

基于平面平晶的单次自相关仪标定技术研究

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摘要 提出一种标定超短脉冲测量装置时间分辨率的新方法。设计制作可产生特定时间延迟的平面平晶, 标定时将其放置在自相关仪前的光路中; 待测光脉冲经过平面平晶后会产生时间延迟为 T 的双脉冲, 该双脉冲到达自相关晶体发生相互作用, 产生自相关信号, 此时信号的主峰两端会出现较为明显的次峰信号, 该次峰信号之间的时间间隔为 $2T$, 这样双脉冲的时间延迟就转换为次峰信号峰值的空间距离, 经 CCD 接收后可计算得到自相关仪的时间分辨率。采用此方法对自相关仪时间分辨率标定的结果为 217.88 fs/pixel, 与移动光程延迟器法得到的标定结果 214.27 fs/pixel 相比, 相对误差仅为 1.68%; 与可单次标定的鉴别率板法相比, 采用此方法标定结果的相对扩展不确定度为 1.50%, 优于鉴别率板法的 6.96%。

关键词 测量; 时间分辨率; 脉冲宽度; 不确定度

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1 引言

随着高功率激光装置的快速发展, 高能拍瓦激光已成为研究激光与物质相互作用的重要工具, 越来越多的学科领域利用超强超短激光脉冲进行科学的研究, 如物理学、化学、生物学等^[1-4]。激光的脉冲宽度是表征超强超短激光时间特性的重要参数, 激光脉冲宽度的精确测量是实现超短脉冲高精密诊断与分析的重要基础。现有的自相关测量方法分为扫描式测量和单次测量。对于能量输出稳定、重复频率较高的激光脉冲通常采用扫描测量方式; 但对于强度达到拍瓦量级、重复频率较低的高能超短脉冲激光, 则需要采用单次测量^[5]。拍瓦级激光装置通常为单发工作^[6], 常采用单次自相关技术^[7-11]测量脉冲宽度。在正式测量之前我们必须对单次自相关仪进行时间分辨率的精确标定。目前已有两种标定单次皮秒自相关仪时间分辨率的方法: 一种是采用移动光程延迟器进行标定^[12-14], 根据自相关信号峰值在 CCD 上移动的像素与光程延迟器的平移量来确

定; 另一种是在自相关晶体后加一鉴别率板^[15], 通过测量两路光束在非线性晶体上相互作用的角度以及鉴别率板上暗条纹在 CCD 上像素的关系来计算出时间分辨率。虽然利用移动光程延迟器进行标定可以获得非常准确的时间分辨率, 但是这种方法往往需要利用重复频率稳定的飞秒光源, 而高能拍瓦激光装置往往数小时内只能进行一次实验, 因此不能采用此方法进行单次在线标定。利用鉴别率板标定的优点是对光源脉宽无要求(连续光亦可)、单次测量即可得到时间分辨率、可在线测量, 但是测量结果误差较大且对元件放置精度要求高。

为了实现单次自相关仪时间分辨率的在线精确标定功能, 本文设计制作了具有特定参数的平面平晶, 并基于平面平晶对皮秒自相关仪时间分辨率进行单次标定, 标定结果的准确性相比鉴别率板有明显提升。

2 基本原理

平面平晶是一块能产生确定时间延迟的石英玻

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璃(材质JGS1),在标定实验中只需将其放置在自相关仪前的光路中即可。图1为基于平面平晶的单次皮秒自相关仪标定光路图。

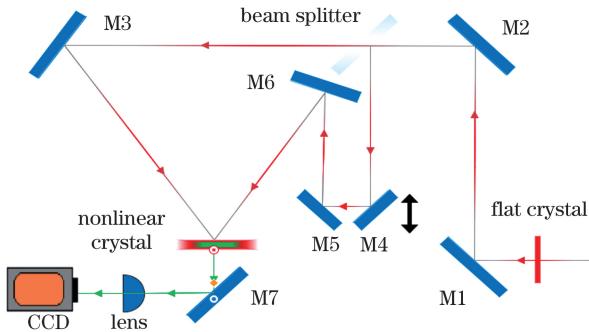


图1 基于平面平晶的单次皮秒自相关仪标定光路图

Fig. 1 Single calibration optical path diagram of picosecond autocorrelator based on flat crystal

待测脉冲经过平面平晶(Flat Crystal)产生一个时间延迟为 T 的次脉冲,然后经过M1,M2两个反射镜后被分束器分成传播方向不同的两路光束,其中一路经反射镜M3反射到达非线性晶体($\beta\text{-BaB}_2\text{O}_4$)表面,另外一路经过光程延迟单元(由M4,M5两夹角为 90° 的反射镜组成,可垂直平移调节光程)并经M6反射后与另一路光在非线性晶体上产生和频,产生的和频信号经反射镜M7、成像柱透镜后进入CCD。

若被测脉冲强度随时间的函数为高斯函数,则可表示为

$$I_{in}(t) = \exp\left(-4\ln 2 \frac{t^2}{t_{FWHM}^2}\right), \quad (1)$$

式中: t 为时间; t_{FWHM} 为脉冲宽度(半峰全宽)。经过平面平晶后,其强度随时间的函数为

$$I_{out}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (1-r_1)r_2^i r_1^i (1-r_2) \exp\left[-4\ln 2 \frac{\left(t - \frac{2inh}{c}\right)^2}{t_{FWHM}^2}\right], \quad (2)$$

式中: r_1,r_2 分别为平面平晶前后表面的反射率; n,h 分别为平面平晶的折射率、厚度; c 为光速; $i=0,1,2,\dots$ 。由(2)式可见,脉冲经过平面平晶后,形成

了时间间隔为 $\frac{2nh}{c}$ 的脉冲串,相邻脉冲之间的强度之比为 r_1r_2 ,若只考虑双脉冲的情况,则有

$$I'_{out}(t) = (1-r_1)(1-r_2) \exp\left(-4\ln 2 \frac{t^2}{t_{FWHM}^2}\right) + r_1r_2(1-r_1)(1-r_2) \exp\left[-4\ln 2 \frac{\left(t - \frac{2nh}{c}\right)^2}{t_{FWHM}^2}\right]. \quad (3)$$

待测脉冲通过分束器从两臂到达非线性晶体时两脉冲强度为 $I_1(t)=I_2(t)=\frac{I'_{out}(t)}{2}$,经过非线性晶体后,产生的信号光 $I(\tau)$ 的函数形式为

$$I(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} I_1(t) I_2(t-\tau) dt, \quad (4)$$

其中 τ 为自相关仪两臂之间待测脉冲的时间延迟,代入 $I_1(t)$ 和 $I_2(t)$,有

$$I(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} I_1(t) I_2(t-\tau) dt = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ (A^2 + B^2) \sqrt{\pi} \exp\left(-4\ln 2 \frac{\tau^2}{\tau_{FWHM}^2}\right) + AB \sqrt{\pi} \exp\left[-4\ln 2 \frac{(\tau+T)^2}{\tau_{FWHM}^2}\right] + BA \sqrt{\pi} \exp\left[-4\ln 2 \frac{(\tau-T)^2}{\tau_{FWHM}^2}\right] \right\}, \quad (5)$$

将其归一化,有

$$I(\tau) = \exp\left(-4\ln 2 \frac{\tau^2}{\tau_{FWHM}^2}\right) + \frac{AB}{A^2 + B^2} \left\{ \exp\left[-4\ln 2 \frac{(\tau+T)^2}{\tau_{FWHM}^2}\right] + \exp\left[-4\ln 2 \frac{(\tau-T)^2}{\tau_{FWHM}^2}\right] \right\}, \quad (6)$$

其中 $A=(1-r_1)(1-r_2)$, $B=(1-r_1)(1-r_2) \times r_1r_2$, $T=\frac{2nh}{c}$, $\tau_{FWHM}=\sqrt{2}t_{FWHM}$ 。从(6)式可以看

出,产生的自相关信号由3个高斯函数项组成,第一项位于信号中心,强度最强,其余两项关于中心对

称,强度为中心信号强度的 $\frac{r_1 r_2}{1+r_1^2 r_2^2}$,产生的自相关

信号的脉冲宽度 $\tau_{\text{FWHM}}=\sqrt{2}t_{\text{FWHM}}$,CCD上探测到的自相关信号经纵向积分后有3个峰值。如图2所示,两束脉冲在非线性晶体中相互作用后产生相关信号,产生的信号进入CCD后进行纵向积分,得到的强度曲线在主峰两端各有一个次峰。当时间延迟 $\tau=0$ 时,自相关信号最强,且在其两侧延迟 $\tau=T$ 位置处出现信号的次峰,两次峰之间的时间延迟为 $2T$ 。

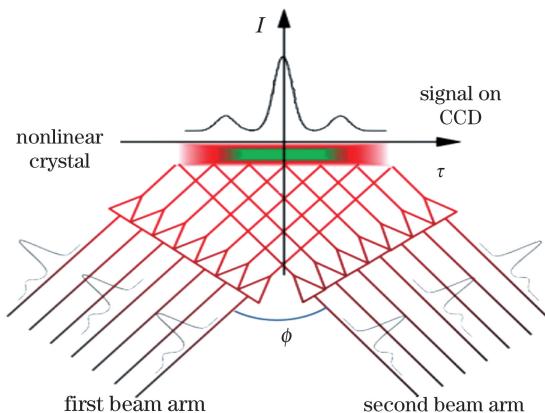


图2 标定实验中理论上CCD信号分布

Fig. 2 Theoretical CCD signal distribution in the calibration experiment

结合两信号间的像素差值,计算得到自相关仪的时间分辨率为

$$\rho_A = \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta P}, \quad (7)$$

其中 ΔT 为产生的自相关信号两次峰之间的时间间隔, ΔP 为产生的自相关信号次峰之间的像素个数。因为最终要测量的是被测脉冲的脉冲宽度(FWHM),对于高斯形脉冲,其脉宽是自相关信号

宽度的 $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$,故自相关仪实际的时间分辨率 ρ_τ 为

$$\rho_\tau = \frac{\rho_A}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (8)$$

3 误差分析

由于在标定皮秒自相关仪时间分辨率时光路中增加了平面平晶,故平面平晶的放置角度 α 、厚度 h 、折射率 n 偏差都会影响到时间分辨率的标定精度。下面对时间分辨率误差进行分析。

3.1 平面平晶放置角度 α 的偏差分析

如图3(a)所示,若平面平晶表面法线与入射光存在一夹角 α ,则待测脉冲经过后,其直接出射脉冲L1和经过一次反射后出射的脉冲L2会有一个空间位移 L_{12} ,相比无平面平晶时光斑的中心位置在非线性晶体表面会有一定的偏移,若光束口径非常小使得L1与L2完全分离(光斑无重合区域),则不会观察到三峰的自相关信号;对于大多激光器而言,其光束口径一般为几到几十毫米,而平面平晶的厚度很小(本次实验厚度 $h=1$ mm),因此倾斜平面平晶引起的光束空间分离量很小(相对光束口径而言),光束经过后其绝大部分区域空间上还是重合的,因此下面主要讨论这种情况下倾斜平面平晶对分辨率标定的影响。

如图3(b)所示,点 P 为自相关仪两臂光束的等光程点,点 P_1 为光束正入射平面平晶时左臂主脉冲与右臂次脉冲产生的相关信号位置,点 P_2 为平面平晶有偏转角 α 时左臂主脉冲与右臂次脉冲产生的相关信号位置,因为倾斜平面平晶后使得主、次脉冲时间延时增加,所以点 P_2 在点 P_1 的右侧。

从(7)式可以看出,若平面平晶存在倾斜,则 ΔP 增加,而此时 ΔT 还是按照垂直入射平晶产生

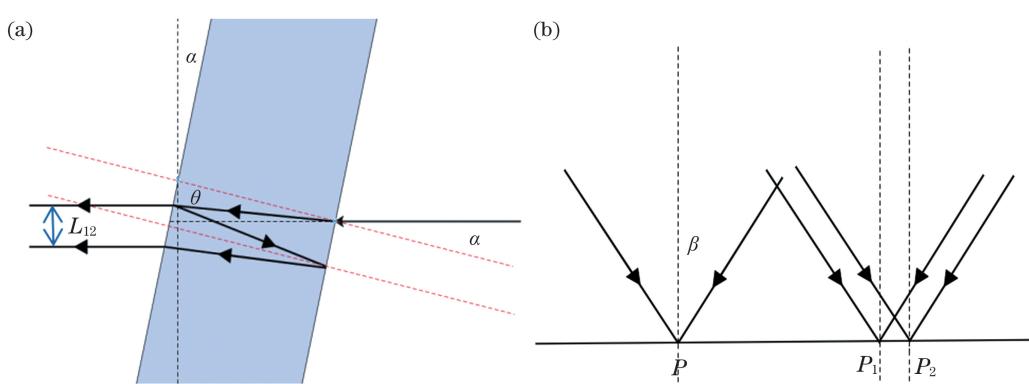


图3 平面平晶放置角度 α 的偏差分析。(a)平面平晶放置角度偏转;(b)自相关晶体表面光束偏移

Fig. 3 Analysis of the deviation of the flat crystal placement angle α . (a) Deflection of flat crystal placement angle; (b) beam shift on the surface of autocorrelation crystal

的时间延迟来计算,所以时间分辨率会产生偏差,此时 ρ_{test} 与 ρ_{real} 可表示为

$$\rho_{\text{test}} = \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta P} = \frac{2nh}{|PP_2|}, \quad (9)$$

$$\rho_{\text{real}} = \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta P} = \frac{2h(n^2 - \sin^2 \alpha)^{1/2}}{|PP_2|}, \quad (10)$$

其中 $|PP_2|$ 为点P与点 P_2 之间的距离,所以时间

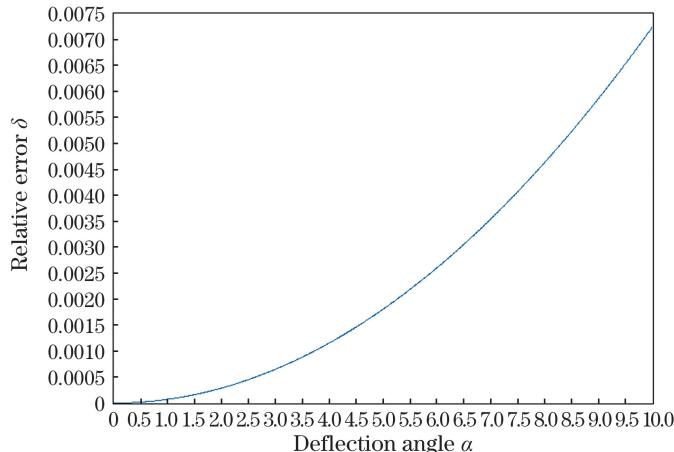


图4 相对误差 δ 随偏转角度 α 的变化曲线

Fig. 4 Variation curve of relative error δ with deflection angle α

3.2 平面平晶厚度 h 和折射率 n 的偏差分析

根据(7)式,可得

$$\rho_A = \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta P} = \frac{4nh}{c \cdot \Delta P}, \quad (12)$$

可见,平面平晶厚度 h 和折射率 n 对时间分辨率误差的影响相同。

表1列出了当时间分辨率的相对误差为2%,5%,10%时,厚度 h 、折射率 n 、偏转角度 α 对应的变化量,取厚度 $h=1$ mm、折射率 $n=1.450$ 进行分析。

表1 平面平晶厚度 h 、折射率 n 、偏转角度 α 的变化量
(时间分辨率的相对误差为2%,5%,10%)

Table 1 Amount of change in the thickness h , refractive index n , deflection angle α of the flat crystal
(the relative error of time resolution is 2%, 5%, 10%)

Relative error δ /%	2	5	10
Δh /mm	0.02	0.05	0.10
Δn	0.029	0.073	0.145
$\Delta \alpha$ /(°)	16.6	26.2	37.2

表2 平面平晶厚度 h 测量数据

Table 2 Measurement data of thickness h of flat crystal

i	1	2	3	4	5	6
h_i /mm	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.019	1.021	1.019
$\Delta_i = (h_i - \bar{h})$ /mm	0	0	0	-0.001	0.001	-0.001

分辨率的相对误差 δ 为

$$\delta = \left| 1 - \frac{\rho_{\text{test}}}{\rho_{\text{real}}} \right| = \left| 1 - \frac{n}{(n^2 - \sin^2 \alpha)^{1/2}} \right| \times 100\%. \quad (11)$$

图4为相对误差 δ 随偏转角度 α 变化的曲线,可以看出,相对误差 δ 随着偏转角度 α 的增加而增加,但 $\alpha=10^\circ$ 时相对误差 δ 仅为0.72%。

由表1可以看出,时间分辨率的误差来源中,平面平晶偏转角度 α 偏差对时间分辨率的影响很小,分辨率误差为2%时偏转角 $\alpha=16.6^\circ$,而实验中平面平晶的偏转角度 α 控制在5°以内,此时时间分辨率误差 $\delta < 1.8 \times 10^{-3}$ 。对于2类JGS1材料来说,折射率偏差 $\delta_n < 7 \times 10^{-4}$ 。因此平面平晶厚度 h 偏差是标定时间分辨率的主要误差来源。

4 实验及分析

本次皮秒自相关仪时间分辨率标定实验所用光源脉宽为180 fs,中心波长为1050 nm。平面平晶材质为JGS1,直径为 (32 ± 0.1) mm,折射率 $n(1050 \text{ nm})=1.450$,折射率偏差 $\delta_n < 7 \times 10^{-4}$,峰谷(PV)值为 $\frac{\lambda}{6}$, λ 为光波长,前后表面光洁度为0.001。表2给出平面平晶厚度为 h 时的多次测量结果。

厚度 h 的 A 类不确定度 Δ_A 的表达式为

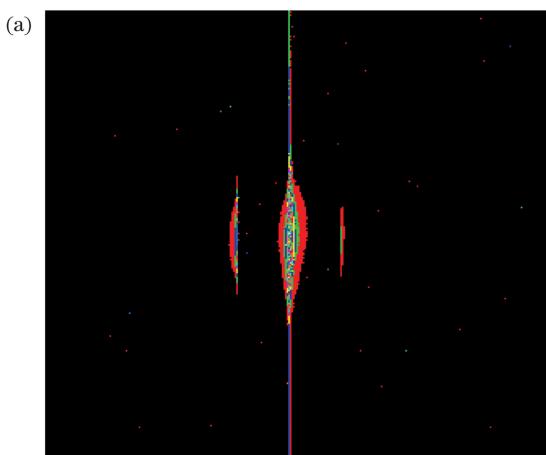
$$\Delta_A = t_P u_A = t_P \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m (h_i - \bar{h})^2}{m(m-1)}}, \quad (13)$$

式中: $t_P = 1.11$ ($P = 0.68$, P 为概率), $\bar{h} = 1.020$, $m = 6$, 得到 $\Delta_A = 3.51 \times 10^{-4}$ mm。

厚度 h 的合成标准不确定度表达式为

$$U_{0.68} = \sqrt{\Delta_A^2 + (\Delta'/C)^2}, \quad (14)$$

其中 $\Delta' = 0.005$ mm, $C = 3$, 得到 $U_{0.68} = 1.703 \times 10^{-3}$ mm。此时平面平晶厚度 $h = \bar{h} \pm U_{0.68} =$



(1.0200 ± 0.0017) mm。

待测脉冲经过平面平晶产生时间延迟 $T = 9.860$ ps 的脉冲, CCD 探测到的自相关信号如图 5(a)所示,可以看到,CCD 上出现 3 条强度较强的信号,处于中央的信号强度最强,对应于(6)式的第 1 项,其左右两侧也出现较强的相关信号,对应于(6)式的第 2 项。图 5(b)为自相关信号的纵向积分强度曲线,在自相关信号主峰两边,出现了信号较强的次峰,这与图 2 理论分析结果相同,此时,自相关信号次峰相距的时间间隔为 19.720 ps。

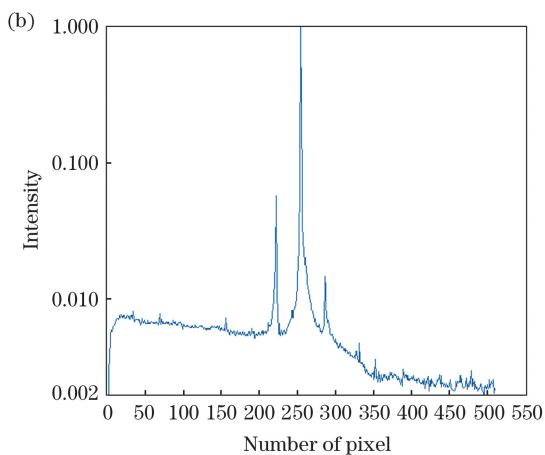


图 5 实验数据分析。(a) CCD 上探测到的自相关信号;(b)归一化后的纵向积分强度

Fig. 5 Experimental data analysis. (a) Autocorrelation signal detected on the CCD; (b) normalized longitudinal integrated intensity

根据(7)式和(8)式可计算得到时间分辨率为

$$\rho_\tau = \frac{\rho_A}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{4n}{\sqrt{2}c} \frac{h}{P_1 - P_2} = 217.88 \text{ fs/pixel}.$$

为了研究时间分辨率标定结果的可靠程度,对本次实验结果进行不确定度分析。相对不确定度计算公式为

$$\eta = \frac{U_P}{\rho_\tau} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial \ln f}{\partial x_1}\right)^2 \cdot u_{x1}^2 + \left(\frac{\partial \ln f}{\partial x_2}\right)^2 \cdot u_{x2}^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{\partial \ln f}{\partial x_m}\right)^2 \cdot u_{xm}^2}, \quad (15)$$

式中 $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ 。

本次实验中, $u_h = 0.0017$ mm, $u_{P_1} = u_{P_2} = 0.33$ pixel, $u_a = 1.7^\circ$, P_1 、 P_2 分别为左右次峰峰值对应的像素位置, 分别为 222 pixel 和 286 pixel, 时

间分辨率的误差来源为平面平晶厚度 h 误差、像素点度数误差和平面平晶放置倾斜角 α 误差, 得到的时间分辨率的相对不确定度为

$$\eta(P = 0.68) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{u_h}{h}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{u_{P_1}}{P_1 - P_2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{u_{P_2}}{P_1 - P_2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{u_a}{n}\right)^2} \times 100\% = 0.75\%,$$

其中 $u_n = n - (n^2 - \sin^2 u_a)^{1/2}$ 。合成标准不确定度和扩展不确定度分别为 $U_P(P = 0.68) = \rho_\tau \eta = 1.63$ fs/pixel, $U'_P(P = 0.95) = 2\rho_\tau \eta = 3.26$ fs/pixel, 故时间分辨率测量结果为 $\rho_\tau(P = 0.68) =$

(217.88 ± 1.63) fs/pixel 和 $\rho_\tau(P = 0.95) = (217.88 \pm 3.26)$ fs/pixel。

为了比较 3 种标定方法的优缺点,本次实验又利用另外两种标定方法进行了标定实验。图 6 展示

了3种标定方法标定时CCD上探测到的相关信号强度,其中:点划线为移动4次光程延迟器后对应自相关信号的4次移动;虚线为利用鉴别率板进行时

间分辨率标定的结果;实线为利用平面平晶标定的结果。3种标定方法中平面平晶法与鉴别率板法可单次标定,而光程延迟器法需多次调整延迟进行标定。

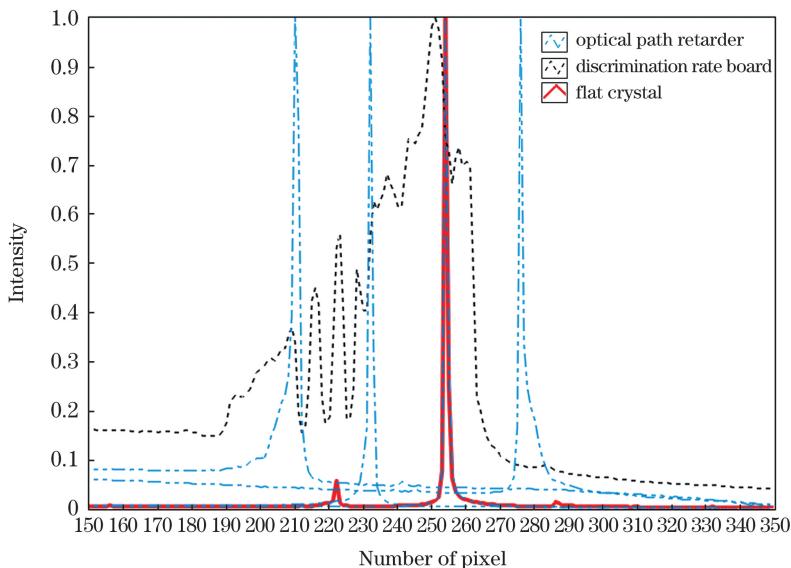


图6 不同方法标定时CCD纵向积分信号强度

Fig. 6 CCD longitudinal integral signal strength during calibration with different methods

表3为3种标定方法的时间分辨率测量结果,可以看到移动光程延迟器法进行标定的相对扩展不确定度最小,仅为1.42%,测量结果可靠性高,但是不能单次标定;平面平晶法的相对扩展不确定度为1.50%,远优于鉴别率板法的相对扩展不确定度6.96%。若认为移动光程延迟器的最可靠值为真值,则平面平晶法的标定结果的相对误差为1.68%,鉴别率板法的相对误差为2.93%,单次标

定的准确性得到了较大的提升。

表4对3种标定方法的优缺点进行了总结。分别从能否单次标定、标定光源限制、标定时测量脉宽、元件放置要求等5个方面对3种标定方法进行了比较,可以看出,利用平面平晶标定具有操作简单、标定时测量、可单次标定的优点,同时其相对误差较鉴别率板有明显优势,因此对于高功率激光装置而言,利用平面平晶进行时间分辨率标定效果最佳。

表3 三种标定方法的时间分辨率标定结果统计

Table 3 Statistics of time resolution calibration results of the three calibration methods

Calibration method	Optical path retarder	Discrimination rate board	Flat crystal
Time resolution /($\text{fs} \cdot \text{pixel}^{-1}$)	214.27	208.00	217.88
Relative uncertainty at $P=0.95$ /%	1.42	6.69	1.50
Uncertainty at $P=0.95$ /($\text{fs} \cdot \text{pixel}^{-1}$)	3.04	14.48	3.26

表4 三种标定方法的性能对比

Table 4 Performance comparison of three calibration methods

Calibration method	Optical path retarder	Discrimination rate board	Flat crystal
Single calibration	No	Yes	Yes
Light source	Femto/picosecond	Any	Femto/picosecond
Calibration measurement	No	No	Yes
Device placement requirements	No	Close to the nonlinear crystal	No

5 结 论

本文提出了一种基于平面平晶实现超短脉冲测量装置时间分辨率标定的新技术。通过在超短脉冲测量装置前放置特制的平面平晶,待测脉冲通过这一平面平晶后将产生具有一定时间间隔 T 的次脉冲,因此产生的自相关信号会在主峰两边出现较弱的次峰。次峰的时间间隔 $2T$ 可由平面平晶的折射率与厚度得出。因此只需得到 CCD 上两个次峰之间的像素值即可得到单次皮秒自相关仪的时间分辨率并同时计算出脉冲宽度。随后在脉宽为 180 fs 的飞秒激光器上进行了实验验证,实验结果证明此方法具有准确性高(相对扩展不确定度为 1.50%)、单次测量标定、实验操作简单等优点,是一种可靠的实现超短脉冲时间特性的精密分辨率标定的新技术。

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Single Calibration Technique of Autocorrelator Based on a Flat Crystal

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Abstract

Objective Ultrashort laser pulses have become an important tool for studying the interaction between lasers and matter and have important application values in the fields of biomedicine, high-energy physics research, and communications. The pulse width is an important parameter of the time characteristics of ultrashort laser pulses. For picosecond and femtosecond laser pulses, the pulse width is often measured by an autocorrelator. The time resolution of the autocorrelator must be accurately calibrated before the measurement. For traditional calibration schemes such as the mobile optical path retarder, although their calibration results are accurate, it cannot be calibrated in a single time. On the contrary, the discriminant rate board method can be calibrated in a single time; however, the accuracy of the calibration result is poor, and the accuracy is not high. This study proposes a new method for calibrating the time resolution of the autocorrelator. A flat crystal that can produce a specific time delay is designed, manufactured, and placed in the optical path during calibration. The time resolution can be obtained through a single calibration. Moreover, the measurement results are accurate and reliable.

Methods The designed and manufactured flat crystal with a specific time delay generates double pulse with a fixed time interval T (ignoring high-order reflections), when the pulse to be measured passes through the flat crystal. When the double pulses met in the autocorrelation crystal, the generated autocorrelation signal was a three-peak structure, i.e., a weaker secondary peak signal appeared at equal distances on the left and right sides of the primary peak signal. The time interval between the main peak and the secondary peak signal was denoted as T . The time resolution of the autocorrelator could be obtained by calculating the number of pixels between the primary and secondary peaks. The influence of the thickness, refractive index, and angle of the flat crystal on the calibration result was then analyzed. The time resolution and the relative expanded uncertainty of the autocorrelator were calculated. Finally, the autocorrelator was calibrated using two other calibration methods. The measurement results of the time resolution and the relative expanded uncertainty were given. Moreover, the advantages and the disadvantages of the three schemes were compared.

Results and Discussions After the flat crystal is placed in the optical path, the placement angle, thickness, and refractive index will affect the calibration accuracy of the time resolution. Figure 4 shows the deviation caused by the placement angle of the flat crystal. The deflection angle deviation only slightly affects the time resolution. A resolution error of 2% requires a deflection angle of 16.6°. The measurement error primarily comes from the deviation in the thickness h of the flat crystal and the reading. Figure 5(a) depicts the autocorrelation signal collected on the CCD. Obvious secondary peak signals can be found at both ends of the main peak signal, which is consistent with the theoretical analysis results. In this experiment, the thickness $h = 1.02$ mm and refractive index $n = 1.450$ of the plane flat crystal were maintained. The time interval between the primary and secondary peaks is 9.86 ps. The time resolution of the autocorrelator is 217.88 fs/pixel. The relatively extended uncertainty is 1.50%. Table 3 shows the results of the time resolution and the expanded uncertainty obtained by the three calibration methods. The results of the time resolution calibration using a flat crystal are accurate and reliable.

Conclusions This study proposes a new method for calibrating the time resolution of an ultrashort pulse measuring device based on a flat crystal. By placing a special flat crystal in front of the ultrashort pulse measuring device, double pulse with a time interval T is generated after the pulse to be measured passes through. The generated autocorrelation signal exhibits weaker sub-peaks on both sides of the primary peak. As shown in Fig. 2, the time interval of the sub-peak $2T$ can be obtained from the refractive index and the thickness of the flat crystal. The pixel value between the sub-peaks can ascertain the time resolution of a single picosecond autocorrelator and calculate the

pulse width at the same time. Subsequently, experiments are performed on a femtosecond laser with a pulse width of 180 fs. Figure 5 illustrates the autocorrelation signal collected by the CCD in the experiment, which is consistent with the theoretical prediction. Using this method to calibrate the time resolution of the autocorrelator yields 217.88 fs/pixel. Compared with the calibration result of 214.27 fs/pixel obtained by the moving optical path retarder method, the relative error is only 1.68%. Compared with the discrimination rate board method, the relative expanded uncertainty of the calibration result using this method is 1.50%, which is far better than the discrimination rate board method of 6.96%. A single calibration of the autocorrelator is realized. In conclusion, the calibration result is accurate and reliable.

Key words measurements; time resolution; pulse width; uncertainty

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