EMISSION OF MONOPULSES OF COHERENT LIGHT BY A TWO-COMPONENT MEDIUM WITH NEGATIVE ABSORPTION

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Submitted to JETP editor October 28, 1964


Excitation of self-oscillations is considered for a medium located in a Fabry-Perot resonator. The medium contains two types of quantum oscillators with equal energy transitions. Such a medium emits monopulses of light for a certain relation between its parameters. The shape, energy, amplitude and duration of such pulses are determined. Monopulse emission from a medium consisting of ruby single crystals and KS-19 glass plates was observed experimentally. However, the applicability of the mechanism under consideration to these experimental results requires a special analysis.

1. MECHANISM OF EMISSION OF A MONOPULSE BY A TWO-COMPONENT MEDIUM

The state of self-oscillations in an inverted medium, placed in a Fabry-Perot resonator, begins when the negative absorption in it exceeds all forms of losses, i.e., when

$$\gamma(v) = -a* + B_n(v)hv(n_2 - n_1) > 0, \quad (1.1)$$

where $v$ is the light frequency, $u$ is its velocity in the medium, $n_2$ and $n_1$ are the volume concentrations of quantum radiators at the upper and lower levels of the transition $2 \rightarrow 1$ with energy $hv_0$ and Einstein coefficient of stimulated emission $B_n(v)$, and the effective absorption coefficient $a^* = a + 2\pi n_0 uQ$ takes into account both the energy dissipation in a medium with absorption coefficient $a$ and the losses at the mirrors of the resonator with quality factor $Q$.

The known methods of generation of "gigantic" monopulses by modulation of the $Q$ of the resonator lead to a sudden decrease in the second term of $a^*$ and a corresponding sharp increase of $\gamma(v) > 0$ at the moment when the pump generates a sufficiently high level of overpopulation $n_2 - n_1$. Such a modulation is usually produced by means of some sort of optical shutter (which rotates a totally reflecting prism, Kerr cell, or the like) controlled externally.

It is evident that the ability to radiate monopulses of light lies in the mechanism of negative absorption itself if the medium contains quantum radiators of two types, $n$ and $m$, with identical energy transitions in each (a two-component medium). The negative absorption in such a medium has a threshold character $[5]$ while the coefficient $\gamma(v)$ in (1.1) should be supplemented by the term $B_m(v)hv(m_2 - m_1)$, where the coefficient $B_m(v)$ and the concentrations $m_2$ and $m_1$ refer to radiators of type $m$. Radiators of both types are coupled with themselves and with each other only through the common radiation field.

The possibility of radiation of a monopulse is due to the fact that, after generation of self-oscillations (the start), the overpopulations $n_2 - n_1$ and $m_2 - m_1 < 0$ under the forcing action of the photons of the operating modes of the resonator approach saturation, but at different rates, determined by the values of the coefficients $B_n(v)$ and $B_m(v)$. If radiators of the $m$ type approach saturation much more rapidly than those of the $n$ type, then, for a definite relation of the parameters, the coefficient $\gamma(v) > 0$, and a while after the start it increases sharply, as in the methods of $Q$-modulation mentioned above.

After the start, the coefficient $\gamma(v)$ changes according to the law $[5]$

$$\gamma(v, E) = a^*u \left\{ 1 + \frac{\exp \left( -\frac{b_nE}{\beta_n} \right) + \exp \left( -\frac{b_mE}{\beta_m} \right) }{\beta_n + \beta_m} \right\}, \quad (1.2)$$

where

$$\beta_n = \frac{a^*u}{B_nh\nu_n n_0}, \quad \beta_m = \frac{a^*u}{B_mh\nu_m n_0}, \quad (1.3)$$

$$b_n = \frac{QB_n}{\pi v_0 V}, \quad b_m = \frac{QB_m}{\pi v_0 V}, \quad (1.4)$$

and $E(t)$ is the energy radiated by the resonator, $V$ is the volume filled by the working medium (an equilibrium distribution of all concentrations and energies is assumed for $V$), the coefficients $B_n$ and $B_m$ are taken for the common central frequency $\nu_0$ for radiators of both types, and $n_0$ and $m_0$ are the initial values of the overpopulation.
The exponential dependence in (1.2) is valid if, after the start, one can neglect the effect of pumping and spontaneous decay, and also the action of photons which are not connected with the external mode space of the resonator, in comparison with the effect on the population of the levels on the part of photons of the operating mode.

The initial conditions at $E = 0$

$$\gamma(v_0) = 0, \quad d\gamma(v_0)/dE > 0$$

lead to the relations

$$(\beta_n)^{-1} + (\beta_m)^{-1} = 1,$$

$$(1.6a)$$

$$(B_m/B_n) > (1 - \beta_n)^{-1},$$

$$
(1.6b)
$$

which coincide with the corresponding levels obtained in [5].

It is seen from (1.6a) that by selection of the values of $B_m$ and $m_0 < 0$, one can bring the initial overpopulation $n_0$ to a level that is sufficient for the radiation of a ‘gigantic’ monopulse.

The power $P = dE/dt$ radiated from the resonator is determined by the equation $dE/dt = \gamma(v_0)P$ which can, with account of (1.2) and integration over time, lead to a single function of $E$:

$$
\frac{dE}{dt} = a^*u\left\{-E + \frac{1 - \exp(-b_nE)}{\beta_n b_n} + \frac{1 - \exp(-b_mE)}{\beta_m b_m}\right\}.
$$

(1.7)

The process of radiation lasts from the start at $E = 0$ to the value $E = E_0$ for which $dE/dt = 0$. Thus the value $E_0$, which is determined as the non-zero root of the equation $dE/dt = 0$, is the total energy of the radiated monopulse; the total energy of the monopulse increases with increase in the initial population $n_0$, remaining less than the value

$$
E_0 < \frac{n_0}{2} \hbar v_0 \eta \left[1 - \frac{B_n}{B_m} (1 - \beta_n)\right]
$$

$$
< \frac{n_0}{2} \hbar v_0 \eta \left[1 - \frac{B_n}{B_m} (1 - \beta_m)\right].
$$

(1.8)

where $\eta = 2\pi v_0 / a^*uQ$ is the efficiency of the resonator, $n$ being the total volume concentration of radiators of type $n$ while $\beta_n$ is determined from (1.3) for $n_0 = n$.

The maximum amplitude of radiation $P_{\text{peak}} = dE/dt|_{E_{\text{peak}}}$ is reached at the energy $E = E_1$, which is determined from (1.7) by the condition $\partial^2E/dt^2 = 0$. Substitution of $E = E_1$ in (1.7) gives the peak value of the amplitude $P_{\text{peak}}$ directly; this value increases upon increase in the initial overpopulation $n_0$, not exceeding a limiting value:

$$
P_{\text{peak}} < \frac{n_0}{2} \hbar v_0 \eta a^*u \left[1 - \frac{B_n}{B_m} (1 - \beta_n) + \beta_n \ln \beta_n\right].
$$

(1.9)

The dependences on the parameter $\beta_n$ are given in Fig. 1 for the total energy of radiation $E_0$, the peak amplitude $P_{\text{peak}}$ and the corresponding value of $E_1$ for the case $B_m/B_n = 10$. The same dependences are given for $\beta_m$ and the effective pulse length, defined as the ratio $\tau_{\text{eff}} = E_0/P_{\text{peak}}$.

It must be noted that the entire present analysis is carried out in the quasimonochromatic approximation, in which case the spectral width of the radiated light pulse is much less than the width of the line $2\Delta\nu$ of spontaneous transition $2 \rightarrow 1$, which is valid so long as $\tau_{\text{eff}} > (\Delta\nu)^{-1}$. This approximation is suitable for a very high $Q$ resonator ($a^*u < \Delta\nu$), in which the reduction of the effective duration of time $\tau_{\text{eff}}$ associated with an increase in the initial overpopulation $n_0$ has a limit $\tau_{\text{eff}} > (\alpha^*u)^{-1}$. In the opposite case of a low-$Q$ resonator, any similar limitation is absent and the quasi-monochromaticity is violated at small values of $\tau_{\text{eff}}$. Here, the reduction of the effective time $\tau_{\text{eff}}$ is limited to a quantity of the order $(\Delta\nu)^{-1}(\beta/(1 - \beta))^{1/2}$ while the effectiveness of the process of stimulated emission falls as the result of the smearing out of the energy stored in the resonator (for a decrease of $\tau_{\text{eff}}$) over the wings of the spectral line of the radiator.

The shape of the radiated monopulse obtained...
EMISSION OF COHERENT LIGHT BY A TWO-COMPONENT MEDIUM

Graphically by integration of Eq. (1.7) for the case \( \beta_n = 0.3 \) and \( B_m/B_n = 10 \) is shown in Fig. 2.

2. EXPERIMENT

In the experiment, the quantum radiators of type \( n \) and \( m \) need not be uniformly distributed in the medium. The two-component medium can be formed from two (or more) one-component specimens with radiators of different types, placed in a common Fabry-Perot resonator. In this case, the actual volume concentrations in the one-component media, \( n_0' \) and \( m_0' \), are connected with the quantities \( n_0 \) and \( m_0 \) obtained from the formulas of the previous section by the relations

\[
n_0(l_n + l_n^*) = n_0' l_n, \quad m_0(l_n + l_m) = m_0' l_m, \quad (2.1)
\]

where \( l_n \) and \( l_m \) are the lengths of specimens of the one-component media.

Experiments are known in which the two-component medium consisted of a single ruby crystal and a solution of metallophthalocyanin or a ruby and a uranium glass,\(^6\) and also of a ruby and a glass colored with \( \text{CdS:Se} \).\(^7\) It is possible that the results of these experiments (or, at least, those set forth in\(^8\)) can be interpreted from the positions set forth above.

This also applies in equal measure to the data of the following experiment, which in no way was aimed at selecting the optimal parameters for the system. The two-component medium consisted of a cylindrical ruby single crystal of length 75 mm with a chromium concentration of 0.05% and a plane parallel glass plate KS-19 (colored optical glass GOST 9411-60) of thickness 3 mm, placed in a resonator with a mirror transmission coefficients 0 and 30%. The pumping took place in a polished aluminum reflector by a pulsed discharge of a capacitor bank, with energy of 1600 joules, through two IFP-800 tubes. The output radiation was recorded by an F-5 photocell and was observed on an S-1-7 oscilloscope in the form of a monopulse of a duration 70–80 nanoseconds. The total energy of the monopulse was measured by a calorimetric method by the change in the resistance of a copper conductor of great length and was in the range 0.08–0.1 joule, which corresponded to a radiation amplitude of about 1.0–1.4 MW. Increase in the pump level or decrease in the thickness of the glass led to a repetition of the entire course of the phenomenon and to the appearance of second and third monopulses, which followed one another at intervals of about 70 microseconds.

The emitted monopulse underwent amplification in a single ruby crystal of length 240 mm with clear end surfaces, pumped by two IFP-5000 tubes with a total flash energy of 5400 joules. The output monopulse had an amplitude of about 10–14 MW. An intensive electric spark was produced in atmospheric air when the output radiation was focused by a lens with a focal length of 130 mm.

Figure 3 shows photographs of oscillograms of pulses at the output of the resonator and after amplification. Figure 4 gives the photographs of the electric spark in air at the focus of the lens.

Experiments with KS-17 and KS-18 glasses gave similar but somewhat weaker results (in energy and amplitude). The transmission coefficient of the KS-19 glass revealed a strong dependence on the intensity of the light incident upon it, which is shown in Fig. 5, data for which were obtained in the passage through the glass of monopulses of different energy and amplitude, but approximately the same duration. The quantitative results were compared with the dependence

\[
k' = \ln(T/T_0) / (1 \sim T), \quad (2.2)
\]
Electric discharge of atmospheric air at the focus of the lens.

where \( I \) is the light flux density incident on the glass, \( k \) is a coefficient of proportionality, \( T \) the transmission coefficient, \( T_0 \) its value at zero light intensity. Use of this formula is justified, based on the model of the previous section, if it is assumed that the process of saturation of the overpopulation \( m_2 - m_1 \) takes place so rapidly that one can consider it to be stationary during the experiment.

As is seen from Fig. 5, the points satisfactorily follow the straight line (2.2). It must be noted that, according to the conditions of the experiment, the energy of the pulses changes simultaneously with the light intensity and is proportional to it. Therefore, the dependence on \( I \) is essentially simultaneous and is a dependence on the transmitted energy of the light flux. This circumstance does not allow us to say uniquely whether or not the illumination of the KS-19 glass takes place under the action of the intense field of the passing light flux or under the action of its integral energy. The latter would be evidence in favor of the mechanism considered above.

Inasmuch as the transmission characteristics of the KS-19 are determined by the color pigment, which is a semiconductor formation of the type CdS and CdSe, an alternative mechanism of illumination can show the shift of the edge of the absorption band under the action of the electric field of the light.

Thus the problem of the applicability of the representations of the previous section to media of the type of the KS-19 glass underlies the fundamental consideration.

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Translated by R. T. Beyer