# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

Received: 19 February 2015 Accepted: 08 May 2015 Published: 15 June 2015

## **OPEN** Analytic descriptions of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium

Hao Xiong, Liu-Gang Si, Xiaoxue Yang & Ying Wu

A simple but highly efficient approach for dealing with the problem of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a nonlinear medium is proposed based on an exact solution proposed recently. We derive an analytical explicit formula, which exhibiting rich interesting nonlinear effects, to describe the propagation of any amount of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium. The results obtained by using the present method are accurately concordant with the results of using traditional coupled-wave equations. As an example of application, we discuss how a third wave affects the sum- and difference-frequency generation of two waves propagation in the nonlinear medium.

Superposition principle is the fundamental feature of linear optics. Using the superposition principle, complex light fields can be decomposed into simple light fields, and a lot of effective research methods, such as spectrum analysis method and Green's function method, come up. However, linear media give only an approximation of the real media. The real media are usually nonlinear. This makes wave propagation in nonlinear media to be a fundamental problem and central issue in physics, and a lot of interesting phenomena occur when the dielectric susceptibility of a medium is not a linear function of the electric field amplitude<sup>1</sup>. One of the typical phenomena, second-harmonic generation, was first observed in quart $z^2$ , and a phenomenological approach to describe nonlinear optics phenomena by using coupled-wave equations was developed in the 1960s<sup>3,4</sup>. In the following 50 years, nonlinear optics become one of the most active research areas and a number of important features of nonlinear optics have been found, including nonlinear optics with few-cycle<sup>5</sup> or Single-cycle<sup>6</sup> laser fields, nonlinear optics at low light levels7, surface nonlinear optics8, nonlinear optics in photonic nanowires9, cylindrical nonlinear optics<sup>10</sup>, nonlinear optics with semiconductor microcavities<sup>11</sup>, nonlinear optics in the extreme ultraviolet<sup>12</sup>, optomechanical nonlinear optics<sup>13</sup>, solitons<sup>14</sup>, and nonlinear optics in nanostructures<sup>15</sup>. In a general way, analytical methods based on the superposition principle are difficult to build in nonlinear optics. Numerical methods become an important tool for dealing with problems of electromagnetic waves propagation in a nonlinear medium<sup>5</sup>.

Electromagnetic waves with cylindrical symmetry are always studied in linear media, such as electromagnetic scattering<sup>16,17</sup> and optical cloaking<sup>18</sup>. The features of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium, however, remain poorly studied<sup>19</sup>. In this work, we present a simple but highly efficient approach to deal with interactions between any amount of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium. Obtained explicit analytical expressions reproduce accurately the results of using the coupled-wave equations. Our work is an interesting extension of the recent publication<sup>19</sup>, which put forward an important technique to construct exact axisymmetric solutions of Maxwells equations in a nonlinear nondispersive medium. As a new exact solution, it is useful and interesting to find and examine the physical nature contains in it. We show that this solution can be used to deal with the problems of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a nonlinear medium, and nonlinear optical effects, such as wave mixing, come out quite naturally from the exact solution. As an example of application, we

Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics and School of Physics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430074, China. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to H.X. (email: haoxiong@hust.edu.cn)

show that sum- and difference-frequency generation of two waves propagation in a nonlinear medium is affected by a third wave.

#### Results

**Axisymmetric cylindrical electromagnetic model.** We shall introduce the physical model discussed in this work. Considering the medium possesses an axis of symmetry which is taken as the z axis of a cylindrical coordinate system  $(r, \phi, z)$ , we use the axisymmetric model in which the fields are independent of  $\phi$  and z, then the Maxwell equations can be written as follows<sup>19</sup>:

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial r} + \frac{H}{r} = \varepsilon(E) \frac{\partial E}{\partial t}, \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial r} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial H}{\partial t}, \quad (1)$$

where  $H \equiv H_{\phi}(r, t)$ ,  $E \equiv E_z(r, t)$ ,  $\varepsilon(E) = dD/dE = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_1 \exp(\alpha E)$ , with  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $\alpha$  are certain constants. Such model describes cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a nonlinear medium, and some works<sup>19-23</sup> have been done in this topic. Exact solution of such system has been obtained by using an interesting technique<sup>19</sup>:

$$E = \mathcal{E}\left(\rho e^{\alpha E/2}, \tau + \frac{Z_0 \alpha \rho H}{2\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}\right),$$
  

$$H = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} e^{\alpha E/2}}{Z_0} \mathcal{H}\left(\rho e^{\alpha E/2}, \tau + \frac{Z_0 \alpha \rho H}{2\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}\right),$$
(2)

where  $\rho = r/a$ ,  $\tau = t/(\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \varepsilon_1 \mu_0} a)$ ,  $Z_0 = \sqrt{\mu_0/\epsilon_0}$  and a is a constant with the dimension of length.  $\varepsilon(\rho, \tau)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(\rho, \tau)$  represent the solution of linear problem, for more clearly Eqs. (1) with  $\alpha = 0$ , in variables  $(\rho, \tau)$ .

**Exact solutions and explicit analytical expressions.** Now we will use this exact solution to deal with problems of interactions between cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium. The solution of single cylindrical wave propagation in an infinite and linear medium is:  $\mathcal{E}(r, t) = \zeta J_0(kr) \cos(\omega t)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(r, t) = -\zeta J_1(kr) \sin(\omega t)$ . Here  $J_m$  is a Bessel function of the first kind of order m,  $\zeta$  is an amplitude constant, and  $k = \omega \sqrt{\epsilon_0 \varepsilon_1 \mu_0}$  is the wave number. For linear medium, the superposition principle is always applicable. Now we will use the superposition principle to obtain the exact solutions of the non-linear case accordingly. Starting from the superposition principle, the exact solution of the linear problem can be easily extended to describe cylindrical waves in the medium:

$$\mathcal{E}(r, t) = \sum_{i} \zeta_{i} J_{0}(k_{i}r) \cos(\omega_{i}t),$$
  
$$\mathcal{H}(r, t) = -\sum_{i} \zeta_{i} J_{1}(k_{i}r) \sin(\omega_{i}t).$$
(3)

Rewriting it in variables  $(\rho, \tau)$ , the solution becomes:  $\mathcal{E}(\rho, \tau) = \sum_i \zeta_i J_0(k_i \rho a) \cos\left(\omega_i \tau \sqrt{\epsilon_0 \varepsilon_1 \mu_0} a\right)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(\rho, \tau) = -\sum_i \zeta_i J_1(k_i \rho a) \sin\left(\omega_i \tau \sqrt{\epsilon_0 \varepsilon_1 \mu_0} a\right)$ . By using Eqs. (2) we can obtain the solution of the non-linear problem:

$$E = \sum_{i} \zeta_{i} J_{0}(k_{i} r e^{\alpha E/2}) \cos(\omega_{i} t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i} r H/2),$$
  

$$H = -\sum_{i} \zeta_{i} \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_{1}} e^{\alpha E/2}}{Z_{0}} J_{1}(k_{i} r e^{\alpha E/2}) \sin(\omega_{i} t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i} r H/2).$$
(4)

This solution is in implicit form, describes cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium, and shows that the electric field and magnetic field of all the cylindrical electromagnetic waves in the nonlinear medium are not separate, but coupling with each other by nonlinear coefficient  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ , obviously Eqs. (4) will go to the linear case (3) and the coupling between the electric field and magnetic field of all the cylindrical electromagnetic waves will be disappeared.

Interactions between cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium have been shown in Eqs. (4), however, it is difficult to use this exact solution to analyse nonlinear interactions and phenomena. In what follows, we will propose a method to obtain an analytical explicit formula from the exact solution (4), and from the analytical explicit formula we can know some more details of such physical process.

We consider that there are q fundamental electromagnetic waves in the nonlinear medium and  $|\alpha E/2| << 1$  where q is an arbitrary number. After some deductions (see Section Methods), we obtain:

$$E \approx \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},...,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} A\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, ..., \lambda_{q}\right) \cos\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j} \omega_{j} t\right),$$
$$H \approx -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_{1}}}{Z_{0}} \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},...,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} B\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, ..., \lambda_{q}\right) \sin\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j} \omega_{j} t\right),$$
(5)

where

$$\begin{split} A\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, ..., \lambda_{q}\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{q} \Biggl\{ \zeta_{i} J_{0}(k_{i}r) \Biggl( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}}(x_{ij}) \Biggr) - \zeta_{i} \\ &\frac{\alpha k_{i}r J_{1}(k_{i}r)}{2} \sum_{m=1}^{q} \frac{\zeta_{m} J_{0}(k_{m}r)}{2} \Biggl( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}-\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) + \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}+\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) \Biggr) \Biggr\}, \end{split}$$

$$B\left(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \dots, \lambda_{q}\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{q} \left\{ \zeta_{i} J_{1}(k_{i}r) \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}}(x_{ij}) \right) + \zeta_{i} \left( \alpha J_{1}(k_{i}r) - \frac{\alpha k_{i}r J_{2}(k_{i}r)}{2} \right) \right\}$$

$$\sum_{m=1}^{q} \frac{\zeta_{m} J_{0}(k_{m}r)}{2} \times \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}-\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) + \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}+\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) \right) \right\}$$

$$(6)$$

 $x_{ij} = -\alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r \sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \zeta_j J_1(k_j r) / (2Z_0) = -\alpha r k_i \zeta_j J_1(k_j r) / 2$  and  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker Delta. Physical significance of Eqs. (5) is that if q electromagnetic waves with different frequencies propagate in a nonlinear medium, then there are frequency mixing generation and the amplitude of electric field with frequency  $\sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j} \omega_{j} \text{ is } A(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \dots, \lambda_{q}).$ For the case  $\alpha = 0$ , then  $x_{ij} = 0$ , and Eqs. (5) become

$$E \approx \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_q = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{q} \left\{ \zeta_i J_0(k_i r) \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_j - \delta_{ij}}(0) \right) \right\} \cos\left( \sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_j \omega_j t \right), \tag{7}$$

$$H \approx -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_q = -\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{q} \left\{ \zeta_i J_1(k_i r) \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_j - \delta_{ij}}(0) \right) \right\} \sin\left( \sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_j \omega_j t \right).$$
(8)

Using the feature of Bessel functions

$$J_n(0) = \begin{cases} 1 \ n = 0\\ 0 \ \text{else} \end{cases},\tag{9}$$

we can see that  $\prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_j - \delta_{ij}}(0) \neq 0$  requires that  $\lambda_j - \delta_{ij} = 0$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, q$ . Then Eqs. (7) and (8) become

$$E \approx \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_{i} J_{0}(k_{i}r) \cos\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q} \delta_{ij} \omega_{j}t\right), \tag{10}$$

$$H \approx -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{i=1}^q \zeta_i J_1(k_i r) \sin\left(\sum_{j=1}^q \delta_{ij} \omega_j t\right).$$
(11)

Equations (10) and (11) are exactly the linear solution (19) and (20), which verifies that Eqs. (5) go into the linear case (19) and (20) when  $\alpha = 0$ .

By using Eqs. (5), one can obtain the amplitude of the electric and magnetic field of various nonlinear effects, such as second harmonic, sum frequency and difference frequency generation. In what follows, we will give some examples.

#### Discussion

**Comparison of the calculations with traditional coupled-wave equations.** Reference<sup>21</sup> have used this method to study second-harmonic generation and shown that second-harmonic generation comes out quite naturally from the exact solutions (2). There are higher harmonics due to existence of sum frequency and difference frequency of base frequency and second-harmonic. Here we will give a detailed discussion by using Eqs. (5). In the case of q = 1, Eqs. (5) become:

$$E = \zeta J_0(kr) \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ J_{n-1}(x) + \frac{x J_{n-2}(x)}{2} + \frac{x J_n(x)}{2} \right] \cos(n\omega t),$$
  

$$H = -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ \zeta J_1(kr) J_{n-1}(x) + \frac{\alpha \zeta^2 J_0(kr)}{2} \times \left( J_1(kr) - \frac{kr J_2(kr)}{2} \right) (J_{n-2}(x) + J_n(x)) \right]$$
  

$$\sin(n\omega t).$$
(12)

where  $x = -\alpha r k \zeta J_1(kr)/2$ . It can be found that there are second and higher harmonics exist in the medium. To describe the amplitude of cylindrical second-harmonic generation, the component of negative frequency in Eqs. (12) should also be considered.

From a different point of view, such second-harmonic generation also can be described by the cylindrical coupled-wave equations<sup>21,22</sup>:

$$\frac{d^2 E_{\omega}}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{dE_{\omega}}{dr} + k^2 E_{\omega} = -2\epsilon_0 \mu_0 \omega^2 d_{\text{eff}} E_{2\omega} E_{\omega}^*,$$

$$\frac{d^2 E_{2\omega}}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{dE_{2\omega}}{dr} + 4k^2 E_{2\omega} = -4\epsilon_0 \mu_0 \omega^2 d_{\text{eff}} E_{\omega}^2,$$
(13)

where  $E_{\omega}$  and  $E_{2\omega}$  present the electric field amplitude of the wave with frequency  $\omega$  and  $2\omega$ , respectively.  $d_{\text{eff}}$  is effective second order nonlinear optical coefficient of the nonlinear medium, and the relationship between  $\alpha$  and  $d_{\text{eff}}$  is  $\alpha = 2d_{\text{eff}}$  which have been obtained previously<sup>21</sup>. The initial condition of equations (13) is

$$E_{\omega} \bigg|_{r=0} = 1, \frac{dE_{\omega}}{dr} \bigg|_{r=0} = 0, E_{2\omega} \bigg|_{r=0} = 0, \frac{dE_{2\omega}}{dr} \bigg|_{r=0} = 0.$$
(14)

It means that at r=0, there is only cylindrical electromagnetic wave with fundamental frequency  $\omega$  and unit amplitude, and equations (13) describe the amplitude of cylindrical second-harmonic generation at arbitrary *r*, which can be solved by Runge-Kutta method.

Figure 1(a) shows a comparison of using the coupled-wave equations and the analytical explicit formula (5) or (12) to calculate efficiencies of second-harmonic generation which is defined as  $\eta = E_{2\omega}/E_{\omega}$ , and we can find that the results obtained by the two methods are concordant with each other.

Further more, if we consider that there are two fundamental electromagnetic waves with frequencies  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  propagating in the nonlinear medium, then q=2 and Eqs. (5) can be expressed as:

$$E = \sum_{n,m=-\infty}^{\infty} A(n, m) \cos(n\omega_1 + m\omega_2) t,$$
  

$$H = -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{n,m=-\infty}^{\infty} B(n, m) \sin(n\omega_1 + m\omega_2) t.$$
(15)

Equations (15) contains second and higher harmonic generation, sum- and difference-frequency, and even frequency mixing. We use  $E_{\omega_1}$ ,  $E_{\omega_2}$ ,  $E_{\omega_1+\omega_2}$ , and  $E_{\omega_1-\omega_2}$  to present the electric field amplitude of the wave with frequency  $\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_2$ ,  $\omega_1 + \omega_2$  and  $\omega_1 - \omega_2$ , respectively.  $E_{\omega_1}$ ,  $E_{\omega_2}$ ,  $E_{\omega_1+\omega_2}$ , and  $E_{\omega_1-\omega_2}$  can be easily obtained from Eqs. (15):  $E_{\omega_1} = A(1,0) + A(-1,0)$ ,  $E_{\omega_2} = A(0,1) + A(0,-1)$ ,  $E_{\omega_1+\omega_2} = A(1,1) + A(-1,-1)$ , and  $E_{\omega_1-\omega_2} = A(1,-1) + A(-1,1)$ , where A(n,m) have been given in equations (6).

Sum- and difference-frequency generation can also be described by the coupled-wave equations<sup>22</sup>. The coupled-wave equations which describe the sum-frequency generation are

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{\omega_{1}}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dE_{\omega_{1}}}{dr} + k_{1}^{2}E_{\omega_{1}} = -2\frac{\omega_{1}^{2}}{c^{2}}d_{\text{eff}}E_{\omega_{1}+\omega_{2}}E_{\omega_{2}}^{*},$$

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{\omega_{2}}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dE_{\omega_{2}}}{dr} + k_{2}^{2}E_{\omega_{2}} = -2\frac{\omega_{2}^{2}}{c^{2}}d_{\text{eff}}E_{\omega_{1}}^{*}E_{\omega_{1}+\omega_{2}},$$

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{\omega_{1}+\omega_{2}}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dE_{\omega_{1}+\omega_{2}}}{dr} + k_{3}^{2}E_{\omega_{1}+\omega_{2}} = -2\frac{(\omega_{1}+\omega_{2})^{2}}{c^{2}}d_{\text{eff}}E_{\omega_{1}}E_{\omega_{2}},$$
(16)



Figure 1. Comparison diagram of using coupled-wave equations (CWE) and the analytical explicit formula. The blue solid curve presents calculation results of using coupled-wave equations while the red dashed curve presents calculation results of using the analytical explicit formula. Efficiencies of generation of (a) second harmonic, (b) sum frequency and (c) difference frequency with different nonlinear coefficient have been shown. We use  $\zeta_1 = \zeta_2 = 1$  and  $\varepsilon_1 = 2$ . In Fig. (a) the fundamental frequency is  $\omega = 6 \times 10^8$  MHz, and in Fig. (b) and (c) the fundamental frequencies are  $\omega_1 = 6 \times 10^8$  MHz and  $\omega_2 = 8 \times 10^8$  MHz.

while describe the difference-frequency generation are

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{\omega_{1}}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dE_{\omega_{1}}}{dr} + k_{1}^{2}E_{\omega_{1}} = -2\frac{\omega_{1}^{2}}{c^{2}}d_{\text{eff}}E_{\omega_{1}-\omega_{2}}E_{\omega_{2}},$$

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{\omega_{2}}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dE_{\omega_{2}}}{dr} + k_{2}^{2}E_{\omega_{2}} = -2\frac{\omega_{2}^{2}}{c^{2}}d_{\text{eff}}E_{\omega_{1}}E_{\omega_{1}-\omega_{2}}^{*},$$

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{\omega_{1}-\omega_{2}}}{dr^{2}} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{dE_{\omega_{1}-\omega_{2}}}{dr} + k_{4}^{2}E_{\omega_{1}-\omega_{2}} = -2\frac{(\omega_{1}-\omega_{2})^{2}}{c^{2}}d_{\text{eff}}E_{\omega_{1}}E_{\omega_{2}}^{*},$$
(17)

where  $k_3 = k_1 + k_2$  and  $k_4 = k_1 - k_2$ . Figure 1(b,c) shows a comparison of using coupled-wave equations and the analytical explicit formula (5) or (15) to calculate efficiencies of sum and difference frequency generation, which are defined as  $\eta_{sum} = |E_{\omega_1+\omega_2}/E_{\omega_1}|$  and  $\eta_{dis} = |E_{\omega_1-\omega_2}/E_{\omega_1}|$ . We can find that, the same as the second harmonic generation case, the results obtained by two methods are concordant with each other.

Interactions between cylindrical electromagnetic waves. Now we will use the analytical explicit formula (5) to discuss some more interactions between cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium. Figure 2 give a comparison of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a linear medium and in a nonlinear medium. We fix  $\omega_1 = 6 \times 10^8$  MHz, and use three different  $\omega_2$ . We consider that different  $\omega_2$  will lead to different effects via interactions between cylindrical electromagnetic waves. Figure 2(a) shows the results of interactions between wave with  $\omega_1 = 6 \times 10^8 \text{ MHz}$  and wave with lower frequency  $\omega_2 = 1 \times 10^8$  MHz. The presented plots show clear modulation of amplitude of the wave with lower frequency  $\omega_2$ . The modulation of the amplitude of wave  $\omega_1$  is not clear because amplitude of wave  $\omega_2$  is weaker than wave  $\omega_1$ . To the contrary, we choose  $\omega_2 = 100 \times 10^8 \text{ MHz}$  which is much higher than  $\omega_1$  and the results are shown in figure 2(c). In this case, wave  $\omega_1$  is clearly affected by wave  $\omega_2$ . There is modulation of the amplitude of wave  $\omega_1$  which similar to the oscillation of a wave packet. The oscillation frequency is  $\omega_2$ . Wave  $\omega_2$  is also affected by wave  $\omega_1$ . There is fluctuation of amplitude at a frequency  $\omega_1$  and the amplitude of wave  $\omega_2$  is repressed for most r. Figure 2(b) shows interactions between two waves with frequencies are close together. Modulations of the amplitudes are still existing, however, not clearly due to the small differences between the modulation frequency and the natural frequency of the waves.

One also can consider the case of more fundamental electromagnetic waves propagation in the nonlinear medium, and there are abundant nonlinear wave-wave interactions. Here, as an example, we consider the three fundamental waves case, and show that sum- and difference-frequency generation of two waves propagation in the nonlinear medium is affected by a third wave.

Equations (5) in the three waves case can be expressed as:

$$E = \sum_{n,m,p=-\infty}^{\infty} A(n, m, p) \cos(n\omega_1 + m\omega_2 + p\omega_3) t,$$
  

$$H = -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{n,m,p=-\infty}^{\infty} B(n, m, p) \sin(n\omega_1 + m\omega_2 + p\omega_3) t,$$
(18)

where  $\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_2$ , and  $\omega_3$  are frequencies of the three waves, and the electric field strength of the wave with frequency  $\omega_i$  is recorded as  $E_i$ . A(n,m,p) and B(n,m,p) can be obtained easily from Eqs. (6). Equations (18) contains a lot of frequency-mixing effects, while here we focus on the modification of sum- and difference-frequency generation in the presence of a third wave.

(i) Modification of sum-frequency generation. In this case, p = 0, m = n = 1 or m = n = -1 describes the sum-frequency generation process, so the amplitude of the sum-frequency generation can be obtained as  $E_{\omega 1+\omega 2} = A(1,1,0) + A(-1,-1,0)$ .

Figure 3 shows the calculation results of modification of sum-frequency generation in the presence of a third wave (the green dotted curve). We also plot the sum-frequency generation  $E_{\omega 1+\omega 2}$  in the nonlinear medium without a third wave by using a red solid curve. In Fig. 3(a), the amplitude of the third wave is zero, viz.  $\zeta_3 = 0$ , so there is no modification, and these two lines coincide with each other. In Fig. 3(b), the amplitude of the third wave is  $\zeta_3 = 0.5$ . There is a little modification, which, however, is very small. In Fig. 3(c) and Fig. 3(d), the amplitude of the third wave are  $\zeta_3 = 1$  and  $\zeta_3 = 1.5$ , respectively. The modification is obvious, and there is a big gap between the two lines at some special *r*.

(ii) Modification of difference-frequency generation. In this case, p = 0, m = -n = 1 or m = -n = -1 describes the difference-frequency generation process, so the amplitude of the difference-frequency generation can be obtained as  $E_{\omega 1-\omega 2} = A(1,-1,0) + A(-1,1,0)$ .

Figure 4 shows the calculation result of difference-frequency generation modification in the nonlinear medium in the presence of a third wave (the green dotted curve). Difference-frequency generation in the nonlinear medium without a third wave is also plotted by using a red solid curve. In Fig. 4(a), the amplitude of the third wave is zero, so there is no modification either. In Fig. 4(b), the amplitude of the third wave is  $\zeta_3 = 0.5$ . There is some modification, although not very large. In Fig. 4(c), the amplitude of the third wave are  $\zeta_3 = 1$ . The modification is obvious. For  $r \approx 9 \,\mu$ m, direction of the difference-frequency field  $E_{\omega 1-\omega 2}$  is even changed. It is much easier to see such phenomenon under a stronger  $E_3$ . In Fig. 4(d), the amplitude of the third wave is  $\zeta_3 = 1.5$ . We can find that the direction of the difference-frequency field  $E_{\omega 1-\omega 2}$  is inverted near  $r \approx 6 \,\mu$ m and  $r \approx 9 \,\mu$ m.

The above discussions is based on Eqs. (18), and show that the sum- and difference-frequency generation of two waves propagation in the nonlinear medium can be greatly affected by a strong third wave. One also can discuss the modification of the sum- and difference-frequency generation in the presence of more additional waves by using the same way.

Our previous works<sup>22,23</sup> preliminarily studied how to find and examine the physical nature contains in the new exact solution put forward by Petrov and Kudrin recently. A previous work<sup>22</sup> studies the problem of single cylindrical wave propagation in a nonlinear medium, and finds that the second-harmonic generation comes out quite naturally from the exact solutions. Another previous work<sup>23</sup> studies two cylindrical waves propagation in a nonlinear medium, and finds that the sum- and difference-frequency generation



Figure 2. Comparison diagram of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a linear and nonlinear medium. We consider that there are two waves propagate in the medium and we use  $\zeta_1 = 1$ ,  $\zeta_2 = 0.8$ ,  $\alpha = 0.4$ , and  $\varepsilon_1 = 2$  in equations (6). The red solid curve presents calculation results of  $|E_{\omega_1}|$  in the nonlinear medium, the blue solid curve presents calculation results of  $|E_{\omega_1}|$  in the nonlinear medium, the blue solid curve presents calculation results of  $|E_{\omega_1}|$  in the linear medium and the blue dashed curve presents calculation results of  $|E_{\omega_2}|$  in the linear medium. We fix  $\omega_1 = 6 \times 10^8$  MHz, and use (a)  $\omega_2 = 1 \times 10^8$  MHz, (b)  $\omega_2 = 7 \times 10^8$  MHz and (c)  $\omega_2 = 100 \times 10^8$  MHz.

comes out quite naturally from the exact solutions. In the present work, we present a set of mathematical methods to deal with interactions between any amounts of waves in a nonlinear medium. For the case of three or more fundamental electromagnetic waves propagating in the nonlinear medium, there are abundant nonlinear wave-wave interactions. The modification of the sum- and difference-frequency generation in the presence of a third wave can be calculated easily by using the explicit analytical expression obtained.

Before ending this section, we would emphasize the notable merits of such reliable analytical method include:

- We give an explicit analytical expression which contains all the main nonlinear optical effects, including second-harmonic generation, sum- and difference- frequency generation, electro-optical effect and waves mixing. The traditional method describing nonlinear optical effects is the coupled-wave-equations approach which can be solved only numerically in the cylindrical geometry. It is very difficult to give an explicit analytic expression which contains all the main nonlinear optical effects by using the coupled-wave equations.
- 2. Such an explicit analytical expression can deal with the problem of any amount of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a nonlinear medium. It is very difficult to deal with this problem by using the traditional coupled-wave-equations method<sup>1</sup>.



Figure 3. Sum-frequency generation of two waves propagation in the nonlinear medium is affected by a third wave, and the modification is increasing with the amplitude of the third wave. We consider that there are three waves propagation in the medium, and we use  $\zeta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\zeta_2 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha = 0.4$ , and  $\varepsilon_1 = 2$ in equations (6). The red solid curve presents calculation result of sum-frequency generation  $E_{\omega 1+\omega 2}$  in the nonlinear medium without a third wave, the green dotted curve presents calculation results of  $E_{\omega 1+\omega 2}$ under a third wave with amplitudes (a)  $\zeta_3 = 0$ , (b)  $\zeta_3 = 0.5$ , (c)  $\zeta_3 = 1$ , (d)  $\zeta_3 = 1.5$ . We fix  $\omega_1 = 9 \times 10^8$  MHz,  $\omega_2 = 5 \times 10^8$  MHz,  $\omega_3 = 2 \times 10^8$  MHz.

3. Our work is an interesting extension of the recent publication<sup>19</sup>, and deepening the understanding of the exact solution. From a solution of waves in a linear medium, one can obtain the solution of waves in a nonlinear medium through a simple variable substitution: ρ → ρe<sup>αE/2</sup>, τ → τ + Z<sub>0</sub>αρH / 2,√ε<sub>1</sub>. Starting from the exact solution, we present a simple but highly efficient approach to deal with the interaction of any amount of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium. Description of interactions between a large amount of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium is a very complex question<sup>1</sup>, especially analytic description.

#### Methods

Equations (4) can be approached by using the following method. At first, we give the linear solution as the zeroth approximation of Eqs. (4), as follows:

$$E^{(0)} = \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_i J_0(k_i r) \cos(\omega_i t),$$
(19)

$$H^{(0)} = -\sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_i \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} J_1(k_i r) \sin(\omega_i t).$$
(20)



Figure 4. Difference-frequency generation of two waves propagation in the nonlinear medium is affected by a third wave, and the modification is increasing with the amplitude of the third wave. We consider that there are three waves propagation in the medium, and we use  $\zeta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\zeta_2 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha = 0.4$ , and  $\varepsilon_1 = 2$  in equations (6). The red solid curve presents calculation result of difference-frequency generation  $E_{\omega_1-\omega_2}$  in the nonlinear medium without a third wave, the green dotted curve presents calculation results of  $E_{\omega_1-\omega_2}$  under a third wave with amplitudes (a)  $\zeta_3 = 0$ , (b)  $\zeta_3 = 0.5$ , (c)  $\zeta_3 = 1$ , (d)  $\zeta_3 = 1.5$ . We fix  $\omega_1 = 9 \times 10^8$  MHz,  $\omega_2 = 5 \times 10^8$  MHz,  $\omega_3 = 2 \times 10^8$  MHz.

Substituting the zeroth approximation into Eqs. (4) leads the first approximation:

$$E^{(1)} = \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_i J_0 \Big( k_i r e^{\alpha E^{(0)}/2} \Big) \cos(\omega_i t + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2),$$
(21)

$$H^{(1)} = -\sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_{i} \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_{1}} e^{\alpha E^{(0)}/2}}{Z_{0}} J_{1}\left(k_{i} r e^{\alpha E^{(0)}/2}\right) \times \sin\left(\omega_{i} t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i} r H^{(0)}/2\right).$$
(22)

**Effective approximations.** In this section we will give effective approximations of  $J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2})$  and  $e^{\alpha E/2}J_1(kre^{\alpha E/2})$ .

 $J_m(x)$  is a Bessel function of the first kind of order *m* and can be presented as:

$$J_m(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! (m+k)!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{m+2k}.$$
(23)

If  $x \to 0$ , then Eq. (23) can be used to give an effective approximation of  $J_m(x)$  by series truncation. However, in the present case,  $kre^{\alpha E/2}$  is not  $\to 0$  and in fact can be any number. So such series can not be used to give an effective approximation of our case<sup>24</sup>. We take notice of  $\alpha E$  is small, so we can write  $J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2})$  as:

$$J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2}) \approx J_0[kr(1 + \alpha E/2)].$$
 (24)

We introduce a function  $f_n(x, b)$  as

$$J_n(xb) = J_n(x)f_n(x, b),$$
 (25)

thus  $f_n(x, 1) = 1$  and

$$f_n(x, 1 + \Delta) \approx f_n(x, 1) + f'_n(x, 1)\Delta,$$
(26)

where  $|\Delta| \ll 1$  and  $f'_n(x, 1) = (\partial f_n / \partial b)_{b=1} = n - x J_{n+1}(x) / J_n(x)$ . So

$$f_n(x, 1 + \Delta) \approx (1 + n\Delta) - \Delta x J_{n+1}(x) / J_n(x), \qquad (27)$$

Using Eq. (25) and Eq. (27) we can give an approximation of  $J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2})$  and  $e^{\alpha E/2}J_1(kre^{\alpha E/2})$ . Following Eq. (24) we can write  $J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2})$  as:

$$J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2}) \approx J_0(kr)f(kr, 1 + \alpha E/2).$$
 (28)

Using Eq. (27) we obtain:

$$J_0(kre^{\alpha E/2}) \approx J_0(kr) - \alpha Ekr J_1(kr)/2.$$
<sup>(29)</sup>

Similarly one can get:

$$J_1(kre^{\alpha E/2}) \approx (1 + \alpha E/2)J_1(kr) - \alpha EkrJ_2(kr)/2, \qquad (30)$$

and

$$e^{\alpha E/2} J_1(kr e^{\alpha E/2}) \approx J_1(kr) + \left(\alpha J_1(kr) - \frac{\alpha kr J_2(kr)}{2}\right) E.$$
(31)

#### Some identical equations. Here we give some identical equations which is used in our work:

$$\cos\left(a_{0} + \sum_{i=1}^{q} a_{i} \sin x_{i}\right) = \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\cdots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\prod_{i=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{i}}(a_{i})\right) \cos\left(a_{0} + \sum_{i=1}^{q} \lambda_{i}x_{i}\right),$$
$$\sin\left(a_{0} + \sum_{i=1}^{q} a_{i} \sin x_{i}\right) = \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\cdots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\prod_{i=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{i}}(a_{i})\right) \sin\left(a_{0} + \sum_{i=1}^{q} \lambda_{i}x_{i}\right).$$
(32)

We demonstrate such identical equations from following identical equations:

$$\exp\left(ia_{0} + i\sum_{i=1}^{q}a_{i} \sin x_{i}\right) = e^{ia_{0}}\prod_{i=1}^{q}e^{ia_{i}} \sin x_{i}.$$
(33)

Using formula

$$e^{ix \sin \theta} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} J_n(x) e^{in\theta},$$
(34)

it can be find that:

$$\exp\left(\mathrm{i}a_0 + \mathrm{i}\sum_{i=1}^q a_i \,\sin\,x_i\right) = e^{\mathrm{i}a_0} \prod_{i=1}^q \sum_{\lambda_i = -\infty}^\infty J_{\lambda_i}(a_i) e^{\mathrm{i}\lambda_i x_i}.$$
(35)

Exchange the sequence of summation and product, we can obtain:

$$\exp\left(\mathrm{i}a_0 + \mathrm{i}\sum_{i=1}^q a_i \,\sin\,x_i\right) = \sum_{\lambda_1,\lambda_2,\cdots,\lambda_q=-\infty}^\infty \left(\prod_{i=1}^q J_{\lambda_i}(a_i)\right) \exp\left(\mathrm{i}a_0 + \mathrm{i}\sum_{i=1}^q \lambda_i x_i\right). \tag{36}$$

Take the real part and imaginary part of Eq. (36) leads Eqs. (32).

In what follows we will use Eqs. (32) to simplify some expressions, for example,  $\cos(\omega_i t + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2)$ and  $\sin(\omega_i t + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2)$ . Substituting Eq. (20) into expressions leads:

$$\cos(\omega_{i}t + \alpha\mu_{0}\omega_{i}rH^{(0)}/2) = \cos\left(\omega_{i}t + \sum_{j=1}^{q}x_{ij}\sin(\omega_{j}t)\right),$$
  

$$\sin(\omega_{i}t + \alpha\mu_{0}\omega_{i}rH^{(0)}/2) = \sin\left(\omega_{i}t + \sum_{j=1}^{q}x_{ij}\sin(\omega_{j}t)\right),$$
(37)

where  $x_{ij}$  have been defined as  $x_{ij} = -\alpha r k_i \zeta_j J_1(k_j r)/2$ . Using Eqs. (32) we can obtain:

$$\cos\left(\omega_{i}t + \alpha\mu_{0}\omega_{i}rH^{(0)}/2\right) = \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\dots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}}(x_{ij})\right) \cos\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j}\omega_{j}t\right),$$
  

$$\sin\left(\omega_{i}t + \alpha\mu_{0}\omega_{i}rH^{(0)}/2\right) = \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\dots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}}(x_{ij})\right) \sin\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j}\omega_{j}t\right).$$
(38)

Using the same method we can simplify  $E^{(0)} \cos(\omega_i t + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2)$  and  $E^{(0)} \sin(\omega_i t + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2)$ . Here we give the results directly:

$$E^{(0)}\cos(\omega_i t + \alpha\mu_0\omega_i r H^{(0)}/2) =$$

$$\sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\dots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{q} \frac{\zeta_{m} J_{0}(k_{m}r)}{2} \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}-\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) + \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}+\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) \right) \cos\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j} \omega_{j} t\right),$$
$$E^{(0)} \sin\left(\omega_{i}t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i} r H^{(0)}/2\right) =$$

$$\sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\dots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty}\sum_{m=1}^{q}\frac{\zeta_{m}J_{0}(k_{m}r)}{2}\left(\prod_{j=1}^{q}J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{jj}-\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij})+\prod_{j=1}^{q}J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}+\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij})\right)\sin\left(\sum_{j=1}^{q}\lambda_{j}\omega_{j}t\right).$$
(39)

**Derivation of explicit analytical expressions.** Equations (21) and (22) can be simplified by using approximations :

$$E^{(1)} \approx \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_i \bigg( J_0(k_i r) - \frac{\alpha E^{(0)} k_i r J_1(k_i r)}{2} \bigg) \cos(\omega_i t + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2),$$
(40)

$$H^{(1)} \approx -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_i \bigg( J_1(k_i r) + \bigg[ \alpha J_1(k_i r) - \frac{\alpha k_i r J_2(k_i r)}{2} \bigg] E^{(0)} \bigg) \sin(\omega_i r + \alpha \mu_0 \omega_i r H^{(0)}/2).$$
(41)

These equations can be easily rewritten as:

$$E^{(1)} \approx \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_{i} J_{0}(k_{i}r) \cos(\omega_{i}t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i}r H^{(0)}/2) - \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_{i} \frac{\alpha k_{i}r J_{1}(k_{i}r)}{2} E^{(0)} \cos(\omega_{i}t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i}r H^{(0)}/2),$$
(42)

$$H^{(1)} \approx -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_{1}}}{Z_{0}} \bigg[ \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_{i} J_{1}(k_{i}r) \sin(\omega_{i}t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i}rH^{(0)}/2) \\ + \sum_{i=1}^{q} \zeta_{i} \bigg[ \alpha J_{1}(k_{i}r) - \frac{\alpha k_{i}rJ_{2}(k_{i}r)}{2} \bigg] E^{(0)} \sin(\omega_{i}t + \alpha \mu_{0} \omega_{i}rH^{(0)}/2) \bigg].$$
(43)

Substituting identical equations (38) and (39) into Eqs. (42) and (43), we can obtain:

$$E \approx \sum_{\lambda_{1},\lambda_{2},\dots,\lambda_{q}=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{q} \left\{ \zeta_{i} J_{0}(k_{i}r) \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}}(x_{ij}) \right) - \zeta_{i} - \zeta_{i} - \zeta_{i} \right\}}{\frac{\alpha k_{i}r J_{1}(k_{i}r)}{2} \times \sum_{m=1}^{q} \frac{\zeta_{m} J_{0}(k_{m}r)}{2} \left( \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}-\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) + \prod_{j=1}^{q} J_{\lambda_{j}-\delta_{ij}+\delta_{jm}}(x_{ij}) \right) \cos \left( \sum_{j=1}^{q} \lambda_{j} \omega_{j} t \right),$$
(44)

$$\begin{aligned} H &\approx -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1}}{Z_0} \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_q = -\infty}^{\infty} \\ &\sum_{i=1}^q \Biggl[ \zeta_i J_1(k_i r) \Biggl( \prod_{j=1}^q J_{\lambda_j - \delta_{ij}} \Bigl( x_{ij} \Bigr) \Biggr) + \zeta_i \Biggl( \alpha J_1(k_i r) - \frac{\alpha k_i r J_2(k_i r)}{2} \Biggr) \\ &\times \sum_{m=1}^q \frac{\zeta_m J_0(k_m r)}{2} \Biggl( \prod_{j=1}^q J_{\lambda_j - \delta_{ij} - \delta_{jm}} \Bigl( x_{ij} \Bigr) + \prod_{j=1}^q J_{\lambda_j - \delta_{ij} + \delta_{jm}} \Bigl( x_{ij} \Bigr) \Biggr) \Biggr] \sin \Biggl( \sum_{j=1}^q \lambda_j \omega_j t \Biggr). \end{aligned}$$
(45)

These expressions are exactly Eqs. (5).

#### References

- 1. Y. R. Shen, Principles of Nonlinear Optics (Wiley, New York, 1984).
- 2. Franken, P. A., Hill, A. E., Peters, C. W., & Weinreich, G. Generation of optical harmonics. Phys. Rev. Lett. 7 118-119 (1961).
- 3. Armstrong, J. A., Bloembergen, N., Ducuing, J., & Pershan, P. S. Interactions between light waves in a nonlinear dielectric. *Phys. Rev.* **127** 1918 (1962).
- 4. Bloembergen, N. Nonlinear optics and spectroscopy. Rev. Mod. Phys. 54 685 (1982).
- 5. Brabec, T. & Krausz, F. Intense few-cycle laser fields: Frontiers of nonlinear optics. Rev. Mod. Phys. 72 545 (2000).
- 6. Goulielmakis, E., et al. Single-cycle nonlinear optics. Science 320 1614-1617 (2008).
- 7. Harris, S. E. & Hau, L. V. Nonlinear optics at low light levels. Phys. Rev. Lett. 82 4611 (1999).
- Zhuang, X., Miranda, P. B., Kim, D., & Shen, Y. R. Mapping molecular orientation and conformation at interfaces by surface nonlinear optics. *Phys. Rev. B* 59 12632 (1999).
- 9. Foster, M. A., Turner, A. C., Lipson, M., & Gaeta, A. L. Nonlinear optics in photonic nanowires. Opt. Express 16 1300-1320 (2008).
- 10. Xiong, H., Si, L. G., Ding, C., Lü, X. Y., Yang, X., & Wu, Y. Solutions of the cylindrical nonlinear Maxwell equations. *Phys. Rev. E*, **85** 016602 (2012).
- 11. Khitrova, G., Gibbs, H. M., Jahnke, F., Kira, M., & Koch, S. W. Nonlinear optics of normal-mode-coupling semiconductor microcavities. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 71 1591 (1999).
- 12. Sekikawa, T., Kosuge, A., Kanai, T., & Watanabe, S. Nonlinear optics in the extreme ultraviolet. Nature 432 605-608 (2004).
- Xiong, H., Si, L. G., Lü, X. Y., Yang, X., & Wu, Y. Nanosecond-pulse-controlled higher-order sideband comb in a GaAs optomechanical disk resonator in the non-perturbative regime. *Ann. Phys.* 349 43–54 (2014).
- 14. Wu, Y & Deng, L. Ultraslow optical solitons in a cold four-state medium. Phys. Rev. Lett. 93 143904 (2004).
- 15. Axt, V. M. & Mukamel, S. Nonlinear optics of semiconductor and molecular nanostructures: a common perspective. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **70** 145 (1998).
- Isić, G., Gajić, R., Novaković, B., Popović, Z. V. & Hingerl, K. Radiation and scattering from imperfect cylindrical electromagnetic cloaks. Opt. Express 16 1413 (2008).
- 17. Frezza, F., Pajewski, L., Ponti, C., & Schettini, G. Through-wall electromagnetic scattering by N conducting cylinders. a J. Opt. Soc. Am. A 30 1632–1639 (2013).
- 18. Tretyakov, S., Alitalo, P., Luukkonen, O., & Simovski, C. Broadband electromagnetic cloaking of long cylindrical objects. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103** 103905 (2009).
- 19. Petrov, E. Y. & Kudrin, A. V. Exact axisymmetric solutions of the Maxwell equations in a nonlinear nondispersive medium. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **104** 190404 (2010).
- 20. Xiong, H., Si, L. G., Huang, P., & Yang, X. Analytic description of cylindrical electromagnetic wave propagation in an inhomogeneous nonlinear and nondispersive medium. *Phys. Rev. E* 82 057602 (2010).
- 21. Xiong, H., Si, L. G., Ding, C., Yang, X., & Wu, Y. Second-harmonic generation of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagating in an inhomogeneous and nonlinear medium. *Phys. Rev. E* 85 016606 (2012).
- 22. Xiong, H., Si, L. G., Guo, J. F., Lü, X. Y., & Yang, X. Classical theory of cylindrical nonlinear optics: Second-harmonic generation. *Phys. Rev. A* 83 063845 (2011).
- Xiong, H., Si, L. G., Ding, C., Yang, X. & Wu, Y. Classical theory of cylindrical nonlinear optics: Sum-and difference-frequency generation. *Phys. Rev. A* 84 043841 (2011).
- 24. Chen, S. Y., Li, T., Xie, J. B., et al. Initial value problems of cylindrical electromagnetic waves propagation in a nonlinear nondispersive medium. Phys. Rev. E 88 035202 (2013).

#### Acknowledgement

The work is supported in part by the National Fundamental Research Program of China (Grant No. 2012CB922103), the National Science Foundation (NSF) of China (Grants No. 11375067, No. 11275074, No. 11374116, No. 11204096, and No. 11405061), and the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities, HUST (Grant No. 2014QN193).

### **Author Contributions**

H.X. carried out the calculations, wrote the main manuscript text and prepared all figures. L-G.S., X.Y., and Y.W. participated in the discussions. All authors reviewed the manuscript and contributed to the interpretation of the work and the writing of the manuscript.

#### **Additional Information**

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

How to cite this article: Xiong, H. *et al.* Analytic descriptions of cylindrical electromagnetic waves in a nonlinear medium. *Sci. Rep.* **5**, 11071; doi: 10.1038/srep11071 (2015).

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/