# **Multimode Nonlinear Fiber Optics**

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# Laser Sources – OPOs/OPAs











 $\theta_{2} (\theta_{1} = -45^{\circ})$ 

225°



0

a)

-45°

**0**°

45°

90°



#### **Optical Parametric Oscillator**



## A recent QKD experiment



## Replace with?



# Outline



- Background: Single-Mode Fiber Nonlinear Optics
  - Capabilities and Limitations

# Multimode Fiber NLO

- Governing principles for phase matching
- A time-line of results from the last 5 decades

# Segue: Optical Fiber Modes

- In-depth understanding of their linear properties
- Unique, counter-intuitive behaviour for high order fiber modes

# Unique Nonlinear Effects in Multimode Fibers

- Role of group velocity
- Large modal dimensionality
- Role of chirality

# > Applications

Brief survey of current and emerging fields that exploit multimode fiber NLO

# **Nonlinearities in Fibers**







but in a fiber, there is only one direction!



four-wave mixing (FWM)

$$\Delta \boldsymbol{\beta} = \boldsymbol{\beta}_s(\boldsymbol{\omega}_s) + \boldsymbol{\beta}_i(\boldsymbol{\omega}_i) - 2\boldsymbol{\beta}_p(\boldsymbol{\omega}_p) + 2\boldsymbol{\gamma}P$$
$$= \boldsymbol{\beta}_2 \cdot \Delta \boldsymbol{\omega}^2 + \dots + 2\boldsymbol{\gamma}P = \mathbf{0}$$

need dispersion,  $D = -\frac{2\pi c}{\lambda^2}\beta_2 > 0$ 

Boyd, Nonlinear Optics, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Agrawal, Nonlinear Fiber Optics, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.



•eg the core is a missing hole among an array of holes



- cladding = glass + holes, core = glass only
- <u>effective</u> cladding index is less than core index ⇒ total internal reflection possible

effective refractive index profile

**Courtesy Tim Birks** 



# **Dispersion in PCFs**





Wavelength - µm

J.C. Knight et al, PTL, v12, p807, 2000

# Low Power Nonlinear Optics with PCFs



 $E_{soliton} \propto D \cdot A_{eff}$ sub-nJ pulse energies with PCFs

900

J.K. Ranka et. al, Optics Lett., v25, p25, 2000



B.R. Washburn et. al, Electron Lett., v37, p1510, 2001

Y.Q. Xu et. al, Optics Lett., v33, p1351, 2008



# **Photonic Crystal Fibers**



#### Bandgap guidance:

- Engineer cladding modes & guidance
- "Designer material"
- Free to use low-index materials:
- Hollow guidance possible!



#### **Gas Nonlinear Optics**

Change Dispersion by gas pressure



Cregan et al, Science 285, 1537 (1999)

#### **Bandwidth limitations**



# Inhibited Coupling/Anti-Resonant/ARROW Guidance











Courtesy Fetah Benabid



Benabid et al. Science, 298, 399 (2002)

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# Modes in Waveguides



 $\widehat{H}\psi(r) = \left[\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 + V(r)\right]\psi(r) = E \cdot \psi(r)$ 

 n= 6, 63.3 eV
n= 5, 46.7 eV
<u>n= 4, 30.5 eV</u>
n= 3, 17.4 eV
n= 2, 7.76 eV n= 1, 1.95 eV
Finite well

**Optical Waveguide** 

$$\left[\nabla_t^2 + k^2 n(r)^2\right] \mathcal{E}(r) = k^2 n_{eff}^2 \cdot \mathcal{E}(r)$$



# Modes in multimode fibers





 $\frac{\text{Linearly Polarized (LP) modes}}{\vec{E}_t} \sim J_L(k_t \cdot r) \cdot \begin{cases} \cos(L\varphi) \\ \sin(L\varphi) \end{cases} \cdot \begin{cases} \hat{x} \\ \hat{y} \end{cases}$ 

Increasing *m* 

OAM modes

$$\overrightarrow{E_{t}} \sim J_{L}(k_{t} \cdot r) \cdot e^{\pm i \left( \int \varphi \cdot \left\{ \widehat{\sigma}^{+} \right\} \right)}$$

$$L: \text{ Orbital Angular Momentum (OAM)}$$



# **Dispersive properties of modes**





 $\Rightarrow$  behaves like a bulk medium

S. Ramachandran et al., LPR 2, 429 (2008)

 $\Rightarrow$  De-coupled area and dispersion  $\Rightarrow$  Anomalous dispersion at 1  $\mu m$ 

# Intermodal fiber NLO $\Leftrightarrow$ Free Space Xtal NLO





Interaction length  $\Leftrightarrow \bigcirc \text{verlap}: \int E_1 E_2 E_3^* E_4^* \cdot dA = \int F_1 F_2 F_3 F_4 \cdot exp(L_1 + L_2 - L_3 - L_4) \cdot dA$ 



# **Phase Matching in Nonlinear Optics**





# **Mode Shaping & Transformations**





- Long-period gratings (LPGs)
- Acousto-optic fiber gratings
- Fused couplers
- Phase plates & Axicons
- Algorithmic phase sculpting
- Log-polar transformations
- Multiplane Holography
- MMI couplers
- On-chip multiplexers
- Metasurfaces

A.M. Vengsarkar et. al, JLT 14, p. 58 (1996) K. Lai et. al, OL 32, p. 328 (2007) Y.O. Yilmaz et. al, OL 32, p. 3170 (2007) J-F. Morizur et al, JOSA A 27, 2524 (2010) Berkhout et al, PRL 105,153601 (2010) A. Sridharan et. al, OE 20, p. 28792 (2012) T. Su et al, OpEx 20, 9396 (2012) X. Cai et al, Science 338, 363, (2012) M. Mirhosseini, Nat. Comm. 4, 2781 (2013) Yu & Capasso, Nat. Mat. 13, 139 (2014) J. Demas et al., OE 23, 28531 (2015) S. Wang et al, OL 40, 4711 (2015) S. Pidishetty et al, OL 42, 4347 (2017) Y. Wen et al, Optica 7, 254 (2020) S. Lightman et al, Opt. Lett. 47, 3491-3494 (2022) A.D. White et al, ACS Photonics 10, 803 (2023)

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# Birth of fiber (not just multimode) NLO



# Appl. Phys. Lett. 24, 308 (1974)

# Phase-matched three-wave mixing in silica fiber optical waveguides

R. H. Stolen, J. E. Bjorkholm, and A. Ashkin

Bell Telephone Laboratories, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733 (Received 6 December 1973)





# **Intermodal Four-Wave Mixing in Telecom**

IEEE PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY LETTERS, VOL. 25, NO. 6, MARCH 15, 2013

# Experimental Investigation of Inter-Modal Four-Wave Mixing in Few-Mode Fibers

Rene-Jean Essiambre, *Fellow, IEEE*, Miquel A. Mestre, Roland Ryf, *Member, IEEE*, Alan H. Gnauck, *Fellow, IEEE*, Robert W. Tkach, *Fellow, IEEE*, Andrew R. Chraplyvy, *Fellow, IEEE*, Yi Sun, Xinli Jiang, and Robert Lingle, Jr.

![](_page_20_Figure_4.jpeg)

539

Vol. 24, No. 26 | 26 Dec 2016 | OPTICS EXPRESS 30338

#### Optics EXPRESS

**Research Article** 

# Inter-modal four-wave mixing study in a two-mode fiber

S. M. M. FRIIS,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> I. BEGLERIS,<sup>1</sup> Y. JUNG,<sup>1</sup> K. ROTTWITT,<sup>2</sup> P. PETROPOULOS,<sup>1</sup> D. J. RICHARDSON,<sup>1</sup> P. HORAK,<sup>1</sup> AND F. PARMIGIANI<sup>1,3</sup>

![](_page_20_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_10.jpeg)

# **Four-Wave Mixing over 2 Octaves**

![](_page_21_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

# New nanosecond continuum for excited-state spectroscopy

Chinlon Lin and R. H. Stolen

Bell Telephone Laboratories, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733 (Received 20 October 1975; in final form 1 December 1975)

![](_page_22_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### **Multimode Supercontinuum in PCF**

![](_page_22_Figure_8.jpeg)

# **Multimode Harmonics**

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### Simultaneous generation of second and third harmonics by red-shifted solitons in photonic crystal fibre

Jinhui Yuan, Xinzhu Sang, Chongxiu Yu, Xiangwei Shen, Kuiru Wang, Binbin Yan, Ying Han, Guiyao Zhou and Lantian Hou

ELECTRONICS LETTERS 30th August 2012 Vol. 48 No. 18

![](_page_23_Picture_7.jpeg)

M. A. Eftekhar et al, "Instant and efficient second-harmonic generation and downconversion in unprepared graded-index multimode fibers," Opt. Lett. 42, 3478-3481 (2017)

![](_page_23_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 5, No. 10 / October 1980

# Theoretical prediction 416 Self-confinement of multimode optical pulse in a glass fiber

#### Akira Hasegawa

Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

![](_page_24_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_8.jpeg)

L.G. Wright et al, Nat. Photon. 9, 310 (2015)

# **Nonlinear Beam Cleanup**

588 OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 12, No. 8 / August 1987

# Observation of self-focusing in optical fibers with picosecond pulses

P. L. Baldeck, F. Raccah, and R. R. Alfano

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### SBS: L. Lombard et al, OL, 31, 158, 2006

![](_page_25_Figure_6.jpeg)

SRS: H. Pourbeyram, et al, APL 102, 201107 (2013)

![](_page_25_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_8.jpeg)

#### Kerr: K. Krupa et al, Nat. Photon. 11, 237 (2017)

![](_page_25_Figure_10.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_11.jpeg)

# **Adaptive Nonlinearity Control**

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

# ARTICLES

NATURE PHOTONICS | VOL 12 | JUNE 2018 | 368-374

photonics

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41566-018-0167-7

# Adaptive wavefront shaping for controlling nonlinear multimode interactions in optical fibres

O. Tzang, A.M. Caravaca-Aguirre, K. Wagner, R. Piestun

![](_page_26_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_9.jpeg)

LP11b

LP01 LP01 + 11a + 11b LP11a

LP21 LP02 + LP11b LP02

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![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

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# **Optical Mirages & Mode coupling**

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

r

# Natural stability of LP<sub>0m</sub> modes (Bessel beams)

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

S. Ramachandran et al, OL, v31, p1797, 2006

# **Nonlinear Figure of Merit – Step Index Multimode Fibers**

![](_page_30_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $D \cdot A_{eff} \sim 10^3 - 10^4$  more than PCF

![](_page_30_Figure_4.jpeg)

# **OAM** modes in fibers

![](_page_31_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_3.jpeg)

Z. Ma, S. Ramachandran, Nanophotonics 10, 209 (2021)

![](_page_32_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Spin-Orbit Interaction**

![](_page_32_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_5.jpeg)

Uncoupled OAM modes  $\succ$  High enough |L|Ring-core reduced high-m modes

## **Mode-count bottleneck?**

12 for ~km fiber 

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

# With OAM present?

$$\frac{d^{2}F(r)}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dF(r)}{dr} + \left[k_{0}^{2}\left(n^{2}(r) - \frac{L^{2}}{k_{0}^{2}r^{2}}\right) - \beta^{2}\right]F(r) = 0$$

$$\swarrow \qquad \land A. \text{ Ghatak et al, Intro. to Fiber Optics (1998)}$$

$$n_{OAM}^{2}(r) = n^{2}(r) - \frac{L^{2}}{k_{0}^{2}r^{2}}$$

## **Centrifugal barrier effect**

OAM-induced confinement

# Total internal reflection not satisfied

•  $n_{eff} < n_{cl}$ 

# **Centrifugal Barriers in other fields of physics**

![](_page_34_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Binary Stars**

![](_page_34_Picture_3.jpeg)

$$U_{eff} = \frac{\ell^2}{2\mu r^2} - \frac{GMm}{r}$$

![](_page_34_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_6.jpeg)

**Feshbach Molecules (short range potentials)** 

S. Knoop et al, PRL 100, 083002 (2008) P. Bucksbaum et al, PRL 56, 2590 (1986)

#### Also in Nuclear Physics (short range potentials)

J. M. Blatt et al, Theoretical Nuclear Physics (1952)

physicscourses.colorado.edu

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)
## **Radial Dependence of Topological Confinement**

1



increases with radial order m

Loss decreases with azimuthal order L



## **Frustrated coupling of TCMs**





Z. Ma et al, CLEO, SM1F.4 (2021)

D. B. Stegall et al, Photon. Tech. Lett. 11, 343 (1999)

## **Crosstalk: TIR modes vs. TCMs**







#### Same xtalk with 6-mm-radius bend!

topological charge L

Z. Ma et al, CLEO, SM4L.1 (2023)

## OAM conservation – Bend Insensitivity & Naturally PM





- OAM conserved
- Modes more stable for higher *L*



N. Bozinovic et al, Opt. Lett. v37p2451 (2012) C. N. Alexeyev, J. Optics, 14 085702 (2012)













P. Gregg et al, *Optica* v2, p267, 2015

## **Engineered Optical Activity**







## **Controlled Superposition Possible** $\vec{E}(r,\varphi) = F(r) \cdot \exp(i\mathcal{L}\varphi) \cdot [\hat{\sigma}^{+} + \hat{\sigma}^{-}]exp(i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\Delta n_{eff},z)]$

A.P. Greenberg et al. Nature Comm., 11, 5257 (2020)



#### **Chiral Molecules**



Amino acids Source: NASA

#### Nanostructured Metasurfaces



#### **Twisted Fibers**



V. Kopp *et al*, Science 305, 5680 (2004) M. Kuwata-Gonokami *et al*, PRL 95, 227401 (2005) P.St.J Russell *et al*, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A 375, 20150440 (2017)

## **Linear Properties of Multimode Fibers**



~20 dB PER after ~km even in a strictly circular fiber



L = 40 SOaa

**Behaves like a Chiral Medium** 





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#### PRL 116, 183901 (2016) PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

K. Krupa, A. Tonello, A. Barthélémy, V. Couderc, B.M. Shalaby, A. Bendahmane, G. Millot and S. Wabnitz

Observation of Geometric Parametric Instability Induced by the Periodic Spatial Self-Imaging of Multimode Waves

Frequency Detuning [THz]

# A systematic analysis of parametric instabilities in nonlinear parabolic multimode fibers 🐵 🕫





## Straight line in $n_{eff}$ + energy matching $\rightarrow$ phase matching



## Pump with $LP_{0,4} + LP_{0,5}$

> Phase matching line falls between  $n_{eff}$  curves at  $\lambda_{pump}$ 



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J. Demas et al, Photon. Res. 7, 1-7 (2019)

## Role of Phase in Raman Scattering



## **Raman Scattering**



#### **Phase-insensitive process**

- Agnostic to wave-vectors/phases of the light
- Nonlinear response  $g_R(\Omega)$  is material dependent



## **CW or Long Pulses: Cascaded Raman**



H. Pourbeyram, G. P. Agrawal, A. Mafi, Appl. Phys. Lett. 102, 201107 (2013)





R. H. Stolen et al., JOSA B 1, 652 (1984) S. Ramachandran et al., Opt. Exp. 18, 23212 (2010)

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# **Ultrafast Pulses: Soliton Self-Frequency Shift (SSFS)**







Wavelength

F. M. Mitschke & L. F. Mollenauer, Opt. Lett. 11, 10 (1986)

## Influence of modal dispersion on Raman









- n<sub>a</sub> matching possible in multimode systems
- Raman gain peak is @ 13 THz

**Ultrafast intermodal interaction** 

- Behave like in quasi-CW regime
- > 100% Photon Conversion!

## Soliton Self-Mode Conversion – a new Raman pathway in multimode





## Spontaneous SSMC over Seeded SSFS





## **SSMC:** Spontaneous





J.W. Nicholson and M. F. Yan, Opt. Exp. 12, 679 (2004)

H. B. Kabagöz, et al., Opt. Express 29, 18315 (2021)

## Fiber Design ⇒ Process Control





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## **OAM-FWM** Unique Properties – Comparison with LP Modes









Assumption: mode profiles not  $\omega$ -dependent



## **OAM Supercontinuum**





G. Prabhakar et al., Opt. Express 27, 11547 (2019)

## Role of group velocity in continuum generation





#### Why is fiber different?

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OAM not

conserved in bulk

supercontinuum



## **Selective OAM generation**





#### OAM conserved in all cases

- Diversity of photon pairs
- Selective yet efficient

## **Parametric Amplification**





X. Liu et al, APL Photonics 5, 010802 (2020)

# **Cascaded Four-wave Mixing... all fiber high-power visible sources**





P. Bhumkar et al, SW3G.1, CLEO (2023)

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## **Raman dependence on OAM?**





- Un-depleted pump
- Strong FWM strength
- Raman in all modes
- 20 dB Raman suppression!

X. Liu et al, Opt. Express 30, 26967 (2022)

## Raman Spectra for Different Pump Modes





X. Liu et al, Opt. Express 30, 26967 (2022)



## **Phase-matching Behavior – Raman Scattering**





## **OA-mediated Raman Characteristics**





- 20 dB Raman suppression
  - Fiber laser increase SRS threshold
  - Reducing noise in entanglement source

X. Liu, et al., Opt. Exp. 30, 26967 (2022).

- Wide Raman wavelength tuning
  - Phase plays a role in Raman scattering
    - Can dispersion engineer Raman gain shape

## **Stimulated Brillouin Scattering – dependence on OAM**





A. Y. Okulov, *J. Phys. B* 41,101001 (2008) G. Prabhakar *et al.*, *CLEO* FTh1M.4 (2018) Illustration Source: Wikimedia commons

## **OAM SBS Polarization Dependence**



- Circularly polarized pump highly multimoded SBS
- Linearly polarized pump *complete* spatial phase conjugation





A.P. Greenberg et al, Opt. Express 30, 29708 (2022)



#### **Rotational Phase Matching Condition:**

$$\frac{\partial A_{stokes}}{\partial z} \propto \exp(i \left[ \Delta \beta (\mathcal{L}_{pump}) - \Delta \beta (\mathcal{L}_{SBS}) \right] z \right)$$

Spin-Orbit Interaction  $\Rightarrow \Delta \beta = \beta_{\sigma^+}(\mathcal{L}) - \beta_{\sigma^-}(\mathcal{L})$ 

#### **Polarization Overlap**

- $\mathcal{L}_{SBS} = \mathcal{L}_{pump} \rightarrow$  retraces rotation high nonlinear gain
- $\mathcal{L}_{SBS} \neq \mathcal{L}_{pump} \rightarrow rotational walk-off$ low nonlinear gain

Control over SBS gain via polarization and *L* 







# **Angular Momentum Modulated SBS Power Thresholds**



 Circular vs. linear polarization nonlinear gain

 Different gain dynamics changes SBS thresholds

• SBS Threshold:

 $P_{th} \approx 0.01 * P_{pump}$ 

Up to 30% Threshold Enhancement

> ~38% Efficiency *Reduction*



A.P. Greenberg et al, STh5K.3, CLEO-2022
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#### **Power-scalable Raman fiber lasers**





#### Broadband and Wideband FWM Gain





#### All-fiber "Ti:Sapphire" Laser





J. Demas et al, Photon. Res. 7, 1-7 (2019)

# **Output of Soliton Self-Mode Conversion (SSMC)**







# **SSMC-based microscopy**





# High-Harmonic Nerve Imaging





#### **3-Photon Microscopy**



### **Dimensionality of Entanglement**





M. Erhard, M. Krenn, A. Zeilinger, "Advances in high-dimensional quantum entanglement," Nat Rev Phys 2, 365–381 (2020)



# NATURE | VOL 412 | 19 JULY 2001 |313Entanglement of the orbital angularmomentum states of photons

Alois Mair\*, Alipasha Vaziri, Gregor Weihs & Anton Zeilinger



A. C. Dada et al., Nature Physics 7 677-68

# **Controlling Joint Spectral Densities**



$$\phi(\omega_{as}, \omega_{s}) = sinc(\Delta k\mathbf{z}/2) \exp(i\Delta k\mathbf{z}/2)$$

#### **Propagation distance: Z**



B. Fang et al., *Optica* 1, 281 (2014).M. Cordier et al., *Opt. Express* 27, 9803 (2019).

## **Quantum Sources with Multimode Fibers**



# $\phi(\omega_{as}, \omega_s) = sinc(\Delta k z/2) \exp(i\Delta k z/2)$





D. Cruz-Delgado et al., Sci. Rep. 6, 1-9 (2016).

#### **The Raman Noise Problem**









# Engineering goal





A. I. Lvovsky et al., Nat. Photonics 3, 706 (2009).

J. Chesnoy ed., "Undersea fiber communication systems", Academic press (2015).

# Pump modal sculpting to control bi-photon spectral sidebands

**Degenerate pump:** 

 $L_{as}=23$ 

1000

 $\mathcal{L}_q$ =19

1000

C<sub>p</sub>=20

1200

=18

1200

wavelength (nm)

1.48

1.47

1.46

1.45

1.44

1.48

1.47

1.46

1.45

1.44

800

 $n_{eff}$ 

800

**Non-degenerate pump:** 

 $n_{eff}$ 



 $\lambda_{as}$  (nm)

#### B. Fang et al., Opt. Express 21, 2707-2717 (2013)

# **Bi-photon spectral engineering with low noise**



100



#### Machine Learning via multimode nonlinear Optics





# **Nonlinear Optics with Spatial Modes of Fibers**

















# Rich physics in individual modes

- Angular momentum conservation laws
- Chirality & influence of light's 3D path
- New nonlinear selection rules
- Guidance even in "forbidden" regime!



#### **Applications**

#### Power scalable $\lambda$ conversion

(at any fiber–transparent  $\lambda$ : no dispersion constraint)

- CW/long pulse and ultrafast
- Fiber alternative to OPOs
- Endoscopic/Remote-deliverable Sources

#### **Quantum Source Engineering**

(many modes... many phase matching possibilities)

- Integrated high-dimensional sources
- User-defined joint spectral densities
- Compatible with quantum networking fiber

#### **Emerging applications**

(exploit the existence of many modes)

- All-optical machine-learning
- Emulate complex/chaotic physical phenomena
- ≻ ...???...