COHERENT SELF-ENHANCEMENT OF DYNAMIC POLARIZATION GRATINGS IN W-75 MOLECULAR GLASSY AZOBENZENE FILMS

Andris Ozols, Peteris Augustovs, Peteris Studens, Elmars Zarins, and Valdis Kokars

Faculty of Material Science and Applied Chemistry, Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia

Contact: aozols@latnet.lv

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Self-enhancement (SE) of a dynamic hologram is the increase in its diffraction efficiency (DE) over time under the stimulus of a single beam light irradiation or simply in the dark [1]. Three types of SE can be distinguished: (i) coherent SE (CSE) due to the holographic recording by diffracted waves; (ii) incoherent SE due to the contrast and/or transmission increase of a hologram by incoherent light; (iii) relaxational (or dark) SE due to the contrast or/and transmission increase of a hologram by thermo stimulated relaxation processes. All three SE types can take place simultaneously [1].

In this paper we have experimentally studied the CSE polarization dependence of dynamic transmission polarization holographic gratings (HG) recorded in azobenzene molecular glassy films W-75. A strong effect of recording and enhancing light polarizations on CSE is found. The highest CSE factor (showing the DE increase with respect to the initial DE) of 14.5 was achieved in the case of recording and enhancing the HG by circular *L*-polarizations of light.

W-75 azobenzene glassy 3μm thick films synthesized in our Faculty in the group of prof. V.Kokars were used in experiments. Their precise chemical notation is 2-(3-(4-((4-(bis(2-(trityloxy)ethyl) amino)phenyl)diazenyl)styryl)-5,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-enylidene) [2]. Films were spin-coated onto the glass substrates .Two symmetrically incident laser beams with the total light intensity of 1.18 W/cm^2 were used for the transmission HG recording at 632.8 nm. Recording intensity was 0.87 W/cm^2 at 532 nm. HG period was 2 μm. Three pairs of linear recording beam polarizations (*p-p*, *s-s*, *s-p*) and two pairs of circular recording beam polarizations (*L-L* and *L-R*) were applied (*L*-left rotation, *R*-right rotation).After the HG recording with two beams up to about DE=0.1% the recording was continued by one of the recording beams. This was the CSE process resembling the the remembering process in human brain.

TABLE 1. POLARIZATION DEPENDENCE OF MAXIMAL CSE FACTOR AT 532 NM

Recording beam polarizations	Enhancing beam polarization	Maximal CSE factor, ξ_{max}
s-s	*s*	1.75
p-p	*p*	3.6
s-p	*s*	<1
s-p	*p*	<1
L-L	*L*	14.5
L-R	*L*	1.9
L-R	*R*	7.0

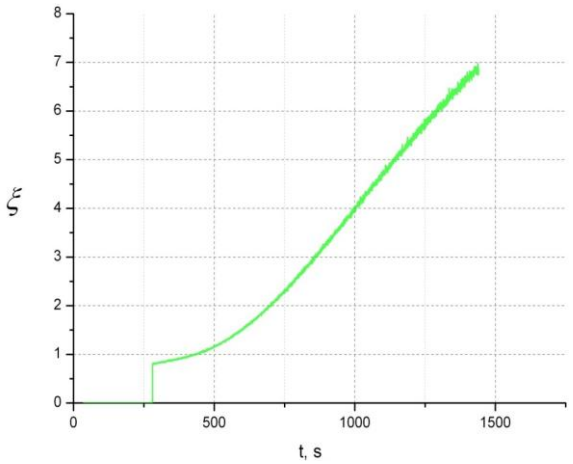

Fig.1. CSE factor versus exposure time in the case of *L-R* vector grating enhanced by *R*-beam. Recording and CSE wavelengths were 532 nm.

No CSE was found at 632.8 nm regardless of polarization. It was surprising because our previous results [2] have shown more efficient recording at 632.8 nm compared to 532 nm. On the contrary, CSE took place in almost all cases (except *s-p* polarizations) at 532 nm (Fig.1, Table 1). Thus one can suggest that recording mechanisms are different at 532 and 632.8 nm. These results also show that even slight film structure changes can influence the CSE effect.

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