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## 基于模式耦合器的锁模掺镜 光纤激光器

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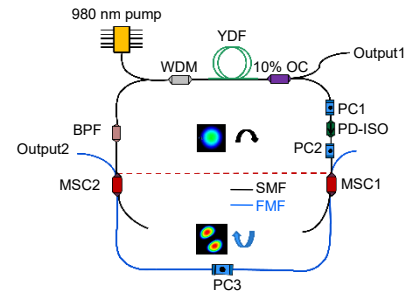
**摘要:** 本文提出了一种可以实现光纤高阶模式(HOM)在激光腔内振荡的锁模掺镜光纤激光器。通过使用一对级联的模式选择耦合器(MSC)作为有效的模式转换器, 获得光纤锁模激光腔内 HOM 产生。其中, 制备的 MSC 中心波长为 1064 nm, 可实现 80 nm 的模式转换带宽和 94% 的高阶模式纯度。通过搭建掺镜锁模光纤激光器, 实验获得了 3 dB 谱宽 7.4 nm、脉冲重复频率 10.9 MHz、射频信噪比 55 dB 的锁模脉冲激光, 输出功率的斜率效率为 2.3%。实验证明, 这种方法可在激光器内部通过模式级联转换, 且能参与腔内锁模过程获得脉冲 HOM 激光。

**关键词:** 模式选择耦合器; 高阶模式; 掺镜光纤; 锁模光纤激光器

**中图分类号:** TN248

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## Mode-locked Yb-doped fiber laser based on mode coupler

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**Abstract:** We demonstrate a mode-locked Yb-doped fiber laser (YDFL) that enables fiber high-order mode (HOM) oscillation inside the ring cavity, by using a pair of mode selective couplers (MSCs) as an effective mode converter, the optical fiber HOM is obtained. The central wavelength of MSC is located at 1064 nm, which can achieve 80 nm mode conversion bandwidth and 94% high-order mode purity. A mode-locked pulsed fiber laser with a 3 dB spectral width of 7.4 nm, a pulse repetition frequency of 10.9 MHz, and a radio frequency signal-to-noise ratio of 55 dB is obtained, and the slope efficiency of the output power is 2.3%. These results show that the HOM can be directly oscillated by the cascaded MSCs in the fiber laser and participated in the mode-locking process to obtain a pulsed HOM laser.

**Keywords:** mode-selective couplers; high-order mode; Yb-doped fibers; mode-locking fiber lasers

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## 1 引言

模分复用技术利用少模光纤(few model fiber, FMF)中传输的不同高阶模式(high-order mode, HOM),突破了传统单模光纤(signal model fiber, SMF)通信系统的容量极限,使进一步探索光束的幅度、相位、波长和偏振等多维自由度成为可能<sup>[1-3]</sup>。此外,光纤中传输的 HOM 比基模具有更大的横向传播面积,为光纤激光器提供更多可用的色散管理和相位匹配过程中的能量。因此, HOM 激光的产生为 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  和 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$  超快光纤激光器提供了新的研究方向<sup>[4-7]</sup>。

光纤中传输的 HOM 包括  $\text{LP}_{11}$ 、 $\text{LP}_{21}$ 、 $\text{LP}_{02}$ 、 $\text{LP}_{31}$  以及更高阶的模式。其中简并线偏振  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模最受关注,它由四个传播常数相近的矢量模式组成:径向偏振( $\text{TM}_{01}$ ),角向偏振( $\text{TE}_{01}$ )和混合态偏振( $\text{HE}_{21}^{\text{even}}$  和  $\text{HE}_{21}^{\text{odd}}$ )。这四个矢量模式的空间强度和偏振分布呈环形且轴对称,也被称作柱矢量光束(cylindrical vector beams, CVB)。特别地  $\text{HE}_{21}^{\text{odd}}$  和  $\text{HE}_{21}^{\text{even}}$  模式的组合又可形成涡旋光(orbital angular momentum, OAM),其波前相位呈中心对称螺旋形分布,中心轴线处光场强度为零。CVB 和 OAM 具有独特的空间强度和偏振分布,其在光镊<sup>[8]</sup>、遥感<sup>[9]</sup>、光纤通信<sup>[10-11]</sup>、高分辨率测量<sup>[12]</sup>、激光加工<sup>[13]</sup>等领域具有广泛应用前景。

锁模光纤激光器具有峰值功率高、脉冲宽度小、紧凑性高、成本低等特点。当前很多研究将模式转换器件与光纤激光器结合,获取短脉冲型 HOM。香港城市大学的 Dong 等人将 SMF 和 FMF 错位以激发 HOM,少模布拉格光栅将 HOM 输出,而将基模反射至激光器内继续传输<sup>[4]</sup>。然而,错位拼接法在模式转换的过程中易引入大量损耗,使激光器效率大大降低。Wang 等人使用长周期光纤光栅(long period fiber grate, LPFG)将基模转换为 HOM 并从激光器输出<sup>[6]</sup>。而 LPFG 的模式转换波段覆盖范围小,且中心波长易受温度和微弯扰动的影响。产生 HOM 的方法还有自由空间法,即使用空间光调制器、Q 板(Q-plate)、涡旋相位板等空间光器件<sup>[14-16]</sup>产生 HOM。这些器件价格比较昂贵,不仅提高了实验成本,还打破了光纤激光器全光纤结构的特性和优势,因此不适用于光纤激光器中。之后超快高阶模光纤激光器相继被报道<sup>[17-19]</sup>,但都只是在激光腔外输出 HOM,激光器内传输的仍然是基模。

本文使用一对全光纤模式选择耦合器(mode selective couplers, MSC)产生 HOM,并将 MSC 接入掺镱光纤激光器(Yb-doped fiber laser, YDFL),使 HOM

在激光腔内传输,并输出脉冲型 CVB 和一阶 OAM。MSC 为从  $\text{LP}_{01}$  模到  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模的模式转换器,有极宽的带宽、高的转换效率和高阶模式纯度。利用 MSC 的可逆性,可将  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模转换成  $\text{LP}_{01}$  模,并从 SMF 端口输出。该方法实现了 1064 nm 波段的 HOM 在激光腔内直接振荡的锁模掺镱光纤激光器。

## 2 MSC 的结构和特性

根据耦合模理论<sup>[20-21]</sup>,当光纤 MSC 满足相位匹配条件时,SMF 中传输的基模光束转换为特定的 HOM 并从 FMF 中输出。MSC 由 SMF ( $H_{10}$ -1060)和 FMF( $D_{\text{core}}=5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $D_{\text{ring}}=15 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $D_{\text{cladding}}=125 \mu\text{m}$ )构成,其结构如图 1(a)的 MSC1 所示。采用熔融拉锥法,1400  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  的氢氧焰将两根光纤熔融在一起,加热的部分形成耦合区域(图 1(a))。功率计分别连接两根光纤的尾端,以监测其功率变化。当两根光纤的传输光束的功率比达到拉锥机预先设置的耦合比时,拉锥机停止熔融。使用 U 型管和热缩管封装,避免外界杂质进入耦合区而影响 MSC 性能。当基模从 MSC1 的单模端(Port1)输入,光束经过耦合区后转化为  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模,并在 FMF 的输出端(Port3)中输出,未发生模式转换的能量从单模输出端(Port2)输出。根据 MSC 可逆性,将  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模通入 MSC 的少模输出端,在单模输入端(Port4)输出基模,在少模输入端(Port5)获得未发生模式转化的  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模。因此,连接两个 MSC 的少模输出端,可在 FMF 部分传输 HOM。即基模从 Port1 输入,经过两个耦合区域后,在 Port4 输出  $\text{LP}_{01}$  模式,Port5 输出  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模式。在 FMF 部分加一个偏振控制器(polarization controller, PC),由 PC 挤压强度改变 FMF 中传输模式的偏振态<sup>[5,22]</sup>,用于提高 MSC2 的模式转换效率和 HOM 的模式纯度。

将 MSC 的单模输入端连接宽带光源,SMF 和 FMF 输出端依次接入光谱分析仪,可测量 MSC 的传输谱(图 1(b)),其中心波长在 1064 nm 左右, $\text{LP}_{11}$  模的最大功率强度接近 0 dB,表明 MSC 的插入损耗接近 0 dB, $\text{LP}_{01}$  模式的最小功率强度被衰减到 -27 dB,高的功率消光比表明模式耦合效率达 98%,且传输谱工作带宽达 80 nm。MSC 的宽光谱特性保证了在 80 nm 的波长范围内都有高的模式转换效率,由于脉冲型光纤激光器具有宽光谱范围和窄脉宽特性,因此 MSC 既作为脉冲激光器光源,也作为传输脉冲光束器件。一对级联 MSC 的传输谱如图 1(c),级联后的 MSC 仍有宽的工作带宽,其插入损耗约为 3 dB,光谱条纹有轻微波动是由于  $\text{LP}_{11}$  模的本征矢量模式之间竞争干扰引起<sup>[23]</sup>。

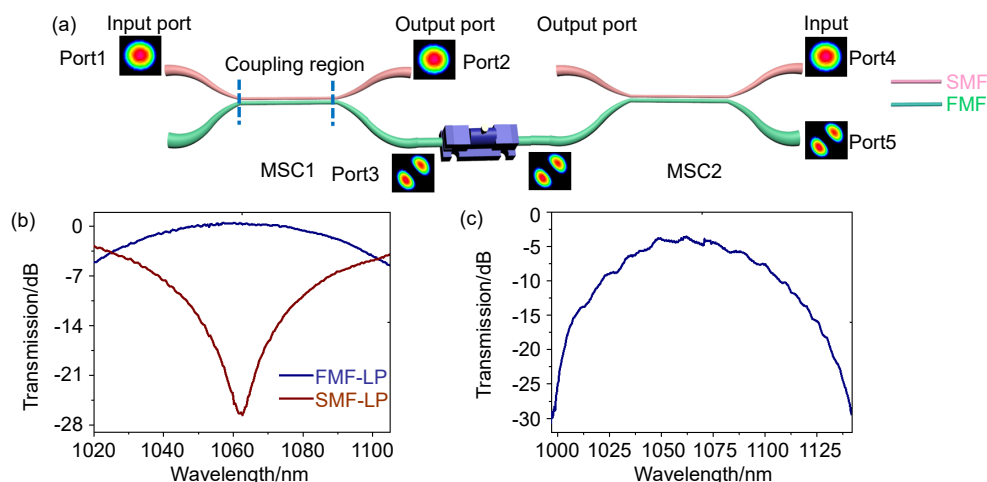


图 1 (a) 两个 MSC 级联的结构图; (b) 单个 MSC 的传输谱; (c) 级联一对 MSC 的传输谱  
 Fig. 1 (a) Schematic of a pair of cascading MSCs through FMF ports; (b) The transmission spectrum of a MSC; (c) The transmission spectrum of a pair of cascading MSCs

### 3 实验装置

将两个 MSC 接入 YDFL 腔中实现模式转换和锁模, 实验装置如图 2 所示。波长为 980 nm 的泵浦光源产生的 980 nm 激光通过 980/1060 nm 波分复用器 (wavelength division multiplexer, WDM) 进入 YDFL 腔内, 长度为 0.25 m 的掺镱光纤 (YDF: LIEKKI Yb1200-4/125) 提供功率增益。10:90 的单模光纤耦合器 (fiber optic coupler, OC) 用来提取 10% 的腔内能量, 并从输出端 output1 输出。输出激光由功率计、光谱分析仪 (OSA, YOKOGAWA AQ6370C)、示波器 (OSC, Tektronix MSO4104) 和射频频仪 (Siglent SSA 3032X) 接收, 以监测激光器的锁模状态。两个 PC 和一个偏振相关隔离器 (PD-ISO) 可实现基于非线性偏振旋转 (NPR) 效应的锁模。MSC 用来产生 HOM, 调节 PC3 的压力和旋转角度, 可改变 HOM 的偏振状态和纯度。CCD 监

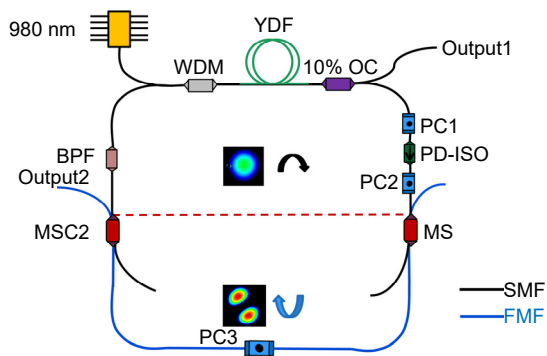


图 2 基于模式选择耦合器的锁模掺镱光纤激光器示意图。插图: 激光器内传输的模式

Fig. 2 Experimental setup of the mode-locked Yb-doped fiber laser based on mode couplers

测输出端 output2 的模场分布。中心波长为 1064 nm 的带通滤波器 (BPF) 提供稳定的锁模状态<sup>[24]</sup>。除了两个 MSC 的 FMF 部分外, 其他器件通过单模光纤 (HI-1060) 连接, 激光器总腔长为 15.8 m。

### 4 实验结果

当泵浦功率大于 250 mW 时, 激光器开始达到锁模状态。在泵浦功率为 320 mW 时, 我们监测输出端 output1 以获取锁模激光的输出特性。OSA 用于测量 YDFL 的光谱, 如图 3(a) 所示, 其 3 dB 带宽为 7.4 nm, 为矩形光谱结构, 该光谱是正色散腔中耗散孤子的典型光谱。带宽为 1 GHz 的 OSC 可表征 YDFL 的时域特性, 其测得锁模脉冲序列的重复频率为 10.9 MHz, 如图 3(b) 所示。射频频仪测量得到以 10.9 MHz 为中心频率的脉冲序列的信噪比为 55 dB。射频频谱中有两个旁瓣这是由于该锁模脉冲为类噪声脉冲, 它的底座中存在多个随机分布的脉冲串, 其对应于射频频谱上的两个旁瓣。插图是频率范围在 0~300 MHz 的频谱图, 强度均匀的频谱表明锁模达到稳定状态, 如图 3(c) 所示。功率计测量了泵浦功率从 250 mW 增加到 600 mW 时, 激光器的输出功率随泵浦功率变化的情况, 随着泵浦功率的增大, 输出的锁模激光功率也线性增大, 斜率效率约为 2.3%, 如图 3(d) 所示。值得一提的是, 脉冲的重复频率并不随泵浦功率的增大而变化, 说明 YDFL 输出的是锁模脉冲激光。根据射频频谱图, 可推算出激光器脉宽可能为类噪声脉冲, 两边有底座。根据脉宽推算公式<sup>[25]</sup>:

$$\Delta\tau = (0.44/c) \cdot (\lambda^2 / \Delta\lambda), \quad (1)$$

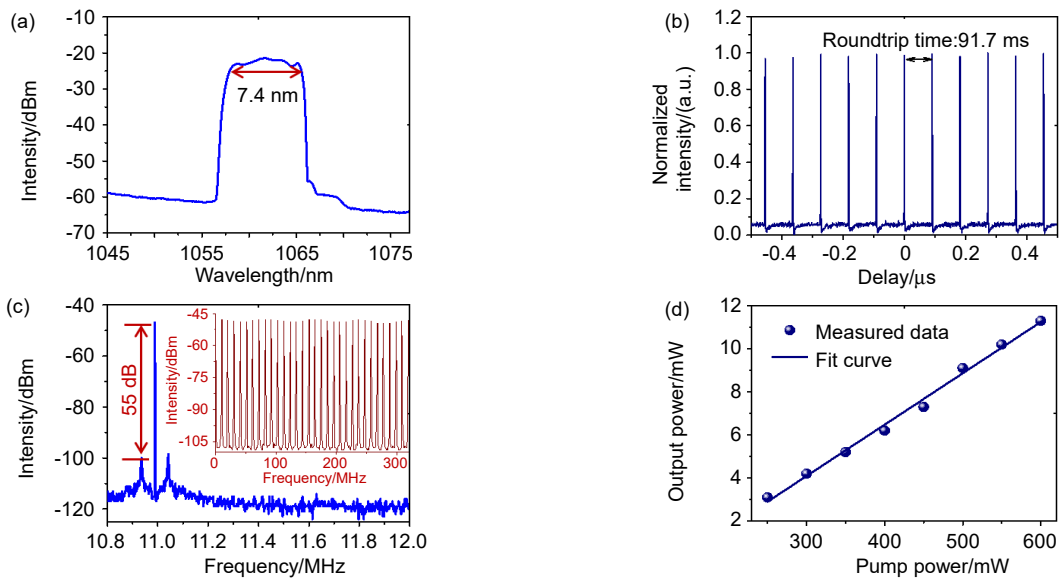


图3 Output1 端口监测锁模激光器的输出特性。(a) 光谱; (b) 脉冲序列;  
(c) 中心频率为 10.9 MHz 的频谱图, 插图: 频谱范围为 300 MHz 的频谱图; (d) 输出功率和泵浦功率的关系  
Fig. 3 Output1 characteristics of YDFL. (a) Optical spectrum; (b) Pulse trains;  
(c) The radio frequency (RF) spectrum with the central frequency of 10.9 MHz, inset: the RF spectrum with a 300 MHz span;  
(d) The YDFL output power and repetition rate variation along with elevating pump power

其中:  $\lambda$  为激光的中心波长,  $\Delta\lambda$  为 3 dB 谱宽,  $c$  为光波的传播速度。可预估出我们的锁模脉冲激光经过腔外负色散补偿后, 脉宽可压缩至 198 fs。

为了证明 YDFL 腔内的 FMF 部分传输的是 HOM, 我们使用 CCD 监测 output2 的模场分布, 如图 4(a) 所示, 模场截面为  $LP_{11}$  模式, 这表明  $LP_{11}$  模式在激光器的 FMF 部分振荡并参与锁模过程。基于数值分析的模式分解和重构方法<sup>[26]</sup>, 检测了该  $LP_{11}$  模式的重构光场

及其在总输出模式中的占比。计算得到  $LP_{11}$  模式的纯度大于 94%, 这表明我们制作的 MSC 能得到高纯度的  $LP_{11}$  模。

在锁模状态下保持 PC1 和 PC2 的偏转角度不变, 轻微调节 PC3 可消除线偏  $LP_{11}$  模的筒并度, 在不同偏振态下能激发单个环状矢量光束:  $TM_{01}$ ,  $TE_{01}$ ,  $HE_{21}^{even}$  和  $HE_{21}^{odd}$  模, 即 CVB。起偏器用于区分这四种矢量光束, 只有与起偏器方向一致的光束才能被通过。图 4(b)

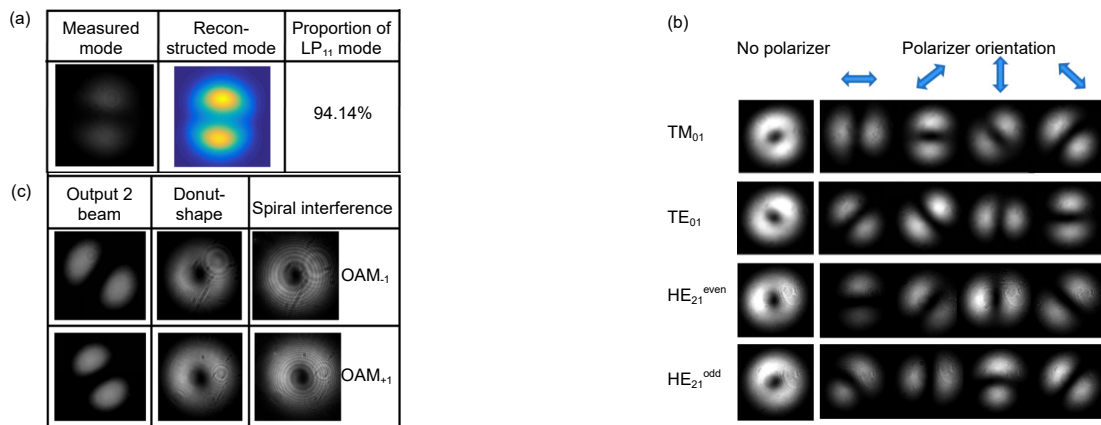


图4 Output2 端口监测模式的模场分布图。(a) 测量和重构光场的线偏振  $LP_{11}$  模式的模场分布, 以及  $LP_{11}$  模式的纯度; (b) 柱矢量光束  $TM_{01}$ 、 $TE_{01}$ 、 $HE_{21}^{even}$  和  $HE_{21}^{odd}$  的模场分布;  
(c) 线偏振  $LP_{11}$  模、环状涡旋光及其干涉条纹的模场分布

Fig. 4 Mode field distributions of output2. (a) Measured and reconstructed mode fields, and the  $LP_{11}$  mode purity; (b) Near-field intensity distribution of  $TM_{01}$ ,  $TE_{01}$ ,  $HE_{21}^{even}$  and  $HE_{21}^{odd}$  modes; the first column: vector modes with donut-shape intensity profiles; the later four columns: distributions of each vector mode with a polarizer placed in front of CCD; (c) Intensity distributions of lobe-shaped  $LP_{11}$  mode, donut-shaped OAMs and their spiral interferences

显示的是实验所测的矢量光束, 第一列是不加起偏器的环状分布, 后四列是在 CCD 前放置一个起偏器, 光束在不同的起偏方向下得到的模场分布。实验表明,  $TM_{01}$  和  $TE_{01}$  模、 $HE_{21}^{\text{even}}$  和  $HE_{21}^{\text{odd}}$  模相互正交。进一步调节 PC3, 以改变  $LP_{11}$  模的相位, 该方法可引入  $\pi/2$  相位差<sup>[5]</sup>, 进而获得 OAM 光束, 如图 4(c)所示, 光束的形状也为环型。用另一束同频的基模作为干涉光对该 OAM 光束进行矢量叠加, 可获得干涉条纹, 如图第三列所示。顺时针和逆时针方向的干涉条纹分别表示 OAM 光束的拓扑荷数为+1 和-1。偏振控制器 PC3 调控光束的光场而获得 CVB 和一阶 OAM, 再次证明 YDFL 中 FMF 部分振荡的 HOM 为  $LP_{11}$  模。

## 5 总 结

本文通过实验提出了一种基于全光纤 MSC 的锁模掺镱光纤激光器直接振荡高阶模式的方法。光纤激光器内部接入两个 MSC, 将其少模输出端连接在一起形成一个模式转换器, 使激光腔内产生并能稳定传输 1064 nm 波段的  $LP_{11}$  模式, 并根据 NPR 锁模机制输出脉冲型 CVB 和一阶 OAM。结果表明, MSC 有着 80 nm 的带宽, 98%的模式转换效率和 94%的高阶模式纯度。激光器输出的锁模激光有着 7.4 nm 的 3 dB 谱宽, 10.9 MHz 的重频, 55 dB 的信噪比和 2.3%的斜率效率。该方法使全少模超快掺镱光纤激光器直接产生并全腔振荡高纯度、高模式转换效率的高阶模式成为可能。

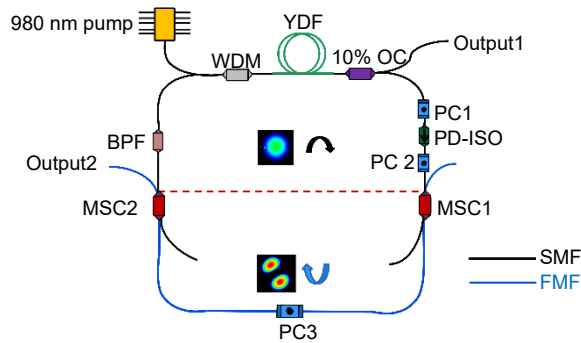
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# Mode-locked Yb-doped fiber laser based on mode coupler

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Experimental setup of the mode-locked Yb-doped fiber laser based on mode coupler

**Overview:** High-order modes (HOMs), surpassing the capacity barrier in the traditional single-mode fiber (SMF) communication system, have attracted extensive attention and been widely applied in the fiber laser, optical communication, particle trapping, remote sensing technology, and so on. The HOMs include linear polarization  $LP_{11}$ ,  $LP_{21}$ ,  $LP_{02}$ ,  $LP_{31}$ , and even higher-order modes, which can be generated by using free-space and fiber-based mode conversion devices.  $LP_{11}$  mode is one of the most important HOMs, which has four vector eigenmodes. These eigenmodes are called as cylindrical vector beams (CVBs) with the axially symmetric polarization and circular intensity distribution. A polarization controller (PC) added on the fiber can effectively eliminate the degeneracy of  $LP_{11}$  mode to excite individual vector modes in different polarization states. Additionally, the orbital angular momentum (OAM) characterized by helical wavefront can be generated by superimposing two orthogonal vector modes. Recently, ultrafast fiber lasers combined by HOMs have been reported owing to their outstanding characteristics, such as compactness, high peak power, narrow pulse width, and low cost. However, the HOMs were converted outside the laser, and the fundamental mode ( $LP_{01}$ ) was still transmitted in the laser cavity.

In this paper, a HOM directly oscillating in a mode-locked Yb-doped fiber laser (YDFL) is demonstrated. Two PCs and a polarization-dependent isolator are used to achieve the mode-locked mechanism of nonlinear polarization rotation. A pair of home-made mode selective couplers (MSCs) connecting through their few-mode fiber (FMF) ports, acts as an efficient mode convertor to generate and oscillate HOMs in the FMF section of the YDFL. A MSC is composed of a SMF and a FMF, which are fused by using hydrogen oxygen flame technology to keep two fiber cores close to each other. The claddings of two fibers are partly fused to form a coupling region. If the phase matching condition is satisfied, the  $LP_{01}$  mode is transferred to the  $LP_{11}$  mode in the coupling region. The MSC has a central wavelength of 1064 nm, a mode conversion bandwidth of 80 nm, and a HOM purity of 94%. Meanwhile, according to the reversibility of MSCs, the  $LP_{11}$  mode can be launched in the FMF port and output the  $LP_{01}$  mode in the SMF port. The pulsed laser with a 3 dB spectral width of 7.4 nm, a pulse repetition frequency of 10.9 MHz, and a signal-to-noise ratio of radio frequency of 55 dB is obtained, and the slope efficiency of the pump and output power is 2.3%. The pulse  $LP_{11}$  mode, CVB, and first-order OAM are obtained from the YDFL. These results demonstrate that the HOM can be generated by the MSC and be directly oscillated in the YDFL, and this approach is promising for directly generating pure and efficient HOMs in all-FMF ultrafast Yb-doped fiber lasers.

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