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## Topological Switching and Orbiting Dynamics of Colloidal Spheres Dressed with Chiral Nematic Solitons

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Metastable configurations formed by defects, inclusions, elastic deformations and topological solitons in liquid crystals are a promising choice for building photonic crystals and metamaterials with a potential for new optical applications. Local optical modification of the director or introduction of colloidal inclusions into a moderately chiral nematic liquid crystal confined to a homeotropic cell creates localized multistable chiral solitons. Here we induce solitons that "dress" the dispersed spherical particles treated for tangential degenerate boundary conditions, and perform controlled switching of their state using focused optical beams. Two optically switchable distinct metastable states, toron and hopfion, bound to colloidal spheres into structures with different topological charges are investigated. Their structures are examined using Q-tensor based numerical simulations and compared to the profiles reconstructed from the experiments. A topological explanation of observed multistability is constructed.

d c beeedaecay edec (eade ec ), f e a y ec d c be ee date cay cut c ( cut c y) cay ab e defec, e e cay e b day c d d a a defec -f ee a  $e^{19/23}$ . ead e- e dcy a', ed ec fed efe  $e ca_V$  'a ace a dec caede e ca I ac eec cac a b dae, e e ca c e de ed b day e e d ec fed. We e c e e c c c a abé e ce a.Iace e d a efe a с ce, eba afaede, e ee ca edcae ca ca be ceaedade aedb a a fcedae bea<sup>24</sup> adae e aeec cfed<sup>25</sup>. Ted ed cey f c a a ficieldae bea "adda e e a eec credin ed edic ey ficieldae bea "adda e e a eec credin ed edic ey ficieldae ba a 26 ad f (H ffba dec fed)<sup>27</sup> c, ceceaed, be a e a - a ce a te abe a e ba . I ac a ad de aey ed e a c, a ce a face ea e a e "de ed" by a ea ey a e fea cd cay e ed b a d e defec. U e e ec y cc a d e defec, a da e a d f f a ed c e e c c c a c a e e cae, e by ec e e c c. Tegae а a e ab e a d de ea ee fee ee ace ca <sub>V</sub> e е, ab e еc ec

e c y f e a e .W e abe a ed a e ee b f a e e ca a e a a ed ce f c a d-, c f a ce f e e ca e a y f e c a e a f c da a ce.T e a ea a ey f a ce- b d a e e e. I , e e e e c e a d a a f ca c ed c da c e e a e cc a e a c ce a a b f c e e c f ed be ee a a e face- e a ed a a e. I a a e f c e e e b c e e c c a e ~0.8 0.95 a d c e e da e e ~0.7 f e c e, e de f c e a c f ed c f a a a e ab ed b e ed 'c a y a d f y b d c e e c e e. W a ca c c y (POM) e e, e de a e ca c

and the second	

Figure 2 | Metastable twisted textures around colloidal particles with degenerate planar surface anchoring. (a), (b), (e), (f): A structure, recognized as a

A	. :	a	c e		a a	ι	le e	e a e	e a	с		bį	e f	e		e	bį	a	F	e d	ec			-	аe	9	e a	C €	e f	ace	e	ad	f
e	e	ce	f	face	defe	с,	С	6	a fe	e	a b	'	а	e		e	,		a		e	e	d a	. Т	e	С	e	F	. 3a	а	e	а	ι
f	e	а	c e <sup>2</sup>	<sup>21</sup> . B		b e	e ed		с	e	e a	Ģ	d	ca	v	-		de	fec	b	а	d	e e	be	e	e		с	e		e	f	e
e	y			b		a	è	е,	b	b	ea	еć	a y		'e	y	def	ec	e	aced	by	a	e	ca	a	c e.	F		e		face	f	

eb e e, ed ec a e a $\pi$ - - a e. I d ec a . I e f c e, ed ec c a, e c e F. 3b d e a e a b defec a d bac a d f acc da e e a d e a ce, b e e b e e f c  $e^{27}$ . T ed ec y e e a a e e b e f (e, a c a) a d a c e face, a a e a a e, a d a e ca ca e add a defec e ed d ed, b cay e a e e c e e eced (F. 3b). T e c e (F. 3a) a e a d e ef e 

a curve cay e a e e ce e e ced ac a e a c (F.3c). Tedffe e ce e be f defec e b e e a ce b ca e a dffe ca e e e c e, c de e e a c d e e y f e e e B eP ca e e  $e^{33.34}$ , dec f e d a e e de e a a a a c ca e e face f e e e a d be f2, c e e e e a a a c b d a d a b e e f e , a d a f f e d a a f b d be ca b a a ca a e a c b d a d a b e e f e , a d a ca a e a ca e a a e e c f e d. F a a ced e e ca a a e e c f e d. F a a ced e e ca a a e e c f e d. F a a ced e e ca a a e e c f e d. F a a ced e e ca a a e e c f e ca a e e e c f e d e e a e e e c c e y dec a e d a b a a e e c f e d. F a a ced e e ca a a e e c f e d e e a e e e c f e e e ca a e e e c f e e e ca a e e e c f e e e ca a e e e e ca a e e e c f e e e ca a e e e e f e e ca a e e e e f e e ca a e e e e f e e ca a e e e e f e e ca a e e e e f e e a a a c b b a e e e e f e f e f e a f e e a e a f e e e ca a e e e e f e e a f e e ca a a f e e e ca a a e e e e f e e a f e e ca a a e f e e a a f e e e ca a a e e e e f e e a a a c b b a e e e f e f e face a a c b . N e a e e a a f e e f e ca a e e e e f e f e face a a c b . N e a e e a a f e e -cay e e a . T e f e b . e e e f e e f e face ca ca e be eff ca y e e a . T e f e b 'c b e f e d e c a d a e f e b a d ce-e a. T e de e e ffeed a de e e e a e f eb e-ae a fedec ca aa e(a de), cca ay ee be fπ-.Ze ce deace'aaadeeeae acaeac, ca<sub>e</sub>eae cacae, = 0 (F. 3c). W a cea be f , e cacaefeeveca ceaea e be ee  $= \pm 1$  a d = 0 (F . 3d, e). T e be f eavdee edb;c eade eeedec

a a (ea - e) d ec, a acc e e e f

e e f e a ce (F.5c). T eb e ed ec (F.6). T ba e a e e e a e a f ece a f ed be ç de, c a a e a ce fee a a a aey e e fed a e a ece e e f e . D e e c c f e a ce e d ed , a f e a ce d ce a-f eb a d c e e y, f e a ce ed be ç de. T e SPMB a f cay c - ca ed ed be ç de fa , c ca bea abe e a abe f c a a ce e e c a f , de e d e ea ç e f e a ce e e c e e f e . A 105 G a e c fed a a 0.125 H a a ed e v

105 G a e c f e d a a 0.125 H a a ed e y a e a e e SPMB<sup>36</sup>, c e c ed a face e aće cadec dce a -caed"ba"

e e e e b f e SPMB e be aced b e a a e c f e d c c a f e b a ad d a a e e de . T e a e a e a e  $c_{V}$  f e e CW<sub>1</sub> a ed ef e -57 de /, f CW<sub>2</sub> 45 de / , a d f CW<sub>3</sub> -53 de / . T e de e de ce f e b a a e dcae ay ey baa a e cyad a e e dde e d e f e d a d e c .

## Discussion

Discussion O a ce- ab ed add e e f a abe bec f aed c e e c  $d c_{y}$  a C ed cea a d a a fa e a defec ab abe ce ; ade abe  $e_{y} d$  a a d e y de ce T ec a y f e ed c e ab y ee ac ec e c a abe e c. S a e a ce a ea a ced defec a d ace e a c def a a d ec a c e, bec ec f ed b ed be- T ee ca aca " be" c a e e e ed f d c f face. A e a ce a d a - a ce e ac e ed e e b e f ef-a e by a d a eed a e by f e- c e ca aca T e a ce c b e

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