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Experimental and Theoretical Study of the Laser Induced Diffraction Pattern in the Acid Orange 10 Dye: Polyacrylamide Gel

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Abstract:

We observed and studied diffraction rings generated in an Acid Orange 10 dye doped Polyacrylamide gel (AO10: PAA gel) using cw visible laser beam. The number of rings increases almost exponentially with increasing input power and concentration of the samples. The refractive index change, Δn , effective nonlinear refractive index, n_2 , variation of thermooptic coefficient ,dn/dT, figure of merit ,W, and thermal figure of merit ,H, are found to be 0.004788 , 10⁻⁵ cm²/Watt, 1.01×10⁻⁴ 1/°C, 13.7 and 0.45×10⁻⁴ respectively. The effective nonlinear refractive index, n_2 , was determined based on the observed number of rings. This large nonlinearity is attributed to a thermal effect. Theoretical diffraction patterns that agree well with experimental one are generated using a wave theory.

Keywords: Nonlinearity; Thermal effect; Wave theory.

1. Introduction

Self-induced index changes in optical media have been investigated extensively in the past in connection with Q- switching and mode locking of lasers and selffocusing or defocusing of laser beams. The mechanisms behind self- induced changes fall into two categories. In the first category, there are several non-resonant mechanisms which have been studied quite extensively in the past in connection with self-focusing. In the second category, we have near-resonant effects, the most important of which is associated with the saturation of a more-or-less homogenously broadened absorption line [1]. A Fréedericksz transition caused by the electric field of wave was first observed by Zolot'ko and colleagues [1]. He and his colleagues published series of articles concerning the appearance of aberration