

光学学报

基于超高 Q 值氟化钙晶体微腔的非线性散射效应研究

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摘要 受激布里渊散射、受激拉曼散射和克尔效应等非线性光学效应一直以来得到广泛研究。回音壁模式光学微腔具有超高品质因子和极小模式体积, 日益成为了非线性光学相关研究的重要平台之一。使用超精密加工技术制备了氟化钙晶体微腔, 品质因子 Q 值达 3.6×10^8 。搭建了基于光学微腔的非线性光学的实验平台, 在连续波泵浦的条件下激发了氟化钙晶体微腔中的受激布里渊散射、受激拉曼散射和克尔效应。实验中记录了级联布里渊、布里渊耦合四波混频、拉曼辅助克尔、超宽拉曼光频梳等丰富的非线性光学散射效应。结果表明超精密加工得到的氟化钙晶体微腔在非线性光学中有着优异的表现, 是研究非线性光学的理想平台。

关键词 光学微腔; 氟化钙晶体; 非线性光学; 受激布里渊散射; 光频梳

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1 引言

因为在回音壁模式光学微腔^[1]介质内表面的全反射, 光波在腔体内以极小的损耗进行连续传播, 大大增强了光与物质的相互作用, 提高了非线性效率的同时显著降低了受激布里渊散射、拉曼散射及克尔效应等非线性过程转换的阈值^[2]。相比传统硅基、二氧化硅材料制作的回音壁模式光学微腔, 氟化镁^[3]和氟化钙^[4]等晶体材料制备的光学微腔由于得天独厚的天然优势引起了人们极大的兴趣。得益于氟化物晶体材料的稳定性, 保证了超高品质因子^[5]的同时, 氟化物晶体材料微腔在加工完成后适合进行长期保存。另外氟化钙晶体由于具有非线性系数高、吸收常数小、缺陷少等优势, 在非线性光学研究中成为了一个重要的理想平台^[6-7]。

在非线性光学中, 受激拉曼散射、受激布里渊散射、四波混频等效应一直以来都受到了人们的极大关注。对非线性光学材料而言, 如二氧化硅、氟化钙等, 受激拉曼散射、受激布里渊散射、四波混频的增益在 $10^{-9} \sim 10^{-13}$ m/W 量级, 增益值非常小, 使得这需要非常高的功率才能产生这些非线性效应。但是, 由于光

学微腔具有极高的品质因子 Q 值和极小的模式体积, 大大增强了光与物质的相互作用, 在很低的泵浦功率下也可以在腔内建立很高的功率密度, 大大降低了研究这些非线性效应的难度。在光学微腔中的非线性光学效应需要满足腔内的相位匹配条件, 相对应的则需要满足非线性转换过程中的频率匹配。例如, 二氧化硅的拉曼增益最大频移量为 13.2 THz^[8], 在光学微腔中是十分容易满足这个频率匹配条件的。而一阶布里渊频移量为 11 GHz 左右^[9], 对于 100 μ m 尺寸的二氧化硅微腔, 自由光谱范围(FSR)在几百 GHz, 通常很难满足这个频率匹配条件。通常采用的方法有两种: 一种是利用微腔的多谐振来匹配布里渊效应的频移量^[10]; 另一种是设计毫米级的微腔, 利用更小的自由光谱范围来匹配布里渊的频移量^[11]。此外, 日本庆应义塾大学 Honda 等^[12]通过耦合两个二氧化硅微环芯腔, 实现了间距为 11 GHz 的超模, 在不需精确控制腔的尺寸的情况下演示了微腔系统中的受激布里渊散射激光, 但这种调控方法相比前两种更复杂。

得益于光学微腔这个良好平台, 更多的非线性效应得到展现。日本大阪大学 Asano 等^[13]首次在二氧化硅微瓶腔中报道了布里渊耦合的四波混频效应。Lin

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等^[14]研究并分析氟化钡和氟化锶中的受激拉曼散射、受激布里渊散射及克尔效应,提出了基于时空形式主义的统一理论来理解这些现象。南京大学姜校顺团队的 Bai 等^[15]从理论和实验上证明布里渊-克尔孤子光频梳的窄梳齿线宽和热自稳定的特点,使用蓝色失谐泵使系统热自稳定,实现了 X 波段的低相位噪声微波源。Tan 等^[16]在多模微球腔中实现了克尔光频梳和多拉曼光频梳的同时激发,并在此基础上实现了气体分子探测。另外,本课题组^[17]在稳定性封装的二氧化硅微瓶腔中展示了具有两个不同自由光谱范围的四波混频效应、布里渊耦合的四波混频效应、拉曼辅助的四波混频效应。光学微腔中的丰富光学非线性效应仍需要借助不同的微腔平台继续挖掘。

本文首先使用超精密加工技术制备了氟化钙晶体光学微腔,制备完成的氟化钙晶体微腔直径约为 3.51 mm,品质因子达 3.6×10^8 ,超高品质因子为顺利开展非线性实验提供了基础。另外在实验过程中,从受激布里渊到布里渊耦合四波混频,再到拉曼光谱以及可见光波段的光学频率梳,记录到了丰富且稳定的非线性光学现象,为氟化钙晶体光学微腔作为非线性光学研究中的一个理想平台提供了有力的证据。

2 实验原理与实验方案

受激布里渊散射(SBS)是光子与声子相互作用,与电致伸缩效应相关的一种非线性受激辐射过程,满足动量和能量守恒的同时^[18],需要达到相位匹配的要求。在发生受激布里渊散射时,非弹性散射过程中一个信号光子湮灭的同时,产生一个新的斯托克斯光子和声学声子。散射的斯托克斯光子与泵浦光干涉的同时,非均匀分布的电场形成声学波,形成的声学波与前面的干涉过程发生共振,导致增益放大,最后形成受激布里渊散射。微腔中的克尔效应与四波混频(FWM)关联密切。非简并四波混频和简并四波混频分别同时满足相应的相位匹配和能量守恒。在非简并四波混频中: $\omega_1 + \omega_2 = \omega_3 + \omega_4, k_1 + k_2 = k_3 + k_4$ 。简并四波混频中: $2\omega_1 = \omega_3 + \omega_4, 2k_1 = k_3 + k_4$ 。当受激布里渊散射和四波混频的相位同时得到满足时,四波混频和受激布里渊散射将会发生耦合,产生布里渊光学频率梳。四波混频和受激布里渊散射有关的原理如图 1 所示,其中实心箭头表示泵浦激光,点划线箭头表示与泵浦光传播方向相反的奇数阶斯托克斯光,虚线箭头表示与泵浦光传播方向相同的偶数阶斯托克斯光, Ω_B 为布里渊频移。图 1(d)中实线包络和虚线包络分别表示简并四波混频和非简并四波混频,图 1(e)中实线包络和虚线包络分别表示泵浦光产生光频梳和一阶布里渊产生光频梳,对应的频率梳齿间距为 $1 \times \text{FSR}$,其中 FSR 为氟化钙微腔的自由光谱范围。拉曼散射作为微腔非线性光学中另一重要过程,同样作为一种非弹性散射,伴随着泵浦光光子的湮灭,产生了频率较低的

斯托克斯光子和分子振动跃迁导致的光学声子^[19]。

微腔中调制不稳定性、布里渊和拉曼增益如图 2 所示,其中实心曲线表示空腔模式,点划线表示拉曼增益,点划线箭头表示拉曼激光,虚线表示布里渊增益,虚线箭头表示布里渊激光,双点划线表示调制不稳定性增益,长划线箭头表示泵浦激光, Ω_R 为拉曼频移。在微腔中,非线性效应产生的新的频率的光子与腔内的光场发生相互作用时,将导致腔内的光场发生调制不稳定性。调制不稳定性将导致腔内的非线性效应进一步放大,此时微腔中的共振模式会产生相对应的增益峰,也就是调制不稳定性增益峰,微腔中的谐振模式之间的间隔对应微腔的自由光谱范围。故当调制不稳定性发挥作用时,调制不稳定性增益将与空腔模式匹配^[20]。相比拉曼增益,布里渊散射具有更强的增益,但布里渊的增益带宽更窄。同时由于拉曼散射具有超宽的增益范围,故受激拉曼散射耦合四波混频可以在较远的波长产生光学频率梳。

回音壁模式氟化钙晶体微腔采用超精密加工技术^[21-22]的制备方法实现。整个精密抛光的过程分为粗磨、粗抛和精抛 3 个阶段,不同的阶段更换不同的抛光介质和主轴的旋转速度。加工得到的氟化钙晶体谐振腔的半径约等于 3.51 mm。使用光纤锥耦合的方式激发了所制备的氟化钙晶体光学微腔的透射谱,光纤锥的锥腰直径为 $3 \mu\text{m}$,如图 3(a)所示。对激发的透射谱进行放大,选定一个模式进行洛伦兹拟合,被选定的模式通过箭头在图 3(a)中指出,拟合结果如图 3(b)所示,得到的品质因子高达 3.6×10^8 ,其中实线表示理论洛伦兹曲线。另外,利用显微镜拍摄到了氟化钙晶体微腔的照片,如图 3(c)所示。

3 实验结果

基于氟化钙晶体腔的非线性实验平台如图 4 所示。实验过程中使用连续可调谐激光器(CW)输出中心波长为 1550 nm 的泵浦光,输出的泵浦光经三环偏振控制器(PC)后进入掺铒光纤放大器(EDFA);激光功率经放大后光进入环形器(CIR),环形器出来的前向信号进入耦合平台,耦合平台由光纤锥(TOF)和晶体微腔(resonator)组成;从光纤锥的泵浦光耦合进入晶体微腔激发谐振模式,经耦合平台出来后的信号进入衰减器(VOA)衰减功率;经分束器(SMFC1)后,衰减器的输出端一端的光经过光电探测器(PD)进入示波器(OSC),可观察透射谱,分束器的另一端则接入光谱仪(OSA),可观察相应的非线性信号。另外从环形器出来的背向信号通过分束器(SMFC2)后一端通过光电探测器进入示波器,另一端直接接入另一台光谱仪。

在实验过程中,将环形器输出的正向和背向信号接入示波器进行同时观察,在高功率下记录得到的正反透射谱如图 4 所示,实线表示前向信号的透射谱,由

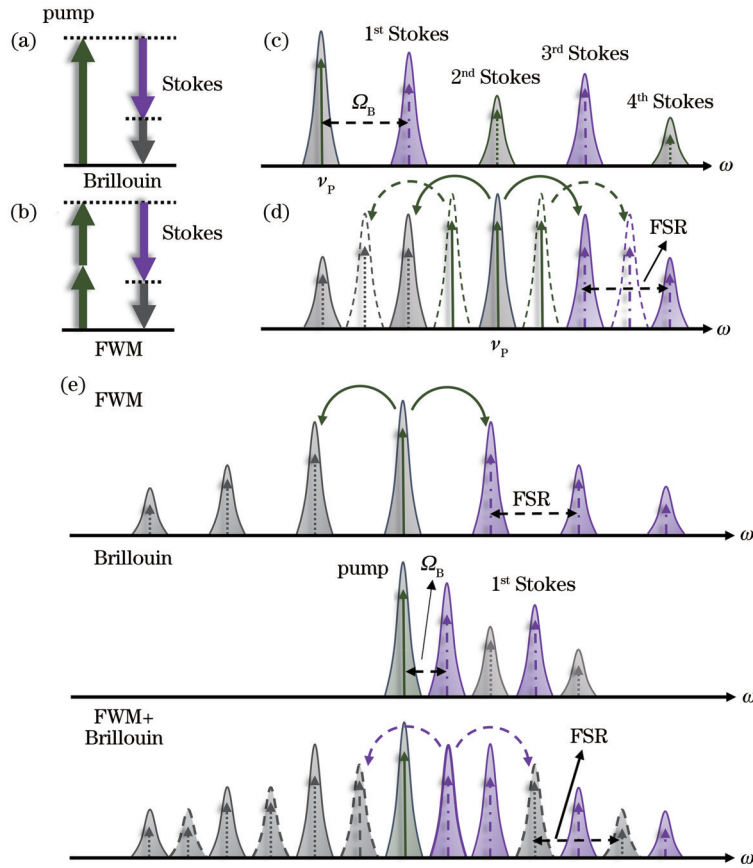


图 1 微腔中的 FWM 和 SBS 的原理。(a) 受激布里渊散射能级图；(b) 四波混频能级图；(c) 布里渊激光生成过程；(d) 简并四波混频和非简并四波混频示意图；(e) 微腔中布里渊耦合四波混频示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic of FWM and SBS in microcavity. (a) Diagram of SBS energy levels; (b) FWM energy level diagram; (c) Brillouin laser generation process; (d) schematic of degenerate FWM and non-degenerate FWM; (e) schematic of Brillouin-coupled FWM in microcavity

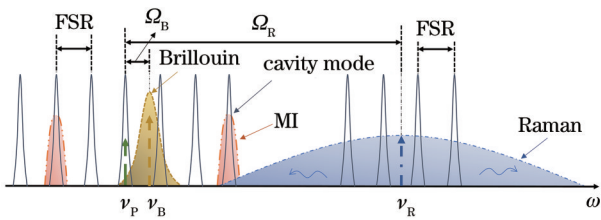


图 2 微腔中调制不稳定性、布里渊和拉曼增益示意图
Fig. 2 Schematic of modulation instability in the microcavity, Brillouin gain, and Raman gain

于高品质因子模式的共振和高泵浦功率, 出现热展宽的谱线。点划线表示背向信号的透射谱, 实验中不仅可通过背向信号的模式展宽观察有关非线性信号的激发, 而且也可以通过背向透射谱的谱线计算非线性效应所需要的阈值。

实验中, 利用掺铒光纤放大器增大可调谐泵浦激光器输出的泵浦功率, 从背向信号观察非线性信号。图 5(a) 记录了泵浦光波长为 1550.03 nm、功率为 50 mW 时的一阶布里渊信号(S1), 此时泵浦光(P)与一阶布里渊激光的转换效率较高, 布里渊信号的信噪

比达 56.23 dB, 图中的一阶布里渊激光的信噪比比泵浦光的信噪比(51 dB)更高, 这表明此时在氟化钙晶体光学微腔中布里渊激光在反射光谱中占主导地位。另外布里渊波长移动量为 0.11 nm, 得到的一阶布里渊频移与理论值十分接近。氟化钙布里渊频移的计算公式^[6]为

$$v_B = v_a = \frac{\Omega_B}{2\pi} = \frac{2n_{\text{eff}}V_a}{\lambda_p}, \quad (1)$$

式中: 纵向声速为 $V_a = \left(\frac{c_{11} + c_{12} + 2c_{44}}{2\rho} \right)^{1/2}$, c_{11} 、 c_{12} 、 c_{44} 是三个独立的弹性常数, ρ 是材料密度; λ_p 是泵浦激光波长; n_{eff} 为有效折射率。这里相应的参数值分别为 $\rho = 3.1$, $\lambda_p = 1550$ nm, $n_{\text{eff}} = 1.434$ 。

为了观察氟化钙晶体光学微腔中的级联布里渊散射效应, 通过微调泵浦光波长, 当微腔中的斯托克斯光在图 5(b) 中可以看到时, 当泵浦光波长为 1550.60 nm 时, 观察到了 4 阶级联布里渊(S1、S2、S3、S4) 散射效应。从图 5(b) 可以看到, 即使是 4 阶布里渊激光, 仍然具备较高的信噪比(26 dB), 由此可见基于氟化钙晶体光学微腔的布里渊激光器具有较低的噪声。在受激布

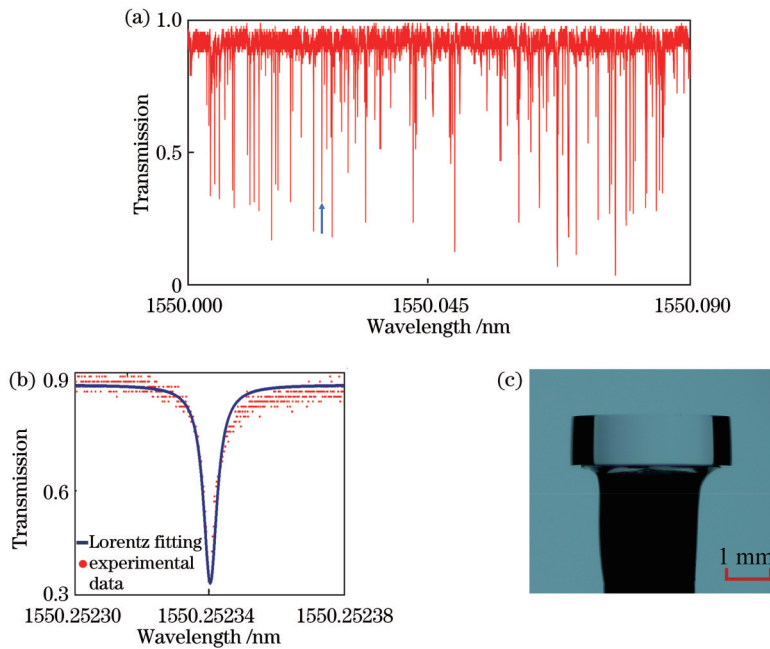


图 3 氟化钙晶体微腔透射谱实验结果与微腔显微镜照片。(a)氟化钙晶体微腔激发的透射谱;(b)洛伦兹拟合谱线;(c)氟化钙晶体微腔显微镜照片

Fig. 3 Transmission spectrum of CaF₂ crystal microcavity and microcavity microscopic photo. (a) Transmission spectrum of CaF₂ crystal microcavity; (b) Lorentz fitting line; (c) microscopic photograph of CaF₂ crystal microcavity

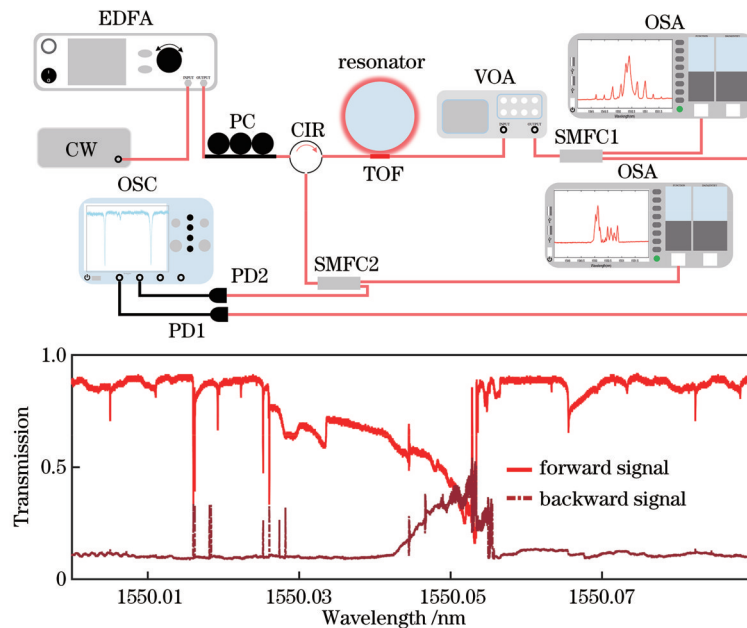


图 4 基于氟化钙晶体微腔的非线性实验装置原理图及高功率下的正反透射谱

Fig. 4 Schematic of nonlinear experimental device based on CaF₂ crystal microcavity and forward direction and opposite direction transmission spectra under high power

里渊的实验中,通过设计毫米量级的微腔,大尺寸的微腔具有更小的自由光谱范围,更密集的模式不仅避免了微腔的FSR需要与布里渊频移量相等的限制,而且提高了布里渊激光耦合四波混频的效率。值得注意的是,在氟化钙晶体微腔中激发布里渊散射效应的功率阈值仅在亚毫瓦量级。

当泵浦波长为 1550.30 nm、泵浦光输出功率增大

为 100 mW 时,记录到泵浦光的右侧除了有一阶布里渊信号外,泵浦光的两侧出现了不关于泵浦光对称的激光信号,如图 5(c)所示。经计算这里的激光信号关于一阶布里渊信号对称,是一阶布里渊光的简并四波混频产生的光频梳信号,此时氟化钙微腔中的斯托克斯光处于基模。一阶布里渊激光经简并四波混频生成了梳齿间隔为 $4 \times \text{FSR}$ 的主梳, FWM 进一步级联最

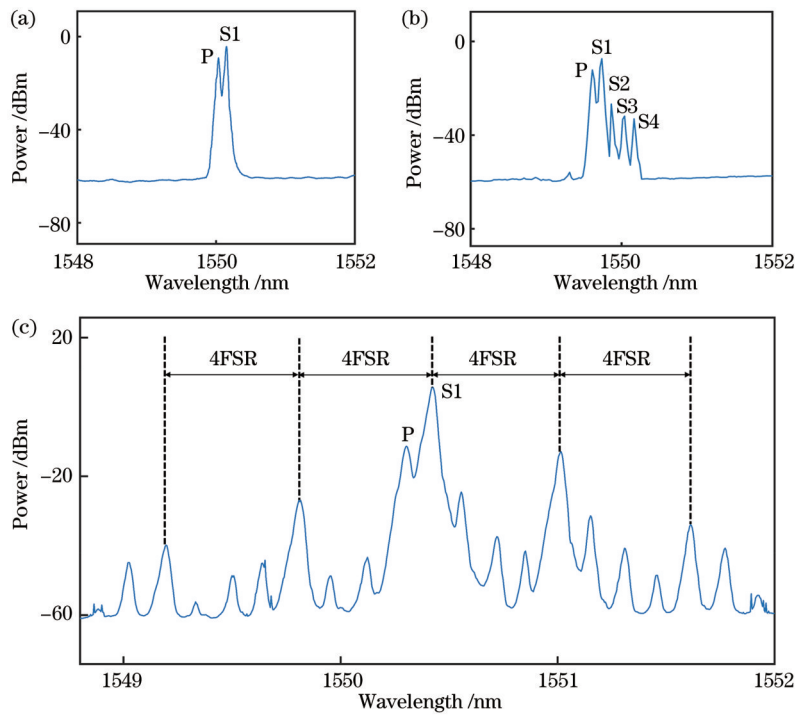


图 5 SBS 效应。(a)一阶布里渊信号;(b)级联布里渊信号;(c)一阶布里渊耦合光频梳信号

Fig. 5 SBS effect. (a) First-order Brillouin signal; (b) cascade Brillouin signal; (c) first-order Brillouin-coupled comb signal

终生成了梳齿间距为 $1 \times \text{FSR}$ 的梳齿。除此之外,在一阶布里渊的左边并没有观察到与一阶布里渊间距为 $1 \times \text{FSR}$ 的激光信号,可以推测该激光信号被泵浦光淹没。将泵浦激光器输出的激光波长控制在 1550.30 nm 附近,期望得到一阶布里渊耦合四波混频的变化过程,改变泵浦激光器的输出功率。与图 5(c) 类似,图 6 中的一阶布里渊信号均达到了调制不稳定性相位的能量条件,调制不稳定性辅助一阶布里渊

激光产生了相对应的布里渊光学频率梳。在图 6(a) 和图 6(b) 中,一阶布里渊信号产生的光学频率梳对应的梳齿间距为 $2 \times \text{FSR}$ 。伴随着功率的增加,与泵浦光产生的 FWM 类似,氟化钙微腔中的一阶布里渊光频梳也同时具备高转换效率和在高功率下发生级联的特性,如图 6(c) 和图 6(d) 所示,一阶布里渊光频梳发生级联,最终生成了梳齿间距为 $1 \times \text{FSR}$ 的光学频率梳。

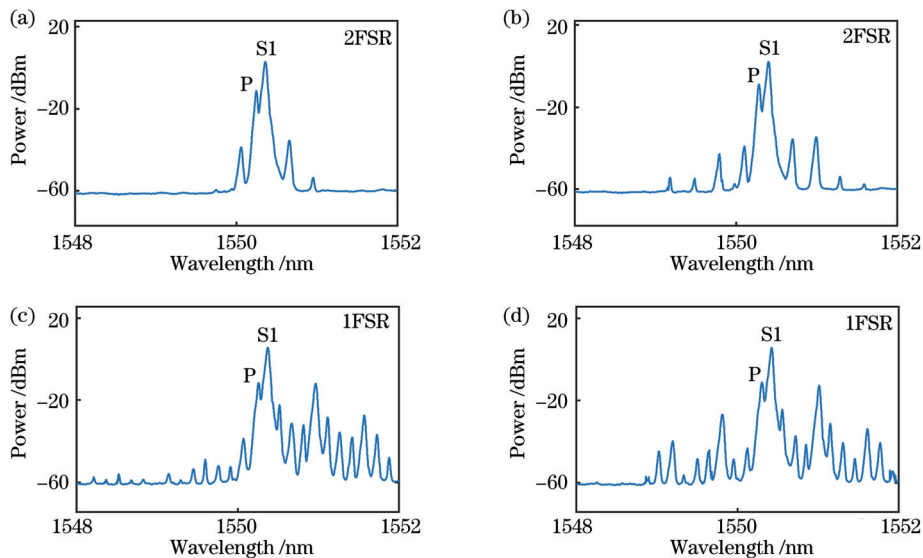


图 6 布里渊耦合四波混频信号。(a)(b)梳齿间距为双倍 FSR 的一阶布里渊光频梳;(c)(d)梳齿间距为单倍 FSR 的一阶布里渊光频梳

Fig. 6 Brillouin-coupled four wave mixing signal. (a)(b) First-order Brillouin light frequency comb with double FSR; (c)(d) first-order Brillouin light frequency comb with single FSR

在受激拉曼的实验中,锁定掺铒光纤放大器的输出功率为 100 mW,首先观察到了信噪比为 20 dB 的一阶拉曼激光,如图 7(a)所示,此时泵浦光对应的波长为 1550.43 nm,一阶拉曼激光对应的波长为 1631.905 nm,与已知的氟化钙拉曼频移非常吻合,值得注意的是,此时并没有拉曼梳出现^[23]。为了得到更高转换效率的拉曼激光,通过调谐泵浦波长,在波长为 1632 nm 时得到了信噪比为 60 dB 的一阶拉曼激光,如图 7(b)所示,此时 FWM 达到相位匹配和能量守恒的条件,发生简并四波混频,产生了梳齿间距为

$4 \times \text{FSR}$ 的拉曼梳。进一步调整泵浦波长失谐和增加泵浦输出功率,如图 7(c)所示,在波长为 1450~1650 nm 时, FWM 进一步加宽,得到了梳齿间隔为 $1 \times \text{FSR}$ 且波长跨度为 200 nm 的光学频率梳。由于加工得到的氟化钙晶体光学微腔中具有众多的谐振模式,故从图 7(d)和图 7(e)中可以看到,由于模式之间的相互作用,光学频率梳的梳齿间距和功率分布并不均匀。这里图 7(d)和图 7(e)是图 7(c)的局部放大,其中图 7(c)中的虚线表示局部放大的具体位置。

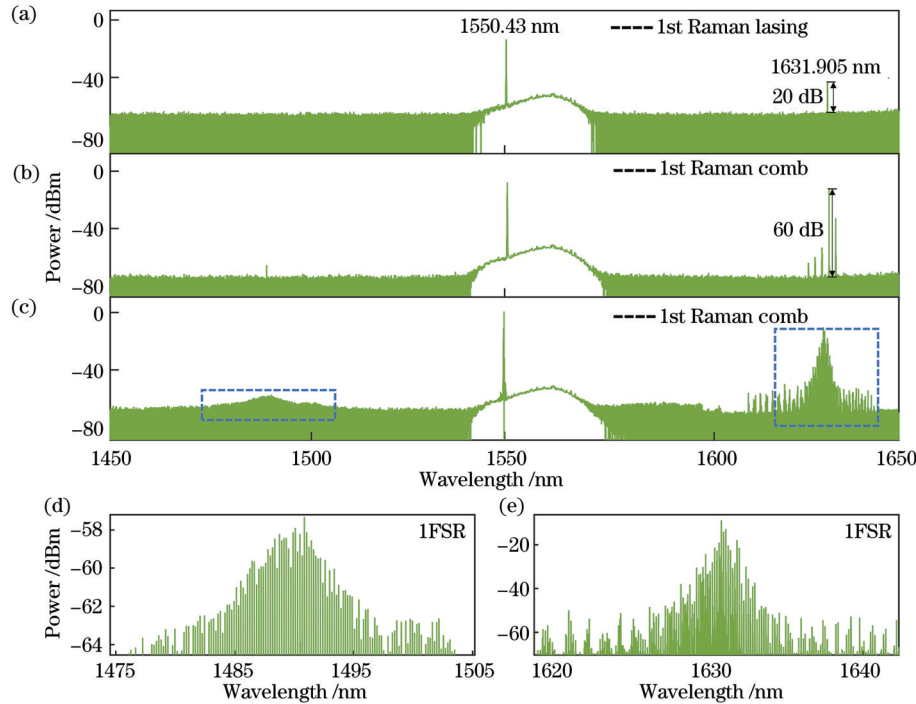


图 7 受激拉曼实验结果。(a)一阶拉曼激光;(b)一阶拉曼梳;(c)宽带频率梳;(d)宽带频率梳左侧局部放大;(e)一阶拉曼梳放大
Fig. 7 Result of stimulated Raman experiments. (a) First-order Raman laser; (b) first-order Raman comb; (c) broadband frequency comb; (d) local amplification on the left side of the broadband frequency comb; (e) first-order Raman comb enlargement

有趣的是在实验过程中泵浦激光器输出功率不变的情况下,继续调整泵浦波长失谐,在图 8 中观察到了带宽更宽的光学频率梳,在 800~1700 nm 波长范围中分布着跨度为 900 nm 的光频梳,此时光频梳信号的整体功率较低,可能是腔内的众多模式之间的耦合和相互作用导致的。图 8(a)中的虚线表示局部放大的具体位置,图 8(a)中的插图表示实验过程中微腔散发可见光时采集到的照片。从图 8(c)可以看到泵浦光周围出现了布里渊激光的激射,此外相应发生了四波混频现象,产生了梳齿间距为 $2 \times \text{FSR}$ 的光学频率梳信号。

从上述结果可以看出,由于氟化钙晶体微腔具有超高 Q 值,达到 3.6×10^8 ,大大增强了光与物质的相互作用,因此在基于氟化钙晶体微腔平台观察到了丰富的非线性光学效应。首先,受激布里渊散射效应产生的信号信噪比达 56.23 dB,相比在二氧化硅微球腔

平台^[24-25]上产生的布里渊散射效应,具有高信噪比、高增益的特性,在微波信号产生、布里渊冷却、光学陀螺仪^[26]中有潜在应用前景。受激拉曼散射效应产生的信号信噪比达 60 dB,也同样具有高信噪比的特性。表 1 对比了不同光学微腔平台上产生的非线性光学效应的实验结果,可以看出,氟化钙晶体微腔中产生的布里渊阶数相比二氧化硅微球腔和微环芯腔要多,产生的拉曼梳带宽相比氟化钡和氟化铯产生的拉曼梳带宽要宽数十倍。此外,此次实验现象更为丰富,从实验过程中观察到了稳定的布里渊耦合四波混频非线性信号。值得注意的是,在氟化钙晶体微腔中观察到的超宽光频梳和超宽拉曼光频梳是在对比文献的微腔系统中所没有展示的,观察到的非线性效应也更为丰富。研究的结果对研究激光科学、光谱分析、非线性光学效应有着重要的参考意义。

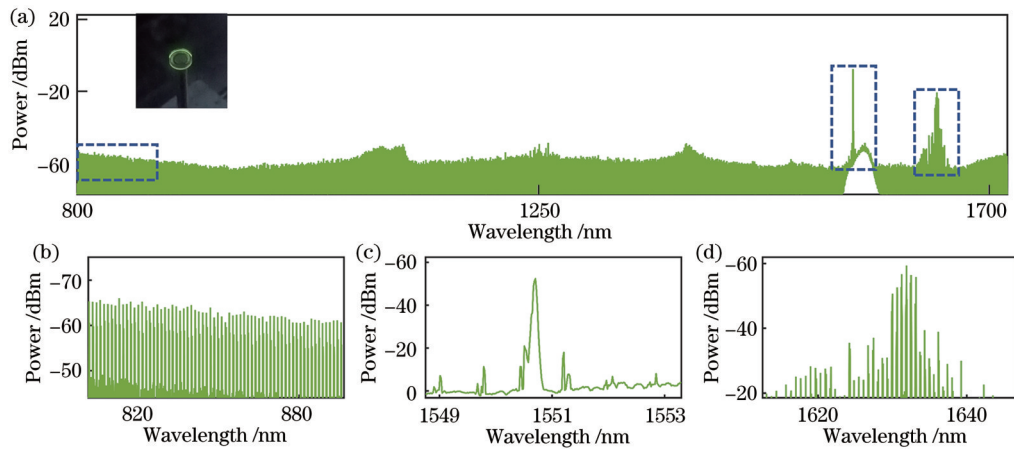


图 8 光学频率梳实验结果。(a) 波长范围为 900 nm 的光学频率梳, 插图为氟化钙晶体微腔发光照片; (b) 中心波长为 850 nm 的局部放大; (c) 泵浦光周围局部放大; (d) 一阶拉曼梳局部放大

Fig. 8 Optical frequency comb experimental results. (a) Optical frequency comb in the wavelength range of 900 nm, illustration is a luminescence photo of CaF₂ crystal microcavity; (b) local magnification of the central wavelength of 850 nm; (c) local enlargement around the pump light; (d) local magnification of first-order Raman comb

表 1 不同光学微腔平台上产生的非线性光学效应的实验对比分析

Table 1 Experimental comparative analysis of nonlinear optical effect on different optical microcavity platforms

Material	Structure	Q factor	Order of Brillouin	Range of Raman comb	Range of broadband comb	Reference
	microsphere	$\sim 10^7$	1st	\	100 nm	[24]
	microbottle	3.73×10^8	4th	50 nm	200 nm	[17]
SiO ₂	microtoroid	1.5×10^7	1st	\	\	[12]
	microrod	1×10^8	\	14 nm	\	[19]
	microbubble	\	4th	\	80 nm	[10]
Tellurite	microsphere	2.5×10^7	4th	\	\	[27]
	BaF ₂ microdisk	\	6th	300 GHz (3 nm)	\	[14]
	SrF ₂ microdisk	\	1st	100 GHz (1 nm)	80 GHz (0.8 nm)	[14]
	CaF ₂ microdisk	3.6×10^8	4th	35 nm	900 nm	This work

4 结 论

研究并报道了氟化钙晶体微腔在非线性光学实验中的优良性能, 使用超精密加工技术制备了氟化钙晶体腔, 品质因子 Q 值达 3.6×10^8 , 为非线性光学提供了研究平台。在氟化钙晶体微腔中, 亚毫瓦量级的受激布里渊散射、受激拉曼散射和四波混频等效应同时激发。实验中, 受激拉曼散射信噪比达 60 dB, 受激布里渊散射信噪比达 56.23 dB, 实现了高增益的受激拉曼激光和受激布里渊激光输出。此外, 还观察到了级联布里渊、布里渊耦合四波混频、拉曼辅助克尔、超宽拉曼光频梳等丰富的非线性光学散射效应。尤其, 实验中级联布里渊阶数达到四阶, 布里渊激光耦合四波混频生成了布里渊光频梳, 从拉曼激光辅助四波混频观察到了带宽为 900 nm 的跨倍频程光学频率梳。光频梳的光谱范围拓展到了可见光波段, 这为后续在可见光波段激光器等相关应用的研发提供了前期的基础。

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Nonlinear Scattering Effect Based on Ultrahigh-Q Factor CaF₂ Crystal Microcavity

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Abstract

Objective The whispering-gallery mode (WGM) optical microresonator facilitates the continuous propagation of light waves with minimal loss, owing to total internal reflection. This characteristic can considerably enhance the interaction between light and matter, increase the efficiency of nonlinear effects, and remarkably reduce the threshold for nonlinear effects. Various microresonator-based nonlinear optical effects, such as stimulated Raman scattering, stimulated Brillouin scattering, and four-wave mixing, have been extensively researched. Studies of microresonator-based nonlinear optics have been applied in several research avenues, including optical switches, nonlinear optical devices, and precision

measurement. Indeed, the study of nonlinear optics in WGM optical microresonators is of considerable importance. Crystalline optical microresonators offer unique benefits over silica-based WGM optical microresonators. One major example is the calcium fluoride (CaF_2) crystalline microresonator, which has emerged as an ideal platform for studying nonlinear optics due to its high nonlinear coefficient, low absorption coefficient, and suitability for long-term storage after processing. Researching the nonlinear effects based on CaF_2 crystalline microresonators entails excellent prerequisites. However, in the current scientific landscape, research into CaF_2 crystalline microresonators has not been extensively pursued. Additionally, the study of CaF_2 crystalline microresonator-based nonlinear optics is not widespread. In light of the above discussion, this study aims to further explore the potential of CaF_2 crystalline optical microresonators, particularly in the research of stimulated Brillouin scattering, stimulated Raman scattering, and other nonlinear effects in microresonators. Additionally, it aims to provide a preliminary foundation for subsequent nonlinear applications in CaF_2 crystalline microresonators.

Methods The fabrication of CaF_2 crystalline microresonators with an ultrahigh quality factor up to 3.6×10^8 was achieved using an ultraprecision polishing technique. This provided the prerequisite foundation for the study of nonlinear optics. We designed and constructed an experimental platform for studying nonlinear optics, where the pump laser's wavelength was manipulated using a tunable laser. The pump laser was amplified until its laser power approached the threshold; this amplification was achieved by employing an erbium-doped fiber amplifier. Thereby, CaF_2 microresonator-based nonlinear effects were excited. In the study of stimulated Brillouin scattering, Brillouin lasers and low-noise Brillouin cascade lasers were efficiently generated by modifying the pump wavelength and increasing the pump laser power. In order to acquire a Brillouin optical frequency comb, the pump wavelength was adjusted to scan from short to long wavelength. Consequently, we achieved a first-order Brillouin optical frequency comb with a perfect comb tooth state. Given that stimulated Raman scattering exhibited an ultrawide gain range, in our study, four-wave mixing assisted by stimulated Raman scattering can generate optical frequency combs at longer wavelengths. Different pump-wavelength detuning and pump power can be adjusted to optimize the signal-to-noise ratio of Raman lasers and the output of Raman combs. Furthermore, in the experimental demonstration of ultrawide Raman spectra, the coupling and interaction among numerous modes in the resonator may cause asymmetric comb tooth spacing distribution and power distribution.

Results and Discussions We fabricate CaF_2 optical microresonators using ultraprecision machining techniques with a custom-built machining system. The quality factor of the microresonator attains a value of 3.6×10^8 , providing an appropriate platform for nonlinear optics (Fig. 3). We acquire substantial nonlinear experimental results, including a signal-to-noise ratio of 56.23 dB for the first-order stimulated Brillouin laser (Fig. 5) and 60 dB for the stimulated Raman laser (Fig. 7). Even for the fourth-order stimulated Brillouin laser in cascaded Brillouin systems, a signal-to-noise ratio of 26 dB (Fig. 5) is preserved. Furthermore, we manage to satisfy both the phase and energy requirements of stimulated Brillouin scattering and four-wave mixing by employing precise control mechanisms. The coupled-Brillouin optical frequency comb achieves a perfect state, resulting in an optical frequency comb with a single multiple of the free spectral range (Fig. 6). The four-wave mixing assisted by Raman laser generates an optical frequency comb with a bandwidth of 900 nm (Fig. 8), extending the comb tooth range into the visible light spectrum. Noteworthily, our results of CaF_2 microresonator-based nonlinear optics are more comprehensive compared with the results of early studies on CaF_2 microresonators. Additionally, certain experimental results were not demonstrated in early studies on CaF_2 microresonators. Our results provide strong evidence for CaF_2 microresonators being an ideal platform in nonlinear optics research.

Conclusions Targeted investigations are conducted to explore the remarkable performance of CaF_2 crystalline optical microresonators in the realm of nonlinear optics. The CaF_2 microresonator, obtained using ultraprecision machining techniques, exhibits an ultrahigh quality factor of 3.6×10^8 . We have succeeded in exciting nonlinear effects. In the experiments, we simultaneously excite stimulated Brillouin scattering, stimulated Raman scattering, and the four-wave mixing effect in the CaF_2 microresonators at submilliwatt power levels. The results demonstrate the high-efficiency generation of stimulated Raman laser and Brillouin lasers. In addition, a fourth-order cascaded Brillouin laser is achieved by satisfying the frequency shift condition of Brillouin scattering. Particularly, Brillouin-coupled four-wave mixing, Raman-assisted Kerr effect, and ultrabroadband Raman optical frequency comb have been achieved by satisfying the corresponding phase-matching and energy-conservation conditions. The four-wave mixing process, with assistance from the Raman laser, yields optical frequency combs with a bandwidth of 900 nm. The spectral range of the optical frequency comb has been extended to the visible light wavelength regime. This achievement provides a foundation for subsequent research and development of applications such as lasers in the visible light wavelength range.

Key words optical microcavity; CaF_2 crystal; nonlinear optics; stimulated Brillouin scattering; optical frequency comb