

光学学报

基于超快激光光刻的有源铌酸锂光子集成

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摘要 光子集成器件以极低的成本和功耗实现覆盖从光源、调制、非线性频率转换、光放大到光探测的全功能单片集成, 对光电信息处理系统产生显著而深远的影响, 并推动一系列诸如高速通信、人工智能、量子信息, 以及精密测量等重大应用领域的持续发展。近年来, 铌酸锂薄膜光子器件得益于离子揭膜技术和微纳刻蚀工艺的进步, 以宽的工作窗口、低的传输损耗、大的调制带宽、高的非线性光学转换效率和兼容大规模光子集成等优点, 在集成光子学领域占据重要一席之地。本文介绍了利用超快激光光刻结合化学机械抛光技术在掺杂有源发光稀土离子的铌酸锂薄膜衬底上实现片上激光与光放大的最新进展, 包括在波导放大器中实现了超过 20 dB 的最大内部净增益, 并且在高品质铌酸锂微盘中演示了具有 454.7 Hz 窄线宽的电光可调谐单频激光器, 演示了单片集成的电驱动微环激光器, 以及连续光刻方式实现的无源/有源混合集成器件。

关键词 集成光学; 超快激光加工; 铌酸锂; 光放大器; 光源; 稀土掺杂材料

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1 引言

光子集成技术的发展为构建具有高性能、低成本、可扩展和高可靠性的通信、传感、计算与信息处理设备提供了有效的技术途径^[1]。而铌酸锂(LN)材料一直被认为是最适合实现光子集成芯片的材料平台之一。它具有优越的光学特性, 包括较宽的透明窗口(0.35~5 μm)、较大的非线性/电光系数和较强的声光效应^[2]。近年来, 铌酸锂薄膜(TFLN)晶圆制造工艺取得了变革性进展, 为制造具有高折射率比、强光场约束的光子器件奠定了材料基础, 尤其是商业化 TFLN 晶圆与低损耗铌酸锂光子器件纳米加工技术的结合, 产生了一系列的高性能光子器件应用^[2-8]。在过去的不到十年中, 国际上发展了多个重要的铌酸锂光子芯片制造技术路线, 能够实现具有实用意义的高品质光子芯片原型器件, 包括聚焦离子束制备高性能铌酸锂纳米光子结构^[9]、利用电子束曝光^[10]或紫外光刻^[11]技术结合离子刻蚀制备高品质铌酸锂光子芯片, 以及超快激光辅助的化学机械抛光制备高品质、大尺寸铌酸锂光子芯片^[12]等。其中, 利用现有的较为成熟的电子束曝光工艺与离子刻蚀技术, 一旦找准工艺条件, 可以快速复制

该技术路线, 进行小批量光子原型器件的研发, 因此被多个国内外研究团队所采纳。而超快激光光刻辅助化学机械刻蚀技术(PLACE)作为一种新兴微纳加工技术, 得益于飞秒激光微纳加工技术及高重复频率高稳定性激光器、大行程高精度高速运动平台等相关设备系统的快速发展, 飞秒激光光刻技术在保持其内禀高精度加工品质的同时, 也已具有较高的加工效率且未来提升空间巨大。目前经过近五年的发展, 该技术已实现传输损耗小于 3 dB·m⁻¹、总长度大于 1.1 m 的单模脊形波导, 是一项具有晶圆级集成能力的光子器件制造技术^[13]。

迄今为止, 研究人员在 TFLN 上已经实现了一大批光子集成功能单元, 比如调制器^[14-19]、光频转换器^[20-23]、分束器^[24-31]、量子光源^[32-34]、延时线^[13]等, 并研究演示了它们所具备的低传输损耗、可高速调控、高效光频转换以及低能耗等光子学特性^[4-6, 8, 21-22, 35-36], 因此, TFLN 是实现大规模光子集成的理想材料平台^[37]。然而, 由于铌酸锂晶体本身不具备光学增益特性, 像片上集成的微激光器与光放大模块这类光子集成中不可缺少的核心部件很难直接在 TFLN 晶圆上制备出来。相比铌酸锂, III-V 族或 II-VI 族等直接带隙半导体材

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料更加适合片上的光产生,通过转印、倒装焊接、混合集成、异质集成等方式将半导体异质材料结合到TFLN平台上可以获得光学增益^[38],实现多种电驱动的片上通信波段光源与光放大器件^[39-44]。例如:将商业化的InP增益芯片与含有可调级联微环腔、电光调制器等结构的无源铌酸锂光子回路混合集成^[45]演示实现了宽带可调的O波段铌酸锂/III-V激光器,并在此基础上实现了O波段铌酸锂/III-V发射器^[46];将分布式反馈(DFB)激光器倒装焊接到制备有高速可调马赫-曾德尔调制器阵列的铌酸锂薄膜硅衬底上实现了C波段高功率激光发射器^[39];利用直接晶圆键合实现低损耗氮化硅波导回路与铌酸锂薄膜的异质集成,结合铌酸锂的较大的Pockels系数,构建了本征线宽仅3 kHz、频率调制速率达12 PHz·s⁻¹的超快可调自注入锁模激光,并基于该器件展示了分辨率可达15 cm的调频连续波(FMCW)激光雷达测距应用^[42];通过在铌酸锂薄膜光子回路上转印单晶硅中间层用于刻蚀硅波导,以及转印预制III-V族半导体光放大器等操作,已实现铌酸锂上III-V族单模激光器与光放大器,在1537 nm处最大增益可达11.8 dB^[43]。这些光源器件由于结合了具有工艺较为成熟的商业化半导体外部光源或增益器件和低损耗的铌酸锂薄膜光子芯片,往往可实现较高的输出功率、较窄的线宽和直接电泵,可用于高速光收发、大数据中心、激光雷达等光通信与光传感应用。然而,由于器件性能高度依赖高精度的对准键合工艺、高效的光耦合接口,大大增加了制备工艺的复杂程度与器件成本,因此这类器件仍处于研发阶段,制备效率仍面临着巨大挑战。

另一种更加直接地在铌酸锂薄膜上实现光学增益的方式是在铌酸锂薄膜中掺杂增益介质,并且已经在稀土离子掺杂铌酸锂薄膜(REI-doped TFLN)上,实现了不同波段(如~1550 nm和1030 nm波长附近)的片上微激光器与光放大器^[38, 47-68],具体的工作波段由所掺杂的稀土离子的本征光谱决定。截至目前,利用电子束光刻结合氩离子刻蚀技术在稀土离子掺杂铌酸锂薄膜上制备的微腔,实现的负载品质因子(Q)可达到10⁶量级^[63],而利用PLACE技术,则可实现品质因子 Q 达10⁷量级的微腔^[49]。铌酸锂的Pockels效应和 $\chi^{(2)}$ 效应也已经被应用于高速波长转换与调谐^[4, 35]。通过结合片上铌酸锂微腔激光器的窄线宽与快速频率调谐两个优势,可以对相干通信、激光雷达、精密测量、高精度传感等一系列重要应用产生深远影响。与此同时,片上光放大功能也已经在稀土离子掺杂的铌酸锂薄膜脊形波导上得到演示,并获得了高达23 dB的增益系数^[50]。通常,在稀土离子掺杂的铌酸锂薄膜材料平台上,有源光子元件是由分立的外部半导体激光二极管泵浦的。近期,利用商业化泵浦激光芯片与掺铒铌酸锂微环腔芯片对接耦合,制备出了混合集成的电驱动激光器^[52]。此外,有源与无源波导阵列的低损耗

同片集成^[69]也得到了演示。

尽管铌酸锂薄膜光子器件的有源集成仍处于起步阶段,铌酸锂晶体的极佳光学特性,配合低损耗的光子芯片制备技术与新颖的器件设计,将为铌酸锂薄膜片上光子器件赋予无与伦比的可扩展性和优异功能。本文将聚焦由PLACE技术实现的有源铌酸锂薄膜集成光子学的最新发展。首先回顾了有望成为大规模高品质铌酸锂光子器件可行制备途径的PLACE技术。其次介绍了使用PLACE技术构建的高品质因子铌酸锂微腔和片上微激光器,并介绍了基于铌酸锂微激光器的几种前沿应用。然后介绍了PLACE技术在制备低损耗波导和光放大器方面的最新成果。最后,总结了上述结果,并对这一充满活力和前景的研究领域进行了展望。

2 基于飞秒激光的铌酸锂光子芯片制备技术

超快激光PLACE技术^[12, 70]目前在制备超低损耗的铌酸锂单晶薄膜器件方面得到了有效的验证,已经成功演示了本征品质因子 Q 值高达 1.23×10^8 的铌酸锂微盘腔和传输损耗极低($0.34 \text{ dB} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$)的微环波导腔^[71-72]。该技术可以直接应用在掺杂稀土离子的铌酸锂薄膜上制备有源光子器件。如图1(a)和(b)所示,制备流程主要有4个步骤:1)在铌酸锂薄膜表面蒸镀一层金属铬(Cr)薄膜;2)利用飞快激光刻蚀技术选择性地去除部分铬膜,得到与光子器件构型对应的铬掩模图案,在这一过程中,由于飞秒激光的功率被设置在铌酸锂晶体的破坏阈值之下,刻蚀铬膜时铌酸锂薄膜没有受到损伤。飞秒激光刻蚀留下的铬膜的莫氏硬度高于铌酸锂材料,可以作为掩模在接下来的化学机械抛光步骤中保护下方的铌酸锂薄膜;3)利用化学机械抛光(CMP)技术将铬掩模图案转移到铌酸锂薄膜层;4)在铬腐蚀液中去除残余的铬膜。接下来,可以根据器件设计需要,利用湿法腐蚀、薄膜沉积等手段实现悬空微纳结构、介质包层及微纳电极等等。图1(c)的显微镜图像展示的是一个直径为100 μm 的超高 Q 值铌酸锂微盘腔结构,通过图1(d)的光学振铃实验测试数据,可得微腔中的光子寿命约为64.3 ns,即微腔的本征 Q 值为 1.23×10^8 。

得益于飞秒激光直写技术的独特优势,该方法制备的光子集成芯片(PIC)器件的尺寸仅受到薄膜晶圆大小或激光加工平台运动行程的限制,而这两个制约因素可以很轻松地根据特定的应用放大提升。因此,这项技术可以实现大尺寸的PIC器件制备,几乎没有物理限制。此外,光子结构经过化学机械抛光,留下了光学级的光滑表面,粗糙度低于1 nm^[74],使得器件的传输损耗可以逼近衬底材料的吸收极限。这些独特优势对于发展大规模集成乃至未来的超大规模集成光子芯片而言至关重要。已报道的PLACE技术^[12, 70, 73-75]

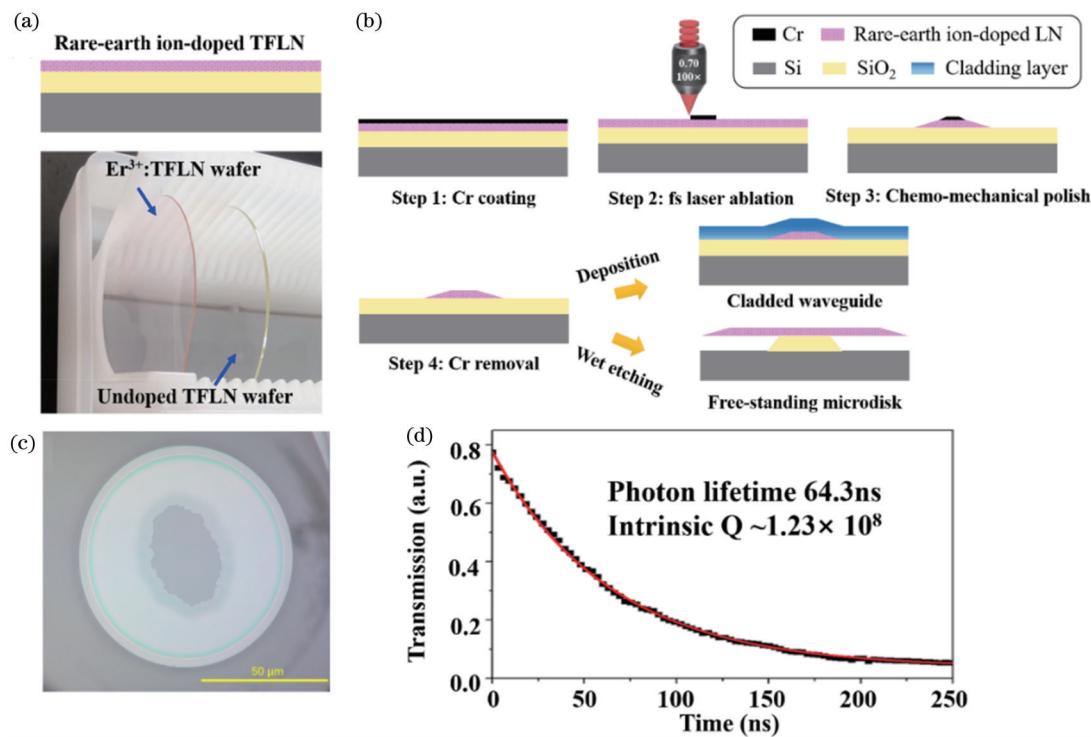


图1 基于飞秒激光的铌酸锂光子芯片制备技术^[12, 70, 72-73]。(a) REI-doped TFLN晶圆的横截面结构示意图[下图:由数码相机拍摄的掺铒TFLN(Er^{3+} :TFLN)晶圆和未掺杂TFLN晶圆的图片];(b)稀土离子掺杂薄膜铌酸锂光子器件的超快激光PLACE制造工艺示意图;(c)利用PLACE技术制造的超高Q值光学微盘的俯视图显微照片;(d)通过光学振铃效应测量获得的图(c)中微盘的透射光谱,测得微盘的本征Q因子为 1.23×10^8

Fig. 1 Fabrication technique of TFLN photonic integrated chip based on femtosecond laser micromachining^[12, 70, 72-73]. (a) Schematic of the cross-section structure of REI-doped TFLN wafer [bottom inset: the picture of an Er^{3+} -doped TFLN (Er^{3+} : TFLN) wafer and an undoped TFLN wafer taken by a digital camera]; (b) schematic of the PLACE fabrication process of the REI-doped TFLN photonic device; (c) overview of the optical micrograph of an ultra high-Q LN microdisk fabricated by the PLACE technique; (d) transmission spectrum of the microdisk in Fig. (c) obtained by ring-down measurement, the intrinsic Q-factor of the microdisk is measured to be 1.23×10^8

采用传统高精度三维运动平台实现掩模刻写,要实现更高加工效率,通常需要平台具备更大的速度、加速度及更好的稳定性,对运动台的性能要求更高,然而,受限于运动台的加减速问题,这种方式会很大程度牺牲加工效率,而我们自主搭建的新一代飞秒光刻系统^[76]采用高速旋转的多面镜实现水平方向的扫描,具备更大的扫描速度的同时也不存在加减速问题,同时结合自主开发的控制系统实现高速扫描转镜、飞秒激光器及运动平台的同步精确控制保证掩模刻写的精度,同时自主开发了实时追焦系统,保证刻写的均匀性。总体上,相比之前的PLACE技术,在保证相同制备器件性能的同时,制备效率可提升1~2个数量级。图2(a)展示了我们自主构建的超高速高分辨率飞秒激光光刻系统的晶圆加工平台部分,在运动平台上真空吸附了一片4英寸(1英寸=2.54 cm)大小、镀有铬膜的铌酸锂薄膜晶圆。飞秒激光光束通过一个高数值孔径(NA)物镜聚焦在铬膜表面进行直写刻蚀,在铌酸锂薄膜表面留下一组 11×68 的马赫-曾德尔干涉仪(MZI)光调制器阵列的掩模图案。图2(b)是CCD监

视器拍摄的飞秒激光直写加工一对平行放置的MZI掩模的实时显微图像。激光聚焦光斑直径约0.8 μm,以2 m/s的速度高速扫描,在图中留下一道粉红色的激光扫描路径线,显示了飞秒激光光刻极高的加工效率。在4英寸晶圆上制备748个光调制器的铬掩模所需总时间[图2(c)]仅为34 min。这意味着完成每个光调制器掩模直写只需2.7 s。图2(d)是化学机械抛光后得到的调制器显微镜图像。图2(d)底部插图显示了MZI结构不同部分的显微镜放大图像,表明该技术可以实现晶圆级均匀度和较低的片上光学损耗。采用PLACE技术制备的光波导通常横截面呈梯形,光波导的顶部最小宽度约为800 nm。

3 基于高品质因子微腔的片上激光器

3.1 低阈值掺铒铌酸锂薄膜微盘腔激光器

利用如图1所示的PLACE技术,可以在稀土离子掺杂的铌酸锂薄膜上制备高品质微腔,轻松实现高性能片上微激光器^[47]。如图3(a)、(b)所示,微腔直径为200 μm,在1563.86 nm附近通过洛伦兹曲线拟合透射

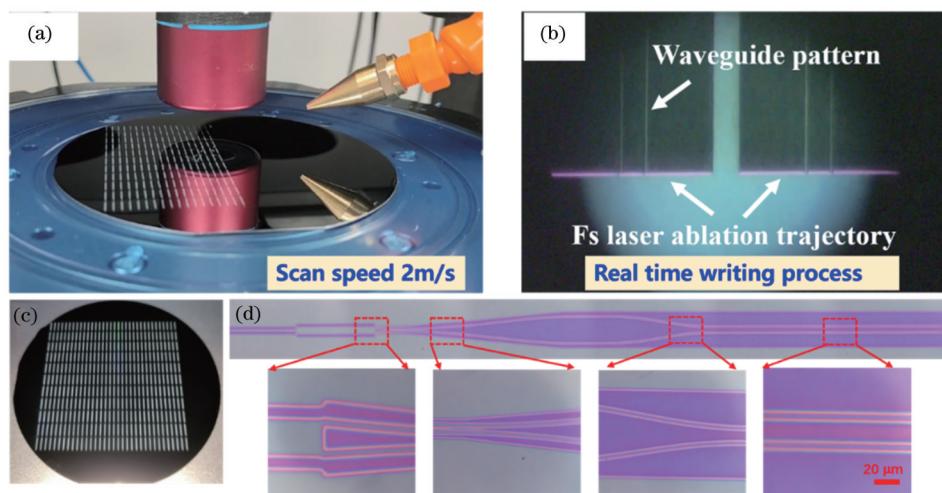


图2 自主搭建的超高速高分辨率飞秒激光光刻系统。(a)飞秒激光光刻系统的晶圆加工平台;(b)飞秒激光实时直写铬掩模图案过程的显微镜监控图像;(c)经过飞秒激光光刻直写的4英寸晶圆,晶圆表面带有 11×68 个MZI光调制器阵列图案的铬掩模;(d)CMP过程后图(c)中晶圆上其中一个MZI的显微镜图像

Fig. 2 Home-built ultra high-speed high-resolution femtosecond laser lithography fabrication system. (a) Wafer stage of the fs laser lithography fabrication system; (b) microscope image of the real-time femtosecond laser writing process for Cr patterning; (c) a 4 inch wafer with a Cr mask of a 11×68 array of MZI optical modulators; (d) microscope images of one of the MZI on the wafer in Fig. (c) after the CMP process

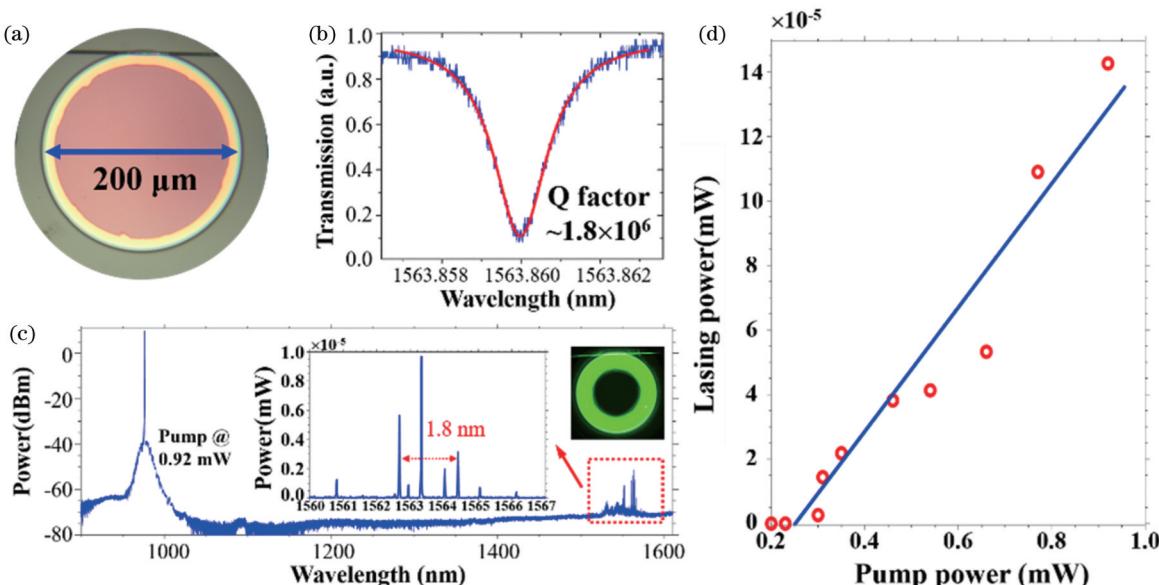


图3 通过制备高品质掺铒铌酸锂薄膜微盘腔实现C波段片上波长可调微激光器^[47]。(a)光学显微镜下,掺铒铌酸锂薄膜微盘腔与光纤锥耦合时的俯视图;(b)透射光谱的洛伦兹拟合结果表明,在1563.86 nm波长下测量的微盘的品质因子为 1.8×10^6 ;(c)泵浦光功率为0.92 mW时的掺铒微激光器光谱(上方左边插图为1560 nm附近的放大光谱,显示为多模激光光谱;上方右边插图为微盘发出的绿色上转换荧光);(d)在976 nm处所有发射线的总强度与吸收泵浦功率的关系(实验数据用圆圈表示,曲线为线性拟合,激光阈值小于400 μW)

Fig. 3 Demonstration of the C-band on-chip wavelength tunable microlaser by constructing high Q Er³⁺:TFLN microdisk^[47]. (a) Optical micrograph of an Er³⁺:TFLN microdisk; (b) Lorentzian fitting of the transmission curve indicates the Q-factor of the microdisk reaches 1.8×10^6 ; (c) spectrum of the Er³⁺-doped laser when the pump power is around 0.92 mW (upper left inset is enlarged spectrum around 1560 nm, shows the multimode lasing spectrum; upper right inset is micrograph of the strong green upconversion fluorescence of the microdisk); (d) dependence of the intensity of all emission lines on the absorbed pump power at 976 nm (experimental data are marked by circles, and the linear fitting in solid line indicates a lasing threshold lower than 400 μ W)

光谱,可得Q值约为 1.8×10^6 。图3(c)为微盘腔在976 nm激光光源泵浦下得到的透射光谱,并在1563 nm波长附近探测到了激光激励信号。图3(c)左

边插图是1563 nm附近的放大光谱,具有多条C波段通信波长的激光谱线,右边插图显示了微盘在被976 nm连续激光器泵浦时产生的强烈绿色上转换荧

光。如图3(d)所示,微盘腔激光器在室温下的激光阈值低于 $400\mu\text{W}$,并且在阈值以上观察到激光功率与泵浦光功率呈线性关系,转换效率为 $1.91\times10^{-2}\%$ 。通过调制泵浦激光功率,可以实现激光频率的调谐,调谐效率在泵浦功率低于 13mW 时为 17.03pm/mW ,泵浦功率高于 13mW 时为 10.58pm/mW 。

3.2 高品质微腔多边形模式与单模超窄线宽掺铒微盘激光器

在高品质的铌酸锂微盘腔中,本征频率很接近的固有回音壁模式(WGM)在受到耦合光纤锥等的弱微扰诱导下,发生重组,相干合成了多边形模式与星形模式主导的新模式^[77]。通过调节激发波长或者改变锥形光纤与微腔的耦合位置,可以在单个谐振腔中观察到各种多边形与星形模式。最近发展的一种有效且可控的模式修剪和聚类理论可以很好地解释和再现这些现象^[78]。

WGM谐振腔中多边形模式的产生源自腔模普遍且规律的准简并现象。考虑WGM谐振腔中的准稳态解,其本征值($x=nkR$)由径向量子数 p 与方位量子数

m 共同确定,则其中任意两个模式本征值差可表示为

$$x_{p-Q,m+P} - x_{p,m} = \frac{P}{\sin \Theta} \left(\Theta - \frac{Q\pi}{P} \right) + O(x^{-2}), \quad (1)$$

式中: P 和 Q 分别代表径向量子数与方位量子数的变化量; Θ 为模态弦角,由角量子数与本征值的比例定义 $\cos \Theta = m/x$, $\bar{\Theta}$ 介于两个模式所定义的弦角之间,对量子数变化较小的情形可以用模态弦角代替。当弦角 $\bar{\Theta}$ 满足特定条件,即 $\cos \bar{\Theta} \cong Q\pi/P$ 时,径向量子数与角量子数对本征值带来的影响可以近似抵消,会产生模式准简并。更进一步地,具有固定量子数差异的本征值序列 $\{x_{p_0,m_0}^{(P,Q;M)} = x_{p_0-MQ,m_0+MP} | M = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm M_{\max}\}$ 会发生准简并。其中,元素 $x_{p_0,m_0}^{(P,Q;0)} = x_{p_0,m_0}$ 是序列中心模式的本征值,与多边形轨道最为接近, $\Theta_{p_0,m_0} \approx Q\pi/P$ 。 M 是标记这些简并模式的序列号,在 $M=0$ 位置附近,模式简并最强烈,随 M 绝对值的偏离,模态弦角 Θ 线性地远离 $Q\pi/P$,导致简并度逐渐下降。如图4(a)所示,这些准简并模式间具有固定的量子数差异,由锥形光纤扰

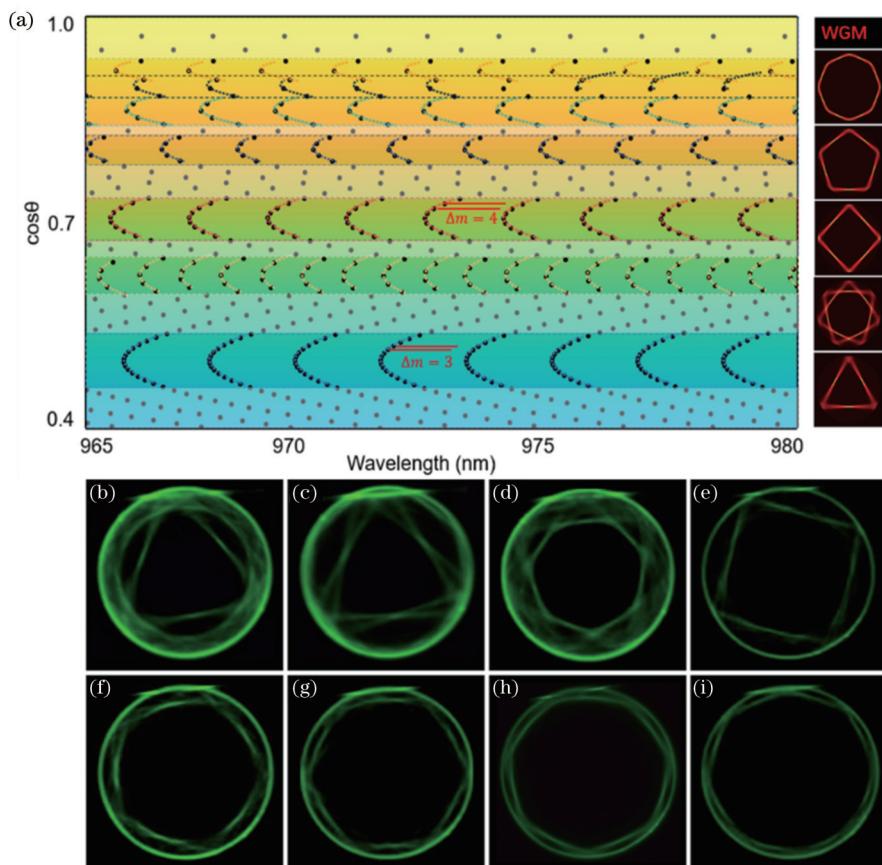


图4 高品质回音壁微腔在弱微扰下的模式修剪与聚类^[78]。(a)不同波长下本征模式的弦角的余弦值[黑点和彩色虚线分别代表准稳态解和由式(1)给出的近似结果,右侧图像为其在轻微扰动下的本征模式绘图];实验观测得到的模式图样(b)三角形模式、(c)双局域三角形模式(第一激发态)、(d)星形模式、(e)四边形模式、(f)五边形模式、(g)六边形模式、(h)七边形模式、(i)八边形模式

Fig. 4 Modes trimming and clustering in a weakly perturbed high-Q whispering gallery microresonator^[78]. (a) Cosine of the chord angle of the eigenmodes at different wavelengths [black dots and colored dotted line represent the quasi-steady-state solution and the approximate result given by Eq. (1), respectively]; observed mode patterns of (b) triangle mode, (c) triangle mode with first excited state, (d) star mode, (e) square mode, (f) pentagon mode, (g) hexagonal mode, (h) heptagon mode, and (i) octagon mode

动产生的重组模式也具有相应的对称性,从而在不同波长形成不同的多边形与星形模式。

实验上,在Z切 Er^{3+} :TFLN晶片上制备的直径为83.44 μm微盘中,利用双光子荧光激发,实现了模态的可视化。当锥形光纤与微盘中心之间的距离调谐到38.5 μm时,如图4(b)~(d)所示的三角形模式、双局部三角形模式(第一激发态)和星形模式可以分别在972.47 nm、972.56 nm和972.83 nm的不同波长下激发。当锥形光纤与微盘中心之间的相对距离进一步增加到39.8 μm时,可以在分别增加972.98 nm、974.48 nm、975.65 nm、978.82 nm和979.86 nm的波长下连续激发如图4(e)~(i)所示的方形模、五边形模、六边形模、七边形模和八角形模。所有这些光学显微镜图像都显示出近乎完整的多边形或星形图案,并且与理论预期的位置相符。

波长快速可调谐的单频超窄线宽片上微激光器在相干通信、光学检测和其他光子学应用中具有重要的应用价值。根据Schawlow-Townes理论,激光器的基础线宽与无掺杂的谐振腔负载品质因子Q值的二次方成反比,故获得超窄线宽激光需要高品质因子的谐振腔^[79-81]。然而,制备具有超高光学品质因子的激光微

腔,并在单个微腔的光学增益谱宽内只支持单模输出,仍然是一个挑战。如前介绍可知,由于WGM微腔中产生多边形模式的条件严格,在一个自由光谱范围内只能形成一个特定的多边形模式。因此,相比于传统的回音壁模式,多边形模式在光学增益带宽内分布较为稀疏,可以抑制回音壁模式泵浦时容易激发的高阶横模,避免多模激射。

最近,这种独特的基于诱导微腔中多边形模式构建单频超窄线宽激光的机制被提出并得到实验证明,在单个掺铒铌酸锂薄膜微盘腔内,实现了泵浦波长和激光波长处的高品质多边形模式的同时激发^[49]。这些多边形模式是由锥形光纤与圆对称的微盘腔耦合形成,由于光纤锥引入的微扰很弱,回音壁模式固有的高品质因子得以维持,这是形成高品质多边形模式的关键^[77-78]。如图5(a)左上插图所示,当泵浦光波长调至968 nm时,能观察到微盘腔散射的上转换荧光和泵浦光,且模式分布均呈四边形。泵浦光和上转换荧光的光谱图如图5(a)所示。微盘激光器产生1546 nm波长处的单模激光信号,其输出激光功率随泵浦功率的变化如图5(b)和图5(c)所示。如图5(c)的左插图所示,在1546 nm波长处的四边形激射模式的光学显微图,右上插图为理论计算得到的四边形激射模式的强度分布图;如图5(d)的测试线宽的实验装置示意图;如图5(e)测得的拍频信号的光谱图;如图5(f)高频范围测得频率噪声为 $196.5 \text{ Hz}^2 \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1}$,表明激光的基本线宽为436.6 Hz;如图5(g)激光线宽随激光输出功率增加呈线性增长。

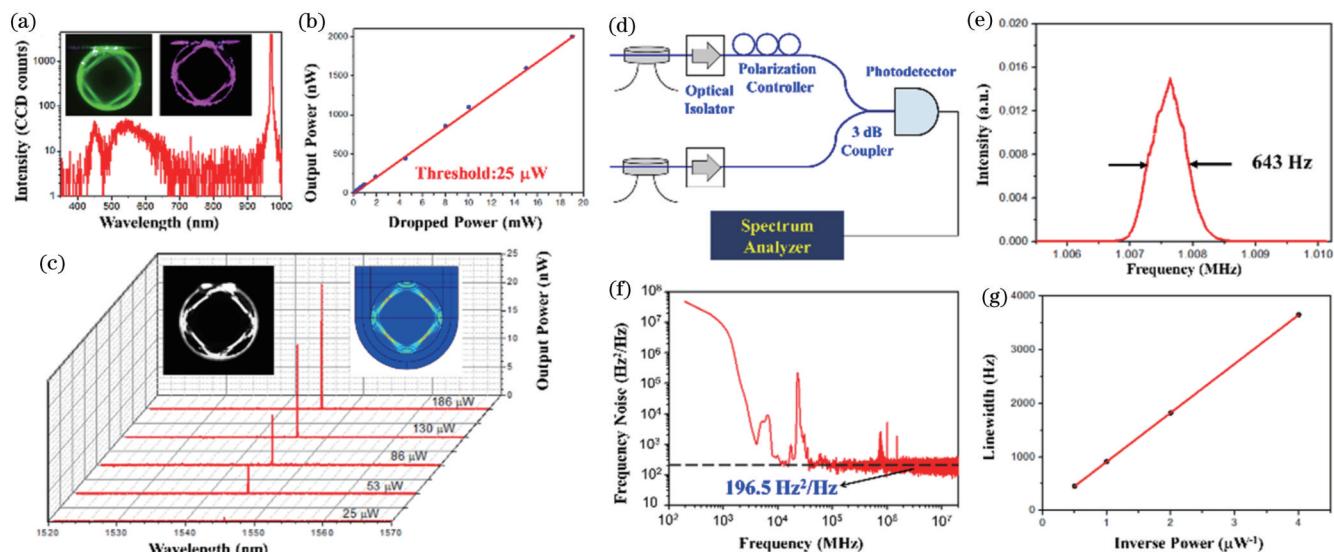


图5 单模超窄线宽掺铒微盘激光器表征^[49]。(a)上转换荧光和泵浦光的光谱图[插图为550 nm波长处的四边形模式上转换荧光(左)和泵浦光(右)的光学显微图];(b)激光输出功率随泵浦功率增加的变化图;(c)不同泵浦功率下测得的微激光器输出功率(左上插图为在1546 nm波长处的四边形激射模式的光学显微图,右上插图为理论计算得到的四边形激射模式的强度分布图);(d)测试线宽的实验装置示意图;(e)测得的拍频信号的光谱图;(f)高频范围测得频率噪声为 $196.5 \text{ Hz}^2 \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1}$,表明激光的基本线宽为436.6 Hz;(g)激光线宽随激光输出功率增加呈线性增长

Fig. 5 Characterization of single-mode laser with ultra-narrow linewidth in Er^{3+} -doped microdisk^[49]. (a) Spectrum of the up-conversion fluorescence and the pump light [upper insets are optical micrographs of the square modes of the upconversion fluorescence near the 550 nm wavelength (left) and the pump light (right)]; (b) laser output power at increasing pump power; (c) spectra of the microlaser output powers at different pump power levels (upper left inset is optical micrograph of the lasing mode with a square pattern at 1546 nm wavelength, upper right inset is theoretically calculated intensity distribution of the square lasing mode); (d) illustration schematic of the experimental setup for the linewidth measurement; (e) spectrum of the detected beating signal; (f) frequency noise is measured to be $196.5 \text{ Hz}^2 \cdot \text{Hz}^{-1}$ in the high-frequency range, indicating that the fundamental linewidth is 436.6 Hz; (g) linewidth glows linearly with the output power of the microlaser

重叠度,使得多边形模式获得足够的光学增益而产生单频激射。经线性拟合得到激光的阈值低至 $25\text{ }\mu\text{W}$ 。图5(c)的右插图中展示了理论计算出的四边形形状激光空间强度分布情况。如图5(d)所示,采用外差法,对两个独立泵浦的、直径相同的单模微激光器进行拍频以测量微激光器的线宽。这里通过调节泵浦功率来改变两个激光器的频率间隔(约1MHz),所使用的泵浦光源的输出功率抖动小于0.01%。如图5(e)所示,两个微激光信号通过一个3dB的光学定向耦合器进行拍频,接着再通过高速光电探测器将光信号转换成电信号。拍频

信号的功率谱呈现洛伦兹线型,其半峰全宽为643 Hz。因此,假设两个微激光线宽相同,则单个微激光器的线宽为454.7 Hz。如图5(f)所示,对频率噪声进行了分析。在高频范围(大于0.5 MHz)内,频率噪声基本在 $196.5\text{ Hz}^2\cdot\text{Hz}^{-1}$ 附近趋于平稳,对应白噪声,这表明激光的基础线宽为436.6 Hz,与图5(e)的结果吻合较好。如图5(g)所示,进一步表征了微激光器线宽与输出功率的关系。激光线宽与输出功率的线性反比关系符合Schawlow-Townes公式,表明微激光器的线宽受白噪声的限制。

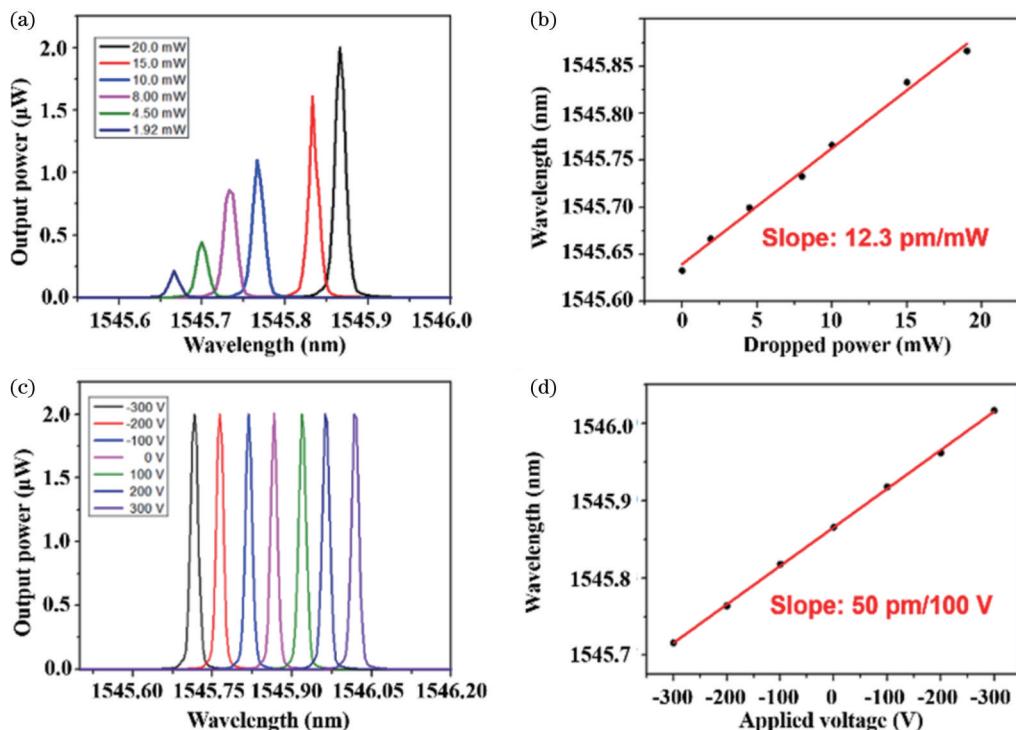


图6 超窄线宽激光器的波长调谐特性^[49]。(a)不同泵浦功率下测得的激射波长;(b)激射波长随着泵浦功率变化图;(c)不同直流偏压下测得的激射波长;(d)激射波长随着直流偏压变化图

Fig. 6 Wavelength tuning performance of the ultra-narrow linewidth micro-laser^[49]. (a) Lasing wavelength at different pump powers; (b) lasing wavelength drifts with pump power; (c) lasing wavelength at different direct current (DC) biases; (d) lasing wavelength drifts with DC bias

微激光器在许多光子学应用中,通常需要快速的波长调谐功能。如图6(a)和(b)所示,泵浦功率的变化会导致谐振波长的改变,这为实现波长调谐提供了一种思路。实验测得波长调谐速率为 $12.3\text{ pm}\cdot\text{mW}^{-1}$,也即 $1.54\text{ MHz}\cdot\mu\text{W}^{-1}$ 。为了实现快速的电光调谐,在器件的上表面制作了一对微电极。当外部直流偏压施加到电极对上时就实现了电光调谐。由图6(c)和(d)可知,当施加的电压从-300 V变化到300 V时,激光波长从1545.716 nm红移到1546.017 nm,线性调谐效率高至 $50\text{ pm}/100\text{ V}$,该值与理论计算值 $80\text{ pm}/100\text{ V}$ 基本一致。

3.3 在有源铌酸锂微盘腔上实现电光可调的低相位噪声微波合成器

单个弱微扰的掺铒铌酸锂薄膜微盘谐振腔,除了

能合成单个多边形模式,也可以形成近简并的多边形模式,进而获得双波长微激光器^[55]。这对近简并的激光多边形模式,仍然由锥形光纤与圆对称微盘耦合引起近简并的回音壁模式重组而产生,它们具有很小的波长间距。由于这些模式同样具有很高的品质因子,通过拍频即可合成可调谐的低相位噪声微波信号。

为了产生近简并多边形模式,在Z切向的掺铒铌酸锂薄膜晶圆上制备了直径为 $106.33\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ 的微盘谐振腔,并使用 $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ 直径的锥形光纤耦合到距离微腔中心 $47.0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ 的微腔边缘上方。如图7(a)所示,当锥形光纤耦合进微盘的泵浦激光的波长调到970.02 nm,功率调至 $80\text{ }\mu\text{W}$ 以上时,可以观测到波长间隔约为8 pm的双波长激光信号。如图7(b)所示,上转换荧光、泵浦光和激射光模式的光学显微镜图均呈现一个空间双

重局域化的八边形图案。由于泵浦模式与两种激光模式有较大的空间模式重叠,因此只有铒离子光学增益范围内的近简并多边形双模式能被激发。图7(c)展示了不同泵浦功率下测得的激光输出功率,经线性拟合得到激光阈值约为80 μW。通过改变微扰量,可以改变近简并模式的模式间隔,如图7(d)所示,当锥形

光纤的耦合位置继续往外偏离谐振腔的中心0.5 μm,而且泵浦光波长调到969.82 nm时,可以观察到波长间隔为70 pm的双波长激光信号。因此,双波长激光信号的波长间隔可以通过调整锥形光纤耦合引入的扰动来得到比较大的调节。

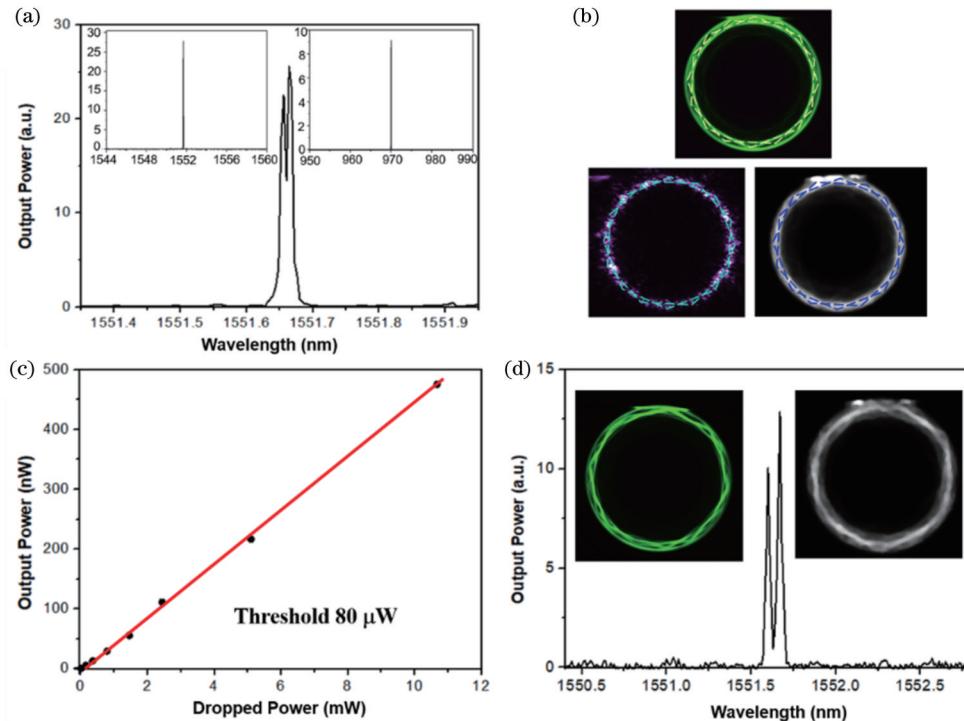


图7 双波长微激光器^[55]。(a)微激光器的光谱图双峰精细结构,双波长激光的间隔为8 pm(左上插图为微激光器的激光光谱图,右上插图为泵浦光附近光谱图);(b)上转换荧光(上)、泵浦光(左下)和输出激光(右下)多边形模式的光学显微图;(c)微激光器的输出功率与泵浦功率的依赖关系图;(d)波长间隔为70 pm的双波长微激光器的光谱图[插图为上转换荧光(左)和激射模式(右)的多边形光学显微图]

Fig. 7 Dual-wavelength microlasers^[55]. (a) Spectrum of the microlasers with a fine structure of two peaks, showing a wavelength interval of 8 pm [insets are transmission spectrum of the microlaser near the lasing wavelength (left) and the pumping wavelength (right)]; (b) optical micrographs of polygon modes of the up-conversion fluorescence (top), pump laser (bottom left), and output laser (bottom right); (c) output power of the microlaser as a function of the pump power; (d) spectrum of the microlasers with a large wavelength interval of 70 pm [insets are optical micrographs of polygon-shaped patterns of the up-conversion fluorescence (left) and lasing modes (right)]

为了产生微波信号,将两个微激光器的输出功率经掺铒光纤放大器放大到0.047 mW,然后用快速光电探测器通过信号拍频来合成微波信号。图8(a)展示了所生成的微波信号,其中心频率为1.23 GHz,曲线接近洛伦兹线型,测得3 dB线宽为6870 Hz。图8(b)记录了微波载波的相位噪声,当频偏超过110 MHz时,相位噪声也趋近平稳,对应了−123 dBc·Hz^{−1}的相位白噪声。如图8(a)的插图所示,微波信号的电光调谐是通过在微电极对上施加偏置来实现的。图8(c)展示了利用线性电光系数 r_{22} 调整准简并双模波长间距的电光调谐结果。当外置偏压从−300 V调至300 V时,微波信号实现了从1.73 GHz到0.73 GHz的红移,调谐效率为−1.66 MHz·V^{−1}。如图7所示,

我们也将波长间隔为70 pm的双波长激光器合成了中心频率为8.72 GHz的微波信号。

通过对双波长激光稳定的物理机制分析可知,两个近简并的激光多边形模式,具有很接近的空间模场分布,但相位相差了π。它们与泵浦光的多边形模式具有很接近的模场空间重叠度,但沿着微腔边缘呈现准周期性变化的模场空间重叠度的分布仍然相差π,因此两个近简并激光模式避免了增益竞争,从而获得稳定的双波长激光输出,进而形成稳定的微波源。

3.4 单片集成的大功率窄线宽掺铒微盘激光器

上述已经介绍了基于单个圆对称的掺铒铌酸锂的悬空微盘腔与锥形光纤耦合,形成弱微扰的有源微腔,进而产生窄线宽单频/双频激光。这些微激光器,在面

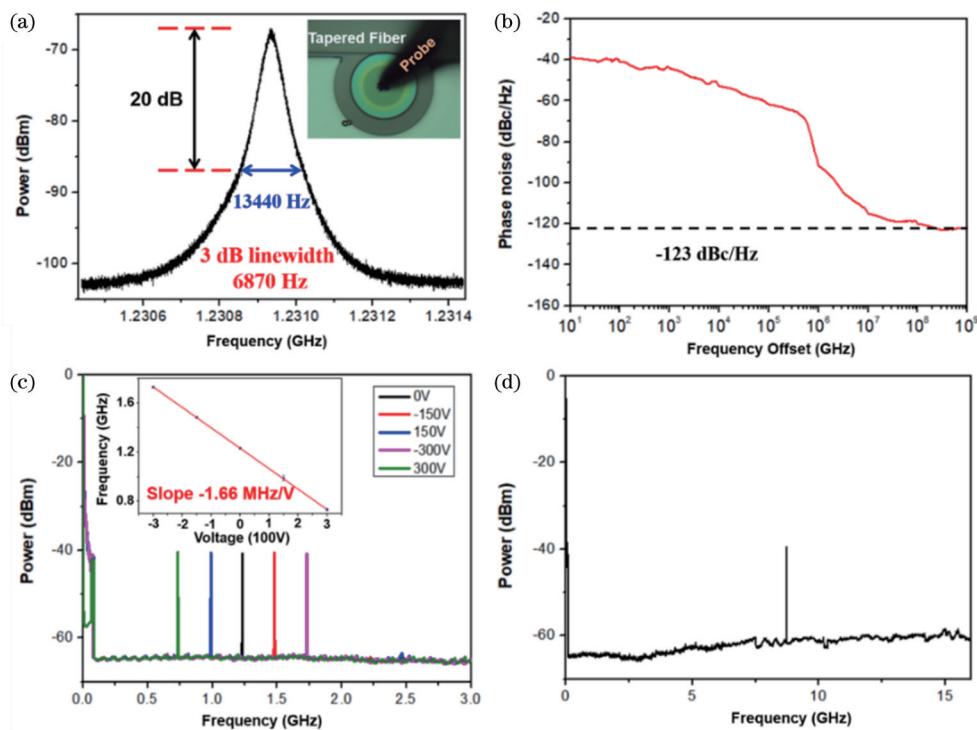


图8 微波信号合成^[55]。(a)测得的微波信号(插图为探针施加在微盘腔中心的电极上的光学显微示意图);(b)微波载波信号的相位噪声图;(c)微波信号的电光调制图;(d)波长间隔为70 pm的双波长激光合成的微波信号

Fig. 8 Microwave signal synthesis^[55]. (a) Detected microwave signal (inset is optical micrograph of the probe contracted with the electrode on the center of the microdisk); (b) phase noise of the microwave signal carrier; (c) electro-optic tuning of the microwave signal; (d) microwave signal synthesized by the dual-wavelength laser of a wavelength interval of 70 pm

向光子学应用时,仍然存在一些不足。首先,悬空微盘与锥形光纤耦合,不是一体化、便携式集成。其次,单频掺铒铌酸锂微腔激光器的输出功率需要工作在较小腔长的微腔来实现平衡单频运转,因此所获取的光学增益长度有限,限制了激光输出功率的提升(为数微瓦)。为解决这些问题,利用PLACE技术制备毫米尺寸的圆对称非悬空微盘,并在微腔侧面集成脊形光波导,借助该光波导引入模式微扰,可以获得窄线宽、大输出功率的单片集成微激光器^[82]。

采用X切700 nm厚、掺铒摩尔分数为0.5%的掺铒铌酸锂薄膜晶圆作为样品。圆对称微盘腔的直径选为409 μm和1 mm两种尺寸,侧面耦合的多模脊形光波导距离微腔边缘4 μm。铌酸锂薄膜的刻蚀深度为300 nm,如图9(a)所示。微结构位于2 μm厚的二氧化硅层上,底下由铌酸锂衬底支撑。采用端面泵浦的方式,将一个波长980 nm的廉价半导体激光分布式反馈二极管的功率,通过多模脊形光波导耦合到409 μm直径的微盘腔中,并通过该侧面耦合的光波导,将激光输出功率耦合出来,利用光谱分析仪进行光谱分析。这里,侧面耦合的光波导发挥了两个作用:1)引起微腔回音壁模式重组,形成高品质的六边形模式;2)将泵浦光耦合进微腔,并将微腔产生的激光信号耦合出微腔。单频激光的频率为1552.82 nm,最大输出功率为39.7 μW,如图9(b)所示。由于泵浦光、激射光模式的

模场空间分布与上转换荧光的高度一致^[49],这里只分析上转换荧光的空间光强分布,如图9(c)所示,为六边形。激光输出功率随泵浦光功率的演化,如图9(d)所示,经线性拟合后可见激光的泵浦阈值为825.39 μW。激光的能量转换效率为 1.62×10^{-3} 。当微腔的尺寸换成1 mm时,由于微腔的腔长变大了,激光输出功率将得到提升,如图9(e)所示。此时,单频激光波长位于1551.68 nm,最大的输出功率为62.1 μW。采用干涉臂长相差5 km的光学延时自外差^[60]方法,测得1 mm直径微腔的激光拍频信号如图9(f)所示,所对应的微激光线宽为0.11 MHz。该值比目前已报道的单片集成的掺铒微腔激光的线宽低一个数量级左右。这种单片集成的大功率、窄线宽片上激光,将促进上述相关应用的发展。

3.5 激光二极管泵浦的紧凑型混合铌酸锂微环激光器

PLACE技术还可用于制备集成泵浦激光二极管的铌酸锂薄膜环腔激光器^[52]。图10(a)为半导体激光器泵浦的紧凑型混合铌酸锂微环激光器的示意图,该激光器由商用CoS封装的半导体激光器和高Q值 $\text{Er}^{3+}:\text{TFLN}$ 微环组成。片上微环制备在一片500 nm厚、掺铒离子摩尔分数为1%的Z切铌酸锂薄膜上,图10(b)为数码相机拍摄的半导体激光器泵浦的紧凑型混合铌酸锂微环激光器实物图,其中 $\text{Er}^{3+}:\text{TFLN}$ 微环

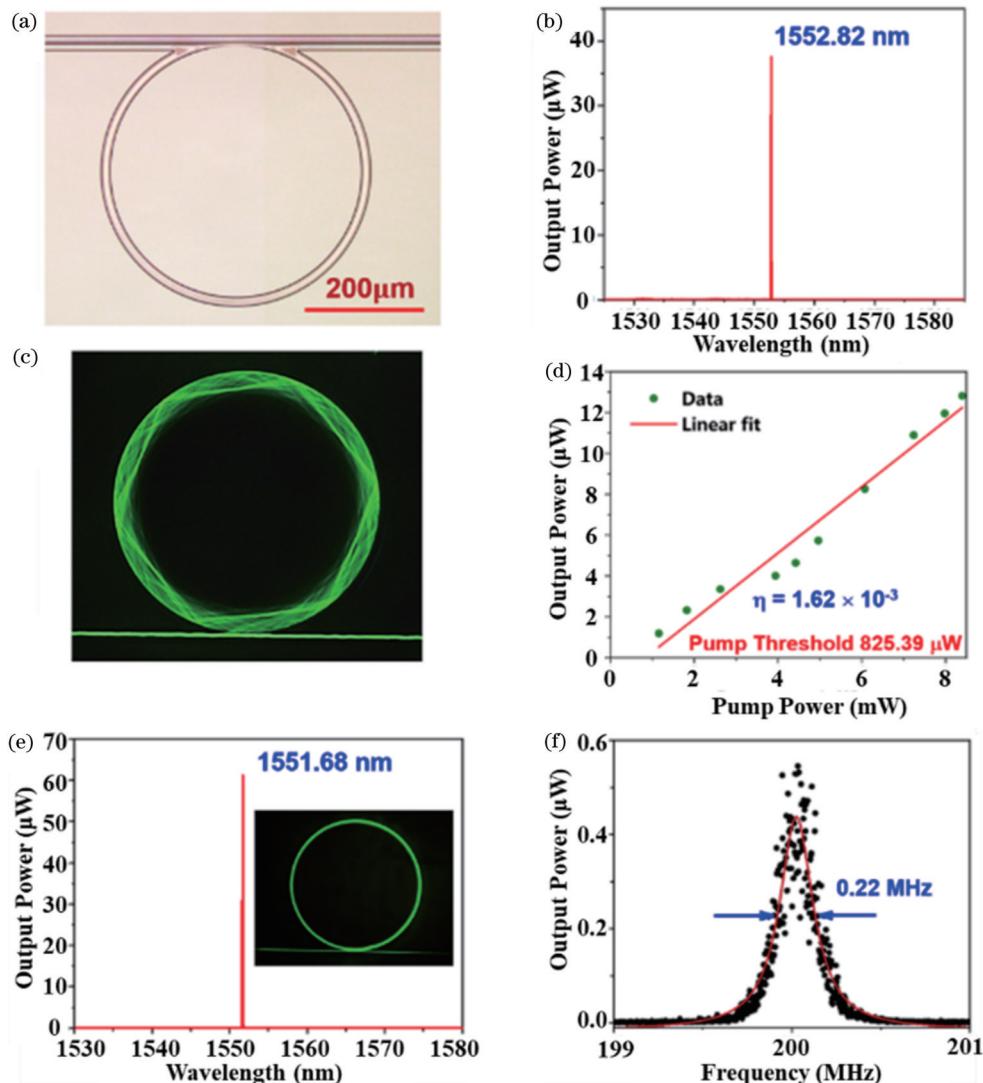


图9 单片集成的大功率窄线宽微盘激光器^[82]。(a)片上集成微结构的光学显微图;(b)直径409 μm微腔的单频激光光谱;(c)空间分布为六边形的微腔上转换荧光的光学显微图;(d)激光输出功率随泵浦光功率演化曲线;(e)直径1 mm的微腔在1551.68 nm附近的单频激光光谱(插图为微腔上转换荧光的空间分布,由于多边形的边数更多,接近圆形);(f)激光拍频信号(黑点)的洛伦兹拟合结果显示,激光线宽为0.11 MHz

Fig. 9 Monolithically integrated high-power narrow-bandwidth microdisk laser^[82]. (a) Optical micrograph of the fabricated integrated microdisk laser; (b) spectrum of the integrated microdisk laser with 409 μm diameter, exhibiting a single-frequency lasing at 1552.82 nm; (c) green upconversion fluorescence of the integrated microdisk laser, showing a hexagon pattern; (d) laser output power versus pump power dropped to the cavity; (e) spectrum of the integrated microdisk laser with 1 mm diameter, confirming a single-frequency lasing at 1551.68 nm wavelength (inset is micrograph of the upconversion fluorescence); (f) Lorentz fitting of the detected beating signal (black dots) featuring a laser linewidth of 0.11 MHz

的周长约为1.256 mm。微环激光及其同片耦合波导可见到清晰且强烈的上转换荧光。如图10(c)所示,Er³⁺:TFLN微环的输入端口与CoS封装的半导体激光管的输出端口对齐,通过调节精度为10 nm的6轴对准系统实现高效的光耦合。为了实现稳定和紧密的键合,通过点胶机涂上紫外线(UV)胶水,通过紫外线照射来固定两个芯片。图10(d)为不同泵浦功率下微环激光器的激光谱线。片上激光功率与片上泵浦功率的关系如图10(e)所示,通过线性拟合发现激光阈值约为6 mW,计算得到的转换效率为 $3.9 \times 10^{-3}\%$,通过

优化泵浦激光的耦合效率,还可以进一步提升激光性能。图10(f)为片上激光功率与驱动功率的函数关系,当工作电压为1.64 V时,阈值电流为0.5 A。

3.6 基于Sagnac环形反射器的单模激光器

到目前为止,所有稀土离子掺杂的TFLN激光器都是使用高品质因子的WGM谐振腔进行演示的,包括微盘谐振腔和微环谐振腔。TFLN WGM谐振腔往往需要精密复杂的耦合技术,如棱镜耦合、锥形光纤和耦合波导,实现高功率、高效率激光输出。与WGM激光器相比,Fabry-Pérot (FP)谐振腔激光器可以简单地

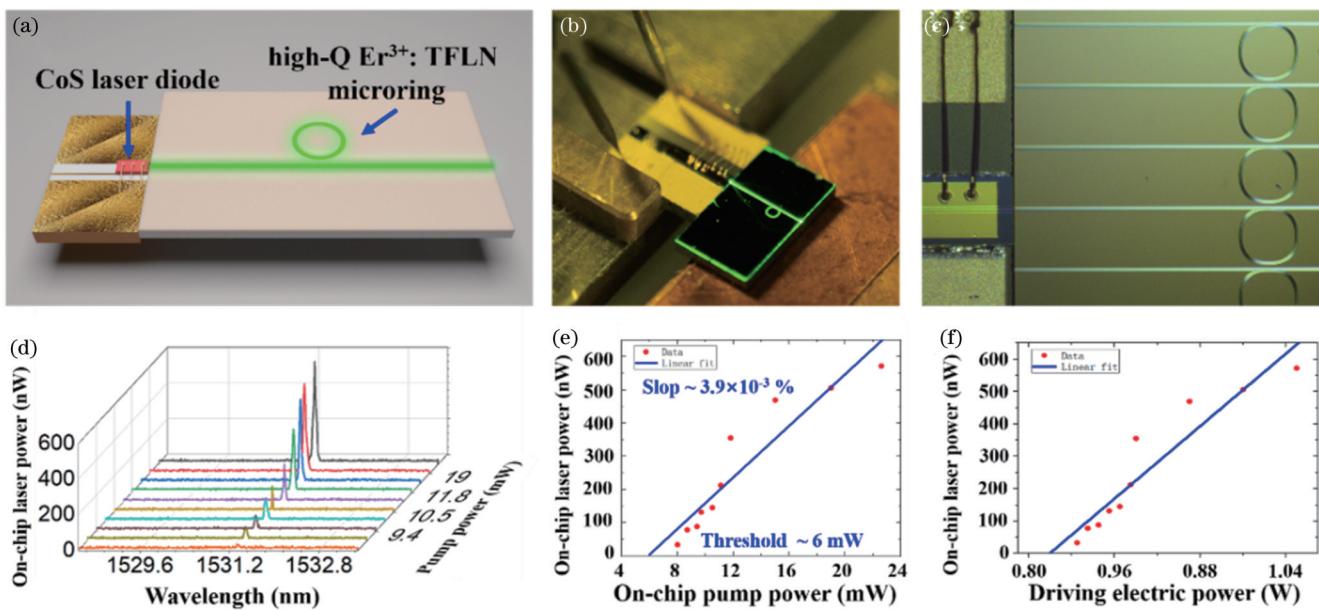


图10 激光二极管泵浦的紧凑型混合铌酸锂微环激光器^[52]。(a)器件结构示意图,由CoS封装的半导体激光器和高Q Er³⁺:TFLN微环激光器组成;(b)紧凑型混合铌酸锂微环激光器的实物照片;(c)CoS封装的半导体激光器和Er³⁺:TFLN微环之间界面的特写光学显微照片;(d)微环激光器发射光谱随泵浦功率增加的变化;(e)微环激光器的片上激光功率与片上泵浦功率的函数关系;(f)微环激光器的片上激光功率与驱动电功率的函数关系

Fig. 10 Laser diode-pumped compact hybrid lithium niobate microring laser^[52]. (a) Illustration of the microlaser device, which consists of a commercial CoS laser diode and an Er³⁺:TFLN microring; (b) overview picture of the microlaser device taken by a digital camera; (c) top-view optical micrograph of the interface between the CoS laser diode and the array of Er³⁺:TFLN microrings; (d) spectra of the microring laser with increasing pump power; (e) on-chip laser power drifts with input pump power; (f) on-chip laser power drifts with driving electric power

通过延长谐振腔中的增益长度,产生高功率激光输出,其重要组成部分是端面反射器。常用的DFB半导体激光器选用的端面反射器是分布式布拉格反射器(DBR)与高反射率镀膜^[83-89],具有较高的集成度,但对于铌酸锂这种高折射率材料而言,DBR要求具备极高的加工精度,在芯片端面制备多层结构高反膜的镀膜工艺也十分复杂,因此基于FP腔的REI-TFLN激光器难以直接借鉴DFB半导体激光器的构型。利用PLACE技术在铌酸锂薄膜上构建高性能光耦合器与低损耗波导的优势,可以制备出由两个Sagnac环反射器(SLR)对接构成的FP腔单模激光器。每个Sagnac环反射器由一个2×2 3 dB光耦合器组成,其两个输出端口连接形成一个环波导。SLR中的耦合器在两个输出之间施加π/2相移,功率耦合比为50%^[90]。因此,该Sagnac环反射器表现为一个完美的反射镜,几乎所有的光都返回到输入波导。图11展示了单片集成在500 nm厚的X切Er³⁺:TFLN上的单模FP腔激光器,TFLN中铒离子的掺杂摩尔分数为0.5%。如图11(a)上图所示,器件的尺寸仅为6.5 mm×1.5 mm,由两个Sagnac环反射器和一段直波导组成,增益区域是两个反射器之间的直线波导,长度约为5.8 mm。图11(a)下图展示了激光器在980 nm激光二极管泵浦时,整体结构发射出绿色的上转换荧光。

图11(b)为激光器各个结构的显微放大图像,Sagnac环反射器的尺寸为1.8 mm×0.4 mm,包含一个2×2 3 dB定向耦合器,其中两个输出端链接构成一个环路。定向耦合器的耦合长度约为300 μm,波导间距约为3.3 μm。环路设计为遵循贝塞尔曲线,以最小化波导弯曲损耗。TFLN上脊波导的顶部宽度约为1 μm,脊的蚀刻深度约为210 nm。实验采用了双向泵浦方案分析激光信号的光谱,将来自两个980 nm半导体激光器的泵浦光束通过透镜光纤从两侧重新耦合到Er³⁺:TFLN FP激光器中。由于腔内模式竞争以及不同模式间的损耗,只能在1544 nm波长处观测到一个侧模抑制比(SMSR)大于25 dB的激光模式峰值。当泵浦激光强度达到激光阈值时,损耗最小的模式将首先产生激光。因此,实验选择了相对较弱的泵浦激光器,这是因为泵浦激光器进入波导的耦合效率有限,可以有效抑制多个纵向模的产生。图11(c)显示了激光信号附近的光谱,在1544 nm处线宽为28 pm。插图所示的输出光斑伪彩图像表明所产生的激光为波导模式的基模。也就是说,该器件实现了1550 nm波长左右^[52-54, 60-61, 64, 91]。在图11(d)中,激光输出功率与耦合到Er³⁺:TFLN FP激光器的片上泵浦功率的关系通过

线性拟合,可得激光阈值约为6 mW,斜率效率为0.18%,远高于之前报道的Er³⁺:TFLN激光器的斜率效率^[52-54, 60-61, 64, 91]。当泵浦功率为19.2 mW时,实现了

两个输出端口总功率44.7 μW的最大输出。结果表明,通过优化未来的设计参数和制造质量,可以产生具有良好斜率效率的高功率片上TFLN激光器的潜力。

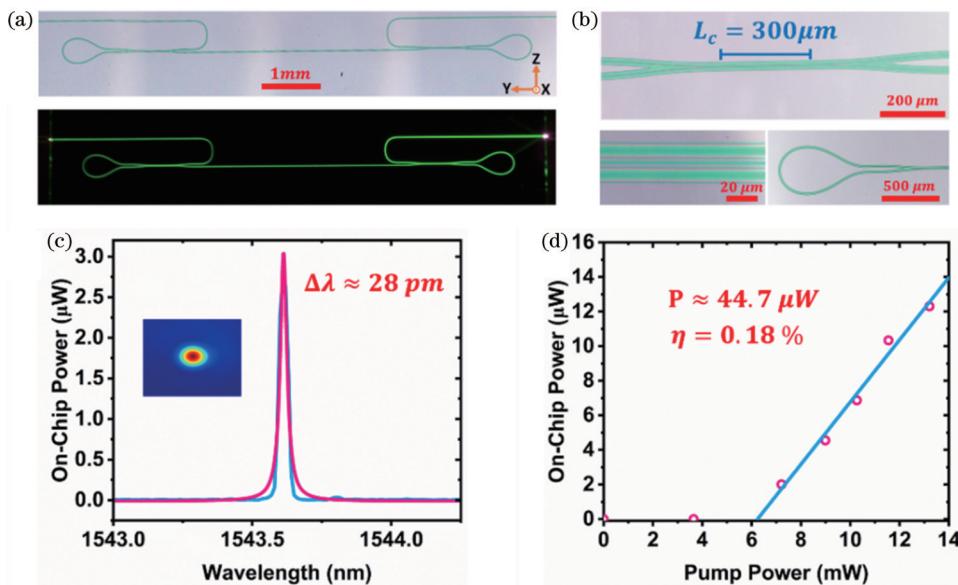


图11 基于Sagnac环形反射器的Er³⁺:TFLN片上单模激光器^[90]。(a)Er³⁺:TFLN FP谐振腔显微图像(右下角的箭头表示铌酸锂晶轴X、Y和Z),以及利用两个980 nm半导体激光器泵浦的Er³⁺:TFLN FP激光器的绿色上转换荧光;(b)激光器局部的光学显微镜图像(上图为3 dB定向耦合器,左下图为耦合区域,右下图为Sagnac环形反射器);(c)1544 nm附近放大激光光谱,红色实线为激光谱峰的洛伦兹拟合曲线(插图为近红外相机拍摄的Er³⁺:TFLN FP腔激光器输出端口光斑的伪彩色成像);(d)微环激光器的片上激光功率与泵浦光功率的函数关系

Fig. 11 Er³⁺:TFLN single-mode laser based on Sagnac loop reflectors^[90]. (a) Optical microscope image of an Er³⁺:TFLN FP resonator (the arrows in bottom right corner illustrate the LN crystallographic axes X, Y, and Z), and the green upconversion fluorescence of the Er³⁺:TFLN FP resonator pumped by the 980 nm LD; (b) zoomed-in optical microscope image of a 3 dB directional coupler (the upper inset), the coupling region (the bottom-left inset), and a Sagnac loop reflector (the bottom-right inset); (c) enlarged spectrum around wavelength 1544 nm, the lasing peak is fitted with a Lorentzian line shape (red) (inset is the infrared image of the output port of the Er³⁺:TFLN FP resonator); (d) on-chip laser power of Er³⁺:TFLN FP resonator laser drifts with absorbed pump power

3.7 片上自注入锁模波长可调窄线宽激光器

随着光芯片加工工艺的逐渐成熟,基于磷化铟和硅异质集成的商业化电泵浦DFB激光芯片已广泛应用于光纤通信网络与数据中心的构建。但由于工艺不完美等,激光芯片自身的腔精细度往往不高,此类激光器的激光频率不可避免地存在涨落,仅靠激光芯片自身难以实现集成窄线宽激光器的构建^[92]。自注入锁定是一种利用外部光腔的谐振光反馈使电泵浦激光二极管产生窄线宽激光的有效方案,该方案简单、紧凑且成本低廉,目前已经在硅基和碳化硅平台上实现了工作在中红外波段和可见光波段的片上自注入锁定窄线宽激光器^[93-94],而受材料透射光谱限制^[95],980 nm波段的窄线宽片上激光器则鲜有报道。

利用高品质因子的铌酸锂(LN)微环谐振腔可以在较宽的波段范围内实现电泵浦DFB激光二极管激光模式的自注入锁定。图12(a)^[96]展示了由商用CoS激光二极管和高Q LN微环组成的980 nm窄线宽自注入锁定激光器的示意图。CoS 980 nm激光二极管的

发射光斑尺寸为4 μm×1 μm,光束发散角在平行方向与垂直方向分别为8°与40°。LN微环锥形波导的输入尺寸为4 μm×0.5 μm。由于模式失配与端面菲涅耳反射,耦合效率约为10 dB。图12(b)显示了制备的自注入窄线宽激光器的俯视图。图12(c)显示了微环归一化透射谱中的谐振模式及其Lorenz拟合曲线(红色),在975 nm泵浦激光附近的共振波长975.36 nm处,测得微环Q因子为6.91×10⁵。图12(d)是自由运行DFB激光二极管和经过铌酸锂微环自注入锁模后激光的线宽比较。蓝色的双峰为自由运行980 nm DFB激光器的多模激射峰。对两峰激光光谱进行多峰拟合,两种模式分别为图中的绿色曲线和橙色曲线,线宽为2000~3000 pm,符合出厂规格。在978.79 nm和982.47 nm处激光二极管腔的Q值分别为3.6×10²和2.75×10²。982 nm的DFB激光经过LN微环谐振腔自注入锁定后,可以明显观察到多模向单模的转变。在自注入锁定条件下,DFB激光二极管被迫在谐振腔频率处振荡。受限于测试所用的光谱分析仪分辨率

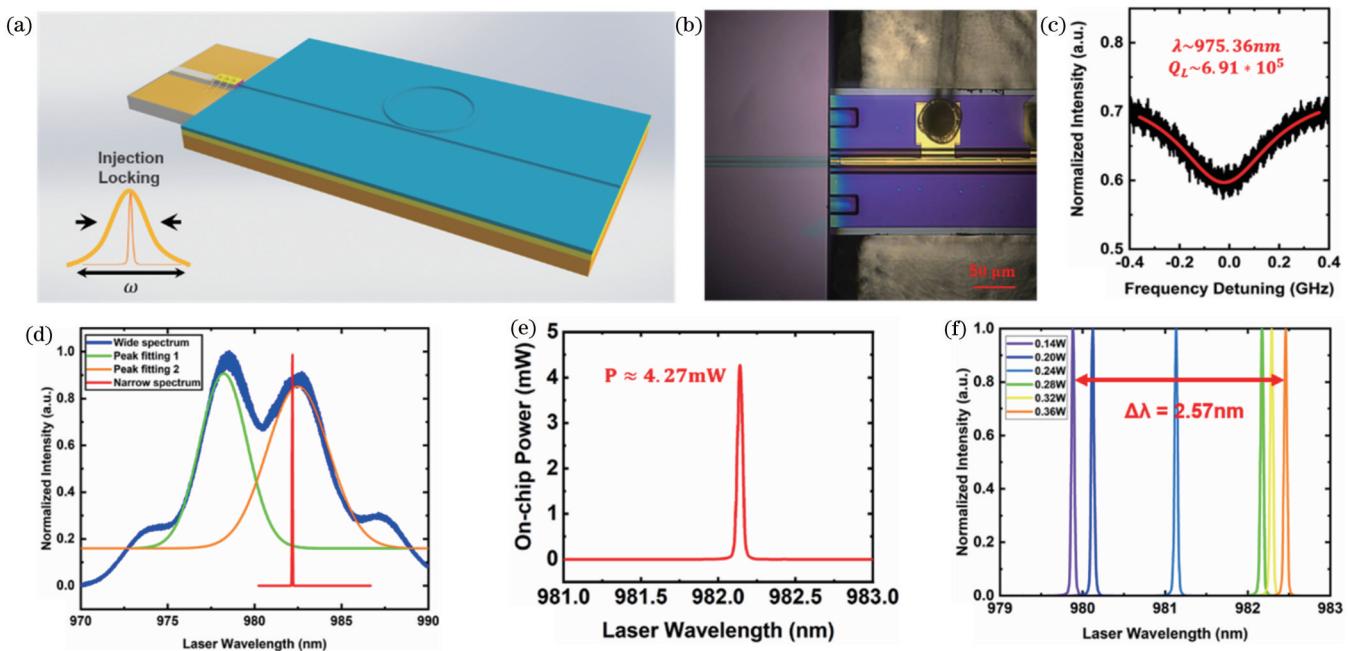


图12 片上自注入锁模波长可调窄线宽激光器^[96]。(a)由商用CoS激光器二极管和高Q LN微环激光器组成的窄线宽自注入锁定激光器示意图;(b)由相机拍摄的自注入锁定激光器的照片;(c)激光在975.36 nm处LN微环激光的透射光谱,微腔Q值在975.36 nm处为 6.91×10^5 ;(d)自由运行的DFB激光和经过LN微环腔自注入锁定的DFB激光线宽比较;(e)980 nm窄线宽自注入锁定激光发射的光谱;(f)窄线宽激光波长对外加电功率的依赖性

Fig. 12 On-chip wavelength-tunable narrow-linewidth laser diode based on self-injection locking^[96]. (a) Illustration scheme of the narrow linewidth self-injection-locked laser, which is composed of a commercial CoS laser diode and a high-Q LN microring laser; (b) close-up optical micrograph of the interface between the CoS laser diode and LN microring; (c) Lorentz fitting (red curve) reveals a Q -factor of 6.91×10^5 at the wavelength of 975.36 nm; (d) comparison of the laser linewidth for the free-running DFB case and the case where the DFB is self-injection-locked to a LN microring cavity; (e) spectrum of the 980 nm narrow linewidth self-injected locking laser emission; (f) dependence of the narrow linewidth laser wavelength on the applied electrical power

(0.01 nm),实验测得的激光线宽为35 pm,理论计算的线宽为600 kHz (1.92×10^3 pm)。激光器的实际线宽需要后续用自延迟外差系统来表征。如图12(e)所示,在982 nm波长处测量到窄线宽自注入锁定激光器的最大输出功率为4.27 mW。图12(f)显示了窄线宽激光波长随DFB激光器电场强度变化的关系。调谐过程在低功率时更易于实现和控制,而在高功率时,调谐过程变得不稳定,激光的工作波长在高输出功率时发生波动。在2.57 nm的调谐范围内,输出激光波长随着外加电功率的增加而红移。在实验中还发现激光波长的变化是不连续的,可以在LN微环谐振器附近集成微电极实现连续精细调谐,将激光器的逐步粗调特性与铌酸锂微环的连续精细微调相结合,这种980 nm窄线宽自注入锁定激光器可同时具有跨越多个FSR的宽调谐范围和较高的调谐分辨率。

3.8 掺镱铌酸锂薄膜微环腔激光器

三价镱离子(Yb^{3+})以其宽广的增益光谱宽度、低量子缺陷和无自我淬灭的特性,成为晶体或玻璃基底中完美的活性离子,为激光器和放大器提供了不可或缺的增益,具有优异的光学和机械性能^[97-99]。对于工作在1 μm左右波长的激光振荡器或放大器来说, Yb^{3+}

是一个很好的选择^[51, 57, 65-66]。通过PLACE技术在掺镱铌酸锂薄膜($\text{Yb}^{3+}:\text{TFLN}$)上制备的微环激光器,可在1025 nm附近实现多模激射^[100]。加工的微环半径为200 μm,周长大约是1 mm,耦合区长度约为80 μm(弱耦合)。图13(a)、(b)分别显示了 $\text{Yb}^{3+}:\text{TFLN}$ 微环激光器在不同泵浦功率下的光谱及微环激光器的输出功率。通过图13(b)的线性拟合可以看到,激光阈值在10 mW左右,斜率效率为 $1.77 \times 10^{-3}\%$ 。图13(c)显示了在1025.62 nm处的激光发射光谱,其线宽为35 pm,这是受OSA的分辨率(约为0.01 nm)限制的。如图13(d)所示,在泵浦功率20 mW的情况下,在1025 nm波长附近观察到14个纵向模式的激光,模式波长间隔为0.34 nm,与TFLN微环的FSR一致。

表1汇总了本节利用超快激光光刻技术制备的各种类型片上激光器典型参数,可见PLACE技术可在多种稀土离子掺杂的铌酸锂薄膜上实现构型各异的微激光器,并已经展示出片上快速精确可调、极窄线宽、大功率等优越的性能。相比于基于III-V族等的半导体激光器,基于稀土离子掺杂制备的有源光子器件具有更长的激发态寿命和更少的折射率差,有利于在更高的工作温度下保持器件的稳定性和更低的噪声信

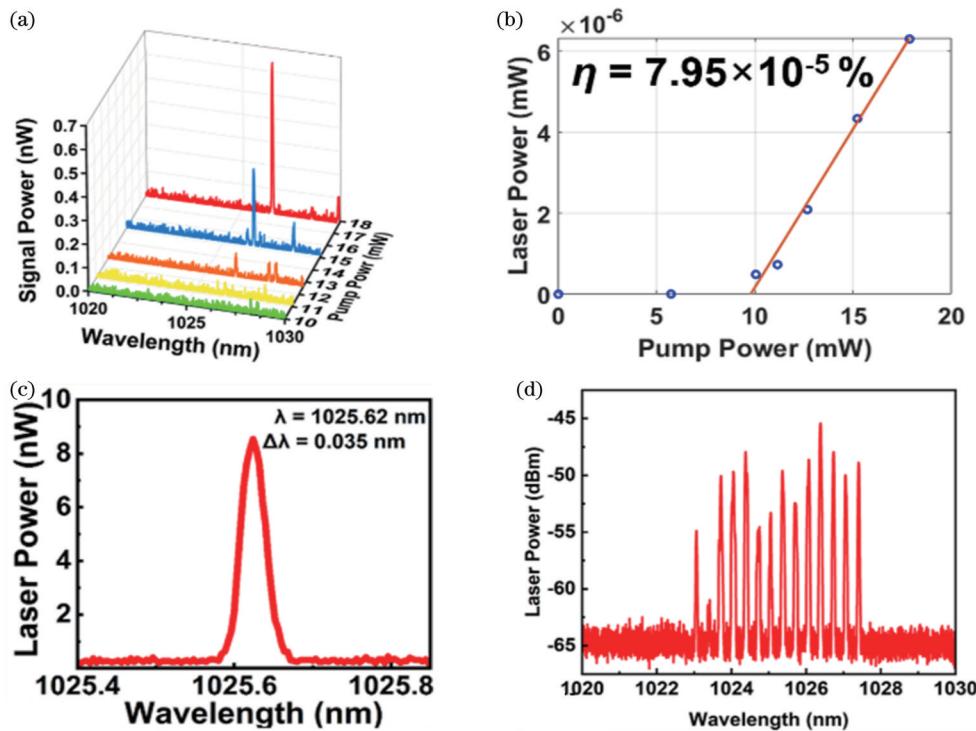


图13 在980 nm波长的泵浦下,Yb³⁺:TFLN微环的激光特性^[100]。(a)在不同的泵浦功率下激光模式的演变;(b)Yb³⁺:TFLN微环的激光功率与泵浦功率关系(通过线性拟合可得,阈值和斜率效率分别为10 mW和 $1.77 \times 10^{-3}\%$);(c)在1025.62 nm处的激光光谱,其线宽为0.035 nm;(d)在泵浦功率为20 mW的情况下,有14个纵模的激光发射

Fig. 13 Lasing characterization of the Yb³⁺:TFLN microring when pumped by a 980 nm wavelength laser^[100]. (a) Evolution of the lasing modes at different pump powers; (b) Yb³⁺:TFLN microring lasing power versus the increasing pump powers (threshold and the slope efficiency deduced from the linear fitting are 10 mW and $1.77 \times 10^{-3}\%$, respectively); (c) spectrum around the laser emission at 1025.62 nm and featuring a linewidth of 0.035 nm; (d) lasing spectrum features 14 longitudinal modes when the pump power is 20 mW

号,获得极窄线宽的激射光谱^[38],并且PLACE技术为这类器件提供了一条工艺流程简单、拓展性强、成本低、器件性能出色、易于实现大规模晶圆级生产的制备途径。

4 基于低损耗光波导的片上光放大器

4.1 片上可调低损耗光波导延时线

图14展示了利用PLACE技术制备的波导长度大于1 m的光学实时延时线(OTDL)^[13]。为测量波导的传输损耗,在TFLN上制备了一个分束比为50%:50%的片上分束器,两个输出端口分别经过一条普通的直波导和一个螺旋状的光波导延时线,因此,1、2输出端的光强差异主要来自两个不同长度波导的传输损耗差异。图14(a)为该器件的构型示意图。实验制备了3个类似构型的50:50分束器,分束器的上输出端(端口2)延时线长度分别为25.06 cm、54.86 cm和111.26 cm,而下输出端(端口1)的直波导长度均仅有2 cm,相对于上输出端而言,直波导部分传输损耗可以忽略不计。因而,从端口1、2测得的输出光强可用于计算OTDL的传输损耗。图14(b)为其中OTDL长度达到米级的分束器芯片实物与一枚直径为

表1 利用超快激光光刻技术制备的片上激光器关键参数

Table 1 Typical parameters for the on-chip microlasers fabricated by PLACE technique

Resonator structure	Laser category	Q factor	Lasing threshold P_{th} / μW	Single mode	Wavelength tunability	Output power P / μW	Laser linewidth $\delta\nu$	Ref.
Whispering gallery mode microdisk	WGM Er ³⁺ :TFLN disk laser	1.8×10^6 @1550 nm	400	No	Yes	—	24 pm	[47]
		3.8×10^7 @1550 nm	25	Yes	Yes	—	322 Hz	[49]
	Polygon mode Er ³⁺ :TFLN disk laser	1.1×10^7 @1550 nm	80	No	Yes	~ 0.47	—	[55]
		2.37×10^5 @1550 nm	825.39	Yes	No	62.1	0.11 MHz	[82]
WGM microring	Laser diode-pumped compact hybrid laser	1.85×10^5 @1550 nm	6×10^3	Yes	No	—	50 pm	[52]
	Self-injection locking laser	6.91×10^5 @980 nm	—	Yes	Yes	4.27×10^3	35 pm	[96]
	Yb ³⁺ :TFLN microring laser	1.4×10^6 @1030 nm	1×10^4	No	No	—	35 pm	[100]
FP resonator	Single-mode Er ³⁺ :TFLN laser based on Sagnac loop reflectors	1.6×10^5 @1550 nm	6×10^3	Yes	No	44.7	28 pm	[90]

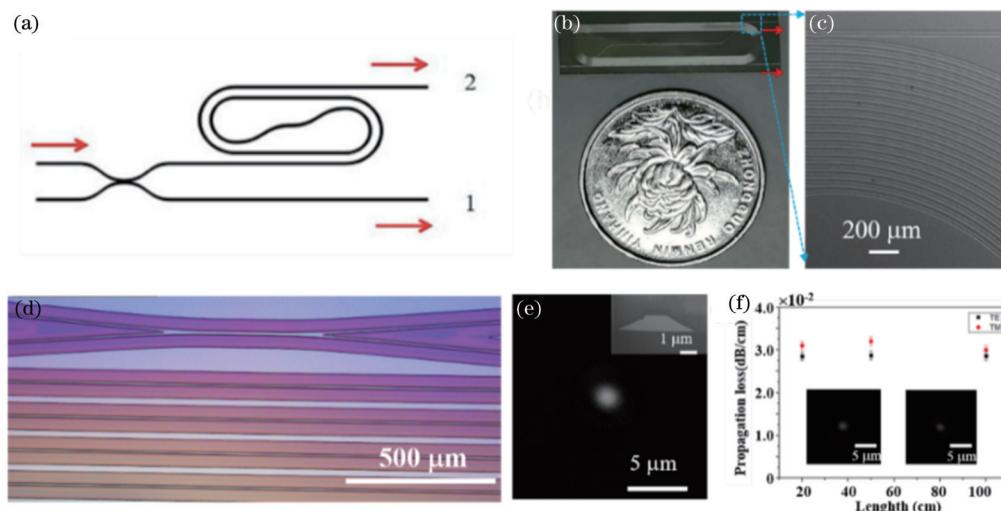


图14 米级长度铌酸锂波导OTDL^[13]。(a)输出端连接两个不同长度的波导的片上分束器示意图(上输出端波导为光学实时延时线);(b)长度为109.26 cm的OTDL的实物照片;(c)在图(b)中OTDL弯曲部分的SEM图像;(d)器件中分束器部分的光学显微镜图像;(e)输出端口2处模式的近场分布(插图为脊形波导的横截面SEM图像);(f)随着OTDL长度的增加,传输损耗的变化(插图为输出端口1和2处TE模式的近场分布)

Fig. 14 Meter-scale length LN waveguide OTDL^[13]. (a) Schematic design of a beam splitter connected with two waveguides of different lengths (upper waveguide serves as the OTDL); (b) digital camera picture of an OTDL with a total length of 109.26 cm; (c) SEM image of the bend section of the OTDL in Fig. (b); (d) optical micrograph of the fabricated beam splitter in the OTDL device; (e) near-field distributions of the modes at the output port 2 (inset is cross-sectional SEM image of the ridge waveguide); (f) propagation loss as a function of the length of the OTDL (inset is near-field distributions of the TE modes at the output ports 1 and 2)

激光光刻技术结合湿法腐蚀制备了微电极结构。整个器件尺寸为14.5 mm×4.2 mm,波导顶层沉积了1.5 μm厚的二氧化硅层,避免电极与波导直接接触带来的光场损耗。微电极的结构总长度为24 cm,正负极电极分布在延时线波导的两侧,电极间距为7 μm,同极

性的电极被一起连接至200 μm的探针盘上。通过信号发生器施加10 kHz电压三角波信号,测得半波电压仅为0.45 V,远低于CMOS常用驱动电压。利用三个不同臂长ODL且不含电极结构的不等臂干涉仪的透射谱,可以得到如图15(b)所示的臂长差与损耗的关系

图。其中,三个不等臂干涉仪两臂的长度差分别为10 cm、20 cm和30 cm,由透射谱测得对应的消光比分别为15.5 dB、13 dB和10.5 dB,自由频谱范围(FSR)分别为11.5 pm、5.67 pm和3.95 pm。根据FSR可以反推两臂的延时差分别为0.7 ns、1.4 ns以及2.05 ns。此外,根据实验上测得的消光比可以推出两臂的损耗差分别为0.1871 dB、0.4676 dB和0.7876 dB,对数据进行 $y=kr$ 函数的线性拟合,得到斜率为0.025 dB/cm,即ODL的波导传输损耗。最后通过改变直流电源施加的电压演示光学延时线连续可调的功能。

图15(c)展示了不等臂干涉仪在1559.3 nm波长附近的电光性能,间接表征了时间延迟调谐功能。当电压从-0.4 V至0.4 V变化时,干涉相消或者相长的波长会连续移动(空心方形数据),对应的电光调制效率约为2.42 pm/V。根据实验中测量的电光效率,通过表达式 $\Delta t = \lambda \cdot \Delta \lambda / (F_{\text{FSR}} \cdot c)$ 可以推导出时间延迟(空心圆形数据)调谐效率为3.18 fs/V。实验验证该器件在施加70 V的电压后不会使铌酸锂薄膜击穿,因此该可调谐光学延时线可以支持延时在220 fs内的连续可调。

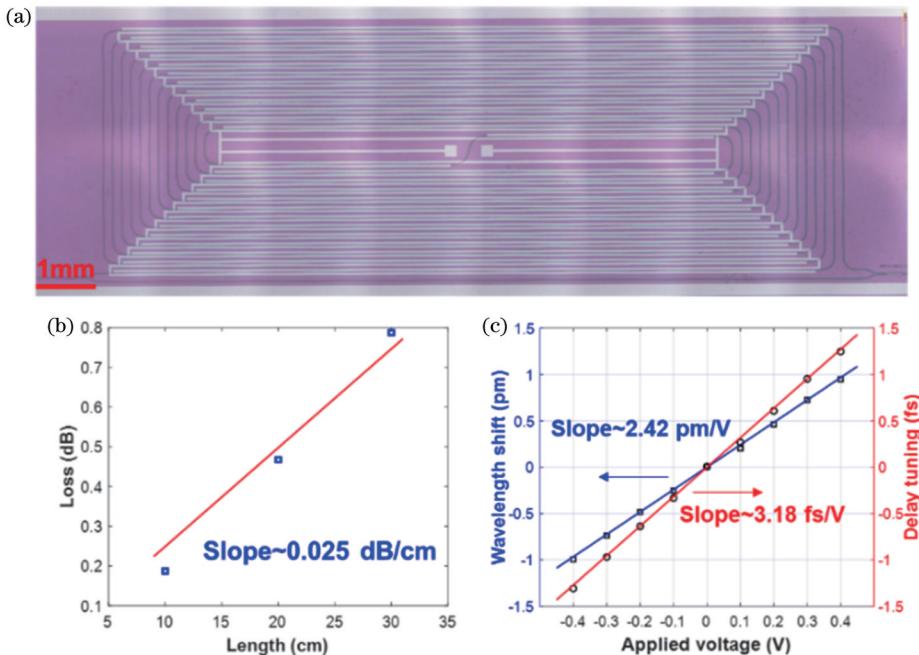


图15 220 fs范围内延时连续电光可调的铌酸锂波导ODL^[101]。(a)包含一条可调ODL臂的TFLN不等臂干涉仪显微镜俯视图;(b)ODL传输损耗与波导长度的关系,其中损耗数据来自三个两臂的长度差分别为10 cm、20 cm和30 cm的不等臂干涉仪的透射谱,损耗与波导长度呈线性关系;(c)图(a)中不等臂干涉仪的波长(空心方块数据,蓝色线性拟合)与延时(空心圆形数据,红色线性拟合)随直流电压的线性变化图(测得波长调节效率约为2.42 pm/V,对应的延时调节效率为3.18 fs/V)

Fig. 15 Electro-optically tunable ODL with a continuous tuning range of 220 fs in TFLN^[101]. (a) Micrograph of a TFLN unbalanced MZI with a tunable ODL arm; (b) measured losses derived from the measured transmission spectra of unbalanced MZIs without microelectrodes in the arm-length differences of 10 cm, 20 cm, and 30 cm, showing a linear dependence on the length; (c) linear wavelength shift (marked by black squares with blue linear fitting curve) and time delay (marked by black circles with red linear fitting curve) of the device in Fig. (a) as a function of the DC voltage (measured tuning efficiency is 2.42 pm/V, indicating a time tuning efficiency of 3.18 fs/V)

4.2 基于掺铒铌酸锂薄膜的光波导放大器

4.1节中的低损耗波导制备技术可直接应用于片上铌酸锂光波导放大器的构建,如图16^[48]所示。图16(a)为单片集成掺铒铌酸锂波导放大器(EDWA)芯片示意图。该器件由600 nm厚的Z切掺铒铌酸锂波导组成,波导截面上表面宽度约为1.2 μm,底部宽度约为4 μm。波导中铒离子掺杂摩尔分数为1%。图16(b)与(c)为光学显微镜下铌酸锂EDWA芯片弯曲波导与直波导的放大图像。螺旋盘绕的波导部分可以减小放大器的总体尺寸,弯曲半径为800 μm时,器件的总体增益长度为3.6 cm。如图16(d)所示,放大器的

泵浦光源由一个980 nm波长的激光二极管提供,信号光由一个工作在C波段的1520~1570 nm波长可调谐连续激光器提供。泵浦光与信号光通过两个光纤波分复用器(WDM)分别在集成光放大器的输入端与输出端实现合束与分束。实验采用双向泵浦的方案保证铒离子在整个放大器波导长度上能实现更加均匀的粒子布局数反转。输出的放大信号与放大受激辐射信号由光谱分析仪测得。图16(d)中展示了一个正在被980 nm激光泵浦的掺铒铌酸锂波导放大器芯片,沿着光波导发出强烈的上转换荧光。光信号在1530 nm和1560 nm波长均观测到了随泵浦光强增加的快速增

益,并在高泵浦功率(>20 mW)处达到增益饱和。特别是在1530 nm波段,当泵浦光功率为40 mW时,信

号光的内部净增益最高可达18 dB。

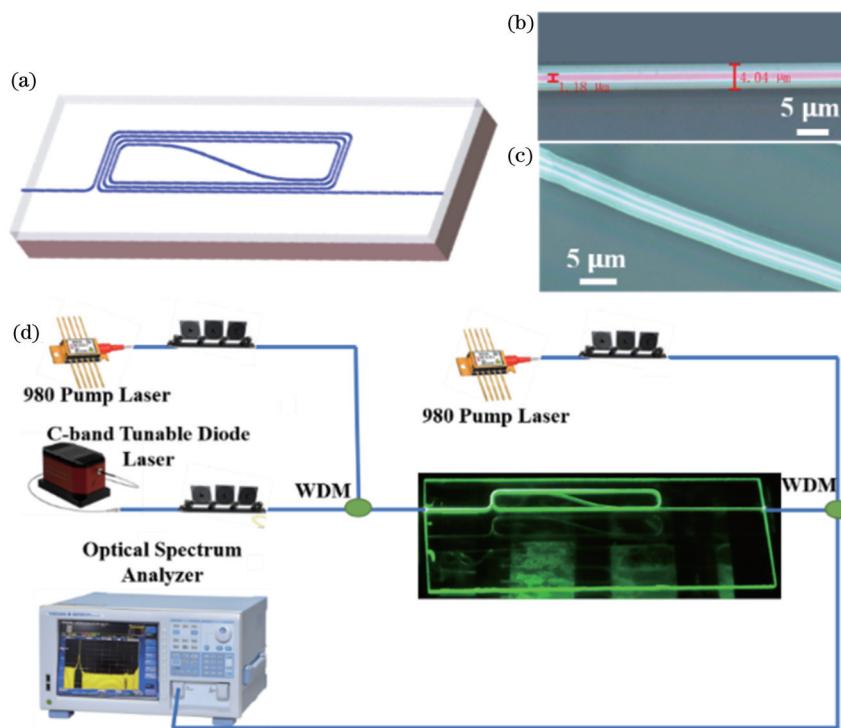


图16 单片集成掺铒铌酸锂波导放大器^[48]。(a)芯片示意图;(b)片上光放大器直波导光学显微镜图像;(c)片上光放大器弯曲波导部分光学显微镜图像;(d)增益测量实验装置示意图

Fig. 16 The monolithic Er^{3+} -doped waveguide amplifier^[48]. (a) Schematic of the device; (b) optical micrograph of the straight waveguide of the on-chip amplifier; (c) optical micrograph of the curved waveguide of the on-chip amplifier; (d) schematic of the experimental setup of the gain measurement

4.3 掺铒铌酸锂薄膜包层光波导放大器

4.2节中演示的基于TFLN的EDWA使用了没有包层的裸露TFLN波导,这可能会导致放大器在长期运行时因外部扰动而发生性能波动和不稳定的情况。因此,对器件最直接的保护措施是在TFLN波导的顶部沉积一层包层。此外,波导中的光学模式可以通过包层进行控制,便于进一步优化提升放大器性能。同样在600 nm厚的Z切掺 Er^{3+} 铌酸锂薄膜上可以制备如图17(a)所示具有 Ta_2O_5 包层的光波导放大器^[50],包层厚度为1 μm。从图17(b)所示的显微镜拍摄的LNOI波导俯视图中可以推断,LN芯的顶部宽度为2 μm,底部宽度为6 μm。通过聚焦离子束(FIB)对制备包层铌酸锂波导的输入和输出面端面切割,SEM图像如图17(c)所示。利用有限元法计算了用于放大器增益测量的泵浦波长(976 nm)和信号波长(1532 nm)处的TE基模模场分布图,如图17(d)和(e)所示,分别为空气包层和 Ta_2O_5 包层铌酸锂波导。显然,与空气包层波导相比,由于LN(折射率 n_{e} 为2.212, n_{e} 为2.138)和 Ta_2O_5 (折射率 n 为2.058)之间的折射率对比度降低,在 Ta_2O_5 包层波导中,导光模式穿透出LN波导芯。图17(d)和(e)中还计算了两种波导的LN芯功率限制因子 Γ 。

为了表征包层TFLN波导放大器的增益性能,采用了如图18(a)所示的实验原理图的信号增强方法,制备的螺旋形波导总长度约为10 cm。泵浦光和信号光由光纤WDM合束(分束),通过光纤透镜耦合进/出芯片。对于空气包层波导和 Ta_2O_5 包层波导,在泵浦(信号)波长下,光纤透镜在端面的耦合效率分别为10 dB(8.4 dB)和9.4 dB(7.6 dB)。下面给出的所有功率都已转换为注入的片上功率。图18(a)中展示了受激励的 Ta_2O_5 包层 Er^{3+} :TFLN波导放大器的数码相机照片,铒离子的绿色上转换荧光在整个波导长度上清晰可见。

两种波导测量的小信号内部净增益如图18(b)所示,其中红色圆圈表示 Ta_2O_5 包层波导的增益值,蓝色方块表示空气包层波导的增益值。从图中可以清楚地看出,内部净增益随着泵功率的增加而快速增加,然后由于高增益状态下铒离子的反转减少而逐渐饱和。值得注意的是,当注入的泵浦功率高于12 mW时, Ta_2O_5 包层波导放大器提供的净增益高于空气包层放大器,并且在63 mW的最大泵浦功率下, Ta_2O_5 包层波导放大器的最大净增益高于20 dB。观察结果表明,与没有 Ta_2O_5 包层的波导放大器(空气包层放大器)相比, Ta_2O_5 包层可以促进10 cm长的波导放大器产生更高的反转增益。

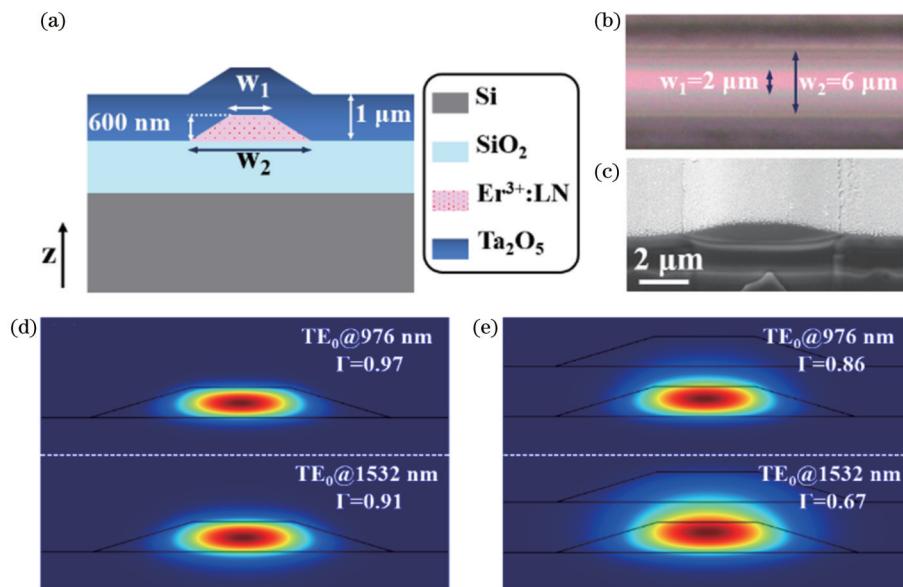


图17 带介质包层的 Er^{3+} :TFLN波导特征^[53]。(a)顶部沉积 Ta_2O_5 包层的Z切 Er^{3+} :TFLN铌酸锂波导横截面示意图;(b)空气包层LNOI波导的俯视显微镜图;(c) Ta_2O_5 包层LNOI波导横截面的SEM图;(d)空气包层和(e) Ta_2O_5 包层波导在泵浦和信号波长下的TE基模模式分布仿真计算图(在每个图表中都标注了功率限制系数 Γ)

Fig. 17 Cladded Er^{3+} :TFLN waveguide configuration^[53]. (a) Cross-sectional schematic of the waveguide fabricated on the Z-cut Er^{3+} :TFLN wafer with a cladding layer of Ta_2O_5 ; (b) top-view microscope image of the air-clad TFLN waveguide; (c) SEM image of the Ta_2O_5 -clad TFLN waveguide cross-section; simulated mode distribution of the fundamental TE modes for the (d) air-clad and (e) Ta_2O_5 -clad waveguides at the pump and signal wavelengths, respectively (power confinement factor Γ is labelled in each panel)

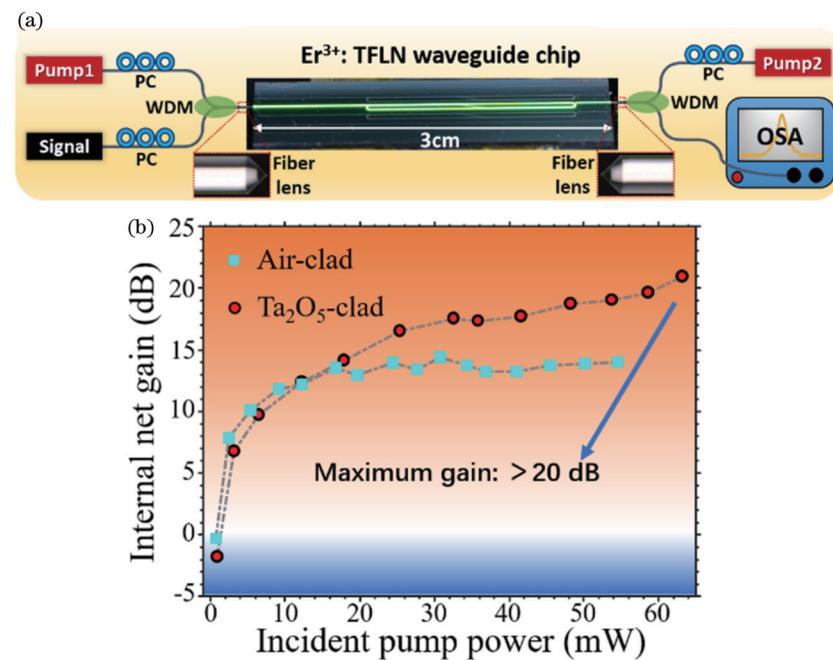


图18 捎铒铌酸锂波导放大器光学增益测量^[53]。(a)实验装置示意图(PC为偏振控制器,OSA为光谱分析仪,中间为受激励 Er^{3+} :TFLN波导芯片的实物照片);(b)空气包层(蓝色方块)和 Ta_2O_5 包层(红色圆圈)放大器内部净增益随入射泵浦光强变化图

Fig. 18 Optical gain measurement of the Er^{3+} :TFLN waveguide amplifiers^[53]. (a) Experimental setup for optical gain measurement (PC is polarization controller, OSA is optical spectrum analyzer, the digital camera photograph of the excited Er^{3+} :TFLN waveguide chip is shown in the center); (b) internal net gain measured from the air-clad (blue squares) and Ta_2O_5 -clad (red circles) amplifiers varies with the incident pump light intensity

5 单片集成有源/无源铌酸锂光子器件

PLACE技术仅仅通过单次连续的掩模图案光刻,即可实现无源和有源TFLN光子元件的直接集成^[69],从而绕过繁琐的对准和接合工艺。图19展示了这一稳定的有源/无源TFLN光子器件低损耗光学互连的集成工艺流程图。首先,需要分别准备一个无掺杂和一个稀土离子掺杂的TFLN(TFLN晶圆:500 nm TFLN/2 μm SiO₂/500 μm Si substrate)晶片样品,如图19(a)所示。在晶片表面需要沉积一层200 μm的铬膜作为化学机械抛光环节的硬质掩模。

两片TFLN晶片的两个接触端面需要经过抛光处理,方便后续的无缝拼合。其次,将两个TFLN晶片固定在特制夹具上进行拼合。这一步中,两个厚度相同的晶片被翻转贴紧在一块抛光过的玻璃基底上[图19(b)]。在两块晶片底部加入紫外胶,并盖上一块石英晶片用紫外光照射固化[图19(c)]。随后,沿着两片TFLN晶片边缘进行激光熔融焊接,保证两者稳定键合在石英晶片上[图19(d)]。最后,利用飞秒激光光刻将有源/无源光子集成回路的掩模图案刻蚀到铬膜上,经过化学机械抛光,图案转移到TFLN层,实现有源/无源单片集成的TFLN波导[图19(e)、(f)]。

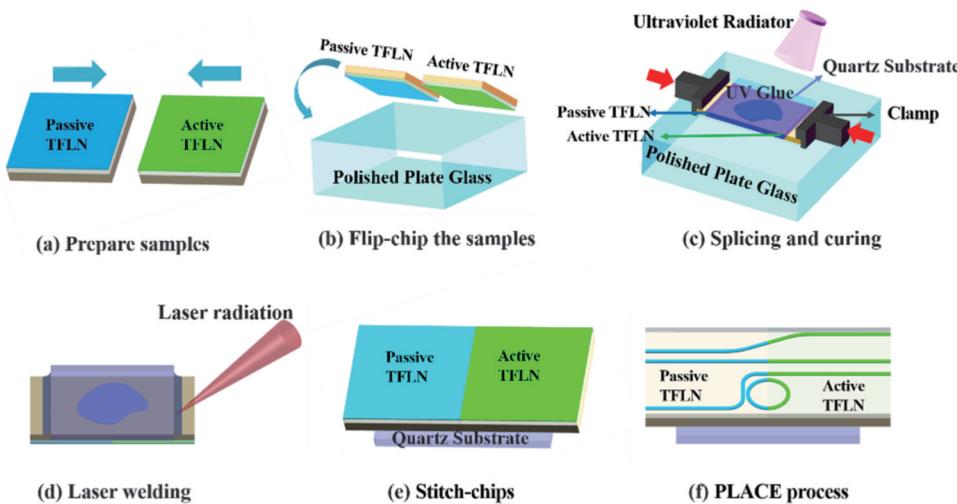


图19 利用拼合芯片实现有源/无源铌酸锂光子器件稳定低损耗光学互连的制备工艺流程图^[69]。(a)制备无掺杂和稀土离子掺杂TFLN晶片样品;(b)将无掺杂和稀土离子掺杂TFLN晶片样品倒装到抛光后的平板玻璃上;(c)利用特质夹具将无掺杂和稀土离子掺杂TFLN晶片无缝拼合,并将紫外固化胶滴在两片晶片底部,实现晶片键合;(d)利用激光焊接,将两片拼合的TFLN晶片与一块石英晶片焊接键合;(e)完成无源/有源TFLN芯片的拼接;(f)利用PLACE技术在拼接晶片上制备光子结构

Fig. 19 Schematic of the fabrication process for robust low-loss optical interconnection of passive and active LN photonics using stitch-chips^[69]. (a) Prepare non-doped and REI-doped TFLN samples; (b) non-doped and REI-doped TFLN samples are flip-chip on a polished plate glass; (c) non-doped and REI-doped TFLN samples are stitched seamlessly using customized fixtures and the UV glue is applied on the bottom of the stitched chips to bond the two samples; (d) subsequent laser welding is operated in the boundary of the two TFLN samples and quartz substrate to achieve durable bonding; (e) completed stitch-chip of passive and active TFLN; (f) photonic structures fabricated using the PLACE technique on the stitch-chips

图20(a)为利用有源无源拼合集成与PLACE技术演示的四通道光波导放大器,它由3个制备在无源TFLN上的多模干涉(MMI)耦合器和4个制备在掺铒TFLN上的波导放大器组成。图20(b)展示了制备在TFLN拼合芯片上的四通道放大器整体实物图。从图20(c)的伪彩色插图中可以看到,1550 nm波长的信号光经过分束和掺铒波导放大后保持了光场强度分布均匀的基模状态。图20(d)中,器件在泵浦光激励下,沿着放大波导阵列发出强烈的绿色上转换荧光。图20(e)和(f)展示了信号光波长分别在1550 nm与1530 nm时,集成放大器的净增益与泵浦光功率的变化关系。1550 nm信号光的最大内部净增益可达5 dB,而1530 nm信号光的最大内部净增益可达

8 dB。

6 结束语

铌酸锂薄膜集成光子学在近十年中取得了飞速发展,得益于高品质铌酸锂单晶薄膜的商业化和微纳加工技术的日趋成熟,大量性能优异的铌酸锂集成光子器件不断涌现。通过在铌酸锂薄膜中掺入稀土激活离子,各种有源铌酸锂光子器件在近年来被成功演示。本文介绍了利用超快激光PLACE技术在掺杂有源发光稀土离子的铌酸锂薄膜衬底上实现片上激光与光放大的最新进展,包括超高Q值微腔、超低损耗米级长度波导、片上电光可调单模极窄线宽激光器、高增益波导光放大器、单片集成有源/无源光子回

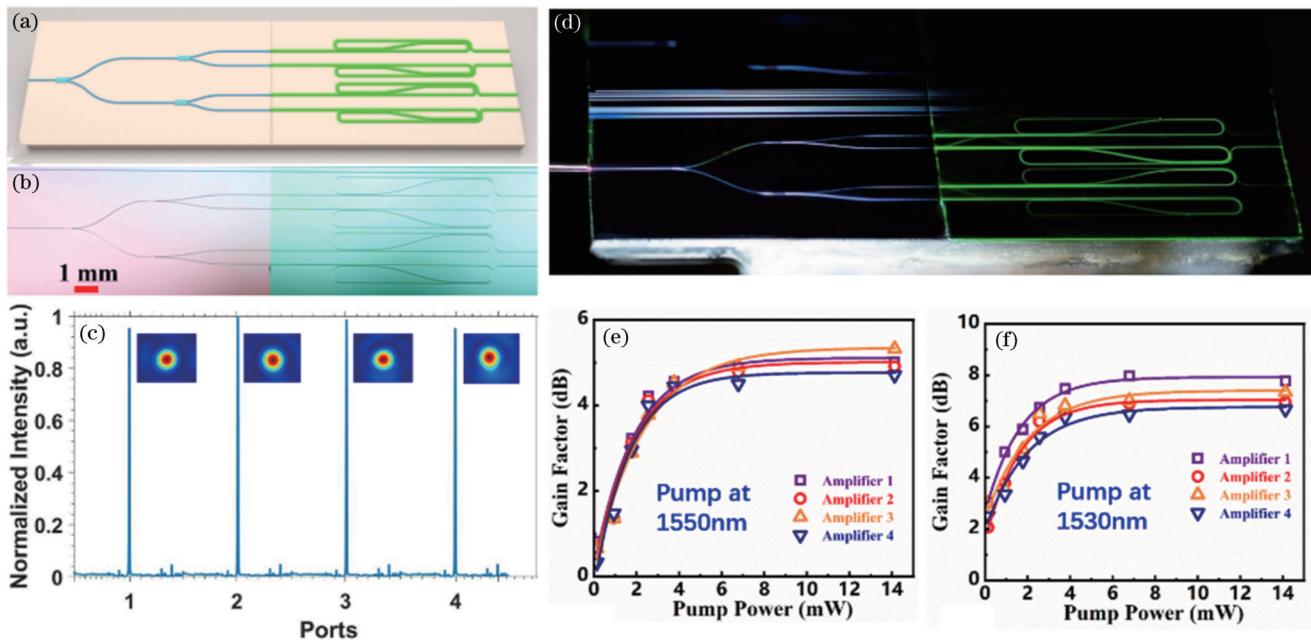


图 20 有源无源拼接集成的四通道阵列光波导放大器^[69]。(a)器件设计图;(b)实物图;(c)1550 nm 波长信号光在四通道掺铒光波导内的模式分布(插图)与强度分布图;(d)四通道阵列光波导放大器受 976 nm 波长泵浦时照片;器件中各个放大器通道在信号光波长分别为(e)1550 nm 和(f)1530 nm 时的增益特性曲线

Fig. 20 Four-channel waveguide amplifiers fabricated on the monolithically integrated active/passive TFLN chip^[69]. (a) Illustration of the device design; (b) digital picture of the four-channel waveguide amplifiers; (c) mode (insets) and intensity distribution of the 1550 nm wavelength signal in the four-channel Er³⁺-doped waveguides; (d) photo of the four-channel waveguide amplifier array when pumped by a 976 nm diode laser; gain characterization of the four Er³⁺-doped LN waveguides array for the signal wavelengths of (e) 1550 nm and (f) 1530 nm

路等高性能的光子器件,所制备的有源铌酸锂光子器件在光通信、传感、计算与处理等多个领域都有丰富的应用前景与需求。未来基于PLACE技术,结合器件设计与仿真、基底掺杂品质优化、多体系异质集成,有望大幅提升所制备器件性能的同时有效控制器件成本,为有源铌酸锂光子器件走向大规模制造与广泛应用奠定坚实的基础。

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Active Lithium Niobate Photonic Integration Based on Ultrafast Laser Lithography

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Abstract

Significance The development of photonic integration technology provides an effective approach to constructing communication, sensing, computing, and information processing devices with high performance, low cost, scalability, and reliability. Among various material platforms, lithium niobate (LN) has long been considered one of the most suitable materials for realizing photonic integrated circuits (PICs). It possesses superior optical properties, including a wide transparent window ($0.35\text{--}5\ \mu\text{m}$), large nonlinear/electro-optic coefficients, and strong acousto-optic effects. Significant progress has been made in the fabrication process of thin film LN (TFLN) wafers, which has laid a material foundation for manufacturing photonic devices with high refractive index contrast and strong light field confinement. To date, researchers have achieved a wide range of photonic integrated functional bricks on TFLN, such as modulators, optical frequency converters, splitters, quantum light sources, and delay lines. These devices have demonstrated notable photonic characteristics, including low transmission loss, high-speed controllability, efficient optical frequency conversion, and low energy consumption. However, due to the lack of optical gain characteristics in LN crystals themselves, it is challenging to directly fabricate essential components for on-chip integration, such as micro-lasers and optical amplifiers, on TFLN wafers.

One approach to achieving optical gain on TFLN is by doping gain media within the TFLN film. Rare-earth ion-doped (REI-doped) TFLN has been employed to realize on-chip micro-lasers and optical amplifiers at different wavelengths, such as around 1550 nm and 1030 nm. The specific working wavelength is determined by the intrinsic optical spectra of the rare-earth-doped ions. Although active integration of TFLN photonic devices is still in its early stages, the exceptional optical properties of LN crystals, combined with low-loss photonic chip fabrication techniques and innovative device designs, will endow on-chip TFLN photonic devices with unparalleled scalability and exceptional functionality.

In recent years, the combination of commercial TFLN wafers and low-loss LN photonic device nanostructuring technology has resulted in a series of high-performance photonic device applications. In less than a decade, several important manufacturing techniques for LN photonic chips have been developed internationally, enabling the realization of practical high-quality photonic chip prototypes. These techniques include focused ion beam fabrication of high-performance LN nanostructures, as well as the use of electron beam lithography or ultraviolet photolithography combined with ion etching to produce high-quality LN photonic chips. Additionally, the photolithography-assisted chemo-mechanical etching technology (known as PLACE) has emerged as a promising micro/nanofabrication technique.

Thanks to the rapid advancements in high-repetition-rate and highly stable femtosecond lasers and large-stroke high-precision high-speed motion stages, the PLACE technique for fabricating active photonic devices on REI-doped TFLN has

demonstrated both high processing efficiency while maintaining its inherent high-precision processing quality. Many corresponding advances have been achieved, which is important and necessary to summarize the existing research to guide the future development of this field more rationally.

Progress The fabrication process of the PLACE technique is summarized (Fig. 1). The home-built ultra-high-speed high-resolution femtosecond laser lithography fabrication system is reported (Fig. 2). The demonstration of integrated active LN photonic devices such as on-chip tunable micro-lasers and waveguide amplifiers on REI-doped TFLN using the PLACE technique are comprehensively reviewed. Specifically, an erbium ion-doped LN waveguide amplifier with a maximum internal net gain exceeding 20 dB is achieved (Fig. 18), and an electro-optically tunable single-frequency laser in a high-Q LN microdisk is demonstrated with an ultra-narrow linewidth of 454.7 Hz (Fig. 5). We also achieve an electrically driven microring laser by monolithically integrating a diode laser (Fig. 10) and an erbium ion-doped TFLN microring laser (Fig. 3). A novel hybrid integration scheme of passive and active LN microdevices is performed using a continuous lithographic processing approach (Fig. 19 and 20). Lastly, we summarize the afore mentioned results and give an outlook on this vibrant and promising field of research.

Conclusions and Prospects The utilization of PLACE technology for the fabrication of TFLN active photonic devices holds great importance. This cutting-edge technique, with its high processing efficiency, intrinsic high precision, and wafer-scale integration capability, enables the production of cost-effective and high-performance photonic devices. This breakthrough has the potential to revolutionize the field of photonic science and technology, promoting sustainable development across various scientific disciplines and applications such as high-speed communication, artificial intelligence, and precision measurement.

Key words integrated optics; ultrafast lasers processing; lithium niobate; optical amplifiers; sources; rare-earth-doped materials