

## POTENTIAL MODULATION ON TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION ELLIPSOMETRY

Wei Liu,<sup>†, ‡, ¶, ∞</sup> Yu Niu,<sup>†, ‡, ∞</sup> A. S. Viana,<sup>§</sup> Jorge P. Correia,<sup>§</sup> and Gang Jin<sup>\*, †, ‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>NML, Institute of Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, # 15, Bei-si-huan West Road, Beijing, 100190, China

<sup>‡</sup> Beijing Key Laboratory of Engineered Construction and Mechanobiology, Institute of Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 15 Bei-si-huan West Road, Beijing 100190, China

<sup>¶</sup>University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, # 19, Yu-quan Road, Beijing, 100049, China

<sup>§</sup> Centro de Química e Bioquímica, Departamento de Química e Bioquímica, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Ed. C8, Campo Grande, 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal

<sup>∞</sup> Contributed equally to this work

Email: gajin@imech.ac.cn

Fax: +86-10-82544138

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This supporting information provides the detailed deduction of eqs. (1) and (9).

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## THE FRACTIONAL CHANGE $\delta I/I$

For conventional PCSA configuration, the fractional change  $\delta I/I$  of the optical response  $\delta I$  is given by

$$\frac{\delta I}{I} = \frac{\delta R_s}{R_s} + \alpha'_1 \delta\psi + \alpha'_2 \delta\Delta \quad (\text{s-1})$$

where  $R_s$  is the reflectance of the surface for s-polarized light, given by

$$R_s = |R_s|^2$$

$\alpha'_1$  and  $\alpha'_2$  are the ellipsometric parameter coefficients, given by

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha'_1 &= \frac{2[\tan \bar{\psi}(1 + \cos 2A) - \sin 2A \sin(2P + \bar{\Delta})]}{[1 - \cos 2\bar{\psi} \cos 2A + \sin 2\bar{\psi} \sin(2P + \bar{\Delta}) \sin 2A]} \\ \alpha'_2 &= \frac{-\sin 2\bar{\psi} \cos(2P + \bar{\Delta}) \sin 2A}{[1 - \cos 2\bar{\psi} \cos 2A + \sin 2\bar{\psi} \sin(2P + \bar{\Delta}) \sin 2A]} \end{aligned}$$

Besides,  $\delta R_s/R_s$ ,  $\delta R_p/R_p$  and  $\delta\psi$  are interrelated by

$$\frac{\delta R_p}{R_p} = \frac{\delta R_s}{R_s} + \frac{4\delta\psi}{\sin 2\psi} \quad (\text{s-2})$$

Taking eq. (s-2) into eq. (s-1), we obtain eq. (1), where  $\alpha_1 = \alpha'_1 - \frac{4}{\sin 2\psi}$  and  $\alpha_2 = \alpha'_2$ .

## THE DIELECTRIC CONSTANT CHANGES ON $\rho$

To discuss the relationship between the dielectric constant variations and ellipsometric parameters taking logarithmic differential of  $\rho = R_p/R_s$ , we have

$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} = \frac{\delta R_p}{R_p} - \frac{\delta R_s}{R_s} \quad (\text{s-3})$$

let

$$R_\nu = \frac{N_\nu}{D_\nu} \quad (\text{s-4})$$

where  $\nu$  represents p-polarization when  $\nu = p$  and s-polarization when  $\nu = s$ . In eq. (s-4),

$$N_\nu = r_{01\nu} + r_{12\nu}X, D_\nu = 1 + r_{01\nu}r_{12\nu}X \quad (\text{s-5})$$

and

$$X = \exp(2j\beta) \quad (\text{s-6})$$

where  $r_{01\nu}$  and  $r_{12\nu}$  are Fresnel coefficients at o-1 interface and 1-2 interface and  $\beta$  is the interface phase change coefficient. The explicit expressions can be seen in <sup>28</sup>.

Taking logarithmic differential of eq. (s-4), we get

$$\frac{\delta R_\nu}{R_\nu} = \frac{\delta N_\nu}{N_\nu} - \frac{\delta D_\nu}{D_\nu} \quad (\text{s-7})$$

And

$$\delta N_\nu = \delta r_{01\nu} + X\delta r_{12\nu} + r_{12\nu}\delta X \quad (\text{s-8})$$

$$\delta D_\nu = r_{12\nu}X\delta r_{01\nu} + r_{01\nu}X\delta r_{12\nu} + r_{01\nu}r_{12\nu}\delta X \quad (\text{s-9})$$

Taking eqs. (s-8) and (s-9) into eq. (s-7), we have

$$\frac{\delta R_\nu}{R_\nu} = \left(\frac{1}{N_\nu} - \frac{r_{12\nu}X}{D_\nu}\right)\delta r_{01\nu} + \left(\frac{1}{N_\nu} - \frac{r_{01\nu}}{D_\nu}\right)X\delta r_{12\nu} + \left(\frac{1}{N_\nu} - \frac{r_{01\nu}}{D_\nu}\right)r_{12\nu}\delta X \quad (\text{s-10})$$

Eq. (s-10) suggests the modulation of  $\nu$ -polarized reflected light can be divided into three parts: the Fresnel coefficient modulations at o-1 and 1-2 interfaces and the phase change modulation when the light

passes through the film.

On the other hand, we have

$$\delta r_{01p} = \frac{2n_0 \cos \phi_0 \cos 2\phi_1}{(n_1 \cos \phi_0 + n_0 \cos \phi_1)^2 \cos \phi_1} \delta n_1 \quad (\text{s-11})$$

$$\delta r_{12p} = -\frac{2n_2 \cos \phi_2 \cos 2\phi_1}{(n_2 \cos \phi_1 + n_1 \cos \phi_2)^2 \cos \phi_1} \delta n_1 + \frac{2n_1 \cos \phi_1 \cos 2\phi_2}{(n_2 \cos \phi_1 + n_1 \cos \phi_2)^2 \cos \phi_2} \delta n_2 \quad (\text{s-12})$$

$$\delta r_{01s} = -\frac{2n_0 \cos \phi_0}{(n_0 \cos \phi_0 + n_1 \cos \phi_1)^2 \cos \phi_1} \delta n_1 \quad (\text{s-13})$$

$$\delta r_{12p} = \frac{2n_2 \cos \phi_2}{(n_1 \cos \phi_1 + n_2 \cos \phi_2)^2 \cos \phi_1} \delta n_1 - \frac{2n_1 \cos \phi_1}{(n_1 \cos \phi_1 + n_2 \cos \phi_2)^2 \cos \phi_2} \delta n_2 \quad (\text{s-14})$$

Or in terms of dielectric constant  $\varepsilon$ :

$$\delta r_{01p} = L_{01p} \delta \varepsilon_1 \quad (\text{s-15})$$

$$\delta r_{12p} = L_{12p} \delta \varepsilon_1 + M_{12p} \delta \varepsilon_2 \quad (\text{s-16})$$

$$\delta r_{01s} = L_{01s} \delta \varepsilon_1 \quad (\text{s-17})$$

$$\delta r_{12s} = L_{12s} \delta \varepsilon_1 + M_{12s} \delta \varepsilon_2 \quad (\text{s-18})$$

where

$$L_{01p} = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_0} \cos \phi_0 \cos 2\phi_1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 (\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_0 + \sqrt{\varepsilon_0} \cos \phi_1)^2} \quad (\text{s-19})$$

$$L_{12p} = -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_2 \cos 2\phi_1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 (\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_1 + \sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_2)^2} \quad (\text{s-20})$$

$$M_{12p} = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 \cos 2\phi_1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_2 (\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_1 + \sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_2)^2} \quad (\text{s-21})$$

$$L_{01s} = -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_0} \cos \phi_0}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 (\sqrt{\varepsilon_0} \cos \phi_0 + \sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1)^2} \quad (\text{s-22})$$

$$L_{12s} = \frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_2}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 (\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 + \sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_2)^2} \quad (\text{s-23})$$

$$M_{12s} = -\frac{\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_2 (\sqrt{\varepsilon_1} \cos \phi_1 + \sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \cos \phi_2)^2} \quad (\text{s-24})$$

And

$$\delta X = -2jX\delta\beta = \gamma X \delta \varepsilon_1 \quad (\text{s-25})$$

where

$$\gamma = -j \frac{4\pi^2}{\beta} \left( \frac{d_1}{\lambda} \right)^2 \quad (\text{s-26})$$

For a given glass/Au/electrolyte system,  $L_{01p}$ ,  $L_{12p}$ ,  $M_{12p}$ ,  $L_{01s}$ ,  $L_{12s}$ ,  $M_{12s}$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $X$  are the functions of the angle of incidence,  $\phi_0$ .

According to eq. (s-10), we obtain

$$\frac{\delta R_\nu}{R_\nu} = Q_\nu \delta \varepsilon_1 + P_\nu \delta \varepsilon_2 \quad (\text{s-27})$$

where

$$Q_\nu = \left( \frac{1}{r_{01\nu} + r_{12\nu} X} - \frac{r_{12\nu} X}{1 + r_{01\nu} r_{12\nu} X} \right) L_{01\nu}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \left( \frac{1}{r_{01v} + r_{12v}X} - \frac{r_{01v}}{1 + r_{01v}r_{12v}X} \right) XL_{12v} \\
& + \left( \frac{1}{r_{01v} + r_{12v}X} - \frac{r_{01v}}{1 + r_{01v}r_{12v}X} \right) \gamma r_{12v}X
\end{aligned} \tag{s-28)$$

$$P_v = \left( \frac{1}{r_{01v} + r_{12v}X} - \frac{r_{01v}}{1 + r_{01v}r_{12v}X} \right) XM_{12v} \tag{s-29)$$

Taking eqs. (s-27), (s-28) and (s-29) into (s-3), we have eq. (9). The explicit expression of  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\kappa_1 &= Q_p - Q_s \\
&= \left( \frac{1}{r_{01p} + r_{12p}X} - \frac{r_{12p}X}{1 + r_{01p}r_{12p}X} \right) L_{01p} + \left( \frac{1}{r_{01p} + r_{12p}X} - \frac{r_{01p}}{1 + r_{01p}r_{12p}X} \right) XL_{12p} \\
&+ \left( \frac{1}{r_{01p} + r_{12p}X} - \frac{r_{01p}}{1 + r_{01p}r_{12p}X} \right) \gamma r_{12p}X - \left( \frac{1}{r_{01s} + r_{12s}X} - \frac{r_{12s}X}{1 + r_{01s}r_{12s}X} \right) L_{01s} \\
&- \left( \frac{1}{r_{01s} + r_{12s}X} - \frac{r_{01s}}{1 + r_{01s}r_{12s}X} \right) XL_{12s} - \left( \frac{1}{r_{01s} + r_{12s}X} - \frac{r_{01s}}{1 + r_{01s}r_{12s}X} \right) \gamma r_{12s}X
\end{aligned} \tag{s-30)$$

$$\kappa_2 = P_p - P_s = \left( \frac{1}{r_{01v} + r_{12v}X} - \frac{r_{01v}}{1 + r_{01v}r_{12v}X} \right) XM_{12v} - \left( \frac{1}{r_{01v} + r_{12v}X} - \frac{r_{01v}}{1 + r_{01v}r_{12v}X} \right) XM_{12v} \tag{s-31)$$