

基于全保偏光纤利用脉冲同步技术差频产生中红外皮秒激光

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摘要 搭建了主-从结构的全光被动同步激光器, 将主激光器输出脉冲功率放大后注入从激光器, 利用注入脉冲在从激光器中的交叉相位调制效应, 实现了 1029.9 nm 泵浦光与 1585.5 nm 信号光的脉冲同步。采用声光调制器进行选频并配合级联光纤放大, 提高了泵浦光脉冲的峰值功率, 并通过优化光纤链路长度有效控制了泵浦光光谱展宽。该双色同步脉冲在 PPLN 晶体中进行非线性差频处理, 当重复频率为 100 kHz 时, 获得了 3 dB 光谱带宽为 0.77 nm、中心波长为 2940 nm 的线偏振皮秒脉冲, 最大单脉冲能量为 1.8 μ J, 泵浦光转化效率为 49.6%。

关键词 同步激光器; 全保偏; 差频产生; 中红外激光

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Difference-Frequency Generation of Mid-Infrared Picosecond Laser by Pulse Synchronization Technology Based on All Polarization-Maintaining Fibers

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Abstract An all-optical passive synchronous laser with master-slave configuration is built, the output power of the master laser pulse is amplified and injected into the slave laser, and the pulse synchronization between 1029.9 nm pump light and 1585.5 nm signal light is realized by using the cross-phase modulation effect of the injected pulse in the slave laser. An acousto-optic modulator used for frequency selection together with a cascade fiber amplifier enhances the peak power of pump pulse. In addition, the optimization of fiber link length effectively controls the spectral width broadening effect of pump pulse. The two-color synchronized pulse is processed via nonlinear difference frequency in PPLN crystal. When the repetition rate is set as 100 kHz, a linearly polarized picosecond pulse is achieved with 3-dB spectral width of 0.77 nm, central wavelength of 2940 nm, the maximum single pulse energy of 1.8 μ J, and pump light conversion efficiency of 49.6%.

Key words synchronization laser; all-polarization-maintaining; difference-frequency generation; mid-infrared laser

OCIS codes 140.4050; 140.7090; 060.2320; 060.2390

2~5 μ m 波段的中红外激光在光谱学、医学、国防等领域有着广泛的应用,如水在 2940 nm 波段具

有强烈的共振吸收峰^[1],该波长纳秒脉冲的热致损伤区可控^[2],在打鼾治疗^[3]、黄褐斑治疗^[4]、文物保

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护^[5]等方面有广泛的应用。具有百千赫兹重复频率、微焦量级脉冲能量的中红外皮秒脉冲在有机材料激光烧蚀和沉积方面有重要应用^[6]。中红外激光的产生主要有以下几种方式:中红外量子级联激光器^[7]在3~25 μm 范围内可以产生较宽的中红外光谱,但其转换效率低、输出功率小、光束质量差,且无法产生超短脉冲;利用基于 Er:YAG 工作介质的固体激光器^[8]和光学参量变换技术,可得到具有微焦甚至毫焦单脉冲能量的中红外纳秒脉冲,但基于全固态激光器和光参量振荡器的结构较为复杂,稳定性和可靠性有待提升。本文提出并验证了基于全保偏光纤结构的全光被动同步方案。与主动同步方案^[9-10]相比,所提方案无需复杂的电路驱动和控制,且同步精度高;与已有报道的被动同步方案^[11-12]相比,所提方案抗环境干扰能力强,同步系统的稳定性和可靠性较高。最后,通过优化信号光与泵浦光的参数,在周期性极化铌酸锂(PPLN)晶体中差频产生了微焦量级中红外超短脉冲。

主激光器、从激光器、激光放大器与声光调制器、光学参量变换实验装置如图 1(a)~(d)所示,其中 WDM 为波分复用器;50:50 OC、5:95 OC 分别为分束比为 50:50 和 5:95 的光纤分束器;LD 为激光二极管,中心波长为 975 nm,最大输出功率为 400 mW;FBG 为布拉格光纤光栅;PS 为 $\pi/2$ 相位延迟器;YSF 为掺镱光纤;YDFA1、YDFA2、YDFA3 为掺镱光纤放大器;Er80 为掺铒光纤;EDFA1、EDFA2 为掺铒光纤放大器;Col 为准直器;TAP1 为从激光器 5:95 OC 输出端,TAP2 为主激光器 5:95 OC 输出端;AOM 为声光调制器;DC-135/14 为 DC-135/14-PM-Yb 光纤;HR 为 1030 nm 高反射镜;DM 为 1030/1550 nm 二向色镜;L1 为消色差透镜,焦距为 100 mm;L2 为 CaF₂ 透镜,焦距为 75 mm;LP 为透过波长在 2.4 μm 以上的长通滤波器;PPLN 晶体的周期为 30.49 μm,实测的最佳相位匹配温度为 36 °C,体积为 20 mm×5 mm×1 mm。

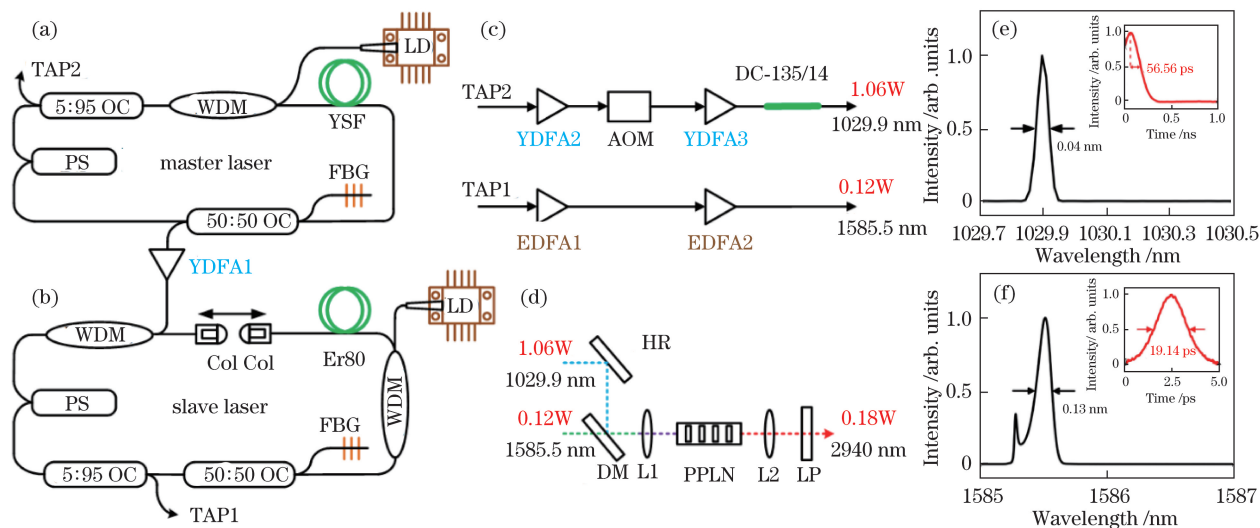


图 1 实验装置及主-从激光器光谱和脉宽。(a)主激光器;(b)从激光器;(c)激光放大器与声光调制器;(d)光学参量变换装置;(e)主激光器和(f)从激光器的光谱与脉宽

Fig. 1 Experimental setup, and spectra and pulse widths of master and slave lasers. (a) Master laser; (b) slave laser; (c) laser amplifier and acousto-optic modulator; (d) optical parametric transformation device; spectra and pulse widths of (e) master laser and (f) slave laser

主-从激光器均基于非线性放大环形镜锁模原理^[13]实现锁模,重复频率为 20 MHz,如图 1(a)、(b)所示。其中,主激光器的工作波长为 1029.9 nm,从激光器的工作波长为 1585.5 nm。主激光器脉冲经 YDFA1 功率放大后由 1030/1550 nm WDM 耦合进入从激光器,通过改变从激光器腔内准直器的空间距离,实现主-从激光器的重复频率粗匹配。当腔长失配距离小于 0.2 mm 时,注入脉冲在从激光

器的光纤上提供了周期性的非线性折射率调制(该调制周期与脉冲重复频率的周期一致)。由于从激光器是基于非线性放大环形镜的锁模原理实现锁模,逆向传播脉冲的相位差也受到等周期的调制,从而实现从脉冲激光器的同步锁模^[14-15]。主激光器腔内光纤光栅(FBG)的带宽选择为 0.05 nm,输出脉冲宽度为 113.12 ps,3 dB 光谱宽度为 0.04 nm,如图 1(e)所示。为了实现 1029.9 nm 脉冲对 1585.5 nm

脉冲的时域覆盖,从激光器的 FBG 带宽选择为 0.3 nm,所获得的脉冲宽度为 19.14 ps,3 dB 光谱宽度为 0.13 nm,如图 1(f)所示。

如图 1(c)所示,主激光器的输出脉冲经过 YDFA2、AOM、YDFA3、光子晶体光纤(DC-135/14-PM-Yb)放大器,实现了重复频率为 100 kHz、单

脉冲能量为 10.6 μJ 的脉冲输出。通过优化光纤链路中的有源光纤和无源光纤长度,获得的 1029.9 nm (泵浦光)光谱宽度为 1.13 nm,如图 2(a)中的左曲线所示。从激光器的输出脉冲通过两级 EDFA 放大,获得的 1585.5 nm(信号光)平均功率为 120 mW,光谱宽度为 0.55 nm,如图 2(a)中的右曲线所示。

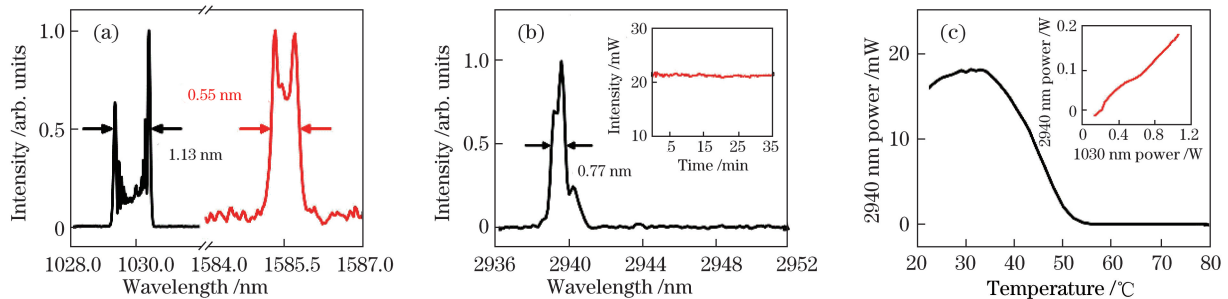


图 2 实验结果。(a) 1029.9 nm 与 1585.5 nm 光谱;(b)中红外光谱与稳定性;

(c)中红外(2940 nm)激光功率与晶体温度和(插图)泵浦功率的关系

Fig. 2 Experimental results. (a) 1029.9 nm and 1585.5 nm spectra; (b) mid-infrared spectra and stability;

(c) mid-infrared (2940 nm) laser power versus crystal temperature and (inset) incident pumping power

图 1(d)为光学参量变换装置。由 HR 和 DM 实现泵浦光和信号光的合束,再由 L1 使泵浦光和信号光在 PPLN 晶体中实现空间模式匹配,产生的中红外脉冲经 L2 准直后,使用 LP 滤除剩余的 1029.9 nm 和 1585.5 nm 激光。实验中,当泵浦光功率为 1.06 W、信号光功率为 120 mW 时,差频光(2940 nm)功率可达到 184.3 mW,泵浦光的量子转化效率为 49.6%;根据文献[16]可知,中红外脉冲宽度为 20~100 ps;光谱宽度为 0.77 nm,如图 2(b)所示,其中插图显示了中红外激光的稳定性,功率抖动的标准偏差为 0.79%。图 2(c)曲线为中红外功率-晶体温度关系曲线,当晶体温度达到 36 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 时,转化效率最高。插图为中红外功率随泵浦光功率的变化趋势,中红外脉冲与泵浦光功率呈线性变化关系。

综上,本实验实现了 1585.5 nm 与 1029.9 nm 脉冲的全保偏光纤全光被动同步,利用光学差频产生了中心波长为 2940 nm、3 dB 光谱宽度为 0.77 nm、单脉冲能量为 1.8 μJ 的中红外线偏振皮秒脉冲。

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