Coupling to fibre remains a severe issue in optical communication networks. The ongoing trend to make components smaller in order to integrate them on one chip, makes the problem even more difficult. The large difference in dimensions between fibre and waveguides on chip, causes high insertion losses and high packaging cost. Grating couplers are a very attractive solution, since they open the prospect of wafer-scale testing. Light is coupled out-of-plane from fibre to waveguide, so in- and outcoupling can occur everywhere on the chip.

In this poster, we present theoretical and experimental results of two different types of compact ( $10x10~\mu m^2$ ) grating couplers in InP, based on different technologies. The first type is made in classical InP-heterostructure (low vertical index contrast) and based on angled CAIBE-etching. The theoretical coupling efficiency to fibre is over 50%. Integration with active components (e.g. lasers) is straightforward. The latter type of coupler is made in InP-membrane (high vertical index contrast), based on BCB waferbonding technology. The most complex design has a theoretical coupling efficiency over 90%. We have measured 30% coupling efficiency on first fabricated simple structures. A scheme for integrating InP-membrane components with active "classical InP-heterostructure" components will be provided.

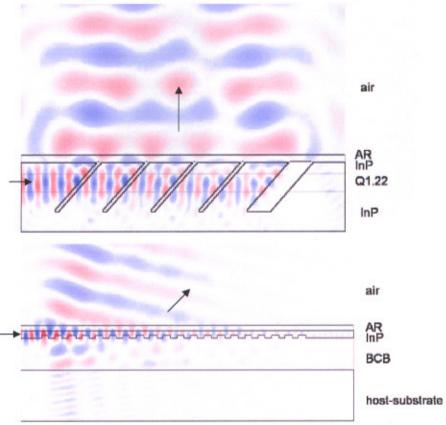


Fig1. Two types of compact fibre-couplers. At the top: InP-heterostructure coupler based on angled CAIBE-etching. Below: InP-membrane coupler based on BCB waferbonding technology.

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