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# 热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃 非线性集成光学波导(特邀)

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**摘要:** 硫化物玻璃是发展非线性集成光学器件的良好材料, 特殊的理化特性使得硫化物玻璃集成光学波导的制备成为研究的难点。对硫化物玻璃波导的制备工艺进行了综述, 重点介绍利用硫化物玻璃在熔融状态下流动性好的特点, 采用热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃波导的工艺。该方法避免了对硫化物玻璃薄膜完整性的破坏, 以及光刻胶显影液对硫化物玻璃材料的腐蚀作用, 可以得到高质量的具有小模场面积的倒脊型硫化物玻璃波导。实验测试表明, 采用热熔融自回流方法制备的硫化物玻璃波导具有良好的三阶非线性光学特性和受激布里渊散射特性。最后, 展望了采用该方法发展硫化物玻璃非线性集成光学器件及其片上系统的研究方向和前景。

**关键词:** 硫化物玻璃; 非线性光学器件; 集成光学波导; 三阶光学非线性; 受激布里渊散射

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## 0 引言

集成光学的概念在 20 世纪 60 年代被首次提出, 通过将光学器件集成在芯片上, 使其具有体积小、稳定性高、功耗低等优势。经过几十年的发展, 集成光学领域已经取得极大进展。在集成光学器件中引入非线性光学过程, 实现光子的产生和调控等功能, 一直是集成光学的重要研究方向之一<sup>[1-3]</sup>。

硫化物玻璃是实现非线性集成光学器件的重要候选材料<sup>[4-7]</sup>。硫化物玻璃(Chalcogenide Glass, ChG)也称硫系玻璃, 是由硫系元素中的硫(S)、硒(Se)、碲(Te)这三种元素中的一种或多种, 与其他的元素如砷(As)、锗(Ge)、锑(Sb)等共价结合而形成的非晶态无机玻璃材料<sup>[4]</sup>。硫化物玻璃同时具有高非线性折射率与低双光子吸收的特点<sup>[8]</sup>, 具有优良的三阶非线性光学特性。另一方面, 其较高的线性折射率与较低的声速可以使光学模式与声学模式同时限制在硫化物玻璃波导中<sup>[9]</sup>, 便于实现高效率的光声相互作用。因此, 硫化物玻璃被广泛地应用于各种非线性集成光学器件的研究。但是, 与在集成光学中常用的二氧化硅玻璃和晶体硅材料相比, 硫化物玻璃的理化特性较为特殊<sup>[4, 10-11]</sup>。硫化物玻璃的软化点和熔融点普遍比较低, 硬度偏软且材质脆易碎裂, 并且易受碱性溶液腐蚀, 这些特性使得传统的半导体微细加工工艺难以直接应用于硫化物玻璃集成光学器件的制备。因此, 高质量硫化物玻璃集成光学器件, 特别是光波导结构的制备工艺一直是相关研究的重点与难点。

本文对硫化物玻璃集成光学波导的制备工艺进行了全面的综述, 重点介绍利用硫化物玻璃在熔融状态

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下流动性好的特点,采用热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃波导的工艺<sup>[12-13]</sup>。这种方法避免了对硫化物玻璃薄膜完整性的破坏,以及光刻胶显影液对硫化物玻璃材料的腐蚀作用,可以得到高质量的具有小模场面积的倒脊型硫化物玻璃波导,适合发展非线性集成光学器件。首先,简要介绍硫化物玻璃材料的基本光学特性,进而对硫化物玻璃波导的制备工艺进行了全面的综述。然后,系统介绍了基于热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃波导的工艺流程和样品效果,以及波导样品的三阶非线性光学特性和受激布里渊散射特性的实验测试结果。最后,展望了采用该方法发展硫化物玻璃非线性集成光学器件及其片上系统的新研究方向。

## 1 硫化物玻璃的光学特性

与常见的氧化物玻璃等材料相比,硫化物玻璃具有一些独特的光学特性。首先,硫化物玻璃原子质量相对较大、声子振动能量较低,因此具有良好的中红外传输特性<sup>[4]</sup>。其中,硫基玻璃的中红外透明波段在长波方向可以达到 11  $\mu\text{m}$ ,硒基与碲基玻璃则分别可以达到 15  $\mu\text{m}$  与 20  $\mu\text{m}$  以上。这使得硫化物玻璃在中红外研究领域得到极大关注<sup>[14-16]</sup>。

此外,硫化物玻璃还具有明显的光致效应。当硫化物玻璃受到特定波长的光照射时,会引起内部化学键的改变,从而导致材料物理特性的变化。硫化物玻璃中的光致效应包括光致暗化<sup>[17-18]</sup>、光致扩散<sup>[19]</sup>、光致结晶<sup>[20]</sup>等多种效应。利用硫化物玻璃的光致效应发展出了激光直写制备硫化物玻璃波导、布拉格光栅或者光子晶体微腔等结构的工艺方法<sup>[21-23]</sup>。硫化物玻璃中还存在一类特殊的相变材料(Phase-Change Material, PCM)<sup>[24]</sup>,这些材料在特定波长与功率的光照射下可以实现非晶态与晶态之间的相互转化,从而实现器件物理特性的动态调控。利用这一特点,可以实现光开关、光存储以及超表面的动态调控等功能<sup>[25-28]</sup>。

硫化物玻璃最受关注的特性之一是其良好的光学非线性特性。硫化物玻璃普遍具有较高的线性折射率  $n$  (一般为 2~3) 与三阶非线性折射率  $n_2$ , 表 1 为几种常见的三阶非线性光学材料与器件在通信波段的参数对比<sup>[4]</sup>。以常见的硫化砷玻璃  $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$  为例,其非线性折射率约为  $n_2 = 2.9 \times 10^{-18} \text{ m}^2/\text{W}$ , 比二氧化硅玻璃高出两个数量级。与此同时,硫化砷玻璃的双光子吸收(Two-Photon Absorption, TPA)系数远低于晶体硅,因此硫化砷玻璃波导具有远高于硅波导的三阶非线性优值(Figure of Merit, FOM)。这些特性使得硫化物玻璃成为实现三阶非线性集成光学器件的良好材料。

表 1 几种典型三阶非线性光波导在通信波段的光学参数<sup>[4]</sup>

Table 1 Optical parameters of typical third-order nonlinear waveguides at telecom band<sup>[4]</sup>

| Materials   | $n_2/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{W}^{-1})$ | $\gamma/(/ \text{W} \cdot \text{km}^{-1})$ | Loss/ $(\text{dB} \cdot \text{m}^{-1})$ | TPA/ $(\text{m} \cdot \text{W}^{-1})$ | FOM  |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| High nonlinearity $\text{SiO}_2$ fiber <sup>[29]</sup>                    | $3.2 \times 10^{-20}$                  | 21   | $10^{-3}$                               | —                                     | 大    |
| $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ fiber <sup>[30]</sup>                             | $2 \times 10^{-18}$                    | 160  | 0.88                                    | $6.2 \times 10^{-15}$                 | 208  |
| $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$ fiber <sup>[31]</sup>                            | $9 \times 10^{-16}$                    | 1 200                                      | 1                                       | $2.5 \times 10^{-12}$                 | 2.3  |
| $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ ridge waveguide <sup>[32]</sup>                   | $2.9 \times 10^{-18}$                  | 1 700                                      | 5                                       | $6.2 \times 10^{-15}$                 | 304  |
| Dispersion optimized $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ waveguide <sup>[33]</sup>    | $3 \times 10^{-18}$                    | 9 900                                      | 60                                      | $6.2 \times 10^{-15}$                 | 312  |
| $\text{Ge}_{11.5}\text{As}_{24}\text{Se}_{64.5}$ nanowire <sup>[34]</sup> | $9 \times 10^{-18}$                    | 136 000                                    | 250                                     | $1 \times 10^{-13}$                   | 60   |
| Silicon nanowire waveguide <sup>[35]</sup>                                | $6 \times 10^{-18}$                    | 150 000                                    | 400                                     | $5 \times 10^{-12}$                   | 0.77 |

另一方面,硫化物玻璃的光弹系数与布里渊增益系数较高,具有良好的光声特性<sup>[9,36]</sup>。目前在光声微腔和光声晶体研究中通常使用的硅材料声速较高,一般的硅条形波导或脊波导无法有效限制声学模式,会导致声波泄露到衬底材料中。因此需要制备悬空的硅波导或微腔结构<sup>[37-38]</sup>以限制声波,而这增加了制备工艺的复杂度,并且需要额外的辅助结构来实现声学模式耦合等功能<sup>[39]</sup>。与晶体硅材料相比,硫化物玻璃具有相对较低的声速,可以将声波有效地限制在硫化物玻璃材料中,有望发展非悬空的新型光声相互作用器件。表 2 展示了几种常见光声相互作用材料的光声特性对比<sup>[9]</sup>。可以看到,硫化砷玻璃的折射率高于二氧化硅,并且硫化砷玻璃中的声速低于二氧化硅中的声速,因此将硫化砷玻璃器件制备在二氧化硅衬底上,就可以将光模与声模同时限制在硫化砷玻璃中,进而实现高效的光声相互作用。

表2 几种典型集成光学材料的光声特性参数<sup>[9]</sup>  
 Table 2 Optical and elastic parameters of typical materials for photonic integration<sup>[9]</sup>

| Materials                       | Refractive index $n$ | Velocity of longitudinal sound wave $v_l / (\text{m s}^{-1})$ | Brillouin gain coefficient $g_B / (\text{m W}^{-1})$ | Photoelastic coefficient $\rho_{12}$ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| SiO <sub>2</sub>                | 1.45                 | 5 960   | $4.52 \times 10^{-11}$                               | 0.286                                |
| As <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>  | 2.45                 | 2 500   | $0.74 \times 10^{-9}$                                | 0.244                                |
| As <sub>2</sub> Se <sub>3</sub> | 2.8                  | 2 250   | $6 \times 10^{-9}$                                   | 0.266                                |
| CaF <sub>2</sub>                | 1.429                | 6 600   | $2.8 \times 10^{-11}$                                |                                      |
| Si                              | 3.5                  | 8 900   |  | -0.017                               |

## 2 硫化物玻璃集成光学器件的制备工艺

硫化物玻璃具有良好的非线性光学特性,是实现非线性集成光学器件的良好材料。但是由于硫化物玻璃独特的材料特性,硫化物玻璃集成光学器件的制备工艺一直是相关研究的重点与难点。近年来发展出了多种制备硫化物玻璃集成光学器件的工艺方法,其中最常见的是刻蚀法。首先利用热蒸发<sup>[40-41]</sup>、磁控溅射<sup>[42]</sup>、化学气相沉积<sup>[43]</sup>、脉冲激光沉积<sup>[44]</sup>等方法在衬底上制备高质量的硫化物玻璃薄膜,之后在薄膜上进行紫外光刻或者电子束光刻,最后使用刻蚀工艺完成器件的制备。利用硫化物玻璃材料易溶解于碱性溶液的特性,可以使用NH<sub>4</sub>OH等碱性溶液对硫化物玻璃薄膜进行湿法刻蚀(如图1(a)<sup>[45]</sup>)。但湿法刻蚀具有各向同性特性,会造成严重的侧蚀现象,从而难以精确地控制器件的结构尺寸。因此,感应耦合等离子体(Inductively Coupled Plasma, ICP)刻蚀或者反应离子刻蚀(Reactive Ion Etching, RIE)等干法刻蚀工艺逐渐取代湿法刻蚀,成为制备集成硫化物玻璃器件的重要方法<sup>[40,46-50]</sup>。然而由于硫化物玻璃易溶解于碱性溶液,因此光刻中使用的碱性显影液会腐蚀硫化物玻璃薄膜,从而影响器件的质量<sup>[4,11]</sup>。为解决这一问题,研究者提出在制备过程中引入保护层以防止工艺对硫化物玻璃薄膜造成的损伤。2010年,CHOI D等在硫化物玻璃薄膜上制备了聚甲基丙烯酸甲酯(PMMA)与底部抗反射涂层(BARC)保护层,之后再行光刻与刻蚀的工艺,以防止显影液对于硫化物玻璃薄膜的损伤<sup>[51]</sup>。利用这一工艺方法制备的As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>脊波导样品截面电镜照片如图1(b),波导尺寸为2 μm×0.85 μm,在1 550 nm波段的传输损耗约为0.6 dB/cm。2021年,ZHANG Rizhen等使用二氧化硅作为保护层,并在刻蚀之前利用等离子体处理去除显影工艺中的残留成分,制备出了如图1(c)所示的GeSbSe微盘<sup>[47]</sup>,其在1 550 nm波段的Q值约为5×10<sup>5</sup>。此外,刻蚀气体的选择也是影响刻蚀效果的重要因素。2015年CHILES J等采用氯气(Cl<sub>2</sub>)代替此前常用的CHF<sub>3</sub>或者CF<sub>4</sub>作为刻蚀气体,制备了如图1(d)所示的高质量Ge<sub>23</sub>Sb<sub>7</sub>S<sub>70</sub>波导样品<sup>[52]</sup>,波导截面尺寸为700 nm×650 nm,在1 550 nm波段的传输损耗为0.54 dB/cm。

剥离法也是制备集成硫化物玻璃器件的常用方法之一<sup>[53-55]</sup>。首先在衬底上旋涂一层光刻胶,利用光刻将图案转移到光刻胶上。之后使用热蒸发等工艺将硫化物玻璃薄膜沉积到带有图案的光刻胶之上,并使用有机溶剂去除衬底上的光刻胶。此时位于光刻胶上的硫化物玻璃薄膜也随之被去除,从而在衬底上留下与光刻胶图案相反的硫化物玻璃薄膜。2007年HU Juejun等首次采用剥离法制备出了Ge<sub>23</sub>Sb<sub>7</sub>S<sub>70</sub>波导样品<sup>[53]</sup>,其中宽度为1.2 μm的条形波导与脊波导在波长1 550 nm处的传输损耗分别为3.5 dB/cm与0.5 dB/cm,但是波导侧壁具有约65°的倾斜角度。2010年HU Juejun等利用剥离法制备了As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>微环样品,并在剥离后对样品进行加热回流以降低表面粗糙度<sup>[56]</sup>(图1(e))。制备出的波导样品截面尺寸为800 nm×400 nm,在1 550 nm处的传输损耗约为3.5 dB/cm。2020年LI Chengdong等利用剥离法制备了嵌在衬底中的条形Ge<sub>28</sub>Sb<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>60</sub>波导<sup>[55]</sup>(图1(f)),其中尺寸为3 μm×1 μm的波导样品传输损耗为2.2 dB/cm。

除了以上主流制备工艺方法,硫化物玻璃材料特殊的理化特性还为此类集成光学器件的制备提供了新手段。比如,溶液旋涂法利用了硫化物玻璃易溶于有机胺等溶剂的特性<sup>[57-59]</sup>。首先,将硫化物玻璃粉末放置于乙二胺或正丙胺等有机胺溶剂中,经过充分搅拌后将溶液旋涂于衬底上,再经过加热使溶剂挥发,即可形成硫化物玻璃薄膜。1982年CHERN G C与LAUKS I利用溶液旋涂法制备了几种常见的硫化物玻璃薄膜,并对薄膜的物理特性进行了研究<sup>[60]</sup>。如果进一步将溶液旋涂在刻有图案的衬底上,溶液则会填充到衬底的图案中,再将溶剂挥发后即可形成相应的倒脊型硫化物玻璃器件。2014年ZHA Yunlai等利用溶液旋涂法

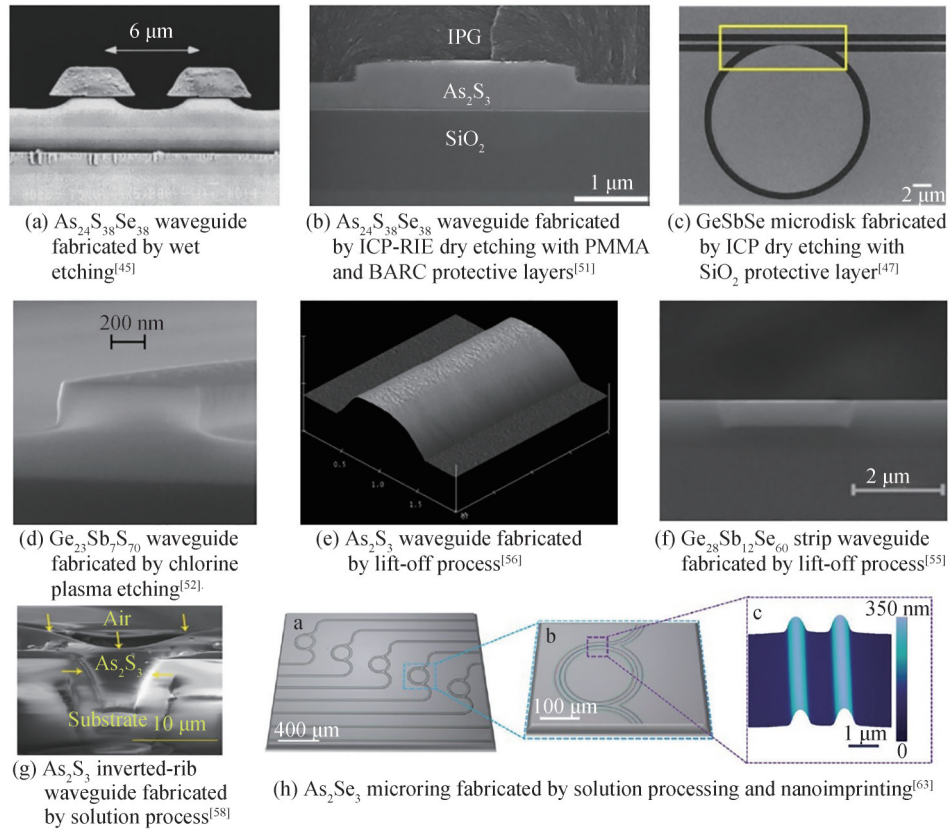


图1 不同工艺方法制备的集成硫化物玻璃光子器件

Fig.1 Integrated chalcogenide glass photonic devices fabricated by different methods

制备了  $\text{As}_{24}\text{S}_{38}\text{Se}_{38}$  倒脊型中红外波导<sup>[58]</sup>(图1(g)),其模场面积约为  $28 \mu\text{m}^2$ ,在  $2.6 \mu\text{m}$  波长处的传输损耗为  $1.87 \text{ dB/cm}$ 。这种方法可以制备厚度较大的硫化物玻璃薄膜,但对溶解的过程与溶液储存条件要求严格,同时容易造成有机溶剂残留、薄膜平整度相对较差等问题<sup>[57,61]</sup>,因此这种工艺还需要进一步的摸索与改善。

利用硫化物玻璃加热软化的特性,集成硫化物玻璃器件还可以采用压印法制备<sup>[62-65]</sup>。在合适的温度下,将制备有图案的压印模板压在硫化物玻璃薄膜上并施加一定压强,即可将模板上的图案转移到硫化物玻璃薄膜上。2010年 HAN Ting 等利用 PDMS 作为压印模板,使用热压印法实现了低损耗  $\text{As}_{24}\text{S}_{38}\text{Se}_{38}$  波导的制备<sup>[62]</sup>,波导尺寸为  $3.3 \mu\text{m} \times 1 \mu\text{m}$ ,其准 TM 模式与准 TE 模式的传输损耗分别为  $0.26 \text{ dB/cm}$  与  $0.27 \text{ dB/cm}$ 。2014年 ZOU Yi 等使用溶液旋涂法制备了  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$  薄膜,并利用热压印制备出了图1(h)所示的  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$  波导与微环器件<sup>[63]</sup>,其中微环样品在  $1520 \text{ nm}$  波段的内禀  $Q$  值为  $80000$ ,对应的波导传输损耗约为  $6 \text{ dB/cm}$ 。同年该研究组又利用热压印在二氧化硅衬底上制备了高质量的  $\text{As}_{20}\text{Se}_{80}$  微环样品,其内禀  $Q$  值达到  $390000$ 。同时,他们也在柔性聚合物衬底(PA,聚酰胺)上利用热压印制备了  $\text{As}_{20}\text{Se}_{80}$  微环样品,微环内禀  $Q$  值为  $110000$ <sup>[66]</sup>。

此外,由于硫化物玻璃具有独特的光致效应,可以使用特定波长的光对硫化物玻璃薄膜进行照射,使其发生光致暗化效应并引起折射率的变化,从而形成波导结构<sup>[67-68]</sup>。这种方法虽然工艺简单,但是光致暗化效应引起的折射率变化较小,难以实现具有小模场面积的器件。而且利用光致效应制备的硫化物玻璃器件并不稳定,在受热或强光照射等条件下可能发生退化<sup>[4]</sup>,导致其应用场景受限。

### 3 热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃波导

目前,硫化物玻璃集成光学器件的主流制备工艺是刻蚀法和抬离法。这两种方法都需要在大面积沉积高质量硫化物玻璃薄膜的基础上,设法去除大部分硫化物玻璃材料,仅保留硫化物玻璃波导芯区部分。由于硫化物玻璃特殊的材料特性,材料去除的工艺过程往往不易控制,使得硫化物玻璃集成光学器件难以制备。为此,希望发展出可保留完整硫化物玻璃薄膜的集成光学器件制备工艺,面向集成非线性光学应用制

备出高质量硫化物玻璃波导。在前期尝试中,本课题组提出了一种表面导引的硫化物玻璃波导结构,其波导结构和制备出的波导样品如图2所示<sup>[69]</sup>。首先在硅衬底上旋涂SU-8光刻胶,经过紫外曝光固化形成下包层。之后利用热蒸发工艺沉积硫化砷玻璃薄膜并进行真空加热退火。在硫化砷玻璃薄膜上再次旋涂SU-8光刻胶并进行紫外光刻,制备出上层的SU-8胶导引结构。图2(b)与2(c)分别为制备出的表面导引硫化砷玻璃波导样品的显微镜照片与截面电镜照片,波导宽度约为 $2\ \mu\text{m}$ 。对波导样品进行通光测试,得到准TE模式的传输损耗约为 $0.4\ \text{dB/cm}$ ,并且波导具有单偏振传输特性(如图2(d)所示)。这种波导避免了传统制备工艺中对硫化砷玻璃薄膜的图形转移与刻蚀,并且制备工艺简单。但这种方法制备的波导横向的光场限制比较弱,不易制备适合非线性光学应用的具有小模场面积的波导。

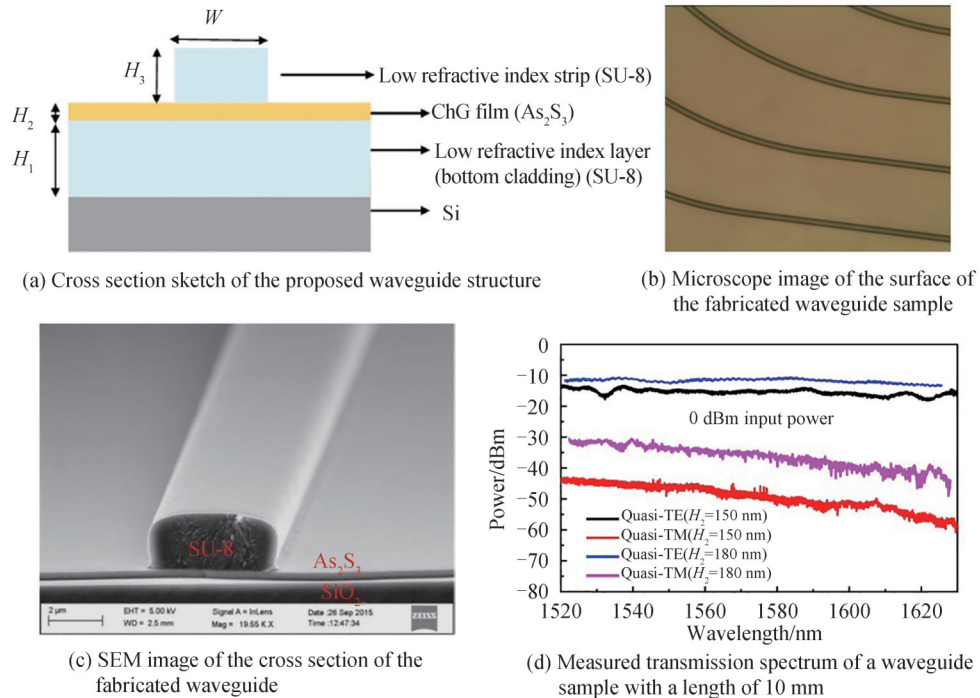


图2 表面导引硫化砷玻璃波导<sup>[69]</sup>

Fig.2 Chalcogenide glass waveguides with low-index strips on the surface of  $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$  glass film<sup>[69]</sup>

为了方便地制备出小模场面积的硫化物玻璃波导,本课题组利用硫化物玻璃达到熔融状态所需温度较低并且熔融状态下流动性好的特点发展出一种硫化物玻璃波导制备新方法<sup>[12]</sup>,其工艺流程如图3。首先在衬底上使用紫外光刻或电子束光刻与刻蚀工艺制备出凹槽结构,并在刻有凹槽的衬底上利用热蒸发法沉积一层硫化物玻璃薄膜。之后在氮气环境下对芯片进行加热,此时硫化物玻璃薄膜达到熔融状态,并自发回流到凹槽之中,从而形成平整的上表面,构成倒脊型的波导结构。这种方法仅在衬底上进行光刻、刻蚀等工艺来制备器件图案,保持了硫化物玻璃薄膜的完整性,避免了制备工艺对于硫化物玻璃薄膜的损伤。将这种利用玻璃材料熔融状态的流动性,通过加热使玻璃材料回流填充衬底上凹槽或其他微结构的工艺方法称为热熔融自回流方法。

利用这种工艺实现了硫化物玻璃波导和微环谐振腔样品的制备。实验中使用的硫化物玻璃材料为 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_7$ ,使用的衬底为硅上二氧化硅(silica on silicon)。利用紫外曝光与缓冲氢氟酸湿法刻蚀制备二氧化硅凹槽,再进行 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_7$ 玻璃薄膜的热蒸发与加热自回流工艺,得到的波导样品横截面电子显微镜照片如图4(a)<sup>[12]</sup>。波导样品截面尺寸为 $5\ \mu\text{m} \times 1\ \mu\text{m}$ ,通过截断法测得波导准TE模式的传输损耗约为 $0.1\ \text{dB/cm}$ 。为了制备具有小模场面积的硫化物玻璃波导,进一步利用电子束曝光与ICP干法刻蚀代替紫外曝光与湿法刻蚀,制备尺寸更小的波导样品,其横截面电子显微镜照片如图4(b)<sup>[13]</sup>。样品的截面尺寸为 $910\ \text{nm} \times 690\ \text{nm}$ ,测试得到准TE模式传输损耗约为 $0.74\ \text{dB/cm}$ 。进一步设计并制备了倒脊型硫化砷玻璃微环谐振腔样品,微环与一条直波导耦合,半径为 $150\ \mu\text{m}$ ,微环和直波导的波导宽度均为 $1\ \mu\text{m}$ 。图4(c)给出了微环样品的显微镜

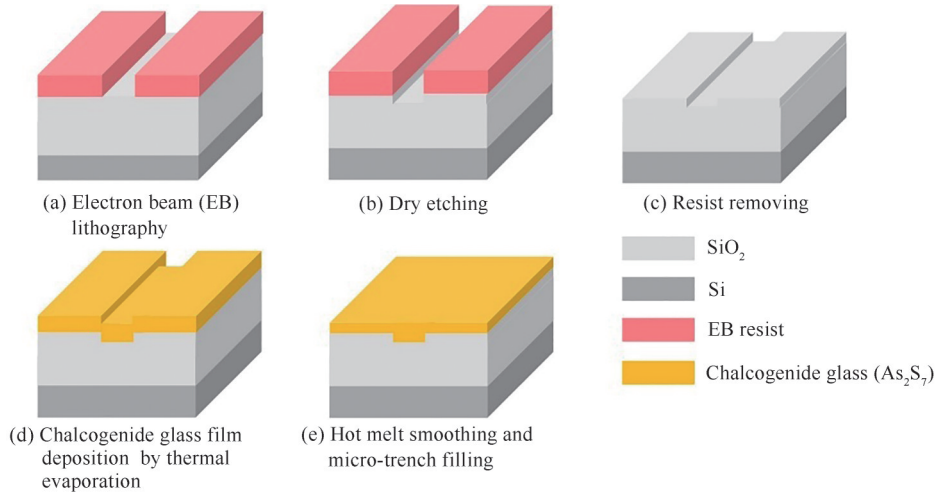


图3 基于热熔融自回流的倒脊型硫化砷玻璃波导的制备工艺流程

Fig.3 Fabrication process of chalcogenide glass waveguides by hot melt smoothing and micro-trench filling

照片。测试了微环与波导耦合的样品的传输谱,结果如图4(d)。结果表明该微环谐振腔样品的谐振峰Q值约为180 000,消光比为17 dB,对应的微环腔内波导传输损耗约为1.1 dB/cm。测试结果验证了利用热熔融自回流方法制备的倒脊型硫化砷玻璃器件具有良好的传输特性。

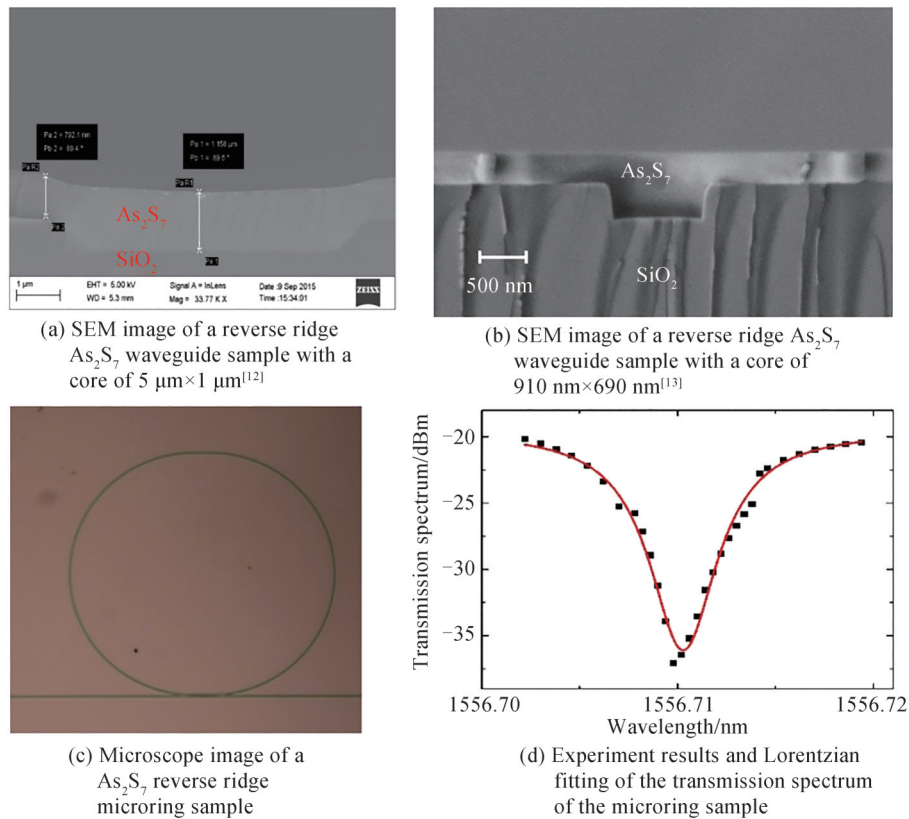


图4 利用热熔融自回流方法制备的倒脊型As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>7</sub>玻璃波导与微环谐振腔

Fig.4 As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>7</sub> waveguide and microring samples fabricated by hot melt smoothing and micro-trench filling method

## 4 硫化物玻璃波导非线性光学特性

### 4.1 三阶非线性光学特性

通过激励并测试波导中的受激四波混频现象验证采用热熔融自回流方法制备的倒脊型硫化砷玻璃波

导的三阶非线性光学特性<sup>[13]</sup>,实验系统如图5(a)。可调谐激光器产生的泵浦光(频率为 $\omega_p$ )经过掺铒光纤放大器(Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier, EDFA)进行放大,并通过密集波分复用器(Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexer, DWDM)滤除EDFA中产生的放大器自发辐射噪声(Amplified Spontaneous Emission, ASE)。经过滤波后的泵浦光与由另一个可调谐激光器产生的低功率信号光(频率为 $\omega_s$ )合束,之后通过拉锥光纤从端面耦合到波导样品中激励受激四波混频。信号光在波导中受到四波混频提供的增益放大,同时在频率 $\omega_i = 2\omega_p - \omega_s$ 处产生闲频光。从波导输出的光通过拉锥光纤耦合到光功率计(Optical Power Meter, OPM)与光谱仪(Optical Spectrum Analyzer, OSA)中,并通过光谱仪测量不同频率分量的光功率。实验中首先固定泵浦光频率,调节信号光频率测量不同频率失谐量下的四波混频转换效率。测试结果如图5(b),可以得到波导中四波混频的单边3 dB带宽约为2.5 THz。进一步将泵浦光与信号光的失谐量固定在0.38 THz处,测试不同泵浦光功率下波导中的四波混频转换效率,由此估计波导的三阶非线性系数。测试结果如图5(c)。通过在dB坐标下对四波混频转换效率与泵浦光功率之间的关系进行拟合,可以得到波导的三阶非线性系数。拟合结果如图5(c)中的红色虚线所示,由此计算出波导样品的三阶非线性系数约为 $\gamma = 14.1 \text{ W}^{-1}\text{m}^{-1}$ 。这一结果与利用传统方法制备的高质量硫化砷玻璃波导<sup>[33,70-71]</sup>相当,证明了采用热熔融自回流方法制备的倒脊型硫化砷玻璃波导样品具有良好的三阶非线性光学特性。

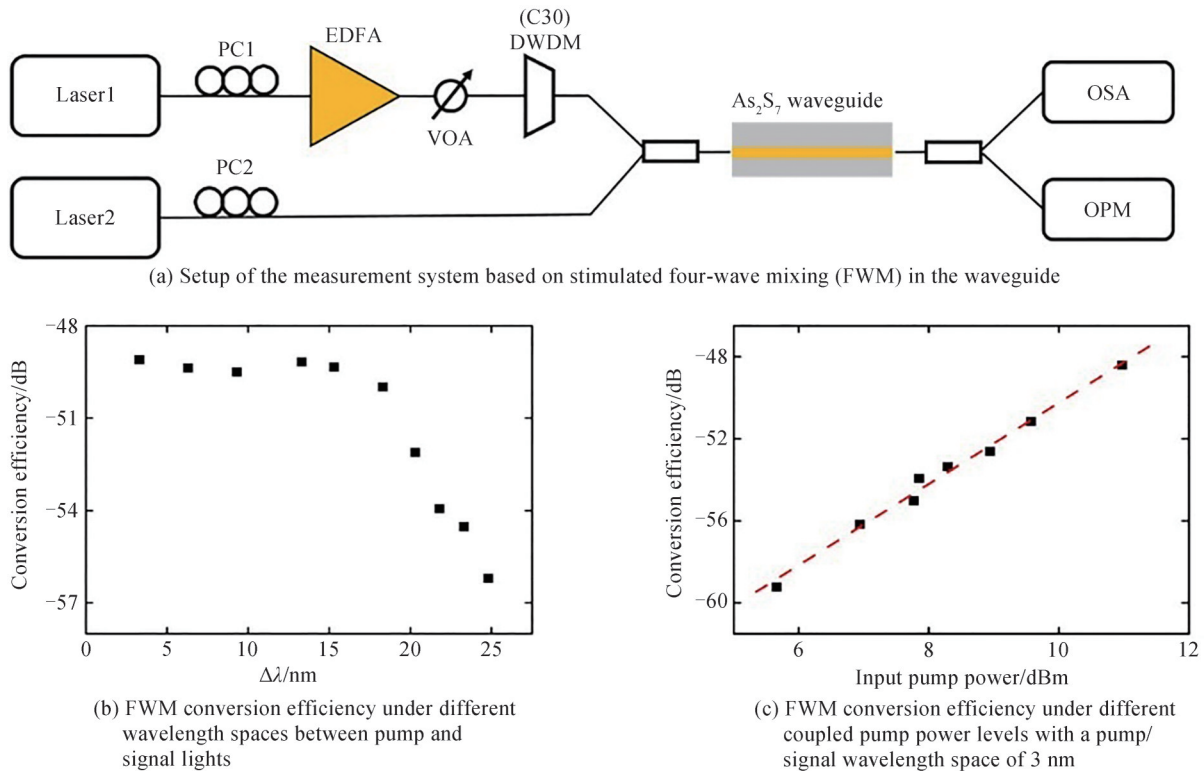


图5 硫化物玻璃波导样品中三阶非线性系数的实验测量<sup>[13]</sup>

Fig.5 Experimental measurement of the third order nonlinear coefficient of the chalcogenide glass waveguides<sup>[13]</sup>

#### 4.2 受激布里渊散射特性

硫化物玻璃具有较高的折射率与较低的声速,因此可以同时限制光学模式与声学模式,使其成为实现集成布里渊功能器件的理想材料之一<sup>[9,72]</sup>。2011年PANT R等首次在片上 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ 脊波导中实现了受激布里渊散射的探测<sup>[36]</sup>,使用的波导尺寸为 $4 \mu\text{m} \times 850 \text{ nm}$ ,测得布里渊频移约为7.7 GHz,布里渊增益系数为 $0.715 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m/W}$ 。之后他们又进一步利用集成硫化砷玻璃波导中的布里渊散射进行了多种应用研究。2012年POULTON C G在经过色散调控的 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ 脊波导中利用受激布里渊散射实现了宽带的片上隔离功能,在25 nm的带宽范围内实现了20 dB的隔离度<sup>[73]</sup>。同年该研究组利用 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ 脊波导中的受激布里渊散射实现了动态可调的窄带片上微波光子滤波器<sup>[74]</sup>与可调慢光快光功能<sup>[75]</sup>。2013年KABAKOVA I V在增益介质为长度7 cm的 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ 脊波导的环腔中实现了布里渊激射<sup>[76]</sup>,其线宽为100 kHz,激射阈值为360 mW。

2016年JIANG Hengyun利用 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ 脊波导中的布里渊散射实现了高精度大范围的微波信号频率测量功能<sup>[77]</sup>,测量频率上限可达38 GHz,测量误差小于1 MHz。2017年MERKLEIN M利用 $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ 脊波导中的布里渊散射将光脉冲所携带的信息转移到声波中,进而实现了相干光存储与读取功能<sup>[78]</sup>。

为了验证利用热熔融自回流方法制备的倒脊型硫化砷玻璃波导在实现集成布里渊功能器件方面的应用潜力,采用泵浦-探测法(pump-probe)对其背向受激布里渊散射特性进行了测试<sup>[13]</sup>。测试系统如图6(a)。可调谐激光器1产生一束窄线宽连续波泵浦光,经过EDFA放大后通过环形器C1输入到波导a端口。激光器2产生一束窄线宽连续波探测光,从b端口输入到波导样品中。如果探测光的频率比泵浦光低且两者之间的频差在布里渊频移附近,波导中会发生受激布里渊散射,使探测光得到放大。放大后的探测光从波导的a端口输出,与经过波导端面反射的泵浦光共同耦合到环形器中。之后使用窄带滤波器滤除其中的泵浦光分量,只保留波导输出的探测光,并将其与激光器1产生的泵浦光做外差探测,利用光电探测器(Photodetector, PD)与频谱分析仪(Electrical Spectrum Analyzer, ESA)测量差频信号的频率与功率,可得到从波导中输出的探测光功率。

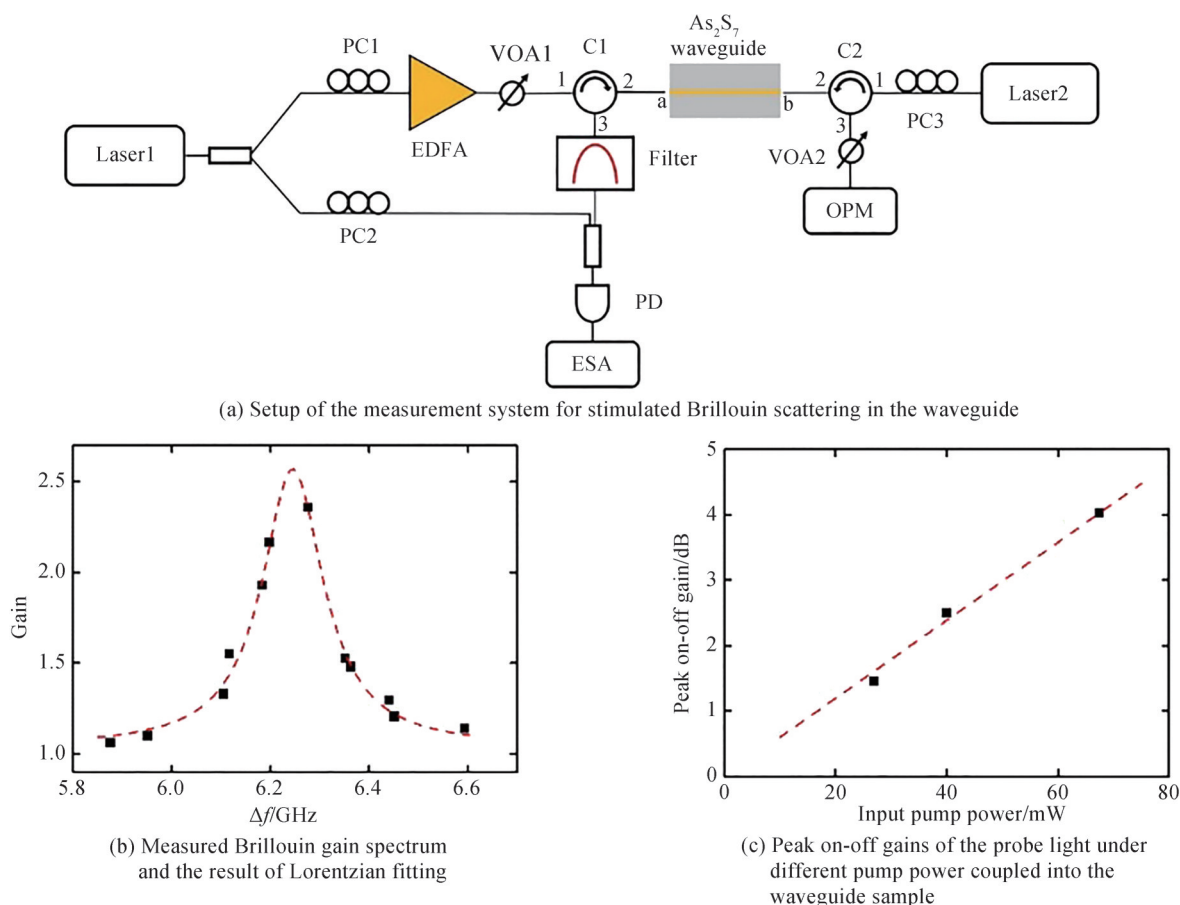


图6 硫化物玻璃波导样品中受激布里渊散射特性的实验测量<sup>[13]</sup>

Fig.6 Experimental measurement of stimulated Brillouin scattering properties of chalcogenide glass waveguides<sup>[13]</sup>

实验中首先固定泵浦光频率,对探测光频率进行扫描,测量不同频差下电谱仪探测到的差频信号功率,即可得到波导样品的布里渊增益谱,如图6(b)。其中虚线是测试数据的洛伦兹线型拟合结果,表明波导样品的布里渊频移为6.25 GHz,布里渊增益峰线宽为156 MHz,比以往报道的硫化物玻璃波导布里渊增益谱线宽<sup>[36]</sup>略大。进一步对不同泵浦功率下探测光的最大开关增益进行了测量,结果如图6(c)。通过线性拟合可以得到波导样品的布里渊增益系数约为 $G_B = 377 \text{ W}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$ ,与以往报道的高质量硫化物玻璃波导样品<sup>[76,79]</sup>的布里渊增益系数相当,验证了热熔融自回流工艺制备的倒脊型硫化砷玻璃波导样品具有良好的受激布里渊散射特性。



## 5 总结与展望

硫化物玻璃良好的非线性光学特性使得它适合发展非线性集成光学器件。然而,特殊的理化特性使得硫化物玻璃波导的制备成为研究的难点。本文对硫化物玻璃波导的制备工艺进行了综述,重点介绍了本课题组利用硫化物玻璃在熔融状态下流动性好的特点,采用热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃波导的工艺。这种方法制备的波导结构由衬底材料上刻蚀的微凹槽决定,工艺上避免了对硫化物玻璃薄膜完整性的破坏,以及光刻胶显影液对硫化物玻璃材料的腐蚀作用,可以得到高质量的倒脊型硫化物玻璃波导。通过合理设计波导结构和精确的工艺控制,采用这种方法可以实现具有小模场面积的硫化物玻璃波导。实验测试结果表明,采用热熔融自回流方法制备的硫化物玻璃波导具有良好的三阶非线性光学特性和受激布里渊特性。因此,热熔融自回流方法为发展硫化物玻璃非线性集成光学器件及其片上系统提供了简单易行的波导器件制备工艺手段。

对于热熔融自回流方法及其制备的集成光波导器件的非线性光学应用,提出如下两点展望:

硫化物玻璃波导具有良好的三阶非线性光学效应,在受激四波混频和超连续谱产生等非线性光学应用中有重要应用前景。这类应用中需要参与非线性光学过程的光波满足一定的相位匹配条件,往往需要硫化物玻璃波导在相应波段具有近零色散的特性<sup>[7,80-83]</sup>。然而,以硫化砷为代表的硫化物玻璃色散零点一般位于中红外波段,在近红外波段普遍具有大的负色散<sup>[80]</sup>。因此,发展适合三阶光学非线性应用的硫化物玻璃波导的关键问题之一是如何实现波导色散调控。热熔融自回流方法制备硫化物玻璃波导的波导结构由在衬底上制备的凹槽结构决定。理论工作表明,通过合理地设计衬底凹槽结构,可以有效地调控制备出的硫化物玻璃波导的色散特性,实现有多个色散零点的宽带平坦近零色散<sup>[84]</sup>。如何充分利用热熔融自回流方法的灵活性发展针对不同三阶非线性光学应用的硫化物玻璃波导,是利用这一技术发展实用化非线性集成光学器件的重要方向。

另一方面,一些硫化物玻璃同时具有较高的折射率与较低的声速<sup>[9]</sup>。采用二氧化硅玻璃衬底通过热熔融自回流方法制备的硫化物玻璃波导,可以实现光波与声波在波导中的同时限制,产生高效的光声相互作用。实验也已经表明这种方法制备的硫化物玻璃波导具有良好的受激布里渊散射特性<sup>[13]</sup>。进一步的,这一声波和光波同时限制的思路可以拓展到光声晶体<sup>[38]</sup>(Optomechanical Crystal, OMC)微腔的研究。目前光声晶体微腔系统主要基于绝缘体上硅(Silicon on Insulator, SOI)衬底制备而成,但由于材料特性的限制,硅基光声晶体微腔需要制备悬空结构<sup>[85-87]</sup>以同时限制光学模式与声学模式。理论工作表明,采用硫化砷玻璃作为高折射率材料在二氧化硅衬底上制备的纳米臂型一维光子晶体微腔,有可能同时支持局域的声学模式,实现非悬空的光声晶体微腔<sup>[88]</sup>。这种新型非悬空硫化砷玻璃光声晶体微腔可以通过二氧化硅玻璃包层直接实现声学耦合功能,有望简单地实现多腔耦合的复杂光声相互作用系统。采用热熔融自回流方法发展这种非悬空光声晶体微腔的制备技术将为相关研究提供有力的器件工艺支持。

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## Chalcogenide Glass Nonlinear Integrated Optical Waveguide Fabrication by Hot Melt Smoothing and Micro-trench Filling (Invited)

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**Abstract:** Chalcogenide Glasses (ChGs) is a class of inorganic glass formed by covalent bonding of one or more chalcogens (sulfur, selenium and tellurium, but excluding oxygen) and other elements (such as arsenic, germanium and stibium). ChGs are important materials to develop nonlinear integrated photonic devices, since they have many good characteristics as nonlinear optical materials, such as high the third-order nonlinearity, low two-photon absorption and good performance on stimulated Brillouin scattering. However, waveguides and other integrated devices based on ChGs are not easy to be fabricated due to their physical and chemical characteristics. Hence, the fabrication technology is crucial for the development of ChG nonlinear integrated photonic devices. In this paper, a comprehensive review on current fabrication technologies of ChG integrated optical waveguide structures is provided firstly, including wet etching, dry etching, lift-off, spinning coating of ChG solution, hot Embossing and so on. Then a fabrication method based on hot melt smoothing and micro-trench filling of ChGs is introduced in detail, which was proposed and developed by our laboratory. The processing of this fabrication method is as follows. Step one, a micro-trench is fabricated in a silica substrate by photolithography and dry etching or wet etching. Step two, the ChG film is deposited on the substrate by thermal evaporation or sputtering. Step three, the chip is annealed at the proper temperature, during which the ChG is melted and flows to the trench, leading to a reverse ridge waveguide structure. Experiment result showed that the measured waveguide sample has a low transmission attenuation of 0.74 dB/cm in its quasi-TE mode. This method also could be used to fabricate ChG micro-ring resonators. The measured resonator sample had good performance with a resonance quality factor of 180 000. Nonlinear optical properties of ChG waveguides fabricated by this method were also demonstrated experimentally. The third-order nonlinearity was demonstrated by the experiment of stimulated four-wave mixing. The nonlinear coefficient of the waveguide sample could be calculated by fitting the experiment results, showing a high value of  $14.1 \text{ W}^{-1}\text{m}^{-1}$ . A pump-probe method was used to measure the backward stimulated Brillouin scattering in the waveguide sample. Experiment results showed that the Brillouin frequency shift of the waveguide was  $\sim 6.25 \text{ GHz}$ , and the Brillouin gain coefficient of the waveguide was  $377 \text{ W}^{-1}\text{m}^{-1}$ . By these works, it is demonstrated that the method based on hot melt smoothing and micro-trench filling of ChGs provides a simple way to fabricate high quality ChG waveguides, which have good performance on low loss transmission and nonlinear optical properties. Hence, it is promising to be used in develop nonlinear integrated photonic devices in the future. Finally, a perspective of this fabrication method of ChG integrated photonic devices is provided. Two interesting topics are proposed. Firstly, nonlinear waveguides with specific dispersion characteristics have important applications such as broadband four-wave mixing and supercontinuum generation. In this method, the waveguide structure is determined by the shape of the micro-trench. Hence, the dispersion of ChG waveguide can be tailored by complicated reverse ridge waveguide structure, which could be fabricated by this method. Theoretical design has shown that ultrabroadband flat and low dispersion with three zero dispersion points could be realized by this way. Developing ChG waveguides with specific dispersion would be an important topic to develop practical nonlinear integrated photonic devices by this method. Secondly, ChG waveguides fabricated by this method could support optical and acoustic guiding modes simultaneously, since ChGs have high refractive index and low acoustic velocity. Hence, ChG waveguides have strong acousto-optic interaction, leading to a good property on stimulated Brillouin scattering. Recently, we proposed that this characteristics of ChGs also can be applied to develop optomechanical crystal microcavity, which could be fabricated by this method. Theoretical analysis showed that the proposed ChG optomechanical crystal microcavity could be embedded in its silica cladding, supporting a

nonsuspended structure, which can not be realized by silicon photomechanical crystal microcavity. The nonsuspended structures have the advantage of more flexible designs, and they can directly realize functions such as acoustic mode coupling among cavity arrays and external modulations without extra structures. How to realize such a nonsuspended ChG optomechanical crystal microcavity is also an interesting topic for the application of this fabrication method.

**Key words:** Chalcogenide glass; Nonlinear photonic device; Integrated optical waveguide; The third order nonlinearity; Stimulated Brillouin scattering

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