One Ring to bind them all: three wave mixing in non-linear WGM resonators

Harald G. L. Schwefel
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light, Erlangen, Germany

Efficient coherent conversion of THz or microwave radiation into the near infrared is a challenging but worthwhile endeavor. Nonlinear parametric sumfrequency generation conserves both the phase and amplitude of the initial state and is thus ideal for such an attempt. Even in the best second order non-linear crystals however, the non-linearity is so weak, that very high interacting field strengths are necessary for sufficient conversion rates. I will report on generating such high fields within crystalline whispering gallery mode (WGM) resonators. Within such resonators the radiation is bound by total internal reflection along the equator of a convex dielectric, a process that works as well for THz radiation [1,2] as it does for optical light [3,4]. Combined with appropriate phase-matching of the three interacting waves, conversion with a few percent quantum efficiency is possible [1].

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