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Pulse Compression



Reference: "Lasers", Anthony E. Siegman, University Science Books Chapter 9

Ideal Short Pulse: Fourier Transform Limit



Transform limited pulse – phase changes linearly in time throughout the pulse

Eg: Gaussian amplitude profile pulse: $E(t) = E_t e^{-at^2} e^{i\omega_0 t}$

The Fourier Transform of this wave is: $E(\omega) = E_{\omega}e^{-\frac{(\omega-\omega_0)^2}{4a}}$

We don't measure the amplitudes, we measure the irradiance, I, and spectral power, S.

 $I(t) \propto |E(t)|^2 = I_0 e^{-2at^2} \qquad S(\omega) \propto |E(\omega)|^2 = S_0 e^{-\frac{2(\omega-\omega_0)^2}{4a}}$

Ideal Short Pulse: Fourier Transform Limit

Giving the minimum time-bandwidth product:



Material Dispersion, $n(\lambda)$



Single wavelength: $E(z, t) = E_0 cos(\omega t - kz + \phi_0)$

where
$$k = \frac{\omega n}{c} = \frac{2\pi n}{\lambda_0}$$

 ω is a constant of the wave, and k is material dependent, λ_0 is the wavelength in vacuum



 $\phi_1 = (\omega t_0 - kz_0 + \emptyset_0) \qquad \qquad \phi_2 = (\omega t_0 - kz + \emptyset_0)$

 $\Delta \emptyset = \phi_2 - \phi_1 = k(z - z_0)$

Material DispersionChirped Optical Pulses: $E(z,t) = Re\{E(t)e^{i(\omega_0t-k_0z)}\}$

Where E(t) is a complex function, and here we will assume the amplitude is Gaussian

$$E(t) = E_0 e^{-at^2} e^{i\phi(t)}$$

The phase of the wave is no longer simply linear with time or distance.

Taking z=0,
$$\phi_{tot} = \omega_0 t + \phi(t)$$

The instantaneous frequency is given by:

$$\omega = \frac{d\phi_{tot}}{dt}$$

$$\omega = \frac{d\phi_{tot}}{dt}$$

So what is ϕ_{tot} as a function of distance z?

As we have seen, the phase changes with propagation length:

 $\phi(z) = \phi_0 + kz$

But k is not linearly dependent on frequency

And for some reason, we no longer use the symbol k for wavenumber, but we talk about a propagation constant, $\beta(\omega)$.

The propagation constant then varies with ω and the frequency dependent refractive index

$$\beta(\omega) = \frac{\omega n(\omega)}{c}$$

 $\beta(\omega)$ depends on the material, but it doesn't depend on time

But we have written the electric field as a function of time and propagation length, and the phase was time dependent

$$E(z,t) = E_0 e^{-\Gamma_0 t^2} e^{i\phi(t)} e^{i(\omega_0 t - \beta(\omega_0)z)}$$

Time and frequency are Fourier Transform pairs so you cannot simply write an expression for $\phi(t)$ using $\beta(\omega)$

You must use the Fourier Transform of the electric field E(z, ω)

If we are concerned with propagation, then we can choose to have the starting point be z=0.

$$E(0,\omega)=E_0e^{-\Gamma(\omega-\omega_0)^2}$$

Where Γ is complex giving both the bandwidth of the spectral amplitude and the frequency dependent phase

As long as the material is not absorbing (gain), only the phase is changed by propagation:

$$E(z,\omega) = E(0,\omega)e^{-i\beta(\omega)z}$$

$$\phi(\omega,z) = \phi(\omega,z=0) + \beta(\omega)z$$

$$\phi_{tot}(\omega, z) = \phi_{tot}(\omega, z_0) + \beta(\omega)z$$

$$\beta(\omega) = \frac{\omega n(\omega)}{c}$$

But $n(\omega)$ is a complicated function so instead we can use a Taylor Expansion, as long as the bandwidth is small compared to the central frequency, ω_0 .

$$\beta(\omega) = \beta(\omega_0) + \frac{d\beta}{d\omega}(\omega - \omega_0) + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\beta}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\beta}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \cdots$$

Dispersion Terms

$$\beta_0 \equiv \beta(\omega)|_{\omega=\omega_0} = \frac{\omega_0}{v_{\phi}(\omega_0)} \equiv \frac{\omega_0}{phase \ velocity}$$

$$\beta' \equiv \frac{d\beta}{d\omega}|_{\omega=\omega_0} = \frac{1}{v_g(\omega_0)} \equiv \frac{1}{group \ velocity}$$

Assume we start with a transform limited Gaussian pulse in time:

$$E(0,t) = E_0 e^{-\Gamma_0 t^2} e^{i\omega_0 t}$$

The Fourier transform of a Gaussian pulse in time is Gaussian in frequency:

$$E(0,\omega) = E_0 e^{-\frac{(\omega-\omega_0)^2}{4\Gamma_0}}$$

After propagating a distance z, in a material the electric field now has the expression:

$$E(z,\omega) = E(0,\omega)e^{-i\beta(\omega)z}$$

We will consider the propagation constant up to second order (GVD) in the Taylor expansion.

$$E(z,\omega) = E_0 e^{-\frac{(\omega-\omega_0)^2}{4\Gamma_0}} exp\left[-i\left(\beta_0 + \beta'(\omega-\omega_0) + \frac{1}{2}\beta''(\omega-\omega_0)^2\right)z\right]$$

Rearranging the expression gives:

$$E(z,\omega) = E_0 exp\left[\left(-i\beta_0 z - i\beta' z(\omega - \omega_0) - \left(\frac{1}{4\Gamma_0} + \frac{i\beta'' z}{2}\right)(\omega - \omega_0)^2\right)\right]$$

We need to Fourier Transform this expression to get the time dependent field.

Fourier Transform, with central frequency term pulled out in front, to have frequency in terms of the difference: $(\omega - \omega_0)$

$$E(z,t) = e^{i\omega_0 t} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(z,\omega) e^{i(\omega-\omega_0)t} d\omega$$

Substituting in expression for $E(z,\omega)$ gives:

$$E(z,t) = e^{i(\omega_0 t - \beta_0 z)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E_0 exp\left[\left(i(t - \beta' z)(\omega - \omega_0) - \left(\frac{1}{4\Gamma_0} + \frac{i\beta'' z}{2}\right)(\omega - \omega_0)^2\right)\right] d\omega$$

We can now write a shifted time coordinate: t'= t - β 'z

And write a z-dependent pulse width parameter $\Gamma(z)$

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(z)} = \frac{1}{\Gamma_0} + i2\beta''z$$

Substituting in expression for $\Gamma(z)$ and t' gives:

$$E(z,t) = e^{i(\omega_0 t - \beta_0 z)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E_0 e^{-\frac{(\omega - \omega_0)^2}{4\Gamma(z)}} e^{i(\omega - \omega_0)t'} d(\omega - \omega_0)$$

The integral is the inverse Fourier transform of a Gaussian, giving:

$$E(z,t) = exp\left[i\omega_0\left(t - \frac{z}{v_{\phi}(\omega_0)}\right)\right]exp\left[-\Gamma(z)\left(t - \frac{z}{v_{g}(\omega_0)}\right)^2\right]$$

Where we have substituted in the expressions for the phase velocity, $v_{\phi}(\omega_0) = \omega_0 / \beta_0$ and group velocity, $v_g = 1/\beta'$.

E(z,t) is still a Gaussian, where the phase travels with the phase velocity, the amplitude profile travels with the group velocity and the width of the pulse is determined by $\Gamma(z)$



As long as the bandwidth is not too large we can use a Taylor expansion to write, $\phi(t)$ – for now we just need terms up to t^2 .

$$\phi(t) = \omega_0 t + bt^2$$

This phase gives a linear chirp:

$$\omega = \omega_0 + bt$$

$$---- E_0 e^{-at^2} e^{i(\omega_0 t + bt^2)}$$
$$E(t) = E_0 e^{-(a-ib)t^2} e^{i(\omega_0 t)}$$

Compare this to the Gaussian pulse stretched by dispersion:

$$E(t) = exp(i\omega_0 t)exp[-\Gamma t^2]$$

For the pulse chirped from dispersion, we want to write Γ in terms of a and b:

 $\Gamma(z) = a - ib$

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(z)} = \frac{1}{\Gamma_0} + i2\beta''z$$

$$\Gamma(z) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\Gamma_0} + i2\beta''z} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{\Gamma_0} - i2\beta''z}{\frac{1}{\Gamma_0} - i2\beta''z} \right) = \frac{\frac{1}{\Gamma_0} - i2\beta''z}{\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}\right)^2 + (2\beta''z)^2}$$

$$a = Re\{\Gamma(z)\} = \frac{\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}}{\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}\right)^2 + (2\beta''z)^2}$$

$$b = Im\{\Gamma(z)\} = \frac{2\beta^{\prime\prime}z}{\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}\right)^2 + (2\beta^{\prime\prime}z)^2}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}}{\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}\right)^2 + (2\beta''z)^2}$$
$$\frac{1}{a} = \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_0}\right) + \Gamma_0 (2\beta''z)^2$$
$$\Delta t_{stretched} = \sqrt{\frac{2ln2}{a}} = \sqrt{\frac{2ln2}{\Gamma_0} \left[1 + {\Gamma_0}^2 (2\beta''z)^2\right]}$$

The shorter the original pulse, the larger the value Γ_0 , which shows that for the same dispersion, β'' , the pulse can get longer for a shorter original pulse.

$$\Delta t_{stretched} = \sqrt{\frac{2ln2}{a}} = \sqrt{\frac{2ln2}{\Gamma_0} \left[1 + {\Gamma_0}^2 (2\beta''z)^2\right]}$$

Note: the spectral bandwidth has not been altered by dispersion,

$$\Delta \nu = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2\Gamma_0 \ln 2}$$

$$\Delta t \Delta \nu = \left(\sqrt{\frac{2ln2}{\Gamma_0}} \left[1 + {\Gamma_0}^2 (2\beta''z)^2 \right] \right) \left(\frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2\Gamma_0 \ln 2} \right)$$

$$\Delta t \Delta v = \frac{2 \ln 2}{\pi} \sqrt{1 + \Gamma_0^2 (2\beta'' z)^2} = \frac{2 \ln 2}{\pi} \sqrt{(1 + (b/a)^2)}$$



"Optical Pulse Compression With Diffraction Gratings" Edmond B. Treacy, IEEE J. Quantum Electron, 1969, QE-5, p. 454,



Because the gratings are parallel, all wavelengths that travel in the same beam incident on the first grating will leave the second grating parallel to the incoming beam

Because each wavelength diffracts from the gratings at different angles, they travel different distances to get from the x=0 plane before striking the first grating back to x=0 after diffracting off the second grating



The phase accumulated from x=0 back to x=0 for each wavelength is given by:

Now we are assuming that the gratings are in vacuum so there is no material dispersion so we can write:

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c}$$
 and $\phi = \frac{\omega}{c}p$



Now we need an expression for p as a function of $\boldsymbol{\omega}$

First we use geometry to get:

 $p = b(1 + \cos \theta)$

Where b is the distance travelled between the two gratings and is wavelength dependent



$$p = b(1 + \cos \theta)$$

$$b = \frac{G}{\cos\left(\gamma - \theta\right)}$$

Where G is the perpendicular distance between the two gratings and $(\gamma - \theta)$ is the angle between b and the grating normal

And then we use the grating equation to get an expression for $(\gamma - \theta)$ as a function of λ and d, the grating constant.

$$sin(\gamma - \theta) = \frac{\lambda}{d} - sin\gamma$$



The path length DBE and D'B'E' from the same phase front to another phase front have the same phase difference, but the path lengths are clearly different. The grating phase of -2π for every d along the grating distance, BB' must be added to the equation for ϕ

$$\phi = -\frac{2\pi}{d}Gtan(\gamma - \theta)$$

The total phase is then given by:

$$\emptyset = \frac{\omega}{c}p - \frac{2\pi}{d}Gtan(\gamma - \theta)$$

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$$\emptyset = \frac{\omega}{c} b(1 + \cos\theta) - \frac{2\pi}{d} Gtan(\gamma - \theta)$$
$$\emptyset = \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{G}{\cos(\gamma - \theta)} (1 + \cos\theta) - \frac{2\pi}{d} Gtan(\gamma - \theta)$$

$$\emptyset = \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{G}{\cos(\gamma - \theta)} (1 + \cos\theta) - \frac{2\pi}{d} Gtan(\gamma - \theta)$$

Once again the phase is a complicated function, so we will use a Taylor expansion again. This time we write ϕ as a Taylor expansion:

$$\phi(\omega) = \phi(\omega_0) + \frac{d\phi}{d\omega}(\omega - \omega_0) + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac$$

Dispersion

$$\phi(\omega) = \phi(\omega_0) + \frac{d\phi}{d\omega}(\omega - \omega_0) + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac$$

From the Taylor expansion of the propagation constant, we had:

$$\beta' \equiv \frac{d\beta}{d\omega}|_{\omega=\omega_0} = \frac{1}{v_g(\omega_0)} \equiv \frac{1}{group \ velocity}$$

The first derivative term in the expansion for ϕ , would be:

$$\frac{d\phi}{d\omega} = \frac{d\beta'}{d\omega} z \equiv \frac{z}{v_g(\omega_0)} \equiv \text{group delay} \equiv \tau$$

The second derivative term in the expansion for ϕ , would be:

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2} = \frac{d}{d\omega} \left(\frac{1}{v_g(\omega_0)} \right) z \equiv \frac{d\tau}{d\omega} \equiv \text{group delay dispersion} \equiv GDD$$

$$\emptyset = \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{G}{\cos(\gamma - \theta)} (1 + \cos\theta) - \frac{2\pi}{d} Gtan(\gamma - \theta)$$

$$\phi(\omega) = \phi(\omega_0) + \frac{d\phi}{d\omega}(\omega - \omega_0) + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\phi}{d\omega^2}(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{6}\frac{d^3\phi}{d\omega^3}(\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \frac$$

If you carry out the first derivative you get:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \omega} = \frac{p}{c} + \left(\frac{\omega}{c}\right) \frac{\partial p}{\partial \omega} - \frac{2\pi}{d} G \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} [tan(\gamma - \theta)]$$

You can show that the second and third terms cancel to get:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \omega} = \frac{p}{c}$$

$$\tau = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \omega} = \frac{p}{c}$$

If you carry out the second derivative and substitute in the grating equation where needed you get:

$$GDD = \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial \omega} = \frac{-4\pi^2 cb}{\omega^3 d^2 \left\{ 1 - \left[\left(\frac{2\pi c}{\omega d} \right) - sin\gamma \right]^2 \right\}}$$

Take note that the GDD of a parallel grating dispersion line is always negative – it can balance positive material dispersion

$$GDD = \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial \omega} = \frac{-4\pi^2 cb}{\omega^3 d^2 \left\{ 1 - \left[\left(\frac{2\pi c}{\omega d} \right) - \sin \gamma \right]^2 \right\}}$$

This gives us the dispersion of the pulse peaks as a function of the bandwidth

$$\delta_{\omega}\tau = \frac{-4\pi^2 cb \,\delta\omega}{\omega^3 d^2 \left\{1 - \left[\left(\frac{2\pi c}{\omega d}\right) - sin\gamma\right]^2\right\}}$$

Since we measure the bandwidth in wavelength, λ , Treacy wrote the dispersion as:

$$\delta_{\lambda}\tau = \frac{b (\lambda/d)\delta\lambda}{\operatorname{cd}\left\{1 - [(\lambda/d) - \sin\gamma]^2\right\}}$$

These expressions tell you how big the separation b, needs to be to achieve the wanted stretched pulse duration

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For smaller values of frequency chirps, we can use parallel but opposing prisms. Again to get back to a circular beam, we use a second pair of prisms or a mirror at HH'

"Negative dispersion using pairs of prisms" R.L Fork, O. E. Martinez, and J.P. Gordon, Opt. Lett., 1984, 9, 15-17



Optical path lengths, P, of CDE and CB must be equal

$$P=\int n(z)dz$$





We can use the equivalent path length CJ = P

 $\mathsf{P} = \mathsf{I} \cos \beta$

φ=kP

$$\tau = \frac{d\phi}{d\omega} = \frac{d}{d\omega}(kP) = \frac{d}{d\omega}\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}P\right)$$

$$=\frac{d\lambda}{d\omega}\frac{d}{d\lambda}\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}P\right)=-\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi c}\left[2\pi\left(\frac{-1}{\lambda^2}P\right)+\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\frac{dP}{d\lambda}\right]$$

$$=\frac{1}{c}\left[P-\lambda\frac{dP}{d\lambda}\right]$$

$$\text{GDD} = \frac{d\tau}{d\omega} = \frac{d\lambda}{d\omega} \frac{d\tau}{d\lambda} = -\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi c} \frac{d\tau}{d\lambda}$$

$$\text{GDD} = -\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi c} \left\{ \frac{1}{c} \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left[P - \lambda \frac{dP}{d\lambda} \right] \right\}$$

$$\text{GDD} = -\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi c} \left\{ \frac{1}{c} \left[\frac{dP}{d\lambda} - \frac{dP}{d\lambda} - \lambda \frac{d^2 P}{d\lambda^2} \right] \right\}$$

$$GDD = +\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi c} \left\{ \frac{\lambda}{c} \frac{d^2 P}{d\lambda^2} \right\} \qquad \qquad \frac{d\tau}{d\lambda} = -\left\{ \frac{\lambda}{c} \frac{d^2 P}{d\lambda^2} \right\}$$

$$\delta \tau = \frac{d\tau}{d\omega} \delta \omega = \frac{d\tau}{d\lambda} \delta \lambda$$

$$\delta \tau = GDD\delta \omega = DL\delta \lambda$$

$$D = -\frac{1}{L}\frac{d\tau}{d\lambda} = \frac{\lambda}{cL}\frac{d^2P}{d\lambda^2}$$

Where P is the optical path length and L is the length

 $P = 2lcos\beta$ The 2 is for the double set of prisms

 $\frac{dP}{d\beta} = -2lsin\beta \qquad \qquad \frac{d^2P}{d\beta^2} = -2lcos\beta$

$$\frac{d^2 P}{d\lambda^2} = \left[\frac{d^2 n}{d\lambda^2}\frac{d\beta}{dn} + \left(\frac{dn}{d\lambda}\right)^2\frac{d^2\beta}{dn^2}\right]\frac{dP}{d\beta} + \left(\frac{dn}{d\lambda}\right)^2\left(\frac{d\beta}{dn}\right)^2\frac{d^2 P}{d\beta^2}$$



From Snell's Law, where the prime angles are inside prism

 $sin\phi_1 = nsin\phi'_1$

 $sin\phi_2 = nsin\phi'_2$

For the apex angle, α and using Brewster's angle $\,:\,$

$$\alpha = \phi'_1 + \phi'_2 \qquad \qquad \phi'_1 = \phi'_2$$

$$\frac{d\phi_2}{dn} = \frac{1}{\cos\phi_2} [\sin\phi'_2 + \cos\phi'_2 \tan\phi'_1]$$
$$\frac{d^2\phi_2}{dn^2} = \tan\phi_2 \left(\frac{d\phi_2}{dn}\right)^2 - \frac{\tan^2\phi'_1}{n} \left(\frac{d\phi_2}{dn}\right)$$



$$\frac{d^2 P}{d\lambda^2} = 4l \left\{ \left[\frac{d^2 n}{d\lambda^2} + \left(2n - \frac{1}{n^3} \right) \left(\frac{dn}{d\lambda} \right)^2 \right] \sin\beta - 2 \left(\frac{dn}{d\lambda} \right)^2 \cos\beta \right\}$$

 $sin\beta \approx 0$, $cos\beta \approx 1$

The second term typically dominates giving negative dispersion – like a grating pair, but much smaller magnitude – used in short pulse oscillators.

Chirp Compensation

For wavelengths < 1.5µm, material dispersion is typically positive

In the original optical pulse compression systems, optical fibers were used to stretch the pulses with this positive GDD, and then grating compressors with negative GDD were used to compress the bandwidth

In the first ~ 100 fs oscillators, the positive dispersion from the crystals and mirrors was balanced by the negative GDD of prism compressors placed inside the oscillators

Thank You



