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A comparison of characteristics of periodic surface micro/nano structures generated via single laser beam direct writing and particle lens array parallel beam processing

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1 **A Comparison of Characteristics of Periodic**
2 **Surface Micro/Nano Structures Generated**
3 **Via Single Laser Beam Direct Writing and**
4 **Particle Lens Array Parallel Beam**
5 **Processing**

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ABSTRACT

49 *Changing material surface micro/nano structures using laser beam texturing is a valuable approach in*
50 *wide applications such as control of cell/bacterial adhesion and proliferation, solar cells and optical*
51 *metamaterials. Here we report a comparison of the characteristics of surface micro/nano structures*
52 *produced using single beam laser direct writing and particle lens array parallel laser beam patterning. A*
53 *Nd:YVO₄ nanosecond pulsed laser at 532 nm wavelength was used in the laser direct writing method to*
54 *texture the stainless steel surface submerged in water and in air with different scanning patterns. Changes*
55 *in surface morphology, wettability, surface chemistry and optical reflectivity were analyzed. In the particle*
56 *lens array method, an excimer nanosecond laser at 248 nm wavelength was adopted to produce surface*
57 *patterns on GeSbTe (GST) film coated on a polycarbonate substrate by splitting and focusing a single laser*
58 *beam into millions of parallel beams. Single beam laser direct writing shows that the surface of high*
59 *roughness and oxygen percentage content presented high wettability and low reflectivity characteristics.*
60 *However, the controllability of the type of surface micro/nano patterns is limited. The parallel laser beam*
61 *processing using particle lens array allows rapid production of user designed periodic surface patterns at*
62 *nano-scale overcoming the optical diffraction limit with a high degree of controllability. Controlling the*
63 *uniformity of the particle lens array is a challenge.*

64

65 **Keywords:** *Laser; surface texture; structure; micro; nano; pattern; microsphere; parallel; morphology;*
66 *wettability; reflectivity; and particle lens array.*

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70 **1. INTRODUCTION**

71

72 Modifying surface properties by producing tailored nano/microstructures have
73 been extensively studied and has found wide applications in several fields including self-
74 cleaning, coating adhesion, wear resistance, anti-icing, and biological applications.
75 Moreover, changing the surface optical properties is used for solar cell and photoresist
76 applications [1–8]. Many surface engineering methods are available to modify the
77 surface structures, including chemical etching, sandblasting, mechanical machining,
78 corona discharge, plasma etching, and laser surface texturing. Among these techniques,
79 laser surface texturing is one of the most efficient and flexible techniques. It has been
80 used to produce smart surfaces that meet the requirements for more stringent surface
81 structure designs and properties. Besides, laser surface texturing has the advantages of
82 fast processing speed, non-contact processing, ease for automation, zero tool wear, and
83 non-dross ablation [9,10].

84 Different techniques have been used in laser surface texturing for producing
85 different structures, including laser direct writing with or without using a mask, two or
86 multi-beam interference and particle lens array multiple laser beam patterning [11].
87 According to the surface feature size, laser surface texturing can be classified as micro-
88 scale, nano-scale, or multi-scale surfaces (hierarchical structures, with a combination of
89 micro/nano features). Various structures such as holes, grooves, bumps, protrusions,
90 periodic surface structures, spikes, conic structures have been produced using laser
91 direct writing [9,12,13]. The generation of various types of surface patterns depends
92 mainly on the laser parameters, such as including fluence/power density, wavelength,

93 pulse duration, scanning speed, and the number of pulses; processing environment; and
94 material parameters. These parameters' relationship affects the generated surface
95 properties and quality [9,13,14].

96 For micro/nano structuring, short and ultrashort lasers have been used using
97 laser direct writing method. The laser surface texturing process using ultrashort lasers is
98 mainly due to vaporization and plasma formation, while melting, splashing, and
99 solidification dominate the process of laser surface texturing using short pulse duration
100 like nanosecond laser. Using a nanosecond laser, high throughput can be achieved
101 compared to ultrashort laser processing due to the high laser fluence of melting and
102 solidification [15,16].

103 The laser surface structuring technique using contact particle lens array is a near-
104 field technique in which the microspheres are deposited on the substrate, forming a
105 self-assembled monolayer on the substrate. These microspheres behave as lenses
106 splitting and focusing a single laser beam to many beams on the substrate, and each
107 spot generates tailored features forming periodic nano-scale surface structures.
108 Implementing this technique, it is possible achieve features with a resolution down to
109 $\lambda/3$ [11,17]. Different techniques have been used for microsphere deposition including
110 dip coating, spin coating, and convective coating. The convective coating has been the
111 most commonly used technique. The efficiency of the monolayer microsphere lens array
112 depends on the capillary force between particles and the adhesion force in which the
113 monolayer adheres to the substrate. Various nano-features such as star, bumps, holes,
114 and grooves have been generated using particle lens array laser patterning [18–20].

115 This work was motivated by the practical engineering challenges of producing surfaces
116 with various micro and nanostructures using flexible and efficient ways. Therefore, in
117 this paper, two laser surface texturing techniques are compared to examine the
118 properties of surfaces with various structures and properties. The first technique is the
119 laser direct writing. This process is performed using nanosecond laser processing of a
120 stainless steel surface to modify the surface structure and properties. The second
121 technique is the contact particle lens array used to generate micro/ nanostructures on a
122 thin film of GeSbTe (GST) film coated on a polycarbonate substrate.

123 **2. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE**

124

125 For the laser direct writing method, AISI 316L stainless steel sheets were used in
126 this work. These sheets were cut to the dimensions of 10 mm x 10 mm x 0.7 mm. Before
127 the laser treatment, the sheets were cleaned ultrasonically using acetone, ethanol, and
128 di-ionized water, for 10 minutes each and dried used compressed air.

129 A Nd:YVO₄, nanosecond laser (Laserline Laserval Violino) was selected to study
130 the effect of laser processing parameters such as scanning speed and hatch distances on
131 micro structuring wettability, reflectivity and oxygen surface content. The effect of
132 scanning direction, laser fluence, laser scanning speed and scanning environment on the
133 surface morphology were examined. The laser beam was directed using a set of x-y
134 Galvo scanning mirrors and an F-theta lens. In some experiments, the sample was
135 submerged in water in order to reduce surface oxidation and reduce the feature sizes
136 and compared that processed in air. The level of water for the submerged sample
137 experiments was 1 mm above the sample. The laser scanning was performed in one

138 direction, two or more directions. The effect of scanning direction on the surface
139 morphology was studied. The experimental scheme is shown in Fig. 1. Table 1 listed the
140 laser processing parameters used in this work.

141 Prior to the surface characterization after laser treatment, the samples were
142 ultrasonically cleaned using Ethanol then compressed air to remove any ablated
143 materials and contamination. Scanning electron microscopy (Philips XL30 FEG-SEM) was
144 used to examine the surface morphology. This SEM is combined with energy dispersive
145 X-ray (EDX) which was used to characterize the surface oxygen contents. A confocal
146 laser scanning microscope (type: Keyence 3D profiler) was used to examine the surface
147 roughness. Water drops sessile method using a contact angle analyzer (type: FTA 188)
148 was used to investigate laser textured surfaces' wettability characteristics. In this
149 method, a contact angle of 10 μ l droplets of de-ionized water that contact the surface
150 was measured.

151 For particle lens array experiment, GeSbTe (GST) film coated on a polycarbonate
152 substrate was used in this work. GeSbTe is a composite of three materials (germanium-
153 antimony-tellurium or GST) and it is a phase-change material from the group
154 of chalcogenide glasses used in rewritable optical discs and phase-change
155 memory applications. The crystallization temperature of this alloy is between 100 and
156 150 °C, and its melting point is around 600 °C. It is characterized as a high speed phase
157 change material and its crystallization time around 20 nanoseconds which make it easy
158 for patterning. The reason for the selection of this material is because it requires very
159 low laser energy density to cause surface morphology change, ideal for the particle lens

160 surface patterning applications. The sample was a 20 nm thick Germanium-Antimony-
161 Tellurium (GST) film coated on a polycarbonate substrate. A low concentration of 4.74
162 μm SiO_2 microspheres was prepared by buffering the microspheres solution in de-
163 ionized water. The solution was spread over the substrate to form a monolayer. Then
164 the water evaporated when the samples were placed with a 90° angle.

165 A KrF Excimer laser (GSI-Lumonic IPEX848) was used to irradiate the samples using
166 the setup shown in Fig. 2. The laser beam size was 25×25 mm with a uniform intensity
167 distribution and a lens (focal length = 10 mm) was used to focus the laser on the sample
168 with a spot area $10 \text{ mm} \times 10 \text{ mm}$. the laser processing parameters are listed in Table 2.
169 For imaging the microsphere morphology formed on a film substrate and nano patterns
170 generated after laser irradiation, optical microscopy (type: Leica CH-9435) was used.

171 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

172 **3.1 Laser direct writing**

173 **3.1.1 Surface morphology**

174 Figures 3-6 show different scanning techniques that have been conducted in this work.
175 Various and homogeneous structures ranging from ripples to porous and conical
176 structures were achieved by changing the scanning directions, scanning speed, laser
177 fluence, and processing environment. Figure 3 shows the nanosecond laser surface
178 texturing's typical surface morphology using five different scanning patterns. It can be
179 seen that by changing the angle of scanning from $(0^\circ, 90^\circ)$ to $(10^\circ, 130^\circ)$, $(0^\circ, 90^\circ, 45^\circ, -$
180 $45^\circ)$, and $(10^\circ, 130^\circ)$, the surface morphology was changed from conical like structure to
181 micro-pores, beehive, and diamond-like structures, respectively. The scanning was

182 performed at a 100 mm/s scanning speed, a 50 μm hatch distance, a 7 ns pulse
183 duration, a 30 kHz pulse repetition rate, a 3.9 J/cm² laser fluence and 10 repeat scanning
184 passes.

185 The effect of laser scanning speed on the microstructure morphology was also
186 studied (Fig. 4). The scanning was performed using one direction scanning and laser
187 parameters of (9.8 J/cm² laser fluence, one pass, and 50 μm hatch distance). It can be
188 seen that changing the scanning speed from 2000 mm/s to 1 mm/s changed the
189 microstructure from an oval-like structure to a cauliflower-like structure.

190 Figure 5 shows the microstructure of surfaces generated using three laser
191 fluences. The scanning was performed using two directions (30° and 60°), using laser
192 parameters of (100 mm/s scanning speed, 50 μm hatch distance and 10 times passes). It
193 can be seen that micro ripples were formed using low laser fluence (0.9 J/cm²) (Fig. 5a),
194 while it changed to a hierarchal microstructure using a high laser fluence (9.8 J/cm²)
195 (Fig. 5c).

196 Figure 6 shows the difference between the microstructures generated in water
197 and air. Using laser parameters of (9.8 J/cm², 10 mm/s scanning speed, 25 μm hatch
198 distance, and 1 pass), the microstructure in the air was cauliflower likes structure, while,
199 in water, a uniform conical like structure was formed.

200 Changing the scanning direction and scanning speeds affects the number of
201 pulses and the laser overlapping which in turn affected the surface structure. The pulse
202 overlapping can be calculated as [9,21]:

$$203 \left(1 - \frac{\Delta x}{\text{spot size}}\right) \times 100 \quad (1)$$

204 The line overlapping can be calculated as [9,21]:

205
$$\left(1 - \frac{\Delta z}{\text{spot size}}\right) \times 100 \quad (2)$$

206 Where, $\Delta x = \frac{\text{speed}}{\text{repetition rate}}$ and Δz is the hatch distance.

207 In this work, the line overlapping was 81.8 %, and the pulse overlapping was 39
208 % and 99.9 % at 1000 mm/s and 1 mm/s laser speeds, respectively. The number of
209 pulses per spot can be estimated as $\frac{\text{Spot size} \times \text{repetition rate}}{\text{scanning speed}}$, and it was 2 and 1650 at a
210 laser speed of 1000 mm/s and 1 mm/s, respectively.

211 By increasing the laser fluence from 0.9 J/cm² to 9.8 J/cm², the surface
212 microstructure changed from micro ripples to a 3D complex structure. This is related to
213 the increase the material removal by increasing the laser fluence. The removed
214 materials could be solidified around the laser scanning area forming complicated 3D
215 structures [22].

216 By changing the laser-processing environment from air to water, the
217 microstructure was changed to be smooth and free of solidified material and particles
218 over the microstructure. The reason behind this is that the ablated particles were
219 moved with water movement and they did not redeposit over the surface during laser
220 processing of the material in water [9,23,24].

221 **3.1.2 Surface characteristics**

222 The surface roughness (Ra) measurements of as-received surface (control) were
223 10.9±3.54 nm. Figure 7 shows the roughness values of laser treated surfaces using a
224 range of scanning speeds and hatch distances. It is clear that the surface roughness was

225 proportional to the hatch distances and inversely proportional to the laser scanning
226 speed. The surface generated using a hatch distance of 100 μm and a scanning speed of
227 10 mm/s recorded the highest surface roughness Ra value ($11.12 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{m}$) compared to
228 those of other surfaces. Surface generated using a 10 μm hatch distance and a 1000
229 mm/s scanning speed, on the other hand, showed the smallest surface roughness (0.12
230 $\pm 0.007 \mu\text{m}$) compared to other surfaces.

231 Figure 8 shows the analysis data of the energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy
232 (EDXs) for surfaces. As received surface (control) was free of oxidation as its' measured
233 oxygen percentage was zero. However, after laser processing, it was noticed that the
234 surface oxygen content of all processed samples was increased. By increasing the laser
235 scanning speed and the hatch distance, the oxygen percentage decreased. For example,
236 at a speed of 10 mm/s, the oxygen percentage recorded 21.8 % and 7.8 % using,
237 respectively, 10 μm and 100 μm hatch distances. However, at a speed of 1000 mm/s,
238 the oxygen percentage was 0.93 % at 10 μm hatch distance and less than 0.4 % using
239 100 μm hatch distance.

240 In this work, the effect of ns laser generated surface structures on the change of
241 the stainless steel (SS) wettability was investigated. The contact angle of as received
242 substrate (control) was $90.5^\circ \pm 3.5^\circ$. After laser treatment, all the surfaces performed
243 superhydrophilic properties with a contact angle $\text{CA}=0^\circ$ immediately after the laser
244 processing. However, the wettability characteristics of all processed samples changed
245 with time. Therefore, the contact angle was measured again at one month after laser
246 processing. Figure 9 shows the surface wettability change as a function of the laser

247 scanning speed and hatch distances. It is clear that the contact angle increased with
248 increasing scanning speed and hatch distance. The surface produced at a 1000 mm/s
249 and 100 μm hatch distance was superhydrophobic with maximum contact angles (CAs)
250 around 158°. However, the minimum CA was \sim 125° for the surface generated at a 10
251 mm/s scanning speed and 10 μm hatch distance. Generally, the wettability of surfaces
252 was inversely proportional to the scanning speed and hatch distance.

253 Figures 10 and 11 show the change of surface reflectivity within the visible light
254 spectrum (400 – 700 nm) after the laser processing. The reflectivity was investigated for
255 samples treated using different laser speeds and hatch distances. It can be seen that the
256 reflectivity of all processed surfaces was decreased compared to the reflectivity of as
257 received substrate (control) (Fig. 10). Furthermore, at a specific hatch distance, it can be
258 seen that the reflectivity of surfaces was increased with increasing the scanning speed
259 (Fig. 10). Moreover, at a specific scanning speed, the results show that the reflectivity of
260 laser-treated surfaces was increased with increasing hatch distance (Fig. 11). The
261 reflectivity of as received stainless steel (control) was about 60 %. However, the
262 reflectivity was decreased to less than 2 % for samples treated using 10 mm/s laser
263 speed and 10 μm hatch distance.

264 In this work, it was observed that laser processing parameters affected the
265 surface properties. Changing the surface characteristics with changing the laser
266 processing parameters has been extensively studied before. Some researchers have
267 reported that the surface wettability increases with increasing the surface oxygen
268 contents and surface roughness [25] . With increasing surface roughness, the contact

269 area between the surface and water droplets increased due to the natural gravitational
270 desire to settle on the surface [26,27]. Cui et al. [28] reported that heating the stainless
271 steel increased the oxygen contents from the surrounding environment forming Fe_2O_3
272 and Cr_2O_3 . The hydroxyl group (OH density) increased the surface oxygen contents,
273 thereby increasing the surface adsorption and surface wettability [26,27]. In our work,
274 during material processing, it was noticed that the surface reflectivity was decreased,
275 and some surfaces switched to black. Other researchers also noticed this behavior
276 during different processing materials such as Si [29]. This is related to increasing the
277 surface roughness, which leads to increased surface area and multiple reflections inside
278 the surface features [9,30].

279 **3.2 Particle lens array parallel laser beam surface patterning**

280 Parallel processing techniques are essential to generate micro/nano-textures
281 over a large area. Particle lens arrays can be used to produce micro and nanostructures
282 by splitting a single laser beam into millions or billions of laser beams and focusing
283 locally without diffraction limit. This technique is based on near-field effect of small
284 transparent microspheres to produce micro/nano-patterns. Using this technique, it is
285 possible to produce a feature size below the diffraction limit. Monodispersed $4.74\ \mu\text{m}$
286 spherical silica (SiO_2 , Duke Scientific) particles were diluted with de-ionized water and
287 applied to the film surface. After the water evaporated, a hexagonally closed-packed
288 monolayer was formed on the surface due to the self-assembly process. The sample was
289 then laser processed and characterized using a Leica CH-9435 microscope (Fig. 12).

290 Normal incidence of a laser beam onto the substrate surface removes most of
291 the particles (spheres) from the substrate after a single laser pulse irradiation. The
292 disappearance of the particles makes it impossible to fabricate arbitrary shaped
293 patterns. To keep particles on the substrate surface for multiple pulses processing, an
294 angled beam scanning technique was used and a software tool was developed using
295 this principle. As the incident angle increases, a higher percentage of the particles are
296 left on the sample surface. This effect is because the ablation point is not located at the
297 contacting point of the particle and the substrate. With the developed technique,
298 different user defined nanostructures have been produced by a certain number of laser
299 pulses. Virtually, millions of parallel features like lines, curves and even more complex
300 profiles could be written simultaneously over large surface areas. Patterns of a complex
301 shape were created on the substrate surface using software developed in Matlab 2010b
302 (32 bits edition), which is a powerful programming environment for professional
303 scientific and engineering applications. The software is compatible to all the Newport
304 Motion Controllers/Drivers (due to their common commands and answers) and can be
305 easily adjusted for other motion control systems and lasers according to the forward
306 documentation.

307 User-defined complex shapes can be fabricated within regions $d_p \leq r$, as shown in
308 Fig. 13. The position of ablation spot $p(\alpha, \phi)$ is a function of the incident angle α and
309 sample rotating angle ϕ . Angle α controls the position of p in radial direction, while
310 angle ϕ moves p in circumferential direction. The ranges of angles are $\alpha(-45^\circ, 0^\circ)$ and $\phi(-$

311 180° , 180°). By applying a relative angle $\alpha(\varphi)$ with every rotated angle φ , user-defined
312 patterns can be easily fabricated.

313 According to the Mie theory, the induced near-field enhancement is located
314 around the particle and along to incident direction. It is known that the enhanced
315 intensity will decay along the incident direction before it reaches the substrate surface.
316 If the laser energy is sufficient, this enhanced field is still able to ablate materials for the
317 substrate surface. The shift of these peak positions away from the contact point with a
318 distance close to that is given by the geometrical optics:

$$319 \quad d_p \cong r \cdot \tan(\alpha) \quad (3)$$

320 where r is the radius of the particle.

321 Figures 14 and 15 show two periodic patterns generated on the GeSbTe film
322 using an excimer laser. Figures 14a and 15a show the computer design of a square
323 shape and (nano) in the software interface, which led to the patterning of the GeSbTe
324 (GST) film with uniform periodic patterns. The gaps between dots cannot be
325 distinguished due to their overlapping (one can see in Figs. 14a and 15a) and of melting
326 of the film during the laser processing. The fluence used was 1 mJ/cm². The experiments
327 were performed with two Newport PR 50 Series computer-controlled rotation stages
328 and a Newport ESP300 controller. One stage controls the laser incident angle α by tilting
329 the sample with angles ranged from 0° to 45°. The other stage rotates the sample within
330 the tilted plane with an angle ϕ with angles ranged from -180° to 180°. Therefore, any
331 point $p(\alpha, \phi)$ within the shade of particle on the substrate surface could be reached by
332 a geometrical calculation of angles α and φ .

333 The developed technique could provide means to produce arbitrary patterned
334 surfaces on small objects such as MEMS (for improved tribological characteristics),
335 OLEDs (for improved emission efficiency), optical metamaterials, uniform structures for
336 cell and bacterial adhesion and migration, and medium-sized objects.

337 In this work, the results showed that the surface properties and structure could be
338 controlled by controlling the processing method. Using laser direct writing method, the
339 results showed that increasing the surface wettability and absorptivity were related to
340 increasing the surface roughness and oxygen percentage content. However, the
341 controllability of the type of surface micro/nano patterns is limited. The parallel laser
342 beam processing using a particle lens array, on the other hand, allowed rapid production
343 of user-designed periodic surface patterns at nano-scale, overcoming the optical
344 diffraction limit with a high degree of controllability where controlling the uniformity of
345 the particle lens array is a challenge.

346 **4. CONCLUSION**

347 In this work, nanosecond pulsed lasers were used to generate different
348 micro/nanostructures using two different techniques: direct writing and particle lens
349 array parallel writing. In the laser direct writing technique, the substrate was melted and
350 evaporated, and then the re-deposition and solidification of molten materials generated
351 different microstructures. Therefore, the formation of different structures using the ns
352 laser was mainly due to the thermal effects on treated surfaces. The surface
353 morphology and properties were changed with changing laser-processing parameters.
354 Moreover, the surfaces processed a low scanning speed (10 mm/s) recorded the highest
355 roughness and oxygen percentage content and the minimal wettability and reflectivity

356 compared to other surfaces. Furthermore, the surfaces produced at 100 μm recorded
357 the highest roughness, water contact angle and reflectivity and minimal oxygen
358 percentage contents compared to other surfaces generated using 10 μm and 50 μm
359 hatch distances. Thus, the surface of high roughness and oxygen percentage content
360 presented a high wettability and turned to black with low reflectivity characteristics.
361 Using particle lens array technique, two nano-patterns were demonstrated. This is a
362 very efficient way of producing tailored surface micro/nano patterns. Both processing
363 methods presented effective surfaces. This study shows that nanosecond lasers could
364 generate distinctive morphologies and properties using easy and efficient ways. These
365 surfaces could be useful in various applications, including biological applications, wear
366 resistance, self-cleaning, anti-icing, coating adhesion, and solar cells.

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Figure Captions List

- Fig. 1 (a) Experimental set up and (b) scanning directions with: (b1) one direction scanning, (b2) two directions scanning, (b3) four directions scanning, (b4) two directions with 30° & 60° scanning and (b5) two directions with 10° & 130° scanning
- Fig. 2 Experimental set up of surface texturing using particle lens array
- Fig. 3 Effect of the scanning direction on the microstructure morphology: (a) conical, (b) micro-pores, (c) beehive and (d) diamond-like structures.
- Fig. 4 Effect of scanning speed on the microstructure morphology using: (a) 2000 mm/s, (b) 500 mm/s, (c) 100 mm/s and (d) 1 mm/s. Scale bar is 200 μm
- Fig. 5 Effect of laser fluence on the microstructure morphology using: (a) 0.9 J/cm², (b) 3.9 J/cm², and (c) 9.8 J/cm²
- Fig. 6 The microstructure morphology generated in: (a) water, and (b) air, the scale bar is 50 μm
- Fig. 7 The surface roughness measurements of laser treated surfaces
- Fig. 8 The surface oxygen contents measurements of laser treated surfaces
- Fig. 9 The contact angle measurements of laser treated surfaces
- Fig. 10 The surface reflectivity measurements of laser treated surfaces
- Fig. 11 The surface reflectivity measurements as a function of changing hatch distances at a scanning speed of 10 mm/s

Fig. 12 Optical microscope image of a uniform layer of SiO₂ microsphere using: (a) 10X magnification and (c) 20X magnification

Fig. 13 Schematic diagram of geometric algorithm between the position of spot p , incident angle α and sample rotating angle ϕ

Fig. 14 a. Matlab[®] software interface; b. 2D generated square micro-patterns onto a GeSbTe film using a laser fluence of 1mJ/cm² and 4.74 μ m diameter SiO₂ microspheres

Fig. 15 a. Matlab[®] software interface; b. 2D generated (nano) micro-patterns onto a GeSbTe film using a laser fluence of 1mJ/cm² and 4.74 μ m diameter SiO₂ microspheres

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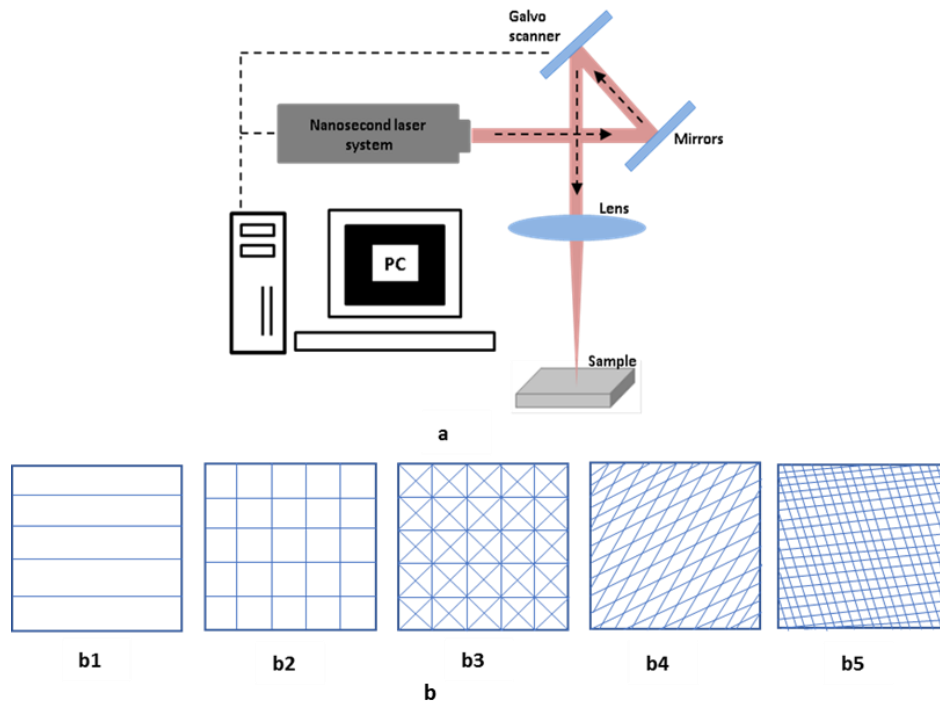
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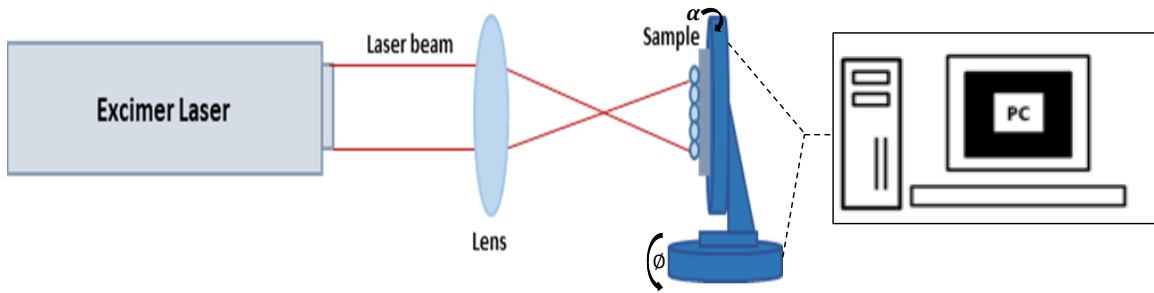


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520 Fig. 1 (a) Experimental set up and (b) scanning directions with: (b1) one direction
521 scanning, (b2) two directions scanning, (b3) four directions scanning, (b4) two directions
522 with 30° & 60° scanning and (b5) two directions with 10° & 130° scanning

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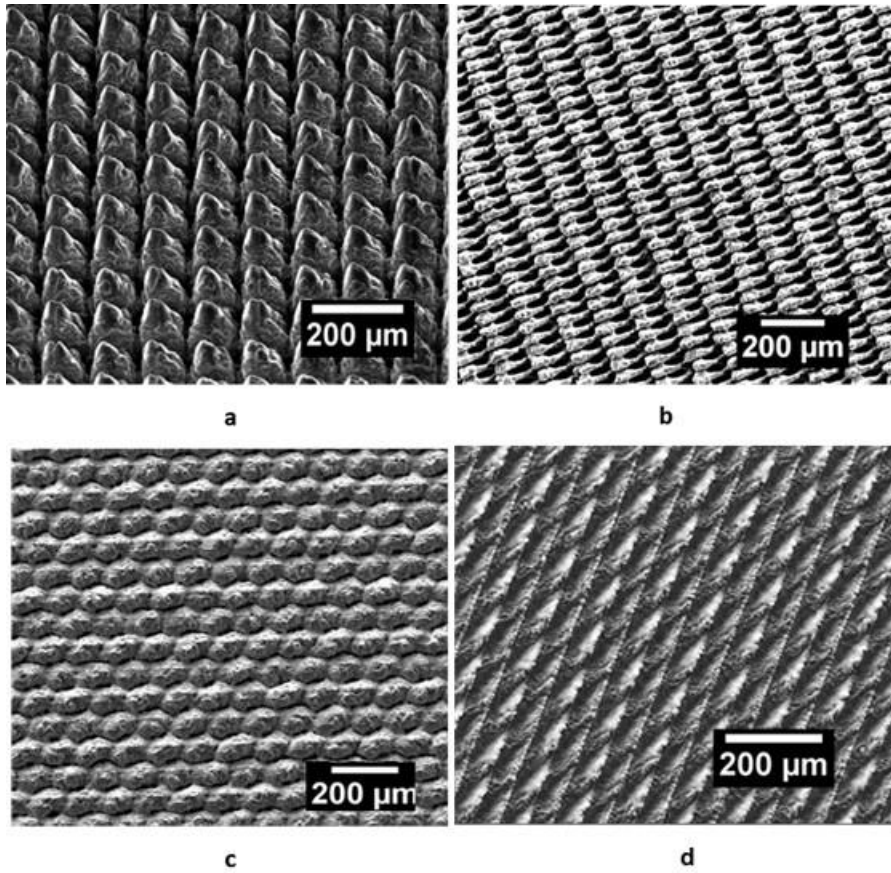


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Fig.2 Experimental set up of surface texturing using particle lens array

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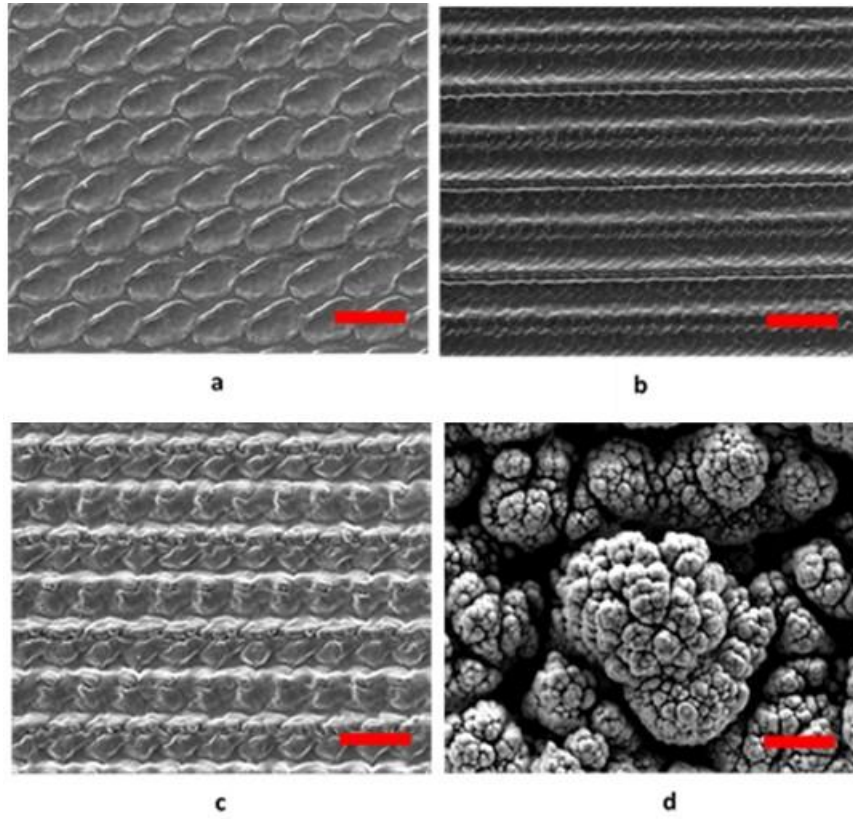


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Fig. 3 Effect of the scanning direction on the microstructure morphology: (a) conical, (b) micro-pores, (c) beehive and (d) diamond-like structures.

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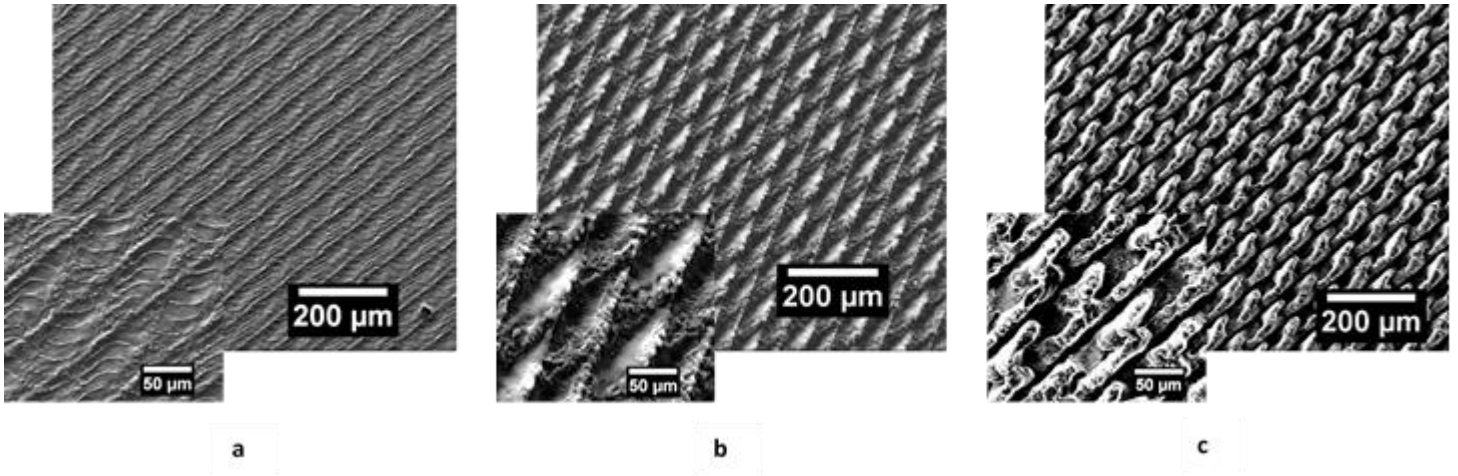
Fig. 4 Effect of scanning speed on the microstructure morphology using: (a) 2000 mm/s,

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(b) 500 mm/s, (c) 100 mm/s and (d) 1 mm/s. Scale bar is 200 μm

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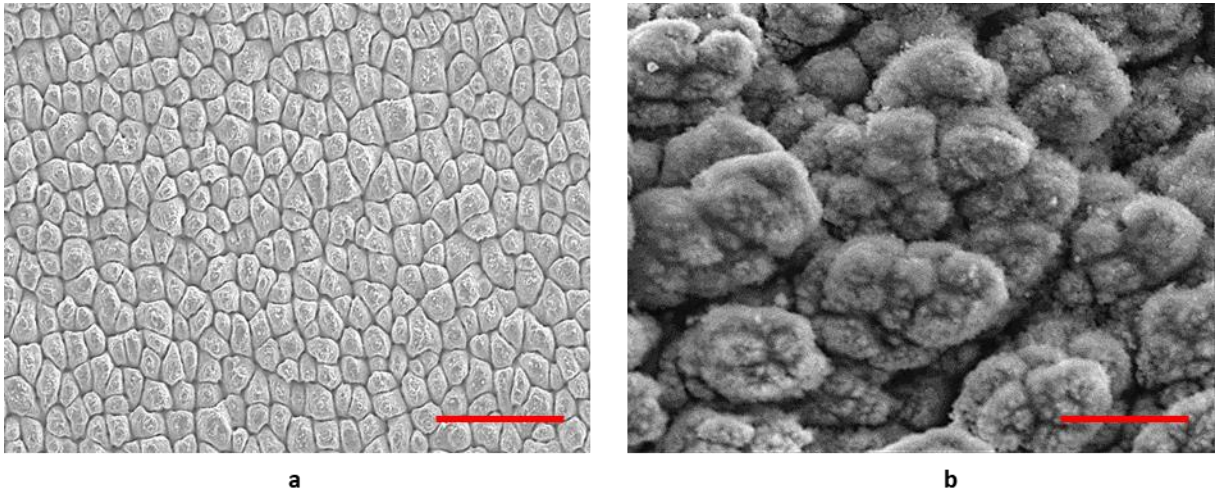
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620 Fig. 5 Effect of laser fluence on the microstructure morphology using: (a) 0.9 J/cm^2 , (b)
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635 Fig. 6 The microstructure morphology generated in: (a) water, and (b) air, the scale bar

636 is 50 μm

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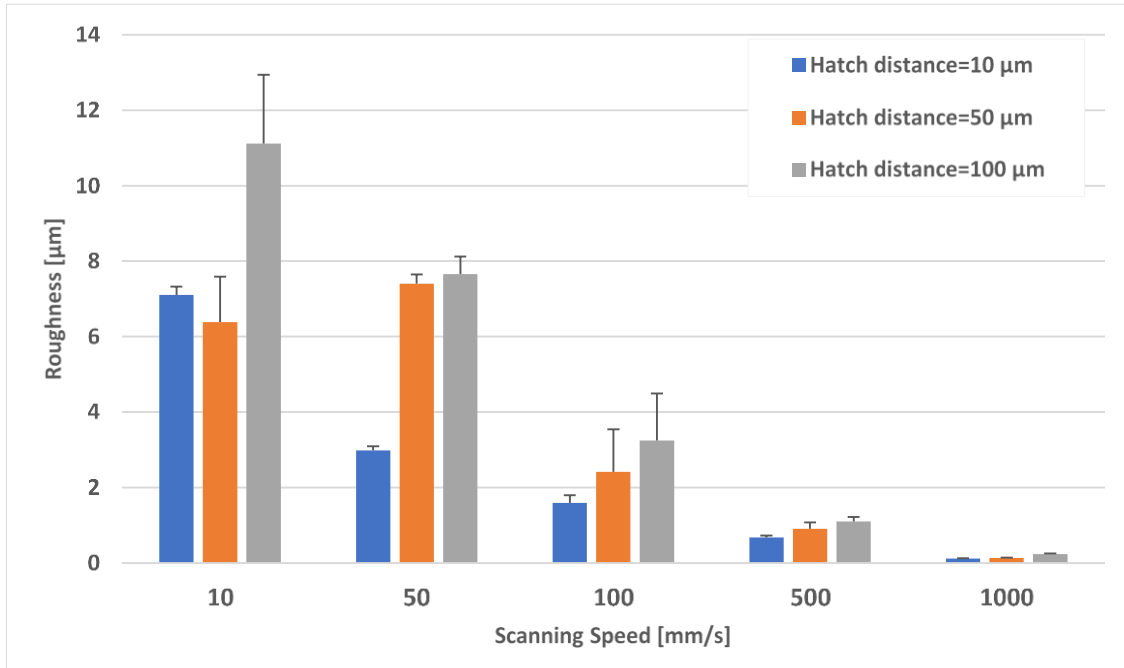
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Fig. 7 The surface roughness measurements of laser treated surfaces

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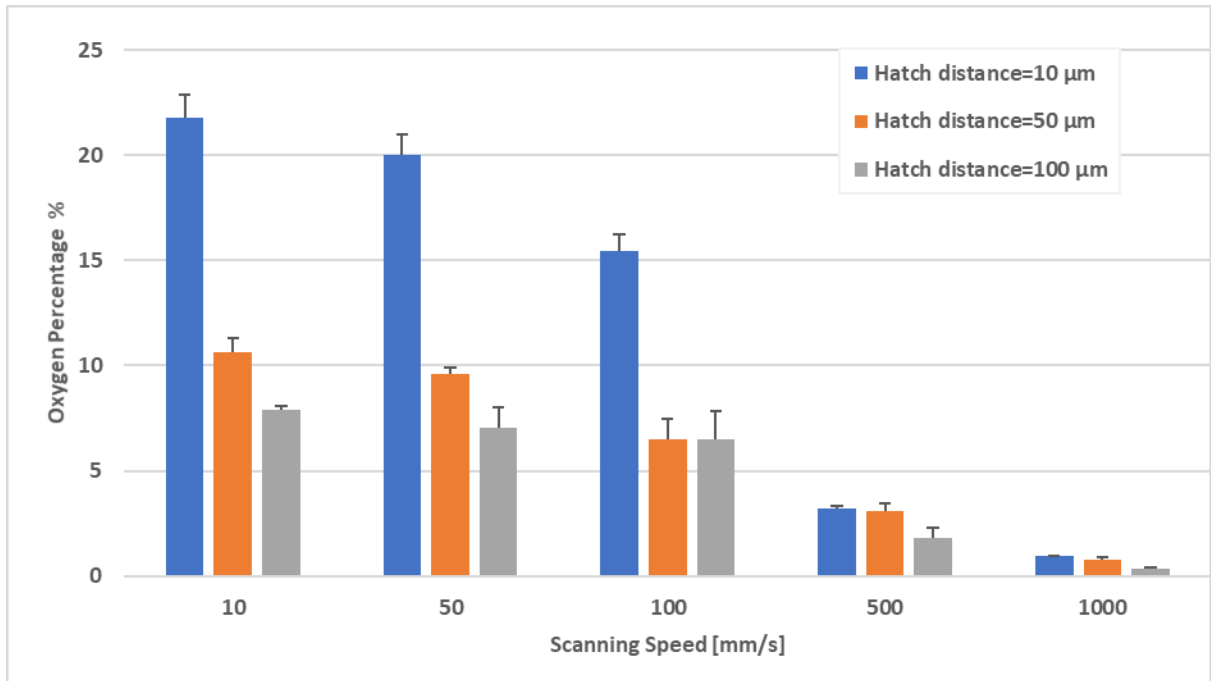
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Fig. 8 The surface oxygen contents measurements of laser treated surfaces

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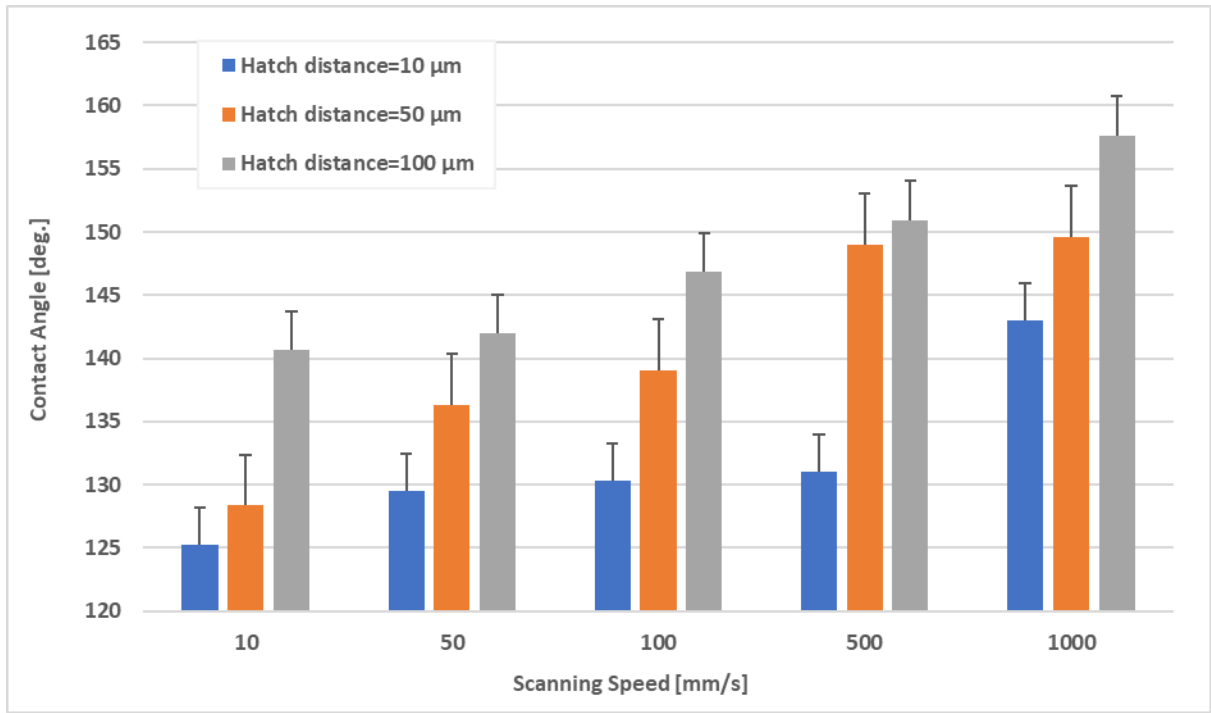
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Fig. 9 The contact angle measurements of laser treated surfaces

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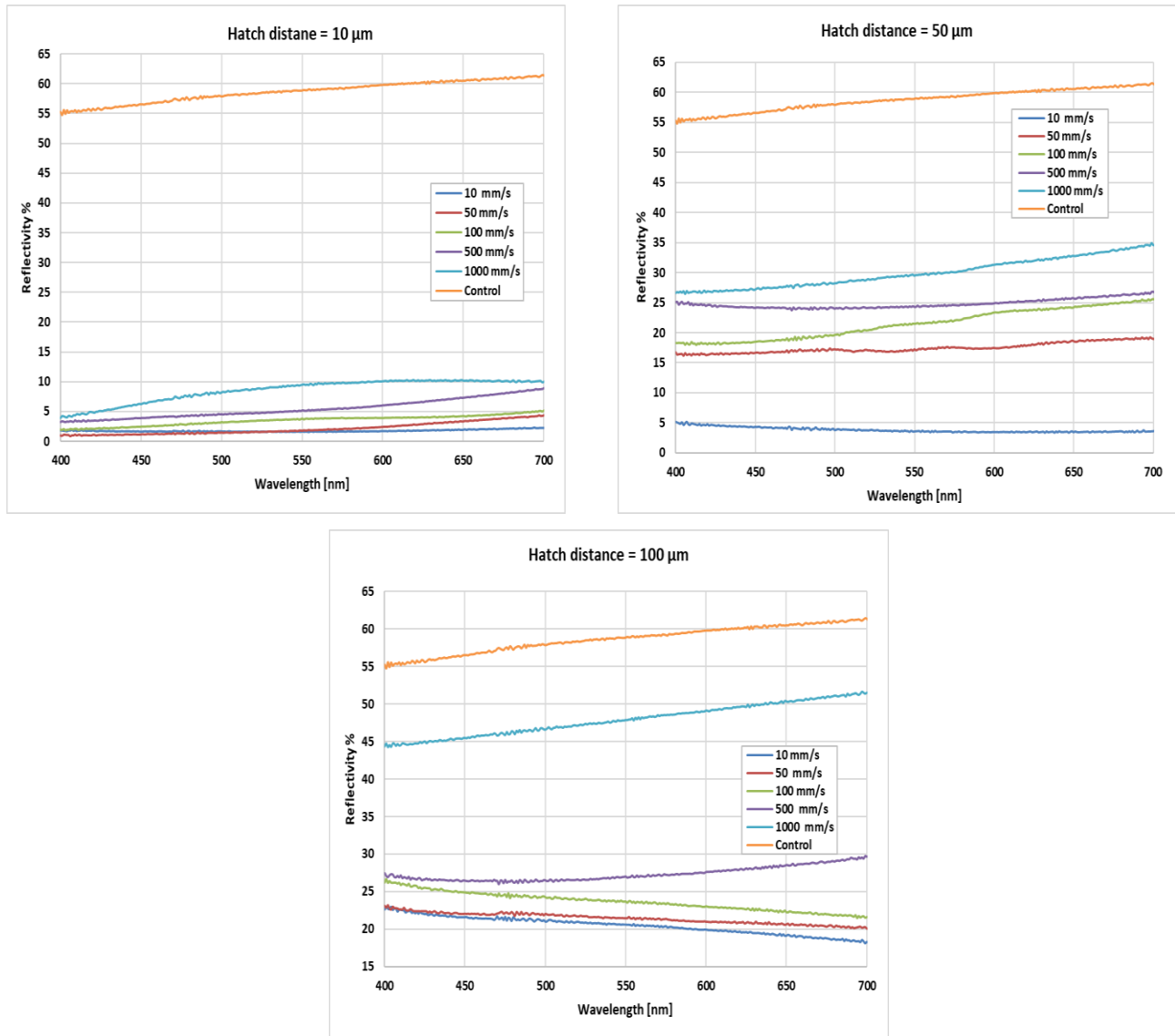
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Fig. 10 The surface reflectivity measurements of laser treated surfaces

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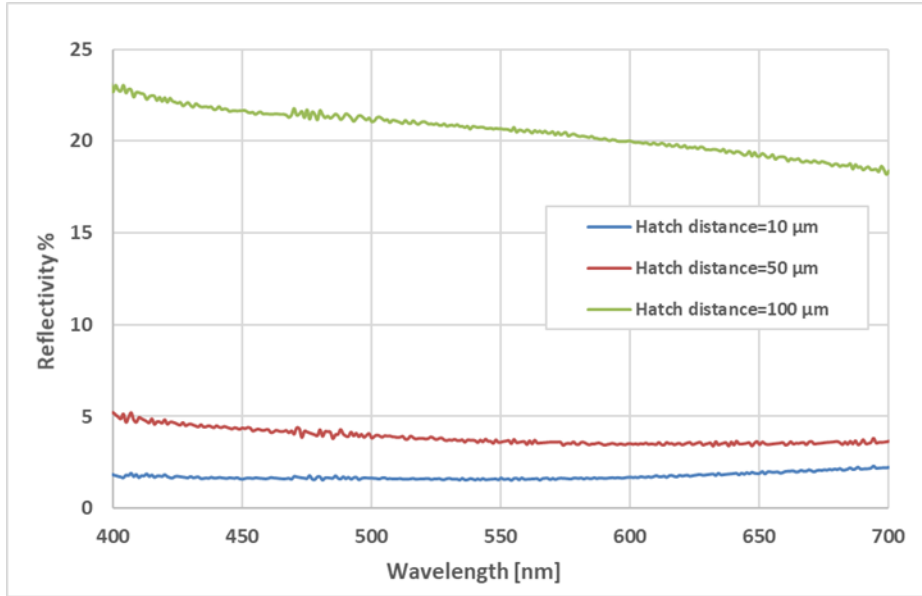
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700 Fig. 11 The surface reflectivity measurements as a function of changing hatch distances

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at a scanning speed of 10 mm/s

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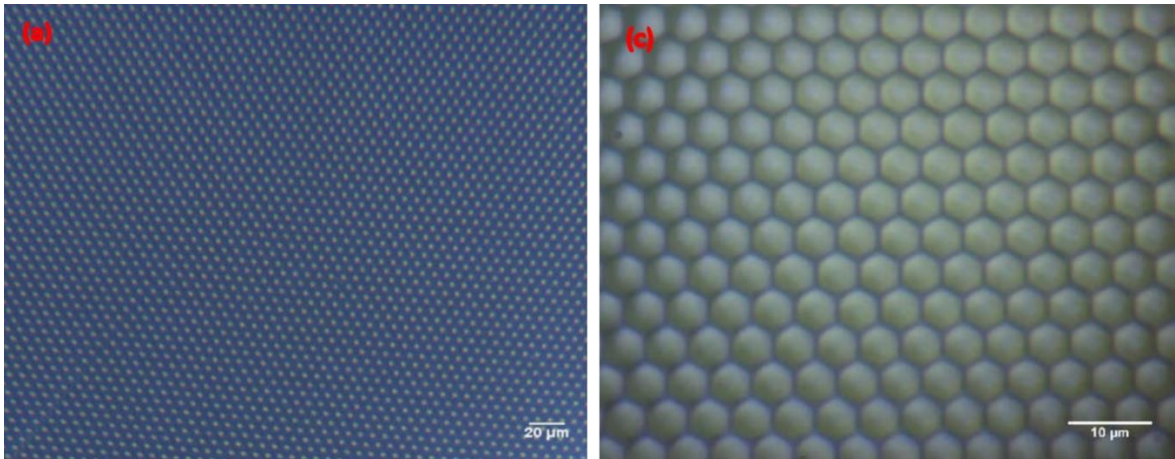
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715 Fig. 12 Optical microscope image of a uniform layer of SiO₂ microsphere using: (a) 10X

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magnification and (c) 20X magnification

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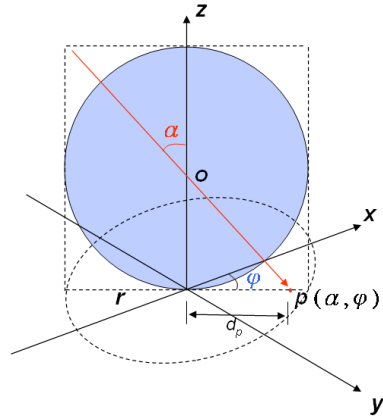
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Fig. 13 Schematic diagram of geometric algorithm between the position of spot

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p, incident angle α and sample rotating angle ϕ

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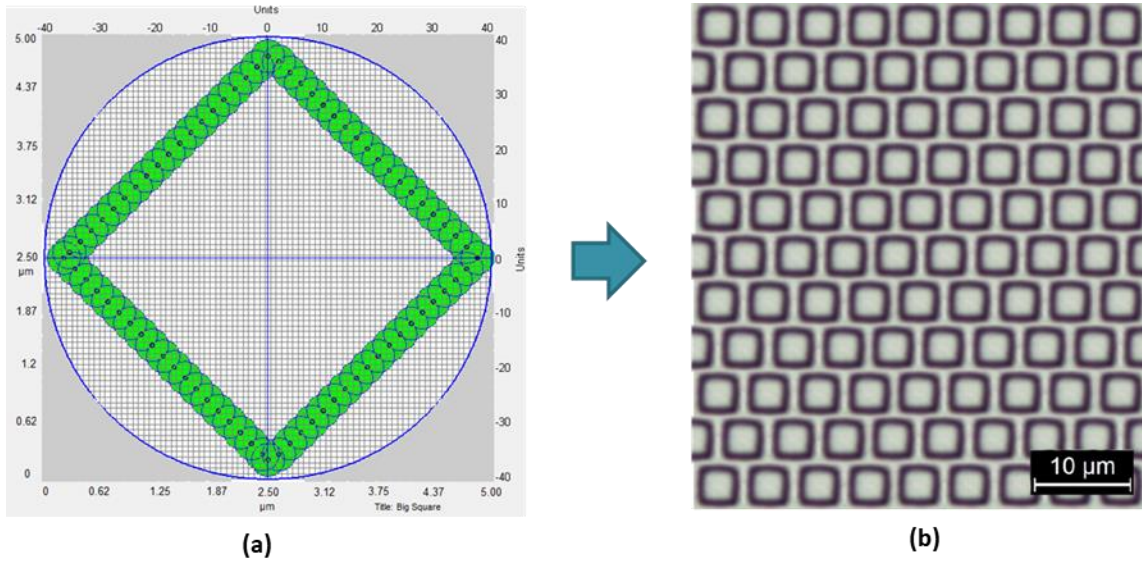
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Fig. 14 a. Matlab[®] software interface; b. 2D generated square micro-patterns onto a GeSbTe film using a laser fluence of 1 mJ/cm² and 4.74 μm diameter SiO₂ microspheres

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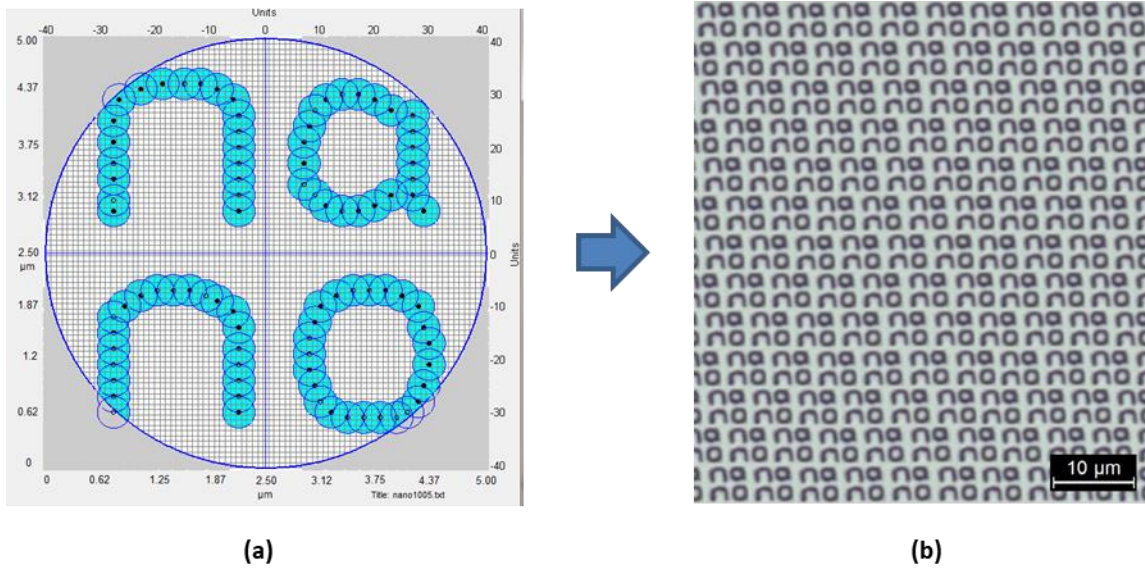
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Fig. 15 a. Matlab[®] software interface; b. 2D generated (nano) micro-patterns onto a GeSbTe film using a laser fluence of 1 mJ/cm² and 4.74 µm diameter SiO₂ microspheres

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Table Caption List

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Table 1 The used nanosecond laser parameters for texturing the stainless steel

Table 2 Laser parameters for inducing different surface textures using Excimer
laser

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790 Table 1 The used nanosecond laser parameters for texturing the stainless steel

Laser parameters	Nanosecond Laser (Nd:YVO ₄)
Wavelength [nm]	532
Pulse duration	7 ns
Pulse repetition frequency [kHz]	30
Focused diameter [μm]	55
Fluence [J/cm ²]	0.9, 3.9 and 9.26
Speed [mm/s]	1, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 2000
Hatch distance [μm]	10, 50 and 100
Focal length [mm]	245

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821 Table 2 Laser parameters for inducing different surface textures using Excimer laser

Laser parameters	Nanosecond Laser (Excimer Laser)	822 823
Wavelength [nm]	248	824
Pulse duration [ns]	15	825
Pulse repetition frequency [Hz]	1	826
Focused beam size [mm]	10 × 10	827
Fluence [mJ/cm ²]	1	828
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