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Motoichi Ohtsu (Ed.)

Progress in Nano-Electro-Optics I

Basics and Theory of Near-Field Optics

With 118 Figures



Springer

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Preface to *Progress in Nano-Electro-Optics*

Recent advances in electro-optical systems demand drastic increases in the degree of integration of photonic and electronic devices for large-capacity and ultrahigh-speed signal transmission and information processing. Device size has to be scaled down to nanometric dimensions to meet this requirement, which will become even more strict in the future. In the case of photonic devices, this requirement cannot be met only by decreasing the sizes of materials. It is indispensable to decrease the size of the electromagnetic field used as a carrier for signal transmission. Such a decrease in the size of the electromagnetic field beyond the diffraction limit of the propagating field can be realized in optical near fields.

Near-field optics has progressed rapidly in elucidating the science and technology of such fields. Exploiting an essential feature of optical near fields, i.e., the resonant interaction between electromagnetic fields and matter in nanometric regions, important applications and new directions such as studies in spatially resolved spectroscopy, nano-fabrication, nano-photonic devices, ultrahigh-density optical memory, and atom manipulation have been realized and significant progress has been reported. Since nano-technology for fabricating nanometric materials has progressed simultaneously, combining the products of these studies can open new fields to meet the above-described requirements of future technologies.

This unique monograph series entitled “Progress in Nano-Electro-Optics” is being introduced to review the results of advanced studies in the field of electro-optics at nanometric scales and covers the most recent topics of theoretical and experimental interest on relevant fields of study (e.g., classical and quantum optics, organic and inorganic material science and technology, surface science, spectroscopy, atom manipulation, photonics, and electronics). Each chapter is written by leading scientists in the relevant field. Thus, high-quality scientific and technical information is provided to scientists, engineers, and students who are and will be engaged in nano-electro-optics and nano-photonics research.

I gratefully thank the members of the editorial advisory board for valuable suggestions and comments on organizing this monograph series. I wish to express my special thanks to Dr. T. Asakura, Editor of the Springer Series in Optical Sciences, Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University for recommending

me to publish this monograph series. Finally, I extend an acknowledgement to Dr. Claus Ascheron of Springer-Verlag, for his guidance and suggestions, and to Dr. H. Ito, an associate editor, for his assistance throughout the preparation of this monograph series.

Yokohama, October 2002

Motoichi Ohtsu

Preface to Volume I

This volume contains five review articles focusing on various aspects of nano-electro-optics. The first article deals with fiber probes and related devices for generating and detecting optical near fields with high efficiency and resolution. These are essential tools for studying and applying optical near fields, and thus the article is most appropriate as the first chapter in this monograph series.

The second article is devoted to modulation of an electron beam by optical near fields. It is an important study on fundamental physical processes involving electron–light interaction, including quantum effects. This interaction is related to the well known Smith–Purcell and Schwarz–Hora effects.

The third article concerns fluorescence spectroscopy. To excite sample molecules, an evanescent surface plasmon field close to metallic surfaces is utilized, which is becoming an important and popular technique in studying nanometric species such as dye molecules.

The article that follows describes the spatially resolved near-field photoluminescence spectroscopy of semiconductor quantum dots, which will become an essential component in future electro-optical devices and systems. This spectroscopy also provides high spectral resolution, and thus it is a powerful tool for collecting precise information about a single quantum dot with a photoluminescence linewidth an order of magnitude narrower than that of ensemble quantum dots.

The last article deals with the quantum theory of optical near fields based on the concepts of a projection operator and an exciton–polariton. Since this theory concerns the optical near-field system coupling nanometric and macroscopic systems, it accounts for all the essential features of interaction between optical near fields and nano-matter, atoms, and molecules. Further, it can also be utilized to design future nano-electro-optical devices and systems.

I hope that this volume will be a valuable resource for readers and future specialists.

Contents

High-Throughput Probes for Near-Field Optics and Their Applications	
T. Yatsui and M. Ohtsu	1
1 High-Throughput Probes	1
1.1 Mode Analysis in a Metallized Tapered Probe	1
1.2 Light Propagation in a Tapered Probe with Ideal Metal Cladding	4
1.3 Measurement of the Spatial Distribution of Optical Near-Field Intensity in the Tapered Probe	6
1.4 Further Increase in Throughput	10
2 Application to High-Density and High-Speed Optical Memory	19
2.1 Using an Apertured Fiber Probe	19
2.2 High-Density and High-Speed Recording Using a Pyramidal Silicon Probe on a Contact Slider	20
3 Outlook	27
References	27
Modulation of an Electron Beam in Optical Near-Fields	
J. Bae, R. Ishikawa, and K. Mizuno	29
1 Introduction	29
2 Review of Experiments	30
2.1 Smith–Purcell Effect	30
2.2 Schwarz–Hora Effect	31
3 Basic Principle	32
4 Microgap Interaction Circuits	35
4.1 Circuit Configuration	35
4.2 Transition Rates of Electrons	36
5 Theoretical Analyses of a Microslit	40
5.1 Near-Field Distributions	40
5.2 Wave Number Spectrum	43
5.3 Numerical Simulations	44
6 Experiment	47
6.1 Experimental Setup	48
6.2 Electron Energy Spectrum	48

6.3	Modulation with Laser Field	51
6.4	Wave Number Spectrum	52
7	Multiple-Gap Circuit	53
7.1	Inverse Smith–Purcell Effect	53
7.2	Experimental Setup	55
7.3	Phase Matching Condition	55
7.4	Field Distributions	56
8	Microslit for Visible Light	57
9	Conclusion	59
	References	59

Fluorescence Spectroscopy with Surface Plasmon Excitation

T. Neumann, M. Kreiter, and W. Knoll	61	
1	Introduction	61
2	Theoretical Considerations	61
2.1	Surface Plasmons at the Interface Between a (Noble) Metal and a Dielectric Medium	61
2.2	Optical Excitation of Surface Plasmons	64
2.3	Surface Plasmons for the Characterization of Thin Layers	67
2.4	Electromagnetic Field Distribution near the Interface	68
2.5	Fluorescent Chromophores near Metal Surfaces	70
3	Experimental	72
4	Results and Discussion	74
4.1	Experimental Verification of Surface Field Enhancement	74
4.2	Frontside Versus Backside Emission	76
5	Conclusions	80
	References	81

**Optical Characterization
of In(Ga)As/GaAs Self-assembled Quantum Dots
Using Near-Field Spectroscopy**

Y. Toda and Y. Arakawa	83	
1	Introduction	83
2	Relaxation Mechanism	84
3	Optical Properties of Self-assembled Quantum Dots: Far-Field Analysis	86
3.1	Photoluminescence Spectroscopy	86
3.2	Magneto-Optical Spectroscopy	87
3.3	Photoluminescence Excitation Spectroscopy	89
3.4	Raman Spectroscopy	90
4	Near-Field Optical Spectroscopy	92
4.1	Ground-State Emission	94
4.2	Interaction with Phonons	101
4.3	Carrier Relaxation	106

4.4 Dephasing of Excited Carrier 107
 4.5 Spin Relaxation 111
 5 Conclusion 115
 References 115

**Quantum Theoretical Approach
 to Optical Near-Fields and Some Related Applications**

K. Kobayashi, S. Sangu, and M. Ohtsu 119

1 Introduction 119
 1.1 Basic Idea and Massive Virtual Photon Model 120

2 Projection Operator Method 121
 2.1 Definition of the Projection Operator 122
 2.2 Properties of the Projection Operator 122

3 Effective Operator and Effective Interaction 123
 3.1 Equation for the Operator \hat{J} and Its Approximate Solution .. 125
 3.2 Effective Interaction Operator in an Approximation 126

4 Electromagnetic Interaction with Matter:
 Minimal-Coupling and Multipole Hamiltonians 127
 4.1 Minimal-Coupling Hamiltonian 127
 4.2 Multipole Hamiltonian 129

5 Elementary Excitation Modes and Electronic Polarization 133
 5.1 Polaritons and Electronic Polarization 134

6 Optical Near-Field Interaction: Yukawa Potential 137
 6.1 Relevant Microscopic Subsystem
 and Irrelevant Macroscopic Subsystem 137
 6.2 P Space and Q Space 138
 6.3 Effective Interaction in the Nanometric Subsystem 138
 6.4 Effective Mass Approximation
 of Exciton Polaritons and Yukawa Potential 141

7 Applications 143
 7.1 Single Atom Manipulation 143
 7.2 Fundamental Properties of Optical Near-Field Microscopy ... 148

8 Outlook 154
 References 155

Index 159

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