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HAL Id: hal-01197337 https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01197337

Submitted on 11 Sep 2015

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Sub-wavelength optical propagation in passive and active 1D-nanostructures

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Scientific Sessions: Nanophotonics and biophotonics Track:6-4 Nanodevices and nanophotonics

In the field of nanophotonics, the understanding of optical phenomena related to sub-wavelength guiding in 1D-nanostructures is a fundamental interest for devices down-scaling. We present theoretical and experimental investigation of light propagation in original passive and active organic nanotubes. For this, polymer nanotubes has been designed and developed by the template wetting method. To characterize their optical behavior and in particular the subwavelength propagation, numerical and experimental tools have been developed. Modelling phenomena propagating in these nanofibers was performed by the numerical FDTD method. The effects of the geometry of these nanotubes and nanowires have been investigated. In particular, the effect of the diameter (outer and inner diameter for nanotubes) on the propagation behavior (energy distribution, losses), as well as the effect of the substrate, have been determined. Experimentally, two types of nanofibers were studied. First, direct injection into passive nanofibers of SU8 polymer was performed through a microlensed optical fiber. A striking result is the assessment of optical losses measured by the cut-back around 1.25 dB/mm for nanotubes of external and internal diameters respectively 240 nm and 120 nm. This appears very competitive compared to other systems currently envisaged for integrated nanophotonics. Second, active polymer nanofibers (polyfluorene PFO) embedded in a waveguiding polymer were elaborated and appeared to be an efficient design for a nano-source.