

Photonics Center, Laboratory for Photoacoustics, Institute of Physics, Belgrade, Serbia



# L3 – Photothermal techniques in material characterization

### Dragan D. Markushev

Laboratory for Photoacoustics Photonics Center Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Pregrevica 118, 11080 Belgrade-Zemun, SERBIA







Photothermal spectroscopy is a group of high sensitivity methods used to measure optical absorption and thermal characteristics of a sample.









The basis of photothermal spectroscopy is a *photo*-induced change in the *thermal* state of the sample.







Optical Excitation	
$\downarrow$	
Absorption	
$\downarrow$	
Excited State Relaxation	
$\downarrow$	
Temperature Change⇔ Density Change⇔ Pressure Change	
(Thermal Diffusion) (Acoustic Wave)	
↓	
Optical Probe $\Rightarrow$ Refractive Index Change $\Rightarrow$ Photothermal Signa	

Light energy absorbed and not lost by subsequent emission results in sample heating.









This heating results in a temperature change as well as changes in thermodynamic parameters of the sample which are related to temperature.







Ontical Excitation		
	↓	
Absorption		
	$\downarrow$	
Excited State Relaxation		
	$\downarrow$	
Temperature Change⇔ Density Change⇔ Pressure Change		
	(Thermal Diffusion) (Acoustic Wave)	
	$\downarrow$	
	Optical Probe $\Rightarrow$ Refractive Index Change $\Rightarrow$ Photothermal Signa	

Indirect measurement of the temperature, pressure, or density changes that occur due to optical absorption are ultimately the basis for the photothermal spectroscopic <u>methods</u>.







Optical Excitation	
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Excited State Relaxation	
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Temperature Change⇔ Density Change⇔ Pressure Cha	
(Thermal Diffusion)	(Acoustic Wave)
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$Optical Probe \Rightarrow Refractive Index Change \Rightarrow Photothermal Signa$	

Most of Photothermal spectroscopic methods are nondestructive, accurate, precise and reliable operating usually in real time.







Interferometry directly measures the refractive index. Deflection measures the gradient. Thermal lens spectroscopy is based on beam focusing or defocusing. Diffraction methods measure the power of a beam <u>diffracted</u> by the periodic index.









In photoacoustics modulation of the light impinging on an absorbing substance will produce a similar modulation in temperature through the photothermal effect. In a gas of restricted volume, temperature modulation produces a pressure modulation. The periodic pressure modulation is an acoustic signal.









### **Temperature Distributions in Semiconductors**





**Temperature Distributions in Semiconductors –** 

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#### Institute of Physics Belgrade, Pregrevica 118, 11080 Belgrade-Zemun, SERBIA **Temperature Distributions in Semiconductors –** at front (0) and back (*l*) $(x) = T_{\text{therm}}(x) + T_{\text{br}}(x) + T_{\text{sr}}(x)$ $10^{-2}$ Normalized amplitude, A (K) 10-3 10-2 10-2 10-4 10-2 10-2 10-2 10-10 N (K) 10-10 b) T(0)T(l)10<sup>-5</sup> --50 Phase, $\phi$ (deg) -150 10<sup>-11</sup> -T(0) $10^{2}$ $10^{3}$ 104 $10^{6}$ $10^{5}$ $10^{1}$ $10^{7}$ $10^{0}$ $T(l_s)$ *Modulation frequency, f* (Hz) -200- $10^{2}$ $10^{3}$ $10^{5}$ $10^{\circ}$ $10^{4}$ $10^{6}$ $10^{1}$ $10^{7}$ *Modulation frequency, f* (Hz) **Laboratory for Photoacoustics Photonics Center**



### **Photoacoustic Signal Generation in Semiconductors**





$$\delta p_{\rm TE}(f) = 3\pi \cdot \alpha \frac{\gamma_{\rm g} p_0}{V_0} \frac{R_s^4}{l^3} \int_0^l \left(x - \frac{l}{2}\right) \cdot T_s(x) dx$$



$$\delta p_{\rm PE}(f) = 3\pi \cdot d_n \frac{\gamma_{\rm g} p_0}{V_0} \frac{R_s^4}{l^3} \int_0^l \left(x - \frac{l}{2}\right) \cdot n(x) \mathrm{d}x$$



 $\delta p(f) = \delta p_{\rm TD}(f) + \delta p_{\rm TE}(f) + \delta p_{\rm PE}(f)$ 





### **Photoacoustic Signal Generation in Semiconductors**





## **Photoacoustic Signal Generation in Semiconductors**





## **Open photoacoustic cell technique: Measurement procedure – macro and microstructures**

a)

![](_page_18_Figure_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_18_Picture_4.jpeg)

b)

### Open photoacoustic cell technique: Measurement procedure – micro- and nano-structures

Si 30 mm one-layer system Si +TiO<sub>2</sub> two-layer system

![](_page_19_Figure_3.jpeg)