

Chiral surface plasmon polaritons on metallic nanowires

张顺平,徐红星

中国科学院物理研究所 纳米物理与器件实验室 N03组

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Waveguides



Nature, 440(23), 508-511(2006)

Imaging

Optical computing



Nat. Commun. 2, 387 (2011)

Chemical bio-sensing



Extraordinary optical transmission



Nature 391, 667-669 (1998)

Metamaterials



Science 315, 1686 (2007)

Nonlinear optics



Nature 453, 757-760 (2008)

Surface Plasmon Polaritons



Nature, 424, 824 (2003) And also THz, Infrared detection, LED, enhanced optical catalysis, optical force ...

SERS

Phys. Rev. Lett. 83(21), 4357 (1999)

Cancer therapy



Acc. Chem. Rev. DOI: 10.1021/ar200023x



Science 312, 1780 (2006)

Solar cell



Nat. Mater., 9, 205-213 (2010)



Ag nanowires as plasmonic fibers

- Crystallized structures
- Small SPPs mode volumes



H. Ditlbacher, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett., 95, 257403 (2005)

- Low intrinsic loss compared to other metals
- Ease access for manipulators



Y. R. Fang & H. Wei, et al. *Nano Lett.* 9, 2049-2053 (2009)

What's chiral?



Y. *Liu, X. Zhang, Chem. Soc. Rev.* DOI:10.1039/c0cs00184h

Chiral objects



Chiral electromagnetic waves

Chirality is one fundamental aspect of an optical field.



Y.Q. Tang, A. E. Cohen. Science 332:333-336 (2011)

Excitation of nanowire SPPs



COMSOL 3.5a, 2D, RF module > Perpendicular wave > Hybrid-Mode Waves > Mode analysis



A $\pi/2$ phase delay between m = -1 and 1 modes!

Superposition of different modes forms chiral SPPs



S. P. Zhang, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett., 107, 096801 (2011)

Tunable helix period





The period of the plasmon helix :

$$\Lambda_{mm'} = 2\pi \left(\Delta k_{mm'}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\Delta k_{mm'} = \left| k_{m,\square} - k_{m',\square} \right|$$

The helix period depends on the size, material, dielectric medium and excitation wavelength

S. P. Zhang, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett., 107, 096801 (2011)

Quantum dots fluorescence imaging reveals the chirality of the SPPs





Scale bar: 5 μ m

Phys. Rev. Lett., 107, 096801 (2011)

Chiral SPPs generate circularly polarized light



A subwavelength circularly polarized light convertor (1/4 wave plate)

Phys. Rev. Lett., 107, 096801 (2011)

Broadband tunable nanoprobes



Phys. Rev. Lett., 107, 096801 (2011)

Applications

I. Metallic nanowires-based circuits



Yurui Fang, et al. Nano Lett., 10, 1950–1954 (2010)



Hong Wei, et al. Nano Lett., 11, 471-475 (2011)

II. Subwavelength circular polarized light source

- SPPs-chiral molecule interactions
- Ag nanowires as scanning probes in aSNOM / TERS tip?
- All-optical magnetic recording and Spintronics



Conclusions

• Chiral SPPs can be generated by linearly polarized light incident at the end of a nanowire, exciting a coherent superposition of three specific nanowire waveguide modes.

• Chirality is preserved in the emitted photons, creating a subwavelength ¼ wave plate.



Publications using COMSOL (2010-2011)

- (1) S. P. Zhang, et al. Phys. Rev. Lett., 107, 096801 (2011)
- (2) S. P. Zhang, et al. Nano Lett., 11, 1657-1663 (2011)
- (3) Z. P. Li, et al. Small, 7(5), 593-596 (2011)
- (4) Y. R. Fang, et al. Nano Lett., 10, 1950-1954 (2010)
- (5) K. D. Alexander, et al. Nano Lett., 10, 4488-4493 (2010)



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