## Vortex knots in self-trapped laser beams

Anton S. Desyatnikov<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Buccoliero<sup>1</sup>, Mark R. Dennis<sup>2</sup>, and Yuri S. Kivshar<sup>1</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Nonlinear Physics Centre, Research School of Physics and Engineering, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia
- $^2$  H. H. Wills Physics Laboratory, University of Bristol, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TL, UK.

email: asd124@physics.anu.edu.au

## Abstract:

We demonstrate theoretically the spontaneous nucleation and knotting of optical vortex lines in the filed of a spinning spatial soliton. The physical mechanism responsible for spontaneous knotting is the combination of nonlinear self-phase modulation of an elliptic laser beam and its spatial twist introduced by optical orbital angular momentum.