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*Published in:*

Proceedings of 22nd International Conference on Plactical Optical Fibers (POF 2013)

*Publication date:*

2013

*Document Version*

Peer reviewed version

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*Citation (APA):*

Nielsen, K., Markos, C., Stefani, A., Yuan, W., Bang, O., & Rasmussen, H. K. (2013). High-Tg TOPAS mPOF strain sensing at 110 degrees. In *Proceedings of 22nd International Conference on Plactical Optical Fibers (POF 2013)* (pp. 298-301). Laboratorio Instrumentacao & Fotonica (LIF).

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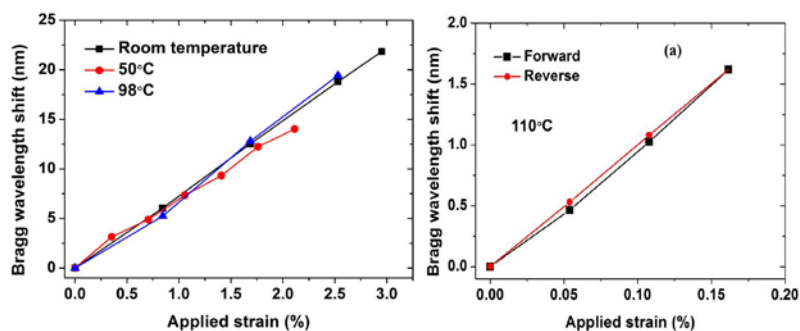
# High- $T_g$ TOPAS mPOF strain sensing at 110 degrees

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**Abstract:** Polymer optical fibers (POFs) have several advantages compared to silica fibers. Flexibility and non-brittle nature makes them a potential platform for in-vivo biosensing applications. Their high failure strain and low Young's modulus, makes them suitable for high strain (above 1%) sensing applications and more sensitive to displacement forces. The first FBG written in a single-mode microstructured POF (mPOF), was a 1570 nm grating reported in 2005. Traditionally, POF and mPOFs have been made of PMMA, which makes the response of the FBGs dependent on both temperature and humidity. In 2011, a 1569 nm FBG was written into a TOPAS mPOF, using 325 nm UV writing [2]. Soon thereafter an 871 nm FBG in a TOPAS mPOF was reported and it was demonstrated that the TOPAS FBG was indeed humidity insensitive to within the accuracy of the climate chamber that was used [3]. In all published papers on TOPAS mPOFs, the fibers were made of the particular TOPAS grade 8007, which has a glass transition temperature of only  $T_g = 80^\circ\text{C}$ . This is even lower than that of PMMA (typically  $110^\circ\text{C}$ ), which means that the issue of a low operating temperature remains a problem for polymer FBGs. Here we demonstrate for the first time the fabrication of an mPOF made of high- $T_g$  TOPAS grade 5013 with  $T_g = 135^\circ\text{C}$ . We further inscribe FBGs into the fiber and demonstrate strain sensing of 2.5% strain at  $98^\circ\text{C}$ , further we also demonstrate strain sensing at a record high temperature of  $110^\circ\text{C}$ [4]. Taking into consideration that the TOPAS fiber is humidity insensitive and that the TOPAS FBG strain sensor may be temperature compensated using dual-FBG technology, this demonstration of high-temperature operation at  $110^\circ\text{C}$  provides a significant step towards a practically applicable polymer FBG sensor platform. It should be emphasized that there is not any report so far demonstrating the operation of PMMA POFs or mPOFs at higher temperature than  $92^\circ\text{C}$ . Overall, we believe that the current work is a significant step towards fabrication and commercialization of polymer FBG sensors based on TOPAS, which further enhances the ability of polymer fibers to operate at temperatures up to  $110^\circ\text{C}$ .



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