

中国激光

超快激光仿生复眼加工研究进展

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摘要 作为一种典型的微纳光学元件, 仿生复眼微视觉系统有机结合了光子学与微纳米技术的前沿科学成果, 在机器人视觉导航、无人驾驶、微型飞行器系统等前沿领域具有广阔的应用前景。超快激光加工作为一种先进的制造技术, 具有真三维加工、适用多种材料、微纳加工精度等优异特征, 已成为制造多级结构仿生复眼视觉系统的理想工具。本文介绍了自然界昆虫复眼的结构特点, 阐述和分析了各类型仿生复眼的超快激光加工研究进展, 包括平面微透镜阵列、超疏水复眼透镜和大视场复眼透镜, 最后分析了超快激光加工技术制备复眼透镜存在的问题和发展趋势, 为仿生复眼视觉系统的进一步研究与开发提供有效参考。

关键词 激光技术; 超快激光; 人工仿生复眼; 平面微透镜阵列; 超疏水复眼透镜; 大视场复眼透镜

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1 引言

微纳光学是支撑下一代显示器件、光伏器件和高端微光机电系统发展的核心技术, 可以在很大程度上推动国防工业、医疗器械、预警监测、智能制造等相关领域的发展, 已成为 21 世纪国家不可或缺的关键科学与技术^[1-3]。微纳光学元件作为微纳光学的载体和实现方式, 对器件性能起着决定性作用, 其结构的设计和制造是影响微纳光学发展的共性关键技术问题, 已成为相关产业发展的前提和基础。因此, 典型微纳光学元件制造技术的研究具有重要的科学意义和实用价值。

作为一种典型的微纳光学元件, 仿生复眼透镜为多种应用场所提供了解决方案。在仿生复眼透镜中, 微透镜作为基本的成像单元, 是仿生复眼研究的基础, 其性能将直接决定光学元件的优劣。为迎合光学元件微小型化发展趋势, 科学家对微透镜制备技术进行了很多研究, 现已能够制造出毫米、微米甚至纳米量级的微透镜阵列。目前, 工艺较成熟且常用的微透镜制造方法有微喷印^[4]、光刻热熔^[5-6]、电润湿^[7]、静电力变形^[8]、自组装^[9]和精密机械加

工^[10]等。随着科学技术的飞速发展, 越来越多的技术被用于微透镜的制备工艺中, 如: 刘鹏辉等^[11]利用光刻、等离子体处理聚酰亚胺(PI)后采用摩擦取向、喷粉、液晶成盒等工艺成功制备了焦距可调的柔性液晶微透镜阵列; Chen 等^[12]利用超声振动方法在去离子水中获得了直径为 1~50 μm 的微透镜。然而, 上述技术通常只适用于平面微透镜阵列的加工, 对于具有特殊曲面造型的复眼视觉系统, 需要结合其他技术才能完成微透镜排布方式的转变。目前, 曲面微透镜阵列的制备主要依靠气压、液压或热压辅助使平面柔性薄膜变形来实现。该方法简单高效, 但变形模具的固定轮廓限制了曲面复眼的形状灵活性。此外, 柔性微透镜阵列在排列转变过程中会发生很大程度的变形, 导致微透镜高度降低, 间距变大, 很难保证复眼结构功能的一致性。因此, 这种方法制备的曲面复眼曲率较小, 视场角受限。除了通过改变排布方式来实现大视场外, 研究人员还提出了其他方法, 如: 周力等^[13]通过改变纳米结构取向来增大平面复眼的视场角, 并完成了仿生复眼的设计与仿真。但纳米尺度结构的取向难以控制, 因此该方法难以实现实际应用。

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超快激光作为一种可实现非接触式刻蚀和高空间分辨率加工的工具,具有极高的峰值强度,可突破衍射极限,实现高精度、跨尺度宏微纳结构的复合。同时,超快激光具有超快特性,在电子将能量传递给晶格建立热平衡之前,激光能量的吸收过程就已结束,因此可将激光能量局限在微小区域内,极小化热影响区域。上述特点使得超快激光具有真三维加工、适用多种材料、微纳加工精度等优异特征^[14-15],能够实现跨尺度的高端精密制造,成为制造多级仿生复眼的先进制造核心技术。除此之外,激光加工技术具有高度可设计性,强大的可编程设计可以实现加工结构的任意性和可控性,从而完成复杂表面轮廓三维结构的灵活制造,在制造仿生复眼视觉系统上得到了广泛应用。

本文从自然界昆虫复眼结构及功能分析出发,综述了利用超快激光加工优势开发各类型仿生复眼的最新研究进展,分析了超快激光加工技术制备仿生复眼存在的问题和发展趋势,旨在为该技术的发展提供必要参考。

2 自然界昆虫复眼结构分析

探究自然界昆虫复眼视觉机理,将生物视觉机理应用到实际工程中,完成满足前沿领域需求的微型视觉系统的设计制造,是仿生视觉领域的主要研究内容。作为一种毫微纳跨尺度的多级结构,自然

界昆虫复眼由排列在曲面上的数千只小眼构成,且在小眼顶部或间隙中存在纳米结构,如图 1(a)所示的蚊子复眼。昆虫复眼独特的微观结构赋予其卓越的光学性能:1)排列紧密、方向各异的小眼同时成像,因而复眼具有超大的视场角;2)小眼表面的纳米结构充当了空气与小眼界面的抗反射功能层,在宽频带内可以有效降低入射光的反射率,使复眼具有超强的微弱光信号感知能力;3)昆虫复眼的微纳多级结构使其具有优异的超疏水性能、防雾和抗黏附特性,这种自清洁表面有利于复眼成像系统在复杂环境(如潮湿环境等)中保持优异的成像性能。类似地,果蝇复眼也呈曲面排布,不同的是在果蝇复眼微透镜间隙存在高径比较大的柔性结构。液滴接触昆虫复眼后,会悬浮在柔性结构的顶端,不与小眼直接接触,如此既可保证复眼在雨天正常成像,又可避免小眼受外界液滴污染,如图 1(b)所示。此外,昆虫复眼的每只小眼都是由透镜、晶椎以及含有波导的感光细胞构成的,且只能小范围成像,因而可以防止相邻小眼间的成像串扰,如图 1(c)所示。这些特殊构造使得昆虫具有全景运动感知、对运动物体快速响应、在恶劣自然环境下可正常对外界物体成像等优异性能,与高性能视觉系统的定位十分契合。因此,国内外科学家在仿生复眼透镜制备领域,以昆虫复眼为仿生原型,进行了大量探索和研究。

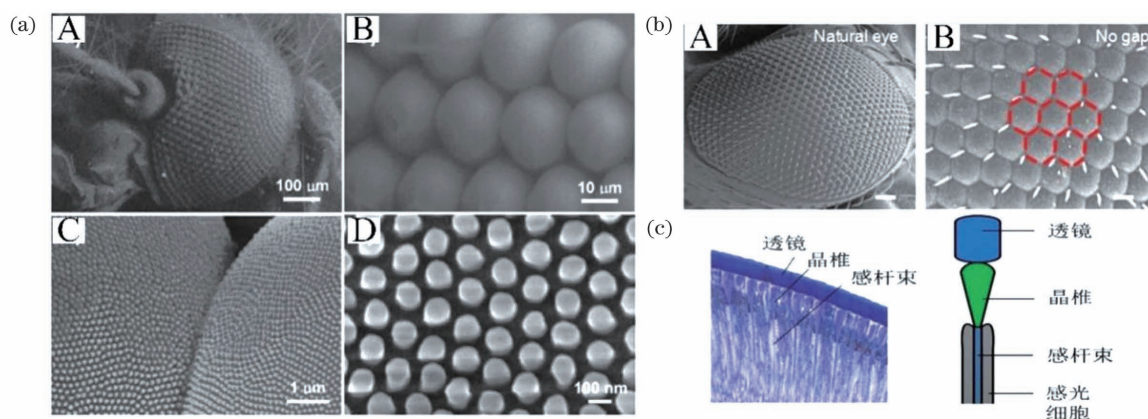


图 1 自然界昆虫复眼结构。(a)蚊子复眼的电镜图^[16];(b)果蝇复眼的电镜图^[17];(c)蜜蜂小眼的光学显微镜图^[18]

Fig. 1 Natural compound eye of insects. (a) SEM images of compound eye of mosquito^[16]; (b) SEM images of compound eye of drosophila^[17]; (c) optical micrograph of the structure of bee ommatidia^[18]

3 微透镜阵列的超快激光加工

3.1 超快激光烧蚀制备微透镜阵列

微透镜是指直径在微米量级的微小透镜,由这些透镜组成的阵列称为微透镜阵列,它是类似于昆

虫小眼的基本成像单元。超快激光具有高的峰值强度,能够加工玻璃、聚合物等材料,已被广泛应用于微透镜阵列的制备。高能束激光辐照物体表面时,靶材因吸收激光能量而瞬间气化或熔融,使得材料得以改性或去除。激光与材料的烧蚀过程具体为:

当激光能量超过材料的烧蚀阈值后,部分入射激光能量最初以非线性效应(如多光子和雪崩电离)被电子吸收,同时,电子将一部分能量转移到晶格;当电子和离子达到热平衡后,便在材料上方形成高温高压等离子体;随后,等离子体膨胀并从焦斑中喷发,使得烧蚀材料从表面移除,形成烧蚀凹坑。球形等离子体冲击波对熔融聚合物施加的机械压力以及较长的凝固时间可以使凹坑表面更光滑。熔融聚合物材料的再凝固时间较长,这为熔融的液态聚合物提供了足够的存在时间,从而使表面变得平滑,避免了传统激光诱导的纳米粗糙结构或周期性纳米结构。

超快激光单脉冲在材料表面烧蚀产生的微结构可以直接用于光学成像^[19-20]。Yong 等^[20]采用飞秒

激光高速线扫描方法制造了成本低、质量好、面积大的凹面微透镜阵列,如图 2(a)所示。单个激光脉冲可以产生一个凹面微透镜,50 min 内可在聚二甲基硅氧烷(PDMS)表面制造超过 278 万个微透镜[透镜直径为 5~12 μm ,深度为 0.4~2 μm ,如图 2(b)所示],与传统的激光直写方法相比显著提高了加工效率。此外,由激光诱导的高温高压等离子体膨胀产生的机械波以及较长的再凝固时间,使得 PDMS 表面可形成直接实现光学应用的凹透镜。此类方法效率高,过程简单,所制备的结构无需翻模或后处理,可直接用于光学成像,但微透镜尺寸的可控性差,材料熔融引起的结构变形会使微透镜的填充率受到很大限制。

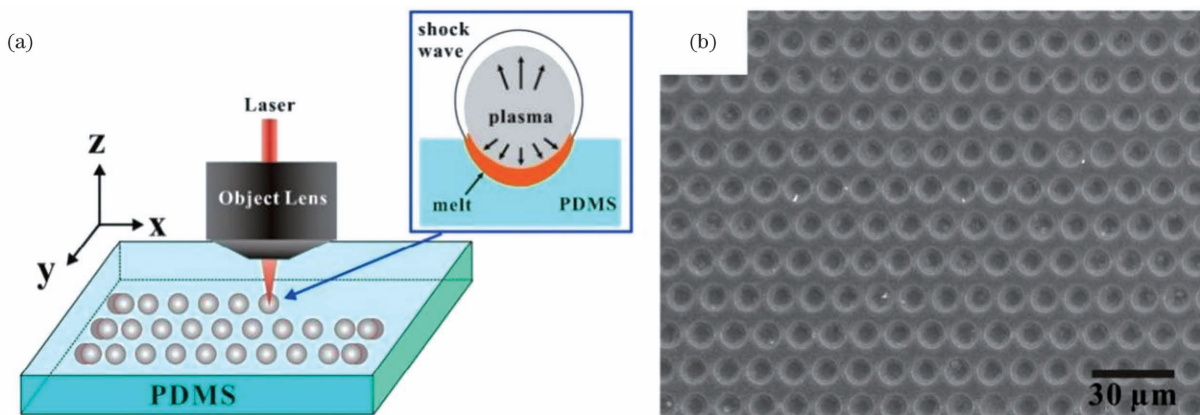


图 2 单步超快激光烧蚀制备微透镜阵列^[20]。(a)超快激光直接在 PDMS 表面烧蚀制备微透镜阵列示意图,插图为飞秒激光单脉冲烧蚀产生微透镜的机理;(b)飞秒激光单脉冲制备的微透镜阵列电镜图

Fig. 2 Single-step ultrafast laser ablation for fabrication of microlens array^[20]. (a) Schematic of the fabrication process of microlens array by ultrafast laser ablation of PDMS, where the insert is the mechanism of microlens generation by single femtosecond laser pulse ablation; (b) SEM image of fabricated microlens array by single femtosecond laser pulse

通常情况下,玻璃或硅片等硬质材料在激光辐照过程中会发生非晶化、退火和烧蚀,在热影响区的焦点位置处可观察到非晶和微结构。此外,由于材料的再凝固时间较短,凹坑的表面粗糙度较高,这种结构不能直接应用于光学器件,需要辅以湿法刻蚀^[21-30]或干法刻蚀^[31-34]等后处理,使缺陷面更加光滑,提高光学成像质量。在后续的蚀刻工艺中,激光诱导缺陷区域比未辐照区域具有更大的蚀刻速率,因此,烧蚀坑逐渐扩展,相邻的凹坑彼此接触并重叠。Chen 等^[21]利用飞秒激光在硅和石英玻璃表面分别进行烧蚀,之后采用质量分数为 5% 的氢氟酸进行刻蚀[如图 3(a)所示],获得了具有高表面质量和均匀性的微透镜阵列[如图 3(b)所示]。此种方法的优点在于:通过控制烧蚀间距和刻蚀时间,可以获得填充率为 100% 的微透镜阵列,从而提高红外

探测器的探测能力。但湿法刻蚀在光刻图案转移时会产生严重的横向蚀刻,加工精度较差,设计结构易失真变形,从而使该方法与集成电路的制造工艺不兼容,限制了该方法在器件集成方面的潜在应用。干法刻蚀可以有效解决上述问题。Liu 等^[31]利用干法刻蚀辅助飞秒激光方法制备了微透镜阵列,制备过程如图 3(c)所示:先用激光在硅片上辐照出微孔改性区域,接着进行干法刻蚀,制备出填充率为 100% 的微透镜阵列。该方法制备的微透镜阵列的电镜图如图 3(d)所示。微透镜的直径和高度可以通过调整激光功率、脉冲数和刻蚀时间实现。干法刻蚀的微透镜阵列具有较高的保真度,在器件集成、红外设备等领域具有广阔的应用前景。

超快激光也被广泛用来加工非均匀或异性微透镜阵列^[35-41]。Tian 等^[38]利用超快激光点对点辐照

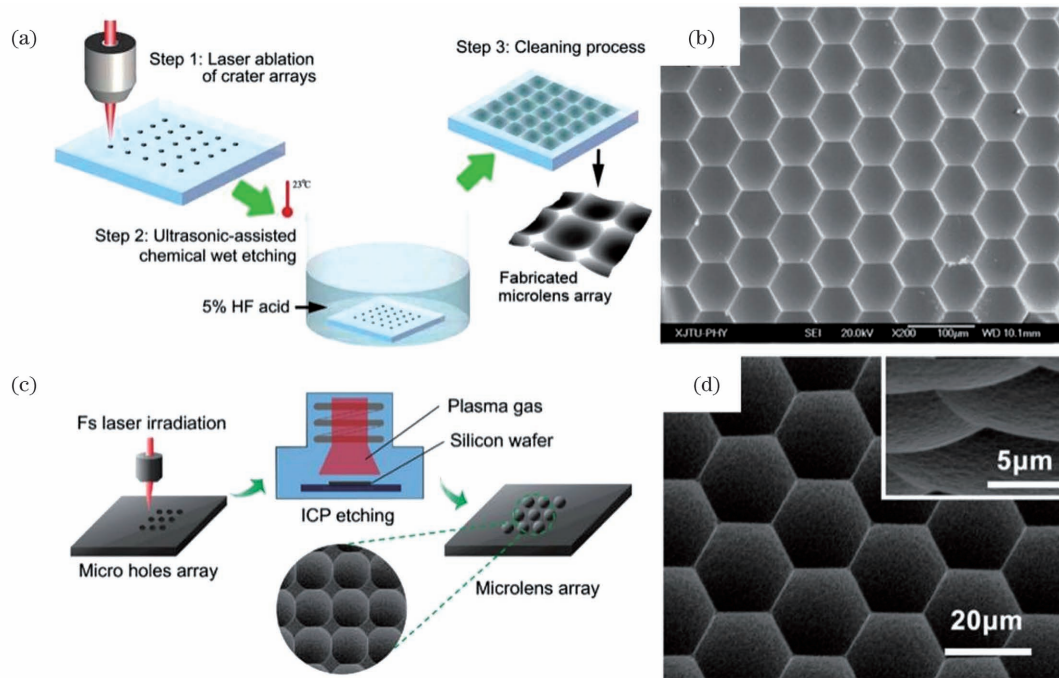


图 3 刻蚀辅助超快激光加工微透镜阵列。(a)湿法刻蚀辅助超快激光加工微透镜阵列过程示意图^[21];(b)飞秒激光辅助湿法刻蚀制备的微透镜阵列的电镜图^[21];(c)干法刻蚀辅助飞秒激光加工微透镜阵列示意图^[31];(d)干法刻蚀辅助飞秒激光加工的微透镜阵列的电镜图^[31]

Fig. 3 Fabrication of microlens array by etching-assisted ultrafast laser ablation. (a) Fabrication process schematic of microlens array by wet-etching-assisted femtosecond laser^[21]; (b) SEM image of fabricated microlens array by wet-etching-assisted femtosecond laser^[21]; (c) fabrication process of microlens array by dry-etching-assisted femtosecond laser^[31]; (d) SEM image of fabricated microlens array by dry-etching-assisted femtosecond laser^[31]

SU8,显影后获得了由不同曲率透镜构成的渐变焦距微透镜阵列,如图 4(a)所示。每个微透镜可以单独聚焦成像,形成的图像在微透镜后且不处于同一平面上,它的成像能够与像场弯曲带来的相差抵消,获得清晰图像,展示了光学元件对带状图像的平面成像能力。新型可变焦距微透镜阵列在光场曲率校正和实时三维成像方面具有重要的应用价值。Yang 等^[39]通过两步飞秒激光湿法刻蚀制备了双焦点微透镜阵列,如图 4(b)所示,该微透镜阵列在光学存储、激光束焦深扩展、无限制或波动目标的实时检测等方面具有潜在应用。Luo 等^[40]通过空间光束整形将高斯超快激光转变为贝塞尔光束,形成倒圆柱形光强分布,在石英玻璃表面直写出更接近抛物线形状的柱面微透镜阵列[如图 4(c)、(d)所示],该微透镜阵列展现出了较好的聚焦效果。Lu 等^[41]利用预编程飞秒激光直写技术,在 PDMS 表面自定义制备了不同形貌的微透镜阵列,如图 4(e)、(f)所示,这种微透镜阵列的灵活制造和集成为开发新型功能微流体和光流体装置带来了希望。当前,可编程超快激光加工技术配合高精度移动平台可以实现微透镜阵列的定制制备,为高性能光学微器件的制造提供了可能。

3.2 激光光致膨胀制备微透镜阵列

与上述激光烧蚀不同,激光光致膨胀制备微透镜是利用激光曝光区域产生的压力梯度来引起转变区域分离,焦点处的热量积累和后续材料的膨胀导致样品表面产生局部膨胀。由于复杂的激光-物质相互作用发生在材料内部,且激光辐照能量一般低于材料的烧蚀阈值,因此表面几乎不受扰动。采用激光光致膨胀制备微透镜的材料一般为聚甲基丙烯酸甲酯(PMMA)、聚碳酸酯等聚合物。超快激光可以在表面直接诱导生成微透镜阵列^[42-44]。Ou 等^[42]利用超快激光单脉冲直接在 PMMA 表面诱导生成了微透镜阵列[如图 5(a)所示],他们每分钟可制备出 60000 个直径小于 12 μm 的微透镜,该透镜具有良好的表面质量,如图 5(b)、(c)所示。该技术开辟了低成本制备大面积凸透镜的新途径,可广泛应用于实验室芯片、仿生复眼等微型设备的制备。通过调整超快激光焦点的位置,可以实现微透镜结构形貌的调控^[44]。但是,此种方法仅能在较小的激光单脉冲能量下产生微透镜,能量升高会使微透镜爆裂,不能用于光学成像,因此形貌控制性较差。此外,微透镜间距的减小会影响微透镜成形,导致微透镜的填充率不高。

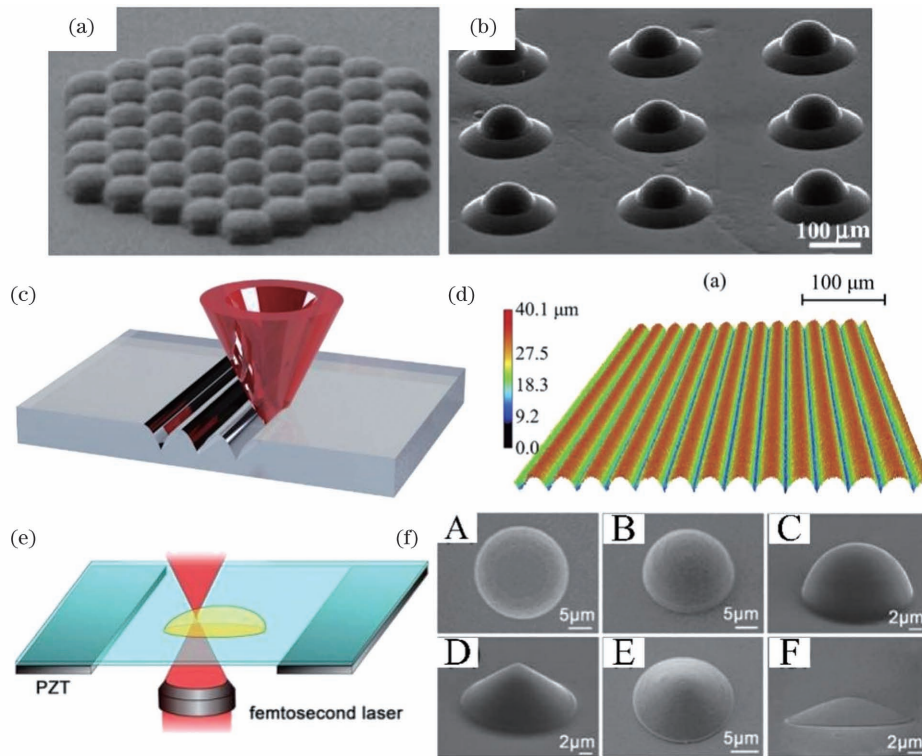


图 4 超快激光直写加工非均匀或异性微透镜阵列。(a)变焦距透镜阵列的电镜图^[38]；(b)双焦点微透镜阵列的电镜图^[39]；(c)贝塞尔光束制备柱面微透镜阵列的过程示意图^[40]；(d)贝塞尔光束制备柱面微透镜阵列的激光共聚焦图^[40]；(e)预编程激光直写技术在 PDMS 表面制备微透镜示意图^[41]；(f)预编程激光直写技术制备的各种曲面微透镜的电镜图^[41]

Fig. 4 Fabrication of nonuniform or heterogeneous microlens array by ultrafast laser direct writing. (a) SEM image of focal varying microlens array^[38]; (b) SEM image of dual-focus microlens array^[39]; (c) schematic illumination of fabrication process of parabolic cylindrical microlens array with a Bessel beam^[40]; (d) LSCM image of cylindrical microlenses fabricated with a Bessel beam^[40]; (e) schematic of fabrication process of microlens by preprogrammed laser direct writing^[41]; (f) SEM images of microlenses with various curved surfaces prepared by preprogrammed laser direct writing^[41]

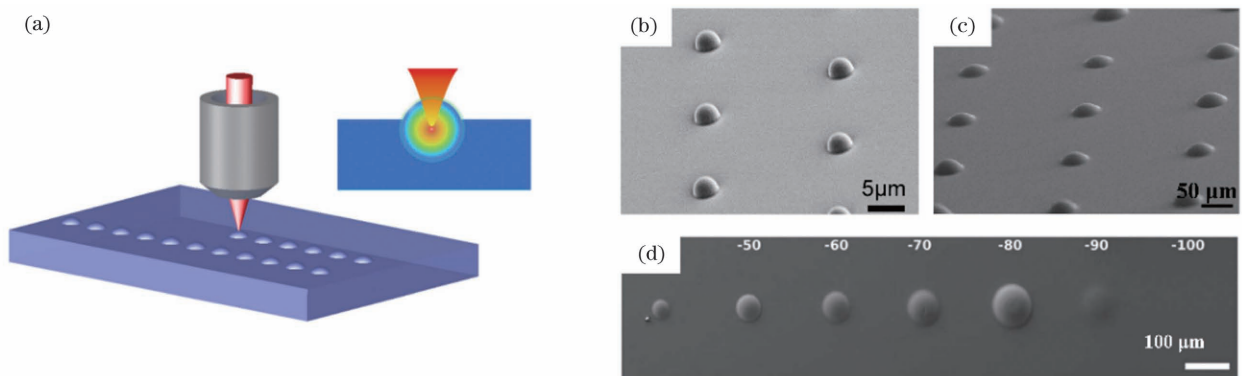


图 5 超快激光单脉冲光致膨胀制备微透镜阵列。(a)超快激光光致膨胀在 PMMA 表面诱导生成微透镜阵列示意图^[42]；(b)~(c)超快激光光致膨胀制备的微透镜阵列的电镜图^[42-43]；(d)激光聚焦不同深度获得的微膨胀结构的电镜图^[44]

Fig. 5 Microlens arrays fabricated by single pulse ultrafast laser-induced swelling. (a) Schematic illustration of PMMA microlens array fabrication by laser-induced swelling^[42]; (b)~(c) SEM images of fabricated microlens array by single pulse ultrafast laser-induced swelling^[42-43]; (d) SEM image of microswelling structure after laser irradiation at different depths^[44]

为了制造大曲率微透镜,Shao 等^[45]提出了受限激光膨胀方法,如图 6(a)所示。与传统的自由激光溶胀法不同,该方法将溶胀聚合物(甲基红掺杂的 PMMA)约束在玻璃基板和柔性覆盖层之间,材料烧蚀后产生气体,随着时间延长,气体不断积累,产生向外释放的力;同时,光热效应使聚合物温度升高,材料逐渐由固态转变为玻璃态、橡胶态,最后转变为黏流态,从而使光化学效应产生的力向外释放,产生凸起的膨胀结构。此种方法使微透镜的高度提高了数十倍,如图 6(b)所示。同样地,Li 等^[46]利用激光加工双层薄膜的方法,在不透明基底表面涂覆透明薄膜,将激光焦点聚焦到材料下层,使吸收层与膨胀层分离,实现了微透镜阵列的大尺寸范围调控[如图 6(c)所示],并制备出了高度和直径分别为 43 μm 和 149 μm 的大面积微透镜阵列。该方法实现了微透镜阵列的

可控制造。但上述激光点对点加工方法的效率较低,单件生成周期可达 7~8 h。同时,作为激光能量吸收层的黑色亚克力板,使得制备的微膨胀结构经过翻模后才能用于光学成像。为提高微透镜的制造效率,Li 等^[47]用透光玻璃替代黑色亚克力板作为基底;结果表明,在激光辐照下,甲基红材料分解,因此制备的微结构可以直接用于光学成像。此外,将高斯光整形为平顶光,在加工样片前光路添加微透镜阵列,可以实现多焦点同时加工[如图 6(d)所示],一次激光辐照(1~2 s)、一次平台移动就可以获得数百个(约为 630)微透镜阵列,实现了微透镜阵列(高度和直径分别为 12 μm 和 55 μm)的大面积快速制造,很好地解决了微透镜阵列制备的效率问题。当膨胀结构距离较近时,微透镜的成形会受到影响,因此用激光受限膨胀方法加工微透镜时,填充率会受到很大限制。

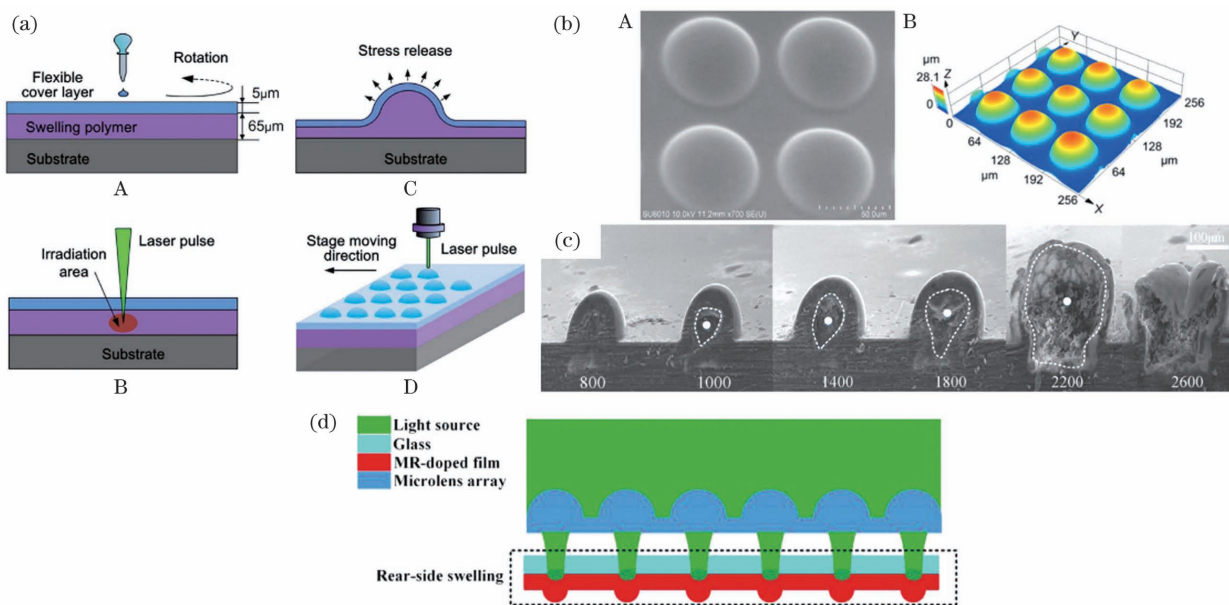


图 6 飞秒激光光致膨胀制备大尺寸微透镜阵列。(a)飞秒激光光致膨胀加工双层薄膜获得微透镜阵列示意图^[45];(b)飞秒激光加工双层薄膜获得的微透镜阵列的电镜图和激光共聚焦图^[45];(c)不同激光脉冲下获得的微透镜截面的电镜图^[46];(d)激光多焦点加工微透镜阵列示意图^[47]

Fig. 6 Large size microlens array fabrication by femtosecond laser-induced swelling. (a) Schematic of fabrication process of microlens array by femtosecond laser-induced swelling of two-layer polymers^[45]; (b) SEM and LSCM images of microlens array fabricated by femtosecond laser-induced swelling of two-layer polymers^[45]; (c) SEM images of cross section of microlens array obtained at different pulse numbers^[46]; (d) diagram for fabrication of microlens array by multifocal laser processing^[47]

4 超疏水复眼透镜的超快激光加工

上述超快激光制备的微透镜阵列缺少纳米结构,对液滴的黏附力较大,接触液滴很难滚走。当微视觉系统接触外界灰尘或其他杂质时,很难清理,这会对光学器件造成一定损坏,极大地限制了

微透镜阵列的应用。因此,很多科研院校围绕超疏水复眼透镜的制备进行了大量研究工作,将自清洁特性赋予微透镜阵列,推动仿生复眼的室外应用。

Yong 等^[48]提出了采用激光单步扫描在聚二甲基硅氧烷(PDMS)表面制备疏水性和黏附性可控的

仿生复眼的方法,如图 7(a)所示。在 PDMS 薄膜上,采用飞秒激光逐点扫描快速产生凹透镜阵列,此时会在凹透镜表面诱导产生纳米结构,如图 7(b)所示。这种纳米结构会显著提高表面粗糙度,使得表面疏水性得到提升。当微透镜间距在 $16 \sim 30 \mu\text{m}$ 范围内时,表面的水接触角可达 175° 。通过调整相

邻微孔的重叠程度产生的“微气囊效应”可以控制附着力从超高变化到超低,水滚动角从 180° 变化到 3° ,这为超疏水、可控表面黏附力的表面制备提供了一种简便而有前景的方法。但由于该方法会使微透镜表面烧蚀产生纳米结构,因此其制备的仿生复眼的透光率受到了影响。

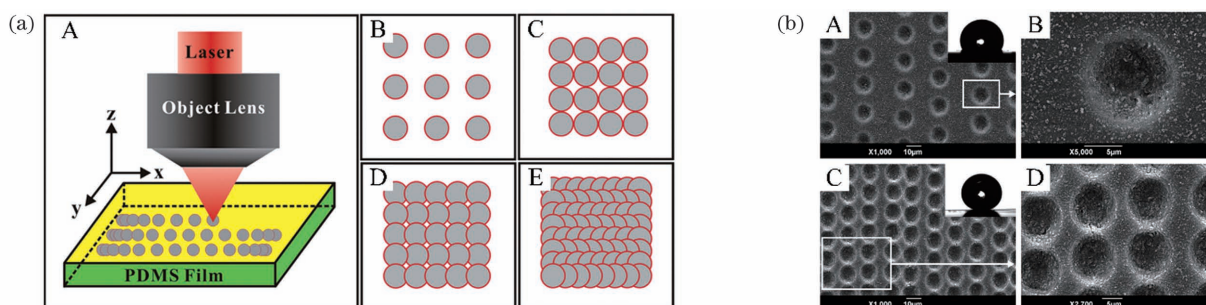


图 7 飞秒激光单步烧蚀制备超疏水复眼透镜^[48]。(a)不同间距自清洁人工仿生复眼制作过程示意图;(b)超快激光烧蚀产生的不同间距微透镜阵列的电镜图,插图为不同表面的水接触角

Fig. 7 Fabrication of superhydrophobic compound eye by single-step femtosecond laser ablation^[48]. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication process of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with different periods; (b) SEM images of microlens array with different periods fabricated by femtosecond laser ablation, and the insets are water contact angle on different surfaces

为提高仿生复眼对低表面张力液滴、油污的自清洁特性,Li 等^[49]先利用飞秒激光辅助湿法刻蚀技术在 K9 玻璃表面制造曲面光滑的微透镜阵列,然

后利用激光二次扫描,在表面制备出超疏水微纳层级结构,如图 8(a)所示。该结构由 10000 个直径为 $50 \mu\text{m}$ 的密排微透镜组成,如图 8(b)、(c)所示,水

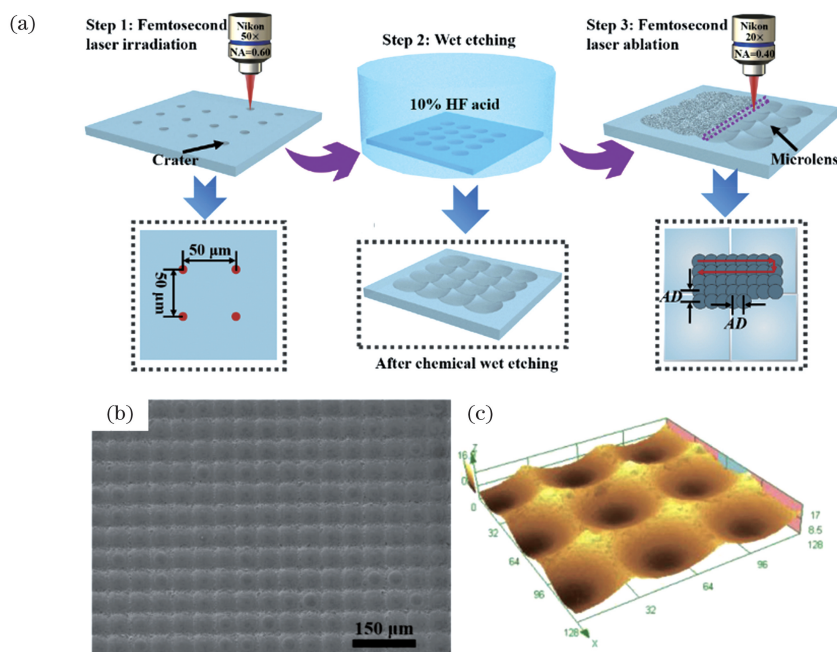


图 8 超快激光制备全覆盖微纳结构超疏水复眼透镜^[49]。(a)超快激光扫描全覆盖微纳结构制备自清洁仿生复眼过程示意图;(b)全覆盖微纳结构自清洁仿生复眼的电镜图;(c)全覆盖微纳结构自清洁仿生复眼的激光共聚焦显微图

Fig. 8 Fabrication of superhydrophobic compound eye with fully covered micro/nano structures by ultrafast laser^[49]. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication process of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with fully covered micronano structures by ultrafast laser; (b) SEM image of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with fully covered micronano structures; (c) LSCM image of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with fully covered micronano structures

下油滴的接触角、滚动角分别为 158° 和 2.0° , 对各种油类表现出了良好的疏油特性和超低油黏附性; 同时, 所制备的复眼透镜具有良好的机械稳定性, 在海洋探索、水下光学成像等方面具有广阔的应用前景。但由于完全覆盖和随机分布的微纳米粒子, 该复眼透镜在 $400\sim 800\text{ nm}$ 可见光范围内的透光率降低了 20% 以上。

为在不影响透光率的前提下, 将自清洁特性赋予微透镜阵列, Li 等^[50] 在微透镜间隙进行了超疏水微纳结构的定位制备, 如图 9(a) 所示。首先利用飞秒激光烧蚀的方式在玻璃表面加工微凹透镜阵列, 湿法刻蚀后翻模得到 PDMS 基微凸透镜阵列, 如图 9(b) 所示, 然后用飞秒激光在微透镜间隙扫描制备超疏水粗糙微纳结构。该方法在不影响成像单元

光学性能的情况下, 使表面的超疏水性显著改善, 表面的水接触角、倾斜角分别达到 162° 和 0.5° 。同时, 该结构被油液污染后, 可用水直接清理。该结构在太阳能电池、医疗内窥镜以及其他经常在潮湿环境或户外使用的光学系统中具有重要的应用价值。但外界污染液滴接触表面后会首先与凸透镜接触, 易污染光学元件。为了避免两者接触, Bian 等^[51] 通过飞秒激光湿法刻蚀在玻璃表面获得微凹透镜, 然后在凹透镜间隙扫描获得超疏水微纳结构, 如图 9(c) 所示。通过微米、纳米结构的巧妙结合, 该结构的水接触角、滚动角分别达到了 160° 和 1.5° , 同时具有优良的光学特性和自清洁能力, 大幅提高了其在油污等污染作业条件下的工作能力, 促进了水下检测和生物科学研究的开展。

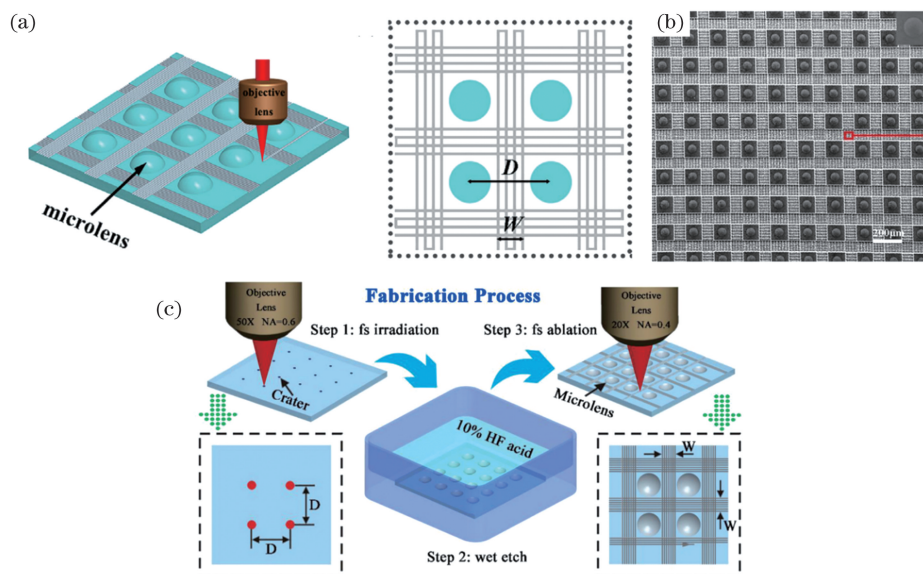


图 9 微透镜间隙复合微纳结构的超疏水复眼透镜的超快激光制备。(a)微凸透镜间隙复合超疏水微纳结构的自清洁仿生复眼的超快激光制备过程示意图^[50]; (b)微凸透镜间隙复合微纳结构自清洁仿生复眼的电镜图^[50]; (c)微凹透镜间隙复合超疏水微纳结构的自清洁仿生复眼的超快激光制备过程示意图^[51]

Fig. 9 Fabrication of superhydrophobic compound eye with micro/nano structures at the gaps of microlens by ultrafast laser. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with criss-cross reticular rough structures around the convex microlenses by ultrafast laser^[50]; (b) SEM image of artificial compound eye with criss-cross reticular rough micro/nano structures around the microlens array^[50]; (c) schematic illustration of fabrication of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with criss-cross reticular rough structures around the concave microlenses by ultrafast laser^[51]

激光加工技术也可作为辅助技术与其他技术复合制备疏水纳米结构, 如: Shao 等^[52] 将纳米压印与激光后向光致膨胀技术相结合, 制造了疏水微纳仿生复眼, 制备过程如图 10(a) 所示。首先, 在玻璃基底上制备膨胀薄膜, 利用旋涂方法旋涂压印材料, 用软模具进行压印, 固化后得到用于制造微纳米结构的样片; 然后, 利用高能束激光隔着玻璃将聚焦光斑调节在膨

胀薄膜上, 在激光的辐照下, 材料分解产生小分子气体, 在内应力作用下, 下层材料会发生塑性变形, 从而获得曲面排列的纳米结构。该微纳米复合结构表面的水接触角可达到 146° 。Wang 等^[53] 利用同样的方法制备了超疏水复眼透镜, 该复眼透镜的电镜形貌如图 10(b) 所示, 其表面的水接触角、滚动角分别可达到 152° 和 12° , 反射率也显著降低。此种方法可以实现

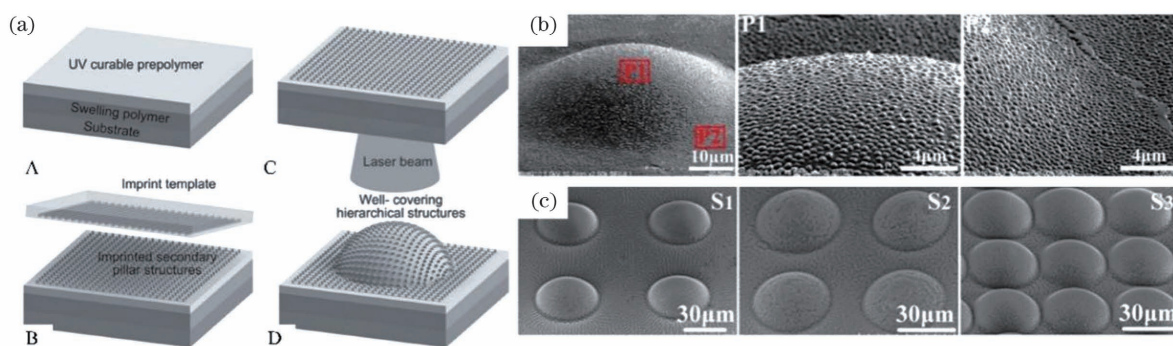


图 10 激光结合其他技术制备自清洁仿生复眼。(a) 纳米压印与激光后向光致膨胀技术制备自清洁仿生复眼示意图^[52]；(b) 表面全覆盖纳米柱自清洁仿生复眼的电镜图^[53]；(c) 化学生长法和激光后向光致膨胀技术制备的自清洁仿生复眼的电镜图^[54]

Fig. 10 Fabrication of self-cleaning artificial compound eyes by laser combined with other technologies. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with fully covered nanopillars by nanoimprinting and laser-induced swelling^[52]; (b) SEM images of self-cleaning artificial compound eye with fully covered nanopillars^[53]; (c) SEM images of self-cleaning artificial compound eye fabricated by chemical growth and laser-induced swelling^[54]

纳米结构在曲面上的良好排列,但是在翻模过程中,纳米结构易缺失或变形。Li 等^[54]先采用超快激光制备微透镜阵列,然后采用化学生长法制备了完全覆盖纳米颗粒的微透镜,如图 10(c)所示。该微透镜阵列中纳米棒的长度为 202~621 nm,直径为 90~127 nm,表面的水接触角可达到 160°,对水表现出良好的排斥效果。尽管该结构的疏水性显著改善,但由于纳米结构紧密排列,整个复眼系统的透光

性降低;同时,表面散射会影响微透镜的聚焦性。

5 大视场仿生复眼的超快激光加工

高能束直写是具有三维微纳结构制造能力的典型技术,可以直接在基底材料上加工曲面复眼透镜,避免了使用模板和图形转移。Wu 等^[55]利用飞秒激光像素调制扫描直写技术,通过高精度多维运动平台移动,实现了复眼形貌的定制加工,如图 11(a)所

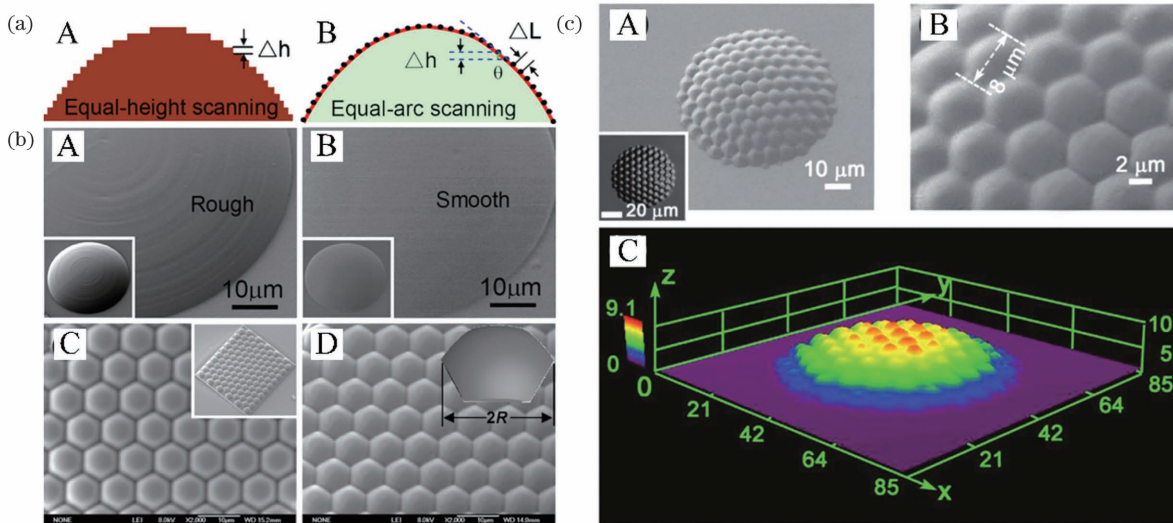


图 11 超快激光直写大视场人工复眼。(a) 等等高等弧超快激光扫描制备大视场人工复眼示意图^[55]；(b) 等等高等弧超快激光扫描制备的单个微透镜和紧密排列六边形大视场人工复眼的电镜图^[55]；(c) 牛血清蛋白基大视场人工复眼的电镜图和激光共聚焦图^[57]

Fig. 11 Ultrafast laser direct writing of wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye. (a) Fabrication of wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye by equal-height and equal-arc ultrafast laser scanning^[55]; (b) SEM images of single microlens and gapless hexagonal wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye fabricated by equal-height and equal-arc ultrafast laser scanning^[55]; (c) SEM images and three-dimensional laser confocal microscopy image of wide-field-of-view BSA-based artificial compound eye^[57]

示。通过设计、优化弧形扫描路径产生的自平滑效应,使制造的复眼具有较高的表面质量,微透镜填充率和数值孔径分别达到 100% 和 0.46,如图 11(b) 所示。这种人工复眼在光束整形、光学互连和集成光学系统等方面具有巨大的应用潜力。Wu 等^[56]采用高速三维像素调制激光扫描方法,制备了直径为 84 μm 的无畸变人工复眼,其小眼呈六边形。该人工复眼具有高填充因子(100%)、大数值孔径($NA=0.4$)、超低表面粗糙度(2.5 nm)、非球面轮廓、光学误差小($<\pm 6\%$)、任意方向上分辨率恒定等特性,显著降低了光学失真,视场角可控制在 $30^\circ\sim 90^\circ$ 之间,在广角通信天线、集成光路等方面具有广阔的应用前景。

复眼材料通常为玻璃、聚合物等惰性透明材料,无法进行可变焦距成像,在变焦距调谐成像方面的应用受到了一定限制。受人眼可调晶状体的启发,Ma 等^[57]采用可编程的高精度飞秒激光三维纳米尺度结构制造技术,在牛血清蛋白上制造了直径为 64 μm 、高度为 6.5 μm 的智能复眼,如图 11(c) 所示。与自然界昆虫的复眼相比,该方法制备的复眼的小眼数量少、尺寸小。尽管如此,小眼填充率仍高达 100%,且呈六边形构造(直径和高度分别为 8 μm 和 2 μm)。利用牛血清蛋白在不同 pH 溶液

中的溶胀和收缩作用,能够实现焦距和视场的动态可调($35^\circ\sim 80^\circ$)。智能复眼可以与传统的光学或光电设备集成,在微型和智能成像系统中具有巨大的应用潜力;同时其所使用的材料具有良好的生物相容性,在生物组织监测、活体成像等方面同样具有广阔的应用前景。

三维激光直写技术避免了曲面模板的使用,可实现复杂结构的可编程定制制备,充分体现了超快激光直写技术在仿生复眼制备方面的巨大优势。其局限性在于逐点扫描方式的加工效率较低,在制备较大尺寸的复眼透镜时耗时较长,且复眼的整体尺寸较小,为微米级别。此外,直写技术过度依赖于激光调制像素,通常需要集成多个线性和旋转平台,光束运动路径比较复杂,对设备精度要求极高,加工周期较长(单件加工时间往往需要数十小时),生产效率较低且成本较高。

为获得高质量、无畸变的曲面微透镜阵列,最佳的方法是在曲面基底上直接制备微透镜阵列^[58-59]。2016 年, Bian 等^[58]通过不断调节飞秒激光焦点位置在曲面基底上烧蚀了全覆盖凹坑,如图 12(a) 所示,经过后续氢氟酸湿法刻蚀、翻模后,可在曲面基底上获得均匀光滑的微凸透镜阵列。如图 12(b) 所示,30000 多个直径为 95 μm 的微凸透镜紧密排列

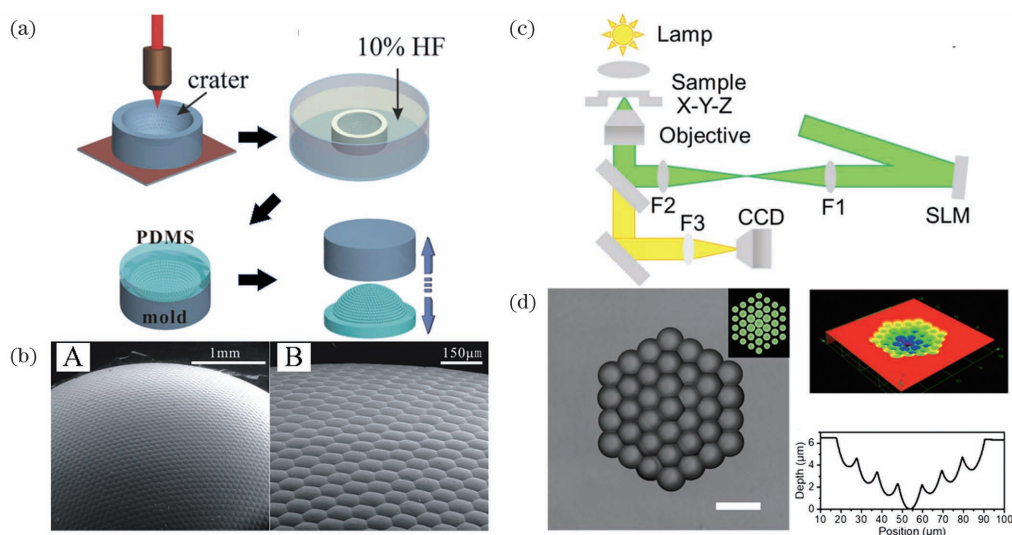


图 12 超快激光在曲面基底上制备大视场复眼透镜。(a)超快激光逐点辐照在曲面透镜上加工微透镜阵列辅助湿法刻蚀制备大视场人工复眼示意图^[58]; (b)紧密排列微透镜阵列的大视场人工复眼电镜图^[58]; (c)空间光调制辅助加工大视场复眼透镜系统示意图^[60]; (d)空间光调制加工大视场复眼透镜的形貌图^[60]

Fig. 12 Wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye by ultrafast laser processing of curved substrate. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication process of wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye by first point-by-point laser exposure on the curved lens and subsequent HF-assisted etching^[58]; (b) SEM images of closely-packed wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye^[58]; (c) schematic of aided fabrication of a wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye by spatial light modulation^[60]; (d) morphologies of artificial compound eye fabricated by spatial light modulation^[60]

在直径为 5 mm 的半球上,该微透镜阵列具有优良的光学性能。该方法不需要沿曲面法线方向引导控制激光束,只需要常规 $x-y-z$ 线性平台即可完成加工(不需要复杂的多轴运动控制系统),因此在开发以曲面微透镜为核心的器件和系统方面具有巨大的应用潜力。提高三维复眼透镜加工效率的另一种方式是采用光场调制技术,该技术将光分成能量相等的均匀光,可实现多焦点同步加工,因此效率明显提升。Cao 等^[60]采用空间光束整形[如图 12(c)所示]和湿法刻蚀,制备了半径约为 120 μm 的复眼透镜,如图 12(d)所示。该方法提供了一种并行且高效的技术,可以制造应用于光流体学、光通信和集成光学方面的三维微光学器件。

超快激光可与其他技术结合制备大视场复眼透镜,从而高效地完成大尺寸仿生复眼的制备^[61-64]。Liu 等^[62]利用飞秒激光加工辅助湿法刻蚀在 PMMA 聚合物材料表面烧蚀获得了微透镜阵列,然

后采用热压技术将平面微透镜转变成曲面排列[如图 13(a)所示],在 PMMA 曲面半球上实现了 7600 多个直径为 50 μm 的六边形微透镜的制备,复眼视场角可达到 162°[如图 13(b)所示]。Deng 等^[63]利用同样的方法,制造了具有 30000 多个小眼的仿生复眼,其毫米结构直径为 5 mm,微米结构直径为 24.5 μm ,复眼的质量约为 67 mg,视场角可达到 140°。Liu 等^[64]先利用飞秒激光辅助湿法刻蚀方法制备了紧密排列的平面微透镜阵列,然后利用纳米压印方法制造了热塑性红外聚合物材料 3D 红外人工复眼,其视场角可以达到 148°;在曲面结构底部的半球形薄壳圆顶(半径为 2.7 mm,高度为 2.1 mm)上紧密堆积着 1000 多个高质量微透镜,微透镜的直径为 150 μm ,数值孔径为 0.35,空间分辨率高达 160 lp/mm。该方法的制造效率高,在红外成像、目标追踪等新兴领域具有广阔的应用前景。

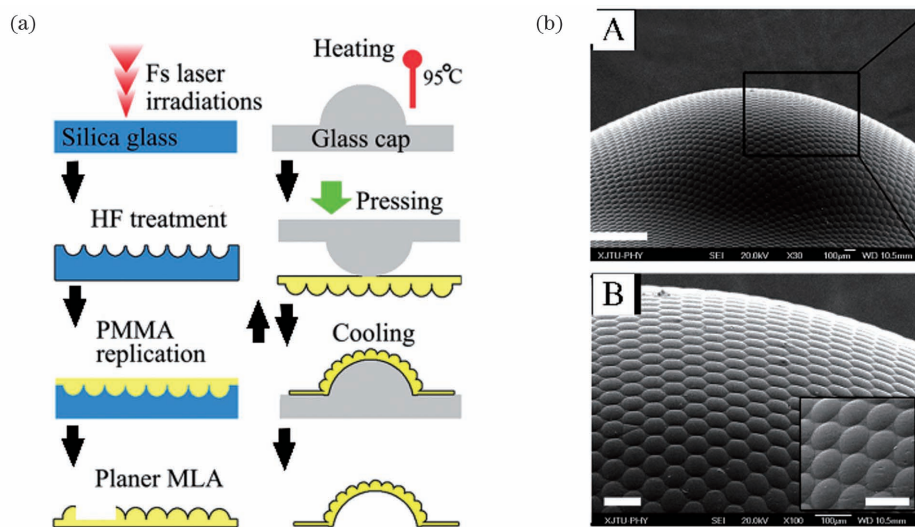


图 13 超快激光与热压技术结合制备大视场人工仿生复眼。(a)大视场人工仿生复眼的制备过程示意图^[62]; (b)大视场人工仿生复眼的电镜图^[62]

Fig. 13 Fabrication of wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye by first ultrafast laser irradiation and subsequent hot embossing. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication of wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye^[62]; (b) SEM images of wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye^[62]

超快激光可与气压辅助成形技术结合制备大视场仿生复眼。2020年,Cao 等^[65]先采用湿法刻蚀辅助飞秒激光技术获得平面微透镜阵列,之后将翻模后的柔性模板与微流控腔室连接,调节腔室注水量,将平面微透镜阵列演变为可调视场角的复眼透镜[如图 14(a)所示],其视场角可调至 180°。更为重要的是,他们制备的复眼透镜能够区分不同距离的物体,可以用作变焦镜头,其焦距可从 3.03 调至无限远。这款可变焦复眼透镜结合了单眼和复眼的优

点,有望实现大视场与可变焦成像等集成的先进成像器件的制备。

此外,上述技术与纳米技术结合,可使仿生复眼集成自清洁与抗反射等特性。Wang 等^[53]利用纳米压印、激光光致膨胀、气压辅助成形技术制造了宏微纳跨尺度多级仿生复眼[如图 14(b)所示],其中,微透镜形貌可以通过激光参数进行调控,毫米结构可以通过更换模具进行调控,因此该技术可以实现仿生复眼的定制制造。他们制备的复眼表面的水接触

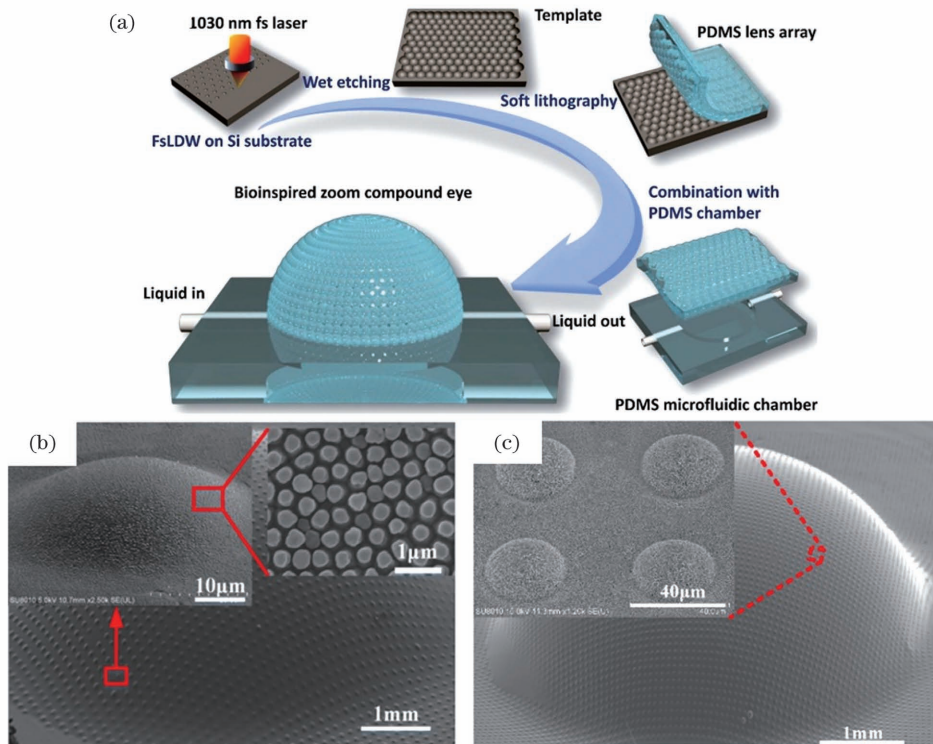


图 14 超快激光与纳米技术结合制备多功能仿生复眼。(a)刻蚀辅助超快激光与微流控技术结合制备大视场可变焦人工复眼示意图^[65];(b)纳米压印、激光光致膨胀和气压辅助成形多种技术结合制备的跨尺度多级仿生复眼的电镜图^[53];(c)超快激光、气压辅助成形和晶体生长多种技术结合制备的跨尺度多级仿生复眼的电镜图^[54]

Fig. 14 Fabrication of multifunctional artificial compound eye by combining ultrafast laser and other nanotechnologies. (a) Schematic illustration of fabrication process of multiscale artificial compound eye by etching-assisted ultrafast laser ablation and microfluidic technology^[65]; (b) SEM images of multiscale artificial compound eye fabricated by nanoimprinting, laser-induced swelling, and air-assisted deformation^[53]; (c) SEM images of multiscale artificial compound eye fabricated by ultrafast laser irradiation, air-assisted deformation, and chemical growth^[54]

角、滚动角分别为 152° 和 12° 。除了表面疏水性得以改进外,该复眼在 $200\sim 1200\text{ nm}$ 波长范围内的透射率增加了 2% ,视场角可达到 120° 。这些多功能集成使得微型视觉系统可以在弱光、潮湿等多种恶劣环境下保持优良的光学性能。Li 等^[54]将超快激光、气压辅助成形和晶体生长等多种技术结合制备了多级仿生复眼,如图 14(c)所示,其表面的水接触角达到了 160° ,在可见光范围内的反射率降低了 25% ,呈现出良好的光学性能,在监控成像、光场摄影和广角通信等领域具有潜在的应用前景。与激光直写三维结构方法以及在曲面基底上刻蚀微透镜方法相比,热压和气压辅助成形技术主要通过平面制造技术的转移或弯曲来实现曲面上微透镜或微成像元件的制备。在平面微透镜阵列变形为曲面几何形状的转移或弯曲过程中,微透镜阵列各部分的应力分布不均匀,这会不可避免地导致单个小透镜发生畸变,从而严重降低器件的性能。

6 结束语

相对于单眼视觉系统,自然界昆虫复眼具有体积小、视场大、运动和光敏感性高及自清洁能力强等众多优良特性。近几年,受其独特构造的启发,仿生复眼视觉系统的设计和制造技术都取得了长足进步,在机器人视觉导航、无人驾驶、微型飞行器系统等前沿领域具有巨大的应用前景。本文首先介绍了自然界昆虫复眼的结构及功能,阐述了各类型仿生复眼的超快激光加工研究进展,分析了超快激光加工技术制备仿生复眼存在的主要问题和发展趋势,以为仿生复眼视觉系统的进一步研究与开发提供有效参考。

飞秒激光具有超短的脉冲宽度和超高的瞬时功率,能够实现超高精度的微纳加工,轻松突破衍射极限,是灵活制备微纳米结构的可靠手段。同时,飞秒激光加工技术对材料没有选择性,加工过程也非常灵活,可进行任意复杂结构的加工,在仿生复眼加工

中有着独特的优势。目前,在仿生复眼的加工方面,超快激光烧蚀和光致膨胀方法已逐渐成熟,激光光致膨胀法具有更高的表面加工质量和尺寸可控性,激光烧蚀在加工效率和填充率方面具有优势,可以根据实际需要选择合适的加工方法。对于超疏水复眼透镜,可以利用超快激光在微透镜间隙或是顶部扫描获得超疏水结构。对于前者,外部液滴直接与光学单元接触会导致污染问题;对于后者,纳米结构尺寸或分布调控不当就会影响成像单元的光学性能。对于大视场复眼透镜,热压或压力辅助曲面变形技术可以高效地将超快激光制备的平面微透镜变为曲面,但存在成像单元易变形的问题,会影响器件的性能。相对而言,可编程超快直写技术避免了图形转移,其以强大的可编程设计能力,可对昆虫复眼进行高端跨尺度多级结构完美复印和一次成形,在图形保真方面具有明显优势,有望集成昆虫复眼大视场成像和纳米结构超疏水、抗反射的优点,极大地提高光学系统的弱光探测和运动感知能力,以及光学系统在恶劣环境下对目标物体的识别能力。

当前,激光加工技术制备复眼透镜虽然已经取得了一定进步,但仍存在一些亟待解决的问题:1)逐点扫描的加工方式使得高精度飞秒激光的加工效率低、耗时长,实现整体宏观尺度复眼视觉系统的高效制备是亟待解决和突破的难点。针对这一挑战,可以利用空间光调制技术对超快激光光束的振幅、相位或偏振等参数进行调控,再配合光路设计,可在材料加工区域得到任意的光场强度分布,从而获得复眼透镜的快速、高精度制备,这是超快激光加工复眼透镜的重要发展方向。2)激光扫描技术虽然可以在表面产生高粗糙度的微纳结构,但纳米结构多为微米结构加工过程中诱导而成,纳米结构缺乏可设计性。因此,如何实现复眼透镜表面纳米结构的定制制备同样面临巨大挑战。后期需要提升超快激光纳米结构的可控制备能力,探索同时调控表面微米-纳米双尺度结构方法,为高性能复眼透镜的制备奠定基础。此外,利用超快激光加工技术实现仿生复眼大视场探测、高速目标识别和自清洁等特性集成后,仿生器件与工业化光电传感器及其他硬件兼容也是亟须解决的难题。

与自然界昆虫复眼的性能相比,现有的人工复眼视觉系统在光学性能和自清洁能力方面还有较大差距,为推进光学系统更广泛的应用,应该充分发挥超快激光的加工优势,使其成为制备仿生复眼视觉系统的利器!

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Research Advancement on Fabrication of Artificial Compound Eye Using Ultrafast Laser

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Abstract

Significance Compared with single eyes, the compound eyes of natural insects are characterized by their microimaging, self-cleaning, wide-field-of-view, and high motion detection sensitivity properties due to their micro-nano multiscale structures and curved distribution of small optical units called “ommatidia”. The artificial implementation of such natural imaging systems has important application prospects in cutting-edge fields of robot visual navigation, unmanned driving, and microaircraft systems; therefore, it has recently become a research hotspot. Although several methods have been proposed for fabricating the artificial compound eye, they face challenges due to some limitations. To date, as an advanced manufacturing technology, ultrafast laser has become an ideal tool for fabricating artificial compound eyes with multiscale structures owing to their good flexibility, high fabrication accuracy, and true three-dimensional processing. In addition, the high transient intensity and high ultrafast laser power give the technology a high resolution beyond the optical diffraction limit, which is enough to fabricate various materials, both hard and soft materials. This article reviews the research progress of ultrafast laser processing of various types of artificial compound eyes, including the planar microlens arrays, superhydrophobic compound eye, and wide-field-of-view compound eye. The problems and development trends of the technology in the fabrication of artificial compound eyes are analyzed, thereby providing an effective reference for further research and development of the artificial-compound-eye-based systems.

Progress This study analyzes the structural characteristics of insect compound eyes and presents the advantages of using insect compound eyes in optical imaging (Fig. 1). Based on these characteristics, various artificial compound eyes were designed and fabricated. Then, the research progress for fabricating three types of artificial compound eyes using an ultrafast laser was reported and the advantages and disadvantages of different methods were analyzed. (1) Planar microlens array: currently, the use of ultrafast laser for fabricating planar distributed microlens array through laser ablation (Figs. 2 and 3) and swelling (Figs. 5 and 6) has gradually increased. For laser ablation, the technology has the advantages of high processing efficiency and filling factor, whereas for swelling, the surface quality of microlenses is relatively high and its size has high controllability. In addition, by controlling the process, various forms of microlenses such as cylindrical, dual-focus or other microlenses with irregular surfaces can be fabricated (Fig. 4). (2) Self-cleaning artificial compound eye (Figs. 7–10): in terms of the self-cleaning artificial compound eye, the nonwetting nanostructures could be fabricated at the interval or on the top of microlens arrays. Both the fabricated surfaces endow good self-cleaning property for carefully controlled structures. For the former, the outside droplets are directly in contact with the optical unit and cause pollution problems. For the latter, the fully covered nanostructures easily deteriorate the transmittance of the microlens array if it is over a certain size or has a

narrow distribution. In addition, to obtain neatly arranged nanostructures, combining techniques such as imprinting is necessary because the nanostructures induced by the laser are not uniform. (3) Wide-field-of-view artificial compound eye (Figs. 11–14): for programmable direct laser writing, the structures have high fidelity and the artificial compound eye can be fabricated as designed. However, the single-point scanning procedure suffers from low efficiency and the prepared eyes are generally on the micron scale. To improve the fabrication efficiency, a planar microlens array was first fabricated using the laser-based method. Subsequently, using the air- or hydraulic-assisted deformation, the planar distributed microlens array was transformed into a curved architecture. However, during the deformation of a flexible film, the height of the microlenses decreased while the spacing increased, thereby affecting the functional consistency of the imaging unit. Finally, we analyze problems and development trends of the ultrafast laser processing technology in preparing artificial compound eyes to provide necessary references for developing this field.

Conclusion and prospects Artificial compound eye has several intriguing features and has been widely used in various fields. As the fabrication technology of artificial compound eyes continues to develop, ultrafast laser processing stands out because of its high processing resolution and programmable design. Thus, it allows the fabrication of artificial compound eyes with multiscale structures. With the deepening of the research, various artificial compound eyes with different shapes and arrangements have been proposed to achieve different functions and important progress has been made in laser processing technology. This article reviews the research process of three types of artificial compound eyes and comprehensively analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of the laser-based methods for preparing different compound eyes. Although several challenges hinder the fabrication of artificial compound eyes using ultrafast laser and the existing artificial compound eye vision system still has a big gap in terms of optical performance and self-cleaning ability compared with the natural one, we believe these problems will be resolved and with the continuous development of laser technology and ultrafast laser will become a powerful tool for preparing artificial-compound-eye-based vision system.

Key words laser technique; ultrafast laser; artificial compound eye; planar microlens array; superhydrophobic compound eye lens; wide-field-of-view compound eye lens