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Fiber-tip Spintronic Terahertz Emitters





Is it possible to realize Fiber-tip Spintronic Terahertz Emitters?

And if, what are possible applications?

The fabrication consists of four processes: gluing, polishing, cleaning, and sputtering.









Many different fiber-tip-STE designs are possible.



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ofer ITWM https://www.thorlabs.com/search/thorsearch.cfm?search=ferrules

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The fiber is inserted into the ferrule and fixated using high-speed UV glue.



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The end facets are polished via a sequence of polishing steps.



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The SEM images reveal an excellent surface quality.







Extensive cleaning is essential.

Surface quality of first fiber-tip STEs



microscopy image

Extensive cleaning procedure and quality control

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Surface quality of current fiber-tip STEs



SEM image

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A tri-layer STE is sputtered onto the fiber tips.



















fully fiber-coupled

 seamless integration into any existing laboratory setup

 exchangeable within a minute

 rotatable external magnet

The fiber-tip STEs exhibit the same performance as conventional free-space STEs.



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What are possible applications?

Single-mode fiber-tip STEs naturally lead to a simple terahertz near-field imaging system.



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A 90%-10% knife-edge resolution of 30 µm is achieved using single-mode fiber-tip STEs.



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Two metal strips with a width of 77.5 μ m and a spacing of 122.5 μ m are clearly resolved with the single-mode fiber-tip STEs.



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A proof-of-concept layer thickness determination has been shown.



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A proof-of-concept layer thickness determination has been shown.



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Fiber-tip-STE based endoscopic measurements could become a reality at one point in time.



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Magnetic-bias-free fiber-tip STEs are possible.



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P. Koleják, et al.; "360° Polarization Control of Terahertz Spintronic Emitters Using Uniaxial FeCo/TbCo2/FeCo Trilayers"; ACS Photonics (2022)









Magnetic-bias-free fiber-tip STEs are possible.



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Optical damage threshold is a limiting factor.

before experiment



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after experiment

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This type of optical damage has already been mentioned in several publications.

U. Nandi, et al. Appl. Phys. Lett. (2019)

Antenna-coupled spintronic terahertz emitters driven by a 1550 nm femtosecond laser oscillator ©

Cite as: Appl. Phys. Lett. **115**, 022405 (2019); https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5089421 Submitted: 18 January 2019 . Accepted: 15 June 2019 . Published Online: 09 July 2019

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free-space port. By increasing the laser power, the THz amplitude initially increased monotonically and eventually saturated at about 100 mW (Fig. 3). Upon further increase in the laser power, an irreversible drop of the THz amplitude was observed (Fig. 3). Microscopy inspection revealed a slight change in color (although the metal film was still intact), indicating damage to the structure. This effect may result from thermally driven diffusion of atoms between the metallic layers. We note that the SiO_x layer currently impedes heat transfer to the thermally well conducting Si substrate, which can be mitigated by omitting this layer or just reducing its thickness. We emphasize, how-



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Average power scaling of THz spintronic emitters efficiently cooled in reflection geometry

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with average power indicating other limiting mechanisms are in place, too. Beyond that point, the saturation behavior also depends on the repetition rate: in the case of highest repetition rate (400 kHz), a strong drop in the obtained power is visible, illustrating the onset of strong thermal effects which ultimately degrade the metallic structure [43]. For decreasing repetition rates, this







Infrared-transmittance and THz-amplitude measurements indicate a heat-based problem.

IR transmittance



THz amplitude



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Outlook: Physics is the limit!



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"Fiber-tip spintronic terahertz emitters" F. Paries, et al. (2023)

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