Problem Set 4
Nonlinear Optics (NLO)

Due: May 23, 2018, 08:00 AM

1) Typical Electric Field Strengths in Nonlinear Optics, Typical Nonlinear Susceptibilities

For an order-of-magnitude estimation of the nonlinear susceptibilities $\chi^{(2)}$ and $\chi^{(3)}$, let us consider a simplistic model of an atom, in which the electron is bound to the nucleus by a characteristic atomic field strength

$$E_{\text{at}} = \frac{e}{\epsilon_0 4\pi a_0^2} \ , \tag{1.1}$$

where $e = 1.60\times10^{-19}\,\text{C}$ is the elementary charge, $\epsilon_0 = 8.85\times10^{-12}\,\text{F/m}$ is the vacuum permittivity and $a_0 = 4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2/m_e e^2 = 0.053\,\text{nm}$ is the Bohr radius, i.e. the most probable distance between nucleus and electron in a hydrogen atom ($\hbar = 6.626\times10^{-34}\,\text{Js}$ is the reduced Planck constant, $m_e = 9.1\times10^{-31}\,\text{kg}$ is the electron mass). Externally applied electric fields lead to a displacement of the electron with respect to the core and hence to an electric dipole moment, i.e., a nonzero electric polarization P. Usually external fields E_{ext} are much smaller than E_{at} and the dependence between E_{ext} and P can be approximated by the linear relationship $P = \epsilon_0\chi^{(1)}E_{\text{ext}}$. For most solid-state materials, $\chi^{(1)}$ is in the order of unity.

A common argument [1] says that the nonlinear contributions to the polarization $P^{(m)} = \epsilon_0\chi^{(m)}E^m$ ($m > 1$) become comparable to the linear contribution $P_{\text{L}} = \epsilon_0\chi^{(1)}E$ when the applied electric field E_{ext} is in the order of E_{at}.

1. Calculate the characteristic atomic field strength E_{at}. Then, setting $\chi^{(1)} = 1$ and $P_{\text{L}} = P^{(m)}$ estimate the order of magnitude of $\chi^{(2)}$ and $\chi^{(3)}$ under the given assumptions.

A typical femtosecond laser system produces pulses with a repetition rate of 80 MHz, pulse duration 100 fs, and an average power of 1 W at a wavelength of 1 µm. Imagine that the beam is focused on a spot having diameter equal to the wavelength.

2. What is the optical power averaged on one pulse, assuming that the pulse has rectangular shape?

3. What is the maximum electric field strength in the focus assuming that the field is uniform within the given diameter? Compare with the result obtained at point 1.

[1] Boyd, R.W., *Nonlinear Optics* (San Diego: Academic Press, 2003).

2) Nonlinear polarization of *n*-th order

In Eq. (2.30) in the lecture notes we have used the following expansion for the electric field in the time domain:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t)=\frac{1}{2}\left(\sum_{l=-N}^{N}\left(1+\delta_{l,0}\right)\underline{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r},\omega_l)e^{\mathrm{j}\omega_l t}\right), \tag{1.2}$$

where $\delta_{j,k}$ is the Kronecker delta, i.e., $\delta_{j,k}=0$ for $j\neq k$ and $\delta_{j,k}=1$ for $j=k$, $\omega_{-l}=-\omega_l$, $\underline{\mathbf{E}}(\omega_l)=\underline{\mathbf{E}}^*(-\omega_l)$, $\omega_0=0$, and $\underline{\mathbf{E}}(\omega_0)\in\mathbb{R}$. Based on this relation, the complex time-domain amplitude of the *n*-th order polarization at a frequency $\omega_p=\omega_{l_1}+\ldots+\omega_{l_n}$ can be written according to Eq. (2.32) in the lecture notes,

$$\underline{\mathbf{P}}^{(n)}(\omega_p)=\frac{1}{2^{n-1}}\epsilon_0\sum_{\mathbb{S}(\omega_p)}\frac{\left(1+\delta_{l_1,0}\right)\ldots\left(1+\delta_{l_n,0}\right)}{1+\delta_{p,0}}\underline{\chi}^{(n)}\left(\omega_p:\omega_{l_1},\ldots,\omega_{l_n}\right)\vdots\underline{\mathbf{E}}(\omega_{l_1})\ldots\underline{\mathbf{E}}(\omega_{l_n}), \tag{1.3}$$

where $\mathbb{S}\left(\omega_p\right)=\left\{\left(l_1,\ldots,l_n\right)\mid\omega_{l_1}+\ldots+\omega_{l_n}=\omega_p\right\}$. Every frequency $\omega_{l_1},\ldots,\omega_{l_n}$ can take the positive or negative value of a frequency $\omega_1,\ldots,\omega_n$ that appears in the input signal. The frequency-dependent susceptibility tensor $\underline{\chi}^{(n)}\left(\omega_p:\omega_{l_1},\ldots,\omega_{l_n}\right)$ describes the nonlinear interaction between different electric field vectors.

1. Explain the meaning of the "$\vdots$" sign in Eq. (1.3).
2. Apply Eq. (1.3) to the case of the nonlinear processes listed below and write down the complex time-domain amplitude $\underline{\mathbf{P}}^{(n)}$ of the nonlinear polarization as a function of the complex electric field amplitudes $\underline{\mathbf{E}}$. Sketch the energy-level diagrams involving all relevant virtual energy levels of the input frequencies.
    a. Self-phase modulation (SPM): $\omega_p=\omega_1+\omega_1-\omega_1=\omega_1$
    b. Cross-phase modulation (XPM): $\omega_p=\omega_1+\omega_2-\omega_2=\omega_1$
    c. Non-degenerate four-wave mixing (non-deg. FWM): $\omega_p=\omega_1+\omega_2-\omega_3=\omega_4$
    d. Sum-frequency generation (SFG): $\omega_3=\omega_1+\omega_2$
    e. Optical rectification (OR): $\omega_2=\omega_1-\omega_1$
    f. Electro-optic Kerr effect: $\omega_3=\omega_1+\omega_2+\omega_2=\omega_1$, $\omega_2=0$
3. For the case of SFG, express the *x*-component of the complex time-domain amplitude of the nonlinear polarization $\underline{\mathbf{P}}^{(2)}(\omega_3=\omega_1+\omega_2)$. Consider the contributions of all vector components of the electric field and write down the fully expanded expression without using the tensor short form notation.

Questions and Comments:

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