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Title:Stereopsis-inspired time-stretched amplified real-time spectrometer (STARS)

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Abstract:We introduce and demonstrate a single-shot real-time optical vector spectrum analyzer (VSA). This simple and powerful instrument combines amplified dispersive Fourier transform with stereopsis reconstruction algorithm and is inspired by binocular vision in biological eyes. Moreover, a dynamic time-stretch concept is employed to dramatically enhance the phase reconstruction accuracy and dynamic range for ultrashort optical signals (\$\$ 30 times). We show that, using a noniterative analytical expression, the phase profile of the input signal can be reconstructed using intensity-only measurements. The proposed method is experimentally proved by fully characterizing the time-varying amplitude and phase of single-shot THz-bandwidth optical signals, with durations ranging from sub-ps to 35000 ps, with ultrasmall to ultralarge temporal phase variations and at 25-MHz update rate. We have also used this instrument to characterize the amplitude and phase of a prechirped 40-Gbps DQPSK optical signal using a 1.5-GHz digitizer and without using a reference signal. © 2009-2012 IEEE.

Number of references:16

Main heading:Optical signal processing

Controlled terms:Binocular vision - Spectrum analyzers

Uncontrolled terms:Analytical expressions - Digitizers - Dynamic range - Input signal -Non-iterative - Optical signals - Phase profile - Phase reconstruction - Reconstruction algorithms -Reference signals - Single-shot - Temporal phase - Time varying - Ultra-small - Ultrafast optics -Vector spectrum analyzer

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