

## 飞秒激光与材料相互作用中的超快动力学

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**摘要** 飞秒激光以其超快超强特性可以实现三维复杂结构的微纳级别精密制造。超快光场与材料相互作用过程中存在大量新现象、新效应和新机制,亟待揭示。本文简要介绍飞秒激光与材料相互作用的基本过程以及飞秒激光泵浦探测技术的发展历程。首先重点阐述了高斯型飞秒激光与材料相互作用超快动力学的研究进展,根据不同的时间尺度分别对相互作用过程中的光子与电子相互作用、电子与晶格相互作用过程、相变,以及等离子体/冲击波喷发等过程的观测与机制分析进行总结;随后针对基于电子动态调控新方法的飞秒激光加工超快动力学进行综述,分析对比了其与传统飞秒激光和材料相互作用超快动力学的差异;最后针对该领域的发展方向进行了展望。

**关键词** 激光技术; 飞秒激光; 微纳加工; 超快动力学; 泵浦探测; 激光与材料相互作用

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## 1 引言

随着后摩尔时代的到来,电子信息和机械装备等器件/结构对微型化和便携化的要求越来越高,这对微纳制造技术提出了新挑战。微纳制造技术作为先进制造业的关键技术,其发展具有战略意义,是衡量国家高端制造业水平的重要标志,在引领科技创新、加速产业发展和保障国防安全等方面发挥着重要作用<sup>[1]</sup>。近年来,飞秒激光微纳制造技术蓬勃发展,其以无接触、易集成、灵活可控以及材料损耗小等优势逐渐成为微纳制造技术的重要研究方向。飞秒激光制造集成了当代物理学和前沿科学的最新技术,可在极短的时间内和远离平衡态条件下非接触、选择性地多尺度控制或改变材料的物态与性质,制造出极端复杂结构,获得具有极端性能的器件与装备,解决航空航天、新能源、电子工业和生物医疗等行业精密制造中的关键技术难题。飞秒激光在能量密度、作用时间/空间尺度,以及材料吸收能量的可控尺度上均趋于极端,使得其制造过程中所利用的物理效应、作用机制完全不同于传统的激光与材料的相互作用过程,是具有非线性(多光子/双光子吸收)、非平衡性(电子间非平衡、电子与晶格间非平衡等)的多时空尺度超快过程。其中包含多种物理过程,如光子吸收与电子激发<sup>[2-4]</sup>、材料相变<sup>[5-7]</sup>、等离

子体冲击波辐射/喷发<sup>[8-9]</sup>以及材料去除<sup>[10-11]</sup>等超快动力学过程,涉及许多全新的物理机制和反应机制。这些物理过程从根本上影响了激光加工的最终结构,通过改变其中的物理机制可以直接调控激光加工后的结构形貌与性质<sup>[12-14]</sup>。因此,为了使飞秒激光微纳制造获得极限突破和广泛应用,就必须要对飞秒激光与材料相互作用中的超快动力学演化进行理解与调控。深入探究和理解飞秒激光加工中的超快动力学演化机制,可为高效率、高精度、高质量微纳制造的实现提供理论基础与指导,从而推进飞秒激光微纳制造技术的高速发展。

为了深入研究飞秒激光微纳加工中的超快动力学演化,1988年,Zewail教授<sup>[15]</sup>提出了飞秒激光泵浦探测技术,并最先将这一技术应用于研究化学反应超快动力学,打开了材料化学变化、物理变化等瞬态过程的“黑盒子”。随后,该技术得到迅速发展,并演化出了多种具有不同时空分辨率和信号采集方式的观测方法,如透射式泵浦探测<sup>[16-17]</sup>、反射式泵浦探测<sup>[18-20]</sup>、干涉式泵浦探测<sup>[21-22]</sup>、激光诱导击穿光谱观测<sup>[23-25]</sup>、四维超快扫描电镜泵浦探测<sup>[26-28]</sup>、瞬态吸收显微探测<sup>[29-31]</sup>和超快连续成像<sup>[32-35]</sup>等。各类观测技术的时空分辨率、探测范围和采集信号的种类具有一定差异,因此每种观测方法都有其各自独特的优势和一定的局限性。

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通过分析泵浦探测技术捕捉的材料瞬态光学性质演化图像可以得到飞秒激光诱导材料等离子体激发、相变和材料去除等不同阶段激光与材料的作用机制。因此,本文从飞秒激光与材料的相互作用机制出发,针对飞秒激光微纳制造过程中超快动力学演化的研究情况进行综述,总结了高斯激光脉冲与材料相互作用过程中不同时间尺度下超快动力学观测的研究进展,对比了不同材料体系、加工环境下整形脉冲激光与材料相互作用过程中的加工机制,以期飞秒激光微纳制造提供重要的观测基础与指导。

## 2 飞秒激光与材料相互作用的机制

飞秒激光的优异特性促进了飞秒激光加工技术的迅速发展,只有充分了解其与材料相互作用的内

在机制,才能最大化发挥和挖掘飞秒激光的优势和应用潜力。飞秒激光与材料相互作用过程具有从飞秒到毫秒跨时间尺度、从纳米到毫米多空间尺度的特性,其中涉及大量复杂的物理机制和耦合机制,许多学者对飞秒激光与物质的相互作用过程进行了总结。Sundaram 等<sup>[36]</sup>对飞秒激光加工固体材料过程中的载流子激发、载流子与声子相互作用过程以及热扩散和材料去除等过程进行了时间尺度上的总结,如图 1 所示。随后,姜澜研究团队<sup>[37-38]</sup>对飞秒激光辐照材料后发生的多时间尺度和多空间尺度过程进行了进一步总结,认为该过程主要包括光子与电子的相互作用过程、电子与晶格的相互作用过程、非热/热相变过程、等离子体辐射与膨胀过程,如图 2 所示。

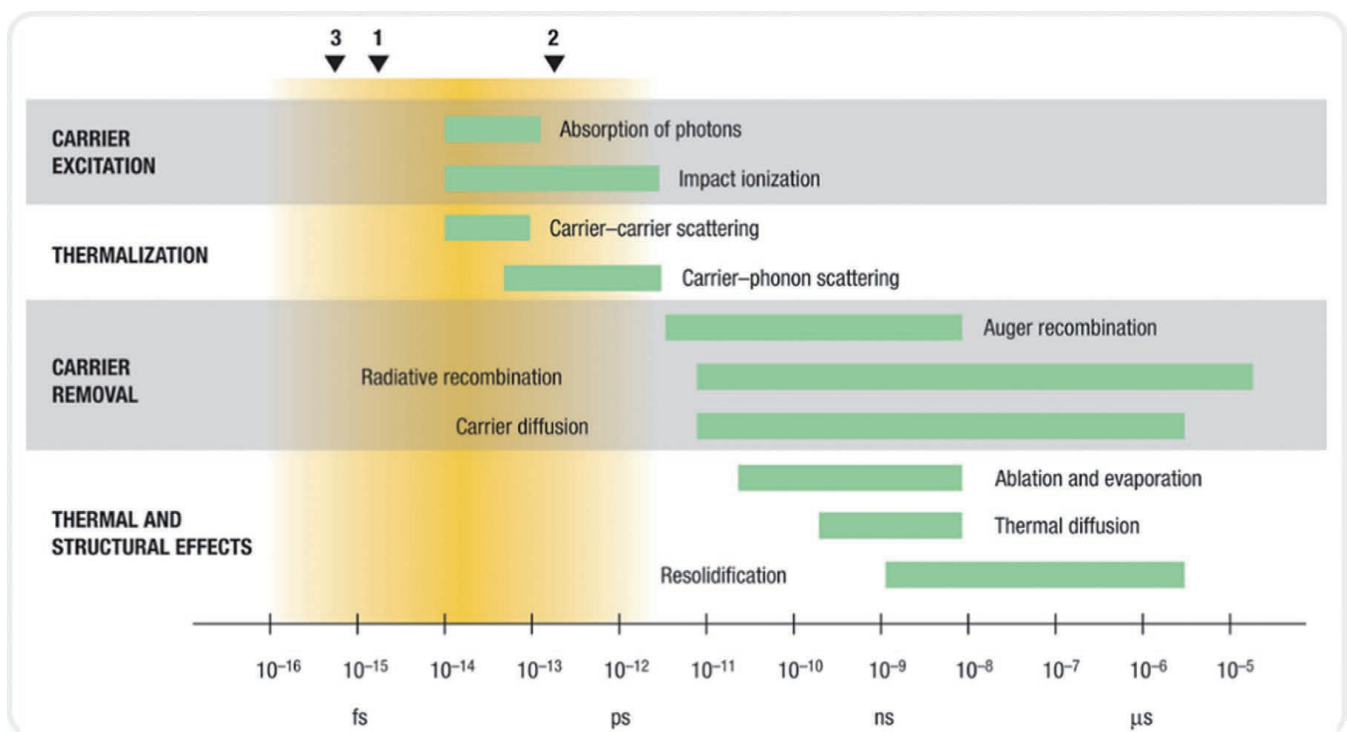


图 1 激光激发固体材料中电子和晶格过程的多时间尺度过程<sup>[36]</sup>

Fig. 1 Timescales of various electron and lattice processes in laser-excited solids<sup>[36]</sup>

从时间尺度上看,在飞秒激光辐照材料后的飞秒量级的时间尺度内发生的是电子对光子能量的吸收过程。飞秒激光的峰值功率极高,激发种子自由电子的主要机制是强电场电离(多光子电离和隧道电离),与材料的初始状态无关<sup>[39]</sup>。在飞秒激光辐照材料后的皮秒量级的时间尺度内发生的是能量转移与化学键断裂,即,此时发生晶格升温 and 相变等过程<sup>[5,40]</sup>;在纳秒量级的时间尺度内发生的是材料表面弛豫与重组,对应等离子体膨胀与辐射以及物质喷流等现象<sup>[41-42]</sup>。因此,当飞秒激光辐照材料后,激光会将能量沉积到材料中并传递给电子,再由电子传递给原子和晶格,引起晶格的加热与响应,最终实现材料烧蚀。

由于材料的属性不同,材料中的电子能级结构和

晶格结构等均不同,所以飞秒激光与不同属性材料相互作用遵循的具体机制存在一定差别。以下将对飞秒激光与非金属、金属材料的相互作用机制进行简要介绍。

### 2.1 飞秒激光与非金属材料的相互作用

非金属材料中没有大量的自由电子,所以需要激光激发产生自由电子(作为种子电子)。对于带隙相对较窄的半导体材料而言,其禁带宽度较窄,当光子能量大于带隙时,一个光子的能量足以支持价带电子直接跃迁到导带上,此时即使激光能量密度很低,也可能产生大量自由电子;但对于宽禁带半导体和电介质材料来说,单个光子的能量不足以激发电子跃迁,此时的自由电子产生方式有多光子电离和隧道电离<sup>[37,43-44]</sup>。当

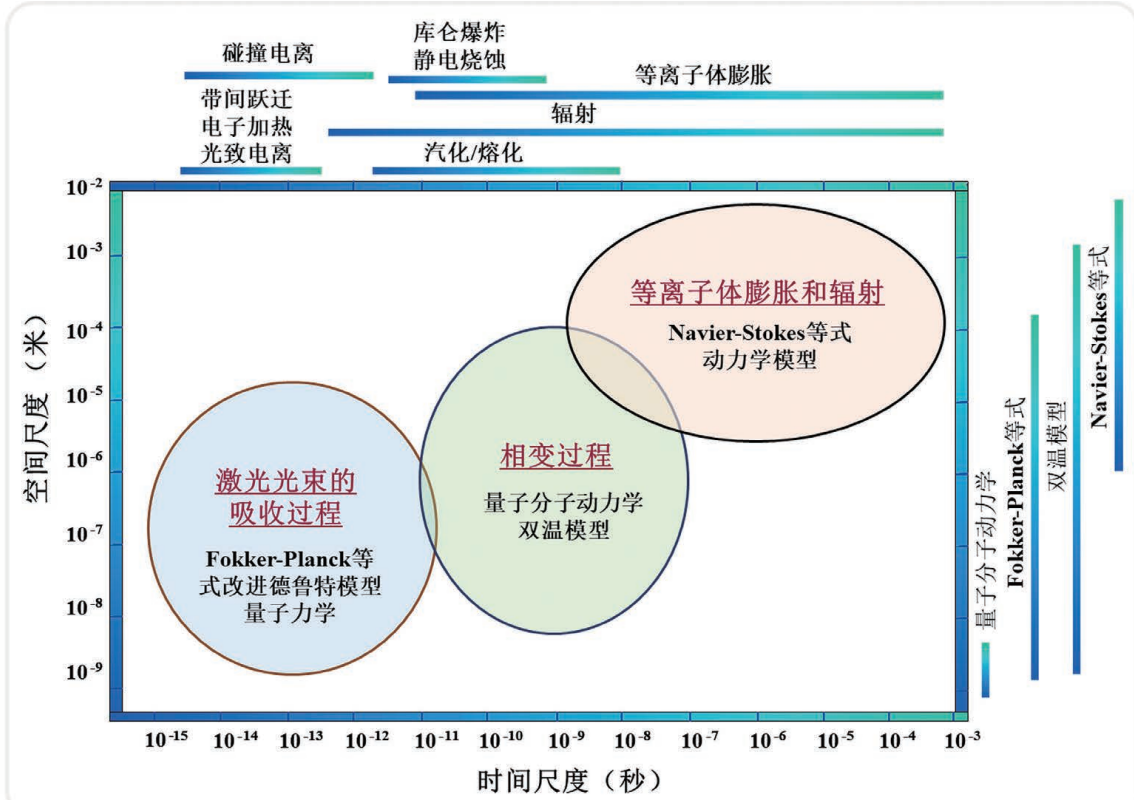


图 2 飞秒激光辐照材料过程中的多时间/多空间尺度过程<sup>[37-38]</sup>

Fig. 2 Multi-temporal/spatial-scale processes during femtosecond laser irradiation of materials<sup>[37-38]</sup>

种子电子产生后,种子电子通过碰撞电离(雪崩电离)使价带电子获得能量跃迁,导致自由电子密度迅速增大,温度迅速升高,随后能量传递至晶格,材料发生相变,包括热相变(熔化和汽化)和非热相变(静电烧蚀和库仑爆炸等)<sup>[38,45-46]</sup>。以下是电离机制和相变机制的详细阐述。

1) 电离机制。金属材料中导带自由电子的存在使得电子可以直接吸收光子能量<sup>[47]</sup>,而非金属材料则需要通过光致电离产生自由电子后才能吸收光子能量<sup>[37]</sup>。光致电离机制主要包括隧道电离和多光子电离。当产生足够多的种子电子后,激光辐照已经完成,种子电子之间互相碰撞,将能量传递给价带的束缚电子,使之克服电离势能成为新的自由电子,两个自由电子再次碰撞产生新的自由电子,最终形成雪崩电离,使自由电子密度呈指数式增长,如图 3 所示<sup>[48]</sup>。

1965 年,Keldysh<sup>[49]</sup>提出了强激光作用下单电子原子的光致电离理论,并利用一阶微扰理论推导得到了电子在基态和 Volkov 连续态之间直接跃迁的光致电离速率方程。在推导光致电离速率常数过程中,他们用参数  $\gamma$  对两种电离过程的发生条件进行了区分。参数  $\gamma$  的表达式为

$$\gamma = \frac{\omega}{e} \sqrt{\frac{m_e c n \epsilon_0 E_g}{I}}, \quad (1)$$

式中: $\omega$  为激光频率; $e$  为电子电量; $m_e$  为电子质量; $c$  为光速; $n$  为折射率; $\epsilon_0$  为真空介电常数; $E_g$  为材料禁带宽度; $I$  为光场强度。

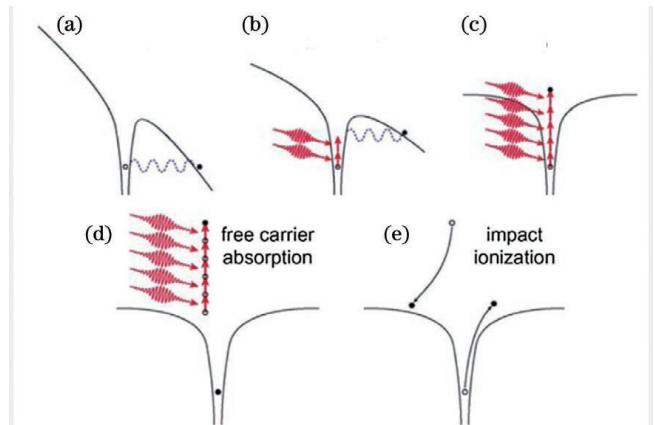


图 3 飞秒激光与材料相互作用的非线性电离机制<sup>[48]</sup>。(a)隧道电离;(b)隧道电离与多光子电离共存;(c)多光子电离;(d)~(e)碰撞电离(雪崩电离)

Fig. 3 Nonlinear ionization mechanisms of femtosecond laser materials interaction<sup>[48]</sup>. (a) Tunneling ionization; (b) mixture of tunneling and multiphoton ionization; (c) multi-photon ionization; (d)-(e) impact ionization (avalanche ionization)

参数  $\gamma$  表示电子穿过由外加电场和原子静电势组成的势垒时所需的本征时间与电场振荡周期的比值。当  $\gamma \ll 1$  时,即在低频强激光场中,光致电离机制主要为隧道电离,如图 3(a)所示;当  $\gamma \approx 1.5$  时,隧道电离和多光子电离机制同时存在,如图 3(b)所示;当  $\gamma \gg 1$  时,即在高频激光场中,光致电离主要为多光子电离,如图 3(c)所示。对于宽禁带材料,一般情况下



可通过激光强度来估计三种电离方式的存在情况。当激光强度低于  $10^{12}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> 时发生雪崩电离,当激光强度高于  $10^{13}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> 时主要是多光子电离起作用<sup>[50]</sup>,当激光强度大于  $10^{15}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> 时就要考虑隧道电离的作用<sup>[51]</sup>。根据 Keldysh 公式<sup>[49]</sup>,激光偏振态对光致电离速率也有着很大影响,因此 Perelomov、Popov 和 Terent'ev<sup>[52]</sup>对处于不同激光偏振态(线偏振和圆偏振)条件下的光电离速率方程进行了推广,并提出了以三位作者名字首字母为简写的光电离速率方程(即 PPT 理论)。随后,Ammosov、Delone 和 Krainov 等<sup>[53]</sup>在光电离速率方程中引入有效量子数和有效轨道量子数来表征复杂原子体系的本征态,将 PPT 理论进行进一步推广,得到了 ADK 理论,从而得到了更精确的不同激光偏振态下的光致电离速率。

2) 相变机制。当飞秒激光辐照材料后,基于光子能量吸收、电子激发/加热和电子-晶格能量传输等过程,激光辐照区的电子密度会显著增大,同时晶格温度会显著升高,导致局部带电粒子积累和高温高应力,从而引发相变。飞秒激光与材料相互作用的相变机制包括非热相变和热相变。在非热相变过程中,当激光能量较低时,材料的晶态会发生转变,可发生从晶态到非晶态的转变或从单晶态到多晶态的转变<sup>[54-56]</sup>;当激光能量较高时,高能电子逸出留下正离子,正离子之间受

库仑力排斥作用引起爆炸,从而去除材料,此即为库仑爆炸<sup>[46]</sup>。非热相变通常发生在烧蚀阈值附近的飞秒激光与宽禁带材料相互作用过程中<sup>[57]</sup>,但也有研究证明了在飞秒激光加工半导体过程中也有可能发生库仑爆炸<sup>[46]</sup>。热相变主要包括熔化、汽化、相爆炸、碎片化和裂解等<sup>[58]</sup>。受材料性质和激光通量等参数的影响,相变机制之间可能会发生相互转变与共存。当增加激光脉冲数时,非热相变会转变为热相变<sup>[59]</sup>。相变机制对激光通量也有依赖性,而飞秒激光脉冲能量呈高斯分布,因此在加工过程中也会发生多种相变机制共存的现象<sup>[60]</sup>。

当飞秒激光激发材料发生相变后,由于辐照区域发生电子/离子逸出以及汽化和相爆炸等相变,从而引发材料喷射,材料表面由电子、离子和纳米粒子组成的高温致密的等离子体向外扩张,快速喷发的等离子体会携带光辐射和热辐射信息,并压缩周围环境介质(向材料外部与内部)形成冲击波。图 4(a)所示为熔融石英被飞秒激光加工后向外喷发的等离子体辐射光谱<sup>[61]</sup>,根据该光谱可以分析得到等离子体的温度、电子密度和元素成分等信息。图 4(b)为飞秒激光多脉冲加工熔融石英产生的冲击波传播形貌<sup>[62]</sup>。分析冲击波演化图像可以得到冲击波传播速度、冲击波压强以及激光沉积能量等关键信息。

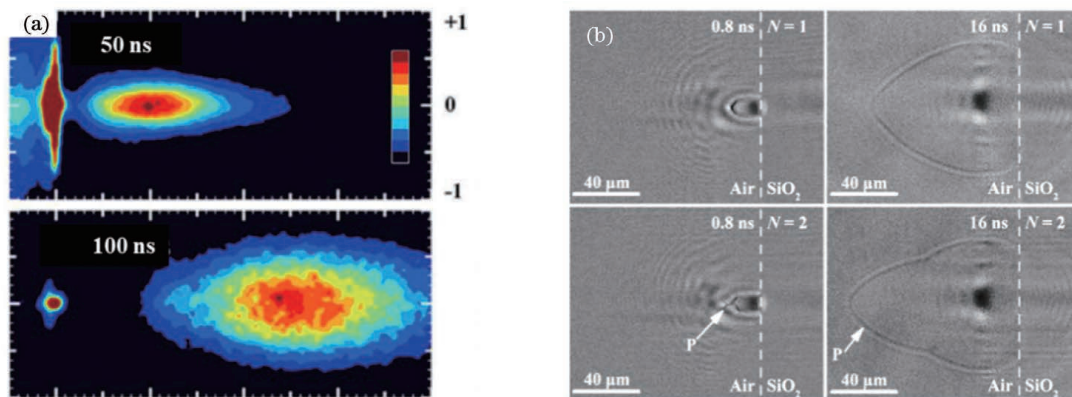


图 4 飞秒激光诱导等离子体辐射和冲击波传播。(a)熔融石英等离子体辐射<sup>[61]</sup>; (b)熔融石英外部冲击波的传播<sup>[62]</sup>

Fig. 4 Femtosecond laser-induced plasma radiation and shockwave propagation. (a) Plasma radiation of fused silica<sup>[61]</sup>; (b) external shockwave propagation of fused silica<sup>[62]</sup>

## 2.2 飞秒激光与金属的相互作用

金属中存在自由电子,因此,当飞秒激光辐照金属时,激光能量可以直接沉积到导带电子上,无需经过电离过程就会瞬间加热自由电子,使电子在约几飞秒的弛豫时间内重建费米分布<sup>[63]</sup>。此时,自由电子从激光中吸收能量,而晶格则保持冷态。因此,在飞秒激光加工金属过程中,激光能量更容易被吸收,且加工阈值较低。

在飞秒时间尺度上,能量通过电子-电子碰撞在自由电子之间分布,导致电子气热化。具体表现为,激光辐照后的导带自由电子通过逆轫致辐射吸收光子能量跃迁到更高能级<sup>[47]</sup>。这是一种带内吸收过程,一般用

Drude 模型描述<sup>[64]</sup>。对于多价金属以及贵金属来说,除了带内吸收方式之外,电子还可以通过带间吸收的方式(例如,金中存在电子从 d 轨道被激发到 s 轨道的带间吸收方式<sup>[65]</sup>)吸收激光能量。当电子通过带内吸收和带间吸收方式吸收激光能量后,部分自由电子会被加热到较高温度,自由电子体系形成非平衡态;随后电子系统通过电子-电子碰撞进行能量交换,形成新的平衡<sup>[66]</sup>。

由于电子系统和晶格系统间的不平衡以及能量弛豫,晶格温度不断升高,诱导材料发生相变。金属极易发生的相变形式是热相变,此时飞秒激光通过电子-声子散射过程对晶格进行缓慢加热,尽管电子-声子弛豫

时间与电子-电子弛豫时间相近,但由于声子质量远大于电子质量,电子将能量传递给声子的时间更长(大于激光脉冲持续时间)<sup>[67]</sup>,因此在单个飞秒激光脉冲辐照时间内晶格温度通常认为基本不发生变化。当脉冲辐照结束之后,晶格被加热至临界温度,引起熔化<sup>[68-69]</sup>、分裂<sup>[69-70]</sup>、相爆炸<sup>[71-73]</sup>和临界点相分离<sup>[10]</sup>等,从而完成烧蚀。

### 3 飞秒激光泵浦探测技术的发展历程

泵浦探测技术的基本思想是将一束飞秒激光通过分束镜分成两束,而且这两束脉冲激光之间的延时经过设计,第一束激光作为泵浦光用于激发/烧蚀材料,第二束激光经过延时平移台到达第一束激光辐照区域进行观测。收集在飞秒激光辐照后不同延时下的探测光信号,就可以研究整个超快过程中的完整动力学瞬态演化<sup>[74]</sup>。随着激光脉冲的不断缩短,泵浦探测技术也不断发展,并以空前的时间分

辨率获得了国内外研究人员的广泛关注,成为微纳米制造过程中重要的观测手段,在材料科学<sup>[75-76]</sup>、物理过程<sup>[77-81]</sup>和化学反应观测<sup>[82]</sup>等领域被广泛应用。

随着光学和成像技术的不断发展,飞秒激光泵浦探测技术演化出了多种具有不同时空分辨率和信号采集方式的探测技术,如透射式泵浦探测技术<sup>[16-17]</sup>、反射式泵浦探测技术<sup>[18-20]</sup>、干涉式泵浦探测技术<sup>[21-22]</sup>、全息泵浦探测技术<sup>[35]</sup>、激光诱导击穿光谱技术<sup>[23-25]</sup>、四维扫描超快电子显微技术<sup>[26-28]</sup>、瞬态吸收显微技术<sup>[29-31]</sup>和超快连续成像技术<sup>[32-35]</sup>等。图 5 汇总了这几类泵浦探测技术的发展时间历程和特点。各类探测技术均有其自身的优点,但也存在一定限制,例如,难以捕获三维探测信息,难以实现跨尺度的多种探测手段的简便协同耦合/切换等。总的来讲,飞秒激光泵浦探测技术呈现出逐渐向超高时空分辨率、多观测角度和连续性探测方向发展的趋势。

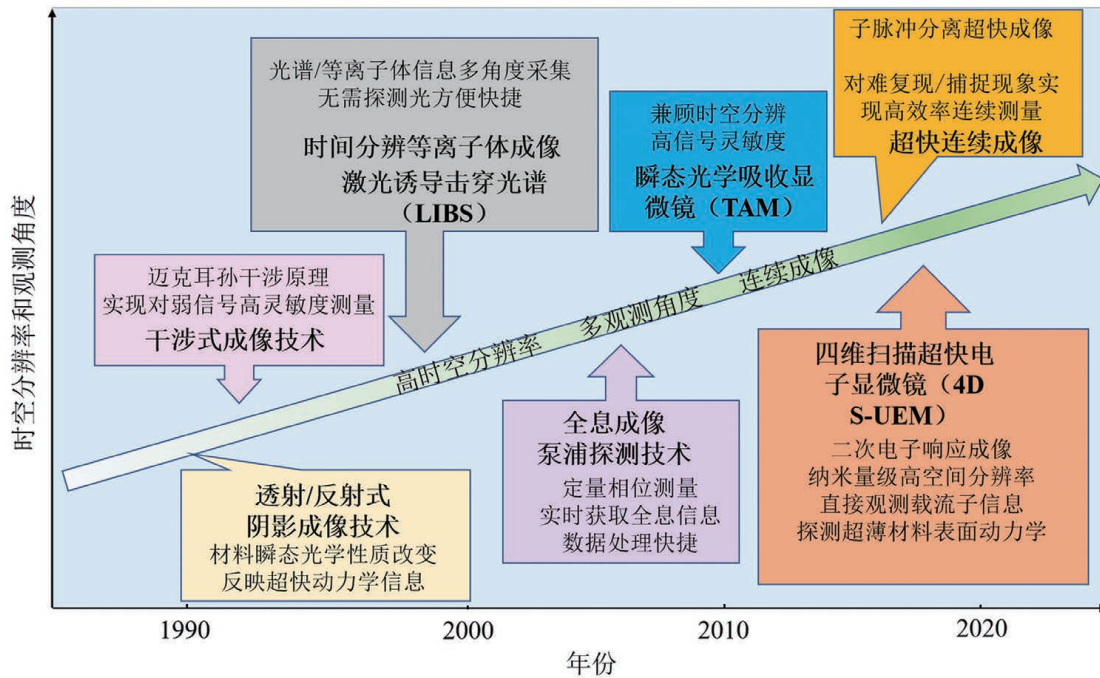


图 5 飞秒激光泵浦探测技术的发展

Fig. 5 Development of femtosecond laser pumping detection technology

1985年,Shank课题组<sup>[83]</sup>使用光谱仪对激光激发硅表面的熔化和蒸发现象进行了实时观测,并利用透镜成像原理将放大的像呈现在屏幕或摄影胶片上,为飞秒激光烧蚀硅的超快过程提供了观测基础。之后,干涉式泵浦探测技术逐渐发展起来。1997年,Martin等<sup>[84]</sup>利用干涉式泵浦探测技术对宽禁带材料中的自陷激子动力学进行了研究,他们的观测结果与考虑晶格弹性和变形势能的理论猜想一致,证明了该观测方式的有效性。2008年,Balciunas等<sup>[85]</sup>提出了全息泵浦探测技术(如图6所示),该技术通过捕捉飞秒激光加工过程中的瞬时相移与振幅比得到电子密度与等离子体演化信息,为飞秒激光泵浦探测技术开拓了新的

探测视角。

飞秒激光与材料的相互作用过程是一个从亚飞秒到秒跨时间尺度的过程,因此,需要对该过程进行多时间尺度的观测,以完整记录飞秒激光辐照后的材料光学。为了增加探测时间延时,Mingareev等<sup>[86]</sup>设计了Herriott池,通过激光的多次反射来增加光程差,进而对飞秒激光加工过程中金属的等离子体和熔化层进行了瞬态观测;该方法可使探测时间延时达到微秒量级。为了实现更完整的飞秒激光加工超快动力学检测,2017年,Guo团队<sup>[87]</sup>构建了基于散射的零背景、高对比度光学成像技术;借助该技术,他们首次捕获了完整的飞秒激光诱导金属形态表面结构动力学时空演化过



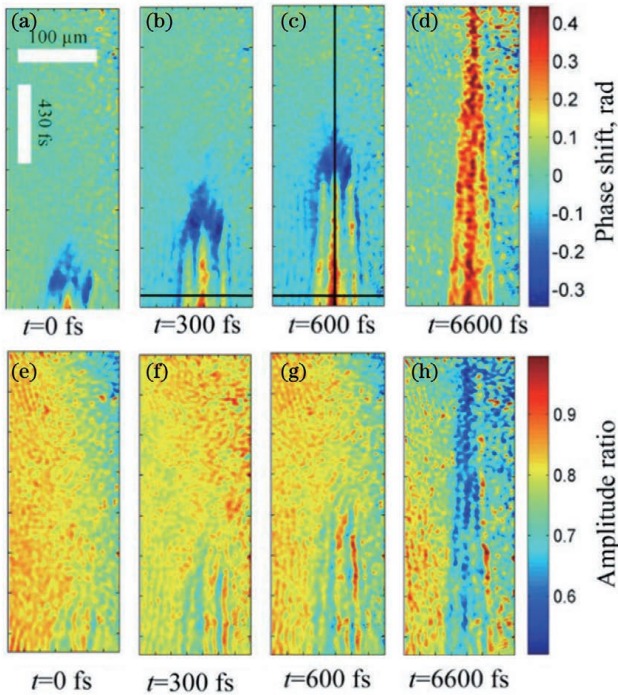


图 6 飞秒激光在水环境加工过程中的相移和振幅比随时间延迟演化的图像<sup>[85]</sup>

Fig. 6 Phase shift and amplitude ratio evolution with time delay during femtosecond laser processing in water<sup>[85]</sup>

程,即,从初始瞬态表面波动,到后期相变过程中的熔化、消融和再凝固等过程。2019年,跨时间尺度泵浦探测技术再次得到发展,Jiang团队<sup>[88]</sup>首次搭建了多时间尺度观测系统(如图7所示),并借助该系统观测了从皮秒量级到微秒量级的电子动态演化、等离子体和冲击波传播以及羽辉散射等过程,完整地揭示了飞秒激光微球辅助加工铜表面的超快动力学过程,实现了超快激光与物质相互作用全过程的多尺度观测。

为了进一步提高泵浦探测技术的时间分辨率和空间分辨率,2016年,Sun等<sup>[28]</sup>将泵浦探测技术与扫描电子显微镜相结合搭建了四维扫描超快电子显微镜(4D S-UEM),该显微镜可以以纳米空间分辨率和亚皮秒时间分辨率记录材料表面的超快动力学响应,如图8所示。该显微镜可以实时检测到从样品表面发射的二次电子信号,直接观测载流子的瞬态演化信息。因电子渗透深度很浅,该显微镜可对薄膜材料实现精准观测。Grumstrup等<sup>[89]</sup>将超快光谱的时间分辨率与远场光学显微镜的空间分辨率相结合,搭建了瞬态吸收泵浦探测显微镜。利用该显微镜,他们观测到了纳米级激发态动力学过程,如纳米结构中的自由载流子扩散和等离子体传播,为了解界面、缺陷和表面等结构特征对材料特性的影响提供了重要途径。

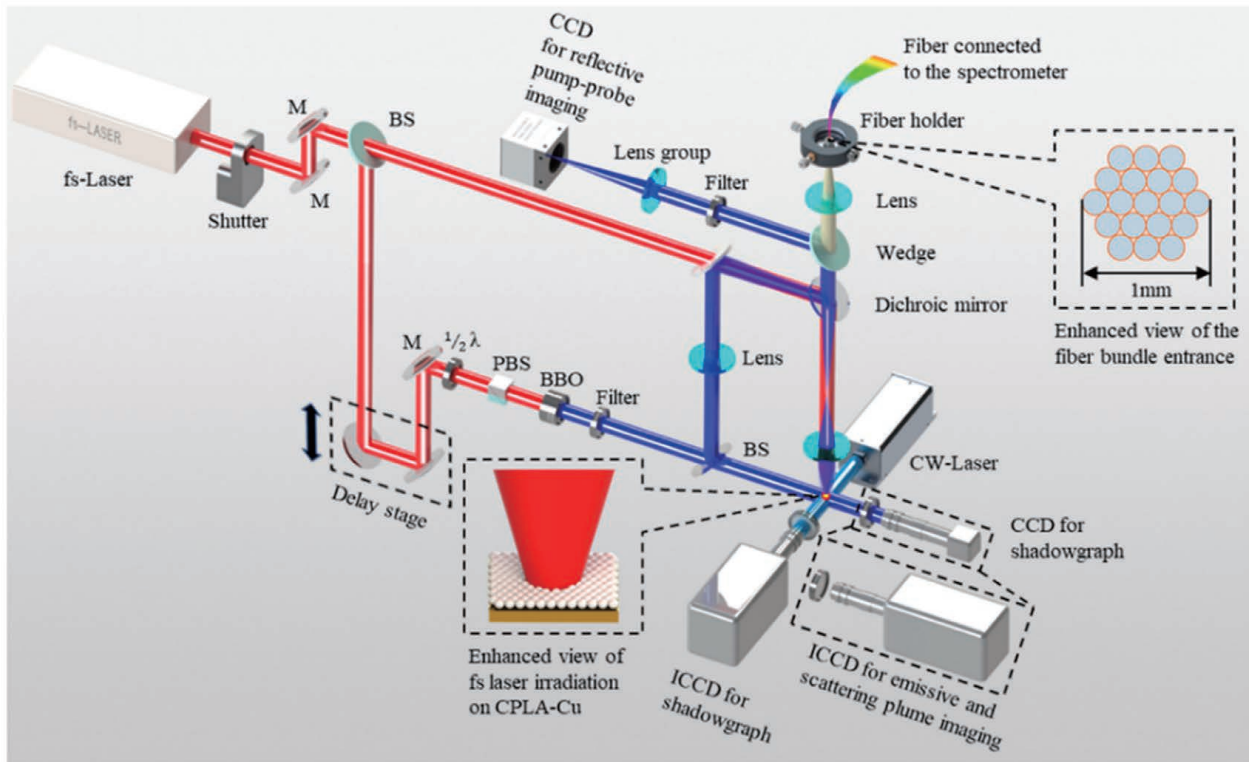


图 7 飞秒激光泵浦探测多尺度观测系统<sup>[88]</sup>

Fig. 7 Femtosecond laser pump-probe multi-scale observation system<sup>[88]</sup>

以上几种泵浦探测技术的发展极大地促进了飞秒激光超快动力学的研究进展。对于许多不可重复或难以再现的超快现象(例如混沌激光动力学<sup>[90]</sup>、光学异常波<sup>[91]</sup>和不可逆的结晶化学反应<sup>[92]</sup>)以及具有显著

逐步变化和低发生率的超快现象(例如超快激光诱导产生密集等离子体<sup>[93]</sup>和惯性约束聚变中的激光驱动内爆<sup>[94]</sup>),超快连续光学成像技术的连续性可以很好地克服其他泵浦探测技术的局限性。

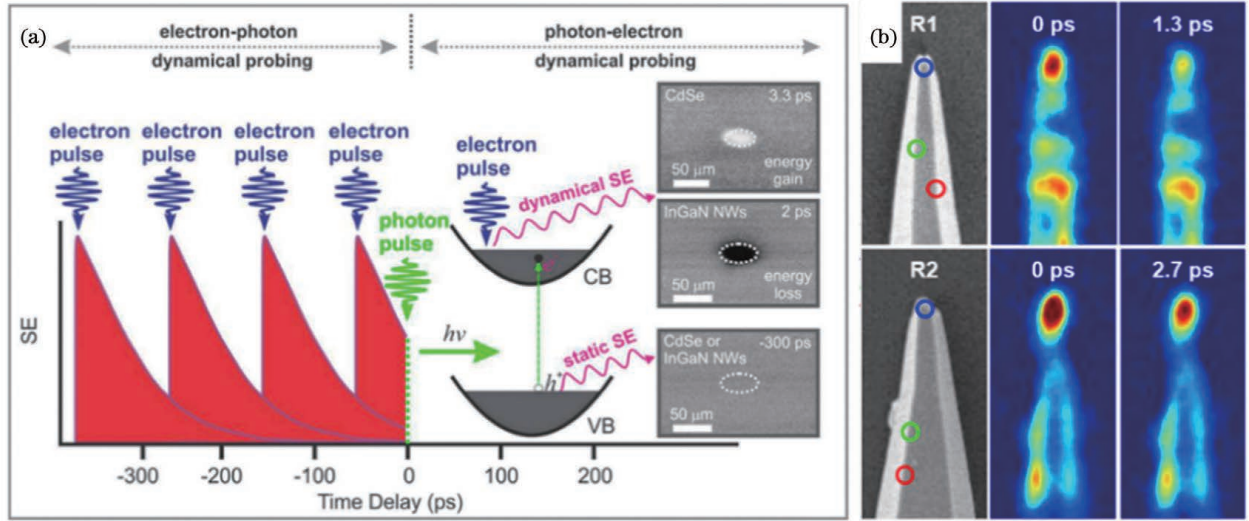


图 8 四维飞秒激光泵浦探测以及瞬态吸收泵浦探测。(a)高时空分辨率四维飞秒激光泵浦探测研究载流子演化和电子动态<sup>[28]</sup>；(b)ZnO 纳米线的瞬态吸收显微探测<sup>[89]</sup>

Fig. 8 Four-dimensional (4D) femtosecond laser pump-probe and transient absorption pump-probe. (a) Carriers evolution and electrons dynamics by 4D femtosecond laser pump-probe technology with high spatial-temporal resolution<sup>[28]</sup>; (b) transient absorption microscopy probe of ZnO nanowire<sup>[89]</sup>

超快连续成像采用超快脉冲序列来记录瞬态信息,脉冲序列中的每个子脉冲都被分配了一个唯一的光学标记,例如不同的空间位置、角度、波长、偏振状态或空间频率,用于分离子脉冲,获得瞬态信息。光学成

像原理如图 9 所示。图 9(a)是基于空间位置分割探测光的超快连续成像原理图,图 9(b)是分割探测光所用到的阶梯式方法。利用阶梯式方法可以形成探测脉冲序列,每个子脉冲记录飞秒激光超快辐照过程中的

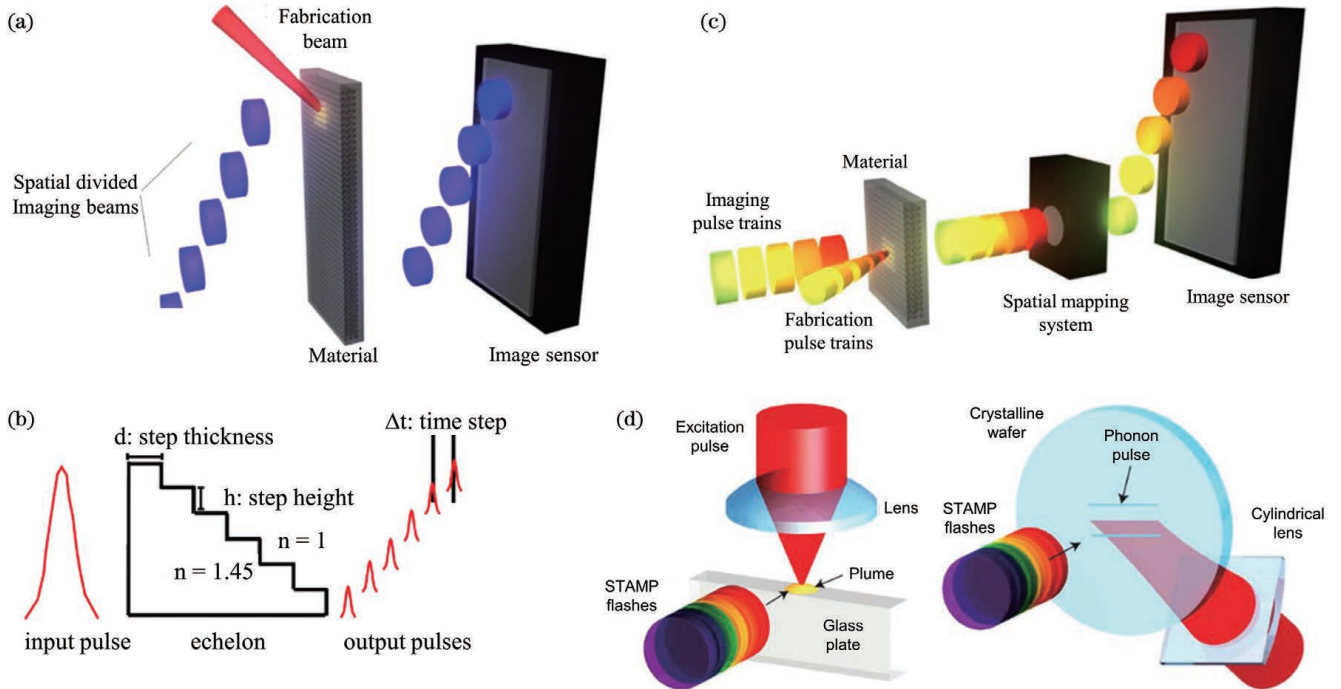


图 9 不同方式分离飞秒激光脉冲用于超快连续成像<sup>[32]</sup>。(a)基于空间分割的超快成像原理图;(b)通过阶梯式方法产生延时探测脉冲;(c)基于时间波长划分的超快成像原理示意图;(d)等离子体动力学观测和声子动力学连续成像时序全光学映射摄影(STAMP)示意图

Fig. 9 Separation of femtosecond laser pulses based on different methods for ultrafast continuous imaging<sup>[32]</sup>. (a) Schematic illustration of ultrafast imaging based on spatial division; (b) generation of time-delayed probe pulses through an echelon method; (c) schematic illustration of ultrafast imaging principle based on temporal wavelength division; (d) schematic of plasma dynamics observation and continuous imaging of phonon dynamics with sequentially timed all-optical mapping photography (STAMP)



瞬态信息,将记录的瞬态信息投射到图像传感器的不同空间区域,然后以连续的方式将其记录下来就可以实现对超快过程的连续瞬态探测。这种超快连续成像方法非常适合用于对飞秒激光单脉冲加工过程进行记录,但其也存在一定缺陷。这是因为离散探测脉冲由阶梯式方法产生,连续成像的帧数会受到单个脉冲功率的限制,而且这种空间离散的探测脉冲只能对具有非重叠轨迹的超快动力学进行成像。图 9(c)展示了基于时间波长划分的超快成像的原理,该方法采用不同波长的单个脉冲形成成像脉冲序列,非常适用于观察电子动态调控过程。该方法采用色散光学元件对探测脉冲进行光谱分离,并将其投射到图像传感器上,不会受阶梯式方法脉冲功率的限制,而且可以实现同一位置的局域电子的动态观测。随后,时序全光学映射摄影技术(STAMP)得到发展,该技术可用于观测飞秒激光诱导等离子体动态过程和声子动态过程。该技术基于时间伸缩成像原理,使探测脉冲经过由脉冲展宽器和脉冲整形器组成的时间映射设备,通过调控脉冲频谱的啁啾和波长在时域上形成脉冲序列,实现连续成像;随后利用衍射光栅和潜望镜阵列空间映射单元在空间中分离脉冲信号,该信号被成像传感器捕捉并被记录到每帧图像的不同区域,实现超快连续成像。该方法可以连续探索超快反应过程中的瞬态现象,实现超快现象的高帧率观测,且成像连续这一优势既方便快捷,又保证了数据一次性收集的准确性,是未来探测技术发展的主流趋势。

## 4 飞秒激光加工中的超快动力学研究

利用飞秒激光泵浦探测技术对飞秒激光加工超快动力学进行实验观测研究,可以揭示飞秒激光与材料相互作用的复杂机制,从物理和光学角度阐明飞秒激光的非线性效应,揭示光子-电子相互作用过程、相变机制和烧蚀机制,为飞秒激光微纳制造的发展和应用提供关键性理论以及观测支撑与指导。泵浦探测技术可以探测飞秒激光与材料相互作用过程中的光子-电子相互作用、电子-晶格相互作用以及等离子体辐射和喷发等不同阶段的动力学机制,同时也可以对近年来迅速发展的整形脉冲激光加工和飞秒激光激发材料化学反应合成进行机制研究和实验指导。

### 4.1 光子-电子相互作用动力学研究

在飞秒激光辐照材料前期,材料产生非线性电离和载流子激发相关效应,诱导产生等离子体和电子激发。不同材料受飞秒激光激发后诱导的电离机制类型不同,采用泵浦探测技术可以揭示飞秒激光辐照材料的具体电离机制。2005年,Xu团队<sup>[95]</sup>基于泵浦探测技术测量了探测光的透射率和反射率[测量结果如图 10(a)所示],研究了飞秒激光双脉冲加工熔融石英的电子动态演化过程,分析了脉冲能量对烧蚀过程的影响。随后,Temnov等<sup>[96]</sup>通过改变激光偏振,利用干

涉式泵浦探测技术研究了圆偏振光和线偏振光作用于电介质过程中的多光子电离速率的差异[如图 10(b)所示],发现多光子电离是熔融石英的主要电离机制,且线偏振光的电离速率( $20 \times 10^{-47} \text{ s}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^9 \cdot \text{W}^{-6}$ )显著高于圆偏振光的电离速率( $3 \times 10^{-47} \text{ s}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^9 \cdot \text{W}^{-6}$ )。在电介质材料与飞秒激光的相互作用过程中,除了多光子电离机制外,还存在碰撞电离机制等多种电离机制。为了研究不同材料受飞秒激光激发后的电离机制,Jia等<sup>[97]</sup>利用泵浦探测技术研究了激光诱导氟化钙和熔融石英表面瞬态反射率的演化规律,结果发现在飞秒激光辐照期间瞬时反射率会迅速上升,从而证明了碰撞电离在自由电子激发过程中的重要作用。在熔融石英中,除了电离机制以外,自陷激子也会对电子密度的演化产生影响。Grojo等<sup>[98]</sup>利用透射式泵浦探测技术通过改变探测光能量研究了飞秒激光加工熔融石英的多光子电离过程,并通过不同通量探测光吸收率的演化发现自陷激子在飞秒激光加工熔融石英过程中具有重要作用,同时通过实验测量了自陷激子的形成时间和寿命等重要参数,测量结果如图 10(c)所示。这一结果证明了自陷激子可以显著改变电子密度的演化过程,提升自由电子的电离速率,为时域整形脉冲激光加工熔融石英过程的观测提供了指导。因此,在飞秒激光辐照电介质材料过程中,多光子电离是产生种子电子的主要途径,碰撞电离在电子密度的整体演化过程中占据了主导作用。

通过研究飞秒激光激发诱导材料电离可以测定飞秒激光与材料相互作用模型中的关键物理参数,指导理论模型的改进与发展。在飞秒激光与材料相互作用过程的理论模型中,许多关键因素(如自由电子寿命、电子空穴复合机制以及电子弛豫时间等)均会对理论模型中飞秒激光作用后电子密度的演化产生重要影响,从而影响后期电子/晶格温度、相变机制和最终烧蚀结果的预测<sup>[76]</sup>。在电子衰减时间的测量方面,Audebert等<sup>[99]</sup>通过频域干涉法测得熔融石英中自由电子的寿命为 150 fs,如图 11(a)所示。也有学者利用透射式泵浦探测对其进行了研究,获得了类似的实验结果,证明了这一结果的准确性<sup>[98]</sup>。在电子弛豫时间的测量方面,Sun等<sup>[100]</sup>基于干涉式泵浦探测技术分析飞秒激光辐照  $\text{SiO}_2$  过程中透射率强度与探测光相位的演化规律[如图 11(b)、(c)所示],并对飞秒激光激发后自由电子的弛豫时间进行了测量,测得该值为 1.7 fs,并测得自由电子寿命约为 170 fs,与之前的研究结果基本符合。2018年,Pan等<sup>[101]</sup>基于双波长(800 nm 和 400 nm)泵浦探测技术进一步精确了电子弛豫时间,并基于不同探测光辐照熔融石英后的透射率数据求解了两种探测光下的 Drude 模型,得到了熔融石英的电子弛豫时间与电子密度之间的关系,如图 11(d)、(e)所示。由实验测得的自由电子寿命可以用于直接修正理论模型中电子密度的衰减项,揭示飞



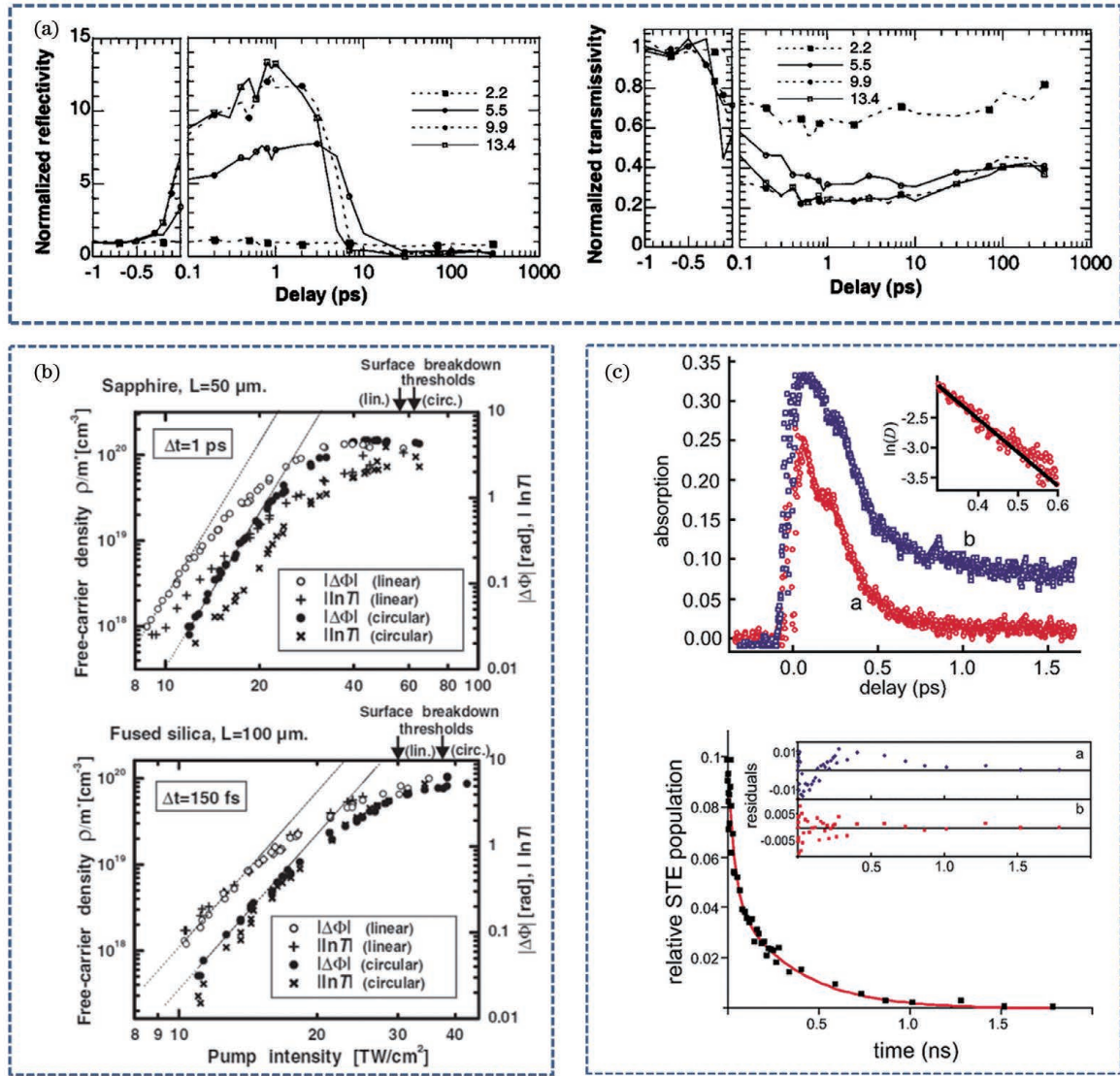


图 10 飞秒激光激发材料的电子动态响应过程。(a)飞秒激光在加工熔融石英过程中反射率/透射率的演化<sup>[95]</sup>;(b)不同偏振光作用下自由电子随脉冲能量的演化<sup>[96]</sup>;(c)不同激光通量下探测脉冲吸收率与自陷激子随时间的演化<sup>[98]</sup>

Fig. 10 Electron dynamics response of materials excited by femtosecond laser. (a) Reflectivity/transmissivity evolution of femtosecond laser during processing fused silica<sup>[95]</sup>; (b) free electrons evolution with laser fluence under different polarized laser irradiation<sup>[96]</sup>; (c) absorptivity of probe pulse and self-trapping excitons evolution over time under different laser fluences<sup>[98]</sup>

秒激光加工中自由电子的复合机制,更准确地阐释飞秒激光的加工机制;由实验得到的电子弛豫时间的精确测量结果有助于判断材料瞬态光学性质的演化,对于预测分析激光与物质的耦合过程具有重要意义。

进一步,在此基础上,有学者利用泵浦探测技术揭示了飞秒激光与材料相互作用在飞秒到皮秒时间尺度内的时空演化规律<sup>[50,102-103]</sup>,并通过 Drude 模型得到了激光辐照后材料中自由电子密度的演化规律<sup>[104-105]</sup>。接下来对不同材料受飞秒激光激发的电子密度的演化过程进行总结和对比。Mao 等<sup>[50]</sup>运用飞秒激光透射式泵浦探测研究了飞秒激光在熔融石英材料内部的激发与传播过程,并通过 Drude 模型系统分析了电子密度的时空分布演化规律,同时测量了激光诱导等离子通道的传播过程,测得其传播速度与光速一致,揭示了

飞秒激光微纳打孔过程中自由电子密度的演化,为激光微纳制造烧蚀阈值研究打下基础。随后, Yu 等<sup>[102]</sup>运用透射式泵浦探测研究了聚焦飞秒激光在空气中的传播过程,结果发现其在空气中会诱导产生大量非线性效应(如等离子体的散焦效应和激光自聚焦效应等),进而诱导光束整形,揭示了飞秒激光和空气相互作用的物理机制。Grojo 团队<sup>[106]</sup>利用透射式泵浦探测技术研究了红外波长飞秒激光在半导体硅内部的等离子体局限现象[如图 12(a)、(b)所示],测得飞秒激光在硅内部诱导产生的最大自由电子密度为  $3.1 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,该值未达到材料烧蚀和改性阈值,不足以使材料产生永久改性。该等离子体局限现象出现的原因是飞秒激光在硅材料内部聚焦之前已经发生了双光子吸收,从而导致利用常规物镜聚焦后的飞秒激光到

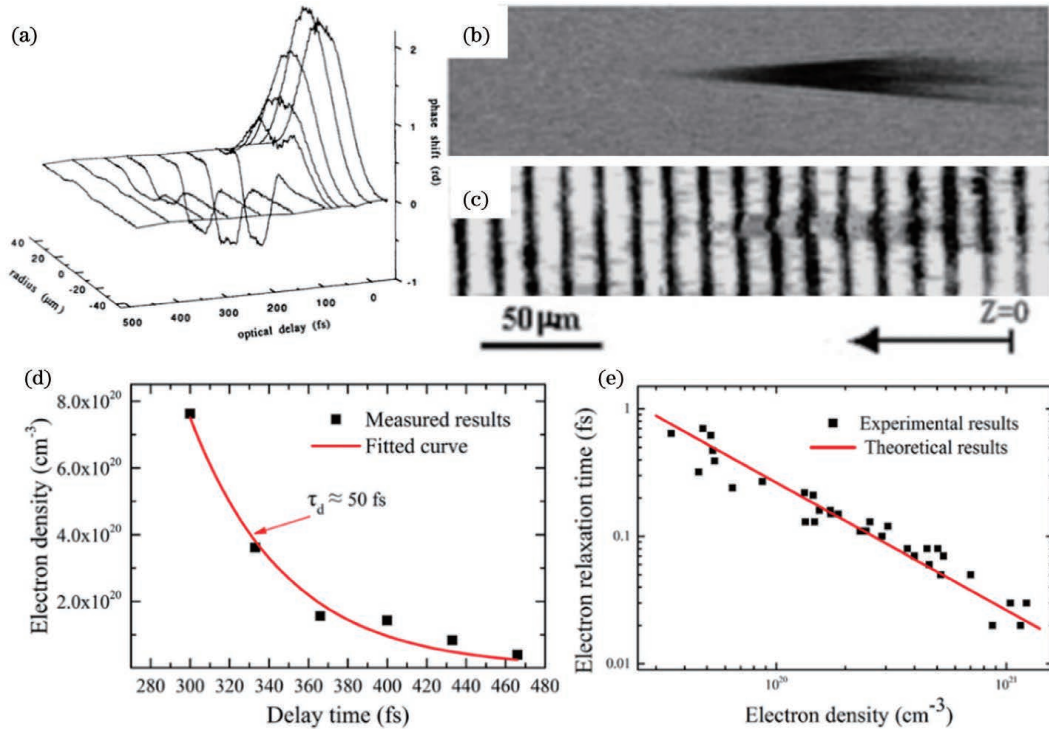


图 11 飞秒激光诱导熔融石英电子密度的瞬态演化图像。(a)频域干涉法测量相移随时间和空间的瞬态演化图像<sup>[99]</sup>；(b)(c)干涉式泵浦探测测量熔融石英内部透射率图像和干涉图像<sup>[100]</sup>；(d)电子密度随探测延时的演化规律<sup>[101]</sup>；(e)电子弛豫时间随电子密度的演化规律<sup>[101]</sup>

Fig. 11 Transient electron density evolution of femtosecond laser-induced fused silica. (a) Transient phase shift evolution over time and space measured by frequency domain interferometry<sup>[99]</sup>; (b)(c) transmissivity and interference images of fused silica inner measured with interferometric pump-probe technology<sup>[100]</sup>; (d) electron density evolution with time delay<sup>[101]</sup>; (e) electron relaxation time evolution with electron density<sup>[101]</sup>

达焦点时其能量不足以激发硅自由电子密度达到临界电子密度,该猜想已被 Grojo 团队利用透射式泵浦探测技术证实<sup>[106]</sup>。在此基础上,Grojo 团队进一步研究了不同物镜聚焦条件下硅中能量沉积的规律<sup>[107]</sup>,结果发现,在常规聚焦方式下,即使透镜的数值孔径(NA)达到最大也无法克服辐照区域的局限等离子体效应。基于此,Grojo 团队提出了固体浸润聚焦方法[如图 12(c)所示的固体浸润聚焦成像],利用数值孔径为 3 的物镜在硅内部诱导出改性结构,如图 12(d)~(f)所示。不同材料中飞秒激光激发产生自由电子所连带的非线性效应不同,熔融石英和空气等电介质中会存在自聚焦效应,而硅等半导体材料中会产生等离子体局限现象,通过泵浦探测技术研究飞秒激光诱导等离子体的演化规律,可以为优化材料加工条件与参数提供指导,实现结构的高效可控制造。

#### 4.2 电子-晶格相互作用动力学研究

电子-晶格相互作用过程涉及材料相变与去除机制,时间尺度通常在皮秒到纳秒量级。不同性质的材料其相变机制不同,且不同能量飞秒激光辐照下的相变机制也会发生相互转变。2006 年,Bonse 等<sup>[108]</sup>利用反射式泵浦探测技术研究了高通量和接近烧蚀阈值通量的飞秒激光分别烧蚀 Ge 过程中的相变机制的转化,揭示了不同通量激光对飞秒激光激发超快动力学

特别是相变与材料去除过程的影响机制,即:在低通量飞秒激光作用下,Ge 表面发生氧化层烧蚀去除,而在高通量飞秒激光作用下,会进一步产生熔化和过热相变。相对于其他半导体来说,Ge 在重铸过程中不会发生表面无定形化过程。这是由于存在于 Ge 晶圆上的天然氧化层可以在高于 Ge 熔点但低于烧蚀阈值的激光通量下被选择性去除,而当激光通量升高时,经飞秒激光辐照后的晶格温度远高于 Ge 熔点,Ge 发生熔化。同时,由于飞秒激光诱导 Ge 凝固时所达到的最大界面速度小于非晶化临界速度,因此未观察到表面无定形化过程。紧接着,Siegel 等<sup>[104]</sup>利用同样的实验手段对飞秒激光加工熔融石英进行了研究,通过材料瞬态反射率的演化过程揭示了熔融石英烧蚀坑不同位置处相变机制的差异,结果发现在改性区域边缘存在库仑爆炸效应和挤压密实化效应,而中心区域由于飞秒激光通量高,会发生与 Ge 等半导体中相同的熔化和过热相变现象。该现象与飞秒激光能量密度相关,从而阐明了飞秒激光辐照相变机制与飞秒激光通量之间的关系,即:在低通量下更容易发生非热相变,而在高通量下更容易发生热相变。2013 年,Heins 等<sup>[109]</sup>利用离轴泵浦探测技术研究了飞秒激光在玻璃上诱导形成同心圆环结构的机制,分析了探测光受冲击波和相变机制干扰的规律。之后,反射式泵浦探测技术被



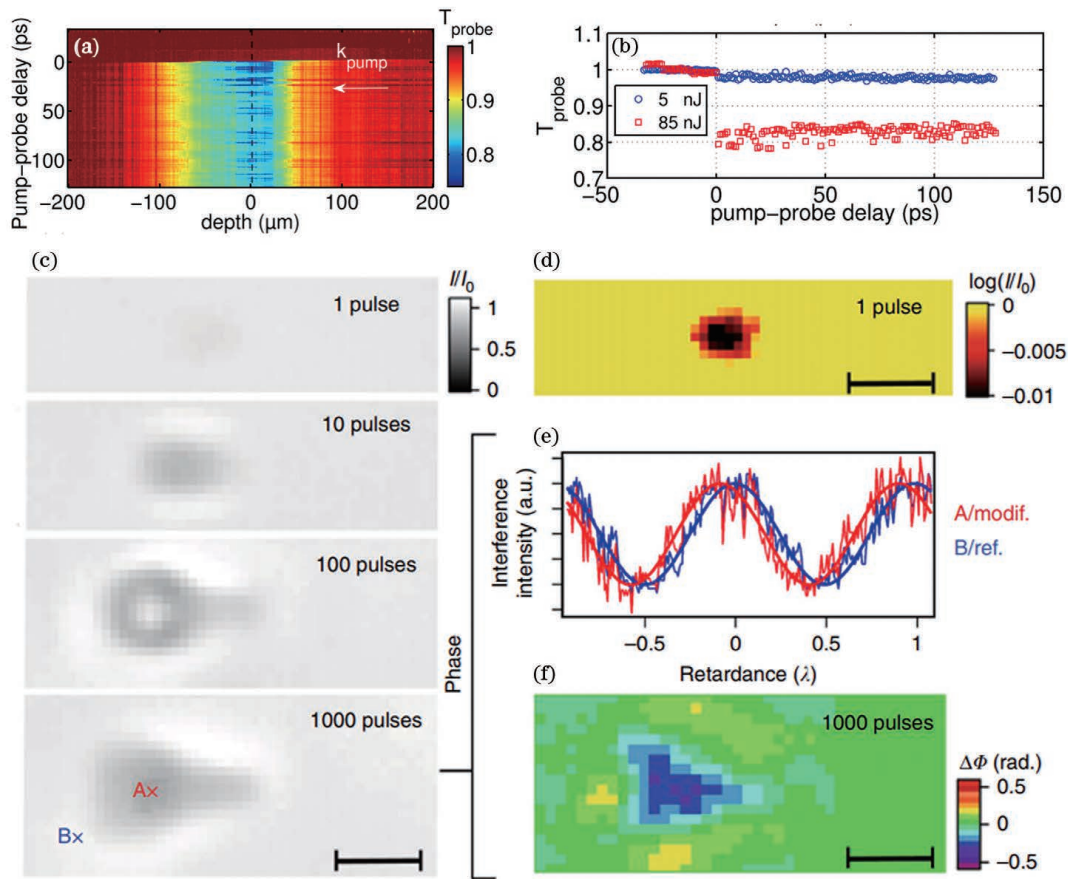


图 12 透射式泵浦探测研究飞秒激光加工硅内部的光学响应。(a)飞秒激光诱导硅的透射率时空演化分布<sup>[106]</sup>;(b)激光诱导等离子体中轴线透射率随时间的演化规律<sup>[106]</sup>;(c)固体浸润的聚焦成像<sup>[107]</sup>;(d)~(f)硅内部改性结构形貌的光学表征<sup>[107]</sup>

Fig. 12 Internal optical response of silicon processed by femtosecond laser with transmission pump-probe technology. (a) Temporal and spatial evolution of transmissivity of femtosecond laser induced silicon<sup>[106]</sup>; (b) time evolution of central axis transmissivity of laser induced plasma<sup>[106]</sup>; (c) focusing imaging of solid infiltration<sup>[107]</sup>; (d)~(f) optical characterization of silicon internal modified structure morphology<sup>[107]</sup>

迅速推广应用到不同材料响应过程的瞬时探测中。Rapp 等<sup>[110]</sup>基于双激光器泵浦探测方法首次研究了硅基底上 SiO<sub>2</sub> 非直接烧蚀的整个反应过程,观察到了牛顿环结构,同时分析了材料烧蚀过程中的非热熔化、膨胀和绝热冷却等相变过程。2014 年, Garcia-Lechuga 等<sup>[111]</sup>系统研究了 LiNbO<sub>3</sub> 晶体经飞秒激光激发后的瞬态光学性质演化过程[如图 13(a)所示],观测到了与半导体研究中所观测的牛顿环一样的结构,揭示了其烧蚀机制并测得了 LiNbO<sub>3</sub> 晶体光折射效应的弛豫时间。2017 年, Garcia-Lechuga 等<sup>[18]</sup>又对 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 进行了相关研究,分别利用反射式泵浦探测技术和干涉式泵浦探测技术进行对比观测实验,并利用两种测量方法的优势互补揭示了飞秒激光与 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 相互作用过程中的电子激发、相变、热膨胀和波传播等烧蚀机制,如图 13(b)所示。

综上,对于半导体和电介质材料而言,可得到如下结论:在低通量飞秒激光加工区域,库仑爆炸在相变机制中占据主导作用,若材料为易氧化材料时还需要考虑表面氧化层的影响;在高通量飞秒激光加工区域,相变机制转变为熔化等热相变过程,产生过

热液相层和热膨胀,从而诱导材料发生进一步烧蚀与去除。

除了对传统的熔融石英、Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 等电介质材料进行研究之外,研究人员也针对近几年应用广泛的新材料进行了飞秒激光加工机制的研究,为具有更优异性能和顺应未来发展趋势的新材料加工技术优化提供重要的机制解释。2020 年, Pan 等<sup>[112]</sup>利用反射式泵浦探测技术研究了飞秒激光加工新型二维材料 MoS<sub>2</sub> 过程中的烧蚀动力学,通过瞬态反射率演化研究揭示了不同激光通量下材料升华与过热相变机制的转变,填补了飞秒激光加工二维材料烧蚀机制的空白,如图 14(a)、(b)所示。2021 年, Wang 等<sup>[113]</sup>通过研究飞秒激光与 GaN 相互作用超快动力学中的瞬态反射率变化以及飞秒激光加工后光电效率的提升,如图 14(c)、(d)所示,解释了不同通量下飞秒激光与 GaN 相互作用涉及的相变机制,阐明了低通量下库仑爆炸机制与高通量下相爆炸机制之间的相互转变,并揭示了飞秒激光一步法加工 GaN 后内量子效率提高的相关机制;飞秒激光加工后产生的金属 Ga 纳米粒子会对激子复合产生的光子进行散射,导致一部分入

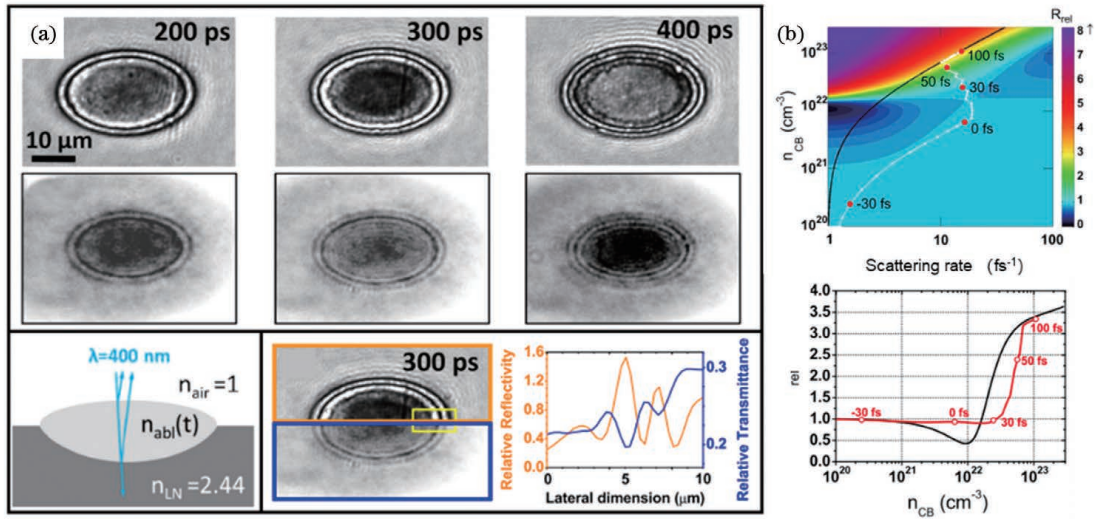


图 13 飞秒激光激发的材料相变过程。(a)经飞秒激光激发后 LiNbO<sub>3</sub> 晶体的瞬态反射率演化规律<sup>[111]</sup>；(b)Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 相对反射率随电子密度和电子散射率的演化<sup>[18]</sup>

Fig. 13 Femtosecond laser excited material phase transition process. (a) Transient reflectivity evolution of LiNbO<sub>3</sub> crystal excited by femtosecond laser<sup>[111]</sup> ; (b) evolution of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> relative reflectivity with electron density and electron scattering rate<sup>[18]</sup>

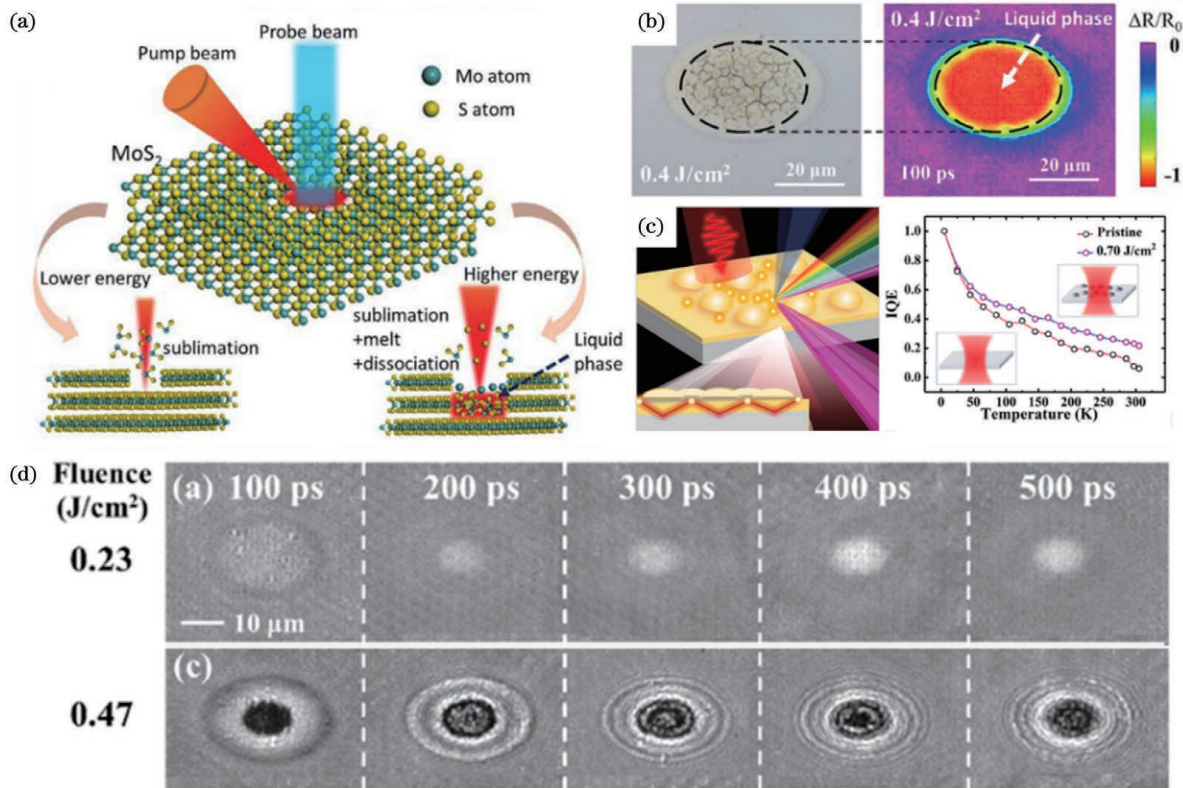


图 14 激光诱导新型材料的超快相变机制。(a)飞秒激光泵浦探测研究 MoS<sub>2</sub> 烧蚀机制示意图<sup>[112]</sup>；(b)MoS<sub>2</sub> 光学显微镜形貌与瞬态反射率空间分布对比<sup>[112]</sup>；(c)飞秒激光激发 GaN 内量子效率提升机制<sup>[113]</sup>；(d)不同能量下飞秒激光诱导 GaN 表面的瞬态反射率演化<sup>[113]</sup>

Fig. 14 Laser-induced ultrafast phase transition mechanism of novel materials. (a) Schematic of MoS<sub>2</sub> ablation mechanism by femtosecond laser pump-probe technology<sup>[112]</sup> ; (b) optical microscopy morphology and transient reflectivity spatial distribution comparison of MoS<sub>2</sub><sup>[112]</sup> ; (c) internal quantum efficiency improvement mechanism of GaN excited by femtosecond laser<sup>[113]</sup> ; (d) transient reflectivity evolution of GaN surface induced by femtosecond laser at different fluences<sup>[113]</sup>



射角大于全反射角的光会从正面散射到自由空间,从而增强了光子在室温下的逃逸能力,提高了内量子效率。可见,通过研究飞秒激光激发材料的瞬态光学性质演化可以很好地揭示材料被激光激发后的相变机制与烧蚀机制,为不同性质材料的飞秒激光微纳制造提供指导,拓展飞秒激光加工的应用范围。

#### 4.3 等离子体喷发和冲击波传播研究

当飞秒激光诱导材料发生相变后,在皮秒到纳秒的时间尺度下会发生等离子体喷发和冲击波膨胀传播过程,这一过程对于最终形貌的演化以及基于等离子体的材料特性分析研究具有重要影响。目前,对于这一过程的观测研究主要集中在飞秒激光参数(包括激光能量、波长、脉冲宽度)、材料性质以及加工环境对等离子体/冲击波产生和传播过程的影响上。Russo 团队<sup>[114]</sup>利用泵浦探测技术研究了已成微孔结构对冲击波的影响规律,并计算了冲击后空气的一系列参数;结果表明,在微孔结构影响下,受冲击空气的压强与温度均较无孔加工下的高,但沉积能量较无孔加工下的小。随后,Russo 团队<sup>[115]</sup>又用飞秒与纳秒激光分别对材料进行烧蚀,比较了两种情况下的等离子体喷发,结果发现飞秒激光诱导下的等离子体具有更高的传播速度、压强与温度,证明了飞秒激光加工的优越性。2007 年,Zhang 团队<sup>[72]</sup>用透射式泵浦探测技术研究了飞秒激光烧蚀金属铝的过程,分析了飞秒激光加工中的热

烧蚀机制、非热烧蚀机制及冲击波膨胀过程[如图 15(a)所示],并利用这两个机制分析、解释了实验中产生的两次材料喷发现象。在后续的实验中,Zhang 团队又系统研究了飞秒激光烧蚀熔融石英<sup>[9]</sup>、半导体硅<sup>[116]</sup>等材料的演化过程,深入分析了环境压强对等离子体喷发的影响规律<sup>[117]</sup>。为了对比不同加工环境对飞秒激光加工的影响,Zhang 团队<sup>[118]</sup>采用飞秒激光泵浦探测阴影成像技术进一步研究了飞秒激光在空气中加工金属铝时空气电离对加工效果的影响,分析了空气电离对早期等离子体膨胀、冲击波演化以及材料喷发过程的影响规律。2015 年,Hu 等<sup>[119]</sup>采用泵浦探测影像技术和数字全息法研究了水和空气对飞秒激光烧蚀铝的影响,结果发现材料喷发在水环境下受到了明显抑制,而且水下冲击波传播出现了 Mach 区,揭示了飞秒激光在水环境下的加工机制。因此,对于不同环境下的飞秒激光加工来说,受到影响的主要是等离子体冲击波传播阶段。在这一阶段,材料中应力的传播和喷溅物的膨胀会明显受到环境因素的影响,环境压强越大,如施加液体环境,材料所受应力也就越大,对硬质材料加工具有促进作用;同时,由于环境压强的影响,材料喷溅物不易被及时导走,从而会对材料的精密加工产生不利影响。采用流动的液体环境可以很好地减小这一影响。

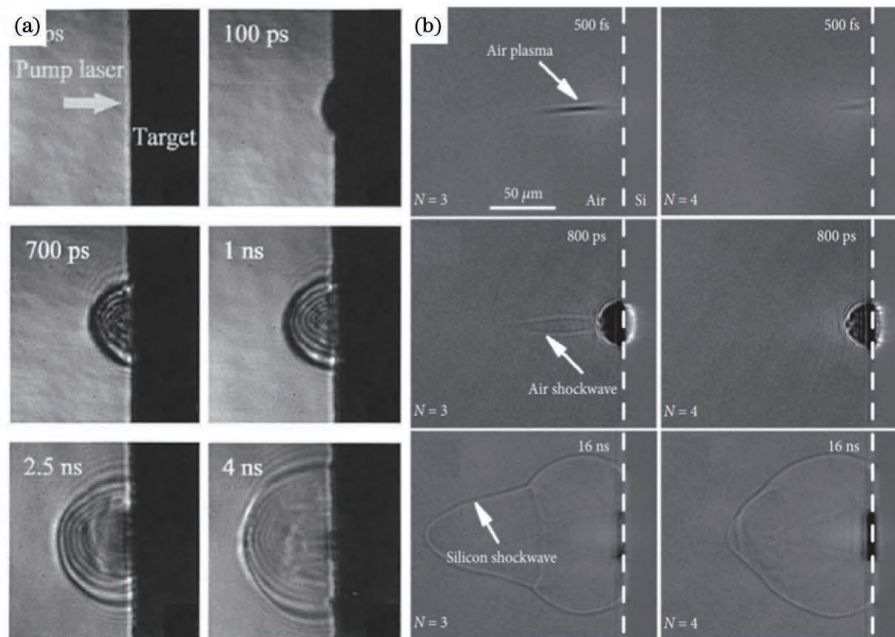


图 15 飞秒激光诱导冲击波演化。(a)飞秒激光脉冲烧蚀金属铝后喷射物和冲击波膨胀的时间分辨图像<sup>[72]</sup>; (b)凹坑辅助激光诱导空气电离和冲击波演化的直接观测<sup>[120]</sup>

Fig. 15 Evolution of shockwave induced by femtosecond laser. (a) Time-resolved images of jets and shockwave expansion after femtosecond laser pulse ablation of aluminum<sup>[72]</sup>; (b) direct observation of laser-induced air ionization and shockwave evolution assisted by crater<sup>[120]</sup>

除了对不同材料体系和不同加工环境下飞秒激光烧蚀材料过程进行研究之外,研究人员也观测和分析了激光脉宽、波长、脉冲数等基本参数对飞秒激光加工

的影响。Boueri 等<sup>[25]</sup>基于透射式泵浦探测技术研究了不同的激光脉宽和波长对聚合物等离子体和冲击波形貌的影响,并发现了短波长纳秒激光诱导产生的冲

击波层呈现非线性的特点。2013 年,Guo 团队<sup>[109]</sup>利用离子泵浦探测技术研究了飞秒激光在玻璃上诱导形成同心圆环结构的机制,分析了探测光受冲击波干扰的规律。2017 年,Wang 等<sup>[62]</sup>基于透射阴影式泵浦探测技术研究了多脉冲加工熔融石英表面空气等离子体和冲击波的演化规律及其相互作用过程,阐述了凹坑辅助材料冲击波传播的内在机制。随后,Wang 等<sup>[120]</sup>又利用该技术实现了凹坑辅助激光诱导空气电离的在线直接观测,并研究了飞秒激光多脉冲加工过程中的空气等离子体激发、材料表面冲击波膨胀传播以及表面微纳结构随辐照脉冲数的演化规律;结果表明,空气等离子体激发以及激光与材料耦合均通过影响多脉冲激光诱导等离子体和冲击波扩张这两种物理机制来影响激光诱导表面微纳结构的最终形貌,如图 15(b)所示。因此,通过观测不同的材料体系、加工环境、激光脉冲数等基本参数下飞秒激光诱导等离子体和冲击波的传播与喷发,可以直接得到材料在加工过程中的密度改变、所受应力和压强演化,从而对材料沉积能量和烧蚀机制进行分析,指导调控复杂加工条件下的飞秒激光微纳制造过程。

#### 4.4 基于电子动态调控新方法的超快动力学演化观测

尽管通过改变激光参数和加工环境可以对飞秒激光微纳制造质量进行优化与提升,但仍存在一系列瓶颈和挑战,如,高深径比/高孔形质量微孔加工、功能微纳结构大面积一致性选择性加工以及微纳器件的高性能高质量制造等关键制造难题。Jiang 等<sup>[14]</sup>以协同优化时域/空域整形飞秒激光来调控光子-电子相互作用过程为创新研究手段,发明了飞秒激光电子动态调控微细加工新技术,通过优化瞬时局部电子动态(电子密度、温度、激发态分布等)来控制材料的局部瞬时特性以及相应的材料相变过程和加工结果,大幅提高了加工质量、效率、精度和一致性,拓展了激光微细制造的加工极限。Zhao 等<sup>[121]</sup>基于该方法采用飞秒脉冲序列调控材料内部的瞬时局部电子密度分布,进而控制材料结构改性的程度,大幅提高了飞秒激光加工熔融石英的效率。Wang 等<sup>[122]</sup>通过超快激光空间光相位整形调控聚焦点的光场强度分布,进而调控被加工材料的瞬时局部电子密度,达到了调控激光与金属薄膜材料相互作用过程的目的,最终实现了局部可控的纳米级材料去除,制备得到了高分辨率(约为波长的 1/14)、高电导率(为体材料的 1/4)、任意形状、突破衍射极限的金属纳米线。Xie 等<sup>[123]</sup>利用飞行时间打点法结合贝塞尔整形加工在加工区域得到了致密的、可重复的高质量、高深径比微孔,实现了在 1 cm×1 cm 面积上制备高深径比(500:1,直径 1.6 μm)微孔阵列(共计 251001 个孔)仅耗时 42 min 的超快记录。Yuan 等<sup>[124]</sup>基于该方法实现了冲压制造灵活可设计的微型超级电容器的单脉冲激光高效加工,在 10 min

内生产出的微型超级电容器超过 30000 个,且每个微型超级电容器均表现出优异性能,即具有超高能量密度(0.23 Wh·cm<sup>-3</sup>)、超小时间常数(0.01 ms)、出色的比电容(128 mF·cm<sup>-2</sup>和 426.7 F cm<sup>-3</sup>)和长期可循环性。

对时域整形和空域整形脉冲激光加工中的超快动力学进行研究可以完整揭示整形激光对电子动态、相变机制和烧蚀机制的调控,进而实现高质量、高效率、突破制造极限的飞秒激光加工。基于时域整形飞秒激光与材料的相互作用过程,Pan 等<sup>[125]</sup>采用飞秒激光双脉冲对熔融石英进行加工,研究了瞬态电子激发动力学过程,发现了第二个脉冲到达时由第一个脉冲诱导的瞬态高反射表面形成的等离子体细丝分裂现象。他们对电子密度的演化进行分析后发现双脉冲辐照情况下的能量总沉积高于单脉冲辐照下的能量总沉积,如图 16(a)所示。紧接着,他们又对飞秒激光双脉冲加工硅过程中双脉冲的重要作用进行了泵浦探测研究<sup>[16]</sup>,发现了双脉冲引起的等离子体冲击波各向同性现象,如图 16(b)所示。Mouskeftaras 等<sup>[21]</sup>利用干涉式泵浦探测技术研究了飞秒激光双脉冲加工电介质材料过程中第二束脉冲对探测光相移的影响,研究结果表明,在电介质材料的电子激发中占据主导作用的是多光子电离机制,而雪崩电离是否占据主导作用依赖于材料属性。2016 年,Rapp 等<sup>[126]</sup>利用椭圆泵浦探测显微技术对材料的瞬态复折射率进行了测定,结果显示,在激光脉冲辐照金属钼之后的 10 ps 内,超快光学的穿透深度变化从-6%增大到 77%。这一结果表明了双脉冲加工中延时改变对激光脉冲能量吸收的调控作用。同年,Kumada 等<sup>[127]</sup>在双脉冲加工熔融石英过程中发现了瞬态反射率振荡增强的现象,并发现随着双脉冲延时增加,该振荡现象又逐渐减弱。他们基于所测定的特征时间确定了熔融石英被烧蚀后散裂层的形成机制和形成时间,如图 16(c)所示,从而证明了时域整形飞秒激光的可调控特性,为提高加工精度、加工质量和加工效率提供了观测基础与指导。

Yu 等<sup>[103]</sup>采用贝塞尔激光加工出了高深径比孔,并对打孔过程中冲击波的瞬态演化进行了探测;结果显示,在 PMMA 内部出现了柱面波扩展现象,如图 17(a)所示,且柱面波的传播距离与时间呈线性关系,不随激光能量的波动而改变。Wang 等<sup>[128]</sup>分别对熔融石英和聚甲基丙烯酸甲酯(PMMA)的贝塞尔脉冲激光打孔过程进行了泵浦探测,结果发现柱面波仅在 PMMA 打孔过程中产生,而在熔融石英打孔过程中没有产生;同时,他们根据加工前后样品质量不变这一结果揭示了贝塞尔激光打孔过程中的冲击波挤压机制。除了贝塞尔整形外,研究人员也对时空同步聚焦整形飞秒激光进行了泵浦探测研究。例如:Wang 等<sup>[129]</sup>利用透射式泵浦探测技术对时空同步聚焦飞秒激光加工熔融石英过程中的等离子体演化过程进行



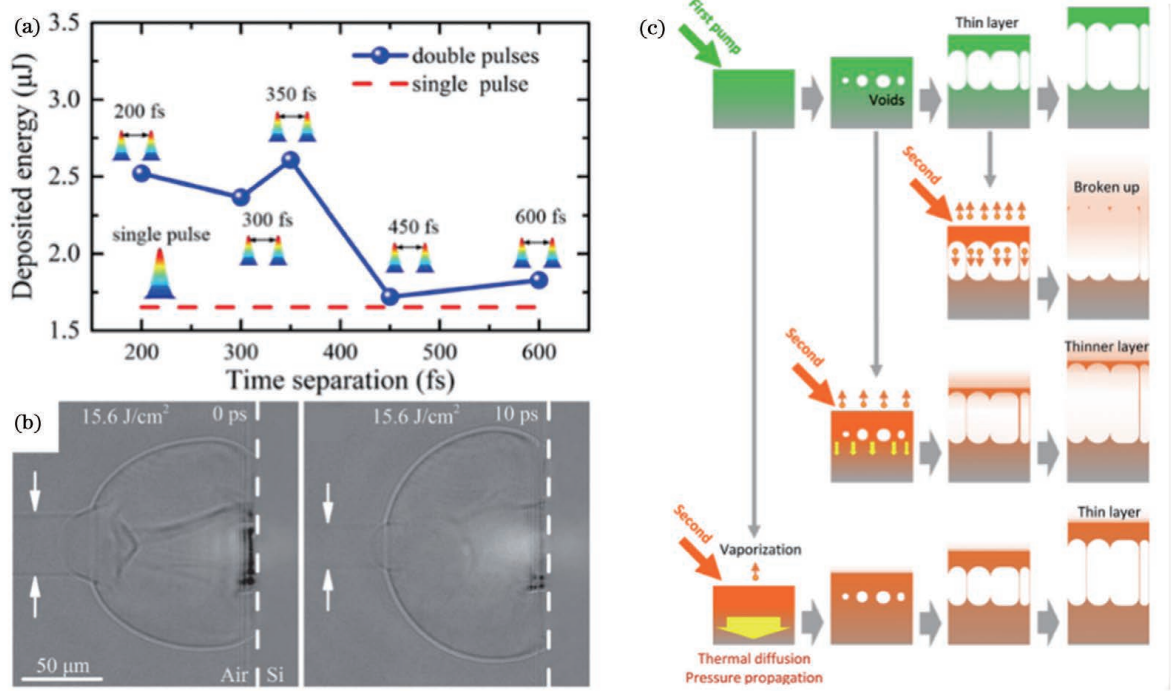


图 16 时域整形飞秒激光超快动力学过程研究。(a)熔融石英中能量沉积随双脉冲延时的演化<sup>[125]</sup>;(b)单脉冲与双脉冲加工硅冲击波演化形貌的对比<sup>[16]</sup>;(c)双脉冲烧蚀熔融石英相变过程和散裂层形成机制<sup>[127]</sup>

Fig. 16 Study on temporally-shaped femtosecond laser ultrafast dynamic process. (a) Evolution of energy deposition in fused silica with double pulse delay<sup>[125]</sup>; (b) comparison of shockwave evolution morphologies during single-pulse and double-pulse irradiating silicon<sup>[16]</sup>; (c) phase transformation process and spallation layer formation mechanism of fused silica by double-pulse ablation<sup>[127]</sup>

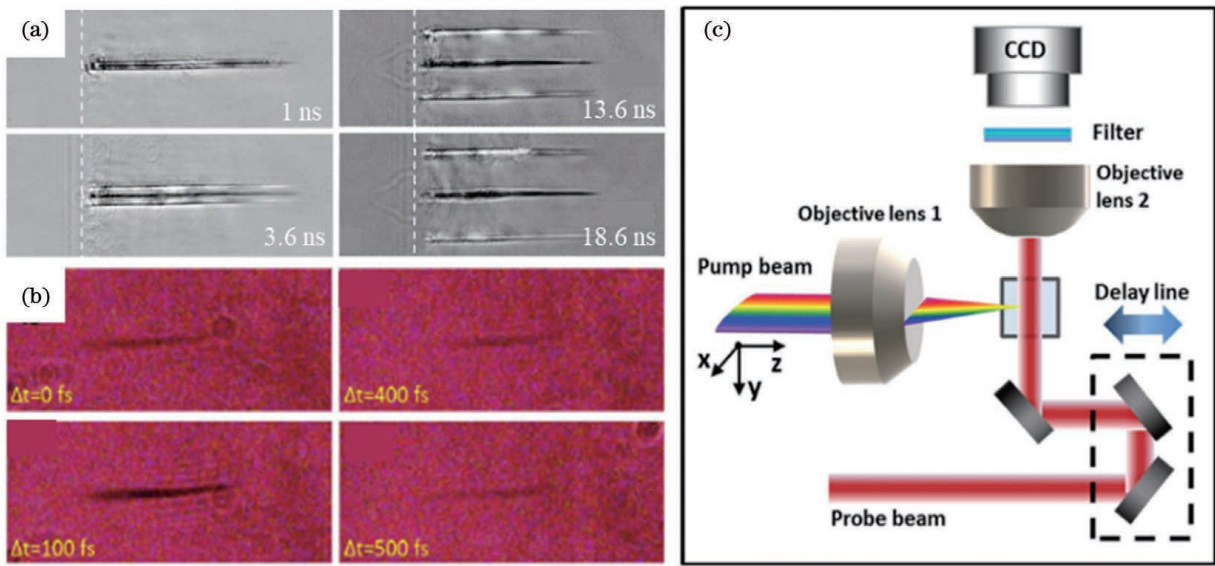


图 17 空域整形飞秒激光脉冲超快动力学研究。(a)PMMA 贝塞尔激光打孔过程中的冲击波演化<sup>[128]</sup>;(b)时空同步聚焦飞秒激光加工过程的时间分辨瞬态透射率演化<sup>[129]</sup>;(c)时空同步聚焦飞秒激光加工过程的光路图<sup>[129]</sup>

Fig. 17 Study on spatially-shaped femtosecond laser ultrafast dynamic. (a) Shockwave evolution of PMMA drilling by Bessel laser<sup>[128]</sup>; (b) evolution of time-resolved transient transmissivity of synchronous spatial-temporal focusing femtosecond laser processing<sup>[129]</sup>; (c) optical path of synchronous spatial-temporal focusing femtosecond laser processing<sup>[129]</sup>

观测,发现了不同于传统激光的时空同步聚焦光束诱导的等离子体弯曲效应,如图 17(b)、(c)所示。Kammel 等<sup>[130]</sup>基于飞秒激光眼科手术这一应用,研究了传统高斯脉冲与时空同步聚焦脉冲在水中的瞬

态等离子体细丝演化,并发现经过整形后的飞秒激光有效避免了高能量下传统激光脉冲聚焦后产生的光丝尾部分叉和中断现象。这说明经过时空同步聚焦整形后的飞秒激光具有更高的加工精度,可以作

为飞秒激光眼科手术的有力工具。相比于传统的高斯激光加工,空域整形激光能从本质上改变飞秒激光加工材料过程中电子密度的演化和分布,从而影响材料内部冲击波与应力的传播规律,最终实现材料烧蚀形貌的调控。

飞秒激光与材料相互作用过程中的超快动力学研究表明,基于飞秒激光电子动态调控思想的新方法可以从电子层面直接调控材料的性质,优化瞬时局部电子动态(电子密度、温度、激发态分布等),控制材料的局部瞬时特性,进而调控材料相变和成形过程<sup>[14]</sup>。例如,通过优化脉冲序列可以调控自由电子的密度(使其略高于临界密度),通过抑制传统的热相变(如熔化等)机制、促进非热相变(如库仑爆炸)可以降低加工区域重铸层的高度、极小化热影响区面积、消除微裂纹、降低表面粗糙度,从而大幅提高加工效率、加工质量、加工精度及加工的一致性,拓展微细制造的极限加工能力。

## 5 结束语

飞秒激光制造有望成为未来高端制造的主要手段,可为我国在新能源、航空航天、国防等领域实现跨越式发展提供重要的技术支撑,是突破许多核心部件制造瓶颈的理想技术,但目前仍面临巨大挑战。为了实现飞秒激光制造精度、制造效率、制造质量和可控性的提升,就必须要对飞秒激光加工过程中的复杂机制进行深入理解。在观测超快激光加工过程中的局部瞬时电子动态时空演化时,时空分辨率的精准性、不同角度的三维全景观测以及跨尺度超快加工过程观测是目前存在的三大挑战。基于此,本文对飞秒激光微纳制造中的超快动力学观测进行综述,总结了飞秒激光与物质相互作用的过程,针对飞秒激光泵浦探测技术的发展历程进行介绍,综述了飞秒激光微纳制造过程中不同阶段跨尺度的超快动力学观测,对比了不同材料体系和加工环境下的飞秒激光加工机制以及新方法和传统方法的飞秒激光加工机制,为飞秒激光微纳制造提供了重要的观测基础与指导。

在飞秒激光微纳制造超快动力学方面,目前的研究突破了传统图像传感器的限制,可以实现更高的帧速率和快门速度。但这些研究为了提高图像采集速率,都或多或少牺牲了一个或多个特异性参数。同时,传统技术仍存在着光场重构困难、观测手段单一、难以实现多观测手段精准协同耦合的问题。未来结合泵浦探测、新型超快连续成像技术和改进的 4D S-UEM 技术,可以建立具有高时空分辨率和动态连续观测能力的跨尺度准三维观测系统,用于观测飞秒激光极端制造材料结构和性质演变过程中的电子电离(飞秒到皮秒量级)和材料相变(皮秒到纳秒级)。多尺度过程的高时空分辨观测将为飞秒激光制造中超快动力学研究带来革命性改变。

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# Ultrafast Dynamics of Femtosecond Laser Interaction with Materials

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## Abstract

**Significance** Miniaturization of electronic and information devices has become the development trend in the age of science and technology. Owing to its benefits, including simple integration without contact, flexible and controllable fabrication, and low material loss, femtosecond laser micro/nano manufacturing has gradually become a crucial research direction in micro/nano manufacturing technology. The femtosecond laser can achieve ultra-precision, high-efficiency, and high-quality micro/nano fabrication of almost all materials. The interaction between femtosecond laser and materials is distinct from that of the traditional laser-material interaction process, owing to its ultra-short pulse characteristics, which is a nonlinear and unbalanced multi-temporal-scale ultrafast process. It involves various physical processes, like photon absorption and electron excitation, phase transition, plasma/shockwave radiation and eruption, material removal, and other ultrafast dynamics processes. These physical processes fundamentally influence the final structure of laser processed materials and can directly regulate the structure's morphology and properties. Thus, to attain the constrained breakthrough and extensive application in femtosecond laser micro/nano fabrication, it is important to understand and regulate the ultrafast dynamic evolution of femtosecond laser interaction with materials. An in-depth study and understanding of the ultra-fast dynamic evolution mechanism in femtosecond laser processing will offer a theoretical fundamental and guidance for the realization of high-efficiency, high-precision, and high-quality femtosecond laser micro/nano fabrication. Therefore, facilitating the quick development of femtosecond laser micro/nano fabrication technology and its application.

**Process** Femtosecond laser pump-probe technology is employed to investigate the ultrafast dynamics evolution in femtosecond laser processing. With the development of the time delay translation stage and optical imaging technology, temporal and spatial resolution has been improved. The imaging types include transmission type and reflective type, interferometric type, and holographic imaging. Numerous dimensions of ultrafast dynamics imaging in femtosecond laser fabrication have been achieved. Moreover, to probe the material response in femtosecond laser processing more completely, a multi-scale pump-probe system has been constructed to probe the whole process of femtosecond laser-material interaction.

There are several investigations about the probe of photon-electron interaction, electron-lattice interaction, and plasma radiation and eruption in the process of femtosecond laser-material interaction, which indicates the physical mechanism of each stage. Moreover, the mechanism research for shaped femtosecond laser processing and femtosecond laser-excited chemical reaction synthesis of materials are also performed.

The crucial physical parameters of the femtosecond laser-material interaction theoretical model can be evaluated by studying the photon-electron interaction process based on pump-probe technology that can guide the theoretical model's enhancement and development. There is a lot of research to determine the crucial factors like electron decay time, electron-hole combination mechanism, and electron relaxation time, therefore regulating the electron density evolution, electron/lattice temperature, phase transition mechanism, and ablation findings. Furthermore, the probe of the photon-electron interaction process can show the nonlinear ionization mechanism in laser-material interaction, which guides the optimization of material processing conditions and parameters, and attains the effective and controllable manufacturing of structures.

The evolution of transient optical properties during femtosecond laser materials interaction can be employed to investigate the electron-lattice interaction process, and further, show the phase transition and removal mechanism of materials in the picosecond-nanosecond time scale. Presently, femtosecond laser processing mechanisms on traditional materials like fused silica, silicon, and germanium under the picosecond-nanosecond time scale have been investigated. Recently, research on new materials, including two-dimensional materials has emerged, which shows the phase transition mechanism and ablation mechanism of emerging materials.

The process of plasma eruption and shockwave propagation in the picosecond to nanosecond time scales after femtosecond laser processing plays a crucial role in the evolution of the final morphology and the investigation of material



properties based on plasma. Current studies primarily focus on the influences of femtosecond laser parameters (including laser fluence, wavelength, and pulse width), material properties, and processing environment on the generation and propagation of plasma/shockwave. The findings show the impacts of air/material plasma excitation and shockwave expansion on the final morphology of laser-induced micro/nanostructures.

New approaches based on electron dynamics control have been suggested in recent years. Therefore, in addition to investigating the traditional Gaussian pulse's mechanism, some studies have also been reported about the interaction between spatial-temporal shaping femtosecond laser and materials. Currently, the studies focus on double-pulse femtosecond laser processing, Bessel laser processing, and simultaneous spatial and temporal focusing of femtosecond laser processing, which improves the development of spatial-temporal shaping of femtosecond laser processing. There are also investigations on the probe of the ultrafast dynamics of chemical reaction excited by femtosecond laser, showing the physicochemical mechanism in the process of material chemical reaction excited by femtosecond laser, expanding the application and development prospect of femtosecond laser micro/nano fabrication.

**Conclusions and Prospects** Femtosecond laser manufacturing is forecasted to become the primary means of high-end manufacturing in the future, which will offer crucial manufacturing support to attain leapfrog development in new energy, aerospace, national defense, and other fields. It is the ideal technology to break through the manufacturing technology challenges of numerous core components, but there are still a lot of issues. To enhance the manufacturing accuracy, efficiency, quality, and controllability of femtosecond laser, it is crucial to have a deep understanding of the complex mechanism in femtosecond laser processing. In observing the temporal and spatial evolution of local transient electron dynamics in ultrafast laser manufacturing, the accuracy of temporal and spatial resolution, three-dimensional panoramic observation from various angles, and multi-scale ultrafast probe are the three major problems. In this study, the ultrafast dynamic in femtosecond laser micro-nano manufacturing is summarized, and the interaction between femtosecond laser and matter is summarized. The development history of femtosecond laser pump-probe technology is introduced, and the multi-scale ultrafast dynamic in various stages of femtosecond laser micro-nano manufacturing is summarized. Distinct material systems, processing environments, and mechanisms based on electrons dynamics control are summarized and compared, which offers a crucial observation fundamental and guidance for femtosecond laser micro-nano manufacturing.

The current study about the ultrafast dynamics of femtosecond laser micro-nano manufacturing has broken through the drawbacks of traditional image sensors to attain higher frame rates and shutter speeds. To enhance the image acquisition's speed, these studies more or less sacrifice one or more specific parameters. Additionally, traditional methods still have challenges, including challenges in light field reconstruction, single observation means, and difficulty in attaining precise coordination and coupling of numerous observation means. Combining the pump-probe technology, ultrafast continuous imaging technology with the four-dimensional scanning ultrafast electron microscopy technology, can develop a multi-scale quasi three-dimensional pump-probe system with substantial spatial-temporal resolution and dynamical continuous observation capability, which can be employed for observation of electron ionization and phase change during the evolution of the structures and properties in the femtosecond laser extreme manufacturing. High spatial-temporal resolution observation of multi-scale processes will revolutionize the research on ultrafast dynamics in femtosecond laser manufacturing.

**Key words** laser technology; femtosecond laser; micro/nano processing; ultrafast dynamics; pump-probe technology; laser interaction with materials