

Experiments in Fiber Optics

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In this experiment, we have explored a simple method to measure non-linear properties of different optical materials - Single Beam Zscan. The experiments were performed with a TEM₀₀ Gaussian laser with a wavelength of 532 nm. We have analyzed the data using Python and calculated the non-Linear Refractive Index and the non-Linear absorption coefficient for different samples. We have also examined certain improvements to our setup that could give better results.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the early 1840s Paris, Daniel Colladon and Jacques Babinet first demonstrated the guiding of light by refraction and by the 19th century, a team of doctors from Vienna were able to guide light through bent glass rods to illuminate body cavities. Over the next century practical applications followed and in 1953, Dutch scientist Bram van Heel first demonstrated image transmission through bundles of optical fibers with a transparent cladding.

Today, optical fibers form the backbone of our communications systems.

II. OBJECTIVES

There are several major objectives that will be achieved as part of this experiment. They are:

1. To study the basics of non-linear optical properties by using Z-scan technique.
2. Taking measurements of transmitted power for open and closed aperture by translating the material in the z -direction.
3. By fitting these data with the appropriate formulas, we will find the medium's nonlinear absorption coefficient and non-linear refractive index for different samples.
4. To compare the difference between non-linear refractive index of a sample in two forms: as a *thin film coating* and as a *solution*.

III. THEORY

IV. THE EXPERIMENTS

V. DISCUSSIONS

1. While taking observations, we noticed that there were some places near the focus where we found some sudden fluctuations in transmittance. To remove the dip, we tried reducing the power. The magnitude of the fluctuations was somewhat minimized but they could not be removed completely.
2. During data analysis, we employed Python's SciPy package and used its subroutine to remove the fluctuations (based on the Savitzky-Golay filter) for a better fit to the our theoretical model.
3. In the case of the organic sample in thin film form, there were multiple dips after the focus resulting in sub-par data. In case of solution of the same sample, the data obtained was not presentable due to too much dominance of the multiple interference fluctuations.
4. This may be due to high absorption coefficient for the sample so that the refractive index changes very rapidly due to significant thermal variation along
5. We performed the experiment for the same sample and verified that the refractive index and absorption coefficient were within the margin of error. The discrepancies could be explained by the relative instability of the cuvette when performing the experiment with solution.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

1. We can use Z-scan experimental configuration to obtain nonlinear refractive index and nonlinear absorption coefficients of any standard samples.
2. The sign and magnitude of nonlinear refractive index of the samples can be measured.

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3. Using the equations of normalized transmittance and fitting them with the data points and will report the refractive index and nonlinear absorption coefficients.

4. The property of non-linear sample to change re-

fractive index on changing intensity can be used to make a optical transistor type of thing.

VII. PRECAUTIONS AND SOURCES OF ERROR

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