

量子噪声增强混沌激光的熵含量

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摘要 利用外腔反馈的半导体激光器产生的混沌激光作为熵源, 理论模拟和实验研究了不同强度和带宽的量子噪声注入对混沌激光熵含量的增强效果, 利用反馈时延 τ_{ext} 、 $\tau_{\text{ext}}/2$ 和 $\tau_{\text{ext}}/3$ 处的排列熵均值, 量化了混沌激光的复杂度, 并利用不同维度排列熵增, 判别了混沌噪声的主导过程。实验上通过平衡零拍探测系统制备了量子散粒噪声, 测量了 100, 300, 500 MHz 不同量子噪声带宽注入下混沌激光熵增随量子噪声强度的变化。结果表明, 窄带量子噪声可有效提高宽带混沌激光的熵含量, 强度为 15 dBm、带宽为 100 MHz 的量子噪声将 3.8 GHz 带宽的混沌激光熵值增至 0.998, 随着量子噪声强度的增大, 混沌激光的熵含量增至最大时的量子噪声带宽降低, 并获得噪声主导的混沌激光熵源。

关键词 量子光学; 激光光学; 混沌; 量子噪声; 半导体激光器; 排列熵

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1 引言

外腔反馈的半导体激光器(EOF-SL)为研究非线性效应和复杂的光子动力学提供了良好的平台^[1-2]。EOF-SL 输出的高维混沌信号具有宽频谱、类噪声、长期不可预测、复杂动力学等特性, 随着信息科学技术的高速发展, 得到了广泛的关注^[3-5], 并被应用到混沌保密通信^[6-11]、物理随机数产生^[12-15]、混沌密钥分发^[16]、光纤传感^[17-20]、激光雷达^[21]等诸多领域。混沌激光输出的是增强的强度起伏序列, 而且在长的观测时间内这种起伏是随机不可预测的, 这种随机不可预测性来源于激光器内部固有量子噪声的非线性放大^[22], 可以通过熵含量来量化。熵含量的变化描述了系统随机性产生及演化过程, 因此熵源熵值的量化和评测显得至关重要, 同时在物理随机数生成及随机性提取等方面也成为关键的条件之一。

混沌激光的随机性是其信息安全及密码学应用

的基础, 一个仍未解决的难题是基于原始模拟信号量化物理过程的随机性, 目前已有多种形式的熵被用于量化混沌激光的随机性, 例如香农熵^[23-24]、柯尔莫哥洛夫(KS)熵^[25-27]和排列熵^[28-35](PE)。将 EOF-SL 系统应用于随机数产生时, 一般采用香农熵量化熵含量的变化, 但是要求对输出的模拟信号先进行模数转化, 再通过数字测试软件进行随机性统计检验, 该方法不能快速直接反映熵源的熵增变化。KS 熵可用于衡量熵含量的变化, 但需要计算所有维度的李指数并构造非常精细的分区以度量动力学的演化过程, 难以区分并快速量化高维混沌激光与噪声^[26]。PE 是一种基于时间序列排序度量混沌复杂度和随机性的方法^[29-34], 它可以应用于周期运动、混沌和噪声实验系统等各种类型时间序列的熵值度量, 并可用于判别混沌的强弱^[35]。但是, 上述量化混沌激光熵值的方法仍面临准确评估物理过程熵含量演化和判别混沌动力学过程是否由噪声主导等难题, 因此如何准确量化混沌激光的熵含量演

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化并评测混沌系统的随机噪声特性是亟待解决和研究的热点之一。

熵含量作为物理随机性的量化标准,可以表征动力学系统的复杂度^[32-33],同时熵源的熵含量越高,随机码发生器的安全性就越高,鲁棒性就越强,且从原始数据中可提取的真随机性比例也越大,因此,提高混沌激光的熵含量和光场的随机性对提高混沌保密通信的安全性及高速产生物理随机数具有重要意义。混沌光场的随机性来源于内禀量子散粒噪声,内禀量子噪声满足量子力学最小不确定原理所允许的量子真空或零点起伏条件^[36-38]。量子散粒噪声在理论上已被证明是完全随机的,并在实验中利用平衡零拍探测系统可提取完全随机的真空态量子噪声^[39-40]。量子散粒噪声可为混沌激光系统提供一个非确定的初始值,同时量子噪声的随机性会被混沌系统快速非线性地放大。本文提出利用量子散粒噪

声提高混沌激光熵含量的方法。理论分析并实验验证了不同量子散粒噪声强度和带宽对混沌激光熵含量的增强效果,利用反馈时延 τ_{ext} 、 $\tau_{\text{ext}}/2$ 、 $\tau_{\text{ext}}/3$ 处的排列熵均值量化混沌激光的熵含量,同时利用不同嵌入维度的排列熵增判别混沌动力学过程是否由噪声主导。该方案提出了一种混沌激光熵含量的评估和增强方式,为提升随机数的生成质量及混沌保密通信的安全性提供了参考。

2 理论模型

EOF-SL 的混沌动力学特性可以用 Lang-Kobayashi (LK) 速率方程进行模拟^[41],为了研究量子噪声对混沌激光动力学特性的影响,采用 Gaussian White Noise-LK 速率方程(GWN-LK)进行分析,高斯白噪声为混沌激光提供了非确定的初值,其理论模型方程为

$$\dot{E}(t) = \frac{1}{2} [G(t) - \tau_p^{-1}] E(t) + \kappa E(t - \tau_{\text{ext}}) \cos[\varphi(t)] + \xi(t), \quad (1)$$

$$\dot{\varphi}(t) = \frac{\alpha}{2} [G(t) - \tau_p^{-1}] - \kappa E(t - \tau_{\text{ext}}) E(t)^{-1} \sin[\varphi(t)] + \eta(t), \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{N}(t) = \frac{J}{e} - \frac{N(t)}{\tau_N} - G(t) |E(t)|^2, \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{\varphi}(t) = \omega \tau_{\text{ext}} + \varphi(t) - \varphi(t - \tau_{\text{ext}}), \quad (4)$$

式中: $E(t)$ 为电场强度振幅; φ 为电场相位; N 为载流子密度; $G(t) = G_N [N(t) - N_0] / [1 + \epsilon |E(t)|^2]$ 为非线性光增益,其中 G_N 为增益系数, ϵ 为饱和系数; N_0 为透明载流子数目; α 为线宽增强因子; τ_p 和 τ_N 分别为光子寿命和载流子寿命; $\kappa = (1 - r_{\text{in}}^2) r_o / (r_{\text{in}} \tau_{\text{in}})$ 为反馈强度,其中 r_{in} 、 r_o 分别为内腔、外腔的反射率, τ_{in} 为光在内腔往返的时间; $\tau_{\text{ext}} = 2L/c$ 为外腔反馈延迟时间,其中 L 为外腔长度, c 为介质中的光速; $J = \rho J_{\text{th}}$ 为注入电流密度,其中 ρ 为泵浦因子, J_{th} 为阈值电流; $\omega = 2\pi c/\lambda$ 为光场角频率,其中 λ 为光波长; e 为单位电荷量; φ 为出射场与反馈场之间的相位差; $\xi(t)$ 和 $\eta(t)$ 为均值为 0 的不相关的高斯白噪声,并且满足

$$\langle \xi(t) \xi(t - \tau) \rangle = D \delta(\tau), \quad (5)$$

$$\langle \eta(t) \eta(t - \tau) \rangle = D \delta(\tau), \quad (6)$$

式中: D 为噪声强度。将 $\xi(t)$ 和 $\eta(t)$ 分别添加在电场强度振幅和电场相位方程上,通过光增益 G 和线宽增强因子 α 分别引发光子数密度和光场相位的动

态变化,实现对量子噪声初值随机性的非线性放大,进而提高混沌系统的随机性和熵含量。此外,满足(5)、(6)式且强度统计分布与高斯随机分布吻合的各类白噪声对光反馈半导体激光器系统产生的混沌激光的随机性和熵含量具有类似的改善效果。数值模拟中选取与实际实验条件对应的参数: $\alpha = 5$, $G_N = 2.56 \times 10^{-8} \text{ ps}^{-1}$, $N_0 = 1.35 \times 10^8$, $\tau_{\text{ext}} = 86.7 \text{ ns}$, $\tau_p = 3.2 \text{ ps}$, $\tau_N = 2.3 \text{ ns}$, $\lambda = 1.55 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $\epsilon = 5 \times 10^{-7}$, $c = 2 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ 。采用以上参数通过四阶 Runge-Kutta 方法对(1)~(3)式进行数值积分,设定积分步长为 $h = 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ s}$ 。利用 GWN-LK 速率方程,当量子噪声强度为 0 时,数值模拟的 EOF-SL 在偏置电流 $J = 1.3 J_{\text{th}}$, 反馈强度 $\kappa = 4 \text{ ns}^{-1}$ 时的时序图及时序对应的频谱图如图 1 所示。根据 80% 带宽定义混沌带宽为 3.8 GHz, 可以看到,输出的光场信号具有类噪声、宽频谱的混沌动力学特性,即输出光场信号呈相干塌陷的显著混沌状态。

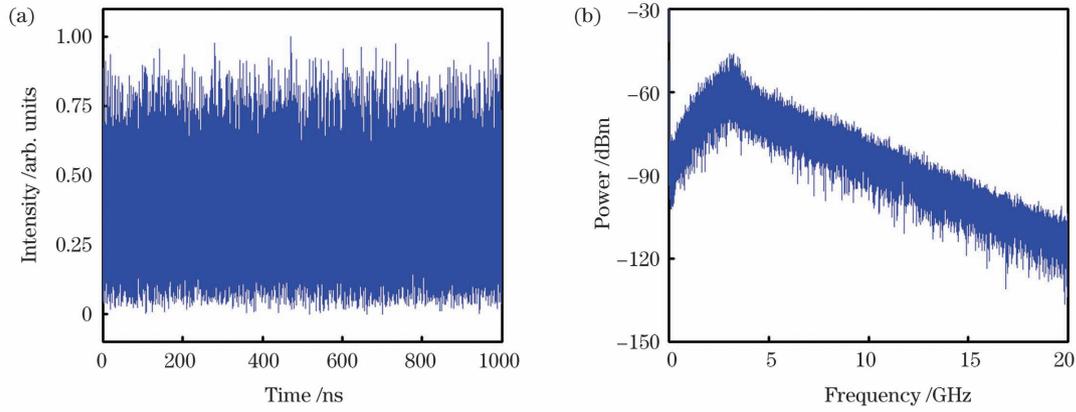


图 1 当 $J = 1.3J_{th}$, $\kappa = 4 \text{ ns}^{-1}$ 时混沌激光的数值模拟结果。(a) 时序; (b) 功率谱

Fig. 1 Simulated results of chaotic laser at $J = 1.3J_{th}$ and $\kappa = 4 \text{ ns}^{-1}$. (a) Time sequence; (b) power spectrum

3 混沌激光熵含量的量化方法

PE 最先由 Bandt 和 Pompe 引入, 用于分析和度量生成的时序信号的复杂性^[28]。PE 作为度量的优点在于容易实现相对复杂性的衡量, 并且计算速度快, 鲁棒性强。

未归一化的排列熵定义为

$$H_d = - \sum_{i=1}^{d!} p(\pi_i) \ln p(\pi_i), \quad (7)$$

式中: d 为嵌入维度; i 为排列序号; π_i 为有序排列; p 为有序排列的概率分布。同时, 归一化后的排列熵定义为

$$h_d = \frac{- \sum_{i=1}^{d!} p(\pi_i) \ln p(\pi_i)}{\ln(d!)}. \quad (8)$$

在上述过程中, 通过对时间序列对应的序数模式构建概率分布来计算 PE, 在概率分布的获取过程中, 需要选取合适的嵌入维度 d 和嵌入延迟时间 τ 。实际实验分析中 d 可选取 3~7 之间的值^[42], 本文选取嵌入维度 d 为 4。在光反馈混沌激光产生系统中, 外腔周期的 PE 随嵌入延迟时间变化, 在与外腔反馈周期 $\tau_{ext}, \tau_{ext}/2, \tau_{ext}/3, \dots, \tau_{ext}/(d-1)$ 对应的嵌入延迟时间处, 出现外腔反馈时延特征 (TDS) 峰。如图 2(a) 所示, 当嵌入维度 $d = 4$ 时, 在反馈时延 $\tau_{ext}, \tau_{ext}/2, \tau_{ext}/3$ 处显现 TDS 峰。为了准确评估物理过程中混沌激光系统的熵含量变化, 本文通过三个主要 TDS 峰的振幅均值量化混沌激光的整体复杂度 h_d^{comp} :

$$h_d^{comp} = \frac{h_d^{\tau_{ext}} + h_d^{\tau_{ext}/2} + h_d^{\tau_{ext}/3}}{3}, \quad (9)$$

式中: h_d^{comp} 为混沌激光熵含量; $h_d^{\tau_{ext}}, h_d^{\tau_{ext}/2}, h_d^{\tau_{ext}/3}$ 分

别为在 $\tau_{ext}, \tau_{ext}/2, \tau_{ext}/3$ 处的归一化 PE 值。

另外, 将在反馈时延 τ_{ext} 处相邻维度的 PE 差值定义为熵增 G_d :

$$G_d = H_d - H_{d-1}. \quad (10)$$

PE 的极限值为 $H_d = \ln(d!)$ ^[38] 并有近似关系 $\ln(d!) \sim d \ln d$ 。在很大的嵌入维度 d 值下, PE 的斜率变化呈对数增长。由于统计方面的局限, 通过分析有限时间序列, 很难计算得到接近无限维度的熵值。采用不同维度的熵增, 可避免上述问题, 无需计算各个嵌入维度的 PE, 同时在确定嵌入维度 d 后, 可获得噪声主导阈值和确定性阈值, 并可判别 G_d 随嵌入维度的变化趋势。当熵增 G_d 高于噪声主导阈值时, 熵源主要由随机噪声决定, 输出信号呈现随机噪声特性, 熵增 G_d 随嵌入维度的增加而增加; 当熵增 G_d 小于确定性阈值时, 熵源产生的信号为确定性的, 熵增 G_d 随嵌入维度的增加而减小; 当熵增 G_d 在噪声主导阈值与确定性阈值之间时, 熵源处于中间过渡区域, 熵增 G_d 随嵌入维度的增加而几乎不变。因此, 利用反馈时延 τ_{ext} 处的熵增阈值, 可以快速揭示混沌动力学过程中的熵演化并判别混沌动力学过程是否由噪声主导。当 $d = 4$ 时, 熵增的噪声主导阈值为 $G_d^{Nthr} = 0.909$ 。如图 2(b) 所示, 当 $J = 1.3J_{th}$ 时, 不同反馈强度 κ 下的熵增 G_d 均大于 G_d^{Nthr} , 因此, 当系统注入高斯白噪声后, 相应条件下 G_d 进一步增加, 高于相应嵌入维度下的噪声主导阈值。混沌激光的熵增随嵌入维度的变化如图 2(b) 插图所示, 可以看到, 熵增 G_d 随嵌入维度 d 的增大而单调快速增长, 表明混沌动力学由噪声主导。

理论模拟时, 通过四阶 Runge-Kutta 方法, 对 GWN-LK 速率方程进行数值求解, 得到混沌激光强

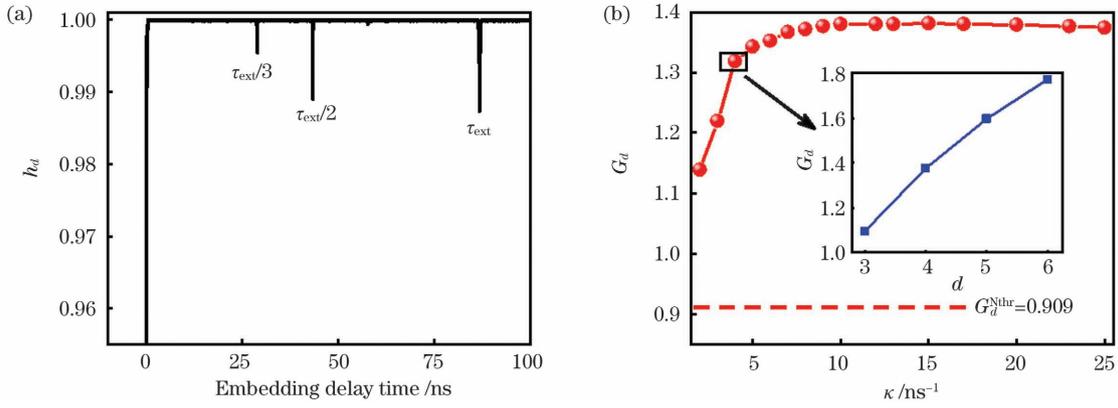


图 2 理论模拟结果。(a)当 $J=1.3J_{th}$, $\kappa=4 \text{ ns}^{-1}$ 时 h_d 随嵌入时延的变化;(b) G_d 随 κ 的变化

Fig. 2 Simulated results. (a) h_d versus embedding delay time at $J=1.3J_{th}$ and $\kappa=4 \text{ ns}^{-1}$; (b) G_d versus κ

度的时序,再结合排列熵,分析得到混沌激光的熵含量。利用 GWN-LK 速率方程,理论模拟不同强度和带宽的量子噪声注入对混沌激光熵含量的增强效果,结果如图 3 所示。将量子噪声时序强度与基底噪声时序强度之比的对数值定义为量子噪声强度。首先研究了不同带宽量子噪声注入下混沌激光熵含量 h_d^{comp} 随量子噪声强度的变化,如图 3(a)所示,可以看出, h_d^{comp} 随量子噪声强度的增大而单调递增,同时随着量子噪声强度的增大, h_d^{comp} 趋于最大时所需的量子噪声带宽降低。图 3(c)所示为不同强度

量子噪声注入下混沌激光熵含量 h_d^{comp} 随量子噪声带宽的变化,可以看出,量子噪声的带宽越大,同一量子噪声强度下量子噪声的注入对混沌激光熵含量的提高效果越好,原始混沌激光的 h_d^{comp} 由 0.9783 增至最大值 0.9997,此时混沌激光的熵含量接近理想值 1。图 3(b)、(d)所示分别为不同维度排列熵增 G_d 随量子噪声强度和带宽的变化,可以看到, G_d 均大于噪声主导阈值(0.909),并且随量子噪声强度和带宽的增加而单调增大,表明混沌动力学由噪声主导,获得了噪声主导的混沌激光熵源。另外,利用

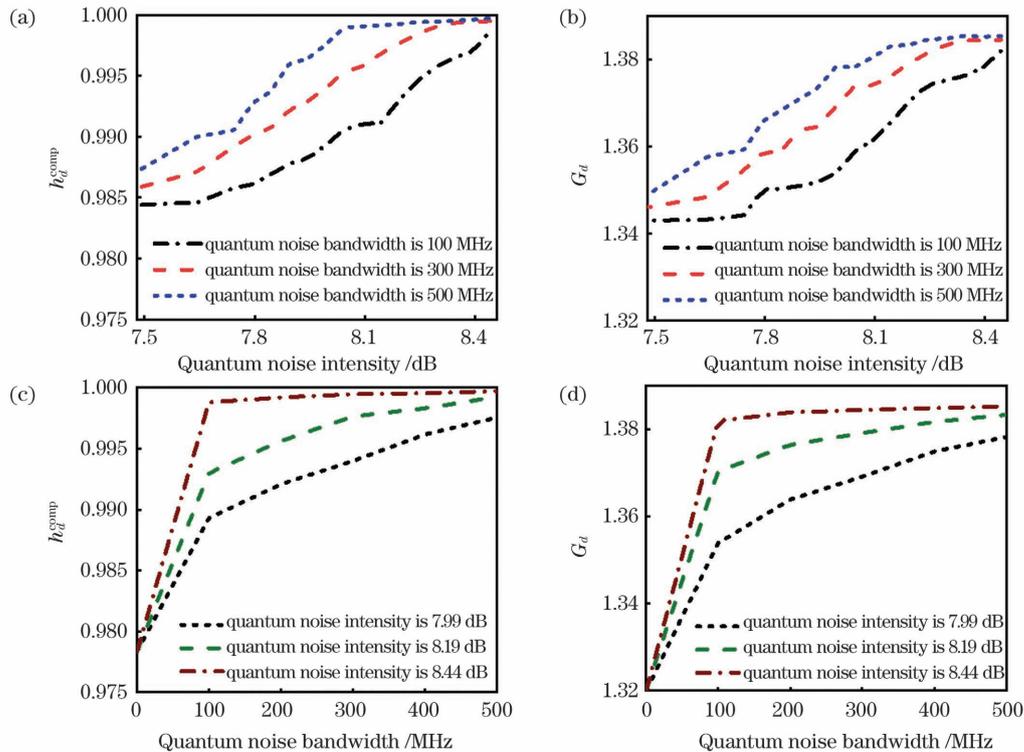


图 3 模拟得到的 h_d^{comp} 和 G_d 随量子噪声强度和带宽的变化。(a)(b)不同量子噪声带宽;(c)(d)不同量子噪声强度

Fig. 3 Simulated h_d^{comp} and G_d versus quantum noise intensity and bandwidth. (a)(b) Different quantum noise bandwidths; (c)(d) different quantum noise intensities

GWN-LK 速率方程求解激光混沌相位 $\cos \varphi$ 的变化, 结合排列熵, 可得到注入量子噪声前后混沌激光的相位熵值, 发现混沌激光的相位熵含量随着注入量子噪声强度和带宽的增大而单调递增, 与图 3 的结果类似。进一步验证了量子噪声的注入可以有效增加混沌激光的熵含量, 提高混沌的复杂性和随机性。

4 实验装置及实验结果

4.1 实验装置

利用量子噪声提高混沌激光熵含量的实验装置如图 4 所示, 主要包括两部分: 混沌激光熵源产生和量子散粒噪声注入。量子散粒噪声是由平衡零拍探测系统制备的, 将半波片 (HWP) 和偏振分束器 (PBS) 组合为精确的 50/50 分束器, 波长为 1550 nm 的单模连续激光经过准直镜 (L) 后成为平行光束, 入射在分束器的一端作为本底光。而另一个端口由功率计 (PM) 监测, 保证只有量子真空态输入。本底光和真空态被 50/50 分束器分束, 形成两束具有平衡功率的输出光, 进入平衡零拍光电探测器 PD1、PD2。利用差分放大器 (Sub) 抑制共模信

号, 放大差模信号, 由此产生的量子散粒噪声信号被一个频带提取器提取, 利用不同带宽的低通滤波器 (LPF) 滤波得到不同带宽的量子噪声, 通过可调宽带放大器 (Amp) 精确控制量子噪声强度, 并将其注入被低噪声温控源 (TC, 精度为 0.1 °C) 和电流源 (CS, 精度为 0.1 mA) 稳定控制在阈值以上运行的分布式反馈半导体激光器 (DFB-LD, 中心波长为 1550 nm) 中。DFB-LD 输出的连续激光经过用于控制光束偏振态的偏振控制器 (PC), 输出光随后经过光纤环形器 (OC) 和 50/50 光纤耦合器 (FC), 其中, 50% (能量占比) 的光经可调数字衰减器 (VOA, 精度为 0.1 dB) 反馈回 DFB-LD, 反馈光强由 VOA 精确控制, 形成延迟时间为 86.7 ns 的光纤反馈环路。最终, 混沌激光从光纤耦合器的另一端输出, 由带宽为 43 GHz 的光电探测器 (PD) 探测并实现光电信号转换, 将得到的电信号输入到带宽为 26.5 GHz 的频谱分析仪 (SA) 和带宽为 6 GHz、采样率为 40 GSa/s 的实时示波器 (OSC) 中进行功率谱和时间序列的同时测量。OSC 的采样率设定为 10 GSa/s, 样本数为 10^6 , 即每一个序列样本的采集时间为 100 μ s。

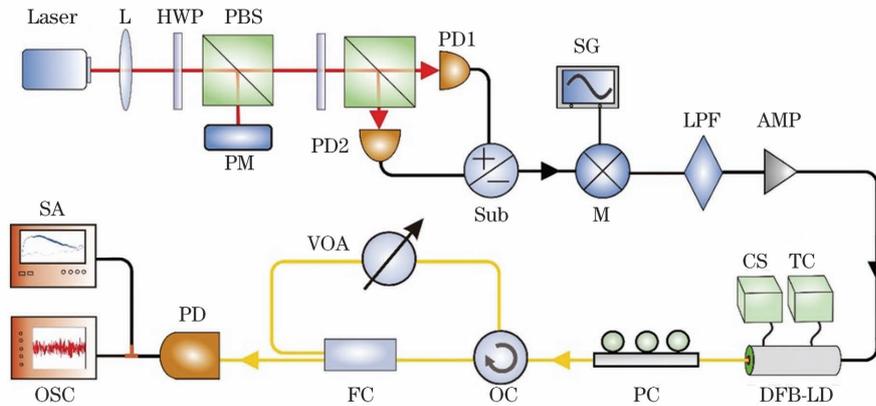


图 4 利用量子噪声提高混沌激光熵含量的实验装置示意图

Fig. 4 Schematic illustration of experimental setup for enhancing entropy of chaotic laser using quantum shot noise

4.2 实验结果

在实验中, 利用排列熵分析 OSC 采集到的混沌激光时序, 得到系统熵含量随嵌入时延的变化结果, 结合平均反馈时延 τ_{ext} , $\tau_{\text{ext}}/2$, $\tau_{\text{ext}}/3$ 处时延特征的峰值, 量化混沌激光的熵含量。通过控制 DFB-LD 的偏置电流和反馈光强度, 产生不同带宽的混沌激光, 同时可通过平衡零拍探测系统制备不同带宽和强度的量子散粒噪声, 量子散粒噪声的强度可通过宽带数字放大器进行控制。量子噪声强度 P 定义为 $P = 10 + 20 \lg(0.5V)$, 其中 V 为量子噪声信号电压, P 的单位为 dBm。首先研究量子噪声对不同带宽混沌激

光熵值 h_d^{comp} 的增强效果。带宽为 3.8 GHz 的混沌激光的熵值在强度为 15 dBm、带宽为 500 MHz 的量子噪声注入前后的变化如图 5(a1) ~ (a4) 所示。可以看出, 强度为 15 dBm、带宽为 500 MHz 的量子噪声将带宽为 3.8 GHz 的混沌激光的熵值 h_d^{comp} 从 0.9879 增至 0.9996。当偏置电流为 $1.24J_{\text{th}}$ 、反馈衰减强度为 9.5 dB 时, 在强度为 15 dBm、带宽为 500 MHz 的量子噪声注入下, 原始带宽为 5.0 GHz 的混沌激光的熵值从 0.9865 增至 0.9950, 结果如图 5(b1) ~ (b4) 所示。以上结果表明, 窄带量子噪声可有效提高宽带混沌激光的熵含量。

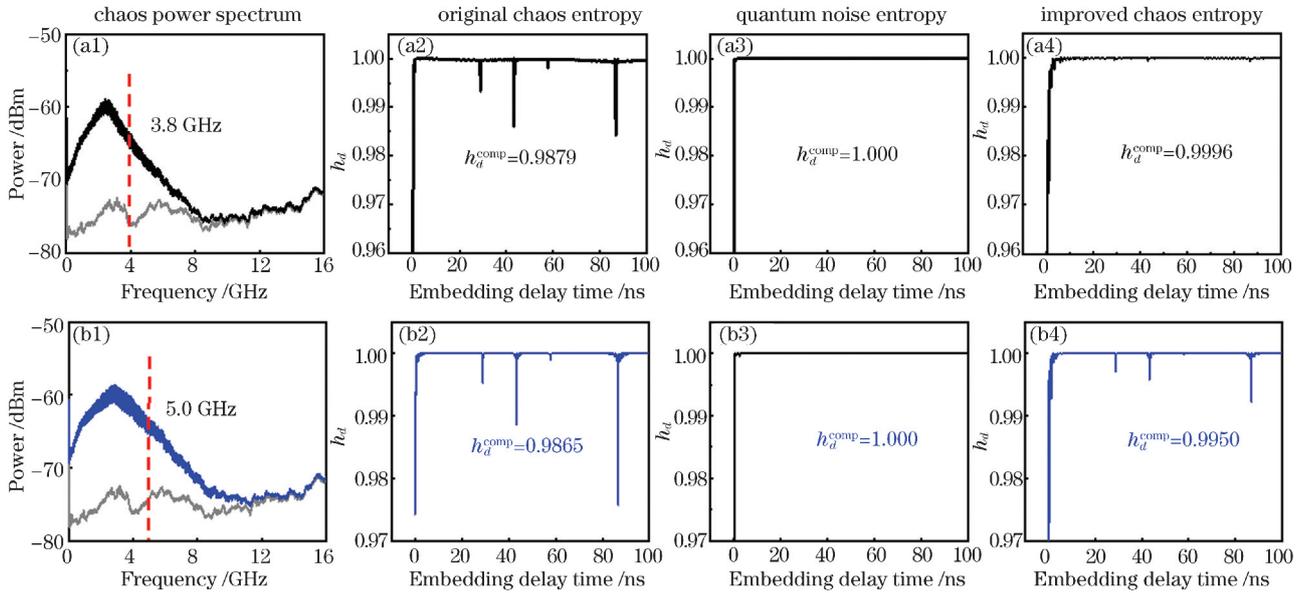


图 5 实验得到的不同带宽混沌激光的熵值在强度为 15 dBm、带宽为 500 MHz 的量子噪声注入前后的变化。

(a1)~(a4) 3.8 GHz; (b1)~(b4) 5.0 GHz

Fig. 5 Variation of experimental entropy value of chaotic laser before and after injection of quantum noise with 500 MHz bandwidth and 15 dBm intensity. (a1)–(a4) 3.8 GHz; (b1)–(b4) 5.0 GHz

进一步在实验上测量了不同带宽量子噪声注入下 3.8 GHz 带宽混沌激光熵值随注入量子噪声强度的变化,原始混沌激光熵含量为 $h_d^{comp} = 0.9879$ 。在 100, 300, 500 MHz 带宽量子噪声注入下, h_d^{comp} 和 G_d 随注入量子噪声强度的变化如图 6 所示。可以看出, h_d^{comp} 随注入量子噪声强度的增大而增加,与图 3(a) 的理论模拟结果吻合,表明窄带量子噪声注入对混沌激光的熵含量具有明显的增强效果。在带宽为 500 MHz、强度为 10 dBm 的量子噪声注入下, h_d^{comp} 的增长速度先是变缓后趋于最大值 0.9996; 当带宽为 100 MHz 的量子噪声的强度增大

到 15 dBm 时,带宽为 3.8 GHz 的混沌激光的熵值增至稳定值 0.998,可见随着注入量子噪声强度的增大,混沌激光熵含量增至最大时所需的量子噪声带宽降低。由图 6(b) 可知,随着注入量子噪声强度的逐渐增大,混沌激光熵增 G_d 增加,表明混沌动力学由噪声主导的特性增强,在较大强度的量子噪声注入下, G_d 随噪声强度的波动逐渐变小,混沌激光熵含量的提高效果趋于稳定。因此,增大量子噪声强度会明显提高混沌激光熵含量和复杂度,同时噪声随机特性增强,利用更窄带宽的量子噪声即可达到熵含量的最大输出。

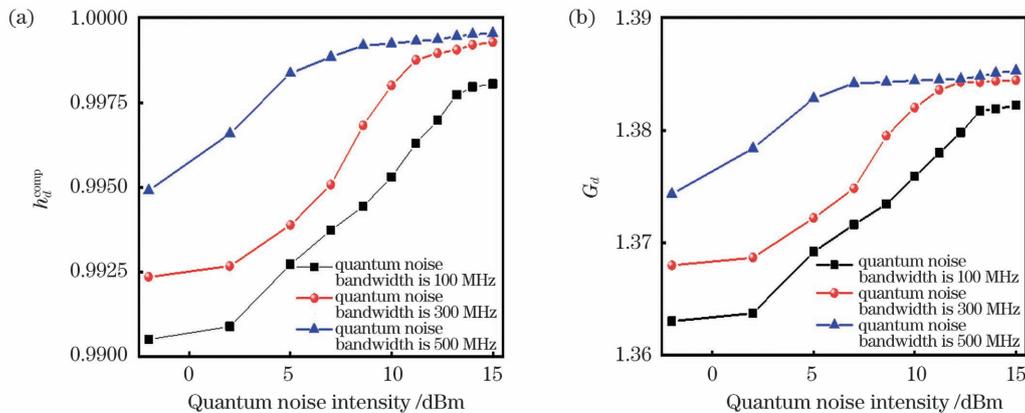


图 6 在不同带宽量子噪声注入下实验得到的 h_d^{comp} 和 G_d 随量子噪声强度的变化。(a) h_d^{comp} ; (b) G_d

Fig. 6 Experimental h_d^{comp} and G_d versus quantum noise intensity for different quantum noise bandwidths.

(a) h_d^{comp} ; (b) G_d

5 结 论

通过注入量子噪声,提高了光反馈半导体激光器输出的混沌激光的熵含量。利用反馈时延 τ_{ext} , $\tau_{\text{ext}}/2$, $\tau_{\text{ext}}/3$ 处的排列熵均值 h_d^{comp} ,量化了混沌激光源的熵含量,并理论分析和实验研究了在不同带宽和强度的量子噪声注入下,混沌激光的熵演化过程。实验上通过平衡零拍探测系统制备了量子噪声,测得了带宽为 500 MHz、强度为 15 dBm 的量子噪声注入对 3.8 GHz 和 5.0 GHz 带宽混沌激光的熵含量的增强结果,结果表明,窄带量子噪声对宽带混沌激光熵含量有明显的增强效果。进一步实验测量了在不同量子噪声强度下,带宽为 100, 300, 500 MHz 的量子噪声注入对混沌激光的熵含量的增强效果,实验结果与理论模拟结果吻合良好, h_d^{comp} 随着注入量子噪声强度的增大而增加。在带宽为 500 MHz、强度为 10 dBm 的量子噪声注入下, h_d^{comp} 会趋于最大值 0.9996; 当量子噪声的强度为 15 dBm 时,带宽为 100 MHz 的量子噪声可以将带宽为 3.8 GHz 的混沌激光的熵值增至最大值 0.998。结果表明,随着注入量子噪声强度的增大,混沌激光熵增效果趋于最大时所需的量子噪声带宽降低。此外,通过不同维度的排列熵增 G_d ,可判别混沌动力学是否位于噪声主导区域,随着量子噪声强度的增大,熵增 G_d 均大于噪声主导阈值 G_d^{thr} ,且熵增 G_d 随着维度 d 的增大而单调递增,表明混沌动力学过程由随机噪声主导,即获得了随机噪声主导的混沌激光输出。研究结果为提高混沌激光熵含量和随机性提供了一种途径,在随机数生成和保密通信方面具有潜在的应用前景。

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Entropy Enhancement of Chaotic Laser via Quantum Noise

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Abstract

Objective The semiconductor laser with external optical feedback (EOF-SL) provides a good platform for the study of nonlinear effects and complex photon dynamics. The high-dimensional chaotic signal output of an EOF-SL has been widely used in chaotic secure communications and physical random number generation. However, the external optical feedback gives rise to a time-delay signature, which reduces the entropy and randomness of a chaotic entropy source. In addition, quantifying the randomness of a physical process from the original analog signals remains to be explored. The randomness of a chaotic laser originates from the inherent quantum noise. Quantum noise can provide a stochastic initial value for the chaotic system, and the randomness of the quantum noise can be rapidly and nonlinearly amplified by the chaotic system. In this study, we propose a technique to effectively enhance the entropy of a chaotic laser via quantum noise. Here a method is proposed to accurately quantify entropy evolution of a chaotic laser and evaluate noise characteristics of the chaotic system. We hope that our basic strategy and findings are potentially beneficial to improve the quality of random number generation and the security of chaotic secure communications.

Methods In this work, a chaotic laser prepared by a semiconductor laser with external optical feedback is used as an entropy source. The effects of quantum noise intensity and bandwidth on the entropy enhancement of the chaotic laser are studied numerically and experimentally. The mean value of permutation entropies at the feedback delay time τ_{ext} , $\tau_{\text{ext}}/2$, and $\tau_{\text{ext}}/3$ is used for quantifying the complexity h_d^{comp} of the chaotic signals. The permutation entropy growth G_d between the adjacent embedding dimensions is used to evaluate whether the chaotic dynamics is noise-dominated or not. In addition, to investigate the influence of quantum noise on the dynamics of the chaotic laser, the theoretical model can be described by Lang-Kobayashi rate equations with Gaussian white noise (GWN-LK). Quantum noise is experimentally prepared through balanced homodyne detection, which is injected into the chaotic entropy source. Then the time sequences of chaotic lasers are recorded by an oscilloscope for the analysis of complexity and entropy growth.

Results and Discussion The theoretical results show that the entropy growth G_d is greater than the noise-dominated threshold G_d^{Nthr} after injecting quantum noise, and G_d increases monotonically and rapidly as the embedding dimension d increases, that is, the chaotic dynamics process is located in the noise-dominated region (Fig. 2). The effects of quantum noise intensity and bandwidth on the h_d^{comp} and G_d show that the injection of quantum noise can effectively enhance the entropy of the chaotic laser, and the effect of entropy enhancement becomes more significant as the quantum noise intensity and bandwidth increase (Fig. 3). In the experiment, the mean entropy h_d^{comp} of the 3.8 GHz bandwidth chaotic laser is increased to 0.999 in the case of quantum noise injection with an intensity of 15 dBm and a bandwidth of 500 MHz, and it demonstrates that narrow-bandwidth quantum noise substantially enhances the entropy of the wide-bandwidth chaotic laser (Fig. 5). The experimental results for h_d^{comp} and G_d of the chaotic laser versus quantum noise intensity agree well with the theoretical results in

Fig. 3. As the quantum noise intensity increases, the entropy and complexity of the chaotic laser enhance significantly. The maximum entropy output can be achieved by using quantum noise with a narrower bandwidth, and the chaotic laser with noise domination and entropy enhancement is obtained (Fig. 6).

Conclusions In our study, a technique for evaluating and enhancing the entropy of a chaotic laser is proposed. And the complexity of the chaotic laser is quantified by the mean value of the permutation entropies at the feedback delay time τ_{ext} , $\tau_{\text{ext}}/2$, and $\tau_{\text{ext}}/3$. We observe the entropy enhancement of the 3.8 GHz bandwidth chaotic laser versus quantum noise intensity for different quantum noise bandwidths: 100 MHz, 300 MHz, and 500 MHz. The results demonstrate that narrow-bandwidth quantum noise substantially enhances the entropy of the wide-bandwidth chaotic laser, and the mean entropy or whole complexity of the 3.8 GHz bandwidth chaotic laser is increased to 0.998 in the case of quantum noise injection with an intensity of 15 dBm and a bandwidth of 100 MHz. Moreover, the quantum noise bandwidth, which is needed to enhance the entropy of the chaotic laser to the maximum, decreases as the quantum noise intensity increases. In addition, the entropy growth G_d is used to determine whether the chaotic dynamics process is located in the noise-dominated region. As the quantum noise intensity increases, G_d is greater than the noise-dominated threshold G_d^{Nthr} . And G_d increases monotonically as the embedding dimension d increases. The results show that the chaotic dynamic process is dominated by random noise, that is, the chaotic laser output dominated by random noise is obtained. The improved chaotic laser has potential applications in random number generation and secure communications.

Key words quantum optics; laser optics; chaos; quantum noise; semiconductor lasers; permutation entropy

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