

自研 $100\ \mu\text{m}/400\ \mu\text{m}$ 光纤实现 $1000\ \text{W}$ 纳秒脉冲激光输出

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摘要 搭建了基于声光调 Q 种子源的主振荡高功率放大(MOPA)系统。采用自主设计和制备的大模场双包层($100\ \mu\text{m}/400\ \mu\text{m}$)有源光纤,通过两级放大,在重复频率为 60 kHz、脉冲宽度为 150 ns 的条件下实现了平均功率为 1000 W 的脉冲输出,斜率效率为 72.5%,光谱显示无剩余泵浦光和寄生振荡,同时没有受激拉曼散射效应。此时的脉冲宽度展宽到 260 ns,单脉冲能量为 16.7 mJ。这是采用国产光纤实现脉冲激光器平均功率突破 1000 W 的首次报道。

关键词 光纤光学; 脉冲光纤激光器; 主振荡功率放大; 高功率脉冲放大

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高功率脉冲光纤激光器在科研、工业和军事等领域中有重大的研究价值和广阔的应用前景^[1-4]。但是在实现高功率尤其是千瓦量级放大的时候,系统经常会面临各种挑战:由剧烈吸收导致的有源光纤注入端温度过高;由高功率条件下饱和增益引起的寄生振荡;更为重要的是由高峰值功率导致的光纤石英击穿,进而器件受损。通过合理设计大模场光纤剖面结构和折射率分布,可以有效改善光纤中的激光模式分布,从而大幅度提升光纤的损伤阈值并抑制非线性效应。在国内诸多单位的努力下,国产光纤在连续光激光器中已经获得了巨大的突破^[5-7],基于国产有源光纤实现连续万瓦激光输出的研究已有报道^[8-10]。然而,国产有源光纤实现高功率脉冲输出的研究却鲜有报道,根据之前报道的脉冲激光实现 761 W 输出的结果^[1],基于国产光纤的高功率脉冲光纤激光器仍具有巨大潜力。在国外千瓦脉冲方面,鲜有科研报道,不过从领跑者 IPG 目前可查的产品来看,基于纤芯尺寸为 $600\ \mu\text{m}$ 的有源光纤的可以工作在 $1\sim 2\ \text{kW}$ 的脉冲光纤激光器已经相当成熟,但其内部结构和细节却处于不透明状态。因此,关于高功率光纤激光器所用的有源光纤乃至高功率系统的研究对于国内实现技术突破是十分有必要的。

对于千瓦脉冲的实现,还是采用主振荡放大(MOPA)结构对高性能种子源进行多级放大。其中影响激光器放大性能的主要因素是放大自发辐射(ASE),其导致脉冲能量无法持续提高^[11]。而且在大模场光纤放大器中,ASE 发射截面会随着有源光纤尺寸的增大而增大,进而而在高增益腔中引起寄生振荡,这不仅阻止激光对泵浦光能量的提取,甚至会对激光系统造成损伤。基于之前的 761 W 输出报道,我们对放大级以及主放大级泵浦源进行了改进,提升了寄生振荡出现的功率阈值并且改善了光纤温度,从而实现了无寄生振荡无受激拉曼散射的千瓦激光输出。

基于 MOPA 结构的全光纤激光系统如图 1 所示。种子源包含一个声光调制器,用于实现调 Q 脉冲输出,调制频率为 $20\sim 60\ \text{kHz}$ 。实验中将种子源固定在 60 kHz 重复频率下。滤模后的激光输出功率为 2.87 W。激光经过隔离器后进入一级放大,一级放大采用四个 30 W 的 915 nm 半导体激光器(LD)作为泵浦源,合束器输入端和输出端分别为 $10\ \mu\text{m}/130\ \mu\text{m}$ 和 $30\ \mu\text{m}/250\ \mu\text{m}$ 双包层无源光纤。本级放大采用的增益光纤为自研的 $30\ \mu\text{m}/250\ \mu\text{m}$ 双包层掺镱有源光纤,滤模后获得 58.3 W 的激光输出。在主放大级,采用输入和输出信号端分别为

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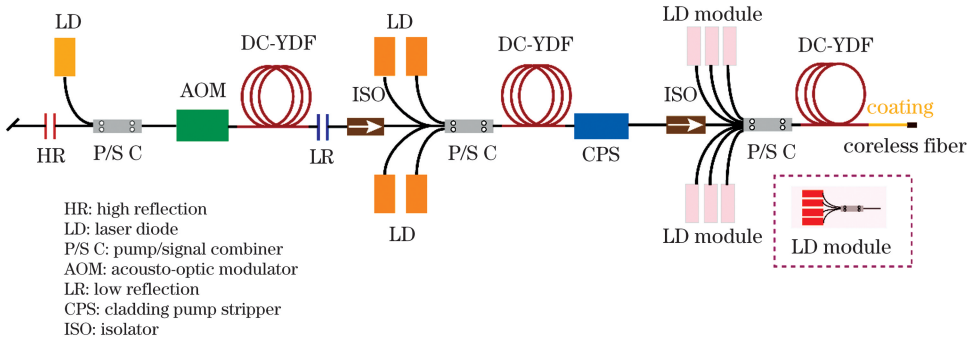


图1 MOPA 全光纤激光器结构图

Fig. 1 Structural diagram of MOPA all-fiber laser

30 μm/250 μm 和 80 μm/400 μm 的耦合器进行信号光耦合。每个泵浦模块由四个 915 nm LD 通过 4×1 泵浦合束器组成,并且 6 个模块通过(6+1)×1 耦合器对 4 m 的 100 μm/400 μm 有源光纤进行放大。通过在输出端熔接 400 μm 的无芯光纤来降低

输出激光功率密度,对无芯光纤切 8°角以防止端面反射。最终,在 1320 W 抽运光的泵浦下获得了 1000 W 的脉冲激光输出,此时相应的单脉冲能量约为 16.7 mJ,峰值功率约为 64 kW,斜率效率为 72.5%。输出波形、光谱和功率曲线如图 2 所示。

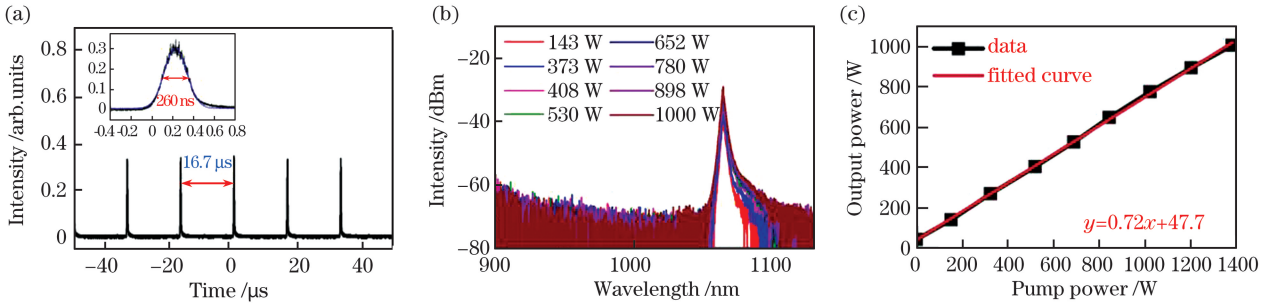


图2 60 kHz MOPA 系统的性能。(a)时域波形;(b)频域光谱;(c)功率曲线

Fig. 2 Performance of 60 kHz MOPA system. (a) Waveform in time domain; (b) spectra in frequency domain; (c) power curve

在 60 kHz 放大过程中,在光谱中没有观察到残余泵浦光、受激拉曼散射效应和寄生振荡现象,并且有源光纤无异常高温现象,此时功率增长呈线性,证明光纤还有更进一步的放大能力。实验中激光功率的进一步提升受限于泵浦臂所能承受的最大泵浦功率。

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1000 W Nanosecond Pulsed Laser Output Based on Homemade 100 μm /400 μm Fiber

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Abstract

Objective All-fiber, high-power lasers play important roles in practical applications and scientific research. In the research field of high-power pulsed fiber lasers, the master oscillator power amplifier (MOPA) configuration seeded by a pulsed fiber laser oscillator is a typical design, which is widely used to achieve high-power pulsed laser emission. However, there still exist too many factors influencing the practical realization of such devices, such as 1) nonlinear effects, especially stimulated Raman scattering (SRS), 2) overly high intrinsic temperature of the active fiber caused by quantum loss, 3) parasitic oscillation induced by gain saturation, and 4) fiber damage due to instantaneous and violent pulsed power peaks. Appropriate fiber design can mitigate these effects to some degree. The realization of more than ten thousand watts in continuous-wave lasers based on homemade fibers has been reported. However, the fiber damage requires more attention in pulsed fiber lasers because of their high peak powers. Currently, most active fibers utilized in a high-power pulsed-laser system rely on imports. In this paper, we report the realization of a 1000 W nanosecond pulsed laser using homemade double-cladded Yb-doped fibers (DCYDFs). To our knowledge, this is the first fiber laser based on homemade fibers to break through the kilowatt level in average power.

Methods We construct an acousto-optic-modulator-based seed source with a tunable repetition rate of 20-60 kHz. Two amplification stages are followed to boost the average power to 1000 W. The waveforms and spectra are captured by an oscilloscope (Lecroy WaveSurfer 44MXs-B) and a spectrograph (YOKOGAWA AQ6370D), respectively. We utilize the homemade 10 μm /130 μm , 30 μm /250 μm , and 100 μm /400 μm DCYDFs to provide

the laser gain media in the seed source, preamplifier, and main amplifier, respectively. At the output end, a coreless fiber with a cleaved angle of about 8° is used to mitigate the laser intensity.

Results and Discussion A pulsed power of 2.87 W, at a repetition rate of 60 kHz, and a pulse width of 150 ns, is generated by the Q-switched seed source. After two stages of amplification, the average power is boosted to 1000 W, with the pulse width broadened to about 260 ns [Fig. 2(a)]. The pulse energy is 16.7 mJ and the peak power is about 64 kW. Neither SRS nor high-frequency parasitic oscillation appears at the highest power [Fig. 2(b)]. The slope efficiency is about 72.5%. A linearly fitted curve indicates the possibility of further power scaling, but this is limited by pump promotion [Fig. 2(c)].

Conclusion Using homemade DCYDFs, we have demonstrated the realization of a 1000 W nanosecond pulsed fiber laser based on an acousto-optic-modulator-based and Q-switched seed source and two stages of amplification. Neither SRS nor parasitic oscillation is generated in the spectra and power scaling is limited by pump promotion. To our knowledge, this is the first kilowatt pulsed fiber laser based on homemade fibers.

Key words fiber optics; pulsed fiber laser; master oscillator power amplifier; high power pulse amplification

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