

光学学报

光纤水听器远程全光放大系统相位噪声研究

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摘要 光功率冗余不足及相位噪声增加是制约光纤水听器传输距离及探测性能的关键因素。基于光纤水听器全光模拟传输系统, 建立远程放大相位噪声模型, 设计大有效面积低损耗光纤组合传输链路, 在 100 km 传输 4 波分 \times 8 时分复用系统中, 远程放大引入的相位噪声仅为 -98.1 dB @ 1 kHz (1 kHz 为频率), 优于常规单模光纤 4.3 dB , 模型的有效性得到了验证。将模型应用于 150 km 传输系统, 对远程增益单元位置进行优化, 获得了一 -93.2 dB @ 1 kHz 的远程放大噪声性能。所提噪声模型及优化方法可应用于不带电中继的光纤水听器系统设计及研制中, 对增大全光传输距离及提升远程探测性能具有重要意义。

关键词 光纤水听器; 远程泵浦光放大; 相位噪声; 大有效面积低损耗光纤

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1 引言

干涉型光纤水听器海底固定式全光传输阵列系统^[1-2]具有湿端不带电可靠性高、可长期连续值守、远离舰船自噪声等优点, 广泛应用于海底石油勘探^[3]、海洋声学探测^[4]等领域。但随着传输距离的增加, 受光纤非线性效应和光学损耗等因素影响, 远程系统的相位噪声急剧增加, 成为限制探测性能的重要因素。针对下行传输光功率的非线性效应受限问题, 已有研究基于相位调制实现了对受激布里渊散射(SBS)^[5-6]的抑制, 利用窄带滤波、错峰发射等方案实现了对四波混频(FWM)^[7]、调制不稳定性(MI)^[8]和拉曼散射^[9-10]等非线性效应的抑制, 大幅提升了下行注入光功率。对于远程传输光学损耗问题, 在光通信中已有研究采用远程泵浦光放大(ROPA)^[11]和拉曼光放大(FRA)^[12]等方案, 再结合大有效面积低损耗光纤^[13-14]实现了超远程的无中继传输, 获得了良好的噪声指数和误码率^[15-16]。而对于高灵敏相干检测的光纤水听器远程全光放大系统, 相位噪声是最重要的性能评价指标, 并且传输链路和ROPA结构参数是影响相位噪声的关键因素, 但目前尚无大有效面积低损耗光纤与ROPA结合应用于光纤水听器系统的噪声分析及实验报道。

本文分析了基于ROPA和FRA的光纤水听器远程全光传输系统的噪声特性, 建立了混合远程光放大等效的相位噪声模型, 设计了大有效面积低损耗光纤

(G. 654)和超低损耗光纤(ULL-G. 652)的组合传输链路对系统性能进行优化。通过光纤水听器 4 波分 \times 8 时分复用(4WDM \times 8TDM)阵列的 100 km 组合传输实验, 验证了噪声模型的有效性, 该噪声模型获得了显著优于常规单模光纤(G. 652)传输系统的相位噪声水平。在此基础上, 将模型应用于 150 km 传输系统, 对远程增益单元(RGU)的位置进行了有效设计。

2 理论及仿真分析

2.1 噪声模型

根据远程泵浦光传输方式的不同, 可将ROPA分为异纤泵浦和同纤泵浦两种^[13]。由于光纤水听器系统对相位噪声要求较高, 为避免高功率泵浦光对信号光干扰而引入额外的泵浦转换噪声, 重点研究基于异纤泵浦的光纤水听器远程全光放大系统, 典型结构如图 1 所示。

图 1 所示系统由光电信号处理系统、全光传输链路和水听器阵列组成。光电信号处理系统包含光发射与调制、光放大、光接收等单元。其中光发射输出光纤水听器时分波分复用系统所需的 1550 nm 波段窄线宽、多波长脉冲序列经复合调试后, 实现多种非线性的噪声抑制^[6-9]; 光放大单元由掺铒光纤功率放大器(EDFA-BA)、ROPA 泵浦单元(RPU)及分布式 FRA 泵浦单元 3 部分的混合放大组成, 分别实现对往返传输链路及阵列的功率放大、线路放大及前置放大。在

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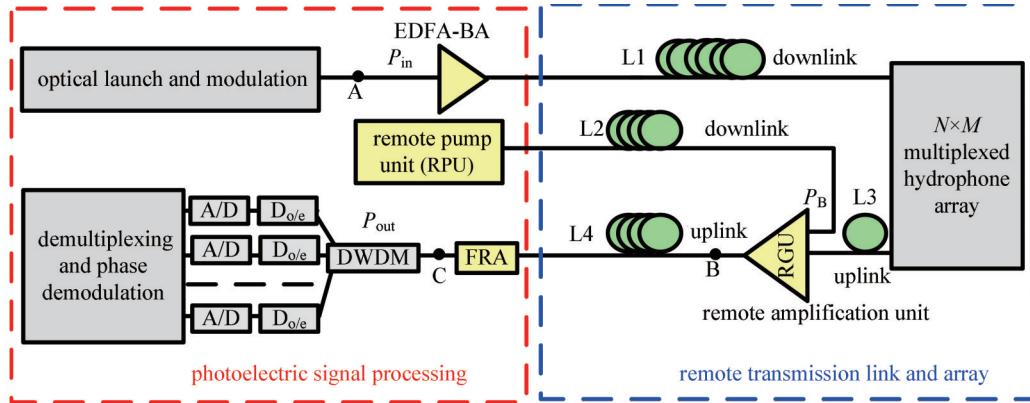


图1 异纤泵浦的光纤水听器(OFH)远程全光传输及放大系统

Fig. 1 Typical structure of the remote transmission and amplification OFH system using dedicated pump path

传输链路及阵列部分, EDFA-BA 输出信号光经下行传输光纤 L1 及时分波分复用阵列携带传感信息后, 由上行链路 L3 传输至 RGU 的信号输入端; RPU 输出的 1480 nm 波段远程泵浦光经下行传输光纤 L2 传输至 RGU 的泵浦输入端。RGU 为远程放大关键器件, 由波分复用器、掺铒光纤、光隔离器等全光学器件组成, 其增益及噪声性能与 RGU 结构参数、下行泵浦光功率、下行信号功率及链路损耗、RGU 在链路中的位置等多个因素有关。RGU 增益后的信号光经上行传输链路 L4 传输及 FRA 反向放大到达接收端, 依次经解波分复用(DWDM)、光电转换(D_{o/e})及模数转换(A/D)后, 到达解时分复用及相位解调单元, 最终获得光纤水听器远程阵列的传感相位信息。

上述系统中, 高功率下行光传输产生的非线性效应以及各级光放大器光信噪比不足导致的噪声增加是影响系统性能的关键。通过对水听器系统非线性的 SBS^[6]、FWM^[7]、MI^[8] 及拉曼串扰^[9]等噪声进行有效抑制后, 远程混合光放大引入的噪声成为主要来源。此时全系统相位噪声 φ_n 可表示为短程系统本底噪声 φ_{short} 和光放大噪声 φ_{Amp} 的组合^[17]:

$$\varphi_n = \sqrt{\varphi_{\text{short}}^2 + \varphi_{\text{Amp}}^2}, \quad (1)$$

式中: φ_{short} 主要包含激光器频率抖动噪声、激光器强度噪声以及光电转换噪声等光电系统自噪声; φ_{Amp} 由发射端 EDFA-BA、链路端 RGU 以及接收端 FRA 级联的放大自发辐射(ASE)噪声组成。由于光纤水听器远程传输链路及放大系统较为复杂, 为优化关键参数以降低 φ_{Amp} 对总噪声 φ_n 的影响, 首先将各级光放大的 ASE 强度噪声与解调相位噪声对应, 建立远程混合光放大等效的相位噪声模型。令 $L_1 \sim L_4$ 为远程传输光纤 L1~L4 的长度, $L_2 = L_4$ 且 $L_1 = L_3 + L_4$ 。考虑上下行链路及波长损耗差异, 令 α_{11} 为信号光在 L1 的衰减系数, α_{12} 为泵浦光在 L2 的衰减系数, α_2 为信号光在 L3 和 L4 的衰减系数, 4 段光纤的传输损耗 $L_{11} \sim L_{14}$ 分别为

$$\begin{cases} L_{11} = e^{-L_1 \alpha_{11}} \\ L_{12} = e^{-L_2 \alpha_{12}} \\ L_{13} = e^{-L_3 \alpha_2} \\ L_{14} = e^{-L_4 \alpha_2} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

根据光通信级联光放大噪声理论, 链路上每个放大器对总噪声指数的贡献为该放大器噪声除以之前所有的链路增益及损耗^[18]。综合考虑光纤水听器阵列损耗、往返传输链路损耗、远程泵浦功率及增益系数等参数, 图 1 所示系统中级联混合光放大总噪声指数 F_{Amp} 为

$$F_{\text{Amp}} = F_1 + \frac{F_2}{G_1 L_{11} L_{\text{Array}} L_{13}} + \frac{F_3}{G_1 L_{11} L_{\text{Array}} L_{13} G_2 L_{14}}, \quad (3)$$

式中: 等号右边三项分别代表 EDFA-BA、ROPA 和 FRA 对链路噪声指数的贡献 F_{BA} 、 F_{ROPA} 和 F_{FRA} ; F_1 和 F_2 分别为 EDFA-BA 和 RGU 的噪声指数, F_3 为 FRA 的等效噪声指数; G_1 、 G_2 和 G_3 分别为 EDFA-BA 增益、RGU 增益和 FRA 开关增益; L_{Array} 为光纤水听器复用阵列插损, 与波分复用数 N、时分复用数 M 以及阵列长度等因素有关。经远程传输及阵列损耗后, RGU 为小信号增益且与泵浦光功率近似呈线性增加^[4], 因此模型中引入了单位泵浦光增益系数 g_2 。当 RPU 泵浦光功率为 P_B 时, $G_2 = g_2 P_B L_{12}$ 。由式(3)确定 F_{Amp} 后, 可得到系统中级联 ASE 噪声总功率密度^[1], 表达式为

$$\rho_{\text{ASE}} = (G_{\text{Amp}} - 1) F_{\text{Amp}} h\nu, \quad (4)$$

式中: h 为普朗克常数; ν 为光频; $G_{\text{Amp}} = G_1 L_{11} L_{\text{Array}} L_{13} G_2 L_{14} G_3$, 为往返传输链路总增益及损耗。式(4)所得 ASE 噪声在光纤水听器双光束干涉后混入信号光, 经接收端光电转换后干涉电流表示为

$$I = RG_{\text{Amp}} P_{\text{in}} [1 + \cos(\varphi_s + \varphi_0 + \varphi_{\text{on}})] + i_{\text{s-sp}} + i_{\text{sp-sp}}, \quad (5)$$

式中: R 为光电转换效率; P_{in} 为第一级放大器 EDFA-BA 的平均输入光功率; φ_s 、 φ_0 及 φ_{on} 分别为待测信号相位、初相位及相位噪声。 $i_{\text{s-sp}}$ 为 ASE 与信号光的拍频噪声电流, $i_{\text{sp-sp}}$ 为 ASE 自身拍频噪声电流, 它们的噪声功

率谱密度^[1]分别为

$$S_{s-sp} = 2R^2(P_{in}G_{Amp})\rho_{Amp}, \quad (6)$$

$$S_{sp-sp} = R^2(\rho\rho_{ASE})^2B_o, \quad (7)$$

式中: B_o 为光学带宽; ρ 为偏振因子且单模传输条件下 $\rho=1$ 。式(5)通过相位解调获得 φ_s 的同时, S_{s-sp} 和 S_{sp-sp} 也转换为解调噪声,其转换系数 η_d 与相位解调方案密切相关^[17,19]。此外,当光纤水听器TDM通道采样率为 f_s 、探测器带宽为 B_e 时, S_{s-sp} 和 S_{sp-sp} 将产生宽带的采样混叠,混叠因子 $D=2B_e/f_s$ 。综合以上因素,混合远程光放大最终引入的相位噪声为

$$\varphi_{Amp} = \sqrt{\frac{D\eta_d S_{s-sp}}{(RG_{Amp}P_{in})^2} + \frac{D\eta_d S_{sp-sp}}{(RG_{Amp}P_{in})^2}} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{4\eta_d F_{Amp}h\nu B_e}{P_{in}f_s}\right) + \left(\frac{2\eta_d F_{Amp}^2 h^2 \nu^2 \rho^2 B_e B_o}{P_{in}^2 f_s}\right)}, \quad (8)$$

式中:根号内第一项为 i_{s-sp} 引入的水听器相位噪声,第二项为 i_{sp-sp} 引入的相位噪声。根据式(8),将 F_{Amp} 更换为 F_{ROPA} 或者 F_{FRA} ,也可以获得ROPA或FRA分别引

入的相位噪声情况。

2.2 仿真分析

根据2.1节的噪声模型,在光纤水听器阵列规模、远程传输距离、光电解调方案等基本参数确定的条件下, φ_{Amp} 将与传输链路损耗、RGU位置等湿端参数密切相关。以100 km传输4WDM×8TDM阵列、采用相位调制产生载波(PGC)^[19-20]解调的光纤水听器系统为例进行仿真分析,首先考虑常规G. 652光纤传输链路,损耗系数为0.19 dB/km@1550 nm,0.21 dB/km@1480 nm;各级放大参数 $G_i=10$ dB, $F_i=5$ dB, $P_B=1$ W@1480 nm, $g_2=2$ dB/dBm, $F_2=6$ dB, $G_3=18$ dB, $F_3=-1$ dB;光调制输出复用脉冲光占空比为1:10且 $P_{in}=1$ mW/ λ ;接收端 $R=1$, $B_o=100$ GHz, $B_e=10$ MHz且 $f_s=256$ kHz,PGC解调方案的 $\eta_d=2.25$ ^[19]。将上述参数代入式(8),并令 F_{Amp} 分别为 F_{BA} 、 F_{ROPA} 和 F_{FRA} ,仿真得到RGU位于传输链路80~100 km不同位置时,各级放大引入的相位噪声以及远程放大总噪声变化,如图2所示。

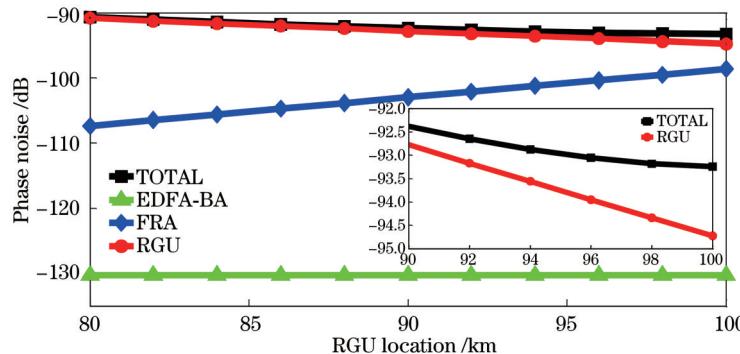


图2 混合远程放大各级相位噪声随RGU位置的变化

Fig. 2 Variation of phase noises of hybrid remote amplification with the RGU position

图2中,随着RGU位置从80 km增至100 km,ROPA噪声逐步下降至 -94.7 dB(1 dB $=1$ rad \cdot Hz $^{-\frac{1}{2}}$),FRA噪声则快速上升,最高至 -98.6 dB;EDFA-BA噪声约为 -130 dB且保持不变;ROPA和FRA共同决定了总噪声 φ_{Amp} ,最小值在RGU位于100 km处,约为 -93.2 dB。分析噪声变化的原因:随着RGU远离阵列,虽然泵浦光传输损耗降低,但信号光的往返传输损耗增加,由此降低了RGU输入光功率并加剧了ROPA噪声;另一方面,FRA的输入信号光随RGU的远离而减弱,导致了FRA噪声的增加。因此,传输链路损耗过大、RGU及FRA信号光功率不足是影响远程混合放大噪声性能的重要因素。

3 系统优化及模型验证

3.1 传输链路优化仿真

根据2.2节分析,为降低远程放大噪声,考虑将下行信号光和泵浦光传输光纤(L1和L2)更换为大有效

面积低损耗G. 654光纤,损耗系数约为0.17 dB/km@1550 nm,0.19 dB/km@1480 nm,有效面积(A_{eff})相比G. 652光纤从 $80 \mu\text{m}^2$ 增加至 $120 \mu\text{m}^2$,与 A_{eff} 相关的受激拉曼散射(SRS)、MI等非线性阈值及相应的下行泵浦光、下行信号光功率均可增加约1.5倍,传输链路损耗可降低约0.02 dB/km。同时,为降低上行链路损耗但不改变反向FRA的增益,上行信号光传输光纤(L3和L4)更换为超低损耗的ULL-G. 652光纤,损耗系数为0.17 dB/km@1550 nm,有效面积仍为 $80 \mu\text{m}^2$ 。将G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输链路及系统参数代入式(8),仿真得到光纤水听器100 km传输系统中 φ_{Amp} 随RGU位置的变化情况,如图3所示,并给出常规G. 652链路的 φ_{Amp} 仿真结果进行对比。

图3中,当RGU位于80~100 km时,G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输系统的 φ_{Amp} 相比G. 652系统降低4.8 dB~5.6 dB,最低在100 km处,为 -98.8 dB。因此采用G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输方式降低上下

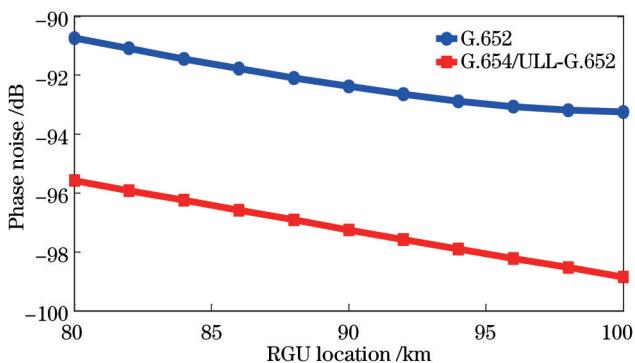


图3 不同传输链路的100 km远程放大系统的相位噪声仿真对比

Fig. 3 Comparison of simulated phase noises caused by the 100-km amplification system with different transmission links

行链路损耗,提升下行信号光和遥感泵浦光光功率,光纤水听器100 km传输系统远程放大引入的相位噪声可降至最低约 $11 \mu\text{rad} \cdot \text{Hz}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ 。

3.2 传输链路优化实验

为验证3.1节的仿真结果,搭建图1所示的光纤水听器100 km传输及全光放大系统,对不同光纤链路的传输特性和噪声性能进行对比测试。发射端光源采用4台窄线宽半导体激光器(RIO ORIONTM),复用波长为ITU-CH26、CH30、CH34及CH38(以下分别记为W1、W2、W3、W4);4WDM×8TDM阵列采用具有等效光路的模拟阵列,放置于声/振动屏蔽罐中,防止外界环境干扰对噪声测试的影响;多个1480 nm波段的半导体激光器通过偏振合束及波分复用构成高功率的RPU;FRA泵浦中心波长为1450 nm,相关设置与仿真参数一致。实验中RGU放于100 km处,常规链路L1、L2及L4采用了长飞公司的3×100 km G.652光纤,优化链路L1和L2选用长飞公司的2×100 km G.654光纤,L4为康宁公司的100 km ULL-G.652光

纤。分别对不同链路的泵浦光传输损耗、泵浦光输出光谱以及相位噪声情况进行测试,结果如下。

1) 泵浦光下行100 km传输损耗测试

首先测试了RPU泵浦光功率从700 mW逐步增加至1700 mW时,100 km G.652和G.654光纤的输出光功率,获得G.654光纤对泵浦光损耗的改善情况,如图4所示。随着输入泵浦光功率的增加,两种光纤的输出光功率均线性增加,并且100 km G.654光纤的平均损耗为19.4 dB,G.652光纤的平均损耗为21.5 dB,采用G.654光纤传输泵浦光可使总损耗降低2.1 dB。

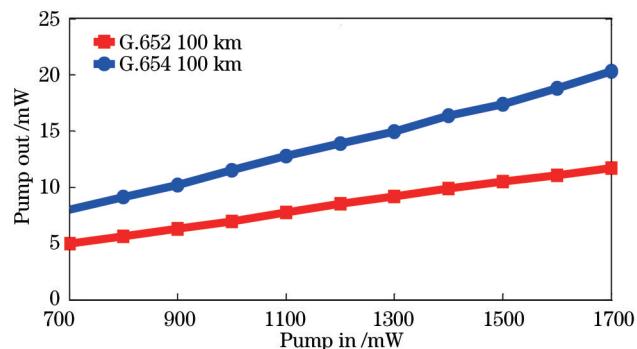
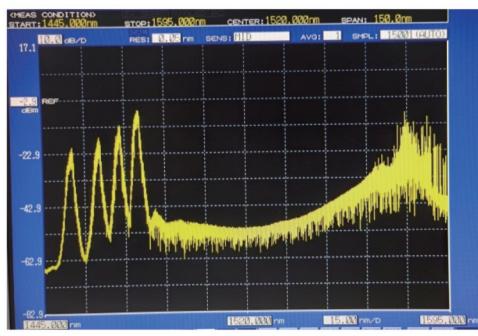


图4 G.654光纤对泵浦链路损耗的改善情况

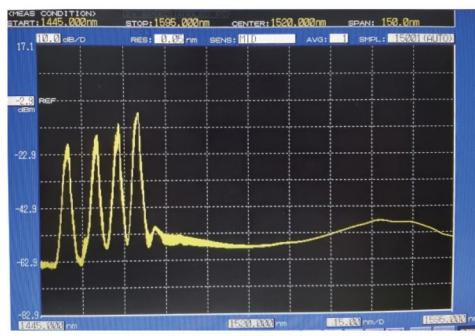
Fig. 4 Improvement of G.654 fiber for pump transmission loss

2) 泵浦光下行100 km输出光谱测试

根据2.2节和3.1节的理论分析,将RPU泵浦光功率设置为1.5 W,远高于常规G.652光纤的SRS阈值1 W,测得100 km G.654和G.652光纤的输出光谱,如图5所示。图5(a)中,G.652光纤输出光谱在1580 nm附近出现了明显的随机噪声,对应为1480 nm泵浦光的拉曼激射;而图5(b)中1480~1580 nm波段均未见显著噪声。由此验证了G.654光纤可改善泵浦光拉曼激射现象、提高RPU链路光功率冗余的理论分析。



(a) pump spectrum out of a 100-km G.652 fiber



(b) pump spectrum out of a 100-km G.654 fiber

图5 G.654光纤对泵浦光拉曼激射的改善

Fig. 5 Improvement of G.654 fiber for pump-induced Raman scattering

3) 100 km传输系统相位噪声测试

测试了100 km往返传输及放大系统中,G.652链

路及G.654/ULL-G.652组合链路的相位噪声(φ_{n1} 和 φ_{n2})。在TDM通道光功率均衡的条件下,8×TDM各

通道的相位噪声基本一致;而 $4\times$ WDM各波长噪声受激光器性能和光放大增益差异影响而略有不同。因此图6给出了各波长通道1的噪声结果对比。图6(a)和图6(b)中各波长的噪声基本一致,100 Hz以下低频段噪声主要由未能完全屏蔽的外界随机干扰引入,100 Hz以上噪声较为平坦,主要由短程系统噪声及宽

带的远程放大噪声共同引入。以1 kHz处的4波长平均相位噪声进行计算,G. 652和G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输系统的相位噪声 φ_{n1} 和 φ_{n2} 分别为-93.2 dB@1 kHz和-96.6 dB@1 kHz,组合传输链路使总噪声降低3.4 dB。

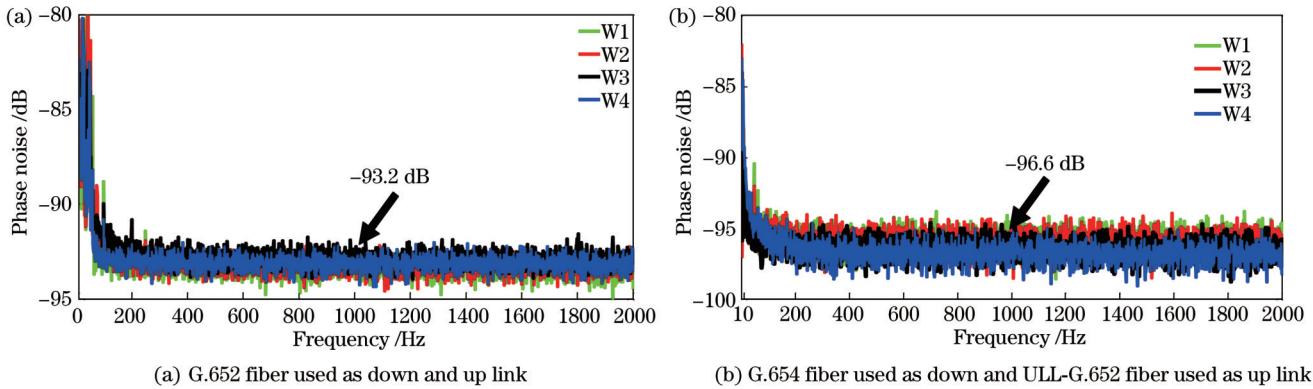


图6 G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合链路对100 km传输系统噪声的改善

Fig. 6 Improvement of the G. 654/ULL-G. 652 link for phase noises in the 100-km transmission system

3.3 远程放大噪声模型验证

根据式(1),在测得不同传输链路的总噪声 φ_n 后,为获得远程放大噪声的实际值 φ_{Amp} ,还需测试与传输链路无关的短程系统自噪声 φ_{short} 。因此,将图1中光发射与调制端(A点)、模拟阵列输入与输出端、光接收端(C点)连接,测得短程噪声结果,如图7所示。图7中各波长的噪声基本一致,400 Hz以下低频段噪声主要由激光器的 $1/f$ 噪声和外界随机干扰引入,400 Hz以上噪声较为平坦,主要由激光器和光电转换噪声引入。同样以1 kHz处4波长平均相位噪声为短程噪声测试结果,得到 φ_{short} 为-102.0 dB。

将G. 652和G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输的总噪声测试结果 φ_{n1} 和 φ_{n2} 、短程噪声测试结果 φ_{short} 分别代入式(1),计算得到不同链路的光放大噪声 φ_{Amp1} 、 φ_{Amp2} ,并将其与图3中不同链路在RGU位于100 km处的 φ_{Amp} 仿真值进行对比,结果如表1所示。表1中,G. 652和G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输的 φ_{Amp} 实测值与仿真值

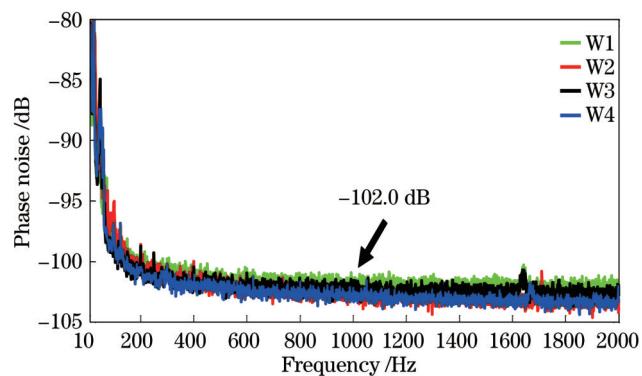


图7 短程系统相位噪声测试结果

Fig. 7 Measured results of phase noise in the short-haul system

偏差均在1 dB以内,实测的组合传输 φ_{Amp} 相比G. 652传输降低4.3 dB,达-98.1 dB的低噪声水平。由此验证了理论模型的正确性以及通过优化链路降低远程放大噪声的有效性。

表1 远程光放大系统相位噪声仿真与实测结果对比

Table 1 Comparison between simulation and measurement results of phase noise in the remote amplification system

Noise type	φ_{short}	φ_{n1}	φ_{n2}	φ_{Amp1}	φ_{Amp2}
Fiber type		G. 652	G. 654/ULL-G. 652	G. 652	G. 654/ULL-G. 652
Measured value /dB	-102.0	-93.2	-96.6	-93.8	-98.1
Simulated value /dB				-93.2	-98.8

3.4 RGU位置优化及验证

根据第2节的理论及仿真分析,远程放大系统RGU的位置也是决定噪声性能的关键因素。在100 km传输系统仿真及实验中, φ_{Amp} 随RGU距离的增加逐步降低,最佳位置在100 km处。但随着传输距离

的继续增加,泵浦光功率和信号光功率急剧下降,导致远程增益不足及光信噪比的下降, φ_{Amp} 与RGU位置的关系变得复杂。针对某光纤水听器150 km传输系统,根据远程放大噪声理论及相关参数,仿真得到G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输系统的 φ_{Amp} 随RGU位置变化而

变化的关系,如图8所示。

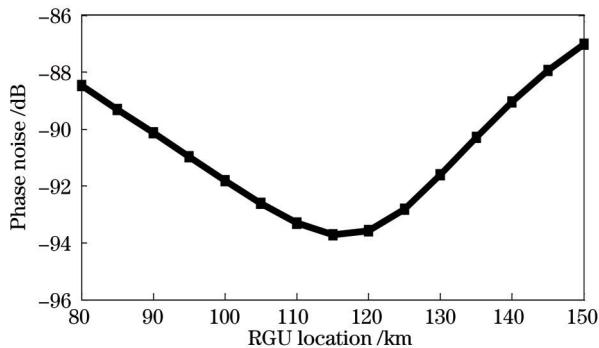


图8 150-km G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输系统的相位噪声随RGU位置的变化

Fig. 8 Variation of phase noise with the RGU position in a 150-km transmission system using G. 654/ULL-G. 652 fiber

图8中,当RGU位置从80 km增加至150 km时, φ_{Amp} 呈先降低再增加的变化趋势,最大值在150 km处,约为-87.0 dB;当RGU位于115 km附近时, φ_{Amp} 最低值为-93.7 dB。因此通过合理选择RGU位置,可有效降低远程放大噪声。基于以上分析开展实验研究,由于使用的G. 654和ULL-G. 652光纤为25 km/盘,因此将RGU放置在125 km处,L1和L2分别选用150 km和125 km的G. 654光纤,L3和L4分别选用25 km和125 km的ULL-G. 652光纤,测得150 km往返传输及远程放大系统的相位噪声,如图9所示。

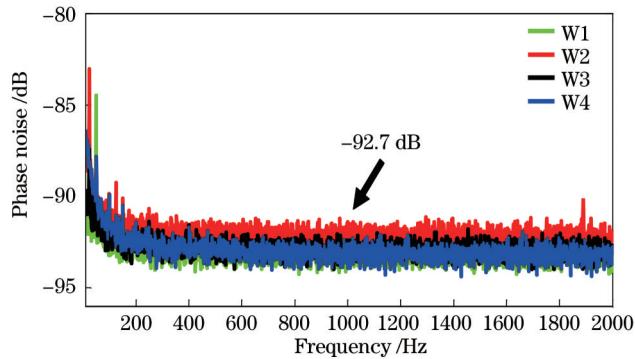


图9 150-km G. 654/ULL-G. 652组合传输系统的相位噪声测试结果

Fig. 9 Measured results of phase noise in the 150-km transmission system using G. 654/ULL-G. 652 fiber

图9中,4波长平均相位噪声 φ_n 为-92.7 dB@1 kHz,根据式(1)及3.3节的 φ_{short} 测试结果,得到150 km传输系统的 φ_{Amp} 实际值为-93.2 dB@1 kHz,与图8的理论值基本一致。由此表明,建立的远程光放大相位噪声模型可应用于大规模、远距离全光传输的光纤水听器系统,通过对对其进行性能评估和参数优化,实现系统噪声的有效抑制。

4 结论

研究了时分波分复用的光纤水听器远程全光传输

系统中,远程泵浦及拉曼混合光放大引入的相位噪声模型。通过对噪声来源和特性进行分析,提出一种使用大有效面积低损耗G. 654光纤进行下行泵浦光和信号光传输,超低损耗ULL-G. 652光纤进行上行光传输的组合传输方案。在4WDM×8TDM的光纤水听器100 km往返全光传输及放大实验系统中,获得了-96.6 dB@1 kHz的噪声性能,远程放大引入的噪声比常规G. 652系统降低了4.3 dB@1 kHz,达-98.1 dB@1 kHz,模型的有效性得到了验证。在此基础上,利用所提模型对150 km传输系统的RGU位置进行优化,实验上获得了-93.2 dB@1 kHz的远程放大噪声性能。所提远程全光传输放大系统噪声模型和优化方案可应用于光纤水听器远程系统设计、实施及性能评估等环节,为增大远程全光传输距离、提升系统探测性能提供关键技术支撑。

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Phase Noise Characteristics of Remote Amplification for Fiber-Optic Hydrophone System

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Abstract

Objective Bottom-mounted and all-optical transmitted interferometric fiber-optic hydrophone array systems have the advantages of underwater uncharged and high reliability and are widely used in subsea oil exploration, marine acoustic exploration, and other fields. However, with an increase in the remote transmission distance, the phase noise of the system increases sharply due to the nonlinear effect of the fiber and high optical losses, which limit the detection performance. In optical communication, the schemes of remote pumped optical amplification (ROPA) and fiber Raman amplification (FRA), combined with large effective area and low-loss optical fibers, are used in long-distance unrepeated transmission systems, and good noise index and low bit error rate have been achieved. However, because optical-fiber hydrophone systems are based on a coherent detection scheme with high sensitivity, phase noise is a critical factor for the performance evaluation. Thus, the actual performance cannot be determined by only the noise index. However, only a few analyses and experimental studies on the phase noise characteristics of fiber hydrophone systems with remote pumped amplification and new-type fiber transmission structures have been reported. In this study, we developed a phase noise model based on a remote all-optical transmission and amplification structure for optical-fiber hydrophone systems with a hybrid time-division multiplexing (TDM) and wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) array scheme. System parameters, such as the transmission link and remote gain position, were optimized through the model, which effectively reduced the system noise. The proposed noise model and optimization method can be applied to unrepeated fiber-optic hydrophone systems as they greatly improve the all-optical transmission distance and remote detection performance.

Methods Based on the structure of a remote-transmitted and amplified hydrophone system with a dedicated pump path scheme (Fig. 1), we developed a phase noise model of the remote amplification. First, the cascaded noise index of the hybrid optical amplification is calculated by comprehensively considering system parameters, such as the loss of the fiber hydrophone array, loss of the round-trip transmission link, remote pump power, and gain coefficient of the unit pump light. Second, the noise index is correlated with the beat intensity noise induced by the cascade amplification spontaneous

emission noise at the receiver of the hydrophone system. Finally, combined with the phase-demodulation conversion coefficient, the TDM sampling aliasing, and other factors, the optical intensity beat noise is converted into a demodulated phase noise, and an equivalent phase noise model of remote optical amplification is obtained. Fig. 2 shows the simulation results of the phase noise associated with each stage of the amplifiers and the total noise of the remote amplification. The ROPA and FRA are the main noise sources in the remote system, and the huge transmission link loss combined with the insufficient input optical power of the remote pumped unit (RGU) are the key factors limiting the system's performance.

Results and Discussions Based on the noise model, transmission-link-induced noise was simulated and optimized (Fig. 3) using a hybrid transmission scheme, which uses a large-effective-area and low-loss fiber (Type G. 654) for the pump and signal-light transmission in the optical-fiber hydrophone downlink and an ultra-low-loss optical fiber (Type ULL-G. 652) for signal-light transmission in the uplink. Also, in an experimental system with a 100-km transmission and a 4-WDM \times 8-TDM array scheme, the measured loss of the pump light is reduced by 2.1 dB (Fig. 4) compared with that of the traditional single-mode optical-fiber link (Type G. 652), and Raman scattering of the pump light is also effectively reduced (Fig. 5). Then, the phase noise of the short system (Fig. 7) and the complete noise of the 100-km system (Fig. 6) were measured, and the phase noises independently induced by the remote amplification were obtained (Tab. 1). The results show that, with the combination of the G. 654 and ULL-G. 652 transmission links, the remote amplification noise can be reduced by 4.3 dB compared with that of the conventional G. 652 link, reaching a low noise level of -98.1 dB@1 kHz . This reveals the effectiveness of the phase noise model (Tab. 1). Furthermore, the model was applied to a 150-km transmission system to optimize the position of the RGU, and the simulated result (Fig. 8) shows an optimal position of 115 km with -93.7-dB noise. Based on this result, an experiment was conducted, and the result shows a remote-amplification-induced noise of -93.2 dB@1 kHz (Fig. 9), which is consistent with the simulation result.

Conclusions In this study, we developed a phase noise model based on an all-optical transmitted and amplified optical-fiber hydrophone array system. By analyzing the noise sources and characteristics, we propose a hybrid transmission link using large-effective-area and low-loss optical fibers. Both theoretical and experimental results show that the remote-amplification-induced phase noise in a 100-km transmission and 4-WDM \times 8-TDM system can be reduced to a low noise level of about -98 dB@1 kHz , which is 4 dB–5 dB lower than that of the traditional single-mode fiber link, revealing that the proposed transmission structure can effectively improve the noise performance of hydrophone systems. The RGU position in a 150-km transmission system was also optimized using the model, and the measured noise of the remote amplification is low (-93.2 dB@1 kHz), which is consistent with the simulation results. The proposed noise model and optimization methods for all-optical transmission and amplification systems can be applied to the design, implementation, and performance evaluation of remotely interrogated optical-fiber hydrophone systems, which could provide a critical technical support for extending remote transmission distances and improving the detection performance of such systems.

Key words optical fiber hydrophone; remote pumped amplification; phase noise; large effective area and low loss fiber