

DOI: 10.16788/j.hddz.32-1865/P.2024.05.009

引文格式: 余琳琳, 朱孔阳, 李明月, 张建超, 董传万, 沈忠悦, 王强. 2025. X 射线 CT 成像技术在地质学中的应用[J]. 华东地质, 46(2): 149-170. (SHE L L, ZHU K Y, LI M Y, ZHANG J C, DONG C W, SHEN Z Y, WANG Q. 2025. Applications of X-ray computed tomography in geology[J]. East China Geology, 46(2): 149-170.)

## X 射线 CT 成像技术在地质学中的应用

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**摘要:** X 射线计算机断层成像(X-ray computed tomography, X-CT)技术以其无损、高效、高分辨率和多尺度三维成像等独特优势, 在地质学研究中扮演着重要的角色。当前, X-CT 技术在地质学研究领域应用的相关综述文献仍较为匮乏, 且已有的综述文章在内容关联性和系统性方面尚存在改进空间, 未能充分反映 X-CT 技术的日益发展及其在地质学研究中应用领域不断扩展的事实。为此, 文章较全面地回顾并总结了国内外 X-CT 技术在地质学研究中的应用现状。首先, 从内容连贯性和体系性的角度出发, 对 X-CT 技术的发展史、基本原理、优劣势等做了基本的回顾; 其次, 从地球演化的宏观视角切入, 聚焦于地球的形成、地球内部深处物质(如熔体、岩浆)和浅部物质(与风化、沉积、变质变形等过程相关的地质材料)的结构及其变化, 详细探讨了 X-CT 技术在地质学各分支学科中的应用实例和最新进展; 最后, 对全文做出归纳, 并对 X-CT 技术未来的发展趋势进行了预测。总体而言, 随着 X-CT 技术在地质学研究中的深度应用, 地质学家对于地球的起源、物质构成及演化历程等核心议题的认识正日益深化, 这将有力推动地球科学研究的整体进步。

**关键词:** X-CT 技术; 三维结构; 定量分析; 地质学应用

**中图分类号:** P623.6

**文献标识码:** A

**文章编号:** 2096-1871(2025)02-149-22

地质学是地球科学的一个重要分支学科, 它以地壳或岩石圈为主要研究对象, 通过分析各种地质现象和地质过程, 来探讨其物质组成、演化历史和运动形变等(傅恒等, 2021; 陶晓风和吴德超, 2019; 熊定一等, 2023)。地质学研究涵盖广泛的时空尺度, 研究过程中, 需要将野外宏观调查与室内微观分析相结合。传统的微观研究, 主要借助手标本的直接观察、薄片的镜下观察与鉴定、扫描电子显微镜分析及电子探针分析等手段完成, 获得的结果大多局限于二维尺度。常规的三维微观分析方法不仅耗时, 还会对样品原有的结构特征造成破坏, 如基于连续磨片建立的三维结构方法(Lymeropoulos and Payatakes, 1992), 这对于珍贵样品, 如稀有化石、陨石及石质文物等研究对

象而言, 是不合适的。此时, 无损成像就成为研究者们首要考虑的成像技术。X 射线计算机断层成像(X-ray computed tomography, X-CT)技术, 不仅能无损、快速、高分辨率、多尺度地建立地质材料表面及其内部结构的三维图像, 还能区分物质成分, 并定量地分析不同成分的结构与构造特征, 有效地弥补了传统三维成像方法的不足。因此, 该技术近些年来颇受地学界的青睐, 并得到了广泛的应用。

### 1 X-CT 技术概况

#### 1.1 X-CT 技术发展简史

X-CT 技术的数学理论基础源于 1917 年

\* 收稿日期: 2024-05-24 修订日期: 2024-08-25 责任编辑: 石磊

**基金项目:** 国家重点研发计划“明清官式建筑营造技艺科学认知与本体保护关键技术研究及示范(编号: 2020YFC1522400)”、浙江省文物保护科技项目“浙江省摩崖石刻与造像的岩相学特征分析(编号: 2024006)”和徐州博物馆(徐州汉画像石艺术馆)“江苏徐州龟山西汉楚襄王刘注墓山体岩石构造科技分析研究(编号: 徐博合 2023209 号)”项目联合资助。

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Radon 提出的投影变换概念,这一理论后被命名为“Radon 变换”,即一个物体可借助其无限的投影集进行重建(Radon, 1917; 赵强, 2000)。在此基础上,经多位科学家的持续探索与创新(Cormack, 1964; Hounsfield, 1973; Korenblum et al., 1958; Oldendorf, 1961; Tetelbaum, 1956, 1957),最终在 1971 年,诞生了世界首台临床诊疗 X-CT 机(Hounsfield, 1973, 1976),自此掀起了 X-CT 技术理论和应用研究的热潮。

X-CT 成像设备主要由 3 部分组成(图 1):①扫描单元,包括 X 射线源、探测器和扫描架等;②计算机系统,负责储存和运算扫描采集的数据;③图形显示与储存系统,用于储存和展示计算机重建的图像(Hsieh, 2003; Withers et al., 2021; 赵强, 2000)。经过几十年的发展(表 1),X-CT 技术的软件和硬件性能均得到了显著提升,现已能细致地刻画物质内部结构并准确地识别物质成分,例如,具备元素识别功能的多能 X-CT 机(Adams, 1998;

Agostini et al., 2019; Alfidi et al., 1975; Forghani et al., 2017; Higashigaito et al., 2022; Rigauts et al., 1990; Siegel et al., 2016)。

1.2 X-CT 技术成像基本原理

X-CT 技术的成像模式主要有两类:一类是传统的基于检测 X 射线穿过目标体后强度变化的成像,被称为“X 射线吸收衬度断层成像(X-ray absorption-contrast computed tomography)” ;另一类是基于探测 X 射线穿过物质时相位变化的成像,被称为“X 射线相位衬度断层成像(X-ray phase-contrast computed tomography)” (Endrizzi, 2018; Takeuchi et al., 2013; Withers et al., 2021; 黄海波等, 2023; 王传田等, 2021)。虽然 X 射线相位衬度成像模式在硬 X 射线波段(0.01~0.1 nm)对有效原子序数较低的物质表现出更高的成像灵敏度,能进一步区分样品的细节特征(Bravin et al., 2013; Takeuchi et al., 2013),但其更多地是作为 X 射线吸收衬度断层成像的补充。因此,本文主要介绍

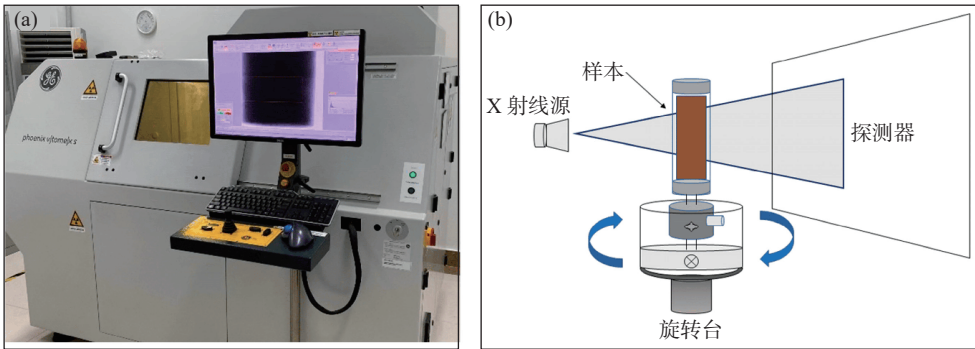


图1 地质学研究领域使用的先进的 Phoenix V|tome|x s CT 扫描仪(a)及其扫描原理示意图(b)(Liu et al., 2024)

Fig. 1 The advanced Phoenix V|tome|x s CT scanner used in the field of geological research (a) and its schematic diagram illustrating scanning principle (b) (Liu et al., 2024)

| 表1 X-CT 扫描仪的谱系发展历史                                   |            |                  |                   |                        |                    |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Table 1 The evolutionary history of X-ray CT scanner |            |                  |                   |                        |                    |                  |
| 项目                                                   | 第一代        | 第二代              | 第三代               | 螺旋 CT                  | 双能 CT              | 多能 CT            |
| 时间                                                   | 1971年      | 1974年            | 1975年             | 1989年                  | 2006年              | 2016年            |
| 光源-探测器运动模式                                           | 同步平移-旋转    | 同步平移-旋转          | 同步旋转-旋转           | 同步旋转-旋转                | 同步旋转-旋转            | 同步旋转-旋转          |
| 单张扫描时间                                               | 约 5 min    | 20 s~2 min       | 1.9~5 s           | < 1 s                  | < 1 s              | < 1 s            |
| 特点                                                   | 分辨率低、扫描时间长 | 扫描范围扩大、速度和分辨率均提高 | 扫描范围、速度和分辨率均进一步优化 | 允许连续无层隔扫描,结构更简单,软件功能更多 | 配置两套 X 光能谱,可识别物质成分 | 配置多套 X 光能谱,分辨率提高 |

X 射线吸收衬度断层成像的基本原理。

传统的 X 射线吸收衬度断层成像,若无特殊说明,等同于“X 射线计算机断层成像(X-CT)”,它主要是利用 X 射线(波长为 0.01 ~ 10 nm)对物体的某一断面进行成像(图 1(b)),符合 Lambert-Beers 定律(Hsieh, 2003),即当单一能量的 X 射线通过均质材料时,其强度变化可用以下公式表示:

$$I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}, \quad (1)$$

式中:  $I_0$  和  $I$  分别是 X 射线的入射强度和穿过样本后的剩余强度;  $\mu$  是被扫描物体的线衰减系数,它与物质的有效原子序数、密度以及 X 射线的能量有关(Curry III et al., 1990; Hsieh, 2003; Van Geet et al., 2000);  $x$  是 X 射线在样本中穿过的厚度。

当单能量的 X 射线穿过非均质物体时,上述方程可修改为:

$$I = I_0 e^{-\int_L \mu(x) dx}, \quad (2)$$

式中:  $L$  为 X 射线在样本穿过的总厚度,  $\mu(x)$  是  $L$  上某一点  $x$  处的衰减系数。此时的成像本质是衰减系数  $\mu$  在某一方向上累计值的分布,即可设定扫描轨迹以获得物体的一系列投影图像,并利用 CT 算法构建物体衰减系数  $\mu$  的分布。物体的不同成分对 X 射线会造成不同程度的衰减,因此,衰减系数  $\mu$  的分布实质上反映了物体内部的结构特征。

### 1.3 X-CT 技术的成像尺度和维度

X-CT 技术能为地质材料提供多尺度成像,即提供不同空间分辨率的图像。X-CT 三维图像的空间分辨率叫做“体素”,英文名为“voxel”,是由“volume”和“pixel”两个单词拼合而成(刘洁等, 2023),含义类似于二维图像的“像素”。研究表明, X-CT 技术成像分辨率的大小与待测样品的大小有关(Ketcham and Carlson, 2001; Rivers et al., 2004; Wildenschild and Sheppard, 2013),两者大致呈现反比关系(表 2)。在实际研究中,通常使用医用和工业用 X-CT 设备对大尺寸样品进行扫描成像,可以获得毫米级或亚毫米级的分辨率。例如,大尺寸岩芯样品的 X-CT 成像,获得的体素分辨率一般为 250  $\mu\text{m}$ (Baraka-Lokmane et al., 2009; Coles et al., 1998)。当需要精细观测地质样本内部的孔隙、裂隙以及矿物分布等微观特征时,一般采用显微 X-CT(也称作  $\mu\text{CT}$ )或双能 X-CT 成像系统,以此来获得微米、亚微米甚至纳米级的体

素分辨率(De Boever et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2023; Purcell et al., 2009; Van Geet et al., 2000; Wildenschild and Sheppard, 2013)。刘洁等(2023)采用了 20 种体素分辨率(总范围为 0.7~61  $\mu\text{m}$ ),对 50 个普通岩石教学标本进行了 X-CT 多尺度成像,并构建了与薄片相对应的立体图像,提高了对岩石标本岩相学特征的认识。X-CT 技术还可以结合其他分析技术,形成一个多维度的成像与分析系统。例如,澳大利亚国立大学研究小组将显微 CT( $\mu\text{CT}$ )、背散射扫描电镜(BSEM)和聚焦离子束扫描电镜(FIB-SEM)结合起来,共同分析了碳酸盐岩储层的孔隙结构,并探讨了孔隙结构对油气的连通性、电导率、渗透性和采收率等可能产生的影响(Sok et al., 2010)。

表 2 X-CT 技术的多尺度成像类型(Ketcham and Carlson, 2001)

Table 2 Types of multi-scale imaging of X-CT technology (Ketcham and Carlson, 2001)

| X-CT 种类                                   | 待测样品大小 | 成像分辨率/ $\mu\text{m}$ |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 常规 CT(conventional CT)                    | 米级     | 1 000                |
| 高分辨率 CT(high-resolution CT)               | 分米级    | 100                  |
| 超高分辨率 CT(ultra-high-resolution CT)        | 厘米级    | 10                   |
| 显微 CT(microtomography, 或 $\mu\text{CT}$ ) | 毫米级    | 1                    |

### 1.4 X-CT 技术与其他三维显微成像技术的比较

目前,在地质学领域,除了 X-CT 技术外,其余常见的三维显微结构成像技术有:系列二维切片技术(serial sections technology, 本文简称为 SS)(Lymberopoulos and Payatakes, 1992)、聚焦离子束-扫描电子显微镜双束成像技术(focused ion beam-scanning electron microscope, 简称为 FIB-SEM)(关振良等, 2009)、磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, 简称为 MRI)(Lauterbur, 1973)和电子背散射衍射技术(electron backscattered diffraction, 简称为 EBSD)(曹淑云和刘俊来, 2006)等。

SS 技术是一种有损成像技术,通过获取样品一系列连续的二维切片图像来构建三维立体图像(Chawla et al., 2006; Vogel and Roth, 2001)。该方法因劳动强度大、耗时长以及代表性图像获取难度大等原因,已被逐渐淘汰。

FIB-SEM 技术在理论上可以简单地理解为系列二维切片技术的升级版,它只是将切割工具换成了一束聚焦的离子(通常是镓离子,束斑直径约

为 10 nm)。利用聚焦离子束连续切割样品,同时结合扫描电子显微镜(SEM)对样品进行背散射电子成像和二次电子成像,以此实现三维结构的重建(Sloyan et al., 2021; 谷立新和李金华, 2020; 关振良等, 2009)。

MRI 技术是通过物体施加 3 个相互垂直的、可控的线性梯度磁场,利用梯度磁场中不同位置磁场强度的差异,进行层面选择编码、相位编码和频率编码,进而实现信号的空间定位,最终完成三维磁共振成像。MRI 作为一种无损成像技术,多用于直接观察流体在岩石中的分布形态,以及表征亚微米尺度至纳米尺度的孔隙结构及其变化等(王琨等, 2020; 吴志军等, 2021; 张娜等, 2018)。

EBSD 成像技术也是基于 SEM 平台,利用入射电子与样品晶格的相互作用,使部分电子发生衍射,形成特定的衍射花样,通过对比标准数据库

中相同成分晶体的花样图谱,以快速地标定目标晶体的晶面符号,进而确定晶系、晶胞等参数(曹淑云和刘俊来, 2006; 刘俊来等, 2008; 张青和李馨, 2021)。若再配合聚焦离子束(FIB)的微观加工能力,即能实现晶粒的三维微观结构成像(袁晓虹等, 2021)。目前,EBSD 技术主要应用于流变条件下矿物晶轴、组构的定向分析(张青和李馨, 2021)。

将 X-CT 技术与上述成像技术进行对比(表 3),可以发现 X-CT 技术最主要的优势在于能快速、无损地对物体表面及其内部结构进行三维成像;其次,对待测样品的尺寸限制较低,可对微米至米级的物体进行三维成像。此外,X-CT 技术还能获得纳米至微米分辨率的图像,具有多尺度成像的能力(Cnudde and Boone, 2013; Ketcham and Carlson, 2001; 袁清习等, 2019)和获得高对比度(密度分辨率)图像的能力(Endrizzi, 2018)。

表3 地质学研究中常见的三维显微结构成像技术对比  
Table 3 Comparison of common 3D microscopic imaging techniques for geological materials

| 成像技术    | 样品尺寸 | 空间分辨率 | 时间分辨率 | 损伤情况 | 测试成本 | 测试效率 |
|---------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| SS      | 毫米   | 毫米至微米 | 分或小时  | 有损   | 低    | 低    |
| FIB-SEM | 微米   | 纳米    | 分     | 有损   | 中    | 中    |
| MRI     | 毫米   | 微米    | 分或小时  | 无损   | 高    | 中    |
| EBSD    | 微米   | 纳米    | 秒     | 有损   | 高    | 中    |
| X-CT    | 米至微米 | 微米至纳米 | 秒     | 无损   | 中    | 高    |

相较于上述几类三维显微结构成像技术,X-CT 技术在成像质量与应用普及方面还存在一定的局限性。在成像质量上,存在成像伪影、剂量效应以及空间分辨率等问题(Cnudde and Boone, 2013; Ketcham and Carlson, 2001; Withers et al., 2021)。X-CT 技术成像伪影问题显著地影响着图像质量,典型的问题如图像噪声、环状伪影、射线硬束伪影、条状伪影和部分容积效应等(Boas and Fleischmann, 2012; Willson, 2020; Withers et al., 2021),这为获取优质图像带来了一定挑战。剂量效应指的是放射剂量与成像体素分辨率大致成反比的关系(Withers et al., 2021)。研究表明,当图像噪声保持一定时,若要将空间分辨率提高 1 倍,则需将 X 射线的放射剂量增加到原来的 8 倍;而若保持图像分辨率不变,将图像噪声降至原来的一半,则需要将放射剂量增加到原来的 4 倍(赵强, 2000)。高剂量一般伴随高 X 光通量,如同步辐射

设备中的 X 光源,其 CT 成像可能会对样品造成辐射损伤并产生成像伪影(Withers et al., 2021; 白宇等, 2022;徐明钻等, 2021),尤其是对活体样本,可能会造成其遗传物质 DNA 的破坏(Withers et al., 2021)。其次,X-CT 技术在应用推广方面,也面临着使用成本高、高分辨率扫描数据体量大和数据分析门槛高等限制。

## 2 X-CT 技术在地质学中的应用

目前,X-CT 技术凭借无损特性和三维或四维(3D + 时间)的成像能力(Flenner et al., 2020),被广泛应用于除医学以外的无损检测、结构分析、材料分析与评估、安全检查、考古和地质学等领域。尤其在地质学领域,X-CT 技术已成为行星科学、岩石学、地层学、石油地质学、古生物学、岩石力学及矿床学等多个分支学科的重要研究工具。

下文基于广泛的国内外文献调研, 精选出了系列应用案例, 旨在系统地展示 X-CT 技术在地质学研究中的重要作用, 即 X-CT 技术不仅能提供多样化的成像模式和信息提取类型, 也为地质学家提供了新的洞察视角, 促进了对地质学领域的深入理解 and 创新发展。

## 2.1 早期地球演化研究

陨石是太阳星云早期演化的产物, 也是唯一与原始地球相近的天外地质材料, 因此, 它是研究太阳星云和地球起源的重要载体(缪秉魁等, 2021; 倪文俊等, 2017)。陨石包括石陨石、铁陨石和石铁陨石 3 类(侯渭和谢鸿森, 2003)。传统的陨石结构观察依赖于岩石切片法, 但该方法耗时、复杂且极易损耗样品(倪文俊等, 2017)。相比之下, 高分辨率 X-CT 技术具有明显的优势, 其能无损地对陨石的岩相学特征, 如陨石球粒、球粒与基质的体积比、金属矿物和硫化物矿物的分布及孔隙分布等, 进行精确的定量分析, 并已取得了很好的应用效果(图 2)。例如, Carlson and McCoy (1998) 利用 X-CT 技术对洛德拉尼陨石(Iodranite meteorite GRA95209)进行分析, 发现其内部成分不均一, 包括金属体、硅酸盐基质和石墨等 3 部分。其中, 金属体大面积地分布在靠近陨石外表面的

位置, 部分延伸至陨石内部, 并与基质中的几条不同粗细的金属脉相连, 暗示金属元素可以通过金属脉从基质中发生萃取和富集。结合 X-CT 提取的金属体和基质的相对体积, 学者们估算了该陨石内部的质量平衡度, 排除了熔体完全由陨石独立产生的可能性(Ketcham and Carlson, 2001)。进一步的研究表明, 陨石细脉和基质中的碳质成分具有不同的结构和同位素组成, 可能反映了不同的热演化历史: 细脉部分的碳质成分指示了高温岩浆作用, 而基质中的碳质成分则很有可能指示陨石形成之前原始星云中的岩浆作用(McCoy et al., 2006)。还有学者通过分析 CR 型陨石(一种碳质球粒陨石)球粒的 X-CT 成像, 发现其具有同心分层结构, 并以此推断该类球粒的生长方式为增生型, 且球粒的形状可以指示陨石的熔融程度(Ebel and Rivers, 2007)。基于 X-CT 技术提取的孔隙类型还能反演陨石所经历的成岩过程, 如过冷却、热变质和低速撞击变质等作用过程(Rivers et al., 2004)。综上所述, X-CT 技术在分析陨石内部的结构、构造和成分方面发挥了重要的作用, 有助于推断其起源、演化历史和演化动力学机制, 为后续研究类地行星的起源和演化提供了重要的模板。

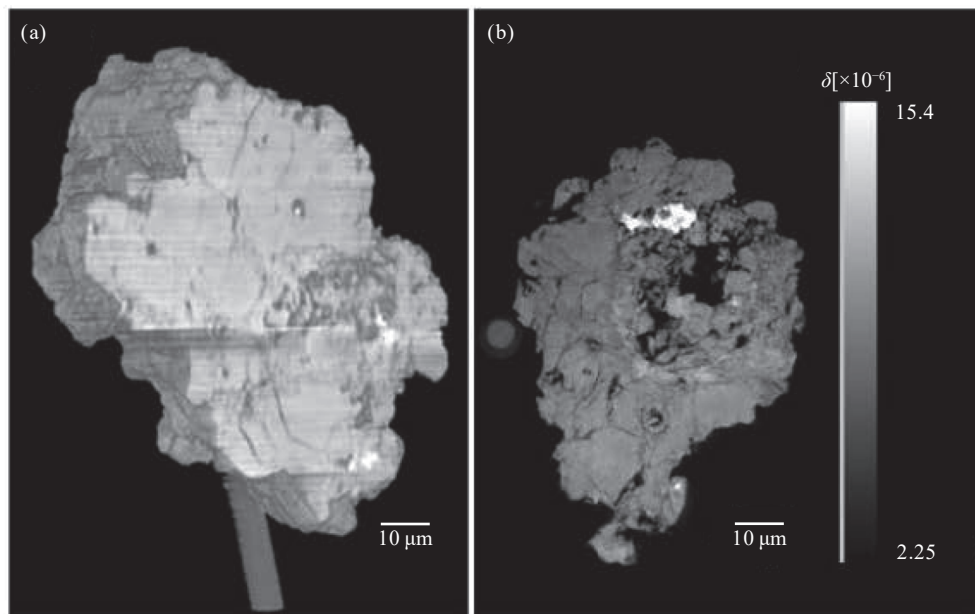


图2 Allende 陨石的 X 射线相位衬度显微断层成像(SRX-PC-μCT)体渲染视图(a)及其二维 CT 视图(b)(Takeuchi et al., 2013)

Fig. 2 Volume rendering view (a) and two-dimensional CT slice view (b) of the Allende meteorite obtained through synchrotron X-ray phase contrast micro-computed tomography (SRX-PC-μCT) (Takeuchi et al., 2013)

## 2.2 熔体结构监测

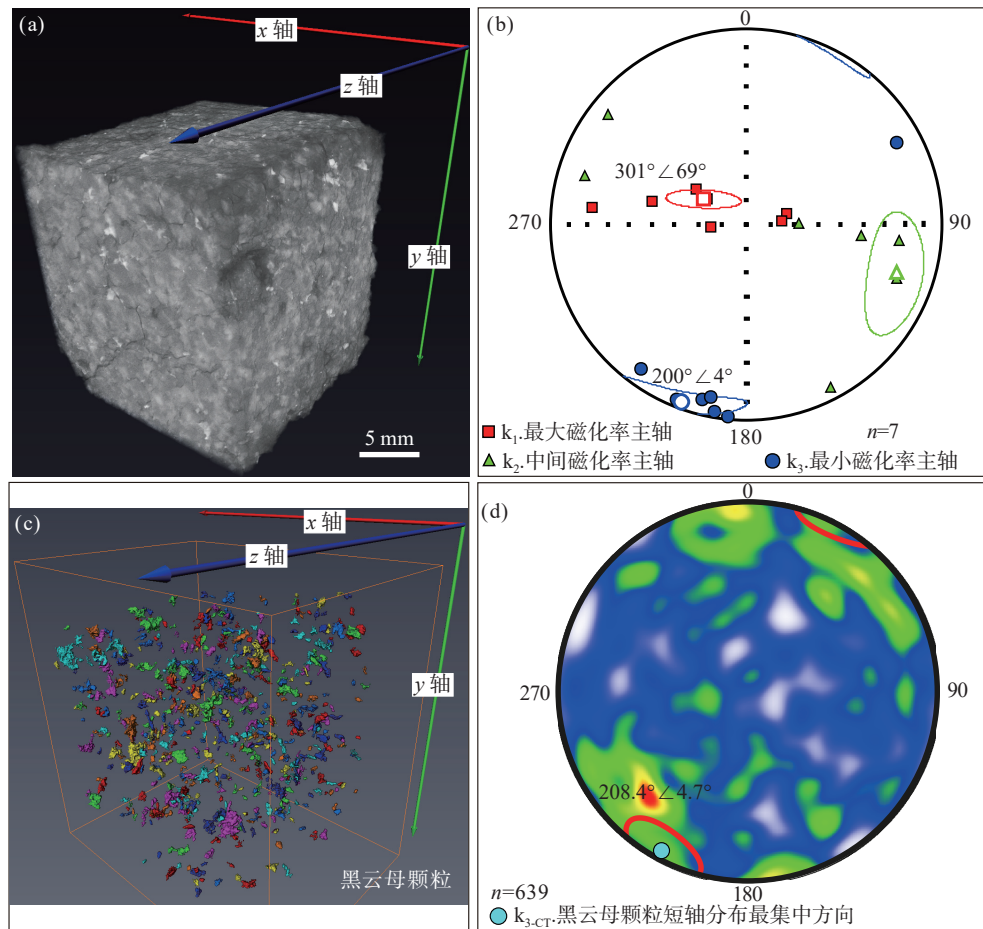
地球或其他类地行星内部的熔体是其物质和能量再分配的重要载体,充分了解高温高压条件下熔体的物理化学特征,如密度、粘度、压缩系数和热膨胀系数等,有助于正确认识其在行星内部圈层的形成与演化过程中所起的作用,进而解释其与壳、幔熔融相关的各种地质现象。Katayama et al.(1996, 1998)利用同步辐射装置,设计了一种基于 X 射线吸收原理测量高温高压环境下液态金属密度的方案,并应用此技术成功测量了金属铋(Bi)和碲(Te)在液态状态下的密度。之后,这一方法被扩展到熔融态 Fe-FeS(Chen et al., 2005)或 Fe-C(Terasaki et al., 2010)体系的密度测量,以及硅酸盐在熔融态与玻璃态时的粘度、密度的测量中(Ohtani et al., 2005)。然而,Lesher et al.(2009)认为,在高温高压环境中确定硅酸盐熔体的密度仍比较困难,但可通过建立熔体体积和温度、压力之间的关系求得。为此,Lesher et al.(2009)利用显微 X-CT 技术构建了高温高压环境下硅酸镁熔体的三维结构,通过提取不同温压条件下熔体的体积及其变化,求得了熔体的密度。研究结果显示,X-CT 提取的熔体密度与其他方法求得的密度相近,证实了该方法的可行性。Lesher et al.(2009)还发现 X-CT 技术能实时监控样品在部分熔融过程中结构的变化。其他学者利用同步辐射 X-CT 设备,定量观测了高温高压下 BaCO<sub>3</sub> 熔体在橄榄石颗粒中的渗流情况,以此来模拟地幔中熔体或岩浆的运移情况(Giovenco et al., 2021)。显然,显微 X-CT 技术为研究地球内部地核、地幔和地壳内的熔体特征及其演化过程提供了新的途径。现有研究表明,X-CT 技术还可以应用到其他高温高压实验研究中(Chen et al., 2016),未来可考虑将相关部分,如物质的超导性、金属玻璃脱玻化和矿物流变学等内容借鉴至熔体特征的研究中,拓展对熔体特征的认识。

## 2.3 岩浆运移-侵位-喷发过程

岩浆的运移、侵位和喷发流动等过程,可引起岩石内部矿物的定向排列。因此,可根据岩石的组构特征来反推相应的岩浆过程。例如,利用磁组构(狭义上等同于磁化率各向异性, Anisotropy of Magnetic Susceptibility, AMS)方法,来定量表达岩石内部磁性矿物的特征,如矿物的形状、位置及其优势定向等,进而推断岩浆流动和侵位

等过程(Tarling and Hrouda, 1993; 杨献忠等, 2022)。然而,AMS 的测量结果是岩石中所有磁性矿物分布的综合反映,是一个平均结果,若结合 X-CT 成像的研究结果,则可以更系统、直观地分析岩石的组构特征(Mattsson et al., 2021; Zhu et al., 2017)。本文利用 X-CT 技术和 AMS 测试,对白云鄂博地区晚二叠世二长花岗岩的组构进行了研究。研究结果显示:二长花岗岩的磁化率很低,平均磁化率为 30  $\mu$ SI,其主要携磁矿物为黑云母(数据暂未发表)。无论是 X-CT 技术还是 AMS 方法获得的黑云母的短轴( $k_3$ )方向(同黑云母面理的法线方向)均很集中,且两类方法得到的结果很相近(图 3)。基于该结果,可推断出岩体的面理在 NW-SEE 方向上近直立地分布,并且岩浆沿该面理发生了运移和侵位。此案例说明,将 AMS 方法与 X-CT 技术相结合,即使是低磁化率的岩石,也能获得可靠、直观、定量的组构分析结果,进而揭示岩浆的流动、侵位过程。

X-CT 技术也常用于火山岩的显微结构和构造的定量观测研究中,典型的如火山岩的气孔构造(图 4)(Bai et al., 2011; Baker et al., 2012; Brun et al., 2010; Larue et al., 2013; Sahagian and Maus, 1994; Song et al., 2001; 程荣等, 2020; 郭正府等, 2011)。基于气孔含量、孔径大小分布等参数的精确测量,研究者可对岩浆喷发时的挥发组分含量(程荣等, 2020)、岩浆渗透压(Sahagian and Maus, 1994; Sahagian et al., 2002b; Sahagian and Proussevitch, 2007; 郭正府等, 2011)和火山喷发强度(Bai et al., 2011; Larue et al., 2013)等信息进行解译。Sahagian et al.(2002a, 2002b)利用 X-CT 技术改善了溢流玄武岩气孔粒径分布的提取方法,并基于提取的玄武岩气孔特征,可靠地反演了科罗拉多高原的隆升历史,由此开创了一种新的古高程计算方法——熔岩流气泡古高度计法。这一方法在我国云南腾冲火山熔岩流的研究中得到了很好的检验(郭正府等, 2011)。此外,X-CT 技术还能结合传统的岩石切片法,对厚层状大陆溢流玄武岩中斜长石的链网结构(plagioclase-chain network)及其频率分布进行定量的表征和提取(Philpotts and Carroll, 1996; Philpotts et al., 1999),进而较为精确地揭示厚层状熔岩流在溢流过程中的岩浆演化,如对流、压实和缓慢冷却结晶等岩浆作用过程(Philpotts and Dickson, 2000)。



(a).X-CT 扫描重建的岩石三维体渲染图; (b).样品 AMS 分析结果(下半球等面积投影); (c).X-CT 提取的被渲染为不同颜色的黑云母颗粒; (d).X-CT 提取的黑云母短轴方向极密投图(下半球等面积投影)

图3 白云鄂博地区晚二叠世二长花岗岩的 X-CT 组构(a、c、d)和磁组构(b)分析结果(数据未发表)

Fig. 3 Results of the X-CT fabric (a, c, d) and magnetic fabric (b) analyses of a Late Permian monzonitic granite sample collected from the Bayan Obo, Inner Mongolia (unpublished data)

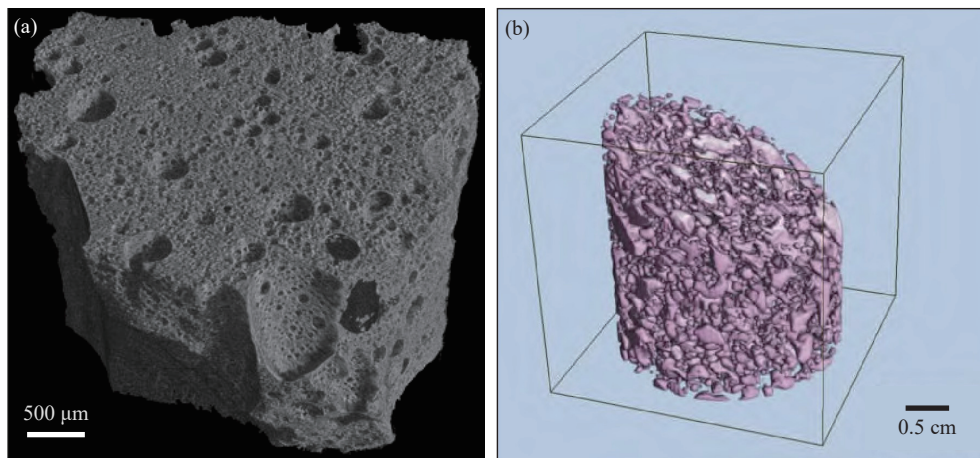


图4 基于 X-CT 技术获取的安布里姆岛火山浮岩体渲染图(a)(Baker et al., 2012)和云南腾冲黑山玄武质熔岩流岩石的体渲染图(b)(郭正府等, 2011)

Fig. 4 Volume rendering images of a pumice from Ambryn volcano (Republic of Vanuatu)(a) (Baker et al., 2012) and a basaltic lava flow rock from Heikongshan, Tengchong, Yunnan (b)(Guo et al., 2011)

## 2.4 寒区岩石风化和地质灾害评估

类似于利用 X-CT 技术提取火山岩中的气孔特征, X-CT 技术还可用于提取寒区地质体因频繁冻融作用所形成的裂隙或孔隙的特征。我国寒区分布较广, 面积约占全国陆地总面积的 43% (倪斌等, 2023; 杨针娘等, 2000)。寒区岩石遭受频繁的冻融循环, 其内部结构极易发生损伤, 从而加速地质体的风化过程, 有时甚至会引发次生地质灾害。目前, 学术界对寒区地质体损伤机理与演化规律的认识, 主要源自冻融循环实验 (杨更社等, 2018), 实验对象也多为地质工程中常见的红砂岩 (王焕, 2020)。X-CT 技术非常适合分析冻融实验中孔隙和裂隙的特征 (图 5), 其高分辨率成像能力能够观察到孔隙尺度上水的力学行为和特征, 这对于评估露天矿山边坡的稳定性至关重要 (Liu et al., 2024)。同时, X-CT 技术也能区分不同类型的岩石 (如砂岩、页岩、闪长岩、玄武岩等) 在冻融实验中的损伤情况 (Park et al., 2015; 杨更社和张长庆, 1999; 杨更社等, 2018), 进而探讨这些岩石的损伤特征与冻融实验各变量之间的关系 (Chen et al., 2023; Fan et al., 2022, 2023; Song et al., 2023; 王焕, 2020)。寒区频繁的冻融作用还会造成部分石质文物的破坏, 如产生微裂缝、盐类结晶和差异性溶蚀等 (李宏松, 2011)。因此, X-CT 技术还被应用于寒区石质文物风化机理的研究中。有学者借助 X-CT 技术对西班牙的古建筑——奥维耶多大教堂的建筑石材 (白云岩) 进行了检测与分析, 重点探讨了其中的孔隙、裂隙结构特征, 并结合冻融循环实验评估了建筑石材的风化程度 (Ruiz de Argandoña et al.,

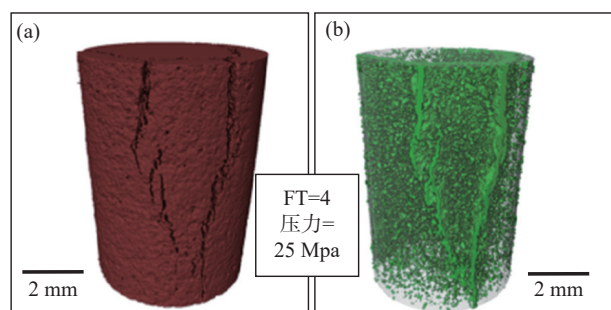


图5 冻融循环实验中基于 X-CT 扫描重建的砂岩岩芯的表面结构图(a)和孔隙分布图(b) (Fan et al., 2022)

Fig. 5 The surface structure (a) and pore distribution (b) of the sandstone core in the freeze-thaw cycle (FT) experiments reconstructed from X-ray CT imaging (Fan et al., 2022)

1999), 为该建筑保护方案的制定提供了理论依据。

## 2.5 地层与沉积环境研究

研究表明, X-CT 技术在定量分析沉积物的组分、孔隙及其连通性等方面具有优势, 有效地支持了地层的沉积环境、油气储集性能、流体流动与分布等方面的评估。Coles et al. (1991) 利用 X-CT 技术对油气勘查工作中采集的沉积岩芯进行了三维成像, 确定了其中沉积不连续界面的位置, 识别出了具有良好前景的油气层位, 为后续研究的合理取样提供了坚实的数据支撑。类似地, Yang et al. (2022) 将 X-CT 技术与 X 射线荧光分析 (XRF) 技术相结合, 对安徽境内下扬子地块上分布的埃迪卡拉纪页岩岩芯进行了扫描, 识别出了其中保存最佳、同位素交换最少的部分, 为 Re-Os 同位素定年分析的取样提供了有价值的参考, 进而为揭示中国蓝田生物群的演化过程打下了坚实的基础。还有学者对 X-CT 技术在海洋沉积物研究中的适用性开展了调查 (Bendle et al., 2015; Orsi et al., 1994; 卢亚敏等, 2021)。结果显示, X-CT 技术能揭示岩芯内部的沉积结构与构造特征, 为更精确地重建地层沉积环境提供了技术保障。Mena et al. (2015) 利用 X-CT 技术对深海盆地 (Galicia Interior Basin, NW Peninsula Iberia) 的沉积物岩芯进行了扫描, 并依据扫描图像的亮度 (或 CT 值), 建立了 CT 值与物质密度之间的关系, 再结合物质密度判别其物质组成, 最后基于物质组成追溯沉积物的来源。通常, 来源于海洋的沉积组分, 其 Ca 含量高于陆源组分的 Ca 含量, 相应的密度更大, 对应的 CT 值也偏高。据此, Mena et al. (2015) 在岩芯中识别出了晚更新世 Heinrich 气候事件中沉积的冰筏碎屑物 (IRD)。另外, 将 X-CT 提取的沉积特征数据与常规 XRF 扫描数据相结合, 并配合 Heinrich 气候事件的代用指标数据进行分析, 发现 X-CT 技术获取的岩芯特征数据与气候事件的代用指标数据之间有良好的关联度。上述研究实例说明, X-CT 技术十分有利于地层沉积特征分析和古环境重建的研究。

## 2.6 油气资源评估

油气储层岩石一般为沉积岩, 如砂岩和碳酸盐岩等, 其微观组构特征的三维观测与定量分析, 对于评估油气的封存、运移、汇聚和开采潜力等具有重要意义。X-CT 技术在储层岩石分析中的应用, 主要是对岩石孔隙、裂隙的分布及连通性

等特征进行定量提取和可视化(Zhang et al., 2019)(图 6)。在实际研究中,一般使用医用 X-CT 扫描仪对储层岩心样品的构造和孔隙特征进行观测,进而模拟孔隙尺度上多相流体的运移过程,但是获得的体素分辨率不会优于  $0.25\text{ mm}\times 0.25\text{ mm}\times 1.5\text{ mm}$ (Minto et al., 2017)。若使用同步辐射 X 射线显微 CT 成像技术,则能有效地提高图像的空间分辨率和对比度分辨率(Coles et al., 1998)。此外,将 X-CT 技术和核磁共振成像(MRI)、粒度分析、薄片矿物统计、环境扫描电子显微镜(ESEM)分析以及 X 射线衍射(XRD)分析等相结合,可以实现储层岩石多维度的测定,有助于揭示储层岩石在亚厘米尺度上的非均质性,并评估这种非均质性对油气开采效率的潜在影响(Baraka-Lokmane et al., 2009; 高超利等, 2024; 王丹丹等, 2023; 张云逸等, 2023)。

X-CT 技术提取的储层岩石中的油及溶体相的分布和含量等数据,是模拟油气运输过程的重要参数(Coles et al., 1998)。甚至,还可以根据显微 X-CT 提取的孔隙网络分布特征,来探讨储层的油气储存能力与孔隙网络复杂度、储层异质性之间的关系,或基于提取的渗透率来评估储层原位转化油气的潜力(Backeberg et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2023; Su et al., 2021; 徐祖新, 2014)。X-CT 技术在定量表征储层岩石中剩余油的微观分布(曹永娜, 2015),动态监测驱替液随驱替环境参数(如温度、压力、驱替液类型和流体流速等)的变化而发生的变化(Ni et al., 2019),以及实时监测驱替过程中岩芯含油饱和度的变化(曹永娜, 2015; 莫邵元等,

2014)等方面,亦展现出了重要的应用价值。

## 2.7 古生物化石的三维结构分析

化石是保存在岩层中的古生物遗体、遗物和活动遗迹,是古生物学研究的主要对象。化石标本的三维成像,是化石研究中很重要的一个技术环节。近年来,无损、快速和高分辨率三维成像的 X-CT 技术逐渐成为了古生物学家分析化石内部结构不可或缺的技术。Conroy and Vannier (1984)开创性地将 X-CT 技术引入古生物学研究,对埋藏于砂岩中的 *Stenopsochoerus* 属生物头颅化石进行了扫描,在二维的 CT 图像上,清晰地识别出了化石骨骼和砂岩部分。此后,工业用 X-CT 或部分科研级 X-CT 设备被广泛用于对成像分辨率要求不高的大型动物化石的三维成像中,如哺乳动物头颅(Ketcham and Carlson, 2001)、翼龙(Witmer et al., 2003)、古人类骨骼(Brown et al., 2004)、爬行动物骨骼(Rieppel, 2007)、鸟类(Bailleul et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021)、角龙牙齿(Hu et al., 2022)和三叶虫(El Albani et al., 2024)等化石。而对于微体古生物化石的三维成像,学界目前公认的最佳方法为同步辐射 X 射线相位衬度显微断层成像法(SRX-PC- $\mu$ CT)(殷宗军等, 2009),它已被广泛用于古无脊椎动物学(如琥珀中的昆虫(Lak et al., 2009; Moritz and Wesener, 2019; Pohl et al., 2010; Tafforeau et al., 2006)、早期动物胚胎化石(Chen et al., 2006; 黎刚等, 2013; 殷宗军等, 2009)和海洋中的微体古生物化石(Mouro et al., 2021)、古脊椎动物学(如琥珀中的羽毛(Perri-chot et al., 2008)、牙齿化石(Olejniczak and Grine,

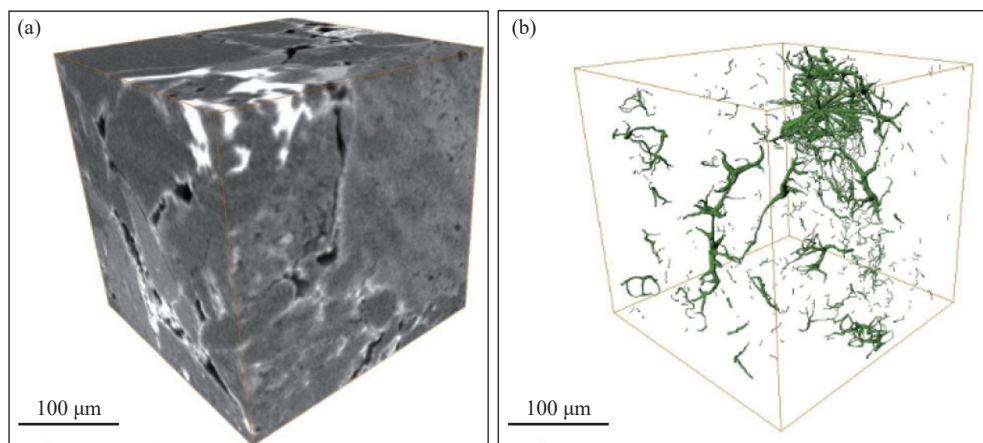


图6 基于 X-CT 扫描构建的含气储层致密砂岩的体渲染图(a)及其孔喉网络三维分布图(b)(Zhang et al., 2019)

Fig. 6 Volume rendering image (a) and three-dimensional distribution of pore-throat networks (b) in a tight-gas sandstone reservoir constructed based on X-CT scanning (Zhang et al., 2019)

2005; Olejniczak et al., 2008; Smith et al., 2007; Tafforeau et al., 2006))和古植物学(如轮藻化石(Feist et al., 2005)、硅藻化石(Tafforeau et al., 2006)、被子植物(Shi et al., 2021))等领域,有力地促进了古生物学领域研究的发展和进步。

本文利用 X-CT 扫描仪(NIKON XTH 320/225 LC CT),对包裹有疏网美喙藓(*Eurhynchium laxirete*)的透明琥珀样本(图 7(a))进行了三维结构成像。结果显示,基于 X-CT 图像(图 7(b)),能大致识别出琥珀内部的 3 类组分:①亮度最暗的部分,为树脂和藓叶片;②亮度中等的藓的茎干部分;③亮度最亮的部分,可能是沉积物。其中,藓的茎干部分,据其亮度和形状,能够被快速、准确地识别。而藓的叶和树脂部分,由于具有十分接近的吸收系数而很难区别开。从这个例子可以看出,普通 X-CT 成像对含有高等植物化石的透明琥珀的组分识别具有一定的能力,即它能有效地识别密度对比度高的组分,但对于密度对比度低的组分,其区分能力仍有待提高。

## 2.8 岩石变质变形特征分析

X-CT 技术可以对岩体或地层(包括其物理模型)的微观变质和变形特征提供定量的观测与分析。例如, X-CT 技术可对片麻岩内部的微观组构进行定量表征(Ketcham and Carlson, 2001; Ketcham, 2005),并可结合其他分析手段,如光学显微镜观察、扫描电镜分析和矿物化学分析等,获得片麻岩三维空间内矿物的组成、含量、结构及其分布等信息,进而对其岩相学特征做出合理的解释

(Giamas et al., 2022);或结合数值模拟,推断变质岩中不同组分在变质过程中发生的变化,如石榴子石蓝晶片岩中石榴子石变斑晶的成核与生长机制(Carlson and Denison, 1992; Carlson et al., 1995)、混合岩中脉体的来源及其运移特征(Brown et al., 1999),甚至还可以结合常规的岩石组构研究方法,如磁组构(AMS),深化对变质岩组构特征的研究(Saur et al., 2021; Zhu et al., 2017)。

在构造变形研究领域,学者们基于 X-CT 技术对裂隙构造进行了详细的研究,不仅关注裂隙与油气资源之间的关联,也注重分析裂隙本身蕴含的构造变形信息(Honarpour et al., 1986; Sellers et al., 2003; Van Stappen et al., 2014; Voorn et al., 2015; Wennberg et al., 2008; Wennberg and Rennan, 2018)。研究者还利用 X-CT 技术对岩石内部变形带构造(如微断层或微褶皱)的分布、形态、长度、宽度等特征进行了定量观测(Antonellini et al., 1994; Hirono et al., 2003; Luth et al., 2022; Wennberg et al., 2013; Wennberg and Rennan, 2018)。或者利用 X-CT 技术监测构造运动模拟实验中构造单元的变形历程,如地壳构造缩短模拟实验(Schreurs et al., 2003)、岩石圈的伸展-裂解模拟实验(Zwaan and Schreurs, 2020, 2023)(图 8),以及模拟裂隙、断层或变形带形成过程的岩石三轴压缩实验(Chen et al., 2022; Kawakata et al., 1997; Louis et al., 2006; Shi et al., 2023)。

## 2.9 矿石结构解析与选冶工艺优化

目前, X-CT 技术在矿石分析领域中的应用对

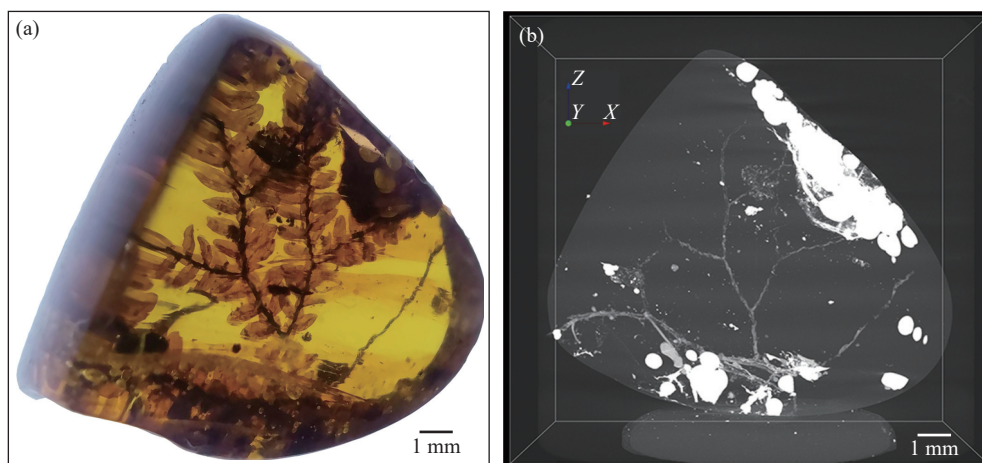
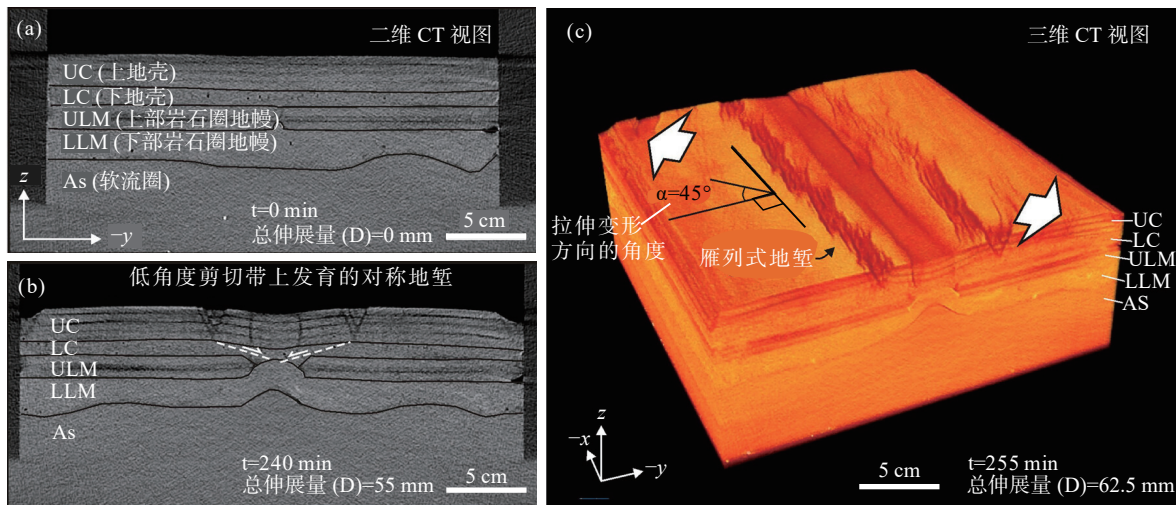


图7 包裹疏网美喙藓(*Eurhynchium laxirete*)的透明琥珀化石照片(a)及其 X-CT 三维成像图(b)(据未发表资料绘制)  
Fig. 7 An inclusion of a moss (*Eurhynchium laxirete*) preserved in a transparent amber (a) and its three-dimensional X-CT reconstruction (b) (based on unpublished data)

象主要集中于煤和金属等矿石。煤是一种复杂的多孔介质, 它的孔隙与裂隙结构直接决定了其物理化学性质, 并影响着煤层气的运移和储存。X-CT 技术不仅能实现煤矿石内部孔隙和裂隙结构的三维无损检测和定量分析(Fan et al., 2020; Simons et al., 1997; Yao et al., 2009; Zhao et al., 2018; 王刚等, 2017), 还能在二维和三维视角间灵活切换, 是对传统研究方法的重要补充。例如, X-CT 扫描结合低场核磁共振(NMR)成像技术, 能全面地揭示煤矿石的成分, 以及相关孔裂隙的类型、

孔隙率、结构、构造和空间分布等特征(Yao et al., 2010)。同时, 还能基于 X-CT 扫描, 定量地分析不同热解温度下煤的孔隙和裂隙的结构变化(于艳梅等, 2012)、煤质优劣(Heriawan and Koike, 2015), 以及煤质优劣与构造变形强度之间的关系(宋晓夏等, 2013)。

对于金属矿石, X-CT 技术可以对矿石中矿物的位置、粒度、形态以及孔裂隙分布等特征进行定量分析(Yang et al., 2014)(图 9), 并为选择合适的溶浸液参与浸矿反应提供有价值的参考(习



(a).岩石圈拉伸-裂解模型初始状态时的 X-CT 侧视图; (b).岩石圈拉伸-裂解模拟过程中间状态 1 的 X-CT 侧视图; (c).岩石圈拉伸-裂解模拟过程中间状态 2 的 X-CT 体渲染图;  $\alpha$ . 拉伸变形方向与模型轴法线之间的夹角

图 8 X-CT 技术监测的岩石圈拉伸-裂解模拟实验过程(Zwaan and Schreurs, 2023)

Fig. 8 Monitoring the process of simulation experiments about lithospheric extension-rifting by using X-CT imaging technology (Zwaan and Schreurs, 2023)

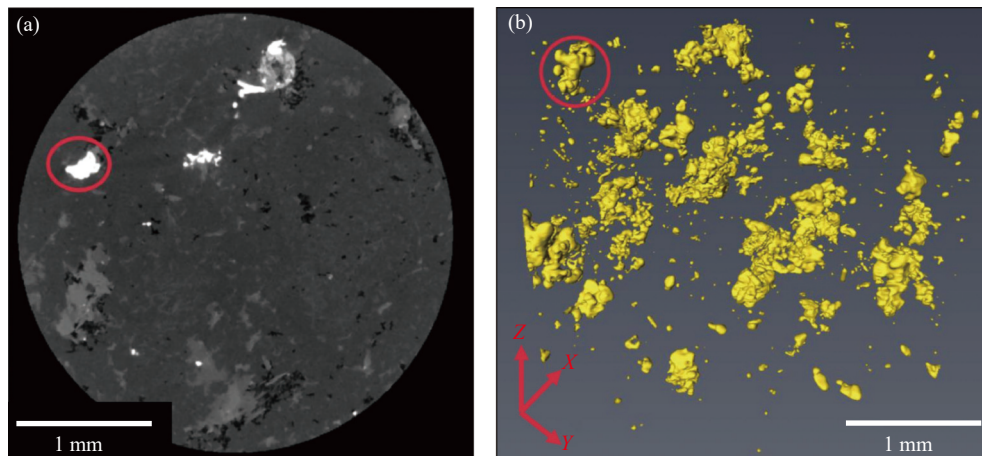


图 9 矿石岩芯的二维 X-CT 图像(a)及 CT 提取的硫化物矿石颗粒分布图(b)(图中两红圈指示的是同一个矿石颗粒, 引自 Lois-Morales et al., 2022)

Fig. 9 2D X-ray CT image of an ore core (a) and its sulfur-bearing mineral distribution extracted from the CT scan (b)(The two red circles indicate the same ore grain, cited from Lois-Morales et al., 2022)

泳等, 2007)。此外, 也能为模拟矿石浸出反应提供关键的输入参数, 如浸出矿物的粒径、空间位置等(Evans et al., 2015), 最终为选冶工艺的优化提供科学依据(马嘉等, 2021; 王臻和肖仪武, 2023)。

### 3 结论与展望

X 射线计算机断层成像(X-CT)技术具有无损、快速、高分辨率等突出的三维成像优势, 可以对不同的地质材料进行成像和三维空间数据的提取和解释。该技术实现了固相和气相(如岩石和孔隙)、固相和固相(如不透明琥珀中的基质和昆虫, 陨石中的基质和金属体)、固相和液相(储层岩石和水、油两相)、液相和液相(高温高压环境中硅酸盐熔体和金属熔体)的区分, 并对它们的物性特征进行定量表征与实时监控。这些成果增进了对地球演化、岩浆运移-侵位-喷发过程、岩石风化与沉积、变质变形过程、古环境变迁、矿产开发、地质灾害评估防治和选冶工艺优化等科学及技术问题的理解。因此, X-CT 技术是地质学研究中重要的研究方法之一。

X 射线计算机断层成像在技术和应用两个层面的发展趋势为:

(1)技术层面上, X-CT 技术虽然已经取得了显著的进步, 但其成像系统中的每一个部分, 如射线源、探测器、图像重建和参数提取算法等, 均影响着 CT 图像的质量。因此, 探索新的 X-CT 成像机制、射线源技术、更灵敏的探测器和更高效的成像算法等, 是未来 X-CT 技术重要的发展方向之一。例如, 迭代重建、机器学习等算法在图像伪影校正方面正成为新的研究热点。

(2)应用层面上, 随着 X-CT 技术向高时间、空间、对比度分辨率的成像方向发展, 预计 X-CT 图像数据量将呈指数级别增长。如何快速地对这些海量数据进行处理、分析和总结形成了新的挑战 and 机遇。大数据分析技术, 如聚类分析、机器学习、深度学习等技术, 在三维图像处理、参数提取和地质过程相关分析等内容方面较传统人工处理具有优势, 其与 X-CT 成像技术的结合是地学领域具研究潜力的方向之一。

**致谢:** 感谢《华东地质》期刊编委会的邀稿。感谢三位评审专家和三位编辑对完善本文所提出的建设性意见。

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## Applications of X-ray computed tomography in geology

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**Abstract:** X-ray computed tomography (X-CT) technology stands out for its non-destructive, rapid, high-resolution, and multi-scale three-dimensional imaging capabilities, playing an important role in geological research. Presently, there is a scarcity of comprehensive review literature on the application of X-CT technology in geology, and existing review articles often lack adequate consideration for content relevance and systematic arrangement, failing to fully reflect the growing development of X-CT technology and its expanding scope of application in geological studies. To address this gap, this article provides an overview of the current status of X-CT technology utilization in geological research both domestically and internationally. To better ensure coherence and systematics of the content, the article begins by revisiting the historical development, fundamental principles, advantages, and disadvantages of X-CT technology. Subsequently, starting from various levels of evolution of the Earth, including the formation of the Earth, the structure and changes of deep-seated materials (such as melts and magma), and the structure and alterations of shallow Earth materials (involving to processes like weathering, sedimentation, metamorphism and deformation), the paper discusses the status of X-CT technology applications in geology. Finally, the paper concludes with a summary and an outlook on the future development of X-CT technology. Overall, as X-CT technology becomes increasingly involved, geologists will have multi-level understanding on the origin, composition, and evolutionary processes of the Earth, which contributing to the advancement of the entire field of Earth sciences.

**Key words:** X-CT technology; three-dimensional microstructures; quantitative analysis; geological applications