

## 偏振及角度不敏感类电磁诱导透明超材料研究

吕宇玲, 延凤平\*, 杜雪梅, 王伟

北京交通大学光波技术研究所全光网络与现代通信网教育部重点实验室, 北京 100044

**摘要** 研究了一种由十字形石墨烯图案和 4L 形石墨烯图案构成且对偏振及角度不敏感的一类电磁诱导透明超材料结构, 而图案的对称性会导致该超材料结构在太赫兹波段表现出优异的偏振不敏感特性。结果表明, 在横电 (TE) 偏振和横磁 (TM) 偏振的条件下, 当太赫兹波的人射角度在  $0^\circ \sim 60^\circ$  之间变化时, 透射峰的强度均可保持在 0.75 以上, 表现出良好的人射角不敏感特性。通过对拆分结构的透射谱、谐振频率处电场强度及表面电流分布进行分析, 研究类电磁诱导透明效应产生的物理机制, 进一步分析谐振单元的长度对类电磁诱导透明窗口的影响。结果表明, 该超材料结构在太赫兹波段具有明显的慢光效应和较高的折射率灵敏度。通过改变石墨烯的费米能级可以同时透明窗口、群延时及折射率灵敏度进行调控, 该性质在光缓存器件和传感器领域有重要的应用价值。

**关键词** 材料; 超材料; 类电磁诱导透明; 太赫兹; 石墨烯; 偏振及角度不敏感

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### 1 引言

太赫兹波 (0.1~10.0 THz) 介于微波与红外波之间, 由于其在频谱中的位置具有特殊性, 所以在医学成像、无线宽带通信和宇宙天文学等领域具有较高的应用价值<sup>[1-2]</sup>。但是, 目前能够与太赫兹波完全响应的光电器件相对较少, 这使得在太赫兹波段下对于器件或设备的研究成为一个热门的研究方向。超材料是由自然材料组合而成的人工复合材料, 其可以呈现出自然材料所不具有的独特物理性质和化学性质<sup>[3]</sup>。电磁诱导透明 (EIT) 效应是一种原子物理现象, 一般可以在三能级原子系统中观察到, 表现为在一个宽的吸收带中产生一个窄的透射峰<sup>[4-5]</sup>, 该现象伴随产生的慢光效应在光缓存和折射率传感等领域中具有重要的应用价值。然而, 在原子系统中, EIT 效应的产生需要强光泵浦和超低温环境, 实现条件极为困难, 严重阻碍了 EIT 器件的发展。利用超材料实现的 EIT 效应又称类 EIT 效应, 只需两种谐振频率相近的明模或暗模结构相互耦合产生透射峰<sup>[6-7]</sup>。Zhang 等<sup>[8]</sup>在 2008 年由三个金属长条的明暗模式相互干涉形成了类 EIT 效应。此后以不

同结构为基础, 如开环谐振器、金属长条谐振器和渔网状谐振器等<sup>[9-11]</sup>, 实现类 EIT 效应的超材料结构被陆续提出。

目前, 所报道的类 EIT 超材料因具有固定的结构而导致相应的器件只能在单一频段工作, 严重限制了器件的实用性, 所以研究主动可调的太赫兹波段类 EIT 超材料具有重要意义。实现可调类 EIT 超材料的调控方式有温控<sup>[12-14]</sup>、光控<sup>[15-16]</sup>以及电控<sup>[17-18]</sup>等, 其中电控方式由于操作简单和实现条件容易被广泛使用。Fu 等<sup>[19]</sup>提出一种基于明-暗模弱耦合的电可调超材料, 即在开口谐振环的底部间隙处焊接一个变容二极管, 通过施加反向偏置电压来控制类 EIT 超材料的峰值频率。但是在生产过程中增添电可调器件无疑会对制作工艺提出了更高的要求, 造成器件制作困难。石墨烯自发现以来就吸引了众多研究人员的注意力, 其具有独特的电子特性、机械特性和热电特性, 而且电导率能够通过外加偏置电压来动态调节<sup>[20]</sup>。He 等<sup>[21]</sup>提出一种由石墨烯条形谐振器和两个石墨烯方环谐振器组成的超材料结构, 通过调节石墨烯的费米能级实现了对 EIT 峰位置及幅度的主动调控。Zhang 等<sup>[22]</sup>仿真

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通信作者: \*fpyan@bjtu.edu.cn

模拟了一种基于金属-石墨烯的双模主动选择调控 EIT 材料,通过施加外部电压来调节石墨烯的费米能级以影响金属的阻尼系数,从而实现 EIT 峰的主动调控。Shu 等<sup>[23]</sup>设计的超材料结构采用了一种平面互补的石墨烯图案,实现了明-明模式耦合,可在太赫兹波段下实现动态可调的类 EIT 超材料。但是这些超材料结构对入射波的偏振方向及角度十分敏感,甚至在斜入射的情况下透射峰消失。在实际应用中,入射波的偏振方向及角度存在多种可能性,所以对偏振及角度不敏感的超材料器件更加符合实际的应用需求。

本文研究一种基于十字形和 4 个 L 形石墨烯图案的超材料结构,该结构可以在太赫兹波段下实现对偏振和角度不敏感的类 EIT 效应。因为在制备超材料结构的过程中采用了石墨烯材料,所以在避免金属欧姆损耗的同时还可以通过调节石墨烯的费米能级来实现对类 EIT 峰值频率的主动调控。接着对该结构在慢光和折射率传感方面的应用进行探究。仿真结果表明,相较于前人的工作,该超材料结构可以呈现出优良的偏振和角度不敏感特性,具有明显的慢光效应和较高的折射率灵敏度。

## 2 类 EIT 超材料结构的研究

### 2.1 对偏振及角度不敏感的类 EIT 超材料结构

图 1 为基于石墨烯图案的超材料结构,包括一个十字形和 4 个 L 形石墨烯谐振单元,基底为光敏聚合物。其中基底的厚度  $t = 3 \mu\text{m}$ ,介电常数  $\epsilon = 4.41$ ,损耗正切角  $\tan \delta = 0.0004$ ,单元周期  $P = 10 \mu\text{m}$ ,十字形石墨烯谐振单元的长度  $L = 9.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,宽度  $w_1 = 1 \mu\text{m}$ ,L 形谐振单元的长度  $l = 3.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,宽度  $w_2 = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,L 形谐振单元与十字形谐振单元之间的距离  $d = 1.5 \mu\text{m}$ 。

石墨烯的表面电导率<sup>[24]</sup>为

$$\sigma(\omega) = \sigma_{\text{intra}}(\omega) + \sigma_{\text{inter}}(\omega), \quad (1)$$

式中: $\sigma_{\text{intra}}$  为带间电导率; $\sigma_{\text{inter}}$  为带内电导率; $\omega$  为角频率。 $\sigma_{\text{intra}}$  和  $\sigma_{\text{inter}}$  分别表示为

$$\sigma_{\text{intra}}(\omega) = j \frac{e^2 k_B T}{\pi \hbar^2 (\omega + j\tau^{-1})} \left\{ \frac{E_F}{k_B T} + 2 \ln \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{E_F}{k_B T}\right) + 1 \right] \right\}, \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma_{\text{inter}}(\omega) = j \frac{e^2}{4\pi \hbar} \ln \left[ \frac{2E_F - (\omega + j\tau^{-1}) \hbar}{2E_F + (\omega + j\tau^{-1}) \hbar} \right], \quad (3)$$

式中: $e$  为电子电量; $\hbar$  为约化普朗克常数; $k_B$  为玻尔兹曼常数; $T$  为温度; $\tau$  为弛豫时间; $E_F$  为石墨烯

的费米能级。在太赫兹频段,当石墨烯的费米能级  $E_F$  远大于  $k_B T$  时,可忽略带内跃迁,所以石墨烯的电导率常用 Drude 模型<sup>[25-26]</sup>近似为

$$\sigma(\omega) \approx \sigma_{\text{intra}}(\omega) = j \frac{e^2 E_F}{\pi \hbar^2 (\omega + j\tau^{-1})}. \quad (4)$$

本文设置石墨烯的初始费米能级  $E_F = 0.5 \text{ eV}$ ,  $\tau = 2.5 \text{ ps}$ , 温度  $T = 300 \text{ K}$ 。石墨烯的介电常数<sup>[27-28]</sup>为

$$\epsilon(\omega) = 1 + j \frac{\sigma}{t_g \omega \epsilon_0}, \quad (5)$$

式中: $t_g$  为石墨烯的厚度, $t_g = 1 \text{ nm}$ ; $\epsilon_0$  为真空的介电常数。在结构的  $x$  方向和  $y$  方向上设置周期性边界条件,假设太赫兹波垂直照射到结构表面,使用基于有限元方法的 CST Microwave Studio 频域求解器对结构进行数值仿真。

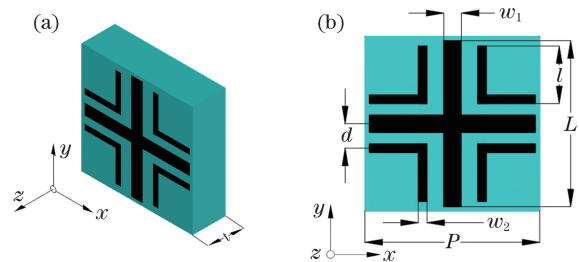


图 1 类 EIT 超材料的结构示意图。(a) 三维图;(b) 正视图  
Fig. 1 Schematic of structure of EIT-like metamaterial.  
(a) Three-dimensional diagram; (b) front view

### 2.2 仿真结果分析

仿真计算得到 4L 形结构、十字形结构及完整结构的透射谱如图 2 所示。4L 形结构和十字形结构的透射谱线如图 2 的虚线和点线所示,可以看出两个结构分别在 2.19 THz 和 1.81 THz 的频率附近产生透射谷。图 2 的实线为完整结构对入射波产生的响应,可以看出该结构在 1.75 THz 和 2.18 THz

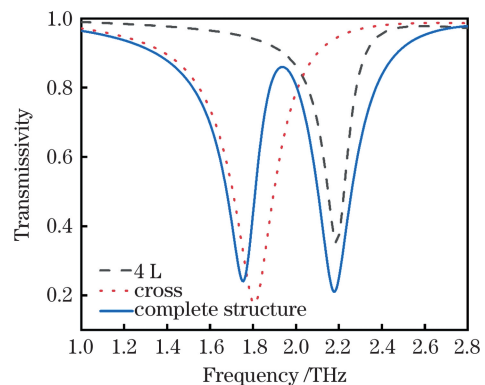


图 2 十字形结构、4L 形结构及完整结构的透射谱  
Fig. 2 Transmission spectra of cross structure, 4L structure and complete structure

的频率处产生透射谷,而在 1.94 THz 的频率处产生透射峰。两个谐振单元的谐振频率与完整结构的两个谐振频率十分接近,完整结构的透射峰处于两个谐振频率之间,这是由两个被入射波激发的模式之间的弱耦合形成的。因此,4L 形谐振单元和十字形谐振单元均可被入射波直接激发而形成明模式,即两个明模之间相互耦合形成的透明窗口。

为了更好地理解类 EIT 效应产生的物理机制,在谐振频率处绘制了电场强度分布图和表面电流图,如图 3 所示。从图 3(a)可以看到,在 1.75 THz 频率附近的透射谷处,只有十字形谐振单元受外电场强烈激发,而 4L 形谐振单元受到的激发较弱。在谐振频率为 2.18 THz 处,电场集中分布在 4L 形谐振单元的两端,而十字形谐振单元水平两端的电

场较弱,如图 3(c)所示。图 3(b)为 1.94 THz 谐振频率处的电场强度分布,此时十字形谐振单元和 4L 形谐振单元都受到外电场的激发,两者之间的弱耦合导致了透明窗口的产生,并且频率的失谐使透射峰值处的电场强度比两个透射谷处的电场弱。从图 3(d)可以看到,在十字形谐振单元的水平部分,表面电流呈单向运动,两端出现了强电场聚集的现象,因此在该结构表面发生了电偶极子谐振。从图 3(f)可以看到,在 4L 形谐振单元的臂上产生了电流,从整体上看其是从右至左的单向运动,即可将该结构产生的谐振看作电偶极子谐振。从图 3(e)可以看到,在透射峰处观察到十字形谐振单元和 4L 形谐振单元同时被激发,因此由两个明亮模式的弱耦合产生的相消干涉导致了透明窗口的产生。

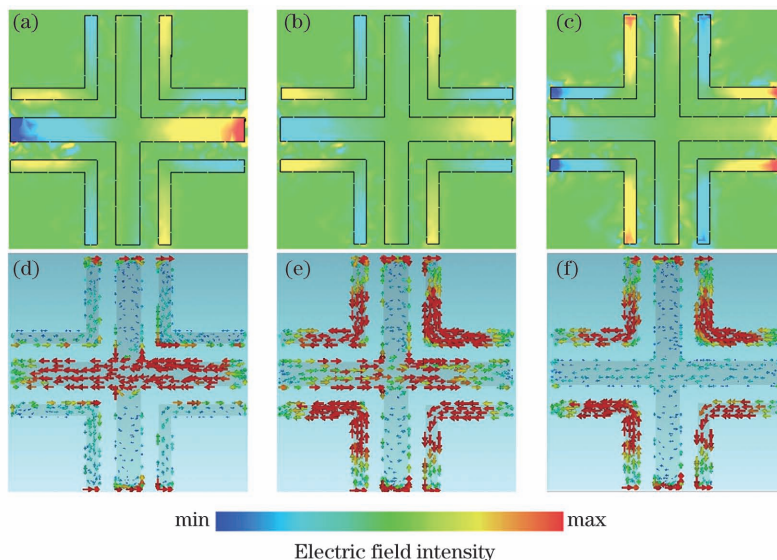


图 3 谐振频率处类 EIT 超材料的电场强度及表面电流分布。(a) 1.75 THz 处的电场强度分布;(b) 1.94 THz 处的电场强度分布;(c) 2.18 THz 处的电场强度分布;(d) 1.75 THz 处的表面电流分布;(e) 1.94 THz 处的表面电流分布;(f) 2.18 THz 处的表面电流分布

Fig. 3 Electric field intensity and surface current distribution of EIT-like metamaterials at resonant frequencies. (a) Electric field intensity distribution at 1.75 THz; (b) electric field intensity distribution at 1.94 THz; (c) electric field intensity distribution at 2.18 THz; (d) surface current distribution at 1.75 THz; (e) surface current distribution at 1.94 THz; (f) surface current distribution at 2.18 THz

### 3 结构参数与特性分析

#### 3.1 4L 形谐振单元的长度

当改变单独的 4L 形谐振单元和完整超材料结构中 4L 形谐振单元的长度  $l$  时,所得的透射谱如图 4(a)和图 4(b)所示。从图 4(a)和图 4(b)可以看到,随着  $l$  的增加,谐振峰发生了红移,对应完整结构中高频处的透射谷发生了红移,而低频处的透射谷基本没有变化,进一步证明了高频处的透射谷是由 4L 形谐振单元与入射波发生作用形成的,所以

可以通过调节 4L 形结构的长度来控制高频透射谷的位置。透明窗口随着  $l$  的增加向低频移动,并且透射峰的谐振强度随着  $l$  的增加呈现出逐渐降低的趋势,当  $l = 3.5 \mu\text{m}$  时,透射峰的谐振强度可达 0.85 以上。

#### 3.2 十字形谐振单元的长度

当改变单独的十字形谐振单元和完整超材料结构中十字形谐振单元的长度  $L$  时,对应的透射谱如图 5(a)和图 5(b)所示。从图 5(a)和图 5(b)可以看到,单独的十字形谐振单元的谐振峰随着长度的增

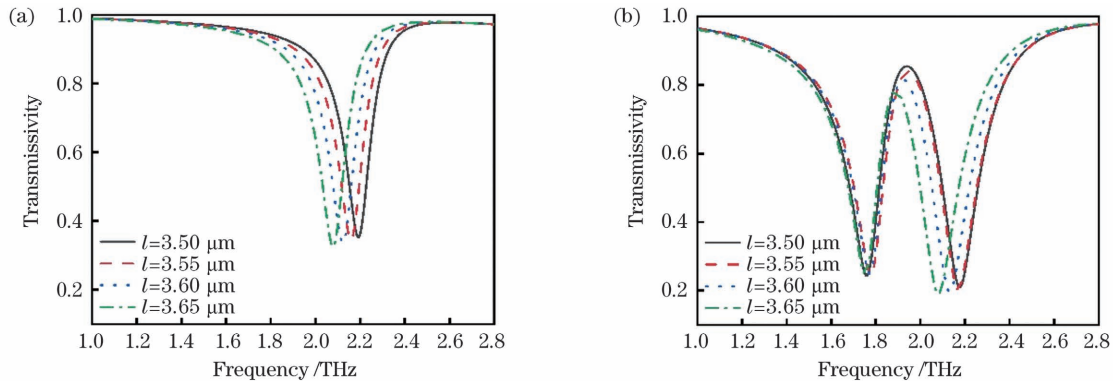


图 4 不同  $l$  值下 4L 形谐振单元和完整超材料结构的透射谱。(a) 4L 形谐振单元的透射谱;(b)完整超材料结构的透射谱  
Fig. 4 Transmission spectra of 4L resonant element and complete metamaterial structure at different  $l$  values.

(a) Transmission spectra of 4L resonant element; (b) transmission spectra of complete metamaterial structure

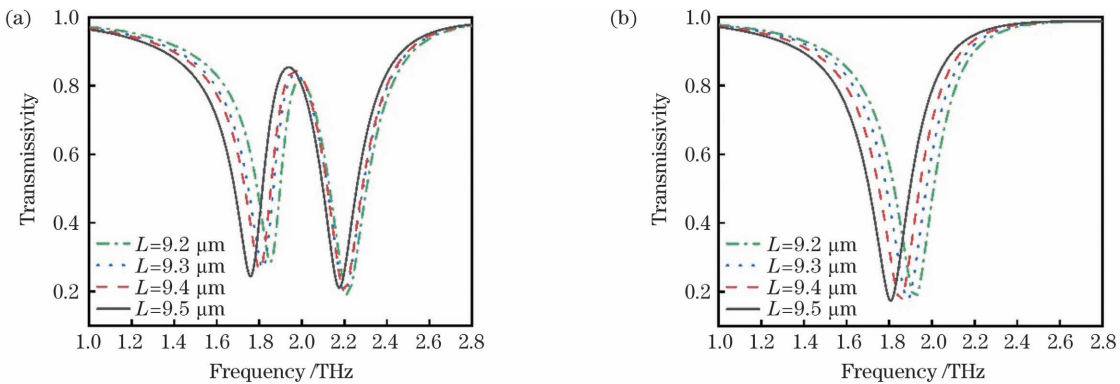


图 5 不同  $L$  值下十字形谐振单元和完整超材料结构的透射谱。(a)十字形谐振单元的透射谱;(b)完整超材料结构的透射谱  
Fig. 5 Transmission spectra of cross resonant element and complete metamaterial structure at different  $L$  values.

(a) Transmission spectra of cross resonant element; (b) transmission spectra of complete metamaterial structure

大发生了红移,对应完整超材料结构的低透射振谷发生了红移,进一步说明了低频透射谷是由十字形谐振单元与入射波作用形成,因此可以通过调节十字形单元的长度来控制低频透射谷的位置。同时,当  $L$  增加时,透射谱表现出透射峰呈小幅度红移,谐振强度也有对应的增大。

### 3.3 十字形谐振单元和 4L 谐振单元之间的距离

为了研究十字形谐振单元和 4L 形谐振单元之间的距离对透明窗口的影响,绘制了不同距离  $d$  下透射谱和峰值处的电场强度分布,如图 6 所示。当  $d$  从  $1.4 \mu\text{m}$  变化至  $1.6 \mu\text{m}$  时,透射峰所对应的谐振频率  $f$  分别为  $1.935, 1.940, 1.970 \text{ THz}$ ,如图 6(a)所示。图 6(b)为透射峰处的电场强度分布,可以看出透明窗口的的位置变化极小,并且对应的电场强度分布十分相似,因此不同距离  $d$  下的透射谱呈现出极小的差异。综上可以说明,本文所研究的超材料结构具有较好的容错性,实际生产制造中的工艺差异对超材料结构的性能影响较小。

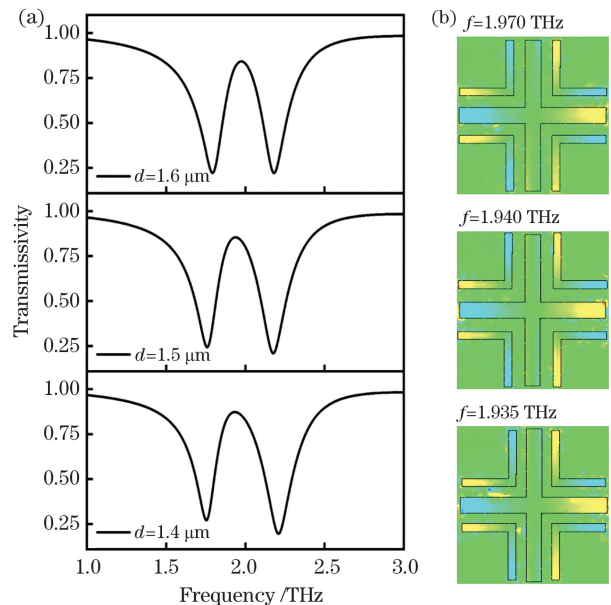


图 6 不同距离下的透射谱及透射峰处的电场强度分布。(a)透射谱;(b)透射峰处的电场强度分布  
Fig. 6 Transmission spectra at different distances and electric field intensity distribution at transmission peak.

(a) Transmission spectra; (b) electric field intensity distribution at transmission peak

### 3.4 可调特性

石墨烯在超材料结构中的广泛应用得益于其调谐特性,石墨烯的费米能级  $E_F = \hbar v_F \sqrt{\pi n_s}$ <sup>[29]</sup>,其中  $v_F$  为费米速度,  $n_s$  为载流子的掺杂浓度,其与外加偏置电压成正比,即调节外加偏置电压可以控制石墨烯的费米能级,从而影响石墨烯的介电常数,最终影响结构的谐振特性。通过改变石墨烯的费米能级可以得到不同的透射谱,如图 7 所示。从图 7 可以看到,随着石墨烯费米能级的增大,透射窗口发生了蓝移。

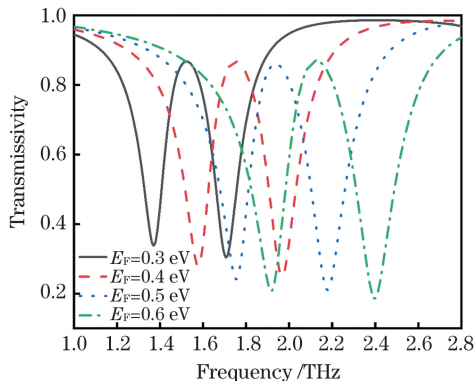


图 7 不同费米能级下类 EIT 超材料结构的透射谱

Fig. 7 Transmission spectra of EIT-like metamaterial structure at different Fermi levels

定义调频深度  $f_{\text{mod}} = \Delta f / f_{\text{max}}$ <sup>[21]</sup> 和调幅深度  $T'_{\text{mod}} = \Delta T' / T'_{\text{max}}$ <sup>[30-31]</sup>,在 0.3~0.6 eV 的电压之间,透明窗口从 1.52 THz 附近移动到了 2.13 THz 附近,相应的调频深度约为 0.286,其中  $\Delta f$  为频移量,  $f_{\text{max}}$  为最大频率,  $\Delta T'$  为幅移量,  $T'_{\text{max}}$  为最大幅度。当石墨烯的费米能级从 0.4 eV 变化到 0.5 eV 时,在相同的谐振频率处,原来的谐振峰处出现了透射谷,对应的调幅深度最大可达 0.724。本文所设计的结构在 0.3~0.6 eV 的电压之间有明显的频移,对应较大的调频深度,并且如果进一步调高费米能级,调频深度将进一步增加。若将谐振频率处的透射率幅值设为 1 或 0,则可将该结构作为太赫兹频段的光开关或者调制器。如在 2.18 THz 附近,当费米能级为 0.3 eV 时,透射率约为 1,而当费米能级为 0.5 eV 时,透射率约为 0;在 2.4 THz 附近,当费米能级从 0.4 eV 调到 0.6 eV 时,也可实现类似“开”和“关”或“1”和“0”码调制,所以通过调节费米能级就可以在多个频段实现光的开关和调制功能。

### 3.5 偏振及角度不敏感特性

由于类 EIT 超材料结构在  $x$ - $y$  平面上具有对称性,所以在正入射的情况下,超材料结构对不同偏

振方向的响应基本相同,如图 8 所示,其中三角形线和圆点线分别代表所研究的超材料结构对横电 (TE) 偏振和横磁 (TM) 偏振入射波的响应。从图 8 可以看到,当 TE 偏振和 TM 偏振的入射波垂直入射时,透射谱基本相同。将类 EIT 超材料结构的偏振不敏感性与文献[32]进行对比,结果如表 1 所示。从表 1 可以看到,本文研究的超材料结构所采用的石墨烯图案在  $x$  方向和  $y$  方向上具有对称性,而文献[32]所采用的狄拉克半金属图案在  $x$  方向和  $y$  方向上不具有对称性,当入射波正入射时,其偏振角度范围为  $0^\circ \sim 45^\circ$ ,而本文研究的超材料结构的偏振角度范围可从 TE 偏振变化至 TM 偏振,即偏振角度为  $0^\circ \sim 90^\circ$ ,所以本文研究的超材料结构的偏振不敏感特性更好。

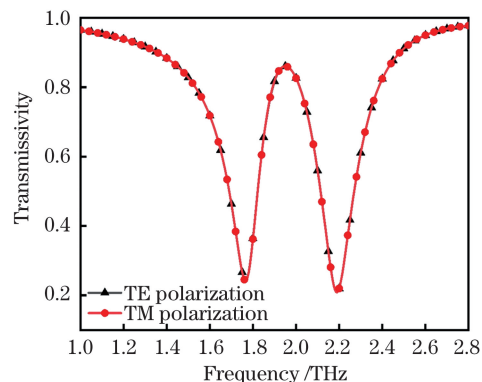


图 8 TE 偏振及 TM 偏振下类 EIT 超材料结构的透射谱

Fig. 8 Transmission spectra of EIT-like metamaterial structures with TE polarization and TM polarization

表 1 不同超材料结构的偏振不敏感性

Table 1 Polarization insensitivity of different metamaterial structures

Structure	Ref. [32]	This work
EIT-like metamaterials type	Dirac semimetal films	Graphene
Symmetry type	Fourfold symmetry	$x$ - $y$ symmetry
Polarization angle / ( $^\circ$ )	0-45	0-90

当入射波斜入射时,偏振方向可能会影响类 EIT 效应,图 9(a) 和图 9(b) 分别为在 TE 偏振和 TM 偏振下不同入射角度的透射谱。从图 9 可以看到,无论入射波是 TE 偏振还是 TM 偏振,当入射角度小于  $60^\circ$  时,透射谱均未出现较大的变化,透射峰的强度均可保持在 0.75 以上;当入射角度大于  $60^\circ$  时,在 TE 偏振的条件下,透射峰的强度下降较快,而在 TM 偏振的条件下,透射峰的强度下降较慢;当入射角度扩大到  $80^\circ$  时,在 TM 偏振模式下透射

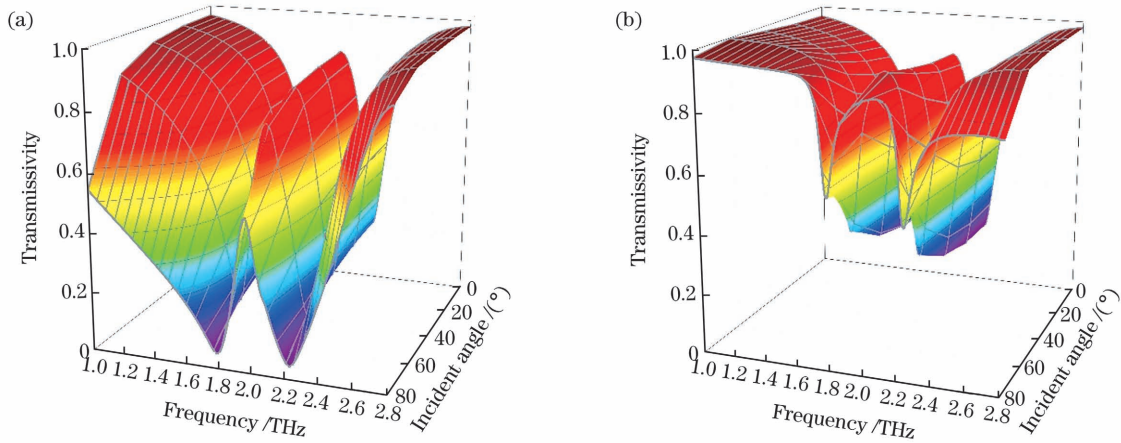


图 9 不同入射角度下的透射谱。(a)TE 偏振;(b)TM 偏振

Fig. 9 Transmission spectra at different incidence angles. (a) TE polarization; (b) TM polarization

峰的强度仍能达到 0.89 以上。综上,当入射波斜入射时,所研究的超材料结构具有很好的角度不敏感性,非常有希望作为全向的类 EIT 器件。

## 4 应用分析

### 4.1 慢光效应

EIT 超材料伴随产生的慢光效应在许多应用场合中都具有重要的应用价值,该效应是由 EIT 窗口的强烈色散导致的。群时延  $t_g^* = -d\varphi/d\omega$ <sup>[33]</sup>, 其中  $\varphi$  为相位,  $\omega = 2\pi f$ 。不同费米能级对应的相位

变化及群时延如图 10 所示。从图 10 可以看到,透明窗口处的相位发生急剧变化,透射窗口附近出现了色散现象,强色散在透射谱线中引起了较大的群速率延迟,即慢光效应。此外,从图 10 可以看到,当费米能级从 0.3 eV 调至 0.6 eV 时,群时延发生了频移,并伴有幅度和线宽的变化,所以可以通过调节费米能级来实现对群时延的控制。当石墨烯的费米能级为 0.5 eV 时,透明窗口附近的群速率延迟时间可达到 0.81 ps,对应自由空间上的传输距离 (243  $\mu\text{m}$ ) 明显高于文献[34]。

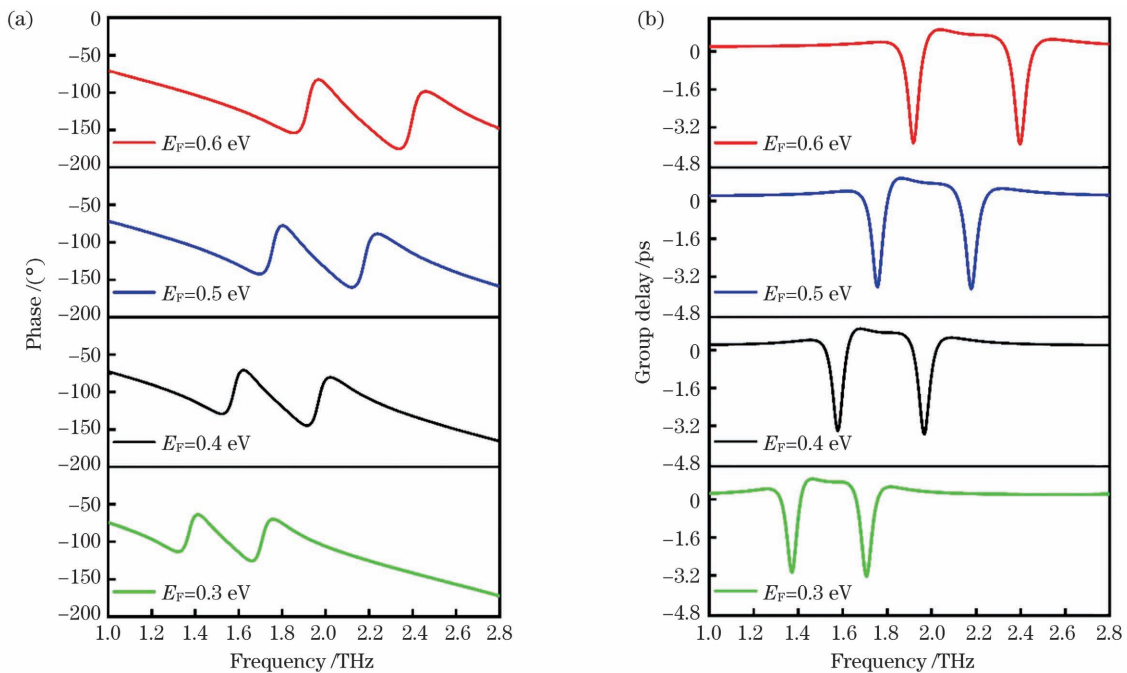


图 10 不同费米能级对应的相位变化及群时延。(a)相位变化;(b)群时延

Fig. 10 Phase change and group delay of different Fermi levels. (a) Phase change; (b) group delay

### 4.2 折射率传感

EIT 效应一般由两种耦合方式产生,即明-明模

和明-暗模<sup>[35-37]</sup>。当外界的折射率发生变化时,模式耦合的频率就会发生相应的移动,所以 EIT 效应在

折射率传感方面也具有重要的应用价值,本文研究的类 EIT 超材料结构同样具备折射率传感的潜力。

在谐振单元表面涂覆一层约  $3 \mu\text{m}$  厚的待测物,定义其折射率灵敏度  $S = \Delta f / \Delta n$ ,单位为 GHz/RIU,表示单位折射率变化  $\Delta n$  所引起的频移量  $\Delta f$ 。在费米能级为  $0.5 \text{ eV}$  的条件下,改变待测物的折射率来观察透射峰的变化,仿真结果如图 11(a)所示。从图 11(a)可以看到,随着折射率的增大,透射峰发生了红移,折射率灵敏度可达  $395 \text{ GHz/RIU}$ 。表 2 比较了几种由不同材料构成的类 EIT 超材料的折射率灵敏度。从表 2 可以看到,相较于其他材料<sup>[38-41]</sup>,本文所研究的基于石墨烯材料的类 EIT 超材料结构具有更高的折射率灵敏度。本文所研究的超材料结构还具有折射率灵敏度可调性,如图 11(b)所示。在  $0.3 \sim 0.6 \text{ eV}$  的费米能级之间,灵

敏度可从  $293 \text{ GHz/RIU}$  调到  $411 \text{ GHz/RIU}$ ,说明基于石墨烯材料的类 EIT 超材料结构在折射率传感应用领域具有巨大的优势。

表 2 其他类 EIT 超材料及本文研究的类 EIT 超材料的灵敏度比较

Table 2 Comparison of sensitivity of other EIT-like metamaterials and EIT-like metamaterials studied in this paper

Structure	EIT-like metamaterial type	Refractive index sensitivity / (GHz·RIU <sup>-1</sup> )
Ref. [38]	Copper	51.18
Ref. [39]	Silver	60.69
Ref. [40]	Gold	61.00
Ref. [41]	Silicon	231.00
This work	Graphene	395.00

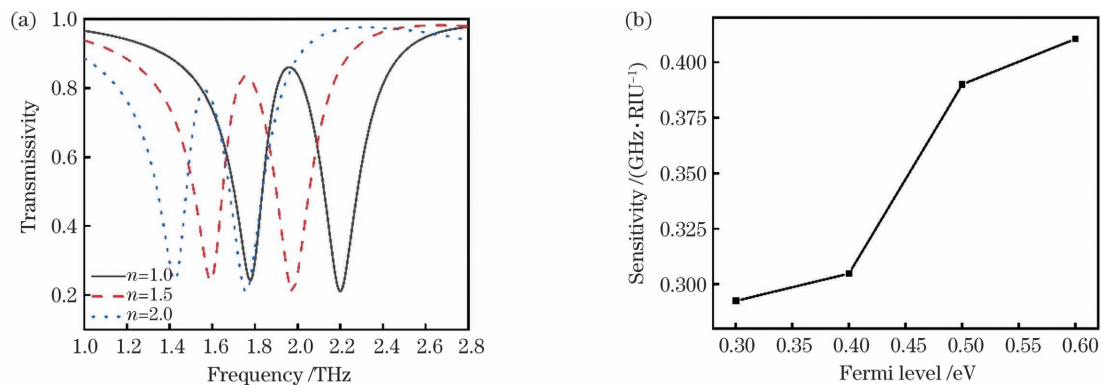


图 11 类 EIT 超材料在不同折射率下的透射谱及折射率灵敏度变化图。(a)不同折射率下的透射谱;(b)不同费米能级下的折射率灵敏度

Fig. 11 Transmission spectra and refractive index sensitivity of EIT-like metamaterial under different refractive indexes.

(a) Transmission spectra under different refractive indices; (b) refractive index sensitivity at different Fermi levels

## 5 结 论

本文所研究的超材料是由十字形石墨烯谐振单元和 4L 形石墨烯谐振单元构成,该材料通过明-明模干涉在太赫兹波段实现了类 EIT 效应,图案的对称性导致了超材料对入射波的偏振方向不敏感。当入射波斜入射时,该超材料结构对入射角度也极其不敏感。通过调节几何参数来讨论其对透明窗口的影响。调节石墨烯材料的费米能级,实现了  $0.286$  的调频深度和  $0.724$  的调幅深度,说明基于石墨烯材料的类 EIT 超材料结构的调控能力较强。此外,该超材料结构具有明显的慢光效应和较高的折射率传感灵敏度,同时可以主动调控群时延和折射率灵敏度,其更加符合实际应用需求。

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# Polarization- and Angle-Insensitive Electromagnetically Induced Transparency-Like Metamaterial

Lü Yuling, Yan Fengping\*, Du Xuemei, Wang Wei

*Key Laboratory of All Optical Network and Advanced Telecommunication Network, Ministry of Education, Institute of Lightwave Technology, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing 100044, China*

## Abstract

**Objective** The quantum coherent effect of electromagnetic induced transparency (EIT) is characterized by a narrow transmission peak in a broad absorption band. This phenomenon is associated with the slow light effect, which can be used in optical buffering, refractive index sensing, and other applications. And the development of the EIT effect has been limited due to the extremely difficult implementation conditions. Metamaterials are artificial composite materials made from natural materials with unique physical and chemical properties that natural materials do not have. Adjusting the resonant frequency of bright and dark modes to make them resonant at a close frequency and then combining them to produce an atom-like electromagnetic induced transparency phenomenon is how EIT-like behavior in metamaterial is generally realized. However, in some reported research, the passive modulation method is used in EIT-like metamaterial, which greatly limits the application of related devices. Therefore, studying EIT-like metamaterials in the terahertz band under active regulation is an important research topic.

Electronic control is now widely used due to its simple operating conditions. In general, electronic control can be achieved by incorporating electrically adjustable devices, such as variograms and other electrically tunable materials. The reported graphene structures are typically polarization- and incident-angle-sensitive, with the transmission peak disappearing under oblique incidence. Because of numerous possibilities for the polarization direction and angle of the incident wave in practical applications, polarization- and angle-insensitive metamaterial devices are more suitable for application requirements. The proposed structure shows excellent characteristics, such as polarization-independence, incident angle-insensitivity, obvious slow light effect, and high refractive index sensitivity.

**Methods** A novel polarization- and angle-insensitive metamaterial structure based on the cross and 4L-shaped graphene is designed. CST Microwave Studio software is used to run all numerical simulations. By splitting the structure and analyzing the surface current and electric field distributions at different frequencies, the physical mechanism is discussed. The effect of geometric parameters, such as cross and 4L-shaped graphene lengths on a transparent window are investigated. Finally, the characteristics of the proposed structure, such as polarization- and angle-insensitivity, tunability, slow light effect, and refractive index sensitivity are studied.

**Results and Discussions** The structure, which consists of a cross and four L-shaped graphene resonant units, has an obvious EIT-like effect, with a peak value of more than 0.8 (Fig. 2). The resonant dips of the structure with a single cross or 4L-shaped graphene are observed dips near 1.81 THz and 2.19 THz, respectively. The transparent peak lies between the resonance frequencies of the two isolated resonators (Fig. 2). At the frequency of 1.75 THz, strong electric fields are concentrated at both ends of the horizontal cross, and the surface current moves unidirectionally on the cross graphene (Fig. 3). Therefore, the cross surface experiences electric dipole resonance. The surface current and electric field generated along the arms of the 4L structure are the same at the 2.18 THz resonance frequency, which is also known as dipole resonance (Fig. 3). Both cross and 4L structures can be directly excited by incident waves as bright modes exhibiting electric dipole oscillations for the transmission peak near 1.94 THz. Surface currents are excited on the cross and 4L-shaped graphene structures simultaneously, and the directions are anti-parallel (Fig. 3). As a result of the destructive interference caused by the coupling of the two bright modes, a distinct transparency window is formed.

When it comes to structure parameters, the high-frequency transmission dip has a slight redshift as the length of 4L-shaped graphene increases (Fig. 4). As the length of the cross increases, the low-frequency transmission dip in the transmission spectra is slightly red-shifted (Fig. 5). To investigate the effect of the distance between the cross structure and the 4L structure on the transparent window, transmission spectra, and electric field intensity distributions under the peak at various distances are drawn. The transmission spectra and electric field intensity

distributions show very little difference at different distances. This demonstrates that the metamaterial under consideration in this paper is fault tolerant (Fig. 6). As the Fermi energy of graphene increases, so do the transfer window is blue shifted (Fig. 7). The corresponding frequency modulation depth is approximately 0.286, with the Fermi level varying between 0.3 eV and 0.6 eV. The maximum amplitude modulation depth is 0.724, with graphene has Fermi level ranging from 0.4 eV to 0.5 eV. Because the structure has symmetry, the metamaterial structure proposed in this paper is polarization insensitive (Fig. 8). When the incident angle is less than  $60^\circ$ , there is no significant change in the transmission spectra for both TE polarization and TM polarization. This shows that the structure is insensitive to the incident angle of the incident wave (Fig. 9). When the Fermi level of graphene is 0.5 eV, the maximum delay of the transmission peak is 0.81 ps and can be controlled by tuning the Fermi energy (Fig. 10). The designed structure has a refractive index sensitivity of 395 GHz/RIU, which is obviously higher than many conventional EIT-like structures and can also be regulated by tuning the Fermi level (Fig. 11). Thus, it has great potentials in the field of refractive index sensing applications.

**Conclusions** Finally, this paper investigates metamaterials made up of the cross and 4L-shaped graphene resonant units. Numerical simulations show that bright-bright mode interference produces the EIT-like effect in the terahertz band. The studied metamaterial has great polarization- and angle-insensitivity characteristics. The transmission spectrum does not change significantly when the incident angle is less than  $60^\circ$ , and the transmission peak can be kept above 0.75. By tuning the Fermi level of the graphene, the frequency modulation depth of 0.286 and the amplitude modulation depth of 0.724 are achieved. In addition, the proposed structure has obvious slow light effect and high refractive index sensitivity. Meanwhile, the actively tuned group delay and refractive index sensitivity are achieved by changing the Fermi level of the graphene. These characteristics can be used in many applications, such as modulators, switches, light buffers, and sensors in the terahertz band.

**Key words** materials; metamaterials; electromagnetically induced transparency-like; terahertz; graphene; polarization- and angle-insensitivity

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