

中国激光

反射型太赫兹超表面电磁诱导透明效应

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摘要 基于金属谐振环-介质-金属底板三层异质结构, 设计了一种在太赫兹范围内工作的可发生双频电磁诱导透明效应的反射型超表面结构, 并通过在金属谐振环的内外环间平铺光敏硅实现对电磁诱导透明效应的主动调控。研究结果表明, 所设计的超表面结构在 2.89~3 THz 以及 4.03~4.44 THz 处分别有两处透明窗口, 对电磁波具有较高的反射率。通过增加光强提高内嵌光敏硅的电导率, 使得透明窗口的调制深度大幅减小, 实现对透明窗口的主动调控。所设计的超表面具有主动可调、双频电磁诱导透明响应等优点, 在光开关、多频点慢光效应及光集成中都具有一定的应用价值。

关键词 材料; 超材料; 太赫兹; 电磁诱导透明; 反射

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1 引言

超材料是指由亚波长尺度下人工微结构周期性分布构成的新型材料, 不同于自然界由原子分子构成的材料, 其一般由亚波长谐振单元周期性排列组成^[1-2]。超表面是超材料的二维形式。通过设计适当的微结构形状和选取恰当的材料, 可以使超表面具备天然材料难以实现的电磁特性, 如负折射率、超导效应、宽带吸波、电磁诱导透明效应等^[3-6]。

传统的电磁诱导透明(EIT)效应描述的是一种产生于某些特定原子能级结构的量子干涉效应^[7-8]。当存在基态|1>、亚稳态|2>和激发态|3>时, 若泵浦光强大于探测光强, 通过直接路径|1>→|3>和间接路径|1>→|3>→|2>→|3>发生跃迁的电子会发生相消干涉, 相当于基态和亚稳态结合为相干叠加态, 原子被困在相干叠加态中, 这种状态被称为“暗态”, 此时原子系统将无法吸收探测光^[9-10]。原子系统中的EIT效应往往需要超低温、强光泵浦等苛刻的实验条件^[11-12], 难以投入到实际运用之中, 超材料表现出的特殊性能为EIT效应的应用提供了全新的思路。

在超表面中的 EIT 效应的典型特征是在吸收谱中的高吸收区域中会产生一个较低的吸收谷。此处折射率会随频率的变化发生显著的变化, 并发生高强色散, 光在介质中传播的速度会降低, 形成慢光效应^[13-16]。因此 EIT 在慢光效应、信息存储、折射率传感和非线性效应等方面均具有非常广阔的应用前景^[17-18]。2008 年, Zhang 等^[19]基于超材料提出 EIT 效应, 该小组设计了包含三根金属纳米棒的三聚物结构单元, 通过明暗模相互耦合实现了类似原子系统的 EIT 效应。2009 年, Giessen 课题组的 Liu 等^[20]利用经典动力学双耦合谐振子模型对 EIT 超材料的谐振特性进行定量计算, 通过结构对称性破缺改变明暗模间的耦合强度, 得到的纳米等离子体 EIT 模型具有很大的调制深度。2009 年, Chiam 等^[21]设计了一种由开口谐振环和闭合金属环组合而成的结构单元, 证明暗模不是实现超材料 EIT 效应的必要条件。2012 年, Gu 等^[22]提出了暗模式下主动光敏调控的 EIT 超材料, 实现在超快光脉冲激励下对 EIT 透射峰振幅的调控。2014 年, Ding 等^[23]利用金属图案、金属底板及介质层实现了太赫兹反射型 EIT 超表面结构, 该研究

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表明反射型 EIT 效应是透射型 EIT 效应经法布里-珀罗干涉和整形后实现的。2011 年, Li 等^[24] 利用结构非对称性的特点, 通过对谐振环的移动实现了对电磁诱导透明窗口的动态调制。

以往研究人员利用超表面实现 EIT 效应时, 大多采用由入射电磁波直接透过介质层生成透射型 EIT 效应的方式, 忽视了反射型 EIT 效应的实现。本文设计了一种基于金属结构-介质-金属底板三层异质结构的反射型主动式超表面结构, 并通过在金属结构内外环间平铺光敏硅实现反射型 EIT 效应的主动调控。利用电磁仿真软件和双谐振子耦合模型理论, 模拟计算了类电磁诱导透明效应, 结果表明: 当电磁波正入射时, 所设计的超表面可在太赫兹波段实现双频 EIT 效应。通过对表面电场分布的定量分析, 得出此 EIT 现象的产生机理分别是明模闭合金属环的共振与激发的暗模开口谐振环中的共振间的相消干涉和周期性结构激发的传播性等离子体的共振与闭合金属环的谐振耦合产生的相消干涉。与传统的 EIT 结构相比, 所设计结构能够在太赫兹区间实现双频的反射型 EIT 效应, 并能实现对 EIT 效应的主动调控。

2 仿 真

所设计的双频 EIT 超表面结构如图 1 所示。整个结构为金属结构-介质-金属底板的三明治夹层结构, 包括一层由周期排列的开口谐振环和闭合金属环共同组成的超表面层, 一层聚酰亚胺介质层和一层连续的底部衬底金(Au)反射层。超表面结构单元周期 $P_x = P_y = 100 \mu\text{m}$, 闭合金属环边长 $L_1 = 53 \mu\text{m}$, 开口谐振环边长 $L_2 = 29 \mu\text{m}$, 闭合金属环和开口谐振环的线宽均为 $W = 6 \mu\text{m}$, 开口宽度 $d = 6 \mu\text{m}$ 。该结构在 x - y 平面上呈现周期性分布, 构成二维平面超表面。超表面层金属 Au 的厚度为 $1.9 \mu\text{m}$ 。介质层采用聚酰亚胺, 厚度为 $6.5 \mu\text{m}$, 底

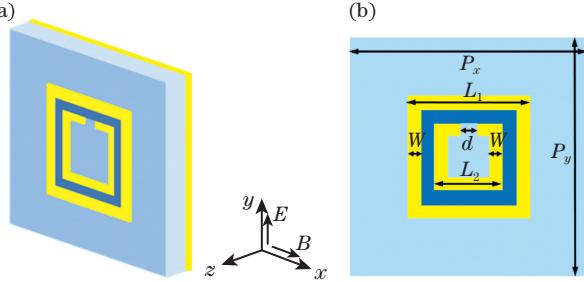


图 1 反射型 EIT 超表面结构示意图。(a)三维图;(b)正视图
Fig. 1 Schematics of reflection-type EIT metasurface structure.
(a) Three-dimensional view; (b) front view

部衬底 Au 反射层的厚度为 $0.1 \mu\text{m}$ 。

使用三维电磁场仿真软件(CST)进行全波仿真分析, 平面电磁波沿 z 轴正方向入射, 电场沿 y 轴极化, 磁场沿 x 轴极化。采用频域仿真进行求解, 保持衬底材料及尺寸与上述设计结构相同, 分别分析内框和外框在电磁场激励下的反射特性。当电场极化方向沿 y 轴时, 可以观察到开口谐振环在 2.92 THz 和 3.93 THz 处出现两个谐振谷, 如图 2(a)所示。外框的闭合金属环则在 2.99 THz 和 4.45 THz 处出现两个谐振谷[图 2(b)], 这两处谐振谷所处的频率与开口谐振环比较接近。可以发现内外两环在电磁激励下可以独立地产生谐振, 并且二者具有比较接近的谐振频率。然而, 内外框谐振峰的 Q 值差异较大, 开口谐振环的 Q 值分别为 233.8 和 58.18 , 闭合金属环的 Q 值分别为 52.13 和 7.95 。电磁波作用于谐振频率相近且 Q 值差异较大的两种模式结构时, 产生 EIT 效应同时发生强烈的电磁耦合效应。将两环组合构成未填充光敏硅的 EIT 结构单元, 通过模拟仿真该结构单元的反射特性, 结果如图 2(c)所示, 可以发现对应的频带范围内出现了反射型的 EIT 效应, 在 $2.89 \sim 3 \text{ THz}$ 以及 $4.03 \sim 4.44 \text{ THz}$ 的谐振谷之间出现了反射值增大的透明窗口。

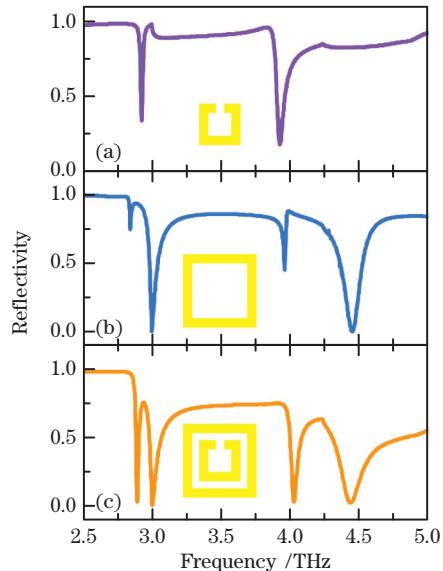


图 2 仿真得到的反射型 EIT 超表面的反射谱。(a)开口谐振环反射谱;(b)闭合金属环反射谱;(c)双环反射谱
Fig. 2 Simulated reflection spectra of reflection-type EIT metasurface. (a) Reflection spectrum of inner split ring; (b) reflection spectrum of closed outer ring; (c) reflection only spectrum of double rings

大多数超构表面一旦制作完成, 其谐振频率等参数都被固定, 这一定程度限制了其应用和发展。

研究人员通过添加相变材料、光敏材料等解决此类问题^[25]。在上文设计结构的基础上,进一步通过在内外双环之间平铺光敏硅实现对反射型双频EIT效应的主动调控。在仿真中,设置硅的介电常数为11.7。没有光照时,电导率设置为 $\sigma=1\text{ S/m}$,2.75~2.93 THz以及3.66~4.1 THz的谐振谷之间出现了反射值增大的透明窗口。随着外部光强的增大,光敏硅的电导率会逐渐增大,其逐渐从半导体状态转变为导体状态,这会影响超表面的共振频率。当光敏硅的电导率分别为1,250,500,750 S/m时,得到的仿真结果如图3所示。在图3(a)中,当电导率为1 S/m时,2.75~2.93 THz处透明窗口EIT效应明显,在反射

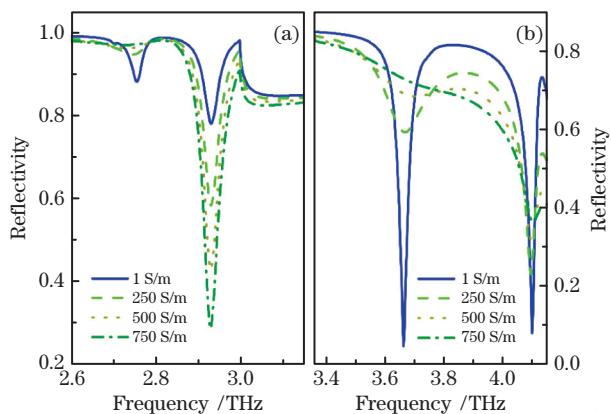


图3 光敏硅电导率对反射性能的影响。(a)不同光敏硅电导率下2.75~2.93 THz反射透明窗口的反射率;(b)不同光敏硅电导率下3.66~4.1 THz反射透明窗口的反射率

Fig. 3 Effect of photosensitive silicon conductivity on reflection performance. (a) Reflectivity of 2.75–2.93 THz reflection transparent window with different photosensitive silicon conductivity; (b) reflectivity at 3.66–4.1 THz reflection transparent window with different photosensitive silicon conductivity

窗口处的反射率为98.5%。随着电导率的逐渐增大(250 S/m和500 S/m),2.75 THz处的共振吸收峰逐渐减小,EIT效应减弱。当电导率为750 S/m时,2.75 THz处共振峰完全消失,同时EIT效应完全消失。在图3(b)中,当电导率为1 S/m时,EIT效应明显,在反射窗口处的反射率为81.2%。随着电导率逐渐增大(250 S/m和500 S/m),3.66 THz和4.1 THz处的共振吸收峰逐渐减弱,反射窗口处的反射率降为70%,EIT效应减弱。当电导率为750 S/m时,3.66 THz处共振峰完全消失,原反射窗口处的反射率降为66%,同时EIT效应完全消失。可以看出,随着外界光强的增加,光敏硅的电导率增大,3.66~4.1 THz范围内的调制效果优于2.75~2.93 THz范围内。当 $\sigma=750\text{ S/m}$ 时,两处双频透明窗基本消失。可见,通过将光敏硅平铺至两环之间可以实现对透明窗口的主动调控。

3 分析与讨论

仿真计算填充光敏硅后的EIT结构单元的反射特性,得到的结果如图3所示,可以看到该结构在2.81 THz以及3.82 THz处出现了典型的EIT反射现象。为分析所设计结构的工作原理,模拟仿真两个透明峰值窗口处的电场分布,如图4(a)和(b)所示。从透明峰值频点处介质结构表面电场分布来看,两个透明窗口的形成机制是不同的。从图4(a)所示的透明峰值频点处的表面电场分布来看,暗模内环开口处形成的谐振更为明显,明模闭合金属环的谐振被抑制,这说明通过明暗模之间的相互耦合,明模闭合金属环激发了暗模中的共振。此时,EIT超表面对于入射电磁场的吸收被抑制,从而形成高

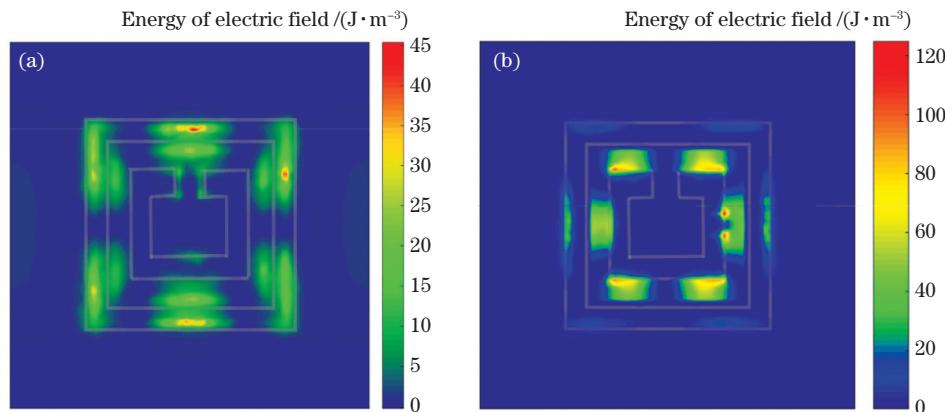


图4 在透明窗口频点处EIT超表面结构的电场分布。(a)在2.81 THz处上层金属结构上表面的电场分布;(b)在3.82 THz处下层金属底板表面处的电场分布

Fig. 4 Electric field distributions of EIT metasurface structure at frequencies in transparency windows. (a) Electric field distribution of top surface of metal at 2.81 THz; (b) electric field distribution of bottom metal plane at 3.82 THz

反射的透明窗口。从图4(b)所示的3.82 THz处透明窗口频点处的表面电场分布来看,下层金属表面电场主要集中在两金属环之间,这与传播型表面等离子体的特征相一致^[26]。由周期性结构激发的传播性等离子体的共振与闭合金属环的谐振相互耦合,发生相消干涉,从而形成高反射透明窗口。

硅作为传统的半导体材料,具备场效应调制及光电效应等特性^[27-28]。当光子能量大于禁带宽度时,半导体内部的电子被激发,光生载流子浓度随着光强的

增大而增大,使得半导体具有金属性。分别模拟当光敏硅电导率为1,250,500 S/m时超表面共振峰处的电流分布。从图5中可以看出,当光强增大时,光敏硅的金属性增强,内外环的电流强度逐渐减小,这说明随着光敏硅的金属性逐渐增强,内外金属环逐渐由填充的光敏硅连接为一个整体,二者的谐振频率逐渐接近直至重合,这样就破坏了双谐振子耦合模型,从而不再满足产生EIT效应的条件。因此,原透明窗口频点处不再有强烈的耦合作用,表面电流逐渐减小。

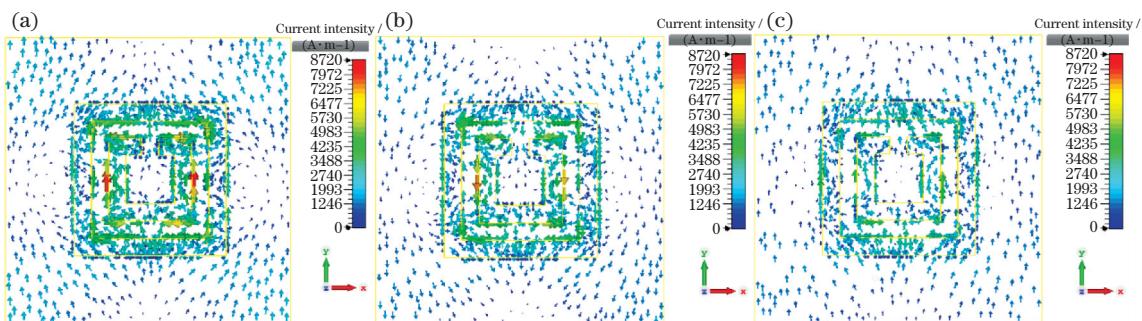


图5 不同光敏硅电导率下在3.82 THz透明窗口处的EIT超表面电流分布。(a)电导率为1 S/m;(b)电导率为250 S/m;(c)电导率为500 S/m;

Fig. 5 Current distributions of EIT metasurface at 3.82 THz for different conductivity of photosensitive silicon.
(a) Conductivity of 1 S/m; (b) conductivity of 250 S/m; (c) conductivity of 500 S/m

4 结 论

提出了一种基于金属-介质-金属三明治结构的电磁诱导透明超表面结构,该结构由一层由开口谐振环和闭合金属方环组成的超表面,一层聚酰亚胺介质层,以及一层金属底板构成,可实现在2.89~3 THz以及4.03~4.44 THz频段下的双频反射EIT效应。在所设计结构的内外环之间平铺光敏硅,利用光敏硅在不同光照强度条件下的电导率发生改变的特性,获得了主动可调控的EIT结构。研究了主动可调式双频EIT超表面的设计思路,以为提升EIT超表面性能及拓宽其应用前景的研究提供了参考。后续研究工作可以围绕增大透明窗口带宽、减小损耗、调控透明窗口频段范围等方面展开,以进一步提高反射型EIT超表面的工作性能。

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Reflection-Type Electromagnetically Induced Transparency Effect in Terahertz Metasurfaces

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Abstract

Objective Electromagnetically induced transparency (EIT) effect is a quantum interference phenomenon, which can improve the dispersion properties and suppress the absorption of materials. However, it is difficult to realize EIT

by using traditional methods because of ultralow temperature and ultrahigh laser power. Recently, researchers have employed metasurfaces to realize EIT effect. Many different structures of metasurfaces, such as split-ring resonators, cut wires, and plasmonic waveguides, have been proposed to generate EIT effect. Most of previous designed metasurface structures were demonstrated as transmission type. While the reflection of EIT, which is as important as the transmission of EIT, is ignored for a long time. In this work, a reflection-type EIT metasurface structure is designed, which has two transparent windows in THz regime. The transparent windows can be manipulated actively.

Methods We conduct full-wave numerical simulations to test the reflection characteristics of the designed metamaterials using the CST (Computer Simulation Technology) Microwave Studio 2010. The simulation conditions are as followed: the x and y directions are set as the periodic boundary conditions, and both the ports are perpendicular to the z direction and placed at the two surfaces of the sample. The electromagnetic waves with y -polarization are normally incident on the metasurface structure. The geometrical parameters are as followed: $P_x = P_y = 100 \mu\text{m}$, $L_1 = 53 \mu\text{m}$, $L_2 = 29 \mu\text{m}$, $W = 6 \mu\text{m}$, and $d = 6 \mu\text{m}$. The thicknesses of Au-pattern, polyimide layer, and Au plane are $1.9 \mu\text{m}$, $6.5 \mu\text{m}$, and $0.1 \mu\text{m}$, respectively (Fig. 1).

Results and Discussions The spectra of the inner split ring alone and the larger outer closed ring alone are simulated (Fig. 2). We can see that both structures can be independently excited. The main resonances of the inner split ring are located at 2.92 THz and 3.93 THz. The main resonances of the outer closed ring are located at 2.99 THz and 4.45 THz, which is similar to that of the inner split ring. The Q factors of these resonances are quite different. For the split ring, the Q factors are 233.8 and 58.18; and for outer closed ring, the Q factors are 52.13 and 7.95. The condition of EIT formation is as followed: electromagnetic waves interact with two modes which have similar resonant frequencies and quite different Q values. When the two structures are combined together, the interference of the resonances generates two transparent windows, which locate at 2.89–3 THz and 4.03–4.44 THz, respectively. Furthermore, the EIT effect can be actively manipulated by implanting photosensitive silicon between the inner split ring and outer closed ring (Fig. 3). The conductivity of silicon increases with light intensity, and hence the resonance frequency changes. The modulation depth at transparent windows is modulated.

In order to analyze the mechanism of the EIT effect, we simulated the electric field distribution at the two transparent windows (Fig. 4). The formation of the two transparent windows is different, as shown in Fig. 4. According to the surface electric field distribution at 2.81 THz, the enhanced resonance at the gap of the inner ring is "dark mode", and the suppressed resonance of the closed metal ring is "bright mode". This indicates that through the coupling between the bright and dark modes, the "bright mode" excites the "dark mode". At this time, the absorption of the EIT metasurface to the incident electromagnetic field is inhibited, and thus a transparent window forms with high reflection. At 3.82 THz, the surface electric field distribution is mainly concentrated between the two metallic rings, which is consistent with the characteristics of propagating surface plasma. The resonance of the propagating plasma excited by the periodic structure couples with the resonance of the closed metal ring, resulting in destructive interference, thus forming a highly reflective transparent window.

When silicon conductivity increases with light intensity, the inner and outer rings become merging together, and thus the resonant frequency gradually becomes the same (Fig. 5). In this situation, the dual harmonic oscillator coupling model is destroyed and the condition of EIT effect is not satisfied. Thus, when light is incident on photosensitive silicon, the original transparent window has no strong coupling, and active manipulation of transparent windows is achieved.

Conclusions An electromagnetically induced transparent metasurface is proposed, and it consists of split ring resonators, a polyimide dielectric layer, and a metal substrate. This structure can realize reflection-type EIT effect at dual frequency bands. Furthermore, photosensitive silicon can be implanted between the inner and outer rings of the designed structure. Active manipulation of the EIT effect can be realized by employing the conductivity variation at different light intensity. This paper provides a reference for the research of improving the performance of EIT metasurface and broadening the application. Follow-up studies can focus on improving the bandwidth of the transparent window, reducing the loss, and adjusting the frequency range of the transparent window, so as to further improve the performance of reflection-type EIT metasurface.

Key words materials; metamaterial; terahertz; electromagnetically induced transparency; reflection

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