



HAL
open science

Broadband and widely tunable second-harmonic generation in suspended thin-film LiNbO₃ rib waveguides

Aiman Zinaoui, Lucas Grosjean, Arthur de Sousa Lopes Moreira, Miguel Angel Suarez, Samuel Queste, Laurent Robert, Ludovic Gauthier-Manuel, Mathieu Chauvet, Nadège Courjal

► **To cite this version:**

Aiman Zinaoui, Lucas Grosjean, Arthur de Sousa Lopes Moreira, Miguel Angel Suarez, Samuel Queste, et al.. Broadband and widely tunable second-harmonic generation in suspended thin-film LiNbO₃ rib waveguides. 2024. hal-04732262

HAL Id: hal-04732262

<https://hal.science/hal-04732262v1>

Preprint submitted on 11 Oct 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Copyright

Broadband and widely tunable second harmonic generation in suspended thin-film LiNbO₃ rib waveguides ^{EP}

Cite as: APL Photon. 9, 000000 (2024); doi: 10.1063/5.0230481

Submitted: 24 July 2024 • Accepted: 2 October 2024 •

Published Online: 9 99 9999



View Online



Export Citation



CrossMark

Aiman Zinaoui, ^{ID} Lucas Grosjean, ^{ID} Arthur De Sousa Lopes Moreira, ^{ID} Miguel Angel Suarez, ^{ID} Samuel Queste, ^{ID} Laurent Robert, Ludovic Gauthier-Manuel, Mathieu Chauvet, ^{ID} and Nadège Courjal^{a)} ^{ID}

AFFILIATIONS

FEMTO-ST Institute, UMR CNRS 6174, University of Franche-Comte, 15B Avenue des Montboucons, 25000 Besancon, France

^{a)} Author to whom correspondence should be addressed: nadege.courjal@femto-st.fr

ABSTRACT

Our study demonstrates second harmonic generation (SHG) in a high confinement LiNbO₃ rib waveguide through type-I birefringence phase matching of fundamental modes. The combination of micro-waveguide dispersion and material birefringence reveals unique SHG characteristics that complement the performance of standard LiNbO₃ on insulator components. Dual-pump wavelength phase matching in the near-infrared and mid-infrared regions is shown in a given waveguide. These two wavelengths can be positioned in the 1.1–3.5 μm range or converge near 1.5 μm by adjusting the core waveguide size or through temperature tuning. A 25 °C temperature change enables a broad pump tunability band of 300 nm, ranging from 1350 to 1650 nm, with a conversion efficiency exceeding 40%/(W/cm²) within a single waveguide. A temperature tuning range of up to 900 nm is foreseen by tailoring the waveguide core size. In addition, a broadband response of 150 nm within the telecom window is demonstrated experimentally. The nonlinear waveguide, etched in a thin film membrane, is combined with titanium-indiffused waveguides to form a monolithic LiNbO₃ component. This configuration provides low coupling losses of 0.8 dB and single-mode operation. It paves the way for a new generation of versatile and cost-effective frequency conversion components with wide-band spectral responses suitable for optical communications, environmental sensing, and quantum information processing.

© 2024 Author(s). All article content, except where otherwise noted, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0230481>

I. INTRODUCTION

Quadratic phase-matched nonlinear processes for frequency conversion are pivotal in both quantum and classical optics, with significant potential for emerging applications, such as photonic spiking neurons,¹ broadband spectroscopy,² high-brightness single-photon sources,³ and quantum frequency converters.⁴ However, a larger deployment of these applications faces challenges in achieving broad spectral operation, high nonlinear conversion efficiency, and fiber-compatible integration within a single component. Periodically poled lithium niobate on insulator (PPLNOI) structures, which ensure quasi-phase-matching (QPM) in sub-micrometer cross-section LiNbO₃ on insulator (LNOI) waveguides, are promising due to their record-breaking nonlinear conversion efficiencies⁵ of 2600%/(W/cm²) benefiting from a high nonlinear coefficient ($d_{33} = d_{zzz} = 27$ pm/V)⁶ and tight light confinement. Their ability

to operate at any wavelengths within the material transparency range (0.35–5 μm)^{7–9} is also widely appreciated. Nevertheless, the converted bandwidth remains constrained to a few nanometers near the targeted wavelength due to strict phase matching conditions. Broader bandwidth of up to 110 nm has been demonstrated by varying the poling period through step-chirp,¹⁰ but this approach significantly degrades the nonlinear conversion efficiency to 9.6%/(W/cm²). Tailoring the waveguide dispersion can yield broad operational bandwidths while maintaining high conversion efficiencies. This has been demonstrated at mid-infrared wavelengths,^{11,12} with bandwidths and nonlinear conversion efficiencies of 110 nm and 1100%/(W/cm²), respectively.

However, PPLNOI fabrication tolerances are restrictive¹³ and also suffer from low in-coupling efficiencies. Micrometer-thick LiNbO₃ layers can improve fiber integration¹⁴ and fabrication tolerances but at the expense of a compromise between

operational bandwidth and conversion efficiency. In addition, thermal tunability of the SHG response remains challenging in type-0 PPLNOI waveguides, with a thermal tuning rate typically below $0.5 \text{ nm}/^\circ\text{C}$.

Intermodal phase matching is an alternative solution to periodic poling that requires adapting the waveguide geometry to reach perfect phase matching. Challenges of poor mode overlap have been addressed using antisymmetric waveguides by taking advantage of the phenomenon of bound states in the continuum¹⁵ or through layer poling¹⁶ with a type-0 configuration, achieving nonlinear conversion efficiencies of $300\%/(\text{W}/\text{cm}^2)$ and $4615\%/(\text{W}/\text{cm}^2)$, respectively. However, thermal tunability remains low, around $0.18 \text{ nm}/^\circ\text{C}$.

By enabling perfect phase matching between two orthogonally polarized fundamental modes, birefringence phase matching (BPM) in micro-waveguides offers a poling-free approach that provides a large overlap and noncritical coupling between the SH and pump modes with lower coupling losses.¹⁷ Another advantage of this method is its temperature tunability coefficient near $1 \text{ nm}/^\circ\text{C}$.¹⁸

This study demonstrates an ultra-wide bandwidth second harmonic generation (SHG) response in a poling-free monolithic LiNbO₃ component using type-I birefringence phase matching. The SH signal is generated in a rib waveguide fabricated within an air-suspended LiNbO₃ membrane, which is coupled to tapers to give low-loss pigtailling with standard fibers.¹⁹ Our experimental results show a conversion bandwidth exceeding 150 nm , covering the entire third telecom band, with a conversion efficiency of $40\%/(\text{W}/\text{cm}^2)$. In addition, temperature tuning extends the conversion range from 1.35 to $1.65 \mu\text{m}$, thus spanning the two main windows of the telecom band. These high-performance metrics are achieved by balancing material and waveguide dispersion, resulting in a tunable dual phase-matching condition between the transverse electric (TE₀₀) and transverse magnetic (TM₀₀) modes over a broad bandwidth.

II. THEORETICAL STUDY

The reported second harmonic generation (SHG) process achieves perfect phase matching by balancing the intrinsic birefringence of an LiNbO₃ crystal with a tailored dispersion in a nonlinear rib waveguide. This specific type-I phase matching between the fundamental modes of the TM₀₀ pump and the TE₀₀ SH is demonstrated with the monolithic LiNbO₃ component shown in Fig. 1, where the nonlinear process takes place in the air-suspended rib waveguide located in the central part.

This rib waveguide is adiabatically combined with two titanium-diffused waveguides at both the input and output sides through tapered sections, providing a gradual transition from a single-mode input waveguide with a cross section of $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}^2$ to the fundamental mode of the nonlinear area with a cross section of about $4 \mu\text{m}^2$. The adiabatic transitions not only ensure optimal excitation of the fundamental mode with $0.8 \text{ dB}/\text{facet}$ coupling losses¹⁹ but also facilitate light injection and collection, thus enhancing the overall SHG efficiency.

The perfect type-I SHG phase-matching condition is fulfilled in the rib waveguide when

$$\Delta n = n_{\text{pump}} - n_{\text{SH}} = \frac{\lambda_{\text{pump}} \Delta k}{4\pi} = 0, \quad (1)$$

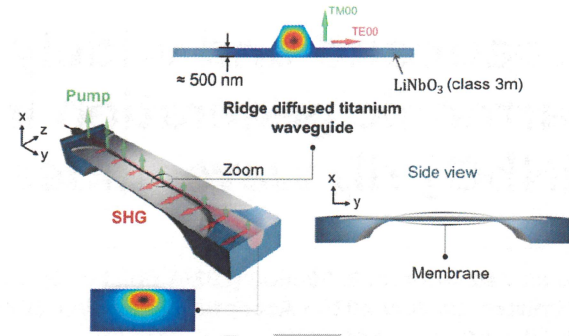


FIG. 1. Artistic view of a LiNbO₃ frequency doubling component constituted of a central nonlinear suspended membrane rib waveguide, with a highly confined mode, adiabatically coupled to large cross-section input and output titanium-diffused single-mode waveguides.

where n_{pump} and n_{SH} are the effective indices of the pump and SH modes, respectively, and Δk is the wave vector mismatch. Δn is dependent on the birefringence of LiNbO₃ and on the rib dimensions.

In our simulations, the material's refractive index is given by the Sellmeier equations^{20,21} corrected for slight titanium doping. However, it should be noted that titanium doping has a negligible effect on the effective indices of the modes in the rib waveguide. Phase matching can be adjusted by choosing the geometry of the rib waveguide, which depends on the width, height, sidewall angle, and thickness, as shown in Fig. 2(a). The sidewall angle is set to 15° due to the manufacturing process. As first insight, simulations are performed for different waveguide cross sections [defined as mean width \times (height + thickness), where the mean width is the average width of the cross section, including the sidewall angle] using COMSOL[®]. Figure 2(b) shows the phase mismatch Δn vs the pump wavelength for different rib waveguide cross sections at ambient temperature. For large waveguide cross sections, we notice that dual phase matching occurs at two distinct pump wavelengths, one near $1 \mu\text{m}$ in the near-infrared (NIR) and the other in the mid-infrared (MIR) near $3 \mu\text{m}$, as in bulk crystals. As the waveguide cross section is decreased, these two phase-matched wavelengths become closer until they merge for a cross section of about $5 \mu\text{m}^2$. Our study focuses on this latter waveguide configuration that displays near-phase-matched conditions for a wide range of telecom wavelengths. For cross sections smaller than $5 \mu\text{m}^2$, phase matching vanishes.

It is essential to note that LiNbO₃ birefringence significantly depends on temperature. Indeed, the extraordinary index varies with temperature contrary to the ordinary index, which is almost temperature independent.^{21,22} Consequently, temperature is an efficient parameter for adjusting the phase-matching condition. As an illustration, in Fig. 2(b), a rib waveguide with an $8 \mu\text{m}^2$ cross section enables two phase-matched pump wavelengths separated by 500 nm at room temperature. As this waveguide is heated, the two wavelengths shift closer to each other and merge at 95°C , as shown in Fig. 2(c), resulting in a broad phase-matching bandwidth around 1500 nm .

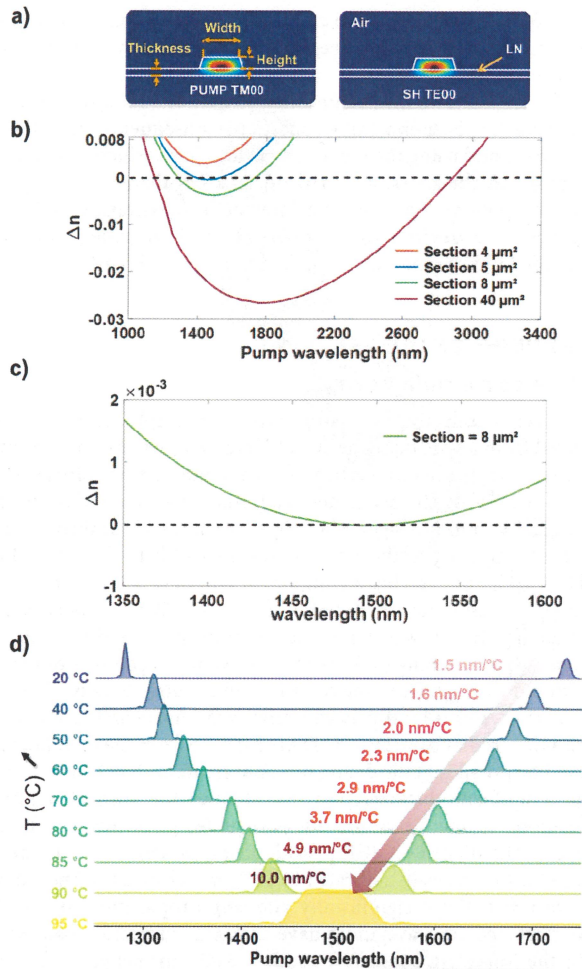


FIG. 2. Theoretical study of the SHG birefringent phase matching in a rib waveguide using a finite elements method (f.e.m.) of COMSOL software. (a) Rib waveguide geometry and fundamental mode distributions for the pump (1.55 μm) and the SH. (b) Calculation of the phase mismatching for four waveguide cross sections vs pump wavelength. (c) Phase mismatch in an 8 μm² cross-section waveguide (width = 3.8 μm, height = 1.2 μm and thickness = 800 nm) at 95 °C and (d) conversion efficiency vs temperature and wavelength in the same waveguide.

To evaluate the conversion efficiency η , the following equation is used.¹⁸

$$\eta = \frac{P_{SH}}{P_{pump}^2 L^2} = \frac{8\pi^2}{\epsilon_0 c n_{pump}^2 n_{shg} \lambda_{pump}^2} \frac{OI^2 d_{31}^2}{A_{eff}} \quad (2)$$

where P_{SH} is the rib waveguide output power for the SH, P_{pump} is the rib waveguide input power for the pump, c is the speed of light in vacuum, ϵ_0 is the dielectric permittivity of vacuum, d_{31} is the second-order nonlinear coefficient equal to 4.3 pm/V, which corresponds to the d_{zxx} element of the non-linear susceptibility tensor after its simplification using the group symmetry of LiNbO₃ class

3 m, A_{eff} is the effective mode area, OI is the spatial overlap integral of the two modes, and L is the length of the nonlinear interaction. Figure 2(d) shows the normalized conversion efficiency for an 8 μm² cross-section waveguide of length $L = 1$ mm as a function of wavelength and temperature in the non-depleted pump regime. It shows that with the chosen geometry (width = 3800 nm, height = 1230 nm, and thickness = 800 nm), the conversion efficiency is estimated to be 55%/(W/cm²) with a weak dependence with wavelength. It also confirms that the two phase matched pump wavelengths can be tuned over a range of 500 nm by changing the temperature from 20 to 95 °C. At the phase-matching temperature of 95 °C, this waveguide exhibits a 100 nm ultra-broadband phase-matched SHG interaction, allowing high spectral acceptance for pump wavelengths in the telecom band. The giant thermal tuning range is a direct consequence of the unique dispersion profile of the waveguide. It should be noted that the thermal tuning rate ($\frac{\partial \lambda_{PM}}{\partial T}$) is highly nonlinear with the value changing from 1.5 nm/°C near room temperature (low-temperature dependence regime) to 10 nm/°C (strong-temperature dependence regime) when approaching broadband conversion [see the red data in Fig. 2(d)]. As the waveguide temperature increases, the refractive index mismatch for SHG, denoted as Δn , grows because the extraordinary index rises more significantly than the ordinary index.²¹ This shift causes the phase-mismatch curves [see Fig. 2(b)] to move upward with increasing temperature. For waveguides with larger cross sections (e.g., the green curve), the two phase-matched wavelengths thus shift toward the telecom band. The rate of this shift is given by $\frac{\partial \lambda_{PM}}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial \lambda_{PM}}{\partial \Delta n} \frac{\partial \Delta n}{\partial T}$. While the second term of the equation is mainly given by the thermo-optical property of LiNbO₃, the first term is the inverse slopes of the curves shown in Fig. 2(b) at the phase-matched wavelengths λ_{PM} , which is proportional to the group velocity mismatch. This explains the nonlinear temperature tuning rate we observed, which increases from 1 to 10 nm/°C as the phase-matched wavelengths approach the telecom band, where the slope becomes minimal. Such a high tuning rate of 10 nm/°C is more than nine times higher than the best results reported in the literature,²³ enabling a wide tunability range. However, the trade-off of this high-temperature sensitivity regime is the need for increasingly precise and stable temperature control as the interaction length increases.

Changing the waveguide geometry provides a means to modify the pump tunability band and, to a lesser extent, the conversion efficiency. For instance, reducing the waveguide cross section to 6 μm² (width = 2700 nm, height = 1550 nm, and thickness = 500 nm) enhances the conversion efficiency to 60%/(W/cm²). In addition, this modification allows a pump tunability band ranging from 1370 to 1550 nm, which can be achieved with a minimal temperature variation of 12 °C due to an average thermal tuning rate of 6 nm/°C (see Fig. 3). The conversion efficiency enhancement is linked to the lower A_{eff} value in Eq. (2). Conversely, increasing the waveguide cross section will lead to expanded tunability. A pump tunability of more than 900 nm is anticipated with a temperature variation of 200 °C in a 23 μm² cross-section waveguide. It is noteworthy that any selected pump wavelength in the 1–3.5 μm range can be phase-matched by properly dimensioning the waveguide.

To further analyze the influence of the waveguide geometry on the phase matching, we then set the pump wavelength to 1550 nm and vary the width and height of the waveguide

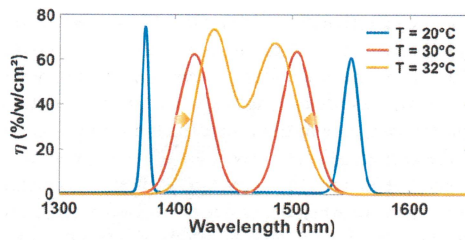


FIG. 3. Broadband response at room temperature using a rib waveguide with a cross section equal to $6 \mu\text{m}^2$, which corresponds to a rib geometry of width = 2700 nm, height = 1550 nm, and thickness = 500 nm. This simulation is performed in the non-depleted pump regime.

height for a waveguide width of $2.7 \mu\text{m}$. It shows that we can compensate for a 220 nm rib waveguide height offset by a temperature variation of 70°C .

Figure 4 shows that a minimum height of $\sim 1.4 \mu\text{m}$ is required to achieve the phase-matching condition. Consequently, the LiNbO_3 films fabricated using the ion-slicing technology, which usually have a submicron thickness, are inadequate for realizing the proposed SHG component. For the experimental demonstration, we chose to construct a device with a nonlinear rib waveguide based on a suspended membrane carved out of a monolithic LiNbO_3 wafer.

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A. Device manufacturing

Using a collective fabrication process, multiple components are realized from a 4 in. diameter X-cut LiNbO_3 wafer. As schematically shown in Fig. 5, the process begins with manufacturing single-mode titanium-indiffused waveguides. Titanium strips are etched from a 90 nm thick titanium layer. The strips are $6 \mu\text{m}$ wide at their extremities, transitioning to the rib waveguide's width in the 1 mm long central SHG zone, giving a component length of 2 cm. Diffusion is realized at a temperature of 1045°C for 8 h and 50 min. As a first step to realizing the rib waveguides, a nickel mask is used to form ribs by reactive ion etching (RIE) with horizontal transitions from the Ti indiffused waveguides to the central confined area. Finally, the backside of the wafer is locally diced below each central SHG zone with a precision circular saw (DISCO DAD 3350) to form the membrane. It should be noted that the dicing not only creates LiNbO_3 membranes with a uniform thickness but also defines the vertical adiabatic transitions to the Ti indiffused waveguides given by the circular shape of the blade.²⁴ A RIE post-thinning process has been developed to achieve a well-calibrated LiNbO_3 membrane thickness down to 500 nm without significantly affecting propagation losses. The manufactured rib waveguides have an $8 \mu\text{m}^2$ targeted cross section with the following geometry: width = $3.83 \mu\text{m}$, height = $1.23 \mu\text{m}$, thickness = 800 nm, and sidewall angle = 16° .

B. Device characterization

Characterization of the linear optical properties of the component is first performed. Coupling losses with cleaved single-mode polarization maintaining (PM) fibers were estimated to be 0.8 dB, which is notably low compared to direct butt-coupling in a thin film lithium niobate (TFLN) waveguide. The overall propagation losses of the component, measured using the Fabry-Perot method,²⁵ are $0.39 \pm 0.06 \text{ dB/cm}$ for TM polarization and $1.09 \pm 0.06 \text{ dB/cm}$ for TE polarization. These values are higher than those observed in a reference component composed of a Ti-indiffused waveguide with a $2 \mu\text{m}$ thick membrane but without the rib waveguide, which exhibits propagation losses of $0.2 \pm 0.06 \text{ dB/cm}$ for both polarizations. The increased propagation loss is mainly attributed to the sidewall roughness of the rib waveguide as witnessed by the scanning electron microscope (SEM) image shown in Fig. 5. We estimated the losses in the 1 mm long nonlinear section to be 1.95 ± 0.2 and $0.61 \pm 0.2 \text{ dB}$ for TE and TM polarization, respectively. Improvement of the etching process or temperature annealing of the component should considerably reduce the propagation losses.²⁶

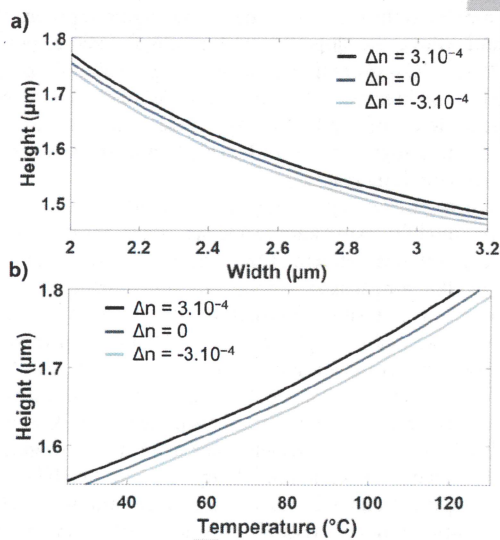


FIG. 4. Phase matching condition ($\Delta n = 0$) at a pump wavelength of 1550 nm and for a thickness of 500 nm as a function of the rib waveguide geometry at room temperature (a) and as a function of temperature and height (b) for a $2.7 \mu\text{m}$ wide waveguide. Tolerance to perfect phase matching for a 1 mm long waveguide is also displayed ($\Delta n = \pm 3 \times 10^{-4}$).

initially considered in Fig. 3. Figure 4(a) shows that the increase in the rib waveguide height from 1.5 to $1.75 \mu\text{m}$ can be compensated by a decrease in the width from 3 to $2 \mu\text{m}$ to maintain a perfect phase matching. Two additional curves show the tolerance to perfect phase matching to maintain an SHG response better than half the optimum value. This latter condition is fulfilled when $|\Delta n| \leq \frac{0.4429\lambda}{2L}$, which leads to $|\Delta n| \leq 3 \times 10^{-4}$ refractive index unit (RIU) for $L = 1 \text{ mm}$. Given this condition, the dimensional tolerance for the rib waveguide is $3 \mu\text{m} \pm 65 \text{ nm}$ in width or $1.5 \mu\text{m} \pm 20 \text{ nm}$ in height. It is, however, essential to note that reaching the phase-matching condition does not imply fabricating a waveguide with absolute dimensions. Indeed, the fabrication constraints can be relaxed since the operating temperature is a powerful adjustment tool. As an illustration, Fig. 4(b) shows the phase-matching condition as a function of temperature and rib

227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251

252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304

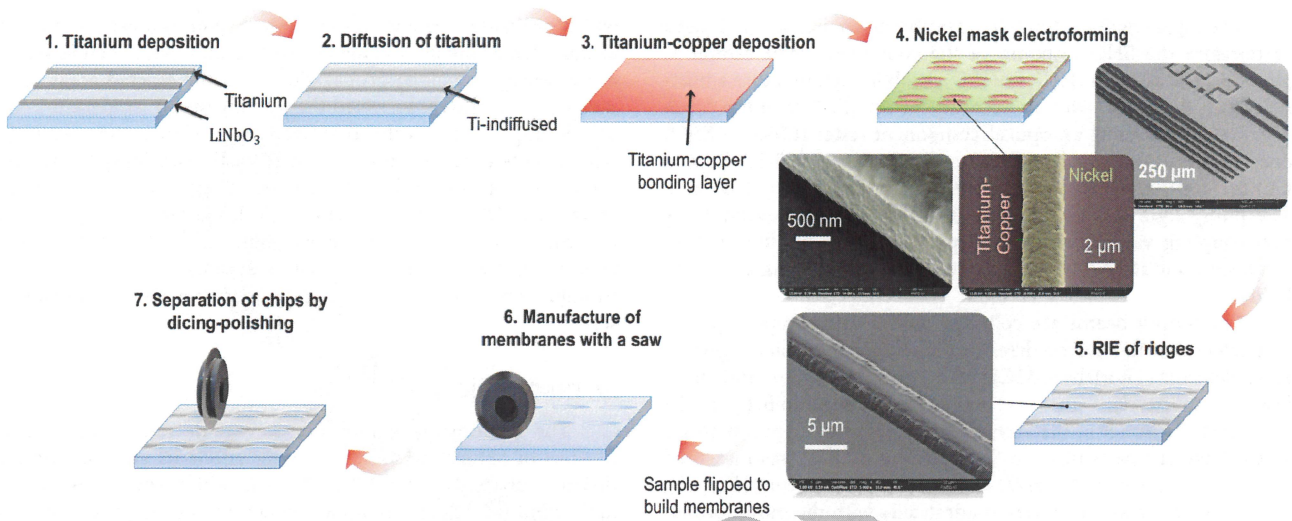


FIG. 5. Overview of the technological stages for the fabrication of the SHG device.

305

308

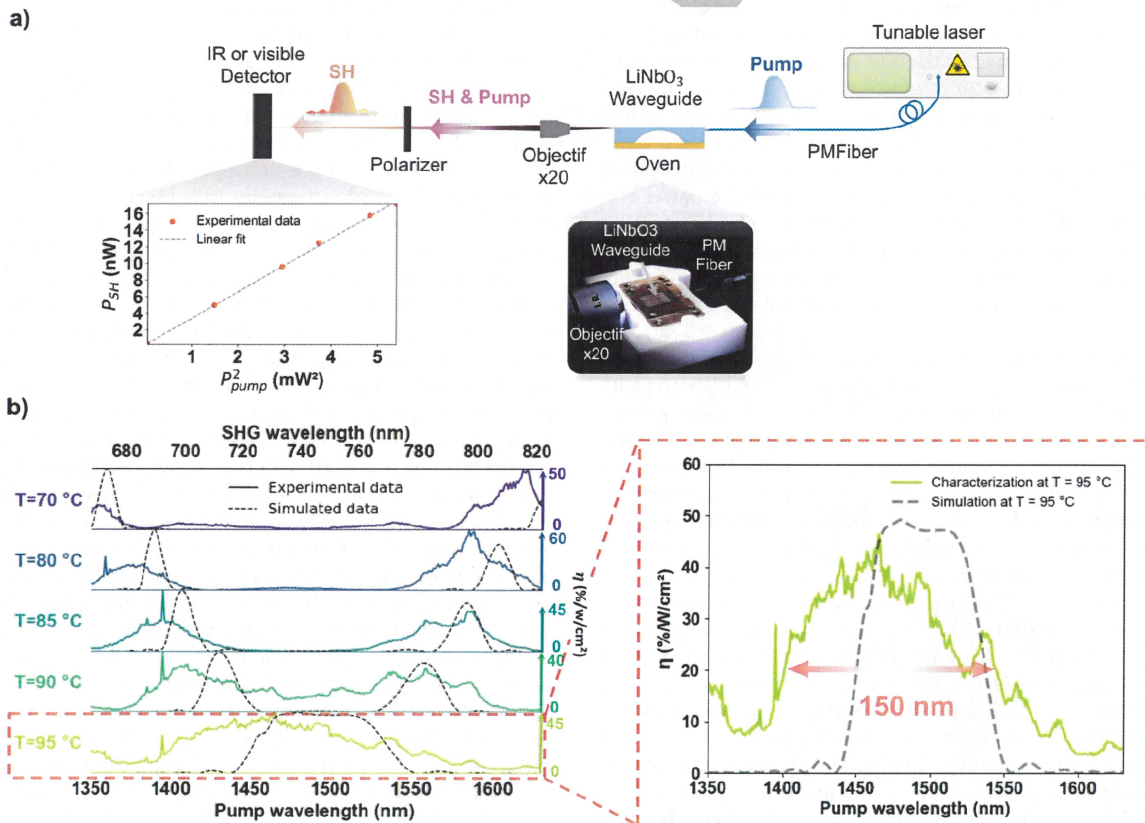


FIG. 6. (a) Schematic representation of the experimental setup to characterize the nonlinear component, including a plot that represents the evolution of the measured SH power with pump power at the pump wavelength of 1550 nm. (b) Measurements of the SHG conversion efficiency and comparison with numerical simulations.

306
307

309
310

The experimental setup schematically shown in Fig. 6(a) is used to measure the SHG response of the component. The sample is placed inside an oven (HCP OV30D), enabling temperature adjustments up to 200 °C with an accuracy of 0.1 °C. The pump beam is generated by using an optical component tester (CT440 EXFO) coupled with two tunable external-cavity lasers (T100S-HP ES and CL) for continuous wavelength scanning from 1350 to 1630 nm. The pump light excites the TM₀₀ mode of the rib waveguide by butt-coupling via a PM fiber. The polarization at the fiber output has been accurately aligned with the crystal x axis using a rotating holder.

The output beams are collected with a microscope objective and detected with a silicon detector (Thorlabs S130C) and a germanium detector (Thorlabs S132C) for the second harmonic and pump beams, respectively. Figure 6(a) shows the relationship between the measured SH power at the waveguide output and the pump power at 1550 nm. In particular, an SH power of 17 nW was measured for a pump power of 2.3 mW. As expected from theory [Eq. (2)], the SH signal power increases quadratically with the pump power. Throughout the experiments, the waveguide exhibited no signs of damage, even at a maximum input pump power of 5 mW. The phase-matching response remained consistently stable and reproducible, independent of the pump power at this level. This stability was confirmed by three consecutive wavelength sweeps, each lasting 5 min. The conversion efficiency is then deduced using Eq. (2), where P_{pump} at the input of the nonlinear waveguide is deduced from the output pump measured by the NIR detector and corrected from four loss contributions: ×20 microscope objective (0.2 dB), Fresnel reflection (0.6 dB), propagation loss in the nonlinear section with the taper (0.61 dB), and in the 9 mm long Ti-indiffused waveguide (0.22 dB) giving a total loss of 1.63 dB. To deduce P_{SH} at the output of the nonlinear section, we corrected the power collected by the visible detector from an estimated total loss of 3 dB coming from the microscope objective, Fresnel reflection, propagation loss in the Ti-indiffused region, and in the rib waveguide with the taper transition, the latter being not optimized for the SH TE₀₀ mode.

The measured SHG conversion efficiency spectra are shown in Fig. 6(b) for five temperatures ranging from 70 to 95 °C along with the numerical simulations that take into account the exact geometry of the manufactured component. The experimental data closely matched the simulation results shown in Fig. 6(b). The two peaks on either side of the pump telecom band converged with temperature variation until they merged, forming a broadband response of 150 nm centered on 1480 nm. These results pave the way for a new generation of compact frequency converters with a wide pump tunability bandwidth. The qualitative behavior agrees remarkably well with the predicted one. At 70 °C, two separated bands centered at pump wavelengths of 1350 and 1650 nm are frequency doubled with a maximum conversion efficiency close to 50%/(W/cm²). As the temperature is raised, these two bands gradually shift closer to each other until they merge to give a broadband response centered at 1480 nm for a temperature of 95 °C. The obtained experimental phase-matching bandwidth is about 150 nm wide, spanning from 1400 to 1550 nm in the telecom band. The measurement also confirms that a tunability range as wide as 300 nm is achieved with a modest temperature variation of 25 °C. The main discrepancy between theory and experiment is the width of the different bands,

which are wider experimentally. Two hypotheses can be given to explain this behavior. It could be due to a nonuniform cross section of the waveguide along propagation or to the tapered areas of the waveguide. It should be noted that the measured temperature tunability range, which is already fifteen times broader than the PPLN type-0 configuration,²⁷ is only limited by the tunability of our laser source. According to the simulations, an expected pump tunability range of 500 nm is achievable with this component by lowering its temperature to 20 °C. Moreover, simulations show that the tunability could be further extended to a range of 900 nm using a waveguide with a cross section of 23 μm² for a 200 °C temperature scan.

IV. DISCUSSION

The demonstrated nonlinear waveguide unveils key characteristics of SHG. The most appealing one is its giant continuous thermal tunability from 1.3 to 1.7 μm, which comprises the two main windows of the telecom wavelengths with a single component. In addition, a 150 nm phase-matching broadband centered near 1500 nm is available at a chosen temperature, which opens numerous possibilities for applications, such as femtosecond laser frequency doubling or other wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) applications. At last, by selecting the proper cross section of the waveguide, any pump wavelength from 1.05 to 3 μm can be frequency doubled, thus further extending the potential of the disclosed waveguide structure. It should be noted that a broadband conversion could also be envisioned in a waveguide with a varying cross section along propagation by analogy to Ref. 28, where a thermal gradient along propagation was used. Furthermore, the monolithic LiNbO₃ architecture of the developed device has salient features. It combines standard waveguides with highly confined regions to obtain record low coupling losses of 0.8 dB to LiNbO₃ film-based waveguides. We emphasize that this fabrication method offers a versatile way to realize, out of a single LiNbO₃ wafer, a variety of LiNbO₃ films from few microns down to submicron thickness. It can thus be seen as an alternative to standard LNOI films, avoiding the technological steps of ion implantation, bonding, annealing, and polishing. The nonlinear SHG waveguide based on birefringence phase matching has the advantage of a poling-free configuration. The required LiNbO₃ layer thickness, around 2 μm, can not only be produced with the versatile technique of precision dicing but could also be extended to the bonding-polishing process.²⁹ A few centimeters long waveguides are then possible. Thanks to the quadratic dependence of the SH power with the length, overall conversion efficiency approaching 100% could be reached in cms long devices with a few hundred of mW pump power. This solution is feasible since the unveiled waveguide architecture relaxes the geometrical tolerances relative to the phase-matching conditions. The stringent geometrical tolerance is indeed a significant limitation for PPLNOI waveguides or requires complex solutions such as poling post-correction to adapt to thickness variations.³⁰ For instance, a thickness variation of 2.2 nm can result in a 50-fold decrease in SH emission for a 5 mm long PPLNOI waveguide.³¹ Our configuration allows a tolerance of 10 nm for the same waveguide length, which relaxes 5 times the tolerance manufacturing, which opens the possibility to benefit from improved global conversion efficiency.

422 V. CONCLUSION

423 To conclude, the unveiled SHG component opens new perspec- 471
 424 tives for implementing versatile and low-cost wide-band spectral 472
 425 applications. In particular, the record temperature tunability range 473
 426 and the broadband response at telecom wavelengths have foreseen
 427 significant advancements for WDM communications. At last, the
 428 tunable and flat dispersion properties of the waveguide could also
 429 be exploited for other configurations, such as sum and difference
 430 frequency generation to further extend its interest.

431 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

432 This work has been partially funded by the SYRAH-lab project
 433 (Contract No. "ANR-19- LCV2-0007-01") and the NanoFiLN
 434 project (Grant No. ANR-23-PEEL-0004), supported by the EIPHI
 435 Graduate school (Contract No. ANR-17-EURE-0002") and the
 436 French RENATECH network through its FEMTO-ST technological
 facility.

437 AUTHOR DECLARATIONS

438 Conflict of Interest

439 The authors have no conflicts to disclose.

440 Author Contributions

441 **Aïman Zinaoui:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal);
 442 Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal);
 443 Validation (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing –
 444 review & editing (equal). **Lucas Grosjean:** Conceptualization
 445 (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodol-
 446 ogy (equal); Visualization (equal). **Arthur De Sousa Lopes Moreira:**
 447 Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Resources (equal).
 448 **Miguel Angel Suarez:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation
 449 (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Method-
 450 ology (equal); Resources (equal); Validation (equal); Visualiza-
 451 tion (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Samuel Queste:**
 452 Conceptualization (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investiga-
 453 tion (equal); Methodology (equal); Resources (equal); Validation
 454 (equal); Visualization (equal). **Laurent Robert:** Conceptualization
 455 (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology
 456 (equal); Resources (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal).
 457 **Ludovic Gauthier-Manuel:** Conceptualization (equal); Formal anal-
 458 ysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Resources
 459 (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal). **Mathieu Chauvet:**
 460 Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis
 461 (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Investigation (equal); Method-
 462 ology (equal); Project administration (equal); Resources (equal);
 463 Supervision (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writ-
 464 ing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal).
 465 **Nadège Courjal:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal);
 466 Formal analysis (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Investiga-
 467 tion (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal);
 468 Resources (equal); Supervision (equal); Validation (equal); Visual-
 469 ization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review &
 470 editing (equal).

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available
 from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

REFERENCES

- 1 T. Inagaki, K. Inaba, T. Leleu, T. Honjo, T. Ikuta, K. Enbutsu, T. Umeki, R. Kasahara, K. Aihara, and H. Takesue, "Collective and synchronous dynamics of photonic spiking neurons," *Nat. Commun.* **12**, 2325 (2021). 475
- 2 A. Y. Hwang, H. S. Stokowski, T. Park, M. Jankowski, T. P. McKenna, C. Langrock, J. Mishra, V. Ansari, M. M. Fejer, and A. H. Safavi-Naeini, "Mid-infrared spectroscopy with a broadly tunable thin-film lithium niobate optical parametric oscillator," *Optica* **10**, 1535 (2023). 476
- 3 Z. Ma, J.-Y. Chen, Z. Li, C. Tang, Y. M. Sua, H. Fan, and Y.-P. Huang, "Ultrabright quantum photon sources on chip," *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, 263602 (2020). 477
- 4 X. Wang, X. Jiao, B. Wang, Y. Liu, X.-P. Xie, M.-Y. Zheng, Q. Zhang, and J.-W. Pan, "Quantum frequency conversion and single-photon detection with lithium niobate nanophotonic chips," *npj Quantum Inf.* **9**, 38 (2023). 478
- 5 C. Wang, C. Langrock, A. Marandi, M. Jankowski, M. Zhang, B. Desiatov, M. M. Fejer, and M. Lončar, "Ultrahigh-efficiency wavelength conversion in nanophotonic periodically poled lithium niobate waveguides," *Optica* **5**, 1438 (2018). 479
- 6 D. N. Nikogosian, *Nonlinear Optical Crystals: A Complete Survey* (Springer-Science, New York, 2005). 480
- 7 E. Hwang, N. Harper, R. Sekine, L. Ledezma, A. Marandi, and S. Cushing, "Tunable and efficient ultraviolet generation with periodically poled lithium niobate," *Opt. Lett.* **48**, 3917 (2023). 481
- 8 B. Desiatov, A. Shams-Ansari, M. Zhang, C. Wang, and M. Lončar, "Ultra-low-loss integrated visible photonics using thin-film lithium niobate," *Optica* **6**, 380 (2019). 482
- 9 K.-D. F. Büchter, H. Herrmann, C. Langrock, M. M. Fejer, and W. Sohler, "All-optical Ti:PPLN wavelength conversion modules for free-space optical transmission links in the mid-infrared," *Opt. Lett.* **34**, 470 (2009). 483
- 10 X. Wu, L. Zhang, Z. Hao, R. Zhang, R. Ma, F. Bo, G. Zhang, and J. Xu, "Broadband second-harmonic generation in step-chirped periodically poled lithium niobate waveguides," *Opt. Lett.* **47**, 1574 (2022). 484
- 11 M. Jankowski, J. Mishra, and M. M. Fejer, "Dispersion-engineered $\chi^{(2)}$ nanophotonics: A flexible tool for nonclassical light," *J. Phys. Photonics* **3**, 042005 (2021). 485
- 12 M. Jankowski, C. Langrock, B. Desiatov, A. Marandi, C. Wang, M. Zhang, C. R. Phillips, M. Lončar, and M. M. Fejer, "Ultrabroadband nonlinear optics in nanophotonic periodically poled lithium niobate waveguides," *Optica* **7**, 40 (2020). 486
- 13 J. Zhao, X. Li, T.-C. Hu, A. A. Sayem, H. Li, A. Tate, K. Kim, R. Kopf, P. Sanjari, M. Earnshaw, N. K. Fontaine, C. Wang, and A. Blanco-Redondo, "Unveiling the origins of quasi-phase matching spectral imperfections in thin-film lithium niobate frequency doublers," *APL Photonics* **8**, 126106 (2023). 487
- 14 Y. Zhang, H. Li, T. Ding, Y. Huang, L. Liang, X. Sun, Y. Tang, J. Wang, S. Liu, Y. Zheng, and X. Chen, "Scalable, fiber-compatible lithium-niobate-on-insulator micro-waveguides for efficient nonlinear photonics," *Optica* **10**, 688 (2023). 488
- 15 J. J. Chakkoria, R. A. Aoni, A. Dubey, G. Ren, T. G. Nguyen, A. Boes, S. K. Selvaraja, and A. Mitchell, "Efficient poling-free wavelength conversion in thin film lithium niobate harnessing bound states in the continuum," *Laser Photonics Rev.* **■**, 2301335 (2024). 489
- 16 X. Shi, S. S. Mohanraj, V. Dhyani, A. A. Baiju, S. Wang, J. Sun, L. Zhou, A. Paterova, V. Leong, and D. Zhu, "Efficient photon-pair generation in layer-poled lithium niobate nanophotonic waveguides," *Light: Sci. Appl.* **13**, 282 (2024); [arXiv:2405.10943](https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.10943) [physics.optics]. 490
- 17 T. Ding, Y. Tang, H. Li, S. Liu, J. Zhang, Y. Zheng, and X. Chen, "Noncritical birefringence phase-matched second harmonic generation in a lithium-niobate-on-insulator micro-waveguide for green light emission," *Opt. Lett.* **49**, 1121 (2024). 491

- 526 ¹⁸R. Luo, Y. He, H. Liang, M. Li, and Q. Lin, "Highly tunable efficient second-
527 harmonic generation in a lithium niobate nanophotonic waveguide," *Optica* **5**,
528 1006 (2018).
- 529 ¹⁹M. Mwangi, F. Behague, A. Coste, J. Safioui, M. Suarez, J. Byiringiro,
530 P. Lutz, C. Clévy, and N. Courjal, "In-situ phase control of a low-loss membrane-
531 based lithium-niobate polarisation-state modulator," *Opt. Continuum* **1**, 2513
(2022).
- 532 ²⁰D. E. Zelmon, D. L. Small, and D. Jundt, "Infrared corrected Sellmeier
533 coefficients for congruently grown lithium niobate and 5 mol.% magnesium
534 oxide-doped lithium niobate," *J. Opt. Soc. Am. B* **14**, 3319 (1997).
- 535 ²¹D. H. Jundt, "Temperature-dependent Sellmeier equation for the index of
536 refraction, n_e , in congruent lithium niobate," *Opt. Lett.* **22**, 1553 (1997).
- 537 ²²U. Schlarb and K. Betzler, "Refractive indices of lithium niobate as a function
538 of temperature, wavelength, and composition: A generalized fit," *Phys. Rev. B* **48**,
539 15613–15620 (1993).
- 540 ²³C. Lu, Y. Zhang, J. Qiu, Y. Tang, T. Ding, S. Liu, Y. Zheng, and X. Chen,
541 "Highly tunable birefringent phase-matched second-harmonic generation in an
542 angle-cut lithium niobate-on-insulator ridge waveguide," *Opt. Lett.* **47**, 1081
(2022).
- 543 ²⁴N. Courjal, A. Caspar, V. Calero, G. Ulliac, M. Suarez, C. Guyot, and
544 M.-P. Bernal, "Simple production of membrane-based LiNbO₃ micro-modulators
545 with integrated tapers," *Opt. Lett.* **41**, 5110 (2016).
- 546 ²⁵A. Gerthoffer, C. Guyot, W. Qiu, A. Ndao, M.-P. Bernal, and N. Courjal, "Strong
547 reduction of propagation losses in LiNbO₃ ridge waveguides," *Opt. Mater.* **38**,
548 37–41 (2014).
- 549 ²⁶A. Shams-Ansari, G. Huang, L. He, Z. Li, J. Holzgrafe, M. Jankowski,
550 M. Churaev, P. Kharel, R. Cheng, D. Zhu, N. Sinclair, B. Desiatov, M. Zhang,
551 T. J. Kippenberg, and M. Lončar, "Reduced material loss in thin-film lithium
552 niobate waveguides," *APL Photonics* **7**, 081301 (2022).
- 553 ²⁷M. Fejer, G. Magel, D. Jundt, and R. Byer, "Quasi-phase-matched second
554 harmonic generation: Tuning and tolerances," *IEEE J. Quantum Electron.* **28**,
555 2631–2654 (1992).
- 556 ²⁸Y. Tang, T. Ding, C. Lu, J. Qiu, Y. Zhang, Y. Huang, S. Liu, Y. Zheng, and
557 X. Chen, "Broadband second-harmonic generation in an angle-cut lithium
558 niobate-on-insulator waveguide by a temperature gradient," *Opt. Lett.* **48**, 1108
(2023).
- 559 ²⁹V. Pecheur, H. Porte, J. Hauden, F. Bassignot, M. Deroh, and M. Chauvet,
560 "Watt-level SHG in undoped high step-index PPLN ridge waveguides," *OSA
561 Continuum* **4**, 1404–1414 (2021).
- 562 ³⁰P.-K. Chen, I. Briggs, C. Cui, L. Zhang, M. Shah, and L. Fan, "Adapted poling to
563 break the nonlinear efficiency limit in nanophotonic lithium niobate waveguides,"
564 *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **19**, 44–50 (2024).
- 565 ³¹P. S. Kuo, "Noncritical phasematching behavior in thin-film lithium niobate
566 frequency converters," *Opt. Lett.* **47**, 54 (2022).