Self-Organized Dynamics of Photoinduced Phase Grating formation in Optical Fibers*

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The dynamics of phase grating formation with visible light in an optical fiber is investigated. Adopting a simple two-photon local bleaching model, it is shown that the grating self-organizes in an ideal grating, where the writing frequency is always in the center of the local band gap, as it evolves. The evolution at each point in the fiber is described in terms of a universal parameter that reduces the coupled partial differential equations describing the system to ordinary differential equations. These equations are used to prove that there exists a fixed point of the grating growth process that corresponds to a perfectly phase-matched grating.

I. Introduction

For over a decade now it has been known that if the light of an Argon ion-laser is launched into germanosilicate optical fibers the initially high transmission drops on the time scale of seconds or minutes to very low values. Early investigations showed that somehow a grating is grown in the refractive index of the glass of the fiber, phase-matched for Bragg scattering so that the light is ultimately prevented from propagating through the fiber. A typical experimental run of the growth of such a grating is shown in Fig. 1, exhibiting the oscillations in the transmission and reflection that typically accompany the general decrease in the former and rise in the latter.

A full study of this phenomenon must address two questions: First, what is the microscopic mechanism which leads to the modification of the refractive index in the fiber? Second, how does one characterize the nonlinear dynamical process which describes the growth of the grating? In this paper, we shall attempt to address only the second of these questions. To do so, we require at least an approximate, phenomenological description of how the dielectric constant changes the fiber, in the typical experimental geometry illustrated in Fig. 2.

Though the precise microscopic mechanism which leads to these grating remains unclear, it is generally accepted that a two-photon interaction of the 488 nm laser light with an absorptive impurity band in the glass centered about 245 nm is responsible. We present here a description based on a local two-photon bleaching model, first suggested by Melz et al. In this model one assumes that, through the Kramers-Kronig relations, the photosensitivity originates from a bleaching of the impurity band. The justification of such models has been discussed more thoroughly in a previous study, and the reader is referred to this work for a more detailed description. In the present paper we just use the result that the local change in dielectric function \( \varepsilon(z, t) \) is related to the local intensity \( I(z, t) \) through a two-photon process, viz.

\[
\frac{\partial \varepsilon(z, t)}{\partial t} \propto F(z, t),
\]

II. Basic equations

In this section we first discuss how a given grating at time \( t \) affects the propagation of light through the fiber. We neglect effects specifically related to the fiber mode profiles, and assume that the only relevant spa-
Fig. 1. Experimental results shown in Ref. 3. The solid and dashed lines show the transmitted and reflected powers, respectively, as time increases. The gradual damping of the oscillation is due to the fiber heating.

Fig. 2. Schematic of the geometry we consider. The indices of refraction are given by \( n_1 \) for \( z<0 \), \( n_2 \) for \( 0<z<L \), and \( n_3 \) for \( z>L \). Note that the light enters from the right-hand side.

\[
e(z,t) = U(z,t)e^{ikz} + V(z,t)e^{-ikz},
\]

where \( U(z,t) \) and \( V(z,t) \) are the complex amplitudes of the right and left traveling waves respectively (see Fig. 2). Since the photoinduced gratings change on time scales typically much longer than the fiber round trip time \( L/c \), where \( L \) is the length of the fiber, at any time \( t \) we can take \( e(z,t) \) to be a solution of the wave equation describing stationary fields,

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon(z,t) \right] e(z,t) = 0.
\]

Initially, before any photoinduced change in \( \varepsilon(z,t) \), \( U \) and \( V \) are of course uniform. For the weak gratings that are typically induced, we assume that the scattering of light from the right to the left, and vice versa, can be described by fields \( U(z,t) \) and \( V(z,t) \) that are slowly varying in space on the time scale of the wavelength \( 2\pi/k \). Using Eq.(4) in Eq.(5) and adopting the slowly varying envelope approximation, we find the coupled mode equations

\[
\frac{\partial U(z,t)}{\partial z} = \frac{ik}{2\varepsilon} \left[ \varepsilon_0(z,t)U(z,t) + \varepsilon_0^*(z,t)V(z,t) \right],
\]

\[
\frac{\partial V(z,t)}{\partial z} = -\frac{ik}{2\varepsilon} \left[ \varepsilon_0(z,t)V(z,t) + \varepsilon_0^*(z,t)U(z,t) \right].
\]
For most of this paper we will adopt Eq.(10), sometimes called the local two-photon bleaching model, and explore its consequences. We mention that, even if Eq. (10) is accepted as the model for the permanent change in the dielectric constant, transient phenomena such as fiber heating can quantitatively affect the dynamics of grating growth.\[^3\] Such effects, which do not seem to modify the essential qualitative dynamics of grating formation, we neglect here.

Substituting Eqs.(2) and (4) into Eq.(10) and neglecting the non-phase matched terms involving $e^{iku}$ and $e^{-iku}$, we have

$$\frac{\partial \delta_0(z, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{2A}{2}(|U(z, t)|^2 + |V(z, t)|^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \delta_2(z, t)}{\partial t} = 2A(|U(z, t)|^2 + |V(z, t)|^2)|U(z, t)V^*(z, t)|,$$

which are subject to the initial conditions

$$\delta_0(z, 0) = \delta_2(z, 0) = 0.$$ (13)

Equations (12) and the initial conditions (13), combined with Eqs.(6) and the boundary conditions given by Eqs. (7) and (8), define the nonlinear dynamics of the system. We note the $U(z, t)$ and $V(z, t)$ change $\delta_0(z, t)$ and $\delta_2(z, t)$ locally, but that modifications of the dielectric constant change $U(z, t)$ and $V(z, t)$ globally. As a result, the dynamics of the electric field and grating are so intricately connected that it is difficult to separate one from the other. In the section 5, however, we show that in homogeneous models of the form of Eq.(10) there exists a universal evolution parameter which makes it possible to essentially decouple the local and non-local aspects of the dynamics of the system. Using this parameter we are able to transform the coupled partial differential equations into coupled ordinary differential equations, which of course vastly simplify the problem.

### III. Numerical Calculations

We use a fourth-order Runge-Kutta method to solve numerically the coupled partial differential equations defined in Sec. 2. In Fig. 3 we plot the transmission of the light through the fiber as a function of time.
It shows that the transmission is decreasing in time with the oscillations, showing good agreement with the experimental observations (see, Fig. 1).

In Fig. 4(a) we plot the transmission versus time when we assume no Fresnel reflection at the front end of the fiber initially (i.e., we set $r_{23}=0$ at $t=0$). The boundary condition at the front end of the fiber (i.e., Eq. 8) does not contribute to the transmission in this case, and as a result we see that the oscillatory behavior shown in Fig. 3 does not appear and the transmission drops monotonically. On the other hand, in Fig. 4(b) we plot the transmission versus time when we use the same boundary conditions as in the case of Fig. 3 initially, but at $t=20$ we set $r_{23}=0$ (i.e., the Fresnel reflection at the far end of the fiber is removed at this time). We see that the grating appears to stop growing and the transmission shows only the oscillatory behavior in time. Therefore we qualitatively conclude that the overall decrease of the transmission in Fig. 3 is due to the Fresnel reflection at the far end, and the oscillations are due to the interference between the light reflected directly from the front end surface and that reflected from the grating which is only moving.

In Figs. 5(a)-(c) we plot $\omega_0 \mid \phi_0$, and the phase of $\omega_0$ as a function of position $z$ at $t=100$. They all show monotonically increasing functions of $z$. From Fig. 5(c) we see that grating is highly chirped, and the grating phase $\phi$ is fixed at far end of the fiber $z=0$, which comes from the initial condition (13).

In Fig. 6 we plot the frequency response of the grating which was written by the light of frequency $\omega_0$. We stop growing the grating at $t=100$ and put a probe beam of frequency $\omega$ into the front surface of the fiber to study the reflectivity as a function of frequency. We see that the band width of the spectrum is order of 100 MHz. The narrow response of the grating also implies that it is almost perfectly phase matched to the writing radiation. In Fig. 7 we plot the frequency response of a uniform grating, when its maximum reflectivity is equal to that of Fig. 6, and comparing it with Fig. 6 we indeed notice that the grating of Fig. 6 is perfectly phase matched.

IV. The gap parameter

Before we try to solve the coupled mode equations
analytically, it turns out to be useful to rewrite these equations in a more concise formalism. To do this, we first write the coupled mode equations (6) as

$$\frac{\partial U(z, t)}{\partial z} = i\sigma(z, t)U(z, t) + i\kappa(z, t)e^{i\phi(z, t)}V(z, t)$$

where the grating fields $\sigma(z, t)$ and $\kappa(z, t)$ are defined by

$$\sigma(z, t) = \frac{k}{2\varepsilon} \xi_0(z, t)$$

$$\kappa(z, t) = \frac{k}{2\varepsilon} |\xi_0(z, t)|.$$ (15)

We next transform $U(z, t)$ and $V(z, t)$ to the field amplitudes $u(z, t)$ and $v(z, t)$ in the grating frame such that

$$U(z, t) = u(z, t)e^{i\phi_{Gr}}.$$
by the linear combinations of $e^{ikz}$ and $e^{-ikz}$, where $k$ is given by

$$k = \pm \sqrt{\eta^2 - 1}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

From Eq. (20) we see that if $|\eta| > 1$, the fields are described by sinusoidal functions, and thus forward and backward waves propagate with amplitudes determined by the boundary conditions. In fact, as $|\eta| \to \infty$, the coupled waves become totally decoupled, and $u$ and $v$ propagate independently (see Fig. 8). On the other hand if $|\eta| < 1$ (defining the stop gap), $u$ and $v$ are described by hyperbolic functions which are non-propagating (the edges of the stop gap are defined by $\eta = \pm 1$). Moreover, in the middle of the stop gap (i.e., $|\eta| \to 0$) we exactly satisfy the Bragg condition. Therefore in order to get the strongly Bragg-matched reflected light we expect that $\eta$ must be in the region of the stop gap.

V. Reduction of the dynamics

The solution of the set of coupled partial differential equations (6, 12) is facilitated by the introduction of new variables to define the state of the electromagnetic field. We put

$$s_1 = 2Re[u(z, t)u(z, t)]$$
$$s_2 = 2Im[u^*(z, t)u(z, t)]$$
$$s_3 = |u(z, t)|^2 - |u(z, t)|^2$$
$$s_0 = |v(z, t)|^2 + |u(z, t)|^2.$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

Note that these are not all independent, but they satisfy the relation

$$s_0^2 = s_1^2 + s_2^2 + s_3^2.$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

If $s_1$, $s_2$ and $s_3$ are specified at a given $(z, t)$, then $u(z, t)$ and $v(z, t)$ may be determined except for an overall phase factor. We begin by writing the coupled mode equations (6) in terms of $s$-variables:

$$\frac{\partial s_0}{\partial y} = 2s_2$$
$$\frac{\partial s_1}{\partial y} = -2\eta s_2$$
$$\frac{\partial s_2}{\partial y} = 2\eta s_1 + 2s_0$$
$$\frac{\partial s_3}{\partial y} = 0.$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)
The two-photon equations (12) can be rewritten as
\[
\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} = s_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}(s_1^2 + s_2^2) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} = s_0 s_1
\]
where the coefficient \( A \) in Eqs.(12) is absorbed in time variable \( t \). The initial conditions (13) become
\[
\sigma(z, 0) = A(z, 0) = \phi(z, 0) = 0, \tag{25}
\]
where the initial condition on \( \phi \) is chosen for later convenience. To complete the rewriting of our dynamical equations (6-8, 12-13) in terms of these new variables, we must consider the boundary conditions (7-8).
Equation (7) is easily written as a condition on ratios of the \( s \)-parameters,
\[
\frac{s_0(0, t)}{s_0(0, t)} = 2s_2/(1 - r_1^2)
\]
where the third follows from the first two and Eq.(22). The boundary condition (8) may also be written in terms of our new variables, but it is more complicated; we defer its expression to later in this section.

The last of Eqs.(23) expresses the fact that the energy flux through the fiber is independent of position; from it we may write
\[
s_3 = s_3(t). \tag{27}
\]
This holds because we neglect any effect of absorption on the light propagation. Such absorption, though ultimately responsible for the change in the dielectric constant that leads to grating formation, is very weak, and its neglect on light propagation, implicit in the form of our coupled mode equations (6) and the parameters in those equations, is well justified.

Since \( s_3 \) does not depend on the variable \( z \), we are led to simplify our equations by dividing both sides of Eqs.(23) by \( s_3 \) to obtain
\[
\frac{\partial s_0}{\partial y} = 2s_2, \quad \frac{\partial s_1}{\partial y} = -2\eta \zeta,
\]
where the \( \zeta \)-variables are defined as
\[
\zeta_0 = \frac{s_0}{s_3}, \quad \zeta_1 = \frac{s_1}{s_3}, \quad \zeta_2 = \frac{s_2}{s_3}. \tag{29}
\]
We can also write Eqs.(24) in terms of the \( \zeta \)-variables
\[
\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial \tau} = \zeta_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\zeta_1^2 + \zeta_2^2) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial \tau} = \zeta_0 \zeta_1
\]
\[
\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial \tau} = \zeta_0 \zeta_2, \tag{30}
\]
where a new time variable \( \tau \) is defined as
\[
\tau = \int_0^t s_3(t') dt'. \tag{31}
\]
We now seek a solution of our equations involving an evolution of the grating fields of the form
\[
\sigma = \tau \tilde{\sigma}(\tau z) \quad \kappa = \tau \tilde{\kappa}(\tau z) \quad \phi = \tilde{\phi}(\tau z), \tag{32}
\]
which satisfies the initial conditions (25) as long as \( \tilde{\phi}(0) = 0 \). For this assumed form for the grating fields, \( y \) and \( \eta \) in Eqs.(17) and (18) can be written respectively as
\[
y = \int_0^z \tilde{\kappa}(x') dx' = y(z)
\]
\[
\eta = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\tilde{\phi}(x)}{\kappa(x)} = \eta(x), \tag{33}
\]
where the universal evolution parameter \( x \) is defined by
\[
x = \tau z. \tag{34}
\]
That is, if the grating fields do evolve according to the form Eq.(32), then the evolution of \( y \) and \( \eta \) at any point in the fiber is similar to the evolution of those quantities at every other point in the fiber. In particular, the grating parameter \( \eta \) goes through the same evolution history at each point in the fiber, points at the input end of the fiber (large \( z \)) simply running through this history at a faster rate than points near
the far end of the fiber (small \( z \)).

Since \( y \) and \( \eta \) depend explicitly only on \( x \) for the proposed solution (32), from Eqs. (28) we are led to seek \( \tilde{s} \)-variable evolution which also depend only on \( x \), i.e.,

\[
\tilde{s}_0 = \tilde{s}_0(x), \quad \tilde{s}_1 = \tilde{s}_1(x), \quad \tilde{s}_2 = \tilde{s}_2(x).
\]

Then, using the assumed forms (32, 35), we find

\[
\frac{d\tilde{s}_0(x)}{dx} = 2\tilde{k}(x)\tilde{s}_0(x)
\]

\[
\frac{d\tilde{s}_1(x)}{dx} = -2\tilde{k}(x)\eta(x)\tilde{s}_0(x)
\]

\[
\frac{d\tilde{s}_2(x)}{dx} = -2\tilde{k}(x)\eta(x)\tilde{s}_2(x) + 2\tilde{k}(x)\tilde{s}_0(x)
\]

are required to satisfy Eqs.(28), and

\[
\tilde{\alpha}(x) = \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x \left[ \tilde{s}_2(x') + \frac{1}{2} (\tilde{\sigma}_2(x') + \tilde{\sigma}_1(x')) \right] dx'
\]

\[
\tilde{k}(x) = \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x \tilde{s}_0(x')\tilde{s}_1(x')dx'
\]

and

\[
\frac{d\tilde{\sigma}_0(x)}{dx} = \frac{1}{x} \tilde{s}_0(x)\tilde{s}_2(x)
\]

are required to satisfy Eqs.(30). The boundary condition (26) becomes an initial condition to which Eqs.(36-38) are subject,

\[
\tilde{s}_1(0) = \frac{2r_{21}}{1 - r_{21}^2}, \quad \tilde{s}_0(0) = 0.
\]

So we see that gratings of the form (32), and electric fields of the form specified implicitly by (35), do indeed describe a solution of the coupled partial differential equations (6, 12), which are subject to the boundary conditions (7), as long as Eqs.(36-37) are satisfied, subject to the initial condition (39) and the relations (33, 38). The problem of solving the coupled partial differential equations has been replaced by the problem of solving the two ordinary, integro-differential equations (36-37). It is clear from this reduction that the gap parameter \( \eta \) and \( \tilde{s} \)-variables at each point in the fiber, except \( z = 0 \), evolve in exactly the same way when measured by the universal parameter \( x \). With respect to actual time, of course, the points at the front end of the fiber evolve more quickly, as expected since it is that region from which light is last excluded as the grating grows. What was unexpected and we believe is surprising is that, once this effect is included by characterizing the evolution in terms of the parameter \( x \), the grating fields and electric field evolve in such a similar manner (Eqs. 32, 35) at each point in the fiber.

The barred functions can be determined numerically, and are independent of both the length of the fiber and the index \( n_3 \) since the boundary condition (7) has been used only. To determine \( s_0(t) \) and thus complete the determination of the grating and field, we must use the other boundary condition (8). From Eqs. (21, 29) we have

\[
|U(L, t)|^2 = \frac{1}{2} s_0(t) [\tilde{s}_0(\tau L) - 1]
\]

\[
|V(L, t)|^2 = \frac{1}{2} s_0(t) [\tilde{s}_0(\tau L) + 1]
\]

(40)

and substituting Eqs.(40) into Eq.(8) we find

\[
\frac{r_{12}^2 |e_m|^2}{s_0(t)} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + r_{23} \tilde{s}_0(\tau L) + \frac{1}{2} (1 - r_{23}^2)
\right.
\]

\[
+ r_{23} [\tilde{s}_0(\tau L) \sin(2L + \tilde{\phi}(\tau L))
\]

\[
- \tilde{s}_0(\tau L) \cos(2L + \tilde{\phi}(\tau L))] \nonumber
\]

\[
= \frac{F(\tau, L)}{n_3}.
\]

(41)

Finally substituting Eq.(41) into Eq.(31) we have

\[
\int_0^L P'(\tau', L)d\tau' = \frac{r_{23}}{n_3} |e_m|^2 t.
\]

(42)

After the barred functions have been numerically determined, Eq.(42) may be used to find \( \tau \) in terms of \( t \), from which (see Eq. 31) \( s_0(t) \) may be determined for the particular length of fiber and \( n_3 \) under consideration. Inverting Eq.(42) numerically to find \( \tau(t) \), the complete solutions for the grating and field are determined. With this in hand, all physical quantities of interest can be calculated. For example, the transmission of the fiber is give by

\[
T(t) = \frac{n_1}{n_3} \left| \frac{\epsilon_m(t)}{\epsilon_m} \right|^2
\]

\[
= \frac{n_1}{2n_3} \frac{r_{23}^2 r_{12}^2}{F(\tau, L)} (1 + \tilde{s}_0(0)).
\]

(43)
0\textsuperscript{−}, and in deriving the second line of Eq.(43) we have used Eqs.(40-41).

VI. Fixed point

To see qualitatively how the state of the grating in the fiber evolves, we study the evolution of the parameters \(\eta\) and \(\mu\), where

\[
\mu = \frac{1}{2\kappa(x,t)} \frac{\partial \kappa(x,t)}{\partial z}
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{2\kappa(x)} \frac{d\kappa(x)}{dx} \equiv \mu(x),
\]

the second equality following from the forms (32). From Eqs.(37) and (39), we find

\[
\eta(0) = \frac{r_{21}}{2(1+r_{21}^2)}, \quad \mu(0) = 0.
\]

(45)

In Fig. 9 we show a plot of \(\mu\) versus \(\eta\), with \(x\) as a parameter, determined from a numerical solution of Eqs.(36-37) with \(n_1=1\) and \(n_2=1.5\). From Fig. 9 we see, since \(x \to \infty\) as \(t \to \infty\) for all points of the fiber except \(z=0\), that all points of the fiber except the very far end tend asymptotically to the state \(\eta=0\), \(\mu=1/2\).

This then identifies a fixed point, or attractor, for the state of growth of the grating. Numerical investigations indicate that there exists only one fixed point which is independent of \(r_{21}\); indeed, this independence and the stability of the fixed point may be examined analytically. To do this we find, using Eqs.(36-37) and the definitions (33) and (44),

\[
\frac{d\eta}{d\phi} = \frac{\bar{s}_1}{2s_0s_2} - \frac{s_1 - s_2}{s_2} \eta
\]

\[
\frac{d\mu}{d\phi} = \frac{s_1}{s_2} - \eta - \frac{\bar{s}_1}{s_2} \mu.
\]

(46)

From Eq.(45) we see that \(0 \leq \eta(0) < 0.25\), so we consider the general behavior of \(\eta\), \(\mu\) in the neighborhood of \(\eta=0\) by using the solutions of Eqs.(36) at \(\eta=0\). Those solutions, which satisfy the initial condition (39), are

\[
\bar{s}_1 \approx \frac{2r_{21}}{1-r_{21}^2},
\]

\[
\bar{s}_2 \approx \frac{1+r_{21}^2}{1-r_{21}^2}\sinh\left[2\int_0^x \kappa(x')dx'\right].
\]

(47)

Using Eqs.(47) in Eqs.(46), we find

\[
\frac{d\eta}{d\phi} = \tilde{\mu} - \frac{2\bar{s}_1}{s_2} \eta
\]

\[
\frac{d\mu}{d\phi} = -\eta - \frac{2\bar{s}_1}{s_2} \tilde{\mu},
\]

(48)

in the limit \(x \to \infty\), where \(\tilde{\mu} = \mu - 1/2\). That is, \((\eta, \tilde{\mu})\) behave like the conjugate variables of a damped harmonic oscillator, reaching a stable steady state \((\eta, \tilde{\mu}) = (0, 0)\) as \(x \to \infty\). The universality implies that at each point in the fiber the grating state, specified by \(\eta\) and \(\mu\) goes through the same history, but at a different rate. Thus we see that the dynamical process approaches a fixed point corresponding to a perfectly phase-matched grating, with the region of the fiber near the input moving faster towards that attractor than the regions further away.

VII. Conclusions

In summary, there is interesting grating dynamics to be investigated in the “internal writing” geometry shown in Fig. 2. If a local two-photon bleaching geometry is adopted, the gratings self-organize into effectively “ideal” gratings, in the sense that they adjust themselves so that the center of the local band gap is at the writing frequency. This corresponds to a fixed point of the state of grating growth. More generally, for all homogeneous growth equation of the form (10) a uni-
universal parameter describes the evolution of the grating at every point, with each point in the grating developing in essentially the same way. Extensions of the kind of approach we have developed here to other geometries and material dynamics are underway.\(^{[11]}\)

**References**


광 섬유내의 광유도 위상격자가 형성되는 자기조직 역학에 관한 연구

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본 논문에서는 광섬유에 아르곤 레이저 빔이 임사될 때 생기는 위상격자 형성에 관한 역학을 다룬다. 간단한 상광자 백색모델(two-photon bleaching model)을 이용하여 위상격자의 시간이 지남에 따라 이상적인(ideal) 격자로 자기조직화(self-organized)을 보인다. 광섬유의 각질에서의 시간에 따른 상태전개는 하나의 보편 매개변수(universal parameter)에 의해 나타내어지고 또한 이 광섬유계를 기술하는 연립 편미분 방정식이 이 매개변수에 의해 열린 상 미분 방정식으로 간소화 된다. 이 열린 상 미분 방정식을 이용하여 위상격자가 나타나는 상태는 고정점(a fixed point)을 통해 가는 과정이고 이 고정점은 완벽히 위상맞춤(phase-matched)된 격자에 해당한다는 것을 보인다.