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液晶相控阵器件色散特性分析

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摘 要:相控阵器件具有色散的作用,而激光器中心波长通常会产生一定漂移,也具有一定光谱宽度, 导致大角度偏转情况下,激光光束位置与光功率分布发生改变。针对这一问题,通过液晶空间光调制 器与级联液晶偏振光栅两种相控阵器件色散理论,推导出组合液晶相控阵器件波长与坐标之间的关系 公式。结合激光光源的光功率谱分布与单模激光的截面功率分布公式,推导出高斯光束经过组合液晶 相控阵器件后的光功率分布公式。针对公式计算上的困难给出了简易计算方法。结合特定实例,计算 出1000 km 外色散特性以及波长漂移引起的位置偏差,色散特性以及光谱宽度引起的光束截面功率分 布。根据设定系统参数与偏转角度分析了液晶相控阵器件色散特性对能量收集的影响,分析结果表 明:激光光束截面功率向色散方向延伸,偏转角度越大,色散引起的变化越严重,中心位置偏移越严重,

峰值位置功率密度越低。

关键词:液晶相控阵器件;色散;波长漂移;光谱宽度;位置偏移;光功率分布

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0 引言

光学相控阵器件可实现光束的非机械偏转,在激光通信、激光雷达、激光测距、测高等领域均具有重要应用前景^[1-3]。目前成熟的光学相控阵器件主要包含液晶空间光调制器与级联液晶偏振光栅(Liquid Crystal Polarization Grating, LCPG),其中液晶空间光调制器可实现小范围、高精度的非机械偏转,级联的LCPG可实现大范围、大角间隔的非机械偏转,其最大偏转角度可达到±40°^[4-5]。

相控阵器件采用衍射原理,对于非单色光具有色散作用,激光器中心波长与设计值会有一定偏差,使用 过程中也有可能产生一定波长漂移,同时激光也具有一定光谱宽度,色散作用会引起激光光束角度与截面 功率分布的变化,光束截面中心位置与光功率分布模型对于激光应用能力的计算至关重要。目前在计算光 束截面功率密度时,通常假设激光光束截面功率分布是均匀的,而实际情况下为使激光光束截面功率更加 集中,通常使用基模激光,光束截面功率是高斯分布或者瑞利分布。由于色散作用,高斯分布或者瑞利分布 已不再适用。陈万等利用带有镜面对称结构的圆偏振转换器设计了超宽带几何相位元件,设计的基于四层 镜面对称的偏振光栅在420~945 nm的超宽波段内衍射效率都保持在99%以上,解决了液晶级联偏振光栅 衍射效率低、工作谱段窄的问题,但未解决相控阵引起的色散问题^[6]。Paul等计算并模拟了不同波长经过液 晶光学相控阵后由于色散导致的光束分离,并没有分析出光束截面的光功率分布模型^[7]。

本文根据液晶相控阵器件的色散原理,给出了组合液晶相控阵器件的色散公式,结合激光光源的光功率谱 分布与单模激光的光截面功率分布公式,推导出激光光源经过组合液晶相控阵器件后的光功率分布公式,给出

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简易计算方法,最后根据特定系统参数与设定的偏转角度分析了液晶相控阵器件色散特性对能量收集的影响。

1 理论

1.1 液晶相控阵角度偏转

1.1.1 液晶相控阵器件色散

液晶相控阵器件实现角度偏转采用衍射光栅的原理,不同波长入射光经过光栅后出射角度表示为

$$\sin\theta_{\rm out} = \frac{m\lambda}{d} - \sin\theta_{\rm in} \tag{1}$$

式中, θ_{out} 为出射角, θ_{m} 为入射角,m为衍射级次,通常m取±1, λ 为入射光波长,d为光栅常数(即光栅沟槽间隔), 对于空间光调制器, $d=M \cdot e, M$ 为调制参数,e为液晶控制单元尺寸。相近的波长的出射角度差(即色散角)为

$$\Delta \theta_{\rm out} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{M \cdot e \cdot \cos \theta_{\rm out}} \tag{2}$$

由式(2)可知,光栅的色散角与光源的波长间隔或光谱宽度成正比,与光栅常数成反比,并随着出射角的增大而增大。

1.1.2 组合液晶相控阵器件色散

级联LCPG 是多片LCPG 与液晶可调半波片的组合形式,单独的液晶LCPG 与液晶可调半波片组合可 实现一个固定角度的偏转,多片LCPG 正交级联可实现大角度范围的二维光束偏转。级联LCPG 组合的形 式为第一层决定角度分辨率,以后每一层衍射角都是上一层衍射角的2倍(例如:1.25°、2.5°、5.0°、10.0°、 20.0°),对于一个 N层的级联LCPG,理论上共可以控制2^{N+1}个角度^[8-12]。因此,为了实现1.25°分辨率、±40° 范围的角度偏转控制,共需要5层(N=5,2^{N+1}=64,角度范围与分辨率的商为2×(40°/1.25°)=64),为了实现 二维的光束偏转,在正交方向需要同样的5层,例如,为实现(22.5°,-16.25°)的光束偏转,方位方向每一层 LCPG 中可调液晶半波片的控制系数为

$$0 \times 1.25^{\circ} + 1 \times 2.5^{\circ} + 0 \times 5.0^{\circ} + 0 \times 10^{\circ} + 1 \times 20^{\circ} = 22.5^{\circ}$$
 (3)
俯仰方向每一层 LCPG 中可调半波片的控制方式为

 $-1 \times 1.25^{\circ} + 0 \times 2.5^{\circ} - 1 \times 5.0^{\circ} - 1 \times 10^{\circ} + 0 \times 20^{\circ} = -16.25^{\circ}$ (4)

对于偏转角度分别为1.25°、2.5°、5.0°、10.0°、20.0°的LCPG,工作波长为1064 nm时,根据式(1),光栅常数分别为48.77 µm、24.39 µm、12.21 µm、6.13 µm、3.11 µm。

LCPG多采用±1级衍射光,偏转角度同样可根据式(1)计算,推导出一维级联LCPG入射光经过每一级LCPG的偏转角度为

$$\begin{cases} \sin \theta_{\text{out1}} = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_1} - \sin \theta_{\text{in}} \\ \sin \theta_{\text{out2}} = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_2} - \sin \theta_{\text{out1}} \\ \sin \theta_{\text{out3}} = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_3} - \sin \theta_{\text{out2}} \\ \sin \theta_{\text{out4}} = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_4} - \sin \theta_{\text{out3}} \\ \sin \theta_{\text{out5}} = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_4} - \sin \theta_{\text{out4}} \end{cases}$$
(5)

将式(5)相加,可得到入射光束经过多级LCPG衍射后的实际出射角度为

$$\sin\theta_{\rm out} = \sin\theta_{\rm out5} = \pm\frac{\lambda}{d_1} \pm\frac{\lambda}{d_2} \pm \dots \pm\frac{\lambda}{d_N} - \sin\theta_{\rm in} \tag{6}$$

当采用液晶相控阵与LCPG组合的光束偏转形式时,可将式(1)与式(6)结合,得到

$$\sin \theta_{\rm out} = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_1} \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_2} \dots \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_N} - \frac{\lambda}{M \cdot e} - \sin \theta_{\rm in}$$
(7)

ş

$$\chi = \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_1} \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_2} \pm \dots \pm \frac{\lambda}{d_N} \pm \frac{1}{M \cdot e}$$
(8)

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光束入射角为0°,则式(7)可表示成

$$\sin\theta_{\rm out} = \chi \cdot \lambda \tag{9}$$

光学相控阵组合所在位置坐标为(0,0,0),若光学相控阵组合只实现*x*方向偏转,则距离为*z*处,波长为 λ的光束所在位置*x*的坐标为

$$z = z \tan\left(\theta_{\text{out}}\right) = z \tan\left(\arcsin\left(\chi_x \lambda\right)\right) \tag{10}$$

正交级联LCPG衍射光束中心位置二维坐标为

$$\begin{cases} x(\lambda) = z \frac{\lambda \chi_x}{\sqrt{1 - (\lambda \chi_x)^2 - (\lambda \chi_y)^2}} \\ y(\lambda) = z \frac{\lambda \chi_y}{\sqrt{1 - (\lambda \chi_x)^2 - (\lambda \chi_y)^2}} \end{cases}$$
(11)

根据式(7),得

$$\begin{cases} \chi_{x} = \left(\pm \frac{1}{d_{x1}} \pm \frac{1}{d_{x2}} \pm \dots \pm \frac{1}{d_{xN}} \pm \frac{1}{M_{x}e_{x}} \right) \\ \chi_{y} = \left(\pm \frac{1}{d_{y1}} \pm \frac{1}{d_{y2}} \dots \pm \frac{1}{d_{yN}} \pm \frac{1}{M_{y}e_{y}} \right) \end{cases}$$
(12)

1.2 激光中心波长漂移量与光束中心位置最大偏差关系

激光器的中心波长与设计值可能存在一定误差,使用过程中也可能存在一定波长漂移,漂移量主要受发光类型、温度、老化程度等因素影响。根据式(11),得到激光中心波长漂移量Δλ与光束中心位置坐标偏移之间关系为

$$\begin{cases} dx = \Delta \lambda \frac{dx(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \\ dy = \Delta \lambda \frac{dy(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \end{cases}$$
(13)

假设激光波长为1064 nm,中心波长漂移 Δλ 为 0.05 nm^[13],当组合液晶相控阵器件偏转角度为 0°时,激 光相当于经过平面,中心波长漂移不会引起光束位置变化,当级联偏振光栅偏转角为(22.5°,-16.25°)时,激 光经过后在1000 km外光束坐标偏移量为(26.76 m,-19.60 m);当级联偏振光栅偏转角为(22.5°,-22.5°) 时,激光经过后在1000 km外光束坐标偏移量为(30.79 m,-30.79 m),由此可见,液晶相控阵器件的偏转角 更大时,最大偏移量更大。

1.3 激光器功率谱密度表示

激光器相较于其他光源具有良好的单色性,但其仍具有一定的光谱宽度(线宽),激光器光谱功率分布因激 光器的类型、功率参数、老化程度等因素而异,通常利用柯西一洛伦兹分布来表示激光器功率谱密度,即^[11]

$$g(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\frac{\Delta \lambda_{\rm p}}{2}}{\left(\lambda - \lambda_{\rm p}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta \lambda_{\rm p}}{2}\right)^2}$$
(14)

式中, λ_p 为中心波长, $\Delta\lambda_p$ 为波长半宽度,对式(14)在范围($\lambda_p - \Delta\lambda_p, \lambda_p + \Delta\lambda_p$),($\lambda_p - 2\Delta\lambda_p, \lambda_p + 2\Delta\lambda_p$),($\lambda_p - 3\Delta\lambda_p$, $\lambda_p + 3\Delta\lambda_p$)求取定积分,可得到

$$\begin{cases} \int_{\lambda_{p}-\Delta\lambda_{p}}^{\lambda_{p}+\Delta\lambda_{p}} g(\lambda) d\lambda = 0.705 \\ \int_{\lambda_{p}-2\Delta\lambda_{p}}^{\lambda_{p}+2\Delta\lambda_{p}} g(\lambda) d\lambda = 0.844 \\ \int_{\lambda_{p}-3\Delta\lambda_{p}}^{\lambda_{p}+3\Delta\lambda_{p}} g(\lambda) d\lambda = 0.895 \end{cases}$$
(15)

从结果中可以看出, $(\lambda_p - \Delta \lambda_p, \lambda_p + \Delta \lambda_p)$ 、 $(\lambda_p - 2\Delta \lambda_p, \lambda_p + 2\Delta \lambda_p)$ 、 $(\lambda_p - 3\Delta \lambda_p, \lambda_p + 3\Delta \lambda_p)$ 内分别集中了 70.5%、84.4%、89.5%的能量。

用于测距或者测高的固体激光器的中心波长通常为1064 nm,光谱宽度 Δλ_p为0.05 nm^[14-15],其光谱密度

分布曲线如图1所示。



图1 中心波长为1064 nm 的激光器光谱分布曲线 Fig. 1 Spectral distribution curve of laser with central wavelength of 1064 nm

由于色散的存在,直径无限小的平行光束空间中一点(*x*,*y*,*z*)的光强*I*(*x*,*y*,*z*)将分散成一个以(*x*_p,*y*_p,*z*) 为中心的线型分布,坐标点(*x*,*y*,*z*)光强*I*(*x*,*y*,*z*)的大小将取决于其波长。通过式(11)与式(14)联合计算可以得到空间中不同点的光功率分布。

假设激光波长为1064 nm,光谱宽度 $\Delta\lambda_p$ 为0.05 nm,经过可实现(22.5°, -16.25°)偏转的级联LCPG后,当光源为直径无限小的线光束时,在1000 km外光束截面功率分布曲线如图2所示。



图2 线光源1000 km外光束截面功率分布曲线

Fig. 2 Power distribution curve of beam section outside 1 000 km of linear light source

1.4 激光光束截面功率分布表示

激光器的光束截面功率分布因激光的模式不同而不同,激光测距与激光通信通常采用质量因子 M²接近于1的单模激光,其光强呈现高斯分布,即

$$I(x_1, y_1, z) = \frac{2P}{\pi \omega_0^2 \left(1 + \left(\frac{\lambda z}{\pi \omega_0^2}\right)^2\right)} \exp \left[-\frac{2\left(x_1^2 + y_1^2\right)}{\omega_0^2 \left(1 + \left(\frac{\lambda z}{\pi \omega_0^2}\right)^2\right)}\right]$$
(16)

式中, P为光功率, λ为波长, ω, 为束腰直径。激光的发散角为

$$\theta = \arctan \frac{\lambda}{\pi \omega_0} \tag{17}$$

激光波长为1064 nm,功率为1W,经过扩束后束散角为20 μrad,则束腰直径为24.7 mm,根据式(16), 在没有色散的影响下,在1000 km外光束截面功率分布曲线如图3所示。

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图 3 1000 km 单模激光光束截面功率分布 Fig. 3 Cross sectional power distribution of 1000 km single-mode laser beam

从图中可见,光功率呈现中间高、边缘低的旋转对称分布,取接收光孔径为1.0m,在中心位置可接收到的光功率约为5.0mW,在距中心位置7.0m处可接收到的光功率约为3.8mW。

1.5 色散作用下激光光束截面功率分布表示

若不考虑色散,激光在距离 z 处的空间中光功率分布函数为 $I(x_1, y_1, z)$,由于色散的存在,光功率将被分散,空间中一点 (x_2, y_2, z) 光功率分布函数 $H(x_2, y_2, z)$ 将变成附近每一点 $(x(\lambda), y(\lambda), z)$ 的分布在该点的累加,所以 $H(x_2, y_2, z)$ 可表示为

$$H(x_2, y_2, z) = \int I(x_2 - x(\lambda), y_2 - y(\lambda), z) \cdot g(\lambda) d\lambda$$
(18)

经过液晶相控阵器件后的光功率分布公式为

$$H(x_{2}, y_{2}, z) = \int \frac{2P}{\pi \omega_{0}^{2} \left(1 + \left(\frac{\lambda z}{\pi \omega_{0}^{2}}\right)^{2}\right)} \exp \left[-\frac{2\left(\left(x_{2} - x(\lambda)\right)^{2} + \left(y_{2} - y(\lambda)\right)^{2}\right)}{\omega_{0}^{2} \left(1 + \left(\frac{\lambda z}{\pi \omega_{0}^{2}}\right)^{2}\right)}\right] \cdot \frac{1}{\pi} \cdot \frac{\frac{\Delta \lambda_{p}}{2}}{\left(\lambda - \lambda_{p}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{\Delta \lambda_{p}}{2}\right)^{2}} d\lambda (19)$$

式(19)很难直接求解,利用拆积分的方法,将(λ_p -3 $\Delta\lambda_p$, λ_p +3 $\Delta\lambda_p$)内的点分成*m*份(*m*为偶数,*m*→∞),则每份大小为6 $\Delta\lambda_p/m$,式(20)将转换成

$$H(x_2, y_2, z) = \sum_{i=1}^{m+1} \Delta \lambda \cdot (I(x_2 - x(\lambda(i)), y_2 - y(\lambda(i)), z) \cdot g(\lambda(i)))$$
(20)

式中,

$$\begin{cases} \Delta \lambda = \frac{6\Delta \lambda}{m} \\ \lambda(i) = \lambda_{p} - 3\Delta \lambda_{p} + \frac{6\Delta \lambda}{m}(i-1) \end{cases}$$
(21)

2 色散作用下激光光束界面功率分布的实例计算

模拟的例子参数选择某空间目标激光测距系统,激光光源波长为1064 nm,光谱宽度 Δλ_p为0.05 nm,功 率为1W,发射光为近似基模的高斯光束,经过扩束后束散角为20 μrad,质量因子为1,则束腰直径为 24.7 mm。若假设光束截面功率分布是均匀的,光束截面直径为束散角与距离的乘积,例子中光束截面直径 为20 m,光功率密度为3.1 mW/m²,当接收光孔径为1.0 m时,可收集或者反射的光功率为2.5 mW。

设液晶相控阵器件组合的偏转角为(22.5°,-16.25°),根据式(20),激光经过液晶器件组合后在1000 km外光束截面功率分布如图4所示。

从图中可见,1000 km外激光光束截面呈现为近似椭圆形分布,而不再是旋转对称,但依然是中间功率 高边缘功率低,同样取接收光孔径为1.0 m,在中心位置可接收到光功率约为1.8 mW,与均匀情况下相差 28%,由此可见,由于色散的影响,中心的光功率密度在降低。在距中心位置(-5 m, -5 m),(-5 m,





5 m),(5 m, -5 m),(5 m, 5 m)处可接收到光功率分别为1.4 mW、1.6 mW、1.6 mW、1.4 mW,由此可见,延 色散方向的光会更强。根据1.2节中心波长漂移引起的位移量(26.76 m, -19.60 m),在距中心(26.76 m, -19.60 m)处可接收到的光功率约为0.57 mW,可见接收能量因中心波长漂移引起的差异极大。

更改液晶相控阵器件组合的偏转角为(22.5°, -22.5°)与(27.5°, -16.25°),根据1.2节中心波长漂移引起的位移量(30.79 m, -30.79)与(38.23 m, -22.84 m m),以及式(20),激光经过液晶器件组合后在1000 km外光束截面功率分布曲线如图5与图6所示,综合两图数据可见:色散引起的光功率分布进一步向偏转方向延伸(注意其坐标范围),同样取接收光孔径为1.0 m,在中心位置可接收到光功率分别为1.4 mW与0.97 mW,与均匀情况下分别相差36%与62%,可证实偏转角度越大,能量集中程度越差。



图5 偏转角为(22.5°,-22.5°)时1000 km外激光光束截 面功率分布

Fig. 5 Cross sectional power distribution of laser beam $1\ 000\ {\rm km}$ away when the deflection angle is $(22.5^{\circ}, -22.5^{\circ})$



图6 偏转角为(27.5°, -16.25°)时1000 km 外激光光束截面 功率分布

Fig. 6 Cross sectional power distribution of laser beam 1 000 km away when the deflection angle is $(27.5^{\circ}, -16.25^{\circ})$

3 结论

本文根据液晶相控阵器件色散的原理,给出了组合液晶相控阵器件的色散公式以及中心波长漂移引起 的光束位置偏移公式,结合激光光源的光谱密度分布与单模激光的光功率分布公式,推导出激光经过组合 液晶相控阵器件后的光功率分布公式,给出了简易计算方法,最后根据特定系统参数与设定的偏转角度分 析了液晶相控阵器件色散特性对能量收集的影响。分析结果表明:激光光束截面光功率不再旋转对称,而 是向色散方向延伸,偏转角度越大,色散引起的影响越严重,中心位置偏移越严重,峰值位置功率密度越低。 该方法也适用于其他光谱密度分布与其他模式的激光光源。

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Analysis of Dispersion Characteristics of Liquid Crystal Phased Array Devices

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Abstract: Liquid crystal phased array can be widely used in space laser communication, space laser ranging and other fields. A phased array device is a diffractive optical device, which has the function of dispersion. That is, the incident light of different wavelengths has different exit angles after passing through the phased array device., The central wavelength of the laser usually has a drift with the design value, and the laser

also has a certain spectral width, which will lead to changes of the position deviation and the optical power distribution when the laser beam has large angle deflection by the phased array device. To solve this problem, the relationship between the wavelength and the coordinates of combined liquid crystal phased array devices is derived through the dispersion theory about the liquid crystal spatial light modulator and cascaded liquid crystal polarization grating. The optical power distribution formula of Gaussian beam passing through the combined liquid crystal phased array devices is derived by the combination of the optical power spectrum distribution of laser light source and the cross-sectional power distribution formula of the single-mode laser. Arming at the difficulty in formula calculation, a simple calculation method is given. The beam position deviation and the laser cross-section light power distribution of a common example are calculated. In this example, the laser wavelength is 1 064 nm, the center wavelength shift is 0.05 nm, the spectral width is 0.05 nm, the power is 1 W, the emitted light is a Gaussian beam near the basic mode, and the beam divergence angle is 20 µrad. When the beam passes through a cascade polarization grating with a designed deflection angle of $(22.5^\circ, -16.25^\circ)$, the beam coordinate deviation is (26.76 m, -19.60 m)outside 1 000 km, laser beam cross-section presents an approximate elliptical distribution, the optical power distribution diagram is not rotationally symmetrical. The optical energy extends in the dispersion direction, and the system with a receiving aperture of 1.0 m can receive optical power of about 1.9 mW at the center, which is 24% different from that under the condition of uniform optical power distribution. When the beam passes through a cascade polarization grating with a designed deflection angle of $(22.5^\circ, -22.5^\circ)$, the beam coordinate deviation is (30.79 m, -30.79 m) outside 1 000 km, and the light power also extends in the dispersion direction, the system with a receiving aperture of 1.0 m can receive light power of about 1.4 mW at the center, which is 36% different from that under uniform distribution. When the beam passes through a cascade polarization grating with a designed deflection angle of $(27.5^{\circ}, -16.25^{\circ})$, the beam coordinate deviation is (38.23 m, -22.84 m) outside 1 000 km, the system with a receiving aperture of 1.0 m can receive light power of about 0.97 mW at the center, which is 62%different from that under uniform distribution. It can be obtained from the data that the change caused by dispersion increases with the increase of dispersion angle, the center position deviation becomes more serious with the increase of dispersion angle, and the peak position power density decreases with the increase of dispersion angle.

Key words: Liquid crystal phased array device; Dispersion; Wavelength drift; Spectral width; Position deviation; Optical power density distribution

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