

基于啁啾管理激光器的直接调制 RZ-DPSK 信号产生技术研究

马榕^{1,2,3}, 高铎瑞^{1,2,3**}, 魏森涛^{1,2}, 谢壮^{1,2,3}, 汪伟^{1,2}, 郑帅威^{1,2,3}, 白兆峰^{1,2}, 谢小平^{1,2,3*}

¹中国科学院西安光学精密机械研究所光子网络技术研究室, 陕西 西安 710119;

²中国科学院西安光学精密机械研究所瞬态光学与光子技术国家重点实验室, 陕西 西安 710119;

³中国科学院大学, 北京 100049

摘要 利用啁啾管理激光器的啁啾效应实现了光信号的直接相位调制, 无需差分编码, 也无需外部调制器。分析了利用频率啁啾产生归零差分相移键控(RZ-DPSK)光信号的原理, 搭建了基于啁啾管理激光器的 2.5 Gb/s RZ-DPSK 激光通信系统, 同时将该系统与基于 LiNbO₃ 外调制的通信系统进行了性能对比。实验结果表明: 当前向纠错极限误码率为 10^{-3} 时, 直接调制 RZ-DPSK 系统的接收灵敏度为 -48.1 dBm, 与传统外调制方式的灵敏度相当, 而且该系统可以有效降低发射端的体积和功耗, 结构也更加简单紧凑。

关键词 光通信; 啁啾管理激光器; 啁啾效应; 相位调制; 归零差分相移键控

中图分类号 TN929.1

文献标志码 A

DOI: 10.3788/CJL202249.1306001

1 引言

空间激光通信凭借其带宽优势, 已成为解决微波通信瓶颈、构建天基宽带网、实现对地观测海量数据实时传输的有效手段^[1]。空间激光通信终端具有体积小、质量轻、功耗低等特点, 非常适合作为卫星有效载荷, 能够满足航天活动日益增长的通信需求^[2]。近年来, 国际上以 OneWeb、StarLink 等为代表, 国内以“鸿雁”“行云”等星座计划为代表的新兴低轨(LEO)卫星通信星座迅猛发展。美国、欧洲、日本等均对空间激光通信系统所涉及的各项关键技术展开了全面深入研究, 开发出多套卫星激光通信终端, 并成功完成了多项在轨试验, 技术基本成熟, 已经开始规划建设覆盖全球的天基激光通信网络^[3-6]。

未来, 每颗通信卫星将载有多个激光通信终端, 可同时服务多个目标, 因此激光通信终端将朝着小型化、集成化等方向发展^[7]。空间激光通信由于传输距离较远, 通常采用相干调制的方式来传递信息^[8-9]。相干通信体制包括二进制相移键控(BPSK)、差分相移键控(DPSK)、正交相移键控(QPSK)等^[10-12], 其中的 DPSK 调制格式因接收机结构简单、灵敏度和可靠性高等优点受到高度关注。根据占空比的不同, DPSK 可分为归零差分相移键控

(RZ-DPSK) 和非归零差分相移键控(NRZ-DPSK)。RZ-DPSK 的占空比较小, 灵敏度相对于 NRZ-DPSK 更高^[13], 因此成为当下的一个研究热点。传统的激光通信终端通常利用双级 LiNbO₃ 调制器的外调制方式实现光信号的 RZ-DPSK 调制^[14], 光发射机由激光器、调制器、放大器等多个独立元器件构成, 系统结构复杂。而利用激光器的啁啾效应, 通过控制注入电流的大小使光场产生相位移动, 同样可以实现对信号的相位编码。啁啾管理激光器(CML)即采用这一原理, 对驱动电流进行管理, 使信号产生相应的相位变化, 实现 RZ-DPSK 调制。这种直接调制方式无需额外的差分编码, 也无需相位调制器, 具有更小的尺寸、更低的功耗、更小的设备复杂度和更低的成本, 可以更好地适应不断小型化、集成化的光通信网络^[15-17]。2011 年, 香港中文大学的 Jia 等^[18]利用 CML 在仅有一个强度调制器的条件下实现了 RZ-DPSK 信号的产生, 驱动信号为反向归零(IRZ)格式, 可以达到更高的调制速率。2019 年, 美国麻省理工学院的研究人员基于激光器的上述啁啾效应, 对调制后的光信号进行时频滤波, 实现了高效率多格式光信号的传输^[19]。

本研究团队采用 CML 实现了 RZ-DPSK 的直接调制, 利用三电平驱动信号对光场进行相位控制, 无需

收稿日期: 2021-09-29; 修回日期: 2021-11-08; 录用日期: 2021-11-22

基金项目: 国家重点研发计划(2018YFC0307904)

通信作者: *xxp@opt.ac.cn; **gaoduorui@opt.ac.cn

任何外部调制器。本文首先介绍了 CML 的信号编码调制原理,并利用该系统实现了 2.5 Gb/s 的 RZ-DPSK 信号调制,同时对比了 CML 系统与外调制系统的接收灵敏度。实验结果表明,在误码率为 10^{-3} 时,CML 系统解调输出后的 RZ-DPSK 信号灵敏度为 -48.1 dBm,与外调制系统的 -49.9 dBm 仅相差 1.8 dB,具有与传统调制方式相当的灵敏度。同时,相对于传统的 LiNbO₃ 相位调制系统,基于 CML 的系统具有体积更小、结构更简单的优点,在光通信集成方面具有独特优势。

2 CML 的直接调制原理

CML 是由分布式反馈激光器 (DFB) 与光谱整形滤波器 (OSR) 级联而成的^[20]。图 1 为 RZ-DPSK 相位调制原理图,原始数据经过简单的预编码后生成三电平信号,并驱动 CML,利用 CML 的啁啾效应实现相位编码。图 2 显示了基于 CML 的 RZ-DPSK 信号的相位调制波形图,该图通过展示驱动器、DFB 激光器 (CML 内部)、滤波器 (CML 内部) 输出信号的强度、频率和相位特性说明了 CML 实现相位调制的工作原理^[21]。

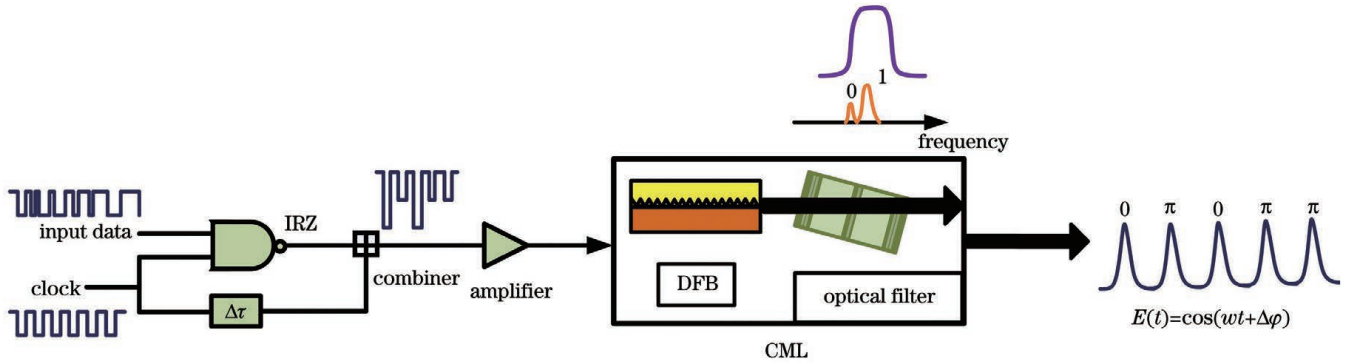


图 1 CML 激光器相位调制原理图

Fig. 1 Schematic of phase modulation of CML laser

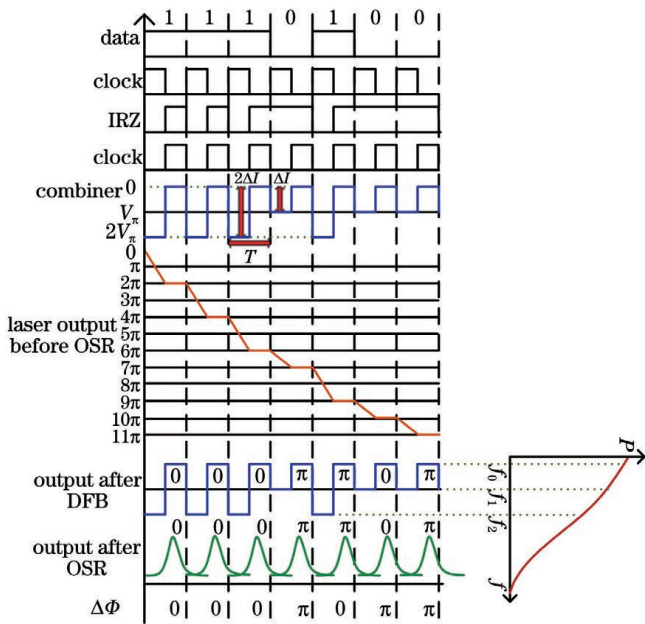


图 2 基于 CML RZ-DPSK 格式的相位调制波形图

Fig. 2 Phase modulation waveforms based on CML RZ-DPSK format

以二进制序列“1110100”为例,如图 1 所示,首先对其进行预编码:对于原始数据为 NRZ 格式的脉冲信号,将其与一路同步时钟信号作与非运算,生成占空比为 50% 的 IRZ 信号,再将 IRZ 序列与延迟 0.5 bit 的时钟信号相加,生成三电平信号。该三电平信号放大后用于驱动 CML^[22]。图 2 描述了三电平信号的电流变化时,DFB 激光器所发出的光信号在进入滤波器之

前的相位变化情况,当输入“0”位脉冲和“1”位脉冲时,电流分别从高电平下降 ΔI 或 $2\Delta I$ 到达低电平,并在半个周期内返回高电平^[23]。通过调整驱动电压来控制绝热啁啾,绝热啁啾将在电压跳变到低电平时使信号产生相移。因此:当输入“0”位时,电流波动为 ΔI ,绝热啁啾 $\Delta f = 1/T$ (其中 T 为一个脉冲周期),对应产生的相移^[24]为

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi \int_0^{T/2} \Delta f(t) dt = 2\pi \times \frac{1}{T} \times \frac{T}{2} = \pi; \quad (1)$$

当输入“1”位时,电流波动为 $2\Delta I$,绝热啁啾 $\Delta f = 2/T$,产生的相移^[25]为

$$\Delta\phi = 2\pi \int_0^{T/2} \Delta f(t) dt = 2\pi \times \frac{2}{T} \times \frac{T}{2} = 2\pi. \quad (2)$$

这里,OSR 滤波器使高电平信号对应的频率 f_0 接近透射峰值并通过滤波器,使低电平信号对应的频率 f_1 和 f_2 被滤除。伴随频率调制的三电平信号通过 OSR 滤波器转换为 RZ-DPSK 信号^[26],信号的消光比增加。由此产生的相位调制可以实现信号的自动差分编码。

3 实验结果

3.1 调制信号分析

基于 CML 的 2.5 Gb/s RZ-DPSK 传输系统发射端方案如图 3 所示。发射端包括一个任意波形发生器 (AWG)、驱动信号放大器和一个 CML,用来发射 RZ-DPSK 光信号。利用 MATLAB 完成数据的预编码,并将编码结果输入到 AWG 中,从而生成三电平信号。

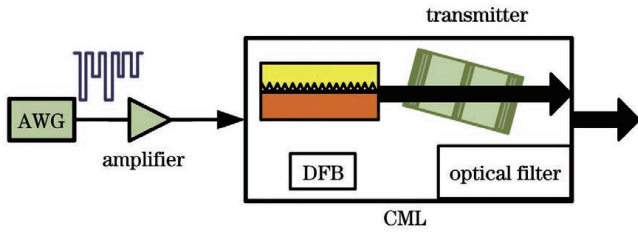


图 3 基于 CML 的 RZ-DPSK 传输系统发射端方案
Fig. 3 Transmitter scheme of RZ-DPSK transmission system based on CML

根据上述实验方案搭建了发射端实验系统。实验系统中, CML 的输入阻抗为 $50\ \Omega$, 阈值电流为 $25\ \text{mA}$, 调频效率为 $0.24\ \text{GHz}/\text{mA}$ 。CML 模块内置 OSR 的 $3\ \text{dB}$ 带宽为 $10\ \text{GHz}$, 平均斜率为 $1.5\ \text{dB}/\text{GHz}$ 。CML 模块内部 DFB 激光器工作时的偏置电流设置为 $110\ \text{mA}$, 输入电信号的电压峰峰值 $V_{\text{pp}} = 2\ \text{V}$ 。输入的“1110100”序列经预编码后输出三电平信号, 如图 4(a) 所示。该信号以 $2.5\ \text{Gb}/\text{s}$ 的速率驱动激光器产生相位变化, 调节温控电路, 锁定 PD_1 和 PD_2 的比例为 $2:1$, 此时 CML 输出波长为 $1552.554\ \text{nm}$, 输出光功率为 $9.14\ \text{dBm}$ 。CML 调制后的 RZ-DPSK 信号波形如图 4(b) 所示。可以看出, 作为驱动三电平信号经 CML 模块中的滤波器滤波后, 低频信号被滤除, 高频信号通过滤波器, 实现了从频率调制到幅度调制的转换。这一结果验证了上述相位调制原理的正确性。

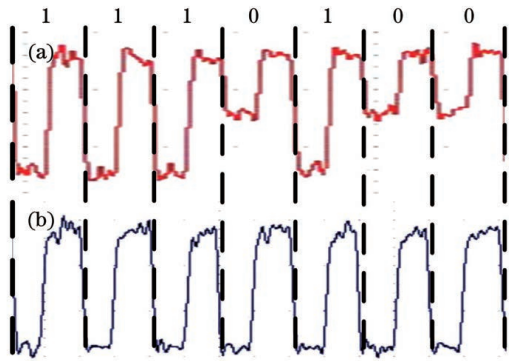


图 4 调制信号波形图。(a) 三电平驱动信号; (b) CML 输出的 RZ-DPSK 信号

Fig. 4 Modulation signals waveform. (a) Three-level drive signal; (b) RZ-DPSK signal output by CML

根据消光比公式 $E = 10 \lg \frac{P_{11}}{P_{00}}$ (P_{11} 为高电平信号对应的功率, P_{00} 为低电平信号对应的功率), 得到调制后信号的消光比为 $22.17\ \text{dB}$ 。这一结果表明调制后的信号具有较高的消光比, 信号质量较好。图 5 所示为信号调制前后的光谱对比图, 可以看出, 调制后的信号光谱出现了轻微展宽, 光谱中心处的载波成分被抑制, 具有更高的色散容限、更低的信道间串扰, 适用于长距离波分复用的通信网络。

RZ-DPSK 信号的相位特性通常可以通过星座图

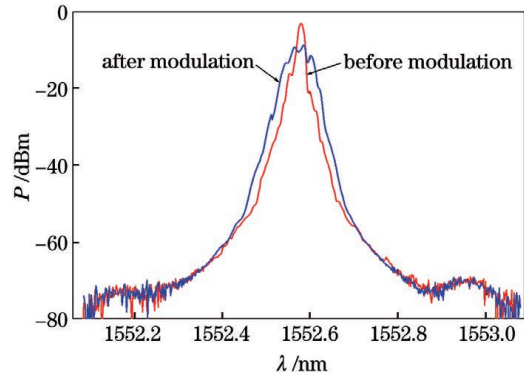


图 5 调制信号前后的光谱图

Fig. 5 Spectra before and after signal modulation

直观显示。为了更深入地研究调制后信号的相位特性, 本文对星座图进行了测试。测得的星座图如图 6 所示, 其中: 误差矢量幅度 (EVM) 表示信号的 I、Q 分量与理想信号分量的接近程度, 能全面衡量调制信号的相位误差和幅度误差; 横坐标代表 I 路信号, 纵坐标代表 Q 路信号。从图 6 中可以看出, 各采样点均匀地分布在横轴附近, 相位信息主要集中在 0 和 π 周围。这一结果说明调制信号的相位差恒定, 噪声较小。测得的 EVM 值为 12.52% , 说明 RZ-DPSK 信号的幅度误差和相位误差较小, 信号质量较好。

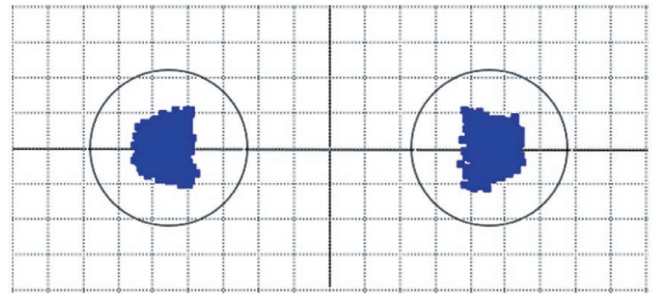


图 6 调制后信号的星座图

Fig. 6 Constellation of modulated signal

3.2 接收端信号分析

图 7 为 CML 系统解调方案图。光衰减器用于模拟链路衰减; 接收端包括掺铒光纤放大器 (EDFA)、光滤波器、光延迟干涉仪 (DI) 和平衡光电探测器 (PD), 用来接收解调 RZ-DPSK 光信号并恢复出基带电信号。为了进一步减小放大过程中产生的自发辐射噪声, 在 EDFA 后放置了一个带宽为 $0.05\ \text{nm}$ 的光滤波器。

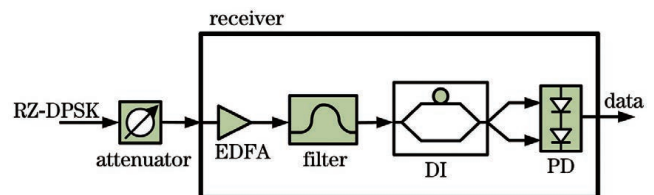


图 7 基于 CML 的 RZ-DPSK 传输系统接收端方案
Fig. 7 Receiver scheme of RZ-DPSK transmission system based on CML

上述二进制序列“1110100”经延迟相干解调后的

波形如图 8 所示,解调后为 RZ 信号,与原始基带信号“1110100”相同。

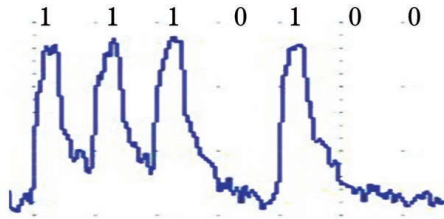


图 8 解调后的信号波形

Fig. 8 Demodulated signal waveform

系统的接收灵敏度和误码率是衡量信号传输质量好坏的一个重要指标,因此本文使用 $2^7 - 1$ 的伪随机序

列(PRBS)进行误码率测试。携带伪随机信号的光载波被延迟干涉仪解调后由平衡光电探测器转换为电信号,输出电信号的眼图如图 9(a)所示,解调后的信号为归零关键控(RZ-OOK)信号。为了便于测试信号的误码率,将解调得到的 RZ-OOK 波形利用时钟数据恢复仪(CDR)进行码型转换,转换后的 NRZ 眼图如图 9(b)所示。在图 9(a)中,信号眼图存在一定的波形失真。这一方面是由于频率啁啾的变化集中在符号开始处和符号末尾处,因此符号开始处和末尾处的相位波动较大;另一方面,驱动信号的噪声也会影响眼图的性能。经过码型转换后的眼图清晰,眼睛张开度高,质量较好。

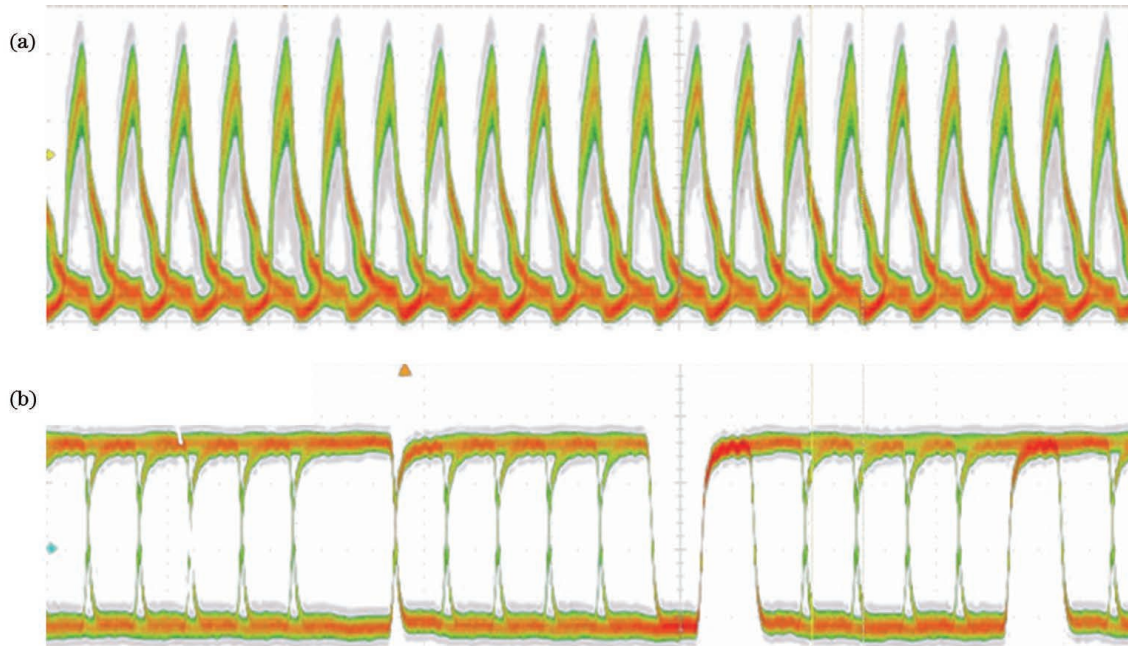


图 9 CML 发射系统解调后的信号眼图。(a)CML 激光系统解调后的 RZ-OOK 信号眼图;(b)码型转换后的眼图

Fig. 9 Signal eye diagrams after demodulation of CML transmission system. (a) RZ-OOK signal eye diagram demodulated by CML laser system; (b) eye diagram after code conversion

为了研究基于 CML 的传输系统的性能,将其与传统的基于 LiNbO_3 调制器的传输系统进行对比实验。基于 LiNbO_3 外调制的接收端与 CML 系统使用同一接收装置,二者的系统方案如图 10 所示。基于 LiNbO_3 调制器的 RZ-DPSK 发射机由 AWG、CDR、移相器、驱动放大器、一个 DFB 激光器和两个 LiNbO_3 调制器组成,输入信号同样是 $2^7 - 1$ 的 PRBS 码,调制速率为 2.5 Gb/s。DFB 激光器的偏置电压设置为 5 V 左右,波长为 1561.430 nm,一级调制器的偏置电压为 5 V(用于相位调制),二级调制器的偏置电压设置为 6.66 V(用于调节占空比),移相器的作用是调节时钟的延迟时间。信号由 AWG 发出,经 CDR 后恢复出原始数据及其同步时钟。原始数据输入到一级调制器中进行相位调制,另一路同步时钟序列输入到二级调制器中,实现 50% 占空比的 RZ 信号调制。

图 11 展示了基于 CML 的发射机和基于 LiNbO_3 的发射机的 RZ-DPSK 信号误码率曲线图。可见,当

系统误码率为 10^{-9} 时,CML 发射机和 LiNbO_3 发射机的接收灵敏度分别为 -36.98 dBm 和 -45.72 dBm。相对于 LiNbO_3 发射机而言,CML 发射机的灵敏度降低了 8.74 dB。这一方面是因为驱动信号及通信系统存在噪声,导致误码率增大,另一方面是因为 CML 模块中的 DFB 激光器和滤波器的带宽有限。此外,三电平信号的形状不对称也是造成灵敏度降低的一个因素。在前向纠错极限误码率为 10^{-3} 时,CML 发射机的灵敏度为 -48.1 dBm,与 LiNbO_3 发射机的 -49.9 dBm 仅相差 1.8 dB,二者的误码特性基本相当,可以实现无差错传输。由图 11 还可以看出,随着灵敏度降低,CML 和 LiNbO_3 发射机信号误码率之间的差距逐渐增大。相对于 LiNbO_3 发射机而言,CML 发射机的误码率随着接收功率的降低下降得较为缓慢。这源于 CML 独特的调制方式:间隔了“0”码的两个“1”码之间的相位相差 π 。信号传输使高电平脉冲展宽,重叠部分产生干涉相消,消光比增大,有利于码

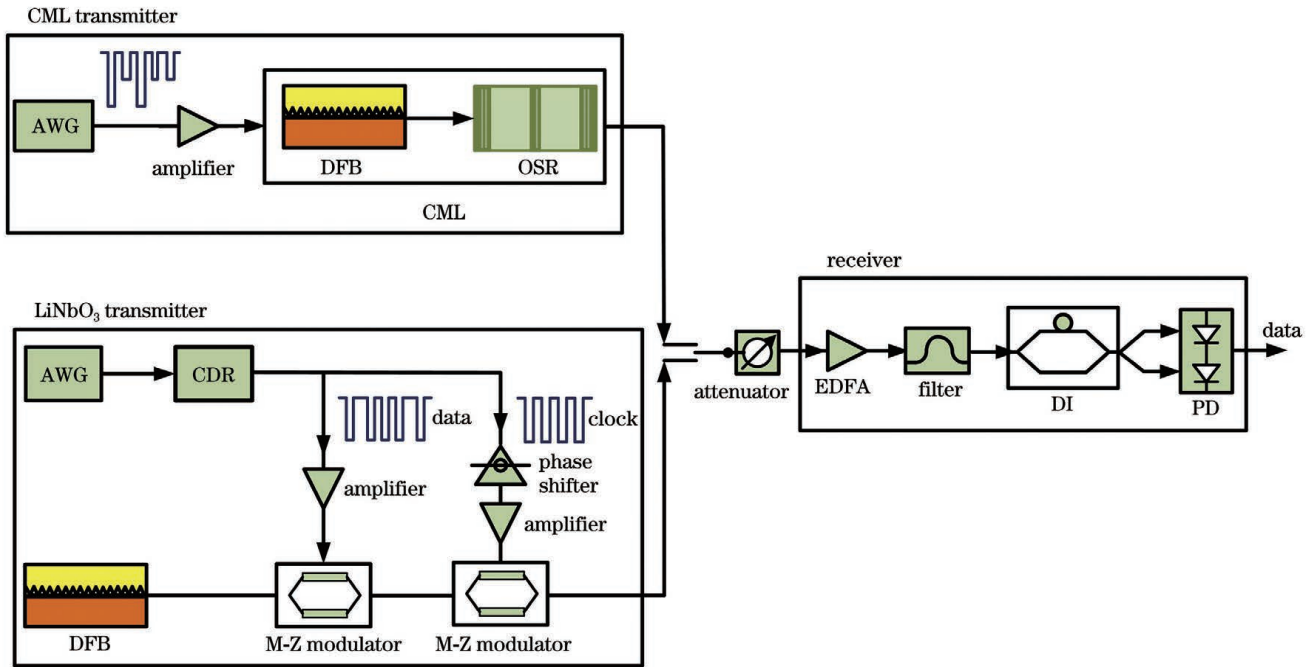


图 10 不同发射系统信号性能对比实验方案图

Fig. 10 Experimental scheme of signal performance comparison of different transmission systems

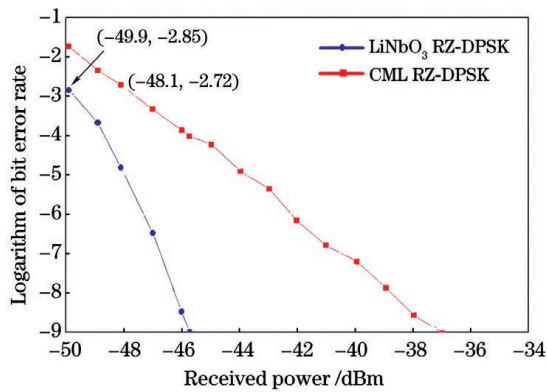


图 11 基于 CML 和 LiNbO₃ 的 DPSK 信号误码率性能比较
Fig. 11 Performance comparison of bit error rate of DPSK signal based on CML and LiNbO₃ transmitters

型判决。因此,随着接收功率降低,误码率下降缓慢。

4 结 论

本文研究了利用直接调制方式产生 RZ-DPSK 信号的实验方案。首先介绍了 CML 的信号编码调制原理,实现了基于 CML 的 2.5 Gb/s RZ-DPSK 信号的直接调制,无需差分编码,也无需外调制器;之后分析了调制信号的性能指标;最后对比了基于 CML 和 LiNbO₃ 的发射机的误码率。结果表明,在前向纠错极限误码率为 10^{-3} 时,基于 CML 的发射机的灵敏度为 -48.1 dBm,与基于 LiNbO₃ 的发射机的灵敏度(-49.9 dBm)仅相差 1.8 dB。二者的误码特性基本相当,均具有良好的传输性能。在硬件方面,基于 CML 的发射机系统结构更为简单,功耗更低,体积更小,重量更轻,可以更好地适应不断高

速化、集成化发展的空间光通信网络。

参 考 文 献

- [1] 高铎瑞, 谢壮, 马榕, 等. 卫星激光通信发展现状与趋势分析(特邀)[J]. 光子学报, 2021, 50(4): 0406001.
Gao D R, Xie Z, Ma R, et al. Development current status and trend analysis of satellite laser communication(invited)[J]. Acta Photonica Sinica, 2021, 50(4): 0406001.
- [2] 王天枢, 林鹏, 董芳, 等. 空间激光通信技术发展现状及展望[J]. 中国工程科学, 2020, 22(3): 92-99.
Wang T S, Lin P, Dong F, et al. Progress and prospect of space laser communication technology [J]. Strategic Study of CAE, 2020, 22(3): 92-99.
- [3] 徐森, 史浩东, 王超, 等. 空间目标多维度探测与激光通信一体化技术研究[J]. 中国激光, 2021, 48(12): 1206002.
Xu M, Shi H D, Wang C, et al. Technology for integrating space object multidimensional detection and laser communication [J]. Chinese Journal of Lasers, 2021, 48(12): 1206002.
- [4] 谢小平, 高铎瑞, 汪伟, 等. 星载空间激光通信系统设计与实现[J]. 无线电通信技术, 2020, 46(5): 577-584.
Xie X P, Gao D R, Wang W, et al. Design and realization of satellite-borne space laser communication system [J]. Radio Communications Technology, 2020, 46(5): 577-584.
- [5] 高世杰, 吴佳彬, 刘永凯, 等. 微小卫星激光通信系统发展现状与趋势[J]. 中国光学, 2020, 13(6): 1171-1181.
Gao S J, Wu J B, Liu Y K, et al. Development status and trend of micro-satellite laser communication systems [J]. Chinese Optics, 2020, 13(6): 1171-1181.
- [6] 张若凡, 张文睿, 张学娇, 等. 高轨卫星激光中继链路研究现状及发展趋势[J]. 激光与光电子学进展, 2021, 58(5): 0500001.
Zhang R F, Zhang W R, Zhang X J, et al. Research status and development trend of high earth orbit satellite laser relay links[J]. Laser & Optoelectronics Progress, 2021, 58(5): 0500001.
- [7] 白杨杨, 岑远遥, 孟立新, 等. 空间激光通信组网从光端机控制技术研究[J]. 光学学报, 2021, 41(14):1406001.
Bai Y Y, Cen Y Y, Meng L X, et al. Control technology of slave optical transceiver in space laser communication network [J]. Acta Optica Sinica, 2021, 41(14): 1406001.

- [8] 董全睿, 陈涛, 高世杰, 等. 星载激光通信技术研究进展[J]. 中国光学, 2019, 12(6): 1260-1270.
Dong Q R, Chen T, Gao S J, et al. Progress of research on satellite-borne laser communication technology [J]. Chinese Optics, 2019, 12(6): 1260-1270.
- [9] Zhang T, Mao S, Fu Q, et al. Networking optical antenna of space laser communication [J]. Journal of Laser Applications, 2017, 29(1): 012013.
- [10] Fu Q, Liu X Z, Jiang H L, et al. The network and transmission of based on the principle of laser multipoint communication [J]. Proceedings of SPIE, 2014, 9300: 930029.
- [11] 夏方园, 陈祥, 陈安和, 等. 星载小型化激光通信终端技术研究现状及发展方向综述[J]. 空间电子技术, 2020, 17(3): 73-80.
Xia F Y, Chen X, Chen A H, et al. Spaceborne miniaturized laser communication terminal's current situation and development trend [J]. Space Electronic Technology, 2020, 17(3): 73-80.
- [12] Zhang Y H, Xiao S L, Yu Y H, et al. Experimental study of wideband in-band full-duplex communication based on optical self-interference cancellation [J]. Optics Express, 2016, 24(26): 30139-30148.
- [13] 姜会林, 佟首峰, 张立中. 空间激光通信技术与系统[M]. 北京: 国防工业出版社, 2010.
Jiang H L, Tong S F, Zhang L Z. The technologies and systems of space laser communication [M]. Beijing: National Defense Industry Press, 2010.
- [14] He J, Zheng Z W, Chen L, et al. A novel scheme for generation of 40 Gb/s RZ/CSRZ-DPSK signals [J]. Proceedings of SPIE, 2007, 6781: 67814M.
- [15] Wang X, Shen W H, Li W X, et al. High-speed silicon photonic Mach-Zehnder modulator at $2\ \mu\text{m}$ [J]. Photonics Research, 2021, 9(4): 535-540.
- [16] 陈芯蕊, 楚广勇. 全双工直接调制激光器光网络单元的优化研究[J]. 激光与红外, 2021, 51(7): 865-870.
Chen X R, Chu G Y. Research on optimization of optical network unit of full-duplex direct modulation laser [J]. Laser & Infrared, 2021, 51(7): 865-870.
- [17] 王现彬, 张晶, 卢智嘉, 等. 啁啾管理调制格式中光谱整形滤波器优化[J]. 激光与红外, 2019, 49(6): 692-696.
Wang X B, Zhang J, Lu Z J, et al. Optimization of optical spectral reshaping filter in chirp-managed modulation format [J]. Laser & Infrared, 2019, 49(6): 692-696.
- [18] Jia W, Xu J, Liu Z X, et al. Generation and transmission of 10-Gb/s RZ-DPSK signals using a directly modulated chirp-managed laser [J]. IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, 2011, 23(3): 173-175.
- [19] Caplan D O. Apparatus and methods for power efficient multi-format optical transmission: US10374723[P]. 2019-08-06.
- [20] Mahgerefteh D, Matsui Y, Zheng X Y, et al. Tunable chirp managed laser [J]. IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, 2008, 20(2): 108-110.
- [21] Mahgerefteh D, Matsui Y, Zheng X Y, et al. Chirp managed laser and applications [J]. IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics, 2010, 16(5): 1126-1139.
- [22] Franklin J, Kil L, Mooney D, et al. Generation of RZ-DPSK using a chirp-managed laser (CML) [C] // 2008 Conference on Optical Fiber Communication/National Fiber Optic Engineers Conference, February 24-28, 2008, San Diego, CA, USA. New York: IEEE Press, 2008: 10063413.
- [23] Jia W, Liu Z X, Chan C K. Generation and transmission of 10.709-Gbaud RZ-DQPSK using a chirp managed laser [C] // 2012 17th Opto-Electronics and Communications Conference, July 2-6, 2012, Busan, Korea (South). New York: IEEE Press, 2012: 168-169.
- [24] Mahgerefteh D, Matsui Y, Zheng X Y, et al. Chirp managed laser (CML): a compact transmitter for dispersion tolerant 10 Gb/s networking applications [C] // 2006 Optical Fiber Communication Conference and the National Fiber Optic Engineers Conference, March 5-10, 2006, Anaheim, CA. New York: IEEE Press, 2006: 8968476.
- [25] Hussain A, Xin X J, Latif A, et al. A novel symmetric 10 Gbit/s architecture with a single feeder fiber for WDM-PON based on chirp-managed laser [J]. Optoelectronics Letters, 2012, 8(6): 468-472.
- [26] Mahgerefteh D, Matsui Y, Liao C, et al. Error-free 250 km transmission in standard fibre using compact 10 Gbit/s chirp-managed directly modulated lasers (CML) at 1550 nm [J]. Electronics Letters, 2005, 41(9): 543-544.

Direct Modulation RZ-DPSK Signal Generation Technology Based on Chirp-Managed Lasers

Ma Rong^{1,2,3}, Gao Duorui^{1,2,3*}, Wei Sentao^{1,2}, Xie Zhuang^{1,2,3}, Wang Wei^{1,2},
Jia Shuaiwei^{1,2,3}, Bai Zhaofeng^{1,2}, Xie Xiaoping^{1,2,3*}

¹ Laboratory of Photonics and Network, Xi'an Institute of Optics and Precision Mechanics of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an 710119, Shaanxi, China;

² State Key Laboratory of Transient Optics and Photonics Technology, Xi'an Institute of Optics and Precision Mechanics of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an 710119, Shaanxi, China;

³ University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

Abstract

Objective Due to its bandwidth advantage, space laser communication has become an effective means to solve the bottleneck of microwave communication, build a space-based broadband network, and realize the real-time transmission of massive amount of earth observation data. The space laser communication terminal has characteristics of small size, lightweight, low power consumption, etc., which are suitable for satellite payload and meet the increasing communication needs of aerospace activities. In future, each communication satellite will carry multiple laser communication terminals that can serve multiple targets simultaneously. Therefore, laser communication terminals are being developed in the direction of miniaturization and integration. Traditional laser communication terminals use external modulation methods to

achieve intensity or phase modulation of optical signals. Optical transmitters comprise multiple independent components, such as lasers, modulators, and bias controllers, and the system's structure is complex. The phase modulation of the optical signal is realized using the direct modulation of the chirp-managed laser (CML), without an external modulator, bias controller, etc., with small size, low power consumption, low equipment complexity, and low cost. In addition, it can adapt to the continuous, high-speed, and integrated development of optical communication networks.

Methods In this study, the chirp effect of the CML is used for phase modulation to generate a return-to-zero differential phase shift keying (RZ-DPSK) signal. RZ-DPSK has several advantages, such as high sensitivity, good reliability, simple receiver, and its receiving sensitivity is 3 dB higher than that of on-off keying (OOK) modulation method. It has received extensive attention in the engineering field. Using the chirp effect of the laser, the phase shift of the optical field is achieved by controlling the magnitude of the injected current, and the driving signal is simply pre-encoded using MATLAB to generate a three-level signal, thereby accurately controlling the phase change of the carrier signal. The error rate performance of RZ-DPSK estimated using this modulation method was tested and compared with that of the traditional external modulation method. The performance difference between the two methods was analyzed.

Results and Discussions This study first uses the binary sequence "1110100" to verify the system principle. The schematic of the transmitter and receiver experimental schemes are shown in Figures 3 and 7, and the signal rate is 2.5 Gb/s. The output wavelength of the CML laser is 1552.544 nm, and the output optical power is 9.14 dBm. The receiving end includes erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA), optical filter, optical delay interferometer, and balanced detector to receive and demodulate RZ-DPSK optical signal and restore the baseband electrical signal. To further reduce the spontaneous radiation noise caused by the amplification process, an optical filter with a bandwidth of 0.05 nm is placed after the EDFA. The signal waveform after demodulation is shown in Figure 8. 2^7-1 pseudo-random binary sequence (PRBS) is used for bit error rate test. The pseudo-random signal is demodulated by the delay interferometer, and the output signal eye diagram of the balanced detector is shown in Figure 9. As a comparative experiment, the receiving end based on LiNbO_3 external modulation and the CML system use the same receiving device. The schematic of the two systems is shown in Figure 10. The bit error rate curves of RZ-DPSK system based on CML transmitter and LiNbO_3 transmitter are shown in the Figure 11. When the system error rate is 10^{-9} , the receiving sensitivity of CML and LiNbO_3 transmitters is -36.98 and -45.72 dBm, respectively. Compared with the LiNbO_3 transmitter, the sensitivity of the CML system is reduced by 8.74 dB. When the error rate of the forward error correction limit is 10^{-3} , the sensitivity of the CML transmitter is -48.1 dBm, which is only 1.8 dB less than the -49.9 dBm of the LiNbO_3 transmitter. The error characteristics of the two are the same, and thus, an error-free transmission can be realized. The CML transmitter has a simple structure, small size, and low power consumption, and the performance of the receiver is equivalent to that of external modulation when the limit error rate of the forward error correction is 10^{-3} , which shows a significant development prospect.

Conclusions This study introduces the principle of signal coding and modulation of CML laser and realizes the direct modulation of 2.5 Gb/s RZ-DPSK signal based on the CML laser without differential coding and external modulator. The performance index of the modulation signal is analyzed. At the same time, the bit error rate performance of the transmission system based on the CML laser and the system based on the LiNbO_3 transmitter are compared. The results show that the sensitivity of the transmitter based on the CML is -48.1 dBm when the limit bit error rate of forward error correction is 10^{-3} . Compared with the sensitivity of LiNbO_3 -based transmitter system (-49.9 dBm), the difference of the sensitivity of CML-based transmitter system is only 1.8 dB and the error characteristics are basically the same. Further, the CML-based transmitter system has a good transmission performance. In terms of hardware, the CML-based transmitter system has a simpler structure, low power consumption, small size, and lightweight, which can better adapt to the continuous high-speed and integrated development of space optical communication networks.

Key words optical communications; chirp-managed laser; chirp effect; phase modulation; return-to-zero differential phase shift keying