

# 中国激光

## 可见光掺稀土光纤激光器研究进展： 从连续波至飞秒脉冲(特邀)

罗正钱<sup>1,2\*</sup>, 宋鲁明<sup>1</sup>, 阮秋君<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>福建省超快激光技术及应用重点实验室(厦门大学), 福建 厦门 361005;

<sup>2</sup>厦门大学深圳研究院, 广东 深圳 518129

**摘要** 位于人眼可见波段(380~780 nm)的激光,在显示、生物医疗、精密加工、精密光谱、光通信等领域有着重要的应用价值。在众多可见光激光的产生方法中,可见光掺稀土光纤激光器因具有高效率、高光束质量、结构简单且免维护等优势,近年来受到国内外的广泛关注。对可见光掺稀土光纤激光器的研究进展进行了详细综述,介绍了可见光连续波光纤激光器、可见光调Q脉冲光纤激光器及可见光锁模脉冲光纤激光器的产生方式和特点。最新研究进展表明,其可覆盖蓝(~480 nm)、青(~491 nm)、绿(~520 nm)、黄(~573 nm)、橙(~605 nm)、红(~635 nm)及深红(~717 nm)等丰富的可见光波长,全光纤可见光输出功率已迈向 10 W,而且可见光锁模超短脉冲宽度已窄至 <200 fs。结合应用需求,简要展望了可见光波段光纤激光器的发展趋势。

**关键词** 激光器; 可见光激光; 掺稀土光纤激光器; 连续波; 调Q; 锁模

中图分类号 TN248

文献标志码 A

DOI: 10.3788/CJL231233

### 1 引言

波长位于 380~780 nm 的可见光激光由于其独特的人眼可见性及不可替代的价值,已被应用于许多领域,如显示、生物医疗、激光加工等<sup>[1-3]</sup>。在显示领域,可见光激光极大地提高了显示与投影的色域和饱和度<sup>[4]</sup>;在医疗领域,蓝光可用于治疗婴儿黄疸<sup>[5]</sup>,黄光可用于治疗黄褐斑、鲜红斑、皮肤血管瘤等<sup>[6]</sup>;在激光加工领域,大多材料在可见光波段具有良好的吸收,特别是金银铜等高反材料,因此利用蓝绿激光进行加工具有独特优势。蓝绿激光是水下透明窗口,载波频率高,抗干扰能力强,常用于水下光通信、探测和遥感等<sup>[7]</sup>。由于诸多领域具有重大的应用需求,可见光激光一直是激光领域的重要研究对象,得到了国内外科研人员的广泛关注。

从实现方式来看,半导体、气体、染料、固体和光纤激光器都可以直接产生可见光激光<sup>[8-15]</sup>,如图 1 所示。然而,可见光半导体激光器(LD)输出的光束质量较差,并且难以实现脉冲激光输出<sup>[16-17]</sup>;可见光气体激光器一般需要使用稀有气体激光管和超高压驱动电源<sup>[18-20]</sup>,成本高且体积庞大;可见光染料激光器采用染料作为激光介质<sup>[13]</sup>,有较宽的发射带,但染料存储和搬运困难,染料循环系统复杂且需频繁维护;可见光全固

态晶体激光器通常面临自由空间光路对准及精确的热管理等问题,系统相对复杂、不紧凑,同时现有的可见光晶体材料(如 Pr<sup>3+</sup>:YLF)<sup>[14,17]</sup>具有较窄带的发射特性,产生超短飞秒脉冲的能力受限。另外,基于非线性频率转换技术的激光器(如倍频、合频、光参量等)也可获得可见光激光<sup>[21-23]</sup>,但稳定性和鲁棒性较差,转换效率相对较低,价格昂贵。可见光光纤激光器通常使用掺稀土光纤作为增益介质<sup>[24-25]</sup>,拥有较宽的荧光谱线(如掺 Dy<sup>3+</sup>光纤在黄光波段的发射带带宽可达 30 nm)<sup>[26]</sup>,并且具有效率高、光束质量好、无需散热、易于全光纤小型化等优点,因而备受关注,是激光研究领域着力发展的重要方向。

从 20 世纪 80 年代起发展至今,可见光稀土光纤激光器研究取得重要进展,波长从蓝光至深红光,可覆盖整个可见光区域,输出功率也从几毫瓦提升至数瓦量级<sup>[27]</sup>,并且运转方式多样,既可连续波运转,又可工作在脉冲模式,目前最短脉冲宽度 <200 fs<sup>[28]</sup>。本文围绕实现可见光稀土光纤激光器的技术路径,对上转换和下转换方法产生可见光激光的相关研究进行了综述,分析讨论了不同技术方案的特点,主要包括可见光连续波稀土光纤激光器、可见光调Q脉冲稀土光纤激光器及可见光锁模脉冲稀土光纤激光器。最后结合实际应用需求,对可见光波段稀土光纤激光器的未来发展

收稿日期: 2023-09-26; 修回日期: 2023-10-23; 录用日期: 2023-10-25; 网络首发日期: 2023-11-01

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(62022069, 62235014)、深圳市科技项目(JCYJ20210324115813037)

通信作者: \*zqluo@xmu.edu.cn

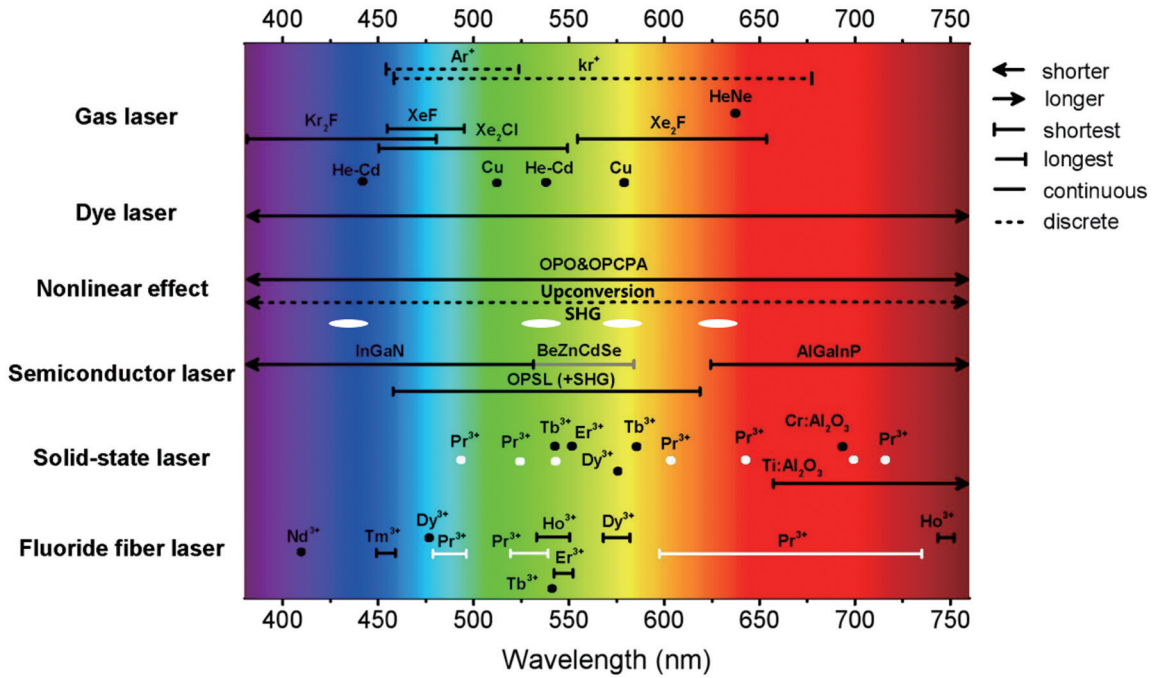


图 1 可见光激光源及工作波段<sup>[12]</sup>

Fig. 1 Visible laser sources and their available wavelengths<sup>[12]</sup>

趋势进行了展望。

## 2 掺稀土氟化物光纤特性

目前,采用掺 $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 、 $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ 、 $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ 、 $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ 或 $\text{Tm}^{3+}$ 氟化物光纤作为增益介质的可见光光纤激光器可覆盖可见光全波段<sup>[24-25]</sup>,这得益于其特殊的能级结构及光谱特性。

$\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 是一种能通过受激辐射跃迁产生多种可见光波长发射的稀土离子,拥有蓝光、绿光、橙光、红光和深红光等丰富的可见光波段跃迁能级结构。Adam等<sup>[29]</sup>首次报道了掺 $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 可见光激光器。 $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 的能级结构如图 2(a)所示。其中, $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 掺杂增益材料最有效的激发谱线对应 $^3\text{H}_4 \rightarrow ^3\text{P}_2$ 跃迁,位于 443 nm 处,与商用 GaN 半导体激光器的输出波长相匹配。在 443 nm 激光泵浦下,粒子从基态能级 $^3\text{H}_4$ 受激吸收跃迁到激发态 $^3\text{P}_2$ 能级,由于 $^3\text{P}_2$ 能级与下能级 $^1\text{I}_6$ 、 $^3\text{P}_1$ 和 $^3\text{P}_0$ 的能量间隔很小,粒子快速弛豫到 $^3\text{P}_1$ 和 $^3\text{P}_0$ 能级,通过辐射跃迁产生可见光荧光发射。 $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 在可见光波段的发射峰主要有 5 个,分别对应 $^3\text{P}_0 \rightarrow ^3\text{H}_4$ (491 nm)、 $^1\text{I}_6 + ^3\text{P}_1 \rightarrow ^3\text{H}_5$ (520 nm)、 $^3\text{P}_0 \rightarrow ^3\text{H}_6$ (605 nm)、 $^3\text{P}_0 \rightarrow ^3\text{F}_2$ (635 nm)以及 $^3\text{P}_0 \rightarrow ^3\text{F}_4$ (715 nm)能级跃迁。

$\text{Dy}^{3+}$ 掺杂增益介质常用于实现黄色激光输出,其能级结构如图 2(b)所示。 $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ 的 $^4\text{F}_{9/2}$ 能级为亚稳态能级,寿命约为 1 ms,根据其受激吸收的能级跃迁,常用蓝光 LD 泵浦(400 nm 和 450 nm)。5 条主要的发射谱线分别对应 $^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{15/2}$ (485 nm)、 $^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{13/2}$ (573 nm)、 $^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{11/2}$ (660 nm)和 $^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{9/2} + ^6\text{F}_{11/2}$ (749 nm)能级跃迁。其中: $^4\text{F}_{9/2} \rightarrow ^6\text{H}_{13/2}$ 跃迁产生的 573 nm 激光常用来实现黄色激光输出;660 nm 和 749 nm 发射由于发

射截面较小,很少用于实现激光输出。

$\text{Tb}^{3+}$ 常作为绿光激光器的增益介质激活离子,其能级示意图如图 2(c)所示,是典型的四能级系统,蓝光将基态能级 $^7\text{F}_6$ 上的粒子泵浦到 $^5\text{D}_3$ ,粒子无辐射跃迁至亚稳态能级 $^5\text{D}_4$ ,最终在亚稳态能级 $^5\text{D}_4$ 和激光下能级 $^7\text{F}_j$ (量子数 $J=6, 5, 4, 3$ )间发生受激辐射跃迁,实现激光输出。可以发现, $^5\text{D}_4 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_j$ ( $J=6, 5, 4, 3$ )跃迁能获得 4 条主要发射谱线,分别位于 485、540、600、620 nm 处。其中, $^5\text{D}_4 \rightarrow ^7\text{F}_5$ 受激辐射跃迁产生的 540 nm 绿光最强,且光谱较窄。

由 $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 、 $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ 、 $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ 的能级结构可知,均是蓝光泵浦产生可见光激射,因而它们成为直接下转换产生可见光激光的主要材料,这种直接下转换具有效率高、结构紧凑、稳定性好的优势。

$\text{Ho}^{3+}$ 除了实现 2  $\mu\text{m}$  左右的近红外激光输出外,也常用于实现可见光激光输出。在可见光区域,其能级结构如图 2(d)所示,常用 645 nm 及 450 nm 激光作为泵浦源,可分别用于上转换和下转换激射。发射谱线主要对应 $^5\text{F}_4 \rightarrow ^5\text{I}_8$ 、 $^5\text{S}_2 \rightarrow ^5\text{I}_8$ 和 $^5\text{F}_4 \rightarrow ^5\text{I}_7$ 、 $^5\text{S}_2 \rightarrow ^5\text{I}_7$ 跃迁,发射波长分别为 550 nm 和 750 nm。

$\text{Tm}^{3+}$ 常用于实现近红外激光,但也可用于上转换实现蓝光激光输出。在可见光区域,其能级结构如图 2(e)所示,常用 645、680、1150、1200 nm 激光作为泵浦源,发射谱线主要对应 $^1\text{D}_2 \rightarrow ^3\text{F}_4$ 和 $^1\text{G}_4 \rightarrow ^3\text{H}_6$ 跃迁,发射波长分别为 455 nm 和 484 nm。

常用于实现上转换发光的稀土材料为 $\text{Pr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ 共掺材料,从图 2(f)可知, $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ 的 $^2\text{F}_{5/2}$ 能级与 $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ 的 $^1\text{G}_4$ 能级的能量相当,两能级之间可以产生能量传递,因此



表 1 上转换可见光连续波光纤激光器的代表性研究成果  
Table 1 Representative research achievements of up-conversion visible CW fiber lasers

Gain fiber	Pump type	Pump wavelength / nm	Output wavelength / nm	Output power / mW	Slope efficiency / %	Year
Pr/Yb:ZBLAN	Ti:sapphire	840–850	635	20	10	1991 <sup>[37]</sup>
	Ti:sapphire	860	635	300	52	1995 <sup>[42]</sup>
	Ti:sapphire	850	635	1020	19	1997 <sup>[43]</sup>
	Ti:sapphire	850	491	165	12.1	1999 <sup>[44]</sup>
	LD	850	635 520	2060 320	45 17	2002 <sup>[45]</sup>
Pr:ZBLAN	Ti:sapphire	835, 1010	635	~180	–	1991 <sup>[46]</sup>
			605	~30	–	
	LD	830, 1020	520	~1	–	1996 <sup>[47]</sup>
			492	~1	~1	
Ho:ZBLAN	Kr <sup>+</sup>	647.1	550	10	20	1990 <sup>[48]</sup>
	LD	643	~549	38	24	1996 <sup>[49]</sup>
	Solid-state laser	640	543.1	980	34.2	2021 <sup>[50]</sup>
Er:ZBLAN	Ti:sapphire	801	546	23	11	1991 <sup>[51]</sup>
	Ti:sapphire	970	544	50	15	1992 <sup>[52]</sup>
	HeNe	633	470	0.04	3	2002 <sup>[53]</sup>
Tm:ZBLAN	Kr <sup>+</sup>	676, 647	455, 480	0.4	~0.2	1990 <sup>[54]</sup>
	LD	1130	482	106	30	1995 <sup>[55]</sup>
	Nd:YAG	1123	481	230	18.5	1997 <sup>[56]</sup>
	Fiber laser	1120	784	5	0.7	2005 <sup>[57]</sup>
Nd:ZBLAN	–	~590	412	0.5	1.5	1995 <sup>[58]</sup>

此外,为了进一步提升红、绿光功率,同时充分发挥 LD 泵浦源的潜力,上转换产生激光的技术逐渐转向了 LD 直接泵浦大芯径或双包层(DC)掺杂稀土离子的光纤。2002年,耶拿大学的 Zellmer 等<sup>[45]</sup>用合束的多模 850 nm LD 泵浦大芯径 Pr/Yb:ZBLAN 光纤,将 635 nm 红光和 520 nm 绿光功率分别提升至 2.06 W 和 0.32 W,其中红光和绿光的斜效率分别为 45% 和 37%,其振幅噪声的均方根(RMS)为 0.27%。

另外,除了采用掺 Pr<sup>3+</sup> 氟化物光纤外,掺 Ho<sup>3+</sup>、Er<sup>3+</sup>、Tm<sup>3+</sup> 和 Nd<sup>3+</sup> 氟化物光纤也常被用于产生可见光上转换激光<sup>[48,51,54,58]</sup>。由表 1 可知,从 20 世纪 90 年代初开始,法国国家通信研究中心、美国伊利诺伊大学厄巴纳-香槟分校、南安普敦大学以及厦门大学等研究团队陆续报道了掺稀土(掺 Ho<sup>3+</sup>、掺 Er<sup>3+</sup>、掺 Tm<sup>3+</sup>、掺 Nd<sup>3+</sup>)氟化物光纤的上转换光纤激光器。1990 年,法国国家通信研究中心的 Allain 等<sup>[48]</sup>用 647 nm 的 Kr<sup>+</sup> 泵浦源泵浦掺 Ho<sup>3+</sup> 氟化物光纤,实现了 540~553 nm 可调谐的绿光激光,输出功率只有 10 mW,斜效率为 20%。1996 年,美国伊利诺伊大学厄巴纳-香槟分校的

Funk 等<sup>[49]</sup>用 643 nm 泵浦源泵浦不同长度(20~86 cm)掺 Ho<sup>3+</sup> 氟化物光纤,实现了 539~550 nm 可调谐的绿光激光,绿光最大输出功率提升至 38 mW,斜效率达到 24%。直到 2021 年,厦门大学的 Ji 等<sup>[50]</sup>成功将上转换绿光光纤激光器的输出功率提升至瓦级。该工作用 640 nm 光源泵浦 Ho<sup>3+</sup>:ZFG 光纤,激光输出波长在 535~553 nm 范围内可调谐,波长为 543.1 nm 的激光线宽为 1.3 nm,最大输出功率为 0.98 W,斜效率为 34.2%,具体如图 3 所示。

### 3.2 下转换可见光掺稀土光纤激光器

随着蓝光半导体激光器的不断发展以及氟化物光纤制造工艺的日趋成熟,利用高功率蓝光半导体激光作为泵浦源,下转换可见光稀土光纤激光器也得到较快发展。表 2 总结了近几年下转换可见光稀土光纤激光器的代表性研究成果。目前下转换可见光光纤激光大多采用 GaN 蓝光或氩离子激光泵浦掺 Pr<sup>3+</sup>、Ho<sup>3+</sup>、Dy<sup>3+</sup> 或 Tb<sup>3+</sup> 氟化物光纤来获得深红光、红光、橙光、黄光、绿光和青光。下面按照波长划分,分别讨论其实现方案及输出特性。

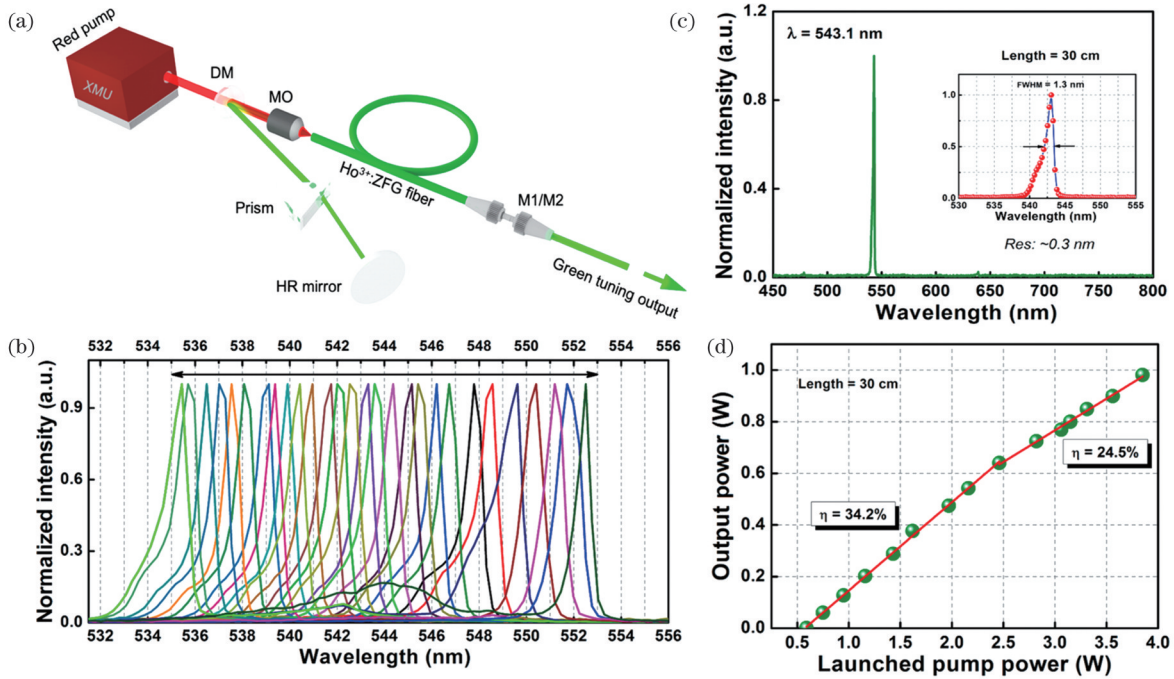


图 3  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ :ZBLAN 高功率连续波光纤激光器<sup>[50]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)可调谐光谱图;(c)543.1 nm 激光线宽;(d)斜效率  
 Fig. 3  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ : ZBLAN high power CW fiber lasers<sup>[50]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) tunable spectrum; (c) line width of 543.1 nm laser; (d) slope efficiency

表 2 下转换可见光连续波光纤激光器的代表性研究成果

Table 2 Representative research achievements of down-conversion visible CW fiber lasers

Gain fiber	Pump type	Pump wavelength /nm	Output wavelength /nm	Output power /mW	Slope efficiency /%	Year
Pr:ZBLAN	Ar <sup>+</sup>	476.5	715	25	30	1991 <sup>[60]</sup>
			635	250	64	
			605	150	33	
			520	2	1.03	
			491	6	9	
	Optically pumped semiconductor laser	497.7	635	94	41.5	2005 <sup>[61]</sup>
	GaN	448	716	49	30	2009 <sup>[62]</sup>
			635	59	35	
			521	43	31	
			488	42	29	
GaN (quasi-continuous wave)			442, 448	521	322	
Pr:AlF <sub>3</sub>	GaN	443	634.5	1070	20.7	2020 <sup>[64]</sup>
		444	635.5	2300	14	2021 <sup>[65]</sup>
		443	521	3600	20.9	2022 <sup>[66]</sup>
		443	717	4100	22.2	2023 <sup>[67]</sup>
		443	491.5	97.5	23.7	2023 <sup>[68]</sup>
		443	635.2	4920	25.7	2023 <sup>[69]</sup>
		442	638	645.7	41.9	2011 <sup>[70]</sup>
Dy:ZBLAN	Ar <sup>+</sup>	457	575	~10	1.5	2000 <sup>[73]</sup>
			478	2.3	0.9	
			GaN	450	574.6	
Dy:AlF <sub>3</sub>	GaN	398.8	575	10.3	17.1	2010 <sup>[75]</sup>
Tb:ZBLAN	Ar <sup>+</sup>	488	542.8	1.6	8.4	2008 <sup>[76]</sup>
Ho:ZBLAN	SSL	532	752.1	1640	50.2	2022 <sup>[77]</sup>

对于深红光, 1991 年, 法国国家通信研究中心的 Allain 等<sup>[39]</sup>率先采用氩离子激光泵浦 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤, 获得了 715 nm 深红光激射, 输出功率为 20 mW, 斜效率为 18.5%。同年, 南安普敦大学的 Smart 等<sup>[60]</sup>也报道了氩离子激光泵浦的可见光 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤激光器, 并将 715 nm 深红光的斜效率提高至 30%。由于下转换需要的泵浦源难以获得突破, 同时, 受到上转换可见光激光研究热度的影响, 下转换可见光激光器的

研究进展缓慢。

随着 GaN 蓝光 LD 的出现, 研究人员重新燃起了对下转换可见光掺稀土光纤激光器的研究热情。2009 年, 日本中央玻璃公司的 Okamoto 等<sup>[62]</sup>利用 448 nm GaN LD 泵浦 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤, 实现了 49 mW 的 716 nm 深红光, 斜效率为 30%, 并且在青绿光、橙红光、近红外波段均实现了可调谐输出, 具体的实验装置及可调谐光谱图如图 4 所示。

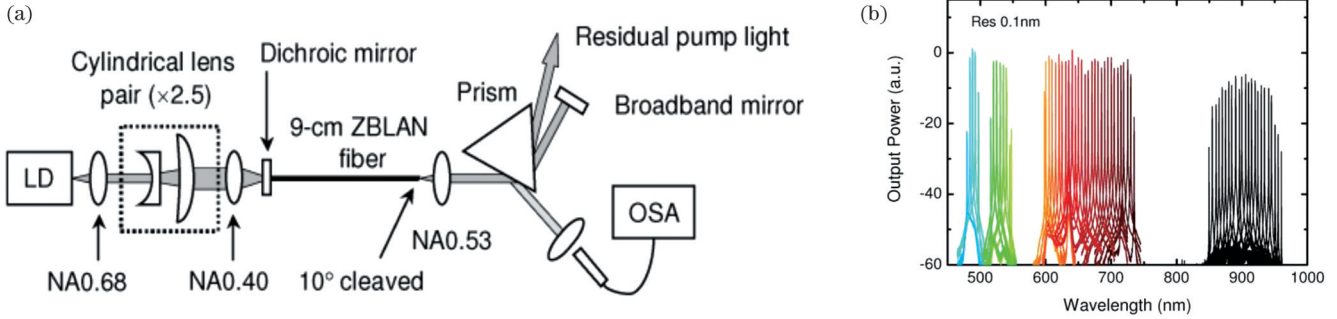


图 4 深红光可调谐连续波光纤激光器<sup>[62]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)可调谐光谱图

Fig. 4 Deep red tunable CW fiber lasers<sup>[62]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) tunable spectra

2023 年, 本课题组利用 443 nm GaN LD 泵浦 DC Pr:ZBLAN 光纤, 结合光纤端面镀膜技术, 实现了 4.1 W

高功率深红光 717 nm 激射, 如图 5 所示, 斜效率为 22.2%<sup>[67]</sup>。

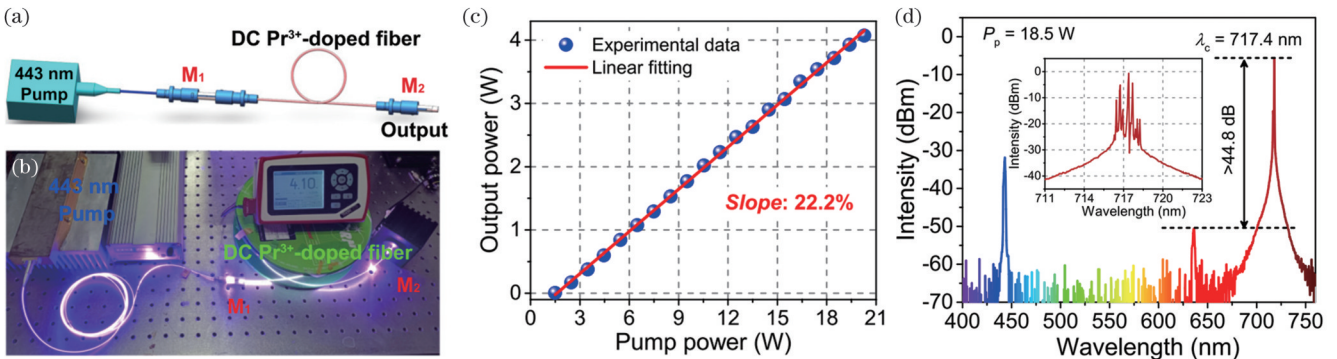


图 5 高功率深红光连续波光纤激光器<sup>[67]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)实物图;(c)斜效率;(d)光谱图

Fig. 5 High power deep red CW fiber lasers<sup>[67]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) physical picture; (c) slope efficiency; (d) spectrum

相比深红光, 635 nm 红光的相关研究更为丰富。1991 年, 南安普敦大学的 Smart 等<sup>[60]</sup>报道了氩离子激光泵浦的可见光 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤激光器, 635 nm 红光的斜效率为 64%, 输出功率为 250 mW。2005 年, 汉堡大学的 Richter 等<sup>[61]</sup>利用光泵浦半导体激光器 (OPSL), 对比了泵浦低掺及高掺 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤产生 635 nm 红光的效果: 低掺增益光纤的激射阈值 (146 mW) 较高, 斜效率 (19.4%) 较低, 输出功率 (12 mW) 较低; 高掺增益光纤的激射阈值 (50 mW) 较低, 斜效率 (41.5%) 较高, 输出功率 (~94 mW) 相对较高。2011 年, 日本住田光学的 Nakanishi 等<sup>[70]</sup>报道了一种掺镨氟化铝玻璃光纤 (Pr:AlF<sub>3</sub>), 利用 442 nm GaN LD 泵浦 Pr:AlF<sub>3</sub> 光纤, 获得了 638 nm 红光, 最大功率为 645.7 mW, 斜效率为 41.9%。直到 2020 年, 法国卡昂大学的 Kifle 等<sup>[64]</sup>首次报道了瓦级 (1.07 W) 单波长

634.5 nm 红光, 该工作用准连续的 443 nm GaN LD 泵浦 DC Pr:ZBLAN 光纤, 斜效率为 21.6%, 线宽为 0.6 nm, 如图 6 所示。

为进一步提高下转换红光功率, 2021 年加拿大拉瓦尔大学的 Lord 等<sup>[65]</sup>为提高腔镜的损伤阈值, 将高反率 (>99%) 布拉格光纤光栅 (FBG) 作为腔镜, 利用氟化物熔接技术将石英基质的 FBG 与泵浦源尾纤和氟化物增益光纤相接, 得到了完整的线性腔, 并用 444 nm 多模 GaN LD 泵浦 Pr<sup>3+</sup>:ZrF<sub>4</sub> 氟化物光纤, 产生了 635.5 nm 红光激射, 如图 7 所示。该工作最大连续波输出功率为 2.3 W, 线宽为 0.16 nm, 斜效率为 14%。

本课题组采用更大功率 (20 W) 的多模 443 nm GaN LD 泵浦 DC Pr:ZBLAN 光纤, 结合光纤端面镀膜技术与 4% 菲涅耳反射构建线性腔, 实现了高功率

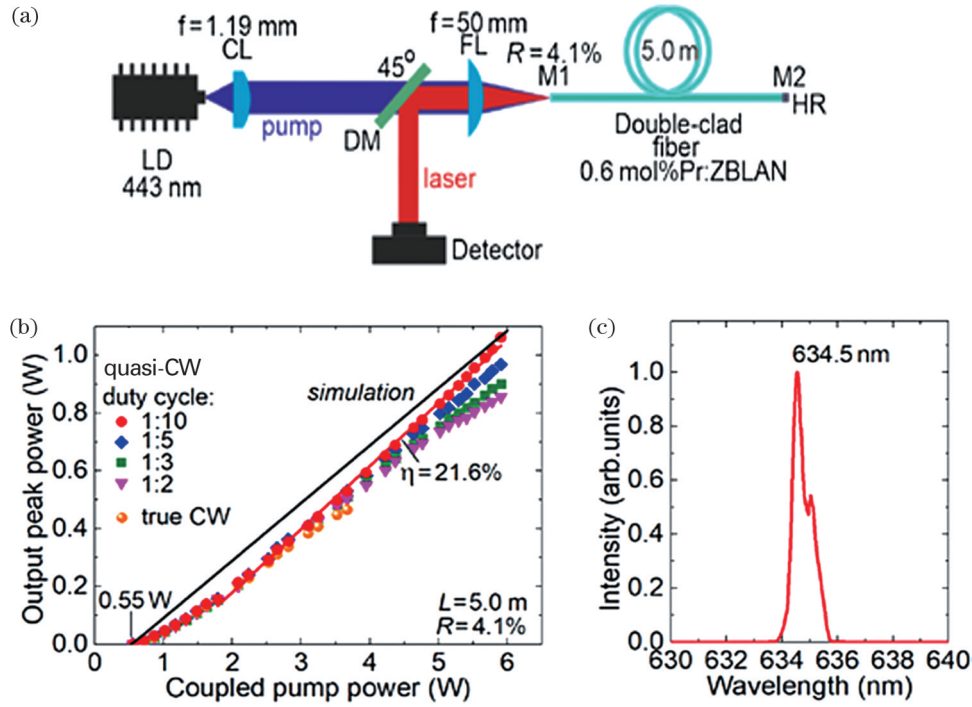


图 6 红光连续波光纤激光器<sup>[64]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)斜效率;(c)光谱图  
Fig. 6 Red CW fiber lasers<sup>[64]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) slope efficiency; (c) spectrum

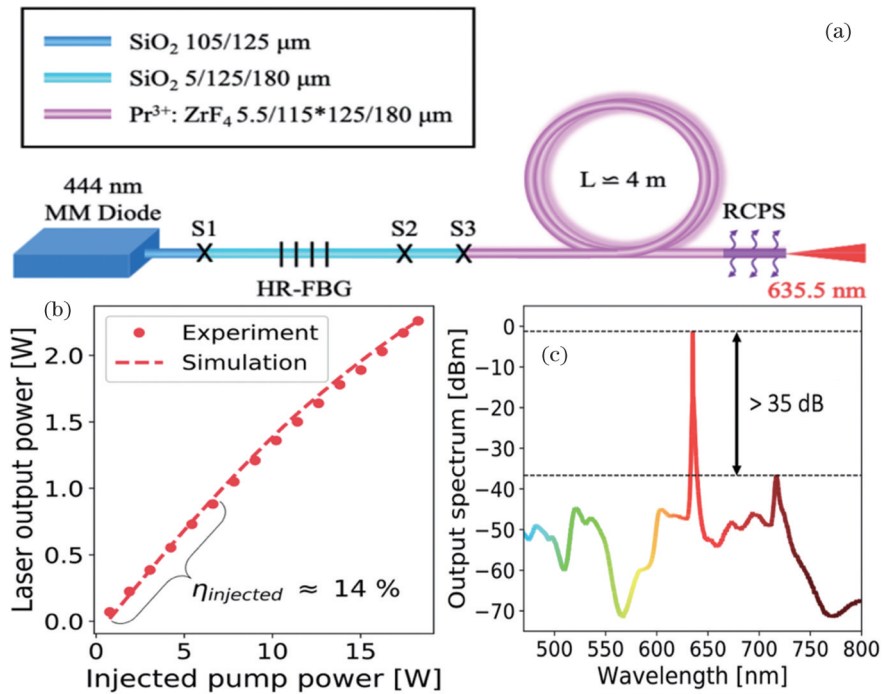


图 7 红光全光纤连续波光纤激光器<sup>[65]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)斜效率;(c)光谱图  
Fig. 7 All-fiber red CW fiber lasers<sup>[65]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) slope efficiency; (c) spectrum

(~4.92 W)635.2 nm 红光,斜效率为 25.7%,并测试了 0.5 h 内激光器在~5 W 高功率运转下的强度波动 (0.73%)<sup>[69]</sup>,如图 8 所示。

受掺 Dy<sup>3+</sup> 氟化物光纤技术的限制,黄光波段的研究开展较晚,相关研究工作相对较少。2000 年,德国耶拿大学的 Limpert 等<sup>[73]</sup>采用氩离子激光泵浦 Dy:ZBLAN 光纤,首次实现了下转换光纤黄光激射,575 nm

输出功率仅为~10 mW,斜效率低至仅 1.5%。2010 年,日本大阪大学的 Fujimoto 等<sup>[75]</sup>用 398.8 nm GaN LD 泵浦 Pr:AlF<sub>3</sub> 光纤,实现了 10.3 mW 575 nm 黄光激射,将斜效率提升至 17.1%。2021 年,本课题组采用 450 nm GaN LD 泵浦掺 Dy:ZBLAN 光纤,并结合光纤端面镀膜技术构建了线性腔,实现了 1.12 W 574.6 nm 黄光激射,斜效率为 33.6%,如图 9 所示<sup>[74]</sup>。

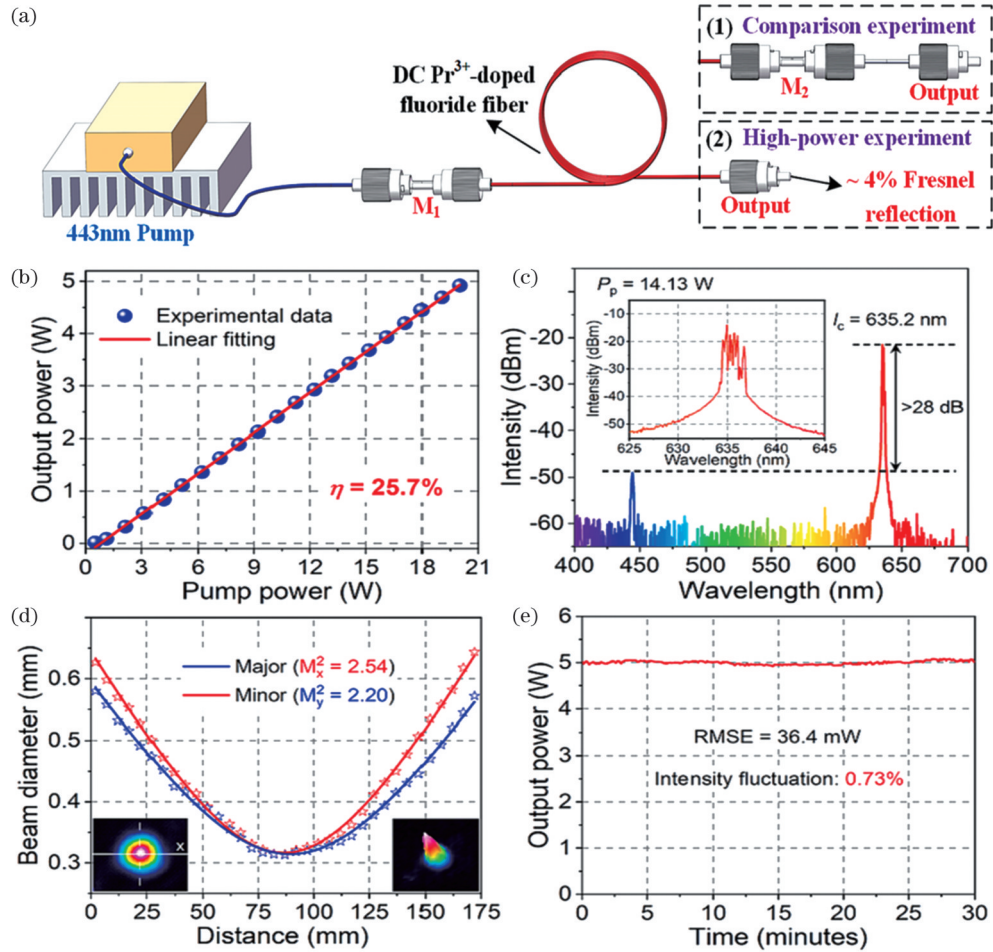


图 8 高功率红光连续波光纤激光器<sup>[69]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)斜效率;(c)光谱;(d)光束质量;(e)功率稳定性

Fig. 8 High power red CW fiber lasers<sup>[69]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) slope efficiency; (c) spectrum; (d) beam quality; (e) power stability

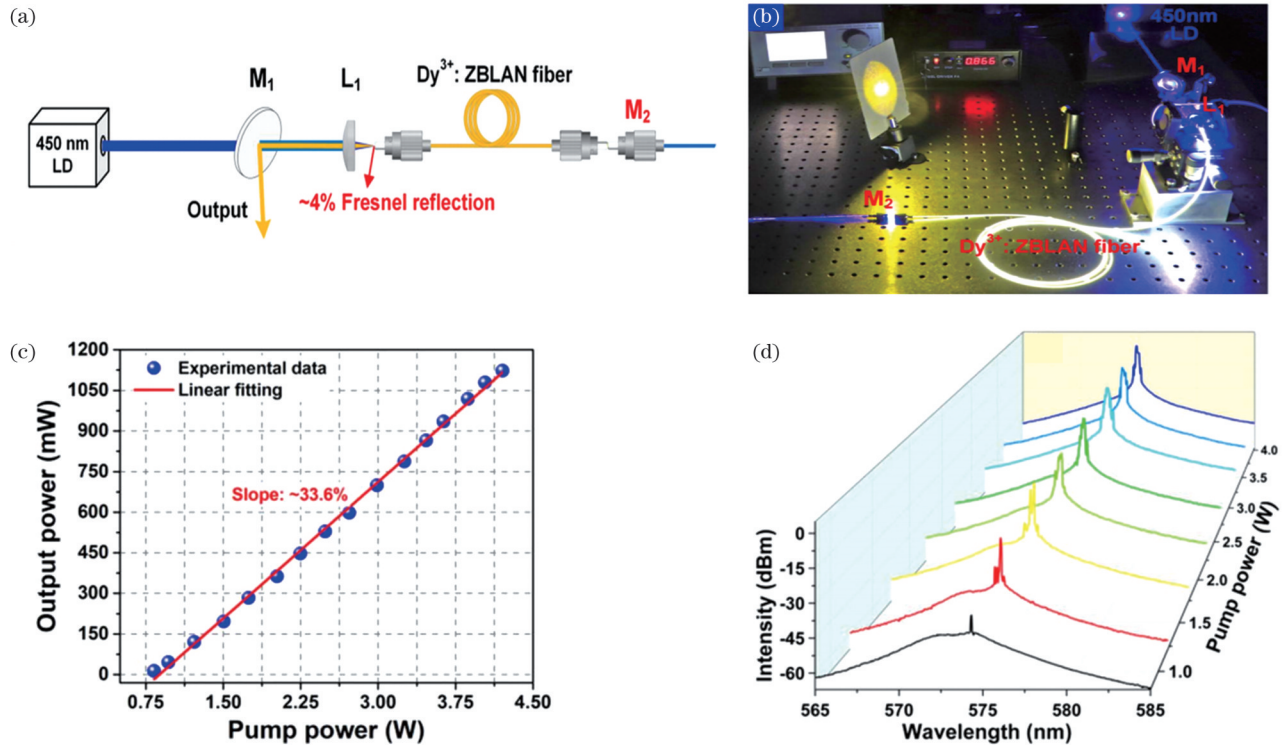


图 9 高功率黄光连续波光纤激光器<sup>[74]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)实物图;(c)斜效率;(d)光谱图

Fig. 9 High power yellow CW fiber lasers<sup>[74]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) physical picture; (c) slope efficiency; (d) spectra



因半导体激光在绿光波段的“绿光空隙”问题,研究者对如何获得高功率绿光光纤激光给予了更多关注。1991年,南安普敦大学 Smart 等<sup>[60]</sup>采用氩离子激光泵浦 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤,率先实现了 520 nm 绿光激光,输出功率仅为  $\sim 2$  mW,斜效率为 1.03%。2009年,日本中央玻璃公司的 Okamoto 等<sup>[62]</sup>利用 448 nm GaN LD 泵浦 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤,实现了 43 mW 的 521 nm 绿光,斜效率为 31%,并且在青绿光、橙红光、近红外波段均实现了可调谐输出。为了进一步提高绿光功率,2011年,Okamoto 等<sup>[63]</sup>利用氟化物光纤熔接技术,将 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤与无源二氧化硅光纤熔

接,构建了全光纤谐振腔,并利用 422 nm 及 448 nm GaN LD 泵浦,将 521 nm 绿光功率提升至 322 mW,斜效率也提高至 53%。同年,日本住田光学的 Nakanishi 等<sup>[71]</sup>利用氟铝基防水氟化物光纤 (Pr:WPF GF) 陆续开展了一系列研究,包括利用偏振合束技术,将 S 偏振和 P 偏振 GaN LD 合束,通过泵浦 Pr:WPF GF 光纤,将 522 nm 绿光功率提升至 598 mW,斜效率为 43%,如图 10 所示。2013年,Nakanishi 等<sup>[78]</sup>采用工作在脉冲模式的 444 nm GaN LD 泵浦 Pr:WPF GF 光纤,首次将 522 nm 绿光功率提升至 1.53 W,斜效率为 51.8%。

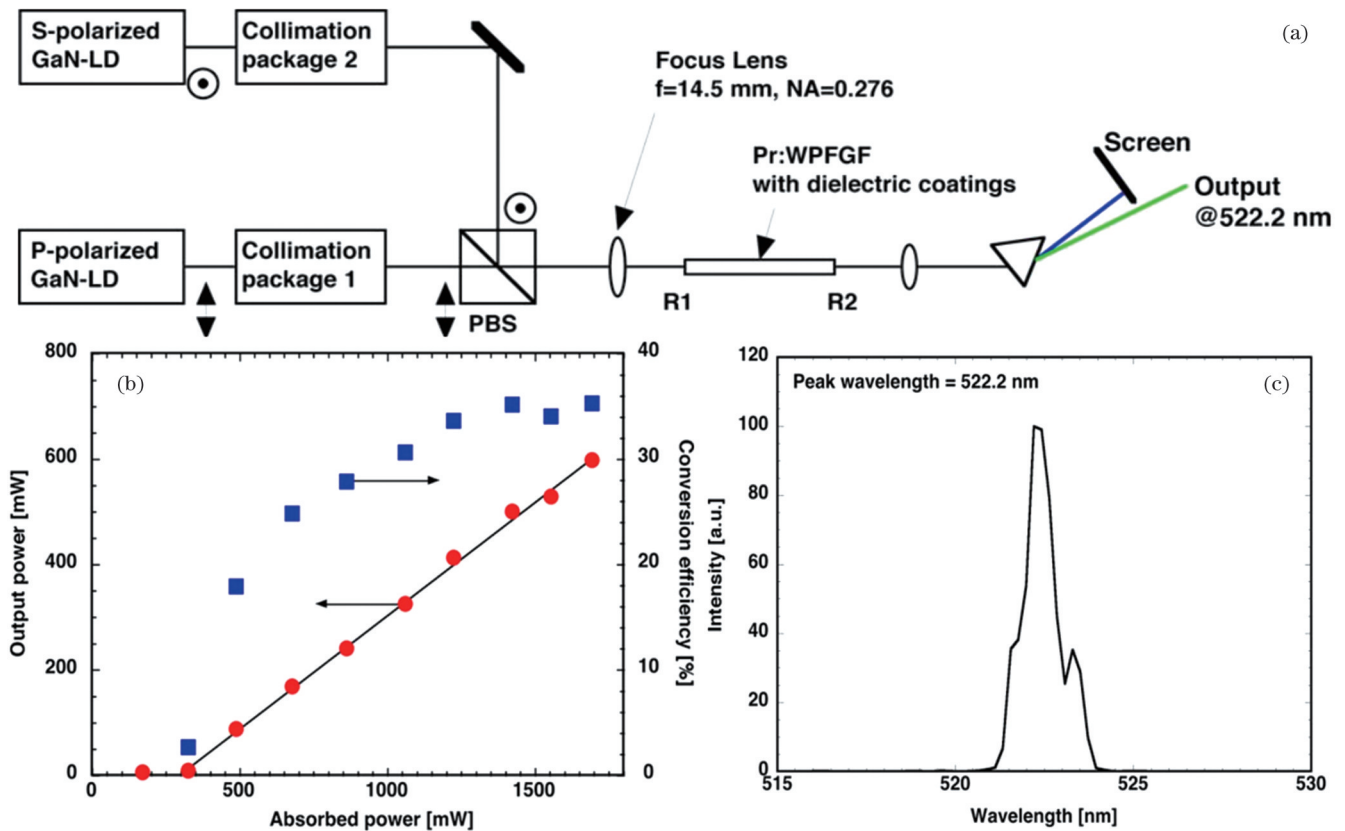


图 10 绿光连续波光纤激光器<sup>[71]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)斜效率;(c)光谱图

Fig. 10 Green CW fiber lasers<sup>[71]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) slope efficiency; (c) spectrum

2022年,本课题组利用 443 nm GaN LD 泵浦 2.1 m 长的 DC Pr:ZBALN 光纤,实现了 3.6 W 的 521 nm 绿光,最大斜效率为 20.9%,具体如图 11 所示<sup>[66]</sup>。此外,青光波段也已实现下转换激光激射<sup>[79]</sup>,但相关研究较少,本课题组于 2023 年采用 443 nm GaN LD 泵浦超短 (4.3 cm) 单包层 Pr:ZBLAN,实现了 491.5 nm 青光激射,功率为 97.5 mW,斜效率为 23.7%<sup>[68]</sup>。

## 4 可见光脉冲光纤激光器

随着可见光连续波光纤激光器的不断发展,可见光脉冲光纤激光器也引起了研究者的广泛关注。可见光脉冲光纤激光器的实现方式可分为调 Q 运转<sup>[80-98]</sup>和

锁模运转<sup>[99-105]</sup>。下面将分别介绍可见光脉冲光纤激光器调 Q 运转和锁模运转的研究进展。

### 4.1 可见光调 Q 光纤激光器

调 Q 光纤激光器根据实现方式主要分为主动调 Q、被动调 Q 以及自脉冲调 Q 光纤激光器。2013年,Kojou 等<sup>[80]</sup>在 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤激光器中首次实现了波长可调谐的红、橙、绿、青光主动调 Q 光纤激光输出。然而,主动调 Q 光纤激光器主要依赖腔内声光调制器和电光调制器对激光的调制,调制器等电子器件的引入不仅牺牲了光纤激光器全光纤结构的优势,还大大提高了系统的复杂性和成本,难以满足实际应用的需求。相对于主动调 Q 光纤激光器,被动调 Q 和自脉冲调 Q 光纤激光器凭借其结构小巧紧凑和低成本的优势

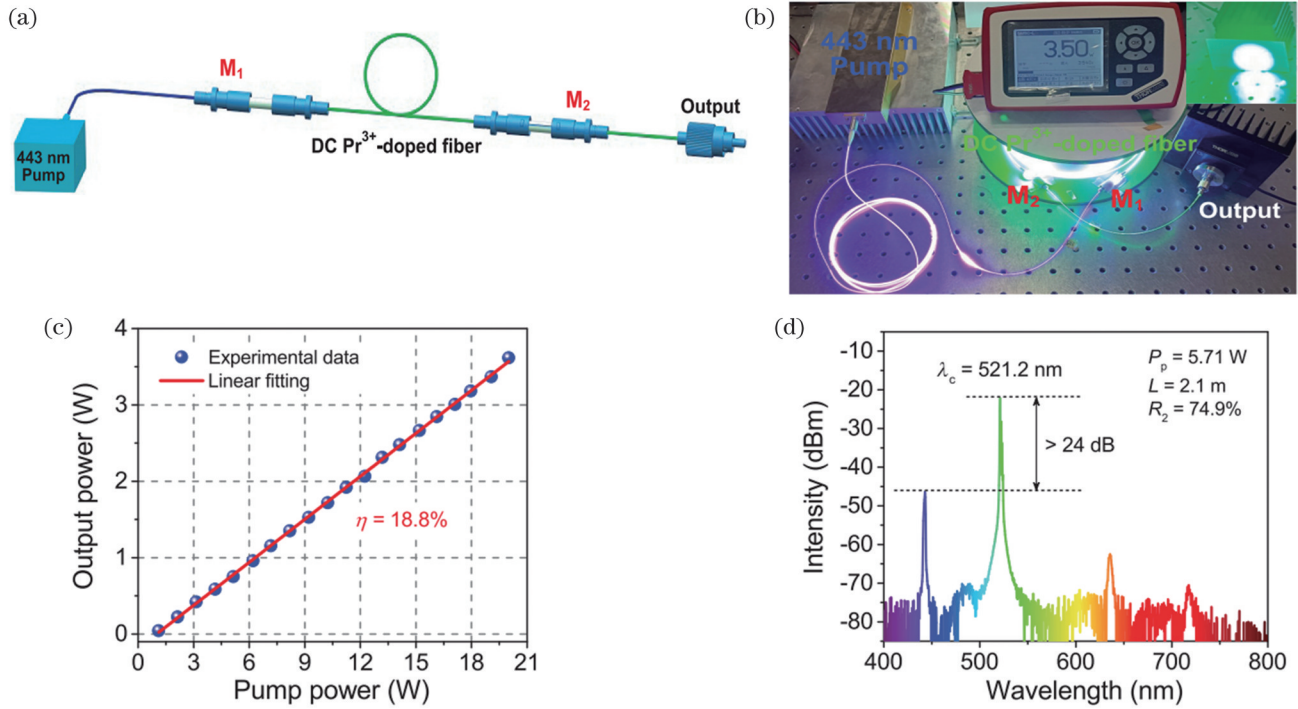


图 11 高功率绿光连续波光纤激光器<sup>[79]</sup>。(a)实验装置;(b)实物图;(c)斜效率;(d)光谱图

Fig. 11 High power green CW fiber lasers<sup>[79]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) physical picture; (c) slope efficiency; (d) spectrum

势,得到了大力的发展。以下我们基于这两种实现方式对可见光波段调Q光纤激光器进行概述。

基于自脉冲调Q的光纤激光器主要以稀土掺杂氟化物增益光纤本身作为可饱和吸收体<sup>[81-84]</sup>。2016年,本课题组利用通过976 nm激光泵浦Er:ZBLAN光纤,实现了上转换的543 nm绿光激光输出,并进一步得到了自调Q脉冲<sup>[82]</sup>。随着泵浦功率的增加,脉冲重复频率由25.9 kHz增加至50.8 kHz,对应的脉宽由7.20 μs缩减至1.95 μs。该工作首次在可见光波段直接实现了自脉冲调Q,为我们在可见光波段获得结构紧凑且性能良好的短脉冲输出提供了新的思路。在此之后,基于不同增益光纤的不同输出波长的自脉冲调Q光纤激光器也逐步得到报道,全光纤的结构通常包含了光纤输入镜、稀土掺杂氟化物增益光纤和输出镜。2018年,Wu等<sup>[81]</sup>利用444 nm激光泵浦Pr:ZBLAN光纤,展示了红光波段的自脉冲调Q锁模脉冲输出,激光器的最高输出功率为22.5 mW,中心波长和3 dB光谱宽度分别为635.9 nm和2.4 nm。同年,Li等<sup>[83]</sup>基于Ho:ZBLAN光纤报道了绿光和深红光的自脉冲调Q光纤激光器,绿光自脉冲调Q光纤激光器的最大单脉冲能量为196 nJ,对应97.66 kHz的脉冲重复频率和605 ns的脉冲宽度,750 nm深红光自脉冲调Q光纤激光器的脉冲重复频率和脉冲宽度范围分别为59.88~100.5 kHz和4.85~2.02 μs,对应58 nJ的最大脉冲能量。2019年,Li等<sup>[84]</sup>进一步在Ho:ZBLAN光纤中将绿光自脉冲调Q的脉冲能量提升至264 nJ。

被动调Q光纤激光器在可见光波段的实现通常是以腔内的纳米材料作为调Q器件。目前,一系列纳米材料可饱和吸收体已经被广泛用于实现可见光波段的被动调Q光纤激光器。表3对这些基于纳米材料的稀土掺杂光纤可见光被动调Q光纤激光器进行了总结。接下来我们将根据输出波长对相关成果进行概述。

关于深红光被动调Q光纤激光器,2017年,Li等<sup>[85]</sup>基于单壁碳纳米管,以Pr:ZBLAN光纤作为增益介质,实现了中心波长为716 nm的深红光调Q激光输出,最大脉冲能量为18.3 nJ,脉冲重复频率和脉冲宽度分别为32.6~86.5 kHz和2.3~7.8 μs。这也是深红光波段调Q光纤激光器的唯一报道。

关于红光被动调Q光纤激光器,2016年,Zhong等<sup>[86]</sup>利用氧化石墨烯作为调Q器件,首次在Pr:ZBLAN光纤中实现了红光调Q脉冲输出。同样基于石墨烯调Q器件,Kajikaawa等<sup>[87]</sup>借助双包层掺Pr<sup>3+</sup>氟化物增益光纤的优势,实现了中心波长为636 nm且脉冲能量高达280 nJ的红光调Q脉冲输出。除了石墨烯可饱和吸收体外,拓扑绝缘体(TIs)也可以用于可见光波段的调Q光纤激光器。基于Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>和Bi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>的拓扑绝缘体,Wu等<sup>[88]</sup>在Pr:ZBLAN光纤中实现了635 nm波段的调Q激光输出。不局限于拓扑绝缘体,Zhong等<sup>[86]</sup>在2017年利用单层黑磷作为调Q器件,同样实现了红光Pr:ZBLAN光纤调Q激光器。相比于上述低维可饱和吸收体,过渡金属硫化物(TMDs)由于共振吸收峰正好落于可见光波段,因此

表 3 可见光被动调 Q 光纤激光器的代表性研究成果  
Table 3 Representative research achievements of visible passively Q-switched fiber lasers

Nanomaterial	Gain fiber	Output wavelength /nm	Pulse energy /nJ	Frequency / kHz	Pulse width / $\mu$ s	Year
Transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs)	Pr:ZBLAN	604	6.4 (WS <sub>2</sub> )	67.3–132.2	0.43–1.10	2016 <sup>[97]</sup>
			5.5 (MoS <sub>2</sub> )	50.8–118.4	0.60–1.95	
	Pr:ZBLAN	635	28.7 (WS <sub>2</sub> ) 16.2 (MoS <sub>2</sub> ) 11.1 (MoSe <sub>2</sub> )	232.7–512.8 240.4–438.6 357.1–555.1	0.2 0.22 0.24	2016 <sup>[90]</sup>
Topological insulators (TIs)	Pr:ZBLAN	635	0.43	90.9–203.2	0.80–1.47	2017 <sup>[91]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	604	14.3	164.5–454.5	0.24–0.86	2015 <sup>[88]</sup>
Black phosphorus (BP)	Pr:ZBLAN	604	3.1	86.2–187.4	0.49–0.73	2017 <sup>[98]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	635	27.6	108.8–409.8	0.38–1.56	2017 <sup>[89]</sup>
Graphene	Pr:ZBLAN	603		383	0.47	2014 <sup>[96]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	635	24.2	64.1–195.3	0.55–1.04	2016 <sup>[86]</sup>
Single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWNTs)	Pr:AlF <sub>3</sub>	636	280	633	0.18	2018 <sup>[87]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	716	18.3	32.6–86.5	2.3–7.8	2017 <sup>[85]</sup>
Au nanoparticles	Pr:ZBLAN	635	2.95	57.5–98.2	0.81–1.92	2018 <sup>[92]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	635	27.7	285.7–546.4	0.23–0.55	2015 <sup>[93]</sup>
Cu nanowires	Pr:ZBLAN	635	30.7	239.8–312.4	0.39–0.68	2016 <sup>[94]</sup>
Au nanowires	Er:ZBLAN	543	25.2	42.6–181.2	0.49–1.99	2019 <sup>[95]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	635	1.87	299.3–407.3	0.62–1.01	2019 <sup>[95]</sup>

也是可见光波段极具潜力的调 Q 器件。利用过渡金属硫化物作为调 Q 器件,本课题组成功获得了红光 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤调 Q 激光器<sup>[90]</sup>。2015 年, Wu 等<sup>[88]</sup>研究了透射率对基于 WS<sub>2</sub> 吸收体的红光调 Q 光纤激光器的影响。除了这些低维可饱和吸收体外,单壁碳纳米管(SWNTs)也被证实在可见光波段具备可饱和吸收特性。碳纳米管的吸收峰可以通过调节其管径来改变,因此也是可见光波段具有潜力的调 Q 器件。2018 年, Li 等<sup>[92]</sup>成功利用单壁碳纳米管实现了中心波长为 635 nm 的调 Q 光纤激光器。贵金属纳米材料作为一种特殊的可饱和吸收体,凭借其局部表面等离子体共振效应,在可见光波段具有非线性可饱和吸收效应,调节材料的纵横比,可以使其吸收峰落于可见光波段。Wu 等<sup>[93-94]</sup>利用金纳米粒(Au NPs)和铜纳米线(Cu NWs)分别在红光波段实现了调 Q 脉冲输出。2019 年,本课题组以金纳米棒(GNRs)作为调 Q 器件,实现了 635 nm 的红光调 Q 涡旋激光输出<sup>[95]</sup>。

关于橙光调 Q 光纤激光器,2014 年, Fujimoto 等<sup>[96]</sup>利用石墨烯作为调 Q 器件,首次在 Pr:ZBLAN 增益光纤中实现了橙光波段的调 Q 脉冲运转,橙光调 Q 脉冲的重复频率和脉宽分别为 383 kHz 和 470 ns,如图 12 所示。随后,分别基于 WS<sub>2</sub> 和 MoS<sub>2</sub> 过渡金属硫化物可饱和吸收体, Li 等<sup>[97]</sup>实现了橙光调 Q 脉冲输出。同样

是在 Pr:ZBLAN 光纤激光器中, Lin 等<sup>[98]</sup>将 Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> 的拓扑绝缘体插入激光器,实现了中心波长为 604 nm 的橙光调 Q 光纤激光器。

关于绿光调 Q 光纤激光器,本课题组在实现绿光连续光涡旋激光的基础上,利用带隙调控可见光共振金纳米棒,实现了 543 nm 的调 Q 涡旋光纤激光器<sup>[94]</sup>,装置图和典型实验结果如图 13 所示。值得一提的是,本课题组于 2023 年在光纤激光器中直接输出了绿光波段的毫焦量级的调 Q 脉冲<sup>[99]</sup>。利用 450 nm 激光泵浦 Ho:ZBLAN 光纤,基于腔倒空技术获得了脉冲能量为 3.17 mJ 的调 Q 脉冲,对应的中心波长和重复频率分别为 543 nm 和 100 Hz。该工作也为有效解决半导体材料因绿光波段“绿光空隙”而难以获得大能量绿光脉冲的问题提供了新的解决思路。

#### 4.2 可见光锁模光纤激光器

可见光锁模光纤激光器相比于可见光调 Q 光纤激光器,具有峰值功率高和响应时间短等优点,大大扩展了可见光光纤激光器的应用范围。得益于高性能稀土掺杂氟化物增益光纤技术的日益成熟,可见光锁模光纤激光器迎来了难得的发展机遇。然而时至今日,可见光波段锁模光纤激光器的发展进程却极为缓慢。尽管 Costantini 等<sup>[100]</sup>在 2000 年利用主动锁模技术实现了 635 nm 波段的锁模光纤激光器,但该方案面临着许多不足。该红光锁模光纤激光器输出的锁模脉冲宽度为

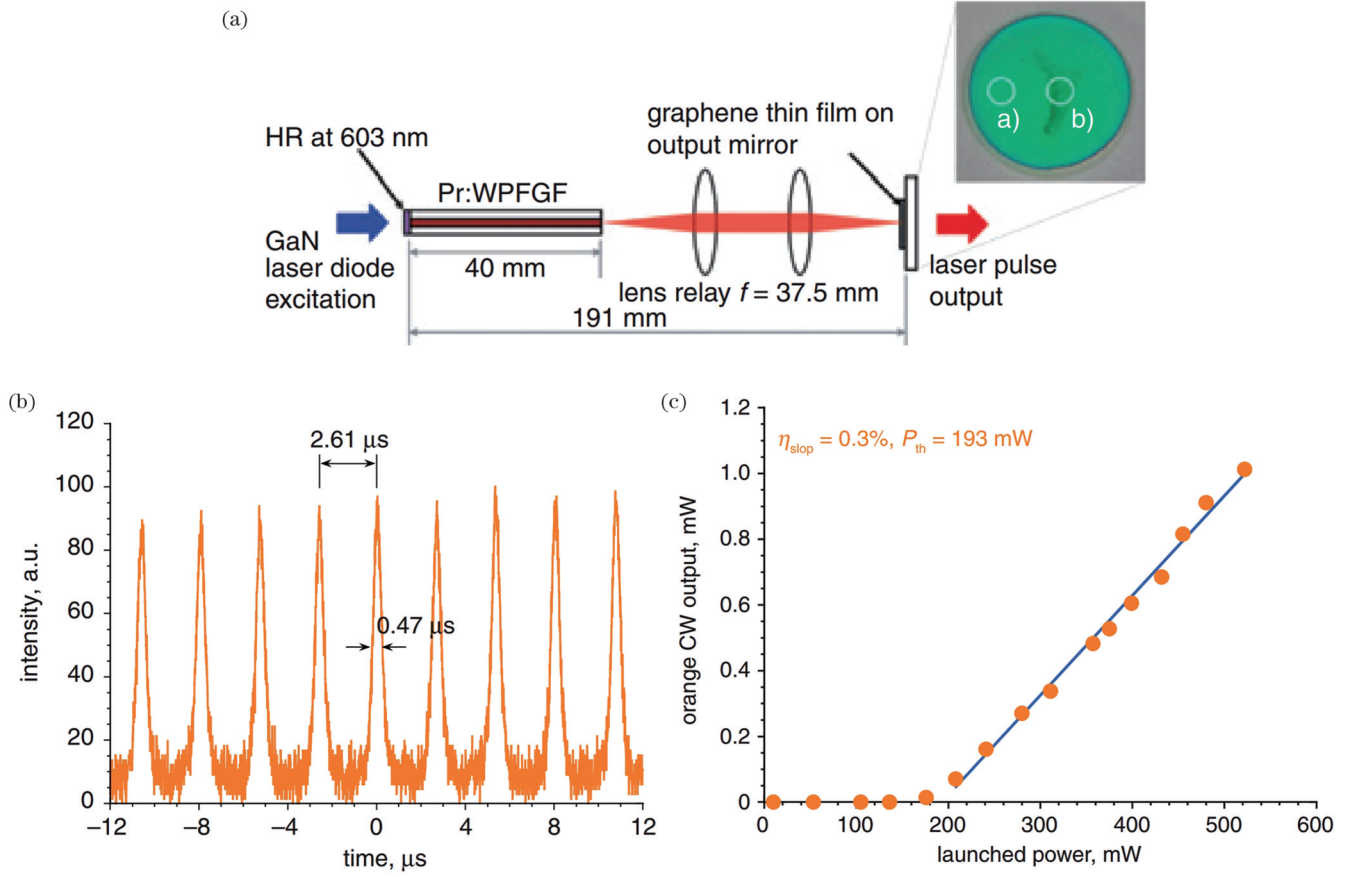


图 12 石墨烯橙光被动调 Q 光纤激光器<sup>[96]</sup>。(a) 装置图; (b) 调 Q 脉冲序列; (c) 斜效率

Fig. 12 Graphene orange passively Q-switched fiber lasers<sup>[96]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) Q-switched pulse train; (c) slope efficiency

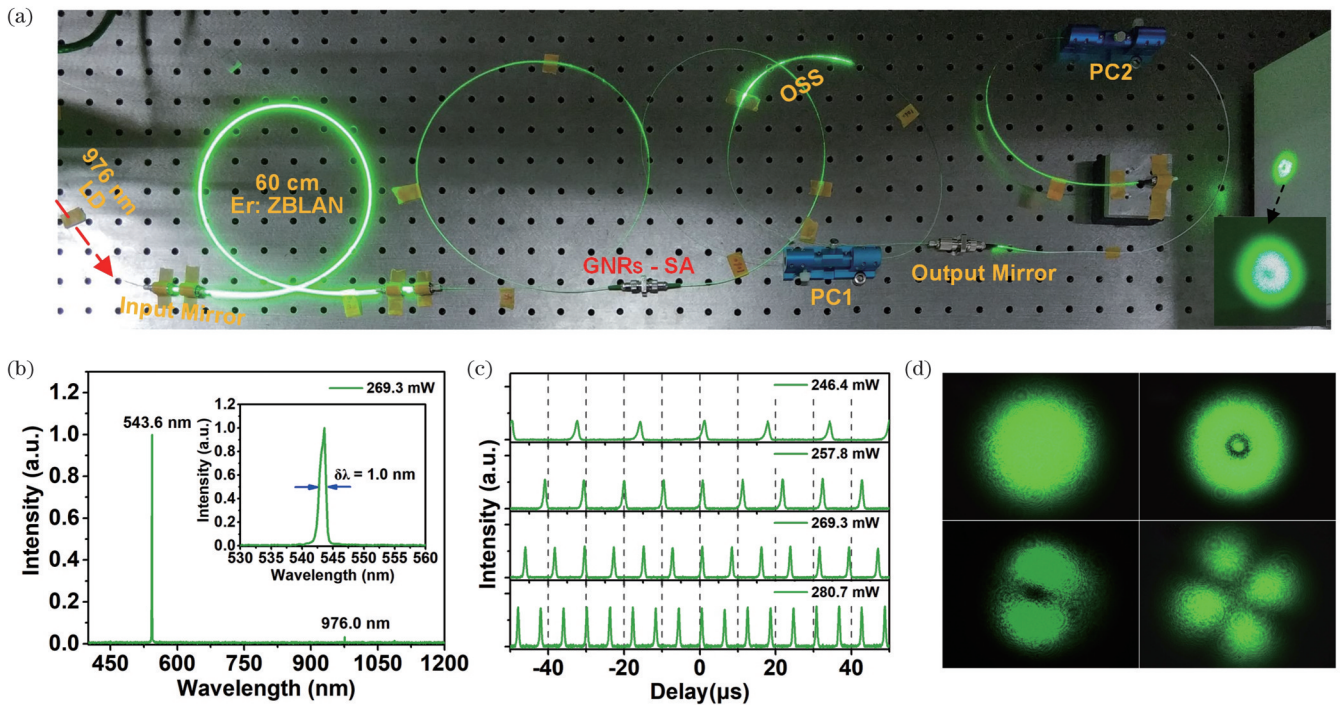


图 13 绿光调 Q 涡旋光纤激光器<sup>[94]</sup>。(a) 实验装置图; (b) 输出光谱; (c) 脉冲序列; (d) 高阶模强度分布

Fig. 13 Green Q-switched vortex fiber lasers<sup>[94]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) output spectrum; (c) pulse trains; (d) intensity distributions of high order modes

550 ps, 脉宽较宽。更重要的是, 由于采用了主动锁模技术, 谐振腔内加入了声光相位调制器作为锁模器件, 不仅牺牲了光纤系统的小巧灵活性, 还大大增加了系统的成本和损耗。因此, 相较于可见光主动锁模光纤激光器, 可见光被动锁模光纤激光器具有明显的优势。在实现可见光波段被动锁模光纤激光器方面, 研究人员面临以下几个挑战: 1) 可见光被动锁模光纤激光器所依赖的稀土掺杂氟化物增益光纤难以与传统的石英光纤进行低损耗的熔接, 不利于锁模光纤谐振腔的构建, 阻碍了一些实验方案的实施。对接方式容易在腔内引入较大的损耗, 不利于锁模运转的建立, 而基于自由空间的腔结构又牺牲了全光纤的优势。2) 用于实现可见光被动锁模光纤激光器的非线性锁模技术(非线性偏振旋转、非线性放大环境和非线性光环形镜)往

往需要在谐振腔中使用波分复用器、隔离器、光纤光栅和光耦合器等光纤器件。遗憾的是, 目前可见光波段的光纤器件发展仍不成熟且价格较高。3) 高性能稀土掺杂氟化物增益光纤本身的制作尚不成熟, 难以获得且价格高昂。4) 由于稳定锁模运转的建立依赖谐振腔内色散和非线性效应的平衡, 而可见光在氟化物光纤和传统石英中都具有超高的正色散值, 过多正色散的积累不利于锁模运转的建立。直到最近几年, 关于稀土掺杂氟化物光纤可见光被动锁模光纤激光器的研究才拉开序幕。基于非线性偏振旋转(NPR)、非线性放大环境(NALM)和非线性光环形镜(NOLM)等非线性锁模技术, 红光、黄光和绿光被动锁模光纤激光器已经得到了报道。接下来, 我们对报道的可见光被动锁模光纤激光器进行介绍, 具体参数性能如表 4 所示。

表 4 可见光被动锁模光纤激光器的代表性研究成果

Table 4 Representative research achievements of visible passively mode-locked fiber lasers

Mode locked type	Gain fiber	Output wavelength /nm	Output power /mW	Frequency /MHz	Pulse width /ps	Year
NALM	Pr/Yb:ZBLAN	635	1.35	3.87	96	2019 <sup>[101]</sup>
NOLM	Pr/Yb:ZBLAN	634	1.3	5.12	85	2020 <sup>[102]</sup>
NPR	Pr/Yb:ZBLAN	635	440	110.56	9	2021 <sup>[103]</sup>
	Dy:ZBLAN	575	240	100.87	83	2022 <sup>[104]</sup>
	Ho:ZBLAN	545	288	294.86	19.7	2022 <sup>[105]</sup>
	Pr:ZBLAN	635	90	137	0.168 (compressed)	2023 <sup>[28]</sup>

2020年, 本课题组实现了可见光被动锁模光纤激光器<sup>[101]</sup>。课题组通过数值求解金兹堡-朗道方程, 发现耗散孤子谐振(DSR)机制有利于可见光波段超大色散光纤腔被动锁模脉冲的稳定建立。采用Pr/Yb共掺ZBLAN光纤作为可见光增益介质, 利用非线性放大环境作为锁模器, 首次实验实现了全光纤635 nm红光上转换被动锁模激光器。实验装置及典型结果如图 14 所示, 635 nm的DSR锁模脉冲得到稳定建立, 脉宽短至96 ps, 光谱带宽<0.1 nm。该项工作是可见光超快激光领域的重要突破, 为实现光锁模光纤激光器提供了新的思路。

直至2020年, 非线性光环形镜技术也被成功用于可见光波段的被动锁模光纤激光器。本课题组基于光纤模式耦合器实现了可见光全光纤涡旋被动锁模激光器<sup>[102]</sup>。采用9字腔结构与635 nm模式选择耦合器相结合的方式, 激光器可输出±1阶轨道角动量涡旋光束, 稳定输出了脉宽为85~510 ps的耗散孤子谐振脉冲。2022年, 本课题组利用少模Pr/Yb:ZBLAN作为增益介质, 基于非线性偏振旋转可饱和吸收效应和空间滤波效应对模间色散的平衡作用, 首次实现了可见光波段的时空锁模光纤激光器<sup>[103]</sup>, 锁模激光器同时锁定腔内的纵模和横模并输出了635 nm的耗散孤子(DS), 最小脉宽宽度为9 ps(图 15)。该工作填补了可

见光波段时空锁模光纤激光器的空白。通过搭建超快激光光纤放大器, 最终输出的最高功率和脉冲能量分别为440 mW和4 nJ。

2022年, Luo等<sup>[104-105]</sup>基于非线性偏振旋转技术, 利用Dy:ZBLAN和Ho:ZBLAN增益光纤分别实现了575 nm黄光和545 nm绿光的被动锁模光纤激光器, 实现了可见光被动锁模光纤激光器波长的拓展。激光器实现了脉冲宽度皮秒量级的耗散孤子谐振, 其中黄光被动锁模光纤激光器输出的最高平均功率为240 mW, 对应的最高单脉冲能量为2.4 nJ, 激光器获得的最窄脉冲宽度为83 ps, 如图 16 所示。通过使用较短的增益光纤, 绿光被动锁模光纤激光器实现了最窄脉冲宽度为19.7 ps的绿光锁模脉冲, 输出的最高平均功率和脉冲能量分别为288 mW和0.98 nJ。绿光超快激光器的中心波长为545 nm, 有力填补了半导体材料的“绿光空隙”。

可见光飞秒脉冲在材料加工和生物医学等领域有着极大的应用价值, 为了获得可见光波段的锁模飞秒脉冲, 加拿大拉瓦尔大学制备了红光波段的外腔压缩飞秒光纤激光器。利用非线性偏振旋转技术, 在Pr:ZBLAN光纤激光振荡器中直接输出了1.6 ps脉冲宽度的锁模脉冲(重复频率为137 MHz), 随后通过腔外光栅对的压缩, 最终实现了压缩脉宽为168 fs的超快

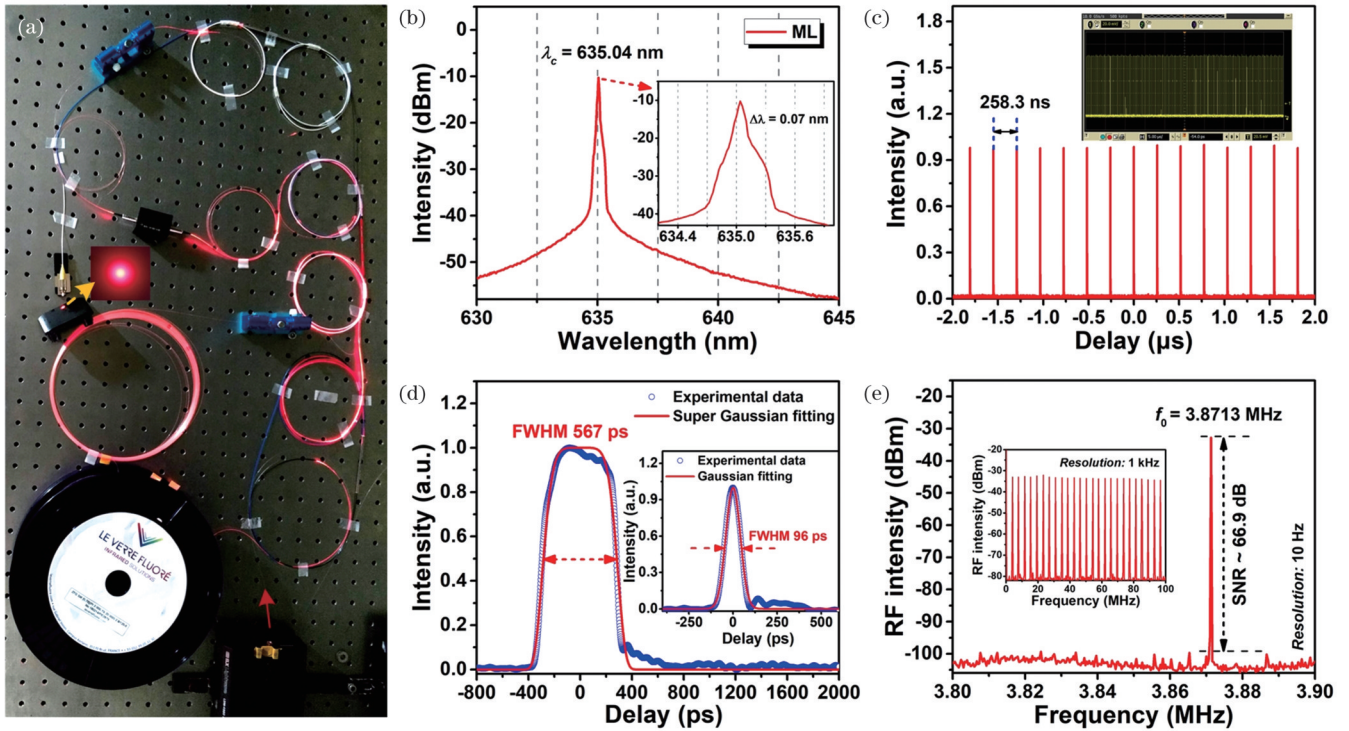


图 14 可见光全光纤被动锁模激光器<sup>[101]</sup>。(a)实验装置图；(b)锁模光谱；(c)脉冲序列；(d)单脉冲；(e)射频频谱  
 Fig. 14 Visible all-fiber passively mode-locked lasers<sup>[101]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) mode-locked spectrum; (c) pulse train; (d) single pulse; (e) radio-frequency spectrum

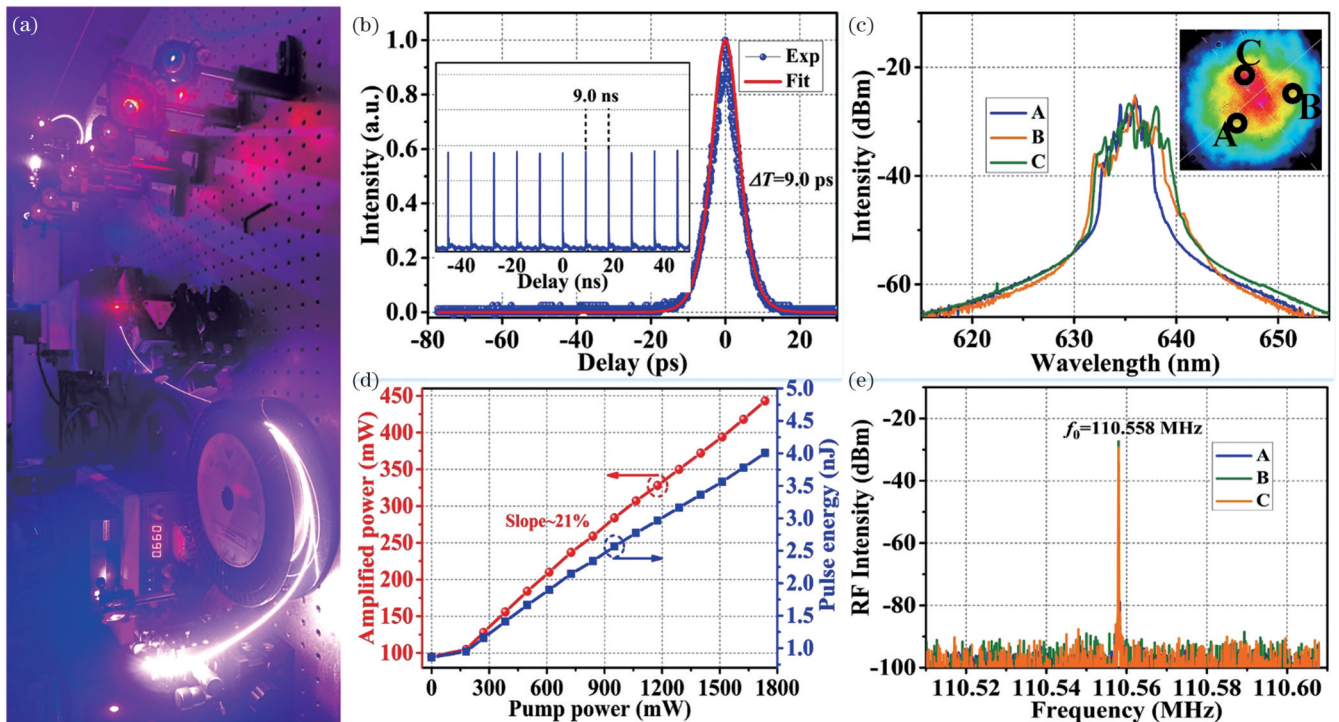


图 15 可见光时空锁模激光器<sup>[103]</sup>。(a)实验装置图；(b)锁模脉冲序列；(c)锁模光谱；(d)放大功率和脉冲能量；(e)射频频谱  
 Fig. 15 Visible spatiotemporal mode-locked lasers<sup>[103]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) mode-locked pulse trains; (c) mode-locked spectra; (d) amplified power and pulse energy; (e) radio-frequency spectrum

激光输出(图 17),对应 0.73 kW 的峰值功率<sup>[28]</sup>。近期,本课题组发展了可见光腔内的色散管理及相位偏置-非线性放大环境锁模技术,在红光波段制备了可见光

被动锁模光纤振荡器,直接产生了 196 fs 飞秒脉冲,进一步通过可见光啁啾脉冲放大技术实现了瓦级的红光飞秒脉冲输出。

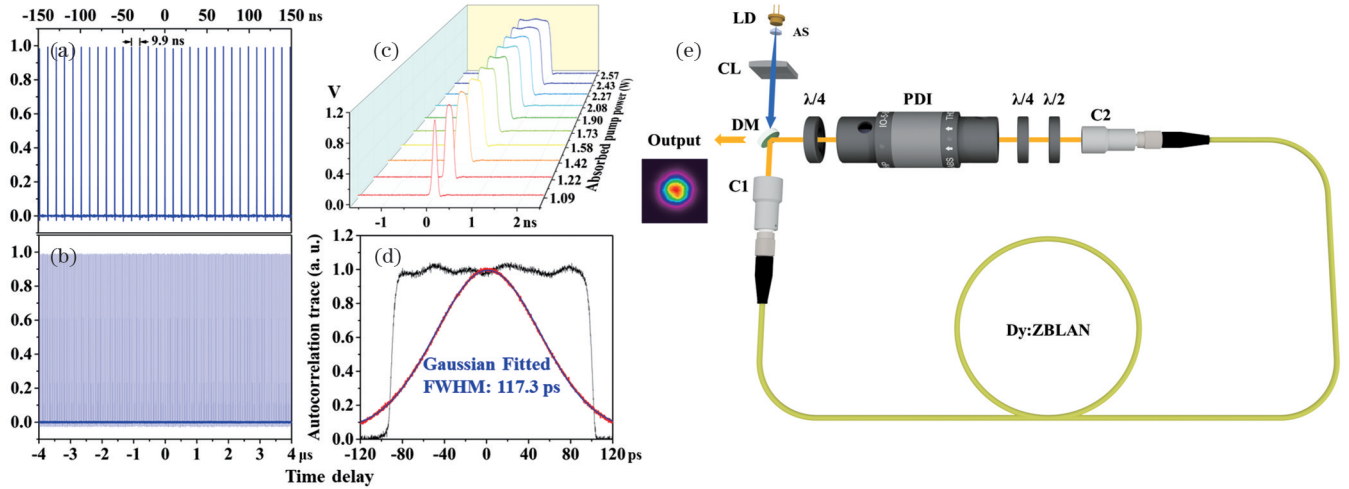


图 16 黄光被动锁模光纤激光器<sup>[104]</sup>。(a)窄范围脉冲序列;(b)宽范围脉冲序列;(c)单脉冲包络随泵浦功率的演变;(d)自相关迹;(e)实验装置图  
 Fig. 16 Yellow passively mode-locked fiber lasers<sup>[104]</sup>. (a) Pulse train with narrow span; (b) pulse train with large span; (c) evolution of single pulse envelope with pump power; (d) autocorrelation trace; (e) experimental setup

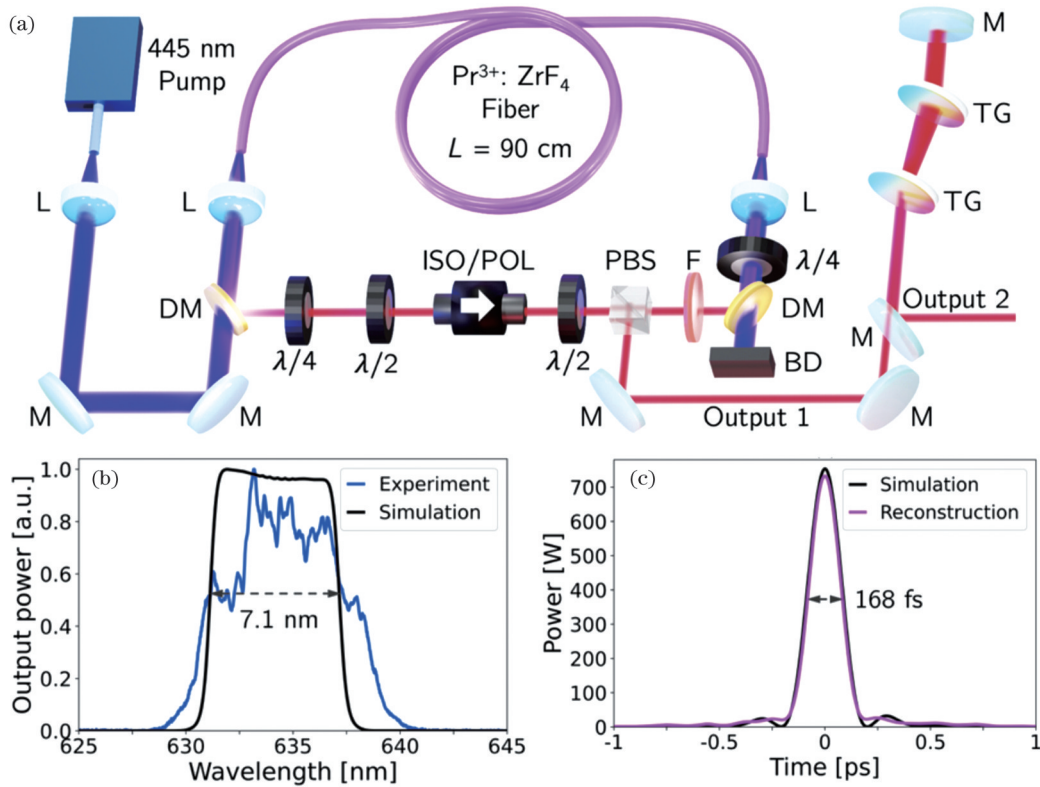


图 17 外腔压缩可见光飞秒光纤激光器<sup>[28]</sup>。(a)实验装置图;(b)锁模光谱;(c)锁模自相关迹  
 Fig. 17 External cavity compressed visible femtosecond fiber lasers<sup>[28]</sup>. (a) Experimental setup; (b) mode-locked spectrum; (c) mode-locked autocorrelation trace

### 5 结束语与展望

从光纤激光器的角度综述了当前用掺稀土光纤直接产生可见光激光的研究进展。在稀土离子中,Pr<sup>3+</sup>输出的可见光发展最快,在蓝光LD泵浦下能实现高效率青光、绿光、橙光、红光以及深红光激光输出,且能在峰值波长周围较宽的范围内调谐激光输出波长。配合Ho<sup>3+</sup>、Dy<sup>3+</sup>、Tb<sup>3+</sup>、Tm<sup>3+</sup>和Pr<sup>3+</sup>/Yb<sup>3+</sup>等稀土光纤,可以实现

激光波长覆盖可见光全波段。并在连续波、调Q及锁模三个重要的激光器运转模式中取得了显著的发展。

然而,可见光光纤激光器仍有一些亟待解决的问题,包括高功率、大脉冲能量、飞秒脉宽等。对于可见光连续波光纤激光器而言,目前能获得最高功率(~5 W)的为红光(635 nm),进一步提升输出功率、光束质量和斜效率并拓展至可见光全波段是推动其发展的关键,因此研究发展新型高功率可见光稀土光纤、高

性能可见光光纤器件、可见光功率合束技术等将具有重要意义。对于可见光脉冲光纤激光器而言,目前能获得最大脉冲能量( $\sim 280$  nJ)的为红光(635 nm),最窄脉宽为 168 fs。继续提高可见光飞秒脉冲能量、平均功率和稳定性并实现全光纤化可见光飞秒光纤激光器是推动其发展和应用的关键。需要探索挖掘适用于可见光波段的具有高增益带宽和高损伤阈值的有源光纤、大调制深度可饱和吸收体材料、新型锁模技术以及可见光高功率放大技术,为可见光超快光纤激光器的发展添砖加瓦。我们相信,通过技术的不断创新,可见光连续/超快光纤激光器因具有小型化、高性能、免维护和低成本等优势,未来必将在生物医学、光通信、材料加工、显微成像等领域中得到广泛应用。

### 参 考 文 献

- Chellappan K V, Erden E, Urey H. Laser-based displays: a review [J]. *Applied Optics*, 2010, 49(25): F79-F98.
- Shi W, Fang Q, Zhu X S, et al. Fiber lasers and their applications [J]. *Applied Optics*, 2014, 53(28): 6554-6568.
- Han Y, Guo Y B, Gao B, et al. Generation, optimization, and application of ultrashort femtosecond pulse in mode-locked fiber lasers[J]. *Progress in Quantum Electronics*, 2020, 71: 100264.
- Hirano Y. Highly efficient, compact green laser for laser TV[EB/OL]. [2023-03-05]. <https://cir.nii.ac.jp/crid/1570009751417352576# CitationsContainer>.
- Hamza M, El-Ahl M H S, Hamza A M, et al. Application of blue laser diodes and LEDs in phototherapy for neonatal jaundice[J]. *Proceedings of SPIE*, 2003, 5142: 187-191.
- Peng F, Liu W P, Luo J Q, et al. Study of growth, defects and thermal and spectroscopic properties of Dy: GdScO<sub>3</sub> and Dy, Tb:GdScO<sub>3</sub> as promising 578 nm laser crystals[J]. *CrystEngComm*, 2018, 20(40): 6291-6299.
- Hollins R, Rudge A, Bennett S. Technologies for blue-green underwater optical communications[J]. *Proceedings of SPIE*, 2013, 8899: 88990F.
- Susaki W, Takamiya S. Visible semiconductor laser[J]. *Japanese Journal of Applied Physics*, 1981, 20(S1): 205.
- Bridges W B. Laser oscillation in singly ionized argon in the visible spectrum[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1964, 4(7): 128-130.
- Soffer B H, McFarland B B. Continuously tunable, narrow-band organic dye lasers[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1967, 10(10): 266-267.
- Rines G A, Zenzie H H, Moulton P F. Recent advances in Ti:Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> unstable-resonator lasers[C]//*Advanced Solid State Lasers 1991*, Hilton Head, South Carolina. Washington, DC: OSA, 1991: TL3.
- Fujimoto Y, Nakanishi J, Yamada T, et al. Visible fiber lasers excited by GaN laser diodes[J]. *Progress in Quantum Electronics*, 2013, 37(4): 185-214.
- 郑怡, 邱昊学, 李岩, 等. 基于二氧化钒的可见光超材料饱和吸收体[J]. *光学学报*, 2022, 42(15): 1516001.
- Zheng Y, Qiu H X, Li Y, et al. Visible light metamaterial saturable absorber based on vanadium dioxide[J]. *Acta Optica Sinica*, 2022, 42(15): 1516001.
- 关晨, 丛振华, 刘兆军, 等. LD泵浦翠绿宝石晶体实现 760 nm、10.5 W 激光输出[J]. *中国激光*, 2020, 47(10): 1015001.
- Guan C, Cong Z H, Liu Z J, et al. 10.5 W laser output at 760 nm from LD pumped alexandrite crystal[J]. *Chinese Journal of Lasers*, 2020, 47(10): 1015001.
- 王凤娟, 刘哲, 徐斌, 等. 蓝光激光二极管抽运 Pr<sup>3+</sup>:YLF 红绿可见光激光器[J]. *中国激光*, 2013, 40(12): 1202002.
- Wang F J, Liu Z, Xu B, et al. Blue laser diode pumped Pr<sup>3+</sup>:YLF visible lasers[J]. *Chinese Journal of Lasers*, 2013, 40(12): 1202002.
- Nakamura S, Mukai T, Senoh M. Candela-class high-brightness InGaN/AlGaIn double-heterostructure blue-light-emitting diodes [J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1994, 64(13): 1687-1689.
- Kränkel C, Marzahl D T, Moglia F, et al. Out of the blue: semiconductor laser pumped visible rare-earth doped lasers[J]. *Laser & Photonics Reviews*, 2016, 10(4): 548-568.
- Marantz H, Rudko R, Tang C. The singly ionized krypton ion laser[J]. *IEEE Journal of Quantum Electronics*, 1969, 5(1): 38-44.
- White A D, Gordon E I, Rigden J D. Output power of the 6328-Å gas maser[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1963, 2(5): 91-93.
- Basting D, Pippert K D, Stamm U. History and future prospects of excimer lasers[J]. *Proceedings of SPIE*, 2002, 4426: 25-34.
- Taylor L R, Feng Y, Calia D B. 50 W CW visible laser source at 589 nm obtained via frequency doubling of three coherently combined narrow-band Raman fibre amplifiers[J]. *Optics Express*, 2010, 18(8): 8540-8455.
- Fan Y X, Eckardt R, Byer R, et al. Visible BaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> optical parametric oscillator pumped at 355 nm by a single-axial-mode pulsed source[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1988, 53: 2014-2016.
- Harth A, Schultze M, Lang T, et al. Two-color pumped OPCPA system emitting spectra spanning 1.5 octaves from VIS to NIR[J]. *Optics Express*, 2012, 20(3): 3076-3081.
- Brierley M C, Massicot J F, Whitley T J, et al. Visible fiber laser [J]. *BT Technology Journal*, 1993, 11(2): 128-36.
- Scheps R. Upconversion laser processes[J]. *Progress in Quantum Electronics*, 1996, 20(4): 271-358.
- Takahashi K, Nashimoto N, Koganei A, et al. Development of a primary yellow (575 nm) laser by Dy<sup>3+</sup>-doped double-clad-structured waterproof fluoro-aluminate glass fiber[J]. *Optics Communications*, 2023, 545: 129650.
- Weichmann U, Baier J, Heusler G, et al. High-power upconversion fibre lasers for the visible wavelength range[C]//*2007 European Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics and the International Quantum Electronics Conference*, June 17-22, 2007, Munich, Germany. New York: IEEE Press, 2007.
- Lord M P, Olivier M, Bernier M, et al. Visible femtosecond fiber laser[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2023, 48(14): 3709-3712.
- Adam J L, Sibley W A, Gabbe D R. Optical absorption and emission of LiYF<sub>4</sub>: Pr<sup>3+</sup> [J]. *Journal of Luminescence*, 1985, 33(4): 391-407.
- Dieke G H, Crosswhite H M. The spectra of the doubly and triply ionized rare earths[J]. *Applied Optics*, 1963, 2(7): 675-686.
- Amin M Z, Jackson S D, Majewski M R. Experimental and theoretical analysis of Dy<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber lasers for efficient yellow emission[J]. *Applied Optics*, 2021, 60(16): 4613-4621.
- Metz P W, Marzahl D T, Majid A, et al. Efficient continuous wave laser operation of Tb<sup>3+</sup>-doped fluoride crystals in the green and yellow spectral regions[J]. *Laser & Photonics Reviews*, 2016, 10(2): 335-344.
- Digonnet M J F. Rare-earth-doped fiber lasers and amplifiers[M]. 2nd ed. New York: Marcel Dekker, 2001.
- Qin G, Huang S, Feng Y, et al. Power scaling of Tm<sup>3+</sup> doped ZBLAN blue upconversion fiber lasers: modeling and experiments [J]. *Applied Physics B*, 2006, 82(1): 65-70.
- Zeller M, Limberger H G, Lasser T. Tunable Pr<sup>3+</sup>-Yb<sup>3+</sup>-doped all-fiber upconversion laser[J]. *IEEE Photonics Technology Letters*, 2003, 15(2): 194-196.
- Farries M C, Morkel P R, Townsend J E. Samarium<sup>3+</sup>-doped glass laser operating at 651 nm[J]. *Electronics Letters*, 1988, 24(11): 709-711.
- Allain J Y, Monerie M, Pognant H. Red upconversion Yb-sensitized Pr fluoride fibre laser pumped in 0.8 μm region[J]. *Electronics Letters*, 1991, 27(13): 1156-1157.
- Piehler D, Craven D, Kwong N, et al. Laser-diode-pumped red and green upconversion fibre lasers[J]. *Electronics Letters*, 1993,



- 29(21): 1857-1858.
- [39] Allain J Y, Monerie M, Poignant H. Tunable CW lasing around 610, 635, 695, 715, 885 and 910 nm in praseodymium-doped fluorozirconate fibre[J]. Electronics Letters, 1991, 27(2): 189-191.
- [40] Ji S H, Wang Z Y, Huang S H, et al. 532 nm pumped visible emission from Ho<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber lasers[J]. Optics & Laser Technology, 2023, 158: 108900.
- [41] Huenkemeier J, Wolf J, Stark A, et al. Visible up-conversion fiber laser with multiple switchable wavelengths[J]. Proceedings of SPIE, 2005, 5709: 110-116.
- [42] Xie P, Gosnell T R. Room-temperature upconversion fiber laser tunable in the red, orange, green, and blue spectral regions[J]. Optics Letters, 1995, 20(9): 1014-1016.
- [43] Sandrock T, Scheife H, Heumann E, et al. High-power continuous-wave upconversion fiber laser at room temperature[J]. Optics Letters, 1997, 22(11): 808-810.
- [44] Zellmer H, Riedel P, Tünnermann A. Visible upconversion lasers in praseodymium-erbium-doped fibers[J]. Applied Physics B, 1999, 69(5): 417-421.
- [45] Zellmer H, Riedel P, Kempe M, et al. High-power diode pumped upconversion fiber laser in red and green spectral range[J]. Electronics Letters, 2002, 38(21): 1250-1251.
- [46] Smart R G, Hanna D C, Tropper A C, et al. CW room temperature upconversion lasing at blue, green and red wavelengths in infrared-pumped Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped fluoride fibre[J]. Electronics Letters, 1991, 27(14): 1307-1309.
- [47] Baney D M, Rankin G, Chang K W. Blue Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN fiber upconversion laser[J]. Optics Letters, 1996, 21(17): 1372-1374.
- [48] Allain J Y, Monerie M, Poignant H. Room temperature CW tunable green upconversion holmium fibre laser[J]. Electronics Letters, 1990, 26(4): 261-263.
- [49] Funk D S, Stevens S B, Wu S S, et al. Tuning, temporal, and spectral characteristics of the green ( $\lambda \sim 549$  nm), holmium-doped fluorozirconate glass fiber laser[J]. IEEE Journal of Quantum Electronics, 1996, 32(4): 638-645.
- [50] Ji S H, Liu S Q, Lin X J, et al. Watt-level visible continuous-wave upconversion fiber lasers toward the "green gap" wavelengths of 535-553 nm[J]. ACS Photonics, 2021, 8(8): 2311-2319.
- [51] Whitley T J, Millar C A, Wyatt R, et al. Upconversion pumped green lasing in erbium doped fluorozirconate fibre[J]. Electronics Letters, 1991, 27(20): 1785-1786.
- [52] Allain J Y, Monerie M, Poignant H. Tunable green upconversion erbium fibre laser[J]. Electronics Letters, 1992, 28(2): 111-113.
- [53] Ferber S, Gaebler V, Eichler H J. Violet and blue upconversion-emission from erbium-doped ZBLAN-fibers with red diode laser pumping[J]. Optical Materials, 2002, 20(3): 211-215.
- [54] Allain J Y, Monerie M, Poignant H. Blue upconversion fluorozirconate fibre laser[J]. Electronics Letters, 1990, 26(3): 166-168.
- [55] Sanders S, Waarts R G, Mehuys D G, et al. Laser diode pumped 106 mW blue upconversion fiber laser[J]. Applied Physics Letters, 1995, 67(13): 1815-1817.
- [56] Paschotta R, Moore N, Clarkson W A, et al. 230 mW of blue light from a thulium-doped upconversion fiber laser[J]. IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics, 1997, 3(4): 1100-1102.
- [57] Qin G S, Huang S H, Feng Y, et al. Multiple-wavelength upconversion laser in Tm<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN glass fiber[J]. IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, 2005, 17(9): 1818-1820.
- [58] Funk D S, Carlson J W, Eden J G. Room-temperature fluorozirconate glass fiber laser in the violet (412 nm)[J]. Optics Letters, 1995, 20(13): 1474-1476.
- [59] Zhao Y X, Fleming S. High efficiency blue Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped fibre laser with high numerical aperture fibre[C]//Advanced Solid State Lasers 1995, Memphis, Tennessee. Washington, DC: OSA, 1995: VL12.
- [60] Smart R G, Carter J N, Tropper A C, et al. CW room temperature operation of praseodymium-doped fluorozirconate glass fibre lasers in the blue-green, green and red spectral regions [J]. Optics Communications, 1991, 86(3/4): 333-340.
- [61] Richter A, Scheife H, Heumann E, et al. Semiconductor laser pumping of continuous-wave Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN fibre laser[J]. Electronics Letters, 2005, 41(14): 794-795.
- [62] Okamoto H, Kasuga K, Hara I, et al. Visible-NIR tunable Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber laser pumped by a GaN laser diode[J]. Optics Express, 2009, 17(22): 20227-20232.
- [63] Okamoto H, Kasuga K, Kubota Y. Efficient 521 nm all-fiber laser: splicing Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN fiber to end-coated silica fiber[J]. Optics Letters, 2011, 36(8): 1470-1472.
- [64] Kifle E, Starecki F, Loiko P, et al. Watt-level visible laser in double-clad Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped fluoride fiber pumped by a GaN diode[J]. Optics Letters, 2020, 46(1): 74-77.
- [65] Lord M P, Fortin V, Maes F, et al. 2.3 W monolithic fiber laser operating in the visible[J]. Optics Letters, 2021, 46(10): 2392-2395.
- [66] Zou J H, Hong J F, Zhao Z, et al. 3.6 W compact all-fiber Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped green laser at 521 nm[J]. Advanced Photonics, 2022, 4(5): 056001.
- [67] Zou J H, Feng C N, Lan L, et al. 4.1 W all-fiber Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped deep-red laser at 717 nm[J]. Journal of Lightwave Technology: 1-7[2023-09-06]. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/10227519>.
- [68] Hong J F, Zou J H, Wang Y, et al. All-fiber cyan laser at 491.5 nm[J]. Optics Letters, 2023, 48(5): 1327-1330.
- [69] Zhang C, Hong J F, Zhou L J, et al. Direct generation of 5 W all-fiber red laser at 635 nm[J]. Optics & Laser Technology, 2023, 160: 109050.
- [70] Nakanishi J, Yamada T, Fujitomo Y, et al. Sub-watt output power at 638 nm in wavelength by direct oscillation with Pr-doped waterproof fluoro-aluminate glass fiber laser[C]//2011 Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics Europe and 12th European Quantum Electronics Conference (CLEO EUROPE/EQEC), May 22-26, 2011, Munich, Germany. New York: IEEE Press, 2011.
- [71] Nakanishi J, Horiuchi Y, Yamada T, et al. High-power direct green laser oscillation of 598 mW in Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped waterproof fluoroaluminate glass fiber excited by two-polarization-combined GaN laser diodes[J]. Optics Letters, 2011, 36(10): 1836-1838.
- [72] Fujimoto Y, Nakahara M, Binun P, et al. 2 W single-mode visible laser oscillation in Pr-doped double-clad structured waterproof fluoro-aluminate glass fiber[C]//2019 Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics Europe & European Quantum Electronics Conference (CLEO/Europe-EQEC), June 23-27, 2019, Munich, Germany. New York: IEEE Press, 2019.
- [73] Limpert J, Zellmer H, Riedel P, et al. Laser oscillation in yellow and blue spectral range in Dy<sup>3+</sup>: ZBLAN[J]. Electronics Letters, 2000, 36(16): 1386-1387.
- [74] Zou J H, Li T R, Dou Y B, et al. Direct generation of watt-level yellow Dy<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber laser[J]. Photonics Research, 2021, 9(4): 446-451.
- [75] Fujimoto Y, Ishii O, Yamazaki M. Yellow laser oscillation in Dy<sup>3+</sup>-doped waterproof fluoro-aluminate glass fibre pumped by 398.8 nm GaN laser diodes[J]. Electronics Letters, 2010, 46(8): 586-587.
- [76] Yamashita T, Qin G S, Suzuki T, et al. A new green fiber laser using terbium-doped fluoride fiber[C]//OFC/NFOEC 2008-2008 Conference on Optical Fiber Communication/National Fiber Optic Engineers Conference, February 24-28, 2008, San Diego, CA, USA. New York: IEEE Press, 2008.
- [77] Ji S H, Song Y Y, Wang Z Y, et al. High power downconversion deep-red emission from Ho<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber lasers[J]. Nanophotonics, 2022, 11(8): 1603-1609.
- [78] Nakanishi J, Yamada T, Murakami M, et al. Watt-order direct green laser oscillation at 522nm in Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped waterproof fluoro-aluminate-glass fiber[C]//CLEO: 2013, June 9-14, 2013, San

- Jose, California. Washington, DC: OSA, 2013: JT4A.02.
- [79] Fujitomo Y, Murakami M, Nakanishi J, et al. Visible lasers in waterproof fluoro-aluminate glass fibers excited by GaN laser diodes[C]//Advanced Solid-State Lasers Congress 2013, October 27-November 1, 2013, Paris, France. Washington, DC: OSA, 2013: AM2A.
- [80] Kojou J, Watanabe Y, Agrawal P, et al. Wavelength tunable Q-switch laser in visible region with Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped fluoride-glass fiber pumped by GaN diode laser[J]. Optics Communications, 2013, 290: 136-140.
- [81] Wu D D, Quan C J, Guo Z R, et al. Self Q-switched mode-locking in compact red Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN fiber laser[J]. Journal of Optics, 2018, 20(8): 085501.
- [82] Luo Z Q, Ruan Q J, Zhong M, et al. Compact self-Q-switched green upconversion Er: ZBLAN all-fiber laser operating at 543.4 nm[J]. Optics Letters, 2016, 41(10): 2258-2261.
- [83] Li W S, Wu J J, Guan X F, et al. Efficient continuous-wave and short-pulse Ho<sup>3+</sup>-doped fluorozirconate glass all-fiber lasers operating in the visible spectral range[J]. Nanoscale, 2018, 10(11): 5272-5279.
- [84] Li W S, Wu J J, Cai Z P, et al. Directly blue diode-pumped green self-Q-switched Ho<sup>3+</sup>-doped fluoride all-fiber laser at ~550 nm[J]. Journal of Lightwave Technology, 2019, 37(22): 5727-5732.
- [85] Li W S, Du T J, Lan J L, et al. 716 nm deep-red passively Q-switched Pr:ZBLAN all-fiber laser using a carbon-nanotube saturable absorber[J]. Optics Letters, 2017, 42(4): 671-674.
- [86] Zhong Y L, Cai Z P, Wu D D, et al. Passively Q-switched red Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber laser with graphene-oxide saturable absorber [J]. IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, 2016, 28(16): 1755-1758.
- [87] Kajikawa S, Yoshida M, Ishii O, et al. Visible Q-switched pulse laser oscillation in Pr-doped double-clad structured waterproof fluoride glass fiber with graphene[J]. Optics Communications, 2018, 424: 13-16.
- [88] Wu D D, Cai Z P, Zhong Y L, et al. 635-nm visible Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN fiber lasers Q-switched by topological insulators SAs[J]. IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, 2015, 27(22): 2379-2382.
- [89] Wu D D, Cai Z P, Zhong Y L, et al. Compact passive Q-switching Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped ZBLAN fiber laser with black phosphorus-based saturable absorber[J]. IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics, 2017, 23(1): 7-12.
- [90] Luo Z Q, Wu D D, Xu B, et al. Two-dimensional material-based saturable absorbers: towards compact visible-wavelength all-fiber pulsed lasers[J]. Nanoscale, 2016, 8(2): 1066-1072.
- [91] Li W S, Ma Q, Wu J J, et al. Investigation on the effect of output mirror transmission in WS<sub>2</sub>-based red-light passively Q-switched Pr: ZBLAN all-fiber lasers[J]. Applied Optics, 2017, 56(27): 7749-7755.
- [92] Li W S, Zhu C H, Rong X F, et al. Bidirectional red-light passively Q-switched all-fiber ring lasers with carbon nanotube saturable absorber[J]. Journal of Lightwave Technology, 2018, 36(13): 2694-2701.
- [93] Wu D D, Peng J, Cai Z P, et al. Gold nanoparticles as a saturable absorber for visible 635 nm Q-switched pulse generation[J]. Optics Express, 2015, 23(18): 24071-24076.
- [94] Wu D D, Lin H Y, Cai Z P, et al. Saturable absorption of copper nanowires in visible regions for short-pulse generation[J]. IEEE Photonics Journal, 2016, 8(4): 4501507.
- [95] Zou J H, Kang Z, Wang R, et al. Green/red pulsed vortex-beam oscillations in all-fiber lasers with visible-resonance gold nanorods [J]. Nanoscale, 2019, 11(34): 15991-16000.
- [96] Fujimoto Y, Suzuki T, Ochante R A M, et al. Generation of orange pulse laser in waterproof fluoride glass fibre with graphene thin film[J]. Electronics Letters, 2014, 50(20): 1470-1472.
- [97] Li W S, Peng J, Zhong Y L, et al. Orange-light passively Q-switched Pr<sup>3+</sup>-doped all-fiber lasers with transition-metal dichalcogenide saturable absorbers[J]. Optical Materials Express, 2016, 6(6): 2031-2039.
- [98] Lin H Y, Li W S, Lan J L, et al. All-fiber passively Q-switched 604 nm praseodymium laser with a Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> saturable absorber[J]. Applied Optics, 2017, 56(4): 802-805.
- [99] Li T R, Wang Z Y, Zou J H, et al. Direct generation of 3.17 mJ green pulses in a cavity-dumped Ho<sup>3+</sup>-doped fiber laser at 543 nm [J]. Photonics Research, 2023, 11(3): 413-419.
- [100] Costantini D M, Limberger H G, Lasser T, et al. Actively mode-locked visible upconversion fiber laser[J]. Optics Letters, 2000, 25(19): 1445-1447.
- [101] Zou J H, Dong C C, Wang H J, et al. Towards visible-wavelength passively mode-locked lasers in all-fiber format[J]. Light: Science & Applications, 2020, 9: 61.
- [102] Sun H G, Wang L X, Zou J H, et al. Visible-wavelength all-fiber mode-locked vortex laser[J]. Journal of Lightwave Technology, 2022, 40(1): 191-195.
- [103] Ruan Q J, Xiao X S, Zou J H, et al. Visible-wavelength spatiotemporal mode-locked fiber laser delivering 9 ps, 4 nJ pulses at 635 nm[J]. Laser & Photonics Reviews, 2022, 16(7): 2100678.
- [104] Luo S Y, Gu H, Tang X, et al. High-power yellow DSR pulses generated from a mode-locked Dy: ZBLAN fiber laser[J]. Optics Letters, 2022, 47(5): 1157-1160.
- [105] Luo S Y, Tang X, Geng X, et al. Ultrafast true-green Ho: ZBLAN fiber laser inspired by the TD3 AI algorithm[J]. Optics Letters, 2022, 47(22): 5881-5884.

## Progress in Research on Visible Rare-Earth-Doped Fiber Lasers: from Continuous Wave to Femtosecond Pulses (Invited)

Luo Zhengqian<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Song Luming<sup>1</sup>, Ruan Qiujun<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fujian Key Laboratory of Ultrafast Laser Technology and Applications, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361005, Fujian, China;

<sup>2</sup>Shenzhen Research Institute, Xiamen University, Shenzhen 518129, Guangdong, China

### Abstract

**Significance** Visible lasers, with wavelengths ranging from 380 nm to 780 nm, have important applications in the fields of display, biomedicine, precision processing, precision spectroscopy, optical communication, and military defense. Among all the different visible lasers currently available, the rare-earth-doped fiber ones attract considerable attention due to their advantages of high efficiency, excellent performance, compact structure, and maintenance-free nature. In this study, different types of lasers, including visible continuous-wave (CW) fiber lasers, visible Q-switched fiber lasers, and visible mode-locked fiber lasers, are discussed

comprehensively, along with their output characteristics. The latest research progress indicates that these lasers can cover the entire visible wavelength range and present different colors, such as blue (~480 nm), cyan (~491 nm), green (~520 nm), yellow (~573 nm), orange (~605 nm), red (~635 nm), and deep-red (~717 nm). The output power approaches 10 W for the all-fiber visible lasers, and the pulse duration of the mode-locked pulse is less than 200 fs. Thus, the all-fiber visible lasers play an increasingly important role in underwater optical communication, material processing, laser welding, and spatiotemporal super-resolution imaging. This study summarizes the progress in the research on visible fiber lasers, which provides a strong basis for any future research and application on visible fiber lasers.

**Progress** With continuous research on fluoride fibers doped with rare-earth metal ions like  $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Er}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Tm}^{3+}$ , and  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$ , visible CW fiber lasers, visible Q-switched fiber lasers, and visible mode-locked fiber lasers have been actively developed. After nearly 30 years of development, the outputs of blue, green, yellow, red, and deep-red fiber lasers have been scaled up to Watt-level. Notably, the maximum output powers of red (~635 nm) and green (~521 nm) fiber lasers reach ~5 W and ~3.6 W, respectively, as shown in Fig. 8 and Fig. 11.

Visible mode-locked fiber lasers have the advantages of higher peak power and shorter response time than visible Q-switched fiber lasers. The development of visible mode-locked fiber lasers has been accelerated by the development of high-performance rare-earth-doped fluoride fibers. In 2020, Zou *et al.* reported the first all-fiber visible-wavelength (635 nm) passively mode-locked picosecond laser with a pulse duration as short as ~96 ps. In the following two years, red-light mode-locked fiber lasers were further developed. As shown in Fig. 15, a 635-nm spatiotemporal mode-locking (STML) picosecond fiber laser with the implementation of a  $\text{Pr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$  co-doped few-mode fiber and nonlinear polarization rotation (NPR) technology was reported by Ruan *et al.* in 2022. By further incorporating a visible ultrafast fiber amplifier, the average power at 635 nm was boosted up to 440 mW, corresponding to a maximum pulse energy and a peak power of 4 nJ and 280 W, respectively, while the pulse duration was shortened to 9 ps. This fills the knowledge gap of STML in the visible fiber lasers. By integrating the NPR scheme into Dy:ZBLAN and Ho:ZBLAN fiber lasers, Luo *et al.* obtained dissipative soliton resonance pulses at ~575 nm and ~545 nm, respectively. The average output power at 575 nm reached a maximum of ~240 mW, which represents an improvement of almost two orders of magnitude compared to those reported for the latest mode-locked visible fiber lasers. The minimal pulse duration at 575 nm is 83 ps as shown in Fig. 16. Furthermore, by using a shorter gain fiber (Ho:ZBLAN), the smallest pulse duration of 19.7 ps is achieved for the ultrafast true-green passively mode-locked fiber laser. The average output power at 545 nm reaches a maximum of ~288 mW, thus filling the “green gap” of semiconductor materials. To obtain mode-locked femtosecond pulses in the visible spectrum, a team from the Laval University reported a mode-locked fiber laser with a compressed external cavity that produced ultrafast pulses at 635 nm. The passively mode-locked ring cavity is based on nonlinear polarization evolution in a single-mode  $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ -doped fluoride fiber and runs in an all-normal dispersion regime. The compressed pulses at 635 nm have a duration of 168 fs, a peak power of 0.73 kW, and a repetition rate of 137 MHz (Fig. 17). Furthermore, the pulses directly emitted in a visible fiber oscillator by a phase-biased nonlinear amplifying loop mirror have durations less than 200 fs.

**Conclusions and Prospects** In this study, we review the current progress in research on directly emitting visible fiber lasers prepared from rare-earth-doped fluoride fibers. In summary, among the rare-earth-doped fluoride fiber lasers, the  $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ -doped one is particularly useful for fabricating visible lasers because it can efficiently produce blue, green, orange, red, and deep-red spectra, pumped by GaN semiconductor laser. With fluoride fibers doped with rare-earth metal ions like  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Tm}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Pr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ , the wavelength can cover the entire visible spectrum. Significant progress has been made in the development of CW, Q-switched, and mode-locked fiber lasers. However, there remain some unsolved problems associated with visible fiber lasers, such as high power, large pulse energy, and femtosecond pulse generation. For visible CW fiber lasers, the highest possible output power is ~5 W at 635 nm. Further improvement of the output power, beam quality, slope efficiency, and ability to cover more visible wavelengths is the key to promoting the development and application of visible CW fiber lasers. Therefore, the research and numerical simulations of new visible rare-earth fibers with high damage thresholds, high-performance visible fiber devices, visible beam combiners, etc. will be of great significance. For visible pulsed fiber lasers, the highest pulse energy that can be obtained is ~3.17 mJ at 543 nm, and the shortest pulse duration is 168 fs at 635 nm. The research on STML, femtosecond pulse generation, all-fiber configuration operating in more visible wavelengths needs to be performed. Improving the pulse energy, average power and stability, and realizing the visible femtosecond all-fiber lasers are key to promoting the development and application of visible pulsed fiber lasers. Therefore, the new visible rare-earth-doped fibers, saturable absorber materials, and mode-locking technologies need to be explored. Through the innovation of breakthrough technologies, we believe that the visible CW/ultrafast fiber lasers will find widespread applications in the fields of biomedicine, optical communication, material processing, optical microscopy, and scientific research in the future owing to their advantages of miniaturization, high performance, maintenance-free nature, and low cost.

**Key words** lasers; visible lasers; rare-earth-doped fiber lasers; continuous wave; Q-switching; mode-locking