

引用格式: CAO Lingyan, LI Zhijun, QI Hongchao, et al. Ultra-high Sensitivity Detection Technology of Dissolved Gas in Oil Based on Miniature Resonant Photoacoustic Cell[J]. Acta Photonica Sinica, 2023, 52(3):0352120

曹玲燕,李志军,齐宏超,等.基于微型共振光声池的高灵敏度油中溶解气体检测技术[J].光子学报,2023,52(3):0352120

基于微型共振光声池的高灵敏度油中溶解气体检测技术

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摘要:针对真空脱气法脱气效率高但气量少的特点,提出了基于微型共振光声池的高灵敏度油中溶解气体检测技术。使用真空脱气法对变压器油中溶解的乙炔气体进行脱气,结合气室体积为 12.4 mL 的小体积 H 型共振式光声池,实现对油中溶解乙炔气体浓度的高灵敏度测量。利用掺铒光纤放大器对激光功率进行放大,并分析在近红外波段乙炔、水蒸气和二氧化碳的气体吸收光谱,选择较合适的气体吸收谱线进行光声信号激发。通过实验对激光调制电流和调制频率等参数进行优化。配置不同浓度的油样对系统的性能进行测试,得到系统对乙炔油样的最低检测限为 0.2 $\mu\text{L/L}$ 。

关键词:激光光谱;光声光谱;油中溶解气体分析;光声池;真空脱气

中图分类号:O433.4

文献标识码:A

doi:10.3788/gzxb20235203.0352120

0 引言

电力变压器作为连接不同电压等级的中枢部件,其运行可靠性直接关系到电力系统的稳定和安全运行。目前我国电力系统中所使用的大型变压器普遍采用油浸式变压器,采用绝缘油作为冷却和绝缘的介质。而变压器内部由于过载或制造缺陷,可能会出现放电和过热等故障,故障释放的能量会使绝缘油中的碳氢化合物分子键发生断裂,产生小分子特征气体溶解在油中^[1]。不同类型的故障产生的特征气体浓度和类型不同,根据油中溶解气体分析(Dissolved Gas Analysis, DGA)技术对油中溶解气体的种类和浓度进行分析,从而判断变压器的运行状态及老化状态。油浸式变压器的过热和放电故障可以通过检测乙炔(C_2H_2)气来区分。而油中溶解的乙炔浓度通常在亚 $\mu\text{L/L}$ 甚至 nL/L 量级,因此,高灵敏度油中溶解乙炔气体检测对于变压器中的放电故障预警具有重要意义^[2]。

检测油中溶解气体的常用方法主要有气相色谱法、拉曼光谱法和红外吸收光谱法。气相色谱法是一种用色谱柱分离不同气体的方法,可对多组分气体进行定量检测。然而,气相色谱仪需要频繁校准和维护,且操作繁琐^[3]。拉曼光谱可以对多组分特征气体进行定性和定量检测,但其检测灵敏度较低,无法达到现场应用的要求。溶解在变压器油中的主要特征气体在红外光谱区具有较强的吸收带,因此,可以通过基于朗伯-比尔吸收定律的吸收光谱技术对其进行检测,具有灵敏度高和选择性好等显著优势^[4]。红外吸收光谱包括可调谐二极管激光吸收光谱(Tunable Diode Laser Absorption Spectroscopy, TDLAS)和光声光谱(Photoacoustic Spectroscopy, PAS)。TDLAS 技术使用窄带激光二极管扫描气体吸收谱线来测量气体浓度。为了提高气体检测灵敏度,通常采用大体积的多通池增大吸收程。但受限于较少的脱气量,多通池不适合用于低浓度油中溶解气体检测^[5-6]。与其他检测方法相比,PAS 具有无需载气、无需频繁校准、气体样品

基金项目:国家自然科学基金(No.61905034)

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收稿日期:2022-07-06;录用日期:2022-08-15

<http://www.photon.ac.cn>

量小和灵敏度高等优点,近年来正逐步替代传统色谱法而得到广泛关注^[7-8]。2003年,英国 Kelman 公司率先研制出基于黑体辐射红外宽谱光源的光声光谱油中溶解气分析设备,可对油中多种特征气体进行在线监测^[9]。该仪器具备免维护、无需载气和可在线监测等优势,但在现场应用过程中也暴露出了一些问题:1)实际测量精度和灵敏度不高,这是由于系统采用黑体辐射红外光源结合宽带滤光片方案,导致多种气体组分间的交叉干扰较大,并且采用的基频信号检测方法使光声池壁和窗片吸收光能产生的本底易受温度和光源功率影响而产生基线漂移;2)采用的动态顶空脱气法将空气溶入油样中,循环取样后可能会使变压器油劣化,影响绝缘性能。

半导体激光技术的快速发展,使得光声信号激励光源的光谱功率密度比非相干光源高几个数量级,产生了灵敏度高且交叉干扰小的激光光声光谱气体检测技术。与非共振式光声池相比,共振式光声池采用声学共振腔对光声信号进行放大,可以有效地增强光声信号,提高气体检测灵敏度。为了提高乙炔气体的检测极限,2017年,哈尔滨工业大学的马欲飞等将大功率掺铒光纤放大(Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier, EDFA)技术与石英增强光声光谱(Quartz-enhanced Photoacoustic Spectroscopy, QEPAS)技术结合,检测限达到 33.2×10^{-9} ^[10-11]。2017年,MA G 等将 TDLAS 技术应用于油中溶解乙炔气体检测中,并使用波长调制技术与 Herriott 式光声池结合,使系统对乙炔的检测极限达到 $0.49 \mu\text{L/L}$ ^[12]。2018年,本团队将波长调制技术、EDFA 技术、共振光声光谱技术和二次谐波检测技术结合,将乙炔的极限检测灵敏度提高到 0.37×10^{-9} ^[13]。但是,上述工作只对标准气体进行了测试,并没有实际检测油中溶解的气体。2021年,本团队通过集成油气分离膜和微型光声探头,设计了一种用于原位检测油中溶解气体的光纤光声传感器,乙炔的检出限达到 $0.5 \mu\text{L/L}$ ^[14],采用的膜分离技术具有无需抽油和不污染油样的优点,但该技术存在脱气时间长的缺点。

本文针对真空脱气法脱气效率高但气量少的特点,提出了基于微型共振光声池的超高灵敏度油中溶解气体检测技术。溶解在油中的乙炔气体通过真空脱气装置分离后进入到微型共振光声池,利用 EDFA 放大激光功率以大幅度增强光声信号。通过测试不同浓度的油中溶解乙炔油样,对系统性能进行测试。

1 原理

1.1 微型共振光声池原理及设计

光声池是气体分子吸收光能产生光声信号的场所,共振式光声池在工作于其共振频率处时,可以在池内形成驻波,增强光声信号,在气体检测方面具有一定的优势^[15]。光声信号的幅值振幅 $A_j(\omega)$ 是和角频率 ω 有关的函数,可以表示为^[2]

$$A_j(\omega) = -\frac{i\omega}{\omega_j^2} \frac{N\sigma \left(\frac{\gamma-1}{V_c} \right) \int p_j^*(\mathbf{r}) I(\mathbf{r}, \omega) dV}{1 - \left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_j} \right)^2 - i \frac{\omega}{\omega_j Q_j}} \quad (1)$$

式中, ω_j 为第 j 阶简正角频率, N 激发态的分子数密度, σ 为气体分子吸收截面, γ 为气体热容比, V_c 为光声池体积; $\int p_j^*(\mathbf{r}) I(\mathbf{r}, \omega) dV$ 表示入射光光强 $I(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$ 和简正模式 $p_j(\mathbf{r})$ 的耦合程度, $p_j^*(\mathbf{r})$ 为 $p_j(\mathbf{r})$ 的复数共轭, \mathbf{r} 为位矢, dV 为体积元;品质因数 Q_j 用于描述 j 模式下光声池中能量存储和消耗的比值,表示为

$$Q_j = \omega_j \frac{E_j}{L_{js} + L_{jv}} \quad (2)$$

式中, $E_j = V_c |A_j|^2 / \rho_0 c_A$ 为 j 模式下存储的能量, ρ_0 为密度, c_A 为声速, L_{js} 为表面能量损耗, L_{jv} 为体能量损耗。在共振式光声池中,共振频率与谐振腔体积越大, Q 值越高。同时,由式(1)可知减小共振频率和共振管体积,能够获得更高的振幅响应。光声池体积越小,产生的池壁吸收与噪声也越小,但同时共振管的直径会受到激光光束大小的限制。

设计的微型共振式光声池如图1所示。光声池为黄铜材质,气室体积仅为 12.4 mL。两个缓冲室直径为 20 mm,长为 19 mm,共振管长度为 38 mm,直径为 4 mm。在共振管的上方设有一个小孔,使池中产生的光声信号能够通过小孔被麦克风接收,小孔直径为 1 mm,深度为 2 mm。利用有限元分析软件对光声池进行建模仿

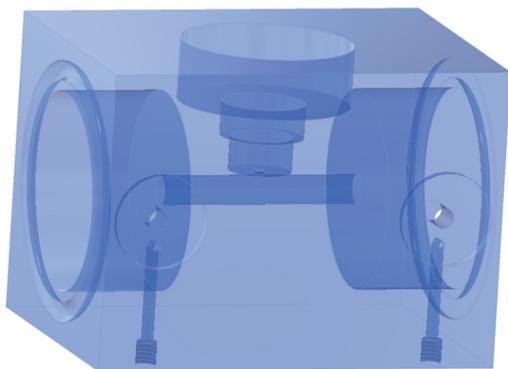


图1 微型共振式光声池结构

Fig. 1 Structural diagram of the miniature resonant photoacoustic cell

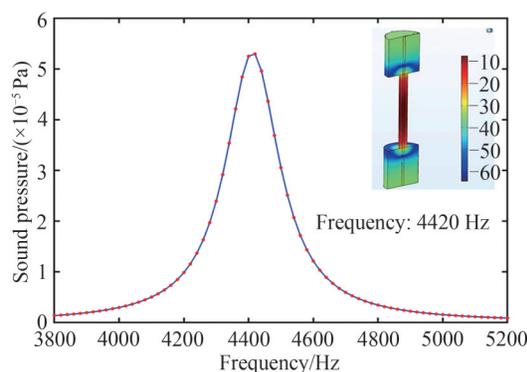


图2 仿真获得的光声池频率响应

Fig. 2 Simulated frequency response of the photoacoustic cell

真,得到共振式光声池频率响应的曲线如图2所示。根据仿真结果显示,光声池在频率4 420 Hz处为共振状态。

1.2 真空脱气原理

脱气模块安装在变压器油循环回路中,采用真空脱气技术实现油气分离。真空脱气法是一种完全脱气法,具有超高的脱气效率。整个脱气过程可以分为系统冲洗,进油,抽真空,脱气,回油^[16]。真空脱气模块结构示意图如图3所示。系统初始内部达到基本真空状态,通过准真空状态和外界大气压(0.1 MPa)的压强差,推动活塞对绝缘油进行移动。溶解待测气体的油样置于真空环境中,等待溶解气体自由扩散。当真空系统中真空度下降到一定阈值,启动真空泵,循环脱气过程。脱出的气体经气室收集在气缸,使气缸压强增大。最后通过气缸活塞的推动对脱出气体进行采样,并送至气体检测装置进行成分和浓度的检测。

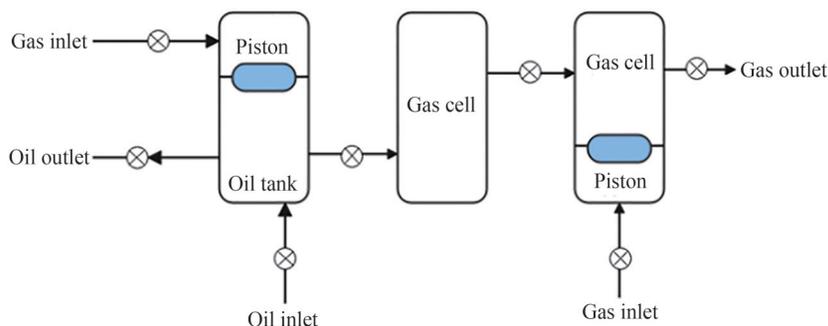


图3 真空脱气模块结构示意图

Fig. 3 Structure diagram of vacuum degassing module

2 基于微型共振光声池的油中溶解气体检测系统

基于微型共振光声池的超高灵敏度油中乙炔气体检测系统的结构示意图如图4所示。采用真空脱气模块分离油中溶解气体,一次脱气时间约为40 min。脱出的气体储存在体积为5 mL的定量管中,等待脱气完成后经气泵抽入光声池中。选用的分布反馈激光器(Distributed Feedback Laser, DFB)的中心波长为1 532.83 nm,发射光谱宽度为0.03 nm,激光功率为13.2 mW,为了保证激光器输出功率的稳定,将激光器温度控制在27℃。DFB激光器的输出电流通过现场可编程门阵列(Field Programmable Gate Array, FPGA)的信号处理电路提供的正弦信号进行调制。DFB激光器输出的激光通过EDFA放大到200 mW经光纤准直器传输到微型共振式光声池中。激光被反射率为98%的镀金反射镜反射形成双程吸收,以增强光声信号。使用电麦克来对光声池中产生的光声信号进行探测,所用电麦克在10 Hz~10 kHz范围内有较好的频率响应。探测得到的光声信号需要从噪声中提取出来,提取方法主要有锁相放大技术和小波变换^[17]等。本系统采用基于FPGA的锁相放大技术和二次谐波检测技术对光声信号进行提取,设计的FPGA锁相放大器的响应频率范围为1 Hz~10 kHz。最后在计算机上使用LabVIEW程序对提取出的信号进行处理,获得气体的浓度信息。

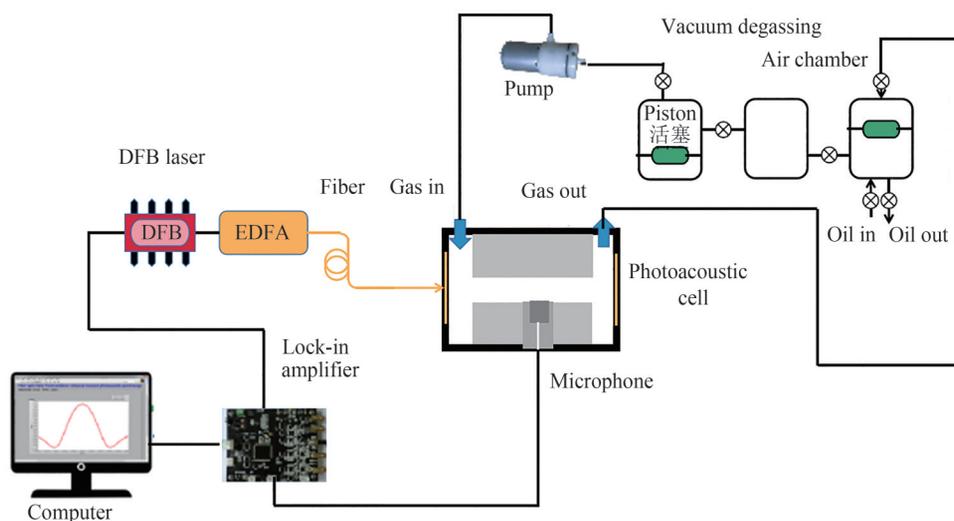
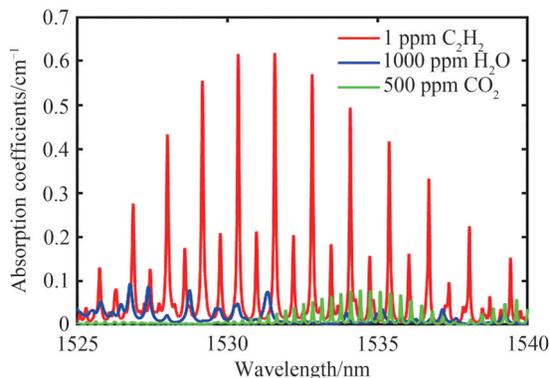


图4 基于微型共振光声池的油中溶解气体检测系统结构示意图

Fig. 4 Schematic diagram of the dissolved gas detection system based on miniature resonant photoacoustic cell

在近红外波段,乙炔气体具有较强的吸收谱线,根据 HITRAN 数据库查询的吸收强度数据,绘制出 1 530~1 535 nm 波长范围内 1 $\mu\text{L/L}$ 的 C_2H_2 和空气中干扰气体 1 000 $\mu\text{L/L}$ 的 H_2O 和 500 $\mu\text{L/L}$ 的 CO_2 气体的吸收谱线。从图 5 中可以看出,在 1 531.58 nm 和 1 532.83 nm 处的乙炔吸收系数较高,考虑到空气中水汽和 CO_2 的干扰,选择了 1 532.83 nm 作为乙炔的检测波长。当检测甲烷或乙烯等气体时,可以选用不同波长的激光器进行检测。

图5 1 $\mu\text{L/L}$ C_2H_2 、500 $\mu\text{L/L}$ CO_2 和 1 000 $\mu\text{L/L}$ H_2O 的近红外波段吸收光谱Fig. 5 Absorption spectra in the near-infrared band of 1 $\mu\text{L/L}$ C_2H_2 , 500 $\mu\text{L/L}$ CO_2 and 1 000 $\mu\text{L/L}$ H_2O

3 实验结果与分析

3.1 激光器工作参数优化

在对油样进行测试前,对光声系统的参数进行了优化,使用恒温装置将光声池温度稳定在 30 $^{\circ}\text{C}$,防止由于温度的变化导致光声池共振频率产生漂移。向光声池中通入浓度为 50 $\mu\text{L/L}$ 的乙炔标准气体,当乙炔气体充满光声池后,将调制频率从 1 000 Hz 调整到 3 000 Hz,每隔 50 Hz 记录光声信号值,得到光声信号与调制频率的关系,如图 6 所示。从图中可以得出,系统在 2 565 Hz 处信号值最强,实验采用二次谐波技术进行检测,调制频率为所提取信号频率的二分之一。因此,光声池的共振频率设置为 5 130 Hz。

在相同气体条件下确定激光器的调制电流和偏置电流,根据实验结果可以得到,激光器的最佳工作偏置电流为 102.8 mA。在该偏置电流下,实验得到光声信号幅度与调制电流的关系如图 7 所示,最佳调制电流为 5 mA。

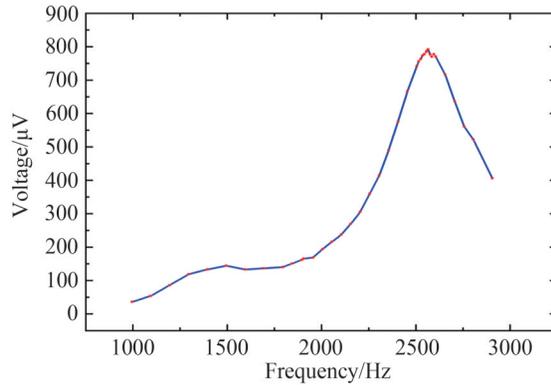


图6 实验测得的微型光声池的频率响应

Fig. 6 Experimental frequency response of the micro-resonant photoacoustic cell

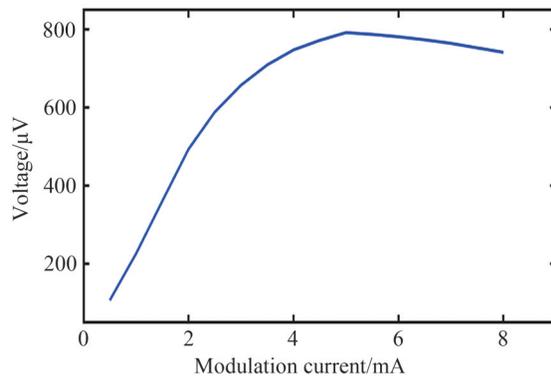


图7 光声信号幅度与调制电流的关系

Fig. 7 Relationship between the photoacoustic signal amplitude and the modulation current

3.2 油中溶解气体检测实验

将不同体积的 C_2H_2 标准气体溶解到变压器空白油中,使其配置成浓度分别为 $2 \mu L/L$ 、 $10 \mu L/L$ 、 $20 \mu L/L$ 、 $40 \mu L/L$ 和 $50 \mu L/L$ 的油样,设置激光器的输出波长为 1532.83 nm ,调制电流为 102.8 mA ,偏置电流为 5 mA ,光源调制频率为 2565 Hz ,对油样中含有的乙炔浓度进行检测。首先使用恒温控制器将光声池温度稳定在 $30^\circ C$,然后使用真空脱气装置将乙炔气体脱离出来,并通过气泵循环到光声池中,待脱气完毕后,将光声池气阀关闭,对池中的气体进行检测,得到对应的光声信号。测得的光声信号二次谐波幅值如图8所示,为了降低气泵以及气体流动对光声信号造成的干扰,测量过程将光声池气阀关闭。油样中的乙炔浓度越低,二次谐波的峰值也会越低,将各个浓度的乙炔油样测量的二次谐波峰值进行线性拟合,如图9所示。根据拟合的

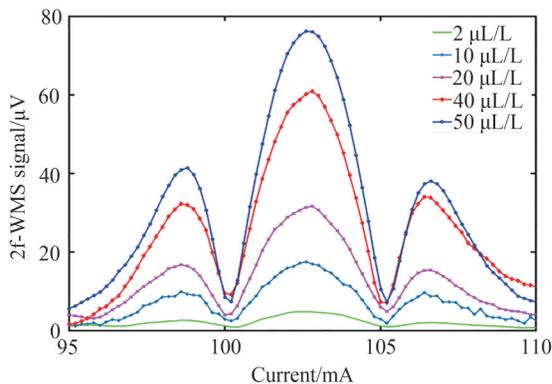


图8 系统对溶解不同浓度 C_2H_2 油样的二次谐波响应
Fig. 8 The second harmonic response of the system to dissolved C_2H_2 oil samples with different concentrations

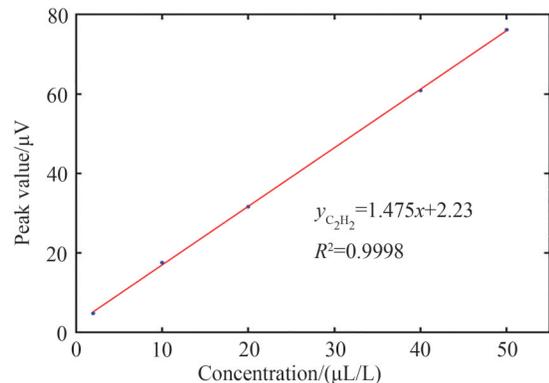


图9 二次谐波幅值与油样浓度关系
Fig. 9 The relationship between the peak values of second harmonic signals and the oil sample concentrations

结果可以看出,微型共振光声池系统对乙炔油样的响应为 $1.475 \mu\text{V}/(\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1})$ 。

对各个浓度的乙炔油样进行重复性实验验证系统的性能,得到的结果如表1所示,可以看出该系统重复性良好,每次检测的绝对误差值在 $\pm 0.2 \mu\text{L}/\text{L}$ 以内,符合国家电网行业标准对于油中溶解气体在线监测装置的A类误差要求。

表1 低浓度油中溶解乙炔气体检测结果
Table 1 Detection results of dissolved C_2H_2 in low concentration oil

Concentration/ ($\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	Result of test 1/ ($\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	Result of test 2/ ($\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	Result of test 3/ ($\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)	Maximum error/ ($\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)
5.6	5.7	5.5	5.4	0.2
1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.1
0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1

4 结论

本文研究了基于微型共振光声池的高灵敏度油中溶解乙炔气体的检测技术,根据共振式光声池的原理设计了微型共振光声池,大大减小了光声池的体积。分析了在近红外波段乙炔气体的干扰,通过对吸收谱线的分析,确定了最适合的吸收波长。搭建了一套油中溶解乙炔的检测系统,并对系统的参数进行了调试。结合EDFA与DFB激光器,放大激光功率,配置不同浓度的乙炔油样进行实际检测。实验结果表明,系统对 C_2H_2 油样的响应为 $1.475 \mu\text{V}/(\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1})$,能够对浓度为 $0.2 \mu\text{L}/\text{L}$ 的乙炔油样进行检测,实现了超高灵敏度的油中溶解乙炔气体的测量,可为变压器油中溶解气体在线监测提供一种新的技术方案。

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Ultra-high Sensitivity Detection Technology of Dissolved Gas in Oil Based on Miniature Resonant Photoacoustic Cell

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Abstract: The detection of dissolved acetylene (C_2H_2) in transformer oil is an important means to detect the operating state of transformers. In order to realize the low concentration of dissolved acetylene gas in oil, a detection system of dissolved C_2H_2 gas in oil based on a miniature resonant Photoacoustic (PA) cell is designed. The oil sample was put in a vacuum oil tank. Then the dissolved gas in oil diffused into the vacuum part of the oil tank. Because of the diffusion of the dissolved gas, the vacuum of the oil tank decreased. The gas was pumped into a gas cell after a set time. The gas in the gas cell was pumped into the detection system by a gas pump to obtain the concentration of C_2H_2 . The degassing time was about 40 min. A Distributed Feedback (DFB) laser was selected as the excitation source of the PA signal. According to the spectrum data of C_2H_2 obtained from the HITRAN database, the central wavelength of the DFB laser was chosen to be 1 532.83 nm with an emission spectrum width of 0.3 pm after considering the cross interference of H_2O and CO_2 . The output power of the DFB laser was 13.2 mW. To keep the laser power stable, the temperature of the DFB laser was kept to be 27°C. The output of the DFB laser was modulated by a sine signal which was produced by a signal processing circuit of a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA). The power of the laser was amplified to 200 mW by an erbium doped fiber amplifier before the laser was emitted into the PA cell through a fiber collimator. The volume of the PA cell was 12.4 mL. In the PA cell, the laser was reflected by a gold-plated mirror with 98% reflectance to double the absorption length. According to the principle of the PA, the PA signal was increased with the increase of the absorption length. A constant temperature device was used to stabilize the temperature of the PA cell at 30°C to prevent the resonant frequency of the PA cell from drifting due to temperature changes. An electric microphone was used to detect the PA signal. The responsibility of the electric microphone was good between 10 Hz and 10 kHz. A lock-in amplifier based on FPGA was used to extract the second harmonic signal from the electric signal of the microphone. The response frequency range of FPGA lock-in amplifier was 1 Hz~10 kHz. Finally, the electric signal was processed by a LabVIEW program to obtain the

concentration of dissolved C_2H_2 in oil. The signals of 50 $\mu\text{L/L}$ standard C_2H_2 gas was recorded during the frequency range from 1 000 Hz to 3 000 Hz. The maximum value of the signals was obtained at the frequency of 2 565 Hz. Because of the use of second harmonic technology, the resonance frequency of the PA cell was 5 130 Hz. Modulation current and bias current were determined to be 5 mA and 102.8 mA respectively at the resonance frequency. Dissolve different volumes of C_2H_2 standard gas into transformer blank oil to prepare oil samples with concentrations of 2 $\mu\text{L/L}$, 10 $\mu\text{L/L}$, 20 $\mu\text{L/L}$, 40 $\mu\text{L/L}$ and 50 $\mu\text{L/L}$. Under the condition mentioned above, the responsibility of dissolved C_2H_2 in oil was $1.475 \mu\text{V}/(\mu\text{L}\cdot\text{L}^{-1})$. The performance of the system was verified by repeated experiments on dissolved C_2H_2 in oil samples of various concentrations. And the system had good repeatability with the absolute error value of each test within $\pm 0.2 \mu\text{L/L}$. The minimum detection limit of the system for dissolved C_2H_2 -in-oil samples is 0.2 $\mu\text{L/L}$. The detection system realizes an ultra-high sensitivity measurement of dissolved acetylene gas in oil, which can provide a new technical solution for on-line monitoring of dissolved gas in transformer oil.

Key words: Laser spectroscopy; Photoacoustic spectroscopy; Analysis of dissolved gas in oil; Photoacoustic cell; Vacuum degassing

OCIS Codes: 300.6340; 300.1030; 120.0280; 280.4788