Optical phase conjugation in third-order nonlinear photonic crystals

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We predict that the efficiency of the optical phase conjugation generation can be enhanced by more than four orders of magnitude in a $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinear superlattice, as compared with that in a homogeneous nonlinear medium of the same sample thickness and $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinearity. Such an effective enhancement utilizes the localized properties of the fields inside the sample at the band-edge state, gap-soliton state, or defect state. Due to the presence of feedback mechanism at each interface of a superlattice, we also predict that the phase conjugation can still be effectively generated when only one pump wave is used.

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Photonic crystals have been under intensive studies over the past decade [1]. Since a photonic crystal can possess spectral gaps for frequencies in which light cannot propagate, it makes the control and manipulation of light propagation possible and can have vast implications in both quantum optics and optical devices. To employ the high-technology potential of photonic crystals, it has been recently turned to nonlinear photonic crystals [2]. In a $\chi^{(2)}$ nonlinear photonic crystal the efficiency of the second-harmonic or sumfrequency generation can be enhanced significantly by use of the simultaneous availability of field localization and phasematching condition near the band edge [3]. In a $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinear photonic crystal, previous studies have been focused on the effects related to the refractive-index change caused by the light intensity via Kerr effect. For example, by changing the light intensity at a frequency in the pass band the dynamical tunability of the photonic band gap can be realized [4]. For frequency inside the gap, the formation of gap solitons has been demonstrated [5–9]. Furthermore, the optical bistability near the band edge [10,11], the gap soliton [5,9], or the defect mode [12] in finite-sized $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinear photonic crystals has been investigated. However, how to utilize the properties of strong field localization of the gap soliton or defect mode to enhance the $\chi^{(3)}$ -related nonlinear optical effects, such as the optical phase conjugation (PC), has never been explored before. As it is known, the optical PC is an important subject in nonlinear optics [13], because it has many applications such as optical signal processing, wavefront correction, etc. However, due to the very small value of $\chi^{(3)}$, the PC generation efficiency is usually very low in the conventional homogeneous media, which greatly limits its practical applications. In this paper, we demonstrate that the efficiency of PC generation can be enhanced by several orders of magnitude in a superlattice by utilizing the field localization near its band-edge, gap-soliton, or defect states. Due to the presence of feedback mechanism at each interface of a superlattice, we also demonstrate that the PC can still be effectively generated when only one pump wave is used.

Consider optical PC in a 1D nonlinear superlattice shown in Fig. 1. In this geometry, the lossless nonlinear superlattice composes of N unit cells. One layer in each unit cell is linear, with the refractive index n_0 and width l_1 . The other layer is nonlinear, characterized by the usual, weak-field refractive index *n* and a third-order nonlinear susceptibility $\chi^{(3)}$. The width of the nonlinear layer is l_2 . The superlattice is illuminated by two counterpropagating pump waves \tilde{E}_1 and \tilde{E}_2 normal to the surface of the superlattice and by a signal wave \tilde{E}_3 incident upon the superlattice with an incident angle θ_0 . As a result of the nonlinear coupling between these waves, a new wave \tilde{E}_4 is created that counterpropagates to the signal wave \tilde{E}_3 . In addition, because of reflections at each interface of two layers, in each layer, there appear two additional waves \tilde{E}_5 and \tilde{E}_6 , which are the mirror reflections of \tilde{E}_4 and \tilde{E}_3 , respectively. For simplicity, all waves are assumed to be *s* polarized.

We represent the six interacting waves by

$$\widetilde{E}_{j}(\vec{r},t) = E_{j}(\vec{r})\exp(-i\omega t) + \text{c.c.}$$
$$= A_{i}(\vec{r})\exp[i(\vec{k}_{i}\cdot\vec{r}-\omega t)] + \text{c.c.}$$
(1)

The total field amplitude within one nonlinear layer is given by $E = \sum_{j=1}^{6} E_j$. This field *E* produces a nonlinear polarization within the layer, which is given by $P = 3\chi^{(3)}E^2E^*$. By considering only terms that have the same transverse momentum, we arrive the following nonlinear polarizations for each field:

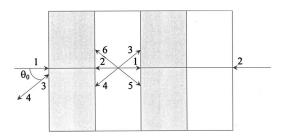


FIG. 1. Geometry for PC in a 1D photonic crystal with $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinearity. E_1 and E_2 are input pump waves, E_3 is the input signal wave, and E_4 is the generated PC wave.

$$P_{\alpha} = 3\chi^{(3)} \Biggl\{ \Biggl(|E_1 + E_2|^2 + 2\sum_{j=3}^6 |E_j|^2 \Biggr) E_{\alpha} + [2E_3E_4 + 2E_5E_6]E_{\beta}^* \Biggr\},$$
(2a)

$$P_{\alpha'} = 3\chi^{(3)} \Biggl\{ \Biggl(2|E_1 + E_2|^2 + 2\sum_{j=3}^6 |E_j|^2 - |E_{\alpha'}|^2 \Biggr) E_{\alpha'} + [(E_1 + E_2)^2 + 2E_5 E_6] E_{\beta'}^* \Biggr\},$$
(2b)

$$P_{\alpha''} = 3\chi^{(3)} \Biggl\{ \Biggl(2|E_1 + E_2|^2 + 2\sum_{j=3}^6 |E_j|^2 - |E_{\alpha''}|^2 \Biggr) E_{\alpha''} + [(E_1 + E_2)^2 + 2E_3E_4] E_{\beta''}^* \Biggr\},$$
(2c)

where α , $\beta = 1$ or 2 ($\alpha \neq \beta$), α' , $\beta' = 3$ or 4 ($\alpha' \neq \beta'$), and α'' , $\beta'' = 5$ or 6 ($\alpha'' \neq \beta''$). By substituting Eqs. (1) and (2) into

$$\nabla^2 \widetilde{E}_j - \frac{\varepsilon}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \widetilde{E}_j}{\partial t^2} = \frac{4\pi}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \widetilde{P}_j$$

and making the slowly varying amplitude approximation [13], we then have

$$\frac{dA_{\alpha}}{dz} = i\kappa_{\alpha}A_{\alpha} + i\kappa_{\alpha}'A_{\alpha+1}^{*} \quad (\alpha = 1, 3, 5),$$
(3a)

$$\frac{dA_{\beta}}{dz} = -i\kappa_{\beta}A_{\beta} - i\kappa_{\beta}'A_{\beta-1}^* \quad (\beta = 2, 4, 6).$$
(3b)

Here

$$\kappa_{1} = \kappa_{2} = \frac{6\pi\omega}{nc} \chi^{(3)} \left(|E_{1} + E_{2}|^{2} + 2\sum_{j=3}^{6} |E_{j}|^{2} \right),$$

$$\kappa_{\alpha} = \frac{6\pi\omega}{nc \cos \theta} \chi^{(3)} \left(2|E_{1} + E_{2}|^{2} + 2\sum_{j=3}^{6} |E_{j}|^{2} - |E_{\alpha}|^{2} \right)$$

$$(\alpha = 3, 4, 5, 6),$$

$$\kappa_{1}' = \kappa_{2}' = \frac{12\pi\omega}{nc} \chi^{(3)} [E_{3}E_{4} + E_{5}E_{6}],$$

$$\kappa_{3}' = \kappa_{4}' = \frac{6\pi\omega}{nc \cos \theta} \chi^{(3)} [(E_{1} + E_{2})^{2} + 2E_{5}E_{6}],$$

$$\kappa_5' = \kappa_6' = \frac{6\pi\omega}{nc\,\cos\,\theta} \chi^{(3)} [(E_1 + E_2)^2 + 2E_3 E_4],$$

where θ is the propagation angle of E_3 in the sample. In order to solve above equations, we divide each nonlinear layer into *M* sublayers and assume the values of κ_j and κ'_j in each sublayer to be constants [14]. In our calculation *M* is taken so that a convergent result is reached. Solving Eq. (3) in each sublayer and using the continuity of both *E* and *H* (i.e., the derivative of *E*) at the interface of two sublayers, we finally obtain the following relations:

,

$$\begin{split} & \left[\begin{matrix} E_1(l_{s,i}) \\ E_2(l_{s,i}) \\ E_1^*(l_{s,i}) \\ E_2^*(l_{s,i}) \end{matrix} \right]^{(s,i)} = u^{(s,i)} \begin{bmatrix} E_1(l_{s,i-1}) \\ E_2(l_{s,i-1}) \\ E_1^*(l_{s,i-1}) \\ E_2^*(l_{s,i-1}) \end{bmatrix}^{(s,i-1)} \\ & , \\ \\ u^{(s,i)} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} u_{11}(1+b) & u_{11}(1-b) & u_{13}(1-b) & u_{13}(1+b) \\ u_{11}^*(1-b) & u_{11}^*(1+b) & u_{23}(1+b) & u_{23}(1-b) \\ u_{13}^*(1-b) & u_{13}^*(1+b) & u_{11}^*(1+b) & u_{11}^*(1-b) \\ u_{23}^*(1+b) & u_{23}^*(1-b) & u_{11}(1-b) & u_{11}(1+b) \end{bmatrix} \\ & \left[\begin{matrix} E_3(l_{s,i}) \\ E_4(l_{s,i}) \\ E_3^*(l_{s,i}) \\ E_4^*(l_{s,i}) \\ E_5(l_{s,i}) \\ E_5(l_{s,i}) \\ E_5^*(l_{s,i}) \\ E_5^*(l_{s,i}) \\ E_6^*(l_{s,i-1}) \\ E_5^*(l_{s,i-1}) \\ E_6^*(l_{s,i-1}) \\ E_6^*(l_{s,$$

$$\nu^{(s,i)} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \nu_{11}(1+a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{14}(1+a) & 0 & \nu_{11}(1-a) & \nu_{14}(1-a) & 0 \\ 0 & \nu_{22}(1+a) & \nu_{23}(1+a) & 0 & \nu_{22}(1-a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{23}(1-a) \\ 0 & \nu_{32}(1+a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{32}(1-a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{11}^*(1-a) \\ \nu_{23}^*(1+a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{22}^*(1+a) & 0 & \nu_{23}^*(1-a) & \nu_{22}^*(1-a) & 0 \\ 0 & \nu_{52}(1-a) & \nu_{53}(1-a) & 0 & \nu_{52}(1+a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{53}(1+a) \\ \nu_{61}(1-a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{64}^*(1-a) & 0 & \nu_{61}(1+a) & \nu_{64}^*(1+a) & 0 \\ 0 & \nu_{64}^*(1-a) & \nu_{61}^*(1-a) & 0 & \nu_{64}^*(1+a) & 0 & 0 & \nu_{61}^*(1+a) \end{bmatrix},$$

where $l_{s,i}$ is the width of the sublayer *i* in the *s*th layer,

 $n^{(s,i-1)}\cos\theta^{(s,i-1)}$

$$a = \frac{\kappa}{n^{(s,i)}\cos\theta^{(s,i)}},$$

$$b = \frac{n^{(s,i-1)}}{n^{(s,i)}}, \quad u_{11} = (\cos \delta_1')e^{i\delta_1},$$

$$u_{13} = i\frac{|\kappa_1'|}{\kappa_1'^*}(\sin \delta_1')e^{i\delta_1}, \quad u_{23} = -i\frac{\kappa_1'}{|\kappa_1'|}(\sin \delta_1')e^{-i\delta_1},$$

$$v_{11} = (\cos \delta_3')e^{i\delta_3}, \quad v_{14} = i\frac{|\kappa_3'|}{\kappa_3'^*}(\sin \delta_3')e^{i\delta_3},$$

$$v_{22} = (\cos \delta_3')e^{-i\delta_4}, \quad v_{23} = -i\frac{\kappa_3'}{|\kappa_3'|}(\sin \delta_3')e^{-i\delta_4},$$

$$v_{32} = -i\frac{\kappa_3'}{|\kappa_3'|}(\sin \delta_3')e^{-i\delta_3}, \quad v_{52} = (\cos \delta_5')e^{-i\delta_5},$$

$$v_{53} = i\frac{|\kappa_5'|}{\kappa_5'^*}(\sin \delta_5')e^{i\delta_5}, \quad v_{61} = (\cos \delta_5')e^{-i\delta_6},$$

$$\nu_{64} = -i\frac{\kappa_5'}{|\kappa_5'|}(\sin \delta_5')e^{-i\delta_5}, \quad \nu_{71} = -i\frac{\kappa_5'}{|\kappa_5'|}(\sin \delta_5')e^{-i\delta_5}.$$

Here $\delta_1 = l_{s,i}(\kappa_1 + n^{(s,i)}k)$, $\delta_j = l_{s,i}(\kappa_j + n^{(s,i)}k \cos \theta^{(s,i)})$ for j = 3, 4, 5, 6 and $\delta'_j = |\kappa'_j| l_{s,i}$ for j = 1, 3, 5, where $n^{(s,i)}$ denotes the weak-field refractive index of the sublayer and $\theta^{(s,i)}$ the propagation angle of E_3 in the sublayer. For the linear layer, we take $\chi^{(3)} = 0$ and M = 1. Therefore, the electric-field amplitudes E_1, E_2, E_1^* , and E_2^* at the output face z = L and the input face z = 0 of the superlattice are related by the transfer matrix $U = \prod_{l=0}^{N(M+1)} u^{(s,i)}$. The amplitudes E_3, E_4, E_3^*, E_4^* , E_5, E_6, E_5^* , and E_6^* at z = L and z = 0 are related by the transfer matrix $V = \prod_{l=0}^{N(M+1)} \nu^{(s,i)}$, from which we obtain the output amplitude $E_4(0) = [(V_{28}V_{83} - V_{23}V_{88})/(V_{22}V_{88} - V_{28}V_{82})]E_3^*(0)$. It is clear that the wave E_4 is phase conjugate to the signal wave E_3 .

Now we solve above equations numerically using an iterative procedure described in Refs. [9,14]. For calculations, we use a model superlattice with N unit cells (i.e., N nonlinear layers and N linear layers), $n_0=1$, n=2, and $l_1=l_2=l$. For third-order nonlinear susceptibility we take $(6\pi\omega l/nc)\chi^{(3)} = -10^{-3}$. In the linear case, i.e., $\chi^{(3)}=0$, the dispersion relation gives a first band gap from $\omega=0.13386 \times 2\pi c/l$ to $\omega=0.19591 \times 2\pi c/l$ for a normal incident light. The transmission spectrum of the light propagating normally through the model superlattice gives the transmission resonance (TR) at $\omega_1=0.13204 \times 2\pi c/l$ near the lower band edge for the superlattice with N=15 unit cells and the TR at $\omega_2=0.13339 \times 2\pi c/l$ for N=30 unit cells.

As is known, the $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinearity has both the effect of shifting TR position or forming gap soliton [5–9] and the effect of creating PC wave E_4 [13]. Thus, in order to make the operating frequency inside the superlattice at the TR state (i.e., the band edge state or the gap soliton state), we should choose the frequency ω of the interacting waves slightly larger than ω_1 for N=15 unit cells and than ω_2 for N=30 unit cells. First, we consider the case of N=15 unit cells and choose $\omega=0.1322 \times 2\pi c/l$. In Fig. 2 we show a typical result of output PC intensity, $|E_4(0)|^2$, as a function of input pump amplitude $|E_1(0)| = |E_2(L)|$ (curve *a*), where $a_{10} \equiv |E_1(0)|$ and $a_{40} \equiv |E_4(0)|$. To compare with the result in homogeneous media, in Fig. 2, we also show the PC intensity versus a_{10} in a homogeneous medium of the same $\chi^{(3)}$ and length L=30l(curve *d*). It is interesting to see that the efficiency of the PC

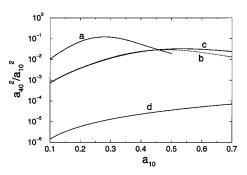


FIG. 2. a_{40}^2/a_{10}^2 versus a_{10} in the superlattice of N=15 unit cells. $a_{30}=0.2$ and $\theta_0=2^\circ$. Curve $a:|E_1(0)|=|E_2(L)|=a_{10}$; curve $b:|E_1(0)|=a_{10}$ and $|E_2(L)|=0$; curve $c:|E_1(0)|=0$ and $|E_2(L)|=a_{10}$. Curve d is for a_{40}^2/a_{10}^2 versus a_{10} in a homogeneous $\chi^{(3)}$ medium of length L=30l.

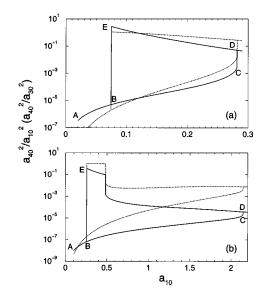


FIG. 3. a_{40}^2/a_{10}^2 (solid curves) and a_{40}^2/a_{30}^2 (dotted curves) versus a_{10} in the superlattice of N=30 unit cells with $\theta_0=2^\circ$ and $|E_1(0)| = |E_2(L)| = a_{10}$. The PC intensity follows the curve $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$ when increasing a_{10} and follows the curve $D \rightarrow E \rightarrow B \rightarrow A$ when decreasing a_{10} . (a) $\omega=0.1335 \times 2\pi c/l$ and $a_{30}=0.12$. (b) $\omega=0.1339 \times 2\pi c/l$ and $a_{30}=0.15$.

generation in enhanced by more than 4 orders of magnitude compared to that in the homogeneous medium. There exists an optimal value of the input pump amplitude a_{10} at which the PC generation is highest. This optimal value corresponds to the situation when the pump wave, signal wave and PC wave are approximately operating at their TR states, i.e., the shifted band-edge state. At the band-edge state, all the fields are localized inside the sample, thus providing the maximum energy exchange between the interacting waves.

Similar to the transmission behavior of a single wave through a nonlinear photonic crystal [5,9–11], as the operating frequency moves away from TR state to the band gap, the hysteresis loop of the PC intensity versus the input amplitude a_{10} occurs. For example, in Fig. 3(a) we show a typical result of the output PC intensity as a function of a_{10} for $\omega=0.1335 \times 2\pi c/l$ in the model superlattice of N=30 unit cells. Due to the increased numbers of the nonlinear layers the efficiency of the PC generation is higher than that of N=15 unit cells. We further verified that when the frequency moves into the band gap, the maximum efficiency of PC generation occurs via the excitation of gap soliton [5]. A typical result is shown in Fig. 3(b), where $\omega=0.1339$ $\times 2\pi c/l$.

Because of the presence of multiple reflections in a superlattice, we expect that the PC wave can still be generated with only one pump beam. To verify this assertion, we take $|E_1(0)| = a_{10}$ and $|E_2(L)=0|$. Curve *b* in Fig. 2 (dotted curve) shows a typical result when N=15. Curve *c* is for $|E_1(0)|$

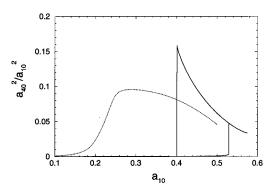


FIG. 4. a_{40}^2/a_{10}^2 versus a_{10} in the superlattice of N=9 unit cells with a defect for $\omega=0.1522 \times 2\pi c/l$ (dotted curve) and $\omega=0.1525 \times 2\pi c/l$ (solid curve). $a_{30}=0.2$ and $\theta_0=2^\circ$.

=0 and $|E_2(L)|=a_{10}$, which shows the nearly same result as curve *b*. It is interesting to see that even with one-sided illumination the efficiency of PC generation is still much higher (more than 3 orders of magnitude larger) compared to that in a homogeneous medium.

We can also make use of the localized property of a defect state to enhance the efficiency of PC generation. For this purpose, we replace the middle nonlinear layer of the superlattice of N=9 unit cells with the nonlinear layer of width 2*l*, which produces a defect frequency at $\omega_d=0.1519 \times 2\pi c/l$. We choose the operating frequency as $\omega=0.1522 \times 2\pi c/l$. The result of a_{40}^2/a_{10}^2 versus $|E_1(0)| = |E_2(L)| = a_{10}$ is shown by a dotted line in Fig. 4. If the frequency ω moves further away from ω_d we can obtain the hysteresis loop of the PC intensity versus a_{10} , with a result for $\omega=0.1525 \times 2\pi c/l$ shown by solid line in Fig. 4. This is similar to the hysteresis behavior found in transmission due to defect state [12].

The laser power required to achieve the optimal fields found in Figs. 2–4 can be quite small. For the operating frequency of $\omega = 0.13 \times 2\pi c/l$ used here, the relation $(6\pi\omega l/nc)\chi^{(3)} = -10^{-3}$ gives $\chi^{(3)} \approx -1.3 \times 10^{-4}$ esu [15] if the units of field are chosen as statvolt/cm. Thus the optimal field of $a_{10} \approx 0.1-0.3$ corresponds to a laser power of 1.2-10.5 W/cm². Since the sample thickness discussed in this work is of the order of μ m for optical waves, our work presents a way towards high-efficiency, low-power, microsized optical devices for signal processing.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that by utilizing the strong field localization at the band-edge state, defect state, or single-frequency gap soliton [5] in nonlinear superlattices, the efficiency of PC generation in degenerate four-wave mixing can be enhanced by several orders of magnitude. The principle demonstrated here can actually be extended to other $\chi^{(3)}$ -related nonlinear effects, such as nondegenerate two-beam coupling [16] and nondegenerate four-wave mixing [17]. In these cases, the simultaneous field localizations at different frequencies can be achieved through the formation of *multifrequency* gap solitons [14].

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