



Inorganic–Organic Photorefractive Hybrids

Photorefractive Organic Materials and Applications pp 223-247 | Cite as

- Dean R. Evans (1)
- Gary Cook (1)
- Victor Yu. Reshetnyak (2)
- Carl M. Liebig (1)
- Sergey A. Basun (1) (3)
- Partha P. Banerjee (4)

1. Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, , Dayton, USA
2. Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, , Kyiv, Ukraine
3. Azimuth Corporation, , Dayton, USA
4. Electro-Optics Program, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Dayton, , Dayton, USA

Chapter

First Online: 11 June 2016

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Part of the [Springer Series in Materials Science](#) book series (SSMATERIALS, volume 240)

Abstract

Organic hybrids, comprising polymers and liquid crystals, have been explored for photorefractive beam coupling and diffractive applications for almost two decades. The work presented in this chapter explores an alternative approach of using inorganic–organic hybrids, comprising space-charge field generating inorganic crystals as windows for liquid crystal cells. The primary advantages of the inorganic–organic hybrid approach, such as the ability to produce high-resolution gratings, are discussed. Experiments conducted to gain a fundamental understanding of the physical mechanisms leading to beam coupling with this technology are described in detail, as well as methods used to increase the gain coefficient of the devices; these methods include increasing the contribution from the flexoelectric effect and the incorporation of ferroelectric nanoparticles. A discussion on the ferroelectric nanoparticles themselves is also provided.

Keywords

Liquid Crystal Organic Hybrid CrystalCholesteric Liquid Crystal

Liquid Crystal Cell Liquid Crystal Molecule

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About this chapter

Cite this chapter as:

Evans D.R., Cook G., Reshetnyak V.Y., Liebig C.M., Basun S.A., Banerjee P.P. (2016) Inorganic–Organic Photorefractive Hybrids. In: Blanche P.A. (eds) Photorefractive Organic Materials and Applications. Springer Series in Materials Science, vol 240. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-29334-9_6

- First Online 11 June 2016
- DOI https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-29334-9_6
- Publisher Name Springer, Cham
- Print ISBN 978-3-319-29332-5
- Online ISBN 978-3-319-29334-9
- eBook Packages [Chemistry and Materials Science](#) [Chemistry and Material Science \(Ro\)](#)
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