Titanium dioxide for nanophotonics

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 $\lambda = 633$ nm

500 µm

Silica nanowires



Silica nanowires



Silica nanowires

aerogel

Fibers are hard to maneuver!

420 nm

420 nm

Nanoletters, 5, 259 (2005)

Photonic Integrated Circuits



Diamond



Chalcogenide Glass



Silicon

M. Loncar et. al. *Nano Letters* (2012) L. Kimerling et. al. *Optics Letters* (2008) M. Lipson et. al. *Nature Photonics* (2009)

Material

What are we looking for in a material?

Convenience

Inexpensive

Non-toxic

Abundant

Technical

Large linear index n_0

Large nonlinear index n_2

Transparency at wavelengths of interest

Operation wavelength

telecommunication 1550 nm



Operation wavelength

I

Blue Gene/P

...to the interconnect band at 850 nm across the telecom octave





Anatase





Brookite

Rutile

Wikipedia.org, "Titanium dioxide"

Large refractive index 2.4

Large nonlinear index

9.7x10⁻¹⁹ m²/W (40 x silica)

Large transparency

Absorption edge: 400 nm Low two-photon absorption: > 800 nm













Titanium dioxide for nanophotonics

Fabrication Linear photonics Nonlinear optics

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Fabrication

Linear photonics Nonlinear optics







Thin films



Thin film characterization

Deposition temperature: 20°C



Deposition temperature: 350°C



Thin film characterization

Deposition temperature: 20°C



RMS Roughness: 0.4 nm

Deposition temperature: 350°C



RMS Roughness: 2.7 nm

Raman spectroscopy



Ellipsometry





Top-down view





Top-down view

Cross-sectional view at 45°





TiO₂

Cross-sectional view at 45°



Titanium dioxide for nanophotonics

Fabrication

Linear photonics

Nonlinear optics













 $\begin{array}{l} \lambda = 633 nm \\ \text{Amorphous} \\ \text{Anatase} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} 25 \text{ dB/cm} \\ 50 \text{ dB/cm} \end{array}$

500 µm

 $\lambda = 780$ nm

Amorphous 10 dB/cm



Anatase 20 dB/cm



 $\lambda = 1550$ nm

Amorphous < 4 dB/cm



Micro-scale bends



Racetrack ring resonator



Optics Letters, 37, 539 (2012)



Optics Letters, 37, 539 (2012)

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Pulse broadens spectrally

Spectral broadening



Spectral broadening



Spectral Broadening



Spectral Broadening





Extracted nonlinear parameters

Kerr index		
λ	n ₂	equiv.
1565 nm	0.16 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ m²/W	5 x silica
794 nm	1.6 × 10 ⁻¹⁸ m ² /W	50 x silica



Extracted nonlinear parameters

Raman gain coefficient $6.6 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m/W}$ | 130 x silica

Green light generation

1565 nm

Manuscript in preparation

All-optical switching





All-optical switching





Future work

Raman gain

All-optical switch

Wavelength conversion

Summary

• Titanium dioxide is a cheap, abundant, non-toxic material with attractive properties.

• Promising platform for visible photonics.

• Nonlinear optics (spectral broadening, third harmonic generation) in the visible regime.



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Thank you

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