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Controlled chemical solution deposition of functional ceramics inside the core of glass fibers

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In order to optimize the use of HCPCFs (Hollow-Core Photonic Crystal Fibers) in a number of applications [1], their core are filled with a given gas that for an ultra-enhanced interaction an incident laser beam. One challenge in gas-filled HCPCF is to control physio-chemical interaction between the gas medium and the silica inner-surface of the fiber core-surround. Depending on the gas chemical composition, several surface effects can occur such as atomic adsorption or gas-diffusion through the silica. Moreover, in some applications, laser beams with extremely high power are guided in HCPCF. Increasing the optical power handling of HCPCF require a surface material with laser induced damage threshold larger than silica.

These problems gave rise to a first series of experiments whose goal was to achieve a non-porous deposit in order to contain the gas inside the fiber by preventing its adsorption. The first results, measured on fibers treated with a nanometric aluminosilicate layer and filled with rubidium vapor, show that this layer considerably improves the lifetime of the gas from a few days to more than a month [2].

This work will focus on the processing of ceramic coatings with different compositions inside hollow-core fibers with complex microstructures. It is indeed possible to form a thin, dense, inorganic and amorphous layer with the desired properties. To obtain such a result, several parameters must be controlled, including the concentration of the solution, the technique and the deposition time, as well as the heat treatment undergone by the fiber. The properties of coated fibers are presented.

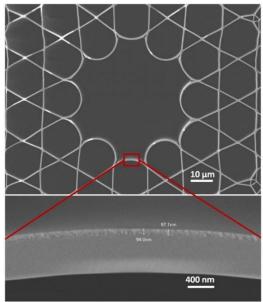


Figure 1. Thin aluminosilicate deposition inside the inner core of a Kagome HC-PCF.

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