

Contents

Preface	xi
Chapter 1. Singular Optics of Liquid Crystal Defects	1
Etienne BRASSELET	
1.1. Prelude from carrots.	1
1.2. Liquid crystals, optics and defects: a long-standing trilogy.	1
1.3. Polarization optics of liquid crystals: basic ingredients	3
1.3.1. The few liquid crystal phases at play in this chapter	3
1.3.2. Liquid crystals anisotropy and its main optical consequence	3
1.3.3. Polarization state representation in the paraxial regime	5
1.3.4. Polarization state evolution through uniform director fields	6
1.3.5. Effective birefringence.	8
1.3.6. Polarization state evolution through twisted director fields	9
1.4. Liquid crystal reorientation under external fields	15
1.5. Customary optics from liquid crystal defects	16
1.5.1. Localized defects structures in frustrated cholesteric films	17
1.5.2. Elongated defects structures in frustrated cholesteric films	20
1.5.3. Regular optics from other topological structures	24
1.5.4. Assembling photonic building blocks with liquid crystal defects	31
1.6. From regular to singular optics	34
1.6.1. What is singular optics?	34
1.6.2. A nod to liquid crystal defects	37
1.6.3. Singular paraxial light beams	38

1.6.4. Generic singular beam shaping strategies	41
1.7. Advent of self-engineered singular optical elements enabled by liquid crystals defects	44
1.7.1. Optical vortices from a cholesteric slab: dynamic phase option	44
1.7.2. Optical vortices from a nematic droplet: geometric phase option	45
1.8. Singular optical functions based on defects: a decade of advances . . .	47
1.8.1. Custom-made singular dynamic phase diffractive optics	47
1.8.2. Spontaneous singular geometric phase optics	47
1.8.3. Directed self-engineered geometric phase optics	52
1.8.4. From single to arrays of optical vortices	58
1.9. Emerging optical functionalities enabled by liquid crystal defects . . .	58
1.9.1. Spectrally and spatially adaptive optical vortex coronagraphy . .	59
1.9.2. Multispectral management of optical orbital angular momentum	67
1.10. Conclusion	69
1.11. References	70
Chapter 2. Control of Micro-Particles with Liquid Crystals	81
Chenhui PENG and Oleg D. LAVRETOVICH	
2.1. Introduction	81
2.2. Control of micro-particles by liquid crystal-enabled electrokinetics . .	82
2.2.1. Liquid-crystal enabled electrophoresis	85
2.2.2. Liquid crystal-enabled electro-osmosis	91
2.3. Controlled dynamics of microswimmers in nematic liquid crystals . . .	96
2.4. Conclusion	104
2.5. Acknowledgments	107
2.6. References	107
Chapter 3. Thermomechanical Effects in Liquid Crystals	117
Patrick OSWALD, Alain DEQUIDT and Guilhem POY	
3.1. Introduction	117
3.2. The Ericksen–Leslie equations	121
3.2.1. Conservation equations	121
3.2.2. Molecular field	123
3.2.3. Constitutive equations	125

3.3. Molecular dynamics simulations of the thermomechanical effect	130
3.3.1. Molecular models	130
3.3.2. Constrained ensembles	131
3.3.3. Computation of the transport coefficients	133
3.3.4. Analysis of the results	134
3.4. Experimental evidence of the thermomechanical effect	135
3.4.1. The static Éber and Jánossy experiment	136
3.4.2. Another static experiment proposed in the literature	140
3.4.3. Continuous rotation of translationally invariant configurations	142
3.4.4. Drift of cholesteric fingers under homeotropic anchoring	165
3.5. The thermohydrodynamical effect	174
3.5.1. A proposal for measuring the TH Leslie coefficient μ : theoretical prediction	175
3.5.2. About the measurement of the TH Akopyan and Zel'dovich coefficients	178
3.6. Conclusions and perspectives	184
3.7. References	185

Chapter 4. Physics of the Dowser Texture 193

Pawel PIERANSKI and Maria Helena GODINHO

4.1. Introduction	193
4.1.1. Disclinations and monopoles	193
4.1.2. Road to the dowser texture	197
4.1.3. The dowser texture	201
4.2. Generation of the dowser texture	207
4.2.1. Setups called “Dowsons Colliders”	207
4.2.2. “Classical” generation of the dowser texture	208
4.2.3. Accelerated generation of the dowser texture using the DDC2 setup	208
4.3. Flow-assisted homeotropic \Rightarrow dowser transition	210
4.3.1. Experiment using the DDC2 setup	210
4.3.2. Flow-assisted bowser-dowser transformation in capillaries	212
4.3.3. Flow-assisted homeotropic-dowser transition in the CDC2 setup	213
4.3.4. Theory of the flow-assisted homeotropic-dowser transition	214
4.3.5. Summary and discussion of experimental results	216

4.4. Rheotropism	217
4.4.1. The first evidence of the rheotropism	217
4.4.2. Synchronous winding of the dowser field.	219
4.4.3. Asynchronous winding of the dowser field.	225
4.4.4. Hybrid winding of the dowser field with CDC2	228
4.4.5. Rheotropic behavior of π - and 2π -walls	228
4.4.6. Action of an alternating Poiseuille flow on wound up dowser fields	231
4.5. Cuneitropism, solitary 2π -walls	233
4.5.1. Generation of π -walls by a magnetic field.	233
4.5.2. Generation and relaxation of circular 2π -walls	236
4.5.3. Cuneitropic origin of the circular 2π -wall.	236
4.6. Electrotropism	239
4.6.1. Definition of the electrotropism	239
4.6.2. Flexo-electric polarization.	241
4.6.3. Setup	241
4.6.4. The first evidence of the flexo-electric polarization.	242
4.6.5. Measurements of the flexo-electric polarization	243
4.7. Electro-osmosis	246
4.7.1. One-gap system of electrodes.	246
4.7.2. Two-gap system of electrodes	250
4.7.3. Convection of the dowser field	252
4.8. Dowser texture as a natural universe of nematic monopoles	253
4.8.1. Structures and topological charges of nematic monopoles.	253
4.8.2. Pair of dowsons d^+ and d^- seen as a pair of monopoles	255
4.8.3. Generation of monopole–antimonopole pairs by breaking 2π -walls.	257
4.9. Motions of dowsons in a wound up dowser field.	262
4.9.1. Single dowson in a wound up dowser field.	262
4.9.2. The Lorentz-like force	263
4.9.3. Velocity of dowsons in wound up dowser fields.	266
4.9.4. The race of dowsons	266
4.9.5. Trajectories of dowsons observed in natural light	270
4.9.6. Trajectories of dowsons observed in polarized light	272
4.10. Collisions of dowsons	279
4.10.1. Pair of dowsons (d^+,d^-) inserted in a wound up dowser field	280
4.10.2. Cross-section for annihilation of dowsons' pairs.	282
4.10.3. Rheotropic control of the collisions outcome	283
4.11. Motions of dowsons in homogeneous fields.	285

4.12. Stabilization of dowson systems by inhomogeneous fields with defects	287
4.12.1. Gedanken experiment.	287
4.12.2. Triplet of dowsons stabilized in MBBA by a quadrupolar electric field	289
4.12.3. Septet of dowsons in MBBA stabilized by a quadrupolar electric field'	290
4.12.4. Dowsons d+ stabilized by corner singularities of the electric field	290
4.13. Dowser field submitted to boundary conditions with more complex geometries and topologies	291
4.13.1. Ground state of the dowser field in an annular droplet	291
4.13.2. Wound up metastable states of the dowser field in the annular droplet	293
4.13.3. Dowser field in a square network of channels, four-arm junctions	293
4.13.4. Triangular network, six-arm junctions	294
4.13.5. Three-arm junctions.	296
4.13.6. General discussion of n-arm junctions.	296
4.14. Flow-induced bowson-dowson transformation	298
4.15. Instability of the dowson's d- position in the stagnation point	301
4.16. Appendix 1: equation of motion of the dowser field	303
4.16.1. Elastic torque.	303
4.16.2. Viscous torques	304
4.16.3. Magnetic torque	306
4.16.4. Electric torque	306
4.17. References.	306
Chapter 5. Spontaneous Emergence of Chirality	311
Mohan SRINIVASARAO	
5.1. Introduction.	311
5.2. Chirality: a historical tour	312
5.2.1. Chirality and optics	316
5.2.2. Chiral symmetry breaking and its misuse.	322
5.2.3. Spontaneous emergence of chirality or chiral structures in liquid crystals	323
5.2.4. Spontaneous emergence of chirality due to confinement.	326
5.2.5. Spontaneous emergence of chirality due to cylindrical confinement	329
5.2.6. Some misconceptions about optical rotation	339

5.3. Concluding remarks	341
5.4. Acknowledgments	342
5.5. References	342
List of Authors	347
Index	349