

强激光太赫兹辐射源研究现状与发展趋势分析

蔡杰¹, 耿易星¹, 余金清^{2*}, 颜学庆^{1**}¹北京大学物理学院核物理与核技术国家重点实验室, 北京 100871;²湖南大学物理与微电子科学学院, 湖南 长沙 410082

摘要 太赫兹源在无线通信、光谱学、生物医学成像和材料科学等领域具有极高的应用价值。近年来,对高品质强太赫兹源的需求更为迫切,而有效产生高品质强太赫兹源仍然是太赫兹科学中的关键科学问题。概述了几种激光太赫兹源的产生机制以及发展现状:非线性晶体可以高效率产生太赫兹源,但受到晶体能量损伤阈值限制,难于在超强激光条件下工作;气体等离子体太赫兹源可以突破电离阈值的限制,但太赫兹能量会随着激光强度的升高而饱和,无法进一步提升太赫兹的场强;固体靶等离子体是相对论电子在等离子体中动力学行为产生的超强太赫兹辐射,并且可以通过结构靶等方式调制太赫兹品质,有望高效率地产生高品质强太赫兹源。最后,总结和展望了太赫兹源在应用领域的发展趋势。

关键词 非线性光学; 太赫兹; 光学晶体; 等离子体; 阵列波导器件

中图分类号 O436 文献标志码 A

DOI: 10.3788/CJL230781

1 引言

太赫兹 (THz) 波在通信、天文学、材料探测、物性控制和带电粒子加速与诊断等领域有广泛的应用价值^[1-6]。近年来太赫兹源的研发已经成为太赫兹科学中重要的前沿课题。随着 5G 通信不断发展,微波波段的承载能力难以满足未来通信需求,波长更短的太赫兹波成为解决未来通信问题的焦点^[4,7];相较于微波,太赫兹波段拥有更强大的信息承载能力,是公认的有待进一步开发的用于下一代 6G 通信的波段。太赫兹波在水分子中具有高吸收性且无生物损伤效应,因而适用于生物分子的无损成像和研究分析^[8-9]。太赫兹波可以与物质中离子、电子和自旋的部分运动状态产生共振耦合^[10],因此可用于材料激发或光谱学分析。在固体中太赫兹光子能量与晶格振动(声子)、自由电子的碰撞、电子-空穴对(激子)的结合能以及自旋波(磁子)衰退所需的光子能量一致,因此太赫兹波可以探测材料的线性响应而不引起物性的变化,可广泛用于研究复杂材料的基本过程。近年来,太赫兹波作为泵浦光已经将应用拓展到生物光谱^[8]、材料共振^[11]、磁化控制^[12]、电子束测量^[13]、带电粒子加速^[14]等方面的研究,而上述需求对太赫兹脉冲强度和品质也提出了更高的要求。

随着太赫兹应用领域的不断拓展,对太赫兹波的

品质提出了更高的要求。如何得到高品质太赫兹源一直是太赫兹科学领域的关键科学问题。太赫兹源的产生方式可大致分为三类^[15-16]:固态电子学、量子级联激光器和基于强激光的次级辐射源。固态电子学采用电子设备,如肖特基二极管^[17-18]、半导体太赫兹源^[19]以及尾波真空器件产生太赫兹源,这类源通常发出弱窄带(<3 THz)辐射,场强较低且能量较弱。量子级联激光器是单极设备,辐射来源于激光通过半导体量子阱异质结构堆中的带内转换^[20-21],平均功率在毫瓦量级^[22],虽然该方式产生的太赫兹源的频率可调,但是调频范围只有几 THz 的窄带^[23-24]。激光脉冲啁啾放大(CPA)技术可以显著提升激光功率密度,使得飞秒激光的强度可以达到相对论强度,强激光等离子体作用方式可以产生宽谱超强太赫兹波,这对太赫兹光谱研究具有更重要的意义。本文概述了基于强激光的次级辐射源的几种太赫兹产生机制,尤其是基于等离子体的太赫兹源的发展现状,并总结展望了太赫兹源的发展趋势。

2 基于强激光的次级太赫兹源

基于强激光的次级太赫兹源根据作用介质可分为基于固体材料的太赫兹源和等离子体太赫兹源。对于激光脉冲与固体材料作用产生太赫兹源,如光整流、微观光电流以及光电导天线等方式, Wynne

收稿日期: 2023-05-04; 修回日期: 2023-06-12; 录用日期: 2023-07-11; 网络首发日期: 2023-07-18

基金项目: 国家重点研发计划(2019YFF01014402)、国家自然科学基金创新研究群体项目(11921006)、国家自然科学基金(12175058)

通信作者: *jinqing.yu@hnu.edu.cn; **x.yan@pku.edu.cn

等^[25]给出了激光入射介质产生太赫兹频率振荡极化的一维模型,如果激光与介质作用满足瞬时反应、太赫兹范围内无色散以及完美的相位匹配等条件,则太赫兹脉冲的电场可以由光脉冲强度包络的时间导数获得。产生的太赫兹脉冲表现出固定的载波包络相位,对于高斯包络脉冲则会产生单周期型波形,这些特征对许多应用来说非常有价值。对于等离子体太赫兹源,可以根据等离子体密度的不同分为气体和稠密等离子体太赫兹源。气体靶太赫兹源主要依赖于有质动力产生的等离子体波来产生太赫兹辐射,稠密等离子体太赫兹源则是由激光加速相对论电子在等离子体-真空界面处的动力学行为产生超强太赫兹波。

2.1 基于固体材料的太赫兹源

2.1.1 光整流

光整流方案是激光在非线性晶体传输过程中的差频效应,即激光带宽内满足相位匹配条件的光子通过差频得到太赫兹波。使用光整流方案产生太赫兹波的强度与晶体材料的非线性系数相关,并且具有能量缩放性质,产生太赫兹波的能量与晶体面积和入射泵浦光能量成比例。非中心对称晶体表现出较高的二阶非线性系数,并且正比于激光电场的平方,这种非线性效应也会导致光的频率下移转换到太赫兹范围。非线性晶体中,多光子吸收、泵浦耗尽以及光群速度和太赫兹波相位速度的不匹配会限制太赫兹波的产额。光整流过程是光学中的二阶非线性过程,是频率差分的一个特例^[26],可以由飞秒激光脉冲实现。来自激光脉冲的角频率 ω 和 $\omega + \Omega$ 的光谱成分通过差频效应混合,产生一个在太赫兹范围内的角频率 Ω 。因此,光整流可以描述为脉冲内差频效应,泵浦脉冲引起的非线性极化可以用公式表达^[26-28]:

$$P_{NL}(\Omega) = 2\epsilon_0 \chi^{(2)} \int_0^{+\infty} E(\omega + \Omega) E^*(\omega) d\omega, \quad (1)$$

式中: ϵ_0 为真空介电常数; $E(\omega)$ 为泵浦光的单边($\omega > 0$)傅里叶分量; $\chi^{(2)}$ 为二阶非线性张量。

用于光整流的典型光泵浦脉冲的持续时间可以从 30 fs 到 1.5 ps,产生的差频频谱成分位于太赫兹范围内。根据式(1),窄带激光脉冲可以产生更低频率的太赫兹波,而宽带激光脉冲可以产生频谱更宽、频率更高的太赫兹波;复共轭 E^* 表示太赫兹波的偏振与驱动光场的载波包络相位无关,即太赫兹波呈现载波包络相位稳定的特性。

采用光整流方案的太赫兹源需要满足相位匹配条件以得到更高效太赫兹辐射。ZnTe、GaAs 等各向同性材料只能在特定频率的泵浦光和太赫兹条件下实现共线相位匹配,而更高非线性系数的 LiNbO₃则需要通过倾斜波前实现相位匹配。相位匹配条件可以表示为

$$\delta k(\Omega) = k(\omega) + k(\Omega) - k(\omega + \Omega) = 0. \quad (2)$$

设 Ω 和 ω 分别表示太赫兹和激光频率。由于光整流中 $\Omega \ll \omega$,可以得出 $k(\omega + \Omega) - k(\omega) \approx \partial k / \partial \omega|_{\omega_0} \times \Omega$,进而推导出 $\delta k = [n(\Omega) - n_g(\omega_0)] \Omega / c$,其中 c 为光速, ω_0 代表激光中心频率, n 和 n_g 分别代表折射率和群速度折射率。通过化简可以得出相位匹配条件为太赫兹相速度与激光群速度相等,即 $v(\Omega) = v_g(\omega_0)$,其中 v 和 v_g 分别代表相速度和群速度。

Hebling 等^[29]在 2002 年提出并证明了倾斜波前脉冲(TFPF),并将其用于在 LiNbO₃ 晶体中高效地产生相位匹配的太赫兹脉冲。如图 1 所示,倾斜波前技术使垂直于传播方向 $v(\Omega)$ 的波前与激光传输方向 $v_g(\omega_0)$ 成 γ 角度倾斜,当倾斜角度满足 $v(\Omega) = v_g(\omega_0) \cos \gamma$ 时,这种非共轴几何将实现相位匹配。

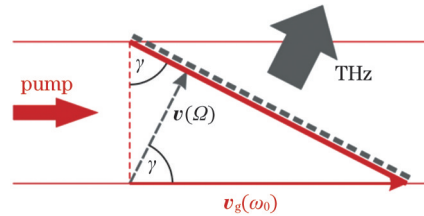


图 1 倾斜波前脉冲示意图^[28]

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of tilted-pulse-front pulse^[28]

相比于传统光整流方案,采用倾斜波前光整流可以实现相位匹配,极大地提升能量转换效率和峰值场强。此外,传统光整流方案出射辐射以切伦科夫锥角出射,而倾斜波前光整流则可以沿着固定的某个角度出射,方向性更好。

2.1.2 光电导开关

光电导开关由一对电极的半导体组成,电极之间施加高电压,飞秒激光脉冲在半导体中产生电子-空穴对并在电极之间形成电流,通常该电流的持续时间在 1 ps 内,所以电极可作为天线发射太赫兹波^[30]。

目前基于半导体产生光电流太赫兹源最有效的方式是大面积光电导开关^[15,31-34],在这类方案中外部偏置电压会打破半导体平面反转对称性并加速光电子,由此产生的宏观平面电流可以产生太赫兹远场辐射。在这个过程中,太赫兹脉冲的能量来自于偏压场,而不是驱动激光脉冲。

2.1.3 新兴太赫兹源方案

随着太赫兹技术的发展,近年来提出了许多新颖的太赫兹辐射产生方案如自旋材料^[35-37]、硅基材料发射^[38-39]、碲酸锂集成发射^[40-42]等。基本的自旋材料发射使用由铁磁性(F)和非磁性(N)金属薄膜组成的双层膜。入射光脉冲激发F层中自旋并传到邻近的N层,通过自旋轨道耦合引起电子的大量自旋偏转。这种反自旋霍尔效应将平面外的自旋电流转变为所需

的亚皮秒的面内电荷电流,从而产生了太赫兹电磁脉冲的发射。硅基工艺的发展使该工艺下实现的太赫兹集成电路芯片进入人们视野,它具有低成本、低功耗和小尺寸等特点,能够满足低成本和高集成度的市场化需求。此外,采用接触式光栅等集成方案对铌酸锂倾斜波前光整流加以改进,可以减小相差、放宽对光栅的要求,并且最大化地集成光路,实现太赫兹源小型化。

2.2 等离子体太赫兹源

等离子体太赫兹源的产生方式主要有三种:(1)光学克尔效应,即四波混频机制,通过基频光和倍频光的差频产生闲频光和太赫兹波。(2)光电离机制,激光电离原子产生时间脉宽为皮秒量级的光电流,其产生的辐射位于太赫兹频段。(3)有质动力形成的等离子体波,当等离子体密度为 10^{17} cm^{-3} 时,等离子体频率约为 20 THz,此时等离子体波辐射的电磁波接近太赫兹波段。

与其他方式相比,等离子体产生太赫兹源有以下优点:第一,克服了传统飞秒宽带激光脉冲产生太赫兹频谱的不稳定性;第二,可以产生场强接近 GV/m 量级的超强太赫兹脉冲,而不受材料电离击穿的影响;第三,通过克尔自聚焦和等离子体生成之间的局部平衡达到激光成丝机制^[43-44],使其有可能绕过水分子对太赫兹的吸收,在大气层中远程产生太赫兹脉冲^[45-47];第四,太赫兹脉冲能量可以通过调整激光参数而显著提

升,这些参数包括泵浦激光的波长^[48]、脉冲持续时间^[49]和驱动激光的包络形状^[50]。

对于等离子体太赫兹源,最初方案是由强度为 10^{14} W/cm^2 ^[51] 的单色脉冲电离空气产生太赫兹波。随后双色光方案的提出使太赫兹能量增加了 40 倍^[52-53],产生了峰值场强为 15 MV/m 的太赫兹波^[54-55],其带宽达 75 THz,转换效率约为 10^{-4} 。双色场太赫兹源将基频激光脉冲聚焦到聚焦透镜的焦点之前的 β -硼酸钡 (BBO) 晶体上,产生二次谐波脉冲,两束脉冲共焦传输。产生的双色激光脉冲可以电离焦点附近的空气 O_2 和 N_2 分子,产生电子等离子体,这种“空气等离子体”在电离过程中会形成宏观电流,进而产生宽带太赫兹辐射。

2.2.1 四波混频

与光整流中二阶非线性效应类似,四波混频机制基于三阶非线性效应产生极化分量 $P_{\text{NL}} = \epsilon\chi^{(3)}E_L^3$,再由极化分量辐射太赫兹波。长脉冲和少周期激光四波混频机制分别基于倍频光和自身频谱。对于长脉冲入射光,产生的太赫兹波来源于频率为 ω 的基频光和频率为 2ω 的倍频光之间的三阶非线性效应,基频光谱中 ω' 与 ω 分量、 2ω 分量耦合产生 $\Omega = \omega' + \omega - 2\omega$ 频率的太赫兹波,如图 2(a) 所示。对于少周期激光,其自身频谱足够宽,则可以由基频光谱中 ω 、 ω' 和 ω'' 差频产生频率为 $\Omega = \omega + \omega' - \omega''$ 的太赫兹波,如图 2(b) 所示。

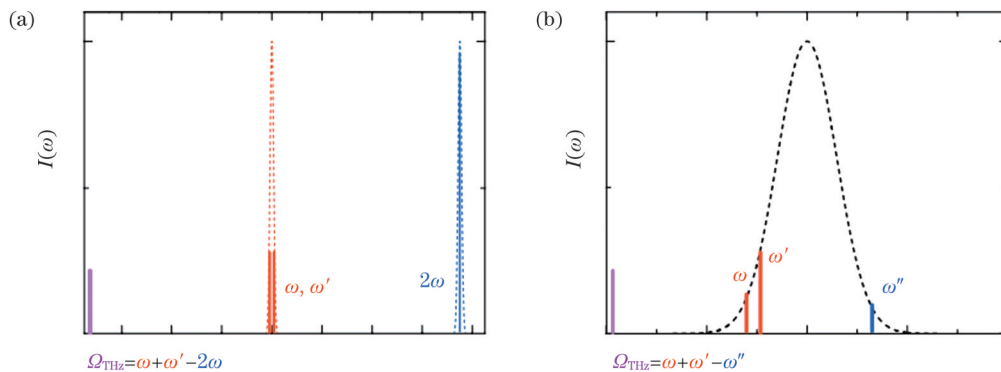


图 2 四波混频机制示意图^[56]。(a)基频光和倍频光混频;(b)基频光带宽内混频

Fig. 2 Schematic diagram of four-wave mixing mechanism^[56]. (a) Four-wave mixing between fundamental frequency optical pulse and second harmonic optical pulse; (b) four-wave mixing in fundamental frequency spectral bandwidth

2.2.2 光电流

2007年, Kim等^[55]发现通过光电离产生的自由电子电流是双色激光脉冲产生太赫兹波的关键过程。Babushkin等^[57]提出了“局部电流”模型解释这种“光电流”产生太赫兹辐射的物理机理,该模型假定辐射电场与电子电流的时间导数成正比,即 $E_{\text{THz}} \propto \partial_t J$ 。当激光电场的强度高到足以降低原子的库仑电势时,电子可以通过隧道效应穿过势垒,电离发生在激光脉冲的每个光学周期的极值附近。光电离过程产生的太赫兹波与电流和电子密度随时间的变化直接相关,当激光强

度大于 10^{13} W/cm^2 时光电离效应就会开始发生^[58]。自由电子的密度随着气体密度 N_a 以及电离率 $W(t)$ 而变化^[56,59]:

$$\partial N_e = W(t)(N_a - N_e), \quad (3)$$

电子密度随时间演化为 $N_e(t) \approx \sum_n \delta N_n H(t - t_n)$, 其中 δN_n 为离散步长, 函数 $H(t - t_n)$ 可近似认为是海维塞德阶跃函数^[57]。

对于一个线性极化的激光脉冲, 电流密度可以用标量形式表示^[9]:

$$(\partial_t + v_c)J = \frac{e^2}{m_e} N_e E, \quad (4)$$

式中： v_c 为电子碰撞速率； e 为电子电量； m_e 为电子质量。

可以对 $N_e(t)$ 进行合理的近似。 $J(t)$ 可以分为两部分^[57,60]， $J(t) \approx J_A(t) + J_B(t)$ ， $J_A(t)$ 表示光电离产生的谐波项导致的快电流，而 $J_B(t)$ 则表示 $\sum_n \delta N_n v_i(t_n)$ ，其中 v_i 表示电子在 t_n 时刻的瞬时速度，包括低频太赫兹分量。

如图 3 所示，电离出现在激光电场的极值附近，多次电离使得 N_e 呈阶梯式增长。双色光脉冲包络的不对称性使得电子速度不为零， $v_i(t_n) \propto \sin \phi$ 。 $J_B(t)$ 中的低频分量在双色场相位差为 $\pi/2$ 时达到最大，这个模型已经被实验和三维模拟所验证^[61]。单色激光场几乎不产生太赫兹辐射，而使用双色激光，当 $\phi \rightarrow \pi/2$ 时，在太赫兹能量产出方面可以获得两个数量级的提升^[62]。局部电流 (LC) 模型表明，通过操纵激光谐波，可以增强太赫兹场。

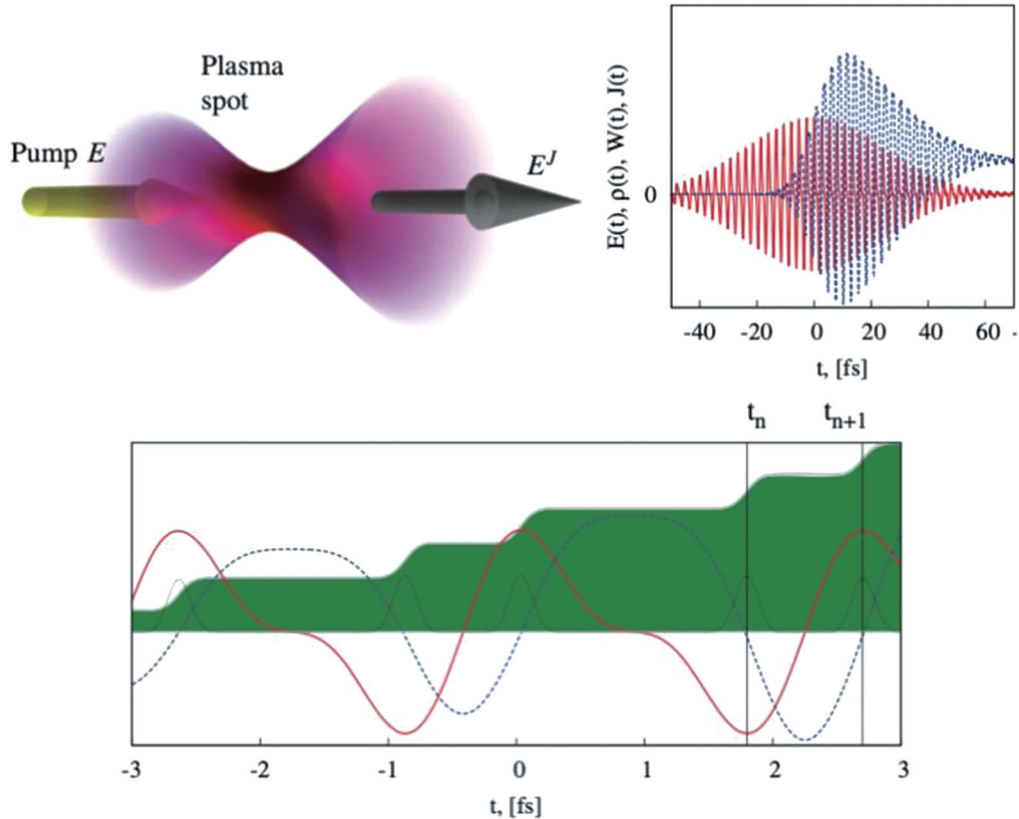


图 3 光电流产生太赫兹示意图^[57]

Fig. 3 Schematic diagram of terahertz generation by photocurrent^[57]

2.2.3 等离子体波

当泵浦激光的强度大于 10^{15} W/cm^2 时，由其他非线性效应充当频率转换器。一般将这类机制归因于等离子体波。此时激光达到相对论强度，电子运动方程中电子所受的洛伦兹力不可忽略^[63-64]。电离产生的自由电子在激光电场的洛伦兹力作用下被拉出平衡位置，电荷分离场的存在使得激光脉冲经过之后电子等离子体频率 $\omega_{pe} = \sqrt{\frac{e^2 N_e}{\epsilon_0 m_e}}$ 围绕离子振荡，如图 4(a) 所示。然而这种方式产生的太赫兹辐射能否传出等离子体到达探测器^[65]取决于等离子体的体积、几何形状以及密度梯度^[66]等因素，其辐射效率也可以通过操纵横向激光偏振来控制^[67]。图 4(b) 为实验产生太赫兹辐射的示意图，太赫兹脉冲呈环形分布，可以在一定角度

内放置金属波导收集和探测。

2.3 稠密等离子体太赫兹源

强度大于 10^{18} W/cm^2 的超强激光，可以产生相对论强太赫兹辐射^[68]。这类太赫兹辐射有许多优势：脉冲能量大于毫焦级的超强辐射^[69]，具有宽谱特性，70% 能量位于 $< 10 \text{ THz}$ 的区域^[70-71]。超强激光产生 THz 辐射的主要机制包括线性模式转换^[70]、靶背瞬时电流^[71-72]和相对论电子穿过真空等离子体界面产生的相干渡越辐射 (CTR)^[73-75]。

2.3.1 线性模式转换

激光能量可以通过无碰撞吸收耦合到稠密等离子体中，其中激光电磁波在临界密度附近发生共振激发^[76]。作为它的逆过程，在一定条件下等离子体波可以转换为电磁辐射，这个过程被称为线性模式转换^[70]。

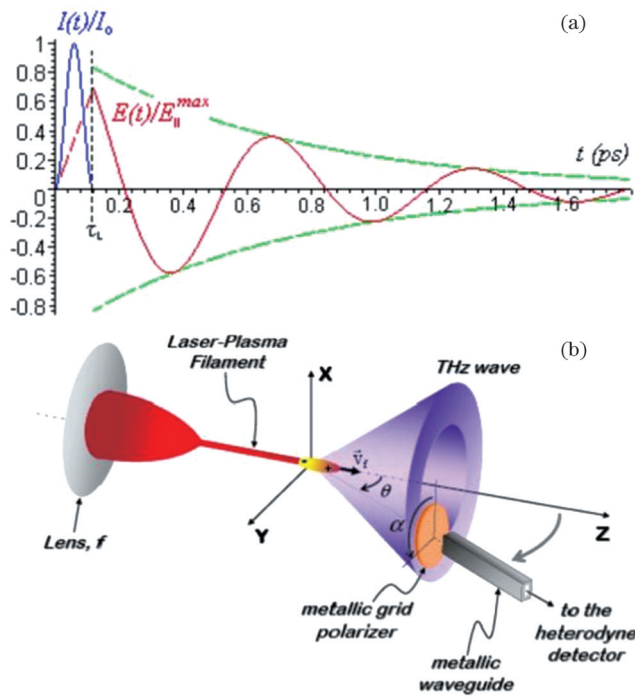


图 4 来自等离子体的太赫兹辐射的理论示意图和实验设置^[63]。(a)理论示意图;(b)实验设置

Fig. 4 Theoretical schematic and experimental setup of terahertz radiation generated from plasma^[63]. (a) Theoretical schematic; (b) experimental setup

2.3.2 靶背电流

强激光与等离子体相互作用会产生高能电子束,电子束在超短时间范围内的加速和输运可以产生随时间快速变化的瞬时电流。瞬时电流在低密度等离子体中传输时向外发射电磁辐射,辐射光谱主要由瞬时电流脉冲的时间特性决定。飞秒激光脉冲产生的快电子束通常具有从几十飞秒到几皮秒脉宽的特征时间,对应的辐射频率位于太赫兹频段内。

2.3.3 相干渡越辐射和鞘场辐射

除了纵向传输的电子外,沿靶表面横向传输的电子电流也可以产生太赫兹辐射。强激光产生的相对论电子,大部分被鞘场和等离子体束缚在靶体内和靶体附近运动,主要在靶表面横向运动或激光轴向传输;激

光加速电子能量足够高时,高能电子能够逃离靶面,离开靶面的电子在不断减速过程中也会产生太赫兹辐射^[77-78]。

当电子穿越等离子体-真空边界时,由于电介质的不连续性,在等离子体界面上会激发横向偏振电流,从而发射渡越辐射产生太赫兹源^[79],如图 5(a)所示。通常,由脉冲时间为几十飞秒的激光脉冲可以产生束宽约为 $10\ \mu\text{m}$ 的电子束。在这种情况下单电子产生的渡越辐射场会相干叠加,产生相干太赫兹辐射,总辐射能量与电子数的平方成比例。

相干渡越辐射一直是传统加速器中产生高功率太赫兹脉冲^[80]最广泛使用的方案之一。然而电子束电荷和脉宽之间的竞争限制了峰值电流的强度,最终限制了太赫兹辐射的峰值功率。相比之下,激光-等离子体加速器可以产生高电荷(纳库仑至微库仑级)和短束持续时间(飞秒至皮秒级)的高能电子束,且电子束的空间电荷效应会在等离子体中背景离子的屏蔽效应的影响下减弱,激光加速产生的大电量电子束穿过等离子体界面时可望产生大能量强太赫兹脉冲。

当激光产生的超热电子逃离靶体时,在靶的表面将形成一个强的静电鞘场^[81],鞘内电荷的时空分布类似于一个瞬时偶极子,且鞘场的特征演化时间通常是皮秒级^[82],因此产生偶极子式的太赫兹辐射,如图 5(b)所示。

2.3.4 等离子体波导太赫兹源

使用具有结构的靶体可以利用结构操纵电子的动力学行为,进而实现对太赫兹辐射品质的调控。结构靶对太赫兹源的影响有两个方面:一方面是增加激光吸收,从而增加太赫兹源的能量效率;另一方面可望改变太赫兹辐射的特性,甚至改变太赫兹源的产生原理。纳米结构靶可以增强激光等离子体耦合效率^[83],已被广泛用于激光高效率产生高能粒子和辐射源,如 X 射线^[84]、高次谐波产生^[85]和离子加速^[86]等。结构靶同样也可用来提高太赫兹辐射的强度。

当带电粒子在周期性结构附近运动时,周期性介质可以调制光速使其满足切伦科夫辐射条件,使得电

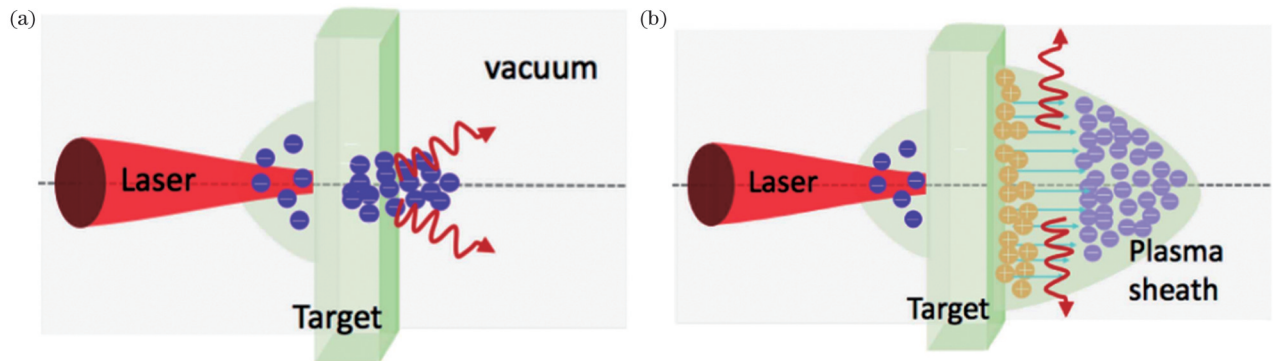


图 5 靶背辐射示意图^[78]。(a)渡越辐射;(b)鞘场辐射

Fig. 5 Schematic diagram of target back radiation^[78]. (a) Transition radiation; (b) sheath field radiation

子发出辐射,被称为 Smith-Purcell 效应^[87]。对于在光栅周期为 p 的光栅上稳定输运的电子,在 θ 角度观察到辐射的波长为 $\lambda = (1 - \beta \cos \theta) p / (n\beta)$, 其中 β 是电子归一化速度, n 是辐射的谐波次数。通过选择合适的光栅结构,可以对辐射光谱进行调制。等离子体作波导可以约束激光等离子体的非线性作用或者电子的动理学运动过程,实现强太赫兹源。数值模拟和实验都表明,金属线靶不仅可以引导和收集超热电子^[88],而且还可以作为低损耗的太赫兹波导^[89]。

3 太赫兹源进展

3.1 基于固体材料的太赫兹源

3.1.1 光整流

近年来基于光整流的太赫兹源不断发展。目前光整流大致分为三部分,分别是无机非线性晶体光整流、倾斜波前光整流和有机晶体光整流。激光入射非线性晶体可以通过二阶非线性效应产生太赫兹辐射,这类晶体包括 ZnTe、GaP、LiNbO₃ 等。早在 1971 年,就已经有研究人员提出通过光电材料产生太赫兹辐射^[90]。1984 年, Auston 等^[91]通过光整流产生了近单周期的太赫兹脉冲。随后 ZnTe 晶体^[92]被证明能够产生 3 THz 以下的太赫兹波,能量转换效率约为 3×10^{-5} ^[92-93]。而通过平板 LiNbO₃ 非倾斜波前光整流则可产生高频太赫兹信号, Jang 等^[94]使用 80 TW 激光器辐照平板 LiNbO₃ 晶体得到了 0.7 mJ、中心频率 15 THz 的多周期太赫兹辐射。

随着倾斜波前技术的提出,光整流非线性过程中的相位匹配条件能够以一种十分简单的方式实现^[29]。LiNbO₃ 晶体具有低的太赫兹吸收效率、较高的非线性系数和较高的损伤阈值,是产生太赫兹辐射的良好介质^[95]。太赫兹相速度和激光群速度差距大,容易导致相位失配,可以在脉冲前引入一个倾斜角度的衍射光栅实现相位匹配条件^[29,96]。倾斜波前技术可以用不同波长的泵浦光实现,例如大功率的钛宝石激光器或 Yb:YAG 激光器都可以实现整流过程。基于激光倾斜波前 LiNbO₃ 光整流^[29]和高二阶非线性系数 $\chi^{(2)}$ 的有机晶体光整流,能够产生中心频率为 1 THz 的单周期脉冲或中心频率为 2 THz 的准单周期脉冲,对应的峰值场强为 1 MV/cm 或 2 MV/cm。典型的倾斜脉冲波前 LiNbO₃ 可以在 ≤ 4 THz 的光谱范围内产生峰值电场 > 20 MV/m 的太赫兹脉冲,能量转换效率 $\geq 10^{-2}$,总能量 > 15 μ J^[96-98]。使用超短脉冲飞秒激光,通过非线性晶体光整流^[90-91,99]能够得到微焦量级,场强超过 1 MV/cm 的太赫兹辐射。

另一种实现相位匹配的途径是使用激光和太赫兹波段折射率差距较小的有机晶体。有机非线性晶体,如 4-(4-二甲氨基苯乙烯基)甲基吡啶对甲苯磺酸盐 (DAST) 和 4-(4-二甲氨基苯乙烯基)甲基吡啶 2,4,6-

三甲基苯磺酸盐 (DSTMS) 通过共轴光整流^[100]也能产生太赫兹波,这些材料具有极高的非线性系数和非常好的激光-太赫兹能量转换效率。采用非线性系数比 LiNbO₃ 大一个数量级并且有良好相位匹配关系的有机晶体 DSTMS,能够产生 0.4 GV/m 的太赫兹电场^[101]。通过有机晶体可以得到场强为 42 MV/cm,能量转换效率达到 3%,总能量超过 900 μ J 的太赫兹脉冲^[101]。但这类晶体的相位匹配和材料吸收需要在 1200~1500 nm 的近红外波长下进行,这对于没有额外波长转换的商用飞秒激光系统来说有一定挑战。基于非线性晶体和有机晶体光整流得到的太赫兹辐射光谱通常较宽,在高激光重复频率下由于热效应和大面积晶体的有限可用性,损伤阈值较低(约 1 mJ/cm²)。这两种光整流技术具有级联性质,光子转换效率可以超过 100%。但较长的作用距离可能会导致光谱色散的问题,影响泵浦激光的前沿强度^[102]。

3.1.2 光电导天线

早在 1993 年,科学家就在实验室使用大面积的光导天线产生了太赫兹源^[31-32]。使用砷化镓,在 3.5 cm 的天线间隙上施加 10.7 kV/cm 的偏置电压,光脉冲的持续时间为 120 fs,中心波长为 770 nm,产生了能量高达 0.8 μ J 和场强约为 150 kV/cm 的太赫兹脉冲^[31]。使用低温生长的 GaAs 或半绝缘 GaAs 与超短激光脉冲相互作用^[103-104],可以产生 20~30 THz 波段的太赫兹辐射^[103];采用等离子体激元的方式能够得到能量转换效率为 2×10^{-2} 的太赫兹辐射^[105];使用 ZnSe 光导天线产生了能量为 10 μ J、场强为 33 MV/m 的准单周期太赫兹源^[33]。

3.2 等离子体太赫兹源

最近的实验^[106]表明,四波混频过程主要发生在激光强度小于空气分子电离阈值的条件下(约 5×10^{13} W/cm²)。因此,四波混频对太赫兹源的贡献太弱,以至于无法解释实验中测到的强太赫兹场^[53];而克尔效应的贡献,包括延迟拉曼散射的影响,通常比光电流的贡献低两到三个数量级^[60]。Yu Fedorov 等^[107]研究了激光光强的变化引起四波混频的机制和光电流机制主导变换,发现激光强度达到电离阈值后逐渐转为以光电流机制为主导。Lu 等^[108]研究了光电流机制随着激光强度的增长出现饱和的现象,他们指出当激光强度为 10^{15} W/cm² 时太赫兹辐射达到饱和。

使用团簇靶提高等离子体密度也可以提升太赫兹辐射产额。Jahangiri 等^[109-110]观察到氩气团簇的太赫兹辐射强度比氩气气体的高两个数量级,他们提出了四极子模型,定性解释了太赫兹波的角度分布和偏振特性。激光有质动力将电子排出团簇靶外,形成一个对称分布电子包围的正电荷核心,构成一个简单的辐射四极子源。如果改用双色光作为驱动光,团簇靶太赫兹产量将提高五倍左右^[111]。

采用更长波长的双色光产生太赫兹辐射,激光-太

赫兹能量转换效率能得到极大的提升。Koulouklidis 等^[112]通过实验证明,在 3.9 μm 的飞秒中红外激光脉冲的双色场成丝可以产生超短的亚周期太赫兹脉冲,其脉冲能量低于 1 mJ,太赫兹转换效率为 2.36%,太赫兹电场强度超过 100 MV/cm。他们通过数值模拟进一步优化实验设置,使得太赫兹产量显著提高。

采用特定的脉冲包络或者使用特定频率的双色场也能提升激光-太赫兹能量转换效率,理论和模拟表明锯齿形包络可以达到 2% 的能量转换效率^[50],实验表明频率比率为 1:4 和 2:3 的双色场可以更高效地产生太赫兹脉冲^[113]。在空间中的太赫兹辐射是沿着由相位匹配条件和等离子体引起的折射率变化所确定的角度传播,它们之间的相互作用距离取决于等离子体通道的长度^[114]。

3.3 稠密等离子体太赫兹源

3.3.1 线性模式转换

在非磁化等离子体中,静电波和电磁波具有不同的色散关系,当电磁波波矢为零($k=0$),或频率等于等离子体频率($\omega = \omega_p$)时,可以有效发生静电-电磁模式转换。Sheng 等^[115-116]提出了满足相位匹配条件的方案,如图 6 所示。当强激光脉冲斜向入射到一个正向密度梯度的不均匀低密度等离子体时,激光激发的等离子体波可以通过线性模式转换在镜面反射方向产生具有正频率啁啾的宽带太赫兹辐射^[115-116]。Liao 等^[70]通过在固体靶用可控的预脉冲产生一个大尺度的预等离子体,在激光镜面方向上观察到能量超过 100 μJ/sr 的宽频太赫兹辐射,并发现存在高效率产生太赫兹辐射的最佳预等离子体标长,观察到的太赫兹特征与等

离子体波的模式转换模型非常吻合。

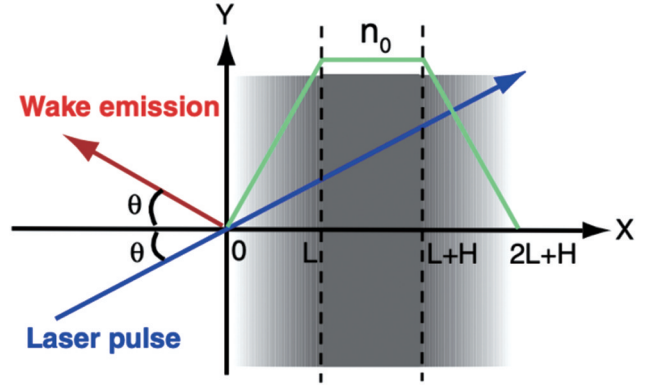


图 6 线性模式转换产生太赫兹波示意图^[115]
Fig. 6 Schematic diagram of linear mode conversion to generate terahertz waves^[115]

在磁化等离子体中还存在等离子体波产生太赫兹辐射的另一种情况:电子在洛伦兹力作用下横向运动引发了横向电流,使得磁化等离子体中色散关系发生改变,发射出频率接近等离子体频率的电磁脉冲^[117],有时被称为切伦科夫脉冲辐射^[118]。Yugami 等^[119]在实验中观察到,激光在磁化方向为横向的等离子体中激发的切伦科夫尾场可以发射频率为亚太赫兹级的电磁辐射。Wang 等^[120]通过模拟发现磁化等离子体可以产生频率可调谐的太赫兹源,如图 7 所示,辐射频率由 $\sqrt{(\omega_p^2 + \omega_c^2/4)} + \omega_c/2$ 决定,其中 ω_p 为等离子体频率而 ω_c 为电子回旋频率,在强磁场条件下辐射强度与 ω_p^2/ω_c 成比例。

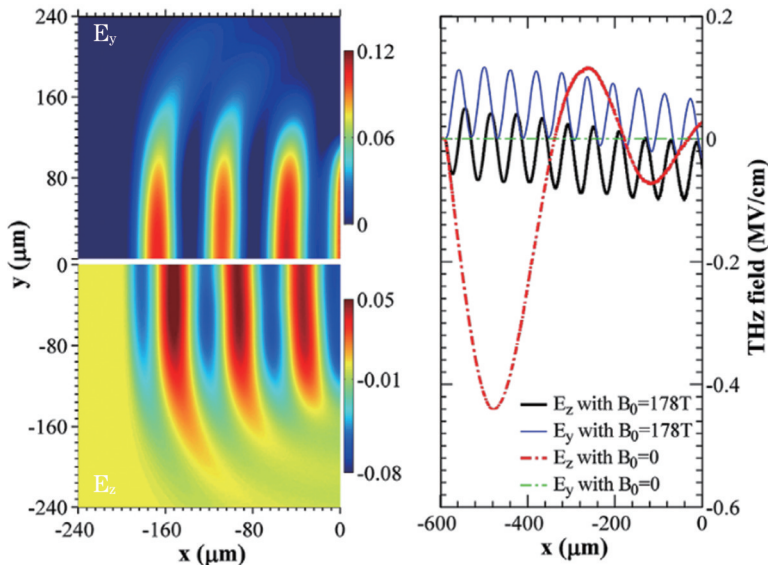


图 7 磁化等离子体可调谐太赫兹源产生^[120]
Fig. 7 Tunable terahertz source generation from magnetized plasma^[120]

此外,在理论分析或数值模拟的基础上还提出了多种产生太赫兹的物理模型,即太赫兹辐射可以通过激光驱动的等离子体振荡^[121]、成丝^[122]以及等离子体波

在存在磁场或密度梯度时的非线性光参量过程产生^[123-125]。即使等离子体密度为 10^{16} cm^{-3} (等离子体频率约 1 THz),也能产生电场强度高达 10 GV/m 的等

离子体尾场^[126],还可以通过调整激光脉冲和等离子体密度分布,控制辐射光谱和带宽。

3.3.2 固体靶太赫兹源

在相对论激光等离子体相互作用产生太赫兹辐射的实验中,Hamster等^[68,127]发现来自固体靶的太赫兹辐射比气体靶约高出三个数量级。Chen等^[128]通过PIC(particle in cell)模拟发现相对论圆偏振激光脉冲与稠密等离子体靶相互作用时,光压引起的电子束的纵向运动可以产生波段位于红外和太赫兹光谱范围内的强电磁辐射。Sagisaka等^[129]提出天线机制解释激光照射薄箔靶产生的约0.5 μJ/sr太赫兹辐射,电子沿靶表面运动形成随时间变化的电流辐射太赫兹波,辐射光谱主要取决于电子运动周期,可近似认为电子运动周期为靶长度(电流方向)的一半。然而,在Gao等^[130]使用金属丝靶的实验中,并没有证据表明靶体

尺寸对太赫兹光谱的影响。

Liao等^[131]研究了固体靶产生太赫兹的物理机制,使用脉宽可调谐的皮秒强激光脉冲与不同横向尺寸的金属箔靶相互作用,将太赫兹脉冲功率提高到前所未有的太瓦(TW)水平。光谱的可调谐归因于各种太赫兹辐射产生机制之间的竞争,通过改变激光脉冲的持续时间或靶尺寸来调整产生太赫兹源的主导机制。图8给出了3种主要的太赫兹源产生方式之间的关系。激光固体靶产生太赫兹辐射,主要来源于激光加速的电子束穿过介电常数不连续的真空-等离子体界面时产生的渡越辐射,以及电子在鞘层中不断减速的过程中产生的辐射。图8(a)中显示了离开靶面产生的渡越辐射(TR),返回靶面产生的类韧致辐射(BR)以及鞘场辐射(SR),而图8(b)~图8(d)则表示不同参数条件下各种主导机制的转换。

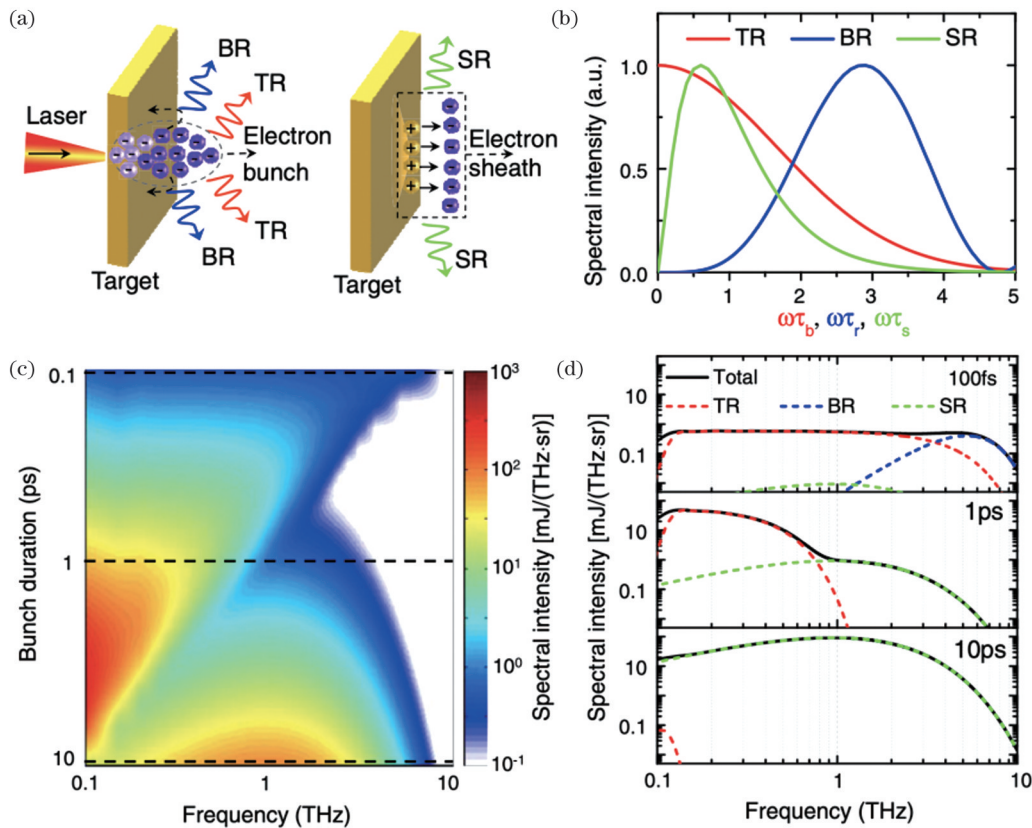


图8 靶背太赫兹辐射在不同机制下所占比例份额研究^[131]。(a)激光照射箔靶背产生太赫兹辐射的机制;(b)TR(红色)、BR(蓝色)和SR(绿色)光谱;(c)TR、BR和SR辐射谱;(d)由(c)中3条虚线处(100 fs,1 ps和10 ps)得到的频谱
Fig. 8 Study of proportional share of target-back terahertz radiation in different mechanisms^[131]. (a) Schematic illustration of THz-generation scenarios at rear side of laser-irradiated foil; (b) spectral profiles for TR(red), BR(blue), and SR(green); (c) resultant radiation spectra from TR, BR, and SR; (d) three lineouts (at 100 fs, 1 ps, and 10 ps) taken from (c)

Li等^[72,132-135]系统研究了小尺度预等离子体固体靶产生的太赫兹辐射,他们通过改变激光和等离子体参数,包括激光入射角、偏振和等离子体尺度,发现在靶的前表面会产生两种不同类型的太赫兹辐射。一种强度较强的靠近靶法线方向的辐射,主要是高频成分(>10 THz),其偏振特性与激光偏振相似;另一种强度较弱的靠近靶表面方向p偏振的辐射,以低频成分

(<3 THz)为主。研究发现,靶表面陡峭的等离子体密度梯度和大的激光入射角有利于产生低频太赫兹辐射,而大标长的密度梯度等离子体和小激光入射角则更有利于高频太赫兹辐射的产生。结合PIC模拟发现了两种表面电流源:一种是由低能电子在低密度等离子体中横向传输形成的径向电流,是10 THz以上高频辐射的主要来源;另一种是由快电子束沿靶体表面漂

移引起的电流^[136],是低于 3 THz 的太赫兹源的主要来源。Ding 等^[137-138]研究了激光固体靶相互作用产生的后向或前向热电子穿过固体靶表面时产生的半周期相干渡越辐射,通过优化预等离子体的密度标长,当激光强度约为 10^{18} W/cm² 时,太赫兹场的峰值可以达到 10 GV/m 以上。Gopal 等^[71]在激光照射薄金属箔的后表面观察到了径向极化的宽频带(0.3~30 THz)THz 脉冲,能量超过 460 μ J,通过改变激光能量,太赫兹产额与质子数呈二次方相关性,意味着辐射可以用偶极子模型解释,对太赫兹辐射进行聚焦,可以获得 MV/cm 级的纵向极化太赫兹场^[139]。Jin 等^[140]研究了太赫兹产额与铝箔靶厚度的关系,研究发现靶厚度从 30 μ m 减少到 2 μ m,会使太赫兹辐射的持续时间和能量增加三倍以上,这归因于电子在薄靶的前后鞘层之间多次回流。

Leemans 等^[73]在实验中证明激光尾场加速产生的约 1.5 nC 电子束通过渡越辐射可以产生频率为 0.3~3 THz 的太赫兹辐射,采集角 30 mrad 内的辐射能量为 3~5 nJ,进一步的模拟表明增加横向等离子体的大小和电子束的能量可以提升太赫兹辐射的能量^[141]。模拟结果还表明^[142],激光尾场加速产生的大角度纳库仑电子束通过薄金属箔的等离子体-真空界面,可以产生能量从几十微焦到毫焦级的强太赫兹辐射。

3.3.3 等离子体波导太赫兹源

Fedeli 等^[143]的研究表明,与平面靶相比,光栅或多层靶可以有效增强太赫兹辐射。Mondal 等^[144]在实验

中使用平面靶上沉积排列的铜纳米棒阵列,观察到超过了 10 倍的太赫兹能量(<20 THz)增强。Jin 等^[145]在超短超强激光脉冲与金属光栅靶的实验中得到了 1 μ m 左右的近红外辐射,如果将光栅的周期增加到大于 10 μ m,可以获得可调谐的太赫兹远红外辐射。Gopal 等^[146]通过将铝箔靶后出射的电子束传输到周期为 3~13 μ m 的光栅平面,产生了亚微焦量级太赫兹辐射。

Gao 等^[130]报道了激光照射金属丝产生太赫兹辐射以后,相继有多个团队在这方面进行了深入研究。Tian 等^[147]使用飞秒激光和金属丝靶,发现金属丝长度和直径会显著影响太赫兹能量和光谱,认为该太赫兹辐射产生机制是电子沿着靶表面的螺旋运动引起的波荡器辐射^[148],得到了峰值场强大于 8×10^9 V/m、能量转换效率 1% 的太赫兹辐射。Zhuo 等^[149]提出了载流天线理论模型,数值模拟结果显示激光辐照后金属丝就像一个载流天线,瞬时电流包括被金属丝表面导引的快电子^[149]和从激光焦点处热电子逃逸到真空中形成的电势所推动的背景冷电子^[150]。Tokita 等^[151-152]分别采用飞秒电子偏转法和电光采样法来测量沿导线传播的半周期强太赫兹 Sommerfeld 波^[153],Sommerfeld 波由从导线表面流向真空的热电子电流所激发,与渡越辐射类似。Wang 等^[154]利用激光离轴注入等离子体通道,激光在等离子体通道内不断发生线性模式转换,最终产生强度接近 1 GV/cm 的强太赫兹辐射,能量转换效率达到 10^{-3} ,如图 9 所示。

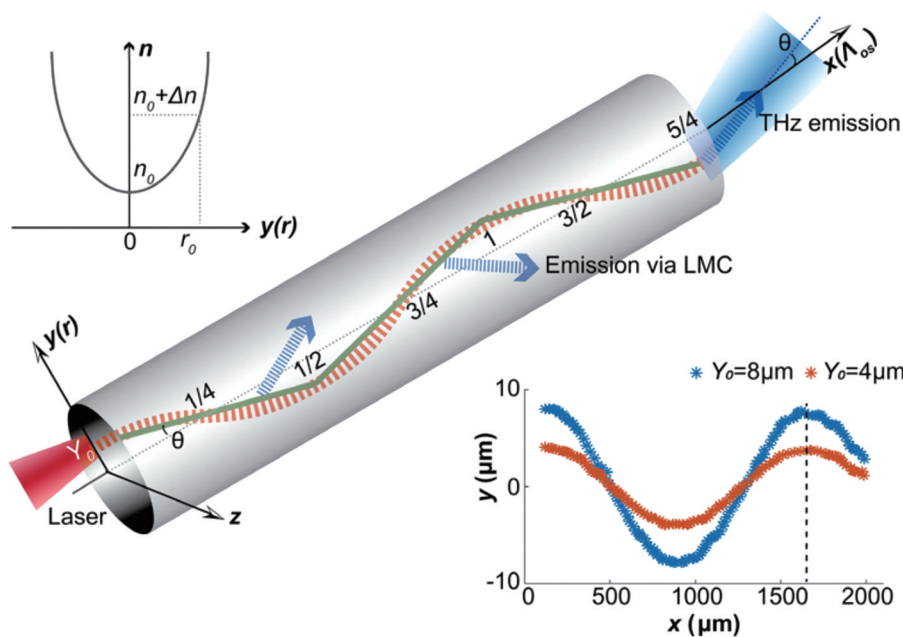


图 9 等离子体通道产生可调谐太赫兹波^[154]

Fig. 9 Plasma channel generates tunable terahertz waves^[154]

4 面临的挑战

半导体、有机晶体等固体材料存在能量损伤阈值,

泵浦激光强度高会造成热效应损伤,甚至直接汽化和离化。对于光导天线,一般来说太赫兹场强不会超过 1 MV/m,而且太赫兹能量会随激光脉冲强度的增

加而饱和^[155]。采用 LiNbO₃ 倾斜波前光整流则可以得到峰值强度约 400 MV/m 的太赫兹波,采用新一代的有机晶体则可以进一步将强度提高到 GV/m 级。此外,如何克服非线性晶体对太赫兹波的吸收也是一个需要考虑的问题;大多数用于产生太赫兹辐射的半导体是极性的(如 ZnTe, GaP, GaSe, GaAs 或有机材料),导致光学声子与周围的太赫兹辐射的共振效应,使得位于 1~15 THz 的 Reststrahlen 带中的辐射被强烈衰减^[156];倾斜波前 LiNbO₃ 晶体所产生的太赫兹脉冲光谱被材料吸收限制在 <3 THz 范围^[157]。

激光-气体等离子体相互作用能够突破晶体能量阈值的限制,但仍然面临挑战。激光强度为 10¹⁵ W/cm² 时光电流机制产生太赫兹波达到饱和^[108],继续提升光强后太赫兹波主要由等离子体波产生。等离子体波的密度 10¹⁶ cm⁻³ 对应的太赫兹波频率约为 10 THz^[158],而电子密度过低导致通过等离子体波产生的太赫兹能量和场强均会受到限制。因此,基于目前几种机制的气体等离子体太赫兹源难以进一步显著提升其强度和脉冲能量。

固体靶和结构靶太赫兹源是由激光加速电子的动理学行为产生的,太赫兹辐射的品质直接由加速电子束决定。采用平面固体靶渡越辐射方案可以获得能量大于 50 mJ 的强太赫兹波^[69]。在固体靶方案中,激光到超热电子的能量转换效率较低,导致最终产生的太赫兹辐射效率不高^[70]。

5 展 望

5.1 未来应用方向

太赫兹辐射的应用领域十分广泛。弱光条件下太赫兹波可作为探针光,应用于太赫兹成像(含芯片、生物组织)、分子鉴别、传感、医学影像、通信(无线通信、战场通信、空间通信)等应用领域;而随着太赫兹场强逐渐上升,可以将太赫兹波作为泵浦光应用于电子加速、材料调控(包含对声子、自旋态、铁电/铁磁畴、吸收、非线性等)、国防安全应用(含太赫兹雷达、太赫兹卫星等)等新兴应用场景^[159-160]。太赫兹源在过去 20 多年发展迅速,在强太赫兹源的理论 and 实验方面均取得了诸多重要进展,而太赫兹源强度的提升也将推动太赫兹应用的拓展,从较弱的太赫兹波作为探针光使用逐步转向可以承担泵浦光角色的强太赫兹波。

与弱场条件下主要观察特定的太赫兹模式(如声子或磁子)不同,强场太赫兹辐射的驱动场强导致物质呈现出前所未有的新状态^[11, 161-162],强太赫兹脉冲可以激发材料的非线性反应,将开辟太赫兹科学的全新应用领域^[11, 15, 28, 162-168]。研究表明强场太赫兹辐射激发的物质可能导致电^[169]或磁^[170]性质的大规模改变,使自由离子加速到 1 MeV^[171]甚至 50~100 MeV 的能量^[172]。最近的实验结果显示,强太赫兹辐射还可以造成磁秩的变换^[173-174]、光学声子的参量放大^[175]、自旋-晶格耦合

的新现象^[176-177],以及太赫兹加速器^[178]。此外,强太赫兹源在基础科学领域也有非常广阔的应用前景。研究人员利用太赫兹和远红外范围内的共振激发选择性地能量沉积到材料的特定低频模式,这对研究复杂物质的非平衡动力学具有重要意义,如非常规超导体、多铁材料和磁性材料^[10]。飞秒激光脉冲的波长通常在可见光或近红外范围内,其光子能量为 1~2 eV,远高于许多复杂材料的带隙能量,这类光子直接辐射材料会导致一系列非线性过程,掩盖微弱的低能现象。各种光学、太赫兹或超快 X 射线探测技术可以用来研究系统的反应,当电子、自旋和振动自由度之间的耦合被解开时,就有望解开集体现象的科学之谜。中红外泵浦实验已经证明上面提及的部分过程,比如激光可以对结构声子进行直接控制^[179]。同时,利用太赫兹脉冲接近 1 T 的高峰值磁场,可以实现对复杂材料磁性的超快速控制。

太赫兹辐射在量子传感和成像方面也有较大的应用价值,一个可见光子有可能通过非线性过程产生一对纠缠光子,即一个太赫兹光子和一个可见光子,这对纠缠光子可以用于鬼成像等应用。在这一应用中,太赫兹光子用于辐照样品,而对应的纠缠光子用于成像探测^[180],通过解析成像光子可以得到太赫兹光谱信息。这种方法利用了可见光的高探测灵敏性,但在实验中实现所需的纠缠十分困难。此外,太赫兹辐射还可用于时间分辨分子成像;对具有纳米空间结构的复杂靶材进行多维光谱表征十分具有挑战性,同步使用太赫兹泵浦和极紫外或 X 光进行相干衍射成像^[3]是一种可能的解决方案。

5.2 未来发展方向

在过去 20 年中,激光强太赫兹源的发展十分迅猛,已经在多个领域展现出极高的应用价值。随着应用的不断拓展,对太赫兹源的品质、能量、稳定性等参数提出了新的、更高的要求。此外,对于不同的应用场景,太赫兹源也需要便捷性、低成本以及极端环境下的适用性(如极端温度、极端辐射背景等)。单周期太赫兹源一般通过光整流、自由电子激光、自旋发射器、光电导开关等方式产生。单周期的脉冲源可以有效利用太赫兹特性,用于材料激发、探测、诊断、分子动力学研究等物理机制探究的应用领域。而多周期的准连续源^[181]则可针对不同的应用场景实现高便捷性、广泛适用性(表现为更宽的光谱、更高的极端环境抗性或更低廉的成本),一般使用四波混频、自由电子激光等机制产生。

提升太赫兹脉冲在单周期内的能量也是强太赫兹源的一个主要研究方向,例如在 1 THz 时的脉冲能量达到 0.1~1 mJ,且峰值场强达到 10 MV/cm。产生这样的强太赫兹源,需要克服峰值场强的限制并解决与单周期电子束之间的竞争。使用更大面积的晶体、更强的激光源和更先进的冷却方式,提升现有光整流技

术,是一个可行的方向。对于有机晶体的光整流,需要使用新的技术获得波长范围为 1200~1500 nm 的飞秒激光,如掺铬镁橄榄石激光器,同时还需要大面积非线性晶体镶嵌以避免材料损伤^[182]。超材料是一种可以控制电磁波幅值、相位、极化的人工材料,利用这样的材料可以得到 10^{-16} m²/V 的非线性系数,远远超过薄膜和块状材料,可以为非线性过程提供准相位匹配,从而高效率地产生强太赫兹辐射^[183]。

通过 GaSe 等材料的差频过程可以产生可调谐、相位稳定的多周期中红外(15~30 THz)脉冲^[184],中红外区域波长较短、聚焦更紧密,可以实现更高的峰值场强(>100 MV/cm)。利用等离子体中的不对称电离过程可以产生红外波段短脉冲和超宽带脉冲,但每个频率分量的场强幅值相对较低。

目前在 5~15 THz 的范围内缺少强太赫兹源^[160],尤其是可调谐的多周期强太赫兹源,这种源对该频率范围内激发光学声子或其他集体模式至关重要;5~15 THz 强场、窄带、可调谐的强太赫兹脉冲能够满足材料科学应用中的特定需求,可以直接针对低能量的集体现象,在复杂的材料系统中实现新的控制途径,而这些应用中需要能够引起谐振的强太赫兹源。这个新的“太赫兹缺口”将是未来几年光源发展的主要科学挑战之一。一个可能的方法是使用基于超强激光的太赫兹辐射源,如采用大能量皮秒激光脉冲的差频方案,这种方案将需要特定波长的驱动激光以及具有高二阶非线性系数 $\chi^{(2)}$ 且对太赫兹波吸收率较低的新型非线性材料。另一个方案是使用准相位匹配的光整流,但该方案同样需要研究和开发合适的非线性材料,使之能够提供足够的相位匹配、低太赫兹波吸收率、高损伤阈值和高非线性系数。最后,还可以采用气体等离子体或固体靶、结构靶等方式,通过相对论电子动力学行为产生高品质超强太赫兹辐射。

参 考 文 献

- [1] Ulbricht R, Hendry E, Shan J E, et al. Carrier dynamics in semiconductors studied with time-resolved terahertz spectroscopy [J]. *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 2011, 83(2): 543-586.
- [2] Jepsen P U, Cooke D G, Koch M. Terahertz spectroscopy and imaging: modern techniques and applications[J]. *Laser & Photonics Reviews*, 2011, 5(1): 124-166.
- [3] Zhang X C, Shkurinov A, Zhang Y. Extreme terahertz science[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2017, 11(1): 16-18.
- [4] Koenig S, Lopez-Diaz D, Antes J, et al. Wireless sub-THz communication system with high data rate[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2013, 7(12): 977-981.
- [5] 江雪雷, 许颖. 利用太赫兹时域光谱对覆盖层下钢板锈蚀厚度的无损检测[J]. *光学学报*, 2022, 42(13): 1312001.
Jiang X L, Xu Y. Non-destructive detection of corrosion thickness of steel plate under covering layer by terahertz time domain spectroscopy[J]. *Acta Optica Sinica*, 2022, 42(13): 1312001.
- [6] 李丽, 葛宏义, 蒋玉英, 等. 太赫兹波在 6G 通信网络中的研究进展[J]. *激光与光电子学进展*, 2022, 59(13): 1300007.
Li L, Ge H Y, Jiang Y Y, et al. Research progress of terahertz wave in 6G communication network[J]. *Laser & Optoelectronics Progress*, 2022, 59(13): 1300007.
- [7] Kleine-Ostmann T, Nagatsuma T. A review on terahertz communications research[J]. *Journal of Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves*, 2011, 32(2): 143-171.
- [8] Choi W J, Cheng G, Huang Z Y, et al. Terahertz circular dichroism spectroscopy of biomaterials enabled by kirigami polarization modulators[J]. *Nature Materials*, 2019, 18(8): 820-826.
- [9] Bergé L, Kaltenecker K, Engelbrecht S, et al. Terahertz spectroscopy from air plasmas created by two-color femtosecond laser pulses: the ALTESSE project[J]. *EPL (Europhysics Letters)*, 2019, 126(2): 24001.
- [10] Basov D N, Averitt R D, van der Marel D, et al. Electrodynamics of correlated electron materials[J]. *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 2011, 83(2): 471-541.
- [11] Kampfrath T, Tanaka K, Nelson K A. Resonant and nonresonant control over matter and light by intense terahertz transients[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2013, 7(9): 680-690.
- [12] Vicario C, Ruchert C, Ardana-Lamas F, et al. Off-resonant magnetization dynamics phase-locked to an intense phase-stable terahertz transient[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2013, 7(9): 720-723.
- [13] Zhao L R, Wang Z, Tang H, et al. Terahertz oscilloscope for recording time information of ultrashort electron beams[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2019, 122(14): 144801.
- [14] Hibberd M T, Healy A L, Lake D S, et al. Acceleration of relativistic beams using laser-generated terahertz pulses[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2020, 14(12): 755-759.
- [15] Hafez H A, Chai X, Ibrahim A, et al. Intense terahertz radiation and their applications[J]. *Journal of Optics*, 2016, 18(9): 093004.
- [16] Tonouchi M. Cutting-edge terahertz technology[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2007, 1(2): 97-105.
- [17] Maestrini A, Ward J S, Gill J J, et al. A 540-640-GHz high-efficiency four-anode frequency tripler[J]. *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques*, 2005, 53(9): 2835-2843.
- [18] Crowe T W, Mattauch R J, Roser H P, et al. GaAs Schottky diodes for THz mixing applications[J]. *Proceedings of the IEEE*, 1992, 80(11): 1827-1841.
- [19] Köhler R, Tredicucci A, Beltram F, et al. Terahertz semiconductor-heterostructure laser[J]. *Nature*, 2002, 417(6885): 156-159.
- [20] Faist J, Capasso F, Sivco D L, et al. Quantum cascade laser[J]. *Science*, 1994, 264(5158): 553-556.
- [21] Kazarinov R F, Suris R A. Possible amplification of electromagnetic waves in a semiconductor with a superlattice[J]. *Soviet Physics Semiconductors*, 1971, 5: 707-709.
- [22] Zhao F Y, Li Y Y, Liu J Q, et al. Sampled grating terahertz quantum cascade lasers[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2019, 114(14): 141105.
- [23] Walther C, Fischer M, Scari G, et al. Quantum cascade lasers operating from 1.2 to 1.6 THz[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2007, 91(13): 131122.
- [24] Bachmann D, Rösch M, Süess M J, et al. Short pulse generation and mode control of broadband terahertz quantum cascade lasers[J]. *Optica*, 2016, 3(10): 1087-1094.
- [25] Wynne K, Carey J J. An integrated description of terahertz generation through optical rectification, charge transfer, and current surge[J]. *Optics Communications*, 2005, 256(4/5/6): 400-413.
- [26] Boyd R W. *Nonlinear optics*[M]. 4th ed. New York: Academic Press, 2020.
- [27] Vodopyanov K L. Optical generation of narrow-band terahertz packets in periodically-inverted electro-optic crystals: conversion efficiency and optimal laser pulse format[J]. *Optics Express*, 2006, 14(6): 2263-2276.
- [28] Hoffmann M C, Fülöp J A. Intense ultrashort terahertz pulses: generation and applications[J]. *Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics*, 2011, 44(8): 083001.

- [29] Hebling J, Almasi G, Kozma I, et al. Velocity matching by pulse front tilting for large area THz-pulse generation[J]. *Optics Express*, 2002, 10(21): 1161-1166.
- [30] Auston D H, Cheung K P, Smith P R. Picosecond photoconducting hertzian dipoles[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1984, 45(3): 284-286.
- [31] You D, Dykaar D R, Jones R R, et al. Generation of high-power sub-single-cycle 500-fs electromagnetic pulses[J]. *Optics Letters*, 1993, 18(4): 290-292.
- [32] Jones R R, You D, Bucksbaum P H. Ionization of Rydberg atoms by subpicosecond half-cycle electromagnetic pulses[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 1993, 70(9): 1236-1239.
- [33] Ropagnol X, Khorasaninejad M, Raeiszadeh M, et al. Intense THz pulses with large ponderomotive potential generated from large aperture photoconductive antennas[J]. *Optics Express*, 2016, 24(11): 11299-11311.
- [34] 谷建强, 王可蒙, 许祎, 等. 基于超材料的太赫兹光电导天线[J]. *中国激光*, 2021, 48(19): 1914004.
Gu J Q, Wang K M, Xu Y, et al. Metamaterials-based terahertz photoconductive antennas[J]. *Chinese Journal of Lasers*, 2021, 48(19): 1914004.
- [35] Seifert T, Jaiswal S, Martens U, et al. Efficient metallic spintronic emitters of ultrabroadband terahertz radiation[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2016, 10(7): 483-488.
- [36] Hibberd M T, Lake D S, Johansson N A B, et al. Magnetic-field tailoring of the terahertz polarization emitted from a spintronic source[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2019, 114(3): 031101.
- [37] Chen X H, Wu X J, Shan S Y, et al. Generation and manipulation of chiral broadband terahertz waves from cascade spintronic terahertz emitters[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2019, 115(22): 221104.
- [38] Sengupta K, Nagatsuma T, Mittleman D M. Terahertz integrated electronic and hybrid electronic-photonics systems[J]. *Nature Electronics*, 2018, 1(12): 622-635.
- [39] Petrov A Y. Non-reciprocal modulation via acousto-optics[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2018, 12(10): 570-571.
- [40] Pálfalvi L, Ollmann Z, Tokodi L, et al. Hybrid tilted-pulse-front excitation scheme for efficient generation of high-energy terahertz pulses[J]. *Optics Express*, 2016, 24(8): 8156-8169.
- [41] Nugraha P S, Krizsán G, Lombosi C, et al. Demonstration of a tilted-pulse-front pumped plane-parallel slab terahertz source[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2019, 44(4): 1023-1026.
- [42] Pálfalvi L, Tóth G, Tokodi L, et al. Numerical investigation of a scalable setup for efficient terahertz generation using a segmented tilted-pulse-front excitation[J]. *Optics Express*, 2017, 25(24): 29560-29573.
- [43] Braun A, Korn G, Liu X, et al. Self-channeling of high-peak-power femtosecond laser pulses in air[J]. *Optics Letters*, 1995, 20(1): 73-75.
- [44] Bergé L, Skupin S, Nuter R, et al. Ultrashort filaments of light in weakly ionized, optically transparent media[J]. *Reports on Progress in Physics*, 2007, 70(10): 1633-1713.
- [45] Bergé L, Skupin S, Köhler C, et al. 3D numerical simulations of THz generation by two-color laser filaments[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2013, 110(7): 073901.
- [46] D'Amico C, Houard A, Franco M, et al. Conical forward THz emission from femtosecond-laser-beam filamentation in air[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2007, 98(23): 235002.
- [47] Daigle J F, Théberge F, Henriksson M, et al. Remote THz generation from two-color filamentation: long distance dependence [J]. *Optics Express*, 2012, 20(6): 6825-6834.
- [48] Clerici M, Peccianti M, Schmidt B E, et al. Wavelength scaling of terahertz generation by gas ionization[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2013, 110(25): 253901.
- [49] Wang T J, Yuan S A, Chen Y P, et al. Toward remote high energy terahertz generation[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2010, 97(11): 111108.
- [50] de Alaiza Martínez P G, Babushkin I, Bergé L, et al. Boosting terahertz generation in laser-field ionized gases using a sawtooth wave shape[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2015, 114(18): 183901.
- [51] Löffler T, Jacob F, Roskos H G. Generation of terahertz pulses by photoionization of electrically biased air[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2000, 77(3): 453-455.
- [52] Cook D J, Hochstrasser R M. Intense terahertz pulses by four-wave rectification in air[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2000, 25(16): 1210-1212.
- [53] Kress M, Löffler T, Eden S, et al. Terahertz-pulse generation by photoionization of air with laser pulses composed of both fundamental and second-harmonic waves[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2004, 29(10): 1120-1122.
- [54] Kim K Y, Taylor A J, Glowina J H, et al. Coherent control of terahertz supercontinuum generation in ultrafast laser-gas interactions[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2008, 2(10): 605-609.
- [55] Kim K Y, Glowina J H, Taylor A J, et al. Terahertz emission from ultrafast ionizing air in symmetry-broken laser fields[J]. *Optics Express*, 2007, 15(8): 4577-4584.
- [56] Roskos H G, Thomson M D, Kreß M, et al. Broadband THz emission from gas plasmas induced by femtosecond optical pulses: from fundamentals to applications[J]. *Laser & Photonics Review*, 2007, 1(4): 349-368.
- [57] Babushkin I, Skupin S, Husakou A, et al. Tailoring terahertz radiation by controlling tunnel photoionization events in gases[J]. *New Journal of Physics*, 2011, 13(12): 123029.
- [58] Keldysh L. Ionization in the field of a strong electromagnetic wave [J]. *Soviet Physics JETP*, 1965, 20(5): 1307-1314.
- [59] Perelomov A, Popov V S, Terentev M. Ionization of atoms in an alternating electric field[J]. *Soviet Physics JETP*, 1966, 23(5): 924-934.
- [60] Nguyen A, González de Alaiza Martínez P, Déchard J, et al. Spectral dynamics of THz pulses generated by two-color laser filaments in air: the role of Kerr nonlinearities and pump wavelength [J]. *Optics Express*, 2017, 25(5): 4720-4740.
- [61] Babushkin I, Kuehn W, Köhler C, et al. Ultrafast spatiotemporal dynamics of terahertz generation by ionizing two-color femtosecond pulses in gases[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2010, 105(5): 053903.
- [62] Debayle A, Gremillet L, Bergé L, et al. Analytical model for THz emissions induced by laser-gas interaction[J]. *Optics Express*, 2014, 22(11): 13691-13709.
- [63] Amico C D, Houard A, Akturk S, et al. Forward THz radiation emission by femtosecond filamentation in gases: theory and experiment[J]. *New Journal of Physics*, 2008, 10(1): 013015.
- [64] Sprangle P, Peñano J R, Hafizi B, et al. Ultrashort laser pulses and electromagnetic pulse generation in air and on dielectric surfaces[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2004, 69(6): 066415.
- [65] Thiele I, Nuter R, Bousquet B, et al. Theory of terahertz emission from femtosecond-laser-induced microplasmas[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2016, 94(6): 063202.
- [66] González de Alaiza Martínez P, Davoine X, Debayle A, et al. Terahertz radiation driven by two-color laser pulses at near-relativistic intensities: competition between photoionization and Wakefield effects[J]. *Scientific Reports*, 2016, 6: 26743.
- [67] Thiele I, Zhou B, Nguyen A, et al. Terahertz emission from laser-driven gas plasmas: a plasmonic point of view[J]. *Optica*, 2018, 5(12): 1617-1622.
- [68] Hamster H, Sullivan A, Gordon S, et al. Subpicosecond, electromagnetic pulses from intense laser-plasma interaction[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 1993, 71(17): 2725-2728.
- [69] Liao G Q, Li Y T, Liu H, et al. Multimillijoule coherent terahertz bursts from picosecond laser-irradiated metal foils[J]. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 2019, 116(10): 3994-3999.
- [70] Liao G Q, Li Y T, Li C, et al. Bursts of terahertz radiation from large-scale plasmas irradiated by relativistic picosecond laser pulses [J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2015, 114(25): 255001.

- [71] Gopal A, Herzer S, Schmidt A, et al. Observation of gigawatt-class THz pulses from a compact laser-driven particle accelerator [J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2013, 111(7): 074802.
- [72] Li C, Liao G Q, Zhou M L, et al. Backward terahertz radiation from intense laser-solid interactions[J]. *Optics Express*, 2016, 24(4): 4010-4021.
- [73] Leemans W P, Geddes C G R, Faure J, et al. Observation of terahertz emission from a laser-plasma accelerated electron bunch crossing a plasma-vacuum boundary[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2003, 91(7): 074802.
- [74] Liao G Q, Li Y T, Zhang Y H, et al. Demonstration of coherent terahertz transition radiation from relativistic laser-solid interactions [J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2016, 116(20): 205003.
- [75] Déchard J, Debayle A, Davoine X, et al. Terahertz pulse generation in underdense relativistic plasmas: from photoionization-induced radiation to coherent transition radiation[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2018, 120(14): 144801.
- [76] Freidberg J P, Mitchell R W, Morse R L, et al. Resonant absorption of laser light by plasma targets[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 1972, 28(13): 795-799.
- [77] Kuratov A S, Brantov A V, Aliev Y M, et al. Terahertz radiation in laser-induced charge separation in the irradiated plasma target[J]. *Quantum Electronics*, 2016, 46(11): 1023-1030.
- [78] Herzer S, Woldegeorgis A, Polz J, et al. An investigation on THz yield from laser-produced solid density plasmas at relativistic laser intensities[J]. *New Journal of Physics*, 2018, 20(6): 063019.
- [79] Garibian G. Contribution to the theory of transition radiation[J]. *Soviet Physics JETP*, 1958, 6(6): 1079.
- [80] Wu Z R, Fisher A S, Goodfellow J, et al. Intense terahertz pulses from SLAC electron beams using coherent transition radiation[J]. *Review of Scientific Instruments*, 2013, 84(2): 022701.
- [81] Macchi A, Borghesi M, Passoni M. Ion acceleration by superintense laser-plasma interaction[J]. *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 2013, 85(2): 751-793.
- [82] Mora P. Plasma expansion into a vacuum[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2003, 90(18): 185002.
- [83] Kahaly S, Yadav S K, Wang W M, et al. Near-complete absorption of intense, ultrashort laser light by sub- λ gratings[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2008, 101(14): 145001.
- [84] Kulcsár G, Al Mawlawi D, Budnik F W, et al. Intense picosecond X-ray pulses from laser plasmas by use of nanostructured "velvet" targets[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2000, 84(22): 5149-5152.
- [85] Fedeli L, Sgattoni A, Cantono G, et al. Relativistic surface plasmon enhanced harmonic generation from gratings[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2017, 110(5): 051103.
- [86] Ceccotti T, Floquet V, Sgattoni A, et al. Evidence of resonant surface-wave excitation in the relativistic regime through measurements of proton acceleration from grating targets[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2013, 111(18): 185001.
- [87] Smith S J, Purcell E M. Visible light from localized surface charges moving across a grating[J]. *Physical Review*, 1953, 92(4): 1069.
- [88] Kodama R, Sentoku Y, Chen Z L, et al. Plasma devices to guide and collimate a high density of MeV electrons[J]. *Nature*, 2004, 432(7020): 1005-1008.
- [89] Wang K L, Mittleman D M. Metal wires for terahertz wave guiding [J]. *Nature*, 2004, 432(7015): 376-379.
- [90] Yang K H, Richards P L, Shen Y R. Generation of far-infrared radiation by picosecond light pulses in LiNbO_3 [J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1971, 19(9): 320-323.
- [91] Auston D H, Cheung K P, Valdmanis J A, et al. Cherenkov radiation from femtosecond optical pulses in electro-optic media[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 1984, 53(16): 1555-1558.
- [92] Blanchard F, Razzari L, Bandulet H C, et al. Generation of 1.5 μJ single-cycle terahertz pulses by optical rectification from a large aperture ZnTe crystal[J]. *Optics Express*, 2007, 15(20): 13212-13220.
- [93] Löffler T, Hahn T, Thomson M, et al. Large-area electro-optic ZnTe terahertz emitters[J]. *Optics Express*, 2005, 13(14): 5353-5362.
- [94] Jang D, Sung J H, Lee S K, et al. Generation of 0.7 mJ multicycle 15 THz radiation by phase-matched optical rectification in lithium niobate[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2020, 45(13): 3617-3620.
- [95] 吴晓君, 任泽君, 孔德胤, 等. 铌酸锂强场太赫兹光源及其应用 [J]. *中国激光*, 2022, 49(19): 1914001.
- Wu X J, Ren Z J, Kong D Y, et al. Lithium niobate strong-field terahertz source and its applications[J]. *Chinese Journal of Lasers*, 2022, 49(19): 1914001.
- [96] Hebling J, Stepanov A G, Almási G, et al. Tunable THz pulse generation by optical rectification of ultrashort laser pulses with tilted pulse fronts[J]. *Applied Physics B*, 2004, 78(5): 593-599.
- [97] Blanchard F, Ropagnol X, Hafez H, et al. Effect of extreme pump pulse reshaping on intense terahertz emission in lithium niobate at multimillijoule pump energies[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2014, 39(15): 4333-4336.
- [98] Huang S W, Granados E, Huang W R, et al. High conversion efficiency, high energy terahertz pulses by optical rectification in cryogenically cooled lithium niobate[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2013, 38(5): 796-798.
- [99] Zhang X C, Ma X F, Jin Y, et al. Terahertz optical rectification from a nonlinear organic crystal[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1992, 61(26): 3080-3082.
- [100] Hauri C P, Ruchert C, Vicario C, et al. Strong-field single-cycle THz pulses generated in an organic crystal[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2011, 99(16): 161116.
- [101] Vicario C, Ovchinnikov A V, Ashitkov S I, et al. Generation of 0.9-mJ THz pulses in DSTMS pumped by a $\text{Cr:Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$ laser[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2014, 39(23): 6632-6635.
- [102] Wu X J, Carbajo S, Ravi K, et al. Terahertz generation in lithium niobate driven by Ti: sapphire laser pulses and its limitations[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2014, 39(18): 5403-5406.
- [103] Shen Y C, Upadhyaya P C, Linfield E H, et al. Ultrabroadband terahertz radiation from low-temperature-grown GaAs photoconductive emitters[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2003, 83(15): 3117-3119.
- [104] Hale P J, Madeo J, Chin C, et al. 20 THz broadband generation using semi-insulating GaAs interdigitated photoconductive antennas [J]. *Optics Express*, 2014, 22(21): 26358-26364.
- [105] Yardimci N T, Yang S H, Berry C W, et al. High-power terahertz generation using large-area plasmonic photoconductive emitters[J]. *IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology*, 2015, 5(2): 223-229.
- [106] Andreeva V A, Kosareva O G, Panov N A, et al. Ultrabroad terahertz spectrum generation from an air-based filament plasma[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2016, 116(6): 063902.
- [107] Yu Fedorov V, Koulouklidis A D, Tzortzakis S. THz generation by two-color femtosecond filaments with complex polarization states: four-wave mixing versus photocurrent contributions[J]. *Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion*, 2017, 59(1): 014025.
- [108] Lu C H, He T, Zhang L Q, et al. Effect of two-color laser pulse duration on intense terahertz generation at different laser intensities [J]. *Physical Review A*, 2015, 92(6): 063850.
- [109] Jahangiri F, Hashida M, Nagashima T, et al. Intense terahertz emission from atomic cluster plasma produced by intense femtosecond laser pulses[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2011, 99(26): 261503.
- [110] Jahangiri F, Hashida M, Tokita S, et al. Enhancing the energy of terahertz radiation from plasma produced by intense femtosecond laser pulses[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2013, 102(19): 191106.
- [111] Mori K, Hashida M, Nagashima T, et al. Directional linearly polarized terahertz emission from argon clusters irradiated by noncollinear double-pulse beams[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2017, 111(24): 241107.
- [112] Koulouklidis A D, Gollner C, Shumakova V, et al. Observation

- of extremely efficient terahertz generation from mid-infrared two-color laser filaments[J]. *Nature Communications*, 2020, 11: 292.
- [113] Zhang L L, Wang W M, Wu T, et al. Observation of terahertz radiation via the two-color laser scheme with uncommon frequency ratios[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2017, 119(23): 235001.
- [114] You Y S, Oh T I, Kim K Y. Off-axis phase-matched terahertz emission from two-color laser-induced plasma filaments[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2012, 109(18): 183902.
- [115] Sheng Z M, Mima K, Zhang J E, et al. Emission of electromagnetic pulses from laser wakefields through linear mode conversion[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2005, 94(9): 095003.
- [116] Sheng Z M, Mima K, Zhang J E. Powerful terahertz emission from laser wake fields excited in inhomogeneous plasmas[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2005, 12(12): 123103.
- [117] Hu Z D, Sheng Z M, Ding W J, et al. Electromagnetic emission from laser wakefields in magnetized underdense plasmas[J]. *Plasma Science and Technology*, 2012, 14(10): 874-879.
- [118] Yoshii J, Lai C H, Katsouleas T, et al. Radiation from Cerenkov wakes in a magnetized plasma[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 1997, 79(21): 4194-4197.
- [119] Yugami N, Higashiguchi T, Gao H, et al. Experimental observation of radiation from Cerenkov wakes in a magnetized plasma[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2002, 89(6): 065003.
- [120] Wang W M, Gibbon P, Sheng Z M, et al. Tunable circularly polarized terahertz radiation from magnetized gas plasma[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2015, 114(25): 253901.
- [121] Wu H C, Sheng Z M, Zhang J E. Single-cycle powerful megawatt to gigawatt terahertz pulse radiated from a wavelength-scale plasma oscillator[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2008, 77(4): 046405.
- [122] Wu H C, Meyer-ter-Vehn J, Ruhl H, et al. Terahertz radiation from a laser plasma filament[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2011, 83(3): 036407.
- [123] Liu Z J, He X T, Zheng C Y, et al. Excitation of coherent terahertz radiation by stimulated Raman scatterings[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2010, 17(2): 024502.
- [124] Singh M, Sharma R P. Generation of THz radiation by laser plasma interaction[J]. *Contributions to Plasma Physics*, 2013, 53(7): 540-548.
- [125] Bakhtiari F, Esmaeilzadeh M, Ghafary B. Terahertz radiation with high power and high efficiency in a magnetized plasma[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2017, 24(7): 073112.
- [126] Esarey E, Sprangle P, Krall J, et al. Overview of plasma-based accelerator concepts[J]. *IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science*, 1996, 24(2): 252-288.
- [127] Hamster H, Sullivan A, Gordon S, et al. Short-pulse terahertz radiation from high-intensity-laser-produced plasmas[J]. *Physical Review E*, 1994, 49(1): 671-677.
- [128] Chen Z Y, Li X Y, Yu W. Intense terahertz emission from relativistic circularly polarized laser pulses interaction with overdense plasmas[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2013, 20(10): 103115.
- [129] Sagisaka A, Daido H, Nashima S, et al. Simultaneous generation of a proton beam and terahertz radiation in high-intensity laser and thin-foil interaction[J]. *Applied Physics B*, 2008, 90(3): 373-377.
- [130] Gao Y A, Drake T, Chen Z Y, et al. Half-cycle-pulse terahertz emission from an ultrafast laser plasma in a solid target[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2008, 33(23): 2776-2778.
- [131] Liao G Q, Liu H, Scott G G, et al. Towards terawatt-scale spectrally tunable terahertz pulses via relativistic laser-foil interactions[J]. *Physical Review X*, 2020, 10(3): 031062.
- [132] Li C, Zhou M L, Ding W J, et al. Effects of laser-plasma interactions on terahertz radiation from solid targets irradiated by ultrashort intense laser pulses[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2011, 84(3): 036405.
- [133] Li Y T, Li C, Zhou M L, et al. Strong terahertz radiation from relativistic laser interaction with solid density plasmas[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2012, 100(25): 254101.
- [134] Li C, Cui Y Q, Zhou M L, et al. Role of resonance absorption in terahertz radiation generation from solid targets[J]. *Optics Express*, 2014, 22(10): 11797-11803.
- [135] Liao G Q, Li Y T, Li C, et al. Terahertz emission from two-plasmon-decay induced transient currents in laser-solid interactions[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2016, 23(1): 013104.
- [136] Li Y T, Yuan X H, Xu M H, et al. Observation of a fast electron beam emitted along the surface of a target irradiated by intense femtosecond laser pulses[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2006, 96(16): 165003.
- [137] Ding W J, Sheng Z M. Sub GV/cm terahertz radiation from relativistic laser-solid interactions via coherent transition radiation[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2016, 93(6): 063204.
- [138] Ding W J, Sheng Z M, Koh W S. High-field half-cycle terahertz radiation from relativistic laser interaction with thin solid targets[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2013, 103(20): 204107.
- [139] Woldegeorgis A, Kurihara T, Almassarani M, et al. Multi-MV/cm longitudinally polarized terahertz pulses from laser-thin foil interaction[J]. *Optica*, 2018, 5(11): 1474-1477.
- [140] Jin Z, Zhuo H B, Nakazawa T, et al. Highly efficient terahertz radiation from a thin foil irradiated by a high-contrast laser pulse[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2016, 94(3): 033206.
- [141] Schroeder C B, Esarey E, van Tilborg J, et al. Theory of coherent transition radiation generated at a plasma-vacuum interface[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2004, 69(1): 016501.
- [142] Yang X E, Brunetti E, Jaroszynski D A. High-energy coherent terahertz radiation emitted by wide-angle electron beams from a laser-wakefield accelerator[J]. *New Journal of Physics*, 2018, 20(4): 043046.
- [143] Fedeli L, Formenti A, Cialfi L, et al. Structured targets for advanced laser-driven sources[J]. *Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion*, 2018, 60(1): 014013.
- [144] Mondal S, Wei Q, Ding W J, et al. Aligned copper nanorod arrays for highly efficient generation of intense ultra-broadband THz pulses[J]. *Scientific Reports*, 2017, 7: 40058.
- [145] Jin Z, Chen Z L, Zhuo H B, et al. Tunable radiation source by coupling laser-plasma-generated electrons to a periodic structure[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2011, 107(26): 265003.
- [146] Gopal A, Woldegeorgis A H, Herzer S, et al. Smith-Purcell radiation in the terahertz regime using charged particle beams from laser-matter interactions[J]. *Laser and Particle Beams*, 2016, 34(1): 187-191.
- [147] Tian Y, Liu J S, Bai Y F, et al. Femtosecond-laser-driven wire-guided helical undulator for intense terahertz radiation[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2017, 11(4): 242-246.
- [148] Nakajima K. Novel efficient THz undulator using a laser-driven wire[J]. *Light: Science & Applications*, 2017, 6(5): e17063.
- [149] Zhuo H B, Zhang S J, Li X H, et al. Terahertz generation from laser-driven ultrafast current propagation along a wire target[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2017, 95(1): 013201.
- [150] Li Z C, Zheng J A. Terahertz radiation from a wire target irradiated by an ultra-intense laser pulse[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2007, 14(5): 054505.
- [151] Tokita S, Sakabe S, Nagashima T, et al. Strong sub-terahertz surface waves generated on a metal wire by high-intensity laser pulses[J]. *Scientific Reports*, 2015, 5: 8268.
- [152] Teramoto K, Tokita S, Terao T, et al. Half-cycle terahertz surface waves with MV/cm field strengths generated on metal wires[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2018, 113(5): 051101.
- [153] Jeon T I, Zhang J Q, Grischkowsky D. THz Sommerfeld wave propagation on a single metal wire[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2005, 86(16): 161904.
- [154] Wang L Z, Chen Y P, Zhang G W, et al. Tunable high-field terahertz radiation from plasma channels[J]. *Laser & Photonics Reviews*, 2023, 17(6): 202200627.
- [155] Suen J Y, Li W, Taylor Z D, et al. Characterization and modeling of a terahertz photoconductive switch[J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 2010, 96(14): 141103.

- [156] Korte E H, Röseler A. Infrared reststrahlen revisited: commonly disregarded optical details related to $n < 1$ [J]. *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*, 2005, 382(8): 1987-1992.
- [157] Fülöp J A, Tzortzakos S, Kampfrath T. Laser-driven strong-field terahertz sources[J]. *Advanced Optical Materials*, 2020, 8(3): 1900681.
- [158] Pearson A J, Palastro J, Antonsen T M. Simulation of terahertz generation in corrugated plasma waveguides[J]. *Physical Review E*, 2011, 83(5): 056403.
- [159] Leitenstorfer A, Moskalenko A S, Kampfrath T, et al. The 2023 terahertz science and technology roadmap[J]. *Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics*, 2023, 56(22): 223001.
- [160] Dhillon S S, Vitiello M S, Linfield E H, et al. The 2017 terahertz science and technology roadmap[J]. *Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics*, 2017, 50(4): 043001.
- [161] Baierl S, Hohenleutner M, Kampfrath T, et al. Nonlinear spin control by terahertz-driven anisotropy fields[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2016, 10(11): 715-718.
- [162] Nicoletti D, Cavalleri A. Nonlinear light-matter interaction at terahertz frequencies[J]. *Advances in Optics and Photonics*, 2016, 8(3): 401.
- [163] Hebling J, Yeh K L, Hoffmann M C, et al. High-power THz generation, THz nonlinear optics, and THz nonlinear spectroscopy [J]. *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics*, 2008, 14(2): 345-353.
- [164] Tanaka K, Hirori H, Nagai M. THz nonlinear spectroscopy of solids[J]. *IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology*, 2011, 1(1): 301-312.
- [165] Stojanovic N, Drescher M. Accelerator- and laser-based sources of high-field terahertz pulses[J]. *Journal of Physics B: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics*, 2013, 46(19): 192001.
- [166] Pashkin A, Junginger F, Mayer B, et al. Quantum physics with ultrabroadband and intense terahertz pulses[J]. *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics*, 2013, 19(1): 8401608.
- [167] Hwang H Y, Fleischer S, Brandt N C, et al. A review of nonlinear terahertz spectroscopy with ultrashort tabletop-laser pulses [J]. *Journal of Modern Optics*, 2015, 62(18): 1447-1479.
- [168] Mittleman D M. Perspective: terahertz science and technology[J]. *Journal of Applied Physics*, 2017, 122(23): 230901.
- [169] Qi T T, Shin Y H, Yeh K L, et al. Collective coherent control: synchronization of polarization in ferroelectric PbTiO_3 by shaped THz fields[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2009, 102(24): 247603.
- [170] Wienholdt S, Hinzke D, Nowak U. THz switching of antiferromagnets and ferrimagnets[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2012, 108(24): 247207.
- [171] Sharma A, Tibai Z, Hebling J. Intense terahertz laser driven proton acceleration in plasmas[J]. *Physics of Plasmas*, 2016, 23(6): 063111.
- [172] Pálfalvi L, Fülöp J A, Tóth G, et al. Evanescent-wave proton postaccelerator driven by intense THz pulse[J]. *Physical Review Special Topics-Accelerators and Beams*, 2014, 17(3): 031301.
- [173] Olejnik K, Seifert T, Kašpar Z, et al. Terahertz electrical writing speed in an antiferromagnetic memory[J]. *Science Advances*, 2018, 4(3): eaar3566.
- [174] Schlauderer S, Lange C, Baierl S, et al. Temporal and spectral fingerprints of ultrafast all-coherent spin switching[J]. *Nature*, 2019, 569(7756): 383-387.
- [175] Cartella A, Nova T F, Fechner M, et al. Parametric amplification of optical phonons[J]. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 2018, 115(48): 12148-12151.
- [176] Nova T F, Cartella A, Cantaluppi A, et al. An effective magnetic field from optically driven phonons[J]. *Nature Physics*, 2017, 13(2): 132-136.
- [177] Maehrlein S F, Radu I, Maldonado P, et al. Dissecting spin-phonon equilibration in ferrimagnetic insulators by ultrafast lattice excitation[J]. *Science Advances*, 2018, 4(7): eaar5164.
- [178] Nanni E A, Huang W R, Hong K H, et al. Terahertz-driven linear electron acceleration[J]. *Nature Communications*, 2015, 6: 8486.
- [179] Fausti D, Tobey R I, Dean N, et al. Light-induced superconductivity in a stripe-ordered cuprate[J]. *Science*, 2011, 331(6014): 189-191.
- [180] Kalashnikov D A, Paterova A V, Kulik S P, et al. Infrared spectroscopy with visible light[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2016, 10(2): 98-101.
- [181] 焦宇峰, 郭素杰, 孔德胤, 等. 连续波频域太赫兹光谱系统的研究[J]. *中国激光*, 2022, 49(19): 1914002.
- Jiao Y F, Guo S J, Kong D Y, et al. Study on terahertz spectrum system of continuous wave frequency domain[J]. *Chinese Journal of Lasers*, 2022, 49(19): 1914002.
- [182] Vicario C, Monoszlai B, Hauri C P. GV/m single-cycle terahertz fields from a laser-driven large-size partitioned organic crystal[J]. *Physical Review Letters*, 2014, 112(21): 213901.
- [183] Luo L, Chatzakis I, Wang J G, et al. Broadband terahertz generation from metamaterials[J]. *Nature Communications*, 2014, 5: 3055.
- [184] Sell A, Leitenstorfer A, Huber R. Phase-locked generation and field-resolved detection of widely tunable terahertz pulses with amplitudes exceeding 100 MV/cm[J]. *Optics Letters*, 2008, 33(23): 2767-2769.

Analysis of Current Status and Development Trends of Terahertz Radiation Sources Based on Strong Laser Pulses

Cai Jie¹, Geng Yixing¹, Yu Jinqing^{2*}, Yan Xueqing^{1**}

¹State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China;

²School of Physics and Electronics, Hunan University, Changsha 410082, Hunan, China

Abstract

Significance Terahertz waves have wide applications in fields such as communication, astronomy, material detection, physical control, and charged particle acceleration and diagnostics. In recent years, the development of terahertz sources has become an important frontier topic in terahertz science. With the continuous development of 5G communication, the carrying capacity of the microwave band is insufficient to meet future communication demands, making terahertz waves with shorter wavelengths the focus of future communication solutions. Compared with microwaves, the terahertz band has a stronger information carrying capacity and is recognized as a band for the next-generation 6G communication that is yet to be further developed. Terahertz waves exhibit high

absorption and non-biological damage effects in water molecules, making them suitable for non-destructive imaging and research analysis of biomolecules. Terahertz waves can resonantly couple with the partial motion states of ions, electrons, and spins in matter, making them useful for material excitation and spectroscopic analysis. In solids, the energy of terahertz photons is consistent with the energy required for lattice vibrations (phonons), collisions of free electrons, binding energy of electron-hole pairs (excitons), and decay of spin waves (magnons). Therefore, terahertz waves can probe the linear response of materials without causing changes in their properties, making them widely applicable in the study of fundamental processes in complex materials. In recent years, terahertz waves, as pump pulses, have been expanded to applications in biophotonics, material resonances, magnetization control, electron beam measurements, charged particle acceleration, and other areas of research. These applications have placed higher requirements on the intensity and quality of terahertz pulses.

As the application areas of terahertz continue to expand, there are increasing demands for the quality of terahertz waves. The quest for high-quality terahertz sources has always been a key scientific problem in the field of terahertz science. The generation of terahertz sources can be roughly divided into three categories: solid-state electronics, quantum cascade lasers, and secondary radiation sources based on intense lasers. Solid-state electronics employ electronic devices such as Schottky diodes, semiconductor terahertz sources, and coherent transition radiation devices to generate terahertz sources. These sources typically emit weak, narrowband (<3 THz) radiation with low field strength and low energy. Quantum cascade lasers are unipolar devices, and their radiation originates from intraband transitions in a stack of semiconductor quantum well heterostructures. The average power is in the milliwatt range, and although the frequency of terahertz sources generated by this method can be tuned, the tuning range is limited to a narrow band in the range of a few terahertz. Chirped pulse amplification (CPA) technology can significantly enhance laser power density, allowing femtosecond laser intensity to reach relativistic levels. Intense laser-plasma interactions can generate broad-spectrum, ultra-strong terahertz waves, which are of greater significance for terahertz spectroscopic research. This article provides an overview of several mechanisms for terahertz generation based on intense lasers, particularly the development status of plasma-based terahertz sources, and summarizes and predicts the development trends of terahertz sources.

Progress Secondary terahertz sources based on intense lasers can be divided into solid-state and plasma terahertz sources based on the interacting medium. In the case of laser pulse interaction with solid-state materials, terahertz sources are generated through processes such as optical rectification, microscopic photoconductivity, and photoconductive antennas. Wynne *et al.* proposed a one-dimensional model for the laser-induced terahertz oscillation polarization of the medium. If the interaction between the laser and the medium satisfies conditions such as instantaneous response, no dispersion within the terahertz range, and perfect phase matching, the electric field of the terahertz pulse can be obtained from the time derivative of the intensity envelope of the optical pulse. The generated terahertz pulse exhibits a fixed carrier envelope phase, and for Gaussian envelope pulses, it produces a single-cycle waveform, which is highly valuable for many applications.

Regarding plasma terahertz sources, they can be classified into gas and dense plasma terahertz sources based on the density of the plasma. Gas target terahertz sources mainly rely on plasma waves generated by mass motion to produce terahertz radiation. Dense plasma terahertz sources, on the other hand, generate ultra-strong terahertz waves due to the dynamic behavior of relativistic electrons accelerated by the laser at the plasma-vacuum interface.

Conclusions and Prospects Solid materials such as semiconductors and organic crystals have energy damage thresholds. High-intensity pump lasers can cause thermal damage, vaporization, and even ionization. For photoconductive antennas, the terahertz field strength generally does not exceed MV/m level, and the terahertz energy saturates with increasing laser pulse intensity. Using LiNbO₃ tilted-wavefront optical rectification, terahertz waves with peak intensities of around 400 MV/m can be obtained, and using the new generation of organic crystals can further increase it to GV/m level. Additionally, overcoming the absorption of terahertz radiation by nonlinear crystals is also a consideration. Most semiconductors used to generate terahertz radiation are polar (such as ZnTe, GaP, GaSe, GaAs, or organic materials), resulting in a resonance effect between optical phonons and surrounding terahertz radiation, leading to strong attenuation of radiation in the Reststrahlen band between 1–15 THz. Terahertz pulse spectra generated by tilted-wavefront LiNbO₃ crystals are limited to <3 THz due to material absorption.

The interaction of laser with plasma overcomes the energy threshold limitations of crystals but still faces challenges. The photoconductive current mechanism reaches saturation for terahertz generation at laser intensities of 10^{15} W/cm², and at higher intensities, terahertz waves are mainly generated by plasma waves. A plasma wave density of 10^{16} cm⁻³ corresponds to a terahertz frequency of about 10 THz, and low electron densities limit the energy and field strength of terahertz radiation generated through plasma waves. Therefore, it is difficult to significantly increase the intensity and pulse energy of gas plasma terahertz sources based on the current mechanisms.

Solid target and structured target terahertz sources are generated by the dynamic behavior of laser-accelerated electrons, and the quality of terahertz radiation is directly determined by the accelerated electron beam. Strong terahertz waves with energies greater than 50 mJ can be obtained using the planar solid target transition radiation scheme. In solid target schemes, the energy conversion efficiency from laser to ultrahot electrons is relatively low, resulting in low overall terahertz radiation efficiency.

Key words nonlinear optics; terahertz; optical crystal; plasmas; array waveguide devices