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waves with gratings; 4. Modelling SPP propagation in an active plasmonic device; 5. Active plasmonics: experimental tests; 6. Summary and conclusions; Acknowledgements; References; Chapter 5. Surface plasmons and gain media; 1. Introduction; 2. Estimation of the critical gain; 3. Experimental samples and setups; 4. Experimental results and discussion; 5. Summary; Acknowledgments; References; Chapter 6. Optical super-resolution for ultra-high density optical data storage; 1. Introduction  
2. Features and mechanisms of super-RENS disk - types A and B 3. Features of super-RENS disk - type C; 4. Understanding the super-resolution mechanism of type C disk; 5. Combination of plasmonic enhancement and type C super-RENS disk; 6. Summary; Acknowledgement; References; Chapter 7. Metal stripe surface plasmon waveguides; 1. Introduction; 2. Experimental techniques; 3. Numerical methods; 4. Leaky modes supported by metal stripe waveguides; 5. Analytical models for stripe modes; 6. Propagation along metal stripe waveguides; 7. Summary; References  
Chapter 8. Biosensing with plasmonic nanoparticles 1. The current need for new types of biosensors; 2. Nanoparticle plasmons; 3. Metal nanoparticles replacing fluorophores in assays; 4. Coupled NPP resonances as sensor signal; 5. Dielectric environment plasmonic biosensors; 6. Biosensing with surface-enhanced Raman scattering; 7. Concluding remarks; Acknowledgements; References; Chapter 9. Thin metal-dielectric nanocomposites with a negative index of refraction; 1. Introduction; 2. Optical characteristics of cascaded NIMs  
3. Combining magnetic resonators with semicontinuous films

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Current developments in optical technologies are being directed toward nanoscale devices with subwavelength dimensions, in which photons are manipulated on the nanoscale. Although light is clearly the fastest means to send information to and from the nanoscale, there is a fundamental incompatibility between light at the microscale and devices and processes at the nanoscale. Nanostructured metals which support surface plasmon modes can concentrate electromagnetic (EM) fields to a small fraction of a wavelength while enhancing local field strengths by several orders of magnitude. For this reason

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