

UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA

*Laboratory of Photonics
Electromagnetics and Photonics Engineering group
Dept. of Signal Theory and Communications*

**OPTICAL SOLITONS IN QUADRATIC
NONLINEAR MEDIA AND
APPLICATIONS TO ALL-OPTICAL
SWITCHING AND ROUTING DEVICES**

Autor: María Concepción Santos Blanco
Director: Lluís Torner

Barcelona, january 1998

Contents

1	Introduction	7
1.1	Optics, transmission and Optics for transmission	7
1.2	The information Era: new ideas needed	11
1.3	On the verge of a new generation of all optical devices	12
1.4	Nonlinear Optics research: from intriguing phenomena to useful applications . .	14
1.5	Solitons	16
1.6	Solitons in nonlinear quadratic structures and the subject of the Thesis	17
I	Part I: Solitons in Quadratic Nonlinear Media	22
2	Basics	24
2.1	Basic theory of light propagation	24
2.1.1	The nature of light	24
2.1.2	Basic theory of electromagnetic wave propagation	25
2.1.3	The constitutive relation	27
2.1.4	Susceptibility	29
2.1.5	Slowly-varying envelope approximation (SVEA)	33
2.1.6	Monochromatic beam propagation in linear media. Diffraction.	36
2.1.7	Pulse propagation in linear media. Dispersion.	37
2.2	Light propagation in nonlinear media	38
2.2.1	Third-order nonlinear media	40
2.2.2	Second-order media	41

2.2.3	Wavevector mismatch. Concept and techniques.	46
2.3	The $\chi^{(2)}$ problem: evolution equations	47
2.3.1	Normalized parameters	47
2.3.2	Conserved quantities	51
2.3.3	Limit of large wavevector mismatch	51
2.3.4	Characteristic lengths and typical experimental values	52
2.3.5	Physical interpretation	54
2.4	Numerical methods	56
2.4.1	Split-step Fourier algorithm	56
2.5	Summary	58
3	Solitons in Quadratic Nonlinear Media	60
3.1	Search for stationary solutions	61
3.1.1	Search strategy	61
3.1.2	Similarity rules	67
3.1.3	The shooting method	68
3.2	Family of (1 + 1) stationary bright solutions	73
3.3	Stability	77
3.3.1	Geometrical approach	77
3.4	Soliton tails	81
3.5	Intuitive view of soliton solutions characteristics	89
3.5.1	Generalities	89
3.5.2	Nonlinear phase matching and interharmonics energy exchange	91
3.5.3	Energy dragging equilibrium	92
3.5.4	About the behavior in the soliton tails	93
3.6	Exploring the dynamical regime	96
3.6.1	Monitoring the evolution: $I - \mathcal{H}$ planes and Stokes parameters	96
3.6.2	SH generation with no SH input	109
3.6.3	Intuitive view of the evolution	110
3.6.4	Oscillating states	115
3.7	Summary	123

II Part II: Soliton Beam Steering, Pointing and Switching	125
4 Basics	129
4.1 The energy centroid	129
4.1.1 Type II configurations	133
4.2 Soliton trapping and soliton dragging	135
5 The Walk-off Parameter: Families of Walking Solitons	137
5.1 The search	138
5.1.1 Search strategy	138
5.1.2 The Newton-Raphson root finding method	141
5.2 The family	143
5.3 Stability	148
5.4 Soliton tails	156
5.5 Excitation of walking solitons	158
6 Applications to Soliton Steering	162
6.1 Power dependent Poynting vector walk-off steering	163
6.1.1 Numerical experiments	163
6.1.2 Conclusions	177
6.2 Angle-controlled steering	179
6.2.1 Numerical experiments	179
6.2.2 Conclusions	213
6.3 Input gratings	215
6.3.1 Gratings fabrication and main parameters	217
6.3.2 Analysis of input phase modulations	221
6.3.3 Numerical experiments	226
6.4 Power dependent splitting	238
7 Topological Switching	249
7.1 Optical vortices: field distribution and methods of generation	250
7.2 Numerical experiments	254

8 Concluding Remarks	264
A Equation for linear pulse propagation	271
B Color scale	274