

基于光热技术的氧化钇透明陶瓷缺陷特性研究

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摘要 针对氧化钇透明陶瓷在制备过程中产生的气孔、杂质等缺陷难以实现量化无损检测、评估的问题, 本研究团队提出了基于光热透镜效应的扫描成像测量方法, 建立了氧化钇透明陶瓷表面和体内不同区域的光热吸收信号与气孔、杂质等缺陷之间的关联。根据吸收幅值的统计分布特征, 采用以 $E+3\sigma$ (E 和 σ 分别为吸收的平均值和标准差) 为阈值对扫描图像进行分割的方法来表征缺陷的分布。与光学显微镜观测等方法相比, 该方法具有灵敏度高、可准确表征缺陷的吸收等优点, 可以为缺陷对材料吸收特性和热学特性的影响提供评判依据, 进一步为氧化钇透明陶瓷制备工艺的改进提供重要支撑。

关键词 材料; 氧化钇透明陶瓷; 缺陷; 光热扫描成像; 光学吸收

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1 引言

氧化钇(Y_2O_3)透明陶瓷具有熔点高、化学稳定性好、光学透明范围宽(230 nm~8.0 μm)、红外透过率高、声子能量低和热导率高等优点^[1-3], 在高温红外窗口材料、球罩、红外探测器、发光介质、激光器和半导体等方面都具有重大的应用价值^[4-5]。目前, 制备 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的方法主要包括粉体技术和烧结技术, 其中, 粉体技术包括沉淀法、溶胶-凝胶法、低温燃烧法等, 烧结技术包括热压烧结、热等静压烧结、真空烧结和氢气氛烧结等^[6-9]。在制备过程中, 由于加工工艺的限制, Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的晶界上和晶界内都可能形成微小气孔, 无法达到完全致密。用于制备透明陶瓷的粉体原料中含有的杂质以及为提高陶瓷烧结活性而掺入的不同于基质的其他物质在晶界间形成的杂质相都会成为光散射中心, 导致陶瓷的透过率下降, 呈现出不透明或半透明现象^[10]。气孔和杂质的存在不仅会显著降低 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的光学透过率, 还会产生较大吸收, 降低陶瓷的力学性能和热学性能, 导致其在高温、高速强冲击的极端环境下发生破

碎和失效等。因此, 对 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷中的气孔杂质等缺陷进行测量表征具有重要意义。

用于表征陶瓷中气孔、杂质和非主晶相等缺陷的方法主要有光学显微镜观察、扫描电子显微镜(SEM)观察、电子分析天平称量、X 射线层析成像和超声检测等。在白光照明下, 采用光学显微镜对规定体积内气孔的数量和尺寸进行记录, 可以定量测得气孔率, 但不同研究人员采用不同计量方法得到的气孔率差异较大^[11]。采用扫描电子显微镜可以直接观察气孔的大小、形状和分布等情况, 分辨率可达 1 nm, 景深大, 但只可检测横断面, 无法检测内部不开孔的气孔。基于电子分析天平称量可以计算出表观密度和真密度之比, 从而计算出气孔率^[12], 但这仅是在宏观上评判气孔数量的多少, 不能得到气孔分布等信息。X 射线层析成像检测技术需要对一个断面反复拍摄, 进而重构三维图像, 检测效率低且成本高昂。超声检测对分层、气孔密度、裂纹和焊缝等缺陷较为敏感, 可以精确检测陶瓷表面和内部缺陷的位置和尺寸, 但激光脉冲与超声波能量转换效率不够高, 导致信号强度较低^[13]。上述方法虽然可以从宏观或微观上对气孔等

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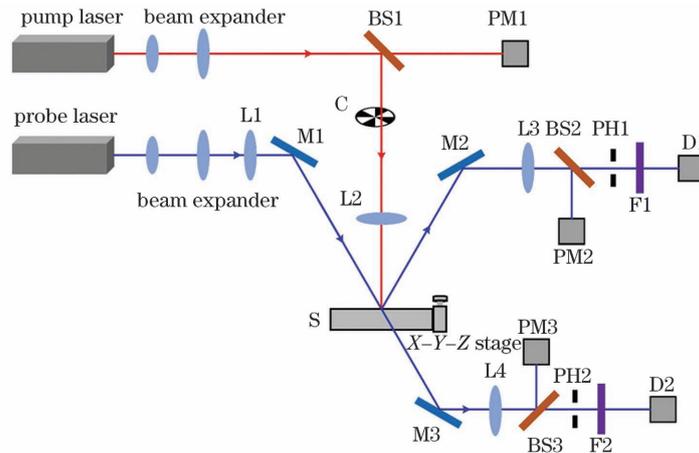
缺陷的形貌进行观测,但无法测得缺陷的吸收特性,也不能探测视觉成像不可见但存在吸收异常的缺陷,且部分方法对体内缺陷进行观测时会导致样品损坏。近年来,基于光热效应的光热透镜技术被广泛应用于薄膜、光学玻璃等弱吸收固体材料的吸收特性检测和缺陷探测上。在强泵浦光激发下,材料表面或体内会产生热形变,用探测光可以测量吸收引起的热形变。该技术的探测灵敏度较高,可达到 0.1×10^{-6} ,能够准确表征缺陷的吸收特性,而且具备非接触、无损测量等优点。Bertussi 等^[14]利用光热测量装置实现了光学元件中纳米金颗粒吸收异常的探测。张兴鑫^[15]使用光热透镜技术在泵浦激光波长为 $3.8 \mu\text{m}$ 、空间分辨率为 $40 \mu\text{m}$ 的条件下对镀膜光学元件的表面质量进行了表征。

Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷中缺陷的吸收特性对其光学和热力学特性具有显著影响,但到目前为止,还没有关于 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷中气孔、杂质等缺陷吸收特性的公开报道。鉴于此,本研究团队采用光热透镜技术研究 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷中缺陷的吸收特性,即:采用高灵敏度反射式和透射式一体化光热透镜技术对 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的表面吸收分布和体内吸收分布进行测量,获得表面和体内的吸收分布扫描图像,然后通过数理统计分析确定图像的分割阈值,最终得到了缺陷分布。

2 测量原理

基于光热透镜原理的表面吸收和体内吸收测

量装置如图 1 所示。泵浦激光波长为 1064 nm ,激光器(最大输出功率 10 W)发出的连续光经过扩束后被分束器 BS1 分成两束,其中的一束被功率计 PM1 接收,用于监测泵浦激光的稳定性,另一束则经过斩波器 C 调制和透镜 L2 聚焦后垂直入射到样品表面或体内。在聚焦强泵浦激光辐照加热下,焦斑位置处材料的温度场发生变化,诱导局部折射率变化,形成“热包”。探测光波长为 633 nm ,功率约为 1 mW 。探测光经扩束后被透镜 L1 聚焦斜入射(与泵浦光的夹角约为 30°)到样品表面或体内,与泵浦激光焦点位置重叠。在泵浦激光焦斑位置,探测光的半径大于泵浦光的光斑半径。系统的探测模式包括反射探测和透射探测两种模式。反射探测模式用于测量样品表面的吸收,探测光被表面“热包”调制后,反射光被分束器 BS2 分成两束,其中一束透射光的中心部分通过针孔 PH1 和带通滤光片 F1 后被光电探测器 D1 接收,另一束被功率计 PM2 接收,用于监控探测激光的功率。透射模式用于测量样品体内不同层的吸收,探测激光被体内的热形变调制,透射光被分束器 BS3 分成两束,其中透射光斑的中心部分通过针孔 PH2 和带通滤光片 F2 后被光电探测器 D2 接收,而反射光束被功率计 PM3 接收,用于监控探测激光的功率。带通滤光片 F1 和 F2 的中心波长均为 633 nm ,带宽均为 10 nm ,用于滤除泵浦激光产生的杂散光。实验中,泵浦激光聚焦光斑的直径为 $20 \mu\text{m}$ 。



BS1–BS3: beam splitters; C: chopper; L1–L4: lenses; M1–M3: mirrors; PM1–PM3: power meters; PH1–PH2: pinholes; F1–F2: band-pass filters; D1–D2: photodetectors; S: sample

图 1 光热扫描成像装置示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic of photothermal scanning imaging device

光电探测器 D1 和 D2 接收的探测信号分别输入到锁相放大器中,斩波器产生的参考信号同步输入到锁相放大器中,锁相放大器解调后输出信号幅值。信

号幅值 S_{STL} 与样品测试区域的吸收关系为^[16]

$$S_{\text{STL}} = \frac{I_{\text{probe}} - I_{\text{probe0}}}{I_{\text{probe0}}} = CAI_{\text{pump}}, \quad (1)$$

式中: I_{probe} 为反射探测光斑中心的平均光强; I_{probe0} 为无热包时的光强; A 为吸收率; I_{pump} 为泵浦光功率; C 为常数, 相同实验条件下的 C 值相同。(1) 式表明测试区域的吸收率与锁相放大器解调出的信号幅值成正比。利用已知吸收率的标准样品进行标定, 即可确定 C 值。

为实现对样品表面和体内吸收分布的面扫描成像测量, 将样品置于 X-Y-Z 三维电动位移平台上 (X 向和 Y 向导轨用于控制样品按光栅扫描路线运动, 实现二维测量; Z 向导轨控制样品沿泵浦激光光轴方向移动), 并使泵浦激光聚焦在样品表面和体内的不同位置, 以便实现对表面和体内吸收的测量。

3 样品准备

Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的尺寸为 $50\text{ mm} \times 35\text{ mm} \times 3.5\text{ mm}$ 。使用氧化铈抛光液对透明陶瓷的

$50\text{ mm} \times 35\text{ mm}$ 的通光面进行双面抛光。透明陶瓷的成分采用 X 射线荧光光谱仪 (XRF) 进行测试, 测试结果如图 2(a) 所示, 图 2(b) 为局部放大结果。 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的主要化学成分为 O、Y 和 Zr, 另外还含有微量 Fe、Cu、W 和 Cr。采用扫描电子显微镜得到的 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的表面形貌如图 3(a) 所示, 图 3(b) 是将方框区域放大后的结果, 可以看出该透明陶瓷表面含有气孔, 同文献[5]的结果类似。采用 New view 7600 光学轮廓仪测量 Y_2O_3 陶瓷的表面粗糙度, 单次测量口径为 $1\text{ mm} \times 1\text{ mm}$, 测量结果如图 4(a) 所示, 表面粗糙度 R_q 的均方根为 1.3 nm 。图 4(b) 为利用 Lambda 1050 分光光度计测量的 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的透过率, 可见, 透过率会随着波长的增大而逐渐增大。在透明陶瓷样品中, 如果缺陷浓度较高, 就会在短波区域出现很强的散射损耗^[10]。

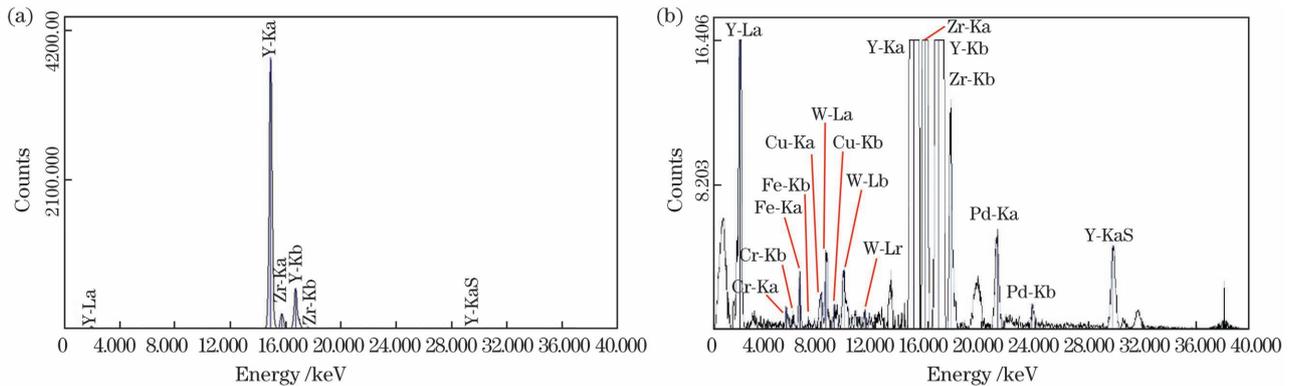


图 2 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷 X 射线荧光光谱的测试结果。(a) 测试结果; (b) 局部放大结果

Fig. 2 Measured X-ray fluorescence spectrum of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics. (a) Measured spectrum; (b) partially enlarged spectrum

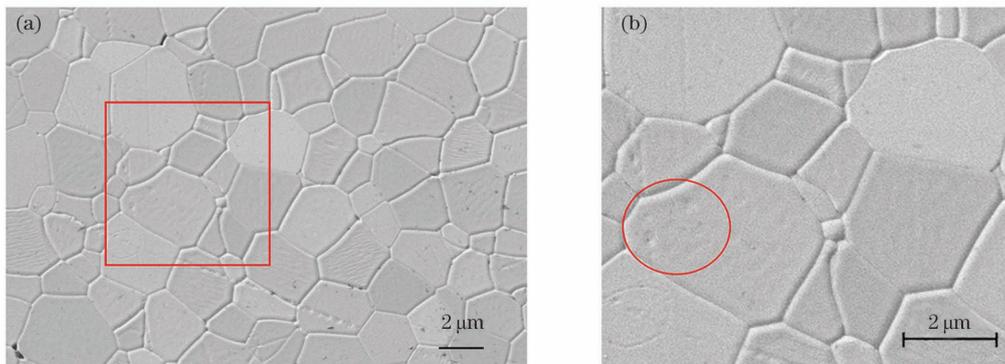


图 3 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的表面形貌。(a) 表面形貌; (b) 方框区域的局部放大结果

Fig. 3 Surface images of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics. (a) Surface image; (b) partially enlarged image of the box area

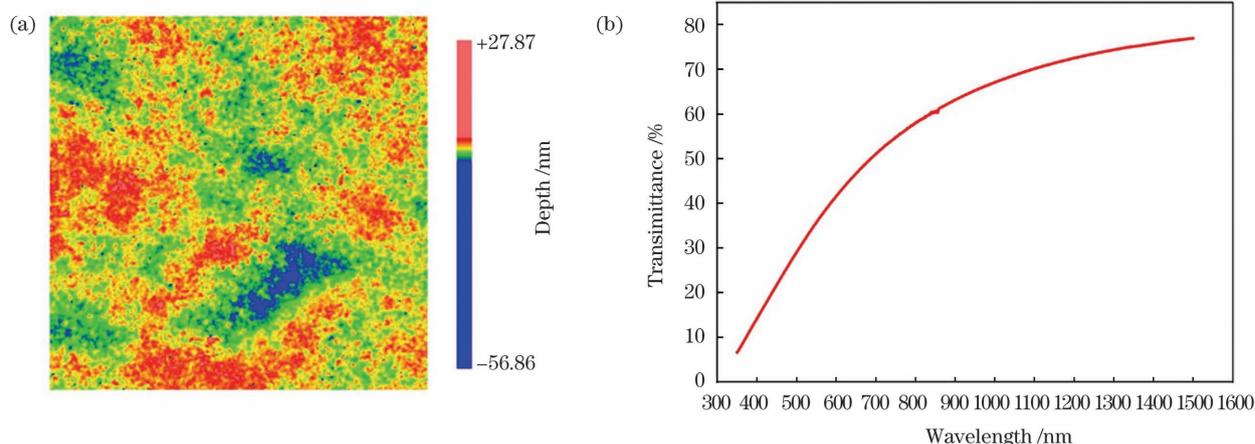


图 4 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷的表征。(a) 表面粗糙度;(b) 透射率

Fig. 4 Characterization of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics. (a) Surface roughness; (b) transmittance

4 结果与讨论

4.1 光热扫描成像装置的测量稳定性

光热扫描成像装置的稳定性对测量结果的准确性具有直接影响。本文对高质量熔石英玻璃表面和体内的吸收进行了多次重复测量,测量结果如图 5 所示。计算吸收的平均值和标准差,以标准差与平均值的比值表示系统测量的重复性,重复性的计算结果如表 1 所示。表面吸收测量(反射式)的重复性为 3.30%,体内吸收测量(透射式)的重复性为 4.07%。

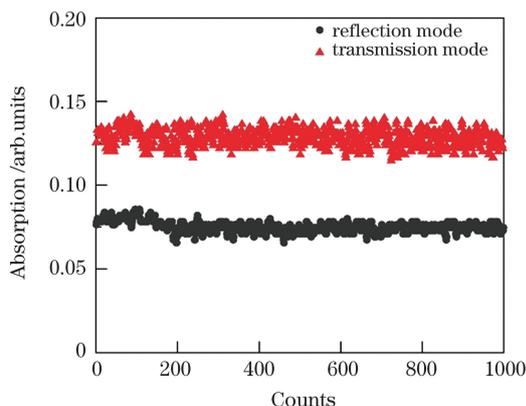


图 5 在反射式和透射式下测得的吸收幅值

Fig. 5 Measured absorption at reflection and transmission modes

表 1 反射式和透射式下吸收幅值的重复性测量结果
Table 1 Repeatability measurement results of absorption at reflection and transmission modes

Mode	Average absorption /arb. units	Standard deviation /arb. units	Repeatability /%
Reflection	0.0724	0.0024	3.31
Transmission	0.1283	0.0052	4.05

4.2 光热测量结果与光学显微测量结果的对比

图 6 为光热扫描成像系统测量结果与光学显微镜观测结果的对比。图 6(a)为光学显微镜观察结果,显微镜放大倍率为 100,图中包含一个尺寸约为 $200 \mu m \times 150 \mu m$ 的缺陷标记物。图 6(b)为光热扫描测量结果,测量范围为 $4 mm \times 4 mm$,分辨率为 $200 pixel \times 200 pixel$ 。整体吸收的平均值为 $E=0.15$,缺陷区域吸收的平均值约为 0.59,缺陷位置的吸收幅值远高于 Y_2O_3 陶瓷的本征吸收,与文献[10]报道的结果一致。除了缺陷标记物显示出了高的吸收幅值外,图 6(b)中也显示出了较多的点状吸收高值,而这些点在图 6(a)所示的光学显微图像中无法观察到,这说明光热扫描测量技术具有高灵敏度,扫描图像具有高对比度。标准差 $\sigma=0.12$,用标准差与平均值之比来表征测量区域的吸收不均匀性,则不均匀程度可达 80%,远大于系统的测量重复性($<5\%$)。图 6(c)为图 6(b)的吸收统计分布图,插图为放大的部分高吸收幅值区域的统计结果。可见,吸收幅值主要集中在低吸收平均幅值附近,是陶瓷材料的本征吸收。利用正态分布函数对低吸收幅值的分布进行拟合,拟合结果如图 6(c)中的黑线所示,陶瓷本征吸收基本都位于 $E \pm 3\sigma$ 区间内。在拟合曲线外存在较多的吸收幅值高点,这是由陶瓷表面和内部存在的气孔、杂质等缺陷引起的。

为了更清晰地获得图 6(b)中缺陷的分布图像,根据 Y_2O_3 陶瓷的本征吸收统计分布特征和缺陷吸收特征,以 $E+3\sigma$ 为分割阈值,对光热扫描图像进行二值化,二值化结果如图 6(d)所示,缺陷所占比例为 4.67%。

4.3 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷吸收分布的测量结果

图 7(a)~(c)为 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷不同区域表面吸收的测量结果,测量范围为 $4 mm \times 4 mm$,分辨率为 $200 pixel \times 200 pixel$;图 7(d)~(f)是对应

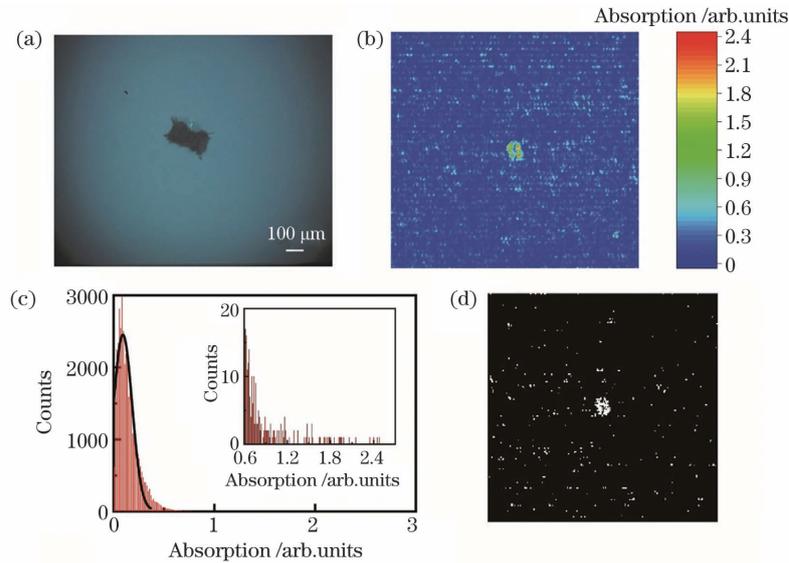


图 6 陶瓷表面同一区域的对比。(a) 光学显微镜观测图像；(b) 光热扫描图；(c) 光热扫描图的统计，插图为部分高吸收幅值区域的统计；(d) 光热扫描结果的二值化图像

Fig. 6 Comparison of the same area on ceramics surface. (a) Image acquired by optical microscope; (b) scanning image obtained with photothermal scanning method; (c) absorption statistics of photothermal scanning image, the illustration shows statistics of some areas with high absorption value; (d) binarized photothermal scanning image

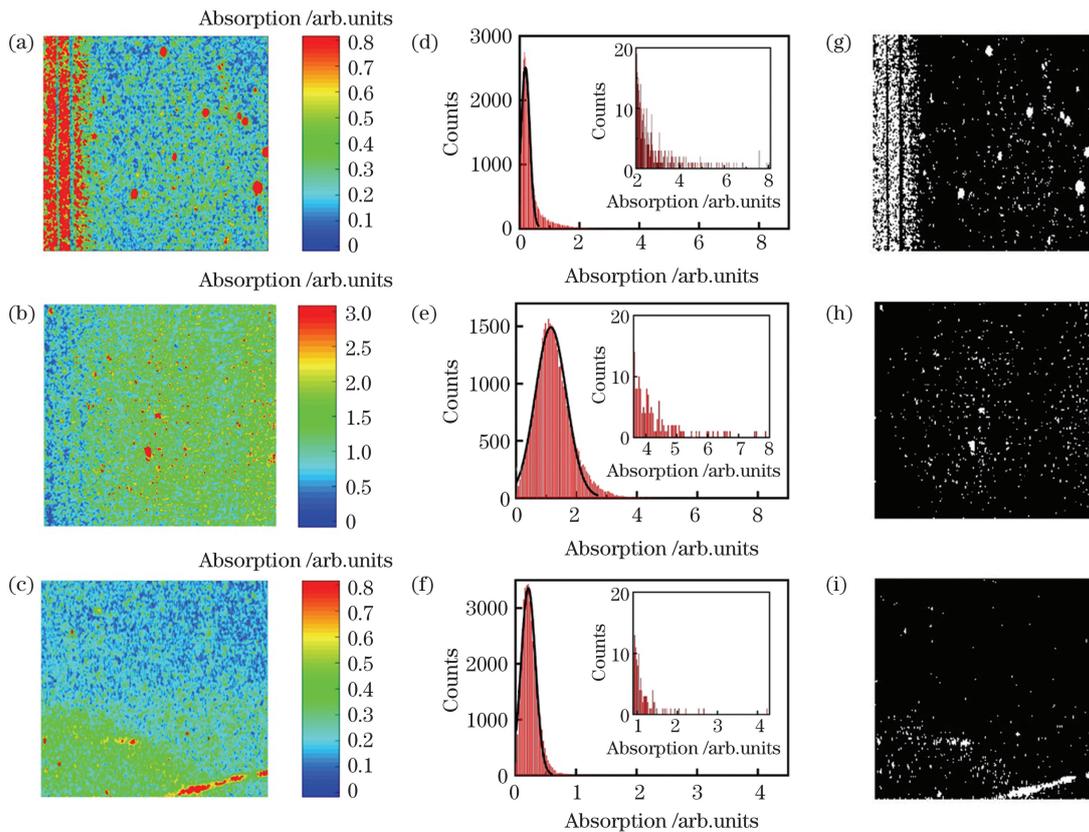


图 7 陶瓷表面吸收的测量结果。(a)~(c) 不同区域的吸收图像；(d)~(f) 不同区域吸收幅值的统计分布，插图为部分高吸收幅值区域的吸收统计；(g)~(i) 二值化结果

Fig. 7 Measured absorption of ceramics surface. (a)~(c) Measured absorption images of different areas; (d)~(f) statistical distributions of absorption value of different areas, the illustrations show the absorption statistics of some areas with high absorption value; (g)~(i) the corresponding binarization images

于图 7(a)~(c)的吸收幅值的统计分布图。表面的吸收统计结果如表 2 所示,区域 1~3 的吸收的平均值分别为 0.36、1.26 和 0.25,表明样品不同区域的吸收差异大。以标准差与平均值之比表示每一个测量区域内的不均匀程度,则区域 1~3 的不均匀性分别为 113.83%、48.88%和 57.57%。利用正态分布函数对低吸收幅值进行拟合,拟合结果如图 7(d)~(f)中的

黑色曲线所示。以 $E + 3\sigma$ 为阈值将图像二值化,二值化结果如图 7(g)~(i)所示,其中:图中白色部分为高吸收幅值区域,所占比例分别为 13.61%、3.06%和 2.24%;点状区域是由陶瓷表层的气孔或杂质等缺陷引起的,条状区域可能是由表面划痕引起的。

图 8 为 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷体内吸收的测量结果,其中,图 8(a)、(b)为区域 1 不同深度处体内吸收的

表 2 陶瓷表面吸收的统计分析

Table 2 Statistical analysis of absorption of ceramics surface

Area	Average absorption / arb. units	Standard deviation / arb. units	Degree of unevenness / %	Percentage of defective points / %
1	0.36	0.41	113.83	13.61
2	1.26	0.62	48.88	3.06
3	0.25	0.14	57.57	2.24

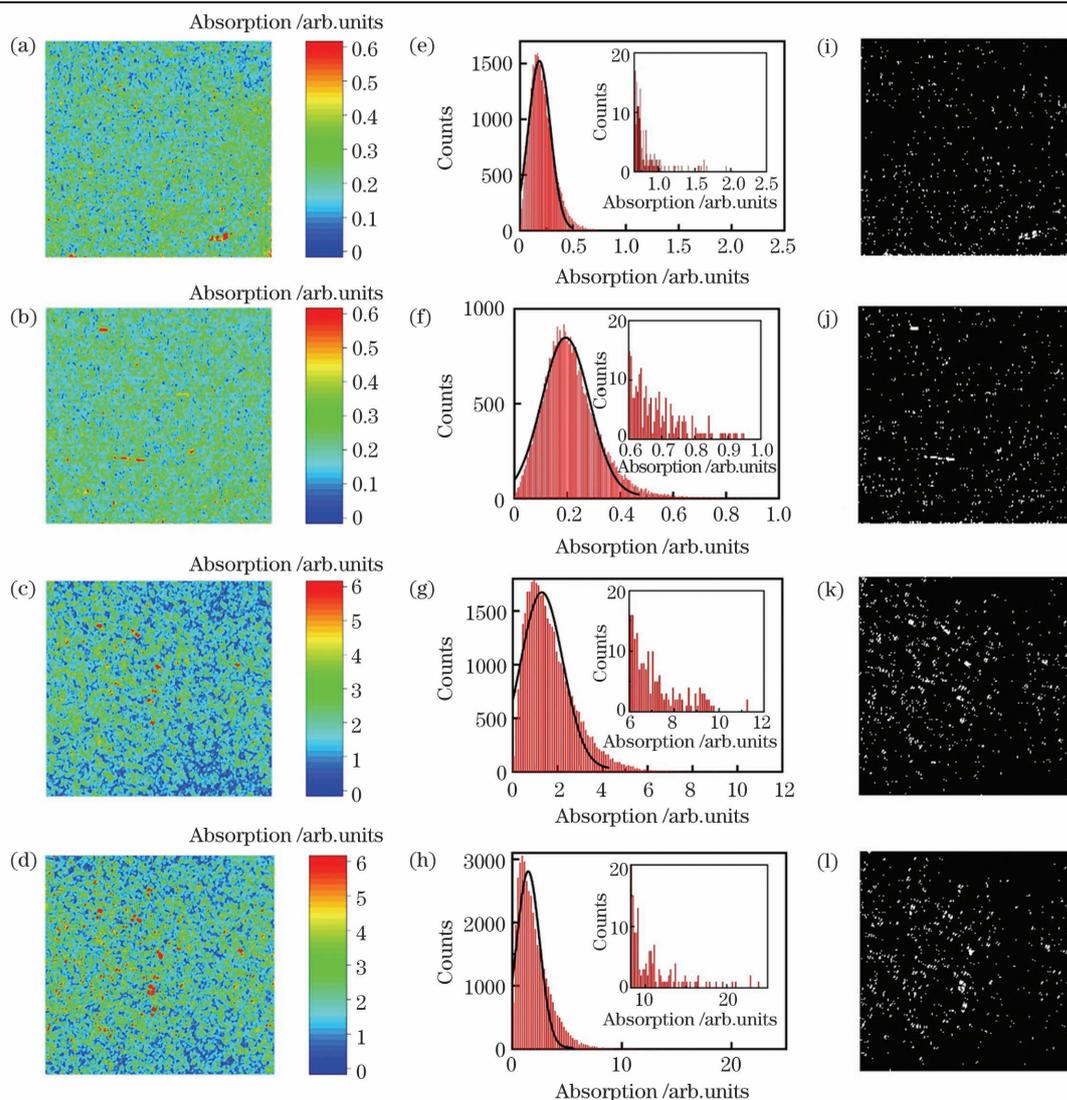


图 8 陶瓷体内吸收的测量结果。(a)~(d)不同区域的吸收图像;(e)~(h)不同区域吸收幅值的统计分布,插图为部分高吸收幅值区域的吸收统计;(i)~(l)二值化结果

Fig. 8 Measured absorption images of ceramics interior. (a)~(d) Absorption images of different areas; (e)~(h) statistical distributions of absorption value of different areas, the illustrations show the absorption statistics of some areas with high absorption value; (i)~(l) the corresponding binarization images

测量结果,图 8(c)、(d)为区域 2 不同深度处体内吸收的测量结果。每个测量区域的尺寸均为 $4\text{ mm} \times 4\text{ mm}$,分辨率均为 $200\text{ pixel} \times 200\text{ pixel}$,深度间隔为 1 mm 。泵浦光与探测光的夹角为 30° ,两个聚焦光斑在深度方向的重叠长度约为数十微米,斩波器的斩波频率为 185 Hz ,陶瓷的热扩散长度约为数十微米,重叠深度和热扩散长度均远小于纵向测量间隔(1 mm)。因此,相邻层的缺陷吸收测量不会相互影响。图 8(e)~(h)是对应图 8(a)~(d)的吸收统计分布图,统计结果如表 3 所示。区域 1 不同深度下吸收的不均匀程度分别为 56.11% 和 49.49% ,区域 2 不同深度下吸收的不均匀程度分别为 66.61%

表 3 陶瓷体内弱吸收的统计分析

Table 3 Statistical analysis of weak absorption of ceramics interior

Area	Depth /mm	Average absorption / arb. units	Standard deviation / arb. units	Degree of unevenness /%	Percentage of defective points /%
1	1	0.21	0.12	56.11	2.44
	2	0.22	0.11	49.49	2.51
2	1	1.71	1.14	66.61	3.25
	2	1.99	1.51	75.83	2.84

5 结 论

本研究团队采用高灵敏反射式和透射式光热扫描成像技术对 Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷中的气孔、杂质等缺陷进行了无损测量。结果表明,陶瓷表面和体内缺陷的吸收幅值明显高于陶瓷的本征吸收幅值,表面和体内缺陷引起的吸收不均匀性基本都在 50% 以上。表面和体内吸收幅值的统计结果表明低的本征吸收分布为近高斯型。根据统计特征,以 $E+3\sigma$ 为阈值对图像进行分割,确定了缺陷分布。根据二值化图像计算得到的缺陷面积占比约为 3% 。陶瓷表面由于受加工的影响,吸收幅值和缺陷面积占比高于无加工影响区域。本研究建立了吸收和缺陷的关联,实现了表面和内部缺陷的精准定位,对于陶瓷的制备工艺改进具有重要意义。进一步的图像处理可以实现对气孔杂质与划痕的区分,更准确地表征气孔率。通过调整光斑束腰半径的大小可以进一步提高分辨率,更准确地将吸收幅值图像与气孔位置对应。

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和 75.83% 。以 $E+3\sigma$ 为分割阈值的二值化结果如图 8(i)~(l)所示,缺陷所占比例分别为 2.44% 、 2.51% 、 3.25% 和 2.84% ,体内没有类似表面的条状高吸收幅值区域,表明体内基本上只存在小尺寸的气孔和杂质等缺陷。

Y_2O_3 透明陶瓷表面和体内的吸收测量结果表明,高吸收幅值区域所占比例为 3% 左右,表面划痕较多时,高吸收幅值区域的占比可达 10% 以上。高吸收幅值区域所占比例越高,缺陷的尺寸越大、数量越多。综上,基于光热扫描成像技术可以建立吸收信号与陶瓷缺陷之间的联系,实现对缺陷的高灵敏度测量以及对样品吸收不均匀性的定性评估。

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Defects Characteristics of Y_2O_3 Transparent Ceramics Based on Photothermal Technique

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Abstract

Objective Yttrium oxide (Y_2O_3) transparent ceramics have the advantages of high melting point, good chemical stability, wide optical transparency (230 nm – 8.0 μm), high infrared transmittance, low phonon energy, and high thermal conductivity. They have great application value in high-temperature infrared windows, domes, infrared detectors, luminescent media, lasers, and semiconductor industries. During the preparation process, due to the limitation of the processing technology, tiny pores may be formed on and in the grain boundaries of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics, which causes the ceramics cannot achieve complete density. The pores and impurities significantly reduce the optical transmittance of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics and produce large absorption, reducing the ceramics' mechanical and thermal properties, leading to their breakage and failure in extreme environments with high temperatures, high speed, and strong impact. Therefore, it is important to measure and characterize defects, such as pore impurities, in Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics. Although, methods such as an optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, electronic analytical balance, X-ray tomography, and ultrasonic testing can observe the morphology of pores and other defects from the macro or micro levels, they cannot measure the absorption

characteristics of defects or detect defects that are not visible in visual imaging but have abnormal absorption. When examining faults in the body, several approaches may cause sample damage. Thermal lens technology based on the photothermal effect is frequently used to identify absorption properties and defects in weakly absorbing solid materials, such as thin films and optical glass. The materials will exhibit thermal deformation on the surface or body when they are excited by a powerful pump light. The thermal lens technology can measure thermal deformation as a result of light absorption. This method has a high detection sensitivity, can precisely evaluate defect absorption properties, and offers a noncontact and nondestructive assessment.

Methods Build surface absorption and in-body absorption measurement devices based on the principle of photothermal and thermal lenses. After the pump laser is modulated by the chopper and focused by the lens, it is incident perpendicular to the surface or the body of the sample after being modulated by the chopper and focused by the lens. The temperature field of the material at the focal spot changes, causing local refractive index variations to produce a “heat slope”. After the beam is extended, the lens focuses the probe light obliquely into the sample surface or body, overlapping the focal position of the pump laser. First, the cerium oxide polishing liquid is used to polish the transparent surface of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics on both sides and an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer is used to measure the main components. Thereafter, a scanning electron microscope is used to measure the ceramic surface morphology, an optical profiler is used to measure the surface roughness, and a spectrophotometer is used to measure transmittance. Then, the built photothermal measurement device is used to measure the stability, contrast, and absorbance scan results.

Results and Discussions It is verified that the absorption stability of the photothermal measurement system on the surface and in the body is less than 5% using fused silica glass. Comparing the photothermal measurement results with the same area of Y_2O_3 transparent ceramics using an optical microscope, the unevenness can reach 80%, indicating that the photothermal measurement system can characterize sample defects. According to the statistical characteristics, the average value plus three times the standard deviation ($E + 3\sigma$) is used as the segmentation threshold. The images are binarized to indicate the location of the defect (Fig. 6). The scanning measurement of absorption in the different areas of the Y_2O_3 transparent ceramic surface shows that the absorption of different sample areas have large differences, a high degree of unevenness, and defects such as scratches (Fig. 7). Y_2O_3 transparent ceramic body absorption measurement results show that there are only small-sized pores and impurities in the body, and the proportion of defects is about 3% (Fig. 8). As a result, using photothermal scanning imaging technology, a link between the absorption signal and ceramic defect may be created, allowing for high-sensitivity detection of the defect and the evaluation of the unevenness of the sample absorption.

Conclusions The experimental results show that the absorption amplitude of surface and internal defects is significantly higher than the intrinsic absorption amplitude of ceramics, and the absorption unevenness caused by surface and internal defects is basically above 50%. The statistical distribution of absorption amplitudes on the surface and in the body shows that the low intrinsic absorption distribution is nearly Gaussian. The image is segmented using $E + 3\sigma$ as the threshold to determine the defect distribution area according to the statistical characteristics. According to the calculation of the binarized image, the defect area accounts for about 3%. Due to the influence of processing, the absorption amplitude and the proportion of defect area on the ceramic surface are higher than the area without processing influence. The experimental results establish the relationship between absorption and defects and realize the precise positioning of surface and internal defects, which is of great significance in improving the ceramic preparation process.

Key words materials; yttrium oxide transparent ceramics; defects; photothermal scanning imaging; optical absorption

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