

光学学报

基于两相交开口谐振环的超材料太赫兹带阻滤波器

袁航, 付旺廷, 刘祖耀, 饶志明*, 骆兴芳, 朱冠华, 吴帅克, 陈威

江西师范大学物理与通信电子学院, 江西南昌 330022

摘要 提出一种基于两相交开口谐振环(TI-SRR)的超材料太赫兹带阻滤波器, 通过改变TI-SRR线宽、环间间隔和半径大小, 探究各参数对滤波器透射系数的影响。研究了超材料太赫兹带阻滤波器三个谐振点处的电场和表面电流分布, 进而分析了滤波器的工作机理。为了验证理论模型的计算结果, 采用微纳光刻技术制备滤波器的实物样品, 使用太赫兹时域光谱系统进行测试。结果表明, 该滤波器有3个谐振点, 谐振频率分别为0.431、0.476、0.934 THz, 对应的透射系数(S_{21})分别为-42.518、-40.331、-14.132 dB, -10 dB阻带带宽分别为0.220 THz和0.026 THz。实测曲线整体趋势与仿真曲线保持一致, 阻带特性相较良好, 测试结果与仿真结果较为符合。该滤波器在新型通信设备和精密仪器领域有较高的应用价值。

关键词 超材料; 太赫兹; 带阻滤波器; 微纳光刻; 太赫兹时域光谱

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1 引言

太赫兹(THz)波指频率范围在0.1~10 THz、波长在0.03~3 mm的电磁波^[1]。THz频段是宏观电子学过渡到微观光子学的频段^[2], 具备微波和红外的特征^[3]。因其具有瞬态性^[4]、低能性^[5]、相干性^[6]等独特的性能优势, THz波在无线通信^[7-8]、医学成像^[9-10]、天文观测^[11-12]、无损检测^[13-14]、雷达^[15-16]等领域有广泛的应用价值。超材料是人为设计处理而来的复合型材料, 具有与自然界材料和物理合成材料不同的电磁特性^[17-18]。

THz滤波器是实现THz技术的重要功能器件, 将超材料运用在THz滤波器上并加以改造, 已研制出滤波性能较好的功能器件^[19]。2017年, 王志远等^[20]设计了一种基于可重构超材料的THz三带可调带阻滤波器。该滤波器各单元均由可动部分与固定部分构成, 改变可动部分与固定部分的间距可调节各阻带中心频率的位置。但是滤波器的调制深度不够, 滤波效果有待加强。2017年, 王俊林等^[21]设计了一种基于THz频段的柔性双频带带阻超材料滤波器。该滤波器有两个谐振频率且损耗系数均在-40 dB以下, 具有不错的带阻性能, 但是滤波器的两个阻带带宽均较窄。2019年, 徐永庆等^[22]设计了一种在THz频段内的柔性带阻超材料滤波器。可以通过控制超材料单元尺寸的长度

来调整阻带, 进而改变滤波器的谐振频率。但是滤波器结构复杂, 不易于实物加工制备。2022年, 张勇等^[23]通过加载开口谐振环(SRR)实现具有大抑制深度的THz带阻滤波器。改变SRR的几何参数, 控制人工表面等离激元(SSPPs)滤波器的阻带频率; 增加SRR的加载数量, 滤波器的抑制深度加深。该滤波器结构简单, 在THz等离子体器件中具有广泛的应用前景。2023年, 刘炳伟等^[24]提出了一种THz波段内的新型超高品质谐振(QBIC)金属超表面设计及其传感应用。该研究通过在金属超表面结构中引入非对称性来操纵电四极子与磁偶极子的干涉耦合, 从而诱导了Q因子高达503的QBIC激发, 拓展了光-物质相互作用的强度与广度, 在光生物调制等领域具有潜在应用。随着超材料和THz技术的发展, 设计出中心频率和带宽可调、结构简单且具有多频带传输性能的THz滤波器成为急须解决的问题^[25]。

本文提出一种两相交型开口谐振环(TI-SRR)结构的双层超材料THz带阻滤波器, 通过仿真优化滤波器结构参数, 实现其中心频率和带宽可调, 调制深度加深, 阻带抑制效果明显; 研究了滤波器在谐振点处的电场和表面电流分布, 进而分析了该滤波器的工作机理。采用微纳光刻技术制备滤波器实物样品, 用THz时域光谱(THz-TDS)系统测试了该滤波器的传输响应。

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通信作者: *raozm24@jxnu.edu.cn

2 模型设计

本文设计的超材料THz带阻滤波器由金属-介质基底-金属三层结构组成,介质基底采用介电常数为 $\epsilon=3.5$ 的聚酰亚胺(Polyimide),介质基底上下表面分别镶嵌着完全相同且对称的金属层,金属层采用电导率为 $\sigma=4.52 \times 10^7 \text{ S/m}$ 的铜(Copper)。如图1所示,单元结构各参数预设定如下:介质基底为正方形结

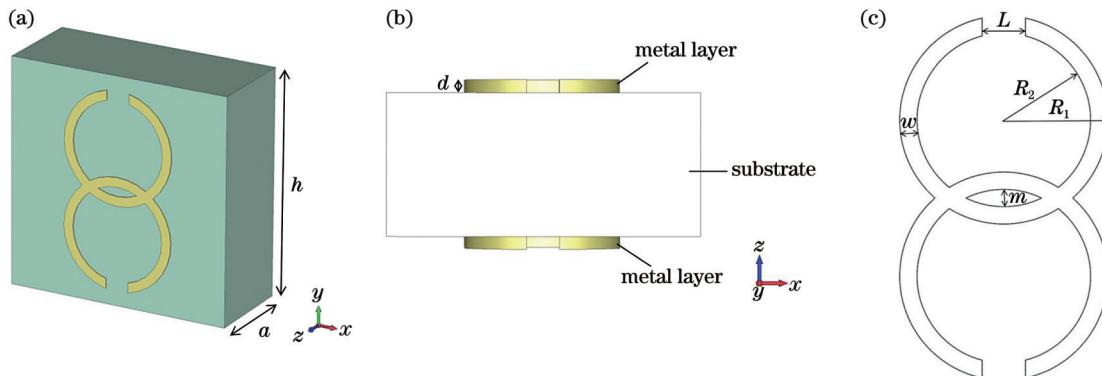


图1 超材料滤波器单元结构示意图。(a)三维示意图;(b)侧视图;(c)金属层结构示意图

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of metamaterial filter cell structure. (a) Three-dimensional schematic diagram; (b) side view; (c) schematic diagram of metal layer structure

3 超材料THz滤波器的性能分析

对超材料THz滤波器的多个参数,如金属线宽 w 、两相交金属开口环间隔 m 和金属开口环半径大小进行仿真实验,探究各参数对滤波器性能的影响。比较各参数下滤波器的透射系数(S_{21}),总结出最佳性能的设计方案。

3.1 金属线宽 w 对滤波性能的影响

首先研究金属线宽 w 对滤波性能的影响,保持其他参数不变,改变金属线宽 w 。对不同线宽 $w(2、4、6、8、10、12、14 \mu\text{m})$ 的超材料单元结构进行仿真,并对结果进行分析,仿真得到的透射系数如图2所示。由图2(a)可知,随着线宽 w 的增大,所有谐振点均向高

频移动,滤波器的调制深度加深,由低频到高频三个谐振点的透射系数分别从 -36.739 dB 到 -47.532 dB 、 -35.434 dB 到 -43.229 dB 、 -23.560 dB 到 -39.601 dB ,透射率逐渐降低,具有良好的多频带滤波性能。由图2(b)可知,当线宽 w 从 $2 \sim 14 \mu\text{m}$ 逐渐增加时,滤波器第一个阻带带宽由 0.190 THz 增加到 0.253 THz ,相对带宽由 44.98% 逐渐增加到 54.33% ,带宽范围增大,说明调节线宽可使滤波器带宽大范围调节,同时中心频率向高频方向移动。但是随着线宽增大,两交叉开口环中间形成的闭合环间隔缩小,环内共振强烈,导致在高频处出现杂波。因此在选择线宽时应当综合考虑,既要使带宽足够大,透射率足够低,同时避免出现杂波。经过仿真结果对比,本文选取线宽 w 为 $10 \mu\text{m}$ 。

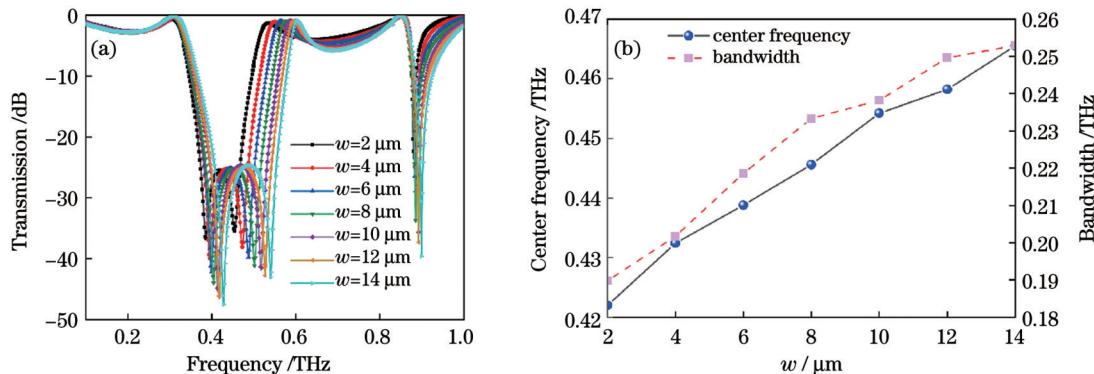


图2 金属线宽 w 对滤波性能的影响。(a)不同线宽 w 下滤波器的透射谱;

Fig. 2 Effect of metal line width w on filtering performance. (a) Filter transmission spectra at different line widths w ; (b) plot of line width w and center frequency of first resistance band versus bandwidth

3.2 TI-SRR 环间间隔 m 对滤波性能的影响

这一节分析两相交金属开口环间隔 m 对滤波器性能的影响,保持其他参数不变,改变环间间隔 m 。对不同间隔 m (10、20、30、40 μm)进行参数扫描分析。仿真得到的透射系数如图3所示。从图3(a)中可以看出,随着相交间隔 m 的逐渐增大,所有谐振点均向高频方向移动,中心频率可宽范围调节,上升沿对相交间隔 m 不敏感。但是下降沿随着相交间隔 m 的减小变得更陡峭,阻带衰减迅速,滤波器的调制深度减小。

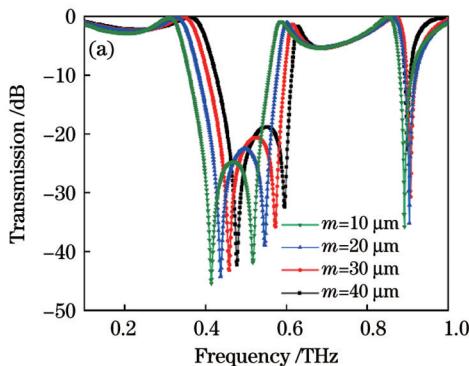


图3 间隔 m 对滤波性能的影响。(a)不同间隔 m 下滤波器的透射谱;

Fig. 3 Effect of spacing m on filtering performance. (a) Filter transmission spectra at different intervals m ; (b) plot of interval m and center frequency of first resistance band versus bandwidth

3.3 TI-SRR 半径大小对滤波器性能的影响

为了研究金属开口环半径大小对透射系数的影响,改变TI-SRR的外半径大小 R_1 ,由于线宽 w 不变,内半径 $R_2=R_1-w$,所以 R_2 随着 R_1 一起变化。对不同外半径 R_1 (56、60、64、68 μm)进行参数扫描分析。仿真得到的透射系数如图4所示。从图4(a)中可以看出,随着TI-SRR外半径 R_1 的逐渐增大,三个谐振点均向低频方向移动,第一谐振点和第二谐振点的透射系数逐渐减小,第三谐振点透射系数逐渐增大,滤波器下降沿不敏感,上升沿却变得陡峭。由图4(b)可以看出,当外半径 R_1 从 56 μm 逐渐增大到 68 μm 时,内半径 R_2 从 56 μm 逐渐增大到 58 μm,滤波器第一个阻带

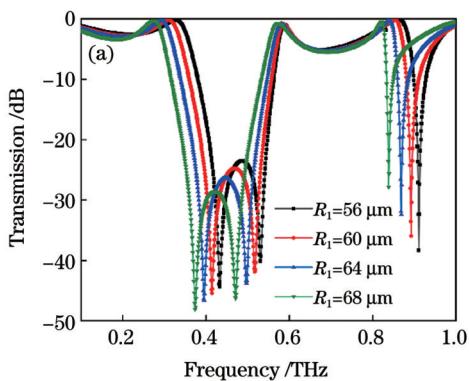
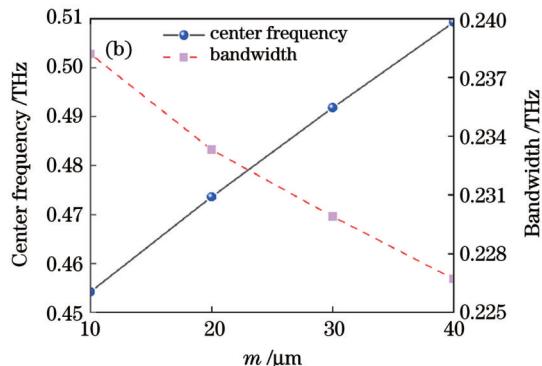


图4 外半径 R_1 对滤波性能的影响。(a)不同外半径 R_1 滤波器的透射谱;

Fig. 4 Effect of outer radius R_1 on filtering performance. (a) Transmission spectra of filters with different outer radii R_1 ; (b) plot of outer radius R_1 and center frequency of first resistance band versus bandwidth

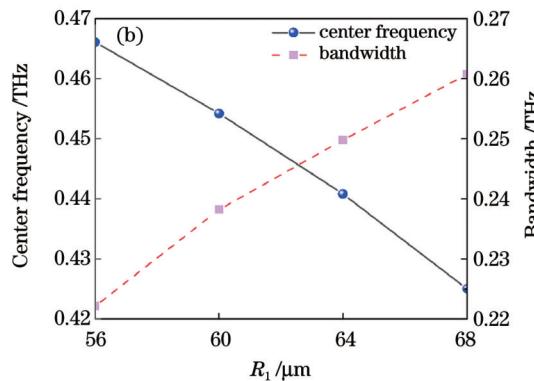
由图3(b)可以看出,当间隔 m 从 10 μm 逐渐增大到 40 μm 时,滤波器第一个阻带带宽由 0.238 THz 减小到 0.227 THz, 相对带宽由 52.44% 逐渐减小到 44.51%, 滤波器带宽小范围减小,说明调节间隔可使滤波器带宽精确调节。同时滤波器的透射率也在逐渐增大,不利于带阻滤波器性能的提高。所以间隔 m 越小, 滤波效果越好,但是随着间隔 m 的减小,环内共振越强烈,在高频处会出现杂波。因此在选择间隔 m 的取值时,应折中考虑,本文选取间隔 m 为 10 μm。



带宽由 0.222 THz 增大到 0.261 THz, 相对带宽由 47.65% 增大到 61.34%, 滤波器有效带宽增加, 在有效带宽内滤波性能透过率降低, 滤波性能得到改善, 谐振点移动范围均比较大, 说明半径的大小对谐振点位置的影响较大。但是随着半径的逐渐增大, 第三个谐振点的滤波效果变差, 因此结合仿真结果综合考虑, 外半径 R_1 选取为 60 μm。

3.4 超材料 THz 带阻滤波器仿真

确定各项具体的结构参数, 对超材料 THz 带阻滤波器进行仿真。当电磁波垂直入射到滤波器表面时, 其透射系数仿真曲线如图5所示。仿真工作频率范围在 0.1~1 THz 产生多个阻带, 阻带内的谐振频率分别



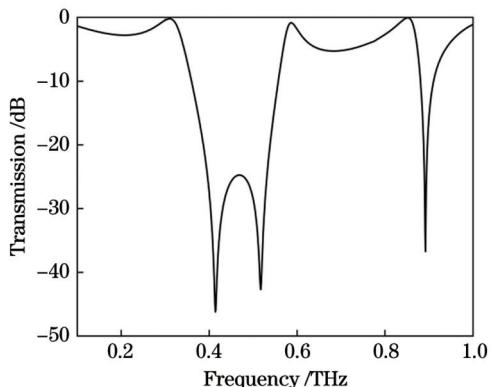


图5 超材料THz带阻滤波器的透射谱

Fig. 5 Transmission spectra of metamaterial THz band resistance filter

为 $f_1=0.414$ THz、 $f_2=0.518$ THz、 $f_3=0.892$ THz, 对应

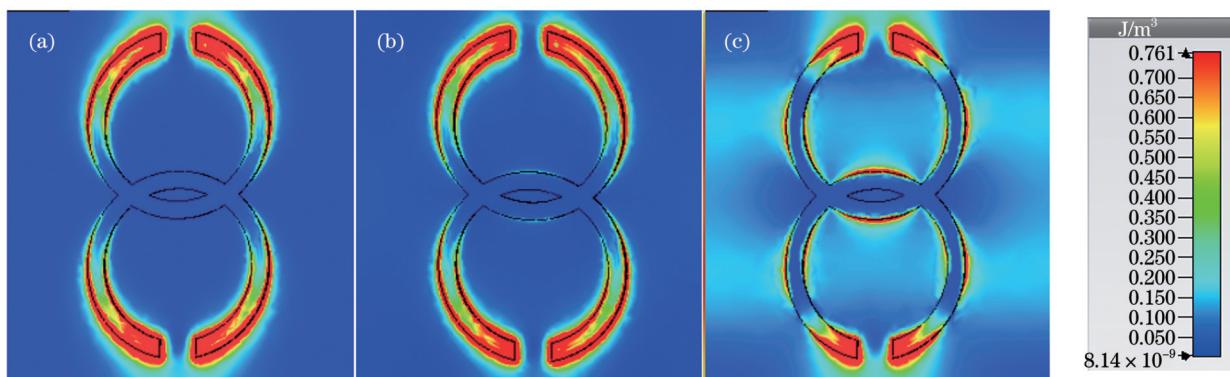


图6 三个谐振点的电场分布。(a)频率 $f_1=0.414$ THz的电场分布;(b)频率 $f_2=0.518$ THz的电场分布;(c)频率 $f_3=0.892$ THz的电场分布

Fig. 6 Electric field distributions of three resonance points. (a) Electric field distribution of frequency $f_1=0.414$ THz; (b) electric field distribution of frequency $f_2=0.518$ THz; (c) electric field distribution of frequency $f_3=0.892$ THz

各谐振点表面电流分布如图7所示,各谐振点的表面电流沿谐振结构两边对称分布。谐振频率 $f_1=0.414$ THz的表面电流主要集中在上层金属谐振单元,金属开口环内外侧电流均是由上部流向下部;谐振

的透射系数分别为 -46.210 、 -42.702 、 -36.735 dB,阻带带宽分别为 0.197 THz和 0.030 THz。

3.5 工作机理的分析

为了研究所设计滤波器的工作机理,分析该滤波器的电场分布和表面电流分布,在谐振频率 $f_1=0.414$ THz、 $f_2=0.518$ THz、 $f_3=0.892$ THz点分别设置电场和表面电流监视器。各谐振点电场分布如图6所示,电磁波垂直入射到滤波器表面,电场力使金属内电子运动从而产生振荡效应。在谐振频率 $f_1=0.414$ THz时,电场主要分布在上层金属结构的上下开口边缘处;在谐振频率 $f_2=0.518$ THz时,电场主要分布在上层金属结构的上下开口边缘处,同时下层金属的上下开口边缘处也有较弱的电场分布;在谐振频率 $f_3=0.892$ THz时,电场主要分布在上下层金属结构的上下开口边缘处,同时在结构边缘和中间的闭合环路也有电场分布。

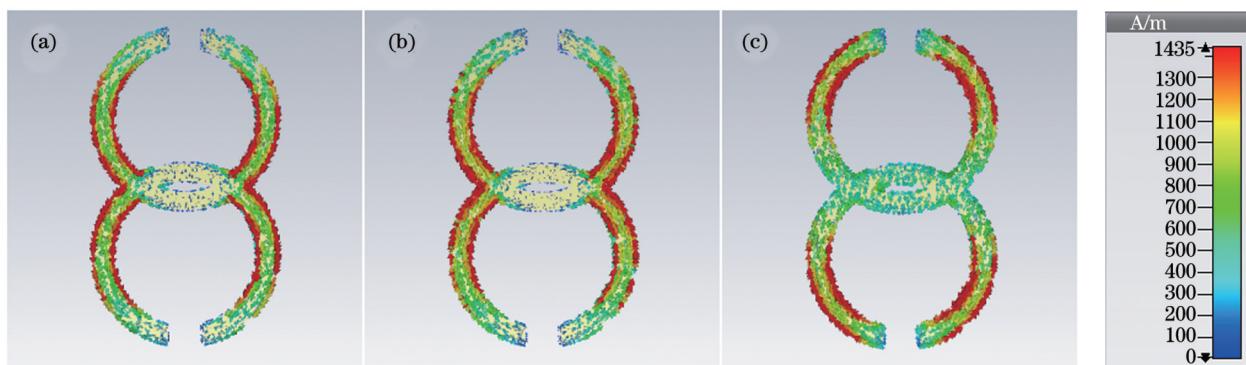


图7 三个谐振点的表面电流分布。(a)频率 $f_1=0.414$ THz的电流分布;(b)频率 $f_2=0.518$ THz的电流分布;(c)频率 $f_3=0.892$ THz的电流分布

Fig. 7 Surface current distributions of three resonance points. (a) Current distribution of frequency $f_1=0.414$ THz; (b) current distribution of frequency $f_2=0.518$ THz; (c) current distribution of frequency $f_3=0.892$ THz

属谐振单元均有分布,且它们的表面电流流向相反。

结合滤波器的电场分布和表面电流分布分析,在频率0.414 THz处,上层金属谐振单元的强电场分布表示在上下开口环处产生了强耦合谐振,从而产生谐振点 f_1 ;在频率0.518 THz处,上层金属谐振单元的电场分布表示在上下开口环处产生了耦合谐振,下层金属谐振单元在上下开口环处也有小的电场分布,加强了该频率处的谐振,从而产生了谐振点 f_2 ;在频率0.892 THz处,上下层金属谐振单元均有强电场分布,这两层结构之间激发表面等离子体,进而产生了相互的耦合作用,产生谐振点 f_3 。各谐振点处表面电流在金属谐振单元内外侧均有流动,电流在金属谐振单元的上下开口环处产生强烈共振,当入射的电磁波频率与共振频率相等时,电磁波的能量全部用来维持电子振荡,那么此时透射系数为零。

4 加工与测试

采用微纳光刻技术制备滤波器的实物样品,验证所设计超材料THz带阻滤波器的仿真滤波性能,制备流程如图8所示。首先进行掩模板的制作,采用5 cm玻璃铬板,曝光效果更好。将购入的100 μm聚酰亚胺进行表面预处理,使用丙酮、异丙醇和去离子水依次超声清洗5~10 min,去除表面杂质,最后用氮气吹干。

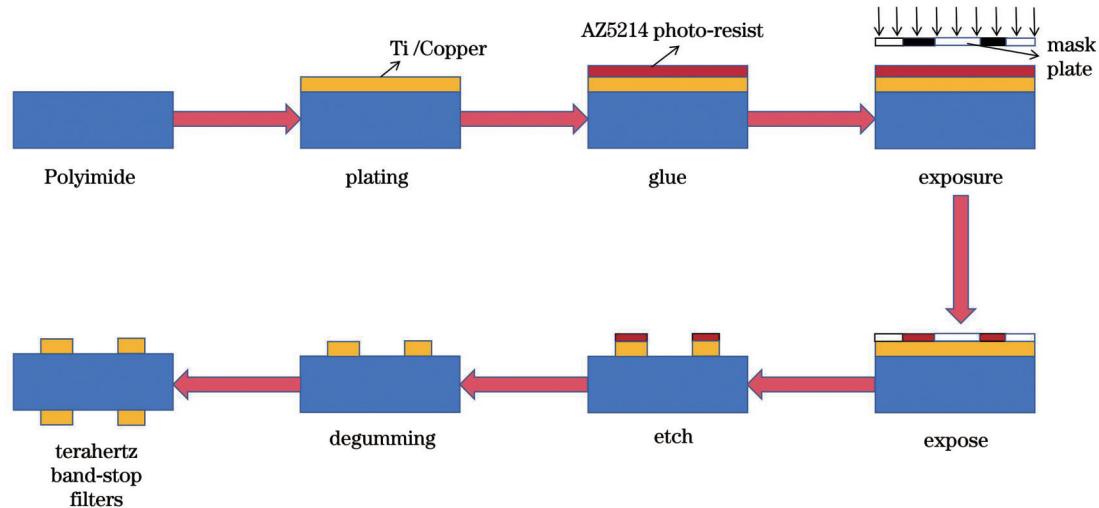


图8 微纳光刻的具体过程

Fig. 8 Specific process of micro-nano lithography

制备后的样品实物如图9所示,实物样品的外半径 R_1 为60.260 μm,内半径 R_2 为49.051 μm,开口长度 L 为24.063 μm,铜的厚度 d 接近1 μm。为了验证THz滤波器实物的滤波性能,使用THz-TDS系统进行测试,采用的设备为博太赫兹信息科技(武汉)有限公司生产的全光纤耦合式THz时域光谱仪,主要性能参数如表1所示。

当电磁波垂直入射到THz带阻滤波器样品表面时,其透射谱如图10所示。测试结果有3个谐振点,谐

振频率分别为0.431、0.476、0.934 THz,对应的透射系数分别为-42.518、-40.331、-14.132 dB,-10 dB阻带带宽分别为0.220 THz和0.026 THz。相比仿真结果,各谐振点发生偏移,实测阻带抑制效果没有仿真效果好,尤其在高频处差距明显,但整体曲线趋势保持一致。实物测试结果与仿真结果存在一定的差异,造成该差异的原因主要有:1)制作过程存在加工精度的误差,导致中心频率发生偏移;2)磁控溅射金属铜暴露在空气中,导致部分金属被氧化;3)刻蚀金属铜没有将多

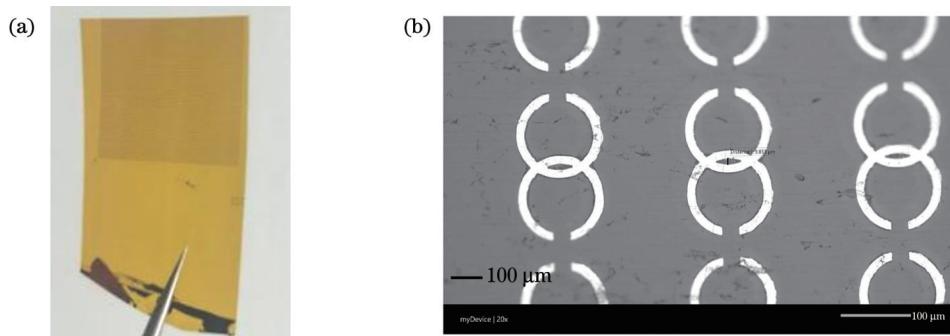


图9 滤波器实物及金属谐振单元。(a)滤波器样品实物图;(b)电子显微镜下金属谐振单元结构图

Fig. 9 Filter object and metal resonance unit. (a) Filter sample physical drawing; (b) structure of metal resonance unit under electron microscope

表1 全光纤耦合式THz光谱仪的主要参数

Table 1 Main parameters of all-fiber coupled THz spectrometer

Main parameter	Value
Spectral range /THz	0.1~5.5
Spectral resolution /GHz	<2.5
Dynamic range /dB	>85
Operating temperature /°C	0~40

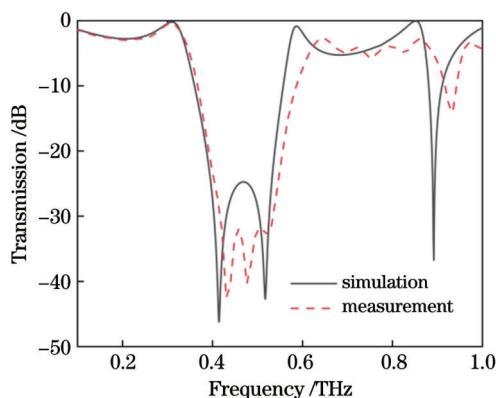


图10 THz带阻滤波器样品测试频谱图

Fig. 10 Test spectrum map of THz band resistance filter sample

余的铜去除干净;4)测试过程虽然往设备中添加了氮气,但是不能保证完全处在去湿去噪的环境中;5)测试设备存在的误差。

5 结 论

本文设计了一种基于超材料的THz带阻滤波器,工作频率在0.1~1THz时产生多个阻带,仿真结果显示三个谐振频率分别为0.414、0.518、0.892 THz,对应的透射系数分别为-46.210、-42.702、-36.735 dB,具有良好的带阻性能。通过改变金属线宽、环间间隔和金属开口环半径对滤波器性能进行了优化并总结出最佳设计方案,在此过程中,中心频率和带宽均可实现调节。增大线宽可较大范围调节带宽,减小间隔可对滤波器带宽精调,解决了带宽调节不灵敏的问题,同时透射率降低,中心频率在较大范围可调。增大金属谐振

单元结构半径,滤波器透射率降低,带宽增长较大。根据THz滤波器的电场和表面电流分布分析了滤波器的工作机理。采用微纳光刻技术制备滤波器实物样品并用THz-TDS系统测试,考虑测试过程存在的误差,测试结果与仿真结果较为符合。该带阻滤波器具有结构简单、阻带透射率低、调制深度深等优势,使得它在新型通信设备和精密仪器领域有较高的应用价值。此外,该滤波器通过优化结构设计提高滤波性能,为THz即时可调谐带阻滤波器的研究奠定了基础。

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Metamaterial Terahertz Band-Stop Filter Based on Two Intersecting Split-Ring Resonance

Yuan Hang, Fu Wangting, Liu Zuyao, Rao Zhiming*, Luo Xingfang, Zhu Guanhua,
Wu Shuaike, Chen Wei

College of Physics and Communication Electronics, Jiangxi Normal University, Nanchang 330022, Jiangxi, China

Abstract

Objective Terahertz filter is an important functional device for realizing terahertz imaging, terahertz communication, and other terahertz application technologies, and in-depth study of terahertz filters plays a great role in promoting the development of terahertz technologies. Therefore, the design of terahertz filters with a wide range of adjustable center frequency, sensitive bandwidth adjustment, deep modulation depth, simple structure, and multi-band transmission performance has become an urgent problem. In this study, a metamaterial terahertz band-stop filter based on two intersecting split-ring resonance (TI-SRR) is designed. It can effectively expand the bandwidth adjustment range, adjust the center frequency, reduce the transmittance, and make the stopband attenuate rapidly. At the same time, it has multi-band filtering and is easy to fabricate and process. The metamaterial terahertz band-stop filter has high application value in the field of new communication equipment and precision instruments.

Methods In this experiment, the effect of each parameter on the performance of the filter is investigated by varying the line width, inter-ring spacing, and radius size of the TI-SRR. The transmission coefficients of the filter under each parameter are compared, and the design scheme with the best performance is summarized. The electric field and surface current distributions at the three resonance points of the metamaterial band-stop filter are analyzed, so as to investigate the working mechanism of the filter. In order to verify the calculation results of the theoretical model, physical samples of the filter are prepared by micro-nanolithography and tested using a terahertz time-domain spectroscopy (THz-TDS) system.

The results of the actual measurement and simulation are compared to find the cause of the error.

Results and Discussions Simulation experiments are carried out on several parameters of the metamaterial terahertz band-stop filter, while other parameters are kept unchanged. When the line width w gradually increases from 2 to 14 μm , the filter's first stopband bandwidth increases from 0.190 to 0.253 THz, and the relative bandwidth radually increases from 44.98% to 54.33%. The bandwidth range increases, and the center frequency is shifted to the high-frequency direction, while the filter's modulation depth deepens. However, as the line width increases, the resonance in the ring is strong, and clutter appears at high frequencies. The line width w is selected to be 10 μm (Fig. 2). When the spacing m gradually increases from 10 to 40 μm , the first stopband bandwidth of the filter decreases from 0.238 to 0.227 THz, and the relative bandwidth gradually decreases from 52.44% to 44.51%. The bandwidth of the filter decreases slightly, and the adjustment of the spacing allows the filter bandwidth to be adjusted precisely. The transmittance of the filter is gradually increasing, which is not favorable to the performance of the band-stop filter. Therefore, smaller spacing indicates a better filtering effect. However, as the spacing m decreases, the resonance in the ring becomes stronger, and clutter occurs at high frequencies. The spacing m is selected to be 10 μm (Fig. 3). When the outer radius R_1 gradually increases from 56 to 68 μm , the inner radius R_2 gradually increases from 56 to 58 μm , and the first stopband bandwidth of the filter increases from 0.222 to 0.261 THz. The relative bandwidth increases from 47.65% to 61.34%, and the effective bandwidth of the filter increases. The filter performance transmittance is reduced within the effective bandwidth, and the filter performance is improved. However, with the gradual increase in the radius, the filtering effect of the third resonance point becomes worse, and the outer radius R_1 is selected to be 60 μm after comprehensive consideration (Fig. 4). The physical samples of the filter are prepared by micro-nano lithography (Fig. 10). The measured results are shifted at each resonance point compared with the simulation, and the measured stop-band suppression effect is not as good as that of the simulation. Especially, the gap is obvious at the high frequency, but the overall curve trend remains consistent.

Conclusions In this study, a terahertz band-stop filter based on metamaterials is designed to optimize the performance of the filter by varying the metal line width, inter-ring spacing, and metal open-ring radius, and the optimal design is concluded. The working mechanism of the filter is analyzed based on the electric field and surface current distributions of the terahertz filter. The physical filter samples are prepared by micro-nano lithography and tested by the THz-TDS system. Test results are comparable with the simulation results considering the errors in the test process. The band-stop filter has the advantages of a simple structure, adjustable center frequency, fine-tunable bandwidth, wide range adjustment, low stopband transmittance, and deep modulation depth.

Key words metamaterials; terahertz; band-stop filters; micro-nano lithography; terahertz time-domain spectroscopy