Master's Thesis: Electromagnetic Scattering in Micro- and Nanostructured Materials Supervisors: Jesper Mørk and Philip Trøst Kristensen

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#### Motivation



Nanoscale plasmonic sensing (J. I. L. Chen *et al.*, J. Am. Chem. Soc. **132** (2010))



Plasmonic nanoparticles and photovoltaics (H. A. Atwater *et al.*, Nat. Mater. **9** (2010))



Photonic crystals and light trapping (J. D. Joannopoulos et al., Photonic Crystals: Molding the Flow of Light (2008))

Dipole Approximation

Plasmonic Dimers and Chains

Summary and Outlook

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#### Scope of project:

Tool for simulating interaction between spherical scatterers and electromagnetic radiation in homogeneous background medium.

Photonic crystals and light trapping (J. D. Joannopoulos et al., Photonic Crystals: Molding the Flow of Light (2008))



- 1. Geometry and Solution Technique
- 2. Dipole Approximation
- 3. Plasmonic Dimers and Chains
- 4. Summary and Outlook

#### Geometry: N Scatterers in Homogeneous 3D Background



 $\epsilon_{\rm B}(\omega)$ 







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#### Geometry: N Scatterers in Homogeneous 3D Background



### Lippmann-Schwinger Equation

Frequency-space wave equation for electric field

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{E} - k_0^2 \epsilon_{\rm B} \mathbf{E} = k_0^2 \Delta \epsilon(\mathbf{r}) \mathbf{E}, \quad \Delta \epsilon(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \epsilon(\mathbf{r}) - \epsilon_{\rm B}.$$

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Inhomogeneous PDE with formal solution

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{B}}(\mathbf{r}) + \underbrace{k_0^2 \int \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{B}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \Delta \epsilon(\mathbf{r}') \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}') \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r}'}_{\equiv \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{scat}}(\mathbf{r})}.$$

Lippmann-Schwinger equation; Implicit equation for field inside scatterers.

#### Field Expansion and Matrix Equation

Local expansion of field

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}_j) = \sum_{\alpha \nu} e_{j \, \alpha \, \nu} \psi^j_{\nu}(\mathbf{r}_j) \, \mathbf{e}_{\alpha}.$$



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 Matrix equation for expansion coefficients

$$\mathbf{e} = \left(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{L} - k_0^2 \mathbf{G} \boldsymbol{\Delta} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{B}} \mathbf{e}_{\mathrm{B}}.$$



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All matrices expressed analytically. Only approximation: Truncation of set of basis functions.



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Dipole approximation: Constant field inside scatterers.

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- When R ≪ λ<sub>B</sub>, field variation across scatterer is negligible: E(r<sub>j</sub>) ≃ E(r<sup>0</sup><sub>j</sub>).
- Simpler, analytic solutions, e.g. for cross

#### sections.

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- ▶ New length scale: *d*.
- With  $R \ll \lambda_{\rm B}$ , is dipole approximation valid if

```
d/R \gg 1?
d/R \sim 1?
d/R \ll 1?
```

#### Algebraic Lippmann-Schwinger Equation

Constant field yields algebraic Lippmann-Schwinger equation

$$\mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{D}}(\mathbf{r}_{j}^{0}) = \mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{B}}(\mathbf{r}_{j}^{0}) + k_{0}^{2} \sum_{j'=1}^{N} \mathbf{G}_{jj'}^{\mathrm{D}} \Delta \epsilon_{j'} \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{D}}(\mathbf{r}_{j'}^{0}) - \frac{\Delta \epsilon_{j}}{\epsilon_{\mathrm{B}}} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{D}}(\mathbf{r}_{j}^{0}).$$

Global relative error of dipole approximation

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{G}}^{\mathrm{D}} \equiv \sum_{j\alpha} \frac{\int_{V_j} \left| \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}'_j) - \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{D}}(\mathbf{r}^0_j) \right| \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r}'_j}{\int_{V_j} \left| \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}'_j) \right| \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r}'_j}$$

#### Global Relative Error of Dipole Approximation



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Dipole approximation is only valid when  $d/R \gtrsim 3$ .

#### Geometries and Cross Sections



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#### Dimer: Peak Shift Ratio (Longitudinal Polarization)

Peak shift ratio: 
$$\Delta \lambda_0^{\text{Res}} \equiv \frac{\lambda_0^{\text{D}} - \lambda_0^{\text{D,single}}}{\lambda_0^{\text{D,single}}}$$
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 $\Delta\lambda_0^{\rm Res} \propto (d/R)^{-1/2};$  Softer dependence than reported in the literature.

#### Chain Resonance Wavelengths: d = R = 10 nm, Varying N







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### Chain: Peak Shift Ratio (Longitudinal Polarization)

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 $\Delta \lambda_0^{\text{Res}} = \Delta \lambda_0^{\text{Asymp}} \exp(-\eta_N/(N-1)), \eta_N = 1.87$ ; Agreement with the literature; Next nearest neighbor interaction along the chain.

Summary:

- Tool for determining analytically electric field in homogeneous 3D space with spherical scatterers.
- Dipole approximation: Careful if  $d \gg R$  is not satisfied!
- Dimer:  $(d/R)^{-1/2}$ -dependence of peak shift ratio,  $\Delta \lambda_0^{\text{Res}}$ .
- ► Chain:  $\exp\left(-\eta_{\scriptscriptstyle N}/(N-1)\right)$ -dependence of peak shift ratio,  $\Delta\lambda_0^{\rm Res}$ .

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Outlook:

- More systematic study of dimers and chain; Cover larger part of parameter space.
- Extension to layered geometry for modeling of plasmonic solar cells; New Green's tensor.
- Modeling of finite-sized 3D photonic crystals (cavity modes, Q-factors, LDOS, Purcell factors).

# Thank you for your attention!

