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掺钕无机惰性液体激光技术研究

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摘要: 为了研究掺钕无机惰性液体的配制、光谱和激光特性, 采用实验研究的方法, 在实验室制备了无机惰性液体激光增益介质 Nd-POCl₃-SnO₂, 测试了其抽运吸收和荧光特性; 采用氙灯抽运和行波放大的方法实验研究了该液体的增益特性, 并进行了初步的自由振荡出光实验。得到了性质稳定的掺钕无机惰性液体, 利用该液体作为增益介质的放大器获得了 1%/cm 的增益系数, 激光器实验则获得了中心波长为 1051nm、脉宽为 83.33μs 的自由振荡激光输出。结果表明, 掺钕无机惰性液体的配制的必要措施是干燥条件的保证, 同时 Lewis 酸和掺钕浓度对于液体的荧光寿命也起到限制作用, 该液体增益介质的光谱特性接近激光钕玻璃, 单脉冲工作条件下可以得到稳定的激光输出。

关键词: 激光器; 液体激光; 掺钕无机惰性液体; 增益

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Nd-doped inorganic liquid laser technique

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Abstract: For the sake of research of producing method, light spectrum and laser characteristics of Nd-doped inorganic liquid, Nd-POCl₃-SnO₂ was compound in the laboratory. The absorption and fluorescent characteristics of the liquid was tested. With flashlamp pumping and traveling wave amplification, the gain of the liquid was studied. Stable Nd-doped inorganic laser liquid was achieved, whose gain coefficient was 1%/cm at 1051nm central wavelength with 83.33μs pulse width. It is indicated that stable Nd-doped inorganic liquid can be compounded under dry condition and at proper Lewis acid and Nd concentration, its light spectrum was similar to that of Nd glass, stable laser can be output at single pulse mode.

Key words: lasers; liquid laser; Nd-doped inorganic liquid; gain

引言

掺钕无机惰性液体作为激光增益介质是上世纪六七十年代就出现的, 人们研究它是基于其有固体激光器不可替代的特点: 材料不会被损伤、价格便宜、容易制备以及卓越的散热性能。但其热光系数大带来的波前差和热稳定性差带来的性能不稳定则阻碍了该技术的进一步发展, 因此直到当前, 半导体激光器抽运技术和激光波前校正技术得到长足发展后才重新成为热点^[1-7]。目前国外劳伦斯利弗莫尔实验室和美国通用原子等组织都对无机惰性液体激光器进行了深入研究^[1,4], 而国内报道较少^[5-6,8]。本文中制备了掺钕的 POCl₃-SnO₂ 液体, 并实验研究了其光谱和激光特性。

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1 材料制备

为了防止质子污染, 无机惰性激光介质溶液的制备过程基本上是在干燥箱中进行。实验中将 7.55g 无水 Nd₂O₃ 固体溶于 35mL 无水 SnCl₄, 体系为紫色悬浊液, 然后向此体系中加入 50mL POCl₃, 首先 90℃ 下加热 5min, 然后在 40℃ 左右再加热 10min 左右, 待溶液为紫色澄清液后, Nd-POCl₃-SnO₂ 溶液配制结束。

在较高的温度下(约 100℃) 蒸馏能够更加有效地防止含氢化合物的污染(像 HCl)。但是, 在更高温度下 SeOCl₂ 开始分解为氯、SeO₂ 和深褐色的 SeCl₂。因此第 1 次在 90℃ 左右蒸馏可以除去大部分的含氢化合物, 随后在 40℃ 的第 2 次蒸馏可以很好地避免产品的分解。

制备好的激光溶液放在密闭的容器内, 并装上干燥管, 避免潮湿的空气进入密闭容器内。

2 光谱特性研究

利用 Edinburgh Instruments 公司的 FS920 荧光光

谱仪测量了该液体的光谱吸收特性,见图 1。

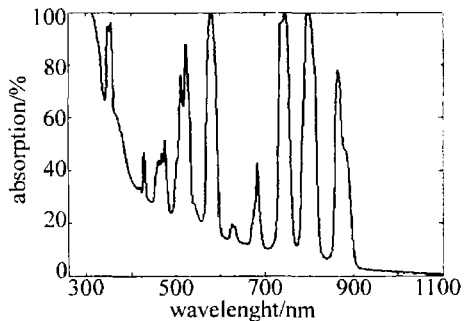


Fig. 1 Spectra absorption of Nd-doped inorganic liquid

利用荧光光谱仪还测量了 $\text{POCl}_3\text{-SnCl}_4\text{-Nd}_2\text{O}_3$ 体系的荧光谱线及荧光寿命,如图 2、图 3 所示,荧光谱峰值的中心波长为 1051nm,荧光寿命为 83.33 μs 。

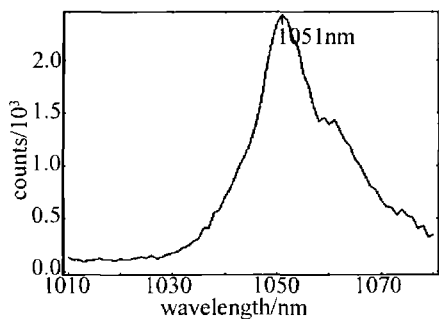


Fig. 2 Fluorescent spectra of Nd- $\text{POCl}_3\text{-SnCl}_4\text{-Nd}_2\text{O}_3$

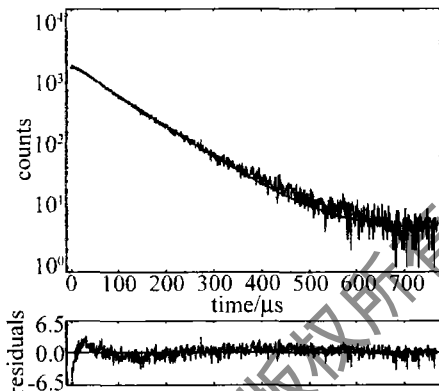


Fig. 3 Lifetime of Nd- $\text{POCl}_3\text{-SnCl}_4\text{-Nd}_2\text{O}_3$

3 激光特性研究

利用行波法测量了掺钕无机惰性液体的增益特性,光路如图 4 所示。图中,Nd:YLF 激光器的输出为

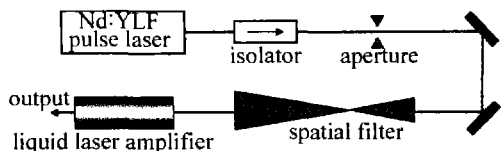


Fig. 4 Nd-doped inorganic liquid laser amplifier

1Hz,22ns,50mJ,激光液体装在一个 $\varnothing 20\text{mm}$ 、长度为 350mm 的玻璃管内。该“棒状”放大器由 4 支氙灯串连抽运,氙灯及电回路参量见表 1。

Table 1 Experiment preferences of Nd-doped inorganic liquid laser amplifier

size of flashlamp/mm	number of flashlamps/circuit	capacitor-circuit/ μF	voltage-circuit/kV	inductance-circuit/ μH
$\varnothing 15 \times 350$	4	400	8 ~ 12	30

进行了 8kV ~ 12kV 的充放电实验。增益曲线如图 5 所示。

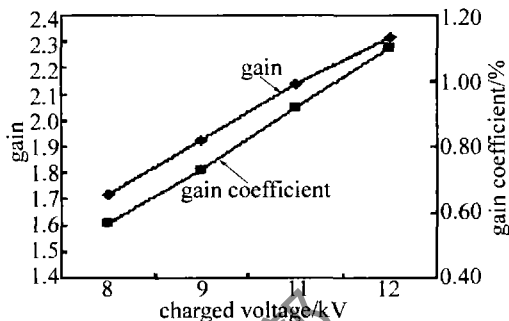


Fig. 5 Gain characters of Nd-doped inorganic liquid

初步进行了掺钕无机惰性液体的自由振荡出光实验。示波器检测的波形如图 6 所示。

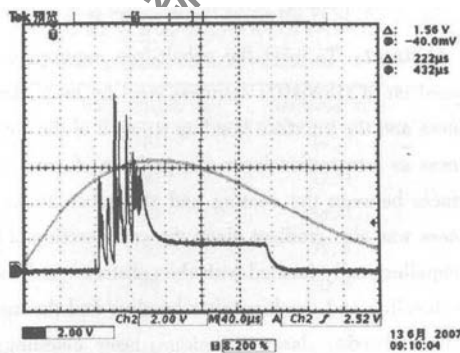


Fig. 6 Laser oscillation of Nd-doped inorganic liquid laser

进行了一系列充电电压下的振荡出光实验,图 6 中的曲线是充电电压为 12kV 时的自由振荡曲线,谐振腔为平-平腔,输出镜对 1051nm 光波长的反射率为 95%,自由振荡的脉宽和荧光寿命的测试结果一致。

4 结论

本实验室制备的 $\text{POCl}_3\text{-SnCl}_4\text{-Nd}_2\text{O}_3$ 荧光光谱的中心波长为 1051nm,荧光寿命为 83.33 μs ,小信号增益系数为 1.13%/cm。荧光寿命较小,初步分析是由于质子污染和 Lewis 酸浓度不够导致。该液体激光介质的增益系数则受限于掺杂浓度,而掺杂浓度不仅受限于液体化学性质,而且和温度、Lewis 酸浓度都有关系^[9-10],今后的工作将在这些方面予以改进。

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的金刚石刀具。

图7中给出了槽顶角 $\alpha = 110^\circ$ 时闪耀角不同的情况下,衍射效率与波长的关系特性曲线。

由图8可知,衍射效率随着波长的增加成下降趋势,并且槽顶角越大,衍射效率越低。

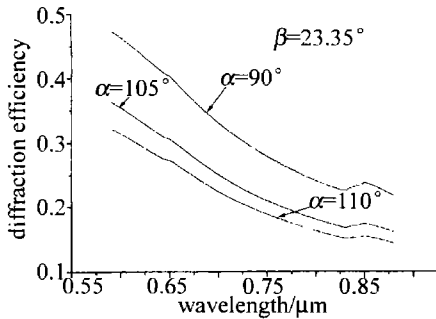


Fig. 8 The relation between the diffraction efficiency and wavelength for different angles

3 结论

采用严格的耦合波分析方法对透射式闪耀光栅的衍射效率特性进行了研究与分析。用增强透射矩阵方法求解的耦合波方法求解闪耀光栅的衍射特性,计算稳定、求解效率高。给出了光栅结构参量、入射波长等对光栅衍射效率的影响,研究结果对闪耀光栅的设计具有指导意义和参考价值。

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