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# 基于回音壁模式微泡腔的流速传感应用

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摘 要:基于黏性流体的伯努利效应原理,利用回音壁模式微泡腔高品质因子与具有天然微流控通道 的特性,提出一种基于回音壁模式微泡腔的流速传感器。理论分析了黏性流体流动时由于黏滞损耗引 起的压强损失,仿真分析了不同流速范围内流动速度和压强之间的关系,发现二者之间表现出良好的 线性依赖,沿程损耗是引起压强损失的主要因素;恒定流速下微腔内部为均匀的正压分布,会引起谐振 波长红移。实验制备了壁厚约为2μm的微泡腔,并搭建流速传感实验测试系统。在3~106μL/min流 速范围内,流速增加时,谐振波长发生红移,并且波长偏移与流速之间满足良好的线性关系,拟合得到 流速传感灵敏度为0.047 pm/(μL/min),检测极限为0.635μL/min。该流速传感器结构简单、易于制 备、低成本且检测极限较低。

关键词:回音壁模式微泡腔;流速传感;微流控;伯努利效应;黏滞损耗

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0 引言

微流控技术在过去几十年内发展迅速,被广泛应用于化学合成、药物输送、生物分析和光学技术等领 域<sup>[14]</sup>。精确的流速检测作为其中的关键技术之一,被应用于多个领域,例如控制流式细胞术中的细胞计数 和分选效率<sup>[5]</sup>、影响免疫系统中抗体和靶之间的免疫反应<sup>[6]</sup>以及提高许多化学或生物传感器的精度等<sup>[7]</sup>。微 机电检测系统是一种常用的传统流速检测方法,主要依赖于电气和机械检测方法,通过测量传热、电导纳等 参数来实现流速的检测<sup>[8-10]</sup>。这种方法具有极高的集成潜力和优越的测量性能,但是制造工艺复杂和使用 成本高使其在大多数生物和化学实验中的应用受到了限制<sup>[11]</sup>。微纳光学传感器具有灵敏度高、制造相对简 单、抗电磁干扰、耐化学腐蚀、响应时间短等优点,在实际应用中受到极大关注。目前多种光学结构已经被 广泛应用于流体流速测量,例如涂有石墨烯层的光子晶体光纤<sup>[12]</sup>,掺杂钴离子的倾斜光纤布拉格光栅<sup>[13]</sup>以 及迈克尔逊干涉仪<sup>[14]</sup>等。然而,在这些传感器中,光与待测物质只能进行一次相互作用,灵敏度和响应通常 会受到传感器尺寸的限制。

回音壁模式(Whispering Gallery Mode, WGM)光学微腔因其具有高品质因子(quality factor, Q)、小模式体积能够将光子限制在腔内循环数百万次以有效增强光与物质的相互作用,从而显著提高检测灵敏度与分辨率,已成为高灵敏传感的理想平台<sup>[15-18]</sup>。特别是回音壁模式微泡腔因为拥有天然的光流控通道,在微流传

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感领域受到广泛关注,已经被应用于超声传感<sup>[19-20]</sup>、压强传感<sup>[21-22]</sup>、气体检测与识别<sup>[23-24]</sup>、水凝胶相变动力学 监测<sup>[25-26]</sup>以及生物小分子特异性检测等<sup>[27-29]</sup>。将微流控技术与微泡腔结合,可以使光场与注入微流通道内 的待测物质进行相互作用,构建高灵敏度的流速传感实验平台。

回音壁模式微腔流速传感器主要基于两种原理,一种是基于流体流动的热传递效应,即"hot-wire"原理,另一种是基于理想流体的伯努利效应原理。第一种方案的前提条件是传感器件达到一定热量,当流体通过时会带走部分热量,导致温度降低,不同流速引起的温度变化量有差异,进而利用温度变化引起的模式偏移实现流体流速检测。但是需要利用高功率光源或者对微腔结构进行修饰调整以达到提高初始温度的目的。例如,WARDJM等将金属掺杂玻璃熔化到二氧化硅微毛细管制造了一种回音壁微瓶腔激光器,实现了气体流速检测<sup>[30]</sup>。GONGYuan等将单模光纤加热拉伸制成"fiber tip"放到微环腔内部,利用泵浦激光(功率约为64.74 mW)照射对流体加热,实现了液体流速检测<sup>[31]</sup>。第二种方案根据理想流体的伯努利方程将流体流速变化转变为压强的变化,进而通过压强传感器的原理实现流速传感<sup>[32-33]</sup>。例如,CHEN Zhenmin等利用伯努利效应采用直径为210 µm,壁厚约为3.5 µm的封装微泡腔实现了0.019 6 pm/(µL/min)的流速灵敏度<sup>[32]</sup>。进一步地,WANG Zijie等利用高阶模式提高光与物质相互作用,采用直径为188 µm的微瓶腔将流速灵敏度提高至0.079 pm/(µL/min)<sup>[33]</sup>。这种方案无需高温条件,所以不需要对器件本身进行任何修饰,实验设备成本低,并且操作简单。然而在实际的微流控应用中,微流通道以及器件的尺寸通常在微纳米量级,由于流体本身的黏滞损耗,流体流动时黏滞阻力引起的能量损失不可忽略。

本文提出并实验验证了一种基于黏性流体伯努利效应原理的回音壁模式微泡腔流速传感器。首先,通 过有限元仿真软件计算了不同壁厚下微泡腔的光场分布,理论分析了流体流动过程中沿程损耗和局部损耗 引起的压强损失与流体流动速度的关系,并对恒定流速下微泡腔的速度场分布以及压强场分布进行了仿真 分析。在此基础上,搭建流速传感实验平台,测试了其在液体流动时的长时间稳定性。最后,使用壁厚约为 2 µm 的回音壁模式微泡腔得到检测灵敏度为0.047 pm/(µL/min),检测极限约为0.635 µL/min。本文提出 的流速传感器结构简单、制备成本低、器件体积小、易于集成,同时考虑了流动过程中的黏滞损耗,有在生物 医学,环境检测等领域的应用潜能。

#### 1 检测原理与仿真分析

本文提出的回音壁模式微泡腔流速传感器采用光纤锥进行耦合以激发谐振模式,耦合系统的结构示意 图如图1所示,由微泡腔和光纤锥垂直排列组成。实验中使用的光纤锥需要先将普通单模光纤去除涂层,再 通过氢氧焰加热拉细至直径约为1~2µm。微泡腔的制备过程主要分为两步,首先采用熔融拉锥法将二氧 化硅毛细管直径拉细至30µm左右,拉锥后的毛细管一端使用紫外胶密封,另一端连接注射器和微流管向其 内部施加压力,同时利用两束反向传播的二氧化碳激光聚焦在拉锥部位照射,加热膨胀后即可形成内部中空的 微泡腔<sup>[26]</sup>。此外,调节激光器的照射功率可以控制器件的尺寸,本实验中所用的微泡腔外直径约为124µm,壁 厚约为2µm,图1中的插图为注水后实物图的显微镜放大图像。在实验过程中,通过三维精密平移台和显 微镜实现光纤锥和微泡腔的耦合,从成像中实时观察二者的相对位置,为了增强耦合系统的稳定性,采取过 耦合方式。微泡腔的一端连接流速控制设备以可控流速向其中注入液体,从与保持大气连通的另一端流



图1 耦合系统结构示意图,插图:填充去离子水后微泡腔的显微镜放大成像 Fig.1 Schematic diagram of the coupling system, inset: CCD image of the microbubble cavity filled with DI water

出,改变液体流动速度时,由于伯努利效应,透射光谱的谐振模式会发生偏移。

对于某一个给定的偏振态来说,微泡腔的每个谐振模式由角向模式数*m*,径向模式数*l*和方位角模式数 q三个参数进行表征,*l*=1时称之为基模。为了更好地说明传感原理,使用有限元仿真软件建立了二维旋转 对称模型,分别对不同壁厚下基模、径向二阶、三阶模式的光场分布进行仿真,如图2所示。在仿真过程中, 将微泡腔的内半径设置为60 μm,谐振波长约为776 nm。从仿真图中可以看出,光场分布分为三个区域,分 别是微泡腔的二氧化硅壁、液芯区域和壁外区域,为了与后面的实验相对应,液芯区域设置为去离子水(DI water),壁外区域即为空气(Air)。仿真结果表明在液芯区域存在光场分布,使得光场能够与微泡腔内部物 质进行相互作用,并且从图2(a)~(c)的对比中可以看出,当控制壁厚为2 μm时,对于三阶径向模式来说,光 场在液芯区域分布的比例高于基模和径向二阶模式。同样地,如图2(d)~(f)所示,当控制壁厚为4 μm时, 径向三阶模式、二阶模式、基模的光场能量在液芯区域分布的比例依次递减,所以选择高阶模式进行实验有 利于提高传感灵敏度。此外,通过图2(c)和2(f)的对比可以直观地说明壁厚对光场分布的影响,二氧化硅 壁厚设置为2 μm时径向三阶模式的液芯光场能量要高于壁厚4 μm时的液芯光场分布。即当壁厚增加时, 分布于液芯区域的光场能量明显减少。因此,后续实验中使用壁厚约为2 μm的微泡腔,有利于提升流速传 感实验的灵敏度。



图 2 不同壁厚(t)时基模、径向二阶模式、径向三阶模式的径向光场分布,右上角插图为对应的微泡腔谐振模式仿真光场分布 Fig.2 The light field distribution of the fundamental mode, radial 2-order mode and radial 3-order mode with different wall thickness (t), and the inset in the upper right corner is the optical field distribution of the resonance modes in microbubble cavity

流体的伯努利效应将理想流体的流动速度和流体压强相关联,但是在实际应用中,流体流动时不可避 免地存在黏滞损耗,并引起压强损失,特别是在微腔尺寸很小的情况下,由于流动速度较快,黏滞力的影响 不可忽略。黏性流体的伯努利方程表达式为<sup>[34]</sup>

$$p_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho_1 \nu_1^2 + \rho_1 g h_1 = p_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho_2 \nu_2^2 + \rho_2 g h_2 + \Delta p$$
(1)

式中,p<sub>i</sub>(*i*=1,2)为流体中某点的压强,ρ为流体密度,g和h<sub>i</sub>(*i*=1,2)分别代表重力加速度和高度,即等式 左边分别代表静压能,动能和重力势能,而等式右侧的Δp代表由于黏滞阻力引起的压强损失。流体黏滞力 引起的压强损失由两部分因素组成,即在层流管道中普遍存在的沿程阻力损失与流体流过管道突变处时发 生的局部阻力损失。根据泊肃叶定律,流体的沿程阻力引起的压强损失 Δp1为[35]

$$\Delta p_1 = \frac{8\mu L\nu}{r^2} \tag{2}$$

式中,μ为沿程阻力系数,L为管道长度,r为管道内径,因此该部分损失与流体速度变化是线性关系。而由 于管道直径突然增加或减小、管道方向改变等突变引起的局部阻力损失 Δρ<sub>2</sub>为<sup>[36]</sup>

$$\Delta p_2 = \zeta \rho \frac{\nu^2}{2} \tag{3}$$

式中, 5为局部阻力系数。从式(3)可以看出局部阻力引起的压强损失与流体速度之间是二次方的关系。

此外,已有研究表明微泡腔可以用于流体压强检测,因为压强变化导致微腔发生形变,改变半径大小; 另一方面,在弹光效应的影响下二氧化硅的折射率也会发生变化,两个因素的共同作用引起回音壁模式微 泡腔的谐振波长发生偏移,如等式(4)所示<sup>[32]</sup>。

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{\mathrm{d}R}{R} + \frac{\mathrm{d}n}{n} \tag{4}$$

式中,R为微泡腔的外径,n为模式的有效折射率,当内部压强变化时,谐振波长会发生偏移。因此,基于黏滞流体的伯努利效应原理结合等式(4)可以得知当流体流速增加时,压强损失增加,从而引起微泡腔的谐振波长发生红移。

本文通过有限元仿真软件对流体流动速度恒定时的速度场分布以及压强场分布进行仿真分析,并在 0~2000 µL/min流速范围内仿真验证了流速与压强之间的关系。在入口流速为2000 µL/min时,计算得到 雷诺数保持在10<sup>2</sup>量级,说明实验系统在仿真范围内满足层流条件<sup>[37]</sup>。因此,选用层流界面对流动中流体的 压强进行理论研究,其稳态方程是基于纳维-斯托克斯方程

$$\rho \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{u}}{\partial t} + \rho(\boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{u} = \nabla \cdot \left[ -\rho \boldsymbol{I} + \boldsymbol{\tau} \right] + \boldsymbol{F}$$
(5)

式中,ρ代表密度,u代表速度矢量,p代表压强。等式右侧的*I*,τ,F分别是单位张量,黏性应力张量以及体积 力矢量。仿真过程中出入口的毛细管长度均设置为1 cm,当入口流速设置为100 μL/min时的压强场分布以 及速度场分布仿真结果如图3所示。从图3(a)可以看出,在毛细管中心位置存在速度最大值,约为3 m/s,并 且在两侧毛细管区域的速度要大于微泡腔区域的速度,速度最小值分布在模型的边界处,约为0 m/s。从 图3(b)可以看出,毛细管区域和微泡腔区域内部均呈现正压分布,并且在耦合位置处微泡腔内部的压力分 布高度均匀,因此当流体流速增加时谐振波长会发生红移现象。



图 3 100 µL/min 流速下微泡腔的速度场以及压强场分布 Fig.3 Velocity field distribution and pressure field distribution of microbubble cavity at 100 µL/min

此外,通过压力泵和流速传感器测试了 0~70 μL/min流速范围内的压强与流速关系,如图 4(a)所示,压 强随着流速改变发生线性变化,线性度 R<sup>2</sup>为 0.998。根据式(2),可知本文系统中流体的沿程损耗是引起压 强变化的主要因素。为了进一步验证上述的理论分析,在层流条件下,对较大流速范围内的流速与压强关 系进行了仿真分析(0~2 000 μL/min),如图 4(b)所示。当流速以 50 μL/min的步长值等间隔改变时,压强 与流速之间依然呈现出良好的线性关系,线性度 R<sup>2</sup>为0.999。进一步计算二者之间的线性偏离,并对其进行 多项式拟合,如图4(c)所示,二者之间满足式(3)所描述的平方依赖关系。但仿真结果表明,局部阻力系数 较小,通常情况下可忽略不计,因此流速变化时,流体的沿程阻力是引起压强损失的主导因素。随后,对流 速传感器的动态范围进行了理论计算,其上限值主要受到实际应用中微泡腔所能承受的最大压强值制约, 而下限值与微泡腔所能测得的最小压强有关。因此,根据二氧化硅球形压力容器的最大可承压公式<sup>[38]</sup>

$$P = 2\delta\sigma_s \phi/D \tag{6}$$

计算得到实际应用中微泡腔所能测得的上限值。式(6)中δ代表微泡腔壁厚,σ<sub>s</sub>代表屈服强度,φ代表焊缝系数,D代表内直径。另一方面,根据回音壁模式微泡腔的压强灵敏度公式<sup>[32]</sup>

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\lambda}{\mathrm{d}p_i} = \lambda \left(\frac{3C}{n_{\mathrm{eff}}} + \frac{4G + 3K}{12GK}\right) \frac{r^3}{\left(R^3 - r^3\right)} \tag{7}$$

得到动态范围的下限值。式(7)中R和r分别代表微泡腔的外半径和内半径,n<sub>eff</sub>代表模式的有效折射率,常量C、G、K分别代表弹光系数、剪切模量,以及体积模量,其值依次为4×10<sup>-12</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/N,31×10<sup>9</sup> Pa,41×10<sup>9</sup> Pa。 根据实验过程中使用的微泡腔内外半径分别为60 μm和62 μm,可以计算得到此时压强的测量范围约为 3 333 kPa,对应的流速范围约为1 000 μL/min。值得注意的是,微泡腔流速传感器的动态范围会受到微泡 腔壁厚和尺寸的影响。因此,微腔壁厚和半径与动态范围之间的关系如图4(d)所示。随着内半径和壁厚的 比值增加,流速传感器的动态范围呈现出急剧减小的趋势,而后在比值达到250 附近时趋于平稳。



图4 不同流速范围内压强与流速的关系以及流速动态范围分析

Fig.4 Relationship between flow rate and pressure for the different ranges of the flow rate and analysis of the dynamic range

### 2 实验与结果分析

对所提出的流速传感器进行实验验证,实验装置如图 5 所示。实验中采用 780 nm 波段的可调谐激光器,激光经单模光纤传输至光衰减器,通过适当地调节光衰减器得到所需的激光功率,将其控制在微瓦量级,避免因功率过高损耗实验器件的使用寿命并且能够减小热噪声对实验的干扰。信号发生器用来产生扫频信号对激光波长进行精细扫描,扫频信号为频率 50 Hz,幅值 4 V<sub>pp</sub>的三角波。光纤偏振器用来调节输入光的偏振状态,以保证达到最佳的耦合效率。在进行流速传感实验的过程中,将耦合系统放置在定制的亚克力材质外罩内以减小来自外界环境的干扰。使用的微泡腔壁厚约为 2 µm,外直径约为 124 µm,其一端经微流管连接流速控制设备。采用压力泵将去离子水注入微泡腔内,并通过连接流速传感器来校准实时流速。最后,用低噪声光电探测器收集不同流速对应的透射光谱信息,经过光电信号转换后,示波器可以显示透射光谱的变化,而光电探测器的另一路与数据采集卡连接以记录实时采集的光谱信息。



TL: tunable laser; VOA: variable optical attenuator; FPC: fiber polarization controller; MBR: microbubble resonator; PD: photodetector; DAQ: data acquisition card; AFG: arbitrary function generator; OSC: oscilloscope

图 5 实验装置 Fig.5 Flow rate sensing experimental set-up

当向空腔内注入一定量的去离子水后,耦合系统受到影响,微泡腔注入液体前后透射谱的模式特征发 生了变化,如图 6(a)所示。对填充液体后透射谱中使用蓝色方框标注部位的模式进行洛伦兹拟合,拟合结 果表明本文实验中用到的微腔Q值可以达到 10<sup>6</sup>,如图 6(b)所示。此外,为了表征耦合系统的稳定性,在流 动速度恒定的情况下向微泡腔内连续注入液体,图 6(c)为以 10 μL/min速度流动时的稳定性测试,从图中能 够看出在流动 3 min以后透射谱的模式特征几乎不变。图 6(d)为液体以 10 μL/min速度流动时谐振模式偏 移的长时间稳定性,在 12 min内谐振波长偏移量的标准差约为 0.029 pm,表明测试系统良好的稳定性。进 一步引入艾伦方差对实验系统的本征噪声进行表征,可以看出在接近 100 s时艾伦方差达到最小值,而后呈 现上升趋势,这可能是由于激光器的热噪声引起的。值得注意的是,在采集实验数据的过程中始终保持环 境温度恒定。

流速传感实验的灵敏度测试实验过程中,微泡腔的一端保持与大气连通,另一端连接压力控制器并以 不同流速向其中注入去离子水。在3~106 μL/min的流速范围内进行流速检测实验,期间透射光谱的变化 如图7(a)所示。值得注意的是,为了保证溶液达到稳定的流动状态,在每个流速下至少等待90 s以后再开 始采集数据。图7(a)中橙色阴影部分显示了谐振模式的波长偏移过程,流体流速增加导致微泡腔内部压强 增加,引起谐振模式的波长发生红移,对其线性拟合,检测灵敏度为0.047 pm/(μL/min),如图7(b)所示,图 中谐振波长偏移和流速变化在实验可达的范围内展示出了良好的线性关系,线性度 R<sup>2</sup>可以达到0.997。通 过测试系统稳定性计算得到短时噪声水平约为0.034 pm,根据传感灵敏度计算可得流速传感器检测极限约 为0.635 μL/min<sup>[39]</sup>。最后,为了表征流速传感实验的可逆性和重复性,重复打开和关闭流速控制设备,得到 谐振波长随时间变化的实时响应,如图7(c)所示,发现,当流速控制设备打开时,谐振模式经历快速红移过 程,然后达到平衡状态;当流速恢复到0 μL/min时,谐振波长恢复到初始状态,显示了流速传感器良好的可 逆性和快速响应能力。





图7 流速传感实验结果 Fig.7 Experimental results for flow rate sensing

## 3 结论

本文考虑实际流体流动过程中的黏滞损耗,利用黏性流体的伯努利效应原理,实现了一种基于回音壁 模式微泡腔的流速传感器。理论分析发现沿程损耗引起的压强损失与流体速度呈现线性关系,并且沿程损 耗是引起压强损失的主要因素,其压强损失量与流速呈正相关关系,说明流速增加会引起谐振波长红移。 其次,使用有限元仿真软件计算了回音壁模式微泡腔光场分布,结果表明减小微泡腔的壁厚可提高传感灵 敏度。此外,分析恒定流动速度下微泡腔的速度场以及压强场分布,得到微腔呈现出高度均匀的正压分布。 使用壁厚约为2μm的微腔进行了流速传感实验,实验结果表明,在3~106μL/min流速范围内,传感灵敏度 可以达到0.047 pm/(μL/min),检测极限约为0.635μL/min。本文设计的流速传感器利用微泡腔的天然微 流通道,不需要对器件本身进行任何复杂的修饰,具有制备简单、结构尺寸小以及易于集成的优势,并考虑 了实际微流应用中的黏滞损耗,为实现流体属性检测提供了新的思路。

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# Flow Rate Sensing Based on Whispering Gallery Mode Microbubble Cavity

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Abstract: Microfluidic technology has developed rapidly in the past few decades and has been widely used in chemical synthesis, drug delivery, bioanalytical and optical technology applications. Accurate flow rate detection, as one of the key technologies, is used in several fields, such as controlling the efficiency of cell counting and sorting in flow cytometry, influencing the immunoreaction between antibodies and targets in the immune system, and enhancing the precision of many chemical or biological sensors. Optical sensors, which have the advantages of high sensitivity, simple fabrication, resistance to electromagnetic interference, chemical resistance, and short response time, have received great attention in flow rate detection applications. Particularly, Whispering Gallery Mode (WGM) optical microcavity has become an ideal platform for highly sensitive flow rate sensing owing to its high quality factor (Q) and small mode volume that can confine the photons to circulate millions of times within the cavity to effectively enhance the light-matter interactions, thereby significantly improving the detection sensitivity and resolution. WGM microcavity flow rate sensor is primarily based on two principles, one is based on the thermal effect of fluid flow, relying on the resonance wavelength shift induced by temperature variations to detect flow rate, and the other is based on the Bernoulli effect principle of ideal fluid, utilizing pressure sensor mechanism for flow rate detection. The former usually requires the use of a high-power light source or modification of the microcavity structure to increase the initial temperature, while the latter obviates the need for high-temperature conditions, thereby reducing experimental equipment costs and simplifying operation. However, in practical microfluidic applications, the size of the microfluidic channels and devices are usually in the micro-nanometer scale. Due to the internal viscous loss of the fluid, the energy loss caused by the viscous resistance during fluid flow is non-negligible. In this paper, a flow rate sensor based on WGM microbubble cavity is proposed and experimentally validated employing Bernoulli effect principle for viscous fluids.

The WGM microbubble cavity flow rate sensor uses fiber taper for coupling to excite the resonance modes, with the coupling system comprising vertically aligned the microbubble cavity and the fiber taper. In order to better explain the sensing principle, a two-dimensional rotational symmetry model is established using the finite element simulation software, and the optical field distribution of fundamental modes, radial second-order modes and third-order modes under different wall thicknesses are simulated. The simulation results show that there is a light field distribution within the inner wall region, so that the light field can interact with the material inside the microbubble cavity. Furthermore, reducing the wall thickness of the microbubble cavity or adopting high order mode can enhance the sensitivity of the sensor. Subsequently, the pressure loss caused by viscous loss of the fluid is analyzed theoretically through Bernoulli effect equation. Among them, the pressure loss due to friction loss along the flow path exhibits a good linear dependence on the flow rate, while the pressure loss arising from local resistance demonstrates a quadratic relationship with the flow rate. The relationship between the pressure change and the flow rate change in different flow rate ranges is studied, which verifies the above theory and shows that the friction loss along the flow path is the main factor contributing to the pressure loss. In addition, the velocity field distribution and pressure field distribution of the microbubble cavity at the flow rate of 100  $\mu$ L/min are simulated. It is observed that there is a maximum velocity at the center of the capillary, which is about 3 m/s, while the minimum velocity is at the boundary of the model. And the pressure field distribution shows that there is a highly uniform positive pressure distribution inside the microbubble cavity, leading to the redshift of the resonance mode. Finally, a microbubble cavity with a wall thickness of 2 µm is experimentally prepared, whose Q-factor can reach  $10^6$  after filling with DI water, and the flow rate sensing test system is constructed. The pressure pump and flow rate sensor are employed to achieve accurate control of different flow rates, and the long-term stability at the flow rate of 10  $\mu$ L/min is tested experimentally. The standard deviation of resonance wavelength shift within a period of 12 minutes is obtained as 0.029 pm, indicating the excellent stability of the test system. Furthermore, a good linear relationship between the resonant wavelength shift and flow rate of DI water is shown when varying different flow rates. The experimental results demonstrate that the flow rate sensitivity can reach 0.047 pm/( $\mu$ L/min), with a detection limit of approximately 0.635 µL/min. The proposed flow rate sensor leverages the natural microfluidic channel of the microbubble resonator without any complicated modification of the device itself, which has the advantages of simple preparation, compact structure size, low cost as well as easy integration. And the viscous loss in practical microfluidic applications is taken into account, providing a new idea for realizing the detection of fluid property.

Key words: Whispering gallery mode microbubble cavity; Flow rate sensing; Microfluidic; Bernoulli effect; Viscous loss

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