

差分式共振光声光谱技术研究

徐靖¹, 黄琪², 李劲松^{2*}¹航宇救生装备有限公司, 湖北 襄阳 441003;²安徽大学物理与光电工程学院, 安徽 合肥 230601

摘要 针对光声光谱系统本底噪声限制问题,以圆柱形声共振器作为研究对象,开展了双共振腔光声池设计,并将共振光声光谱和差分探测原理相结合,建立了一套基于近红外半导体激光器的高灵敏度激光光谱气体探测系统。以空气中的水汽(H₂O)分子作为检测对象,结合高灵敏度波长调制二次谐波探测方法,对建立的差分式共振光声光谱系统进行了理论分析和实验评估。艾伦方差分析结果显示,系统可实现几个10⁻⁶量级水汽分子浓度的高灵敏度检测。相较于传统单通道光声探测模式,所提出的差分探测式共振光声光谱探测技术可有效提升系统的稳定性和检测灵敏度,最佳信号平均时间可提高2倍。

关键词 光谱学; 光声光谱; 差分探测; 共振效应; 气体检测

中图分类号 O433.4 文献标志码 A

DOI: 10.3788/CJL231426

1 引言

光声光谱(PAS)作为一种非破坏性光学分析技术,可用于气体、液体和固体等物质成分的定量分析。随着现代激光技术的不断革新,各种新型激光光源应运而生,促进了基于激光光源的光声光谱发展。光声光谱是一种基于光声效应的光谱技术^[1],当周期性调制的连续激光或脉冲激光入射到待分析样品上时,样品吸收入射光能并在无辐射弛豫过程中释放热能,导致样品的周期性加热,在局部区域内产生周期性的压力波(即声波),通过石英音叉、微悬臂梁等声敏元器件或传感器进行检测^[2-4],可实现“光-热-声-电”信号的转化和分析。相较于传统吸收光谱,光声光谱通过声学检测来测量吸收的电磁能对物质的影响,即光声光谱检测信号为声波(不是光强信号),因此光声光谱具有无波长依赖性、高分辨率和高灵敏度等特性,其在环境科学、固体物理、工业过程控制、生物医学等领域中得到了广泛的应用^[5-9]。理论上,光声光谱技术是一种理想的无背景(或零背景)检测技术,即无吸收、不产生光声信号。同时,光声光谱技术也是一种对入射光源光功率具有较强依赖性的光谱分析技术。然而,在光声光谱系统中,光声池窗片或内壁吸收入射激光产生的热噪声(尤其是高功率激光光源作为信号激发光源时),以及声信号探测器等电子学器件的电噪声是限制光声光谱检测灵敏度的关键噪声。

目前,研究者通常采用共振增强探测方式,实现系统低频噪声的抑制,典型的共振光声光谱检测系统常采用圆柱形共振光声池、亥姆霍兹谐振腔、球形共振器、石英音叉等^[10-14]。此外,差分探测作为一种消除系统本底噪声干扰及提高信号质量和信噪比的有效方法,在信号处理领域中有着很好的应用价值。本文通过结合共振光声光谱特性和差分探测原理,以典型圆柱形光声作为研究对象,开展了基于差分共振式高灵敏度光声光谱的气体检测技术的理论和实验研究。

2 圆柱形差分共振腔模型

为实现气体的差分共振光谱探测,本文首先以圆柱形腔为理论基础模型,开展了差分共振光声声压信号分布特性的仿真模拟研究。采用 COMSOL Multiphysics 多物理场仿真软件对差分共振腔声压进行有限元分析,利用压力声学模块,在压力声学域选择空气域,并选择空气压强为标准气压,同时引入线源,将线源设置在信号通道的轴向中心处。圆柱形光声腔的材料选为常用的铝,将两个相同的圆柱形腔设计为平行放置,腔半径均为 7 mm,腔长度均为 160 mm,两个腔的间距设为 15 mm。

图 1 所示为差分光声光谱有限元模拟的归一化声压分布示意图,左边圆柱形腔为信号产生通道。研究发现:当信号通道产生强共振信号时,右边背景通道的圆柱形腔受一定的影响,在其内部存在一定的声压分

收稿日期: 2023-11-22; 修回日期: 2023-12-27; 录用日期: 2024-01-02; 网络首发日期: 2024-01-10

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(41875158, 61675005)

通信作者: *ljs0625@126.com

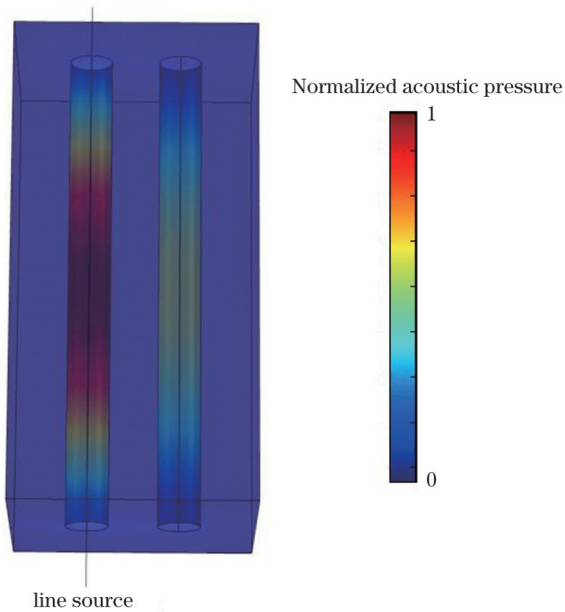


图1 差分光声光谱共振腔模型

Fig.1 Resonator model based on differential photoacoustic spectroscopy

布信号。进一步模拟研究发现:随着两个腔的间距的增加,背景通道内的声压逐渐减小。虽然增加间距可以减小声压串扰的影响,但考虑到实际应用中小体积光声池的应用需求,针对串扰效应和腔体体积大小的矛盾问题,本文利用光声信号的相位依赖特性,在实验中成功实现了差分检测。

3 实验细节

基于以上理论模拟,本文建立了图2所示的圆柱形差分共振腔光声光谱实验系统。实验系统采用1391.6 nm 近红外分布反馈式(DFB)半导体激光器作为激发光源,信号发生器输出的低频三角波和锁相放大器输出的高频(取决于光声池的共振频率)正弦信号通过加法器叠加后驱动激光器发出激光,1391.6 nm 处于水汽(H_2O)分子红外吸收光谱区,可用于研究水汽的光声光谱, H_2O 分子在1391.673 nm 处的激光输出平均功率约为10 mW。实验中采用的激光器为光纤输出型,通过光纤准直器聚焦准直后,直接沿着轴向将出射激光耦合到圆柱形差分共振腔光声池的信号通道(channel-1)中。光声池由铝加工制成,中间两个声共振腔的长度为160 mm、半径为7 mm,在声共振腔中间位置安装了两个高灵敏度麦克风声信号探测器(灵敏度为49.5 mV/Pa),分别用于光声信号和背景信号(channel-2)的检测。在声共振腔两端分别放置长度为声共振腔长度一半的缓冲腔体(半径为35 mm),缓冲腔体端面留有 CaF_2 窗口用于激光光束出入,并在其中间位置设计了气体进样出入口(gas in 和 gas out)。入射激光光束最终从光声池后的窗口透射出去,光功率计接收并监测其功率。两路光声信号同时被输入到前置放大电器中进行放大,再被输入到锁相放大器中进行解调。锁相放

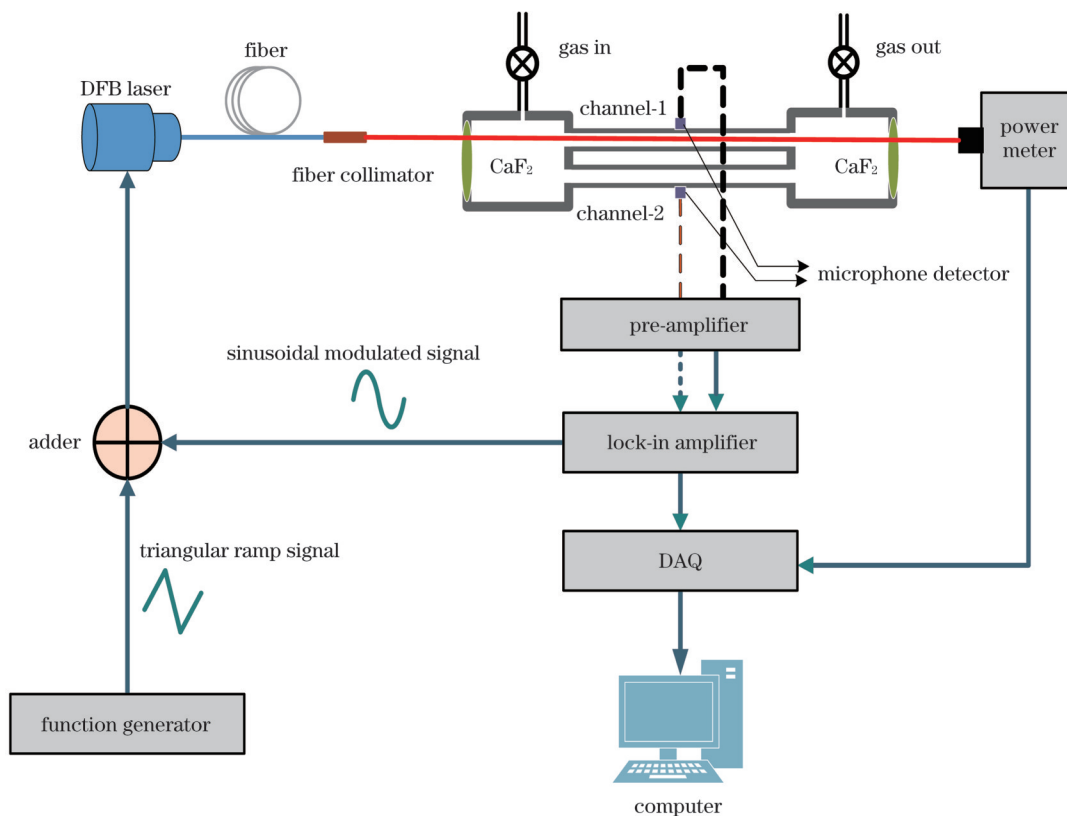


图2 实验装置系统的结构示意图

Fig.2 Structural diagram of experimental device system

大器可对两路信号单独进行解调,或两路信号经过差分运算后,锁相放大器再对其进行解调处理。最后,锁相放大器的解调信号被输入到数据采集卡(DAQ)中,利用自行编写的基于LabVIEW软件的上位机数据采集程序,将信号采集到计算机中进行分析处理。为了记录水汽的光声光谱信号,实验中将信号发生器输出的低频(1 Hz)三角波和锁相放大器输出的高频正弦调制信号叠加并输入到激光器驱动电路板中,实现对激光的波长调谐和调制。在共振光声光谱中,正弦调制信号的调制频率与声共振腔的谐振频率相匹配。通常采用二次谐波探测方法获取光声光谱信号,假设 f 为光声池的谐振频率,那么调制的正弦波频率为 $f/2$ 。

4 实验结果与分析

实验中首先获取声共振腔的谐振模式和共振频率特性,依据理论分析,两个声共振腔具有相同的谐振特性。实验以室内空气中的水汽为检测对象,室内温度为 $12\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 、相对湿度为 45% ,在一个大气压的条件下,空气中的水汽体积分数约为 0.69% 。利用气体真空泵将室内空气抽入到光声池腔体内,在激光器光束耦合进入信号腔通道的条件下,改变激光器的调制频率,同步记录激发的水汽光声信号幅值,获取共振腔信号通道channel-1的谐振模式特性,如图3所示。同理,以相同的步骤将激光光束耦合到背景通道channel-2中,获取其相应的谐振模式特性。为了计算声共振腔的中心谐

振频率和品质因子(Q),数据处理中利用Lorentz函数对实验记录的两个声共振轮廓曲线进行拟合,得到信号通道channel-1的共振频率为 $f_1=1001.6\text{ Hz}$,品质因子 Q_1 值为22,而背景通道channel-2的共振频率为 $f_2=1003.5\text{ Hz}$,品质因子 Q_2 值为24。对比分析可见:在实验误差范围内,两个谐振腔的特性基本保持一致,与理论预期一致。

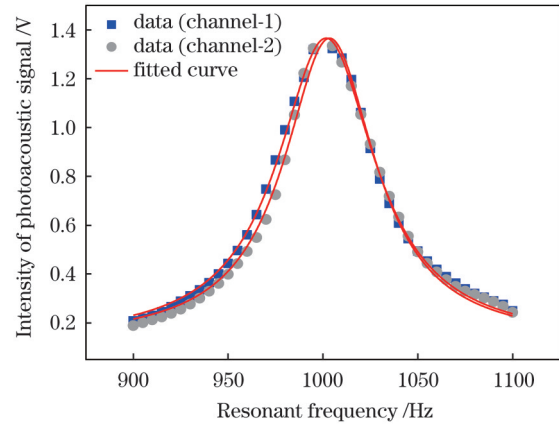


图3 频率响应曲线

Fig. 3 Frequency response curves

此外,为了检验差分探测效果,在没有激发光声信号的情况下,以 1 s 的时间分辨率同时记录两个谐振腔的本底噪声信号,图4所示为连续 2000 s 时间内的两路本底噪声以及两路信号的差分信号。通过对比分析其标准偏差(SD),可见两个谐振腔在无激发光声信号

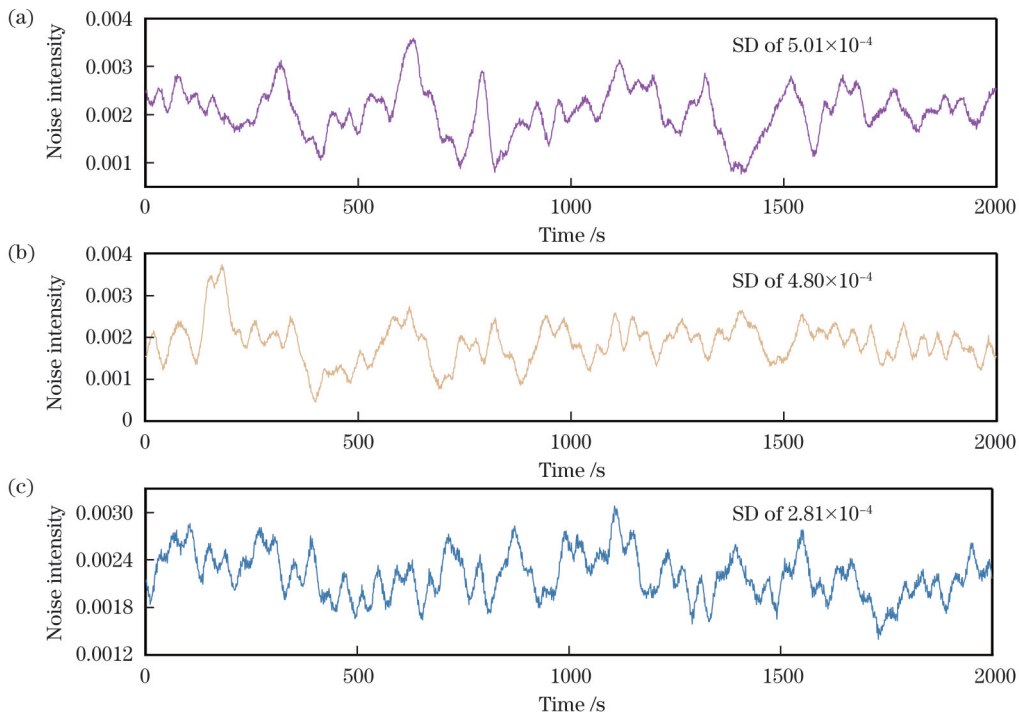


图4 无激发光声信号时两个共振腔的本底噪声及其差分后的噪声特性。(a)channel-1的本底噪声;(b)channel-2的本底噪声;(c)差分后的噪声特性

Fig. 4 Background noise of two resonators without excited photoacoustic signal and noise characteristic after difference. (a) Background noise of channel-1; (b) background noise of channel-2; (c) noise characteristic after difference

的条件下,背景噪声相近,而通过差分计算后,标准偏差相比于原始背景噪声水平分别提高了 1.78 和 1.76 倍。实验结果表明差分探测可有效抑制系统的本底噪声。

为解决实际应用中光声信号在背景通道中引起的串扰问题,以下实验仅将调制激光束耦合进信号通道 channel-1,分别记录信号通道 channel-1 和背景通道 channel-2 中麦克风检测到的水汽吸收产生的二次谐波光声信号幅值与其相位之间的依赖关系,实验中相位步进设定为 10° ,最终记录的实验结果如图 5 所示。可以看出:当锁相放大器的最佳解调相位为 25° 时,信号通道 channel-1 的二次谐波光声信号最大。此时 channel-2 也检测到微弱的光声信号,证明声波的确从信号通道 channel-1 传输到背景通道 channel-2 中,说明存在一定的串扰效应,与以上理论模拟分析结果相吻合。在此相位条件下,channel-2 光声信号的幅值为负值,而 channel-1 光声信号的幅值为正值,二者呈现出相反的相位依赖特性,图 6 所示为此相位条件下记录的两个通道中的水汽吸收产生的二次谐波光声(PA)光谱信号。由相位依赖的光声信号幅值响应曲线可见,两路光声谐振腔具有不同的相位依赖特性,且近似呈相反的相位依赖特性。因此,在信号解调过程中,可选择不同相位对两路信号分别进行解调,再对其进行差分运算处理,这样可实现信号幅值的提高和本底噪声的同步减小。

为进一步对比差分后信号的增强效果,图 7(a)给出了原始信号通道 channel-1 和差分运算后的水汽光声光谱二次谐波信号,图 7(b)是在时间分辨率为 1 s 的实验条件下,1000 s 内连续记录的信号通道 channel-1 中水汽的光声光谱信号幅值和差分计算后的信号幅值。结果显示:两个通道均保持长时间的稳定性,相较于 channel-1,差分运算后的信号幅值提高了 1.15 倍。此外,由相位依赖曲线图可见:在不同相位条件下,分

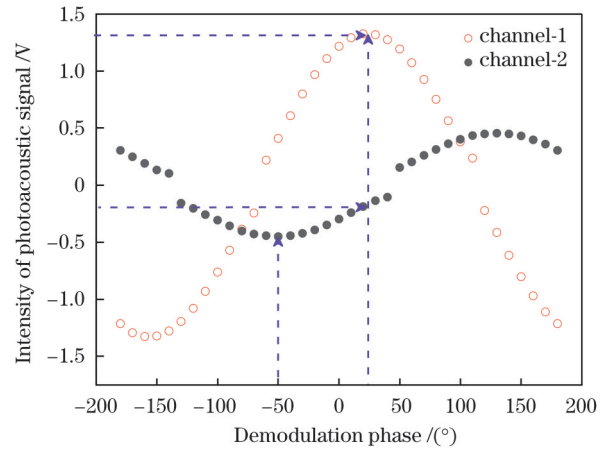


图 5 光声信号幅值与解调相之间的关系
Fig. 5 Relationship between amplitude of photoacoustic signal and demodulation phase

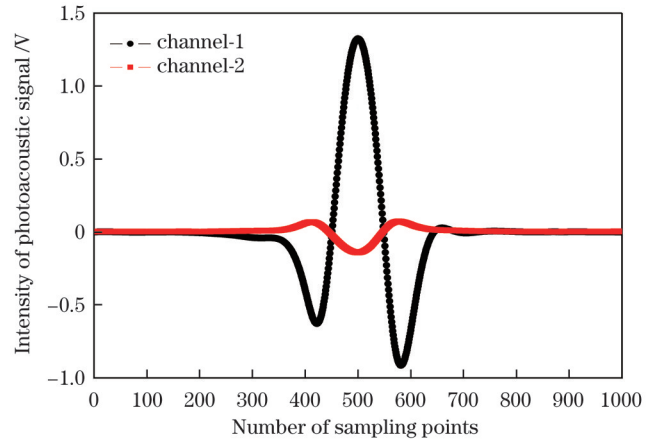


图 6 当解调相位为 25° 时,声共振腔两个通道中的水汽吸收产生的光声光谱二次谐波信号
Fig. 6 Second-harmonic PA signals produced by water vapor absorption in two channels of acoustic-resonance cavity when demodulation phase is 25°

别解调两个共振腔的信号,再进行差分运算,可进一步提高信号增强效果。

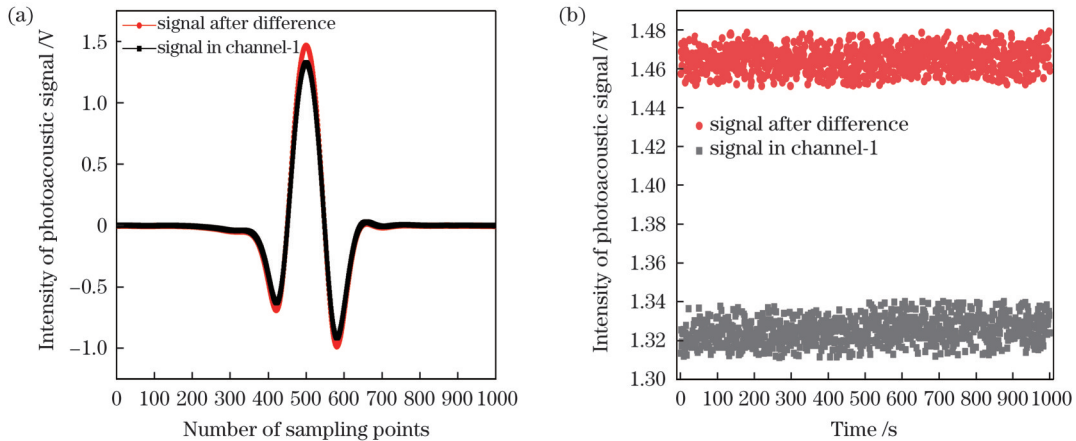


图 7 差分和无差分条件下实验测量结果。(a)二次谐波信号;(b)连续测量的信号幅值
Fig. 7 Experimentally measured results with and without difference calculation. (a) Second harmonic signals; (b) amplitudes of signals measured continuously

此外,为了进一步评估系统的稳定性和灵敏度,利用艾伦方差分析算法对以上连续测量的双共振腔信号通道 channel-1 和差分信号进行了深入评估分析^[14-15],图 8 展示了长时间测量数据的艾伦方差分析结果。可以看出:信号通道 channel-1 的最佳稳定时间在 115 s 附近,相应最佳的灵敏度为 $\sim 3.0 \times 10^{-6}$;差分运算后,系统的稳定性得到进一步提高,最佳稳定时间提高到 200 s 以上,相应的检测灵敏度提升到 2.0×10^{-6} 。根据艾伦方差分析结果可见,差分探测模式的稳定性明显优于传统的单通道探测模式,最佳信号平均时间提高 2 倍以上,在提升信号幅值和抑制噪声方面具有一定的优势,可实现系统检测灵敏度的进一步提高。

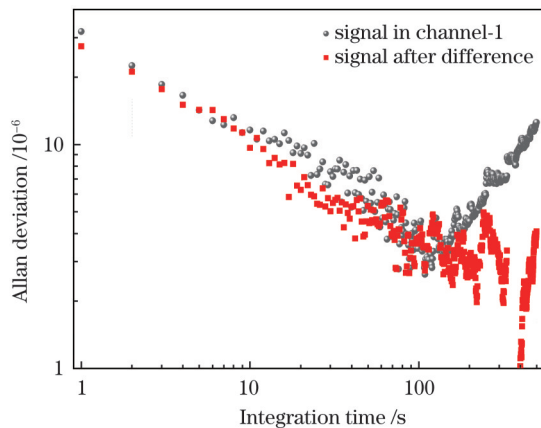


图 8 单通道探测和差分探测方法的艾伦方差分析结果

Fig. 8 Allan deviation analysis results of single-channel and differential detections

5 结 论

针对光声光谱系统本底噪声限制问题,开展了双共振腔光声池的设计,并将共振光声光谱和差分探测原理相结合,利用 1391.6 nm 波段的近红外半导体激光器,建立了一套高灵敏度光谱探测系统。以空气中的水汽分子作为检测对象,结合波长调制二次谐波探测方法,对建立的差分式共振光声光谱系统进行了实验评估。实验测量结果显示:提出的差分式共振光声光谱探测技术可有效提升系统的稳定性和检测灵敏度,可实现几个 10^{-6} 量级水汽分子浓度的高灵敏度检测。鉴于光声光谱信号对入射激光功率的强依赖特性和声波传输损耗的影响,可通过选择更高功率的激光光源提升探测灵敏度^[16],以及进一步优化光声池的设计和加工精度,降低声信号的传输损耗,实现 10^{-6} 以下量级水汽浓度的检测。研究结果有望推广到其他温室气体和痕量气体分子的高灵敏度测量中^[17-19]。

参 考 文 献

- [1] Rosencwaig A. Photoacoustics and photoacoustic spectroscopy[M]. New York: Wiley, 1980.
- [2] Li J S, Gao X M, Li W Z, et al. Near-infrared diode laser wavelength modulation-based photoacoustic spectrometer[J]. Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy, 2006, 64(2): 338-342.
- [3] Kosterev A A, Bakhrin Y A, Curl R F, et al. Quartz-enhanced photoacoustic spectroscopy[J]. Optics Letters, 2002, 27(21): 1902-1904.
- [4] Laurila T, Cattaneo H, Pöyhönen T, et al. Cantilever-based photoacoustic detection of carbon dioxide using a fiber-amplified diode laser[J]. Applied Physics B, 2006, 83(4): 669.
- [5] Tam A C. Applications of photoacoustic sensing techniques[J]. Reviews of Modern Physics, 1986, 58(2): 381-431.
- [6] Schmid T. Photoacoustic spectroscopy for process analysis[J]. Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry, 2006, 384(5): 1071-1086.
- [7] Li J S, Chen W D, Yu B L. Recent progress on infrared photoacoustic spectroscopy techniques[J]. Applied Spectroscopy Reviews, 2011, 46(6): 440-471.
- [8] Mesquita R, Mansanares A, da Silva E, et al. Open photoacoustic cell: applications in plant photosynthesis studies[J]. Instrumentation Science & Technology, 2006, 34(1/2): 33-58.
- [9] Dumitras D C, Petrus M, Bratu A M, et al. Applications of near infrared photoacoustic spectroscopy for analysis of human respiration: a review[J]. Molecules, 2020, 25(7): 1728.
- [10] Li J S, Gao X M, Fang L, et al. Resonant photoacoustic detection of trace gas with DFB diode laser[J]. Optics & Laser Technology, 2007, 39(6): 1144-1149.
- [11] Miklós A, Hess P, Bozók Z. Application of acoustic resonators in photoacoustic trace gas analysis and metrology[J]. Review of Scientific Instruments, 2001, 72(4): 1937-1955.
- [12] Kästle R, Sigrist M W. Temperature-dependent photoacoustic spectroscopy with a Helmholtz resonator[J]. Applied Physics B, 1996, 63(4): 389-397.
- [13] Huang Q, Wei Y, Li J S. Simultaneous detection of multiple gases using multi-resonance photoacoustic spectroscopy[J]. Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical, 2022, 369: 132234.
- [14] Liu K, Li J, Wang L, et al. Trace gas sensor based on quartz tuning fork enhanced laser photoacoustic spectroscopy[J]. Applied Physics B, 2009, 94(3): 527-533.
- [15] Werle P, Mücke R, Slemr F. The limits of signal averaging in atmospheric trace-gas monitoring by tunable diode-laser absorption spectroscopy (TDLAS)[J]. Applied Physics B, 1993, 57(2): 131-139.
- [16] Chen K, Gong Z F, Yu Q X. Fiber-amplifier-enhanced resonant photoacoustic sensor for sub-ppb level acetylene detection[J]. Sensors and Actuators A: Physical, 2018, 274: 184-188.
- [17] 刘宁武, 许林广, 周胜, 等. 量子级联激光光谱在土壤生态系统中的应用[J]. 光学学报, 2019, 39(11): 1130001.
- [17] Liu N W, Xu L G, Zhou S, et al. Application of quantum-cascade laser spectroscopy to soil ecosystems[J]. Acta Optica Sinica, 2019, 39(11): 1130001.
- [18] 管世钰, 曹慧琳, 罗治福, 等. 腔增强呼吸气体诊断技术概述[J]. 激光与光电子学进展, 2022, 59(19): 1900002.
- [18] Guan S Y, Cao H L, Luo Z F, et al. Review of cavity-enhanced breath diagnostics techniques[J]. Laser & Optoelectronics Progress, 2022, 59(19): 1900002.
- [19] 赵之豪, 陈兵, 邓昊, 等. 基于高灵敏中红外吸收光谱的 FeNO 检测方法[J]. 光学学报, 2022, 42(21): 2130001.
- [19] Zhao Z H, Chen B, Deng H, et al. FeNO detection method based on highly sensitive mid-infrared absorption spectroscopy[J]. Acta Optica Sinica, 2022, 42(21): 2130001.

Study on Differential Resonance Photoacoustic Spectroscopy

Xu Jing¹, Huang Qi², Li Jingsong^{2*}

¹AVIC Aerospace Life-Support Industries Ltd., Xiangyang 441003, Hubei, China;

²School of Physics and Optoelectronic Engineering, Anhui University, Hefei 230601, Anhui, China

Abstract

Objective Photoacoustic spectroscopy (PAS) is a powerful and non-destructive optical analysis technique that can be used to quantitatively analyze the composition of gases, liquids, and solids. With the continuous innovation of modern laser techniques, various new laser light sources have emerged that play an important role in promoting the development of photoacoustic spectroscopy based on laser light sources. Moreover, novel signal processing algorithms and detection strategies have been reported. In theory, PAS is essentially established with wavelength independence, high resolution, and high sensitivity. These unique characteristics make them widely used in environmental science, solid-state physics, industrial process control, biomedicine, and other fields. However, the thermal noise caused by the absorption of the incident laser by the windows or inner wall of the photoacoustic (PA) cell (particularly when the high-power laser source is used as the signal excitation light source), and the electrical noise of electronic devices (such as acoustic signal detectors) are still key technical issues that limit the detection sensitivity of PA-spectroscopy-based gas sensors. To resolve the background noise problem in these technical issues, a differential resonance photoacoustic gas detection method that fully utilizes the phase-dependent characteristics of the PA resonance cavity is proposed.

Methods Considering the problem of noise limitation in PAS system sensitivity, resonance enhancement detection strategies are usually adopted to achieve effective suppression of the background noise of the PA system. Typically, cylindrical resonant PA cells, Helmholtz resonators, spherical resonators, and quartz tuning forks are used. In the field of signal processing algorithms, differential detection is an effective method for eliminating background noise interference, improving signal quality, and improving the spectral signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), and has good application value in various signal processing. Therefore, in this study, a high-sensitivity PA gas detection technique is developed by combining resonance PAS characteristics based on the differential detection principle. To demonstrate the proposed technique, a cylindrical PA cell with double resonant cavities is designed, and relevant theoretical and experimental studies are conducted for sensitive sensing gas detection. A differential-resonance PAS gas sensor system is integrated by using a near-infrared diode laser near 1391.6 nm and a double PA cell. To further improve the detection sensitivity, a wavelength modulation spectroscopy second-harmonic (WMS-2F) detection method is employed. Moreover, the Allan variance analysis algorithm is used to evaluate the system sensitivity and stability.

Results and Discussions To evaluate the gas-sensing technique, ambient water vapor (H_2O) is analyzed. The potential crosstalk effect between the double-resonance cavities is investigated using theoretical simulations (Fig. 1) and experimentally confirmed. Differential detection is applied for measuring background noise and H_2O PA spectral signals. The calculated results indicate that the standard deviations of the background noise can be improved by approximately 1.9 times (Fig. 4) by utilizing the phase-dependent characteristics of the two resonance cavities (Fig. 5), and the PA spectral signal amplitude can also be significantly enhanced (Fig. 7). Moreover, a detection limit of $\sim 3.0 \times 10^{-6}$ is obtained for ambient H_2O concentration measurements under the optimal averaging time of 115 s without using differential detection (Fig. 8). After using the differential algorithm, the system stability is further improved, the optimal stability time is increased to more than 200 s, and the corresponding detection sensitivity is improved to 2.0×10^{-6} (Fig. 8).

Conclusions This study proposes a high-sensitivity gas detection technique based on resonant PAS with differential detection principle. Allan variance analysis indicates that high-sensitivity detection of several 10^{-6} level H_2O concentrations can be achieved using a low-power near-infrared (NIR) diode laser. Compared to the traditional single-channel PA detection mode, the results prove that the proposed differential resonant PAS detection technique can effectively improve the system stability and detection sensitivity, and the optimal signal average time can be doubled.

Key words spectroscopy; photoacoustic spectroscopy; differential detection; resonant effect; gas detection