

中国激光

高功率激光钕玻璃椭圆片硬包边残余应力研究

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摘要 硬包边是激光钕玻璃减少放大自发辐射和抑制寄生振荡的包边技术之一, 残余应力是硬包边的一个重要参数。详细描述了激光钕玻璃硬包边过程中残余应力的来源, 并利用有限元分析软件 COMSOL Multiphysics, 对硬包边浇注熔接过程中不同膨胀系数匹配条件和不同包边玻璃浇注温度下的残余应力分布进行了数值模拟。结果显示, 激光钕玻璃和包边玻璃的膨胀系数差异愈小, 产生的残余应力愈小; 包边玻璃浇注温度愈高, 则产生的残余应力愈大。硬包边实验结果表明: 包边玻璃的膨胀系数和激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数愈相近, 则残余应力就愈小, 当包边温度在 700~1200 °C 范围内时, 残余应力随着包边温度的增加而增大。模拟结果与实验结果吻合, 所以在硬包边的浇注熔接过程中, 为了使残余应力最小, 最佳策略是激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数和包边玻璃的膨胀系数尽量接近甚至相等, 且包边温度尽量低。

关键词 材料; 激光钕玻璃; 硬包边; 有限元分析; 激光元件; 应力双折射率; 残余应力

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1 引言

惯性约束核聚变 (ICF)^[1-2] 是实现可控核能的主要技术途径之一, 各国进行了大量的研究, 如美国的国家点火装置 (NIF)、法国的兆焦耳激光器 (LMJ) 装置、中国的神光系列装置等^[3-5]。高功率固体激光系统是惯性约束核聚变 (ICF) 装置的核心, 系统主要以片状激光钕玻璃作为增益介质^[6-9], 激光钕玻璃元件内的放大自发辐射 (Amplified Spontaneous Emission, ASE) 和寄生振荡 (Parasitic Oscillations, PO) 是影响系统储能效率和激光输出能力的关键因素^[10-16]。因此, 激光钕玻璃、Yb : YAG 晶体、钛宝石晶体等增益介质内 ASE 和 PO 的产生机理得到了广泛关注和研究^[17-18]。目前装置中抑制 ASE 和 PO 的主要方法是对激光钕玻璃进行包边, 即在垂直于光路方向的片状激光钕玻璃的侧边配备吸收 ASE 和 PO 的介质。研究者开发了高低温烧结包边、液体包边、斜边设计、涂覆包

边、聚合物黏接等包边技术^[19-28]。对于在高功率固体激光系统中工作的激光钕玻璃椭圆片元件而言, 一般采用涂敷包边技术或者高低温烧结包边即硬包边技术进行包边, 其中硬包边的激光钕玻璃与包边介质的结合强度更高, 元件可以在液体冷却介质中工作, 也可以承受更高的重复频率输出, 工作周期更长且性能更可靠。

椭圆片状激光钕玻璃的涂覆包边^[27-31] 即将低熔点的包边玻璃粉和分散剂 (Dispersing Agent) 混合形成浆料, 然后将浆料涂覆在激光钕玻璃侧面, 在激光钕玻璃的转化温度 T_g 附近进行加热处理, 使包边玻璃烧结于激光钕玻璃侧面。涂敷包边技术的缺点是界面存在大量气泡、缺陷和碳化物, 剩余反射率增大 (为 $0.1 \times 10^{-2} \sim 25 \times 10^{-2}$), 抑制 ASE 和 PO 的能力受到影响。随着激光钕玻璃技术的进一步发展, 出现了激光性能更加好的新型 N31(或 N41)型激光钕玻璃。相对于涂覆烧结包边的 N21 型激光钕玻璃而言, N31 激光钕玻璃的 T_g 为 450 °C, 比

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N21 低了约 100 °C, 相应的烧结温度则较低, 涂覆的包边玻璃粉会出现烧结不完全甚至存在应力碎裂的风险, 故基本上无法实现涂覆烧结包边。因此, 中国科学院上海光学精密机械研究所对 N31 型激光钕玻璃椭圆片开展了硬包边研究。最早的硬包边研究是美国利弗莫尔实验室(LLNL)针对 ED-2 型激光钕玻璃而开展的^[29], 即将激光钕玻璃侧面抛光, 并放在低于 T_g 的某个温度下进行保温, 然后将熔化的包边玻璃熔体浇注熔接于激光钕玻璃侧面, 最后进行退火降温。硬包边的激光钕玻璃性能优良, 可以在折射液中工作, 且在高峰值功率工作条件下浸泡于有机冷却介质中时不会发生包边界面的侵蚀脱落。但是相对成本比较高, 且硬包边过程存在大的温度波动, 激光钕玻璃存在碎裂风险; 同时, 包边玻璃熔体的黏度较大, 容易在激光钕玻璃固相界面形成气泡, 增大的剩余反射率会影响抑制 ASE 和 PO 的能力, 并且硬包边会在激光钕玻璃上产生残余应力, 特别是激光钕玻璃和包边玻璃二者的包边界面附近的残余应力较大。残余应力是硬包边的一个重要参数, 残余应力(特别是通光口径范围内的残余应

力)要足够小。美国的 NIF 使用的长方形片状激光钕玻璃, 采用聚合物包边技术进行包边。包边后的应力分布与包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的面型相关, 面型不匹配界面部位的应力较大且集中, 因为过大的残余应力会在钕玻璃材料内部产生较大的应力双折射率, 从而影响光学精密加工的透射波前质量, 所以通光口径范围内的应力双折射率必须小于 5 nm/cm。

本文对新型 N31 型激光钕玻璃椭圆片硬包边浇注熔接过程中的残余应力进行了模拟和实验研究, 探讨了激光钕玻璃硬包边的残余应力(应力双折射率)的产生原因及其影响因素。该研究为激光钕玻璃硬包边残余应力的降低提供了参考, 具有实际意义。

2 硬包边残余应力分析

硬包边的浇注熔接过程即是将激光钕玻璃放入模具中, 在一定温度 T_1 ($T_1 < T_g$) 下进行保温, 然后将一定温度 T_2 ($T_2 \gg T_1$) 下熔化的包边玻璃熔体浇注在模具中激光钕玻璃的侧面四周, 如图 1 所示。

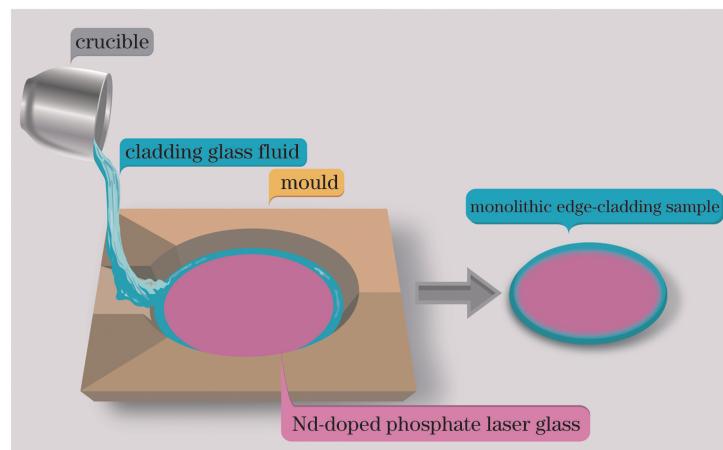


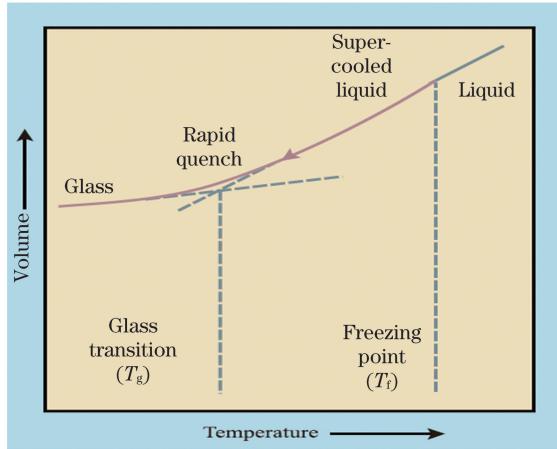
Fig. 1 Schematic of melt bonding of monolithic edge cladding

图 1 硬包边工艺的浇注熔接示意图

在硬包边工艺的浇注熔接过程中, 残余应力的来源有: 1) 在硬包边过程中, 激光钕玻璃为固态, 而包边玻璃在浇注后由熔融态快速冷却为固态, 体积收缩, 激光钕玻璃在包边界面受到压应力; 2) 硬包边时包边玻璃熔体的温度高于激光钕玻璃, 二者接触后在激光钕玻璃中心到界面之间形成了温度梯度, 这使得激光钕玻璃也产生了应力; 3) 激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数和包边玻璃的膨胀系数差异会引起应力。

包边玻璃熔体浇注于在模具中激光钕玻璃侧面四周, 降温固化过程如图 2 所示。

熔融液态转变到玻璃态的降温过程是体积由大到小的收缩过程, 对于硬包边的浇注熔接过程, 包边玻璃在激光钕玻璃的侧面由液态转变到固态, 体积发生收缩, 激光钕玻璃侧面产生压应力。由图 2 可知, 降温速度愈快, 则体积变化愈大, 那么产生的压应力也愈大。在浇注熔接过程中, 降温速度很快, 不易控制与测试, 且熔融液相转变到玻璃相较复杂, 所以体积收缩以及相变因素所产生的应力在此视为常量, 不作讨论。本文主要从包边浇注温度和膨胀系数差异两方面进行模拟和实验研究并展开讨论。

Fig. 2 Schematic of glass transformation^[31]

硬包边应力的存在会产生应力双折射率,从而影响激光光束质量。包边的应力双折射现象^[32-33]可用简化的二维平面应力模型进行描述,将通过厚度为 d 的光弹性材料的偏振光沿着两个主应力方向分解为两个平面偏振光,并且第一主应力方向和第二主应力方向的速度是不同的,因而会产生光程差,即

$$R = \Delta n \cdot d = (n_1 - n_2) d = C(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) d, \quad (1)$$

式中: R 为光程延迟量; σ_1 为第一主应力; σ_2 为第二主应力; n_1 为与第一主应力对应的第一主折射率; n_2 为与第二主应力对应的第二主折射率; C 为应力光学常数。不同位置的光程延迟量可表征第一主应力和第二主应力在该位置的相对大小,进而通过测试应力双折射率来研究硬包边的应力状况。

3 残余应力分布的数值模拟

3.1 几何模型

在进行模拟计算时,进行如下简化:

1)仅将模具、浇注的熔融态包边玻璃和加工成椭圆形的激光钕玻璃作为研究对象,不考虑炉膛温度变化。

2)假设零时刻时,熔融态包边玻璃已经充满模具和激光钕玻璃之间的缝隙,即在计算过程中不考虑浇注过程中的温度变化和熔融态包边玻璃的流动。

3)在计算过程中忽略玻璃相变,仅以温度和相应的体积变化来表征玻璃降温过程。

简化后的几何模型如图3所示,其中椭圆片的中心与坐标系的原点重合,坐标系的x轴与椭圆片的长轴重合,y轴与椭圆片的短轴重合。

3.2 物理模型

包边玻璃熔体被浇注到模具中激光钕玻璃的侧

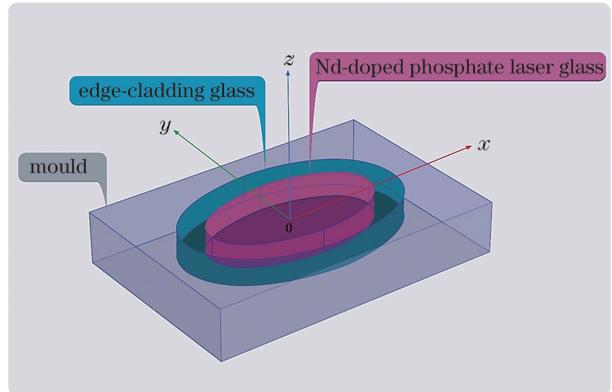


图3 熔接过程的三维几何模型

Fig. 3 3D geometric model of melt bonding process

面,激光钕玻璃和模具在某个温度(略低于激光钕玻璃的转变温度)下进行保温,高温浇注的包边玻璃熔体在模具中通过热传导与模具和激光钕玻璃交换热量,同时包边玻璃、激光钕玻璃以及模具表面还与空气发生辐射热交换,忽略玻璃在浇注过程中的温度变化以及包边玻璃的相变,并认为玻璃浇注后立即在高温下充满整个模具,采用COMSOL Multiphysics的固体传热模块对热传导和热辐射过程进行仿真。将玻璃和模具都视为线弹性材料,采用COMSOL Multiphysics的固体力学模块对二者之间的相互作用进行仿真,并采用热膨胀和温度耦合的多物理场方法进行数值模拟。

3.3 计算参数

对于包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃,采用扫掠的网格划分方式形成六面体网格;对于模具,采用自由网格划分方式形成自由四面体网格。基于COMSOL Multiphysics的固体传热和固体力学模块,采取热膨胀和温度耦合的多物理场方法。由于计算资源的限制,仅计算包边玻璃浇注后120 s内的情况,时间步长设定为0.1 s,分别研究不同浇注温度和不同包边玻璃膨胀系数条件下玻璃中的残余应力分布。当研究浇注温度的影响时,浇注温度 T_{hot} 以100 °C为梯度,在700~1200 °C之间进行参数化扫描,环境温度 T_{cool} 和膨胀系数保持不变。当研究包边玻璃膨胀系数的影响时,包边玻璃与激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数差异以 10^{-6} 为梯度,在0~ 3×10^{-6} 之间进行参数化扫描,浇注温度 T_{hot} 和环境温度 T_{cool} 保持不变。

4 硬包边实验

4.1 样品

采用中国科学院上海光学精密机械研究所激光玻璃研究开发中心研制的N31型激光钕玻璃(型号

为 SIOM N3135)作为实验样品,部分性能参数如表1所示。

表1 SIOM N3135的部分性能参数

Table 1 Partial performance parameters of SIOM N3135

Parameter	Value
Thermal expansion coefficient@30~100 °C/ (10 ⁻⁶ °C ⁻¹)	11.18
Modulus of elasticity /GPa	52.7
Poisson's ratio	0.27
Density /(g·cm ⁻³)	2.87

将激光钕玻璃加工成椭圆片状样品,长轴长度 $a=100\text{ mm}$,短轴长度 $b=80\text{ mm}$,厚度为40 mm,在硬包边实验前对样品进行精密退火处理。

4.2 实验

4.2.1 包边玻璃与激光钕玻璃膨胀系数匹配实验

将激光钕玻璃样品置于退火炉内保温,包边玻璃在熔化炉中在设定温度下熔化,然后将包边玻璃液浇注于激光钕玻璃的四周,保温后退火。通过选用不同膨胀系数的包边玻璃和相同的熔化温度进行硬包边,并对包边后样品的应力进行测试比较。

4.2.2 浇注温度实验

将激光钕玻璃样品置于退火炉内保温,包边玻璃在熔化炉中在设定温度下熔化,然后将包边玻璃液浇注于激光钕玻璃的四周,保温后退火。通过选用相同膨胀系数的包边玻璃和不同的包边玻璃熔化温度进行硬包边,并对包边后样品的应力进行测试比较。

4.3 测 试

4.3.1 膨胀系数测试

采用德国Netzsch公司的DIL402EP型热膨胀仪,通过示差法对包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数曲线进行测定。样品被加工成20 mm×5 mm×5 mm的条状,样品的加热速率为4 °C/min,测试温度范围为30~600 °C。

4.3.2 应力双折射率的检测

采用塞纳蒙特(Senarmont)法^[32-33],测试设备为德国ilis公司的Strain Matic/M4150.10,光源为发光二极管(LED)光源,中心波长为592 nm,测试孔径为105 mm,测量精度达到0.1 nm。

5 结果与讨论

5.1 模拟结果

5.1.1 膨胀系数对残余应力的影响

研究膨胀系数对残余应力的影响时,将激光钕

玻璃的膨胀系数设置为定值 α_0 ,包边玻璃的膨胀系数分别设置为 $\alpha_1=\alpha_0$, $\alpha_2=\alpha_0+\delta$, $\alpha_3=\alpha_0+2\delta$, $\alpha_4=\alpha_0+3\delta$,其中 $\delta=1\times10^{-6}\text{ °C}^{-1}$ 。几何模型、激光钕玻璃及模具的初始温度、包边玻璃的浇注温度保持不变。

由于包边玻璃作用于激光钕玻璃的侧面且椭圆片激光钕玻璃的长轴长度、短轴长度远远大于厚度,因此对于膨胀系数差异产生的应力,只考虑其沿长、短轴方向即x、y轴方向的分布。

由图4、5可知,激光钕玻璃的残余应力随着包边玻璃与钕玻璃膨胀系数差异的增大而增大;具有不同膨胀系数的包边玻璃在激光钕玻璃上产生的应力分布具有相似性,即残余应力在靠近包边界处最大,在钕玻璃内部较小且变化相对平稳。当包边

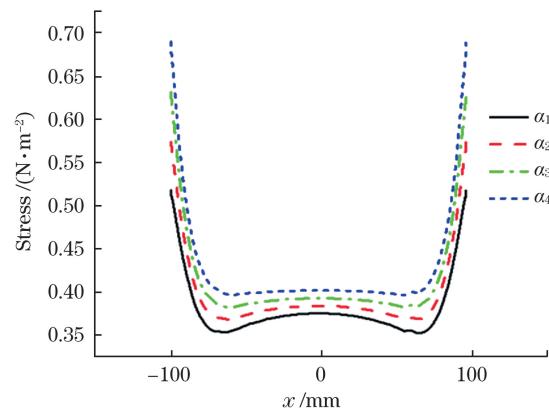


图4 不同包边玻璃膨胀系数下应力沿激光钕玻璃椭圆片长轴方向的分布

Fig. 4 Stress distributions along major axis of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for different edge-cladding glass expansion coefficients

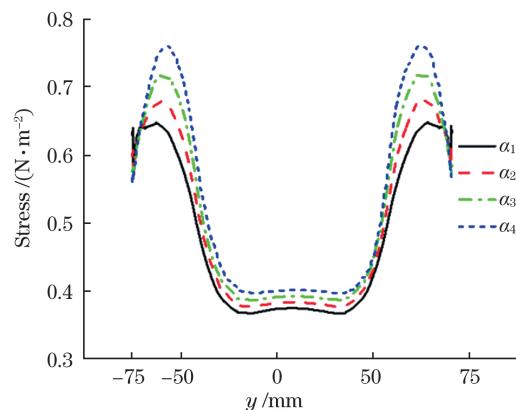


图5 不同包边玻璃膨胀系数下应力沿激光钕玻璃椭圆片短轴方向的分布

Fig. 5 Stress distributions along minor axis of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for different edge-cladding glass expansion coefficients

玻璃的膨胀系数为 α_2 时,包边后玻璃内部的应力分布情况如图6~8所示。

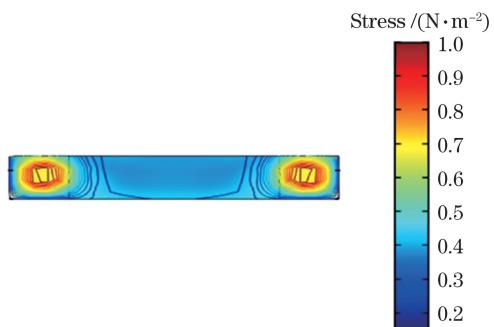


图6 当包边玻璃的膨胀系数为 α_2 且 $x=0$ 时激光钕玻璃椭圆片 yz 平面上的应力分布云图

Fig. 6 Cloud map of stress distribution in yz plane of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for edge-cladding glass expansion coefficient of α_2 and $x=0$

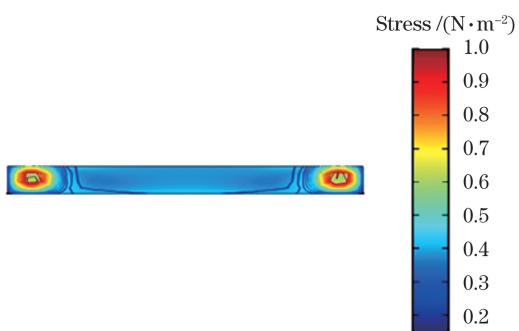


图7 当包边玻璃的膨胀系数为 α_2 且 $y=0$ 时激光钕玻璃椭圆片 xz 平面上的应力分布云图

Fig. 7 Cloud map of stress distribution in xz plane of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for edge-cladding glass expansion coefficient of α_2 and $y=0$

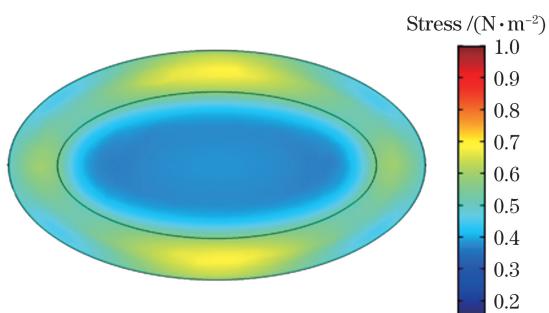


图8 当包边玻璃的膨胀系数为 α_2 时,距离表面20 mm处的激光钕玻璃椭圆片 xy 横截面上的应力分布云图

Fig. 8 Cloud map of stress distribution in xy cross-section of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for edge-cladding glass expansion coefficient of α_2 and 20 mm away from surface

由图6~8可以看出,膨胀系数差异造成的应力分布特点为:高应力区主要分布于包边玻璃以及包

边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的界面,最大值出现在短轴端部的包边玻璃界面处。

5.1.2 浇注温度对残余应力的影响

研究不同浇注温度对残余应力的影响时,设置包边玻璃的膨胀系数基本与激光钕玻璃相当,激光钕玻璃及模具的保温温度均设置为400 °C,包边玻璃的浇注温度为700~1200 °C,以100 °C为步长进行参数化扫描。

浇注时包边玻璃熔体的温度高于激光钕玻璃的保温温度,该温差所造成的应力在激光钕玻璃椭圆片的长轴和短轴方向的分布分别如图9、10所示。可以看出,随着浇注温度从700 °C升高到1200 °C,长轴和短轴方向的应力也相应增加;浇注温度愈高,长、短轴方向即 x 、 y 方向的应力愈大。

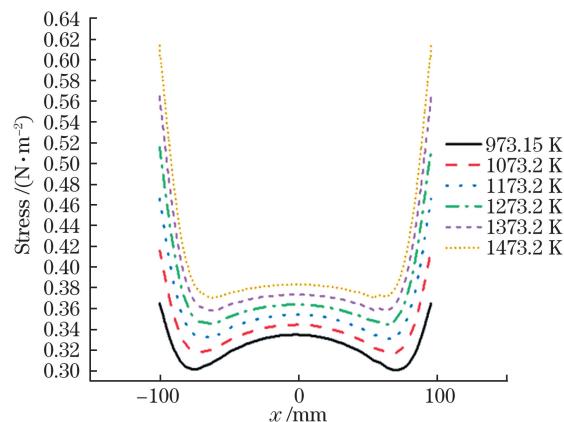


图9 不同包边玻璃浇注温度下应力沿激光钕玻璃椭圆片长轴方向的分布

Fig. 9 Stress distributions along major axis of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for different edge-cladding glass casting temperatures

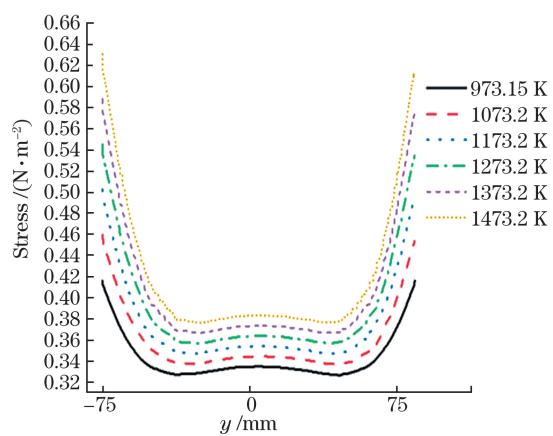


图10 不同包边玻璃浇注温度下应力沿激光钕玻璃椭圆片短轴方向的分布

Fig. 10 Stress distributions along minor axis of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for different edge-cladding glass casting temperatures

激光钕玻璃上、下表面分布区域示意图如图11所示,其中椭圆弧1(elliptical arc 1)上的应力分布如图12所示,椭圆弧2(elliptical arc 2)上的应力分布如图13所示。可以看出,当浇注温度从973.15 K升高到1473.2 K时,包边玻璃熔体的温度与激光钕玻璃的保温温度(623.15 K)的差异加大,温度梯度产生了应力且激光钕玻璃上、下表面的应力也相应

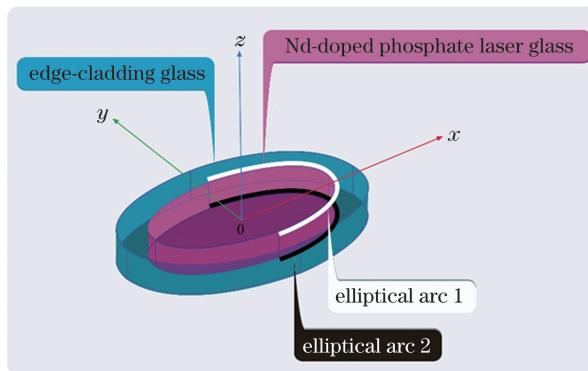


图11 激光钕玻璃上、下表面分布区域示意图

Fig. 11 Schematic of distribution regions of upper and lower surfaces of Nd-doped phosphate laser glass

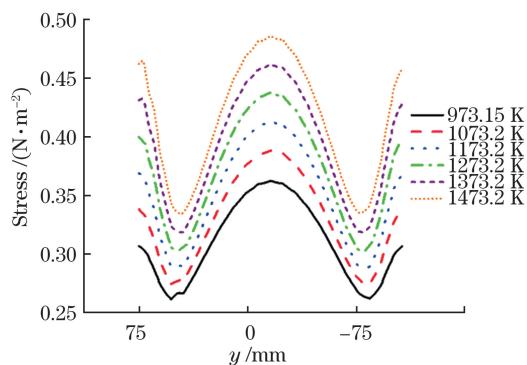


图12 激光钕玻璃上表面的应力分布

Fig. 12 Stress distribution on upper surface of Nd-doped phosphate laser glass

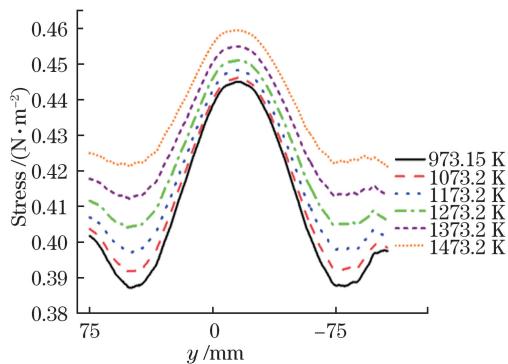


图13 激光钕玻璃下表面应力分布

Fig. 13 Stress distribution on lower surface of Nd-doped phosphate laser glass

增加。浇注温度愈高,上、下表面的应力愈大。从图9、10的曲线的相似性可以看出,不同包边玻璃浇注温度下激光钕玻璃上的应力分布具有相似性,应力值随着包边玻璃浇注温度的增加而增大。包边玻璃浇注温度为1273.2 K条件下样品的应力分布云图如图14~16所示。

图14~16的应力分布云图显示,高应力区主要分布于包边玻璃以及包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的界面处,最大值出现在短轴端部包边玻璃界面处;由于上表面导热介质为空气且导热方式为热辐射,下表面导热介质为模具且导热方式为热传导,二者存在差异,因此上表面的应力分布(图12)与下表面的应力分布(图13)有一些差异,下表面散热略快,温度梯度略大,残余应力相应略大一些。

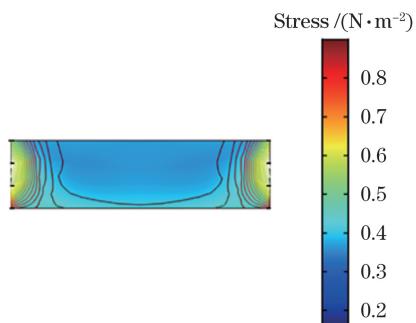


图14 当包边玻璃的浇注温度为1273.2 K且x=0时激光钕玻璃椭圆片yz平面上的应力分布云图

Fig. 14 Cloud map of stress distribution in yz plane of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for edge-cladding glass casting temperature of 1273.2 K and $x=0$

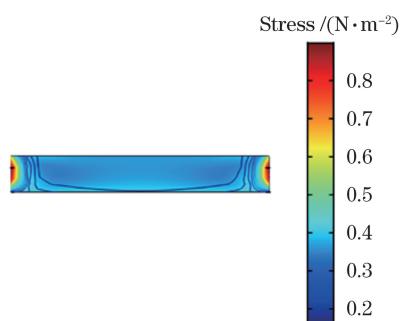


图15 当包边玻璃的浇注温度为1273.2 K且y=0时激光钕玻璃椭圆片xz平面上的应力分布云图

Fig. 15 Cloud map of stress distribution in xz plane of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for edge-cladding glass casting temperature of 1273.2 K and $y=0$

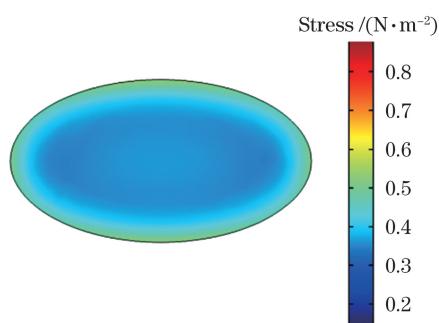


图 16 当包边玻璃的浇注温度为 1273.2 K 时,距离表面 20 mm 处的激光钕玻璃椭圆片 xy 横截面上的应力分布云图

Fig. 16 Cloud map of stress distribution in xy cross-section of elliptical Nd-doped phosphate laser glass for edge-cladding glass casting temperature of 1273.2 K and 20 mm away from surface

5.2 硬包边实验结果

5.2.1 膨胀系数的匹配实验

选用膨胀系数分别为 $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ 的包边玻璃进行硬包边实验,相对于激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数 α ,取 $\alpha_1 = \alpha, \alpha < \alpha_2 < \alpha_3$ 。激光钕玻璃选取相同的保温温度,包边玻璃采取相同的浇注温度,浇注后采取相同的退火工艺。

选取包边玻璃的膨胀系数 α_1 与激光钕玻璃的

膨胀系数 α 相等。具体操作如下:选取大块激光钕玻璃,一部分加工成椭圆片状,一部分切成小块熔制成包边玻璃熔体,二者的膨胀系数在理论上是一致的。图 17 是激光钕玻璃的热膨胀曲线,也是包边玻璃的膨胀曲线。图 18 是硬包边后测试的应力双折射率分布图,应力双折射率的最大值为 28.8 nm/cm,平均值为 18.5 nm/cm,高应力区域分布于包边玻璃与激光钕玻璃的界面处。

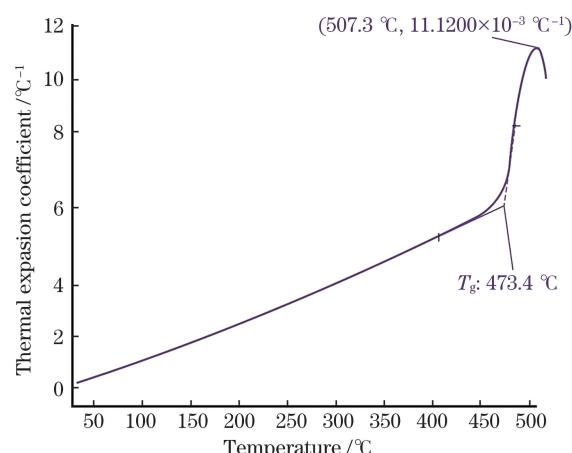


图 17 $\alpha_1 = \alpha$ 时激光钕玻璃的热膨胀曲线

Fig. 17 Thermal expansion curve of Nd-doped phosphate laser glass when $\alpha_1 = \alpha$

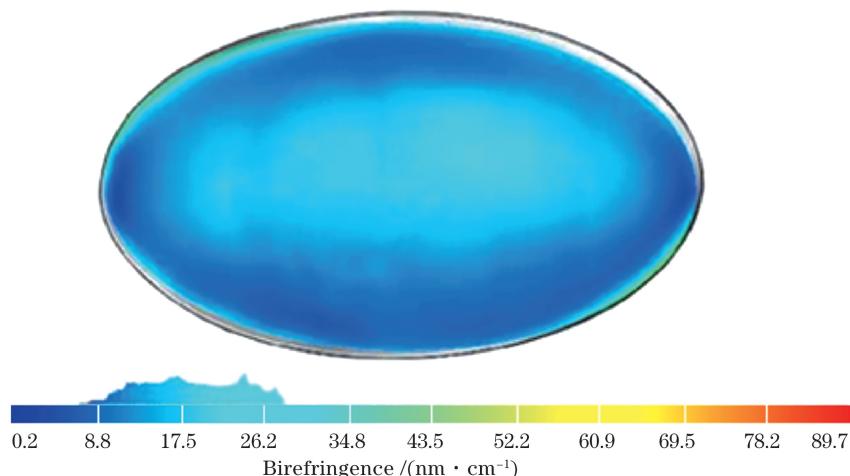


图 18 $\alpha_1 = \alpha$ 时包边后的应力双折射率分布

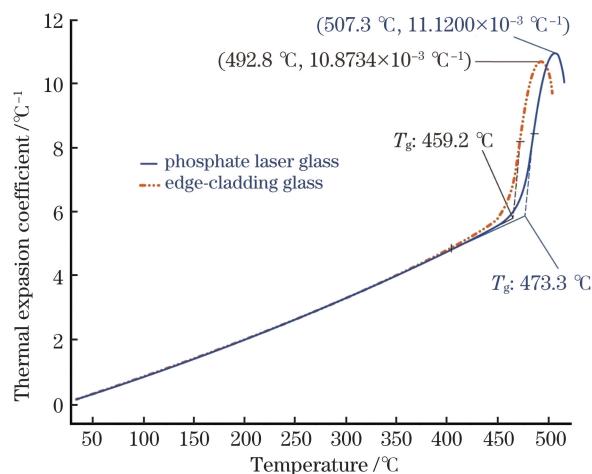
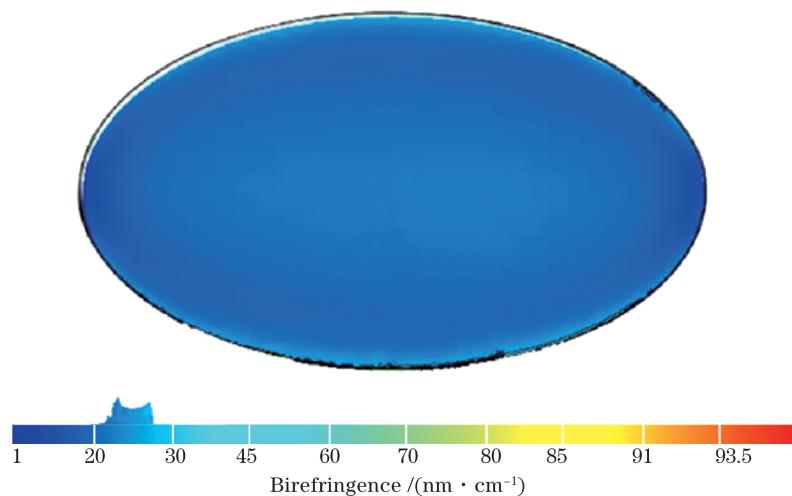
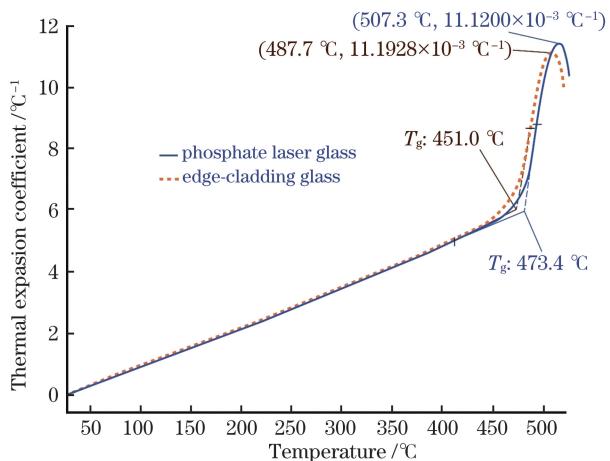
Fig. 18 Birefringence distribution after edge-cladding when $\alpha_1 = \alpha$

图 19 是 $\alpha_2 > \alpha$ 时激光钕玻璃和包边玻璃的膨胀曲线。硬包边后激光钕玻璃的应力双折射率分布如图 20 所示,最大值为 35.7 nm/cm,平均值为 24.8 nm/cm,高应力区域分布于包边玻璃与激光钕玻璃的界面处。

图 21 是 $\alpha_3 > \alpha_2 > \alpha$ 时激光钕玻璃和包边玻璃的膨胀曲线。硬包边后激光钕玻璃的应力双折射率分布如图 22 所示,最大值为 54 nm/cm,平均值为

44.9 nm/cm,高应力区域分布于包边玻璃与激光钕玻璃的界面处,应力分布的均匀性降低。

从图 18、20、22 可以看出,随着包边玻璃膨胀系数的增加,包边玻璃在激光钕玻璃上产生的应力相应增加。因此,为了减小包边玻璃附加于激光钕玻璃上的应力,应选用和激光钕玻璃膨胀系数相近甚至是相等的包边玻璃。

图 19 $\alpha_2 > \alpha$ 时激光钕玻璃和包边玻璃的热膨胀曲线Fig. 19 Thermal expansion curves of Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and edge-cladding glass when $\alpha_2 > \alpha$ 图 20 $\alpha_2 > \alpha$ 时包边后的应力双折射率分布Fig. 20 Birefringence distribution after edge-cladding when $\alpha_2 > \alpha$ 图 21 $\alpha_3 > \alpha_2 > \alpha$ 时激光钕玻璃和包边玻璃的热膨胀曲线Fig. 21 Thermal expansion curves of Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and edge-cladding glass when $\alpha_3 > \alpha_2 > \alpha$

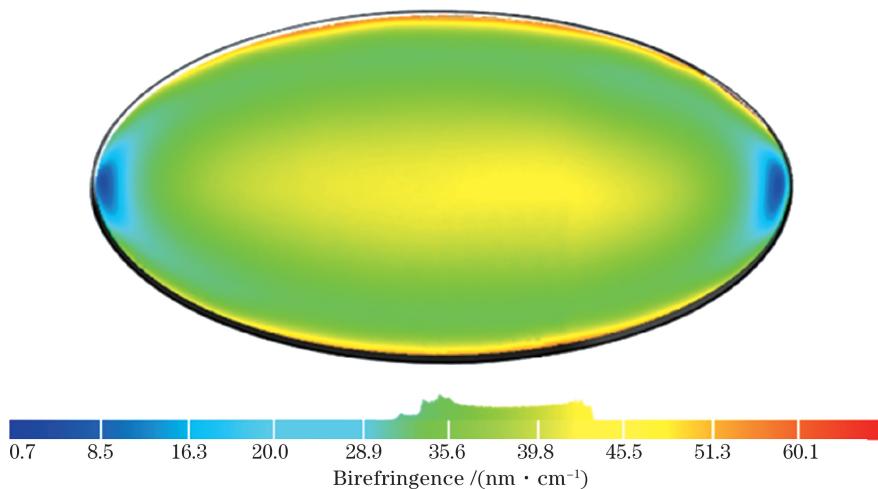


图 22 $\alpha_3 > \alpha_2 > \alpha$ 时包边后的应力双折射率分布

Fig. 22 Birefringence distribution after edge-cladding when $\alpha_3 > \alpha_2 > \alpha$

5.2.2 浇注温度实验

采用膨胀系数与激光钕玻璃膨胀系数相近的包边玻璃,在不同硬包边熔接温度(1073.15, 1173.15, 1273.15, 1373.15 K)下进行硬包边,然后采用相同的退火工艺,最后测试的硬包边样品的应力如图 23~26 所示。

图 23 是浇注温度为 1073.15 K 硬包边退火后的应力双折射率分布,其最大值为 35.3 nm/cm,平均值为 24 nm/cm,包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的界面处为高应力区域,激光钕玻璃的内部颜色一致性较好,其应力分布较均匀。

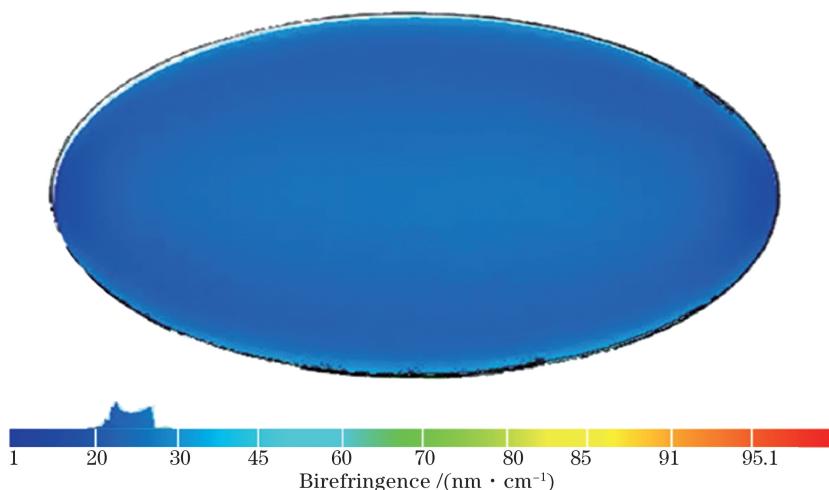


图 23 浇注温度为 1073.15 K 时的应力双折射率分布

Fig. 23 Birefringence distribution for casting temperature of 1073.15 K

图 24 是浇注温度为 1173.15 K 时硬包边退火后的应力双折射率分布,其最大值为 54.5 nm/cm,平均值为 26 nm/cm,包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的界面处(特别是长、短轴方向)为高应力区域,激光钕玻璃的内部颜色一致性较好,其应力分布较均匀。

图 25 是浇注温度为 1273.15 K 时硬包边退火后的应力双折射率分布,其最大值为 58.8 nm/cm,平均值为 29.2 nm/cm,包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的界面处为高应力区域,并且随着包边浇注温度的升

高,激光钕玻璃的内部颜色一致性降低,其应力分布的均匀性开始降低。

图 26 是浇注温度为 1373.15 K 硬包边退火后的应力双折射率分布,其最大值为 61.3 nm/cm,平均值为 43.3 nm/cm,包边玻璃和激光钕玻璃的界面处为高应力区域,并且随着包边浇注温度的升高,激光钕玻璃的内部颜色一致性降低,并在长轴端点处出现较小的低应力区。说明随着浇注温度的升高,应力相应升高,但应力分布的均匀性降低。

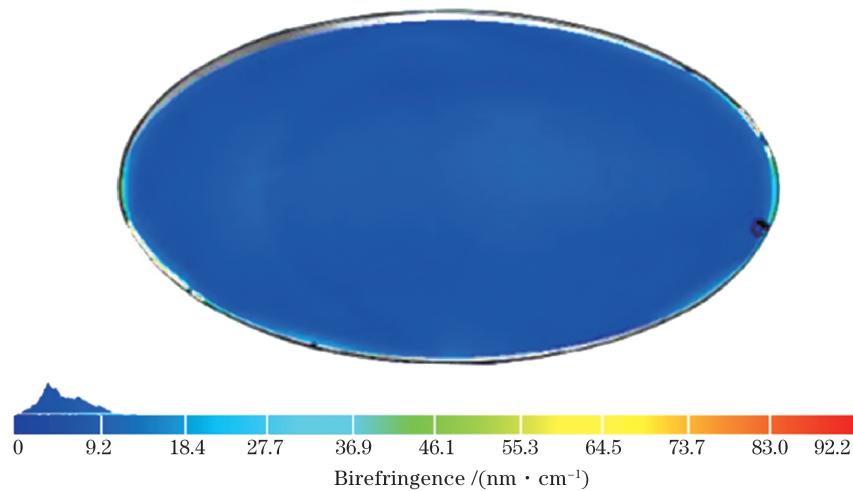


图 24 浇注温度为 1173.15 K 时的应力双折射率分布

Fig. 24 Birefringence distribution for casting temperature of 1173.15 K

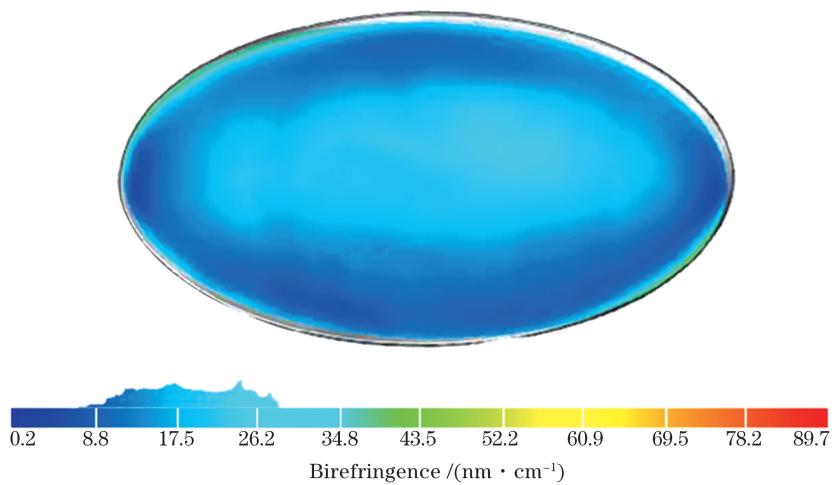


图 25 浇注温度为 1273.15 K 时的应力双折射率分布

Fig. 25 Birefringence distribution for casting temperature of 1273.15 K

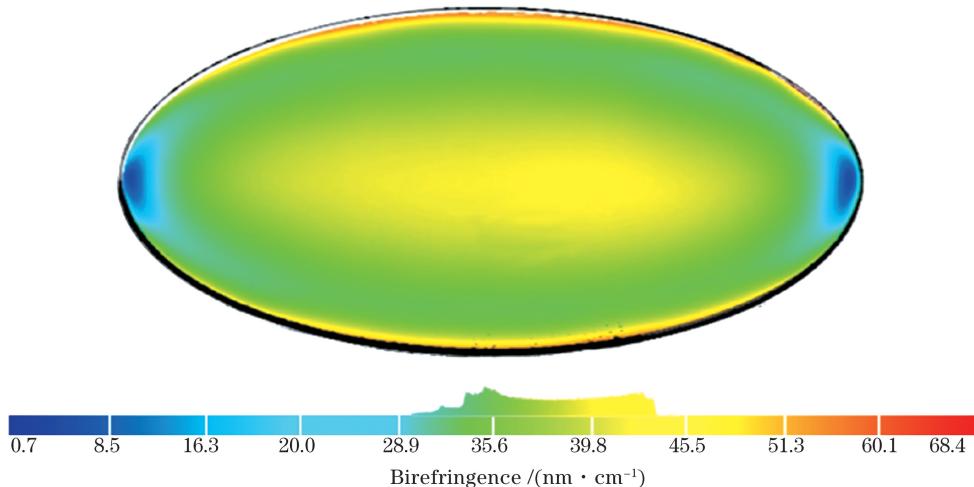


图 26 浇注温度为 1373.15 K 时的应力双折射率分布

Fig. 26 Birefringence distribution for casting temperature of 1373.15 K

由图23~26可以看出,应力最大值和平均值都是随着浇注温度的升高而增大,随之产生的应力双折射率也相应增大,且应力分布的均匀性也相应变差。因此,选取浇注温度的最佳策略是温度应该尽量低以减小温度梯度所产生的残余应力。

6 结 论

在激光钕玻璃硬包边工艺中,应力主要来源于浇注熔接过程:包边玻璃的液固转变会在激光钕玻璃表面产生压应力;高温包边玻璃液与钕玻璃接触后,会造成钕玻璃边缘与中心的温度梯度,温度梯度愈大,产生的热应力愈大;熔接固化后钕玻璃和包边玻璃膨胀系数的差异愈大,则产生的应力愈大。通过COMSOL Multiphysics软件模拟可知,随着包边玻璃膨胀系数的递增,包边后的应力值在0.35~0.7 N/m²区间递增;随着浇注温度在700~1200℃区间递增,包边后的应力值在0.30~0.64 N/m²区间递增。实验研究结果显示,当包边玻璃的膨胀系数为 $\alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \alpha_3$ 时,包边后的应力双折射率均值分别为18.5, 24.8, 44.9 nm/cm,呈递增趋势;在包边玻璃的膨胀系数与激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数相近的情况下,当浇注温度为1073.15, 1173.15, 1273.15, 1373.15 K时,包边后的应力双折射率均值分别为24, 26, 19.2, 43.3 nm/cm,呈递增趋势。模拟结果与实验结果基本一致。为了提高包边质量,包边玻璃的膨胀系数和激光钕玻璃的膨胀系数应匹配,且包边温度应尽量低以降低残余应力。后续将对硬包边后的激光钕玻璃进行精密退火以进一步降低残余应力。

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Investigation on Residual Stress in Monolithic Edge-Cladding of Elliptical Nd-Doped Phosphate Laser Glass for High-Peak Power Solid-State Laser

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Abstract

Objective Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) is one of the technical approaches to realize controllable nuclear energies. The key to ICF is the high-peak power solid-state laser system. A large-sized, Nd-doped phosphate laser glass disk is the core gain material of the high-peak power solid-state laser system. In the gain media, the amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) and parasitic oscillation (PO) are generated, which can affect the energy storage

efficiency and laser output capability of the high-peak power solid-state laser system. Now, the main method to absorb ASE and suppress PO is to clad the Cu^{2+} -doped glass at the peripheral edge of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass. The edge-cladded Cu^{2+} -doped glass can absorb the reflected or scattered light at $1 \mu\text{m}$ and suppress the onset of parasitic oscillation.

At first, the sealing edge-cladding method was applied to the elliptical slab of N21 Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and the N21 rectangular Nd-doped phosphate laser glass, immersed in the organic cooling medium in the high-power laser system. The sealing edge-cladding process involves first mixing a low melting temperature glass powder with a dispersant to form a slurry, then coating the slurry on the edge of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass, and finally heat-treating the coated glass at below a temperature at which the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass is softened and deformed to bond the low melting temperature glass to the edge of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass. However, this cladding method can create lots of defects such as bubbles, pits, and carbide at the cladding interface. These defects can increase the residual reflection ($0.1 \times 10^{-2} - 25 \times 10^{-2}$), which can lead to a considerable increase in ASE and PO. With a rapid advancement in the laser technologies, the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass with better performance is obtained, such as the types of N31 and N41. They have relatively low soften temperatures. Also, the temperature for heat-treating coated glass is much lower than that of N21, which can result in more defects at the cladding interface. Therefore, the sealing edge-cladding method is not suitable for new types of laser glass. The monolithic edge-cladding method is developed which involves pouring the melted edge-cladding glass around the edge of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass preheated in the mold. Now, we studied the monolithic edge-cladding of the N31 Nd-doped phosphate laser glass. The residual stress is a very important parameter of monolithic edge-cladding for engineering applications. In this paper, we discussed the residual stress in the monolithic edge-cladding of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass.

Methods We studied the influence factors on the residual stress in the monolithic edge-cladding of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass with the simulation and experimental methods. The finite element analysis software of COMSOL Multiphysics 5.5 was used to simulate the melt bonding process of monolithic edge-cladding. We did some experiments on the cladding for various cladding temperatures and different thermal expansion coefficients of edge-cladding glass. Stress distributions of these cladded samples were measured with the high-precision imaging polarimeter, and the stress distributions were studied.

Results and Discussions By simulation, the residual stress distributions between the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and edge-cladding glass for different thermal expansion coefficients are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. They indicated that a mismatch between the thermal expansion coefficients of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and the edge-cladding glass can cause residual stress. Higher difference in the thermal expansion coefficients can give rise to higher residual stress. The residual stress distributions are similar but different in magnitude. The Nd-doped phosphate laser glass cladded with glass with a thermal expansion coefficient of α_2 is chosen to demonstrate the characteristics of residual stress distribution, as shown in Figs. 6, 7, and 8. The residual stress distributions for different cladding temperatures are shown in Figs. 9, 10, 12, and 13. They indicated that the cladding temperature can also lead to residual stress. Higher cladding temperature can give rise to higher residual stress. The residual stress distributions are also similar but different in magnitude. The Nd-doped phosphate laser glass cladded with $T = 1273.15 \text{ K}$ is chosen as a representative to demonstrate the characteristics of residual stress distribution shown in Figs. 14, 15, and 16. By experiment, the residual stress distributions for cladding with different thermal expansion coefficients are shown in Fig. 18 for α_1 , Fig. 20 for α_2 , and Fig. 22 for α_3 . They demonstrated that the larger mismatch of thermal expansion coefficients between these two glasses can give rise to the higher residual stress. The residual stress distributions for cladding with different temperatures are shown in Fig. 23 for $T = 1073 \text{ K}$, Fig. 24 for $T = 1173 \text{ K}$, Fig. 25 for $T = 1273 \text{ K}$, Fig. 26 for $T = 1373 \text{ K}$. They demonstrated that the higher cladding temperature can give rise to the higher residual stress. The experimental results are consistent with the simulation results. So, the best strategy to minimize the residual stress of monolithic edge-cladding includes two aspects: the thermal expansion coefficient of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and the edge-cladding glass should be approximately equal and the cladding temperature should be as low as possible.

Conclusions The residual stress mainly comes from the melt bonding process of monolithic edge-cladding involving three aspects: the transformation of cladding glass from liquid to solid on the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass surface produces compressive stress, the high temperature of cladding glass on the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass surface creates a temperature gradient from the edge to the center, which can produce residual stress, and the difference in

the thermal expansion coefficients between the edge-cladding glass and the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass can give rise to residual stress. The experimental data and simulated data indicated that the matched thermal expansion coefficients of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass and the edge-cladding as well as the appropriate cladding temperature can reduce residual stress. However, a fine annealing treatment is needed for the monolithic edge-cladding of the Nd-doped phosphate laser glass to further reduce residual stress for an engineering application.

Key words materials; Nd-doped phosphate laser glass; monolithic edge-cladding; finite element analysis; laser component; birefringence; residual stress

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