Advances in Microwave Photonic Systems

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Outline

- Recent research activities in MWP
- Microwave signal generation
- Microwave signal processing
- Radio over fiber based on coherent detection
- Microwave photonics for sensing
- Conclusion



Recent activities in MWP

Integrated MWP

- 1. Silicon on Insulator (SOI)
- Optoelectronic oscillator (OEO)
- MWP filters
- Programmable signal processors

2. Silicon Nitride

- True time delay (TTD) beamforming
- Optical comb for RF generation

3. InP

- Monolithically integrated microwave photonic systems
- Programmable signal processors
- 4. InP+SiO+SiN
- Heterogenous integration (system on chip)

MWP systems

1. Microwave signal generation

- Parity time (PT) symmetric OEO
- Fourier domain mode locked OEO
- Photonic integrated OEO

2. Microwave signal processing

- MWP filters (incoherent and coherent MWP filters))
- Photonic integrated MWP filters
- 3. Radio over fiber (transmission)
- Radio over fiber based on coherent detection
- **4. MWP for sensing** (optical → microwave domain with higher speed and higher resolution)
- MWP sensor based on SS-WTT mapping
- OEO based high resolution sensor

D. Marpaung, J. P. Yao, and J. Capmany, "Integrated microwave photonics," Nature Photon., vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 80-90, Feb. 2019.



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Microwave signal generation



The output of two beat signals applied to a photodetector:

$$I = \Re P = \Re \left[E_1(t) + E_2(t) \right]^2 = \Re P_1 + \Re P_2 + 2\Re \sqrt{P_1 P_2} \cos \left[2\pi \left(f_1 - f_2 \right) t + \left(\phi_1 - \phi_2 \right) \right]^2 \right]$$

where E1 (t) and E2 (t) are two optical inputs.

$$f_{RF} = f_1 - f_2$$
 is the RF frequency.

At 1550 nm, 0.8 nm→100 GHz

J. P. Yao, "Photonics for Ultrawideband communications," *IEEE Microwav. Mag.*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 82-95, Jun. 2009.



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Microwave generation







J. P. Yao, "Photonics for Ultrawideband communications," *IEEE Microwav. Mag.*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 82-95, Jun. 2009.



- **1. Dual-frequency laser source**
- 2. Phase locked loop
- 3. Injection locking
- 4. External modulation

5. Optoelectronic oscillation



Opto-electronic oscillator (OEO)



X. S. Yao and L. Maleki, vol. 32, no. 7, pp. 1141-1149, July 1996.



OEO – Mode Selection



- Longer loop → closely spaced modes → Multi-mode oscillation.
- Solutions:
- 1) Shorter loop length (but higher phase noise)
- 2) Dual or multiple loops (Vernier effect) to extend the effective FSR, but complicated system
- 3) Parity-Time (PT) Symmetry

Gain difference between main mode and sidemode



Fig. 2. Gain difference enhancement with PT symmetry. The gain difference between the oscillating mode and the secondary mode within a regular single-loop OEO (blue) and a PT-symmetric OEO (red) is illustrated for comparison.

J. Zhang and J. P. Yao Sci. Adv., vol. 4, no. 6, Jun. 2018.



Parity time symmetry

Coupled mode equations in the two cavities:

$$\frac{da_n}{dt} = -i\omega_n a_n + i\kappa b_n + \gamma_{a_n} a_n$$
(S1)
$$\frac{db_n}{dt} = -i\omega_n b_n + i\kappa a_n + \gamma_{b_n} b_n$$
(S2)

Solving (S1) and (S2), we can get the **eigenfrequencies** of the PT symmetric system:

$$\omega_n^{(1,2)} = \omega_n + i \frac{\gamma_{a_n} + \gamma_{b_n}}{2} \pm \sqrt{\kappa_n^2 - \left(\frac{\gamma_{a_n} - \gamma_{b_n}}{2}\right)^2}$$
(S3)

 $\omega_0^{(1,2)} = \omega_0 \pm j\delta \Longrightarrow e^{j(\omega_0 \pm j\delta)t} = e^{j\omega_0 t} e^{\mp \delta t}$

growing and decaying

When PT symmetry is satisfied, $\gamma_{a_0} = -\gamma_{b_0} = \gamma_0$, (S3) can be written as

$$\omega_0^{(1,2)} = \omega_0 \pm \sqrt{\kappa_0^2 - \gamma_0^2}$$

PT symmetry is broken

Once the gain or loss exceeds the coupling coefficient ($\gamma o > \kappa o$), there will be a conjugate pair of modes \rightarrow growing (oscillation) and decaying (PT symmetry is broken)



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OPTICS

Parity-time-symmetric optoelectronic oscillator

Jiejun Zhang and Jianping Yao*





Space



The key importance of the concept is that it enables the implementation of an OEO for singlefrequency and ultra-low phase noise microwave generation without the need of an ultra-narrow optical or microwave filter.

J. Zhang and J. P. Yao Sci. Adv., vol. 4, no. 6, Jun. 2018.





Phase noise measurement

J. Zhang and J. P. Yao Sci. Adv., vol. 4, no. 6, Jun. 2018.



ARTICLE

Open Access

Observation of parity-time symmetry in microwave photonics







Y. Liu, T. Hao, W. Li, et al. Light Sci Appl 7, 38 (2018)





ARTICLE

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-16705-8

Parity-time symmetry in wavelength space within a single spatial resonator

Jiejun Zhang^{1⊠}, Lingzhi Li¹, Guangying Wang¹, Xinhuan Feng¹, Bai-Ou Guan¹ & Jianping Yao _{1,2} [∞]

OPEN



J. Zhang et al. Nat. Comm. 11, Article number: 3217 (2020)



PT symmetry in wavelength space



1) Two wavelengths, corresponding to the gain and loss loops

2) Gain and loss are controlled by tuning the polarization controllers



Experimental results





Phase noise: -129.3 dBc/Hz at an offset frequency of 10 kHz with sidemodes lower than -66.22 dBc/Hz with a 9.1-km loop length.

a) (no PT symmetry) Zoom-in view of the multimode spectrum showing multiple modes with comparable amplitudes

(With PT symmetry) Single-mode oscillation spectra measured with RBWs of **b**) 3 MHz, **c**) 100 kHz and **d**) 9 Hz. The spectrum in (c) shows a dominating mode with a sidemode suppression ration of 46.75 dB.



OEwaves OEOs



L. Maleki, Nat. Photonics 5(12), 728-730 (2011).



Silicon Photonic Integrated Optoelectronic Oscillator for Frequency-Tunable Microwave Generation

Weifeng Zhang, Member, IEEE, and Jianping Yao[®], Fellow, IEEE, Fellow, OSA



W. Zhang and J. P. Yao, *J. Lightw. Technol.*, vol. 36, no. 19, pp. 4655-4663, Oct. 2018. (MWP special issue 2018)





W. Zhang and J. P. Yao, *J. Lightw. Technol.*, vol. 36, no. 19, pp. 4655-4663, Oct. 2018. (MWP special issue 2018)





Breaking the limitation of mode building time in an optoelectronic oscillator

Tengfei Hao^{1,2}, Qizhuang Cen³, Yitang Dai³, Jian Tang^{1,2}, Wei Li^{1,2}, Jianping Yao ⁴, Ninghua Zhu^{1,2} & Ming Li ^{1,2}

- A regular frequency-tunable OEO → poor phase noise performance → need of building time when tuned from one mode to another mode.
- A Fourier-domain mode locked OEO → all modes co-exist in the cavity → each time only one mode is selected → no building time problem.

T. Hao, Q. Cen, Y. Dai, J. Tang, W. Li, J. P. Yao, N. Zhu, and M. Li, *Nature Comm.*, vol. 9, 1839, May 2018.



FDML OEO for chirped microwave waveform generation

Synchronized tuning Troundtrip = $n \times T$ filter drive FDML optoelectronics oscillator Optoelectronics oscillator b а Output Output Gain Gain Bandoass Bandpass medium medium **4**.... All modes are active in the ЩO O/E Only one is active in the optoelectronic oscillator optoelectronic oscillator $T_{\text{roundtrip}} = n \times T_{\text{filter drive}}$ Dispersion Laser Laser Gain Gain managed medium medium delay Feedback Electrical path Optical path

Fig. 1 Schematic to show the operations of a conventional OEO and an OEO based on FDML. **a** A conventional single-frequency OEO, only one mode is active in the cavity. **b** An OEO based on FDML for generation of a microwave signal with fast frequency tuning, all modes are active in the cavity. **E**/O electrical to optical conversion; O/E optical to electrical conversion

T. Hao, Q. Cen, Y. Dai, J. Tang, W. Li, J. P. Yao, N. Zhu, and M. Li, *Nature Comm.*, vol. 9, 1839, May 2018.



FDML OEO for chirped microwave waveform generation



The fast-tunable bandpass filter for frequency-domain mode locking is implemented using a tunable laser source, a phase modulator and a narrow-passband notch filter.

T. Hao, Q. Cen, Y. Dai, J. Tang, W. Li, J. P. Yao, N. Zhu, and M. Li, *Nature Comm.*, vol. 9, 1839, May 2018.





Experimental results

Challenge: an ultra-narrow bandpass filter is needed to ensure to select a single mode ar one time

Fig. 3 Experimental results. **a** Spectrum of a generated X-band frequency-scanning microwave waveform with a span of 10 GHz. **b** Spectrum with a span of 200 kHz. **c** Temporal waveform of the periodically and continuously chirped microwave waveform, the inset shows a section of the waveform. **d** Real-time frequency distribution. **e** The compressed pulse by autocorrelation (inset: zoom-in display)

T. Hao, Q. Cen, Y. Dai, J. Tang, W. Li, J. P. Yao, N. Zhu, and M. Li, *Nature Comm.*, vol. 9, 1839, May 2018.





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Microwave photonic filters - Incoherent delay line MWP filters

Three examples:



Two microwave photonic filter configurations operating in the incoherent regime based on (a) a broadband light source and (b) a laser array



A microwave photonic filter with **negative coefficients** based on phase inversion using complementarily biased MZMs.

J. P. Yao, "A fresh look at microwave photonics filters," *IEEE Microwav. Mag.*, vo. 16, no. 8, pp. 46-60, Sept. 2015.



Microwave photonic filters - Coherent MWP filters

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A coherent microwave photonic filter, in which an optical notch filter is used to filter out one sideband of a phase-modulated signal, thus achieving PM–IM conversion.

J. P. Yao, "A fresh look at microwave photonics filters," *IEEE Microwav. Mag.*, vo. 16, no. 8, pp. 46-60, Sept. 2015.



Microwave photonic filters - Coherent MWP filters



W. Li and J. P. Yao, *IEEE Trans. Microw. Theory Tech.*, vol. 60, no. 6, pp. 1735-1742, June 2012.



Microwave photonic filters - Coherent MWP filters



A coherent microwave photonic filter implemented based on phase modulation and PM–IM using SBS gain

J. P. Yao, "A fresh look at microwave photonics filters," *IEEE Microwav. Mag.*, vo. 16, no. 8, pp. 46-60, Sept. 2015.



PUBLISHED ONLINE: 5 DECEMBER 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHOTON.2016.233



A monolithic integrated photonic microwave filter (InP)

Javier S. Fandiño¹, Pascual Muñoz^{1,2}, David Doménech² and José Capmany^{1*}



J. Fandno et al, Nature Photon. 2016





A monolithic integrated photonic microwave filter

Javier S. Fandiño¹, Pascual Muñoz^{1,2}, David Doménech² and José Capmany^{1*}





Image of a fabricated die

Packaged chip

J. Fandno et al, Nature Photon. 2016



A monolithic integrated photonic microwave filter



J. Fandno et al, Nature Photon. 2016



Letter

Optics Letters

On-chip silicon photonic integrated frequencytunable bandpass microwave photonic filter

WEIFENG ZHANG AND JIANPING YAO*







Image of the experimental setup captured by a camera.



W. Zhang and J. P. Yao, Opt. Lett., vol. 43, no. 15, pp. 3622-3625, Aug. 2018.



W. Zhang and J. P. Yao, Opt. Lett., vol. 43, no. 15, pp. 3622-3625, Aug. 2018.



Tunable MWP filter - Measurements



Frequency response of the filter (in blue) with a center frequency of 6 GHz and measured frequency response (in red) when no optical signal is coupled into the chip (to show the EMI) Measurements of the fundamental signal power and that of the IMD3. Given a noise floor of -140 dBm/Hz, the measured **spurious-free dynamic range** (SFDR) of the filter are 92.4 dB \cdot Hz^{2/3}.







ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-017-00714-1

OPEN

Multipurpose silicon photonics signal processor core

Daniel Pérez¹, Ivana Gasulla¹, Lee Crudgington², David J. Thomson², Ali Z. Khokhar², Ke Li², Wei Cao ², Goran Z. Mashanovich^{2,3} & José Capmany¹



D. Perez et al., Nature Comm., Sep. 2017





D. Perez et al., Nature Comm., Sep. 2017







Fig. 2 Fabricated hexagonal waveguide mesh chip. **a** Design layers (optical, electrical, and thermal) of the 7-cell hexagonal waveguide mesh and the auxiliary test cell. **b** Fabricated silicon on insulator (*SOI*) chip of footprint 15 × 20 mm. **c** Zoomed vision of the 7-cell hexagonal waveguide mesh. *Scale bar* of 2 mm. In the *right bottom* corner **d** zoomed image of an optical interconnection node of three tuneable basic units (TBUs). *Scale bar* of 100 µm. In the *right bottom* corner, **e** zoomed image of a single hexagonal cell showing the Mach Zehnder Interferometer (*MZI*). *Scale bar* of 500 µm. In the *right bottom* corner, tuning heaters, and star-type thermal isolation trenches. **f** Printed circuit board with the waveguide mesh chip mounted and wired bonded

D. Perez et al., Nature Comm., Sep. 2017





D. Perez et al., Nature Comm., Sep. 2017



https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-14249-0OPENSimilar to electronic FPGAPhotonic integrated field-programmabledisk array signal processor

Weifeng Zhang¹ & Jianping Yao D^{1*}

 Image: state stat



W. Zhang and J. Yao, Nat. Comm., 11, Article number: 406 (2020)



MWP2021 Photonic integrated field-programmable disk array signal processor



Fig. 4 Experimental results with photonic FPDA signal processor operating as optical beamforming network. a Measured transmission spectrum of the channel from port 4 to port 9 when the voltages are controlled to make resonance wavelength of each MDR aligned progressively. **b** Measured time delays with the number of the aligned MDRs increasing progressively. **c** Calculated array factors of a four-element linear PAA when the channel time delay is 13.5 ps. **d** Calculated array factors of a four-element linear PAA when the channel time delay is 26.4 ps.

W. Zhang and J. Yao, Nat. Comm., 11, Article number: 406 (2020)



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RoF with coherent detection





M. Nakazawa, K. Kikuchi and T. Miyazaki, High Spectral Density Optical Communication Technologies. New York: Springer-Verlag, 2010, pp. 11-50.



RoF with coherent detection

RoF with coherent detection:

- Both amplitude and phase can be modulated with increased spectral efficiency
- Demodulation achieved through coherent detection at a coherent receiver (**an LO needed**)
- Phase noise from the optical sources (the transmitter and LO) can be eliminated via a DSP algorithm

Advantages:

- High receiver sensitivity → Increase the transmission distance
- High spectral efficiency → All information (phase and intensity) can be recovered via coherent detection and DSP

Disadvantages:

- Complex structure and requires high speed DSP
- Receiver is sensitive to laser source **PHASE NOISE (high quality laser source and DSP)**.





• Demonstration of the effectiveness of coherent detection based on DSP

Spectral efficiency is low due to the transmission of a single microwave signal

X. Chen and J. Yao, IEEE Photon. Lett., vol. 8, no. 26, 2014.





X. Chen and J. Yao, IEEE Photon. Lett., vol. 8, no. 26, 2014.



Coherent Receiver

• Experimental Results (1/3)



Fig. 4. Temporal waveform when the RF input signal is an ASK modulated RF signal with a center frequency of 500 MHz. (a) The in-phase component from the coherent receiver, (b) the quadrature component from the coherent receiver, and (c) the signal at the output of the DSP-based PNC module.

X. Chen, T. Shao, and J. P. Yao, IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett., vol. 26, no. 8, pp. 805-808, Apr. 2014.



• Experimental Results (2/3)



Comparison of the EVMs and BERs for the transmission of a QPSK-modulated RF signal based on coherent detection and direct detection. **PNC-phase noise cancellation**

X. Chen, T. Shao, and J. P. Yao, IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett., vol. 26, no. 8, pp. 805-808, Apr. 2014.



• Experimental Results (3/3)





Demonstration of
the effectiveness of
coherent detection
based on DSP

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Spectral efficiency is low due to the transmission of a single microwave signal

Schematic diagram of an Intensity modulation/coherent detection MPL without digital PNC module Constellation of the detected QPSK microwave vector signal (XI port)

X. Chen, T. Shao, and J. P. Yao, IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett., vol. 26, no. 8, pp. 805-808, Apr. 2014.



A High Spectral Efficiency Radio Over Fiber Link Based on Coherent Detection and Digital Phase Noise Cancellation

Peng Li[®], Ruoshi Xu, Zheng Dai[®], Zhenguo Lu[®], *Member, IEEE, Member, OSA*, Lianshan Yan, *Senior Member, IEEE, Fellow, OSA*, and Jianping Yao[®], *Fellow, IEEE, Fellow, OSA*



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Two microwave vector signal transmission



P. Li, R. Xu, Z. Dai, Z. Lu, L. Yan and J. Yao, *J. Lightwave Tech.*, vol. 39, no. 20, pp. 6443-6449, Oct. 2021,



Experimental results



When the received optical power is beyond -18 dBm, **Error-free transmission** is achieved with forward error correction (FEC).

Measured constellations of the two recovered 16-QAM microwave vector signals (fiber length: 9 km, received optical power :-10 dBm)

JLT, vol. 39, no. 20, Oct. 15, 2021



Four microwave vector signal transmission





Four microwave vector signals
Single polarization
Single optical carrier

JLT, to be submitted



Four microwave vector signal transmission



 $=\frac{\pi P_s L P_{LO} R^2}{2V_{\pi}} s_1(t)$

Flow chart to show the DSP algorithm. LPF: low-pass filter; BPF: bandpass filter.

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JLT, to be submitted

Four microwave vector signal transmission



Measured constellations of the four recovered 16-QAM microwave vector signals at the output of the DSP unit (fiber length: 9 km, the received optical power: -10 dBm

JLT, to be submitted



Experimental results



When the received optical power is beyond -19 dBm, **Error free transmission** is achieved with forward error correction (FEC).



JLT, to be submitted



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Microwave photonics for sensing - Motivation



Conventional Interrogation of FBG sensors

J. P. Yao, "Microwave photonic sensors," J. Lightw. Technol., vol. 39, no. 12, pp. 3626-3637, June 2021.





Wavelength-to-time mapping, namely dispersive Fourier transformation, is a fast and effective way to **measure optical spectrum in the time domain**.

J. P. Yao, "Photonic generation of microwave arbitrary waveforms," *Opt. Comm.*, vol. 284, no. 15, pp. 3723-3736, Jul. 2011.





pp. 1239-1247, May 2011.



Temperature/Strain Measurement



W. Liu, M. Li, C. Wang, and J. P. Yao, *J. Lightwave Technol.*, vol. 29, no. 9, pp. 1239-1247, May 2011.







Simulation Results

(a) Special reference signal.

(**b**) Sensor signal with a wavelength shift of 0.185 nm.

(c) Sensor signal with a wavelength shift of 0.740 nm.

(d) The correlation outputs.

(e) The waveform in (b) with an added stationary white noise.

(**f**) The correlation with the noisy waveform shown in (e).

W. Liu, M. Li, C. Wang, and J. P. Yao, *J. Lightwave Technol.*, vol. 29, no. 9, pp. 1239-1247, May 2011.



Experimental results



- a) Reference waveform
- b) When a strain of 71.5 με is applied to the LCFBG.
- c) When a strain of 406.9µɛ is applied to the LCFBG.
- d) When a strain of 484.2 $\mu\epsilon$ is applied to the LCFBG.
- e) Correlation results for the detected microwave waveforms as show in (b), (c) and (d).
- f) The measured strain vs the peak position. The circles are the experimental data, and the solid curve is linear fitting of the experimental data.

W. Liu, M. Li, C. Wang, and J. P. Yao, *J. Lightwave Technol.*, vol. 29, no. 9, pp. 1239-1247, May 2011.



Simultaneous measurement of temperature and strain – replace the MWP2021 chirped FBG by a chirped FBG written in a highly birefringent fiber (Hi Fi)



Perform chirped pulse compression, calculate the sensor function

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta T \\ \Delta \varepsilon \end{bmatrix} = -2 \begin{bmatrix} f_1 & g \\ f_2 & g \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_f \\ \tau_s \end{bmatrix}$$

W. Liu, W. Li, and J. P. Yao, *IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett.*, vol. 23, no. 18, pp. 1340-1342, Sep 2011.





(a) Reference A linearly chirped microwave waveform corresponding to the polarization direction of the ultrashiort pulse aligned with (b) the fast axis and (c) the slow axis, when a strain of 50 $\mu\epsilon$ is applied to the LCFBG at 25 °C. (d) Correlation of the waveforms shown in (b) and (c) with the special reference waveform.

W. Liu, W. Li, and J. P. Yao, *IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett.*, vol. 23, no. 18, pp. 1340-1342, Sep 2011.



Wavelength-to-time mapping & chirped pulse compression Experimental Results





High-Speed and High-Resolution Interrogation of a Strain and Temperature Random Grating Sensor

Hong Deng, Student Member, IEEE, Ping Lu^D, Stephen J. Mihailov^D, Member, IEEE, and Jianping Yao^D, Fellow, IEEE, Fellow, OSA









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Experimental results



H. Deng, P. Lu, S. Mihailov, and J. P. Yao, J. Lightw. Technol., vol. 36, no. 23, pp. 5587-5592, Dec. 2018.



Optical sensors based on an optoelectronic oscillator



M. Li, W. Li, J. Yao, and J. Azana, *Proc. OSA Techn. Dig.*. WA, D.C., USA, 2012, Paper BTu2E.3.



Dual-frequency OEO with a PM PS-FBG for transverse load sensing



(a) Schematic of the temperature-insensitive transverse load sensor based on a dual-frequency OEO employing a polarization-maintaining PS-FBG.



(b) Single passband photonic microwave filter when the incident light is alighted with an angle of 0° or 90° relative to one principal axis (horizontal or vertical) of the PolM.

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(c) Dual passband photonic microwave filter when the incident light is alighted with an angle of 45° relative to one principal axis of the PolM

F. Kong, W. Li, and J. Yao, *Opt. Lett.*, vol. 38, no. 14, pp. 2611–2613, Jul. 2013.



Dual-frequency OEO with a PM PS-FBG for transverse load sensing



Electrical spectrum of the signal generated by the dual-frequency OEO, with two microwave signals at 8.22 and 14.24 GHz and a beat signal at 6.02 GHz.



Measured beating frequency as a function of applied transverse load and the electrical spectrum with different load. Inset: the electrical spectrum with different load.

F. Kong, W. Li, and J. Yao, *Opt. Lett.*, vol. 38, no. 14, pp. 2611–2613, Jul. 2013.



Conclusion

- 1. New MWP systems have been reported for the **generation and processing** of microwave signals (discussed here)
- 2. Numerous applications such as **wireless communications (RoF)**, and high speed and high-resolution **sensing** (discussed here)
- 3. Microwave photonics can drive the development of other fields, such as radar, measurements, and instrumentation (not discussed here)
- 4. The key challenge: discrete systems → high cost and poor stability→ solution: photonic integration.
- 5. Heterogeneous integration is urgently needed to implement systems on chip for low-cost, high-performance microwave photonic systems.



Acknowledgements







