## Abstract

Focused ion beam is a direct-write technique to make sub-micrometer structures in various materials. A finely focused beam (spotsize < 10nm) of Ga<sup>+</sup> ions in accelerated onto the target material, where it sputters atoms, implants Ga<sup>+</sup> ions, and damages the structure of the target material. Our goal is to make this technique into a versatile way of making sub-micrometer structures for photonic applications. One of the problems is the Gaussian profile of the focalized ion beam, because it makes it impossible to etch vertical sidewalls in a direct process. We have successfully addressed this problem in InP by utilizing an Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> hard mask, and demonstrated the fabrication of DBR mirrors and disk lasers with a two step etching process (see Figure). The etch process we use can generate nearly vertical sidewalls and high aspect ratio slits. The problem with the structures however, is the large optical losses generated by the ion implantation and crystal damage. We have found comparable high losses in shallowly etched gratings in SOI waveguides. We are currently looking into these problems.

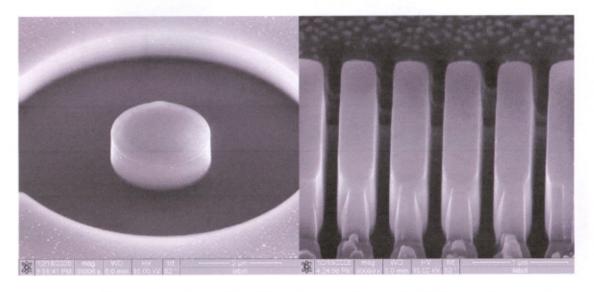


Figure: A ring resonator with diameter 2 microns in InP membrane on Silica, and a DBR mirror with slits < 200nm in an InP ridge waveguide.

The problem with both structures is the large optical losses.

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