

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 BASICS OF PULSED FIBER LASER SYSTEMS	5
2.1 BASICS OF FIBER OPTICS	5
2.1.1 <i>Fiber modes</i>	6
2.1.2 <i>Chromatic dispersion</i>	8
2.1.3 <i>Modal birefringence</i>	9
2.2 NONLINEAR EFFECTS IN FIBERS	10
2.2.1 <i>Kerr-Effect</i>	11
2.2.2 <i>Self- and cross-phase-modulation</i>	12
2.2.3 <i>Stimulated Raman scattering</i>	13
2.2.4 <i>Stimulated Brillouin scattering</i>	15
2.2.5 <i>Four-wave-mixing</i>	15
2.3 PULSES IN OPTICAL FIBERS	16
2.3.1 <i>Dispersion pulse broadening</i>	17
2.3.2 <i>Polarization mode dispersion</i>	19
2.3.3 <i>Interaction of GVD and SPM</i>	19
2.3.4 <i>Stimulated Raman scattering of pulsed signals</i>	21
2.4 FIBER LASER AND AMPLIFIER	22
2.4.1 <i>Ytterbium gain fibers</i>	24
2.4.2 <i>Erbium gain fibers</i>	27
2.5 GENERATION OF LASER PULSES	31
2.5.1 <i>Passive Q-switching and relaxation oscillations</i>	32
2.5.2 <i>Mode-locking</i>	32
2.6 STRETCHING AND COMPRESSION OF OPTICAL PULSES	35
3 PASSIVE Q-SWITCHED YB³⁺-FIBER LASER.....	39
3.1 EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP	40
3.2 Q-SWITCHED LASER OPERATION	41
3.2.1 <i>Influence of output coupling</i>	43
3.2.2 <i>Influence of fiber length</i>	44
3.2.3 <i>Signal linewidth</i>	45
3.2.4 <i>Wavelength tuning</i>	48
3.2.5 <i>Laser operation without spectral selective elements</i>	49
3.3 PHYSICAL MECHANISM OF PASSIVE PULSE GENERATION.....	51
3.3.1 <i>Effects of Tm³⁺-codoping</i>	51
3.3.2 <i>Relaxation oscillations</i>	54
3.3.3 <i>Polarization effects</i>	56
3.4 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK	57

4 MODE-LOCKED YB³⁺-FIBER LASER.....	59
4.1 EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP	59
4.2 MODE-LOCKED LASER OPERATION	61
4.3 PULSE ENERGY QUANTIZATION	64
4.4 CAVITY DISPERSION	66
4.5 SIGNAL CHIRP.....	68
4.6 INTRA-CAVITY PULSE DYNAMIC	71
4.7 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK	73
5 SUPER-BROADBAND YB³⁺-FIBER LASER.....	75
5.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP.....	75
5.2 BROADBAND MODE-LOCKED LASER OPERATION	76
5.2.1 <i>Filtering versus spectral broadening</i>	80
5.3 BROADENING MECHANISM	82
5.3.1 <i>Linear effects of the spectral filtering</i>	82
5.3.2 <i>Nonlinear broadening mechanism</i>	84
5.4 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK	85
6 FEMTOSECOND ER³⁺-FIBER OSCILLATOR-AMPLIFIER SYSTEM.....	87
6.1 EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP OF THE ER ³⁺ -OSCILLATOR-AMPLIFIER SYSTEM.....	88
6.1.1 <i>Femtosecond Er³⁺-fiber oscillator</i>	88
6.1.2 <i>Fiber-stretcher</i>	91
6.1.3 <i>Pulse picking unit</i>	93
6.1.4 <i>Preamplifier</i>	95
6.1.5 <i>Power-amplifier</i>	97
6.1.6 <i>Grating compressor</i>	100
6.2 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS FOR THE OSCILLATOR-AMPLIFIER SYSTEM.....	102
6.2.1 <i>Output signal of the fiber amplifier</i>	102
6.2.2 <i>Transmission properties of the grating compressor</i>	105
6.2.3 <i>Temporal pulse recompression</i>	108
6.3 NONLINEAR EFFECTS IN THE FIBER AMPLIFIER.....	112
6.3.1 <i>Spectral modulations</i>	112
6.3.2 <i>Nonlinear dispersion</i>	116
6.3.3 <i>Four-wave mixing</i>	117
6.3.4 <i>Gain saturation</i>	120
6.3.5 <i>Fiber surface damages</i>	123
6.4 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK	125
7 SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK.....	127
APPENDIX.....	131
A CALCULATION OF OPTICAL FIBER PROPERTIES.....	131
A.1 <i>Numerical approximation of the field distribution in an optical fiber</i>	131
A.2 <i>Calculation of the waveguide dispersion of an optical fiber</i>	135
B UNITS IN FIBER OPTIC TELECOMMUNICATION AND LASER PHYSICS.....	136
C DOPING CONCENTRATIONS IN SILICA FIBERS	137
D ABBREVIATIONS.....	139

REFERENCES	141
PUBLICATIONS	151
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	155
DANKSAGUNG	157