

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

AFRL-SR-BL-TR-99-

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters of the Office of Management and Budget, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Project, Washington, DC 20503.

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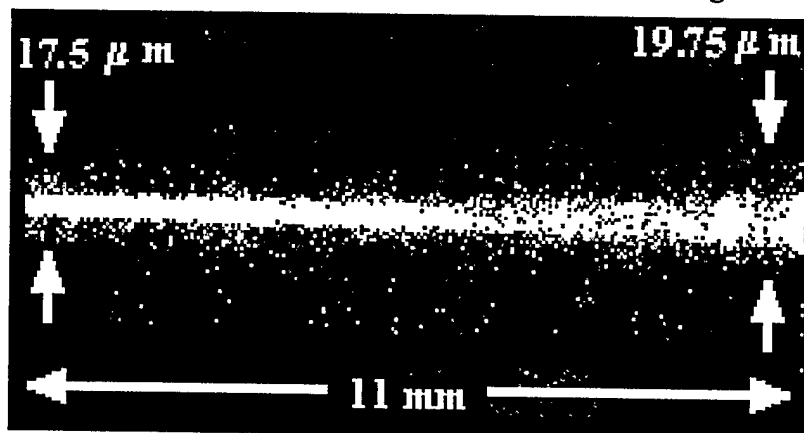
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED 01 JUL 95 TO 30 JUN 98 FINAL
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE AASERT 95 (BMDO) CASCADED SPATIAL SOLUTIONS FOR NETWORK ROUTING			5. FUNDING NUMBERS 61103D 3484/YS
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7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Central Florida 4000 Central Florida Blvd Adm 243 PO Box 25000 Orlando FL 32816-0150			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) AFOSR/NE 801 North Randolph Street Rm 732 Arlington, VA 22203-1977			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER F49620-95-1-0449
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES			
12a. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATEMENT APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC RELEASED; DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE 19990209 085
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) Experiments were performed on quadratic soliton generation in Type I, non-critically phase-matched KNbO ₃ . Using a very sensitive detector array and image enhancement protocols, the first picture of a quadratic soliton on was obtained. Further experiments were performed on KTP with the goal of demonstrating the spontaneous generation of quadratic solitons via down conversion from noise.			
14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES
			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

Project Title: Cascaded Spatial Solitons: Network Routing

The student supported by this AASERT, Russell Fuerst, has made considerable progress this year towards a PhD. His course requirements are finished and his Dissertation Proposal was accepted for a PhD program. His work was upgraded to an invited paper at IQEC'98 and OSA Annual Meeting. He attended a NATO Summer School in Corsica France in August of last. He is expected to graduate no later than the spring semester of 1999.

The ultimate goal of this program is to use spatial solitons as reconfigurable interconnects for guiding signals between multiple input and output ports. The immediate goal was to understand some of the basic properties of spatial solitons in quadratic media. The concept is to use steerable spatial solitons for guiding signal beams for implementation to NxN reconfigurable interconnects. His research progress in the last 10 months can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Preliminary experiments were performed on quadratic soliton generation in Type I, non-critically phase-matched KNbO_3 . Because the effective nonlinearity is 17 pm/V, a proliferation of solitons was observed at input intensities of 100s of MW/cm^2 . Using a very sensitive detector array and image enhancement protocols, Russell was able to get the first picture of a quadratic soliton,



shown on the left. Light is input on the right hand side and the non-diffracting nature of the beam is clear for the sample which was 5 diffraction lengths long. However, the bandwidth of the OPO/OPG system is too broad for investigation of soliton properties. The OPO has been rebuilt to narrow the linewidth and experiments will continue with this material.

- (2) Further experiments were performed on KTP with the goal of demonstrating the spontaneous generation of quadratic solitons via down conversion from noise. A strong input excitation at 532 nm was used, and the crystal was tilted away from the orientation needed for efficient second harmonic generation with a 1064 nm input. This tilt changes the phase-matching condition from degeneracy to non-degeneracy for the frequencies generated by down conversion. As a result, the generated quadratic soliton contained three different frequencies, the 532 nm component and two components equally split about 1064 nm by about 10 nm. Since this is a Type II crystal, the two fundamental components are also orthogonally polarized. At the time we did this experiment we believed that it was the first example of a quadratic soliton generated from noise in a single pass OPG/OPA configuration. Unfortunately, a similar experiment was just published in *Phys. Rev. Lett* by Trapani et al.