Fabrication of Carbon Micro Electrodes by Local Laser Pyrolysis

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Motivation and Aim

Local laser pyrolysis (LLP) has previously been demonstrated as a method for writing carbon micro-electrodes in polyimide, to make flexible electronics and micro super-capacitors [1-3].

The aim of this study was i) To demonstrate LLP of absorber-modified SU-8. ii) To gain knowledge of the LLP process as a gateway to pyrolyse other polymers via direct laser writing.

Process overview of laser pyrolysis

SU-8, modified to absorb light at 800 nm wavelength, is spin coated onto a boron glass wafer. A collimated laser beam with a very narrow peak intensity at 806 nm is then used for locally pyrolysing the SU-8, essentially enabling direct writing of conductive carbon micro electrodes.

a) SU-8 2035 with Pro-Jet 800NP
b) 806 nm laser

Fig 1. Overview of the laser pyrolysis process of absorber-modified SU-8. a) SU-8 mixed with the absorber, Pro-Jet 800NP (FujiFilm), is spin-coated onto a boron glass wafer. b) A laser, operating at 806 nm, is used to locally pyrolyse the SU-8 under a nitrogen atmosphere. c) Electrical evaluation of the written line.

Laser-written, pyrolysed structures

Various conducting, laser written structures. As can be seen, laser writing allows for very high design flexibility, but requires that the substrate can absorb the light.

Electrical measurements

Electrical measurements on the written lines and structures. The degree of carbonization, evaluated through a resistivity measurement, can be seen to follow a declining power series with increasing laser power. The resistance is directly proportional to the path length but independent of the number of nodes and intersects on its way, confirming the seamless joining of lines.

Conclusion

We have demonstrated localized laser pyrolysis by direct laser writing in absorber-modified SU-8. The SU-8 will not interact with the laser unless the absorber is added. The design flexibility is very high and lines can be joined together without added resistance. The highest, estimated conductance achieved is 2.26 ± 0.27 S/cm.

References

2. S. Liu, J. T. Zhang, J. Liu, Carbon 48 (2010) 1208

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