

## 超快激光加工二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件研究进展

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**摘要** 二氧化钛兼具优异的光化学性质和光学性质,被广泛应用于能源材料、光学信息等领域的微纳功能器件中。二氧化钛的微纳加工与成形技术是二氧化钛微纳功能器件制备的关键技术基础。超快激光由于具有超短脉宽和超高能量峰值等特性而成为理想的微纳制造工具之一,近年来在二氧化钛的微纳加工领域中得到了广泛的关注。综述了超快激光加工二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件的研究进展,包括二氧化钛的性质及应用、超快激光与二氧化钛的作用机理、二氧化钛微纳结构的超快激光加工技术,介绍了利用这些技术加工的二氧化钛光解水制氢器件、图案化结构色器件和光学加密器件等微纳功能器件,并对超快激光微纳加工技术在二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件加工领域中的应用前景进行了展望。

**关键词** 激光技术; 二氧化钛; 微纳结构; 功能器件; 超快激光; 微纳制造

**中图分类号** TN249

**文献标志码** A

**DOI:** 10.3788/CJL202249.2200002

## 1 引言

二氧化钛( $\text{TiO}_2$ )是一种过渡金属氧化物,在紫外光照射下可将水分解为氢气和氧气<sup>[1]</sup>。二氧化钛因其储量丰富、稳定性高、无毒等优势而被广泛关注,被认为是理想的半导体催化剂之一。二氧化钛还具有优异

的光学性质,在光学信息领域中展现出良好的应用前景。随着微纳科技的发展,二氧化钛与先进的微纳加工和成形技术结合,获得了多种新型二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件,如图 1 所示。二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件在能源材料领域中可被应用于光解水制氢<sup>[2]</sup>、染料敏化太阳能电池<sup>[3]</sup>、光催化<sup>[4]</sup>、光伏<sup>[5]</sup>、光传感<sup>[6]</sup>

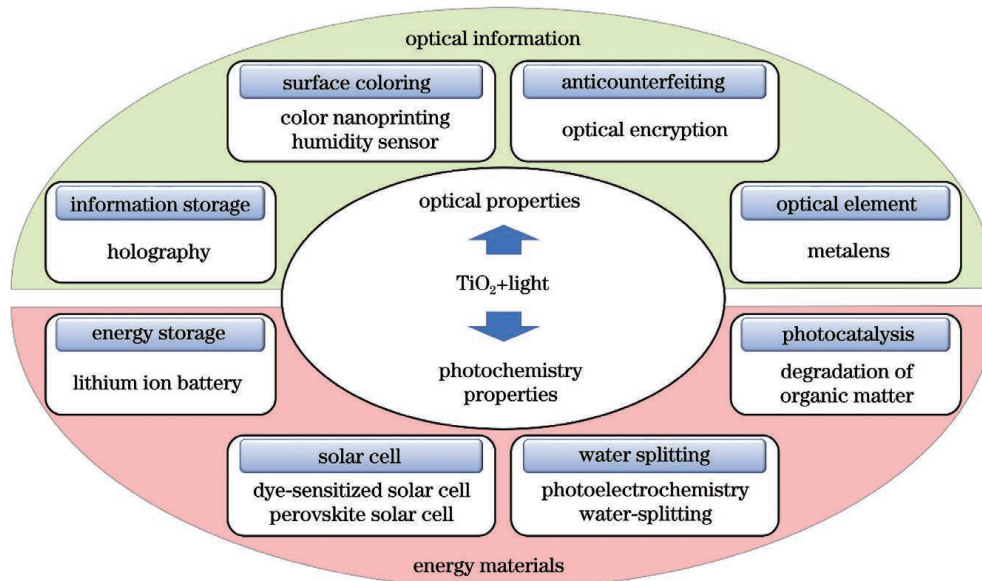


图 1 二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件在能源材料和光学信息领域中的应用

Fig. 1 Applications of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures and functional devices in energy materials and optical information fields

收稿日期: 2022-02-28; 修回日期: 2022-04-01; 录用日期: 2022-04-21

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(52075289)

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和锂离子电池<sup>[7]</sup>等方向,在光学信息领域中可被应用于超构表面结构色<sup>[8]</sup>、光学加密<sup>[9]</sup>、彩色全息<sup>[10]</sup>、光学超构器件<sup>[11]</sup>等方向。二氧化钛的微纳加工与成形技术是二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件制备的关键技术基础。超快激光由于具有超短脉宽和超高能量峰值的特性而成为理想的微纳制造工具之一,可实现独特的极端制造与精密制造效果<sup>[12-13]</sup>。在微纳结构制造方面,超快激光已被用于在金属表面制备微纳二级结构,可实现超疏水、高抗反射、高效水分解、表面增强拉曼等功能<sup>[14]</sup>。在功能器件方面,超快激光被用于光纤功能器件<sup>[15]</sup>、微流体器件<sup>[16]</sup>、微超级电容器<sup>[17]</sup>等的加工。近年来,超快激光在二氧化钛的微纳加工领域中得到了广泛关注。本文从二氧化钛的特性及微纳功能器件出发,介绍了二氧化钛的光化学性质、光学性质及应用,进一步对超快激光与二氧化钛的作用机理、二氧化钛微纳结构的超快激光加工技术的研究进展以及超快激光微纳加工技术在二氧化钛微纳功能器件中的应用进行了综述。

## 2 二氧化钛的特性及应用

二氧化钛具有金红石、锐钛矿和板钛矿三种典型的晶型,其原子结构如图 2 所示。由图 2 可知,在金红石、锐钛矿和板钛矿中,每个钛原子与 6 个氧原子成键,每个氧原子与 3 个钛原子成键。由于结构的不同,其物理特性也不相同。对于块体二氧化钛,金红石是三种晶型中较稳定的结构,可在 600~1855 °C 温度下稳定存在,而锐钛矿和板钛矿是亚稳定的结构,在温度超过 600 °C 时转变为金红石<sup>[18]</sup>。由于表面能的影响,不同晶型二氧化钛的稳定性还与其尺寸有关<sup>[19]</sup>。当二氧化钛的粒径小于 11 nm 时,锐钛矿是最稳定的晶型;当二氧化钛的粒径为 11~35 nm 时,板钛矿是最稳定的晶型;而当二氧化钛的粒径大于 35 nm 时,金红石则是最稳定的晶型<sup>[20]</sup>。在禁带宽度方面,金红石和板钛矿的禁带宽度为 3.0 eV,锐钛矿的禁带宽度为 3.2 eV<sup>[18]</sup>。在光学性质方面,金红石的折射率为 2.8,锐钛矿的折射率为 2.4,板钛矿的折射率为 2.5<sup>[21]</sup>。

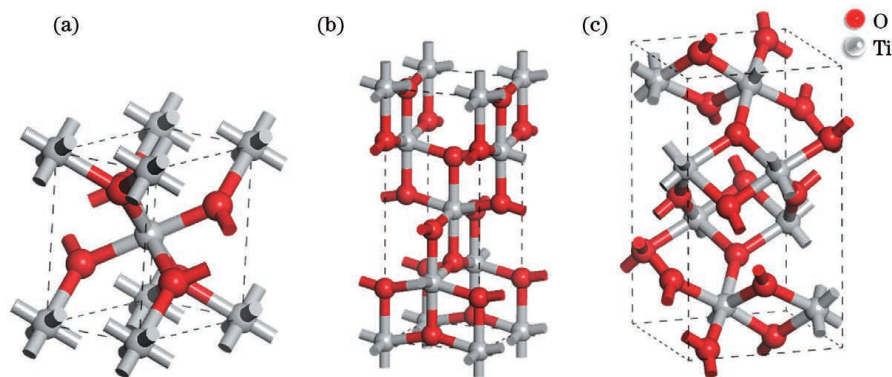


图 2 二氧化钛的三种晶型。(a)金红石;(b)锐钛矿;(c)板钛矿

Fig. 2 Three crystal types of titanium dioxide. (a) Rutile; (b) anatase; (c) brookite

二氧化钛是一种具有光活性的半导体材料,可吸收太阳光并将其转变为化学能,进一步通过氧化还原反应降解不同的化合物,例如分解水制备氢气和氧气<sup>[2]</sup>、分解亚甲基蓝<sup>[4]</sup>、还原硝酸银<sup>[22]</sup>。提高二氧化钛的光化学性能是实现其工业应用的基础,也是相关领域的重点研究方向<sup>[23]</sup>。二氧化钛的光化学性能主要受限于以下两个方面,一是二氧化钛只能吸收紫外光,二是光生电子-空穴对在材料内部的快速复合导致能量利用率低。为提高二氧化钛对光的吸收,减少电子-空穴在二氧化钛内部的复合,研究人员在晶型<sup>[24]</sup>、晶面<sup>[25-26]</sup>、能带间隙<sup>[4,27]</sup>和表面结构<sup>[28-29]</sup>等方面开展了大量研究。在晶型方面,研究发现,锐钛矿的光化学性能优于金红石和板钛矿<sup>[24]</sup>。在晶面方面,特定的晶面有利于促进光生电子-空穴对的生成、传输和分离<sup>[30]</sup>。例如对以{001}、{101}和{010}晶面为主的锐钛矿单晶进行氢气产率测试,发现{010}晶面的氢气产率较高<sup>[31]</sup>。在能带间隙方面,通过掺杂的方法可以制备异质结构<sup>[32]</sup>,减小二氧化钛的能带间隙,提高二氧化钛对可见光的吸收。例如,通过氢化处理在二氧化

钛表面引入无序化的纳米层,实现了二氧化钛的能带间隙由 3.3 eV 减小到 2.18 eV<sup>[4]</sup>,如图 3(a)所示。在表面结构方面,研究发现,制备具有微纳复合结构的陷光功能表面可以减少入射光的反射,提高二氧化钛捕获光的能力,同时还能提高比表面积<sup>[33]</sup>,例如,通过将硅纳米线与二氧化钛纳米线组装成纳米级树状结构,实现了 0.12% 的太阳能转换效率<sup>[2]</sup>,如图 3(b)所示。基于其光化学性质,二氧化钛微纳结构在能源材料领域有望被应用于光解水制氢器件<sup>[2]</sup>、染料敏化太阳能电池<sup>[3,33]</sup>、光催化<sup>[4]</sup>、光传感<sup>[6]</sup>和锂离子电池<sup>[7]</sup>等方向。

二氧化钛是一种性能优异的光学材料,具有透射率高、折射率大、稳定性好等特点<sup>[9,34]</sup>,这些特性有利于实现低损耗、高分辨的结构色,使得二氧化钛成为光学器件的候选材料之一。例如,利用由二氧化钛纳米锥、二氧化钛纳米柱等微纳结构阵列组成的微结构,可实现颜色覆盖整个可见光谱范围的结构色<sup>[35]</sup>和彩色全息<sup>[10,36]</sup>。具有可控微纳结构的二氧化钛具有独特的光化学和光学性质,这有利于拓展二氧化钛的应用



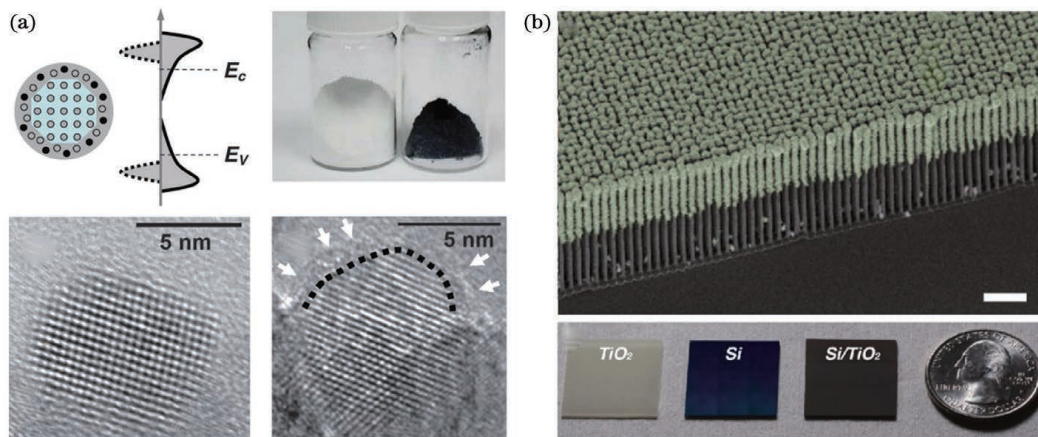


图 3 通过不同方法提高二氧化钛的光化学性能。(a)减小能带间隙<sup>[4]</sup>；(b)制备功能表面结构<sup>[2]</sup>

Fig. 3 Improving photochemistry performance of  $\text{TiO}_2$  by different methods. (a) Reducing band gap<sup>[4]</sup>; (b) preparation of functional surface structures<sup>[2]</sup>

范围<sup>[37-39]</sup>。例如,通过对二氧化钛微纳结构的控制,可以实现对二氧化钛化学反应活性、反射率、散射率、吸收率的控制。在能源材料领域中,二氧化钛可以提高材料对光的利用率;在光学信息领域中,二氧化钛可以实现多种光学应用,如光学加密、结构色、全息等。随着微纳科技的发展,二氧化钛与先进的微纳加工和成形技术结合,获得了多种二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件。

### 3 超快激光加工二氧化钛微纳结构

超快激光是指脉宽在皮秒( $10^{-12}$  s)或飞秒( $10^{-15}$  s)量级的脉冲激光,脉宽短于电子能量传递给晶格的时间<sup>[40-41]</sup>。超快激光微纳加工具有超快、超强、高精度、加工灵活等优势。与微纳加工领域广泛使用的加工方法相比,超快激光微纳加工是一种一步、无掩模、无需真空环境的制造技术,可实现任意复杂结构的灵活定制,具体表现如下。

1) 超快激光与材料的相互作用仅发生在聚焦区域,因此可以精确定位加工区域,实现任意复杂图案的灵活定制化加工<sup>[42-43]</sup>。

2) 由于超快激光与材料独特的作用机理,超快激光加工透明材料时,可以穿透材料,在焦点位置通过多光子吸收等形式被材料吸收,从而实现材料内部的三维加工<sup>[44]</sup>。

3) 超快激光微纳加工一般在空气、溶液等常规环境下进行,无需高真空等特殊的加工环境,加工的局限性小,使用范围更广。

4) 由于超快激光与材料的相互作用对材料本身性质的依赖度较小,因此超快激光还可以加工复合材料。

图 4 是四种常见的二氧化钛微纳结构超快激光加工技术,包括超快激光烧蚀材料表面<sup>[33]</sup>、超快激光诱导周期性微纳结构<sup>[45]</sup>、超快激光诱导二氧化钛相变<sup>[46-47]</sup>以及超快激光诱导金属钛氧化生成二氧化钛<sup>[48]</sup>。超快激光与二氧化钛的作用过程始于双光子或三光子电离,产生的导带电子可以作为种子电子吸

收光子,进一步引发碰撞电离。材料通过电离产生大量的自由电子,其瞬时局部光学性质也会发生剧烈变化,反过来会影响激光在材料中的传播,因此二氧化钛中电子的激发与超快激光在材料内部的传播具有强耦合关系<sup>[49]</sup>。当二氧化钛中的自由电子密度达到临界值时,会以库仑爆炸、热熔化等多种形式导致材料发生结构改变或烧蚀<sup>[49]</sup>。

在超快激光与二氧化钛的作用机理研究方面,为了解释超快激光与二氧化钛的作用过程及脉宽对材料烧蚀阈值的影响,研究人员建立了关于超快激光烧蚀二氧化钛的烧蚀速率和烧蚀阈值的简化计算模型<sup>[50]</sup>,并进行了如下假设:1)二氧化钛通过双光子吸收的形式吸收激光能量,忽略了材料表面对光的反射及双光子电离产生的导带电子对光子的吸收;2)在超快激光与二氧化钛的作用过程中,材料对激光的吸收系数为常数;3)当单位体积内沉积的能量达到临界值时,二氧化钛发生烧蚀。据此得到二氧化钛的烧蚀阈值与脉宽的平方根成正比,这与超快激光烧蚀二氧化钛的实际情况有较大偏差。研究者进一步从电子的角度分析了超快激光与二氧化钛的作用机理,并进行了如下假设<sup>[51]</sup>:1)超快激光与二氧化钛的作用过程包括光致电离和碰撞电离两种机制;2)当入射激光强度与材料内部激光强度的最大比值为常数时,即认为超快激光在材料表面发生反射;3)当超快激光激发的自由电子密度超过临界值时,二氧化钛发生烧蚀;4)考虑了超快激光与二氧化钛作用过程中自由电子的产生和弛豫过程。上述研究从光子与电子作用层面分析了超快激光与二氧化钛的作用过程,给出了烧蚀阈值的计算方法。模型中的物理系数均通过实验拟合获得且认为是常数,特别是认为超快激光在材料表面的反射率为常数 0.66。事实上,在超快激光与二氧化钛的作用过程中,由于激发了大量的自由电子,材料的瞬时局部光学性质也会发生剧烈变化<sup>[52]</sup>,进而影响超快激光在材料内部的传播和材料的电离,因此材料瞬时局部光学性质

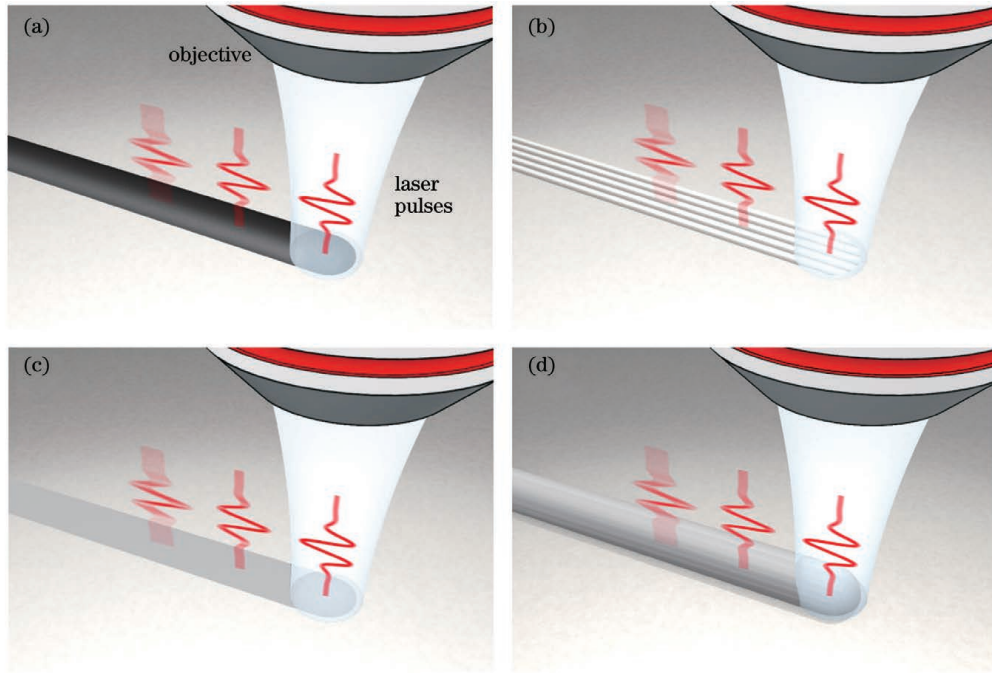


图 4 超快激光加工二氧化钛微纳结构示意图。(a)超快激光烧蚀材料表面;(b)超快激光诱导周期性表面结构;(c)超快激光诱导二氧化钛相变;(d)超快激光诱导金属钛氧化生成二氧化钛

Fig. 4 Schematics of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures processed using ultrafast laser. (a) Ultrafast laser ablation of material surface; (b) ultrafast laser induced periodic surface structure; (c) ultrafast laser induced phase transformation of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ; (d)  $\text{TiO}_2$  formation by ultrafast laser induced titanium oxidation

的变化是影响超快激光与二氧化钛作用的关键物理过程。本研究团队在此基础上利用德鲁特模型计算了材料瞬时的局部光学性质<sup>[53]</sup>,考虑了激光传播与电子激

发的耦合关系,对二氧化钛的烧蚀阈值和烧蚀直径与超快激光的脉冲延时和激发电子密度关系进行了分析,理论计算结果与实验结果一致,如图 5 所示。

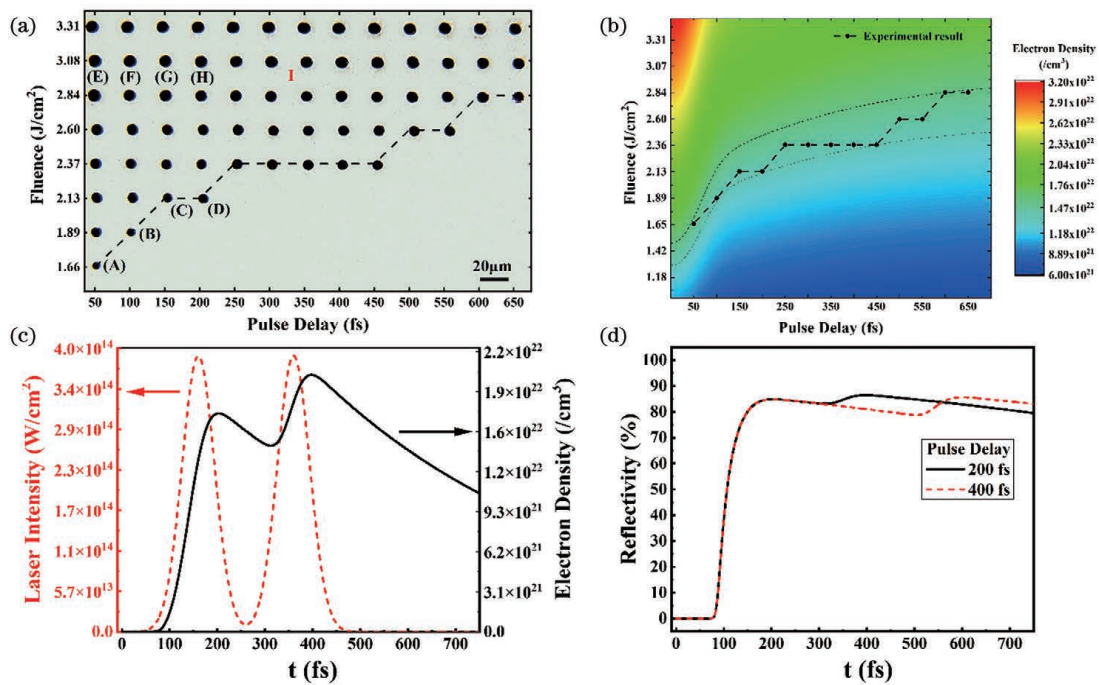


图 5 超快激光烧蚀二氧化钛的实验和理论计算结果<sup>[53]</sup>。(a)具有不同脉冲延时和激光能量通量的超快激光烧蚀二氧化钛的光学显微镜图片;(b)不同激光参数下计算的电子密度分布;(c)激光强度、电子密度和(d)二氧化钛反射率的时域动态

Fig. 5 Experimental and theoretical results of ultrafast laser ablation of  $\text{TiO}_2$ <sup>[53]</sup>. (a) Optical microscope image of  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface ablated using ultrafast laser with different pulse delays and laser energy fluxes; (b) distribution of free electron density calculated under different laser parameters; temporal dynamics of (c) laser intensity, calculated electron density, and (d) reflectivity of  $\text{TiO}_2$



利用超快激光可以实现材料表面的加工,常用于加工陷光功能表面。例如,通过使用波长为 1030 nm、脉宽为 700 fs 的超快激光直接烧蚀 10  $\mu\text{m}$  厚的二氧化钛薄膜,可加工正交网格型的微纳结构<sup>[33]</sup>。研究人员基于二氧化钛特有的性质,开发了不同的超快激光烧蚀加工二氧化钛的方法。如上文所述,由于表面能的影响,不同晶型二氧化钛的稳定性与二氧化钛的尺寸有关<sup>[19]</sup>,利用波长为 800 nm、脉宽为 35 fs 的超快激光,在溶液和大气环境下烧蚀二氧化钛纳米颗粒,通过控制烧蚀时间,可得到不同尺寸和不同晶型的二氧化钛纳米颗粒<sup>[54]</sup>。利用波长为 800 nm、脉宽为 120 fs 的超快激光直接烧蚀块状金红石二氧化钛,烧蚀区域出现了锐钛矿二氧化钛<sup>[55]</sup>。二氧化钛是一种高折射率材料,当超快激光辐照到具有纳米孔的二氧化钛表面时,激光光场可在二氧化钛纳米孔内产生高达 26.6 倍的局部增强<sup>[56]</sup>。控制超快激光的能量通量,使得增强区域的光场强度超过材料的烧蚀阈值,可实现宽度小于 20 nm 的槽的烧蚀加工<sup>[56]</sup>,该方法在其他高折射率材料中也得到证明<sup>[57]</sup>。也有研究者利用超快激光烧蚀基底材料以获得微米级结构,再结合化学合成方法,在微米级表面上生长纳米级结构,制备了具有多级微纳结构的二氧化钛功能表面。例如,通过超快激光直接烧蚀的方法,在钛基底表面加工微米锥阵列,再利用化学氧化的方法,在微米锥阵列上生长二氧化钛纳米管<sup>[58]</sup>、花状二氧化钛纳米片及纳米多孔结构<sup>[59]</sup>等纳米结构,所得的二氧化钛微纳复合结构具有陷光功能。利用超快激光在钛基底表面上烧蚀加工微米锥阵列后,利用水热法在微米锥阵列表面上生长二氧化钛纳米棒,通过进一步沉积银纳米颗粒,可得到二氧化钛/银的分层微纳复合结构<sup>[60]</sup>。

将超快激光聚焦到材料表面可形成激光诱导表面周期性结构(LIPSS)<sup>[61-63]</sup>。根据结构的周期与入射激光波长的关系,该结构可分为低空间频率周期结构(LSFL,又称近波长结构)和高空间频率周期结构(HSFL,又称亚波长结构)两种。利用具有不同能量通量、脉冲个数的超快激光,可以分别获得上述两种结构。例如,使用波长为 248 nm、脉宽为 450 fs 的超快激光加工二氧化钛时,随着激光能量通量的增大,可分别形成随机分布的二氧化钛纳米结构、周期性分布的半球形纳米颗粒、高空间频率周期结构和低空间频率周期结构<sup>[45]</sup>。微纳结构的周期与激光波长有关,利用波长为 800 nm 的飞秒激光加工二氧化钛,形成周期为 170 nm 的高空间频率周期结构,而使用波长为 400 nm 的飞秒激光则可形成周期为 90 nm 的高空间频率周期结构<sup>[64]</sup>。为提高加工效率,可制备大面积可扩展的周期性纳米结构,研究者采用柱面镜将超快激光聚焦为线形光斑再进行扫描加工<sup>[64]</sup>。还有研究者利用超快激光诱导周期性微纳结构的方法在其他材料表面上制备微纳结构,然后采用等离子体增强化学

的气相沉积法<sup>[65]</sup>、阳极氧化法<sup>[66]</sup>等在已生成的周期性微纳结构表面上沉积二氧化钛薄膜或生长二氧化钛纳米管,从而制备多级二氧化钛微纳结构的功能表面。利用超快激光在二氧化钛表面诱导加工周期性微纳结构的方法,可以灵活地制造大面积的纳米级周期性表面结构,但该结构存在均匀性和长距离的一致性差等顽疾。因此,Illyday 等<sup>[67]</sup>提出采用波长为 1060 nm、脉宽为 100 fs 的超快激光辐照钛薄膜,控制光斑尺寸,使其小于波长的 10 倍,得到了均匀的周期性二氧化钛纳米结构,其周期的标准差为 0.9 nm。

控制超快激光能量通量,使其小于二氧化钛的烧蚀阈值,可诱导二氧化钛发生可控相变。例如,利用波长为 1030 nm、脉宽为 280 fs、重复频率为 2000 kHz 的超快激光辐照铝基底上的无定型二氧化钛薄膜,激光能量在铝基底上的累积导致铝基底温度升高,从而诱导无定型二氧化钛薄膜转变为金红石<sup>[68]</sup>。将波长为 800 nm、脉宽为 150 fs、重复频率为 250 kHz 的超快激光聚焦到含有二氧化钛的硼铝酸盐玻璃内部,基于多光子效应可在聚焦区域结晶形成金红石二氧化钛<sup>[46]</sup>,该方法也在蛋白质材料中得到证明<sup>[69-70]</sup>。本研究团队利用波长为 800 nm、脉宽为 50 fs、重复频率为 80 MHz 的超快激光辐照无定型二氧化钛纳米管,实现了二氧化钛的可控相变<sup>[47]</sup>。图 6(a)是超快激光诱导无定型二氧化钛纳米管相变示意图。拉曼测试表明,超快激光可诱导无定型二氧化钛纳米管转变为锐钛矿或金红石。与热处理方法加工所得的二氧化钛纳米管相比,超快激光可诱导二氧化钛纳米管表面暴露高活性的锐钛矿{010}晶面,如图 6(b)~(f)所示,高活性锐钛矿{010}晶面有利于提高二氧化钛的光化学性能。

金属钛可被氧化成二氧化钛,基于该原理研究人员利用超快激光烧蚀厚度为 50 nm 的钛薄膜,通过控制烧蚀的钛纳米颗粒,在激光烧蚀产生的等离子体羽流内部,制备了黑二氧化钛<sup>[71]</sup>。本研究团队发现,在超快激光辐照下,金属钛在激光焦点中心区域被氧化,激光光场沿偏振方向局部增强,形成了平行于偏振方向的条形纳米结构<sup>[48]</sup>。图 7(a)是超快激光诱导钛氧化示意图。拉曼测试表明,所得的纳米结构为金红石二氧化钛。在此基础上通过改变偏振方向,加工了高度小于激光波长的“THU”图案,通过控制偏振方向平行于扫描方向,加工了曲线形二氧化钛纳米结构,如图 7(b)、(c)所示。

除了上述几种方法外,研究人员也基于二氧化钛的特性开发了其他二氧化钛微纳结构的超快激光加工方法。由于二氧化钛具有独特的光化学性质,二氧化钛价带中的电子可以同时吸收两个或三个超快激光光子并被激发到导带产生电子-空穴对,进一步与其他材料发生化学反应,从而实现二氧化钛与其他材料的复合微纳结构的制备。例如,利用波长为 515 nm 的飞

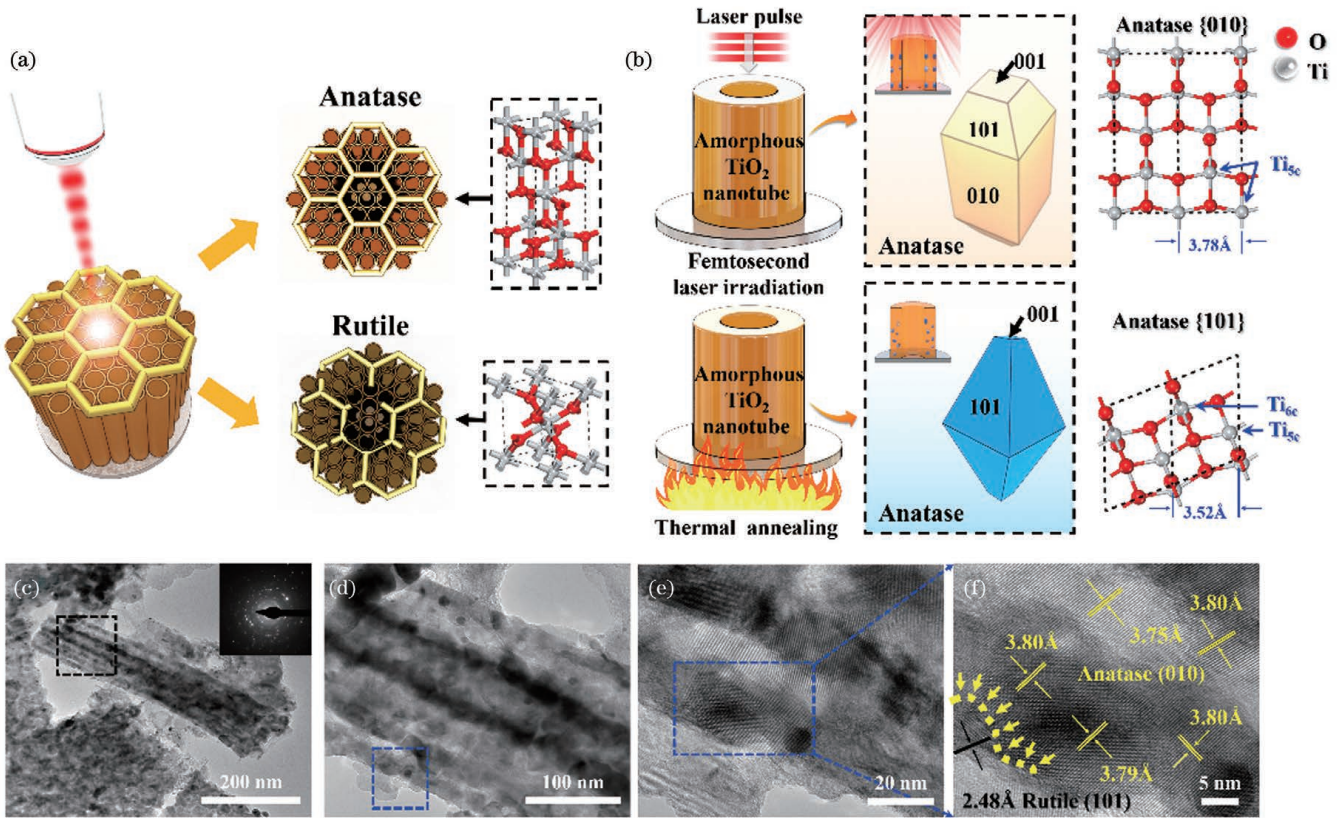


图 6 飞秒激光诱导二氧化钛纳米管相变得到表面为高活性晶面的锐钛矿<sup>[47]</sup>。(a) 飞秒激光诱导无定型二氧化钛纳米管相变示意图；(b) 飞秒激光与热处理法诱导二氧化钛相变对比示意图；(c)~(f) 飞秒激光诱导相变所得二氧化钛纳米管的高分辨透射电子显微镜图片

Fig. 6 Obtaining anatase with highly active crystal facets by femtosecond laser induced phase transformation of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes<sup>[47]</sup>. (a) Phase transformation diagrams of amorphous TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes induced by femtosecond laser; (b) comparison of TiO<sub>2</sub> phase transformations induced by femtosecond laser and heat treatment; (c)–(f) high resolution transmission electron microscopy images of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes after femtosecond laser-induced phase transformation

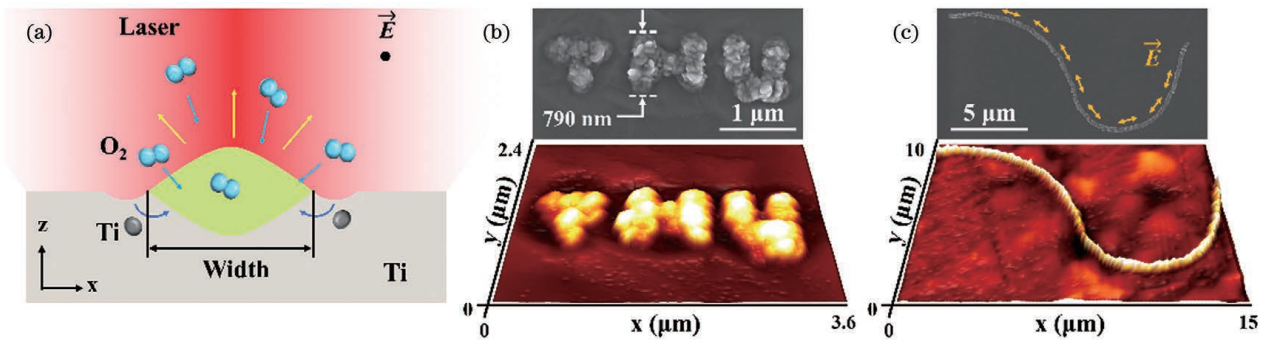


图 7 利用超快激光诱导钛氧化实现图案化二氧化钛纳米结构加工<sup>[48]</sup>。(a) 超快激光诱导钛氧化示意图；(b)(c) 利用超快激光诱导钛氧化加工的微纳图案

Fig. 7 Fabricating patterned TiO<sub>2</sub> nanostructures by ultrafast laser-induced oxidation of titanium<sup>[48]</sup>. (a) Schematic of ultrafast laser-induced oxidation of titanium; (b)(c) micro/nano patterns processed by ultrafast laser-induced oxidation of titanium

秒激光辐照在硝酸银溶液中浸泡过的无定型二氧化钛介孔薄膜,得到了二氧化钛/银复合层状微纳结构<sup>[22]</sup>。

#### 4 超快激光加工二氧化钛微纳功能器件

近年来,超快激光在功能器件制造中得到越来越广泛的应用,本研究团队利用超快激光微纳加工技术

制备了超级电容器<sup>[72]</sup>、衍射光学元件<sup>[42]</sup>、药物输运载体<sup>[57]</sup>等微纳功能器件。在二氧化钛微纳功能器件加工制造方面,研究者制备了光解水制氢器件、图案化结构色器件和光学加密器件等微纳功能器件。

利用超快激光辐照无定型二氧化钛纳米管,可诱导二氧化钛发生可控相变<sup>[47]</sup>,进一步利用超快激光可实现任意复杂结构的灵活定制的优势,加工了光解水



制氢器件。图 8 是二氧化钛光电化学电解水示意图。当光子能量大于二氧化钛的能带间隙时,二氧化钛价带中的电子可以吸收光子并被激发到导带产生电子-空穴对,位于导带中的电子在外加电场作用下传输到对电极并与电解液中的  $H^+$  反应,生成氢气<sup>[38]</sup>。由于超快激光可诱导二氧化钛纳米管结晶暴露高活性的锐钛矿 {010} 晶面,所得的二氧化钛光解水制氢器件的光电流密度超过热处理方法的 5 倍,如图 9 所示。通过超快激光直接烧蚀结合化学氧化的方法,在微米锥阵列上生长二氧化钛纳米管<sup>[58]</sup>、花状二氧化钛纳米片<sup>[73]</sup>及纳米多孔结构<sup>[59]</sup>等纳米结构,实现陷光功能,该方法也被用于光解水制氢器件。另外,通过使用超快激光直接烧蚀  $10\ \mu\text{m}$  厚的二氧化钛薄膜,可加工正交网格型的陷光功能表面。该方法也可应用于染料敏化太阳能电池中,其光电转化效率提高到了  $9.32\%$ <sup>[33]</sup>。

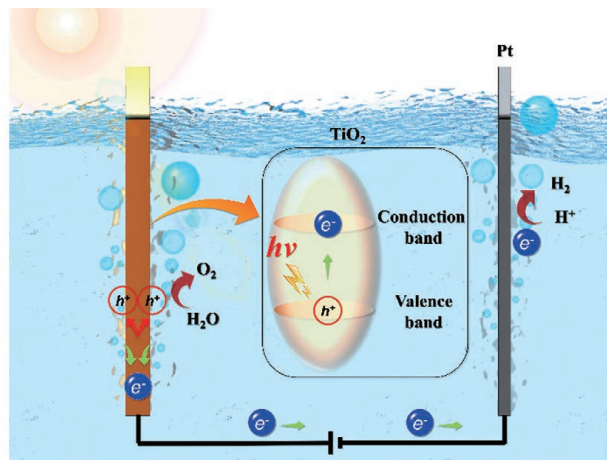


图 8 二氧化钛光电化学电解水示意图<sup>[47]</sup>

Fig. 8 Schematic of photoelectrochemistry water-splitting using  $TiO_2$ <sup>[47]</sup>

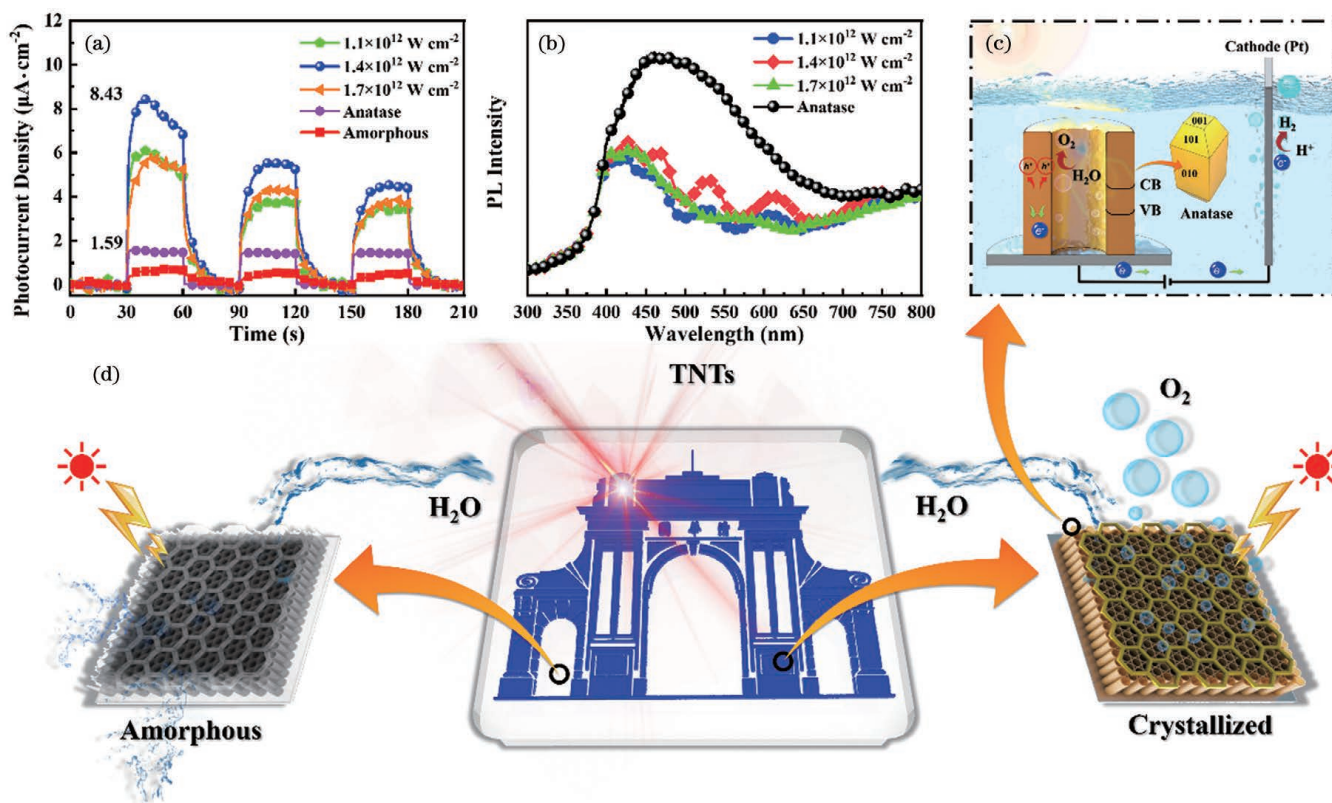


图 9 超快激光所制备器件的光电化学性能<sup>[47]</sup>。(a)斩波辐照条件下测得的光电流密度;(b)光电极的光致发光谱;(c)光电化学电解水示意图;(d)用于光电化学电解水的高分辨率图案化电极概念图

Fig. 9 Photoelectrochemistry (PEC) performances of devices prepared using ultrafast laser<sup>[47]</sup>. (a) Photocurrent density observed using chopped illumination; (b) photoluminescence spectra of photoelectrodes; (c) schematic of PEC water-splitting; (d) conceptual schematics of high-resolution patterned photoelectrode for PEC water-splitting

根据光栅衍射原理,观察到的衍射光波长决定于光栅周期和入射角。当入射角一定时,衍射光波长随光栅周期的增大而增大。基于二氧化钛优异的光学性质,本研究团队利用超快激光诱导金属钛氧化制备二氧化钛纳米结构的方法,通过控制扫描间距,加工了不同周期的二氧化钛纳米光栅,进而实现了图案化结构色器件的制备,如图 10 所示<sup>[48]</sup>。线形二氧化钛纳米结构对照明光的散射具有各向异性,

当照明光沿垂直于线形二氧化钛纳米结构方向照明时,线形二氧化钛纳米结构的亮度较高,表明其对照明光的散射较强。当照明光沿平行于线形二氧化钛纳米结构方向照明时,线形二氧化钛纳米结构的亮度较低,表明其对照明光的散射较弱。基于该原理在同一区域加工了由相互垂直的二氧化钛纳米光栅组成的两幅图案,其可作为光学加密器件,如图 11 所示。

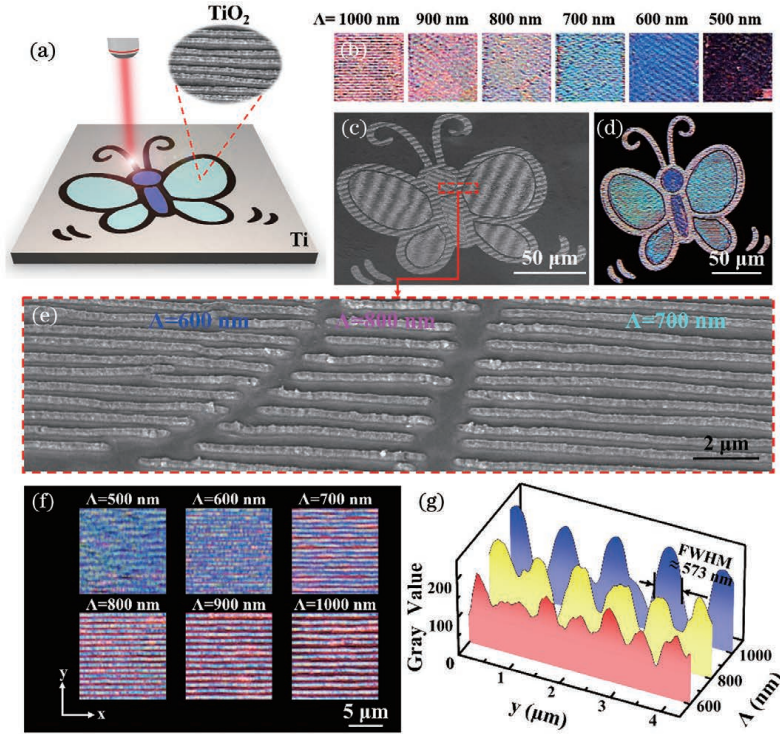


图 10 光栅型二氧化钛纳米结构的加工及实现图案化结构色<sup>[48]</sup>。(a)所提出的表面着色示意图;(b)周期为 500~1000 nm 的光栅色板;由光栅型纳米结构组成的蝴蝶图案的(c)电子显微镜、(d)暗场显微镜图像及(e)局部放大;(f)用于分辨率测试的光栅型纳米结构的暗场光学显微镜图像;(g)周期分别为 600 nm、800 nm 和 1000 nm 的相邻纳米结构沿 y 方向的灰度值

Fig. 10 Fabrication of grating-type  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanostructures and realization of patterned structure color<sup>[48]</sup>. (a) Schematic of proposed surface coloring; (b) color palettes with grating period of 500–1000 nm; (c) electron microscope image, (d) dark field microscope image and (e) local magnification of butterfly pattern composed of grating-type nanostructures; (f) dark field optical microscope images of grating-type nanostructures for resolution test; (g) measured gray values of neighboring nanostructures with periods of 600 nm, 800 nm and 1000 nm along y direction, respectively

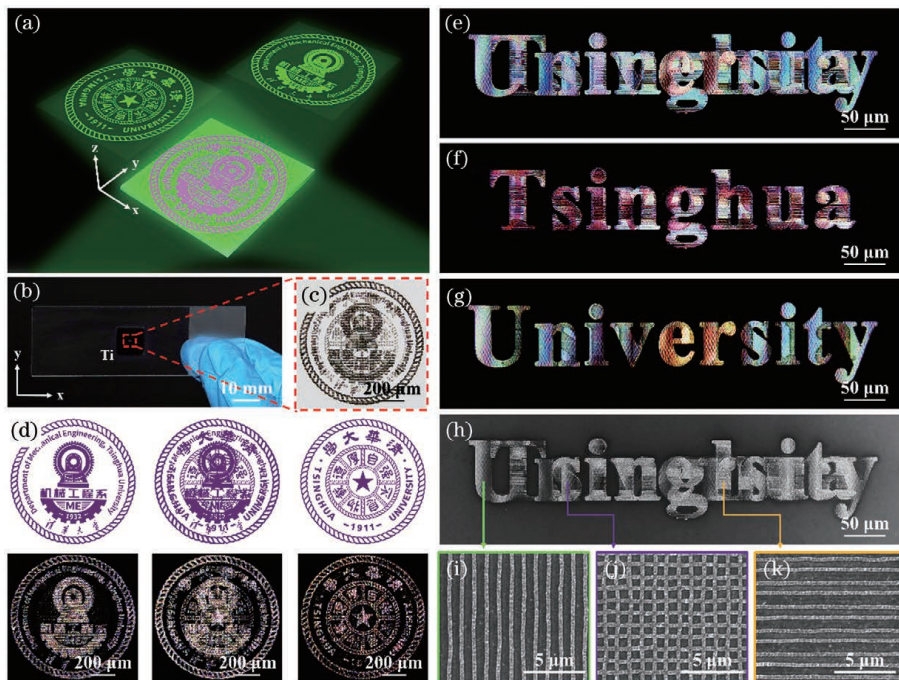


图 11 基于光栅型二氧化钛纳米结构对光的各向异性散射实现光学加密<sup>[48]</sup>。(a)通过从不同方向照明实现两幅隐藏图像的解密示意图;(b)~(k)利用具有方向性的暗场模式对隐藏图像进行解密

Fig. 11 Optical encryption based on anisotropic optical behavior of grating-type  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanostructures<sup>[48]</sup>. (a) Decryption schematic of two hidden images by illumination from different directions; (b)–(k) decrypting hidden images by using directional dark field mode



## 5 结束语

综述了超快激光在二氧化钛微纳结构和功能器件加工方面的研究进展。在二氧化钛的特性及应用方面,介绍了二氧化钛的光化学性质和光学性质。通过制备具有不同微纳结构的二氧化钛,可实现其化学反应活性、反射率、散射率、吸收率等的调节,该方法已展现出一定的前景。在超快激光与二氧化钛作用机理的研究方面,介绍了超快激光与二氧化钛作用的理论模型,模型实现了对超快激光与二氧化钛作用过程中加工阈值和加工形貌的理论预测。在二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件的超快激光加工技术方面,超快激光烧蚀材料表面、超快激光诱导周期性表面结构、超快激光诱导二氧化钛相变及超快激光诱导金属钛氧化制备二氧化钛微纳结构等方法已得到研究,并在光解水制氢器件、图案化结构色器件和光学加密器件等多个领域中展现出应用前景。

超快激光微纳制造具有无掩模、非接触、灵活可控的图案化加工能力和无需真空环境等优势,为二氧化钛微纳结构的制造提供了新方法并已经取得了一定的进展,在光解水制氢器件、结构色器件、光学加密器件等功能器件制造中展现出应用潜力。二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件的超快激光微纳制造技术也存在一些挑战,如加工效率有待提高,微纳功能器件的制造及应用仍有待进一步研究。在能源材料领域,利用超快激光从晶型、晶面、能带间隙和表面结构等方向出发,综合提高二氧化钛的光化学性能将有利于推动二氧化钛微纳功能器件在该领域的实际应用。在光学信息领域,随着超快激光加工的精度、一致性和效率的进一步提升,超快激光微纳制造技术将在光学功能器件制造中得到更多应用。对超快激光与二氧化钛作用机理和加工技术的深入研究,将有望进一步拓展二氧化钛微纳结构及功能器件在其他领域的应用范围。

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## Research Progress in Ultrafast Laser Processing of Titanium Dioxide Micro/nano Structures and Functional Devices

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### Abstract

**Significance** Because of the outstanding photochemical and optical properties, the titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) has been used for applications such as energy materials and optical information. Compared to other semiconductor photocatalysts, TiO<sub>2</sub> has attracted more attentions since the report of its ability for water splitting. In the recent half century, TiO<sub>2</sub> is considered one of the ideal semiconductor photocatalysts because of its abundance, high stability, nontoxicity, and low cost. Because of its characteristics of high transmittance and high refractive index, TiO<sub>2</sub> also has application prospects in the field of optical information. With the development of micro/nano technology, advanced micro/nano processing technologies have been used to prepare TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures and functional devices (Fig. 1). In the field of energy materials, TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures can be used for photoelectrochemistry water-splitting, dye-sensitized solar cells, photocatalysis, photovoltaic cells, photodetectors, and lithium-ion batteries. In the field of optical information, TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures can be used for metasurface structure color, optical encryption, holography, and optical metadevices. The micro/nano processing of TiO<sub>2</sub> is essential for the applications of TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano functional devices.

The ultrafast laser processing minimizes heat affected zone due to its ultra-short interaction time with the material. The ultrafast laser can be used to process almost any material due to the ultra-high power density. This provides an ideal choice for the processing of TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures and functional devices. The ultrafast laser micro/nano processing of TiO<sub>2</sub> has attracted attention in recent years. In this review, we introduce the research progress of ultrafast laser processing of TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures and functional devices. Processing approaches and applications of TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures are discussed. In addition, the prospects of ultrafast laser processing of TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures and functional devices are discussed.

**Progress** Four ultrafast laser processing approaches are commonly used for TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures (Fig. 4), including ultrafast laser ablation of material surface, laser-induced periodic surface structure, ultrafast laser induced phase transformation of TiO<sub>2</sub> and ultrafast laser writing TiO<sub>2</sub> micro/nano structures on titanium. Numerical calculation models for ultrafast laser ablation of TiO<sub>2</sub> have been established. The ablation thresholds are calculated, and the results are consistent with the experimental results (Fig. 5). A method is developed to achieve processing of amorphous TiO<sub>2</sub>

nanotubes and their transformation to anatase using the ultrafast laser (Fig. 6). Compared with thermal annealed pure  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes,  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes with exposed reactive anatase  $\{010\}$  facets are prepared after the ultrafast laser induced phase transformation. Based on the method of laser induced *in situ* growth of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , a “THU” pattern with height smaller than the laser wavelength is realized (Fig. 7).

$\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano functional devices, such as devices for photoelectrochemistry water-splitting, structural color, and optical encryption, are also discussed.  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes with exposed reactive anatase  $\{010\}$  facets can be prepared by the ultrafast laser. Due to the exposure of reactive facets, the  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes show an improved photocurrent density about five times of those of the thermal annealed pure anatase  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes (Fig. 9). Based on the method of laser induced *in situ* growth of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , grating-type  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanostructures with various periods can be processed. The grating-type  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanostructures is used for grating-based structural colors in the visible range. The observed colors are determined by the grating period with a fixed incident angle (Fig. 10). Due to the anisotropic optical behavior of grating-type structures, an optical encryption strategy is developed. The horizontal and vertical nanostructures demonstrate a remarkable difference in scattered intensity when visualized under a dark field optical microscope. The scattered intensity is the strongest when the nanostructures are illuminated along the direction perpendicular to the nanostructures. While it is the weakest when the nanostructures are illuminated along the direction parallel to them. Two different images can be encrypted on the same position (Fig. 11).

**Conclusions and Prospects** We introduce the research progress of ultrafast laser processing of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures and functional devices. The photochemical and optical properties of  $\text{TiO}_2$  are introduced. The photochemical and optical properties of  $\text{TiO}_2$  can be adjusted by preparing  $\text{TiO}_2$  with different micro/nano structures. A model of transient local electron density is established. The theoretical predictions of ablation threshold and diameters are realized. Different approaches, including ultrafast laser ablation of material surface, laser-induced periodic surface structure, ultrafast laser induced phase transformation of  $\text{TiO}_2$  and ultrafast laser writing  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures on the surface of titanium plate, have been studied for the processing of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures and functional devices. Ultrafast laser provides a choice for the processing of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures and functional devices. The method shows promising applications in fields such as photoelectrochemistry water-splitting, structural color, and optical encryption devices. The processing of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures and functional devices using the ultrafast laser also has some challenges, for example, the efficiency needs to be improved. With the further research on the mechanism and processing technology, it is expected to further expand the application ranges of  $\text{TiO}_2$  micro/nano structures and functional devices.

**Key words** laser technique; titanium dioxide; micro/nano structures; functional devices; ultrafast laser; micro/nano fabrication