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色散缓变光纤中飞秒光脉冲的调制不稳定性研究*

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摘要: 研究了色散缓变光纤中飞秒光脉冲的调制不稳定性, 发现当色散缓变光纤的色散参量满足一定关系式时, 增益谱的谱宽最宽, 获得了增益谱的表达式; 三阶色散对调制不稳定性不起作用, 自变陡效应使增益谱的谱宽变窄, 振幅的增长速度减慢, 拉曼效应改变了调制不稳定性产生区域。

关键词: 脉冲产生; 调制不稳定性; 色散缓变光纤; 飞秒光脉冲

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1 引 言

由于光纤色散和非线性的相互作用, 导致了连续微扰光波振幅的指数增长, 这种现象被称为调制不稳定性^[1]。理论和实验均已证实, 利用光纤的调制不稳定性效应可以产生重复率可调的皮秒至飞秒脉冲串^[2], 因此, 近年来调制不稳定性的研究引起了许多人的关注^[3-9], 最近的研究表明, 色散缓变光纤较常规光纤具有较宽的增益带宽, 是产生调制不稳定性效应较好的色散介质^[3]。然而文献[3]只考虑皮秒量级情形, 且没有考虑光纤损耗的影响。本文在文献[3]的基础上研究了色散缓变光纤中飞秒脉冲的调制不稳定性。我们详细分析了当脉冲的初始宽度较窄时, 高阶色散、高阶非线性效应对调制不稳定性的影响。研究表明, 当抽运功率、传输距离及光纤损耗一定时, 色散缓变参数存在某一最佳值, 在此值下增益谱的谱宽最宽; 三阶色散对调制不稳定性不起作用; 自变陡项使增益谱的谱宽变窄, 振幅的增长速度减慢, 影响程度随着色散缓变参量、传输距离及抽运功率的增大而增大; 而拉曼效应的作用则改变了调制不稳定性产生的区域。

2 数学模型及理论计算

当微扰信号的脉宽较窄, 考虑高阶色散和高阶

非线性对调制不稳定性的影响时, 光波在光纤中传输所满足的广义非线性薛定谔方程为^[1]

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial z} + \beta_1 \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} + \frac{i}{2} \beta_2 \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\alpha}{2} A = i\gamma |A|^2 A + \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \frac{\partial^3 A}{\partial t^3} - a_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (|A|^2 A) - ia_2 A \frac{\partial |A|^2}{\partial t}, \quad (1)$$

其中, z 为传输距离, t 为时间, β_1 为光波群速度的倒数 $1/v_g$, β_2, β_3 分别为二、三阶色散系数, γ 为非线性系数, ω_0 为中心频率, A 为慢变包络振幅, α 为光纤的损耗系数, $a_1 = \gamma/\omega_0$, $a_2 = \gamma T_R$ (与拉曼增益的斜率有关), 对(1)式作下列变换:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} T &= t - \beta_1 z, \\ \zeta &= \frac{1}{\alpha} [1 - \exp(-\alpha z)], \\ q &= \exp\left(\frac{\alpha}{2} z\right) A, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

可得到如下的归一化方程:

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial \zeta} + \frac{i}{2} \beta_2 \exp(\alpha z) \frac{\partial^2 q}{\partial T^2} = i\gamma |q|^2 q + \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \frac{\partial^3 q}{\partial T^3} \exp(\alpha z) - a_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial T} (|q|^2 q) - a_2 i q \frac{\partial |q|^2}{\partial T}. \quad (3)$$

式中 ζ 为归一化距离, T 为群延迟时间, q 为归一化振幅。不难验证, 该方程的稳定解为

$$\bar{q} = \sqrt{p_0} \exp(i\gamma p_0 \zeta), \quad (4)$$

其中, p_0 为初始光强。为了研究解的稳定性, 给其施加一小的微扰 $a(\zeta, T)$ 则有

$$q = (\sqrt{p_0} + a) \exp(i\gamma p_0 \zeta), \quad (5)$$

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式中, $|a| \ll \sqrt{p_0}$ 将(5)式代入(3)式并线性化 a 得

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial a}{\partial \zeta} + \frac{i}{2} \beta_2 \exp(\alpha z) \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial T^2} = \\ i\gamma p_0 (a + a^*) + \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \frac{\partial^3 a}{\partial T^3} \exp(\alpha z) - \\ a_1 p_0 \left(2 \frac{\partial a}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial a^*}{\partial T} \right) - i a_2 p_0 \left(\frac{\partial a}{\partial T} + \frac{\partial a^*}{\partial T} \right), \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

式中 a^* 为 a 的共轭复数。设 a 的解为

$$a(\zeta, T) = U(\zeta, T) + iV(\zeta, T), \quad (7)$$

将(7)式代入(6)式并将实、虚部分开得 U 、 V 的耦合方程为

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \zeta} - \frac{\beta_2}{2} \exp(\alpha z) \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial T^2} = \\ \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \frac{\partial^3 U}{\partial T^3} - 3a_1 p_0 \frac{\partial U}{\partial T}, \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \zeta} + \frac{1}{2} \beta_2 \exp(\alpha z) \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial T^2} = \\ 2\gamma p_0 U + \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \frac{\partial^3 V}{\partial T^3} - \\ a_1 p_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial T} - 2a_2 p_0 \frac{\partial U}{\partial T}. \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

设

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta &= \operatorname{sgn}(\beta_2) \Omega_c^2, \\ \sigma &= \frac{4a_1^2 p_0^2}{\beta_2^2 \exp(2\alpha z)}, \\ \varepsilon &= \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\beta_2) 4a_2 p_0 \Omega i}{|\beta_2| \exp(\alpha z)}, \end{aligned}$$

又设解 U 、 V 的形式为

$$\begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_0 \\ V_0 \end{pmatrix} \exp[i(Kz - \Omega T)], \quad (10)$$

其中 K 为微扰波的波数, Ω 为其频率。将(10)式代入(8)(9)两式得

$$\begin{aligned} \left[iK - \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^3 - 3a_1 p_0 \Omega i \right] U_0 + \\ \frac{1}{2} \beta_2 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^2 V_0 = 0, \quad (11) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[-\frac{1}{2} \beta_2 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^2 - 2\gamma p_0 - 2a_2 p_0 \Omega i \right] U_0 + \\ \left[iK - \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^3 i - i a_1 p_0 \Omega \right] V_0 = 0. \quad (12) \end{aligned}$$

由(11)式和(12)式可求得 K 与 Ω 满足的色散关系为

$$\begin{aligned} K = A \pm \frac{1}{2} \Omega |\beta_2| \times \\ \exp(\alpha z) (\Omega^2 + \zeta + \sigma + \varepsilon)^{1/2}, \quad (13) \end{aligned}$$

其中, $A = \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^3 + 2a_1 p_0 \Omega$,

$$S = \operatorname{sgn}(\beta_2) \Omega_c^2 = \operatorname{sgn}(\beta_2) \frac{4\gamma p_0}{|\beta_2| \exp(\alpha z)}.$$

从(13)式可以看出, 调制不稳定性只能发生在负色散区即 $\operatorname{sgn}(\beta_2) = -1$ 。

为了进一步研究光纤的调制不稳定性, 通常引入增益谱 $g(\Omega)$ 其定义为

$$g(\Omega) = 2\operatorname{Im}(K).$$

由(13)式得增益谱的表达式为

$$\begin{aligned} g(\Omega) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \times \\ \{B + [B^2 + 16\beta_2^2 \exp(2\alpha z) \Omega^6 a_2^2 p_0^2]^{1/2}\}^{1/2} \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

其中,

$$B = \Omega^2 \beta_2^2 \exp(2\alpha z) (\Omega_c^2 - \Omega^2 - \sigma).$$

由(14)式可以看出, 抽运功率、色散参量、光纤损耗和高阶非线性效应(自变陡和拉曼自散射)都对调制不稳定效应产生影响, 而三阶色散对调制不稳定性不起作用, 这与以前研究的结果一致^[1,3]。

3 分析讨论

3.1 $a_2 = 0$ 时调制不稳定性

此时不考虑拉曼自频移的影响, 由(13)式、(14)式得色散关系式及增益谱的表达式为

$$\begin{aligned} K = (1/6) \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^3 + 2a_1 p_0 \Omega \pm \\ \frac{1}{2} \Omega |\beta_2| \exp(\alpha z) (\Omega^2 - \Omega_c^2 + \sigma)^{1/2} \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

$$g(\Omega) = \Omega |\beta_2| \exp(\alpha z) (\Omega_c^2 - \Omega^2 - \sigma)^{1/2} \quad (16)$$

对于常规光纤而言, 光纤色散为常数, 即 $\beta_2(z) = \beta_2(0)$, 忽略光纤损耗、自变陡效应的影响时($\alpha = 0$, $a_1 = 0$) (15)式、(16)式变为

$$K = \pm \frac{1}{2} \Omega |\beta_2| (\Omega^2 - \Omega_c^2)^{1/2}, \quad (17)$$

$$g(\Omega) = \Omega |\beta_2| (\Omega_c^2 - \Omega^2)^{1/2}, \quad (18)$$

其中 $\Omega_c^2 = 4\gamma p_0 / |\beta_2|$ 。结果与文献[1]一致。

对于色散缓变光纤, 设光纤色散纵向变化是指指数衰减的, 即

$$\beta_2(z) = \beta_2(0) \exp(-\mu z),$$

μ 为变化参量。若忽略自变陡的影响($a_1 = 0$) (15)式、(16)式变为

$$\begin{aligned} K = \pm \frac{1}{2} \Omega |\beta_2(0)| \exp(\alpha z) \times \\ \exp(-\mu z) (\Omega^2 - \Omega_c^2)^{1/2}, \quad (19) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\Omega) = \Omega |\beta_2(0)| \exp(\alpha z) \times \\ \exp(-\mu z) (\Omega_c^2 - \Omega^2)^{1/2} \quad (20) \end{aligned}$$

其中,

$$\Omega_c^2 = \frac{4\gamma p_0 \exp(\mu z)}{|\beta_2(0)| \exp(\alpha z)}$$

当 Ω 满足 $|\Omega| < \Omega_c$ 时, 调制不稳定性存在。而且该种光纤中的调制不稳定区域较常规光纤的宽, 所得结果与文献 [3] 一致。

当考虑自变陡效应时, 由(15)式、(16)式得到色散关系和增益谱为

$$K = \frac{1}{6} \beta_3 \exp(\alpha z) \Omega^3 + 2a_1 p_0 \Omega \pm \frac{1}{2} \Omega |\beta_2(0)| \exp(-\mu z) \exp(\alpha z) \times \left[\Omega^2 - \Omega_c^2 + \frac{4a_1^2 p_0^2}{\beta_2^2(0) \exp(-2\mu z) \exp(2\alpha z)} \right]^{1/2}, \quad (21)$$

$$g(\Omega) = \Omega |\beta_2(0)| \exp(-\mu z) \exp(\alpha z) \times \left[\Omega_c^2 - \Omega^2 - \frac{4a_1^2 p_0^2}{\beta_2^2(0) \exp(-2\mu z) \exp(2\alpha z)} \right]^{1/2}. \quad (22)$$

从(22)式可知, 当

$$\Omega_{\max} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\Omega_c^2 - \frac{4a_1^2 p_0^2}{\beta_2^2(0) \exp(-2\mu z) \exp(2\alpha z)} \right]^{1/2} \quad (23)$$

时, 增益谱存在最大值

$$g_{\max}(\Omega) = \frac{1}{2} |\beta_2(0)| \exp(-\mu z) \exp(\alpha z) \times \left[\Omega_c^2 - \frac{4a_1^2 p_0^2}{\beta_2^2(0) \exp(-2\mu z) \exp(2\alpha z)} \right]^{1/2}, \quad (24)$$

其中,

$$\Omega_c^2 = \frac{4\gamma p_0 \exp(\mu z)}{|\beta_2(0)| \exp(\alpha z)}$$

(22)式和(24)式清楚地表明自变陡效应不仅使增益谱的谱宽变窄, 而且使增益幅度下降; 且影响程度随着色散缓变参量、传输距离、抽运功率的增大而增大, 随着光纤损耗的增大而减小。为了更清楚地研究自变陡效应对调制不稳定性的影响, 由(22)式求得增益谱的谱宽为

$$\Omega_{\text{BW}} = 2 \left[\frac{4\gamma p_0 \exp(\mu z)}{|\beta_2(0)| \exp(\alpha z)} - \frac{\sigma}{\exp(-2\mu z)} \right]^{1/2}. \quad (25)$$

由(25)式可知色散缓变光纤的色散参量满足下述关系式时:

$$|\beta_2(0)| \exp[(\alpha - \mu)z] = \frac{2a_1^2 P_0}{\gamma}, \quad (26)$$

Ω_{BW} 存在最大值。最大值为

$$\Omega_{\text{BWmax}} = \frac{2\gamma}{a_1} = 2\omega_0. \quad (27)$$

图1绘制了 $a_2 = 0$ 时调制不稳定性的增益谱曲线。图中显示, 当抽运功率、传输距离及光纤损耗一定时, 增益谱的谱宽开始时随着色散缓变参量的增加而增大, 但达到某一最佳值后, 若再继续增加色散缓变参量, 增益谱的谱宽反而变窄, 即色散缓变参数存在一最佳值, 在此值下增益谱的谱宽最宽。对于 $\alpha = 0.2$ dB/km, $z = 10$ km 的色散缓变光纤, μ 的最佳值近似为 0.399 dB/km。

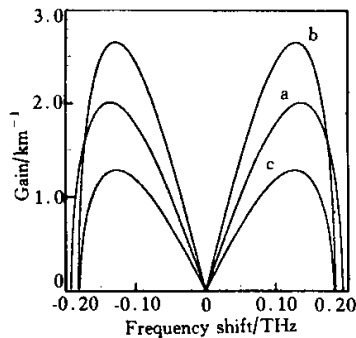


Fig. 1 Gain spectra of modulational instability in fibers with slowly decreasing dispersion when the effect of self-steepening is considered. The parameters are: $|\beta_2(0)| = 20$ ps² km⁻¹, $\gamma = 2.0$ W⁻¹ km⁻¹, $p_0 = 1$ W, $z = 10$ km, $a = 0.2$ dB/km, $a_1 = 1.65$, $a_2 = 0.0$. Curve a: $\mu = 0.399$ dB/km, curve b: $\mu = 0.360$ dB/km, curve c: $\mu = 0.430$ dB/km

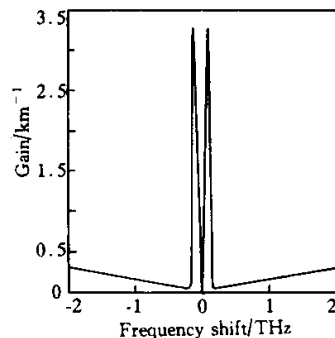


Fig. 2 Gain spectra of modulational instability in fibers with slowly decreasing dispersion when the effect of nonlinear retardation phenomenon is considered. the parameter is the same as in Fig. 1 except $a_2 = 0.012$

3.2 $a_2 \neq 0$ 时调制不稳定性

$a_2 \neq 0$, 即考虑拉曼自频移对调制不稳定性的影响时, 色散关系式及增益谱表达式分别为(13)式、(14)式, 若选取中心波长为 $1.55 \mu\text{m}$, 初始光强 $p_0 = 1$ W, $\beta_2(0) \approx 20$ ps²/km, $\gamma = 2.0$ W⁻¹ km⁻¹, 由

$a_1 = \gamma/\omega_0$ 得 $a_1 \approx 1.65$ 。取 $T_R = 6.0 \text{ fs}^{[10]}$ ，由 $a_2 = \gamma T_R$ 得 $a_2 \approx 0.012$ 。图 2 给出了光纤损耗 α 为 0.2 dB/km ，色散缓变参量 $\mu = 0.3 \text{ dB/km}$ 的色散缓变光纤中的调制增益谱的曲线(传输距离 $z = 10 \text{ km}$)。从图中可以看出，当调制频率较小时，由于 a_2 的值比较小，因而色散项、非线性和自变陡项对增益谱起主要作用，故在小的频率范围内调制增益谱的曲线出现了两个峰值。从(14)式可知，当调制频率较大时，增益谱 $g(\Omega)$ 几乎随着 Ω^3 的变化而变化，故随着调制频率的增加，拉曼自频移项即对增益谱起主要作用，峰值不再出现，可见拉曼效应完全改变了调制不稳定性产生区域。

结论 本文从表述飞秒光脉冲在色散缓变光纤中传输所满足的广义非线性薛定谔方程出发，研究了高阶色散及高阶非线性对飞秒光脉冲在色散缓变光纤中调制不稳定性的影响。发现当抽运功率、传输距离及光纤损耗一定时，色散缓变参数存在某一最佳值，在此值下增益谱的谱宽最宽；三阶色散对调制不稳定性不起作用；当调制频率较小时，自变陡效应对增益谱起主要作用，它使增益谱的谱宽变窄，振幅的增长速度减慢，而当调制频率较大时，拉曼效应改变了调制不稳定性产生的区域。

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Modulation Instability of Femtosecond Optical Pulses in Decreasing Dispersion Fibers

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Abstract: Modulation instability of femtosecond optical pulses in decreasing dispersion fibers is investigated. The expression of gain spectrum is obtained. It is found that the broadest spectral width of the gain spectrum can be obtained when the dispersion parameter of the decreasing dispersion fibers fits to a certain equation, and the third order dispersion does not contribute to modulation instability, the range of gain spectrum is narrowed and the growth rate of amplitude is slowed down by self-steepening, and the Raman effect alters the range of modulation instability.

Key words: pulses generation; modulation instability; decreasing dispersion fiber; femtosecond optical pulse