

激光与光电子学进展

力致发光光纤及其应用研究进展

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摘要 近年来,力致发光材料以其独特的发光方式,吸引了越来越多研究者的关注。特别是弹性力致发光材料,具有机械力-光转换效率高、发光阈值低且具有可恢复性等优异性能,在应力探测、自驱动传感、生物健康监测、智能可穿戴等领域显示出了巨大的应用前景。力致发光光纤结合了力致发光性能和光纤的波导特性以及尺寸小、质量轻、结构灵活、集成能力强等优点。相比于块体或薄膜材料,光纤的一维结构特点可更加有效地将应力和应变转换为力致发光,实现对应力和应变的高效传感。此外,力致发光光纤还可以利用其波导特点实现力致发光信号的收集和传输,从而进一步拓展传感应用的范围和效果。首先简单介绍了力致发光材料种类、特点和力致发光原理,在此基础上对力致发光光纤的类型、制备方法和潜在应用探索进行了简单的综述,并对力致发光光纤的未来发展进行了展望。

关键词 力致发光; 力光转换; 应力传感; 光纤

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Research Progress on Mechanoluminescent Optical Fibers and Their Applications

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Abstract With a unique type of luminescence, mechanoluminescent materials have begun drawing increasing research interest. In particular, due to high efficiency of energy conversion of mechanical force to light emission, low mechanoluminescence threshold, and recoverable mechanoluminescent property, materials with elastic mechanoluminescence have demonstrated great application potential in stress monitoring, self-powered sensing, biological health monitoring, and smart wearables, among others. Mechanoluminescent optical fibers simultaneously possess the mechanoluminescent property and the advantages of optical fibers, such as the wave guiding function, small size, low weight, high flexibility, and excellent integrability. Compared with the bulky and film-shaped materials, mechanoluminescent optical fibers can convert stress or strain into light emission more efficiently owing to their fibrous shape. Moreover, mechanoluminescent optical fibers can perform the collection and long-distance transmission of mechanoluminescence signals through their waveguiding structure, thus further expanding their application range. In this short review, we first briefly introduce the classification, characteristics, and mechanism of mechanoluminescent materials. Based on this, different kinds of mechanoluminescent optical fibers, their fabrication methods, and potential applications are presented. Finally, we forecast the future development of mechanoluminescent optical fibers.

Key words mechanoluminescence; force-to-light conversion; stress sensing; optical fiber

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1 引言

发光可分为光致发光、阴极射线发光、电致发光、放射线发光、化学发光和力致发光(ML)等。力致发光将机械能转化为光,以响应外部机械刺激,如摩擦、张力、断裂、冲击、压缩等,在 X 射线成像、应力探测、生物健康监测、疾病诊断、人机交互、智能机器人等领域具有独特的优势^[1-2]。

目前,无机化合物特别是以 $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}^{2+}$ (SAOE)、 $\text{ZnS}:\text{Mn}^{2+}$ 等为代表的弹性力致发光材料具有力光转换效率高、发光强度大、循环使用性能好、制备方法简单可控等优势,成为最具有应用潜力的力致发光材料^[3-6]。相比之下,有机化合物力光转换效率低、发光强度弱、制备成本相对较高,在实际应用方面受到较大的限制^[7]。SAOE 是一种余辉时间可达 60 h 的长余辉材料,在接收到可见光的辐照后会能量储存起来,再将能量以余辉的方式慢慢释放,该体系的力致发光材料已成功应用于应力的 2D 或 3D 可视化分布式传感^[8]。 $\text{ZnS}:\text{Mn}^{2+}$ 具有很低的应力响应阈值,并且力致发光强度大、力光转换效率高、自恢复性能好,近年来研究人员对这种材料在柔性传感等前沿领域的应用进行了大量的探索^[9-10]。

传统的电子应力传感器(包括压电式、电容式和压阻式探测器)抗电磁干扰能力和环境耐候性差,应用范围和使用性能非常受限。基于光纤的应力传感器将机械应力转换为光学信号(如光强度、波长或光相位偏差等),与传统电学应力传感器相比具有明显优势,包括抗电磁干扰、可实现长距离分布式传感等等。Zink 等^[11]于 1982 年研究了石英玻璃光纤由摩擦引起的力致发光现象,这是关于力致发光光纤的首次报道。力致发光光纤可直接将应力转换为光信号进行传输,因此除了传统光纤应力传感器的优点,还具有自驱动、信噪比高(不受激励光源影响)、设备简单成本低等独特的优势,在交通监测、人机交互等领域展现了巨大的应用前景^[1,12-15]。

本文从材料、制备、机理、应用等几个方面对力致发光光纤进行了简单的综述和展望,旨在为未来力致发光光纤的学术研究和技術发展提供参考。

2 力致发光材料

2.1 力致发光材料的种类和特点

一些固体材料在受到摩擦、按压、断裂、冲击等机械刺激时能够以光的形式对外释放能量,这种发光现象很早就被人类所发现,称之为力致发光。弗朗西斯·培根在 1965 年发表的《Advancement of learning》最早记录了这种现象^[16]。根据发光时材料的形变类型,力致发光材料可分为破裂力致发光、塑性力致发光、弹性力致发光^[2]。其中,破裂力致发光和塑性力致发光是破坏式发光,如普遍存在于自然界中的地震、岩石破碎等高能释放引起的发光。而弹性力致发光材料发光

阈值低,具有稳定的机械发光强度和可逆性,在自驱动传感、应力记录和新型可穿戴设备等领域具有重大应用前景。根据发光时材料的作用机理,力致发光材料主要分为陷阱控制型力致发光材料(又叫缺陷型力致发光材料)和非陷阱控制型力致发光材料(具有力致发光自恢复特性,又叫非缺陷型力致发光材料)两种。陷阱控制型力致发光材料需要先进行紫外或其他光源预辐照,而后在力的作用下才能表现出力致发光现象。陷阱控制型应力发光材料种类繁多,例如 SrAl_2O_4 、 $\text{SrMg}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2$ 、 $\text{Zn}_2(\text{Ge},\text{Si})\text{O}_4$ 等氧化物材料^[17]。非陷阱控制型力致发光材料不需要预先填充能量,且不容易受到外界信号的干扰。然而,非陷阱控制型的力致发光材料种类较少,一般为非中心对称结构,如目前报道的以 ZnS 、 CaZnOS 、 $\text{KZn}(\text{PO}_3)_3$ 、 $\beta\text{-SiAlON}$ 、 MgF_2 等作为基质的力致发光材料^[18-23]。

近年来,力致发光已经引起了越来越多国内外学者的研究兴趣,目前报道较多的力致发光材料包括力致发光荧光粉、力致发光玻璃、力致发光纤维等,独特的发光性能使其广泛应用于可穿戴、力学性能评估、应力传感等领域。其中,力致发光荧光粉以掺杂铝酸盐、硫化锌、硫氧化物等的荧光粉为主要代表,通过掺杂不同稀土元素(Eu^{3+} 、 Dy^{3+} 等)和不同过渡金属元素(Mn^{2+} 、 Cu^{2+} 、 Cu^+ 等)还能实现力致发光颜色调控,拓宽了在显示、传感等领域的应用^[24-39]。力致发光玻璃通过掺杂光激活离子和原位析出纳米晶的方式形成丰富的缺陷中心,并且热处理原位析出对纳米晶的生长限制能够有效减少光散射损失,实现高效力致发光发射,在应力传感等领域具有较大的应用潜力和发展前景。能够析出力致发光纳米晶的玻璃体系包括氧化物微晶玻璃体系、氟化物微晶玻璃体系、氟氧化物微晶玻璃体系和半导体量子点微晶玻璃体系等,如 $\text{ZnGa}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Cr}^{3+}$ 、 $\text{Ba}_2\text{LaF}_7:\text{Tb}^{3+}$ 等^[40-41]。对于力致发光纤维,基于纱线或纤维的可穿戴应变传感器引起了广泛的关注,以往的研究工作大多是基于单一的电信号或能量转换传感器的,这大大降低了应变传感器的应用范围,而应力应用条件下的多模态传感对促进新材料的发展尤为重要^[5]。其中,具有波导特性的力致发光纤维被称为力致发光光纤,力致发光光纤通过材料之间的折射率差实现光的全反射,从而实现光信号传输,进一步拓展了传感应用的范围和效果。

2.2 力致发光材料的力光转换机理

力致发光材料受到摩擦、冲击、拉伸等机械作用时,能够将机械力转化为光,实现力到光的能量转换。对于力致发光材料的力光转换机理仍在不断探索研究当中,目前主要有 3 种解释:1)材料在外力作用下会发生一定的晶格畸变,引起局部电场变化导致电致发光。晶格中的原子在受到外力作用时被迫迁移,局部电场产生于晶格变形区,促使局部电子运动并与发光中心复合后发出光子。2)材料本身具有优异的压电性质,

压电效应使得载流子释放,由此引起了力致发光。当压电材料受到外力作用时,晶格变形引起导带底倾斜,陷阱中的自由电子得到机会与空穴复合,释放能量激发发光中心发光。并且,力致发光的强弱与陷阱深度关系紧密;3)也有部分研究者认为作用于材料的机械力先转化为了热能,材料受到热扰动,将捕获的载流子释放与空穴发生复合,并将能量转移到发光离子,由此形成力致发光^[17,42-44]。

图 1(a)显示了陷阱控制型力致发光材料的发光机理。在光源预辐照的前提下,材料中的陷阱吸收一定能量后,在外力的作用下释放能量给发光中心离子从而实现力致发光。在多次外力作用后,力致发光强

度和效率会有所降低,此时需要激光或者紫外光等光源再次照射进行充能。非陷阱控制型力致发光材料的发光机理如图 1(b)所示,非陷阱控制型应力发光材料本身存在电子型陷阱和空穴型陷阱。当外力作用时,非中心对称使压电极化电荷在内部产生,非陷阱控制型力致发光材料产生晶体内压电势,使导带和价带发生倾斜。同时,由于倾斜的价带导带与缺陷能级距离比较近,压电效应产生的载流子会很容易迁移到陷阱中。当外部的力发生变化时,压电场随之发生变化,电子型陷阱和空穴型陷阱中不稳定的载流子会发生复合,产生的能量传递到发光中心从而发光,该过程不需要光源预辐照且可循环往复发生。

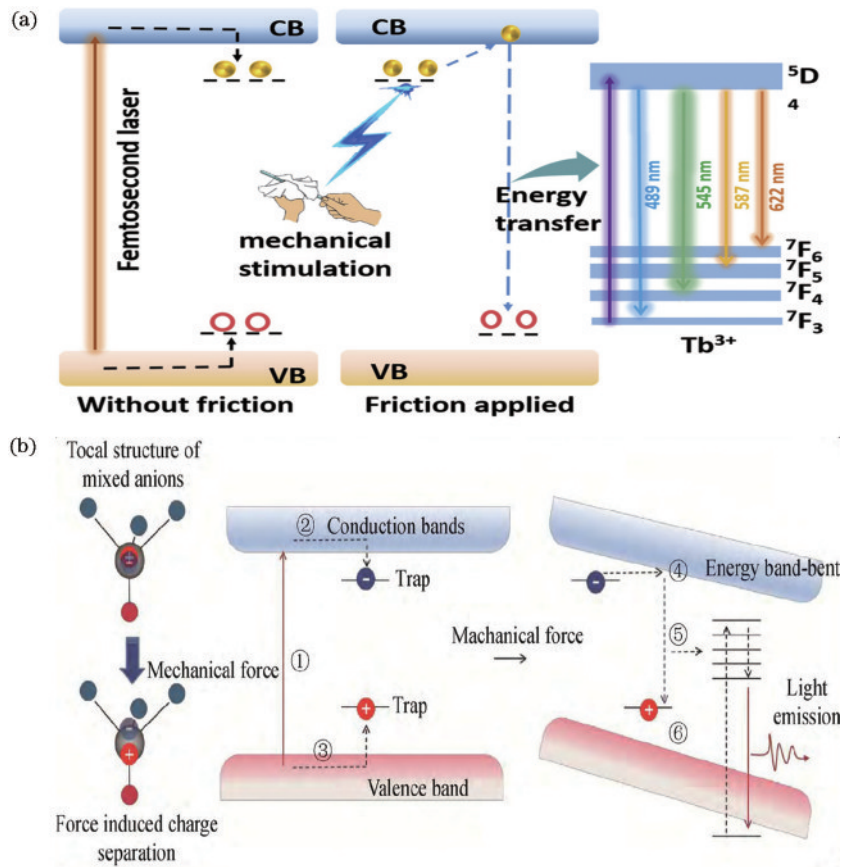


图 1 力致发光材料的发光机理图^[7,40]。(a)陷阱控制型;(b)非陷阱控制型

Fig. 1 Luminescence mechanism of mechanoluminescent materials^[7,40]. (a) Trap control type; (b) non-trap control type

3 力致发光光纤

力致发光材料在大型建筑、油气管道等的可视化应力传感方面有很好的应用。在实际的应力传感应用中,通常将力致发光材料贴附于目标物体表面或包埋在内部,采用肉眼观察或光谱仪等设备来探测应力发光信号。这种方法在应力分布的可视化传感方面有优势,但难以适用于不透明物体内部和长距离分布式应力传感(例如油气管道监测)。主要问题在于:1)应力引起的发光无法穿过不透明物体而被检测到;2)力致发光材料一般需要光照充能实现发光性能的恢复,埋

在被监测物内部难以实施光照充能;3)肉眼或光探测器对于开放空间的光信号探测距离有限,难以实现力致发光信号的长距离连续采集。

将力致发光材料与光纤结合构造力致发光光纤可以很好地解决上述力致发光应力传感技术遇到的技术瓶颈。针对已有力致发光应力传感技术:首先,应力引起的发光可通过光纤传送至被监测物表面进行检测(解决问题1);其次,在光纤力致发光强度减弱需要再次充能的情况下可通过光纤端面辐照对整根光纤进行充能(解决问题2);最后,应力引起的荧光可以通过光纤的波导结构向光纤两端进行长距离传播,其光强的

衰减程度与传输的距离成正比,根据光纤两端光信号强度比值即可计算应力作用位置,实现应力的长距离分布式传感(解决问题3)。

相比于其他类型力致发光材料和器件,力致发光光纤在实际的应用中具有多方面的优点。因此,在力致发光材料领域,研究人员越来越关注力致发光光纤材料和器件的设计制备及应用探索。

3.1 力致发光光纤的类型和制备方法

已开发的力致发光光纤主要包括两种类型。第1类力致发光光纤是将无机力致发光粉体与有机高分子基体材料复合得到的,暂且称为有机力致发光光纤。制备这类光纤所用的高分子材料一般为弹性体材料,如聚二甲基硅氧烷(PDMS)、聚氨酯甲酸酯等。所用的力致发光粉体材料一般为 ZnS 基质的力致发光材料,如 ZnS:Mn²⁺、ZnS:Cu²⁺、ZnS:Cu⁺等,粉体的尺寸一般在数十 μm。第2类力致发光光纤主要由无机玻璃基质和玻璃基质中原位析出的力致发光纳米晶体构成,且称为微晶玻璃力致发光光纤。已开发的用于力致发光光纤的玻璃基质包括硅酸盐、锆酸盐和磷酸盐体系玻璃等,析出的力致发光纳米晶体包括 SrAl₂O₄:

Eu、ZnGa₂O₄:Cr³⁺、Ba₂LaF₇:Tb³⁺等^[40-41,45]。

第1类有机力致发光光纤的制备按照力致发光晶体材料与高分子纤维基体的结合方式又可以分为3种方法。第1种方法是将力致发光粉体与有机弹性体材料前驱液混合均匀后拉制得到有机力致发光光纤。这种方法虽然能够直接得到具有力致发光效果的光纤,但是其力致发光效果依赖于力致发光粉体的掺入量,且由于有机弹性体材料的热固性和较长的固化时间,直接制备成纤维形状比较困难。此外,由于力致发光粉体与基体的折射率较难匹配,该方法制备得到的有机力致发光光纤无法具备较好的光纤波导特性,不利于实现波导形式的力致发光光纤,大大限制了其应用和发展。第2种是将力致发光粉体涂覆于有机弹性体纤维表面后再将其包埋于弹性基体材料中,由此得到有机力致发光光纤。Zhang等^[9]通过在PDMS纤维上依次包覆 ZnS:Cu/PDMS 和 PDMS 层,得到了具有芯鞘结构的复合纤维,由内部的 PDMS 纤维、厚度约为 200 μm 的力致发光 ZnS:Cu/PDMS 中间层和外层 PDMS 保护层组成,如图 2 所示,其力致发光强度和颜色可以通过控制复合纤维的组成和结构或改变施加的

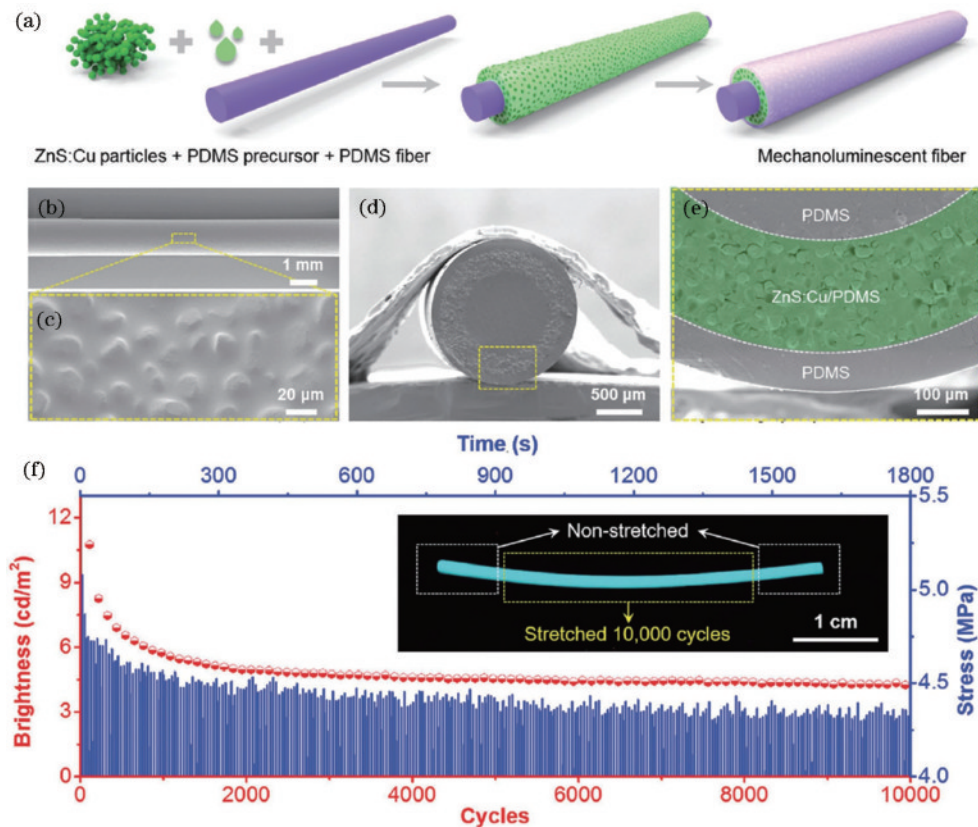


图 2 力致发光光纤芯包结构^[9]。(a)力致发光复合光纤的制备和结构示意图;(b)(c)无外层 PDMS 的力致发光光纤在低倍和高倍率下侧面 SEM 照片;(d)(e)力致发光光纤的低倍和高倍率断面 SEM 照片;(f)力致发光光纤的力致发光强度在反复拉伸和放松过程中的变化情况

Fig. 2 Core structure of mechanoluminescent fiber^[9]. (a) Preparation and structure diagram of mechanoluminescent composite fiber; (b) (c) side SEM images of the mechanoluminescent fiber without outer PDMS at low and high magnification; (d) (e) cross section SEM images of the mechanoluminescent fiber at low and high magnification; (f) the change of mechanoluminescence intensity of mechanoluminescent fiber during repeated stretching and relaxation

机械力来调节,经过 10000 次拉伸和释放后其结构和光学性能仍保持良好。

为了解决力致发光荧光粉高载量时发生的力学拉伸性差和基底结合力弱等问题,Jeong 等^[10]设计了一种十字形基体纤维,如图 3 所示,通过浸渍涂覆的方法在十字结构的凹槽中加载 ZnS:Cu/PDMS 力致发光功能

层,提高了 ZnS:Cu/PDMS 与高分子纤维基体之间的附着力。进一步通过在力致发光复合光纤的表面包覆一层有机硅粘结层,提高了光纤力致发光功能层与纤维基体的结合强度。研究表明,这种策略制备的光纤在 40% 应变下循环拉伸 100000 次后力致发光强度没有发生显著下降。

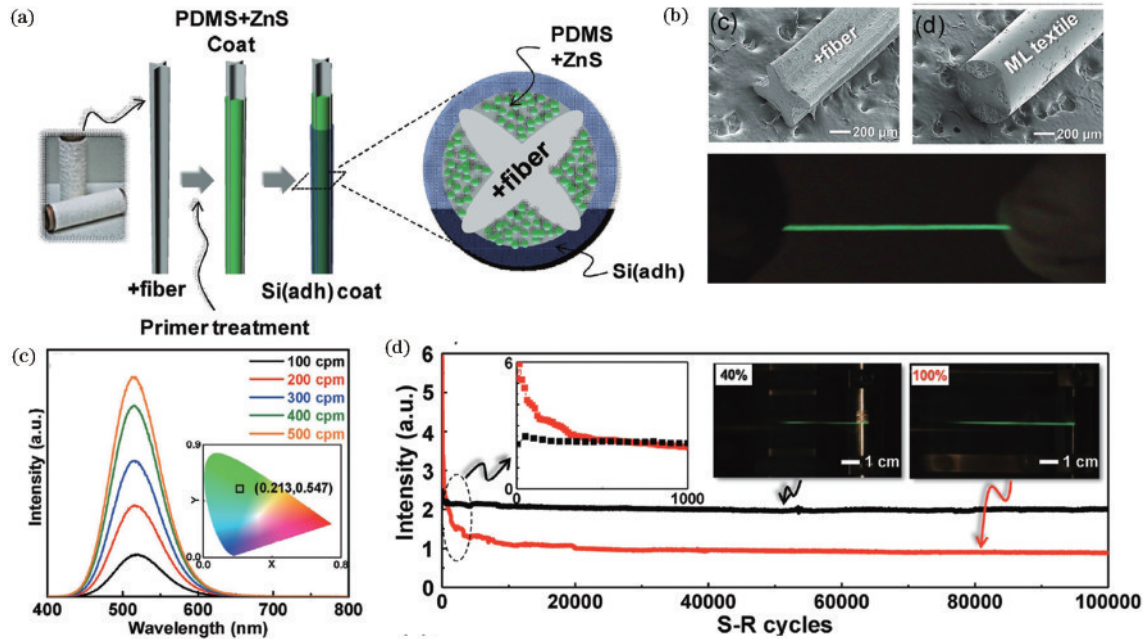


图 3 以十字形弹性纤维为基底制备的力致发光光纤^[10]。(a) ZnS:Cu/PDMS 与十字形纤维基体结合的力致发光光纤制备及结构示意图;(b) 十字形纤维基体(左上)和力致发光光纤(右上)的 SEM 照片以及光纤拉伸过程中的力致发光照片(下);(c) 光纤在不同应变速率下拉伸的力致发光图谱;(d) 光纤在反复循环拉伸和释放过程中的力致发光强度变化情况

Fig. 3 Mechanoluminescent fiber based on cross-shaped elastic fiber^[10]. (a) Preparation and structure diagram of mechanoluminescent fiber combined with ZnS:Cu/PDMS and cross-shaped fiber; (b) SEM images of the cross-shaped fiber (top left) and the mechanoluminescent fiber (top right) and mechanoluminescence images during fiber stretching (bottom); (c) mechanoluminescence spectra of fiber stretched at different strain rates; (d) the change of mechanoluminescence intensity of fiber during cyclic stretching and release

第 3 种是将力致发光粉体部分嵌入在高分子弹性纤维基体的特定部位,可得到分布式多色力致发光光纤。具有代表性的是 Hou 等^[46]开发的力致发光光纤传感器交互式柔性牙齿护套,可用于电子设备的咬合控制操作,如图 4 所示。具有高效力致发光特性的 ZnS:Cu²⁺、ZnS:Cu⁺以及 ZnS:Cu²⁺/Mn²⁺荧光粉嵌入在柔性牙齿护套的一组接触垫中,通过在横向位置使用独特的咬合接触模式,纤维传感器可以通过比例发光测量来区分不同部位各种形式的咬合导致的机械变形(应变检测准确率达到 98%)。当在纤维外部施加分布式压力时能够发出不同波长的光。通过检测不同波长光的强度,结合机器学习最终可实现对电脑、智能手机、轮椅等的咬合控制操作。

第 2 类力致发光光纤-微晶玻璃力致发光光纤,是对玻璃光纤进行热处理后在透明玻璃基质原位析出力致发光纳米晶形成的特种光纤。无机玻璃具有高透明性、高稳定性和高度可调的物理和化学特性。此外,玻

璃基体具有丰富的氧空位缺陷可与发光中心之间进行有效的能量传递,纳米晶亚波长尺寸又可以大大减小光散射损失,从而有望显著提升光纤的力致发光性能。相对于第 1 类力致发光光纤,对第 2 类力致发光光纤的研究还相对较少。作为对光纤材料的前期探索,有几个课题组报道了力致发光微晶玻璃的制备和性能研究。Dubernet 等^[45]通过 SrAl₂O₄:Eu 荧光粉与玻璃前驱体共融淬冷制备了低熔点碱-磷酸盐力致发光玻璃,结合实验和理论模拟建立了预测微晶玻璃中力致发光和力传递之间的耦合规律模型。Cao 等^[41]通过熔融淬冷和后续热处理析晶制备了 ZnGa₂O₄:Cr³⁺纳米晶复合的锆酸盐微晶玻璃。研究表明,这种微晶玻璃析出的纳米晶尺寸在 5~20 nm,玻璃整体在可见波段(尤其是长波范围)具有较高的透过率。小球掉落冲击实验表明该玻璃有明显的力致发光现象。Tang 等^[40]在玻璃材料的基础上进一步探索了微晶玻璃力致发光光纤的制备和潜在应用,如图 5 所示。他们首先通过熔融

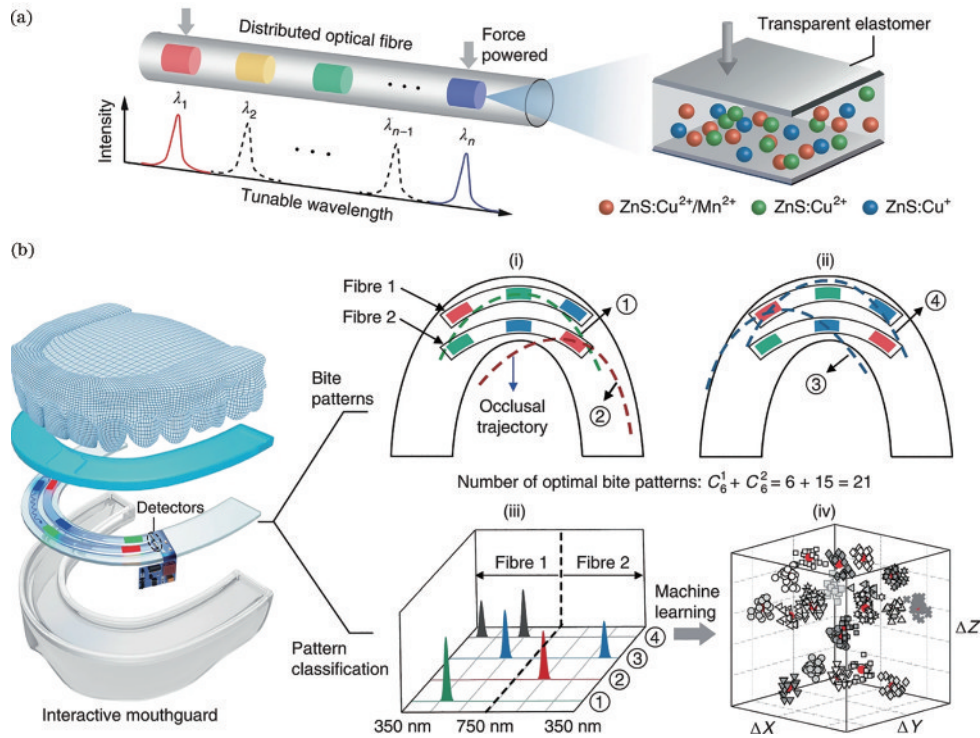


图 4 力致发光光纤结构示意图^[46]。(a)分布式有机力致发光光纤结构示意图；(b)集成本力致发光光纤的牙套结构示意图
Fig. 4 Schematic diagrams of mechanoluminescent fiber structure^[46]. (a) Structure diagram of distributed organic mechanoluminescence fiber; (b) a dental retainer structure diagram of integrated mechanoluminescent fiber

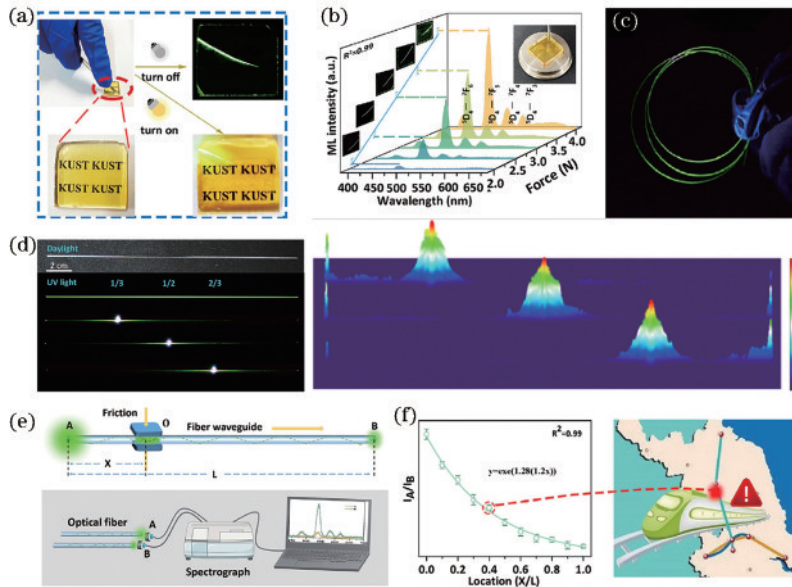


图 5 $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ 微晶玻璃力致发光光纤^[40]。(a) $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ 微晶玻璃样品照片及其在小刀刮划情况下的力致发光照片；(b) $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ 微晶玻璃在不同力度刮划情况下的力致发光图谱和数码照片；(c)在紫外光照射下发光的 $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ 微晶玻璃光纤照片；(d) $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ 微晶玻璃光纤在不同部位受到摩擦以后的力致发光照片(左)及光强分布(右)；(e)采用 $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ 微晶玻璃光纤进行应力分布检测的示意图；(f)光纤两端光强比值随摩擦位置的变化曲线(左)和铁路交通情况监测应用示意图(右)
Fig. 5 $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ glass-ceramics mechanoluminescence fiber^[40]. (a) Photo of glass-ceramics sample and its mechanoluminescence photo with knife scratching; (b) mechanoluminescence spectra and digital photos of glass-ceramics with different scraping forces; (c) photograph of the $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ glass-ceramics fiber under ultraviolet light; (d) mechanoluminescence photos (left) and light intensity distribution (right) of glass-ceramics fiber after friction in different parts; (e) diagram of stress distribution detection using $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ glass-ceramics fiber; (f) curve of light intensity ratio at both ends of fiber with friction position (left) and application diagram of railway traffic monitoring (right)

Fig. 5 $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ glass-ceramics mechanoluminescence fiber^[40]. (a) Photo of glass-ceramics sample and its mechanoluminescence photo with knife scratching; (b) mechanoluminescence spectra and digital photos of glass-ceramics with different scraping forces; (c) photograph of the $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ glass-ceramics fiber under ultraviolet light; (d) mechanoluminescence photos (left) and light intensity distribution (right) of glass-ceramics fiber after friction in different parts; (e) diagram of stress distribution detection using $Ba_2LaF_7:Tb^{3+}$ glass-ceramics fiber; (f) curve of light intensity ratio at both ends of fiber with friction position (left) and application diagram of railway traffic monitoring (right)

淬冷和后续热处理制备了 $\text{Ba}_2\text{LaF}_7:\text{Tb}^{3+}$ 纳米晶掺杂的硅酸盐玻璃,通过刀片刮擦初步验证了这种玻璃具有明亮的力致发光。随后,通过熔体拉丝的方法制备了上述玻璃体系的前驱体光纤,并通过后续热处理在光纤基体中析出了尺寸在 18 nm 左右的 $\text{Ba}_2\text{LaF}_7:\text{Tb}^{3+}$ 纳米晶。在玻璃纤维表面摩擦时可以观察到明亮的力致发光,利用光纤的波导性能可以将力致发光信号传导

至光纤两端。通过检测光纤两端的力致发光信号强度,并进行对比即可获知摩擦发生的位置。利用这一特性可以实现应力的分布式检测,为自驱动分布式应力传感打开了一条新的途径。

基于概述的几类力致发光光纤,对其纤芯尺寸、材质、是否包芯结构、制备方法、ML 强度、光谱、时间分辨率等关键参数进行了总结和比较,具体如表 1 所示。

表 1 几类代表性力致发光光纤的关键参数的总结和比较

Table 1 Summary and comparison of key parameters of representative mechanoluminescent optical fibers

Reference	Fiber core size	Material	With/without core@cladding structure	Preparation method	ML intensity	Emission range of ML	Time resolution
[9]	~200 μm diameter	ZnS:Cu/Mn particles+PDMS	Yes	Deposit ML particles/PDMS and layer of PDMS on PDMS fiber	As the strain increased from 45% to 70%, the ML intensity rose from 3.41 to 7.51 $\text{cd}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$	Green to yellow and then to orange ML light	
[10]	~700 μm diameter	ZnS:Cu particles+silane coupling-based primer	Yes	Deposit ML particles/PDMS and silicon adhesive layer on cross-shaped PDMS fiber	ML intensity increased with increasing stretching-releasing motion rate, about a few $\text{cd}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$	Green ML light	50 ms
[46]	5.0 \times 3.0 \times 0.5 mm^3	ZnS:Cu ²⁺ /Mn ²⁺ , ZnS:Cu ²⁺ , ZnS:Cu ⁺ and PDMS	Yes	Embed ML particles at several predefined locations in the PDMS	ML intensity increased linearly in the range of 5-60 N	Orange, green and blue ML light	52.6 ms
[40]	~320 μm diameter	Tb ³⁺ doped fluoride glass-ceramics	No	The precursor fiber was obtained by melt drawing, and then the $\text{Ba}_2\text{LaF}_7:\text{Tb}^{3+}$ nanocrystals were precipitated in situ by heat treatment	The ML intensity is linearly dependent on the applied force	Green ML light	

微晶玻璃力致发光光纤相较于上述有机力致发光光纤,制备工艺简单,无需复杂的封装包埋程序,在恶劣环境中也能够安全可靠地工作。相比于有机力致发光光纤中的微米尺寸的力致发光粉体,微晶玻璃力致发光光纤通过原位析出纳米尺度的力致发光晶体,光学损耗更小,力致发光信号能传输的距离更长。另一方面,玻璃材料具有很好的拉丝性能,利用成熟的光纤拉丝塔拉丝工艺容易实现光纤的连续可控制备。因此,微晶玻璃力致发光光纤有望成为未来长距离分布式应力传感应用领域的研究热点。

3.2 力致发光光纤的应用

力致发光光纤可用于生物体内应力测绘和监测、大型建筑和航天器等的分布式应力检测和健康自诊断、信息加密和安全标记等。力致发光材料产生的力致发光强度可对直接施加在薄膜或底层材料上的应力作出可逆和重复性的响应,使得其可以用作人造光子皮肤,在没有任何电极连接的情况下感知机械应力,成为一种新型的应力传感器技术。图 6 展示了力致发光光纤的各种潜在应用。Yang 等^[47]基于 self-powered

optoelectronic synergistic fiber sensors(SOEFS)优异的工作性能,提出一种新型的自供能水下绳索救援、传感和信息交互解决方案,消除了对集成微处理器、电池、蓝牙模块和其他人类水下活动电子组件的需求,如图 6(a)所示。Tang 等^[40]开发了一种具有显著的力致发光性能的自驱动光纤作为远程应力传感器,如图 6(b)所示,均匀的铽掺杂氟化物 Ba_2LaF_7 纳米晶体通过可控热处理原位生成,非晶态基质中丰富的氧空位等缺陷可有效促进能量从陷阱到发射中心的有效转移。利用透明介质的光波导特性,可识别应力信号的远程实时响应和作用力的准确位置,有望用于铁路、公路等的交通情况监测。基于力致发光的智能材料在可穿戴、运动和健康监测等领域具有巨大的应用潜力,如图 6(c)所示。此外,研究者用 SOEFS 和氨纶交替作为经纱、棉线作为纬纱编织了一种机织纺织品,如图 6(d)~(f)所示。交替排列的氨纶和 SOEFS 使电子纺织品在经纱方向上具有较高的拉伸性和耐磨性,当电子纺织品被拉伸时,SOEFS 依次产生协同的光-电-光信号,实现可穿戴的织物显示和人体动作感知。

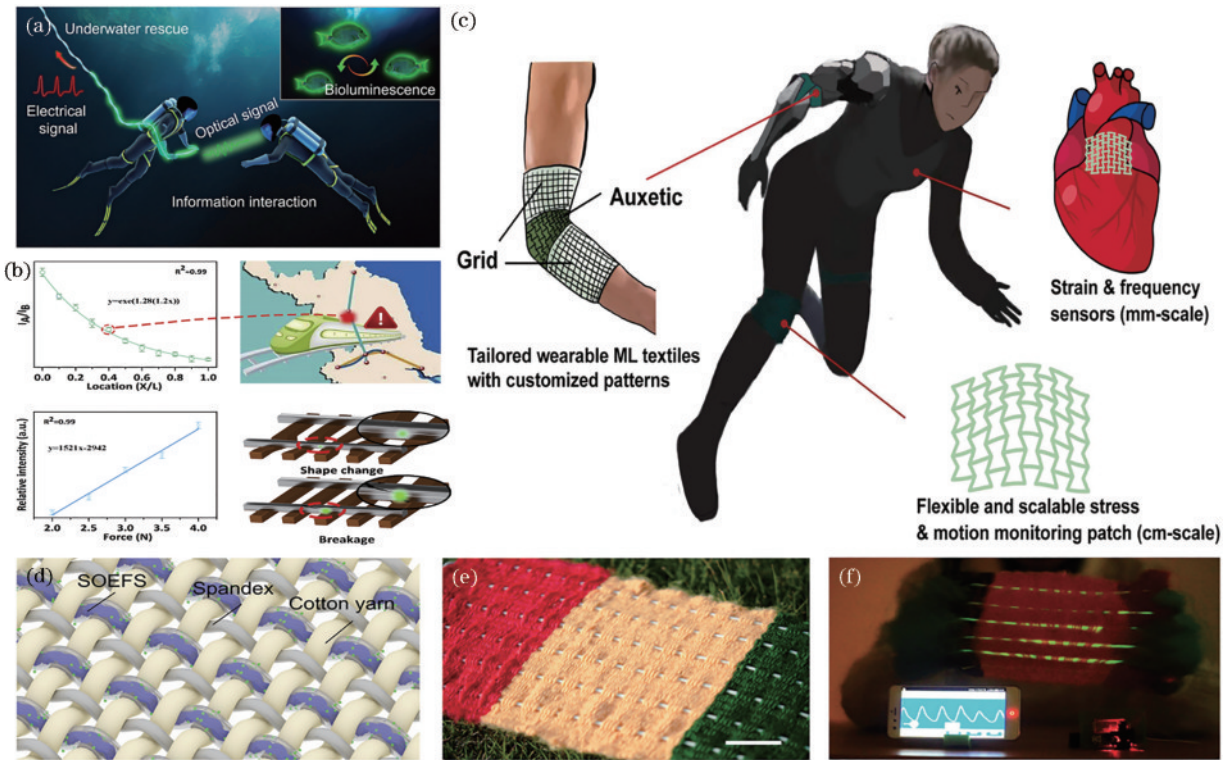


图 6 力致发光光纤的潜在应用^[40, 47-48]。(a)水下救援;(b)路桥健康和交通情况监测;(c)量身定制的可穿戴力致发光纺织品用于人体健康和运动监测;(d)~(f)用 SOEFS 和氨纶交替作为经纱,棉线作为纬纱织造智能纺织品,用于织物显示和运动传感
Fig. 6 Potential applications of mechanoluminescent fiber.^[40, 47-48] (a) Underwater rescue; (b) road and bridge health and traffic monitoring; (c) tailor-made wearable mechanoluminescent textiles for human health and exercise monitoring; (d)–(f) smart textiles woven with SOEFS and spandex alternating as warp yarn and cotton as weft yarn for fabric display and motion sensing

4 结论和展望

目前,研究最多的力致发光材料主要为 SAOE 和 ZnS:Mn 等弹性力致发光材料,具有高效力致发光发射的材料选择仍然非常有限。因此,该领域的专家对新型高能力致发光材料的开发进行了大量的研究。此外,关于力致发光的机理还没有明确的定论,也尚未找到有力的实验结果支撑。未来,借助新型测试手段和理论模拟计算有望进一步推动力致发光机理的探索。力致发光光纤结合了力致发光材料的力光转换特性和光纤的波导特性,可解决传统力致发光应力传感技术遇到的检测深度浅、光照充能困难、传感距离有限等问题,是未来力致发光应力传感技术真正迈向实际应用的最有效途径。基于力致发光光纤,研究人员已初步展示了其在生物体内应力检测、可穿戴柔性光子皮肤、铁路/公路交通监测等方面的潜在应用。尤其是微晶玻璃力致发光光纤,在光纤材料的连续可控制备、应力传感的长距离分布式监测、环境耐候性等方面,相比于高分子基的力致发光光纤具有明显的优势。因此,微晶玻璃力致发光光纤很有可能成为未来力致发光和光纤传感等领域的研究热点。

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