



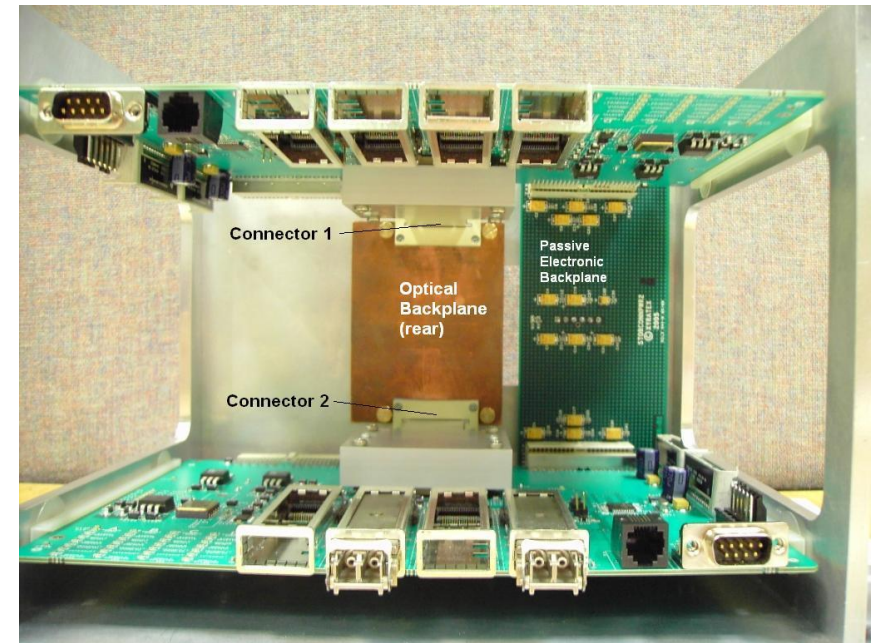
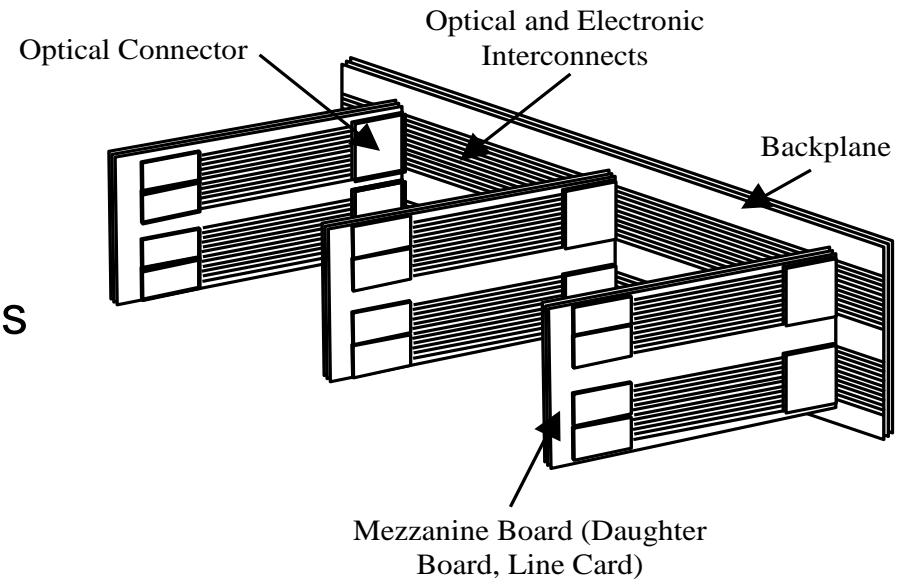
# **Integrated Optical and Electronic PCB Manufacturing Invited Plenary Talk**

**David R. Selviah,**

**Department of Electronic and Electrical  
Engineering, University College London,  
UCL, UK [d.selviah@ee.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.selviah@ee.ucl.ac.uk)**

# Outline

- Electrical versus Optical interconnects
- The OPCB project
- Polymer materials
- Waveguide Fabrication
- OPCB Research
  - Heriot Watt
  - Loughborough
  - UCL
  - NPL
- System Demonstrator



# Costly high bit rate copper track design procedures

- Impedance control to minimize back reflections
- Inductive and capacitive coupling and parasitics
- Loss due to radiation
- Frequency dependent loss due to shallow skin depth currents\*
- Loss due to surface and edge roughness of the copper track
- High power launch to offset losses
- Copper electro-migration at high currents
- Use of low loss tangent dielectric FR-4 laminates
- Active pulse pre-emphasis
- Blind fixed or adaptive equalization

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\*Mark R. Burford, Tom J. Kazmierski, S. Taylor and Paul A. Levin: "A VHDL-AMS based time-domain skin depth model for edge coupled lossy transmission stripline", Forum on specification and Design Languages, FDL, Lausanne, Switzerland, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2005

# Costly high bit rate copper track design procedures

- Differential signaling
- Balanced differential pair line lengths to minimize common mode propagation causing radiation and dispersion<sup>†</sup>
- Low clock skew connectors
- Back drilled vias to avoid reflective stubs for impedance control
- Electromagnetic crosstalk between traces
- Electromagnetic interference, EMI outside the enclosure
- EMI a problem for EM transparent composite aircraft skins
- 17 Gb/s demonstrated over 1 metre using such costly techniques

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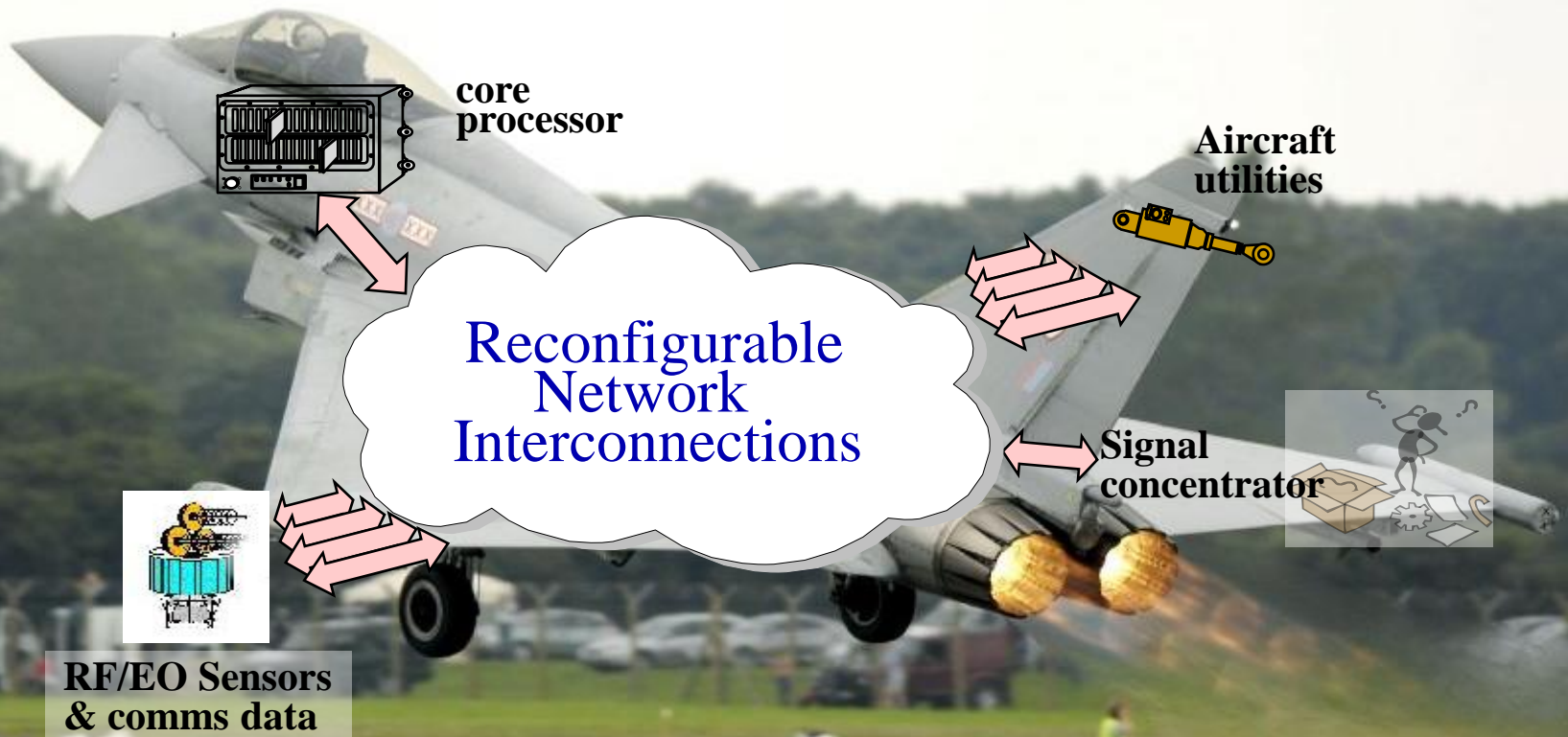
<sup>†</sup>Mark R. Burford, Paul A. Levin, and Tom J. Kazmierski: "Temporal skew and mode conversion management in differential pairs to 15 GHz", Electronics Letters, **44**(1), pp. 35-37, 3<sup>rd</sup>Jan 2008

# On-board Platform Applications

BAE SYSTEMS



# On-board Platform Applications



High Bandwidth Signals

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# Optical Waveguide Interconnect Benefits

- Low loss over long distances
- Scalability to ~1 meter length boards
- Scalability to high bit rates well in excess of 10 Gb/s
- Multiplexed transmission path usage using WDM and sub-carrier multiplexing
- Lower power optical drivers
- Low heat generation so reduced system cooling costs
- Improved signal integrity
- Lightweight
- Low electromagnetic crosstalk between waveguides
- Low electromagnetic interference, EMI outside the enclosure
- Low clock skew

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# Optical Waveguide Interconnect Benefits

- High density since no need for differential lines or signal and ground plane or transmission line geometries, voltage isolation,
- Reduced timing jitter
- No need for costly high dielectric constant or low loss tangent board materials,
- Increases design flexibility
- High reliability
- Higher aggregate bit rates possible in smaller board areas and volumes
- Reduced materials usage as fewer layers are needed
- Reduced board thickness and area for same data rate
- Less waste at end of life
- Simplified routing as waveguide crossings are permitted
- Low cost

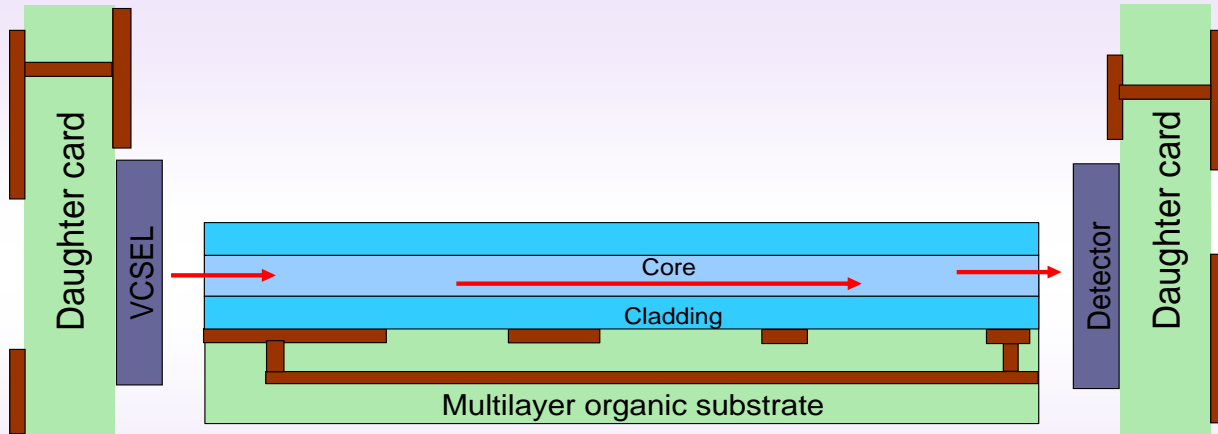


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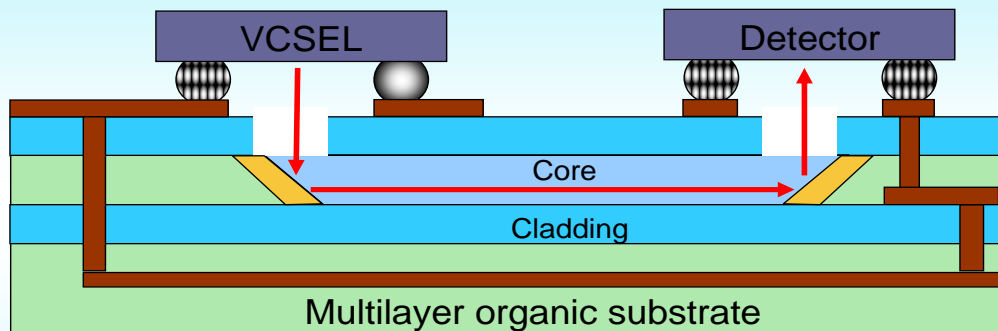
# The Integrated Optical and Electronic Interconnect PCB Manufacturing (OPCB) project

- The ideal printed circuit board has copper tracks to transmit electrical power and for low data rate control signals with optical waveguides for high bit rate interconnects
- The OPCB project investigates the design and manufacturing procedures for hybrid electronic and optical printed circuit boards
- The OPCB project brings together a supply chain to deliver such boards through a commercial PCB manufacturer
- Multimode waveguides at 10 Gb/s on a 19 inch PCB
- Project funded by UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) via the Innovative Electronics Manufacturing Research Centre (IeMRC) as one of the two Flagship Projects
- 20 months into the 3 year, £1.3 million project
- Mid Term independent review reported excellent progress

# Integration of Optics and Electronics



- Backplanes
  - Butt connection of “plug-in” daughter cards
  - In-plane interconnection
- Focus of OPCB project

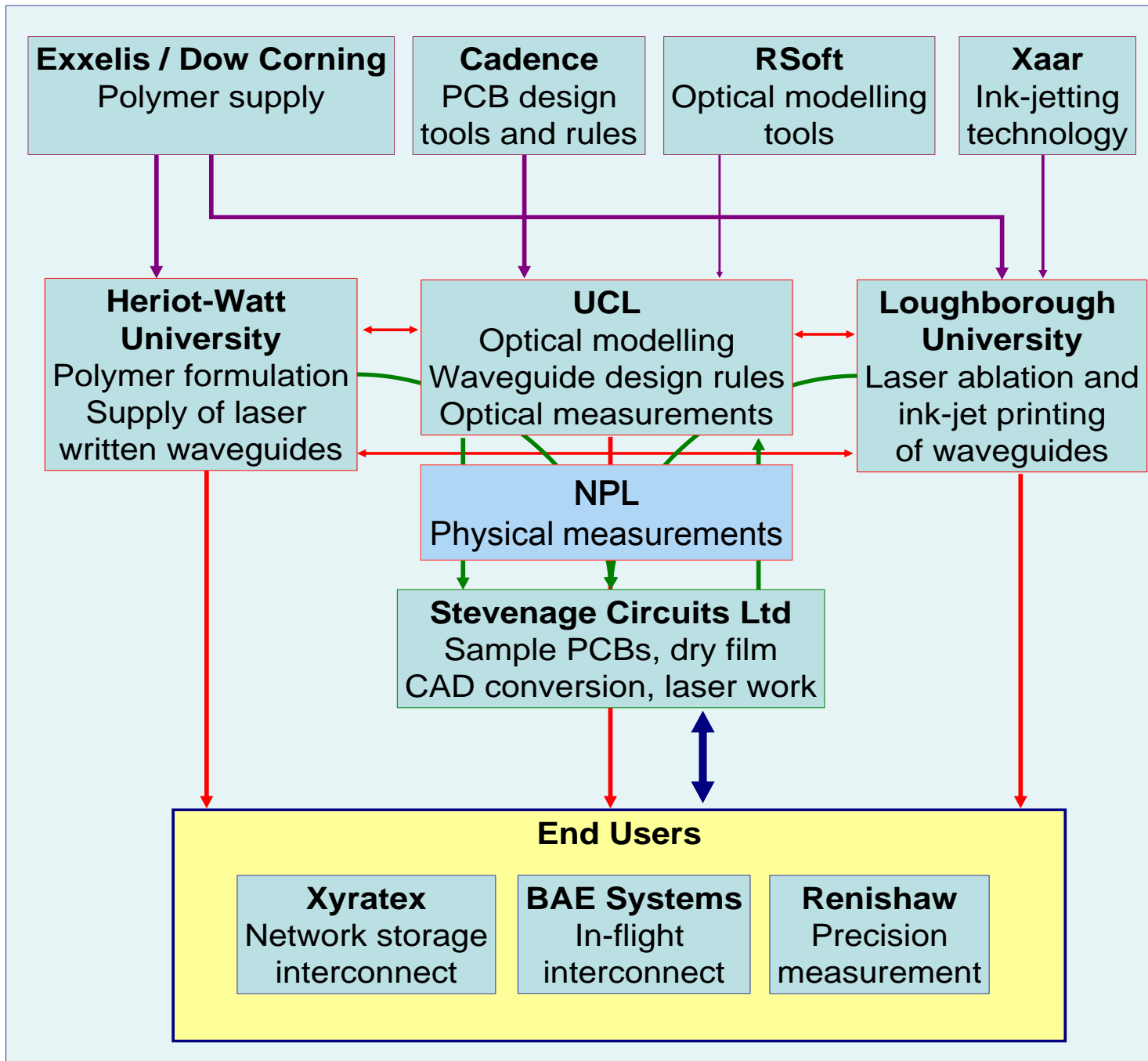


- Out-of-plane connection
  - 45 mirrors
  - Chip to chip connection possible

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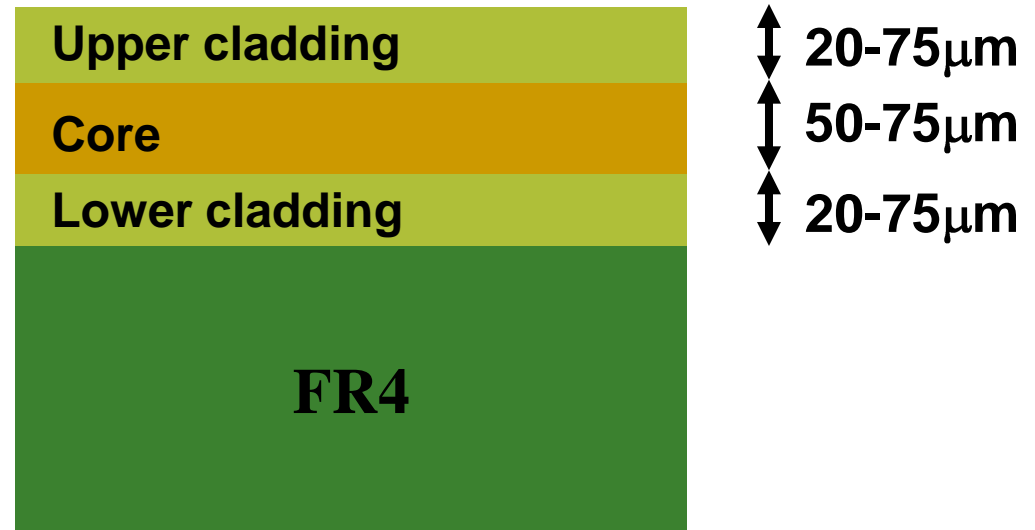
# Integrated Optical and Electronic Interconnect PCB Manufacturing (OPCB) Project Aims

1. Establish waveguide design rules
  - Build into commercial CAD layout software to ease the design of OPCBs and to ensure widespread use.
  - Understand the effect of waveguide wall roughness and cross sectional shape on loss and bit error rate.
2. Develop low cost, PCB compatible manufacturing techniques for OPCBs including novel polymer formulations
  - Compare the commercial and technological benefits of several high and low risk manufacturing technologies
  - Environmental testing, reproducibility
3. Design an optical-electrical connector
  - Low cost, dismountable, passive, self-aligning, mid-board, multichannel, duplex, long life



# Multimode Waveguide Requirements

- Low optical losses at 850 nm, 1310 nm and 1550 nm wavelengths
  - Absorption
  - Wall roughness
- Good adhesion to substrate
- Able to withstand manufacturing processes e.g. solder reflow, lamination
- Long term reliability
- Easily processed by PCB manufacturers



- Refractive index of core,  $n \sim 1.50$
- For total internal reflection, cladding refractive index lower than core  $\Delta n \sim 1\%$

# Optical Materials

| <i>Manufacturer/<br/>commercial name</i> | <i>Polymer class</i>     | <i>Deposition/ Patterning</i>  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Microresist/ ORMOCER                     | Inorganic-organic hybrid | Spin-coat, UV lithography      |
| Wacker Chemie                            | Liquid polysiloxane      | Moulding, doctor blading,      |
| Exxelis/ Truemode                        | Acrylates                | UV lithography, laser ablation |
| Rohm and Haas/ Lightlink                 | Liquid polysiloxane      | Spin-coat, photo-patterning    |
| Ticona/ Topas                            | Cyclic olefin copolymer  | Spin-coat, RIE                 |
| Asahi/ Cytop                             | Fluorinated polyether    | Spin-coat, RIE                 |
| Dow Corning                              | Polysiloxane             | UV lithography                 |
| Norland/ NOA series                      | Liquid photopolymer      | Dispense, UV light cure        |

Courtesy of Tze Yang Hin, Loughborough University



## Waveguide Material

UV-curable polymeric acrylate (Truemode®)

Propagation loss @ 850 nm: 0.04 dB/cm

Heat degradation resilience: up to 350 C

## Waveguide properties

Size: 70  $\mu\text{m}$  x 70  $\mu\text{m}$

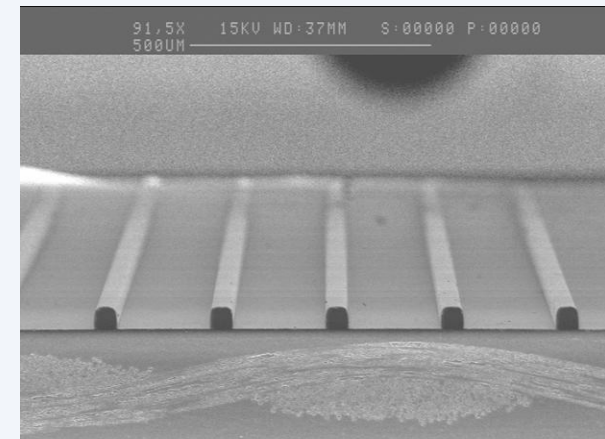
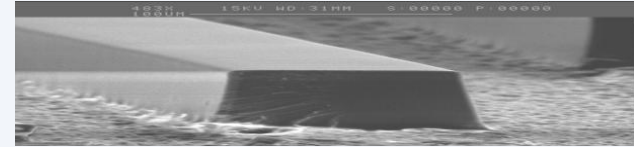
Core index: 1.556

Cladding index: 1.526

Numerical aperture: 0.302

## Waveguide Array

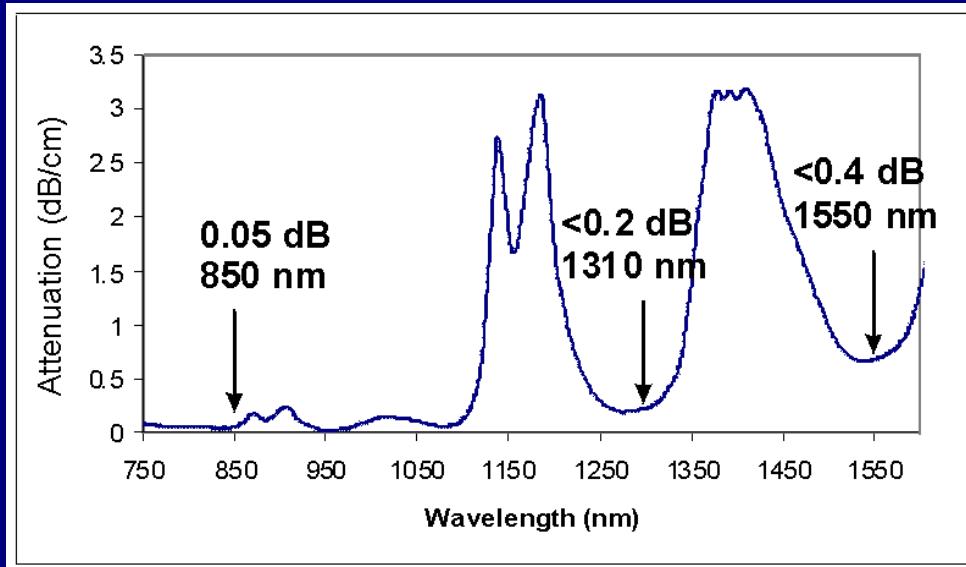
Centre to centre pitch: 250  $\mu\text{m}$



# Polymer Waveguides

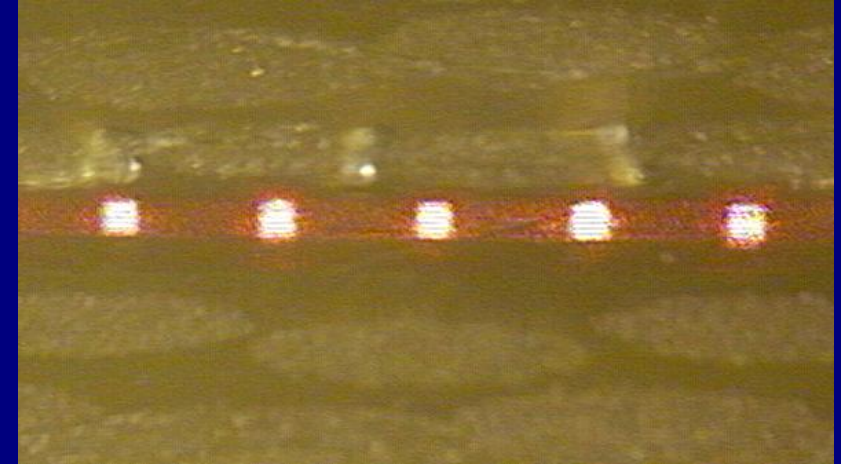
## Waveguide losses

The measured attenuation spectrum for the multifunctional acrylate polymer waveguides.



Waveguide loss measured by Terahertz Photonics using the cutback method: 0.05 dB/cm at 850 nm

## Environmental Stability



Guide unaffected by:

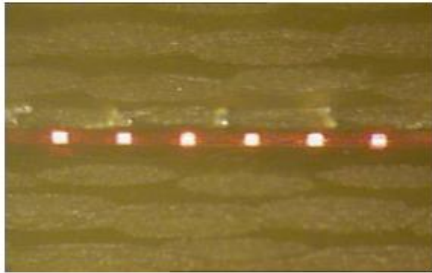
- Board lamination: 1 hour at 180°C
- Solder reflow: 160 seconds at 288°C
- Damp heat: 85% RH @ 85°C
- Temperature cycling: -40 to 85°C (2 wks)
- High degradation temperature: ~ 400°C



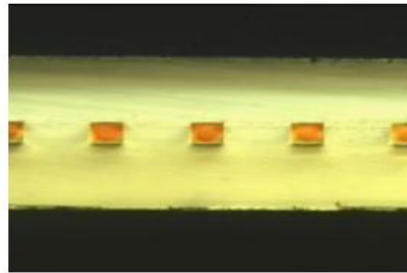
# OPCB Waveguide Manufacturing Methods

- Development of a range of waveguide fabrication processes both high and low risk:
- UV Photolithography from e-beam mask – Exxelis, Dow Corning
- UV Laser Direct Write – Heriot Watt
- Excimer Laser ablation – Loughborough
- Ink Jet Printing – Loughborough
- UV embossing/stamping – Exxelis/EPIGEM
- Polymer Extrusion – BAE Systems
  
- Manufacturing at Stevenage Circuits Ltd
- Existing commercial PCB manufacturing facilities available include polymer deposition, mask fabrication, photolithography, Laser Direct write Imaging (LDI), laser ablation, ink jet printing

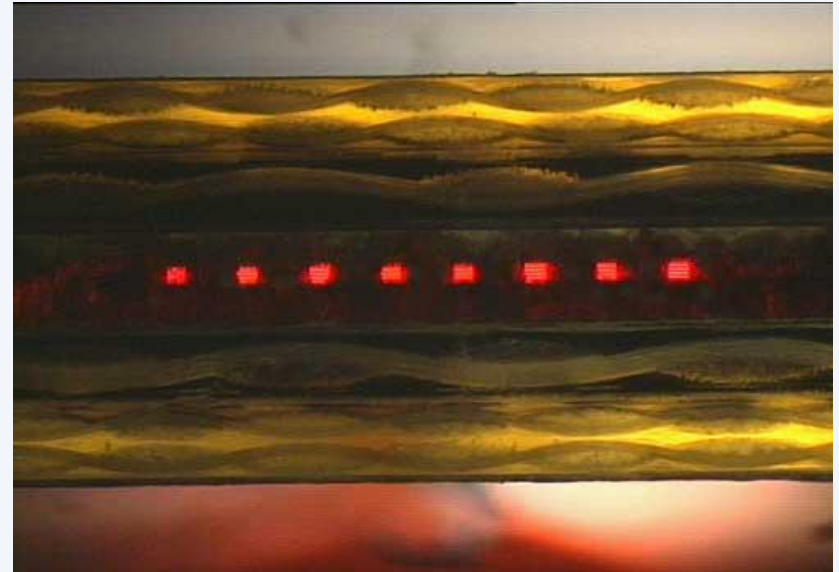
# ELECTRO-OPTICAL PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES



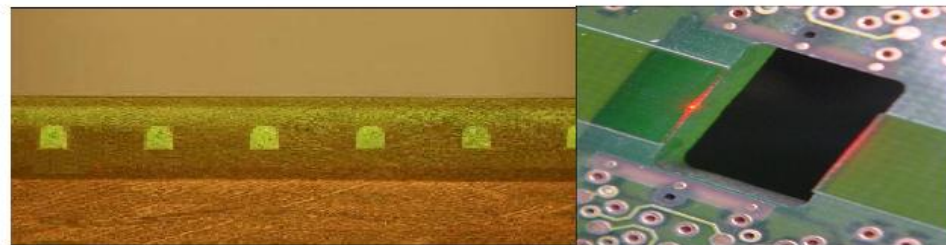
Source: Exxelis Ltd



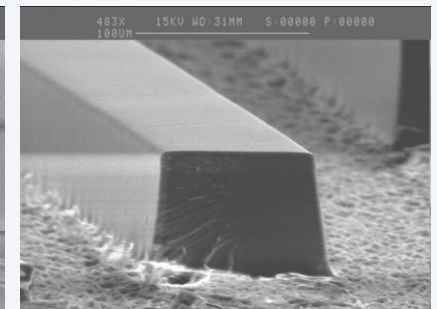
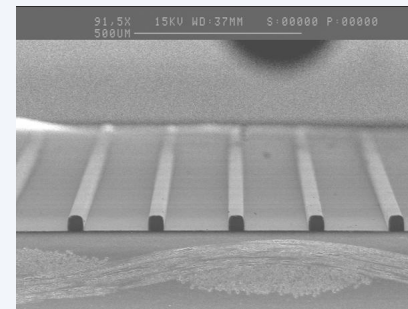
Source: Fraunhofer IZM



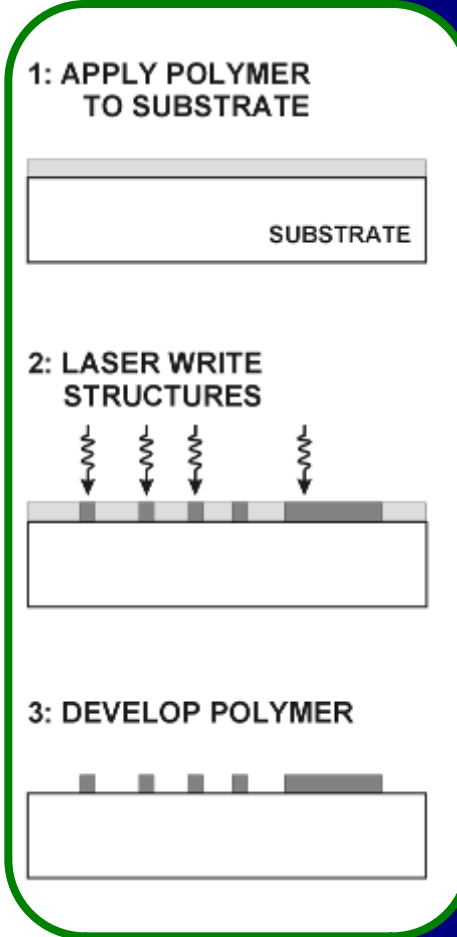
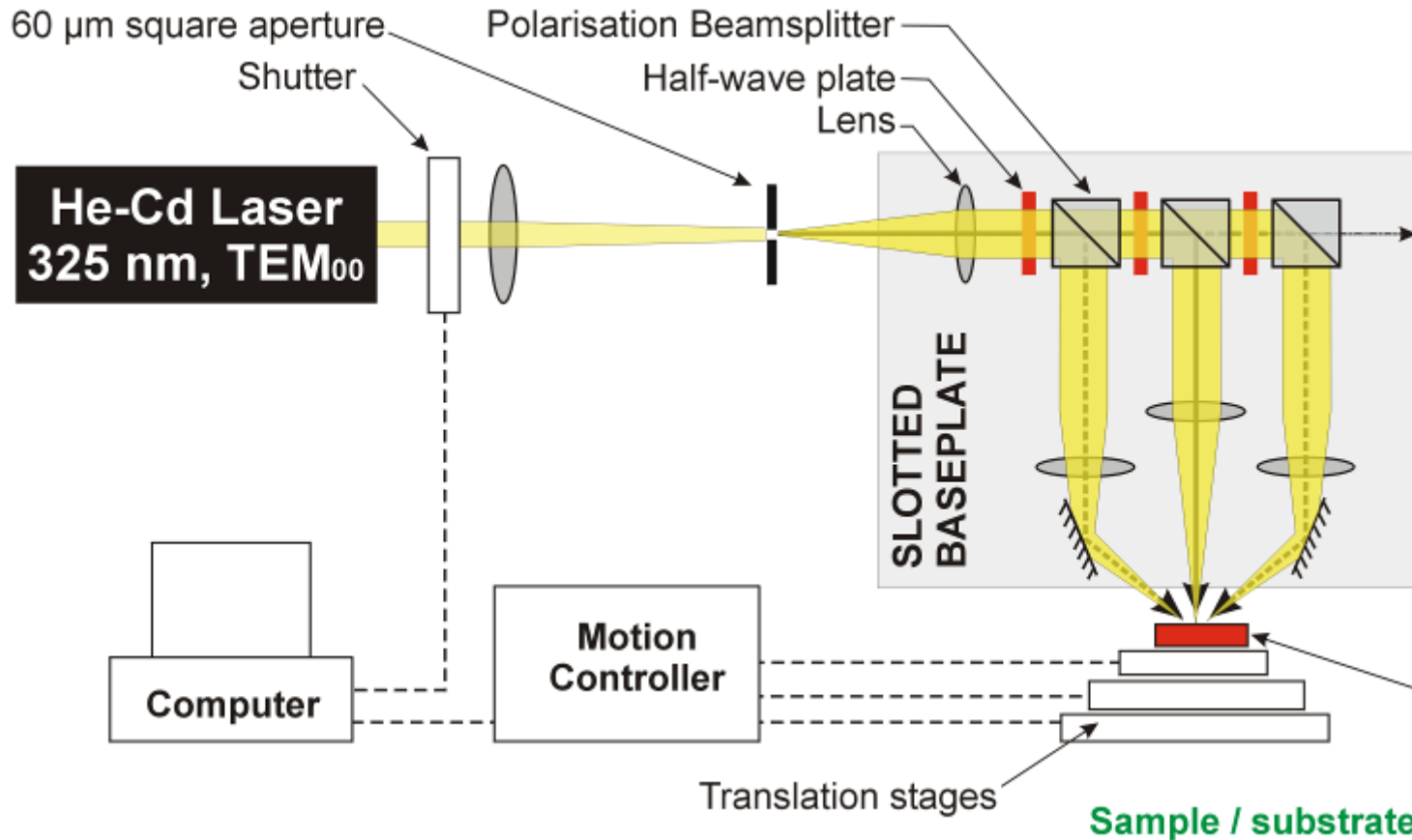
Source: Varioprint AG



Source: IBM Zürich



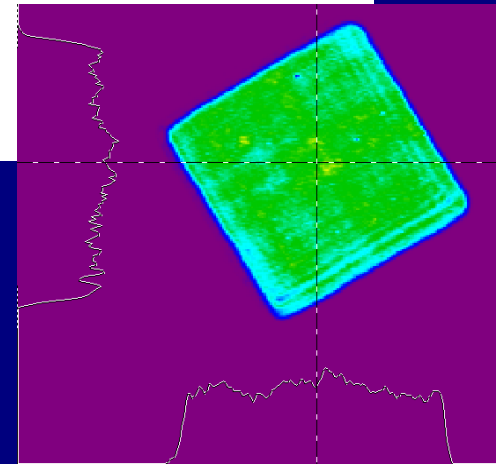
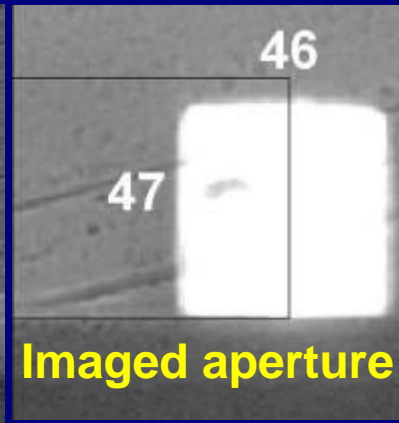
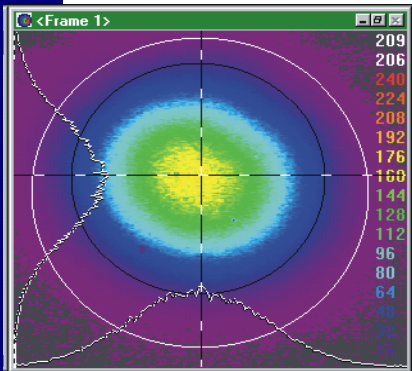
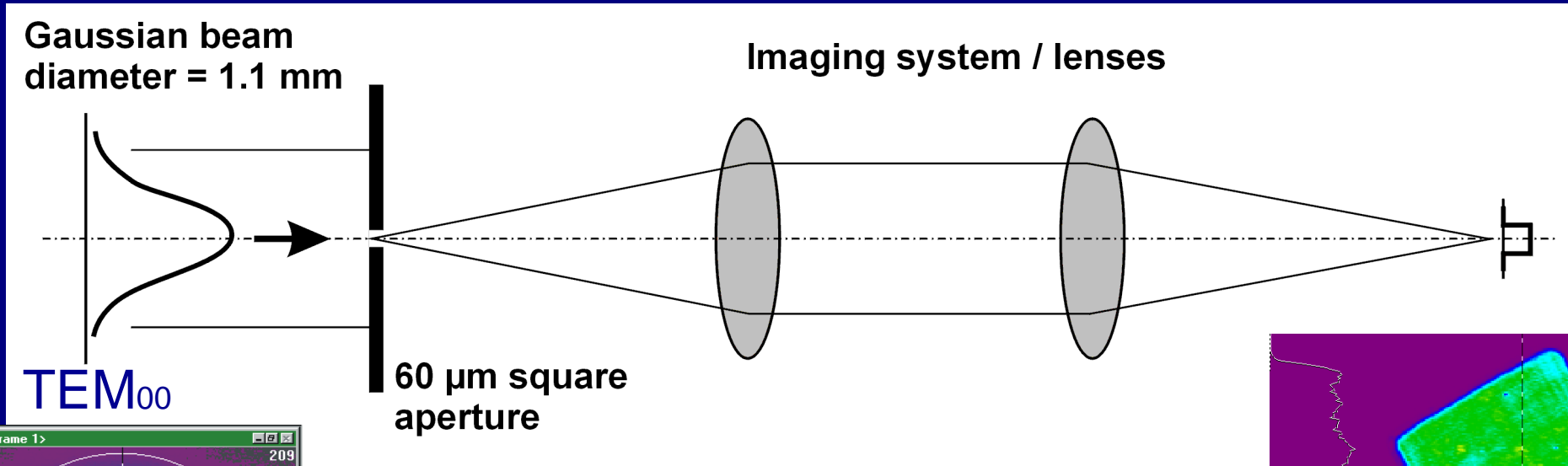
# Direct Laser-writing Setup: Schematic



- **Slotted baseplate** mounted vertically over translation, rotation & vertical stages; components held in place with magnets
- By using two opposing  $45^\circ$  beams we minimise the amount of substrate rotation needed

# Writing sharply defined features

– flat-top, rectangular laser spot

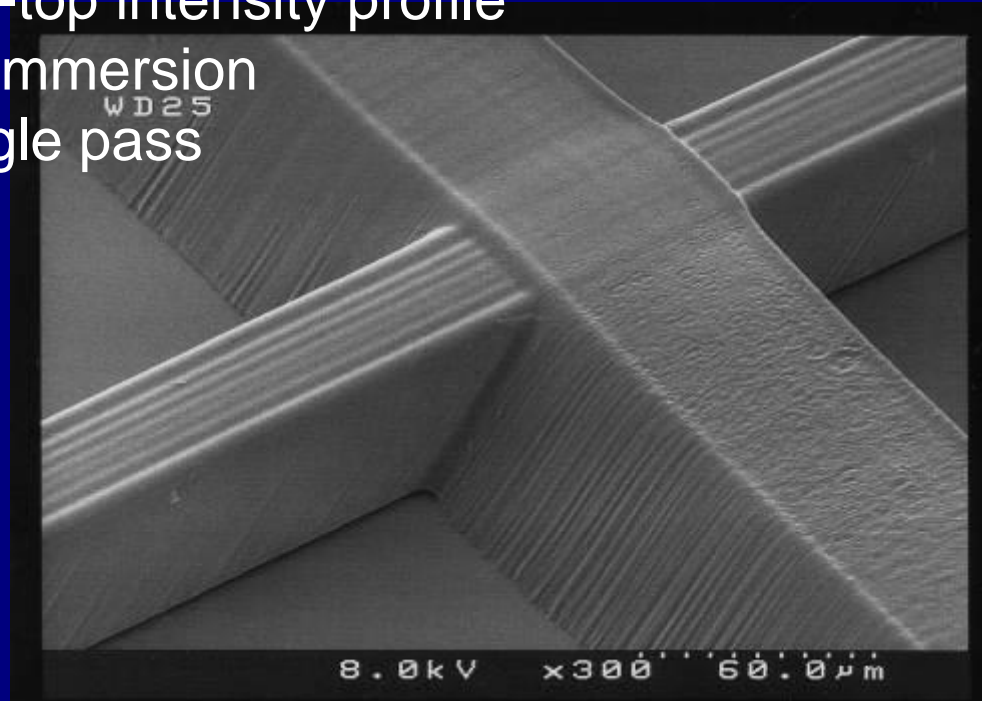
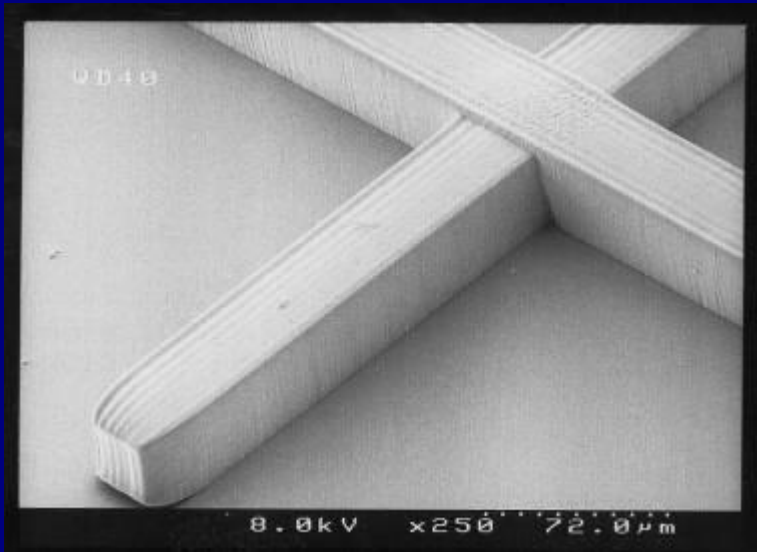


Images of the resulting waveguide core cross-sections

# Laser written polymer structures

SEM images of polymer structures written using imaged 50  $\mu\text{m}$  square aperture (chrome on glass)

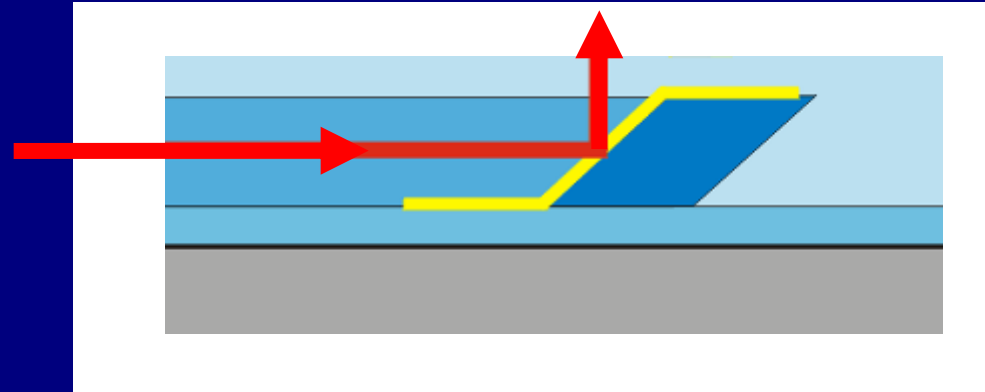
- Writing speed:  $\sim 75 \mu\text{m} / \text{s}$
- Optical power:  $\sim 100 \mu\text{W}$
- Flat-top intensity profile
- Oil immersion
- Single pass



Optical microscope image showing end on view of the 45 $^\circ$  surfaces

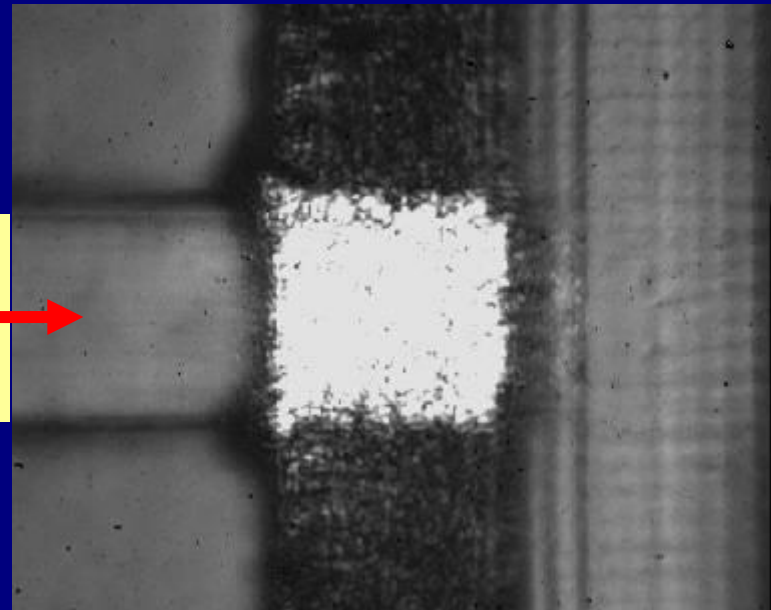
# Waveguide terminated with 45-deg mirror

Out-of-plane coupling,  
using 45-deg mirror (silver)



Microscope image looking  
down on mirror  
coupling light towards camera

**OPTICAL INPUT**



# Photo-polymer & Processing

- Polymer Types: Acrylate (HWU custom & Exxelis) & polysiloxane systems (Dow Corning)
- Tuning of refractive index and viscosity is possible
- Equivalent to negative photoresist processing
- Compatible with a wide range of substrates
- Mechanical and thermal properties compatible with PCB processing
- “Wet” format processing; Possibility of a dry film format formulation
- Low optical loss at 850 nm ( $>0.1$  dB/cm typical)
- Polymer deposition techniques include: Spinning, doctor-blading, casting, spray coating

# Laser writing parameters

- **Polymer system / formulation**
- **Writing speed**
  - New Aerotech stages capable of speeds of up to 2 m/s
- **Intensity profile**
  - Gaussian
  - Flat top (imaged aperture)
- **Optical power**
  - Gaussian beam: up to ~10 mW
  - Imaged aperture: up to ~1.5 mW
- **Oil immersion**
  - Permits writing of 45° surfaces
  - Excludes oxygen, which inhibits polymerisation process
- **Number of passes**
  - Exposure process is non-reciprocal
  - Can obtain better results with multiple fast passes than single slow pass



# Current Results

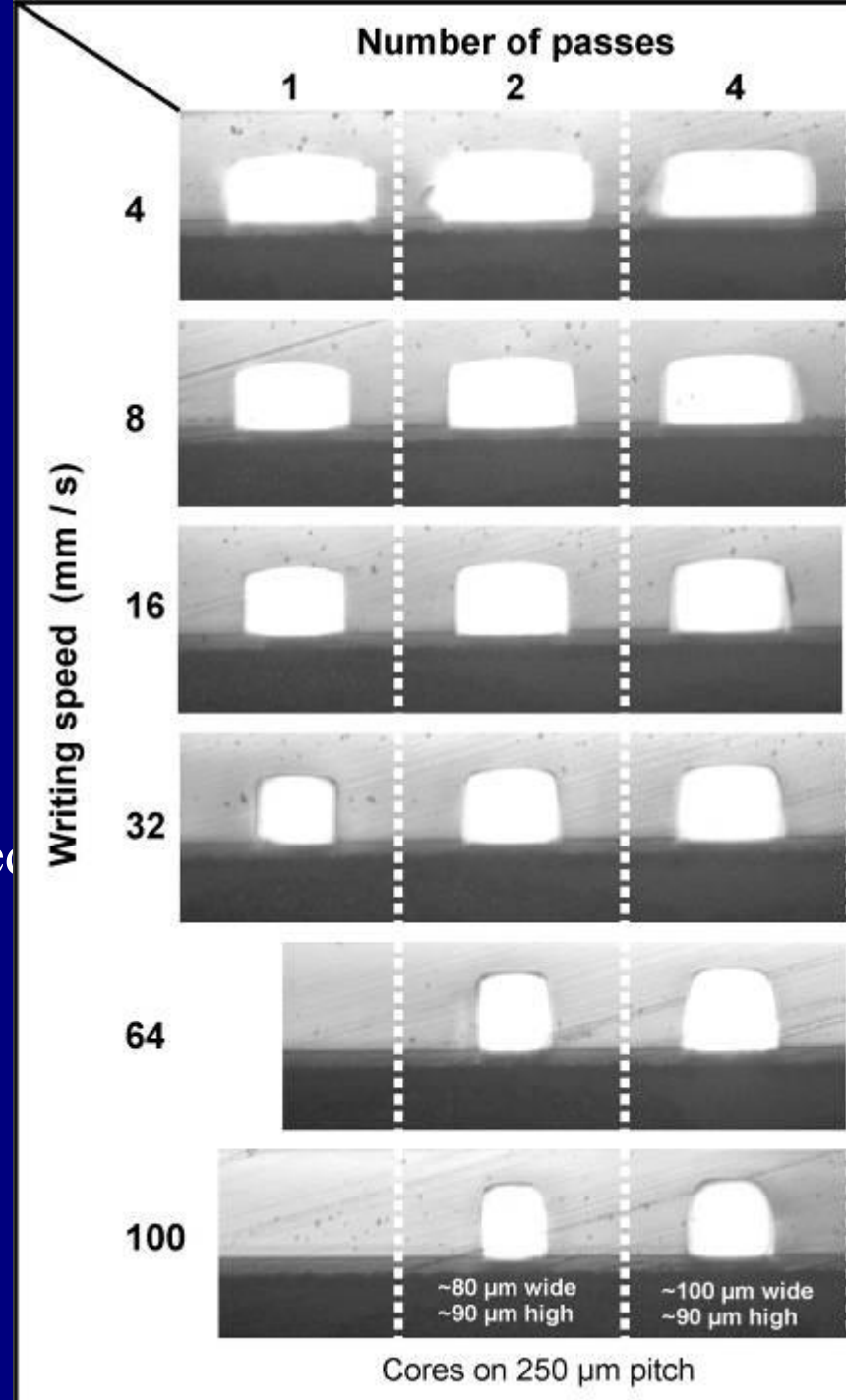
## Laser-writing Parameters:

- Intensity profile: Gaussian
- Optical power: ~8 mW
- Cores written in oil

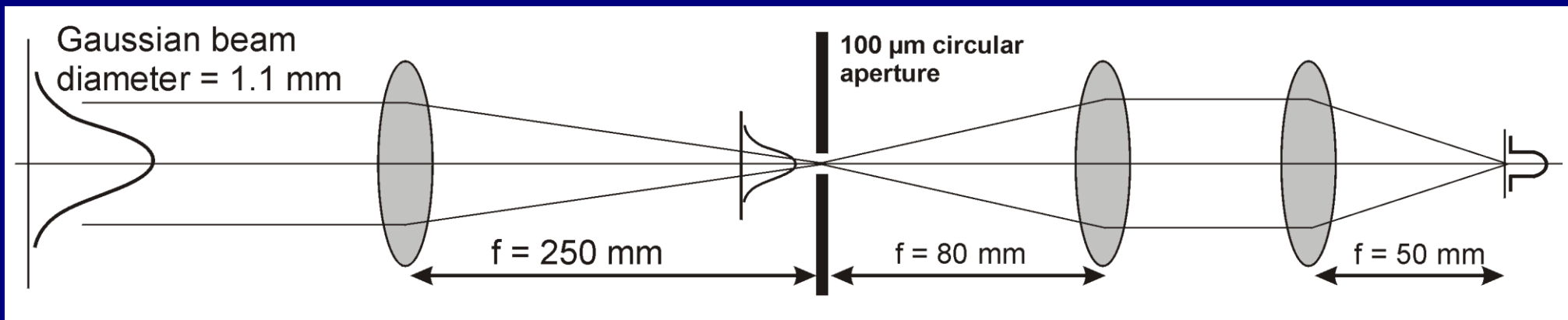
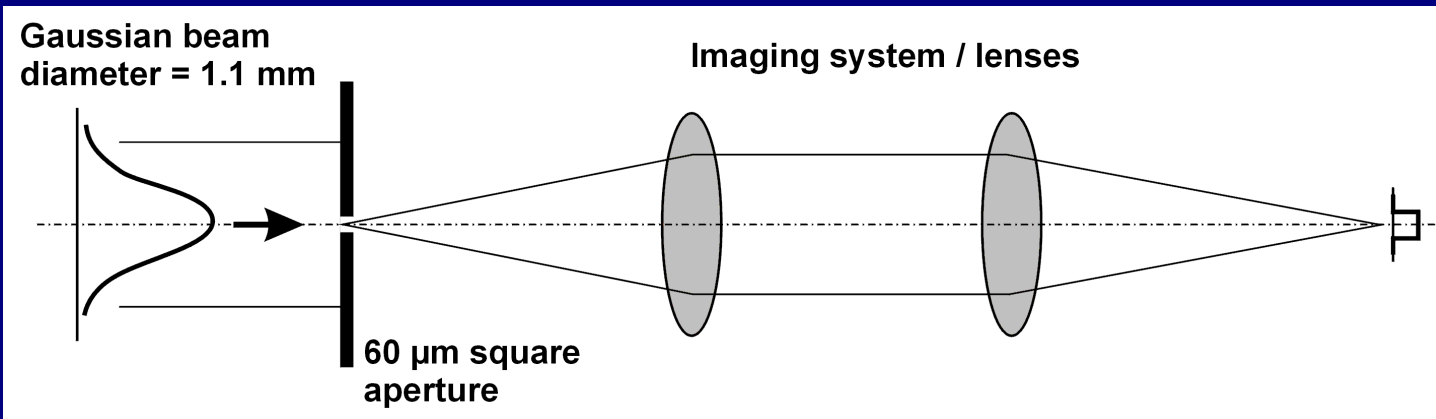
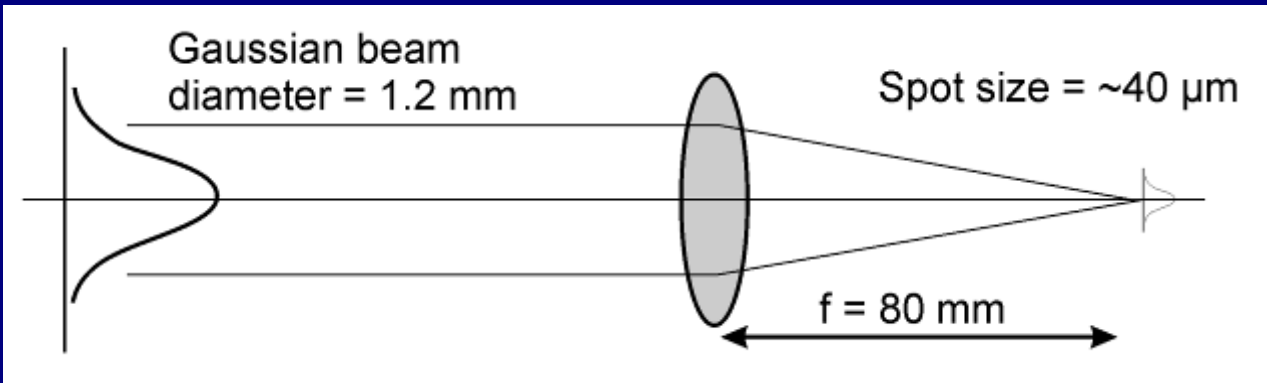
## Polymer:

- Custom multifunctional acrylate photo-polymer
- Fastest “effective” writing speed to date: 50 mm/s

*(Substrate: FR4 with polymer undercladding)*

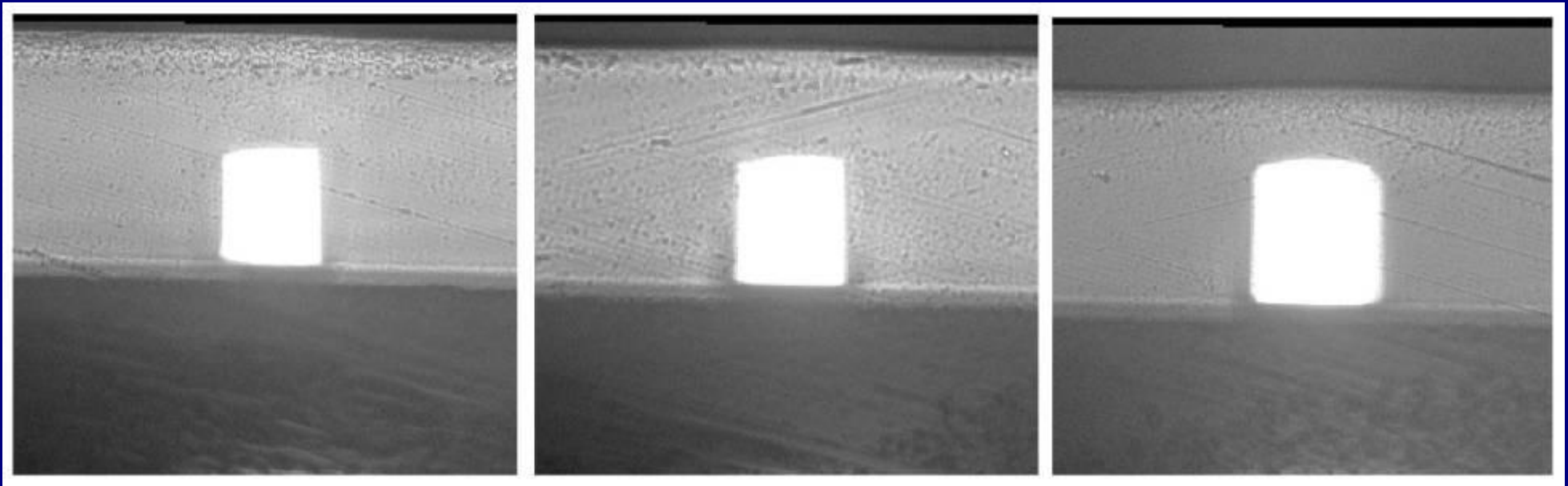


# Intensity Profiles



# Direct laser written waveguides using imaged circular aperture

- 100  $\mu\text{m}$  aperture was de-magnified
- Optical power at sample  $\sim 0.5$  mW
- HWU custom photo-polymer



8 mm/s  
63 x 74  $\mu\text{m}$

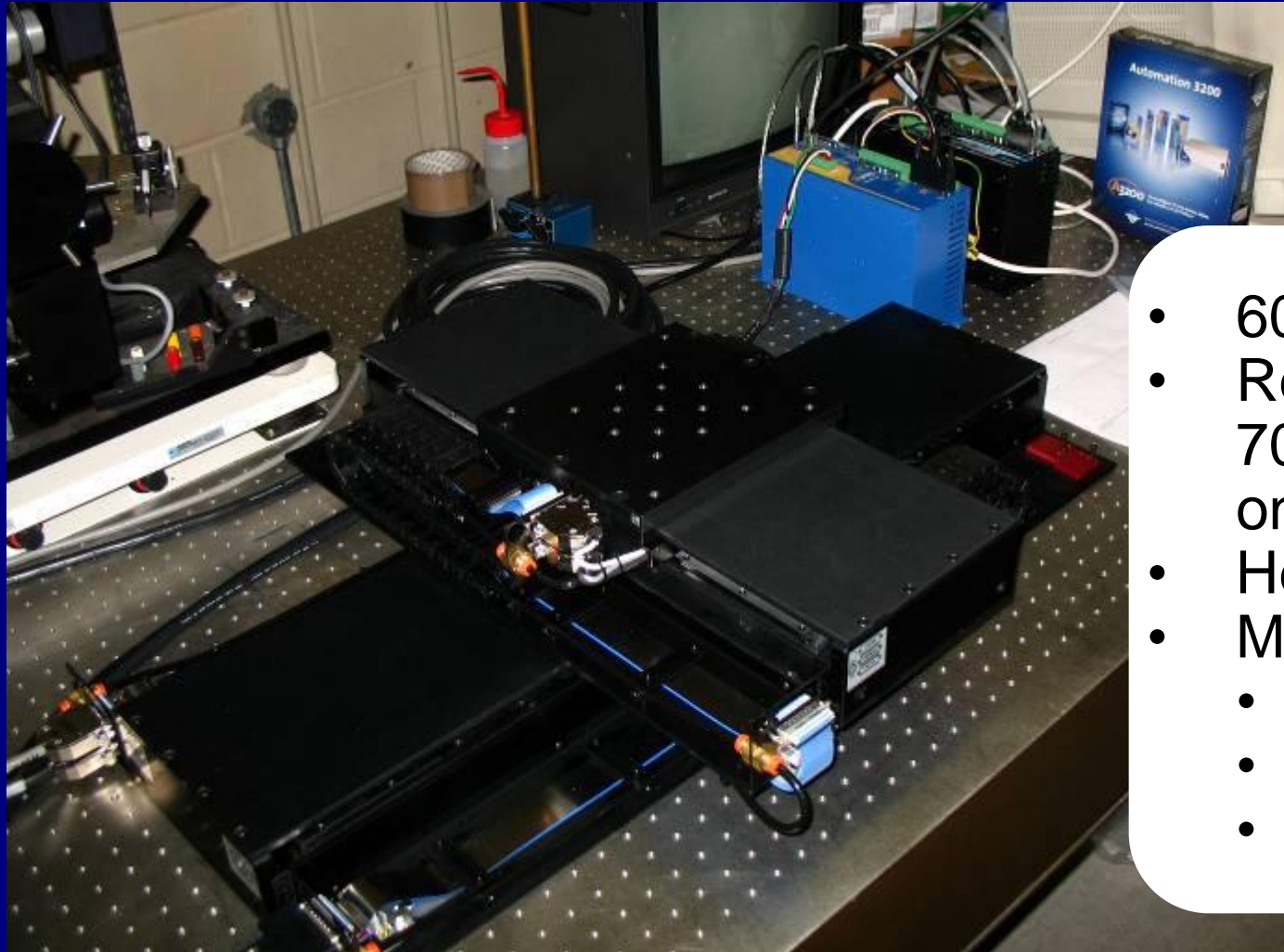
4 mm/s  
69 x 78  $\mu\text{m}$

2 mm/s  
76 x 84  $\mu\text{m}$



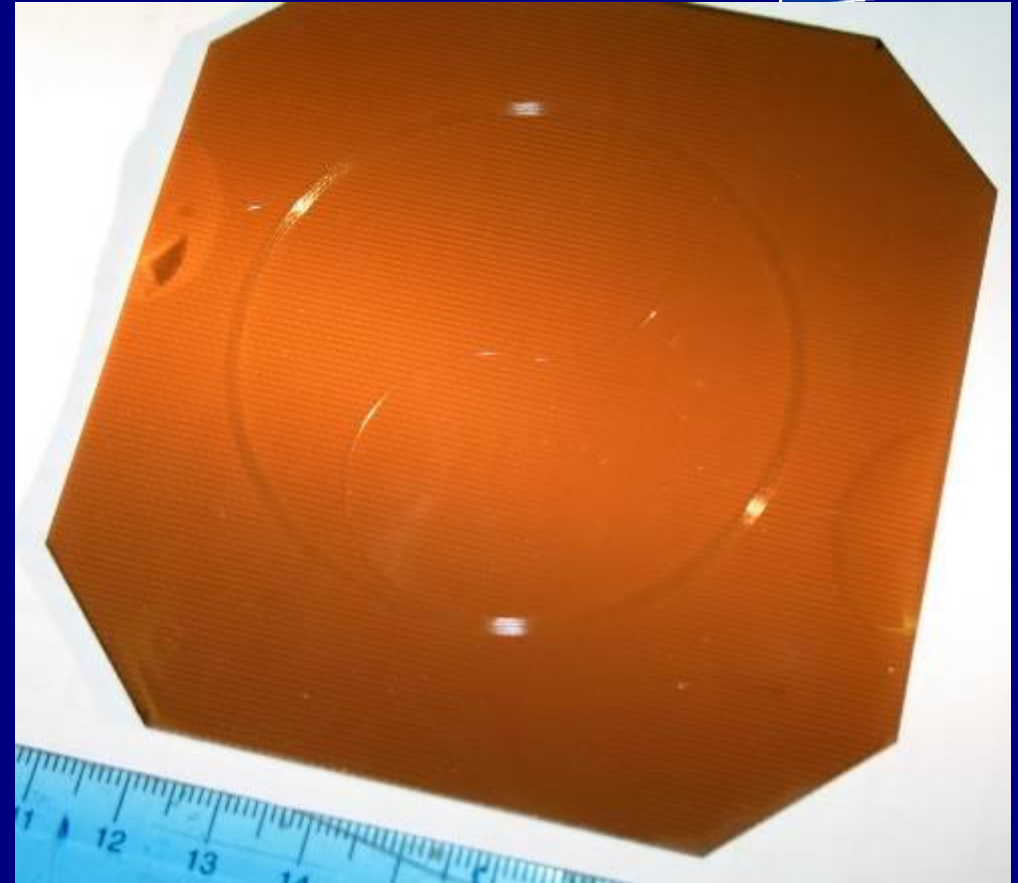
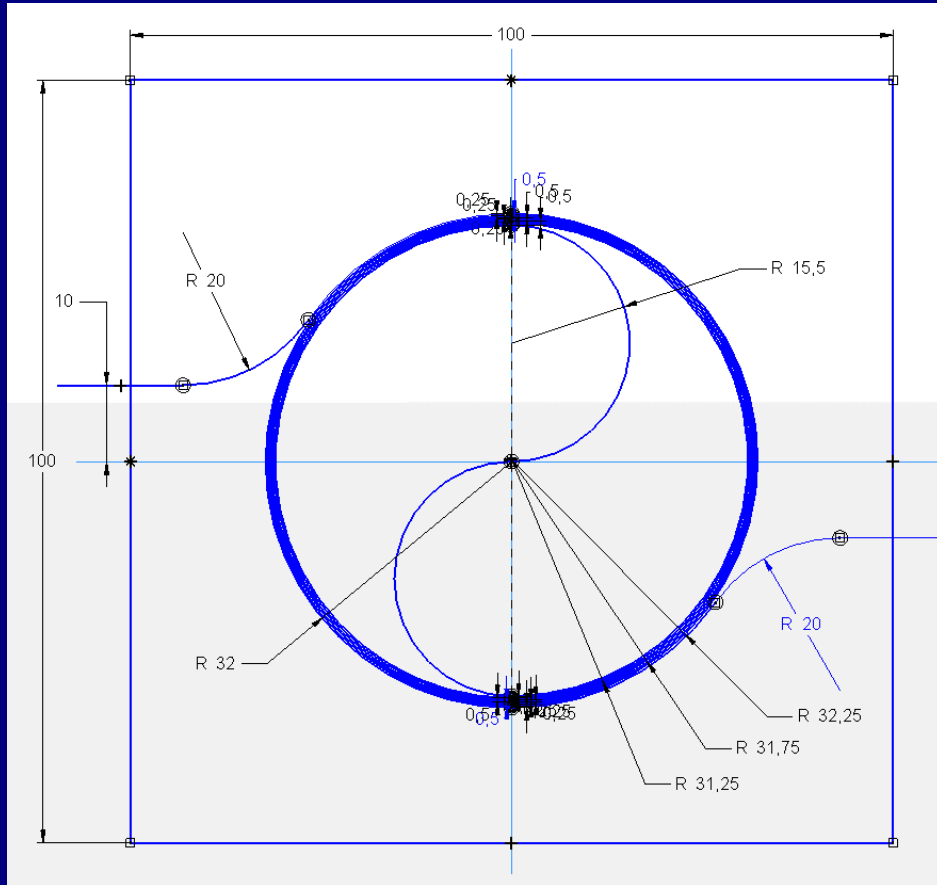
# Large Board Processing: Writing

- Stationary “writing head” with board moved using Aerotech sub- $\mu\text{m}$  precision stages
- Waveguide trajectories produced using CAD program



- 600 x 300 mm travel
- Requires a minimum of 700 x 1000 mm space on optical bench
- Height: ~250 mm
- Mass:
  - 300 mm: 21 kg
  - 600 mm: 33 kg
  - Vacuum tabletop

# Large Board Processing: Writing



The spiral was fabricated using a Gaussian intensity profile at a writing speed of 2.5 mm/s on a 10 x 10 cm lower clad FR4 substrate. Total length of spiral waveguide is ~1.4 m. The spiral was upper cladded at both ends for cutting.

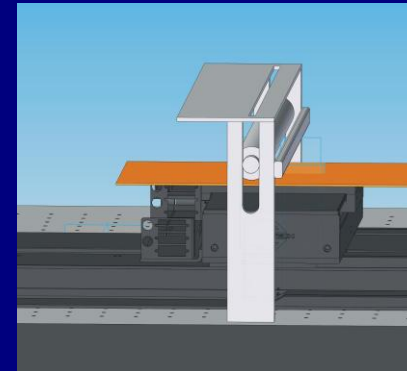
# Large Board Processing: Polymer Dispensing / Developing

**Key challenge:** Dispensing / applying a uniform layer of liquid photo polymer over a large area FR4 boards.

We plan to experiment with a number of techniques including the use of a roller system (as shown in the CAD drawing on right)

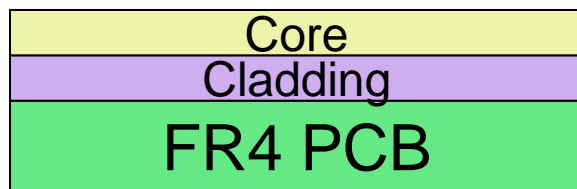
- Shims along edge
- Mylar sheet

Board Developing: Appropriate container for developing large FR4 boards after UV exposure

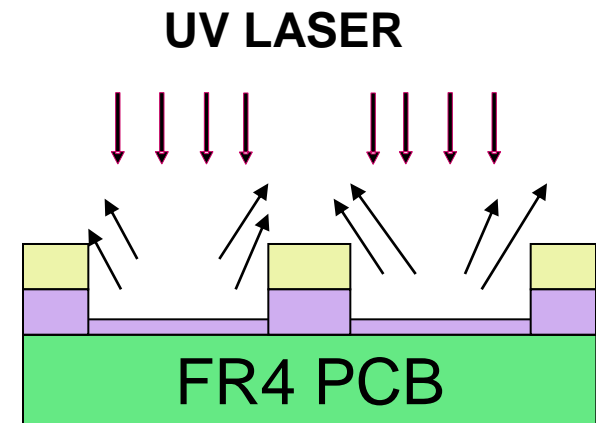


# Laser Ablation for Waveguide Fabrication

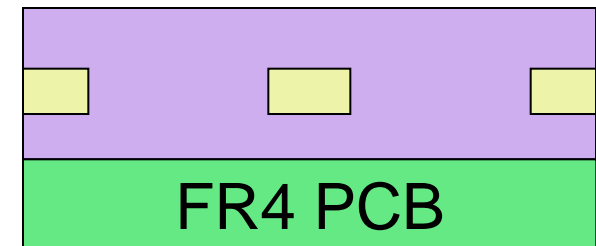
- Ablation to leave waveguides
- Excimer laser – Loughborough
- Nd:YAG – Stevenage Circuits



Deposit cladding and core layers on substrate



Laser ablate polymer



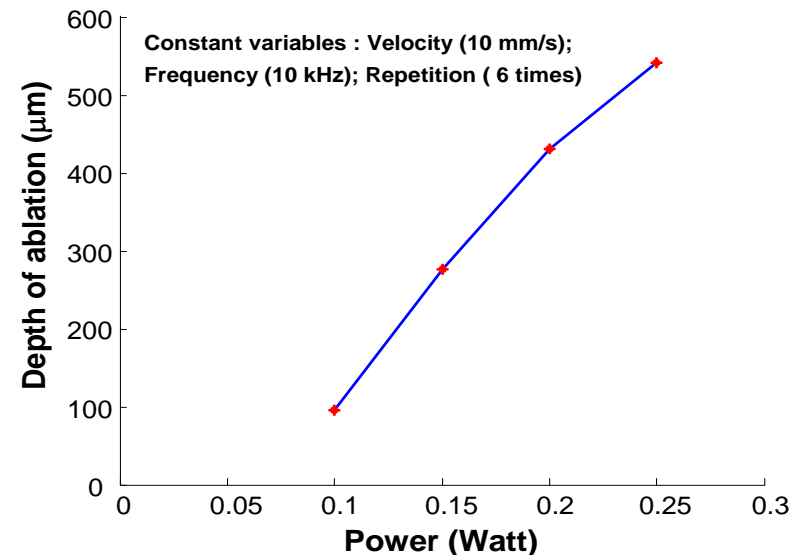
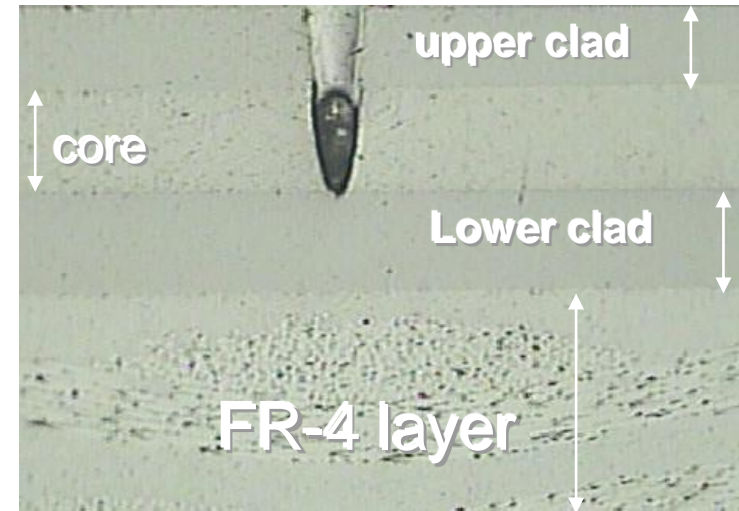
Deposit cladding layer

**SIDE VIEW**

# Nd:YAG Ablation

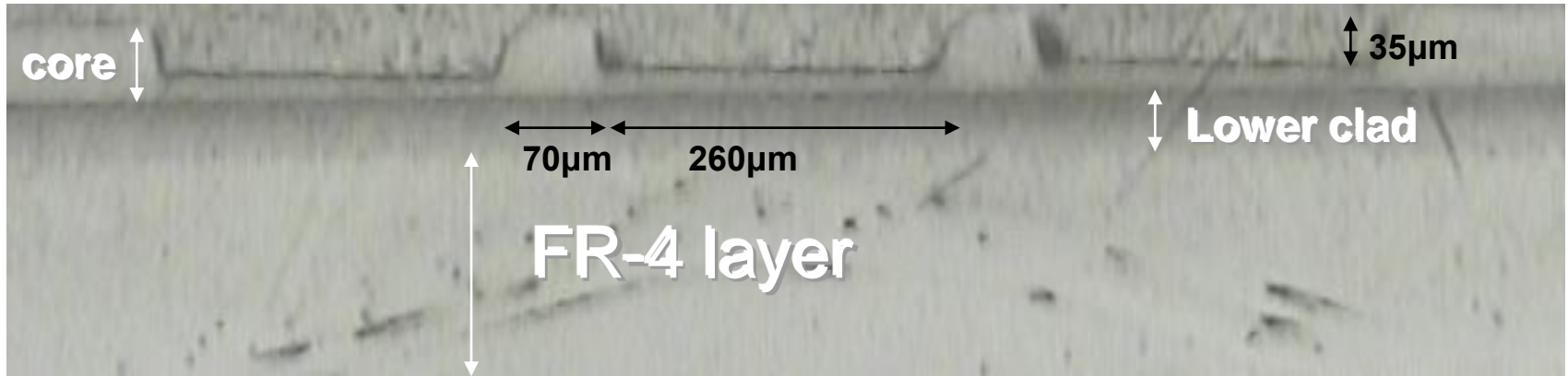


- Nd:YAG laser based at Stevenage Circuits
- Grooves machined in polymer
- Ablation depth characterised for machining parameters



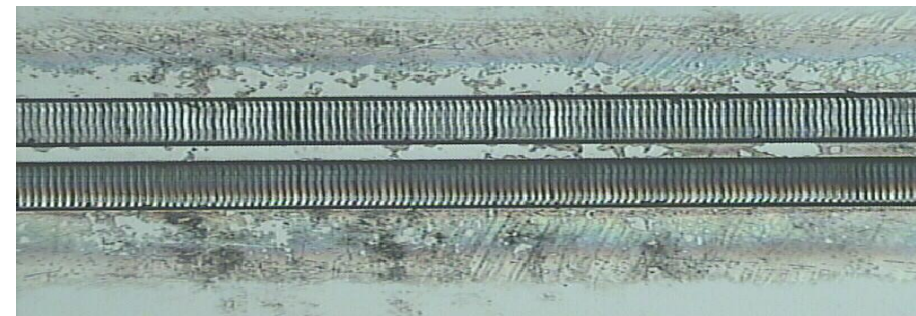


# Excimer Laser Ablation



Cross-section

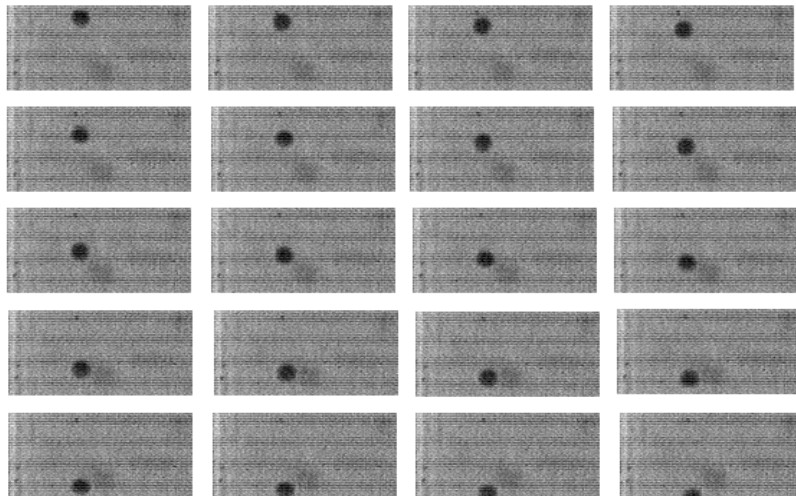
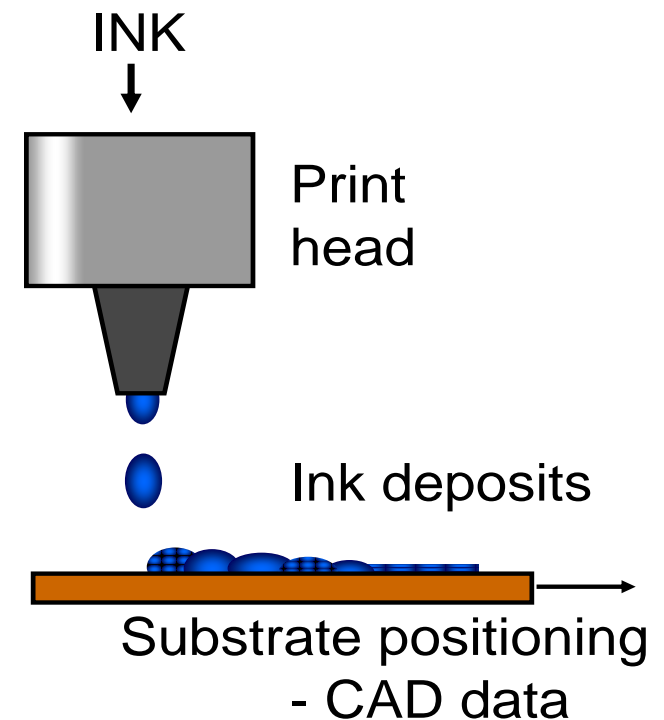
- Straight waveguide structures machined in polymer
- Future work to investigate preparation of curved mirrors for out of plane interconnection



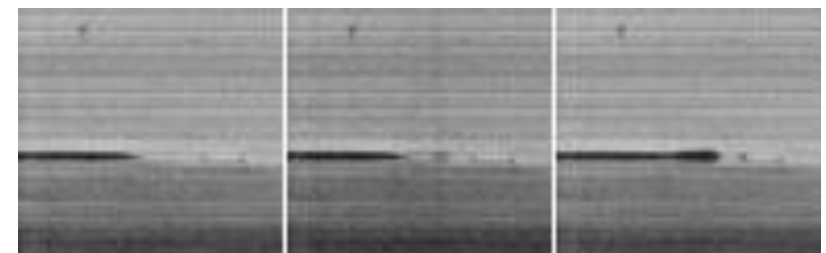
Plan View

# Ink Jet Deposition of Polymer Waveguides

- Localised deposition of cladding and / or core materials
  - More materials efficient
  - Active response to local features
- Printing UV cure material
  - Deposit liquid, then cure

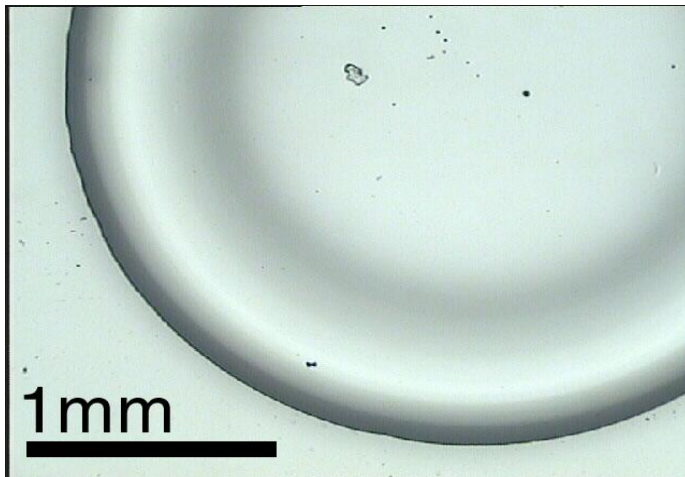
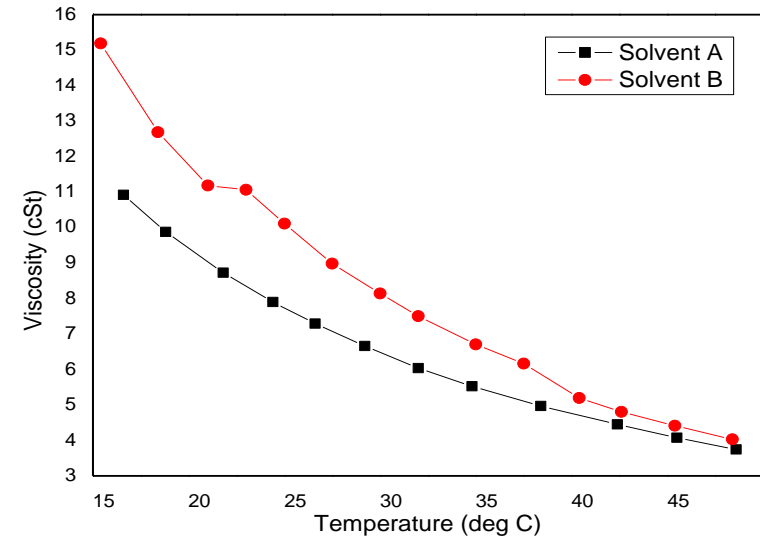


High Speed Camera Images



# Ink Jet Printing Challenges

- Ink formulation
  - Viscosity, surface tension
- Waveform development
- Drying effects
  - Coffee stain

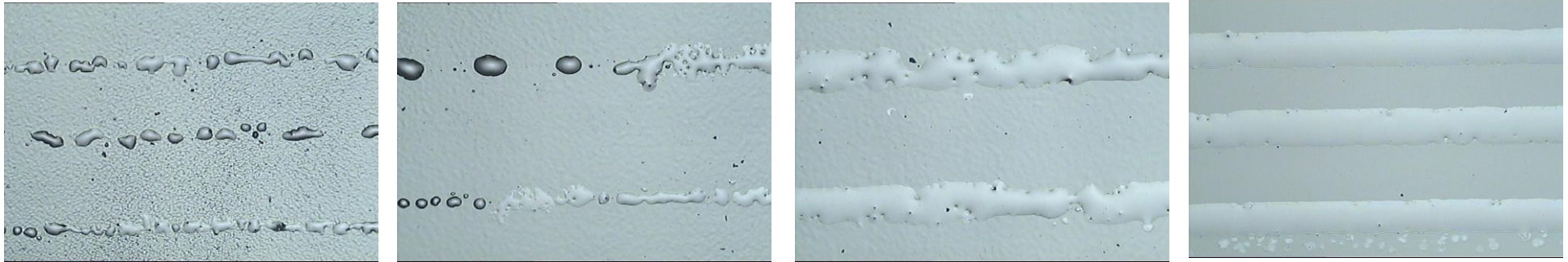


Waveguide material with solvent addition - viscosity as a function of temperature

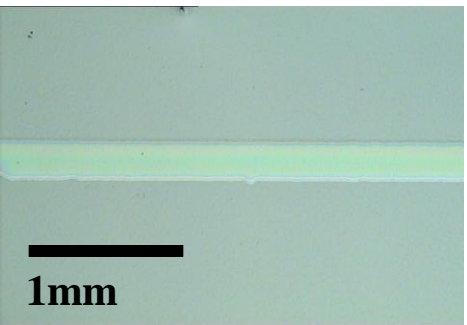
PMMA on glass.  
Deposited by pipette from solution.

## Line Stability

Increasing volume of fluid deposited



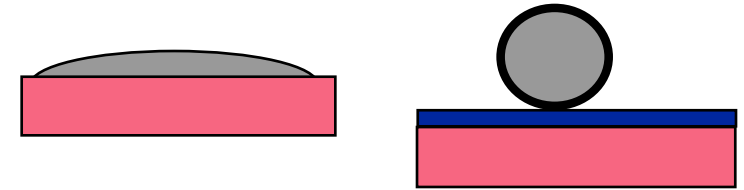
Same droplet size, different solvent



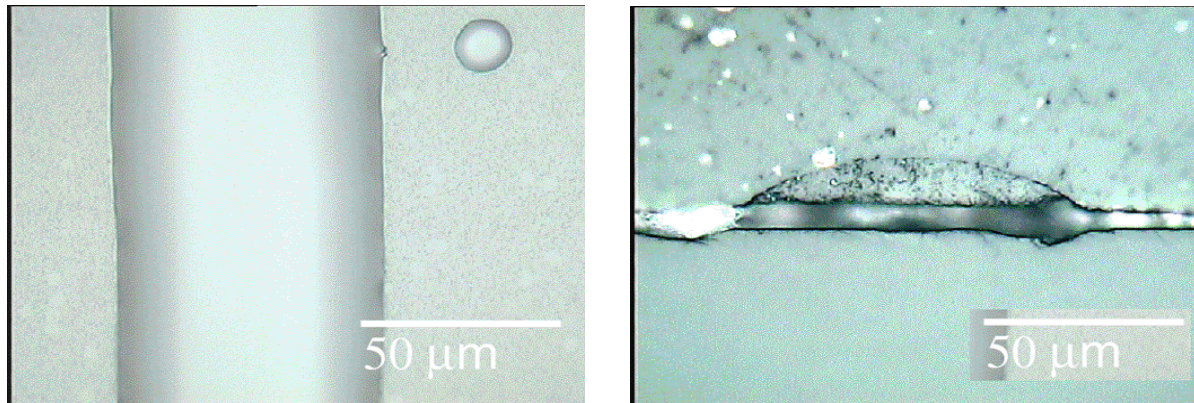
- Ink / substrate interactions affect droplet spread
- Waveform for jetting still to be optimised. Initial observations:
  - Increasing volume of fluid leads to greater line stability
  - Solvent selection aids line stability

# Control of Surface Wetting

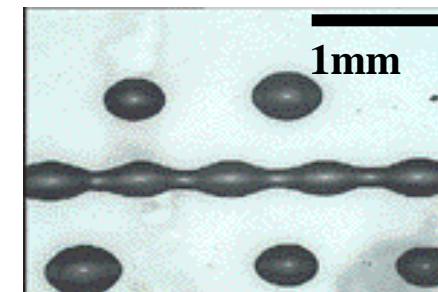
- Need to control contact angle of polymer droplet on surface
  - Wetting angle is an important factor in determining droplet cross-section / printing resolution
  - Control of surface chemistry (balance of wetting and adhesion)



Droplets on wettable and non-wettable surfaces



Modified glass substrate enables 75 $\mu$ m wide features, 15 $\mu$ m high to be printed



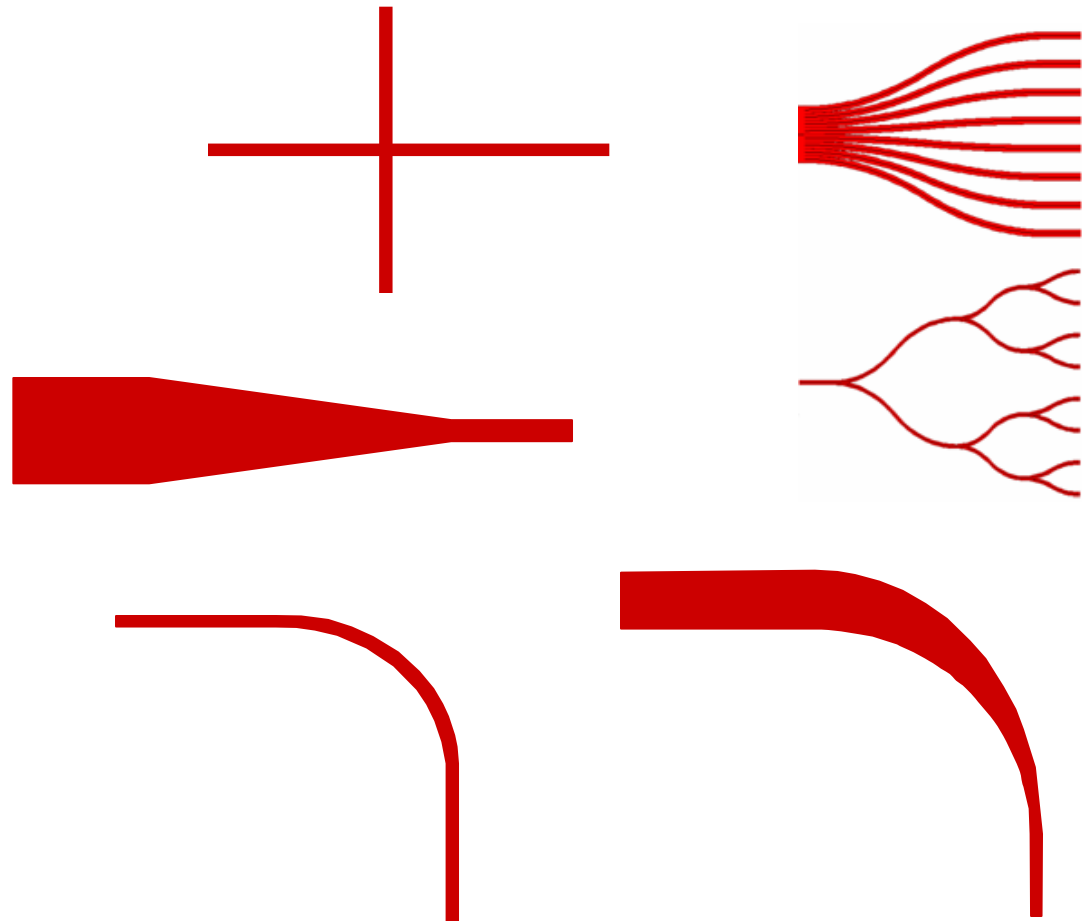
Increased contact angle leads to unstable features

# UCL Research

- **Layout of waveguide test patterns**
- **Design and layout of system demonstrator patterns**
- **Measurement of fabricated waveguides**
  - **End facet roughness, sidewall roughness, optical power loss, misalignment tolerance, bit error rate, eye diagram, jitter**
- **Reliability Assessment**
  - **Humidity, temperature cycling, vibration, aging**
- **Modelling and Experimental comparison**
  - **Design rules embedded in layout tools**

# Waveguide components and measurements

- Straight waveguides 480 mm x 70  $\mu\text{m}$  x 70  $\mu\text{m}$
- Bends with a range of radii
- Crossings
- Splitters
- Spiral waveguides
- Tapered waveguides
- Bent tapered waveguides
- Surface Roughness
- Loss
- Crosstalk
- Misalignment tolerance
- Bit Error Rate, Eye Diagram

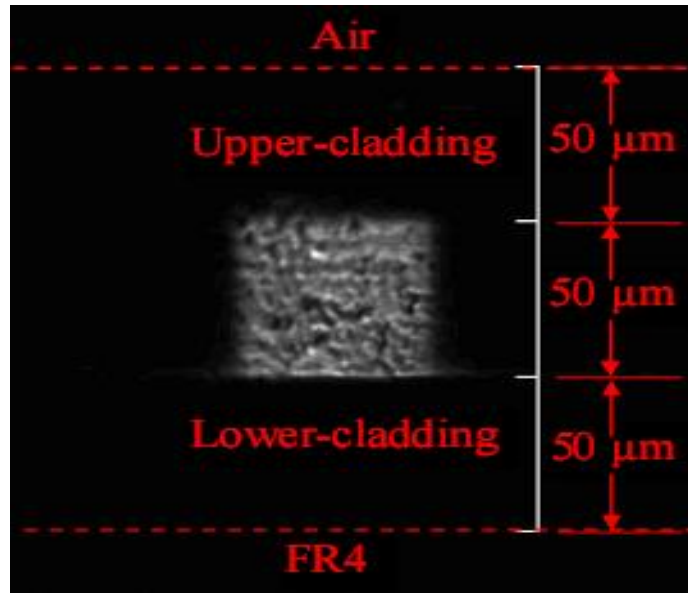


# Characteristics of waveguide measurements reported

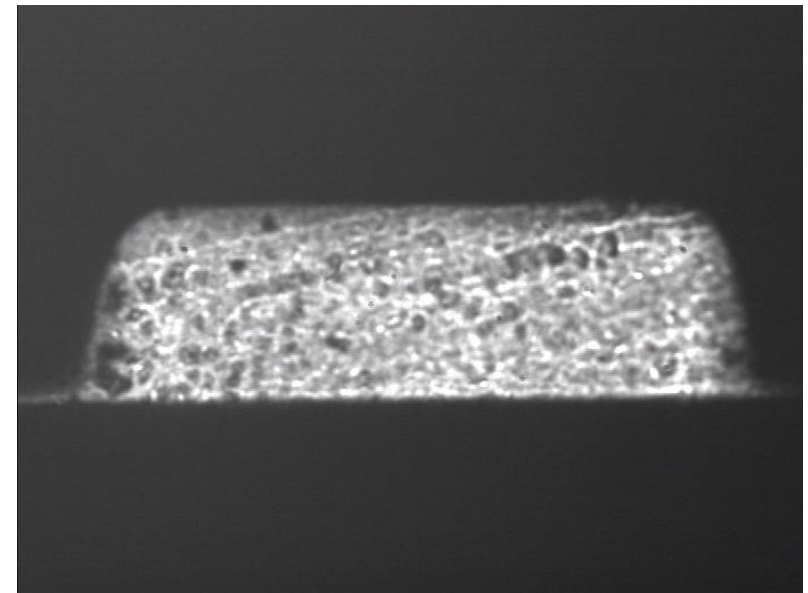
- Photolithographically fabricated by Exxelis using e-beam mask
- Truemode® acrylate polymer formulation
- Core refractive index 1.556
- Cladding refractive index 1.5264
- NA = 0.302
- Cross sections typically 50, 70, 75, 100  $\mu\text{m}$  wide    50, 70  $\mu\text{m}$  thick



# Waveguide Output Face Photographs



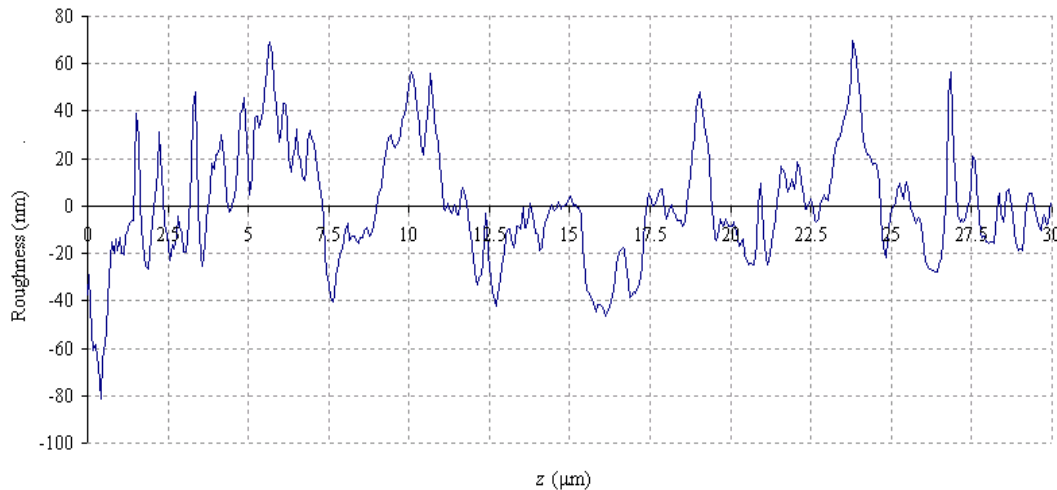
**50  $\mu\text{m}$  50  $\mu\text{m}$  waveguide**



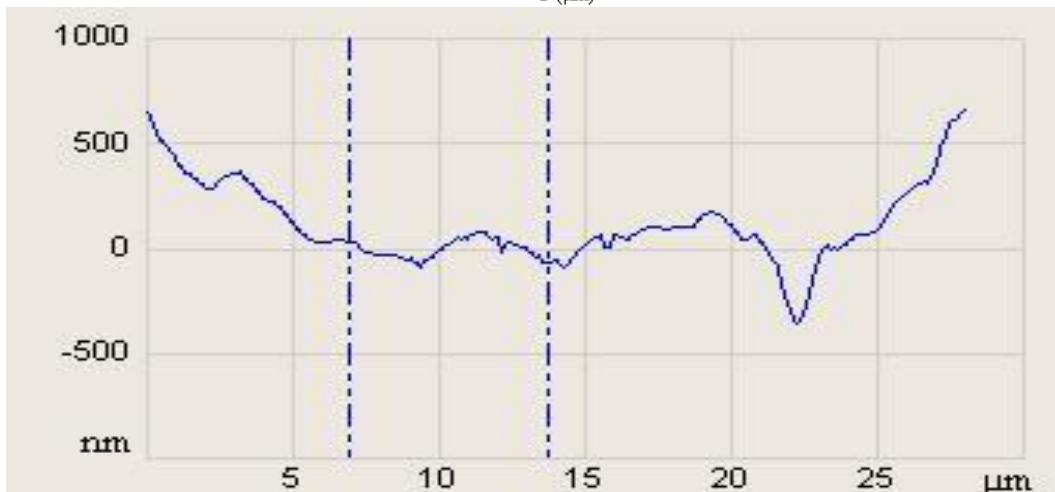
**50  $\mu\text{m}$  140  $\mu\text{m}$  waveguide**

- Photolithographically fabricated by Exxelis
- Cut with a dicing saw, unpolished
- VCSEL illuminated

# Surface roughness

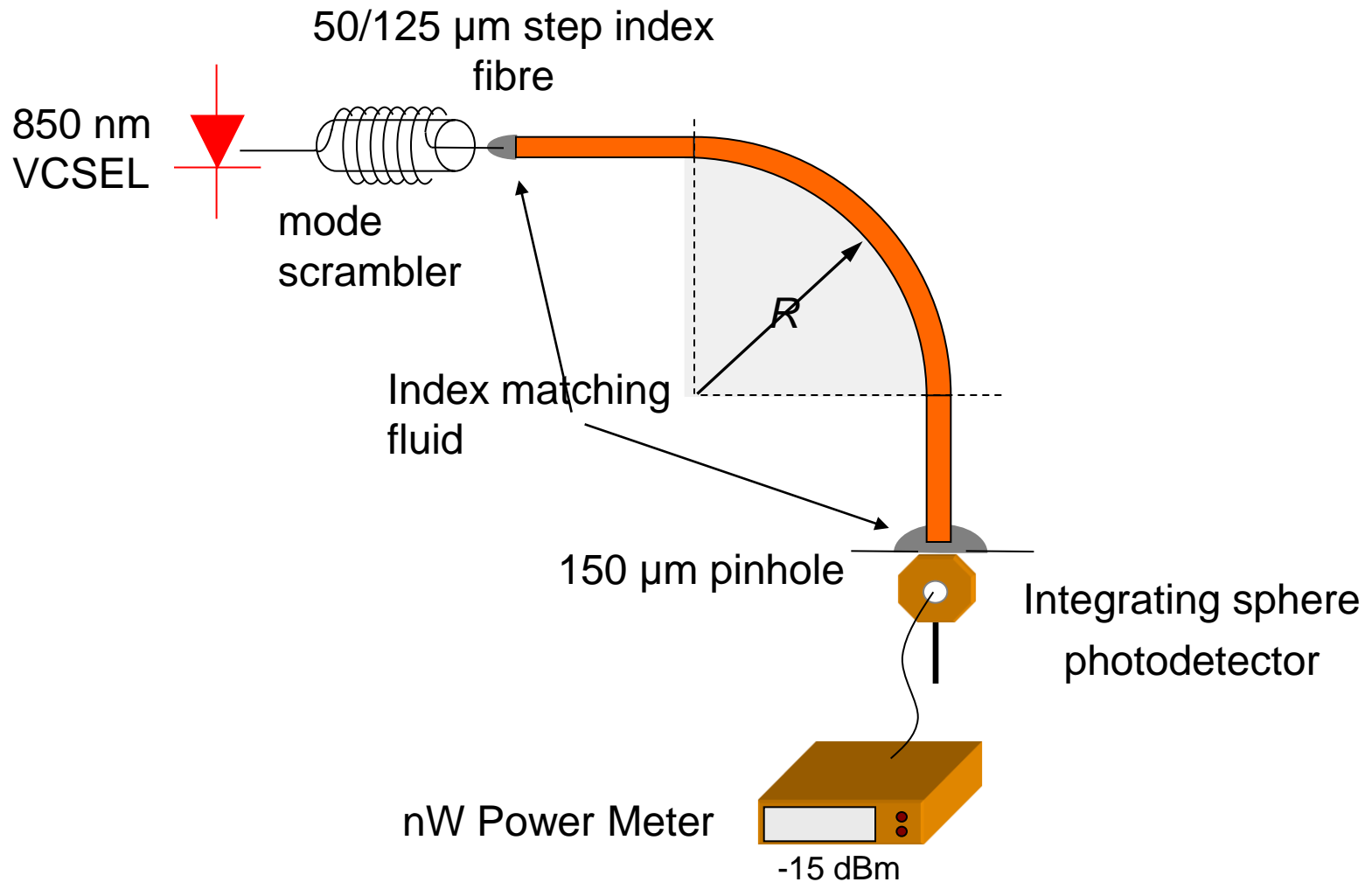


- RMS side wall roughness: 9 nm to 74 nm

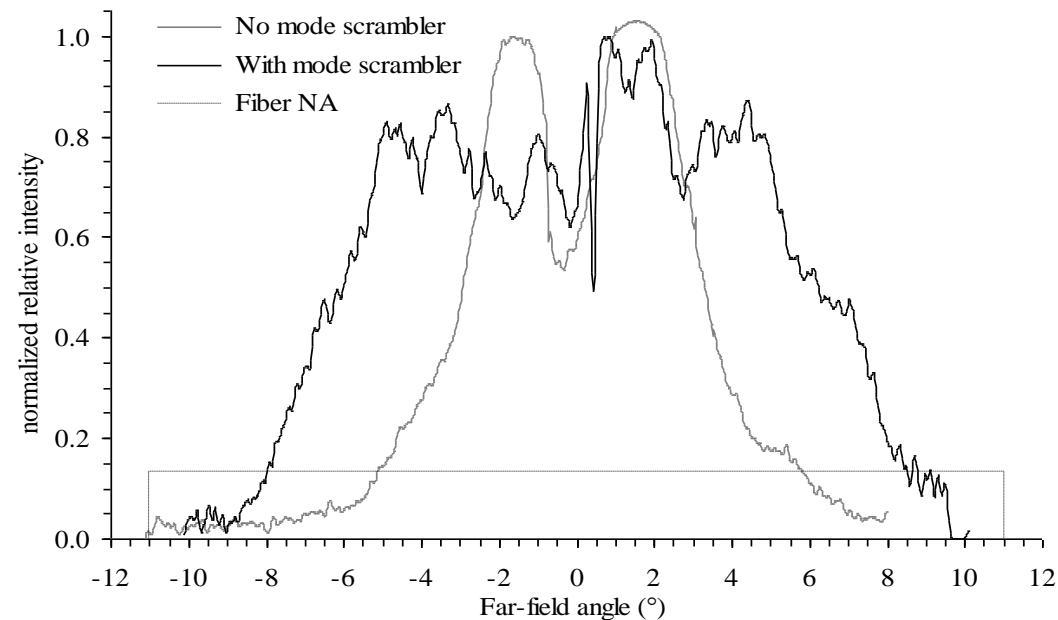


- RMS polished end surface roughness: 26 nm to 192 nm.

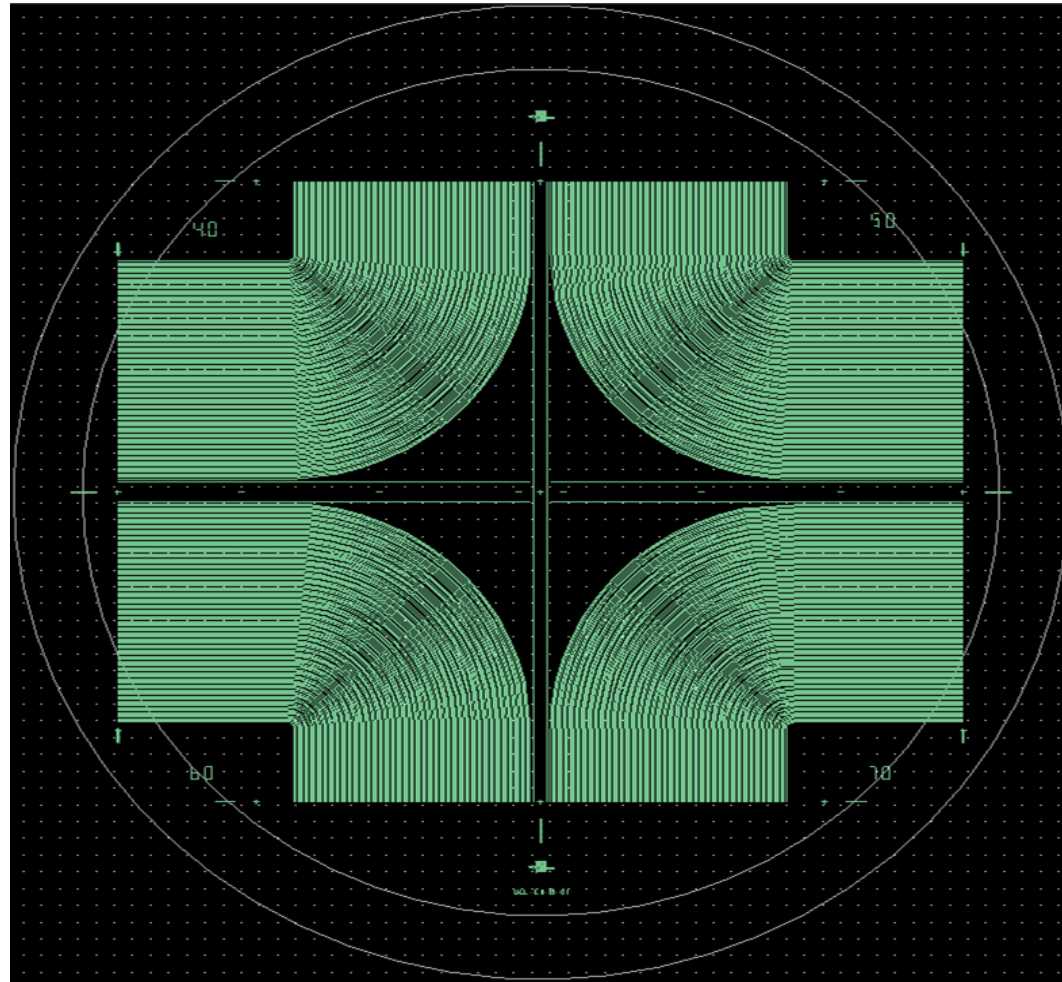
# Optical Loss Measurement



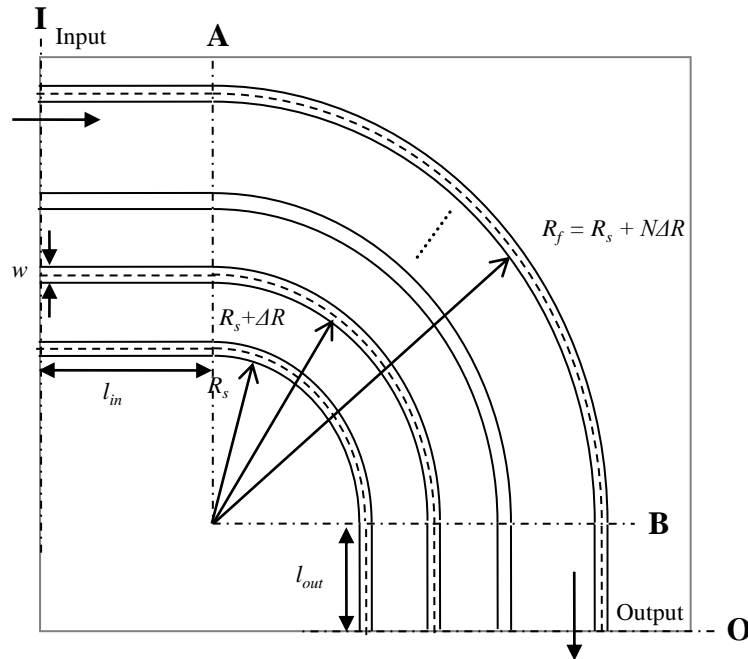
# Far Field from 50/125 $\mu\text{m}$ fibre with and without mode scrambling



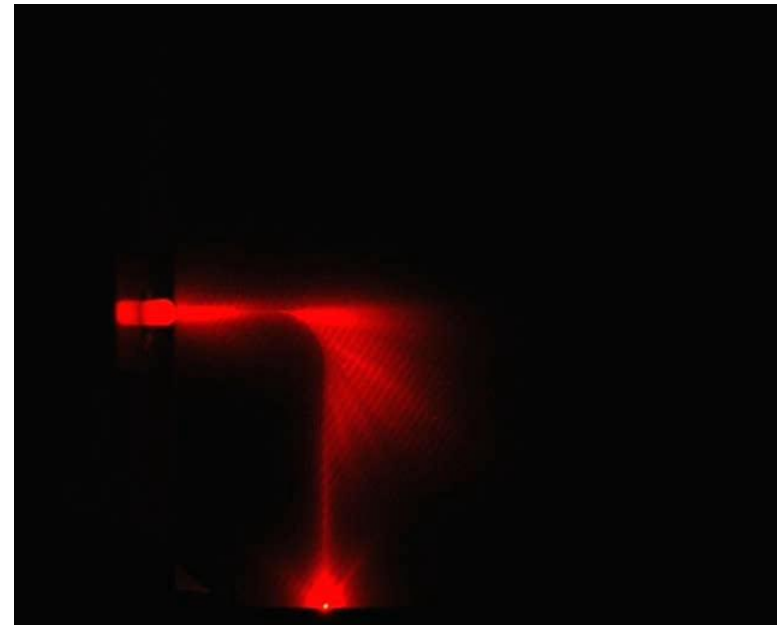
# Waveguide 90 bend test pattern



# Optical Power Loss in 90° Waveguide Bends



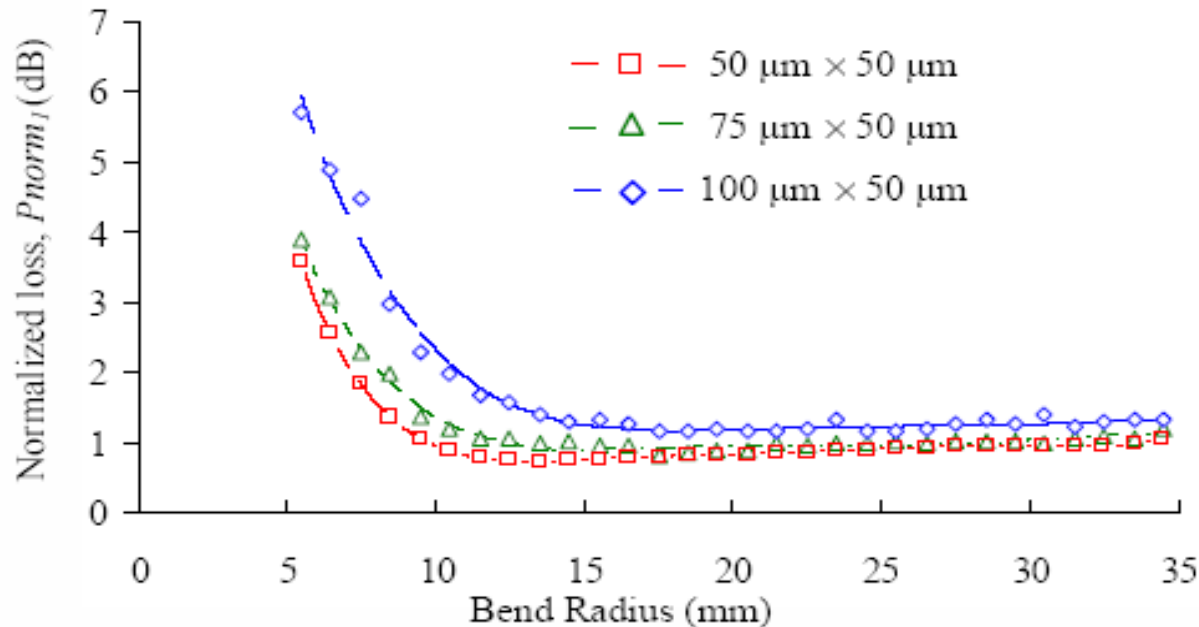
Schematic diagram of one set of curved waveguides.



Light through a bent waveguide of  $R = 5.5 \text{ mm} - 34.5 \text{ mm}$

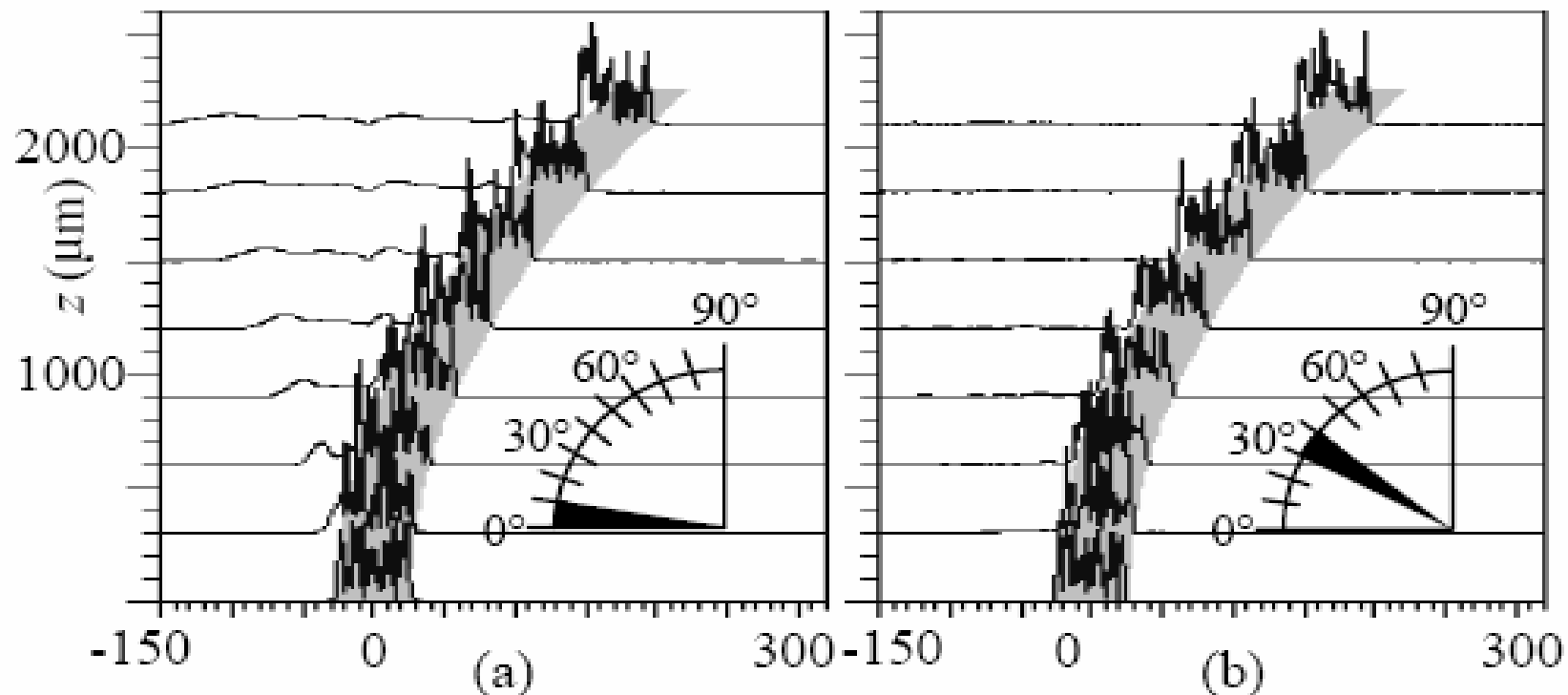
- Radius  $R$ , varied between  $5.5 \text{ mm} < R < 35 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\Delta R = 1 \text{ mm}$
- Light lost due to scattering, transition loss, bend loss, reflection and back-scattering
- Illuminated by a MM fiber with a red-laser.

# Loss of Waveguide Bends as a Function of Bend Radius



| Width ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | Minimum Radius (mm) | Minimum Loss (dB) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 50                      | 13.5                | 0.74              |
| 75                      | 15.3                | 0.91              |
| 100                     | 17.7                | 1.18              |

# BPM, beam propagation method modeling of optical field in bend segments



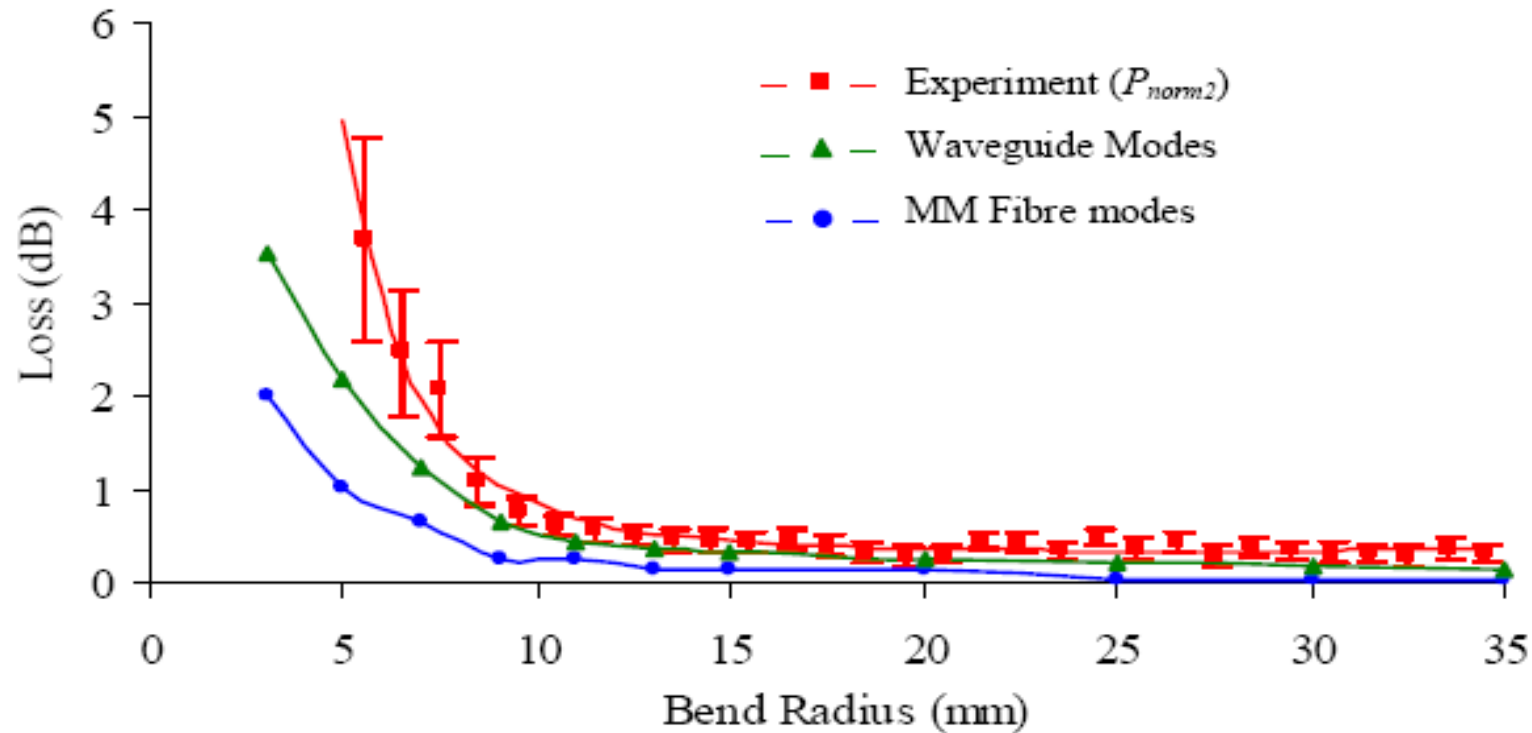
$w = 50 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $R = 13 \text{ mm}$

(left picture) in the first segment (first  $10^\circ$ ).

(right picture) in the  $30^\circ$  to  $40^\circ$  degree segment.

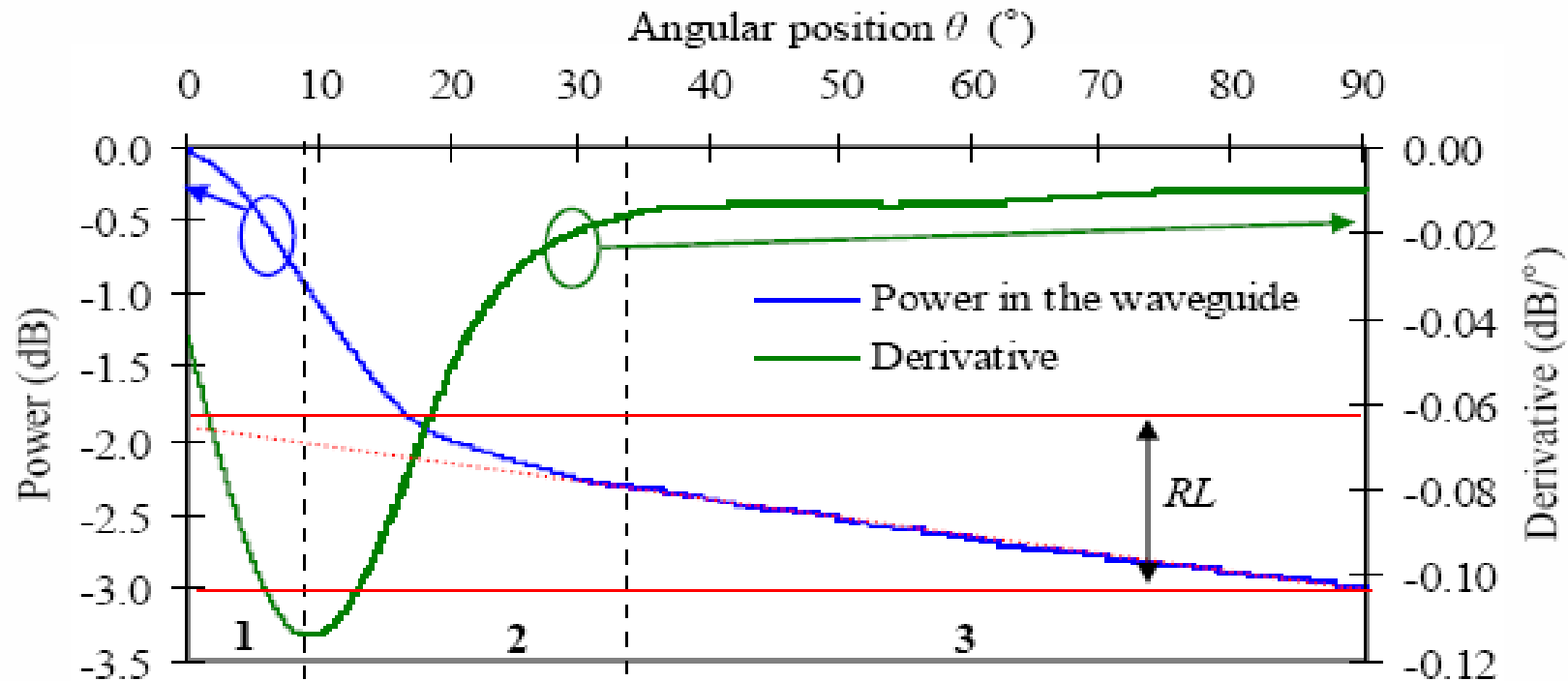


# Theory versus experiment for bend loss



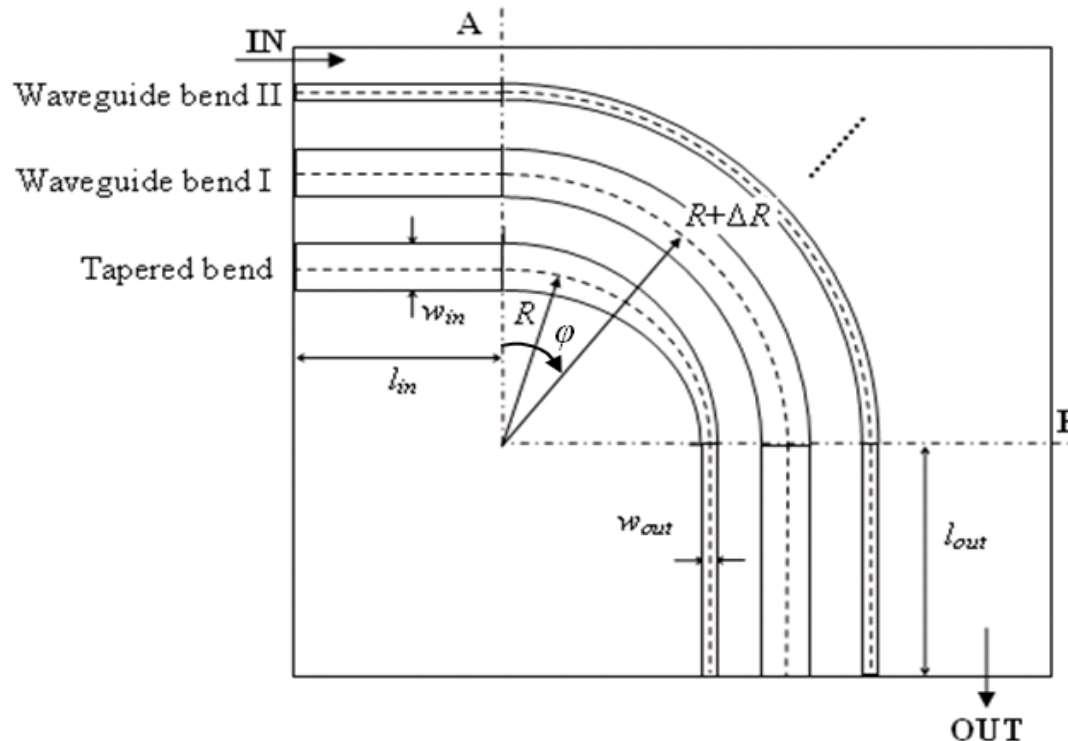
BPM modeled loss for launched fully filled 50/125  $\mu\text{m}$  MM fiber modes and for fully filled waveguide modes compared to normalized experimental loss as a function of bend radius for 50  $\mu\text{m}$   $\times$  50  $\mu\text{m}$  waveguides.

# Power as a function of angle propagated by cascading the results



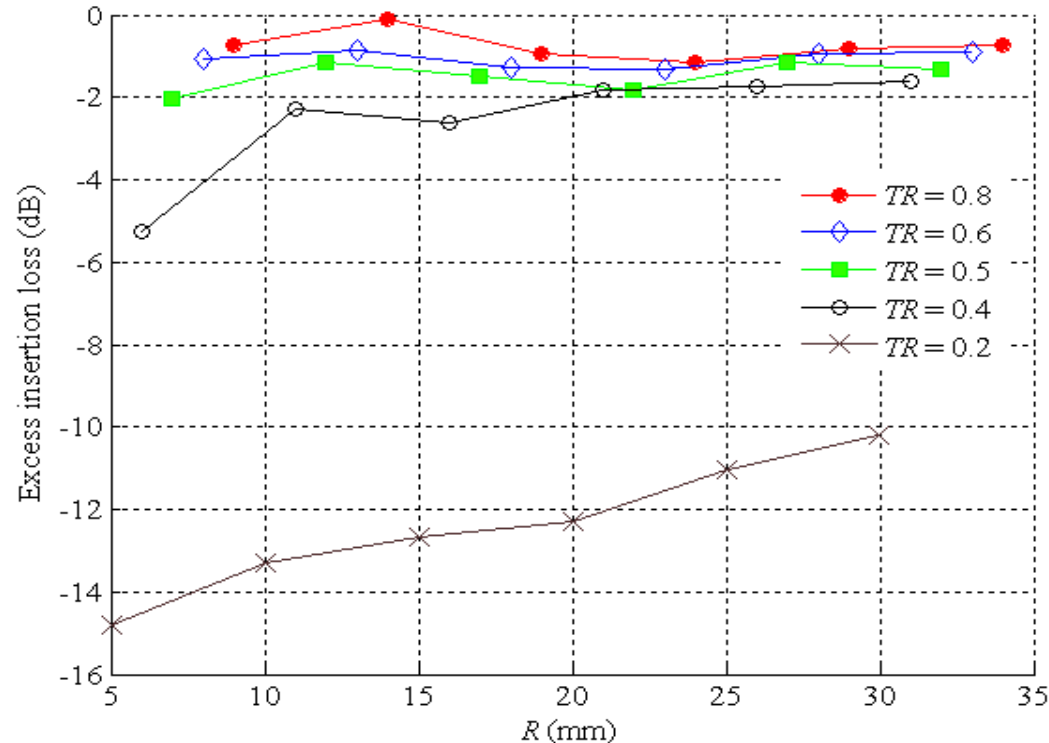
nine  $10^\circ$  segments and its derivative for  $w = 75 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $R = 5 \text{ mm}$ .

# Design Rules for tapered bends



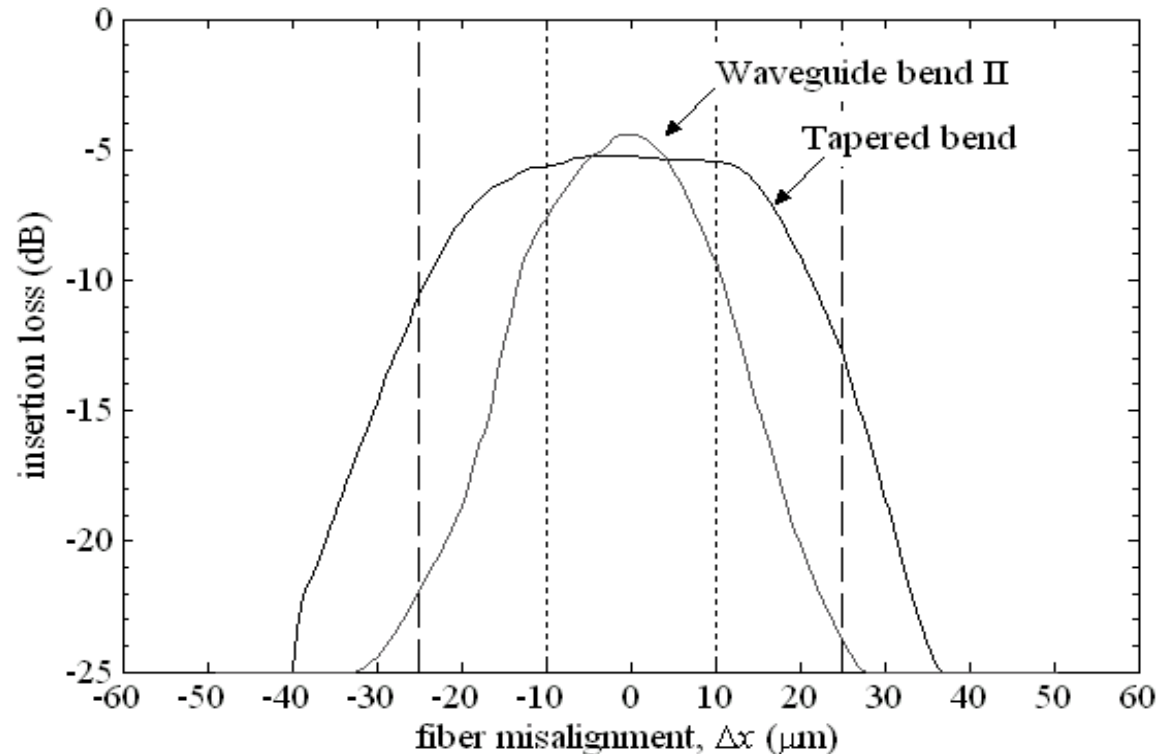
- The input section  $w_{in} = 50 \mu\text{m}$ , and its length  $l_{in} = 11.5 \text{ mm}$
- The tapered bend transforms the waveguide width from  $w_{in}$ , to  $w_{out}$
- The width of the tapered bends varies linearly along its length
- Output straight waveguide length  $l_{out} = 24.5 \text{ mm}$ .
- Output widths  $w_{out} = 10 \mu\text{m}, 20 \mu\text{m}, 25 \mu\text{m}, 30 \mu\text{m}$  and  $40 \mu\text{m}$

# Excess taper loss in a tapered bend



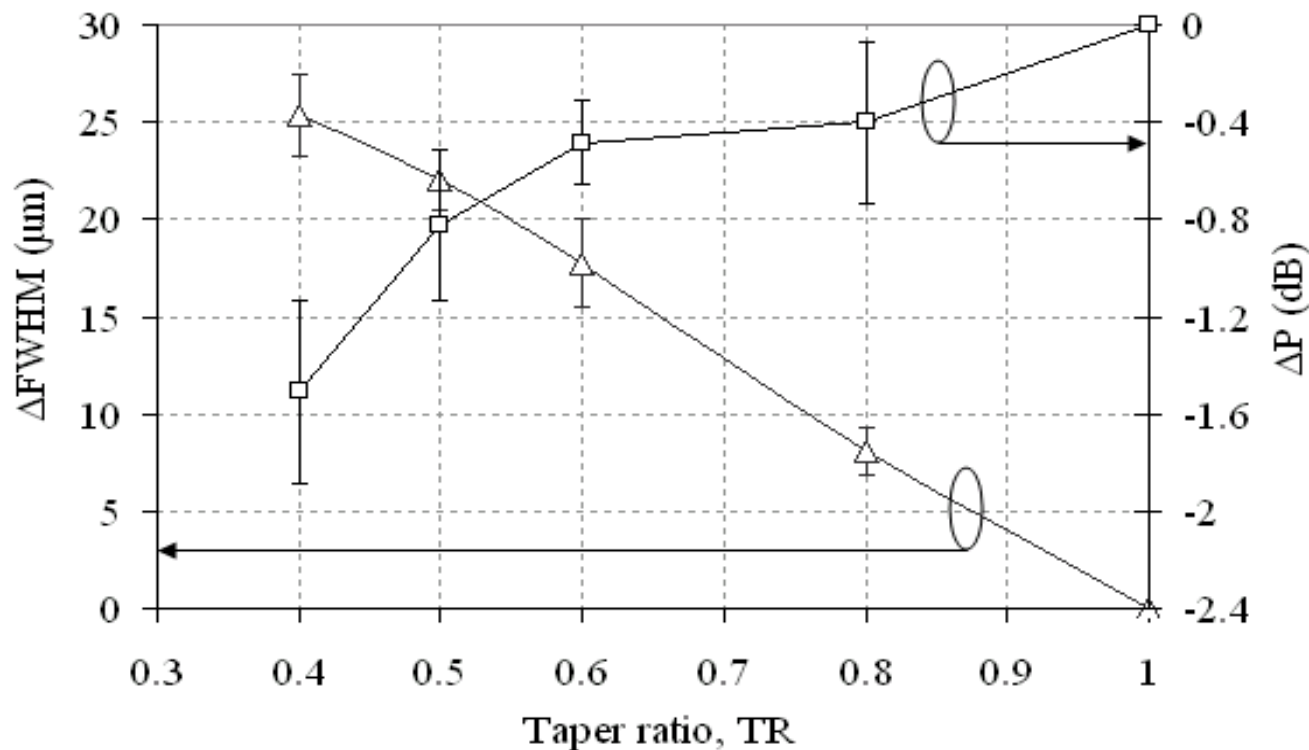
- Defined as the power measured at the end of one of the tapered bends minus the power measured at the end of the waveguide bend of the same input width  $w_{in}$
- This removes the coupling, transition, radiation, and propagation loss of a bend
- Taper ratios  $TR \geq 0.4$  have lower losses

# Misalignment tolerance of a tapered bend compared to a straight bend



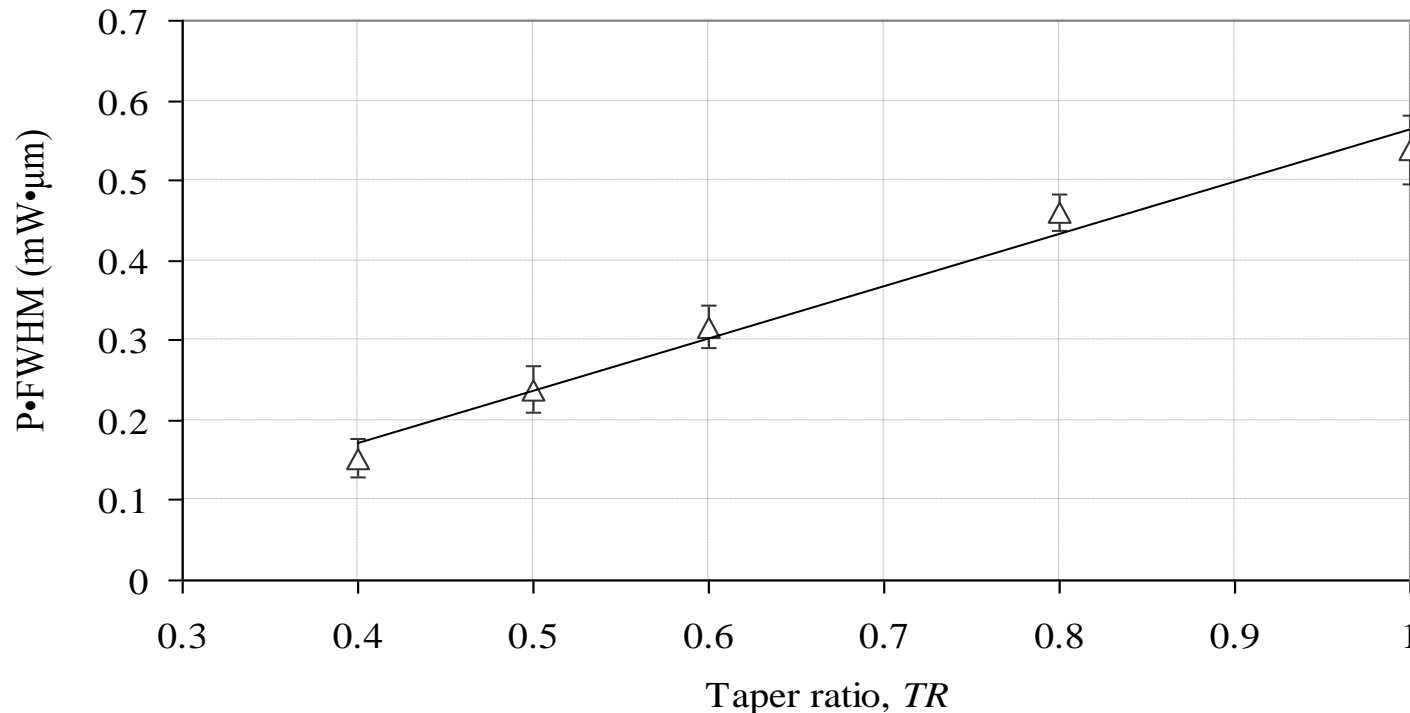
- Dashed lines correspond to the boundaries of the  $w_{in} = 50 \mu\text{m}$  tapered bend
- Dotted lines correspond to the boundaries of the  $20 \mu\text{m}$  bend
- Tapered bend has more misalignment tolerance for a slight loss penalty

# Differences in misalignment tolerance and loss as a function of taper ratio



- Graph plots the differences between a tapered bend and a bend
- There is a trade off between insertion loss and misalignment tolerance

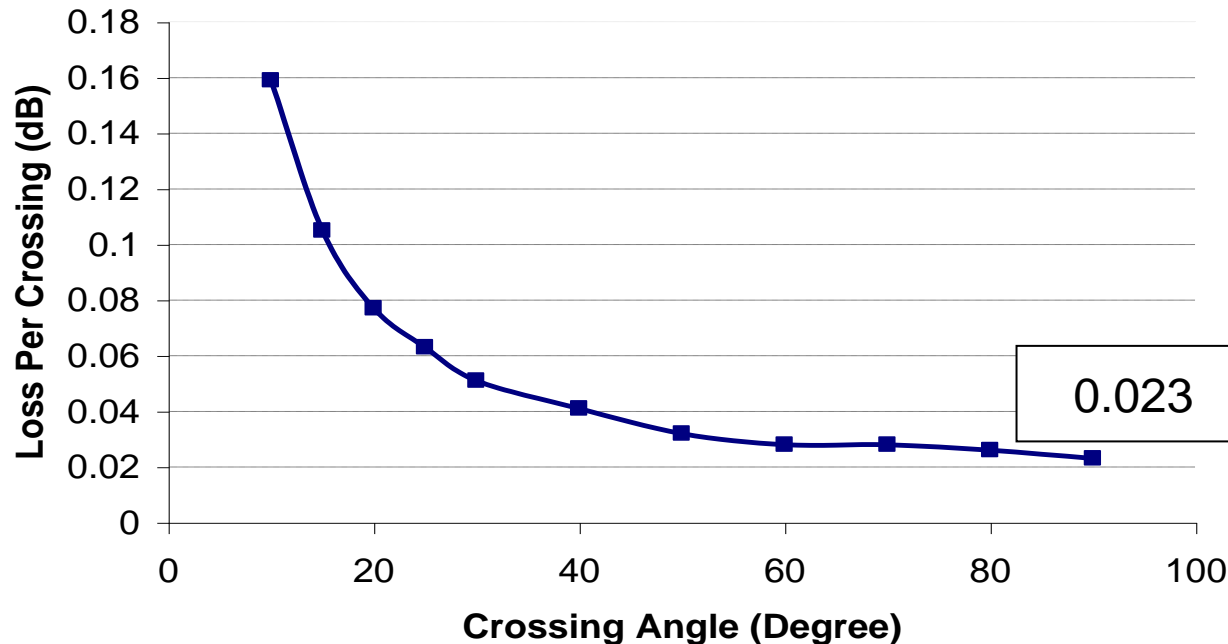
# Product of maximum transmission and misalignment tolerance for tapered bends



- The product of transmission and misalignment tolerance is a constant which increases linearly with  $TR$  such that the product =  $0.650 TR - 0.09$
- This product is independent of the bend radius as experimental points almost coincide.

# Design rules for Waveguide Crossings

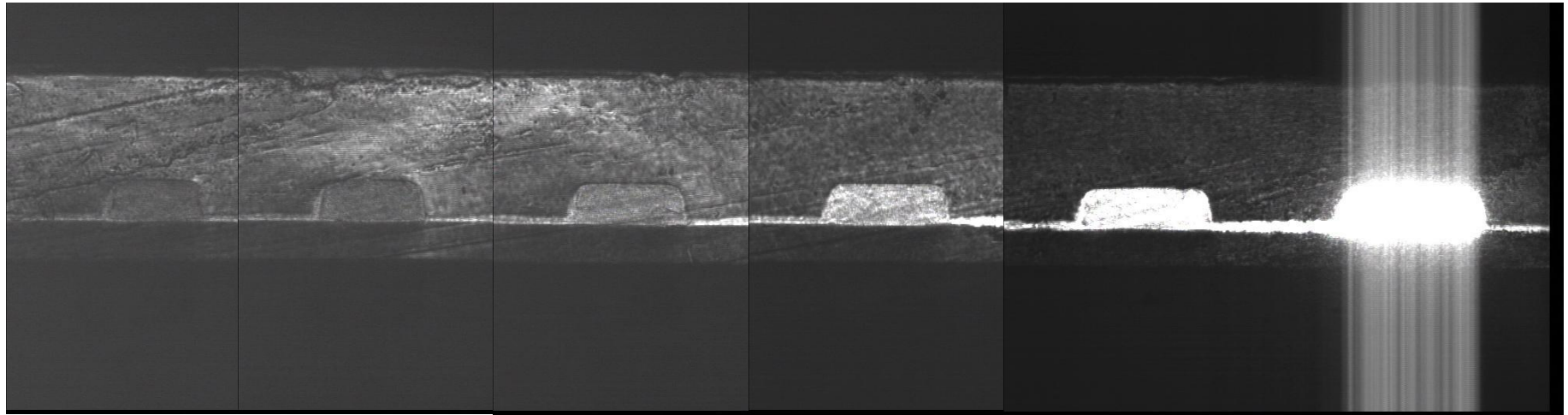
Mean Loss Per Crossing



- Loss of 0.023 dB per 90° crossing consistent with other reports
- The loss per crossing ( $L_c$ ) depends on crossing angle ( $\theta$ ),  $L_c = 1.0779 \cdot \theta^{-0.8727}$ .



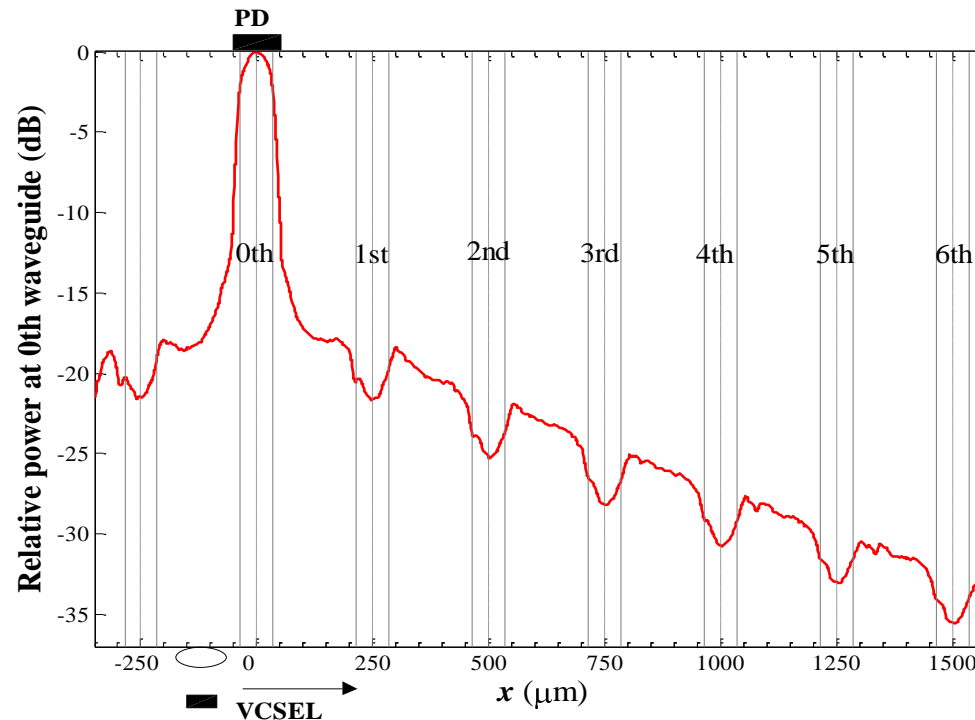
# Crosstalk in Chirped Width Waveguide Array



100  $\mu\text{m}$  110  $\mu\text{m}$  120  $\mu\text{m}$  130  $\mu\text{m}$  140  $\mu\text{m}$  150  $\mu\text{m}$

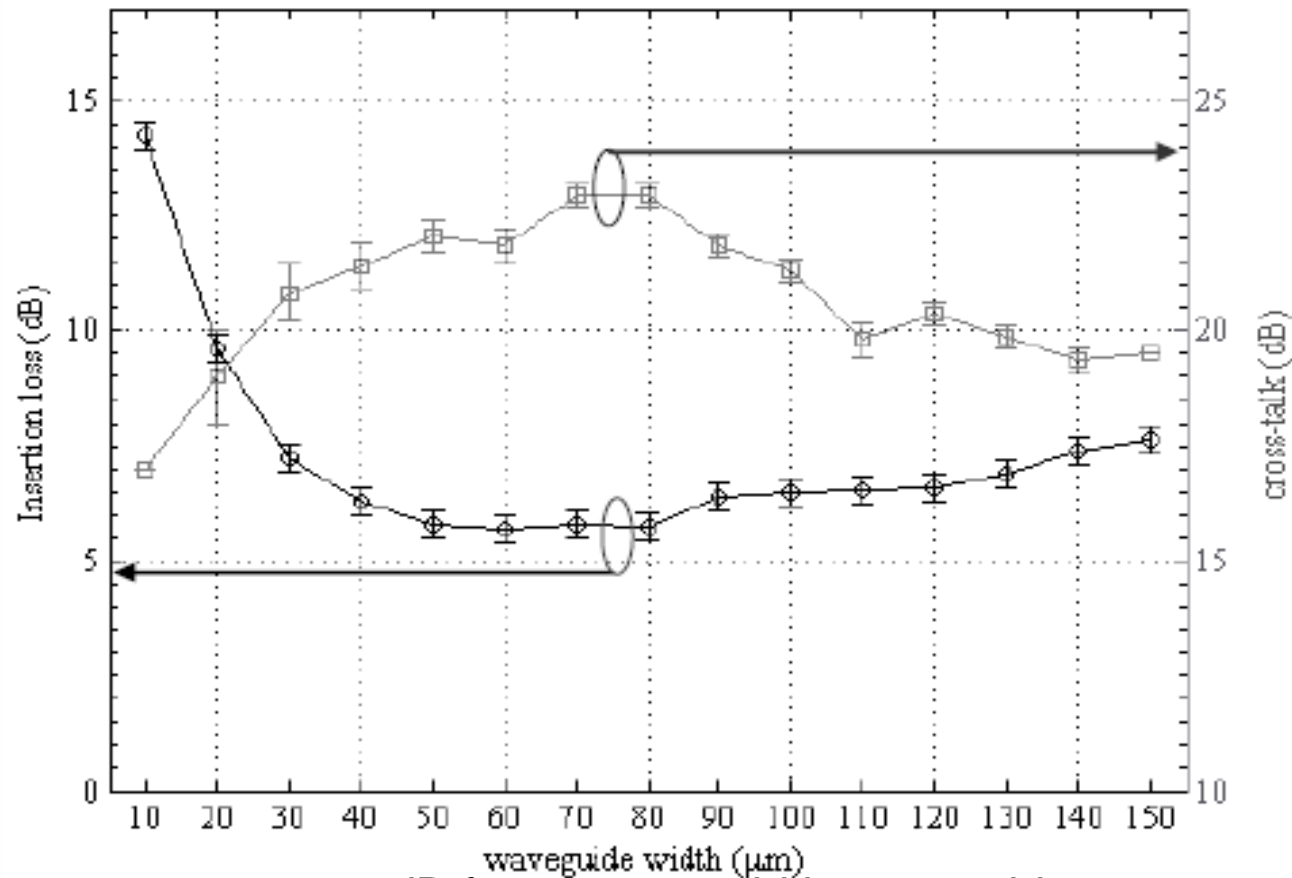
- Light launched from VCSEL imaged via a GRIN lens into 50  $\mu\text{m}$  x 150  $\mu\text{m}$  waveguide
- Photolithographically fabricated chirped with waveguide array
- Photomosaic with increased camera gain towards left

# Design rules for Inter-waveguide Cross Talk



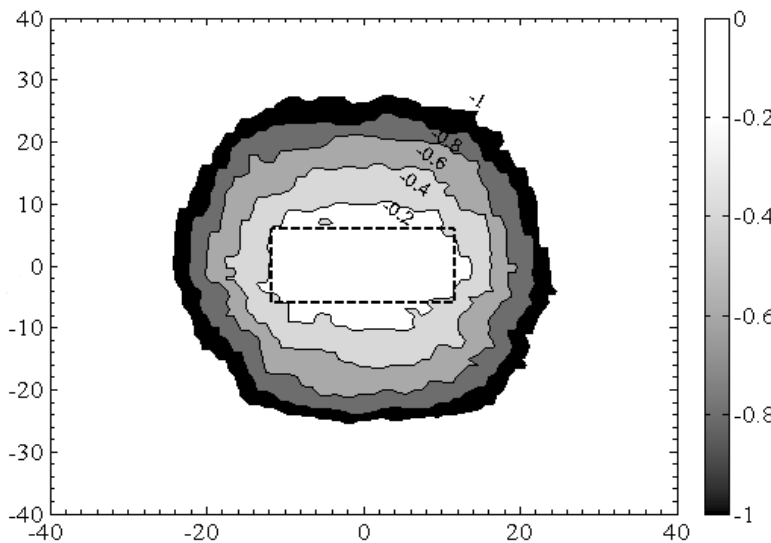
- 70  $\mu\text{m}$  70  $\mu\text{m}$  waveguide cross sections
- Waveguide end facets diced but unpolished scatters light into cladding
- In the cladding power drops linearly at a rate of 0.011 dB/ $\mu\text{m}$
- Crosstalk reduced to -30 dB for waveguides 1 mm apart

# Design rules for waveguide width depending on insertion loss and cross-talk

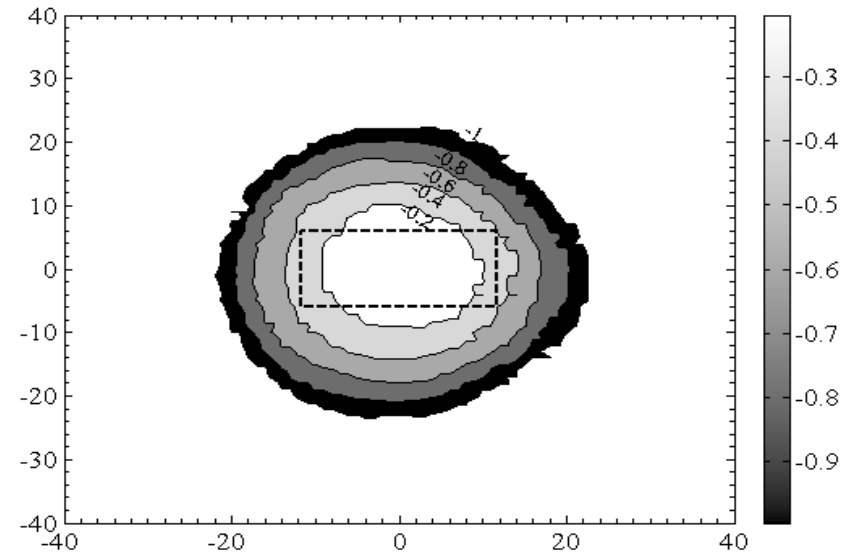


6~7dB for a 70 μm width waveguide

# Contour map of VCSEL and PD misalignment



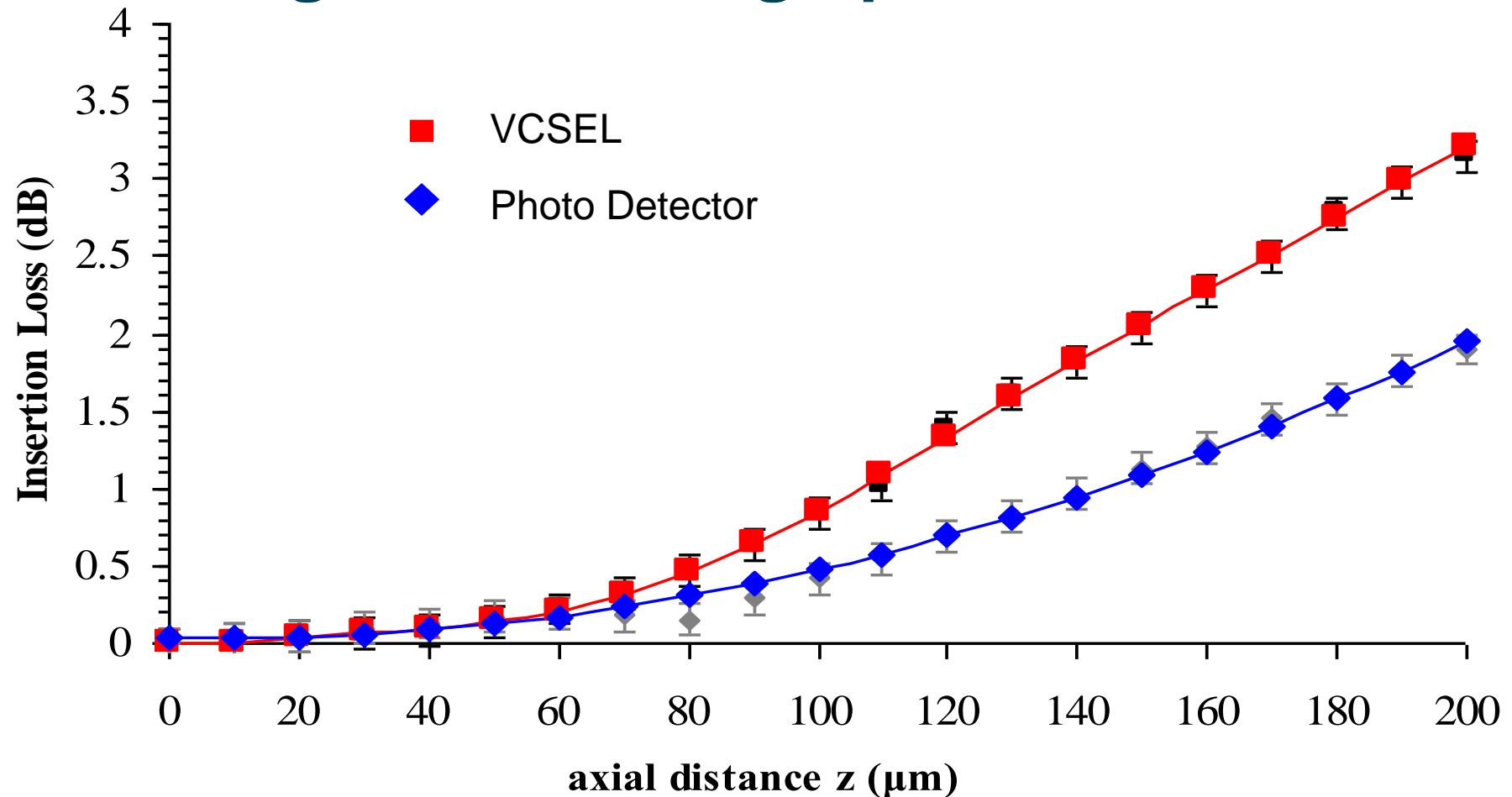
(a) Contour map of relative insertion loss compared to the maximum coupling position for VCSEL misalignment at  $z = 0$ .



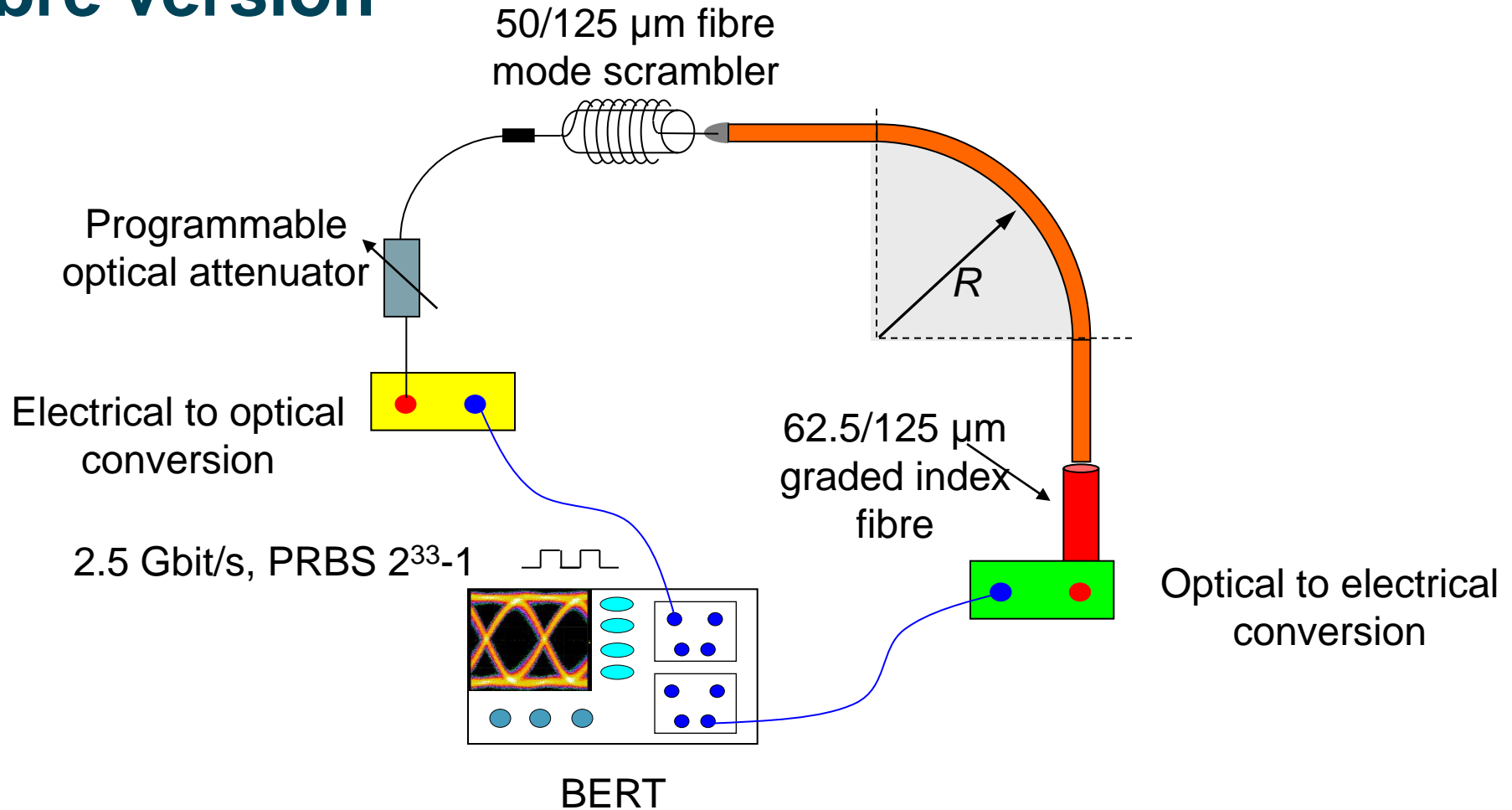
(b) Same for PD misalignment at  $z = 0$ . Resolution step was  $\Delta x = \Delta y = 1 \mu\text{m}$ .

- Dashed rectangle is the expected relative insertion loss according to the calculated misalignments along  $x$  and  $y$ .
- The minimum insertion loss was 4.4 dB, corresponded to  $x = 0, y = 0, z = 0$

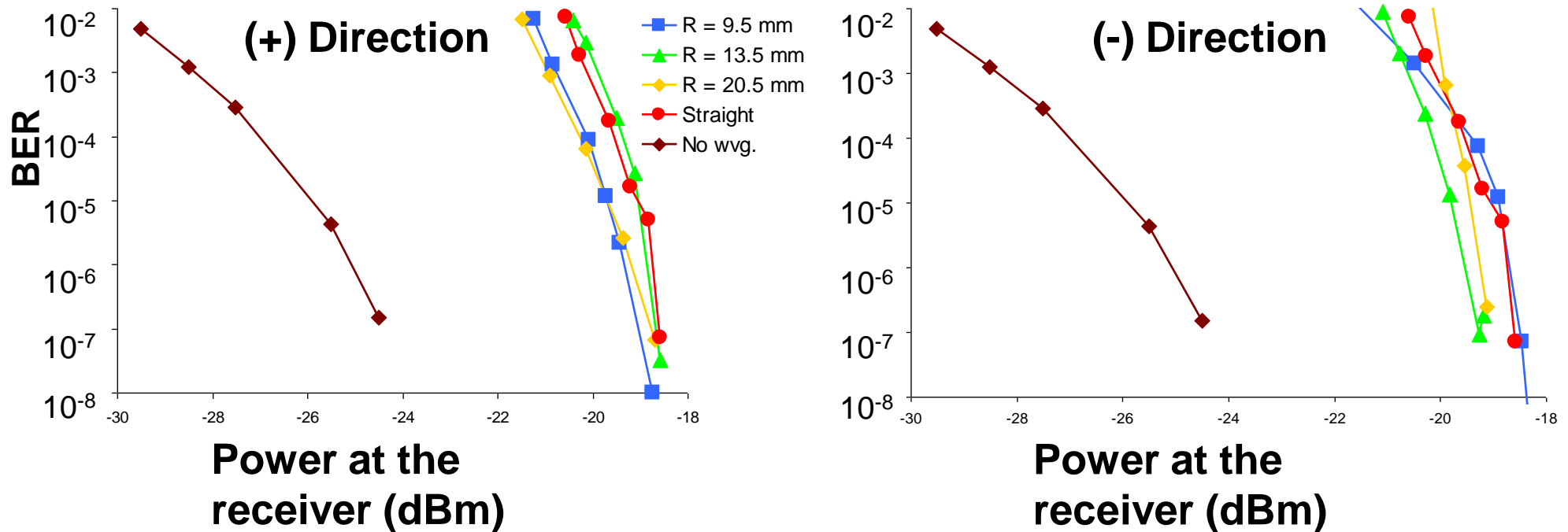
# Coupling Loss for VCSEL and PD for misalignments along optic axis



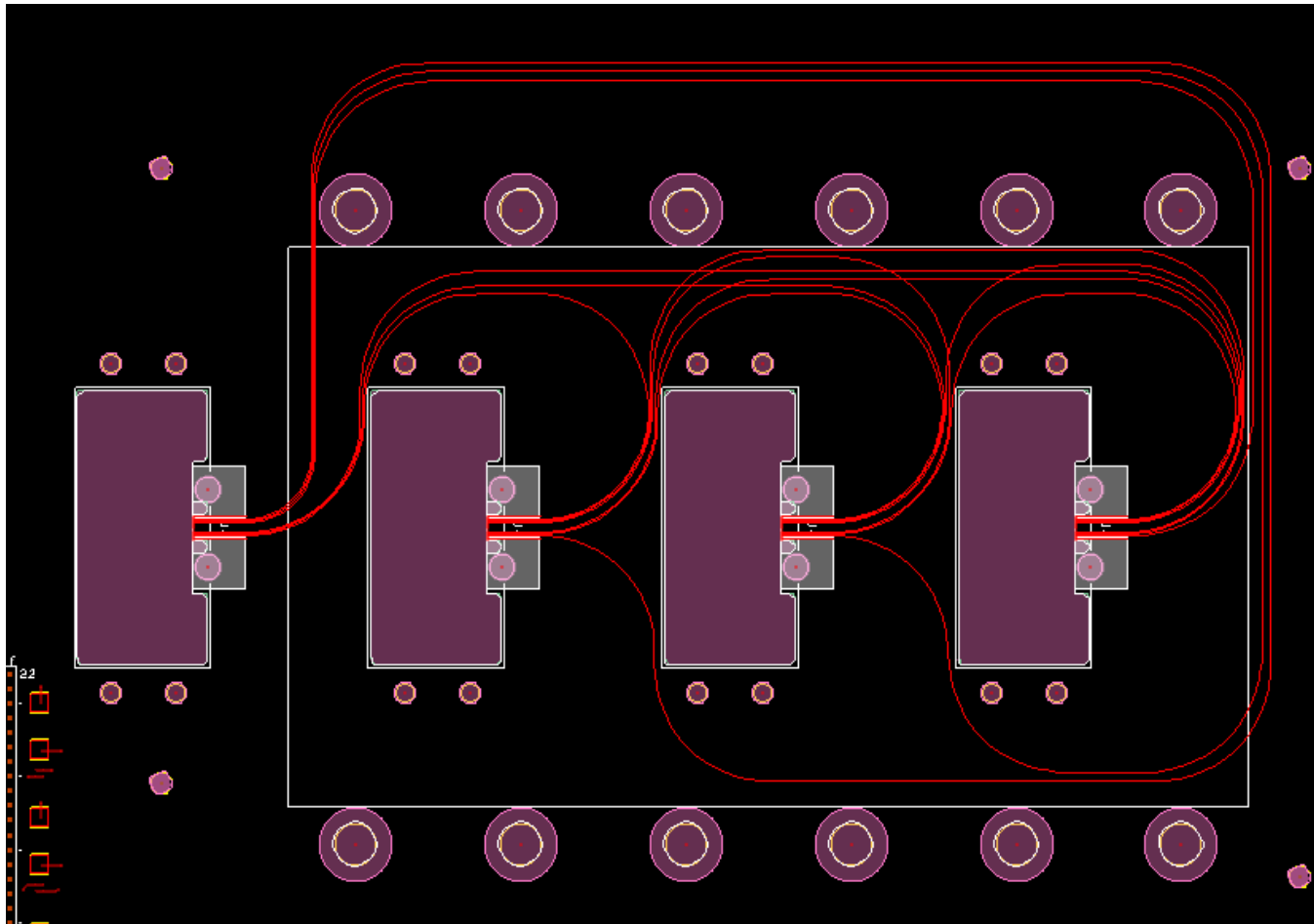
# Bit Error Rate Measurement System – Fibre to fibre version



# Bit error rate for laterally misaligned 1550 nm 2.5 Gb/s DFB laser

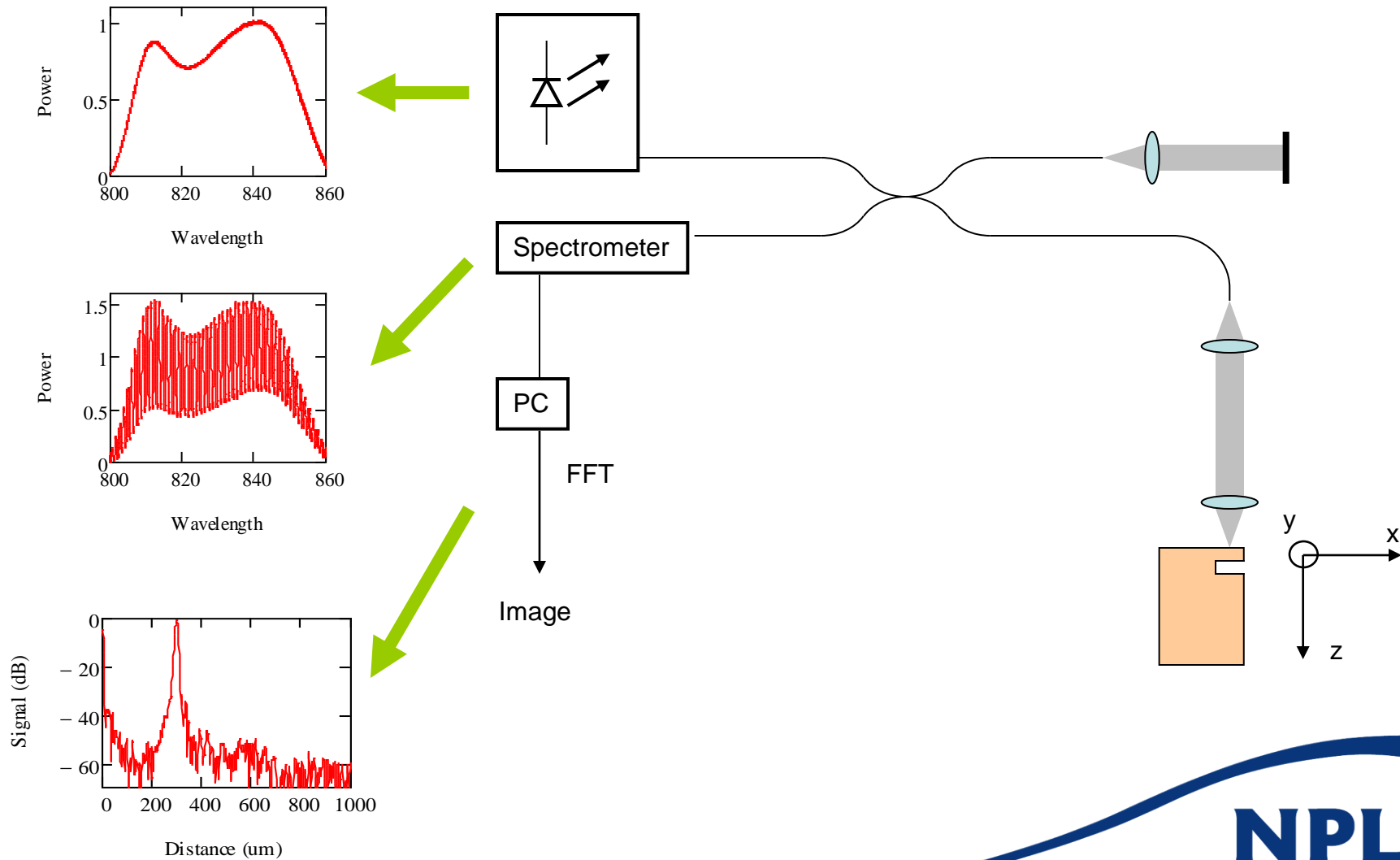


# System Demonstrator fully connected waveguide layout using design rules

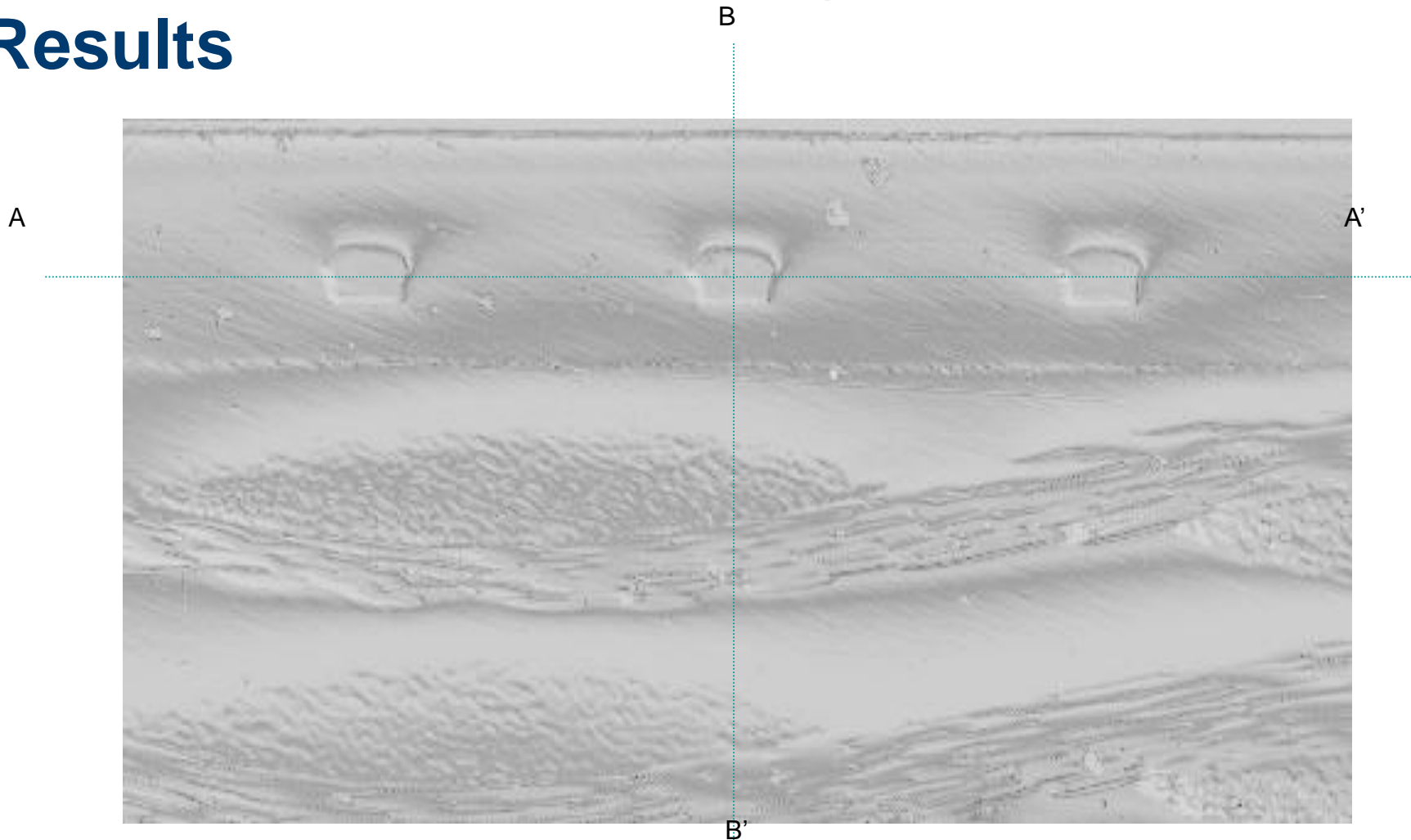




# Optical Coherence Tomography 'OCT' Refractive Index Profiling

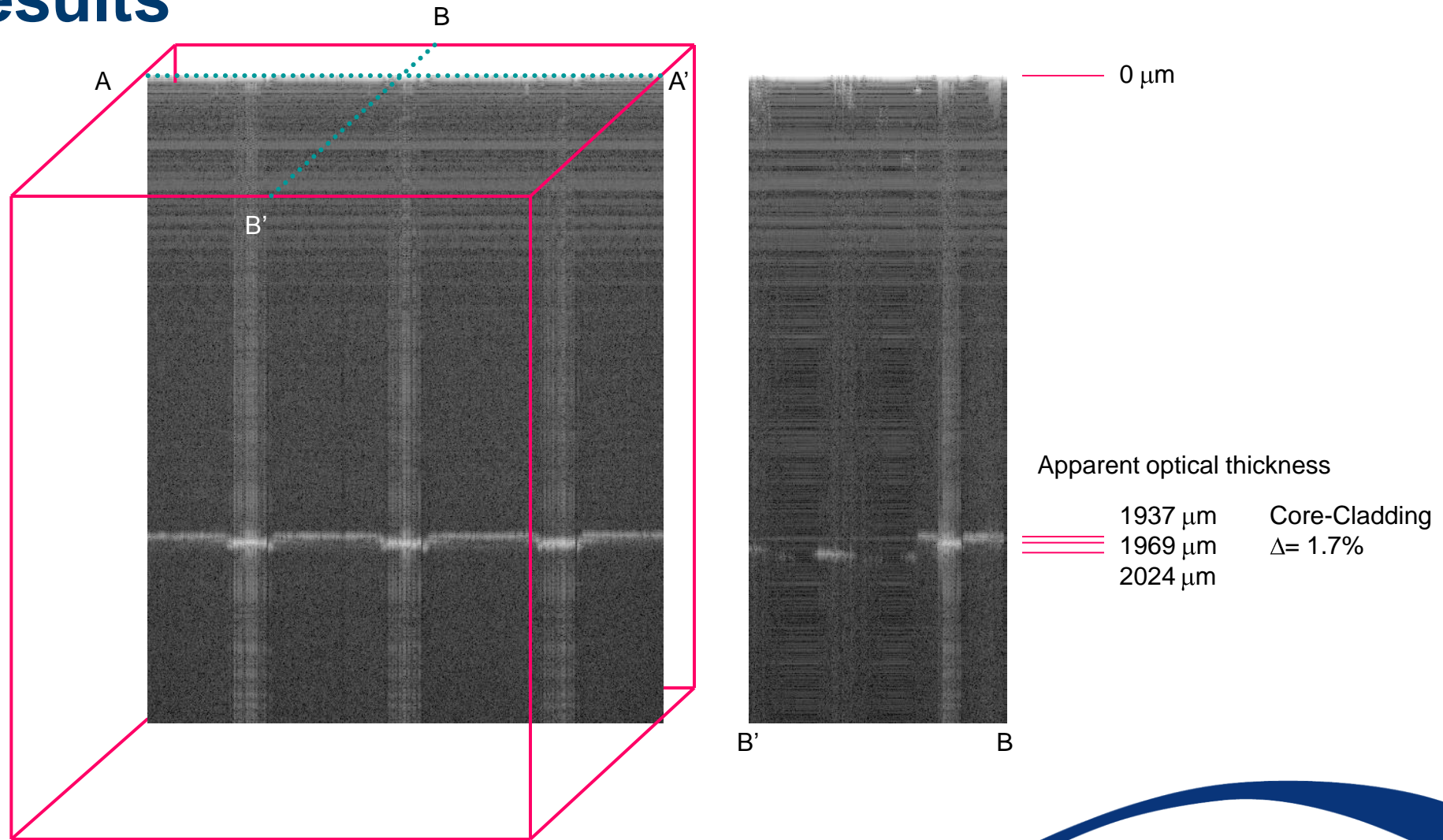


# Optical Coherence Tomography Initial Results



- The XY reflected intensity from the end surface of the OPCB

# Optical Coherence Tomography Initial Results



# Optical Coherence Tomography

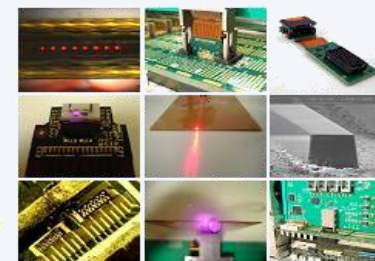
- OCT measures the reflected light intensity as a function of optical depth
- The waveguide end facet is scanned in XY
- The two cross sections show a section through the waveguides A to A' in the X direction and B to B' in the y direction through the centre of the central waveguide.
- The bright intensities occur due to reflections at the upper and lower surfaces of the sample, the upper surface is at the very top of the images.
- The optical path to the lower surface depends on the refractive index, hence, the waveguide core is deeper than the cladding and the wave is the deepest.

# Group Index by Optical Coherence Tomography

- OCT measures the apparent thickness
- Apparent thickness = group refractive index  $\times$  actual thickness
- Actual thickness by laying waveguides flat using OCT as travelling microscope
- By substitution the group refractive index can be found
  
- Ellipsometry is used to find the cladding phase index versus wavelength
- From which the group refractive index can also be found at 850 nm
  
- The group refractive index is 1% higher than the phase refractive index
- Currently comparing the group indices measured by the two measurement techniques

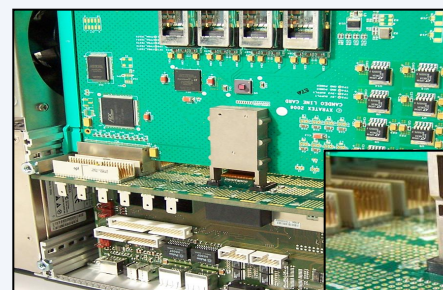
## Research Objectives

- Design and system integration of optical PCB technology
- Commercial proliferation of optical PCB technology
- Commercial development of optical backplane connection technology



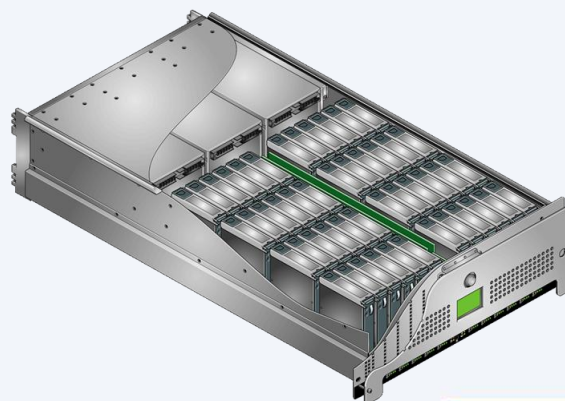
## Electro-optical PCB Technologies

- High speed parallel optical interface (80 Gb/s aggregate)
- Pluggable optical PCB connector modules
- C-PCI backplane with embedded multimode polymer waveguides



## Meeting Storage System Trends

- Increasing data bandwidth
- Decreasing disk drive form factors
- Higher system integration



Eventual incorporation of Optical PCB technology into high bandwidth storage systems

# PARALLEL OPTICAL PCB CONNECTOR MODULE

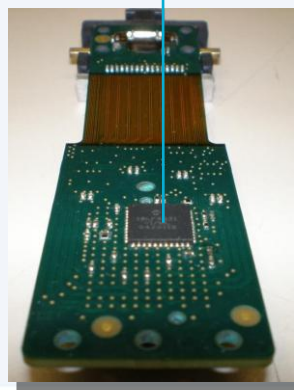
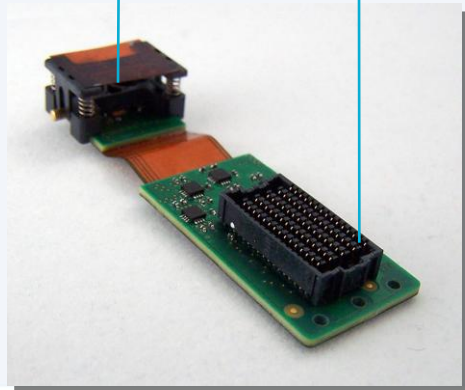
## Parallel optical transceiver circuit

- ❑ Small form factor quad parallel optical transceiver
- ❑ Microcontroller supporting I<sup>2</sup>C interface
- ❑ Samtec “SEARAY™” open pin field array connector
- ❑ Spring loaded platform for optical engagement mechanism
- ❑ Custom heatsink for photonic drivers

Spring loaded platform

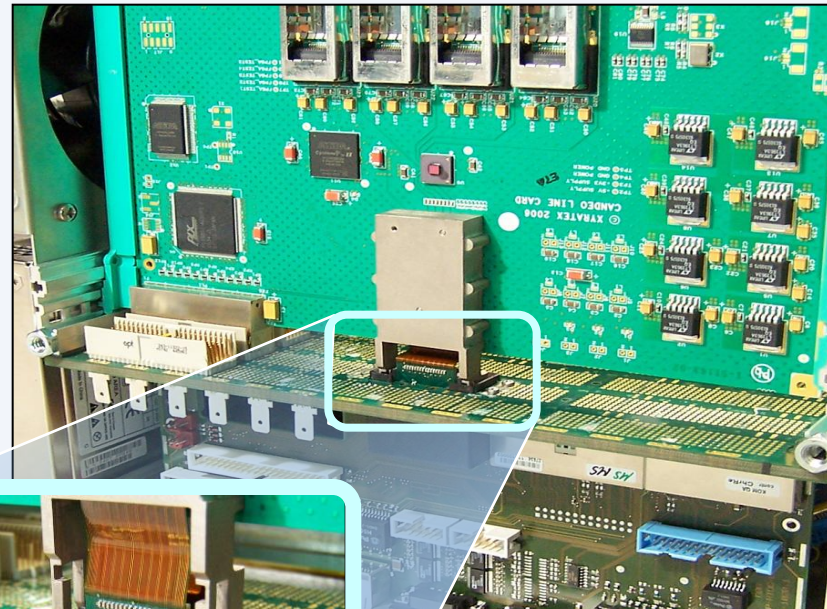
Samtec field array connector

Microcontroller



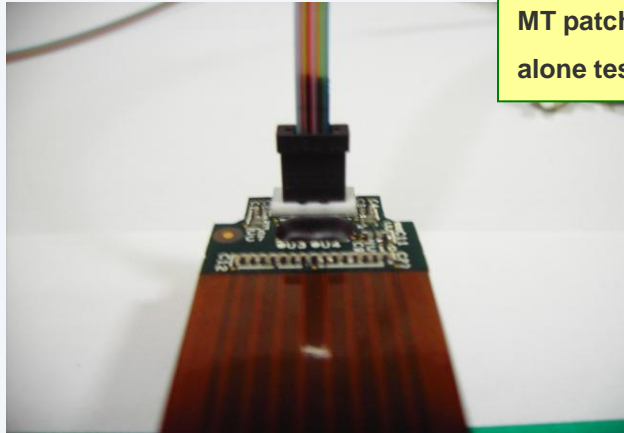
## Backplane connector module

- ❑ Samtec / Xyratex collaborate to develop optical PCB connector
- ❑ 1 stage insertion engagement mechanism developed
- ❑ Xyratex transceiver integrated into connector module



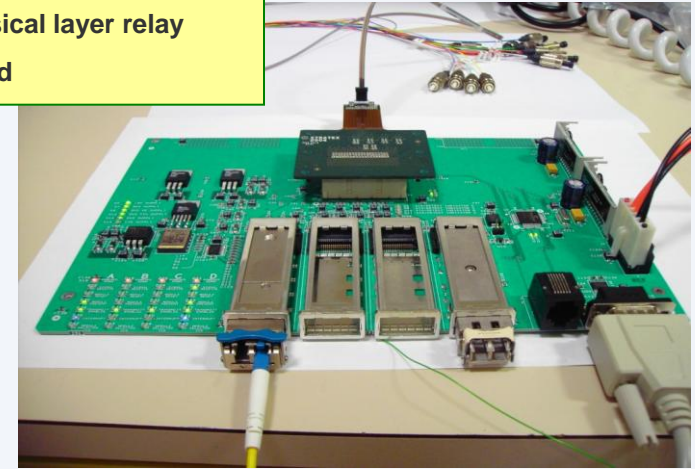


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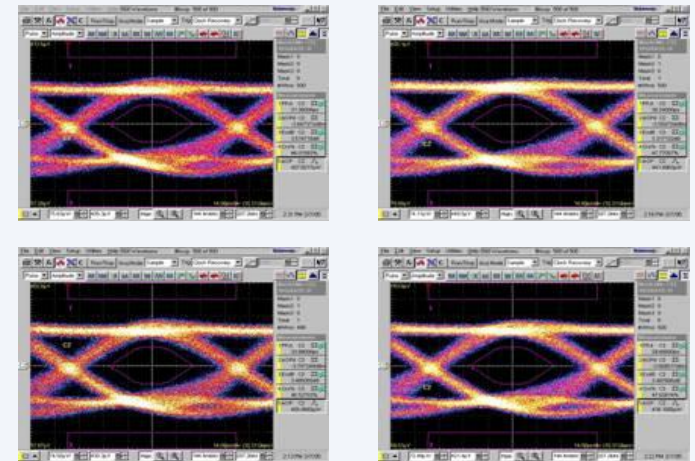


MT patchcord for stand alone testing

Physical layer relay board



- Test traffic: 10 GbE LAN (10.3 Gbps)
- VCSEL bias current: 11.91 mA
- VCSEL modulation current: 9.8 mA
- Divergence: 25
- Output optical power: 0.43 mW
- Average optical jitter: 31.2 ps (Pk – Pk)



x y r a t e x

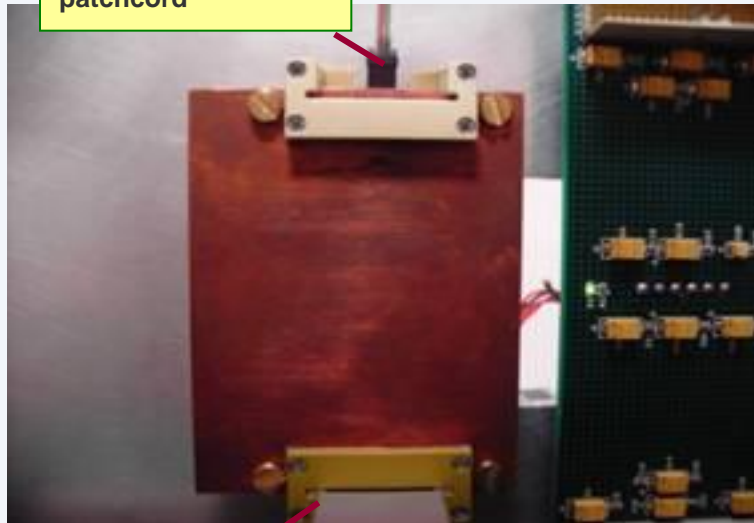




## Arrangement:

Active connector – waveguide - patchcord

Multimode MT fibre patchcord



Active prototype connector

## Optical Coupling Characterisation

Test traffic: 10 GbE LAN (10.3 Gbps)

Wavelength: 850 nm

### Reference Signal – No Waveguide

Jitter : 0.34 UI  
Relative Loss: 0 dB

### 10 cm Waveguide with Isopropanol

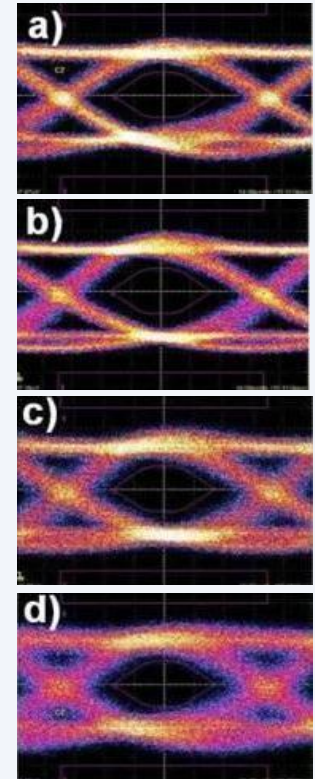
Jitter 0.36 UI  
Relative Loss 4.5 dB

### 10 cm Waveguide – Diced and Polished

Jitter 0.56 UI  
Relative Loss 6.9 dB

### 10 cm Waveguide – Diced Only

Jitter 0.89 UI  
Relative Loss 7.9 dB



# ELECTRO-OPTICAL BACKPLANE

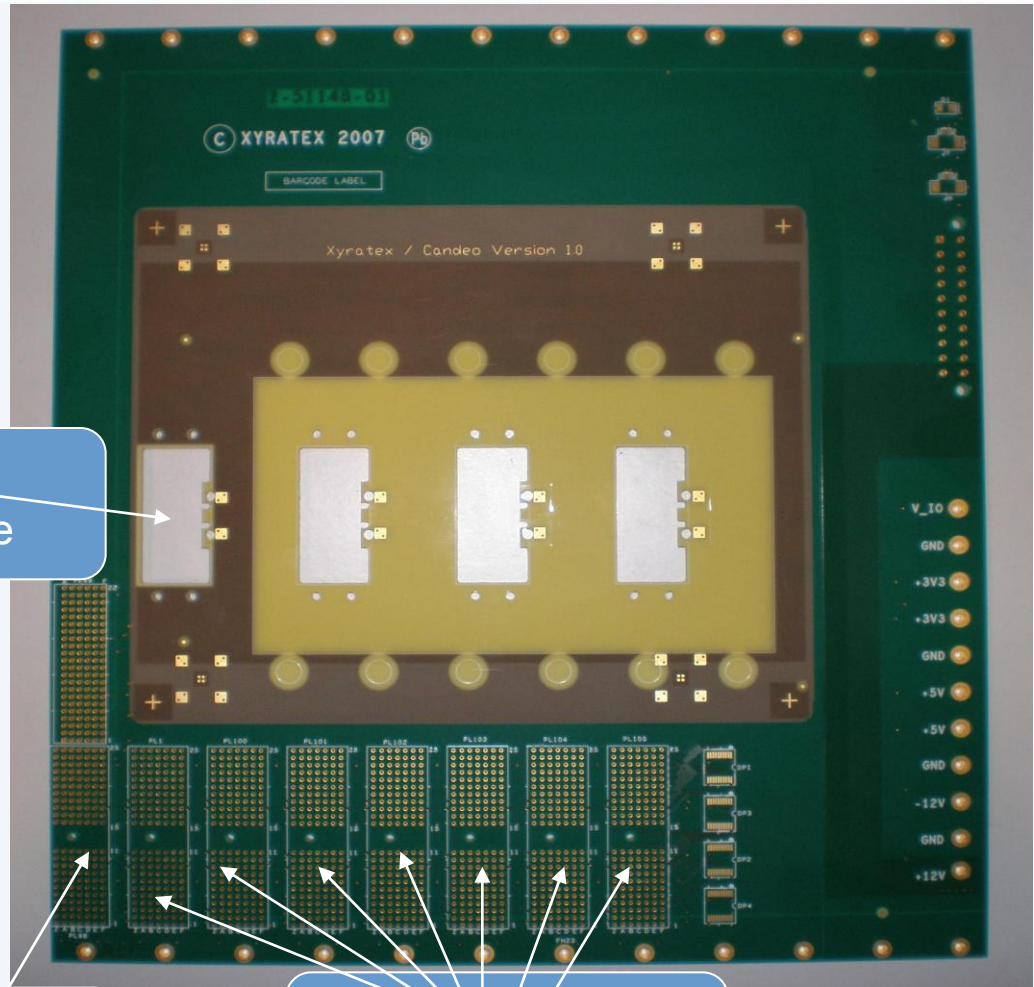
## Hybrid Electro-Optical Printed Circuit Board

- ❑ Standard Compact PCI backplane architecture
- ❑ 12 electrical layers for power and C-PCI signal bus and peripheral connections
- ❑ Electrical C-PCI connector slots for SBC and line cards
- ❑ 1 polymeric optical layer for high speed 10 GbE traffic
- ❑ 4 optical connector sites
- ❑ Dedicated point-to-point optical waveguide architecture

Optical connector site

Compact PCI slot for single board computer

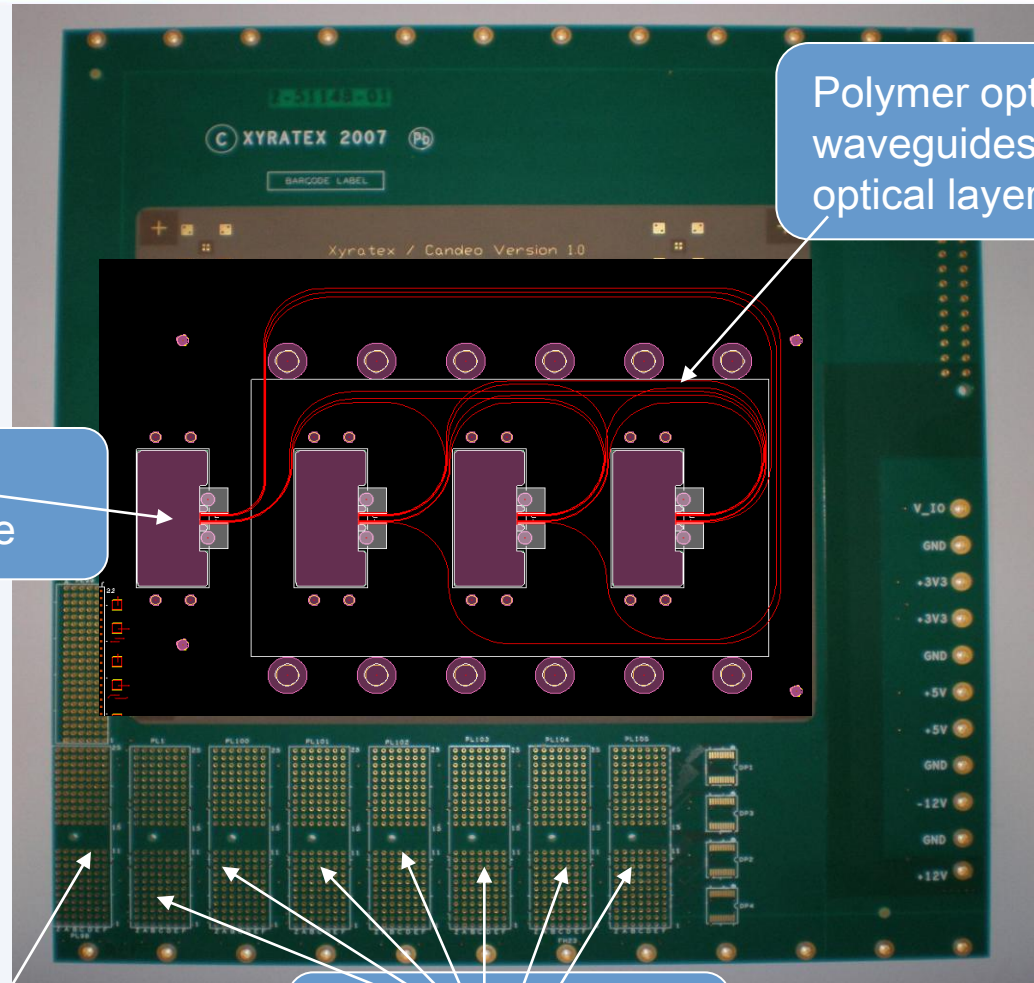
Compact PCI slots for line cards



# ELECTRO-OPTICAL BACKPLANE

## Hybrid Electro-Optical Printed Circuit Board

- ❑ Standard Compact PCI backplane architecture
- ❑ 12 electrical layers for power and C-PCI signal bus and peripheral connections
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- ❑ 1 polymeric optical layer for high speed 10 GbE traffic
- ❑ 4 optical connector sites
- ❑ Dedicated point-to-point optical waveguide architecture



Optical connector site

Polymer optical waveguides on optical layer

Compact PCI slot for single board computer

Compact PCI slots for line cards



# Acknowledgments



- **University College London (UCL):**
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- **Xyratex:**
  - Dave Milward, Richard Pitwon, Ken Hopkins
- **BAE Systems:**
  - Henry White
- **Stevenage Circuits Ltd. (SCL):**
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