

Simulating Surface Plasmons At Metal Surfaces And Its Application In Optoelectronic Devices

L. Wang

Konica Minolta Laboratory, San Mateo, CA, USA

Abstract

Surface plasmon polaritons (SPP) are guided electromagnetic modes of a metal/dielectric interface. These surface electromagnetic waves arise through the coupling of the incident electromagnetic radiation with the collective charge-density oscillations of the free electrons in a metal. Because of its strong field confinement and enhancement effect, SPP has found a variety of intriguing applications in, e.g., surface-enhanced spectroscopy, biosensing, and nano-optics.

Due to mismatch in the propagation wave vectors, an incident plane wave in the dielectric cannot directly excite the SPP wave at a smooth metal/dielectric interface. Rather, the SPP can be launched through several special excitation configurations or coupling structures. In this presentation I will share with you the simulation of SPP excitation in COMSOL Multiphysics Wave Optics module, covering the Kretschmann-Raether configuration, the Otto configuration, grating coupling, and scattering at nano-scale discontinuities/defects. Interesting SPP phenomena such as the short range and long range coupled SPP at optically thin metal films, and a SPP focusing lens will be illustrated. And at the end, the SPP effect in two optoelectronic devices, the organic light emitting diode (OLED) and the surface plasmon-enhanced fluorescence spectroscopy (SPFS), will be exemplified.

Figures used in the abstract

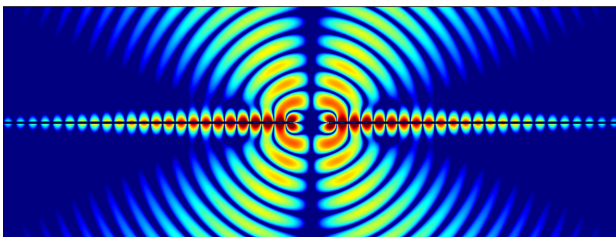


Figure 1 : Simulated field distribution of light scattering at a wavelength-scale slit through an optically thin metal film, showing the excitation of the coupled surface plasmon polaritons (the short range SPP) at the metal surfaces.