



·强激光物理与技术·研究快报·

单端泵浦光纤放大器获得 4 kW 单模窄谱激光输出

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摘 要: 窄谱光纤激光器在光束合成等领域有着广泛的应用, 然而模式不稳定效应的出现严重限制着窄谱光纤激光器的功率提升。提出并验证了采用新型 981 nm 稳波长泵浦方案, 能够应用于窄谱激光放大并提升模式不稳定效应阈值, 通过采用单端后向泵浦结构, 将单模窄谱光纤放大器功率提至 4 kW 以上。实验中采用白噪声相位调制展宽单频激光作为窄谱种子, 主放大级分别采用稳波长 976 nm 和 981 nm 两种泵浦源单端后向泵浦。在采用 976 nm 泵浦源泵浦时, 窄谱激光最高放大至 3.4 kW, 出现典型的模式不稳定效应特征, 功率提升受到限制。在采用 981 nm 泵浦源泵浦时, 窄谱激光最高放大至 4.05 kW, 且并未出现模式不稳定效应, 输出光束质量 M^2 因子为 1.3, 进一步功率提升仅受限于泵浦功率。通过优化激光器设计、结合双向泵浦结构, 有望实现更高功率的窄谱光纤激光输出。

关键词: 光纤放大器; 后向泵浦; 高功率; 窄谱; 单模

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4 kW single mode narrow linewidth fiber laser achieved in single-end pumped fiber amplifier

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Abstract: Narrow linewidth fiber lasers (NLFLs) are widely employed in application of beam combining. However, the power scaling of the NLFL are severely limited by the transverse mode instability (TMI) effect. In this work, we have verified that the TMI threshold of narrow linewidth fiber amplifier can be enhanced by employing a 981 nm pump scheme. By constructing a 981 nm counter-pumped fiber amplifier, the output power of single mode NLFL is scaled to over 4 kW. In the experiment, the narrow linewidth seed laser is white noise signal phase modulated single frequency laser, and the main amplifier has two types of laser diodes at wavelengths of 976 nm and 981 nm as counter-pump. When the 976 nm laser diodes are employed, the NLFL is scaled to a maximum of 3.4 kW, which is limited by the occurrence of TMI effect. When the 981nm laser diodes are employed, the NLFL is scaled to 4.05 kW without any sign of TMI. The M^2 factor of the output laser is 1.3. Further power scaling of the fiber amplifier is only limited by the available pump power. By optimizing the fiber laser design and employing bidirectional-pump, NLFL with higher power is achievable.

Key words: fiber amplifier, counter-pump, high power, narrow spectral bandwidth, single mode

高功率窄谱光纤激光器在光束合成等领域应用广泛^[1-2]。在 3 dB 光谱宽度大于 0.3 nm 的窄谱光纤放大器中, 受激拉曼散射 (SRS) 和模式不稳定 (TMI) 效应是限制激光功率提升的主要因素^[3]。当 TMI 效应发生时, 激光模式出现基模和高阶模式之间的动态耦合, 若激光器内采用紧凑的增益光纤盘绕以及严格的包层光滤除, 会使得激光器输出功率下降、时域起伏, 严重时甚至导致激光器烧毁。因此, 高功率窄谱光纤激光器中, TMI 效应是激光器功

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率提升首要解决的限制因素。当前,国内中国工程物理研究院和国防科技大学基于双端泵浦结构都实现了4~5 kW的窄谱光纤激光输出^[4-5],目前尚未见报道基于单端泵浦实现4 kW以上窄谱光纤激光。采用单端泵浦方式可进一步简化激光器结构,但对激光器中TMI效应的抑制提出了更高的要求。

本课题组基于自行提出的981 nm稳波长泵浦源抑制TMI的新技术方案,采用单端后向泵浦方式,实现了输出功率4.05 kW的单模窄谱光纤激光输出。采用981 nm稳波长LD作为泵浦源,可使泵浦波长偏离掺镱光纤在976 nm的吸收峰,显著降低泵浦吸收系数,降低掺镱光纤热负荷而提升激光器的TMI阈值。该放大器原理如图1所示,单频种子激光(SF)经过白噪声(WNS)相位调制(PM)后,注入到三级预放大器(A1, A2, A3)中。利用白噪声信号源(WNS)对相位调制器进行调制,将种子激光的3 dB线宽展宽到0.6 nm左右;种子激光经三级预放后,A3输出功率在30 W左右。预放输出激光进入单端泵浦的放大器中,6组中心波长分别为976 nm和981 nm,单组功率为850 W的泵浦源(LD)通过(6+1)×1合束器注入到20/400 μm增益光纤中。放大器输出激光经过包层光滤除器(CLS)后,由光纤端帽(end cap)输出。

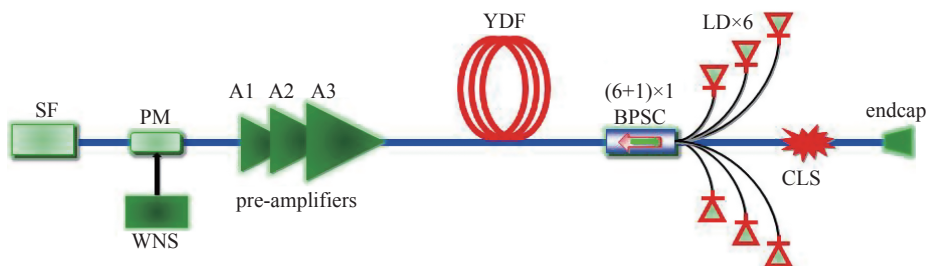


Fig. 1 Schematic of the single-end pumped all fiber laser

图1 单端泵浦全光纤激光器实验结构

实验中,首先采用976 nm稳波长LD泵浦时,在放大器输出功率为3.4 kW时,出现明显的TMI迹象,激光器功率提升受到限制。采用981 nm稳波长LD泵浦时,在最高泵浦功率为5069 W时,输出激光功率4050 W,放大器效率为78.2%,如图2(a)所示。在最高输出功率时,激光器输出3 dB光谱宽度约为0.60 nm,20 dB线宽约为1.6 nm,拉曼光比信号光低40.5 dB,如图2(b)所示。在最高功率时,时域没有出现TMI迹象,如图2(c)所示。测试最高功率时光束质量(M^2)为1.3,激光器远场光斑形态见图2(c)的插图所示。实验验证了981 nm泵浦源在窄谱放大器中的TMI抑制的优点,通过优化激光器设计、结合双向泵浦结构,有望实现更高功率的窄谱光纤激光输出。

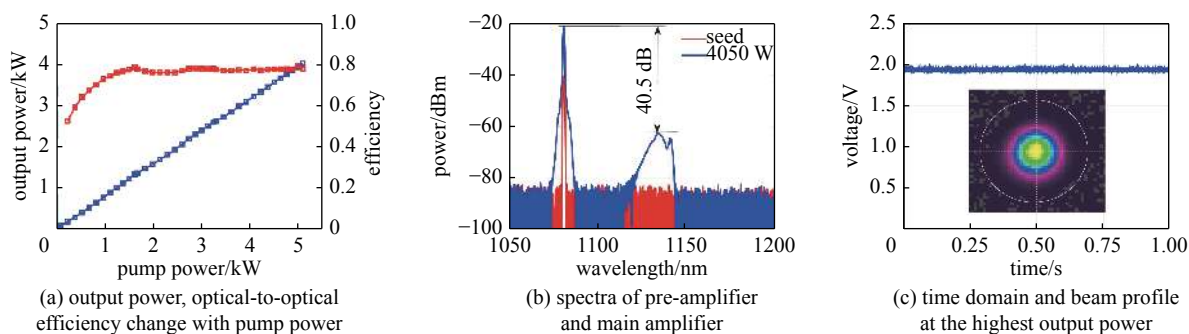


Fig. 2 Experimental results of the single-end pumped narrow linewidth fiber laser

图2 单端泵浦4 kW单模窄谱光纤放大器实验结果

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