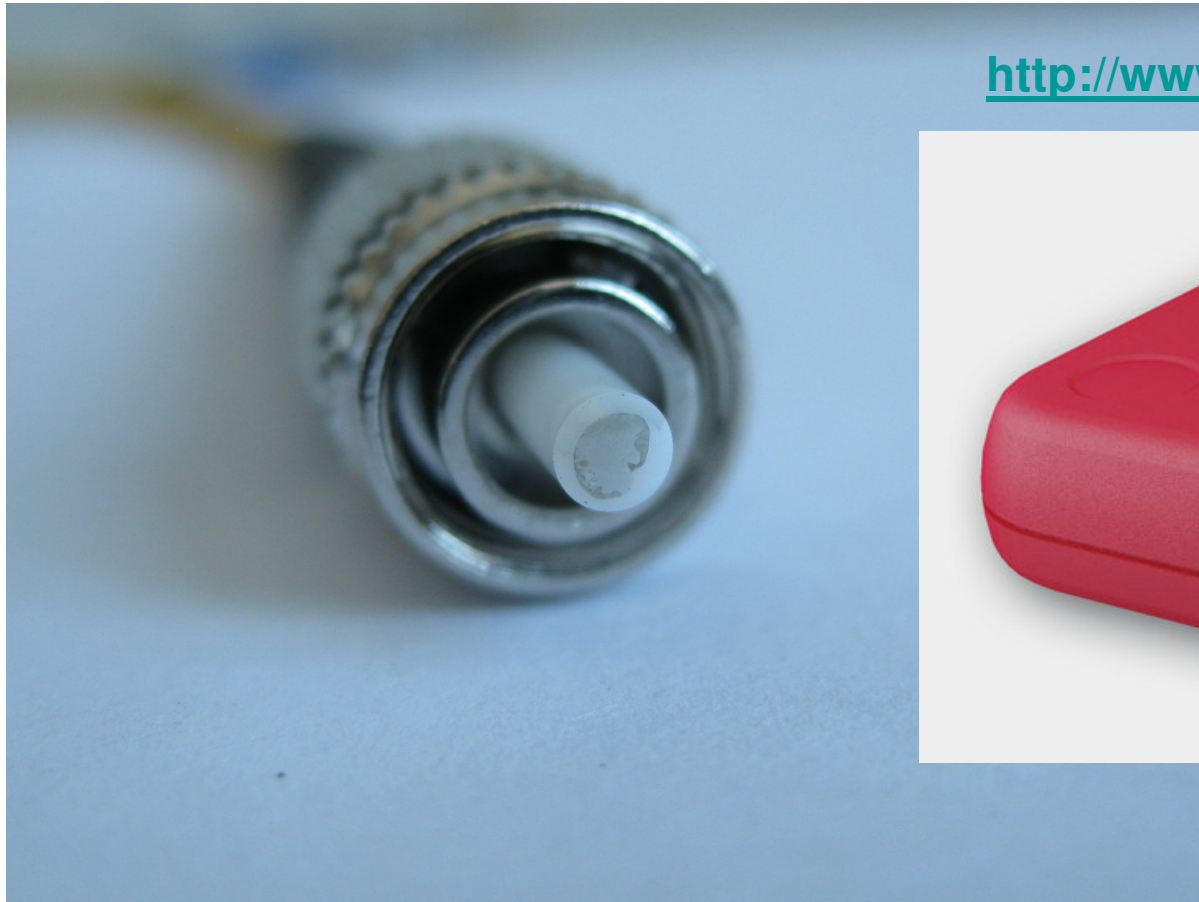


<http://www.gpi.ru/nanospectroscopy>



Graphene for laser applications

**E.D. Obraztsova¹, M.G. Rybin¹, A.V. Tausenev², V.A. Shotniev²,
V.R. Sorochenko¹, P.S. Rusakov¹, I.I. Kondrashov¹**

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**A.M. Prokhorov General Physics
Institute** of Russian Academy of
Sciences <http://www.gpi.ru>

GPI RAS is one of the
leading physics
institutes in Russia.

About **770 persons**
work there.





The Nobel Prize in Physics 1964

"for fundamental work in the field of quantum electronics, which has led to the construction of oscillators and amplifiers based on the maser-laser principle"



Charles Hard Townes

🏆 1/2 of the prize
USA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Cambridge, MA, USA

b. 1915



Nicolay Gennadiyevich Basov

🏆 1/4 of the prize
USSR

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute
Moscow, USSR

b. 1922
d. 2001



Aleksandr Mikhailovich Prokhorov

🏆 1/4 of the prize
USSR

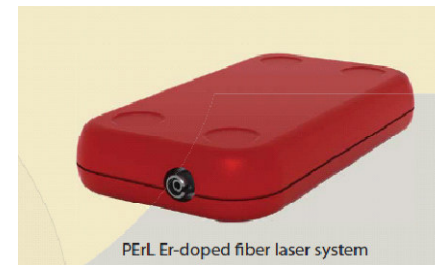
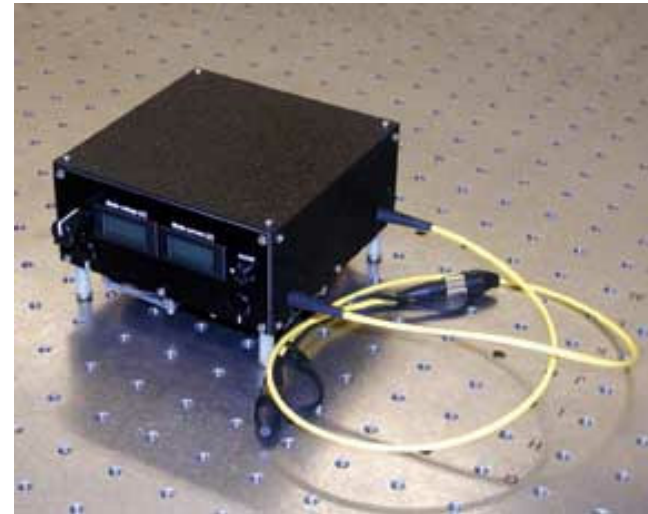
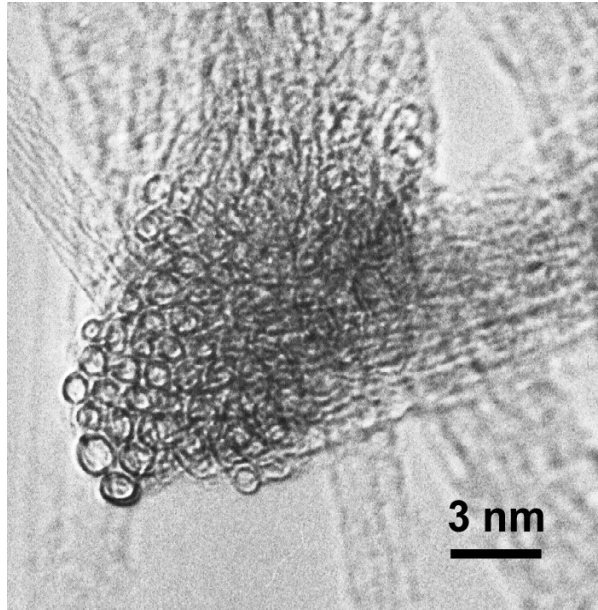
P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute
Moscow, USSR

b. 1916
d. 2002

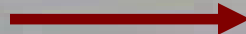
In Stockholm



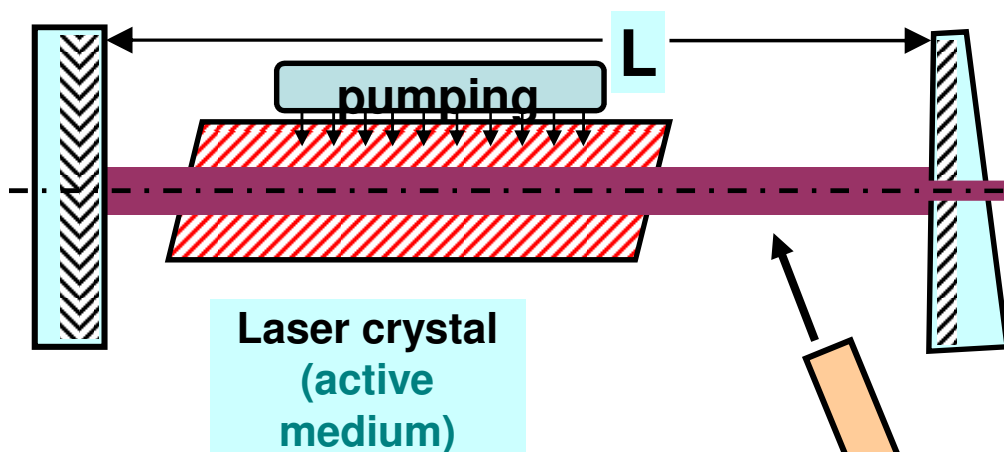
Our main task – formation of ultrafast non-linear optical elements based on carbon nanotubes for solid state lasers



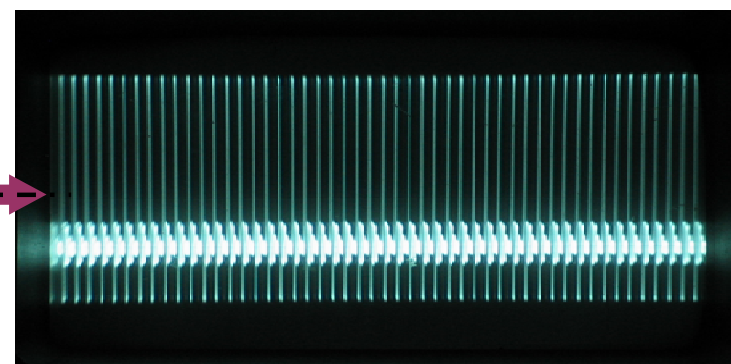
continuous wave laser radiation



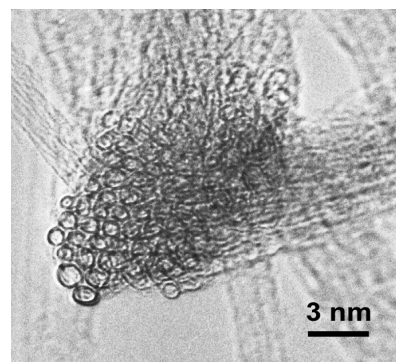
train of femtosecond pulses



**Output
radiation**

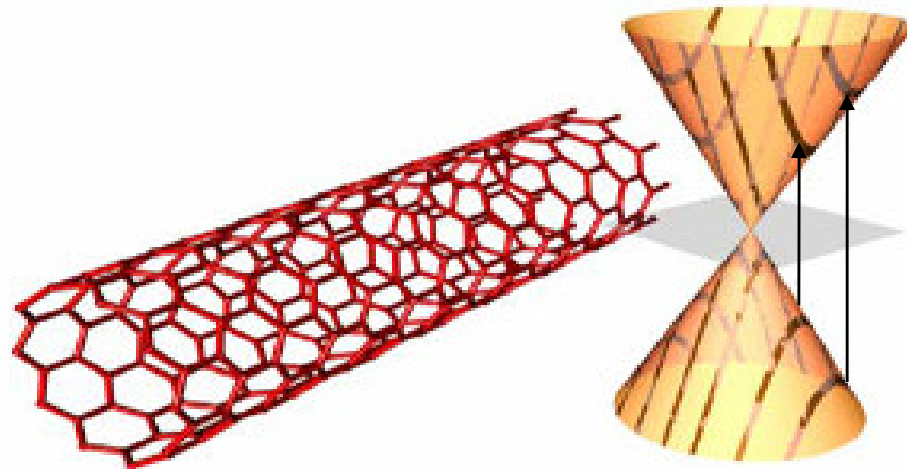


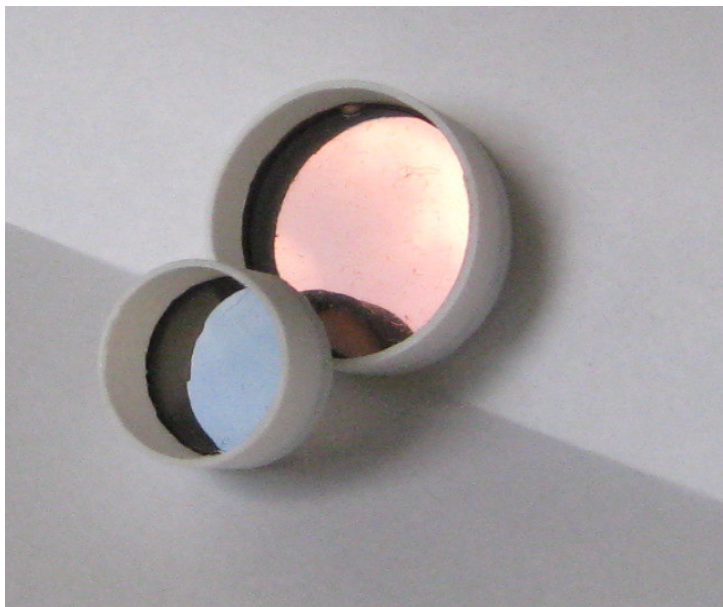
**Carbon
nanotubes or
graphene**



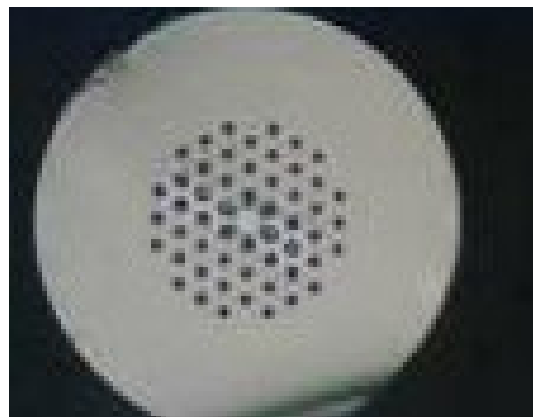
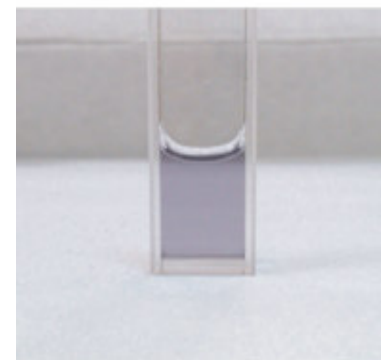
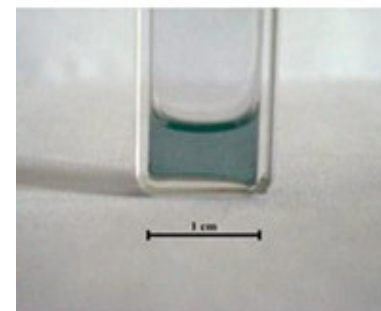
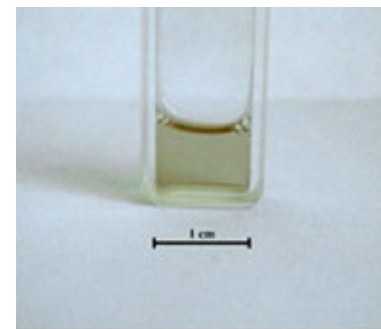


We have started from
single-wall carbon nanotubes



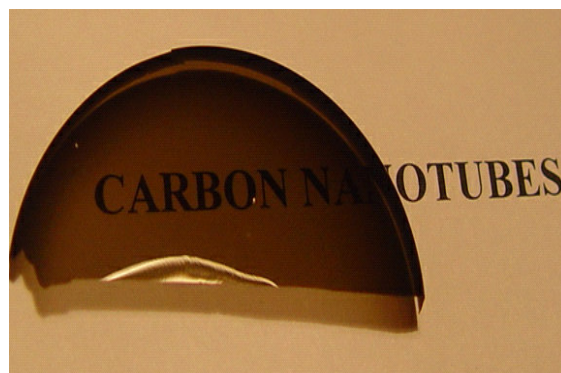
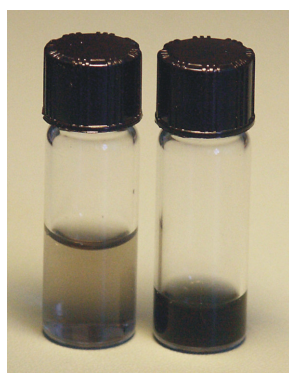


eminence.
evier Inc. All rights reserved.



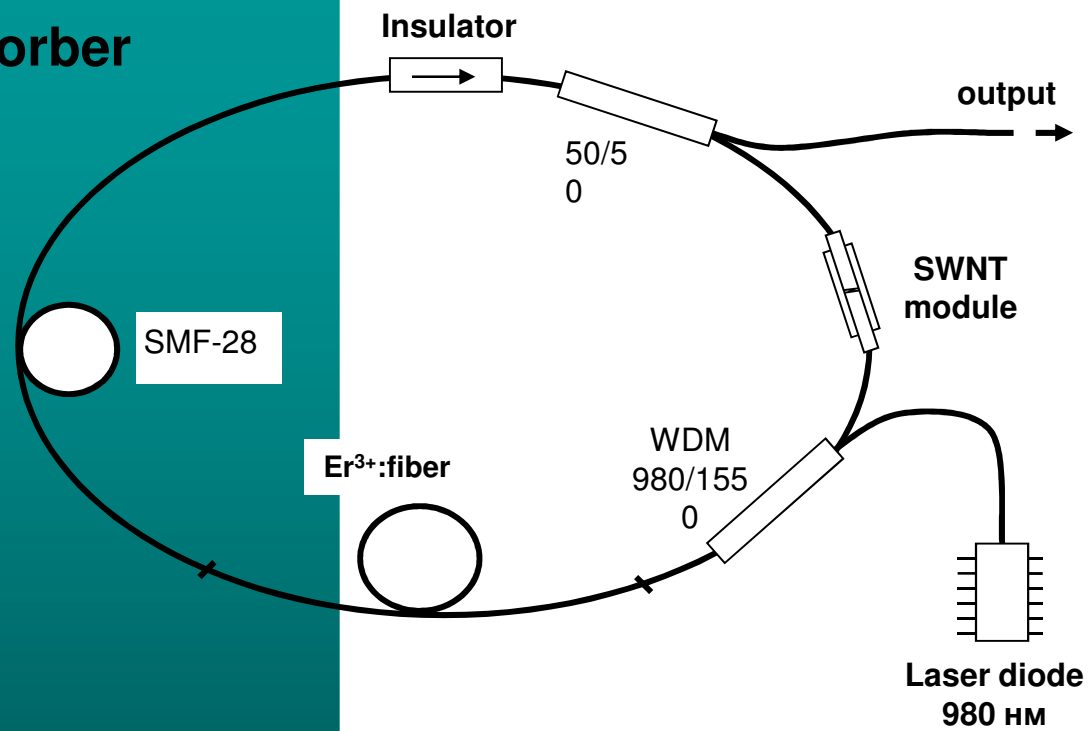
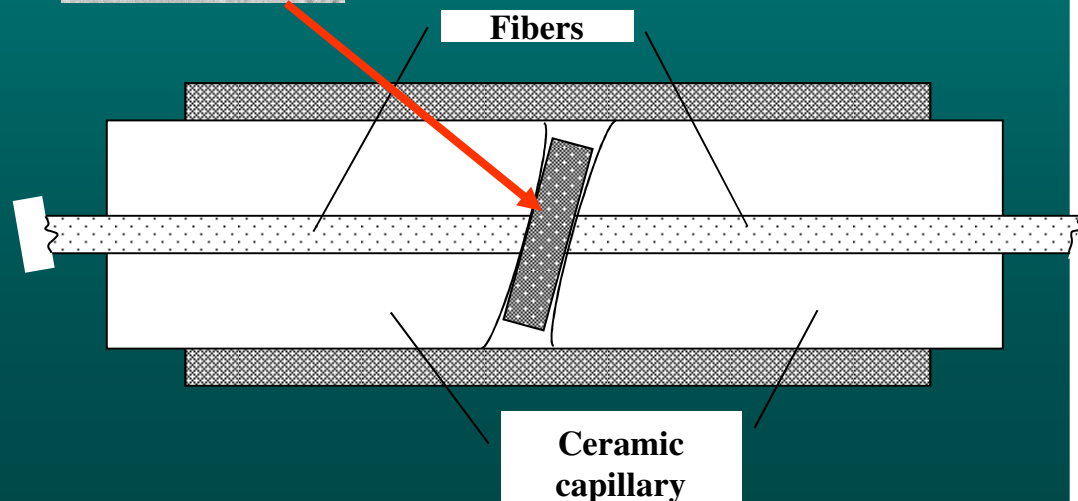
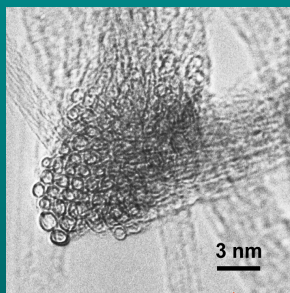
Our work

Different media based on single-wall carbon nanotubes
1.0-2.2 mkm) <http://www.gpi.ru/nanospectroscopy>



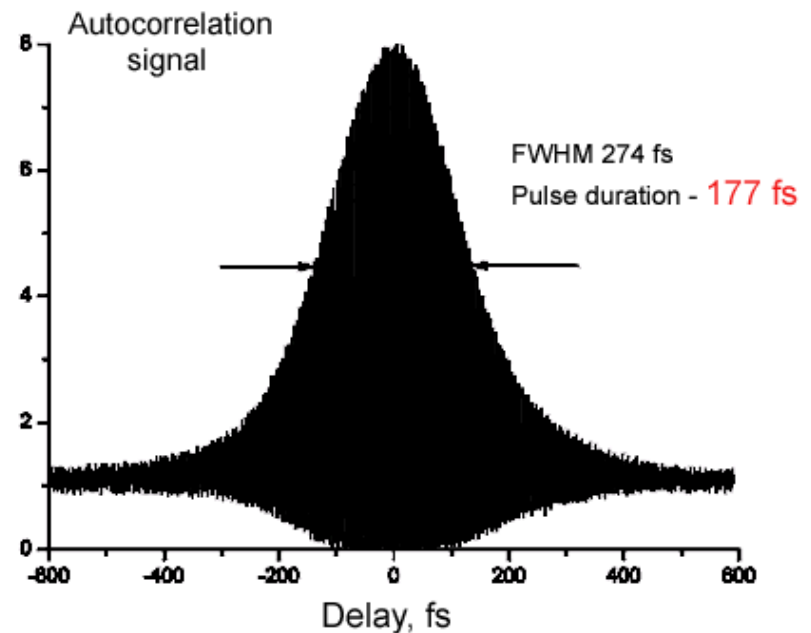
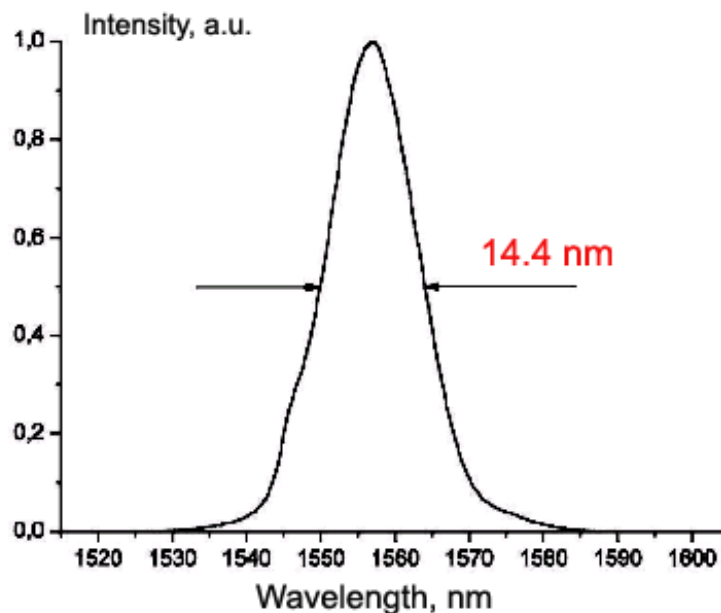
A scheme of Er^{3+} - fiber laser with a ring resonator containing a saturable absorber "arc SWNTs +PvA"

nanotubes



A.V. Tausenev, E.D. Obraztsova, A.S. Lobach et al., *Quantum Electronics* 37 (2007) 205-208.

The SWNT-based media is not a limiting factor for the pulse duration

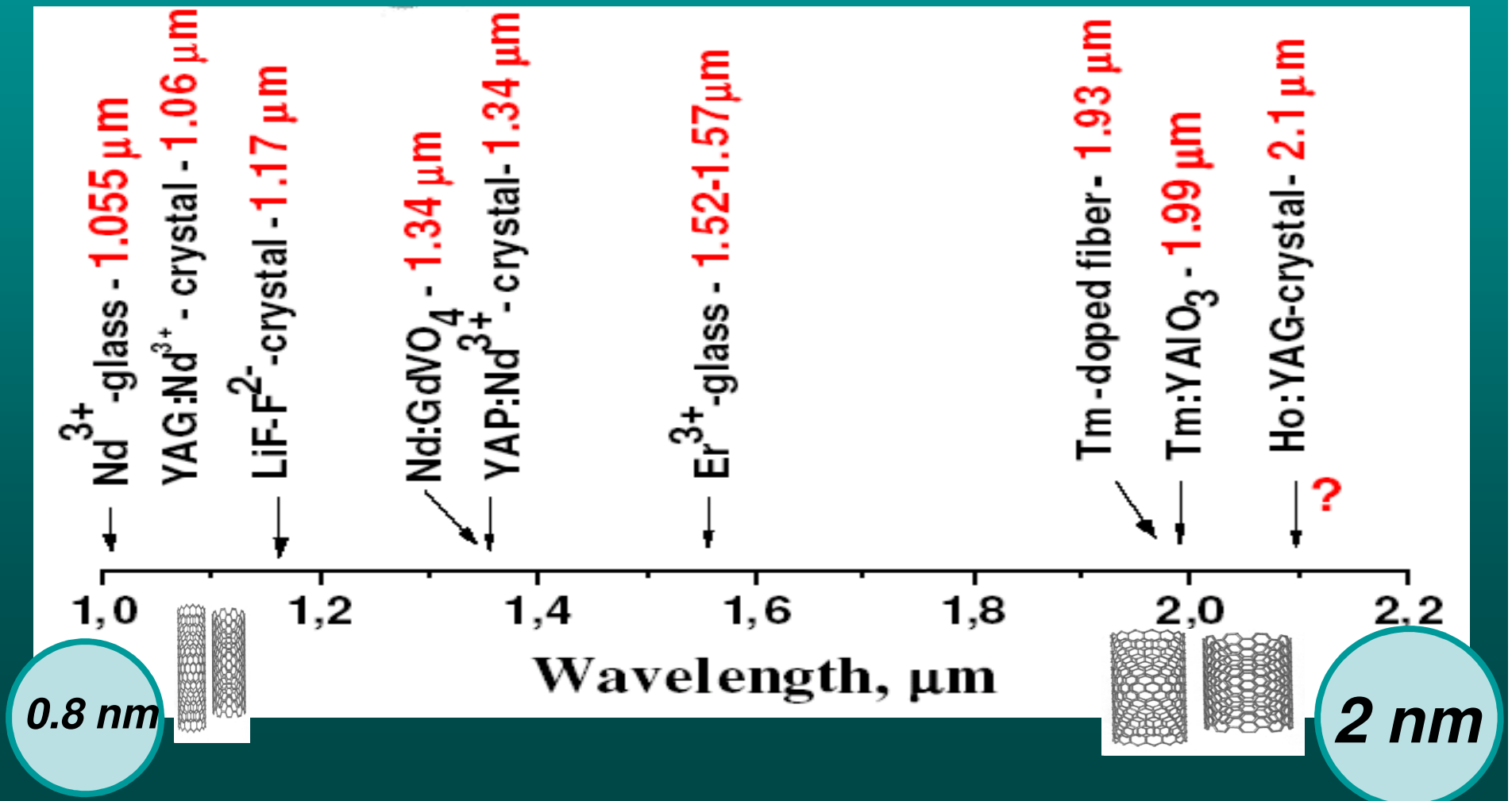


The pulse may be shorten via the resonator optimisation

A.V. Tausenev, E.D. Obraztsova et al., *APL* 92 (N18) (2008)171113

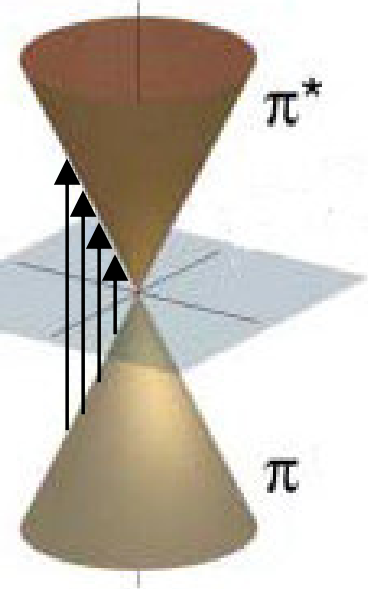
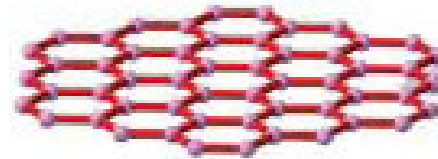
Since 2004

a mode-locking regime with the saturable absorbers based on CARBON NANOTUBES has been realized in a number of solid state lasers:



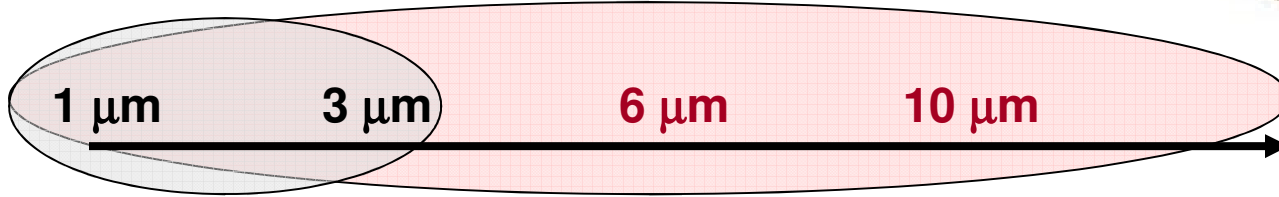


Graphene?

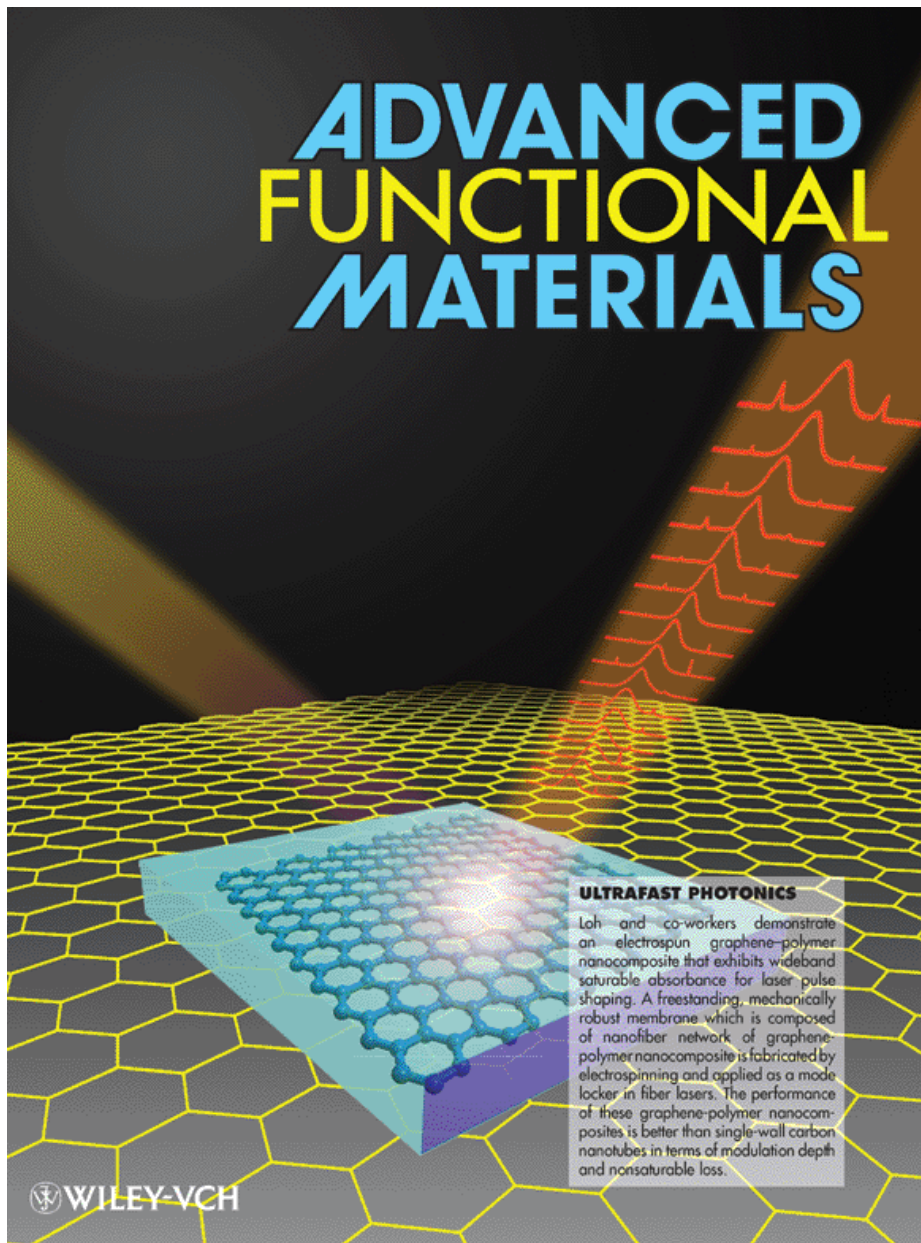


Nanotubes

graphene



Spectral range (μm)

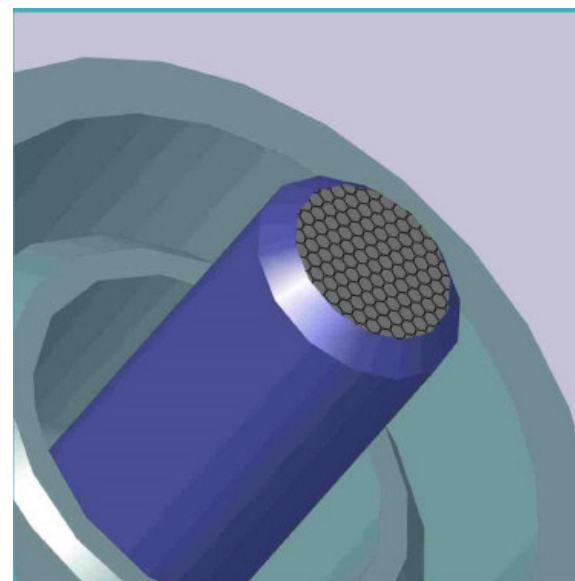


2009 – the first publications concerning mode locking with a **graphene saturable absorber**

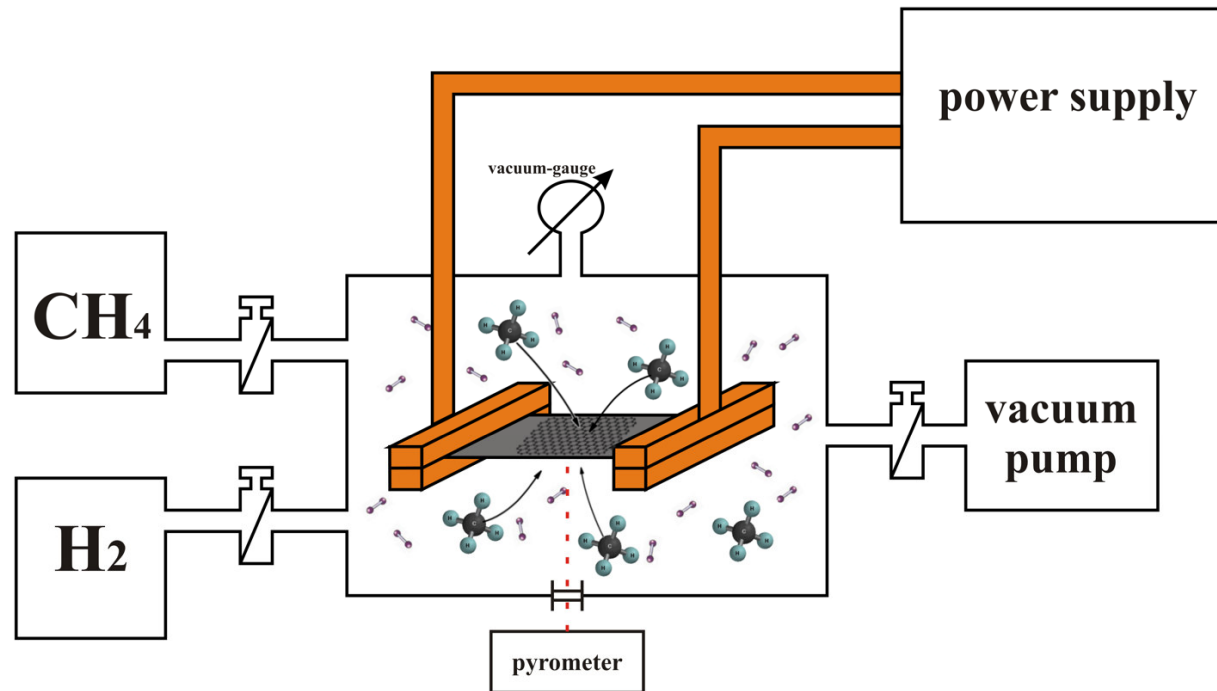
Q. Bao, H. Zhang et al. , Adv. Func. Materials 19 (2009) 3077.

T. Hasan, et al., Adv. Mater. 21 (2009) 3874.

<http://nanotechweb.org/cws/article/tech/41949>



A scheme of a home-made installation for CVD graphene synthesis

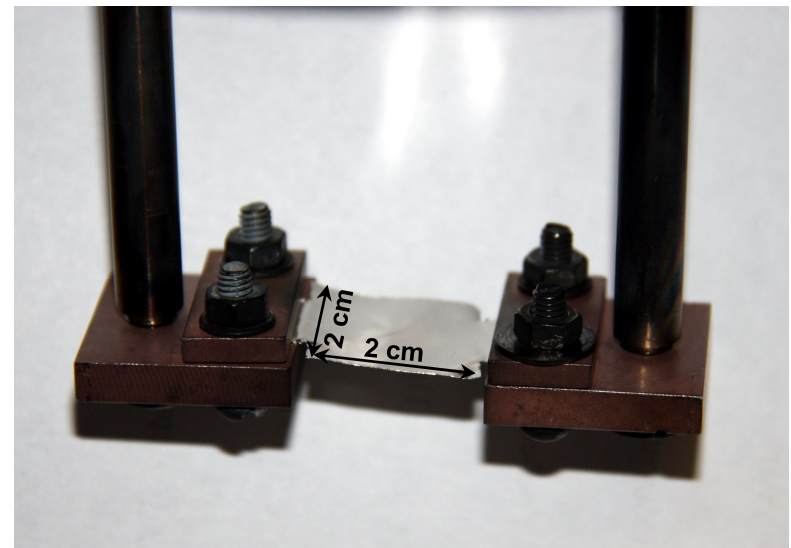
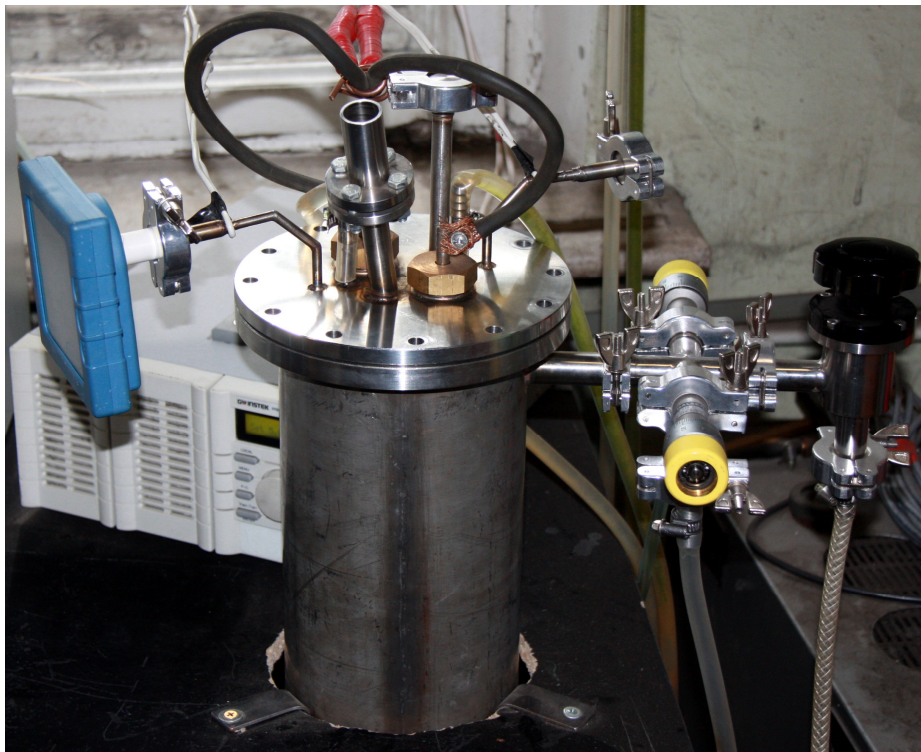


1. Pyrometer
2. An electric direct current source
3. Vacuum pump
4. Vacuum-gauge
5. CH₄ and H₂

The deposition temperature determines the number of layers!!!

Synthesis of graphene by CVD method

Home-made installation for chemical vapor deposition of graphene onto Ni foil heated by electrical current

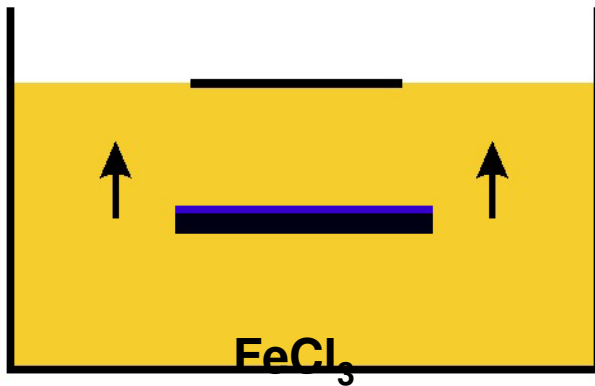


The nickel foil between two electrodes
The optimal size of the foil is **2x2 cm**

*M.G. Rybin, A.S. Pozharov and E.D. Obraztsova
“Control of number of graphene layers grown by chemical vapor deposition”,
Phys. Status Solidi C, 7 (2010) 2785-2788*

Etching of Ni in FeCl_3 and formation of a free-standing graphene film

Graphene on Ni



Graphene on the surface of FeCl_3 solution



Graphene on glass

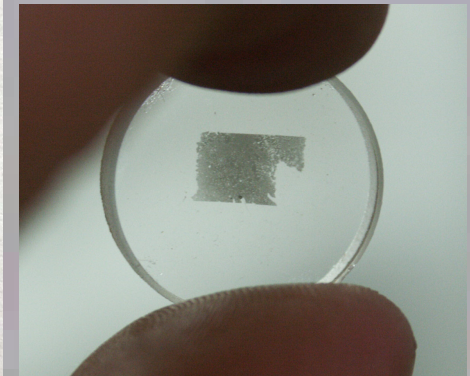
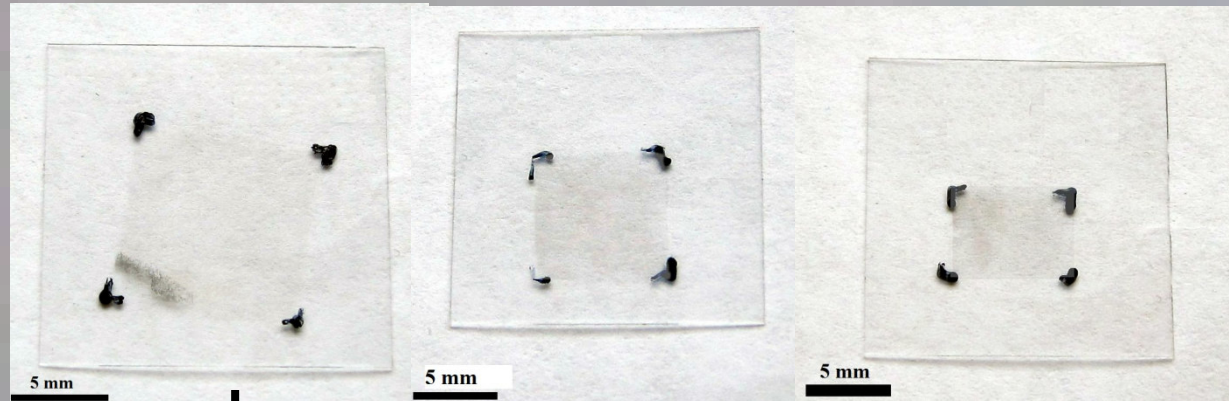


1 layer

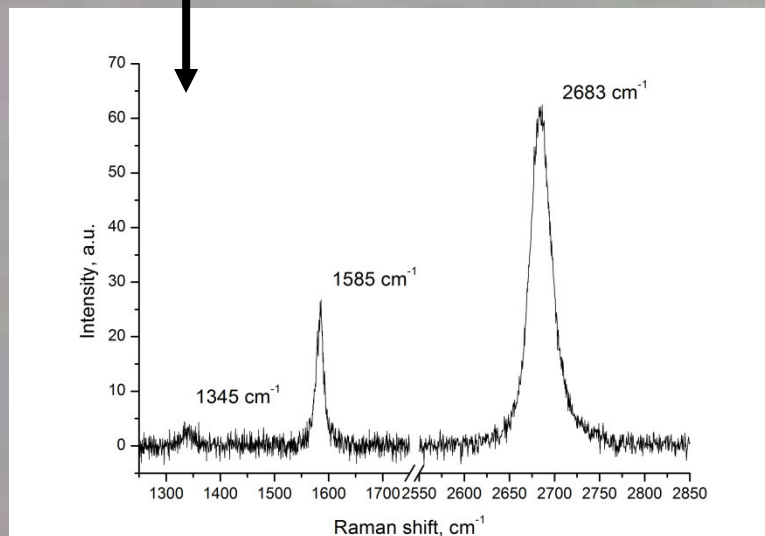
2 layers

3 layers

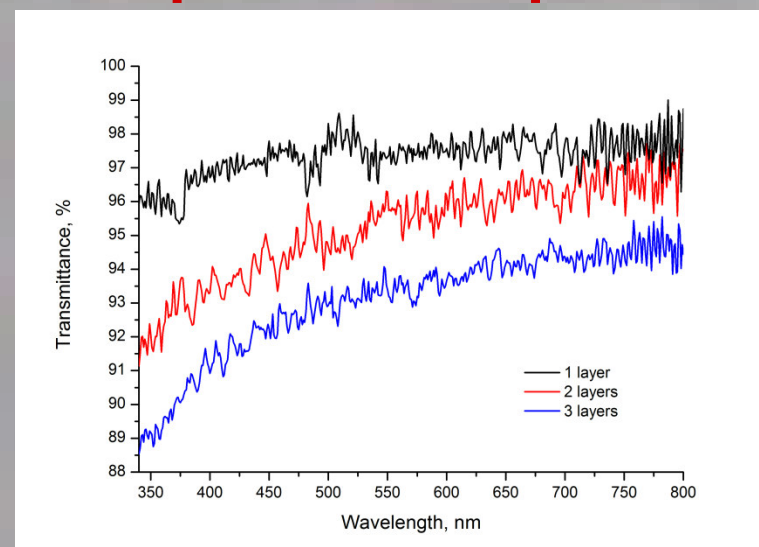
20 layers

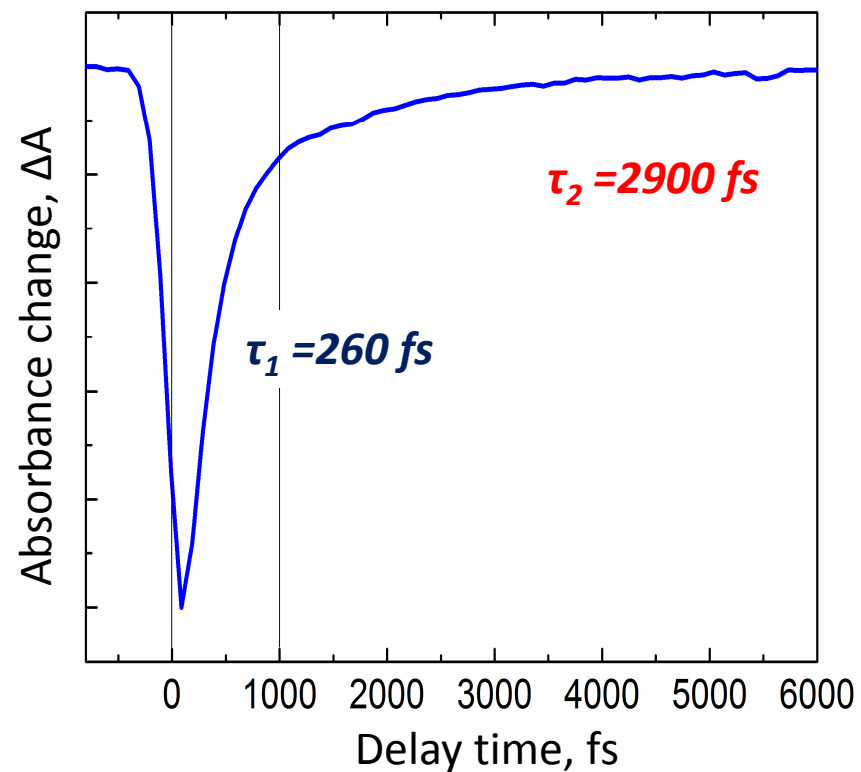
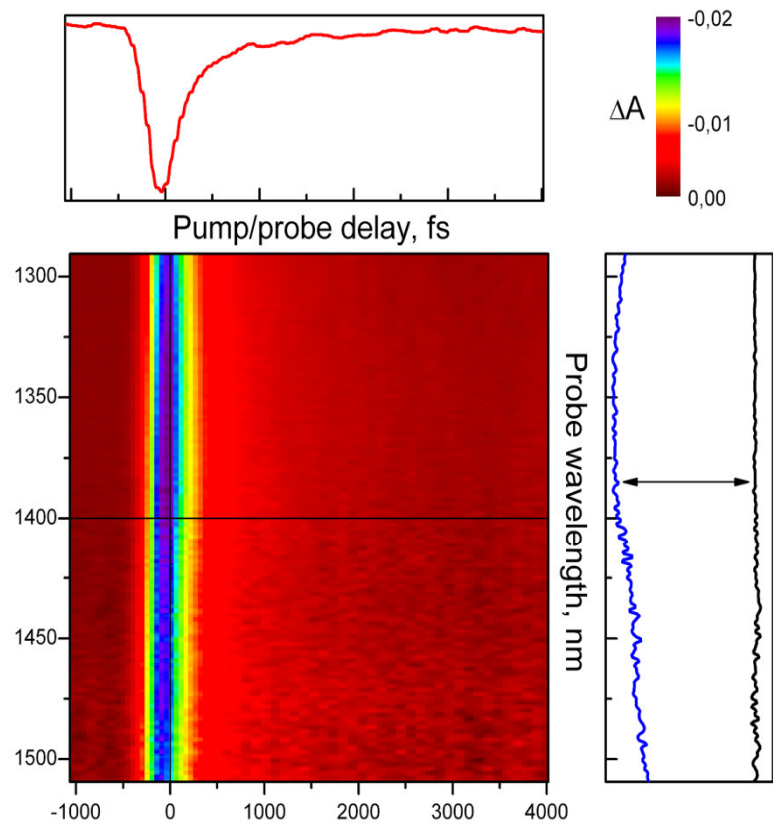


Raman



Optical absorption





P.A. Obraztsov et al.

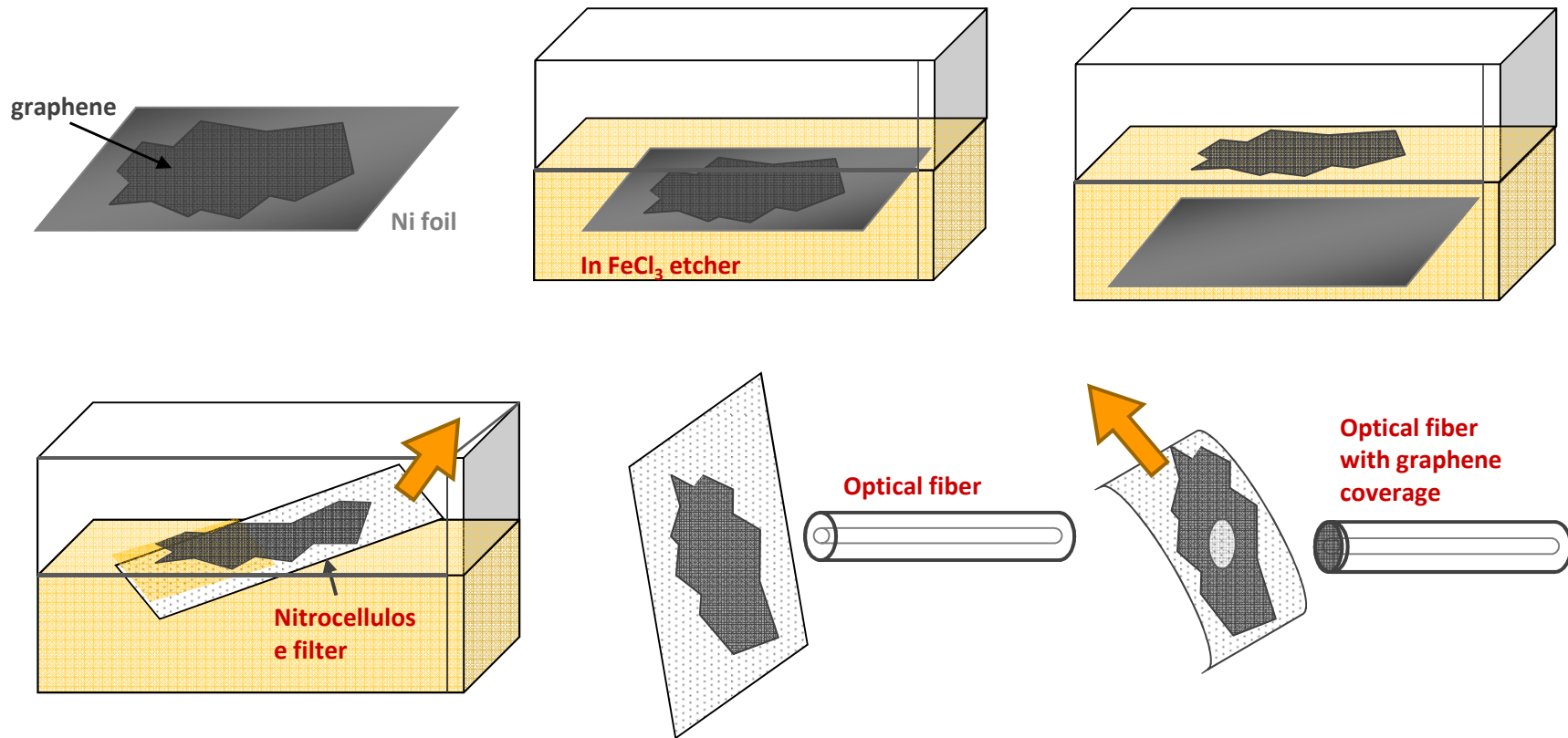
“Broadband Light-Induced Absorbance Change in Multilayer Graphene”,
NanoLetters 11 (2011)1540.



Mode locking with graphene

1. Er fiber laser (**1.55 μm**)
2. CO₂ bulk laser (**10 μm**)

Reprinting the graphene film on the cross section of optical fiber



1- graphene film on Ni

2 – Etching in FeCl₃

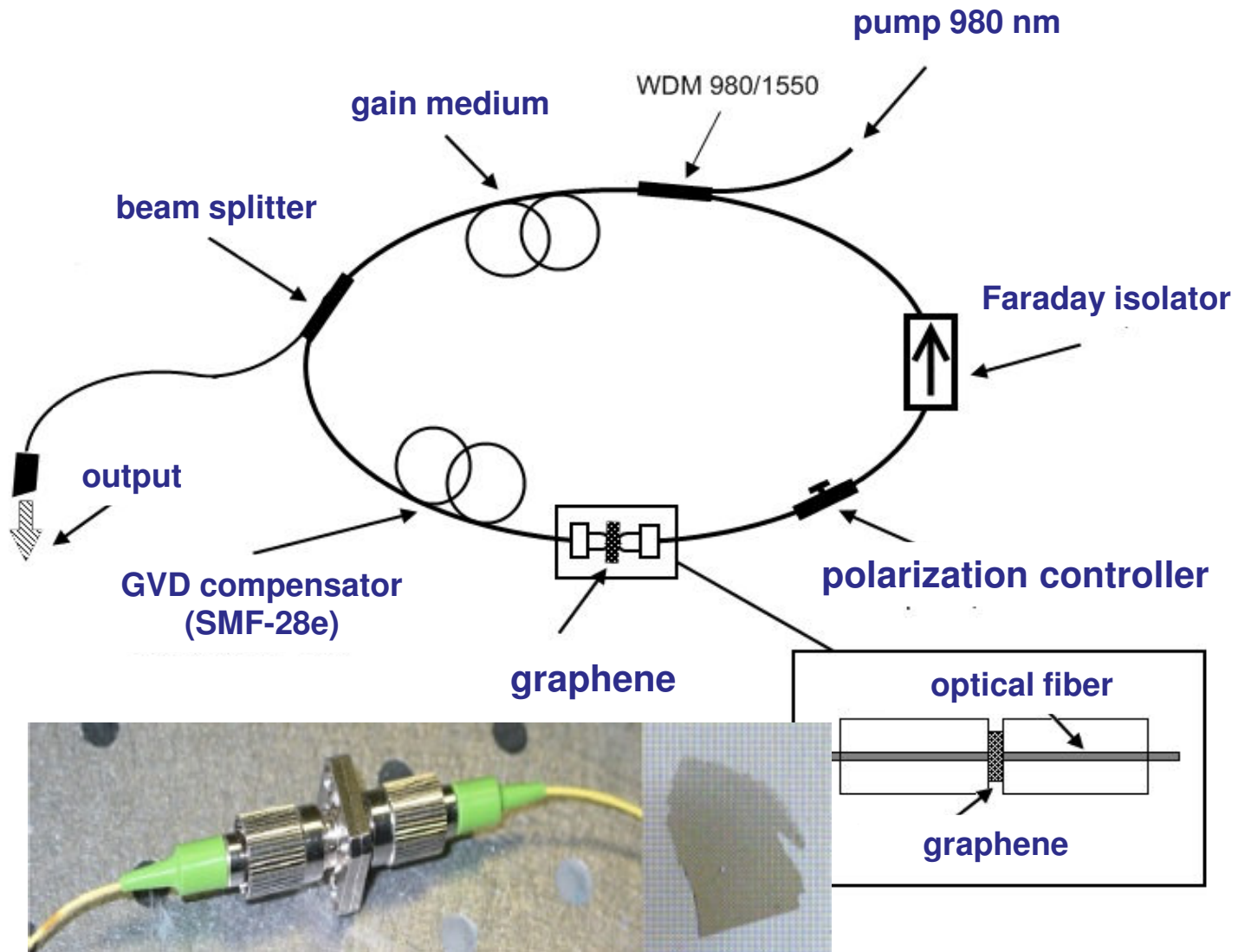
3- Separation of film and substrate

4 – Film fished out onto a nitrocellulose filter

5 – Pressing the filter to the fiber

6 – Graphene coverage onto the fiber cross-section

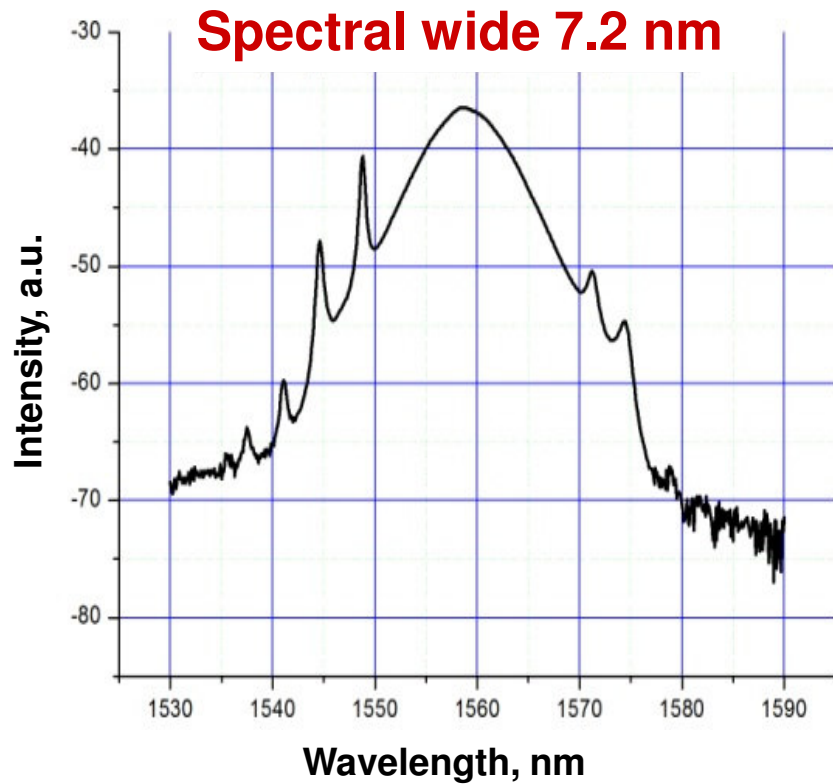
http://lem.onera.fr/download/lectures_graphene/Obraztsov/Obraztsova%20E_reduit.pdf
Cargese school on graphene (France), 2010.



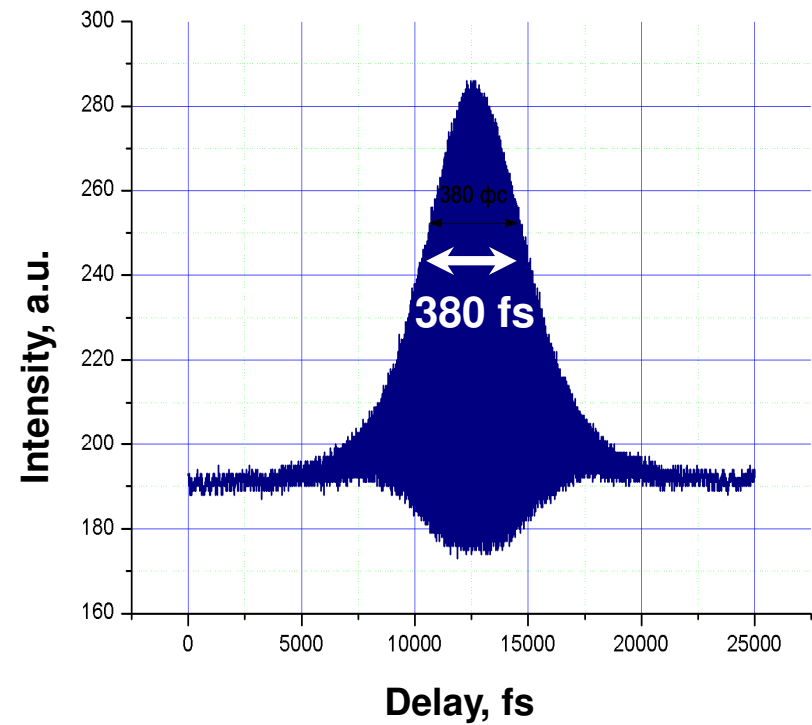
A scheme of Er fiber laser with a graphene saturable absorber

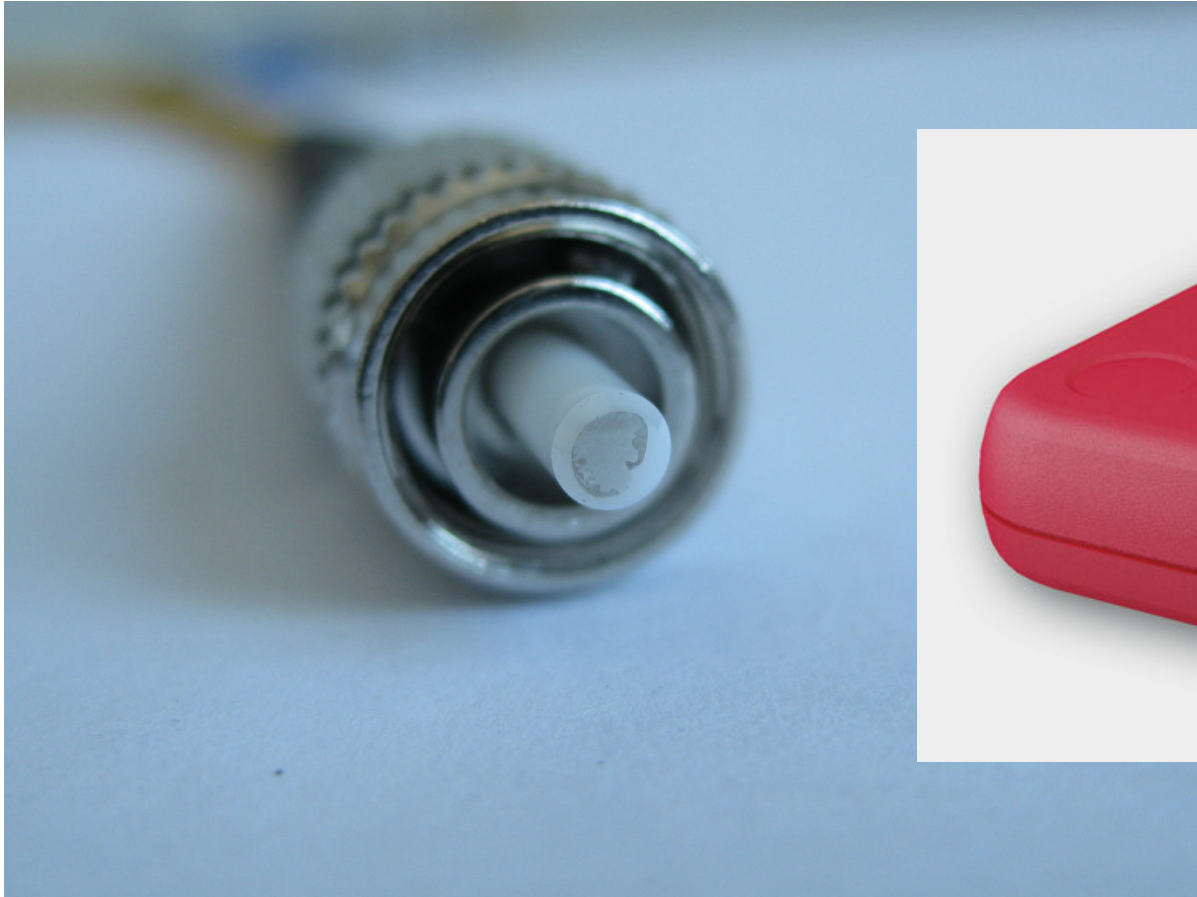
Generation of **380 fs** pulses with the **graphene saturable absorber**

Output spectrum



Output autocorrelation function





PErL Femtosecond OEM Er Fiber Laser

**PERL Femtosecond OEM Er
Fiber Laser** – the commercial
product

as result of the collaboration
between the laboratory and
the “**Avesta**” company



Laser specification

Available pulse duration (fixed), fs	250-5000
Wavelength, nm	1560±10
Average output power, mW	>50
Repetition rate, MHz	50
Output type	FC/APC fiber socket
Polarization extinction ratio, dB	not applicable
RF sync out	SMA connector (200-300 mV @ 50 ohm load)
Dimensions, mm	136 x 76 x 24 (27)
Power supply	+5 V

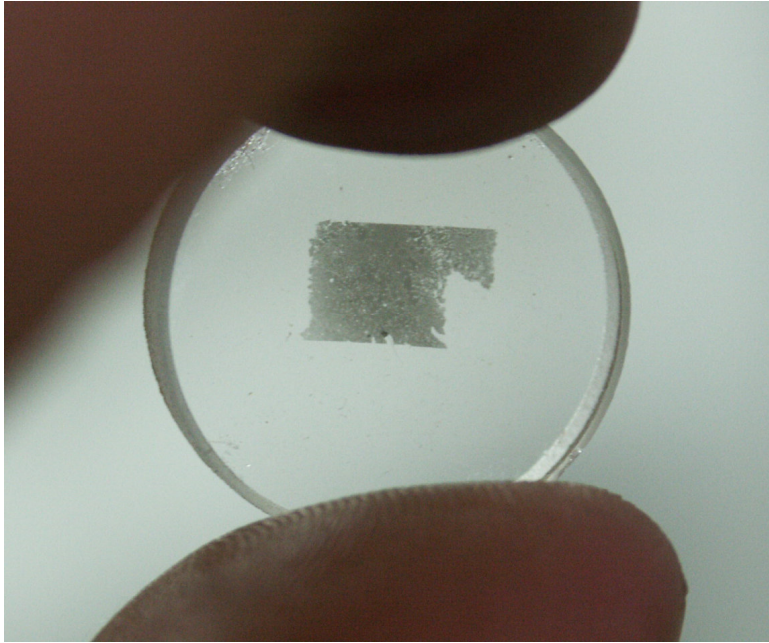
<http://www.avesta.ru>

A new spectral range



Graphene saturable absorbers
for semi-industrial **mid-IR CO**
and **CO₂** lasers

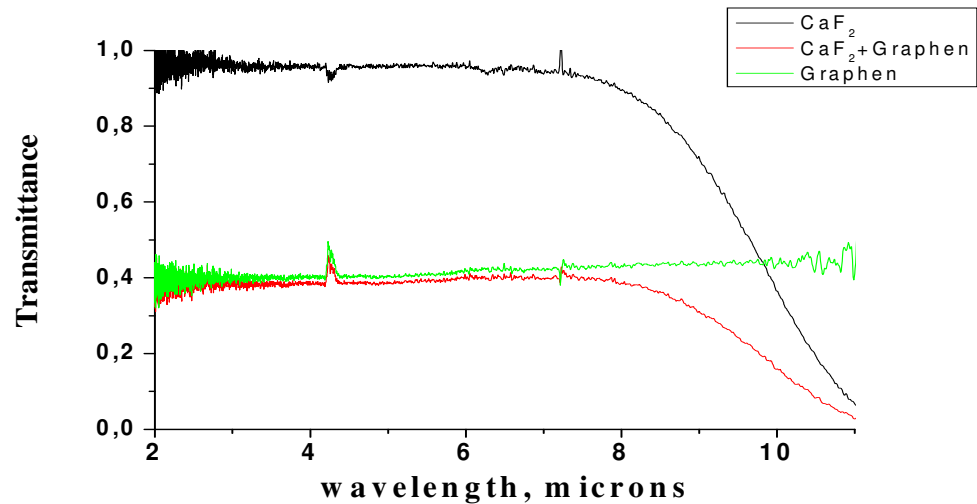
With Dr. Yu. Klimachev and Dr. V. Sorochenko



A 20-graphene layer saturable absorber deposited on CaF_2 for mode-locking in CO laser ($4.7\text{-}7.0\ \mu\text{m}$)

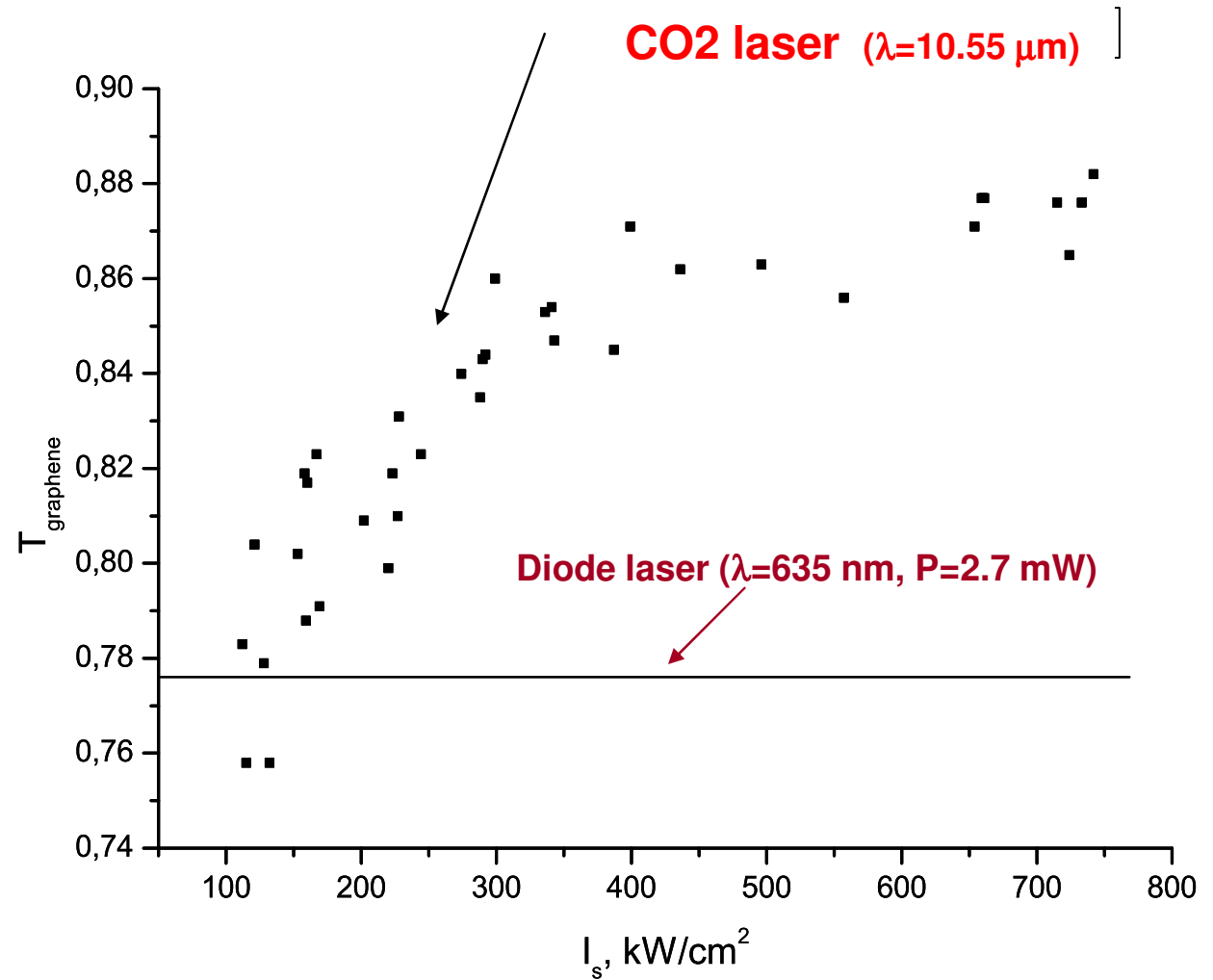
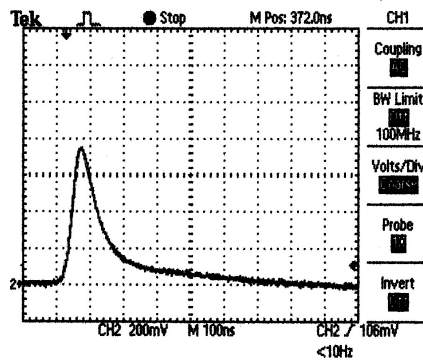
For CO₂ laser ($10\ \mu\text{m}$)

a BaF_2 substrate is used.



<https://webistem.com/bin/pdfview?dir=gnt2011&level=2&ref=121>
GNT-meeting, Dourdan (France) 2011.

Saturable absorption of a few layer graphene at wavelength 10.55 μm





Conclusion

Graphene has been demonstrated as a prospective material for a new family of ultrafast (sub-picosecond) and efficient saturable absorbers working in a spectral range 1-12 μm .

The work was supported by Russian research programs RFBR-10-02-00792 and “Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies”.