

# Double clad fibers for high-power fiber lasers

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Europhoton 2020 Summer school, Prague, Czechia

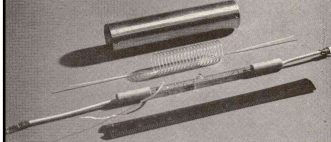
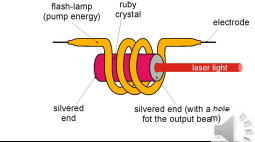
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www.ufe.cz

## First fiber lasers and amplifiers

**Eli Snitzer 1960**  
E. Snitzer, *J. Appl. Phys.* 32(1), 36 (1961).  
C. J. Koester, and E. Snitzer, *Appl. Opt.* 3(10), 1182 (1964).

**Ted Maiman 1960**  
T. H. Maiman, *Nature* 187(4736), 483-484 (8 August 1960).

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## Agenda

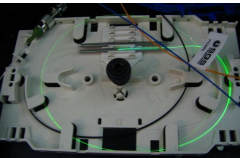

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## Advent of EDFA & cladding pumping for high power

**Erbium doped fiber amplifier - revolution in telecom,**  
EDFA enabled broadband internet globally.  
R. J. Mears et al., *Electron. Lett.* 23(19), 1026-1028 (1987).  
E. Desurvire et al., *Opt. Lett.* 12(11), 888-890 (1987).

**High power from double-clad active fibers**  
Eli Snitzer, in *Proc. Opt. Fiber Sensors* (1988), p. PDSJ  
R. Maurer, U.S. Patent 3,826,549 (Apr. 30, 1974).  
V. Gapontsev et al., *ASL* (1990), p. 258-262

101.3 kW  
10-fiber laser  
efficiency 25-4%  
IPG-Photonics  
ASL 2013

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## Optical Fiber + Laser

↓

### Fiber Laser

Optical maser (later called LASER)  
Theodore Maiman, California, 1960

First single mode-optical fiber  
Erich Spitz & Jean-Claude Simon, France, 1964.

City of Light: The story of fiber optics, 1999  
Brian: The book to make the laser, 2002  
Jeff Hecht, Oxford University Press

JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1 JANUARY, 1962

Proposed Fiber Cavities for Optical Masers  
E. Snitzer  
American Optical Company, Branford, Department, Northfield, Massachusetts  
(Received June 28, 1960)

The use of dielectric waveguide in the form of small fibers as the mode selector in optical masers is considered. The fibers consist of a core of refractive index  $n_1$  which contains the active material, surrounded

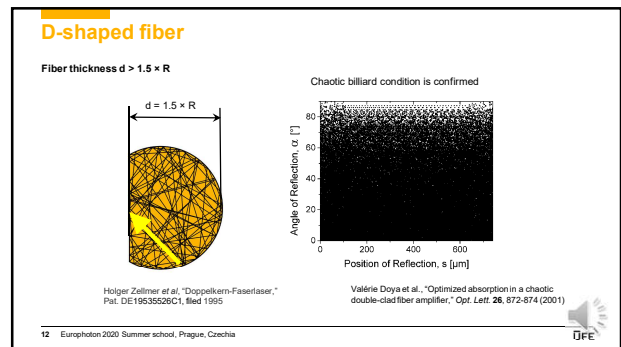
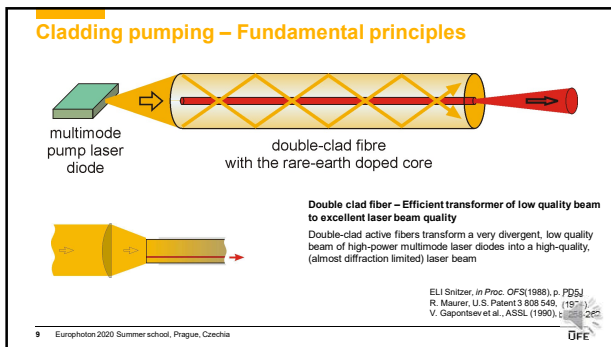
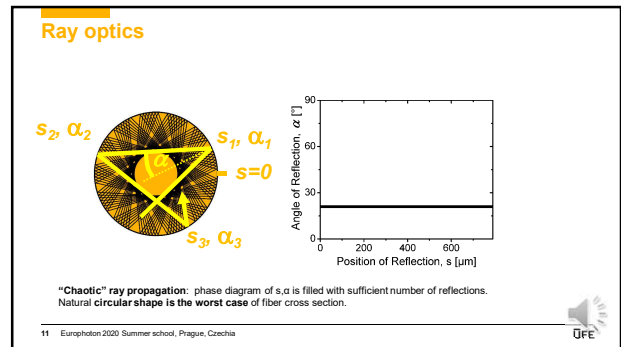
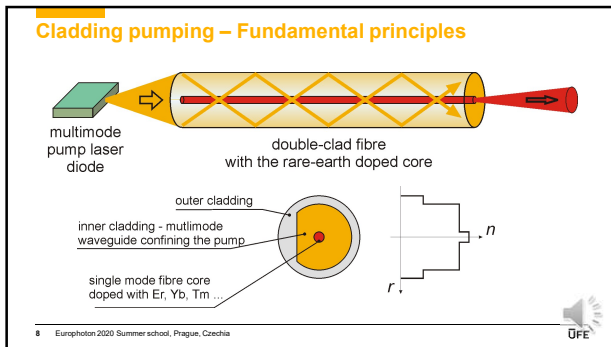
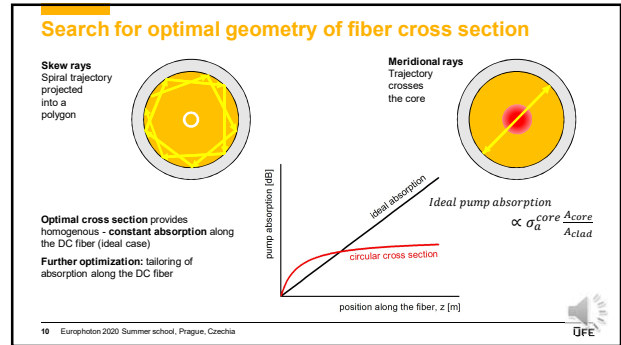
## Optical Fiber Technology lab tour



<https://www.ufe.cz/en/virtual-lab-tour>

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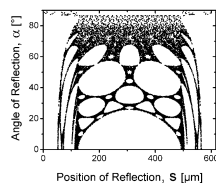


### D-shaped fiber

Fiber thickness  $d < R$



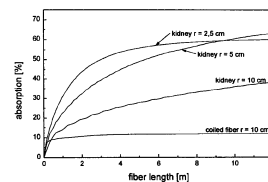
Chaotic billiard condition is not confirmed



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### Pump absorption in coiled double-clad fibers: numerical modelling by WKB (Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin) method



Kidney shape spooling

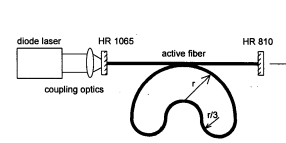


Figure 4. Pump absorption in kidney shaped fibers

H. Zellmer, A. Tünnermann, H. Welling, and W. Reichel, "Double-Clad Fiber Laser with 30 W Output Power," in Proc. Opt. Amplifiers and their Applications OAA'97, Victoria, Canada, p. FAW18 (1997).

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### Spiral cladding

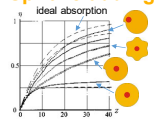
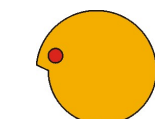


Fig. 3. (a) Efficiency  $\eta$  of absorption of the pump light in the core versus  $Z = L/L_0$ . Upper dashed curve, case of ideal mixing with displaced core; intermediate dashed curve, the analytical estimate by formula (10); upper solid curve, numerical simulation for the same case; vertical bars, simulation for the starlike cross section; circle, simulation for spiral cladding with centered core; lowest solid curve, simulation for circular-symmetric case; lowest dashed curve, analytical estimation for the same case according to Eq. (11). (b) Efficiency of absorption of the pump light in the core of the offset-spiral double-clad fiber at  $L_0 = 0.005 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ , base,  $0.01 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ , side,  $0.02 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  small circle,  $0.04 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ , large circle; versus dimensionless  $Z$ .

$$\eta_{\text{ideal}} = 1 - \exp\left[-2K_0 \left(\frac{r_0}{R_0}\right)^2 Z\right], \quad (9)$$

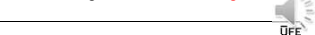
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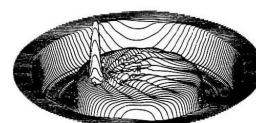
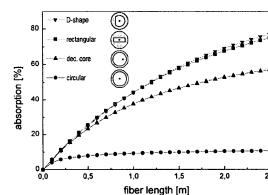
spiral cladding is made from two D-shaped preforms with different diameters

D. Kouznetsov and J. V. Moloney, "Efficiency of pump absorption in double-clad fiber amplifiers. II. Broken circular symmetry," JOSA B 19, 1259-1263 (2002)  
I. Dritsas, T. Sun and K. T. V. Grattan, "Stochastic optimization of conventional and holey double-clad fibers," J. Opt. A: Pure Appl. Opt. 9, 405-421, 2007.  
N. A. Mortensen, "Air-clad fibers: pump absorption assisted by chaotic wave dynamics?," Opt. Express 15(14), 8986-8996 (2007).

Most theoretical optimization of pump absorption was long time restricted to approximation of straight fibers with no bending



### Pump absorption in coiled double-clad fibers: numerical modelling by WKB (Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin) method



Tomography of refractive index profile of an offset-core Nd-doped fiber of the first DC fiber laser (York P101 profiler)

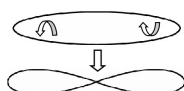
E. Snitzer, et al., "Double-clad, offset core Nd fiber laser," in Opt. Fiber Sensors, New Orleans, USA, 1988, pp. 533-535, paper PDS

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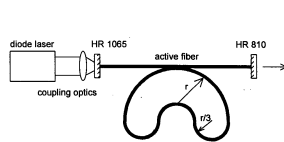


### Experimental optimization of pump absorption by mode-scrambling

Figure eight spooling (with or without twist)  
tight fiber coiling



Kidney shape spooling



A. S. Kurkov, et al., SPIE 4083, 118 (2000).  
J. Nilsson et al., IEEE J. Quantum Electronics 39, 967 (2003).  
P. Peterka, et al., SPIE 4180, 518 (2000).  
L. Shang and Z. Q. Song, Optoelect. and Adv. Mat. Rapid Comm. 4, 613 (2010).

H. Zellmer, et al., "Double-Clad Fiber Laser with 30 W Output Power," in Proc. Opt. Amplifiers and their Applications OAA'97, p. FAW18 (1997).  
Experiment + ray tracing and WKB modelling adopted to bending

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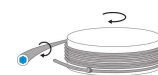
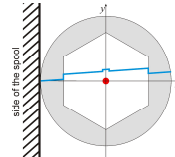


### Model of fiber bending and twisting

Propagation of pump radiation computed using BPM (FEM and FFT based). Curvature due to coiling included using modified refractive index profile

$$n_{\text{mod}} = n_0 \left(1 + \frac{x}{R}\right)$$

$$n_{\text{mod}} = n_0 \left(1 + \frac{x \cos \phi + y \sin \phi}{R}\right)$$

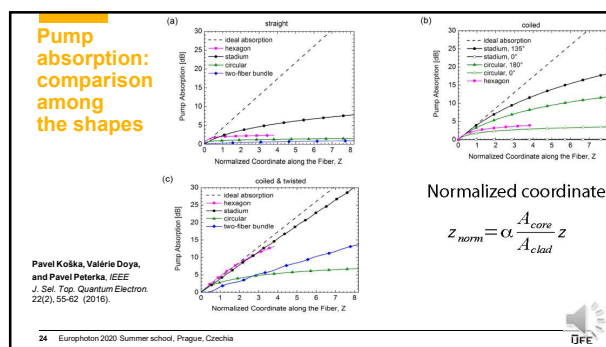
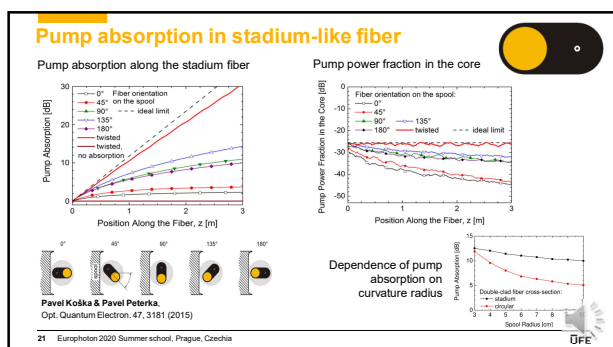
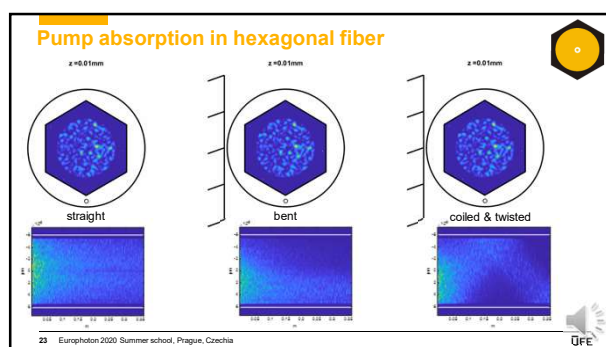
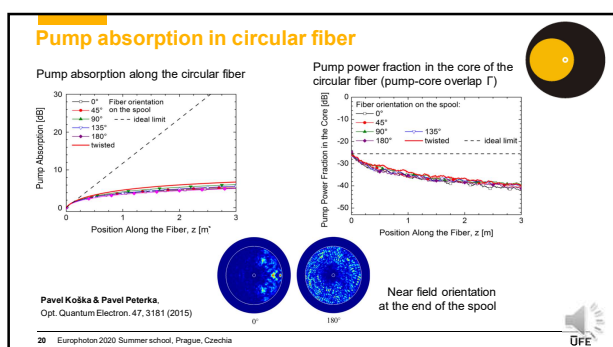
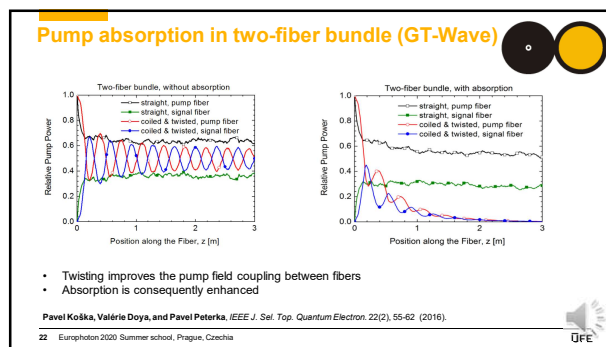
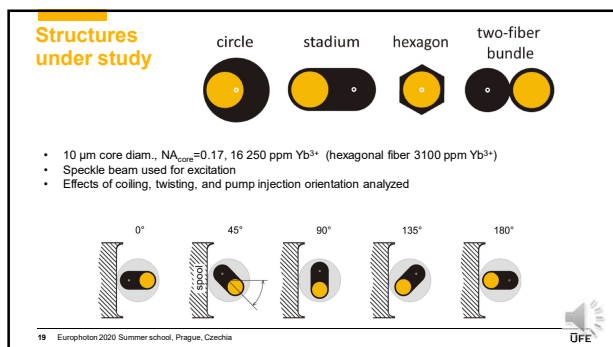


M. Heiblum & J. Harris, IEEE J. Quantum Electron. 11, 75 (1975).

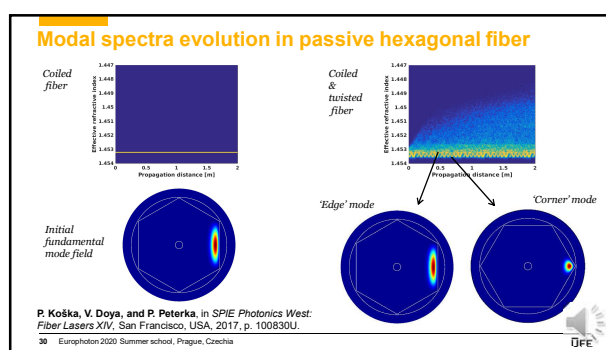
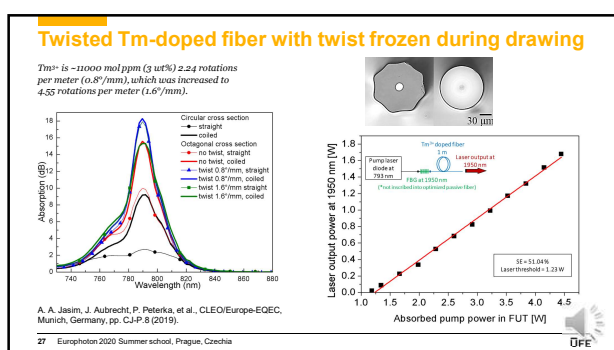
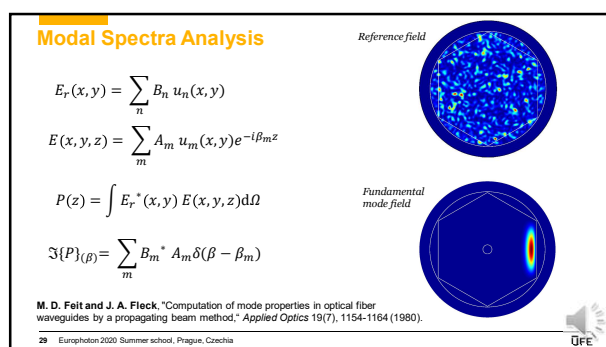
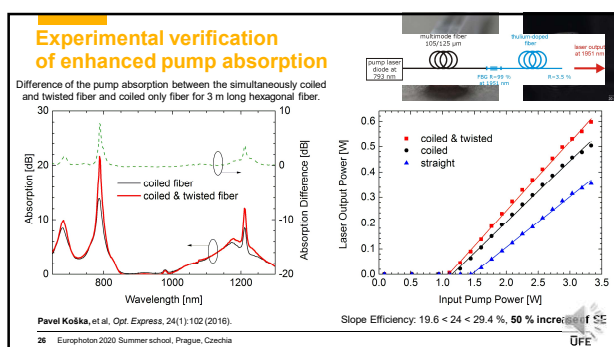
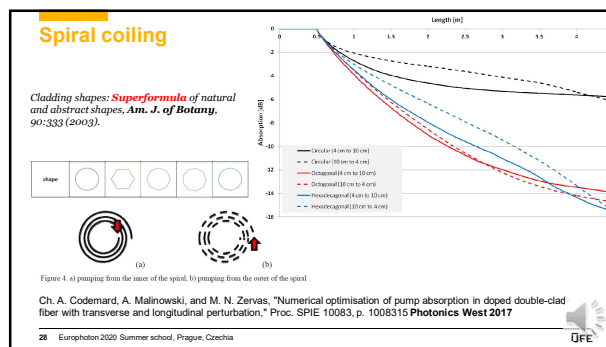
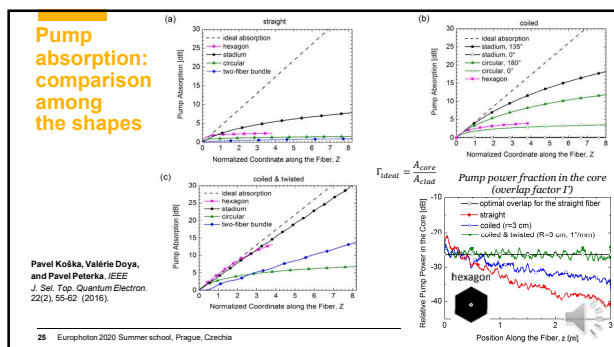
Pavel Kočka & Pavel Peterka, Opt. Quantum Electron. 47, 316 (2015).

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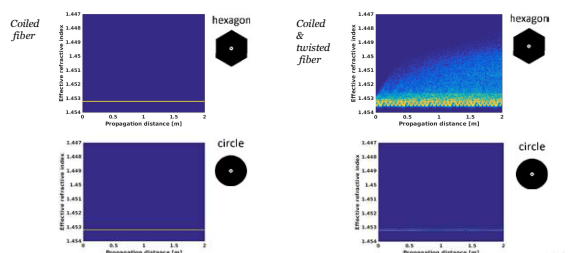






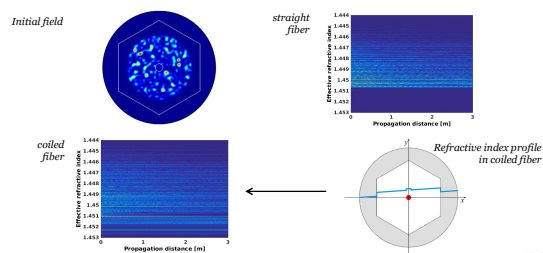


### Modal spectra evolution in hexagonal vs. circular fiber



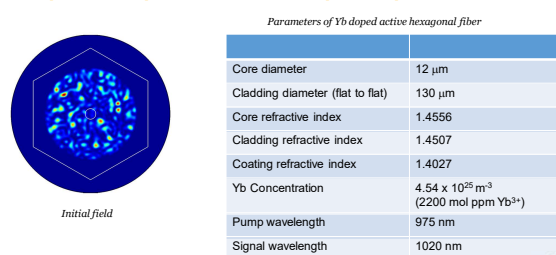
P. Koška, V. Doya, and P. Peterka, in *SPIE Photonics West: Fiber Lasers XIV*, San Francisco, USA, 2017, p. 100831U  
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### Pump modal spectra evolution in active hexagonal fiber



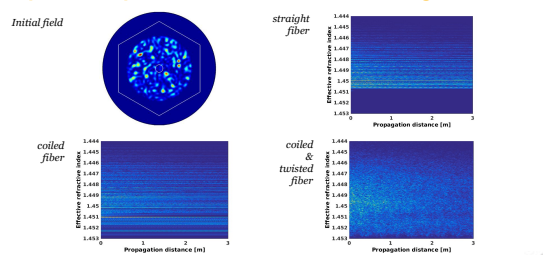
P. Koška, V. Doya, and P. Peterka, in *SPIE Photonics West: Fiber Lasers XIV*, San Francisco, USA, 2017, p. 100831U  
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### Pump modal spectra evolution: speckle pattern case



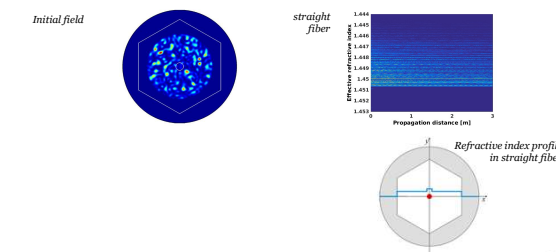
P. Koška, V. Doya, and P. Peterka, in *SPIE Photonics West: Fiber Lasers XIV*, San Francisco, USA, 2017, p. 100831U  
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### Pump modal spectra evolution in active hexagonal fiber

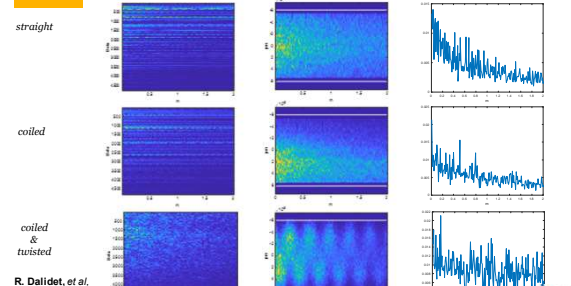


P. Koška, V. Doya, and P. Peterka, in *SPIE Photonics West: Fiber Lasers XIV*, San Francisco, USA, 2017, p. 100831U  
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P. Koška, V. Doya, and P. Peterka, in *SPIE Photonics West: Fiber Lasers XIV*, San Francisco, USA, 2017, p. 100831U  
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R. Dalidet, et al, in *Proc. SPIE*, p. 105122P (2018).  
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### Pump absorption in DC fibers: things to remember

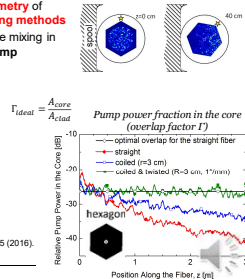
■ Pump absorption is enhanced by **broken circular symmetry** of inner cladding cross section and by **unconventional coiling methods**. But remember: non-circular fiber shapes do not help for mode mixing in strictly straight fibers and bent-only fibers; do not forget on pump squeezing and decentering effects.

■ Approximation of cladding pump absorption:  $\propto \frac{A_{core}}{A_{clad}}$

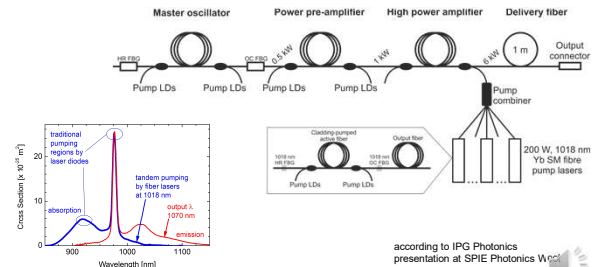
It is often used in numerical modelling and quick design of fiber lasers but use it wisely. **It is only approximation!** In fact the true is the opposite, that overlap factor  $I'$  is never constant along the fiber, for some geometry it can get close to the ideal case.

Pavel Koška, Valérie Doy, Pavel Peterka, *IEEE J. Sel. Top. Quantum Electron.* **22**, 55 (2016).  
Pavel Koška, et al., *Opt. Express* **24**, 102-107 (2016).

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### Tandem pumped Yb fiber laser pumped at 1018 nm



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### Power scaling limits due to nonlinear effects

**Stimulated Brillouin Scattering (SBS)**  $P_{SBS} = 21 \frac{A_{eff}}{g_B L_{eff}}$   $g_B = 3 - 5 \times 10^{-11} \frac{m}{W}$

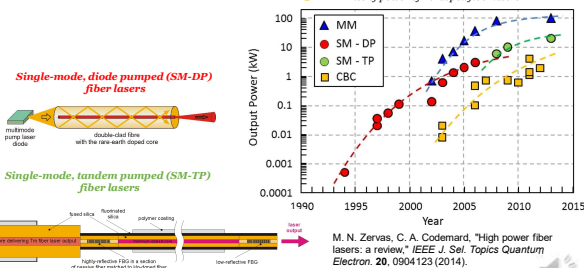
**Stimulated Raman Scattering (SRS)**  $P_{SRS} = 16 \frac{A_{eff}}{g_R L_{eff}}$   $g_R = 0.5 \times 10^{-13} \frac{m}{W}$   
Raman scattering: 13 THz (44nm @ 1000 nm, 92nm @ 1460 nm) Brillouin s.: 10 GHz (backward)

**Self focusing**  $P_{SF} = \frac{0.148 \lambda^2}{n_0 n_2}$   $n_2 = 2.2 \times 10^{-20} \frac{m^2}{W}$   
**Self-phase modulation**  $P_{SF} \approx 5.2 \text{ MW at } 1 \mu\text{m}, >20 \text{ MW at } 2 \mu\text{m}$

Rudiger Paschotta, RP Photonics Encyclopedia, <https://www.rp-photonics.com/encyclopedia.html>  
Ariele V. Smith et al., "Optical damage limits to pulse energy from fibers.", *IEEE J. Sel. Top. Quantum Electron.* **15**, 153-158 (2009).  
L. Dong, B. Samson, Fiber Lasers: Basics, Technology, and Applications, Boca Raton, CRC Press 2016.

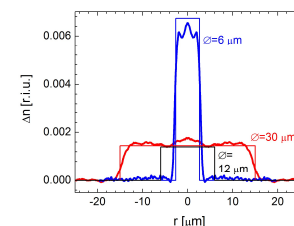
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### DC fiber limits & Power scaling



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### Nonlinearity issue remedy: Large Mode Area (LMA) fibers



$\phi_{core}$	V	MFD	$A_{eff}$	Number of modes
5.3 $\mu\text{m}$	2.20	6.2 $\mu\text{m}$	30 $\mu\text{m}^2$	1

$\phi_{core}$	V	MFD	$A_{eff}$	Number of modes
12 $\mu\text{m}$	2.13	14.4 $\mu\text{m}$	163 $\mu\text{m}^2$	1
15 $\mu\text{m}$	2.67	15.4 $\mu\text{m}$	187 $\mu\text{m}^2$	2
20 $\mu\text{m}$	3.55	17.9 $\mu\text{m}$	250 $\mu\text{m}^2$	2
30 $\mu\text{m}$	5.33	23.4 $\mu\text{m}$	432 $\mu\text{m}^2$	4

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### Higher-Order Mode (HOM) filtering by coiling

Coil geometry matters: the invention of large mode area (LMA) fibres and methods to maintain single mode operation of LMA fibres is one of major breakthroughs in power scaling of fiber lasers.

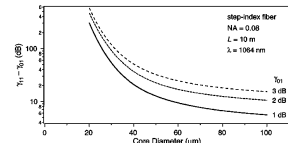


Fig. 1. Calculated values of the  $LP_{11}$  suppression relative to  $LP_{01}$  versus core diameter at the indicated values of  $\gamma_{01}$ . The choice of  $L = 10$  m is representative; for other fiber lengths, similar levels of  $LP_{11}$  suppression are calculated for a given  $\gamma_{01}$  at slightly different values of  $D$ .

J. P. Koplow, D. A. V. Klmer, L. Goldberg, *Opt. Lett.* **25**, 442 (2000).

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Other methods of SM regime of few mode core:

- tapering of the few-mode fiber
- LP01 mode gain preference by confined doping
- Multi-trench fiber design
- Chirally coupled core
- Twisted fiber with broken circular symmetry of the core
- resonant filtering by leakage channel fiber or all-solid PBG fiber
- and others

Most widely used and experimentally simple is still the HOM filtering by coiling



### Squeezing $A_{eff}$ of LMA fibers due to coiling

Coil geometry matters: tight coiling reduces  $A_{eff}$ , namely in larger core LMA fibers

Joel M. Fini, "Bend-resistant design of conventional and microstructure fibers with very large mode area," *Opt. Express* **14**, 69-81 (2006).

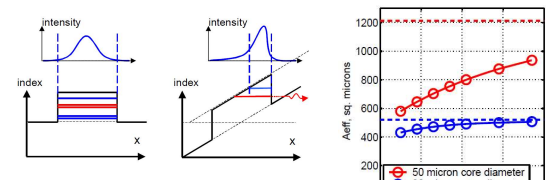


Fig. 4. The equivalent-index model gives us an intuitive picture of bend-induced distortion and area reduction. Bends lead to an index gradient across the core, which tends to push light towards the outside of the bend. The index plot includes the fiber index profile (black) and effective index of the modes (red and blue).

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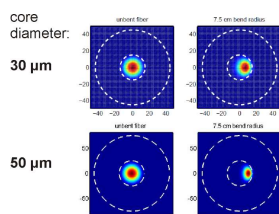
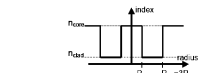
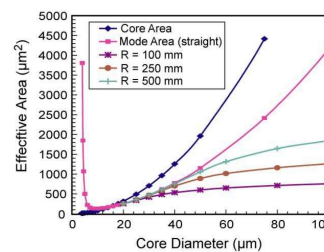


Fig. 2. This W-shaped index profile was used for the two fibers of Fig. 1. For both fibers, the outer cladding has the same index as the core, and  $n_{clad} = 1.46$ .

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### Squeezing $A_{eff}$ of LMA fibers due to coiling



Plot of effective mode area as a function for core diameter for varying bend radii. Core NA=0.06 in all cases.

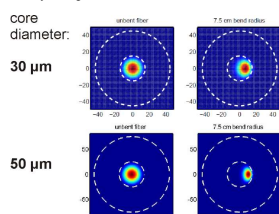
Jay W. Dawson, et al., "Analysis of the scalability of diffraction-limited fiber lasers and amplifiers to high average power," *Opt. Express* **16**(17), 13240 (2008).

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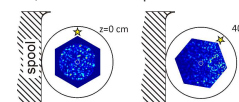
### Squeezing $A_{eff}$ of LMA fibers due to coiling

Coil geometry matters: tight coiling reduces  $A_{eff}$ , namely in larger core LMA fibers

Joel M. Fini, "Bend-resistant design of conventional and microstructure fibers with very large mode area," *Opt. Express* **14**, 69-81 (2006).



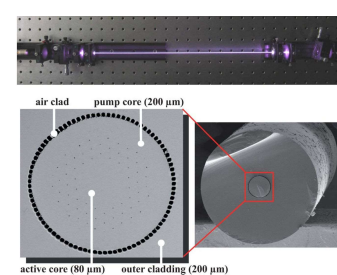
Do you remember mode-area squeezing in inner cladding of DC fiber? Despite much larger core size, the effect is also important:



P. Koska, P. Peterka, J. Aubrecht, et al., "Enhanced pump absorption efficiency in coiled and twisted double-clad thulium-doped fibers," *Opt. Express* **24**, 102-107 (2016).

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### Rod-type LMA fibers



Jens Limpert, et al., "High-power rod-type photonic crystal fiber laser," *Opt. Express* **13**(4), 1055-1058 (2005).

A. Tünnermann, T. Schreiber, and J. Limpert, "Fiber lasers and amplifiers: an ultrafast performance evolution," *Appl. Optics* **49**, F71-F78 (2010).

corner-to-corner 80 μm  
inner cladding: 200 μm, → high pump overlap → clad. abs. 30 dB/m  
 $A_{eff} \sim 4000 \mu m^2$   
 $NA_{air-clad}$  as high as 0.6

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## Fiber heating

Analytical formula for estimation of surface temperature between the silica innercladding and the fluorinated polymer:

$$\text{core: } T_1(r) = T_{a1} - \frac{P_{\text{heat}} r^2}{4k_1}$$

$$\text{cladding layers: } T_3(r) = T_b + \frac{P_{\text{heat}} a_2^2}{2k_3} \left( \ln \frac{r}{a_2} + \ln \frac{a_3}{a_2} \right)$$

power density of the heat source  $P_{\text{heat}}$  [W/m<sup>2</sup>]

$$\text{and } T_3(a_2) = T_b + \frac{P_{\text{heat}} a_2^2}{2k_3} \ln \frac{a_3}{a_2}$$

for the power density of the heat source  $P_{\text{heat}}$  [W/m<sup>2</sup>]

thermal conductivities,  $k$  [W/mK]: silica 1.38, acrylate 0.18, aluminium 238

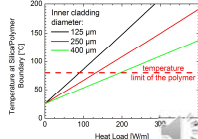
Similar analysis is given in:

D. C. Brown and H. J. Hoffman, "Thermal, stress, and thermo-optic effects in high average power double-clad silica fiber lasers," *IEEE J. Quantum Electron.* **37**, 207-217 (2001).

Fiber geometry with two claddings, i.e., three surfaces  $N=3$ .  $T_b$  is the background (boundary) temperature



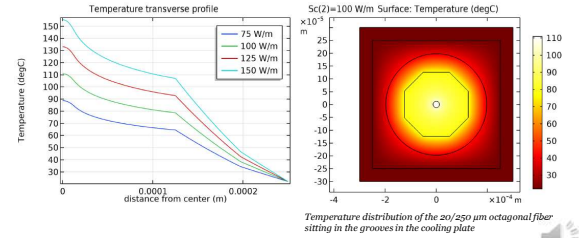
Temperature at the boundary between silica inner cladding and polymer outer cladding – the weak point of the double-clad fiber



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## Fiber heating in 20/250 Tm fiber

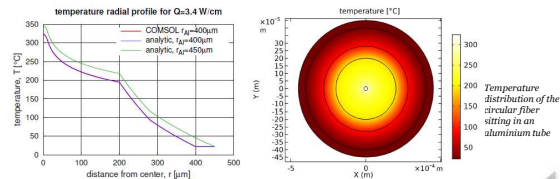
Temperature distribution calculated by FEM modelling (COMSOL Multiphysics):



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## Fiber heating in circular DC fiber: analytical formula vs. FEM

Temperature distribution calculated by analytical formula and FEM modelling (COMSOL Multiphysics):

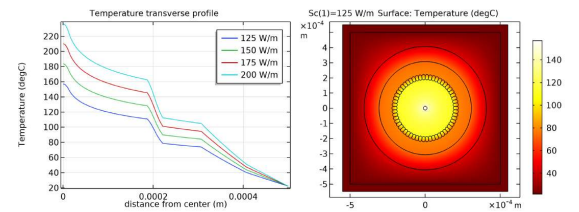


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Graphs by Martin Gräbner  
Wednesday 2nd Sept. 10:30  
„Numerical study of effect of bending and twist on pump absorption in octagonal double-clad fiber“



## Fiber heating in 25 μm core, air-clad fiber



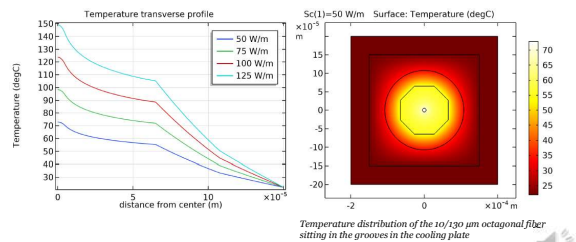
Heat load varies along the fiber, even with 1150 W average power Tm fiber it is estimated to be below 200 W/m, on average 98 W/m in 50/250 TmPCF.

C. Gaida, M. Gebhardt, T. Heuermann, F. Stutzki, C. Jauregui, and J. Limpert, "Ultrafast thulium fiber laser system emitting more than 1 kW of average power," *Opt. Lett.* **43**(23), 5853-5856 (2018).

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## Fiber heating in 10/130 Tm fiber

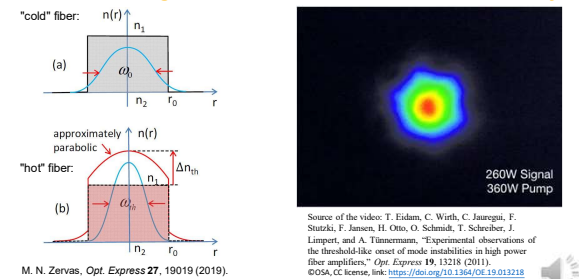
Temperature distribution calculated by FEM modelling (COMSOL Multiphysics):



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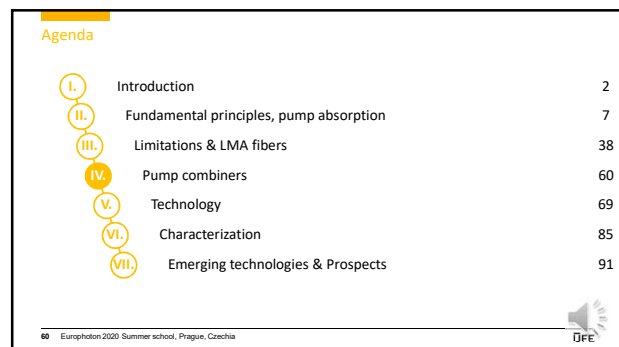
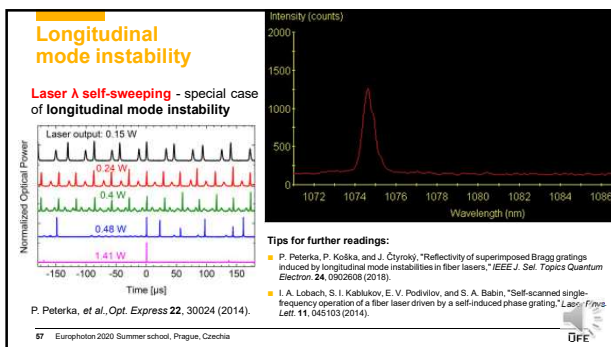
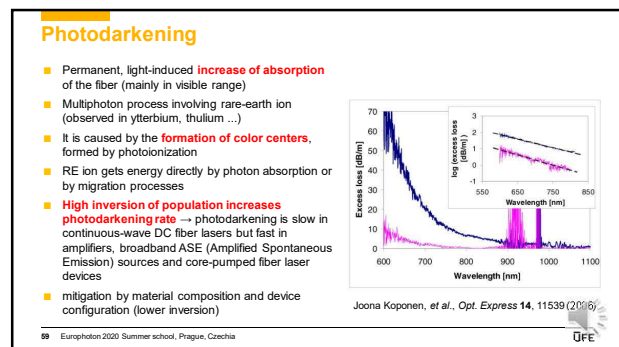
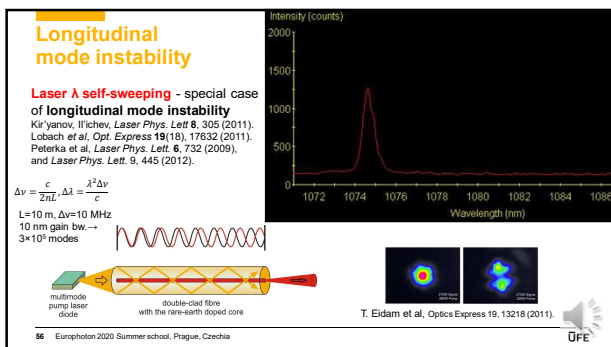
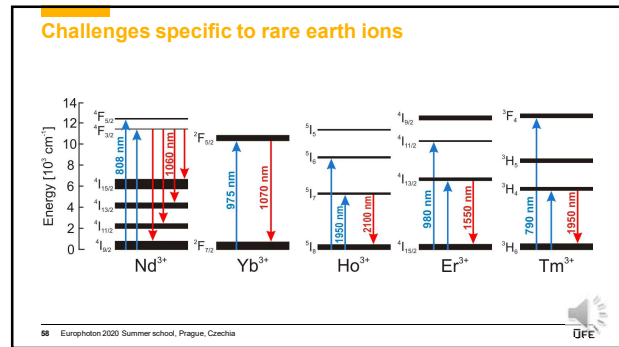
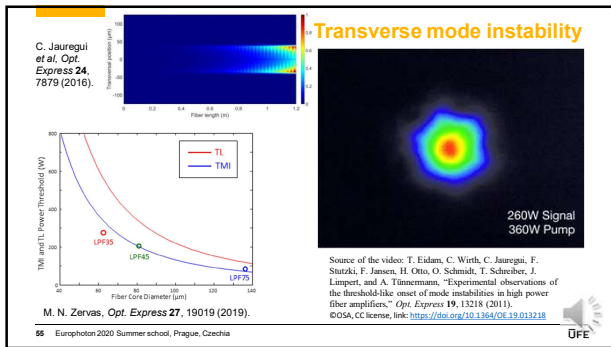
## Thermal lensing

## & Transverse mode instability



M. N. Zervas, *Opt. Express* **27**, 19019 (2019).

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### End pumping & Side pumping

**End pumping:**

- Eli Snitzer, In Proc. OFS, 1988
- D'Giovanni, US Pat. 5 864 644, 1999.
- Peterka et al. Opt. Lett. 31, 3240 (2006).

**Side pumping:**

- Gapontsev & Samartsev, US Pat. 5 999 673, ASSL 1990
- V-groove, Goltberg et al. El. Lett. 33, 2127 (1997).
- GT Wave, Grudinin, Nilsson, Turner et al., CLEO 1999

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### Combiner with signal feedthrough

Four pump delivery fibers (150 W each) were combined with an efficiency of ~90 %. Max. power handling of 440 W. Theoretical analysis by ray-tracing.

T. Theeg, H. Sayinc, J. Neumann, L. Overmeyer, and D. Kisch, "Pump and signal combiner for bi-directional pumping of all-fiber lasers and amplifiers," Opt. Express 26(27), 28125-28141 (2018).

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### Star combiner

**Mode field adapters**

Alignment of the central fiber with the core

P. Koska, et al., "Mode-field adapter for tapered-fiber-bundle signal and pump combiners," Appl. Optics 54, 751 (2015).

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### Side coupling using mirrors or diffractive elements

**V-groove pumping**

L. Goldberg, J. P. Kopolow, and D. A. V. Kliner, Opt. Lett. 24, 673 (1999).

**grating or prism coupling**

T. Weber, W. Luthy, H. P. Weber, V. Neuman, H. Berthou, and G. Kotrotsios, Opt. Commun. 115, 99 (1995).

**embedded-mirror side-pumping**

J. P. Kopolow, S. W. Moore, and D. A. Kliner, IEEE J. Quantum Electron. 39, 529 (2003).

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### Combiner with signal feedthrough

Setup of the rig for the Fused Biconical Taper (FBT) fabrication

Fig. 4. One of the possible configurations of high-power LD-pumped fiber laser.

V. P. Gapontsev and L. E. Samartsev, Institute of Radiophysics and Electronics, USSR Academy of Sciences, Sarov, Russia, Moscow 14126, USSR. In Proc. OSA Advanced Solid State Lasers - 1999, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 5 March 1999, pp. 252-253.

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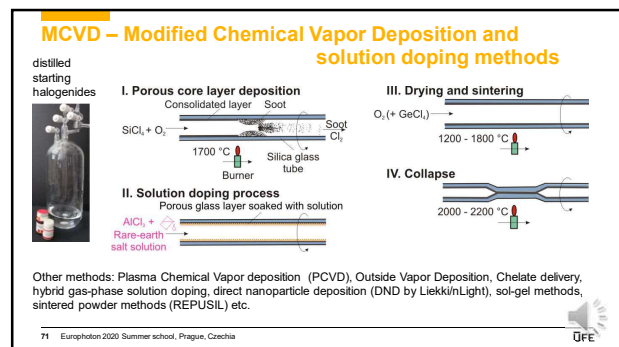
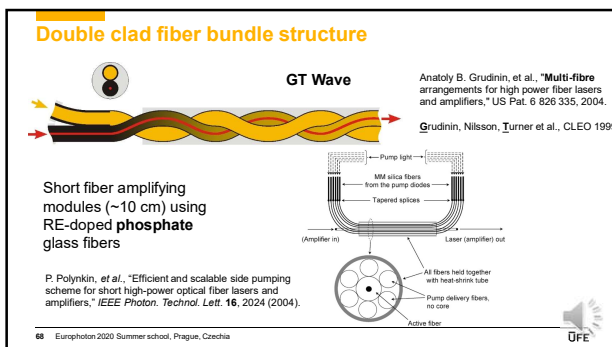
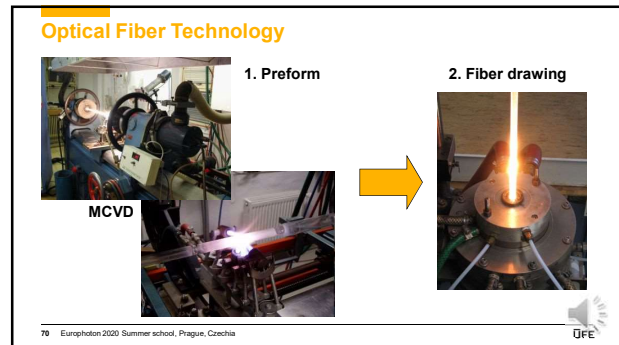
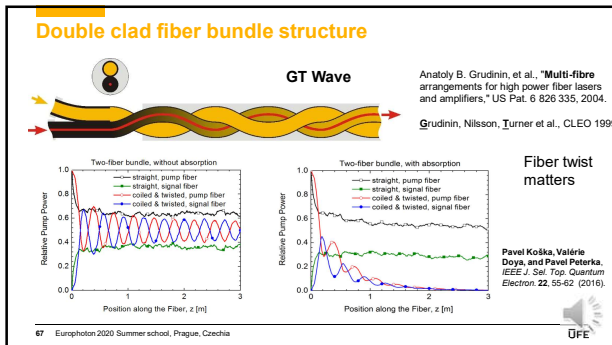
### Direct splicing of pump and signal fibers to DC fiber

flat-bottom grooves for the splicer:

4) standard V-groove 5) Groove for DC fiber splicing

P. Peterka, I. Kasik, V. Matejcek, V. Kubecek, and P. Dvoracek, "Experimental demonstration of novel end-pumping method for double-clad fiber devices," Opt. Lett. 31, 3240 (2006).

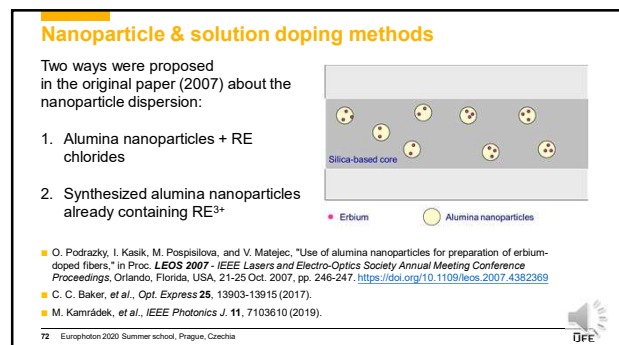
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### Agenda

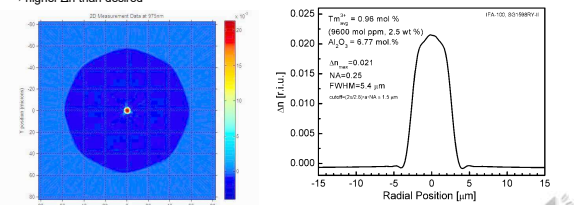
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III.	Limitations & LMA fibers	38
IV.	Pump combiners	60
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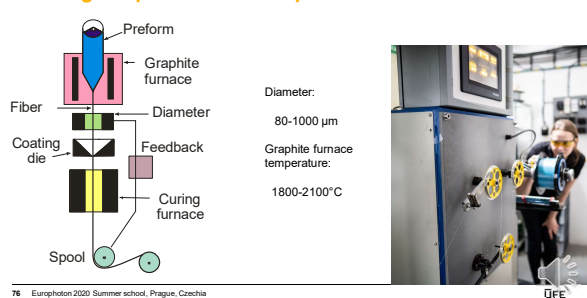
### Pedestal refractive index profiles

Nanoparticle doping method (and other advanced methods) allow:  
 > 10 mol % of alumina (1 mol %  $\sim 2.2 \times 10^{-3}$  r.i.u.)  
 > 1 mol % of  $\text{TiO}_2$  (1 mol %  $\sim 6.7 \times 10^{-3}$  r.i.u.)  
 → higher  $\Delta n$  than desired



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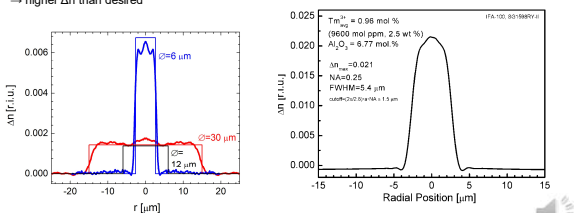
### Drawing of optical fiber from preform



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### Pedestal refractive index profiles

Nanoparticle doping method (and other advanced methods) allow:  
 > 10 mol % of alumina (1 mol %  $\sim 2.2 \times 10^{-3}$  r.i.u.)  
 > 1 mol % of  $\text{TiO}_2$  (1 mol %  $\sim 6.7 \times 10^{-3}$  r.i.u.)  
 → higher  $\Delta n$  than desired



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### Optical Fiber Technology

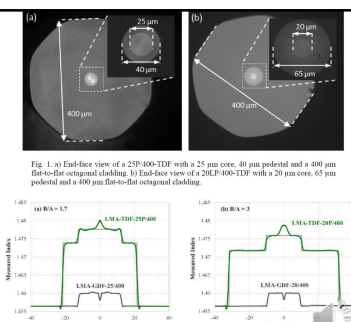


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### Pedestal refractive index profiles

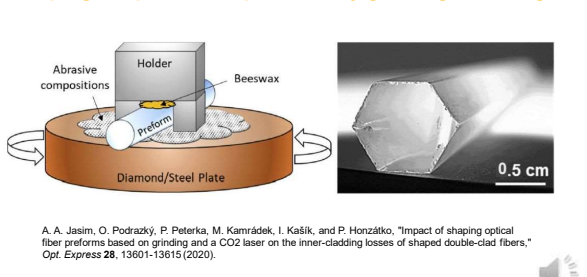
N. Simakov, A. V. Hemming, A. Carter, K. Farley, A. Davidson, N. Carmody, M. Hughes, J. M. O. Daniel, L. Corena, O. Stepanov, and J. Haub, "Design and experimental demonstration of a large pedestal thulium-doped fibre," *Opt. Express* **23**(3), 3126-3133 (2015).

C. Jollivet, K. Farley, M. Conroy, H. Dabhi, J. Edgecombe, A. Carter, and K. Tanioka, "Design optimization of Tm-doped large-mode area fibers for power scaling of 2  $\mu\text{m}$  lasers and amplifiers," in *Proc. SPIE 10083, Photonics West*, San Francisco, USA, 2017, p. 100830I.



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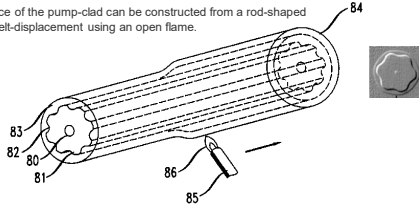
### Shaping of optical fiber preforms by grinding or milling



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### Thermal shaping of preforms

The outside interface of the pump-clad can be constructed from a rod-shaped preform by local melt-displacement using an open flame.

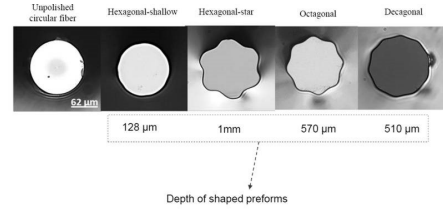


D. J. DiGiovanni, "Method of making a cladding pumped fiber structure," U. S. Patent 5 873 923, 23 Feb. 1999.

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### Drawn fibers



A. A. Jasim, et al., *Opt. Express* **28**, 13601 (2020).

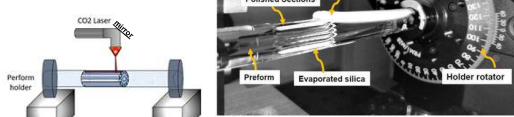
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### Shaping of optical fiber preforms by CO<sub>2</sub> laser

A. A. Jasim, O. Podrazký, P. Peterka, M. Kamrádek, I. Kálek, and P. Horzálko, "Impact of shaping optical fiber preforms based on grinding and a CO<sub>2</sub> laser on the inner-cladding losses of shaped double-clad fibers," *Opt. Express* **28**, 13601-13615 (2020).

P. C. Shardow, R. Standish, J. Sahu, and W. A. Clarkson, "Cladding shaping of optical fiber preforms via CO<sub>2</sub> laser machining," in *Proc. QLEO/Europe*, Munich, 21 June 2015, p. C.J.P.29.



Ali A. Jasim

Pavel Horzálko

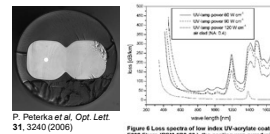
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### Main types of second claddings

Low-index acrylate coatings, typ. NA=0.46

Fluorine doped silica cladding, typ. NA=0.22

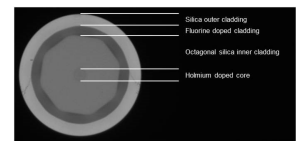


P. Peterka et al. *Opt. Lett.* **31**, 3240 (2006)

browning at less than 100 °C, High attenuation around 1.7-2 μm → cannot be used for tandem pumped Tm, or Ho fiber lasers

K. Schuster et al., "High NA fibers - A Comparison of Optical, Thermal and Mechanical Properties of Ultra Low Index Coated Fibers and Air Clad MOFs", 54th Int. Wire and Cable Symposium, 2005

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lower NA, but withstand high temperature

A. Hemming, S. Bennetts, N. Simakov, A. Davidson, J. Haub, and A. Carter, "High power operation of cladding pumped holmium-doped silica fibers," *Opt. Express* **21**(4), 4560-4566 (2013).



### CO<sub>2</sub> polished preforms

Features:

- Enables shaping preforms with concave and convex structures
- Short time of process (depends on laser power)
- Fully automated process



Sixfold shaped preform

This technique profits from a high absorption of the silica glass at wavelengths around 10.6 μm

A. A. Jasim, et al., *Opt. Express* **28**, 13601 (2020).

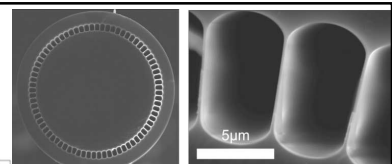
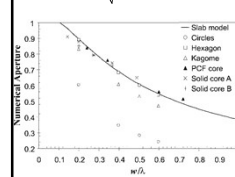
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### Air-clad DC Fibers

NA determined by a propag. const.  $\beta = k_0 n_{eff}$  of the first mode excited in the capillary bridge:

$$NA = \sqrt{n_{silica}^2 - n_{eff,stab}^2}$$



Inner cladding diameter 140 μm, 76 suspending webs of width 220 nm. Measured NA is represented with crosses x

W. J. Wadsworth, R. M. Percival, G. Bouwmans, J. C. Knight, T. A. Birks, T. D. Hedley and P. S. J. Russell, "Very high numerical aperture fibers," *IEEE Photonics Technol. Lett.* **16**, 843-845 (2004).

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## Agenda

- I. Introduction
- II. Fundamental principles, pump absorption
- III. Limitations & LMA fibers
- IV. Pump combiners
- V. Technology
- VI. Characterization
- VII. Emerging technologies & Prospects

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## Absorption &amp; emission

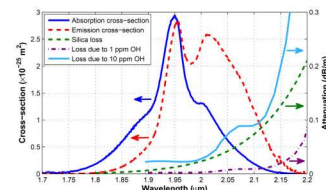
Cut-back method for **core** absorption (**cladding** abs. discussed before)

$$\frac{P_{in}}{P_{out}} = \exp(-\alpha L) = \exp(-\sigma_a N_a L)$$

$$Attenuation [dB] = -10 \log \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} = 4.34 \sigma_a N_a L$$

High concentration problems: long lengths, high power broadband sources, low resolution OSA, traditional cut-back method is not often suitable

Y. Feng, B. M. Zhang, J. Zhao, S. Zhu, J. H. V. Price, and J. Nilsson, "Absorption measurement errors in single-mode fibers resulting from re-emission of radiation," *IEEE J. Quantum Electron.* **53**, 6800611 (2017).



McCumber theory, indirect estimation of  $\sigma_e$

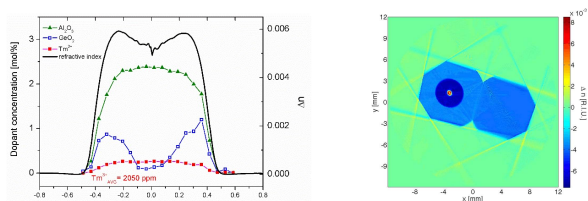
$$\sigma_e(\nu) = \sigma_a(\nu) \exp\left(\frac{E - h\nu}{kT}\right)$$

N. Sinakov, A. Hemming, W. A. Clarkson, J. Haub, and A. Carter, "A cladding-pumped, tunable holmium doped fiber laser," *Opt. Express* **21**(23), 28415-28422 (2013).

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## Refractive index and concentration profiles



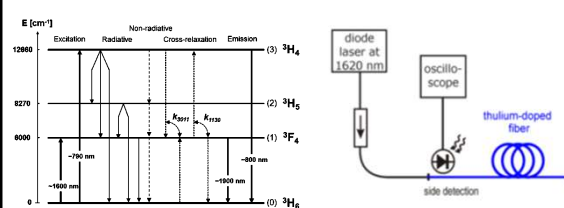
RIP - deflection function measurement, concentration - EMA (Electron Microprobe Analysis)

A. Novozamsky, J. Stanicka, and P. Peterka, "Tomography reconstruction of geometry and refractive index profile of highly asymmetric optical fiber preforms," *SPIE* **7746**, 77461O (2010).

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## Fluorescence lifetime



J. Cajdl, P. Peterka, M. Kowalczyk, J. Tarka, G. Sobon, J. Sotor, J. Aubrecht, P. Honzátka, and I. Kašík, "Thulium-doped silica fibers with enhanced fluorescence lifetime and their application in ultrafast fiber lasers," *Fibers* **6**(3), 66 (2018).

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## Absorption &amp; emission

Cut-back method for **core** absorption (**cladding** abs. discussed before)

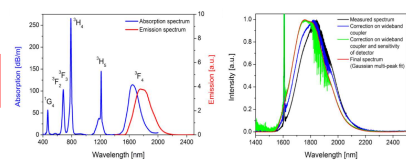
$$\frac{P_{in}}{P_{out}} = \exp(-\alpha L) = \exp(-\sigma_a N_a L)$$

$$Attenuation [dB] = -10 \log \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} = 4.34 \sigma_a N_a L$$

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Y. Feng, B. M. Zhang, J. Zhao, S. Zhu, J. H. V. Price, and J. Nilsson, "Absorption measurement errors in single-mode fibers resulting from re-emission of radiation," *IEEE J. Quantum Electron.* **53**, 6800611 (2017).

**Emission spectral shape** from fully inverted, very short (0.2 dB small-signal loss) fiber  
**Absolute value:** gain in fully inverted fiber. **Estimation:** Judd-Ofelt theory & Fuchtbauer-Ladenburg formula  
C.R. Giles et al., *IEEE Photonics Technol. Lett.* **3**, 363 (1991).

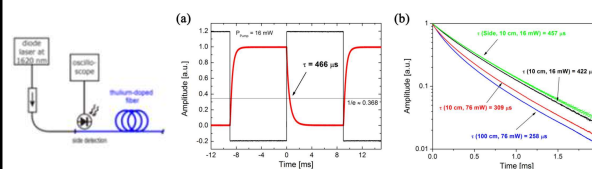


J. Cajdl, et al., *Fibers* **6**, 66 (2018).

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## Fluorescence lifetime



J. Cajdl, P. Peterka, M. Kowalczyk, J. Tarka, G. Sobon, J. Sotor, J. Aubrecht, P. Honzátka, and I. Kašík, "Thulium-doped silica fibers with enhanced fluorescence lifetime and their application in ultrafast fiber lasers," *Fibers* **6**(3), 66 (2018).

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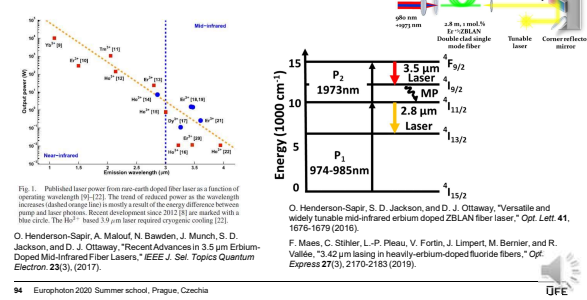
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- VI. Characterization 85
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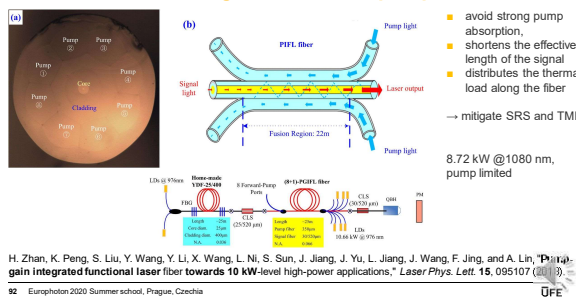
## DC fibers for Mid IR lasers



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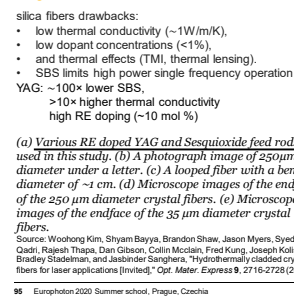
## DC fiber for 10 kW single-mode diode-pumped fiber laser



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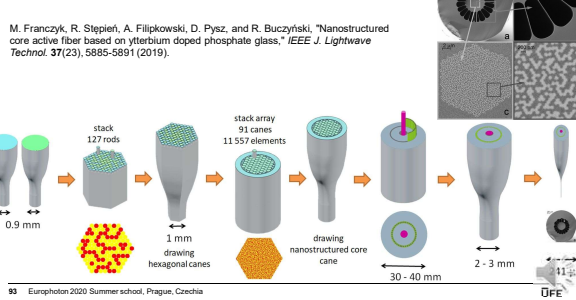
## Crystalline DC fibers



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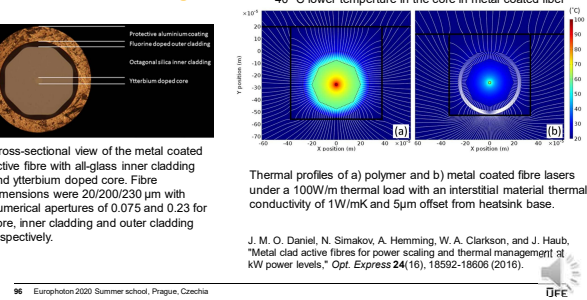
## Nanostructured DC fibers



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## Advanced coatings



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### MM Raman fiber laser

**Figure 1.** All-fiber scheme of MM GRIN-fiber Raman laser with cavity formed by HR UV-FBG1 and output fs-FBG2 with LD pumping through the fiber pump combiner (or bulk-optic pump coupling scheme<sup>[10]</sup> shown in the inset).

Pump 200 W@915nm, Output 62W@954 nm, slope eff. 84%,  $P_{th} \sim 130$  W,  $M^2 = 2.5-3.2$

S. A. Babin, "High-brightness all-fiber Raman lasers directly pumped by multimode laser diodes," *High Power Laser Sci. Eng.* Te15 (2019).

### Tapered-fiber amplifier

Input beam: Input peak power ( $P_{in}$ )

Pump: Gain ( $G$ )

Output beam

Passive Active

Gain 10 dB

97 Europhoton 2020 Summer school, Prague, Czechia

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