

## 脉冲激光辐照氮化硅陶瓷损伤阈值的光谱测量

蔡鹏程, 李 霜, 蔡红星\*, 谭 勇, 石 晶, 苗馨卉

长春理工大学理学院, 吉林 长春 130022

**摘 要** 氮化硅陶瓷具有耐高温、耐腐蚀和耐磨损等优异性能,可应用于金属材料和高分子材料难以胜任的极端工作环境。但具备这些优良特性的同时也给其加工带来了不便,传统的磨削加工方法效率低,设备损耗严重,激光辅助加工为其提供了一种新途径。将等离子体光谱法和显微成像法相结合,对脉冲激光辐照氮化硅陶瓷的损伤阈值进行了测量,并分析了损伤机理。实验选用热压烧结氮化硅陶瓷为靶材,参考ISO21254国际损伤阈值测试标准搭建试验系统,采用1-on-1法利用Nd<sup>3+</sup>:YAG固体脉冲激光分别在纳秒和微秒脉宽下辐照氮化硅陶瓷,两种脉宽分别选取10个能量密度梯度进行激光辐照,每个能量密度辐照10个点。利用光纤光谱仪采集光谱信息,利用金相显微镜获取显微图像信息,将光谱结果与显微成像结果对比分析,发现纳秒脉宽下材料一旦损伤光谱上就会出现等离子体峰,通过分析光谱中等离子体峰,元素指认是否含有材料中特征元素即可判断损伤,为了区别空气电离击穿同时测量了空气等离子体光谱对比分析剔除干扰。微秒脉宽下显微图像观察到刚开始损伤时,光谱中只出现较强热辐射谱线并未出现等离子体谱线,进一步增加激光能量密度,光谱中会出现少量等离子体峰,因此不能直接以等离子体峰判断材料损伤阈值。利用金相显微镜观察损伤形貌,纳秒脉宽下在损伤区域内部观察到明显的烧蚀冲击状损伤,光谱呈现出大量等离子体谱线,说明纳秒激光辐照氮化硅损伤机制主要为等离子体冲击波引起的力学损伤效应。微秒脉宽在辐照区域边缘发现热烧蚀痕迹,损伤区内观察到大量熔融物,出现明显热辐射光谱,说明微秒激光辐照氮化硅损伤机制主要是由于长脉宽热积累引起的热损伤效应,随着能量密度增加热辐射谱上叠加有等离子体峰,等离子体峰值强度与损伤程度一致。利用零几率损伤阈值法对两种方法测得结果进行了拟合,分析发现等离子体光谱法更适用于纳秒脉宽下损伤阈值测量,得到结果为0.256 J·cm<sup>-2</sup>;显微成像法适用于微秒脉宽下损伤阈值测量,得到结果为6.84 J·cm<sup>-2</sup>。

**关键词** 损伤阈值;氮化硅;等离子体光谱法

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### 引 言

氮化硅陶瓷材料,具有高强度、高抗热震稳定性、高耐腐蚀性能和低介电损耗等特点,已广泛应用于航空航天、电子工业、机械工业、化学工业及原子能工业各个领域<sup>[1-2]</sup>。由于氮化硅陶瓷机械强度高导致加工困难<sup>[3]</sup>,激光辅助加工是主要技术手段之一。目前国内外对氮化硅材料损伤特性已有较多研究。2011年, Kim<sup>[4]</sup>等研究了不同参数下激光辅助加热切割氮化硅陶瓷特性。2012年, Poulain<sup>[5]</sup>等研究了355 nm紫外激光,在纳秒脉宽烧蚀氮化硅损伤阈值并分析了损伤机理。2013年, Gerrit Heinrich<sup>[6]</sup>等做了532 nm激光,在

十皮秒脉宽下进行烧蚀氮化硅阈值研究。2016年 Pan<sup>[7]</sup>等用纳秒单脉冲激光烧蚀氮化硅,得到了烧蚀特性和温度模型。波长1064 nm的Nd<sup>3+</sup>:YAG激光是一种常见激光器,成熟应用于陶瓷材料加工<sup>[8]</sup>,对此激光在不同脉宽下对氮化硅陶瓷的损伤阈值研究具有重要意义。

损伤阈值的测量是一项较复杂的工作,不同方法会有不同的结果。常见的方法有反射透射法、光热偏转法、显微成像法和等离子体闪光法等<sup>[9-10]</sup>。本文采用等离子体光谱法对激光损伤材料特性进行研究,通过分析激光辐照氮化硅时产生的等离子体,光谱中是否含有氮化硅材料中元素的特征峰,可更加准确判断损伤。利用等离子体光谱法研究氮化硅陶瓷的损伤阈值,可对损伤阈值的标准测量方法进行有益补

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作者简介: 蔡鹏程, 1990年生, 长春理工大学理学院博士研究生 e-mail: cpcaba@126.com

\* 通讯联系人 e-mail: ciomsz@126.com



并非来源于空气电离,因此,也可将其作为特征谱线,用来判断材料是否发生损伤。

图 4 为微秒脉宽时在不同激光能量密度辐照下氮化硅表面显微图。功率密度为  $7.35 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时图 4(a) 材料表面有轻微褐色烧蚀痕迹,无明显烧蚀界限,结合光谱结果可知,由于峰值功率密度低,并未形成等离子体,只发生了热损伤。当激光能量密度增加为  $7.86 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,图 4(b) 所示,可看出明显环形渐变色晕圈损伤区,烧蚀界限清晰,光谱中已有等离子体峰出现。图 4(c) 显示激光能量密度增加至  $9.38 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,环形区域中出现大面积损伤,损伤区域与未损伤区域界限明显。当激光能量密度为  $11.8 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,图 4(d) 中可观察到损伤区域内有大量熔融物出现,光谱中连续热辐射背景增强明显。综合等离子光谱和显微图像结果可知,对于  $1064 \text{ nm}$  波长的微秒激光辐照氮化硅材料其损伤主要是以热损伤为主。随着激光能量密度的增加,可使靶材原子电离产生等离子体,但是由于存在热损伤,未出现等离子体之前也会产生部分热熔;因此微秒激光辐照氮化硅,将等离子体光谱法与显微图像结果相结合可更精确判断损伤阈值。

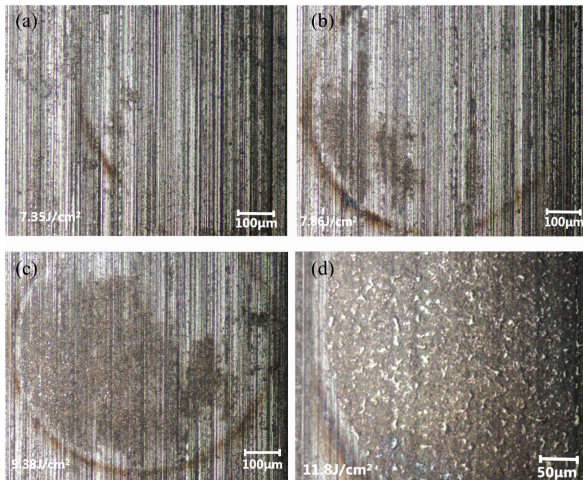


图 4 不同能量密度的微秒激光辐照氮化硅显微图像  
Fig. 4 The micrographs of silicon nitride under laser irradiation of the microsecond pulses with different energy densities

### 2.2 纳秒脉冲激光辐照氮化硅结果

同样在  $1064 \text{ nm}$  波长下,对纳秒脉冲激光辐照氮化硅进行了损伤研究,测得光谱如图 5 所示。从光谱图中可以看出,当激光能量密度为  $0.225 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,光谱较平缓且无等离子体峰出现。激光能量密度为  $0.264 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ,热辐射强度没有增加,但出现微弱等离子体峰。当激光能量密度增加至  $0.468 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,等离子体峰强度增加,热辐射本底有所增强,能量密度增加至  $0.718 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,热辐射强度明显增强,已出现的等离子体光峰强度也显著加强。参考 NIST 光谱数据库指认出光谱中含有 Si 原子谱线 Si I 及 Si 不同价态离子谱线 Si II 和 Si III 等, N 原子谱线 N I 及不同价态离子谱线 N II 和 N III, O 原子谱线 O I 及其离子谱线 O II。其中 Si 元素谱线和一部分 N 元素谱线来源于氮化硅靶材本

身电离。O 和部分 N 元素的等离子体谱线是激光辐照下导致空气电离击穿产生的。经比较发现,在  $200 \sim 400 \text{ nm}$  区间,激光辐照空气没有产生明显的等离子体谱,但采用纳秒激光辐照氮化硅材料时,在该区间产生丰富的等离子体谱线,由此判断,在  $200 \sim 400 \text{ nm}$  波长区间,所有的等离子体谱线来源于氮化硅材料本身,可将其作为特征谱与其他峰位处的 Si 特征谱相结合来判定损伤。

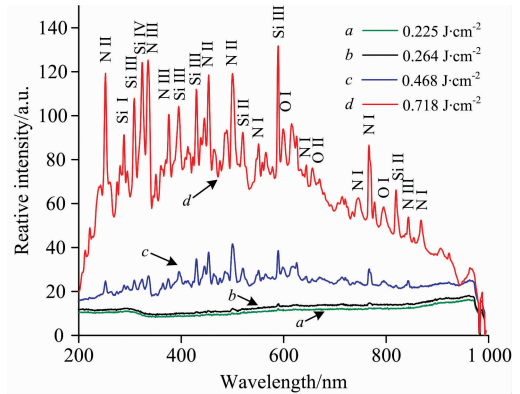


图 5 不同能量密度纳秒脉冲激光辐照氮化硅光谱图  
Fig. 5 The spectra of silicon nitride under laser irradiation of the nanosecond pulses with different energy densities

纳秒脉冲辐照氮化硅表面显微图像如图 6 所示。从图 6 (a) 可以看出,当激光能量密度为  $0.225 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ,样品表面未观察到明显的损伤痕迹。激光能量密度为  $0.264 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,图 6(b) 中出现离散损伤点,结合光谱结果,此时刚出现来自于靶材料的等离子体特征峰,说明已发生损伤。继续增加激光能量密度至  $0.468 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,图 6(c) 中观察到材料表面损伤点更加密集,但热辐射强度增加不明显。当激光能量密度为  $0.718 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  时,图 6(d) 中观察到辐照区域出现大面积损伤,呈明显的烧蚀冲击状,未观察到熔融物,光谱中虽然热辐射背景有所增强,但叠加在热辐射谱上的等离子

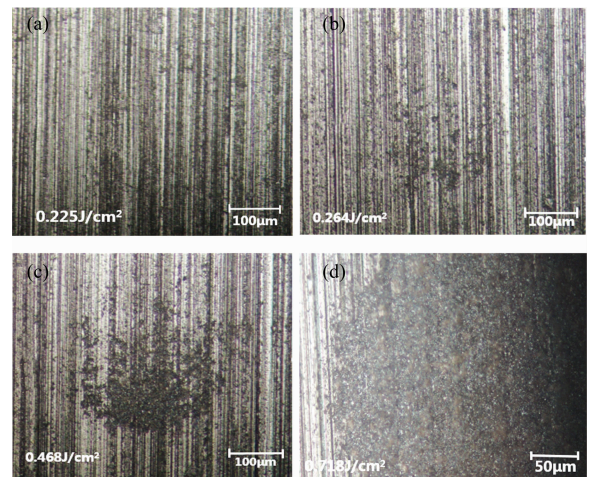


图 6 纳秒脉宽下不同能量密度激光辐照氮化硅显微图像  
Fig. 6 The micrographs of silicon nitride under laser irradiation of the nanosecond pulses with different energy densities

体峰强度增强更明显,与微秒激光辐照不同的是烧蚀区域和未烧蚀区域没有明显的界面,综上所述说明纳秒激光辐照氮化硅

损伤过程中热效应也有贡献,但主要以力学损伤效应为主。

### 2.3 激光辐照氮化硅损伤阈值研究

基于显微图像结果和光谱数据采用零几率损伤阈值法对损伤阈值进行了拟合。如图 7 所示,纳秒脉宽拟合结果如图 7(a)所示,显微成像法拟合值为  $0.271 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ,等离子体光谱法拟合值为  $0.256 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ,两种方法拟合结果非常接近。微秒脉宽拟合结果如图 7(b)所示,显微成像法结果拟合值为  $6.84 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ,等离子体光谱法结果拟合值为  $7.43 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ ,两种方法拟合结果存在差异,分析其原因是纳秒脉宽激光峰值功率高,与材料作用容易电离产生等离子体,而微秒脉宽激光辐照氮化硅材料由于热效应比较强,未产生等离子体之前就会产生热熔损伤,导致损伤阈值存在差异。综上,1 064 nm 波长激光辐照氮化硅材料,在纳秒脉宽下,等离子体光谱法可作为一种有效方法来研究氮化硅陶瓷损伤阈值。

## 3 结论

采用等离子体光谱法,研究了氮化硅陶瓷在纳秒和微秒脉宽激光作用下的损伤阈值和损伤机理。得出以下结论:在 1 064 nm 波长下,纳秒激光辐照氮化硅主要以力学效应损伤为主,可通过来自材料元素的等离子体特征谱线来判定损伤的发生。微秒激光辐照氮化硅产生的损伤以热效应为主,相对于纳秒脉宽作用时间长,峰值功率低,材料吸热后有足够的时间传递以及吸收后续的激光能量产生热熔。因此微秒脉宽激光辐照氮化硅材料损伤判定不能完全以等离子体光谱法来判断,可以作为显微图像法的有效补充。损伤阈值研究表明,等离子体光谱法与显微成像法得到的损伤规律保持一致。纳秒脉宽下,两种方法测得的损伤阈值基本接近,而微秒脉宽得到损伤阈值略有差异,需考虑热损伤,结合显微图像法可给出更精确的损伤阈值。

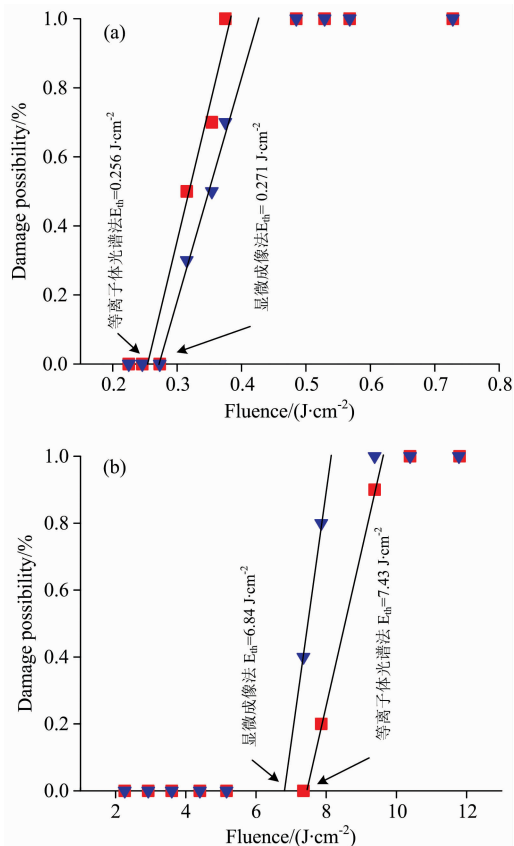


图 7 等离子体光谱法和显微成像法零概率损伤阈值拟合结果

(a): 纳秒脉冲; (b): 微秒脉冲

Fig. 7 The fitting results of zero risk damage threshold by Plasma spectrometry and microscopic imaging method

(a): Nanosecond pulse width; (b): Microsecond pulse width

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# Study on Measurement of the Damage Threshold of Silicon Nitride Ceramics under Pulsed Laser Irradiation by Spectroscopy

CAI Peng-cheng, LI Shuang, CAI Hong-xing\*, TAN Yong, SHI Jing, MIAO Xin-hui

College of Science, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Changchun 130022, China

**Abstract** Silicon nitride ceramics have high temperature, corrosion and wear resistance; therefore, they are good candidates to be used in extreme working environments where metals and polymers are difficult to handle. Unfortunately, besides these excellent properties, these materials are difficult to process. The traditional grinding method is inefficient, and the mechanical damage of the material is serious. In this regard, laser-assisted machining is a new promising way for the efficient processing of silicon nitride ceramics. In this paper, we combined plasma spectroscopy and microscopic imaging methods to measure the damage threshold of pulsed laser irradiated silicon nitride ceramics to analyze the damage mechanism. For this experiment, we selected a hot-pressed sintered silicon nitride ceramic as the target material and built a test system with reference to the ISO21254 international damage threshold tests standard. Silicon nitride ceramics were irradiated by solid-state  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$ : YAG pulsed laser at nanosecond and microsecond pulse duration using 1-on-1 method. The two pulse widths were respectively selected from 10 energy density gradients for laser irradiation, and with each fluence 10 points were irradiated. The spectral information was acquired using a fiber optic spectrometer, and the microscopic image information was acquired by using a metallographic microscope. Under the nanosecond pulse irradiation, damage will occur once the plasma peak appearing on the spectrum. Analyzing the plasma peak on the spectrum, we could identify whether it contains the characteristic elements of the material to determine the damage. In order to distinguish air ionization breakdown, the interference was eliminated by comparing and analyzing the air plasma spectrum. Under the microsecond pulse irradiation, the microscopic imaging showed that at the beginning of the damage, there was a strong thermal radiation line of the spectrum but no plasma spectrum line. Further increasing the laser fluence, we observed a small amount of plasma peaks appearing on the spectrum. Therefore, the material damage threshold cannot be directly judged upon the plasma peaks. The damage morphology was observed with the metallographic microscope; and obvious ablation impact was visible inside the damage area after the nanosecond pulse irradiation. A large number of plasma lines appearing on the spectrum indicate that in case of the nanosecond pulse irradiation, the damage of the silicon nitride is mainly mechanical caused by plasma shock wave. The microsecond pulses, create hot ablation marks on the edge of the irradiated area with a large amount of molten material in this zone. The spectrum shows obvious thermal radiation features, which indicates that in this case the damage is mainly thermal, caused by the long pulse duration and the corresponding heat accumulation. As the energy density increases, a plasma peak is superimposed on the thermal radiation spectrum. The degree of damage after the appearance of the plasma peak on the spectrum is consistent with the peak intensity of the plasma. The results of plasma spectroscopy and microscopic imaging were compared and analyzed. The measured spectra were fitted with the zero probability damage threshold model. The fit result showed that the plasma spectroscopy method is more suitable for the damage threshold measurement at nanosecond pulse width, and the corresponding damage threshold is of  $0.256 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ . On the other hand, the microscopic imaging is more suitable for measuring the damage threshold at the microsecond pulse width; the corresponding damage threshold is of  $6.84 \text{ J} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ .

**Keywords** Damage threshold; Silicon nitride; Plasma spectrometry

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\* Corresponding author