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Title	Ultrannarrow Helmholtz solitons from nonlinear Maxwell's equations : the role of rotational covariance in oblique propagation problems
Authors	Christian, JM and Yang, RC
Publication title	2nd IMA Conference on Nonlinearity and Coherent Structures
Publisher	
Type	Conference or Workshop Item
USIR URL	This version is available at: http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/56550/
Published Date	2017

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the role of rotational covariance in oblique propagation problems

TALK ABSTRACT

Helmholtz solitons are robust self-localizing excitations that play a key role in the description of wave-based phenomena in a broad class of nonlinear system. As exact analytical solutions to underlying scalar Helmholtz equations, they are uniquely placed to model laser-optics contexts involving off-axis regimes beyond the near-universal assumptions of wave paraxiality. Elementary geometries with arbitrary-angle considerations include the multiplexing of soliton beams, refraction at material interfaces (well described by a Snell-type law), and oblique injection into periodic media (such as coupled waveguide arrays). A key mathematical property underpinning the angular properties of Helmholtz solitons is covariance of the governing equations under in-plane rotational transformations.

We will present a survey of soliton modelling using Helmholtz equations. Particular attention is paid to a recently-developed framework for deriving new families of exact bright and dark solitary solutions. The governing equations are derived from an order-of-magnitude assessment of nonlinear vector Maxwell equations, where the tensor character of the third-order susceptibility is taken into account. Distinguishing our analysis from other works, we relax various perturbative elimination approximations and our model thus retains a Helmholtz signature. We will also consider the fifth-order susceptibility, where the nonlinear response of the medium is described by a sixth-rank tensor.