

飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导的研究进展

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摘要 飞秒激光直写是一种高效灵活的三维精密材料加工技术,在许多领域得到了广泛的应用。光波导是集成光子学器件的一种基本结构,能够将光场限制在微小的通道内进行无衍射的传输。激光晶体是全固态激光器的常用增益介质,利用飞秒激光直写技术在激光晶体上构建光波导结构,并保持晶体的原有属性,从而可以制备低成本、高效率的波导激光器件。从飞秒激光诱导晶体产生的两类结构改性(折射率改变)出发,综述了飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导的种类、特性以及应用,并对相关领域的应用前景进行了展望。

关键词 激光光学; 飞秒激光直写; 激光晶体; 光波导; 波导激光; 分束器

中图分类号 O436

文献标志码 A

doi: 10.3788/LOP57.111415

Research Advances in Laser Crystal Optical Waveguides Fabricated by Femtosecond Laser Direct Writing

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Abstract Femtosecond laser direct writing is a highly efficient and flexible three-dimensional processing technique with high precision, which is widely used in many fields. Optical waveguide that confines light propagation in microscale channels is one of the basic components in integrated photonic devices. Laser crystals are major gain media for all-solid state lasers. The femtosecond laser direct writing that constructs the optical waveguides in laser crystals preserves the original features of bulks, and can prepare low-cost and high efficiency waveguide laser devices. Starting from two types of femtosecond laser induced structural modifications (with refractive index change) in crystal, this work reviews the categories, characteristics, and applications of laser crystal optical waveguides fabricated by the femtosecond laser direct writing. The application prospects in relevant fields are also presented.

Key words laser optics; femtosecond laser direct writing; laser crystals; optical waveguides; waveguide laser; beam-splitters

OCIS codes 140.3390; 230.7370; 250.4390; 350.3390

1 引言

光波导结构能够将光场限制在微米级截面的通道内以无衍射的方式传输,保证了腔内相对较高的光密度,并使块体材料原有的光学性质在波导中得到一定程度的增强。光波导是高性能集成光子学器件的基本结构,在光通信、量子信息、传感等领域有重要的应用价值,一直是集成光子学领域的一个研究热点^[1-18]。飞秒激光直写技术具

有加工精度高、灵活性好、速度快等特点,在集成光学、微流体和生物医学等领域有着广阔的应用前景。与传统的连续波或长脉宽激光相比,飞秒激光拥有超窄的脉冲宽度和超高的峰值强度,当用紧聚焦的飞秒激光加工透明材料时,会引起焦点区附近热效应的减弱和非线性相互作用(多光子吸收、隧穿电离、雪崩电离等)的产生^[9]。1996年, Davis 等^[19]用会聚后的飞秒激光在几种光学玻璃内成功地制备了光波导结构,这也是最早的利

收稿日期: 2019-12-27; 修回日期: 2020-02-10; 录用日期: 2020-02-12

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(61775120)

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用飞秒激光直接写入光波导的报道。随后,人们利用飞秒激光直写在许多介电晶体^[1-4, 11-12, 14, 20-25]、透明陶瓷^[26-39]等材料中也制备出了光波导,并用于构建分束器^[40-46]、频率转化器^[13, 24, 25, 47-48]、电光调制器^[49-53]等微纳光子学器件。

激光晶体能够通过光学谐振腔将外界提供的能量转化为时空相干性比较好的激光,是固体激光器重要的工作物质,特定激活离子的掺杂可以用于产生具有特定波长的激光。目前使用较多的是钕铝石榴石(如 Nd:YAG、Yb:YAG、Ho:YAG 等)、钒酸钕(Nd:YVO₄、Nd:Cr:YVO₄ 等)和蓝宝石(Ti:Sapphire、Cr:Sapphire 等)。2004 年, Apostolopoulos 等^[54]用飞秒激光直写技术制备出了 Ti:Sapphire 光波导,这是用飞秒激光加工激光晶体光波导的最早报道。随后,飞秒激光诱导的掺杂 YAG^[10, 20, 55-57]和 YVO₄^[12, 58-61]晶体等光波导相继出现,并广泛用于产生波导激光,实现频率转化,制作分束器、波导阵列、功率放大器等。飞秒激光制备激光晶体光波导主要基于对块体材料的两类改性:激光焦点辐照区域块体材料折射率升高(I类改性)或者降低(II类改性)。飞秒激光诱导块体材料改性的类型不仅与激光加工参数(激光波长、脉宽、单脉冲能量、重复频率等)有关,还受到块体材料性质(带隙、色散、热导率等)的影响。一般来讲,飞秒激光的单脉冲能量较低时,对晶格的损伤相对弱一些,可能会产生 I 类改性;当单脉冲能量较高时,飞秒激光对晶格结构产生严重的破坏,此时容易出现 II 类改性。理论上讲,通过改变单脉冲能量的大小,可以在晶体内部实现从 I 类改性到 II 类改性的转变。但是,由于可调节的飞秒激光参数较多、所用的激光晶体隶属于不同的晶系(几何形态的对称程度不同)、飞秒激光与激光晶体的相互作用过程比较复杂等,在实验上只通过调节单脉冲能量并不一定能实现这个变化过程。2011 年, Rodenas 等^[62]报道了飞秒激光诱导的 Ho:YAG 和 Er:YAG 陶瓷中的 I 类改性,并在基于 I 类改性的光波导中实现了 1.55 μm 和 1.95 μm 波长下的单模传输。同年, Rodenas 等^[63]利用飞秒激光在掺钕三硼酸氧钙钕(Nd:YCOB)单晶中成功诱导出了 I 类改性,并用于制备 1.94 μm 和 3.39 μm 波长下的光波导。截至目前,只有为数不多的文章^[32, 62-64]报道过激光晶体/陶瓷材料中的 I 类改性,在掺杂 YAG 单晶等其他激光晶体中,有关 II 类改性的报道相对较多,在 2.1 和 2.2 节将会详细阐述。

近几年,飞秒激光微纳加工领域取得了很多人瞩目的成就,飞秒激光直写介电晶体(非线性晶体、激光晶体、电光晶体等)在光波导方向也有了一些重要进展。国内外已有多篇述评文章^[9, 65-66]总结过飞秒激光直写介电晶体光波导的相关工作,但是重点描述飞秒激光加工激光晶体的综述比较少。本文拟简明扼要地介绍飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导的最新研究进展,并对有前景的几个研究方向进行了简要展望。

2 光波导结构

2.1 飞秒激光诱导材料改性

用经过显微物镜会聚后的飞秒激光加工晶体材料时,激光在聚焦区域会对晶格结构造成破坏,称之为飞秒激光对晶体材料的改性。根据飞秒激光对晶格结构损伤程度的大小,可以将材料改性类型分为两种^[9]:I 类改性和 II 类改性。在 I 类改性区域,块体材料的折射率略微增大;而在 II 类改性区域,块体材料原有的晶格结构被飞秒激光严重破坏,导致激光辐照区域折射率减小。需要指出的是,II 类改性区域会发生晶格膨胀,导致临近区域压应力增大,从而引起折射率的增大。

基于飞秒激光对激光晶体改性的两种类型,国内外很多课题组在激光晶体内部设计并制备了许多性能优异的波导结构,并用于产生波导激光,构建分束器、功率放大器、频率转换器等。

2.2 光波导

由于飞秒激光诱导的 I 类改性区域折射率升高,所以 I 类改性区域即为导光区域。基于 I 类改性的波导类型可以分为两种:单线波导和多线波导。顾名思义,单线波导是由一条 I 类改性的区域构成;多线波导是利用多重扫描技术将多条 I 类改性区域横向紧密排列构成。通过改变多重扫描的次数,可以调控多线波导的横截面积,进而控制导光区域有效折射率的大小,这可以用于定制近红外或者中红外波段低损耗的光波导结构。

2010 年, MacDonald 等^[64]在硒化锌(ZnSe)晶体中用多重扫描技术制备了基于 I 类改性的多重扫描光波导,并实现了在 1.55 μm 波长下的导波传输,传输损耗约为 1.07 dB/cm。Rodenas 等^[62]在 2011 年也曾报道过飞秒激光诱导的 Ho:YAG 陶瓷中的 I 类改性(图 1),利用多重扫描技术制备了基于 I 类改性的多重扫描波导,用于传输近红外(1.55 μm 和 1.95 μm)波段的激光;随后该课题组用相同的方法

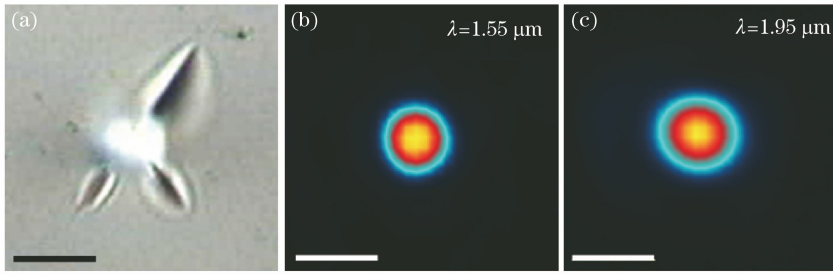


图1 多重扫描 Ho:YAG 陶瓷光波导。(a)多重扫描 Ho:YAG 陶瓷光波导的端面显微镜图；(b)(c)在 1.55 μm 和 1.95 μm 波长下的模式图(标尺表示 10 μm)^[62]

Fig. 1 Waveguides fabricated by multiscan technique in Ho:YAG ceramics. (a) Microscopic image of end-face after multiple scanning for Ho:YAG waveguide; (b)(c) mode profiles at wavelengths of 1.55 μm and 1.95 μm . Scale bar is 10 μm ^[62]

在 Nd:YCOB 单晶中也成功地制备了多重扫描波导^[63],用于引导近红外(1.94 μm)和中红外(3.39 μm)波段的激光;2012年,Castillo-Vega等^[32]用高重复频率(70 MHz)的飞秒激光在掺钕三氧化二钇(Nd:Y₂O₃)陶瓷材料中也实现了 I 类改性,实验结果表明改性区域(波导区域)能够支持 632.8 nm 激光的传输。

在激光晶体内部,基于飞秒激光诱导的 II 类改性的光波导结构可以分为三类:双线波导、包层波导和类光子晶格包层波导。双线波导^[46,67-74]是由两条临近的 II 类改性区域构成,两个应力场的叠加导致双线之间的折射率增加。2011年,Zhang等^[74]利用飞秒激光在掺钕钆石榴石(Nd:GGG)单晶中制备了双线波导(图 2),通过双线波导端面折射率模拟图和 632.8 nm 波长下的近场光强分布可以清楚地

看到:双线之间为双线波导的导光区,对光束有较好的限制作用。

包层光波导^[10-12,20,27,44,56,60,75-83]的导光区域是由一系列 II 类改性区域围成的,与双线波导相比,其对光束的限制作用更好。2013年,Liu等^[84]用飞秒激光在 Nd:YAG 单晶中制备了基于 II 类改性的包层光波导(图 3),实验结果表明所制备的包层光波导在 632.8 nm 和 1064 nm 波长下有比较好的导光性能,据报道,在飞秒激光辐照区域,块体材料折射率约降低 0.003。

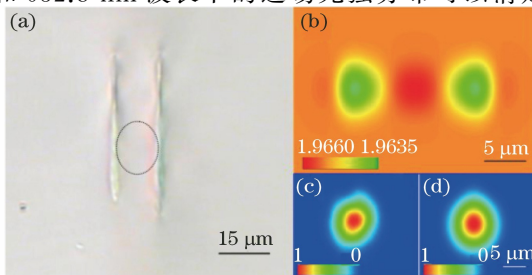


图2 Nd:GGG 双线波导。(a)飞秒激光制备的 Nd:GGG 双线波导的显微镜图;(b)波导端面折射率模拟图;(c)(d)分别是实验测量和理论计算的 632.8 nm 波长下的模式图^[74]

Fig. 2 Dual-line waveguides in Nd:GGG crystals. (a) Microscopic image of dual-line waveguide in Nd:GGG crystals fabricated by femtosecond laser; (b) simulated refractive-index profile at end-face of waveguide; (c)(d) measured and calculated mode profiles at wavelength of 632.8 nm, respectively^[74]

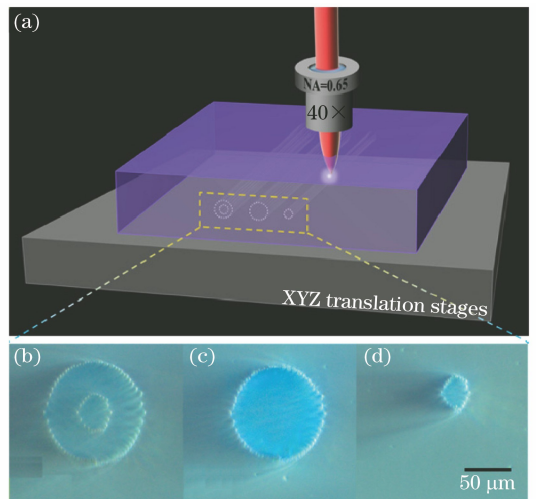


图3 Nd:YAG 包层波导。(a)飞秒激光在 Nd:YAG 单晶中直写包层波导的示意图;(b)双包层波导的端面显微镜图;(c)(d)分别是直径为 100 μm 和 30 μm 的单包层波导的端面显微镜图^[84]

Fig. 3 Cladding waveguides in Nd:YAG crystals. (a) Schematic of cladding waveguides directly written by femtosecond laser in Nd:YAG crystals; (b) microscopic image of double-cladding waveguide; (c)(d) microscopic images of single-cladding waveguides with diameters of 100 μm and 30 μm , respectively^[84]

类光子晶格包层波导^[14,45,85-87]的构造与包层波导类似,一系列 II 类改性的结构周期性排列而围成导光区域,对光束有较好的限制作用,能够有效降低传输损耗。2017 年, Ren 等^[86]在 Ti:Sapphire 内部利用类光子晶格包层波导构成 1×2 分束器(图 4), 实现了良好的分束效果。

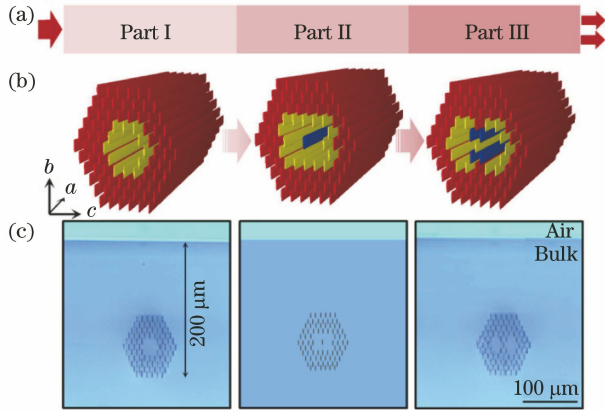


图 4 飞秒激光直写 Ti:Sapphire 类光子晶格包层波导构成的分束器。(a)拥有三段不同结构的分束器原型;三段结构的(b)示意图和(c)显微镜图^[86]

Fig. 4 Beam-splitter composed of optical-lattice-like Ti:Sapphire cladding waveguides directly written by femtosecond laser. (a) Prototype of beam-splitter with three different parts; (b) schematic and (c) microscopic images of three parts, respectively^[86]

脊型波导^[5,30,48,88-93]也是应用比较广泛的一种导波微结构。用飞秒激光烧蚀激光晶体表面的平面光波导,两条沟槽之间即为脊型波导的导光区域。2012 年, Jia 等^[48]用飞秒激光在离子辐照的掺钕三硼酸钙钕钇(Nd:GdCOB)平面光波导上面通过烧蚀的方法制备了脊型波导结构(图 5),并用于实现 1064 nm 脉冲激光的频率转化。

在同一种激光晶体中,不同类型的波导结构可能具有不同的导光特性;在不同种类的激光晶体内,同种类型光波导的导光特性也可能具有较大的差异。根据实验要求,将飞秒激光直写的不同类型的激光晶体光波导结合在一起,可以制备特定功能的微纳光子学器件。

3 激光晶体材料

在近 20 年的时间里,除了三斜晶系的激光晶体几乎没有涉及外,利用飞秒激光在其他 6 种晶系的激光晶体材料中都成功地制备了光波导结构。隶属于同一晶系的不同激光晶体中,飞秒激光直写的同

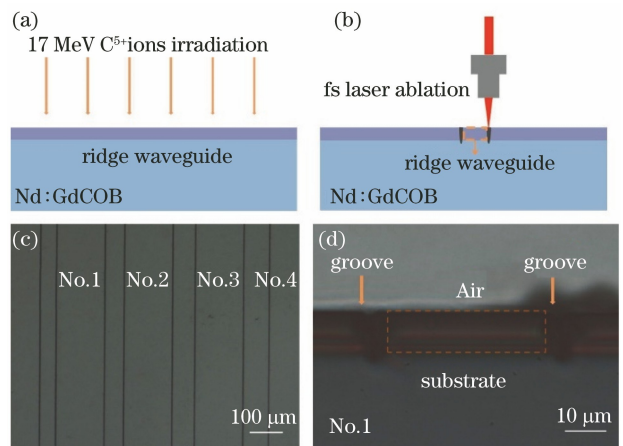


图 5 Nd:GdCOB 脊型波导的制备。Nd:GdCOB 晶体 (a)平面波导和(b)脊型波导的加工示意图;脊型波导的(c)表面和(d)端面显微镜图^[48]

Fig. 5 Fabrication of ridge waveguides in Nd:GdCOB crystals. Schematics of fabrication process for (a) planar waveguide and (b) ridge waveguide in Nd:GdCOB crystals; microscopic images of (c) surface and (d) end-face of ridge waveguide^[48]

种类型光波导具有相同或者相似的导光特性,这与晶格结构的对称性有关。按照几何形态的对称程度不同,可以把七大晶系划分为高级、中级和低级晶族三类。高级晶族对称性最高,仅包含一类立方晶系;中级晶族对称性次之,包括六方、三方和四方三类晶系;低级晶族对称性最低,包括正交、单斜和三斜三类晶系。下面按照晶格结构对称性从高到低的顺序,以各晶系中代表性的激光晶体为线索,总结概括飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导的结构类型及其导光特性。

立方晶系中具有代表性的激光晶体为 Nd:YAG,飞秒激光直写的 Nd:YAG 双线波导^[67-69,94-99]只在 TM 偏振方向具有比较好的导光性能,在 TE 偏振方向导光性能很差。而在 Nd:YAG 包层波导^[20,55,78-79,81,84,97,100-107]和类光子晶格包层波导^[45,85]中,光沿各个方向都能够进行有效传输。与双线波导相比,包层波导对光束有更好的限制作用,有相对较低的传输损耗,能传输各种偏振态的光,并且每种偏振的光输出功率几乎相同。Nd:GGG 单晶也属于立方晶系,Nd:GGG 双线波导^[74]仅支持 TM 偏振方向的导波传输,包层波导^[21]能够支持各个偏振方向下的光传输,与 Nd:YAG 中双线波导和包层波导的导光特性相同。2013 年, An 等^[108]用重复频率为 1 kHz 的飞秒激光制备的硫化锌(ZnS)包层波导,具有相同的导光特性,能够用于引导波长为 4 μm 的激光。另外,掺钕氟化钙(Nd:CaF₂)和镱钠

共掺杂氟化钙(Yb, Na:CaF_2)也是一类重要的立方晶系激光晶体, Li 等^[77]和 Ren 等^[109]分别报道的 Nd:CaF_2 包层波导和 Yb, Na:CaF_2 包层波导, 也与 Nd:YAG 包层波导、 Nd:GGG 包层波导等有相同的导波特性的。2019 年, Romero 等^[10]报道了一种 Nd:YAG 锥形包层波导结构(波导输入和输出端圆形横截面的半径比可以达到 4:1), 通过调节波导两端面的半径比, 实现了在可见和近红外波段对输出模式行为的调控(从高阶模到单模), 这种新型的结构在波导激光和频率转化等领域有潜在的应用价值。

六方晶系激光晶体中的代表性晶体为 $\text{Pr:SrAl}_{12}\text{O}_{19}$, Calmano 等^[110]于 2011 年在该激光晶体中制备了双线波导, 实验结果表明: 双线波导只能支持 TM 偏振方向的导波传输, 这与立方晶系激光晶体中的双线波导性质相同, 其在 633 nm 波长下的传输损耗约为 0.16 dB/cm。

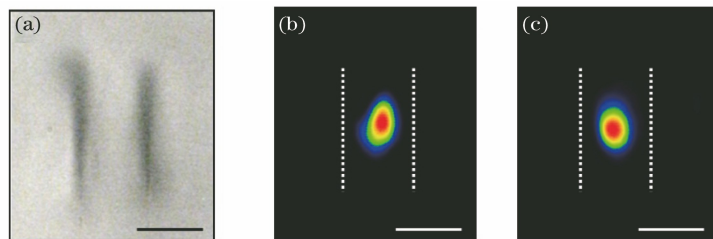


图 6 Nd:YAB 双线波导。(a) 飞秒激光直写双线 Nd:YAB 波导的显微镜图; (b) TM 偏振 1090 nm 波长下的近场强度分布; (c) TE 偏振 632.8 nm 波长下的近场强度分布^[24]

Fig. 6 Dual-line waveguides in Nd:YAB crystals. (a) Microscopic image of dual-line Nd:YAB waveguide fabricated by femtosecond laser direct writing; (b) near-field intensity distribution at 1090 nm along TM polarization; (c) near-field intensity distribution at 632.8 nm along TE polarization^[24]

钒酸盐晶体是四方晶系中比较有代表性的激光晶体, 如掺钕钒酸钇(Nd:YVO_4)、掺钕钒酸钪(Nd:GdVO_4)、掺钕钒酸镨(Nd:LuVO_4)等。与大多数立方晶系和三方晶系激光晶体中的双线波导情况不同, 掺杂 YVO_4 晶体中的双线波导^[72,115-116]在 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向都有比较好的导光特性; 掺杂 YVO_4 晶体中的包层波导^[12,58-60,82,117-118]能支持各种偏振方向下的导波传输, 这与立方晶系和三方晶系激光晶体中的包层波导情况类似, 但是不同偏振的光输出功率与偏振方向有一定的关系。包层波导的导光特性受晶格结构对称性的影响较小, 这体现了包层波导在导波应用方面的优越性。飞秒激光直写掺杂 GdVO_4 ^[73,83,119-120]和 LuVO_4 ^[23]晶体中光波导的导光特性与掺杂 YVO_4 晶体中情况相似, 此处不再赘述。掺氟化钪锂(YLF)晶体中包层波导^[75-76,121]与 Nd:YVO_4 等钒酸盐晶体中包层波导的导光性质相同, 2012 年 Müller 等^[122]在 Pr:YLF 中

三方晶系激光晶体中的代表性晶体是 Ti:Sapphire 、掺钕硅酸镱(Nd:LGS)、掺铬氟化铝镱(Cr:LiSAF)等。 Ti:Sapphire 双线波导^[54,70-71,111]仅支持 TM 偏振方向的导波传输, 在 TE 偏振方向导光性能很差; Ti:Sapphire 包层波导^[11,44,112]和类光子晶格包层波导^[86]能够支持各个偏振方向下的导波传输。 Nd:LGS 中包层波导^[113]也能引导各个偏振方向的光。2017 年, Biasseti 等^[114]报道了飞秒激光制备的 Cr:LiSAF 双线波导, 实验结果表明: Cr:LiSAF 双线波导沿 TM 偏振方向的导光性能优于 TE 偏振方向。掺钕四硼酸铝钇(Nd:YAB)是隶属于三方晶系的激光晶体, 同时也是一种自倍频晶体, 具有非线性特性。Dong 等^[24]在 2011 年曾报道过 Nd:YAB 中的双线波导, 其与上述三方晶系的激光晶体情况不同, 在 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向都支持有效的导波传输(图 6), 这可能与 Nd:YAB 晶体本身的非线性性质有关。

制备了一种菱形包层波导结构(图 7), 该结构只支持 TE 偏振方向的光, 传输损耗约为 2.3 dB/cm, 这可能与导光区域应力场不均匀有关。

正交晶系激光晶体中有代表性的为掺钕铝酸钪晶体(Nd:YAP), Wang 等^[4,123]报道了飞秒激光直写的 Nd:YAP 包层波导和类光子晶格包层波导, 实验结果表明: 这两种类型的波导在 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向下都能支持有效的导波传输。

钨酸盐晶体是单斜晶系中比较有代表性的激光晶体, 如掺镱钨酸钪钾(Yb:KGW)、掺镱钨酸钪钾(Yb:KYW)、掺镱钨酸镨钾(Yb:KLuW)等, 飞秒激光直写上述钨酸盐晶体光波导有相同的导光特性。2014 年 Liu 等^[124]报道的 Nd:KGW 双线波导, 能够支持 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向下的导波传输。2017 年 Kifle 等^[87,125]在 Tm:KLuW 中制备了包层波导和类光子晶格包层波导, 同样可以支持 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向下的导波传输。另外, 掺钕三硼酸氧

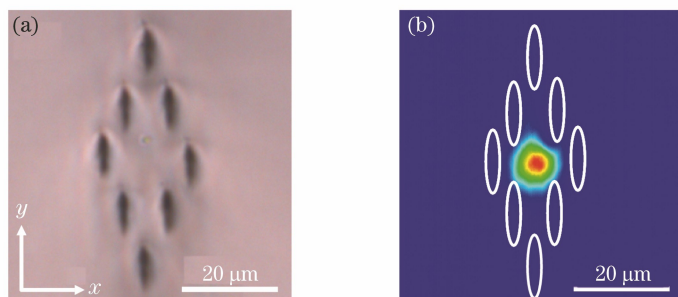


图7 Pr:YLF 菱形包层波导。(a)飞秒激光制备的菱形包层 Pr:YLF 波导的显微镜图;(b) TE 偏振(平行于 x 方向) 632.8 nm 波长下的近场强度分布^[122]

Fig. 7 Rhombic cladding waveguides in Pr:YLF crystals. (a) Microscopic image of rhombic cladding Pr:YLF waveguide written by femtosecond laser; (b) near-field intensity distribution at 632.8 nm along TE polarization (parallel to x direction)^[122]

钙钇(Nd:GdCOB)、Nd:YCOB 等自倍频晶体也是单斜晶系的激光晶体。2013 年, Jia 等^[13] 和 Ren 等^[25] 分别报道了 Nd:GdCOB 和 Nd:YCOB 中的包层波导结构, 实验结果表明: 包层波导能够支持 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向的导波传输。

近几年, 飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导的研究进展主要体现在三个方面: 1) 新型光波导结构的出现(如类光子晶格包层波导), 为制备新型微纳光子学器件提供了基础; 2) 通过不断改进飞秒激光直写参数和条件, 波导的传输损耗和导光特性得到了进一步优化; 3) 利用飞秒激光直写技术已经成功地在多种新型激光晶体(如激光自倍频晶体)中制备了低损耗、性能优异的光波导结构, 这对改善和提升集成光学器件的性能有重要的意义。

综上所述, 飞秒激光直写激光晶体双线波导的导光特性与晶格结构对称性有较大的关系, 在对称性较高的激光晶体中(立方晶系、六方晶系、三方晶系), 双线波导仅在 TM 偏振方向支持有效的导波传输, 而在四方晶系和对称性较低的激光晶体中(正交晶系、单斜晶系), 双线波导可以支持 TE 和 TM 两个偏振方向下的导波传输。另外, 飞秒激光直写的激光晶体包层波导和类光子晶格包层波导的导光性质(可以支持各偏振方向下的导波传输), 不受晶格对称性的限制。目前, 有关激光晶体 I 类改性的报道相对较少(见 2.2 节), 如 Nd:YCOB 单晶中的多重扫描光波导, 只能支持 TM 偏振方向的导波传输。利用飞秒激光烧蚀平面光波导制备的脊型波导结构, 不仅对光束有很好的限制作用, 还能保留平面光波导原有的光学性质, 如飞秒激光制备的 Nd:GdCOB、Nd:YAG 等晶体中的脊型光波导, 在频率转化、波导激光等方面有许多重要的应用。

4 应 用

4.1 波导激光

波导激光是一种微型激光源, 具有尺寸小、制造成本低、斜效率高、激光阈值低、激光模式可控等特点, 便于与其他光学元器件集成, 在集成光学领域有重要的应用价值。目前, 除了基于 I 类改性的光波导还没有被用于波导激光产生外, 双线^[72,74]、包层^[12,101,103-104,118]、类光子晶格包层波导^[14,45] 和脊型波导^[88,92] 都已经用于产生连续波导激光或脉冲波导激光(调 Q 或锁模脉冲激光)。Liu 等^[124] 于 2014 年报道了 Nd:KGW 双线波导中 1065 nm 连续激光, 最大输出功率为 33 mW, 斜效率为 52.3%。Okhrimchuk 等^[105] 于 2015 年以单层石墨烯为饱和吸收体, 借助 Nd:YAG 包层波导获得了中心波长为 1064 nm 的脉冲激光(连续锁模), 重复频率高达 11.5 GHz, 平均功率为 12 mW, 脉冲宽度为 16 ps。2016 年, Cheng 等^[104] 以二硫化钼(MoS₂)为可饱和吸收体, 通过 Nd:YAG 包层波导实现了 1064 nm 脉冲激光(被动调 Q)的输出, 最大平均输出功率为 85.2 mW, 对应的单脉冲能量为 112 nJ; 该脉冲激光可调谐的重复频率范围是 0.51~1.10 MHz, 其中最小的脉宽为 203 ns。2019 年, Li 等^[101] 以二硒化铂(PtSe₂)为饱和吸收体, 借助 Nd:YAG 包层波导实现了 1064 nm 脉冲激光(调 Q 锁模)的输出, 重复频率约为 8.8 GHz, 脉宽约为 27 ps, 斜效率为 26% (图 8)。2019 年, Kifle 等^[126] 利用飞秒激光直写的方法在 Ho:KGW 中制备了包层波导, 波导的传输损耗为(0.94±0.2) dB/cm; 共聚焦微拉曼和微荧光图像表明, 波导导光区域的性质能够得到很好的保留; 另外, 利用连续激光泵浦, 得到了波长为

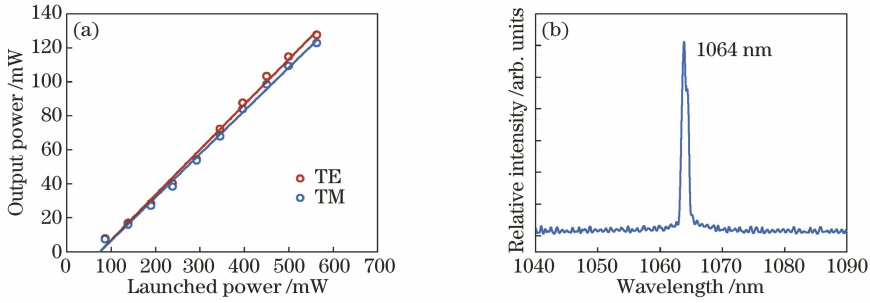


图 8 Nd:YAG 包层波导中的 8.8 GHz 调 Q 锁模激光^[101]。(a)输出功率随发射功率的变化；(b)经 PtSe₂ 调制的波导激光的中心波长

Fig. 8 8.8 GHz Q-switched mode-locked laser in Nd:YAG cladding waveguide^[101]. (a) Output power as a function of launched power; (b) central wavelength of waveguide laser modulated by PtSe₂

2055 nm、功率为 212 mW、斜效率为 67.2% 的波导激光。这种掺杂 Ho 元素的单模波导为制备重复频率为 GHz 量级的波导锁模振荡器提供了基础。

4.2 分束器和耦合器

波导分束器能实现将一束光平分成多束的功能，在集成光路中有广泛的应用^[44-46,79,85,103,106]。Calmano 等^[46]在 2015 年利用 Yb:YAG 双线波导构建了 1×2 分束器(通过微调耦合条件可以改变分束器的分光比)，得到了波长为 1030 nm 的连续波导激光(最大输出功率为 2.29 W，斜效率为 52%)。2016 年 Jia 等^[45]利用飞秒激光在 Nd:YAG 内部制备了 1×2 和 1×4 类光子晶格包层波导分束器(图 9)，实现了波长为 1064 nm 连续波导激光的输出，从 1×2 和 1×4 分束器输出的波导激光对应的斜效率分别为 34% 和 22%。2018 年，Ren 等^[44]在 Ti:Sapphire 中制备了 1×2 矩形包层波导分束器，分光比约为 1:1，共聚焦微荧光测试结果表明 Ti:Sapphire 波导区域的荧光性质得到了很好的保留。在微波系统中，定向耦合器能实现将一路微波功率按比例分成几路的功能，也可用于信号的隔离、分离和混合。2019 年，Skryabin 等^[127]利用飞秒激光直写的 Tm:YAG 波导制备了二维 2×2、1×2 定向耦合器和三维 3×3 定向耦合器。利用波长为 810 nm 的激光进行测试，实验结果表明：这些耦合器能够支持单模传输和各个偏振方向的导波传输，并且有着比较好的分光比，这为构建新型光子量子集成芯片平台提供了一个思路，在实现量子态操纵和存储等方面将发挥重要的作用。

4.3 倍频

激光自倍频晶体(如 Nd:YAB、Nd:GdCOB、Nd:YCOB 等)是一种同时具备激光和非线性效应的功能晶体材料；飞秒激光直写的激光自倍频晶体光波导能够使块体材料原有的非线性性质在波导区

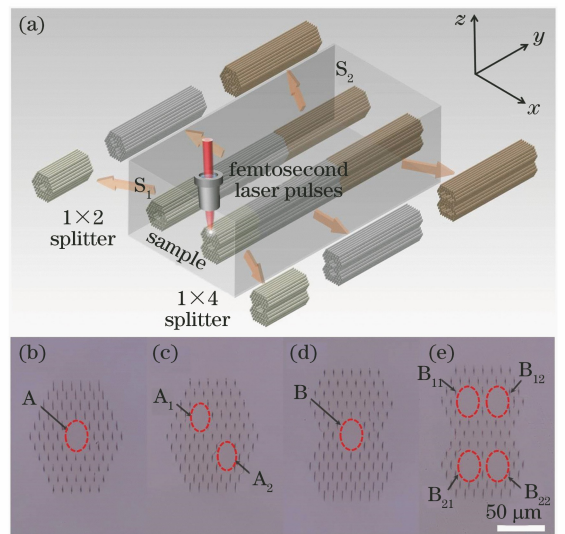


图 9 飞秒激光制备的 1×2 和 1×4 类光子晶格 Nd:YAG 包层波导分束器^[45]。分束器的 (a) 示意图和 (b)~(e) 光学显微镜图

Fig. 9 1×2 and 1×4 beam-splitters with optical-lattice-like Nd:YAG cladding waveguides fabricated by femtosecond laser^[45]. (a) Schematic and (b)–(e) optical microscope images of beam-splitters

得到加强，有助于高效倍频信号的产生。2011 年，Dong 等^[24]用波长为 808 nm 的激光进行泵浦(产生波长为 1064 nm 的激光)，在 Nd:YAB 双线波导中得到了波长为 532 nm 的倍频绿光，所输出绿光的最大功率为 32 μW。2012 年，Jia 等^[48]以波长为 1064 nm 的脉冲激光进行泵浦，在 Nd:GdCOB 脊型波导中得到了波长为 532 nm 的倍频绿光(最大的倍频转化效率为 11.4%)。随后，他们又用波长为 1064 nm 的脉冲激光进行泵浦，在 Nd:GdCOB 双包层波导中得到了波长为 532 nm 的绿光(倍频转化效率为 5.1%，输出激光最大峰值功率为 184 W)^[13]。

2013年, Ren等^[25]用波长为810 nm的激光进行泵浦(产生1062 nm的激光, 斜效率为55%), 在Nd:

YCOB包层波导中得到了波长为531 nm的倍频绿光(最大输出功率为100 μW), 如图10所示。

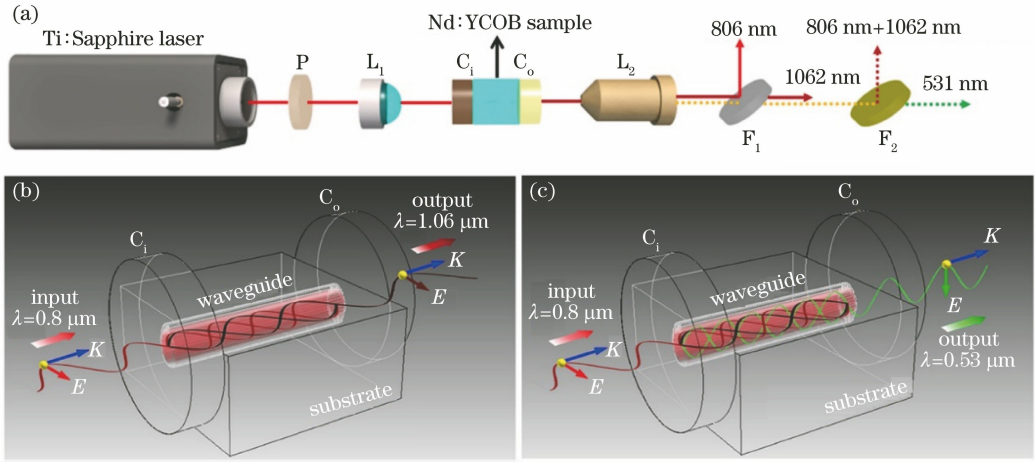


图10 飞秒激光制备的Nd:YCOB包层波导中二次谐波的产生^[25]。(a)端面耦合系统示意图; (b)(c)分别是产生波导激光和倍频的振荡腔

Fig. 10 Second harmonic generation in Nd:YCOB cladding waveguides fabricated by femtosecond laser^[25]. (a) Scheme of end-face coupling system; (b)(c) oscillation cavities for waveguide laser generation and frequency doubling, respectively

4.4 波导阵列

波导阵列在描述和研究离散系统方面有重要的作用。Liu等^[128]于2011年研究了Nd:YLF中双线波导阵列的离散衍射现象, 激发阵列中心波导产生的耦合现象与耦合模理论符合得比较好, 共聚焦微荧光测试结果表明波导区域的荧光特性得到了很好的保留, 在制备高功率集成多光束激光源等方面有重要的应用价值。2017年, Castillo等^[78]用飞秒激光在Nd:YAG晶体中制备了包层波导阵列(该阵列

由7个发散的六边形波导组成), 并研究了在633 nm和800 nm波长条件下的导光特性, 共聚焦微荧光实验结果表明, 缺陷只存在于激光损伤区域, 残余应力对导光区域有轻微影响(图11)。2019年, Liu等^[129]用飞秒激光在Nd:YAG晶体中制备了一维双线波导阵列, 实验结果表明在无源情况下的倏逝波耦合在有源条件下也是有效的(在这两种情况下强度分布的离散衍射模式相同), 对构建复杂的集成光学回路有重要的意义。

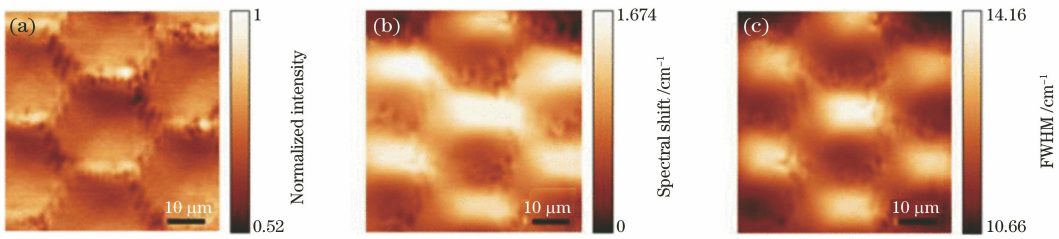


图11 Nd:YAG包层波导阵列入射端面的微荧光图像^[78]。(a)~(c)对应Nd³⁺的940 nm发射线的强度、峰位和峰宽图

Fig. 11 Micro-luminescence maps on input end-face of Nd:YAG cladding waveguide array^[78]. (a)~(c) Images of intensity, peak position, and peak width corresponding to 940 nm emission line of Nd³⁺

4.5 功率放大器

放大器是一种可以对光信号进行功率放大的装置。Leburn等^[130]在2012年曾报道过一种Yb:YAG平面波导单通放大器, 用于超快脉冲放大, 该放大器能够产生脉宽为700 fs的脉冲(重复频率为53 MHz, 平均功率超过50 W)。2017年, Jornod等^[67]使用Yb:YAG双线波导作为增益介质, 实现了对锁模垂直外腔面发射激光的放大(图

12), 该Yb:YAG双线波导单通放大器输出脉冲的脉宽为629 fs、重复频率为1.77 GHz、平均功率为2.9 W(对应的放大因子为17 dB), 实验结果表明晶体光波导在构建小型高功率超快放大系统方面有潜在的应用价值。

5 结束语

简明扼要地综述了飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波

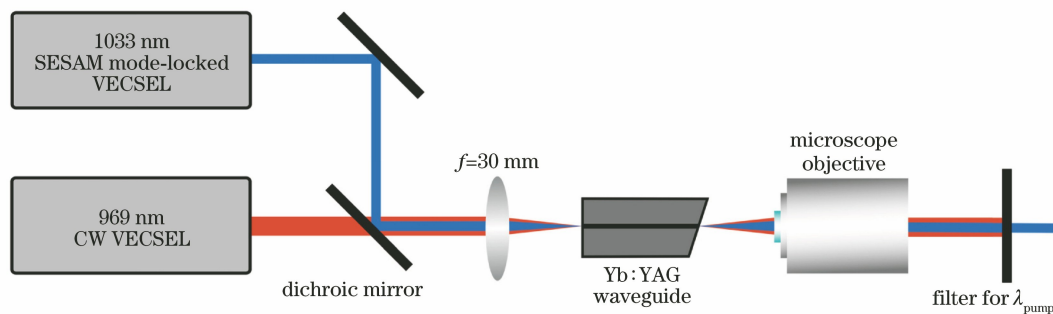


图 12 利用楔状 Yb:YAG 双线波导对锁模垂直外腔面发射激光(VECSEL)进行放大的装置^[67]

Fig. 12 Setup for amplifying mode-locked vertical external-cavity surface-emitting laser (VECSEL) in wedged Yb:YAG dual-line waveguide^[67]

导的最新研究进展。基于对材料改性的两种类型,利用飞秒激光在多种不同晶系的激光晶体中成功地制备了光波导结构,并广泛地用于制备多功能微纳光子学器件,如波导激光器、分束器、频率转换器、波导阵列和功率放大器等。Ródenas 等^[131]在 2019 年利用三维纳米光刻技术(飞秒激光直写辅助以化学腐蚀的方法)在 YAG 中制备了光波导结构,这为设计紧凑型单片固态激光器开辟了道路,为加工激光晶体光波导提供了一种新的思路。

虽然飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导技术已经比较成熟,众多令人瞩目的成果纷至沓来,但还有很多方面亟待探究和解决。例如,对不同的晶体结构(对称性)的飞秒激光诱导改性依然需要进一步探索,缺乏理论上的定量分析;目前多用近红外波段的飞秒激光加工激光晶体光波导,关于可见光波段的飞秒激光与激光晶体的相互作用报道较少;现在多用飞秒激光烧蚀平面波导的方法来制备激光晶体脊型波导,仍然没有利用全飞秒激光直写方法^[5]制备激光晶体脊型波导的报道;另外,截至目前,仍然没有一个清晰的物理模型来定量地描述飞秒激光加工过程中各参数对激光晶体的损伤程度,而这对于设计和制备微纳光子学器件有重要的指导意义。

随着研究的进一步深入,飞秒激光直写激光晶体光波导将会有更广阔的应用前景。最近研究人员在飞秒激光诱导铁电畴反转领域也取得了众多令人瞩目的成果,如制备三维非线性光子晶体^[132-135]等,Imbrock 等^[136]于 2020 年在铌酸锂晶体中创造性地将飞秒激光直写的包层波导和三维非线性光子结构结合在一起,使倍频转化效率得到了很大的提升,这种设计理念对光束整形和空间光调制等具有重要的指导意义。另外,飞秒激光直写铌酸锂薄膜也是最近的一个研究热点(如薄膜波导,薄膜中的铁电畴反

转等),小型化、多功能、低损耗、集成度高的光子学器件将会不断涌现,在集成光学、量子信息和非线性光学等领域起到越来越重要的作用。

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