

光学学报

基于窄线宽扫频光源的高分辨率阵列式光纤光栅温度传感系统

陈伟¹, 刘庆文^{1,2*}, 常晏铭¹, 刘姝廷¹, 何祖源¹

¹上海交通大学区域光纤通信网与新型光通信系统国家重点实验室, 上海 200240;

²鹏城实验室, 广东 深圳 518055

摘要 高精度温度传感器在地球物理、海洋科学、石油化工等领域具有广泛应用。针对传统光纤光栅温度传感器分辨率较低的问题,提出一种基于光纤光栅的高精度多点复用温度传感系统,该系统采用封装好的不同中心波长的 π 相移光纤光栅作为温度敏感单元,以扫频激光器和波分复用技术检测各光纤光栅谐振波长,并引入氰化氢标准气体吸收室作为波长参考,用非平衡马赫-曾德尔干涉仪补偿光源扫频过程中的非线性,以提升波长测量精度。实验实现了对 10 个温度传感探头的同时探测,温度分辨率达到 10^{-4} °C 水平,测量范围达到 0~100 °C。该光纤光栅温度传感系统在高精度温度测量领域具有广阔的应用前景。

关键词 光纤光学; 高精度温度传感; 扫频激光; 相移光纤光栅; 光纤光栅封装; 光纤光栅阵列

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1 引言

地球物理、海洋科学、油气井检测、飞行器结构健康监测等应用场景要求传感器具有耐恶劣环境、抗干扰、高分辨率等性能,尤其是地下和深海观测^[1]等场景还需要温度传感器具有远程检测和 10^{-3} °C 级的温度分辨率^[1]。这些场景下电子温度传感器由于自身限制,往往很难满足要求,而基于光纤光栅的温度传感器表现出很大的应用潜力。光纤光栅测温技术^[2]是 20 世纪 70 年代发展起来的一门新兴测温技术,与传统的电子温度传感器相比具有很多优点,如光纤本身不带电、不受电磁干扰影响、光纤工作频率宽、动态范围大、体积小、质量轻、抗辐射性能好等,成为一种重要的温度传感技术。

光纤光栅温度传感器主要是利用光纤布拉格光栅^[2]的温度敏感特性:当外界温度变化时,光栅的布拉格周期和折射率都会发生变化,光栅布拉格波长产生漂移,通过测量波长漂移量得到温度变化。光纤光栅温度传感器的另一个优势是可以与时分复用、波分复用等技术相结合,实现对温度的多点复用阵列化测量和远程探测。早期科研工作者主要关注光纤光栅温度传感器的测量范围和灵敏度等方面,从光纤光栅材料、刻写工艺、封装方案等方面来提高光纤光栅探头的性

能指标。2004 年, Grobnic 等^[3]在多模水晶蓝宝石光纤上刻制了光栅,该光栅的耐温极限能高达 2000 °C。2005 年, 东华大学的詹亚歌等^[4]设计了一种利用金属细杆和光纤布拉格光栅的铝槽封装结构,使光栅结构更加稳定和易于安装固定。2016 年,张登攀等^[5]设计了一种新型的光纤布拉格光栅温度传感器,在 0~35 °C 的温度范围内,传感器温度灵敏度为 29.9 pm/°C。2018 年,张开宇等^[6]通过对基底及光栅刻写工艺的特殊设计,实现了温度灵敏度为 45 pm/°C 的温度传感器。谭跃刚等^[7]提出了一种基片式光纤光栅应变增敏传感器,通过设计杠杆增敏结构的封装基片实现对光纤光栅的应变增敏,最终增敏倍数达到 5.064。提高解调系统的波长检测精度是提高温度分辨率的另一个重要手段。在高分辨率温度解调方面,文献[8]中采用光纤布拉格光栅进行温度传感和多路复用,整个系统实现 2~400 K 的温度测量范围,在温度低于 12 K 时温度分辨率优于 10 mK。文献[9]采用光学超稳腔和 PDH(Pound-Drever-Hall)技术^[10]反馈控制方案,选取光纤 Fabry-Perot 干涉仪(FFPI)作为传感元件,实现了 μ K 级别的温度测量分辨率,但是这种系统的成本高昂,且难以实现多点复用传感。

本文提出了一种具有高分辨率的阵列式光纤光栅温度传感系统,该系统以窄线宽可调谐激光器作为光

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通信作者: *liuqingwen@sjtu.edu.cn

源,引入氰化氢(HCN)气体吸收室作为绝对波长基准,利用马赫-曾德尔干涉仪(MZI)补偿光源在波长调谐时的扫频非线性,实现对激光波长的高精度、低漂移检测。然后,采用具有不同波长的 π 相移光纤光栅作为传感元件,通过对光纤光栅进行封装,提高光纤光栅的温度灵敏度至裸光纤光栅的2倍左右,并利用波分复用技术实现对多个光纤光栅温度传感探头的同时探测。基于该方案,在实验中获得了优于 $0.1\text{ m}^\circ\text{C}$ 的温度分辨率和 $0\sim 100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 的温度测量范围。

2 基本原理

光纤光栅传感器的温度分辨率主要受限于传感探头的温度灵敏度以及解调系统的波长分辨率,因此本工作从这两方面出发提高光纤光栅传感器的分辨率。针对传感探头的温度灵敏度提升,开展了光纤光栅的金属化封装工作,利用热膨胀系数较大的毛细铜管对光栅进行封装,微弱温度的变化也会导致光栅有明显的波长偏移。在解调系统的分辨率方面,通过对窄线宽可调谐激光器的扫频过程进行重采样以提高解调系统的波长检测精度,并通过引入基于HCN气室作为波长基准来解决系统的长期波长漂移问题,实现对多个光纤光栅传感单元谐振波长的高精度、小漂移检测。

2.1 光纤布拉格光栅传感原理

光纤布拉格光栅属于短周期光栅,其纤芯折射率沿光纤轴向呈周期性变化。光纤布拉格光栅能反射某一特定波长的入射光,而对其他波长呈现透射性,根据光的波长与频率之间的关系,其反射峰的布拉格中心频率与施加在光纤上的轴向应变或光栅温度呈线性关系,基本原理^[11]表示为

$$\frac{\Delta\nu_B}{\nu_B} = (1 - p_e)\epsilon + (\alpha + \alpha_n)\Delta T, \quad (1)$$

式中: ν_B 为光纤布拉格光栅中心频率; p_e 为光纤折射率的弹光系数; α 为光纤的线膨胀系数; α_n 为温度致折射率变化系数; $\Delta\nu_B$ 为布拉格光栅中心频率变化量。其可表示为

$$\Delta\nu_B = k_s\epsilon + k_T\Delta T, \quad (2)$$

式中: k_s 为光栅的应变灵敏度系数; k_T 为光栅的温度灵敏度系数。因此可以通过观测光栅的谐振频率或布拉格波长的变化来检测应变或温度。对于标准单模光纤上刻写的光栅,其温度系数约为 $10.3\text{ pm}/^\circ\text{C}$ 。为了进一步提升光纤光栅的温度灵敏度,可以对其进行增敏封装。本研究中,光纤张紧并固定在毛细铜管上,而毛细铜管的热膨胀系数大于光纤自身的热膨胀系数,光纤受到铜管的热膨胀带来的额外应变,增加了谐振频率的移动量,从而达到增敏效果。

利用扫频激光器探测光纤光栅型传感器时,测量分辨率主要取决于扫频激光器的波长重复性精度、光强噪声和光纤光栅的线宽^[12]。采用辅助干涉仪技术可以显著提升扫频光源的波长重复性,此时采用具有窄

反射谱宽度的光纤光栅有助于实现高传感精度。标准光纤布拉格光栅的反射谱宽在数百皮米以上,为此本温度传感系统采用窄线宽 π 相移光纤光栅^[11](π -PSFBG)作为敏感单元,它与常规布拉格光栅的区别在于其折射率周期性变化的栅区中心处引入了半个周期的延迟,使得其反射谱中心位置处出现一个极窄的透射峰。图1是一个实验中所采用的 π 相移光纤光栅的反射谱,其中心透射峰的半峰全宽为 7.1 pm 。 π 相移光纤光栅与布拉格光纤光栅的温度和应变灵敏度系数相同,但其谐振峰的宽度非常窄,待测物理量发生微弱变化,导致显著的反射率变化。

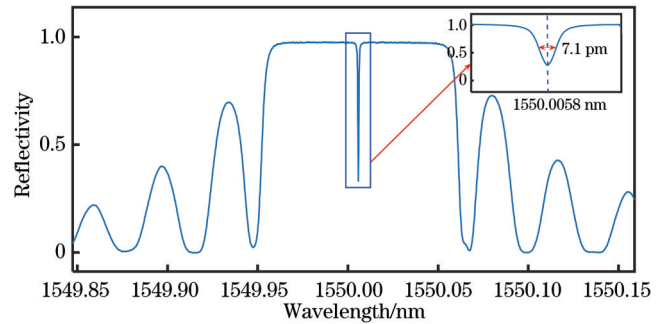


图1 π 相移光纤光栅的反射谱

Fig. 1 Reflection spectrum of π -phase-shifted fiber gratings

2.2 光纤光栅的金属化封装

为了提高光纤光栅传感单元的温度灵敏度并使其易于现场应用,需要对光栅进行封装保护。图2是光纤封装的整体示意图。如图2所示,首先对光栅的一端进行倾斜切割以抑制光纤端面的菲涅耳反射,然后将光栅的栅区(长度约 30 mm)表面用无水乙醇擦拭后,放入长度约为 60 mm 的空心毛细铜管中,毛细铜管的外径为 1.2 mm ,内径为 0.6 mm ,毛细铜管的热膨胀系数为 $17 \times 10^{-6}\text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$,施加一定预应力后用双组分黏结剂固定在铜管上,保持内部光纤光栅处于张紧状态。之后将光纤连同毛细铜管放入长度为 300 mm 、外径为 4 mm 、内径为 3 mm 、一端密封的空心304不锈钢管中,光栅的远端保持悬空,不与不锈钢管接触,然后往钢管中注入 6 g 左右铜粉,将毛细铜管整体埋在铜粉中,再继续注入玻璃粉直至将不锈钢管填满,最后采用硅橡胶将不锈钢管末端密封,如图2(a)所示。由于铜粉的导热系数高,导热系数约为 $379.14\text{ W}/(\text{m}\cdot^\circ\text{C})$,光纤栅区周围的铜粉能够快速将外界温度变化传递给光纤光栅,而玻璃粉的导热系数约为 $1.0932\text{ W}/(\text{m}\cdot^\circ\text{C})$,比铜粉低两个数量级,传感探头非测温部分的环境温度到探头的热传递能够有效降低,测量误差减小。进行初步密封之后,设计了一个手柄结构来进一步保护温度传感探头,并熔接一根 3 mm 松套管的抗拉单模跳线,最后将不锈钢管和跳线熔接点等固定在手柄结构中,封装后的结构如图2所示,至此完成对光栅的整体封装。

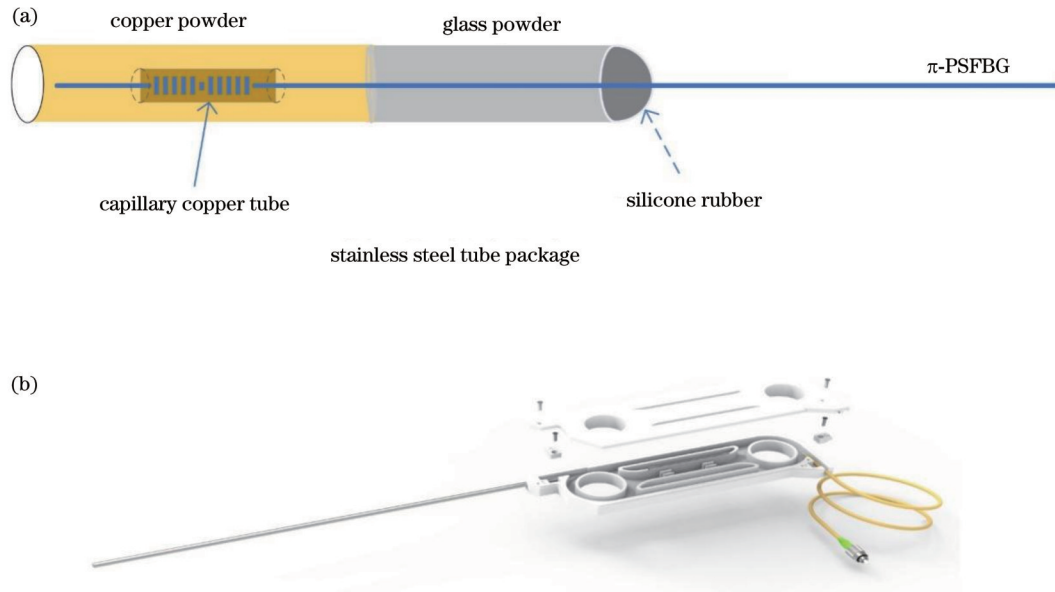


图 2 光栅的整体封装图。(a)光栅增敏封装模型;(b)整体封装后的光纤光栅模型

Fig. 2 Diagram of overall encapsulation of grating. (a) Model of grating sensitisation package; (b) model of fibre grating after integral package

对光纤光栅进行金属化封装后,对其中一支中心波长为 1550 nm 附近的光纤光栅测温探头进行了不同温度下光栅中心波长的检测,如图 3 所示。根据光栅波长与温度之间的线性关系,求解出二者之间的关系为

$$\lambda = k \times T + \lambda_0, \quad (3)$$

式中: $k=22.335 \text{ pm}/^\circ\text{C}$; $\lambda_0=1549.339 \text{ nm}$ 。未进行封装之前的光栅温度灵敏度系数约为 $10.3 \text{ pm}/^\circ\text{C}$,可见该金属化封装将灵敏度系数提高至 2 倍左右,造成拟合偏差的主要原因是测量各个温度下光栅中心波长所使用的温控箱精度不够高。

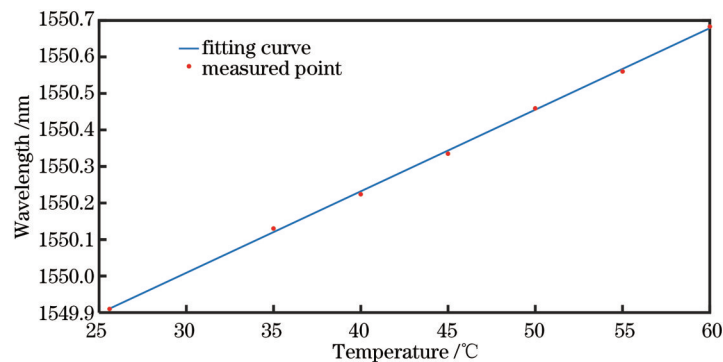


图 3 波长与温度的关系图

Fig. 3 Relationship between wavelength and temperature

2.3 高精度波长解调系统

基于扫频光源的高精度波长解调系统框图如图 4 所示。光源(81606A, Keysight)输出的线宽为 10 kHz、平均功率为 10 mW、扫频速率为 100 nm/s 的扫频激光,经耦合器分光后分为 4 路。第 1 路光是探测路,光经波分复用器(WDM)进入传感光栅阵列后,反射回的光信号经光环形器进入光电探测器(KG-PR-200M-A)。第 2 路光直接进入探测器,用于补偿扫频光源在扫频过程中的功率波动,如图 5(a)和(b)所示。由于扫频光源内部采用机械调谐,扫频过程不可避免地存在扫频速率的波动,即扫频非线性问题。为此,引入了

非平衡 MZI 干涉仪进行扫频非线性的补偿,本系统采用的 MZI 干涉仪的臂长差约为 3 m,产生拍频信号的周期等于该 MZI 自由光谱范围(FSR)为 65.15 MHz,远小于 π -PSFBG 透射光谱宽度。基于此拍频信号对其他路探测信号进行重采样,即可将原本在时间上等间隔的采样变为在光频率上的等频率采样^[13],从而补偿了光源的扫频非线性问题,如图 5(c)所示。第 4 路光信号经过 HCN 气体吸收室后进入光电探测器,利用 HCN 的吸收峰来标定波长,如图 5(d)所示,由于 HCN 气室的吸收波长非常稳定,以其为参考可以得到激光和相移光纤光栅的绝对频率值。对温度变化前后光纤

光栅的反射谱进行互相关运算,其相关峰的位置即表征了温度变化引起的光纤光栅中心频率的偏移量,进

而根据光纤光栅的温度灵敏度系数和初始频率获得当前环境的温度。

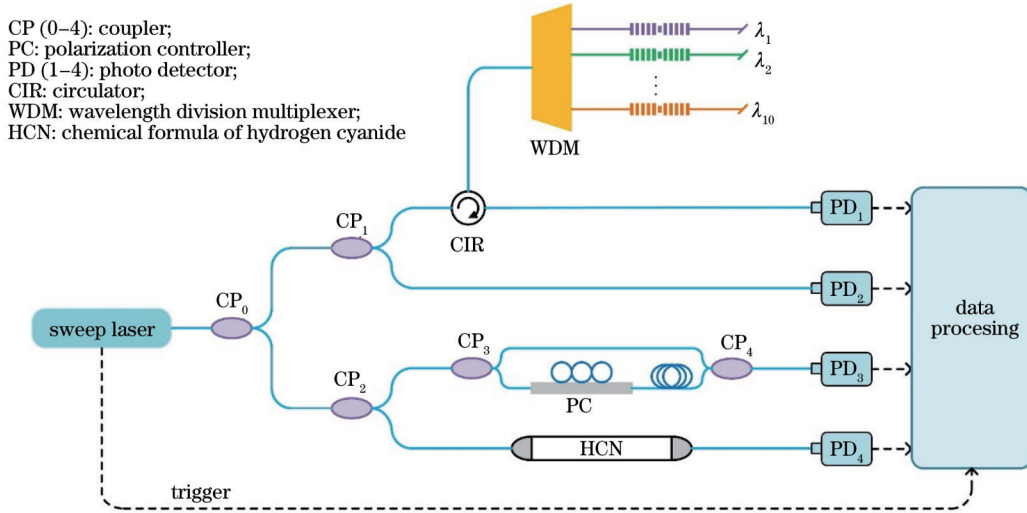


图 4 基于扫频激光源的高精度温度传感系统

Fig. 4 High-precision temperature sensing system based on swept-frequency laser

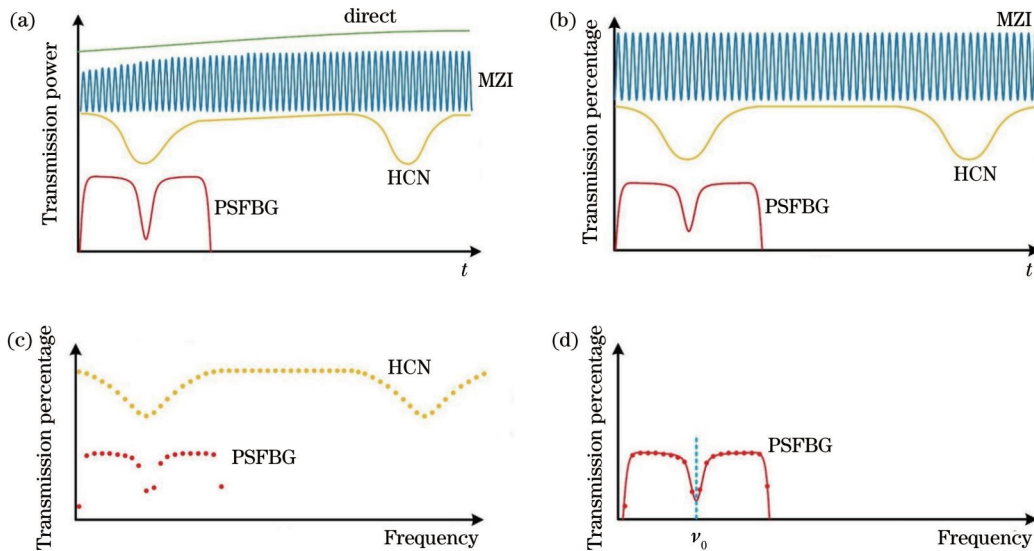


图 5 解调系统工作原理。(a)原始信号;(b)经功率补偿后的信号;(c)重采样后的信号;(d)标定光栅中心频率

Fig. 5 Working principle of demodulation system. (a) Original signal; (b) signal after power compensation; (c) resampled signal; (d) center frequency of calibration grating

3 实验结果与分析

3.1 温度测量范围及复用规模实验

实验系统中将 10 个中心波长间隔为 5 nm 的 π -PSFBG 探头置于油浴箱中,利用油浴箱的温度对 π -PSFBG 的波长与温度灵敏度系数进行标定。10 个光栅的栅区长度都为 3 cm 左右,中心波长如表 1 所示,油浴箱内一段时间的温度测量结果如图 6 所示。图 7 详细展示了 6 号光栅的温度和中心波长随时间变化的曲线,从图中可以看出温度与中心波长的变化基本一致,二者的线性关系良好,该系统能够实现 0~100 °C 的温度测量范围,复用规模达到 10 个,可实现阵列式的光

纤温度传感。

3.2 温度分辨率实验

由于本系统的温度分辨率超过了大多数电子温度

表 1 10 个光栅的中心波长

Table 1 Central wavelengths of ten gratings

Grating number	Wavelength / nm	Grating number	Wavelength / nm
1	1525.10	6	1550.01
2	1529.97	7	1554.98
3	1534.98	8	1560.05
4	1540.03	9	1564.97
5	1545.10	10	1570.07

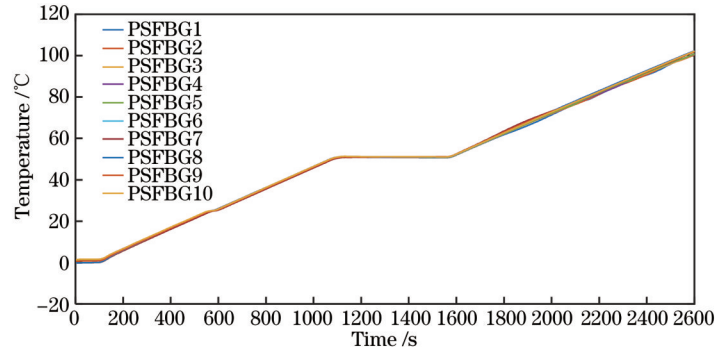


图 6 温度测量范围结果

Fig. 6 Temperature measurement range result

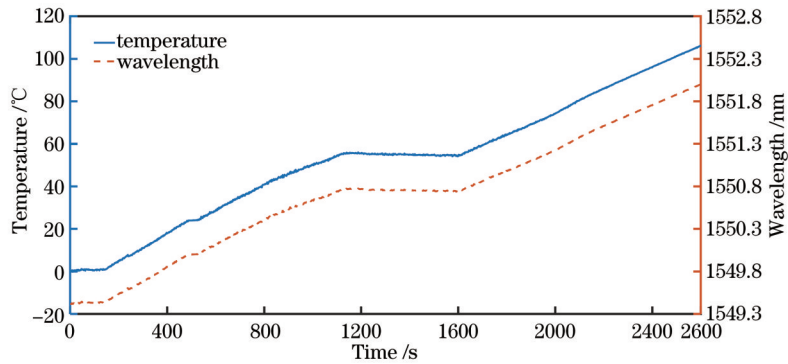


图 7 6号光栅的温度和中心波长变化曲线

Fig. 7 Temperature and central wavelength variation curves for grating No. 6

设计的温度分辨率,为此,本系统采用与理论值进行比较的方式验证其温度分辨率。将一个温度探头进行水浴加热后再将其整体密封,进行自然冷却,当系统稳定且环境温度恒定时,根据热传导的理论,光纤光栅传感探头的温度将以指数规律下降。实验测得的 3000 s 内温度探头的变化如图 8 所示,其温度变化规律基本上符合指数形式,与指数曲线的部分拟合偏差主要来源于实验过程中环境温度的随机波动。为了进一步表征温

度传感的测量精度,选取时间尺度为 60 s(图 8 中圆圈处)重新进行一阶指数拟合,其拟合残差如图 8 中插图所示。对应 60 s 温度数据拟合残差的标准差为 $8.05 \times 10^{-5} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$,说明系统的温度分辨率达到 $10^{-4} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 水平。在该温度数据拟合结果中,大部分区域在 60 s 内的温度分辨率能达到 $10^{-4} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$,而对于少部分区域,由于环境温度波动与水的对流扰动等因素,温度波动偏大,标准差最大达到 $4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 。

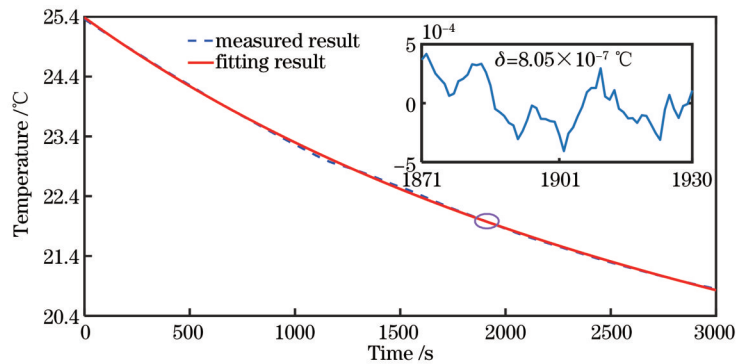


图 8 3000 s 内的温度数据拟合结果(插图为 60 s 内的拟合残差)

Fig. 8 Fitted result of temperature data within 3000 s (inset is fitted residual within 60 s)

4 结 论

提出了基于扫频激光器的高分辨率阵列式光纤光

栅温度传感系统,研究了光纤光栅的封装工艺,通过光纤光栅的金属化封装及稳定结构设计,将光纤光栅的温度灵敏度提高至原来的 2 倍左右,整套系统实现了

0~100 °C 的温度测量范围, 传感探头复用规模达到 10 个, 实现了优于 10^{-4} °C 的温度分辨率。

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High-Resolution Array Fiber Grating Temperature Sensing System Based on Narrow Linewidth Swept Light Source

Chen Wei¹, Liu Qingwen^{1,2*}, Chang Yanming¹, Liu Shuting¹, He Zuyuan¹

¹State Key Laboratory of Advanced Optical Communication Systems and Networks, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200240, China;

²Pengcheng Laboratory, Shenzhen 518055, Guangdong, China

Abstract

Objective In geophysical, marine science, oil and gas well detection, aircraft structure health monitoring, and other application scenarios, the sensor is required to have small size, high resolution, and robust against harsh environments and electromagnetic interference. Especially in underground and deep-sea observation scenarios, the temperature sensor should be equipped with remote monitoring ability and temperature resolution of milli Celsius level. In these scenarios, electronic temperature sensors are difficult to meet the requirements due to their limitations, and fiber grating-based temperature sensors have the advantages of high resolution, large dynamic measurement range, and multiplexing sensing capability. This paper proposes a high-resolution multiplexed temperature sensing system based on optical fiber grating, which adopts the phase-shifted fiber Bragg gratings with different center wavelengths utilizing wavelength division multiplexing technology as the temperature sensing unit. The resonant wavelength of each optical fiber grating is detected by sweeping laser wavelength, and a hydrogen cyanide absorption chamber is introduced as the wavelength reference. An unbalanced Mach-Zehnder interferometer is employed to compensate for the nonlinearity in the wavelength sweeping of the laser to improve the wavelength measurement accuracy. In the experiment, the simultaneous detection of ten temperature sensing heads is achieved with a temperature resolution of 10^{-4} °C and measurement range of 0-100 °C. This fiber grating temperature sensing system has a broad application prospect in the fields which require high-resolution temperature measurement.

Methods This study puts forward a high-precision multiplexed temperature sensing system based on fiber grating. The swept laser is divided into four paths after the coupler. The first path is the probe light for sensor heads, which enters the sensing grating array by wavelength division multiplexer. The second path is directly connected to the detector, which is utilized to compensate for the power fluctuation of the swept light source. The third path is connected to the unbalanced MZI interferometer, which compensates for the sweeping nonlinearity of the light source. The fourth path passes through an HCN gas absorption chamber, which provides an absolute frequency reference for the laser. The spectrum of the phase-shifted fiber Bragg grating is recorded, and then a cross-correlation operation is carried out to detect the spectrum movement of the grating. The offset of the correction peak indicates the frequency movement of the fiber grating caused by the temperature change, and then the current temperature of the environment is obtained based on the temperature sensitivity coefficient and the initial frequency of the fiber grating. The sensing fiber grating is packaged with metallization to improve the temperature sensitivity in this study. The fiber grating is enclosed in a capillary copper tube. The thermal expansion coefficient of the capillary copper tube is larger than the fiber grating, so the fiber grating is subjected to additional strain caused by the thermal expansion of the copper tube, which increases the shift of the resonant frequency. Finally, a handle structure is designed to reduce external vibration interference and protect the fiber grating.

Results and Discussions The linearity between wavelength and temperature is verified, and the temperature sensitivity coefficient of the encapsulated grating is calculated to be $22.335 \text{ pm}/^\circ\text{C}$ (Fig. 3), about twice the original sensitivity coefficient of unpackaged fiber grating. The sensor array is placed in an oil bath for temperature measurement, and the whole system can realize a temperature measurement range from 0°C to 100°C . The sensing probe multiplexing scale reaches ten (Fig. 6). The system employs a comparison with the theoretical value to verify its temperature resolution. The sensing probe is placed in water to measure the natural cooling of water for 3000 s. The measured temperature basically follows the exponential decay form. The time window of 60 s is chosen to perform the first-order exponential fitting, and the standard deviation of the residuals is (Fig. 8), indicating that the temperature resolution of the system reaches 10^{-4}°C .

Conclusions This paper proposes a temperature sensing system of high-resolution wavelength division multiplexed fiber grating based on a swept laser, which contains four main optical paths. One path is to probe the sensing probe array, and the other three paths are employed for the power compensation of the swept laser, the compensation of the laser swept nonlinearity, and the calibration of the absolute frequency of the laser. The encapsulation of fiber grating is studied to improve the temperature sensitivity, and a metalized encapsulation structure for the fiber grating is designed to increase the temperature sensitivity of fiber grating. In the demonstrational experiment, a temperature measurement range of $0\text{--}100^\circ\text{C}$ is achieved through an oil bath, and the number of sensor multiplexing scales reaches ten. Based on the comparison between the theoretical and measured temperatures of water, a temperature resolution better than 10^{-4}°C is verified.

Key words fiber optics; high-resolution temperature sensing; swept laser; phase-shifted fiber Bragg grating; fiber grating packaging; fiber grating array