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Preparatory School to the Winter College on Micro and Nano Photonics for Life Sciences

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Photonic crystal basics.

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Outline		
Introduction:	Photonic Crystals: definition and History; 1D, 2D,3D Photonic Crystals: examples;	
Propagation of e.m waves in periodic media:	Bloch's Theorem, Band Diagrams; Group velocity, band edge effects;	
Analysis of 1D Ph. C.	Calculation of photonic bands; Off axis propagation, isofrequency curves; Finite size structures;	
2D and 3D structures:	Reciprocal lattice; Brillouin zone, irreducible Brillouin zone; Optical properties of Bulk Ph. C.	
Photonic Crystals with Intentional defects:	High Q cavities; Control of spontaneous emission: Bragg waveguides; Photonic crystal waveguides; Photonic crystal fibers	

Photonic Crystals

Periodic dielectric structures that can interact resonantly with radiation with wavelengths comparable to the periodicity length of the dielectric lattice.

WHY ARE THEY CALLED PHOTONIC CRYSTALS?

Can affect the properties of photons in much the same way that ordinary semiconductor and conductor crystals affect the properties of electrons. Properties of electrons in ordinary crystals are affected by parameters like lattice size and defects, for example. Crystals are made of periodic arrays of atoms at atomic length scales.

HOW DO THEY LOOK?

















2-D Photonic Crystals a closer look



• Electron micrographs of a spine and a felt hair. Both contain close packed voids of water in chit in (refractive index 1.52). The spine has 88 layers of holes with a spacing of 0.51 $\mu \rm m.$







Propagation of e.m waves in periodic media:

Scattering of light in periodically patterned media

Periodicity comparable to incident light wavelengths can be responsible for constructive interferences among scattered light by every lattice point. The phenomenon is exactly the same as it happens in diffraction gratings.



white light. The nominal track separation on a CD is 1.6 micrometers, corresponding to about 625 tracks per millimeter. This is in the range of ordinary laboratory diffraction gratings. For red light of wavelength 600 nm, this would give a first order diffraction maximum at about 22°.



Introduction to Bloch's Theorem

waves in a periodic medium can propagate without scattering

Electrons

Photons

Light scattered from a random media: The effect can be weak or strong depending on density of scatterers. Size and shape of the scatterers produce wavelength and angular

If the atoms were randomly placed the free electrons would experience strong scattering with the lattice atoms and a short mean free path is expected.

This is in contrast with the high value of measured conductivity for some crystals.

But crystal lattice are periodic with typical sizes of a few Å and electrons can be treated as waves (quantum mechanics) with energies corresponding to a typical wavelength comparable to lattice size.

dependence on the efficiency of scattering aser scattered by dust





Photonic crystals are characterized by primitive cells of a size comparable to the wavelength of the photon. Resonant scattering can occur as a function of frequency and wavevector.





Bloch's Theorem

for e.m waves in photonic crystals

...the following eigenvalue equations:

$$\hat{\Gamma}_{E}\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{r}(\vec{r})}\vec{\nabla} \times \left\{\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r})\right\} = \frac{\omega^{2}}{c^{2}}\vec{E}(\vec{r}),$$
$$\hat{\Gamma}_{H}\vec{H}(\vec{r}) = \vec{\nabla} \times \left\{\frac{1}{\varepsilon_{r}(\vec{r})}\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H}(\vec{r})\right\} = \frac{\omega^{2}}{c^{2}}\vec{H}(\vec{r}),$$

If ϵ_r is a periodic function of the spatial coordinate Bloch's Theorem states that fields solutions are characterized by a **Bloch wave vector K**, a band index n and have the form:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \vec{E}_{\vec{K}n}(\vec{r})e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{r}}; \qquad \vec{H}(\vec{r}) = \vec{H}_{\vec{K}n}(\vec{r})e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{r}};$$

with:

$$\begin{split} & \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{r}(\vec{r}) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{r}(\vec{r} + \vec{a}_{i}); \\ & \vec{E}_{\vec{k}n}(\vec{r}) = \vec{E}_{\vec{k}n}(\vec{r} + \vec{a}_{i}); \\ & \vec{H}_{\vec{k}n}(\vec{r}) = \vec{H}_{\vec{k}n}(\vec{r} + \vec{a}_{i}); \end{split} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \vec{a}_{1}; \\ & \vec{a}_{2}; \\ & \text{the periodic lattice} \\ & \vec{a}_{3}; \end{array} \end{split}$$



Band Diagrams		
Some Computational tools:		
Plane Wave Expansion (PWE) Method -CPU time demanding and poor convergence		
Koringa-Kohn-Rostker (KKR) Method - spherical waves expansion		
Transfer matrix method - Developed by Pendry's group at Imperial College. It also provides amplitude and phase information. - Rigorous Coupled-wave analysis RCWA		
Dispersive properties:		
Group velocity=Energy velocity (proof: Yariv's Optical waves in crystals)		
$\vec{v}_g = \vec{\nabla} \omega(\vec{K}) \Big _{\vec{K} = \vec{K}_0}$		
Phase velocity CANNOT be defined appropriately in photonic crystals because eigenfunctions are superposition of plane waves and equiphase surfaces cannot be defined properly. Nevertheless, in the effective medium approximation, long wavelengths with respect to lattice periodicity the effective phase velocity can be defined as:		
$ec{v}_{arphi} = rac{\omega(ec{K}_0)}{ K_0 } \hat{K}_0$		















Analysis of 1D Photonic crystals

Calculating photonic bands

According to Bloch's Theorem the field in the (*n*)-th unit cell can be written as:

$$\vec{E}(x+(n-1)a) = \vec{E}_{K}(x)e^{iKx}e^{iK(n-1)a}$$
 $0 \le x < a$

The field in the (n-1)-th unit cell can be written as:

$$\vec{E}(x+(n-2)a) = \vec{E}_{K}(x)e^{iKx}e^{iK(n-1)a}e^{-iKa} = \vec{E}(x+(n-1)a)e^{-iKa}$$

The field at the first layer of the (n)-th unit cell is related to the field at the first layer of the (n-1)-th unit cell by the relation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n-1} \\ b_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = e^{-iKa} \begin{pmatrix} a_n \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$
But also:
$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n-1} \\ b_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \hat{M} \begin{pmatrix} a_n \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

































Analysis of 2D and 3D Photonic crystals

2D and 3D structures have many properties in common with 1D structures but they offer the opportunity to tailor localization properties in 3D.

WE start by giving a general definition of the **reciprocal lattice**, already introduced for the one dimensional case.

A function of the 3d space with a given periodicity can be written as a function of a vector ${\bf r}$ belonging to the primitive cell:

$$\vec{r} = \alpha \vec{a}_1 + \beta \vec{a}_2 + \gamma \vec{a}_3 \qquad 0 \le \alpha, \beta, \gamma \le 1$$

Primitive vectors

$$f(\vec{r} + n\vec{a}_1 + m\vec{a}_2 + l\vec{a}_3) = f(\vec{r}) \qquad n, m, l = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, ...; \vec{r} \in u.c.$$

A periodic function can be expanded according to Fourier series:

$$f(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{r}} F(\vec{G});$$

Analysis of 2D and 3D Photonic crystals

Ther set of G vectors are selected in order to have a periodic oscillating function over the unit cell. This means that in a lattice point identified by vector \mathbf{R} :

Equivalent to:

$$\vec{G} \cdot \vec{R} = 2\pi p; \quad p = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, ...$$

 $e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{R}} = 1$

Reminding that every lattice point can be obtained by linear combination of primitive vectors:

$$\vec{R} = n\vec{a}_1 + m\vec{a}_2 + l\vec{a}_3;$$

 $n, m, l = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, ...$

The reciprocal lattice is defined as the set of vectors G generated by its three reciprocal primitive vectors, through the formula :

$$\vec{g}_1 = 2\pi \frac{\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3}{\vec{a}_1 \cdot (\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3)};$$

$$\vec{g}_2 = 2\pi \frac{\vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1}{\vec{a}_2 \cdot (\vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1)};$$

$$\vec{g}_3 = 2\pi \frac{\vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2}{\vec{a}_3 \cdot (\vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2)};$$

Any Bravais lattice has a reciprocal lattice













Analysis of 2D and 3D Photonic crystals Examples in 2D

Triangular lattice

TM band gaps tend to occur in lattices formed by isolated highpermittivity regions; TE gaps in connected lattices.

High degree of compactness of triangular lattice make the connected lattice keep some of the properties of the isolated lattice.





























Photonic Crystal Fibers			
Effective index vs PBG guidance			
Mechanism	TIR "averaged index"	coherent scattering	
Periodicity	Not necessary	Crucial	
Bandwidth	Unlimited	Δλ/λ~10%	
Core	Solid	Hollow or solid	
Hole/pitch	Small or large	Large (typ. d/A>0.9	

Winter college lectures on Photonic Crystals
Photonic Crystals (1 hour)
Natural Photonic crystal
Fabrication technologies
Properties of bulk photonic crystals
super prism, super lens
enhancement of nonlinear effects
Photonic Crystals- applications (1hour)
Photonic crystal cavities – sensors and detectors
Photonic crystal fibers – high intensity laser delivery

supercontinuum generation for spectroscopy