

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	References	5
2	Theory	13
2.1	Light and Matter	14
2.1.1	Dipole Oscillator Model	17
2.1.2	Light Refraction	21
2.1.3	Reflection from Thin Films	24
2.2	Heterogeneous Media	25
2.3	Optical Properties of Metallic Nanostructures	28
2.3.1	Quasi-Static Approximation	29
2.3.2	Beyond the Quasi-Static Approximation	33
2.3.3	Far Field Extinction Spectra of Nanoparticles Ensembles	36
2.3.4	Effects of EM Interactions	40
	References	44
3	Experimental Methods	47
3.1	Preparation Chamber	47
3.2	Optical Characterization	50
3.2.1	Spectroscopic Ellipsometry	50
3.2.2	Spectroscopic Reflectometry and Transmittance	53
3.3	Atomic Force Microscopy	55
	References	57
4	Self-Organized Nanoparticle Arrays: Morphological Aspects	59
4.1	Growth and Characterization of Lithium Fluoride Substrates	59
4.2	2D Arrays of Gold Nanoparticles	65
	References	69

5 Self-Organized Nanoparticle Arrays: Optical Properties	71
5.1 Optical Properties of Lithium Fluoride Substrates	71
5.2 Optical Properties of Gold Nanoparticles Arrays	74
5.2.1 Gold Nanowires	74
5.2.2 From Au Nanowires to Au Nanoparticles.	78
5.2.3 Gold Nanoparticles	81
References	85
6 Modelling and Analysis of the Optical Properties	87
6.1 Lithium Fluoride Nanostructures	87
6.1.1 LiF Substrates	87
6.1.2 Nanostructured LiF Templates	89
6.2 2-Dimensional Arrays of Gold Nanoparticles	92
6.2.1 Model	92
6.2.2 Optical Anisotropy of Self-Organized Au Nanoparticles Arrays	98
References	111
7 Composite Magnetic-Plasmonic Media Based on Au/LiF Arrays	113
References	119
8 Conclusions	121
References	123