



Imaging Surface Plasmons

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Reflectivity curve (Attenuated Total internal Reflection geometry)



The reflectivity curve can be approximated as a Lorentzian

$$R = 1 - \frac{4\Gamma_i\Gamma_{rad}}{[k_x - (k_{spp})]^2 + [\Gamma_i + \Gamma_{rad}]^2}$$

$$k_{spp} = \frac{\omega}{c} \left(\frac{\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2}{\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2}\right)^{1/2} \pm \Delta k_x = k_x^0 \pm \Delta k_x$$

$$\Delta k_x = \left[\frac{\omega}{c}\frac{2}{(1 + |\varepsilon_1|)} \left(\frac{|\varepsilon_1|}{|\varepsilon_1| - 1}\right)^{3/2} \exp(-2|k_x^0|d_1)\right] r_{01}^p(k_x^0)$$



Heinz Raether

Surface Plasmons on Smooth and Rough Surfaces and on Gratings

With 113 Figures

• Damping of the resonance (roughness scattering can be negligible):

Radiative losses: $\Gamma_{rad} = \text{Im}[\Delta k_x] = \text{constant.Im}[r_{01}^p(k_x^0)]$

 $\operatorname{Re}[\Delta k_x] = \operatorname{constant.Re}[r_{01}^p(k_x^0)]$

Intrinsic losses: $\Gamma_i = \text{Im}[k_x^0]$

• Shift of the resonance:



Mie theory

$$C_{abs} = \frac{6\pi V}{\lambda} \frac{3\epsilon''_m}{(\epsilon'_m + 2)^2 + \epsilon''_m^2}$$

Bohren & Huffman, *Absorption and Scattering of Light by Small Particles*, Wiley Inter Science

• <u>Fröhlich frequency</u>: $\omega_f \Rightarrow \epsilon'_m = -2$

. .

- <u>Size correction</u> $\omega_f \Rightarrow \epsilon'_m = -2 + \beta (\frac{2\pi na}{\lambda})^2$
- <u>Surface polarization responsible for</u> <u>the field enhancement effect</u>

$$\mathbf{E} = 4\pi \mathbf{a}^3 \frac{\epsilon_m - 1}{\epsilon_m + 2} \mathbf{E_o} + \mathbf{E_o}$$

• Life time of the plasmon (dephasing time T2) $au_{sp} = T2/2 = \hbar/\Gamma$





Fig. 5. EEL spectrum recorded with swift electrons ($E_i = 50 \text{ keV}$) for thin Ag foils of different thickness at room temperature. Bulk and surface plasmons are clearly resolved, at $\hbar\omega_p = 3.78 \text{ eV}$ and $\hbar\omega_{sp} = 3.63 \text{ eV}$ as $\epsilon_2(\omega)$ nearly vanishes in this frequency range (from Ref. [65], used with permission).



M. N'Gom & T. B. Norris, *The emerging frontier at the intersection of optics and electron microscopy,* SPIE Newsroom, 10.1117/2.1200901.1493

• Peaks in the EELS spectrum:

 $[Im(1/\epsilon)]^{max}$ (bulk) $[Im(1/(\epsilon+1))]^{max}$ (surface)

- Measure of the <u>resonances</u> (bulk, localized, surface)
- Measure of the <u>relation dispersion</u> at large wave-vectors (electron momentum) by momentum-resolved EELS

Why the heck do we want to image surface plasmons?

With imaging comes control!





Control over the localization (active substrates)

(the rebirth of plasmonics was partially triggered by our ability to visualize surface plasmons)

Surface plasmon and imaging: an ambivalence



Early microscope



Plasmon's principal imaging characteristics

- Surface plasmons are evanescent waves confined at a surface
- Surface plasmons can be leaky
- Surface plasmons can **interact** with molecules
- Localized surface plasmons can be scattered
- Surface plasmons can induce **non-linear** phenomena
- Surface plasmons are loss channel for e⁻
- Surface plasmons can trigger photochemical reactions

Near-field microscopy

Leakage microscopy

Fluorescence microscopy

Dark-field microscopy **Cathodoluminescence**

Confocal microscopy Photoelectron microscopy

STEM EELS

Photochemical imaging

1992: the plasmon microscope

VOLUME 68, NUMBER 4

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

27 JANUARY 1992

Scanning Plasmon Near-Field Microscope

M. Specht, J. D. Pedarnig, W. M. Heckl, and T. W. Hänsch Sektion Physik der Universität München, Schellingstrasse 4/III, D-8000 München 40, Germany





FIG. 2. (a) STM image taken at a 600 nm×600 nm area on a silver surface (tip-sample spacing below 1 nm); (b),(c) SPNM images taken at the same area (tip-sample spacing 3 and 10 nm, respectively; wavelength 632.8 nm); (d) image recorded in the "STM-SPNM hybrid mode" (tip-sample spacing below 1 nm).

NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL MICROSCOPY

(the rebirth of plasmonics)

Principle of near-field microscopy in the context





Requirement: for a imaging a thin-film SPP, the spatial extend of the SPP > the excitation area (local excitation)

Near-field microscopy: the first glance at a plasmon

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 18

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

2 MAY 1994

Imaging of Surface Plasmon Propagation and Edge Interaction Using a Photon Scanning Tunneling Microscope

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FIG. 5. PSTM images of SPP propagating (left to right) from a localized launch site at $\lambda_1 = 632.8$ nm, the triangular coupling prism used in the setup is shown in Fig. 1. The scan range is 36 \times 36 μ m and insets show two-dimensional views of images. (a) Sample *B*1; measured 1/*e* propagation length is 13.8 μ m. (b) Sample *B*3; measured 1/*e* propagation length is 4.9 μ m.



Understanding SPP propagation and interactions

SPP waveguides (here V-grooves and nanowires)



500 nm



V. Volkov et al., *Nano. Lett.*,<u>ASAP (</u>2009)

H. Ditlbacher et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, <u>95</u>, 257403 (2005)

Here, near-field imaging enabled the demonstration of truesubwavelength propagation in nanowaveguides

Understanding SPP propagation and interactions

SPP splitters



SPP Launchers



J-Y. Laluet, et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.*,<u>15</u>, 3488 (2007)



Control over the propagation with passive elements

Tracking SPP in space and time





FIG. 8. (Color online) (a) Topography of the SPP waveguide obtained by shear-force feedback. It consists of a 55 nm thick Au guide, 6 μ m wide and 80 μ m long. (b) Normalized amplitude measurement of the E-field of the SPP wavepacket inside the 6 μ m waveguide. (c) Combined phase and amplitude information [$\sim A \cos(\phi)$] of the same measurement as (b). Scan lines run from top to bottom and the scan frame is $15 \times 110 \ \mu$ m², wavelength in air used to excite the SPPs: 1500 nm pulses with 20 nm bandwidth.

FIG. 9. (Color online) (a)–(e) Normalized amplitude information of the SPP wavepacket E-field. Succeeding frames are new scans of the probe. In between the frames the delay line is lengthened to 14.4 μ m. Therefore, the time between two frames is 48 fs. The scan frame is 15×110 μ m², scan lines run from top to bottom. (f) Topography of the SPP waveguide obtained by shear-force feedback.

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M. Sandke et al., *Rev. Sci. Instr.* <u>79</u>, 013704 (2008)

Looking a confined plasmons using near-field optics

APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS

VOLUME 83, NUMBER 2

14 JULY 2003

Coherent imaging of nanoscale plasmon patterns with a carbon nanotube optical probe

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Localized SPP have dipolar-like distribution (amplitude and phase)

Looking a confined plasmons using near-field optics

Fabry-Pérot Resonances in One-Dimensional Plasmonic Nanostructures

Jens Dorfmüller,^{*,†} Ralf Vogelgesang,^{*,†} R. Thomas Weitz,[†] Carsten Rockstuhl,[‡] Christoph Etrich,[¶] Thomas Pertsch,[¶] Falk Lederer,[‡] and Klaus Kern^{†,§}





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Pro et contra of near-field imaging



Resolution (still) strongly depends on tip quality Complex measurements Perturbative

Access to the bound E.M. field

Spectroscopic data

Space and time investigations

Flexible with sample requirements

Phase measurement



LEAKAGE RADIATION MICROSCOPY

(naked-eye plasmons)

Hand-wavy argument



Hand-wavy argument



Hand-wavy argument





Finite-size beam (w=mm)>> SPP attenuation length

Signature of the SP; leakage radiation are interfering destructively with reflected beam

T+R+A=1 $T=R=0 \rightarrow A=1$

Rigorous basis



A. Drezet et al., Mat. Sci. Eng. B 149, 220 (2008)

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First measurements

Z. Physik 244, 1-5 (1971) © by Springer-Verlag 1971

> Light Emission from Non Radiative Plasmons Excited by Electrons on Smooth Surfaces

> > E. KRÖGER and H. RAETHER Institut für Angewandte Physik der Universität Hamburg







Simon & J.K. Guha, *Opt. Comm.*, <u>18</u>, 391 (1976) A. Drezet et al., *Mat. Sci. Eng. B.* <u>149</u>, 220 (2008)

Two-dimensional mapping of SPP by LRM

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 9

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

26 August 1996

Local Excitation, Scattering, and Interference of Surface Plasmons

B. Hecht,¹ H. Bielefeldt,¹ L. Novotny,² Y. Inouye,^{1,*} and D. W. Pohl^{1,†}

¹IBM Research Division, Zurich Research Laboratory, CH-8803 Rüschlikon, Switzerland ²Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, CH-8092 Zurich, Switzerland (Received 14 December 1995; revised manuscript received 29 March 1996)



Imaging SPP interactions

PHYSICAL REVIEW B, VOLUME 63, 155404

Plasmon optics of structured silver films

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Going far-field (SPP imaging made easy)



Going far-field (SPP imaging made easy)







To be adjusted for SP excitation (kspp)

A. Bouhelier and G. P. Wiederrecht, *Opt. Lett.*, <u>**30**</u>, 884 (2005) A. Hohenau et al, *Opt. Lett.*, <u>**30**</u>, 893 (2005)

Multicolor plasmon jet

- Broad-band surface plasmon excited from a white-light femtosecond laser source
- Color spread reflects the surface plasmon dispersion: group velocities (dω/dk) change with color



A. Bouhelier and G. P. Wiederrecht, Phys. Rev. B, <u>71</u>, 195406 (2005)

SPP waveguiding imaged by LRM

• Details of the propagation of SPP in waveguiding structures

Dielectric loaded SPP waveguide



J. Grandidier et al, Phys. Rev. B, <u>78</u>, 245419 (2008)





SPP control imaged by LRM

 Leakage radiation microscopy allows rapid prototyping of integrated plasmonic components





H. Ditlbacher et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. <u>81</u>, 1762 (2002)



A. Drezet et al, Plasmonics B, <u>7</u>, 1697 (2007)

Beyond propagation: Fourier imaging

• Imaging the Fourier plane gives access to the reciprocal space (wave-vectors)



Beyond propagation: Fourier imaging







 Optical control of the resonant wavevectors through photochromism

Beyond propagation: Fourier imaging


Pro et contras of Leakage Radiation Microscopy



- Rapid two-dimensional mapping of SPP
- Multi-wavelength, multi-wavevectors
- Only needs an oil immersion objective
- Access to direct and reciprocal space



- Limited spatial resolution (diffraction)
- Restricted to leaky plasmons
- Limited to small effective indices (<1.5)

FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY

(glowing plasmons)

Principle: energy transfer to/from fluorescent molecules

SPP



Fluorescence intensity distribution: mapping the SPP

APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS

VOLUME 80, NUMBER 3

21 JANUARY 2002

Fluorescence imaging of surface plasmon fields

H. Ditlbacher, J. R. Krenn, N. Felidj, B. Lamprecht, G. Schider, M. Salerno, A. Leitner, and F. R. Aussenegg Institute for Experimental Physics and Erwin Schrödinger Institute for Nanoscale Research, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, A-8010 Graz, Austria



Revealing mode properties through QDs fluorescence



Pro et contras of Fluorescence Microscopy



- Local probe
- Large choice of chromophores or QDs (SPP matching wavelength)
- Straightforward excitation and detection
- Access to direct and reciprocal space



- Limited spatial resolution (diffraction)
 - Molecular photobleaching
 - Critical to distance from film
 - Qualitative information

DARK-FIELD MICROSCOPY

(Colored plasmons)

Principle: rejecting out direct illumination



C. Sönnichsen, *Plasmons in metal nanostructures*, PhD thesis, Münich (2001)



C. Sönnichsen, *Plasmons in metal nanostructures*, PhD thesis, Münich (2001)

Dark-field imaging (and spectroscopy)



J. Mock, Nano Lett. 3, 485 (2003)



J. Mock, Nano Lett. 2, 465 (2002)



A. Murray & W. Barnes, Adv. Mat. 19, 3771 (2007)

Pro et contras of dark-field Microscopy



- Complete spectroscopy
- Array and single particle (multiscale) investigations
- Liquid environment



- Limited spatial resolution (diffraction)
- Adapted for localized particle plasmons
- Large particle (>50nm)
- Non-unequivocal

CATHODOLUMINESCENCE MICROSCOPY

(a valse between an e⁻, a plasmon, and a photon)

Principle: transition radiation and surface plasmon



Contribution from transition radiation (e- incident on interface) and surface plasmons. Both are coherent with the external field of the electron: interference signal

> M. Kuttge, *Cathodoluminescence Plasmon microcsopy*, PhD thesis, Utrecht (2009)



Photon maps and spectroscopy of localized SPP modes

PHYSICAL REVIEW B, VOLUME 64, 205419

Photon emission from silver particles induced by a high-energy electron beam

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F. J. García de Abajo Centro Mixto CSIC-UPV/EHU and Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC), San Sebastián, Spain (Received 11 July 2000; published 6 November 2001)









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E. Vesseur et al., *Nano. Lett.* <u>7</u>, 2843 (2007)

Photon maps of propagative SPP modes

Boxed plasmons



M. Kuttge, *Cathodoluminescence Plasmon microcsopy*, PhD thesis, Utrecht (2009)

Resonators



C. Hofmann et al., Nano. Lett. 7, 3612 (2007)





Pro et contras of Cathodoluminescence Microscopy



SPP point source (nm size) Spatial and spectral investigations Imaging of localized and propagative SPP modes



Vacuum environment Low efficiency (10⁻⁶/nm) Interference contrast

(NON LINEAR) CONFOCAL MICROSCOPY

(Blurred plasmons)

Gold: a luminescent material!

- Visible photoluminescence originates from interband electronic transitions from *d*-band electrons to the conduction band
- IR PL originates from intraband transitions
- Second-harmonic is generated by a non-linear surface susceptibility



O. Jepsent et al., *Phys. Rev. B.* 23, 2684 (1981).M. Guerrisi et al, *Phys. Rev. B.* 12, 557 (1975).

M. Beversluis, A. Bouhelier, and L. Novotny, *Phys. Rev. B*, 68, 115433 (2003)

Gold PL and plasmons

• The PL emission is modulated by the surface plasmon resonance



A. Bouhelier, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 95, 267405 (2005)

The surface plasmon plays a double role here: create a local field enhancement to increase the number of PL photons and also provide a fast radiative erelaxation process through SP emission

Imaging PL spatial distribution



P. Ghenuche, et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* <u>101</u>, 116805 (2008)

Parenthesis: near-field non-linear imaging



Confocal far field



A. Bouhelier, M. Beversluis, and L. Novotny, *App. Phys. Lett.* 83, 5041 (2003) K. Imura, T. Nagahara, and H. Okamoto, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **126**, 12730 (2004)

Pro et contras of confocal Microscopy



PHOTOELECTRON EMISSION MICROSCOPY

(a valse between photon(s), plasmons, and e⁻)

Photo-electron emission



- 1) Upon photo-excitation (Xray, UV), electrons are excited above Fermi level, creating holes on core levels
- 2) Auger scattering leads to electron emission above the work function
- Broad distribution of energy between the excitation energy and the work function



Role of the plasmon: electron yield proportional to E⁴

M. Nisoli, Nat. Photo. <u>1</u>, 499 (2007)

Ultrafast dynamics in space and time

Femtosecond Imaging of Surface Plasmon Dynamics in a Nanostructured Silver Film

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Interferometric time-resolved two-photon photoemission (ITR-2PP) and photoelectron emission microscopy (PEEM).



D. Bayer, et al. J. Nano. Mat. 249514 (2008)







Ultrafast dynamics in space and time







Resolving mode structures

Short Range Plasmon Resonators Probed by Photoemission Electron Microscopy

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Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique Saclay Direction des Sciences de la Matière -Institut Rayonnement Matière de Saclay - Service de Physique et Chimie des Surfaces et Interfaces, F-91191 Gif sur Yvette, France

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Dipolar mode in short nanorods

NANO LETTERS 2008 Vol. 8, No. 3 935-940

Pro et contras of PEEM



- Nanometer scale resolution (~25 nm)
- Sub-fs time resolution
- Energy resolution (TOF-PEEM)
- Coherent control of SPP field



- UHV environment
- Chromatic aberrations
- Limited to short-wavelength resonance (multi-photon process, electron yield to E⁴)

ELECTRON-ENERGY LOSS IMAGING

(a nanoscale detective)

Principle of operation



- Raster scanning the electron beam across the sample
- EELS spectrum @ each pixel
- fix energy, plot the amplitude of the spectra for each pixel to reconstruct 2D-image

The sampling volume (beam size) is smaller than the spatial variation of the field

EELS Mapping

Mapping surface plasmons on a single metallic nanoparticle

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nature physics | VOL 3 | MAY 2007 | www.nature.com/naturephysics

EELS Mapping

IOP PUBLISHING

Nanotechnology 18 (2007) 165505 (5pp)

NANOTECHNOLOGY doi:10.1088/0957-4484/18/16/165505

Mapping surface plasmons at the nanometre scale with an electron beam

Michel Bosman¹, Vicki J Keast², Masashi Watanabe³, Abbas I Maaroof⁴ and Michael B Cortie⁴



Pro et contras of EELS mapping

• Unprecedented resolution (< 5nm)



- Relationship between shape, localization & energy
- Investigation to high energies (bulk plasmon)
- Direct measurement of energy exchange (access to the dielectric function of the material)
- UHV environment
- Deconvolution for plasmon bands close to the zero-loss peak

PHOTOCHEMICAL IMAGING

(through topography)

Principle of operation: isomerization and diffusion

• Repetitive *Trans-Cys-Trans* cycles introduce translational molecular diffusion



Courtesy of Prof. Plain, UTT Troyes



S. Bian, et al. J. Appl. Phys. 86, 4498 (1999)

Photochemical imaging of localized SPs



100 nm

C. Hubert, et al. Nano Lett. 5, 615 (2005)





M. Juan, et al. J. Phys. Chem. A 113, 4647 (2009)

Pro et contras of photochemical imaging



- Vectorial approach (field sensitivity)
- Control over molecular mass transport
- In principle, molecular resolution

- Limited wavelength range
- Dependence to temperature
- Second-order measurement
- Relatively complex modeling required for interpretation
Conclusion

Reflectivity

- Interface sensitivity
- Dispersion
- Indirect access to Lspp
- Application to « sensoring »

Spectroscopy

- Influence of shape, materia, polarization, environment...
- Enhancement
- Life-time

EELS

- Electronic surface excitations(tra nsitions)
- Dispersion
- Cristallinity

Imaging

- Spatial distribution
- Controlled enhancement
- Guiding and processing
- Plasmonic circuitry





Bio-plasmonics, integrated plasmonics & molecular plasmonics

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