

## VCSEL 端面泵浦的全固体激光器

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**摘要** 介绍了一种垂直腔表面发射激光器(VCSEL)端面泵浦的固体激光器。该激光器以 VCSEL 阵列端面泵浦 Nd:YAG 晶体,使用二维微透镜阵列对 VCSEL 阵列进行准直整形,通过电光调 Q 方式,在 100 Hz 重复频率情况下,实现了脉宽为 4.16 ns、能量为 5.36 mJ、峰值功率为 1.29 MW、光束质量为  $M_x^2=1.409$  和  $M_y^2=1.531$  的激光输出。

**关键词** 激光器; 固体激光器; 垂直腔面发射激光器; 端面泵浦

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## 1 引言

半导体激光器具有高效率、小发散角、窄脉宽、长寿命、可批量化生产等优点,目前被广泛应用于材料加工、工业制造、激光照明、激光雷达和激光通信等领域。但传统的边发射半导体激光器的输出光斑为椭圆形,需要额外的光束整形系统,并且对温度变化较为敏感,中心波长处的温度漂移系数为  $0.3 \text{ nm}/^\circ\text{C}$ ,因此在宽温度范围内的应用中需要额外的温控系统,增加了激光器的体积、成本以及复杂性<sup>[1-3]</sup>。

近年来垂直腔表面发射激光器(VCSEL)的快速发展使得 VCSEL 成为半导体激光器泵浦源的新选择。与传统的边发射半导体激光器相比,VCSEL 具有光束质量高、温漂系数小、可靠性高、成本低等优点,且出射光是具有小发散角的圆形光斑。一个 VCSEL 芯片的二维阵列分布包含数百或者数千个单元,通过二维阵列排布可以实现数百瓦甚至数千瓦的高功率输出,因此 VCSEL 适合作为结构紧凑的高功率固体激光器的泵浦源<sup>[4-9]</sup>。同时,VCSEL 阵列的温漂系数小,对温度变化不敏感,在温度变化大的环境中应用时不需要额外的温控系统。在空间中应用时,环境恶劣,温度变化迅速,需要激光器具有体积小、效率高、可靠性高、适应空间环境等特点。因此,以 VCSEL 阵列作为泵浦源的半导体激光器是未来空间应用的一个重要方向<sup>[10]</sup>。

2012 年,Princeton 公司采用 VCSEL 阵列端面泵浦被动调 Q 方式,实现了能量为 18 mJ 的 1064 nm 激光输出,脉宽为 16 ns,光光效率为 9.7%。2017 年,该

公司以被动调 Q 方式,采用 VCSEL 阵列泵浦 Nd:YAG,实现了重复频率为 15 Hz、脉冲能量为 47 mJ 的 1064 nm 激光输出,腔长为 138 mm,直径仅为 27 mm<sup>[11]</sup>。近年来国内也开展了以 VCSEL 阵列来作为泵浦源的研究,但进展较少。2016 年,中国科学院上海光学精密机械研究所使用两个 VCSEL 阵列侧面泵浦 Nd:YAG 晶体,通过被动调 Q 方式实现了单脉冲能量为 2.1 mJ、脉宽为 4 ns 的输出<sup>[12]</sup>。2021 年,中国科学院理化技术研究所通过采用 VCSEL 阵列侧面泵浦 Nd:YAG 晶体,实现了 437 W 的输出<sup>[13]</sup>。

本文以 VCSEL 阵列作为泵浦源对 Nd:YAG 晶体进行端面泵浦,采用二维微透镜阵列对 VCSEL 阵列输出光进行准直,使用电光调 Q 方式,在重复频率为 100 Hz 的情况下,实现了输出能量为 5.36 mJ、脉宽为 4.16 ns、峰值功率为 1.29 MW、光束质量为  $M_x^2=1.409$  和  $M_y^2=1.531$  的激光输出,光束质量相对较好。整个激光系统体积小,结构紧凑,在没有主动温控系统的情况下可以在较大温度范围内稳定工作。

## 2 实验装置及原理

## 2.1 泵浦模块

激光器采用 808 nm 的 VCSEL 阵列作为泵浦源,以端面泵浦的方式对 Nd:YAG 晶体进行泵浦。所使用的 VCSEL 阵列发光面尺寸为  $4.8 \text{ mm} \times 4.8 \text{ mm}$ ,阵列像素分布为  $115 \text{ pixel} \times 100 \text{ pixel}$ ,共计 11500 个发光点,每个发光单元的发散角均为  $15^\circ$ 。VCSEL 阵列由众多单元组成,其发光面积大,如果直接用于泵浦晶体,则会导致功率密度低、泵浦效率低,需要对 VCSEL

阵列的输出光进行准直整形<sup>[14-15]</sup>。为了准直 VCSEL 阵列中每一个单元的输出光,设计制作了二维微透镜阵列。微透镜阵列是一系列孔径为微米量级的透镜按一定方式排列而成的光学元件,可以对入射光进行光

束整形、聚焦等调制<sup>[16-17]</sup>。微透镜阵列像素分布同样为  $115 \text{ pixel} \times 100 \text{ pixel}$ , 焦距为  $135 \mu\text{m}$ , 微透镜阵列出光侧面镀有  $808 \text{ nm}$  增透膜, 微透镜阵列和 VCSEL 阵列的放大图如图 1 所示。

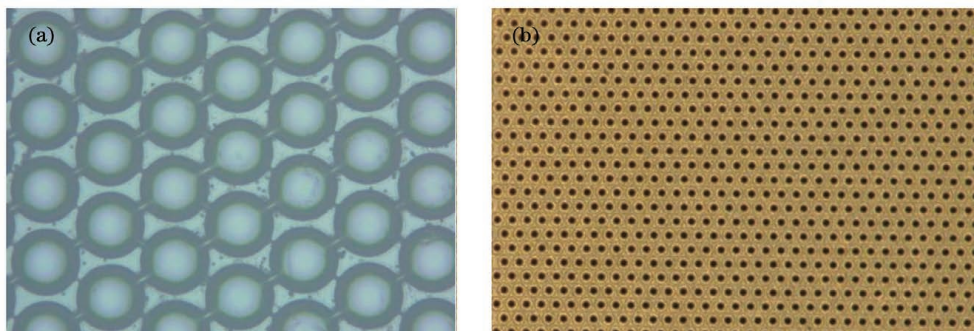


图 1 阵列实物图。(a)微透镜阵列;(b)VCSEL 阵列

Fig. 1 Physical pictures of arrays. (a) Microlens array; (b) VCSEL array

首先调整耦合,使得微透镜阵列的每个单元与 VCSEL 阵列的每个单元对应,再将二者固定,使其组成泵浦模块。泵浦模块的输出光发散角小于  $1^\circ$ , 泵浦模块实物图与整形示意图如图 2 所示。可以看出,整形准直过程简单、易操作且结构紧凑,而传统的边发射半导体激光器由于快轴方向的输出光发散角大,慢轴方向的输出光光束质量差,因此需要复杂的光束整形系统对光束进行切割旋转才可以实现光束整形<sup>[18-19]</sup>。

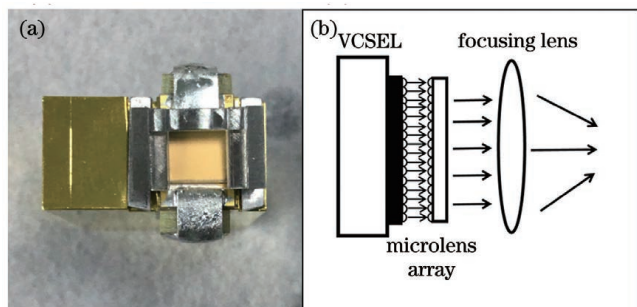


图 2 泵浦模块实物图和聚焦准直示意图。(a)泵浦模块;  
(b)聚焦整形示意图

Fig. 2 Physical picture of pump module and schematic of focusing and shaping. (a) Pump module;  
(b) schematic of focusing and shaping

使用电荷耦合器件 (CCD) 对经过焦距为  $F = 15 \text{ mm}$  的透镜的 VCSEL 阵列输出光进行测试,准直光的聚焦光斑如图 3 所示,光斑直径为  $2.9 \text{ mm}$ ,而未准直光聚焦之后的光斑直径为  $10 \text{ mm}$ 。在室温  $20^\circ\text{C}$  条件下,当重复频率为  $100 \text{ Hz}$ ,电流强度为  $150 \text{ A}$ ,泵浦脉宽为  $250 \mu\text{s}$  时,对 VCSEL 阵列进行测试,VCSEL 阵列输出能量为  $31 \text{ mJ}$ ,进行微透镜阵列整形之后输出能量为  $28 \text{ mJ}$ ,损耗为  $10\%$ 。

为了验证 VCSEL 的温度特性,对 VCSEL 阵列进行温度控制,在  $10 \sim 37^\circ\text{C}$  条件下,当重复频率为  $100 \text{ Hz}$ ,泵浦电流强度为  $150 \text{ A}$ ,脉宽为  $250 \mu\text{s}$  时,对 VCSEL 的输出波长进行测试,结果如图 4 所示。在

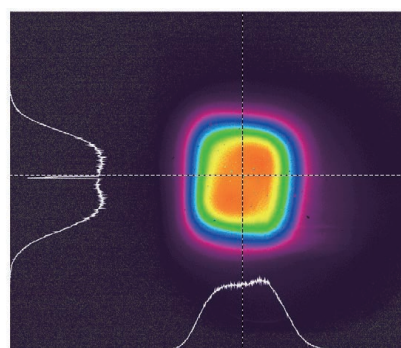


图 3 整形光光斑

Fig. 3 Shaped laser spot

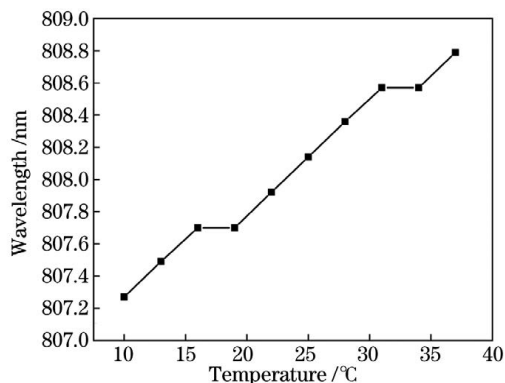


图 4 输出光波长随温度的变化

Fig. 4 Wavelength of output laser versus temperature

$10 \sim 37^\circ\text{C}$  温度下, VCSEL 阵列的输出波长从  $807.27 \text{ nm}$  增大到  $808.79 \text{ nm}$ ,变化了  $1.52 \text{ nm}$ ,温漂系数为  $0.06 \text{ nm}/^\circ\text{C}$ ,仅为同等条件下边发射半导体激光器的温漂系数的  $1/5$ ,表明相比传统的边发射半导体激光器,VCSEL 具有较好的抗温度特性,适合应用于温度变化大的环境中,并且不需要复杂的温控系统。

## 2.2 实验装置

激光器装置如图 5 所示,该装置由 VCSEL 泵浦源、微透镜阵列、聚焦透镜、Nd:YAG 晶体、薄膜偏振

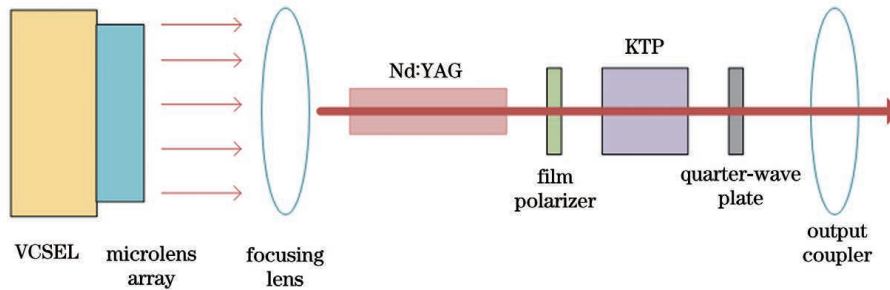


图 5 激光器结构图

Fig. 5 Structural diagram of laser

片、磷酸氧钛钾(KTP)电光晶体、四分之一波片和输出耦合镜组成,整体长度为 120 mm。VCSEL 泵浦源的中心波长为 808 nm,发散角为  $15^\circ$ ,发光单元有 115000 个,排列像素分布为  $115 \text{ pixel} \times 100 \text{ pixel}$ 。微透镜阵列像素分布同样为  $115 \text{ pixel} \times 100 \text{ pixel}$ ,焦距为  $135 \mu\text{m}$ 。聚焦透镜的焦距为  $F = 8 \text{ mm}$ ,直径为  $D = 10 \text{ mm}$ ,数值孔径为  $NA = 0.61$ ,镀有 808 nm 高透膜,将整形后的 VCSEL 泵浦光耦合到激光晶体中。激光晶体是掺杂浓度(原子数分数)为 0.5%、尺寸为  $3 \text{ mm} \times 3 \text{ mm} \times 15 \text{ mm}$  的 Nd:YAG 晶体,晶体一侧镀有 808 nm 增透膜和 1064 nm 高反膜,用来充当激光器的腔镜,而另一侧镀有 808 nm 和 1064 nm 增透膜。尺寸为  $16 \text{ mm} \times 10 \text{ mm} \times 2 \text{ mm}$  的薄膜偏振片、尺寸为  $5 \text{ mm} \times 5 \text{ mm} \times 15 \text{ mm}$  的 KTP、四分之一波片组成激光器的电光调 Q 模块。电光调 Q 模块采用加压调 Q 方式。首先在不加电压的情况下,薄膜偏振片将激光起偏为线偏振光,旋转四分之一波片,经过 KTP 和四分之一波片后返回的线偏振光无法通过偏振片;对 KTP 施加电压,正常工作的 KTP 相当于四分之一波片,返回的线偏振光可以正常通过偏振片,从而使得谐振腔正常工作,实现调 Q 输出。输出耦合镜采用透射率为  $T = 40\%$  的平镜,与激光晶体泵浦光输入面构成激光器谐振腔,实现激光器的正常工作。

### 3 分析与讨论

按照图 5 所示光路图搭建激光器,首先对输出光进行了测试,输出能量的变化曲线如图 6 所示。输出能量随着泵浦能量的增加基本呈线性增长趋势,当温度为  $15^\circ\text{C}$ 、频率为 100 Hz、VCSEL 泵浦光能量为 28.25 mJ(工作电流强度为 150 A)时,得到的静态输出能量为 7.96 mJ,动态输出能量为 5.36 mJ,动静比为 67.3%,光-光转换效率为 18.9%。

使用上升时间为 60 ps 的 PIN 型光电二极管对频率为 100 Hz、能量为 5.36 mJ 的脉冲进行测试,用于显示的示波器带宽为 1 GHz,采样频率为 20 GHz,获得的脉冲如图 7 所示,此时脉冲的半峰全宽(FWHM)为 4.16 ns,峰值功率为 1.29 MW。

使用 CCD 对频率为 100 Hz、能量为 5.36 mJ 的

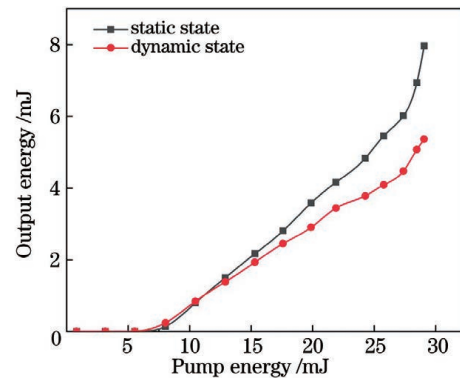


图 6 激光器输出能量与泵浦能量的关系

Fig. 6 Laser output energy versus pump energy

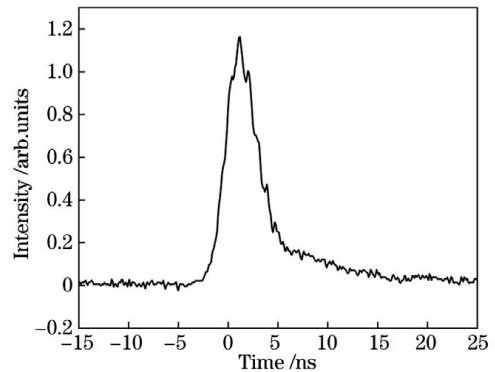


图 7 激光器的脉冲波形图

Fig. 7 Pulse waveform of laser

1064 nm 输出激光进行测试,测得的近场光斑分布如图 8 所示,光斑直径为 1.6 mm。使用光束质量分析仪测试了输出光的光束质量,两个方向的光束质量分

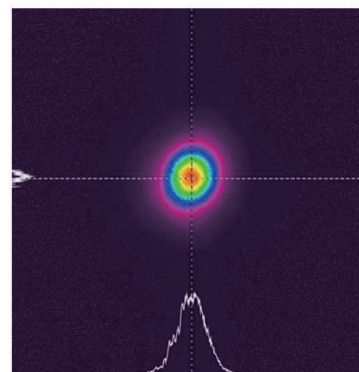


图 8 输出光斑的二维分布

Fig. 8 Two dimensional distribution of output laser spot

别为  $M_x^2 = 1.409, M_y^2 = 1.531$ , 如图 9 所示。

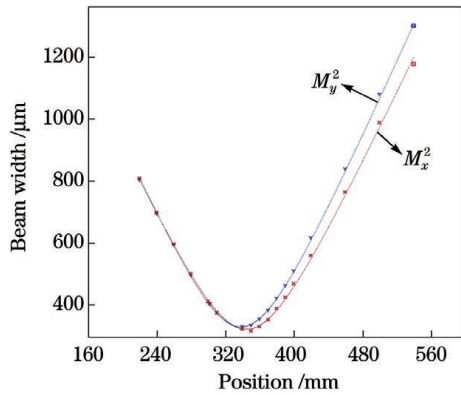


图 9 输出激光的光束质量

Fig. 9 Beam quality of output laser

为了验证激光器的温度特性,通过控制 VCSEL 泵浦源的温度,对不同温度下的激光器的输出能量进行测试,结果如图 10 所示。可以看到,在 10~37 °C 温度范围内,最低输出能量为 5.24 mJ,最高输出能量为 5.58 mJ,能量变化仅为 0.34 mJ,即激光器可以在近 30 °C 的范围内正常工作,证明 VCSEL 阵列作为泵浦源极大降低了激光器对泵浦源的温度控制要求。

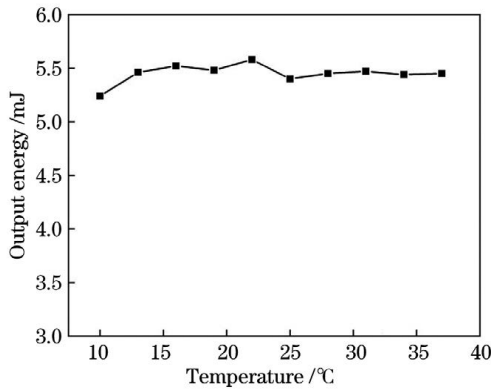


图 10 激光器输出能量与泵浦温度的关系

Fig. 10 Laser output energy versus pump temperature

## 4 结 论

介绍了一种体积小、结构紧凑、工作温度范围大的 VCSEL 端面泵浦的固体激光器。激光器以 VCSEL 阵列作为泵浦源,利用二维微透镜阵列进行光束准直。采用端面泵浦的方式泵浦 Nd:YAG 晶体,通过电光调 Q 方式,实现了重复频率为 100 Hz、输出能量为 5.36 mJ、脉宽为 4.16 ns、峰值功率为 1.29 MW 的激光输出,光束质量为  $M_x^2 = 1.409$  和  $M_y^2 = 1.531$ 。该激光器输出的光束质量较高,具有体积小、结构紧凑、对温度变化不敏感等优点,可以应用于昼夜温差大、温度变化迅速的环境中,同时也可以作为空间应用中的发射光源。

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## VCSEL End-Pumped All-Solid-State Laser

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### Abstract

**Objective** Semiconductor lasers are highly efficiency and have a small divergence angle, narrow pulse width, and good durability. They are widely used in material processing, industrial manufacturing, laser lighting, lidar, and laser communication. However, the output spot of the traditional edge-emitting semiconductor laser is elliptical and an additional beam shaping system is required. Further, it is sensitive to temperature change because the temperature drift coefficient at the central wavelength is 0.3 nm/°C. Therefore, for a wide temperature range and large temperature differences between day and night, an additional temperature control system is required, which increases the volume, cost, and complexity of the laser. Recently, vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSELs) have been used increasingly as semiconductor laser pump sources. Compared with traditional edge-emitting semiconductor lasers, VCSELs have circular output spots with a small divergence angle, good beam quality, small temperature drift coefficient, high reliability, and low cost. A VCSEL chip contains hundreds or thousands of units in the two-dimensional (2D) array distribution. Its high-power output of hundreds of watts or even kilowatts can be realized through the 2D array arrangement. Therefore, it is a suitable pump source for compact high-power solid-state lasers. In this paper, we report a laser with a VCSEL array as the pump source. The laser has the advantages of high beam quality, small volume, compact structure, and insensitivity to temperature change. It can be used under large day-to-night temperature differences as well as rapid temperature changes. Additionally, it serves as an emission light source for applications in space.

**Methods** The laser uses an 808-nm VCSEL array as the pump source to pump Nd:YAG crystal via end pumping. However, directly using it to pump the Nd:YAG crystal will lead to low power density and low pump efficiency because the VCSEL array is composed of many units and has a large luminous area. Therefore, collimating and shaping the output laser of the VCSEL array is fundamental. To shape the output laser of each unit in the VCSEL array, we employ a 2D microlens array with the same distribution as that of VCSEL. The shaped VCSEL pump light is coupled to the crystal with a focusing lens. The doping concentration (atomic fraction) of Nd:YAG crystal is 0.5%, and its size is 3 mm×3 mm×15 mm. The pumping side of the crystal is coated with 1064 nm high-reflection film and 808 nm high-transmission film. The output side is coated with 1064 nm and 808 nm high-transmission films. The electro-optic Q-switched module consists of a thin-film polarizer, KTP (KTiOPO<sub>4</sub>) crystal, and quarter-wave plate. It adopts a voltage-increased electro-optic Q-switched method and is driven by a high-voltage signal to realize the on-and-off switch. A flat mirror with transmissivity of 40% is used for output coupling, which forms a laser resonator with the gain crystal pumping side to realize the normal operation of the laser. The total length of the laser is 120 mm.

**Results and Discussions** At a repetition frequency of 100 Hz, when the VCSEL pump energy is 28.25 mJ (working current is 150 A), the static output energy and dynamic output energy are 7.96 mJ and 5.36 mJ, respectively. The ratio between dynamic output energy and static output energy for Q switching is 67.3%, and the optical-optical conversion efficiency is 18.9% (Fig. 6). Furthermore, the full width at half maximum of the output laser is 4.16 ns (Fig. 7) and the peak power is 1.29 MW. The beam quality factor along the two directions is  $M_x^2=1.409$  and  $M_y^2=1.531$  (Fig. 9). In the temperature range of 10–37 °C, the minimum and maximum output energies are 5.24 mJ and 5.58 mJ, respectively.

**Conclusions** In this paper, we propose a compact solid-state laser with a small volume and large operating temperature range. The pump module consists of VCSEL and microlens arrays, and the VCSEL output laser is shaped using the

microlens array. The Nd:YAG crystal is pumped via end-pumping. Through the electro-optic Q-switching method, the laser is obtained with a pulse width of 4.16 ns, output energy of 5.36 mJ, and beam quality factors of  $M_x^2 = 1.409$  and  $M_y^2 = 1.531$ . With the advantages of good beam quality, small volume, compact structure, and insensitivity to temperature change, the laser proves efficient under large day-to-night temperature differences and rapid temperature changes and can further be used as an emission laser source for application in space.

**Key words** lasers; solid-state lasers; vertical-cavity surface-emitter lasers; end-pumping