

光学学报

光量子态的空域调控(特邀)

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摘要 从单光子的线性空域调控出发,依次阐述单光子空域编码与转换、双光子纠缠态的制备与测量、多光子的高维空域纠缠态的制备及其在量子信息中的应用。主要围绕多自由度操控和高维量子信息转换,从制备、编码、测量和应用等方面概述空域光量子态的研究进展。同时探讨了一些关键问题的可能解决方案。

关键词 量子光学; 量子信息; 量子纠缠; 高维量子纠缠; 多自由度纠缠

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1 引言

光子是自然界的基本粒子之一,也是重要的信息载体。自古至今,对光之本性的思考和对光传递信息的应用开发一直与人类探索未知世界的足迹相伴随。20世纪初,随着量子力学的创立,人们得以深窥光子的量子本性之奥秘。同时,光量子作为量子比特的量子信息研究持续不断、蓬勃发展。光子的振幅、相位、偏振和频率等多个自由度已在信息的编码、传输和计算等领域各显千秋。以应用最为广泛的偏振自由度为例。光子的两个正交线偏振态作为正交基矢,可构筑一个二维的希尔伯特空间用于量子比特的编码。通常,可将逻辑比特 $|0\rangle$ 和 $|1\rangle$ 分别编码在水平($|H\rangle$)和竖直($|V\rangle$)偏振上。由于光子的偏振自由度相对容易测量,在量子信息方案初涉光量子领域的物理实现中,基于光子偏振的物理实验占据了举足轻重的地位,如量子密钥分发^[1]、超密编码^[2]和纠缠交换^[3]等。

然而,研究人员总是期望在更大的希尔伯特空间中调控量子态,因其可以编码更多的量子比特,进而提升信息容量。通常,可以通过两条途径实现态空间的扩展。其一是增加参与光子数,若每个光子都使用2维的偏振自由度,那么 N 个光子将在 2^N 维的空间中演化。多光子纠缠态的制备主要就是沿着这一技术路线实现的,如已有4光子^[4]、5光子^[5]、6光子^[6]、8光子^[7-8]、10光子^[9-10]和12光子^[11]的纠缠被报道。其二是开发更多自由度,用于量子信息编码,如光子的空域^[12-14]、时

域^[15-16]和频域^[17-19]等自由度均已在光子的高维操纵中各展所长、发展快速,但仍方兴未艾。

相比于时域和频域自由度的连续和单一的特性,空域中有多个自由度可供选择,有可离散化的路径自由度,也有空间本征模式本就是离散化的轨道角动量(OAM)自由度。光子OAM由光学涡旋场所携带^[20-22],即其波前具有 $\exp(jm\phi)$ 螺旋相位,每个光子将携带 $m\hbar$ 的OAM,其中 ϕ 为方位角坐标, m 为拓扑荷, \hbar 为约化普朗克常数。无论是路径,还是OAM自由度,理论上均可构筑无穷维的希尔伯特空间。因此,路径和OAM自由度在实现高维编码领域有着固有的优势,更加引起研究者的广泛关注。

本文主要关注光量子态的空域调控在量子光学和量子信息领域的研究进展^[23-24]。多自由度纠缠光子调控方案中路径和OAM自由度的编码和纠缠维度在持续地突破记录^[25-28],而且两个或多个自由度共同参与的多自由度纠缠光子调控方案同样取得一系列进展^[29-34]。

2 单光子空域调控

2.1 单自由度调控元件及量子比特编码

对于光子的路径和OAM自由度,可以通过线性光学元件执行量子信息编码。光子路径的编码可以通过光学分束器(BS)实现^[35],光子在BS上有可能透射也有可能被反射,基于此可实现光子的路径编码。采用偏振分束器(PBS)和楔形棱镜也可实现同样的路径编码功能,如图1(a)所示。空间上的上下两个模式分

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别代表两个路径模式 $|u\rangle$ 和 $|d\rangle$ 。两个路径的相对强度可以通过半波片(HWP)调节,再通过PBS分束实现;两个路径的相对相位可以通过移动楔形棱镜实现。最终将任意量子比特 $\alpha|0\rangle+\beta|1\rangle$ 编码在单光子路径模式上,即 $\alpha|u\rangle+\beta|d\rangle$,其中 α 和 β 都是复数,表示量子比特中相应组分的概率幅,满足归一化条件 $|\alpha|^2+|\beta|^2=1$ 。

光子OAM表现为光子波前具有螺旋形的相位,如处于拉盖尔-高斯(LG)模式的光子具有螺旋形的相位,所以光子OAM自由度的编码可以通过光学涡旋元件实现。螺旋相位板(SPP)^[36]作为一个典型的光学涡旋元件,用于调制入射光的波前相位,生成一个螺旋相位,使光子携带特定的OAM,如图1(b)所示。该方式对入射光的偏振无选择性,OAM的加载可以通过选择不同的SPP实现。另一种常用的加载或操控光子OAM的器件为 q -plate^[37],如图1(c)所示,实际上就是光轴按照一定空间取向变化(或者说空间非均匀)的单轴晶体,典型的是由一种向列液晶制备而成,是一种可以实现自旋角动量和OAM交换的偏振控制器件,在透射光子中引入几何螺旋相位^[38-39]。在极坐标系下,液晶分子主轴在光子入射面的分布可以在极坐标

系下写为 $\chi(r,\phi)=q\phi+\chi_0$,其中: r 和 ϕ 分别为极坐标系中的径向和角向坐标; q 为 q -plate的阶数,可以取0.5的整数倍; χ_0 为 $\phi=0$ 处的初始主轴方向。 q -plate的琼斯矩阵可以写为

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos 2\chi & \sin 2\chi \\ \sin 2\chi & -\cos 2\chi \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

当右旋圆偏振(RCP)光子通过 q -plate时,其出射光子可以写为

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ j \end{bmatrix} = \exp(j2q\phi) \exp(j2\chi_0) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -j \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

式(2)表明出射光子携带角量子数为 $2q$ 的OAM,并且变为左旋圆偏振(LCP)。同理,当LCP光子通过 q -plate时,出射光子可以写为

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -j \end{bmatrix} = \exp(-j2q\phi) \exp(-j2\chi_0) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ j \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

此时出射光子携带角量子数为 $-2q$ 的OAM,且变为RCP。利用SPP和 q -plate还可以将线偏振光转换为偏振非均匀分布的矢量光束^[40],这一特性也可以用于单光子量子态的空域编码。以上两种方式的缺点是OAM值由特定的SPP或 q -plate决定,灵活性相对较差。如果希望提高灵活性,可以考虑使用空间光调制器(SLM)^[41]等器件。

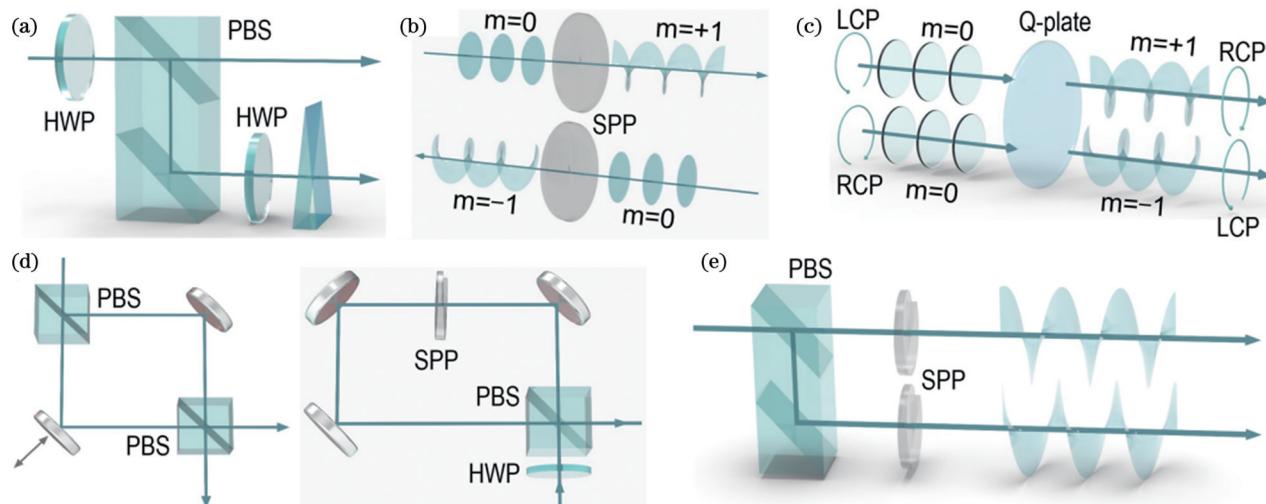


图1 单光子量子态空域编码方案。(a)单光子路径编码;(b)SPP光学元件的OAM编码^[36];(c) q -plate光学元件的OAM编码^[37];(d)单光子双自由度信息编码原理图^[31];(e)单光子三自由度编码原理图^[32]

Fig. 1 Single photon quantum state spatial-domain coding schemes. (a) Single photon path encoding; (b) OAM encoding of SPP optical element^[36]; (c) OAM encoding of q -plate optical element^[37]; (d) single photon two degrees of freedom information encoding schematic^[31]; (e) single photon three degrees of freedom encoding schematic^[32]

采用线性光学元件可以完成单光子量子态的空域编码,通过不同线性元件的结合可进一步实现对单光子的多自由度信息编码。图1(d)显示了同时编码偏振和路径或OAM自由度的方式。若单光子以任意偏振态 $\alpha|H\rangle+\beta|V\rangle$ 入射至Mach-Zehnder干涉仪,经过PBS后,水平 $|H\rangle$ 偏振光子将透射至干涉仪

的下部,竖直 $|V\rangle$ 偏振光子将被反射至干涉仪的上部,这两条路径也可以编码为量子比特 $|d\rangle$ 和 $|u\rangle$,该光子将处于两条路径的叠加态。光量子态将成为 $\alpha|H\rangle|d\rangle+\beta|V\rangle|u\rangle$ 。类似地,若将SPP插入环形Sagnac干涉仪^[31],经过PBS分束后处于不同偏振态的光子将分别从不同的方向通过SPP,携带相反符号的

拓扑荷。以角量子数为1的SPP为例,以任意偏振态 $\alpha|H\rangle+\beta|V\rangle$ 入射的光子将制备在量子态 $\alpha|H\rangle|+1\rangle+\beta|V\rangle|-1\rangle$ 上。

利用空域编码元件的组合,还可以制备多自由度的单光子量子态^[32],如图1(e)所示。首先,PBS将根据入射光子的偏振态将其分为上下两个路径模式 $|u\rangle$ 和 $|d\rangle$,然后在两个路径中分别插入角量子数不同的两个SPP,进一步编码光子的OAM模式。角量子数绝对值为1的SPP在上下路径中正反颠倒放置,使得上路径OAM增1,下路径OAM减1。那么,偏振态为 $\alpha|H\rangle+\beta|V\rangle$ 的单光子入射时将被编码为态 $\alpha|H\rangle|u\rangle|+1\rangle+\beta|V\rangle|d\rangle|-1\rangle$ 。

通过线性光学元件的组合实现光子空域编码,正如《孙子兵法》中所说:“五色之变,不可胜观也”。不仅多个不同自由度共同编码为单光子超纠缠量子态的各种方案异彩纷呈^[31-32],而且研究人员对于单光子更高维的路径和OAM编码的追求也未停止^[42-43]。基于SLM的干涉装置也被应用于光量子态的多自由度编码^[44-48],这进一步提升了光量子态空域编码的灵活性。

2.2 量子信息在不同空域自由度间的转换

在两种主要的量子态的空域编码模式中,OAM自由度主要利用了光子的相位旋向分布进行编码,光子的不同模式共轴传播。路径自由度主要利用了光子的传播方向进行编码,光子的不同模式在空间上分离。以OAM高维量子态的表征为例,目前常用的测量方法是投影测量法^[49-50],即利用q-plate、SPP、SLM等产生OAM的光学元件;相应地,其逆过程可将涡旋光束中待测的OAM分量还原至基模高斯,其余OAM模式则被转换至其他OAM模式,然后将基模高斯耦合进入单模光纤,用于测量其强度,其他OAM模式在这一过程中被过滤掉。通过改变光学元件对应的OAM阶数,即可测量OAM量子态中各OAM模式的占比,即OAM谱。对于编码在d维OAM空间中的单光子,需要d次投影测量才能得到其OAM谱,并且q-plate、SPP等光学元件的替换会在光路中引入额外误差。在此,若能实现不同OAM模式的空间分离,则有望通过一次测量实现一组基矢的完备测量,这可以大大提高测量效率。

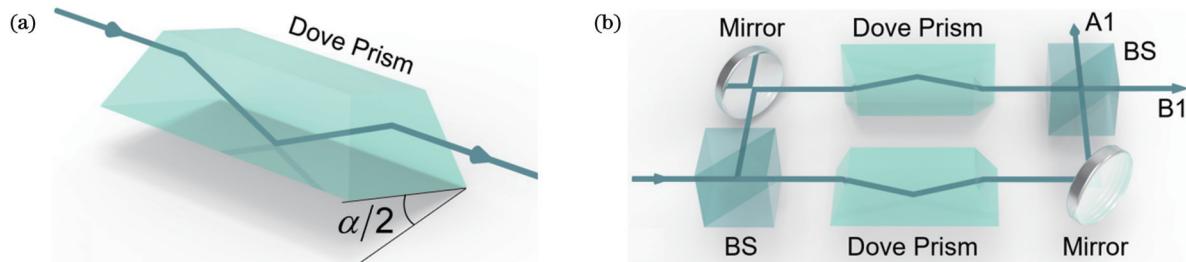


图2 干涉仪法分离OAM^[51]。(a) Dove棱镜调控OAM;(b)利用BS和Dove棱镜分离OAM
Fig. 2 Interferometric separation of OAM^[51]. (a) Dove prism modulation of OAM; (b) separation of OAM using BS and Dove prisms

目前,已有多种器件和方法被用于OAM态混合模式的空间分离和OAM谱分析,例如:在保持原有OAM模式情况下,利用干涉仪^[51]或谐振腔^[52]分离OAM;将不同OAM模式转换为空间不同位置基模高斯的坐标变换法^[53-56]、多平面光变换法^[57]、角透镜法^[58-59];通过对入射光的相位结构进行预整形,控制随机散射过程,以实现对混合OAM态的不同径向、角向模式到空间任意位置的分离^[60-61];基于旋转多普勒效应引起频移的OAM分解法^[62];利用数字全息图^[63]、卷积神经网络^[64]以及光线追踪相位补偿算法^[65]等计算机技术分析并得到其OAM谱。

首先,介绍基于Dove棱镜的干涉仪法。Dove棱镜是一种调控OAM常用的光学元件,其可以在不改变光子传播方向的前提下,每经历一次反射引入一定的几何相位。对于携带OAM的光子,反射导致OAM的手性反转,这也被用于构建单光子的偏振控制门^[66]。Dove棱镜对携带OAM的光子引入的几何相位与Dove棱镜旋转的角度和入射光子携带的OAM相关。如果Dove棱镜相对于水平面的夹角为 $\alpha/2$,如图2(a)所示,那么入射光子的OAM项 $\exp(jm\phi)$ 将通过幺正变换变为 $\exp(-jm\phi + jm\alpha)$ 。利用与入射光子OAM相关的附加几何相位可以搭建干涉仪,以区分携带不同OAM的光子^[51,67-68]。图2(b)给出了利用单光子干涉仪实现OAM的空间分离的原理图^[51]。在Mach-Zehnder干涉仪两路各放置一个Dove棱镜,当两Dove棱镜之间的角度差为 $\alpha/2$ 时,拓扑荷为m的光子经过BS并通过两个Dove棱镜,其附加的几何相位会产生 $m\alpha$ 的相对相位差。这导致光子在第二个BS干涉时:若 $m\alpha = 2n\pi$,则光子在A1口干涉相长,光子以概率1从A1口出射;若 $m\alpha = (2n+1)\pi$,光子将确定从B1口出射,此处n取整数。通过调整棱镜的角度可以区分不同拓扑荷差值的OAM光子。以 $\alpha = \pi$ 为例,此时单光子干涉仪将按照奇偶性区分OAM。理论上,将N-1个干涉仪级联,通过调整每一级中的Dove棱镜的相对角度便可逐级地对混合OAM态光束进行分离,最后得到N个单态OAM。干涉仪法可以在保持拓扑荷的情况下,对OAM模式进行分离,理论上分离效率可达100%;但由于每次干涉只能对一个特定OAM模式进行检测,且级联结构使实验难度逐级

提升。

其次,介绍三种已在经典光学中被广泛使用且有望用于单光子OAM空间分离的方法。

第一种方法是谐振腔法^[52]。通过调节谐振腔的腔长,可将入射的混合态OAM光束中特定的OAM单态分离出来,保留其他态以便后续处理。谐振腔法的原理是利用OAM光束的Gouy相移 Ψ_G 。只有当OAM光束从一个反射镜到另一个反射镜的Gouy相移 Ψ_G 为 π 的整数倍时,该OAM态在腔中处于共振模式,此时:共振态发生隧穿,可以从谐振腔中完全透射;而非共振态在腔中会发生破坏性干扰,从而被完全反射。谐振腔的腔长 D 和拓扑荷的关系为

$$D = \frac{\lambda}{2} \left[q + (|m| + 1) \frac{\Psi_G}{\pi} \right], \quad (4)$$

式中: λ 为光波长。不同OAM态将对应一个特定腔长,通过调节谐振腔长就可实现对不同 $|m|$ 的OAM态的分离。但该方法一次只能分离一种特定OAM态,但对于 $|m|$ 相同的 $\pm m$ 两个简并OAM态,需要额外分离。

第二种方法是多平面光变换法^[57]。输入由基模高斯模式构成的笛卡儿网格 (m, n) ,光束在相互平行的SLM和反射镜间来回反射,经过7次加载SLM的相位调制,便可变换为带有OAM混合态的厄米-高斯光束,再经过一个柱透镜组变换为LG光束,输入端每一个位置 (m, n) 的基模高斯光束对应一种LG (m, n) 模式。根据光路的可逆性,逆向输入混合态LG光束便可在空间分离得到笛卡儿网格上相应位置的基模高斯光束。SLM上的相位图由人工神经网络中的逆向传播算法迭代生成。该方法可实现一次对210个LG模式的空间分离。

第三种方法为坐标变换法^[53-56]。坐标变换法的原理是:利用衍射光学元件实现光场从直角坐标系到对数-极坐标系的坐标映射,将具有螺旋相位的环形OAM光束在保持螺旋相位梯度信息的情况下,展开为横向相位梯度的条状光束。随后,将不同的OAM模式通过透镜聚焦到焦平面上的不同位置,从而实现OAM模式的分离。已有SLM^[53]、定制相位板^[69]、光纤阵列^[70]、超表面^[71]等多种光学元件被用于实现直角坐标系到对数-极坐标系的变换。通过两个SLM加载两个空间相位 Φ_1 和 Φ_2 ,它们分别执行坐标变换和校正传播过程中因光程不同而产生的相位差的功能,实现从直角坐标系 (x, y) 到对数-极坐标系 (u, v) 的变换,两相位函数分别为

$$\Phi_1(x, y) = \frac{2\pi a}{\lambda f} \left(y \arctan \frac{y}{x} - x \ln \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{b} + x \right), \quad (5)$$

$$\Phi_2(u, v) = \frac{2\pi ab}{\lambda f} \exp \left(-\frac{u}{a} \right) \cos \left(\frac{v}{a} \right), \quad (6)$$

式中: f 为透镜焦距;参数 $a = d'/2\pi$, d' 为变换后条形

光束的线段长度; b 为变换后光束的纵向位置坐标。在该方案的基础上,通过在相位函数中加入fan-out项,用光栅将坐标变换后的条形光束进行复制,进而延续其相位梯度,从而大大减少输出端相邻聚焦光斑之间的串扰,将理论分离效率从77%提升至92%以上^[55]。

另一种通过坐标变换实现OAM空间分离的方案是用螺旋变换取代对数-极坐标变换。利用对数螺旋线由内向外逐圈旋转的特点,多次提取涡旋光束中的相位信息,通过拓展变换后得到的条形光束的相位梯度,减小相邻模式聚焦光斑之间的重叠程度,以提升分离效率^[56]。结合螺旋变换方案,利用准小波共形映射方案将输入涡旋光束用内外环的形式展开,可以在保持高空间分离效率的同时避免引入fan-out项所带来的解复用串扰^[72]。以上各坐标变换方法均已用微纳加工手段制备紧凑的小型化器件^[73-74],除了自由空间衍射、折射元件外,也可用单模波导阵列取样法制作硅光子集成电路器件,通过采集输入端OAM进行空间分离^[70]。这些紧凑的一体化器件具有小尺寸和稳定的优势,大大方便了使用和推广。

2.3 单光子空域调控的应用

调控单光子的空域自由度,在量子力学基础检验和离散时间随机行走等多个领域有着重要应用。费曼路径积分以一种简洁优美的范式诠释了量子理论^[75-76],然而,对于路径积分中的关键物理量——传播子的实验测量仍然是一个挑战。由于传播子是复数,需要同时测量传播子的实部和虚部,然后重构传播子。传统的量子测量技术难以实现直接测量。通过量子态的空域调控,发展了一种直接测量波函数的方法——弱测量^[77-82]。利用该方法,可以通过弱值^[83-84]直接测量量子波函数的实部和虚部。弱测量已被广泛应用于精密计量^[85-87]和非经典路径的观测^[88-91]。在此,弱测量被用于传播子的实验测量中^[92]。将单光子的空间模式和偏振模式耦合后,光子在折射率渐变的光学材料中演化,最后用单光子相机探测光子的空间分布。根据得到的不同偏振态光子的空间分布,便可重构传播子的实部和虚部,从而进一步验证量子力学中的最小作用量原理,并揭示最小作用量原理在经典力学和量子力学中的统一。

单光子空域调控的另一个重要应用是实现离散时间随机行走的量子模拟。量子随机行走是利用量子叠加态的特性,即构造一个位置态和硬币态直积的量子态,使其在一个周期性的晶格上演化^[93]。硬币态为内禀态,处于自旋1/2粒子的本征态 $|\uparrow\rangle$ 或 $|\downarrow\rangle$,决定位置态的演化方向。位置态表示量子态的空间位置。决定该量子态的演化么正算符 $U(\theta)$ 可以表示为硬币态自旋旋转算符 $R(\theta)$ 和位置态空间平移算符 T 的乘积:

$$U(\theta) = TR(\theta). \quad (7)$$

自旋旋转算符 $R(\theta)$ 和空间平移算符 T 可以分别表示为

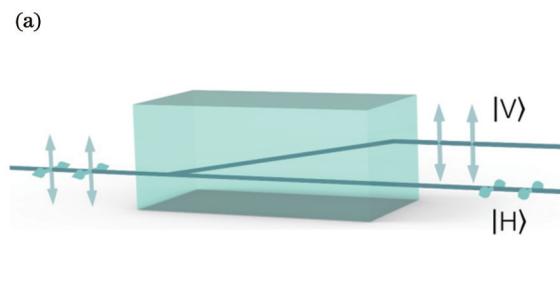
$$R(\theta) = \exp(j\theta\sigma_y), \quad (8)$$

$$T = \sum_x (|x+1\rangle\langle x| \otimes |\uparrow\rangle\langle\uparrow| + |x-1\rangle\langle x| \otimes |\downarrow\rangle\langle\downarrow|), \quad (9)$$

式中: $\sigma_y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -j \\ j & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 为泡利矩阵; θ 为硬币态自旋旋转的角度。

平移算符 T 的含义是: 若硬币态处于 $|\uparrow\rangle$, 则向 x 正向平移一个晶格; 若硬币态处于 $|\downarrow\rangle$, 则向 x 负向平移一个晶格。实现离散时间量子随机行走的关键是按照量子态中自旋态的区分给予不同的组分以不同的空域操作。

将光子的偏振态 $|H\rangle$ 和 $|V\rangle$ 作为硬币态的本征态, 并以光子的路径自由度进行空间平移是实现量子随机行走的最佳选择。在具体的基于路径自由度的随机行走平台中^[94], 通过 HWP 实现编码在光子偏振上的硬币态的旋转, 通过双折射方解石光束位移器实现光子位置态平移, 如图 3(a) 所示, 它可将一束光分离为两个偏振方向正交的平行光束。泵浦光处于 $|H\rangle$ 和 $|V\rangle$ 的叠加态, $|H\rangle$ 偏振分量经过光束位移器后直接透射, $|V\rangle$ 偏振分量在 z 方向上发生折射。量子随机行走能够模拟很多具有非平庸拓扑结构的物理模型, 例如



Su-Schrieffer-Heeger (SSH) 模型、陈绝缘体等^[95]。在基于路径自由度的量子随机行走平台上, 已观测到拓扑保护的边界态等新奇拓扑物态^[96-99], 在最新的报道中基于量子行走的正算子测量也已被高效地实现^[100]。基于路径的量子随机行走的步数受限于双折射偏移器的空间尺寸, 其行走的步数通常限制在 10 步以内, 这限制了更多非平庸拓扑物态的完整观测^[101]。在更大的希尔伯特空间中实现光子的量子随机行走已引起研究者的广泛兴趣。

光子的 OAM 自由度为实现 OAM 空间内的量子随机行走提供了一种可能的解决方案^[102]。光子位置态在 OAM 空间进行平移, 光子的路径不会改变, 光子行走的步数有望大大增加。哪种 OAM 控制器件可以像双折射方解石光束位移器那样, 能满足随机行走的要求呢? 如上所述, q -plate 就是基于单光子自旋调控光子 OAM 增减的偏振控制器件。基于光子 OAM 实现量子随机行走的实验原理图如图 3(b) 所示, 在稳定的干涉环中插入 QWP 和 q -plate, QWP 控制硬币态的旋转, q -plate 完成光子在 OAM 空间的平移, 光子在干涉环中每行走一次, 就完成了一步随机行走。利用多组 q -plate 实现 OAM 空间的量子随机行走已经被用于拓扑不变量的研究^[103-104]。结合路径和 OAM 两种空域自由度实现二维的量子随机行走是一个颇有吸引力的主题。双自由度的量子随机行走将为高维拓扑相研究提供可能途径^[105]。

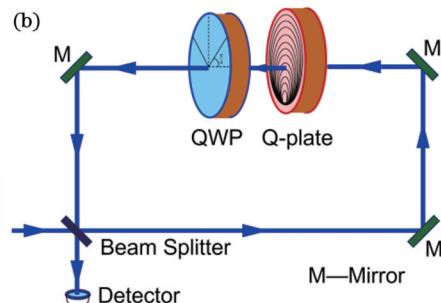


图 3 空域自由度离散量子随机行走实验方案^[102]。(a) 双折射光束位移器; (b) OAM 自由度量子随机行走

Fig. 3 Experimental scheme of discrete quantum random walk of spatial degree of freedom^[102]. (a) Birefringent beam shifter; (b) quantum random walk of OAM degree of freedom

3 双光子空域调控

3.1 高维量子纠缠态制备

量子纠缠是量子信息与量子计算领域的一种重要资源。基于偏振自由度的双光子纠缠态已在一系列量子信息实验中被广泛研究^[106-108]。偏振自由度的纠缠虽有其易于制备和测量的优势, 但是由于双光子的偏振纠缠只局限在 4 维希尔伯特空间中, 其难以满足高维纠缠源制备的需要。高维量子纠缠通常具有更强的非局域性, 因而能够更好地保障量子通信过程中的安全性^[109-111], 进一步提升量子逻辑门实现的效率^[112-113]。

与多个 qubit 量子纠缠不同, 通过增加单个粒子的可编码维度实现高维量子纠缠具有其独特的优势^[114]。

最常见的实现量子纠缠的载体是光子, 量子态信息可以编码在光子的各种自由度上。如在光子的时域^[15-16]和频率^[19]等自由度上的高维编码已有报道。光子的空域自由度如路径、OAM, 因其固有的无穷多个非简并的本征矢量, 可以在任意维度的希尔伯特空间进行高维纠缠编码, 故得到了广泛关注。

路径编码因其概念更直观、操作更简易而受到了研究者的青睐。通过上文已介绍的光束位移器和 HWP 的组合, 已先后实现了 3 维^[12]和 32 维^[28]路径最大

纠缠态的制备与测量,分别如图4(a)和(b)所示。高维路径最大纠缠态的制备过程大致可以分为三步:1)泵浦偏振管理,将单一偏振泵浦光通过一个HWP,使其处于 $|H\rangle$ 和 $|V\rangle$ 偏振的叠加态;2)路径分束,利用多个光束位移器和HWP对偏振处理后的泵浦光在路径上分束;3)纠缠制备,将经过路径调制的泵浦光正入射到非线性晶体BBO上,发生自发参量下转换,制备出路径纠缠光子对。值得一提的是,由于光束位移器的竖直和水平方向均可以进行分束,如图4(b)所示,泵浦光可以被等功率地分到 4×8 阵列路径上,进一步制备出32维路径的最大纠缠态:

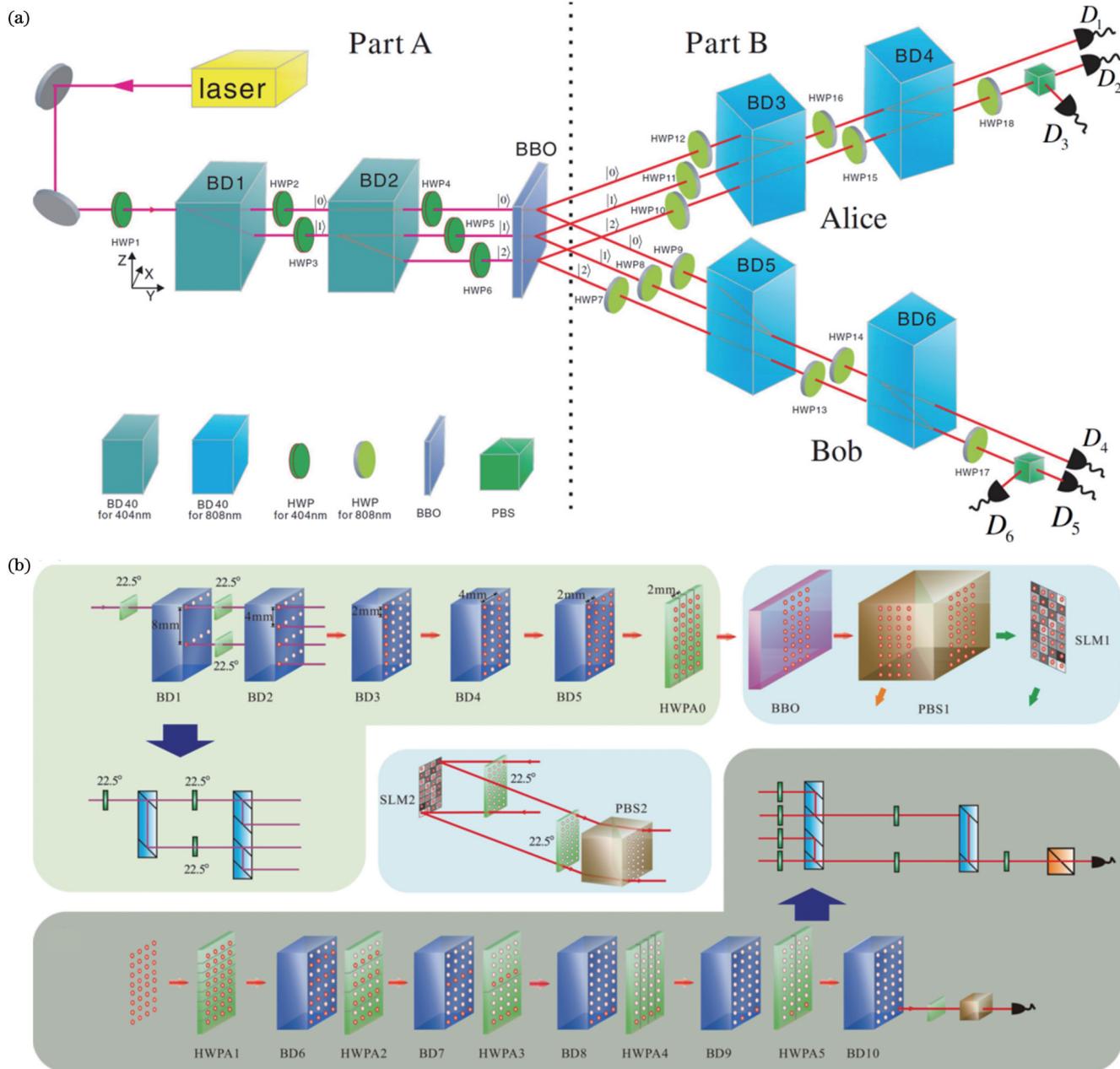


图4 高维路径最大纠缠态的制备与检测。(a) 3维路径最大纠缠态^[12];(b) 32维路径最大纠缠态^[28]

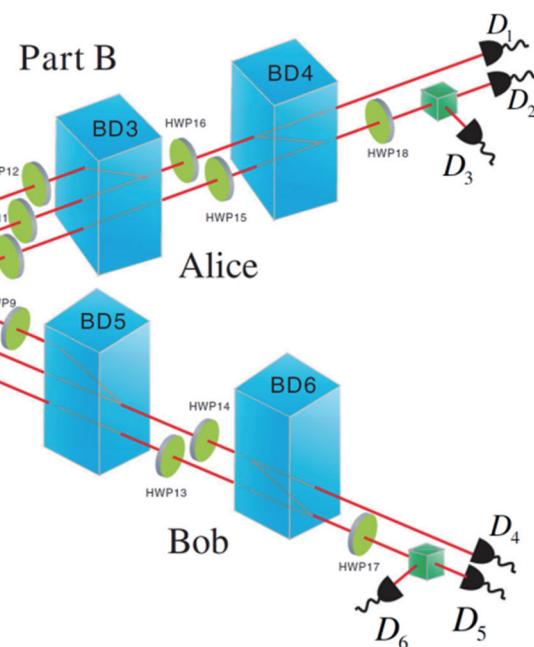
Fig. 4 Preparation and test of multi-dimensional maximum entangled state. (a) Three-dimensional maximum entangled state^[12]; (b) thirty-two-dimensional maximum entangled state^[28]

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{32}} \sum_{i=0}^{31} |ii\rangle |\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{32}} \sum_{i=0}^{31} |ii\rangle, \quad (10)$$

式中: i 为纠缠光子所处的可能路径。因在频率转换过程中OAM守恒^[115-116],在自发参量下转换过程中,若利用OAM为0的光泵浦非线性晶体^[50],下转换过程中产生的双光子将携带符号相反的OAM,它们将处于高维纠缠态:

$$|\varphi\rangle = \sum_m a_m (|+m\rangle |-m\rangle + |-m\rangle |+m\rangle), \quad (11)$$

式中: $|+m\rangle |-m\rangle$ 和 $|-m\rangle |+m\rangle$ 是下转换双光子处于保持OAM守恒的双光子态; a_m 是与OAM量子数有关的权重因子,通常0阶的权重因子最大,其余阶次的



权重因子随OAM量子数的增大而减小,如图5所示^[117]。从现有的自发参量下转换的OAM谱分布中获得最大纠缠态,即将不同量子数的权重因子曲线变平坦是一个重要的研究方向,更是一个挑战。首先使用切趾方法将处于OAM纠缠态的光子通过对不同OAM透过率不同的滤波器,将占比较多的OAM组分强行削峰,最终使不同OAM纠缠态的权重相同,从而实现OAM最大纠缠态。使用这种方法已经实现了11维的OAM纠缠^[118]。

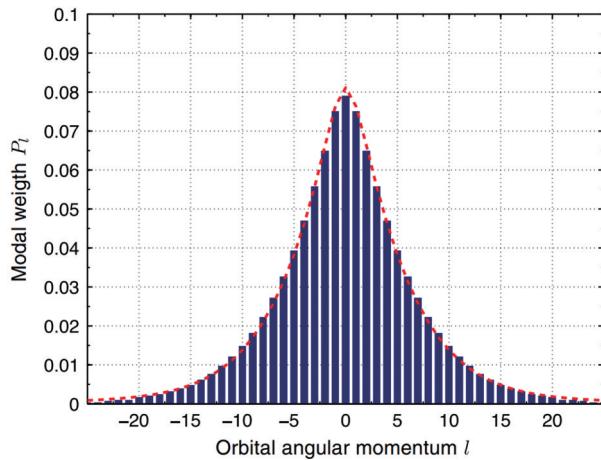


图5 0阶泵浦光自发参量下转换产生的OAM谱^[117]

Fig. 5 OAM spectrum generated by conversion under spontaneous parameterization of 0th-order pump beam^[117]

由于采用被动滤波的方式有较大的能量损耗,我们更希望通过主动调控的方式,而非被动切趾,来实现OAM的高维纠缠态,并挑战更高维的OAM纠缠态制备。第一种主动调控的方式是调制泵浦光,通过调制

泵浦光的束腰^[119-120]或者改变泵浦光的空间模式来改变自发参量下转换过程中权重因子的分布。基于泵浦光调制实现高维OAM最大纠缠态的工作已被报道,其中包括了3维^[120]、4维^[121]及更高维^[122-123]空间的OAM纠缠。另一种主动调控的方式是利用多个非线性晶体的级联结构、非线性晶体和相应的OAM调制元件组成多个生成模块,通过光子的路径不可区分性地生成高维OAM纠缠源^[124]。

此外,OAM模式转换方案可用于制备高维OAM纠缠源。在此介绍几种OAM模式转换方案。

图6(a)是通过对数-极坐标变换,将涡旋光束从角向相位梯度变换到笛卡儿坐标下的一维相位梯度;通过fan-out光栅复制3份后,再逆向通过模式分类器变换回具有角向相位梯度的LG光束,实现了从原阶数到3倍阶数的OAM模式变换^[125]。类似地,可以通过对数-极坐标变换,将变换后笛卡儿坐标下的一维相位梯度的光进行裁剪和拼接,再变换回环形的LG光,实现对OAM的减半和倍增^[126]。此外,更加高效的扇形坐标映射方法也被提出,该方法通过设计扇形坐标映射的相位函数,将光束携带的OAM转换为原光束的正整数倍或正整数分之一,省去了从OAM到路径域的变换,减少了光学操作的次数并降低了系统的复杂性,大大提高了转换效率^[127]。

螺旋变换也被用于OAM的模式转换,如图6(b)所示。该方案通过对数螺旋变换,将输入端和输出端的OAM光按照不同比例的对数螺旋线切割后进行坐标变换,将作用在OAM上乘除法的转换参数从正整数拓展到了任意有理因子^[128]。螺旋变换除了可通过对数螺旋、螺旋变换方案实现外,还可以由费马螺旋等

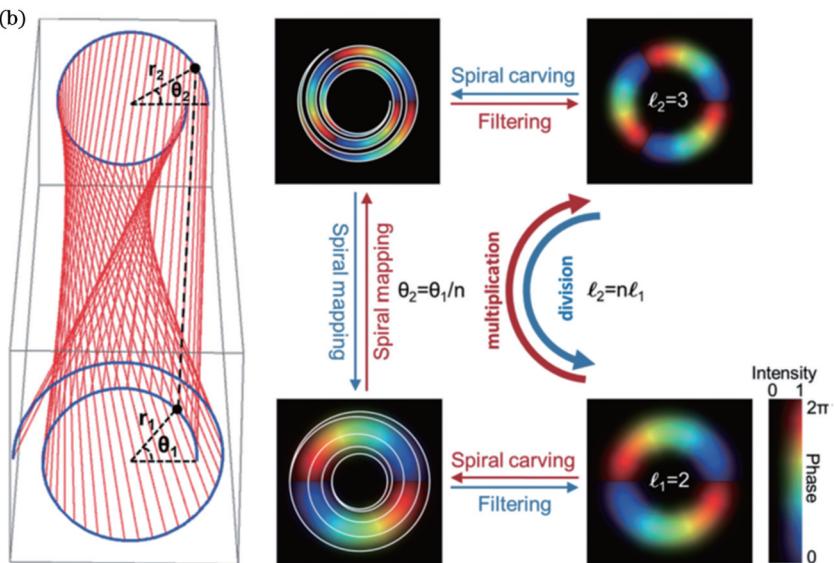
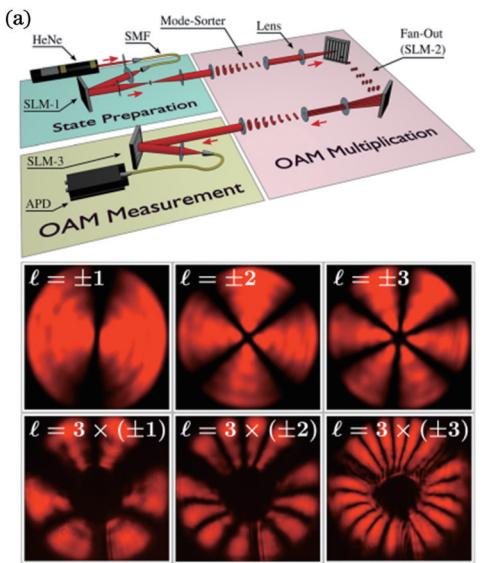


图6 不同拓扑荷的OAM的相互转换。(a)通过fan-out光栅复制实现OAM的3倍增加^[125]; (b)通过对数螺旋变换实现对OAM的任意有理因子的转换^[128]

Fig. 6 Interconversion of OAMs with different topological charges. (a) 3-fold increase of OAM realized by fan-out raster replication^[125]; (b) conversion of arbitrary rational factorization of OAM by logarithmic spiral transformation^[128]

任意螺旋线实现。

相位调制也可被用于OAM态的转换。例如,利用基于对数-极坐标变换原理的正向OAM模式转换器,将入射光变换到路径域之后,先通过在该平面上加载特定相位板进行调制,再通过逆向模式转换器将其变换回OAM环形光束,实现了对OAM任意可编程的么正变换^[129]。

3.2 高维纠缠测量

空域自由度的高维量子纠缠态已在信息传输和量子模拟等方面展现出独特的优势^[24,130]。随之而来的一个关键问题就是如何测量和表征高维量子纠缠态。量子态层析是最常用的测量方法。为了表征实验上制备的高维纠缠态的质量,已有多种量子态层析方案被提出,例如:传统全量子态层析^[131-133]、基于相互无偏基测量的层析^[134-135]和基于对称信息完备正定算子取值测度的层析^[136]等。这些量子态层析方法都要选取多组不同的测量基矢,需要对所制备的未知量子态进行大量的投影测量。随着待测的量子态维度的增加,所需的投影测量次数将以几何形式增加。更高维度的纠缠态层析任务将变得越来越繁琐和困难,甚至远超出现有实验条件的承受范围。为了简化高维纠缠态层

析,一些需要投影测量次数更少的层析方法逐渐发展起来,例如:非正交双基测量^[137]和渐近锁定层析^[138]等。尽管这些方法所需要的投影测量次数相比传统全量子态层析已大大减少并且有较高的测量效率,但是对于表征一个双光子 d 维纠缠态而言,仍然需要约 $2d^2$ 次的测量。最近,基于量子态干涉术的层析方法被提出,理论上仅需要 $d-1$ 次测量就能重构 d 维量子子态^[139]。

在表征高维OAM纠缠方面,一个实用且高效的层析方法不久前被报道^[140]。该层析方法基于空间光调制器和ICCD相机的结合,只需要两次投影测量就能重构出任意维OAM纠缠态的密度矩阵,如图7所示。该方法在实验上能以很高的保真度重构自发参量下转换产生的高维OAM纠缠态的密度矩阵。对于二维和三维的OAM纠缠态,重构的密度矩阵保真度分别达到0.99和0.98。由该层析方法所发展的两次投影测量重构高维纠缠态的方案,同样适用于贝塞尔-高斯^[141-142]和厄米-高斯模式^[143]等其他空间模式。该量子态层析的方法有望广泛应用于自由空间^[144]、光纤^[145]等通信系统中。对于实际应用中经常遇到的混合纠缠态,该方法也同样具有优势。

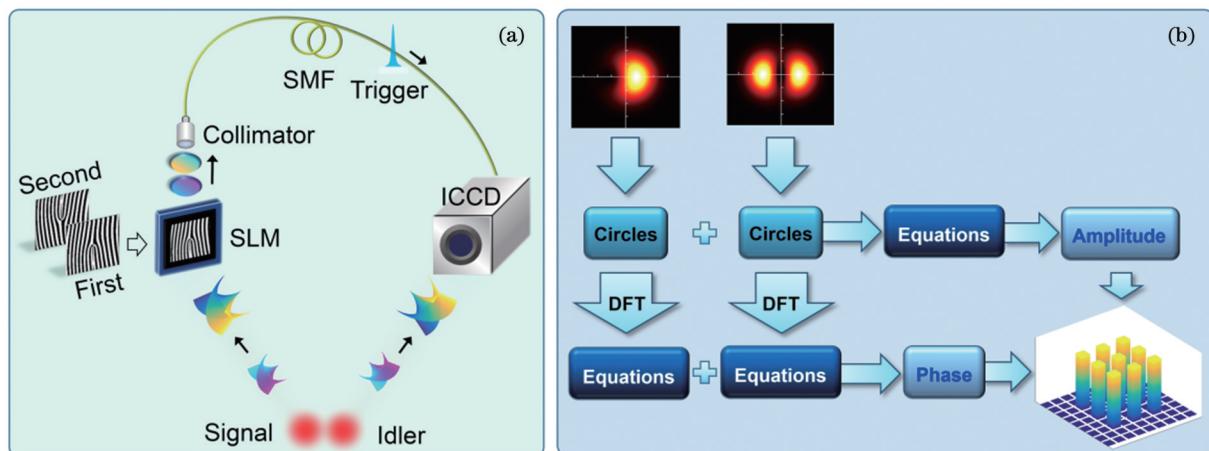


图7 高维轨道角动量纠缠态测量层析的实验原理和计算方法^[140]。(a)实验装置简图;(b)通过信号光子的两次投影测量,实现任意维轨道角动量纠缠态的层析

Fig. 7 Experimental principles and calculations of high dimensional OAM entangled state tomography^[140]. (a) Sketch of experimental setup; (b) arbitrary dimensional OAM entangled state tomography by two projection measurements of signal photons

除了通过量子态层析重构高维纠缠态的密度矩阵外,对于一些空域自由度的高维纠缠态而言,相较于获知制备的量子态密度矩阵的全部信息,人们更希望在实验中通过较为简单的测量识别纠缠的维数,或者确定所制备的纠缠态相当于多少维度的最大纠缠态。此时,对于制备出的高维纠缠态,人们不再首先考虑使用量子态层析重构其密度矩阵,转而考虑测定其纠缠度或者观测其违背贝尔不等式,以此识别高维纠缠。例如,在测定高维路径纠缠态时,首先通过光束位移器将高维路径纠缠光子对进行合束,将路径编码转化为偏

振编码。然后通过形成的纠缠度判定纠缠,或者通过对基于隐变量不等式的违背验证高维纠缠的存在。

Kochen-Specker (KS)不等式^[146-148]是贝尔不等式在三维情况下的推广。KS不等式源于qutrit-qutrit纠缠态。将qutrit-1和qutrit-2分别发送给Alice和Bob,Alice和Bob分别对各自手中的qutrit进行测量,他们可以从两类测量 D 和 T 中任选一种($k=0,1$),每一类测量中包含两个测量算子, (D_0, D_1) 和 (T_0, T_1) 。其中: D 类测量可能得到0和1两种结果; T 类测量可能得到 a_k, b_k 和 c_k 三类结果,每类结果包含两种可能结

果,用符号 k 编码,其中 $k=0,1$ 。在隐变量理论下,将有如下KS不等式成立:

$$P(D_1^A = 1 | D_0^B = 1) - P(T_0^A = a_0 | D_0^B = 1) - \\ P(T_1^A = a_1 | D_0^B = 1) \leq 0, \quad (12)$$

式中: P 为概率,具有上标A或B的测量算子表示在Alice或Bob处执行测量。

对于三维最大纠缠态,理论上将有 $1/9$ 的概率违背此不等式。在已报道的高维路径纠缠态制备的实验工作中,研究者制备的三维最大纠缠态以31个标准差违背了KS不等式,证实了高维纠缠的存在^[12]。在后续工作中,研究者进一步实现了保真度为 0.933 ± 0.001 的32维路径最大纠缠态的制备,并测定其形成纠缠度 $E_{\text{orb}} = 3.728 \pm 0.006$ ^[28]。

3.3 双光子超纠缠态的制备与干涉

使用单光子的多个自由度加载信息已经被广泛研究。同时,单自由度纠缠的双光子(如偏振纠缠光子)也已经被深入探索。那么,若一对光子能在其中两个或者多个自由度中形成纠缠,这样所制备的超纠缠源将在一系列量子信息任务中扮演着重要的角色^[149-150]。其中两光子的Hong-Ou-Mandel(HOM)干涉是这些量子技术的核心^[151-153]。HOM干涉是无经典对应的量子效应,被广泛用于刻画源于固态发射器^[154-158]的单个光子和自发参量下转换的光子对^[9,11,159]。HOM干涉也是结合光子实现受控非门和构建包括NOON态^[160-161]、Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger态^[162]、图态^[6]和多光子高维纠缠态^[163]在内的多光子纠缠态的重要途径。HOM干涉也是实施贝尔态测量的基础^[164-168]。双光子HOM干涉在更一般的量子方案中也发挥着显著作用,如高维系统^[169]、多重模式的量子态^[170-171]和结构光场^[172]。HOM干涉也可被用作过滤系统,用于处理双光子的高维量子态^[173]。

最近报道的较系统地探究超纠缠双光子HOM干涉的工作是基于偏振和OAM编码的双自由度的量子干涉^[174]。图8示出了产生双光子偏振和OAM超纠缠

源的原理图。利用两个BBO晶体片构成的胶合BBO晶体,基于I型自发参量下转换过程,制备偏振-OAM超纠缠源。在保持光子偏振态不变的情况下,通过选择特定OAM量子数的OAM纠缠态可直接获得偏振-OAM超纠缠双光子^[149]。双光子HOM干涉结果由双光子态的交换对称性所决定,不同于由两个玻色子的不可区分性在HOM干涉中产生的聚束效应以及两个不可区分的费米子在HOM干涉后出现的反聚束效应^[175-176]。对于光量子态而言,入射的对称态将导致聚束效应而入射的反对称态将导致反聚束效应,从而形成不同形状的HOM干涉曲线^[177]。研究者选择使用超纠缠贝尔态制备对称态和反对称态,因为贝尔态集合作为正交归一的基矢集合作有其固有的对称性。在此希尔伯特空间,一个任意的满足交换对称性的量子态可以写为三个对称态的叠加,在HOM干涉中表现为聚束效应,而反对称态预示着HOM干涉中的反聚束效应。

图9(a)示出了偏振和OAM双自由度超纠缠双光子的所有16个贝尔态的HOM干涉结果。通过单光子的幺正变换,从自发参量下转换过程产生的一个特定超纠缠贝尔态出发,便可制备出所有16个超纠缠贝尔态。从HOM干涉曲线可以看出,超纠缠双光子干涉呈现了聚束效应和反聚束效应,包括10个对称的超纠缠贝尔态的HOM干涉(表现为聚束效应),以及6个反对称态的反聚束效应。该结果揭示了超纠缠态的对称性由其中包含的单自由度的反对称态个数的奇偶决定。奇数个单自由度反对称态表现为反对称性的超纠缠态,HOM干涉呈现为反聚束效应;而偶数个单自由度反对称态表现为对称性的超纠缠态,HOM干涉呈现为聚束效应。该结论完全可以推广到更高维、更多自由度编码的双光子HOM干涉,并可用于量子网络构建、量子计算和高维纠缠制备^[178-179]。

利用超纠缠双光子进行量子力学的基础检验一直是重要的研究课题^[180-181],例如在EPR不等式违背的实验中就利用了偏振和路径自由度的超纠缠源^[182]。而利用偏振-OAM超纠缠双光子干涉可实现交换相位的直接测量。量子理论指出:若两个粒子的所有物理性质都相同,则描述整体系统允许状态的单个粒子排列是对称或反对称的,这意味着存在两种交换相位,即 0 或者 π 。交换相位的实验测量对理解量子统计理论有着重要意义^[183]。对于4个OAM贝尔态的交换相位而言,理论上:其中3个对称态因具有交换对称性,交换相位为 0 ;而1个反对称态因具有交换反对称性,交换相位为 π 。对于仅在单自由度编码的双光子量子态而言,双光子的交换相位将表现为量子态的整体相位,而不能直接观测,所以对于交换相位的直接测量一直是一个挑战^[183]。研究者通过引入额外的偏振自由度来拓展希尔伯特空间,以此将原本不可直接测量的初始自由度中的全局相位变为可方便测量的拓展后的两自

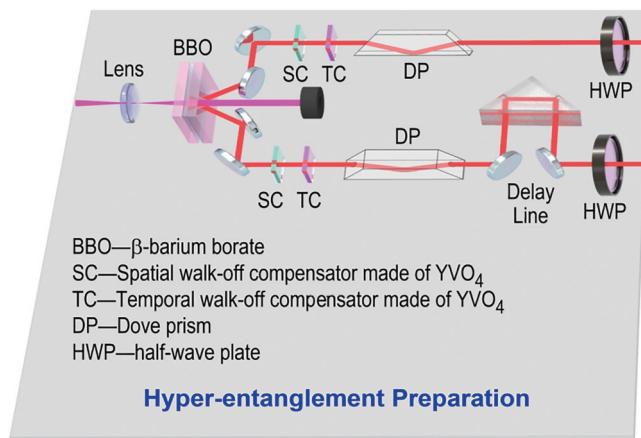


图8 超纠缠态的制备^[174]

Fig. 8 Preparation of hyperentangled states^[174]

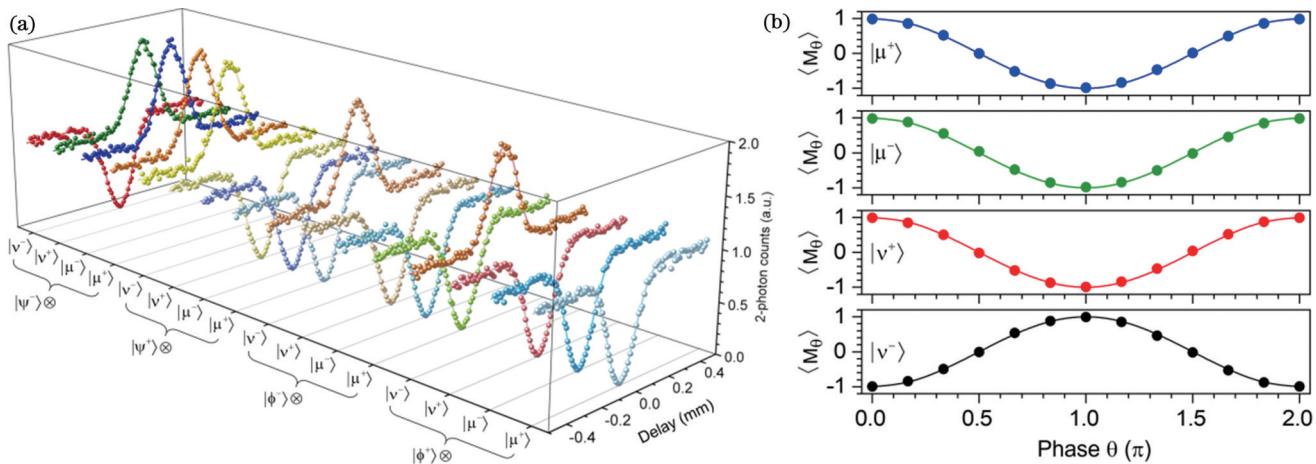


图9 超纠缠态的HOM干涉。(a)偏振-OAM超纠缠贝尔态的HOM干涉曲线^[174];(b)OAM贝尔态的交换相位测量^[174]
Fig. 9 HOM interference of hyperentangled states. (a) HOM interference curves of polarization-OAM hyperentangled Bell states^[174];
(b) exchange phase measurement of OAM Bell states^[174]

由度中的内部相位。图9(b)中示出了直接测量的具有对称性的OAM贝尔态的交换相位。通过在双光子量子干涉中引入更多的光子自由度,不仅发展了新的测量技术,而且也将激发量子应用中新功能的拓展,如完全贝尔态分析^[184]。

4 多光子空域调控

4.1 多光子高维纠缠态制备

复杂的量子信息任务需要更多的光子参与。当同时操纵的光子数不断增加,调控光子空域自由度的难度也随之加大。尽管如此,仍然有许多新颖的研究被报道^[31-34],其中制备多光子的高维纠缠态是重点关注的研究方向。

1987年,Greenberger、Horne和Zeilinger(GHZ)意识到两个以上粒子的纠缠意味着局域实在论与量子力学间的非统计冲突^[185],并且在实验上通过三光子的偏振纠缠证实了此预测^[186]。从此,GHZ态作为最大纠缠态成为量子纠缠态的代表性态之一,明确揭示了量子力学与经典物理学间的差异,成为量子计算和量子密码学等量子技术的关键^[187]。后续研究致力于在更大的希尔伯特空间实现GHZ态,包括通过增加纠缠光子的数目^[9]和充分利用光子的空域自由度^[32]实现GHZ态。

2016年利用光子OAM实现多光子高维纠缠态的工作被报道^[32-34],所制备的3光子(A,B,C)高维纠缠态可写为

$$|\varphi\rangle_{ABC} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left(|1\rangle_A | -1\rangle_B |1\rangle_C + |0\rangle_A |0\rangle_B |0\rangle_C + | -1\rangle_A |1\rangle_B |1\rangle_C \right), \quad (13)$$

式(13)中的三个组分分别表示:当A光子OAM拓扑荷为1时,B光子OAM拓扑荷为-1,C光子OAM拓扑荷为1;当A光子OAM拓扑荷为0时,B、C光子的

OAM拓扑荷也为0;当A光子OAM拓扑荷为-1时,B光子OAM拓扑荷为1,C光子OAM拓扑荷为1。

研究者主要利用了2.2节所介绍的由一对有着相对取向的Dove棱镜组成的单光子干涉仪,相比于前人工作中用此干涉仪筛选单光子态,研究者利用这个干涉仪的两个输入端口实现了两组不同光子对之间的双光子干涉。将此干涉仪用于多光子OAM纠缠态的筛选,只有当入射的光子具有相同的宇称时,才会有相应的符合计数。这将A、B、C光子投射到一个不对称的三光子纠缠态,A和B光子编码在| -1⟩,| 0⟩和| 1⟩构成的三维OAM空间,而C光子编码在| 0⟩和| 1⟩构成的二维OAM空间。该纠缠态在光子OAM的3×3×2维度上纠缠,表明有多种高维纠缠结构可以被选取,并可在多体系中实现相应制备^[188]。随后,研究者展示了一种新型的“分层”量子加密协议;在该协议中,双方在已由三方共享的安全信息基础上共享额外的安全信息层。除了在新型量子通信协议的应用之外,这种非对称纠缠态还表现了量子力学中存在的复杂关联^[189]。

2018年,三光子三维GHZ态在光子的OAM自由度中被成功制备^[34]。在已有研究的基础上,研究者提出了一种高维多端口的筛选装置,该装置可以在具有三个输入和三个输出的高维OAM空间中运行。在具体实验中,两对在其OAM三个维度上纠缠的光子被先行制备:

$$\begin{cases} |\varphi\rangle_{AB} = \alpha|0,0\rangle + \beta|-1,1\rangle + \beta|1,-1\rangle \\ |\varphi\rangle_{CD} = \alpha'|0,0\rangle + \beta'|-1,1\rangle + \beta'|1,-1\rangle \end{cases}, \quad (14)$$

式中: α' 和 β' 分别表示第二对光子量子态中相应组分的概率幅;A、B、C、D分别代表4个光子。随后,光子A、B、C进入OAM筛选装置,它由一系列嵌套的单

光子和双光子干涉仪组成。最后,通过相干模式投影将光子 A 投影到叠加态 $|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle_A + |1\rangle_A)$ 上,即可获得光子 B、C、D 之间的三维 GHZ 态:

$$|\varphi\rangle_{BCD} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|2,0,0\rangle + |1,-1,-1\rangle + |3,1,1\rangle)。 \quad (15)$$

该工作为实验研究更高维度的多方量子通信协议提供了新的可能。

除了使用光子 OAM 自由度等单一自由度制备多光子高维 GHZ 态外,利用光子的多个自由度实现高维 GHZ 态也极具前景^[32]。例如,利用三光子的多个自由度编码量子比特,制备了高达 18 bit 的 GHZ 态。制备过程可以分为两步。首先通过连续泵浦胶合 BBO 晶体,制备 6 光子的偏振 GHZ 态:

$$|\varphi\rangle^{(6)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle^{\otimes 6} - |V\rangle^{\otimes 6}), \quad (16)$$

式中: $|H\rangle^{\otimes 6}$ 和 $|V\rangle^{\otimes 6}$ 为 6 光子偏振 GHZ 态的两个组分,分别表示 6 个光子的偏振处于 $|H\rangle$ 和 $|V\rangle$ 。接下来,对于每个光子,分别编码其路径和 OAM 自由度。为进一步扩展量子比特的数量,利用 2.1 节中所介绍的空域编码元件在单光子干涉仪中的组合,可以将偏振自由度的信息同时编码到路径和 OAM 自由度中,最后获得 18 bit 的 GHZ 态:

$$|\varphi\rangle^{(18)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle^{\otimes 18} - |1\rangle^{\otimes 18}), \quad (17)$$

式中: $|0\rangle^{\otimes 18}$ 和 $|1\rangle^{\otimes 18}$ 为 18 bit GHZ 态中的两个组分,分别表示 18 bit 编码在 $|0\rangle$ 和 $|1\rangle$ 。

该实验的主要挑战集中在光子多自由度,尤其是两个空域自由度的操控与测量。在实验上,对每个光子都需要在其三个自由度上同时执行编码和测量操作,这就需要确保在其他自由度不受干扰的情况下对光子的其中一个自由度进行测量;尤其是 18 bit 量子态张成的希尔伯特空间维度为 262144 维,每测量一组基矢,都需分析全部 262144 个输出结果。首先测量光子的路径自由度,然后使用偏振分析仪测量光子的偏振自由度,最后通过确定性的量子门将 OAM 自由度的信息转移到偏振自由度,再通过一组偏振分析仪读取 OAM 自由度上的量子信息。利用两个受控非门(CNOT)实现的确定性量子门不仅将光子 OAM 自由度的信息转移到偏振自由度,还将光子还原为高斯模式,便于在偏振分析仪中进行进一步的分析计数。

通过自发参量下转换过程制备多光子纠缠态,目前已实现了 12 光子间的纠缠^[11],如图 10 所示。自发参量下转换纠缠源已用于如“九章”量子计算原型机等一系列量子计算任务^[190-192]。在其他量子体系,如原子体系中,已实现了 14 光子的纠缠^[193]。进一步增大纠缠光子数目的主要挑战是提升单个脉冲发生下转换过程的概率,其他困难还包括进一步提升光子的收集效率和探测器的探测效率。若能在已有的多光子纠缠的基础上增加参与纠缠光子的自由度个数,量子态空间将快速扩展,充分发挥高维体系的优势。若仅利用光子的单一自由度并不断增加光子数的方案制备 18 bit GHZ 态,计数率将变得很低。在此,由于同时使用了光子的三个自由度,在同样的泵浦光源下,计数率将会提高约 13 个量级,这展示了光子多自由度在编码量子比特方面的优势。

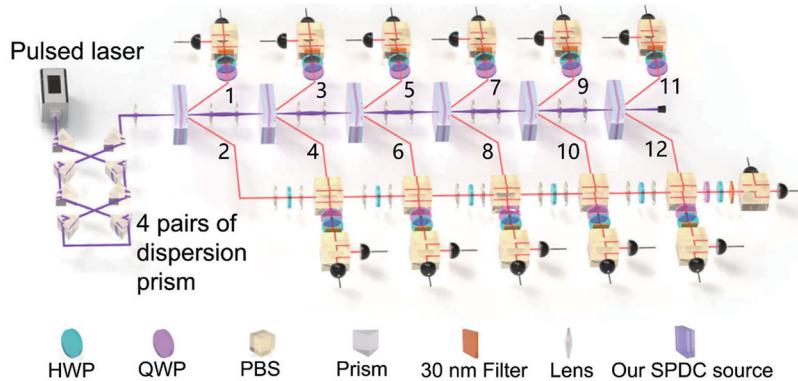


图 10 12 光子偏振纠缠光路^[11]

Fig. 10 Setup for generating 12-photon polarization entanglement state^[11]

4.2 多光子量子信息处理

真正展现量子光学奇妙特性的舞台即是利用多光子的高维纠缠性质完成经典光学力所不及的量子信息处理任务,如量子隐形传态^[164]、超密编码^[2]和量子网络构建^[194]等。相比于经典光学,甚至是单光子或者双光

子的量子信息处理,同时操纵多光子、多自由度的实验更具挑战性。

2015 年,首个基于多光子、多自由度调控的量子光学实验被报道^[31],研究者使用 6 个光子实现了偏振和 OAM 双自由度量子隐形传态。量子隐形传态有其

深邃的物理内涵和较长的研究历史历程^[108,165,195-197],使用单光子的两个自由度实现量子隐形传态是其中具有里程碑意义的工作。研究者使用6个光子依次泵浦三块BBO晶体,由自发参量下转换产生三对光子对,其中:第一对光子用于触发和制备待传输的量子态,同时在偏振和OAM两个自由度上进行编码;第二对光子制备在最大纠缠态上,用于执行两个自由度的Bell测量并接受传输的量子态;第三对光子用于光子非破坏测量,确保偏振和OAM自由度的Bell测量顺利进行。考虑到超纠缠Bell态不能同时完全区分,双自由度的隐形传态方案以1/32的概率区分两个超纠缠的贝尔态。借助于6光子11 bit量子态的偏振-OAM纠缠实验平台,成功实现了双自由度量子体系的隐形传态。

另一种被称为光子结合的量子信息任务也是前沿研究热点^[198]。因光子间不存在相互作用,迄今为止尚难以实现跨光子间的量子信息的复用和解复用。光子结合的物理过程希望将两个光子的二维量子态结合在一个光子的不同自由度上,并输出一个四维的量子态。输入的两个光子的量子态为

$$|\varphi\rangle_1 = \alpha|H\rangle_1 + \beta|V\rangle_1, \quad (18)$$

$$|\varphi\rangle_2 = \gamma|H\rangle_2 + \delta|V\rangle_2, \quad (19)$$

式中: $|H\rangle_{1(2)}$ 表示光子1(2)的偏振编码为 $|H\rangle$; $|V\rangle_{1(2)}$ 表示光子1(2)的偏振编码为 $|V\rangle$; α, β, γ 和 δ 都是复数,表示两个光子态中相应组分的概率幅,满足归一化条件 $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ 和 $|\gamma|^2 + |\delta|^2 = 1$ 。

经过量子结合过程之后输出的单光子态为

$$|\varphi\rangle_3 = \alpha\gamma|0\rangle_3 + \alpha\delta|1\rangle_3 + \beta\gamma|2\rangle_3 + \beta\delta|3\rangle_3, \quad (20)$$

式中: $|0\rangle, |1\rangle, |2\rangle, |3\rangle$ 是4维的逻辑比特,表示4维空间的4个本征模式;下标3表示承载光子结合后输出的量子信息的第三个光子。存在光子结合的逆过程——光子分裂,即单个光子的4维量子态可分成两个光子的2维量子态,每个光子携带1 bit量子态。这两个过程理论上可以在保持整体量子信息不变的条件下不断地迭代重复,从而提供一种灵活的量子互连,以连接量子信息的多粒子协议和多自由度协议^[199]。

光子结合过程在集成量子光学平台^[200]中具有诱人的应用前景,尤其是量子通信网络中的光子之间存在大量量子信息的复用与解复用^[199,201]。例如,如需要通过较高损耗的通信通道传输一个纠缠态,可以先通过光子结合过程将量子比特融合到更少数目的光子,以此达到在传输过程中降低损耗的目的。然后在接收端对通过传输后的光子进行逆过程解复用,以实现更高效的量子信息传输。即使光子组合和光子分裂实现的效率并不高,但由于在传输过程中的损耗随传输的光子数呈现指数增加,利用光子

结合和光子分裂仍然有望大幅提高整体量子信息传输效率。

迄今为止,已实现了将两光子的偏振态通过光子结合协议,融合到一个光子的路径和偏振的4维量子态上。研究者通过将目标光子分为两个路径,在不同的路径上分别实现CNOT操作,并利用辅助光子实现了光子结合过程。当有更多的光子参与这一过程,光子路径模式的不稳定性弊端将被放大。若能将OAM的特性用于光子结合,并将其拓展至更高的维度,将会使其在量子信息和量子计算领域得到更多的关注^[202]。

5 总 结

本文以光量子态的空域调控为主线,扼要介绍了关于光量子态应用于单光子空域编码、双光子空域纠缠以及多光子空域量子信息处理中的研究进展。单光子的量子信息编码已从单一自由度编码发展到多个自由度共同编码^[32]。量子信息在不同自由度之间通过线性光学元件如q-plate^[37]、SPP^[36]、SLM^[44]按需转换,基于这样的主动调控已搭建了如弱测量^[92]和量子随机行走^[100]等一系列量子光学平台。双光子纠缠态同样不局限于单一自由度的二维空间^[50],已在多自由度^[32]和高维体系^[28,118]中实现。与此同时,对高维纠缠源的测量也在同步发展^[140]。基于多自由度光量子态HOM干涉的成功实现为光量子技术在更高维领域中的拓展应用铺平了道路^[174]。多光子的空域量子调控虽然复杂困难,但是研究者们不断地在高维纠缠态的制备^[33-34]和光量子信息处理^[198]等方面取得重要进展。

双光子空域纠缠是通过SLM将原本偏振纠缠的光子转换为OAM纠缠的光子。通过Sagnac干涉仪可将不同的偏振加载不同的OAM,两个光子的OAM相差600h的双光子纠缠已被报道^[25]。随后的工作将纠缠光子的OAM量子数提高到10010^[27]。除了利用纠缠转换方式制备OAM纠缠光子以外,也实现了通过自发参量下转换制备高维OAM纠缠源,并进一步结合光子径向模式的调控实现了双光子在高于100维的希尔伯特空间中的纠缠^[26]。利用超纠缠双光子实现完整贝尔态分析是一个重要的研究领域。利用线性光学元件,理论上可以从16个超纠缠贝尔态中区分出7个^[203]。目前,实验上已将5个超纠缠Bell态分离出来,并达到了 (2.09 ± 0.01) bit的单光子超密编码^[204]。空域量子态不仅在自由空间中被广泛研究,在构建局域量子网络方面,近年来支持OAM模式的特种光纤成果丰硕^[205-207],有望实现高维量子信息的快速传输。使用OAM纠缠源实现如量子导引等也有望增强器件的抗噪音^[208]。在高维量子信息任务中,实现高维量子态转换的高维量子门是一种基本需求。单光子高维门主要包括高维Pauli-X门、高维Pauli-Z门和高维

Hadamard门^[209]。两光子的高维门主要包括高维控制循环门和高维控制相位门^[210]。利用单光子干涉仪或者多路径的高维干涉仪实现确定性的高维量子门将给量子信息处理带来更多可能。

对光量子态空域调控的研究,不仅可以选择自由空间中的自发参量下转换产生的光子,还可以考虑利用各种人工微结构产生和调控光子,这些微结构器件可实现高效的光束调制、偏振的局部控制,并显著提高发射和探测光子的效率。2008年,CNOT首次在硅基光子芯片上实现^[211],光量子芯片的研究由此开启。片上量子干涉^[212]、量子隐形传态^[213]、预报式光子数态的产生^[214]等工作被相继报道。通过将微透镜阵列与非线性晶体集成,实现了在100条路径上的自发参量下转换光子对的产生^[14]。同时,利用量子点在两个不同拓扑光子晶体的边界处创建了反向传播的单光子边缘态^[215]。各种微结构还可以应用于量子增强传感^[216]、量子态的非破坏弱测量^[217]、单光子的完美吸收^[218]和量子成像^[219]等。

空间结构光场是空域调控中的一个重要方面,被应用于非线性频率转换^[220]、光学微操纵^[221]和量子成像^[222]等多个领域。诸多结构光场被深入研究,包括柱对称局域线偏振矢量光场^[223]和杂化偏振矢量光场^[224],以及与OAM相关的高维结构光场^[225-226]和多奇点结构光场^[227]。这些新型矢量光场有望被用于高维量子态产生以及高维量子信息处理等领域。

光子与物质的相互作用一直是经典光学领域的重要研究主题,在光量子信息研究中同样如此。诸多矢量光场与物质相互作用的研究已被报道,特别是与原子气体的相互作用^[228-230]。在该研究领域,大部分研究工作属于半经典体系,可以期待空域编码的单光子与原子作用的研究成果不断涌现。

对于空域光量子态的调控尚有许多方面亟待进一步的深入研究,如更高维度的多光子最大纠缠源制备、高亮度OAM纠缠源产生以及不同光子自由度间高效率的转换接口等。

本文所重点关注的光量子态空域调控在量子光学和量子信息领域涉猎广泛、成果丰硕,然笔者绠短汲深、挂一漏万,草成此文,或可供研究者参考。

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Spatial Control of Photonic Quantum States (Invited)

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Abstract

Significance Photons have several important degrees-of-freedom available for control belonging to the spatial domain, such as the path and orbital angular momentum (OAM) degrees-of-freedom. These available multiple spatial degrees-of-freedom and the high dimensionality of each degree-of-freedom provide for us diverse spatial methods, which can achieve spatial control of photonic quantum states in multiple degrees-of-freedom, high dimensionality, and multi-photons. Specifically, the preparation of spatially entangled photon states and their applications in optical quantum information have attracted extensive attention. Both path and OAM degrees-of-freedom can theoretically construct infinite-dimensional Hilbert spaces. Therefore, path and OAM degrees-of-freedom have inherent advantages in realizing the field of high-dimensional coding, which has attracted more extensive attention from researchers. The high-dimensional coding and high-dimensional entanglement of the path and OAM degrees-of-freedom themselves continue to break records. The multi-degree-of-freedom entangled photonic modulation schemes in which two or more degrees-of-freedom are jointly involved have likewise made progress. It is important to summarize the existing research on spatial control of photonic quantum state to promote the future development of the field.

Progress The encoding of quantum information in single photons has evolved from a single degree-of-freedom to multiple degrees-of-freedom encoded together. On-demand conversion of quantum information among different degree-of-freedom through linear optical elements and such active modulation has built a series of quantum optical platforms such as weak measurements and quantum walks. Two-photon entangled states also emerge from the two-dimensional space of a single degree-of-freedom and are realized in multi-degree-of-freedom and high-dimensional systems. For two-photon spatial-domain entanglement, the original polarization-entangled photons are converted into OAM-entangled photons by SLM. Different polarizations can be loaded with different OAMs by a Sagnac interferometer, and two-photon entanglement of two photons with different OAMs has been reported. Subsequent work increases the OAM quantum number of entangled photons to 10010. In addition to the above preparation of OAM entangled photons using entanglement conversion, two-photon entanglement in Hilbert space higher than 100 dimensions has been realized by preparing a high-dimensional OAM entangled source through spontaneous parametric down-conversion and further combining it with the modulation of the radial modes of photons. At the same time, measurements of high-dimensional entangled sources develop in parallel. The successful realization of HOM interference based on multi-degree-of-freedom optical quantum states paves the way for the expansion of optical quantum technology in higher dimensions. Although the quantum modulation of the space domain of multi-photons is complex and difficult, researchers continue to make important progress in the preparation of high-dimensional entangled states and optical quantum information processing. The study of space-domain modulation of optical quantum states not only allows for selecting photons generated by transitions under spontaneous down conversion in free space but also considers using a variety of microstructures for the generation and modulation of photons. These microstructured devices allow for efficient beam modulation, localized control of polarization, and a significant enhancement of the efficiency of the emitted and detected photons. In the field of quantum photo generation, the generation of down converted photon pairs with spontaneous parametrization over 100 paths has already been achieved by integrating metal lens arrays with nonlinear crystals on a two-dimensional hypersurface. This holds the promise of generating high-dimensional hyperentangled and multiphoton states in an integrated and efficient manner.

Conclusions and Prospects In this review, starting from the linear control of a single photon in the spatial domain, we successively describe the spatial coding and transformation of a single photon, the preparation and measurement of two-photon entangled states, as well as the preparation of multi-photon high-dimensional spatial entangled states and their applications in quantum information. We mainly focus on the control in multi-degree-of-freedom and high-dimensional quantum information transformation. In addition, we discuss the recent progress on the spatial photonic quantum states in preparation, coding, measurement, and application. Meanwhile, possible solutions to some key issues are also explored. However, the study on the spatial control of photonic quantum states is still in its infancy and flourishing. There are many

challenging important scientific issues and key technologies that need to be solved and broken through: how to achieve high-quality high-dimensional hyperentangled sources based on the spontaneous parametric down-conversion process, how to realize high-dimensional entanglement of multi-photon and multi-degree-of-freedom, and how to construct a feasible way to characterize the high-dimensional spatially entangled states. The interaction of photons with matter has always been a fascinating topic in optical research, and this is also true in the study of optical quantum information. Many studies of the interaction of vector light with matter have been reported, especially concerning the interaction with atomic gases. Most of the experimental studies in this research area belong to the semi-classical regime. We are looking forward to the continuous flow of research results on the interaction of single photons with atoms encoded in the spatial domain.

Key words quantum optics; quantum information; quantum entanglement; high-dimensional quantum entanglement; multi-degree-of-freedom entanglement