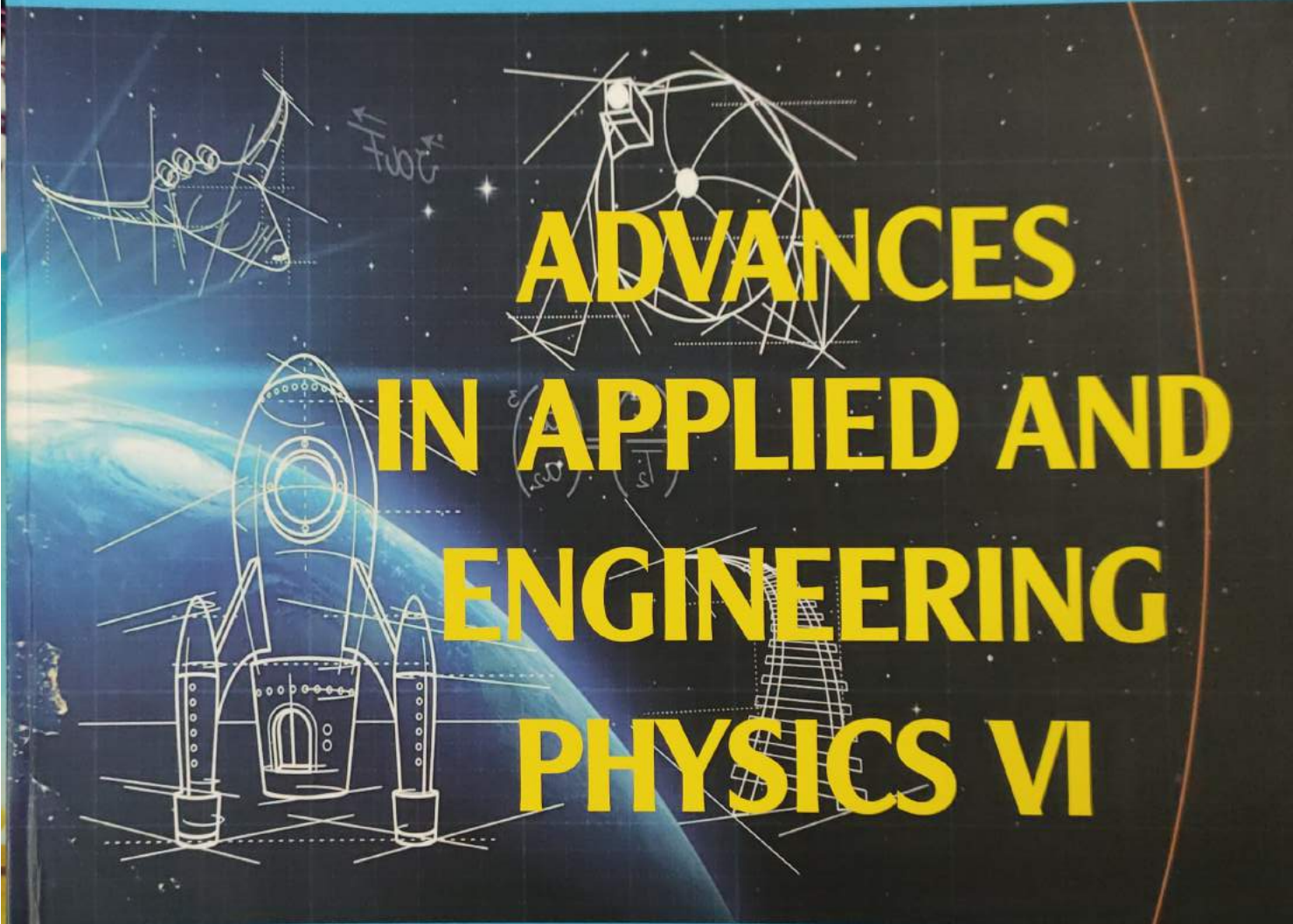


VIETNAM ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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**ADVANCES
IN APPLIED AND
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CONTENTS

5S HUMAN CENTRIC LIGHTING SYSTEM.....	6
<i>Duong Thi Giang, Nguyen Tien Duc, Pham Hoang Minh, Vu Dinh Lam, Pham Hong Duong</i>	
SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS OF ERBIUM AND TITANIA NANOPARTICLES CONCOCTION ON IMPROVED SELF-CLEANING AND SPECTRAL QUALITIES OF AMORPHOUS TELLURITE HOST.....	14
<i>S. K. Ghoshal, N. N. Yusof, R. Arifin</i>	
CO₃O₄ AND TiO₂ FILMS PREPARED BY MULTI-PLASMA JET SYSTEM WITH HOT HOLLOW CATHODE DISCHARGE.....	22
<i>Jiří Olejníček, Jiří Šmíd, Petra Kšírová, Zdeněk Hubička</i>	
ỨNG DỤNG LASER BÁN DẪN CÔNG SUẤT THẤP TRONG ĐIỀU TRỊ XƠ VỮA ĐỘNG MẠCH CẢNH TRONG Ở NGƯỜI ĐÁI THÁO ĐƯỜNG TYPE 2 BỊ LIỆT NỬA NGƯỜI SAU TAI BIẾN MẠCH MÁU NÃO.....	28
<i>Trần Minh Thái, Ngô Thị Thiên Hoa, Trần Thiên Hậu, Cấn Ngọc Minh, Trần Anh Tú</i>	
CHARACTERIZATION OF BIOCHAR MATERIALS MANUFACTURED FROM AGRICULTURAL WASTE BIOMASS FOR DIRECT CARBON FUEL CELL (DCFC)....	36
<i>Thin Thin Kyu, Yin Maung Maung, Than Than Win, Khin Khin Win</i>	
ULTRASOUND-ASSISTED PREPARATION OF ACTIVATED CARBON FROM SUGARCANE BAGASSE USED FOR REMOVAL OF Pb(II) FROM WATER.....	42
<i>Nguyen Dinh Vinh, Bui Minh Quy, Nguyen Thi Ngoc Linh, Nguyen Thi Hong Hoa, Luu Tuan Duong</i>	
NÂNG CAO ĐẶC TÍNH CƠ LÝ CỦA ĐÁT ĐỂ LÀM ĐƯỜNG GIAO THÔNG VÀ CHẾ TẠO GẠCH KHÔNG NUNG SỬ DỤNG PHỤ GIA ỔN ĐỊNH ĐÁT DHD-101.....	49
<i>Bùi Thị Thu Phương, Đoàn Bá Tuấn, Nguyễn Thế Hùng</i>	
KẾT QUẢ NGHIÊN CỨU BƯỚC ĐẦU SỬ DỤNG TỪ TRƯỜNG CƯỜNG ĐỘ CAO TRONG PHƯƠNG PHÁP GIÂM RỄ VÀ CHIẾT CÀNH CÂY HỒNG ẮN QUẢ ĐẶC SẢN KHÔNG HẠT GIA THANH.....	54
<i>Trịnh Đình Trung, Trịnh Ngọc Diệu; Hoàng Thị Huyền Trang, Nguyễn Khắc Hưng, Phạm Bích Ngọc, Nguyễn Thị Xuyên</i>	
THE STRUCTURAL TRANSITION UNDER COMPRESSION AND STRUCTURAL HETEROGENEITY FOR LIQUID SiO₂ SYSTEM.....	62
<i>P.H. Kien, D.T. Thanh, P.M. An, N.T.M. Thuy, M.N. Duc, L.T.H. Gam</i>	
DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF LED BLACKBOARD WASHING LUMINAIRE COMBINED WITH LINEAR FREEFORM LENS.....	68
<i>Duong Thi Giang, Tran Quoc Tien, Pham Hong Duong</i>	
THIẾT KẾ, CHẾ TẠO THIẾT BỊ LED ĐIỀU TRỊ VÀNG DA Ở TRẺ SƠ SINH.....	74
<i>Kiều Ngọc Minh, Tống Quang Công, Trần Quốc Tiến, Nguyễn Đức Thịnh, Nguyễn Thanh Phương</i>	
USING CROSS-POLARIZATION SCHEME MICROSCOPE FOR OBSERVATION OF BACTERIA BY PHOTOLUMINESCENCE IMAGE.....	80
<i>Nguyen Nang Dinh, Nguyen Thi Dung, Nguyen Phuong Hoai Nam, Nguyen Duc Cuong, Nguyen Dinh Lam, Truong Thi Ngoc Lien</i>	

SIMULATION DESIGN OF A MICRO-HEATER FOR APPLICATION IN INTEGRATED MICROSYSTEMS..... 86

Nguyen Tai Tuan, Truong Cao Dung, Chu Manh Hoang

NGHIÊN CỨU ẢNH HƯỞNG CỦA TRẠNG THÁI MẪU, NHIỆT ĐỘ VÀ THỜI GIAN THẤM NITƠ THỂ LỎNG ĐẾN TỔ CHỨC VÀ CƠ TÍNH CỦA THÉP KHÔNG GỈ AISI 420..... 91

Nguyễn Văn Thành, Trịnh Văn Trung, Nguyễn Anh Sơn, Phạm Hồng Tuấn, Nguyễn Thành Hợp, Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Linh

MODIFICATION AND NANOSTRUCTURAL CHARACTERIZATION OF MYANMAR COAL..... ..99

Min Maung Maung, Thein Tun Linn, Aung Min

STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLYING THE ADVANCED 2D MULTI-ELECTRODE ELECTRICAL EXPLORATION METHOD TO FIND GROUNDWATER IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE, LAOS..... 105

Vienthong Xayavong, Vu Duc Minh, Do Anh Chung, Sonexay Xayheuangsy, Thiengsamone Sounsuaudio

ỨNG DỤNG LASER BÁN DẪN CÔNG SUẤT THẤP TRONG ĐIỀU TRỊ BỆNH MÁU NHIỄM MỠ.....112

Trần Minh Thái, Ngô Thị Thiên Hoa, Trần Thiên Hậu, Lê Trọng Đại, Cẩm Ngọc Minh, Trần Anh Tú

BIOMODULATION OF CELLS IN CULTURE BY OPTICAL RADIATION WITH DIFFERENT WAVELENGTHS119

A. V. Mikulich, Tran Quoc Tien, Quang Cong Tong, Thanh Phuong Nguyen, L. G. Plavskaya, T. S. Ananich, A. I. Tretyakova, I. A. Leusenko, O. N. Dudinova, H. I. Staravoit, V. Yu. Plavskii

RESEARCH INTO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CARDIAC RESPONSES AND NEURAL ACTIVITY TO IMPROVE CLASSIFICATION OF EEG-BASED IMAGINARY ACTION.....124

Nguyen Tran Duc Minh, Pham Quoc Cuong, Le Quoc Khai, Huynh Quang Linh

NGHIÊN CỨU, CHẾ TẠO HỆ CÁN TAY ROBOT ĐIỀU KHIỂN CHIẾU TIA PLASMA JET ĐIỀU TRỊ TRONG Y TẾ.....129

Nguyễn Văn Khá, Đỗ Hoàng Tùng, Nguyễn Ngọc Anh, Lê Hồng Mạnh, Nguyễn Thị Khánh Vân, Nguyễn Công Thành

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WOUND TREATMENT DEVICE BASED ON NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY TECHNIQUE AND LASER THERAPY...135

Pham Trung Kien, Nguyen Tuan Anh, Nguyen Minh Tan, Chu Thi Minh Hoa

CHẾ TẠO MÀNG GIẢM PHẢN XẠ DẢI RỘNG TRÊN ĐÉ GECMANI CHO VÙNG HỒNG NGOẠI..... 141

Phạm Hồng Tuấn, Nguyễn Thành Hợp, Nguyễn Thị Thanh Lan, Nguyễn Văn Thành

THE STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND DYNAMICAL PROPERTIES IN NETWORK FORMING LIQUID..... 146

Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha, Nguyen Thu Nhan

COMPUTER SIMULATION OF ALUMINUM-SILICATE: STRUCTURAL AND DYNAMICAL HETEROGENEITIES.....	152
<i>Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha, Pham Khac Hung</i>	
DOMAIN STRUCTURE AND OXYGEN POCKETS IN SILICA LIQUID UNDER PRESSURE.....	159
<i>Nguyen Thu Nhan, Pham Khac Hung</i>	
SIMULATION OF NETWORK STRUCTURE AND POLYAMORPHISM OF CALCIUM TITANATE.....	167
<i>Nguyen Thu Nhan, Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha, Tong Thi Xuan</i>	
NGHIÊN CỨU TẠO RA CHIẾT SUẤT ÂM TRONG CẤU TRÚC CẤP ĐĨA SỬ DỤNG CỘNG HƯỞNG TỬ BẬC CAO DỰA TRÊN CƠ SỞ SIÊU VẬT LIỆU.....	175
<i>Nguyễn Thị Hiền, Nguyễn Xuân Ca, Vũ Đình Lãm</i>	
COLLOIDAL Cu-DOPED Cd_{0.4}Zn_{0.6}S NANOCRYSTALS: Cu DOPING AND BLUE SHIFT OF ABSORPTION AND LUMINESCENCE SPECTRA OF HOST LATTICE.....	181
<i>Nguyen Dieu Linh, Hoang Thi Lan Huong, Nguyen Thi Thuy Lieu, Le Ba Hai, Nguyen Xuan Nghia</i>	
ANALYSIS OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS AND HETEROGENEOUS DYNAMICS IN SUPERCOOLED LIQUID AND AMORPHOUS Fe.....	187
<i>Pham Mai An, Pham Huu Kien</i>	
INVESTIGATION ON LUMINESCENCE QUENCHING OF Sm³⁺ IONS DOPED KYF₄ POLYCRYSTALLINE USING DEXTER MODEL.....	193
<i>Phan Van Do, Pham Thi Xuan, Do Lam Duan, Nguyen Dang Tam, Nguyen Xuan Ca, Luong Duy Thanh, Vu Phi Tuyen</i>	
STUDY ON ENERGY TRANSFER PROPERTIES OF Gd – Tb ION PAIRS IN K₂GdF₅: Tb FOR USE IN NEUTRON DOSIMETRY.....	199
<i>Doan Phan Thao Tien, Tran Thi Thanh Lam, Tran Dinh Hung, Nguyen Thi Minh Nguyet, Ha Xuan Vinh</i>	
INTERCOMPARISON OF GAMMA SCATTERING AND GAMMA TRANSMISSION METHODS IN DETERMINING THE EFFECTIVE ATOMIC NUMBER OF SOME COMPOSITE MATERIALS.....	205
<i>Trinh Thi Ai Lam, Phan Ngoc Linh, Hoang Duc Tam</i>	
IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE POLLUTION SOURCES BY MULTIVARIATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS.....	211
<i>Nguyen Ngoc Mai, Le Hong Khiem</i>	
LARGE ADSORPTION CAPACITY OF URANIUM FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTION BY REDUCED GRAPHENE OXIDE – POROUS POLYANILINE COMPOSITE.....	217
<i>Tran Quang Dat, Nguyen Tran Ha, Nguyen Vu Tung, Pham Van Thin</i>	
XÂY DỰNG KÍNH HIỂN VI HUỖNH QUANG SIÊU PHÂN GIẢI DỰA TRÊN KỸ THUẬT ĐỊNH VỊ ĐƠN HẠT VÀ PHÁT QUANG NGẪU NHIÊN RỜI RẠC.....	225
<i>Nguyễn Trọng Nghĩa, Nghiêm Thị Hà Liên, Nguyễn Đình Hoàng, Vũ Văn Sơn, Trần Hồng Nhung</i>	

ỨNG DỤNG HIỆU ỨNG PIN NHIỆT-ĐIỆN PELTIER ỔN ĐỊNH CÔNG SUẤT LASER YAG:ND BƠM BẰNG MA TRẬN LASER BÁN DẪN PHÁT XUNG CÔNG SUẤT LỚN, TẦN LẬP CAO..... 230
Nguyễn Văn Thương, Vũ Quốc Thủy

MỞ RỘNG DẢI ĐIỀU CHỈNH BƯỚC SÓNG LASER SỬ DỤNG CẤU HÌNH PHẢN XẠ BRAGG BẬC HAI.....239
Đỗ Quang Hòa, Trần Thị Chung Thủy, Vũ Dương, Nghiêm Thị Hà Liên, Nguyễn Thị Mỹ An

DESIGN AND FABRICATION OF HIGH POWER LED FISHING LAMP COMBINED WITH ASYMMETRIC LENS.....245
Duong Thi Giang, Tran Quoc Tien, Le Anh Tu, Pham Hong Duong

CAVITY RING-DOWN SPECTROSCOPY OF THE ¹⁴NH₂ ISOTOPOMER RADICAL...251
Phung Viet Tiep, Pham Hong Minh, Buganov O. A., Nguyen Van Phu, Thomas Pino, Stephane Douin

DETERMINATION OF ELECTRON AND GAS TEMPERATURE OF A NON-EQUILIBRIUM PLASMA JET BY OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY.....257
Dao Nguyen Thuan, Nguyen Nhat Linh, Le Thi Quynh Xuan

ẢNH HƯỞNG CỦA MẬT ĐỘ DÒNG ĐIỆN LÊN CẤU TRÚC VÀ HIỆU SUẤT CỦA LỚP PHỦ PEO TRÊN HỢP KIM AI 6061.....263
Quang Phu Tran, Van Da Dao, Van Hoi Pham, Tsung Shune Chin, The Tan Pham

ẢNH HƯỞNG CỦA THAM SỐ CẤU TRÚC ĐẾN SỰ TẠO VÙNG CHIẾT SUẤT ÂM TỪ CỘNG HƯỞNG TỬ BẬC CAO TRONG CẤU TRÚC CẤP Đĩa DỰA TRÊN SIÊU VẬT LIỆU.....270
Nguyễn Thị Hiền, Nguyễn Xuân Ca, Vũ Đình Lãm

MICRO-HOLES ARRAY AS A CHEMOSENSOR AND BIOSENSOR.....277
Nguyen Thi Huyen Trang, Kudryashov Sergey Ivanovich, Pham Van Duong, Pham Hong Minh

ANALYSIS EFFECTIVE MODE AREA OF SOLID-CORE PCFS WITH HEXAGONAL LATTICE INFILTRATED WITH METHANOL FOR OPTICAL FIBER TECHNOLOGY.....283
Lanh Chu Van, Linh Dang Thuy, Trang Nguyen Thi, Vu Tran Quoc, Trang Chu Thi Gia, Thua Nguyen Thi, Thuy Nguyen Thi, Khoa Dinh Xuan

DISPERSIONS OF SOLID-CORE SILICA PCFS INFILTRATED WITH WATER AND ETHANOL FOR SUPERCONTINUUM GENERATION.....288
Lanh Chu Van, Vu Nguyen Quang, My Linh Nguyen Thi, Vu Tran Quoc, Trang Chu Thi Gia, Huyen Dinh Thi, Thuy Nguyen Thi, Khoa Dinh Xuan

ỨNG DỤNG LASER BÁN DẪN CÔNG SUẤT THẤP TRONG ĐIỀU TRỊ PHỤC HỒI CHỨC NĂNG DO BẠI NÃO Ở TRẺ EM GÂY NÊN..... 293
Trần Minh Thái, Tạ Thị Lan Hương, Ngô Thị Thiên Hoa, Trần Thiên Hậu, Quách Kim Cường, Trần Anh Tú

3D RECONSTRUCTION OF ABSORBING STRUCTURE IN BIOLOGICAL TISSUE FROM SINGLE 2D NEAR INFRARED TRANSILLUMINATION IMAGE - BLOOD VESSEL PHANTOM STUDY.....298

Ngoc An Dang Nguyen, Minh Quang Nguyen, To Ni Phan Van, Hoang Nhut Huynh, Anh Tu Tran, Phuong Anh Bui, Trung An Dang Nguyen, Van Chinh Nguyen, Koichi Shimizu, Trung Nghia Tran

MỘT PHƯƠNG PHÁP BÁN THỰC NGHIỆM ĐỂ TÍNH TOÁN HIỆU SUẤT ĐỈNH CỦA ĐẦU DÒ NAI(TL) C HO PHÉP ĐO NGUỒN ĐIỂM NẪM TRÊN TRỤC ĐỐI XỨNG CỦA ĐẦU DÒ.....304

Huỳnh Đình Chương, Lê Thị Ngọc Trang, Trần Thiện Thanh

XÁC ĐỊNH ĐẶC TRƯNG VẬT LÝ LỚP SON KHÍ TRƯỜNG GẦN BẰNG KỸ THUẬT CHỤP ẢNH LIDAR.....310

B. V. Hải, D. V. Trung, P. D. Bằng, T. N. Hưng, N. T. T. Bảo, P. M. Tiến, N. T. Điện, L. T. Sơn, N. V. Thiệu, T. V. Sửu, B. H. Thái, H. V. Thanh

ĐÁNH GIÁ HIỆU ỨNG TRỪNG PHÙNG BẰNG CHƯƠNG TRÌNH ETNA VÀ MÔ PHỎNG MCNP-CP.....314

Lê Quang Vương, Phan Long Hồ, Lê Công Hào, Trần Thiện Thanh, Châu Văn Tạo

DESIGN OF AN ULTRA-WIDEBAND MICROWAVE ABSORBER BASED ON MAGNETIC SHEETS AND THIN SRR.....321

Nguyen Tran Ha, Tran Quang Dat, Nguyen Vu Tung, Pham Van Thin

MỘT PHƯƠNG PHÁP TIẾP CẬN MỚI ĐỂ TÍNH TOÁN TỈ SỐ RAYLEIGH-COMPTON CHO CÁC VẬT LIỆU CÓ $6 \leq Z \leq 82$327

Lê Hoàng Minh, Văn Tấn Phát, Châu Thành Tài, Huỳnh Đình Chương, Trần Thiện Thanh, Châu Văn Tạo

HIỆU CHỈNH HIỆU ỨNG MATRIX TRONG PHÂN TÍCH HUỖNH QUANG TIA X BẰNG PHƯƠNG PHÁP CLAISSE-QUINTIN..... 334

Nguyễn Thị Trúc Linh, Nguyễn Duy Hân

ĐÁNH GIÁ LIỀU HIỆU DỤNG TẬP THỂ DO PHOI CHIẾU BỨC XẠ TỰ NHIÊN TĂNG CƯỜNG TRONG TRO BAY VỚI MÔ HÌNH KHU DÂN CƯ XUNG QUANH NHÀ MÁY NHIỆT ĐIỆN THAN Ở VIỆT NAM.....339

Trương Thị Hồng Loan, Vũ Ngọc Ba, Lê Đỗ Lộc, Nguyễn Quang Đạo, Trương Thị Xuân Trường, Lê Xuân Thuyên, Trần Văn Luyến

THIẾT KẾ HỆ THỐNG KÍNH NGẮM QUANG ĐIỆN TỬ KIỂU TIỀM VỌNG.....345

Nguyễn Quang Minh, Nguyễn Văn Bình, Nguyễn Đình Văn, Tạ Văn Tuấn, Nguyễn Anh Tuấn

DISPERSIONS OF SOLID-CORE SILICA PCFS INFILTRATED WITH WATER AND ETHANOL FOR SUPERCONTINUUM GENERATION

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Abstract. In this paper, we compare solid-core silica photonic crystal fibers (PCFs) infiltrated with water and ethanol. We examine the dispersion curves and values as well as the zero-dispersion wavelengths (ZDWs) of the PCFs which have a hexagonal cladding. Our results suggest that the PCFs can be optimized for supercontinuum generation (SG) applications.

Keywords: *Photonic crystal fibers, dispersion, nonlinear optics, supercontinuum generation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Photonic crystal fibers (PCFs), also known as microstructured optical fibers (MOFs), are new generation of optical waveguides that were discovered by J. C. Knight and his colleagues in 1996 [1]. In a solid-core PCF, the central silica core is surrounded by a periodic array of air holes along the distance of optical propagation. When light passes through the PCF, the presence of air holes in the cladding region eventually reduces the effective refractive index compared when light passes through the core silica that has total internal reflection [2].

Some of the important aspects of PCFs include effective refractive index, effective mode area, dispersion, and loss [3]. Investigations on these characteristic quantities lead to the development of PCFs' fiber optic technology applications [4]. These quantities can be controlled by the PCF structure such as the substrate material, lattice shape, air hole shape and diameter, air hole distance (lattice constant), and liquid or gas infiltration [5-7]. In addition, the optical waveguiding mechanisms are completely different when the PCF core is solid or hollow [8]. Among the important aspects of PCFs, dispersion attracts much attention from scientists because it dominates many applications in fiber optic technology. Some of these applications are the development of solid-state photonic crystal fibers for nonlinear optics [9], supercontinuum generation [10], fast dynamic compensation [11].

In this paper, we used the Lumerical Mode Solutions software [12] to design a solid-core silica PCF infiltrated with water and ethanol for supercontinuum generation (SG) applications. We choose water and ethanol because these are common, non-toxic liquids. We compare their dispersion curves and zero-dispersion wavelengths and have found that the structure of the PCFs with these liquids can be optimized for their desired fiber optic technology applications.

II. MODELING AND THEORY

Fig. 1 shows the schematic illustration of the solid-core silica PCF infiltrated with water and ethanol. The PCF has 8 rings of concentric air holes which are arranged in a hexagonal lattice. The air hole diameters (d) is varied from 1 to 4 μm with 0.5 μm intervals, and the lattice constant (Λ) is set as 5 μm .

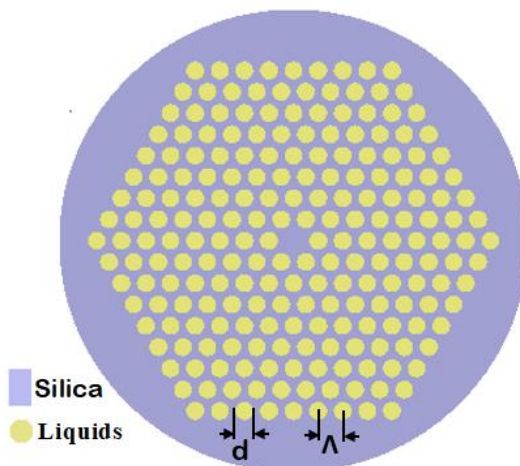


Fig. 1. Schematic illustration of the solid-core silica PCF infiltrated with water and ethanol

For our calculations using the Lumerical Mode Solutions software [12], we used the refractive indices of the PCF components. Fig. 2 shows the real parts of refractive indices of silica [13], water [14], and ethanol [14] from 0.5 to 2.0 μm .

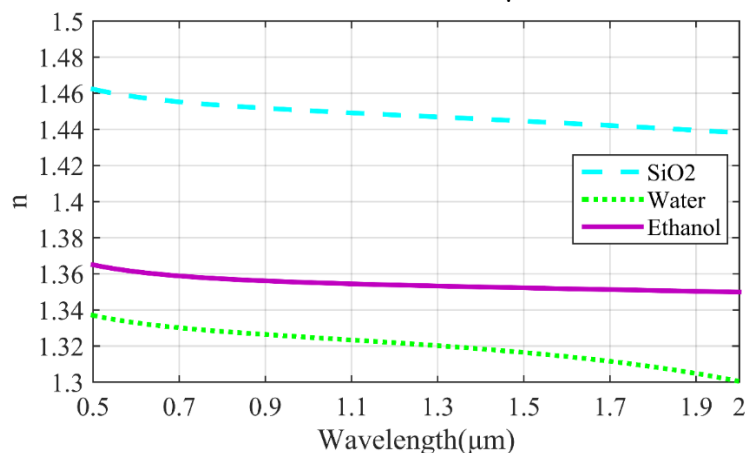


Fig. 2. Real parts of the refractive indices of silica[13], water, ethanol [14] from 0.5 to 2.0 μm

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 3 shows the calculated dispersion curves of the solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated with water and ethanol for different air hole diameters. The lattice constant of the two PCFs are the same ($\Lambda = 5 \mu\text{m}$), and their air hole diameters (d) range from 1.0 to 4.0 μm .

For both water and ethanol infiltration, the behavior of the dispersion curves of the solid-core silica PCFs is similar. From 0.5 to 0.9 μm , the dispersion curves are very steep, and their slopes are very large. On the other hand, from 0.9 to 1.6 μm , the dispersion curves are almost flat and their slopes are close to zero. The dispersion also increases with increasing air hole diameter. In all cases, the flattest dispersion curve, which indicates near-

zero dispersion, occurs when the air hole diameter is 1.0 μm . This result is similar to those observed in Refs. [15–17] and suggest that such PCFs are suitable for SG [18].

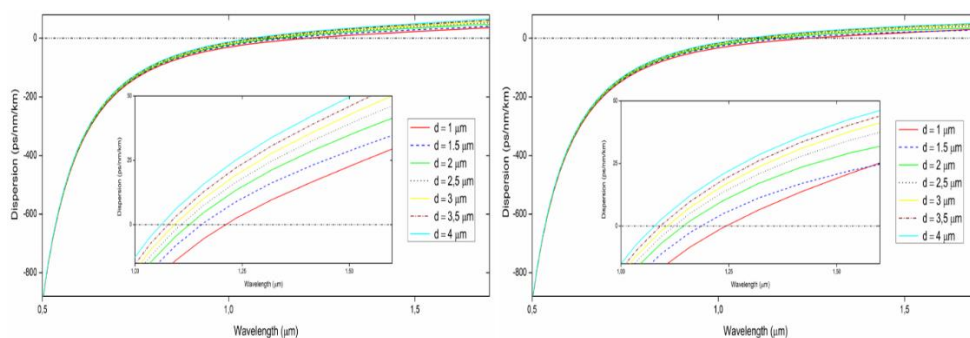


Fig. 3. Dispersion curves of solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated with water (left) and ethanol (right) for different air hole diameters

We then compare the effect of water and ethanol on the dispersion of the solid-core silica PCFs. It can be seen in Fig. 1 that the dispersion of the PCF infiltrated with water is higher than that of the PCF infiltrated with ethanol. This observation is always true for different wavelengths and air hole diameters. Table 1 shows the dispersions of both PCFs at 1.55 μm (near-infrared, NIR). When the air hole diameter is 1.0 μm , the dispersions of the PCFs infiltrated with ethanol and water are 22.2 and 26.0 (ps/nm/km), respectively. The difference between these dispersions is the lowest and is equal to 3.8 (ps/nm/km). In contrast, when the air hole diameter is 4.0 μm , the dispersions of the PCFs infiltrated with ethanol and water are 43.7 and 53.7 (ps/nm/km), respectively. The difference between these dispersions is the highest and is equal to 10 (ps/nm/km).

Table 1. Dispersion at 1.55 μm of solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated with water and ethanol for different air hole diameters

Air hole diameter, d (μm)	Dispersion, D [$\text{ps} \cdot (\text{nm} \cdot \text{km})^{-1}$]	
	Water	Ethanol
1.0	26.0	22.2
1.5	31.7	22.8
2.0	38.2	30.0
2.5	42.7	35.2
3.0	46.4	38.8
3.5	49.9	41.4
4.0	53.7	43.7

Since the solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated with water and ethanol exhibit zero-dispersion wavelengths (ZDWs), Table 2 shows these values which are all within the NIR region. For the same air hole diameter, the PCF infiltrated with ethanol has a longer ZDW than the PCF infiltrated with water. When the air hole diameter is 1.0 μm , the longest ZDWs of the PCFs infiltrated with ethanol and water are 1.235 and 1.212 μm , respectively. The

difference between the ZDWs between the two liquids is high with 23 nm. On the other hand, when the air hole diameter is 4.0 μm , the longest ZDWs of the PCFs infiltrated with ethanol and water are 1.066 and 1.075 μm , respectively. The difference between the ZDWs between the two liquids is lower and is equal to 9 nm.

Table 2. Zero-dispersion wavelengths (ZDWs) of solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated with water and ethanol for different air hole diameters

Air hole diameter, d (μm)	Zero-dispersion wavelength, ZDW (μm)	
	Water	Ethanol
1.0	1.212	1.235
1.5	1.155	1.196
2.0	1.127	1.136
2.5	1.108	1.127
3.0	1.092	1.096
3.5	1.123	1.073
4.0	1.075	1.066

For these results, the optimum dispersion for solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated water and ethanol can be achieved when the air hole diameter is 1.0 μm . Interestingly, our results are better than those reported in Ref. [19].

IV. CONCLUSION

We have compared the dispersion of solid-core silica PCFs infiltrated with water and ethanol. We have shown that the PCF infiltrated with ethanol with an air hole diameter of 1.0 μm can exhibit optimum dispersion. Our results are very important in fiber optic technology development, particularly for SG applications.

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