

光子拓扑绝缘体:超快激光直写加工与应用(特邀)

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摘要 超快激光直写技术可以高精度加工任意三维波导结构,从而实现新型拓扑模型以及集成化的拓扑光子器件。通过经典的拓扑结构(如一维二元复式晶格、非对角 Aubry-André-Harper 晶格、蜂窝晶格),阐述拓扑光学的基本原理和现象(如 Thouless 泵浦,手性边缘态、局域态与拓扑不变量之间的关系),介绍最新的拓扑光子学进展与应用(如高阶拓扑绝缘体、Floquet 拓扑绝缘体、非厄米拓扑、非线性拓扑,以及量子拓扑保护),重点综述在超快激光直写平台下实现的拓扑现象与应用。

关键词 激光光学; 光子拓扑绝缘体; 超快激光直写; Floquet 光子拓扑绝缘体; 非厄米拓扑; 非线性拓扑; 光子芯片

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1 引言

拓扑绝缘体研究起源于整数量子霍尔效应,二维电子气在均匀强磁场下被束缚并做回旋运动,导致物质内部不导电,只有边缘态导电,从而出现量子化的霍尔电导。Thouless 等提出 TKNN 模型,将量子霍尔电导与磁场下电子能带的拓扑不变量陈数联系起来。由于拓扑保护,电子在有缺陷的拓扑绝缘体边缘上也不会发生散射,从而实现无损耗运输。非零陈数要求系统的反演对称性破缺,Kane 和 Mele 则提出用 Z_2 拓扑不变量归类陈数为零的时间反演对称体系,如量子自旋霍尔绝缘体。将拓扑概念引入光子学领域极大地促进了人们对光子体系的认识,并衍生了一系列全新的光物理现象与光学应用,如光子整数量子霍尔效应^[1-2]、光赝自旋量子霍尔效应^[3-4]、光 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体^[5-6]、Thouless 泵浦^[7]和光子外尔半金属^[8]。随着光子器件制备和拓扑光学理论不断发展,研究者实现了更加复杂多样的光学结构,以拓展和验证新的拓扑概念,如高阶拓扑绝缘体^[9-10]、安德森拓扑绝缘体^[11]、分形结构拓扑^[12-13]、反常光 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体^[14]、旋错缺陷拓扑^[15-16]、合成维度拓扑^[17-18]、非厄米拓扑^[19-20]和非线性拓扑^[21-22]。光子拓扑绝缘体可以通过二维光子晶体^[23]、耦合微腔^[24]、光折变晶体^[25]和超快激光直写波导^[21]来实现,应用于激光产生^[23]、光子的传输^[26]、量子纠缠态^[27]的拓扑保护、量子模拟和量子计算^[28]。利用

超快激光可以在聚焦的玻璃的表面或者内部通过非线性相互作用形成折射系数与环境不同(折射率变化为 $\Delta n \approx 10^{-3}$)的微纳尺寸晶体结构,实现三维架构的光子波导,其可应用于集成光芯片、光通信、光存储和光量子芯片^[29-34]。不少综述文章已经介绍了光子拓扑绝缘体的研究和进展^[35-36],本文将着重介绍利用激光直写波导光子拓扑绝缘体的新进展。光波导系统的傍轴(z 轴)传输方程^[5]可以写成

$$i\partial_z\psi = -\frac{1}{2k_0}\nabla_{\perp}^2\psi + \frac{k_0\Delta n(x,y,z)}{n_0}\psi, \quad (1)$$

式中: ∂_z 为沿 z 方向的偏导; ψ 为电场波包分布; k_0 为环境介质波数; n_0 为环境折射率; $\Delta n(x,y,z)$ 为波导折射率变化分布。把 z 轴类比为时间轴,波导折射率变化的分布 Δn 可看作势场,光波导方程在数学形式上和薛定谔方程是等价的。在折射率分布变化比较小的情况下,光波导系统可以用紧束缚模型来近似。相比于其他平台,如二维光子晶体和耦合微腔,超快激光直写波导可以更方便、快速地加工拓扑结构样品。基于大规模的时间调制实现 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体在技术上存在很大困难,而激光直写拓扑绝缘体可以通过改变波导在 z 轴的变化来等效地实现。光折变晶体也可以很方便地形成波导阵列,但其三维灵活性不如激光直写波导。激光直写还可以通过弯曲波导、散射点、断点等手段调控波导损耗,实现非厄米拓扑绝缘体。这些优势使得超快激光直写成为研究光子拓扑绝缘体的重要平台。

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2 超快激光直写玻璃波导

如图 1(a)所示,超快激光直写设备一般主要由超快激光光源、电控三维移动平台和光束传输系统组成^[37]。超快激光的脉冲宽度在皮秒或飞秒量级,通过光束传输系统聚焦到样品上。一般认为,在玻璃聚焦区的高强度($>10^{13} \text{ W} \cdot \text{ cm}^{-2}$)超快激光的多光子非线性吸收和雪崩电离会在几飞秒内形成高密度自由电子等离子体,等离子体在随后的电子-声子耦合中将能量传递给晶格,从而改变聚焦区的微纳结构^[29,38-40]。样品一般在计算机控制的三维移动平台上移动而光路保持不动。激光直写方向一般分为径向(沿着激光传播方向)和横向(垂直于激光传播方向)。由于物镜焦距限制了工作距离,采用横向直写才能实现更长的波导。当激光强度低于激光损伤阈值时,改性区形成正的折射率变化,这一般被归类为 I 型改性^[41-42]。当激光强度高于激光损伤阈值时,沿着激光传播方向会形成长

条形严重损伤区,内部折射率下降,这一般被归类为 II 型改性。II 型平行双轨道的中心由于应力会产生正折射率变化,成为波导核心^[30]。由于核心没有被激光直接打到,晶体性质可以被较完好地保存,所以双轨道波导往往被应用于 LiNbO₃、Nd:YAG 等晶体。相比单轨道波导,双轨道波导截面比较大,结构较复杂,导致损耗较大。横向直写虽然具有更高的加工灵活性,但球差效应、自聚焦等非线性光学效应会使得焦点能量分布不均匀,波导横截面在纵向更长。利用光束整形手段(如狭缝整形、散光束整形、可变形镜光束整形等)可以得到近圆形波导横截面^[43]。其中狭缝整形只需将狭缝(缝宽为 400~500 μm)置于显微物镜前端,狭缝方向设置为对应的横向直写方向。狭缝整形简单易操作且整形效果显著,被广泛应用于玻璃波导制备。弯曲波导的制备则可以通过电动旋转台实时转动狭缝方向,但狭缝会挡住大部分激光,从而不可避免地造成能量损失。

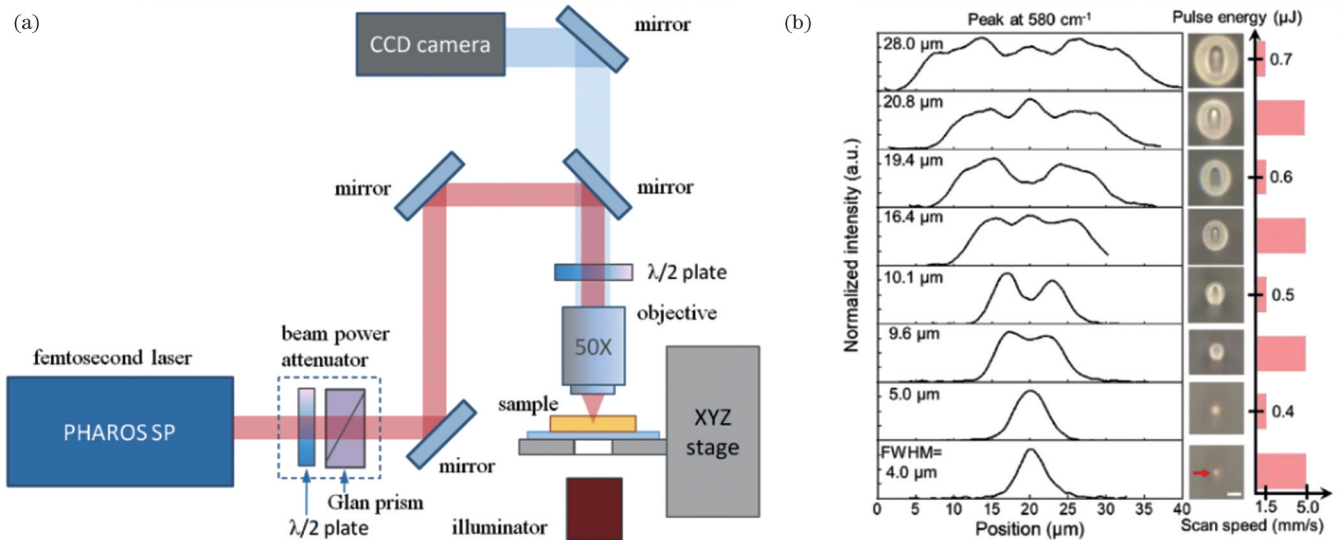


图 1 超快激光直写制备玻璃波导。(a)超快激光直写加工平台示意图^[37];(b)不同超快激光直写脉冲能量和扫描速度条件下加工的玻璃波导横截面的一维拉曼扫描和显微镜照片^[44]

Fig. 1 Glass waveguides prepared by ultrafast laser direct writing (ULDW). (a) Schematic illustration of ultrafast laser direct writing setup^[37]; (b) 1D Raman scanning and microscopic images of waveguides written in glass with different applied ultrafast pulse energies and scan speed^[44]

高重复频率下的热积聚效应也可以很大程度地改善波导性能。虽然低重复频率(小于 100 kHz)更容易达到非线性阈值,但其光脉冲间隔大于热扩散出聚焦区的时间(在玻璃中约 10 μs)^[45],导致聚焦区内温度不会随着脉冲数的增加(直写扫描速度降低)而增加,聚焦区周围受到的影响小,波导横截面较小并且形貌不对称。高重复频率(大于 100 kHz)时,初始脉冲的吸收热量不能在下一个脉冲来临前完全扩散出聚焦区,聚焦区温度会随着脉冲数的增加而增加。热积聚产生的高温增强了雪崩电离效应,从而进一步提高非线性吸收率和温度。高温熔化导致波导核心区重构,形成更大、更圆的横截面和更光滑的波导界面,从而减小波导传

输损耗、减弱偏振性^[29,46-47]。如图 1(b)所示,在相同的高重复频率下,波导核心半径 a 随着单光脉冲能量的增大和直写速度的减小而增大。玻璃波导输入端一般由光纤波导入,插入损耗取决于光纤和波导的模场匹配,可以通过光纤归一化频率(V)估计匹配程度^[48]。快速升温会在聚焦区产生冲击波,导致波导核心结构不是理想的均匀圆形,而是多重环形。波导形成机制结合了非线性光学、声学、热传导、玻璃融化等相互耦合的复杂多物理过程,研究人员还不能精准模拟波导的形成过程。由于球差的存在,不同玻璃深度的波导横截面和激光参数的关系会不一样。均匀的大规模二维拓扑绝缘体阵列加工需要对不同深度的球差进行纠正^[49]或

者对不同深度的波导使用不同的激光加工参数。

熔融石英由于其优良的热稳定性和光学性质,被广泛应用于光纤等光学元件,早期的超快激光直写研究主要集中在熔融石英加工上^[50-51],但是宽带隙(9.1 eV)和高软化温度(1800 °C)使得热积聚效应不显著。使用强聚焦方式(数值孔径 $NA=1.25$ 的浸没式物镜)可以在熔融石英上形成0.02的折射率变化,从而极大地减小弯曲损耗^[51]。高硼硅玻璃的较低软化温度(1300 °C)和4 eV带隙使得高频热积聚效应十分显著,波导性能得到提升,所以近期的激光加工波导器件尤其是量子芯片制备主要选择高硼硅玻璃^[28,52-53]。近期研究人员发现增加Ca、La和Al等元素含量可以将折射率变化增加到0.01,从而提升波导性能^[54-55]。对高硼硅玻璃直接加热退火可以减小激光加工过程产生的应力、减小核心直径并增大核心-包层折射率差,从而得到更小的损耗和双折射率^[56],同一根波导的多次扫描也可以有类似的退火效应。

3 超快激光直写拓扑绝缘体

3.1 一维定态拓扑结构

图2(a)所示的一维Su-Schrieffer-Heeger(SSH)模型是最简单的拓扑结构,也是研究拓扑现象的经典范式,有相对简洁的解析解^[57]。系统在一维周期性交错最近邻耦合紧束缚模型下的哈密顿量可写成 $H=$

$$v \sum_{m=1}^N (|m, B\rangle \langle m, A| + \text{h.c.}) + w \sum_{m=1}^N (|m+1, A\rangle \langle m, B| + \text{h.c.})$$

(其中 v 为晶胞内耦合系数, w 为晶胞间耦合系数, m 为晶胞索引,A、B为晶胞内子波导标识)。利用通过傅里叶变换得到的A(B)子晶格的布洛赫波 $|k, A(B)\rangle$ 可以得到动量空间哈密顿量 $H = \sum_k (v + e^{-ik}w) \times |k, B\rangle \langle k, A| + \text{h.c.}$ 。对 H 进行对角化,可得图2(b)所示的体态布洛赫波 $|\psi_{\pm}(k)\rangle$ 的两能级能带 $E_{\pm}(k) = \pm \sqrt{v^2 + w^2 + 2vw \cos k}$ 。当 $w \neq v$ 时两条能带间的带隙打开,每条能带的拓扑性质可以用沿着布里渊区对贝里相位进行积分得到的Zak相位 $\gamma_{\text{zak}} = i \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \langle \psi_{\pm}(k) | \partial_k | \psi_{\pm}(k) \rangle dk$ 来作为拓扑不变量^[58]。绕数 W 也可以作为拓扑不变量,在SSH模型下有 $\gamma_{\text{zak}} = \pi W$ 的对应关系^[18]。当 $v < w$ ($v > w$)时, $\gamma_{\text{zak}} = \pi$ ($\gamma_{\text{zak}} = 0$),系统处于非平庸(平庸)拓扑相。当晶格数 N 足够长时,SSH模型存在两个近似零能级解,分别是从左到右强度以等比数列递减和从右到左强度以等比数列递减的 $|L\rangle$ 和 $|R\rangle$ 。对于有限长SSH,因为 $|L\rangle$ 和 $|R\rangle$ 总是存在耦合,则图2(c)所示边缘态是 $|L\rangle$ 和 $|R\rangle$ 的杂化态。平庸相位结构则只存在如图2(d)所示的体态。一维SSH模型虽然简单,但也直接地揭示了拓扑绝缘体边缘态形成的原理以及其与能带拓扑不变量的关系。

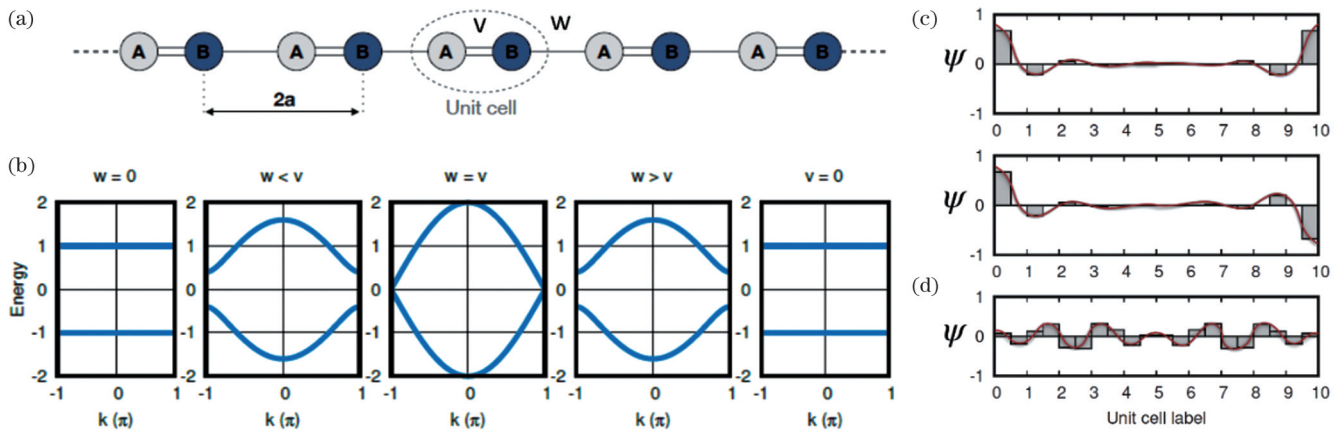


图2 SSH模型^[59]。(a)一维周期性二聚化晶格示意图;(b)两能级能带图;(c)边缘态波函数分布;(d)体态波函数

Fig. 2 SSH model^[59]. (a) Schematic of one-dimensional periodic dimerization lattice; (b) two-level energy band diagram; (c) edge state wave function distribution; (d) wave function distribution of bulk mode

通过超快激光加工可以写出一维直波导阵列,实现SSH模型,波导与邻近波导通过倏逝波耦合,通过改变波导之间的距离调节耦合系数。波导的折射率可以通过加工速度、激光功率等激光加工参数来调节。如图3(a)所示,Wang等^[60]验证了 $v < w$ 时会出现边缘态并且可以通过增大二聚化程度 w/v 来提高局域化程度。局域态的局域化程度可以通过局域长度 ξ_{loc} 来量化,Wang等推导并验证了 ξ_{loc} 可以用左侧单根波导中输入的光子在传播过程中的存活概率来确定。如图3(b)

所示,Wang等^[61]将光输入到SSH阵列中央波导中,再通过测量激发体态的光场分布演变得到拓扑不变量绕数 W 。对SSH模型进行一些改进还会有新的拓扑现象出现。如图3(c)所示,Jiao等^[62]验证了之字形排列可以引入长程耦合并打破手性对称,非平庸拓扑相出现了退局域化现象。当长程耦合系数 J_A 和晶格内耦合系数 J_1 满足 $J_A > J_1/2$ 时,能带间隙会闭合,从而不存在边缘态,但仍能得到非零Zak相位,说明了SSH结构拓扑边缘态的存在要同时满足手性对称和非零

Zak 相位。如图 3(d) 所示, Kremer 等^[63]通过构建非对称菱形晶胞实现了 Aharonov-Bohm (AB) 笼效应。粒子沿闭合曲线环绕一圈与初始状态相比产生相位变化 ϕ_{AB} (AB 相位), 从而引发干涉。通过在双波导中插入一根辅助耦合波导, 可以在晶胞中实现 $\phi_{AB} = \pi$, 能带结构由三条具有非零 Zak 相位的平带组成, 两个能带间隙中都形成了边缘态。作者证明了 AB 笼结构的拓扑保护来源于 Π 对称性和 χ 对称性, 给系统增加完全随机的无序相比于能保持对称性的无序会对边缘态产生更大的破坏。可见, 对称性带来的拓扑保护比较脆

弱, 不能抵抗完全随机的结构误差。如图 3(e) 所示, Cáceres-Aravena 等^[64]通过波导的多模耦合不对称性实现了 AB 笼效应。将 S 模光输入到 A 波导或者将 P 模光输入到 D 双波导中, 光子会被束缚在单个晶胞内。而当相位相同的光分别输入到 C 和 B 波导下, 光场会出现定向偏移, 相位相差 π 的输入光则出现反方向偏移。要实现持续的定向偏移, 必须在 z 轴周期性地改变 S 模波导和 P 模波导。这是由于一维定态拓扑绝缘体的边缘态只能是局域态, 拓扑输运至少需要二维系统。

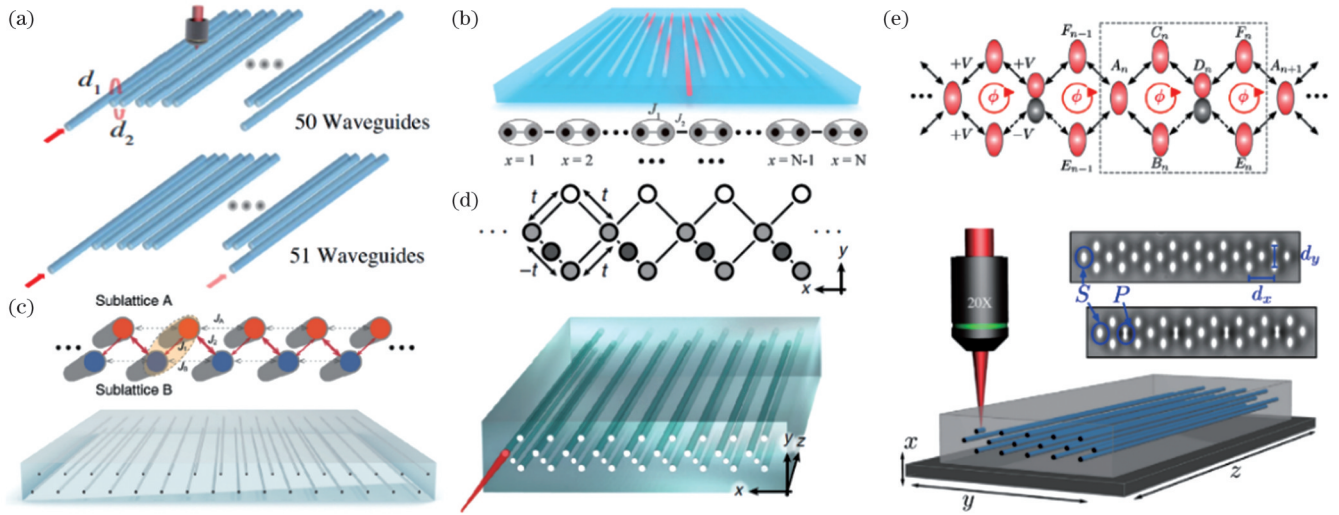


图 3 超快激光直写制备一维 SSH 系统。(a) SSH 结构中的边缘态输入^[60]; (b) SSH 结构体态激发^[61]; (c) 之字形排列的二聚化晶格^[62]; (d) 菱形晶胞准一维波导阵列, 每个菱形晶胞中有一个缺陷波导^[63]; (e) 多模菱形晶胞一维阵列^[64]
Fig. 3 1D SSH systems prepared by ULDW. (a) Edge state injection in SSH structure^[60]; (b) bulk excitation in SSH structure^[61]; (c) dimerized lattice arranged in zigzag geometry^[62]; (d) quasi-1D waveguide array of diamond lattice with defect in each plaquette^[63]; (e) multi-orbital diamond lattice 1D array^[64]

3.2 Thouless 泵浦

Thouless 提出在绝热近似条件下, 通过改变一维不协调准周期性势场的参数 (等效第二维度) 可以实现量子化波包输运^[65]。在合理的准晶格场的选择下, 等效的二维拓扑结构将具有非零陈数的非平庸拓扑态。一般化 Aubry-André-Harper (AAH) 模型^[66]可以写成

$$H(\varphi) = \sum_m [-J_0 + \delta J_m(\varphi)] \hat{a}_{m+1}^\dagger \hat{a}_m + \text{h.c.} + \sum_m V_m(\varphi) \hat{a}_m^\dagger \hat{a}_m, \quad (2)$$

式中: \hat{a}_m 和 \hat{a}_m^\dagger 分别为第 m 个格点的湮灭和产生算符; $-J_0 + \delta J_m(\varphi)$ 为第 m 和 $m+1$ 个格点之间的耦合系数, $\delta J_m(\varphi) = v_{od} \cos(2\pi am + \varphi + \delta\varphi)$ 是耦合系数调制, 其中 v_{od} 为非对角调制幅度; $V_m(\varphi) = v_d \cos(2\pi am + \varphi)$ 是格点能级调制, 其中 v_d 为对角调制幅度, 当 $v_d = 0$ ($v_{od} = 0$) 时, AAH 模型弱化为非对角 (对角) AAH 模型。改变格点能级对应的波导折射率需要直写过程同步改变功率或速度, 对于非对角 AAH 模型, 只需要改变波导间距来调整耦合系数。如图 4(a) 所示, Kraus 等^[67]通过弯曲波导改变波导间距, 在 z 轴上缓

慢调节非对角 AAH 模型参数 φ (从 0 到 2π), 实现了把从晶格边缘输入的光子完整传递到另一个边缘的拓扑绝热输运。图 4(b) 展示了 AAH 模型在晶格参数维度下的能带图。如图 4(c) 所示, Verbin 等^[68]将准斐波那契链应用到波导耦合链上, 实现了绝热输运, 从实验上验证了准斐波那契和 AAH 模型是拓扑等价的。非对角 AAH 模型边缘态在演化过程中处于体态能带边缘时波形会扩散, 只有在阵列边缘会形成局域态。同时调制格点能级和耦合系数的一般化 AAH 模型能带会有更丰富的拓扑传输性质^[66]。如图 4(d) 所示, Cerjan 等^[7]发现 lopsided RM (LRM) 模型可以使得光子在单向输运下保持局域化的万尼尔态, 并且在任意一个阵列端口输入都可以实现单向传播。在量子霍尔效应下, 整数化电流和边缘态来源于所有费米能级以下的自由电子叠加态。然而, 光子作为玻色子不会自动填补拓扑绝缘体能带, 输入光是万尼尔态时才能填满光子拓扑绝缘体能带, 从而能观察到拓扑单向传播。实验都证实了 AHH、准斐波那契、LRM 模型对于晶格的不规则程度的鲁棒性, 但

绝热演变的不足在于需要足够缓慢的参数演变来抑制能带之间的朗道-基纳隧穿效应以保证传输效率^[69],这意味着较长的 z 轴周期(一般大于 10 cm),

从而限制其在光集成芯片上的应用。如何突破绝热演变的限制又能保持良好的拓扑保护是拓扑泵浦的一大挑战^[70]。

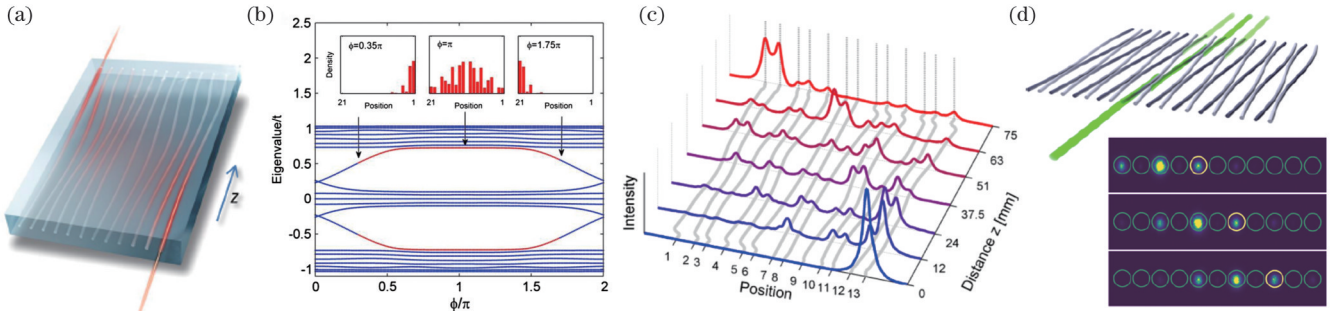


图 4 超快激光直写制备 Thouless 泵浦光子系统。AAH 模型(a)示意图与(b)能带图^[67]; (c)准斐波那契拓扑泵浦^[68]; (d)LRM 模型示意图以及量子化拓扑运输实验结果^[7]

Fig. 4 Thouless pumped photonic systems prepared by ULDW. (a) Illustration and (b) spectrum of AAH model^[67]; (c) topological pumping of Fibonacci-like quasicrystal^[68]; (d) schematic of LRM model and experimental results of quantized topological transport^[7]

3.3 定态蜂窝晶格拓扑

光子蜂窝晶格,也被称为光子石墨烯,是研究二维拓扑结构的基础模型之一。石墨烯具有边缘态并受到拓扑保护,Zak 相位可通过计算得到^[71]。如图 5(a)所示,不同的切割方式可以形成不同的边缘结构,如锯齿

型、扶手椅型和类胡型。锯齿型和扶手椅型是稳定结构,可以在石墨烯纳米带中形成;而类胡型由于化学结构不稳定,只能在光子结构中被方便地构建出来。蜂窝结构边缘态的 Zak 相位取决于边缘结构以及侧向传播动量。如图 5(b)所示,类胡型(锯齿型)边缘态只有

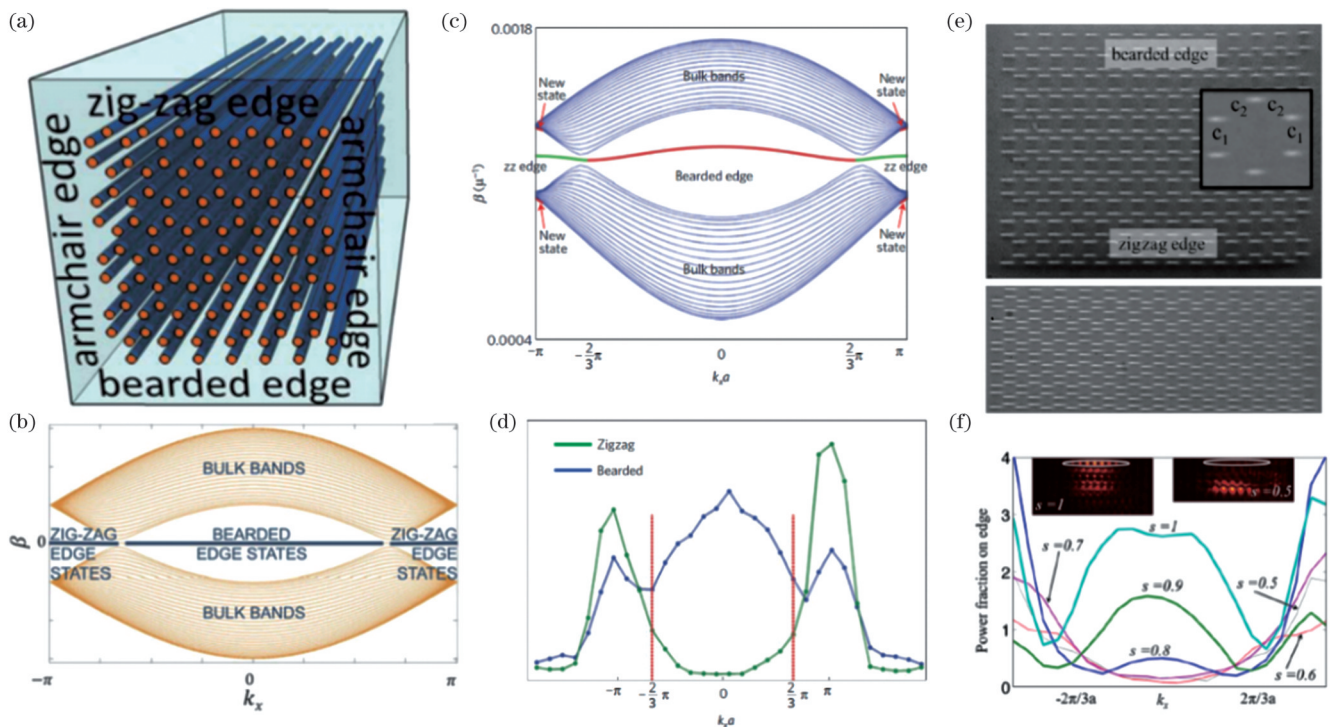


图 5 超快激光直写制备光子石墨烯。光子石墨烯结构(a)示意图以及(b)锯齿/胡型边缘态能带图^[72];光子石墨烯结构的(c)非常规锯齿/胡型边缘态能带图以及(d)局域化程度^[73]; (e)无缩放和强烈压缩的蜂窝结构; (f)不同缩放系数下类胡型边缘态在不同 k_x 下的局域化程度^[74]

Fig. 5 Photonic graphene prepared by ULDW. (a) Diagram and (b) edge band structure for bearded and zig-zag edges of photonic graphene^[72]; (c) unconventional edge band structure and (d) fraction of power confined to edge for zigzag and bearded edges of photonic graphene^[73]; (e) uncompressed and strongly compressed honeycomb structures; (f) ratio of optical power on bearded edge to that diffracted into bulk for different k_x and compression factor^[74]

当动量在布里渊区中心(边缘)附近才存在,而扶手椅型则不存在边缘态。Zeuner等^[72]在玻璃中写入了蜂窝结构并使用垂直入射($k_x=0$)激发出稳定的类胡型边缘态。通过不规则结构分析发现该边缘态受手性对称性保护,但完全随机的不规则结构会导致退边缘化,并且在很强的不规则下观察到了安德森局域化。如图5(c)所示,Plotnik等^[73]发现通过非近似计算而不是最邻近耦合近似计算可以得到在布里渊区边缘的类胡型边缘态。如图5(d)所示,通过改变激发光入射角可以观测到所有的边缘态情形,并通过测量波包在边缘态的能量比例可确定拓扑边缘态是否形成。如图5(e)所示,蜂窝结构可以通过单轴缩放或应变实现各向异性耦合系数并导致拓扑相变^[74]。沿着扶手椅型边缘方向缩小到临界点($c_1 > 2c_2$)后,在布里渊区中心的边缘态从类胡型转变为锯齿型。如图5(f)所示,随着阵列沿扶手椅型边缘方向(垂直于锯齿型边缘)逐渐缩小(缩放系数 s 减小), $k_x=0$ 附近的类胡型边缘态局域化程度逐渐降低。Ren等^[75]通过理论计算得出了不同缩放比例下边缘态的Zak相位变化可以对应边缘态的形成或消失。Rechtsman等^[76]通过非均匀的应力改变在原本不存在边缘态的扶手椅型边缘实现了光子局域化。光子石墨烯可以模拟很多石墨烯的拓扑性质,同时不受限于结构的稳定性,任意结构和形变下的边缘态拓扑性质还有待实验验证^[77]。

3.4 二维高阶拓扑绝缘体(HOTI)与旋错缺陷

如图6(a)所示,把一维SSH模型推广到二维可以

得到方形SSH模型。图6(b)展示了一个由激光直写加工而成的二维阵列横截面图,黑色箭头所示为一个用于零能级模式导入的辅助波导。Cerjan等^[78]通过实验证实当 $l_{\text{intra}} > l_{\text{inter}}$ (l_{intra} 是晶胞内波导间距, l_{inter} 是晶胞间波导间距)时,这种二维SSH拓扑绝缘体中出现二阶非平庸拓扑态,将光子输入到阵列的角落波导或者辅助波导时,经过 z 轴7.6 cm的传播,光子仍然被束缚在拐角。当晶胞内波导有不同折射率后,手性对称性会被打破并且角态消失。当 $l_{\text{intra}}/l_{\text{inter}}$ 比较小时,拓扑角态不再处于零能级,在有限拓扑阵列的拐角波导输入的光子仍然会逐渐衰减^[79]。Lu等^[80]则通过方形SSH阵列的中央波导体态激发测量出不同拓扑态下的拓扑不变量。Benalcazar等^[81]通过万尼尔带的极化(偶极矩和四极矩)重新定义了高阶拓扑绝缘体的拓扑不变量。我们可以从中得出高阶体-边对应原则,当 n 维晶体中有 d 阶拓扑绝缘体,那么就会有对应的 $n-d$ 维边缘拓扑态。如图6(c)、(d)所示,El Hassan等^[9]发现当 $t_1 < t_2$ (t_1 是晶胞内耦合系数, t_2 是晶胞间耦合系数)时三角形笼目晶格和菱形呼吸笼目晶格都会出现空间上指数衰减的角局域化拓扑态。对蜂窝结构进行凯库勒(Kekulé)形变操作,可以构建出 C_6 对称性拓扑绝缘体。如图6(e)、(f)所示,Noh等^[82]通过将6个波导组成六边形晶胞,观测到当晶胞内耦合系数 c_{int} 和晶胞间耦合系数 c_{ext} 满足 $c_{\text{int}} < c_{\text{ext}}$ 时,在六边形拐角可以激发出零能局域模式。Li等^[83-84]在理论上进一步将受到不同旋转对称性保护的拓扑角模和拓扑缺陷通过引入晶胞

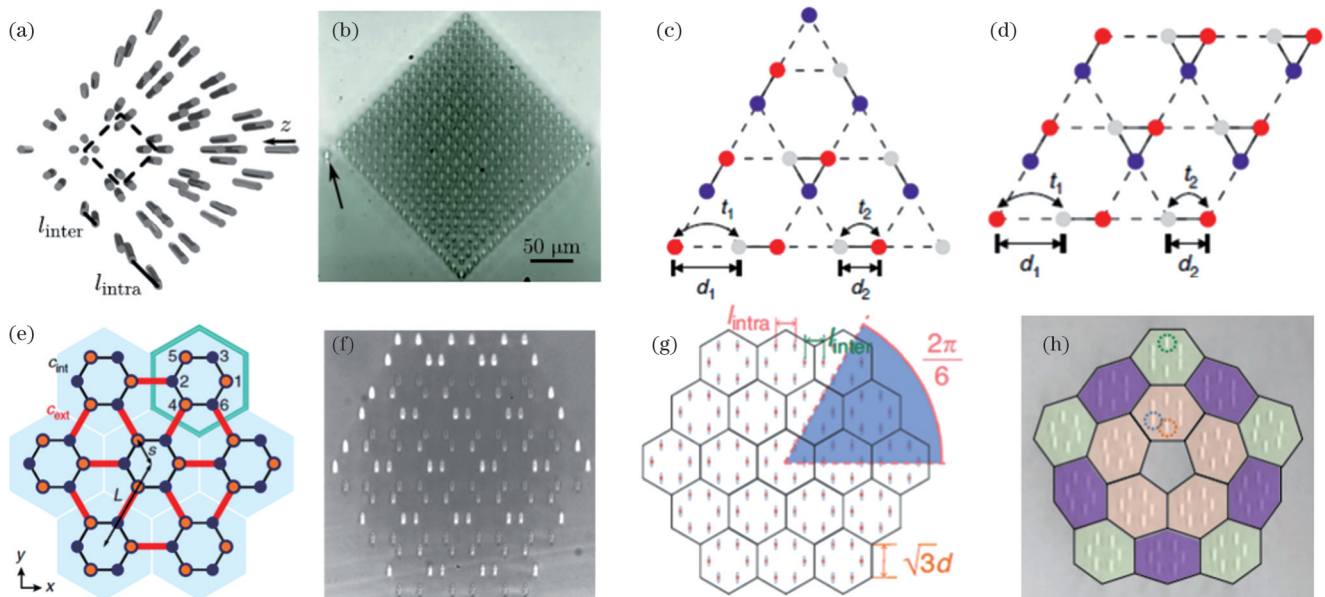


图6 超快激光直写制备高阶拓扑绝缘体与旋错缺陷。方形SSH高阶拓扑绝缘体(HOTI)的(a)示意图和(b)显微镜下的横截面图^[78]; (c)三角形和(d)菱形笼目晶格^[9]; C_6 对称晶格结构的(e)示意图和(f)显微镜照片^[82]; (g)凯库勒形变下的蜂窝结构; (h)五边形内核旋错结构^[16]

Fig. 6 Higher-order topological insulators and topological disclinations prepared by ULDW. (a) Diagram and (b) cross-section view under microscope of square SSH HOTI^[78]; Kagome lattice in (c) triangular and (d) rhombic geometry^[9]; (e) diagrams and (f) microscope images of C_6 symmetric photonic waveguide lattices^[82]; (g) honeycomb array with Kekulé distortion; (h) disclination array with pentagonal core^[16]

分数电荷的概念统一起来。万尼尔函数中心在平庸拓扑态下处于晶胞中心,而在非平庸拓扑态下处于晶胞边缘^[15]。在平庸拓扑态下,晶胞万尼尔函数中心的等效电子电荷总是和等效原子核电荷相抵消,不取决于晶胞的位置。在非平庸态下,没有相邻晶胞的晶胞边缘不存在等效电子,晶胞总等效电子电荷无法和等效原子核电荷相抵消,导致净拓扑电荷会在角落和旋错核心处积聚,其具体值取决于阵列以及旋错结构的对称性。如图 6(g)、(h)所示,删除蜂窝晶格中 1/6 扇形区域和核心区域,剩下的区域沿圆周方向均匀拉伸后使得剪切的边缘重合,就可以构造出五边形内核旋错结构。类似地,可以通过插入 1/6 扇形区域形成七边形内核旋错结构。Ren 等^[16]用激光直写技术在玻璃中写入这两种旋错结构,并且利用凯库勒形变观察到角态和旋错态的拓扑相变。不同阵列对称性和旋错对称性导致的不同拓扑分数电荷有没有不同的拓扑性质仍有待研究^[85]。定态的二维阵列同样没有打破时间反演对称,不具备非零陈数,从而实现定向拓扑输运。

3.5 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体

Floquet 理论描述了周期性时间调制下系统的动力学, Floquet 分析构建出时间维度下 Floquet 能带,从而产生新奇的拓扑特性^[86]。Rechtsman 等^[5]通过基于螺旋波导的 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体实现了光子在二维系统下的单向传输。通过坐标系变换可以将光在螺旋结构下的传播等效成螺旋坐标系 $(x', y', z') = (x + R \cos(\Omega z), y + R \sin(\Omega z), z)$ 下的直线传播:

$$i\partial_z \psi' = \left\{ -\frac{1}{k_0} [\nabla' + iA(z')]^2 - \frac{k_0 R^2 \Omega^2}{2} - \frac{k_0 \Delta n(x', y')}{n_0} \right\} \psi' \quad (3)$$

式中: ψ' 、 ∇' 分别为螺旋坐标系中的光场分布和梯度算符。变换后的传播方程会出现等价于空间均匀圆偏振光驱动的矢量势 $A(z') = k_0 R \Omega [\sin(\Omega z'), \cos(\Omega z'), 0]$ 。式(3)也可以描述圆偏振光照射下的石墨烯光伏霍尔效应^[87]。在高频近似 $\Omega \gg c$ 下,光伏霍尔效应的哈密顿量可以近似为量子反常霍尔效应的 Haldane 模型^[86]。Guglielmon 等^[88]发现螺旋波导 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体的绕数与驱动场的驱动强度 $A = k_0 R \Omega$ 和驱动频率 Ω 相关。实验验证了可以通过改变 A 而不是螺旋线手性来反转绕数符号以及边缘态传播方向。如图 7(a)所示, Stützer 等^[11]使用了一维阵列作为辅助输入,从而可以通过改变输入光入射角来调节波包能级,选择性激发边缘态或者体态。非对称的子晶格折射率会打破宇称对称性,从而导致系统转变为平庸拓扑相。一般而言,增加不规则性也会使得系统变为平庸态,但在非对称子晶格情况下,增加不规则性反而在一定程度上恢复了宇称对称,从而使得系统恢复成非平庸拓扑态,该现象被称为安德森局域化。光子在螺旋线结构中的运动可以用来模拟电子的回旋运动,但在相同的等效弯曲

半径下螺旋线结构比 S 型弯曲波导有更大的弯曲损耗,实验中边缘态向体态的散射也比较明显。在调制频率 $\Omega/c \rightarrow 0$ 的情况下, Floquet 演变会退化绝热演变的 Thouless 泵浦。如图 7(b)所示, Zilberberg 等^[89]通过二维实空间+二维参数空间实现了二维 Thouless 泵浦,并且在四维空间下计算出非零第二陈数。如图 7(c)所示, Mukherjee 等^[90]通过 J_1 到 J_4 这 4 种完全定向耦合在 z 方向的交替进行,实现反常 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体的拓扑手性边界态和局域态。虽然反常 Floquet 能带陈数为零,但仍然具有微观结构所产生的边界态,导致系统绕数不为零^[91]。Maczewsky 等^[92]用 6 段周期耦合和蜂窝型结构使得光子在晶格中的行为更接近费米子。相比于螺旋线,双波导定向耦合器的手性边缘态有更低的损耗,成为研究手性边缘态的新型结构。如图 7(d)所示, Biesenthal 等^[13]发现直波导三角形分形结构的能带相比于对应的三角形蜂窝结构能带具有更多的平带和更宽的带隙。螺旋波导三角形分形结构也出现更多具有非零陈数的边缘态,可以出现在分形结构的外部边缘和内部边缘。如图 7(e)所示, Li 等^[93]结合 Sierpinski 地毯分形和 4 段周期耦合实现了分形反常 Floquet 结构。如图 7(f)所示,地毯分形结构边缘态的数量和种类比一般方形反常 Floquet 结构多。更多的边缘态有望提高基于拓扑绝缘体的量子计算的多量子处理能力和信息容量。如图 7(g)所示,通过在不时变蜂窝结构上叠加折射率周期性时变蜂窝结构可形成 Floquet 超级蜂窝结构^[94],该结构同时具有正常 Floquet 边缘态和反常 Floquet 边缘态。如图 7(h)所示, Zhong 等^[95]发现 Floquet 方形 SSH 结构虽然在一半的调制时间内处于平庸拓扑相位结构,但仍然可以在 Floquet 能带的 π 间隙内拥有反常拓扑 π 模角态。如图 7(i)所示,晶格的耦合调制相位在 x 轴方向有梯度变化等效于在 x 轴- z 模式轴(人工合成维度)平面上施加了一个能效磁场,从而能观测到在此合成平面上的单向传播边缘态^[96]。更为复杂的空间调制带来的新拓扑现象仍有待开发。激光直写拓扑 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体仍受限于小的波导折射率差带来的弱光束缚性。玻璃波导的弯曲半径一般大于 1 cm,否则就会有很大 (> 1 dB/cm) 的弯曲损耗。提高波导折射率、降低弯曲损耗可以使玻璃波导结构更加紧凑,进而拓宽其应用前景。

3.6 非厄米系统拓扑态

非厄米哈密顿量的本征值是复数,使得非厄米系统动力学比厄米系统动力学更为复杂^[97],宇称-时间(PT)对称、奇异点、外尔半金属和非厄米趋肤效应是几个重要的概念。对于一个 PT 对称双波导(A 波导有增益 γ , B 波导有损耗 γ , 耦合系数为 κ) 系统,当 $|\kappa| > \gamma$ 时,两个本征态 $|\psi_{\pm}\rangle$ 的本征值 $E_{\pm} = \pm \sqrt{|\kappa|^2 - \gamma^2}$ 是大小不同的实数^[98]。 $|\psi_{\pm}\rangle$ 在 z 轴的传播速度虽然不同但

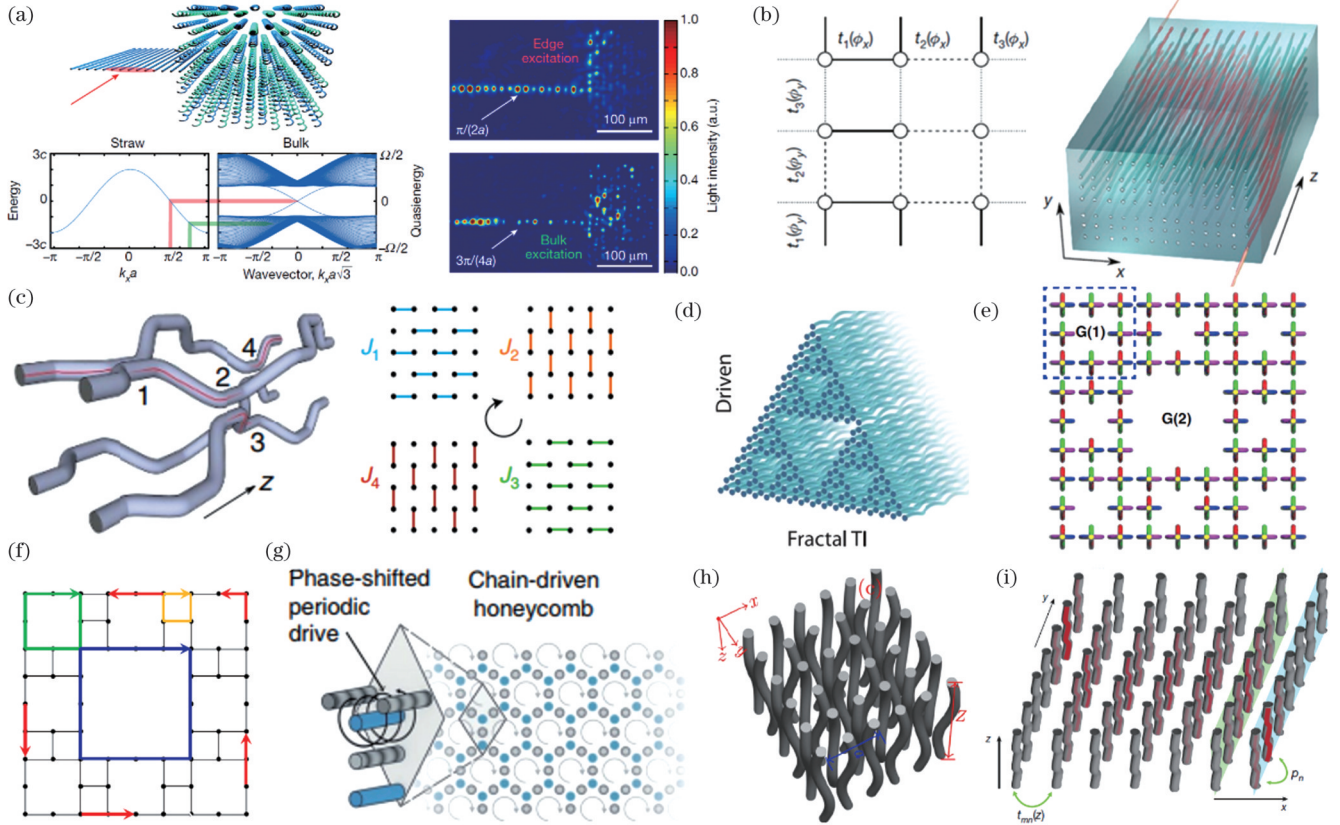


图 7 超快激光直写制备 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体。(a)一维稻草输入结构和二维螺旋波导蜂窝结构复合体^[11]；(b)二维拓扑泵浦结构^[89]；(c)反常 Floquet 拓扑结构中的四耦合循环实现^[90]；(d)Sierpinski 三角形形结构 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体^[13]；(e)Sierpinski 地毯分形结构反常 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体^[93]；(f)图 7(e)中结构对应的边缘态^[93]；(g)时变超级蜂窝结构^[94]；(h)二维时变 SSH 阵列^[95]；(i)二维合成维度-空间维度晶格^[96]

Fig. 7 Floquet topological insulators prepared by ULDW. (a) Hybrid structure composed of 1D straw input structure and 2D spiral waveguide honeycomb structure^[11]; (b) 2D topological pump structure^[89]; (c) four different bond cyclic driving protocol in anomalous photonic Floquet topological insulator^[90]; (d) Sierpinski triangle fractal Floquet topological insulator^[13]; (e) Sierpinski carpet fractal anomalous Floquet topological insulator^[93]; (f) edge state corresponding to structure in Fig. 7(e)^[93]; (g) time-varying super honeycomb structure^[94]; (h) 2D time-varying SSH array^[95]; (i) 2D synthetic-space lattice^[96]

都没有损耗,模式在 A、B 波导内有相同的强度,此状态被称作未破缺(unbroken)PT 对称相。当 $|\kappa| < \gamma$ 时, $E_{\pm} = \pm i\sqrt{\gamma^2 - |\kappa|^2}$ 是大小不同的虚数, $|\psi_+\rangle$ 的能量在 z 轴传播中由于损耗会逐渐消失,而 $|\psi_-\rangle$ 的能量由于增益不断增大,并且光波更多地处于 A 波导,此状态被称作破缺 PT 对称相。

PT 对称破缺相和非破缺相会如何改变拓扑相位以及该如何定义非厄米系统的拓扑不变量是非厄米拓扑理论研究的重点。PT 对称非厄米 SSH 结构的向量空间哈密顿量矩阵可以写作 $H = \sum_k |k\rangle \begin{pmatrix} i\gamma & \kappa(k) \\ \kappa^*(k) & -i\gamma \end{pmatrix} \langle k|$, 子布洛赫波之间的耦合系数 $\kappa(k) = v + e^{-ik}w$ 。整体非破缺 PT 对称相要求所有 k 下 $|\kappa(k)| > \gamma$ 都成立,可得整体 PT 对称性破缺相变点是 $|v - w| = \gamma$ 。如图 8(a) 所示,波导的损耗可以通过波导抖动实现,垂直于波导平面的抖动可以减小抖动带来的波导间距以及对应的耦合系数改变。Zeuner 等^[99]通过抖动波导构

建非厄米 SSH 结构,并通过实验证明了在非厄米 SSH 结构下量子行走的平均位移取决于输入的波导(有损耗或无损耗)以及拓扑不变量绕数,在非厄米情况下也观测到了边缘态的拓扑相变。如图 8(b) 所示, Weimann 等^[100]通过实验检验了 PT 对称性破缺对 SSH 阵列拓扑性质的影响。在 $v = w$ 下, PT 对称性破缺的边缘态 $(|\kappa(k)| > \gamma)$ 的水平移动距离比无损耗情况下小,而 PT 对称性不破缺的边缘态的水平移动距离不受影响。在整体非破缺 PT 对称相 $(|v - w| > \gamma)$ 下,所有模式的损耗是一样的,多个不同输入条件下的能量剩余结果的标准差为零。不同波导输入的能量剩余标准差随着 γ 的增大而增大,表明 PT 对称性破缺越来越严重。如图 8(c) 所示, Ivanov 等^[101]将两个损耗不同的准厄米 SSH 阵列并列构成非厄米拓扑畴墙。当光输入低损耗阵列畴墙边缘波导时,畴墙边缘态的输出光强度会随着低损耗阵列的损耗增大出现先减小后增大的情况。如图 8(d) 所示, Kremer 等^[102]通过在波导中加入散射点来调节损耗(不改变波导间距),从而在

二维非厄米蜂窝结构中观测到了 PT 对称性破缺相变。由于蜂窝结构能带是零间隙,任意小的不对称损耗就会使得 PT 对称性破缺,对蜂窝结构施加形变则可以打开能带间隙,从而恢复非破缺 PT 对称性。如图 8(e) 所示, Kang 等^[103]用调整超快激光加工虚线波导的虚实比例来实现可控损耗,并加工了平行式和对角式两种 PT 对称非厄米二维 SSH 阵列。PT 对称性破缺可以阻隔损耗不同的角态之间的耦合,从而增加角态的局域化程度。如图 8(f) 所示, Cerjan 等^[104]通过

在双子螺旋波导阵列中蓝色的波导中加入断点来调节波导损耗,并且让子阵列之间在 z 轴相差半个螺旋周期,从而打破宇称对称,这样构造出来的结构可以等效为三维非厄米外尔哈密顿量。当波导无断点时,该结构只存在外尔点,边缘注入的光子会扩散到结构内部。当断点长度为 $60 \mu\text{m}$ 时,外尔环形成,光子没有散射到内部,从而观测到了理论预测的费米弧表面态。激光直写非厄米拓扑绝缘体还未能实现趋肤效应。如何在波导中实现非互易耦合是实现该效应的关键^[105]。

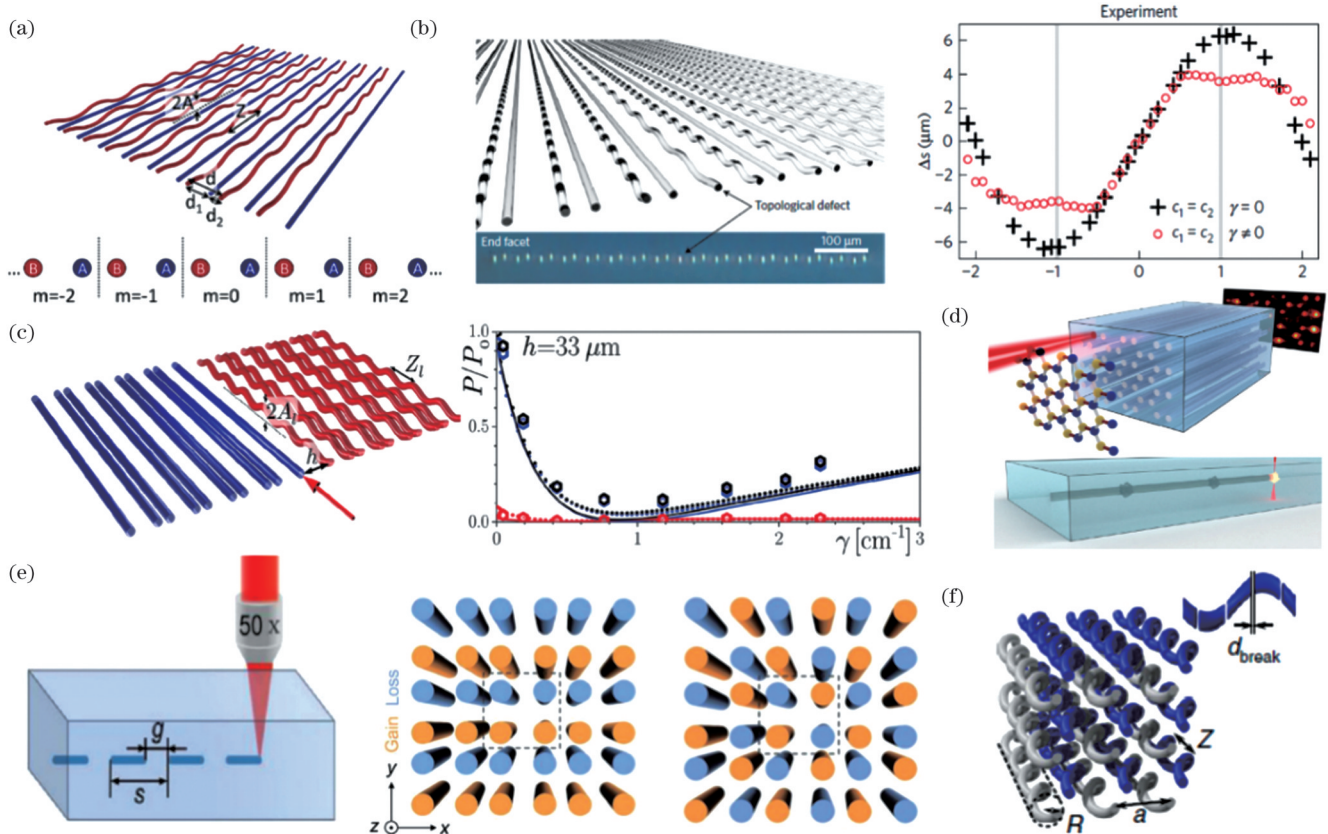


图 8 超快激光直写制备非厄米拓扑绝缘体。(a)非厄米 SSH 模型^[99]; (b)PT 对称波导阵列中的拓扑边界^[100]; (c)SSH 结构的非厄米边界^[101]; (d)二维 PT 对称石墨烯光子结构^[102]; (e)平行和对角非厄米二维 SSH 阵列^[103]; (f)双子螺旋波导非厄米阵列^[104]

Fig. 8 Non-Hermitian topological insulators prepared by ULDW. (a) Non-Hermitian SSH model^[99]; (b) topological interface in PT-symmetric waveguide array^[100]; (c) schematic of non-Hermitian interface of SSH model^[101]; (d) 2D PT-symmetric graphene lattice^[102]; (e) parallel and diagonal non-Hermitian 2D SSH arrays^[103]; (f) bipartite helical waveguide non-Hermitian array^[104]

3.7 非线性拓扑

在玻璃的非线性克尔效应下,波导运动方程等价的非线性无量纲的类薛定谔方程可写成 $i\partial_t \psi = -\nabla_{\perp}^2 \psi - \rho R(x, y) \psi - |\psi|^2 \psi$ [ρ 为非线性系数; $R(x, y)$ 为晶格势场分布]^[106]。局部等效折射率会随着局部光强的增大而变大。拓扑态是系统的全局性特征带来的,所以非线性效应如何改变系统的全局拓扑态以及是否能带来新的拓扑现象也成为了非线性拓扑研究的挑战。如图 9(a) 所示, Maczewsky 等^[107]在周期性驱动的反常 Floquet 结构中观测到了由非线性引发的边缘拓扑态和局域化拓扑态。克尔非线性效应通过调节输入波导的等效折射率来改变双波导耦合器的传输效

率,当传输效率提高到 50% 以上后,该系统就形成了拓扑相。如图 9(b) 所示,高阶拓扑笼目结构的非线性调控可以在平庸拓扑结构中激发出局域化角态^[106]。晶胞内局域化程度越高,局域化要求的非线性临界值就越大。Ren 等^[16]发现非线性拓扑旋错态孤子和角态光子可以在临界相中被激发。这些光子出现的光强(约 600 nJ)小于体态的自诱导缺陷光子形成所需的光强(约 900 nJ),这可以说明其拓扑性。如图 9(c) 所示, Jürgensen 等^[108]在一维 Thouless 泵浦中发现非线性诱导光子拓扑态。此一维非对角 AAH 结构拥有三条能带,入射光均匀占据了最低能带(陈数为 -1)中的所有能态。由于在中心的入射光会扩散出去,其等效中心的移动速度与能

带的陈数相关。在弱非线性情况下,入射光会形成孤子,孤子中心和线性情况下的扩散中心重合,出现非线性量子泵浦。强非线性会引发非线性动力学下的鞍结点分岔,从而导致孤子从泵浦状态变为静止状态,静止孤子的陈数为零。如图 9(d)所示,Jürgensen 等^[21]发现非线性拓扑孤子分数泵浦,孤子的移动距离随着入射光强度的变化呈一个多级台阶形。此 AAH 结构有 5 条

能带,有 4 个台阶,随着激光光强的增大,非线性分叉发生使得入射光占据更高的能带,孤子移动距离由占据的所有能带的陈数的平均值决定,从而出现分数陈数。分数陈数证明了非线性对拓扑不变量的多级调控能力。非线性拓扑蕴含丰富的物理原理,在光波导体系下,研究者还提出了很多理论预言,如拓扑孤子碰撞^[109]和边缘拓扑态矢量孤子^[110]。

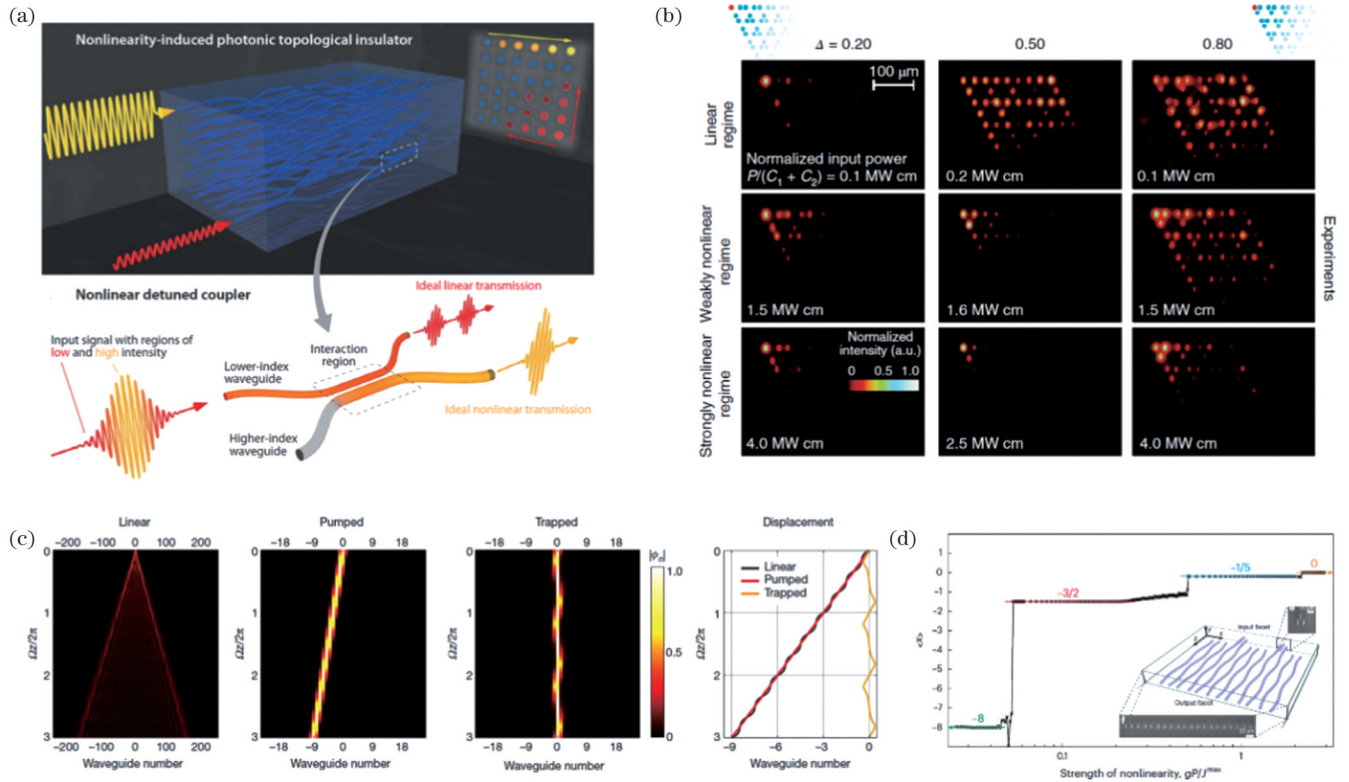


图 9 超快激光直写制备非线性光子拓扑绝缘体。(a)非线性反常 Floquet 光子拓扑绝缘体^[107]; (b)聚化笼目结构的非线性角态激发^[106]; (c)线性和非线性拓扑 Thouless 泵浦^[108]; (d)在 AAH 中非线性强度和泵浦距离的关系^[21]
 Fig. 9 Nonlinear photonic topological insulators prepared by ULDW. (a) Nonlinearity-induced anomalous Floquet photonic topological insulator^[107]; (b) nonlinear corner excitations in dimerized Kagome lattices^[106]; (c) linear and nonlinear topological Thouless pump^[108]; (d) relationship between nonlinearity intensity and nonlinearity pump distance in AAH^[21]

4 光子拓扑绝缘体应用

4.1 拓扑保护量子比特和量子干涉

利用飞秒激光直写制备出的波导阵列已经实现了光量子行走^[111]和玻色采样^[32]。量子纠缠易因受到环境噪声和缺陷的影响产生退相干,量子纠缠态拓扑保护有望促进大规模集成量子器件、含噪声量子信息处理的实现,以及量子计算、量子拓扑物理研究。相关联的多粒子量子行走更是有望实现通用量子计算^[112]。如图 10(a)所示,Wang 等^[113]在玻璃中构建了具有拓扑边界态的非对角 AAH 阵列,通过将相互纠缠的双光子对注入到阵列边界态和体态中,对比验证了边界态的光量子拓扑保护。注入在边界态中的光子保持了较好的局域性,经过 z 轴 35 mm 的传播后,双光子有高达 94.6% 的概率同时处在边缘波导中,而注入在体态中的光子则逐渐扩散在波导阵列中。通过在波导阵列的

输出端测量纠缠光子的互关联 $g^{(2)}$ 和柯西-施瓦茨不等式的破坏程度可以量化双光子纠缠度。如图 10(b)所示,Wang 等^[27]验证了分布注入到 SSH 阵列两个边缘波导中的偏振纠缠双光子可以在非平庸 SSH 阵列的边缘态拓扑态下保持纠缠。非平庸 SSH 结构下测量得到的 $g^{(2)}$ 保持了和注入前相同的水平,而平庸 SSH 结构下的 $g^{(2)}$ 则在演变过程中逐渐变小。在图 10(c)中,Tambasco 等^[114]验证了一维非对角 AAH 模型的拓扑绝热演变可以实现能见度高达 93.1% 的 HOM (Hong-Ou-Mandel) 干涉。由于球差的存在和量子芯片对均匀性和低损耗的高要求,二维量子芯片相比一维结构的实现更为困难。Li 等^[115]测出注入非平庸二维 SSH 结构的角模的双光子的 HOM 干涉有 90.3% 的能见度。地毯分形反常 Floquet 拓扑绝缘体的不同边缘态的 HOM 干涉有 92.4% 的能见度^[93]。如何进一步

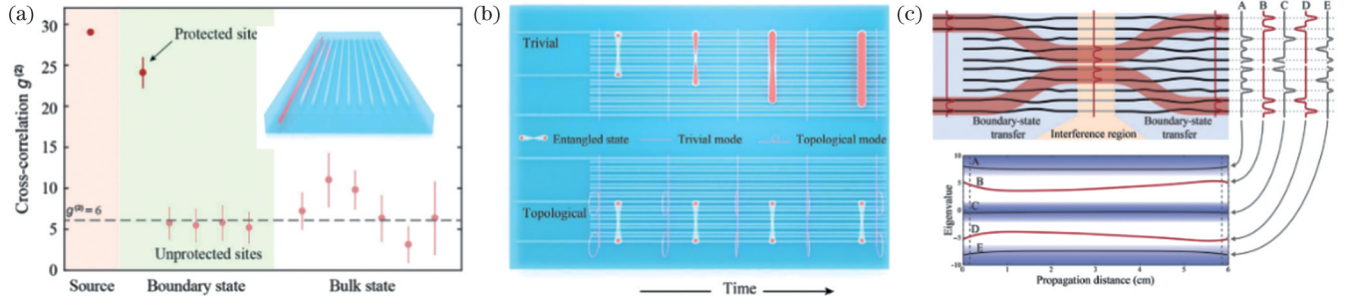


图 10 光子拓扑绝缘体中的拓扑保护量子纠缠和量子干涉。(a)注入到非对角 AAH 阵列的纠缠态双光子互关联性测量^[113]; (b)纠缠双光子在非平庸与平庸 SSH 结构中的动力学图解^[27]; (c)基于 AAH 波导阵列的拓扑分束器^[114]

Fig. 10 Topologically protected quantum entanglement and quantum interference in photonic topological insulators. (a) Measured cross-correlation of entangled double photons in nondiagonal AAH lattice^[113]; (b) schematic of dynamics of entangled double photons in non-mediocre and mediocre SSH lattices^[27]; (c) topological beam splitter based on AAH waveguide array^[114]

实现多光子的量子纠缠和量子信息处理是未来拓扑绝缘体量子计算的挑战。

4.2 拓扑(非阿贝尔编织)量子计算

非阿贝尔任意子被认为可以用来实现拓扑量子计算和量子纠错。如图 11(a)所示, Zhang 等使用激光直写在片上实现非阿贝尔编织机制。非阿贝尔编织数学上是一种幺正矩阵变换, 通过 A、B、C 三根直波导和弯曲波导 X 的时变耦合(A、B、C 之间不耦合)设计可以使得光子从 A 耦合到 B 和 B 耦合到 A 这两条路径的几何相位不一样, 几何相位差对应了幺正矩阵的相位因子。经过特定结构设计, 可以将 A、B 波导的输入输出用非阿贝尔编织矩阵 $Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ 联系起来, $|A_{out}, B_{out}\rangle = Y|A_{in}, B_{in}\rangle$ [其中 $A_{in}(B_{in})$ 为 A(B) 波导的输入光子态, $A_{out}(B_{out})$ 为 A(B) 波导的输出光子态。从 A、B 输入得到的输出光将会有 π 相位差。Zhang 等用干涉实验验证了这个几何相位变化。由于激光加工的灵活性, 可以将 Y 矩阵结构作为基本编织, 再通过不同的组合实现多通道非阿贝尔编织。相比于传统的片上移相器, 基于几何相位的非阿贝尔编织受器件误差的

影响很小, 从而展现出更强的鲁棒性^[116]。非阿贝尔编织要求光模式处于简并态, 从而减小对几何相位的影响, 通过缓慢地改变 Lieb 晶格结构的晶格参数可以实现简并态之间的绝热演变和量子泵浦。如图 11(b)所示, Sun 等^[28]在实验上通过调制 Lieb 晶格实现了片上非阿贝尔编织。Lieb 晶格结构的手征对称性的哈密顿量保证了在 N 个单元的周期阵列中始终保持 $2N$ 个简并态。简并态之间的非阿贝尔 Thouless 泵浦过程称为非阿贝尔 Wilczek-Zee 和乐变换。研究团队构建了三种结构, 对应了不同的幺正矩阵 U_1, U_2, U_3 , 通过 $U_3 U_2 U_1 \neq U_2 U_3 U_1 \neq U_3 U_1 U_2$ 验证了该结构的非阿贝尔特性。研究团队更进一步进行了波导长度和 x - y 平面位移误差对系统影响的理论误差分析, 发现泵浦结果在 10% 的结构误差范围内不受影响, 这验证了拓扑光子泵浦作为全局变换操作可以免疫局部干扰。非阿贝尔编织对应的幺正矩阵的秩取决于阵列的大小, 在原理上具有无限可拓展性, 但同时也意味着阵列 z 轴长度为阵列个数周期。本文中的一个周期为 5 cm, 导致非阿贝尔编织输入通道个数受激光加工位移平台的限制。现在波导损耗一般为 0.2 dB/cm, 过长的波导也

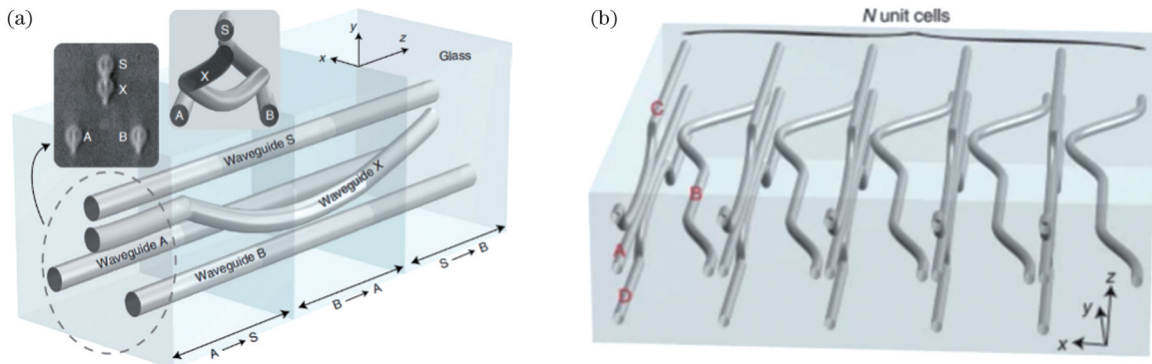


图 11 超快激光直写制备非阿贝尔编织结构。(a)基于四波导时变耦合的双模非阿贝尔编织结构^[116]; (b)基于四波导时变耦合晶格的 Lieb 晶格阵列的非阿贝尔编织^[28]

Fig. 11 Non-Abelian braiding structures prepared by ULDW. (a) Schematic of two-mode non-Abelian braiding structure based on four-waveguide time-varying coupling^[116]; (b) non-Abelian braiding structure with Lieb lattice based on four-waveguide time-varying coupling^[28]

会导致损耗过大,进而影响波导性能。

5 总结和展望

本文先简要介绍了超快激光直写波导的形成机制和技术改进,从而提高单波导和波导阵列性能。之后从拓扑绝缘体的维度和是否时变的角度讨论了在激光加工平台下实现的光子拓扑绝缘体的新奇物理现象以及这些现象与拓扑不变量之间的联系。探讨了突破传统的拓扑概念并且处于当前拓扑光学研究前沿的非厄米拓扑、非线性拓扑和非阿贝尔拓扑。激光加工光子拓扑体系与其他光学实现体系(如超材料体系)相比,具有三维自由度,更容易加工,结构鲁棒性更强。因此,激光加工波导已经成为研究拓扑物理机制、实现光学拓扑的重要平台。光子拓扑绝缘体的拓扑保护、背向散射抑制的边界态和拓扑局域态,在光学运输、调控、拓扑量子计算等方面都有极大的基础研究和应用前景。不过,玻璃波导受制于材料特性,较难实现光电、声光、磁光等方式的调控,热调控也面临调制功率过大、调制速度较慢等应用瓶颈,超快波导、铌酸锂波导,以及多材料结合(如玻璃波导与硅基波导互联)是可能的解决途径。同时,激光直写拓扑绝缘体的性质与应用仍然受限于较小的折射率差结构和过长的波导长度,技术改进和掺杂有望增大折射率差。此外,在新拓扑理论和实现方面,如在非厄米系统、非线性效应、三维(或更高合成维度)光子拓扑绝缘体等方面,仍然需要进一步的研究。激光加工片上光量子芯片研究处于刚起步阶段,如何应用拓扑结构(如非阿贝尔编织)提高量子系统的抗干扰性也是亟待解决的问题。

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Photonic Topological Insulator: Ultrafast-Laser Direct-Writing Engineering and Applications (Invited)

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Abstract

Significance Topological photonics has been a rapidly growing field over a decade. Photonic topological insulators (PTIs) have wave-vector space topologies that lead to unique surface states of light. PTI edge states are immune to structural defects and disorders, and thus, can be used for the robust manipulation of light and topological lasing. Topological photonics also provides a powerful platform for experiments with topological concepts developed for condensed matter phenomena, such as the quantum Hall effect and quantum spin Hall effect. Because of fundamental differences between electrons and photons, the field has developed new fundamental topological ideas for diverse photonic platforms, such as photonic crystals, coupled ring resonators, photorefractive crystals, and ultrafast-laser direct-writing (ULDW) waveguides. ULDW enables the three-dimensional (3D) fabrication of integrated optical circuit chips for a wide range of applications, such as optical communications, data storage, sensing, topological physics, and quantum computing. Ultrafast lasers enable nonlinear absorption and material structure changes, which induce permanent refractive index changes inside transparent materials, such as glass. Compared with two-dimensional photonic crystal fabrication via planar lithography, continuous ULDW can form an arbitrary 3D waveguide geometry with high precision and speed.

The paraxial propagation equation in ULDW waveguide arrays is analogous to the Schrödinger equation. In the past decade, various topological phenomena, including chiral edge states, higher-order topological insulators, anomalous Floquet photonic insulators, non-Hermitian topology, nonlinear topology, and nonabelian topology, have been demonstrated in ULDW waveguide arrays. ULDW-enabled topological photonic devices have applications in intrachip optical networks, optical computing, and quantum information processing, and have the potential to outperform their electronic counterparts in communication, energy consumption, and computation speed bottlenecks. Conventional photonic circuits are prone to fabrication errors, which limit their performance. Quantum computing is highly sensitive to system noise and errors. Topological optical chips fabricated using ULDW have proven to be robust against device defects and can maintain quantum entanglement.

Progress We review photonic topological insulators engineered using ULDW in recent years and their underlying topological phases. First, we briefly discuss the background and mechanism of the ULDW waveguide and several techniques to improve the waveguiding performance, such as insertion loss and propagation loss (Fig. 1). Next, we introduce the paradigmatic Su-Schrieffer-Heeger (SSH) model (Fig. 2) and topologically invariant Zak phases to distinguish between the nontrivial and trivial topological phases of the SSH model. We discuss the experimental implementation of the SSH model and other various one-dimensional static topological insulators that exhibit topological edge localization (Fig. 3). An adiabatic quantized Thouless pump can be achieved by slow deformation of the off-diagonal Aubry-André-Harper (AAH) model and the lopsided Rice-Mele model (Fig. 4). Different experimental observations have shown that the edge of the topological edge mode in a honeycomb waveguide lattice is influenced by edge type, strained deformation, and transverse momentum (Fig. 5). We summarize different high-order topological insulators (HOTIs), such as the two-dimensional SSH model, Kagome model, honeycomb with Kekulé distortion, and disclination array, demonstrating their topological corner states and disclination states (Fig. 6). Floquet topological insulators can break the time-reversal symmetry via periodic z -axis (effective time axis) modulation of the two-dimensional geometry to induce a nonzero Chern number or winding number of the Floquet energy band and enable topological chiral edge modes on the geometry surface (Fig. 7). Several schemes have been proposed, including helical waveguides, curved waveguides, and index modulation. Mukherjee and Maczewsky discovered an anomalous Floquet topological insulator with a zero Chern number but a nonzero winding number. Non-Hermitian (Fig. 8) and nonlinear (Fig. 9) topologies are beyond conventional topological concepts. Parity-time symmetry breaking phenomena in different non-Hermitian systems have been investigated using waveguide wiggling, inserted scatter points, and breaking points. Cerjan demonstrated a Weyl exceptional ring using a bipartite non-Hermitian optical helical waveguide array. Researchers have experimentally achieved nonlinearity-induced and tunable topological solitons in HOTIs, disclination-defect states, and off-diagonal AAH arrays. Jürgensen observed a fractional Thouless pump in off-diagonal AAH arrays via nonlinear tuning. Several research groups have experimentally investigated the ability of ULDW PTIs, including SSH arrays, off-diagonal AAH arrays, HOTIs, and fractal anomalous photonic insulators, to topologically protect photonic quantum entanglement via Hong-Ou-Mandel interference and quantum cross-correlation measurements (Fig. 10). Nonabelian braiding, as a promising quantum computing tool, has been proposed and achieved using two-mode braiding (utilizing the geometry phases of arrays) and a Thouless pump (Fig. 11).

Conclusions and Prospects ULDW has advantages, such as robustness, high nanofabrication precision, rapid prototyping, and

3D fabrication capabilities. The ULDW has proven to be a versatile platform for realizing various types of novel photonic topological insulators and exploring emergent topological phenomenon, such as high-dimensional, non-Hermitian, nonlinear, and nonabelian topologies. Those beyond the conventional PTIs are unclear and require further experimental and theoretical investigations. Compared with other materials, glass waveguides have disadvantages in terms of their electro-optic (EO) modulation capabilities. Glass waveguides can be thermally modulated, which is slow and power-consuming. Laser-directed wiring in other materials with improved electro-optic properties, such as lithium niobate, or integrating glass waveguides with EO modulators, may be potential solutions. More innovative ULDW PTIs designs are required to further reduce the influence of noise and protect the quantum states in quantum information applications.

Key words laser optics; photonic topological insulators; ultrafast laser direct writing; Floquet photonic topological insulators; non-Hermitian topology; non-linear topology; photonic chips