

高Q值、超窄带宽反向耦合型相移光栅

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摘要 相移光栅是光子集成电路的基本元件之一, 被广泛应用于多种领域中。与传统的反射型相移光栅相比, 反向耦合型相移光栅无需光环形器, 易实现大规模集成。提出了一种高Q值、超窄带宽的反向耦合型相移光栅。利用光栅的Moire效应, 通过将不同周期的波导光栅组合在一起, 实现了Q值为12893、3 dB凹陷带宽为0.12 nm的反向耦合型相移光栅。该相移光栅具有尺寸小、Q值高和凹陷带宽窄等优势, 能被广泛应用于生物传感、激光器和波长滤波等领域中。

关键词 光栅; 相移光栅; 光子集成电路; Moire效应; 反向耦合型相移光栅; 硅光子学

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1 引言

相移光栅(PSG)常用于生物传感^[1]、窄带滤波^[2]、激光^[3,4]、超高速光信号处理^[5-8]和光计算^[9]等领域中, 近年来也受到了广泛的关注。与微环谐振器等具有自由光谱范围(FSR)的器件相比, PSG具有更大的工作波长范围, 能够满足大带宽输入信号窄带滤波的需求。此外, 较大的尺寸也带来了更大的样品接触面积, 能有效提高传感灵敏度。在上述应用中, Q值的大小往往是器件性能评估的重要指标, 如: 在窄带滤波中, Q值越大, 说明滤波器波长选择性能越好, 滤出的信号频率越纯净; 在片上生物医学传感器中, Q值越大, 传感器的探测极限越低。因此, 研究高Q值PSG具有很大的实际应用价值。PSG通过在均匀光栅中心移动1/4的共振波长(光栅周期的一半), 产生Fabry-Pérot(F-P)谐振腔, 进而实现π相移。π相移光栅(π-PSG)可以根据其端口的个数分为反射型PSG和反向耦合型PSG(CDC-PSG)两种类型。Luan等^[10]提出了一种由多盒硅段组成的相移布拉格光栅方案, 通过优化每个硅块的长度, 该方案可实现的Q值为10500, 凹陷带宽为0.15 nm。为了实现更大的FSR, 提升阻带带宽, Prabhathan等^[11]通过在绝缘体上硅(SOI)设计相移垂直侧壁光栅, 在1500~1600 nm阻带内实现了Q值为13265、凹陷带宽为0.11 nm的π-PSG。为了增强光与包层的相互作用, Čtyroký等^[12]采用亚波长光栅(SWG)结构实现了Q值为17500、凹陷带宽为

0.09 nm的π-PSG。为了提升PSG的Q值, Wang等^[13]在狭缝波导上将Q值提高到76000, 此时凹陷带宽仅为0.02 nm。由于该方案在Q值上具有巨大优势, 故该团队将其应用于光学传感器中, 并取得了良好的性能。为了提高PSG的灵活性, Falconi等^[14]提出了一种可调谐的硅基PSG方案, 通过对相移区进行热调, 可实现光栅反射中心波长的平移, 该方案的Q值为50000, 凹陷带宽为0.03 nm。虽然上述π-PSG方案具有工艺简单、Q值高、带宽窄和灵活可调等优势, 但是均为反射型方案, 即光栅反射信号会经由原输入端口输出, 在实际应用中需添加光环形器等磁光器件将反射信号与输入信号分离。增加磁光器件会增加系统的复杂度, 并且磁光材料难以与硅基器件大规模集成, 故π-PSG的应用场景也会被限制。因此, 研究反向耦合型π-PSG具有极大的实际意义。Charron等^[15]将单个PSG与SWG相结合, 实现了Q值为1800、凹陷带宽为0.86 nm、消光比(ER)为17 dB、旁瓣抑制比为7 dB的CDC-PSG方案, 但该方案Q值仍然较低。为了提高CDC-PSG的灵活性和Q值, Shi等^[16]提出了一种电调谐的CDC-PSG。该方案由两个不同宽度的波导构成, 形成定向耦合器结构, 并利用外加电信号在耦合区中形成周期性的介电扰动。该方案实现的CDC-PSG的Q值为7000, 凹陷带宽为0.22 nm, ER为24 dB, 旁瓣抑制比为2 dB, 波长调谐范围为0.8 nm, 调谐系数为0.73 nm/mA。虽然该方案的ER较大且谐振波长灵活可调, 但是同样存在Q值较低的问题。综上所述,

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大多数反向耦合型 π -PSG的Q值较低,难以满足传感、信号处理系统的需求。因此,亟需研究一种具备高Q值的CDC-PSG。

为了解决上述问题,提出了一种基于Moire光栅的CDC-PSG方案。该方案采用SOI材料,利用光学中的Moire效应^[1]将两个周期具有微小差异的波导光栅组合在一起,从而实现 π 相移。本方案通过合理地设计结构参数,最终可获得Q值为12893、凹陷带宽为0.12 nm的 π 相移谱线。该CDC-PSG方案具有尺寸小、Q值高、凹陷带宽窄和旁瓣抑制比高等优势,能被广泛应用于生物传感、激光器和波长滤波等领域中。

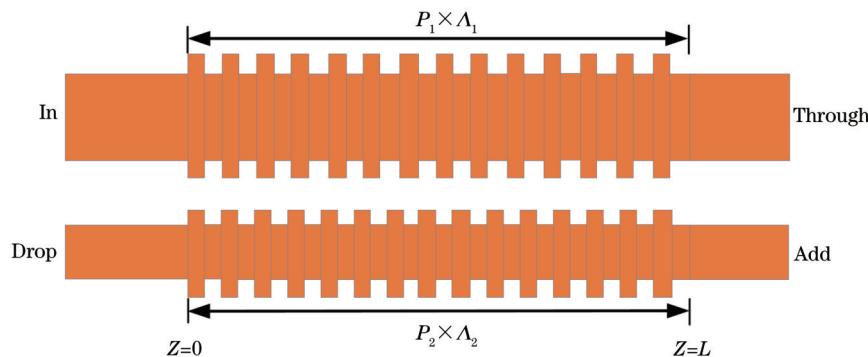


图1 CDC-PSG 原理示意图
Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of CDC-PSG

光栅周期具有微小差异时会产生Moire效应,此时光栅中产生 π 相移。单个光栅的折射率分布函数可以表示为

$$n(Z) = n_0 + n_1 \cos KZ, \quad (1)$$

式中: n_0 为波导的平均折射率,一般为常数; Z 为沿光栅长度方向的距离; n_1 为折射率调制深度; K 为与折射率光栅周期相关的参数,可以表示为

$$K_{1,2} = \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_{1,2}}, \quad (2)$$

式中: $\Lambda_{1,2}$ 为光栅的两个不同周期。当两个光栅周期有微小差异时,整个结构的折射率分布函数为两个光栅折射率分布函数的叠加,可以写成

$$n(Z) = n_0 + n_1 \cos K_1 Z + n_2 + n_3 \cos K_2 Z, \quad (3)$$

若 $n_0=n_2$ 、 $n_1=n_3$ 、 $\Lambda_1>\Lambda_2$,并令

$$\Lambda_s = \frac{2\Lambda_1\Lambda_2}{\Lambda_1 + \Lambda_2}, \quad (4)$$

$$\Lambda_c = \frac{2\Lambda_1\Lambda_2}{\Lambda_1 - \Lambda_2}, \quad (5)$$

式中: Λ_s 为快变组分的周期; Λ_c 为慢变包络的周期。此时,折射率分布函数可以表示为

$$n(Z) = 2n_0 + 2n_1 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_c} Z\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_s} Z\right). \quad (6)$$

由于 Λ_1 和 Λ_2 差别很小,一般不超过1 nm,故 $\Lambda_c \gg \Lambda_s$ 。由式(6)可知, $n(Z)$ 沿 Z 方向呈缓变包络的快变结构,其折射率分布如图2所示,这种光栅结构被称为

2 CDC-PSG 的理论推导

波导光栅是常见的硅基器件之一,被广泛应用于雷达调控、图像处理和光信号处理等系统中。所提方案由一对光栅构成,其原理示意图如图1所示。波导宽度不同使得两波导的传播常数不同。当传播常数差异较大时,两波导之间的相位失配严重,同向耦合的效率降低,甚至会出现同向耦合截止的情况。当有光栅微扰介入时,选取合适的光栅结构参数后会出现反向传输相位匹配的情况,此时满足相位匹配条件的光信号将从Drop端输出。

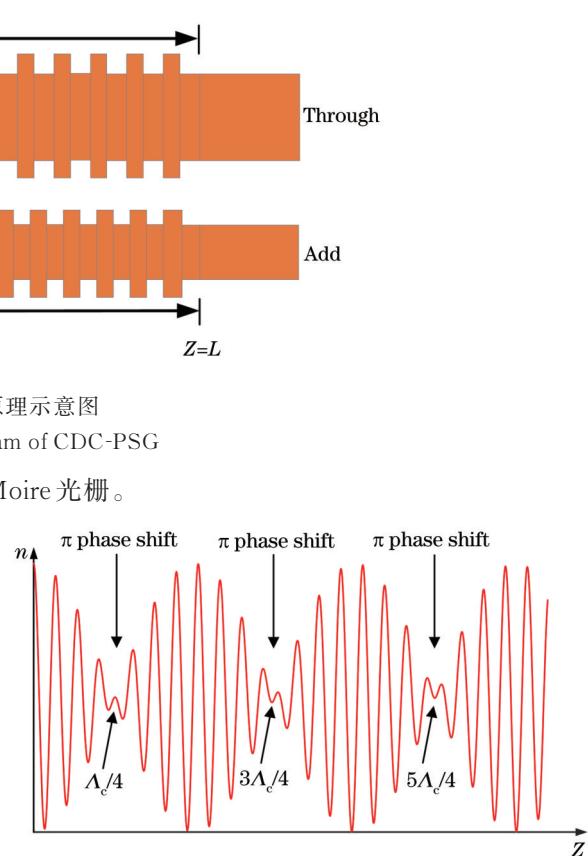


图2 Moire光栅。
Fig. 2 Variation of refraction index of Moire grating

由图2可知,缓变因子为 $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_c} Z\right)$,快变组分因子

为 $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_s} Z\right)$,缓变因子可以调节快变组分的幅度,且 $Z_k = \Lambda_c/4 + k \times \Lambda_c/2 (k=0, 1, 2, \dots)$ 时缓变因子为0。在缓变因子为0的点左右两侧的相位符号相反,产生 π 相移。由于CDC-PSG的耦合系数 κ 是随位置 Z 变化的函数,故可利用传输矩阵法来计算CDC-PSG的光谱特性。

将CDC-PSG划分为多段,如图3(a)中虚线所示,可将每一段都当作具有均匀折射率的反向耦合光栅来处理。因此,CDC-PSG可简化为如图3(b)所示的分段示意图。由图2可知,为了在光栅结构中间产生 π

相移,光栅的总长度 L 应满足 $L=\Lambda_c/2$,此时在光栅的中点 $L/2$ 处正好有个 π 相移。

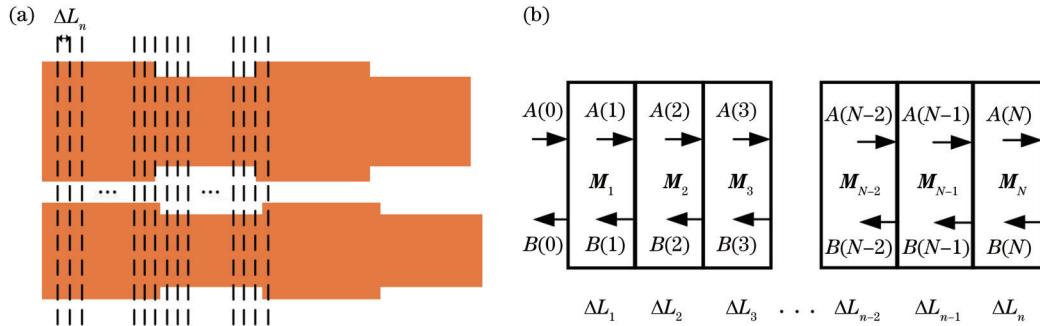


图3 CDC-PSG 分段示意图。(a)单个周期内分段示意图;(b)简化后整个光栅分段示意图

Fig. 3 Segmented diagram of CDC-PSG. (a) Schematic diagram of segmentation within single cycle; (b) schematic diagram of segmentation of entire grating after simplification

假设CDC-PSG共被分为 N 段,入射端的场振幅用 $A(n)$ 表示,反向耦合端的场振幅用 $B(n)$ 表示, $M_n^{[18]}$ 为第 n 段的传输矩阵($n=1,2,\dots,N$)可以表示为

$$M_n = \begin{bmatrix} \cosh(s_n \Delta L_n) + i \frac{\Delta \beta}{2 s_n} \sinh(s_n \Delta L_n) & i \frac{k_n}{s_n} \sinh(s_n \Delta L_n) \\ -i \frac{k_n}{s_n} \sinh(s_n \Delta L_n) & \cosh(s_n \Delta L_n) - i \frac{\Delta \beta}{2 s_n} \sinh(s_n \Delta L_n) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

式中: ΔL_n 为第 n 段的光栅长度; k_n 为第 n 段的耦合系数; $\Delta \beta$ 为两个模式的传播常数之差,可以表示为

$$\Delta \beta = \beta_a + \beta_b - m \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_s} = (n_a + n_b) \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} - \frac{2\pi m}{\lambda_0} \right), \quad (8)$$

式中: m 的取值通常为1; β_a 和 β_b 为上下两根波导中模式的传播常数; n_a 和 n_b 为上下两根波导中模式的有效折射率; λ 为输入光的波长; λ_0 为中心波长,可以表示为

$$\lambda_0 = (n_a + n_b) \Lambda_s, \quad (9)$$

$$s_n^2 = |\kappa_n|^2 - \left(\frac{\Delta \beta}{2} \right)^2, \quad (10)$$

$$\kappa(n) = \frac{\pi}{\lambda} n_1 \cos \left(\frac{2\pi}{\Lambda_c} n \right), \quad (11)$$

结合每段光栅的传输矩阵可以得到最终的传输矩阵的表达式为

$$\begin{bmatrix} A(0) \\ B(0) \end{bmatrix} = M_1 M_2 \cdots M_{N-1} M_N \begin{bmatrix} A(N) \\ B(N) \end{bmatrix} = M \begin{bmatrix} A(N) \\ B(N) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A(N) \\ B(N) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (12)$$

式中: M_{11} 、 M_{12} 、 M_{21} 和 M_{22} 是 M 矩阵的矩阵元,利用边界条件 $A(0)=1$ 、 $B(N)=0$ 和式(7)~(12)可以得出CDC-PSG的光谱特性。

假设光栅周期 Λ_1 为312 nm、光栅个数 P_1 为521、光栅周期 Λ_2 为312.6 nm、光栅个数 P_2 为520,则整个光栅的长度 L 应为162552 nm。假设光栅的折射率调制幅度 n_1 为 $0.012 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$,两波导有效折射率分别为 $n_a=2.59$ 和 $n_b=2.46$ 。为了使计算结果更精确,每隔1 nm分为一段,利用式(12)所示的传输矩阵可计算得到CDC-PSG的传输特性,如图4所示。

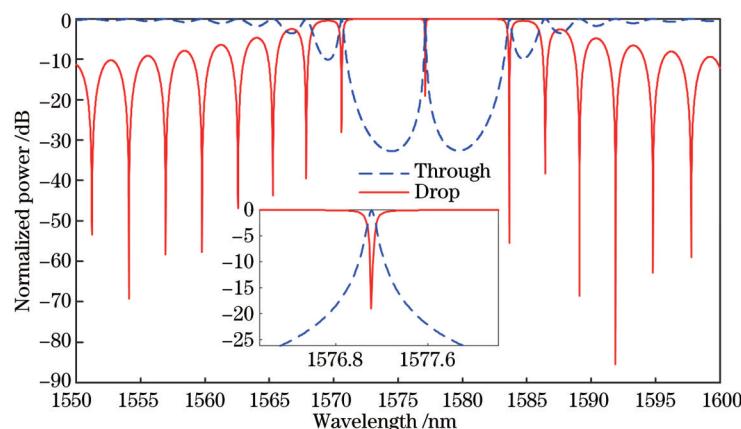


图4 CDC-PSG Through端口和Drop端口的输出谱线

Fig. 4 Output spectra of Through and Drop ports of CDC-PSG

图4中虚线和实线分别为CDC-PSG的Through端口和Drop端口的输出谱线。插图为相移谱线的放大图。由谱线可得,该CDC-PSG的相移波长为1577.1 nm,3 dB带宽为0.1 nm,ER为19.08 dB,Q值为15771,但旁瓣抑制比仅有0.4 dB。可以看出,将Moire光栅运用在反向耦合器中具有高Q值和窄带宽的优势,但旁瓣较高的问题限制了该方案的应用场景。因此,将进一步利用切趾技术来优化CDC-PSG的旁瓣抑制比。

3 高Q值、超窄带宽CDC-PSG的设计与优化

由第2章的理论分析可知,通过在反向耦合器中加入Moire光栅,不但可以实现 π 相移,还能获得高Q值和窄带宽。接下来,将对CDC-PSG进行结构参数设计。为了进一步提高CDC-PSG的旁瓣抑制比,将对光栅进行切趾优化。

所设计的CDC-PSG的结构示意图如图5所示,器件采用SOI材料,芯层硅(Si)的厚度为220 nm,掩埋层

厚度为3 μ m。波导刻蚀220 nm深度后可形成条波导。两波导宽度分别为 W_1 和 W_2 ,波导间间隔为 G ,光栅齿宽度分别为 W_{g_1} 和 W_{g_2} 。根据以往的设计经验^[19],相关结构参数被设置为 $W_1=500$ nm、 $W_2=390$ nm和 $G=324$ nm。

为了减小旁瓣,首先对光栅齿进行切趾,在CDC-PSG耦合区域的一侧光栅齿上加上高斯切趾函数 $\Delta W_{g_{1,2}} \exp\{-2i[\alpha_1(-0.5P)/P]^2\}$,其中 α_1 为切趾强度、 P 为光栅的周期数、 $\Delta W_{g_{1,2}}$ 为最大光栅齿宽度。采用有限差分时域(FDTD)算法,将麦克斯韦方程组在时间和空间两个维度上进行离散化处理,经过多次优化后发现,当 $W_{g_1}=130$ nm、 $W_{g_2}=122$ nm、 $\alpha_1=0.8$ 时,光栅输出谱线的旁瓣抑制得最好,其传输谱如图6所示。然而,短波长处(如1568 nm附近)依旧存在较高的旁瓣,该结果可能是由不均匀的折射率变化引起的。由于短波长位于光栅的局部带隙内,在该带隙内会形成强烈反射,故会出现类似F-P腔的效果^[20]。然而,长波长位于光栅的局部带隙外,故旁瓣较小。

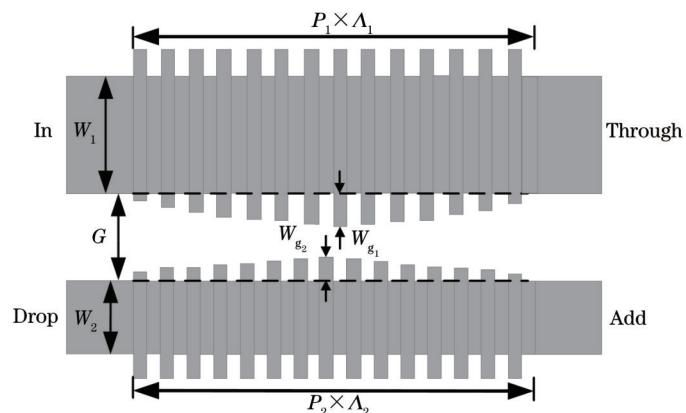


图5 CDC-PSG的设计参数和光栅齿切趾示意图

Fig. 5 Design parameters and schematic diagram of CDC-PSG after apodization on facets of gratings

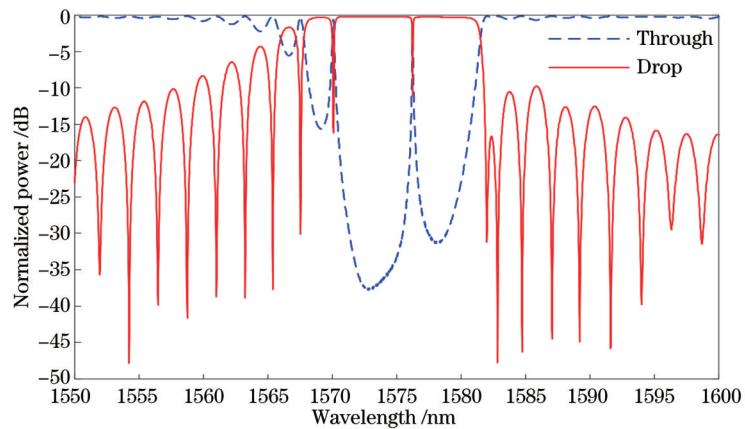


图6 光栅齿切趾后CDC-PSG的输出谱

Fig. 6 Output spectra of CDC-PSG after apodization on facets of gratings

为解决短波长的旁瓣问题,验证上述猜想,进一步对波导宽度进行切趾优化,其结构示意图如图7所示。

在两个波导内侧对波导宽度使用高斯切趾函数 $\Delta W_{g_3} \exp\{-2[\alpha_2(i - 0.5P)/P]^2\}$,其他参数保持不

变。在优化 W_{g_3} 、 α_2 的同时微调 α_1 , 在经过多次优化后发现, 当 $W_{g_3}=60 \text{ nm}$ 、 $\alpha_1=1.5$ 、 $\alpha_2=1.25$ 时, CDC-PSG

谱线的旁瓣抑制比最低(10.4 dB), 此时的传输谱如图 8 所示。

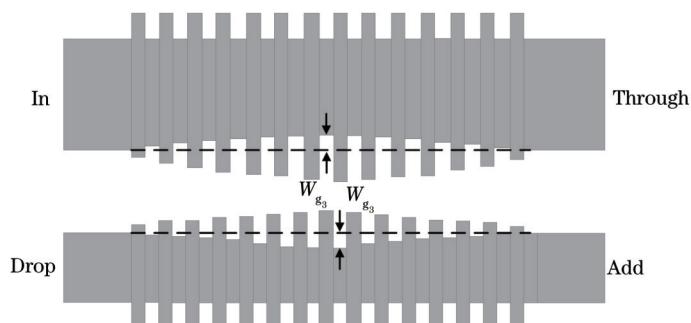


图 7 CDC-PSG 波导宽度切趾示意图

Fig. 7 Schematic diagram of CDC-PSG after apodization on waveguides of gratings

图 8 为光栅和波导宽度都施加切趾函数后 CDC-PSG 的输出谱, 虚线和实线分别代表 Through 端口和 Drop 端口的输出谱线。插图为相移区谱线的放大图。可以观察到, 对波导宽度进行切趾后能有效降低短波长处旁瓣。此时, 相移波长为 1547.18 nm, Q 值为 12893, 3 dB 凹陷带宽为 0.12 nm, ER 为 18.81 dB, 旁

瓣抑制比为 10.4 dB, 与理论计算得出的性能参数接近。与图 6 对比可以发现, 经过切趾优化后, 谐振波长由原来的 1577.10 nm 蓝移到 1547.18 nm, 是因为波导宽度施加切趾函数后, 每根波导中间位置最大减小了 W_{g_3} (60 nm) 宽度, 两根波导宽度中间位置总共减小了 120 nm, 从而造成有效折射率降低比较明显。

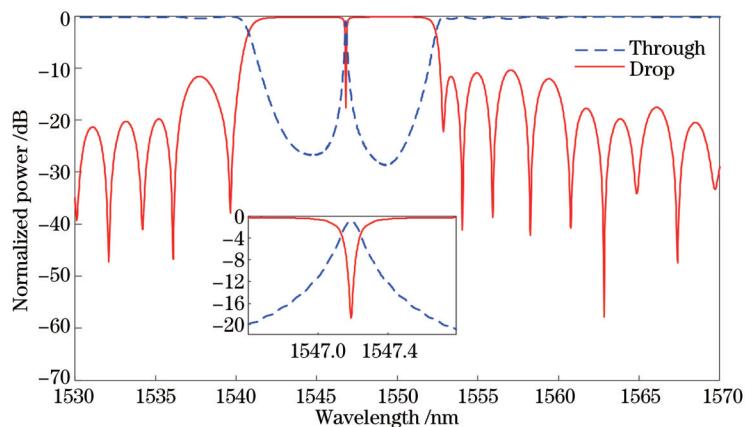


图 8 波导宽度和光栅齿均切趾后 CDC-PSG 的输出谱

Fig. 8 Output spectra of CDC-PSG after apodization on facets and waveguides

将未施加任何切趾的光栅部分设计成半凹半凸结构, 以有效降低切趾对波长偏移的影响。半凹半凸结构示意图如图 9 所示, 即在耦合区域一侧, 将每根波导光栅向内凹陷 W_{g_3} 的深度, 凸起长度仍保持 W_{g_1} 和 W_{g_2} 不变, 当 $G=430 \text{ nm}$ 时, 半凹半凸结构的 CDC-PSG 的传输谱如图 10 所示。

通过计算可得, 该半凹半凸结构的 CDC-PSG 的 Q 值为 12884, 凹陷带宽为 0.12 nm, 谐振波长为 1546.04 nm。相比于图 8 的仿真结果, 谐振波长只偏移了 1.14 nm, 波长偏移量远小于之前设计的全凸结构(29.92 nm), 证明该设计结构确实能有效降低切趾对波长偏移的影响。

所提的基于 Moire 效应的 CDC-PSG 方案与以往 PSG 方案的仿真性能比较如表 1 所示。由表 1 可知,

文献[11-14]中的方案虽然具有 Q 值较高的优势, 但是采用了反射型光栅。相比于同样采用反向耦合型结构的文献[15]与文献[16], 所提方案在 Q 值上有较大优势。

4 结 论

提出了一种高 Q 值、超窄带宽的基于 Moire 效应的反向耦合型相移光栅。首先, 利用传输矩阵法证明将两个周期有细微差别的光栅组合能产生 π 相移。然后, 对所提结构进行设计和优化, 最终可获得 Q 值为 12893, 3 dB 凹陷带宽为 0.12 nm、ER 为 18.81 dB、旁瓣抑制比为 10.4 dB 的反向耦合相移谱线。该反向耦合型相移光栅具有尺寸小、重量轻、 Q 值高、凹陷带宽超窄和旁瓣抑制比高等优势, 能被广泛应用于生物传

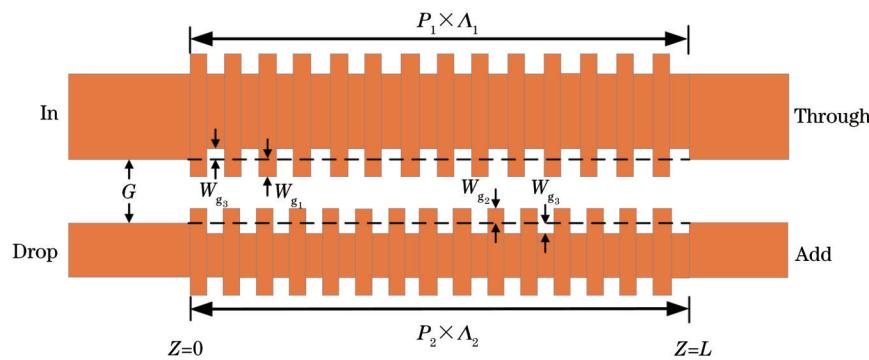


图9 半凹半凸结构的CDC-PSG的结构示意图

Fig. 9 Structural diagram of CDC-PSG with semi-concave and semi-convex structure

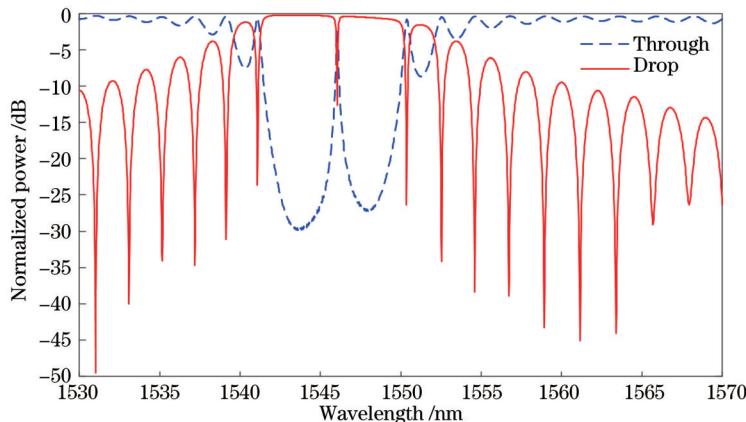


图10 半凹半凸结构的CDC-PSG的输出谱

Fig. 10 Output spectra of CDC-PSG with semi-concave and semi-convex structure

表1 不同PSG方案仿真性能比较

Table 1 Simulated performance comparison of different PSG schemes

Scheme	Q	bandwidth / nm	Grating type
Ref. [10]	10500	0.15	Reflective type
Ref. [11]	13265	0.11	Reflective type
Ref. [12]	17500	0.09	Reflective type
Ref. [13]	76000	0.02	Reflective type
Ref. [14]	50000	0.03	Reflective type
Ref. [15]	1800	0.86	Contra-directional coupling type
Ref. [16]	7000	0.22	Contra-directional coupling type
Our work	12893	0.12	Contra-directional coupling type

感、激光器和波长滤波等领域中。

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Contra-Directional Coupling Phase-Shifted Grating with High Q -Factor and Ultra-Narrow Bandwidth

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Abstract

Objective Phase-shifted gratings are often used in the fields of biosensing, narrow-band filtering, laser, ultra-high-speed optical signal processing, and optical computing and has received widespread attention. Compared with the traditional ring resonator, the phase-shifted grating has a larger working wavelength range and can meet the requirement of narrow-band filtering of a large-bandwidth input signal. In addition, the slightly larger size also brings a larger sample contact area, which can effectively improve the sensing sensitivity. The Q value is often an important indicator for device performance evaluation. For example, in narrow-band filtering, the larger the Q value, the better the wavelength selection performance of the filter, and the purer the filtered signal frequency. In the on-chip biomedical sensors, the larger the Q value, the lower the detection limit of the sensors. Therefore, the study of high- Q phase-shifted gratings has great practical application value. Although the existing π phase-shifted grating schemes have the advantages of a simple process, a high Q value, a narrow bandwidth, and flexible adjustment, they are all reflective schemes. The reflected signals of the gratings will be output through the original input port, and an optical ring needs to be added in practical applications. A magneto-optical device such as a detector separates the reflected signal from the input signal. Adding magneto-optical devices will increase the complexity of the system, and it is difficult to integrate magneto-optic materials with silicon-based devices on a large scale, so the application scenarios of π phase-shifted gratings will also be limited. Therefore, it is of great practical significance to study the contra-directional coupling type of π phase-shifted gratings.

Methods To reduce the use of magneto-optical devices such as optical circulators and improve integration, the Moiré grating structure is adopted to achieve a high Q value and an ultra-narrow bandwidth performance. According to the refractive index distribution function of a single grating, the refractive index distribution function of the system consisting of two gratings with slightly different periods is deduced, and the refractive index distribution is a rapidly changing structure

with a slowly changing envelope. From the distribution of the refractive index, it can be concluded that the π phase shift can be realized at a special position. Therefore, the numerical analysis of the structure is carried out. Since the coupling coefficient of the structure is a function of the change in the position, its spectral characteristics are calculated according to the transmission matrix method. By optimizing different parameters, it is found that the Q value and the bandwidth of the structure have obvious advantages. Therefore, the Moire grating structure is adopted to solve the problem of low Q value in the phase shift gratings.

Results and Discussions It is assumed that the grating period A_1 is 312 nm, the number of gratings P_1 is 521, the grating period A_2 is 312.6 nm and the number of gratings P_2 is 520. Through calculation, the 3 dB bandwidth of the contra-directional coupled phase shift grating is 0.1 nm, the extinction ratio (ER) is 19.08 dB, and the Q value is 15771, but the sidelobe suppression ratio is only 0.4 dB (Fig. 4). To further improve the sidelobe suppression ratio, the grating is optimized for apodization (Fig. 5). At this time, the sidelobe suppression of the spectral line at long wavelengths is more obvious (Fig. 6), which is caused by the uneven refractive index change (Fig. 5). At this time, the phase shift wavelength is 1547.18 nm, the Q value is 12893, the 3 dB notch bandwidth is 0.12 nm, the ER is 18.81 dB, and the sidelobe suppression ratio is 10.4 dB (Fig. 8), which are close to the performance parameters calculated by theory. After apodization optimization, the resonance wavelength is blue-shifted from the original 1577.10 nm to 1547.18 nm. To reduce the influence of apodization on wavelength shift, the part of the grating without any apodization is designed as a semi-concave and semi-convex structure (Fig. 9). At this time, the resonance wavelength is 1546.04 nm, and the resonance wavelength shifts only 1.14 nm (Fig. 10). It is proved that the designed structure can effectively reduce the influence of apodization on the wavelength shift.

Conclusions A contra-directional coupling phase-shift grating with a high- Q value and an ultra-narrow bandwidth based on the Moire effect is presented. Firstly, the distribution function of the refractive index of the designed structure is analyzed. From the distribution function, it can be concluded that the refractive index has π phase shift characteristic at a special position. The transmission matrix method is used to prove that the combination of two gratings with slightly different periods can produce a π phase shift. Then, the proposed structure is optimized, and the contra-directional coupling phase-shift spectral line with a Q value of 12893, 3 dB notch bandwidth of 0.12 nm, ER of 18.81 dB, and sidelobe suppression ratio of 10.4 dB can be obtained. The part of the grating without any apodization is designed as a semi-concave and semi-convex structure, which can effectively reduce the influence of apodization on the wavelength shift. The contra-directional coupling phase-shift grating has the advantages of small size, light weight, high Q value, ultra-narrow notch bandwidth, and high sidelobe suppression ratio, and can be widely used in the fields of biosensing, lasers, and wavelength filtering.

Key words gratings; phase-shifted gratings; photonic integrated circuits; Moire effect; contra-directional coupling phase-shifted gratings; silicon photonics