

Starting spin off companies in at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in the 90-es: hand in hands

Róbert Szipócs, PhD

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HEPTECH Board Meeting

Tihany, 30 May, 2024

OUTLINE

1. Background

- Invention of chirped mirrors, patenting at MTA SZFKI (inventors: Robert Szipocs, Ferenc Krausz)
- Nobel Prize in Physics in 2023 – chirped mirrors for attosecond pulse generation

2. Founding spin off companies

- Founding spin off companies at MTA SZFKI and TU Wien, Austria (R&D Lézer-Optika Bt., Stingl OAG)
- Application of chirped mirror technology for science (e.g. at MPI Stuttgart, TU Wien, Uni. Groningen)
- Application of chirped mirror technology for industry (e.g. Spectra-Physics, Coherent, FemtoLasers)
- Founding R&D Ultrafast Lasers Ltd (broadly tunable Ti:sapphire lasers and OPO-s for life science)

3. R&D Ultrafast Lasers as an industrial partner of Wigner RCP

- Development of a 20 MHz repetition rate Ti:sapphire laser at MTA SZFI financed by R&D Ltd.
- FemtoBio project (National Technology Program 2006-2009) with Furukawa Electric (fiber lasers)
- FiberScope project (National Technology Program 2010-2014) with Genetic Immunity (nonlinear microscopy)
- Quantum microscopy (EUREKA Project on Quantum Optics, 2023-2026) with Ulm University (FLIM microscopy)

4. Hand in hands: how technology supports science, how science develops industry

The effect of dispersion in ultrafast laser systems and our solution for the problem

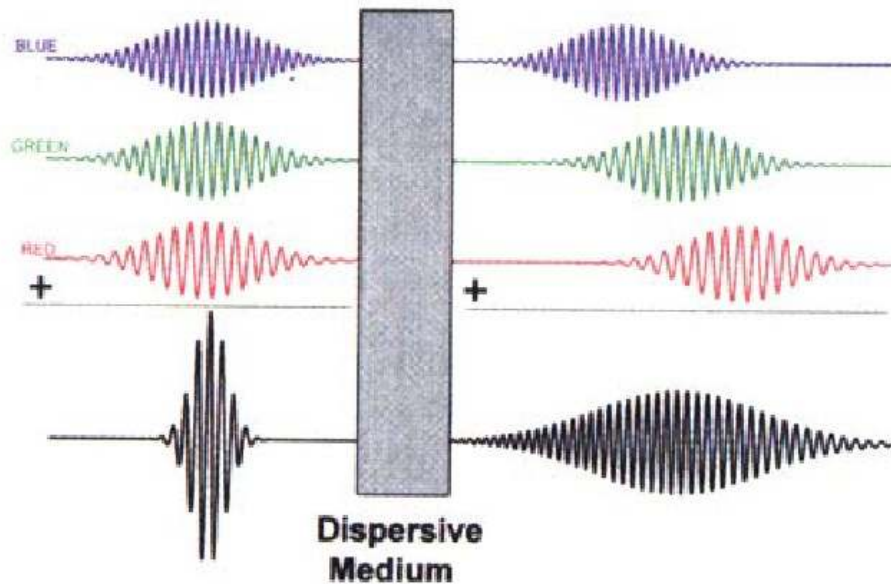


Figure 1. Optical pulse propagation through a dispersive medium: a frequency-dependent group delay leads to a pulse broadening and to a carrier frequency sweep.

US05734503A

United States Patent (19) **Patent Number:** 5,734,503
 Szipócs et al. (43) **Date of Patent:** Mar. 31, 1998

(54) **DISPERSIVE DIELECTRIC MIRROR**
 (56) **Invention:** Robert Szipócs, 2040 Budapest, Palkó utca 7; Ferenc Krausz, 8500 Pusztavám, Kosuth utca 52, both of Hungary

(21) **Appl. No.:** 289,986
 (22) **Filed:** Aug. 11, 1994
 (23) **Foreign Application Priority Data**
 Aug. 23, 1993 (HU) Hungary P 9302398

(31) **Int. Cl.⁶** G02B 1/10
 (52) **U.S. Cl.** 359/584; 359/580; 359/900; 372/25; 372/99
 (58) **Field of Search** 359/584; 588; 359/580; 960; 372/25; 99

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 M.S. Stry, et al., "Pulse Shaping in Passively Mode-Locked Ring-Dye Lasers," *IEEE J. Quantum Elec.*, vol. Q6-19, No. 4, Apr. 1983, pp. 520-525.

(List continued on next page.)

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Assistant Examiner—John E. Jee
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Lada & Pary

(57) **ABSTRACT**
 Dispersive dielectric mirror exhibiting a monotonic, more particularly nearly linear, group delay versus frequency function over a wide frequency range within the high reflectivity band of the mirror, which group delay is introduced on electromagnetic wavepackets, more particularly, on light pulses, when the electromagnetic wave is reflected on the mirror. The dispersive dielectric mirror can be used applied for dispersion control in electromagnetic impulse technique from microwave frequencies to X-rays, more particularly, in ultrashort-pulse-laser techniques and its applications. One of the concrete applications of the dispersive dielectric mirrors is to solid-state-laser intracavity dispersion control of femtosecond pulse solid-state-laser oscillators instead of using prism pairs. The laser built in this way is more compact, reliable and more broadly than its prism-pair-dispersion controlled predecessors.

11 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

Wavelength (nm)	Group Delay (ps)
700	5
750	10
800	15
850	20
900	25

R. Szipócs, A. Stingl, Ch. Spielmann, and Ferenc Krausz,

"Pushing the Limits of Femtosecond Technology: Chirped Dielectric Mirrors," *Optics & Photonics News* 6(6), 16- (1995)

R. Szipócs, F. Krausz U. S. Pat. No.: 5,734,503

The use of ultrabroadband chirped mirrors for attosecond pulse generation

ABOUT US | RESEARCH | CAREER | COOPERATIONS & PROJECTS | NEWS

Home / News / Awards and Honours / 2022 / Ferenc Krausz wins the Nobel Prize!

Ferenc Krausz wins the Nobel Prize!

Founder of attosecond physics wins the most important prize in science

OCTOBER 03, 2022
[Home](#) [News from the Institute](#)

Ferenc Krausz, Director at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics and Professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, together with Pierre Agostini, and Anne L’Huillier, has been honoured with the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics. The Nobel Committee is honouring the three researchers for the foundation of attosecond physics. An attosecond is a billionth of a billionth of a second. Laser pulses lasting only a few attoseconds can be used to track the movements of individual electrons. This provides fundamental insights into the behaviour of electrons in atoms, molecules and solids, but could also help to drastically speed up today’s electronics.

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Matthias Weber Ferenc Krausz

In 2001, Ferenc Krausz generated light pulses in the attosecond range (1 attosecond = 10⁻¹⁸ seconds) for the first time. Their use for observing electron movements in atoms was honoured by Nature and Science as one of the 10 most important scientific achievements of 2002.

The basis for this was laid by Ferenc Krausz and his compatriot Robert Szipöcs with the development of mirrors with which extremely intense laser pulses can be generated from a few oscillations of a light wave. In 2002, Ferenc Krausz and Theodor Hänsch, who is also director at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics and professor at the LMU, succeeded in controlling not only the intensity of light pulses but also the phase, i.e. the exact course of a light wave, using the Ted Hänsch’s frequency comb technique, which also won a Nobel Prize - in 2005.

AZ ISZOLÁLT ATTOSZEKUNDUMOS IMPULZUSOK ELŐÁLLÍTÁSÁT MEGALAPOZÓ LÉZERFIZIKAI FEJLESZTÉSEK A KILENCVENES ÉVEK KÖZEPÉN A BÉCSI MŰSZAKI EGYETEMEN

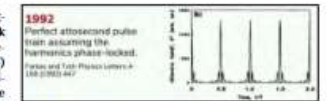
Szipöcs Róbert
 HUN-REN Wigner Fizikai Kutatóközpont, Budapest

Írásomban a következő pár oldalon azt szeretném bemutatni, hogy az izolált attoszekundumos impulzusok előállítását miért éppen Krausz Ferencnek sikerült először a világon, és hogy mit az eredményt milyen alapvető fontosságú kísérletek, lézertechnológiai fejlesztések előzték meg a kilencvenes években – többek között a Bécsi Műszaki Egyetemen, az ő szakmai vezetésével.

Ahhoz, hogy az egész fejlesztési folyamatot megértsük és értékeljük, talán a legvégén érdemes elkezdenünk a történetet, vagyis ott, hogy egy magas rendű nemlineáris optikai folyamat, a magasharmonikus-keltés (HHG) révén hogyan lehet rövid, nagy intenzitású lézertimpulzusokkal attoszekundumos impulzussorozatot, illetve egyedi, izolált attoszekundumos impulzusokat előállítani – például nemességokban – attól függően, hogy a lézertimpulzusunk hossza hogyan viszonyul annak (esetünkben típkéusan 800 nm körüli) középhullámhosszához. A nemlineáris optika rejtelmeibe, azon belül a magasharmonikus-keltés elméleti alapjaiba Domi Péter és Tóth Csaba írások vezettek be az olvasót ebben a Nobel díjhoz kapcsolódó külön számban; itt röviden csak összefoglalom a legfontosabb megállapításokat, törvényszerűségeket.

Először is, a gázatomok polarizálhatóságának szimmetriafüggése miatt csak a párosan sorozott harmontikusok állnak elő a HHG során. Másodszor, a legmagasabb sorszámú (legrövidebb hullámhosszú) harmonikusok rendjét az azt előállító lézertimpulzus maximális téreőssége (E) határozza meg, vagyis minél nagyobb a fókuszált téreősség az atomokban, annál magasabb harmonikusokat tudunk előállítani. A harmadik, és az izolált attoszekundumos impulzusok előállítása szempontjából rendkívül fontos megállapítás, hogy a magas harmonikusok minden téreősség-maximumban egy időben, egymással azonos fázisban előállnak, így egy most már vi-

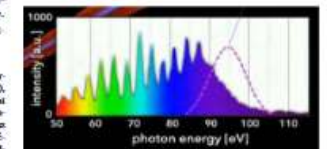
szonylag egyszerűen megérthető, 20–30 fs-os Ti:szafir lézertípusú impulzusokat nemességként (pl. Kr) történő fókuszálás esetén egy attoszekundumos impulzussorozat (1. ábra), nem pedig egy időfelbontás mérésékre jól használható, izolált attoszekundumos impulzust kapunk.



1. ábra. Magasharmonikus-keltés révén létrehozott attoszekundumos impulzussorozat [1]

szűrt, egyedi attoszekundumos impulzusokat a magasharmonikus-keltés során kizárólag olyan lézerezési feltételek esetén tudunk előállítani, amikor a lézertimpulzus leíró $E(t)$ időfüggvény csak egy, a többitől lényegesen nagyobb időbeli maximummal rendelkezik, és így az ebben keletkezett magas harmonikusok rendje, energiája lényegesen meghaladja a többi maximumban keletkezett vonatkozó értékeket. Ebben az esetben, ha megfelelő spektrális szűrőt alkalmazva (2. ábra) kiválasztjuk a legnagyobb energiával rendelkező XUV (kemény ultraibolya) komponenseket, akkor ezek egyedi, attoszekundumos lézertimpulzusokként jelennek meg a szűrés után [1, 2].

A magasharmonikus-keltéshez használt nagy energiájú lézertimpulzusok ilyenkor izolált attoszekundumos impulzusok előállításakor – praktikusan két lépéttelnek kell megfelelnie: az első, hogy a lézertimpulzus



2. ábra. A legmagasabb energiájú magas harmonikusok kiválasztása megfelelő spektrális szűrő alkalmazásával (lásd szaggatott vonalat jelölve) izolált (nem sorozat) attoszekundumos impulzus előállítását eredményezi [1, 3]



Szipöcs Róbert, PhD, okleveles villamosmérnök (BME), MSc, kísérletvezető (SZTE, PhD), a HUN-REN Wigner Fizikai Kutatóközpont tudományos fővezetője, az BME Ultrafast Laser Kft. igazgatója. A réteges Krausz Ferenczel közösen, a fotonikus atomok lézertechnológiájának terjedését elősegítő ötven évtizedes utazás során. Nevezetesen Götzér Dénes-díjjal, Akadémiai Szabadságdíjjal, az ELFT Bolyai díjjal és az MTA Fizikai Tudományok Osztálya Fizikai Díjjal is.

PAST: INVENTING CHIRPED MIRRORS IN 1993 (MTA SZFKI / TU Wien) THE SOLUTION FOR ULTRAFAST SOLID STATE LASERS

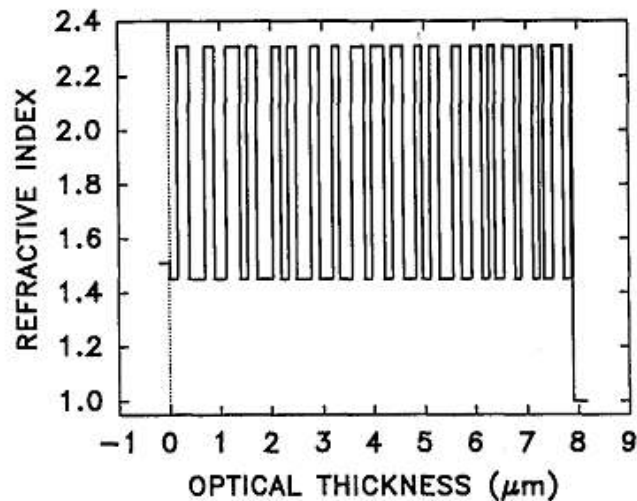


Fig. 1. Theoretical refractive-index profile of a high-reflectivity $\text{TiO}_2\text{-SiO}_2$ multilayer coating designed specifically for broadband GDD control in femtosecond lasers.

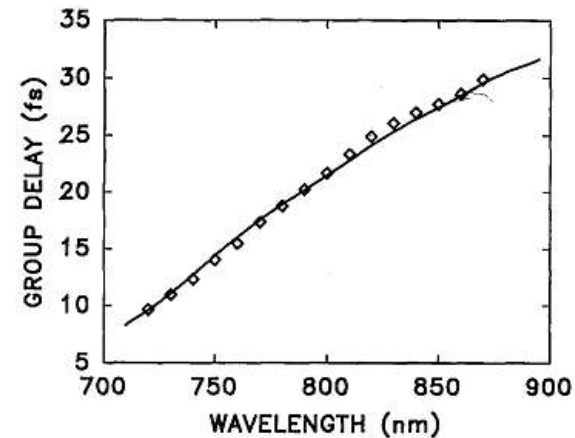


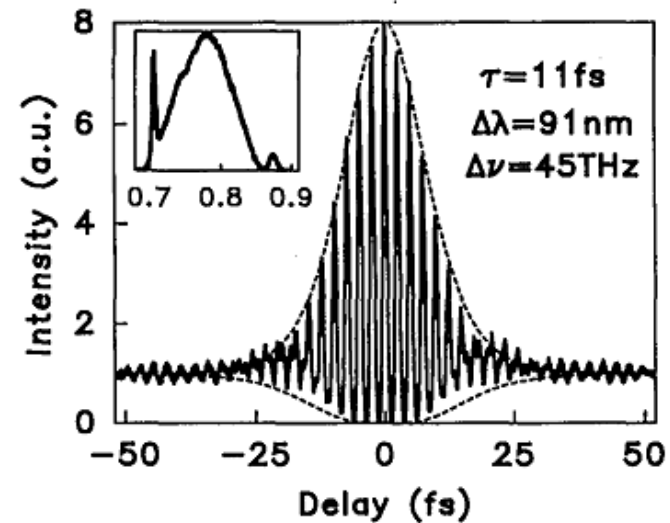
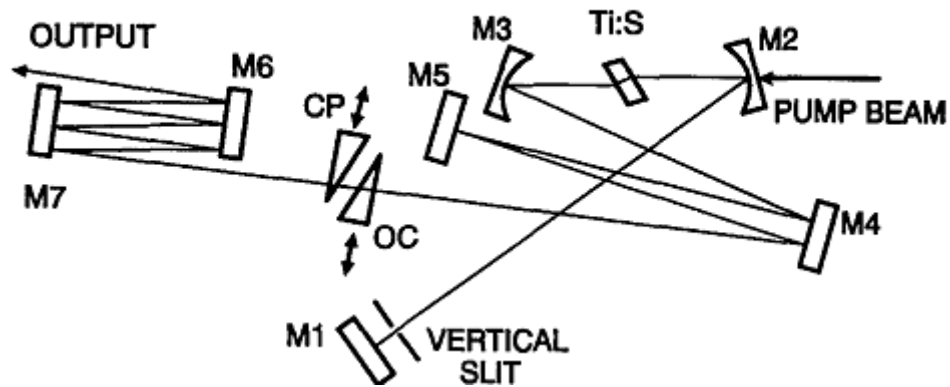
Fig. 3. Computed group delay as a function of wavelength (solid curve) together with experimental data (squares) for the multilayer design of Fig. 1. Note that the absolute delay could not be measured; therefore a wavelength-independent constant delay was added to the measured relative data.

R. Szipőcs, K. Ferencz, Ch. Spielmann, F. Krausz, *Opt. Lett.* 19, pp. 201-203 (1994)

R. Szipőcs, F. Krausz: Dispersive dielectric mirror; U. S. Pat. No.: 5,734,503 (1993)

MIRROR DISPERSION CONTROLLED Ti:SAPPHIRE LASER

Founding Stingl OAG in Vienna by Ferenc Krausz



LINEAR CAVITY

☺ Highly stable femtosecond pulses with duration of ~ 11 fs

A. Stingl, Ch. Spielmann, F. Krausz, R. Szipőcs, *Opt. Lett.* 19, pp. 204-206 (1994)

R. Szipőcs, F. Krausz: U. S. Pat. No.: 5,734,503 (1993)

Development of a Ti:sapphire oscillator + CPA system at TU Wien using chirped mirrors for generating sub-mJ, ~18 fs pulses for pulse compression in a hollow fibre filled with noble gases (Ar/Kr)

▶ **ULTRAFAST LASERS**

High-quality seed pulses from mirror-dispersion-controlled Ti:sapphire system allow chirped pulse amplification without a pulse stretcher.

Chirped dielectric mirrors improve Ti:sapphire lasers

Ch. Spielmann, M. Lenzner, F. Krausz, R. Szipőcs, and K. Ferencz

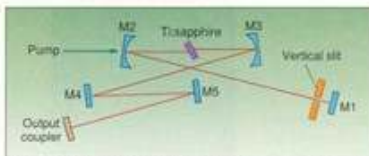


FIGURE 1. Femtosecond Ti:sapphire laser uses chirped dispersive mirrors (M1-M5) for intracavity dispersion compensation.

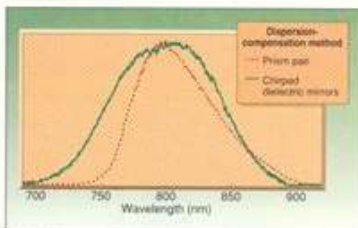


FIGURE 3. Comparison of spectra from prism-controlled and chirped-mirror Ti:sapphire oscillators reveals enhanced performance of chirped-mirror system, which yields a more symmetric pulse.

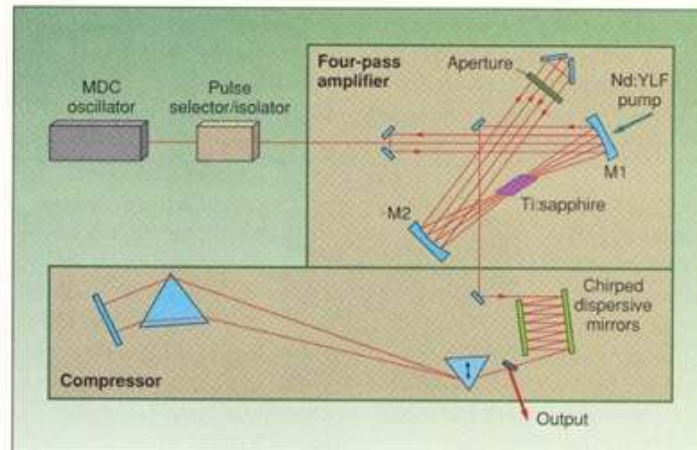
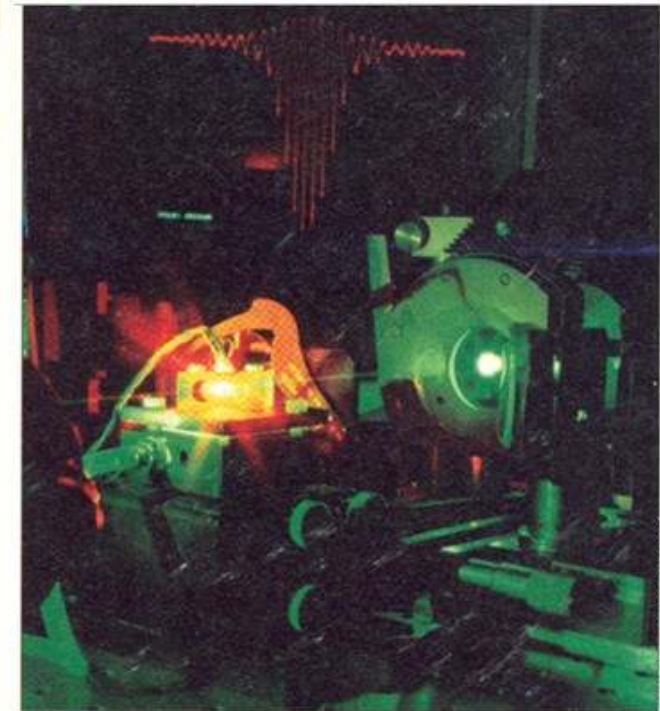


FIGURE 4. Four-pass kilohertz Ti:sapphire amplifier produces 18-fs pulses with an energy of 100 μJ (after compression) when pumped with 6-mJ pulses from a frequency-doubled Nd:YLF laser.



Multipass Ti:sapphire amplifier is seeded with high-quality 8-fs pulses generated by a Ti:sapphire oscillator incorporating chirped dielectric mirrors for dispersion compensation.

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

Ch. Spielmann, M. Lenzner, F. Krausz, R. Szipőcs, K. Ferencz, „Chirped dielectric mirrors improve Ti:sapphire lasers,” Laser Focus World, 1995 December, pp. 55-60 (1995).

Compression of high-energy laser pulses below 5 fs

M. Nisoli, S. De Silvestri, and O. Svelto

Centro di Elettronica Quantistica e Strumentazione Elettronica—Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Dipartimento di Fisica, Politecnico, Piazza L. da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

R. Szipöcs and K. Ferencz

Szilárdtestfizikai Kutatóintézet, Pf. 49, H-1525 Budapest, Hungary

Ch. Spielmann, S. Sartania, and F. Krausz

Abteilung Quantenelektronik und Lasertechnik, Technische Universität Wien, Gusshausstrasse 27, A-1040 Wien, Austria

Received October 25, 1996

High-energy 20-fs pulses generated by a Ti:sapphire laser system were spectrally broadened to more than 250 nm by self-phase modulation in a hollow fiber filled with noble gases and subsequently compressed in a broadband high-throughput dispersive system. Pulses as short as 4.5 fs with energy up to 20- μ J were obtained with krypton, while pulses as short as 5 fs with energy up to 70 μ J were obtained with argon. These pulses are, to our knowledge, the shortest generated to date at multigigawatt peak powers. © 1997 Optical Society of America

- Spectral broadening in hollow core fibre filled with noble gas (Ar/Kr) (M. Nisoli, S. De Silvestri, O. Svelto, Appl. Phys. Lett. 68, 2793 (1996))
- Dispersion compensation by ultrabroadband chirped mirror (E.J. Mayer, J. Möbius, A. Euteneuer, W.W. Rühle, R. Szipöcs: Opt. Lett. 22, 528 (1997))
- Compressed pulse duration \sim 5 fs at \sim 800 nm
- \sim 1.5 oscillation of electromagnetic field > allows generation of **isolated attosecond pulses** by high harmonic generation (HHG)

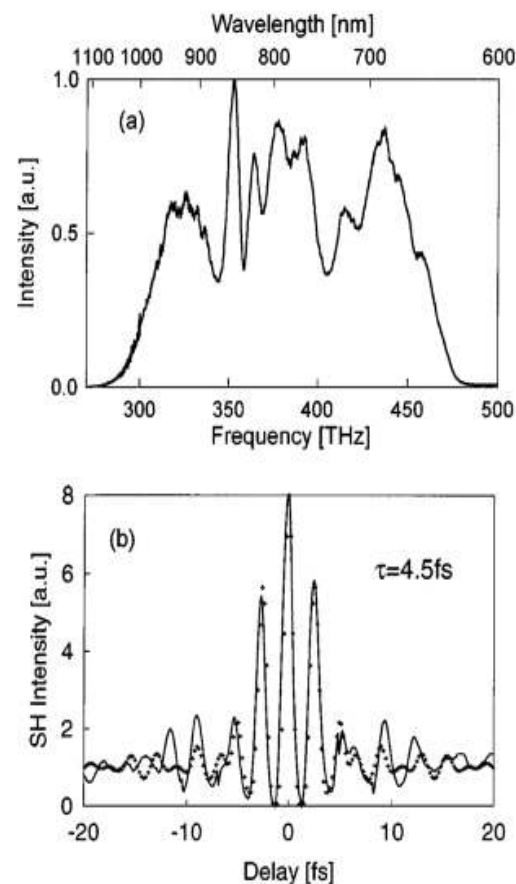
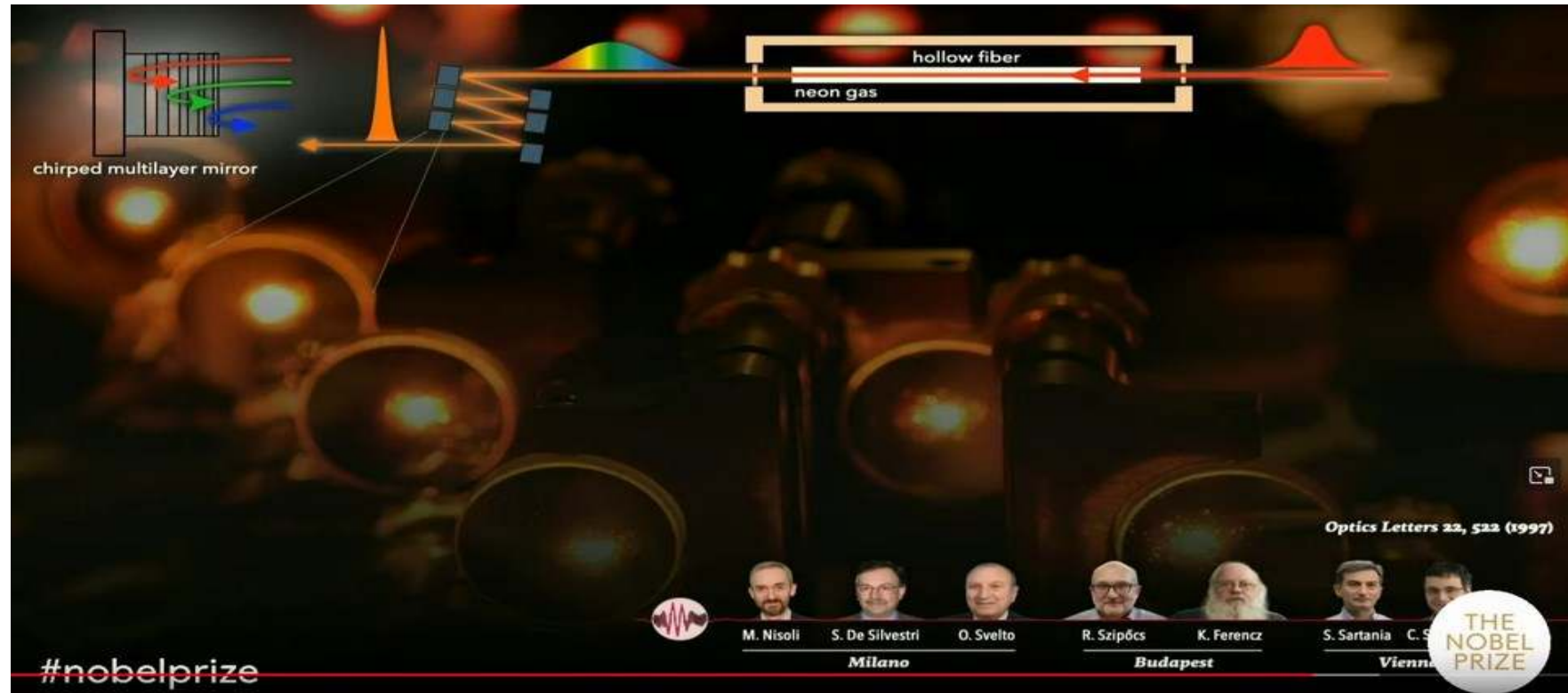


Fig. 2. (a) Spectral broadening in krypton at $p = 2.1$ bars and $P_0 = 2$ GW. A low-intensity pedestal (\sim 1% of the peak) extends below 600 nm. (b) Measured (solid curve) and calculated (crosses) autocorrelation trace; an evaluation of the pulse duration (FWHM) is also given.

Generating isolated attosecond pulses by HHG of a sub-mJ, 5 fs pulse



Generation of ~ 5 fs, sub-mJ laser pulses using spectral broadening of ~ 18 fs amplified laser pulses in a noble gas filled hollow core fiber and chirped mirrors for dispersion compensation

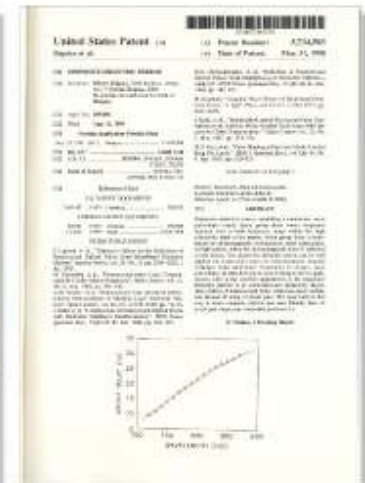
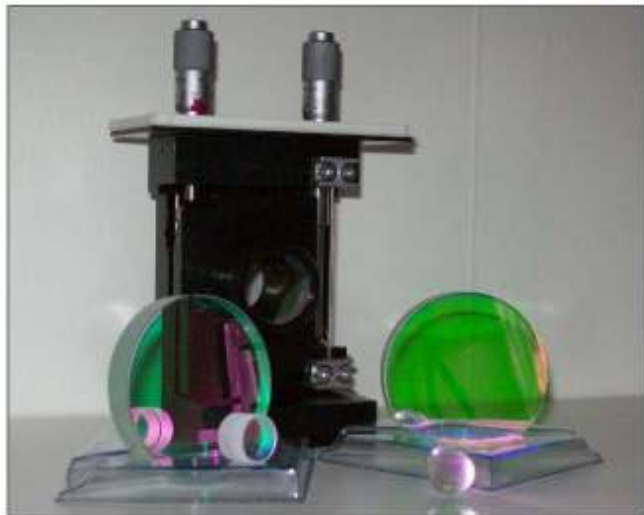
2023 Nobel Prize lectures in physics, Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVXjFBW-2kl>

M. Nisoli, S. De Silvestri, O. Svelto, R. Szipőcs, K. Ferencz, Ch. Spielmann, S. Sartania, and F. Krausz, "Compression of high-energy laser pulses below 5 fs," Opt. Lett. 22, 522-524 (1997)

Pioneering Ultrafast Laser Technology by R&D
INVENTING CHIRPED MIRRORS

Femtosecond Dispersive
 and Broadband Optics by IBS technology

Patents

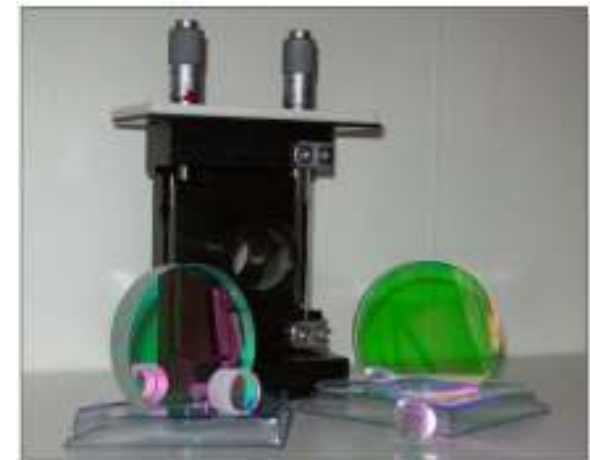


Founding R&D Lézer-Optika Bt. in 1995 for commercialization of chirped mirror technology

Related patent submitted in August 1993 by Róbert Szipőcs and Ferenc Krausz at MTA SZFKI

Femtosecond Dispersive and Broadband Optics by IBS technology

- Chirped mirrors (CM)
- Low dispersion ripple, highly dispersive negative dispersion mirrors (MCGTI)
- Ultrabroadband chirped mirrors (UBCM)



DISPERSIVE MIRRORS, CHARACTERIZATION: WHITE LIGHT INTERFEROMETRY AND CCD

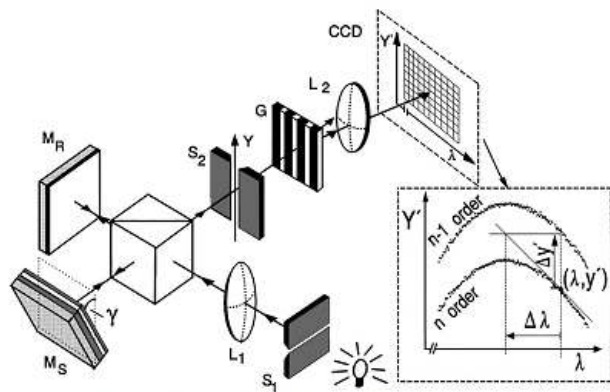
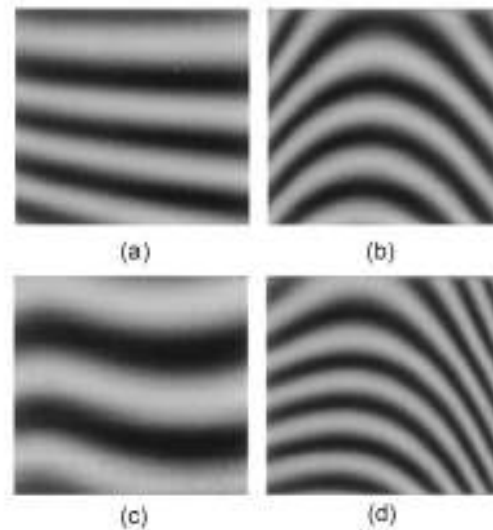


Fig. 1. Spectrally resolved white-light interferometer for group-delay measurement of dielectric mirrors. L_1 , L_2 , achromatic lenses; S_1 , S_2 , slits; M_S , sample mirror; M_R , reference mirror; G , transmission grating.



- (a) Low dispersion sample (linear phase shift)
- (b) Chirped mirror sample (quadratic phase shift)
- (c) Gires-Tournois Interferometer mirror (cubic phase shift)
- (d) (c)+(d)

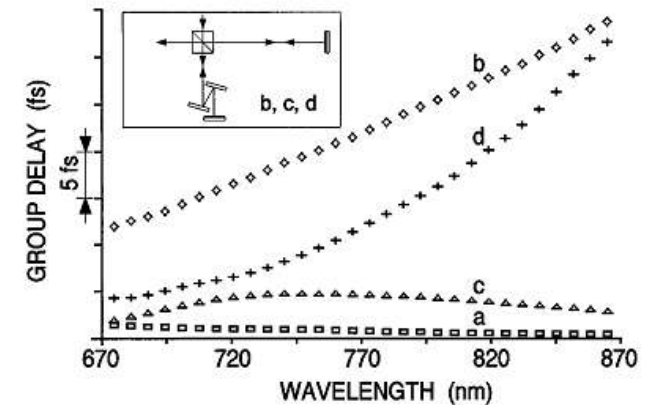


Fig. 4. Measured group-delay functions obtained by computer processing of the images shown in Fig. 3 (every fifth point is plotted). The curves correspond to a single reflection. Inset: four-reflection arrangement used for measuring curves b-d.

R&D ULTRAFAST LASERS LTD.

Femtosecond Dispersive
and Broadband Optics by IBS technology

Services

- **Custom design** of femtosecond laser mirrors for dispersion compensation (Ti:S, Cr³⁺, Yb³⁺, etc.)
IR OPO, Vis-OPO, OPA, etc.
- **Dispersion measurement** on laser mirrors and other optical components.



Chirped mirrors for fs optical parametric oscillators

April 15, 1995 / Vol. 20, No. 8 / OPTICS LETTERS 919

Chirped-mirror dispersion-compensated femtosecond optical parametric oscillator

J. Hebling, E. J. Mayer, and J. Kuhl

Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstrasse 1, D-70569 Stuttgart, Germany

R. Szipöcs

Optical Coating Laboratory, Research Institute for Solid State Physics, P.O. Box 49, H-1525 Budapest, Hungary

Received January 3, 1995

We describe the operating characteristics of a femtosecond optical parametric oscillator employing chirped mirrors for intracavity group-velocity dispersion compensation. Pumped by 760 mW of power from a self-mode-locked Ti:sapphire laser, this device provides 100-fs near-transform-limited pulses continuously tunable from 1.18 to 1.32 μm with an average power of 100–180 mW. The limitations of the present setup and strategies for further pulse shortening are discussed.

Ultrabroadband chirped mirrors for ultrafast lasers

328 OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 22, No. 8 / April 15, 1997

Ultrabroadband chirped mirrors for femtosecond lasers

E. J. Mayer, J. Möbius, A. Euteneuer, and W. W. Rühle

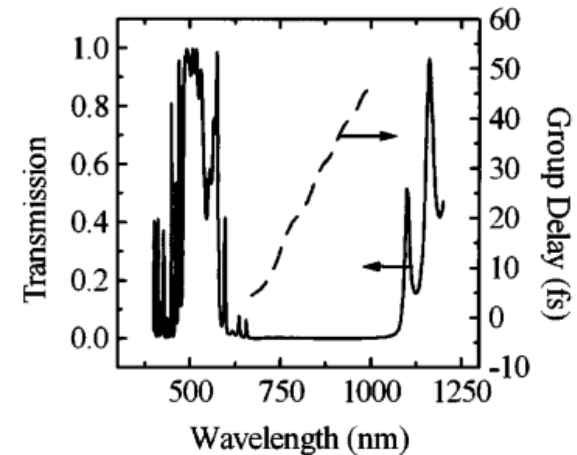
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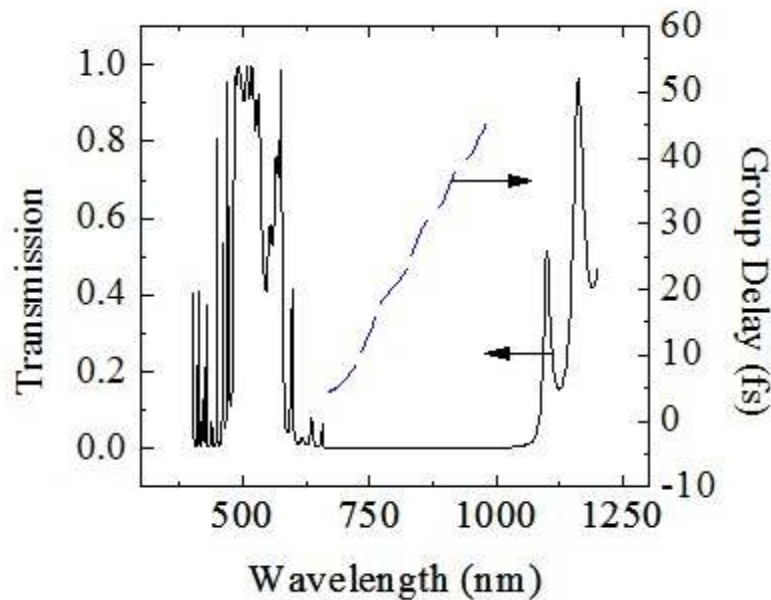
Received November 25, 1996

We report on the performance of widely tunable femtosecond and continuous-wave Ti:sapphire lasers that use a newly developed ultrabroadband mirror set. The mirrors exhibit high reflectivity ($R > 99\%$) and smooth variation of group delay versus frequency over a wavelength range from 660 to 1060 nm. Mode-locked operation with pulse durations of 85 fs was achieved from 693 to 978 nm with only one set of ultrabroadband mirrors. © 1997 Optical Society of America



- The first widely tunable femtosecond pulse Ti:sapphire laser
- High reflectivity ($R > 99\%$) and smooth variation of group delay over a wavelength range from 660 to 1060 nm
- Mode-locked operation from 693 to 978 nm using one set of mirrors

Ultrabroadband chirped mirrors for ultrafast lasers



Increased reflectivity band and smooth dispersion over the 680-1060 nm wavelength range.



„Broadband Optics with A-track Extend the Reach of Multiphoton Microscopy“

Compression of laser pulses down to 4.6 fs

Optics in 1997

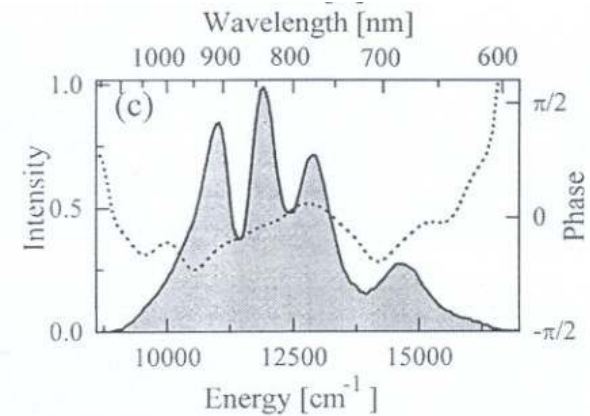
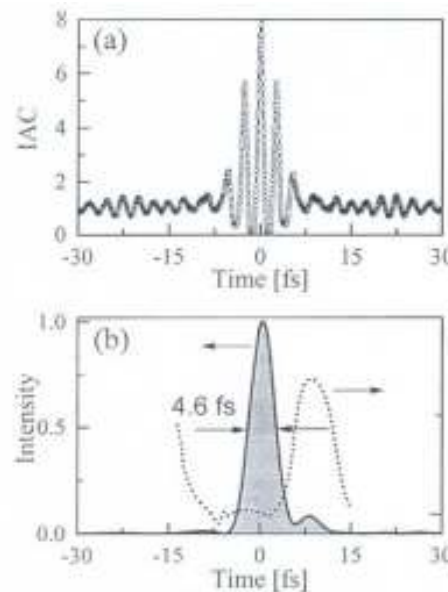
Ultrafast Technology

ULTRAFAST TECHNOLOGY

A Compact All-Solid-State Sub-5-fsec Laser

Andrius Baltuška and Maxim S. Pshenichnikov, Ultrafast Laser and Spectroscopy Laboratory, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands; Róbert Szipöcs, Research Institute for Solid State Physics, Budapest, Hungary; and Douwe A. Wiersma, Ultrafast Laser and Spectroscopy Laboratory, Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Recent developments in solid-state lasers,¹ chirp-mirror technology,² and methods of pulse characterization³ made it possible to design an all-solid-state laser that delivers sub-5-fsec pulses at a 1-MHz repetition rate.⁴ Such extremely short light pulses at a high



Baltuška Figure 1. (a) Interferometric autocorrelation (circles are experimental points, and the solid line is the fit). (b) Retrieved intensity profile (filled contour) and phase (dashed line). (c) Measured spectrum of compressed pulse (filled contour) and retrieved spectral phase (dashed line).



Founding R&D Ultrafast Lasers Research and Development Ltd. in 1997

BOOTH NUMBER: 8109

R&D ULTRAFAST LASERS LTD.



Company Description

Featured Product: Dual wavelength fs laser system for 3D CARS imaging including tunable Ti:sapphire and Yb fiber laser

Manufacturer of single or double wavelength ultrafast laser systems including ultrashort (ps or fs) pulse, ultrabroadband or broadly tunable Ti:sapphire lasers, Yb-doped fiber lasers, amplifiers and optical parametric oscillators. Their typical applications include time resolved or CARS spectroscopy or nonlinear (2P, SHG or SRS/CARS) microscopy. Manufacturer of ultrafast laser optical coatings including different dispersive mirrors such as chirped mirrors. Complete laser laboratory construction.



- Founded: in 1997
- Location: 1121 Budapest, Konkoly Thege út 29-33. 6. ép. I. em. (KFKI Campus)
- Infrastructure: 3 laser-optical laboratories, 1 electronic and 1 mechanical workshops, offices
- Staff: Engineering (2), Software (1), Optics/Lasers (1), Administration (0.5 + 0.5)
- Web-site: www.szipocs.com

1. Scientific background

1.1 Optics (ultrafast – ps, fs)

1.2 Lasers (ultrafast – ps, fs)

1.2.1 Solid state

- **Ti:sapphire (680 – 1040 nm)**

- **OPO-s (signal: 1020- 1240 nm, idler: 2 – 2.5 μm)**

1.2.2 Fiber

- **Yb-fiber (1020-1060 nm)**

- **Er-fiber (1520-1600 nm), SHG: 760 – 800 nm)**

1.3 Microscopy

- **2PEF, SHG, CARS for Life Science**

- **FLIM (confocal, 2P) for Life Science and Quantum Optics**

2. Technical background

2.1 Optics (thin films, optical design – Zemax)

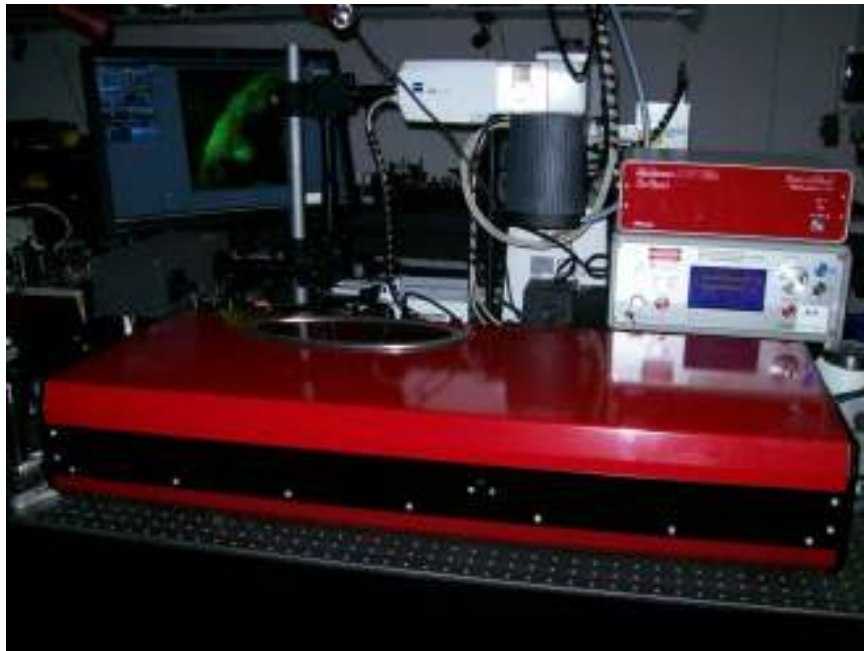
2.2 Mechanics (ProE, SolidWorks)

2.3 Electronics (Eagle)

2.4 Software (C# (ARM, PIC), Vivado (FPGA), Delphi, LabView)

FemtoRose 100 TUN/NoTouch

The First
Broadly Tunable, femtosecond pulse Ti:sapphire laser in 1998



Pioneering Ultrafast Laser Technology by R&D

INTRODUCING THE FIRST ULTRABROADBAND CHIRPED MIRRORS
FOR BROADLY TUNABLE FEMTOSECOND LASERS

326 OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 22, No. 8 / April 15, 1997

Ultrabroadband chirped mirrors for femtosecond lasers

E. J. Mayer, J. Möbius, A. Entennoer, and W. W. Rühl

Department of Physics, Philipps University, Riedhof 3, D-35032 Marburg, Germany

R. Szepietz

R&D Laser-Optik Bt., P.O. Box 622, H-1039 Budapest, Hungary

Received November 25, 1996

We report on the performance of widely tunable femtosecond and continuous-wave Ti:sapphire lasers that use a newly developed ultrabroadband mirror set. The mirrors exhibit high reflectivity ($R > 99\%$) and smooth variation of group delay versus frequency over a wavelength range from 600 to 1000 nm. Mode-locked operation with pulse durations of 85 fs was achieved from 600 to 978 nm with only one set of ultrabroadband mirrors. © 1997 Optical Society of America

PPLN OPO FOR 1 to 1.4 MICRON (signal) AND 2.0-2.5 MICRON (idler)

R&D ULTRAFAST LASERS LTD.

FemtoRainbow 100 OPO

Femtosecond tunable synchronously pumped optical parametric oscillator



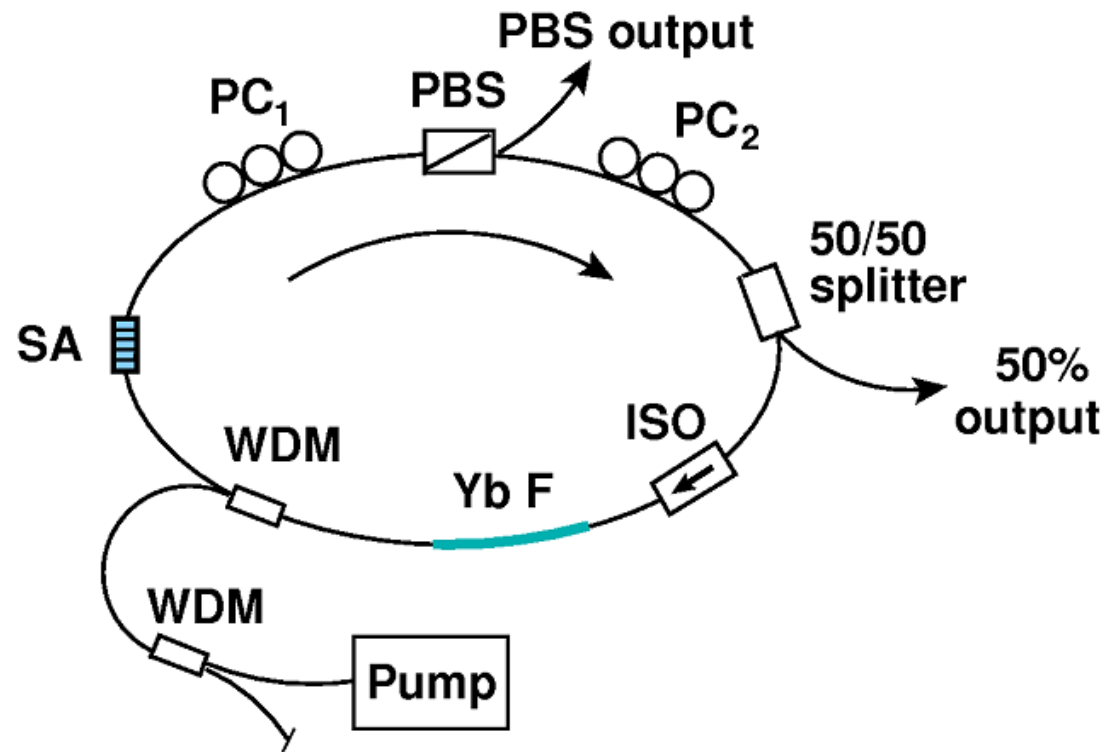
- *Ti:Sapphire laser wavelength conversion*
- *Synchronously pumped at ~76 MHz*
- *Output is widely tunable from 1010 to 1260 nm*
- *Output power from up to 100 mW*
- *15 nm to 30 nm spectral width (FWHM)*
- *KTP or PPLN crystal based conversion*
- *Wavelength stabilization by computer control*

**Development of Yb-fiber laser technology in the FemtoBio NTP project (2006-2009)
MTA SZFKI – R&D Ultrafast Lasers Ltd – Furukawa Electric**



J. Fekete, A. Cserteg, Szipőcs; All-fiber, all-normal dispersion ytterbium ring oscillator;
Laser Physics Letters 6, 49-53, 2009

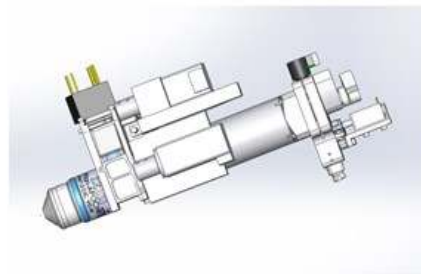
Development of Yb-fiber laser technology in the FemtoBio NTP project (2006-2009)
MTA SZFKI – R&D Ultrafast Lasers Ltd – Furukawa Electric



J. Fekete, A. Cserteg, Szipőcs; All-fiber, all-normal dispersion ytterbium ring oscillator;
Laser Physics Letters 6, 49-53, 2009

Our *FiberScope* project for Biomedical imaging applications (2010-2014)

- *Reduce the cost of the pulsed laser applied (Yb-fiber instead of Ti:sapphire)*
- *Deliver the light for measurements through optical fiber (**fiber delivery**)*
- *Small size scanning microscope head (handheld device)*
- *In vivo 3D measurements: laser safety issues*
- ***Applications in dermatology and nanomedicine***

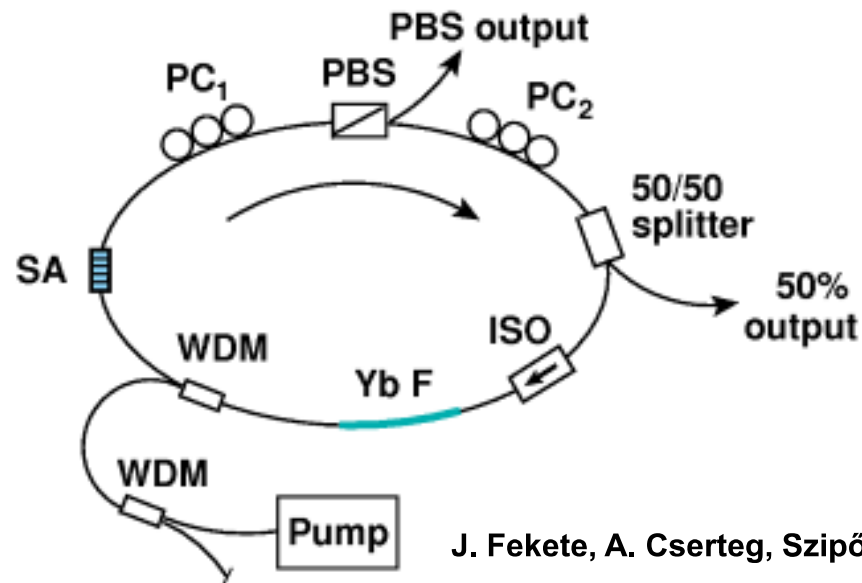


FemtoFiber + scanning head for confocal/2PF imaging = FiberScope

FIBER LASERS

All-Fiber, All-Normal-Dispersion Ytterbium Ring Oscillator

- Determined by interplay between **gain**, **self-phase modulation**, **dispersion** and **filtering** effects
- Pulse shaping is based on **nonlinear polarization rotation** in the fiber together with **spectral and temporal filtering** by a polarizing element



PC: polarization controller

PBS: polarizing beam splitter

ISO: isolator

Yb F: Ytterbium doped fiber

WDM: wavelength division multiplexer

SA: saturable absorber

J. Fekete, A. Cserteg, Szipőcs; All-fiber, all-normal dispersion ytterbium ring oscillator, *Laser Physics Letters* 6, 49-53, 2009

FiberScope system description, for details, see:

Research Article

Vol. 7, No. 9 | 1 Sep 2016 | BIOMEDICAL OPTICS EXPRESS 3531

Biomedical Optics EXPRESS

Handheld nonlinear microscope system comprising a 2 MHz repetition rate, mode-locked Yb-fiber laser for *in vivo* biomedical imaging

ÁDÁM KROLOPP,^{1,2} ATTILA CSÁKÁNYI,¹ DÓRA HALUSZKA,^{1,3} DÁNIEL CSÁTI,² LAJOS VASS,² ATTILA KOLONICS,^{1,2} NORBERT WIKONKÁL,³ AND RÓBERT SZIPŐCS^{1,2,*}

¹Wigner RCP, Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics, P.O. Box 49, H-1525 Budapest, Hungary

²R & D Ultrafast Lasers Ltd, P.O. Box 622, H-1539 Budapest, Hungary

³Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Dermatocology, Semmelweis University, H-1085 Budapest, Hungary

*r.szipocs@szipocs.com

<https://www.szipocs.com>

FiberScope bloch scheme

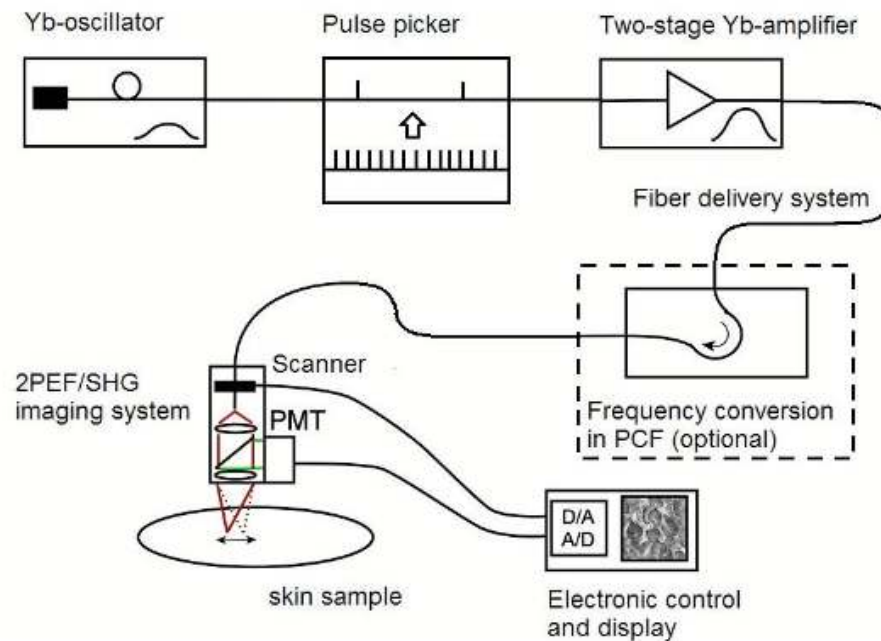


Fig. 1. Bloch scheme of the handheld 2PEF/SHG microscope imaging system comprising a 2 MHz mode-locked Yb-fiber laser.

FiberScope nonlinear microscope

Photo of the 2MHz Yb-fiber laser system used as a pulsed laser light source of our *FiberScope* device

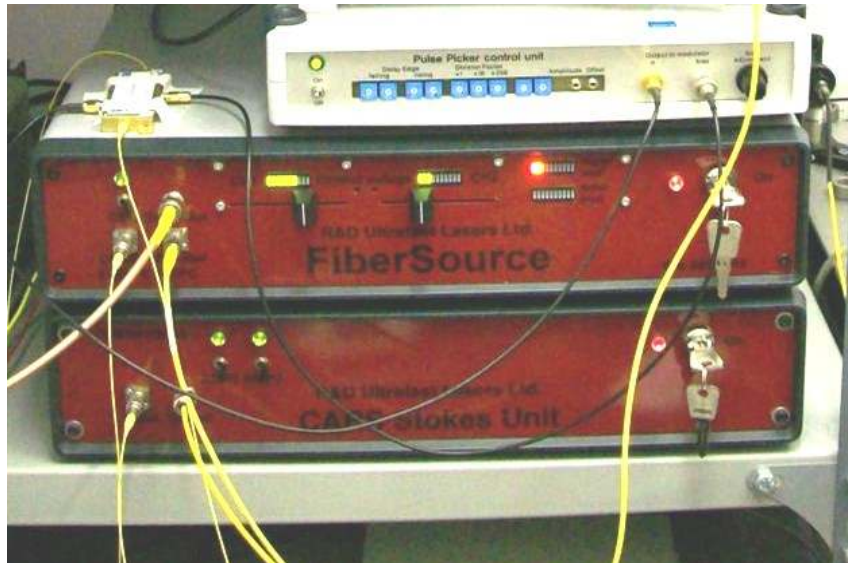


Photo of the scanning microscope head of the *FiberScope* device with plastic covering



The low cost, flexible, ~2 MHz pulsed laser source

Laser components and performance

- All-fiber, AND type, mode-locked Yb-fiber oscillator (*R&D*)
- Pulse picker (*JenOptik*, Jena, Germany)
- Two-stage Yb-amplifier (*R&D Ultrafast Lasers Ltd.*)

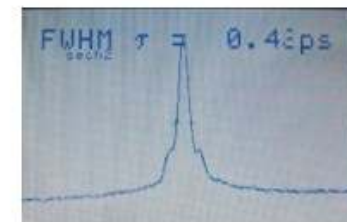
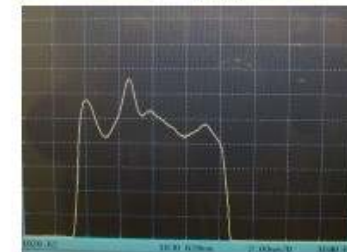
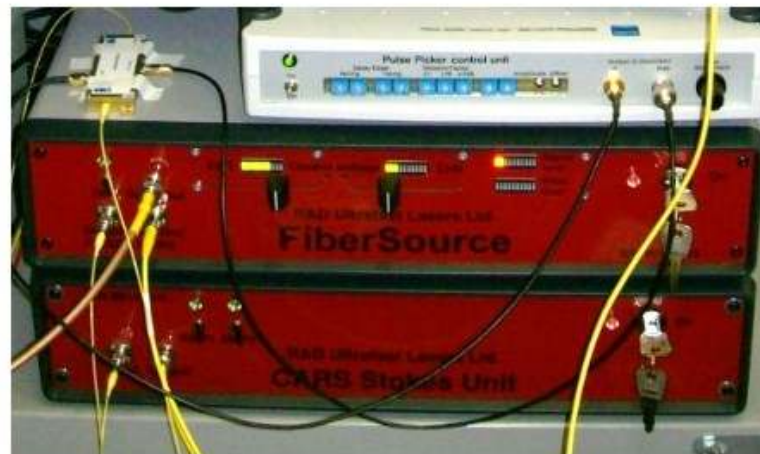
Pave: ~ 200 mW

$\tau < 0.5$ ps

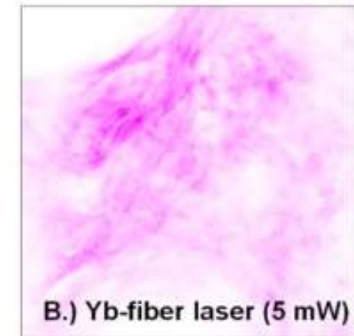
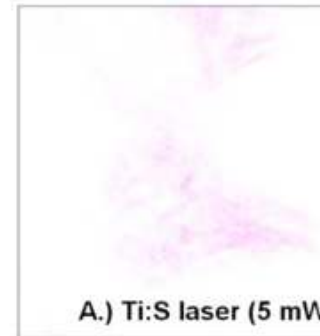
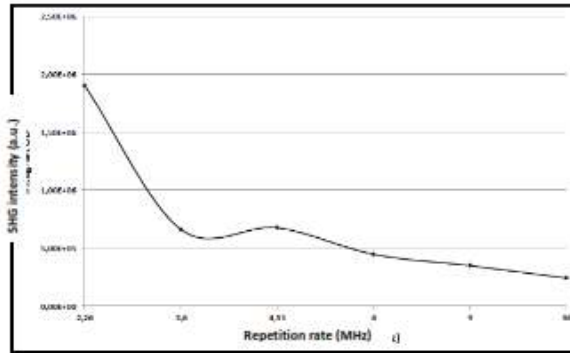
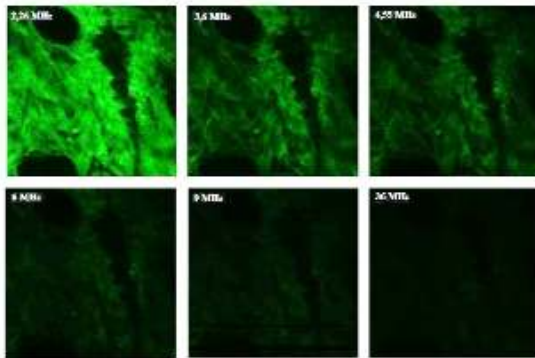
$\lambda_0 \sim 1030$ nm

$\Delta\lambda$: 8-12 nm

ν : ~ 1.89 MHz



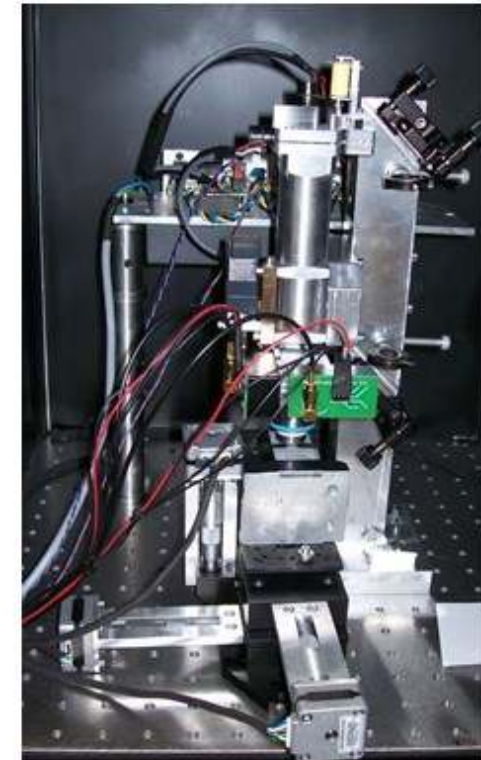
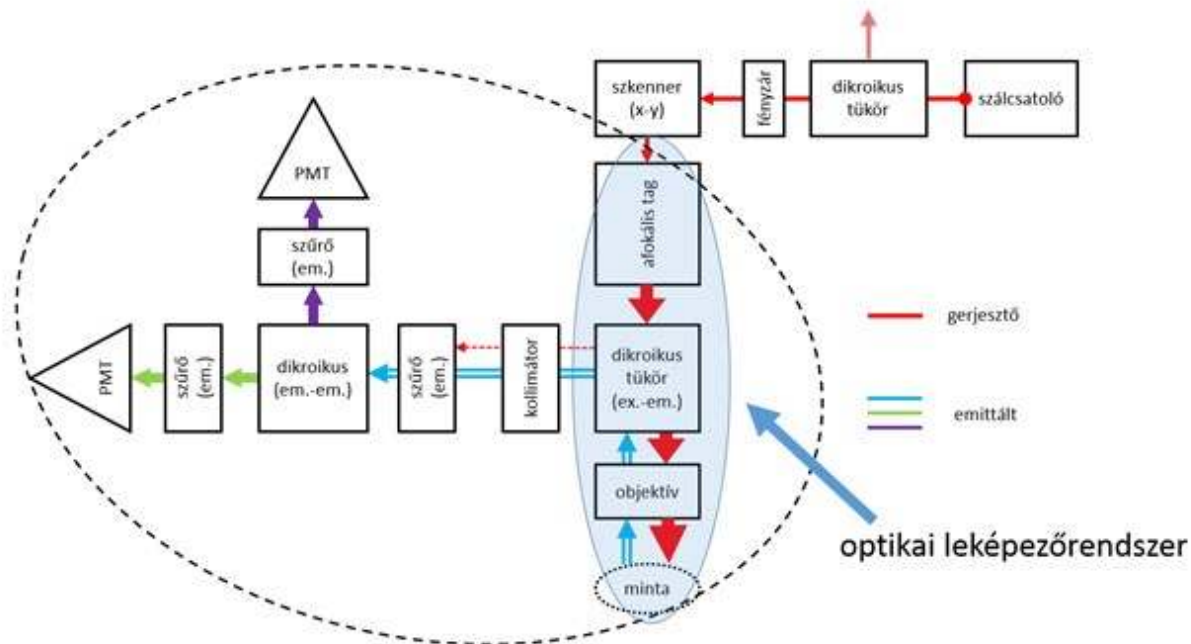
Low repetition rate [7] and IR excitation [4] advantage



SHG signal intensity as the function of repetition rate of the Yb-fiber laser. Average power: 5 mW (measured after the microscope objective). Pixel dwell time: 5 μ s. Operation wavelength: 1030 nm. Fixed transmission grating distance of \sim 80 mm. Ex-vivo murine skin sample.

Comparison of SHG imaging performance of different mode-locked lasers having the same average power of 5 mW (on the sample) for nonlinear microscopy. Ex-vivo murine skin sample, imaging depth: $z = 30 \mu$ m, same microscope settings. Collagen distribution measured by A) an industry standard, 80 MHz Ti:sapphire laser operating at 800 nm, and by B) our 2MHz Yb-fiber oscillator and amplifier system operating at 1030 nm.

Optical design of the scanning microscope head of the *FiberScope*



Investigation of skin tumor basalioma (BCC)

- Collagen, as marker
- Ex vivo samples, immediately after surgery



Skin Research and Technology 2012, 18: 400-404
 Printed in Singapore. All rights reserved.
 doi: 10.1111/srt.10044

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 Skin Research and Technology

Diagnosis of BCC by multiphoton laser tomography

Stefania Seidenari¹, Federica Arginelli¹, Sara Bassoli¹, Jennifer Cautela¹, Anna Maria Cesinaro², Mario Guanti¹, Davide Guardoli¹, Cristina Magnoni¹, Marco Manfredini¹, Giovanni Ponti¹ and Karsten König^{3,4}

¹Department of Dermatology, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

²Department of Dermatology, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

³Department of Biophotonics and Lasertechnology, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany and ⁴Josiah Göttl, Schillerstrasse 2, 6745, Eins, Germany

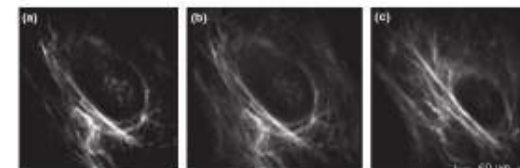
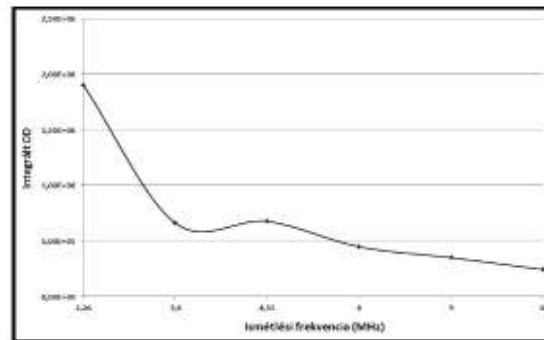
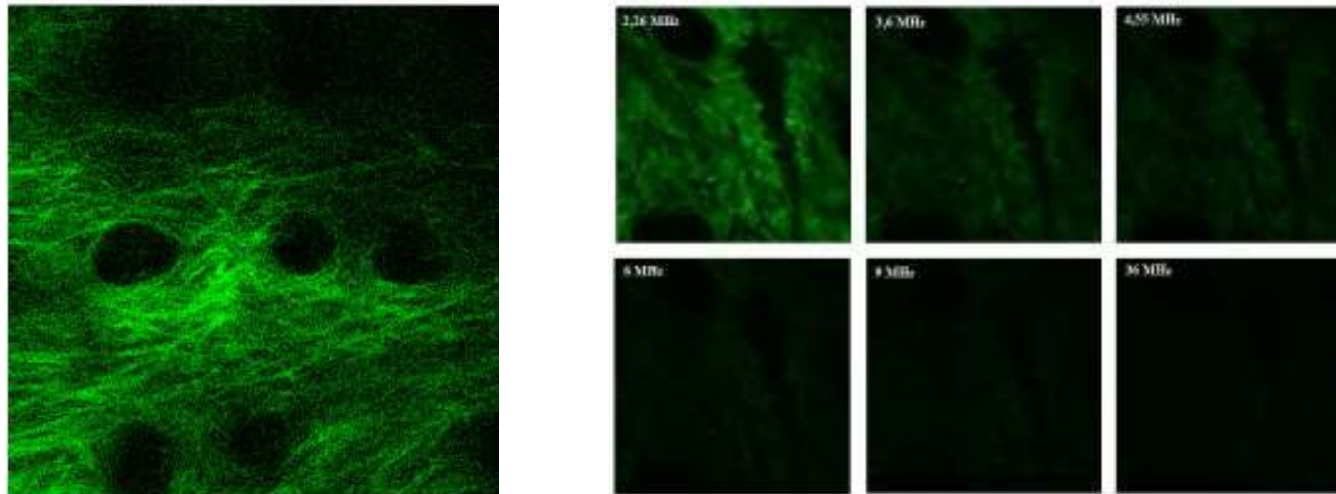


Fig. 4. Basal cell carcinoma. (a) 100 μ m depth, excitation wavelength 800 nm. Shifting the wavelength to 820 nm, basaloid cells become less visible; employing an excitation wavelength of 820 nm basaloid cells disappear and it is possible to observe empty spaces surrounded by collagen fibres (plasmaid islands); (b) 200 μ m depth; (c) 120 μ m depth.

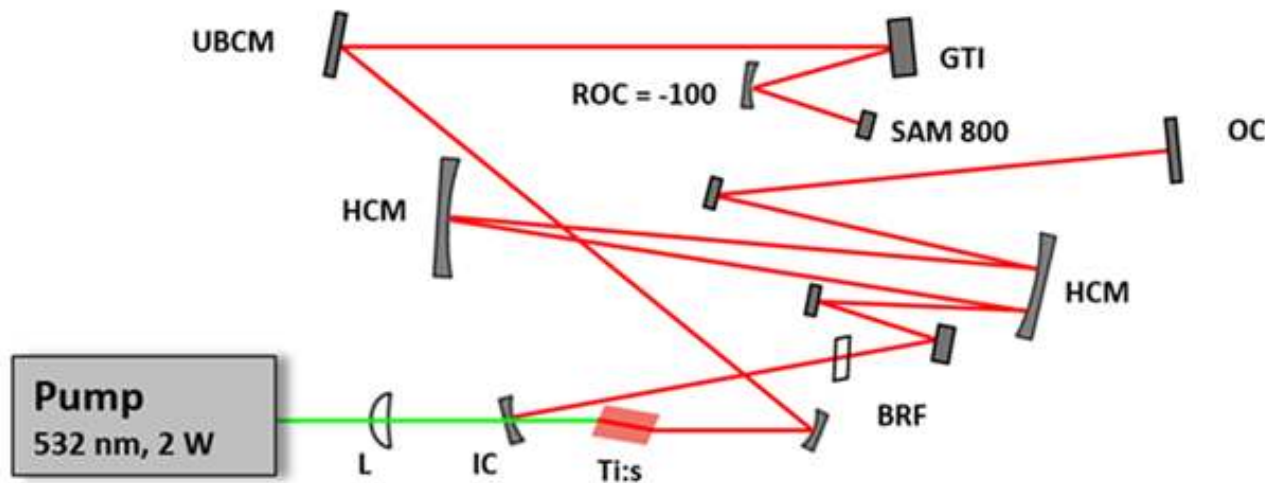
Using *FiberScope* for collagen detection



SHG intensity of collagen as the function of repetition rate of our Yb-fiber laser (average power: ~5 mW, pixel dwell time: 5 μs)

20 MHz, tunable, sub-ps Ti:sapphire laser

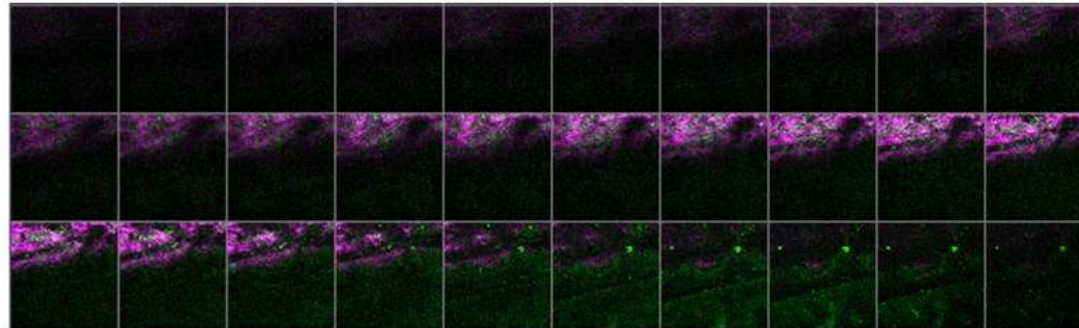
Setup upgraded for DVRF CARS and fiber delivery



- Prism pair is replaced by GTI mirrors
- SESAM for mode-locking instead of hard aperture Kerr-lens mode-locking
- Ultrabroadband chirped mirrors

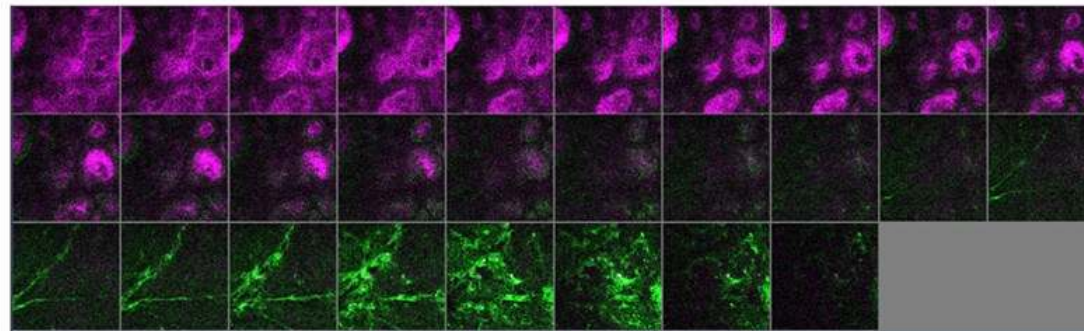
- Pump power at 532 nm: ~ 2.1 W
- Repetition rate: ~ 20 MHz
- Pulse duration: 0.6 – 1.0 ps (adjustable)
- Spectral bandwidth: < 2 nm

Z-stack imaging of basal cell carcinoma (BCC) biopsy



In case of BCC, we could detect the border of the tumor highlighted by a strong contrast of AF (cells with basal cell morphology) and SHG (collagen fibers around tumor nest).

Z-stack imaging of hemangioma biopsy



Hemangioma and **angiokeratoma** are vascular proliferations. **Hemangiomas** can be either congenital or acquired, spontaneously evolving with age. These **do not require further treatment**. **Angiokeratomas (AK)** can not be distinguished from hemangiomas macroscopically, and even though these have dermatoscopic features, **dermatoscopic differentiation is often challenging**. The distinguishing between hemangiomas and AK is important as **AK may indicate the presence of other severe diseases**. It is the most characteristic sign of **Fabry-disease** leading to **severe heart, lung and kidney damage**. **Early diagnosis** could be promote by the **recognition of AKs**. AKs can be a sign of other storage diseases.

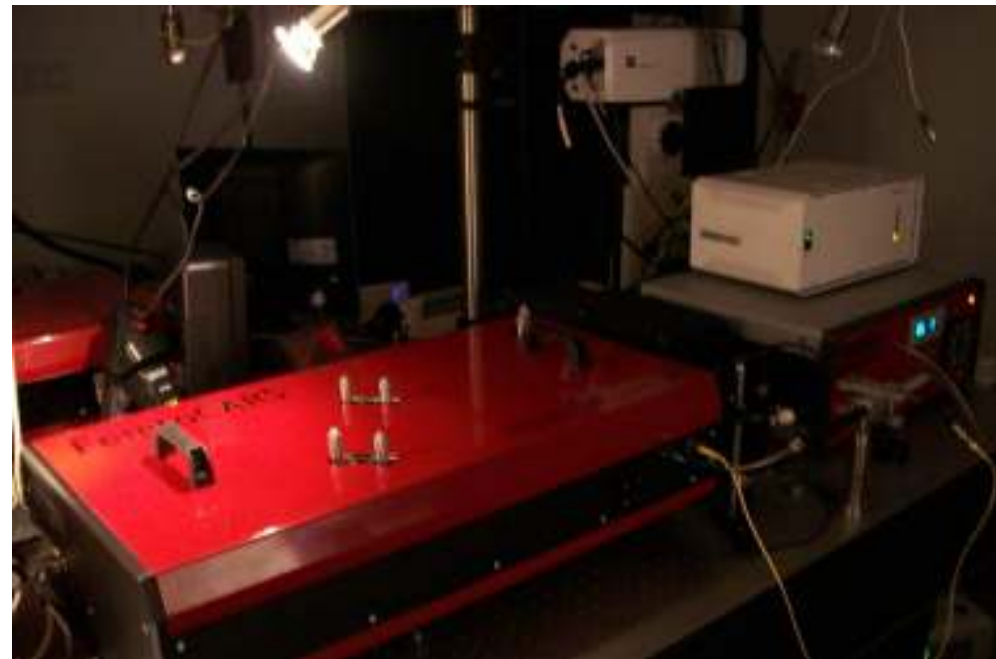
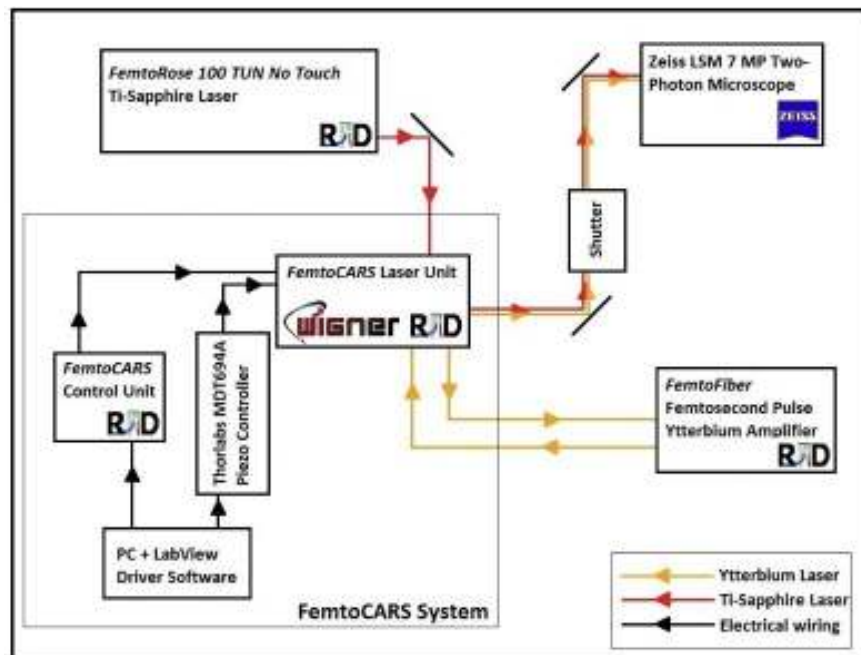
Yb-FIBER AMPLIFIER FOR CARS IMAGING



FemtoCARS

the

Label-free, 3D Microscopic Imaging System for Real-time in vivo Diagnostics



Dual vibration resonance frequency CARS microscopy imaging of basal cell carcinoma to achieve stain free histopathology

Previously, we utilized CARS microscopy to visualize lipids in the adipocytes of murine skin

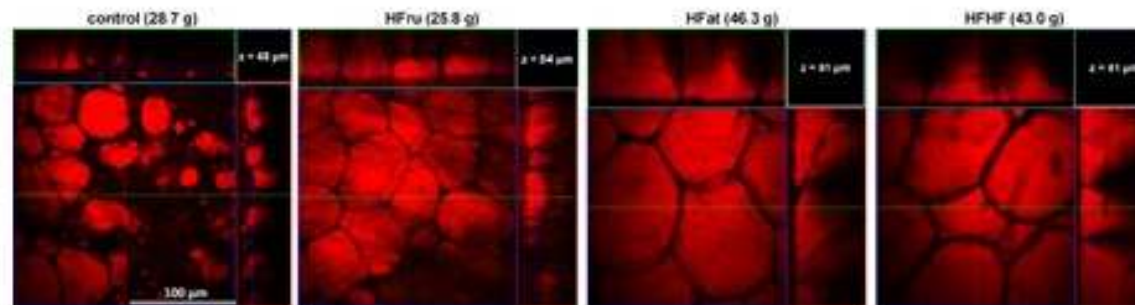


Biomed. Opt. Express 2016 Nov 1, 7(11): 4490-4499
 Published online 2016 Oct 7, doi: 10.1364/OE.7.004490

PMID: 27199669

Diet-induced obesity skin changes monitored by *in vivo* SHG and *ex vivo* CARS microscopy

Dóra Halászka,^{1,2} Kende Lőrincz,¹ Norbert Kiss,^{1,2} Róbert Szepöcs,^{2,3} Enikő Kuró,¹ Nóra Gyöngyösi,¹ and Norbert M. Wikrocki^{1,*}



BUILDING LABORATORIES



CARS SYSTEM INSTALLED AT UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED

[Related articles](#)

CARS imaging system installed at the University of Szeged, Department of Neurology (Prof. Gábor Tamás lab), June 2014

Photo Gallery






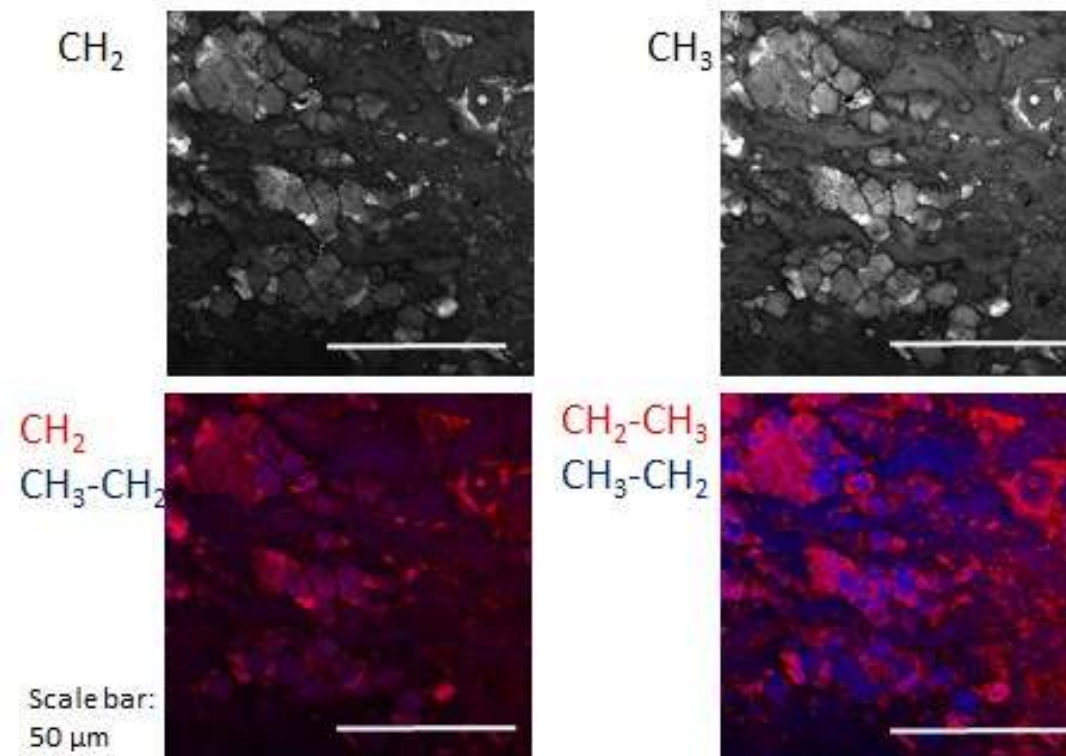
Stain-free Histopathology of Basal Cell Carcinoma by Dual Vibration Resonance Frequency CARS Microscopy

Authors

[Authors and affiliations](#)

Norbert Kiss, Ádám Krolopp, Kende Lőrincz, András Bánvölgyi, Róbert Szipočs , Norbert Wikonkál

CARS images of human basal cell carcinoma



Real time DVRF-CARS (double channel, lipid/protein detection) using a 20 MHz, sub-ps Ti:sapphire laser

MT10A.4.pdf

Biophoton Congress, Biomedical Optics 2020
(Tuzsarama, Hungary, Oct. 07-08, 2020) © OSA 2020

A 20 MHz, sub-ps, Tunable Ti:sapphire Laser System for Real Time, Stain Free, High Contrast Histology of the Skin

Luca Fésős^{1,2}, Ádám Krolopp^{3,4}, Gábor Molnár⁴, Norbert Kiss^{1,2}, Gábor Tamás⁴, Róbert Szépcsés^{1,5,†}

¹Wigner RCP, Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics, P.O. Box 49, H-2525 Budapest, Hungary

²Department of Dermatology, Venerology and Dermatosenology, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

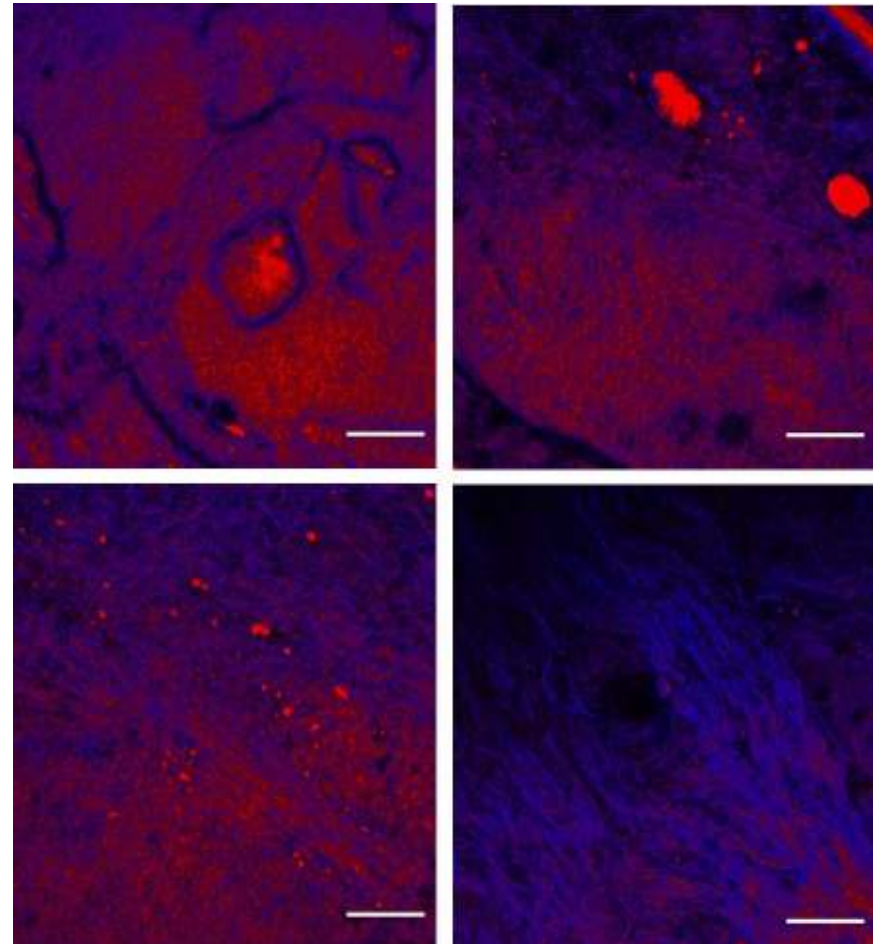
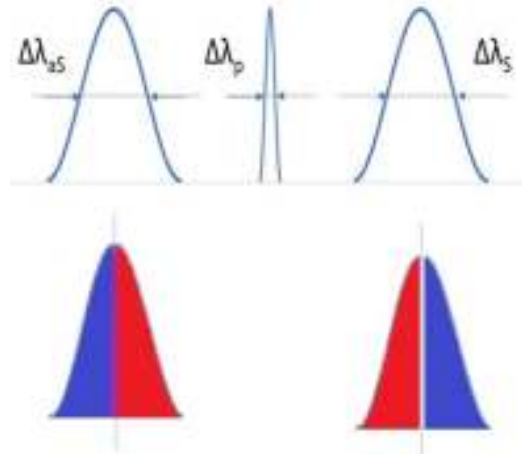
³880 László Laser Ltd, Kiskölyk-Újgy 25-51, H-1121 Budapest, Hungary

⁴MTA-SZTE Research Group for Optical Microscopy, University of Szeged, Erőly János 12, Szeged, H-6726, Hungary

⁵r.szepcses@rszpopt.com

Abstract: A 20 MHz repetition rate, sub-ps Ti:sapphire (Ti:S) laser system is proposed for real time, high chemical-contrast dual vibration resonance frequency (DVRF) CARS imaging of the skin suitable for *in vivo* histology. © 2020 The Author(s)

OCIS codes: (140.7090) Ultrafast lasers; (180.4115) Nonlinear microscopy.

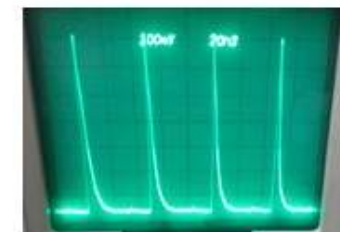


Femtosecond Lasers for Nonlinear Microscopy Research Group

(Principal investigator: Robert Szipőcs, Ph.D.)

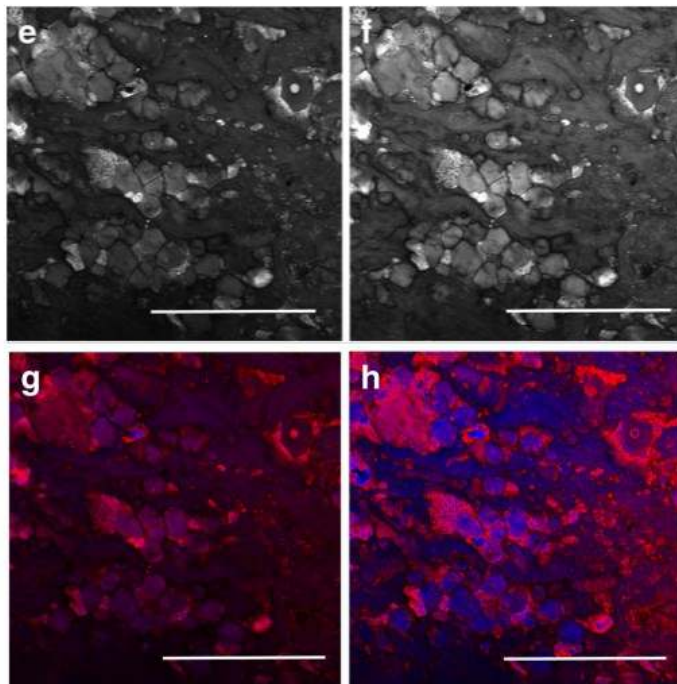


20 MHz, sub-ps, Tunable Ti:sapphire Laser for DVRF CARS imaging



For real time, *in vivo* CARS imaging: P_{pump} (794 nm) = 10 mW, P_{stokes} (1030 nm) = 5 mW (measured on sample), PixelDwellTime: 6 μs

Nonlinear optical microscopy for imaging basal cell cancer



Lipid and protein channels (red and blue color encoding)

Single channel detection

Measurement takes at least 3-5 minutes (changing pump wavelength, set zero delay for pump and Stokes pulses), processing takes also 5-10 minutes

CARS on *ex vivo* basal cell cancer sample

Cite as: C. Cserép *et al.*, *Science*
10.1126/science.aax6752 (2019).

Microglia monitor and protect neuronal function via specialized somatic purinergic junctions

Csaba Cserép^{1*}, Balázs Pósfai^{1,2*}, Nikolett Lénárt¹, Rebeka Fekete^{1,2}, Zsófia I. László^{2,3}, Zsolt Lele³, Barbara Orsolits¹, Gábor Molnár⁴, Steffanie Heindl⁵, Anett D. Schwarcz¹, Katinka Ujvári¹, Zsuzsanna Környei¹, Krisztina Tóth^{1,2}, Eszter Szabadits¹, Beáta Sperlách⁶, Mária Baranyi⁶, László Csiba⁷, Tibor Hortobágyi^{8,9,10}, Zsófia Maglóczky¹¹, Bernadett Martinecz¹, Gábor Szabó¹², Ferenc Erdélyi¹², Róbert Szipőcs¹³, Michael M. Tamkun¹⁴, Benno Gesierich⁵, Marco Duering^{5,15}, István Katona³, Arthur Liesz^{5,15}, Gábor Tamás⁴, Ádám Dénes^{1†}

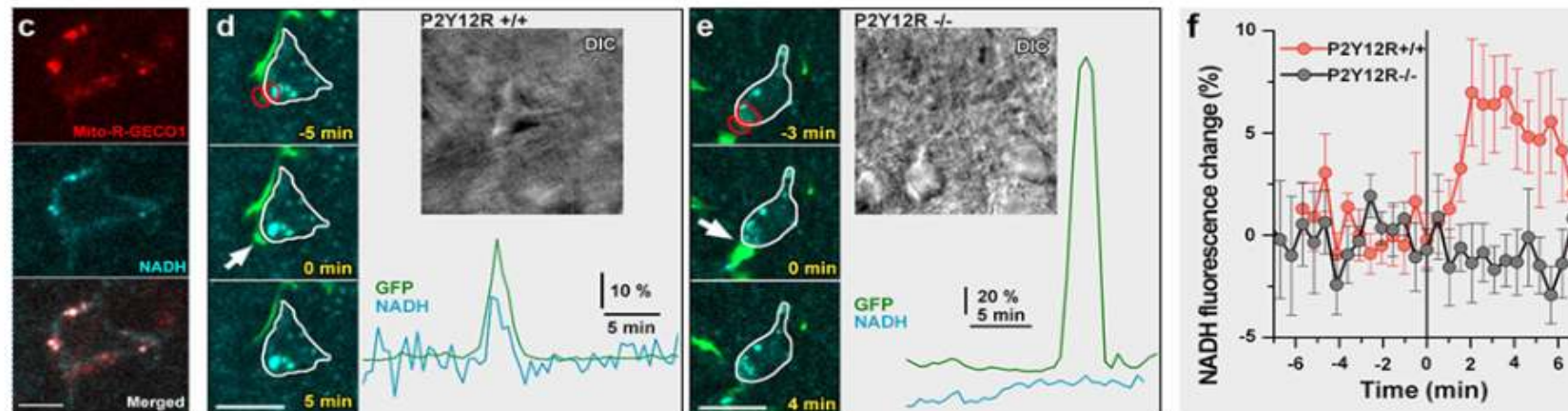


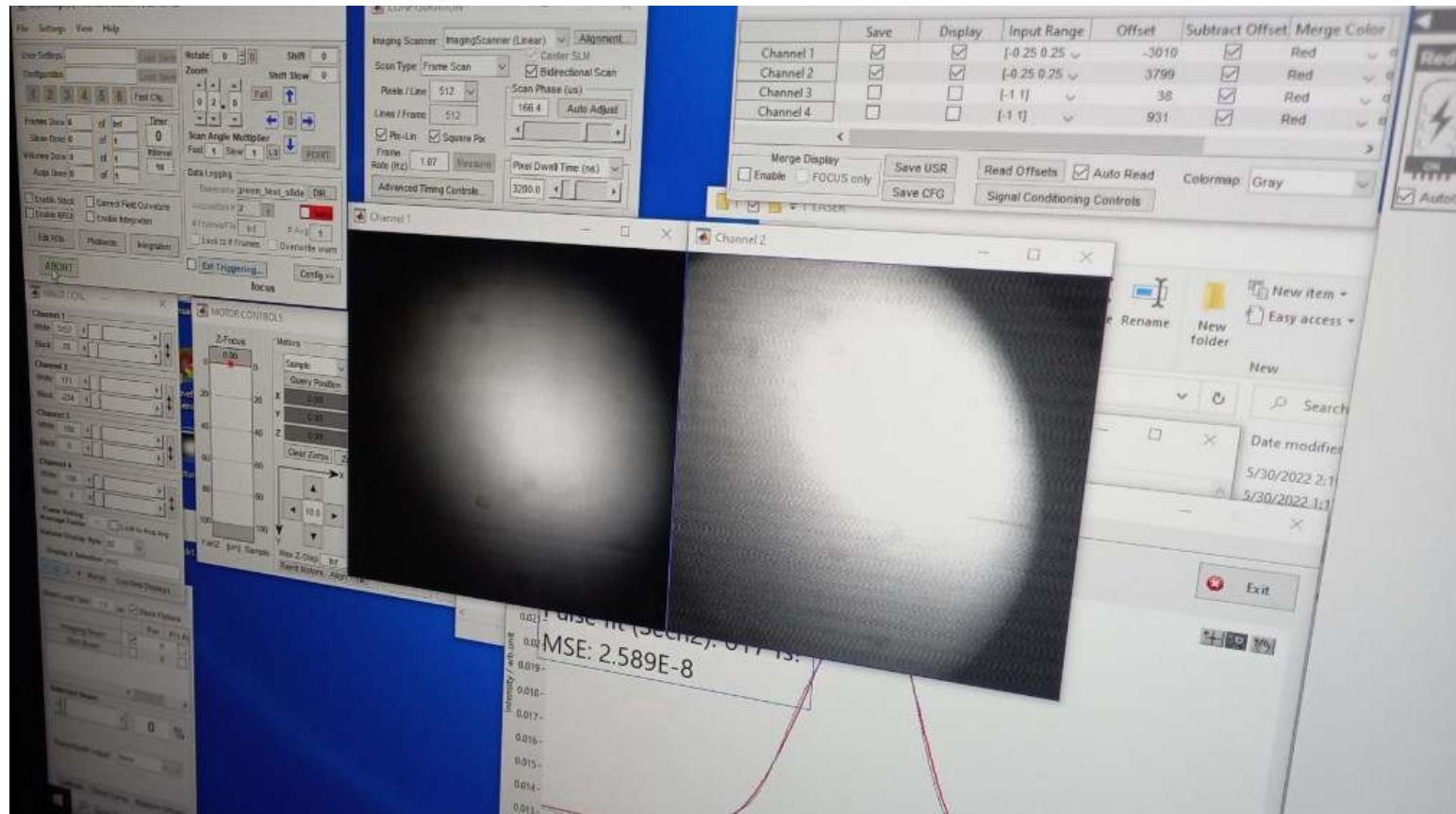
Figure 4. Physiological microglia-neuron communication at the somatic junction site is P2Y12R-dependent and is linked with neuronal mitochondrial activity. a) b) are not shown here. c) Mito-R-Geco1 expression co- nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH) intrinsic fluorescence. d-e) Representative samples from time-lapse imaging of microglia show processes extend and contact neuronal soma in CX3CR1+/GFP/P2Y12R+/+ (d) and CX3CR1+/GFP/P2Y12R-/- (e) mice. White arrow indicates the contact site of microglia. DIC images of the imaged neurons and the fluorescence signal of GFP (green) and NADH (dark cyan) of red outlined areas are shown. f) Average of NADH intrinsic fluorescence of all neurons in P2Y12R+/+ (red, n=10) and P2Y12R-/- mice (black, n=11).

Testing for fiber delivery and 2-photon imaging developed for Alzheimer's disease research for at NTU, Singapore





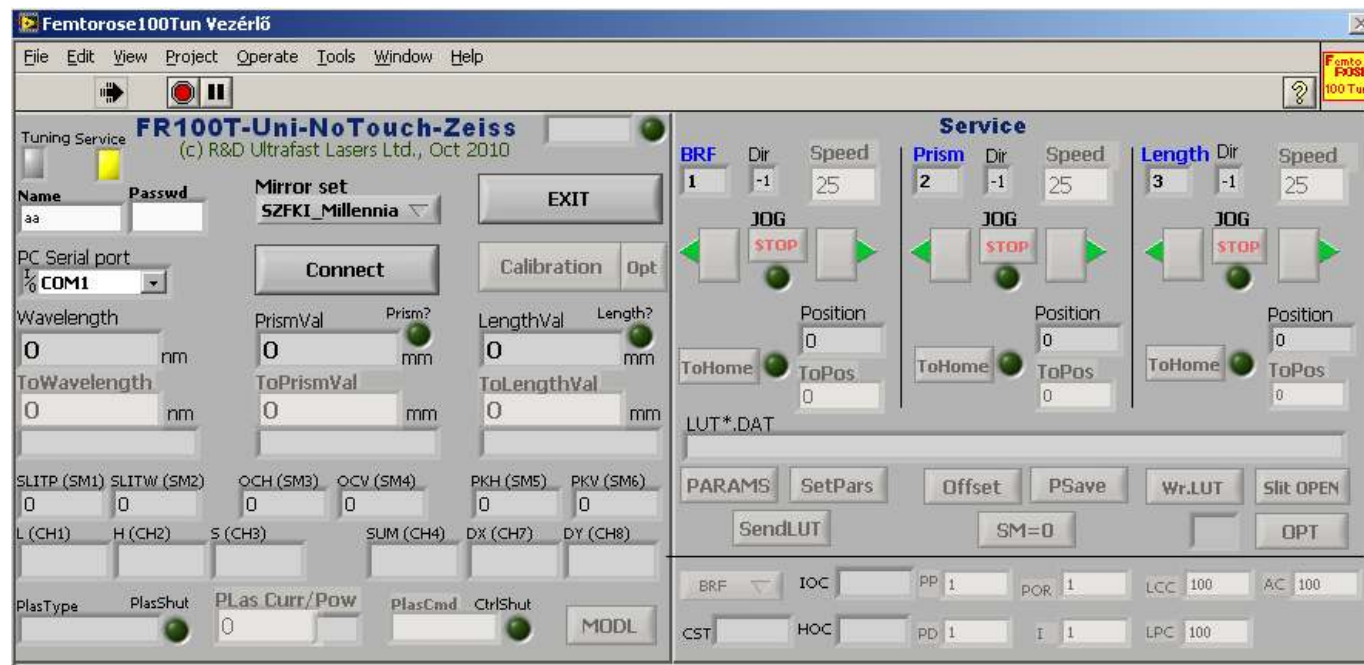
Testing for fiber delivery and 2-photon imaging at NTU NOBIC lab, Singapore



LASER CONTROL (HW + SW)



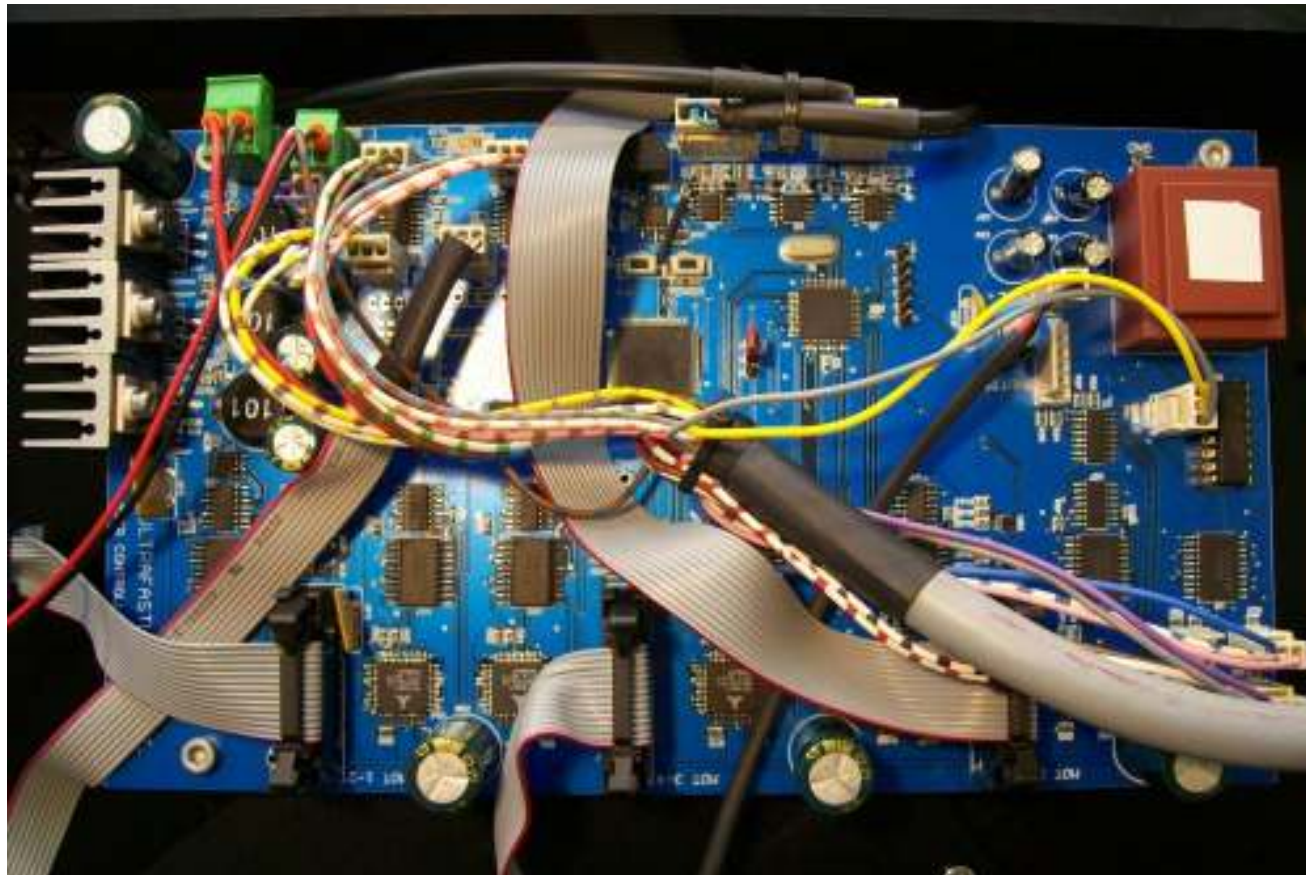
STEP and DC micromotor drivers, SW
Photodiodes, quadrant detectors for beam position sensing
PIC and ARM microcontrollers



ELECTRONICS

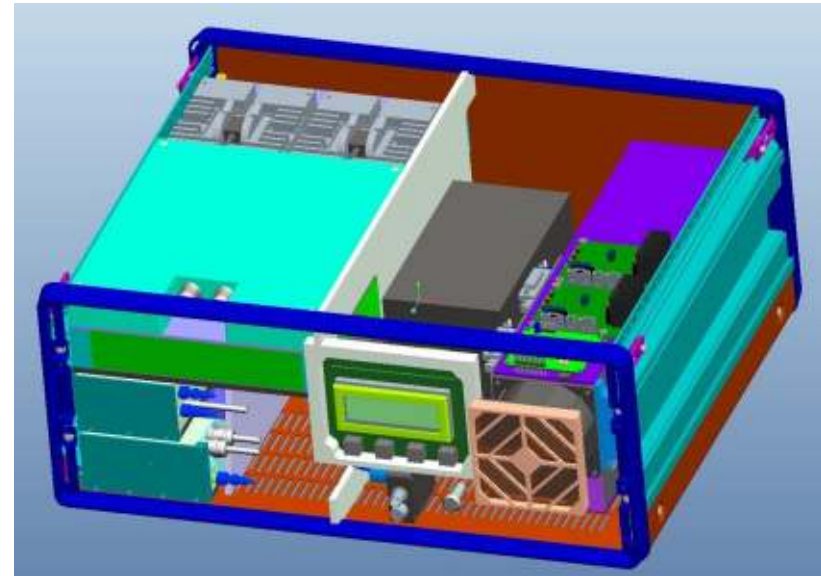
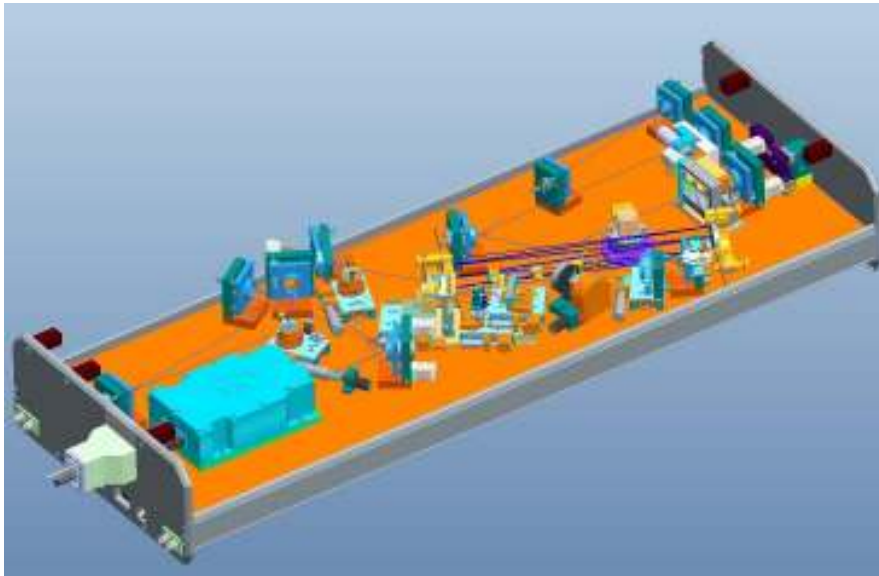


PCB-s with ARM and PIC microcontrollers



MECHANICS

Mechanics for solid state and fiber lasers



ProEngineer models for CNC manufacturing

Femtosecond Lasers for Nonlinear Microscopy Research Group (Principal investigator: Robert Szipócs, Ph.D.)



- **Research and development of ultrafast (ps, or fs) pulse solid state or optical fiber lasers for applications in *in vivo* 3D nonlinear microscopy**

Our aim is to develop laser systems that improve the quality of imaging (e.g. imaging depth, resolution), support easier handling (held-held imaging systems, fiber integration) or minimize the risk of thermal or photochemical damage of the living tissue.

- **Main R&D results:**

- **Development of a long cavity, sub-ps pulse, tunable Ti-sapphire laser operating at ~22 MHz repetition rate utilizing a piezo controlled GTI for intracavity dispersion control**
- **Development of an all-fiber Yb-fiber oscillator and amplifier laser operating at ~2 MHz repetition rate and delivering ~0.5 ps pulses**
- **Development of a two-wavelength sub-ps pulse laser system for CARS imaging applications.**

The research group involved in **development and applications of different label free imaging techniques (2PEF, SHG, CARS, FLIM)** in the fields of **dermatology, neurology and metabolic research** with its partners at **Semmelweis University (SE), Szeged University (SZTE) and University of Sports Science (TF)**, respectively.



Publications of the group

- [1] Cserép C, Pósfai B, Lénárt N, Fekete R, László ZI, Lele Z, Orsolits B, Molnár G, Heindl S, Schwarcz AD, Ujvári K, Környei Z, Tóth K, Szabadits E, Sperlágh B, Baranyi M, Csiba L, Hortobágyi T, Maglóczky Z, Martinecz B, Szabó G, Erdélyi F, **Szipőcs R**, Tamkun MM, Gesierich B, Duering M, Katona I, Liesz A, Tamás G, Dénes Á. *Microglia monitor and protect neuronal function through specialized somatic purinergic junctions*. **Science**. 367(6477):528-537. (2020).
- [2] **L. Fésüs, Á. Krolopp, G. Molnár, N. Kiss, G. Tamás, and R. Szipőcs**, "A 20 MHz, sub ps, Tunable Ti:sapphire Laser System for Real Time, Stain Free, High Contrast Histology of the Skin," in **Biophotonics Congress: Biomedical Optics 2020**, OSA Technical Digest (Optica Publishing Group, 2020), paper MTh3A.4. (2020).
- [3] **Á. Krolopp, L. Fésüs, G. Szipőcs, N. Wikonkál, and R. Szipőcs**, "Fiber coupled, 20 MHz Repetition Rate, sub ps Ti:sapphire Laser for in vivo Nonlinear Microscopy of the Skin," in **Biophotonics Congress 2021**, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, 2021), paper DF2A.5. (2021).
- [4] **L. Fésüs, N. Wikonkál, and R. Szipőcs**, "Numerical Analysis on ex vivo Second Harmonic Generation Images of Collagen Structure of Unstained Basal Cell Carcinoma Sections," in **European Conferences on Biomedical Optics 2021 (ECBO)**, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America, 2021), paper EW4A.9. (2021).
- [5] **L. Fésüs, D. Plázár, A. Kolonics, L. Martin, N. Wikonkál, M. Medvecz, and R. Szipőcs**, "Low concentration Phloxine B staining for high chemical contrast, nonlinear microscope mosaic imaging of skin alterations in pseudoxanthoma elasticum," **Biomed. Opt. Express** 13, 252-261 (2022).
- [6] **A. Kolonics, T. Kawamura, R. Szipőcs, Zs. Radák**, „Accelerated epigenetic changes may contribute to the development of metabolic syndrome revealed by NADH FLIM”, 13th MiPschool, Obergurgl, Austria,(2023).
- [7] **G. Szipőcs, Á. Krolopp, S. P. Chong, P. Török, and R. Szipőcs**, "Low Reflection Loss Dispersion Compensation Scheme for Broadly Tunable sub-ps Solid State Lasers," in **CLEO 2023**, Technical Digest Series (Optica Publishing Group, 2023), paper JTh2A.121. (2023).
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