

基于可调谐激光器的光纤高低温力热复合多参量传感系统

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摘要 为了实现复杂环境下力热参量同时检测的需求,提出了一种光纤力热复合多参量传感系统。首先通过可调谐激光器输出窄带激光信号,信号经 3 dB 耦合器分别进入由多路光纤光栅传感器组成的温度与应变传感单元和标准具。最后,将获取到的温度与应变传感信号及标准具输出的信号共同送入信号处理单元进行解调。为验证设计系统的有效性,进行了一系列的温度和应变实验。实验结果表明,所提多参量传感系统可以在较大的测量范围内进行精确的温度和应变检测。特别地,系统在 $-252.75 \sim 200.94$ °C 的温度范围内可以实现温度及应变的准确测量,温度测量误差不超过 ± 0.80 °C,应变测量误差小于 ± 2.90 $\mu\epsilon$ 。对比传统的设计方案,所提系统具有结构简单、测量范围大、稳定性好和测量精度高等优势。

关键词 光纤光学; 光纤布拉格光栅; 可调谐激光器; 力热复合传感; 高低温; 仪器化

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1 引言

空间探测技术及海洋和地质自然资源探测技术逐渐成为我国发展的重要方向。为了实现对这些领域的精准探测,需要获取环境中的基本物理信息诸如温度、应变等。然而,这些复杂环境对传感器的要求极为严苛。相比于传统电磁传感器,光纤传感器具有体积小、重量轻、耐腐蚀、抗电磁干扰、容易复用等特点,适用于航空、海洋以及地质探测^[1]。光纤力热复合传感主要分为两种机制。一种是采用基于光纤布拉格光栅的传感结构,通过反射光的光谱信息得到被测物理量的变化,可以对温度、应变、位移等力热参量进行直接或间接检测。例如,Gao 等^[2]利用锥形光纤中刻写的多个光栅实现了温度和应变的同时测量,温度测量范围为 $35 \sim 54$ °C,应变测量范围为 $0 \sim 20000$ $\mu\epsilon$,温度测量灵敏度为 29.10 pm/°C,应变测量灵敏度为 0.37 pm/ $\mu\epsilon$ 。Oliveira 等^[3]利用锥

区和非锥区刻写的两个光栅实现了温度、应变以及折射率的测量,其中温度测量范围为 $22 \sim 85$ °C,精度为 1.36 °C,应变测量范围为 $0 \sim 1389$ $\mu\epsilon$,精度为 3.77 $\mu\epsilon$ 。另一种是采用不同传感结构的组合。Kim 等^[4]通过保偏光子晶体光纤级联长周期光纤光栅实现了温度和应变的同时测量,温度测量范围为 $25 \sim 95$ °C,灵敏度为 15.14 pm/°C,应变测量范围为 $0 \sim 2244$ $\mu\epsilon$,灵敏度为 -1.41 pm/ $\mu\epsilon$ 。上官春梅等^[5]制作了一种光纤法布里-珀罗腔级联马赫-曾德尔的双参量传感器,该传感器可以同时实现 $30 \sim 150$ °C 的温度测量以及 $0 \sim 450$ $\mu\epsilon$ 的应变测量。以上两种方案虽然可以实现温度和应变两个物理量的同时检测,但也都存在测量范围小、测量误差大、结构复杂、成本高等不足。针对以上问题,本文提出了一种基于改进光纤布拉格光栅的温度/应变多参量传感系统。

光纤法布里-珀罗(Fabry-Perot, F-P)滤波器解

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调法是一种常用的光纤光栅解调方法,该方法通过压电组件对 F-P 可调谐滤波器进行调节,进而实现对光纤布拉格光栅(Fiber Bragg Grating, FBG)波长变化量的提取^[6]。然而,传统的 F-P 滤波器解调法主要存在以下不足:F-P 滤波器的非线性效应以及迟滞效应制约着解调系统的解调精度,容易产生温度漂移,外界环境的温度变化会影响解调系统的精度;另外,一般的 F-P 滤波器扫描频率不高,不适用于高速率的传感系统,并且高精细度的光滤波器存在成本高的问题^[7-10]。为了避免光纤 F-P 滤波器对系统的影响,本文提出的温度/应变多参量传感系统采用可调谐激光器作为光源,输出连续窄带激光信号,信号被 3 dB 耦合器一分为二,分别进入由光纤光栅组成的传感单元和 F-P 标准具。传感单元主要由 1×16 光纤分束器、环形器和光纤光栅传感器组成。将传感单元获取的温度/应变传感信号与 F-P 标准具输出的校准信号共同送入到探测器,传感光信号被转换为传感电信号。最后,将传感电信号与校准电信号共同送入由采集卡和工控机组成的信号处理单元进行解调。该系统采用的可调谐激光器具有波长分辨率高的优点,且扫描过程中的线性度好,有效减小了迟滞效应和非线性效应对解调精度的影响,适用于低温环境下的力热参量检测以及光纤光栅传感器的非线性标定。经相关实验验证,本文提出的温度/应变多参量光纤传感系统在 -252.75~200.94 °C 的温度范围内可以实现温度及应变的准确测量。为了更好地将所提出的多参量传感系统应用到工程中,本文对传感系统进行了仪器化的设计。

2 光纤温度/应变多参量传感系统的设计

2.1 光纤光栅温度/应变传感原理

当光源输出的光信号传输至光纤光栅时,满足光纤光栅布拉格条件的光将产生反射,其反射光对应的中心波长为 $\lambda_B = 2n_{\text{eff}}\Lambda$, 其中 λ_B 为反射光的中心波长, n_{eff} 为光纤有效折射率, Λ 为光栅的周期。当外界温度或应变发生变化时,由于光纤自身存在延展性以及热膨胀性,因此光纤有效折射率与光栅周期也会随之发生改变,通过解调反射光谱中心波长的移动量,可以得到对应的温度或应变变化。其变化关系为

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda_B}{\lambda_{B0}} = (1 - P^{\text{eff}}) \Delta\epsilon + (a_n + a) \Delta T, \quad (1)$$

式中: $\Delta\lambda_B$ 为中心波长的变化量; λ_{B0} 为不受应力且温度为 0 时光栅的初始中心波长; P^{eff} 为光纤的光弹系数; $\Delta\epsilon$ 为应变的变化量; a_n 为材料的热光系数; a 为材料的热膨胀系数; ΔT 为温度的变化^[11-13]。

在低温条件下,石英光纤的热膨胀特性会造成光栅周期的变化,热光效应则会对光纤折射率产生影响,从而改变光纤光栅传感器的温度适应范围以及传感精度。目前光纤所采用的石英材料是 Spectrosil 1000, 其热膨胀系数在 10~ -45 °C 范围内保持恒定状态,约为 $0.44 \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$ ^[14-19], 而随着温度的进一步下降,其热膨胀系数也会迅速下降,如图 1(a) 所示。热光系数表示折射率随温度的变化,石英材料的热光系数 dn/dT 是温度的函数,随着温度的降低, dn/dT 也逐渐减小^[20-21], 如图 1(b) 所示。综上所述,在外界温度持续降低的情况下,光纤光栅

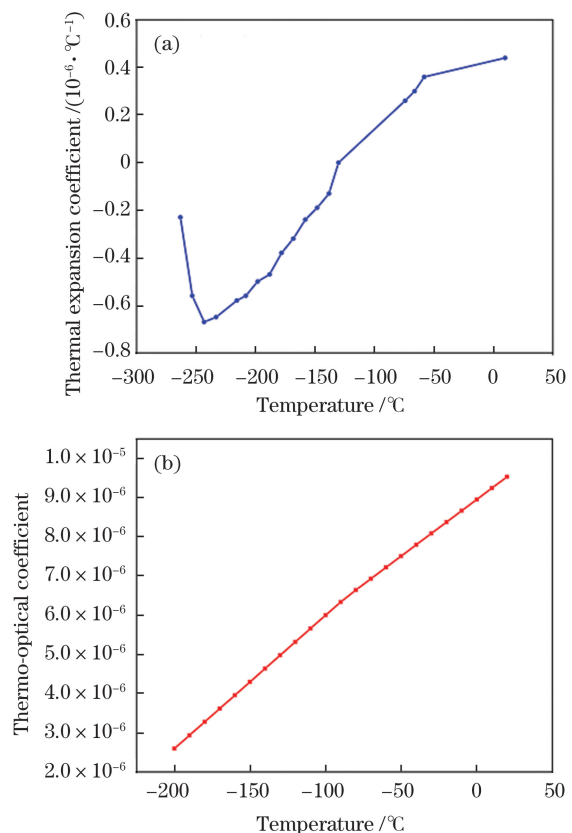


图 1 低温区材料的热膨胀系数及热光系数随温度的变化。(a) Spectrosil 1000 型石英的热膨胀系数; (b) 石英的热光系数

Fig. 1 Thermal expansion coefficient and thermo-optical coefficient of materials in cryogenic environment versus temperature. (a) Thermal expansion coefficient of Spectrosil 1000 quartz; (b) thermo-optical coefficient of quartz

传感器的灵敏度也会减小。因此,对于高低温环境下光纤光栅温度/应变传感器,需要采用特殊的制备方法,温度传感器中心波长偏移量与温度的关系也需要进行二次拟合,以减小温度测量的误差。

2.2 光纤温度/应变解调系统

为了实现温度/应变的多通道大范围高精度的复合传感,本文提出并设计的光纤力热复合解调系统如图 2 所示。该系统由可调谐激光器、F-P 标准具、驱动电路、分束器、光纤光栅温度/应变传感器、光电探测器和数据采集处理模块组成。其中,可调谐激光器在驱动电路发出的三角波信号下进行波长扫描,形成连续选频光源。光源发出的光经过耦合

器后分为两路,分别进入多通道传感器以及标准具。进入多通道传感器的光通过分束器后进入 16 个传感通道(8 个温度传感通道以及 8 个应变传感通道),利用环形器将传感器(环形器端口 2)反射的光传入光电探测器(环形器端口 3),经过 F-P 标准具和传感器的光被光电探测器接受并转化为电信号。驱动电路产生一路与三角波同步的方波信号,作为数据采集的同步信号,控制采集卡以及现场可编程逻辑门阵列(Field Programmable Gate Array, FPGA)数据处理模块接收电信号进行处理,得到传感器的波长变化量,根据波长与力热参量的变化关系,解调出对应的温度/应变值,传入上位机进行数据显示及数据存储。

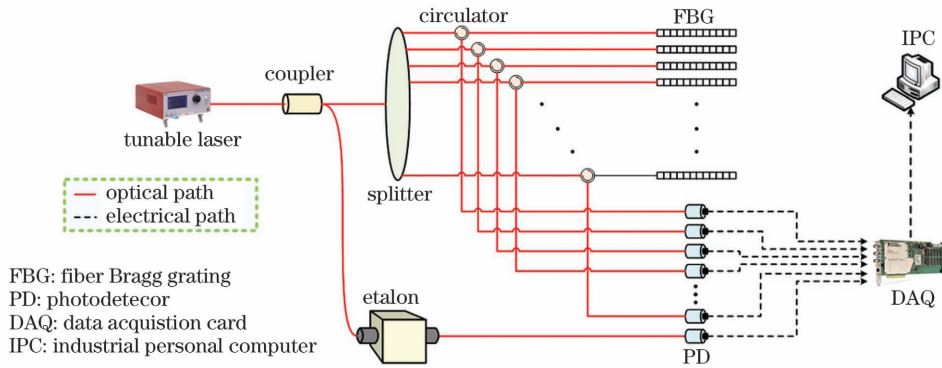


图 2 光纤温度/应变解调系统的结构

Fig. 2 Structural diagram of optical fiber temperature/strain demodulation system

一般的可调谐 F-P 滤波器法是基于 F-P 滤波器的驱动电压和波长的对应关系实现的,对应关系比较单一。因此,加入 F-P 标准具作为标准的参考光栅,结合可调谐滤波器,可以明显提高光纤光栅的解调精度和稳定性。F-P 标准具可以提供等光频率间隔的波长参考谱线,并且通过其内置陷波滤波器滤掉一个峰,标记缺陷的位置,各个波峰与参考波长值对应^[9-12]。由于标准具通道和传感 FBG 通道采用同步采样,只要确定标准具每个波峰对应的波长值,就能确定每个采样点对应的波长值,进而确定光纤光栅反射波峰对应的波长值。设某两个相邻的正峰对应的波长分别为 λ_1 和 λ_2 , 对应的采样点位置序号分别为 n_1 和 n_2 , 则两正峰之间的任意采样点 x 对应的波长值为 λ_x :

$$\lambda_x = \frac{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}{n_2 - n_1}(x - n_1) + \lambda_1. \quad (2)$$

对于光纤光栅传感通道,首先计算得到光栅反射峰对应的采样点,然后判断其在哪两个标准具的正峰之间,利用(2)式即可得到该反射峰对应的波长。

2.3 光纤光栅温度/应变传感器的制备方法

在传感器方面,为了适应高低温环境下不同力热参量的探测需求,温度及应变探测的传感器采用了特殊的封装结构。由于氧化铝陶瓷具有良好的导热性以及温度重复性,采用陶瓷管对光纤温度传感器进行封装,将耐高温聚酰亚胺涂敷的光栅作为传感元,利用低熔点玻璃将光纤光栅与外层的氧化铝陶瓷管相粘贴^[22-24],如图 3 所示。在制作过程中,需要对 FBG 施加一定的应力,并且需要注意保证栅区位于陶瓷管的中央。与传统使用胶粘剂进行封装的方式不同,该方法避免了胶粘剂老化、蠕变以及低温易脱落等问题,使光纤光栅温度传感器适用于更广

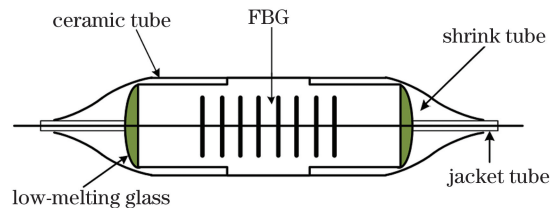


图 3 光纤温度传感器示意图

Fig. 3 Schematic of optical fiber temperature sensor

泛的温度范围,提高了传感器的稳定性。

光纤应变传感器则主要由金属基底、光纤光栅以及套管构成。基底形状与应变测量的环境需求有关。为了提高应变测量的范围,本文采用了减敏型基底以保护应变传感光栅。另外,基底材料对应变传递的影响也很大,会对测量结果造成影响^[25-27]。本文采用了 316L 型不锈钢作为应变传感器的基底材料,该材料不仅具有耐腐蚀特性,而且与实际工程中被测结构的热膨胀系数接近,可以提高应变测量的准确度。如图 4 所示,在制作过程中,首先要对金属基底进行打磨,并用乙醇进行擦拭以去除表面异物,光纤光栅在预拉伸的状态下使用低熔点玻璃与金属基底焊接,待基底冷却后,再选择温度适应性好的环氧胶进行二次固定。该方法在保证应变测量准确度的前提下提升了传感器的温度适应性。

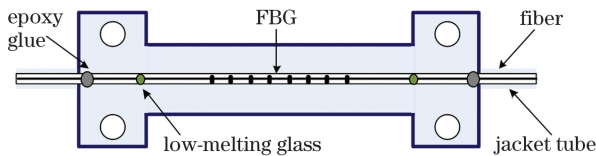


图 4 光纤应变传感器示意图

Fig. 4 Schematic of optical fiber strain sensor

3 光纤温度/应变多参量传感系统的高低温度实验

为了验证本文采用的光纤温度/应变力热复合测试系统在高低温环境下的性能,利用图 5 所示的实验平台进行了温度及应变传感的测试,实验器材包括光纤力热复合测试仪、铂电阻温度计、液氢罐、液氮罐、低温酒精恒温槽、温度试验箱以及高温硅油恒温槽。

在高低温测试中,首先将光纤力热复合测试仪打开,运行下位机及上位机,待其 10 min 后运行稳



图 5 光纤温度/应变传感系统的高低温实验平台

Fig. 5 High temperature and cryogenic experimental platform for optical fiber temperature/strain sensing system

定。将传感器分别置于液氢(-252.75 °C)、液氮(-196.56 °C)、低温酒精恒温槽(-80 °C 和 -60 °C)、温度试验箱(-40, -10, 20, 50, 80, 110, 140 °C)以及高温硅油恒温槽(170 °C 和 200 °C)中。对于温度传感器,在各温度节点分别静置 5 min 以确保传感器完全吸收热量,并记录两支传感器在对应温度点的波长值以及温度传感系统解调出的实测温度值。测试结果如图 6 所示。

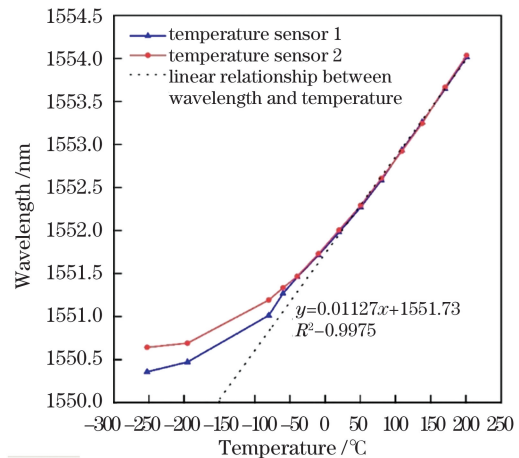


图 6 -252.75~200.94 °C 范围内温度传感器的中心波长变化

Fig. 6 Central wavelength change of temperature sensor within -252.75~200.94 °C

对于应变传感器,在以上温度点分别静置 5 min 后,取出应变探头,静置 30 min 后粘贴到悬臂梁上,静置 40 s,再分别放置 500 g, 1000 g 以及 1500 g 的砝码,待悬臂梁稳定后连续 40 s 记录应变传感器的波长值以及应变传感系统解调出的实测应变值,如图 7 所示,其中 ΔS_1 、 ΔS_2 、 ΔS_3 、 ΔS_4 分别表示砝码质量为 0, 500, 1000, 1500 g 时应变传感系统解调出的实测应变值的平均误差。

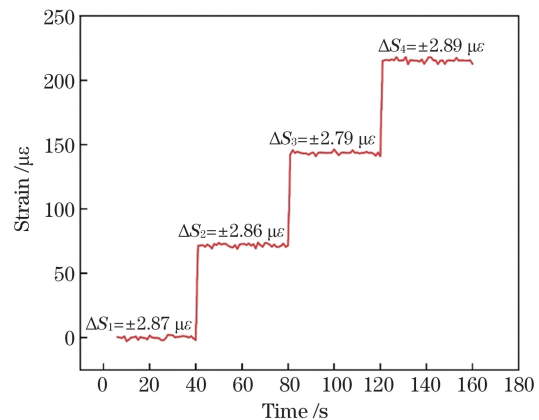


图 7 高低温测试后应变传感器解调的应变值变化

Fig. 7 Strain value change demodulated by strain sensor after high temperature and cryogenic test

4 实验结果分析与讨论

由图 6 中可以看出,温度与波长在 $0\sim 200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 范围内呈良好的线性关系,拟合系数为 99.75% ,温度传感器的灵敏度约为 $11.60\text{ pm}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ 。光纤力热复合测试仪的波长分辨率为 1 pm ,因此对应的温度传感系统的解调灵敏度约为 $0.09\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 。在低温范围内,传感器的灵敏度随着温度的降低逐渐减小。这主要是由于石英材料在低温环境下的特性,在 $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 以下石英的热膨胀系数随温度的降低呈抛物线趋势下降,因此传感器的中心波长移动量与温度呈现非线性关系,继续采用线性拟合的参数对传感器进行标定会增大测量误差。为了减小材料特性对温度测量

准确度的影响,可以对温度与波长的关系曲线进行二次多项式拟合,二次拟合后曲线的相关系数为 99.93% 。利用拟合后的多项式系数对传感器进行配置,可以提高温度传感系统的解调精确度。为了分析温度传感系统的稳定性,对各温度节点连续 300 次采集的温度值进行分析,如图 8 所示,其中 $T_1\sim T_8$ 分别表示 $149.70, 120.88, 90.08, 59.82, -0.01, -29.90, -60.07, -196.12\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 这 8 个温度节点, $\Delta T_1\sim\Delta T_8$ 分别表示温度传感系统在 8 个温度节点处解调出的实测温度值的平均误差。在各个温度节点,温度传感系统的测量误差均不超过 $\pm 0.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$,系统能够准确测量环境温度,且具备良好的稳定性。

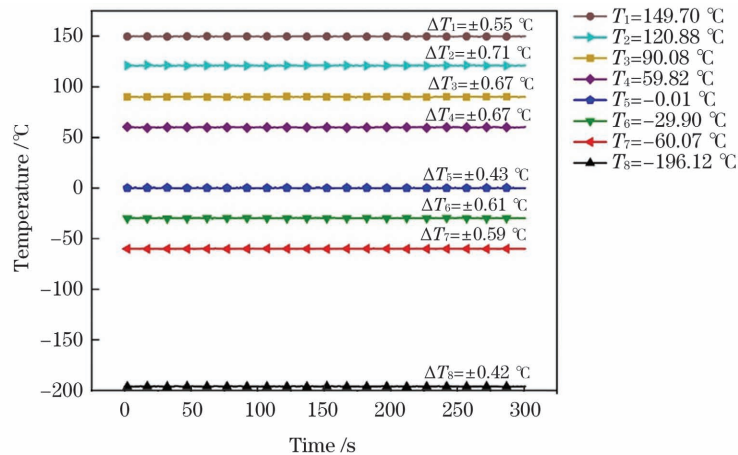


图 8 温度传感器在各温度节点测量值的稳定性

Fig. 8 Measured value stability of temperature sensor at each temperature node

由实验结果图 7 可知,应变传感器在 $-252.75\sim 200.94\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 的完整温度范围内仍能正常工作,而且应变传感系统也能准确解调出相应的应变值。在空载以及分别添加 500 g 、 1000 g 以及 1500 g 砝码的状态下,测量得到的应变值呈现梯度上升 ($0, 71.8, 142.6, 215.4\text{ }\mu\epsilon$),传感器的波长值与应变值也具有良好的线性关系。应变传感器的灵敏度为 $1.66\text{ pm}/\mu\epsilon$,光纤力热复合测试仪的波长分辨率为 1 pm ,因此应变解调系统的灵敏度约为 $0.6\text{ }\mu\epsilon$ 。为了分析应变传感系统的稳定性,在各应变梯度下连续 40 次采集应变值并进行分析,其平均测量误差小于 $2.9\text{ }\mu\epsilon$ 。因此,应变传感系统具备良好的准确性以及稳定性。

5 仪器化设计与实现

为了实现高低温环境下的力热复合参量多通道传感,根据以上原理开发了光纤力热复合测试仪整机,主要包括光路模块、驱动控制模块、数据采集与处

理模块以及软件模块。仪器整体架构如图 9 所示。

光纤力热复合测试仪的整机实物图如图 10 所示。其中,光路模块包括可调谐激光器以及无源模块,可调谐激光器在扫描电压的驱动下进行波长扫描。无源器件集成了耦合器和环形器,便于在航天、深海等高低温环境下进行工程化应用。光源发出的光进入无源模块,被无源模块分为 17 路(1 路标准具以及 16 路传感器)。能量占比为 5% 的光连接至标准具,能量占比为 95% 的光连接到一个 16 路的分束器入口,分束器分出的 16 路分别连接到 16 个环形器的端口 1 上,传感器从环形器端口 2 接入,环形器端口 3 输出的信号连接至光电探测模块。

驱动控制模块主要生成三角波信号和方波信号,三角波信号主要为可调谐激光器提供扫描电压,与其同步的方波信号则传入数据采集与处理模块,作为温度及应变传感系统的同步信号。当光源扫描经过一个周期后,数据采集与处理模块则进行一次采集处理过程。

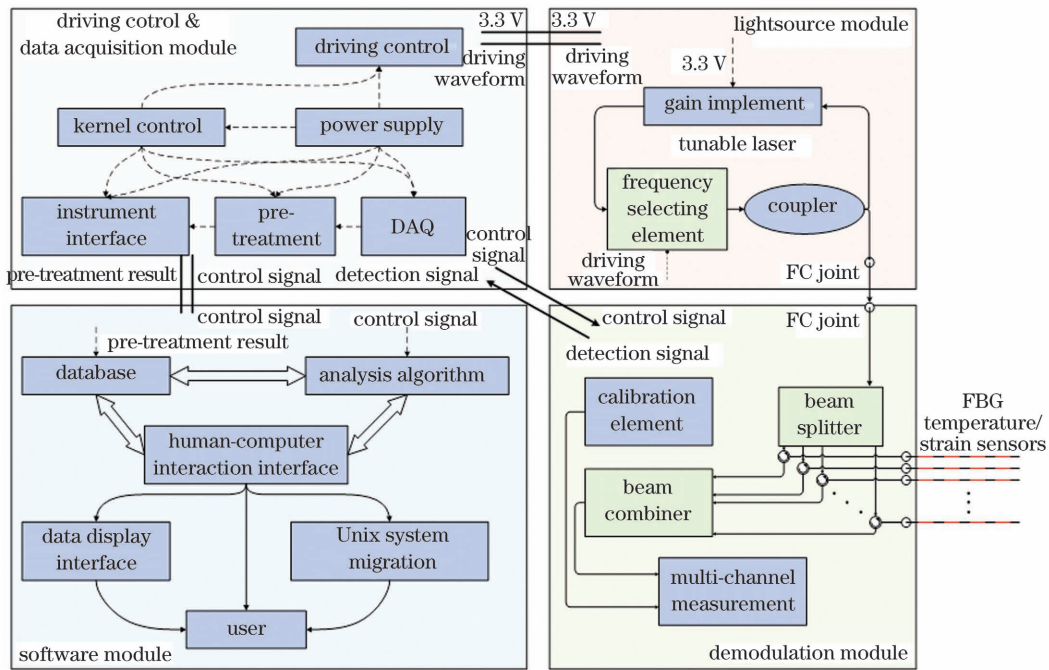


图 9 光纤力热复合测试仪架构图

Fig. 9 Architecture diagram of optical fiber mechanical and thermal multiparameter sensing instrument



图 10 光纤力热复合测试仪的实物图

Fig. 10 Picture of optical fiber mechanical and thermal multiparameter sensing instrument

数据采集与处理模块采用了嵌入式测控平台，集成了 FPGA、实时控制器(Real-Time)以及工业级输入/输出模块，实现了数据采集以及 16 路温度/应变测量信号的功率加权寻峰计算，并将处理后的数据传入上位机进行存储与显示。

软件部分集成了数据库以及上位机软件，主要对多通道传感数据进行存储、分析及显示，采用了个性化配置文件对传感器进行个性标定，满足高低温环境中不同需求的传感器参数配置，软件系统设计界面如图 11 所示。

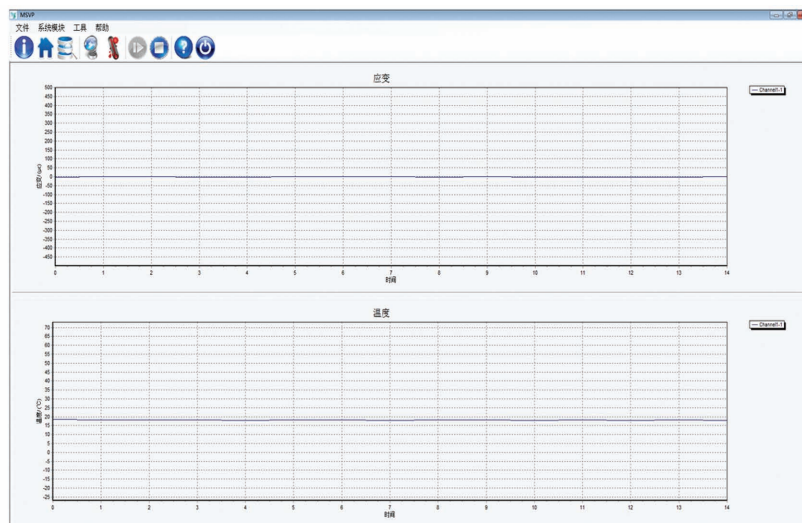


图 11 光纤力热复合测试仪软件系统的界面设计

Fig. 11 Interface design of optical fiber mechanical and thermal multiparameter sensing instrument

6 结 论

基于可调谐激光器设计了一种大范围高精度光纤温度/应变复合测量系统,改进了光纤温度及应变传感器的制作方法,提升了其温度适应范围,并且进行了仪器化的开发,对其在高低温环境下的性能进行了实验以及分析。实验结果表明,在 $-252.75 \sim 200.94$ °C 的温度范围内,该系统可以实现温度以及应变的准确测量,温度测量误差不超过 ± 0.80 °C,应变测量误差小于 $\pm 2.90 \mu\epsilon$ 。另外,该系统可实现多通道、多参量的同时测量,适用于高低温特殊环境下的工程化应用。

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Optical Fiber High and Low Temperature Mechanical and Thermal Multi-Parameter Sensing System Based on Tunable Laser

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Abstract

Objective Spatial, oceanic and geological exploration technologies have increasingly become important directions in our country development. In order to meet the demand of accurate detections, it is necessary to obtain basic physical information (e. g. temperature and strain). However, the requirement for sensors in these complex environments is extremely stringent. Compared with traditional electromagnetic sensors, optical fiber sensors have the characteristics of small size, light weight, corrosion resistance, anti-electromagnetic interference, etc. For optical fiber mechanical and thermal sensing, there are two common methods. One is using the fiber-Bragg-grating-based sensing structure which obtains the mechanical and thermal parameters through the spectral information of the reflected light. The other is using a combination of different sensing structures such as the combination of long-period

fiber gratings (LPFG) with photonic crystal fiber (PCF). The above two methods both have shortcomings such as small measurement range, large measurement error, complex structure, and high cost. In response to the above problems, a fiber Bragg grating for temperature and strain multi-parameter sensing system based on a tunable laser is theoretically proposed and environmentally tested.

Methods In this study, the system consists of a tunable laser, a Fabry-Perot etalon, a driving circuit, a beam splitter, fiber Bragg grating temperature and strain sensors, photodetectors and a data acquisition card. After passing through the coupler, the light output from the tunable laser is divided into two paths, which respectively enter the multi-channel sensor and the etalon. The light entering the multi-channel sensor passes through the beam splitter and enters the 16 sensing channels. The light reflected by the sensor and the light passed through F-P etalon are transmitted to the photodetector and converted into electrical signals. The driving circuit generates a square wave signal synchronized with the triangular wave, which is used as the trigger signal of data acquisition. It controls the acquisition card and the field programmable gate array (FPGA) data processing module to process the electrical signal and demodulate the temperature and strain value according to the relationship between the wavelength and the mechanical and thermal parameters. In the aspect of sensor, we utilize a special packaging structure. The fiber optic temperature sensor is packaged with a ceramic tube. The grating coated with a high temperature resistant polyimide is used as the sensing element. The fiber grating is bonded with the outer layer of an alumina ceramic tube by using low melting point glass. This method avoids the problem of adhesive aging at low temperatures, so the temperature sensor can be applied to a wider temperature range, and the stability of the sensor is improved. The fiber optic strain sensor is composed of a metal substrate, a fiber Bragg grating and a sleeve. A desensitized substrate is used to protect the strain sensing grating. In addition, the 316L stainless steel is used as the base material of the strain sensor. The material has corrosion resistance. Besides, the thermal expansion coefficient of the 316L stainless steel is close to that of the measured structure in engineering applications. These characteristics can further improve the accuracy of strain measurements. In the manufacturing process, the metal substrate should be polished and wiped with ethanol to remove foreign matters on the surface. The fiber Bragg grating is welded with the metal substrate by using low melting point glass in the pre-stretched state. After the substrate is cooled, the epoxy adhesive with good temperature adaptability is used for further fixation. This method improves the temperature adaptability of the sensor while ensuring the accuracy of strain measurements.

Results and Discussions It can be seen that in the range of 0 – 200 °C, the relationship between temperature and wavelength has a good linear relationship (Fig. 6). The sensitivity of the temperature sensor is about 11.60 pm/°C. The wavelength resolution of the optical fiber mechanical and thermal sensing instrument is 1 pm, so the demodulation sensitivity of the corresponding temperature sensing system is about 0.09 °C. In the range of temperature below zero, temperature and wavelength quadratic polynomial fitting can improve the demodulation accuracy of the temperature sensing system. At each temperature node, the measurement error of the temperature sensing system is less than ± 0.8 °C (Fig. 8). For the strain sensing, the FBG strain sensor can still work normally in the whole temperature range of -252.75–200.94 °C. The sensitivity of the strain sensor is 1.66 pm/ $\mu\epsilon$, and the average measurement error is less than 2.9 $\mu\epsilon$ (Fig. 7). The experimental results show that the proposed sensor system has good accuracy and stability.

Conclusions This study describes a wide range and high-precision optical fiber temperature and strain sensing system based on a tunable laser. Besides, the fabrication method of an optical fiber temperature and strain sensor is improved to enhance the temperature adaptation range. Finally, the instrument development is carried out, and the performances in high and low temperature environments are tested and analyzed. The experimental results show that the system can realize accurate temperature and strain measurements in the temperature range of -252.75–200.94 °C. The temperature measurement accuracy is less than ± 0.80 °C and the strain measurement accuracy is less than ± 2.90 $\mu\epsilon$. In addition, the system can realize a multi-channel and multi-parameter measurement at the same time, which is suitable for an engineering application in special environments with high and low temperatures.

Key words fiber optics; fiber Bragg grating; tunable laser; mechanical and thermal composite sensing; high and low temperature; instrumentation

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