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Multi-channel waveguides induced by Bessel beams in a photorefractive medium

Yue Chai  
Chair in Photonics  
Université de Lorraine, Centralesupélec, LMOPS  
Metz, France  
yue.chai@centralesupelec.fr

Nicolas Marsal  
Chair in Photonics  
Université de Lorraine, Centralesupélec, LMOPS  
Metz, France  
nicolas.marsal@centralesupelec.fr

Delphine Wolfersberger  
Chair in Photonics  
Université de Lorraine, Centralesupélec, LMOPS  
Metz, France  
delphine.woltersberger@centralesupelec.fr

Abstract—We numerically investigate the propagation and interaction of Bessel beams in a photorefractive (PR) nonlinear medium. By varying Bessel beam parameters and the PR nonlinearity, complex multi-channel structures can be photo-induced by single or two counter-propagating (CP) Bessel beams. These results pave the way towards all-optical interconnects.

Keywords—Bessel beam; Photorefractive nonlinear medium; Complex photo-induced waveguide; Optical interconnects

I. INTRODUCTION

Recent studies show that unconventional Airy beams permit the photo-inscription of complex waveguides under different nonlinear effects, for example the photorefractive effect based on the Pockels effect [1-2]. Such waveguides, resulting from the multi-lobes and peculiar characteristics of Airy beams, present multiple input/output structures more interesting than those induced by classical Gaussian beams. Bessel beams share similar propagating properties with Airy beams, such as diffraction-free in a linear medium, and self-trapping in a nonlinear medium [3]. In this work, we focus on the propagation and interaction of Bessel beams in a photorefractive (PR) nonlinear medium. By varying the Bessel beam parameters and the PR nonlinearity, it is possible to create various complex waveguides with multiple addressable inputs/outputs.

II. NUMERICAL MODEL AND RESULTS

The numerical model describing the propagation of the counter-propagating (CP) Bessel beams in a PR medium is presented as follows: 

\[ i\partial_{z} F + \partial_{x}^2 F = i\Gamma E_{0} F, \quad -i\partial_{z} B + \partial_{x}^2 B = \Gamma E_{0} B, \]

where F and B represent respectively the forward (+z) and backward (−z) beams, \( \Gamma \) is the PR nonlinearity and \( E_{0} \) is the PR space charge field.

A. Waveguides induced by a single Bessel beam

Figure 1 shows the intensity distribution of one single Bessel beam propagating in the PR nonlinear medium. The variation of the refractive index under Pockels effect forms multi-channels waveguides whose profiles correspond to the patterns in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 1b, we see that the waveguides induced by higher order Bessel beam may give access to two, three or even four inputs/outputs.

B. Waveguides induced by two counter-propagating Bessel beams

As shown in Fig. 2 (a), a multiple inputs/outputs waveguiding structure is induced by two aligned CP Bessel beams. Moreover, Fig. 2 (b) shows that when two misaligned CP Bessel beams are injected, their lobes merge and reorganize themselves in the PR medium and induce a more complex multi-channels structure with a large possible shift between the different inputs/outputs.

III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, compared to analog configurations using Airy or Gaussian beams, by changing the Bessel beam order, shifting the distance between the two CP beams, adjusting the nonlinearity of the PR medium, more complex waveguides with multiple inputs/outputs structures and wider transverse shifts can be induced. These results provide a useful paradigm for new optical communication and information processing.

REFERENCES