Contents

Introduction **1**

1 Historical background, research aim, and achieved research objectives **3**
1.1 Historical background . . . 3
1.2 Research aim . . . 6
1.3 Achieved research objectives . . . 7

Fundamentals, materials, and methods **9**

2 Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation **11**
2.1 Laser operation . . . 11
2.2 Continuous wave laser temperature distribution . . . 14

3 Peptide synthesis **17**
3.1 Amino acids and peptide bond formation . . . 17
3.2 Solid-phase peptide synthesis . . . 19
3.3 Combinatorial laser-induced forward transfer . . . 20

4 Numerical modeling of fluid flow **23**
4.1 Laws of conservation . . . 23
4.2 Numerical discretization methods . . . 25
4.3 OpenFOAM . . . 27
4.4 OpenFOAM solver *compressibleInterFoam* . . . 28

5 Detection methods **31**
5.1 Fluorescence imaging . . . 31
5.2 High-speed imaging . . . 32
5.3 Vertical scanning interferometry . . . 34
5.4 Image analysis . . . 35

6 Experimental materials and methods **39**
6.1 Clarifying statement . . . 39
6.2 Acceptor slide etching procedure . . . 40
6.3 Donor slide preparation . . . 40
6.4 Hydrophilization of a microscope glass slide . . . 41
6.5 Hydrophobization of a microscope glass slide . . . 41
6.6 Acceptor slide preparation and AA coupling . . . 41
6.7 Direct labeling of amino groups . . . 41

6.8 Indirect labeling of amino groups with biotin . . . 42
6.9 Peptide array synthesis – acceptor modification . . . 42
6.10 Peptide array synthesis – coupling reaction . . . 43
6.11 Peptide array synthesis – staining . . . 43

Results and discussion **45**

7 Investigation of the laser transfer mechanisms within the cLIFT process **47**
7.1 Clarifying statement . . . 47
7.2 Deposition influences and mechanistic proposals . . . 48
7.3 Imaging of the laser transfer mechanism . . . 49
7.4 Characterization of the material deposition . . . 52
7.5 Modeling of the polyimide irradiation . . . 61
7.6 Model validation and numerical results . . . 62

8 High-precision and high-throughput laser-based macromolecular synthesizer **67**
8.1 Clarifying statement . . . 67
8.2 Problem definition and synthesizer concept . . . 68
8.3 Laser transfer system . . . 69
8.4 Transportation and positioning system . . . 71
8.5 Control system and interfaces . . . 76
8.6 Randomized transfer algorithm . . . 78

9 cLIFT peptide synthesis analysis and optimization **81**
9.1 Clarifying statement . . . 81
9.2 State-of-the-art and optimization aim . . . 82
9.3 Amino acid coupling and evaluation methods . . . 82
9.4 Donor slide optimization . . . 85
9.5 Intermediate control peptide array synthesis . . . 88
9.6 Minimal Flag epitope sequence . . . 91
9.7 20 layer validation peptide array synthesis . . . 92

Summary, conclusion, and outlook **99**

10 Summary, conclusion, and outlook **101**
10.1 Summary and conclusion . . . 101
10.2 Outlook . . . 105

Appendix **107**

A Investigation of laser transfer mechanism within the cLIFT process **109**
A.1 Clarifying statement . . . 109
A.2 Laser spot diameter . . . 110
A.3 Characterization of the material deposition . . . 111

B High-precision and high-throughput laser-based macromolecular synthesizer 115
B.1 Clarifying statement 115
B.2 Telegram writer 116
B.3 Stacked color gradients 118

C cLIFT peptide synthesis analysis and optimization 119
C.1 Clarifying statement 119
C.2 Donor slide optimization 120
C.3 Intermediate control peptide array synthesis 129
C.4 20 layer validation peptide array synthesis 137