

**OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF PLASTIC SHEET WITH EMBEDDED  
VOLUMETRIC LASER ENCODING**

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It is important to improve methods for laser-marking and identification of physical objects. Earlier the volumetric laser marking of objects was developed [1]. The practical results and samples created with the different methods and approaches for volumetric laser marking and recording of digital information require rigorous analysis and interpretation. For successful accomplishment of this task an appropriate experimental protocol in corporation and equation section methods and measurement techniques are essential.

We present experimental measurement results obtained by multiple-angle-of-incidence, single-wavelength ellipsometry, employed for inspection of a transparent flat 2mm thick plastic sheet sample with embedded volumetric laser encoding.

The marking layer was formed in the bulk of the sample by recording a pattern of energy levels ( $J=7\mu\text{J}$ ,  $J=14\mu\text{J}$ , and  $J=22\mu\text{J}$ ) were established for the individual laser pulses and each pair of marks was created by double-pulse laser irradiation. The optical polarization parameters of the examined sample were evaluated using a laser ellipsometer with light wave length  $\lambda=632\text{ nm}$ . The ellipsometric parameters as the phase shift  $\Delta$  between the p- and s-components of the polarization vector and the azimuth  $\Psi$  of the restored linear polarization were obtained as dependencies on the light incidence angle  $\varphi$  (Figure 1).

The angular dependencies  $\Delta(\varphi)$  and  $\Psi(\varphi)$  are plotted in Figure 1 for a range of angular values bracketing the Brewster's angle ( $\varphi_B = 57.7^\circ$  as defined at  $\Delta=90^\circ$ ) denoted by vertical dashed lines. The value of  $\varphi_B$  turns out to be practically the same for the unmarked area (curve 1) and for the area marked by laser pulses with energy of  $J=22\mu\text{J}$  (curve 2). The position of the minimum of  $\Psi(\varphi)$  (Figure 1(b), curve 2) is slightly raised and shifted to the right of the Brewster's angle (dashed line) that is, to ward higher angles.

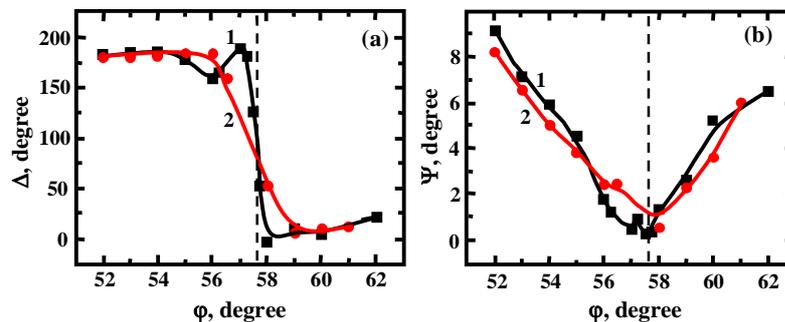


Figure 1: Angular dependences of the ellipsometric parameters  $\Delta$ (a) and  $\Psi$ (b) for the unmarked (initial) area of the plastic sheet (curve 1) and for the area with laser-induced marks (curve 2). Horizontal positions of the dashed vertical lines correspond to the value of Brewster's angle.

Observed in variability of Band only negligible changes in the angular dependence of  $\Psi$  constitute strong evidence that the laser-induced formation of small marks conducted within the scope of our experiment caused no significant global disturbance in respect to the total encoded area. The formation of local damages pots in a plastic sheet by employing laser pulses with different energies does not, therefore, change the state of the plastic matrix.

For characterization of the marked layer, a special slope phase field parameter  $\delta\phi_s$  can be used. The slope phase field is the range of light incidence angles  $\phi$  (at the abscissa axis) with in which the phase shift  $\Delta$ s harply changes from  $180^\circ$  to  $0^\circ$ . In our case,  $\delta\phi_s$  is analyzed where  $\cos\Delta$  sharply in creases' . e. from -0.9 to 0.9 (Figure 1(a)). As seen, the slope phase field value for the marked area irradiated with  $J=22\mu\text{J}$  (curve2) is larger than the  $\delta\phi_s$  for the unmarked area (curve1). The  $\delta\phi_s$  parameter can be employed for estimating average sizes and surface densities of laser-induced marks in encoding layers created in other experimental setup sand with different methods.

Keywords: volumetric laser encoding, ellipsometry, Brewster's angle

1. K.Kanev, V. Mizeikis, V. Gnatyuk. Localization encoding in the bulk of physical objects by laser-induced damage // Proceed. of the Joint Int. Conf. on Human-Centered Computer Environments, (8-13 Mar. 2012, Aizu-Wakamatsu ,Japan), 93-98 (2012).