

Reflection based silicon incorporated silver coated fiber optic SPR sensor for refractive index and temperature measurement

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Abstract

We report a reflection based multimode fiber (MMF) surface plasmon resonance (SPR) sensor utilizing a high index silicon layer between silver metal and sensing medium layer. Theoretical studies have been carried out to optimize the suitable width of material layer to sense refractive index (RI) of the analyte surrounding the optical fiber sensing region using the transfer matrix method. The RI sensitivity of the proposed SPR sensor has been experimentally verified to reach 4774 nm/RIU with figure of merit of 36.07 and resolution of 6.28×10^{-5} at 1.38 RI. Furthermore, the large thermo-optic coefficient and thermal expansion coefficient of the silicon layer has enhanced the experimental temperature sensitivity of the SPR sensor to 1.76 nm/°C.

Keywords: Surface Plasmon resonance, Fiber Optics refractive index Sensors, Temperature influence on SPR sensor, Chemical Sensing, Fiber Optics measurements

1. Introduction

Optical fiber sensing techniques have been overwhelming around the world laboratories for the last decades. The advantages of optical fiber sensors over other types of optoelectronics sensors are low fabrication cost, robustness, remote sensing and immunity to electromagnetic interface [1-6].

Among the different optical fiber sensing techniques, surface plasmon resonance (SPR) fiber optic sensors are among the most fruitful sensing techniques for real time detection and monitoring of chemical, physical and biological properties. SPR is due to the resonant, collective oscillation of electrons at the metal-dielectric (or analyte) interface stimulated by incident p-polarized light.

34 Previously, prism-based SPR systems have been used to generate sensing action. To achieve more
35 convenient SPR sensors, the traditional prism-based systems have been replaced by a fiber optic
36 design [7]. Gold is the material which has been used abundantly to produce the thin film for SPR
37 as it has high chemical resistance. During the past few years, the real-time analysis of different
38 biological concentration such as antibody, antigen etc. have been done successfully with SPR
39 based gold coated optical fiber sensors [8-10]. Low cost silver metal possesses realistically good
40 sensitivity with the sharp SPR dip. The lower d-electron energy bands than the conduction bands
41 estimate the bulk plasma frequency in such way that the SPR probe could operate in the visible
42 region for silver [11]. However, this plasmonic generating metal has disadvantages too as the thin
43 layer of silver agglomerates and oxidizes in air easily [12]. Researchers have investigated earlier
44 that a nanometer thick layer of silicon between metal and dielectric layers can increase the
45 sensitivity of the sensor and it can protect the silver layer from oxidation too [13-16]. Recently,
46 there are numbers of reported results in literature on optical fiber based SPR sensors for chemical
47 and biomedical sensing application utilizing silver metal in various approaches [17-20]. In this
48 arena, the theoretical estimation has been exposed that metal coated optical fiber SPR sensors have
49 a very weak shift in the resonance wavelength with temperature as the dielectric constant of thin
50 metal layer, optical fiber core, and sensing layer are not strongly influenced by temperature, though
51 temperature sensitivity may be desired in some applications [21]. However, researchers have
52 achieved enhanced sensitivity by the fiber probe coated with a silver layer into a capillary filled
53 with thermosensitive anhydrous ethanol [22]. Liu et al. have proposed a fast response and high
54 resolution temperature sensor designed by attaching a silicon pillar on the tip of a single-mode
55 fiber [23]. Recently, it is reported that single mode optical fibers have been coated with different
56 metals including Sn, PbSnAg and InBito to change their sensitivity to thermal agitation and there
57 is increasing sensitivity with temperature from 4.2 K to 50 K and decreasing sensitivity from 50
58 K to 60 K [24].

59 Wang et al. has proposed the sensitivity of the silver coated side polished fiber SPR probe up to
60 4365.5 nm/RIU and a FOM of 51.61 at 1.38-1.40 range [25]. In recent times, local surface plasmon
61 resonance (LSPR) has introduced some novelty in this field by covering U shaped plastic optical
62 fiber with silver (Ag) thin film followed by a layer of cladding synthesized by polyvinyl alcohol
63 (PVA), graphene and silver nanoparticles. The RI sensitivity of the LSPR sensor is reported as
64 700.3 nm/RIU at 1.330-1.3657 RI range [26]. Zhao et al. have published the sensitivity of the SPR

65 based temperature sensor as 1.5745 nm/°C [22]. However, there is further scope of investigation
66 on Ag thin film coated optical fiber-based sensor with better refractive index sensitivity and
67 simultaneously there is requirement to produce a self-compensating RI sensor at high
68 temperatures. Stability and repeatability are significance parameters to criticise performance of
69 sensor and it should be investigated.

70 In this present study, we have experimentally studied an optical fiber SPR probe in conjunction
71 with silicon over silver metal layer in a reflection based set up by utilizing a Y-coupler.
72 Numerically, the thickness of silicon has been varied to optimize favourable sensitive condition of
73 the probe and the increase in sensitivity has been obtained. Experimentally, the optical fiber SPR
74 probe has been coated with silver mirror at the distal end of the fiber tip to increase reflectivity as
75 well as sensitivity. The experimental RI sensitivity has been achieved about 4774 nm/ RIU with
76 FOM 36.07 at RI 1.38 by the proposed reflection-based silver metal coated optical fiber SPR probe.
77 The highest sensitivity has been reached by the silica incorporated SPR sensor as 1.76 nm/°C at
78 20°C, thus exceeding that reported in some previous researches. Repeatability and stability of the
79 proposed sensor have been established. Decrement of temperature sensitivity at high temperature
80 can encourage the use of the proposed RI sensor with self-compensating of temperature effects at
81 high temperature.

82 The remaining of the paper is organized in four sections. Section 2 presents the theoretical
83 background and hints about the optimization of the sensor; section 3 describes the experimental
84 work and setup used to assess the sensor performance; section 4 reports the results along with
85 comments and finally section 5 summarizes the results and draws the conclusions.

86

87 **2. Theoretical modeling**

88 The fabricated optical fiber SPR probe is a combination of five-layer materials as unclad
89 multimode glass fiber core, titanium(Ti) layer, silver(Ag) layer, silicon(Si) layer and the sensing
90 medium (analyte) respectively. The same specifications of material have been used for theoretical
91 simulations of the SPR probe. The refractive index (RI) of the optical fiber glass core is expressed
92 according to the Sellmeier relation [12]:

93

$$94 \quad n(\lambda) = c_0 + c_1\lambda^2 + c_2\lambda^4 + \frac{c_3}{(\lambda^2-l)} + \frac{c_4}{(\lambda^2-l)^2} + \frac{c_5}{(\lambda^2-l)^3} \quad (1)$$

95

96 where λ denotes the wavelength (in micro-meter) and the Sellmeier coefficients $l, C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3,$
 97 C_4 and C_5 have their definite numerical values. For the metal layer, we adopt noble metal (Ag) and
 98 the wavelength dependence of dielectric constant is determined from Drude model. Moreover, the
 99 RI of the analyte is limited from 1.33 to 1.38 RIU. The refractive index data of silicon at different
 100 wavelengths has been taken from reference [27].

101

102 *2.1. Transfer matrix method*

103 The useful characteristic matrix method [28, 29] can be applied to a system containing any number
 104 of layers. Also, the calculations are very easy, accurate and faithful due to absence of
 105 approximations. The multilayer model of sensor is shown in Fig.1a.

106 The plane-parallel layers are assumed to be stacked along the z-axis and each layer is identified by
 107 an index k . For the k -th layer, the dielectric constant, the permeability and the refractive index are
 108 denoted as ϵ_k, μ_k and n_k respectively. Similarly, the first and last layers are semi-infinite and the
 109 thicknesses of the other layers ($d_2 \sim d_{n-1}$) are known. The tangential fields at the first boundary $Z =$
 110 $Z_1 = 0$ are related to those at the final boundary $Z = Z_{n-1}$ by

111

$$112 \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ V_1 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{\underline{M}} \begin{bmatrix} U_{N-1} \\ V_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

113

114 where, U_k and V_k , respectively, represents the tangential components of electric and magnetic
 115 fields for TE wave, and contrarily for TM wave. In addition, $\underline{\underline{M}}$ is known as the characteristic
 116 matrix of the combined structure and is given by

117

$$118 \underline{\underline{M}} = \sum_{k=2}^{N-1} \underline{\underline{M}}_k = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

119

120

121 with

$$122 \underline{\underline{M}}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta_k & -j \sin \beta_k / q_k \\ -jq_k \sin \beta_k & \cos \beta_k \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

123

124 where,

125
$$\beta_k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} d_k \sqrt{n_k^2 - (n_1 \sin\theta)^2} \quad (5)$$

126
 127 and
$$q_k = \frac{\sqrt{[n_k^2 - (n_1 \sin\theta)^2]}}{\mu_k} \quad \text{TE wave} \quad (6a)$$

128
$$q_k = \frac{\sqrt{[n_k^2 - (n_1 \sin\theta)^2]}}{\epsilon_k} \quad \text{TM wave} \quad (6b)$$

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132 The amplitude reflection coefficient is given by

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$$r = \frac{(M_{11} + M_{12}q_N)q_1 - (M_{21} + M_{22}q_N)}{(M_{11} + M_{12}q_N)q_1 + (M_{21} + M_{22}q_N)} \quad (7)$$

135

136 Finally, the power reflectivity for the p-polarized light is

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 138
$$R = |r^2| \quad (8)$$

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141 It is considered in experimental and theoretical analysis that all guided rays are launched inside
 142 the optical fiber which is the cylindrical geometry though the numerical analysis is based on planar
 143 geometry. It has been also reported earlier that both the meridional and skew rays are propagated
 144 through the cylindrical geometry and the skew rays decreases the sensitivity of the sensor [30]. In
 145 our present study, the propagation of skew rays has been avoided intentionally for the sake of
 146 simple simulation.

147

148 The normalized transmitted power collected at the end of the optical fiber can be expressed as:

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$$P_{trans} = \frac{\int_0^{\alpha_{max}} \int_{\theta_{cr}}^{\pi/2} R_p N_{ref}(\theta, \alpha) \frac{n^2 \sin\theta \cos\theta}{(1 - n^2 \cos^2\theta)^2} \cos\theta_s d\theta d\alpha}{\int_0^{\alpha_{max}} \int_{\theta_{cr}}^{\pi/2} \frac{n^2 \sin\theta \cos\theta}{(1 - n^2 \cos^2\theta)^2} \cos\theta_s d\theta d\alpha} \quad (9)$$

151 where,

152
$$N_{ref}(\theta, \alpha) = \frac{L}{D \tan \theta} \quad (10)$$

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$$\theta_{cr} = \sin^{-1} \frac{n_{cl}}{n^i} \quad (11)$$

155
156 $N_{ref}(\theta, \alpha)$ represents the total number of reflections performed by a ray of angle θ with the normal
157 to the core-metal layer interface and skewness angle α in the sensing region. L and D represent the
158 length of the sensing region and the fiber core diameter respectively. θ_{cr} is the critical angle of the
159 fiber, and n_{cl} is the refractive index of the cladding of the fiber.

160 Numerically, the thicknesses of the titanium and silver have been optimized as 5 nm and 50 nm
161 respectively. The Silicon layer width has been varied as 5 nm, 7 nm and 10 nm respectively to
162 attain enhancement in sensitivity. Finally, the thickness of Si layer has been found as 10 nm
163 appealing highest sensitivity for the proposed model.

164

165 **3. Fiber probe fabrication & experiment**

166 *3.1. Method of probe fabrication*

167 The fiber chosen to carry out the experiment is MMF with silica core diameter of $600 \pm 10 \mu\text{m}$ for
168 suitable handling. The used MMF with Tetraethyl orthosilicate polymer cladding (Thorlabs,
169 FT600UMT) has perfect specifications to validate SPR experiment.

170 The cladding has been removed by acetone from a 2 cm-long section. Then, the unclad portion of
171 the fiber has been coated with 5 nm titanium and 50 nm silver in vacuum at 5×10^{-5} Pa pressure by
172 thermal evaporation technique. The thickness of the silver layer, which is a typical value used in
173 both prism- and fiber- SPR sensors, is optimized for the highest SPR response, according to
174 previous simulations and investigations [31,32]. The thin layer of titanium is deposited in order to
175 enhance the adhesion of silver to the glass, while yielding negligible perturbation on the SPR
176 response. The additional layer of silicon of thickness 10 nm has been deposited over silver using
177 the same technique. The thickness of the deposited layers is very well controlled by the
178 sputtering/evaporation process. The deposition time has been previously calibrated so that layers
179 can be deposited with a sub-nm accuracy. The thickness of different materials has been estimated
180 during theoretical modelling of the material layers using MATLAB.

181 The cross-section of the one end of the silver coated fiber has been dipped within Tollen's reagent
182 and a very thin silver mirror has been formed at the distal end of the silver coated fiber (Fig.1b &
183 d). In this case the thickness of the silver layer is controlled by the dipping time, but it is not a
184 critical parameter, since its purpose is to make the sensor working in reflection and as long as the
185 reflected signal is sufficient to be readable by the interrogation system, there is no constraint on
186 this deposition. However, it has been verified that the reflectance of the SPR probe reaches 90%
187 in a typical fabrication process.

188

189 *3.2. Experimental procedure*

190 The reflection based set up has been arranged as shown in Fig. 1c. The broad band LED source
191 (470 nm to 850 nm) is attached with one arm of Y-type fiber optic coupler (BIF600-VIS-NIR,
192 Ocean Optic Corporation) and other arm of coupler is connected to a spectrometer (Ocean Optics
193 USB2000+) as detector. The coupler has been utilized to launch the light through coated SPR fiber
194 probe and receive the SPR spectrum of the transmitted light after reflection by the silver mirror at
195 the distal end of the probe. The described SPR probes have been positioned in vertical
196 displacement stand and immersed within experimental solutions to detect SPR curves. To get an
197 accurate evaluation of the SPR wavelength, output SPR curves have been fitted using a Lorentzian
198 function.

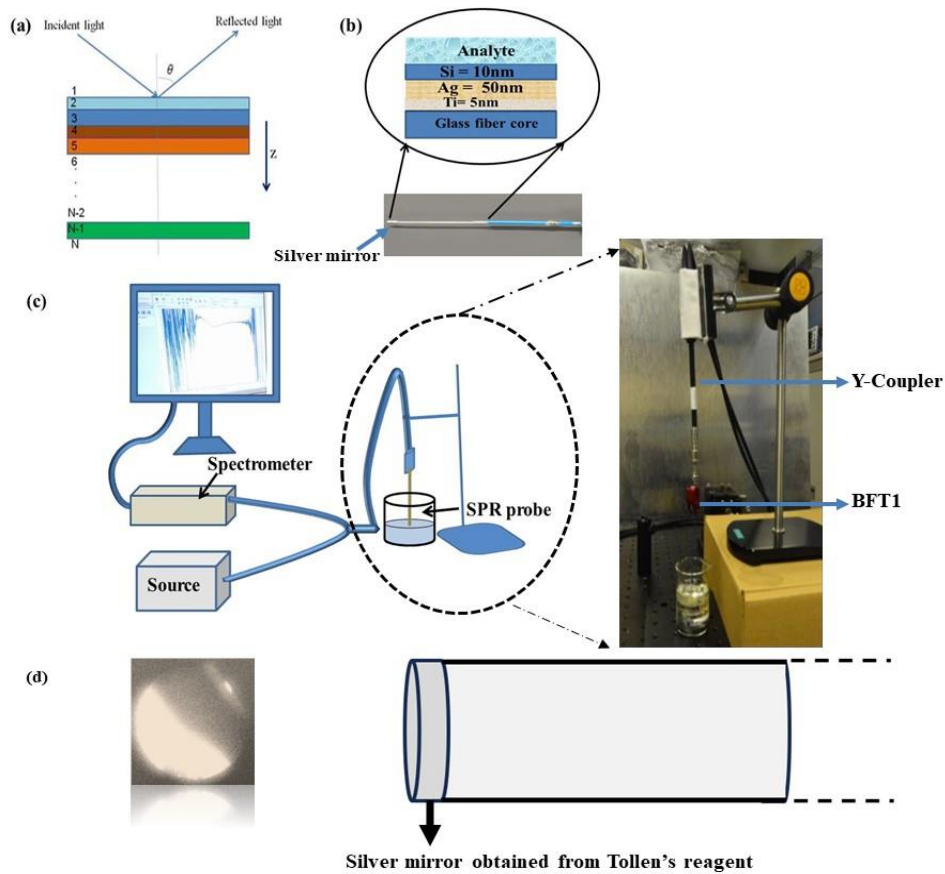
199 The set of solutions having different refractive indices (1.33-1.38) have been prepared with proper
200 mixing of sugar-water in weight/volume% concentration and pure water for RI sensing. The
201 refractive indices of these solutions have been measured by Abbe refractometer. To compensate
202 the error from the measurement process, three cycle of the same experiment have been carried out.
203 The temperature sensing experiment has been carried out by immersing the Ag-Si coated fiber
204 probe in heated sodium chloride solution having RI 1.367. Afterwards, the transmittance SPR
205 spectra have been detected during mild temperature fall period of sodium chloride solution from
206 95° to 20°C. The environmental temperature has been kept constant throughout the experiment.

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 212 Fig.1. (a) The multilayer model of sensor in transfer matrix method (b) 5nm Ti, 50nm Ag and 10nm Si coated optical
 213 fiber SPR probe (Inset: Real image of coated optical fiber with silver mirror at end) (c) The reflectance based set up
 214 of SPR (Inset: Real image of Y-coupler connected with optical fiber probe through bare optical fiber terminator; BFT1,
 215 Thorlabs) (d) Cross-section view of silver mirror coated optical fiber termination (left) and correspondent side-view
 216 schematic of the tip (right).

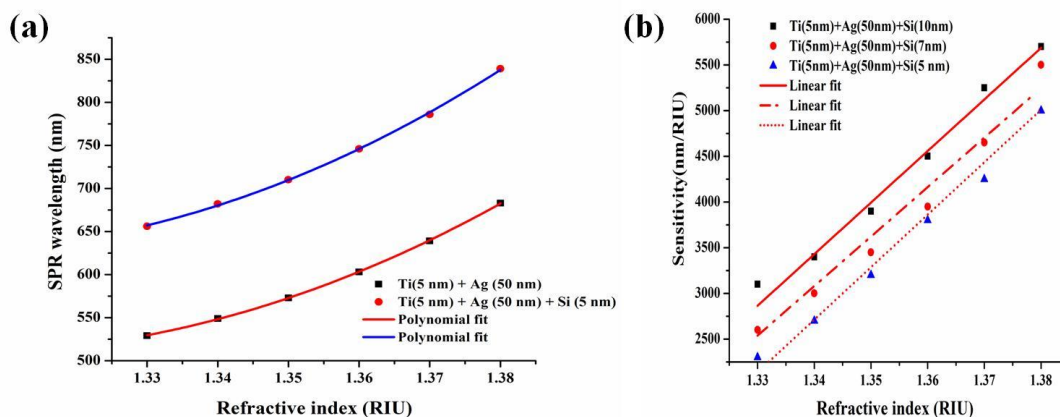
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219 **4. Results and discussion**

220 *4.1. Numerically calculated SPR probe sensitivity*

221 Transfer matrix method has been utilized to determine power reflectivity of the p-polarized light
 222 launched within fiber core and ultimately the SPR curves are obtained by MATLAB
 223 simulation. The SPR wavelength has been estimated at the minimum dip of the transmittance power
 224 of the SPR curves. Fig 2a represents the SPR wavelength shift with RI of analyte surrounding the
 225 coated region from 1.33 to 1.38. The impact of the 5 nm silicon layer combined with 5 nm titanium
 226 and 50 nm silver combination is shown in this plotting as a sharper SPR wavelength shift with RI.

227 Fig. 2b shows the increasing sensitivity of this combination with the increasing silicon width which
 228 is reached upto 5700 nm/RIU for 10 nm silicon width at 1.38 with FOM 169.32 and resolution
 229 5.260×10^{-5} .
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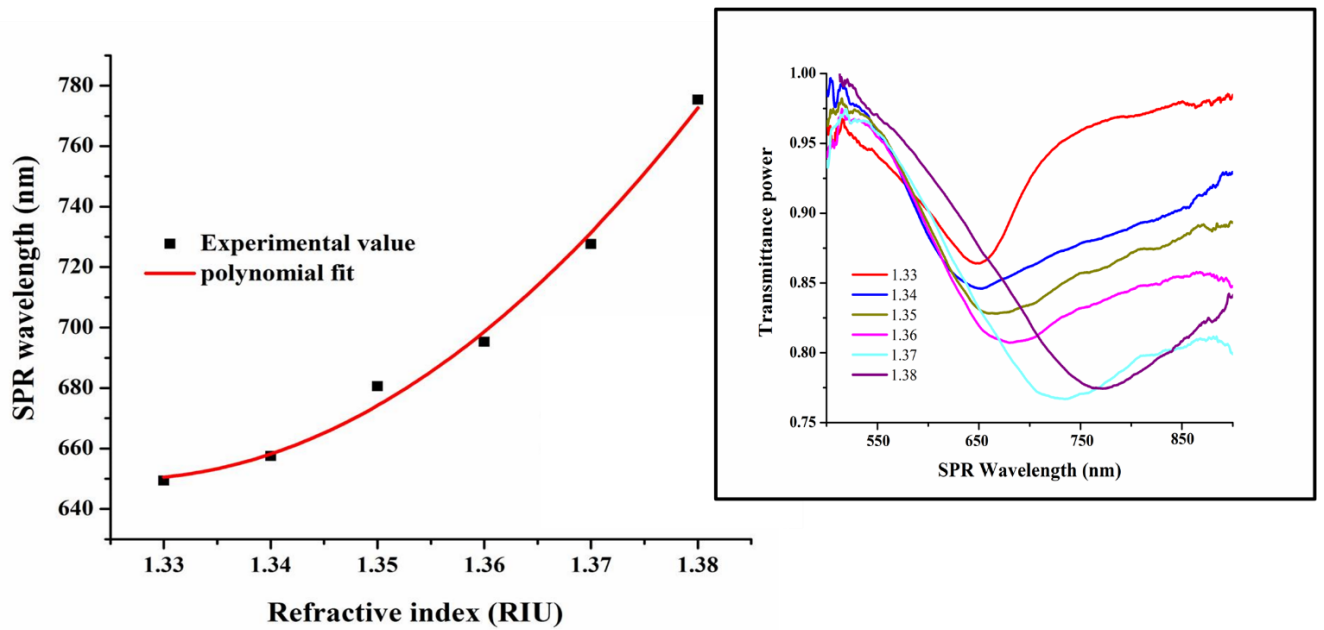


231
 232 Fig.2. Theoretically simulated graphs (a) for SPR wavelength variation with RI (b) for sensitivity variation with RI.
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234 4.2. Normalized Transmittance spectra and SPR wavelength shift with RI

235 The experimental normalized transmittance spectra obtained by the fabricated SPR probe is shown
 236 in inset of the Fig. 3. It is depicted by the spectra that there is the SPR dip shift with variation of
 237 RI and the SPR dips are distinguishable to each other. Therefore, the SPR wavelength can be
 238 determine by Lorentz fitting of the SPR curves. It shows that there is sharp shift of SPR dip towards
 239 longer wavelength with increasing RI of analyte surrounding sensing surface. Furthermore, it can
 240 be noted that the SPR curves broaden gradually with increasing RI of analyte. The variation of
 241 SPR wavelength with RI has been plotted in Fig. 3. It is observed that the SPR wavelength
 242 increases with increase of RI.

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245

246 Fig.3. Experimental SPR wavelength shift with RI by 5nm Ti, 50nm Ag and 10nm Si coated probe & experimental
 247 transmittance SPR spectra (inset).

248

249 *4.3. Sensitivity, figure of merit (FOM) & resolution for RI sensor*

250 Sensitivity, figure of merit and resolution performance parameters of the SPR based RI sensor are
 251 determined from the simulated and experimental results. Sensitivity is calculated as the slope of
 252 the calibration curve at a given refractive index. The width of the SPR curve has major role in the
 253 accuracy determination of the resonance wavelength. To get the overall performance of the sensor,
 254 the figure of merit (FOM) is defined as the ratio of the sensitivity and the full width at half maxima
 255 (FWHM) [33]. The resolution of the SPR-based optical RI sensor is the minimum amount of
 256 change in refractive index detectable by the sensor.

257 From Fig.3, it is possible to determine slope of the calibration curve at each RI point which
 258 calculate sensitivity of the probe at the corresponding RI point. Theoretical and experimental study
 259 represents the sensitivity of the probe as a function of RI as shown in Fig.4. Furthermore, it is
 260 depicted as linear relationship. The calculated FOM increases from 2.70-36.07 with increase of
 261 RI.

262 There is discrepancy between the theoretical and experimental value of these performance
 263 parameters. It is because of an approximation taken in theoretical study that skew ray is not present
 264 in guided ray. In practice, the combinations of skew and meridional rays propagate within fiber

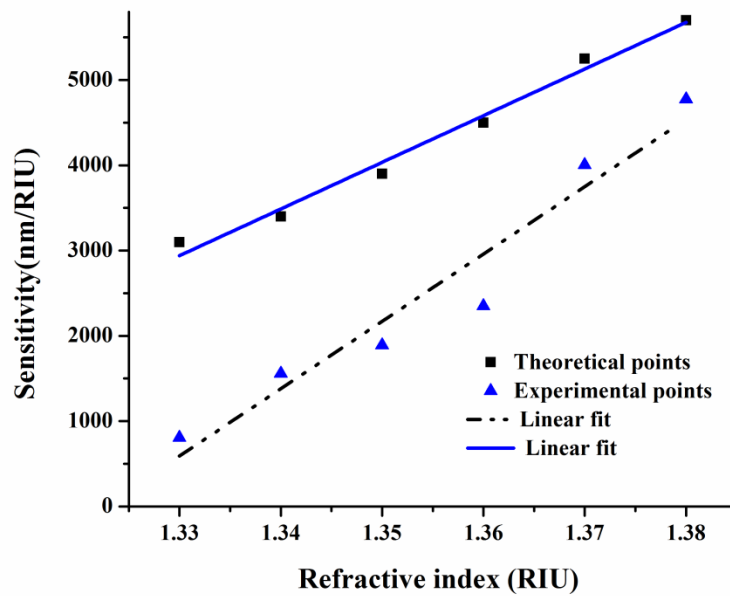
265 core and skews ray decreases sensitivity. The calculated performance parameters of the present
266 SPR probe are mentioned in Table 1.

267 To compare the values of performance parameter obtained in the present experimental study with
268 previous research, we have tabulated the values of the sensitivity of the various proposed Ag coated
269 fiber optic SPR RI sensor in Table 2.

270 It can be noted that the RI sensitivity obtained in the present study is higher than most of those
271 reported in the recent literature. There are experimental investigations that claim higher
272 sensitivities, such as [34], but this is based on the use of hollow core fiber, or rather a silica
273 capillary, which is not an off-the-shelf product and it may be difficult to handle (splicing to
274 standard fibers for interfacing to instruments can be very critical), whereas the research here
275 presented exploits a cost-effective commercial fiber and low-cost easy-to implement sensor
276 fabrication procedures and it works as an all-fiber sensor with no butt-couplings or mechanically
277 unstable connections; furthermore, in contrast to ref [34] in works in reflection and therefore can
278 be easily used as a probe. Here the nanometres-thick high refractive index silicon layer, which
279 enhances the field intensity at the silicon analyte interface, is responsible for the improved
280 sensitivity and it comes at no additional cost since it only involves an extra layer deposition.
281 Furthermore, the thin titanium layer that increases the adhesiveness of the plasmonic metal on
282 glass surface may also represent an extra source of the enhanced RI sensitivity.

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284



285 Fig.4. Theoretical and experimental comparison of RI sensitivity of 5nm Ti, 50nm Ag and 10nm Si coated SPR
 286 probe.
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Table 1: Theoretical and experimental performance parameters of RI sensor.

Structure details	Sensitivities (nm/RIU) in 1.33-1.38 RI range	Resolution in 1.33 – 1.38 RI range
Glass fiber core , 5nm Ti, 50nm Ag, analyte (Simulated)	2000 – 4400	1.5×10^{-4} - 6.81×10^{-5}
Glass fiber core, 5nmTi, 50nm Ag, 5nm Si,analyte (Simulated)	2300 - 5000	1.30×10^{-4} – 6×10^{-5}
Glass fiber core, 5nmTi, 50nm Ag, 7nm Si,analyte (Simulated)	2600-5500	1.51×10^{-4} - 5.45×10^{-5}
Glass fiber core, 5nmTi, 50nm Ag, 10nm Si,analyte (Simulated)	3100-5700	9.67×10^{-5} - 5.26×10^{-5}
Glass fiber core, 5nmTi, 50nm Ag, 10nm Si,analyte(Experimental)	808-4774	3.71×10^{-4} - 6.28×10^{-5}

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Table 2: Comparison of present data with previously published work of SPR RI sensor.

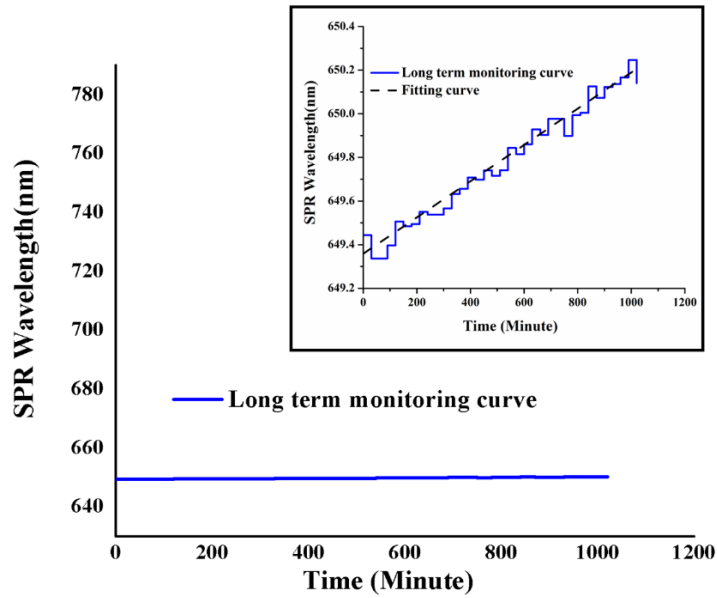
Characteristics of the sensor	Detection RI	Sensitivity(nm/RIU)	Reference
Unclad MMF, Ag–Au thin film	1.40	590	[35]

Unclad MMF, Au–Ag alloy nanoparticle	1.34	3000	[36]
Unclad MMF, Ag end mirror, Ag coating, SiO layer	1.41	3800	[37]
SMF, side polished, Ag coating	1.40	4365.5	[25]
Unclad MMF, Ag end mirror, Au-Ag alloy nanoparticle	1.30-1.40	650	[18]
MMF, Ag nanoparticle fiber end	1-1.5	67.6	[17]
U shaped plastic optical fiber, Ag thin film, PVA, graphene and silver nanoparticles	1.33-1.36	700.3	[26]
LSPR GK570/Ag coated hollow fiber	1.47 to 1.51	12500	[34]
Present study	1.38	4774	

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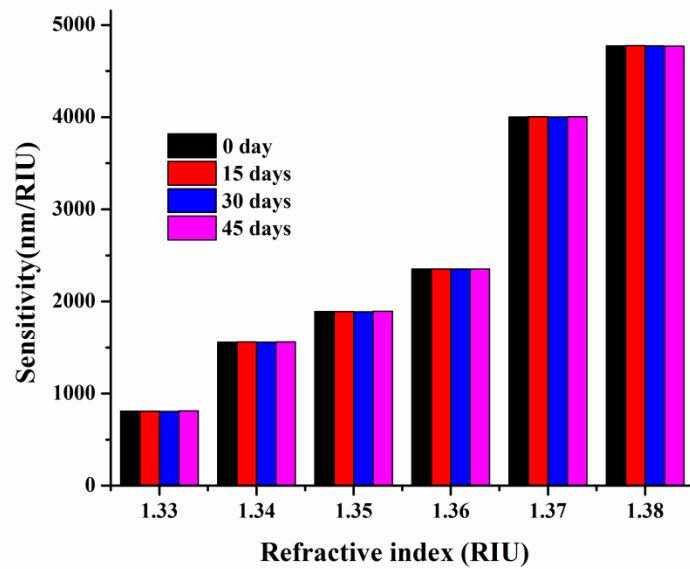
4.4. Stability and repeatability of RI sensor

Stability and repeatability of the described RI sensors have been examined for possible application in a real framework. The transmittance SPR spectra have been collected for 17 hours after immersing the proposed SPR probe in water. Thereafter, by analysing the SPR dip for each graph collected, the variation of the SPR dip wavelength with time is plotted in Fig. 5, showing a maximum 0.5 nm wavelength shift. The small variation of the SPR wavelength is ascribed to environmental variations (e.g., temperature) and it is believed to be monotone just by coincidence. However, the long-time monitoring demonstrates a consistent stability of this RI sensor. The RI sensitivities of the described sensor probe have been calculated at 1.33-1.38 range in 15 days interval experiment. Fig. 6 describes the worthy repeatability of the RI sensitivity of the proposed sensor.



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 312 Fig.5.The SPR wavelength versus time at 1.33 RI for 17 hours monitoring (Inset: Comprehensive view of
 313 wavelength shift with time).

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 317 Fig.6.The experimental RI sensitivity from 1.33-1.38 RI in 15 days interval.

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 319 *4.5. Heating effect on the SPR probe*

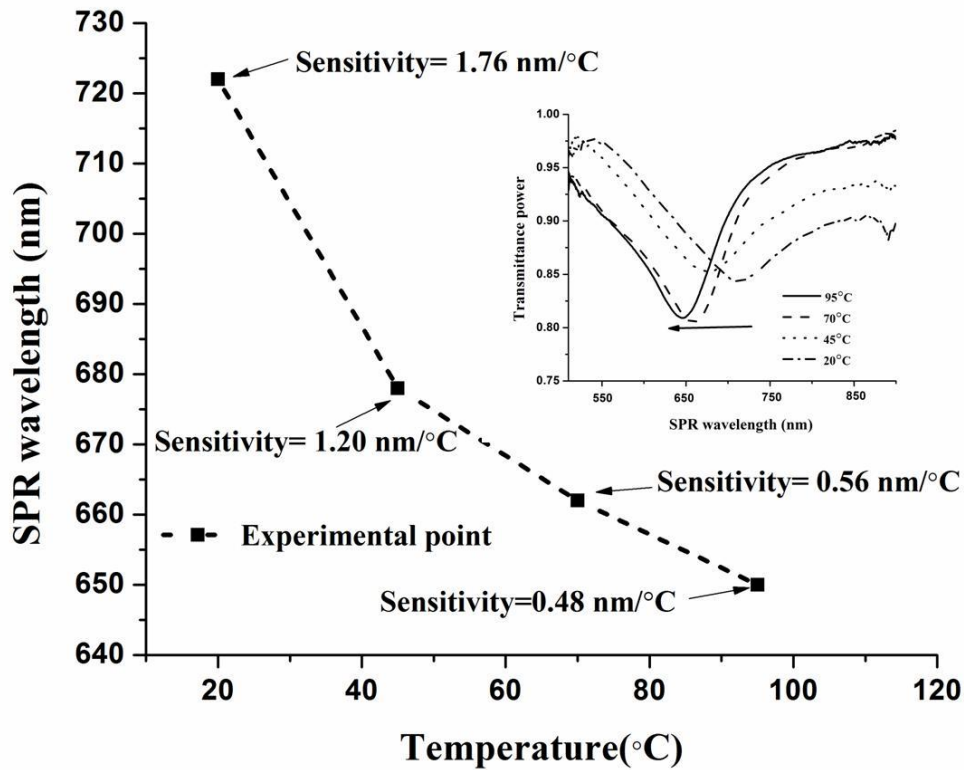
320 In addition to the application of the sensor, temperature sensitivity is another advantage of the
321 proposed silicon incorporated SPR probe due to high thermo-optic coefficient and thermo-
322 expansion coefficient of silicon. It is observed from experimental SPR spectra (Fig. 7 inset) that
323 there is a noticeable red shift of SPR wavelength with the decreasing temperature of the sodium
324 chloride solution having RI 1.367 from 95°C to 20°C. The slope of the calibration curve at each
325 temperature point is the temperature sensitivity of the SPR sensor at that particular temperature
326 and these are calculated as 0.48 nm /°C, 0.56 nm /°C, 1.20 nm /°C and 1.76 nm /°C at 95°C, 70°C
327 , 45 °C and 20°C respectively. Theoretically it has been reported that the temperature sensitivity
328 of SPR based sensor is inversely proportional to the increasing temperature [21]. Therefore, on the
329 basis of this statement, the temperature response of the present SPR sensor is justified. Table 3
330 illustrates a comparison of the present obtained temperature sensitivity with some latest published
331 results by focussing on Ag coated optical fiber SPR based temperature sensors.

332 This comparison shows that the presented sensor has a similar temperature response to that of [22]
333 and one order of magnitude higher than that based on silver-coated fiber Bragg grating [28].
334 Whereas at ambient temperature the presented sensor could be used as an effective temperature
335 transducer, its decreasing sensitivity at high temperatures may be exploited for self-compensation
336 of temperature effects during RI measurements. However, this possibility, along with a deeper
337 investigation on the physical effect of the silicon layer on the temperature sensitivity shall be
338 further carried out through simulation and experiments.

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343 Fig.7: The SPR wavelength variation with temperature and the corresponding SPR transmittance spectra (inset) for
 344 30% sugar-water solution concentration .

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346 **Table 3:** Comparison of present data with previously published literature about SPR temperature
 347 sensors.

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Characteristics of the sensor	Sensitivity(nm/°C)	Reference
Unclad MMF, Ag coating, covered by capillary filled with ethanol	1.574	[22]
MMF-FBG-MMF, Ag coating on outer face of cladding of FBG	0.172	[38]
Present study	1.760	

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350 5. Conclusions

351 A reflection-based silver-silicon coated over unclad core of multimode fiber SPR probe has been
 352 proposed and characterized successfully. Theoretically, the width of coated materials is optimized
 353 to Ti (5nm), Ag (50nm) and Si (10nm) and modeling results a high RI sensitivity of 5700 nm/RIU

354 with FOM 169.32 and resolution 5.260×10^{-5} at 1.38 RI. An effort has been made to build a
355 reflection based experimental SPR set up by using MMF with coated layer of Ti-Ag-Si of
356 optimized specifications with Y-coupler and mirror at distal end of the fiber. It is significant that
357 with the increase of RI, sensitivity and FOM have been increased and the resolution has been
358 decreased. The sensitivity has been found higher than reported in literature as 4774 nm/RIU with
359 FOM 36.07 and resolution 6.284×10^{-5} at 1.38 RI. Utilizing the high thermo-optic coefficient and
360 thermo-expansion coefficient of silicon layer, the proposed SPR sensor has been established as
361 temperature sensor of 1.76 nm /°C sensitivity at 20°C. Proposed sensor has been monitored for 17
362 hours duration and negligible wavelength shift is found at constant RI. RI sensitivity of the
363 described sensor remains unchanged at 1.33-1.38 RI range in 15 days interval experiment. Thus,
364 Stability and repeatability of the proposed sensor have been established. Significantly, the
365 proposed sensor shows decrease of temperature sensitivity at high temperature and it could
366 represent the RI sensor with self-compensating of temperature effects. The proposed SPR sensor
367 could be low cost, stable and re-usable in numerous fields.

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