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## 1.2 Surface waves

- 1.2.1 Total internal reflection
- 1.2.2 Evanescent waves
- 1.2.3 Optics in metals
- 1.2.4 Surface Plasmon Polaritons

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## Total Internal Reflection



Nano optics 5/2 <https://www.fotocommunity.de/photo/zaun-mit-totalreflexion-bernd-nies/41041376>

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## Total Internal Reflection

Snell's law for total internal reflection (to air,  $n_t = 1$ ):

$$\frac{\sin \vartheta_i}{\sin \vartheta_t} = \frac{1}{n_i} \Rightarrow \sin \vartheta_t = n_i \sin \vartheta_i \geq 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \vartheta_t = i \sqrt{n_i^2 \sin^2 \vartheta_i - 1}$$

real number  $\geq 0$

Components of the wave vector  $\vec{k}_t$ :

$$k_{ty} = k_0 \sin \vartheta_t = k_0 n_i \sin \vartheta_i$$

$$k_{tx} = k_0 \cos \vartheta_t = k_0 i \sqrt{n_i^2 \sin^2 \vartheta_i - 1}$$

Electric field of transmitted light is  $\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_0 e^{i(\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$  ;  $|\vec{k}_t| = k_0 = \frac{\omega}{c_0}$

Inserting  $k_{tx}$  and  $k_{ty}$  in phase of  $\vec{E}_t$  then gives

$$\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} = k_{tx} x + k_{ty} y = i \sqrt{n_i^2 \sin^2 \vartheta_i - 1} \cdot k_0 x + n_i \sin \vartheta_i \cdot k_0 y$$


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## Surface Wave

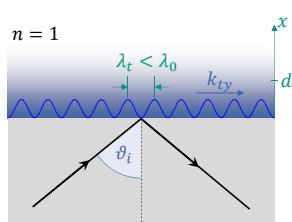
The electric field  $\vec{E}_t$  of the wave in the low-index medium (here air) is an evanescent wave:

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_{t0} \cdot e^{i(\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} = \vec{E}_{t0} \cdot e^{-i\omega t} \cdot \underbrace{e^{ik_{ty} y}}_{\text{propagation in } y\text{-direction}} \cdot \underbrace{e^{-\frac{x}{d}}}_{\text{decay in } x\text{-direction}}$$

The surface wave propagates along the interface with

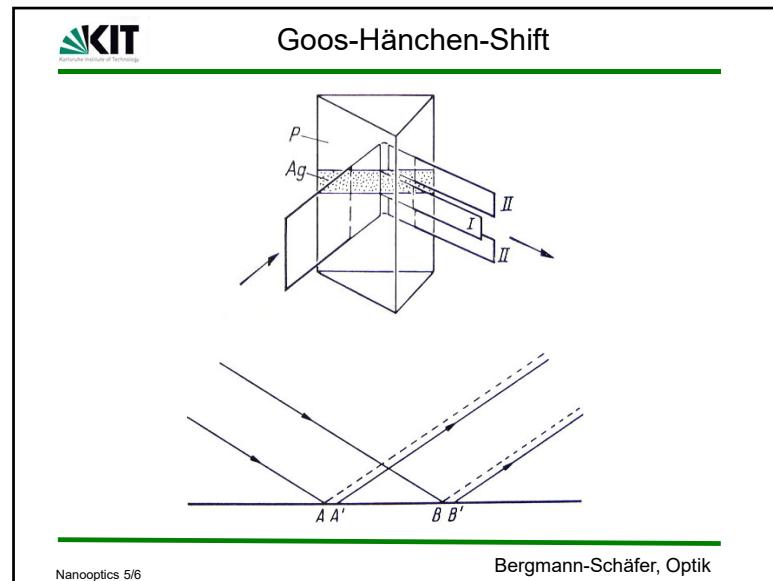
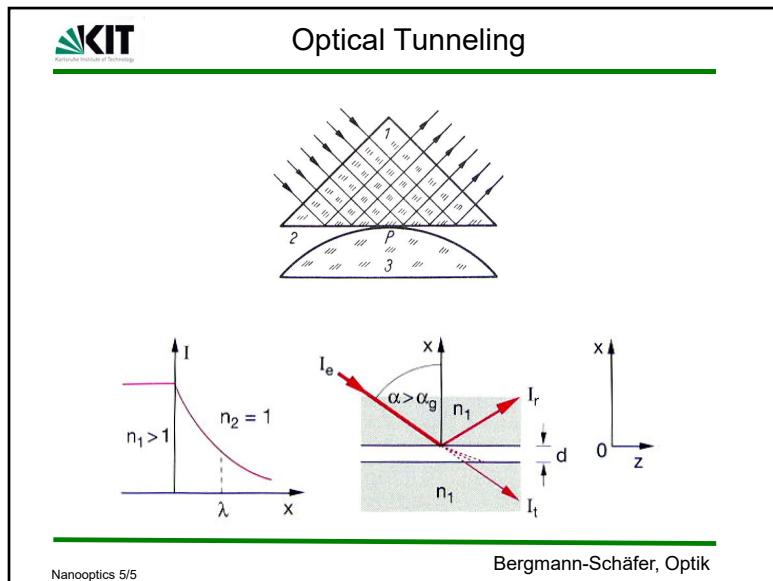
$$k_{ty} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_t} ; \quad \lambda_t = \frac{\lambda_0}{n_i \sin \vartheta_i}$$

and exponential decay in  $x$ -direction given by

$$d = \frac{\lambda_0}{2\pi \sqrt{n_i^2 \sin^2 \vartheta_i - 1}}$$



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**Light Propagation in Metals**

**Model** : Electron gas  
**Parameter** : Charge density  $\rho = f \cdot (-e)$   
                  with number density  $f$

$$E = E_x = E_0 \cdot e^{ikz} \cdot e^{-i\omega t}$$

$$k = n(\omega) \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_0} \quad \text{with} \quad n(\omega) = \sqrt{\epsilon(\omega)}$$

$\epsilon > 0$  : Propagating wave  
 $\epsilon < 0$  : Damped or evanescent wave

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## Dielectric Function of a Free-Electron-Gas

Interaction of an electron with the electric field  $E$  in the electron gas:

$$m \ddot{x}(t) = -e E(t) \quad ; \quad E(t) = E_0 \exp(-i\omega t)$$

$$\text{Ansatz: } x(t) = x_0 \exp(-i\omega t)$$

$$-\omega^2 m x(t) = -e E(t) \quad \boxed{x(t) = \frac{e}{m\omega^2} E(t)} \quad (\text{phase shift of } 180^\circ!)$$

With „dipole moment“  $p = -e x$  and number density  $f$  of the electrons, it follows

$$P(t) = f \cdot p(t) = -\frac{f e^2}{m\omega^2} E(t) \stackrel{!}{=} \epsilon_0 \chi_e(\omega) E(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon(\omega) = 1 + \chi_e(\omega) = 1 - \frac{f e^2}{\epsilon_0 m \omega^2}$$

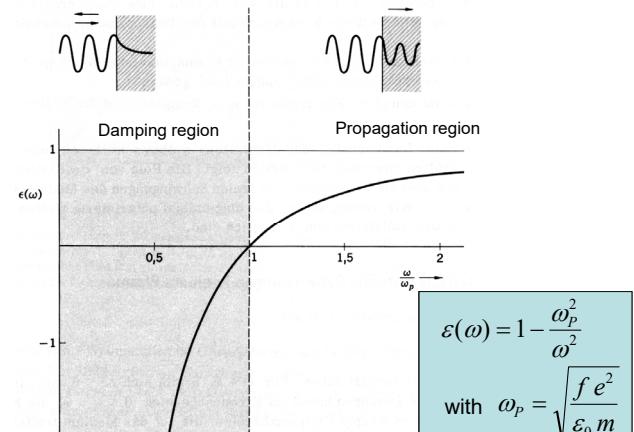
$$\text{or with } \omega_p := \sqrt{\frac{f e^2}{\epsilon_0 m}}$$

$$\epsilon(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}$$

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## Plasma Optics



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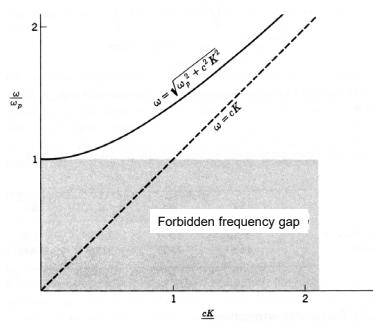
C. Kittel, solid state physics



## Propagation of Light in Metal (Plasma)

Dispersion relation of electromagnetic waves in the electron gas:

$$\omega = \frac{c_0}{n} k \Rightarrow \epsilon(\omega) \omega^2 = c_0^2 k^2 \Rightarrow \omega = \sqrt{\omega_p^2 + c_0^2 k^2}$$



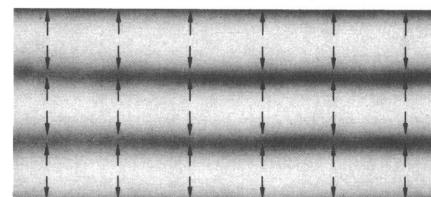
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## Volume plasmon

Longitudinal resonances of the plasma:



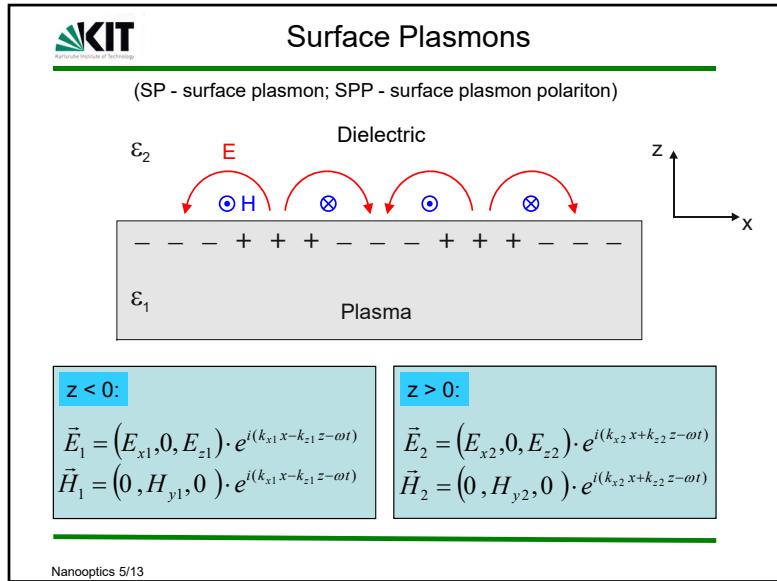
Charge density oscillation. The arrows indicate the displacement of charge.

$$\text{Resonance: } D = \epsilon_0 E + P = \epsilon_0 \epsilon(\omega_{res}) E = 0$$

$$\epsilon(\omega_{res}) = 0 \Rightarrow \omega_{res} = \omega_p$$

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## SPP – dispersion relation

**Boundary conditions:**

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} E_{x1} = E_{x2} \quad (= E_x) \\ H_{y1} = H_{y2} \quad (= H_y) \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow k_{x1} = k_{x2} \quad (= k_x)$$

**Maxwell equation:**

$$\text{curl } \vec{H} = \dot{\vec{D}} = \epsilon_0 \epsilon \dot{\vec{E}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\frac{\partial H_y}{\partial z} = \epsilon_0 \epsilon \dot{E}_x \quad \mid \quad \text{curl } \vec{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_y H_z - \partial_z H_y \\ \partial_z H_x - \partial_x H_z \\ \partial_x H_y - \partial_y H_x \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \underline{z \geq 0}: -i k_{z2} H_y = -i \omega \epsilon_2 \epsilon_0 E_x \\ \underline{z \leq 0}: +i k_{z1} H_y = -i \omega \epsilon_1 \epsilon_0 E_x \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \boxed{-\frac{k_{z2}}{k_{z1}} = \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1}} \quad (1)$$


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