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Design of fiber coupled Er$^{3+}$:chalcogenide microsphere amplifier via particle swarm optimization algorithm

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Abstract. A mid-IR amplifier consisting of a tapered chalcogenide fiber coupled to an Er$^{3+}$-doped chalcogenide microsphere has been optimized via a particle swarm optimization (PSO) approach. More precisely, a dedicated three-dimensional numerical model, based on the coupled mode theory and solving the rate equations, has been integrated with the PSO procedure. The rate equations have included the main transitions among the erbium energy levels, the amplified spontaneous emission, and the most important secondary transitions pertaining to the ion-ion interactions. The PSO has allowed the optimal choice of the microsphere and fiber radius, taper angle, and fiber-microsphere gap in order to maximize the amplifier gain. The taper angle and the fiber-microsphere gap have been optimized to efficiently inject into the microsphere both the pump and the signal beams and to improve their spatial overlapping with the rare-earth-doped region. The employment of the PSO approach shows different attractive features, especially when many parameters have to be optimized. The numerical results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed approach for the design of amplifying systems. The PSO-based optimization approach has allowed the design of a microsphere-based amplifying system more efficient than a similar device designed by using a deterministic optimization method. In fact, the amplifier designed via the PSO exhibits a simulated gain $G = 33.7$ dB, which is higher than the gain $G = 6.9$ dB of the amplifier designed via the deterministic method.© The Authors. Published by SPIE under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. Distribution or reproduction of this work in whole or in part requires full attribution of the original publication, including its DOI. [DOI: 10.1117/1.OE.53.7.071805]

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1 Introduction

Optical microresonators are key elements for fabrication of a great variety of photonic devices applied in both linear and nonlinear optics. Generally, the mode resonance is obtained by utilizing two or more mirrors or gratings. Multiple recirculation of light in optical microresonators enables laser oscillation and increases the effective path length, providing a great potential in spectroscopic and interferometric measurements. However, conventional Fabry–Perot resonators have some drawbacks, such as high cost, low compactness, and mechanical instability.1

Dielectric spherical microresonators, i.e., dielectric microspheres, allow light confinement in circular orbits by means of repeated total internal reflections occurring at the spherical boundary between the dielectric surface and the surrounding medium. Their surprising properties are related to the resonance of the well-known whispering gallery modes (WGMs), exhibiting high quality factors $Q = 10^5$ to $10^6$, and small mode volumes.

WGMs in fused-silica microspheres have been excited using evanescent field provided by a prism,2 polished optical fiber coupler,3,4 and tapered optical fiber.5 WGM resonances in dielectric microspheres have been investigated and experimented for many applications, e.g., the polarization transmission, coupled-resonator-induced transparency, biosensing, nonlinear optics, quantum electrodynamics, and quantum information processing.5–8 Moreover, they enable novel functionalities for planar lightwave circuits, such as wavelength selectivity, energy storage and dispersion control, and resonant filtering.9–11

Microspheres doped with rare-earth ions can operate as microwavvity amplifiers or lasers. Rare-earth-doped microspheres based on silica, phosphate, tellurite, and ZBLAN (ZrF$_4$-BaF$_2$-LaF$_3$-AlF$_3$-NaF) glass host materials have been fabricated, obtaining low threshold lasing and very narrow emission linewidth.8,10–13 As an example, WGMs were excited in Nd$^{3+}$-doped fluoride glass microsphere by using a Ti:Al$_2$O$_3$ laser tuned to 800 nm.14 The laser pump thresholds were found to be 5 and 60 mW for the 1051 and 1334 nm wavelength emissions, respectively.

Chalcogenide glasses exhibit peculiar optical properties, such as a high refractive index, extremely high nonlinearity, photosensitivity, and low phonon energy. WGMs in chalcogenide microspheres have low modal volume. In addition, due to the high refractive index, high absorption and emission cross-sections are measured in these kinds of glasses.15 However, the low phonon energy induces large radiative decay rates and high quantum efficiency and allows radiative transitions, which are quenched by the multiphonon decay in silica glasses. Moreover, the high rare-earth solubility facilitates the fabrication of efficient lasers and amplifiers.
The feasibility of a chalcogenide microsphere has been demonstrated in a variety of works. As an example, in Ref. 16, the fabrication of chalcogenide microspheres heated by contact with a temperature-controlled ceramic surface has been demonstrated; WGM resonances excited by using tapered silica glass fiber have been observed and a Q factor by contact with a temperature-controlled ceramic surface has been demonstrated in a variety of works.15,16

2.7 needed for microsphere design and refinement.

2 Theory

The amplifying system consists of a tapered optical fiber placed close to the equator of an Er3+-doped chalcogenide microsphere. Figure 1 illustrates a sketch of the amplifying system. A detailed description of the model (without PSO) is reported by the authors in Ref. 26.

The azimuthal, polar, and radial distributions of WGMs are given by the complex exponential functions, Hermite polynomials, and spherical Bessel functions, respectively. Each WGM can be identified by three integers \( n, l, \) and \( m \). WGMs with higher spatial overlap with the fiber taper have their power bounded near the equatorial plane \((m = l = n = 1)\). The coupling of the optical power between the tapered fiber and the undoped microsphere is modeled by using the coupled mode theory.29-31 The time domain evolution of the amplitude \( A \) of the internal cavity electromagnetic field at the pump \( p \) and the signal \( s \) wavelength can be obtained by solving the following differential equations:

\[
\frac{dA^p_{l,m,n}}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{ext}} + \frac{1}{\tau_0} - g^p_{l,m,n} - 2i\Delta \omega \right) A^p_{l,m,n} \\
+ i \sqrt{\frac{1}{\tau_{ext}} A^p_{l,m,n}}
\]

\[
\frac{dA^i_{l,m,n}}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{ext}} + \frac{1}{\tau_0} - g^i_{l,m,n} - 2i\Delta \omega \right) A^i_{l,m,n} \\
+ \frac{c}{2n_{eff}} \sum_q N^i_{q,\mu} (\tilde{V}) \Gamma^q_{l,m,n} A^0_{l,m,n} + i \sqrt{\frac{1}{\tau_{ext}} A^i_{l,m,n}}
\]

with

\[
\Gamma^q_{l,m,n} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_{ext}} + \frac{1}{\tau_0} - g^i_{l,m,n} - 2i\Delta \omega \right) A^i_{l,m,n} \\
+ \frac{c}{2n_{eff}} \sum_q N^i_{q,\mu} (\tilde{V}) \Gamma^q_{l,m,n} A^0_{l,m,n}
\]
\[ g_{i,m,n}^a = \frac{c}{n_{\text{eff}}} \left[ \sum_q N_q^i \sigma_j (\bar{E}) \Gamma_{l,m,n}^{q,a} - \sum_q N_q^i \sigma_j (\bar{E}) \Gamma_{l,m,n}^{q,a} \right] \]
\[ \text{with } a = p, s. \]

The gain \( G \) for the amplifier is related to the objective function to be maximized via PSO.
\[ G = \left| \frac{A_{\text{out},l,m,n}^a}{A_{\text{in},l,m,n}^a} \right|^2 = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{\tau_{\text{ext}}} + i \sqrt{\tau_{\text{ext}}}} \frac{A_{l,m,n}^a}{A_{l,m,n}^a} \]
\[ \text{with } a = p, s. \]

\( A_{\text{in},l,m,n} \) and \( A_{\text{out},l,m,n} \) are the amplitudes of mode electric field at the input and at the output fiber section and coupled with the \( l,m,n \) WGM mode of the microsphere; \( \tau = 2\pi R_0 n_{\text{eff}}/c \) is the circulation time inside the microsphere, \( n_{\text{eff}} \) is the WGM effective refractive index, \( c \) is the speed of light in vacuum; \( \Delta \omega = \omega_{\text{in}} - \omega_{\text{WGM}} \) is the frequency detuning of the fiber input signal from the WGM resonance frequency; \( \tau_0 = 1/\kappa_0^2 = Q_0 / \omega_{\text{WGM}} \) is the coupling lifetime, where \( Q_0 \) is the intrinsic quality factor and \( \kappa_0 \) is the intrinsic cavity decay rate; \( \tau_{\text{ext}} = m \pi/\omega_{\text{C}} \) is the coupling lifetime, \( \kappa \) is the cavity decay rate or coupling coefficient; \( \bar{E} = \nu_{l,m,n} \) is the WGM resonant frequency; \( \sigma_j (\bar{E}) \) is the erbium cross-section at frequency \( \bar{E} \); \( A_{l,m,n}^a \) is the slowly varying amplitude scaling the normalized electric field \( E_{l,m,n}^a \) on the \( r-\theta \) plane; \( \Gamma_{l,m,n}^q \) with \( a = p, s \) is the overlap factor of each WGM with the rare-earth profile in the \( q \)th sector (the microsphere doped area is divided in \( q \) sector in the \( r-\theta \) plane); and \( N_q^i \) \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, 6 \) is the ion population concentration of \( i \)th energy level in the \( q \)th sector.\(^{26}\)

Design and optimization of rare-earth-doped glass amplifiers are typically based on the deterministic optimization methods. The optimal amplifier length, the rare-earth concentration, the waveguide transversal section, and all the other design parameters are identified one at a time. The up-conversion and cross-relaxation phenomena induce non-linearities in rare-earth-doped glass amplifier model. As a result, the optimization problem is difficult to be performed, especially in a rare-earth-doped microsphere amplifier, where a number of geometrical parameters have to be finely optimized. Moreover, deterministic algorithms can exhibit stagnation problems in local maxima/minima during the global optimization search of the objective functions (e.g., gain, bandwidth, output power, signal-to-noise ratio). The stochastic nature of the PSO algorithm allows a high efficiency in optimization of a large number of parameters for its ability to avoid local maxima/minima and operate in discontinuous solution domains.

The PSO algorithm is inspired by the behavior of a swarm (populations) of M individuals of bees (trial solutions or particles), which fly in a field (N-dimensional search space) to search for food, i.e., high density of flowers (to maximize/minimize a fitness function). A flow chart of the PSO algorithm is illustrated in Fig. 2. Each particle \( p_i \) is characterized by a position \( x_i \) constituting a trial solution. The trial solution goodness is evaluated by means of the fitness function.\(^{36,37}\) The bee positions (solutions) are updated by applying the operator \( r_i \), called velocity, which is dynamically adjusted according to the historical behaviors of the particle fly in order to maximize/minimize the suitable fitness function. At first, each bee (particle) has a random position and a random velocity; then its trajectory is modified by keeping track of its location in the solution space and by taking into account both the previous location giving the best fitness value experimented by the single particle (personal best, \( P_{\text{best}} \)) and highest fitness location discovered by the entire swarm (global best, \( G_{\text{best}} \)). In this way, the entire swarm moves toward positions characterized by maximized/minimized values of a fitness function.

More precisely, the position \( x_i \) and the velocity \( v_i \) vectors of the particles at each iteration are updated by means of the following set of equations:\(^{36,37}\)
\[ v_i(n+1) = w \times v_i(n) + c_1 \times r_1 \times [x_{\text{Pbest}}(n) - x_i(n)] + c_2 \times r_2 \times [x_{\text{Gbest}}(n) - x_i(n)], \]  
\[ x_i(n+1) = x_i(n) + v_i(n+1), \]  
where \( x_{\text{Pbest}}(n) \) is the best previous position of the \( i \)th particle, \( x_{\text{Gbest}}(n) \) is the best position among all the particles in the population, \( w \) is the inertia weight, \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) are positive constants, called cognitive and social parameters, and \( r_1 \) and \( r_2 \) are positive numbers randomly generated between 0 and 1 to inject a stochastic behavior in the searching procedure.\(^{23-28}\)
3 Design and Synthesis of Er\(^{3+}:Ga_5Ge_{20}Sb_{10}S_{65}\) Chalcogenide Microsphere Amplifier

In this section, PSO numerical modeling, aimed to identify the optimal fiber taper coupled Er\(^{3+}:Ga_5Ge_{20}Sb_{10}S_{65}\) chalcogenide microsphere amplifier, operating in the mid-IR wavelength range is illustrated. The motivation is related to the good experimental results obtained by applying StM technique to fabricate the aforesaid erbium-doped chalcogenide glass microsphere.\(^{19}\) The bulk glass sample was prepared by a conventional melting and quenching method in a silica glass ampoule.\(^{38}\) The fabricated glass was crushed into a powder of <200 \(\mu\)m. The crushed glass powders were classified using sieves in the range of 20 to 40 \(\mu\)m and 40 to 80 \(\mu\)m, washed by iso-propanol under ultrasonic wave, and finally, dried in air for a day. These powders were put on a polished glassy carbon substrate and heated at 515°C for 5 min on the electric furnace settled in a glove box filled with dry Ar gas or in a furnace with a flux of Ar and H\(_2\)S gas.

As shown in Fig. 3, the StM technique realizes the formation of a superspherical shape because the contact angle of 2S2G glass is \(\theta > 90\) deg, as a glassy carbon is a favorable substrate to induce low wettability of the molten chalcogenide glass. Quite a high Q factor can be realized in a truly spherical particle made of the extremely transparent material without scattering inclusion and contaminant on and/or inside the sphere. Therefore, when we desire the preparation of a superspherical optical resonator of Ga\(_5\)Ge\(_{20}\)Sb\(_{10}\)S\(_{65}\) glass by the StM technique, we have to pay attention to the factors of shape (curvature of sphere) and the surface scattering. The percentage of prepared superspheres with high sphericity and/or circularity at the equatorial plane was \(~10\)%, and their deviation to circularity was \(<3\)%.

The size of the fiber taper has to be designed to ensure the fundamental mode propagation and a suitable evanescent field in the fiber-microsphere gap. In order to carry out a realistic optimization and, therefore, an actual evaluation of the device feasibility, the simulations have been performed by taking into account the refractive index wavelength dispersion by means of the Sellmeier equation.\(^{26,28}\) and the measured spectroscopic parameter summarized in Table 1.

The absorption and emission cross-sections affect the competition among a number of different resonant WGMs. An example, the absorption cross-section at the pump wavelength \(\lambda_p = 980\) nm is close to \(1.32 \times 10^{-24}\) m\(^2\), while the emission cross-section at the signal wavelength \(\lambda = 2770\) nm is close to \(1.4 \times 10^{-21}\) m\(^2\). Different emission and absorption cross-section values are considered for the different WGM resonance frequencies. The thickness of the erbium-doped region (near the microsphere surface) and the erbium concentration are \(s = 3\) \(\mu\)m and \(N_{Er} = 0.5\) w%.

![Fig. 3 Optical microscope and SEM image of Er\(^{3+}:Ga_5Ge_{20}Sb_{10}S_{65}\) micrometer microsphere coated with Au/Pd conductive layer at the surface for SEM imaging.](image-url)
The input pump power is $P_p = 100$ mW and the input signal power $P_s = -50$ dBm.

The approach based on swarm intelligence is employed in the design to obtain values of parameters maximizing the optical gain. In particular, the PSO is applied to optimize microsphere radius $R_m$, taper waist radius $a$, taper angle $\delta$, and taper-microsphere gap $g$. Therefore, the algorithm described in Sec. 2 is written by defining a swarm composed of $N = 32$ particles. The position vector of the $i$'th particle is $\mathbf{x}_i = [R_m, a', \delta', g']^T$, with $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$. The fitness function is:

$$F(x_i) = 10 \log G(x_i).$$

The PSO parameters have been tuned heuristically by evaluating the solution space characteristic. On the basis of previous working experiences, the limits of the considered parameters have been roughly fixed such that the maximum gain is expected to lie in suitable ranges. The parameters used in PSO algorithm and the solution space limits are summarized in Table 2.

The PSO simulations have been performed by considering many WGMs in the wavelength band from 2740 to 2820 nm. The PSO has allowed the identification of the maximum gain (global best) for the WGM$_{l,m,n}$ with the following optimal parameters: microsphere radius $R_m = 45$ $\mu$m, taper waist radius $a = 517$ nm, taper angle $\delta = 0.03$ rad, and taper-microsphere gap $g = 512$ nm. By simulations, slight variations (tens of nanometers) of taper waist radius and taper-microsphere gap induce low gain changes ($\sim 1$ dB). By varying the parameter $n$ from 1 to 3, 18 different resonant WGMs were simulated. The parameters $n$, $l$, and $m$, the WGM resonance wavelengths, the output powers, and the optical gains are reported in Table 3.

For each WGM, the proper resonance frequency is taken into account in order to evaluate all the spectroscopic and physical parameters (refractive index, emission cross-section, absorption cross-section, etc.) affecting the competition with the other WGMs. The modes with $n = 1, 2, 3$ and $m = l$ have been considered in the simulation. WGMs with different values of $l$ and $m$ have not been considered because they exhibited a low overlapping factor $\Gamma_{l,m,n}$. Table 4 reports the comparison among the parameter values calculated by the proposed PSO algorithm and those obtained with the

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Table 1 Spectroscopic parameters of the Er$^{3+}$-doped chalcogenide glass.\(^{23}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy level transitions</th>
<th>Wavelength (nm)</th>
<th>Lifetime (ms)</th>
<th>Branching ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$^4I_{13/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{15/2}$</td>
<td>1531.7</td>
<td>$\tau_2 = 1.83$</td>
<td>$\beta_{21} = 100$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4I_{11/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{15/2}$</td>
<td>986.4</td>
<td>$\tau_3 = 1.37$</td>
<td>$\beta_{31} = 86.28$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4I_{11/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{13/2}$</td>
<td>2770.7</td>
<td>$\tau_3 = 1.37$</td>
<td>$\beta_{32} = 13.72$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4I_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{13/2}$</td>
<td>810.0</td>
<td>$\tau_4 = 1.08$</td>
<td>$\beta_{41} = 80.38$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4I_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{13/2}$</td>
<td>1719.1</td>
<td>$\tau_4 = 1.08$</td>
<td>$\beta_{42} = 18.82$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4I_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{11/2}$</td>
<td>4529.4</td>
<td>$\tau_4 = 1.08$</td>
<td>$\beta_{43} = 0.80$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{15/2}$</td>
<td>662.7</td>
<td>$\tau_5 = 0.13$</td>
<td>$\beta_{51} = 91.99$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{13/2}$</td>
<td>1168.1</td>
<td>$\tau_5 = 0.13$</td>
<td>$\beta_{52} = 4.32$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{11/2}$</td>
<td>2019.4</td>
<td>$\tau_5 = 0.13$</td>
<td>$\beta_{53} = 3.34$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow ^4I_{9/2}$</td>
<td>3623.1</td>
<td>$\tau_5 = 0.13$</td>
<td>$\beta_{54} = 0.35$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Parameters and solution space limits used in particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social parameter</td>
<td>1.494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive parameter</td>
<td>1.494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inertia weight</td>
<td>Linearly spaced vector from 0.9 to 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iteration limit</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of particles</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$[p_{min}, p_{max}]$ for $R_m$ (nm)</td>
<td>$10 \div 50$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$[p_{min}, p_{max}]$ for $a$ (nm)</td>
<td>$500 \div 800$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$[p_{min}, p_{max}]$ for $\delta$ (rad)</td>
<td>$0.001 \div 0.04$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$[p_{min}, p_{max}]$ for $g$ (nm)</td>
<td>$500 \div 1000$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
deterministic DA one illustrated in Ref. 26. The use of a deterministic method requires a suitable discretization for $R_0$, $a$, $\delta$, $g$ and thus the investigation of an extremely high number of different cases with a very large time consumption.

Table 3 reports the characteristics of the PSO optimized amplifier. Parameters $l = m$ and $n$ of whispering gallery mode, resonance wavelength, output power, and optical gain.

Table 4 Comparison between deterministic approach (DA) and PSO: gain, microsphere radius $R_0$, taper waist radius $a$, taper angle $\delta$, and taper-microsphere gap.

Table 5 Characteristics of the PSO optimized amplifier.

A high number of PSO launches have been performed. In almost all cases, ~18 iterations were required for convergence, obtaining a global best close to 33.7 dB.

The discrepancy in the calculated maximum gain observed between the DA, $G = 6.9$ dB, and the PSO, $G = 33.7$ dB, is due to the higher efficiency of global optimization approach, allowing a better design to parity of calculation time consumption. In fact, PSO can optimize simultaneously a high number of parameters through an automated global solution search. On the contrary, in DA, to avoid an extremely large time consumption, a parameter at a time is varied, by fixing all the others which are supposed to be optimized (local search). A global search could be performed with a DA, but a very high number of simulation cases are required. The DA simulation number is related to the calculation accuracy (parameter quantization/discretization) and to the number of parameters to be optimized.

When the designer chooses the most promising DA simulation cases, some particular configurations can be neglected, thus losing the best configuration. Therefore, in this paper, PSO has allowed the identification of a specific amplifier configuration not included in the deterministic investigation illustrated in Ref. 26.

The performance of the PSO approach can be easily understood by the example of Fig. 5. It illustrates the PSO solution: (a) microsphere radius $R_0$; (b) taper waist radius $a$; (b) taper angle $\delta$ and taper-microsphere gap $g$. The color represents the optical gain corresponding to each particle. It is worthwhile to note that many particles are located in a small region around the maximum gain value (global best).

Figure 6 illustrates the fitness $F(x_i)$ corresponding to the global best (i.e., gain $G$ in decibel, calculated for the global best of the swarm) versus iteration number. The best particle provides a gain very close to the maximum one after only 18 iterations. This confirms that the algorithm enables one to find solutions quickly.

The simulation results indicate that the proposed Er$^{3+}$: chalcogenide microsphere amplifier, evanescently coupled with a tapered optical fiber, seems very promising and could find interesting applications. Although good Ga$_2$Ge$_{20}$Sb$_{10}$S$_{65}$ have been fabricated and characterized, the amplifier construction is related to the nontrivial problem.
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![Fig. 5](Image 63x338 to 302x498)

**Fig. 5** PSO optimized solutions: (a) Microsphere radius $R_0$ and fiber taper radius $a$. (b) Gap $g$ and taper angle $\phi$.

![Fig. 6](Image 302x498 to 63x338)

**Fig. 6** Fitness function corresponding to global best versus iterations.

of drawing a suitable Ga$_3$Ge$_2$Sb$_{10}$Se$_5$ fiber taper with very small radius. Therefore, further technological efforts will be dedicated in future to this aim. For instance, an integrated optical system can be envisaged to overcome the fragility of fiber taper for such dimensions. 39

4 Conclusions

In this paper, an accurate design of Er$^{3+}$-doped chalcogenide microsphere amplifier evanescently coupled with a tapered optical fiber has been performed. The amplifying system has been optimized via a PSO procedure for operation close to 2770 nm. The PSO has provided surprising performance in terms of convergence and efficiency, allowing a global optimization of the microsphere amplifier. An improvement of the simulated gain of the microsphere amplifier from $G = 6.9$ dB, found using DA, to $G = 33.7$ dB, found in this paper using PSO, has been obtained. This demonstrates that a deterministic solution searching strategy does not allow an efficient design in these kinds of problems. Moreover, the simulation results indicate that the proposed Er$^{3+}$-doped chalcogenide microsphere amplifier, evanescently coupled with a tapered optical fiber, is feasible after drawing a suitable Ga$_3$Ge$_2$Sb$_{10}$Se$_5$ fiber taper with radius close to 517 nm.

References

Giuseppe Palma received the degree in electronic engineering from the Politecnico di Bari in September 2013. He has received a scholarship for postgraduate research activity at the Dipartimento di Ingegneria Elettrica e dell’Informazione of the Politecnico di Bari. His research activity regards the design of innovative antenna array for neural networks, genetic algorithm, swarm intelligence applied to rare earth doped fiber lasers and amplifiers. He is performing studies regarding the design of innovative antenna array for energy harvesting applications, the analysis and synthesis of novel dielectric lens antennas operating in the microwave and millimeter frequency range, the development of novel FDTD schemes based on fractional calculus.

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