

超快激光微孔加工工艺研究进展

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摘要 硬脆和复杂结构材料上的微孔加工是超快激光的主要应用之一。超快激光微孔加工的质量和加工效率受单脉冲能量、频率、脉宽、偏振等光束特性以及加工方式、被加工材料、辅助方式等多个因素的综合影响。不同的工艺参数组合将导致不同的孔圆度、孔锥度、加工缺陷以及侧壁和孔边缘的表面质量,对工艺参数进行研究是超快激光微孔加工的核心问题之一。本文从光束特性、加工及辅助方式、材料特性等方面综述了目前超快激光微孔加工工艺的研究进展,总结并对比了不同研究中对同一工艺参数的研究结果。最后,提出了目前研究存在的不足并展望了今后提升效率和加工质量的方向。

关键词 激光技术; 超快激光; 微孔加工; 工艺参数; 光束特性

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1 引言

直径为数十到数百微米的微孔或微孔阵列应用广泛,放电加工、电化学加工^[1]等传统微细加工手段受效率、材料选择性和精度的限制而无法满足微孔或微孔阵列的加工要求^[2]。超快激光(脉宽 < 10 ps)具有极高的峰值功率,其对材料的去除机理与微秒、纳秒等长脉冲激光不同。对于金属材料而言,自由电子先通过逆韧致辐射效应吸收光子能量,然后通过电子-声子耦合将能量传递至晶格,晶格在 100 ps 的时间尺度上建立热平衡。对于非金属材料而言,部分价带电子通过多光子电离或隧穿电离的方式被激发到导带成为自由电子,这些自由电子作为种子电子通过雪崩电离进一步激发更多的自由电子,造成对激光能量的剧烈吸收^[3-4];之后,能量通过电子-晶格散射传递至晶格,晶格被加热后使得材料在纳秒到微秒的时间量级上发生热相变(熔化、气化)和基于等离子体膨胀的非热相变(库仑爆炸、静电爆炸),从而材料被去除^[5]。由于自由电子和晶格间的热平衡出现在 100 ps 的时间尺度上,而此时激光脉冲作用已结束,所以由激光辐照区到周围的热

传递几乎可以忽略^[6]。特殊的材料去除机理使得超快激光可以加工高温合金、宝石、玻璃等硬脆、难加工材料,同时超快激光还具有热损伤小、非接触加工和效率高的优势,因此成为了近十几年来的研究热点^[7]。超快激光微孔加工的质量和效率取决于工艺参数的选择,而工艺参数会随着材料和深径比的变化而改变。诸多工艺因素的综合影响导致孔圆度、孔锥度、加工缺陷以及孔壁、孔边缘表面质量难以控制^[8],因此,在实际的加工应用中,工艺参数的迭代选择需要进行多次实验,从而限制了超快激光在微孔加工中的应用。为了更加快速地进行参数选择和优化,近年来国内外研究人员通过旋光钻孔、扫描钻孔、脉冲叩击钻孔等不同的加工方式在金属、复合材料等材料上开展了不同脉宽、频率、辅助方式的超快激光微孔加工研究,总结了各工艺因素对微孔加工的影响^[9-11]。各类文献从不同的角度研究了同一工艺因素对孔加工质量的影响,但由于材料和加工方式的差异,导致部分文献之间的结论存在差异。因此,需要系统地进行对比、总结,形成被加工材料、加工方式、光束特性、辅助方式等工艺因素对孔加工质量的一般性影响规律,以促进今后的相关研究。

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2 光束特性对微孔加工的影响

2.1 单脉冲能量、脉宽和频率对微孔加工的影响

超快激光的单脉冲能量和脉宽共同决定了其峰值功率,目前大功率激光器的最大单脉冲能量往往可达到毫焦量级,且可在加工过程中进行调节。在实际加工应用中,单脉冲能量往往根据聚焦后光斑的大小换算为能量密度(J/cm^2),从而与不同材料的去除阈值进行匹配。因此,单脉冲能量是超快激光微孔加工的关键因素之一。单脉冲能量的不同导致每个脉冲的去除厚度不同,继而影响钻孔速度^[12]。Haasler等^[13]在0.4~4 mm厚的4种不同的金属材料(铜、铝、不锈钢、镍)上开展了不同单脉冲能量(125~750 μJ)的钻孔(脉宽为2 ps)研究,并指出:对于铜、铝和镍这三种金属,在单脉冲能量由125 μJ 开始逐渐变大的起始区间,当单脉冲能量增加1倍时,钻孔速度增大100倍,当单脉冲能量增加到一定值(375 μJ)后钻孔速度的变化逐渐趋缓;而

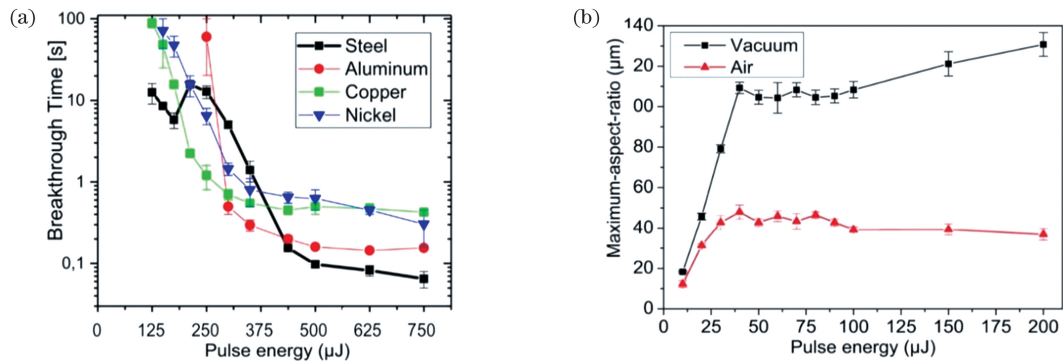


图 1 单脉冲能量对钻孔时间和最大深径比的影响^[13-14]。(a)对钻孔时间的影响^[13];(b)对最大深径比的影响^[14]

Fig. 1 Effects of pulse energy on breakthrough time and maximum aspect ratio^[13-14]. (a) Effect on breakthrough time^[13];

(b) effect on maximum-aspect-ratio^[14]

随着激光脉宽从皮秒量级缩短至飞秒量级,激光与材料的作用机理将发生变化,材料的去除阈值也将随之改变,从而导致不同的加工速度和效果,所以脉宽的选择也是研究人员必须关注的问题之一。Narazaki等^[17]利用脉宽为0.4~200 ps的红外激光在热导率相差约76倍的两种陶瓷上进行了钻孔实验,结果发现:低热导率陶瓷的激光损伤阈值随脉宽的增加而增加,而高热导率的陶瓷则无明显变化。Haasler等^[13]进行研究后指出:当脉宽由2 ps增加到20 ps时,铜、铝、镍上的钻孔时间分别增加了约4.5、10、3倍,而不锈钢因为短脉宽时大量的空气电离导致热量积累出现了短脉宽时的钻孔速度大于长脉宽时的现象。Hattori等^[16]通过泵浦探测技术对比了180 fs、1 ps、10 ps三种不同脉宽下在SiC材料

上的钻孔过程,结果发现:更短的脉宽会增大材料对激光能量的非线性吸收,从而加快材料的去除速度,但同时会使应力波和损伤增强;当脉宽为10 ps时,孔壁损伤较小,如图2所示。脉冲频率的高低对微孔加工具有显著影响。第一,多脉冲叩击钻孔时,脉冲频率达到一定值后会因热量无法及时扩散而导致热积累。对于螺旋钻孔或路径扫描钻孔,过高的光斑重叠率会导致热积累,而光斑重叠率取决于脉冲频率和光斑移动的速度。第二,脉冲间隔的缩短导致前序脉冲激发产生的等离子体对后续脉冲的屏蔽作用增强。第三,因“潜伏损伤”效应,材料的损伤阈值也会因脉冲频率的提升而降低,所以脉冲频率的提升会对钻孔产生较大影响。文献^[18]研究了在0.5 mm厚钛合金上钻孔时,入

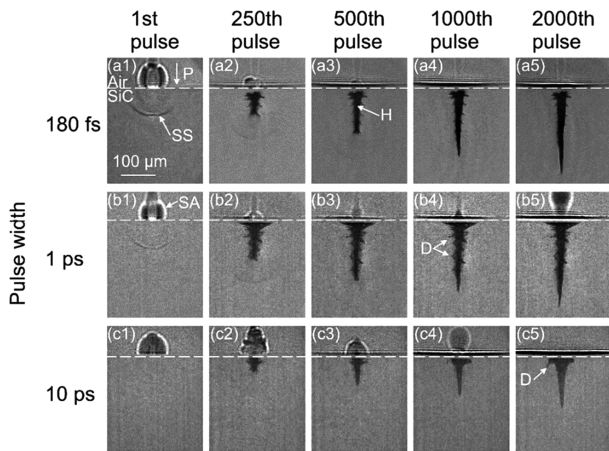


图 2 不同脉宽下第 1、250、500、1000、2000 个脉冲照射 6 ns 时孔的泵浦探测照片^[16]

Fig. 2 Shadowgraphs taken at 6 ns after 1st, 250th, 500th, 1000th, and 2000th pulses with different pulse widths^[16]

口处熔渣堆积高度、出口氧化区域大小及钻孔速度这三个参数与脉冲频率的关系,并指出:脉冲频率的提高存在一个临界值,当频率高于该临界值时热积累影响显著增强,如图 3 所示。

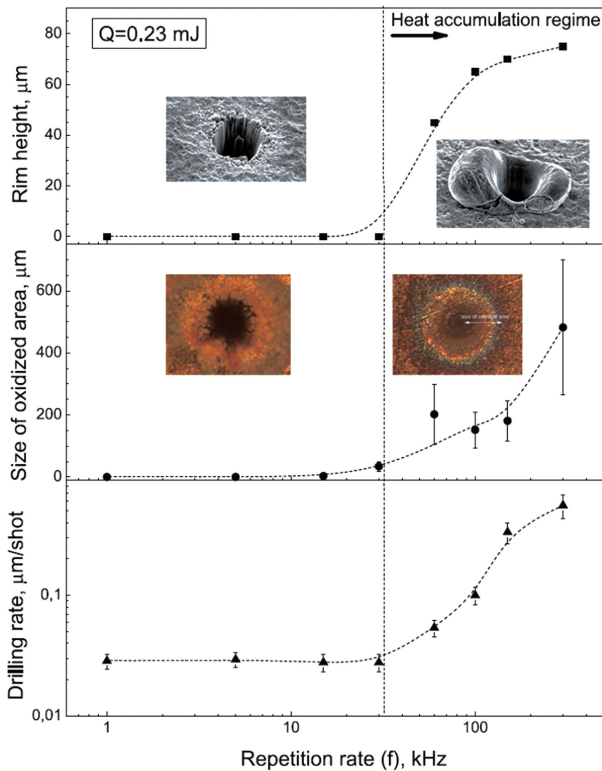


图 3 固定单脉冲能量 ($E = 0.23 \text{ mJ}$) 时脉冲频率与孔周熔渣高度、氧化区域大小、钻孔速度的关系^[18]

Fig. 3 Variation of rim height, size of oxidized area and average drilling rate in dependence on pulse repetition rate for fixed pulse energy ($E = 0.23 \text{ mJ}$)^[18]

Haasler 等^[13] 在 2 mm 厚不锈钢上钻孔时发现:当脉冲频率达到 800 kHz 时,即使在较低的平均功率下,也会产生较强的等离子体屏蔽效应,从而导致钻孔速度反而低于较低频率时的钻孔速度。文献^[19]研究了不同频率下 100 μm 厚硅片上的钻孔过程,结果发现:当脉冲频率达到 48.72 MHz,峰值能量密度为 0.52 J/cm² 时,孔的贯穿时间仅为 16.3 μs;当脉冲频率为 1.95 MHz,峰值能量密度为 12.32 J/cm² 时,孔的贯穿时间为 51.3 μs;当峰值能量密度为 0.52 J/cm²,脉冲频率为 1.95 MHz 时,无论多长时间都无法钻穿硅片。由此可知,在较高的脉冲频率下,因能量积累作用的加强,即使激光峰值能量密度较低,也可获得较高的钻孔速度。但过高的脉冲频率将导致热损伤、微裂纹、孔横向鼓包等缺陷的产生^[20],而降低脉冲频率将降低材料去除的速度,从而直接影响加工效率。Zhao 等^[21]认为重复频率对孔的影响取决于孔的深度:对于深孔,频率主要影响孔圆度,在高重复频率下孔更易弯曲;而对于浅孔,频率主要影响孔的尺寸。

综合以上分析可知:单脉冲能量与脉冲频率是决定材料去除速度的主要因素,但随着二者的提高,热损伤和崩边等缺陷同时加剧,等离子体对高频脉冲的扰动作用也会随之加强。另外,当深径比较大时,单脉冲能量会影响孔在深度方向的扩展,从而对孔的纵向截面和出口形状造成一定影响。因此,在激光脉宽固定的前提下,微孔加工首先需要确定合适的单脉冲能量和频率。另外,激光脉宽是决定激光峰值功率的核心因素,峰值功率和脉宽会影响材料的去除机理,进而决定热影响区域的大小。部分研究人员认为飞秒激光的热影响区明显小于皮秒激光的热影响区,但也有研究人员认为对于特定的材料,皮秒激光比飞秒激光更适合用于加工^[9]。

2.2 偏振、能量分布和波长对微孔加工的影响

超快激光的偏振方向、能量分布及其波长对钻孔质量也有显著影响。Wang 等^[22]研究了飞秒激光在带热障涂层的高温合金上钻孔时偏振对微孔加工的影响,结果表明:微孔深度的增加和激光束本身的发散,会导致光斑变大,激光能量逐渐分散,而等离子体屏蔽等也会导致光束能量进一步减弱,从而使得孔壁形成一定的倾斜角度;激光束在微孔内部多次反射后才能到达孔底部和出口处。扫描钻孔时,光斑虽然在移动,但其偏振方向处处一致,其分布情况如图 4(a)、(b)所示。根据 Fresnel 公式,电介质材料对 s 偏振、p 偏振的线偏振光具有不同的反射

率。当激光以布儒斯特角入射时,反射光中的 p 偏振光完全消失;对金属材料而言,虽然不会出现这种极端情况,但其对不同入射角度的 s 偏振光和 p 偏振光具有不同的反射率。这种差异将使孔底部和出口处向垂直于偏振方向扩展,从而对孔圆度产生极大影响。文献[23-25]均报道过同样的结论。Wang 等^[22]对比研究了线偏振和圆偏振两种情况下钻孔出入口的形状和截面,如图 4(c)~(e)所示,并认为圆偏振可以避免出现孔底部和出口处不均匀的现

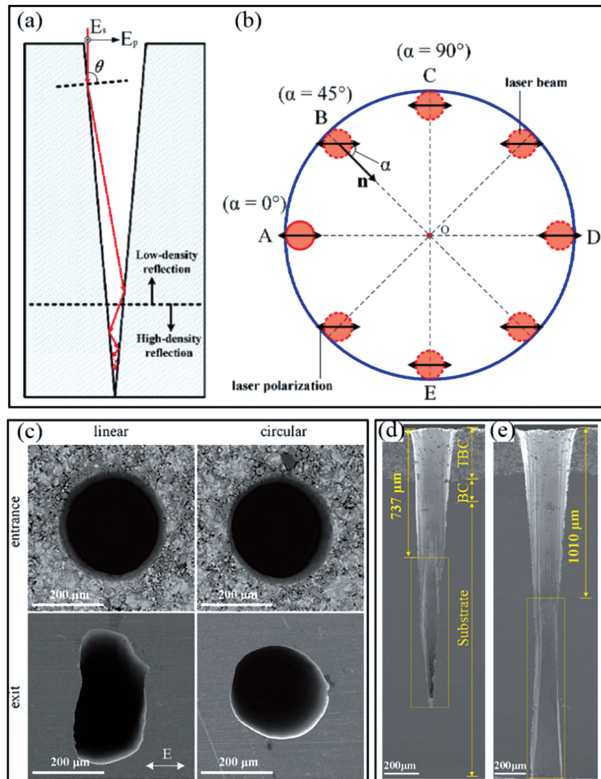


图 4 偏振对孔内光束传输的影响^[22]。(a)入射角为 85° 时孔内部的反射光路;(b)不同入射位置的方位角变化图;(c)线偏振光和圆偏振光钻孔的出入口形状;(d)线偏振光钻孔的横截面图,单脉冲能量为 0.5 mJ ;(e)线偏振光钻孔的横截面图,单脉冲能量为 2 mJ (矩形框区域代表偏振去除部分)

Fig. 4 Effect of polarization on laser beam traveling in the hole^[22]. (a) Reflections inside the deep hole with an angle of incidence of 85° ; (b) azimuth angle varies with the change of positions; (c) entrance and exit of drilled holes using respective a linearly and circularly polarized beam; (d) cross-section of drilled hole under linear polarization with pulse energy of 0.5 mJ ; (e) cross-section of drilled hole under linear polarization with pulse energy of 2 mJ (the rectangular zone enclosed by dotted line represents the polarization removal)

象^[22]。而文献[23,25]则认为利用旋转的线性偏振可以解决这一问题。Gaudfrin 等^[26]通过改变双脉冲的间隔研究了线偏振和圆偏振的去除速率,研究结果表明:当亚脉冲间隔较长时,线偏振因为更高的能量吸收率而具有更高的去除速度。

改变激光的能量分布也称为时域-空域整形。通过脉冲整形可以改变光子与电子的相互作用,进而调控局部瞬时电子密度、温度及激发态分布,最终达到控制材料相变的目的^[6]。时域整形指的是子脉冲之间的间隔和能量分配的调整,空域整形指的是激光能量分布形式(如高斯光束、贝塞尔光束等)的调制。贝塞尔光束的长径比可达到数百,在加工大深径比微孔时比高斯光束更具优势^[27]。He 等^[28]通过特殊的光学元件在传统贝塞尔光束的基础上进一步优化了其旁瓣能量分布,他们对比高斯光束、传统贝塞尔光束及优化贝塞尔光束的微孔加工效果后认为,利用优化的贝塞尔光束在硅基板上可加工深径比高达 $10:1$ 且没有旁瓣损伤的高质量微孔。如果激光光斑的能量呈高斯分布,那么只有能量高于一定阈值的中间部分才可以对材料产生去除作用,而剩余部分则转化为热扩散至周围,甚至导致孔边缘材料的发生热损伤。平顶光束因均匀的能量分布而具有较高的能量利用率。Du 等^[29]通过对比高斯光束和平顶光束能量对材料的去除阈值后指出:高斯光束单脉冲能量的利用率最高仅为 30% ,而平顶光则为 100% 。Nasrollahi 等^[30]对比高斯光束和平顶光束的钻孔后发现:在同样的脉冲数下,高斯光束的钻孔深度大于平顶光束,但孔因入口较大而呈漏斗形;平顶光束加工的孔具有较佳的几何精度;高斯光束的热损伤区域为平顶光束的 5 倍。文献[6]基于动态电子调控理论提出,改变子脉冲间隔和能量分配可以提高材料的去除效率并减小重铸层的厚度。目前,随着激光器制造技术的进步,大部分超快激光器具有脉冲串(burst)调控功能,可以设置子脉冲间隔及能量分配方式。

超快激光按波长可分为紫外光、绿光和红外光。虽然材料对不同波长光的本征吸收特性在超快激光加工中并不是主要因素,但不同波长的激光加工效果存在一定的差异。文献[31]对比了红外光和绿光在熔融石英玻璃上的钻孔效果,结果发现,两种光加工出的孔深、孔形不同。文献[32]进一步指出,在高、低两种不同的功率范围内,绿光和红外光加工出的孔形演变存在差异,绿光在侧壁质量、深径比方面比红外光更具优势。文献[3]系统地阐述了飞秒激

光加工透明材料的机理,并从更加基础的角度提出了材料的损伤阈值与波长、脉宽和光斑大小的关系。基于此,在实际应用中,当已知波长 λ_1 、脉宽 τ_1 、光斑直径 φ_1 对应的损伤阈值(LIDT, α_{LIDT})时,可在较小的变化范围内,计算出不同波长下材料的损伤阈值。计算公式为

$$\alpha_{\text{LIDT}}(\lambda_2, \tau_2, \varphi_2) \approx \alpha_{\text{LIDT}}(\lambda_1, \tau_1, \varphi_1) \times \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}\right) \times \sqrt{\frac{\tau_2}{\tau_1}} \times \left(\frac{\varphi_1}{\varphi_2}\right)^2. \quad (1)$$

综上所述,线性偏振对孔出口形状有较大影响,而且在深径比较大时影响更加明显。部分研究人员认为在钻孔过程中连续旋转线性偏振的方向可以抑制线性偏振的影响,但也有研究人员认为利用圆偏振进行微孔加工同样可以解决这个问题。二者均存在一定的利弊:前者提出的旋转线性偏振方向的方案需要借助复杂的钻孔设备,如需要利用高速旋转的机械结构带动波片旋转,进而得到连续旋转的线性偏振,而实际加工中往往因制造及装配误差,难以得到理想的偏振旋转状态。利用四分之一波片将线性偏振转换为圆偏振在光路上较为容易实现,也能得到较好的钻孔效果,但圆偏振相对于理想的旋转线性偏振会损失部分激光能量。因此,在微孔加工时可综合深径比、加工条件等考虑偏振的设置。在微孔加工中,通过对脉冲进行时空整形可以获得更大的深径比,尤其是对于直径在 $20 \mu\text{m}$ 以下、深径比在 $10:1$ 以上的微孔,光束整形的确是一种有效的解决手段,但是需增加额外的光学器件,加工设备

进一步复杂化。

3 加工方式、辅助方式和材料对微孔加工的影响

3.1 加工方式对微孔加工的影响

旋光钻孔是利用道威棱镜或楔形棱镜组等光学元件使光束高速旋转(转速可达 10000 r/min)而进行加工的技术。因旋光钻孔在加工的同时激光焦点向下运动,所以国外文献也称其为螺旋钻孔。不过该技术的核心是光束的旋转而不是焦点的向下运动,加工时往往固定焦点位置,只利用高速旋转的光斑以及对孔直径、孔锥度的调控优势。该技术可以通过调整光学元件实现对孔锥度和直径的调控,而且钻孔过程中高速旋转的光斑可以抑制光斑形状和光束偏振对孔形的影响,是目前较为先进的超快激光微孔加工技术。文献[33-35]报道了德国 Fraunhofer 激光技术研究所采用道威棱镜旋光进行钻孔和切割的研究,结果表明,旋光钻孔不仅可以保证孔的圆度,还可以在钻孔过程中通过修改锥度和直径加工出漏斗状异形孔^[36]。除道威棱镜外,还有三光楔(或四光楔)以及反射镜组等旋光方式^[37],如图 5 所示。Zhang 等^[38]将旋光与运动平台相结合进行了不同形状孔的加工,得到了较好的加工效果,如图 6 所示。然而,旋光钻孔的实现须借助复杂的光学系统,对制造和装配精度要求较高,导致系统的可靠性降低,使用难度增大,且设备的价格较高,经济性差。

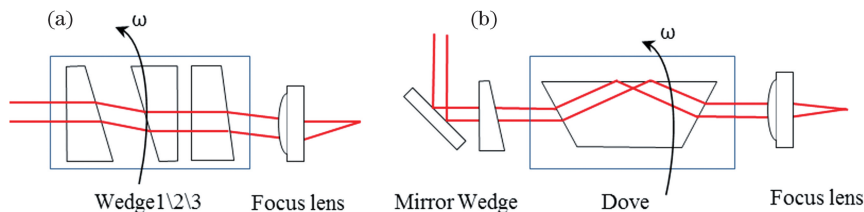


图 5 两种典型的旋光系统^[37]。(a)三光楔旋光系统;(b)道威棱镜旋光系统

Fig. 5 Two typical helical drilling systems^[37]. (a) Helical drilling base on three wedge plates; (b) helical drilling base on Dove prism

利用振镜可以实现高速扫描钻孔,如环切钻孔、路径填充扫描钻孔等,其优势在于设备投入小,可靠性高,可实现复杂路径扫描。Zhang 等^[39]利用振镜在 DD6 高温合金上进行了不同路径(直线往复、环形、直线+环形扫描)的钻孔实验,结果如图 7 所示。他们认为环形扫描路径可以得到最好的表面粗糙度,且焦点与材料表面的相对位置对孔几何精度的影响最大。

另一种扫描钻孔是焦点在钻孔过程中动态变化

的加工方式。与静态钻孔相比,焦点变化的动态钻孔可得到更好的钻孔效果。文献[31]比较了熔融石英玻璃静态钻孔和动态钻孔的效果:静态钻孔得不到直径一致的通孔,而动态钻孔可以得到直径较为一致的通孔。动态钻孔有自上而下和自下而上两种运动方式。对于透明材料,采用自下而上的方式进行加工,可以减小熔渣对激光束的扰动,获得较好的钻孔效果。

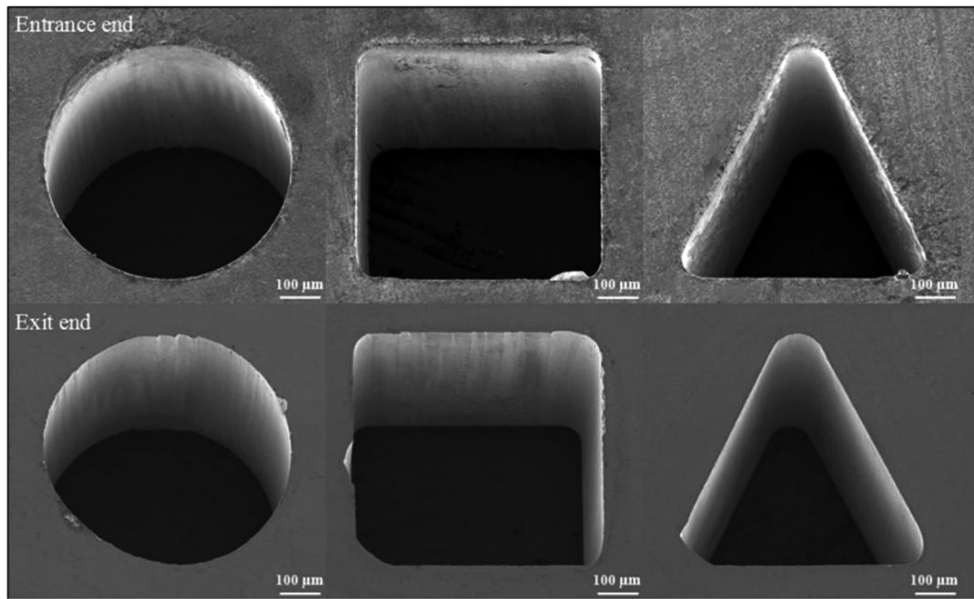


图 6 出入口的表面形态图^[38]

Fig. 6 Surface morphology of the entrance and exit ends^[38]

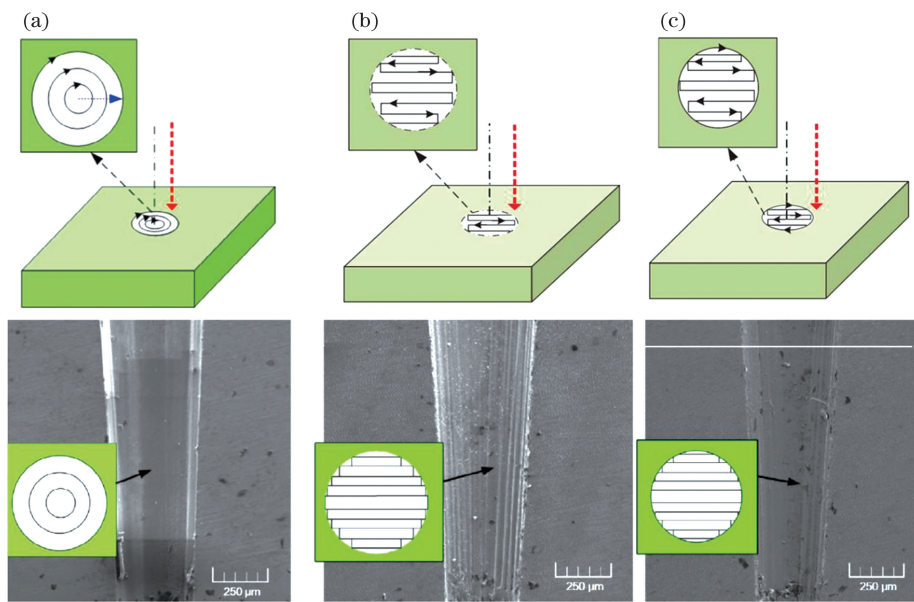


图 7 不同扫描路径下的孔截面图^[39]。(a) 环形扫描；(b) 直线往复扫描；(c) 直线往复+环形扫描

Fig. 7 Cross-section of micro-holes machined with different scanning paths^[39]. (a) Circular scanning; (b) linear scanning; (c) linear+circular scanning

3.2 辅助方式对微孔加工的影响

在超快激光微孔加工时,可采用吹气、加热、加电压、超声波振动、水或真空等辅助方式。同轴或旁轴吹气辅助具有简单实用的特点,是目前广泛使用的辅助方式。文献[40]研究了辅助气体的动力学性能,给出了工件与喷嘴的最优距离范围。文献[41]研究了辅助气体类型(氩气、氮气、氧气)、气压和喷嘴直径对微孔加工的影响,并提出:较高的气压和相对分子质量较大的辅助气体有助于获得直径更小的

微孔;对于不锈钢和低碳钢材料,对孔壁黏附物去除能力最强的气体分别是氩气和氧气,而铝在这方面则无明显区别。图 8(a)~(d)分别为真空、加热、加电压和背部水辅助方式示意图。

与直接在空气中钻孔相比,水辅助超快激光钻孔可以减小热损伤区域,也可以减少重铸层和微裂纹,孔壁质量也有所提升。典型的水辅助方式有两种,分别是浸没式加工和材料背部水接触式加工。Laakso等^[42]通过背部水接触硅片的方式研究了水

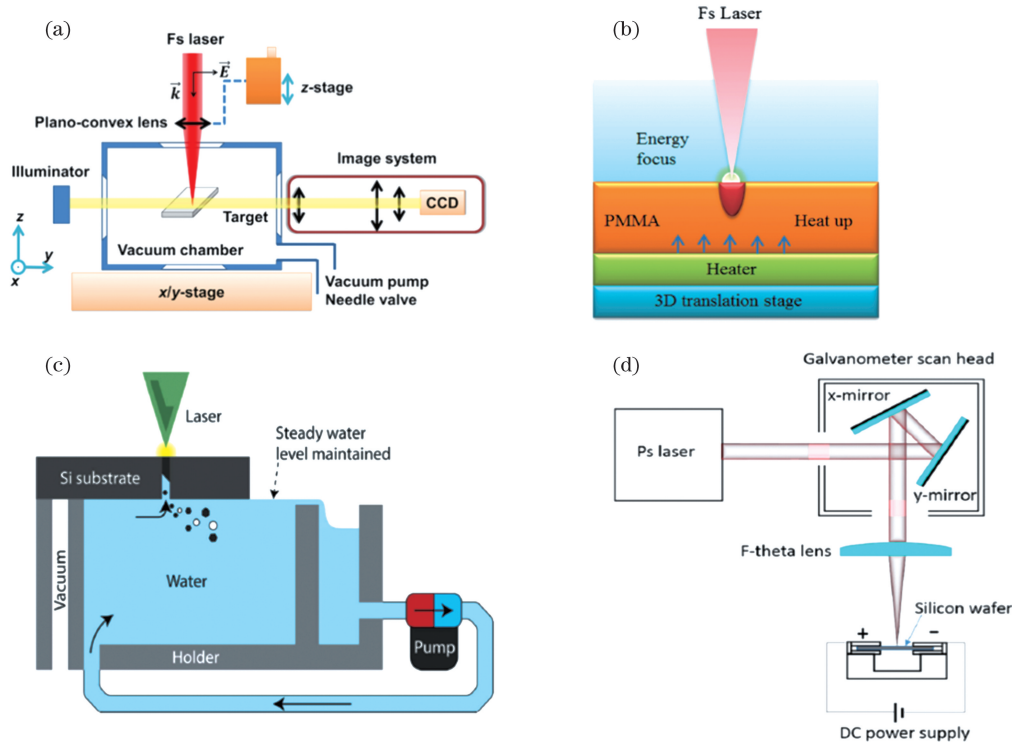


图 8 不同辅助加工方式示意图。(a)真空环境辅助^[14];(b)热辅助^[15];(c)背部水辅助^[42];(d)电辅助^[43]

Fig. 8 Schematic of different auxiliary processing methods. (a) Auxiliary processing with vacuum environment^[14]; (b) auxiliary processing with heat^[15]; (c) auxiliary processing with water^[42]; (d) auxiliary processing with electric^[43]

辅助的微孔加工效果,结果发现:水环境下的等离子体压力比空气中的更高,因此带来了更大的影响;气泡在水中破裂也会产生较强的冲击,所以背部水接触情况下可以得到较高的加工效率;由于碎屑随水流出,因而减少了碎屑在孔壁的附着,提高了加工质量。文献[44]利用背部水接触辅助的加工方式在玻璃上加工出了弯曲的孔道结构,并且孔的深径比高达 40 : 1。文献[43]也报道了类似的方法与结论。但是水辅助激光钻孔也面临一些问题,如工件的可靠定位、水对激光的扰动、能量损失等。为进一步提高水辅助的效果,芝加哥大学的研究人员提出了一种超声-水复合的辅助激光钻孔方法^[45]。超声波的振动有利于熔渣的去除和表面的清洁。与空气中的钻孔相比,超声-水辅助方式虽然损失了一部分能量,同样参数下钻出的孔深较小,但可以得到最薄的重铸层。

Jiao 等^[46]通过对硅片施加直流电压的方式研究了电辅助对微孔加工的影响。他们通过对比研究发现,与未施加直流电压的情况相比,电辅助可以增大微孔的出入口直径,但同时因为静电吸附作用,碎屑黏附也随之加重。

Zhang 等^[15]通过热辅助在 PMMA 上进行了微

孔加工,并发现:当温度从 20 °C 上升到 90 °C 时,声子数量增加,激光能量吸收率增加,PMMA 的禁带宽度降低,导致微孔直径增大了 70%,同时碎屑的溅射区域也随之增大,得到了与电辅助类似的结果。

Ito 等^[47]将脉宽为 210 fs、波长为 780 nm、单脉冲能量为 64 μ J 的超快激光与脉宽为 105 μ s、波长为 1070 nm、单脉冲能量为 8.4 mJ 的长脉冲激光结合,实现了光辅助微孔加工;他们发现飞秒激光辐照改变了材料对光的吸收特性,使得材料对长脉冲激光能量强烈吸收,加速材料去除,加工效率提升了 5000 倍。

Xia 等^[14]在真空腔室中利用飞秒激光进行了微孔加工,并将其与空气中的微孔加工进行了对比,结果发现:当单脉冲能量较高时,真空环境由于减少了空气电离,激光可以沿直线传播到微孔底部,减少了能量损失;等离子体因较低的空气压力而有效喷射出孔,减小了对激光的干扰,提高了微孔加工的质量。

Das 等^[48]研究了热障涂层对高温合金微孔加工的影响;Wang 等^[49]通过脉冲激光沉积(PLD)的方式在熔融石英玻璃表面镀了一层铝膜,然后利用飞秒激光进行微孔加工,加工完成之后利用盐酸将

铝膜进行腐蚀清除。通过对比研究后发现,铝膜有效抑制了表面碎屑的出现,提高了微孔的加工质量。

超快激光微孔加工时,随着孔深的扩展,孔内空气被电离后形成的等离子体、微孔底部激光作用时形成的等离子体会干扰激光的传输,同时热等离子体也会因烧蚀、重铸而损伤孔^[14]。文献中提到的吹气、超声波振动、水或真空等辅助方式都是为了减弱等离子体造成的不利影响。同轴或旁轴吹气因具有

表 1 超快激光微孔加工的主要材料及典型应用

Table 1 Main materials and typical applications of ultrafast laser micro-hole drilling

Type	Material	Typical application
Metals	Superalloy and stainless steel	Aerospace and automobile industry
Ceramics	Alumina, silicon carbide, and zirconia	Aerospace industry
Glasses	Fused silica	Telecommunication and medicine
Polymers	Polyimide (PI) and polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA)	Microelectronics circuits and microfluidic devices
Composites	SiC/SiC composites	Aerospace industry

材料的热导率会影响钻孔速度和孔形。Narazaki 等^[17]在热导率差异显著的两种陶瓷上进行了钻孔实验,结果发现,高热导率材料钻孔速度与峰值功率的关系完全不同于低热导率材料,不同的热导率会导致不同的钻孔速度。Haasler 等^[13]发现,高热导率材料的钻孔速度慢,750 μJ 单脉冲能量下不锈钢[热导率为 15 $\text{W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$]的穿孔时间只有铜[热导率为 401 $\text{W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$]的十分之一;他们在同样的参数下进行了钻孔实验,对比铝和不锈钢上孔的纵向截面后发现:不锈钢因热导率小而导致热积累,因此孔中段较大而两端较小,且熔化层达到了 100 μm 厚;而铝因热量的快速传导而无明显的中段扩大现象,在 750 μJ 单脉冲能量下加工后,仅在前三分之二处存在 50 μm 厚的熔化层。

材料的去除阈值也是影响微孔加工的一个重要因素。Förster 等^[50]认为材料的去除阈值和激光的峰值功率共同决定了微孔加工的极限深径比,当激光能量在孔内传输而衰减至去除阈值以下时,孔深不再扩展。另外,不同材料在与激光作用时产生的等离子体和碎屑不同,如不锈钢、钛等

表 2 主要工艺参数对超快激光微孔加工的影响

Table 2 Influence of main process parameters on ultrafast laser micro-hole drilling

Parameter	Influence
Pulse energy	Advantages: drilling rate and diameter increase with higher pulse energy, except for stainless steel due to plasma shield Disadvantages: easy to induce damages with higher pulse energy
Frequency	Advantages: drilling rate increases with higher frequency Disadvantages: easy to induce heat effected zone and the micro-hole tends to bend in the bottom with higher frequency

简单、有效的优点而被普遍使用,而加热、加电压及长脉冲激光辅助与激光能量的吸收率变化有关,需要增加额外的设备,加工过程比较复杂。

3.3 材料特性

超快激光微孔加工的材料主要有钛基、镍基高温合金等面向航空行业应用的各种难加工金属材料,以及陶瓷、玻璃、复合材料和高分子材料等非金属材料,如表 1 所示。

材料在加工时飞溅的碎屑明显比铜强烈,微孔极易被堵塞而阻断激光的传输,导致孔的深径比较小,孔内出现熔渣堆积现象。同轴吹气可以改善这种现象。玻璃、陶瓷等硬脆材料微孔加工的主要研究内容是控制因热应力产生的微裂纹,此类材料的加工往往需要采用较低的脉冲频率,并结合气体或水辅助散热。

4 结束语

本文综述了目前文献中关于超快激光微孔加工工艺的研究进展,总结了主要工艺参数对微孔加工的影响,见表 2。单脉冲能量和脉冲频率的影响最大,提高单脉冲能量和脉冲频率均可增加钻孔速度,但是缺陷也会增多;因此,实际加工中工艺参数的确定主要是寻找单脉冲能量和脉冲频率平衡点的过程。偏振对高深径比微孔的影响尤为明显,因为线性偏振的高速旋转较难实现,所以利用圆偏振光进行加工是一种优选方案。辅助方式有很多种,但是最经济便捷的方式是同轴吹气,这种方式可以增加导热,减少碎屑黏附。

Parameter	Influence
Pulse width	Advantages: drilling rate increases with shorter pulse width, except for stainless steel due to air ionization Disadvantages: easy to induce damages with shorter pulse width
Wavelength	The hole shape is different and green light has more advantages in hole depth and sidewall quality than infrared light
Polarization	Linearly polarization leads to non-circular hole shapes Rotate the polarization direction to avoid this problem (circularly polarization is also advised due to its simplicity)
Beam profile	Compare with top hat beam profile, the Gaussian beam is more easy to induce heat-affected zone, and the hole entrance is funnel-shaped
Auxiliary method	Gas(usually nitrogen or air): increase the heat conductivity and blow the debris away therefore leads to small heat-affected zone and clean surface Vacuum: avoid bending of holes Water and ultrasonic: clean surface and thinner recast layers Heat and electric: hole diameter increases but more debris on the surface

目前文献中利用贝塞尔光束钻孔的最小极限直径为 $2\ \mu\text{m}$, 深径比为 $40:1$ ^[51]。He 等^[28] 同样利用贝塞尔光束加工出了直径为 $10\ \mu\text{m}$ 、深径比为 $10:1$ 的硅通孔(TSVs)。另外,有人提出在真空环境下加工孔的最大深径比可达到 $100:1$ 以上^[14]。值得注意的是,对于大深径比的孔,其出入口及纵向截面质量一般较差,所以部分研究人员称这种孔为“微通道”。文献[25]利用五轴扫描振镜,通过复杂的钻孔工艺,加工出了深径比为 $20:1$ 的高质量微孔。钻孔时间取决于对钻孔质量的要求和孔深, Karimelahi 等^[31] 认为 $1\ \text{s}$ 内可在玻璃上加工出 15400 个深 $20\ \mu\text{m}$ 的孔,但对于质量较好的孔来说, $1\ \text{s}$ 内只能加工出 25 个。同时, Karimelahi 等认为深 $1\ \text{mm}$ 的微孔加工时间为 $2\ \text{s}$, 这与大部分文献中报道的约为数秒的钻孔时间相同。

超快激光微孔加工的研究开始于 20 世纪 90 年代,早期研究的重点主要集中在激光与材料交互作用的机理以及脉冲叩击钻孔加工工艺上,研究人员提出了一系列超快激光与材料交互作用的模型,并对深径比、偏振、表面形貌等进行了大量研究。之后,随着技术的进步,出现了各类高速、高精度激光加工设备,人们开发出了旋光钻孔等先进工艺,微孔加工的研究重点逐渐转向更高精度、更大深径比微孔的获得以及各种难加工材料的微孔加工。最近,研究的重点转向了从泵浦探测等高速观测的角度进一步揭示微孔加工机理的技术,以及并行加工、高速扫描等适用于群孔加工的技术。

激光在微孔内部经过多次反射、等离子体吸收等过程后传输至底部,不稳定的激光能量传输导致

孔内部较差的表面质量和形状,孔出口的圆度和直径控制是加工的难点。孔内高效、稳定的激光能量传输是微孔加工的重要前提,而目前对工艺参数的研究未能彻底解决这一问题,大深径比微孔仍然是目前加工的难点。目前,超快激光的功率可达到 $200\ \text{W}$,而在单点微孔加工中,为保证加工质量,功率仅用到十几瓦甚至更低,激光功率的利用率较低;利用脉冲串(burst)模式可以获得数百兆的脉冲频率,当脉冲频率约为 $100\ \text{kHz}$ 时,单孔加工时间往往需要数秒或数十秒,加工效率较低。因此,孔内能量的稳定传输和微孔加工效率的提升是未来主要的研究方向。

在孔内能量的稳定传输方面,目前已有研究人员提出了水导激光加工技术,即:将激光束耦合进入高速水射流中,激光在水射流中因全反射而向前传导,从而实现材料的去除^[52]。该技术在深孔加工上具有很大优势^[53-54]。

在微孔高效加工方面,近年来出现了多光束并行加工技术和高速扫描技术,如: Hofmann 等^[55] 和 Bruening 等^[56-57] 等利用衍射光学元件(DOE)和声光调制器(AOM)进行分束和能量调制,实现了 16 束激光的并行加工。除 DOE 之外,空间光调制器(SLM)也可实现多光束加工^[58]。提高扫描速度是提高加工效率的另一个途径,利用多棱柱扫描系统(Polygon Laser Scanner)可将扫描速度从数米每秒提升至百米每秒。

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Research Progresses of Process Technology in Ultrafast Laser Micro-Hole Drilling

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Abstract

Significance Micro-holes with a diameter of tens to few hundreds of microns are widely used in different industrial fields, such as injection nozzles in the automotive industry, cooling holes in jet engine components, and interconnecting micro-via in electronic packages. Methods, such as electro discharge, mechanical, electrochemical, and continuous or pulsed laser drilling, are used for micro-hole machining. However, these methods cannot be used in the micro-hole drilling with a diameter smaller than 100 μm . For micro-holes larger than this size, these methods have their limitations, such as poor accuracy, low efficiency, and incapable of drilling in non-conductive materials (e.g., glass). For the past decades, ultrafast laser has been a reliable tool for such processing due to its unique characteristics. Various hard-to-machine and newer materials, such as glass, diamond, biological materials, and superalloy, can be ablated by ultrafast laser through nonlinear absorption of energy. The pulse is too short that only a small amount of heat transfers to the surrounding of the irradiated zone, leading to minimized heat-affected zone and high processing precision.

Although the ultrafast laser has advantages in micro-drilling, some points need to be carefully investigated for practical applications. The quality and processing efficiency of ultrafast laser drilling are affected by processing

methods, materials, auxiliary methods and beam characteristics such as pulse energy, frequency, pulse width, polarization, etc. Different process parameters will result in different roundness, taper, defects, and surface quality. The study on process technology parameters is one of the core issues of ultrafast laser micro-hole machining.

Recently, many advances have been achieved in the processing technology of ultrafast laser drilling in various materials. However, due to the differences in materials, processing, and auxiliary methods, different studies have different conclusions about the same process parameters. Thus, it is essential to summarize and compare the results of the same process parameter.

Progress The study of ultrafast laser micro-hole machining began in the 1990s. Early studies focused on the interaction mechanism between the laser and material. A series of models of interaction between ultrafast laser and material were proposed. Many studies have focused on the investigation of aspect ratio and surface morphology of the micro-holes. With the progress of laser technology, the laser power has been increased, and the pulse width is further compressed. Besides, high-speed and high-precision laser processing technologies, such as helical drilling, have appeared. The study focuses on micro-hole processing gradually turn to the acquisition of higher precision, larger aspect ratio, and drilling on various hard-to-machine materials. Recently, due to its super-short time resolution, several research groups have employed the high-speed observation technique, such as pump-probe, to study the mechanism of laser-matter interaction. There has been an increasing interest in parallel processing, high-speed scanning, and other technologies with high efficiency suitable for micro-hole array drilling.

Typical materials and applications of ultrafast laser micro-hole drilling are summarized (Table 1). The influence of main process parameters in ultrafast laser micro-hole drilling is summarized (Table 2). The pulse energy and frequency are the dominant factors (Figs. 1 and 3). Increasing the pulse energy and frequency can increase the drilling speed, but the defects become more prominent at same time. Thus, the determination of process parameters in processing is the process of finding the balance point of pulse energy and frequency. The effect of polarization on high aspect ratio micro-holes is more obvious (Fig. 4) since the high-speed and stable rotation of linear polarization is not easy to achieve. Thus, it is preferable to use circularly polarized light for processing. There are many auxiliary ways (Fig. 8); the most economical and convenient way is the coaxial air-assist, which can increase heat conduction and reduce debris adhesion.

For stable energy transmission in the micro-hole, some researchers have proposed water-guided laser processing technology. The laser beam is coupled into the water jet, and the laser travels forward due to total reflection in the water jet. The water-guided laser has great advantages in high aspect ratio micro-holes processing. Recently, multi-beam parallel processing and high-speed scanning technology have appeared in the field of efficient micro-hole drilling. For example, the diffractive optical element (DOE), spatial light modulator (SLM), and acousto-optic modulator (AOM) are used for beam splitting and energy modulation. By using these devices, parallel processing of 16 laser beams is realized. Polygon laser scanning technology is another approach to enhance the processing speed by increasing the laser scanning speed from several meters per second to a hundred meters per second.

Conclusions and Prospects With the development of laser technology, the pulse width is getting shorter, while the frequency and power are getting higher. The ultrafast laser has gradually become a reliable tool for high aspect ratio and precision micro-hole machining; however, several problems remained. Thus, in-depth and detailed explorations are essential to enhance the development of this micro-hole drilling technology.

Key words laser technique; ultrafast laser; micro-hole drilling; process parameter; beam characteristics

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