

23rd Iranian Conference on Optics and Photonics and 9th Conference on Photonics Engineering and Technology Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran January 31- February 2, 2017

ضریب جفت شدگی یک نانومزدوج موازی پلاسمونیک بر اساس میدان محوشونده

لیلا معتمد جهرمی، محسن حاتمی

شیراز، دانشگاه صنعتی شیراز، دانشکده فیزیک

چکیده – در این مقاله به محاسبهی ضریب جفتشدگی در یک مزدوج موازی پلاسمونیک متشکل از دو موجبر تکلایه به فاصله هایی در محدودهی ۲۰۰ نانومتر برای مد *TM* میپردازیم و فرض میکنیم که هر موجبر مانند یک اختلال برای موجبر دیگر عمل کند، ولی بر مدهای موجبر اثر نداشته باشد. ضریب جفتشدگی و فاصلهی انتقال بر حسب فرکانس بهنجار شده، در دو راستای x و z، محاسبه و شبیهسازی شده و مقادیری در محدودهی میلیمتر و کمتر در یک پهنای فرکانسی به دست آمده است. بنابراین مناسب برای ساخت مدارهای مجتمع نوری و طراحی کوپلرها وکلیدهای نوری است.

كليد واژه- پلاسمونيك، ضريب جفت شدكي، فاصله ي انتقال ، مدار مجتمع نوري

Coupling Coefficient of Nano Plasmonic Directional Coupler Based on Evanescence Field

Leila Motamed-Jahromi, Mohsen Hatami

Shiraz, Shiraz university of technology, physics department

Abstract- In this paper we obtain the coupling coefficient of plasmonic directional coupler (PDC) made up of two monolayer waveguides separated in the range of 200 nm for TM mode and we assume each waveguides acts as a perturbation to other waveguide but does not affect the waveguide mode. We numerically calculated the Transfer distance respect to normalized frequency and simulated in two directions, x and z, values are about millimetres and smaller in a limitation of a bandwidth. Thus it is suitable for designing of integrated optical circuits and construction of couplers and switches.

Keywords: plasmonic, coupling coefficient, transfer distance, integrated optical circuits

Coupling Coefficient of Nano Plasmonic Directional Coupler Based on Evanescence Field

Leila Motamed-Jahromi

leilamotamed@yahoo.com

1 Introduction

2

Recent advances in the study of nanophotonics imply a fast developing and new promising field of science and technology which named plasmonics for exploiting optical features of metallic nano structures. Such material systems have shown their potential to spatially confine and manipulate light in subwavelength scale because of highly matched surface plasmon polaritons (SPPs), a mixed wave of light and free electron oscillation of conductors, actually on the metal surface [1].

Besides the applications of plasmonic devices in medical and biological fields such as using surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy, the amazing aspect of plasmonic devices, confining light, makes such devices to have versatile applications for designing various type of devices i.e. different components of plasmonic circuits such as waveguides, couplers, switches and so on [2,3].

Because of the profound penetration of field into the metals and the material loss, using plasmonic waveguides is not that good for propagation in long-range. On the other hand they are good candidate for integrated optical circuit application in small scale regimes [4].

In this research initially we obtain the coupling coefficient of plasmonic directional coupler (PDC) which made up of two parallel plasmonic waveguide separated by a distance. We will use the evanescence field of two waveguides that induced polarization to obtain coupling coefficient. Transfer distance will be calculated numerically respect to normalized frequency and simulated for both components.

2 Equations

Monolayer plasmonic waveguide is one of the simplest waveguide that actually is an interface between a metal and dielectric [5]. In this paper, we incorporate two monolayer plasmonic waveguides which separate each other and we

Mohsen Hatami

hatami@sutech.ac.ir

assume each waveguides act as a perturbation to other waveguide but do not affect the other waveguide mode. Figure 1 illustrate a directional coupler that made of two separate monolayer plasmonic waveguide by a distance 2a and filled by dielectric ε . The permittivity of metallic part of plasmonic waveguide is demonstrated as ε_c .



Figure 1: nano plasmonic directional coupler made of two monolayer plasmonic waveguides

Monolayer plasmonic waveguide only supports TM modes because only these modes can excite plasmon polaritons by tangential component of its electric field. If we take the coordinate system as shown in figure 1, the components of electric fields of TM mode are given by E_x and E_z . We take the upper waveguide of PDC as number 1 and the lower one as number 2, in general the electric field of upper and lower waveguide of PDC by taking into account a weak interaction of two waveguides are written as following:

 $E_{x_{1}}(x,z) = A_{1}(z)F_{1}(x)\exp(i\beta z)$ (1)

$$E_{z_{1}}(x,z) = B_{1}(z)G_{1}(x)\exp(i\beta z)$$
(2)

 $E_{x_{2}}(x,z) = A_{2}(z)F_{2}(x)\exp(i\beta z)$ (3)

$$E_{z_{2}}(x,z) = B_{2}(z)G_{2}(x)\exp(i\beta z)$$
 (4)

Where *A* and *B* are slowly varying amplitudes, F(x) and G(x) are normalized transvers functions of each waveguide alone respectively. Lower waveguide undergoes a perturbation of the medium for upper waveguide and vice versa. This perturbation is appearance as difference of refractive index $n_c - n$. By implying Helmholtz equations to electric fields one can write:

$$\nabla^2 E_{x_1} + k_c^2 E_{x_1} = -\mu_0 \omega^2 \varepsilon_0 [(\varepsilon_c + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}) - \varepsilon] E_{x_2}$$
(5)

$$\nabla^2 E_{z_1} + k_c^2 E_{z_1} = -\mu_0 \omega^2 \varepsilon_0 [(\varepsilon_c + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}) - \varepsilon] E_{z_2}$$
(6)

$$\nabla^2 E_{x_2} + k_c^2 E_{x_2} = -\mu_0 \omega^2 \varepsilon_0 [(\varepsilon_c + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}) - \varepsilon] E_{x_1}$$
(7)

$$\nabla^2 E_{z_2} + k_c^2 E_{z_2} = -\mu_0 \omega^2 \varepsilon_0 [(\varepsilon_c + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}) - \varepsilon] E_{z_1} \qquad (8)$$

Where ε_0 , μ_0 , σ , ω are the vacuum electric permittivity, vacuum magnetic permeability, conductivity and frequency, respectively. *k* is the wave vector which is written for metals by a subscript c and

$$k_c^2 = \beta^2 - k_0^2 \varepsilon_c$$
(9)

$$k^2 = \beta^2 - k_0^2 \varepsilon$$
(10)

That β is propagation constant written as

$$\beta = \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon \varepsilon_c}{\varepsilon + \varepsilon_c}}$$
(11)

We suppose that propagation constant and transverse field distribution is unchanged under the effect of this perturbation, only the amplitudes $A_1(z)$, $B_1(z)$, $A_2(z)$ and $B_2(z)$ are taken as function of *z* although for monolayer plasmonic waveguide alone are constant. If the slowly varying amplitude is impose to equation (5-8) four coupled first-order differential equations are given:

$$\frac{\partial A_1}{\partial z} = iC_{12}A_2 \tag{12}$$

$$\frac{\partial B_1}{\partial z} = iC_{12}B_2 \tag{13}$$

$$\frac{\partial A_2}{\partial z} = iC_{21}A_1 \tag{14}$$

$$\frac{\partial B_2}{\partial z} = iC_{21}B_1 \tag{15}$$

Parameter Cs are called coupling coefficients and defined as following:

$$C_{12_{x}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\varepsilon_{c} + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}\omega} \right) - \varepsilon \right] \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{-a} F_{1}^{*} F_{2} dx$$
(16)

$$C_{12_{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\varepsilon_{c} + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}\omega} \right) - \varepsilon \right] \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{-a} G_{1}^{*}G_{2} dx$$
(17)

$$C_{2l_x} = \frac{1}{2} [(\varepsilon_c + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}) - \varepsilon] \frac{k_0^2}{\beta} \int_{+a}^{+\infty} F_1^* F_2 dx$$
(18)

$$C_{2l_z} = \frac{1}{2} [(\varepsilon_c + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}) - \varepsilon] \frac{k_0^2}{\beta} \int_{+a}^{+\infty} G_1^* G_2 dx$$
(19)

The normalized transvers functions, F(x) and G(x) are written as the normalized field distribution of monolayer plasmonic waveguide [6].

Some calculation lead to the four coupling coefficients as follow:

$$C_{12_{x}} = C_{21_{x}} = \frac{1}{2} [(\varepsilon_{c} + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}\omega}) - \varepsilon] \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{-a} F_{1}^{*} F_{2} dx = -i [(\varepsilon_{c} + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}\omega}) - \varepsilon] \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{\beta} \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_{c}\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon_{c} - \varepsilon} \frac{\exp(-2ka)}{k_{c} + k}$$

$$(20)$$

$$C_{12_{z}} = C_{21_{z}} = \frac{1}{2} [(\varepsilon_{c} + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}\omega}) - \varepsilon] \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{-a} G_{1}^{*}G_{2}dx = -i[(\varepsilon_{c} + \frac{i\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}\omega}) - \varepsilon] \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{\beta} \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_{c}\varepsilon k_{c}k}}{\varepsilon_{c} - \varepsilon} \frac{\exp(-2ka)}{k_{c} + k}$$
(21)

Thus we have a PDC which has capability to couple the optical power from one waveguide into another. The Coupling length or transfer distance in both directions of x and z are calculated as

$$L_x = \frac{\pi}{2C_{12_x}}, \qquad L_z = \frac{\pi}{2C_{12_z}}$$
 (22)

According to (22), we simulated the transfer distance for both components by using Au as the metals and As₂S₃ chalcogenide glass for dielectric layer. The results of simulations have been shown in figures 2 and 3. In each figure the horizontal axis is normalize frequency respect to plasma frequency $\omega_n = 1.36 \times 10^{16} Hz$.

Figure 2 shows the x component of real part of transfer distance and figure 3 shows the z component of it respect to normalize frequency [7]. The general behavior of L_z and L_x are the same initially decrease by increasing the frequency and then increase and in some interval of frequency the value of two transfer lengths are nearly constant and slightly change the flat interval by increasing the distance between two monolayer waveguide. On the other hand there is a huge difference between L_x and L_z because of their values, the value of L_x is in the order of kilometers while the order of Lz is under millimeters. We expected such result because the x component of electric field has a few contribution to induce polarization or current to other waveguide. So because of weak coupling a large transfer distance of Lz, it is not useful for designing integrated optical devices. On the other hand the values of L_z is small enough and it can be useful for designing switches or 3db couplers for integrated optical circuits manufacturing.

The minimum value of L_z is occurred at $\omega / \omega_p = 0.165$ is equal to 0.66µm for 2a=200nm.

The interesting result is the good flatness of transfer distance in the interval between $\omega / \omega_p = 0.15$ and $\omega / \omega_p = 0.175$, this remarkable feature is made PDCs a good candidate for designing dispersion less photonic devices.



Figure 2: Real part of transfer distance as a function of normalized frequency in direction of x axis for nano plasmonic directional coupler at a=100 nm.



Figure 3: Real part of transfer distance as a function of normalized frequency in direction of z axis for nano plasmonic directional coupler at three distances a=90 nm, a=100 nm and a=110 nm.

3 Conclusion

Confining light in plasmonic devices makes such devices to have versatile applications for designing various type of devices i.e. different components of plasmonic circuits such as waveguides, couplers, switches and so on.

In this research we obtained the coupling coefficient of plasmonic directional coupler (PDC). We calculated Transfer distance numerically respect to normalized frequency and simulated it for both components. The value of L_x which related to E_x is in the order of kilometers while the order of L_z related to E_z is under

millimeter. So because of weak coupling a large transfer distance of L_z , it is not useful for designing integrated optical devices. On the other hand the values of L_z is small enough and it can be useful for designing switches or 3db couplers for integrated optical circuits manufacturing. Also we found the optimum point of L_z and the band width in which L_z is almost flatness that is remarkable feature to make PDCs a good candidate for designing dispersion less photonic devices.

References

- J. A. Schuller, E. S. Barnard, W. Cai, Y. C. Jun, J. S. White, and M. L.Brongersma, "Plasmonics for extreme light concentration and manipulation,"*Nat. Mater.* Vol.9, pp.193–204,2010.
- [2] D. F. P. Pile and D. K. Gramotnev, "Plasmonic subwavelength waveguides:Next to zero losses at sharp bends," *Opt. Lett.* Vol.30, pp.1186–1188,2005.
- [3] R. A. Pala, K. T. Shimizu, N. A.Melosh, andM. L. Brongersma, "A nonvolatile plasmonic switch employing photochromic molecules," *Nano Lett.* Vol.8, pp.1506–1510 ,2008.
- [4] C.H. Du and Y.P. Chiou, "vertical directional couplers with ultra-short coupling length based on hybrid plasmonic waveguides", *Journal of lightwave technology*, Vol. 32, No. 11, June 1, 2014.
- [5] R. Yang, M. A. G. Abushagur, and Z. Lu, "Efficiently squeezing near infrared light into a 21 nm-by-24 nm nanospot," *Opt. Express*, vol.16, pp.20142–20148,2008.
- [6] S.A. Maier, *Plasmonics:Fundamental and applications*, pp.25, 1st edn., Springer-Verlage,Berlin, 2007.
- [7] B.E.A Saleh, Fundamentals of photonics, pp 314, 2nd edn. Wiley 1991
- pp.314, 2nd edn., Wiley, 1991.