School on Photonics 2024

"Waveguides"



4-7 April 2024

Kharkiv, Ukraine

The School on Photonics 2024 "Waveguides" was held from 4 to 7 April 2024 at V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Unfortunately, the School passed during the active bombardment of Kharkiv by the Russian armed forces. For the period from 3 to 8 April 2024, more than 100 drones, 20 guided aviabombs and 20 missiles were launched on Kharkiv and Kharkiv region, which resulted in tragic consequences for the civilian population: destruction and damage of buildings and death of several people.

Moreover, the energy infrastructure was severely damaged, resulting in constant power outages in Kharkiv. Electricity, Internet and mobile phone connections were provided only for a few hours per day in a random format, including the work of generators.

The first goal of our School was to ensure the full security of the participants and lecturers. The most of the lectures and activities were conducted in the safe spaces.

The second goal was to overcome the black-outs. Two lectures had to be held without electricity and Internet connection, using only the whiteboard. This was totally unexpected for the lecturers, but at the same time it highlights their high level of qualification.

The third goal, the initial one, was to give the intensive course on the important and relevant topic of photonics moving from the historical milestones and basic principles to the modern scientific problems and practical applications. As part of the School, the participants were divided into several groups to work on the special scientific projects.

To the best of my knowledge, we conducted **the School on Optics without light** for the first time. Not everything was good, but it was a lively and unforgettable experience with successful overcoming of challenges by participants, lecturers and organizers. Glory to Ukraine!

Chair of Program and Organizational Committee, Oleh Yermakov **Opening ceremony**



Lecture №1. "General theory of waveguides" by Dr. Anton Hlushchenko









Lecture №2. "Hollow and dielectric waveguides" by Dr. Anton Hlushchenko during black-out









Poster-session and scientific discussions















Lecture №3. "Inverse design methods for waveguides engineering" by Dr. Anton Ovcharenko







Lecture №4. "Optical fibers: applications and perspectives" by Dr. Oleh Yermakov partially during black-out







Lecture №5 (online). "Design, fabrication, and application of fully fiber-system integrated liquid-core optical fibers" by Prof. Mario Chemnitz





Practical lesson №1. "Photonic-crystal and metamaterial waveguides" by Dr. Oleh Yermakov











Invited talk by Kyrylo Gorokhovskyi, Photonics Cluster Ukraine



Practical lesson №2. "Automatic waveguide design" by Dr. Anton Ovcharenko





Work on scientific projects, their presentation and discussion













Closing ceremony







Oleh Demianyk from V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University was awarded the Best Poster Award.



