



**The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



**2286-5**

## **Workshop on New Materials for Renewable Energy**

*31 October - 11 November 201*

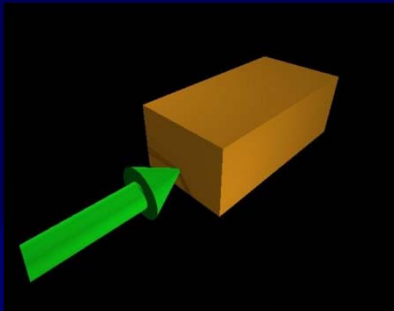
**Spatial dispersion and solitons**

*'T wt'UOMkxuj ct*

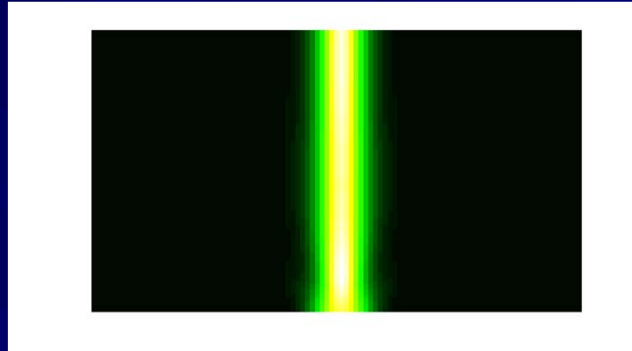
*Nonlinear Physics Centre  
Research School of Physics and Engineering  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
Australia*

# Spatial dispersion and solitons

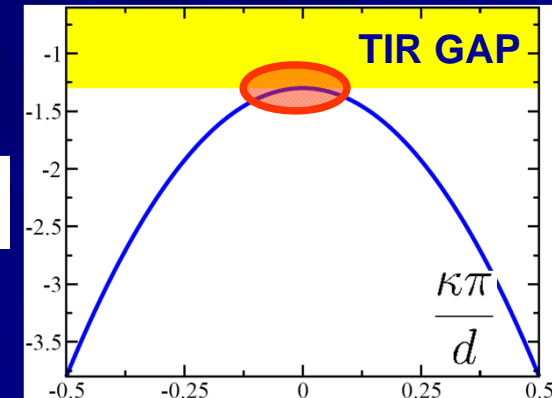
## Bulk media



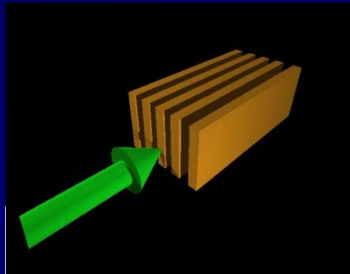
## SPATIAL SOLITON



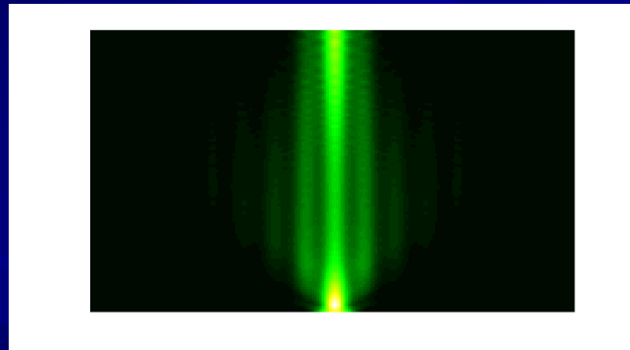
$\beta$



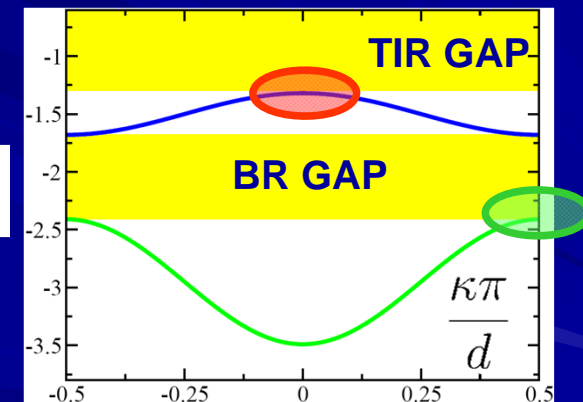
## Waveguide array



## LATTICE SOLITON

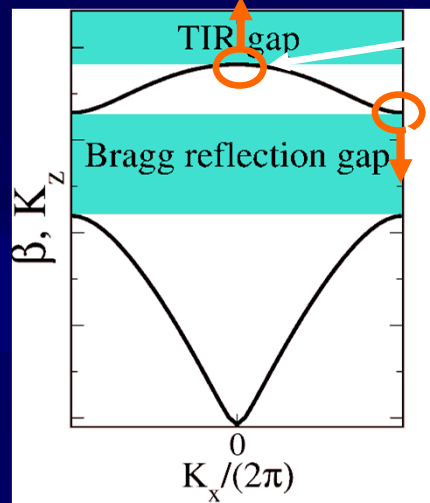


$\beta$



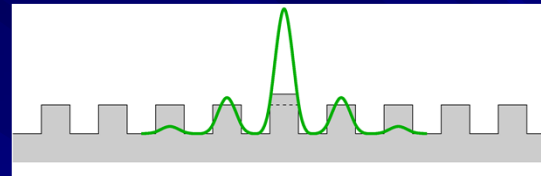
Theory: Christodoulides & Joseph (1988), Kivshar (1993)  
Experiments: Eisenberg (1998), Fleischer (2003), Neshev (2003), Martin (2004)

# Effective discrete systems

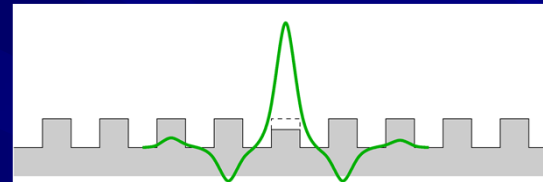


Self-focusing  
nonlinearity

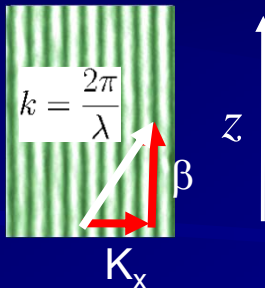
Defocusing  
nonlinearity



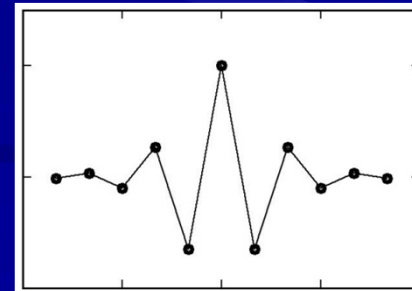
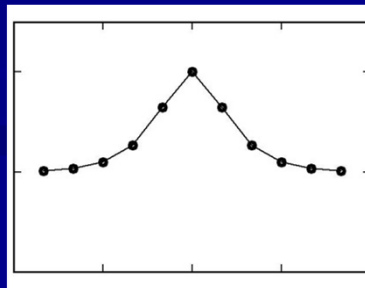
DISCRETE SOLITONS



GAP SOLITONS



$$i \frac{dE_n}{dz} + \alpha E_n + (E_{n+1} + E_{n-1}) + \gamma |E_n|^2 E_n = 0, \quad (1)$$

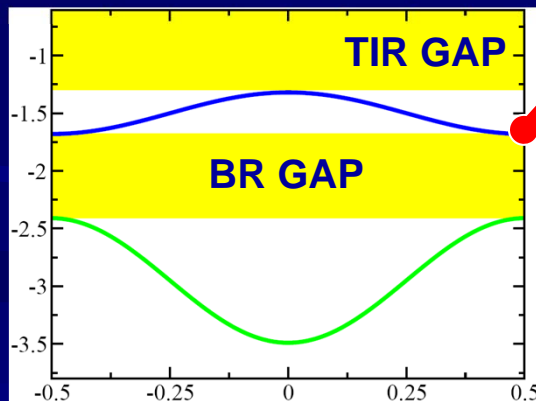
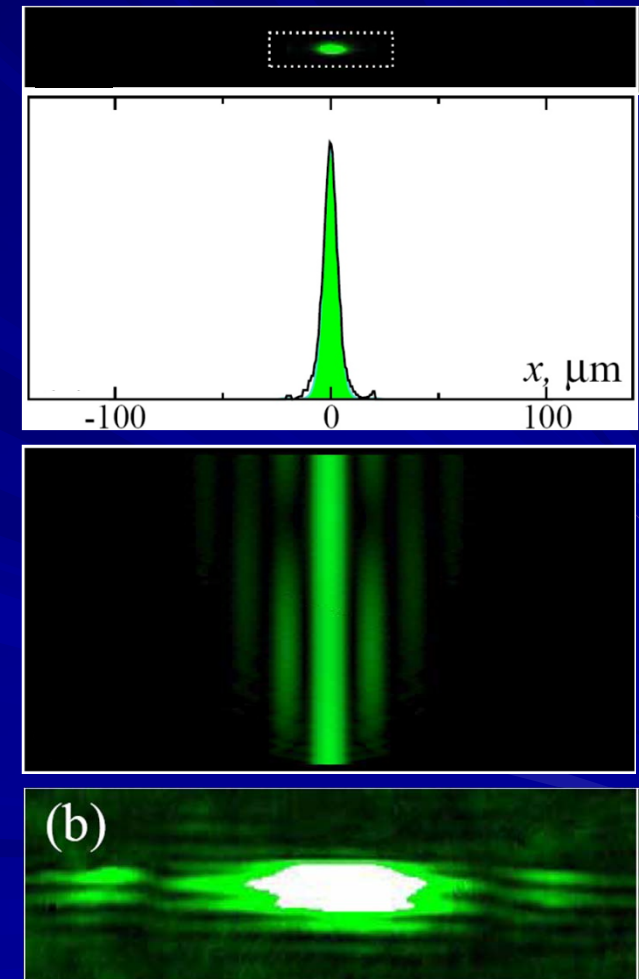
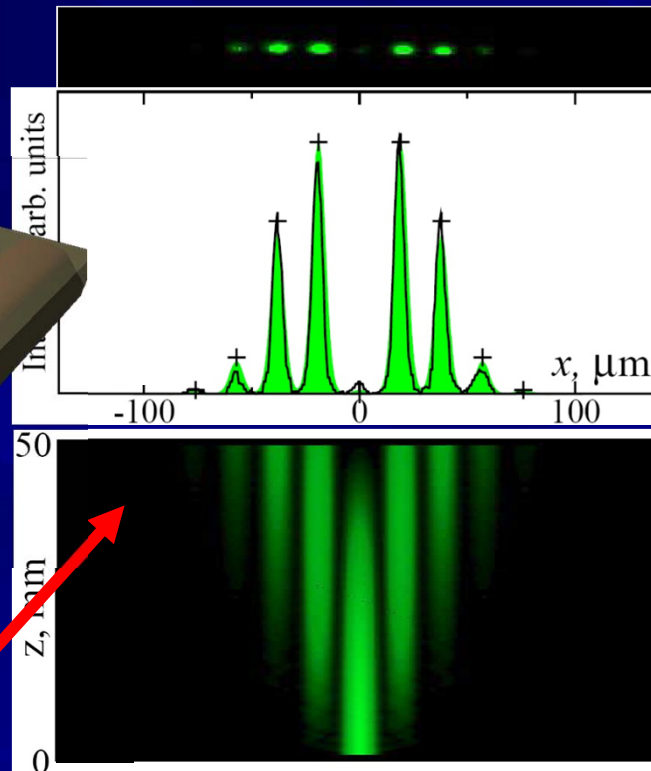
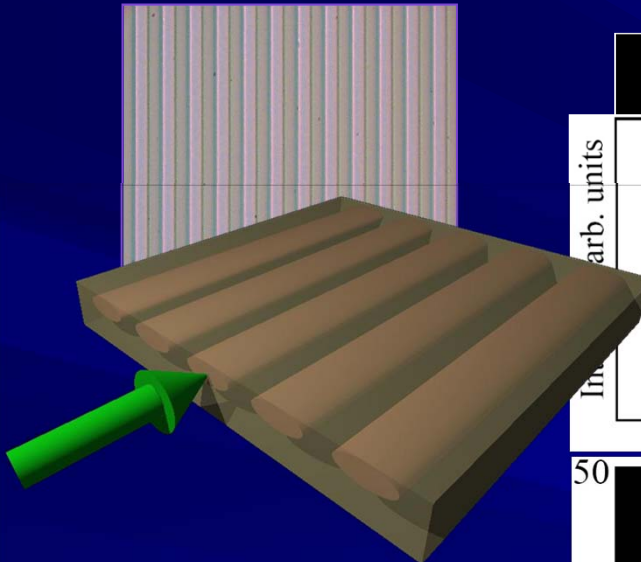


# Gap Solitons - defocusing case

LiNbO<sub>3</sub> waveguide array

low power 10nW

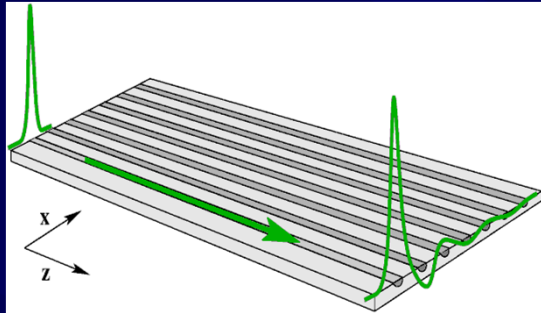
high power 100μW



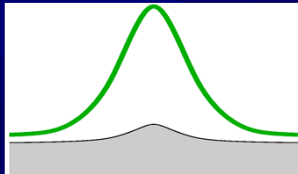


# Surface solitons

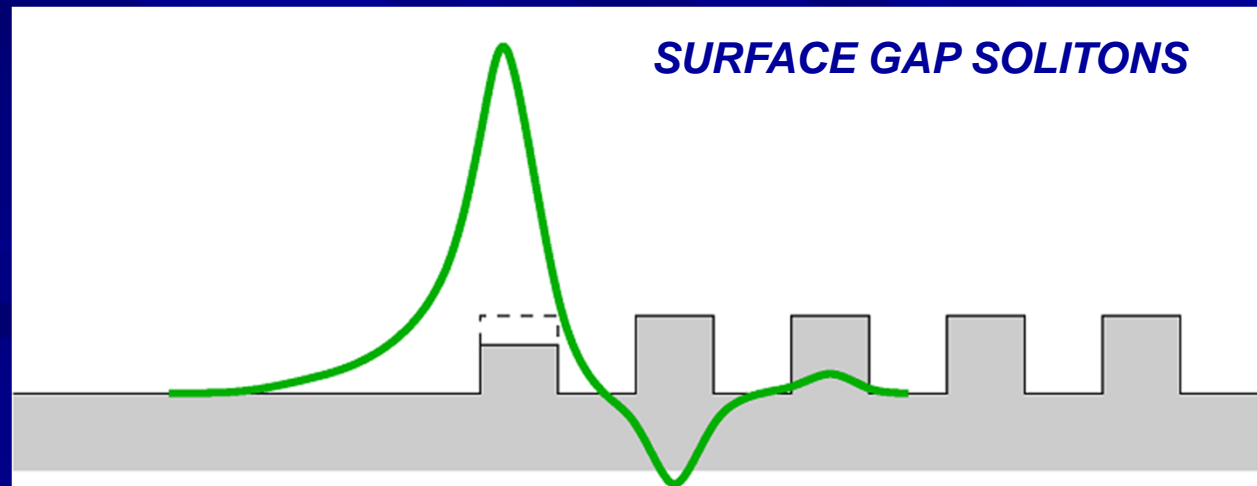
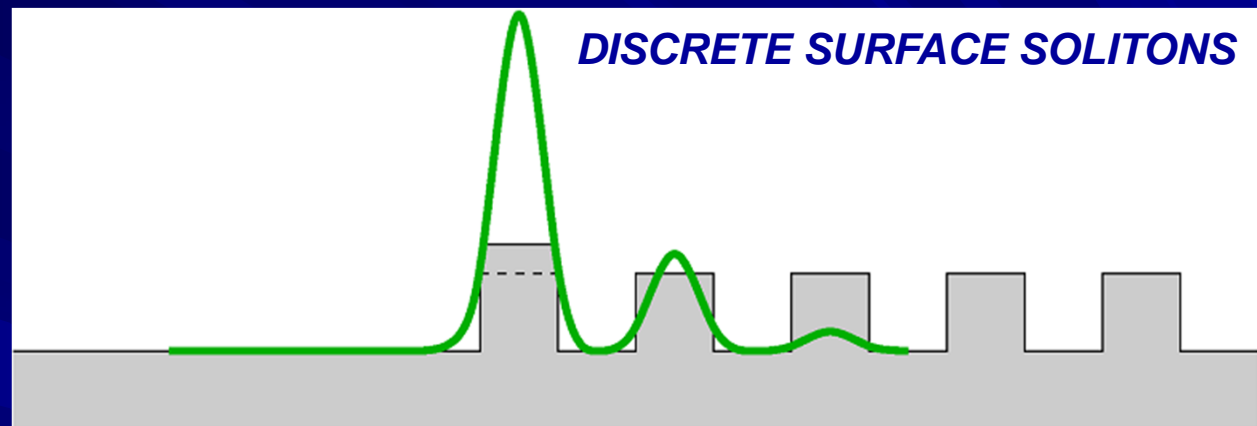
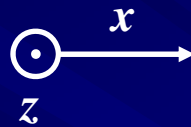
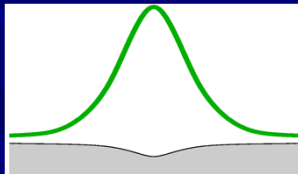
# Optical surface waves



Self-focusing nonlinearity



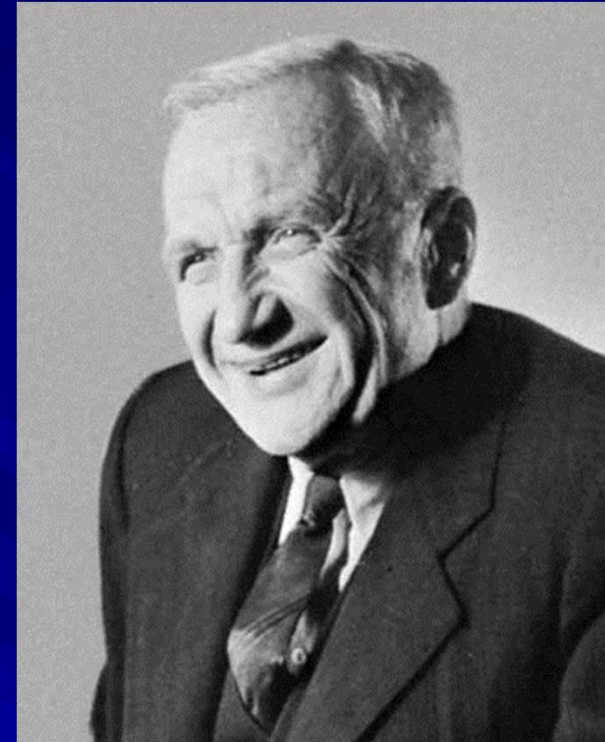
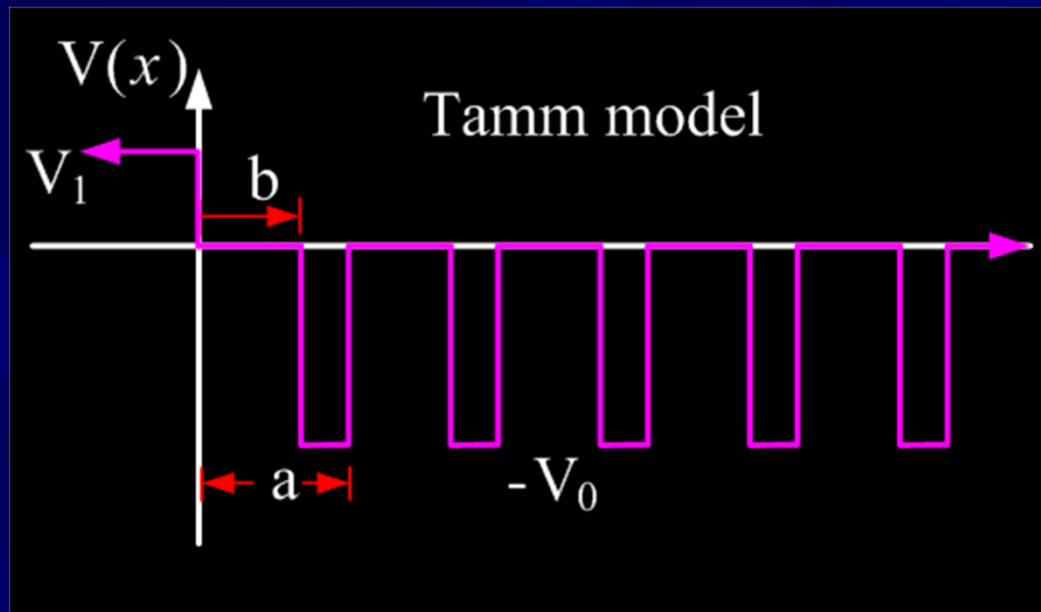
Defocusing nonlinearity



➤ OPTICAL TAMM STATES

[www.rsphysse.anu.edu.au/nonlinear](http://www.rsphysse.anu.edu.au/nonlinear)

# Electronic Tamm States



*Periodic boundary conditions* → *real values of  $k$*

*Finite boundary condition* → *complex values of  $k$*

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21 MAY 1990

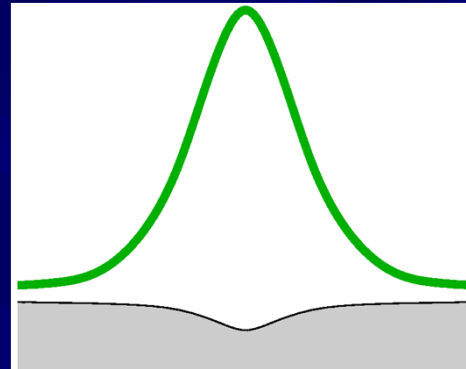
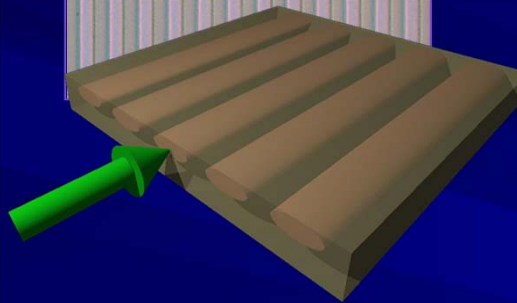
## Observation of "Tamm States" in Superlattices

H. Ohno,<sup>(a)</sup> E. E. Mendez, J. A. Brum,<sup>(b)</sup> J. M. Hong, F. Agulló-Rueda,<sup>(c)</sup> L. L. Chang, and L. Esaki  
IBM Research Division, T. J. Watson Research Center, P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

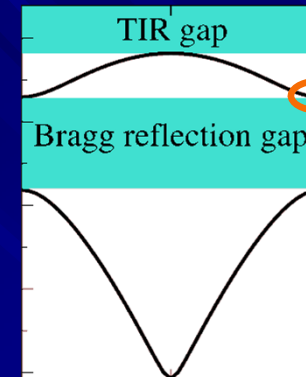


# LiNbO<sub>3</sub> waveguide array

LiNbO<sub>3</sub>  
waveguide array  
X-cut



defocusing nonlinearity

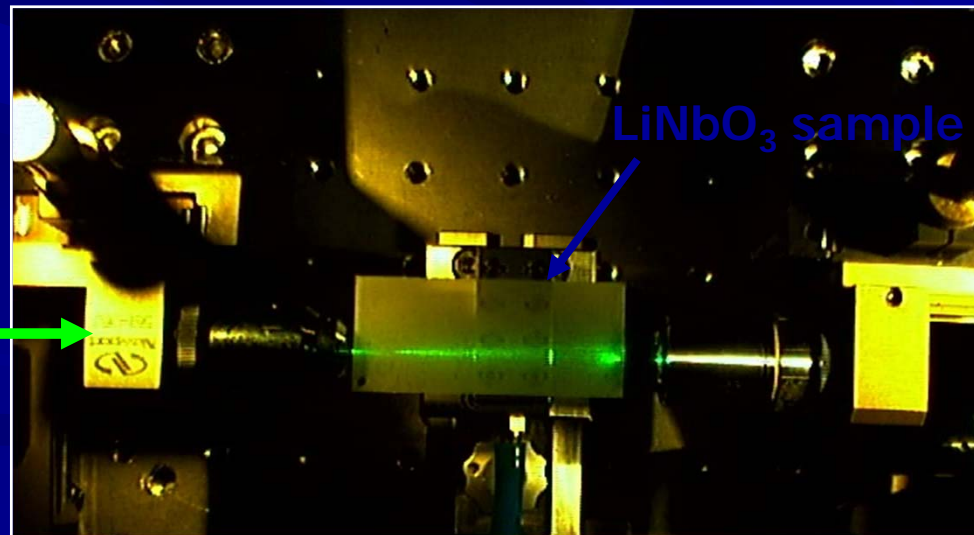


Input beam



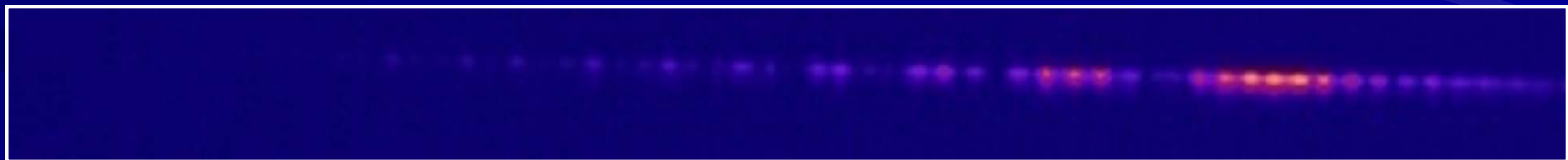
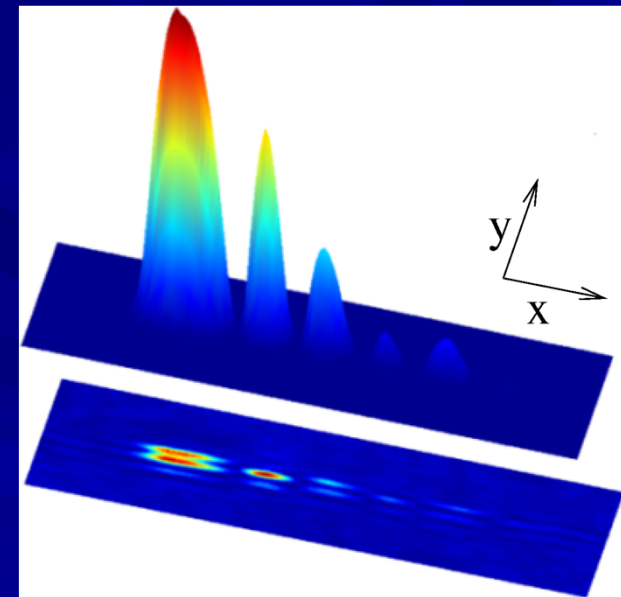
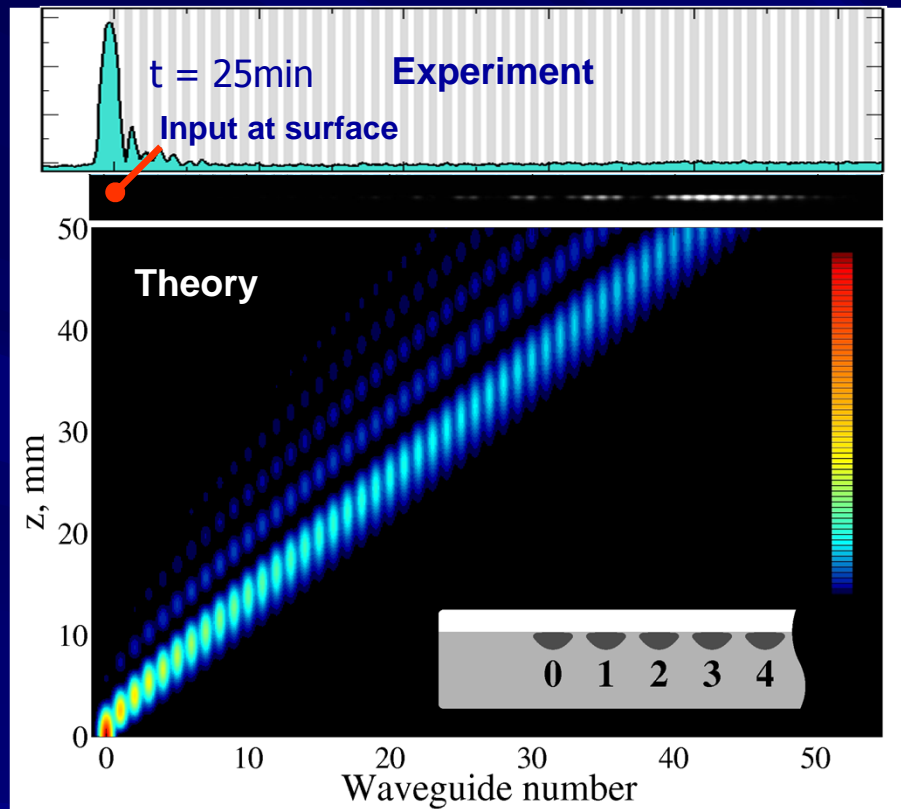
$w = 2.7\mu\text{m}$

**Single-site  
excitation**



LiNbO<sub>3</sub> sample

# Nonlinear optical Tamm states



# Polychromatic solitons



# Motivation

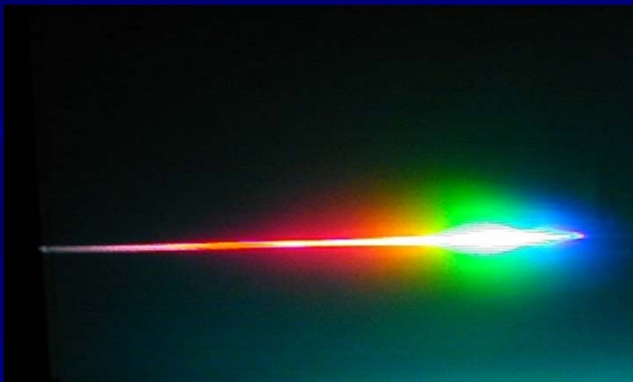


**Light bulb**  
+ all colors  
- all directions



## **Lasers**

- one colour  
+ one direction  
+ very bright

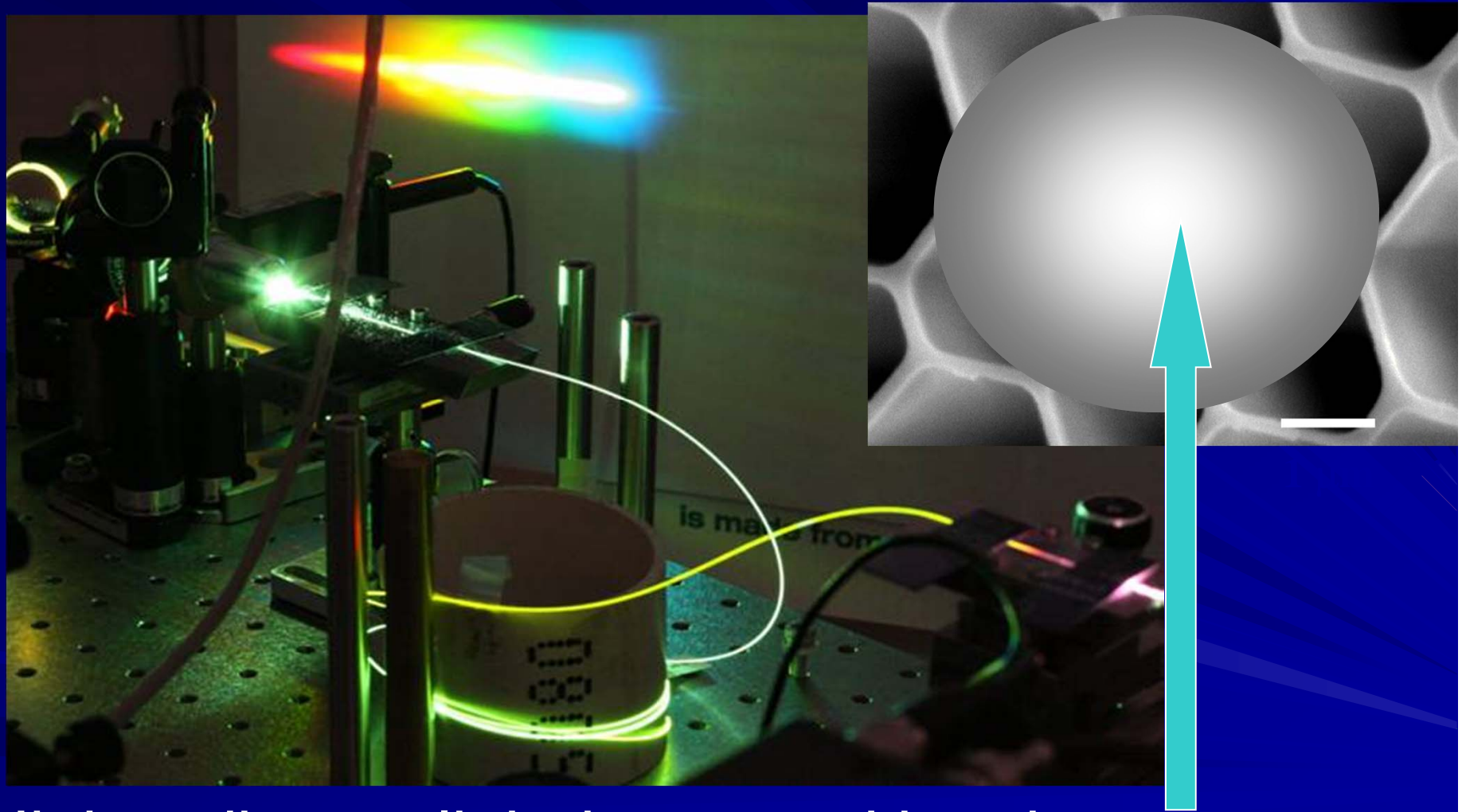


## **White-light laser**

+ all colors  
+ one direction  
+ high brightness

Nonlinear optics:  
light-matter  
interactions

# Brighter than 10,000 suns



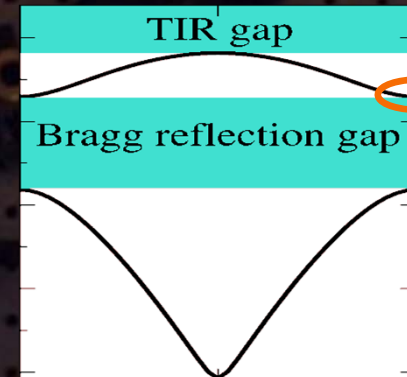
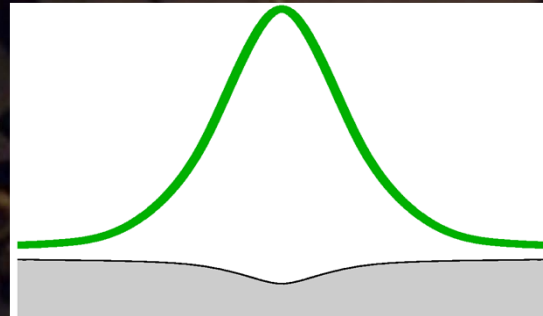
High radiance: light is trapped in micro-core



# Fabricated structures

Kivshar, OL 18, 1147 (1993)

LiNbO<sub>3</sub>  
waveguide array

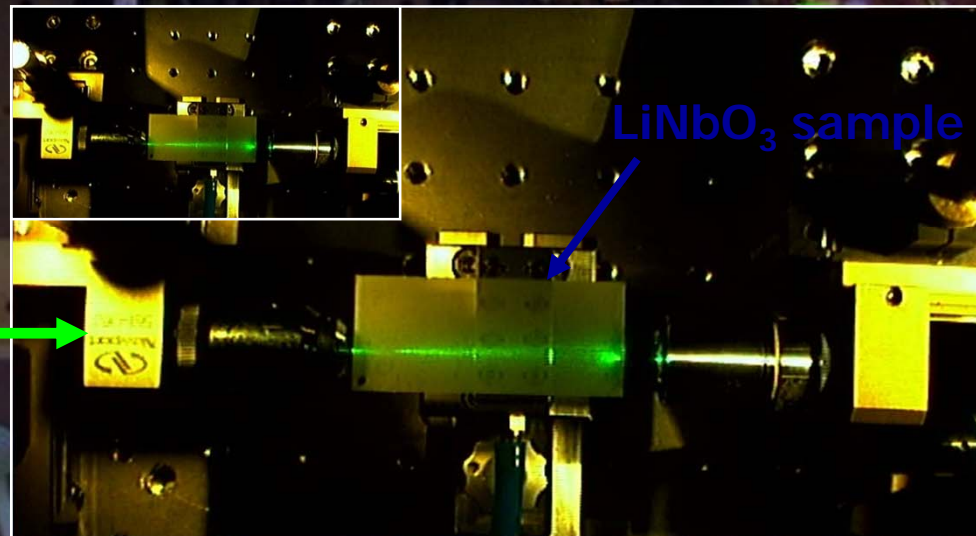


Input beam

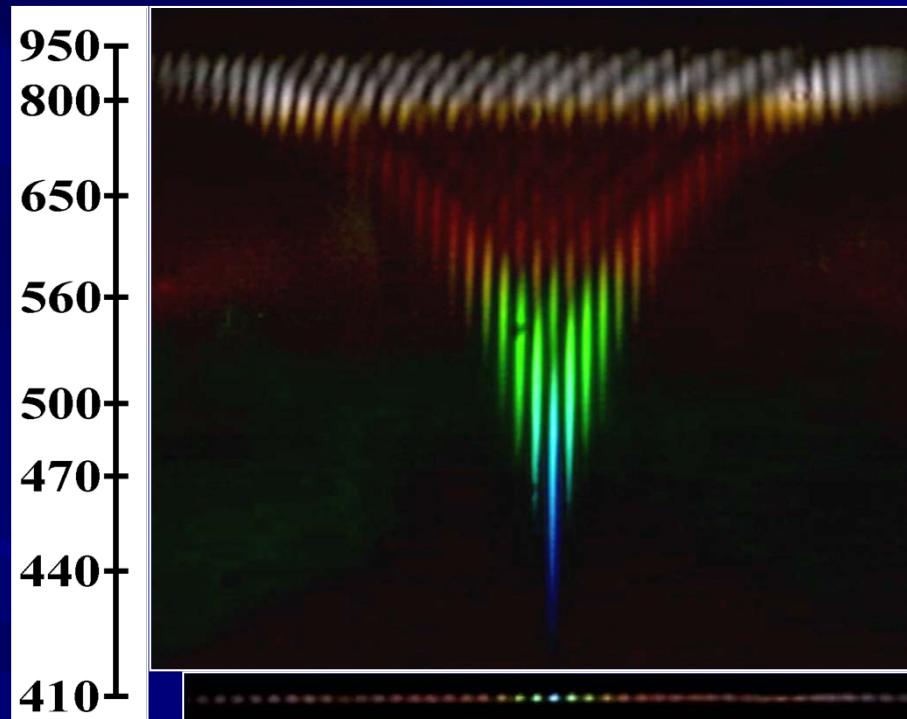
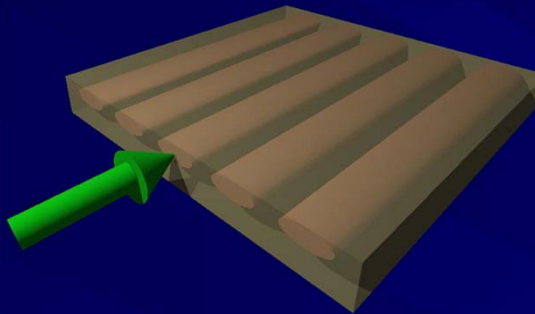
$w = 2.7\mu\text{m}$

Single-site  
excitation

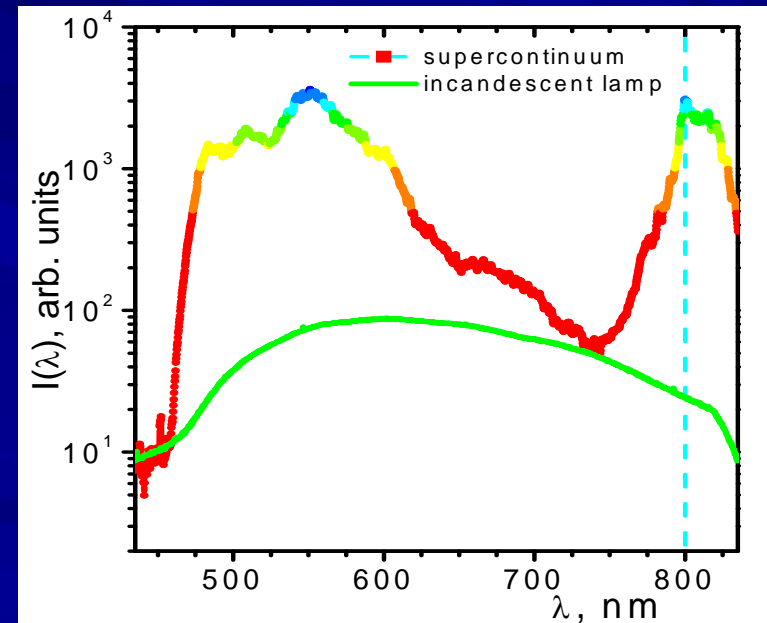
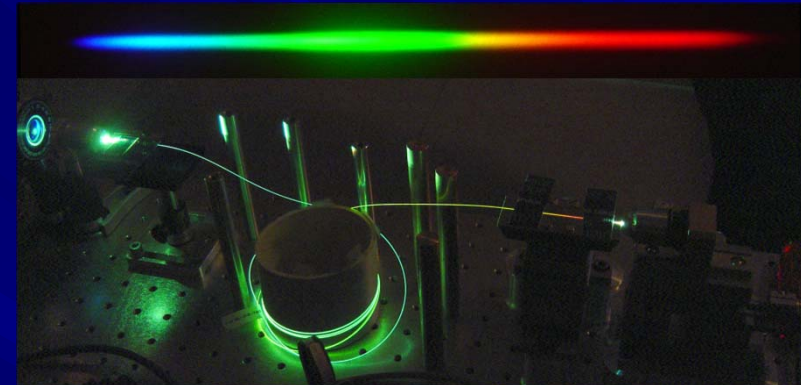
532nm



# Spectrally-resolved discrete diffraction

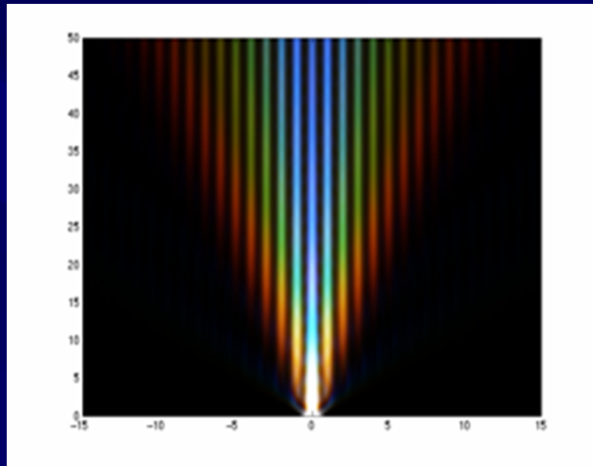


waveguide channel

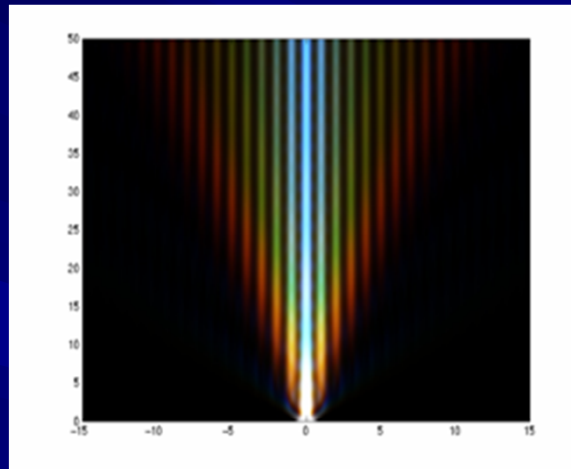


# Light selects its colors

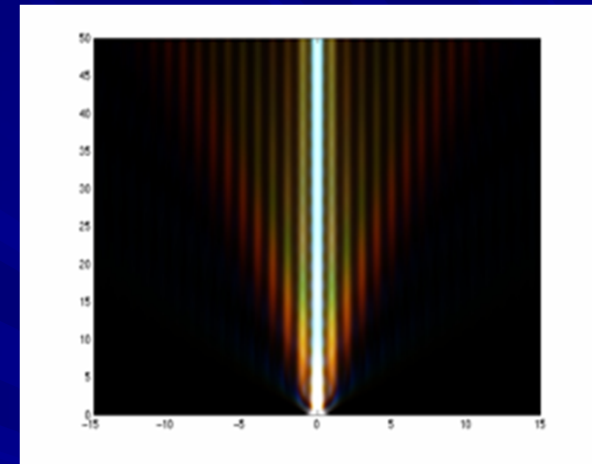
Micro-scale prism



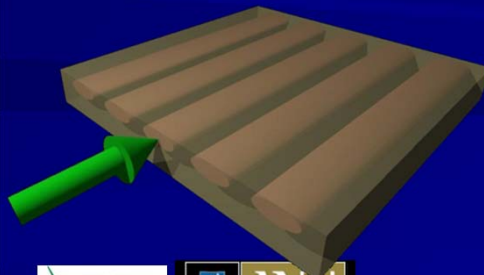
Filtering of red



White-light input and output

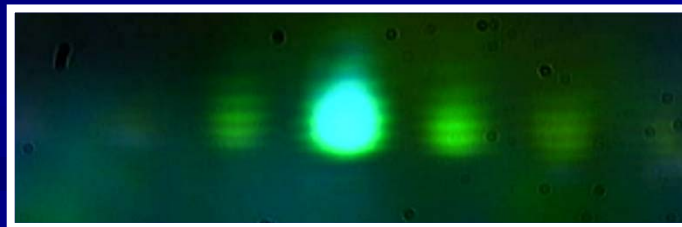
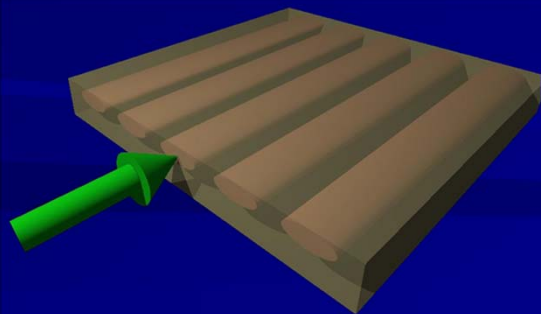
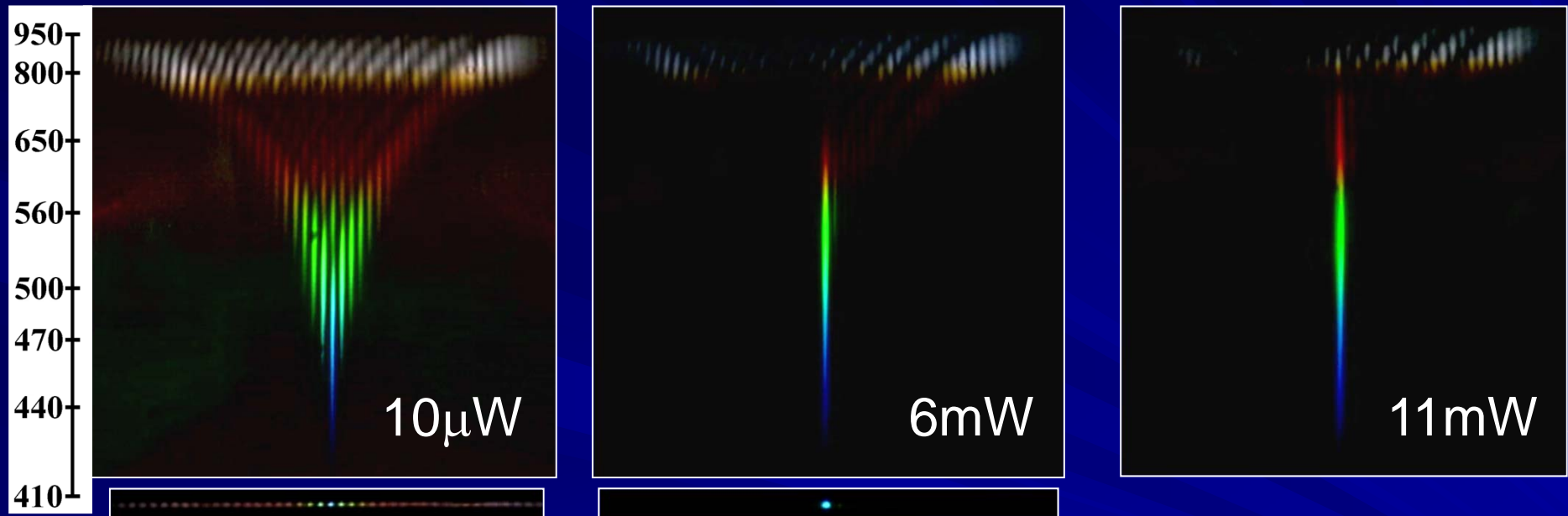


Power



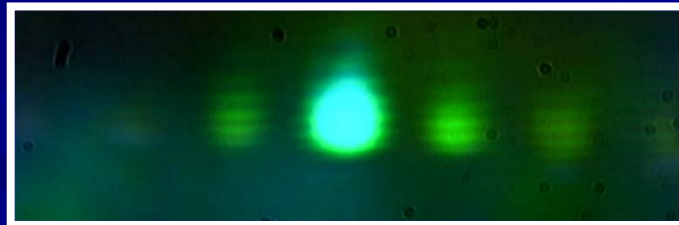
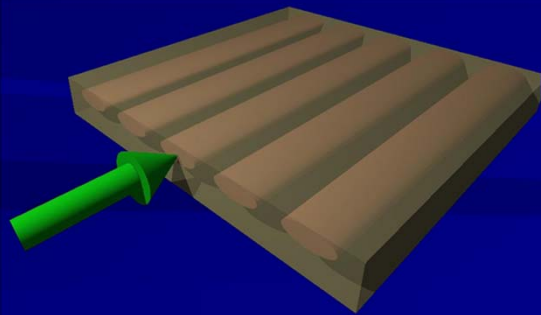
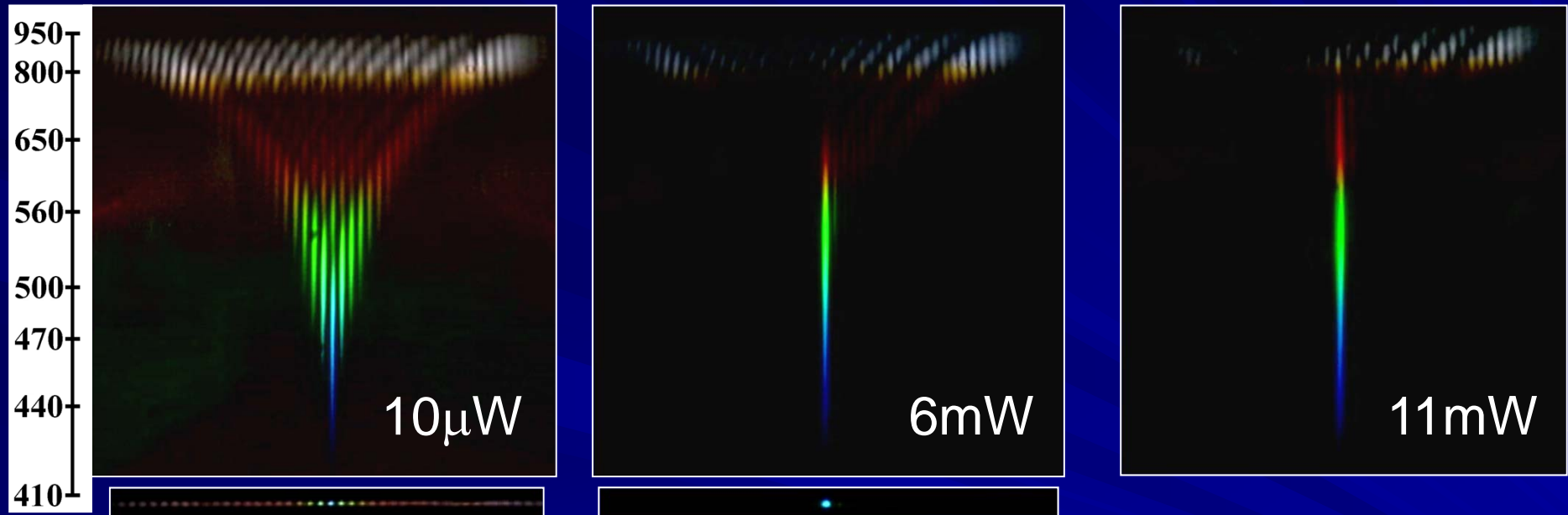
■ Optically-controlled separation and mixing of colors

# Trapped supercontinuum



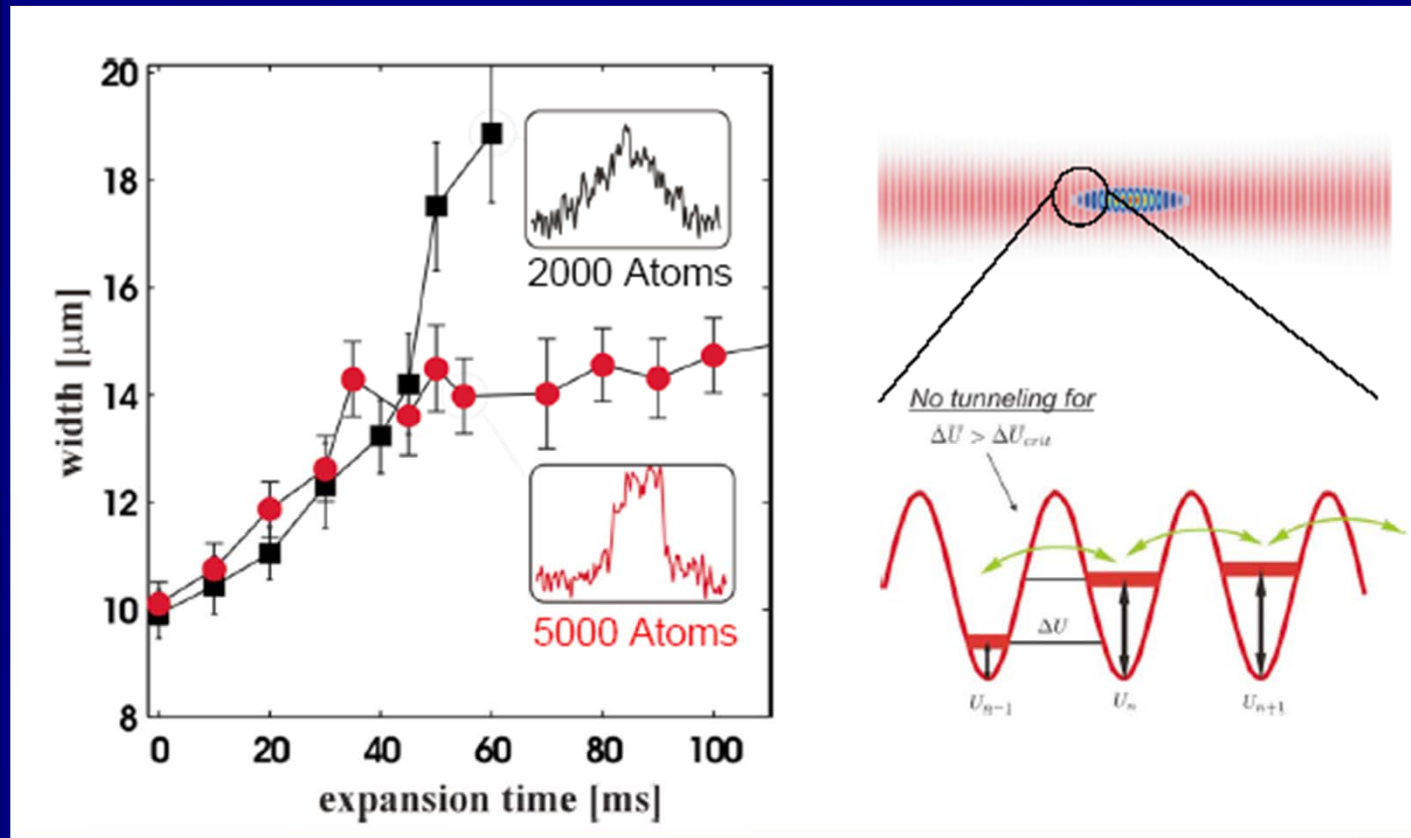


# Experiment: polychromatic gap soliton



# Nonlinear self-trapped states: multi-soliton complexes

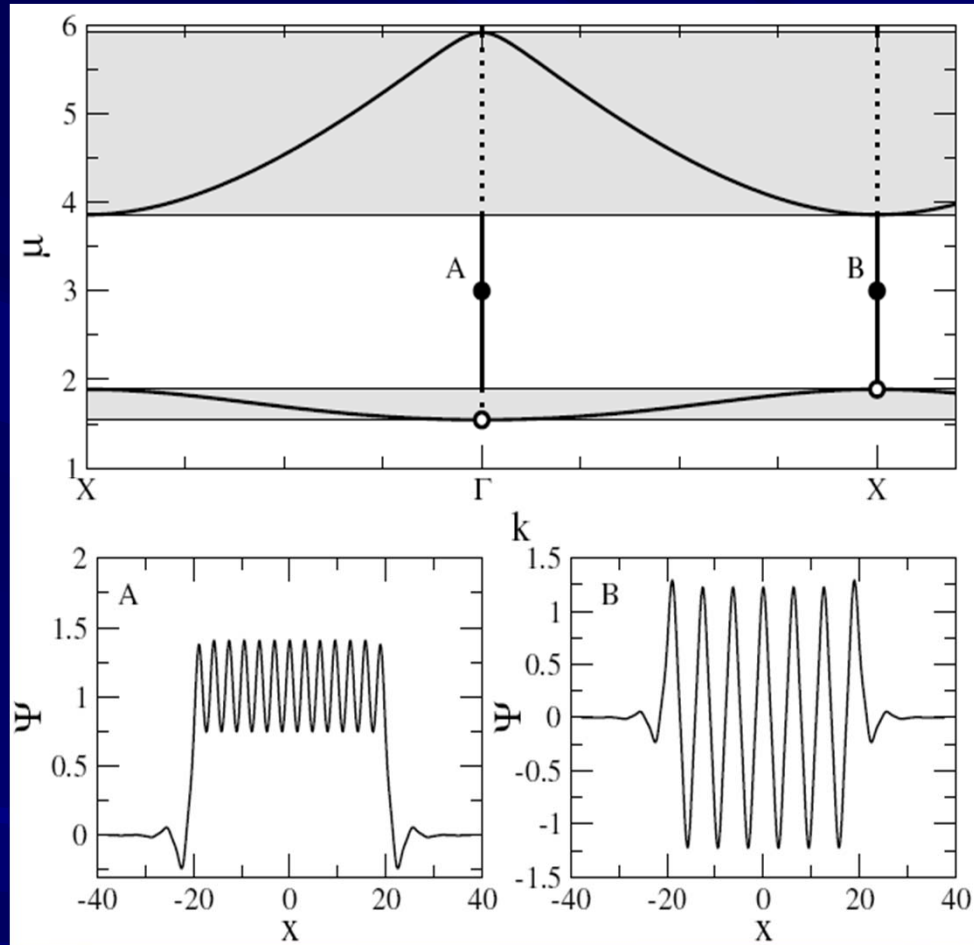
# Self-trapping in BEC



Th. Anker et al, PRL 94, 020403 (2005)

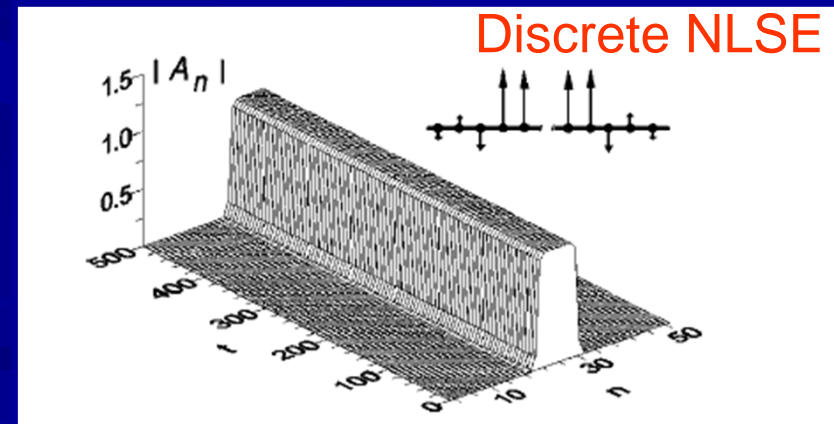
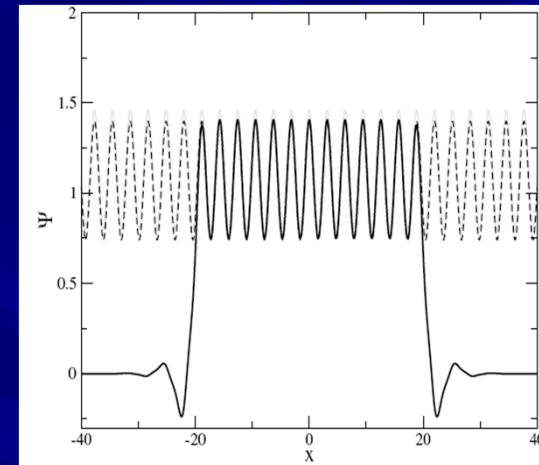
# Novel 'broad' gap states

T.J. Alexander *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **96**, 140401 (2006)



two types of modes

truncated nonlinear Bloch modes



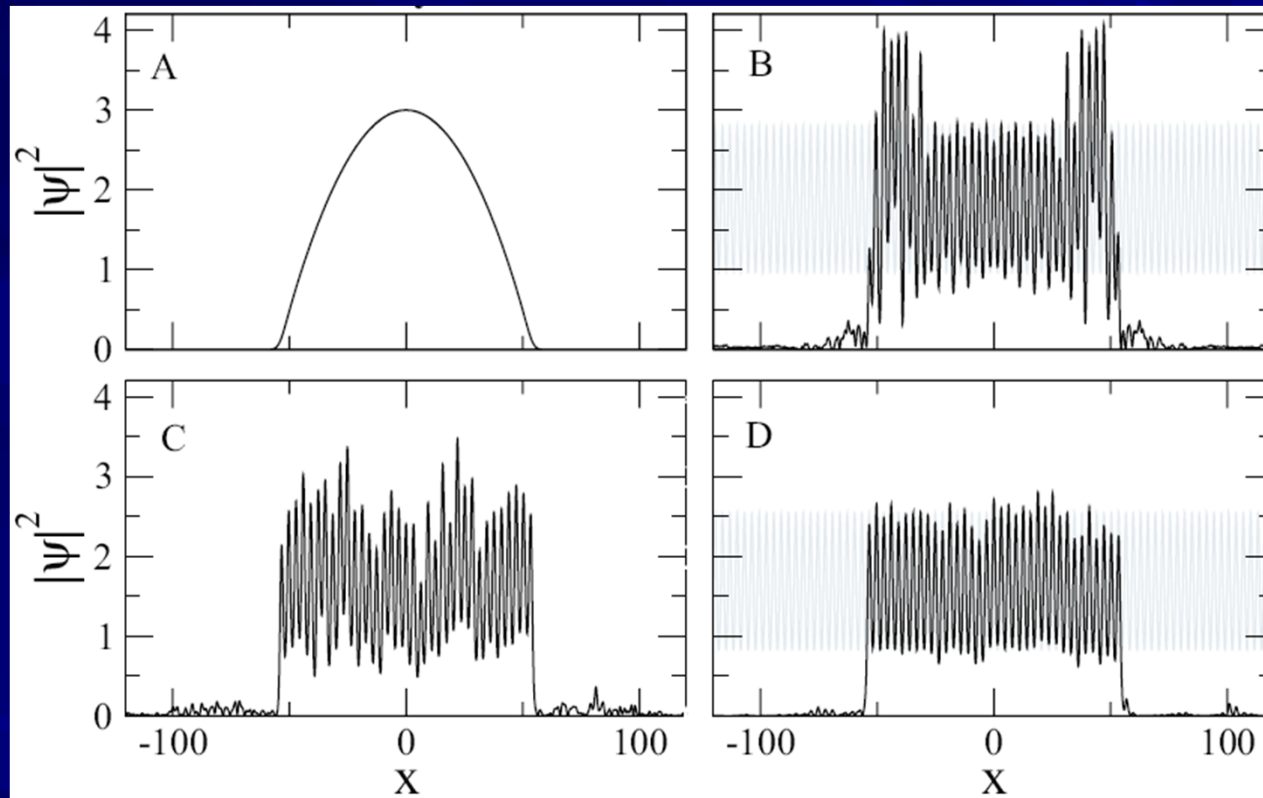
Darmanyan et al, 1999



# Nonadiabatic generation

- Nonadiabatic loading into a 1D optical lattice produces broad states

t=0



t=25 ms

$$V_0 = 4E_R; \quad N \sim 10^3$$

$$\mu < V_0$$

# Experimental observation in optics

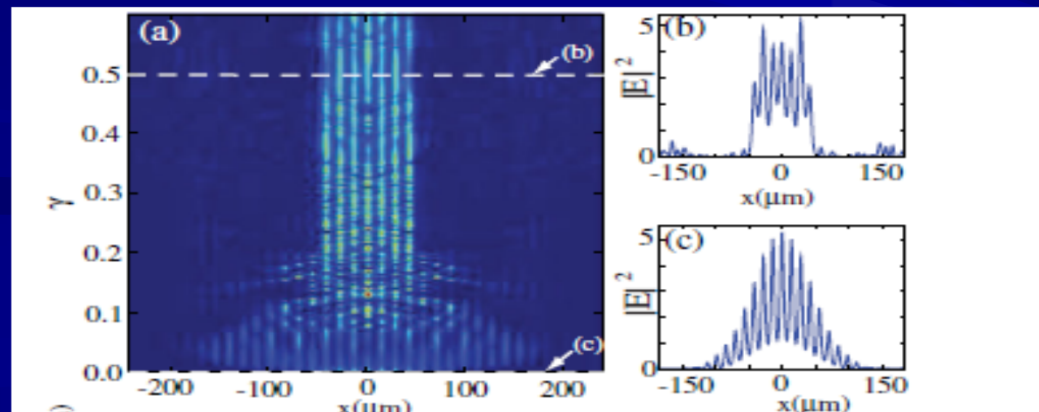
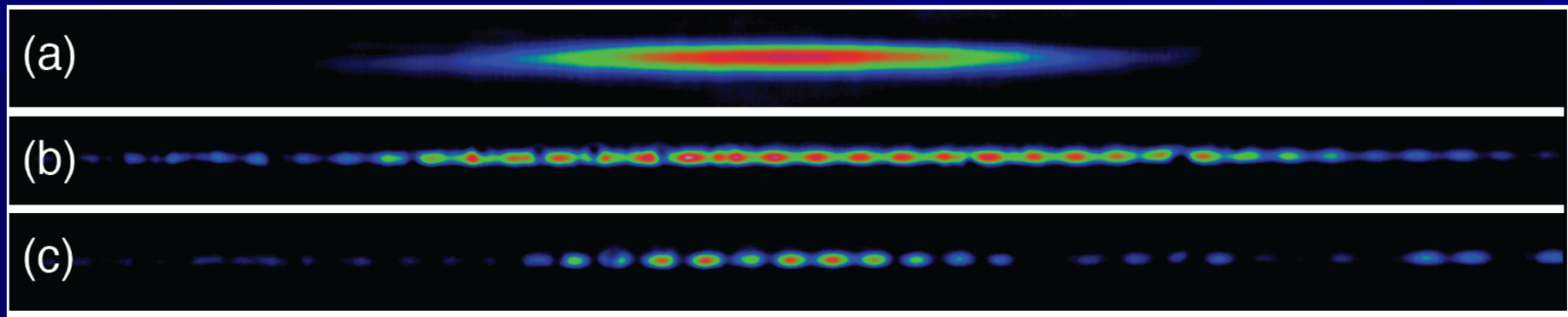
PRL 106, 093901 (2011)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
4 MARCH 2011

## Observation of Nonlinear Self-Trapping of Broad Beams in Defocusing Waveguide Arrays

Francis H. Bennet,<sup>1</sup> Tristram J. Alexander,<sup>1,2</sup> Franz Haslinger,<sup>1</sup> Aman Mitchell,<sup>3</sup>  
Dragomir N. Neshev,<sup>1</sup> and Yuri S. Kivshar<sup>1</sup>



# Conclusions

- The study of solitons and spatial localization remains a very active field of nonlinear physics
- Physics research is linked more to experiments and nonintegrability of nonlinear equations
- Novel soliton physics discovered recently: gap solitons, soliton ratchets, compactons, azimuthons, etc
- Optical systems allows to observe and study many different types of nonlinear waves and solitons