

合肥红外自由电子激光光束线的设计与性能

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摘要 红外光谱有着广泛的应用。合肥红外自由电子激光装置能够为用户提供高亮度的中/远红外辐射,为高水平的红外研究提供基础条件。自由电子激光和实验站之间需要用光束线连接起来,以便在完成红外辐射高效输送的同时进行聚焦、诊断等。本文介绍了合肥红外自由电子激光装置红外光束线的设计与性能,主要包括光束线的总体要求、设计方案和布局、光学设计、光斑演化、光束传输、激光的分束取样、激光宏脉冲的在线同步测量、激光光谱的在线同步测量等。调试结果表明,设计达到了预期指标,整个光束线可以稳定运行。

关键词 激光光学; 光束线; 自由电子激光; 中/远红外; 激光诊断

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1 引言

红外是一种电磁辐射,波段介于可见光与太赫兹之间。红外的光子能量与分子的振动、转动,固体中的声子、元激发,蛋白质的折叠等相当,因而可以在化学反应、关联电子效应、生命健康等的研究中发挥重大作用^[1-5]。但是,纵观全球科技的发展历史可以发现,早在1882年人们就已经观察到了红外吸收光谱,但其发展水平却不如1928年才发现的拉曼光谱^[6-8]。究其原因,缺乏高亮度的红外光源是一个重要因素^[9-10]。时至今日,除了在近红外和中红外的短波部分有OPO/OPA激光^[11-12]、量子级联激光^[13-15]外,红外光谱研究大都还是将Global的黑体辐射作为光源^[16]。相比Global,同步辐射的亮度虽然有所提高,但在红外波段的增幅也只有2~3个量级,增幅不够明显^[17-19]。反观拉曼光谱,随着激光技术的不断突破,已经发展出了激光共焦拉曼^[20]、表面增强拉曼^[21-22]、飞秒时间分辨拉曼^[23-24]等技术,而且这些技术在科学技术的发展中发挥了重要作用。因此,高亮度的红外光源是发展先进红外光谱技术的基础,也是解决能源化学、量子调控、生命健康等核心领域重大科学问题的关键技术^[25]。

2014年,国家自然科学基金委员会国家重大科研仪器设备研制项目“基于可调谐红外激光的能源化学研究大型实验装置”启动,该项目由厦门大学牵头,并

由其与中国科学技术大学、复旦大学、中国科学院大连化学物理研究所合作,在中国科学技术大学国家同步辐射实验室研制一套基于红外自由电子激光(IR FEL)的能源化学研究平台。该平台具体包括一套直线电子加速器驱动的中/远红外自由电子激光光源、一条红外自由电子激光光束线和5个能源化学实验站。平台预留接口,后期可以通过建设新的实验站将研究领域向量子调控、材料、生命科学等领域拓展^[26-27]。

随着项目的批准,光束线团队开始进行国内第一条红外自由电子激光光束线的设计。红外自由电子激光光束线的功能主要包括以下4个方面:

1) 将强辐射区(光源大厅)内红外自由电子激光输出的红外激光束高效传输/聚焦到实验站,并在各实验站之间切换。

2) 对红外自由电子激光输出的红外激光参数(波长、宏脉冲能量)进行实时诊断,并将诊断获得的激光参数提供给自由电子激光控制系统,用于波长、脉冲能量的反馈控制。同时,也将诊断所获得的激光参数提供给实验站,用于实验数据的定标。

3) 与实验站进行真空、光学、电子、控制软件的对接。

4) 缓冲实验站事故对直线电子加速器的灾难性冲击。

本文将详细介绍合肥红外自由电子激光光束线的

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设计,以及初步调试后所达到的性能。

2 总体布局

根据半地下光源大厅内中红外、远红外激光谐振腔的布置,以及实验大厅内 5 个实验站的安排,设计了图 1 所示的光束线总体布局。受经费和场地的限制,中红外、远红外共用同一条光束线,这是本光束线与国际上同类光束线的最大差异^[28-29],也给光束线性能的优化带来了较大挑战。如图 1 所示,从远红外、中红外振荡器耦合孔发出的红外激光光束分别经过金刚石窗 D1、D2 进入光束线。金刚石窗的主要功能是阻断大气进入光束线和直线电子加速器,以防止实验站事故对加速器的冲击,也可防止加速器事故对光束线和实验站的破坏。选择金刚石材料是为了能在较宽的红外波段上获得较高的透过性能。金刚石片需要以

Brewster 角 (67.2°) 安装,只有这样才能保证水平偏振的红外自由电子激光以接近零的折射损耗透过金刚石窗。从金刚石窗 D1 出来的远红外光束首先由反射镜 M1 向下反射,下穿避让电子束流轨道,再经反射镜 M2 反射后在反射镜 M4 处与经反射镜 M3 反射过来的中红外会合成一条光路。当远红外工作时,将 M4 反射镜撤出光路;当中红外工作时,将 M4 插入光路。通过 M4/M2 的红外光束经反射镜 M5 反射后爬高,并由反射镜 M6 反射后在接近光源大厅屋顶的位置水平穿出辐射屏蔽墙并穿墙进入实验大厅。为了维持偏振特性,进入实验厅的红外光束经由反射镜 M7、M8 反射后沿水平方向传播,并通过反射镜 M9~M13 的切换向一字排开的 5 个实验站供光。S 为分束器,由红外透明介质制成,通过其表面反射分出约 5% 能量的激光用于激光参数的测量诊断。光路上的每个节点都设置一个六通镜箱,镜箱间用不锈钢真空管道连接(不接管道的方向用盲板封闭),管道直径为 200 mm。光束线的出射窗口可根据实验需要更换不同的材料。光束线用分子泵/机械泵机组抽真空(真空度采用复合真空规测量),以消除空气的吸收。为防止实验站真空事故对直线电子加速器带来的潜在风险,在金刚石窗的基础上进一步设置真空联锁保护系统。光束线出射窗口前设置真空闸板阀,供实验站更换窗口时阻断大气进入光束线,使光束线保持良好的真空。从远红外振荡器出口处到最远端的表/界面实验站焦点,光束线全长超过了 38 m。

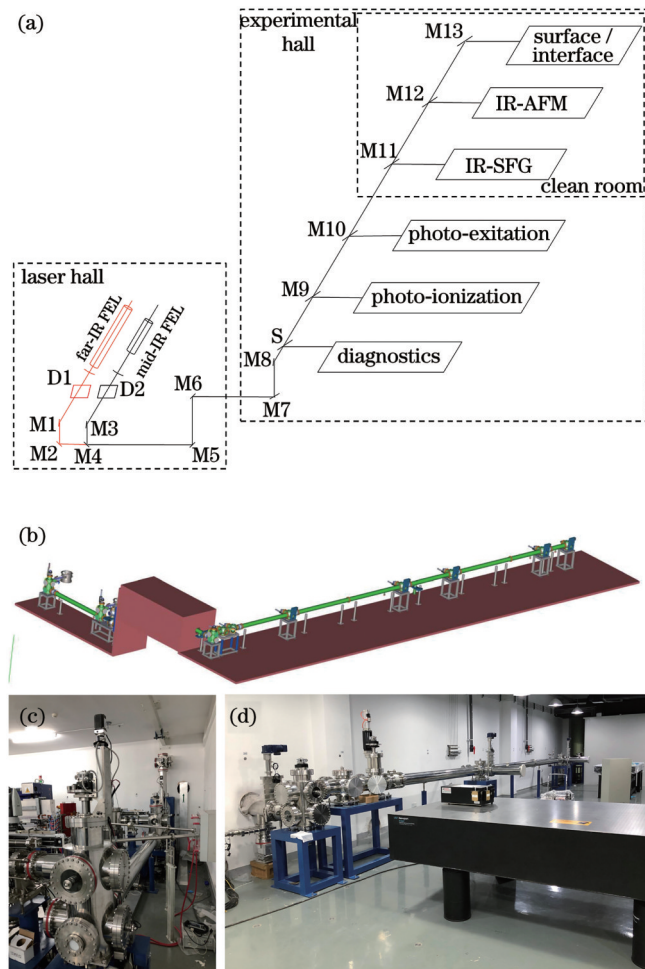


图 1 合肥红外自由电子激光光束线总体布局。(a) 概念图; (b) 三维想象图; (c) 光源大厅中的光束线管道和镜箱; (d) 实验大厅内的光束线管道和镜箱

Fig. 1 Layout of beamline for Hefei Infrared Free-Electron Laser (FEL) Facility. (a) Conceptual scheme; (b) 3D configuration; (c) beamline tubes and mirror chambers in the light source hall; (d) beamline tubes and mirror chambers in the experimental station hall

3 光学设计

光学设计的目的是通过 M1~M13(均为 90° 离轴抛物面反射镜或平面镜)的曲率(焦距)分配,使远红外、中红外振荡器输出的光束能够通过数十米长的管道高效传输/聚焦至实验站。设计的依据包括远红外、中红外振荡器输出的光束参数以及实验站对光束/光斑的要求。表 1 给出了不同波段远红外振荡器的耦合孔直径。由于在远红外波段,衍射是光束发射的主要原因,远红外振荡器耦合孔处的光束可以近似为平行光。表 2、表 3、表 4 分别给出了中红外振荡器的耦合孔径、高斯光束束腰、远场发散角等参数。5 个实验站除 IR-AFM 需要平行光外,其他 4 个实验站均要求聚焦光。

表 1 远红外振荡器耦合孔径与波长的对应关系

Table 1 Corresponding relationship between coupling diameter and wavelength for far-IR oscillator

Coupling diameter / mm	FEL wavelength / μm
1.5	40-90
2.5	70-150
4.0	100-200

表 2 中红外振荡器耦合孔径与波长的对应关系

Table 2 Corresponding relationship between coupling diameter and wavelength for mid-IR oscillator

Coupling diameter /mm	FEL wavelength / μm
1.0	2.5-10
1.5	5-15
2.0	8-20
3.5	15-50

表 3 中红外振荡器输出光束参数

Table 3 Beam parameters for mid-IR oscillator

Parameter	Value
Coupling diameter /mm	1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 3.5
Radius of beam waist ω_0 /mm	0.78-3.5
Radius of beam spot at cavity mirror $3.5 \omega_m$ /mm	9-42
Divergence angle at far field ω_f /mrad	1.02-4.55

表 4 中红外振荡器腔内光腰半径及远场发散角随工作波长的变化

Table 4 Variations of beam waist radius and divergence angle at far field with FEL wavelength for mid-IR oscillator

FEL wavelength / μm	Radius of beam waist /mm	Divergence angle at far field /mrad
2.5	0.782781610	1.016599493
5	1.107020369	1.437688791
7.5	1.355817519	1.760801973
10	1.565563219	2.033198986
12.5	1.750352891	2.273185572
15	1.917415524	2.490150031
17.5	2.071045470	2.689669442
20	2.214040738	2.875377581
22.5	2.348344829	3.049798479
25	2.475372797	3.214769866
27.5	2.596192892	3.371679081
30	2.711635038	3.521603946
32.5	2.822359231	3.665401599
35	2.928900592	3.803767003
37.5	3.031700138	3.937272907
40	3.131126439	4.066397972
43.5	3.265240978	4.240572698
45	3.321061106	4.313066372
47.5	3.412065932	4.431254456
50	3.500705782	4.546371145

表 5 列出了优化后各反射镜的焦距。为了兼顾远红外的传输效率、成本等,反射镜的投影口径(垂直光束方向)选为 150 mm,材料为铜质镀金。各反射镜在中/远红外波段的反射率在 98.4%~99.1% 之间。图 2 是两片反射镜的照片。反射镜安装在多维精密调节架上,调节架整体安装在镜箱相应的法兰上,并随法兰的安装而插入真空。反射镜在准直激光的指引下通过多维调节机构调节光路。其中, M4 以及 M9~M12 可在控制系统的操作下按需插入/撤出光路。

表 5 90°离轴抛物面反射镜的参数

Table 5 Parameters of 90° off-axis parabolic mirrors

Mirror	Mirror type	Projection diameter /mm	Focal length /mm
M1	Parabolic	150	820
M3	Parabolic	150	590
M7	Parabolic	150	7200
M9	Parabolic	150	1000
M10	Parabolic	150	1000
M11	Parabolic	150	1000
M13	Parabolic	150	1000
Others	Planar	150	∞

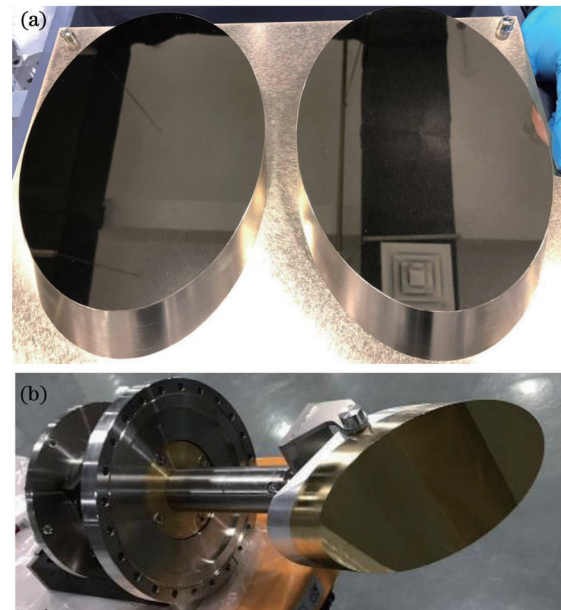


图 2 离轴抛物面反射镜照片。(a)两片 90°离轴抛物面反射镜照片;(b)安装在多维精密调节架上的反射镜照片

Fig. 2 Photographs of the off-axis parabolic mirrors. (a) Photograph of two pieces of 90° off-axis parabolic mirrors; (b) photograph of a mirror mounted on a multidimensional precision adjustable stage

在中/远红外波段,衍射效应是影响光束质量的最重要因素。再考虑到光束线极长,傍轴条件能很好地得

到满足,因此,优化计算时反射镜可按有限孔径的聚焦屏函数进行等效^[30],即 $\tilde{t}_L(x, y) = \exp\left(-ik \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2F}\right)$,

其中 k 为激光波矢的大小, F 为反射镜的焦距。相应地,出射光束是入射光束经反射镜屏函数调制后的傅里叶变换,即

$$\tilde{U}_2(x', y') = \frac{-i}{\lambda z} \iint \tilde{U}_1(x, y) \tilde{t}_L(x, y) \exp\left[ik\left(\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2z} + \frac{x'^2 + y'^2}{2z} - \frac{xx' + yy'}{z}\right)\right] dx dy, \quad (1)$$

其中: $\tilde{U}_1(x, y)$ 、 $\tilde{U}_2(x', y')$ 分别是入射光束、出射光束的复振幅; λ 是波长; z 是场点和反射镜之间的距离。

图 3 是远红外振荡器采用 4 mm 直径孔耦合时通过式(1)计算得到的几个典型波长光束在主光路中的光束直径随距离的变化,图 4 是中红外振荡器采用

3.5 mm 直径孔耦合时通过式(1)计算得到的几个典型波长光束在主光路中的光束直径随距离的变化,其中光束直径按照总功率的 85%~90% 计算。对比图 3、图 4 可以看出,远红外由于衍射效应严重,发散倾向远大于中红外。这会使得参数优化时难以兼顾。

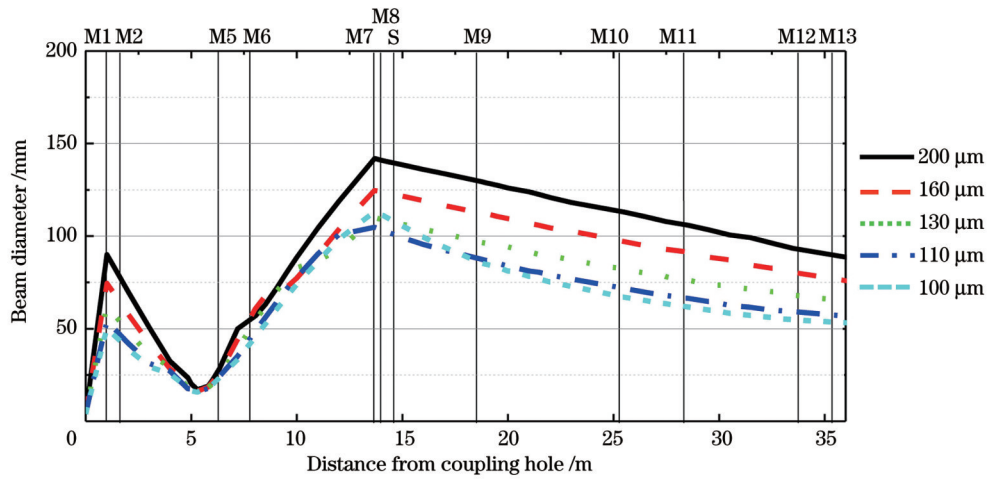


图 3 远红外振荡器采用 4 mm 孔耦合时光束直径随传输距离的变化

Fig. 3 Beam diameter varies with the propagation distance for far-IR oscillator coupled with 4 mm hole

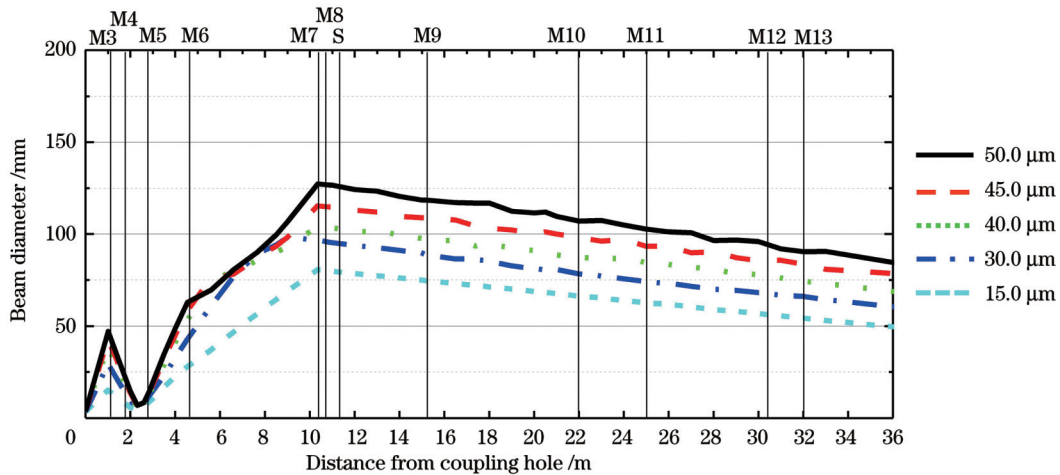


图 4 中红外振荡器采用 3.5 mm 孔耦合时光束直径随传输距离的变化

Fig. 4 Beam diameter varies with the propagation distance for mid-IR oscillator coupled with 3.5 mm hole

计算得到的实验站焦点处的光斑直径(IR-AFM 除外,此站要求准平行光)基本上随波长增大而增大,说明衍射效应在长波下越发明显,其典型的变化情况示于图 5 和图 6(表/界面实验站。此时,反射镜 M9~M12 撤出光路, M13 插入光路)。图 7(a)是用 IR-Viewer 在实验站焦点处记录的一个光斑图,与设计基本相符。经空间滤波整形后得到的光斑更加均匀,如

图 7(b)所示。

根据光束性质可以计算传输效率。图 8、图 9 是表/界面实验站在远红外、中红外波段的设计传输效率随波长的变化。总的传输效率在远红外、中红外波段分别达到了 50%、60%。进一步分析造成传输损耗的原因可以发现主要的损耗来自金刚石窗口(D1 和 D2)、分束器 S、出射窗口(中红外 CsI 和远红外 TPX)

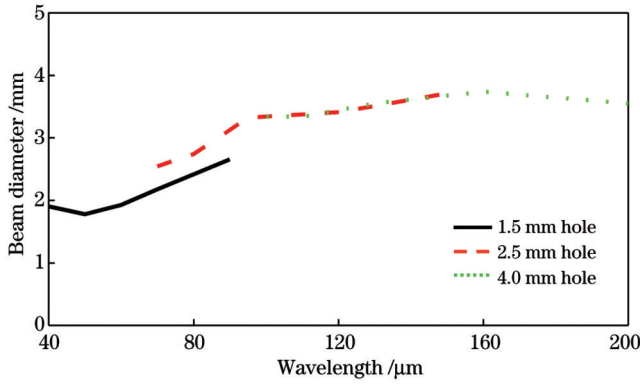


图 5 表/界面实验站焦点处远红外光斑直径随波长的变化(3段分别对应于振荡器不同的输出耦合孔,不同段之间在波长上部分重叠)

Fig. 5 Beam spot diameter at the focal point of surface/interface experimental station varies with the wavelength for far-IR (the three sections correspond to the three coupling holes of far-IR oscillator and there are overlaps between the sections)

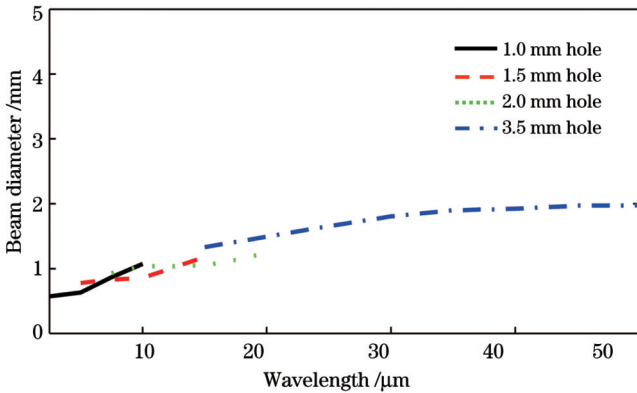


图 6 表/界面实验站焦点处中红外光斑直径随波长的变化(4段分别对应于振荡器不同的输出耦合孔,不同段之间在波长上部分重叠)

Fig. 6 Beam spot diameter at the focal point of surface/interface experimental station varies with the wavelength for mid-IR (the four sections correspond to the four coupling diameters of mid-IR oscillator and there are overlaps between the sections)

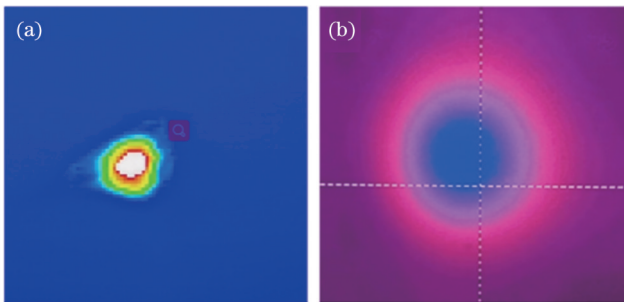


图 7 典型的红外焦斑图。(a)光束线出口处用 IR-Viewer 直接观察到的光斑;(b)实验站中经空间滤波整形后的光斑

Fig. 7 Typical IR focal spot pictures. (a) Spot recorded with an IR-Viewer at the exit of the beamline; (b) spot reshaped with spatial filtering at experimental station

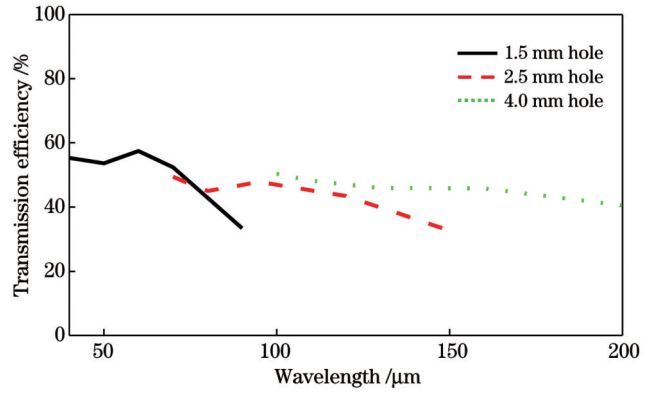


图 8 表/界面实验站的远红外传输效率随波长的变化(3段分别对应于振荡器不同的输出耦合孔,不同段之间在波长上部分重叠)

Fig. 8 Transmission efficiency varies of surface/interface experimental station with wavelength for far-IR (the three sections correspond to the three coupling holes of far-IR oscillator and there are overlaps between the sections)

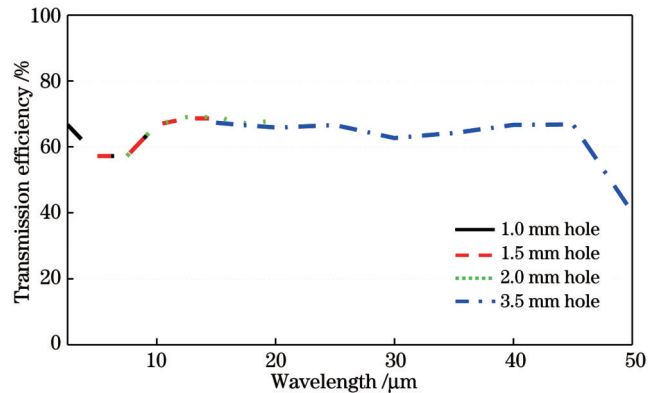


图 9 表/界面实验站的中红外传输效率随波长的变化(4段分别对应于振荡器不同的输出耦合孔,不同段之间在波长上部分重叠)

Fig. 9 Transmission efficiency of surface/interface experimental station varies with wavelength for mid-IR (the four sections correspond to the four coupling holes of mid-IR oscillator and there are overlaps between the sections)

的吸收,因而各实验站传输损耗的差别极小。中红外波段 $4.7\ \mu\text{m}$ 和 $50\ \mu\text{m}$ 处传输效率的下降分别是由金刚石窗的微弱吸收以及 CsI 分束镜、出射窗的吸收引起的。如果不考虑吸收(即在无窗口真空直接对接、无诊断情况下运行),光学系统的传输效率在远红外、中红外波段分别可以达到 80%、90%。中红外波段的损耗几乎全部来自反射镜的反射率(7 片反射镜同时插入光路),而远红外波段还有部分损耗来自反射镜的有限尺寸,即反射镜口径不能完全罩住光束,从而造成了光束的泄漏损耗。

4 诊断系统设计

除金刚石外,目前还没有一种材料能在中红外、远

红外都保持较高的透过率,即便是昂贵的人造CVD金刚石,其口径也达不到分束器S处所需的近150 mm的尺寸。因此,分束器采用图10所示的设计。在此设计中,中红外、远红外选用不同材料的分束片,其中:中红外采用CsI(S1),其折射率相对较小,布置在45°入射角位置处;远红外采用TPX(S2),其折射率相对较大,布置在22.5°入射角位置处。二者在远红外、中红外工作时分别插入光路。这样布置后,二者分别反射出约4.3%和7.0%的光束能量,供后续的脉冲能量、脉冲宽度和波长测量。为了降低空气中水汽、CO₂等的吸收,后续会用有机玻璃管道和面罩将光路全部封闭起来,并充入干燥空气,以进一步降低空气中水汽、二氧化碳等的吸收。

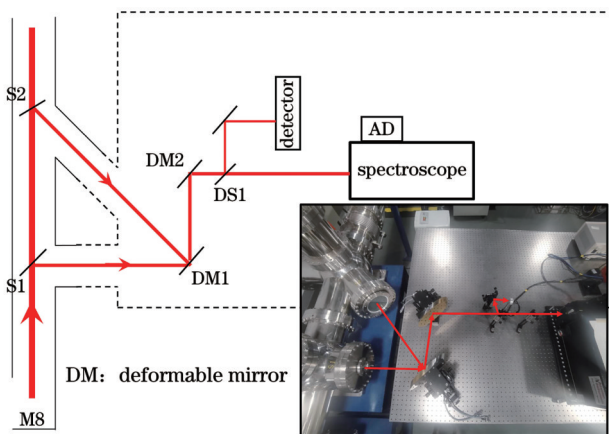


图10 诊断系统的布局(右下角处的插图是其实际照片)
Fig. 10 Layout of the laser diagnostics. The inset at low-right corner is the photograph

分束出来的红外光束透过各自的窗口后,经DM1反射(中红外、远红外的角度不同,自动调节)后沿同一条光路出射,再经DM2反射、DS1分束(中红外、远红

外工作时自动切换不同的材料)后分别进入探测器和光栅光谱仪,测量宏脉冲的脉冲能量、脉冲宽度和波长。

红外自由电子激光的脉冲结构与传统激光有所不同。受驱动振荡器的电子束团(亦即直线加速器的特性)的影响,红外自由电子激光脉冲中包含宏脉冲和微脉冲。宏脉冲由速调管向直线电子加速器提供脉冲微波功率所形成,脉冲宽度在10 μs量级,重复频率为1~20 Hz。一个宏脉冲包含很多个微脉冲,微脉冲由加速电子的微波形成,重复频率即为微波频率(2856 MHz)或其谐波(电子枪控制发射电子束的重复频率或聚束所致,2856 MHz的整数分之一)。微脉冲的宽度(半峰全宽,FWHM)在10 ps量级。本项目中的诊断仅指针对宏脉冲的实时测量,微脉冲由于频率高、脉宽窄,实时测量还是一个非常严峻的挑战。在初期的设计方案中,设计人员考虑了通过干涉、非线性实现宏脉冲范围内微脉冲平均长度、微脉冲平均能量的测量,但因经费限制未能实施,后期将会逐步安排,最终将会提供宏脉冲范围内微脉冲平均宽度的测量。

由于自由电子激光器输出的红外激光脉冲能量很强,即便是分光5%左右,也比常规光源的能量高出约3个量级,因此可以选择灵敏度稍低但没有明显波长响应的非制冷热电探测器。为了配合光源的宏脉冲结构,研制了前置放大/同步脉冲采样电路:速调管同步信号触发采集,宏脉冲期间高速采集的光强数据先缓存在采集电路板上,随后利用宏脉冲的间隙时间(每个脉冲至少50 ms)由高速内网上传至EPICS控系统的数据库中。这样每个宏脉冲的特性都可以在系统的数据库中保存记录,控制系统和实验站都可以通过读取数据库中的相应记录来获得这些信息。图11是实际测得的一个宏脉冲,脉冲宽度约为4 μs。采用已知功

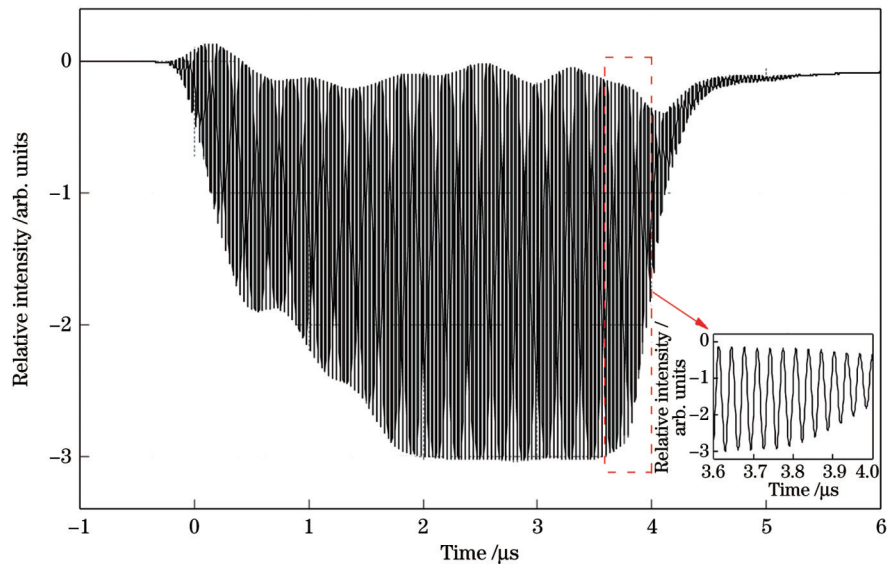


图11 热电探测器测得的红外自由电子激光脉冲结构
Fig. 11 IR FEL pulse structure measured by thermoelectric detector

率的脉冲 YAG 激光器进行标定,通过积分脉冲下的面积可以获得宏脉冲的能量。从脉冲结构中可以分辨出微脉冲的存在,但展宽明显(已达到 ns 量级)。展宽主要来自探测器本身的带宽(250 MHz)和前置放大/同步脉冲采样电路的带宽。

经过优化后,选用一款焦距为 500 mm 的光栅光谱仪,并拟在其光栅塔上配置 75、20、4 line/mm 的光栅,以覆盖本装置的 2.5~200.0 μm 波段。4 line/mm 的光栅因加工困难目前尚未配置。

线列探测器(AD)同样采用非制冷热电型,具体参数如下:128 线元,每线宽度为 90 μm ,线间距为 10 μm ,总宽度为 12.8 mm。该线列探测器的最高帧频为 512 Hz。同时研制了宏脉冲同步读出电路。相应地,每个宏脉冲的光谱参数也上传至系统 EPICS 数据库,供控制系统和实验站调用。

图 12 是采集到的一幅光谱图,经过数据拟合,得到其中心波长为 16 μm ,线宽为 1.8 μm 。

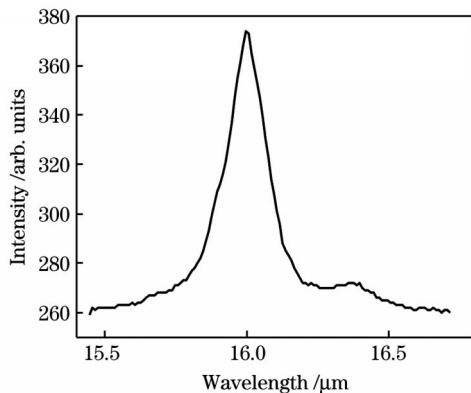


图 12 中红外光谱图(拟合得到的中心波长为 16 μm ,线宽为 1.8 μm)

Fig. 12 Mid-IR spectrum (the fitted central wavelength is 16 μm and spectral width is 1.8 μm)

上述参数对波段两端(即 2.5 μm 、250 μm)的测量有一定困难。根据光源参数,短波侧(2.5 μm)的光谱带宽为 0.2% d_{BW} (d_{BW} 为全带宽),相应在线列探测器上的宽度为 1.9 线,这给波长和线宽的精确拟合带来了困难;在长波侧(200 μm),激光的光谱带宽为 3% d_{BW} ,而此时线列探测器的总宽度只能覆盖 2.6% BW 的带宽,这意味着不能完全覆盖一个光谱峰,同样给波长和线宽的精确拟合带来了困难。目前,这个困难在一个光谱仪、不更换光栅塔(提高运行效率的需要)的前提下还没有更好的解决办法。后期可以通过增加一个光谱仪(分别工作在中红外、远红外波段)来解决。

5 结 论

经过 8 年的不懈努力,光束线团队完成了国内首条红外自由电子激光光束线的设计、加工、安装和调试,测试性能达到了设计要求。试运行结果显示,整个光束线运行正常,为装置的后续常规运行提供了保障。

设计过程中遇到的最大挑战是性能和成本间的妥协。在有限的经费限制下,不得不牺牲一些性能,如本文讨论的中/远红外兼用同一条光束线,光谱测量,还有一些没有讨论到的精密控制部分等。另外,部分调试、校准工作也须在后续研究中加以优化。这些遗憾希望能在后续的升级改造中得到弥补。设计建设过程中积累的经验教训也有望在国内外类似装置的建设中发挥作用,相信随着国内经济、科技的发展,类似装置的建设是可以预期的。

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Design and Performance of Hefei Infrared Free-Electron Laser Facility

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Abstract

Objective Infrared (IR) spectroscopy has several applications. Hefei Infrared Free-Electron Laser Facility (FELiChEM) can supply bright mid/far-infrared radiation to users and provide energy chemistry research with a powerful infrastructure. A beamline must connect the free-electron laser to the experimental stations. The beamline not only efficiently transmits infrared radiation from the laser to the experimental stations but also performs focus and diagnosis during the transmittance. This paper describes the design and performance of a beamline for a Hefei Infrared Free-Electron Laser Facility, including the general requirements, design scheme and layout, optical design, beam evolution, beam transmission, laser beam splitter, online synchronized measurement of macro pulse structure, and laser wavelength.

Methods The beamline consisted of vacuum/prop, optical/focus, and diagnosis subsystems.

As shown in Fig. 1, the vacuum/prop subsystem contained 25 pieces of $\Phi 200$ mm stainless steel pipes, 12 sylphon bellows, 15 mirror boxes, and the corresponding support frames, pumps, and gauge valves.

The optical/focus subsystem contained two diamond windows, 13 pieces of $\Phi 150$ mm 90° parabolic/planar off-axis mirrors, two

beam splitters, and five exit windows (CsI/PTX). The far- and mid-infrared lasers passed through the diamond windows. The 0.5 mm thick diamond plate was placed at the Brewster angle to avoid refractive loss because the refractive index of the diamond was extremely high and the laser was fully polarized. They were then reflected by mirrors M1 and M3 to exit the electron beam. Subsequently, the far-infrared laser was reflected to the right and merged into one beam with the mid-infrared laser reflected by M2 at M4. The beam was further reflected upward by mirror M5, to the right by mirror M6, and penetrated the shielding wall into the experimental hall. In the experimental hall, the beam was reflected upward by mirror M7 and directed forward by mirror M8. The beam splitter reflected approximately 5% for diagnosis. Mirrors M9–M13 distributed the laser to the corresponding experimental stations. All mirrors were first mounted on multidimensional fine adjustable racks, and the racks were then fixed on the flange of the mirror boxes. The focal lengths of the mirrors were optimized using a limited screen function model so that every experimental station could obtain the smallest beam spot, except for experimental station M12, which preferred a parallel beam. The beam transmittance was also optimized. A compromise between focal spot size and transmit efficiency was considered. There were approximately 60% and 50% losses for far- and mid-infrared lasers, respectively. These losses were mainly caused by the absorption of the windows and the beam splitter.

The diagnosis subsystem consisted of two beam splitters (one for far-infrared and one for mid-infrared), four mirrors, one pyroelectric detector, and one spectroscopy equipped with three gratings and an arrayed pyroelectric detector (Fig. 10). We developed two synchronized data collecting/transfer circuits for the detector and an arrayed detector to meet the specific macropulse structure. The detector monitored the laser intensity to resolve the macropulses (Fig. 11). Because the bandwidth of the detector was 250 MHz, the detector could “see” the micropulses, but could not fully resolve them as the measured width was larger than the actual width, which was several picosecond. The arrayed detector recorded the spectrum of the laser pulse using a pulse (macropulse). The diagnostic data were transferred to the EPICS, between the intervals of the macro pulses, and provided to the controlling system and the user to calibrate their data.

Results and discussions The study was conducted in 2015. The vacuum/prop, optical/focus, and diagnosis subsystems were installed in 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively. The first project commissioning was conducted in 2019. After several adjustments, the designed performances were achieved, and the beamline has been stable and in operation.

Conclusions After eight years, we constructed a beamline compatible for far- and mid-infrared free-electron lasers. All the designed objectives were achieved. Part of the fine adjustment and calibration may be performed further in future machine studies.

Key words laser optics; beamline; free-electron laser; mid/far infrared; laser diagnostics