

相干光注入半导体激光器锁定过程的稳定性和到达混沌态的各种不稳定现象

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本文从半经典理论出发, 导出半导体激光器相干光注入锁定过程的基本方程组, 讨论了静态解的多支性及其稳定性, 稳态调制特性及其稳定性, 锁定区内外各种不稳定现象及其在光注入条件下参数平面上的分布. 发现锁定区内不稳定区中部存在一混沌区, 而在靠近稳定区下边界则存在一自脉动区, 混沌区与自脉动区之间是其过渡区; 发现到达混沌态可通过自脉动分岔(2^p 型和非 2^p 型)、拍频自调制, 以及其混合型等新路径.

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一、引 言

由于半导体激光系统的非线性, 利用相干光注入的光频锁定过程, 可以有效地抑制边模、啁啾(Chirping)、相位噪声等而实现单模化, 单频化, 提高光的相干性、稳定性. 但由于光注入锁定过程对注入光频率和强度等锁定条件非常敏感, 如选择不当, 则不但不能获得良好的锁定效果, 而且还可能出现各种复杂的不稳定现象. 近来曾对半导体激光器的相干光注入锁定过程、锁定条件、稳定性等进行了许多的理论和实验研究^[1-10]. 本文将在这基础上, 对某些尚未涉及或尚未充分讨论的问题, 特别是存在于锁定区内外的各种不稳定现象, 以及到达混沌态的各种新的可能途径进行比较系统的探讨.

二、理 论

设在复折射率为 $\tilde{n}$ 的半导体增益介质和腔长为 L , 两端有平行反射面的从激光器光腔内的正、反向 q 阶腔膜光场各为

$$\tilde{e}^+(x, y, z, t) \approx \tilde{e}^+(z, t) = \tilde{E}^+(z, t)e^{i(\omega_q t - \tilde{\beta}_q z)}, \quad (1a)$$

$$\tilde{e}^-(x, y, z, t) \approx \tilde{e}^-(z, t) = \tilde{E}^-(z, t)e^{i(\omega_q t + \tilde{\beta}_q z)}. \quad (1b)$$

主激光器光场 $\tilde{e}_{ML}$ 以效率 η 耦合进入从激光器后光场为

$$\eta \tilde{e}_{ML}(z, t) = E_{in} e^{i(\omega_{in} t - \tilde{\beta}_{in} z)}, \quad \tilde{\beta}_{in} = k_{in} \tilde{n}, \quad k_{in} = \omega_{in}/c, \quad (1c)$$

则在两端面内侧附近应满足边界条件

$$\tilde{e}^+(0_+, t) = \tilde{e}^-(0_+, t) + \eta \tilde{e}_{ML}$$

$$\text{或} \quad \tilde{E}^+(0, t) = \tilde{E}^-(0, t) + E_{in} e^{i\Delta\omega}, \Delta\omega = \omega_{in} - \omega_q, \quad (2a)$$

$$\tilde{E}^+(L - 0_+, t) = \tilde{E}^-(L - 0_+, t) \text{ 或 } \tilde{E}^+(L, t) = \tilde{E}^-(L, t). \quad (2b)$$

而在腔内应满足光场波动方程

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}}{\partial z^2} = \left(\frac{\tilde{n}}{c} \right)^2 \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}}{\partial t^2}, \quad \tilde{n} = \bar{n} + i\bar{\kappa}. \quad (2c)$$

在激射过程中, 折射率 $\bar{n}$ 和消光系数 $\bar{\kappa}$ 应满足激射条件

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{n}_{th}} \right) q = \frac{\pi c}{\omega_q \bar{n}_{th}} q = \frac{\pi q}{\bar{\kappa}_q \bar{n}_{th}}, \quad \kappa = \frac{\omega_{q+1} - \omega_q}{2\pi} = \frac{c}{2\bar{n}_{th} L}, \quad (2d)$$

$$\bar{\kappa}_{th} = \frac{-\Gamma_g + \alpha_{in} + \alpha_m}{2\bar{\kappa}_q} = 0, \quad g = a(n - n_c), \quad \alpha_m = \frac{1}{2L} \ln \frac{1}{R_1 R_2}, \quad (2e)$$

$$\bar{n}_{th}^2 = \bar{n}_{th}^2 - i2\bar{n}_{th}\Delta\bar{\kappa}(1 + i\alpha), \quad (2f)$$

$$-\frac{\omega_q \Delta\bar{\kappa}}{\bar{n}_{th}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[G(n) - \frac{1}{\tau_{ph}} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial G}{\partial n} \Delta n \approx \frac{\omega(n) - \omega_q}{\alpha}, \quad (2g)$$

$$\Delta\bar{n} = \bar{n} - \bar{n}_{th}, \quad \Delta\bar{\kappa} = \bar{\kappa} - \bar{\kappa}_{th}, \quad \Delta n = n - n_{th}, \quad \alpha = \frac{\Delta\bar{n}}{\Delta\bar{\kappa}}, \quad (2h)$$

$$G(n) = v_{th} \Gamma_g, \quad \frac{1}{\tau_{ph}} = v_{th} (\alpha_{in} + \alpha_m), \quad v_{th} = \frac{c}{\bar{n}_{th}}, \quad (2i)$$

下标 th 表示激射阈值量, Γ 为光功率限制因数, α_{in} 为腔内折合损耗, a, c, n_c 分别为受激复合截面、真空光速和透明载流子浓度, $\omega(n)$ 为载流子浓度为 n 时的激射光圆频率。由于 $\tilde{E}^+(z, t)$, $\tilde{E}^-(z, t)$ 对 z, t 皆为缓变函数, 把 (1a), (1b) 式代入 (2c) 式, 得

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{E}^\pm}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \left[G(n) - \frac{1}{\tau_{ph}} \right] (1 + i\alpha) \tilde{E}^\pm \mp \frac{c}{\bar{n}_{th}} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}^\pm}{\partial z}, \quad (3a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{E}_{SL}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \left[G(n) - \frac{1}{\tau_{ph}} \right] (1 + i\alpha) + \kappa \eta \tilde{E}_{ML}(t), \quad (3b)$$

$$\tilde{E}_{SL}(t) = E(t) e^{i\phi(t)} = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \frac{\tilde{E}^+ + \tilde{E}^-}{2} dz. \quad (3c)$$

在锁定过程中, 由于非线性效应所致的频率牵引, 使激射光频被锁定在入射光频上, 则

$$\phi(t) = (\omega_{in} - \omega_q)t + \phi_L. \quad (3d)$$

故由 (3b), (3c) 式和载流子数守恒原理得

$$\frac{dE(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \left[G(n) - \frac{1}{\tau_{ph}} \right] E(t) + \kappa E_{in} \cos \phi_L, \quad (3e)$$

$$\frac{d\phi(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \alpha \frac{\partial G}{\partial n} \Delta n - \kappa \frac{E_{in}}{E(t)} \sin \phi_L, \quad (3f)$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{j}{q_e d} - \frac{n}{\tau_s} - G(n) |E(t)|^2, \quad (3g)$$

式中 $|E(t)|^2$ 为光子密度, j 为注入电流密度, q_e, d, τ_s 分别为电子电荷、有源层厚度和载流子自发复合寿命。采用归一化量

$$s \equiv \frac{|E(t)|^2 \tau_s}{n_{th} \tau_{ph}}, \quad S_{in} \equiv \frac{E_{in}^2 \tau_s}{n_{th} \tau_{ph}}, \quad N \equiv \frac{n}{n_{th}}, \quad N_c \equiv \frac{n_c}{n_{th}}, \quad J \equiv \frac{j}{j_{th}},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &\equiv \frac{t}{\tau_s}, \quad \Delta F \equiv \frac{\Delta\omega}{2\pi\kappa} = \frac{\Delta j}{\kappa}, \quad K \equiv 2\tau_{ph}\kappa, \quad W \equiv \frac{\tau_s}{\tau_{ph}}, \quad j_{th} = \frac{n_{th}}{\tau_s} q_e d, \\ A &= v_{th}\Gamma_a n_{th}\tau_{ph} = \frac{1}{1-N_e}, \quad n_{th} = n_e + \frac{1}{\tau_{ph}\Gamma_a v_{th}}, \end{aligned} \quad (3h)$$

并考虑到模式中有来自载流子自发复合辐射的光子,其比率为自发发射因数 γ ,则在均匀近似下描述半导体激光器相干光注入锁定过程的归一化基本方程组为

$$\frac{dS}{d\tau} = W\{A(N-1)S + K\sqrt{S_{in}S} \cos\phi_L + \gamma N\}, \quad (4a)$$

$$\frac{d\phi_L}{d\tau} = -\frac{W}{2}\left\{2\pi K\Delta F - \alpha A(N-1) + K\sqrt{\frac{S_{in}}{S}} \sin\phi_L\right\}, \quad (4b)$$

$$\frac{dN}{d\tau} = J - N - [1 + A(N-1)]S. \quad (4c)$$

显然,当无光注入时,取 $\Delta\omega = 0, \phi_L = 0, \omega(n) = \omega(n_{th}) = \omega_q$, 则 (4a), (4c) 式化为无光注入时的常用速率方程组。

1. 静态情况

由 (4a), (4c) 式得无光注入时的归一化载流子浓度和光子密度与注入电流的静态值之间关系为

$$\bar{N}_0 = 1, \quad \bar{S}_0 = \bar{J} - 1. \quad (5a)$$

有光注入时,激光光相对于注入光的相位静态值 $\phi_L = \text{const}$, (4a)–(4c) 式可写成

$$\bar{N} = 1 - \frac{\bar{S} - (\bar{J} - 1)}{\bar{S} + (1 - N_e)} (1 - N_e), \quad (5b)$$

$$\cos\phi_L = \frac{1}{K} \sqrt{\frac{\bar{S}}{S_{in}}} \frac{\bar{S} - (\bar{J} - 1)}{\bar{S} + (1 - N_e)}, \quad (5c)$$

$$K\left(\frac{S_{in}}{S}\right) = (1 + \alpha^2) \left[\frac{\bar{S} - (\bar{J} - 1)}{\bar{S} + (1 - N_e)} \right]^2 + 4\pi\alpha K\Delta F \left[\frac{\bar{S} - (\bar{J} - 1)}{\bar{S} + (1 - N_e)} \right] + 4\pi^2 K^2 \Delta F^2. \quad (5d)$$

(5d) 式为静态值 $\bar{S}$ 的 3 次方程, 可有 3 个实根, 由 (5b), (5c) 式可得相应的静态值 $\bar{N}, \phi_L$. 故对于每一注入光 (S_{in}, ω_{in}) 和注入电流 $\bar{J}$, 可有 3 组静态解 $(\bar{S}, \bar{N}, \phi_L)_{1,2,3}$.

2. 调制特性和稳定性

在静态 $\bar{J}$ 上叠加上频率为 ω 的小振幅 ΔJ 简谐电流, 则

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \bar{J} + \Delta J e^{iQ\tau}, \quad S = \bar{S} + \Delta\tilde{S} e^{iQ\tau}, \quad N = \bar{N} + \Delta\tilde{N} e^{iQ\tau}, \\ \phi_L &= \bar{\phi}_L + \Delta\tilde{\phi}_L e^{iQ\tau}, \end{aligned} \quad (6a)$$

$$\Delta J \ll \bar{J}, \quad |\Delta\tilde{S}| \ll \bar{S}, \quad |\Delta\tilde{N}| \ll \bar{N}, \quad |\Delta\tilde{\phi}_L| \ll \bar{\phi}_L, \quad Q \equiv \omega\tau_s, \quad (6b)$$

则 (4a)–(4c) 式化为

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_{11} + iQ & d_{12} & d_{13} \\ d_{21} & d_{22} + iQ & d_{23} \\ d_{31} & d_{32} & d_{33} + iQ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\tilde{S} \\ \Delta\tilde{\phi}_L \\ \Delta\tilde{N} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \Delta J \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6c)$$

(6c) 式等号左边 3×3 矩阵的行列式 Δ 为 Q 的 3 次多项式

$$\Delta = (iQ)^3 + a_1(iQ)^2 + a_1(iQ) + c_0. \quad (6d)$$

由于电流调制引起的光频移 $\Delta\nu = \frac{\omega(n) - \omega(n_{th})}{2\pi}$ 和光强响应的归一化形式各为

$$\left| \frac{\Delta\bar{\nu}}{\Delta J} \right| = \left| \frac{iQ\Delta\bar{\phi}_L}{2\pi\Delta J} \right| = \frac{Q}{2\pi} \frac{|d_{23}| \sqrt{Q^2 + Q_2^2}}{\sqrt{(a_2Q^2 - a_0)^2 + Q^2(Q^2 - a_1)^2}} \quad \Delta\bar{\nu} = \tau_s \Delta\nu, \quad (6e)$$

$$\left| \frac{\Delta\bar{S}}{\Delta J} \right| = \frac{|d_{13}| \sqrt{Q^2 + Q_1^2}}{\sqrt{(a_2Q^2 - a_0)^2 + Q^2(Q^2 - a_1)^2}}, \quad (6f)$$

$$d_{11} = W \left[\frac{S'}{2} + \gamma \frac{\bar{N}}{\bar{S}} \right], \quad d_{12} = -W\bar{S}[\alpha S' + 2\pi K\Delta F], \quad d_{13} = -\frac{W\bar{S}}{1 - N_e},$$

$$d_{21} = \frac{W}{4\bar{S}}[\alpha S' + 2\pi K\Delta F], \quad d_{22} = \frac{WS'}{2}, \quad d_{23} = -\frac{W\alpha}{2(1 - N_e)},$$

$$d_{31} = (\bar{J} - 1)(1 - S'), \quad d_{32} = 0, \quad d_{33} = 1 + \frac{\bar{S}}{1 - N_e}, \quad S' \equiv \frac{\bar{S} - (\bar{J} - 1)}{\bar{S} + (1 - N_e)},$$

$$a_0 = d_{11}d_{22}d_{33} + d_{12}d_{23}d_{31} - d_{13}d_{31}d_{22} - d_{12}d_{21}d_{33},$$

$$a_1 = d_{11}d_{22} + d_{22}d_{33} + d_{33}d_{11} - d_{12}d_{21} - d_{13}d_{31}, \quad a_2 = d_{11} + d_{22} + d_{33},$$

$$Q_1 = \frac{d_{12}d_{23}}{d_{13}} - d_{22}, \quad Q_2 = \frac{d_{21}d_{13}}{d_{23}} - d_{11}. \quad (6g)$$

为研究静态解, 令

$$\Delta J = 0, \quad \Delta = 0, \quad Q = Q_r + iQ_i, \quad (6h)$$

Q_r/τ_s 为张弛振荡频率, Q_i/τ_s 为张弛振荡的阻尼时间. 对每组静态解求 (6h) 式的根 Q , 如所有的 3 个根中 Q_i 皆为正实数, 则这组静态解是稳定的, 否则为不稳定. 直接解 (4a)–(4c) 式即可得 $S(t), N(t), \phi_L(t)$ 随时间的变化, 或 $S(t)/\bar{S}_0$ 与 $\phi_L(t)$ 之间的关系.

三、结果与讨论

取 $\tau_{ph} = 0.9\text{ps}$, $\tau_s = 2.7\text{ns}$, $n_e = 1 \times 10^{18}\text{cm}^{-3}$, $L = 210\mu\text{m}$, $\bar{n}_{th} = 3.5$, $\partial G/\partial n = 1 \times 10^{-6}\text{cm}^3/\text{s}$, $\gamma = 10^{-5}$, $c = 3 \times 10^{10}\text{cm/s}$, $\alpha = 8.1$, $\bar{J} = 1.15$, 由 (5c) 和 (5d) 式算出归一化静态光子密度与注入光子密度和与失谐圆频率 $2\pi\Delta F$ 之间的关系如图 1(a), (b) 所示. 可见这些关系一般都具有 3 支结构; 把每组稳态解代入 (6e) 和 (6f) 式都可得出在小电流调制下的稳态光频移特性 $|\Delta\bar{\nu}/\Delta J|$ – Q 关系, 和光响应特性 $|\Delta\bar{S}/\Delta J|$ – Q 关系, 各如图 2(a), (b) 所示. 可见, 注入光锁定过程对啁啾和调制带宽都有明显的改善. 但采用 (6h) 式作稳定性分析结果表明, 这些静态解只有最上支的一部分才可能是稳定的, 因此其小讯号调制特性也并不都是稳定的, 即并不都是经一瞬态过渡阻尼过程就能达到的. 取 $\tau_{ph} = 2\text{ps}$, $\tau_s = 2\text{ns}$, $n_e = .5 \times 10^{18}\text{cm}^{-3}$, $\kappa = 100\text{GHz}$, $\partial G/\partial n = 1 \times 10^{-6}\text{cm}^3/\text{s}$, $\gamma = 0$, $\alpha = 3$, $\bar{J} = 1.3$, $\Delta J = 0$, 由 (5b)–(5d), (6c), (6d) 和 (6h) 式算出在表示光注入条件参数的 $(\Delta f, S_{in}/S_0)$ 平面上有最上支解的区域构成锁定区^[3], 其中只有在锁定区内靠近左下方边界和右方的静态锁定解是稳定的, 并构成一连通的稳定区, 如图 3 所示.

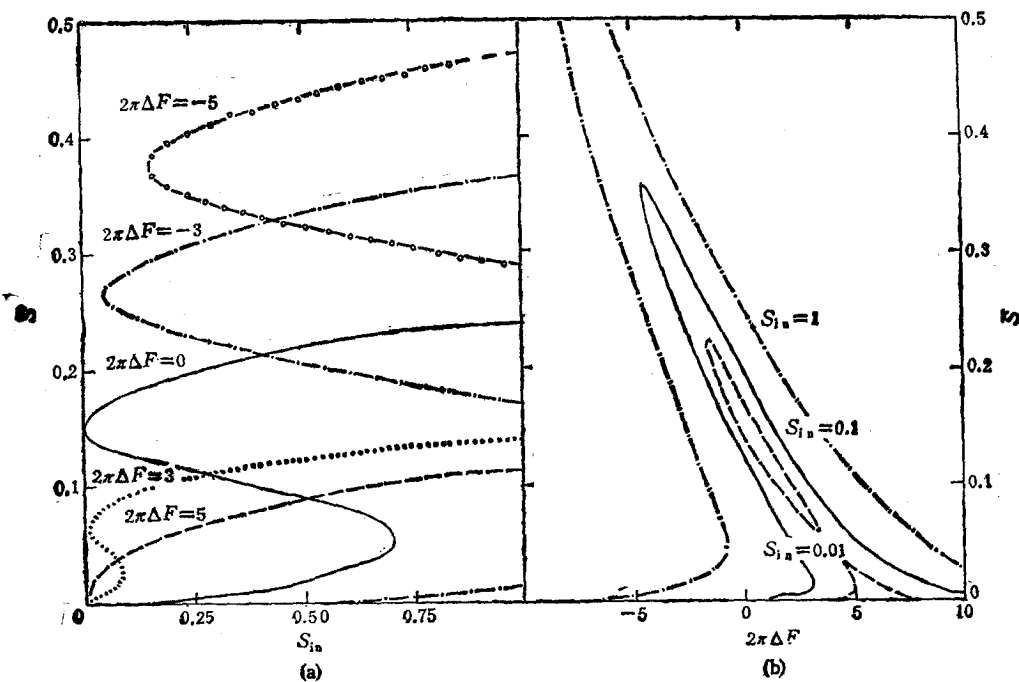


图 1 (a) 在不同的失谐圆频率 $2\pi\Delta F$ 下静态光子密度 $\bar{S}$ 与注入光子密度 S_{in} 的关系;
(b) 不同 S_{in} 下的 $\bar{S}$ 与 $2\pi\Delta F$ 的关系

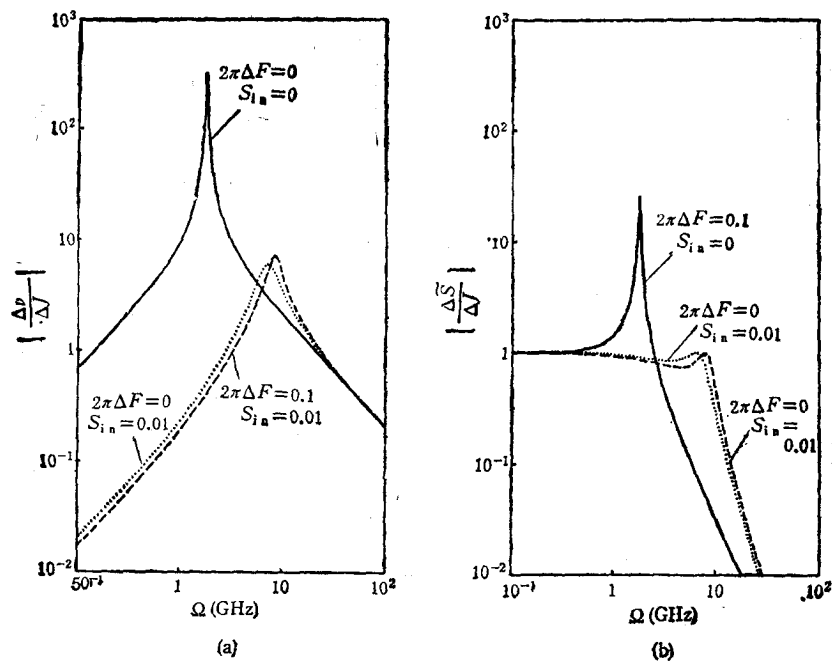


图 2 不同光注入条件下小电流调制的稳态光频移特性 (a) 和光响应特性 (b)

(4a)–(4c) 式的瞬态解表明,在锁定区内稳定区外的附近区域内将出现规则的自脉动而不能到达静态或稳定调制态。根据 $S(t)/\bar{S}_0 - \phi_L(t)$ 关系轨线的不同拓扑性质可分成 3 种

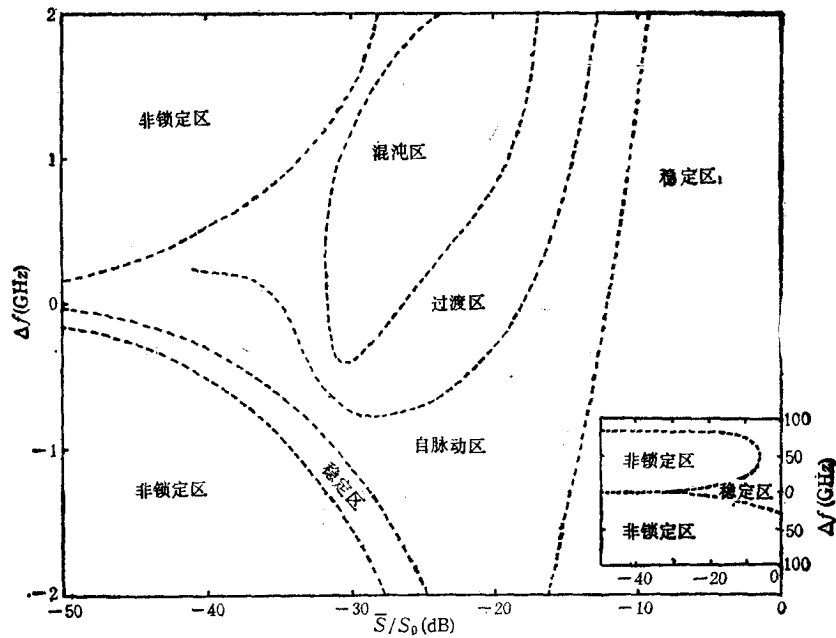


图3 在 $\bar{f} = 1.3$ 等条件下,光注入条件参数 $(\Delta f, S_{ia}/\bar{S}_0)$ 平面中锁定区、稳定区和各种不稳定区的分布。

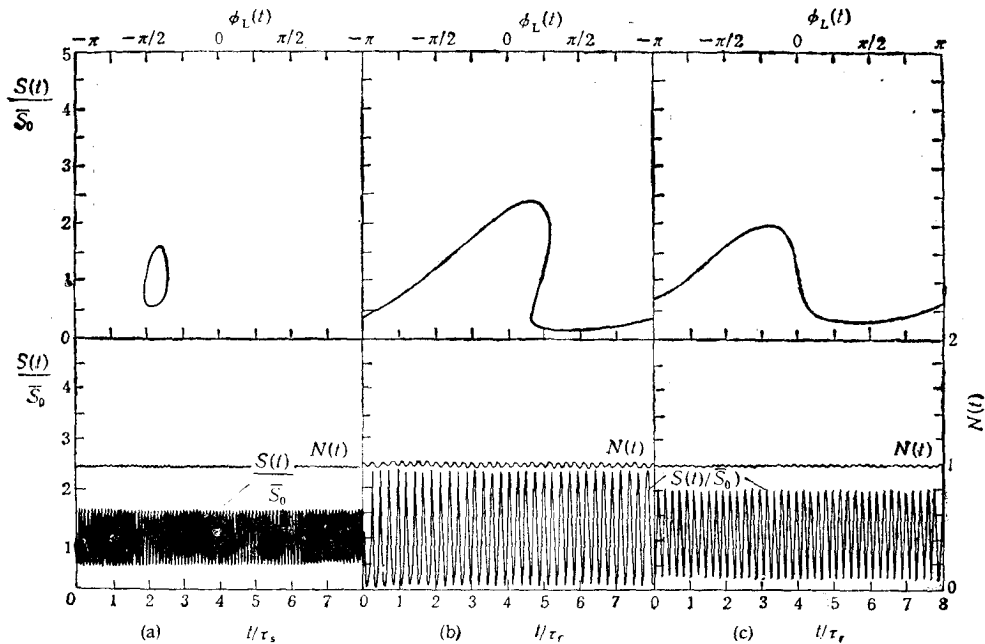


图4 (a) $S(t)/\bar{S}_0 - \phi_L(t)$ 轨线为封闭卵状线的自脉动 ($\Delta f = 2\text{GHz}$; $S_{ia}/\bar{S}_0 = -10\text{dB}$); (b) 轨线为多值开线的自脉动; ($\Delta f = 1.2\text{GHz}$; $S_{ia}/\bar{S}_0 = -30\text{dB}$); (c) 轨线为单值开线的自脉动 ($\Delta f = 1.8\text{GHz}$; $S_{ia}/\bar{S}_0 = -30\text{dB}$)

不同类型的自脉动,如图4(a)一(c)所示。在锁定区内自脉动区外的中部有一混沌区,这里光脉动很不规则。自脉动区与混沌区之间为其过渡区。过渡区右方和下方从规则的自脉动态可通过自脉动的 2^p (p 为整数)倍周期或分岔经过渡区到达混沌态,如图5(a)一(c)

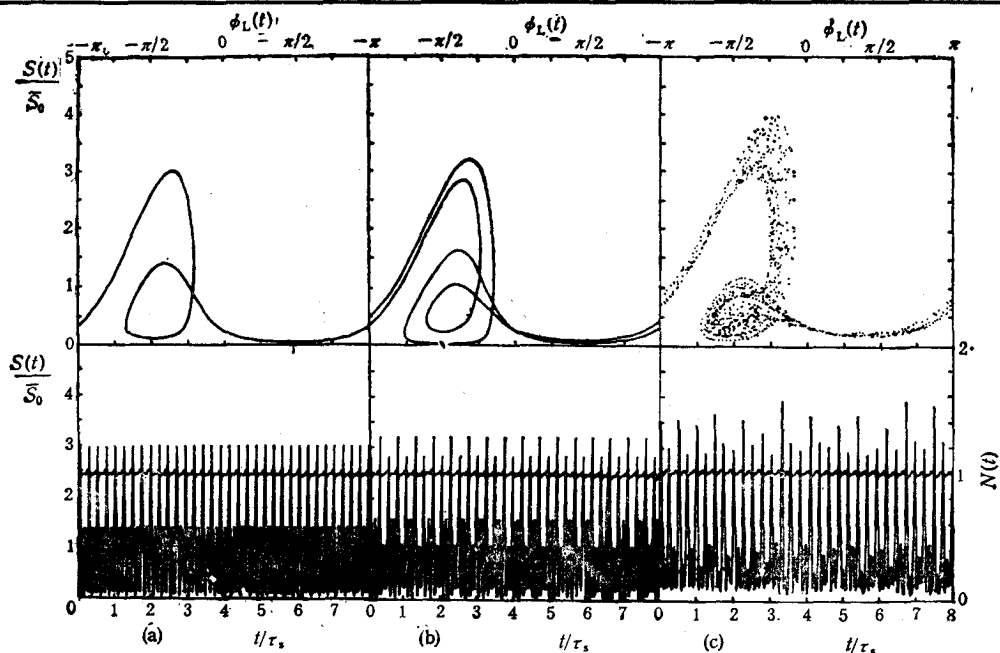


图 5 (a) 为自脉动的 2 分岔 ($\Delta f = 2\text{GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -16\text{dB}$); (b) 为自脉动的 4 分岔 ($\Delta f = 2\text{GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -16.7\text{dB}$) (c) 为自脉动经多分岔达混沌态 ($\Delta f = 2\text{GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -21\text{dB}$)

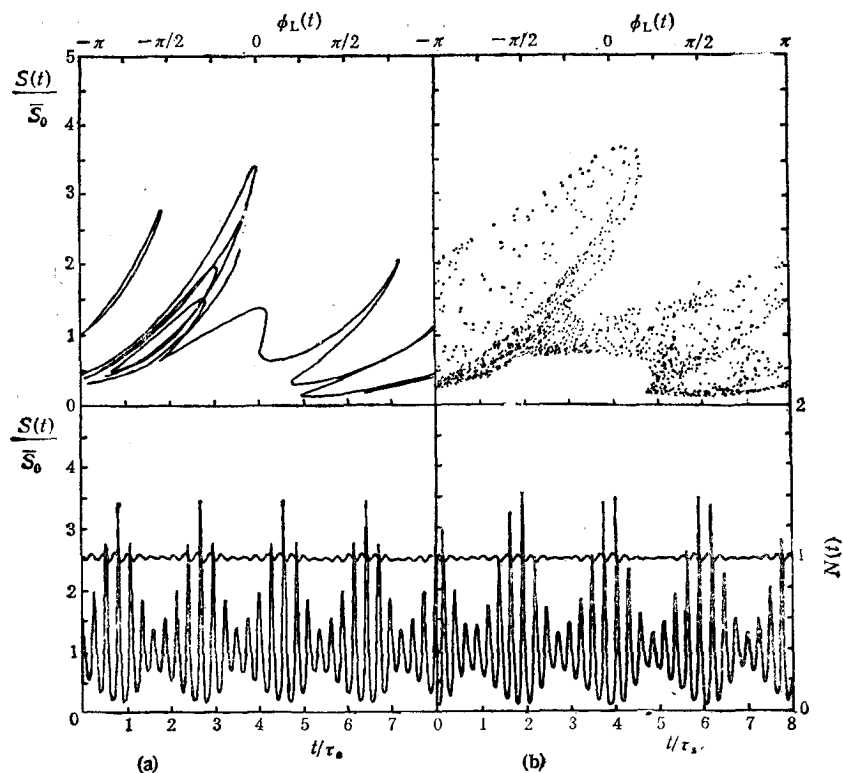


图 6 自脉动受拍频自调制的现象 拍频与自脉动频率之比为: (a) 有理数 ($\Delta f = 0.3\text{GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -40\text{dB}$); (b) 无理数 ($\Delta f = 0.27\text{GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -40\text{dB}$).

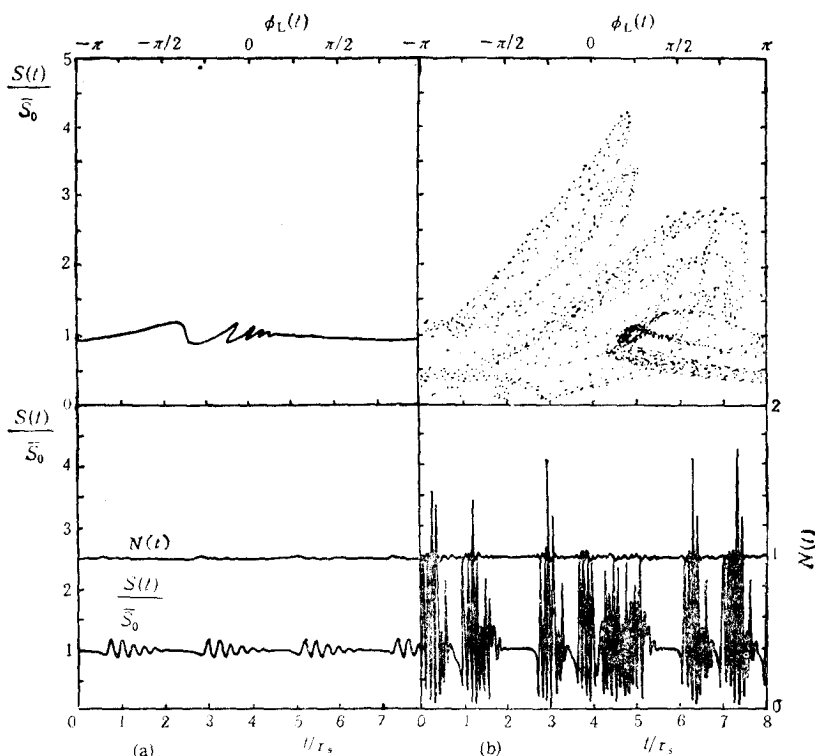


图7 (a) 为间歇性张弛振荡 ($\Delta f = -0.55 \text{ GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -40 \text{ dB}$) (b) 为间歇性混沌 ($\Delta f = -2 \text{ GHz}$; $S_{in}/\bar{S}_0 = -27.95 \text{ dB}$)

示。过渡区内和锁定区外都可能出现不满足 2^p 倍周期的分岔现象 (例如 3, 5, 7, ..., 分岔); 也可能出现自脉动峰值包络受到拍频 Δf 自调制, 如图 6(a), (b) 所示。在锁定区外无稳定区, 除上述各种规则和不规则的不稳定现象外, 还可出现从间隙性张弛振荡到间隙性混沌, 自脉动分岔与拍频自调制混合型到达混沌态等复杂现象, 如图 7(a), (b) 所示。

四、结 论

半导体激光器的相干光注入锁定过程不但可以有效地控制和改善频谱结构, 而且也是研究混沌态的好样本。本文对锁定区内外不稳定现象及其到达混沌态路径的发掘和鉴别, 为进一步认识半导体激光这一确定性系统的内在随机性^[11, 12] 提供丰富的感性资料和数据, 有利于建立更深层次的理论和探讨其可能应用。

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STABILITY OF THE COHERENT LIGHT INJECTION LOCKING IN SEMICONDUCTOR LASERS, THE RELATED INSTA- BILITY PHENOMENA AND THEIR ROUTES TO CHAOS

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ABSTRACT

The fundamental equations describing the coherent light injection locking in semiconductor lasers are derived from semi-classical theory, the multi-branch structure and its stability, the steady modulation characteristic and its stability, several kinds of instability phenomena inside and outside the locking region and their distribution in the parametric plane representing the light injection condition are investigated. It is found that the stability region can only exist near the lower boundary and the right side in the locking region of the highest branch, and a self-pulsation region exists near to it. In the central portion in the rest part of the locking region there exists a chaotic region, between self-pulsation and chaotic regions is the transition region. In this transition region and outside the locking region there are bifurcation of selfpulsation of 2^p type and non- 2^p type, beat frequency self-modulation, and their mixed forms, the intermitant relaxation oscillation and intermitting chaos, etc., and several new routes to chaos.

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