Liquid crystal photoaligned by azodye nano layers: applications in displays and photonics

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Photoalignment and photopatterning has been proposed and studied for a long time [1]. Light is responsible for the delivery of energy as well as phase and polarization information to materials systems. It was shown that photoalignment liquid crystals by azodye nanolayers could provide high quality alignment of molecules in a liquid crystal (LC) cell. Over the past years, a lot of improvements and variations of the photoalignment and photopatterning technology has been made for display and photonics applications. In particular, the application of this technology to active optical elements in optical signal processing and communications is currently a hot topic in photonics research [2].

We will demonstrate a physical model of photoalignment and photopatterning based on rotational diffusion in solid azodye nanolayers in displays and photonics. We will also highlight the new applications of photoalignment and photopatterning in display and photonics such as: (i) fast high resolution LC display devices, such as field sequential color ferroelectric LCD; (ii) LC sensors; (iii) LC lenses; (iv) LC E-paper devices, including electrically and optically rewritable LC E-paper; (v) photo induced semiconductor quantum rods alignment for new LC display applications; (vi)100% polarizers based on photoalignment; (vii) LC smart windows based on photopatterned diffraction structures; (vii) LC antenna elements with a voltage controllable frequency.

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