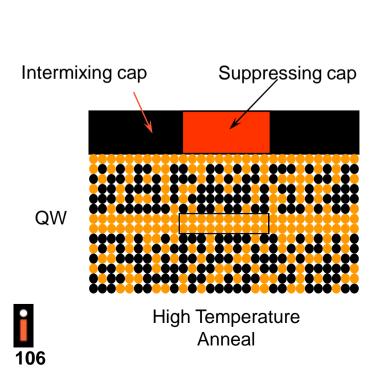
AHPSL 2008 Seminar #1

Wavelength change depends on properties of dielectric cap

QWI works in a variety of materials and wavelengths

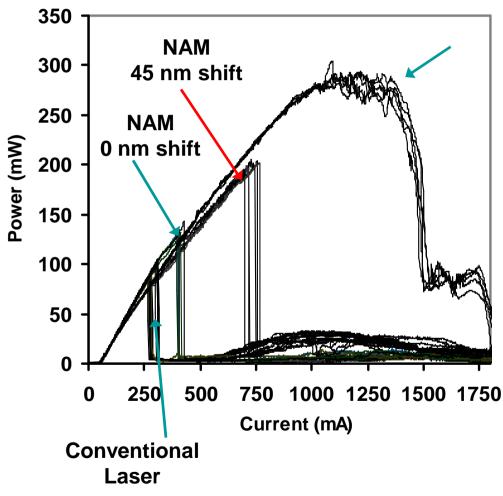
808 nm SQW material used in this work

Photoluminescence spectra Suppressed 140 Intermixed 120 PL intensity, a.u. 100 80 60 40 20 700 720 740 760 780 820 840 860 Wavelength, nm

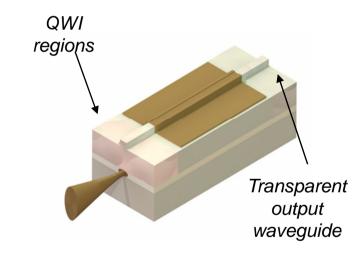


Avoiding COMD: QWI (quantum well intermixing)

- Uncoated 830 nm lasers
- Test conditions: Initial CW measurement followed by a pulsed *L-I*



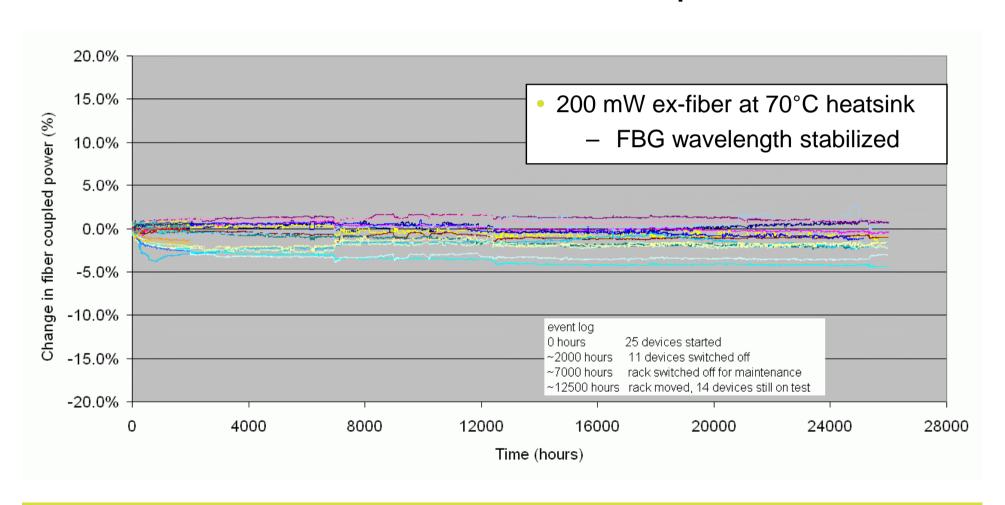
NAM 65 nm shift



Increase of the bandgap close to the facet region
Reduction of free carriers
Reduction of local absorption



3 Years 980 nm MiniDIL Operation



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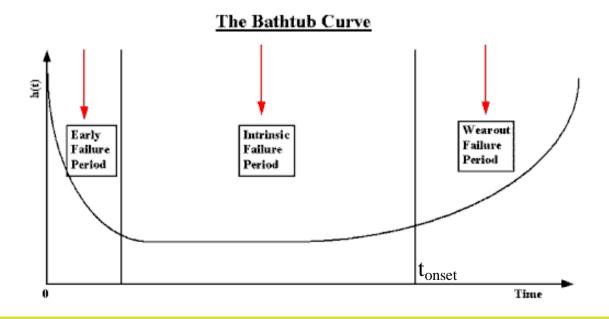
Classical life test strategy:



single emitter devices

- Known failure modes
 - Laser diode lifetime follows "bath tube" curve
 - Infant mortality rate is vanishing or can be screened out by burn-in
 - Constant failure rate (intrinsic period) is determined by sudden death (or a short wear out period followed by sudden death)
 - Wear out is expected to kick in after guaranteed device life time
 - Constant failure rate can be described by:

$$FR \propto I^x P^y \exp(-E_a / k_b T)$$



Lifetest: results stress cell matrix

All CoS post burn-in (300h, 1260mA, 85C)

Cell	Power	Current	Junction (Case) Temperature	Starts	Device Hours	Failures
1	820 mW	1030 mA	89°C (60°C)	196	892'362 h	16
2	820 mW	1130 mA	116°C (80°C)	193	772'622 h	47
3	820 mW	1260 mA	140°C (95°C)	141	460'990 h	70
4	820 mW	1340 mA	151°C (100°C)	91	142'324 h	32
5	680 mW	1080 mA	147°C (110°C)	93	369'253 h	37
				714	2'637'551 h	202

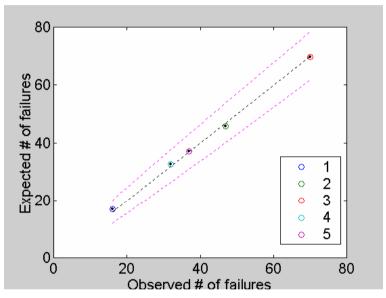
- 714 2'637'551 h 16 lots lots started
- 2 excluded (atypical)
 - LV not yet applied
 - No selection after burn-in

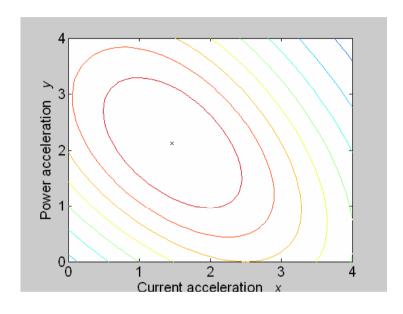
$$Fails = FR \cdot \left(\frac{j}{j_0}\right)^x \cdot \left(\frac{p}{p_0}\right)^y \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{(kT - kT_0)}}$$

- Assume functional dependence Derive
- Derive parameters for which cell test results are most likely
 - Maximum likelyhood analysis

Maximum Likelyhood analysis:

Ea:=0.45eV; x,y free





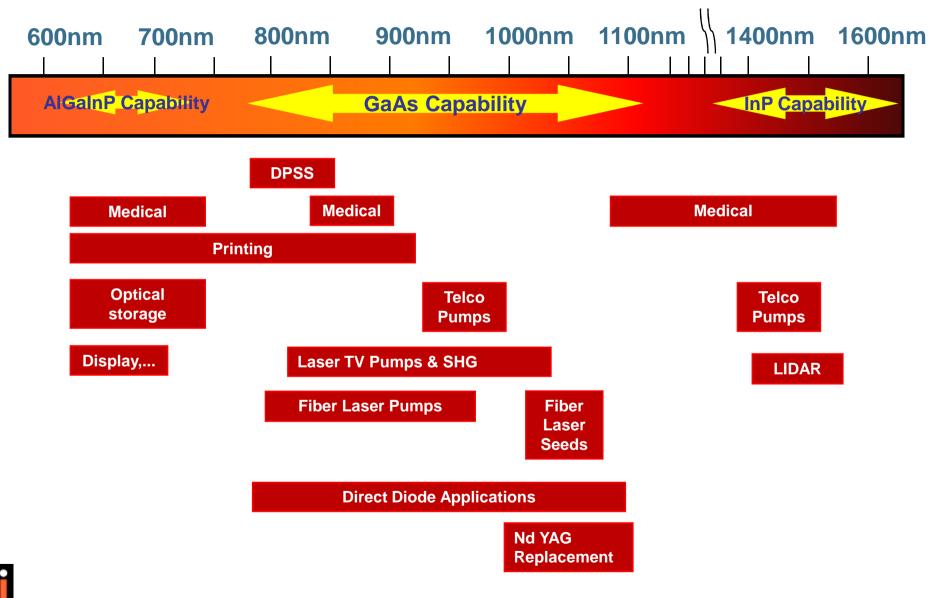
- X and y are anticorrelated, x+y=3.6
- FR base failure rate: At 930 mA, 36°C junction temperature (25°C case)

x free, y free; Ea := 0.45 eV							
Х	1.5						
y y	2.1						
Ea	0.45						
FR	1'376	FIT					
Р	99%						

$$Fails = FR \cdot \left(\frac{j}{j_0}\right)^x \cdot \left(\frac{p}{p_0}\right)^y \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{(kT - kT_0)}}$$

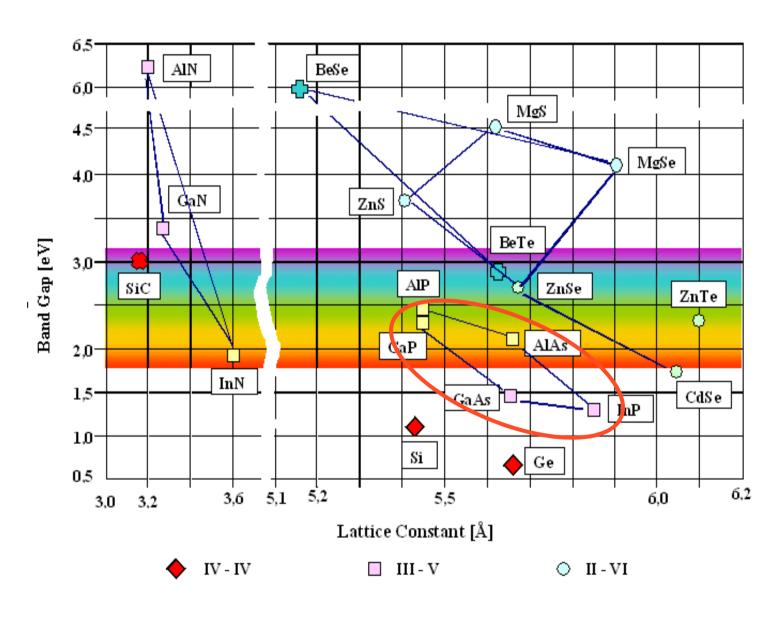
intense

Wavelength Range for major industrial applications / technologies requiring (red / MIR) HPL



intense

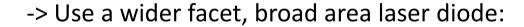
Materials for Semiconductor Laser Processing



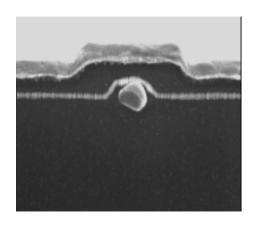
Broad Area

Broad Area

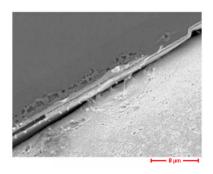
High powers are limited by power density at facet



- higher heatload: Need to solder devices junction down to heatsink
 - Cooling
- 2. This leads to degradation of beam quality, i.e. multi lateral mode behavior
 - Coupling to fiber



Narrow Stripe: J-up



Broad Area: J-down

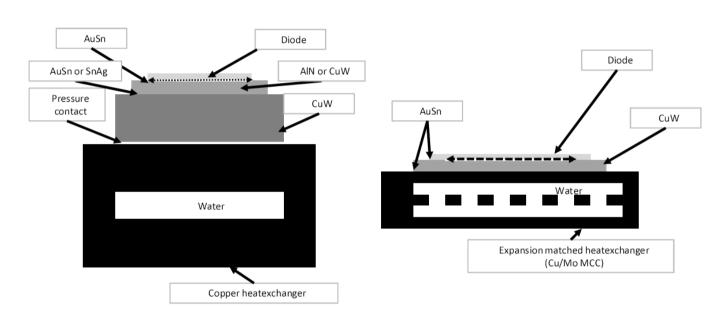
Cooling

intense

Types of coolers for hard solder bar mounting

(*) Passive Cooling

Active Cooling

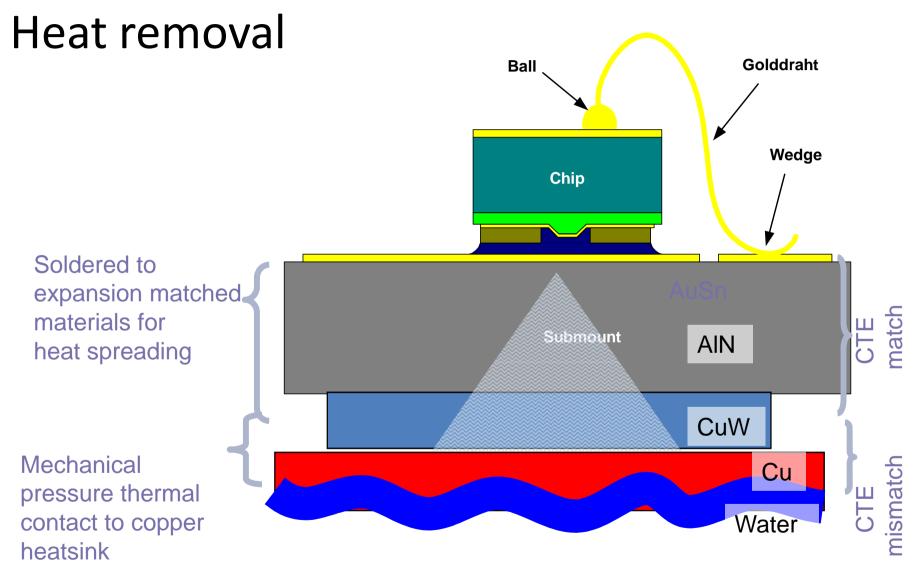


- Passive Cooling (copper heat sink with heat exchanger -> Water or Air cooled)
- Active Cooling of high power bars (micro, meso or macro channel cooler)
- Active cooling of single emitter devices (TEC and heat exchanger)



^{*} Christoph Harder; "Chapter: Pump Diode Lasers", Optical Fiber Telecommunications V A (Fifth Edition), Components and Subsystems, Editor: *Ivan P. Kaminow, Tingye Li and Alan E. Willner, pp. 107-144.*

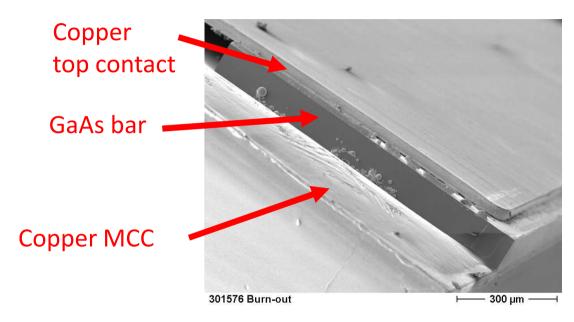
9xxnm Multimode Pump Diodes



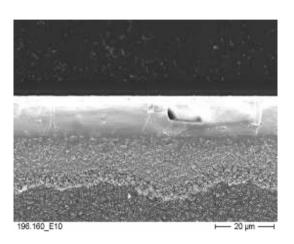
Cooling: Micro Channel Coolers

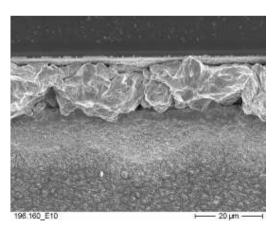


Bar Blow up (Indium solder issue)



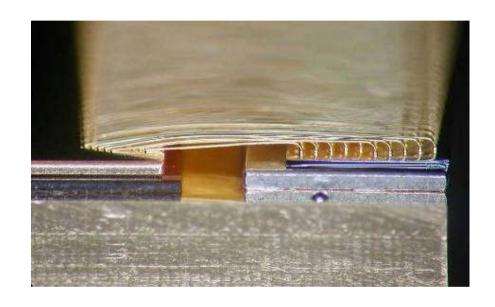
- Indium is used to overcome cte differences between GaAs and copper
- Indium is stable under CW operation but not under on/off operation
 - Increased thermal resistance leads to bar blow up

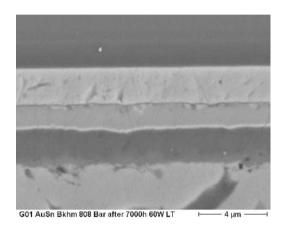




12/11/2008 Photonics 2008, D**20**

AuSn technology on MCC





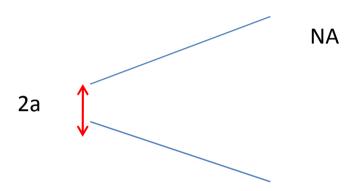
AuSn solder unchanged after 7000 h LT (40 Mega cycles of hard on/off)

- Hard solder (AuSn) attach to expansion matched heatspreader of bar
- Low smile assembly of bar on submount to MCC (this interface is still cte mismatched)

Low stress cathode contact with wire bonds

12/11/2008 Photonics 2008, Dቂ፮॥

Beamquality



Beam with aperture radius of "a" and divergence of "NA" The beam parameter product and the etendue is

- BPP=a*NA
- Etendue= $(a*NA*Pi)^2$, or $a*b*NA_x*Na_v*p^2$ for an elliptical beam

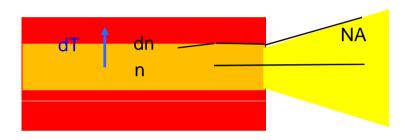
•

The minimum beam parameter product and etendue (corresponding to a single lateral mode) is given by

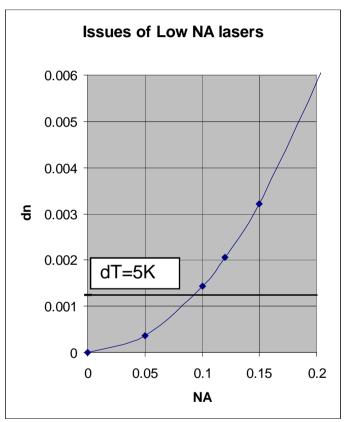
- BPP=a*NA=Lambda/ p =0.32um*rad for lambda=1um
- Etendue= $(a*NA* p)^2$ =Lambda 2 = $1*10^{-8}$ cm 2 ster for lambda =1um

9xxnm Multimode Pump Diodes: Thermal Blooming at high Power

Top view of BA laser

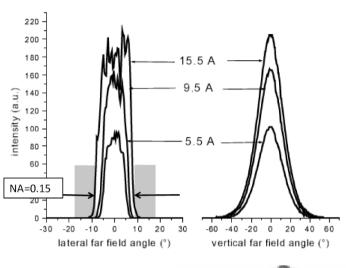


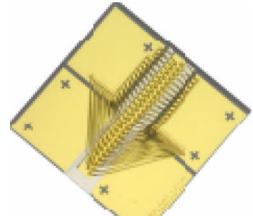
- Low NA laser
 - Achieved by low dn waveguide
- dn
 - Ridge
 - Lateral temperature profile
 - dT=5K -> NA=0.09
- Keep dT<5K



SES8-9xx-01 performance

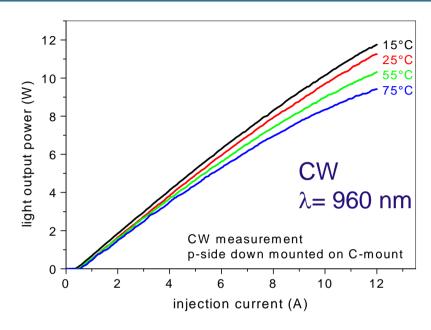


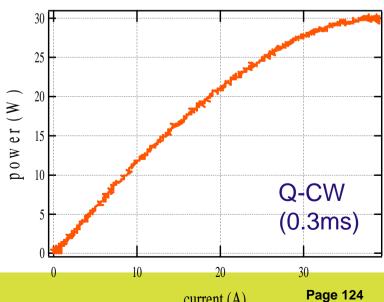




Reliability: <5% fail in 10'000h

Power: 8 W @ 8 A





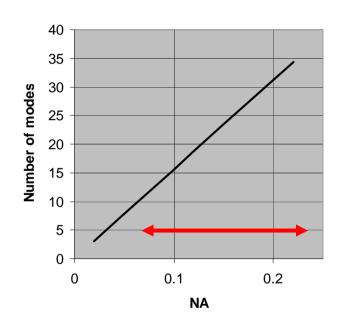
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Electro-Optical

current (A)

Number of Lateral Modes in BA chip

100um BA, #of modes



- Low NA broad area laser radiance:

 - Closing in on single mode lasers 8W from NA=0.15NA: 400mW per lateral mode
- Reduce NA of broad area laser to increase radiance

 - NA dominated by thermal blooming
 ->Need chip with very high power conversion

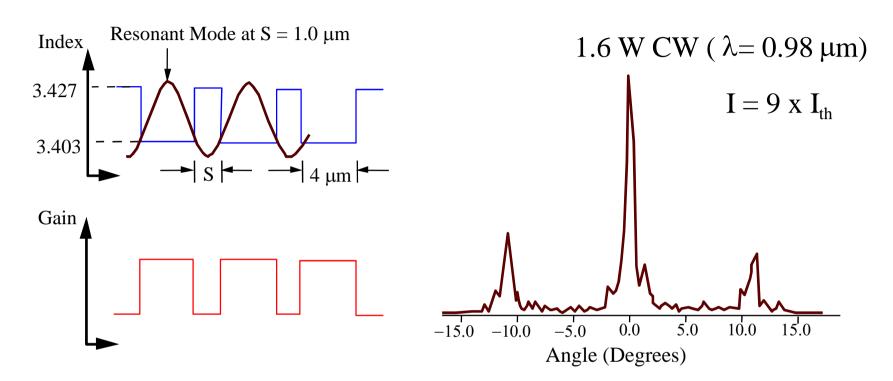
High Power Laser Diodes: 20 years ago

- Narrow stripe laser:
 - COMD: Mirror blows up at high powers
 - -> Spread beam to decrease power density at facet:

Coherent arrays
Surface grating lasers
MOPA
Taper Laser
Alpha DFB
VCSEL

In the 80'
Never achieved reliable beamstability for high volume applications

1-D Active Photonic Crystal ⇒ROW Array



Resonant (lateral) leaky-wave coupling



Bragg condition exactly satisfied



(20 - 40)-element phase-locked arrays

$$\theta_{1/2} = 0.67^{\circ} = 1.8 \text{ x D.L.}$$

 $\eta_p = 23\%$

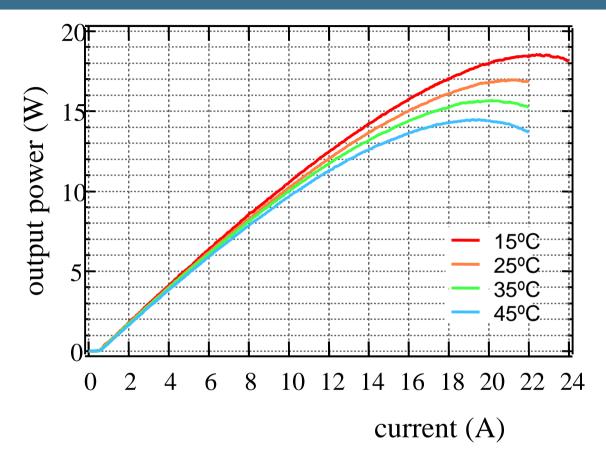
1.0 W power in main lobe

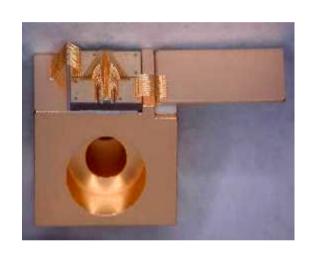
40-element ⇒ 200 μm aperture *

* H, Yang et al., Appl. Phys. Lett., **76**, 1219 (2000)

9xxnm MM Pump Diode: CW on C-mount







- ~90 um emission width
- 19 W CW roll over power at 15 C
- Temperature insensitive: T_o ~ 200K

- At 35 C
 - 9 W at 9 A
 - >65% conversion efficiency at 9W

Etendue Matching

Diode Laser	Beam Width [um]	NA [rad]	Fast axis BPP [um rad]	Slow axis BPP [um rad]	Etendue [um² sr]
Single mode diode	5	0.12	0.3	0.3	1
Standard BA diode at low power	100	0.05	0.3	3	8
Standard BA diode	100	0.09	0.3	5	14
Low NA wide BA diode	200	0.09	0.3	9	28
Low NA minibar	3'200	0.07	0.3	112	340
Fiber	Core Diameter [um]	NA [rad]		BPP [um rad]	Etendue [um² sr]
SM fiber	5	0.12		0.3	1
Input fiber for fiber combiners	105	0.15		8	610
Standard material processing delivery	200	0.22		22	4'800
High power material processing delivery	400	0.22		44	19'000
Fiber of cladding pumped laser	400	0.46		92	84'000
High power material processing delivery	1'500	0.46		345	1'200'000

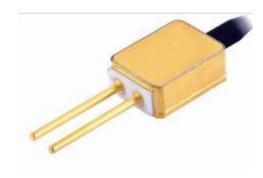
Theoretical limits:

- 4800 single mode lasers fit in a 200um/0.22NA fiber
- 350 Standard BA lasers fit in a 200um/0.22NA fiber

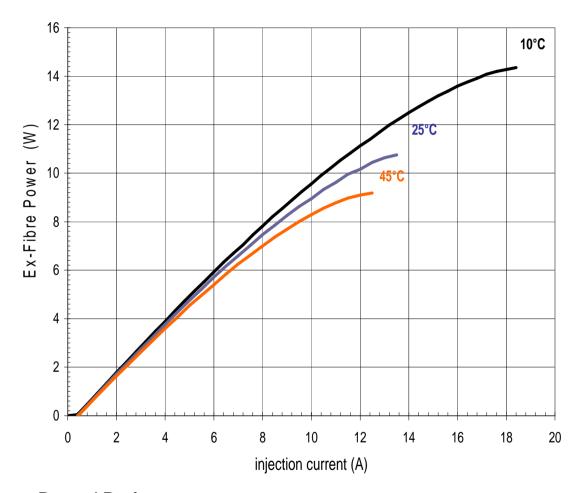
With polarization multiplexing and wavelength division multiplexing even mor diodes can fir in the fiber

MM Uncooled Module with >14W









- Record Performance:
 - -~>14W @ 18A and 10 C T_{hs}
- Module fully qualified for industrial and telecom standards
 - 8W Industrial Product

Example II: 20W Multi-Emitter Module



Module

- 3 single emitters inside
- 2-pin package
- 0.15NA or 0.22NA in 105um fiber
- Floating anode/cathode
- 1060nm blocking filter included

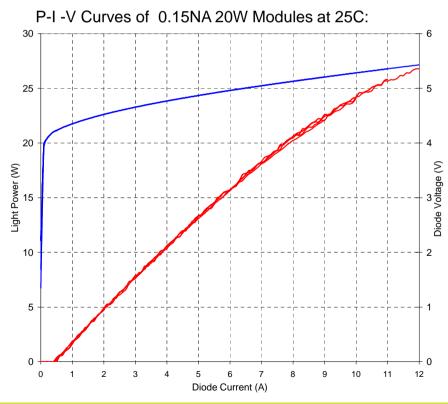
Electro-Optical

Power: 20+W

– Current: <<10A</p>

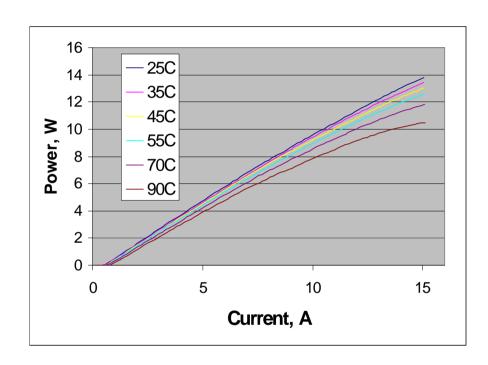
Wavelengths: 915, 940, 960, 975nm

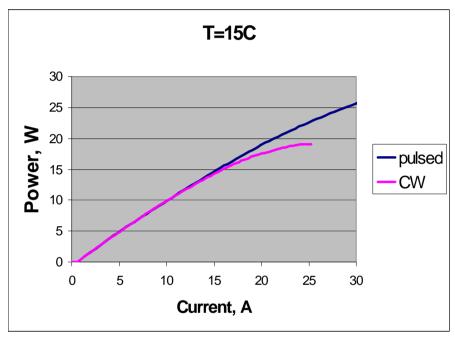






New generation 9xx broad area chip

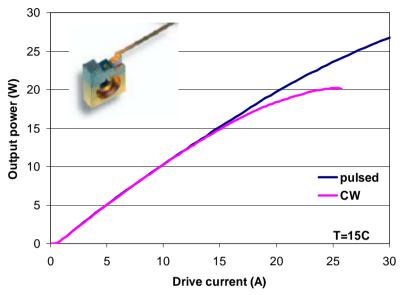


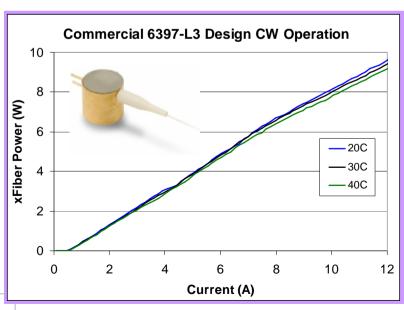


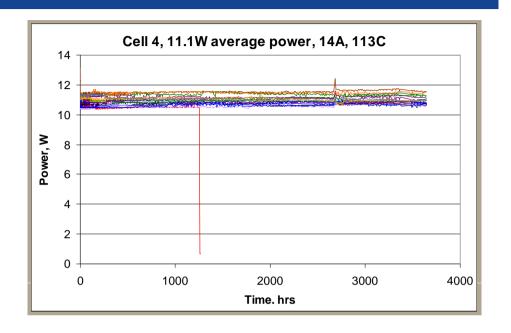
19.0W maximum CW power from ~ 100um aperture



JDSU 9XXnm Multi Mode Pump







- 100μm wide aperture chip
 - 20W CW rollover power
- 105μm diameter, 0.2NA fiber
 - 8W rated power at 10A



6396 Chip Reliability Improvement

Unreliability

MLE Results:

$$\beta = 0.54$$

$$E_A = 0.61 eV$$

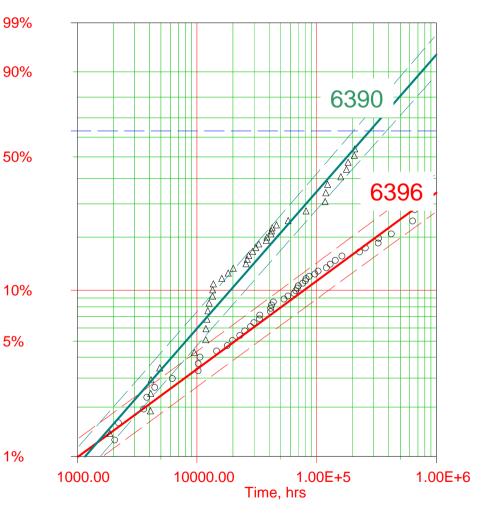
$$n = 2.7$$

$$\eta_{op} = 5.1 \cdot 10^6 \, hrs$$

Revised reliability:

$$-T_h=35C$$

- Median time to failure=1,500,000 hrs (60% C.L.)
- 6% F at 20khr (60% C.L.) 1%





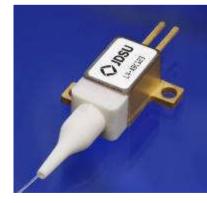
Example: JDSU L4 module performance & testing

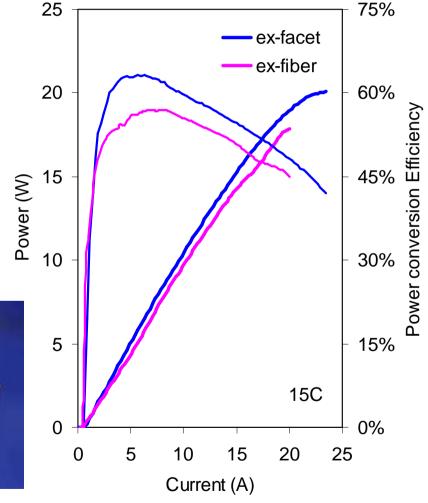
Laser chip

- InAlGaAs
- 880-1000nm
- 100μm aperture
- 4.1mm cavity
- AuSn solder

Fiber-coupled package

- 105μm diameter
- 0.15 or 0.22NA
- $R_{th} = 2.2^{\circ}C/W$
- 10W rated power
- 50% wall plug



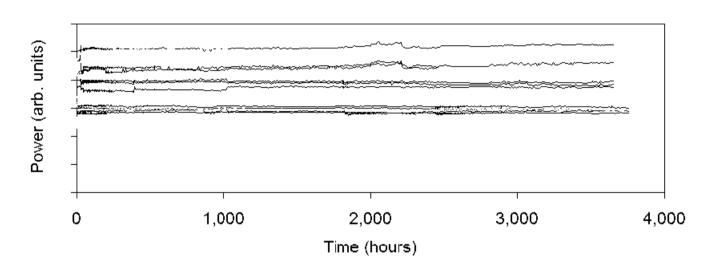




Accelerated life test examples

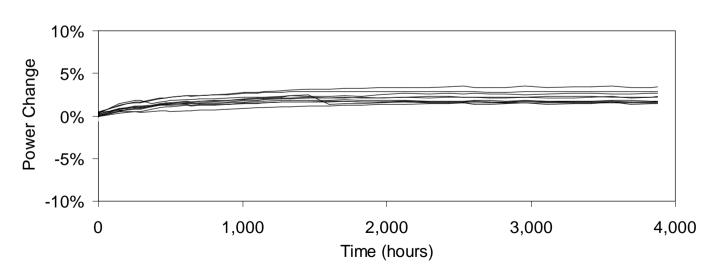
Chip Life Test

- 9.3W, 13A
- $-T_{case} = 70^{\circ}C$
- $T_i = 117^{\circ}C$
- 28 lasers
- 0 failures



Package Test

- 10W, 12A
- $-T_{case} = 35^{\circ}C$
- 14 lasers
- 0 failures

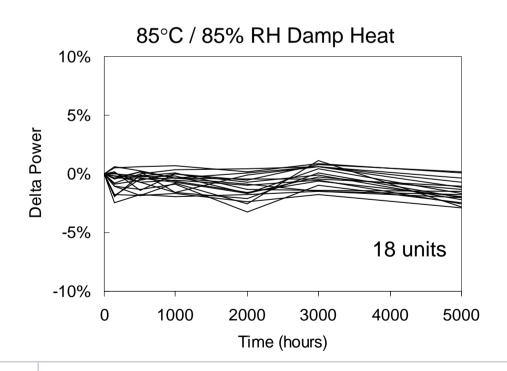


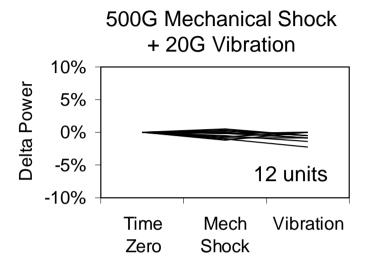


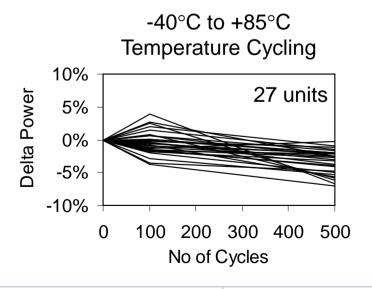
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L4 Package qualification and robustness tests

- Reference Telcordia GR-468
 - Zero package failures in full suite
 - Proves robustness of design

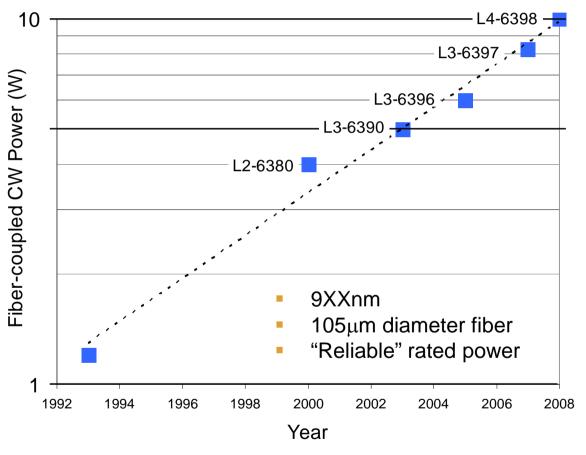








Pump power trends – commercially available

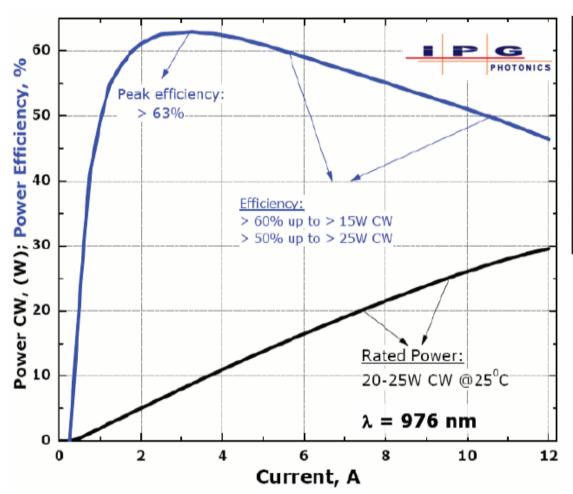


- 15% annual increase in reliable power
- Similar trend for
 - 8XXnm
 - Single mode lasers
 - Multi mode lasers
 - Bars



Example III: Fiber Coupled Devices of 2006 design:

PLD-20-9xx series based on L=3.0mm COS: \emptyset =100 μ m fiber, NA < 0.12





PLD-20-9xx pumps:

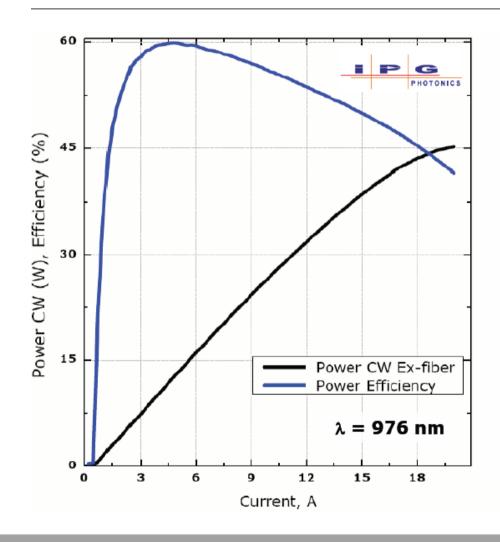
 $\lambda \sim 9xx \text{ nm}$; NA ~ 0.12 25°C heatsink temperature (CE > 90%)

Hermetically sealed package requires simple water or air cooling



Example IV: Fiber Coupled Devices of 2008 design:

PLD-30-9xx series (based on L=4.5mm COS): \emptyset =100 μ m fiber , NA < 0.12

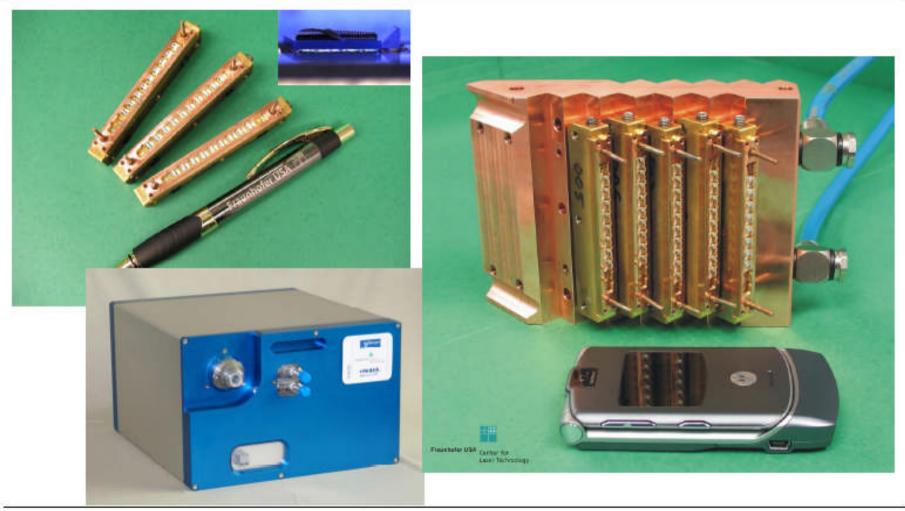




- Single emitter-based technology ensures high reliability of the pumps
- High fiber coupling efficiency (>90%) ensures industry highest power, brightness and power efficiency



2D Single Emitter Arrays for Ultra High Brightness Diode Laser



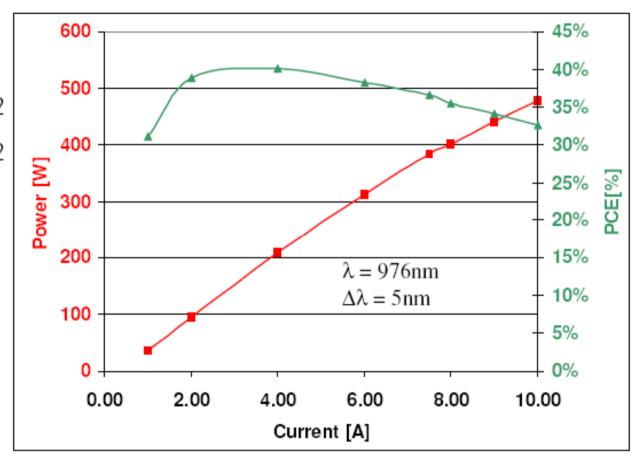




Results of Ultra High Brightness Diode Laser

Products

- $> 100W / 100 \mu m / 0.2$
- \geq 400W / 200 μ m / 0.2



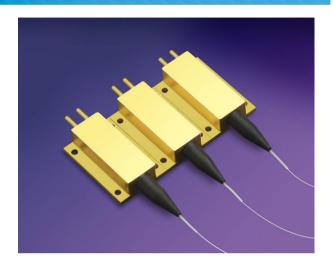




Example I: Second-Generation Fiber Pump Modules

Characteristics

- Multiple emitters (e.g., a single mini-bar)
- Micro-optics for beam conditioning
- More power in (e.g., higher current at std voltage)



Features

- Enhanced brightness per fiber channel
- Reduced thermal and electrical resistance (higher power at rollover)
- CoS with single-emitter economies, no smile
- Independent dropouts, reduced facet loading, enhance reliability
- Highly scalable at module level





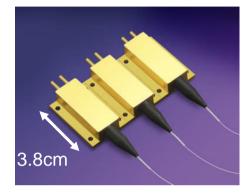
Mini-Bar Fiber Pump Module

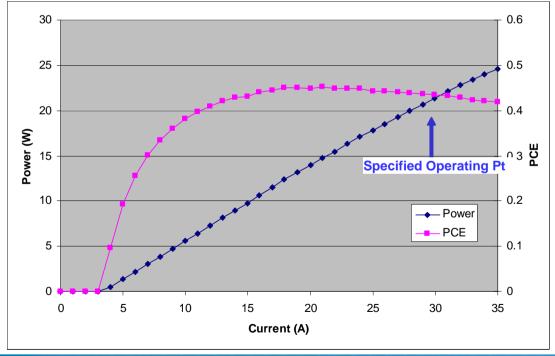
• Brightness of industrial modules now exceeds 1 MW/cm²-sr

e.g.,

OrionTM series

- 20W, 105um core, 0.20NA
- 915nm, 940nm, 976nm
- mini-bar architecture
- very high reliability





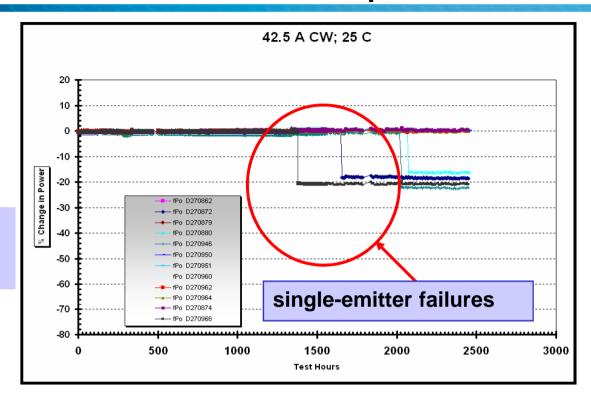




Mini-Bar Reliability: verification of emitter independence



CoS: 5-element mini-bar on CT (AuSn solder on CuW heatsink)



Multi-Stripe Modules as Ensembles of Semi-Independent Emitters:

- failures are dominated by random, sudden failures of individual emitters
- the failure of an individual emitter only impacts other emitters by an increase in ensemble drive current (for constant power) and warming of the other stripes on the same mini-bar
- all assumptions are consistent with test data giving over 300,000 hrs MTBEF (mean time between emitter failure) at the specified operating point





Fiber combiner Fused and Proximity

Fused: (6+1)*1



Figure 2 Cross-section of double-clad optical fiber for cladding pumping.

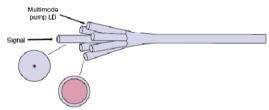
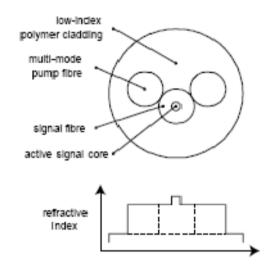


Figure 3 Schematic of tapered fiber bundle.

	Fiber	NA
Signal input	HI 1060	
Pump Ports	6*105um	0.22
Output	20um/400um	0.06/0.46

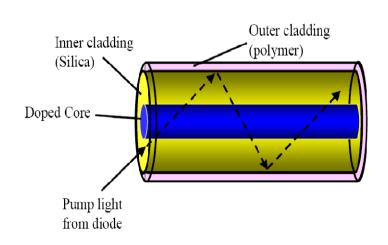
Proximity: (2+1)*1

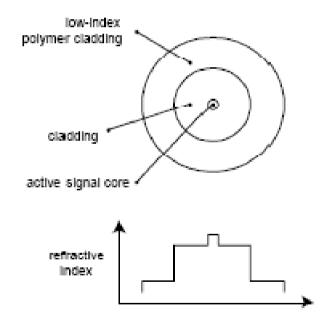


Fused can be extended to beyond 20 inputs Proximity needs high brightness pumps

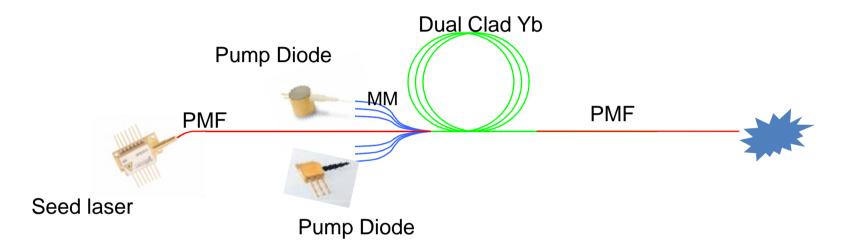
Pump power injection Coaxial dual cladding

Coaxial cladding 400um, NA=0.46: 150'000 modes





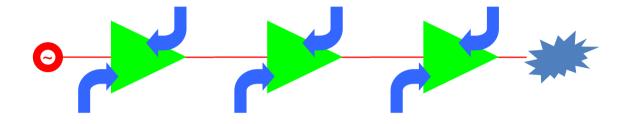
Fiber Laser: MOPA



- Seed laser
 - Fiber laser: Good spectral control
 - Need external modulators (Pockels Cell)
 Diode laser: Excellent dynamic control
 - FP laser have poor spectral control, of no concern
 - DFB have excellent spectral and dynamic control
- **Pumplaser**
 - High Brightness: Single emitter broad area 9xxnm MM diode

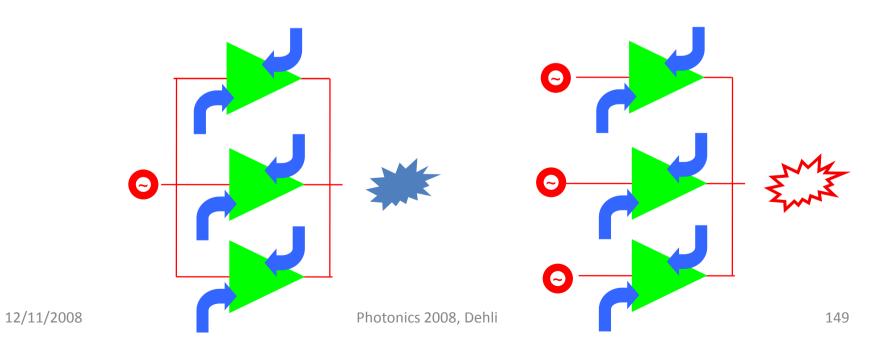
Scalability of Fiber Laser

Serial

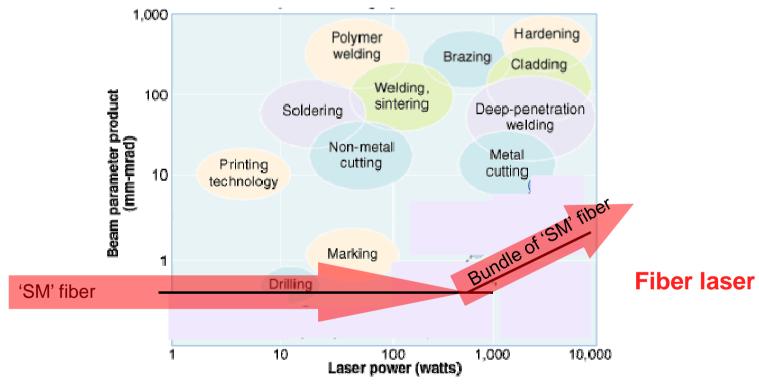


- Parallel
 - Coherent

Incoherent



Power Photonics: Fiber Laser Fiber Delivered Beam Machining Tool



Source: P. Logsen, Fraunhofer Inst., Fuer Lasertechnik, Aachen, Germany

- Solid State
 - Hermetically sealed Diodes coupled to Fibers
 - __ Fiber delivery
- Technology
 - Apply telecom technology to power photonics

9xxnm 120W Bar Performance



Electro-Optical

Power: 120W @ 140A

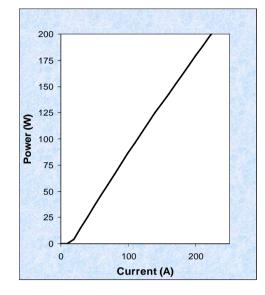
Threshold: 14A

- Slope Eff.: 1W/A

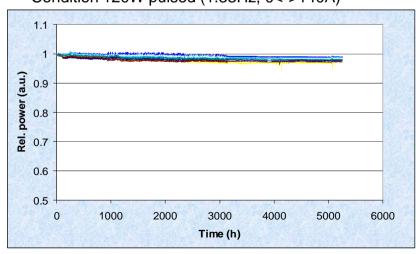
Reliability

- 5'200h at 120W lifetest data at 1.33Hz full on/off pulsed conditions available
- The extrapolated median lifetime is above 80'000hrs or 350 MShots, less than 1% fails after 120 MShots.
- No open fails

P-I curve at 25C up to 200W:



Condition 120W pulsed (1.33Hz, 0<->140A)



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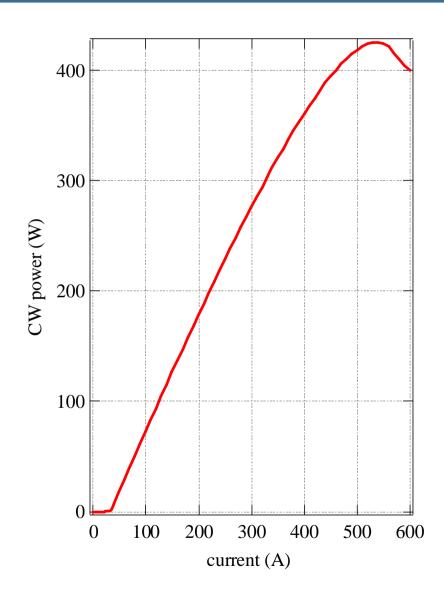
Bar with 425W CW at 980nm



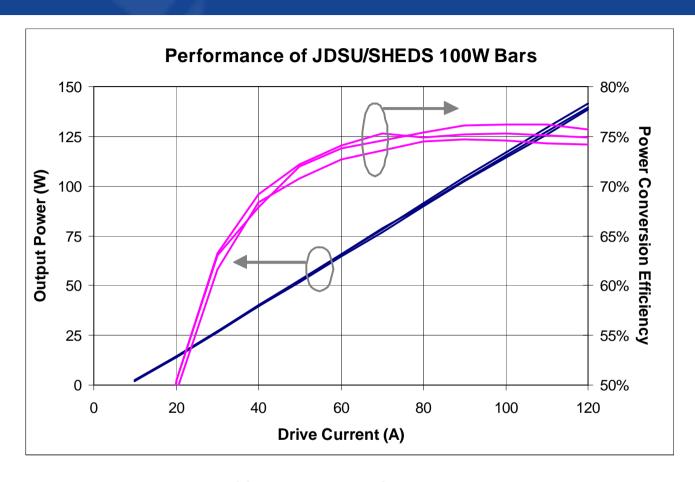




- On standard MCC
- 3.6mm long laser cavity



High-efficiency bars



 >75% wall plug efficiency from 120W 940nm bar (SHEDS design)







Results – Compare FF = 50% to FF = 33%

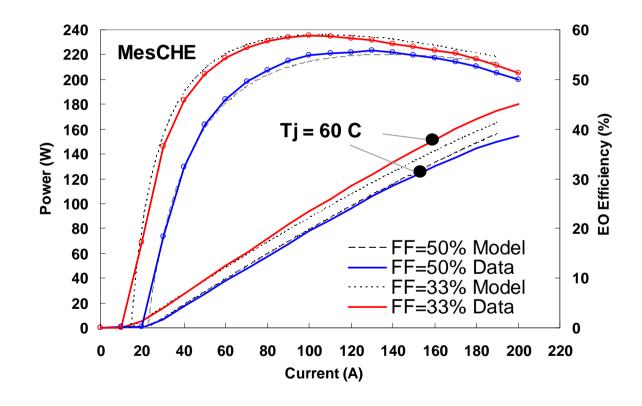
Mesochannel Compact Heat Exchanger (MesCHE)

 $R_{th} = 0.38 \text{ C/W}$

L = 3.5 mm

P = 127 W (FF=50%)

P = 151 W (FF=33%)



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Results – Compare FF = 50% to FF = 33%

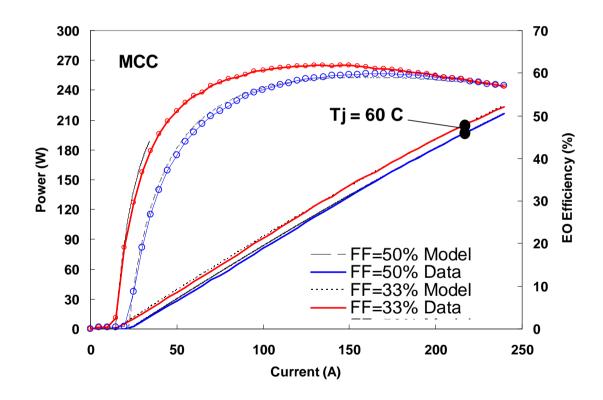
Microchannel Cooler (MCC)

 $R_{th} = 0.23 \text{ C/W}$

L = 3.5 mm

P = 200 W (FF=50%)

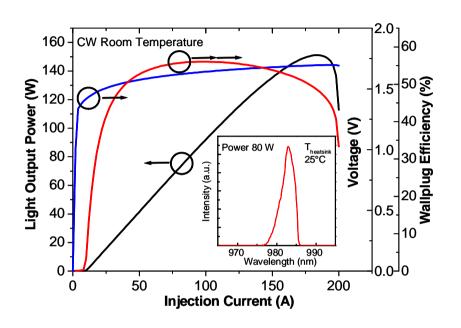
P = 207 W (FF=33%)

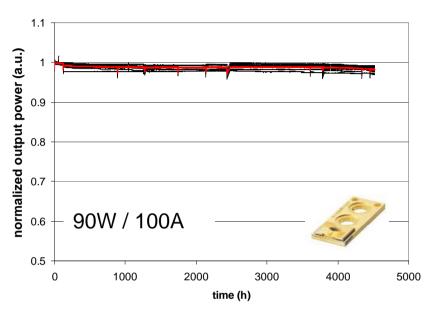


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Reducing Complexity: 9xx 1/3 size VHB Bar





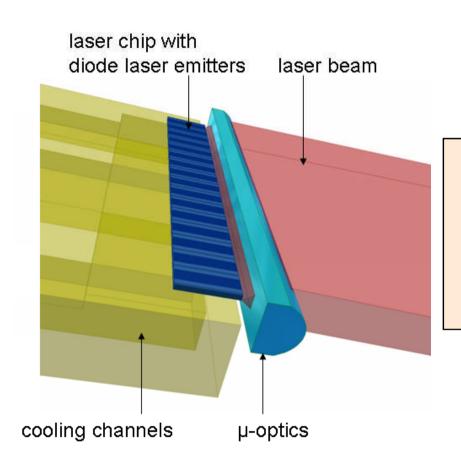


Reduced 1/3 size BAR on MCC

- Significant reduction on complexity of high power systems due to high total power from actively cooled MCC
- Maintain drive currents below 100A at increased brightness (bar size)
 - Efficiency >55%, smile 1um, lat. farfield 8° (90% power)
- Highly reliable operation (hard pulse 1.3 Hz, 50% duty cycle, full ON-OFF)
 - Power wear-out <1% / 1000h

intense

Challenges for the design of HPL: Bar Bonding – Low Smile and High Current Capability



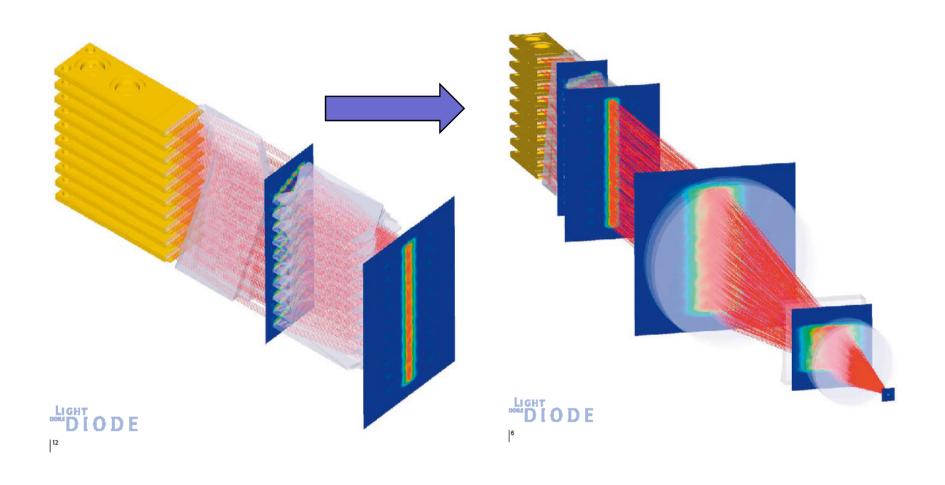
Subsystem design

- Submount material (expansion matched)
- Robust cooler design (avoid corrosion)
- Strain Stress (reduced at all interfaces)
- low Smile (hard solder, low smile)
- Passive optics design (efficient)
- Fiber diameter (low core, low NA)



intense

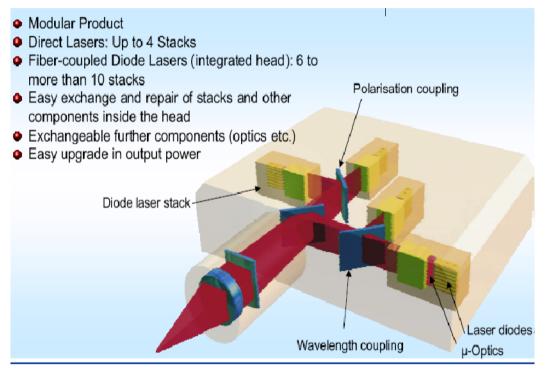
Bar multiplexing to achieve highest optical power densities for direct application







Wavelength division multiplexing



Laserline GmbH, Germany

High Power Single Mode Laser Diode
EDFA: Killer application: Done and dusted
used now for printing

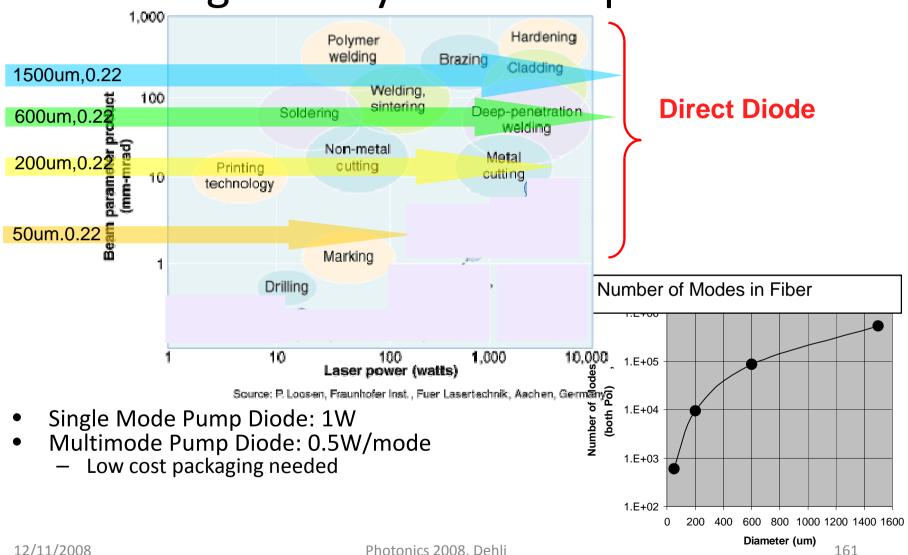
Direct Coupled Diodes:



Laserline GmbH. Germany

Practical limits to radiance?

9xxnm Multimode Pump Diodes: Machining directly with Pump Diodes



About the author



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Professional Summary

Dr. Christoph Harder has received the Electrical Engineering Diploma from the ETH in 1979, Zurich, Switzerland and the Master and PhD in Electrical Engineering in 1980 and 1983 from Caltech, Pasadena, USA. Christoph is co-founder of the IBM Zurich Laser Diode Enterprise which pioneered, among other laser diodes, the first 980nm high power pump laser for telecom optical amplifiers. It is estimated that today more than 50% of the internet links (including intercontinental communication) are powered up by such laser diodes, either manufactured in Zurich (majority) or by licensed partners.

Christoph has been managing during the last few years the high power laser diode R&D effort in Zurich expanding, working closely with a multitude of customers, the product range into 14xx pumps as well as 808 and 9xx multimode pumps for industrial applications. Dr. Harder has published more than 100 papers and 20 patents and has held a variety of staff and management positions at ETH, Caltech, IBM, Uniphase, JDS Uniphase, Nortel and Bookham.

Dr. Harder was General Chair of the International Semiconductor Laser Conference and the LEOS Annual Meeting, was on the board of IEEE/LEOS and has served on numerous technical program and steering committees. Today he is active on the board of OSA, BHL, President of Swisslaser.net and on the direction committee of NCCR QP.