

1064 nm 纳秒激光辐照下 $\text{HfO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$ 增透膜损伤的动态过程研究

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摘要 时间分辨的泵浦探测技术是研究光学元件损伤动态过程的有力手段。基于增强电荷耦合器件(ICCD)的时间分辨泵浦探测技术, 对比研究了 1064 nm 纳秒激光辐照下 $\text{HfO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$ 增透膜膜面处于激光入射面(正向过程)和出射面(反向过程)两种情况下的动态损伤过程。在同一能量密度(52 J/cm^2)激光辐照下, 正向和反向过程都产生了无膜层剥落的小坑损伤以及伴随膜层剥落的小坑损伤, 但反向过程产生的小坑的横向尺寸和深度都比正向的大。有限元分析结果表明正向和反向过程中增透膜内部的基底—膜层界面场强相似, 但实际损伤形貌尺寸以及依据冲击波传播速度计算得到的爆炸能量都表明反向过程沉积的能量更大, 可见等离子体形成后在后续激光脉冲辐照下的发展过程决定了两种情况下的损伤差异。增透膜损伤的时间分辨研究对其损伤机制分析以及实际应用具有重要意义。

关键词 薄膜; 增透膜; 激光诱导损伤; 时间分辨; 等离子体; 冲击波

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1 引言

强激光技术的发展使薄膜元件的抗激光损伤能力面临着巨大的挑战。目前光学薄膜的损伤研究大都是基于离线终态表征来分析推演相关损伤过程及机制。尽管离线终态损伤的研究证实了光学薄膜的飞秒短脉冲损伤是由激光强场造成的^[1-3], 光学薄膜的纳秒损伤与节瘤^[4-6]、纳米吸收性前驱体^[7-10]、基底抛光工艺引入的杂质^[11-12]等有关, 光学薄膜的连续激光损伤主要由其温升决定^[13-14], 但由于光学薄膜通常厚度较小、膜层成分复杂, 同时在短脉冲激光辐照下损伤过程极为短暂, 故难以建立损伤诱因与终态损伤形貌的关联。

时间分辨的泵浦探测技术是研究激光与材料作用过程的有力探测分析手段。1985年, Downer等^[15]利用飞秒泵浦激光的分光束实现了飞秒激光脉冲作用下单质硅表面熔化和材料喷射过程的探测, 在时间和空间

上解释了材料表面熔化和喷射引起的探测光反射率的变化。1999年, Liu等^[16-17]同样利用分光束对皮秒脉冲激光与单质硅相互作用产生等离子体的过程进行了研究, 发现该过程涉及皮秒时间尺度的电子发射、纳秒时间尺度的原子离子质量喷射和微秒时间尺度的大粒子喷射。2013年, Demos等^[18-19]利用纳秒激光泵浦和皮秒/飞秒激光探测, 研究了与熔石英出射面损伤生长相关的能量沉积动力学及随后的材料响应, 发现在纳秒紫外激光辐照下, 激光能量的局部吸收首先引起电子激发现象, 接着出现等离子体的形成和膨胀、径向和周向裂纹的形成以及表面受影响区域的膨胀等现象, 在~30 ns后开始喷射材料团簇, ~75 ns后为明显的材料喷射。2021年, Jo等^[20]基于泵浦光分光探测, 研究了在脉宽分别为 180 fs、1 ps 和 5 ps 的激光脉冲辐照下蓝宝石的损伤过程, 发现应力波随着辐照次数和脉宽变化, 当辐照脉冲数较小时, 在孔的尖端出现损伤和应力波, 随着脉冲数的增加, 应力波产生的位置逐渐移到孔

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顶部。2022年,Ren等^[21]在飞秒和皮秒时间尺度上研究了飞秒激光经过蓝宝石和熔石英时诱导细丝的时空演化差异,发现两种材料中的等离子体几乎在同一时间延迟下出现,但受熔石英中自陷激子(STE)的影响,熔石英中的细丝演化时间至少为972 ps,而蓝宝石中仅为72 ps。

时间分辨的泵浦探测技术研究主要集中于熔石英^[18-19, 22]、蓝宝石^[21, 23-24]等体材料损伤的动态研究,关于薄膜损伤动态过程的研究相对较少。2012年,Šiaulys等^[23]利用飞秒泵浦光分光探测了氮化镓薄膜中非线性传播的脉冲转换和自由载流子产生的动态过程,从时空相位对比图像中识别出脉冲前沿的克尔效应和脉冲尾部的电子等离子体的主导作用。2014年,Šiaulys等^[25]又研究了Ta₂O₅单层膜在飞秒脉冲激光下的损伤动态过程,发现了克尔效应、自由电子产生、超快晶格加热和冲击波产生等过程。2022年,Pu等^[8]利用纳秒泵浦/飞秒探测技术研究了1064 nm高反膜出射面的损伤动态过程,实验中膜面置于出射面,在膜基界面处观察到了材料喷射过程和喷溅坑,然而反射膜的工作状态在实际激光系统中常常是膜面入射。2023年,Zhou等^[26]研究了在真空和大气环境中,1064 nm激光损伤HfO₂/SiO₂增透膜时材料喷射和层剥落过程的动态演变,结果表明,冲击波的半径随环境空气压力的降低而增加,当空气压力降至几百帕以下时冲击波消失;此外,观察到膜层在真空中的剥落速度是空气中的近十倍,认为空气压力对薄膜损伤过程有影响。

增透膜常镀制于窗口元件或者透镜元件等,由于

自身膜层电场透射的特性,比较容易损伤。根据实际激光系统的应用需求,增透膜膜面常置于激光入射面或者出射面。本文研究了1064 nm纳秒激光脉冲条件下HfO₂/SiO₂增透膜在上述两种工作状态下的损伤情况,利用光学显微镜、扫描电镜(SEM)与聚焦离子束(FIB)对产生的损伤形貌进行了表征,并采用纳秒量级时间分辨率的增强电荷耦合器件(ICCD)对损伤动态过程进行了时间分辨测量,从而对比解析了不同工作状态下增透膜终态损伤形貌的形成物理机制,为增透膜制备工艺的优化以及实际应用提供了指导。

2 实验装置与样品

纳秒激光损伤时间分辨测量装置如图1所示,以Nd:YAG激光器(入射波长为1064 nm,脉宽为~10 ns)的输出光束作为泵浦光,其经过能量调节和偏振调节后,由聚焦透镜垂直聚焦于样品表面;在泵浦光路中放置激光快门,控制脉冲激光的通断,同时放置分光镜取出部分光束,用于测量脉冲激光的能量与光斑面积。以半导体激光器输出的波长为532 nm的连续光束作为探测光,其扩束后经反射镜反射垂直于泵浦光掠过样品表面。ICCD结合成像系统接收探测光成像。其中,在成像系统和样品之间插入532 nm窄带滤波片和中性衰减片,滤除其他波段的杂散光并对等离子体闪光进行衰减。泵浦激光器、激光快门、ICCD相机由数字脉冲延迟发生器进行同步触发控制,并利用ICCD内置延时功能控制泵浦激光脉冲与ICCD采集之间的延时。

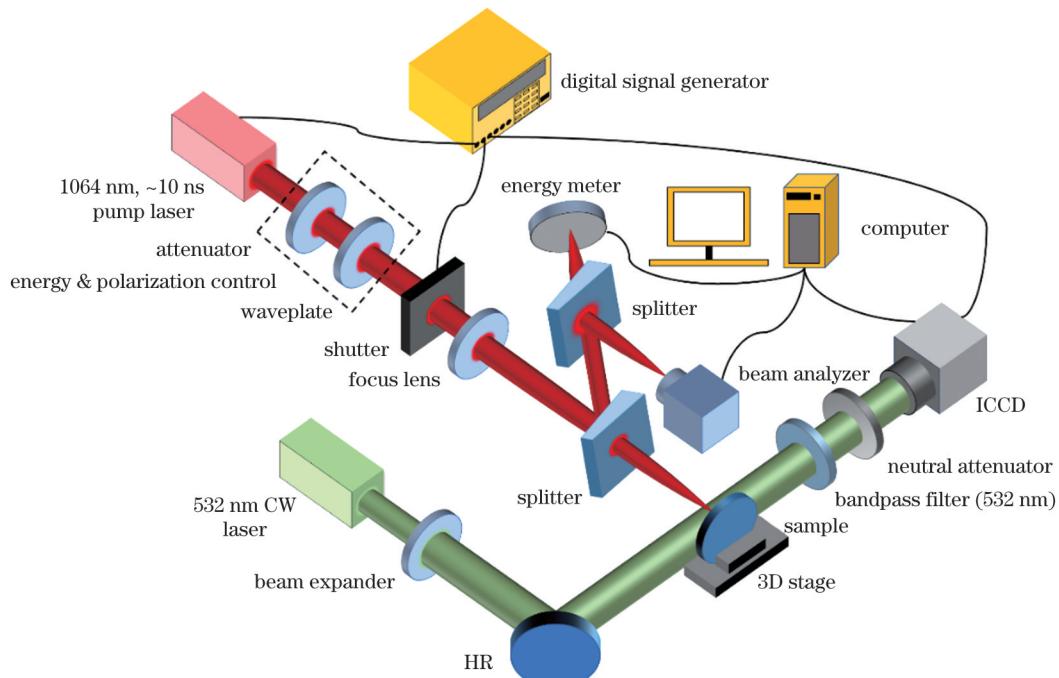


图1 纳秒激光损伤时间分辨测量装置示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic of nanosecond laser damage time-resolved measurement device

采用电子束蒸发技术在熔融石英基底上沉积了 $\text{HfO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$ 增透膜, 熔融石英基底采用超声清洗, 膜结构为 Glass/4.133L0.362H0.995L2.137H1.978L/Air。其中, Glass、H、L、Air 分别代表熔石英基底、 HfO_2 材料、 SiO_2 材料和空气, H 对应的高折射率 HfO_2 材料的厚度为 $\sim 72 \text{ nm}$, L 对应的低折射率 SiO_2 材料的厚度为 $\sim 92 \text{ nm}$, 总的膜厚为 $\sim 837 \text{ nm}$ 。 0° 入射角下的透射光谱如图 2 所示, 1064 nm 处的透射率达 99.98%。实验中利用光学显微镜、扫描电子显微镜与 FIB 对样品损伤形貌进行表征。

由于增透膜膜面涉及入射面和出射面两种工作状态, 故实验中分别将膜面置于激光入射面与激光出射面, 研究上述正向和反向过程中损伤的差异, 如图 3 所

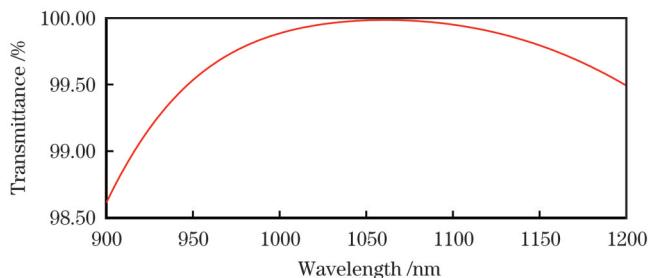


图 2 增透膜的透过率曲线

Fig. 2 Transmittance curve of anti-reflection coating

示。实验中所用辐照脉冲能量密度设置为 52 J/cm^2 , 该能量密度下正向过程与反向过程的损伤概率在 $40\% \sim 60\%$ 之间, 以保证观测到损伤动态过程的概率。

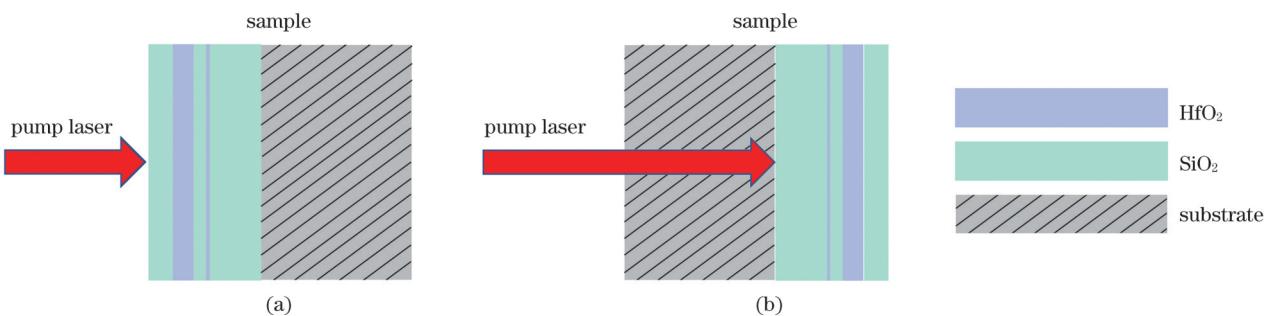


图 3 增透膜的工作状态。(a) 将膜面置于激光入射面的正向过程;(b) 将膜面置于激光出射面的反向过程

Fig. 3 Working states of anti-reflection coating. (a) Forward process when placing coating on laser incidence surface; (b) reverse process when placing coating on laser exit surface

实验中采用 1-on-1 测试, 即 1 个测试点仅有 1 个激光脉冲辐照, 1064 nm 激光在样品表面上的有效光斑半径为 $\sim 0.48 \text{ mm}$ 。将激光器输出激光在样品表面的能量密度控制为 $\sim 52 \text{ J/cm}^2$, 调节激光脉冲与 ICCD 之间的延时, 在该固定延时下对测试点进行激光损伤测试, 测试结束后更改相对延时并移动到下一个测试点进行重复实验。

3 结果与讨论

3.1 损伤形貌

正向过程中的典型损伤形貌主要有两类: 周围无膜层剥落的小坑和周围伴随层剥落的微尺度小坑, 如图 4(a)、(b) 所示。图 4(a) 所示小坑周围有轻微颜色变化区域, 如图 4(a1) 所示, 变色区直径在百微米左右; 图 4(b) 所示小坑首先是直径可达 $\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$ 的圆形膜层剥落区, 剥落区外围还有明显的环形颜色变化区域, 如图 4(b1) 所示。两类损伤的小坑尺寸大小基本为 $7 \sim 10 \mu\text{m}$, 小坑底部中心均有一个圆滑、规整的球冠状凹坑, 呈现明显的熔融、气化特征, 而小坑周围膜层断裂位置粗糙且不规则, 表现出应力破坏特征, 如图 4(a2) 和图 4(b2) 所示。相比于图 4(a3) 和图 4(b3) 所示的未损伤区域, 两类损伤中的颜色变化区

出现许多纳米级的孔洞, 这与等离子体烧蚀密切相关^[27], 如图 4(a4) 和图 4(b4) 所示。利用 FIB 获得上述两损伤小坑的剖面, 如图 4(a5)、(b5)、(b6) 所示, 白色虚线位置处为基底-膜界面, 增透膜膜厚为 837 nm, 可见两类损伤小坑的形成源头均位于膜层与基底界面附近处, 无膜剥落的小坑周围膜层结构完整, 而伴随膜层剥落的小坑, 剥落的只是最表面的 SiO_2 层。

在光学显微镜观察下, 反向过程中的损伤形貌与正向过程类似, 中心位置均有小坑, 损伤程度较轻的周围只是发生轻微颜色变化, 而较为严重的区域出现了膜层剥落, 如图 5(a) 和图 5(b) 所示。利用 SEM 进行进一步分析, 两类损伤的凹坑尺寸都为 $40 \sim 80 \mu\text{m}$, 相较于正向过程中的小坑尺寸明显增大; 此外小坑底部没有类似的球冠状凹坑, 整个结构均表现出力学破坏特征, 并且中心区域都深入基底, 这与熔石英出射面的损伤形貌基本一致^[28], 如图 5(a2) 和图 5(b2) 所示。相比于图 5(a3) 和图 5(b3) 中的未损伤区域, 两类损伤中的颜色变化区域也是等离子体烧蚀的孔洞, 如图 5(a4) 和图 5(b4) 所示。利用 FIB 获得上述两损伤小坑的剖面, 如图 5(a5)、(b6)、(b7)、(b8) 所示, 两类损伤凹坑中心深度为 $\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$, 比正向过程中的小坑深

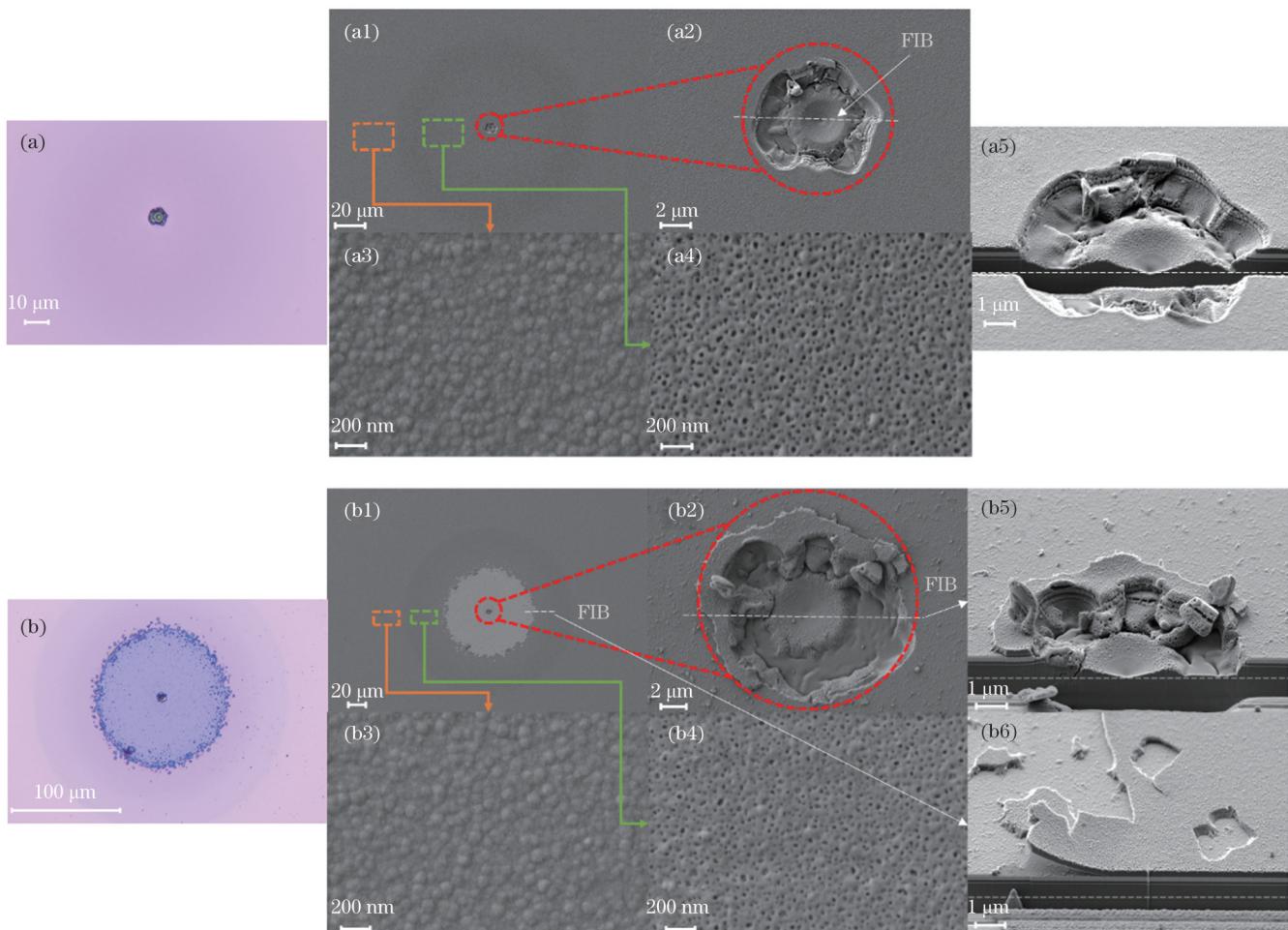


图4 正向过程中的损伤形貌。(a)无膜层剥落的小坑;(b)伴随膜层剥落的小坑;(a1)与(b1)分别为图4(a)和图4(b)的SEM图;(a2)与(b2)分别为图4(a1)和图4(b1)中小坑的放大图;(a3)与(b3)分别为图4(a1)和图4(b1)中虚线框所示未损伤区域的SEM图;(a4)与(b4)分别为图4(a1)和图4(b1)中虚线框所示颜色变化区域的SEM图;(a5)与(b5)分别为图4(a)和图4(b)中的小坑剖面图;(b6)为图4(b1)中白色虚线所示膜层剥落边界的剖面图

Fig. 4 Damage morphologies in forward process. (a) Pit without layer peeling-off; (b) pit with layer peeling-off; (a1) and (b1) are SEM images of Figs. 4(a) and (b), respectively; (a2) and (b2) are enlarged images of pits in Figs. 4(a1) and (b1), respectively; (a3) and (b3) are SEM images of undamaged areas shown in dashed boxes in Figs. 4(a1) and (b1), respectively; (a4) and (b4) are SEM images of color change areas shown in dashed boxes in Figs. 4(a1) and (b1), respectively; (a5) and (b5) are cross-sectional views of pits in Figs. 4(a) and (b), respectively; (b6) is cross-sectional view of layer peeling-off boundary at white dashed line in Fig. 4(b1)

度大得多,对于伴随膜层剥落的坑,也是表面的 SiO_2 层发生脱落。

基于以上对损伤形貌的分析,统计了各类损伤小坑以及剥落膜层的尺寸大小,如图6所示。在正向过程中,无论是否有膜层剥落,中心小坑尺寸都为7~10 μm ;而在反向过程中,中心小坑尺寸为40~80 μm ,明显大于正向过程中的小坑,其中伴随膜层剥落的小坑尺寸稍大于无膜层剥落的小坑尺寸,如图6(a)所示。对于膜层剥落尺寸的大小,正向过程中膜层剥落的尺寸为150~160 μm ,而反向过程中膜层剥落的尺寸比正向过程的大,尺寸为240~280 μm ,如图6(b)所示。

3.2 不同损伤形貌对应的动态过程及其差异

在激光损伤过程中,通过调整ICCD快门触发信

号与泵浦激光触发信号之间的延时,实现损伤不同阶段的拍摄,最终完成整个损伤过程的记录。实验发现损伤动态过程主要涉及等离子体闪光、等离子体喷射、冲击波的扩展以及粒子喷射等现象。

对于正向过程,伴随膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程如图7所示。由于探测光的相干性,探测光经过样品边缘处形成衍射区域,图7中的虚线对应于样品表面。当ICCD快门触发信号与泵浦激光触发信号之间的延时为54.5~100.0 ns时,可以观察到等离子体闪光,等离子体闪光呈半圆形,直径为300~400 μm ;等离子体闪光在延时为~60.0 ns时达到最强并在延时为100.0 ns时消失,其持续时间比激光脉冲长,在这个过程中等离子体逐渐远离膜层,这与激光诱导等离子体逆着激光入射方向发展的表现是一致的^[29]。延时

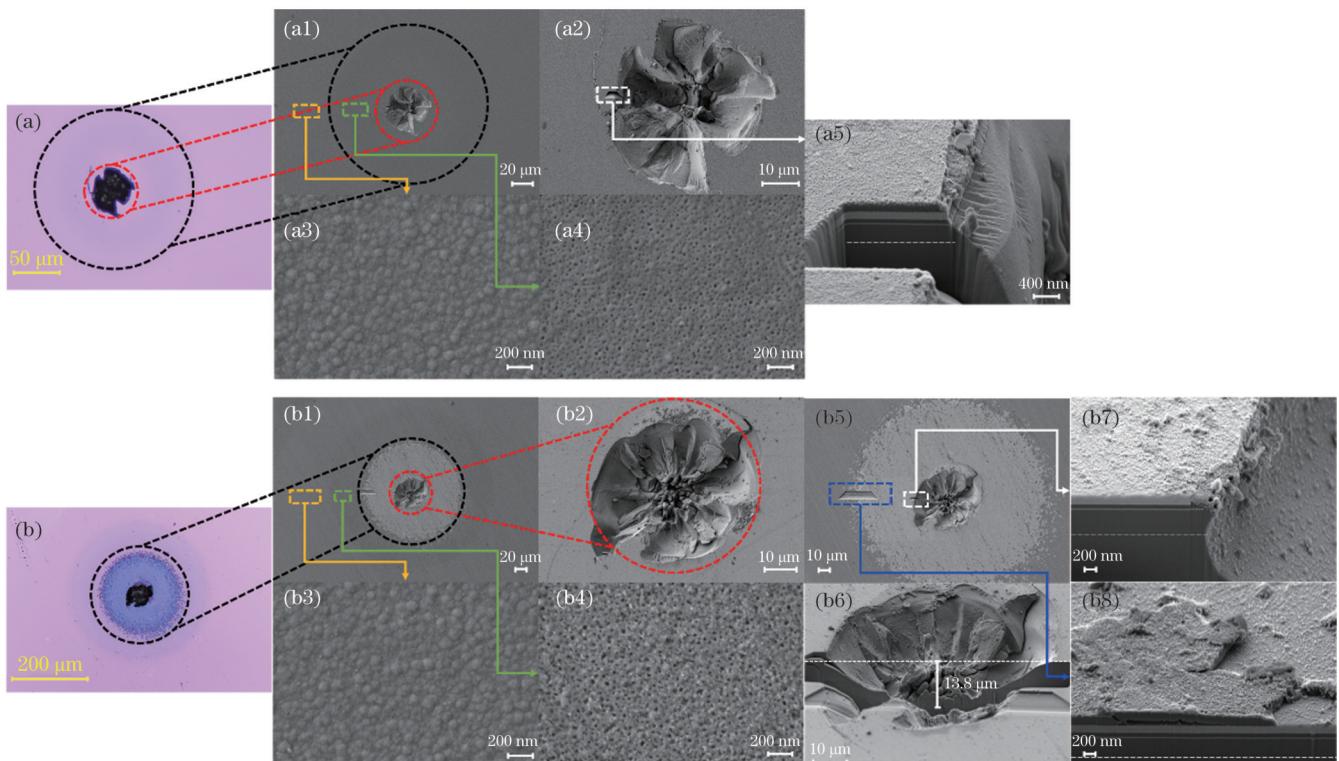


图 5 反向过程中的损伤形貌。(a)无膜层剥落的小坑;(b)伴随膜层剥落的小坑;(a1)与(b1)分别为图 5(a)和图 5(b)的 SEM 图;(a2)与(b2)分别为图 5(a1)和图 5(b1)中小坑的放大图;(a3)与(b3)分别为图 5(a1)和图 5(b1)中虚线框所示未损伤区域的 SEM 图;(a4)与(b4)分别为图 5(a1)和图 5(b1)中虚线框所示颜色变化区域的 SEM 图;(a5)为图 5(a2)中白色虚线框所示小坑边界的剖面图;(b5)为(b1)中层剥落小坑局部 FIB 后的表面 SEM 图;(b6)为图 5(b2)中小坑的剖面图;(b7)为图 5(b5)中白色虚线框所示小坑边界的剖面图;(b8)为图 5(b5)中虚线框所示层剥落边界的剖面图

Fig. 5 Damage morphologies in reverse process. (a) Pit without layer peeling-off; (b) pit with layer peeling-off; (a1) and (b1) are SEM images of Figs. 5(a) and (b), respectively; (a2) and (b2) are enlarged images of pits in Figs. 5(a1) and (b1), respectively; (a3) and (b3) are SEM images of undamaged areas shown in dashed boxes in Figs. 5(a1) and (b1), respectively; (a4) and (b4) are SEM images of color change areas shown in dashed boxes in Figs. 5(a1) and (b1), respectively; (a5) is cross-sectional view of pit boundary shown in white dashed boxes in Fig. 5(a2); (b5) is surface SEM image of pit with layer peeling-off after local FIB in Fig. 5(b1); (b6) is cross-sectional view of pit in Fig. 5(b2); (b7) is cross-sectional view of pit boundary shown in white dashed boxes in Fig. 5(b5); (b8) is cross-sectional view of layer peeling-off boundary shown in dashed boxes in Fig. 5(b5)

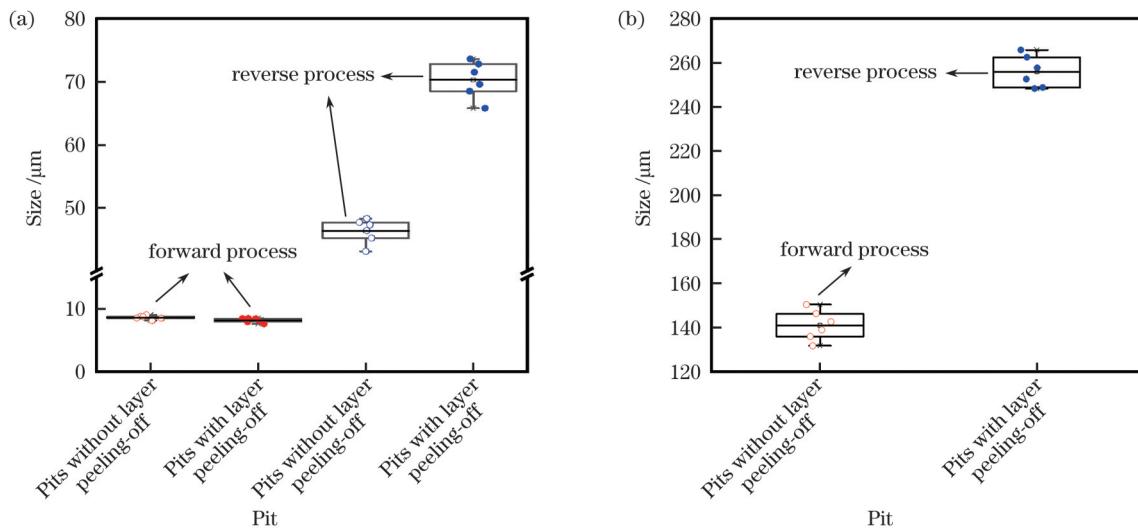


图 6 各类损伤小坑以及剥落膜层的尺寸大小统计。(a)损伤中心小坑;(b)剥落膜层

Fig. 6 Size statistics of various damage pits and peeling-off coating layer. (a) Damage center pit; (b) peeling-off coating layer

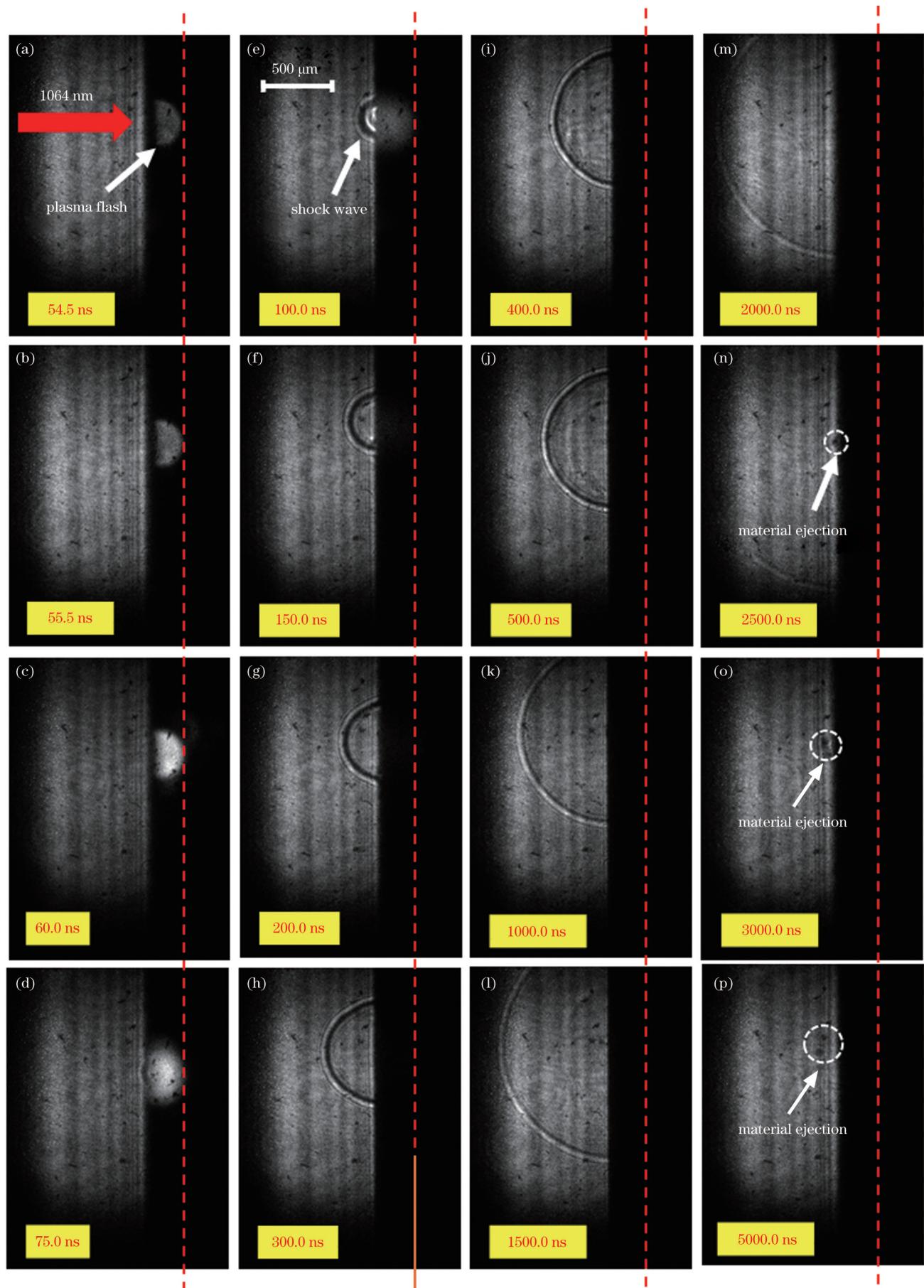


图 7 正向过程中伴随膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程
Fig. 7 Damage dynamic process of pits with layer peeling-off in forward process

75.0 ns 后可看到冲击波开始形成并以球状在空气中扩展，一直持续到超出拍摄视场范围，延时达到 2500.0 ns 时发现有材料开始喷射，喷射的持续时间可能较长，在 5000.0 ns 时依然可以拍摄到。

正向过程中无膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程如图 8 所示。相比于有膜层剥落的损伤形貌，在该类损

伤形成过程中没有观察到等离子体闪光，并且冲击波出现在延时 100.0 ns 后，比有膜层剥落时的晚了约 25.0 ns。另一个明显的区别是冲击波传播速度，同一延时下拍摄到的该形貌对应的冲击波半径尺寸较小，同时随着时间的推移，冲击波强度迅速衰减。此外，在该损伤过程中未观察到材料喷射。

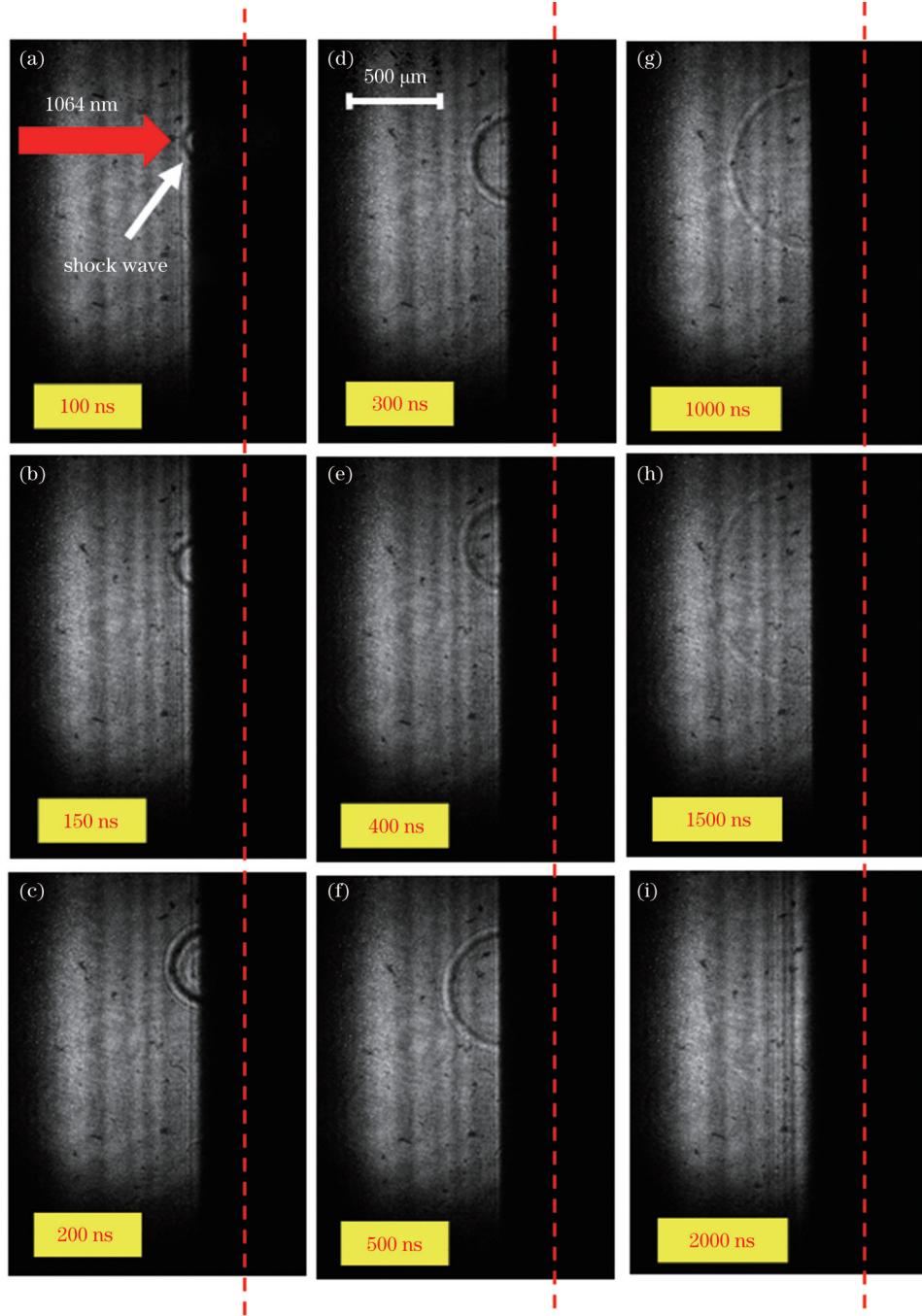


图 8 正向过程中无膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程

Fig. 8 Damage dynamic process of pits without layer peeling-off in forward process

反向过程所对应的两类不同损伤形貌的动态过程分别如图 9 和图 10 所示。伴随有膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程如图 9 所示。在 60.0~67.5 ns 延时范围内有着明显的等离子体闪光现象，直径为 300~400 μm 。但是与膜层位于激光入射面时相比，等离子体闪光出

现得较晚、强度较弱并且持续时间较短。在延时为 70.0 ns 时开始出现冲击波，致密不透明等离子体在损伤中心处出现喷射，随后这些喷射的不透明等离子体与冲击波分离，并在等离子体羽流内部迅速消失。在延时 500.0 ns 之后，开始出现材料喷射，整个喷射过程

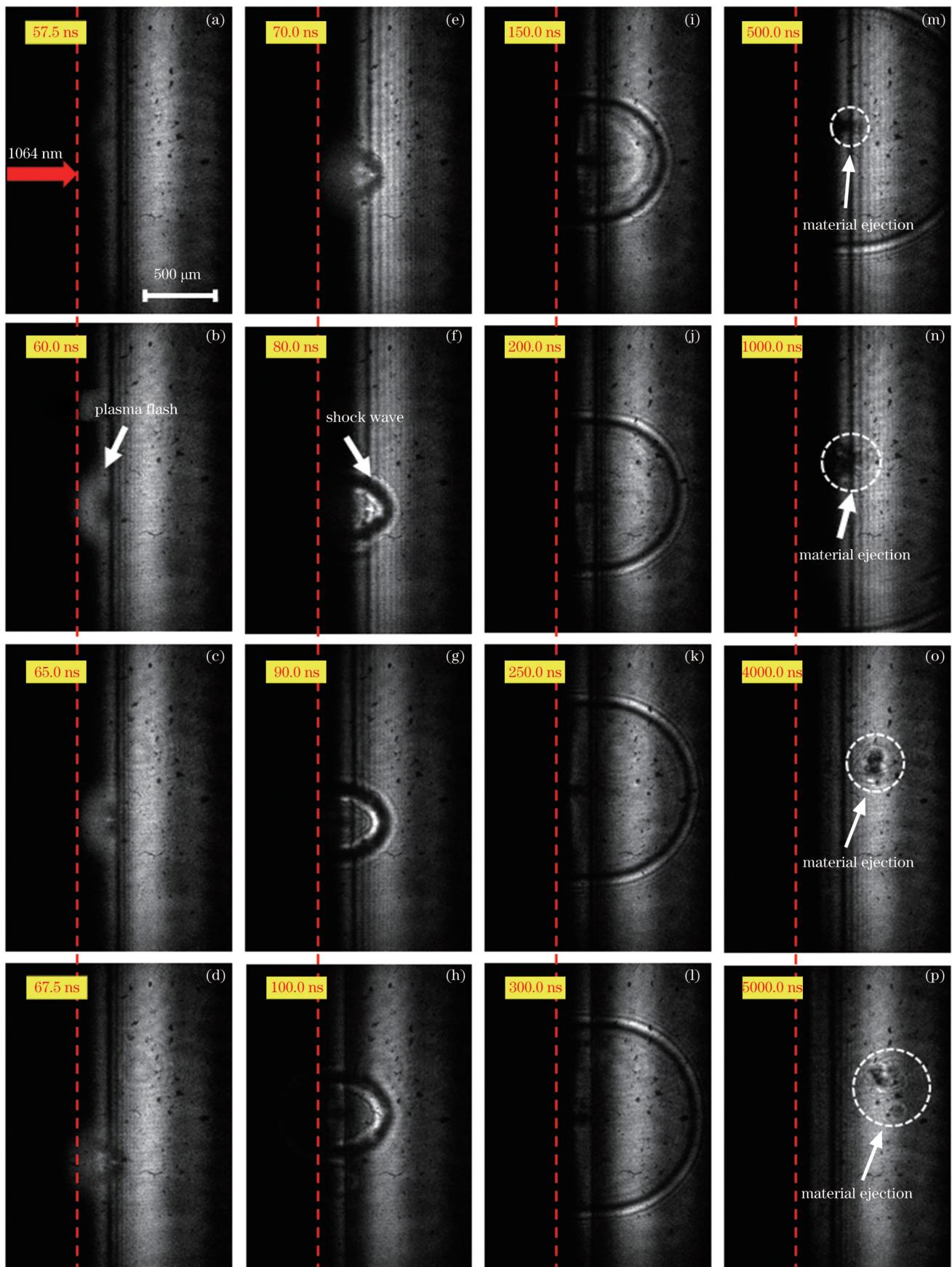


图 9 反向过程中伴随膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程
Fig. 9 Dynamic damage process of pits with layer peeling-off in reverse process

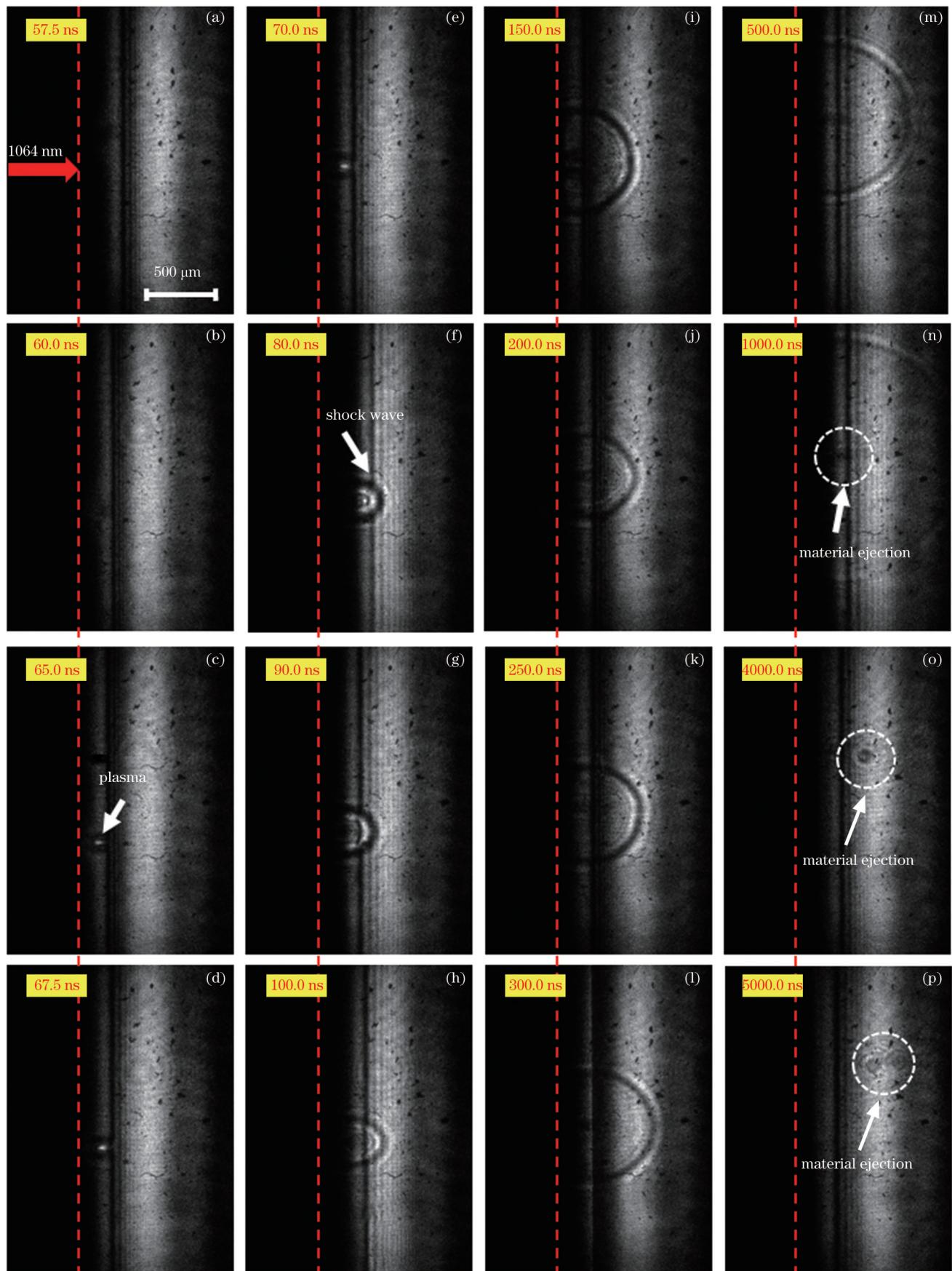


图 10 反向过程中无膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程

Fig. 10 Dynamic damage process of pits without layer peeling-off in reverse process

持续数十微秒,大量的材料以喷射方式脱离样品表面。

无膜层剥落的小坑的损伤动态过程如图 10 所示,在整个过程中都未观察到大尺寸的等离子体闪光,在延时为 65.0 ns 时出现点状闪光并逐渐远离膜面,延时为 80.0 ns 时形成冲击波,延时达到 100.0 ns 时等离子体闪光消失,随后出现材料的喷射现象,但与有膜层剥落的小坑相比,其冲击波传播较缓慢。

3.3 分析与讨论

分析不同条件下的损伤形貌可以发现,无论是膜面位于激光入射面的正向过程还是膜面位于激光出射面的反向过程,同一辐照条件下产生的两种损伤形貌的中心小坑尺寸相差不大,差别只是有无膜层剥落,而在损伤过程中则表现为有无大尺寸的等离子体闪光。膜层剥落的过程都伴随着直径为 300~400 μm 的等离子体闪光,而无剥落过程时则观察不到该现象,这证明膜层剥落与等离子体闪光有内在联系。而正向过程与

反向过程中的中心小坑则表现出明显不同:一是形态方面,正向过程中小坑底部中心部位出现光滑规整的熔融区域,而反向过程中的熔融特征不明显,更多的表现为应力碎裂;二是损伤区域尺寸,无论是小坑的横向口径还是纵向深度,反向过程中的都要更大。

实验中使用的辐照激光的脉冲能量密度一致,并且膜层在辐照激光波段高透,脉冲能量大部分能够穿过膜层,但反向过程中的损伤更明显、损伤尺寸更大。我们利用有限元分析方法仿真了两种激光入射方式下的电场分布,如图 11 所示。其中:图 11(a)为正向过程中的场强分布,基底-膜层界面处的场强(EFI)为 1.396;图 11(b)为反向过程中的场强分布,可以看到基底-膜界面处的相对场强为 1.367。这里为了便于比较,对电场强度作了归一化处理。由电场仿真结果可以看出,膜层位于入射面与出射面时的电场强度差别较小,不足以形成损伤形貌差异。

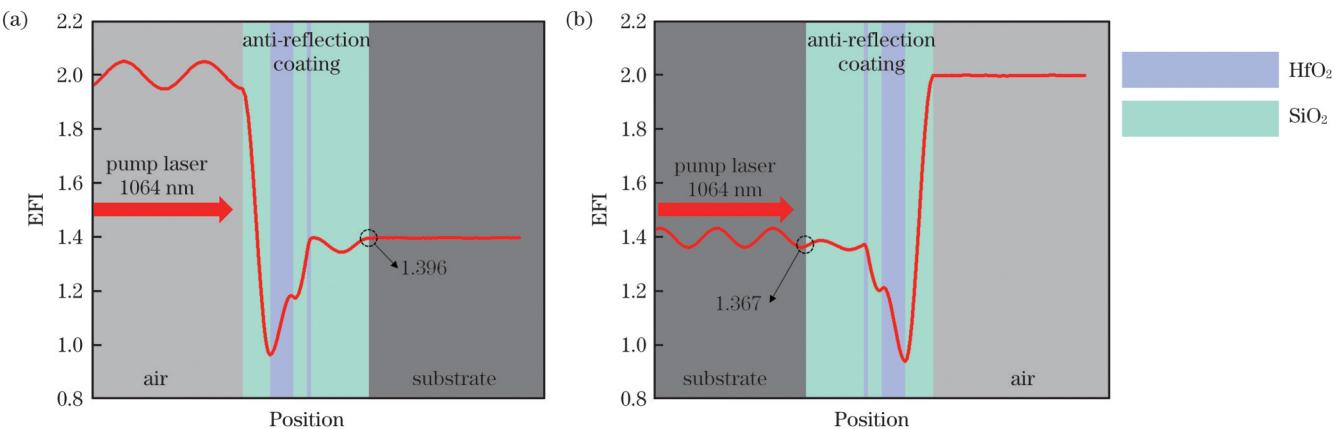


图 11 增透膜正向和反向过程电场仿真。(a)正向过程;(b)反向过程

Fig. 11 Electric field simulations for forward and reverse processes of anti-reflection coatings. (a) Forward process; (b) reverse process

由获得的损伤动态过程可知,在伴随层剥落的动态过程中都能观察到等离子体闪光现象,反向过程中等离子体闪光的强度较弱,如图 7(a)~(e)和图 9(b)~(e)所示。此外,反向过程中发现有大量致密不透明等离子体喷射并且迅速消失,如图 9(e)~(i)和图 10(f)~(k)所示。相比于正向过程,反向过程中还有着大量的粒子喷射,如图 9(m)~(p)和图 10(n)~(p)所示。当激光脉冲辐照时,膜层与基底界面处的杂质或缺陷吸收能量形成相变,并可能进一步吸收能量形成等离子体,这些通常在脉冲辐照后的前几个纳秒时间内完成。等离子体内部具有密度极高的自由电子及正离子,对辐照光束具有较强的吸收作用,又因为等离子体会逆着激光入射方向发展,这样正向过程中的等离子体阻挡了脉冲后续能量的传递,膜层及基底只吸收了激光脉冲的一部分能量,只有面对激光的部分等离子体才能吸收能量以维持等离子态,因此等离子体闪光也较强,而接近样品表面的部分逐渐湮灭,这使得等离子体远离膜面,如图 12(a)所示,在一定程度上降低了正向过程中的损伤程度。

对于将膜面置于激光出射面的反向过程,激光脉冲自基底向薄膜辐照,也同样由于等离子体逆着激光入射方向向基底发展,等离子体吸收的激光能量将在基底内部大量沉积,该过程中的热力耦合以及击穿效应使得周围更多的材料离化喷出,从而形成更大、更深的损伤区域,如图 12(b)所示。因此,两种辐照条件下损伤形貌差异较大的主要原因是激光诱导薄膜损伤过程中形成的等离子体会逆着激光入射方向发展,正向过程中等离子体阻挡激光后续能量传递至薄膜表面,而反向过程中等离子体阻挡激光后续能量在材料内部大量沉积,从而造成两个过程中材料沉积的能量差异较大,因此两种辐照条件下薄膜损伤形貌的差异较大。

为了验证以上过程,本文根据冲击波传播速度计算了冲击波对应的爆炸能量,并以此近似判断不同损伤形貌形成过程中样品对激光脉冲能量的吸收量。根据 Sedov-Taylor 理论,冲击波的半径(R)与爆炸的能量(E)有关:

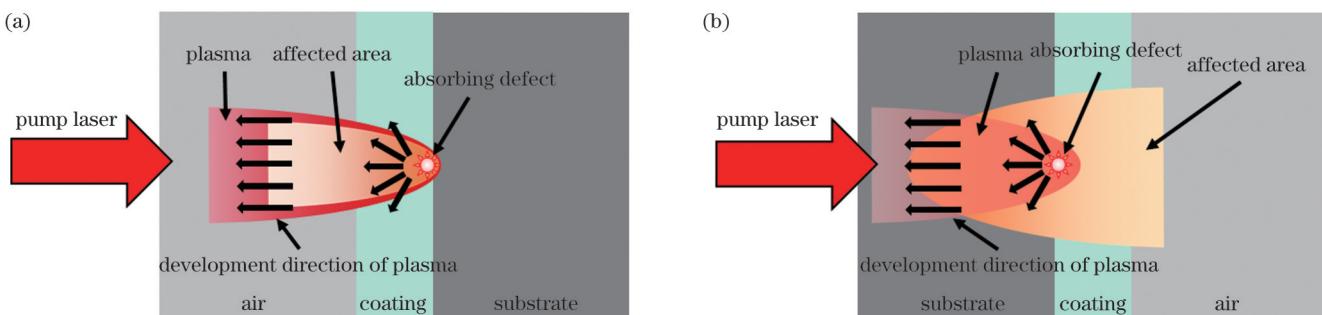


图 12 等离子体对激光脉冲的屏蔽作用。(a)正向过程;(b)反向过程

Fig. 12 Shielding effect of plasma on laser pulse. (a) Forward process; (b) reverse process

$$R = \Phi \left(\frac{E_s}{\rho} \right)^{\frac{1}{2+\beta}} t^{\frac{2}{2+\beta}}, \quad (1)$$

式中: Φ 是常数, 约等于 1; E_s 是冲击波的能量; ρ 是空气密度, 约等于 1.2 kg/m^3 ; t 是冲击波传播的时间; β 是冲击波传播的维度, 球面传播的 $\beta = 3$ 。基于 3.2 节中的损伤过程, 通过解析记录图片, 统计不同辐照方式、不同损伤形貌下的冲击波传播时间与距离, 结果如图 13 所示。随着等离子体的膨胀, 由于受到空气的阻力, 冲击波半径 R 的增长速度放缓, 冲击波的波前速度逐渐减小。将图 13 获得的数据代入式(1), 计算相应的爆炸能量, 结果如表 1 所示。该计算结果表明, 无论是正向过程还是反向过程, 有膜层剥落时损伤吸收的能量都大于无剥落时, 正向过程中有膜层剥落时损伤吸收的能量是无膜层剥落时的 4 倍, 反向过程中有膜层剥落时损伤吸收的能量是无膜层剥落时的 9.12 倍, 多吸收的能量用于激发更强的等离子体并促成膜层剥落。激光辐照方式的影响更加明显, 同样是无膜层剥落的损伤过程, 反向过程吸收的能量是正向过程的 10.5 倍, 而对于有膜层剥落的损伤过程, 这个比例提升至

23.93。由此可见激光入射方向对损伤过程的影响, 多吸收的这部分能量促使更多的材料熔化气化甚至击穿形成等离子体完成质量迁移, 由此导致更大尺寸的损伤区域。

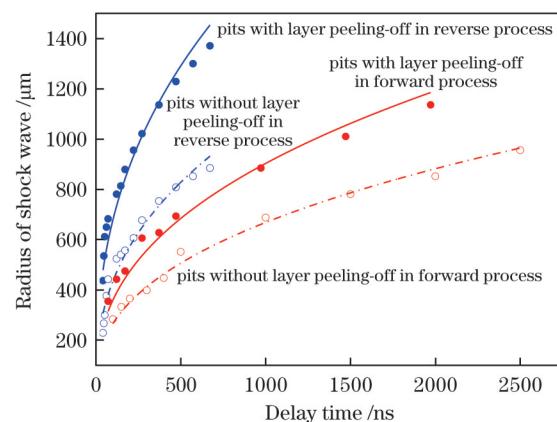


图 13 不同损伤形貌对应的冲击波半径随时间变化的曲线(点和圈表示数据, 线表示拟合线)

Fig. 13 Shock wave radius versus time corresponding to different damage morphologies (points and circles represent data, and lines represent fitted curves)

表 1 不同损伤对应的冲击波能量

Table 1 Shock wave energy corresponding to different damages

Process	Shock wave energy / mJ	
	Pits with layer peeling-off	Pits without layer peeling-off
Reverse process	17.23	1.89
Forward process	0.72	0.18

4 结论

利用 1064 nm 纳秒激光脉冲, 研究了增透膜膜面置于激光入射面与激光出射面情况下的损伤形貌, 并结合 ICCD 分析了损伤的动态过程, 获得了膜面置于激光入射面与激光出射面时不同损伤所对应的动态过程中的等离子体、冲击波和材料喷射过程, 得出以下结论:

1) 在膜面置于激光入射面与激光出射面的情况下, 正向过程与反向过程都会产生两种损伤形貌。损

伤较轻的一种是中心位置有一个小坑, 光学显微镜下小坑周围颜色变化区域为等离子体烧蚀引起的纳米级孔洞; 损伤较为严重的一种则是在小坑周围出现膜层剥落, 剥落的只是膜层最表面的 SiO_2 层; 产生膜层剥落时伴随着较大尺寸的等离子体闪光。

2) 反向过程中的损伤区域相较于正向过程更大且更深。正向过程与反向过程中的电场仿真表明, 增透膜内部基底-膜层界面的场强相似, 不足以形成损伤差异。通过冲击波传播速度计算了激光损伤动态过程中冲击波的能量, 其中对于带有膜层剥落的小坑, 反向

过程吸收的能量是正向过程的 23.93。

3) 等离子体逆着激光入射方向发展, 正向过程中的等离子体由膜面向着空气方向发展, 从而屏蔽后续激光脉冲与材料的相互作用, 而反向过程中的等离子体由膜面向基底方向发展, 从而激光能量在基底内部大量沉积, 造成更多的等离子体以及材料喷射, 因此正向过程与反向过程的损伤形貌差异较大, 归因于激光支持下等离子体的发展方向造成的能力吸收差异。

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Dynamic Damage Process of $\text{HfO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$ Anti-Reflection Coatings Under 1064 nm Nanosecond Laser Irradiation

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Abstract

Objective The advancement of high-power lasers poses challenges to the damage resistance of coatings. Currently, studies on coating damage largely rely on offline end-state characterization to understand and infer associated damage processes and mechanisms. However, given the thickness and intricate composition of these coatings, coupled with the exceedingly brief damage process during pulsed laser exposure, establishing a link between the origin of the damage and its ultimate morphology becomes challenging. Anti-reflection films commonly apply to windows or lenses and are susceptible to damage due to their transmitted electric field. Depending on specific application needs, anti-reflection films position either on the laser entry or exit surface. In this study, the $\text{HfO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$ anti-reflection coating, operating under both conditions, undergoes exposure to a 1064-nm nanosecond laser. By integrating offline end-state characterization with online dynamic process monitoring, the analysis reveals damage traits and mechanisms. This insight aids in refining anti-reflection coating fabrication techniques and their practical use.

Methods The output pump beam of an Nd:YAG laser (wavelength of 1064 nm, pulse width of ~ 10 ns) is vertically focused on the surface of an anti-reflection coating. A continuous probe beam with a wavelength of 532 nm, perpendicular to the pump beam, sweeps across the surface of the anti-reflection coating. An intensified charge-coupled device (ICCD) is combined with an imaging system to detect dynamic damage processes. By adjusting the delay between the ICCD shutter and trigger signal of the pump laser, damage images at different moments are captured, and the entire dynamic damage process is documented. The optical microscope (OM), scanning electron microscope (SEM), and focused ion beam (FIB) are used to characterize the final damage morphologies. Under irradiation with the same laser fluence, the anti-reflection film is located either on the laser incident or exit surface. The damage characteristics of the two irradiation methods are analyzed and contrasted.

Results and Discussions In this study, combining offline end-state characterization with online dynamic process detection, the damage to the $\text{HfO}_2/\text{SiO}_2$ anti-reflection coating under the mentioned two working conditions is investigated. Findings show that under identical irradiation conditions, regardless of the anti-reflection film location on the laser incidence (forward process) or exit (reverse process) surface, two types of damages occur: pits with and without layer peeling-off. However, the central pits in the forward and reverse processes exhibit significant differences. Morphologically, the bottom center of the pits in the forward process displays a smooth and consistent melted region, while the melting characteristics in the reverse process are not pronounced and show signs of stress fragmentation. Moreover, the size of the damaged area, whether considering the lateral diameter or the longitudinal depth of the pit, is larger in the reverse process than in the forward process (Figs. 4 and 5). Finite element analysis indicates that the electric field intensity (EFI) at the substrate-coating interface for both processes is comparable (Fig. 11). A noticeable large-sized plasma flash appears in the damage process with the peeling-off layer, whereas this phenomenon remains unobservable without layer peeling-off (Figs. 7, 8, 9, and 10). The plasma expands in the direction opposite to the laser incidence. In the forward process, the plasma hinders subsequent laser energy transfer to the coating surface, leading to comparatively minor damage. Conversely, a large amount of laser energy absorbed by the plasma in the reverse process is deposited inside the material, intensifying the damage (Fig. 12). The more potent shockwave energy in the reverse process further validates this damage process. Regardless of the coating position on the laser incident or exit surface, the energy absorbed by the damage with layer peeling exceeds that without layer peeling (Fig. 13 and Table 1).

Conclusions Upon irradiation of the anti-reflection coating positioned on the laser incidence or exit surface with a 1064-nm nanosecond laser, damage morphologies are characterized, and the dynamic damage processes are analyzed using ICCD. The study investigates the dynamic processes of plasma, shock wave, and material ejection corresponding to various types of damage. The conclusions are as follows:

1) Two damage morphologies are identified for the coating positioned on the laser incidence (forward process) and exit (reverse process) surfaces. Under OM, the less severe damage reveals a central pit surrounded by a discolored area, indicative of nanoscale holes resulting from plasma ablation. In pits with greater damage, the SiO₂ surface layer peels away. The emergence of this peeling layer is associated with larger plasma flashes.

2) The damaged areas in the reverse process are larger and deeper than those in the forward process. Electric field simulations for the forward and reverse processes exhibit a similar electric field strength at the film-substrate interface, which is insufficient to form these morphological differences. The energy of the shock wave in the dynamic process of laser damage is calculated using the propagation speed of the shock wave, and the ratio of shock wave energy in the reverse process to that in the forward process is as high as 23.93.

3) Due to the plasma propagating in the direction opposite to the laser incidence, in the forward process, the plasma evolves from the coating toward the air, inhibiting subsequent laser pulses from interacting with the material. Conversely, in the reverse process, the plasma moves from the coating toward the substrate, leading to deposition of laser energy within the substrate, which in turn results in enhanced plasma and material ejection. Hence, the notable morphological differences between the forward and reverse processes stem from the varied energy absorptions dictated by the plasma development direction under laser support.

Key words thin films; anti-reflection coatings; laser-induced damage; time resolution; plasma; shock wave