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Modulation Characteristics of Tunable DFB/DBR Lasers with One or Two Passive Tuning Sections

XING PAN, HENNING OLESEN, AND BJARNE TROMBORG

Abstract—Calculation of the small-signal modulation characteristics of tunable DFB and DBR lasers requires rate equations for the photon number, the phase of the electric field, and the carrier densities. In this paper, we derive the rate equation for the photon number and phase from an optical transmission line model and present examples of the frequency and intensity modulation characteristics of a phase-tunable DFB laser. The modulation responses exhibit the well-known relaxation resonance if either of the drive currents is modulated, but we also demonstrate the possibility of complete removal of the resonance peak together with a perfect cancellation of spurious intensity modulation. The frequency modulation response then assumes a simple low-pass character with a cutoff frequency determined by the carrier lifetime in the passive tuning section. The importance of choosing the proper bias conditions is emphasized.

I. INTRODUCTION

A LARGE variety of tunable multisection DFB and DBR lasers is currently under investigation, and several experimental results have been reported. These lasers typically consist of two to four sections with separate electrodes, and depending on the application, all sections may be active (in the simplest form just a conventional DFB laser with segmented electrodes) [1], one section may act as a saturable absorber in order to achieve bistable operation or optical wavelength conversion [2], or the device may have one active (Fabry-Perot- or DFB-type) and one or two passive sections [3]–[6]. The main advantages of such devices are the capability of fast electronic tuning, a low sensitivity to environmental disturbances, and for the latter type, a large continuous tuning range.

In this paper, we will focus on devices with *passive tuning sections*. In addition to the advantages mentioned above, these lasers are attractive because of the possibility of getting a high frequency modulation (FM) response, which is uniform in modulation frequency from dc to several hundred megahertz, by modulation of the injection current to one of the passive sections [3]. The carrier density in the passive sections is not clamped as it is in a conventional laser above threshold and is therefore easy

to modulate. The cutoff frequency will be determined by the carrier lifetime in the passive section. We have previously analyzed the static tuning properties of DFB and DBR lasers with passive tuning sections [7], [8], and in this paper, which is an extended version of [9], we present the first theoretical study of their modulation characteristics.

II. THEORY

The analysis presented here is an application of our general transmission line theory for compound cavity lasers [10]. It applies to electronically tunable devices with one active and one or two passive control sections. The most important devices in this category are the phase-tunable DFB laser [3] with one passive phase control (PC) section and the three-section tunable DBR laser [4], which has an active Fabry-Perot section and two passive sections, one for phase control and one with a built-in corrugation for frequency control. The passive waveguides are usually made of materials with a higher bandgap than that of the active layer in order to make them transparent (apart from the intrinsic absorption). Hence, there will be only spontaneous and no stimulated recombination in these sections. In the following, we will limit the discussion to the phase-tunable DFB laser, which is shown schematically in Fig. 1, but the modifications for the DBR laser are straightforward.

Initially, we introduce a reference plane at the interface between the active and PC sections. The right and left traveling waves $E^\pm(\omega)$ at the reference plane are related by the boundary conditions

$$E^+(\omega) = r_L(\omega, N_1) E^-(\omega) + F_L(\omega) \quad (1a)$$

$$E^-(\omega) = r_R(\omega, N_2) E^+(\omega) \quad (1b)$$

where r_L and r_R are the effective reflectivities “seen” towards the left and right from the reference plane, ω is the angular optical frequency, and N_1 and N_2 are the carrier densities of the active and the PC sections, respectively. F_L is a Langevin noise term, which accounts for the spontaneous emission in the active section [10]. There is no contribution from spontaneous emission in the PC section because of the higher bandgap.

Expressions for r_L and r_R are given in [7, eqs. (4) and (12)]. r_L is derived from the well-known coupled mode

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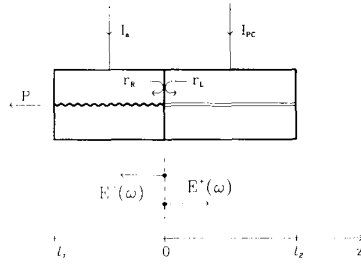


Fig. 1. Phase-tunable DFB laser with an active DFB section and a passive PC section.

equations for DFB lasers [11], and if the reflections at the laser-waveguide interface are neglected, r_R takes the simple form

$$r_R(\omega, N_2) = r_2 \exp \left\{ -j2k_2(\omega, N_2) l_2 \right\} \quad (2)$$

where r_2 is the facet reflectivity at the end of the PC section, $k_2(\omega, N_2)$ is the complex wave number, and l_2 is the length of the PC section. Recent experimental results indicate that the residual reflections at the interfaces can indeed be negligible for butt-jointed devices fabricated by the MOVPE technique [6], [12]. Equation (2) shows that r_R depends implicitly on ω and N_2 through the complex wave number $k_2(\omega, N_2)$. Similarly, r_L depends on ω and N_1 through the complex wave number $k_1(\omega, N_1)$ for the active section. The expressions for k_1 and k_2 are given in Appendix A.

Equations (1a) and (1b) can be combined to give the basic field equation

$$\left\{ r_L(\omega, N_1) r_R(\omega, N_2) - 1 \right\} E^+(\omega) = F_L(\omega). \quad (3)$$

The driving term $F_L(\omega)$ is discussed in detail in [10]. In the present analysis of modulation properties, we shall simply ignore the term and put $F_L(\omega)$ equal to 0.

The stationary operation point $(\omega_s, N_{1s}, N_{2s})$ (without noise or modulation) satisfies the oscillation condition

$$r_L(\omega_s, N_{1s}) r_R(\omega_s, N_{2s}) = 1. \quad (4)$$

The dominant mode is the particular solution to (4), which has the lowest threshold carrier density N_{1s} . The carrier density N_{2s} is independently determined by the injection current to the PC section and the condition that the carrier injection rate equals the spontaneous recombination rate [7]. The method for solving (4) is described in [7].

Under dynamic conditions, the frequency and carrier densities are assumed to be close to their stationary values, and we can therefore use a Taylor expansion for $r_L(\omega, N_1) r_R(\omega, N_2)$ in (3):

$$\begin{aligned} & r_L(\omega, N_1) r_R(\omega, N_2) - 1 \\ & \approx -j(\tau_{in} + \tau_{ex})(\omega - \omega_s) \\ & \quad + \frac{\partial \ln r_L}{\partial N_1} \Delta N_1 + \frac{\partial \ln r_R}{\partial N_2} \Delta N_2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where $\Delta N_i = N_i - N_{is}$ ($i = 1, 2$) and

$$\tau_{in} = j \frac{\partial \ln r_L}{\partial \omega} \quad (6a)$$

$$\tau_{ex} = j \frac{\partial \ln r_R}{\partial \omega} = \frac{2l_2}{c} (n_{2g} + \Delta n_2(N_{2s})) \quad (6b)$$

are the effective round-trip times in the active and PC sections, respectively. c is the light velocity in vacuum, and n_{2g} is the group refractive index in the PC section. We note that the round-trip times are generally complex, but with the given form of r_R and k_2 , τ_{ex} becomes real (cf. Appendix A). The frequency range in which (5) is valid is determined by the range in which $r_R(\omega, N_2)$ can be approximated by its linear expansion, and the method described in this paper therefore applies to short (discrete or integrated) external cavities.

We now define the envelope function

$$A^+(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty E^+(\omega) e^{j(\omega - \omega_s)t} d\omega \quad (7)$$

for the right traveling wave at the reference plane [10]. From (3) and (5), the following simple rate equation for $A^+(t)$ can be derived:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \ln A^+(t) = & \frac{1}{\tau_{in} + \tau_{ex}} \left\{ \frac{\partial \ln r_L}{\partial N_1} \Delta N_1(t) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{\partial \ln r_R}{\partial N_2} \Delta N_2(t) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

In order to introduce the photon number $I_p(t)$ and the phase $\varphi(t)$ of the electric field [i.e., the envelope function $A^+(t)$], we make use of the relation [10]

$$A^+(t) \propto \sqrt{I_p(t)} e^{j\varphi(t)} \quad (9)$$

and obtain the desired rate equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \ln I_p(t) + j \frac{d\varphi(t)}{dt} \\ = \frac{1}{\tau_{in} + \tau_{ex}} \left\{ \frac{\partial \ln r_L}{\partial N_1} \Delta N_1(t) + \frac{\partial \ln r_R}{\partial N_2} \Delta N_2(t) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

for the photon number and phase, valid for a short external cavity. A similar equation for a laser with arbitrary external cavity length was given in [10, eq. (22)], but here modulation of the external cavity was not considered.

The rate equations for the carrier densities in the active and PC sections take the usual form:

$$\frac{d}{dt} N_1(t) = \frac{I_a(t)}{eV_1} - R_1(N_1) - G(\omega_s, N_1) \frac{I_p(t)}{V_1} \quad (11a)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} N_2(t) = \frac{I_{PC}(t)}{eV_2} - R_2(N_2) \quad (11b)$$

where e is the electron charge and $G(\omega_s, N_1) = v_g g(\omega_s, N_1)$ is the gain (per unit time) of the active section. v_g is the group velocity, g is the gain per unit length (see Ap-

pendix A), and V_1 , V_2 and $I_a(t)$, $I_{PC}(t)$ are the volumes and injection currents for the active and PC sections, respectively. The spontaneous recombination rate per unit volume is represented as

$$R_i(N_i) = a_i N_i + b_i N_i^2 + c_i N_i^3, \quad i = 1 \text{ or } 2 \quad (12)$$

where a_i , b_i , and c_i are constants. The recombination constant c_i accounts for Auger recombination.

A small-signal analysis of (10), (11a), and (11b) is given in Appendix B. The result is the following set of modulation responses:

$$\delta P(\Omega) = 2P_s \left[H_1(\Omega) \frac{C_{1r}}{eV_1} \delta I_a(\Omega) + H_2(\Omega) \frac{C_{2r}}{eV_2} \delta I_{PC}(\Omega) \right] \quad (13a)$$

$$\delta f(\Omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[H_3(\Omega) \frac{C_{1i}}{eV_1} \delta I_a(\Omega) + \{ C_{1i} H_4(\Omega) + C_{2i} H_5(\Omega) \} \frac{1}{eV_2} \delta I_{PC}(\Omega) \right] \quad (13b)$$

$$\delta N_1(\Omega) = \left[H_3(\Omega) \frac{1}{eV_1} \delta I_a(\Omega) + H_4(\Omega) \frac{1}{eV_2} \delta I_{PC}(\Omega) \right] \quad (13c)$$

$$\delta N_2(\Omega) = H_5(\Omega) \frac{1}{eV_2} \delta I_{PC}(\Omega) \quad (13d)$$

where P denotes the output power from the left facet and $\Omega = 2\pi f_m$ is the angular modulation frequency. The C -factors and the transfer functions H_1 – H_5 are defined in Appendix B. $\delta P(\Omega)$ and $\delta f(\Omega)$ represent the intensity modulation (IM) and FM responses for given forms of the two modulation currents δI_a and δI_{PC} .

As can be seen from (13a)–(13d), the modulation responses generally contain two contributions, one for each of the modulation currents, except for $\delta N_2(\Omega)$, which depends only on $\delta I_{PC}(\Omega)$. The complex addition of the two carrier density terms in (10) may lead to interference effects in some frequency intervals, as illustrated in the next section. In particular, (13c) shows that $N_1(t)$ can be modulated via the PC current. This is a result of the photon-carrier interaction in the active section, which leads to the well-known relaxation resonance in a laser above threshold.

The response $\delta N_2(\Omega)$ has a low-pass character with a cutoff frequency of $1/(2\pi\tau_{s2})$ and a dc value which is proportional to τ_{s2} , with τ_{s2} being the carrier lifetime in the PC section. This illustrates the role of the carrier lifetime in this type of tunable laser and the characteristic tradeoff between modulation speed and efficiency.

The IM and FM responses can be rewritten in the form

$$\delta P(\Omega) = 2P_s C_{1r} H_1(\Omega) \left[\frac{1}{eV_1} \delta I_a(\Omega) + \frac{j\Omega + (1/\tau_R)}{j\Omega + (1/\tau_{s2})} \frac{C_{2r}}{C_{1r}} \frac{1}{eV_2} \delta I_{PC}(\Omega) \right] \quad (14a)$$

$$\delta f(\Omega) = \frac{\delta f(0)}{1 + j\Omega\tau_{s2}} + \frac{1}{2\pi} C_{1i} H_3(\Omega) \left[\frac{1}{eV_1} \delta I_a(\Omega) + \frac{j\Omega + (1/\tau_R)}{j\Omega + (1/\tau_{s2})} \frac{C_{2r}}{C_{1r}} \frac{1}{eV_2} \delta I_{PC}(\Omega) \right] \quad (14b)$$

where $\delta f(0)$ is the FM response at dc [see Appendix B, eq. (B10b)] and τ_R is the relaxation time constant. This shows that if both currents are modulated simultaneously with a current splitting ratio of

$$\frac{\delta I_a(\Omega)}{\delta I_{PC}(\Omega)} = -\frac{j\Omega + (1/\tau_R)}{j\Omega + (1/\tau_{s2})} \frac{C_{2r}}{C_{1r}} \frac{V_1}{V_2}, \quad (15)$$

the intensity modulation will be *completely* suppressed, and at the same time, the resonance peak in the FM response will be canceled. If we ignore the complications of parasitics, the required current splitting can easily be realized by the use of resistors and capacitors. The resulting FM response has the same simple low-pass form as δN_2 , and further equalization may be applied to both currents while maintaining the ratio (15) in order to extend the FM response to higher frequencies [13].

The expressions given so far apply to the phase-tunable DFB laser. For the case of the tunable DBR laser, r_L becomes the effective reflectivity of the active Fabry-Perot section,

$$r_L(\omega, N_1) = r_1 \exp \{ -j2k_1(\omega, N_1) l_1 \}, \quad (16)$$

and the reflectivity $r_R(\omega, N_2, N_3)$ is given by (2) with r_2 replaced by the effective reflectivity $r_{DBR}(\omega, N_3)$ of the DBR section as seen from the interface between the PC and DBR sections [8]. N_3 is the carrier density in the DBR section. The complex wave number of the DBR section can be represented in a way similar to that for the PC section, and the refractive index change will lead to a change of the Bragg frequency, which can be used to control the oscillation frequency. In (10), an extra term containing $\delta N_3(t)$ should be added, and in (11a) and (11b), an equation for N_3 must be added. The rest of the analysis proceeds in the same way, and the carrier densities in the passive sections still depend only on the injection current for the particular section. We have studied the modulation properties of this laser as well, and we obtained results similar to those presented in the next section.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The modulation properties of multisection lasers depend strongly on the bias conditions, and it is therefore very useful to have an overview of the static tuning characteristics before selecting the point of operation. Fig. 2 shows a calculated example of the static frequency tuning characteristics for a phase-tunable DFB laser [7]. In the calculations, we have used the laser parameters given in Table I. Four regions of continuous tuning separated by discrete mode jumps across the Bragg frequency are observed. The slope of the curve indicates the FM efficiency at dc, as mentioned in Appendix B, and depending on whether the slope is positive or negative, the FM will be

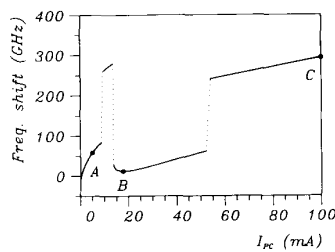


Fig. 2. Frequency shift versus PC current. The points A, B, and C refer to the PC bias currents used in Fig. 3.

TABLE I
LIST OF PARAMETER VALUES

Parameter	Symbol	Value	Unit
Active section:			
Length of active section	l_1	350	μm
Width of active region	w	0.8	μm
Thickness of active layer	d	0.18	μm
Refractive index	n_1	3.40	
Group refractive index	n_{1g}	3.56	
Internal absorption	α_1	21	cm^{-1}
Recombination coefficient	a_1	$1 \cdot 10^8$	sec^{-1}
Recombination coefficient	b_1	$8 \cdot 10^{-17}$	m^3/sec
Recombination coefficient	c_1	$7.5 \cdot 10^{-41}$	m^6/sec
Confinement factor	Γ_1	0.15	
Gain curvature	g_w	$0.73 \cdot 10^{-24}$	$\text{m}^{-1}\text{sec}^2$
Gain coefficient	g_N	$4.83 \cdot 10^{-21}$	m^2
Carrier density at transparency	N_0	$1.37 \cdot 10^{24}$	m^{-3}
Extrapolated wavelength of the gain peak for $N_1 = N_0$	$\lambda_p(N_0)$	1.60	μm
Shift of gain peak with carrier density	$d\omega_p/dN$	$2.12 \cdot 10^{-11}$	$\text{m}^3\text{sec}^{-1}$
Facet reflectivity	r_1^2	32 %	
Linewidth enhancement factor	α	6.6	
Reference wavelength	λ_{ref}	1.55	μm
Reference carrier density	N_{ref}	$2 \cdot 10^{24}$	m^{-3}
Phase control section:			
Length of PC section	l_2	200	μm
Width of waveguide layer		1.2	μm
Thickness of waveguide		0.23	μm
Refractive index	n_2	3.4	
Group refractive index	n_{2g}	3.4	
Internal absorption	α_2	17	cm^{-1}
Recombination coefficient	a_2	$1 \cdot 10^8$	sec^{-1}
Recombination coefficient	b_2	$8 \cdot 10^{-17}$	m^3/sec
Recombination coefficient	c_2	$4 \cdot 10^{-41}$	m^6/sec
Confinement factor	Γ_2	0.3	
Index derivative with respect to carrier density	dn/dN	$-4.2 \cdot 10^{-27}$	m^3
Absorption derivative with respect to carrier density	$d\alpha/dN$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{-21}$	m^2
Facet reflectivity	r_2^2	32 %	

in phase or in counterphase with the PC current. Generally, the magnitude of the slope decreases for increasing injection level because Auger recombination limits the efficiency at high injection. On the other hand, the carrier lifetime decreases with increasing injection, which makes the FM response extend to higher frequencies.

This is clearly seen in Fig. 3(a) and (b), which shows the magnitude and phase of the FM response for the three different bias points A, B, and C in Fig. 2. At point A (5 mA), the dc response and cutoff frequency are 8 GHz/mA and 190 MHz, respectively, and at point C (100 mA), the corresponding values are 1.1 GHz/mA and 1.6 GHz. At point B (17.7 mA), the static characteristic is near a minimum, and the FM efficiency at dc is very small. In the region above 1 GHz, a clear relaxation resonance peak

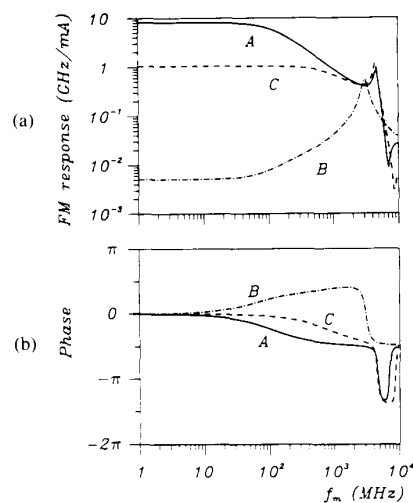


Fig. 3. FM response versus modulation frequency at three different PC bias currents. (a) Magnitude. (b) Phase. The bias current $I_{a,0}$ is 30 mA, and the threshold currents at A, B, and C are 17.5, 16.3, and 21.8 mA, respectively [7].

is observed, and intricate ‘‘interference’’ effects occur between the two FM contributions. The phase is 0 at low frequencies (if the static curve has a positive slope) and changes smoothly, except in the vicinity of the resonance peak. The presence of the resonance peak is a new result, which has not been reported experimentally. In the present analysis, we have not included the effect of nonlinear gain (gain compression), which could have some influence on the strength and shape of the resonance peak, but gain compression will not completely eliminate the resonance [14]. The resonance can, however, be shifted to higher frequencies by increasing the bias current to the active section. Below 1 GHz, our calculations are in good agreement with published experiments [3].

Fig. 4(a) and (b) shows the FM and IM responses when the active section is modulated (dotted curves) and when the PC section is modulated (dashed curves). As seen from the figure and predicted by (13a) and (13b), modulation of either of the currents will result in both IM and FM modulation, in all cases with a resonant part centered around the relaxation frequency. For many practical applications, however, it would be desirable to have a pure IM or a pure FM transmitter. For direct detection systems, especially those operating at high bit rates and/or long distances, the FM gives rise to a chirp-induced power penalty, and for coherent transmission systems based on FSK or PSK modulation, the IM is an unwanted effect. In multichannel systems using optical amplifiers, the IM will lead to crosstalk power penalties [15]. We notice that the IM resulting from modulation of the PC section is about an order of magnitude lower than that from the active section, but it still may not be negligible.

As mentioned in the previous section, it is possible to suppress both the IM and the resonant part of the FM response, if both sections are modulated according to (15). For the bias currents $I_{a,0} = 30$ mA and $I_{PC,0} = 100$ mA,

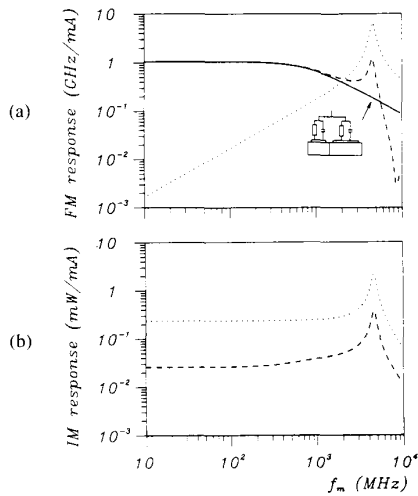


Fig. 4. Responses for three cases: modulation of the active section only (dotted curves), modulation of the PC section only (dashed curves), and simultaneous modulation of both sections with the splitting ratio (15) (solid curve). (a) FM. (b) IM. The inset in (a) shows the current splitting configuration. In the latter case, the modulation response is normalized by the current to the PC section. Bias currents: $I_{a,0} = 30$ mA, $I_{PC,0} = 100$ mA.

the modulus and phase of the splitting ratio vary with frequency, as shown in Fig. 5. The major part of the current goes to the PC section, and at the resonance frequency $f_R = 4.6$ GHz, the ratio is $\delta I_a / \delta I_{PC} = 0.18 + j0.012$. If we ignore the impedances of the laser sections, the splitting ratio can be realized by the simple circuit shown in the inlet of Fig. 4(a). The resistances R_a , R_{PC} and capacitances C_a , C_{PC} for the active and PC sections must satisfy the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} R_a C_a &= \tau_R = 0.32 \text{ ns} \\ R_{PC} C_{PC} &= \tau_{s2} = 0.19 \text{ ns} \\ R_a / R_{PC} &= -\frac{\tau_R V_2 C_{1r}}{\tau_{s2} V_1 C_{2r}} = 9.4. \end{aligned}$$

The resulting FM response is also shown in Fig. 4(a) (solid curve). Below 1 GHz, the FM response is nearly unchanged by the current modulation of the active section due to the small splitting ratio and the low FM efficiency of the active section. Beyond 1 GHz, the resonant part has been eliminated, resulting in a very simple low-pass behavior, as predicted.

The present model only includes the effects on the FM response due to modulation of the carrier densities. As a consequence, the FM response due to modulation of the current to the active section approaches zero at low frequencies [cf. the dotted curve of Fig. 4(a) and eq. (B10b) of Appendix B]. At low frequencies, the dominant contribution comes from thermal effects, which may be included by adding a phenomenological term

$$\delta f_T(\Omega) = -\frac{a_T}{1 + j\Omega\tau_T} \delta I_a(\Omega) \quad (17)$$

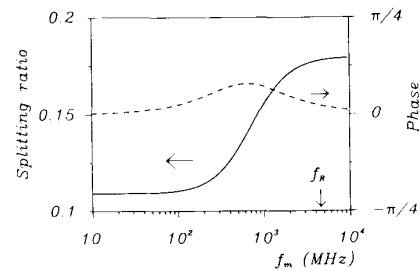


Fig. 5. Modulus and phase of optimum current splitting ratio (15).

to (14b). The dc efficiency a_T is typically in the range of 0.1–1 GHz/mA, and the thermal time constant τ_T is on the order of 0.1–1 μ s. For these values, the term (17) will be small compared to δf of (14b) because of the small splitting ratio [cf. Fig. 5].

IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a theoretical model has been presented for the modulation characteristics of tunable DFB/DBR lasers with passive tuning sections. In the model, two effective reflectivities are used to characterize the active and passive sections. Numerical results have been presented for a phase-tunable DFB laser, but the model has also been applied to two- and three-section DBR lasers. It is shown that the FM characteristics depend critically on the operation point. In order to interpret a measured FM response, it is therefore important to have a measurement of the static frequency tuning characteristics. Generally, the FM efficiency decreases and the modulation bandwidth increases with increasing bias current to the PC section. Our calculations also show the presence of a resonance peak in the FM response when only the PC section is modulated. We have demonstrated that the intensity modulation can be completely suppressed by modulation of both the active and the PC sections with a simple splitting ratio between the currents. The same splitting ratio will eliminate the resonant part of the FM response and result in a low-pass response which is easy to equalize.

APPENDIX A

THE COMPLEX WAVE NUMBERS

The effective reflectivities r_L and r_R are functions of the complex wave numbers in the active and passive sections. For the active section, the wave number is represented as

$$k_1(\omega, N_1) = \frac{\omega n_1(\omega, N_1)}{c} + j \frac{1}{2} [g(\omega, N_1) - \alpha_1] \quad (A1)$$

where $n_1(\omega, N_1)$ is the refractive index, $g(\omega, N_1)$ is the modal gain, and α_1 is the internal loss. The real part is expanded linearly around a reference point (ω_{ref}, N_{ref}) , as explained in [10], and for the gain, we use a parabolic model, which includes the band-filling effect:

$$g(\omega, N_1) = g_N(N_1 - N_0) - g_\omega(\omega - \omega_p(N_1))^2 \quad (A2a)$$

$$\omega_p(N_1) = \omega_p(N_0) + \frac{d\omega_p}{dN}(N_1 - N_0). \quad (A2b)$$

Here, $\omega_p(N_1)$ is the angular optical frequency of the gain peak, N_0 is the carrier density at transparency, g_N is the gain coefficient, g_ω is the gain curvature, and $\omega_p(N_0)$ is the (extrapolated) angular frequency of the gain peak for $N_1 = N_0$. The effect of nonlinear gain is not included.

The wave number for the PC section is written as [7]

$$k_2(\omega, N_2) = \frac{\omega}{c} [n_2(\omega) + \Delta n(N_2)] - j \frac{1}{2} [\alpha_2 + \Delta \alpha_2(N_2)] \quad (\text{A3})$$

where n_2 and α_2 are the refractive index and the absorption per unit length without current injection and

$$\Delta n_2(N_2) = \Gamma_2 \frac{dn}{dN} N_2 \quad (\text{A4a})$$

$$\Delta \alpha_2(N_2) = \Gamma_2 \frac{d\alpha}{dN} N_2 \quad (\text{A4b})$$

are the changes induced by current injection. Γ_2 is the confinement factor of the waveguide, and dn/dN and $d\alpha/dN$ are coefficients describing the free-carrier plasma effect and the free-carrier absorption, respectively.

APPENDIX B SMALL-SIGNAL ANALYSIS

From (10), (11a) and (11b), the small-signal FM and IM responses can be calculated. In the general case, both currents may be modulated:

$$\begin{aligned} I_a(t) &= I_{a,0} + \delta I_a(t), \\ I_{\text{PC}}(t) &= I_{\text{PC},0} + \delta I_{\text{PC}}(t), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B1})$$

and accordingly, the state variables are written as their stationary values plus a modulation term

$$\begin{aligned} I_p(t) &= I_{p,s} + \delta I_p(t), \quad \frac{d\varphi}{dt} = 2\pi\delta f(t) \\ N_1(t) &= N_{1,s} + \delta N_1(t), \quad N_2(t) = N_{2,s} + \delta N_2(t) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B2})$$

where $\delta f(t)$ is the instantaneous frequency.

By elimination of the stationary values and subsequent Fourier transformation, the following set of equations is obtained:

$$\begin{bmatrix} j\Omega & 0 & -2I_{p,s}C_{1r} & -2I_{p,s}C_{2r} \\ 0 & 1 & -C_{1i} & -C_{2i} \\ G_s/V_1 & 0 & j\Omega + \frac{1}{\tau_R} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & j\Omega + \frac{1}{\tau_{s2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \delta I_p(\Omega) \\ 2\pi\delta f(\Omega) \\ \delta N_1(\Omega) \\ \delta N_2(\Omega) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{eV_1} \delta I_a(\Omega) \\ \frac{1}{eV_2} \delta I_{\text{PC}}(\Omega) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (\text{B3})$$

Here, we have introduced the complex quantities

$$C_1 = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{in}} + \tau_{\text{ex}}} \frac{\partial \ln r_L}{\partial N_1} = C_{1r} + jC_{1i} \quad (\text{B4a})$$

$$C_2 = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{in}} + \tau_{\text{ex}}} \frac{\partial \ln r_R}{\partial N_2} = C_{2r} + jC_{2i} \quad (\text{B4b})$$

and also $G_s = G(\omega_s, N_{1s})$. The parameters

$$\tau_R = \left[\frac{dR_1}{dN_1} + v_g g_N \frac{I_{p,s}}{V_1} \right]^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_{s2} = \left[\frac{dR_2}{dN_2} \right]^{-1} \quad (\text{B5})$$

are the relaxation time constant and the carrier lifetime in the PC section, respectively.

The system of equations can now be solved for each of the modulation terms. Instead of the modulation response for the photon number, we may introduce the modulation response $\delta P(\Omega)$ for the output power $P(t)$ from the left facet by noting that [10]

$$P(t) \propto I_p(t), \quad (\text{B6})$$

and hence,

$$\frac{\delta I_p(\Omega)}{I_{p,s}} = \frac{\delta P(\Omega)}{P_s} \quad (\text{B7})$$

where P_s is the stationary value of $P(t)$. By introducing the transfer functions

$$H_1(\Omega) = \frac{1}{-\Omega^2 + j\Omega \frac{1}{\tau_R} + \omega_R^2} \quad (\text{B8a})$$

$$H_2(\Omega) = \frac{j\Omega + (1/\tau_R)}{\left(j\Omega + \frac{1}{\tau_{s2}} \right) \left(-\Omega^2 + j\Omega \frac{1}{\tau_R} + \omega_R^2 \right)} \quad (\text{B8b})$$

$$H_3(\Omega) = \frac{j\Omega}{-\Omega^2 + j\Omega \frac{1}{\tau_R} + \omega_R^2} \quad (\text{B8c})$$

$$H_4(\Omega) = -\frac{\omega_R^2}{\left(j\Omega + \frac{1}{\tau_{s2}} \right) \left(-\Omega^2 + j\Omega \frac{1}{\tau_R} + \omega_R^2 \right)} \frac{C_{2r}}{C_{1r}} \quad (\text{B8d})$$

$$H_s(\Omega) = \frac{1}{j\Omega + \frac{1}{\tau_{s2}}}, \quad (\text{B8e})$$

this leads to the expressions given in (13a)–(13d). Here, $\Omega = 2\pi f_m$ is the angular modulation frequency, and

$$\omega_R^2 = 2I_{p,s} C_{1r} \frac{G_s}{V_1} = (2\pi f_R)^2 \quad (\text{B9})$$

where f_R is the relaxation resonance frequency.

The dc values of the modulation responses are given by

$$\delta P(0) = 2P_s \left[\frac{C_{1r}}{\omega_R^2 e V_1} \delta I_a + \frac{\tau_{s2} C_{2r}}{\tau_R \omega_R^2 e V_2} \delta I_{PC} \right] \quad (\text{B10a})$$

$$\delta f(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(C_{2i} - \frac{C_{2r}}{C_{1r}} C_{1r} \right) \frac{\tau_{s2}}{e V_2} \delta I_{PC} \quad (\text{B10b})$$

$$\delta N_1(0) = -\frac{C_{2r} \tau_{s2}}{C_{1r} e V_2} \delta I_{PC} \quad (\text{B10c})$$

$$\delta N_2(0) = \frac{\tau_{s2}}{e V_2} \delta I_{PC} \quad (\text{B10d})$$

and are directly related to the slopes of the corresponding static tuning curves (cf. Fig. 2 and [7]).

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