

超快激光光束整形原理与方法及其在功能性微结构制造中的应用

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摘要 随着功能性微结构的制造品质要求不断推向新的极端, 超快激光微纳制造迎来了新的挑战, 如更高的加工效率、跨尺度加工、选择性加工及可控性加工等。因传统超快激光高斯光束的空间和时间能量分布在加工中的局限性, 以单点聚焦扫描为主的加工方法难以满足新的制造精度、效率和跨尺度加工要求。基于此, 研究者将目光聚焦到超快激光光束整形的制造方法上。本文从传统超快激光光束的特点及其加工局限性角度出发, 分空域光束整形、时域光束整形和时空域协同光束整形, 介绍了超快激光光束整形技术的基本原理和主要实现途径; 阐述了这些技术在功能性微结构制造方面的典型应用和研究进展; 最后, 总结和讨论了超快激光光束整形技术应用于功能性微结构制造中存在的问题和发展前景。

关键词 激光光学; 超快激光; 光束整形; 功能性微结构; 高效制造

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1 引言

超快激光, 又称超短脉冲激光, 是指脉冲宽度在几十 ps ($1 \text{ ps} = 10^{-12} \text{ s}$) 及以下量级的脉冲激光^[1]。自 1960 年第一台激光器诞生以来, 超短的脉冲宽度和超高的功率一直是激光器的重要发展方向。1981 年, 通过碰撞脉冲锁模技术, Fork 等^[2] 在环形染料激光器中获得脉冲宽度小于 100 fs ($1 \text{ fs} = 10^{-15} \text{ s}$) 的激光脉冲。1985 年, Strickland 等^[3] 通过展宽一个啁啾光脉冲, 并在压缩前对其进行放大, 获得了能量为 1 mJ 的 2 ps 脉冲。此后, 超快激光技术得到迅速发展, 并被广泛应用于先进制造^[1,4]、超快成像^[5]、信息存储^[6] 及临床医学^[7] 等领域。

与连续激光加工或长脉冲激光加工相比, 超快激光脉冲加工具有持续时间短、峰值功率高、热影响区小等特点。超短脉冲持续时间使激光能量主要沉积在光子-电子作用过程中的极小范围内, 可极大地减少重铸层及微裂纹等缺陷的产生; 超快激光脉冲加工可以在一定程度上避免长脉冲激光加工中常见的等离子体屏蔽效应的产生; 超快激光峰值功率可达 100 TW^[8], 几乎可以加工所有材料, 包括金属^[9]、半导体^[10]、电介质^[11] 及生物组织^[12-13] 等。由

于峰值功率高, 超快激光与原子、自由电子、离子及等离子体等的相互作用是非线性、非平衡过程, 不再是热熔过程。短脉冲激光损伤阈值的统计不确定性更小, 这些特点使得飞秒激光加工可以达亚微米精度^[14-15]。

功能性微结构是一种通过特定微纳量级结构实现特定的或多个功能的结构, 具有相当大的制造可控性和性能可调性。一方面, 由于功能层的材料与本体材料一致, 可以减少器件在外因(受力或温度变化等)作用下的皴裂和脱落现象; 另一方面, 因为直接在本体材料上制造, 可缩小器件尺寸, 实现更加紧凑的器件布局。由于超快激光的特点与优势, 其已经成为功能性微结构加工的强有力工具^[16], 在微光学元件(微透镜阵列^[17]、菲涅耳透镜^[18]、光纤光栅^[19]、光波导^[20]、等离激元材料^[21]等), 微流控元件(微通道^[22]、液滴数字化控制器^[23]等), 功能性表面/界面(抗反射表面^[24]、结构色表面^[25]、超疏(亲)水/油/气表面^[26-29]、油水分离界面^[30]、流体减阻表面^[31]、刀具表面织构^[32]、催化界面^[33]等)的制造中有着广泛的应用。

随着制造品质要求不断推向新的极端, 不同的功能对于结构形貌及尺寸的要求各异, 因而对超快

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激光微纳制造提出了新的挑战,如更高的加工效率、跨尺度加工、选择性加工及可控性加工等。传统超快激光高斯光束的空间、时间能量分布在加工中具有局限性,以单点聚焦扫描为主的加工方法难以满足制造的精度、效率及跨尺度加工要求。因此,研究者将目光聚焦到超快激光光束整形的制造方法上^[34]。激光光束整形通常可分为空域整形和时域整形,空域整形是指改变激光能量在空间范围内的分布,时域整形是指改变激光能量随时间的分布。与传统的高斯光束相比,整形后的光束具有新的空间和时间能量分布,可以满足特定的结构或应用要求^[35],在加工质量、精度及效率方面有更大的优势^[36-37]。因此,超快激光光束整形制造功能性微结构成为近些年的热点。

本文从传统超快激光光束的特点及其加工局限性角度出发,介绍了超快激光光束整形技术的基本原理和主要实现途径,并总结了该技术在功能性微结构制造方面的典型应用和研究进展。

2 超快激光空域光束整形

在功能性微纳结构的制造中,飞秒激光诱导的等离子体对材料加工和飞秒激光吸收程度的影响很大,高能量密度激光作用下的小孔效应、光致等离子体和冲击波的产生与扩散等对功能性微纳结构的形成过程非常关键。而在飞秒激光与材料相互作用的过程中,光束本身的特性又直接决定了能量吸收、材料相变、等离子体的形成、膨胀和扩散过程,进而影响功能性微结构的加工质量和精度^[38-39]。

因此,为了适应功能性微结构高效率和高精度的加工要求,其关键在于能否控制激光光子与电子相互作用的过程,在于能否控制/改变飞秒激光能量的吸收过程,在于能否控制/改变材料瞬时局部特性的变化,在于能否控制/改变相变机理。大量理论和实验研究结果^[36,40-42]表明,利用光束整形的飞秒激光可以调控激光与材料相互作用中纳米尺度的电子动态^[36],并能有效地提高激光微纳制造的加工质量和效率。

2.1 空域光束整形的原理和方法

空域整形是指改变激光能量在空间范围内的分布,在空间上对激光器发出的高斯光束的强度和相位进行重新分布,使之成为所需的空域轮廓、强度分布和分束模式。

传统激光器发出的激光束的截面轮廓一般为高斯型。在这种情况下,利用超快激光直写技术对特

殊形状轮廓进行加工时,需要进行点扫描,较为费时,并且当微结构的轮廓尺度小到一定程度时,对激光束聚焦光斑直径的要求将会非常高。

通过对光束的空间轮廓进行整形,可以在单个或多个脉冲的曝光下直接完成各种形状微结构的加工,从而提高加工效率和分辨率。常见的整形方法有空间光调制器(SLM)法、透镜阵列法和光束叠加法等。

SLM是一种数字器件,其通过调制光场参量,如光束振幅、相位及偏振态等,将一定的信息写入光波中,从而获得特定的光场分布,如贝塞尔光束、环形光束及涡旋光束等。相较于利用机加工或者光刻方法生产的固定变换元件,SLM对光场的调控是可重构的^[43]。

通过SLM产生贝塞尔光束,可以便捷地对光束数量、径向和轴向的强度分布进行调整。Bowman等^[43]通过在SLM上使用多个轴向相位掩模产生贝塞尔光束阵列,通过叠加光场并提取相位的方法,将集中在SLM不同部分的两束贝塞尔光束的全息图结合起来,从单一的全息图中产生两束光。当阵列中的光束数量增加时,各贝塞尔光束的轴向长度仍可保持不变。Yang等^[44]通过SLM产生环形光场,通过调制编码在SLM上的全息图对其直径进行控制。Ouadghiri-Idrissi等^[45]开发了一种非迭代的直接空间光束整形方法,该方法使用纯相位型SLM直接生成高通量的贝塞尔光束,并产生特定的轴上强度分布,如图1所示。

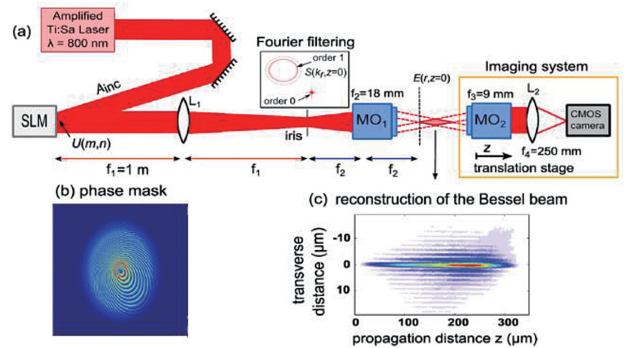


图1 利用SLM生成贝塞尔光束^[45]。(a)实验装置示意图;(b)SLM上使用的相位掩模;(c)实验测量的贝塞尔光束强度分布

Fig. 1 Bessel beam generated by SLM^[45]. (a) Schematic of experimental setup; (b) phase mask applied on the SLM; (c) experimentally measured Bessel beam intensity distribution

光学涡旋是一种具有螺旋相位波前和环形强度

分布的结构光束。Yang 等^[46]利用 SLM 生成用于微管加工的飞秒激光涡旋光束,通过控制涡旋光束上的相位因子,包括拓扑电荷、层叠数及调制度,产生不同强度分布(尺寸、几何形状及偏转角度)的涡旋光束,如图 2 所示。Ni 等^[47]利用加载在液晶 SLM 上的全息图,使涡旋光束与平面波同轴干涉,从而产生三维螺旋光场,以制备各向同性的三维手性微结构。他们的进一步研究表明,光场的螺旋和手性分别是由干涉图样和螺旋相位波前引起的。

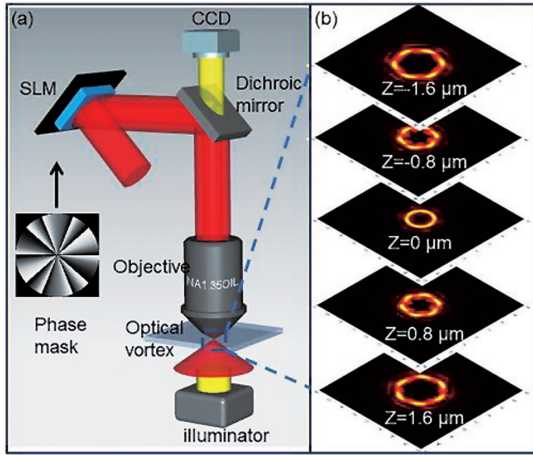


图 2 飞秒激光涡旋光束的产生^[46]。(a)实验装置示意图;(b)光束传播方向上强度分布的模拟

Fig. 2 Generation of femtosecond laser vortex beam^[46]. (a) Schematic of the experimental setup; (b) simulated intensity distribution in the propagation direction

Kuang 等^[48]利用 SLM,采用几何掩模对近场衍射处的入射光束进行整形,得到了正方形、三角形、环形、星形等光束形状。Li 等^[49]利用 SLM,在基于成像的光束整形技术基础上,结合并行光束加工技术产生多个具有特殊几何图形的光束,如图 3 所示,他们在第一个 SLM 上应用二值掩模和灰度掩模来调整入射光束的轮廓线和强度分布,再使用第二个 SLM 对入射光束进行分割,得到了正方形和星形的多光束。

透镜阵列法可用于高相干激光束的均匀化,可将几乎任何输入强度分布的光束转换为平顶光束。Wippermann 等^[50]将啁啾微透镜阵列应用到光束整形系统中,这种非规则的透镜阵列形成了非周期性的远场强度分布,可以有效地提升光束均匀性。Salter 等^[51]将微透镜阵列和液晶 SLM 结合,探索了飞秒激光微加工中的并行处理技术,如图 4 所示,该技术可以使焦点阵列的强度均匀化,使光斑相对

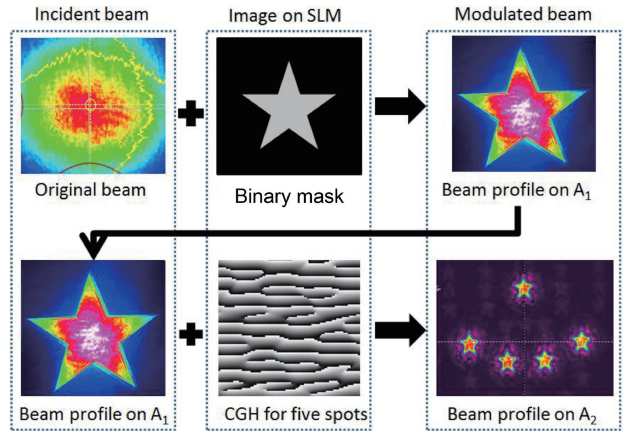


图 3 五个星形光束。上部:原始光束结合二值掩模板,在 A_1 处获得星形光束;下部:星形光束结合计算机全息图,在 A_2 处获得五个星形光束^[49]

Fig. 3 Five star-shape beams. Top line: the original beam plus a binary mask to achieve a star-shape beam at A_1 ; Lower line: the star-shape beam plus computer generated holograms to achieve five star-shape beams at A_2 ^[49]

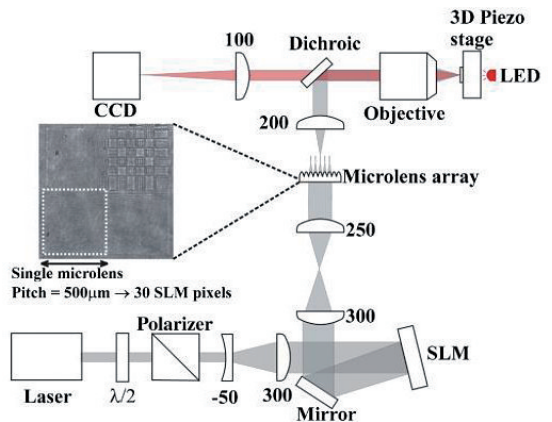


图 4 可寻址多点微加工实验装置^[51]

Fig. 4 Experimental setup for addressable multipot micromachining^[51]

于其原始焦点进行平移,从而实现非周期性结构的高效制造。

Tsai 等^[52]采用多点高斯光束叠加的方法对任意形状光场分布的激光输出进行分解和近似,通过在数字激光器中产生多点高斯场来产生具有任意横向截面形状的激光输出。史志勇等^[53]基于物镜聚焦系统的矢量傅里叶变换特性,设计了一种矢量迭代优化相位算法,该算法可以实现具有任意排列结构的多焦点阵列的并行激光加工。

2.2 空域光束整形在功能性微结构制造中的应用

空域光束整形的应用之一是特殊空间轮廓微结构的单步加工。在超快激光器产生的高斯型光束基

础上进行光束能量的空间分布调整,可以极大地提升超快激光单步加工能力。

Luo 等^[17]基于飞秒激光整形技术,设计了一种在石英玻璃表面加工高质量柱面微透镜阵列的方法。他们在空间上将一束高斯激光整形成贝塞尔光束,从而在光场的特定截面内获得反圆柱形的激光强度分布。数值模拟结果表明,这种形状的光强分布的包络线与柱面微透镜所需的

形貌完全吻合,如图 5 所示,在石英玻璃上,通过整形飞秒激光的逐行扫描,可直接加工柱面微透镜阵列,微透镜单元的半径和深度可以通过调节激光功率来控制。此外,他们^[54]还开展了聚焦性能分析,结果表明,所得柱面微透镜阵列具有优良的光学成像和快速制造性能,还利用该方法加工了抛物线形柱面微透镜阵列,其数值孔径大于 0.35。

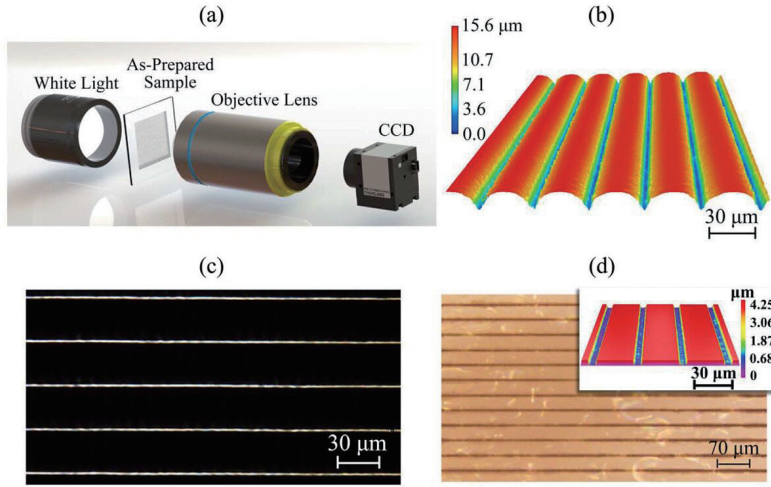


图 5 空域整形的飞秒激光加工的微透镜阵列^[17]。(a)聚焦性能测试装置;(b)柱面微透镜阵列;(c)聚焦效果;(d)柱面微透镜阵列加工所得的光栅结构

Fig. 5 Fabricated microlens array by spatially shaped femtosecond laser^[17]. (a) Focusing performance testing device; (b) cylindrical microlens array (CMLA); (c) focusing result; (d) grating structure fabricated by using CMLA

Pan 等^[55]提出一种使用 SLM 调制飞秒激光贝塞尔光束生成 C 形贝塞尔光束的新方法。如图 6 所示,

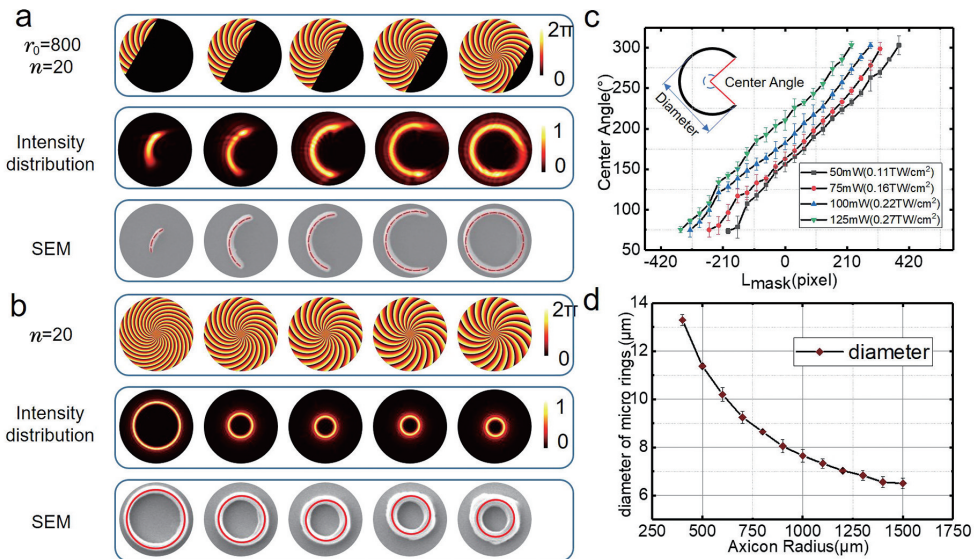


图 6 缺口环形光场的参数调整^[55]。(a)圆心角的调整;(b)直径的调整;(c)圆心角与激光功率和局部相位调制程度的关系;(d)单环微结构的直径与锥透镜半径的关系

Fig. 6 Parameter adjustment of gap ring shaped light field^[55]. (a) Adjustment of center angle; (b) adjustment of diameter; (c) center angle as a function of laser power and degree of local phase modulation; (d) diameter of single-ring microstructure as a function of axicon radius

他们利用这种间隙环形光场,在微/纳尺度上制备复杂横截面微管。通过双光子聚合加工,可得到具有三叶草形和螺旋形等特殊截面的微管。所得间隙环的直径只有几 μm ,其管壁则只有 800 nm 左右。他们利用该方法加工了由空隙环微管组成的与实际植物气孔大小相同的人工气孔,该人工气孔可模拟真实气孔的快速启闭、气体储存及微粒的捕捉和释放等功能。

空域光束整形的另外一个应用是高深径比结构的极端加工。

Xie 等^[56]利用飞秒激光贝塞尔光束控制局部瞬态空间电子密度,在聚甲基丙烯酸甲酯(PMMA)中进行高深径比、高质量微孔的单脉冲加工。所加工的微孔具有无锥度特性,其入口和侧壁的质量高于高斯光束加工的微孔,其深径比可达 330 : 1,在 1 cm \times 1 cm 的区域内加工出 501 \times 501 的微孔阵列只需 42 min,且加工尺寸和形状都非常均匀。理论上,在利用单个脉冲进行微孔阵列加工的情况下,每秒可加工的高深径比微孔的数量是由激光重复频率所决定的,所以这一方法将大大提高高深径比微孔阵列的制造速度。

上面提到的是纵向写入(样品移动方向或通道走向与加工光束传输方向平行)的高深径比微结构。对于通过横向写入(样品移动方向或通道走向与加工光束传输方向垂直)得到的通道型微结构,通常情况下,由于激光焦点处的光场在横向和轴向的分布不均匀性以及激光脉冲的自聚焦效应,其截面形状为具有大纵横比的椭圆^[57]。而超快激光整形可对光束的纵向截面能量分布进行优化,从而对通道型结构进行优化加工。

Cheng 等^[57]利用飞秒激光加工玻璃微通道时,通过在聚焦透镜前加入平行于激光扫描方向的狭缝来产生衍射效应,从而在焦点附近获得更对称的图案,以控制微通道的截面形状。Roth 等^[22]采用自适应光束整形技术,利用飞秒激光在 PMMA 内部加工几乎没有长度限制的微通道。他们利用 SLM 补偿由球差决定的写入深度,得到精确可控和稳定的圆形通道截面,利用自适应光学产生可旋转的椭圆光束,确保光束形状适应写入方向。他们还研究了加工光束的椭圆度和球差修正对微通道圆度的影响。

通道型结构还可用于光波导,通过超快激光改变材料内部的折射率,使得光信号可在其中沿特定路线传播,可用于信号分束^[58]和光存储^[59]等。

Ams 等^[60]利用狭缝整形技术,采用垂直书写方案直接书写具有圆形截面的微结构,在磷酸盐玻璃中写入低损耗(0.39 dB/cm)单模波导。Sakakura 等^[61]利用 SLM 对激光束的空间相位分布进行调制,产生并控制飞秒激光的多个光斑,使其聚焦在玻璃内,加工了三维 1 \times 4 分束光波导。在传统的飞秒激光直写技术中,加工分束器中的分支波导对于基底的精确定位是必不可少的;而该方法只需平移玻璃基板一次,就可以很容易地制造出连续的分支波导,从而降低对基板高精度定位的需求,并节省加工时间。

此外,空域光束整形还可应用于阵列微结构的高效率并行加工。

双光子聚合能够产生具有高空间分辨率的任意形状,但缺点是逐点写入的效率极低。Hu 等^[62]利用全息投影飞秒激光直接刻写技术并行加工了非球面微透镜阵列,如图 7 所示。该技术大大提高了加工效率,将加工时间从飞秒激光逐点加工所需的远超 10 h 缩减到只需要 20 min。他们在考虑 SLM

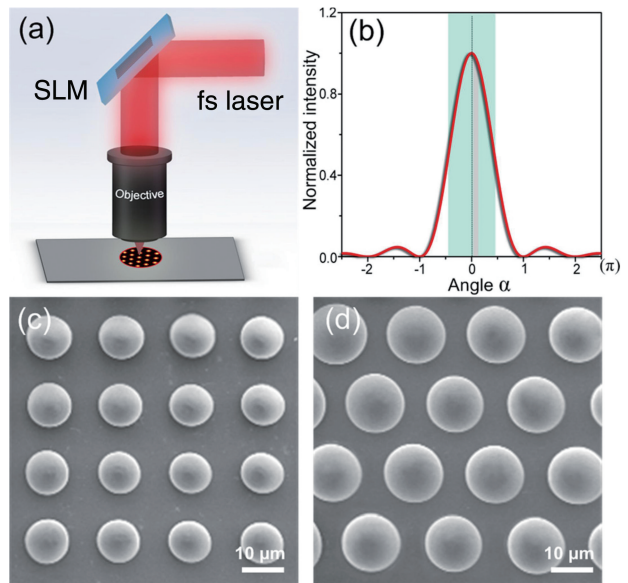


图 7 全息飞秒激光直写技术^[62]。(a)实验装置示意图; (b)高斯光束入射一维矩形光栅后的典型衍射强度分布; (c)四边形排列的微透镜阵列; (d)六边形排列的微透镜阵列

Fig. 7 Holographic femtosecond laser direct-writing technology^[62]. (a) Schematic of the experimental setup; (b) typical diffraction intensity distribution of a one-dimensional rectangular grating with the incident Gaussian beam; (c) microlens arrays with quadrangular arrangement; (d) microlens arrays with hexagonal arrangement

固有特性的基础上,对多焦点图样的缺陷进行了补偿,提高了所得非球面微透镜阵列的光强均匀性和衍射效率。

Zhang 等^[63]利用微透镜阵列在空域上对飞秒激光光束进行分束,在样品表面形成 5×5 个聚焦点。与逐点加工相比,分束加工可充分利用激光能量,进而有效地提高加工效率。此外,在所有子光束同时作用于表面时,通过微透镜阵列得到的衍射图样的分布具有稳定性。因此,并行加工可以有效地减小运动平台振动和激光能量波动引起的周期结构的不均匀性。后续测试分析表明,利用该方法加工的表面亚波长微结构具有良好的红外抗反射性能。

空域光束整形还可应用于激光诱导型微结构的高质量加工,如激光诱导周期性表面结构(LIPSS)、微锥突、各种跨尺度层级结构等。

常用的 LIPSS 加工方法是用高斯光束直接进行激光扫描的,但对于需在环形或盘状复杂几何结构内加工 LIPSS 的应用,则需要不断地对样品移动台进行加速和减速,这不仅费时,而且可能导致 LIPSS 的周期和走向产生不一致性。针对此问题,Wang 等^[64]利用空间环形分布的飞秒激光在铜表面制备环形微纳结构,可使其内的 LIPSS 走向与环形结构走向基本无关。Wu 等^[65]则在此基础上,改进了环形结构的加工光路,对环形结构的直径调控进行了进一步的研究。

除了对单一的诱导结构进行形态控制,通过整形超快激光,还可以在加工过程中对跨尺度结构内不同尺度的结构形态进行单独控制。Ionin 等^[66]提出了一种利用空间非对称分布的飞秒激光来操纵钛表面的纳米结构和化学成分的新方法。表面扫描加工过程中,传统的高斯激光光束会在钛表面形成纳米尺度和微米尺度相结合的表面拓扑结构;而使用整形后的激光进行加工时,形成的是“干净的”表面结构。如遮挡半束垂直于扫描方向的激光束后,就可以消除表面纳米结构,只出现氧化程度更低、更干净、更平滑的微锥突。Nivas 等^[67]使用飞秒激光高斯光束和涡旋光束在硅表面诱导生成微结构,并进行了对比,而后通过调控涡旋光束的偏振态来获得由准周期波纹和凹槽组成的不同表面图案。

综上,基于空域光束整形的超快激光直写、诱导及沉积等加工方法可用于特殊空间轮廓微结构的单步加工、高深径比微结构的极端加工、微通道的优化加工、阵列微结构的高效率并行加工、激光

诱导型和沉积型微结构的高质量加工等。通过空域光束整形,可以有效地拓宽超快激光在功能性微结构制造中的应用范围,提升制造的效率和精度。

3 超快激光时域光束整形

时域光束整形是指采用 4f 系统、光栅/棱镜对或可控衍射器件等实现任意脉冲形状或者整形脉冲序列的产生。

3.1 时域光束整形的原理和方法

时域光束整形将传统的一个超快脉冲整形形成一个脉冲序列,每个脉冲序列由间隔从飞秒到皮秒的数个脉冲组成,且每个子脉冲之间的能量比也可以自由设计。时域光束整形常见的方法有傅里叶变换法^[68]、SLM 法^[69]、超表面法^[70]及薄膜法^[71]等。

Weiner^[68]采用光学 4f 系统对皮秒激光进行时域整形,如图 8 所示,其基本原理为将入射激光从时域转换至频域,利用频率调制器,经相应调制后再还原至时域,最终得到想要的时域整形激光脉冲。

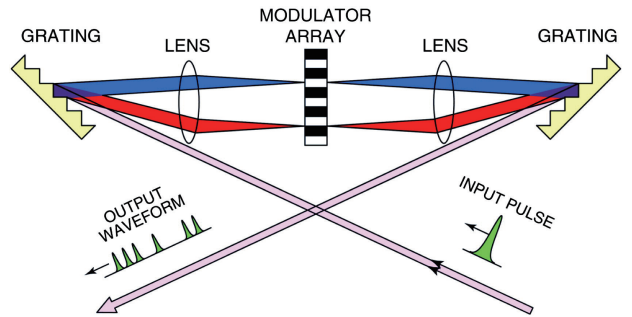


图 8 傅里叶变换脉冲整形基本装置^[68]

Fig. 8 Basic setup for Fourier transform optical pulse shaping^[68]

Vaughan 等^[69]提出了一种新的基于衍射的方法,该方法通过二维相位 SLM 同时对飞秒激光脉冲的相位和振幅进行整形。该方法抑制了飞秒脉冲整形中调制器缺陷导致的某些类型的时域复制特征,并允许适用于各种应用的多路输出。Divitt 等^[70]使用动态介电超表面,通过操纵频率分量的相位和幅值来进行近红外超短(飞秒)脉冲整形,如图 9 所示。

Wang 等^[71]提出了一种新颖的超快激光脉冲序列产生装置,该装置由多个偏振无关的平行排列薄膜组成,通过分离膜内的多次反射,可以产生时域分布可控的脉冲序列。与其他脉冲序列产生技术相比,该装置具有结构紧凑、成本低、损伤阈值高及极化独立等优点。

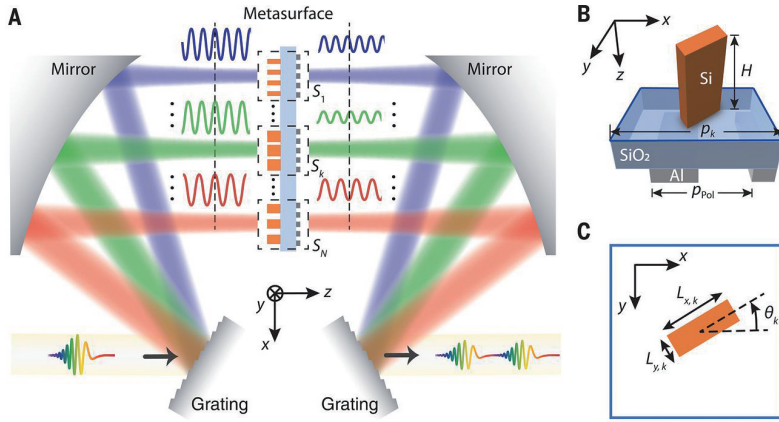


图 9 使用介电超表面的超快光学脉冲整形^[70]

Fig. 9 Ultrafast optical pulse shaping using a dielectric metasurface^[70]

3.2 时域光束整形在功能性微结构制造中的应用

Liu 等^[72]使用飞秒激光脉冲序列辐照加化学刻蚀的方法在石英玻璃中加工微通道,研究了脉冲延迟和脉冲能量分配比对微通道加工结果的影响。如图 10 所示,与传统的飞秒脉冲相比,时域整形飞秒激光脉冲序列可以大大提高刻蚀速率,这种增强主要是通过超快激光脉冲整形对材料的局域瞬态电子

动力学进行控制,从而获得较高的光子吸收效率和均匀的改性区来实现的。Yan 等^[73]利用时域整形飞秒脉冲序列对材料进行局域瞬态电子动力学控制,实现了石英玻璃的非偏振刻蚀。由于脉冲序列的脉冲延迟大于 1 ps,因此不会形成与相干场矢量相关的耦合,场不再具有方向性,从而形成了无序互连的纳米结构,而不是传统非整形脉冲加工时常形成的纳米光栅结构。

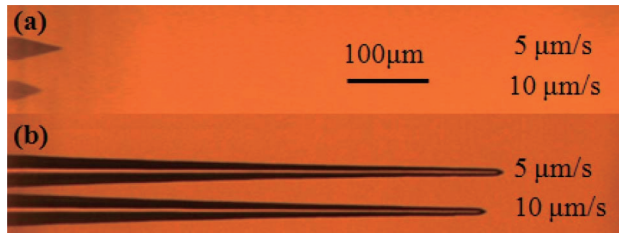


图 10 飞秒激光辅助化学刻蚀微通道的光学显微镜^[72]。

(a) 常规脉冲;(b)双脉冲

Fig. 10 Optical micrograph of microchannel by femtosecond laser assisted chemical etching^[72] .

(a) Conventional pulses; (b) double pulses

Han 等^[74]通过改变飞秒激光脉冲序列的脉冲延迟和扫描速度,利用在硅上加工 LIPSS 时的偏振相关各向异性,实现了扫描线宽的可调控。Liu 等^[75]利用偏振正交的飞秒激光双脉冲序列在硅表面上操纵 LIPSS 的走向,使得无论激光扫描路径如何变化,LIPSS 的走向都垂直于该处的扫描方向。Li 等^[76]提出了一种提高乙醇辅助下飞秒激光脉冲序列烧蚀产生硅纳米颗粒的产率和减小颗粒尺寸的有效方法。脉冲延迟对颗粒尺寸的调控如图 11 所示。与单个脉冲相比,飞秒激光双脉冲的脉冲延迟为 20ps 时,

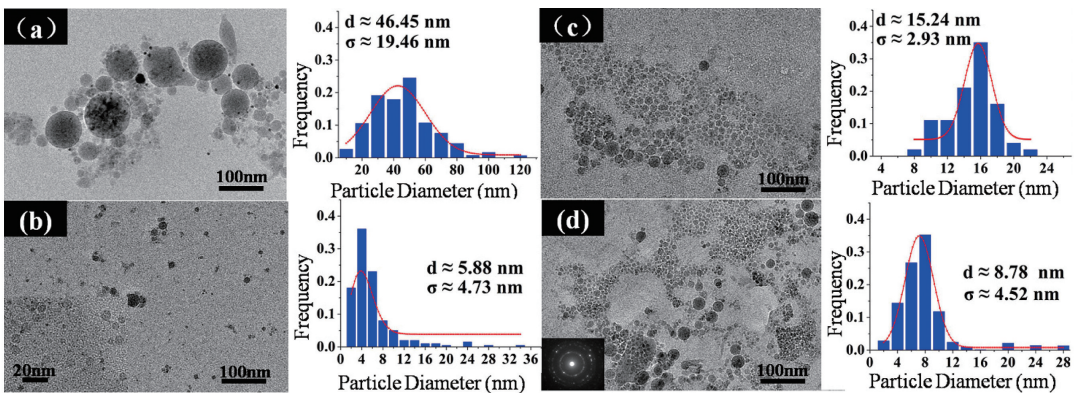


图 11 脉冲延迟时间不同的情况下制备的硅纳米颗粒的透射电子显微镜 (TEM) 图及相应的尺寸分布^[76]。

(a) 0 fs; (b) 100 fs; (c) 200 fs; (d) 1000 fs

Fig. 11 TEM images and corresponding size distribution of Si NPs prepared at different pulse delays^[76] . (a) 0 fs;

(b) 100 fs; (c) 200 fs; (d) 1000 fs

该方法可将产率提高 2.6 倍,将所得硅纳米颗粒的平均尺寸减小约 1/5。

Hernandez-Rueda 等^[40]使用三阶色散产生的超短脉冲序列,在介质表面进行纳米制造。根据超短激光脉冲辐照的特定响应选择相应材料,能够制造出各种纳米结构,如图 12 所示,包括纳米凹陷(蓝宝石)、纳米突起(磷酸盐玻璃)及纳米火山状结构(磷酸盐玻璃)等。实验结果表明,使用三阶色散型

超短脉冲序列进行加工,可以在保持凹坑深度的同时,将纳米结构的直径减小 1/4,并且可以调控蓝宝石加工过程中的烧蚀程度。

Garrelie 等^[77]研究了时域脉冲整形对飞秒激光脉冲沉积的影响。对比未整形的飞秒激光脉冲和优化的脉冲序列加工的薄膜,结果表明,使用时域整形的激光脉冲有利于烧蚀过程中纳米颗粒或等离子体的形成。

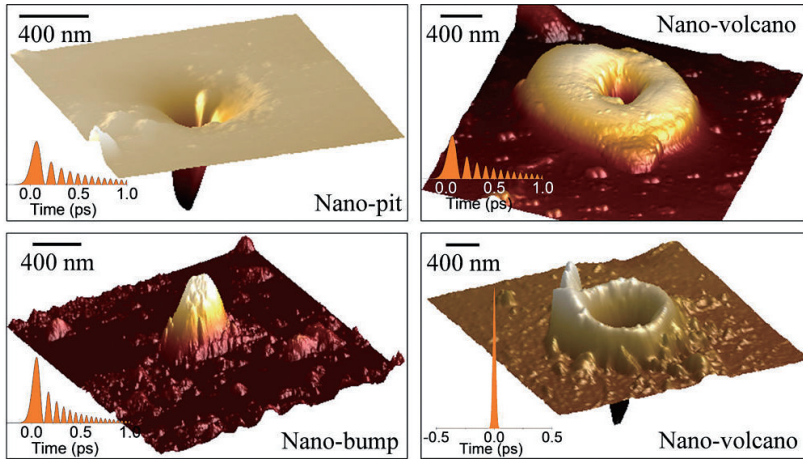


图 12 利用时域整形飞秒激光脉冲序列在介质表面进行纳米制造^[40]

Fig. 12 Nanofabrication in dielectrics using temporally shaped femtosecond laser pulses^[40]

4 超快激光时空域协同光束整形

4.1 超快激光时空域协同光束整形的原理和方法

为了进一步提高超快激光加工的质量和效率,需要在时域和空域对超快激光进行协同整形。

Wang 等^[78]将时域整形方法和空域整形方法结合,得到贝塞尔双脉冲序列,如图 13 所示。一般情况下,使用光束整形器在时域和空域进行协同整形时,光束的能量损失非常大,难以满足加工要求。鉴于此,时空域协同整形的研究通常采用分束式脉冲对

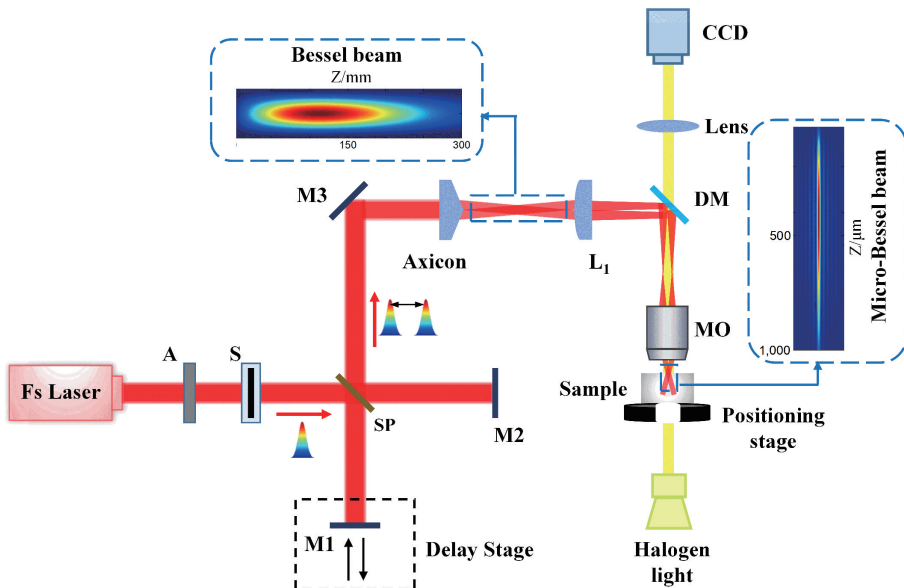


图 13 时域整形飞秒激光贝塞尔光束产生装置示意图^[78]

Fig. 13 Schematic of the setup for temporally shaped femtosecond laser Bessel beam fabrication^[78]

产生方法和空域整形方法相结合的方式进行。因此,关于利用分立的超快激光时空域协同整形制造功能性微结构的报道较少,还需要开展进一步的探索研究。

除了在时空域对超快激光进行分立的协同整形,还可以在时空域对超快激光进行耦合的协同整形。

飞秒激光时空聚焦技术(SSTF)能够创建一个脉冲宽度沿传播方向变化的“时间焦点”,只在焦点处获得最短的脉冲宽度^[79],是一种利用单个聚焦物镜即可获得三维各向同性加工分辨率的脉冲整形技术^[80]。该技术的核心是在飞秒激光脉冲进入物镜之前将其光谱成分在空间中分离。如图 14 所示,在聚焦物镜前放置一对平行光栅,利用这对光栅将飞秒激光光谱在空间连续分开,经过聚焦物镜后每束波长不同的脉冲又重新组合成飞秒激光脉冲^[81]。出现时间聚焦是因为光束不同频率成分的空间重叠只发生在焦点周围,导致此时脉冲持续时间最短,峰值强度最高。SSTF 的主要优点是超短脉冲只在焦平面形成,从而将强度分布严格限制在焦点内,抑制了有害的非线性副作用^[82]。在空间和时间上同时汇聚超快激光,有助于提高加工的轴向分辨率^[83]。

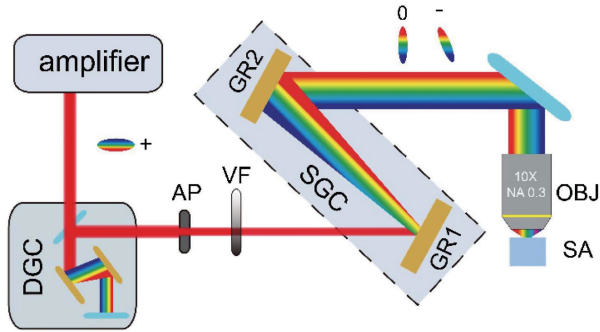


图 14 基于飞秒激光时空聚焦技术的加工装置示意图^[81]

Fig. 14 Schematic of the experimental setup based on spatiotemporal focusing technique of femtosecond laser^[81]

4.2 超快激光时空域协同光束整形在功能性微结构制造中的应用

Wang 等^[78]采用飞秒激光贝塞尔脉冲序列辅助化学刻蚀方法,通过调整脉冲延迟来提高材料的能量沉积效率,从而实现更强的材料改性,在化学刻蚀后获得更高的刻蚀深度。与传统的单脉冲辅助化学刻蚀相比,采用飞秒激光贝塞尔脉冲序列辅助化学刻蚀方法后,材料的刻蚀深度提高了 13 倍。

He 等^[83]从理论和实验上证明了飞秒激光脉冲的时空聚焦可以在焦点处产生三维对称的球面强度分布,并能在石英玻璃中加工出具有圆形截面形状的空心微流体通道,如图 15 所示。该方法亦可用于

制作圆对称光波导。Cheng 等^[84]将涡旋光束整形技术与时空聚焦整形技术相结合,产生飞秒激光时空聚焦涡旋光束,以改善光束穿过玻璃进行传播时的非线性畸变。Doñate-Buendía 等^[85]将时空聚焦概念引入到高纯无配体纳米颗粒的飞秒激光脉冲烧蚀技术中,使得激光释放到靶体内的能量增加了 70%,纳米颗粒的产量增加了 2.4 倍,有效地提升了能量利用率。

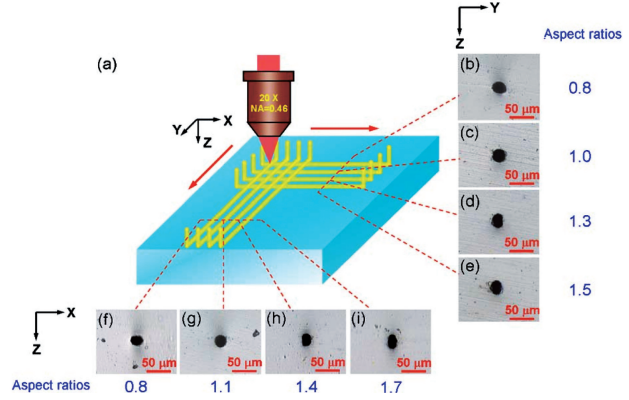


图 15 采用时空聚焦技术加工三维微流体通道^[83]。

(a)装置示意图;(b)~(i)微流体通道截面光学显微图

Fig. 15 3D microfluidic channels fabricated by the temporal focusing technology^[83]. (a) Schematic of the setup; (b)–(i) optical micrographs of cross section of microfluidic channels

5 总结与展望

从传统超快激光光束的特点及其加工局限性出发,介绍了超快激光光束整形技术的基本原理和主要实现途径,并阐述了该技术在功能性微结构制造方面的典型应用和研究进展。

超快激光及其整形技术方兴未艾,该技术极大地提升了功能性微结构制造的多样性、精度及效率。两者的有效结合,促进了大面积、高质量功能性微结构的高效、可控制造,进一步加快了功能性微结构向规模化商用器件发展的进度。但是,光束整形技术也存在一些挑战,如整形器件耐光损伤能力的限制削弱了其可加工能力、复杂整形系统自身误差影响了加工精度、光束整形的超快激光与材料相互作用机理需要进一步完善等。这些问题和挑战还需要研究者的进一步攻克。

面向功能性微器件的小型化、集成化设计及其规模化制造的需求,超快激光整形制造技术在其中的应用也将更加广泛,并向适应于高分辨率加工、跨尺度加工、三维加工和高效率加工的方向发展。

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Principle and Method of Ultrafast Laser Beam Shaping and Its Application in Functional Microstructure Fabrication

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Abstract

Significance As manufacturing quality requirements for functional microstructures increase, ultrafast laser micro/nanomanufacturing has brought new challenges related to high processing efficiency, cross-scale processing, and selective or controllable processing, etc. The limitations of the spatial and temporal energy distribution of traditional ultrafast laser Gaussian beams and processing methods based on single-point focus scanning make it difficult to meet the latest manufacturing accuracy, efficiency, and cross-scale processing requirements. Therefore, researchers focus their attention on manufacturing methods based on ultrafast laser beam shaping.

Progress Laser beam shaping can be divided into two types: spatial beam shaping and temporal beam shaping.

Spatial beam shaping refers to tailoring the distribution of laser energy in the space domain, whereas, temporal beam shaping refers to changing the distribution of laser energy in the time domain. Compared with a traditional Gaussian beam, a shaped beam has new spatial and temporal energy distribution, which can meet the manufacturing requirements of specific structures or applications.

By shaping the spatial profile of an ultrafast laser beam, the fabrication of microstructures with various shapes can be directly realized on exposure to single or multiple laser pulses. Common laser shaping methods include the spatial light modulator method (Figs. 1–3), lens array method (Fig. 4), and beam superposition method. Based on spatial beam shaping, the processing methods such as ultrafast laser direct writing, induction, and deposition can be used for the one-step fabrication of special spatial profile microstructures (Figs. 5 and 6), high aspect ratio microstructures, and optimized processing of microchannels, microstructure arrays (Fig. 7), and laser-induced or -deposited microstructures. By spatial beam shaping, the application range of an ultrafast laser in the manufacturing of functional microstructures can be expanded, the efficiency and precision of which can be improved.

Temporal beam shaping transforms a conventional ultrafast pulse into a pulse sequence (Figs. 8 and 9). Each pulse sequence contains several subpulses with a time interval from a femtosecond to a picosecond range. The energy ratio between each subpulse can be derived. Temporal beam shaping can control electronic dynamics during laser-material interactions, which has a wide range of applications in the manufacturing of microchannels (Fig. 10), laser-induced periodic surface structures, nanoparticles (Fig. 11), nanostructures (Fig. 12), and thin films.

To further improve the quality and efficiency of ultrafast laser processing, it is necessary to perform the coordinated shaping of ultrafast lasers in the time and space domains. On the one hand, spatial and temporal beam shaping can be performed separately in one optical path by combining double pulses and a Bessel beam (Fig. 13). On the other hand, it is possible to tailor an ultrafast laser in the spatiotemporal domain for coupling shaping by the simultaneous spatial and temporal focusing technology (Fig. 14). Cooperative shaping can considerably improve laser energy deposition efficiency and the three-dimensional symmetry of the intensity distribution of a laser beam focus (Fig. 15).

Conclusion and Prospect The ultrafast laser beam shaping technology has the potential to greatly improve the variety, precision, and efficiency of functional microstructure manufacturing. A combination of the ultrafast laser beam shaping technology and microfabrication promotes the efficient and controllable manufacturing of large-area, high-quality functional microstructures, which accelerates the development of commercial scale-forming devices based on the microstructures. However, there are still some challenges with the ultrafast laser beam shaping technology. For example, the laser damage resistance of a shaping device weakens its processing ability, error of the complex shaping system affects its processing accuracy, and interaction mechanism between the shaped ultrafast laser beam and material to be processed is not fully known. These problems and challenges need to be overcome in the future.

Facing the need for the miniaturization, integrated design, and large-scale manufacturing of functional microdevices, the ultrafast laser beam shaping manufacturing technology can be highly suitable for high-resolution, cross-scale, three-dimensional, and high-efficiency processing.

Key words laser optics; ultrafast laser; pulse shaping; functional microstructure; efficient manufacturing

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