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# Attempts to grow $\beta$ -BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> ( $\beta$ -BBO) crystal fibers by the micro-pulling down technique. Characterization by Raman micro-spectroscopy

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Barium metaborate ( $\beta$ -BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> or  $\beta$ -BBO) is known to be an excellent nonlinear optical material with a wide transmission range 190–3500 nm and a high damage threshold (10 GW.cm<sup>-2</sup>). BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> has two modifications : the low temperature b phase and the high temperature a phase with a centrosymmetric crystal structure which has no utility in second order harmonic generation. In early works, the  $\beta$ -BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> crystals were grown below the a-b transition temperature (T~920°C) by using flux methods leading to crystals exhibiting more or less inclusions detrimental to their properties. More recently, the successful growth of high quality  $\beta$ -BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> without any flux from a supercooled BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> composition melt was reported [1-3].

The aim of this talk is to present the results presently obtained on the growth of  $\beta$ -BBO crystal fibers directly from the melt without any flux. To investigate their behaviour during pulling, the crystals obtained were thoroughly characterized by Raman micro-spectroscopy.

## References

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