Vibrational bulk and surface losses of swift electrons in ionic nanostructures



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Plasmonic EELS A versatile measurement tool



Annual Review of Physical Chemistry 67, 331 (2016)

Bosman et al., Nanotechnology 18, 165505 (2007); Nelayah et al., Nature Phys. 3, 348 (2007).



Collaboration with Maureen Lagos and Phil Batson, Rutgers Univ.

Boundary element method

Discretize boundary rather than volume works only for bodies with homogeneous material properties (!!!)



BEM Boundary discretization Frequency domain Garcia de Abajo and Howie, Phys. Rev. B 65, 115418 (2002).

Electrons excite surface plasmons and lose energy

$$P(\hbar\omega) \propto \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \operatorname{Re}[J_{el}^{*}(\boldsymbol{r},\omega) \cdot \boldsymbol{E}_{ind}(\boldsymbol{r},\omega)] dz$$

OMMUNICATIONS

MNPBEM – A Matlab toolbox for plasmonics Hohenester, Comp. Phys. Commun., 185, 1177 (2014). Hohenester and Trügler, Comp. Phys. Commun., 183, 370 (2012).

EELS tomography

3D reconstruction







Hörl et al., Nature Commun. 8, 37 (2017); Haberfehlner et al., Nano Letters (2017).

Ionic crystals

Surface phonon polaritons (10 - 100 meV) rather than surface plasmons (1 eV)

$$\varepsilon_{\text{ion}}(\omega) = 1 + \frac{\omega_{\text{LO}}^2 - \omega_{TO}^2}{\omega_{TO}^2 - \omega(\omega + i\gamma)},$$

$$\varepsilon_{\text{metal}}(\omega) = \varepsilon_{\infty} - \frac{\omega_{\text{pl}}^2}{\omega(\omega + i\gamma)}$$

This talk :

EELS with high <10 meV energy resolution
Molecular dynamics description

M. Lagos, A. Trügler, et al., Nature 543, 533 (2017) M. Lagos, A. Trügler, et al., Microscopy 1-11 (2018) U. Hohenester, A. Trügler, et al., submitted (2018)



MgO cube









M. Lagos, A. Trügler, U. Hohenester, P. Batson, Nature 543, 528 (2017).



Phonon eigenmodes



M. Lagos, A. Trügler, et al., Microscopy 1-11 (2018)

MgO phonon polaritons





Results Intensity maps (experiment & theory)



Molecular dynamics simulations

Newton's equations of motion for ion dynamics

long-range Coulomb forces (fast multipoles) and short-range interatomic forces

 $M_j \ddot{\mathbf{R}}_j + \nabla_{\mathbf{R}_j} \sum_{j'} V_{jj'} (\mathbf{R}_j - \mathbf{R}_{j'}) = eZ_j E_{\mathsf{el}}(\mathbf{R}_j, t)$ 🍙 🥑 🝙 🥥 ۷ 🍙 🥥 ے 🥙 🎑

Chalopin et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 100, 241904 (2012).

Molecular dynamics simulations

Electron energy loss probability

$$P(\hbar\omega) = \frac{1}{\pi\hbar\omega} \int \operatorname{Re}\left[E_{el}^{*}(r,\omega) \cdot J_{ind}(r,\omega)\right] d^{3}r$$

Ionic polarization current

$$J_{\text{ind}}(\boldsymbol{r},t) = \sum_{j} \dot{\boldsymbol{R}}_{j} e Z_{k} \delta(\boldsymbol{r}-\boldsymbol{R}_{j})$$

U. Hohenester, A. Trügler et al., submitted (2018).





U. Hohenester, A. Trügler et al., submitted (2018).

Molecular dynamics



Summary and perspective

- Measurement of localized surface and bulk phonons at single nanoparticles
- Local limit $(q \rightarrow 0)$ works fine for non-penetrating electron beams
- Need to go beyond local description to include rich internal phonon spectra



M.. Maldovan, Sound and heat revolutions in phononics, Nature 503, 209 (2013).

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