Multimodal plasmonics in crystalline colloidal systems

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Plasmonics has opened ways to tailor optical properties both at the macroscopic scale by allowing propagation, waveguiding and routing of plasmon polaritons but also at the nanometer-scale by taking advantage of the evanescent fields, strong confinement volumes and localized plasmonic resonances. While both regimes have been extensively studied and led to numerous applications, much less scrutiny has so far focused on the intermediate regime of micrometer-sized systems supporting a large number of confined higher order surface plasmons (SP) modes. Multimodal plasmonic systems open a new realm in which the modal behavior is better described by the SP local density of states (SP-LDOS), which is solely governed by the material properties and the boundary conditions set by the structure shape but is independent of the illumination parameters. The SP-LDOS can therefore be rationally designed to tailor the local spatial and spectral characteristics of the SP modes, while allowing information transfer over micrometer-sized distances. To reveal and exploit such spatio-modal engineering of plasmons, dissipation must be reduced by exploiting the enhanced performances of crystalline metal colloids.[1]

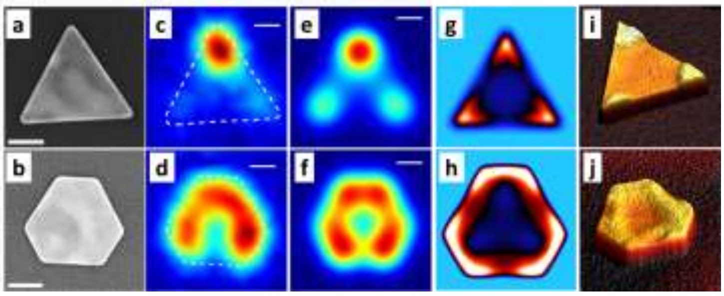

Figure 1: (a,b) SEM images of triangular and truncated triangular Au nanoprisms. Scale bars are 200 nm. (c, d) Confocal TPL images recorded with horizontally polarized, 700 nm exciatation. (e, f) Corresponding simulated TPL images using the GDM method. [2,3] (g, h) Total SP-LDOS maps and (i, j) corresponding AFM images of prisms with modified surface induced by plasmonic hot printing. [7]

We will first present strategies to chemically tailor the plasmonic properties of anisotropic 1D and 2D plasmonic microstructures composed of either single crystalline Au colloids [2, 3] or self-assembled superstructures [4, 5] sustaining higher order plasmonic modes. We will then demonstrate that the SP-LDOS distribution of mesoscale 2D structure can be conveniently imaged by all optical technique such as two-photon luminescence (TPL) microscopy. [2, 3, 5] The influence of wavelength, excitation polarization, particle shape and interparticle coupling on the spatial and spectral characteristic of the SP-LDOS are explored experimentally and fully confirmed by our new simulation tools based on the Green Dyadic Method (GDM). From the multimodal behavior of individual 2D colloids, we will derive a new approach of optical information processing by engineering the spatial and/or spectral distributions of higher order modes. Two routes will be presented: the near-field coupling between colloidal building blocks and the physical reshaping by focused ion beam. Our approach is applied to information propagation,[6] modal logic gates [2] and localized hot electron generation.[7]

References

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