

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Electro-optic modulation in silicon	6
1.1.1	Plasma dispersion effect	7
1.1.2	Thermo-optic effect	9
1.1.3	Electro-optic effects	10
1.2	Structures for electro-optic modulation	11
1.2.1	Mach-Zehnder interferometers	12
1.2.2	Ring resonator	14
1.3	Strained silicon for electro-optic modulation	15
1.4	Other effects of strain in silicon	19
1.4.1	Theory of elasticity	19
1.4.2	Photoelastic effect	22
1.5	Objectives and outline for this thesis	22
2	CARRIER EFFECTS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE ELECTRO-OPTIC MEASUREMENTS IN STRAINED Si	25
2.1	The fabricated structures	27
2.2	The experimental setup	28
2.3	Electro-optic characterization	28
2.4	Soaking experiments	31
2.5	The influence of stress magnitude and stress type	34
2.6	The effect of a thermal annealing	36
2.7	Raman measurements	38
2.8	Second harmonic generation experiments	42
2.8.1	The experimental setup	43
2.8.2	Theoretical description	44
2.8.3	Design of the strained silicon waveguides	46
2.8.4	Experimental results	51

3	EXPLOITATION OF THE OBSERVED FEATURES: AN ELECTRO-OPTIC MEMORY	55
3.1	Non-volatile memory effect in silicon.	56
3.2	A non-volatile photonic memory based on a SAHAS configuration	58
3.2.1	Design of the charge trapping structure	59
3.2.2	Non-volatile photonic device	65
4	TOWARDS POCKELS EFFECT IN STRAINED SILICON	69
4.1	Theoretical models on Pockels effect in strained Silicon	70
4.1.1	Deformation potentials	75
Second-order susceptibility tensor based on perturbation theory	76	
The unstrained silicon unit cell	79	
Strained silicon and deformation potentials	81	
4.1.2	Bond orbital model	84
4.2	Enhancing Pockels effect in strained silicon waveguides	89
4.2.1	The index ellipsoid in strained silicon waveguides	89
4.2.2	The effect of a p-i-n junction	97
4.2.3	The effect of an asymmetric cladding	100
4.3	A $Si_{1-x}Ge_x$ slot approach for the mid-IR range	102
4.3.1	The Ge-SiGe-Si-Ge slot structure	103
Strain applied to the silicon layer	104	
Electric field strength inside the strained silicon layer	105	
4.3.2	The strain induced effective index change	106
5	CONCLUSIONS	110
5.1	Conclusions and future work	110
PUBLICATIONS		114
APPENDIX A		117
APPENDIX B		119
REFERENCES		120