Vector spatial solitons: off-axis nonparaxiality in coupled Helmholtz equations
Bostock, C, Christian, JM and McDonald, GS

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Published Date</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Vector spatial solitons: off-axis nonparaxiality in coupled Helmholtz equations

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Vector spatial solitons are complex optical beams with several distinct components. These components (which may be bright-like and/or dark-like) are localized in space and tend to overlap strongly in the propagation plane, thereby allowing the interplay between diffraction and nonlinear effects (e.g., self- and mutual-focusing) to result in stationary light structures. Our group has proposed a more complete and realistic model for describing two-colour vector phenomena, where each electric-field component is at a distinct optical frequency (e.g., $\omega_1$ and $\omega_2$). A key feature of our approach is that one may access multi-colour geometries involving beam propagation at arbitrary angles and orientations with respect to the reference direction in the laboratory frame – such considerations are central to technological device architectures involving multiplexing and interface geometries, but lie far outside the reach of conventional theory [1,2]. We have recently solved the modulational instability problem (which is 4x4 in nature) exactly [3], and extensive computations have confirmed theoretical predictions (e.g., the instability of bright-dark solitons in a focusing Kerr medium). New families of exact analytical two-colour solitons have also been derived (see figure 1), each of which has co-propagation and counter-propagation classes that are related by geometrical transformation.

![Electric field envelope at frequency $\omega_1$](image1.png)

![Electric field envelope at frequency $\omega_2$](image2.png)

Figure 1. Intensity profiles for bright-bright two-colour Helmholtz spatial solitons travelling off-axis at angle $\theta$.

References