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回音壁微腔激光器噪声特性数值模拟研究(特邀)

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摘 要:通过建立包含朗之万噪声源的三模速率方程模型,模拟研究了回音壁模式微腔激光器的噪声 特性和线宽特性,特别是注入电流热效应引起的跳模及其对光功率和实现窄线宽的影响。回音壁微腔 激光器单模工作时,在大偏置电流下可由低频处的频率噪声得到百kHz以下的激光器线宽;在微腔双模 激射状态下,由于模式竞争作用,微腔激光器的相对强度噪声和频率噪声在低频处都有明显的升高,使 得激光器的线宽展宽。此外,还采用快速傅里叶变换的方法由时域信号计算获得激光模式光谱线型, 由此得到的激光模式线宽与通过频率噪声谱获得的线宽基本一致。

关键词:半导体微腔激光器;相对强度噪声;相位噪声;频率噪声;线宽

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0 引言

半导体激光器的相对强度噪声(Relative Intensity Noise, RIN)和频率噪声(Frequency Noise, FN)对光 通信、光学测量、光学计算等领域的可靠性分析有着重要影响。相对强度噪声是指激光器输出功率的起伏, 它与激光器腔内模式的跳变和竞争,以及相干激光模式与自发辐射之间的光干涉有关^[1-3]。在光通信中,低 相对强度噪声激光器有利于在数字和模拟信号传输中实现高信号保真度和低误码率。Fabry-Pérot二极管 激光器实现了幅值为-159 dB/Hz 的相对强度噪声^[4]。高输出功率的分布反馈(Distributed Feedback, DFB)半导体激光器得到了在 0.08~40 GHz 的频率范围内低于-160 dB/Hz 的相对强度噪声^[2]。而垂直腔 面发射激光器实现了接近其标准量子极限-154.3 dB/Hz 的相对强度噪声^[5]。激光器的频率噪声是指瞬时 频率的随机涨落,其来源于自发射入该模式内的光子导致的激光器的固有相位噪声^[1]。而激光的线宽,即激 光单模光谱的半高全宽,可以由频率噪声谱低频处的频率噪声确定。在光纤通信中,通信系统的容量与光 源的谱宽成反比^[6]。在相干光通信中,采用窄线宽光源可以降低误码率^[7],而相干探测器和高分辨率光谱也 要求使用窄线宽的激光器^[8-9]。但是实验结果表明,除非采取额外措施,半导体激光器的线宽通常大于 1 MHz,这比大多数相干通信系统所需要的线宽要宽^[1]。因此,实现窄线宽半导体激光器也是当下研究的 重点。

为了能够数值分析半导体激光器的噪声与线宽特性,人们提出一种用自洽数值方法产生相关朗之万噪 声源的数值模拟算法^[10],并在*I*=1.5 *I*_{th}时得到了11 MHz的半导体激光器线宽。并且通过该算法在12.9 mA 的注入电流下得到了4.9 MHz的DFB激光器线宽,所得到的模拟结果与测量数据一致^[11-12]。该计算方法还 拓展应用于研究模式间拍频^[13]、外腔^[14]、光学反馈^[15-16]等因素对半导体激光器 RIN 噪声和线宽的影响。

最近,回音壁模式正方形微腔激光器的模式选择和线宽特性引起了人们的关注,正方形微腔激光器可 以实现单模与双模的稳定激射,并且得到了20 MHz的单模线宽与42 MHz的双模线宽^[17-18]。随后,研究者

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基于正方形微腔和Fabry-Pérot腔组成的耦合腔激光器,实验和模拟研究了全光逻辑门的操作^[19,20],并研究 了耦合腔激光器的相对强度噪声和线宽特性^[21]。本文主要研究回音壁模式微腔激光器的模式竞争对噪声 和线宽特性的影响。通过数值模拟朗之万噪声源驱动下的速率方程得到激光器的相对强度噪声和频率噪 声,并由低频处的频率噪声得出激光器的模式线宽。另外,通过快速傅里叶变换的方法由时域信号模拟激 光线型,并得到激光的模式线宽,结果与低频频率噪声谱计算得到的线宽基本一致。当微腔激光器双模激 射时,由于双模模式竞争作用,随模式功率下降高功率模式的低频处频率噪声比高频处升高快,而随模式功 率上升低功率模式的低频处频率噪声比高频处下降慢,因而微腔激光器低频的频率噪声总是处于高态,使 得线宽展宽。

1 速率方程模型与模式跳变

通过建立含非线性增益的速率方程模型,耦合腔激光器的稳态及光双稳特性等得到了研究^[20]。而本文 通过建立含朗之万噪声源的三模速率方程模型对回音壁式微腔激光器的稳态和噪声特性进行研究。当表 示模式电场为*E*exp[j(ωt+φ)]时,描述激光器的载流子浓度、光子浓度和模式相位之间关系的速率方程可 表示为

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\eta I}{\mathrm{e}V} - AN - BN^2 - CN^3 - v_g g S_1 - v_g g S_2 - v_g g S_3 + F_N \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}S_{\rho}}{\mathrm{d}t} = v_g \Big(\Gamma_z g - \alpha_{\mathrm{int}} \Big) S_{\rho} - \frac{S_{\rho}}{\tau_{\rho c, \rho}} + \Gamma_z \beta B N^2 + F_{S_{\rho}}$$
(2)

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\psi_{p}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\alpha}{2} \cdot \left(v_{g} \Gamma_{z} g - \alpha_{\mathrm{int}} v_{g} - \frac{1}{\tau_{\rho c, \rho}} \right) + F_{\psi_{p}} \tag{3}$$

式中, $p=1,2\pi3$ 分别代表波长为1540、1560和1580 nm的M1、M2和M3模式,N是微腔中假设均匀分布的载流子密度, S_{ρ} 是p模式的光子密度。I是注入电流大小,V是微腔有源区的体积,e是电子电量, η 是电流的注入效率,g表示光学增益。A、B和C分别是缺陷复合系数,双分子自发辐射复合系数和俄歇复合系数。双分子复合系数B由载流子密度和温度T决定,表示为

$$B = \frac{B_0}{(1 + B_1 N) \times (1 + B_2 \Delta T)}$$
(4)

式中, B_0 =1×10⁻¹⁰ cm⁻³, B_1 =1×10⁻¹⁹ cm⁻³, B_2 =1.1×10⁻² cm^{-3[22]}。俄歇复合系数 $C = C_0 \exp(-E_a/kT)$,活化能 $E_a = 60 \text{ meV}^{[22]}$ 。 $v_g = c/n_g$ 为群速度,其中 $c = 3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$,为光在真空中的速度,而 n_g 为群折射率。 Γ_z 是光限制因子, β 是自发发射因子, α_{int} 为材料内吸收损耗, α 为线宽增强因子。冷腔模式光子寿命 $\tau_{\rho c} = Q_{\rho}/\omega_{\rho}$ 由冷腔模式的品质因子 Q_{ρ} 和角频率 ω_{ρ} 决定。

假设光学增益g为具有非线性效应的对数函数,则有

$$g(N,S) = \frac{g_0}{1 + \varepsilon_{\rm pp}S_{\rm p} + \varepsilon_{\rm pq}S_{\rm q}} \ln\left(\frac{N + N_{\rm s}}{N_{\rm tr} + N_{\rm s}}\right)$$
(5)

式中, g_0 为材料的本征增益, ϵ 为烧孔效应引起的增益抑制因子^[23], ϵ_{pp} 为自增益饱和抑制因子, ϵ_{pq} 为交叉增益抑制因子。 N_s 为对数增益参数, N_{tr} 为1490 nm处的透明载流子密度^[24]。

假设自发发射谱为一高斯分布函数,则可得到峰值波长和半高宽分别为λ。和δλ的自发发射谱

$$R_{sp}(\lambda, N) = \frac{BN^2}{\sqrt{\pi} \ \delta\lambda} \exp\left[-\frac{(\lambda - \lambda_0)^2}{\delta\lambda^2}\right]$$
(6)

而统一的增益谱和自发发射谱模型可表示为

$$g(N,\lambda,T) = \frac{\lambda^4}{8\pi c n_{\text{eff}}^2} \left[1 - \exp\left(\frac{hc/\lambda - \Delta F}{kT}\right) \right] R_{sp}(\lambda,N)$$
(7)

该增益谱模型受到载流子浓度和温度的影响,其具体参数与取值见文献[20]。

 F_N 是微腔内的朗之万载流子噪声源, F_s 是光子噪声源, ΠF_{ϕ} 是相位噪声源。如果这些噪声源互不相关,则可以用独立的高斯随机变量进行数值模拟。但是,由于 F_N 和 F_s 之间存在交叉相关关系,因此定义了一个

和噪声源 F_s 相互正交但是互不相关的新噪声量 $F_z^{[10]}$,得到了 $F_s = F_z - F_s$ 。从而,随机噪声项可表示为

$$F_{z} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times (AN + BN^{2} + CN^{3})}{V} \times \frac{1}{\Delta t}} \times x_{z}$$
(8)

$$F_{S_{\rho}} = \sqrt{2 \times \Gamma_{z} \beta B N^{2} \times S_{\rho} \times \frac{1}{\Delta t}} \times x_{S_{\rho}}$$
(9)

$$F_{\phi_{\rho}} = \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_{z}\beta BN^{2}}{2 \times S_{\rho}}} \times \frac{1}{\Delta t} \times x_{\phi_{\rho}}$$
(10)

式中, x_z , x_s 和 x_{ϕ} 是0附近以单位方差波动的三个独立高斯分布的随机数^[10], Δt 为计算时间步长,值为1ps。

根据建立的无噪声源的速率方程式(1)~(3)并结合表1中各参数的取值,计算得到了回音壁微腔激光器的稳态特性。微腔激光器的温度变化由初始温度和注入电流引起的温升两部分来考虑。其中,初始温度 保持在300K,而模式波长随温度以0.11 nm/K的速度发生红移。因此,通过实验拟合模式波长随注入电流 的变化,就可以得到微腔激光器的温度随注入电流的变化,为ΔT=0.4×I+0.008×I²。并把光输出功率 与冷腔模式光子寿命关系表示为

$$P_{\rho} = \frac{hc}{\lambda} V_{\text{eff}} \frac{S_{\rho}}{\tau_{\rho c, \rho}} \sigma \tag{11}$$

式中,h是普朗克常数, $V_{eff} = V_a/\Gamma_a$ 为模式体积, V_a 为器件的有源区体积。假设激光器的输出效率 σ 为70%, 光输出功率P随注入电流I的变化关系如图1。由于电流注入导致温度上升,激光器的激射波长随注入电流 的增加而红移跳模。当初始温度为300 K时,微腔激光器的阈值电流为8 mA。注入电流为8~50 mA,5~ 85 mA和89~120 mA时,激光器分别在M1,M2和M3模式单模激射。而在50~53 mA和85~89 mA这 两个区间内,器件处于双模激射状态。在注入电流为115 mA时,激光器的光输出功率最大,为9.2 mW。

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Current injection efficiency	η	0.7 ^[24]
Defect recombination coefficient	A	$1 \times 10^8 { m s}^{-1[22]}$
Bimolecular recombination coefficient	B_{0}	$1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1[22]}$
Bimolecular recombination coefficient	B_1	$1 \times 10^{-10} \mathrm{~cm^{3}~s^{-1}}$
Bimolecular recombination carrier coefficient	B_2	$1\! imes\!10^{-19}{ m cm}^{-3}$
Auger recombination coefficient	C_{\circ}	$7 \times 10^{-27} \mathrm{~cm^{6}~s^{-1[22]}}$
Speed of light in a vacuum	С	$3 \times 10^{-10} \mathrm{~cm~s^{-1}}$
Optical confinement factor	Γ_z	$0.1^{[25]}$
Group refractive index	$n_{ m g}$	3.5
Spontaneous emission factor	β	$1 \times 10^{-4[1]}$
Side-length of square microcavity	а	15 μm
Thickness of the active region	$d_{\scriptscriptstyle a}$	100 nm
Internal loss	$lpha_{ m int}$	$10 \text{ cm}^{-1[24]}$
Linewidth enhancement factor	α	$3^{[24]}$
Q factor of cavity	Q	$2.5 imes 10^{4}$
Gain width	λ_{g}	40 nm
Material gain parameter	g_0	$1\ 200\ \mathrm{cm}^{-1[1]}$
Carrier density at transparency (at 1 490 nm)	$N_{ m tr}$	$1.7 \times 10^{18} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3[1]}$
Logarithmic gain parameter	N_s	$0.092 \ N_{ m tr} \ { m cm}^{-3[26]}$
Self-gain suppression coefficient	$arepsilon_{ m pp}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-17} \mathrm{~cm^{3[1]}}$
Cross-gain suppression coefficient	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ m pq}$	$3.3 imes 10^{-17} m cm^3$

表1 参数的定义及数值 Table 1 Explanation and value of the various symbols



图 1 模式 M1、M2、M3和总的输出功率随注入电流的变化 Fig. 1 M1, M2, M3 and total output powers versus the biasing current

2 相对强度噪声模拟结果

相对强度噪声是指激光输出功率的波动。过大的相对强度噪声会导致模拟信号的信号失真和数字信号 的误码率增加^[1]。对于半导体激光器来说,即使在稳态下,也会出现不同程度的RIN噪声,这主要是由于器件 中载流子与光子的随机产生和随机复合,导致载流子密度和光子密度的不规则变化。相对强度噪声定义为

$$\operatorname{RIN} = \frac{\left\langle \delta P(t)^2 \right\rangle}{P_o^2} \tag{12}$$

相对强度噪声谱定义为自相关函数的快速傅里叶变换,在T=50 µs的长周期内计算为^[10]

$$\operatorname{RIN} = \frac{1}{\langle P \rangle^2} \left\{ \frac{1}{T} \left| \int_{0}^{T} \delta P(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt \right|^2 \right\}$$
(13)

式中,ω为角频率。在1ps的计算步长下模拟了不同注入电流下激光器单模激射时的相对强度噪声谱,如图2(a)。可以看到,随着注入电流的增大,弛豫振荡频率增大,相对强度噪声值和弛豫振荡峰值明显减小。





当注入电流为115mA时,微腔激光器的RIN噪声接近于标准量子极限2hv/P=-165.5dB/Hz。

而由图1中的PI曲线可以得到,当电流在一定的注入条件下,微腔激光器可以处于双模激射状态。当 I=51mA时为M1、M2模式激射,I=87mA时M2、M3模式双模激射。激光器偏置电流分别为51和87mA 下的RIN噪声谱如图2(b)和(c)所示。当I=51mA时,模式M1和M2同时激射,由于M1模式的输出功率 大于M2模式,M1模式的光子密度大,整体的RIN噪声值小于M2模式。然而,在低频处两个模式的相对强 度噪声都由于模式竞争作用而明显地增加,增加大小为25dB/Hz。同样,当I=87mA时,激射双模的相对 强度噪声在低频处也有一个显著地提升趋势,如图2(c)。图3(a)和(b)给出51和87mA电流下,不同模式 的光子密度随时间的波动,可以看出双模激射状态下两个模式的光子密度的涨落相反,呈相互竞争状态。



图 3 激光器双模激射时光子密度在时域上的波动 Fig. 3 The photon density fluctuations at time domain when the laser is dual-mode lasing

3 频率噪声与线宽模拟

3.1 频率噪声与快速傅里叶变换光谱分析

除了相对强度噪声之外,半导体激光器还产生频率噪声,这导致激光器的模式存在一定的线宽。半导体激光器的线宽是由其输出相位的抖动引起的。通过求解速率方程,由相位得到频率噪声的波动

$$\Delta\nu(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\mathrm{d}\psi}{\mathrm{d}t} \tag{14}$$

其中计算时长为50 µs,步长为1 ps。使用快速傅里叶变换计算得到双边带的频率噪声功率谱密度,表示为

$$FN = \frac{1}{T} \left| \int_{0}^{T} \Delta \nu(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt \right|^{2}$$
(15)

模拟中给出的结果都是单边带的频率噪声功率谱密度,其幅值为双边带噪声谱的二倍。

激光的线宽,即激光单模光谱的半高全宽,可以由单边带FN噪声谱低频处的频率噪声确定^[1]

$$\Delta f = \pi \times FN(0) \tag{16}$$

通过对频率噪声谱低频处(10~30 MHz)的频率噪声取平均后计算,所得结果为微腔激光器的线宽。

为了计算激光器模式光谱来得到微腔激光器的线宽,通过快速傅里叶变换的方法模拟激射模式的光 谱,并由激光光谱的半高全宽得到激光器的线宽。由速率方程式(1)~(3)以及噪声源方程式(8)~(10),可 以得到光子时序*S*(*t*)与相位时序*ψ*(*t*),进而得到激光器的模式电场,即

$$E(t) = \sqrt{S(t) \exp\left\{j\left[\omega t + \psi(t)\right]\right\}}$$
(17)

将时序电场结果进行快速傅里叶变换,可以得到激光光谱谱线,由光谱的半高全宽可以得到激光的线宽 大小。

3.2 单模激射的频率噪声及线宽

当注入电流为40mA,初始温度为300K时,此时回音壁微腔激光器在M1模式处单模激射,模式的输出 光功率为3.9mW。如图4(a),此时激光器的频率噪声谱在7GHz的张弛振荡频率处有一明显的张弛振荡 峰。通过对频率噪声谱低频处的频率噪声取平均后利用式(16)求得此时激光器的线宽为243.6kHz。随着 注入电流的增加,激光器跳模至 M2 处单模激射。当 I=70 mA 时,微腔激光器的频率噪声谱如图 4(b)。相 比于 I=40 mA,随着电流的增加,输出光功率和张弛振荡频率都增大,而 FN 谱的张弛振荡峰明显地降低。 激光器的频率噪声整体随着注入电流的增大而减小,此时可以得到激光器的线宽为134.4 kHz。同样,当注 入电流继续增加时,器件跳模至 M3 处单模激射,线宽减小。图 4(c)给出了当偏置电流持续上升至115 mA 时微腔激光器的线宽,为 85.6 kHz。与测试中得到的线宽结果相比,仿真得到的微腔激光器线宽要小得多, 其原因主要有以下几点:1)实验中激光器模式之间的模式竞争更多而复杂;2)在实验测试中,测试系统引入 的噪声以及 1/f噪声等会导致测量线宽的展宽;3)数值模拟中如自发发射因子、线宽增强因子等参数的选取 也会对线宽的计算结果产生影响。



图4 激光器处于不同单模激射状态时的频率噪声谱 Fig. 4 FN spectra of the laser in different single-mode lasing states

在 *I*=115 mA 电流条件下,将得到的 M3模式的光子时序与相位时序代入式(17)得到模电场,对此电场 序列进行快速傅里叶变换得到激射模式的激光光谱线型,如图 4(d)。在积分时长 *T*=50 μs 的时长下模拟得 到的激光光谱线型进行洛伦兹拟合后得到为 77.2 kHz 的激光器线宽。与图 4(c)中由频率噪声谱得到的 85.6 kHz线宽相比,二者的误差为 10%。

3.3 双模激射的频率噪声及线宽

当微腔激光器处于双模状态下,例如,当*I*=51 mA时,激光器 M1、M2模式的频率噪声谱分别如图 5(a) 和(b)。由于模式竞争作用,M1,M2模式频率噪声谱的低频处都有频率噪声升高的现象。通过 FN 谱低频 处平均噪声计算得到的 M1、M2模式的线宽分别为 314.9 kHz 和 0.61 MHz。相比于激光器单模激射的状态, 双模情况下的线宽明显展宽,这与之前实验得到的结果一致^[18]。图 5(c)和(d)分别为对 M1和 M2模式模拟 的激光线型。与图 4(d)的计算方式相同,通过快速傅里叶变换对模式电场进行分析,在 51 mA 的电流下得 到的 M1和 M2模式光谱半高全宽分别为 338.8 kHz 和 558.4 kHz。

接下来研究当注入电流从 50 mA 到 52 mA 变化时,双模模式的频率噪声与线宽的动态变化全过程。 图 6(a)给出了该过程中 M1模式频率噪声的变化。随着注入电流的增加,由于模式竞争的作用,M1模式的 光功率逐渐减小,从而整体的频率噪声都有所增加。然而由图中可以看到,M1低频处频率噪声的升高速度



图 5 注入电流为 51mA 的双模激射状态下,模式的 FN 谱线与激光线型 Fig. 5 FN spectra and spectra of laser line shape in dual-mode lasing state at I = 51mA

明显大于高频处的,而低频处的FN噪声与线宽成正比,这就导致了激光器线宽的展宽。而M2模式与之相反,注入电流从50mA增加到52mA时,M2模式的光功率是逐渐升高的,这使得其整体的频率噪声处于下降的趋势。如图6(b),在其下降的过程中,高频处的频率噪声下降速度要远远大于低频处,这也使得低频处的频率噪声更大,激光器的线宽增加。当*I*=50mA时,模式M1与M2的抑制比为29dB,两个模式FN谱低频处的频率噪声平坦。而当注入电流增加到50.12mA时,微腔激光器边模抑制比(Side-Mode Suppression Ratio, SMSR)为20dB,可以看到此时频率噪声谱的低频处开始有抬升的趋势。由此可以得到,当微腔激光器的SMSR<20dB时,激光器的模式线宽展宽。



图 6 注入电流从 50 mA 增加至 52 mA 时, M1 和 M2 模式频率噪声谱的变化过程 Fig. 6 The change of FN spectra of M1 and M2 when the injection current increases from 50 to 52 mA

4 结论

本文研究了回音壁微腔激光器的噪声和线宽特性。通过建立带有朗之万噪声源的三模速率方程模型,

对微腔激光器的相对强度噪声和频率噪声进行了研究。随着激光器注入电流的增加,相对强度噪声和频率 噪声显著降低。在高偏置电流下相对强度噪声接近于标准量子极限,并在 Q=2.5×10⁴,I=115 mA 下得到 了 85.6 kHz 的微腔激光器线宽。通过快速傅里叶变换对激光线型进行模拟,并由激光线型的半高全宽得到 激光模式线宽,获得与频率噪声一致的结果。当激光器双模激射时,由于模式竞争作用导致模式低频处的 相对强度噪声和频率噪声都有明显的抬升现象。双模微腔激光器主次模转换过程中,随电流增加高功率模 式的低频频率噪声比高频处升高快,而低功率模式的低频频率噪声比高频处下降慢,从而使得激光器低频 处频率噪声变大,激光器线宽展宽。

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Numerical Simulation of Noise Characteristics for WGM Microcavity Lasers (Invited)

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Abstract: In this paper, by establishing a tri-mode rate equation model with a gain spectrum model and Langevin noise sources, the relative intensity noise, frequency noise and linewidths of a WGM microcavity laser are investigated numerically, and the influence of the mode competition on noise characteristics of the microcavity lasers is mainly studied.

The steady-state characteristics of the microcavity laser are simulated by the tri-mode rate equation model including carrier densities, photon densities and mode phases. The mode skipping due to the thermal effect caused by the injection current is simulated. As the temperature increases due to the current injection, the lasing wavelength of the microcavity laser redshifts and the mode skips with the increase of the injection current. The effect on the optical power, relative intensity noise, frequency noise and linewidths are studied by inducing Langevin noise sources to the rate equations. When the microcavity laser is at a single-mode lasing state, the relaxation oscillation peaks of the relative intensity noise and frequency noise spectra both move to the high frequency with the increase of the injection current, and the whole relative intensity noise and frequency noise decrease. Relative intensity noise refers to the ensemble average of the fluctuations of the laser power relative to the average power squared. The relative intensity noise approaches the standard quantum limit of -165.5 dB/Hz at a high bias current of 115 mA, a long integral time of 50 μ s and a short time step of 1 ps. The frequency noise of the laser refers to the random fluctuation of instantaneous mode frequency, which comes from the natural phase noise of the laser caused by the spontaneous emission, and phase noise caused by carrier fluctuation. And the linewidth of the microcavity laser, which is the full-width at half-maximum of the single-mode spectrum, is determined from the low-frequency of the frequency noise spectrum. By averaging the frequency noise at the low-frequency of the frequency noise spectrum, a low linewidth of 85.6 kHz for the microcavity laser could be obtained with I=115 mA and $Q=2.5\times10^4$, which is smaller than the measured laser linewidth.

Furthermore, the fast Fourier transform is proposed to simulate the laser spectrum using the mode electric field expressed by the mode photon density and the mode phase. When the injection current is 115 mA and the integral time is 50 μ s, the optical spectrum of the laser line shape is obtained and the simulated linewidth of the microcavity laser by Lorentz fitting is 77.2 kHz, which is about 10% smaller than that obtained from the frequency noise spectrum.

When the microcavity laser is dual-mode lasing, the relative intensity noise and the frequency noise of each mode increases obviously at the low-frequency due to the mode competition. When the injection current is 51 mA, the microcavity laser is dual-mode lasing at modes M1 and M2. The relative intensity noise at low-frequency increases by 25 dB/Hz, and the linewidths of the two modes with output powers of 3.33 mW and 1.63 mW, calculated from the frequency noise spectrum at low frequency, are 1.5 times and 6 times of the linewidth at single-mode lasing state with the same output power. The linewidths of the dual-mode lasing state are significantly widened, which is consistent with the experimental results. The mode

electric field is also analyzed with the help of the fast Fourier transform and the laser linewidths obtained from the lasing mode spectra are in agreement with those obtained from the frequency noise spectra. The dynamic change process of the frequency noise and the linewidth at dual-mode lasing state are studied when the injection current varies from 50 to 52 mA. When the side-mode suppression ratio is less than 20 dB, the laser linewidth begins to widen. The frequency noise at low-frequency of the high power state mode rises faster than that at high-frequency, and the frequency noise at low-frequency of the low power mode falls slower than that at high-frequency, which makes the frequency noise at low-frequency of the microcavity laser always in a high state and widens the linewidth of the microcavity laser.

Key words: Semiconductor microcavity lasers; Relative intensity noise; Phase noise; Frequency noise; Linewidth

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