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Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS)

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Alvar Aalto was a famous Finnish architect and designer

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Outline

- Bulk Raman spectroscopy
- SERS principles
- Plasmonics
- SERS substrate nanoengineering
- Instrumentation
- Applications

A Pros and cons of Raman (SERS)

Advantages

- Can be used with solids, liquids or gases
- No sample preparation needed (KBr, nujol)
- Non-destructive, non-invasive
- Works *in-situ* and *in-vitro* for biological samples
- No vacuum needed
- Works under a wide range of conditions (temperature, pressure)
- Short time scale
- Can work with aqueous solutions
- Glass vials can be used
- Can use down fibre optic cables for remote sampling
- Very small analizing volume till single molecule (SERS)
- Extremely high spatial resolution (SERS)
- Disadvantages
 - Cannot be used for metals or alloys
 - Very low sensitivity (Raman)
 - Can be swamped by fluorescence from some materials

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Scattered radiation



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Energy levels



Molecular vibrations



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Dipole moment in a molecule

 $p = \alpha E$

- *p* induced (not permanent) electric dipole moment of a molecule
- α polarizability
- *E*-electric field

$$\alpha = \alpha_0 + \left(\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial r}\right) \Delta r$$
$$\Delta r = r_{max} \cos(2\pi \nu t)$$
$$E = E_0 \cos(2\pi \nu_0 t)$$

$$p = \alpha_0 E_0 \cos(2\pi\nu_0 t) + \frac{E_0 r_{max}}{2} \left(\frac{d\alpha}{dr}\right) \left(\cos\left(2\pi t(\nu_0 + \nu)\right) + \cos\left(2\pi t(\nu_0 - \nu)\right)\right)$$

 α_0 - molecule equilibrium polarizability

E₀ - maximum electric field

- v_0 , v excitation and vibrational frequency, respectively
- *r*_{max} maximum vibrational amplitude

'Modulation' of linear optical polarizabiliy due to presence of internal vibrations

Spectroscopy 16(11), 2001, p.32



Selection rules

- The polarizability must change during the vibration
- In a centrosymmetric molecule (i.e., one with a centre of inversion symmetry) a vibrational mode may be either IR active or Raman active, but not both.







Raman intensity

$$I_S \propto N \left(\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial r}\right)^2_{\Delta r=0} (\nu_0 - \nu)^4 E^2_0$$

M − volume density of scattering molecule

Raman shift (wave-number)

$$\bar{\nu}[\mathrm{cm}^{-1}] = \frac{10^7}{\lambda[\mathrm{nm}]}$$

 λ - wavelength

Anti-Stokes to Stokes ratio for k mode

$$\rho_k = A e^{\frac{\hbar \omega_k}{k_B T}}$$

$$A = \frac{v^4 a s}{v^4 s}$$

Krafft et al., Journal of Biomedical Optics, 17, 2012, p.040801-15 E.C. Le Ru and P. G. Etchegoin, Principles of Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and related plasmonic effects, Elsevier, 2009.



Spectrum examples



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A Cross-sections of the optical processes



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- Raman spectroscopy provides 'fingerprint' of molecular bonds and crystalline structure (phonons) in dependence on environment conditions (temperature, pressure ...) through non-resonance excitation of any vibrational transitions
- At the same time method applications in real life are hindered by very low cross-section of Raman scattering

A Steps of Raman development

- Laser application
 - dramatically improved power of excitation and Raman signal
- SERS effect
 - Enhanced method sensitivity up to 10¹⁴
- Raman microscope
 - Decreased probe volume (light spot diameter below 1 $\mu \textbf{m}$
- Portable SERS
 - Mobility of analyses

C. Douketis et al., J. Chem. Phys. 2000, 113, 11315-23



SERS discovery

- M. Fleischmann, P. J. Hendra, and A. J. McQuillan.
 "Raman spectra of pyridine adsorbed at a silver electrode."Chem. Phys. Lett., 26, 1974, p.163–66
- Jeanmaire D.L. and Van Duyne R.P., "Surface Raman spectroelectrochemistry, part 1: heterocyclic, aromatic, and aliphatic amines adsorbed on the anodized silver electrode." *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **84**, 1977, p.120
- Albrecht and Creighton, "Anomalously intense Raman spectra of pyridine at a silver electrode." *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **99**, 1977, p.5215-17





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SERS definitions

- SERS is a phenomenon associated with the enhancement of the electromagnetic field surrounding small objects optically excited near an intense and sharp plasmon resonance. The enhanced fields excite the adsorbate (probe) and the scattered radiation will again be enhanced.
- Surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) consists in using the large local field enhancements that can exist at metallic surfaces (under the right conditions, typically by profiting from localized surface plasmon resonances) to boost the Raman scattering signal of molecules at (or close to) the surface.

E.C. Le Ru and P. G. Etchegoin, Principles of Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and related plasmonic effects, Elsevier, 2009

First experience

• SERS conditions:

- specific metals (e.g. Au, Ag, Cu, Pt, ...)
- surfaces with roughness on the nanometer scale
- proper wavelength of excitation

• SERS results:

- no enhancements observed for water, methanol, etc most solvents...
- certain molecules provided much higher Raman intensities (mostly molecules with carbon doublebonds)



Bottom spectrum: 100 μ M solution in a 13 μ m³ scattering volume, × 100 immersion objective with 400 s integration time. Top: signal from a single molecule under the same experimental conditions, but with 0.05 s integration time.

E. C. Le Ru et al., J. Phys. Chem. C, 111, 2007, p.13794–803

Deilectric function of metals

$$\varepsilon(\omega) = \varepsilon_{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2 + i\gamma_0 \omega} \right)$$

 $\gamma_0\,$ - damping term $\epsilon_\infty\,$ - optical response of the positive ions

 ω_p - plasma frequency $\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{ne^2}{m\varepsilon_0\varepsilon_\infty}}$

n,m - concentration of free electrons

m - effective mass of electron

e- charge of electron

 ε_0 - vacuum permittivity

E.C. Le Ru and P. G. Etchegoin, Principles of Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and related plasmonic effects, Elsevier , 2009.

Lolcalized surface plazmon resonance (SPR) in metal sphere

The (complex) electric field inside the sphere is constant

Ag sphere (35nm) in vacuum, at resonance wavelength 370 nm



E.C. Le Ru and P. G. Etchegoin, Principles of Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and related plasmonic effects, Elsevier, 2009. Stiles P.L. *et all*, Annual Review of Analytical Chemistry, 1, 2008, p.601-26

Optical properties of metals



E. D. Palik, editor. Handbook of optical constants of solids III. Academic Press, New York, 1998.
 E.C. Le Ru and P. G. Etchegoin, Principles of Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and related plasmonic effects, Elsevier, 2009

Material and size effect in plasmon resonance



Materials Today, Feb 2004, p. 26-31

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Plasmonic welding



E. C. Garnett, Nature Materials 11, 241–249 (2012)

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Electromagnetic enhancement in near-field



Electric field outside of metal sphere

$$\mathbf{E}_{out}(x, y, z) = E_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}} - \alpha E_0 \left[\frac{\hat{\mathbf{z}}}{r^3} - \frac{3z}{r^5} (x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + z \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \right]$$

x, y, z – Cartesian coordinates, r – radial distanse from sphere to the point B(x, y, z) $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ – Cartesian unit vectors

$$\alpha = ga^3$$

a- radius of the sphere

$$g = \frac{\varepsilon(\omega) - \varepsilon_M}{\varepsilon(\omega) + 2\varepsilon_M}$$



K. Kneipp, Physic Tody, **60**(11), 2007, p. 40-46 Stiles P.L. *et all*, Annual Review of Analytical Chemistry, 1, 2008, p.601-26

*E*⁴ enchancement of outside field

Electric field at the surface of nanosphere

 $|\mathbf{E}_{out}|^2 = E_0^2[|1 - g|^2 + 3\cos^2\theta(2\operatorname{Re}(g) + |g|^2)]$

Maximum \mathbf{E}_{out} at $\theta=0^{\circ}$

 $|\mathbf{E}_{out}|^2 = 4E_0^2|g|^2$

Enhancement factor

$$EF = \frac{|\mathbf{E}_{out}|^2 |\mathbf{E}'_{out}|^2}{|\mathbf{E}_0|^4} = 4|g|^2 |g'|^2$$

Stiles P.L. et all, Annual Review of Analytical Chemistry, 1, 2008, p.601-26



Stiles P.L. et all, Annual Review of Analytical Chemistry, 1, 2008, p.601-26

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Ag dimer enhancement





430 nm

520 nm

36 nm spheres separated by 2 nm gap For sphere is 85, slide 22





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Wavelength dependence



NSL with 450nm spheres, 55 nm Ag on glass



SERS is maximum when laser excitation is between SPR and the analized specturm line

J. Phys. Chem. B 2005, 109, 11279-11285





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SERRS

- The energy of the incoming laser is adjusted such that it or the scattered light coincide with an electronic transition of the molecule or crystal
- The main advantage of RR spectroscopy over traditional Raman spectroscopy is the large increase in intensity of the peaks in question
- The main disadvantage of RR spectroscopy is the increased risk of fluorescence and photodegradation of the sample due to the increased energy of the incoming laser light

A Delivering molecules to metal structures



Droplet formation depends on nature of solution, surface material and surface nanopattern (pillars...)

Molecule attachment may be strong or weak depending on molecule affinity to metal and surface chemistry

www.d3technologies.co.uk - www.renishawdiagnostics.com/en/klarite-sers-substrates

Chemical enhancement

 $EF = EF_{EM} \cdot EF_{CE}$

 EF_{EM} , EF_{CE} – electromagnetic and chemicial enhancement factors, respectively

- Charge transfer (CT) through metal-molecule complex
- Up to 10² contribution theoretically, up 100 practically
- CT is a special case of resonant Raman scattering



IP – ionization potential, φ – work function of the metal


SERS enhancement factor

Analytical enhancement factor

 $AEF = \frac{I_{SERS}/c_{SERS}}{I_{RS}/c_{RS}}$

 I_{SERS} , I_{RS} – intersities of SERS and Raman signals, respectively c_{SERS} , c_{RS} – molecule concentrations for SERS and Raman, respectively

SERS substrate enhancement factor

$$SSEF = \frac{I_{SERS}/N_{surf}}{I_{RS}/N_{vol}}$$

 $N_{vol} = c_{RS}V$ – number of molecules in the scattering volume V

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SERS aspects

- Maximum SERS *EF* occurs at specific positions on the surface ('hot spots'): nanoshpere 10⁶, nanogap 10¹¹ (SERRS)
- Average SERS *EF* (averaged over all possible positions on the metallic surface) 10-10³ for nonoptimized conditions, 10⁷-10⁸ for very good SERS substrates.
- Adsorption efficiency of the probe
- Sample transfer on 2D SERS substrate

- High local electromagnetic field near the plasmon nanostructures provides very high enhancement of Raman scattering (SERS)
- SERS effect depends on metal-molecule affinity and resonance conditions in molecule
- The highest *EF* is reached in random 'hot spots', if the probe molecule has got at this 'spot'

SERS substrates

- SERS substrate is any metallic structure (nanostructure) that produces the SERS enhancement:
 - Metallic nano-particles in solution (colloids)
 - 'Planar' metallic structures or arrays of metallic nanoparticles supported on a planar substrate (glass, silicon)
 - Metal electrodes in electrochemistry (roughed electrodes)

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Metal colloids for SERS

- Mainly Au, Ag or Cu nanoparticles (diameter10 80 nm) in water
- Produced by:
 - Chemical reduction. Process depends on:
 - Kind of metal
 - Reducing reagent AgNO3, K(AuCl4)
 - Temperature (boiling 1 h)
 - Stabilizing agents
 - Metal ion concentration
 - Laser ablation
 - Photoreduction
- The best SERS is provided by highly aggregated colloids
- Cube, triangle, nanorod shapes of particle
- The background SERS water 3100 3600 cm⁻¹, 'cathedral peaks' around 1360 and 1560 cm-1 (amorphous carbon), low-frequincy signals (150 250 cm-1) metal complexes Ag-O, Ag-Cl
- Enhancement up to 10¹⁴ (SMD posible)



TEM of Au borohydride colloid, Au particles 20-70 nm, λ_{max} = 535 nm

TEM of Au nanosquares

AFM of Ag nanowires in dendrimer matrix

R.F. Aroca et al. / Advances in Colloid and Interface Science 116 (2005) 45-61



Observed effects are due to particle size, concentration, aspect ratio.

SPR of colloids



Partical surface charge determs stability, adsorbivity, electrokinetic properties

R.F. Aroca et al. / Advances in Colloid and Interface Science 116 (2005) 45-61



R.F. Aroca et al. / Advances in Colloid and Interface Science 116 (2005) 45-61



Gold Lace Nanoshells









Metal electrodes

- Surface protrusions 25-500 nm
- Ag in KCI electrolyte
- Oxidation-reduction cycles



A 'Planar' substrates - metal island films

- Prepared by PVD physical vapor deposition
- Applicability to any substrate
- High purity
- Structure can be controlled by deposition rate (0.5 A/s), substrate roughness, temperature, mass thickness (6 nm), annealing
- Cold-deposited (-100 °C) Ag (pore, voids, cavities)



August 22, 2011

ICQNM 2011

Nice, France

'Planar' substrates - nanoengineered surfaces

- The aim is optimization (to obtain high *EF*) and reproducibility
- Nanosphere based
 - Ag on top of spheres (AgFON)
 - Nanosphere lithography (NSL)
- Fabricated with self-organized metal islands
- E-beam lithography (ring, crescent, dimer...)
- Temperature controlled (nano-particle monolayer on a thermo-responsive polymer film)

Nanocrescents fabricated by nanosphere lithography



H. Rochholz et al., New Journal of Physics, 9 (2007) 53

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Nanohole array



100 nm thick Au 200 nm holes

Optimal SERS substrate

 $I(\omega_S) = NA\Omega \frac{d\sigma(\omega_S)}{d\Omega} P_L(\omega_L) \varepsilon(\omega_L)^{-1} Q(\omega_S) T_m T_0 EF$

- $I(\omega_s)$ SERS intensity at Stokes frequency ω_s
- *N* molecular surface density
- A excitation area

 Ω – solid angle of photon collection

 $\sigma(\omega_S)$ - Raman scattering cross section

 $P_L(\omega_L)$ – radiant flux at excitation frequency

 $\varepsilon(\omega_L)$ - energy of incident photon

 $Q(\omega_{\rm S})$ – quantum efficiency of the detector

 T_m – transmissiton efficiency of the spectrometer

- T_0 transmissiton efficiency of the collection optics
- EF-enhancement factor

Stiles P.L. et all, Annual Review of Analytical Chemistry, 1, 2008, p.601-26

Pillar based substrate



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Commersial SERS substrate (Klarite)

Very high enhancements are 'sacrificed' in favor of homogeneity and reproducibility



<u>www.d3technologies.co.uk</u> - www.renishawdiagnostics.com/en/klarite-sers-substrates ZHIDA XU, Master Thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2011

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SMD –why?

- To push analytical tools to their ultimate resolution limits
- The understanding of unique single-molecule phenomena that are potentially washed out by ensemble averages
- Early single-molecule emission was inferred from indirect evidence
- Ultra-low concentration studies statistical result, but they provide hint of possibility SMD



Single-molecule detection

- Competitive to fluorescence
- Rhodamine 6G like pyridine for average SERS
- SMD SERS was possible only for molecules situated between Ag nanoparticles
- The higher surface *EF*, the more localized are hot spots
- At low concentrations single particle enhancement occurs only in SERRS, not SERS, allowing lower concentrations to be detected
- The highest the enhancements (SMD) are the most uncontrollable from the experimental point of view



C. J. L. Constantino et al., J. Raman Spectrosc., 36:574–580, 2005

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SERS fluctuations

- Intensity fluctuations with possible blinking or complete disappearing
- Spectral shape fluctuations, in either the relative intensities of the peaks, or the peak positions (Raman shifts) and widths, random peak appearance
- Evidence of SMD, because average SERS stable, SMD – no



E.C. Le Ru and P. G. Etchegoin, Principles of Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and related plasmonic effects, Elsevier, 2009

SERS fluctuation sources

- Photo-induced and site dependent variation of the local field enhancement
- Submonolayer coverage of hot spots
- Photo-induced and spontaneous dynamics chemistry change for long scans
- Photo-bleaching of dyes, photo-desorption, photoinduced surface diffusion,
- Substrate heating, and possibly substrate morphology changes (through photo-oxidation for example)
- Surface diffusion of a single molecule in-and-out of a hot-spot (for SMD)



⁽SERS) Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2006, 8, 2624-2628



Multilaser Raman instrumetation



Stiles P.L. et all, Annual Review of Analytical Chemistry, 1, 2008, p.601-26



Portable Raman



www.jascoinc.com, RMP-300 Portable Raman Spectrometer

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Applications

- Chemical identification (bonds)
- Physical identification (crystallinity, phases, graphene)
- Stress and diameter measurements (carbon nanotubes)
- Trace analysis (explosives and drug detection)
- Process monitoring (in-situ measurements)
- Uncovering painting
- Biology (DNA) and medicine (glucose in-vivo)
- Pharmacology

A Single walled carbon nanotube on Si



SERS substrates with adhesion layer A

Normal evaporation

Au=8nm, tilted 30°



Ti=1 nm Au=8nm tilted 30°



Evaporation angle 70°

Ag=8nm, tilted 30°

Ti=1 nm Ag=8nm, tilted 30°

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20nm

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Fabrication method of metal nanostructures on a template



SERS spectra of metylene blue for the gold nanostructures



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Large and small particles on the same SERS substrate





Effect of pillar height





EF measurement



Used for *EF* estimation

Thickness of thioglycerol layer is 80 μ m (black), 48 μ m (blue) and 25 μ m (green)

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A SERS vs fluorescence spectroscopy

- Fluorescence is very efficient SMD
- Fluorescence is currently a well-established technique
- SERS has high specificity, providing a unique 'fingerprint' – background distinguish, multiplexing
- SERS is applied directly to the molecule, no fluorophore
- Any excitation wavelength for SERS
- Higher spectral specificity
- Infrared excitation

A Biological applications of SERS

- Intracellular measurements
- SERS images (optical bioimagin)
- SERS labels for biomolecule identifying
- Biocompatible nanosensors
- Glucose measurement in vivo
- Characterization of bacteria
- DNA detection



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Summary

- Metal nanostructures provide huge *EF* of the Raman scattering, making possible single molecule detection
- The enhancement happens due to SPR and requires nanotechnology and simulations to produce nanoengineered SERS substrate
- High informativity and sensitivity of SERS bursted multiple applications of the method in different areas
- SERS substrate fabrication, distribution and reproducibility are still main problems for SERS

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SERS future

- Commercial production of reproducible and chip SERS substrate
- Wide application of SERRS with improvement of tunable lasers
- Application of new plasmonic materials (graphene, semiconductors)
- Standartization and data bases for spectrum interpetation

Questions

- Is it possible to do SERS of metals?
- What is about SERS of mixter of compounds?
- Is Raman qualitative or quantitative?
- Does Raman require any sample preparation?
- Is Raman destructive?
- Is fluorescence a problem for SERS?
- Why we have fluctuations in SERS?
- What is surface selection rules?



Thank you for attention