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# 外差探测随机相位调制连续波激光测距的 快速解调方法

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摘 要:基于外差相干检测的随机相位调制连续波激光测距具有灵敏度高、对背景噪声容忍度高等优点,但传统的解调方法都是基于序列移位相乘和傅里叶变换,需要消耗大量计算资源和计算时间。提出并验证了一种针对随机相位调制连续波激光测距的快速解调方法,通过对回波外差信号进行傅里叶 变换得到多普勒频移,解调出目标速度信息,然后通过数字下变频获得回波信号的正交分量,最后利用 傅里叶变换在频域实现伪随机调制序列与回波信号的循环卷积,得到目标的位置信息。在原理验证实 验中,使用长度为2047的11阶伪随机二进制序列,调制速率为40 MHz,利用快速解调方法从回波信号 中成功恢复了目标位置和速度,并在光纤中实现了2.7 m的距离分辨率。

关键词:激光测距;相位调制;相干探测;伪随机码

**中图分类号:**TN247 文献标识码:A

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#### 0 引言

激光雷达是用于目标距离监测的强大工具。各种类型的激光雷达被广泛应用在大气与海洋科学,例如 激光高度计、深空探测和水下目标探测,其中大多数应用是基于脉冲飞行时间的原理<sup>[1-3]</sup>。脉冲激光雷达的 探测距离与积分得到的能量成平方反比关系,为了实现较远的测量距离,需要高峰值功率的脉冲激光器,而 且探测距离越远,所需的峰值功率越高<sup>[4-6]</sup>。为了实现高峰值功率,激光器的结构通常比较复杂,体积庞大, 同时为了避免热损伤,激光器的重复频率不能太高,这会导致激光测距的点频降低。

为了达到使用较低峰值功率的激光实现较远的探测距离的目的,有研究人员提出了随机码调制连续波 技术<sup>[7-10]</sup>,将连续激光进行随机脉冲调制发射而不是仅仅发射单一脉冲,对回波信号与随机调制信号进行互 相关操作得到距离信息。与单一脉冲相比,随机码调制的等效占空比更高,因此达到相同积分能量所需的 光源峰值功率更低,使得利用小型化的半导体激光器实现远距离探测成为可能。

除利用随机强度调制测距外,基于外差相干探测的随机相位调制激光测距系统也陆续被提出<sup>[11-15]</sup>。外差相干探测可以极大地提高测距灵敏度,更重要的是,通过测量多普勒频移可以直接解调出目标的速度信息。然而正是由于多普勒频移的存在,会导致回波相干探测时出现强度包络,用于直调直检随机强度调制激光测距的互相关算法不能直接移植到随机相位调制激光测距系统。

常用的解决方法是将发射随机序列依次移位并与回波外差信号相乘,然后对乘积序列进行傅里叶变换<sup>[11-14]</sup>。当移位量与回波延时相匹配时,随机相位调制的影响将被抵消,傅里叶频谱会出现明显的频率峰,从频谱的峰值频率可以解调出多普勒频移。但是这种方法的缺点很明显,就是计算开销非常大,完成一次 解调所需的傅里叶变换的次数等于采样数据长度,会占用大量的计算资源和计算时间。XU Zhongyan等提

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出相位编码副载波调制技术,探测信号的频谱存在低频和高频两个分量,多普勒频移可以从低频分量中提取,并对高频载波信号进行多普勒频移补偿<sup>[15]</sup>。利用数字信号处理解调出回波信号的相位信息,将相位信息与伪随机码进行互相关操作,从互相关峰的位置计算出反射目标的位置。这种方法的缺点是低频信号无法直接判断出物体运动的方向,需要试探多普勒频移的符号才能确定,这会增加运算量。SEBASTIAN B等提出在进行伪随机码序列相位调制前空闲一段时间,不加任何调制信号,利用这段时间的回波信号计算出多普勒频移<sup>[16]</sup>,但是这种方法会导致测量点频下降。

本文提出了一种针对随机相位调制外差相干探测激光测距的快速解调方法,只需要进行5次傅里叶变换就能完成一次解调,远少于传统解调方法。该方法首先通过对回波外差信号进行傅里叶变换得到多普勒频移,解调出速度信息;然后利用数字下变频得到回波信号的正交分量;最后通过快速傅里叶变换在频域计算回波信号发射随机码的快速循环卷积,从卷积峰值处得到反射目标的位置信息。在验证实验中,使用长度为2047的11阶伪随机二进制序列进行相位调制,信号调制速率为40 MHz,利用提出的快速解调方法从回波信号中正确地恢复出位置和速度信息,在光纤中实现了2.7 m的距离分辨率。

#### 1 实验装置与测量原理

基于外差相干探测的随机相位调制激光测距系统如图1。实验中使用的光源是实验室自制的中心波长 1 550 nm、线宽5.06 kHz的外腔半导体激光器(External Cavity Diode Laser, ECDL)<sup>[17]</sup>。激光器输出经过 95:5的保偏耦合器分束,5%的部分经过声光调制器(Acousto-optic Modulator, AOM)移频后作为本振光, AOM移频量为80 MHz。95%的部分经过电光调制器(Electro-optic Modulator, EOM)进行随机相位调制, 然后经过可调衰减器(Variable Optical Attenuator, VOA)后输入环形器, 经延时光纤传输后被望远镜系统扩束输出。目标物体的反射光被扩束系统收集后与本振光经耦合器混合,并被平衡探测器(Balanced Photodetector, BPD)接收, 混频信号与 EOM 驱动信号被双路模数转换器(Analog to Digital Converter, ADC)采集后发送到上位机,上位机对信号进行处理输出待测目标距离和速度信息。为了验证测距系统的距离分辨率,实验准备了不同长度的带有 FC/PC 接头的单模光纤和反射镜,用于模拟两个不同距离的反射目标。



图 1 随机相位调制激光测距系统框图 Fig. 1 The schematic diagram of the RPMCW LiDAR system

本振光和探测光电场强度 E0 和 E1 可分别表示为

$$\begin{cases} E_0 = \sqrt{P_0} \cos\left\{ \left(\omega_c + \omega_m\right) t + \phi_0 \right\} \\ E_1 = \sqrt{P_1} \cos\left\{\omega_c t + M(t) \times \pi + \phi_1 \right\} \end{cases}$$
(1)

式中, $P_0$ 和 $P_1$ 分别是本振光和探测光功率, $\omega_c$ 和 $\omega_m$ 分别是光源角频率和声光调制器频偏角频率, $\phi_0$ 和 $\phi_1$ 分代表本振光和探测光相位。M(t)是调制伪随机码,其表达式为

$$M(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} a_n g(t - nT)$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

式中, $a_n$ 是由0和1组成的伪随机二进制序列(Pseudo Random Binary Sequence, PRBS),g(t)是门函数,T是脉冲宽度。回波信号与本振光经过耦合器混频后,平衡探测器的输出电信号为

$$S = K \sqrt{P_0 P_1} \cos \gamma \cos \left\{ \left( \omega_{\rm m} + \omega_{\rm d} \right) \left( t - 2nd/c \right) - M \left( t - 2nd/c \right) \pi + \phi_2 \right\}$$
(3)

式中,K是探测器响应度与外差效率和电路放大系数的乘积,γ代表本振光与反射光混频时的偏振失配,ω<sub>d</sub> 是多普勒频移角频率。d和c分别是目标距离和光速,n是介质折射率,在光纤中用1.5计算,φ<sub>2</sub>是测量环境 波动带来的缓变随机相位。根据余弦函数的性质,可以将信号S简化为

$$S = K \sqrt{P_0 P_1} \cos \gamma \times M'(t - 2d/c) \cos\left\{ (\omega_m + \omega_d)(t - 2nd/c) + \phi_2 \right\}$$
(4)

式中,M'(t) = 2M(t) - 1,由一系列+1和-1组成。

在传统解调方法中,将*M*(*t*)序列依次进行移位并与式(4)中的*S*相乘,再对乘积进行快速傅里叶变换。 当序列移位量与目标回波延时匹配时,序列中的+1全部与+1相乘,-1全部与-1相乘,随机相位调制的 效果会被抵消,傅里叶变换频谱出现尖锐的频率峰,根据序列移位量可以解调出距离信息,根据峰值频率可 以得到多普勒频移,进而解调出速度信息。然而这种方法的缺点非常明显,每进行一次移位相乘都需要做 一次傅里叶变换,完成一次解调的计算开销非常大。

为了实现快速解调,本文提出的解决方法是首先提取多普勒频移。在实际系统中,由于器件带宽限制, 脉冲形状并不是完美的方波,因此傅里叶变换频谱中会残留载波信息,可以从中提取出多普勒频移。然后 利用数字下变频消除多普勒频移的影响并将信号搬移到基带,为了克服缓变相位 φ<sub>2</sub>的影响,需要解调出同 相分量和正交分量,分别可以表示为

$$\begin{cases} y_{i} = \sin(\omega_{m} + \omega_{d})t \times S \\ y_{q} = \cos(\omega_{m} + \omega_{d})t \times S \end{cases}$$
(5)

最后通过傅里叶变换和逆变换在频域实现快速循环卷积,具体表达式为

$$Z = \left\| \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ \mathcal{F} \left\{ y_{i} \right\} \mathcal{F} \left\{ M'(t) \right\}^{*} \right\} \right\|^{2} + \left\| \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ \mathcal{F} \left\{ y_{q} \right\} \mathcal{F} \left\{ M'(t) \right\}^{*} \right\} \right\|^{2}$$

$$\tag{6}$$

式中, F<sup>-1</sup>和 F分别代表傅里叶逆变换和傅里叶变换, 上标\*代表复共轭操作。从式(6)可以看出这种方法 只需要进行五次傅里叶变换就能解调出距离信息, 与传统方法相比可以节省大量的计算资源和计算 时间。

#### 2 实验结果

实验使用 11 阶 PRBS 信号进行随机相位调制,序列长度为 2 047,调制速率为 40 MHz,信号发生器 (RIGOL, DG952)的模拟带宽为 50 MHz,双路 ADC 采样率 200 MSPS,完成一次测量所需的采样的数据长 度为 10 235,这意味着使用传统解调方法需要进行 10 235次傅里叶变换,而新方法只需进行 5次傅里叶变换 就能完成解调,极大地节省了计算资源。首先验证了该方法对目标速度测量的可行性,将角反射器固定在 滑块上作为探测目标,将滑块固定在导轨上前后移动模拟目标运动。图 2 是不同运动速度下的频谱,当滑块



Fig. 2 The spectra with different speed

靠近时产生正的频移,远离时频移为负数,傅里叶变换的频率分辨率为19.5 kHz,对应的速度分辨率为 6.3 mm/s。

不同运动速度下的测距结果如图 3,尽管滑块移动时的位置并不相同,但是都在 0.5 m 范围内,远远小于 系统的理论分辨率 2.5 m,因此不同速度下的互相关峰位置都在 1 067 m 附近,此外不同速度下的测距信噪 比都高于 10 dB,证明该快速解调方法可以用于运动目标的距离测量。



图 3 不同运动速度下的测距结果 Fig. 3 The measuring results with different speed

在图1中扩束望远镜前面增加一段带FC/PC接头的光纤,利用光纤接头模拟反射目标,将望远镜出射 光斑打在反射镜上模拟另一个反射目标,调整反射镜角度,使得两个目标反射强度接近。初始条件下光纤 反射点与反射镜的距离等效为光纤中相距2.8 m,通过调整反射镜的位置,改变两个目标之间的距离,对比 测量结果,研究测距系统的距离分辨率。当反射目标相距2.8 m和2.7 m时,能清晰地分辨出两个互相关峰, 因此可以断定该测距系统达到了2.7 m的测距分辨率,能够分辨距离大于2.7 m的两个目标。目标距离 2.6 m和2.5 m时,互相关结果只有一个较宽的峰,无法分辨出两个反射目标,证明该系统无法分辨出距离小 于2.6 m的两个目标。



图 4 不同间距的两个反射目标的测量结果 Fig. 4 The measuring results for two reflectors with different distances

为了探究器件带宽受限对信噪比的影响,将理想的方波信号和信号发生器实际产生的伪随机序列带入 式(4)中,忽略偏振失配和噪声的影响并假设多普勒频移已经被完全补偿,将式(4)的计算结果与PRC′做循 环卷积运算,计算结果如图5。对于理想调制信号,互相关信噪比为10log102047=33dB,对于信号发生器 产生的实际随机信号,计算得到的信噪比约为24dB,非理想方波调制可以方便地解调出多普勒频移,但是 会带来一定的信噪比损失。

在光纤末尾只保留一个FC/PC接头,利用光纤端面菲涅尔反射(强度约为4%)模拟目标反射,调节可 调衰减器,研究了不同透射功率时的测量结果。透射功率从-5dBm逐步衰减到-40dBm,测量结果如 图6,随着透射功率的减小,光线末端对应的互相关峰的强度也随之衰减,但是整体的噪声水平也会下降,信







图 6 不同透射功率时的测量结果 Fig. 6 The measuring results under different transmission loss

噪比几乎没有变化。即使透射功率下降到-40 dBm,此时端面反射功率约为-54 dBm,信噪比仍高于 10 dB。在距离较近处有一个小的互相关峰,是由于环形器反射造成的。当尾纤透射功率减小到-20 dBm 时,环形器对应的互相关峰淹没在噪声中。

### 3 结论

本文提出并验证了一种针对外差探测随机相位调制连续波激光测距系统的快速解调方法,通过傅里叶 变换提取出多普勒频移,解调出速度信息,然后利用数字下变频从回波信号中恢复出基带正交分量,最后通 过傅里叶变换实现回波相位与调制信号的快速循环卷积,得到目标延时信息。在原理验证实验中,调制速 率为40 MHz,采用长度为2047的11阶伪随机二进制调制序列进行相位调制,ADC采样率为200 MHz,在 光纤中实现了2.7 m的距离分辨率。使用该方法只需要进行5次傅里叶变换就能成功地从回波信号中正确 地恢复了目标位置和速度,相同实验条件下传统方法需要10235次傅里叶变换才能完成解调。与传统解调 方法相比,本文算法极大地节省了计算时间和计算资源,可有效降低实时处理成本。

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# Computation Efficient Demodulation Method for Random Phase Modulated Continuous Wave Light Ranging Based on Heterodyne Detection

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**Abstract:** Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a powerful ranging tool. Various types of LiDARs are widely used in atmospheric and oceanic sciences, such as laser altimeters, deep space exploration, and underwater target detection, most of which are based on time-of-flight. The integrated echo energy of pulsed LiDAR is inversely proportional to the square of detection distance. In order to achieve a longer detection distance, a pulse laser with high peak power is required. The longer the detection distance, the higher the peak power required. In order to achieve high peak power, complex and bulky lasers are usually needed. Meanwhile, the repetition rate of the laser is limited by the thermal damage threshold, which will

reduce the point frequency of laser ranging. In order to achieve long detection distances with a low peak power lasers, some researchers have proposed a random code modulation continuous wave technology, which transmits a continuous laser with random pulse modulation instead of a single pulse. The distance information is obtained by cross-correlating the echo signal and the random modulation signal. Compared with a single pulse, the equivalent duty cycle of random code modulation is higher, so the peak power of the light source required to achieve the same integral energy is lower. It is possible to use miniaturized semiconductor lasers to achieve long-distance detection. In addition to using random intensity modulation for ranging, a random phase modulation laser ranging system based on heterodyne coherent detection has also been proposed. Heterodyne coherent detection can greatly improve the ranging sensitivity. More importantly, the target speed can be directly demodulated by measuring the Doppler frequency shift. However, the cross-correlation algorithm used for direct adjustment and detection of random intensity modulated laser ranging can not be directly transplanted to random phase modulated laser ranging system. A common solution is to sequentially shift the transmitted random sequence and multiply it with the echo heterodyne signal, and then perform FFT on the product results. When the shift amount is matched with the echo delay, the influence of random phase modulation will be canceled, and the Fourier spectrum will have obvious frequency peaks from which the Doppler frequency shift can be demodulated from the peak frequency of the spectrum. The computational complexity of this method is very high. The number of Fourier transforms required to complete a demodulation is equal to the length of the sampled data, which will occupy a large amount of computing resources and computing time. Some researchers have proposed a phase-encoded sub-carrier modulation technique. The spectrum of the detection signal has two components, low frequency and high frequency. The Doppler frequency shift can be extracted from the low frequency component, and the Doppler frequency shift compensation is performed on the high frequency carrier signal. The phase information of the echo signal is demodulated. The cross-correlation operation is performed on the phase information and the pseudo-random code. The target distance is calculated from the position of the cross-correlation peak. The drawback of this method is that the moving direction of the object cannot directly determined from the low-frequency signal. Some researchers propose to add a prefix without modulation before the phase modulation of the Pseudo-random Binary Sequence (PRBS). The echo signal during the prefix calculates the Doppler frequency shift. But this method will lead to a decrease in the measurement point frequency. In this work, a fast demodulation method is proposed for random phase modulated heterodyne detection laser ranging. It only needs five times of FFT to complete one demodulation, which is much less than the traditional demodulation method. Firstly, the Doppler frequency shift is obtained in the FFT spectrum of the heterodyne signal. The quadrature component of the echo signal is then digitally down-converted. The fast circular convolution of the transmitted random code of the echo signal is performed in the frequency domain. The distance information of the reflected target can be calculated from peak location of the the convolution results. In the experiment, the 11th-order PRBS with a length of 2 047 is used for phase modulation. The signal modulation rate is 40 MHz. The position and velocity information is correctly recovered from the echo signal using the proposed fast demodulation method. A distance resolution of 2.7 meters is achieved in the system.

Key words: Laser ranging; Phase modulation; Coherent detection; Pseudo-random code OCIS Codes: 120.2830; 120.1880; 120.5060; 150.5670

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