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(G*) POS-E37 – Advanced modelling in computational nanophotonics

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With advances in nanofabrication, modelling the optical properties of nanoscale systems is critical.

The optical response of nanostructures can be simulated using the bulk permittivity of the constituent materials (1). The permittivity is generally assumed time-invariant and spatially dispersionless. While these approximations are enough for the simulations of most systems, in some cases the physics must be modelled more precisely.

We present three recent projects on the modelling of complex optical properties with implications in active nanophotonics (2), ultrafast physics and nonlinear plasmonics. The algorithms we developed are unavailable in commercial or open-source software.

- 1.) Nonlocal models: for small nanostructures (< 10 nm) spatial dispersion cannot be neglected, and we need to account for the electron degeneracy pressure (3).
- 2.) Nonlinear hydrodynamics: The hydrodynamic plasma model is required to properly model conduction electron dynamics in strong optical fields (4).
- 3.) Time-variant permittivity: Electrodynamics combined with two-temperature modelling is required to calculate the optical response induced by nonlinearity in ITO under strong optical fields (5).

Our models combined with high-performance computing allow us to achieve accurate results and significant agreement to experiments.

References

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