

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE 30 March 95	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED technical; 01OCT94 to 30SEPT95	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Laser-induced holographic surface relief gratings on nonlinear optical polymer films			5. FUNDING NUMBERS C: N00014-90-J-1148	
6. AUTHOR(S) D.Y. Kim, L. Li, J. Kumar, S.K. Tripathy			R&T Code: 4132016 Dr. JoAnn Milliken	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Massachusetts Lowell Department of Chemistry 1 University Avenue Lowell, MA 01854			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER 1148-95-02	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Office of Naval Research-Chemistry Division Code 1113 Department of the Navy Arlington, Virginia 22217-5000			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted for any purpose of the United States Government. This document has been approved for public release and sale; its distribution is unlimited.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words) We report observation of holographic surface relief gratings with relatively large amplitude on a second order nonlinear optical polymeric material. Surface relief gratings on these polymer films were created upon exposure to polarized Ar ⁺ laser beams at 488 nm without any subsequent processing steps. The surface structure of the relief gratings was investigated by atomic force microscopy. The depth of the surface relief in a typical case was 140 nm which is approximately 25 % of the original film thickness. Diffraction efficiency of gold-coated gratings were investigated as a function of wavelength and capability of recording orthogonal gratings on the same film was demonstrated.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS holographic surface relief gratings, a second order nonlinear optical polymeric material, surface structure, atomic force microscopy, diffraction efficiency.			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 11	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39-18
298-102

19950407 190

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 3

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

GRANT N00014-90-J-1148

R&T Code 4132016

Scientific Officer: Dr. JoAnn Milliken

Technical Report No. 95-02

Laser-induced holographic surface relief gratings
on nonlinear optical polymer films

by

D.Y. Kim, L. Li, J. Kumar, S.K. Tripathy

Submitted to

Applied Physics Letter

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Department of Chemistry
Lowell, Massachusetts

March 30, 1995

Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted for any purpose of the
United States Government.

This document has been approved for public release and sale; its
distribution is unlimited.

Accession For		
NTIS	CRA&I	☒
DTIC	TAB	☐
Unannounced		☐
Classification		
Distribution/		
Availability Codes		
Dist	Avail and/or Special	
A-1		

Laser-induced holographic surface relief gratings on nonlinear optical polymer films

D. Y. Kim, Lian Li*, J. Kumar*, and S. K. Tripathy

Center for Advanced Materials, Departments of Chemistry and Physics*,
University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA 01854

ABSTRACT

We report observation of holographic surface relief gratings with relatively large amplitude on a second order nonlinear optical polymeric material. Surface relief gratings on these polymer films were created upon exposure to polarized Ar⁺ laser beams at 488 nm without any subsequent processing steps. The surface structure of the relief gratings was investigated by atomic force microscopy. The depth of the surface relief in a typical case was 140 nm which is approximately 25 % of the original film thickness. Diffraction efficiency of gold-coated gratings were investigated as a function of wavelength and capability of recording orthogonal gratings on the same film was demonstrated.

Holographic gratings (both surface relief and refractive index) using polymer films have potential applications in optical devices. Holographic gratings on photoresists have been conventionally used to create surface or relief gratings.¹ Such a process usually involves exposure of the photoresist to an interference pattern at a wavelength at which the photoresist responds. After exposure the photoresist is developed (usually by a wet chemical process) followed usually by a baking process. Laser ablation techniques have also been employed to inscribe gratings on polymers, although the residual debris and charring effects due to ablation often result in increased background scattering.² Surface relief gratings have been recorded on thermoplastic photoconductor materials as well.³ In this case, the surface deformations result when charged films are exposed to an interference pattern and heated close to the glass transition temperature (T_g) of the polymer. In this letter we report the direct formation of relatively large amplitude surface relief gratings on polymer films upon exposure to an interference pattern at modest intensities without any subsequent processing steps.

An epoxy-based polymer was utilized in this study. This polymer was synthesized from diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A and 4-(4'-nitrophenylazo) phenyl amine and functionalized with photo-crosslinkable methacryloyl groups.⁴ The T_g of this polymer was 102°C. The polymer was soluble in common organic solvents and formed good optical quality films by spin coating. Polymer thin films were prepared by spin coating the filtered 10 wt.% polymer solution in 1,4-dioxane onto microscope glass slides and silicon wafers. These films were dried in a vacuum oven at 60°C overnight. The typical thickness of films was about 0.6 μm . The UV-visible absorption spectra of the spin-coated polymer films showed a maximum at

456 nm. The second order nonlinear optical (NLO) properties and photo-induced orientation of this polymer have extensively been studied by our group.^{5,6} This polymer shows large second order NLO effects subsequent to poling and good temporal stability when crosslinked.⁵ Birefringence has also been optically induced in this polymer film by polarized light through trans-cis-trans isomerization of the azobenzene groups.⁶ The process involves repeated trans-cis photoisomerization of azobenzene groups and thermal cis-trans relaxation resulting in the alignment of azobenzene groups in the direction perpendicular to the polarization of the incident light.⁶⁻⁹ Therefore, birefringence in films resulting from this alignment of azobenzene groups could be used for producing erasable holographic gratings.

In this study, holographic gratings were recorded by a simple interferometric apparatus¹⁰ at a wavelength of 488 nm from an Ar⁺ laser with 70 mW/cm² intensity. Gratings with period from 0.5 μ m to 2.3 μ m have been recorded by adjusting the writing angle. The polarization of two writing beams were selected to be *p*-polarized. Typical recording time was about 10 min. Grating formation was monitored with a low power He-Ne laser at 633 nm by measuring the power of the +1 order diffracted beam in the reflection mode during the writing process. A very strong diffraction of the ambient light was observed from the surface implying the presence of a surface relief grating.

The surface relief structure of the gratings on polymer films were investigated by atomic force microscopy (AFM) before and after the holographic gratings were recorded. As shown in Figure 1 (a), the three-dimensional view of the surface gratings as obtained by AFM measurements showed very regularly spaced surface relief structures with

a period of 0.8 μm . The original film surfaces before exposure to the writing beams were quite smooth and planar with just tens of angstroms fluctuations in the depth without any regular periodicity. The grating spacing could be controlled by changing the angle between two writing beams and was consistent with the theoretically calculated spacing. Thus, clearly the surface relief patterns were produced by the interfering laser beams. Figure 1 (b) shows the AFM surface profile of the same grating along the ripple pattern. The depth of the surface relief patterns was about 140 nm which is approximately 25% of the original film thickness. While irradiation of 488 nm results in reorientation of the azo groups leading to birefringence in the polymer film, such a large surface change on the polymer film is not expected due to the alignment of molecules alone. Large scale molecular motion and volume change due to reorientation seem to be occurring simultaneously. The mechanism leading to the formation of the grating is not well understood at this moment. It is possible that earlier reports of diffraction from birefringent gratings in high T_g azo dye containing polymers may also have a surface grating contribution. The gratings can be erased by heating the sample above T_g . After the gratings were erased, the spectroscopic data showed no evidence of degradation or charring of the polymer films.

To demonstrate the possibility of recording multiple gratings and investigate the corresponding change of the surface structure, two sets of gratings were recorded orthogonally to each other. As shown in Figure 2, the gratings were highly symmetric and identical so the sequence of writing was not distinguishable. The depth of relief patterns was the same as that of the single gratings. This indicates that the effect saturates on long exposure.

Diffraction efficiencies from a surface relief grating were measured at various wavelengths. Figure 3 shows the wavelength dependence of the diffraction efficiency of a grating with a spacing of 1 μm in the reflection mode. The diffraction efficiencies were measured to be in the range of 2 to 5 %. In the transmission mode, diffraction efficiencies at 514 nm as large as 15 % have been measured. The diffraction efficiencies of a gold coated grating were measured at various wavelengths as shown in Figure 4. A thin layer (~ 50 nm) of gold was deposited on the grating surface by thermal evaporation in vacuum. The gold coating enhanced the diffraction efficiencies of the relief grating with a peak diffraction efficiency of about 30 %. This further confirms that the relief gratings exist on the polymer surface.

In conclusion, we have observed surface relief holographic gratings on polymer films containing an azobenzene NLO chromophore without any subsequent processing steps. Due to the ease with which relief gratings can be recorded on the polymer films, such polymers may have potential applications for optical devices and optical elements. While the manuscript was under preparation we became aware of similar results obtained by Natansohn *et al.* from Queen's university, Kingston, Canada.¹¹

Finally, financial support from the Office of Naval Research and NSF-DMR is gratefully acknowledged.

REFERENCES

1. L. F. Johnson, G. W. Kammlott, and K. A. Ingersoll, *App. Opt.* **17**, 1165 (1978).
2. H. Philips, D. Callahan, R. Sauerbrey, G. Szabo, and Z. Bor, *App. Phys. Lett.* **58**, 2761 (1991).
3. T. C. Lee, *App. Opt.* **13**, 888 (1974).
4. B. K. Mandal, R. J. Jeng, J. Kumar, and S. K. Tripathy, *Makromol. Chem., Rapid Commun.* **12**, 607 (1991).
5. R. J. Jeng, Y. M. Chen, J. Kumar, and S. K. Tripathy, *J. M. S.- Pure Appl. Chem.* **A29**, 1115 (1992).
6. D. Y. Kim, L. Li, R. J. Jeng, J. Kumar, M. A. Fiddy, and S. K. Tripathy, *SPIE proc.* **1853**, 23 (1993).
7. T. Todorov, L. Nikolova, and N. Tomova, *Appl. Opt.* **23**, 4309 (1984).
8. M. Eich, and J. H. Wendorff, *J. Opt. Soc. Am., B: Opt. Phys.* **7**, 1428 (1990).
9. A. Natansohn, P. Rochon, J. Gosselin, and S. Xie, *Macromolecules* **25**, 2268 (1992).
10. X. Mai, R. S. Moshrefzadeh, U. J. Gibson, G. I. Stegeman, and C. T. Seaton, *Appl. Opt.* **24**, 3155 (1985).
11. private communication, Prof. A. Natansohn, Queen's university, Kingston, Canada.

FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. (a) AFM three-dimensional view and (b) surface profile of the grating on the polymer film.

Figure 2. AFM three-dimensional view of two gratings recorded orthogonally to each other.

Figure 3. Diffraction efficiency of the grating in the reflection mode as a function of wavelength of the reading beam.

Figure 4. Diffraction efficiency of the gold coated grating in the reflection mode as a function of wavelength of the reading beam.







