

Enhancing and directing light emission in semiconductor nanowires through leaky/guided modes

R. Paniagua-Domínguez¹, G. Grzela², T. Barten², Y. Fontana², J. Gómez Rivas^{2,3}, J.A. Sánchez-Gil¹

¹ Instituto de Estructura de la Materia, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, IEM-CSIC, Serrano 121, 28006 Madrid, Spain

² FOM Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics (AMOLF), c/o Philips Research Labs, High-Tech Campus 4, 5656 AE Eindhoven, The Netherlands

³ COBRA Research Institute, Eindhoven University of Technology, PO Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands

ramon.paniagua@iem.cfmac.csic.es

Abstract

In the present work, photoluminescence from finite semiconductor nanowires is theoretically^[1,2] and experimentally^[3] investigated, exploring and predicting their antenna-like properties for light emission in a variety of configurations of interest in Nanophotonics. The theoretical analysis is based on the leaky/guided mode dispersion relation of equivalent infinite nanowires, which governs the local density of electromagnetic states (LDOS). Light emission from finite nanowires is then numerically investigated in various scenarios with regard to its enhancement and directionality. A simple analytical model based on currents flowing in a cavity is derived that, upon tuning leaky/guided mode coupling through dipole position/orientation and nanowire geometry (radius and length), allows us to predict their antenna-like behavior and thus to tailor photoluminescence at will, with regard to both enhancement/inhibition of the total radiated power and associated radiation patterns, as shown in Figure 1.

On top of the theoretical results, direct experimental evidence of this so-called nanoantenna effect in vertically standing single Indium Phosphide (InP) nanowires (see Figure 2) will be presented. The experimental setup, based on Fourier microscopy^[3], allows one to study the angular photoluminescence pattern from isolated nanowires, as shown in Figure 2, thus providing means to directly test predictions from theory.

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References

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Figures

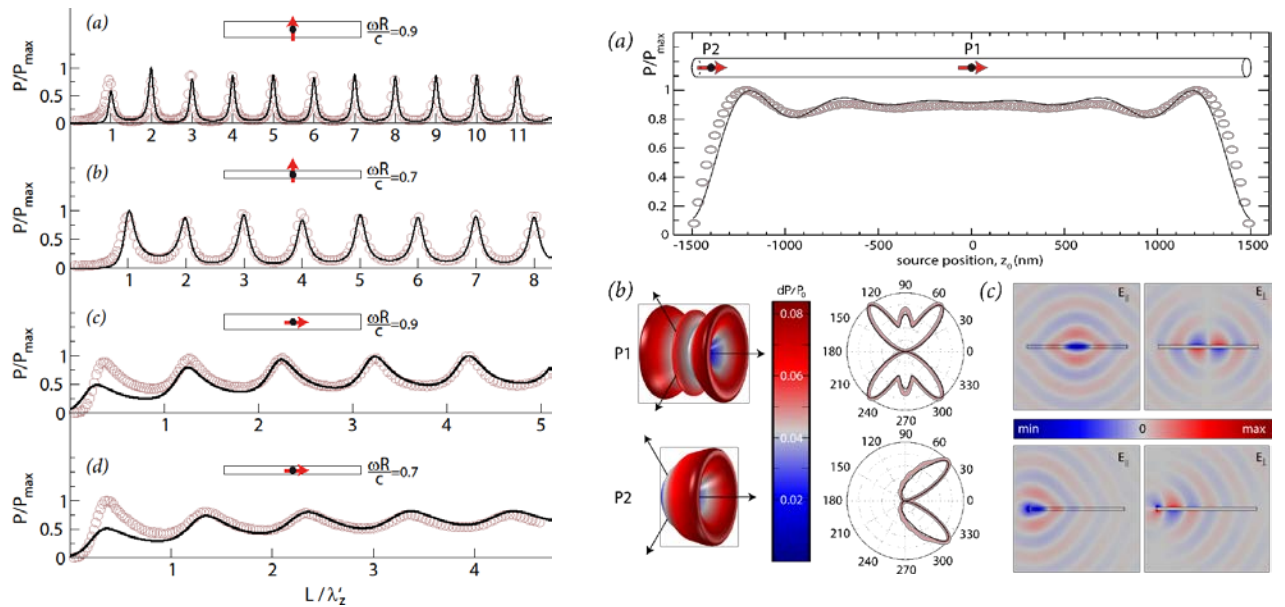


Figure 1. (left) Full numerical simulations (hollow symbols) and model predictions (solid lines) of the normalized total radiated power P/P_{\max} as a function of the NW length L , rescaled by the corresponding guided mode wavelength $\lambda'_z = 2\pi/k'_z$: HE_{11} for the perpendicular dipoles, (a) and (b), and TM_{01} for parallel dipoles, (c) and (d). (right) (a) Normalized radiated power (hollow symbols) as a function of (parallel) dipole position z at the NW axis for a finite ($L=3 \mu\text{m}$, $R=50 \text{ nm}$) InP NW at $\lambda=880 \text{ nm}$ (at which only the TM_{01} leaky mode is excited). Model predictions are also shown (solid black curves). (b) Far-field intensities of the light emitted by two dipoles, located at either the NW center (P1) or close to the NW edge (P2, at a distance $d=100 \text{ nm}$), together with model predictions. (c) The corresponding emission snapshots in the near-field map.

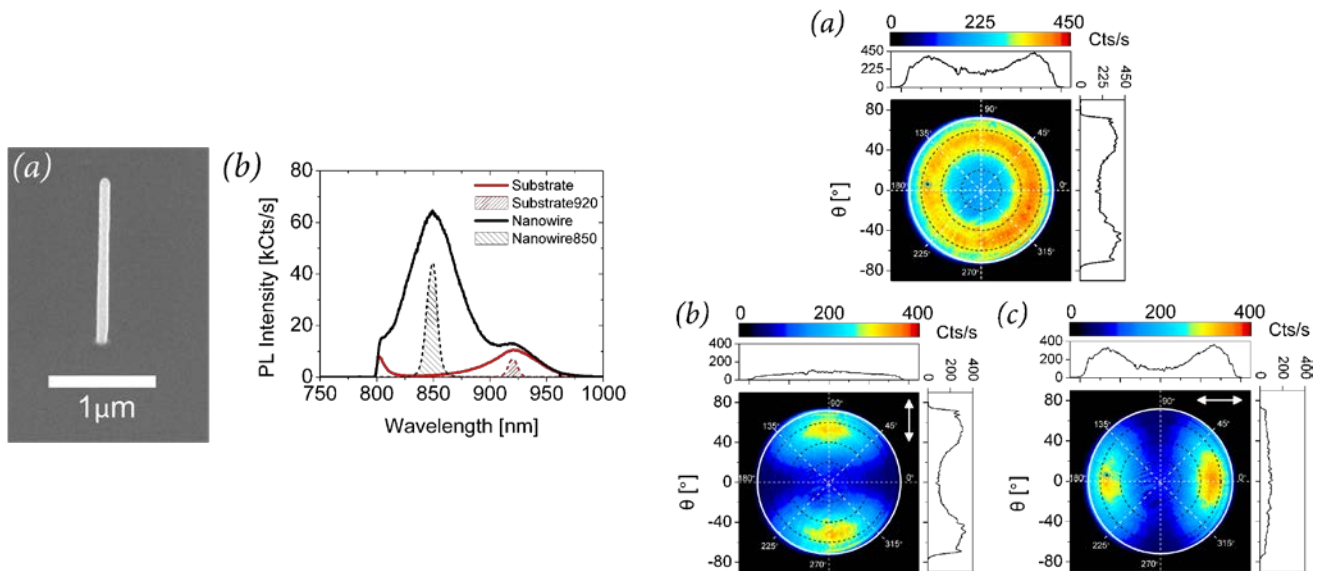


Figure 2. (left) (a) SEM image of the isolated InP nanowire studied and (b) its photoluminescence spectrum. (right) Experimental Fourier images of the emission from InP nanowires at $\lambda = 850 \text{ nm}$. Fourier images of the unpolarized (a) emission and with a polarizer with the transmission axis along the vertical (b) and horizontal (c) directions.