ON TERAHERTZ LASER PULSE PROPAGATION IN NEGATIVE INDEX METAMATERIALS

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ABSTRACT

The nonlinear propagation of a terahertz laser pulse propagation in the resonant region of a negative index meta-material is investigated. The resonant frequency of a split ring resonator (SRR), comprising the negative index metamaterial, is calculated to be in the order of terahertz. The analysis shows that the negative refractive index in SRR is maintained within a narrow band of the frequency, which is more narrowed down with the intensity of the laser radiation. From Maxwell’s system of equations, a system of coupled equations describing the nonlinear propagation of laser pulse in negative index metamaterials is obtained. The system of the coupled equations are solved analytically in the high frequency and in the low frequency responses. In the high frequency response, a nonlinear field dependent dispersion relation is obtained, and the corresponding group velocity is determined. In the low frequency response, introducing the Lorentz invariant stretched coordinates, a system of coupled nonlinear Schrödinger equations (NLSE) are obtained. Considering the equal intensities of electric and magnetic fields of the laser pulse, the coupled NLSE equations are solved, which shows that the laser radiation creates bright and dark optical solitons, respectively, before and after a critical frequency, within the narrow band, determined by the intensity of the laser radiation. The instability of the bright soliton is investigated while the dark soliton is modulationally stable.

Key words: meta-material; negative refractive index; bright and dark solitons.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. History of Negative Index Metamaterials

Vaselago [1], a Russian physicist in 1967 hypothetically studied the optical properties of an isotropic medium with simultaneously negative electric permittivity (ε) and magnetic permeability (μ), which he named a left-handed material (LHM). He showed LHMs display unique “reversed” electromagnetic (EM) properties having the triad Ê (wave vector), È (electric field), H̃ (magnetic field) left handed, hence exhibiting phase and energy velocities of opposite directions. A LHM is characterized by negative refractive index n, therefore, their alternative name, negative index materials (NIMs). Such materials demonstrate a number of peculiar properties: reversal of Snell’s law of refraction, reversal of the Doppler shift, counterdirected Cherenkov radiation cone, the refocusing of EM waves from a point source, etc.

The remarkable property of a LHM is that it possesses a negative refractive index due to which a thin negative index film will behave as a “superlens”, providing image detail with a resolution beyond the diffraction limit. Conventional positive index lenses require curved surface to bend the rays coming from an object to form an image but in the case of negative refractive index a planar slab can produce image within the slab and also outside the slab (Fig.1).

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Fig. 1. A negative index medium bends light to a negative angle relative to the surface normal. Light formerly diverging from a point source, converged back within the metamaterial as well as second time in the image plane outside.

Pendry [2] carefully reexamined the planar lens and found that it may recover the evanescent waves coming from an object. In a planar negative index lens, an evanescent wave decaying away from an object grows exponentially in the lens and decays again until it reaches the image plane (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2. A decaying wave grows exponentially within the metamaterial and then decays again outside.

Vaselago’s idea remains hypothetical for a long time, until a breakthrough was announced in 2000 by Smith and co-workers [3] presented evidence for a composite material of conducting rings and wires – called split ring resonator (SRR)-displaying the negative value of $\varepsilon$ and $\mu$. The SRR structure has proven a remarkably efficient means of producing a magnetic response by scaling down the size thus upwards in frequency to produce metamaterials in the terahertz frequencies [4].

Negative refraction in photonic crystal is also feasible [5] in doped graphene metamaterials.

I.2. Negative Refraction in Photonic Crystals

Photonic crystals (PCs) are made only from dielectrics, thus smaller losses than metallic LHMs, especially at high frequencies. PCs, to achieve negative refraction the size and periodicity of the “atoms” (the elementary units) are of the order of the wave length. In PCs, no effective $\varepsilon$ and $\mu$ can be defined, although the phase and energy velocity can be opposite as in the case in normal LHMs. Both negative refraction and superlensing have observed in PCs [6]. An alternative approach for fabricating metamaterial is to use PCs composed of polartonic materials [7].

I.3. Graphene Doped Metamaterials

Graphene is a two-dimensional, one atom thick allotrope of carbon holds the promise for building advanced nano-electronic devices since its discovery in 2004 [8]. It exhibits very unique optical properties, especially in the terahertz (THz) frequency range. To date, novel photonic devices such as THz devices, optical modulators, photodetectors, and polarizers were successfully realised. The physics of graphene can be considered as a unifying bridge between low-energy condensed matter physics and quantum field theory, as its two-dimensional quasi-electrons behaves like massless “relativistic” Dirac fermions, very similarly to electrically charged “neutrinos”[9].

Currently, the huge unexplored potential of graphene for nonlinear optics has been outlined. Strong nonlinear optical responses have investigated in papers [10,11]. Preliminary experimental include ultrafast saturable absorption and the observation of strong four wave mixing [12], which are the building blocks of nonlinear optics. This discoveries and the advancement in optical communications are the motivations to investigate the nonlinear propagation of intense terahertz laser pulse in meta-materials in the resonant region.

In this paper, we have investigated the nonlinear propagation of terahertz laser pulse in the resonant region of a negative index meta-material. The laser pulse is considered as the circularly polarized electromagnetic (EM) wave. In section II, we have
studied the optical properties of negative index meta-materials under EM fields and analyzed the nonlinear resonant frequency of the SRR. In section III, following Maxwell system equations, coupled equations for the complex electric field $\vec{E}$ and the complex magnetic field $\vec{H}$ are obtained, which are solved analytically in the high frequency as well as the low frequency responses. In the high frequency response, a nonlinear field dependent dispersion relation is obtained, which is analyzed with the increased field intensities. In the low frequency response, coupled nonlinear Schrödinger equations are obtained, the analysis of which shows that bright and dark optical solitons may propagate through NIMs within the frequency band, below and after some critical frequency, which is defined by the intensities of the wave fields. The bright soliton is modulationally unstable, its growth rate is calculated, while the dark soliton is modulationally stable. Results and discussions are given in section IV, while section V concludes the paper.

II. OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF NEGATIVE-INDEX MATERIALS UNDER ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

II.1. Drude-Lorentz Form for Linear Dielectric Permittivity and Magnetic Permeability

The Drude-Lorentz forms for dielectric permittivity and magnetic permeability describe the EM response of materials over the high ranges of frequencies which are given by [13]:

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2_{pe}}{\omega^2 - \omega^2_{0e} + i \Gamma_e \omega} \right), \quad (1)$$

$$\mu = \mu_0 \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2_{pm}}{\omega^2 - \omega^2_{0m} + i \Gamma_m \omega} \right), \quad (2)$$

where, $\varepsilon_0$ and $\mu_0$ are the vacuum permittivity and permeability, respectively, with $\varepsilon_0 \mu_0 = 1/c^2$; $\omega_{pe}$ and $\omega_{pm}$ are the electron/magnetic plasma frequency, $\omega_{0e}$ and $\omega_{0m}$ are the electron/magnetic resonant frequency, $\Gamma_e$ and $\Gamma_m$ are the electron/magnetic damping coefficient and $\omega$ is the frequency of the EM wave. The free electron contribution in metals corresponds to $\omega_{0e} = 0$.

Meta materials based on strong artificial resonant elements can also be described efficiently with the Drude-Lorentz formulas. These structures are the metallic wire structure which provides a predominantly free-electron response to EM fields and the SRR structure provides a predominantly magnetic response to EM fields.

II.2. Nonlinear Form of Dielectric Permittivity and Magnetic Permeability

The dielectric and the magnetic nonlinear responses of NIMs under EM fields without losses are given by the dispersive (frequency dependent) and the nonlinear (field dependent) expressions as [14]:

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \left( \varepsilon_1(\omega) + \varepsilon_{NL}(\alpha \omega | E^2) \right), \quad (3)$$

$$\mu = \mu_0 \left( \mu_1(\omega) + \mu_{NL}(\alpha \omega | H^2) \right), \quad (4)$$

where,

$$\varepsilon_1(\omega) = \varepsilon_0 \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2_p}{\omega^2 - \omega^2_p} \right), \quad (5)$$

$$\mu_1(\omega) = \mu_0 \left[ 1 - F \omega^2_p \left( \frac{\omega^2 - \omega^2_0}{\omega^2 - \omega^2_p} \right) \right], \quad (6)$$

Under weak fields approximation:

$$\varepsilon_{NL} = \varepsilon_0 \alpha | E^2 | / E_c^2, \quad (7)$$

$$\mu_{NL} = \mu_0 \beta | H | / E_c^2. \quad (8)$$

Here, $\omega_p$ is the plasma frequency, $F << 1$ is the filling factor, $\omega_0$ is the linear resonant frequency, $E_c$ is the critical electric field, $\alpha = 1$ corresponds to a focusing dielectric and $\alpha = -1$ corresponds to a defocusing dielectric, $\beta > 0$ is a fitting parameter.

II.3. Analysis of the Linear Response

The eigenfrequency of the system of SRRs in the linear limit is defined as [15]:

$$\omega_0 = (c/a_s) \sqrt{\frac{d_s}{\pi \hbar \varepsilon_{D0}}}, \quad (9)$$

where, $d_s$ is the size of the SRR gap, $h$ is the width of the ring, $a_s$ is the radius and $c$ is the speed of light. $\varepsilon_{D0}$ is the linear part of the dielectric. As per Ref. [15] for $\varepsilon_{D0} = 12.8$, $h = 0.003 \text{ cm}$, $d_s = 0.1 \text{ cm}$, $a_s = 0.003 \text{ cm}$,
\( c = 3 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm s}^{-1} \), we find \( \omega_0 = 9.1 \times 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1} \), i.e., the linear frequency \( f_0 = \omega_0 / 2\pi = 1.45 \times 10^{12} \text{ Hz} = 1.45 \text{ THz} \).

For simultaneous \( \varepsilon_L < 0, \mu_L < 0 \), and \( n = -\sqrt{\varepsilon_L \mu_L / \varepsilon_0 \mu_0} \), we find \( \omega_0 < \omega < \min \{ \omega_p, \omega_M \} \), which corresponds \( f_0 < f < \min \{ f_p, f_M \} \). Here, \( \omega_M = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - F^2} \). For \( F = 0.4 \); we find \( f_M = 1.87 \text{ THz} \); then, 1.45 THz < \( f < 1.87 \text{ THz} \). Considering \( \omega_p = 2\pi \times 10 \text{ THz} \) and \( \omega_0 = 2\pi \times 1.45 \text{ THz} \), we plot \( \varepsilon, \mu \) and \( n \) as functions of frequency within the frequency band 1.45 THz < \( f < 1.87 \text{ THz} \), which are shown in FIG. 3-5, respectively.

**Figure 3:** The linear dielectric permittivity \( \varepsilon \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \), which remains negative in the frequency band \( \omega_0 < \omega < \omega_p \).

**Figure 4:** The linear magnetic permeability \( \mu \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \), which remains negative in the frequency band \( \omega_0 < \omega < \omega_M \).

\[ \varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_p^2} + \frac{\left| E \right|^2}{E_0^2} \right), \]  \hspace{1cm} (10)

\[ \mu = \mu_0 \left( 1 - \frac{F \omega^2}{\omega^2 - \omega_0^2} + \frac{\left| H \right|^2}{H_0^2} \right), \]  \hspace{1cm} (11)

Considering an average value of \( \left\langle \frac{\left| E \right|^2}{E_0^2} \right\rangle = 0.5 \) and \( \left\langle \frac{\left| H \right|^2}{H_0^2} \right\rangle = 0.5 \), we plot \( \varepsilon, \mu \) and \( n \) as functions of frequency within the frequency band, which are shown in FIG. 6-8, respectively. The figures show that the frequency band for NIMs become more narrower with the applied EM fields.

**Figure 5:** The linear refractive index \( n \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \), which remains negative in the frequency band \( \omega_0 < \omega < \omega_M \).

**Figure 6:** The nonlinear dielectric permittivity \( \varepsilon \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \) under EM fields, which remains negative in the frequency band \( \omega_0 < \omega < \omega_p \). Solid line (--- line for \( \alpha = 0 \), broken line (- - -) for \( \alpha = 1 \) (focusing case), dotted line (...) for \( \alpha = -1 \) (defocusing case).
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Figure 7: The nonlinear magnetic permittivity $\mu$ as a function of frequency $\omega$ under EM fields, which remains negative in the frequency band $\omega_0 < \omega < \omega_M$. Solid line (--) line for $\beta = 0$, broken line (---) for $\beta = 1$.

Figure 8: The nonlinear refractive index $n$ as a function of frequency $\omega$ under EM fields, which remains negative in the frequency band $\omega_0 < \omega < \omega_M$. Solid line (--) line for $\alpha = 0$ and $\beta = 0$, broken line (---) and dotted line (---..) for $\alpha = \pm 1$; $\beta = 1$.

II.5. Analysis of Magnetic Frequency $\omega_M$

At $\omega = \omega_M$, the magnetic permeability $\mu \mu_0 = 0$, then from Eq. (11), we get

$$1 - \frac{F \omega_M^2}{\omega_M^2 - \omega_0^2} + \beta \frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2} = 0,$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

which yields

$$\omega_M^2 = \frac{\omega_0^2 \left(1 + \beta \frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2}\right)}{1 + \beta \frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2} - F}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

Introducing $\overline{H} = \frac{H}{E_c}$, we have

$$\omega_M = \frac{\omega_0 \left(1 + \beta \frac{|\overline{H}|^2}{E_c^2} \right)^{1/2}}{1 + \beta \frac{|\overline{H}|^2}{E_c^2} - F}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

For $F = A$ and $\beta = 1$, we plot $\omega_M$ as a function of magnetic field $\overline{H}$, which is shown FIG. 9. The figure shows that the magnetic frequency shifts towards the linear resonant frequency with the increase of field intensity. It indicates that the narrow frequency band is more narrowed down with the increased magnetic field.

Figure 9: Magnetic frequency $\omega_M$ as a function of magnetic field intensity $\frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2}$. Here, $\omega_M \rightarrow \omega_0$ as $\frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2} \rightarrow 1$.

II.6. Analysis of the Nonlinear Resonant Frequency

Following Ref. [15], the nonlinear magnetic permeability can be written as:

$$\mu(\omega; |H|^2) = 1 + \frac{F \omega^2}{\omega_{0NL}^2 \left(\frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2}\right) - \omega^2 + i \Gamma \omega},$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

where, $\omega_{0NL}$ is the nonlinear resonant frequency and $\Gamma$ is the loss coefficient. We also have the
expression for the nonlinear dielectric permittivity as
\[ \varepsilon_D(\cdot) = \varepsilon_{D0} + \alpha \frac{|E|^2}{E^2_0}, \] (16)

Here, \( \varepsilon_{D0} \) is the linear dielectric. Then, the relation between the macroscopic magnetic field and the dimensionless nonlinear resonant frequency can be obtained as:
\[ |H|^2 = \alpha A^2 \left(1 - \frac{X^2}{2} \left[\left(\frac{X^2}{\Omega^2} + 1\right)^{1/2} - 1\right] + \alpha \gamma \right), \] (17)

where, \( A^2 = 16 \varepsilon_{D0}^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2 / c^2 \), \( \Omega = \omega / \omega_0 \), \( X = \omega_{0NL} / \omega_0 \), and \( \gamma = \Gamma / \omega_0 \).

Near the resonant region without loss, we consider \( \Omega = 1, \gamma = 0 \).

Then, from Eq.(17), we find
\[ \frac{\omega_{0NL}}{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{|H|^2}{\alpha A^2} \right)^{1/2} + 4 - \left( \frac{|H|^2}{\alpha A^2} \right)^{1/3} \right], \] (18)

which is shown graphically in FIG.8 and FIG. 9, for \( \alpha = 1 \) (focusing nonlinearity) and \( \alpha = -1 \) (defocusing nonlinearity), respectively. From the available data, we find the value of the resonator parameter \( A^2 = 2.78 \).

III. COUPLED EVOLUTION EQUATIONS

III.1. Maxwell’s Equations

We start with the Maxwell equations
\[ \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}, \] (19)
\[ \nabla \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}, \] (20)
\[ \nabla \cdot \vec{D} = 0, \] (21)
\[ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0, \] (22)

where, \( \vec{E} \) and \( \vec{H} \) are the electric and magnetic fields, respectively, \( \vec{D} \) and \( \vec{B} \) are the electric and magnetic flux densities which arise in response to the electric and magnetic fields inside the medium and are related to them through the constitutive relations given by
\[ \vec{D} = (\varepsilon_L + \varepsilon_{NL}) \vec{E}, \]
\[ \vec{B} = (\varepsilon_L + \varepsilon_{NL}) \vec{H}. \]
By using the Maxwell’s systems of equations, we have the following coupled wave equations

\[
\nabla^2 \vec{E} - \varepsilon_L \mu_L \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} - \mu_L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \varepsilon_{NL} \vec{E} \right) - \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{E}) = 0
\]

\[
\nabla^2 \vec{H} - \varepsilon_L \mu_L \frac{\partial^2 \vec{H}}{\partial t^2} - \mu_L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \varepsilon_{NL} \vec{H} \right) - \nabla \times (\nabla \times \vec{H}) = 0
\]

Now, considering that the laser radiation is circularly polarized, i.e., \( \vec{E} = \{E_x, E_y, 0\} \), \( \vec{H} = \{H_x, H_y, 0\} \) and introducing the complex fields: \( \vec{E} = E_x \pm i E_y \), \( \vec{H} = H_x \pm i H_y \), from Ein. (25) and (26), we find the following coupled equations for the complex fields:

\[
\frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial z^2} - \varepsilon_L \mu_L \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} - \varepsilon_0 \alpha \mu_L \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left( \frac{|E|^2}{E_c^2} \vec{E} \right) = 0
\]

\[
\frac{\partial^2 \vec{H}}{\partial z^2} - \varepsilon_L \mu_L \frac{\partial^2 \vec{H}}{\partial t^2} - \varepsilon_0 \alpha \mu_L \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \left( \frac{|H|^2}{E_c^2} \vec{H} \right) = 0
\]
\[ + \mu_0 \beta \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{|H|^2}{E^2_c} \right) \hat{H} + \mu_0 \beta \left( \frac{|H|^2}{E^2_c} \right) \frac{\partial \hat{H}}{\partial t} \]
\[ \pm i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial E_L}{\partial \zeta} \right) \hat{E} \). \tag{28} \]

which we study below for the high frequency and the low frequency responses to the fields.

### III.2. High Frequency Response and Nonlinear Dispersion Relation

Taking \( \hat{E} = E(z, t) \exp[i(kz - \omega t)] \) and \( \hat{H} = H(z, t) \exp[i(kz - \omega t)] \) with

\[
(1/|E|) \frac{\partial |E|}{\partial \omega} \ll \omega.
\]

\[
(1/|E|) \frac{\partial |E|}{\partial \omega} \ll \kappa.
\]

and considering \( \frac{\partial E_L}{\partial \zeta} = 0, \frac{\partial \mu_L}{\partial \zeta} = 0, \frac{\partial E_L}{\partial \omega} = 0, \frac{\partial \mu_L}{\partial \omega} = 0 \), from Eqn. (27) or Eqn. (28) we find the following field dependent nonlinear dispersion relation:

\[
\omega = k \left[ \varepsilon \mu_L + \varepsilon_0 \mu_0 \alpha \left( \frac{|E|^2}{E^2_c} \right) + \mu_0 \beta \left( \frac{|H|^2}{E^2_c} \right) \right]^{-1/2}.
\tag{29} \]

Now, introducing the dimensionless parameters:

\[
\tilde{\omega} = \frac{\omega}{\omega_0}, \quad \tilde{\mu}_0 = \frac{\mu_0}{\mu_0}, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_0 \mu_0}} = c,
\]

and writing \( \varepsilon_L \) and \( \mu_L \) as

\[
\varepsilon_L = \varepsilon_0 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\tilde{\omega}^2} \right) = \varepsilon_0 \tilde{\varepsilon}(\tilde{\omega}),
\tag{30} \]

\[
\mu_L = \mu_0 \left( 1 - \frac{F \tilde{\omega}^2}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \right) = \mu_0 \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{\omega}), \tag{31} \]

where,

\[
\tilde{\varepsilon}(\tilde{\omega}) = 1 - \frac{1}{\tilde{\omega}^2}, \tag{32} \]

\[
\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{\omega}) = 1 - \frac{F \tilde{\omega}^2}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}.
\]

The group velocity \( v_g = \partial \omega / \partial k \) is found to be

\[
v_g = c \left[ \tilde{\varepsilon}(\tilde{\omega}) \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{\omega}) + \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{\omega}) \left( \frac{|E|^2}{E^2_c} \right) + \beta \tilde{\omega} \beta \left( \frac{|H|^2}{E^2_c} \right) \right]^{-1/2}.
\tag{34} \]

We plot the group velocity \( v_g \) as a function of the frequency \( \omega \) in the frequency band \( \omega_0 < \omega < \omega_M \) for both the linear and nonlinear cases, which are shown in FIG.12. The figure shows that the frequency band for the wave propagation is more narrowed down (\( \omega_M \) decreases) in the nonlinear case with the increase of field intensities.
III.3. Low Frequency Response: Coupled NLS Equations

Normalizing the field variables $E$ and $H$ by $E_c$ and introducing dimensionless space-time coordinates: $Z = z/\lambda_p$, and $T = t/\lambda_p$, where $\lambda_p$ is the pulse length, and $t_p$ is the pulse time with $\lambda_p = ct_p$, the coupled equations, Eqs. (27) and (28) in dimensionless forms are:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}}{\partial Z^2} - \bar{\varepsilon}(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial^2 |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left[ \bar{\varepsilon}(\omega) \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} \right] = \mu_0 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left( \tilde{E} \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z} \left( \tilde{E} \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial Z} \right) \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{H}}{\partial Z^2} - \varepsilon(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial^2 |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T^2} - \bar{\varepsilon}(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left[ \varepsilon(\omega) \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} \right] + \mu_0 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left( \tilde{H} \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z} \left( \tilde{H} \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial Z} \right) \right]$$

Now, we consider the following Lorentz invariant stretched coordinates [16]: $\xi = \delta \gamma (Z - v_g T)$ and $\tau = \delta^2 \gamma (T - v_g Z)$, where $\gamma \equiv (1 - v_g^2)^{-1/2}$, $\delta < 1$, $v_g \equiv v_g/c$, and we expand the quantities $\tilde{E}$ and $\tilde{H}$ as:

$$\tilde{E} = \delta^3 E_0 + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \delta^l \left( E^0 e^{i (k z - \omega t)} + E^* e^{-i (k z - \omega t)} \right)$$

$$\tilde{H} = \delta^3 H_0 + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \delta^l \left( H^0 e^{i (k z - \omega t)} + H^* e^{-i (k z - \omega t)} \right)$$

Here, $(E_0, H_0, E^0, H^0) \equiv \bar{A}^{(1)} + \delta \bar{A}^{(2)} + \delta^2 \bar{A}^{(3)} + ...,$ are functions of stretched coordinates $(\xi, \tau).$

Then in the order $0(\delta)$, we find $\omega = k/\sqrt{\varepsilon_0}$, and in the order $0(\delta^5)$, we find $v_g = 1/\sqrt{\mu_0}$, approving the compatibility condition. Thus, following the standard technique [17] in the order $0(\delta^3)$, we arrive at the following coupled NLS equations:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{H}}{\partial Z^2} = \varepsilon(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial^2 |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T^2} - \bar{\varepsilon}(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} + \mu_0 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left( \tilde{H} \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial T} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z} \left( \tilde{H} \frac{\partial |\tilde{H}|^2}{\partial Z} \right) \right]$$

and

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}}{\partial Z^2} = \bar{\varepsilon}(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial^2 |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T^2} + \varepsilon(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} - \bar{\varepsilon}(\omega)\beta \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} + \mu_0 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left( \tilde{E} \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial T} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z} \left( \tilde{E} \frac{\partial |\tilde{E}|^2}{\partial Z} \right) \right]$$

(37)
\[ \hat{a} + P \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial \xi^2} + Q_a |a|^2 a + Q_b |b|^2 a = 0, \]  
\[ \hat{b} + P \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial \xi^2} + Q_b |b|^2 b + Q_a |a|^2 b = 0, \]

where \( a \equiv E_1^{(1)} \), \( b \equiv H_1^{(1)} \), and \( P, Q_a, Q_b \) are given by the expressions

\[ P = \frac{\gamma (1 - \varepsilon \mu^2)}{2\alpha (\mu - kv_g / \omega)}, \]

\[ Q_a = \frac{\alpha \omega \mu}{2\gamma (\mu - kv_g / \omega)}, \]

and

\[ Q_b = \frac{\beta \omega \varepsilon}{2\gamma (\mu - kv_g / \omega)}. \]

Here, \( P \) is the dispersion coefficient, \( Q_a \) and \( Q_b \) are the nonlinear coefficients, the nature of which on the frequency \( \omega \) in the frequency band \( \omega_b < \omega < \omega_M \), we study below.

### III.4. Analysis of \( P \), \( Q_a \), and \( Q_b \)

Taking the parameters \( F = 0.4, \bar{\omega}_b = 0.145, \langle |a|^2 \rangle = 0.5, \langle |b|^2 \rangle = 0.5, \alpha = \pm 1, \beta = 1 \), the plots of \( P, Q_a, Q_b \), and \( Q = Q_a + Q_b \) are depicted in FIGs. 13-17, respectively.

**Figure 13:** Dispersion coefficient \( P \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \) in the frequency band \( \omega_b < \omega < \omega_M \). \( P \) changes its sign from negative to positive at a critical frequency \( \bar{\omega}_b \approx 0.1742 \).

**Figure 14:** The nonlinear coefficient \( Q_a \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \) in the frequency band \( \omega_b < \omega < \omega_M \). \( Q_a \) is always negative but changes its value abruptly at a critical frequency \( \bar{\omega}_a \approx 0.1742 \) for \( \alpha = 1 \) (focusing nonlinearity).

**Figure 15:** The nonlinear coefficient \( Q_a \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \) in the frequency band \( \omega_b < \omega < \omega_M \). \( Q_a \) is always negative but changes its value abruptly at a critical frequency \( \bar{\omega}_a \approx 0.1742 \) for \( \alpha = -1 \) (defocusing nonlinearity).

**Figure 16:** The nonlinear coefficient \( Q_b \) as a function of frequency \( \omega \) in the frequency band \( \omega_b < \omega < \omega_M \). \( Q_b \) is always negative but changes its value abruptly at a critical frequency \( \bar{\omega}_b \approx 0.1742 \).
We see from the Figs. 13-17 that $P$ changes its sign from negative to positive, $Q_a$ is negative for focusing ($\alpha = 1$) nonlinearity while it is positive for defocusing ($\alpha = -1$) nonlinearity. $Q_b$ and $Q$ are always negative but change their values abruptly at a certain critical frequency $\omega_{cr}$, which is determined from the Eq. (35) as

$$
\omega_{cr} = \sqrt{-\hat{b} - \sqrt{\hat{b}^2 - 2\hat{a}\hat{c}}},
$$

where,

$$
\hat{a} = -\tilde{F} + \beta Y^2 + (1-\tilde{F})\alpha X^2 + \alpha\beta X^2 Y^2,
$$

$$
\hat{b} = -(1-\tilde{F}) - \alpha^2 (\alpha X^2 + \beta Y^2 + \alpha\beta X^2 Y^2) - \beta Y^2,
$$

$$
\hat{c} = \alpha_0^2 (1 + \beta Y^2). \quad (37)
$$

Here, $X = \frac{|E|}{E_c}$ and $Y = \frac{|H|}{E_c}$.

For $\beta = 1, X = 0.5, Y = 0.5, \omega_0 = 0.145, F = 0.4$, we find $\omega_{cr} = 0.174822$ for $\alpha = 1$, and $\omega_{cr} = 0.174837$ for $\alpha = -1$, respectively. Considering the same intensities of electric and magnetic fields: $X^2 = Y^2$, we plot the graph of $\omega_{cr}$ as a function of field $X = Y$, which is shown in FIG.18. The figure shows that the critical frequency $\omega_{cr}$ goes to the linear resonant frequency $\omega_0$ with the increase of intensities of the wave fields.

III.5. Solution of the NLSE

From the symmetric nature of Eqs. (40) and (41) and considering the same intensities of the electric and magnetic fields of the wave, we can take $|a|^2 = |b|^2$ [18]. In this situation, we obtain from either of Eq. (40) or Eq. (41)

$$
i \frac{\partial a}{\partial \tau} + P \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial \xi^2} + Q |a|^2 a = 0,
$$

where, $Q = Q_a + Q_b$. In the present situation, it is seen that, $P$ can be positive as well as negative for different range of the values of the frequency $\omega$, whereas $Q$ is always negative. Thus, for obtaining solution of the above Eq. (46), we may have two cases: Case I: $\omega_0 < \tilde{\omega} < \omega_{cr}$; where $P < 0$, $Q > 0$, and $PQ > 0$ and Case II: $\omega_{cr} < \tilde{\omega} < \omega_M$, where $P > 0$, $Q < 0$, and $PQ < 0$. For the case I, we take a new variable $\eta$ such that $\eta = \xi - V \tau$ and assume $a(\xi, \tau) = u(\eta) \exp[i(K\xi + \Omega \tau)]$, where $V$ is a constant, then from Eq. (46) we find:
\[
(2PK - V) \frac{du}{d\eta} = 0, 
\]
(47)

\[
P \frac{d^2u}{d\eta^2} - \left( PK^2 + \Omega \right) u + Qa^3 = 0, 
\]
(48)

which gives \( K = V/2P \) and yields an integral of motion
\[
\left( \frac{du}{d\eta} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{PK^2 + \Omega}{P} \right) u^2 + \frac{Q}{2P} u^4 = \text{const}. \quad (49)
\]

For a localized solution, we consider \( u, du/\eta \rightarrow 0 \) as \( \eta \rightarrow \pm \infty \), and so, we put \( \text{const} = 0 \). At the maximum value of \( u = u_0 \),
\[
\frac{du}{d\eta} = 0,
\]
which defines \( \Omega = Qa_0^2/2 - V^2/4P \).

Thus, we arrive at the following solution of Eq. (49)
\[
u(\eta) = a_0 \text{sech} \left( a_0 \sqrt{\frac{Q}{2P}} \eta \right), \quad (50)
\]

where \( a_0 \) is a constant. Going back to the \( (\xi, \tau) \) coordinates, we have the solution of Eq. (46) as
\[
a(\xi, \tau) = a_0 \text{sech} \left[ a_0 \sqrt{\frac{Q}{2P}} (\xi - V \tau) \right] \times e^{i \left\{ \frac{V}{2P} \xi^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left[ Qa_0^2 - \frac{V^2}{2P} \right] \tau \} }, \quad (51)
\]

which is a bump type solution, known as the bright soliton, and the wave amplitude may be modulational unstable. Similarly, the solution for Case II \((PQ < 0)\) is [19]:
\[
a(\xi, \tau) = \left[ a_0 \tanh \left( a_0 \sqrt{\frac{Q}{2P}} (\xi - V \tau) \right) \right] 
-i \left[ \frac{2P}{Q} \left( D - \frac{V}{2P} \right) \right] 
-i \left[ \frac{2P}{Q} \left( D - \frac{V}{2P} \right) \right] 
\times e^{i \left[ D \xi + \frac{1}{2} Qa_0^2 - 3PD^2 + 2DV^2 - \frac{V^2}{2P} \right] \tau}, \quad (52)
\]

Here, \( a_0, V \) and \( D \) are arbitrary constants. They define gray solitons. For \( V = 2PD \), it is a kink type dark soliton. Below, we investigate the modulational instabilities of these solitons.

III.6. Modulations instabilities of optical solitons

Coherent dispersion: Hasegawa Formalism

In order to investigate the modulational instability of optical solitons, we follow Hasegawa formalism [20,21]. Considering the modulation of a constant amplitude coherent phase dispersion, we introduce a phase shift \( a \rightarrow a \text{Exp}(i\theta |a| \tau) \),
\[
\text{where } a_0 \text{ is the constant equilibrium amplitude of the field. Then, Eq. (46) can be written as:}
\]
\[
\frac{\partial^2a}{\partial \tau^2} + P \frac{\partial^2a}{\partial \xi^2} + Q(|a|^2 - |a_0|^2)a = 0. \quad (53)
\]

In a polar representation, we write \( a = \rho \text{Exp}(i\psi) \), where \( \rho = \rho(\xi, \tau) \) and \( \psi = \psi(\xi, \tau) \). This means that \( \rho = |a| \) with an equilibrium value \( \rho_0 = |a_0| \). Equation (53) has the obvious solution \( \rho = \rho_0, \psi = 0 \).

Let \( \rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1 \), where \( |\rho_1| \ll |\rho_0| \) and \( \psi = \psi_1 \). Then by linearizing Eq. (53) from the imaginary and real parts, we obtain
\[
\frac{\partial \rho_1}{\partial \tau} + P \rho_0 \frac{\partial^2 \rho_1}{\partial \xi^2} = 0. \quad (54)
\]
\[
\frac{\partial \psi_1}{\partial \tau} - \frac{P}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial^2 \rho_1}{\partial \xi^2} - 2Q \rho_0 \rho_1 = 0. \quad (55)
\]

which yield
\[
\frac{\partial^2 \rho_1}{\partial \tau^2} + P^2 \frac{\partial^4 \rho_1}{\partial \xi^4} + 2QP \rho_0^2 \rho_1 = 0. \quad (56)
\]

Considering, \( \rho_1 = \tilde{\rho}_1 \text{Exp}(iK\xi - \Omega \tau) \), we readily obtain from Eq. (56), the nonlinear dispersion relation
\[
\Omega^2 = PK^2 (PK^2 - 2Qa_0^2) = P^2 K^2 (K^2 - \frac{2Q}{P} a_0^4),
\]
(57)
We see from Eq.(57) that if \( \frac{Q}{P} > 0 \), \( \Omega^2 \) becomes negative for values of \( K \) below \( K_c = \sqrt{\frac{2Q}{P}} |\rho_0| \), so that there is a purely growing mode and the wave is modulationally unstable. The growth rate \( \sigma = \text{Im}(\Omega) \) attains a maximum

\[
\sigma_{\text{max}} = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{P}} |\rho_0|^2 \quad \text{for} \quad K = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{P}} |\rho_0|. \]

Therefore, in dimensionless variables:

\[
\bar{\sigma} = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\text{max}}}, \quad \bar{K} = \frac{K}{K_c}; \quad \bar{\sigma} = \sqrt{1 - (2\bar{K}^2 - 1)^2}. \tag{58}
\]

FIG.19 shows the variation of the growth rate \( \bar{\sigma} \) as a function of the wave number \( \bar{K} \). On the other hand, for \( \frac{Q}{P} < 0 \), the wave is modulationally stable.

It is to be noted that for a fixed amplitude \( \rho_0 \), the critical frequency \( K_c \) is a function of frequencies \( \bar{\omega} \) in the frequency band, which is shown in FIG. 20.

![Figure 19: The growth rate \( \bar{\sigma} \) as a function of \( \bar{K} \).](image)

![Figure 20: \( K_c \) as a function frequency \( \bar{\omega} \) in the frequency band for \( \rho_0 = 1 \).](image)

### A. Fast Mode: Bright Soliton

We see from above, the fast mode has \( \frac{PQ}{Q} > 0 \), and thus modulationally unstable. Possible final state can lead to the formation of bright soliton, i.e. a localized envelope modulating a carrier wave in the form \( a = |\rho| \text{Exp}(i\psi) \), where

\[
\rho = \frac{1}{L} \sqrt{\frac{2P}{Q}} \text{sech} \left( \frac{\xi - V\tau}{L} \right). \tag{59}
\]

and

\[
\psi = \frac{1}{2P} \left[ V\xi + \left( \frac{\sqrt{2P} - V}{L} \right) \tau \right] + \psi_0. \tag{60}
\]

where, \( V \) is the envelope speed, \( L \) is the pulse spatial width at \( \tau = 0 \) and \( \psi_0 \) is an arbitrary phase. The maximum amplitude \( \rho_0 \) is inversely proportional to the width \( L \), i.e. \( \rho_0L = \sqrt{2P/Q} \).

We do an analysis of pulse width \( L \) on the frequencies within the band, which is shown in Fig. 21. It shows that the width is narrower at the resonant frequency while it becomes wider at higher frequencies.

![Figure 21: Pulse width \( L \) as a function frequency \( \bar{\omega} \) within the frequency band for \( \rho_0 = 1 \).](image)

At a fixed time \( \tau = 0 \), we have shown modulational envelopes of the carrier wave and the corresponding bright solitons at different fixed frequencies within the frequency band in FIGs. 22-23 for \( L = 0.5 \) and FIGs. 24-25 for \( L = 2 \), respectively.
Figure 22: Modulational envelope of fast mode for $L = .5$ corresponding to $\alpha \omega_p = .155, V/2P = 30$ at $\tau = 0$.

Figure 23: Bright soliton for $L = .5$ corresponding to $\alpha \omega_p = .155, at \tau = 0$.

Figure 24: Modulational envelope of fast mode for $L = 2$, corresponding to $\alpha \omega_p = .17, V/2P = 30$ at $\tau = 0$.

Figure 25: Bright soliton for $L = 2$ corresponding to $\alpha \omega_p = .17, at \tau = 0$.

B. The slow mode: Dark Soliton

The slow mode is modulationally stable since $PQ < 0$. It produces dark and gray solitons[22]. The dark has

$$\rho = \frac{1}{L} \sqrt{\frac{2P}{Q}} \tanh \left( \frac{\xi - V\tau}{L} \right),$$

(61)

and

$$\psi = \frac{1}{2P} \left( V\xi - \frac{V^2}{2} \tau \right) + \psi_0,$$

(62)

while the gray has

$$\rho = \sqrt{\frac{2P}{Q}} \frac{1}{La} \sqrt{1-d^2 \text{sech}^2 \left( \frac{\xi - V\tau}{L} \right)},$$

(63)

and

$$\psi = \frac{1}{2P} \left( V\xi - \frac{V^2}{2} \tau \right) +$$

$$s \cdot \text{arcsin} \left( \frac{d \cdot \tanh \left( \frac{\xi - V\tau}{L} \right)}{\sqrt{1-d^2 \text{sech}^2 \left( \frac{\xi - V\tau}{L} \right)}} \right) + \psi_0,$$

(64)
Here, the parameter \( d \), lying in the range \( 0 < d < 1 \), regulates the modulation depth, \( s = \pm 1 \), and \( V_0 = V + s(2P/Ld) \sqrt{1 - d^2} \). Note that for \( d = 1 \), one recovers the dark soliton. The finite equilibrium amplitude \( \rho_0 \) is now inversely proportional to both the width \( L \) and the parameter \( d \), i.e. \( \rho_0 L d = \sqrt{2|P/Q|} \). The minimum amplitude is given by \( \rho_{\text{min}} = \rho_0 \sqrt{1 - d^2} \), which is zero in the dark case. FIGs 26-29 show the modulational envelopes of the carrier wave and the corresponding dark solitons at different frequencies within the frequency band at a fixed time \( \tau = 0 \) for \( L = .5 \) and \( L = 2 \), respectively.

**Figure 26**: Modulational envelope of slow mode for \( L = .5 \) corresponding to \( \omega / \omega_p = .155 \). \( V/2P = 30 \) at \( \tau = 0 \).

**Figure 27**: Dark soliton for \( L = .5 \) corresponding to \( \omega / \omega_p = .155 \), at \( \tau = 0 \).

**Figure 28**: Modulational envelope for slow mode \( L = 2 \), corresponding to \( \omega / \omega_p = .17 \). \( V/2P = 30 \) at \( \tau = 0 \).

**Figure 29**: Dark soliton for \( L = 2 \) corresponding to \( \omega / \omega_p = .17 \), at \( \tau = 0 \).

**IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Thus, we analyze the optical properties of the negative index materials (NIMs) under external electromagnetic (EM) fields of intense laser radiation, their linear and nonlinear resonant frequencies, and the propagation of EM fields through NIMs near the resonant region. With the data available, the linear resonant frequency (eigenfrequency) of SSR is found to be 1.45 THz and the magnetic frequency to be 1.87 THz. The resonant frequency and the magnetic frequency creates the frequency band within which the dielectric permittivity and the magnetic permeability simultaneously are negative, which is the main criteria of NIMs. Thus, the founded frequency band is a narrow band. Analyzing Eq.(10) and Eq.(11), it is found that the frequency band becomes more narrower with the increasing intensities of the EM fields of the propagating...
wave. Eq.(14) shows that that the magnetic frequency shifts towards the linear resonant frequency with the increase of field intensity. We solve Eq.(17) to find the relation between the nonlinear resonant frequency with the intensity of the wave’s magnetic field. With the increasing magnetic field intensity, Eq.(18) shows that the nonlinear resonant frequency goes below the linear resonant frequency in the case of focusing nonlinearity, while it goes up in the case of defocusing nonlinearity. A system of coupled equations [Eq.(25) and Eq.(26)] describes the EM fields propagation through NIMs. From these equations, in the high frequency response, we find the the nonlinear field dependent dispersion relation defined by the Eq. (34). The group velocity of the corresponding wave is defined by the Eq. (35) which shows that the frequency band for wave propagation is more narrowed down with the increase of the field intensities.

In the low frequency response, using the reductive perturbation method, we obtain a coupled [Eq.(40) and Eq.(41)] nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equations. The dispersion coefficient and the nonlinear coefficients of the NLS equations are investigated within the frequency band of NIMs. Considering the same intensities of electric and magnetic fields of the wave, the coupled system is solved, which predicts the propagation of bright and dark solitons through NIMs before and after some critical frequency within the band. Eq.(45) defines the critical frequency, the analysis of which shows that it goes to the linear resonant frequency with the increase of field intensities. The bright soliton is a fast mode which is modulationally unstable. The growth rate of the instability is calculated. The dark soliton is a slow mode and it is modulationally stable. Solitons pulse widths are also investigated within the frequency band, which shows that they are more narrower at the resonant frequency and they become more wider away from the resonant region. Results obtained in this investigation may have some applications in meta-materials using SRR with the negative refractive index in the terahertz spectrum and in photonic crystals, which are to be investigated in near future.

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