

光泵亚毫米波激光器双光场双稳特性分析*

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提 要

本文用三能级均匀加宽的双光场激光半经典方程,研究了光泵亚毫米波激光器的泵浦场和发射场的光学双稳特性.双稳行为受选择介质的弛豫速率参数的变化影响较大.泵浦光的吸收系数,发射光的增益系数和腔损耗系数的大小也直接影响到双稳能否出现.

关键词 亚毫米波, 激光器, 双稳性.

1 引 言

1975年 Haken 简明地证明了^[1]双能级均匀加宽的单模激光半经典理论方程与流体力学中的劳伦茨(Lorentz)方程等价.这促进了人们研究激光系统的动力学行为.几乎在每一种激光器中都发现有双稳性,自脉动和混沌等现象^[2].尤其是连续光泵亚毫米波激光器能表现出丰富的动力学变化状态.有关的自脉动与混沌的理论^[3,4]与实验^[5,6]研究已有相当多的结果.但对该系统的双光场双稳行为仅有 Lu 和 Harrison 等^[7]人在研究 $\gamma_{\parallel} \neq \gamma_{\perp}$ 的系统中有所注意.该问题尚需作进一步的讨论.

本文研究了变量弛豫速率全不等的光泵亚毫米波激光器的双光场双稳行为.从三能级模型出发,得到适用于该系统的七个变量的常微分方程组.并在共振泵浦和共振发射条件下,得出定态方程.由此分析定态特性曲线受弛豫速率变化的影响.本文把光泵亚毫米波激光器看成是集主动腔与被动腔于一体的激光系统.它的相干泵浦部分可看成被动腔作用部分,而其亚毫米波激光发射部分则为典型的主动腔作用部分.因此,该系统既能表现出主动腔系统的效应,也能表现出被动腔系统的典型行为.

2 三能级模型

三能级模型是研究连续光泵亚毫米波激光器特性的最简单但十分实用的一种理论模型.如图1所示,泵浦激光光场 E_p 的波长 λ_p 与发射激光光场 E_s 的波长 λ_s 满足 $\lambda_s \gg \lambda_p$, 且 $hc/\lambda_p \gg hc/\lambda_s \sim KT$. 例如 $\lambda_p \sim 10 \mu\text{m}$, $\lambda_s \sim 100-1000 \mu\text{m}$. 在沿 z 向传播的平面波行波场近似下,总的光

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场为:

$$\begin{aligned} E(z, t) &= E_p(z, t) + E_s(z, t) \\ &= \tilde{E}_p(t)e^{i(\omega_p t - k_p z)} + \tilde{E}_s(t)e^{i(\omega_s t - k_s z)} + C. C. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

式中 \tilde{E}_p , \tilde{E}_s 分别为泵浦光场和发射光场的随时间慢变化振幅包络.

描述激光系统的密度矩阵的动力学方程为^[8]:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\frac{i}{\hbar}[H, \rho] - \frac{1}{2}(\Gamma\rho + \rho\Gamma) \quad (2)$$

$$H = H_0 + V = \begin{pmatrix} \hbar\omega_1 & 0 & -\mu_{13}E \\ 0 & \hbar\omega_2 & -\mu_{23}E \\ -\mu_{13}^*E & -\mu_{23}^*E & \hbar\omega_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$\Gamma = \gamma_{ij}\delta_{ij} \quad (i, j = 1, 2, 3)$$

式中 $\mu_{13}E$ 与 $\mu_{23}E$ 分别为能级 1, 3 和 2, 3 之间由光场 $E(z, t)$ 的偶极作用产生的微扰偏离. 能级 1, 2 之间为禁戒跃迁, 有 $\mu_{12} = 0$. 由(2)式得到各矩阵元的方程分别为:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\rho}_{11} &= -(\rho_{11} - \rho_{11}^0)\gamma_{11} + \frac{i}{\hbar}[\mu_{13}\rho_{31} - \mu_{31}\rho_{13}]E(z, t) \\ \dot{\rho}_{22} &= -(\rho_{22} - \rho_{22}^0)\gamma_{22} + \frac{i}{\hbar}[\mu_{23}\rho_{32} - \mu_{32}\rho_{23}]E(z, t) \\ \dot{\rho}_{33} &= -(\rho_{33} - \rho_{33}^0)\gamma_{33} - \frac{i}{\hbar}[\mu_{13}\rho_{31} - \mu_{31}\rho_{13} + \mu_{23}\rho_{32} - \mu_{32}\rho_{23}]E(z, t) \\ \dot{\rho}_{13} &= -(\gamma_{13}^0 - i\omega_{31})\rho_{13} - \frac{i}{\hbar}[\mu_{13}(\rho_{11} - \rho_{33}) + \mu_{23}\rho_{12}]E(z, t) \\ \dot{\rho}_{23} &= -(\gamma_{23}^0 - i\omega_{32})\rho_{23} + \frac{i}{\hbar}[\mu_{23}(\rho_{33} - \rho_{22}) - \mu_{13}\rho_{12}]E(z, t) \\ \dot{\rho}_{12} &= -(\gamma_{12}^0 - i\omega_{21})\rho_{12} + \frac{i}{\hbar}[\mu_{13}\rho_{32} - \mu_{32}\rho_{13}]E(z, t) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

ρ_{11} , ρ_{22} , ρ_{33} 分别为能级 1, 2, 3 上的粒子占据几率, ρ_{11}^0 , ρ_{22}^0 , ρ_{33}^0 为无光场作用时粒子在各能级上的占据几率. ρ_{12} , ρ_{13} , ρ_{23} 分别为能级间单粒子极化变量, γ_{11}^0 , γ_{22}^0 , γ_{33}^0 , γ_{13}^0 , γ_{23}^0 , γ_{12}^0 分别为有关变量的绝对衰减速率. 对于连续光泵亚毫米波激光系统, 有 $\rho_{11}^0 \approx 1$, $\rho_{22}^0 \approx \rho_{33}^0 \approx 0$. 该系统运转时, 粒子总数保持不变, 故有

$$\rho_{11} + \rho_{22} + \rho_{33} = 1 \quad (5)$$

光场 $E(z, t)$ 满足下列麦克斯韦方程^[9]:

$$\frac{\partial^2 E(z, t)}{\partial z^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 E(z, t)}{\partial t^2} - \mu_0 \sigma \frac{\partial E(z, t)}{\partial t} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 P(z, t)}{\partial z^2} \quad (6)$$

在均匀加宽介质中, 上式的宏观极化变量可表示为^[8]:

$$P(z, t) = \frac{N}{V} [\mu_{31}\rho_{13} + \mu_{13}\rho_{31} + \mu_{32}\rho_{23} + \mu_{23}\rho_{32}] \quad (7)$$

式中 N 为粒子总数, V 为介质总体积. 注意到(1)式的光场 $E(z, t)$ 分成含两种频率因子的光场, 极化变量(7)式也可类似地分成两个频率附近作用的部分, 即

$$P(z, t) = \frac{N}{V} [\mu_{31}\tilde{\rho}_{13}e^{i(\omega_{13}t - k_3 z)} + C. C.] + \frac{N}{V} [\mu_{32}\tilde{\rho}_{23}e^{i(\omega_{32}t - k_2 z)} + C. C.] \quad (8)$$

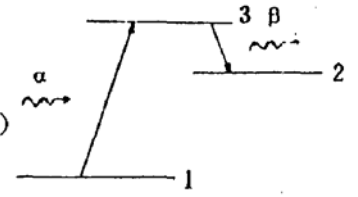


Fig. 1 The three-level model.
 α is the pumping laser and β the emitting laser

再取泵浦场与发射场的慢变包络的约化振幅分别为:

$$\alpha = \frac{\mu_{13}\tilde{E}_p}{2\hbar\gamma_{23}^0}, \quad \beta = \frac{\mu_{23}\tilde{E}_s}{2\hbar\gamma_{23}^0} \quad (9)$$

考虑到有外加输入泵浦光场,故在旋转波与慢变包络近似下,场方程(6)转变为如下两个方程:

$$\dot{\alpha} = -K_p(\alpha - \alpha_i) + g_p\tilde{\rho}_{13}, \quad \dot{\beta} = -K_s\beta + g_s\tilde{\rho}_{23}, \quad (10)$$

式中对时间求导“ d/dt ”变成“ $d/d\tau$ ”, $\tau = \gamma_{23}^0 t$, α_i 为无工作物质时腔内泵浦光场慢变包络振幅. $g_p = \omega_p N |\mu_{31}|^2 / [2V\epsilon_0\hbar(\gamma_{23}^0)^2]$, $g_s = \omega_s N |\mu_{32}|^2 / [2V\epsilon_0\hbar(\gamma_{23}^0)]$ 分别表示泵浦光场的吸收耦合系数和发射光场的增益耦合系数. $K_p = \sigma_p / (2\epsilon_0\gamma_{23}^0)$, $K_s = \sigma_s / (2\epsilon_0\gamma_{23}^0)$ 分别表示泵浦光场和发射光场因腔损耗而产生的衰减弛豫速率.

对粒子密度矩阵方程组(4)式,引入粒子占据几率之差变量:

$$d_{13} = \rho_{11} - \rho_{33}, \quad d_{32} = \rho_{33} - \rho_{22} \quad (11)$$

并利用(5),(7),(8)式,则在旋转波与慢变包络近似下,得到该系统的物质方程如下:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{d}_{13} &= -(d_{13} - 1)\gamma_{D1} + 2(\alpha\tilde{\rho}_{31} + \alpha^*\tilde{\rho}_{13}) + (\beta\tilde{\rho}_{32} + \beta^*\tilde{\rho}_{23}) \\ \dot{d}_{32} &= -d_{32}\gamma_{D2} - (\alpha\tilde{\rho}_{31} + \alpha^*\tilde{\rho}_{13}) - 2(\beta\tilde{\rho}_{32} + \beta^*\tilde{\rho}_{23}) \\ \dot{\tilde{\rho}}_{13} &= -(\gamma_{13} + i\Delta_p)\tilde{\rho}_{13} - (\alpha d_{13} + \beta\tilde{\rho}_{12}) \\ \dot{\tilde{\rho}}_{23} &= -(1 + i\Delta_s)\tilde{\rho}_{23} + (\beta d_{32} - \alpha\rho_{21}) \\ \dot{\tilde{\rho}}_{12} &= -[\gamma_{12} + i(\Delta_p - \Delta_s)]\tilde{\rho}_{12} + (\alpha\tilde{\rho}_{32} + \beta^*\tilde{\rho}_{23}) \\ \Delta_p &= (\omega_p - \omega_{31})/\gamma_{23}^0, \quad \Delta_s = (\omega_s - \omega_{32})/\gamma_{23}^0 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

式中 Δ_p , Δ_s 分别为泵浦光场和发射光场的非共振偏离量; $\gamma_{13} = \gamma_{13}^0/\gamma_{23}^0$, $\gamma_{12} = \gamma_{12}^0/\gamma_{23}^0$; 变量 d_{13} , d_{32} 的衰减弛豫速率分别为 γ_{D1} , γ_{D2} , 且表达为:

- 1) $\gamma_{11}^0 = \gamma_{22}^0 = \gamma_{33}^0 = \gamma$ 时, $\gamma_{D1} = \gamma_{D2} = \gamma/\gamma_{23}^0$
- 2) $\gamma_{11}^0, \gamma_{22}^0, \gamma_{33}^0$ 不全相等时,

$$\gamma_{D1} = \frac{2\gamma_{11}^0\gamma_{33}^0 - \gamma_{11}^0\gamma_{22}^0 - \gamma_{22}^0\gamma_{33}^0}{(\gamma_{11}^0 + \gamma_{33}^0 - 2\gamma_{22}^0)\gamma_{23}^0}, \quad \gamma_{D2} = \frac{2\gamma_{22}^0\gamma_{33}^0 - \gamma_{11}^0\gamma_{33}^0 - \gamma_{11}^0\gamma_{22}^0}{(\gamma_{22}^0 + \gamma_{33}^0 - 2\gamma_{11}^0)\gamma_{23}^0}$$

方程组(10)式与(12)式联立,就是本文研究连续光泵亚毫米波激光器动力学行为的微分方程组.

3 双光场双稳特性

由方程组(10)式与(12)式,取共振泵浦和共振发射近似条件,即取 $\Delta_p = \Delta_s = 0$. 此时,由(10)式,(12)式可见, α, β 都可取为实变量. 在定态下, $\dot{\alpha} = \dot{\beta} = \dot{\tilde{\rho}}_{13} = \dot{\tilde{\rho}}_{23} = \dot{\tilde{\rho}}_{12} = \dot{d}_{13} = \dot{d}_{32} = 0$, 从而可得到以 α 和 β 表示的各个定态变量的表达式,并将它代入方程(10)的定态形式中,得到决定 α, β 与 α_i 之间关系的定态方程:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \alpha_i &= \alpha + \frac{g_p}{K_p} \cdot \frac{\alpha \left(1 + \frac{4\beta^2}{\gamma_{D2}} + \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma_{12}} \right)}{\left(\gamma_{13} + \frac{4\alpha^2}{\gamma_{D1}} + \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma_{12}} \right) \left(1 + \frac{4\beta^2}{\gamma_{D2}} + \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma_{12}} \right) - \left(\frac{2}{\gamma_{D1}} + \frac{1}{\gamma_{12}} \right) \left(\frac{2}{\gamma_{D2}} + \frac{1}{\gamma_{12}} \right) \alpha^2 \beta^2} \\ \beta(\beta^4 + A_1\beta^2 + A_2) &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (13)$$

上式中

$$\left. \begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{\gamma_{D2}}{4} \left[1 + \frac{4\gamma_{12}\gamma_{13}}{\gamma_{D2}} + \alpha^2 \left(\frac{12\gamma_{12}}{\gamma_{D1}\gamma_{D2}} - \frac{2}{\gamma_{D1}} - \frac{2}{\gamma_{D2}} \right) \right], \\ A_2 &= \frac{\gamma_{D2}}{4} \left\{ \frac{4}{\gamma_{D1}} \alpha^4 - \alpha^2 \left[\frac{g_s}{K_s} \left(1 + \frac{2\gamma_{12}}{\gamma_{D2}} \right) - \gamma_{13} - \frac{4\gamma_{12}}{\gamma_{D1}} \right] + \gamma_{13}\gamma_{12} \right\}, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (14)$$

(13)式决定了腔内实际泵浦光场 α , 发射光场 β 与输入泵浦光场 α_1 的定态关系. 由(13)式知, 有 $\beta = 0$ 的解, 即只有泵浦激光输入, 但无亚毫米波激光发射. 当 $\beta \neq 0$ 时, 由(13)式得:

$$\beta^2 = \frac{1}{2}(-A_1 + \sqrt{A_1^2 - 4A_2}) \quad (15)$$

分析(14)式知, 实际系统中总有 $A_1 > 0$, 故 $\beta \neq 0$ 的解存在于 $A_2 < 0$ 的条件下. 该条件要求在

$$\frac{g_s}{K_s} > \frac{\gamma_{D2}(\sqrt{\gamma_{D1}\gamma_{13}} + 2\sqrt{\gamma_{12}})^2}{\gamma_{D1}(2\gamma_{12} + \gamma_{D2})} \quad (16)$$

的情况下, 存在如下的腔内泵浦光场区间:

$$\alpha_{01}^2 < \alpha^2 < \alpha_{02}^2 \quad (17)$$

$$\alpha_{01} = \frac{1}{8}(B - \sqrt{B^2 - 16\gamma_{12}\gamma_{13}\gamma_{D1}}), \quad \alpha_{02} = \frac{1}{8}(B + \sqrt{B^2 - 16\gamma_{12}\gamma_{13}\gamma_{D1}}), \quad (18)$$

$$B = \frac{g_s}{K_s} \frac{\gamma_{D1}}{\gamma_{D2}}(2\gamma_{12} + \gamma_{D1}) - (\gamma_{D1}\gamma_{13} + 4\gamma_{23}\gamma_{12}), \quad (19)$$

在此区间中, 对应有亚毫米波激光输出. 该结果说明, 在共振泵浦与共振发射条件下, 亚毫米波激光随着泵浦增强而产生, 第一阈值为 α_{01} , 然后同时增强; 但又随着泵浦的强烈增大而减小, 直至在 α_{02} 处消失. 这是由于相干泵浦的拉比效应使共振点上的增益重新降低^[8].

在以上亚毫米波激光存在的区间, 定态输出曲线能随着参数选择的不同, 发生十分有趣的变化. 图 2 为当 $\gamma_{D1} = \gamma_{D2} = \gamma_{13} = \gamma_{12} = 1$ 时, $\alpha_1 \sim \alpha$, $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 的定态关系曲线. $\alpha_1 \sim \alpha$ 出现了双稳效应, 使 $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 的一部分定态实际上不存在(虚线部分). 这时, 若增大 γ_{12} , 取 $\gamma_{12} = 10$, 其他条件不变, 如图 3 所示, $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 之间出现了明显的双稳回线. 若在这时同时增大 γ_{13} , 可使双稳回线区域变小, 直至无双稳区.

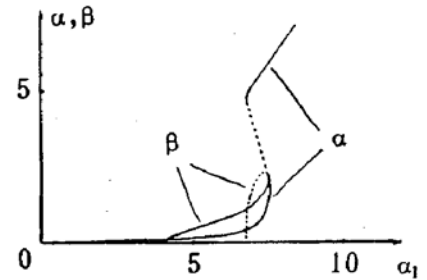


Fig. 2 The steady state curves of $\alpha \sim \alpha_1$ and $\beta \sim \alpha_1$ for $\gamma_{12} = \gamma_{13} = \gamma_{D1} = \gamma_{D2} = 1$ and $g_s/K_s = 30$, $g_r/K_s = 40$

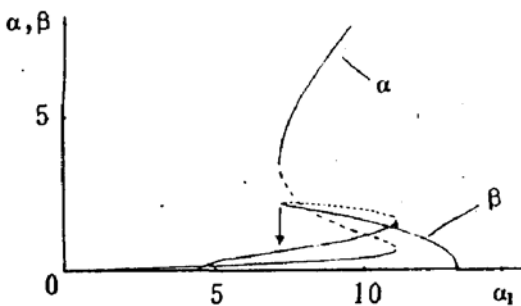


Fig. 3 The steady state curves of $\alpha \sim \alpha_1$ and $\beta \sim \alpha_1$ for the same parameters in Fig. 2 except for $\gamma_{12} = 10$

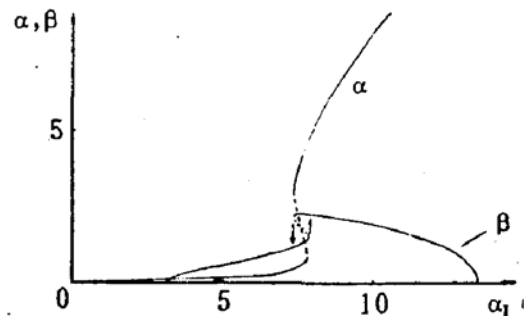


Fig. 4 The steady state curves of $\alpha \sim \alpha_1$ and $\beta \sim \alpha_1$ for the same parameters in Fig. 2 except for $\gamma_{D2} = 0.1$

另一方面,单独减小 γ_{D2} 也同样可使 $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 出现双稳效应,如图 4 所示.但是单独减小 γ_{D1} 只能形成与图 2 类似的曲线.所以, $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 的双稳效应可选择 γ_{12} 大或 γ_{D2} 小的工作物质来达到,而双稳回线的大小可由 γ_{13} 来改变.

分析定态方程(13)可知, β 通过 α 与 α_1 发生联系. $\alpha_1 \sim \alpha$ 出现双稳效应是 $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 出现双稳回线的前提.而 $\alpha_1 \sim \alpha$ 双稳的出现对参数 g_s/K_s , g_r/K_r 也有一定的要求.图 5 为 $g_s/K_s \sim g_r/K_r$ 平面上 $\alpha_1 \sim \alpha$ 出现双稳回线的临界曲线.曲线右边为能出现双稳回线的参数区域.由图 5 知,增大 γ_{12} ,或减小 γ_{D1} , γ_{D2} ,对 $\alpha_1 \sim \alpha$ 出现双稳都有好处.

在具体的实验设计中,以上这些参数的改变可以通过调换工作物质和添加缓冲气体来达到.为进一步说明 γ_{13} 的作用,可以取 $\beta \ll \alpha$ 的情况,则由(13)式得

$$\alpha_1 = \alpha + \frac{g_r}{K_r} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{\gamma_{13} + (4\alpha^2/\gamma_{D1})} \quad (20)$$

如令 $\alpha_1 = 2\alpha/(\gamma_{D1}\gamma_{13})^{1/2}$, $\alpha = 2\alpha/(\gamma_{D1}\gamma_{13})^{1/2}$, $2C' = g_r/(\gamma_{13}K_r)$ 则(20)式变成著名的两能级被动腔双稳公式^[10].该式出现双稳的条件要求双稳合作参数 $C' > 4$,所以增大 γ_{13} 可使双稳回线范围缩小,甚至消失.

4 结 论

本文对光泵亚毫米波激光器中的泵浦光场和发射光场的双稳行为进行了理论研究.双稳出现与否,强烈地依赖于各变量弛豫速率参数的选择. $\alpha_1 \sim \beta$ 的双稳跳变行为可选择 γ_{12} 大或 γ_{D2} 小的工作物质来达到.泵浦光的吸收系数,发射光的增益系数和腔损耗系数也直接影响到双稳回线能否出现.这种转换波长的双稳性行为在光通讯与光计算等光控制光的应用中具有潜在的实用价值.

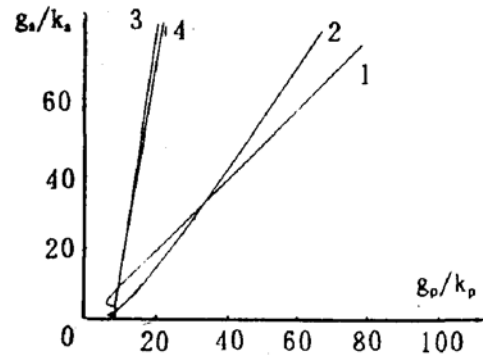


Fig. 5 The values of g_s/K_s and g_r/K_r on the critical bistability for

- (1) $\gamma_{12} = \gamma_{13} = \gamma_{D1} = \gamma_{D2} = 1$,
- (2) $\gamma_{D2} = 0.2, \gamma_{12} = \gamma_{13} = \gamma_{D1} = 1$,
- (3) $\gamma_{12} = 5, \gamma_{13} = \gamma_{D1} = \gamma_{D2} = 1$,
- (4) $\gamma_{D1} = \gamma_{D2} = 0.2, \gamma_{12} = \gamma_{13} = 1$

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Analysis of two-field bistabilities in optically pumped sub-millimeter laser*

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Abstract

The bistabilities of the pumping laser and the emitting laser in an optically pumped sub-millimeter laser are studied by using a three-level homogeneously broadened two-field semiclassical model. The bistable behaviour varies drastically with the damping rates of the variables of the media. The emergence of bistability is governed by properly choosing the absorptive and gain coefficients of the media and the cavity damping coefficients.

Key words sub-millimeter wave, laser, bistability.

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