

腔共振增强瓦级单频 1240 nm 拉曼激光器

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摘要 采用高质量的全固态连续单频 1064 nm 红外激光器作为泵浦源,以金刚石晶体作为拉曼增益介质,利用腔共振增强技术设计了一种双共振腔,实现了瓦级输出的低泵浦阈值单频 1240 nm 拉曼激光器。根据金刚石晶体的实际参数,通过优化设计得到了谐振腔对泵浦光的最佳透射率。当透射率为 3.5% 时,利用 Hänsch-Couillaud 偏振锁定系统将拉曼谐振腔的腔长精确锁定到泵浦光的共振频率处,实验测量到的拉曼激光器的泵浦阈值功率只有 2.73 W。在此基础上,当单频 1064 nm 泵浦功率增加到 9.17 W 时,获得了 1.48 W 稳定单频的 1240 nm 拉曼激光输出,对应的斜效率为 24.9%, 30 min 内的功率稳定性优于 1.10% (均方根), x, y 方向的光束质量 M^2 因子均优于 1.2。该双共振腔的设计为降低拉曼过程阈值、获得稳定单频的高功率拉曼激光提供了一种有效的途径。

关键词 激光器; 拉曼激光器; 双共振腔; 偏振锁定; 单频

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1 引言

1240 nm 激光在光纤衰减测量、光纤故障点定位中发挥着非常重要的作用,同时 1240 nm 激光恰好对应于水中的 OH^{-1} 的吸收峰,可以应用于遥感技术中,用于对地表植被中水含量的检测^[1-2]。此外以 1240 nm 激光作为泵浦源,通过频率变换技术可以获得处于光纤通信窗口的 1310 nm 激光以及用于血红蛋白检测的 620 nm 橙红色激光,从而有利于进一步扩展输出激光波长的种类。而全固态连续单频 1240 nm 激光因其具有窄线宽、完美的光束质量、较高的稳定性、较低的噪声等优点,在测量领域可有效提高测量精度,可用于获得更高质量的 1310 nm 和 620 nm 激光。但是,目前利用已有的激光增益介质无法直接获得 1240 nm 激光输出。而受激拉曼散射 (SRS) 作为一种三阶非线性过程,可以实现激光的频率迁移,并可对现有激光波段进行有效补充^[3-5]。目前,通过化学气相沉淀 (CVD) 法生长的金刚石是最常用的拉曼增益介质之一,其具有拉曼增益系数大、导热率高、热膨胀系数小、透过性好、拉曼位移大等优

点^[6]。利用金刚石晶体对目前相对成熟的 1064 nm 单频激光进行拉曼频移,可以获得高光学质量的 1240 nm 单频激光^[7-8]。

2010 年, Lubeigt 等^[9]首次在实验上利用单晶金刚石作为拉曼增益介质实现了 200 mW 的 1240 nm 连续激光输出。2016 年, Lux 等^[10]采用功率为 40 W、波长为 1064 nm 的连续激光泵浦金刚石,获得了可长期稳定运行的 1 W 单纵模 1240 nm 激光,但是由于泵浦光单次穿过拉曼增益介质,故阈值功率高达 12 W,且由于其腔长未锁定,随着泵浦功率的增加,环境扰动和晶体的热效应等因素导致谐振腔的光学腔长极其不稳定,拉曼光不能稳定地在腔内共振,这使得实现稳定的单纵模运转愈加困难。2019 年, Sarang 等^[11]采用偏振锁定的方法对谐振腔腔长进行主动锁定,最终获得了可在 2 min 内稳定运行的 7.2 W 单频 1240 nm 拉曼激光。在该实验中,为了产生更好的锁定信号,所使用的金刚石的双折射率差较大,这使得谐振腔的泵浦阈值高达 23 W。在以上工作中,所采用的谐振腔为单共振腔,因此得到的阈值较高,这不利于稳定单频拉曼激

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光的产生。基于此,本文报道了一种利用腔共振增强技术设计的双共振腔结构,该结构在保证泵浦光和拉曼光同时谐振的情况下,有效降低了拉曼激光器的泵浦阈值。在实验中,当输入耦合镜对泵浦光的最佳透射率为 3.5% 并利用 Hänsch-Couillaud (H-C) 偏振锁定系统^[12]使泵浦光在腔内持续共振时,得到的拉曼激光器的泵浦阈值只有 2.73 W。当单频 1064 nm 泵浦功率增大到 9.17 W 时,获得了 1.48 W 稳定单频的 1240 nm 拉曼激光输出,对应的斜效率为 24.9%。

2 激光谐振腔设计

通过 SRS 过程可实现激光频率的迁移,并且在高功率密度的泵浦光下可以实现高阶拉曼散射以及反 Stokes 拉曼散射,获得等频率间隔的拉曼散射光。当采用单频 1064 nm 激光对金刚石晶体进行泵浦时,金刚石晶体的拉曼频移量为 1332.3 cm^{-1} ,通过计算可以得到其理论散射频谱分布,如图 1 所示。从图 1 中可以看出,在高功率泵浦下,散射过程会产生多阶拉曼光,其强度随着拉曼频移的阶数的增大而逐渐降低;同时散射过程也会产生反 Stokes 拉曼光,其反 Stokes 拉曼散射的概率小于同阶拉曼散射。由于高阶拉曼散射及反 Stokes 拉曼散射的发生概率均小于一阶拉曼散射,在实验上通过提高谐振腔腔镜表面对二阶拉曼散射光(1485 nm)的透射率,即可获得高转化效率的一阶拉曼光。

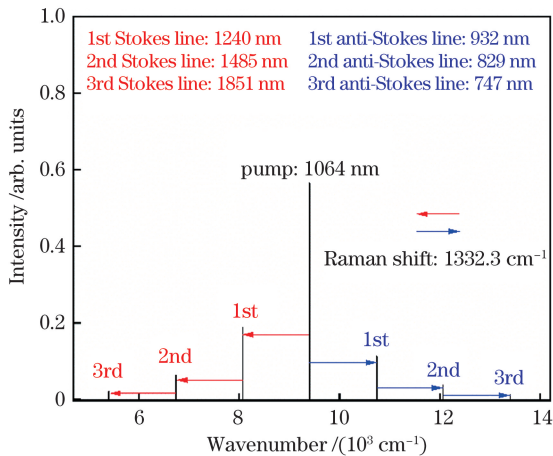


图 1 单频 1064 nm 激光泵浦金刚石晶体的散射频谱图
Fig. 1 Scattering frequency spectrum of diamond crystal pumped by single-frequency 1064 nm laser

与常见的和频、差频等非线性过程不同的是, SRS 过程具有明显的阈值性。为有效降低拉曼激光阈值,本实验中采用高精度度的行波腔作为拉曼激光产生的谐振腔。为保证泵浦光和产生的拉曼光

在腔内实现双共振,必须对输入耦合镜对泵浦光的透射率以及输出耦合镜对一阶拉曼光(1240 nm 激光)的透射率进行优化。

首先,通过求解 SRS 过程的速率方程组,得到腔内振荡泵浦光功率 P_p 与拉曼光功率 P_s 之间的关系^[13]为

$$P_p \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{2G}{T_1} P_s\right) \right] = \frac{T_1 + \alpha L}{\eta T_1} P_s, \quad (1)$$

式中: G 为拉曼功率增益; T_1 为输出耦合镜对拉曼光的透射率; α 为金刚石晶体的吸收损耗系数; L 为晶体长度; $\eta = \lambda_p/\lambda_s$ 为量子亏损,其中 λ_p 为泵浦光波长, λ_s 为拉曼光波长。从(1)式可以近似得出拉曼激光产生的阈值 P_{thr} 以及斜效率 σ 的表达式^[13]分别为

$$\begin{cases} P_{thr} = \frac{T_1}{G\alpha n^2} \\ \sigma = \frac{T_1}{T_1 + \alpha L} \end{cases}, \quad (2)$$

式中: n 为晶体的折射率。从(1)、(2)式可以看出,输出耦合镜对拉曼光的透射率 T_1 与激光器的阈值以及斜效率密切相关,为降低阈值,在实验中选择 $T_1=0.5\%$ 的输出耦合镜。

其次,为了使泵浦光在谐振腔内实现共振增强,需设计输入耦合镜对泵浦光的透射率 T_2 。腔增强因子 P_p/P_{in} 可以表示为

$$P_p/P_{in} = T_2 \left[1 - \sqrt{(1 - T_2)(1 - l)(1 - P_s/P_p)} \right]^{-2}, \quad (3)$$

式中: P_{in} 为注入泵浦光功率; l 为腔内损耗系数。根据(1)式和(3)式和图2,可知:当泵浦功率逐渐增

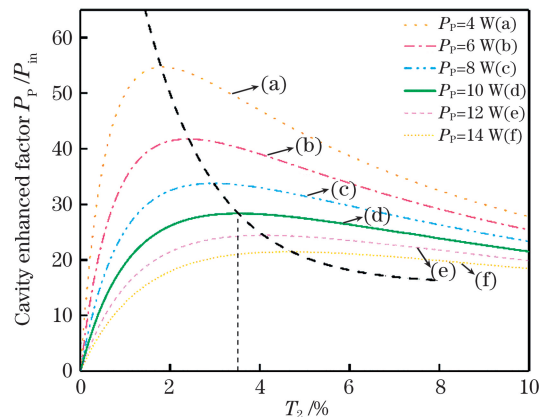


图 2 不同注入泵浦功率下腔增强因子 P_p/P_{in} 随透射率 T_2 的变化趋势

Fig. 2 Cavity enhanced factor P_p/P_{in} versus transmittance T_2 for different injection pump powers

大时,输入耦合镜对泵浦光的最佳透射率也逐渐变大。考虑到实验中使用的泵浦源输出功率为 10 W,故选用 $T_2=3.5\%$ 的输入耦合镜。

3 实验装置

根据理论计算结果,设计了如图 3 所示的拉曼激光器。泵浦源为全固态连续波单频 1064 nm 红外激光器[FG-VIII B, YG(宇光)Co., Ltd.],其输出功率为 10 W,长期功率稳定性优于 $\pm 1\%$ (3 h),光束质量 M^2 因子优于 1.1,线宽小于 300 kHz^[14-15]。泵浦源输出的激光首先经过一个 1064 nm 光隔离器(FI),用于防止拉曼谐振腔返回的 1064 nm 激光对泵浦源的光学器件造成损伤。激光经两焦距(f_1 和 f_2)分别为 200 mm 和 400 mm 的凸透镜组成的望远镜系统准直聚焦到拉曼谐振腔内。通过调节谐振腔前面插入的 $\lambda/2$ 波片(HWP₂)来调整泵浦光的偏振态,使得拉曼增益介质的增益最大。拉曼谐振腔采用四镜环形谐振腔结构,腔镜 M_1 、 M_2 为平面镜, M_3 、 M_4 为曲率半径为 100 mm 的平凹镜,总腔长约为 537 mm。 M_1 作为输入耦合镜对 1064 nm 激光的透射率为 3.5%,对 1240 nm 激光高反(对 1240 nm 激光的反射率 $R_{1240\text{ nm}} > 99.9\%$)。 M_2 、 M_3 镀有对 1064 nm 和 1240 nm 激光的高反膜(对 1064 nm 激光的反射率 $R_{1064\text{ nm}} > 99.9\%$, $R_{1240\text{ nm}} > 99.9\%$)。 M_4 作为输出镜,对 1240 nm 激光的透射率为 0.5%,对 1064 nm 激光高反($R_{1064\text{ nm}} > 99.9\%$)。实验中采用的拉曼

增益介质为金刚石晶体,尺寸为 $2\text{ mm} \times 2\text{ mm} \times 7\text{ mm}$,1064 nm 处的增益系数为 $10 \sim 12\text{ cm/GW}$,其通光方向为晶体的 $\langle 110 \rangle$ 方向^[16]。晶体置于 M_3 和 M_4 之间的最小腰斑处,束腰半径为 $52\ \mu\text{m}$,并采用高精度控温仪(控制精度为 $0.01\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)将晶体精确控温在 $20.00\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 。由 M_4 出射的反向行波经高反镜(M_5)回注,以实现激光器单向运转。将由 M_1 反射及透射的 1064 nm 激光注入 H-C 偏振锁定系统,用于拉曼谐振腔的锁定,利用 1064 nm $\lambda/4$ 波片(QWP)和偏振分束棱镜(PBS)对腔内的部分透射光与泵浦光的反射光形成的调制信号进行解调,并由两个光电探测器(PD₁ 和 PD₂)进行探测,将 2 个探测信号经减法器后得到误差信号,将误差信号输入反馈控制系统(FC),将得到的反馈信号加载至粘连在腔镜 M_2 后的压电陶瓷(PZT)上,令拉曼谐振腔的腔长始终稳定地锁定在泵浦源 1064 nm 激光的共振频率处,这使得泵浦光在谐振腔内被放大,从而有利于获得稳定高效的 1240 nm 拉曼激光输出。由 M_4 输出的 1240 nm 激光经分束棱镜 BS₁ 透射后,大部分功率注入功率计(PM, 型号为 S310C, Thorlabs),对其功率及长期稳定性进行监测。将分束棱镜 BS₁ 反射后的光束经分束棱镜 BS₂ 的分束后分别注入共焦型 F-P 干涉仪[型号为 F-P-100, YG(宇光)Co., Ltd.]和光束质量分析仪(BP, 型号为 BP209-IR/M, Thorlabs),以对输出激光的单频特性和光束质量进行测量。

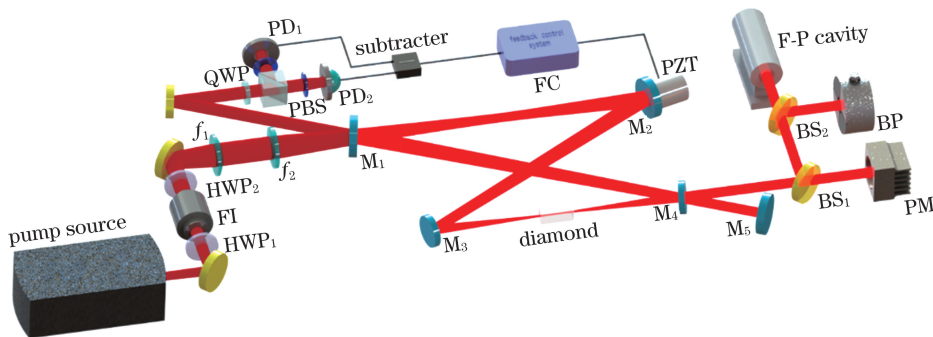


图 3 实验装置示意图

Fig. 3 Diagram of experimental setup

4 实验结果与分析

为了将泵浦光和拉曼谐振腔精确锁定,首先改变加载在 PZT 上的电压值、扫描谐振腔腔长,在腔镜 M_3 后方利用光电探测器对谐振腔的透射峰进行探测。分别记录了注入泵浦功率为 1.00 W 和

9.17 W 时的透射峰曲线。如图 4 所示,当注入泵浦功率低于阈值功率时,透射峰曲线为标准的高斯型;随着注入泵浦功率的不断升高,当注入泵浦功率超过阈值,透射峰出现展宽失谐,并且这种失谐随着注入泵浦功率的升高逐渐加剧。这是由于当注入泵浦功率超过拉曼阈值后,金刚石晶体内部泵浦光与产生

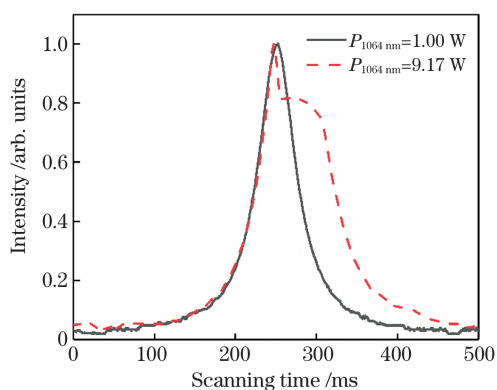


图 4 不同注入泵浦功率时的谐振腔透射峰曲线
Fig. 4 Transmission peak curves of resonant cavity for different injected pump powers

的拉曼光相互耦合,该过程产生的受激声子的数量将急剧增加,而声子最终将衰变成废热沉积在晶体内部,使得晶体中心温度不断提高并快速向四周传递,进而形成热梯度分布。当温度发生改变时,晶体内部的光程发生改变,其改变量可以表示为

$$\Delta L = \Delta T \cdot L \cdot (dn/dT + n \cdot \beta), \quad (4)$$

式中: L 为晶体长度; dn/dT 为热光系数; β 为晶体的热膨胀率。当温度改变 1 K 时,光程约增加 123 nm。上述热效应将延长通过 PZT 扫描腔长使得腔长达到共振点的时间,故热效应表现为透射峰在时域上的展宽。在实验中,通过降低金刚石晶体的温度来抵消由热效应引起的腔失谐,进而有效提高拉曼激光的输出功率。该现象说明了在较高注入泵浦功率时,可以通过主动补偿腔长的方式使拉曼谐振腔稳定地锁定在泵浦光共振频率处,进而获得高效稳定的 1240 nm 拉曼激光输出。

在实验中,当注入泵浦功率为 9.17 W 时,通过优化腔长以及主动补偿腔的失谐,使得泵浦光与拉曼光在谐振腔内实现双共振,由拉曼激光器输出的 1240 nm 激光经分束棱镜 BS_1 透射后,大部分功率被注入功率计,测得最大输出功率为 1.48 W。同时还测量了不同注入泵浦功率下产生的拉曼激光功率的变化情况,结果如图 5 所示。从图中可以看出,泵浦阈值功率只有 2.73 W,这说明利用双共振腔可有效降低拉曼激光器的阈值。此外,通过对输出功率曲线进行线性拟合,得到斜效率为 24.9%。

实验中测试了拉曼激光器在输出功率为 1.48 W 时的稳定性,如图 6 所示,该激光器在 30 min 内的功率稳定性优于 1.10% [均方根 (RMS)]。使用自由光谱区 (FSR) 为 750 MHz、精细度为 170 的共焦型 F-P 干涉仪对分束棱镜 BS_1 反

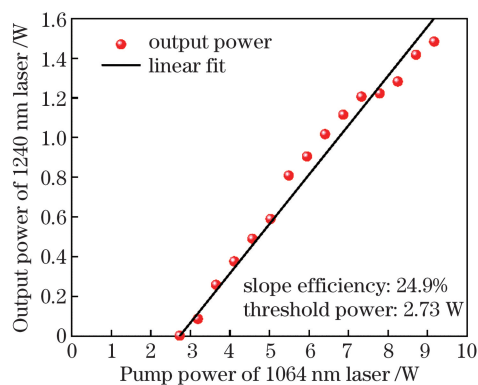


图 5 拉曼激光功率与注入泵浦功率的变化关系
Fig. 5 Variation of Raman laser power with injected pump power

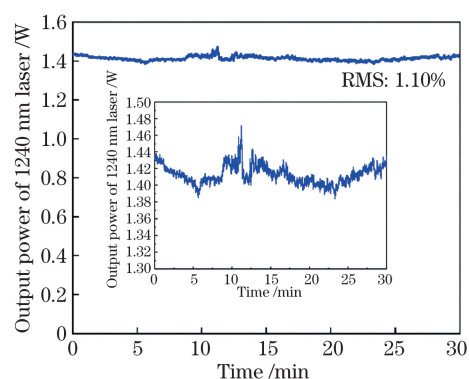


图 6 最高输出功率时激光的长期功率稳定性
Fig. 6 Long-term power stability of laser at highest output power

射的剩余激光经分束棱镜 BS_2 透射后的激光纵模结构进行监测,结果如图 7 所示,激光器在最大输出功率状态运转时,可以保持单频稳定运转。此外,利用光束质量分析仪对经分束棱镜 BS_2 反射后的 1240 nm 拉曼激光的横模特性进行测量,光束在子午面和弧矢面的 M^2 因子为 1.13 (M_x^2) 和 1.17 (M_y^2),其光强分布如图 8 所示。

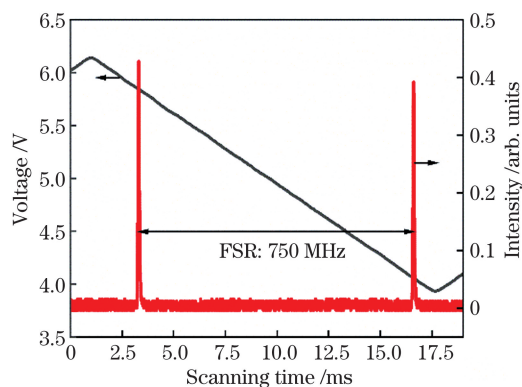


图 7 最高输出功率时激光的单频特性
Fig. 7 Single-frequency characteristics of laser at highest output power

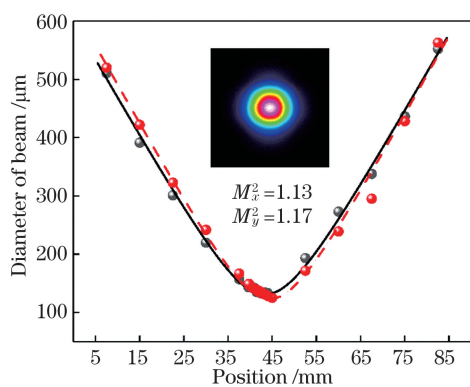


图 8 拉曼激光的光束质量

Fig. 8 Beam quality of Raman laser

5 结 论

利用金刚石晶体作为拉曼增益介质,采用高质量的全固态连续波单频 1064 nm 红外激光器作为泵浦源,利用腔共振增强技术设计了泵浦光与拉曼光双共振谐振腔,实现了瓦级输出的低泵浦阈值单频 1240 nm 拉曼激光器。首先利用金刚石晶体的具体参数,通过对 SRS 过程进行定量分析,得到谐振腔对泵浦光的最佳透射率为 3.5%。利用 H-C 偏振锁定系统对谐振腔进行锁定,使得泵浦光在腔内持续共振,这可有效降低谐振腔的阈值功率,实验得到泵浦阈值功率仅为 2.73 W。实验上通过注入 9.17 W 的单频 1064 nm 泵浦光,获得了最大输出功率为 1.48 W 的稳定单频的 1240 nm 拉曼激光,对应的斜效率为 24.9%,长期功率稳定性优于 1.10%(RMS),光斑在子午面和弧矢面的 M^2 因子分别为 1.13 和 1.17。该双共振腔的设计为降低 SRS 过程的阈值、获得稳定单频的拉曼激光提供了一种有效可行的途径,同时所获得的稳定单频 1240 nm 激光光源可应用于大气监测以及生物医疗等领域。

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Cavity Resonance-Enhanced Watt-Level Single Frequency 1240 nm Raman Laser

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Abstract

Objective The near-infrared 1240 nm lasers have been widely used in many scientific research fields such as optical time domain reflectometer (OTDR) and water remote sensing, owing to their intrinsic merits including narrow linewidth, perfect beam quality, higher stability, and lower noise. However, it is impossible to directly obtain the 1240 nm laser by the existing laser gain media because there are not suitable gain media covering the 1240 nm spectrum. In recent years, some groups have successfully obtained the stable single-frequency (SF) 1240 nm lasers by means of the stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) based on Raman gain media. Nonetheless, due to small Raman scattering cross-section of Raman gain media, the threshold power of the attained Raman laser is so high that more incident pump power is necessary to scale up the output power of 1240 nm laser. In this paper, we present a cavity resonance-enhanced watt-level SF 1240 nm Raman laser. After the cavity is stably locked to the incident pump laser, the pump and Raman lasers resonate simultaneously in the designed resonator. In this case, the pump threshold of the Raman laser is effectively decreased, and the stable SF Raman laser is obtained at the same time, which provides an effective and feasible way to obtain stable high power SF Raman laser.

Methods In this study, firstly, a high-quality single-crystal diamond grown by chemical vapor deposition (CVD) is chosen as the Raman gain crystal, which has good optical properties of low-nitrogen, low-birefringence, and so on. And an all-solid-state CW SF 1064 nm infrared laser with good performance is served as the pump source to avoid mode competition in the process of SRS. On this basis, according to the transmission matrix theory of the optical resonant cavity, a symmetrical bow-tie double-resonance cavity for both pump and Raman laser is reasonably designed. Furtherly, based on the SRS process rate equation and the principle of cavity resonance-enhancement technology, the transmissivity of the input coupling mirror for the pump laser and the transmissivity of the output coupling mirror for the Raman laser are optimized as 3.5% and 0.5%, respectively. Then, the Hänsch-Couillaud (H-C) locking system is used to accurately lock the resonating frequency of the cavity to the frequency of the pump laser. In addition, a retro-reflecting device consisting of a plane mirror (M_5) coated with high-reflection film at the wavelength of the Raman laser is used to reflect the backward wave leaking from the output coupling mirror to ensure the unidirectional operation of the Raman laser. Finally, an SF 1240 nm Raman laser with stable unidirectional operation is attained.

Results and Discussions In order to accurately lock the Raman cavity, the cavity length is scanned by changing the voltage loaded on the piezoelectric transducer (PZT), and the transmission peak of the cavity is detected by the photodetector. When the incident pump power is lower than the threshold power, the transmission peak curve is a standard Gaussian curve. However, when the incident pump power exceeds the threshold, the transmission peak curve has a broad detuning range, and the detuning becomes severe with the increasing incident pump power (Fig. 4). In the experiment, the cavity detuning is well compensated by reducing the temperature of the diamond crystal and then the cavity length of the Raman laser can be stably locked at the resonant frequency of the pump laser at high incident pump power. After the cavity is stably locked, the maximal output power of the stable SF 1240 nm Raman laser reaches up to 1.48 W with the incident pump power of 9.17 W (Fig. 5). The threshold pump power is as low as 2.73 W, which indicates that the double-resonance cavity can effectively decrease the threshold of the

Raman laser.

Conclusions A watt-level SF 1240 nm Raman laser with low pump threshold is demonstrated in this paper, which is implemented by using an SF 1064 nm laser and a diamond crystal as the pump source and Raman gain medium, respectively. In order to decrease the threshold of the Raman laser, a double-resonance cavity is designed and adopted with assistance of cavity resonance-enhancement technology. After the parameters of the optical resonator are optimized and the resonating frequency of the Raman resonator is locked to the frequency of the incident pump laser by the H-C locking system in the experiment, the pump and Raman lasers resonate simultaneously in the designed resonator. The attained pump threshold is as low as 2.73 W. On this basis, the output power of SF 1240 nm laser reaches up to 1.48 W when the pump power is 9.17 W, and the corresponding slope efficiency is 24.9%. The measured long-term power stability in 30 min and the beam quality M^2 are better than 1.10% (RMS) and 1.2, respectively. The achieved Raman laser with double-resonance cavity can provide a feasible way to decrease the threshold pump power of Raman laser, and the obtained stable SF 1240 nm laser source can be used in atmospheric monitoring and biomedicine field.

Key words lasers; Raman laser; double-resonance cavity; polarization locking; single frequency

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