

XVII J. A. Swieca School - Curitiba (March, 2023)

# Nonlinear Optics

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3rd. lecture

# Random Lasers

Introduction - short history +  
comments on light propagation in  
scattering media + examples

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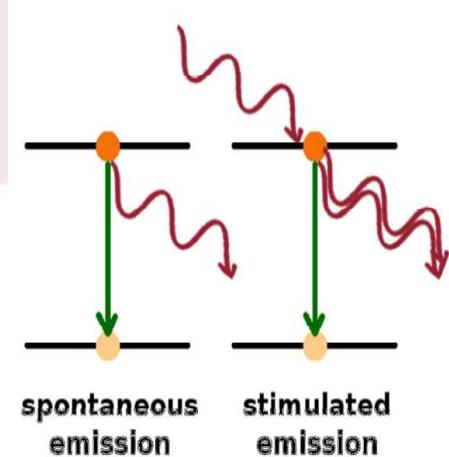
## Examples and recent advances

- Stokes and anti-Stokes Random Lasers
- Multicolor emission from RLs
- Universal Photonic Phase-Transitions

# Random Lasers

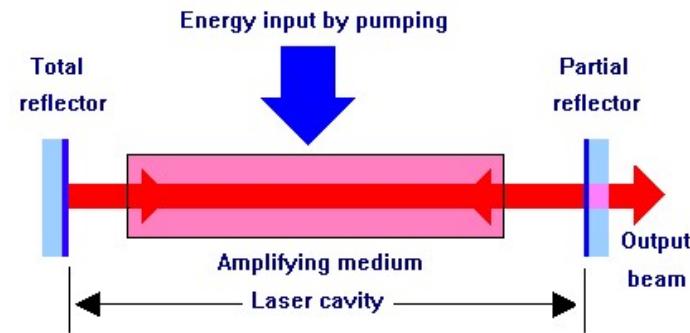
- Disordered Photonics (disordered structures that strongly scatter light)
- Laser Physics
- Nonlinear Wave-mixing and Multiphoton absorption
- Glassy behavior of light (Spin Glass - Replica Symmetry Breaking theory)
- Paramagnetic-to-ferromagnetic photonic phase-transition (spontaneous mode-locking)

# Conventional lasers



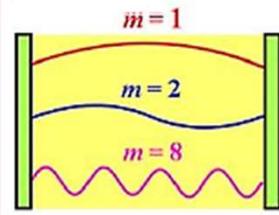
1916 Einstein

## Essential components



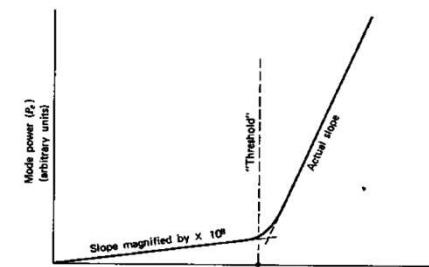
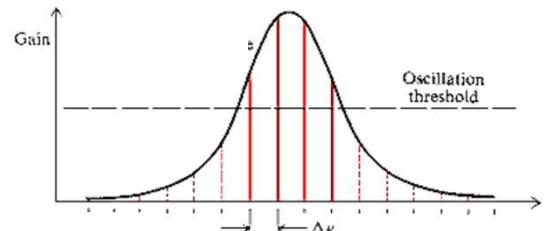
1960 Maiman (Rubi laser)

## Resonant modes



Townes, Basov, Prokhorov – Physics Nobel Prize - 1964

## Gain curve



Laser threshold  
Gain > losses

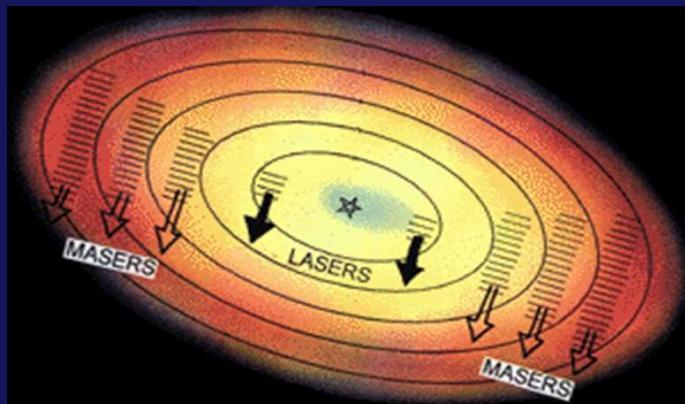


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# Lasers in Nature

$\text{CO}_2$  lasers - from Mars and Venus

NIR Laser from  $\eta$  - Carinae (star MWC 349A)  
(most intense star in the Milky Way)



Intensity  
interferometry  
Australia Univ.

Far-infrared hydrogen laser in the peculiar star  
MWC 349A *Science* 272 (1996) 1459

S. Johansson, V. S. Letokhov, *Astrophysical lasers operating in optical FeII lines in stellar ejecta of Eta Carinae*. *Ast. & Astrophys. J.* 428 (2004) 497

Fe II lines: 961.7 and 991.3 nm



## A study of line intensities in stellar spectra 1924 - PhD thesis (Princeton U.)

D. H. Menzel  
(1901-1976)

1937 - Ap. J. 85, 330 - Stimulated emission  
from gaseous nebulae

“The physical significance of such a result is  
that energy is emitted rather than absorbed  
... as if the atmosphere had a negative  
opacity.”

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D. H. Menzel

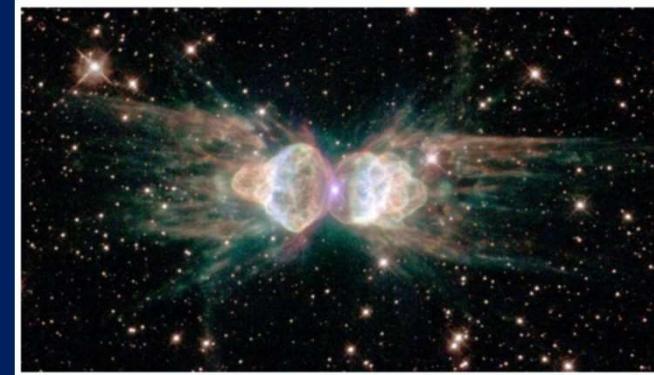
Nat. Bur. Stds. Spec. Publ. 332, 134-137 (1970)  
Laser action in non-LTE atmospheres

# Formiga espacial dispara lasers em direção à Terra

23/maio/2018

Por ZAP - 23 maio, 2018

Report from the Herschel Observatory - European Space Agency: laser emission from the Ant Nebula



## Herschel Planetary Nebula Survey (HerPlaNS): hydrogen recombination laser lines in Mz 3

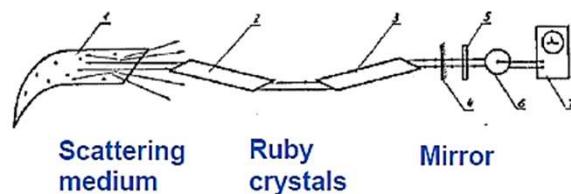
Isabel Aleman ✉, Katrina Exter, Toshiya Ueta, Samuel Walton, A G G M Tielens, Albert Zijlstra, Rodolfo Montez, Jr, Zulema Abraham, Masaaki Otsuka, Pedro P B Beaklini Peter A M van Hoof, Eva Villaver, Marcelo L Leal-Ferreira, Edgar Mendoza, Jacques D R Lépine

*Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, Volume 477, Issue 4, 11 July 2018, Pages 4499–4510, <https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/sty966>

**Published:** 16 May 2018    **Article history** ▾

# Random Lasers are lasers without mirrors

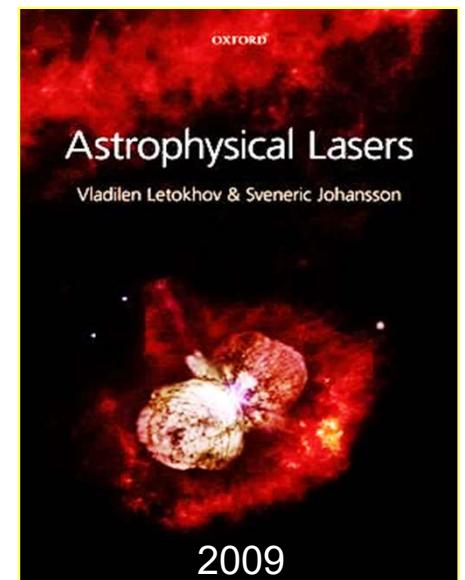
Ambartsumyan, Basov, Kryukov, Letokhov,  
A laser with nonresonant feedback  
IEEE J. Quantum Electron. 2 (1966) 442-446



V. S. Letokhov  
(1939–2009)

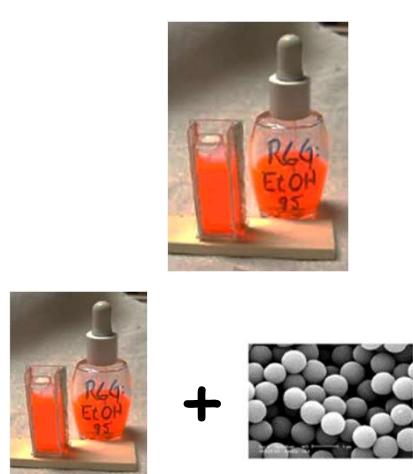
Letokhov, Proposal of scattering with “negative absorption” to describe emissions from astrophysical molecular clouds  
Sov. Phys. JETP 5 (1967) 212-215

S. Johansson and V. S. Letokhov  
Astrophysical lasers and nonlinear optical effects in space. New Astronomy  
Reviews 51 (2007) 443-523



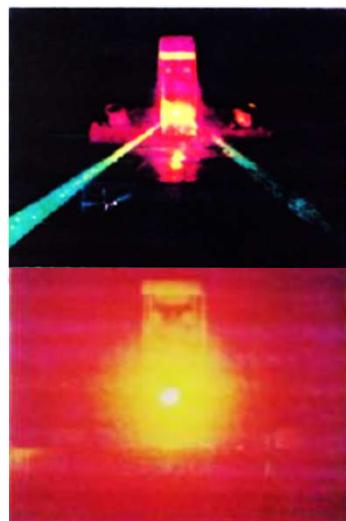
# First efficient Random Laser

Rhodamine - Excitation: @ 532 nm, ps



NPs  $\text{TiO}_2$  (250 nm)

Rh:  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  M  
 $10^{11}$  particles /  $\text{cm}^3$   
Mean free path:  
 $120 \text{ } \text{\AA}$  m @ 532 nm  
 $140 \text{ } \text{\AA}$  m @ 650 nm

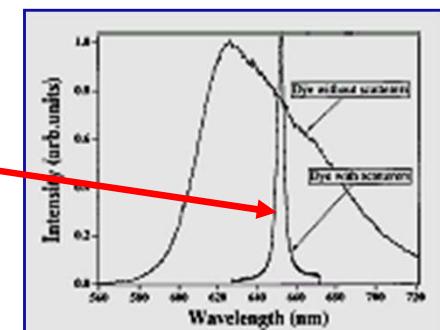


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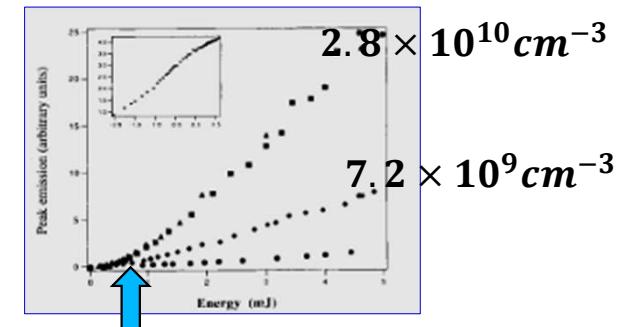
Lawandy, Balachandran, **Gomes**, Sauvain  
Laser action in strong scattering media  
**Nature** 368 (1994) 436

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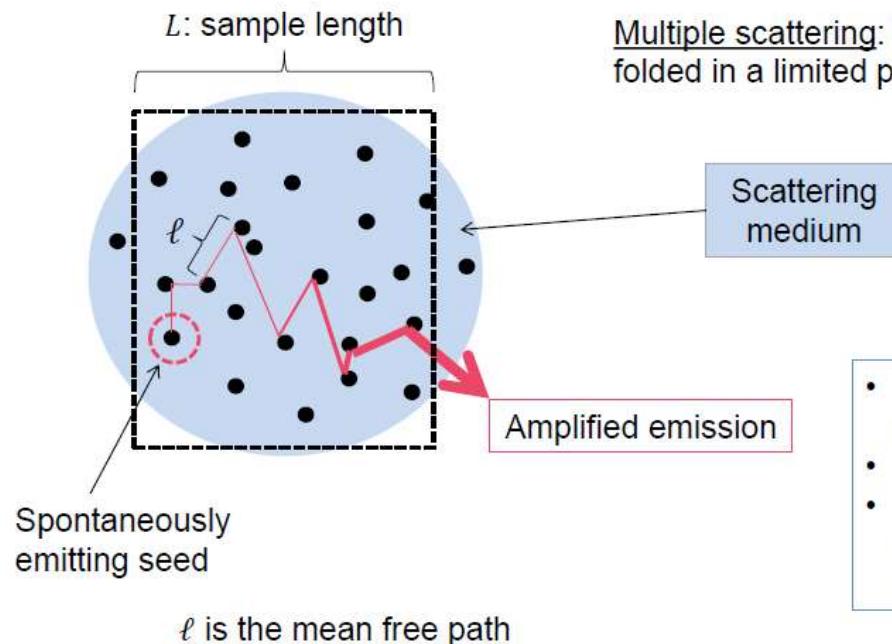
Intensity  
÷ 100



Photons follow random paths due to reflections by  $\text{TiO}_2$  NPs

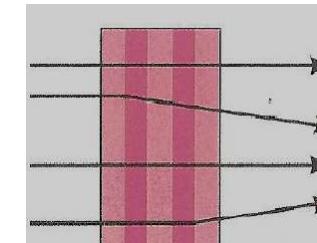


# multiple light scattering is essential

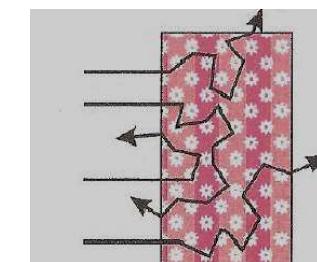


Multiple scattering: light paths are folded in a limited pumped volume

- $\ell \gg L \rightarrow$  linear propagation
- $\ell \ll L \rightarrow$  diffusion
- $\ell \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow$  Strong scattering: **Anderson localization of light**

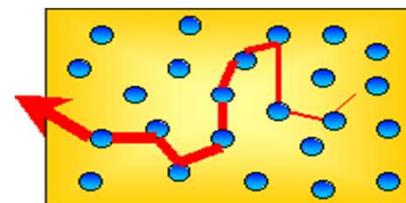


$$l \gg L$$

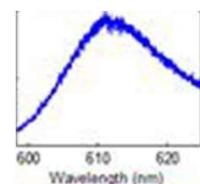


$$l \ll L$$

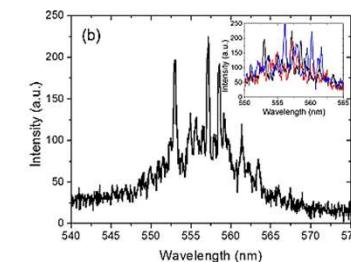
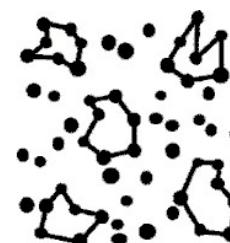
"Incoherent" feedback



Amplified spontaneous emission



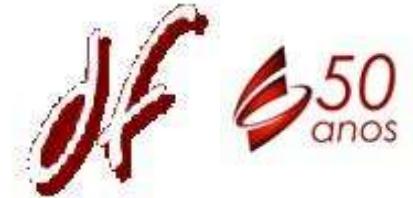
"Coherent" feedback



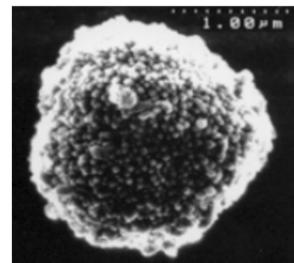
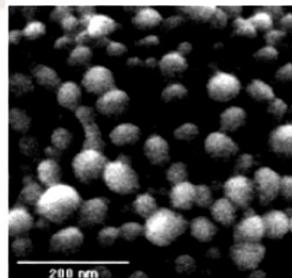
spikes

"Optical cavities"     $n \frac{\lambda}{2} = d$

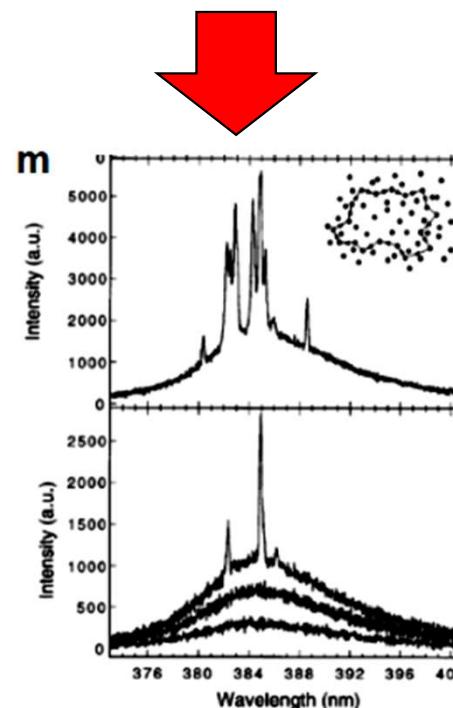
# ZnO crystalline powders



Average diameter of particles:  $\approx 100$  nm



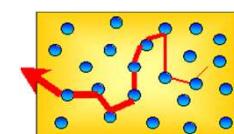
Hui Cao et al.  
APL 73 (1998) 3656  
PRL 82 (1999) 2278



Feedback  
spikes  $\leftrightarrow$  coherent



ASE  $\leftrightarrow$  incoherent



photon-statistics measurements  
Poisson distribution well-above threshold

11



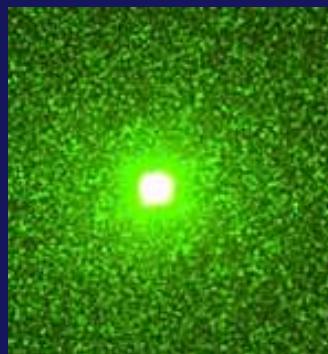
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Excitation: 80 ps @ 532 nm  
Emission at 380 nm



## Conventional laser

- Narrow linewidth
- Long coherence time
- Large spatial coherence
- Directionality
- Modes determined by the cavity



speckle



Beam profile

## Random laser

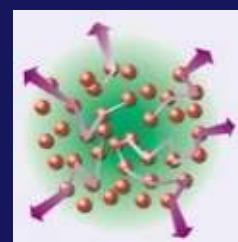
- Large linewidth
- Short coherence time
- Small spatial coherence
- No directionality
- Modes determined by multiple scattering



controlled speckle

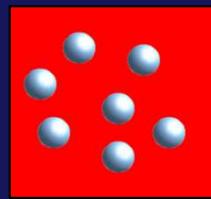


Moura et al.



"photon bomb"

# Random Lasers



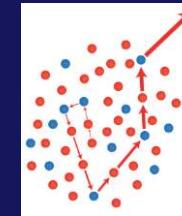
Scatterers inside  
the gain medium

Rhodamine with  
 $\text{TiO}_2$  NPs



Scatterers form  
gain medium

Semiconductor  
quantum-dots



Scatterers+Gain  
particles

Nanocrystals with  
RE ions +Ag NPs

## Our experiments at Recife

Colloids



Powders



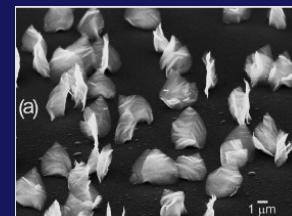
Membranes



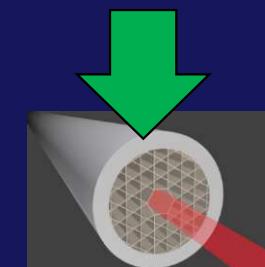
"Chips"



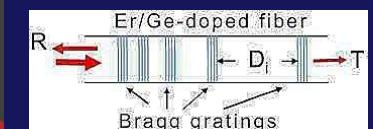
Rh6G  
 $\text{TiO}_2$   
Si



Optical fibers

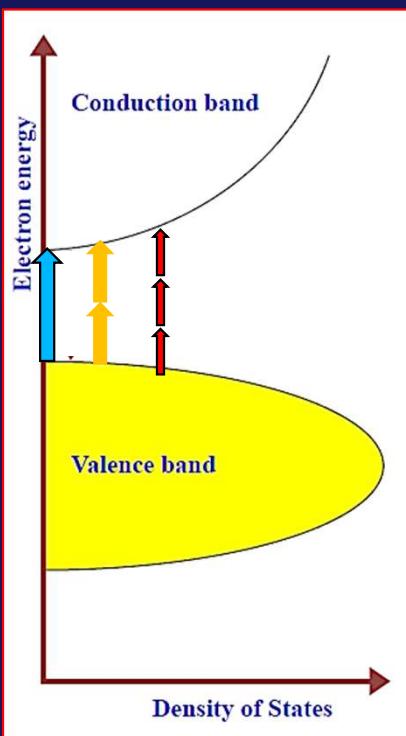
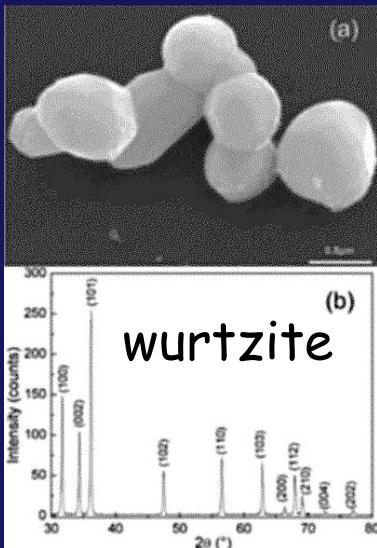


Random Bragg grating

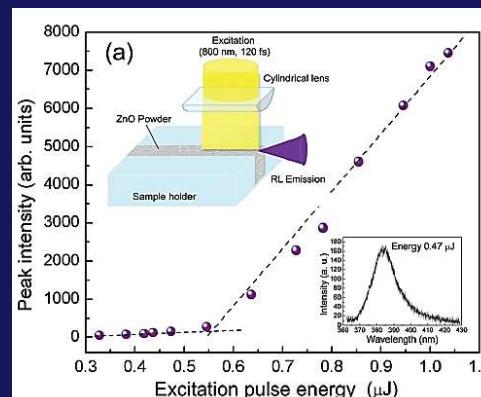


Dominguez, Gomes, Macedo, de Araújo, Gomes,  
**Multiphoton excited coherent random**  
laser emission in ZnO powders Nanoscale 7 (2015) 317

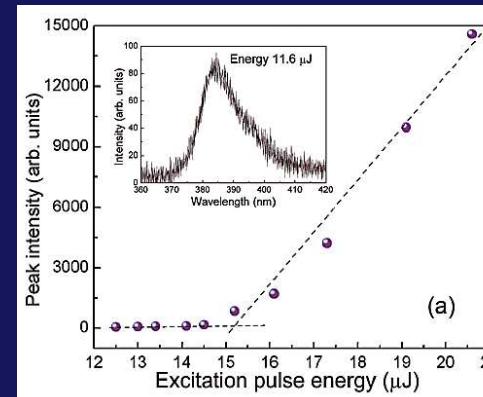
RL @388 nm



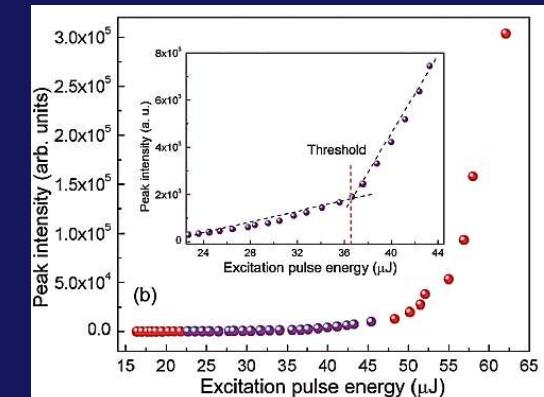
Pump: 354 nm



Pump: 710 nm



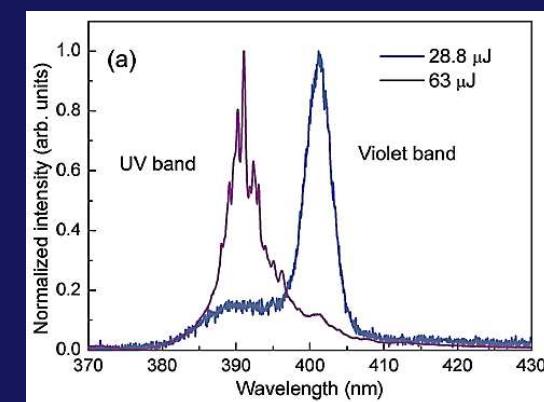
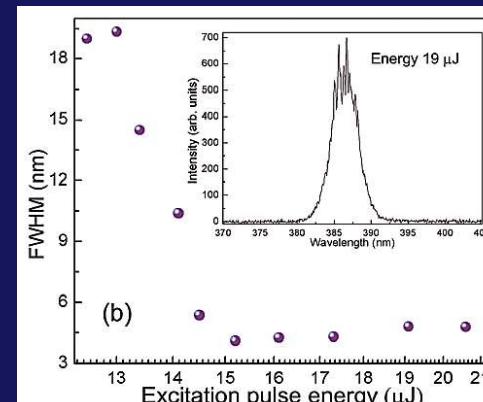
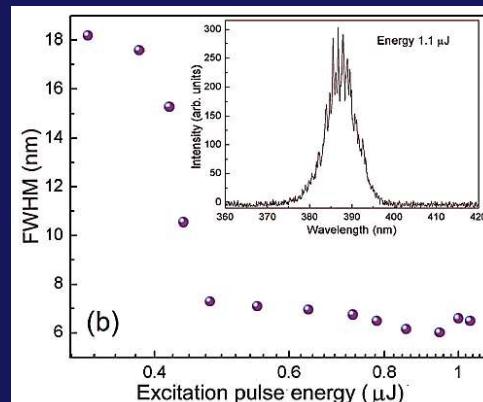
Pump: 802 nm

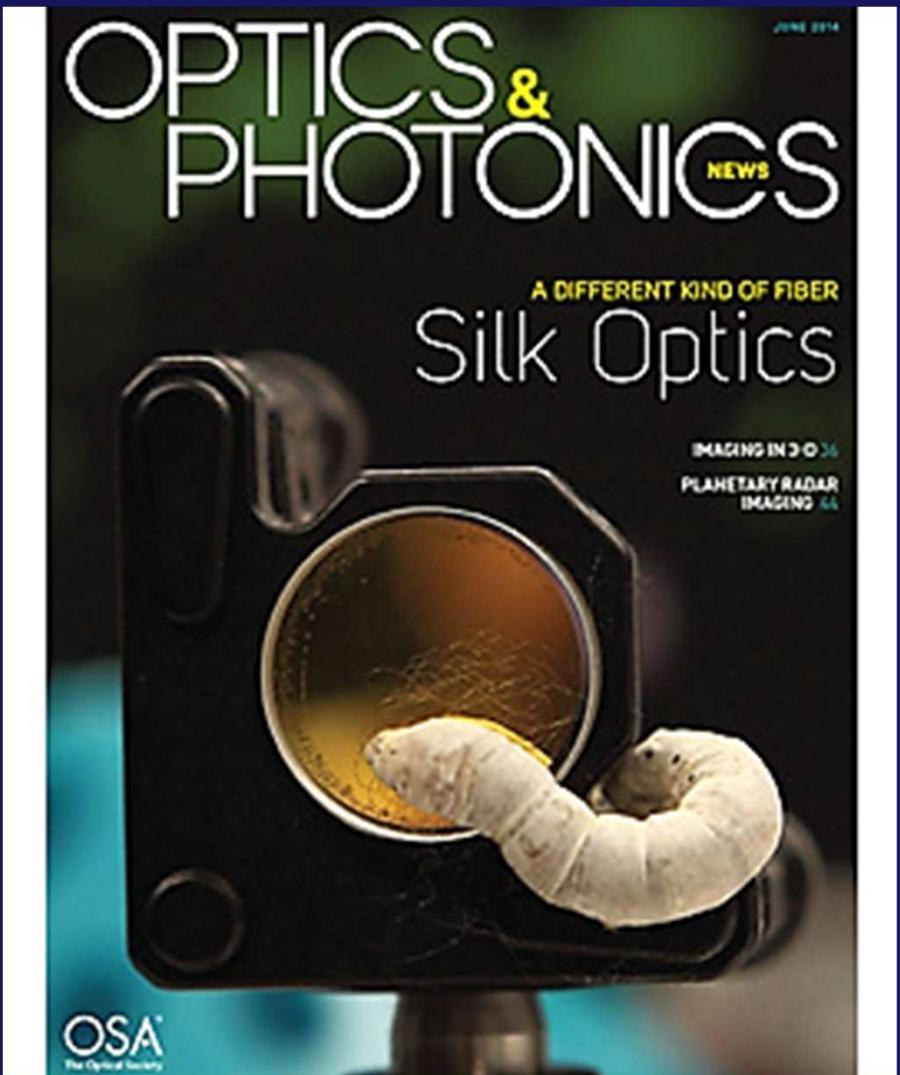


1-PE

2-PE

3-PE





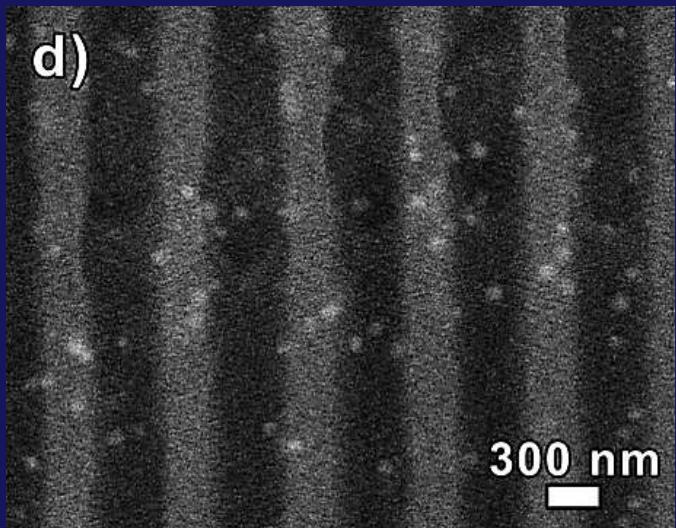
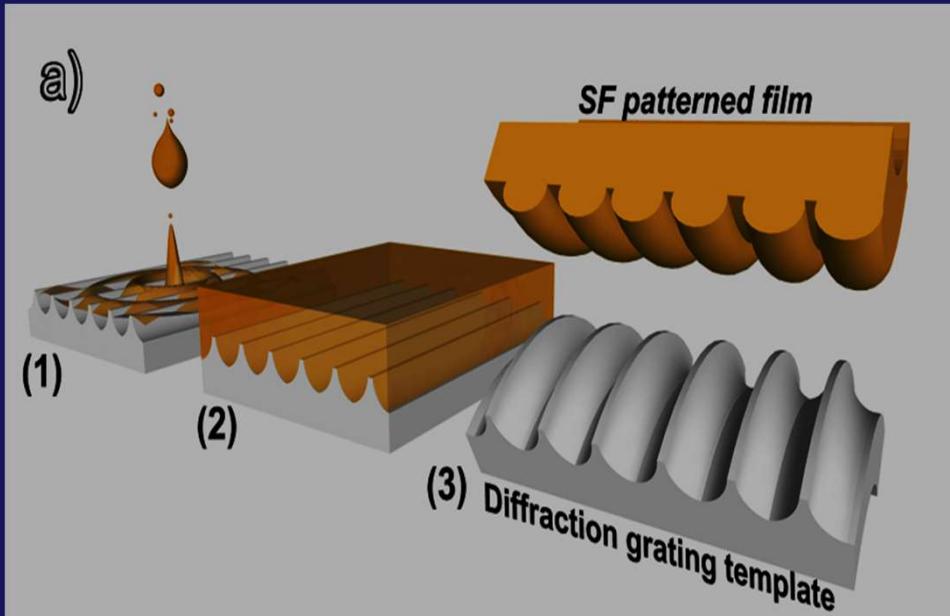
Fibroin is a silk protein found in natural spider cobweb silk fibers and silkworm cocoons filaments that represent the strongest and toughest natural fibers known

A different kind of Fiber Optics

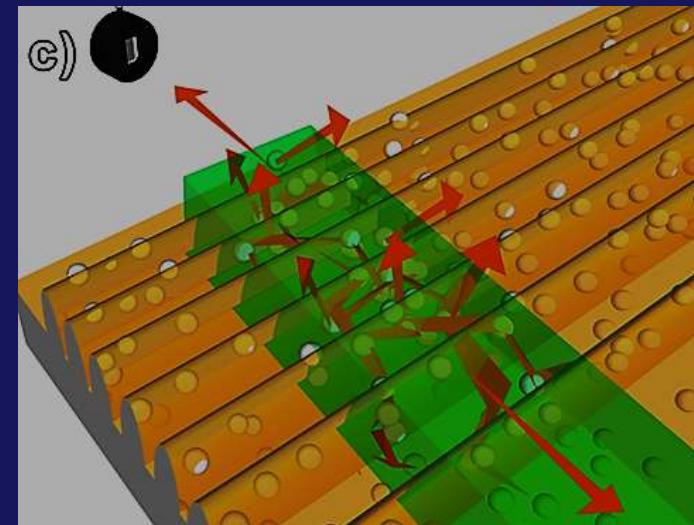
Silk-based devices are optically versatile and friendly to biological systems



# Silk fibroin DFB - Random laser



Silica NPs  
average diameter  $\approx 123$  nm  
or  
Ag NPs  
average diameter  $\approx 10$  nm

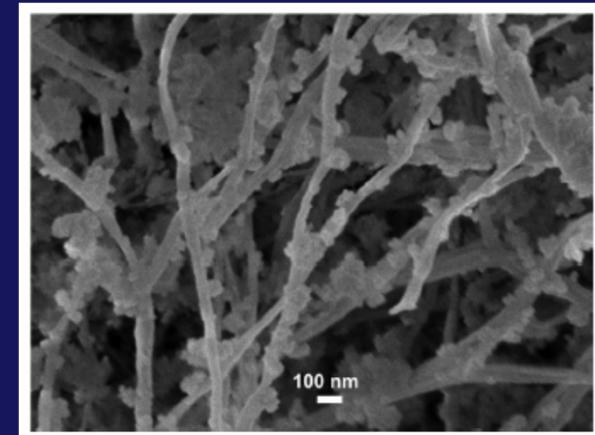
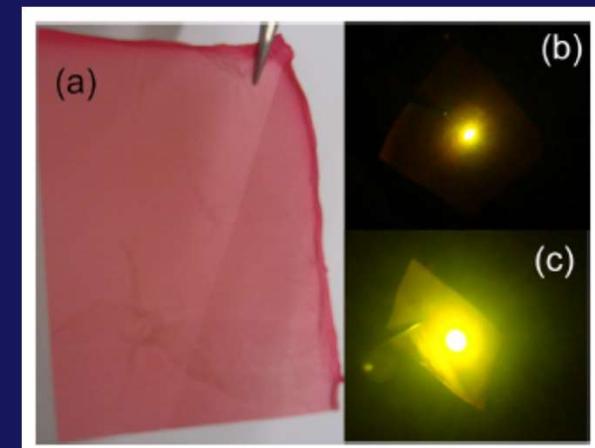
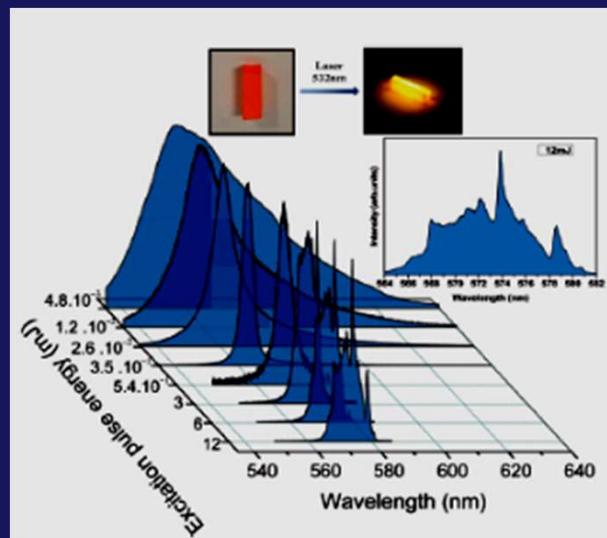
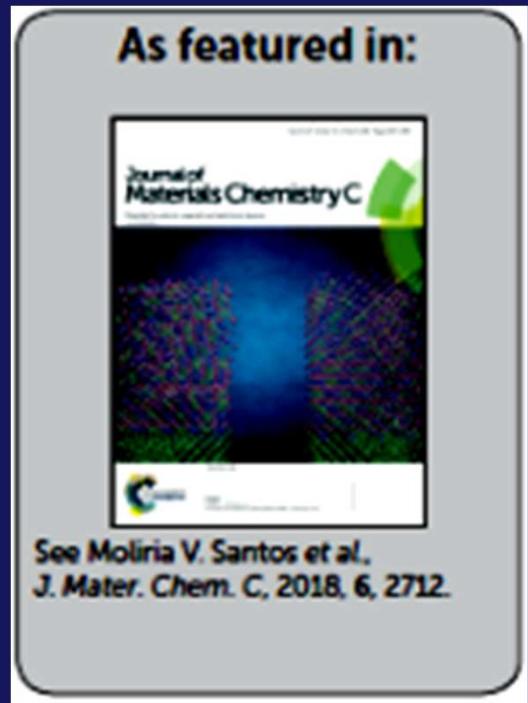


Rh 6G:  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L  
films:  $0.112 \pm 0.01$  mm thick

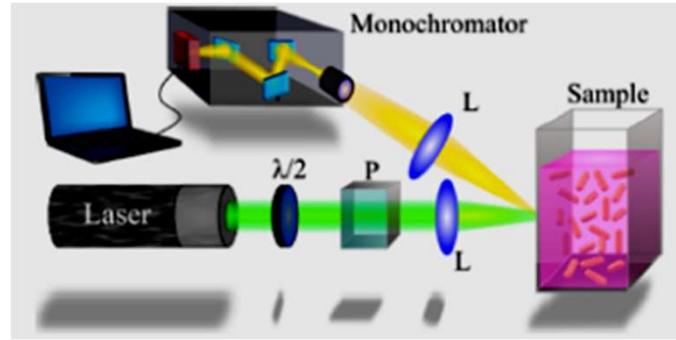
# Silk fibroin as a biotemplate for hierarchical porous silica monoliths for Random Lasers applications

Santos et al. J. Mater. Chem. C 6 (2018) 2712

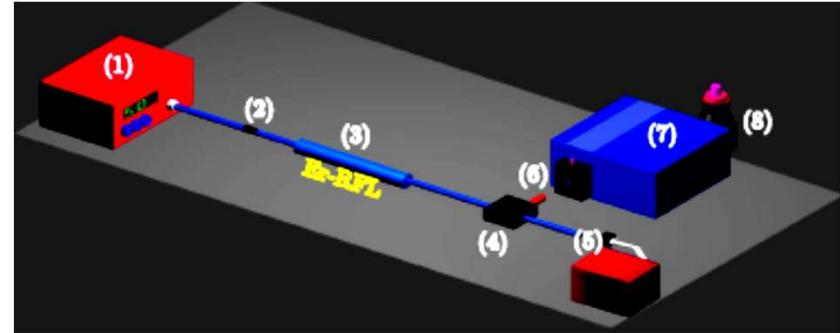
de Araújo et al.  
Photoluminescence and nonlinear optical phenomena in plasmonic random media- a review of recent works  
J. Lumin. 169 (2016) 492



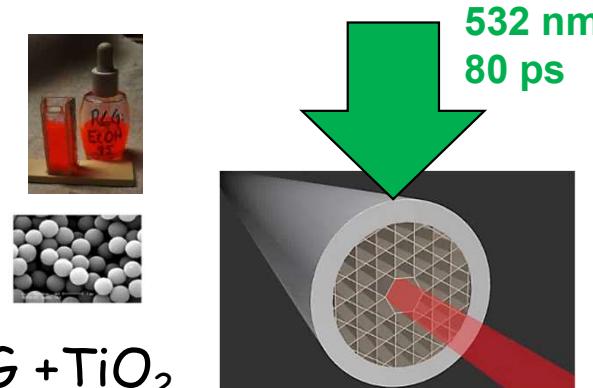
# Various experimental schemes - Recife



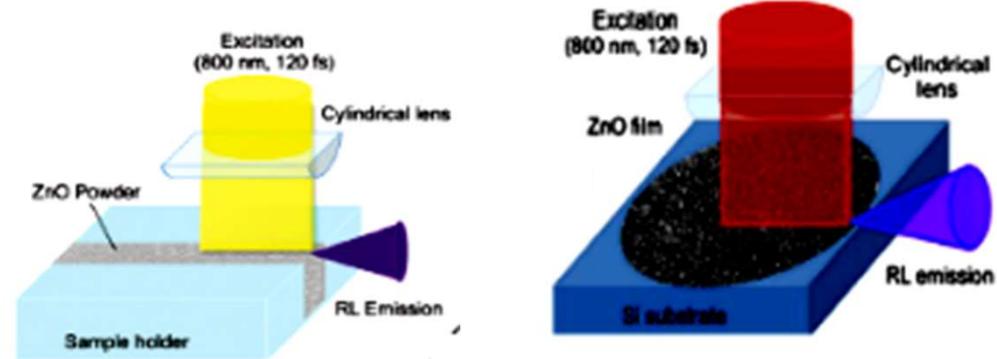
Oliveira et al.  
J. Phys. Chem. C 124 (2020) 10705



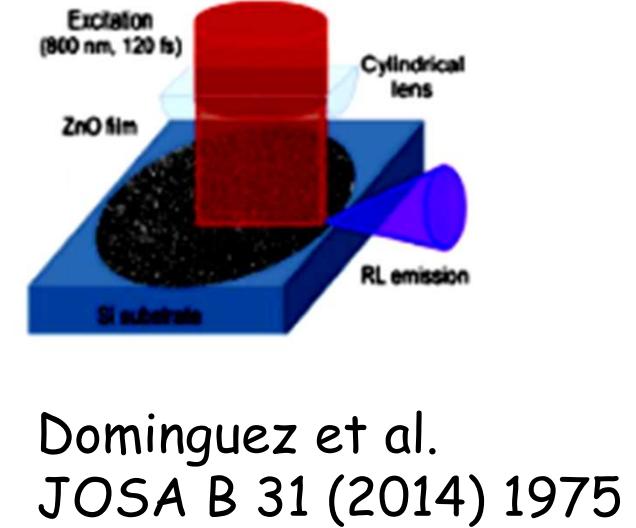
Lima et al. JOSA B 34 (2017) 293



Rh 6G +  $\text{TiO}_2$   
de Matos et al.  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 99 (2007) 153903



Dominguez et al.  
Nanoscale 7 (2015) 317

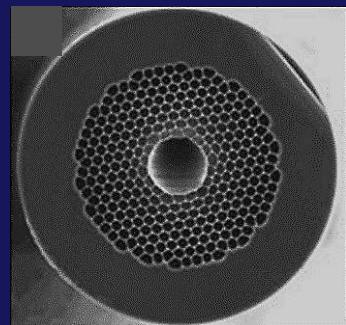


Dominguez et al.  
JOSA B 31 (2014) 1975

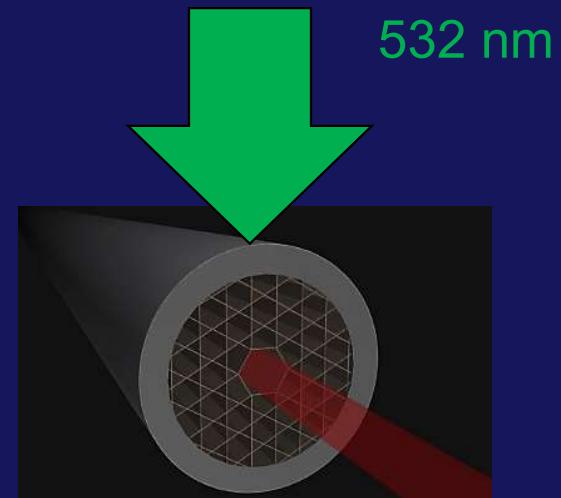
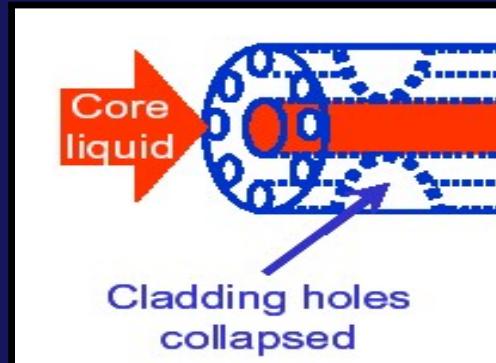
# First Random Fiber Laser



Hollow fiber  
 $10 \mu\text{m} - 3 \mu\text{m}$

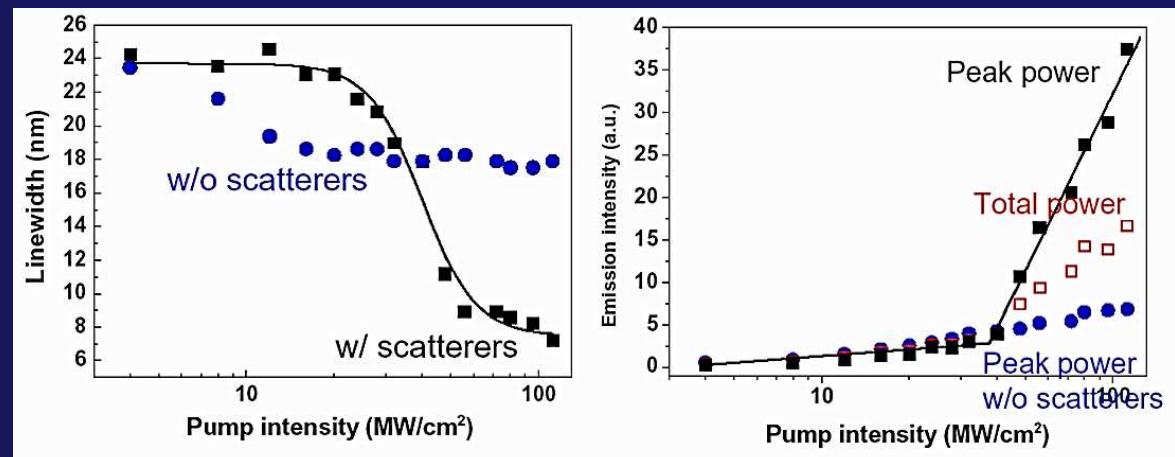


Rh 6G + TiO<sub>2</sub>



Feedback

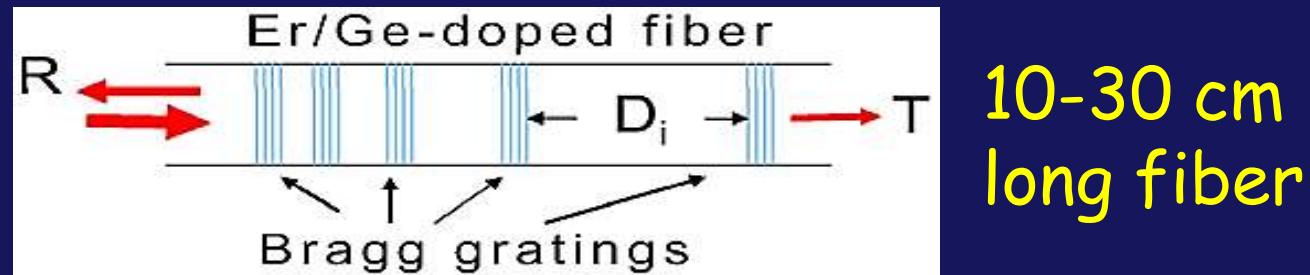
Transverse: total internal reflection  
Axial : multiple scattering



de Matos, Menezes, Silva, Gámez, Gomes, de Araújo  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 99 (2007) 153903

Lizarraga et al. Opt. Express 17 (2009) 395

Gagné and Kashyap, Opt. Express 17 (2009) 19067



10-30 cm  
long fiber

Turitsyn et al. Nature Photon. 4 (2010) 231

Elastic scattering due to inhomogeneities of the  
refractive index of the optical fibers 70 km long fiber

### Review papers on Random Fiber Lasers

Turitsyn et al., Phys. Reports 542 (2014) 133

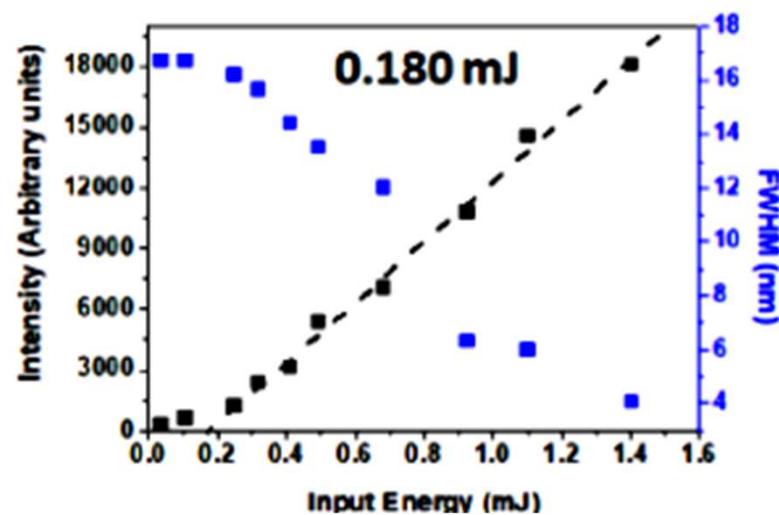
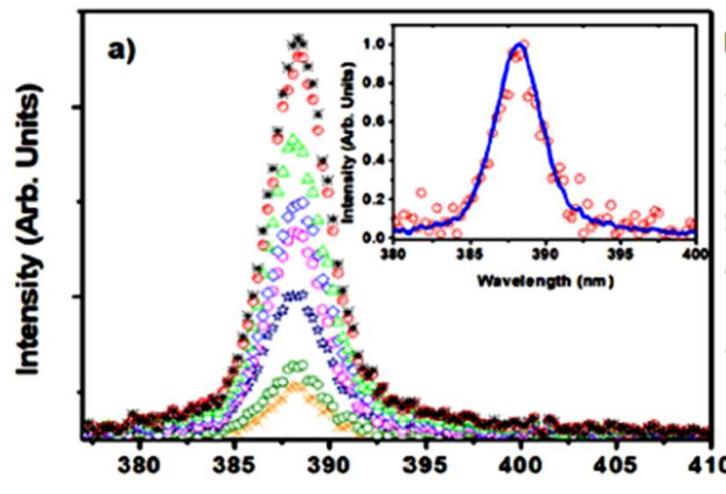
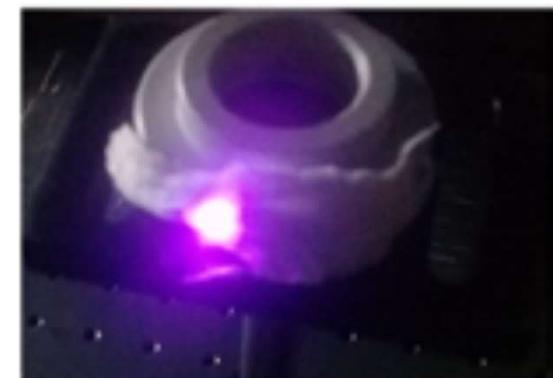
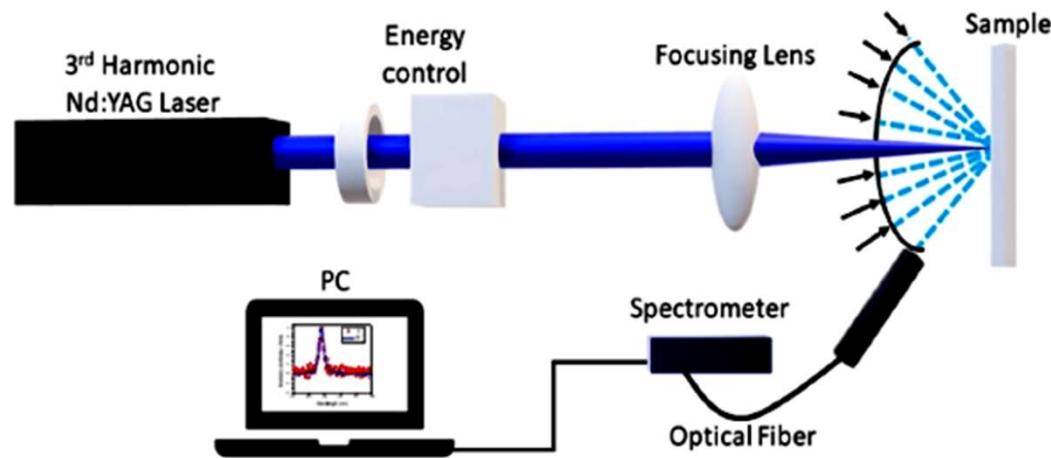
Churkin et al., Adv. Opt. Photon. 7 (2015) 516

Xu et al., Sci. Reports 6 (2016) 35213

Xu et al., Opt. Express 25 (2017) 5609

# UV random laser emission from flexible ZnO-Ag-enriched electrospun cellulose acetate fiber matrix

Silva-Neto et al. Sci. Reports 9 (2019)11765

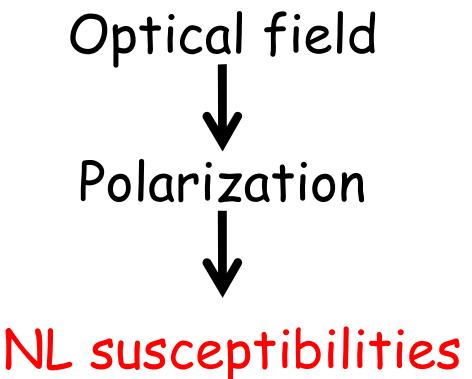


# Nonlinear Optics



Nicolaas Bloembergen  
(1920-2017)

1981 Physics Nobel Prize



...

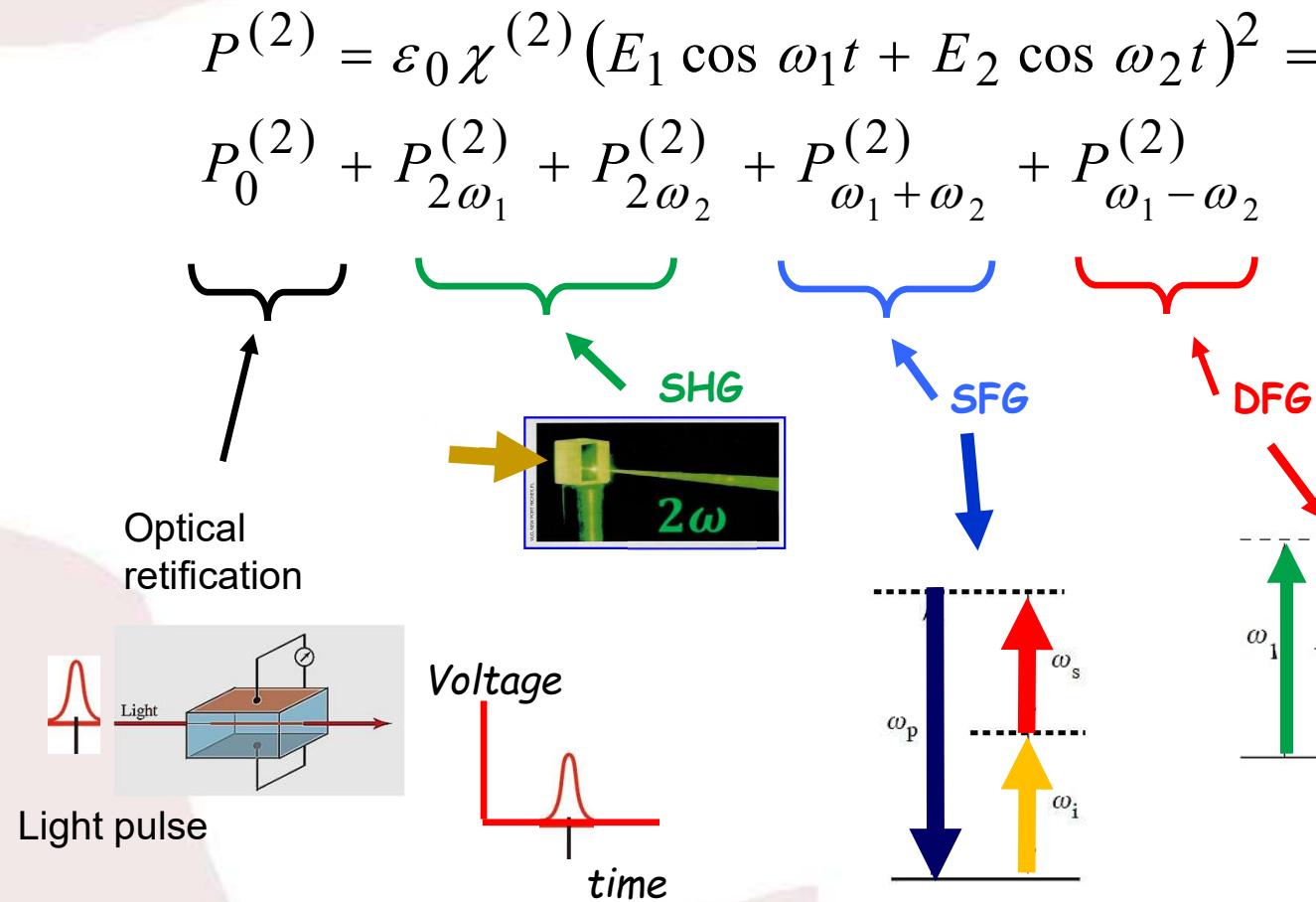
Review Vol. 59, No. 13 / 1 May 2020 / Applied Optics D155

**applied optics**

**Nonlinear effects and photonic phase transitions  
in Nd<sup>3+</sup>-doped nanocrystal-based random lasers**

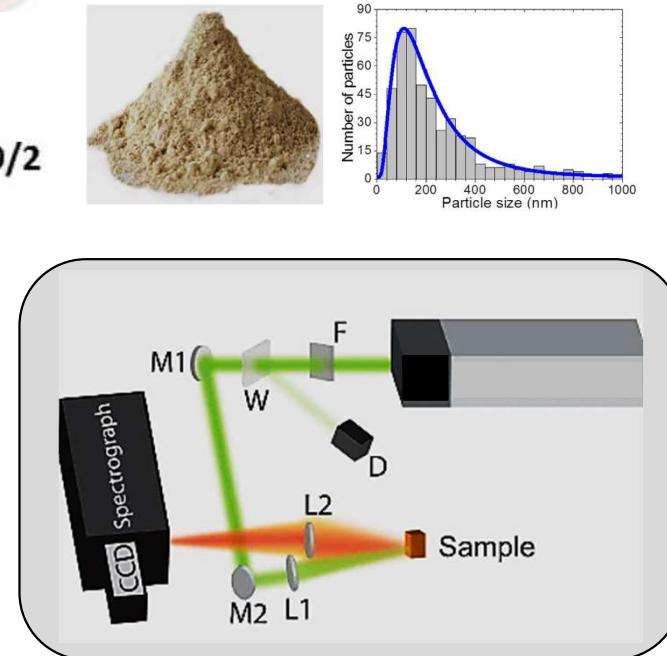
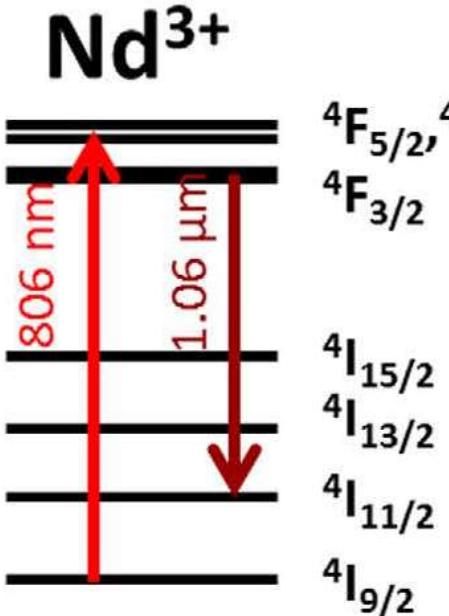
ANDRÉ L. MOURA,<sup>1,\*</sup> SANDRA J. CARREÑO,<sup>2</sup> PABLO I. R. PINCHEIRA,<sup>3</sup> LAURO J. Q. MAIA,<sup>4</sup> VLADIMIR JEREZ,<sup>5</sup> ERNESTO P. RAPOSO,<sup>6</sup> ANDERSON S. L. GOMES,<sup>7</sup> AND CID B. DE ARAÚJO<sup>7</sup>

## Three Wave-Mixing

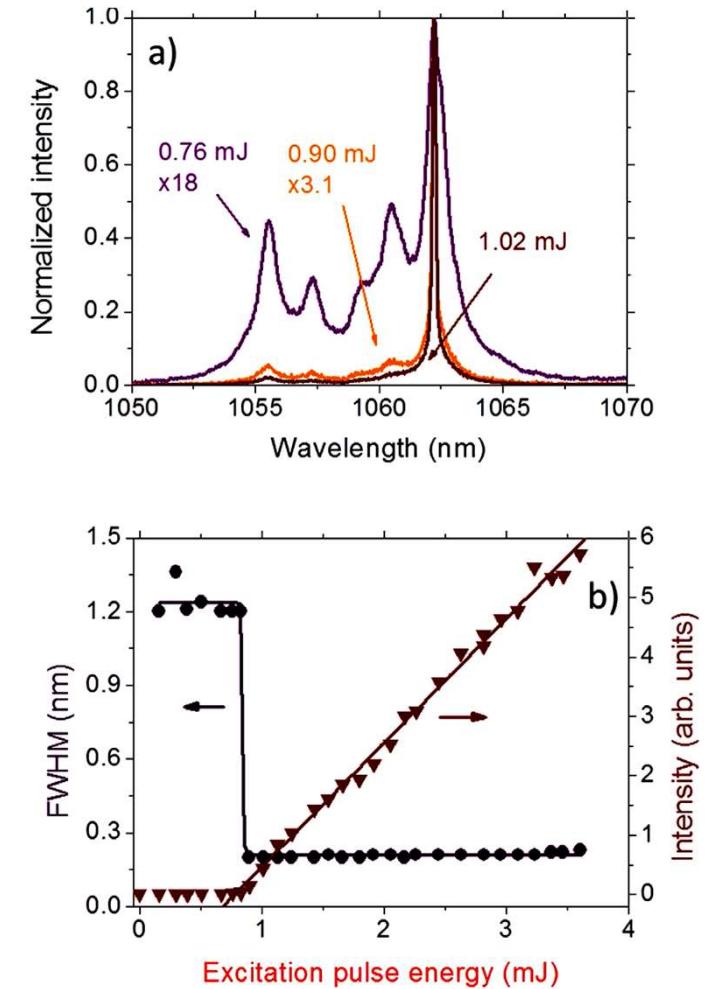


23

# Experiments with Nd<sup>3+</sup>: YAl<sub>3</sub>(BO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> nanocrystals

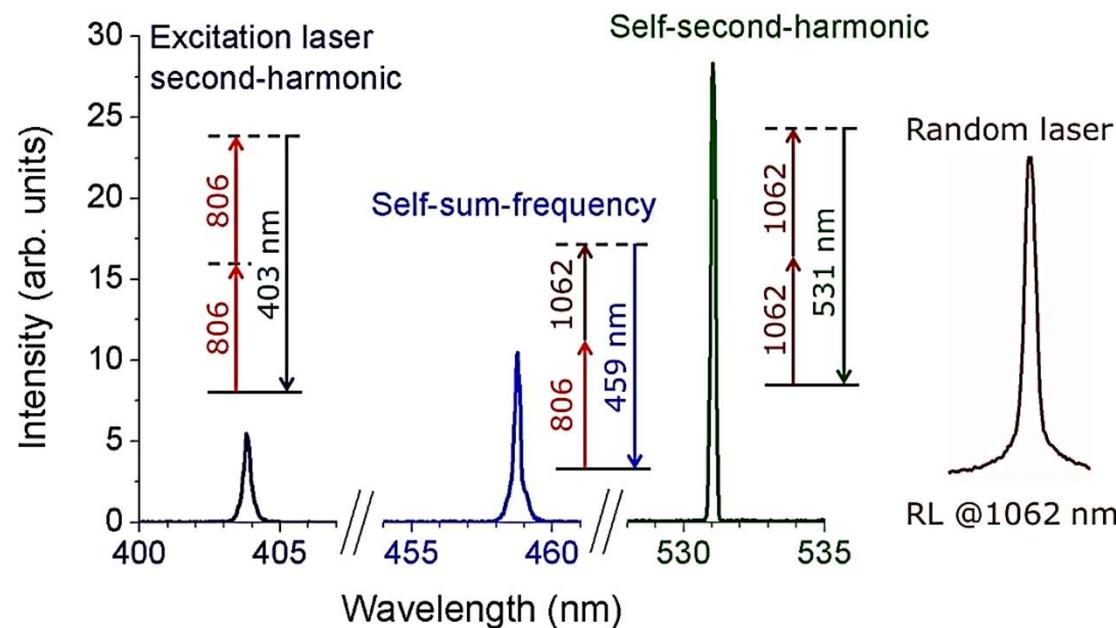


- Stimulated emission
- Multiple scattering
- Second harmonic generation
- Sum of frequencies



# $\text{Nd}_{0.04}\text{Y}_{0.96}\text{Al}_3(\text{BO}_3)_4$ nanocrystals

Large  $\chi^{(2)}$  → Self frequency conversion



Moura et al.

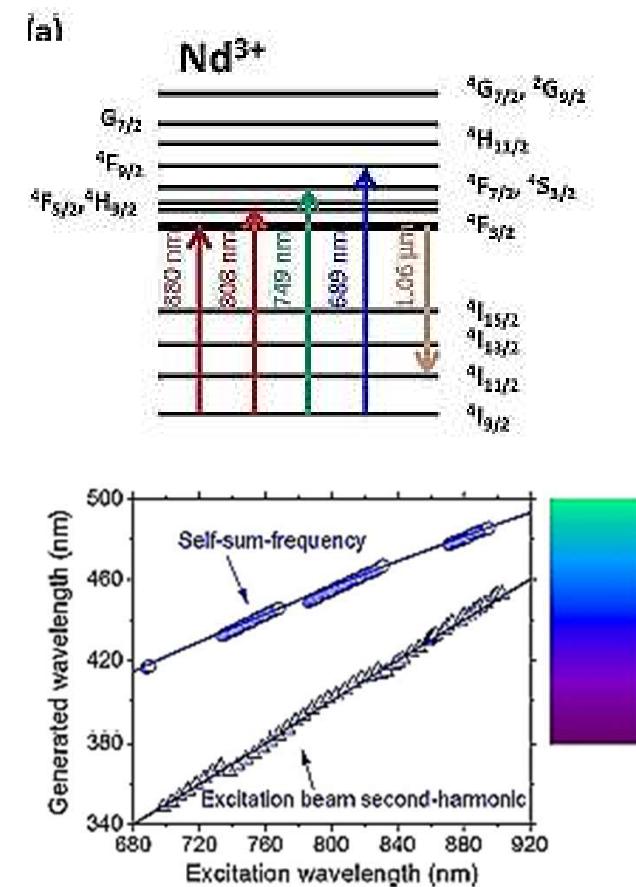
Sci. Reports 5 (2015) 13816;

Carreño et al.

Opt. Mater. 59 (2016) 262

Tunable emission in the blue and UV

# $\text{Nd}_{0.10}\text{Y}_{0.90}\text{Al}_3(\text{BO}_3)_4$



Moura et al.

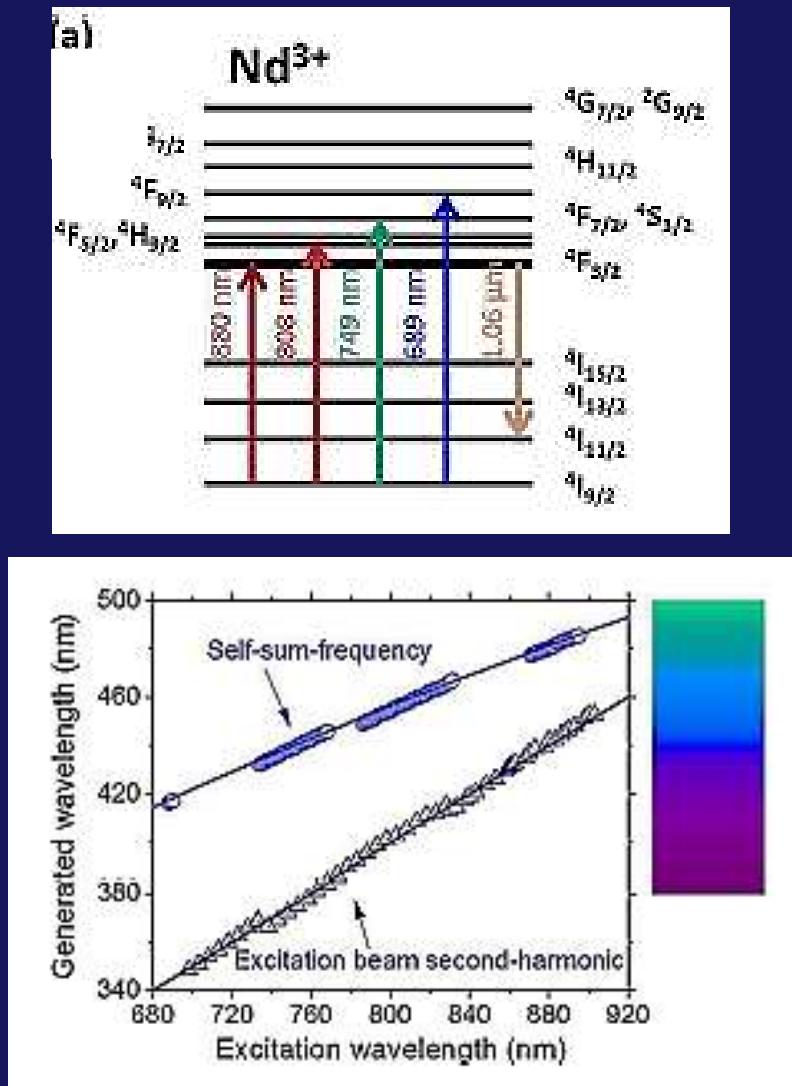
Sci. Reports 6 (2016) 27107

Moura et al.

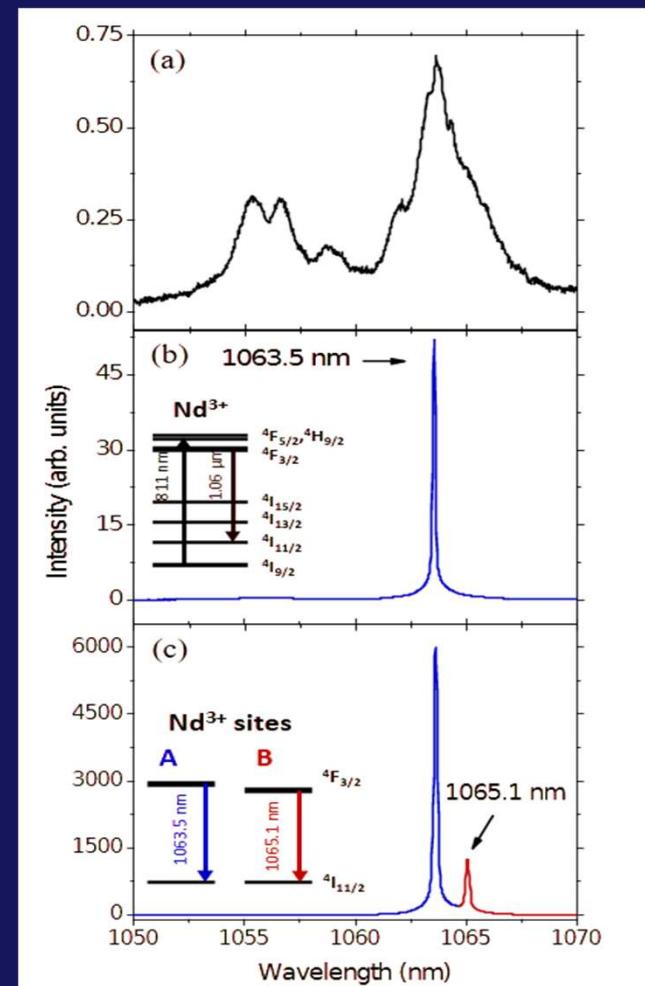
Appl. Opt. 59 (2020) D155

# Tunable emission in the blue and UV

$\text{Nd}_{0.10}\text{Y}_{0.90}\text{Al}_3(\text{BO}_3)_4$  nanocrystals



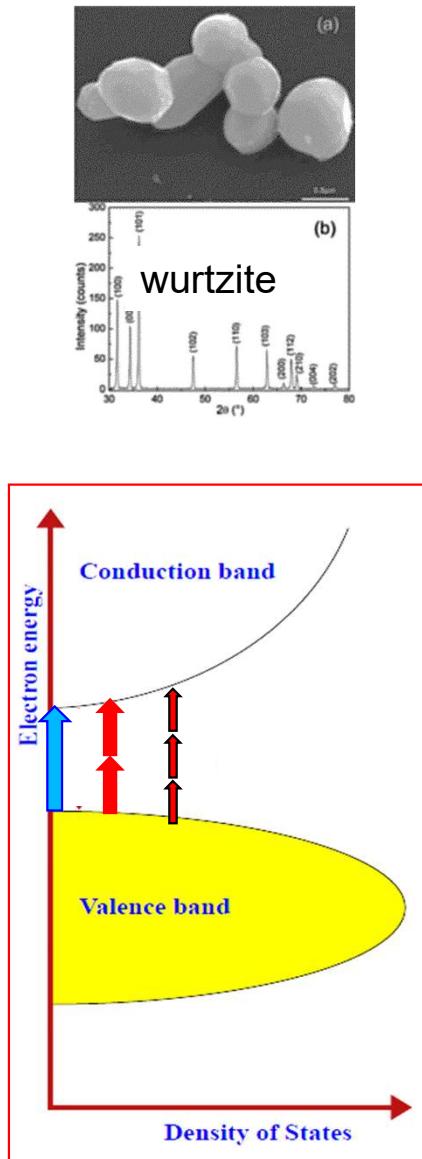
# Two-color $\text{NdAl}_3(\text{BO}_3)_4$ RL application as optical thermometer



$$R = \frac{I_{1065.1}}{I_{1063.5}}$$

$$S = \frac{1}{R_0} \frac{dR}{dT} = 0.020^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$$

Dominguez, Gomes, Macedo, de Araújo, Gomes,  
 Multiphoton excited coherent random laser emission  
 in ZnO powders. *Nanoscale* 7 (2015) 317

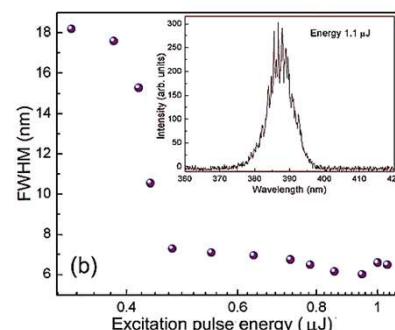
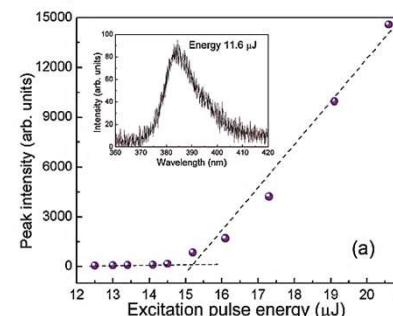
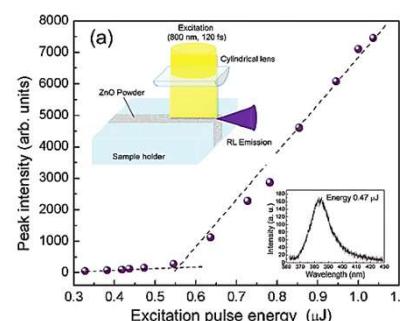


RL @388 nm

Excitação: 354 nm

710 nm

802 nm

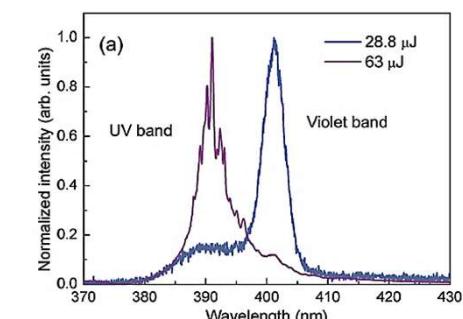


1-PE

2-PE

3-PE

Excitação: 100 fs (laser + OPA)



# High-order nonlinearities



THE JOURNAL OF  
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY C

[pubs.acs.org/JPCC](https://pubs.acs.org/JPCC)

Article

**Influence of the Fifth-Order Nonlinearity of Gold Nanorods on the Performance of Random Lasers**

Nathália Talita C. Oliveira, Manoel L. Silva-Neto, Albert S. Reyna,\* and Cid B. de Araújo

Cite This: *J. Phys. Chem. C* 2020, 124, 10705–10709

Read Online

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 102, 063515 (2020)

**Influence of fifth-order nonlinearities on the statistical fluctuations in emission intensities in a photonic open-cavity complex system**

Iván R. R. González<sup>1</sup>, Sandra J. Carreño<sup>2</sup>, Ernesto P. Raposo<sup>1,3</sup>, Antônio M. S. Macêdo<sup>1</sup>, Melissa Maldonado<sup>4</sup>, Leonardo de S. Menezes<sup>4</sup>, Anderson S. L. Gomes<sup>4</sup>, and Cid B. de Araújo<sup>4</sup>

NL susceptibilities enable interactions among the optical modes

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# Glassy light and Replica Symmetry Breaking

\Angelani, Conti, Ruocco, Zamponi

## Glass behavior of light

Phys. Rev. Lett. 96 (2006) 065702

Antenucci et al. General phase diagram of multimodal  
ordered and disordered lasers in closed and open cavities

Phys. Rev. Lett. 114 (2015) 043901

Analogy with magnetic systems  
- Spin Glass -

Spin-glass theory is one of the leading paradigms of complex physics and describes condensed matter, neural networks and biological systems, ultracold atoms, random photonics and many other research fields.

According to this theory, identical systems under identical conditions may reach different states

This effect is known as replica symmetry breaking

Why to look for such behavior in RLs?  
Parisi theory was reported long ago and applied by many researchers

G. Parisi, PRL 43 (1979) 1754; PRL 50 (1983) 1946.

Mezard and Parisi J. Phys. I 1 (1991) 809

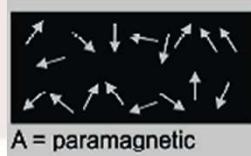
G. Parisi Google - 76.027 citations; h=114

BOOK: Spin glass theory and beyond: An introduction to the Replica Method and its Applications - World Sci. Publ. (Citations: 5170 citations)

It has been applied to explain the spin-glass behavior but no direct experimental proof was given for RSB validation in the past.

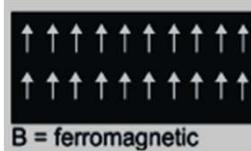
The experiments with RLs provided the first direct evidence supporting the RSB theory.

# Spin Glass and Replica Symmetry Breaking



NO magnetization

$$H = - \sum_{ij} J_{ij} S_i S_j$$



Below  $T_c$  spins are parallel

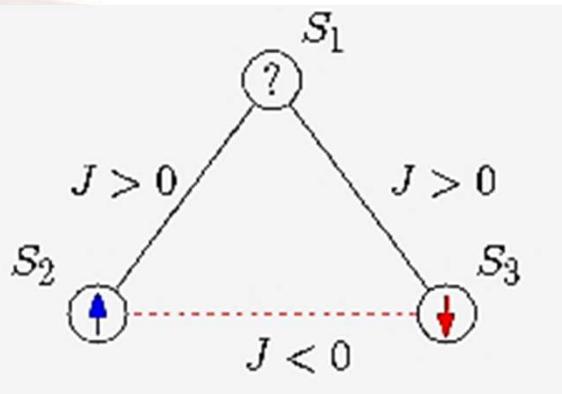
$$J_{ij} > 0$$

depends on  
the overlap of  
wave functions



Below  $T_N$  spins are anti-parallel

$$J_{ij} < 0$$



## Frustration and disorder

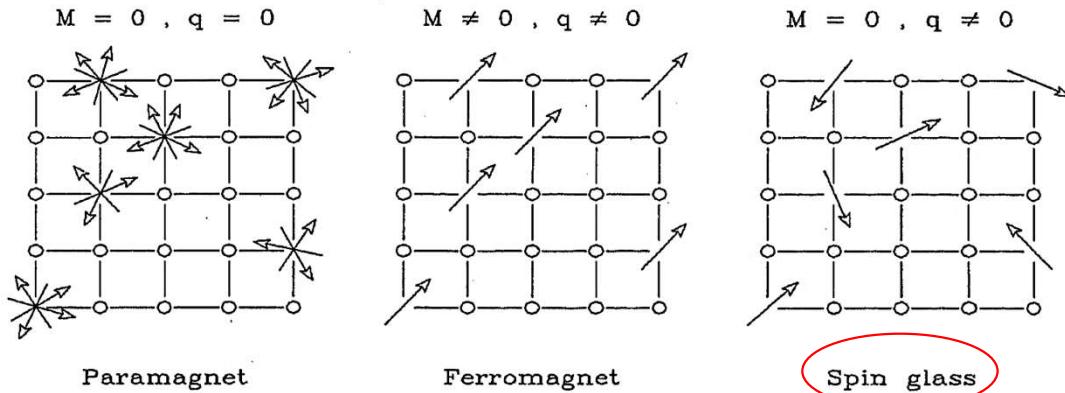
$J_{ij}$  is randomly distributed

$$P(J_{ij}) \propto \exp(-J_{ij}^2 / 2 \sigma_s^2)$$

Frustration leads to a multiplicity of ground states of the spin system



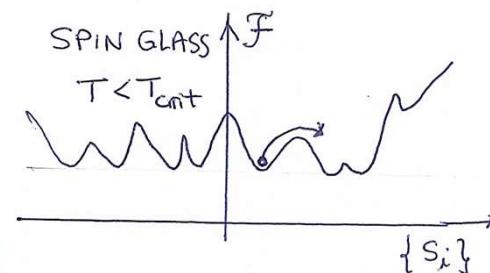
# Below a critical temperature: spins are "frozen"



One possible ground state  
Many other states are possible

Spin glass:  
large number of configurations with minimum energy

Free energy



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Replica symmetry breaking (RSB) is one fundamental concept of spin-glass theory: identical copies of the randomly interacting system that manifest completely different dynamics

Large number of locally stable equilibria

G. Parisi, 1979 - Replica Symmetry Breaking “theory”

# Replica symmetry scheme

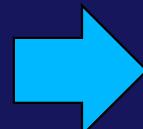
Clusters flip simultaneously  
to get from one  
ground state to another  
**"REPLICAS"**

Order parameter

$$q_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N [\langle S_i^\alpha S_i^\beta \rangle]$$

Spins correlations  
in distinct replicas

Different values of  $q_{\alpha\beta}$



$P(q_{\alpha\beta})$

Distribution of replicas

## Analogies

Spin glass

- spins
- temperature



Random Lasers

- Modes of the field
- inverse of intensity

Each laser  
pulse creates  
a **REPLICA**

Mode coupling via NL susceptibility

Ghofraniha et al. Experimental evidence of replica symmetry breaking in random lasers.  
Nature Commun. 6 (2015) 6058

Italian group

---

How to analyse the intensity fluctuations?

$$\bar{I}(\omega) = \sum_{\gamma=1}^{N_S} I_\gamma$$

$\gamma = 1, 2, \dots, N_S$       replicas

$$\Delta_\gamma(\omega) = I_\gamma(\omega) - \bar{I}(\omega)$$

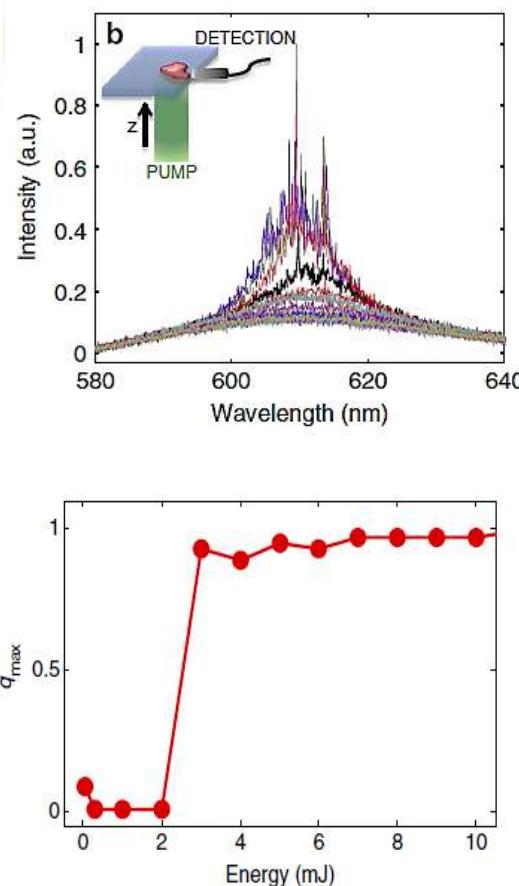
---

Order parameter

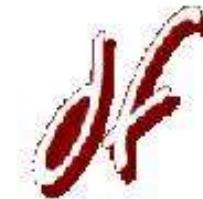
$$q_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\sum_k \Delta_\alpha(k) \Delta_\beta(k)}{\sqrt{\Delta_\alpha^2(k)} \sqrt{\Delta_\beta^2(k)}}$$

Mode coupling via the NL susceptibility

## 2D Random Laser



## Italian group



## Procedure

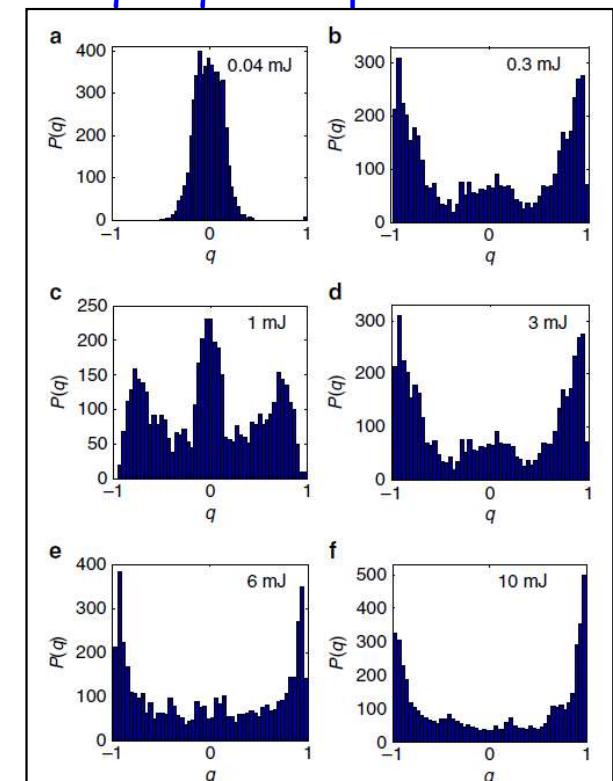
$$\bar{I}(\omega) = \sum_{\gamma=1}^{N_S} I_\gamma$$

$$\Delta_\gamma(\omega) = I_\gamma(\omega) - \bar{I}(\omega)$$

$$q_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\sum_k \Delta_\alpha(k) \Delta_\beta(k)}{\sqrt{\Delta_\alpha^2(k)} \sqrt{\Delta_\beta^2(k)}}$$

## Organic film

Thienyl-S,S-dioxide  
quinquethiophene



$$q_{\gamma\beta}$$



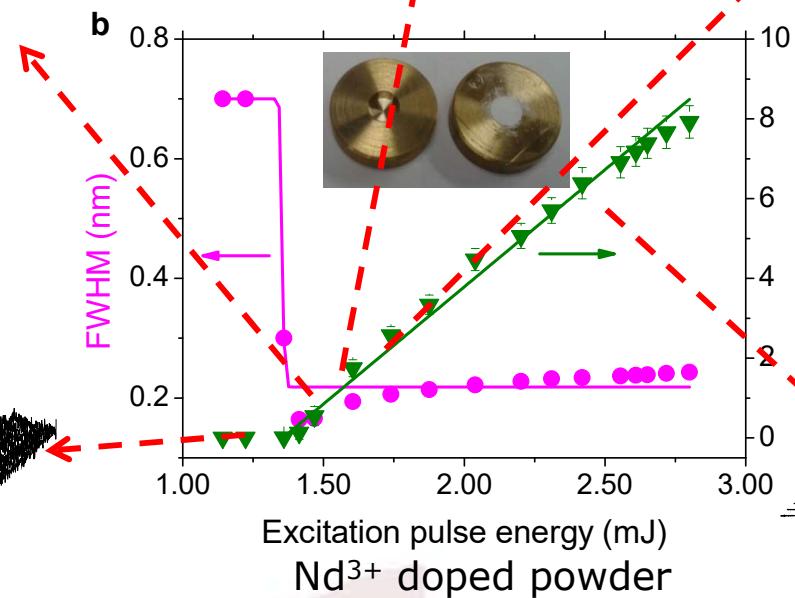
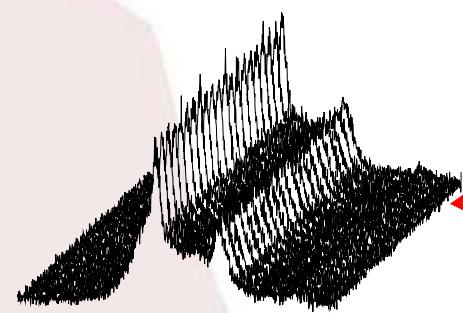
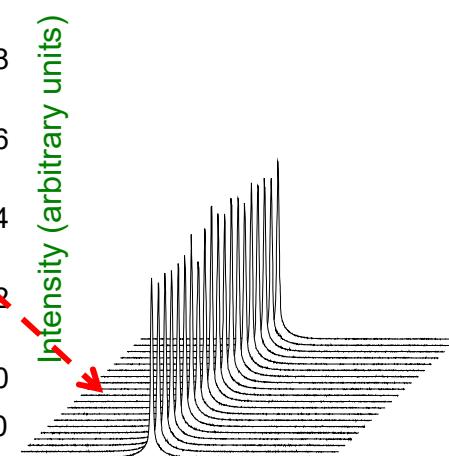
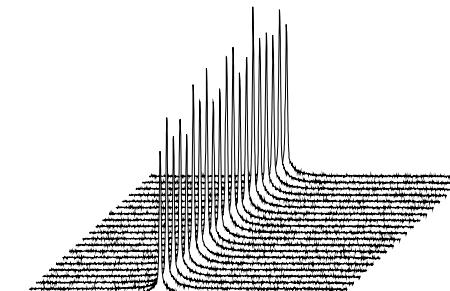
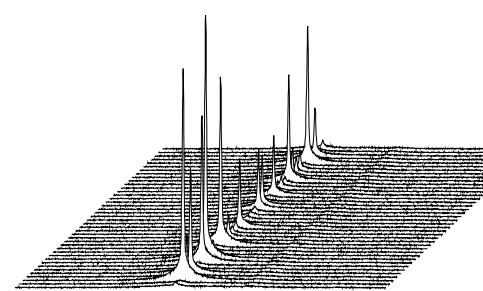
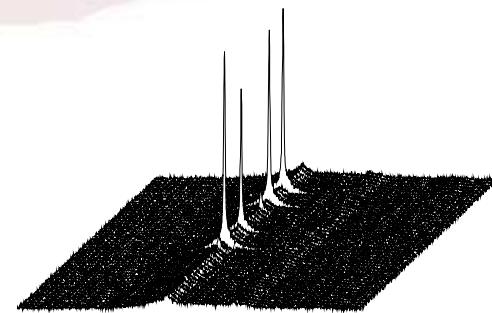
# 3D Nd<sup>3+</sup> Random Laser



Recife group

Nanocrystals: Nd: YBO<sub>3</sub> 4 mol %

Excitation: 800 nm, 5 ns



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# 3D Nd<sup>3+</sup> Random laser - Recife group



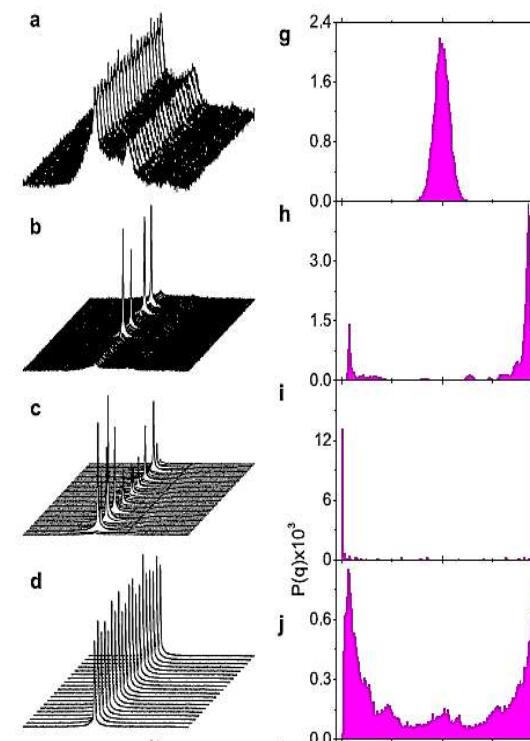
Nanocrystals: Nd<sup>3+</sup> doped YBO<sub>3</sub>

Replicas probabilities

$$P(q_{\alpha\beta})$$

Gomes, Raposo, Moura, Fewo, Pincheira,  
Jerez, Maia, de Araújo  
*Sci. Reports* 6 (2016) 27987

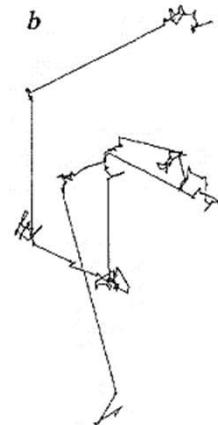
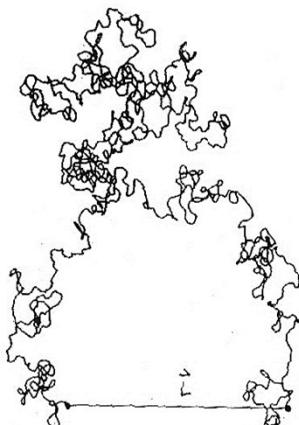
Pincheira et al.  
3D colloidal Rh+TiO<sub>2</sub> RL  
*Opt. Lett.* 41 (2016) 3459



Emission @1.06

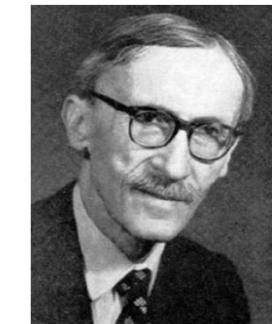
# Statistics of intensity fluctuations

Gaussian  
random walk



Lévy random  
walk

Lévy flights



Paul P. Lévy  
(1886-1971)

Lévy distribution: continuum probability distribution for one random continuum variable

NATURE · VOL 381 · 30 MAY 1996

## Lévy flight search patterns of wandering albatrosses

G. M. Viswanathan\*, V. Afanasyev†, S. V. Buldyrev\*,  
E. J. Murphy†, P. A. Prince† & H. E. Stanley\*

nature

Vol 449 | 25 October 2007 | doi:10.1038/nature06199

LETTERS

2007

## Revisiting Lévy flight search patterns of wandering albatrosses, bumblebees and deer

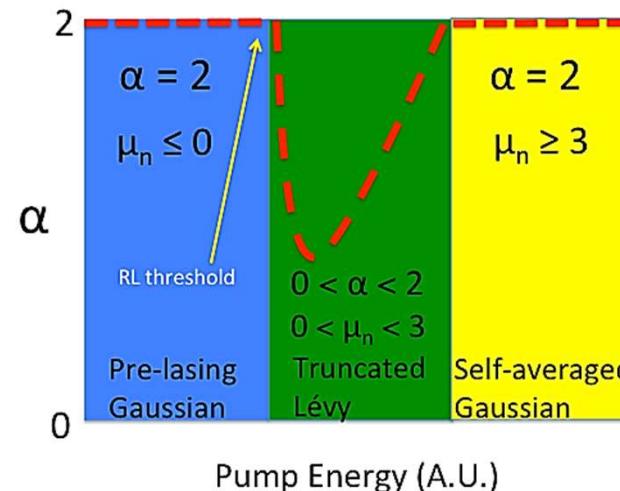
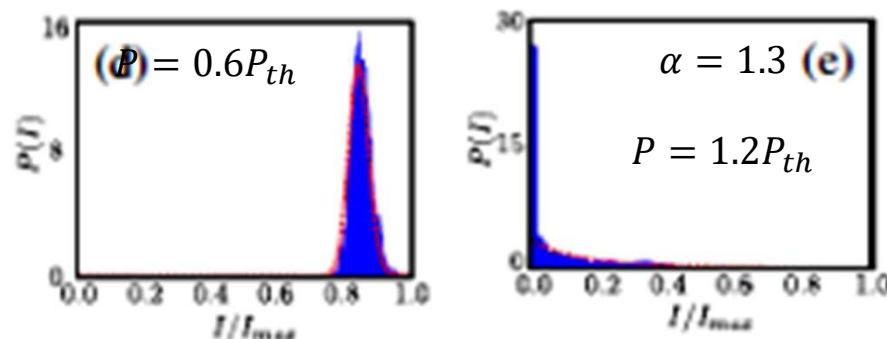
Andrew M. Edwards<sup>1†</sup>, Richard A. Phillips<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas W. Watkins<sup>1</sup>, Mervyn P. Freeman<sup>1</sup>, Eugene J. Murphy<sup>1</sup>, Vsevolod Afanasyev<sup>1</sup>, Sergey V. Buldyrev<sup>2,3</sup>, M. G. E. da Luz<sup>4</sup>, E. P. Raposo<sup>5</sup>, H. Eugene Stanley<sup>2</sup> & Gandhimohan M. Viswanathan<sup>6</sup>

In random lasers: statistics of the measured values of intensity for each frequency of the RL spectrum

Uppu et al. Phys. Rev. A 90 (2014) 025801

Recife group

Analytical solution: Raposo+Gomes, Phys. Rev. A 91 (2015) 043827



Lima et al. JOSA B 34 (2017) 293

$$\alpha = \mu - 1$$

Lévy exponent alpha act as a universal identifier of the laser threshold.

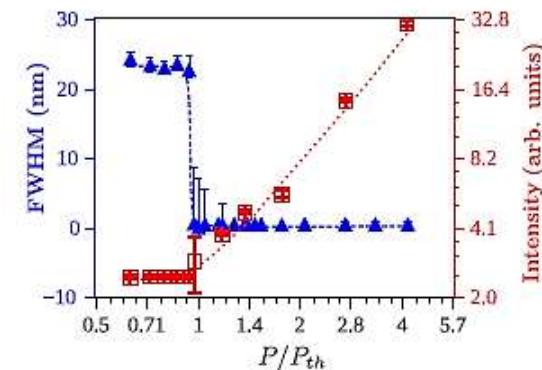
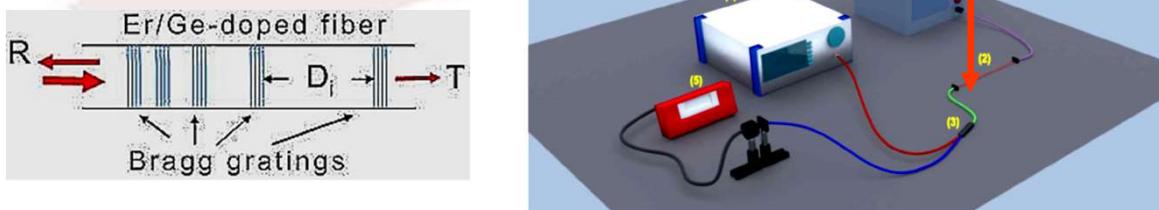
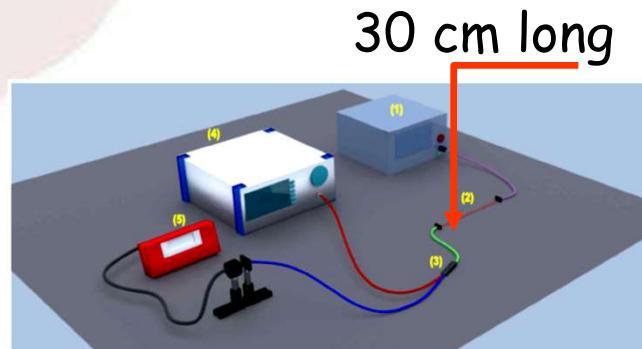
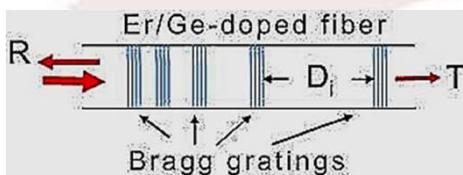
for each excitation power

Well-above threshold  $\rightarrow \chi^{(5)}$  Izrailev distribution

González et al. Phys. Rev. A 102 (2020) 063515

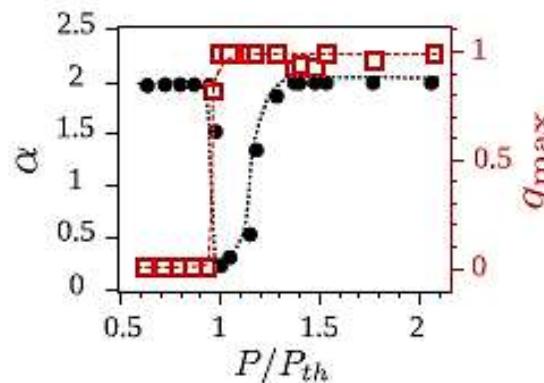
# CW 1D Er<sup>3+</sup> RFL

Recife group



$$P_{th} = 16.30 \pm 0.05 \text{ mW}$$

Lévy's exponent



Parisi's parameter

- Gomes et al. *Sci. Reports* 6 (2016) 27987  
de Araújo et al. *Appl. Sci.* 7 (2017) 644  
Lima et al. *JOSA B* 34 (2017) 293

RSB  
Photonic spin-glass

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# Photonic phase-transition with RSB

## General Phase Diagram of Multimodal Ordered and Disordered Lasers in Closed and Open Cavities

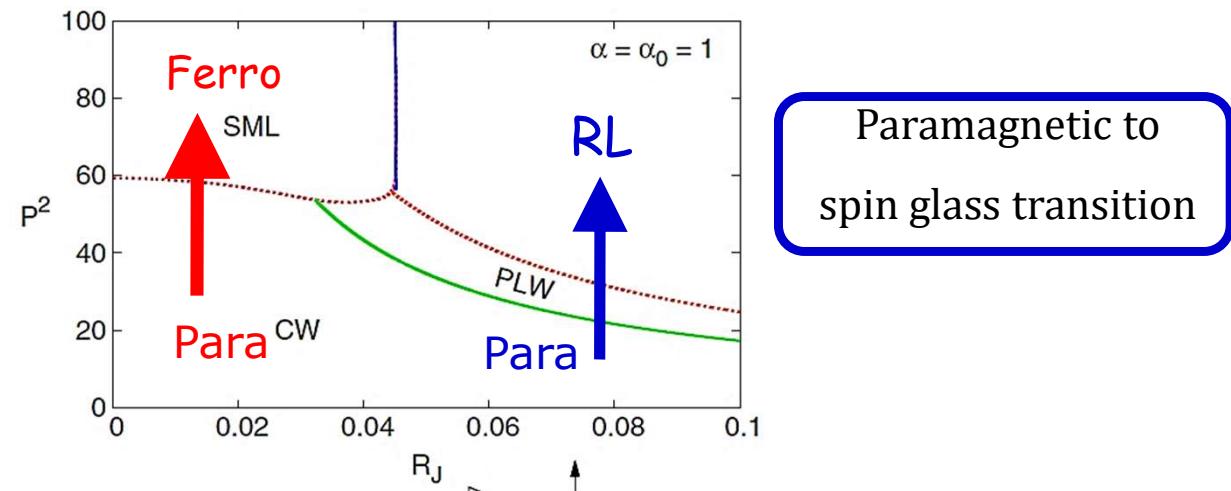
F. Antenucci,<sup>1,2</sup> C. Conti,<sup>1,3</sup> A. Crisanti,<sup>1,3</sup> and L. Leuzzi<sup>2,1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma "Sapienza," Piazzale A. Moro 2, I-00185 Roma, Italy

<sup>2</sup>IPCF-CNR, UOS Kerberos Roma, Piazzale A. Moro 2, I-00185 Roma, Italy

$R_J$ : disorder degree  
 $\alpha_0$ : nonlinearity degree

Recife group



SML: spontaneous mode-locking (without saturable absorber inside the cavity)

## Replica Symmetry Breaking in the Photonic Ferromagneticlike Spontaneous Mode-Locking Phase of a Multimode Nd:YAG Laser

André L. Moura,<sup>1,2</sup> Pablo I. R. Pincheira,<sup>1</sup> Albert S. Reyna,<sup>1</sup> Ernesto P. Raposo,<sup>3,\*</sup>  
Anderson S. L. Gomes,<sup>1</sup> and Cid B. de Araújo<sup>1</sup>



# Report of the Nobel Committee 2021

## The Nobel Prize in Physics 2021

"For groundbreaking contributions  
to our understanding of complex physical systems"



**Klaus Hasselmann 1/4**



**Syukuro Manabe 1/4**



**Giorgio Parisi 1/2**

## Citation for Giorgio Parisi by the Nobel Committee:



*“for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales”*

## Replica Symmetry Breaking Theory

RLs experiments  
→ first direct evidence favorable to the RSB theory



Scientific Background on the Nobel Prize in Physics 2021

“FOR GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEX PHYSICAL SYSTEMS”

The Nobel Committee for Physics



## V. THE VASTNESS OF THE LANDSCAPE OF DISORDER

### A. Replicas, Spin Glasses and Frustration.

The term “spin glass” was coined in the early 1970’s to describe disordered magnetic systems that appeared to have a phase transition to a state in which each magnetic atom was stably aligned, but with the essential proviso that the alignment direction varies randomly between atoms. Imagine a triangle with magnets placed

densifying colloidal glass [37]. Importantly, experimental evidence of replica symmetry breaking has been provided in systems using random lasers [30, 33, 99, 108], in plane cavity lasers without disorder but with frustration between interacting lasing modes without added disorder [7, 74] and in nonlinear optical propagation through photorefractive disordered waveguides [90]. Finally, the

connection between spin-glasses and turbulence [34], particularly nonlinear wave interactions, which link the early work of Hasselmann [40, 41] to that of Parisi and to the role of disorder and fluctuations in complex systems in general.



# Report of the Nobel Prize Committee 2021

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2021/press-release/>

[www.nature.com/scientificreports/](http://www.nature.com/scientificreports/)

[www.nature.com/sci](http://www.nature.com/sci)

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

### Observation of Lévy distribution and replica symmetry breaking in random lasers from a single set of measurements

Received: 02 March 2016  
Accepted: 26 May 2016  
Published: 13 June 2016

Anderson S. L. Gomes<sup>1</sup>, Ernesto P. Raposo<sup>2</sup>, André L. Moura<sup>1,3</sup>, Serge I. Fewo<sup>4</sup>, Pablo I. R. Pincheira<sup>1</sup>, Vladimir Jerez<sup>5</sup>, Lauro J. Q. Maia<sup>6</sup> & Cid B. de Araújo<sup>1</sup>

Random lasers have been recently exploited as a photonic platform for studies of complex systems. This cross-disciplinary approach opened up new important avenues for the understanding of random-laser behavior, including Lévy-type distributions of strong intensity fluctuations and phase transitions to a photonic spin-glass phase. In this work, we employ the Nd:YBO random laser from a single set of measurements, the physical origin of the complex corresponds to the Lévy fluctuation regime and the replica-symmetry-breaking transition to the unexpected finding is also reported: the trend to suppress the spin-glass behavior energies. The present description from first principles of this correspondence to characterize other random lasers, such as random fiber lasers, lasers, which include plasmonic-based, photonic-crystal and bio-derived nanomaterials. The nature of the emission provided by random lasers can also impact on their properties for speckle-free laser imaging, which nowadays represents one of the most promising applications of random lasers, with expected progress even in cancer research.

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

### Coexistence of turbulence-like glassy behaviours in a photon system

Received: 26 July 2018

Iván R. R. González<sup>1</sup>, Ernesto P. Raposo<sup>1</sup>, Antônio M. S. Macêdo<sup>1</sup>, Leonardo de

PRL 119, 163902 (2017)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
20 OCTOBER 2017

### Replica Symmetry Breaking in the Photonic Ferromagneticlike Spontaneous Mode-Locking Phase of a Multimode Nd:YAG Laser

André L. Moura,<sup>1,2</sup> Pablo I. R. Pincheira,<sup>1</sup> Albert S. Reyna,<sup>1</sup> Ernesto P. Raposo,<sup>3,\*</sup> Anderson S. L. Gomes,<sup>1</sup> and Cid B. de Araújo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Física, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, 50670-901 Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

<sup>2</sup>Grupo de Física da Matéria Condensada, Núcleo de Ciências Exatas—NCEEx, Campus Arapiraca, Universidade Federal de Alagoas, 57309-005 Arapiraca, Alagoas, Brazil

<sup>3</sup>Laboratório de Física Teórica e Computacional, Departamento de Física, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, 50670-901 Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

(Received 20 November 2016; revised manuscript received 12 July 2017; published 20 October 2017)

We demonstrate the replica symmetry breaking (RSB) phenomenon in the spontaneous mode-locking regime of a multimode *Q*-switched Nd:YAG laser. The underlying mechanism is quite distinct from that of the RSB recently observed in random lasers. Here, there is no random medium and the phase is not glassy with incoherently oscillating modes as in random lasers. Instead, in each pulse a specific subset of longitudinal modes are activated in a nondeterministic way, whose coherent oscillation dominates and



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## Characterization of RLs:

- bandwidth narrowing,
- increasing in the slope efficiency (output versus input),
- time shortening of the upper level of the RL transition,
- intensity and spectral fluctuations (Lévy and Parisi parameters),
- statistics of photons (Bose-Einstein and Poisson distributions).

Random Lasers are "complex nonlinear systems"

excellent platforms to study  
Laser physics, Non Linear Optics,  
Statistical physics, Non Linear Dynamics, Atomic Physics, ...

Photonic phase-transitions, turbulence, extremes events, ...

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# Why the interest in Spin Glass?

Concepts that arose in the study of spin glasses have led to applications in areas as diverse as:

computer science

neural networks

prebiotic evolution

protein conformational dynamics

protein folding and a variety of others

## Other contributions from our labs at RECIFE

de Araújo et al. Lévy Statistics and the Glassy Behavior  
of Light in Random Fiber Lasers - Invited Review  
Appl. Sciences 7 (2017) 644 (1-18)

Lima et al. Extreme-value statistics of intensities in  
a cw-pumped random fiber laser  
Phys. Rev. A 96 (2017) 013834 (1-8)

Gonzales et al. Turbulence hierarchy in a random  
fibre laser. Nature Commun. 8 (2017) 15731

## Characterization of RLs:

- bandwidth narrowing,
- increasing in the slope efficiency (output versus input),
- time shortening of the upper level of the RL transition,
- intensity and spectral fluctuations (Lévy and Parisi parameters),
- statistics of photons (Bose-Einstein and Poisson distributions).

Random Lasers are "complex nonlinear systems"

excellent platforms to study  
Laser physics, Non Linear Optics,  
Statistical physics, Non Linear Dynamics, Atomic Physics, ...

Photonic phase-transitions, turbulence, extremes events, ...

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Random Lasers are  
“nonlinear complex systems”

they are excellent platforms to study:

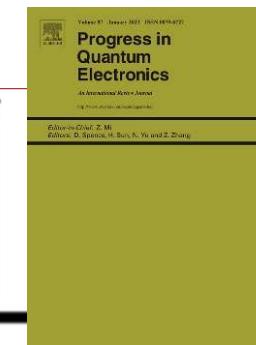
Laser Physics,  
Nonlinear Optics, Quantum Optics,  
Statistical Physics, Solid State Physics,  
Nonlinear dynamics, Atomic Physics, ...

Plenty of fundamental work to be done ...

Many possible applications ...

Invited

78 (July 2021) 100343



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Progress in Quantum Electronics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pqe](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pqe)

Review

Recent advances and applications of random lasers and random fiber lasers

Anderson S.L. Gomes<sup>a,\*</sup>, André L. Moura<sup>b,c</sup>, Cid B. de Araújo<sup>a</sup>, Ernesto P. Raposo<sup>d</sup>



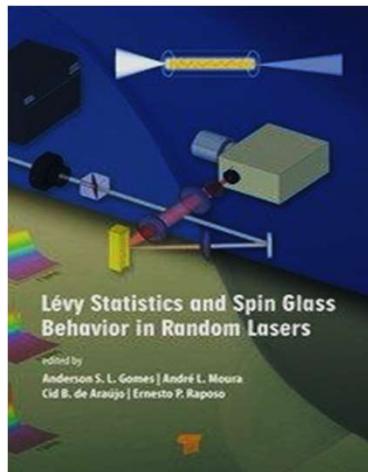
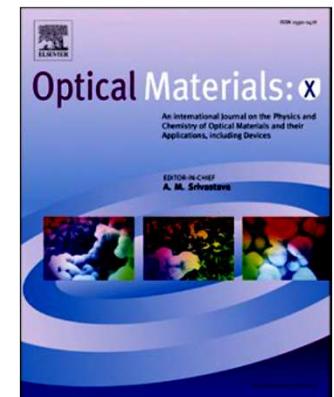
69 pages

443 references

Optical Materials: X 16 (2022) 100203

(INVITED) Optical Materials for Flexible and Stretchable Random Lasers A. S.L. Gomes, D. Valente, H. P. de Oliveira, S. J. L. Ribeiro, C. B. de Araújo

21 pages , 153 references



Book: Lévy Statistics and Spin Glass Behavior in Random Lasers

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# Nonlinear phenomena in metal - NL spectroscopy of materials dielectric nanocomposites

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## Random Lasers

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# Thanks for your attention

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