

基于二氧化钒-狄拉克半金属混合超材料的单/双波段可切换太赫兹吸波器

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摘要 提出了一种基于二氧化钒-狄拉克半金属混合超材料的单/双波段可切换太赫兹吸波器设计。利用二氧化钒的可逆相变特性来实现单/双波段功能之间的切换, 当二氧化钒处于绝缘态时, 通过改变狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量, 可实现吸收峰值大小和位置的调控。数值仿真表明: 当二氧化钒处于绝缘态且狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量设定为 160 meV 时, 吸波器可以在 0.97 THz 和 3.152 THz 处出现两个吸收峰, 吸收率分别为 99.3% 和 99.7%, 均超过了 99%, 说明在这两个谐振频率点处实现了几乎完美的吸收。而当二氧化钒变为金属态且狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量为 160 meV 时, 吸波器在 4.246 THz 处出现一个吸收峰, 吸收峰值超过 98%。实际上, 由于狄拉克半金属的存在, 吸收率会受到费米能级能量的影响, 仿真结果发现: 当 VO₂ 处于绝缘态时, 狄拉克半金属费米能级能量对吸收峰值和谐振频率点有较大的影响; 然而, 当 VO₂ 处于金属态时, 狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量几乎不会改变吸收峰值和谐振频率。为了验证吸波器的吸波机理, 引入阻抗匹配理论对吸波器进行分析。所提出的可切换超材料吸波器可以广泛地应用于成像等领域。

关键词 材料; 光学设备; 太赫兹; 二氧化钒; 狄拉克半金属; 吸收

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1 引言

太赫兹吸波器在传感、光学检测和热应用等领域中有着广阔的应用前景, 一直是研究热点, 许多新材料的出现进一步促进了人们对新型吸波器的设计和探索^[1-3]。近年来, 超材料的出现使得吸波器在实际应用中变得更加灵活, 例如可以通过控制谐振器的结构或者介质的折射率等来灵活调节吸收峰出现的位置以及吸收峰的大小等。超材料是一种按特定周期排列的由亚波长微单元组成的人工复合材料, 具有自然材料所不具备的物理性质, 最重要的是具有良好的操纵电磁波的能力。此外, 其特殊的物理特征, 如负折射率、负介电常数等, 使其在吸波器领域具有广泛的应用^[4-6]。自从 2008 年 Landy 等^[7]首次提出并证明了第一个超材料微波领域的吸波器以来, 吸波器的发展变得非常迅速。Tao 等^[8]很快将

吸波器的研究拓展到太赫兹领域。Wang 等^[9]设计了一种基于超材料的三波段可调谐的完美太赫兹吸波器, 并且通过改变介质层的折射率来动态调节吸收峰。尽管这些基于超材料的吸波器可以通过设计不同的谐振器形状来实现完美吸收, 但是谐振结构一旦确定, 便很难对吸收率进行调节, 这限制了吸波器在实际中的应用。所以, 将功能材料与超材料器件相结合, 制备具有可调性能的吸波器变得非常重要。

到目前为止, 使用最广泛的功能材料包括石墨烯、二氧化钒以及狄拉克半金属等。本文采用将二氧化钒与狄拉克半金属相结合的方法来实现吸波器单/双波段功能间的切换。二氧化钒是一种相变材料, 随着温度的升高, 晶格结构从单斜晶体向四方结构转化, 在 340 K 左右可以从绝缘态转变为金属态^[10-11], 在相变过程中其电导率通常会变化 4~5

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个数量级,所以二氧化钒也被广泛地应用于光学器件中。Song 等^[12]提出了一种基于二氧化钒的超材料吸波器,利用二氧化钒的相变特性实现了吸收率的幅度调制。Zhu 等^[13]提出了一种基于石墨烯-二氧化钒的双功能吸波器,可以实现多频吸波器与宽带吸波器之间的切换。

三维狄拉克半金属(Bulk Dirac Semi-metals, BDSs),又称3D石墨烯,可以通过调节其费米能级能量来改变其相对介电常数,但是相比于石墨烯,狄拉克半金属不易受到介电常数的干扰,没有表面过剩电子,容易制备且性能稳定^[14-15]。Luo 等^[16]提出了一种基于块状狄拉克半金属的多带吸波器,由于其出色的传感性能,该吸波器可以用于传感领域。Li 等^[17]提出了一种基于狄拉克半金属和二氧化钒的三频完美吸波器,利用狄拉克半金属,通过改变费米能级能量来调节介电常数的特性和二氧化钒的相变特性,进而实现了吸收率的双可调。所以,基于二氧化钒和狄拉克半金属混合超材料的具有多功能动态可调的吸波器仍然是一个值得研究的热点。

本文提出了一种基于二氧化钒-狄拉克半金属混合超材料的单/双波段可切换的太赫兹吸波器设计。利用二氧化钒的相变特性以及狄拉克半金属的电导率可调特性,实现了单波段吸波器与双波段吸

波器之间的切换以及对吸收率的动态调制。

2 模型、理论和仿真

所提出的基于二氧化钒-狄拉克半金属混合超材料的单/双波段可切换的太赫兹吸波器的结构示意图如图1所示,其中 E 为入射太赫兹波的电场, H 为入射太赫兹波的磁场, k 为入射太赫兹波的波矢。图1(a)为单个晶胞单元的透視圖,为了便于制造,底层选用金膜,其厚度为 $0.2 \mu\text{m}$,远大于金在太赫兹频段的趋肤深度,这也意味着太赫兹波无法穿过底面的金属平面。介质层2采用的是复介电常数为 $\epsilon_r = 2.35 + 0.01i$ ^[18-19] 的聚乙烯环烯烃共聚物(TOPAS),其厚度设定为 $t_{d1} = 24 \mu\text{m}$,如图1(d)所示。中间的谐振结构为狄拉克半金属构成的裂环,裂环的外环和内环半径分别为 $r_1 = 16 \mu\text{m}$ 和 $r_2 = 14 \mu\text{m}$,被切去的圆弧所对应的圆心角为 48° ,裂环的厚度设定为 $0.2 \mu\text{m}$,如图1(c)所示。顶层谐振器和中间谐振器之间的介质层1同样为TOPAS,其厚度为 $t_{d2} = 1 \mu\text{m}$ 。顶层为一块矩形的 VO_2 薄膜,薄膜位于结构 y 方向的居中位置,且与上下边界的距离均为 $3 \mu\text{m}$,其厚度为 $0.2 \mu\text{m}$,长度为 $50 \mu\text{m}$,宽为 $l = 44 \mu\text{m}$ 。此外,单个晶胞单元在 x 和 y 方向上的周期均为 $p = 50 \mu\text{m}$ 。

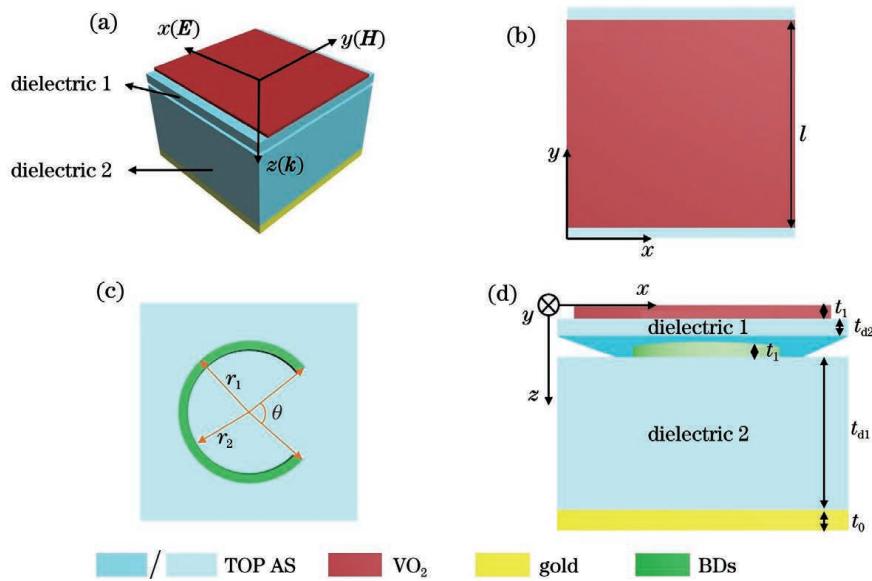


图1 所提出的吸波器的结构示意图。(a)单个晶胞单元的透視圖;(b)顶层结构的俯视图;(c)中间结构的俯视图;(d)晶胞单元的侧视图

Fig. 1 Structural diagrams of proposed absorber. (a) Perspective view of single unit cell; (b) top view of top structure; (c) top view of middle structure; (d) side view of unit cell

在长波极限条件下,根据随机相位近似理论(Random-Phase Approximation Theory, RPA)^[20-21],

三维狄拉克半金属在 $0.1 \sim 10 \text{ THz}$ 内的电导率 $\sigma(\Omega)$ 的实部和虚部^[22]可以表示为

$$\operatorname{Re} \sigma(\Omega) = \frac{e^2 g k_F}{24\pi\hbar} \Omega G\left(\frac{\Omega}{2}\right), \quad (1)$$

$$\operatorname{Im} \sigma(\Omega) = \frac{e^2 g k_F}{24\pi\hbar} \left\{ \frac{4}{\Omega} \left[1 + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \left(\frac{T}{E_F} \right)^2 \right] + 8\Omega \int_0^{\epsilon_c} \left[\frac{G(\epsilon) - G(\Omega/2)}{\Omega^2 - \epsilon^2} \right] \epsilon d\epsilon \right\}, \quad (2)$$

式中: e 为电荷量; G 为费米分布函数;对于AlCuFe准晶体,简并因子 $g=40$,有效背景介电常数 $\epsilon_b=1$; $k_F=E_F/(\hbar v_F)$ 为费米动量; T 为非零温度; \hbar 为约化普朗克常量; $v_F \approx 10^6$ m/s为费米速度; E_F 为费米能级的能量; $\mu=6.42 \times 10^4$ cm²/(V·s)为载流子迁移率; Ω 为散射率; $\epsilon_c=E_c/E_F$,其中 E_c 为截止能量; ϵ 为积分变量。考虑带间电子的迁移率,三维狄拉克半金属的复相对介电常数^[23]可以表示为

$$\epsilon_{BDS} = \epsilon_b + \frac{i\sigma(\omega)}{\epsilon_0 \omega}, \quad (3)$$

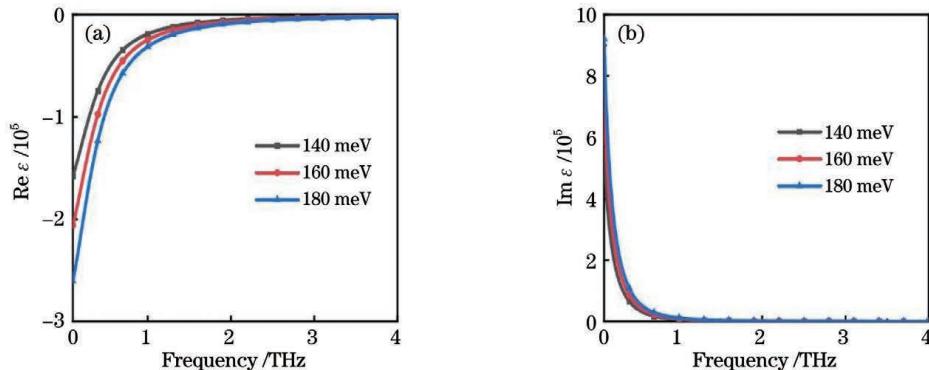


图2 不同费米能级能量下狄拉克半金属的复介电常数。(a)实部;(b)虚部

Fig. 2 Complex permittivities of BDSs at different Fermi level energies. (a) Real part; (b) imaginary part

在太赫兹频率范围内,VO₂的相对介电常数可以通过Drude模型^[24-25]表示为

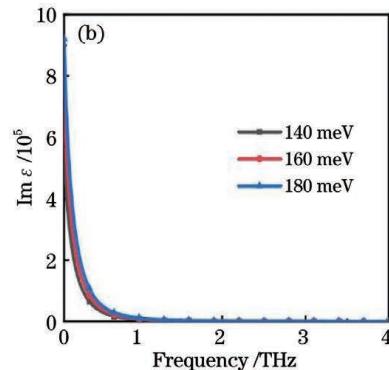
$$\epsilon_{VO_2} = \epsilon_\infty - \frac{\omega_p^2(\sigma_{VO_2})}{\omega^2 + i\gamma\omega}, \quad (4)$$

式中: $\epsilon_\infty=12$ 为高频介电常数; $\gamma=5.75 \times 10^{13}$ rad/s为碰撞频率; σ_{VO_2} 为二氧化钒的电导率;等离子频率可以近似地描述为

$$\omega_p^2(\sigma_{VO_2}) = \frac{\sigma_{VO_2}(\omega)}{\sigma_0} \omega_p^2(\sigma_0), \quad (5)$$

式中: $\omega_p(\sigma_{VO_2})$ 为二氧化钒电导率取值为 σ_{VO_2} 时对应的等离子频率; $\sigma_0=3 \times 10^5$ S/m; $\omega_p(\sigma_0)=1.4 \times 10^{15}$ rad/s。因为在绝缘态到金属态的过渡过程中,VO₂的电导率可以改变3~5个数量级,在数值仿真过程中,考虑电导率从 $\sigma_{VO_2}=10$ S/m变化到 $\sigma_{VO_2}=200000$ S/m时VO₂从绝缘态到金属态的相变过程^[24]。 $\sigma_{VO_2}=10$ S/m时VO₂处于绝缘态,而 $\sigma_{VO_2}=200000$ S/m时VO₂处于金属态。

式中: ϵ_0 为真空中的介电常数; $\sigma(\omega)$ 为狄拉克半金属的电导率; ω 为频率。图2给出了0~4 THz频率范围内三维狄拉克半金属的复介电常数在不同费米能级能量下的实部和虚部随频率的变化。由于当VO₂为金属态时,费米能级能量的改变不会影响吸收率,因此在此处没有单独给出3~5 THz频率范围内复介电常数的实部和虚部随频率的变化曲线。由图2(a)、(b)可以观察到,随着费米能级能量的增加,三维狄拉克半金属介电常数的实部和虚部呈现规律的变化。



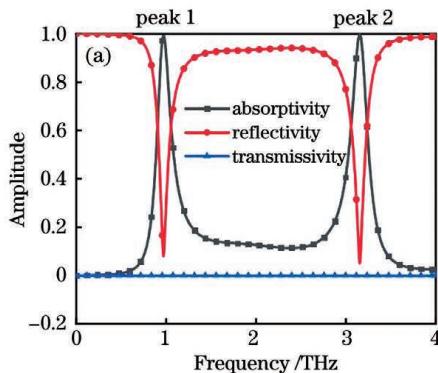
在建模和仿真中,选择CST Microwave Studio中的频域求解器。对于边界条件设置,在x方向和y方向都设置为晶胞边界条件,将开放边界条件应用于z方向。为了确保仿真的准确性,我们采用自适应网格设置。经过仿真可以得到与频率相关的S参数。其中,|S₂₁|表示透射系数,|S₁₁|表示反射系数。假设入射波的电场沿着x轴发生极化并且垂直入射到超材料表面。该吸波器的吸收率可以定义为 $A(\omega)=1-R(\omega)-T(\omega)=1-|S_{11}|^2-|S_{21}|^2$,其中 $R(\omega)$ 和 $T(\omega)$ 分别表示反射率和透射率。

3 结果与讨论

3.1 二氧化钒为绝缘态

当VO₂的电导率为10 S/m(即绝缘态,此时VO₂相当于处于“OFF”状态)且三维狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量设定为160 meV时,所提出的超表面作为双波段吸波器,其反射率、透射率以及吸收率

随频率的变化曲线如图3(a)所示。其中,带▲的实线表示双波段吸波器的透射率,由于底面金膜的厚度远大于太赫兹频率内金的趋肤深度,因此入射的太赫兹波无法穿过金膜,即透射率为零。带●的实线和带■的实线分别表示吸波器的反射率和吸收率。可以看到,反射率在0~4 THz的频率范围内出现了两个谷点,与此同时吸收率达到峰值点(即peak 1和peak 2),这两个峰值点对应的谐振频率分别为0.97 THz和3.152 THz,吸收率分别为99.3%和99.7%,表明在这两个谐振频率点处实现了几乎完美的吸收率。为了更好地理解所提出的双



波段吸波器的吸收机理,我们引入阻抗匹配理论对吸收性能进行分析。根据S参数反演法,超材料吸波器的相对阻抗^[26]可以表示为

$$Z = \sqrt{\frac{(1 + S_{11})^2 - S_{21}^2}{(1 - S_{11})^2 - S_{21}^2}}. \quad (6)$$

实际上,当 $\text{Re}(Z)=1, \text{Im}(Z)=0$ 时,吸波器的相对阻抗与自由空间中的阻抗完美匹配,从而实现完美吸收。Matlab计算得出的吸波器的相对阻抗值如图3(b)所示,peak 1和peak 2处的相对阻抗分别为 $1.29+0.22i$ 和 $0.8+0.27i$,满足阻抗匹配条件,这进一步说明在这两个谐振频率点处实现了完美吸收。

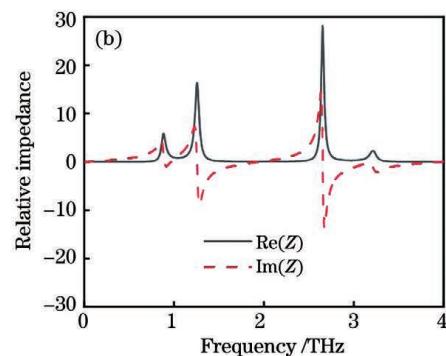


图3 当 VO_2 为绝缘态时,所提双波段吸波器的性能计算值。(a)反射率、透射率和吸收率;(b)相对阻抗

Fig. 3 Calculated performances of proposed dual-band absorber for VO_2 in insulating state. (a) Reflectivity, transmissivity, and absorptivity; (b) relative impedance

为了更好地了解 VO_2 为绝缘态时超材料作为双波段吸波器的物理机制,我们在横电(TE)模式下

分析了两个谐振频率点peak 1和peak 2处中间层结构和顶层结构上的电场分布,如图4所示。

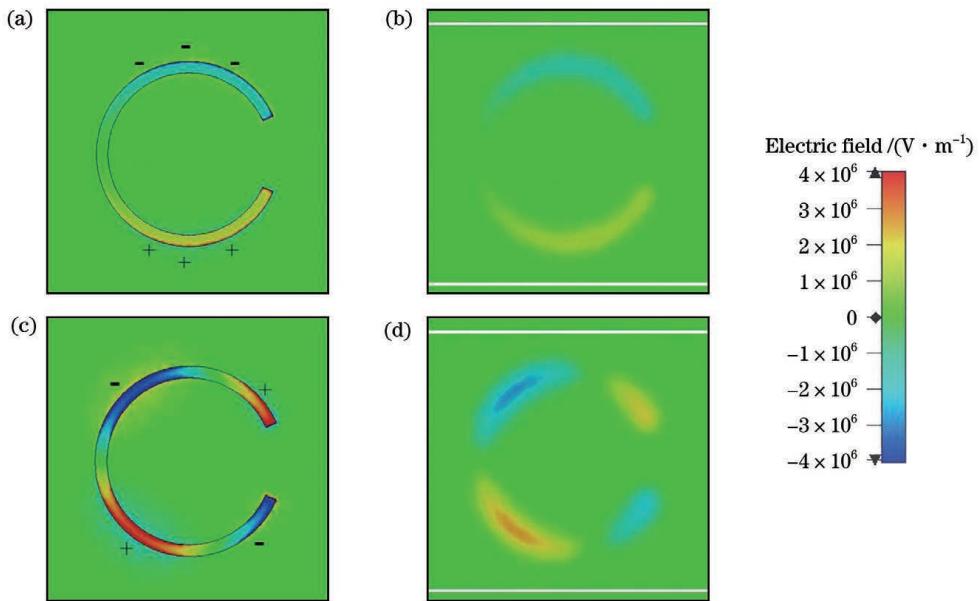
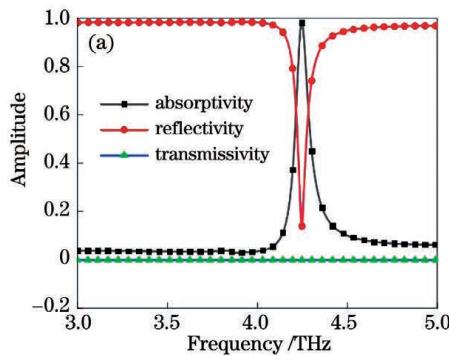


图4 当 VO_2 为绝缘态时的电场分布。(a) peak 1 处的中间结构;(b) peak 1 处的顶层结构;(c) peak 2 处的中间结构;(d) peak 2 处的顶层结构

Fig. 4 Electric field distributions for VO_2 in insulating state. (a) Middle structure at peak 1; (b) top structure at peak 1; (c) middle structure at peak 2; (d) top structure at peak 2

图4(a)给出了在peak 1处中间层谐振结构上的电场分布情况,可以看到,在peak 1处电场主要集中在靠近裂振环开口的上下两个圆弧边缘附近,并且下半部分圆环上的电场与上半部分圆环上的电场具有相反的方向且大小相等,这表明在peak 1处引起高吸收的原因是电偶极子谐振。而在peak 2处出现了两对极性相反的电场,这说明在peak 2处引起高吸收的原因是四电偶极子谐振,如图4(c)所示。同时我们还研究了顶层结构上的电场分布,如图4(b)、(d)所示。可以看到,顶层结构附近没有电场,即说明当 VO_2 为绝缘态时,吸波器的吸收率由中间层的谐振结构决定。



3.2 二氧化钒为金属态

当 VO_2 的电导率为200000 S/m(即 VO_2 为金属态,此时 VO_2 处于“ON”状态)且费米能级能量为160 meV时,超表面作为单波段吸波器,其反射率、透射率和吸收率如5(a)所示。可以看到,在4.246 THz处吸收率出现了一个峰值点,其值为98%,几乎为完美吸收。而由于底面金的存在,透射率依然为0。在4.246 THz处吸波器的相对阻抗为 $0.76+0.03i$,可知阻抗的实部接近于1,虚部接近于0,如图5(b)所示。同样根据阻抗匹配理论可知,此时吸波器的相对阻抗与自由空间中的阻抗相匹配,所以实现了近乎完美的吸收性能。

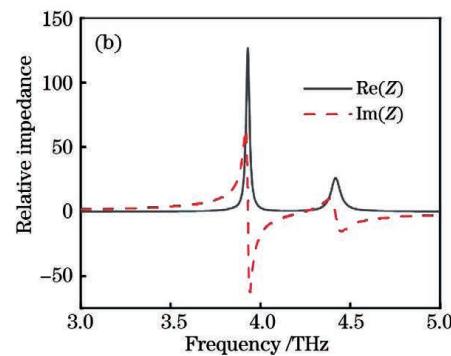


图5 当 VO_2 为金属态时,所提双波段吸波器的性能计算值。(a)反射率、透射率和吸收率;

Fig. 5 Calculated performances of proposed dual-band absorber for VO_2 in metallic state. (a) Reflectivity, transmissivity, and absorptivity; (b) relative impedance

为了更好地理解 VO_2 为金属态时吸波器的吸收机理,我们进一步分析了谐振频率点4.246 THz处中间层和顶层结构上的电场分布,如图6所示。图6(a)为顶层 VO_2 上的电场分布,可以看到,电场主要集中在矩形 VO_2 的上下两边的边缘附近,这表明表面等离子体共振可以增强

吸波器的吸收率,这与文献[27]中的结果一致。图6(b)为中间层结构上的电场图,可以看到,相对于顶层结构上的电场,中间谐振结构上的电场强度很弱,说明当 VO_2 为金属态时,主要是顶层结构产生的等离子体共振引起了4.246 THz处的高吸收率。

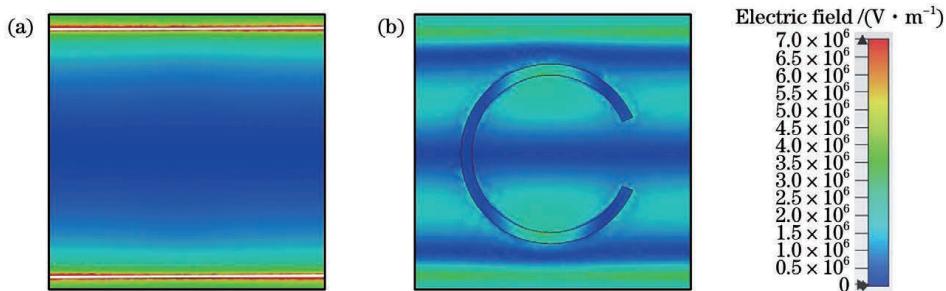


图6 当 VO_2 为金属态时,在谐振频率点4.246 THz处的电场分布。(a)顶层结构上;

Fig. 6 Electric field distributions at resonance frequency point of 4.246 THz for VO_2 in metallic state. (a) Top structure; (b) middle structure

4 介质层厚度和费米能级能量对吸收率的影响

为了分析TOPAS介质层的厚度对吸收率的影

响,在0~4 THz频率范围内分别研究了 VO_2 处于不同状态时吸收率随着介质层厚度的变化,如图7所示。当 VO_2 为绝缘态时,图7(a)给出了介质层1的厚度对吸收率的影响,可以看到,随着介质层1的

厚度的增加,吸收峰出现了轻微的红移,但其峰值几乎没有发生变化。从图 7(b)可以看到,随着介质层 2 的厚度的不断增加,两个吸收峰红移,并且峰值先增大后减小,在厚度为 24 μm 时两个吸收峰的值最大。这是由于随着介质层厚度的增加,超材料吸波器与自由空间中的阻抗慢慢达到匹配状态,在厚度超过 24 μm 后,匹配状态慢慢失衡,吸

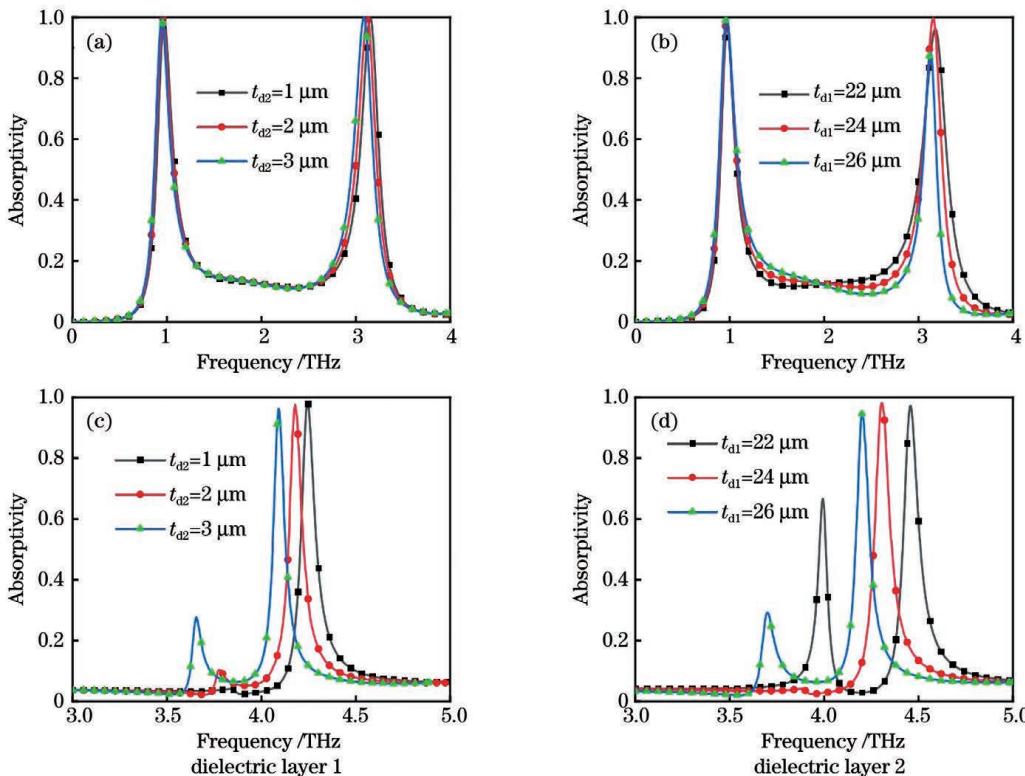


图 7 VO_2 处于不同状态时吸收率随介质层厚度的变化。(a)(b) VO_2 为绝缘态; (c)(d) VO_2 为金属态

Fig. 7 Absorptivity versus thickness of dielectric layer for VO_2 in different states. (a) (b) Insulating state; (c) (d) metallic state

由于狄拉克半金属有类似于石墨烯的可调特性,我们还研究了三维狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量对吸收率的影响,如图 8 所示。当 VO_2 处于绝缘

收峰值不断减小。当 VO_2 为金属态时,从图 7(c)可知,随着介质层 1 的厚度的增加,吸收峰红移,且峰值慢慢减小,在介质层 1 的厚度大于 1 μm 后,出现了第二个明显的吸收峰,这是寄生谐振引起的。由图 7(d)可以看出,随着介质层 2 的厚度的增大,吸收峰值先增大后减小,主峰有红移的现象。

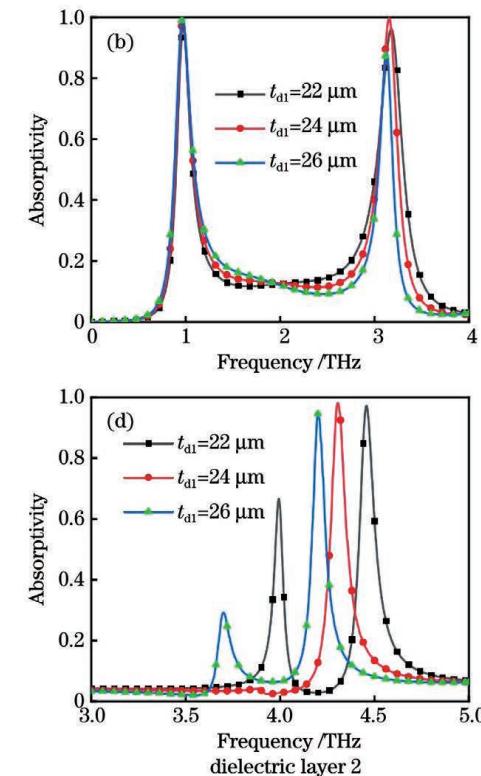


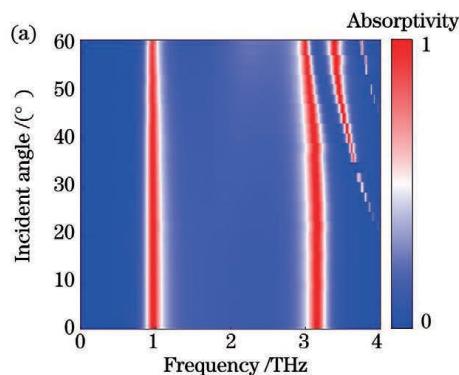
图 8 VO_2 处于不同状态时吸收率随费米能级能量的变化。(a) 绝缘态; (b) 金属态

Fig. 8 Absorptivity versus Fermi level energy for VO_2 in different states. (a) Insulating state; (b) metallic state

后减小的趋势,两个峰值都出现蓝移,但是peak 2相对于peak 1的蓝移速度更快,这说明高频率下的吸收峰对费米能量的变化更敏感。因此,可以通过改变三维狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量来改变双带吸收的谐振频率。而当 VO_2 处于金属态时,从图8(b)中可以看到,费米能级能量的改变对吸收率几乎没有影响,这表明三维狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量的变化不会改变吸收峰的位置和吸收峰的大小,这也进一步验证了 VO_2 为金属态时中间层谐振结构不会影响吸收率。

5 斜入射角对吸收率的影响

图9(a)给出了 VO_2 为绝缘态时在TE模式下吸波器的吸收率随入射角的变化,可以看到,随着



入射角的增大,peak 1几乎没有发生偏移,但是peak 2有明显的红移现象,直到入射角增大到50°,peak 1都能维持90%以上的吸收率。值得我们注意的是,在入射角超过40°后,peak 2的红移现象变得越来越明显,但是吸收率在入射角不超过50°时依然可以维持在90%以上。总之,当 VO_2 为绝缘态时,在0°~50°的宽入射角范围内,双波段超材料吸波器随着入射角度的增加均能保持良好的吸收性能。而当 VO_2 为金属态时,双波段超材料吸波器在TE模式下的吸收率如图9(b)所示,可以看到,随着入射角度的增加,谐振频率点蓝移,在入射角大于20°后,蓝移现象更加明显。这是因为光程发生了改变,入射波的干涉受到了影响。

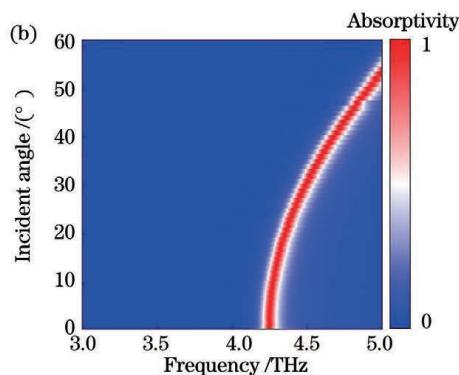


图9 TE模式下吸收率随入射角的变化。(a)当 VO_2 为绝缘态;(b)当 VO_2 为金属态

Fig. 9 Absorptivity versus incident angle under TE mode. (a) When VO_2 is in insulating state; (b) when VO_2 is in metallic state

6 结论

设计了一种基于二氧化钒-狄拉克半金属混合超材料的单/双波段可切换的太赫兹吸波器。当 VO_2 为绝缘态且三维狄拉克半金属的费米能级能量为160 meV时,在0.97 THz和3.152 THz处出现两个吸收峰,峰值分别为99.3%和99.7%,均超过了99%,接近于完美吸收。而当 VO_2 变为金属态且保持费米能级能量不变时,吸波器在4.246 THz处出现一个吸收峰,峰值超过98%。利用 VO_2 的相变特性,可以实现单波段吸波器(“ON”状态)与双波段(“OFF”状态)吸波器之间的切换。探究了吸收率随费米能级能量的变化,发现随着费米能级能量的增大,谐振频率点呈现蓝移的趋势。为了验证所提出的吸波器在实际应用中的潜力,还探究了吸收率随入射角度的变化规律,数值结果表明,所提吸波器在较大的入射角条件下表现出良好

的吸收性能。

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Single-/Dual-Band Switchable Terahertz Absorber Based on Vanadium Dioxide-Dirac Semi-Metal Hybrid Metamaterial

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Abstract

Objective Terahertz absorbers have become hot due to their widely applications in sensing, detection, and other fields. Metamaterials are a type of artificial composite material which are composed of sub-wavelength micro-units arranged in a specific period. They have many excellent physical properties that natural materials do not have. Although these metamaterial-based absorbers can achieve a perfect absorption by designing different resonator shapes, but it is difficult to adjust the absorption performances once the structure is manufactured, which hinders the potential of a metamaterial absorber in practical applications. Therefore, combining functional materials with metamaterial devices to form absorbers with tunable characteristics is more and more important. Vanadium dioxide (VO_2) is a kind of reversible phase change material, which can transform from an insulator to a metallic state at about 340 K when the conductivity changes by 4–5 orders of magnitude, so VO_2 is also widely used in optical devices. Moreover, one can change the relative permittivities of three-dimensional bulk Dirac semi-metals (BDSs), also known as 3D graphene, by adjusting their Fermi level energies. In this paper, a single-/dual-band switchable terahertz absorber based on VO_2 -BDSs hybrid metamaterials is proposed, which uses the reversible phase transition characteristics of VO_2 to realize the conversion between single-/dual-band functions. Moreover, the value and position of the absorption peak can be achieved by changing the Fermi level energy of BDSs.

Methods The proposed absorber consists of five layers: VO_2 resonance layer, upper TOPAS dielectric layer 1, middle BDSs resonance layer, lower TOPAS dielectric layer 2, and metal substrate (Fig. 1). The VO_2 resonance layer and the BDSs resonance layer are composed of a rectangular film and a split ring, respectively. In modeling and simulation, we select the frequency domain solver in CST Microwave Studio. For the boundary condition setting, we set the unit cell in both x and y directions, and apply the open boundary condition to the z direction. To ensure the accuracy of the simulation, we use an adaptive grid setting. The amplitude spectra of reflectance, transmittance, and absorbance before and after VO_2 phase transition are first obtained by simulation. Then, we introduce the impedance matching theory to verify the absorption mechanism of the absorber. The electric field distribution of the resonant structure is simulated to clarify the physical mechanism of the terahertz wave absorber before and after VO_2 phase transition. After that, the influences of the TOPAS layer thickness and the Fermi level energy of BDSs on the absorber are investigated. Finally, the influence of incident polarization angle on the proposed absorber is analyzed.

Results and Discussions When the conductivity of VO_2 is 10 S/m (when VO_2 is in the insulating state, VO_2 is equivalent to being in the "OFF" state) and the Fermi level energy of BDSs is set to 160 meV, the proposed metasurface acts as a dual-band perfect absorber. The reflectance has two valley points in the frequency range of 0–4 THz with the absorptance reaches the peak point at the same frequencies. The resonance frequency points corresponding to the two peak points are 0.97 THz and 3.152 THz, respectively. The absorptivities at 0.97 THz and 3.152 THz are 99.3% and 99.7%, respectively, indicating that an almost perfect absorptivity is achieved at these two resonance frequency points (Fig. 3(a)). The electric field distributions of two resonant frequency points at peak 1 and peak 2 are analyzed. When VO_2 is in the insulating state, the reasons for perfect absorption at these two resonance frequency points are dipole resonance (for peak 1) and electric quadrupole resonance (for peak 2), as shown in Fig. 4. When the conductivity of VO_2 is 200000 S/m (when VO_2 is in the metal state, VO_2 is in the "ON" state) and the Fermi level energy is 160 meV, the metasurface behaves as a single-band perfect absorber. There is only one peak point at 4.246 THz with absorptivity reaches to 98% (Fig. 5(a)). We further analyze the electric field distributions on the middle layer and the top structure at the resonance frequency of 4.246 THz when VO_2 is in the metallic state, which indicates that surface plasmon resonance can enhance the absorptivity of the proposed absorber (Fig. 6). In addition, the effects of the thickness of TOPAS dielectric layer (Fig. 7), Fermi level energy (Fig. 8) and the incident polarization angle (Figs. 9 and 10) on the absorptivity are analyzed. When VO_2 is in the insulating state, the dual-band metamaterial absorber can maintain absorptivity above 90% in a wide range of

incidence angle of 0° – 50° . When VO_2 is in the metallic state, the same absorption frequency band can be maintained with the incident angle is lower than 20° , and the resonance frequency point has a clear blue shift as the angle increases.

Conclusions A single-/dual-band switchable terahertz absorber based on VO_2 -BDSs hybrid metamaterial is demonstrated through numerical simulations. When VO_2 is in the insulating state and the Fermi level energy of BDSs is 160 meV, two absorption peaks appear at 0.97 THz and 3.152 THz with absorptivity of 99.3% and 99.7%, respectively. When VO_2 is in the metallic state and the Fermi level energy remains unchanged, the absorber has an absorption peak at 4.246 THz with the value exceeding 98%. By using the phase change characteristics of VO_2 , the proposed hybrid metamaterial can switch the absorber from single band to dual band. Due to the existence of BDSs, it is found that the resonance frequency points show a blue shift as the Fermi level energy increases. In order to verify the potential of the proposed metasurface in practical applications, the sensitivity of incident polarization angle is also investigated. Numerical results show that the absorptivity of the proposed absorber remains 90% under large incident angles. The method proposed in this work has potential applications in switching, sensing, and modulation.

Key words material; optical device; terahertz; vanadium dioxide; Dirac semimetal; absorption