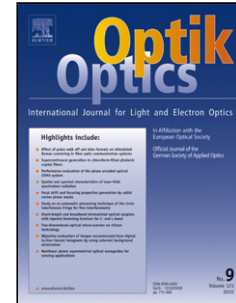


## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0030-4026(18)31233-6  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijleo.2018.08.084>  
Reference: IJLEO 61381

To appear in:

Received date: 19-6-2018  
Accepted date: 23-8-2018

Please cite this article as: Kadlečková M, Breza J, Vančo Ľ, Mikolášek M, Hubeňák M, Racko J, Greguš J, Raman spectroscopy of porous silicon substrates, *Optik* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijleo.2018.08.084>

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**Raman spectroscopy of porous silicon substrates**

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Raman spectroscopy

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)

**Abstract**

We have investigated the effect of the etching time on the Raman spectra of porous silicon prepared by anodic etching. Electrochemical destruction of the substrate increasing with the etching time and the correlation between the microstructure of the silicon wafer and the shape and position of their Raman spectra have been observed. Raman analysis has shown that the intensity of the Raman dominant silicon band decreases and the bandwidth is shifted to lower frequencies, depending on the morphology of the sample. Therefore we believe that the electrochemical destruction of the surface of Si substrates leads to surface amorphization.

*Keywords:* Porous silicon

**1. Introduction**

Porous silicon and nanostructured silicon are attractive materials for many applications such as sensing [1,2], energy storage [3,4] and photovoltaic conversion [5,6]. The ability to prepare porous silicon (PS) and nanostructured silicon with cheap techniques with good control and flexibility of the resulting features is a key issue for such applications. Electrochemical etching of silicon has already been successfully used for preparation of nanowires [7,8], nanopores [9] and porous silicon surface [10]. Good scalability to large areas makes this technique highly attractive for industrial applications. There are two main electrochemical etching techniques, both of them are based on hydrofluoric acid solutions for structuring of silicon: (i) metal assisted chemical etching, and (ii) anodic etching in an electrochemical cell without a metal catalyst. The first technique utilizes metal catalysts such as Au, Ag and Pt to localize etching of silicon. This localization is due to the reduction of the oxidant (typically

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