



Optical Forces Induced by a Pulsed LG_{0l} modes on a Nano-Dielectric Spheres

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ABSTRACT

Theoretically, this study investigates the optical forces induced by a pulsed LG_{0l} modes on nano-dielectric spheres with low and high refractive indices. We analyze how trapping efficiency depends on the particle's refractive index and the beam's azimuthal mode in terms of force magnitude, effective trapping region, and the number of trapping zones. The theoretical model considers dielectric spheres immersed in an oil medium and irradiated by the beam. The results demonstrate that a pulsed LG_{0l} beam achieves higher and more stable trapping efficiency for small azimuthal mode values, short pulse duration, and particles with high refractive indices. Theoretical analysis suggests that the LG_{0l} mode enables 2D trapping of particles with bottle-beam-like control.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The ability of light to manipulate matter at microscopic and nanoscopic scales has revolutionized optical physics, enabling the development of advanced optical trapping and manipulation techniques that have also impacted biology and nanotechnology [1–15]. Optical tweezers, first demonstrated by Ashkin in 1986, showed that tightly focused laser beams can trap and control microscopic particles with remarkable precision [16]. While conventional Gaussian beams are widely used, they have limited capacity to impart rotational motion or efficiently trap nanoscale objects [7, 17–26].

Recent advances exploit structured light fields [27–30], such as Laguerre-Gaussian (LG_{pl}) beams, which exhibit doughnut-shaped intensity profiles and helical phase fronts carrying orbital angular momentum (OAM) [31–34]. These beams, commonly referred to as vortex beams, can exert both linear forces and rotational torques, thereby enabling controlled rotation, helical transport, and enhanced trapping stability [6, 35–37].

On the other hand, pulsed illumination provides

high peak intensities over ultrashort durations, giving rise to transient forces that can exceed steady-state limits and overcome Brownian motion, thereby enabling ultrafast and precise manipulation of nano-dielectric spheres [20, 21, 23–26]. Recent studies have shown that ultrashort pulses can induce transient optical forces that significantly enhance trapping efficiency, rotational control, and particle responsiveness at the nanoscale [38–42].

Several theoretical studies have investigated optical forces within the dipole approximation [20, 21, 26, 40–46]. This study focuses on the LG_{0l} mode, which features two intensity peaks separated by a dark region in two dimensions and is particularly useful for trapping particles or atoms in a planar (2D) configuration. This beam exhibits behavior closely resembling that of a bottle beam, enabling effective control in the two confined dimensions. Furthermore, it can be generated using a significantly simpler setup compared to a full 3D bottle beam [42, 47–49], making it a practical choice for applications such as nanoparticle manipulation or studying atomic transitions in reduced dimensions.

In this study, we investigate the optical forces generated by pulsed LG_{0l} mode on nano-dielectric spheres, with particular focus on how beam topology, pulse duration, and intensity profile govern these forces for two different particle types. We elucidate the mechanisms that enable stable trapping and precise manipulation, offering valuable insights for ultrafast nanophotonic applications, optical assembly, and high-precision particle control. The theoretical framework is presented in Section 2, followed by a discussion of the results in Section 3, and concluding remarks in Section 4.

2. THEORETICAL FORMULATION

A dielectric sphere of radius a and refractive index n_p is immersed in oil with refractive index n_m , and is illuminated by a pulsed Laguerre–Gaussian beam of mode LG_{0l} as depicted schematically in Fig.1. The polariza-

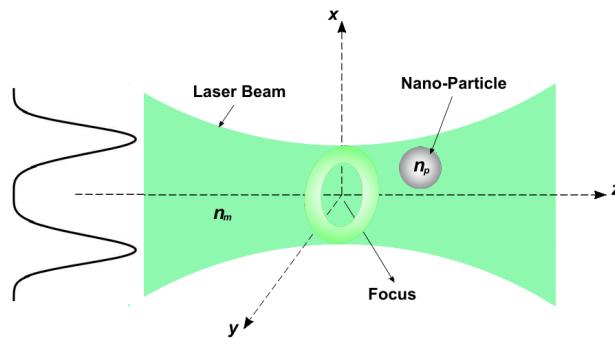


Figure 1. Schematic Diagram for laser beams radiating on a particle.

tion of the pulsed electric field is assumed to be along the x -axis. According to Ref. [40], the expression for the electric field of a paraxial pulsed Laguerre–Gaussian beam with radial index $p = 0$ and azimuthal index l is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{0l}^{LG}(\rho, \varphi, z, t) &= \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x E_0 \frac{w_0}{w(z)} \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}\rho}{w(z)} \right)^l L_0^l \left(\frac{2\rho^2}{w(z)^2} \right) \\ &\times \exp \left[\left(i\omega_0 t - \frac{\rho^2}{w(z)^2} + ikz - i(l+1)\zeta(z) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + ik \frac{\rho^2}{2R(z)} + il\varphi \right) \right] \exp \left(-\frac{(t-z/c)^2}{\tau^2} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $w(z) = w_0 \sqrt{1 + \frac{z^2}{z_R^2}}$ is the beam width, $R(z) = z \left(1 + \frac{z_R^2}{z^2} \right)$ is the wavefront radius, $\zeta(z) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{z}{z_R} \right)$ is the phase correction, $z_R = \frac{k w_0^2}{2}$ is the Rayleigh range, w_0 is the Gaussian beam waist at $z = 0$, $L_0^l(\cdot)$ is the associated Laguerre polynomials, E_0

is a constant, $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ is the wave number, λ is the wave length, $c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$ is the speed of light in vacuum, ϵ_0 and μ_0 are the permittivity and permeability in the vacuum respectively, τ is the pulse duration, $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_x$ is the unit vector of the polarization along the x direction, ω_0 is the carrier frequency, l determines the phase distribution around the azimuthal direction, ρ is the radial coordinate, φ is the azimuthal coordinate and z is the axial coordinate.

This study examines the optical forces on a subwavelength spheres ($a \ll \lambda$) by a pulsed Laguerre–Gaussian beam (LG_{0l}), using the dipole approximation.

The pulse intensity is expressed as the time-averaged Poynting vector:

$$\mathbf{I}(\rho, z, t) \equiv \langle \mathbf{S}(\rho, z, t) \rangle_T$$

where

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}[\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}^*]$$

Under the paraxial approximation, the magnetic field is approximated by:

$$\mathbf{H} \cong \hat{\mathbf{e}}_y n_m \epsilon_0 c E(\rho, z, t)$$

Accordingly, the intensity can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}_{0l}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) &= \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{2\sqrt{2}U}{l! \pi^{3/2} \tau w_0^2 (1+4\tilde{z}^2)} \left(\frac{2\tilde{\rho}^2}{1+4\tilde{z}^2} \right)^l \\ &\times \left[L_0^l \left(\frac{2\tilde{\rho}^2}{1+4\tilde{z}^2} \right) \right]^2 \exp \left[-\frac{2\tilde{\rho}^2}{1+4\tilde{z}^2} - 2 \left(\tilde{t} - \frac{\tilde{z}k w_0^2}{c\tau} \right)^2 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where U is the input energy of the beam and $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_z$ is a unit vector in the beam propagation direction. In Eq. 2 we have defined the dimensionless parameters for simplicity:

$$\tilde{\rho} = \rho/w_0, \quad \tilde{z} = z/kw_0^2, \quad \tilde{t} = t/\tau$$

The electric field amplitude is given by:

$$E_0^2 = \frac{4\sqrt{2}U}{l! n_m \epsilon_0 c \pi^{3/2} w_0^2 \tau},$$

The optical force exerted on a dielectric sphere located at position \mathbf{r} is calculated using the Lorentz force, which is the sum of the contributions from the electric \mathbf{E} and the magnetic \mathbf{B} contributions [50]:

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}, t) = [\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{r}, t) \cdot \nabla] \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{\partial \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{p} = \gamma \mathbf{E}$ is the dipole moment of the particle, $\gamma = 4\pi n_m^2 \epsilon_0 a^3 (m^2 - 1/m^2 + 2)$ is the polarizability of a spherical particle in the Rayleigh regime, and $m = n_p/n_m$. After some mathematical relations and identities in Eq. 3, we get

$$\mathbf{F}(\rho, z, t) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x \frac{\gamma}{2} \frac{\partial E_x^2}{\partial \rho} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{\gamma}{2} \frac{\partial E_x^2}{\partial z} + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{\gamma n_m}{c} \frac{\partial E_x^2}{\partial t}, \quad (4)$$

where the first term in Eq. 4 represents the transverse

component of gradient force ($F_{g\rho}$), the second term represents the axial component of gradient force (F_{gz}) and the third term corresponds to F_t , the force arising from the pulse contribution. The components of the pulsed LG force can then be expressed as follows:

$$\mathbf{F}_{g\rho}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) = -\hat{\mathbf{e}}_x \frac{2\gamma}{n_m \epsilon_0 c w_0} \frac{I_{0l}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t})}{\tilde{\rho}} \left[\frac{2\tilde{\rho}^2}{1+4\tilde{z}^2} - l \right], \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_{gz}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) = -\hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{4\gamma I_{0l}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t})}{n_m \epsilon_0 c k w_0^2} & \left[\frac{\tilde{z} k^2 w_0^4}{\tau^2 c^2} - \frac{\tilde{t} k w_0^2}{\tau c} \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{2\tilde{z}}{1+4\tilde{z}^2} \left(\frac{2\tilde{\rho}^2}{1+4\tilde{z}^2} - (l+1) \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_t^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) = -\hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{8\gamma \mu_0 \tilde{t}}{\tau} I_{0l}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) \\ + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{8\gamma \mu_0 \tilde{z} k w_0^2}{\tau^2 c} I_{0l}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The scattering force, \mathbf{F}_{Scat} , resulting from the scattering of light by the sphere, is proportional to the light intensity and acts along the direction of beam propagation. It can be expressed as [17]:

$$\mathbf{F}_{Scat}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) = \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \frac{n_m}{c} \alpha I_{0l}^{LG}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{z}, \tilde{t}) \quad (8)$$

where $\alpha = \left(\frac{8\pi}{3}\right) (ka)^4 a^2 \left[\frac{m^2-1}{m^2+2}\right]^2$ is the radiation pressure cross section of a spherical particle in the Rayleigh regime.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Building upon the theoretical framework outlined above, several key results are derived and presented in this section. Unless stated otherwise, all figures have been generated using the parameter set: $\lambda = 0.5145 \mu\text{m}$, $w_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$, $U = 0.1 \mu\text{J}$, $n_p = (1.33 \text{ and } 2.2)$ (water drop and titanium dioxide nanoparticle), $n_m = 1.7$ (oil) and $a = 5 \text{ nm}$.

Figure 2 presents the phase distribution of a Laguerre–Gaussian (LG) beam at $p = 0$ for different values of the topological charge l . The phase map exhibits a helical structure centered on the beam axis, with the number of phase windings increasing proportionally with l . This distinctive phase topology, characteristic of LG beams, influences the spatial distribution of the optical field and, consequently, the optical forces exerted on nanoscale particles. Although LG beams inherently carry an orbital angular momentum (OAM) of $l\hbar$ per photon, which is associated with optical torque, the primary relevance in this study lies in how the helical phase profile modifies the intensity gradients and propagation characteristics that govern optical trapping and manipulation forces.

Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between intensity and transverse and axial distances for different

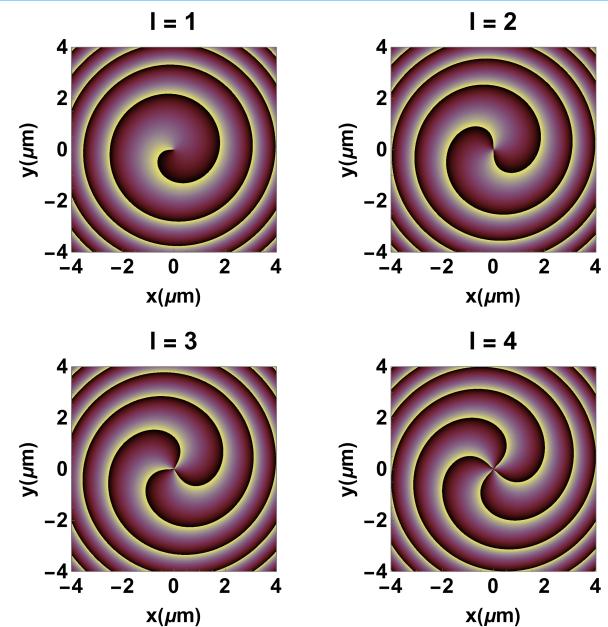


Figure 2. Helical phase structure of a Laguerre–Gaussian (LG) beam ($p = 0$) illustrating the effect of topological charge l .

values of l and τ at $z = 0$. Sub-figures 3 (a-c) at $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$ and sub-figures 3 (d-f) at $\tau = 0.01 \text{ ps}$. These sub-figures reveal that, the intensity values decrease with increasing beam mode value l and pulse duration τ . There are only two prominent intensity peaks indicating that two trapping regions are clearly dominant. The inter-peak distance between the two prominent peaks increases as the l -mode value increases. Furthermore, the area of trapping zone shrinks along the z -axis toward $z = 0$. In sub-figures 3 (g,h) it is found that the number of trapping zones changes with varying z -values.

Figure 4 shows the relation between the potential well and the transverse and axial distances for two particles. Sub-figures 4 (a,b) are for high refractive index particle and sub-figures 4 (c,d) are for low refractive index particle. From these sub-figures, it can be seen that the potential well depth decreases with increasing l -mode value, because the beam intensity decreases as l increases, as shown in Fig. 3. Also, the potential well depth of the high refractive index particle is longer than that of the low refractive index one. The well shape changes with varying z values as well.

Figure 5 illustrates the behavior of transverse gradient force against the transverse distance for high and low refractive index particles at different l -mode values. Sub-figures 5 (a,b) are for high refractive index particle, while sub-figures 5 (c,d) are for low refractive index particle. In case of high refractive index particle, two stable trapping zones are existing along the sides of trap center ($\rho = 0$). While in the case of low refractive index particle, only one stable trapping

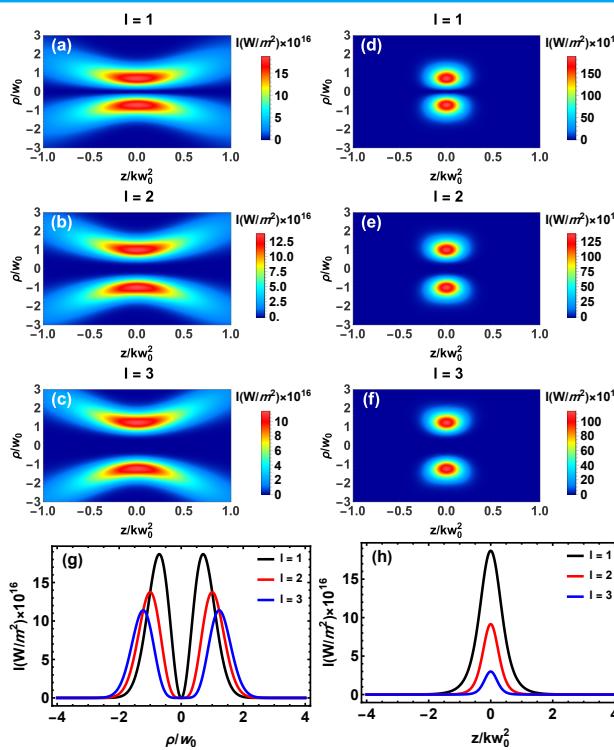


Figure 3. (a-f) Show the intensity distribution of pulsed LG_{0l} for different values of l and τ at $t = 0$. (a-c) For $\tau = 0.01 \text{ ps}$, (d-f) for $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$. (g) Shows the intensity profile of pulsed LG_{0l} for different values of l at $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$, $t = 0$ and $z = 0$. (h) Shows the intensity profile of pulsed LG_{0l} for different values of l at $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$, $t = 0$ and $\rho = 0.7 w_0$.

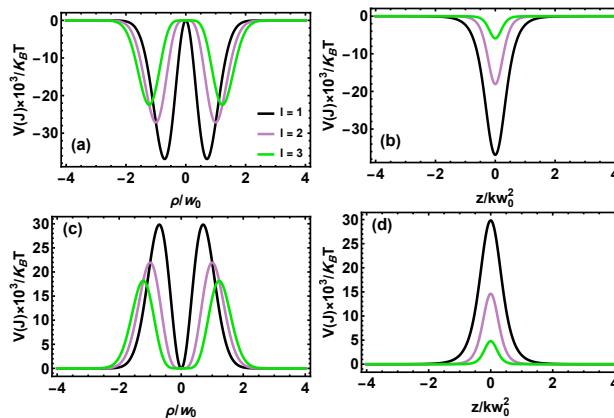


Figure 4. Shows the relation between the potential well and the transverse and axial distances for two particles at $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$ and $t = 0$. (a,b) For high refractive index particle at $z = 0$ and $\rho = 0.7 w_0$ respectively. (c,d) For low refractive index particle at $z = 0$ and $\rho = 0.7 w_0$ respectively.

zone is presenting at the trap center. In both particles, the transverse gradient force increases with decreasing l -mode value. The central distance between the two forces acting at $\rho = 0$ increases with increasing l -mode value, however, this distance may have a great influence on the trapping performance. This means that at suitable central distance, trapping of more than one particle can be done, but at large central distance the trapping

might not be existed depending on force values. The transverse gradient force values are larger in case of high refractive index particle than those of the low refractive index one. In figures 5 and 7, the upward peaks represent the optical force directed to the right, while the downward peaks correspond to the optical force directed to the left.

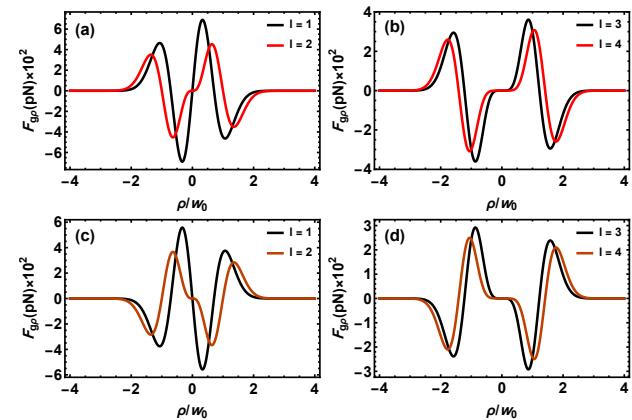


Figure 5. Shows the behavior of the transverse gradient force against the transverse distance for different values of l -mode at $t = 0$, $z = 0$ and $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$. (a,b) For high refractive index particle and (c,d) for low refractive index particle.

Figure 6 demonstrates the transverse gradient force distribution for different values of l -mode and pulse duration τ for both low and high refractive index particles. Sub-figures 6 (a-d) are for high refractive index particle, while sub-figure 6 (e-h) are for low refractive index particle. In this figure, it is found that the trapping force value increases with decreasing pulse duration and l -mode values. The area of trapping zone shrinks because of decreasing of pulse duration. In figures 6 and 8, the orange-yellow regions indicate that the optical force is directed upward and to the right, whereas the blue regions indicate that the force is directed downward and to the left.

Figure 7 illustrates the relation between the axial force and the axial distance at different values of l -mode for both low and high refractive index particles. Sub-figures 7 (a,b) represent the high refractive index particle while sub-figures 7 (c,d) are for low refractive index particle. One stable trapping zone is existing for high refractive index particle while nothing is remarked for low refractive index one. The axial force decreases with increasing l -mode values. However, at large l -mode value, the axial force is remarkably decreased compared with those values revealed at small l -mode values. The axial force of high refractive index particle is larger than that of low refractive index particle.

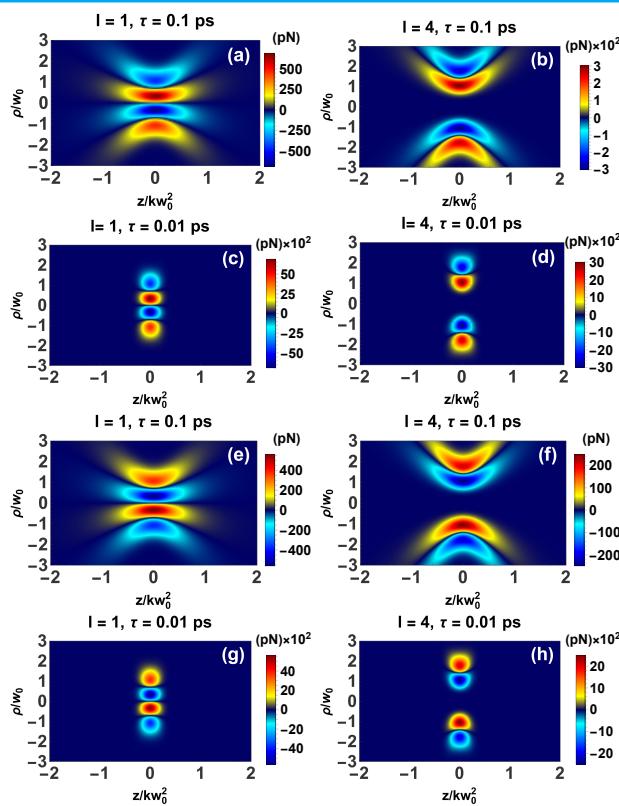


Figure 6. Illustrates the transverse gradient force distribution for different values of l -mode and pulse duration τ at $t = 0$. (a-d) For high refractive index particle and (e-h) for low refractive index particle.

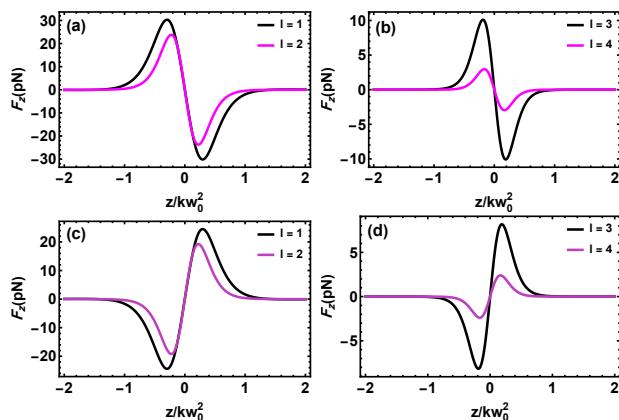


Figure 7. Shows the behavior of the axial force against the axial distance for different values of l -mode at $t = 0$, $\rho = 0.7 w_0$ and $\tau = 0.1 \text{ ps}$. (a,b) For high refractive index particle and (c,d) for low refractive index particle.

Figure 8 presents the axial force distribution for varying values of the l -mode and pulse duration τ for both low- and high-refractive-index particles. Sub-figures 8 (a-d) correspond to high-refractive-index particles, whereas sub-figures 8 (e-h) represent low-refractive-index particles. The results indicate that the axial force increases with decreasing pulse duration and l -mode values. Furthermore, the extent of the trapping region along the z -axis diminishes as the pulse

duration decreases. For high-refractive-index particles, two distinct stable trapping zones are observed at larger pulse duration; however, these zones vanish at shorter pulse duration, leaving only the guiding forces dominant. In contrast, for low-refractive-index particles, two stable trapping zones persist for both large and small pulse duration.

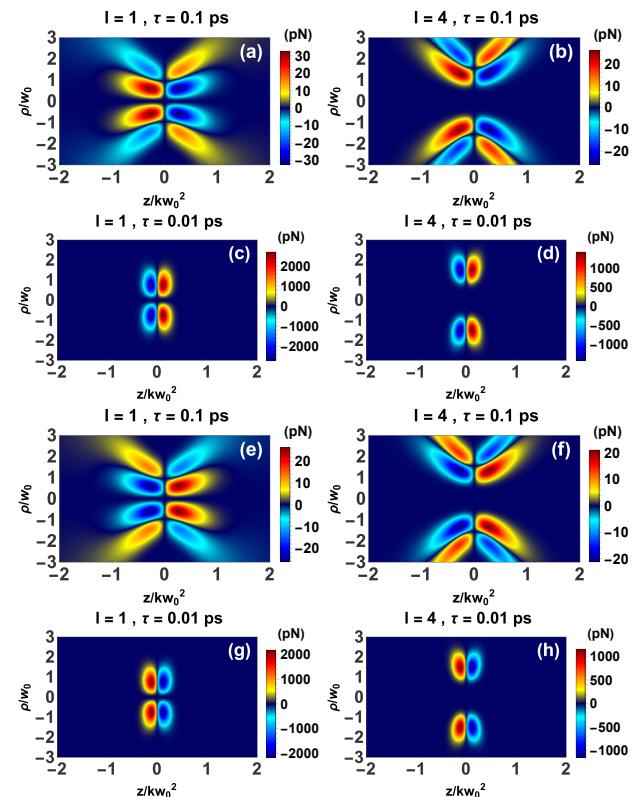


Figure 8. Illustrates the axial force distribution for different values of l -mode and pulse duration τ at $t = 0$. (a-d) For high refractive index particle and (e-h) for low refractive index particle.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Our analysis shows that particles with a high refractive index experience significantly stronger forces compared to those with a low refractive index. The area of force influence depends on the pulse duration but remains unaffected by variations in the azimuthal mode (l). This feature can be advantageous for controlling the number of particles that can be trapped or guided within the same region. Moreover, the number of trapping zones is not influenced by the l -mode values or the pulse duration; rather, it is affected by changes in the axial position (z) and the relative refractive index (m), whether $m > 1$ or $m < 1$. Theoretical analysis indicates that the LG_{0l} mode can trap particles or atoms in a planar (2D) configuration, offering bottle-beam-like control in the confined dimensions. These findings provide valuable insights for advancing optical manipulation techniques, with potential

applications in biophotonics, nanotechnology, and the controlled assembly of micro- and nano-scale systems.

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