

DOCTORAL THESIS

Active textured metallic microcavity

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Active Textured Metallic Microcavity

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of**

Doctor of Philosophy

Principal Supervisor: Dr. K. W. Cheah

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Abstract

The control of the spontaneous emission of light can be achieved by placing the emitter in a suitable optical environment. Microcavity that has inherent photonic band structure within exhibits unique optical characteristics. Based on electron-beam lithography, we have successfully created a two-dimensional wavelength-scale periodic texture on one of the cavity mirrors with nanometer precision. The periodic lateral structure enables the Bragg scattering to occur. By performing the angle-resolved photoluminescence (ARPL) and transmission (ARTR) measurements, we mapped out the photonic modes inside the cavity and observed that the emitter radiated through the accessible photonic modes. In asymmetric structured sample, the waveguide mode inside the cavity split up at the Brillouin zone edge and bandgap was formed. The Bragg scattering mediated the coupling between the photons and surface plasmon (SP) in the metal/dielectric interface. The SP coupling dispersion curves for both ARTR and ARPL results were observed. We found that the air/silver interface SP dominant and there are enhancement in transmission/PL intensity where the photon wavevector and photonic energy matched with the SP. The simulations for photonic band structure and the surface plasmon coupling were performed and they are in good agreement with results. Careful tailoring of the photonic lattice parameters allows us to tune the emission characteristic of the microcavity. The present study shows that the 2-D patterned metallic microcavity has the potential in application such as super bright LED and also fundamental emission study of luminescent materials.

Table of Contents

Declaration	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgments	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Tables	vi
List of Figures	vii
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Theory	4
2.1 Planar microcavity	
2.1.1 Dispersion	4
2.1.2 Characteristic matrix method	10
2.2 Texture microcavity	18
2.2.1 Bandgap formation due to Bragg scattering	20
2.2.2 Simulation of dispersion relation for the asymmetric textured microcavity	25
2.2.3 The effect of the parameters on the photonic band structure	28
2.2.4 Surface plasmon (SP)	40
2.2.5 Light extraction from a medium	68
Chapter 3 Sample preparation	73
3.1 The major methods and equipment used in sample fabrication	73
3.1.1 The EDWARDS AUTO306 system	73
3.1.2 The sub-micron periodic pattern fabrication methods	76
3.2 Sample fabrication procedures	83
3.2.1 The asymmetric textured metallic microcavity	83
3.2.2 The symmetric textured metallic microcavity	88
Chapter 4 Experimental setup	91
4.1 Rotational stage and sample holder	91
4.2 Angle-resolved transmission (ARTR) experiment	95
4.3 Angle-resolved photoluminescence (ARPL) experiment	98

Chapter 5	Results and discussion	101
5.1	Comparison between the experimental and theoretical results on angle-resolved transmittance of the planar microcavity	103
5.2	The angle-resolved transmittance Results	106
5.3	Photonic bandgap formation	121
5.4	The angle-resolved photoluminescence (ARPL) results	125
5.5	The surface plasmon coupling in the textured metallic microcavity	133
5.6	Light coupling out from textured and planar microcavities	161
Chapter 6	Conclusion and further works	179
6.1	Conclusion	179
6.2	Further works	179
Reference		183
Curriculum Vitae		187
Conference Presentations and Publications		187