

Photorefractivity

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UE SPM-PHO-S09-112 Photorefractivity

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Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 1

Dand Transport

Harmonic illumination

Photorefractive effect

History began in 1966 as Optical Damage



Optical Damage in LiNbO₃

- Shine a light on LiNbO₃
- Remove it
- Shine another : damaged crystal

Semi-permanent effect

- Leave it in the dark : still damaged
- Leave it under uniform light : sometimes repaired

Today

- Photorefractivity can prove useful
- Some people still call it optical damage:
 - Bad for linear optics (electro-optic modulators...)
 - Bad for *instant* Non Linear Optics (SHG,OPA...)

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 2

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

Photorefractivity is attractive

Non linear optics at low optical power



Non Linear Optics

- Dynamic Holography
- Phase conjugation
- All optical computing
- . . .
- At milliwatts and below power levels

Observed in many non linear crystals

■ Sillenites : Bi₁₂SiO₂₀, Bi₁₂TiO₂₀, Bi₁₂GeO₂₀

■ Tungsten-Bronze : $Sr_xBa_{1-x}Nb_2O_6$

■ Ferroelectrics : LiNbO₃, BaTiO₃

■ Semiconductors : InP:Fe, AsGa

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 3

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

Usefull reading... [Yeh93, GH88, GH89]





P. Günter and J. P. Huignard. Photorefractive materials and their applications I, volume 61 of Topics in Applied Physics. Springer Verlag, Berlin, 1988.



P. Günter and J. P. Huignard. Photorefractive materials and their applications II, volume 62 of Topics in Applied Physics. Springer Verlag, Berlin, 1989.



P. Yeh. Introduction to photorefractive nonlinear optics. Wiley Interscience, New York, 1993.

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 4

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- 2 Harmonic illumination
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 - Uniform background: order 0
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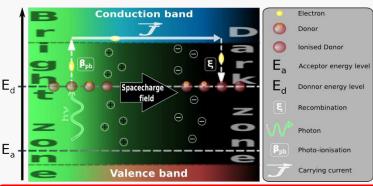
Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 5

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

Photorefractive charge transport and trapping





Linear Index Modulation

Space charge electric field generates refractive index variation through electro-optic effect

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 6

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Band Transport
Schematics

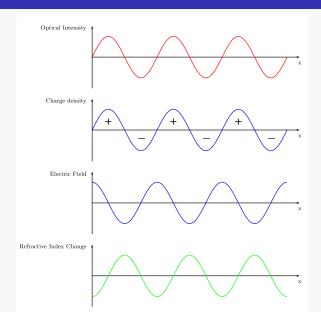
Carrier Generation

Charge Transport Electro-optics

T ... M/.... M. ...

Periodic illumination of a photorefractive material





Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 7

Band Transpo Schematics

arrier Generation harge Transport

Harmonic

5 ... M/- ... M/: *---

Donors wanted

Carriers are generated by donors: no donors, no carriers



Nominally pure crystals

- No in-band-gap level
 - No donor nor acceptor
 - No photorefractive effect
- Structural defects often present
- As well as pollutants
- They create in-band-gap levels
- Photorefractivity can arise from them

More efficient: doping

- Introduce in-band-gap species
- LiNbO₃:Fe, InP:Fe. . .

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 8

Band Transport

Carrier Generation

Electro-optics
Harmonic

T ... \A/.... \ \A'. '...

Introducing Donors and Acceptors



Introduce Donors of electrons

 N_D

- Energy level close to conduction band
- They easily give electrons to conduction band

Introducing Acceptors

 $N_A \ll N_D$

- Photorefractivity needs traps
- Ionized donors are traps
- Introduce Acceptors close to the valence band
- They catch Donors electrons
- Donors are partially ionized $N_D^+ = N_A$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 9

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Band Transport

Carrier Generation
Charge Transport

Electro-optics Harmonic

T 14/ 14: '



We assume here that the only carriers are electrons... what if not?

Comes from temperature induced Brownian motion

- Temperature induced
- Electrons are kicked into conduction band

Rate proportional to donors-left-to-ionize density

$$\frac{\partial n_{\rm e}}{\partial t} = \beta \left(N_D - N_D^+ \right)$$

One generated electron leaves one ionized donor

$$\frac{\partial n_{\rm e}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial N_D^+}{\partial t} = \beta \left(N_D - N_D^+ \right)$$

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Sand Transport

Carrier Generation
Charge Transport

llumination

Photo-excitation of carriers

The photoelectric effect at work



Photoelectric effect

- Photon energy sufficient to reach conduction band
- lacksquare Rate proportional to light intensity ${\cal I}$
- And to left-to-ionize donors

Photo-excitation rate

$$\frac{\partial n_{\rm e}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial N_D^+}{\partial t} = \sigma \mathcal{I} \left(N_D - N_D^+ \right)$$

The photo-ionization cross section

- Has the dimensions of a surface
- If $\mathcal I$ is given as a number of photon per surface units and time
- Sometimes the case, sometimes not...

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 11

Band Transport

Carrier Generation Charge Transport

illumination

Carrier recombination



Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 12

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Band Transport

Carrier Generation
Charge Transport

Electro-optics
Harmonic

ně

 N_D^+

illumination

Two Wave Mixing

Recombination needs luck, electrons and empty traps

- A luck factor
- Carriers density
- Empty trap density
 - $\frac{\partial \textit{n}_{\textrm{e}}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \textit{N}_{\textit{D}}^{+}}{\partial t} = -\xi \textit{n}_{\textrm{e}} \textit{N}_{\textit{D}}^{+}$

Carriers rate equation

A combination of generation and recombination



Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 13

A combination of generation and recombination

$$\frac{\partial N_D^+}{\partial t} = (\beta + \sigma \mathcal{I}) \left(N_D - N_D^+ \right) - \xi n_{\rm e} N_D^+$$

Charge transport in the conduction band An assumption of the Band Transport Model...sometimes untrue



Diffusion

- Due to Temperature and Brownian motion
- Think of it as sugar in water (or coffee)
- Depends on concentration variations

Drift under electric-field

- Needs electric-field
- Externally applied or diffusion generated
- Depends on electric field and mobility

Photovoltaic effect

- Sometimes called photo-galvanic
- Non-isotropic effect
- Think of solar cells: light generates current
- Depends on light intensity

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 14

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and Transport

Charge Transport

larmonic

Diffusion transport

Diffusion current from Fick's first law linked to Einstein relation



Fick's first law

Particle flow

$$\overrightarrow{J_p} = -D\operatorname{grad}(p)$$

Einstein relation

- Links diffusion, absolute temperature T and Brownian motion through mobility
- lacksquare Mobility μ is the velocity to electric field ratio

$$D = \mu_{\rm e}^{*} k_B T/e$$

Diffusion Current

$$\overrightarrow{J} = -e\overrightarrow{J_{e}} = +\mu_{e}k_{B}T\operatorname{grad}(n_{e})$$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 15

Band Transport

Carrier Generation
Charge Transport

larmonic

Drift

A charged particle in an electric field...



Electric Field

- Externally applied
- Due to charged carrier diffusion

Drift current

- Electrons velocity: $\overrightarrow{\mathbf{v}} = -\mu_{\mathring{\mathbf{e}}} \overrightarrow{\mathbf{E}}$
- Drift Current: $\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}} = -e \times \overrightarrow{v}$

$$\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}} = \textit{en}_{\mbox{\scriptsize e}} \mu_{\mbox{\scriptsize e}} \overrightarrow{\textit{E}}$$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 16

Schematics
Carrier Generation
Charge Transport

Harmonic

Photovoltaic current

An non isotropic effect stemming from crystal asymmetry



Origins

Non centro-symmetric crystal

e.g. LiNbO₃

- Anisotropic photo-electric effect
- Depends on light polarization

Photovoltaic tensor

- Rank 2
- Main component along polar axis
- Often reduced to a scalar

Photovoltaic Current

$$\begin{split} \left[\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}}\right]_{i} &= \left(N_{D} - N_{D}^{+}\right) \sum_{j,k} \left[\beta^{ph}\right]_{j,k} \left[\overrightarrow{E}\right]_{j} \left[\overrightarrow{E}\right]_{k} \overrightarrow{u_{i}} \\ \overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}} &\approx \beta^{ph} \mathcal{I} \left(N_{D} - N_{D}^{+}\right) \overrightarrow{c} \end{split}$$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 17

Schematics
Carrier Generation
Charge Transport

Electro-optics

T 14/ 14: .



lonized donors rate equation

$$\frac{\partial N_D^+}{\partial t} = (\beta + \sigma \mathcal{I}) \left(N_D - N_D^+ \right) - \xi n_{\mathring{\mathbf{e}}} N_D^+$$

Current density expression

$$\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}} = \mu_{\hat{\mathbf{e}}} k_B T \operatorname{grad}(n_{\hat{\mathbf{e}}}) + e n_{\hat{\mathbf{e}}} \mu_{\hat{\mathbf{e}}} \overrightarrow{E} + \beta^{ph} \mathcal{I}(N_D - N_D^+) \overrightarrow{c}$$

Quasi-static Maxwell model

- Continuity : $\operatorname{div}\left(\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}}\right) + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0$
- lacksquare Charge : $ho = e \left(N_D^+ N_A^- n_{
 m \mathring{e}}
 ight)$
- lacktriangle Maxwell-Gauss : $\operatorname{div}\left(\overrightarrow{D}\right)=
 ho$, with $\overrightarrow{D}=\widehat{arepsilon}\overrightarrow{E}$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 18

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Sand Transpor Schematics

Charge Transport
Electro-optics

Harmonic illumination

Refractive index modulation through electro-optics

Space-charge electric field induces refractive index variations



Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 19

Band Transpor

Schematics
Carrier Generation
Charge Transport
Flectro-optics

larmonic

Two Wave Mixing

This is not an electro-optics lesson

Please refer to the electro-optics lesson

Anyhow...

- $lue{}$ Light generated electric field: the space charge field \overrightarrow{E}
- In electro-optic materials : creates index modulation

$$\left[\Delta \frac{1}{n^2}\right]_{i,j} = \sum_{k} \left[\widehat{r}\right]_{ijk} \left[\overrightarrow{E}\right]_{k}$$

- Local modulation of refractive index
- Local modification of refractive index ellipsoïd

Periodic illumination from plane waves interference



Two plane waves interfering

- Same wavelength and coherent
- lacksquare non collinear wave vectors $\overrightarrow{k_1}$ and $\overrightarrow{k_2}$: $\overrightarrow{K} = \overrightarrow{k_2} \overrightarrow{k_1}$
- Interference pattern : $\mathcal{I}_{(0)}\left(1+m\cos\left(\overrightarrow{K}\cdot\overrightarrow{r}\right)\right)$

 - $m = 2 \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{I}_1 \mathcal{I}_2}}{\mathcal{I}_1 + \mathcal{I}_2}$

Harmonic assumptions

- $lacktriangleright m \ll 1$: intensities are very different
- All unknowns are sum of
 - A large uniform background : order 0
 - A small harmonic modulation : order 1
- Linearity : orders can be uncoupled
 - Uniform intensity analysis
 - Followed by small signal analysis

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 20

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nd Transport

llumination Harmonic framework

Order 0 Order 1

inger 1 implification and onsequences

Simplifying assumptions



One dimension problem

LD

- Plane waves interference
- All phenomena are collinear to \overrightarrow{K}

Drift-diffusion transport only assumed

Photovoltaic effect assumed negligible

Photo-generation only assumed

Large intensities: thermal generation can be neglected

Steady state study

All temporal derivatives assumed zero

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 21

Sand Transport

Harmonic Ilumination

Harmonic framework Order 0

Order 1
Simplification and
Consequences

Carrier generation-recombination equilibrium



Steady state equilibrium

$$\sigma \mathcal{I} \left(N_D - N_D^+ \right) = \xi n_{\rm e} N_D^+$$

Uniform electric field

- $\overrightarrow{D}_{(0)}$ is homogeneous
- $\bullet \operatorname{div}\left(\overrightarrow{D}_{(0)}\right) = \rho_{(0)} = 0$
- $N_{D(0)}^+ N_A^- n_{\mathring{e}(0)} = 0$

Small illumination

- lacksquare $n_{
 m e} \ll N_A$
- $\sigma \mathcal{I} \ll \xi N_A$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 22

Band Transport

illumination

Order 0

Order 1
Simplification and

Two Wave Mixing

Equilibrium homogeneous densities

- $N_{D(0)}^+ = N_A + n_{e(0)}$
- $n_{\mathring{e}(0)} = \frac{N_D N_A}{\xi N_A} \sigma \mathcal{I}_{(0)}$

Order 1 framework

Basic multi-scale modeling



All quantities are assumed periodic

-

Order 0 assumed known

Order 1 assumed small

- $\forall X, X_{(1)} \ll X_{(0)}$
- $(X \times Y)_{(1)} = X_{(0)}Y_{(1)} + X_{(1)}Y_{(0)}$
- Order 0 is independently found
- Order 1 products is Order 2 : assumed negligible

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 23

Harmonic illumination

Harmonic framework

Order 1

Simplification and Consequences

Order one charge and current equilibrium



Steady state equilibrium

$$\sigma \mathcal{I}_{(1)} \left(N_D - N_{D(0)}^+ \right) + \sigma \mathcal{I}_{(0)} \left(-N_{D(1)}^+ \right) = \\ \xi n_{\hat{e}(0)} N_{D(1)}^+ + \xi n_{\hat{e}(1)} N_{D(0)}^+$$

Harmonic Current density

$$\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}}_{(1)} = \mu_{\mathring{e}} k_B T i \underline{n}_{\mathring{e}(1)} \overrightarrow{K} + e \mu_{\mathring{e}} \underline{n}_{\mathring{e}(1)} \overrightarrow{E}_{(1)}$$

Harmonic Current density divergence is null

$$i\overrightarrow{K}\cdot\left(\mu_{\mathring{\mathrm{e}}}k_{B}Tin_{\mathring{\mathrm{e}}(1)}\overrightarrow{K}+e\mu_{\mathring{\mathrm{e}}}n_{\mathring{\mathrm{e}}(1)}\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)}\right)=0$$

Harmonic Poisson

$$i\overrightarrow{K}\cdot\left(\widehat{\varepsilon}\cdot\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)}\right)=e\left(N_{D(1)}^{+}-n_{\mathring{e}(1)}\right)$$

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nd Transport

armonic umination

Order 0

 $i\overrightarrow{K}\cdot\overrightarrow{\mathcal{J}}=0$

Order 1 Simplification and Consequences

Order One Space Charge Field



General Expression

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = \frac{i\overrightarrow{K}\frac{k_BT}{e} - \frac{\overrightarrow{K} \cdot \mu E_{(0)}}{\overrightarrow{K} < \mu >}}{1 + \frac{\|\overrightarrow{K}\|^2}{k_D^2} + i\frac{e}{k_BT}\frac{\overrightarrow{K} \cdot \mu E_{(0)}}{k_D^2 < \mu >}} \frac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$$

Effective permittivity

$$<\varepsilon> = \frac{\overrightarrow{K} \cdot \widehat{\varepsilon} \overrightarrow{K}}{\|\overrightarrow{K}\|^2}$$

Effective permeability

$$<\mu> = \frac{\overrightarrow{K} \cdot \mu \overrightarrow{K}}{\|\overrightarrow{K}\|^2}$$

Debye vector

$$k_D^2 = \frac{e}{\langle \varepsilon \rangle} \frac{e}{k_B T} \frac{N_D}{N_A} (N_D - N_A)$$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 25

Band Transport

illumination

Order 0 **Order 1**

Simplification and Consequences

Let's simplify this complex expression



General Expression

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = rac{i \overrightarrow{K} rac{k_B T}{e}}{1 + rac{\|\overrightarrow{K}\|^2}{k_D^2}} rac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$$

Simplifying assumptions

- Very often $\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} \parallel \overrightarrow{K}$
- When no field is applied : $\overrightarrow{E}_{(0)} = 0$
- Quarter period phase shift between Intensity and Space-Charge Field gratings

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 26

Band Transport

illumination

Order 0

Order 1
Simplification and
Consequences

Space charge field *vs.* grating spacing $\Lambda = 2\pi/\|\overrightarrow{K}\|$



Large grating spacing

- Small \overrightarrow{K}
- $\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = i \overrightarrow{K} \frac{k_B T}{e} \frac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$
- Diffusion field : $\overrightarrow{E_d} = \overrightarrow{K} \frac{k_B T}{e}$

Small grating spacing

- Large \overrightarrow{K}
- $\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = i \overrightarrow{K} \frac{k_B T}{e} \frac{k_D^2}{\|\overrightarrow{K}\|^2} \frac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$
- Saturation Field : $\overrightarrow{E_q} = \overrightarrow{K} \frac{k_B T}{e} \frac{k_D^2}{\|\overrightarrow{K}\|^2}$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 27

Band Transport

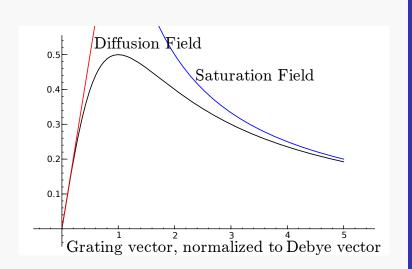
illumination

Order 0

Simplification and Consequences

Space charge field as a function of grating spacing





Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 28

Band Transpor

Harmonic illumination

Order 0

Simplification and Consequences

Space charge field with externally applied field



No applied field

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = i \frac{\overrightarrow{E}_d}{1 + \frac{E_d}{E_a}} \frac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$$

Applied field $\overrightarrow{E_a}$

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = i \frac{\overrightarrow{E}_d}{1 + \frac{E_d}{E_q}} \left[\frac{1 + i \frac{E_a}{E_d}}{1 + i \frac{E_a}{E_d + E_q}} \right] \frac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 29

Harmonic

Harmonic framev

Order 0 Order 1

Simplification and Consequences

Applied field effect



Standard approximations

- lacksquare For most gratings and materials : $E_d \ll E_q$
- Applied field in the middle : $E_d \ll E_a \ll E_q$

In phase illumination and space charge gratings

$$\overrightarrow{E}_{(1)} = -\frac{\overrightarrow{E_a}}{1 + \frac{E_d}{E_a}} \frac{\mathcal{I}_{(1)}}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}$$

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 30

Danu Transport

lumination

Order 0

Order 1
Simplification and

Consequences

3

 $^{^{1}}$ Actually, they are π phase shifted. A possible negative sign on the electro-optic coefficient renders in-phase index and illumination gratings.

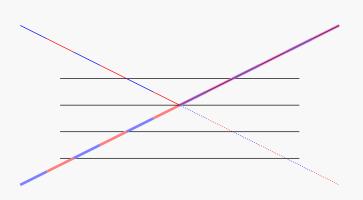
In phase intensity and index gratings

Beam interference is destructive, owing to reflection sign reversal



Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 31

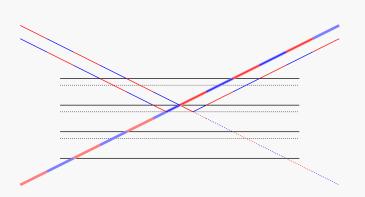
Gratings graphical view



Quarter period shifted gratings

Beam interference is constructive





Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 32

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

Two Wave Mixing
Gratings graphical view

Coupled waves

Two waves and a grating



Two waves make an intensity grating

- Waves are coherent and same wavelength
- Wave vectors are $\overrightarrow{k_1}$ and $\overrightarrow{k_2}$
- Intensity grating vector is $\overrightarrow{K} = \overrightarrow{k_2} \overrightarrow{k_1}$
- Waves amplitudes are $A_i = \sqrt{\mathcal{I}_i} e^{-i\psi_i}$

Index Grating

- Assume $E_d \ll E_a \ll E_q$
- \blacksquare Index grating $\propto \Phi$ shifted illumination grating

$$n = n_{(0)} + \mathcal{R}e\left[n_{(1)}e^{i\Phi}\frac{\overline{A_1}A_2}{\mathcal{I}_{(0)}}e^{\overrightarrow{K}\cdot\overrightarrow{r}}\right]$$

ullet $\Phi = \pi/2$ if no applied field and $\Phi = 0$ if field applied

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 33

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

Gratings graphical view

Coupled waves

Two Room Coupling

Assumption framework



Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 34

Danu Transport

Harmonic illumination

Paraxial Framework

Gratings graphical view

Coupled waves

Slow Varying Approximation

■ Propagation equation : $\Delta A + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} n^2 A = 0$

■ SVA: $\|\frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial z^2}\| \ll \|\beta \frac{\partial A}{\partial z}\|$

 β such as $\beta z = \overrightarrow{k} \cdot \overrightarrow{r}$



Conventions

- z = 0: entrance in the photorefractive material
- Symmetric coupling : $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \|\overrightarrow{k}\| \cos(\theta)$ θ is the half angle between input beams

After Coupled Mode calculations²

$$\Gamma = \frac{i}{\lambda} \frac{2\pi n_{(1)}}{\lambda \cos(\theta)} e^{-i\Phi}$$

 \blacksquare α is absorption

Conjugation for details.

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 35

Two Beam Coupling

²See lessons on Second Harmonic Generation and Optical Phase

Intensity and phase coupling Diffusion induces intensity coupling

Drift induces phase coupling



Separate Diffusion and Drift influences

$$\Gamma = \gamma + 2i\zeta$$

$$\gamma = \frac{2\pi n_{(1)}}{\lambda \cos(\theta)} \sin(\Phi)$$

$$\zeta = \frac{\pi n_{(1)}}{\lambda \cos(\theta)} \cos(\Phi)$$

Intensity coupling

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{I}_2}{\partial z} = +\gamma \frac{\mathcal{I}_1 \mathcal{I}_2}{\mathcal{I}_1 + \mathcal{I}_2} - \alpha \mathcal{I}_2$$

Phase coupling

Energy transfer

- For small absorption α , energy is transferred from one beam to the other
- \blacksquare Transfer direction is given by sign of γ

Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 36

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

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Gratings graphical view
Coupled waves

Two Beam Coupling

Photorefractive Two Wave Mixing



Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 37

Band Transport

Harmonic illumination

Gratings graphical view

Two Beam Coupling

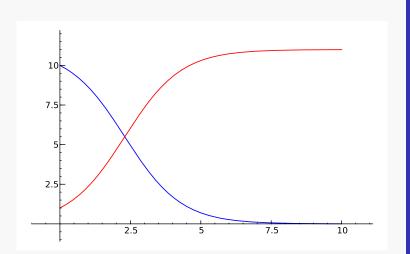
Two Wa

■ Let $m = \frac{\mathcal{I}_1(0)}{\mathcal{I}_2(0)}$

Coupled Modes Solution

Two Wave Mixing Intensity Coupling





Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 38

Band Transport

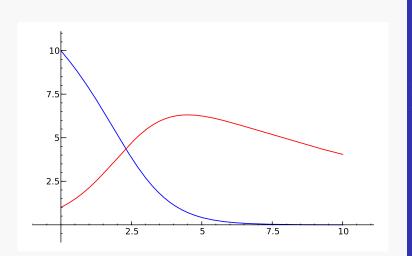
Harmonic Ilumination

Gratings graphical view
Coupled waves

Two Beam Coupling

Two Wave Mixing Intensity Coupling with Absorption





Photorefractivity Version 1.2 frame 39

and Transport

Harmonic Ilumination

Gratings graphical view
Coupled waves

Two Beam Coupling