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ARO 24138.4-PH-H

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PARAMETRIC INVESTIGATION OF HOLOGRAPHIC GRATINGS AND OPTICAL PHASE  
CONJUGATION THROUGH DEGENERATE FOUR WAVE MIXING IN SATURABLE  
ABSORPTIVE/RESONANT/NONRESONANT SYSTEMS

Final Report

Putchu Venkateswarlu

November 26, 1991

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE  
GRANT NUMBER  
DAAL 03-87-G-0078

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188
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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE Dec 1991	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final 1 Apr 87 - 31 Aug 91	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Parametric Investigation of Holographic Gratings and Optical Phase Conjugation Through Degenerate Four Wave Mixing in Saturable Absorptive/Resonant/Nonresonant Systems		5. FUNDING NUMBERS DAAL03-87-G-0078	
6. AUTHOR(S) P. Venkateswarlu			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Alabama A & M University Normal, AL 35762		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U. S. Army Research Office P. O. Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2211		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER ARO 24138.4-PH-H	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The view, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.			
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) Parametric investigation of volume holographic gratings and optical phase conjugation are studied through coherent and incoherent beam couplings in BaTiO <sub>3</sub> and through the study of bistability in phase conjugate resonators. Experiments have been done on the effect of color centers in the formation of resonant systems and holographic grating formation. A summary of the important results appears in the final report.			
14. SUBJECT TERMS Holographic Gratings, Optical Phase Conjugation, Beam Couplings, Resonant Systems		15. NUMBER OF PAGES 48	
		16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL

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## **1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM STUDIED**

Parametric investigation of volume holographic gratings and optical phase conjugation are studied through coherent and incoherent beam couplings in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  and through the study of bistability in phase conjugate resonators. Experiments have been done on the effect of color centers in the formation of resonant systems and holographic grating formation.

## **2 SUMMARY OF THE IMPORTANT RESULTS**

### **2.1 BEAM COUPLINGS**

Beam couplings and self pulsations in self pumped  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  crystal have been studied using two incoherent beams from a cw  $\text{Ar}^+$  laser at different wavelengths and similarly with two coherent beams.

#### **2.1.1 Incoherent Self-Pumped Beam Coupling**

Eason and Smout<sup>1,2</sup> carried out an analysis of mutually incoherent beam coupling in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  when they are incident on a single face of the crystal with incident angles of  $15^\circ$  and  $16^\circ$  in the quadrant favourable for self pumping. They reported observation of a loop of light resulting in two phase conjugate outputs. We have reported<sup>3</sup> our results on beam couplings in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  self-pumped at 5145, 4880, 4765 and 4580 Å by two incoherent beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  with variable power ratios. In the first set of experiments, the beams cross in the crystal at  $2^\circ$ , while in the second they cross at the same angle before reaching the crystal. Fig.1 shows the experimental arrangement which is similar to the one used by Eason and Smout<sup>1</sup>. With a ratio of about 4:1 in the powers of  $A_1$  (16.5mw)

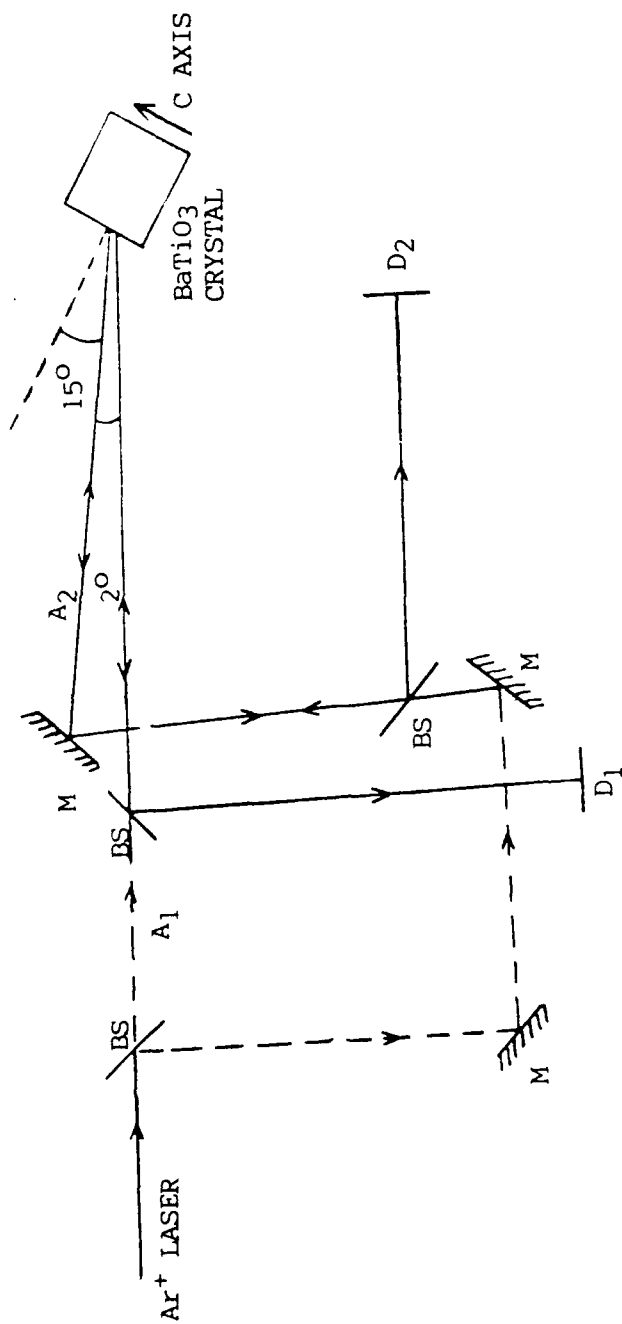


Fig. 1. Experimental arrangement for incoherent beam coupling. Beam  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are incoherent. Path difference 150 cm. Multimode  $\text{Ar}^+$  laser. M: mirror, BS: beam splitters, D : detectors.

and  $A_2(4\text{mw})$ , the signal  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  at  $D_1$  shows self oscillations while  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  at  $D_2$  remains steady when individually pumped (Fig. 2). Here  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  represent phase conjugates of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  respectively. The frequency of oscillations at  $D_1$  increases with the wavelength of the laser and its power. With simultaneous pumping, the signal at  $D_1$  becomes stable and the one at  $D_2$  goes to zero (see Fig. 2).

With the beam powers nearly equal, in the range, 6-17 mw  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  do not coexist and each beam effectively erases the other beam grating (Fig. 3). When the crystal is pumped by  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  simultaneously, it is seen in all the experiments that the signal at  $D_1$  may be expressed as  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) + \hat{A}_2(t) - \Delta_1(t)$  and that at  $D_2$  as  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) + \hat{A}_1(t) - \Delta_2(t)$ . Here  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  are the Bragg diffractions of  $A_2$  and  $A_1$  in the opposite directions of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  respectively.  $\Delta_1(t)$  and  $\Delta_2(t)$  are the general erasure effects of the beams  $A_2$  and  $A_1$  in the gratings responsible for the self-pumps of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  respectively.

In the second set of experiments, the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  with nearly equal powers (6-17mw) cross before reaching the crystal surface. However, because of the size of the beams the individual filaments generated by them very likely overlap to introduce couplings between the two beams. With  $A_1 = A_2 = 11\text{ mw}$ , the phase conjugates  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  of the two beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  show oscillations under individual pumping while they are nearly stable under simultaneous pumping (see Fig. 4a). If after simultaneous pumping  $A_2$  is shut off, the signal at  $D_1$



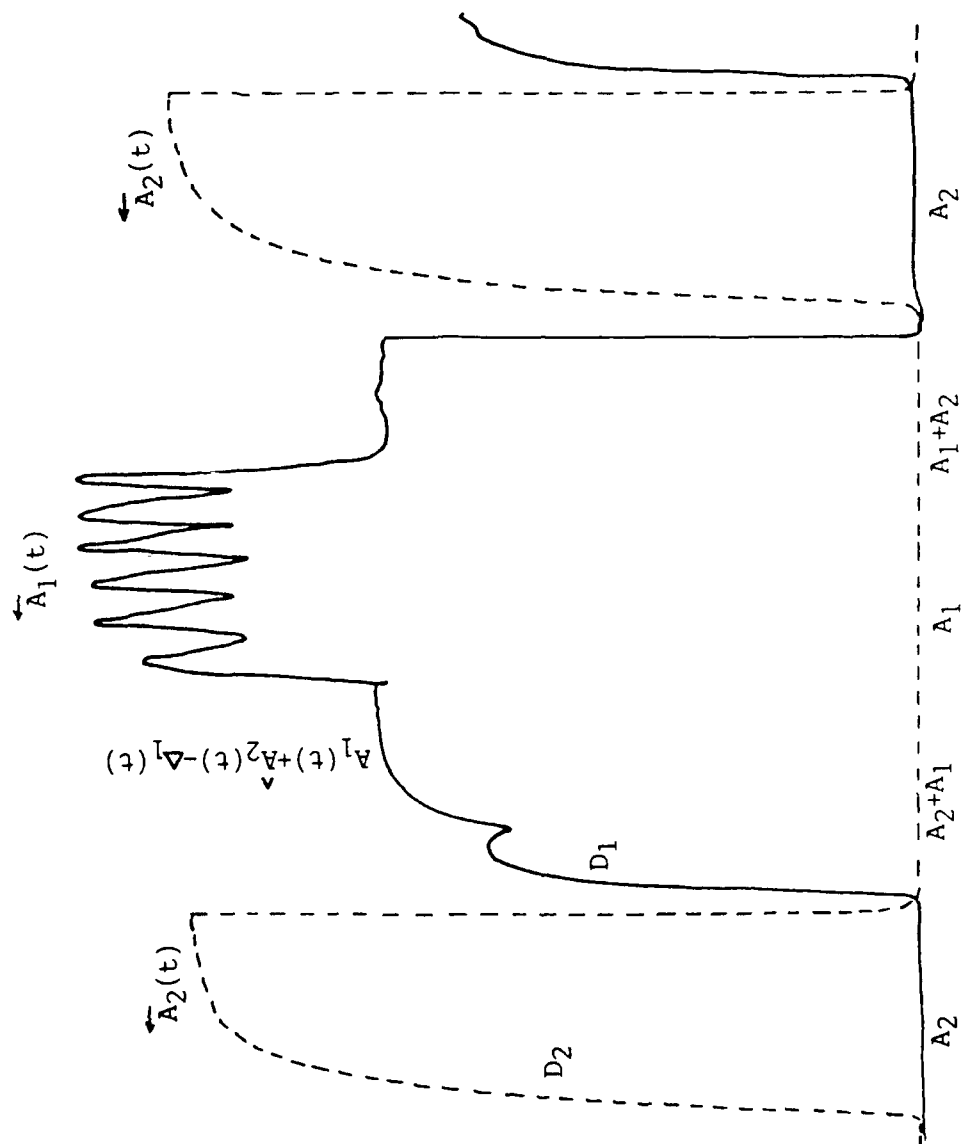


Fig. 2. Signal at the detectors  $D_1$  (full line) and  $D_2$  (dashed line) vs. time.  
 $A_1 = 16.5$  mw and  $A_2 = 4$  mw.

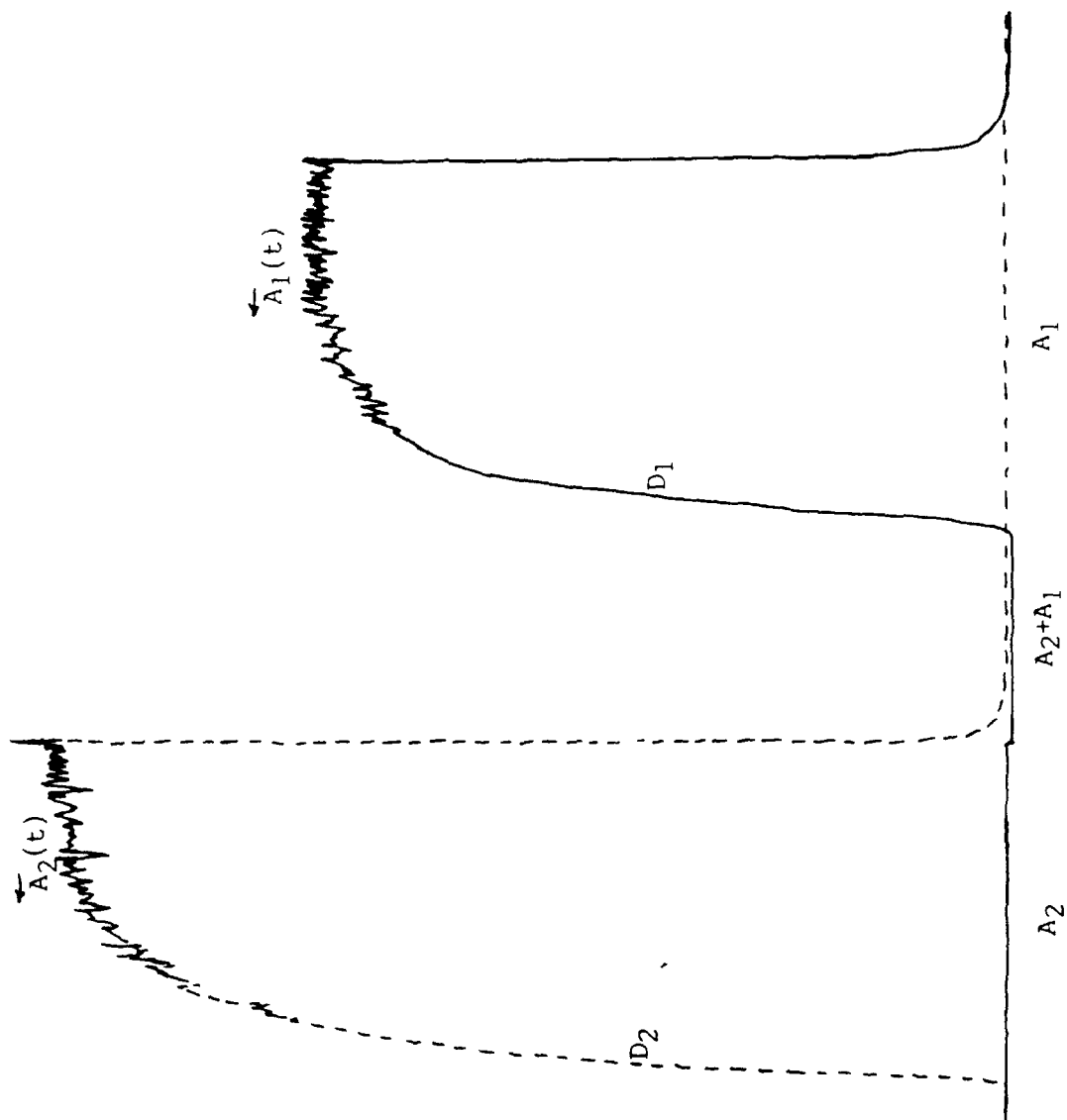
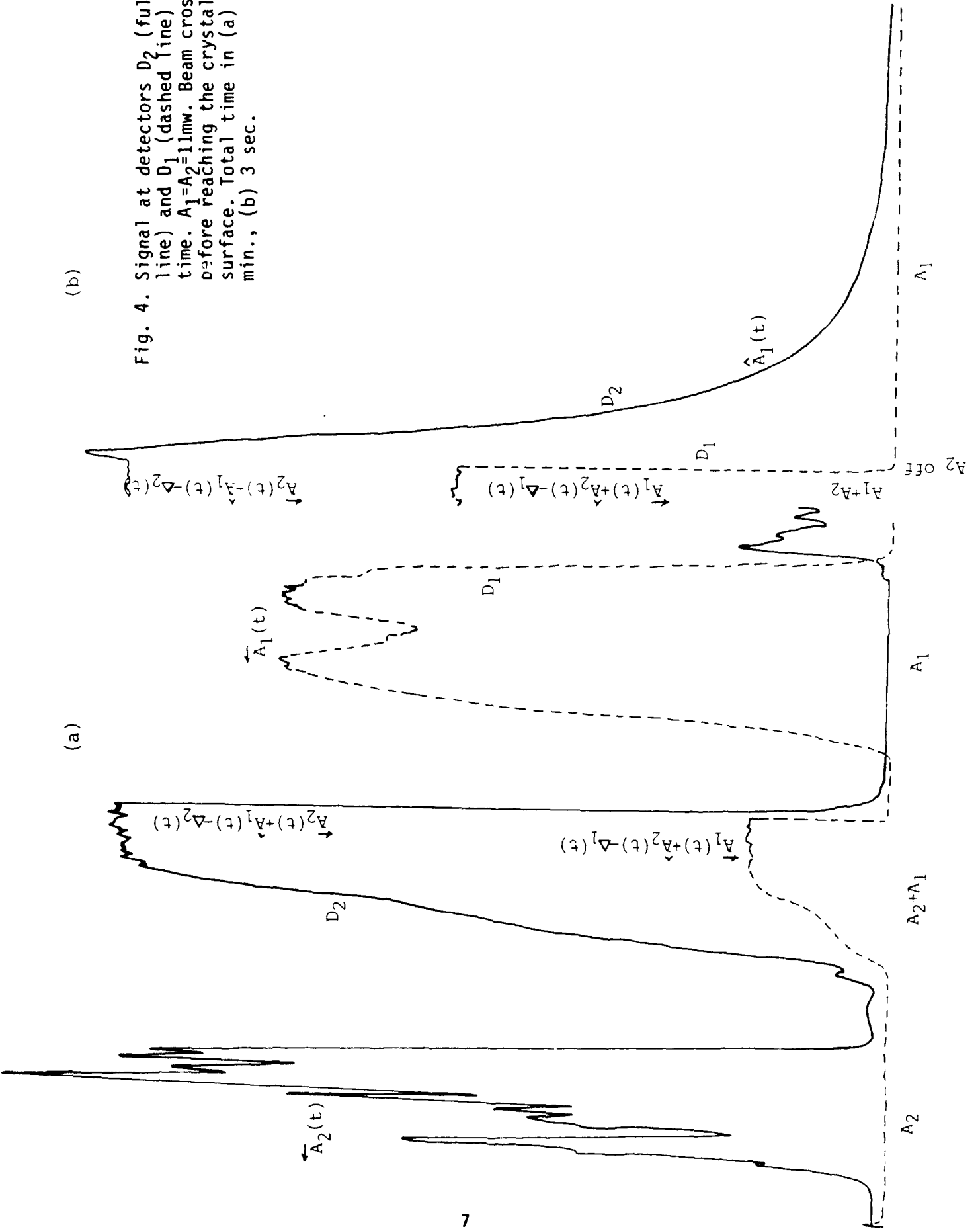


Fig. 3. Signal at the detectors  $D_1$  (full line) and  $D_2$  (dashed line) vs. time.  
 $A_1 = 9.5 \text{ mw}$  and  $A_2 = 9 \text{ mw}$ .

shows a sharp drop to zero while that at  $D_2$  shows an exponential decay (Figs. 4a and 4b). This clearly indicates the existence of the cross coupled signals  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  in the directions of  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ , respectively. As indicated earlier, the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  under simultaneous pumping may be represented by  $[\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) + \hat{A}_2(t) - \Delta_1(t)]$  and  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) + \hat{A}_1(t) - \Delta_1(t)]$  respectively. Thus, when  $A_2$  is shut off,  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  and  $\Delta_1(t)$  drop to zero and  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  decays exponentially depending on the life of the relevant transient grating (Fig. 4b). The signal at  $D_1$  drops to zero abruptly when  $A_2$  is shut off because  $A_2$  drops to zero, and also probably because  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) - \Delta_1(t) \cong 0$ . The signal at  $D_1$  then grows up and reaches its maximum of  $\overleftarrow{A}_1$ , as the signal is under the individual pumping of  $A_1$  only (Fig. 4a). Similarly, when  $A_1$  is put off,  $D_1$  shows the decay of  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  while  $D_2$  shows a sudden drop to zero as probably  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) \cong \Delta_1(t)$ . It is found that  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  is less than  $A_1(t)$ .

## 2.12 Coherent Beam Couplings

Venkateswarlu et al<sup>4</sup> used different configurations to study coherent beam couplings. In the first case which is a parallelogram configuration, two coherent beams  $A_1(3.9\text{mw})$  and  $A_2(4.4\text{mw})$  from an  $\text{Ar}^+$  laser ( $4580\text{\AA}$ ) cross (with  $\theta = 40^\circ$ ) in an electrically poled  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  crystal ( $8 \times 8 \times 6 \text{ mm}^3$ ) with the horizontal laser polarization,  $c$  axis being in the same plane (Fig. 5). If the crystal is individually exposed to  $A_1$



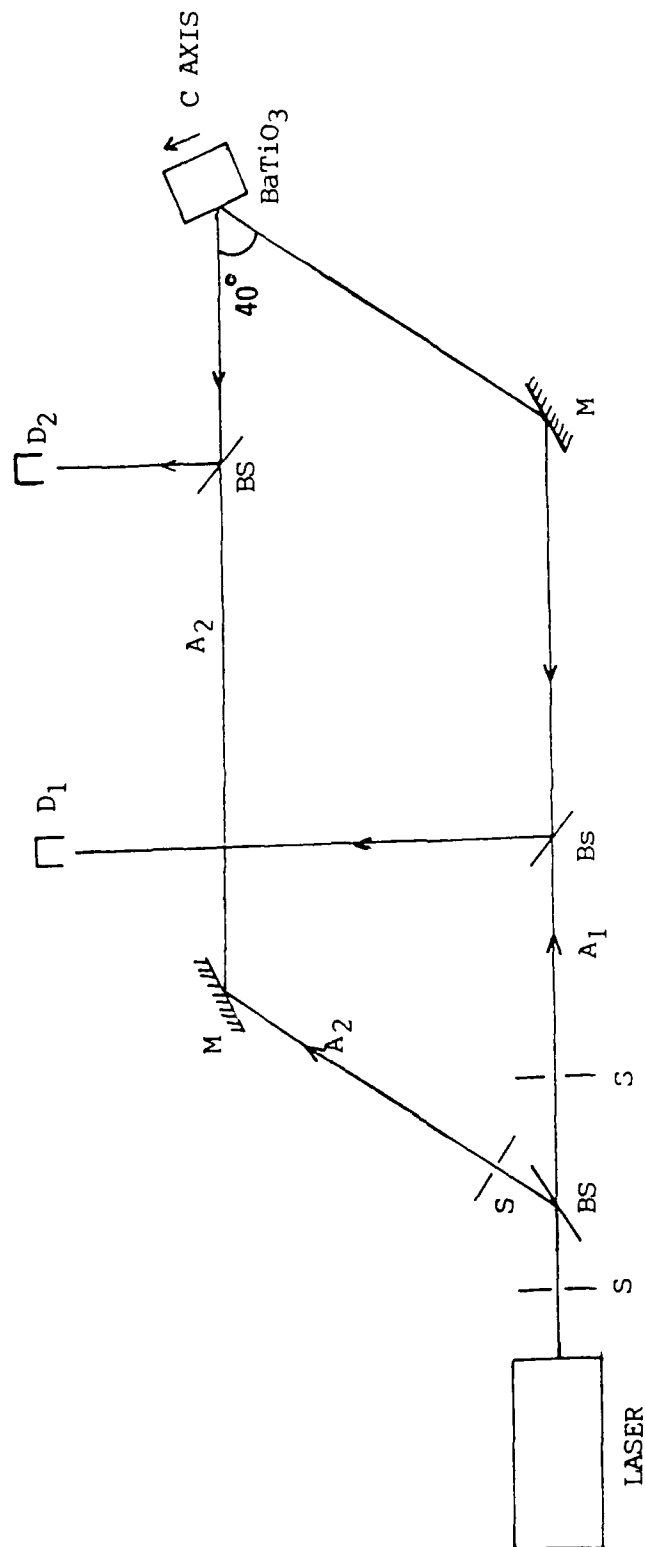


Fig. 5. Parallel beam configuration for phase conjugation: BS: beam Splitter, M: mirror, S: slit,  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ : detectors,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ : input beams which meet at the center of the crystal,  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(t)$ : self-pumped phase conjugates of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ ,  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  cross coupled beams of  $A_2$  and  $A_1$  respectively.

(or  $A_2$ ), one observes self-pumped beam  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  [or  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$ ]. When  $A_1$  is allowed to enter the crystal after the self-pumped phase conjugate signal  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  levels off, there is a sudden increase in the signal at detector  $D_2$  (see Fig. 6). The signals at  $D_2$  and  $D_1$  are represented in the same manner as in the earlier section. One can see from Fig. 6 that the steady state values of  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$ ,  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  and  $\Delta_2(t)$  are in the approximate ratio 9:36:7. One can see in a similar manner that  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ ,  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  and  $\Delta_1(t)$  in the ratio 8:175:6.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  both self pump but  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) \ll \overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(t) > \hat{A}_1(t)$ . These experiments were repeated with 4756Å excitation. The results are similar except that the individual self-pumping of  $A_1$  is better with 4850Å than with 4765Å.

In a separate parallelogram experiment, the self pump of the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , and their beam couplings are studied at different points of entrance on the crystal surface, at different excitation wavelengths and at different powers. The beam crossing angle is 48° and the angle of incidence of  $A_2$  is 20°. If the point of entry is 1.5 mm from the edge nearest to  $A_2$ ,  $A_2$  shows systematic oscillations whose frequency increases with wavelength and power while  $A_1$  continues to be steady. If the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  pump simultaneously, the detectors at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  both show about 16 fold increase on intensities (Fig. 7). Thus, the signal at  $D_2$  under simultaneous pumping represented by  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) + \hat{A}_1(t) - \Delta_2(t)]$  is about 16 times more than the signal  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  under individual pumping. Similar observations are made with the signals at  $D_1$ . This is because of

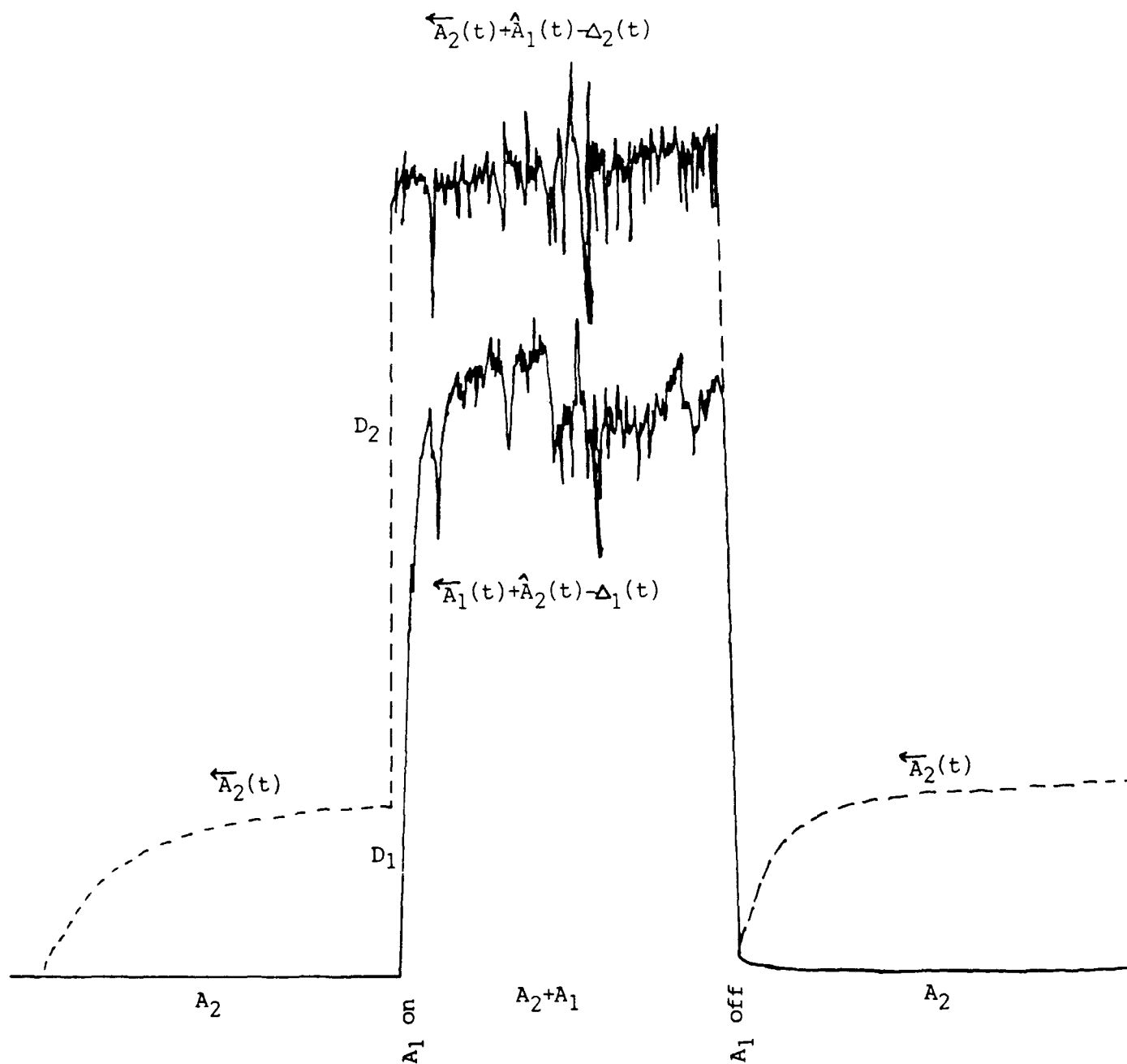
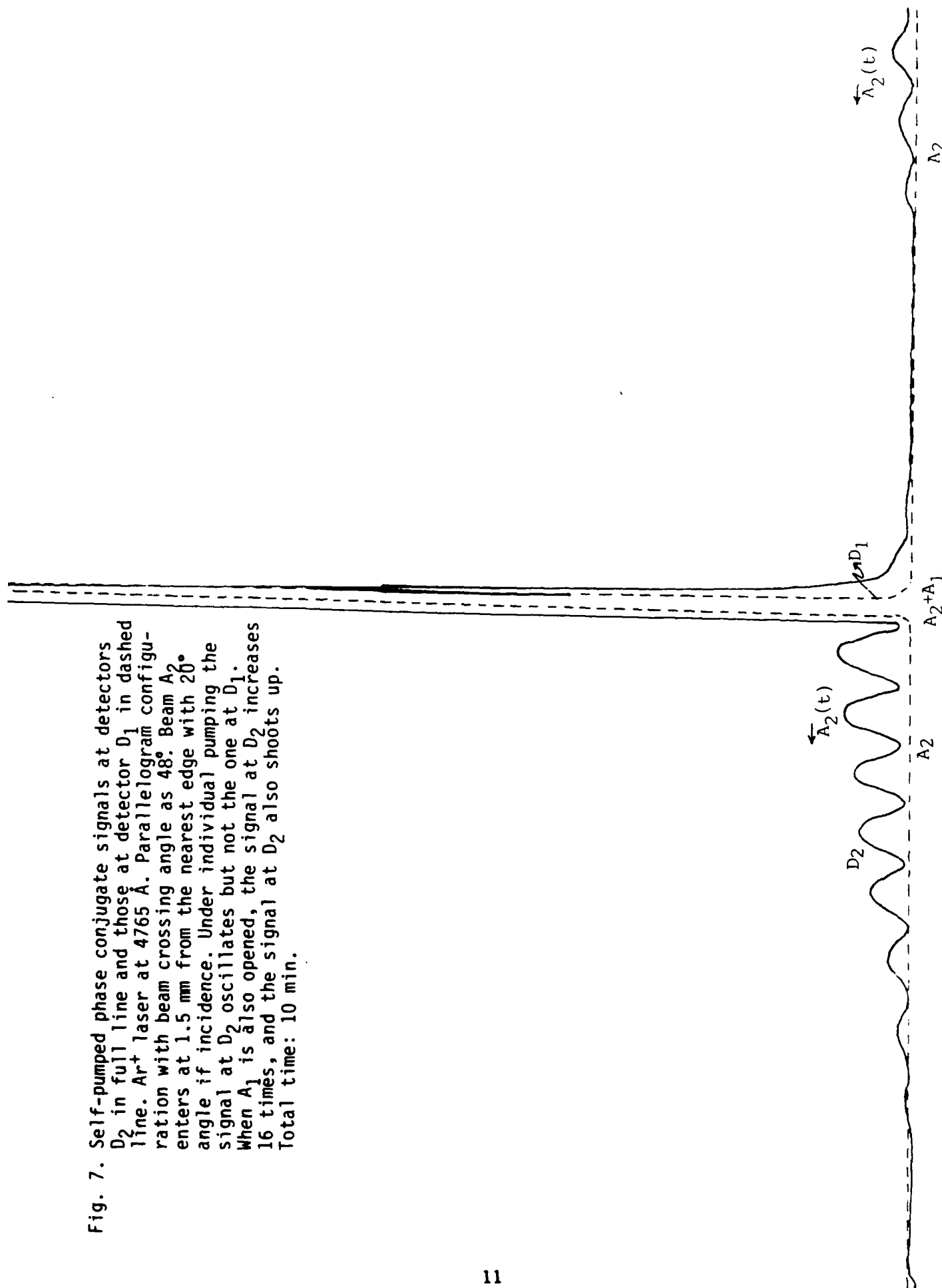


Fig. 6. Self-pumped phase conjugate signals:  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are signals at detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  in Fig. 5.  $\Delta_1(t)$  and  $\Delta_2(t)$  are erasure effects on  $\overleftarrow{A_1}(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A_2}(t)$  due to the  $A_2$  and  $A_1$  respectively.  $\text{Ar}^+$  laser (4580 Å) has horizontal polarization,  $D_1$  (full line) and  $D_2$  (dashed line). Total time 5 min.

Fig. 7. Self-pumped phase conjugate signals at detectors  $D_2$  in full line and those at detector  $D_1$  in dashed line.  $\text{Ar}^+$  laser at 4765 Å. Parallelogram configuration with beam crossing angle as  $48^\circ$ . Beam  $A_2$  enters at 1.5 mm from the nearest edge with  $20^\circ$  angle if incidence. Under individual pumping the signal at  $D_2$  oscillates but not the one at  $D_1$ . When  $A_1$  is also opened, the signal at  $D_2$  increases 16 times, and the signal at  $D_2$  also shoots up. Total time: 10 min.





the significant mutual fanning,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  Bragg diffract considerably into the reverse directions of each other to  $D_2$  and  $D_1$  respectively making  $\hat{A}_2(t) \gg \overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_1(t) \gg \overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$ . The self pump of  $A_1$  is found to be better with 4580 Å and 4765 Å excitations than other wavelengths.

### 2.13 Effects Of Relative Beam Intensities On Coherent Beam Couplings In Self-Pumping BaTiO<sub>3</sub>

The experimental configuration<sup>5</sup> and the connected details are shown in Fig. 8. A 15 mw He-Ne cw laser has been utilized in this experiment, using horizontal polarization. After passing through an adjustable slit the beam is split using a variable beam splitter into two separate beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . An electrically poled (8x8x6 mm<sup>3</sup>) BaTiO<sub>3</sub> crystal is used. The c axis of the crystal is along the 6 mm edge and is marked in the Fig. 8. The beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  cross each other in the middle of the crystal at an angle of 46°. The angle of incidence of the beam  $A_1$  is 20.5° with the normal to the front face, and that of  $A_2$  is 25.5°. The variable beam splitter (VBS) at the dividing point of the beam can vary the intensities of the beam as needed. The two other conventional beam splitters, BS<sub>1</sub> and BS<sub>2</sub>, enable us to record signals of self-pumped phase conjugates of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  at detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ , respectively.

The experiments were carried out by Moghbel<sup>5</sup> using different values of intensities for the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . It has been found that the observed behaviour of the self-pumped phase conjugate signals  $\overleftarrow{A}_1$  and

$\overleftarrow{A}_2$ , the cross coupled signals  $\hat{A}_1$  and  $\hat{A}_2$  and the mutual erasure effects  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  on the grating of one beam by the other and the self erasure effects  $\delta_1$  and  $\delta_2$  of each beam on their phase conjugates  $\overleftarrow{A}_1$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_2$  depend on the intensities of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . For example  $A_1$  showed self-pumped phase conjugation appreciably over a wide range of intensities, from 4.5 mW to 10 mW, and showed negligible self pumping at 2 mW and below, while  $A_2$  did not show any self pumping for  $A_2 < 13$  mW.

In region 1 of Fig. 9, both beams were initially kept turned on and the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  showed steady state signals of 1.1 and 0.6 volts, respectively. Beam  $A_2$  was then turned off and the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  decayed to zero. No self-pumped phase conjugate signal was noticed at detector  $D_1$  though  $A_1$  was kept on. This shows that when both beams are on, most of the contribution to the signal at  $D_1$  comes from the cross coupling of  $A_2$  which is denoted as  $\hat{A}_2$ . The beam  $A_2$  was turned on after another 2.5 minutes (region 2). The signal at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  started to grow and leveled off after 8.5 minutes at 1.13 and 0.62 volts, respectively, in a total scale of 4 volts.  $A_1$  was then shut off and the signal at  $D_2$  came to zero showing no self pumping of  $A_2$ , though  $A_2$  was on (region 3).

This shows again that the signal at  $D_2$ , when both beams are on, is due to the cross coupling of  $A_1$ , denoted by  $\hat{A}_1$ . Then  $A_1$  was turned on again (region 4). The growth in the region 4 is similar to that in region 2.

Fig.10 shows a slow recording of the region 1 indicating the decay

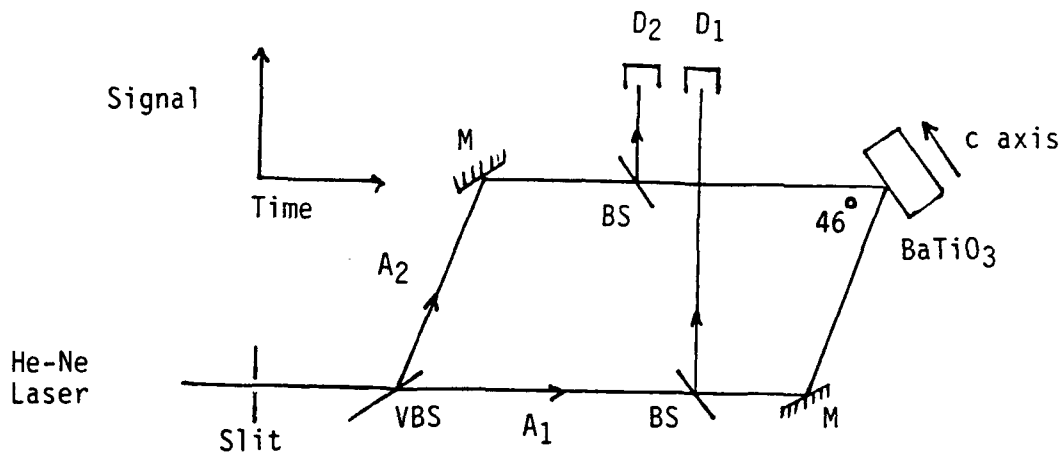


Fig.8: Experimental configuration of beam coupling using parallelogram set up. BS: beam splitter, VBS: variable beam splitter, M: mirror, D: detectors.

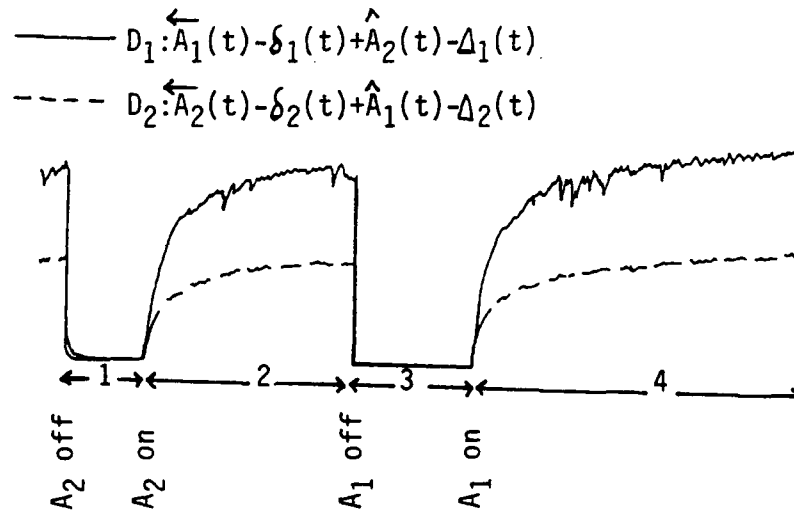


Fig.9: Phase conjugate signal due to coherent beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  in the above set up at detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Total time 16 minutes.

of the signals at the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . In this part of the experiment, both beams were first kept on until the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  leveled off. After a few seconds beam  $A_2$  was put off for the remaining time of the 4 minutes of recording. When  $A_2$  is off, the signal at  $D_1$  decays to zero and indicates a small growth in the end because of the self-pumped phase conjugate of  $A_1$  which is denoted as  $\overleftarrow{A}_1$ . The signal at  $D_2$  when  $A_2$  is off, is because of the cross coupling of  $A_1$  and it decays exponentially as its grating dies off. Fig. 11 depicts the recording of the decay of the signals shown in the Fig. 10 at a still slower speed. Fig. 12 shows the decay of the signals at  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$  (region 3) when  $A_1$  is turned off.

The experimental results in the Figs. 9-12 can be understood on the basis that the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  show signals  $[\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) - \delta_1(t)]$  and  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) - \delta_2(t)]$ , respectively, when the crystal is individually pumped by the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . Here  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  are self-pumped phase conjugates of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively and  $\delta_1(t)$  and  $\delta_2(t)$  represent the individual self erasure effects of the beams on the gratings responsible for the self-pumping process. Under simultaneous pumping ( $A_1 + A_2$ ) by both the beams, the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  show signals  $[\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) - \delta_1(t) + \hat{A}_2(t) - \Delta_1(t)]$  and  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) - \delta_2(t) + \hat{A}_1(t) - \Delta_2(t)]$  where  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  are cross coupled signals because of  $A_2$  and  $A_1$  getting Bragg diffracted from the gratings formed by fanning into the directions opposite of the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , respectively.  $\Delta_1(t)$  and  $\Delta_2(t)$  represent the erasure effects of the

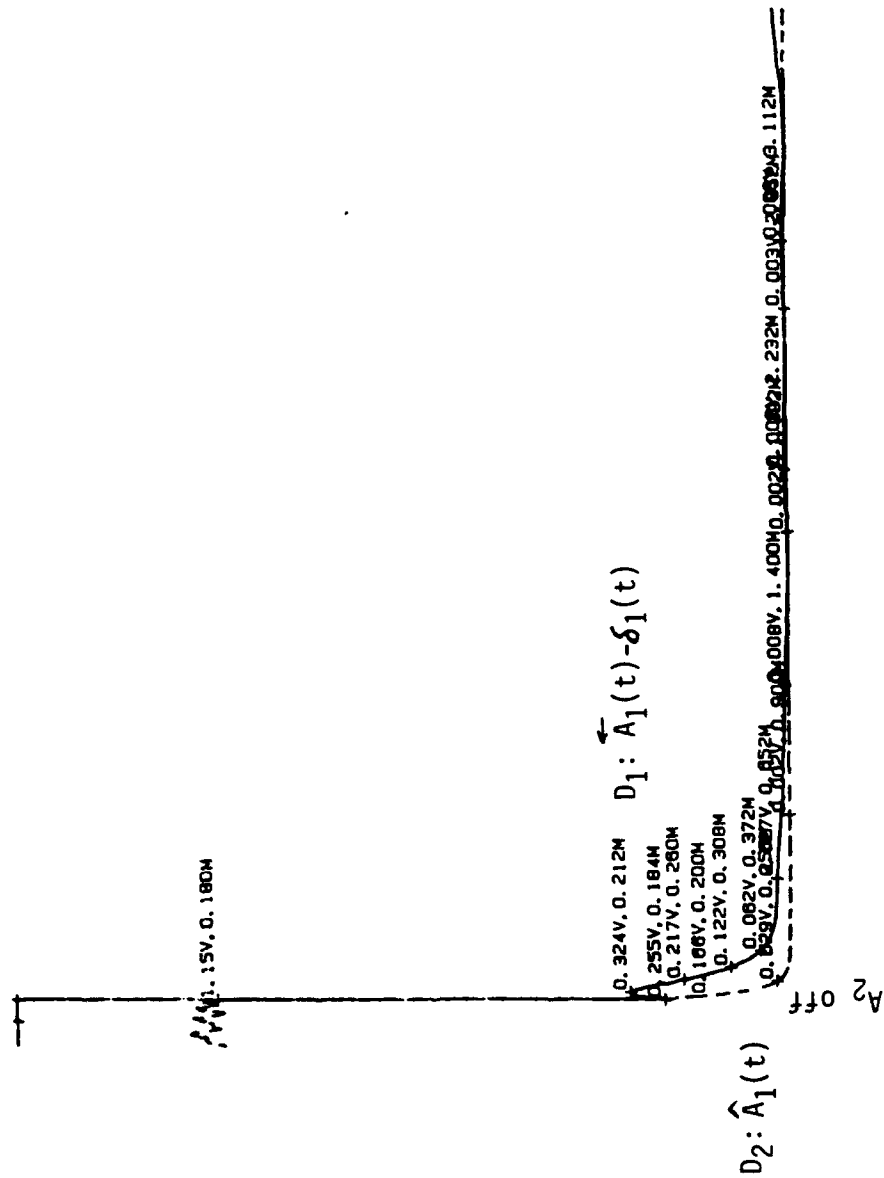


Fig. 10. Decay of self-pumped phase conjugate of beam  $A_1$  at detector  $D_1$  and The cross coupled signal at the detector  $D_2$  when  $A_2$  is turned off. Total time 4 min.

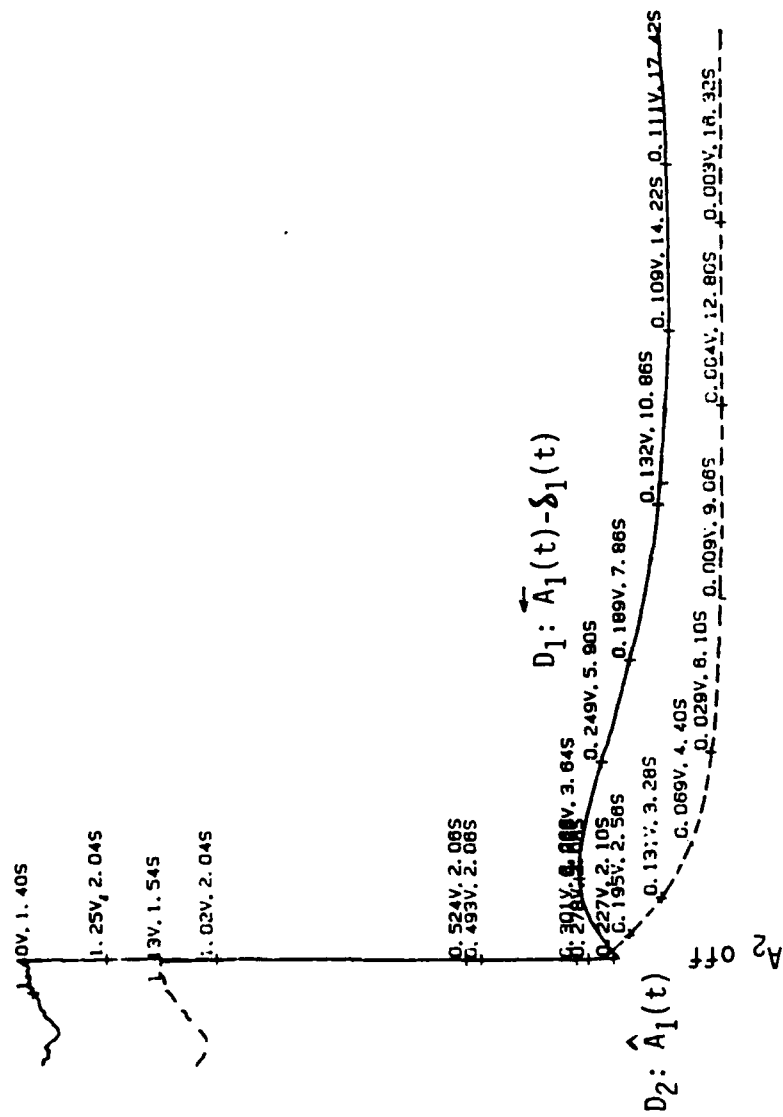


Fig.11. Decay of self-pumped phase conjugate of beam  $A_1$  at the detector  $D_1$  and the cross coupled signal at detector  $D_2$  when  $A_2$  is turned off. Total time 20 sec.

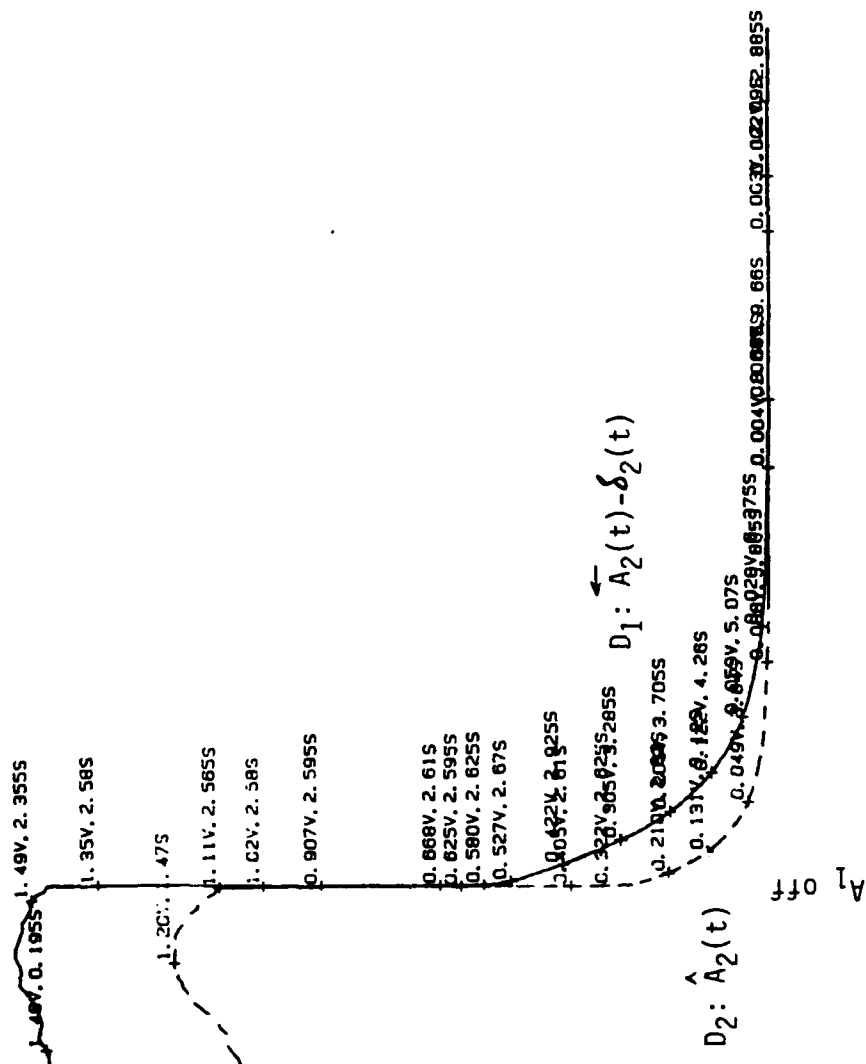


Fig. 12. Decay of  $A_2(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  observed at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  respectively when  $A_1$  is turned off. Total time 10 sec.

beams  $A_2$  and  $A_1$  on the gratings responsible for the phase conjugates  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  respectively.

The absence of the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  when the crystal is individually pumped shows that  $A_1(t) - \delta_1(t) \approx 0$  and also  $A_2(t) - \delta_2(t) \approx 0$ . It also shows that for both  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , the threshold values of  $\gamma L = 2.34$  is not crossed to show self-pumped phase conjugates<sup>6</sup>.

In Fig.11 the decay of the signal at  $D_1$ , when  $A_2$  is put off, essentially represents the decay of  $[\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) - \delta_1(t)]$  while that at  $D_2$  similarly represents the decay of  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  as  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  and  $\Delta_1(t)$  are essentially zero when  $A_2$  is put off. However, the hump in the decay in the signal at  $D_1$  may be understood on the basis that the negative effect of  $\Delta_1(t)$  on  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  drops down abruptly when  $A_2$  is off enabling  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  to increase a little, but the self erasure  $\delta_1(t)$  and the decay of the grating take over with time and kill  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ .

Figs. 13-15 show the results of an experiment with  $A_1 = A_2 = 7.5$  mW. The beams meet on the front surface of the crystal, but because of their finite beam waists, the two beams continue to overlap inside the crystal also. Here  $A_1$  self-pumps but  $A_2$  does not. The signal at  $D_1$  which essentially represents  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  under individual pumping is nearly smooth, except for minor pulsations, while the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  show stronger pulsations under simultaneous pumping (see Figs. 13 and 14). In both the figures the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  under simultaneous pumping are shown



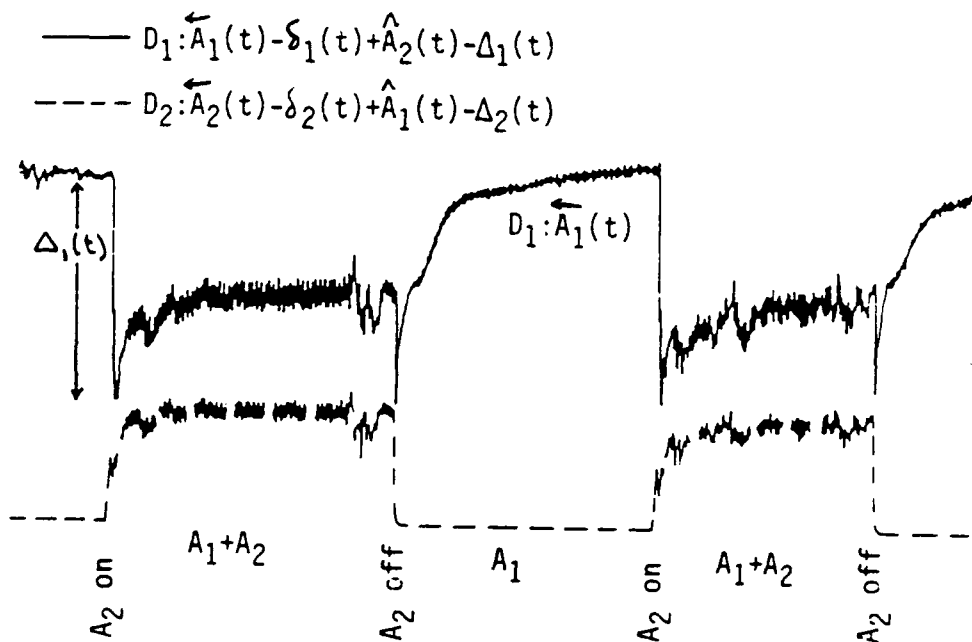


Fig. 13. Phase conjugate signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Strong pulsations occur under simultaneous pumping of  $A_1 + A_2$ . Total time 15 minutes.

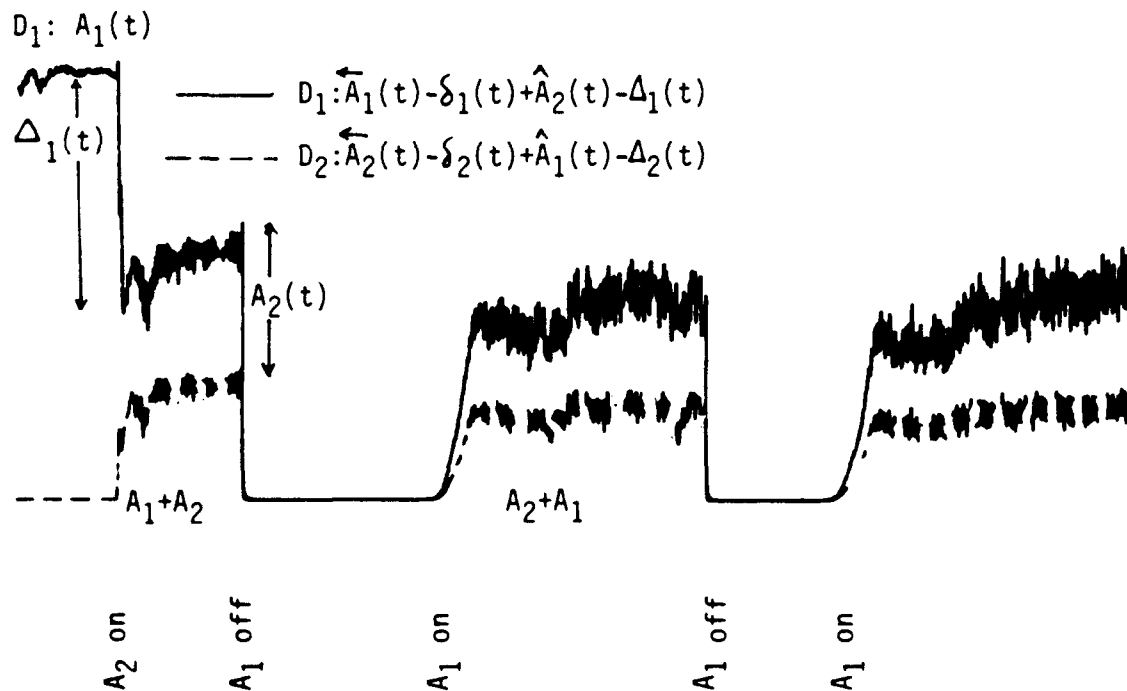


Fig. 14. Phase conjugate signals at detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Beam  $A_1$  self-pumped but  $A_2$  is not. Total time 15 minutes.

as  $[\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) + \hat{A}_2(t) - \Delta_1(t)]$  and  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) + \hat{A}_1(t) - \Delta_2(t)]$ , respectively (neglecting self erasure). The decay of the signals when  $A_1$  is off and when  $A_2$  is off are shown respectively in Figs. 15a and 15b. The signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  when  $A_1$  is off represent essentially the decay of  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  and  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) - \delta_2(t)]$  respectively. When  $A_2$  is off they represent  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_1(t)$ , neglecting  $\delta_1(t)$  compared to  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ .  $D_1$  shows the growth of  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  while  $D_2$  shows the decay of  $\hat{A}_1(t)$ .

With  $A_1 = 5$  mw and  $A_2 = 9$  mw,  $A_1$  under individual pumping shows minor pulsations in its self pump  $\overleftarrow{A}_1$ .  $A_2$  does not self pump. However under simultaneous pumping of  $A_1 + A_2$ , the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  show strong coherent oscillations in self pumping (See Fig. 16).

When  $A_1 = 0.16-0.4$  mW and  $A_2 = 13-14$  mW it is found that  $A_1$  does not self-pump while  $A_2$  does under respective individual excitations. This is the only set where  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  has been observed when the crystal was pumped by  $A_2$ . However, the signal  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) - \delta_2(t)]$  was oscillatory, i.e., it was growing and decaying (Fig. 17) at the rate of about 3 times in 15 minutes. However, under simultaneous pumping the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ , both show signals which are oscillatory, at about 5 times in 15 minutes, the signal at  $D_2$  being stronger than the one at  $D_1$  (Fig.18). There are minor pulsations superimposed on the signal. Under simultaneous pumping the signals at  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  represent  $[\overleftarrow{A}_1(t) - \delta_1(t) + \hat{A}_2(t) - \Delta_1(t)]$  and  $[\overleftarrow{A}_2(t) - \delta_2(t) + \hat{A}_1(t) - \Delta_2(t)]$ , respectively.

Fig. 15a. Decay of  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  at detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  respectively, when beam  $A_1$  is turned off. Total time 10 sec.  $D_1$  (full line) and  $D_2$  (dashed line).

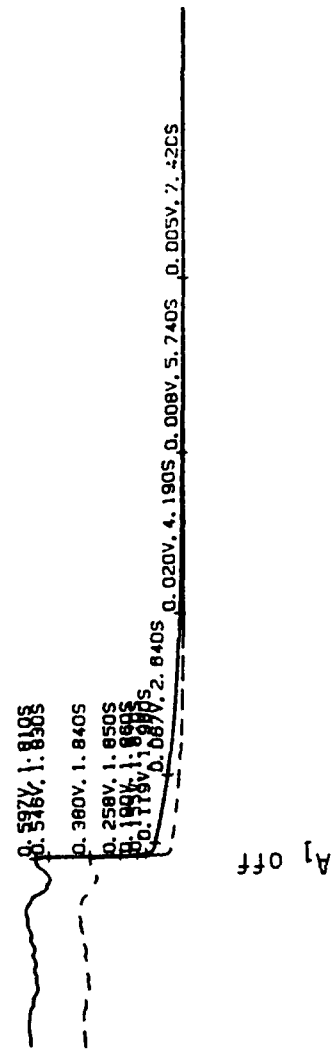
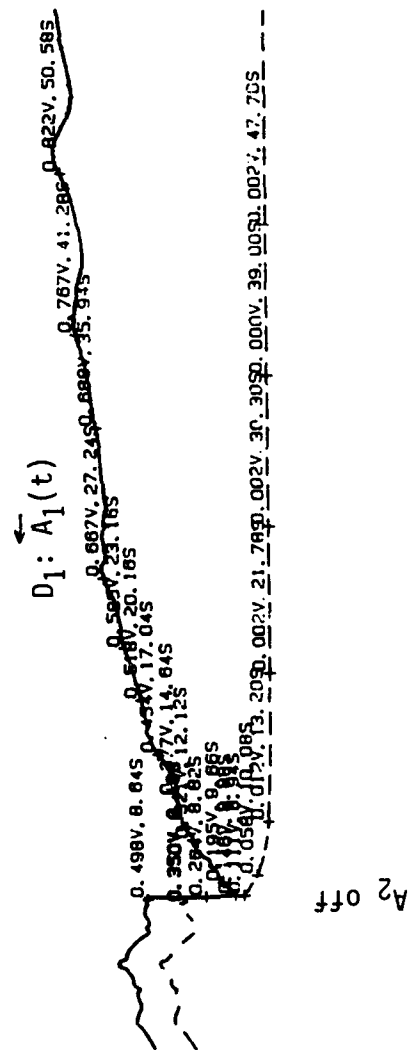


Fig. 15b. Growth of  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  at detector  $D_1$  and decay of  $\hat{A}_1(t)$  at detector  $D_2$ , when beam  $A_2$  is turned off. Total time 60 sec.  $D_1$  (full line) and  $D_2$  (dashed line).



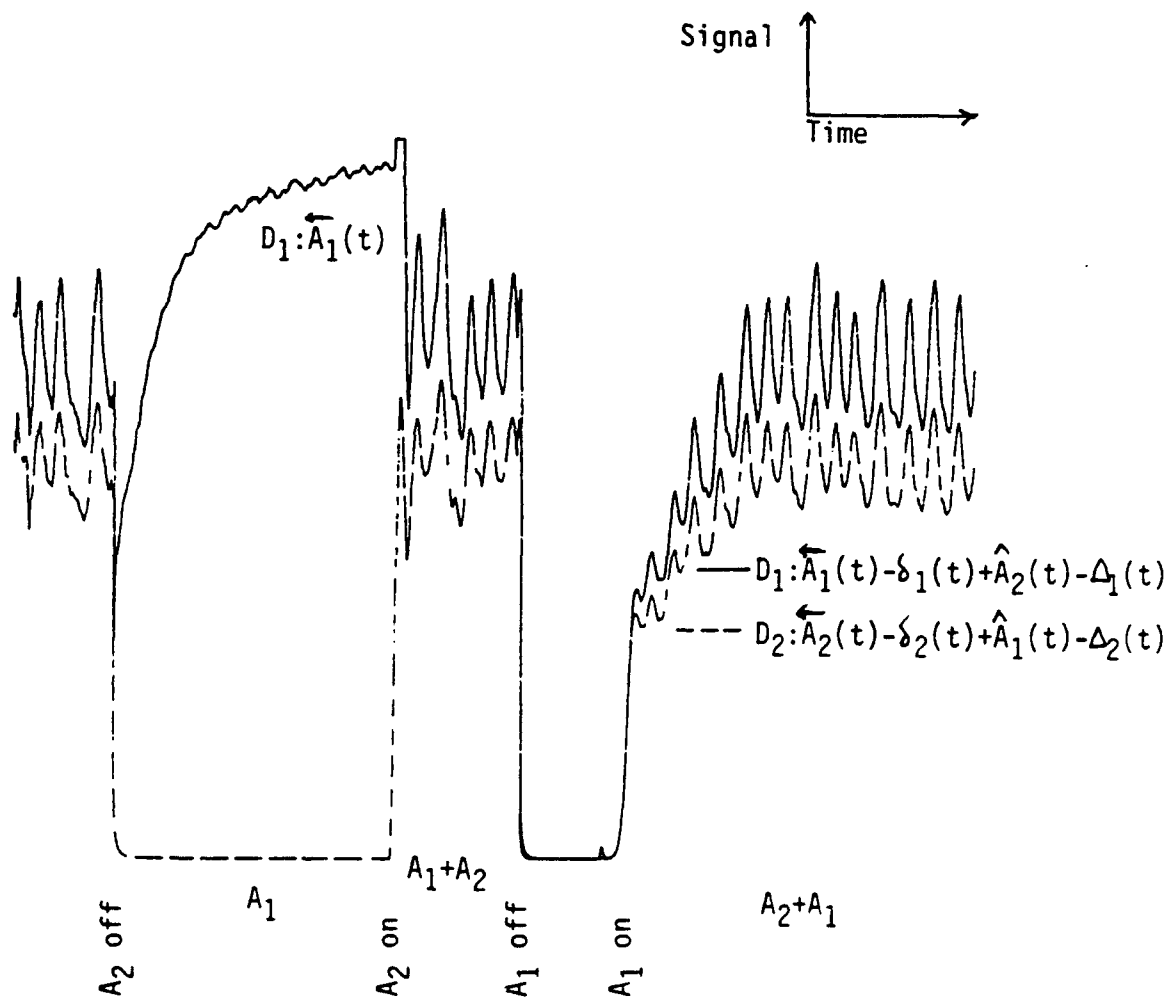


Fig. 16. Phase conjugate signals due to the beams  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ , and  $A_1+A_2$  at detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . Signal due to the  $A_1+A_2$  shows oscillations. Total time 10 minutes.

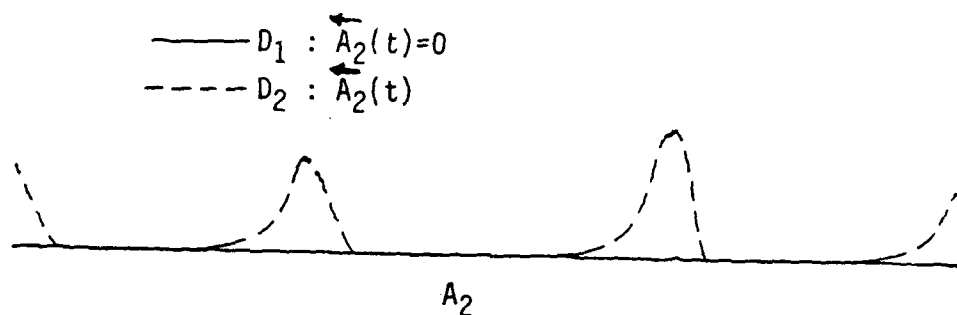


Fig. 17. Self-pumped phase conjugate signal of  $A_2$  at the detector  $D_2$ . Oscillations are 3 per 15 minutes.  $A_1$  does not self pump.

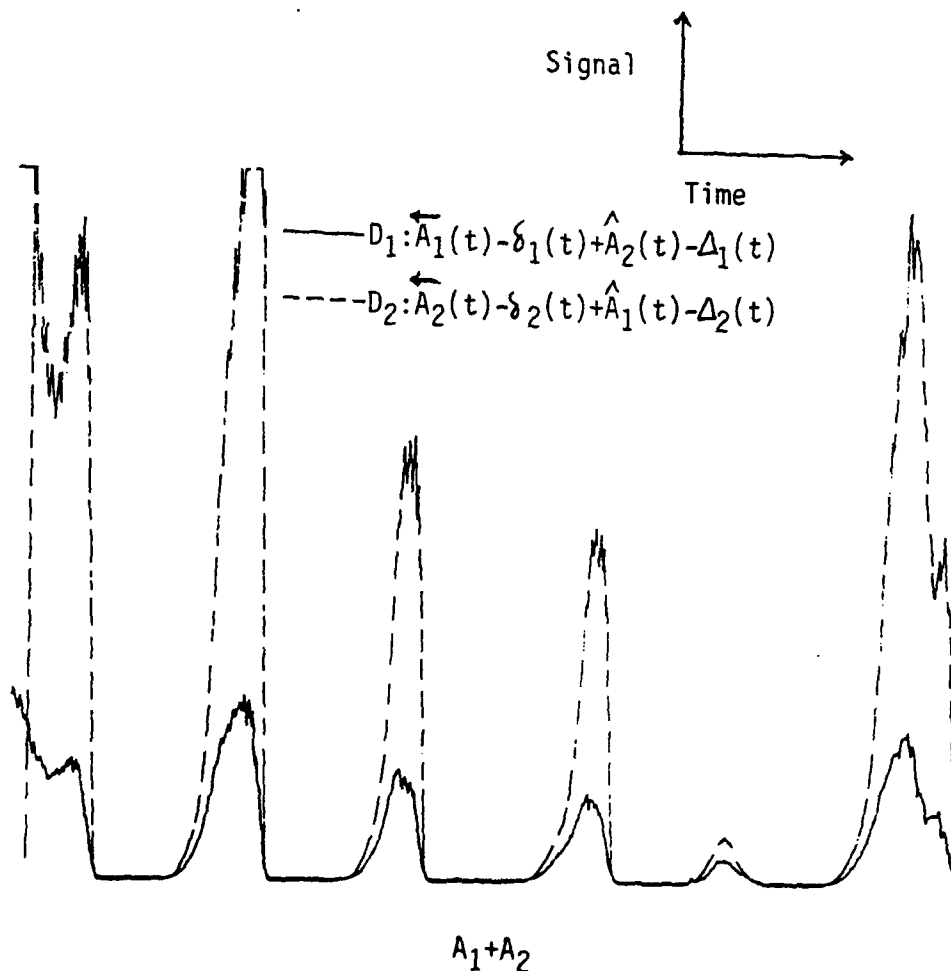


Fig. 18. Oscillatory phase conjugate signals at the detectors  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  when beam  $A_1$  is turned on. Oscillations are 5 per 15 minutes.

It is seen that  $A_1$  barely self pumps at 2 mW and does not self pump below that value, while  $A_2$  self pumps only at 13 mW and above. If these are taken to represent the relative intensities of the beams  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , when they just cross over the threshold value of  $\gamma L = 2.34$  for self pumping, the coupling parameter  $\gamma$  per unit length for  $A_1$  comes out to be about 6.5 times larger than that for  $A_2$  as the interaction length  $L$  is nearly the same for both. This is because  $A_1$  enters the crystal in a favourable quadrant for developing its own self-pumped phase conjugate while  $A_2$  enters in an unfavourable quadrant<sup>7</sup>.

## 2.2 Beam Couplings In Self-Pumping, Transmission And Reflections

Venkateswarlu, et al<sup>8</sup> used the experimental configuration shown in Fig. 19 to study beam coupling in transmission and reflection in a  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  crystal ( $8 \times 8 \times 6 \text{ mm}^3$ ), using a He-Ne laser ( $6328\text{\AA}$ ) along with an isolator. Two coherent beams  $A_1$  (3.25 mw) and  $A_2$  (3.0 mw) meet in the crystal with horizontal polarization. The crossing angle is  $5^\circ$  with  $A_1$  making  $78^\circ$  with the  $c$  axis horizontal (Fig. 19). The point of entry is 2 mm from the nearest edge to  $A_1$ . Under individual pumping by  $A_1$  or  $A_2$ , one sees the self-pumped beams  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$  or  $\overleftarrow{A}_2(t)$  at the corresponding detectors. Also seen are transmitted beams ( $A_1 T_1$ ,  $A_1 T_2$ ) or ( $A_2 T_1$ ,  $A_2 T_2$ ). Reflected beams ( $A_1 R_1$ ,  $A_1 R_2$ ) or ( $A_2 R_1$ ,  $A_2 R_2$ ) are seen even

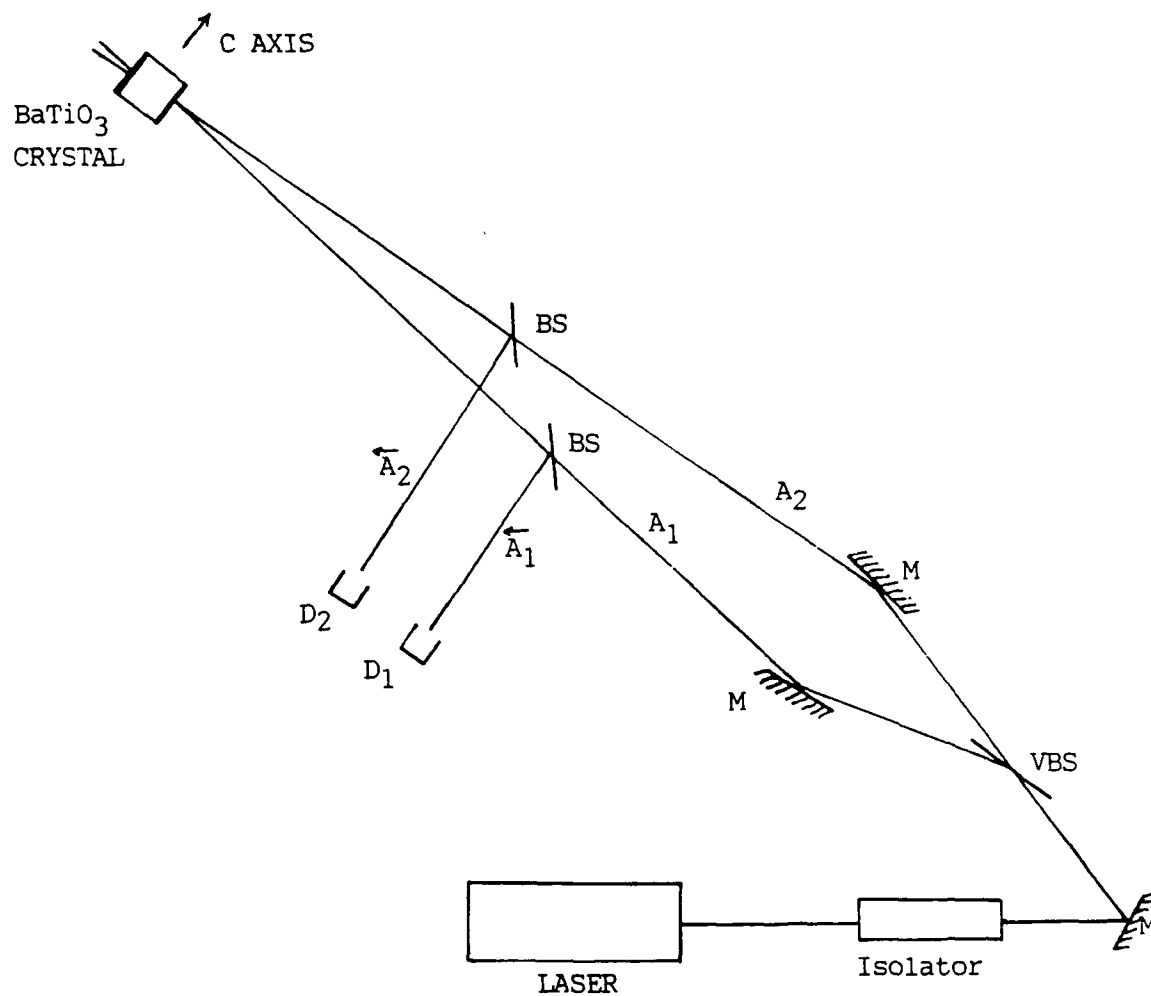


Fig. 19. Experimental arrangement of beam coupling involving a narrow crossing angle using He-Ne laser. BS: beam splitter, VBS: variable beam splitter, M: mirror and D: detector.



when self-pumping is not developed, while the transmitted beams  $A_1T_1$  and  $A_1T_2$  appear only when self-pumping is present.

Fig. 20a shows the different reflected and transmitted beams of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , while Fig. 20b shows the development of the two transmitted beams and two of the reflected beams for the beam  $A_1$  under consideration. It is seen that if  $A_1R_1$  is retroreflected by a mirror, it goes out with  $A_1T_1$  and similarly  $A_2R_2$  gets retroreflected along  $A_1T_2$ . Retroreflections of  $A_1T_1$  and  $A_1T_2$  will similarly emerge out along  $A_1R_1$  and  $A_1R_2$  respectively, These are more separated than expected, because of the slight deviation of the front and back surfaces of the crystal from parallelism . It is seen that instead of running parallel,  $A_1R_1$  and  $A_1R_2$  diverge while  $A_1T_1$  and  $A_1T_2$  first come together and cross very near the surface of the crystal and then diverge. The transmitted beams  $A_1T_1$  and  $A_1T_2$  arise essentially from the self-pumped beams as seen in the figure. Under simultaneous pumping  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are mutually Bragg diffracted partially at the gratings formed due to fanning, and emerge as  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  in the directions of  $\overleftarrow{A_2}$  and  $\overleftarrow{A_1}$  respectively. It is seen from the present experiments that under simultaneous pumping,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  get cross coupled also in transmission and reflection in the same manner as in self-pumped beams.

The development of the signals  $\overleftarrow{A_1}$ ,  $A_1R_1$ ,  $A_1T_1$ ,  $A_1R_2$ ,  $A_1T_2$  (Fig. 20b) are recorded in different sets of experiments. When  $A_1$  is turned on,

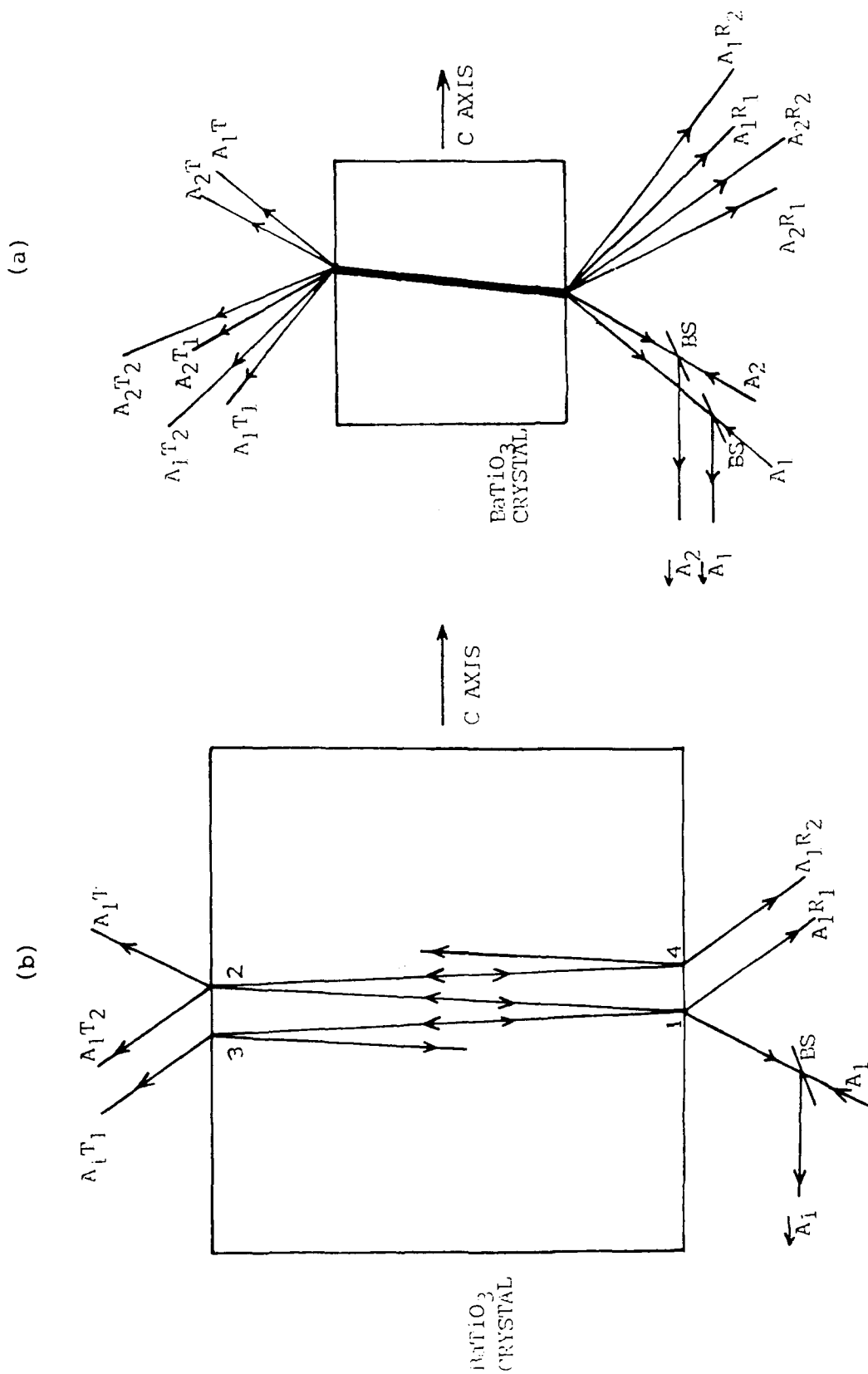


Fig. 20b. Schematic details of the origin of reflections and transmissions inside the crystal, using single beam of  $A_1$ .

Fig. 20a. Schematic details, when both beams  $A_1$  &  $A_2$  are incident at the crystal.

$A_1R_1$  and  $A_1R_2$  shoot up immediately,  $\overleftarrow{A}_1$ ,  $A_1T_1$ ,  $A_1T_2$  grow with time and stabilize while  $A_1R_1$  and  $A_1R_2$  decrease and stabilize. One can see from Fig. 20b that  $A_1R_1$  is a specular reflection which takes place at a denser surface and therefore is out of phase by  $\pi$  with  $A_1$  but in phase with  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ . The phase conjugate of  $A_1$  gets reflected at the point 1 (Fig. 20b), goes in the direction 1-3 and partly gets phase conjugated to get back to and then goes out in the direction of  $A_1R_1$ . Thus it is in phase with  $A_1$ , but out of phase with  $A_1R_1$  explaining how the intensity of the specular reflection decreases as the self-pumped phase conjugation increases, and this is in agreement with Pepper's observation<sup>9</sup>. The beam  $A_1$  gets internally reflected at the point 2, and comes to the point 4 and then emerges as  $A_1R_2$ . As the reflection at the point 2 is the one into a denser medium, the beam  $A_1R_2$  is in phase with  $A_1$ . However, part of the internally reflected beam 2-4 gets self-pumped and reverses its direction and goes out in the direction of  $A_1T_2$ . This process is responsible for the decrease in intensity of  $A_1R_2$  like that of  $A_1R_1$  as the self-pumped phase conjugation increases.

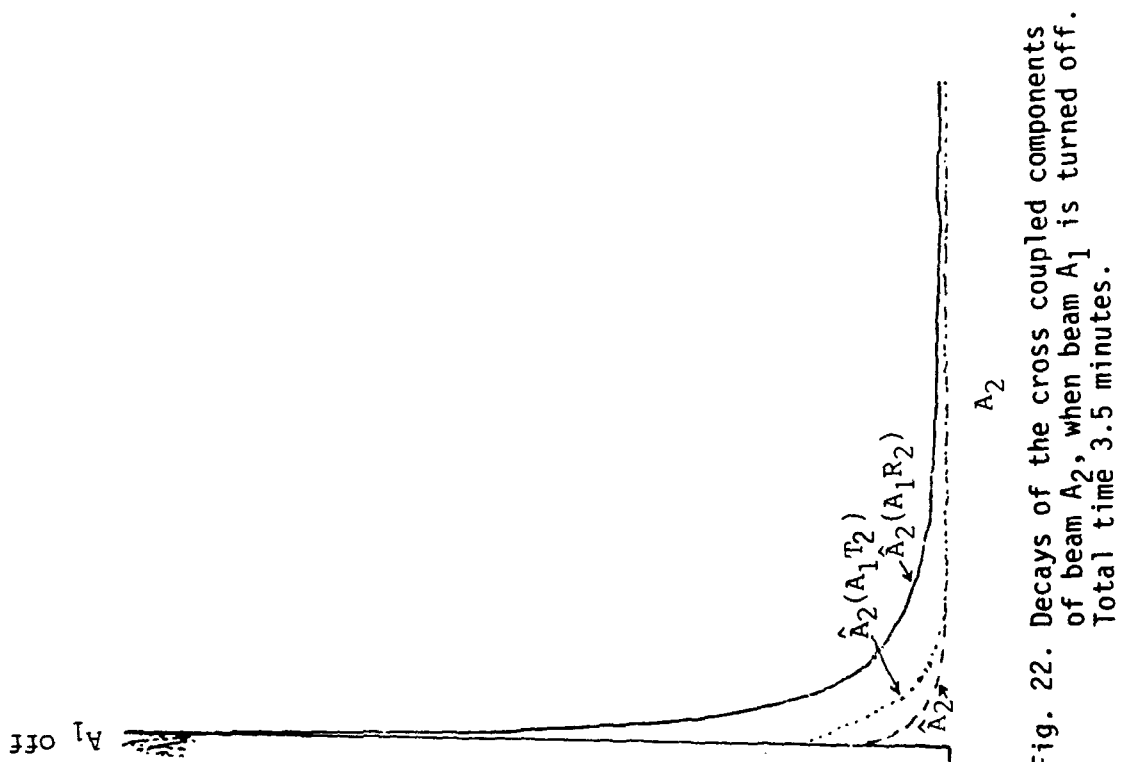
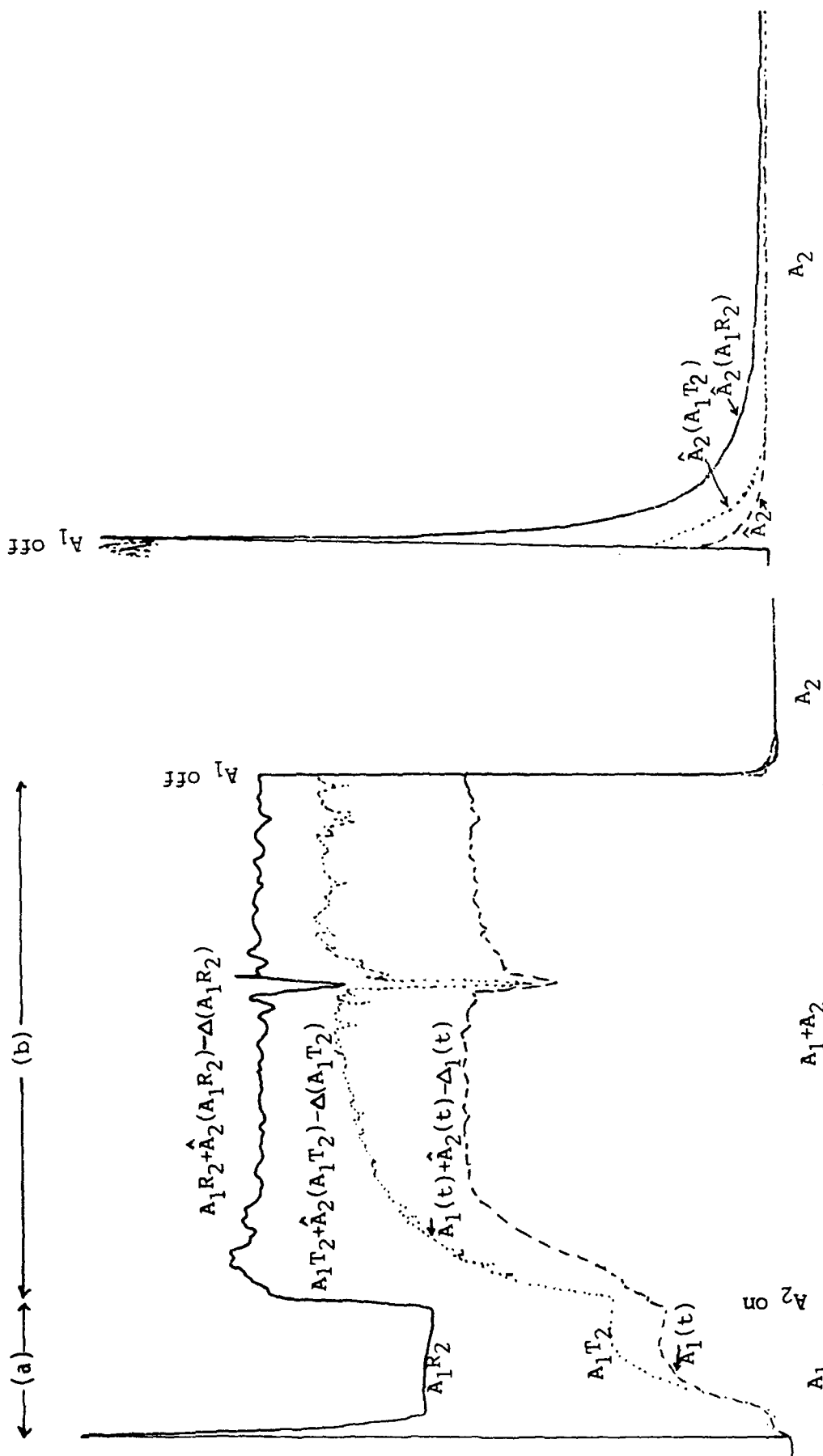
Fig.21 shows in the region a, the self-pumped signal  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ , the transmitted signal  $A_1T_2$  and the reflected signal  $A_1R_2$  when the beam  $A_1$  only is turned on. One can see that while  $A_1T_2$  grows up with  $\overleftarrow{A}_1(t)$ ,  $A_1R_2$  decreases as can be seen in the region a of Fig.21. When  $A_2$  is also turned on all the three signals increase in intensity. When  $A_1$  is put off all the

three decay instead of abruptly coming to zero indicating that the decay is of the cross coupled components of beam  $A_2$  in all the three signals (Figs. 21, 22).

Under simultaneous pumping, the signals at the points  $A_1T_2$  and  $A_1R_2$  are represented in Fig. 21 by  $[A_1T_2 + \hat{A}_2(A_1T_2) - \Delta(A_1T_2)]$  and  $[A_1R_2 + \hat{A}_2(A_1R_2) + \Delta(A_1R_2)]$  respectively where  $\hat{A}_2(A_1T_2)$  and  $A_2(A_1R_2)$  represent the cross coupled signals from  $A_2$  at  $A_1T_2$  and  $A_1R_2$  respectively and  $\Delta(A_1T_2)$  and  $\Delta(A_1R_2)$  represent the erasure effects at these points respectively. The decay curves in Fig.22 are those of the cross coupled signals  $\hat{A}_2(t)$ ,  $\hat{A}_2(A_1T_2)$  and  $\hat{A}_2(A_1R_2)$  respectively,  $\hat{A}_2(t)$  being the cross coupled signal at detector  $D_1$ .

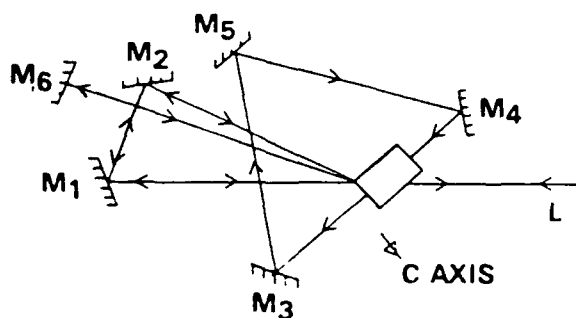
### 2.3 Phase Conjugate Resonators And Bistabilities

Beam fanning or asymmetric fanning of beams, plays an important role in a number of optical wave mixing experiments and in self-pumped phase conjugate oscillator. Optical bistable oscillations have been observed in some of these experiments<sup>10-11</sup>. One such geometry reported by Kwong and Yariv<sup>12</sup>, involved the use of a single domain barium titanate crystal, and a set of two mirrors, to form a ring passive phase conjugator (RPPC), which may be called the primary oscillator that results in the appearance of a phase conjugate reflection of the pump beam from a multimode  $Ar^+$  laser (514.5nm). The input beam and its conjugate act as pumping beams for oscillation between the crystal and an auxiliary mirror. The oscillation is sustained by the primary oscillation in the ring.

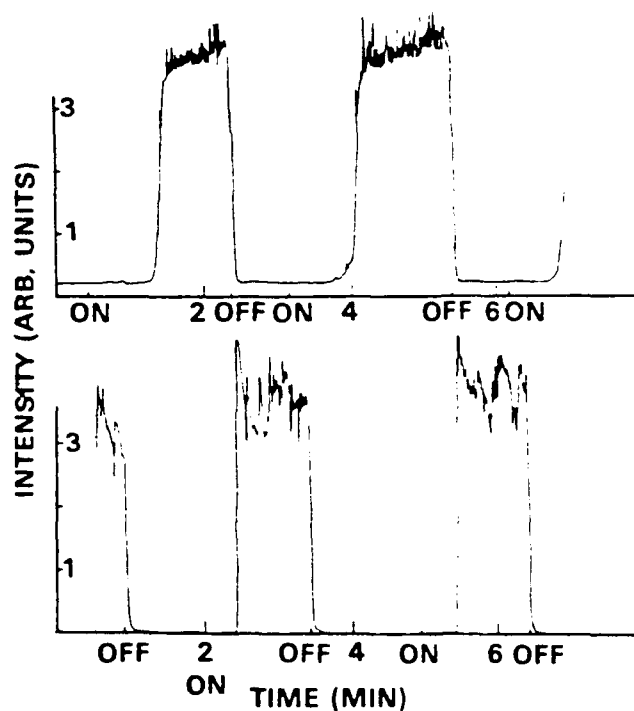


It was found that two such auxiliary resonators cannot co-exist, the result being a bistable mode of oscillation. The power of primary oscillation in the main ring resonator drops below threshold as the oscillations in one of the auxiliary resonators build up. This blocks the development of oscillation in the other auxiliary resonator. We<sup>13</sup> reported other configurations that also support bistable oscillations. A single crystal, single domain barium titanate ( $8 \times 8 \times 6 \text{ mm}^3$ ) is used in the RPPC, which is pumped by a single mode  $\text{Ar}^+$  laser (488 nm, 30 mw, 3 mm diameter). Two mirrors  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and the crystal form the ring resonator (Fig. 23a). A second set of mirrors  $M_3$ ,  $M_4$ ,  $M_5$  and the crystal form a unidirectional ring resonator (UDRR). The crystal is placed in one of the arms of the triangle of the UDRR. The two resonators have been observed to oscillate in a bistable mode. The oscillations are set up initially in one of the ring resonators (Fig. 23b). The shutter in the other resonator is opened after the oscillating beam in the first resonator reaches a steady state. No oscillations have been observed to develop in the second resonator. The oscillations in the second resonator develop as soon as the shutter in the first resonator is closed and remain unaffected even after the shutter in the first resonator is opened (Fig. 23b). The oscillation can be switched from one resonator to the other in a bistable mode of operation.

Bistable oscillations have been observed between the unidirectional ring resonator (UDRR) and the auxiliary resonator  $M_5$  C (Fig. 24a). Bistable oscillations have been observed also between a linear passive phase conjugate resonator (LPPCR) formed by mirrors  $M_3$  and  $M_4$  and the RPPC. Fig. 24b shows the experimental results. The LPPCR was turned on initially. After the oscillating beam reached its peak power, the



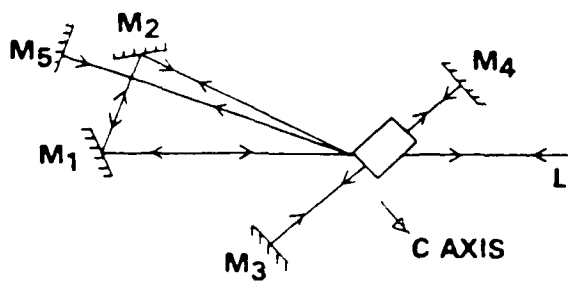
(a)



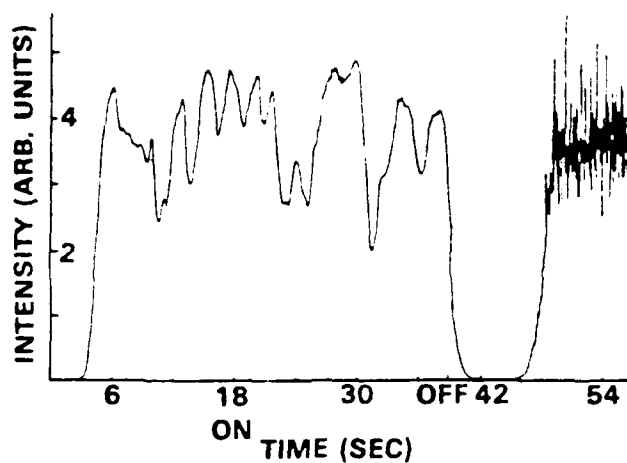
(b)

Fig. 23(a). Experimental arrangement for the study of bistable oscillations in a RPPC ( $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and the crystal) and a UDDR (mirror  $M_3M_4M_5$ ). Mirror  $M_6$  and the crystal form the auxiliary resonator.

(b). Bistability in the ring configuration. Upper trace, detector output of the oscillating beam in UDRR. On and OFF on the time axis indicate the times at which the shutters in the two resonators were turned on and turned off. (after Ref. 14).



(a)



(b)

Fig. 24( ). Experimental arrangement for the study of bistable oscillations in a RPPC ( $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and the crystal) and in a LPPCR (mirror  $M_3$  and  $M_4$ ). Mirror  $M_5$  and the crystal form the auxiliary resonator.(after Ref. 14)

(b). Bistability in RPPC and LPPR. The LPPCR was turned on initially. After the oscillating beam reached its peak power, the shutter in the RPPC was turned on at 18 sec. The two resonators were on simultaneously for 20 sec. before the shutter in the LPPCR was closed. The oscillating beam in the RPPC developed after the shutter was closed (after ref. 14).



shutter in the RPPC was opened, but the RPPC did not oscillate. The oscillations in the RPPC developed only after the LPPCR was closed. Two different LPPCR's are found to oscillate simultaneously and similarly two UDRR's are found to operate simultaneously. These observations prompted us to make further studies on the parametric changes in different parts of experiments<sup>14</sup>. In one experiment, the RPPC and the auxiliary resonators  $M_3$  C and  $M_4$  C were formed, using a multimode  $Ar^+$  laser (Fig. 25). It is found that the auxiliary resonators can be made to run, either in a bistable mode, or in a coexisting mode, by changing the relative reflectivity of the mirrors or by inserting suitable attenuation in the oscillators. Either of the two oscillators can be made to continue to operate even after the ring is turned off.

Fig. 26 shows the recording of the signals at the detectors  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  which measure the oscillations in the ring, the combined phase conjugate signal and the semilinear resonator  $M_3$  C respectively. Other semilinear resonators are blocked in this experiment.

One can see that the oscillations in the RPPC and the  $M_3$  C are bistable, to the extent that, if the signal intensity increases in one, it decreases in the other simultaneously. A few such points aa', bb' and cc' are marked in the figure. One can also see that the semilinear resonator continues to operate, and even gets stabilized, when the RPPC is cut off. It was found that the ring (RPPC) and four semilinear oscillators could be sustained simultaneously (Fig. 25). It was also observed that any two of these semilinear oscillators could be made to exhibit bistable oscillations without the RPPC. Fig. 27 shows such bistable oscillations between the

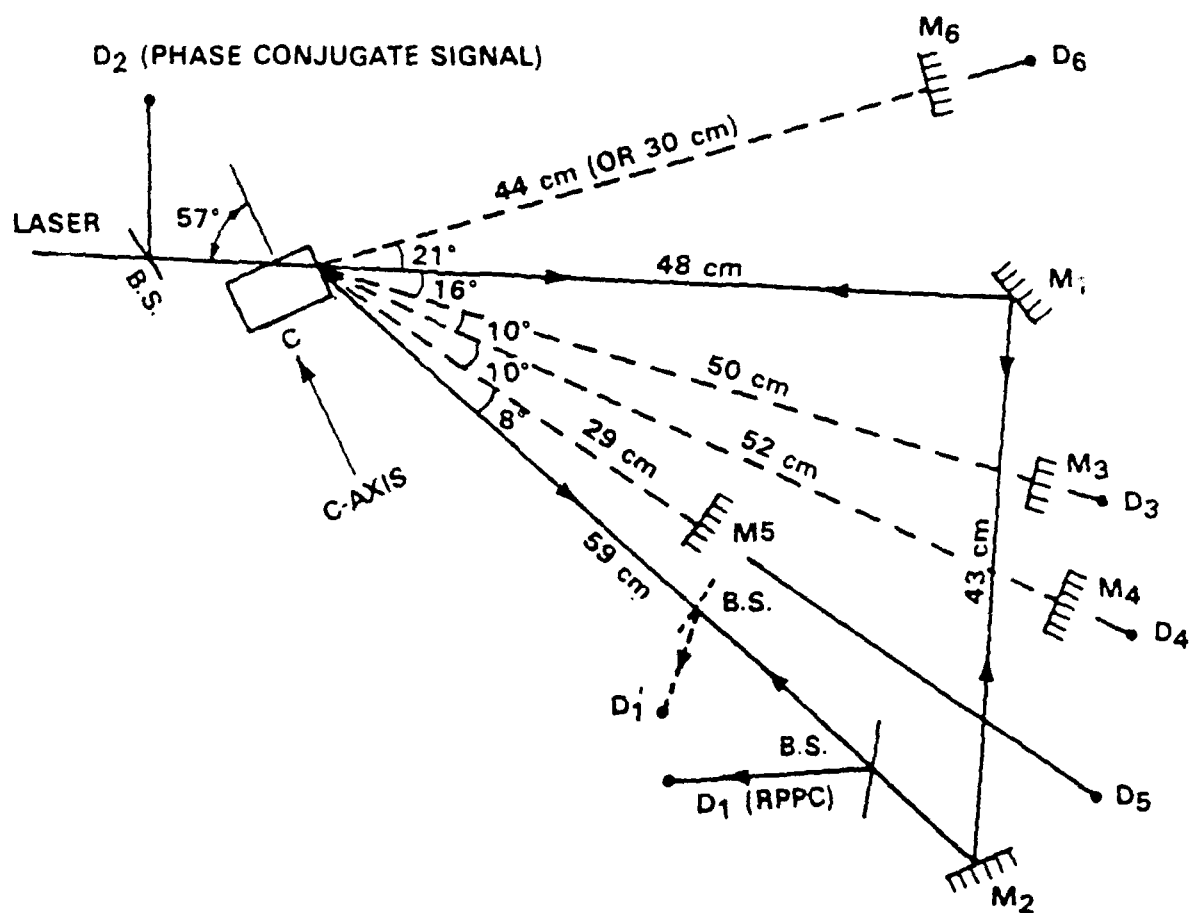


Fig. 25. Experimental set-up for observing phase conjugate resonators and bistabilities  
 B.S.— Beam Splitters, C—BaTiO<sub>3</sub> Crystal, M—mirror, D—Detectors, RPPC—Signal from:  
 Ring Passive Phase Conjugator.

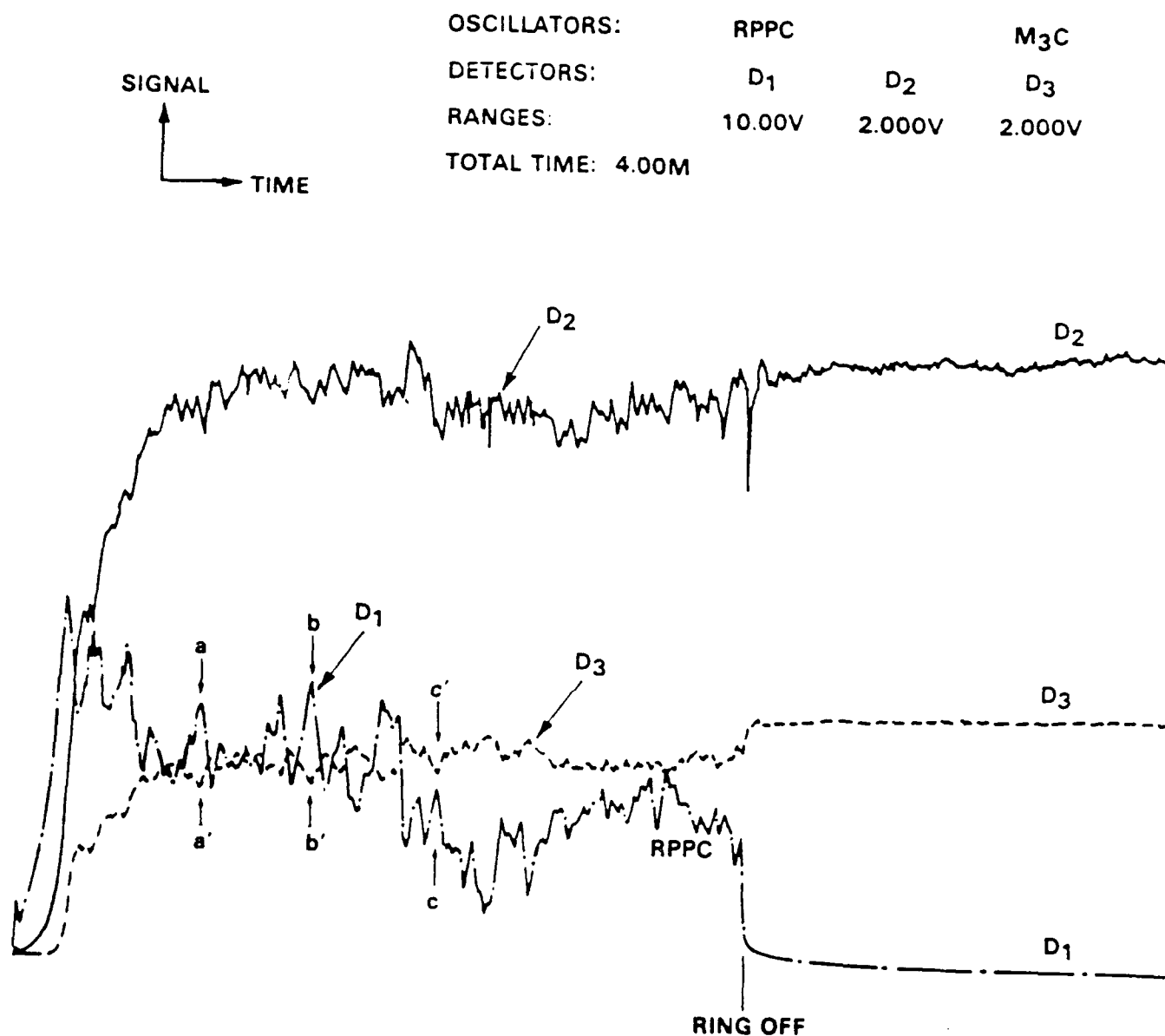


Fig. 26 Signals from the detector D<sub>1</sub>, D<sub>2</sub>, and D<sub>3</sub> representing the ring oscillator (RPPC), semilinear oscillator M<sub>3</sub>C, and the total phase conjugation using a multimode Ar<sup>+</sup> laser. Ring is put off after 2.3 minutes. The RPPC and MC, are bistable. aa',bb', cc' represents a few points of bistability.

oscillators  $M_4$  C and  $M_5$  C.

In another experiment, the RPPC and an auxiliary semilinear oscillator outside the ring are made to show bistable oscillations (Fig. 28). Here the RPPC dominates over the semilinear oscillator, in the sense that, when both the shutters are open, only the RPPC oscillates and the other dies down.

It is clear, from the above experiments that, by suitably adjusting the relative powers, and by introducing suitable attenuations, one can make a set of resonators to operate simultaneously, or can operate any two of them in a bistable mode. The bistable mode could be such that, if one operates the other does not operate at all, or alternatively, if the signal in one increases, the other decreases. It may be mentioned that, Eason and Smout<sup>1,2</sup> reported bistable behaviour between the self-pumped phase conjugation of two incoherent beams in  $\text{BaTiO}_3$ , which was explained on the basis of the partial erasure of the grating of one beam by fanning of the other. Similarly the partial erasure of the grating of one resonator by the fanning of the signal output from the other resonator appears to be responsible for the bistability of the resonators observed in the present experiments. Kwong *et al*<sup>10</sup> observed bistability and hysteresis in a photo refractive passive conjugator by controlling the input power of an erase beam to the conjugator. Yariv *et al*<sup>15</sup> used the bistable oscillations of two auxiliary oscillators as a thresholding device, in the experimental demonstration of an all associative holographic memory. It is expected that it would be possible to observe hysteresis in any one of the above resonators and this "switch on and switch off" operation in one resonator can be controlled by changing the reflectivity/power in the

OSCILLATORS:	M <sub>5</sub> C	M <sub>4</sub> C
DETECTORS:	D <sub>5</sub>	D <sub>4</sub>
CHANNELS:	2	3
AMPLIFICATION:	10 <sup>6</sup>	10 <sup>6</sup>
RANGES:	7.000V	5.000V
TOTAL TIME: 15.0M		

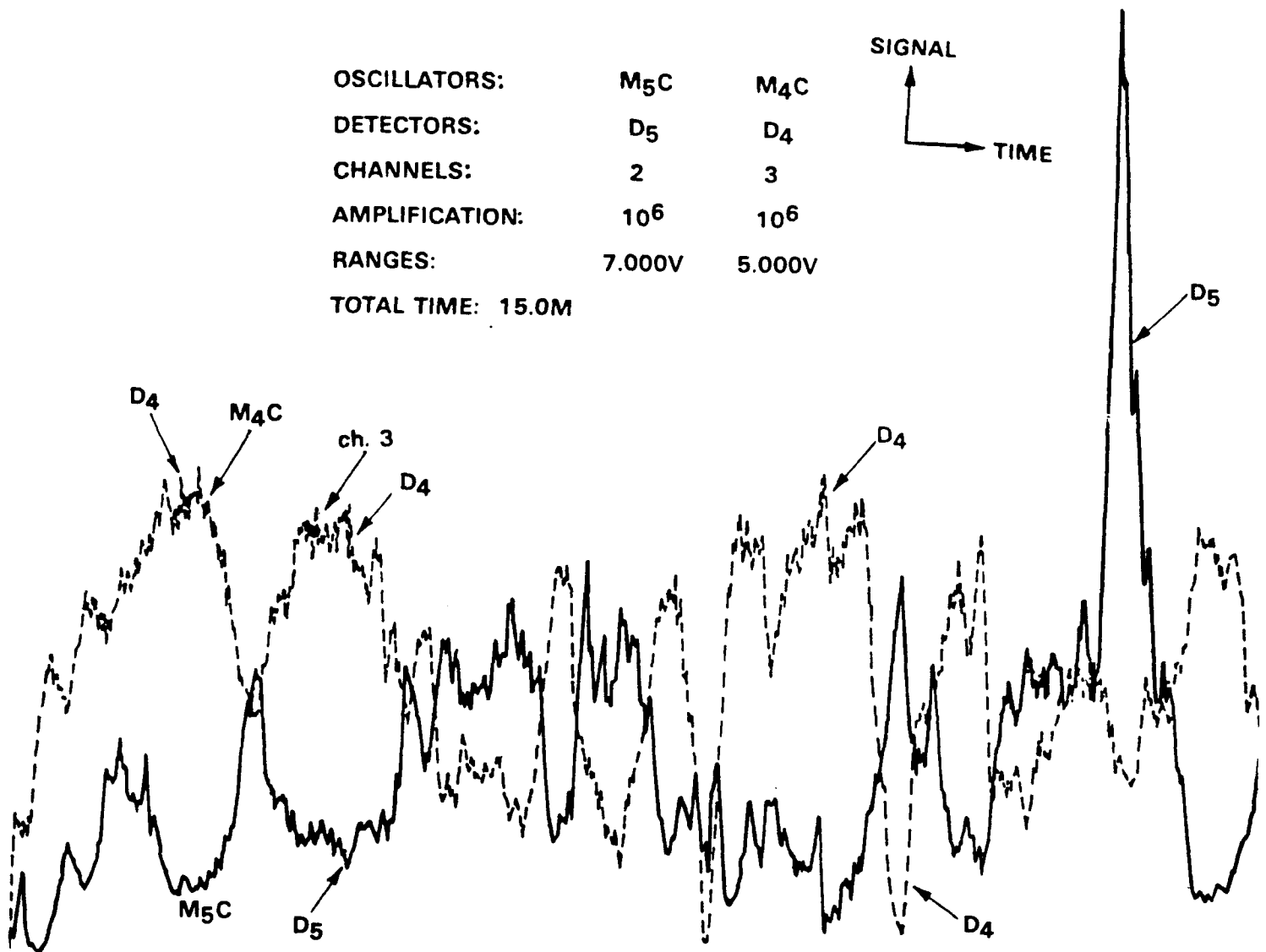


Fig. 27 The signals from the oscillators M<sub>4</sub>C and M<sub>5</sub>C at the detectors D<sub>4</sub> and D<sub>5</sub> respectively (see Fig. 25). They show bistable oscillations. Ch. 2 and Ch. 3 represent channel numbers of the signal plotter.

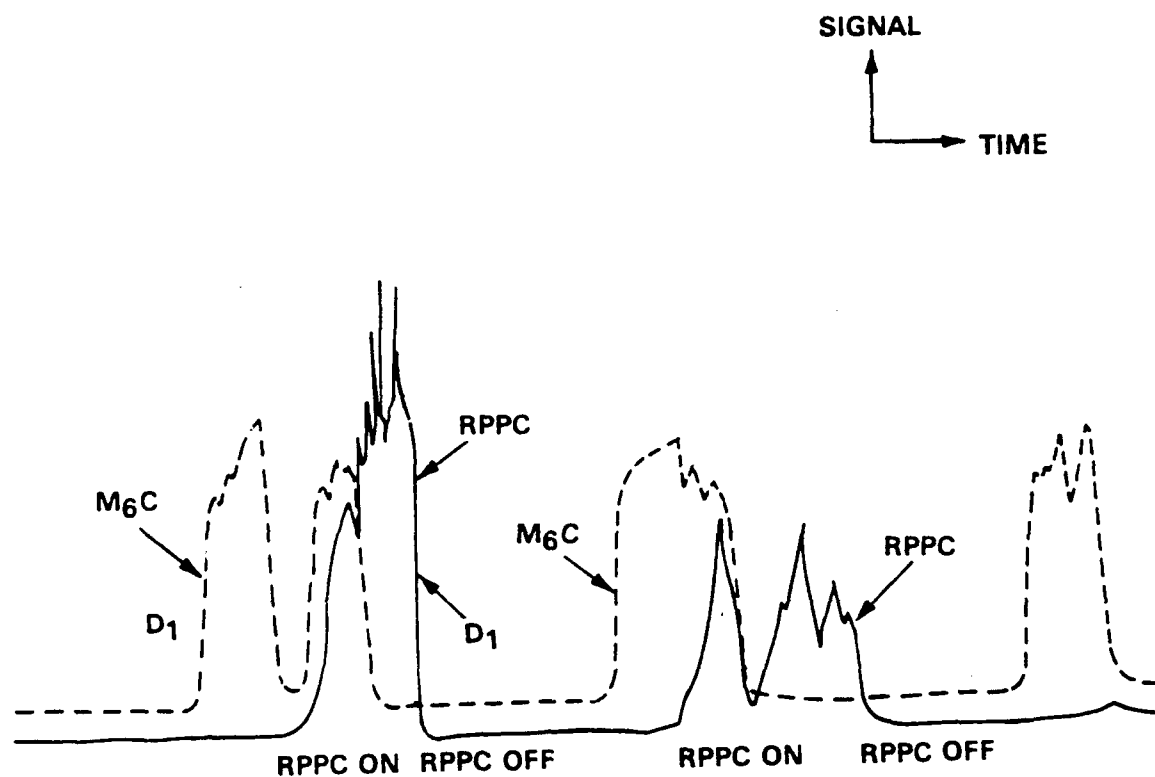


Fig. 28 The bistable signals from the RPPC and the semilinear oscillator.  $M_6C$  goes off when the RPPC is put on, and it again comes up when the RPPC is put off. Total time 6 minutes.

other resonator, using a variable beam splitter, or a variable beam reflector as we suggested earlier<sup>16</sup>. Experiments have been carried out by us in this direction with slightly different configurations. Results obtained are as anticipated, and they along with the results discussed here have been published in a review article in the SPIE Advent technology series<sup>17</sup>.

#### **2.4 Effect Of Color Centers On The Development Of Resonant Systems And Holographic Grating Formation**

Alkali halide crystals LiF and NaF, and alkaline earth fluorides BaF<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub> and SrF<sub>2</sub> have been irradiated with  $\gamma$ -rays to develop color centers in these crystals. BaF<sub>2</sub> and MgF<sub>2</sub> did not develop any color while LiF, NaF, SrF<sub>2</sub> and LaF<sub>3</sub> have become colored indicating the presence of color centers. Their absorption spectra have been recorded. The Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) spectra of the samples of all the above crystals are recorded. Further work is needed to quantitatively analyse the results and identify the centers. Preliminary work on degenerate four wave mixing at wavelengths near to the absorption region has shown indication of holographic grating formation in these crystals. Resonant absorption appears to be the reason for the formation of holographic gratings in these systems. Further detailed work is needed in this connection. LaF<sub>3</sub> doped with Nd<sup>3+</sup> and LaF<sub>3</sub> doped with Eu<sup>3+</sup> have become highly colored when exposed to  $\gamma$ -rays indicating the formation of color center complexes with the rare earth ions.

$\text{LiNbO}_3$  was irradiated with  $\gamma$ -rays. There was only a slight development of color. EPR spectrum was recorded but detailed analysis is to be carried out. It is found that the efficiency of holographic formation has increased, but further quantitative work is needed in this connection.

$\text{LiF}$  crystal when exposed to  $\gamma$ -rays first became light green and after a day it became yellow suggesting formation of two different types of color centers.



### 3 LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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#### **4        SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL**

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