

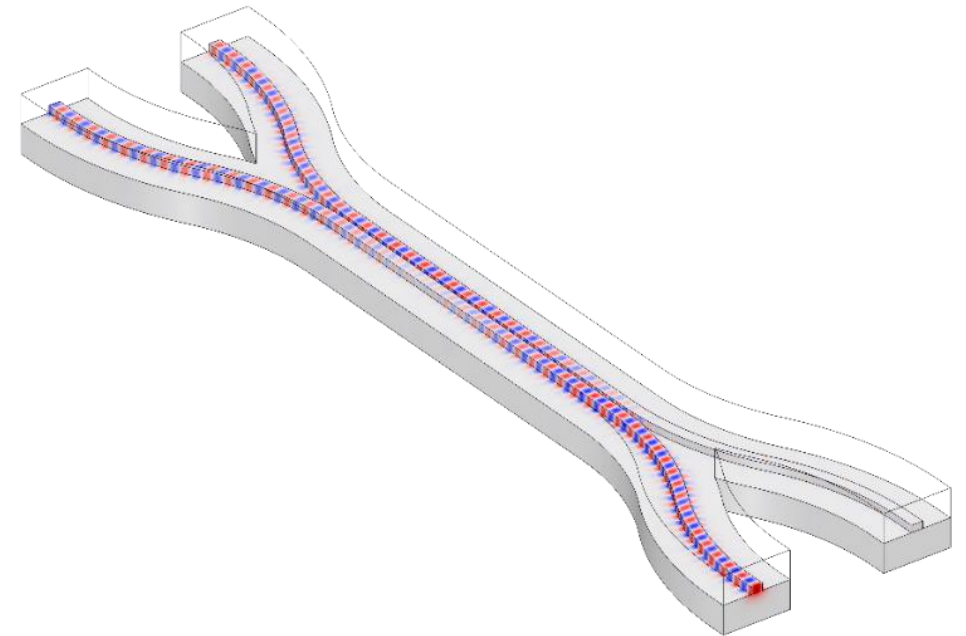


# P&S COMSOL® Design Tool

## Lecture 1: Introduction to Optical Simulations

Guillaume Zajac, Xinzhi Zhang

# Welcome to the P&S: COMSOL Design Tool – Design of Optical Components



# Outline for Today

- **General organization**
  - Presence check
  - Protection concept
  - Learning objectives
- **Why do we need simulations?**
  - Electromagnetics in our daily life
  - EM Simulation
    - What will you be able to do...
  - Examples
- **Tutorial**
  - Introduction to the Software

# Learning Objectives

- In this course, we aim to teach you the process of optical component design
- You will learn to:
  - ... **develop** a component idea into a specific design problem
  - ... **create** the correct simulation environment (model the photonic device)
  - ... **analyze** simulation results and **interpret** different physical effects involved
  - ... **evaluate** the design according to initial specifications and recommend improved solution
  - ... **summarize** the results and report them

# Semester Outline

- Simulation concept
  - EM review
  - 2D EM simulation
- Intro to COMSOL tools
  - Wave optics
  - Mode solver
  - Boundary mode solver
- Project
  - Presentation
  - Report

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- Project
  - Presentation
  - Report

**6 weeks**

**6 weeks**

**Final presentation: Monday, 26.05.2025**

**Report : Monday, 18.06.2025**

**If there is a conflict, please let us know early**

# Projects

- Design a passive optical structure for given specifications
  - In pairs or individually
  - A list of possible projects will be given / implement own idea

# Projects

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  1. Build model
  2. Set physics and boundary conditions
  3. Simulate
  4. Evaluate preliminary results
  5. Optimize
  6. Analyze and report

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  5. Optimize
  6. Analyze and report
- Evaluation
  1. **Presentation** (12 minutes talk and 3 minutes questions, **Monday 26.05.2025**)
  2. **Written report** (<10 pages with pictures and references, **Monday, 16.06.2025**)

# Practical Information – Administrative

- Time: Mondays from **13:15h** to **~15:00 h**
- Location: **ETZ D96.1**
- Our availability: office hours ETZ K-floor

*(Send email to schedule a meeting)*

|           |            |                                                                                |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Guillaume | (ETZ K 94) | → <a href="mailto:zajac@ief.ee.ethz.ch">zajac@ief.ee.ethz.ch</a>               |
| Xinzhi    | (ETZ K 94) | → <a href="mailto:xinzhi.zhang@ief.ee.ethz.ch">xinzhi.zhang@ief.ee.ethz.ch</a> |

# Practical Information – Online Material

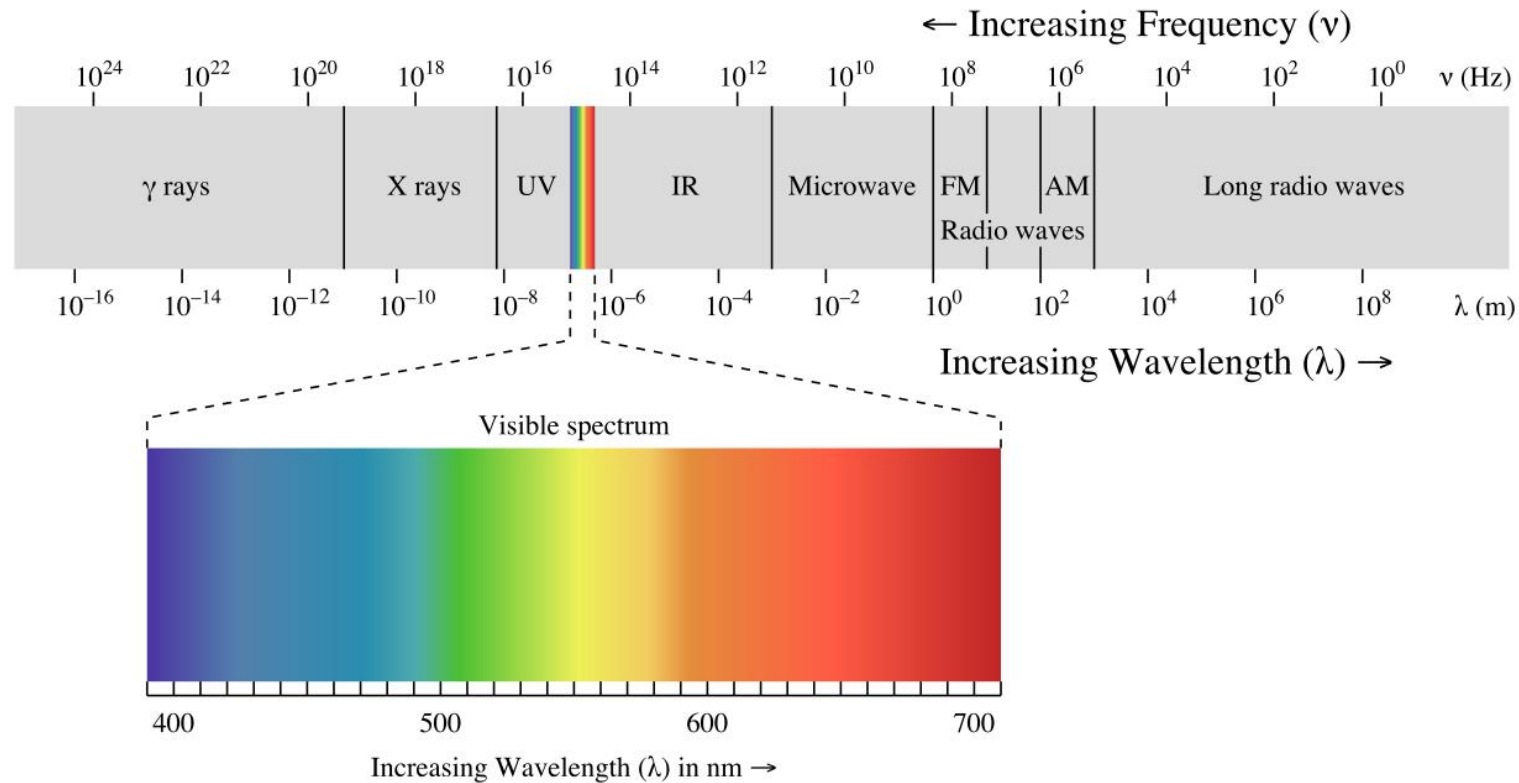
- Online material
  - [https://blogs.ethz.ch/ps\\_comsol/](https://blogs.ethz.ch/ps_comsol/)
    - Presentations
    - Exercises
    - Literature
- Literature
  - B. Salah and M. Teich, *Fundamental of Photonics*, 2nd ed., 2007.
  - K. Okamoto, *Fundamentals of optical waveguides*, 2nd ed., Elsevier, 2006.

# About us

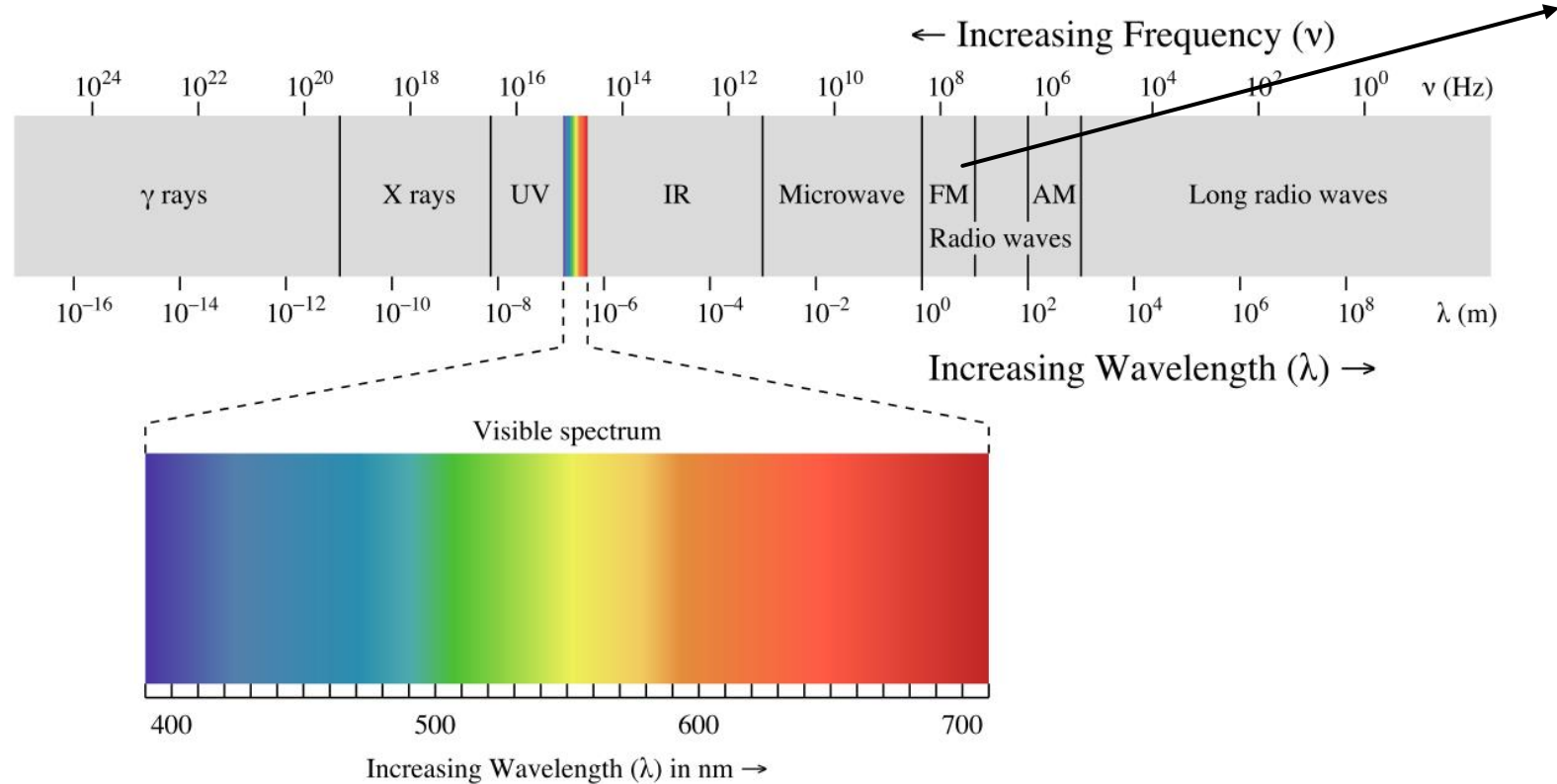
- Xinzhi Zhang
  - Graphene EO-Modulators
  
- Guillaume Zajac
  - PICs fully implemented in ferroelectric platforms
    - MZI and IQ modulators for data encoding
    - Ring resonators and frequency combs for wavelength multiplexing
    - Passive devices (GC, EC) for efficient fiber to chip coupling
  - Integration with electronics for CMOS compatibility

# Questions?

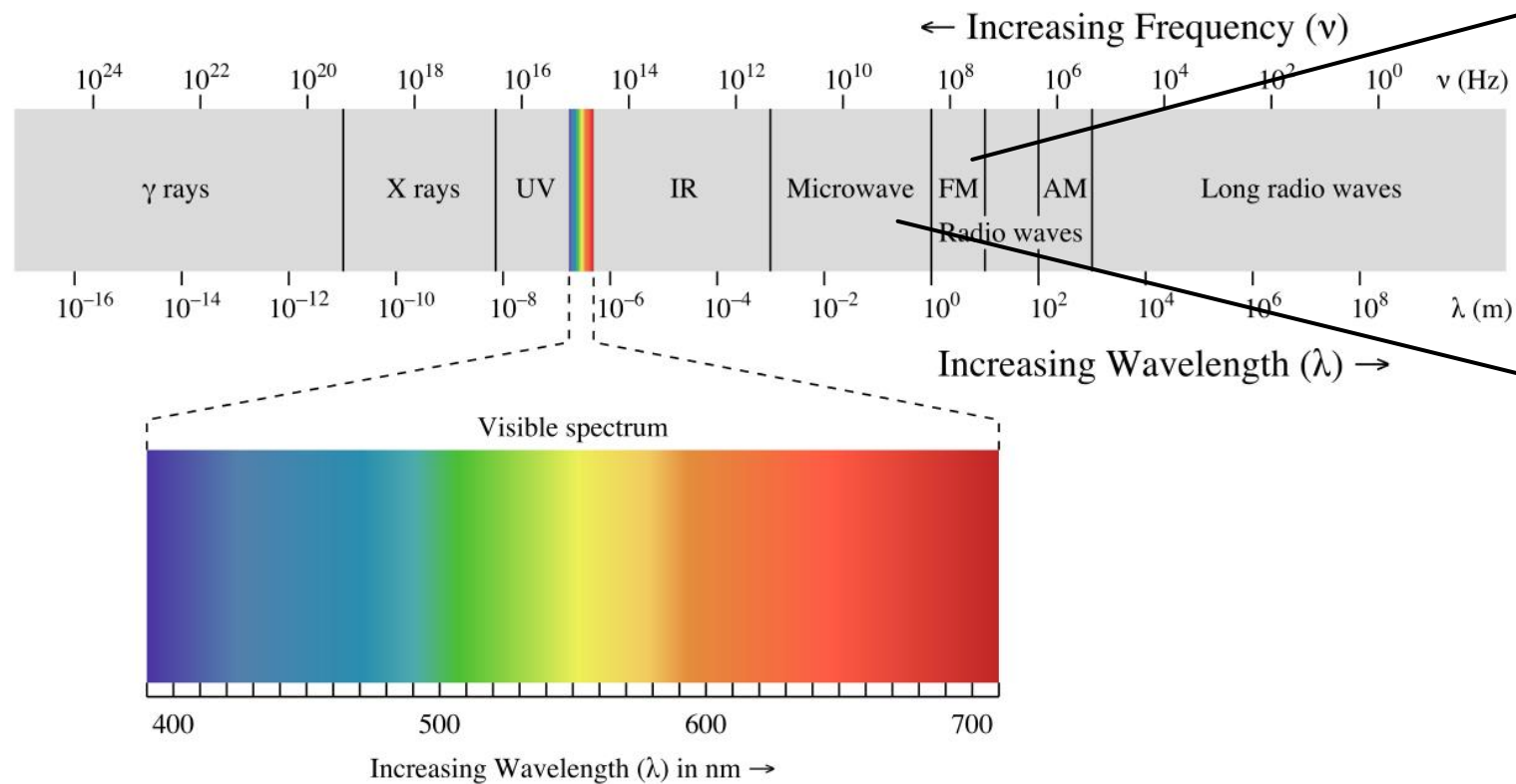
# Electromagnetics in Our Daily Life



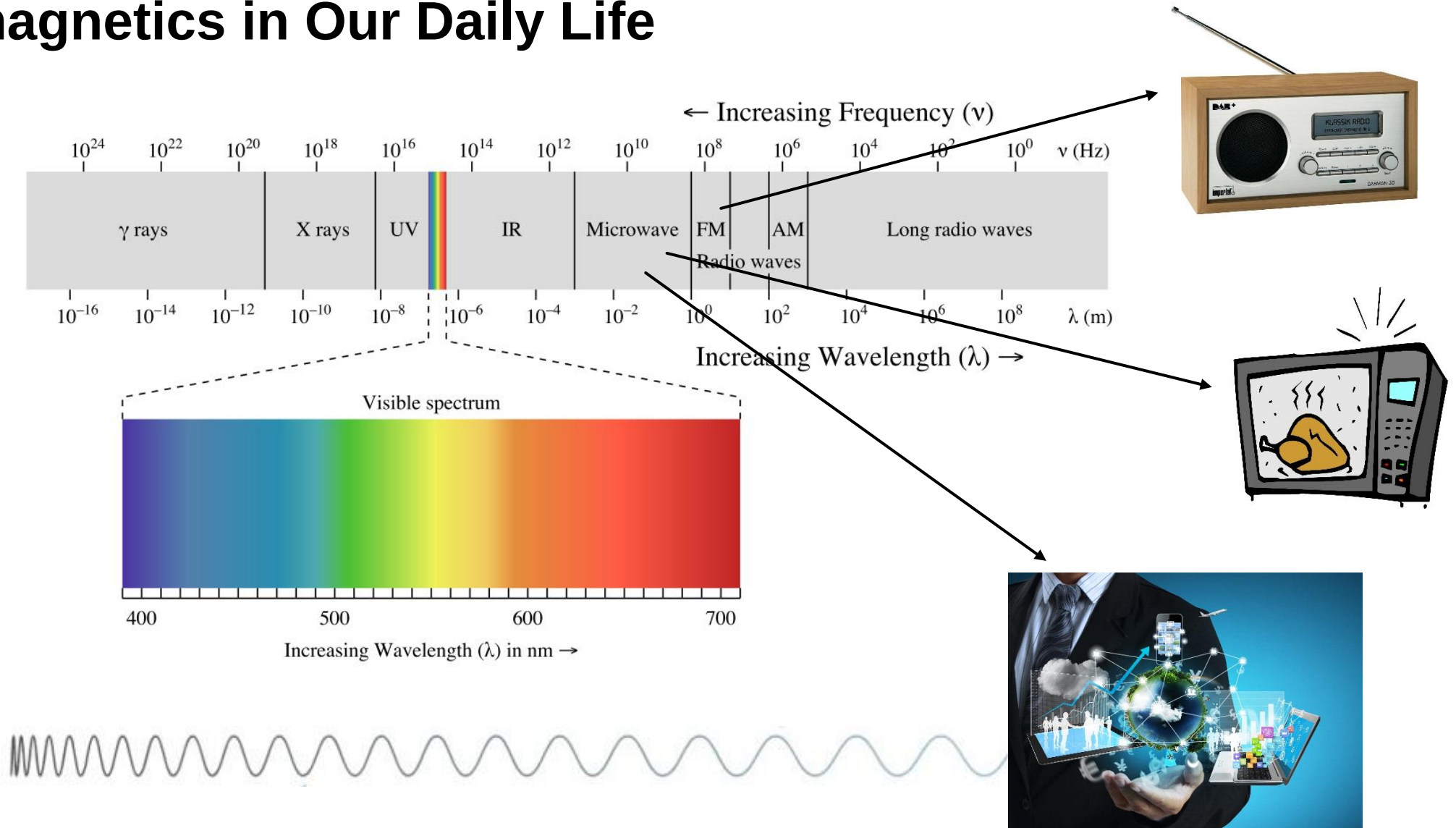
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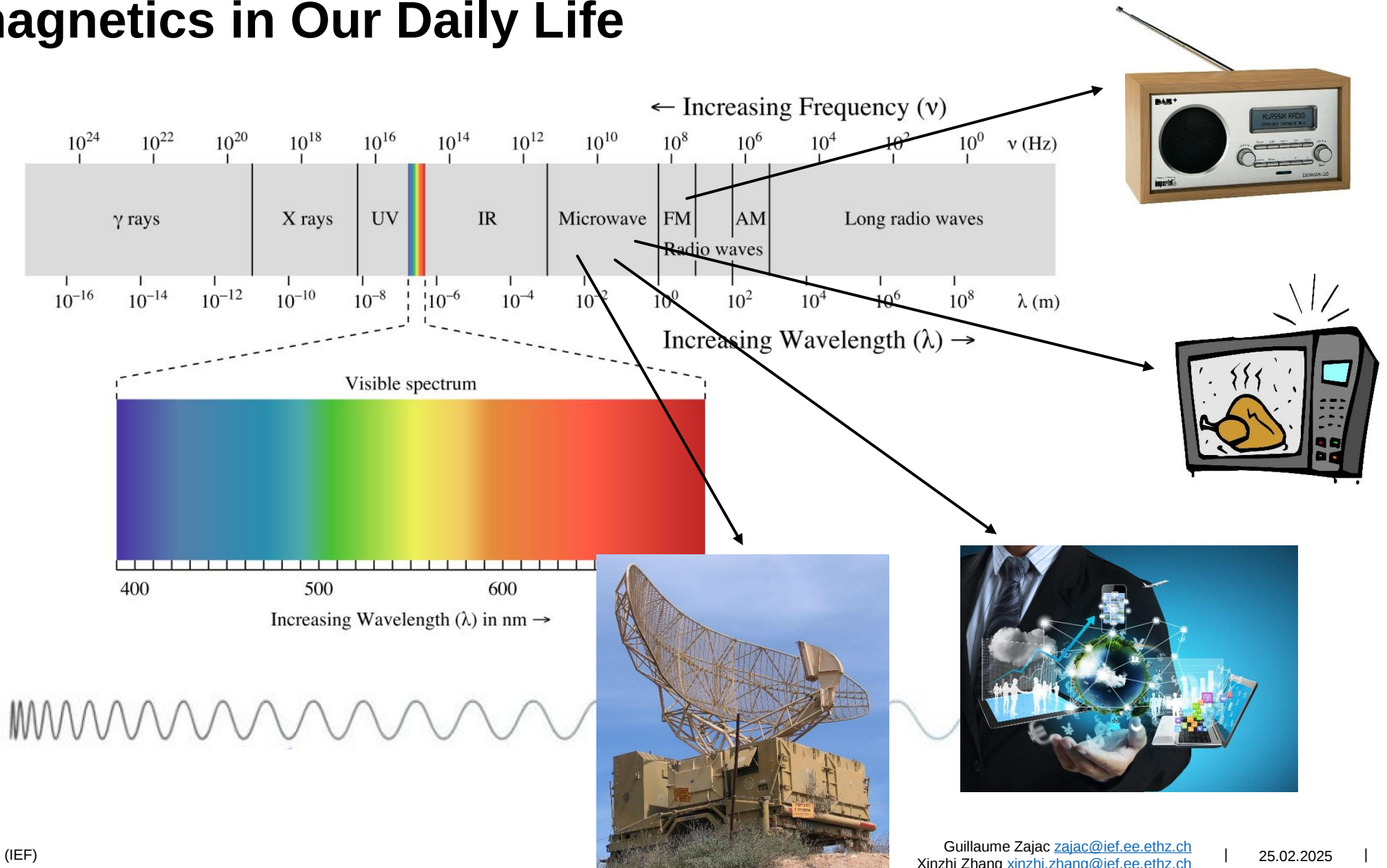
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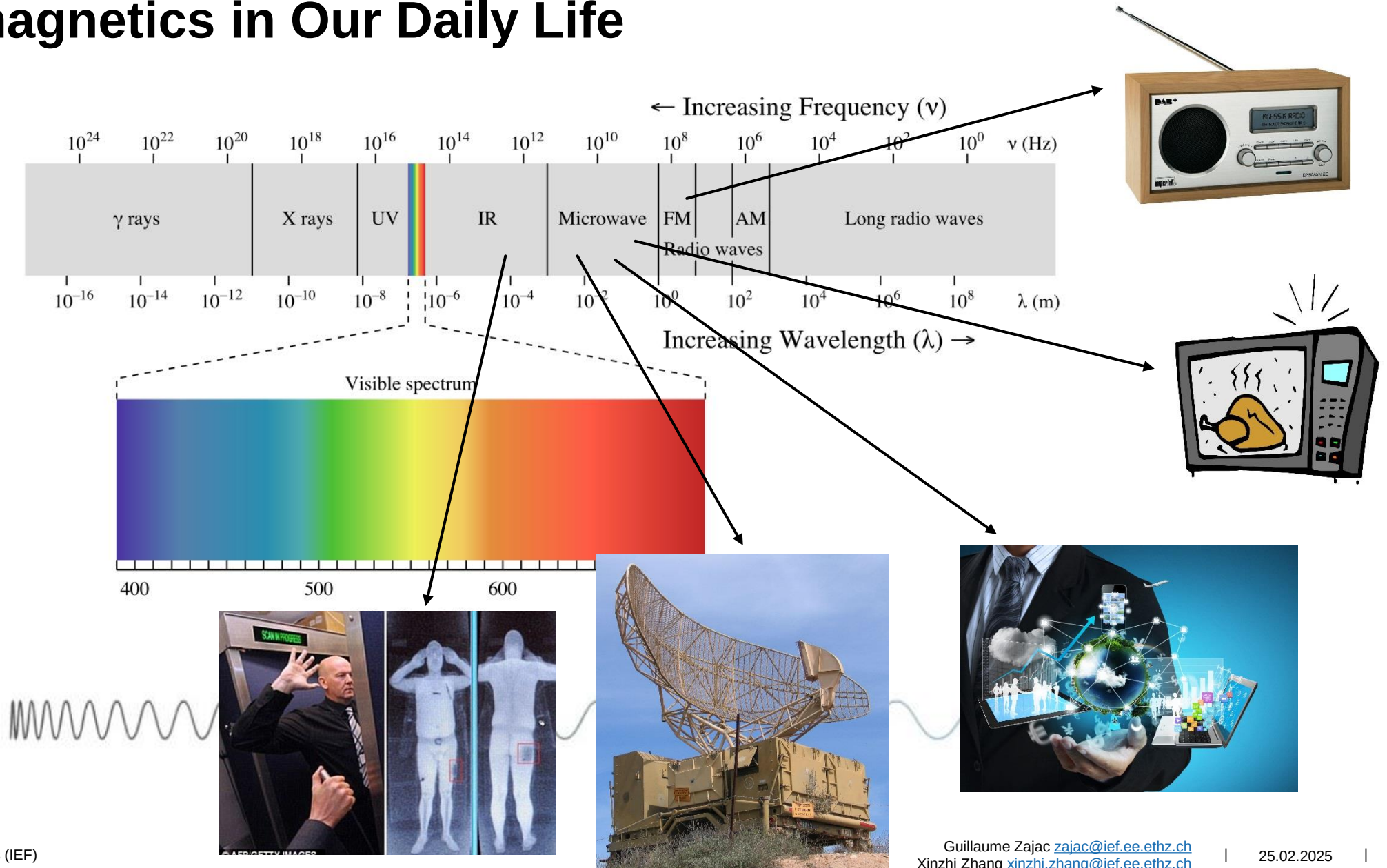
# Electromagnetics in Our Daily Life



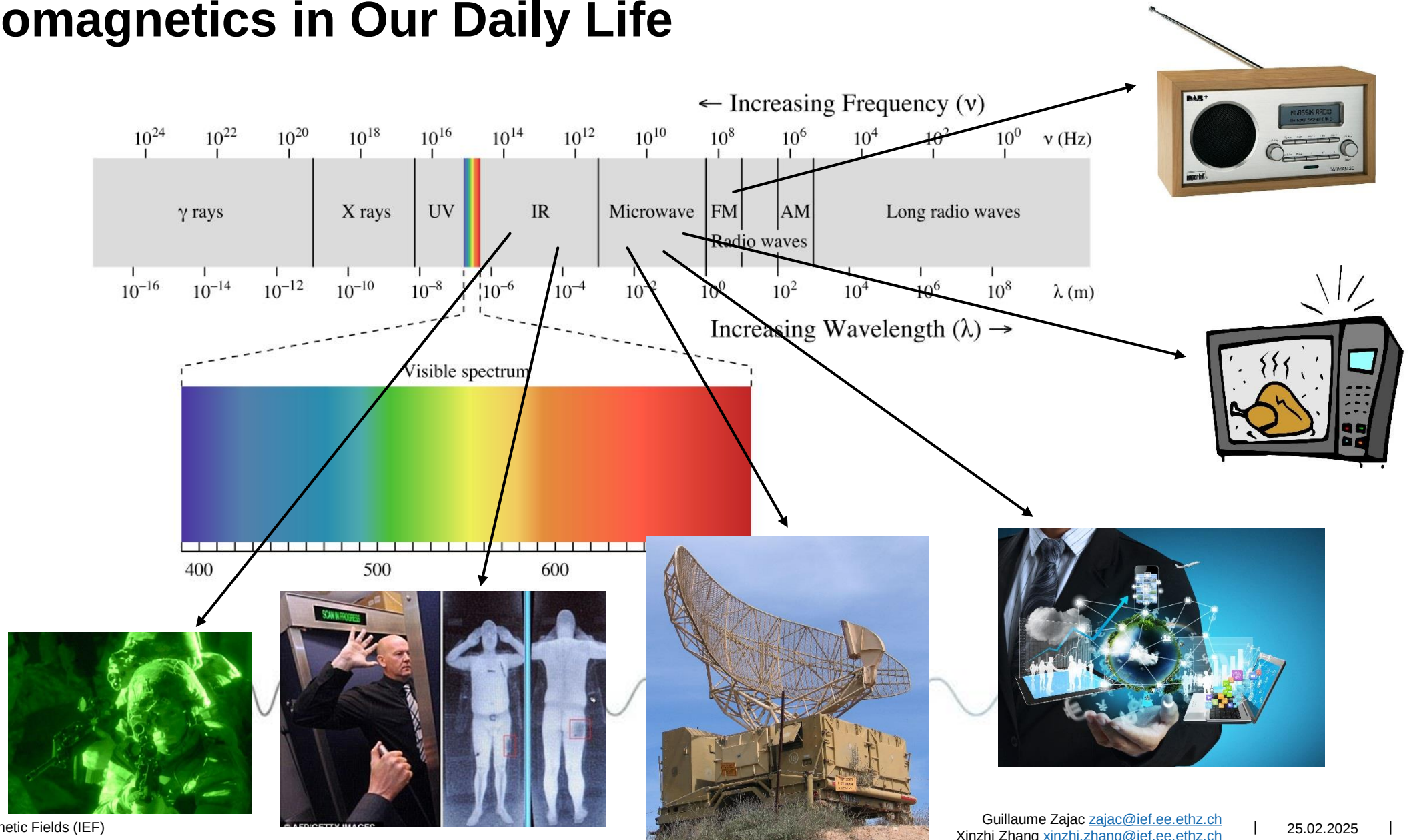
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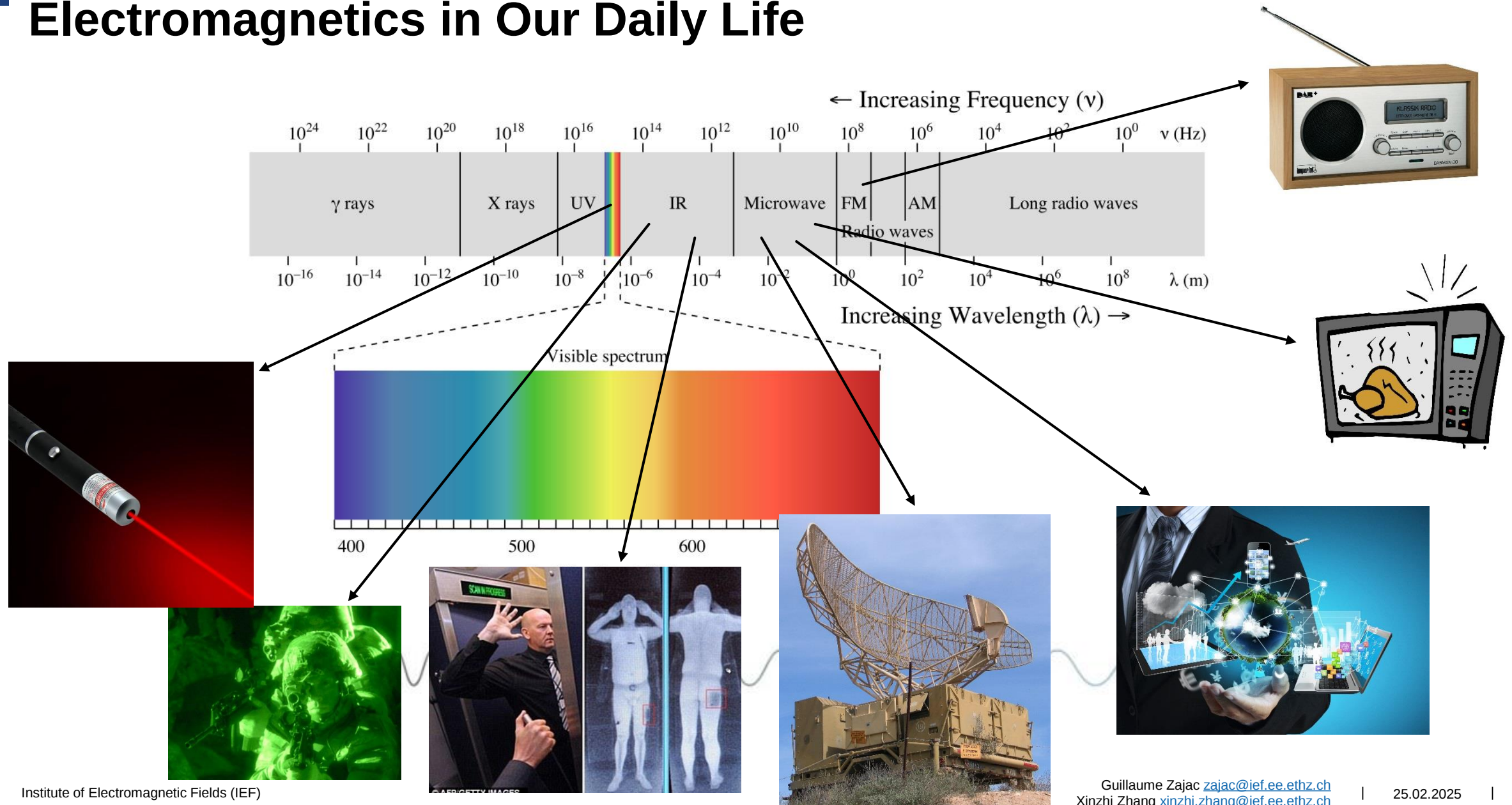
# Electromagnetics in Our Daily Life



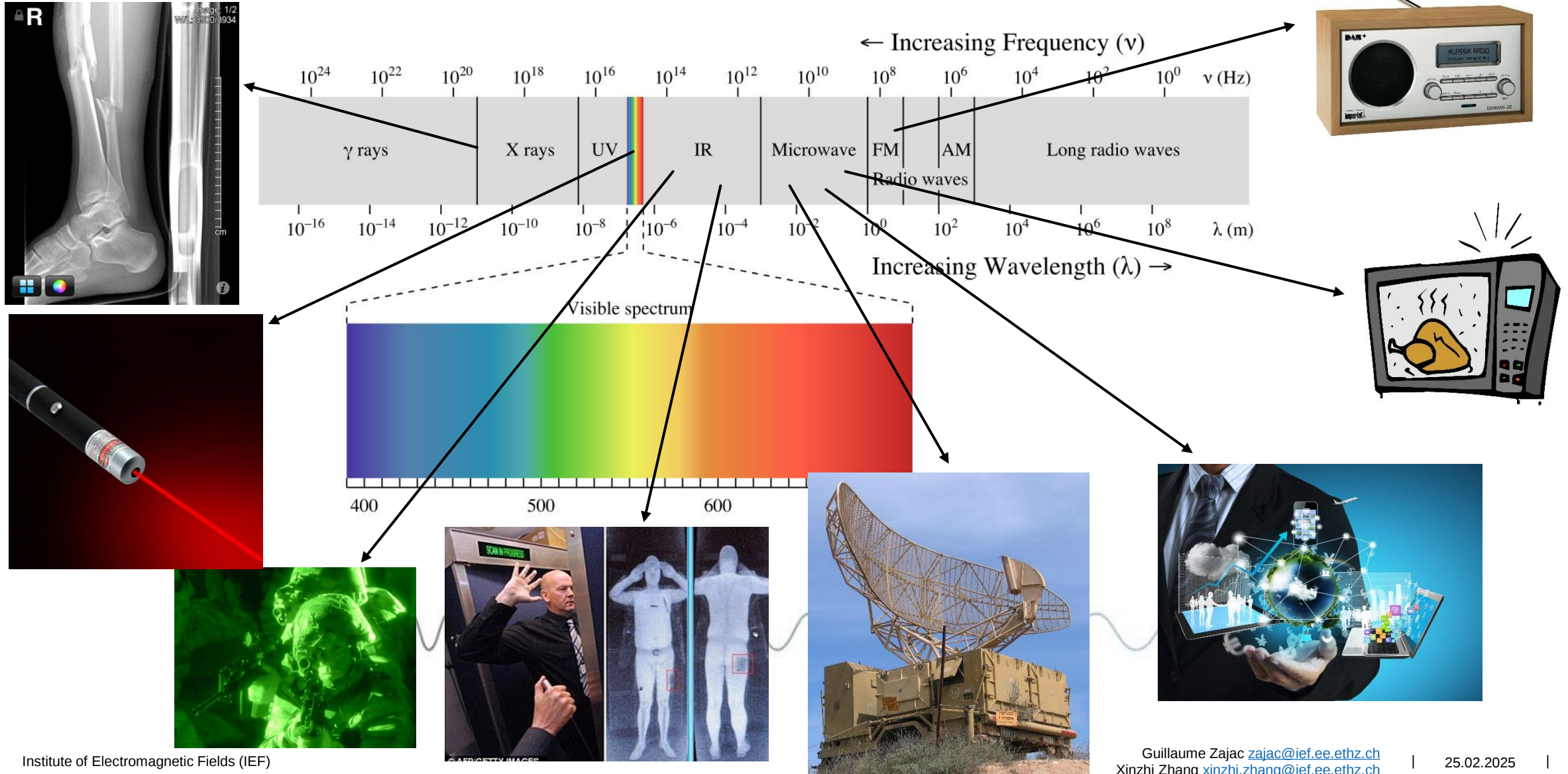
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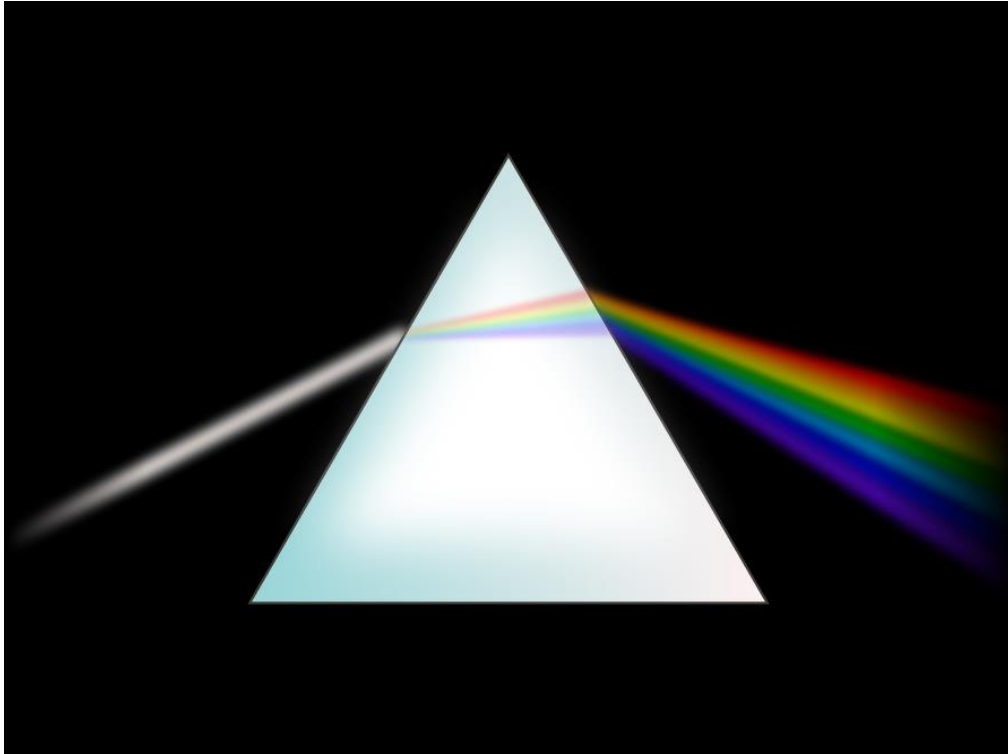


# Electromagnetics in Our Daily Life



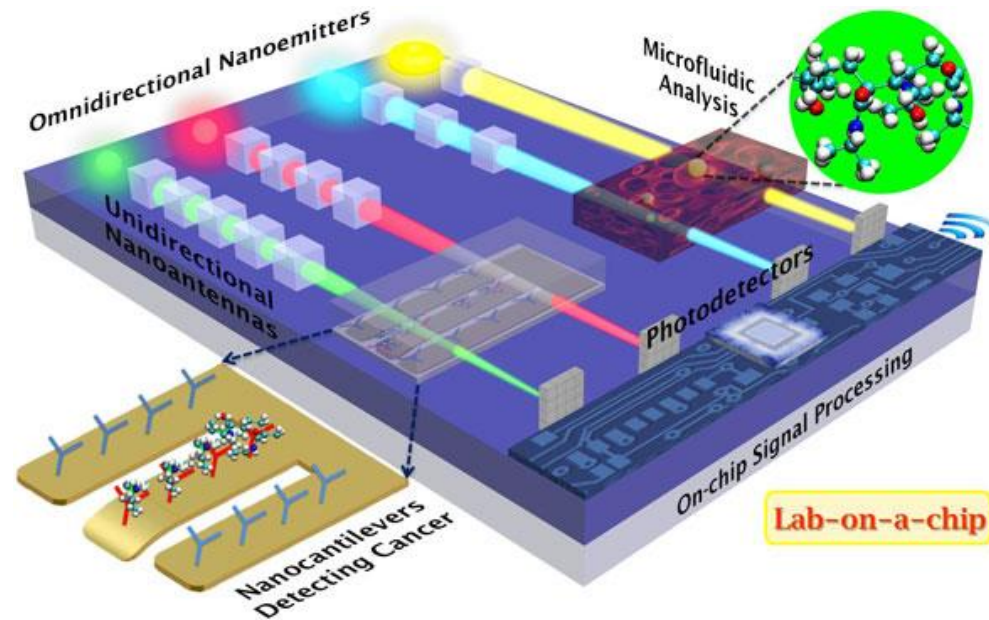
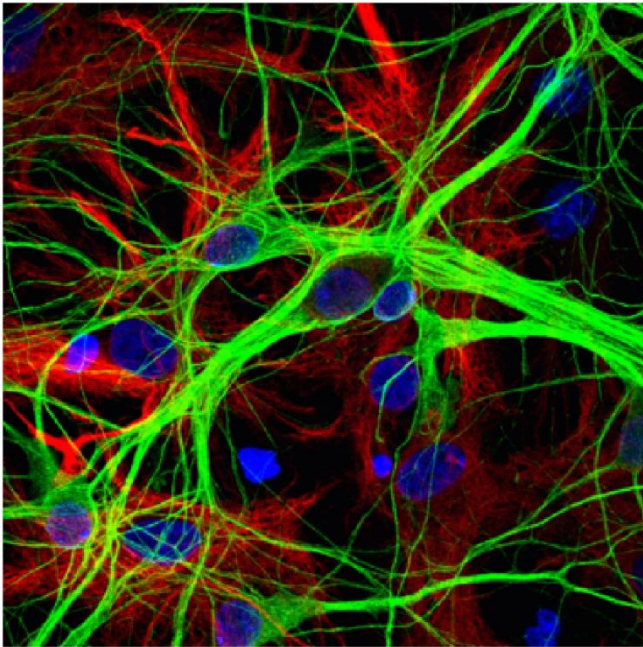
# Photonics

- Photonics – studying the properties of light



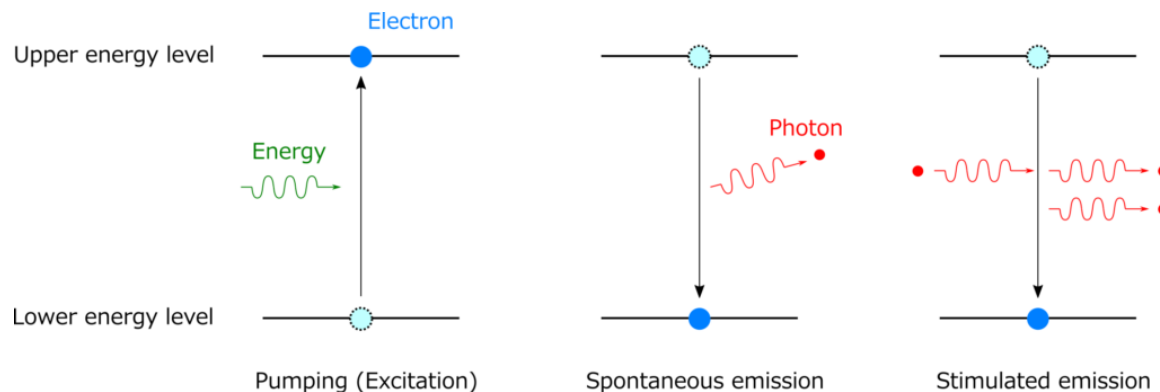
# Photonics Today

- Photonics – studying the properties of light
- Where do we use it today?
  - **Biology – Lab-on-Chip**



# Photonics Today

- Photonics – studying the properties of light
- Where do we use it today?
  - *Biology – Lab-on-Chip*
  - ***Quantum effects***

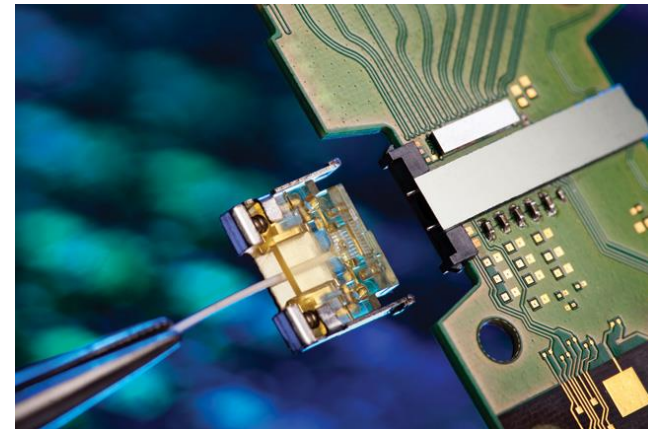
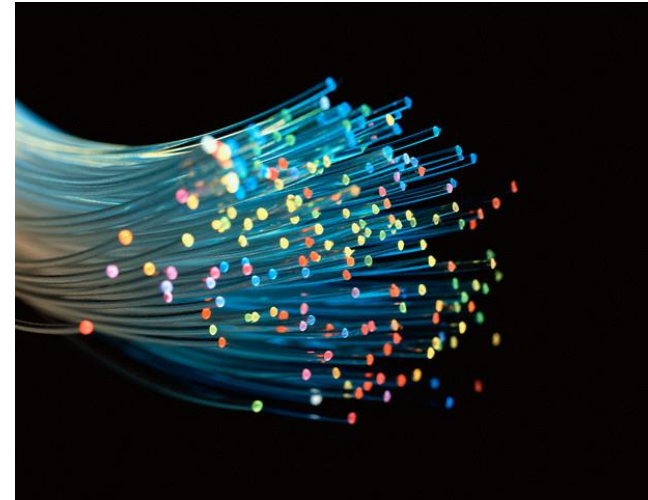


Laser Pointer



# Photonics Today

- Photonics – studying the properties of light
- Where do we use it today?
  - *Biology – Lab-on-Chip*
  - *Quantum effects*
  - **Telecommunications**
    - *Fiber replaces traditional copper wires*
    - **5G**



Source: Intel

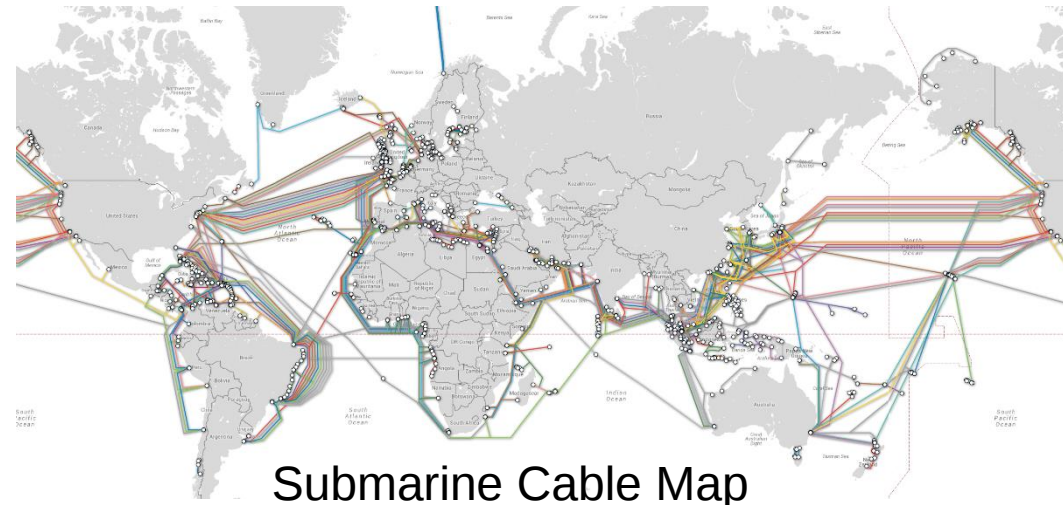
# Communication: From Radio to Fiber

- Radio waves
  - Copper wires (TV/Phone)
  - Broadcasting



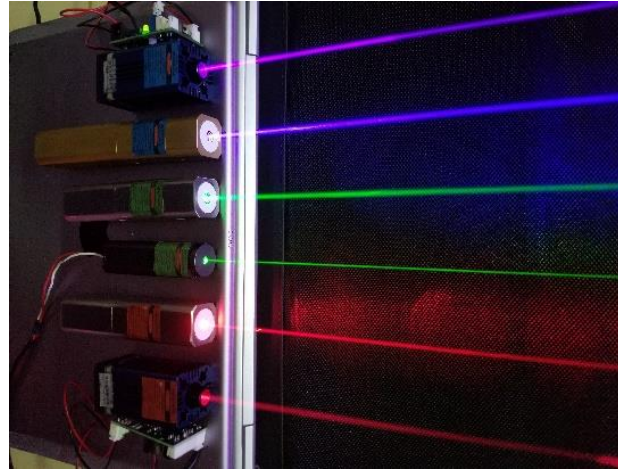
# Communication: From Radio to Fiber

- Radio waves
  - Copper wires (TV/Phone)
  - Broadcasting
- Fiber optics (NIR)
  - Advantages
    - Large bandwidth
    - Low losses
  - Fiber deployment
    - Long distances: Submarine Cables
    - Short distances: Server



# Photonics for Communications: Basic Principles

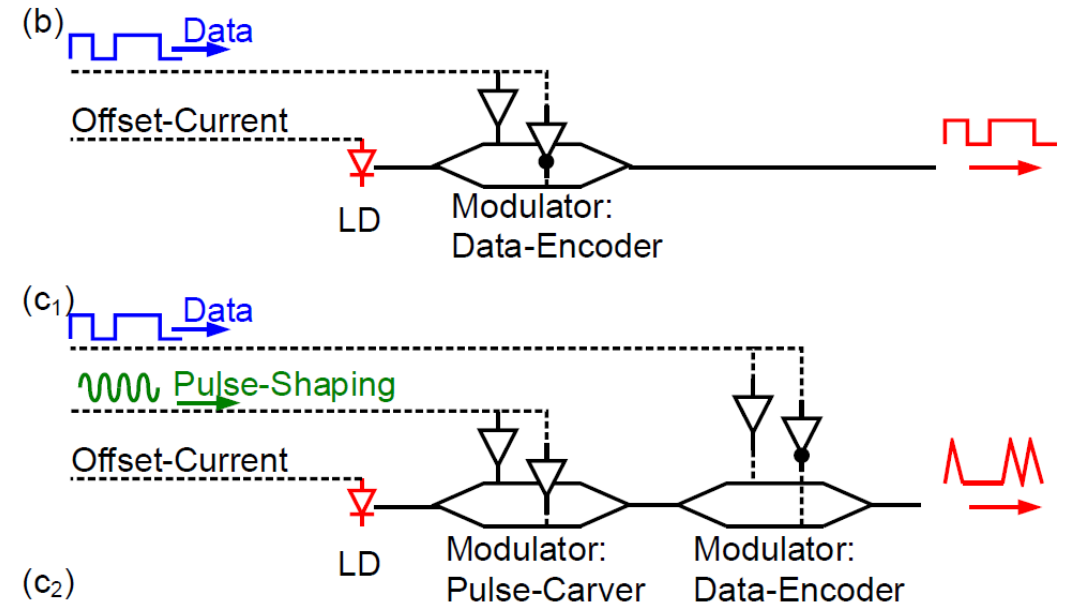
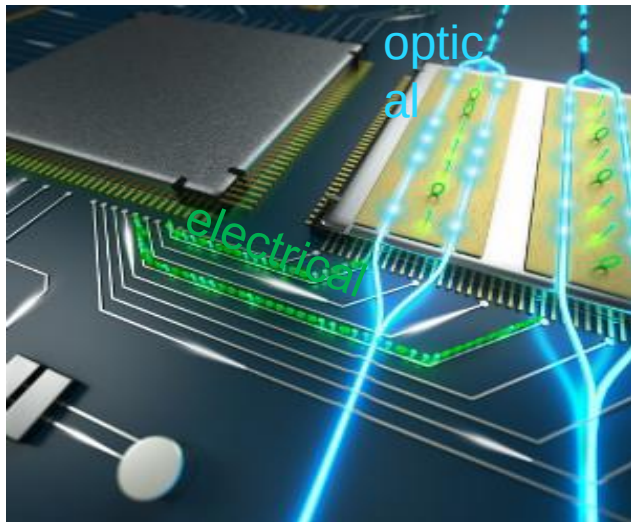
## 1: Light generation



# Photonics for Communications: Basic Principles

1: Light generation

2: Light modulation for data encoding

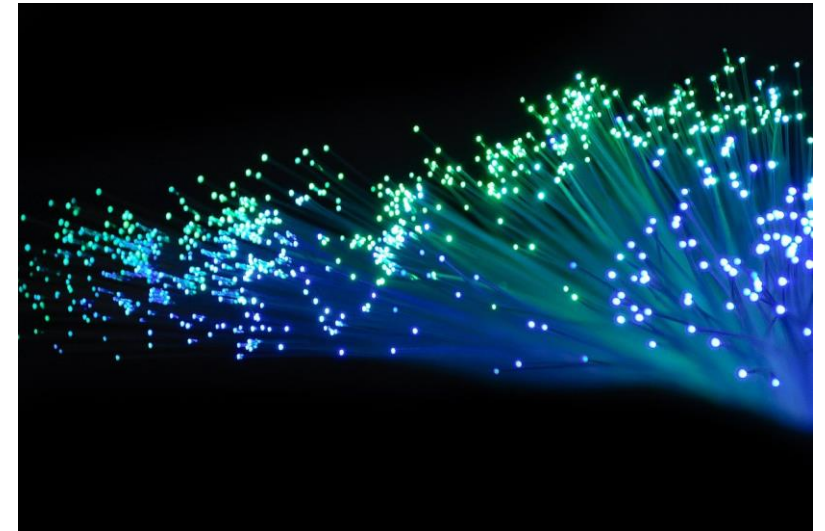
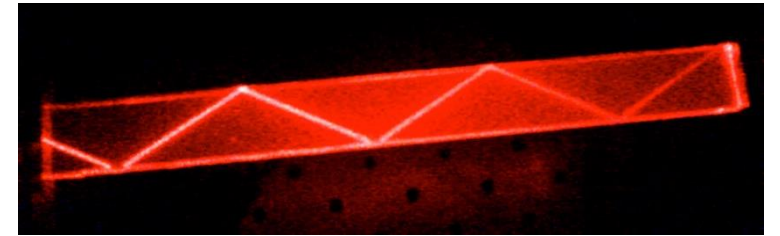


Modulator: From *electrical data* to *optical data*

# Photonics for Communications: Basic Principles

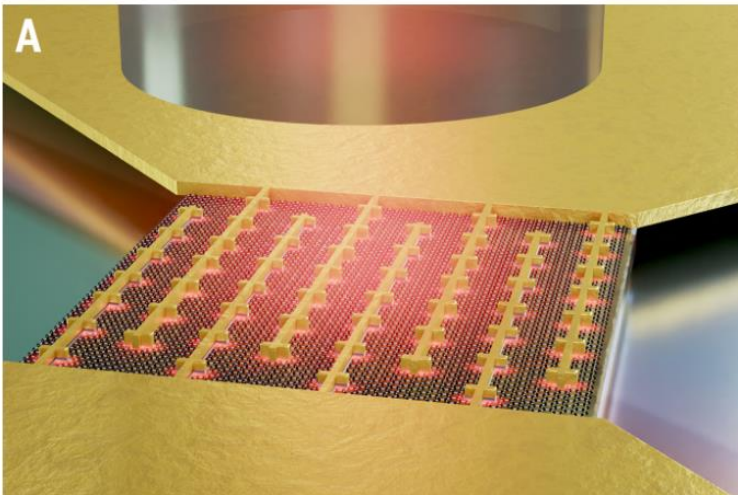
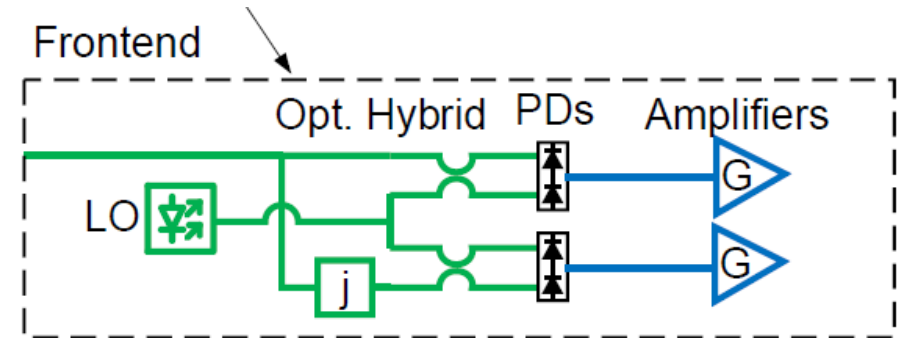
- 1: Light generation
- 2: Light modulation for data encoding
- 3: Light guiding, waveguides and optical fibers

*Fiber guides light*



# Photonics for Communications: Basic Principles

- 1: Light generation
- 2: Light modulation for data encoding
- 3: Light guiding, waveguides and optical fibers
- 4: Light detection and data demapping

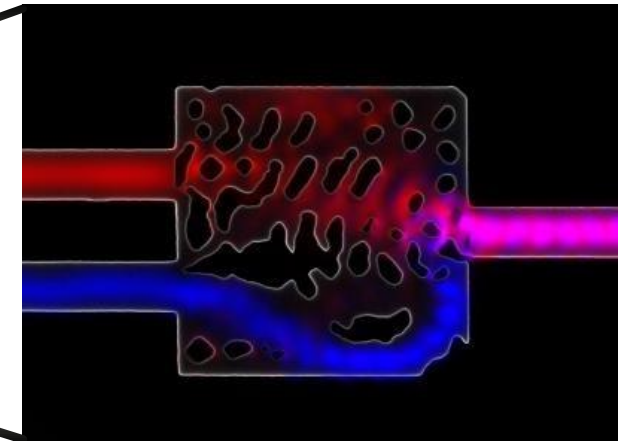
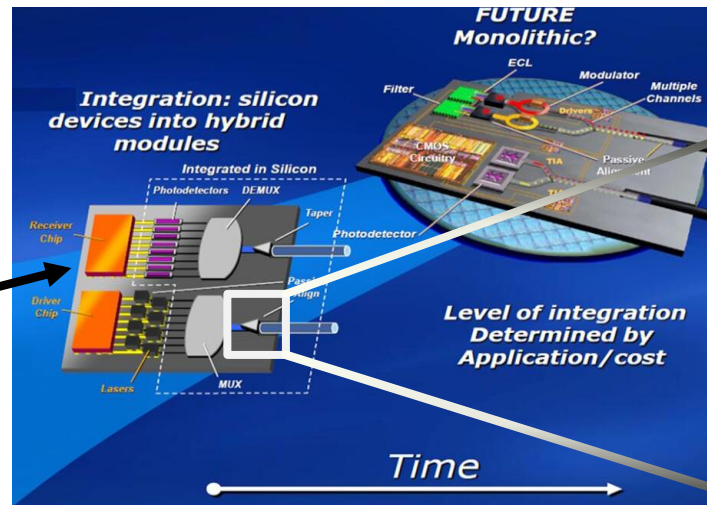
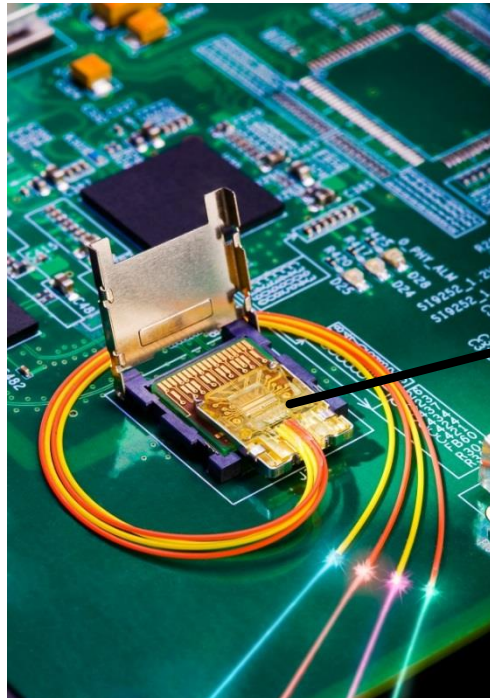


*Detector: From **optical data** to **electrical data***

# Why do we need simulations?

# Why Simulate?

- Implementation of devices
    - Devices **need a design!**
    - Fabrication & characterization (test)
    - Improvement of the design
- } Time & money



# Why Simulate?

- Implementation of devices
    - Devices **need a design!**
    - Fabrication & characterization (test)
    - Improvement of the design
- } Time & money
- We perform simulations to...
    - Shorten the developing time
      - Fast
      - Cost effective
    - Test physical models
    - Confirm experimental data
    - Investigate ideas



## Work flow

1. Idea
2. Design & Simulate
3. Optimize
4. Fabricate
5. Characterize



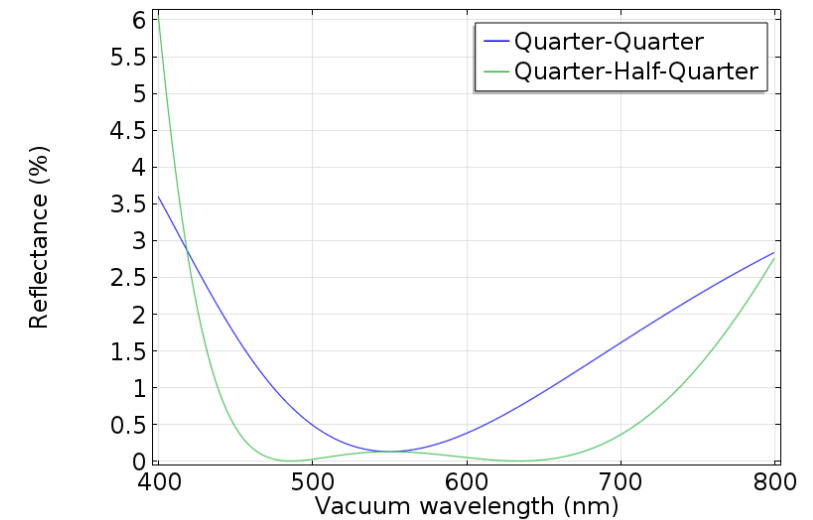
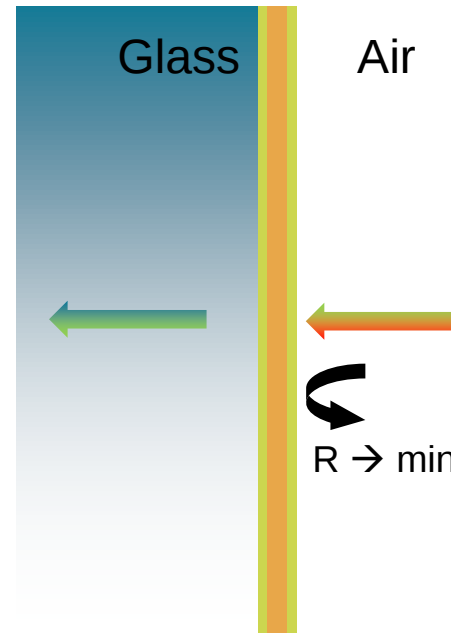
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Anti – reflection coating



Without anti-reflection

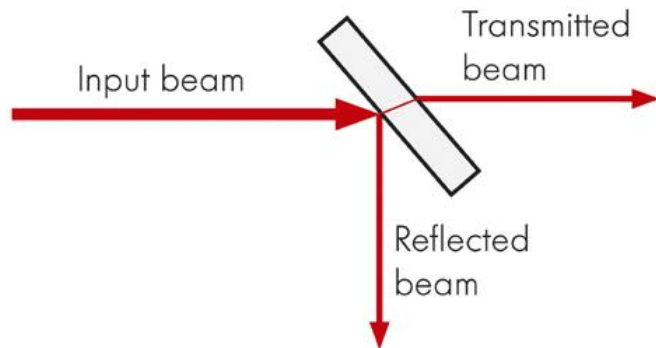
With anti-reflection



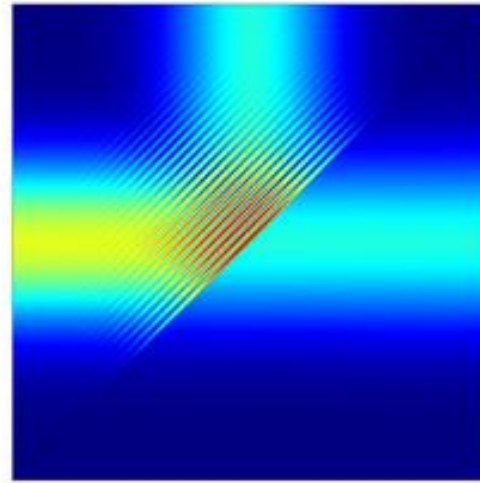
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Beam Splitter

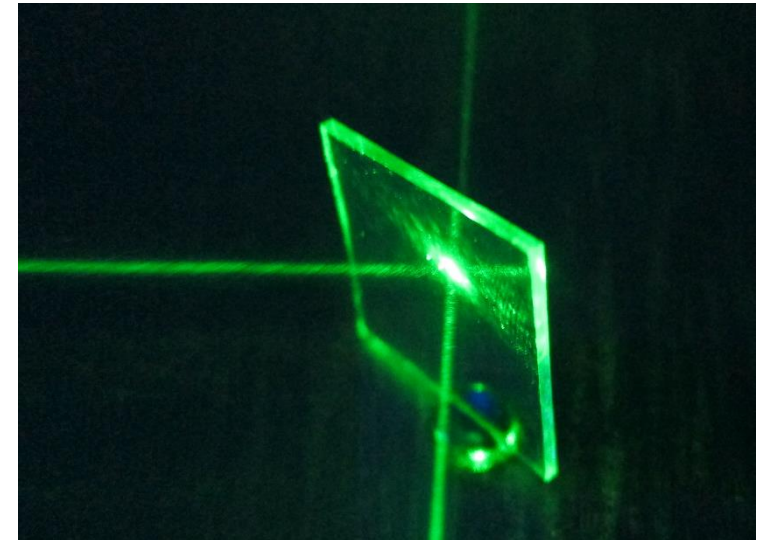
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2. & 3.



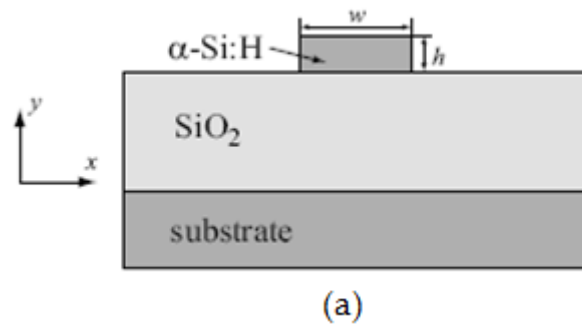
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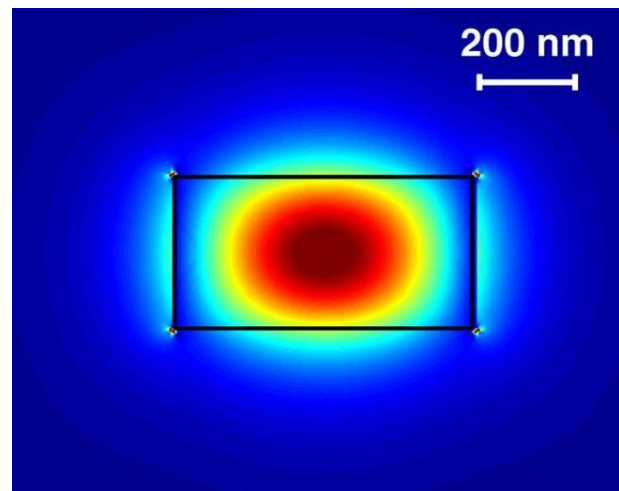
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Silicon waveguide

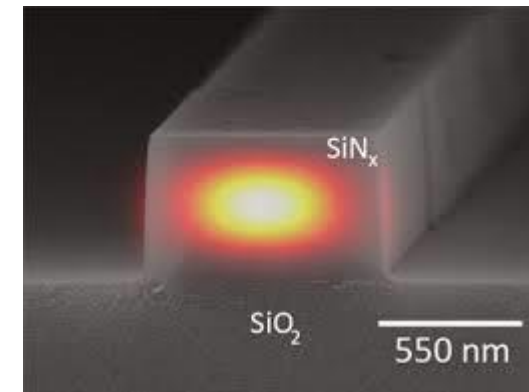
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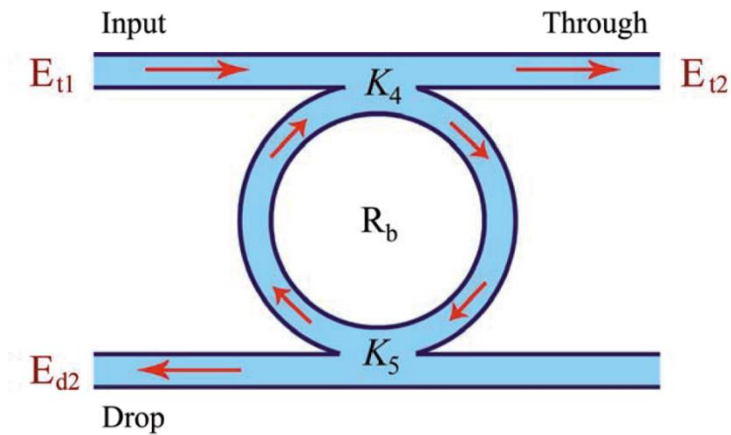
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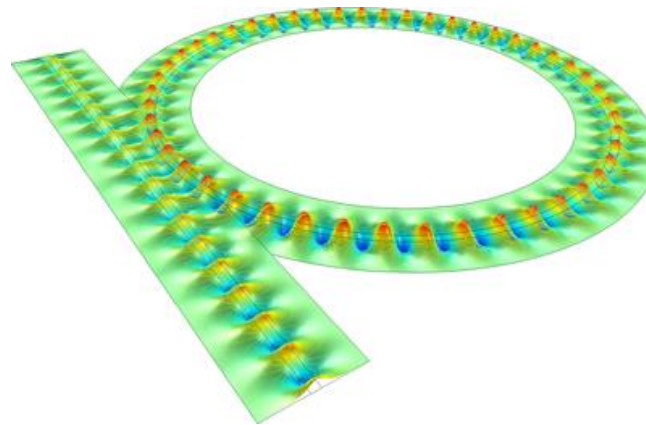
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Optical add-drop filters

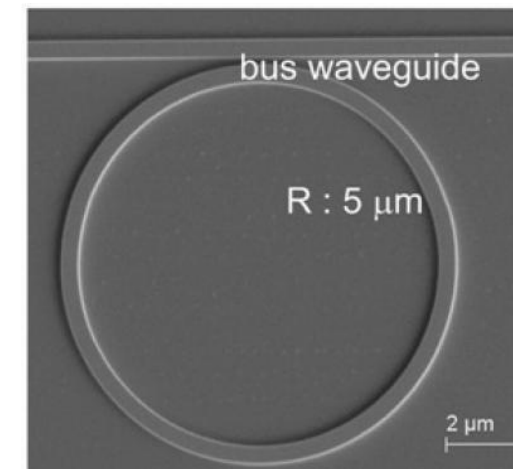
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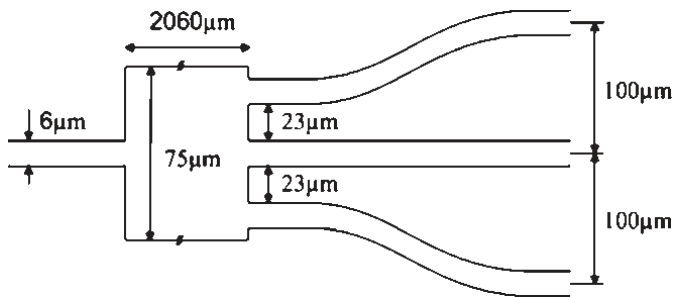
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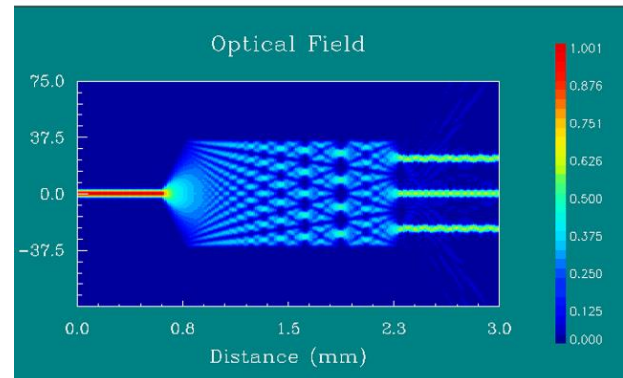
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Multi-mode interferometer

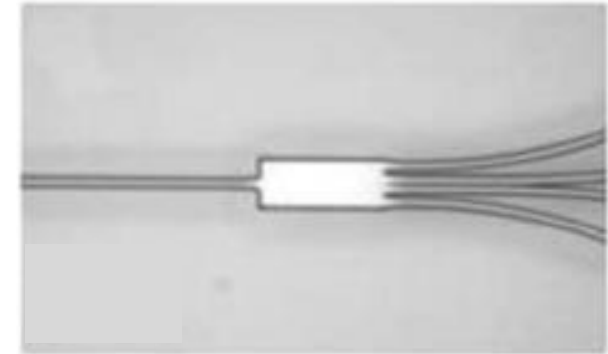
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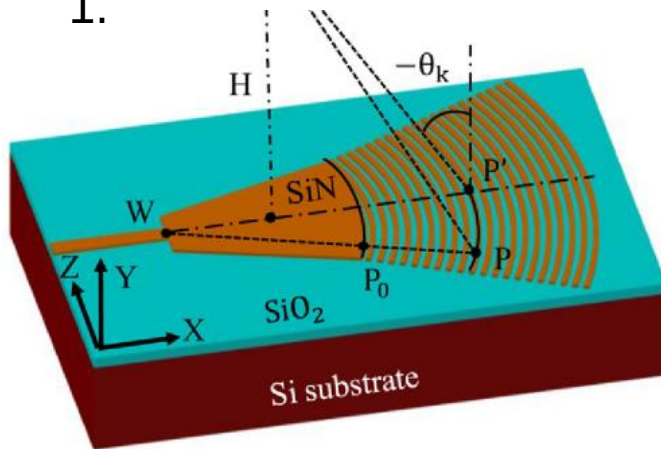
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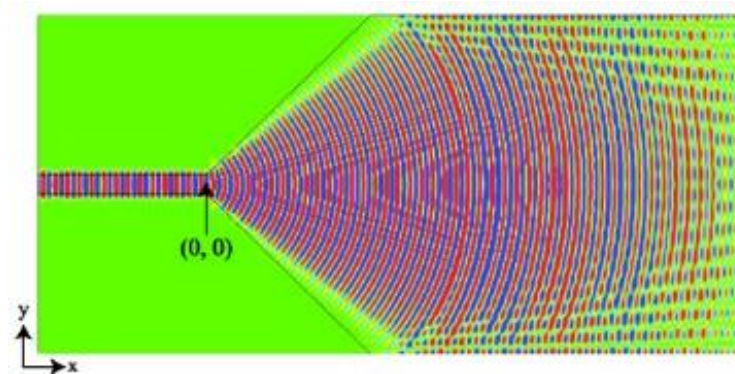
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Grating coupler

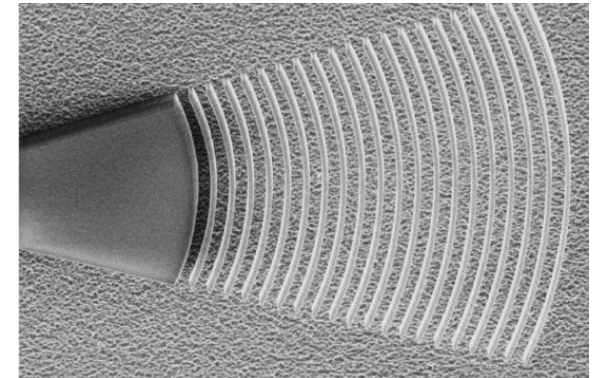
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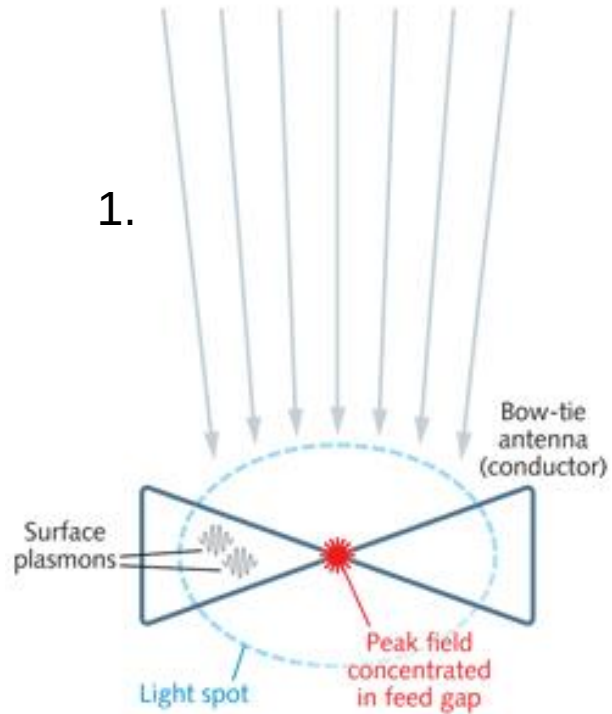
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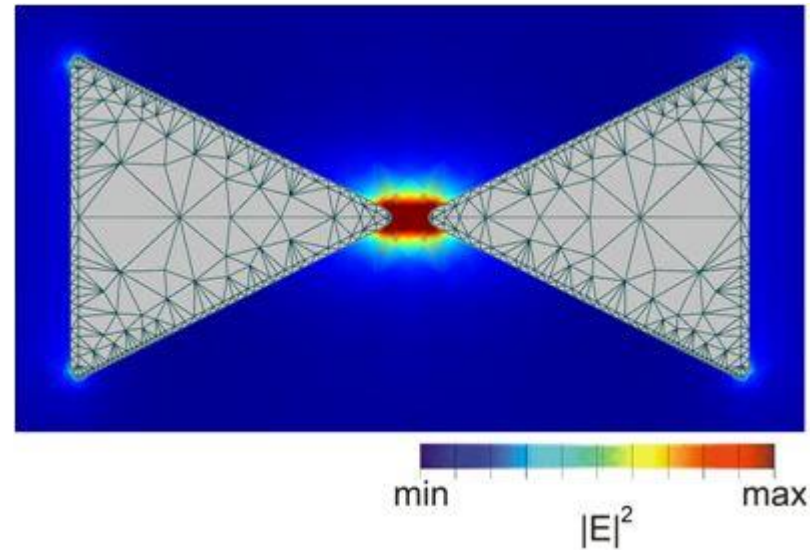
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Optical Antennas

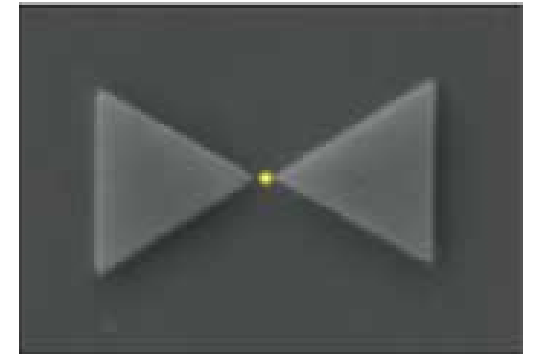
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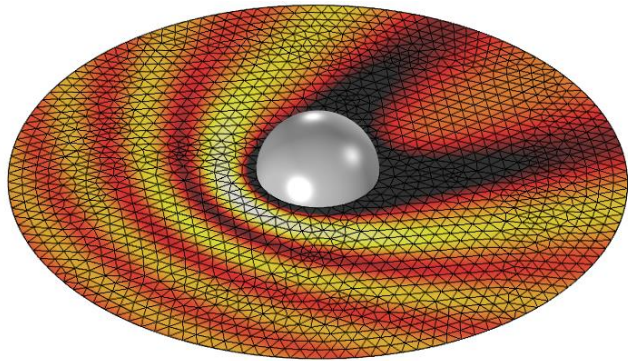
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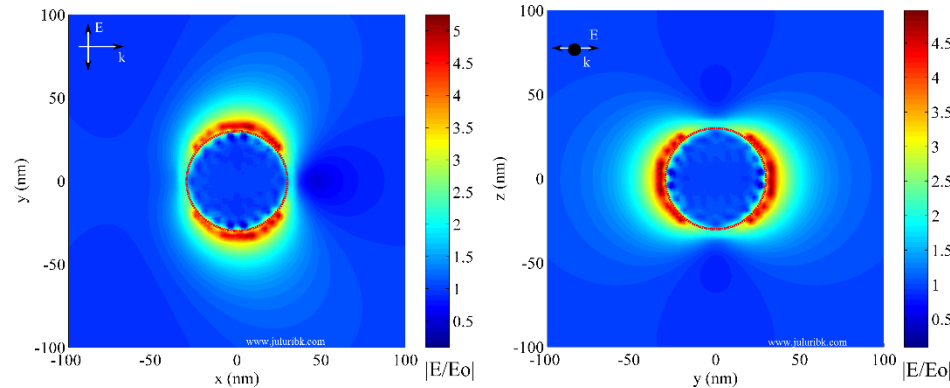
# What you will be able to simulate...

- Scattering from metallic nanoparticle

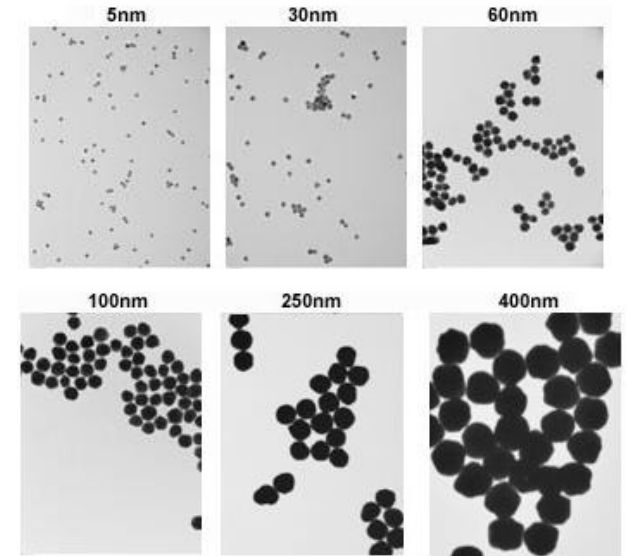
1.



2. & 3.



4.



# Questions?

# Tutorial

# Starting COMSOL

- Every Student has access to Linux Server

## Connection to Linux Server

1) Download and install Cisco Anyconnect: <https://ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/hest/isg-hest-dam/documents/pdf/vpn-de.pdf>

Available for Windows, MacOS & Linux

2) Connect to ETH network using Cisco Anyconnect

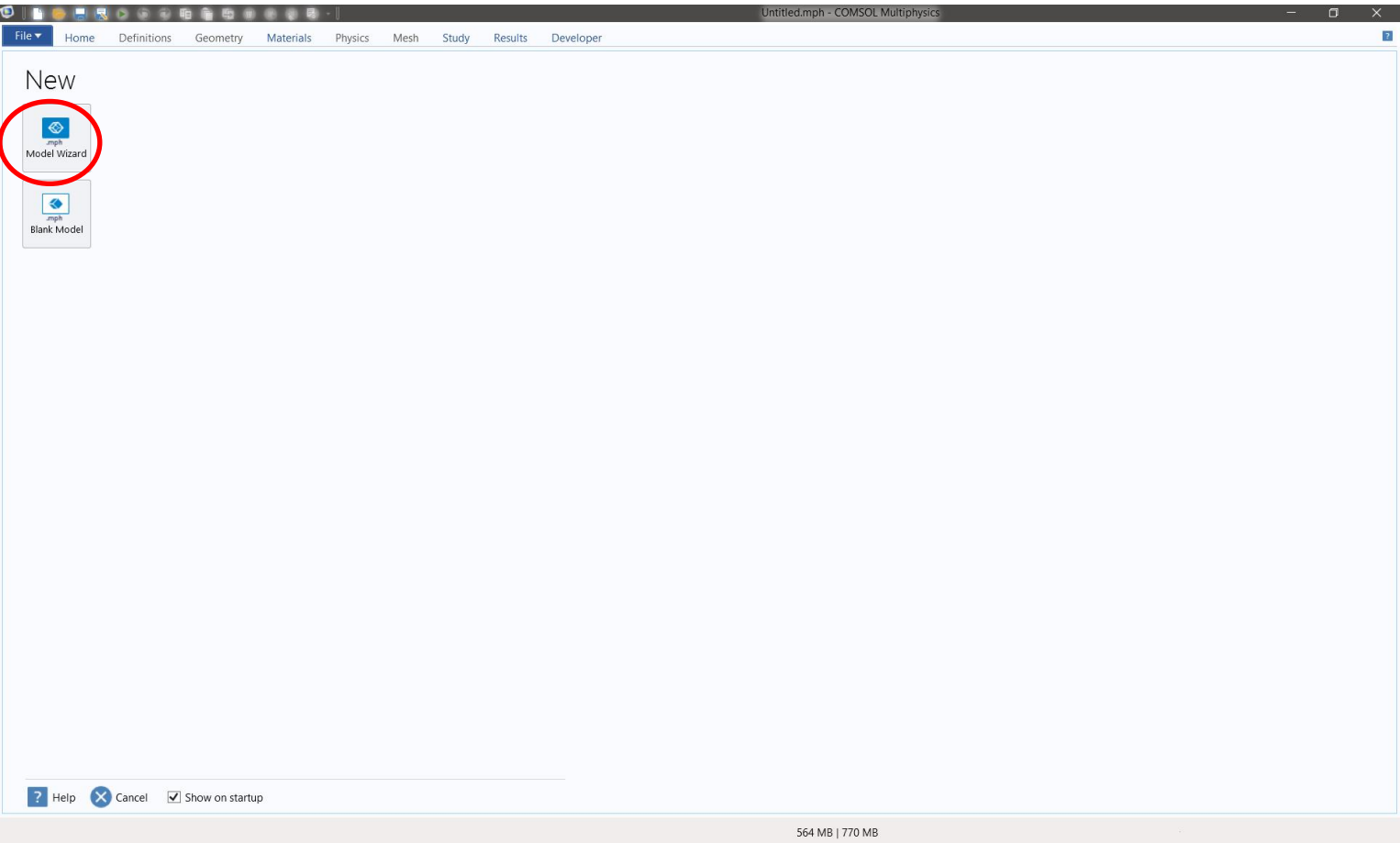
3) Connect to Linux Server

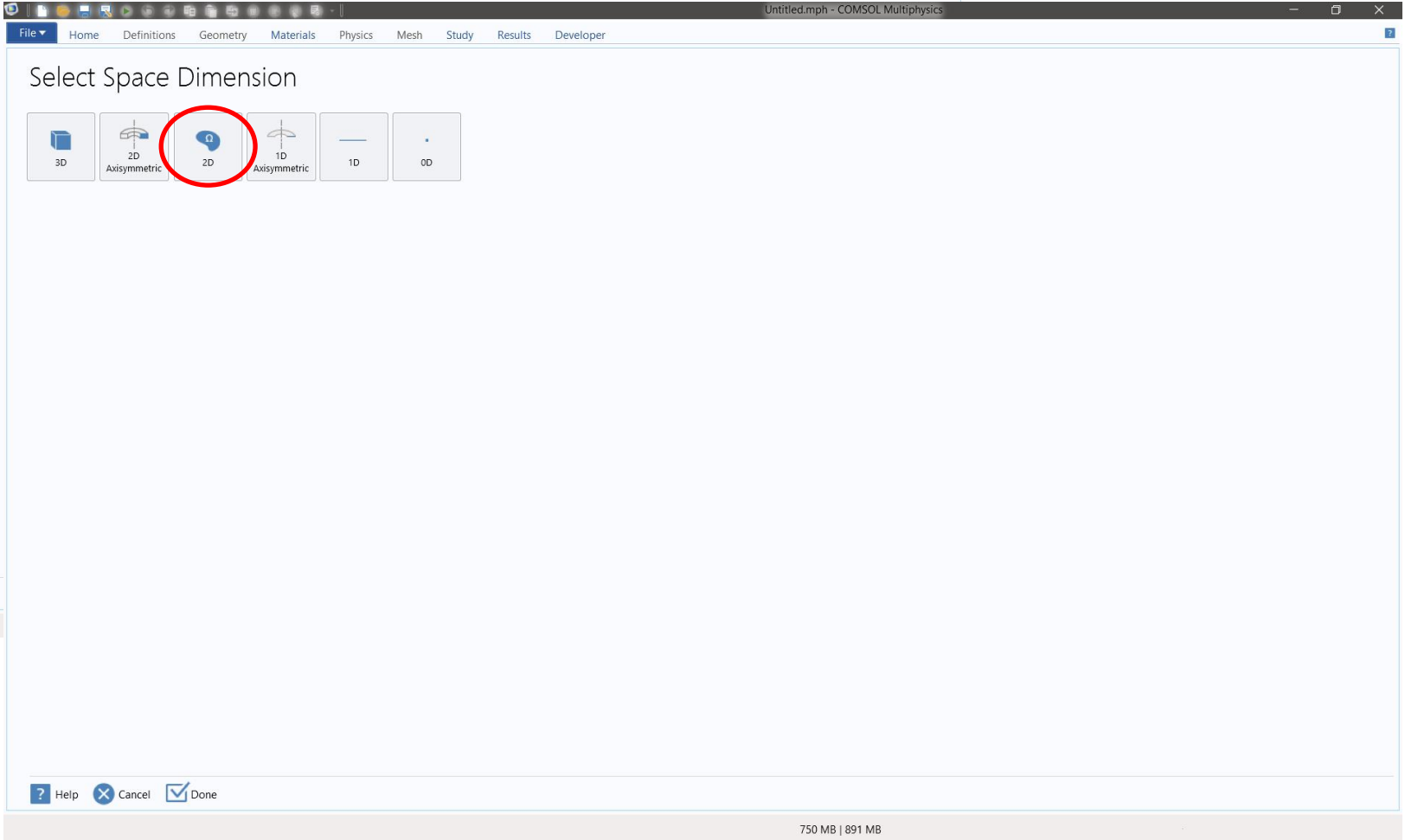
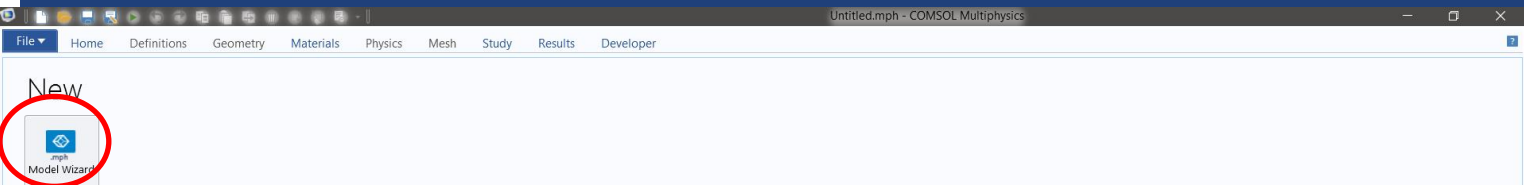
- Linux & Mac: using terminal type «ssh [username@itet-ief-l0.ethz.ch](mailto:username@itet-ief-l0.ethz.ch) -X»
- Windows, Linux, MacOS: using any remote desktop with xserver capability (e.g. Remote Desktop for Windows, Windows App for MacOS)

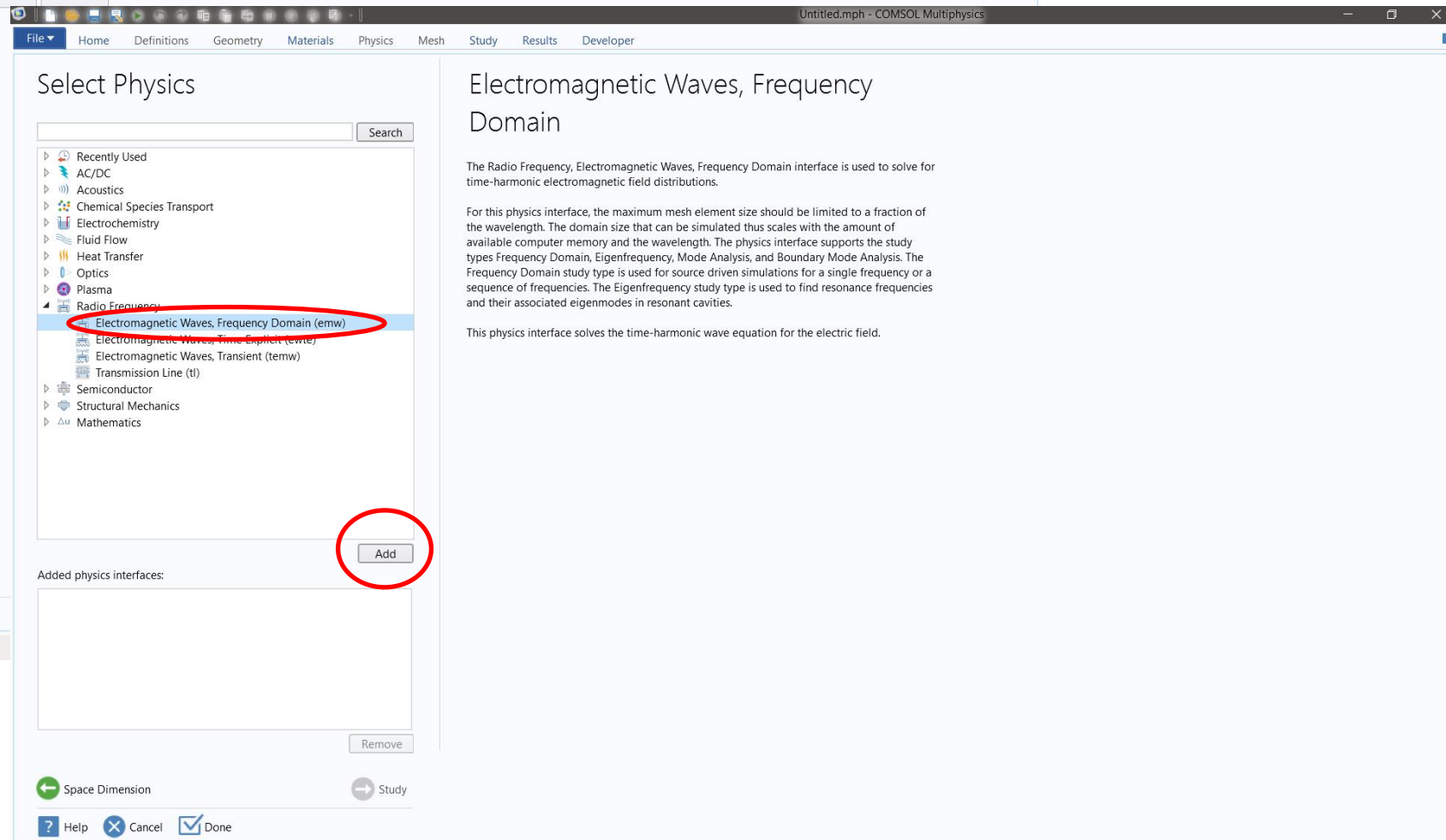
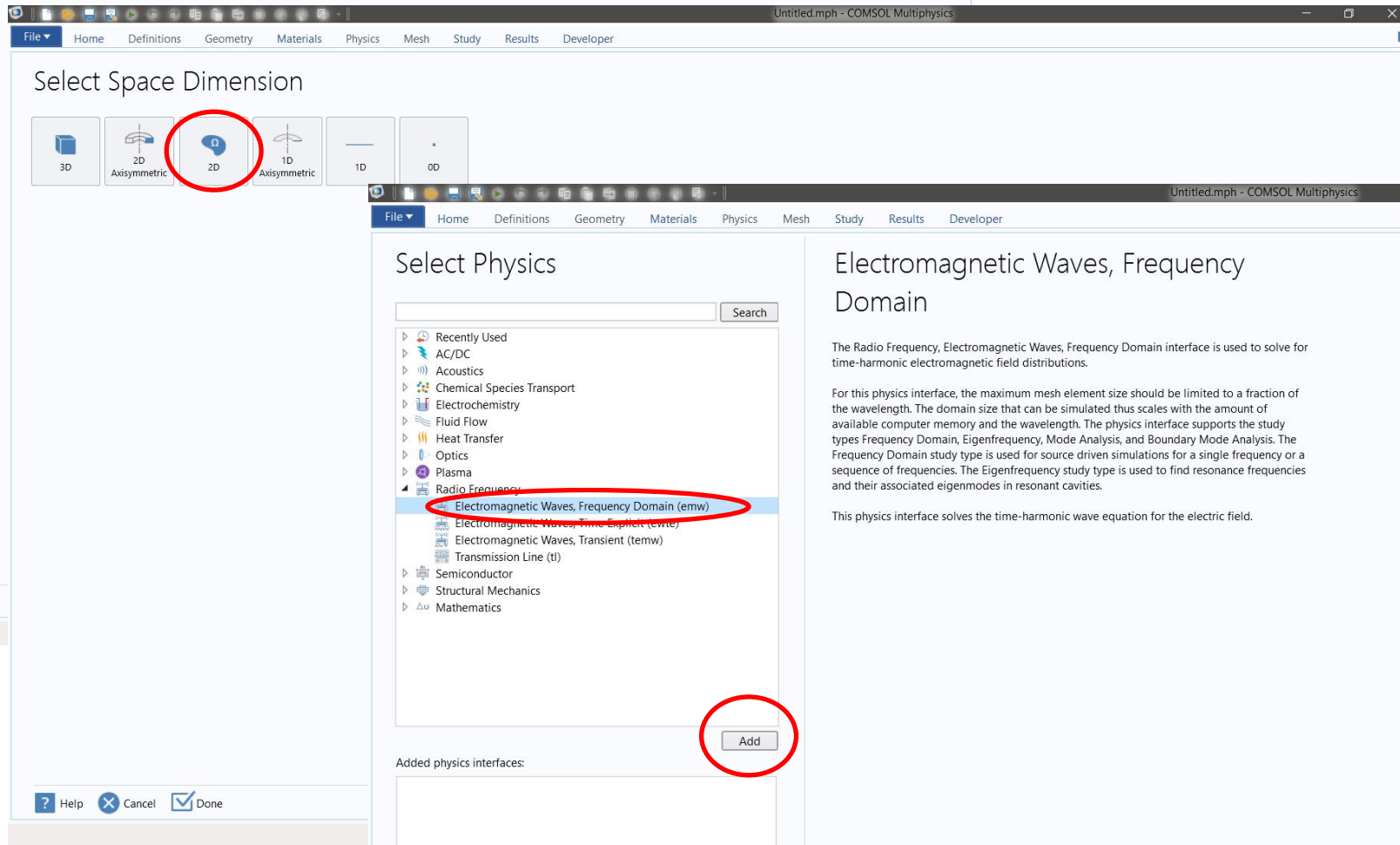
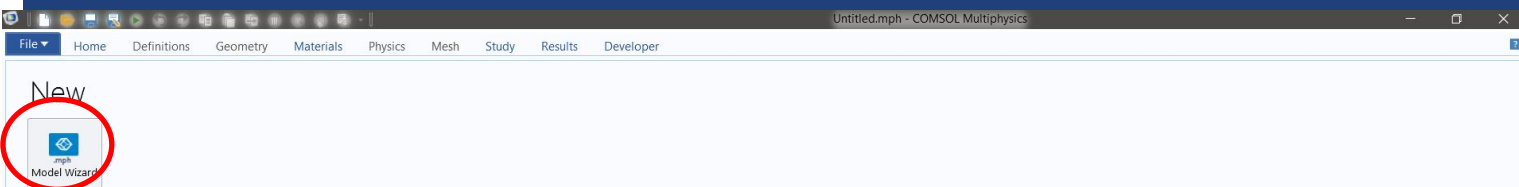
4) Enter Username and Password

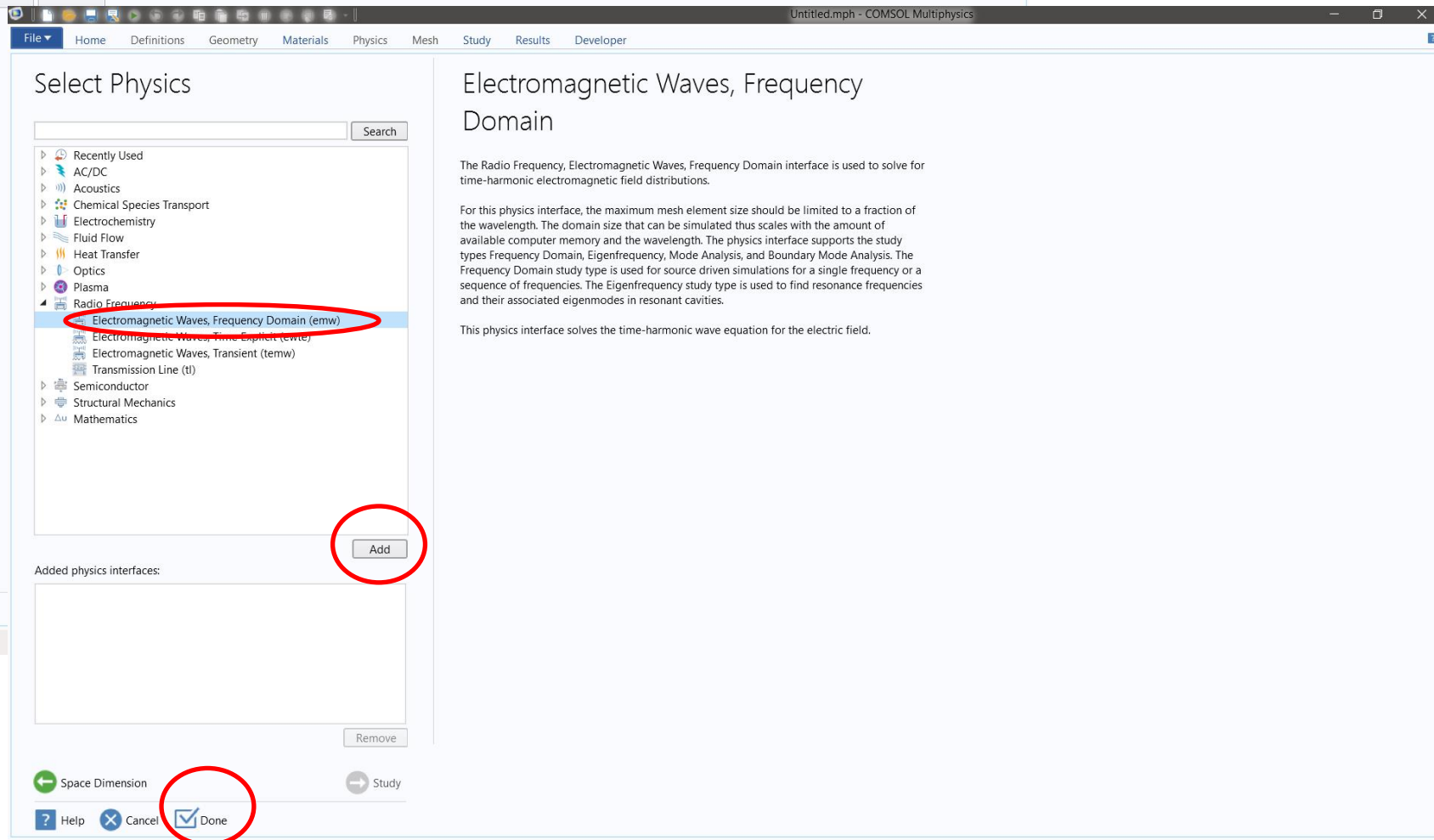
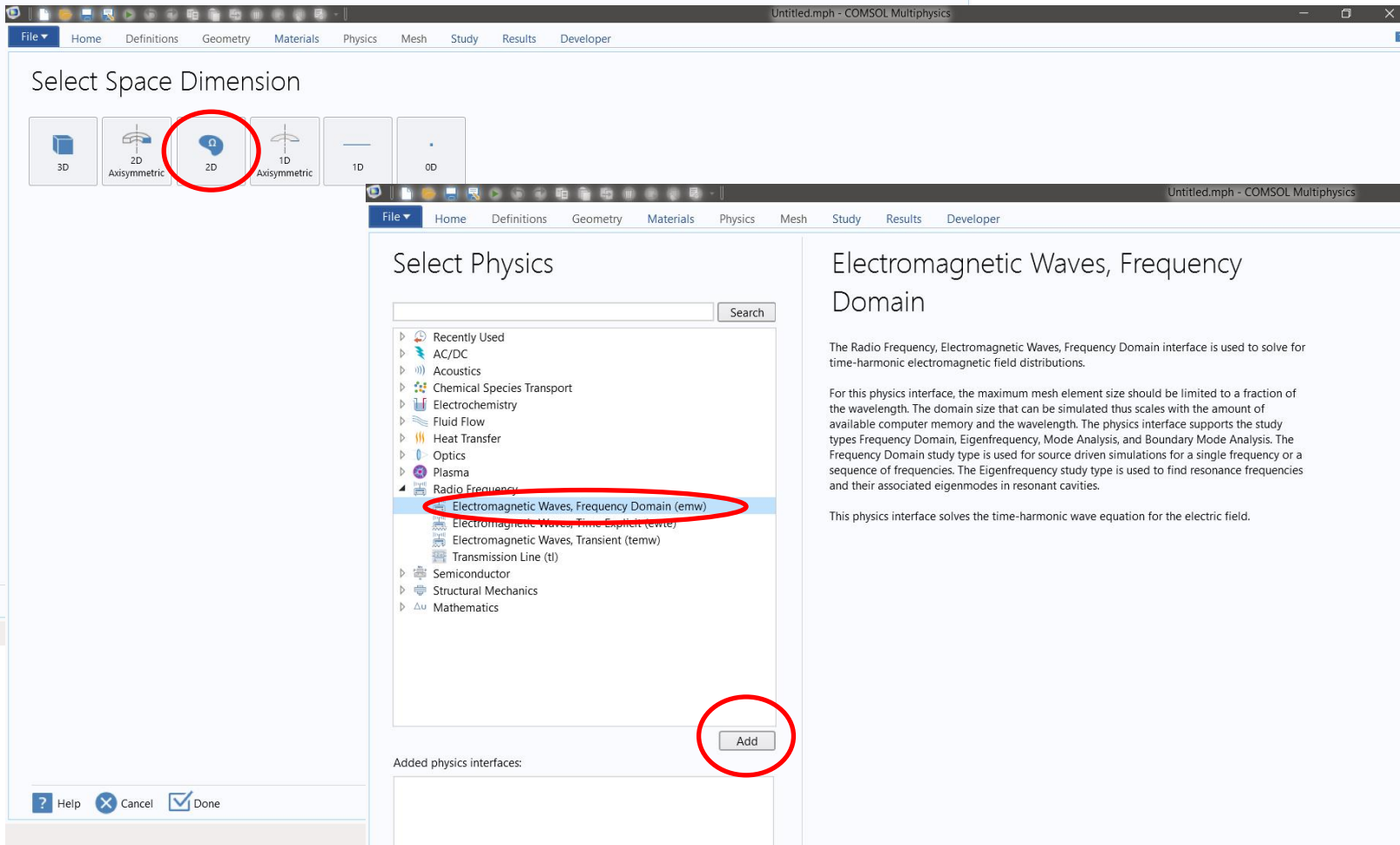
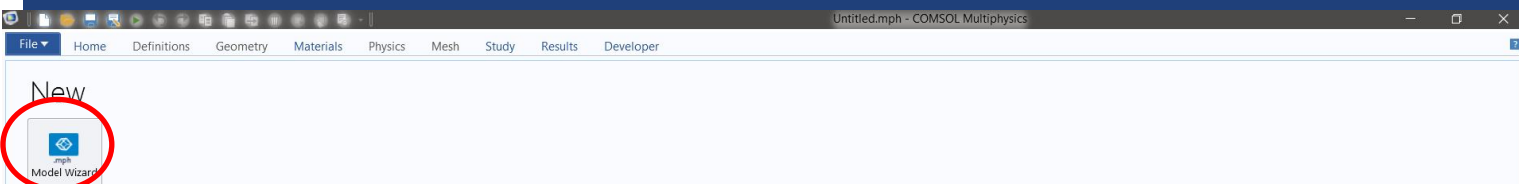
5) Start COMSOL

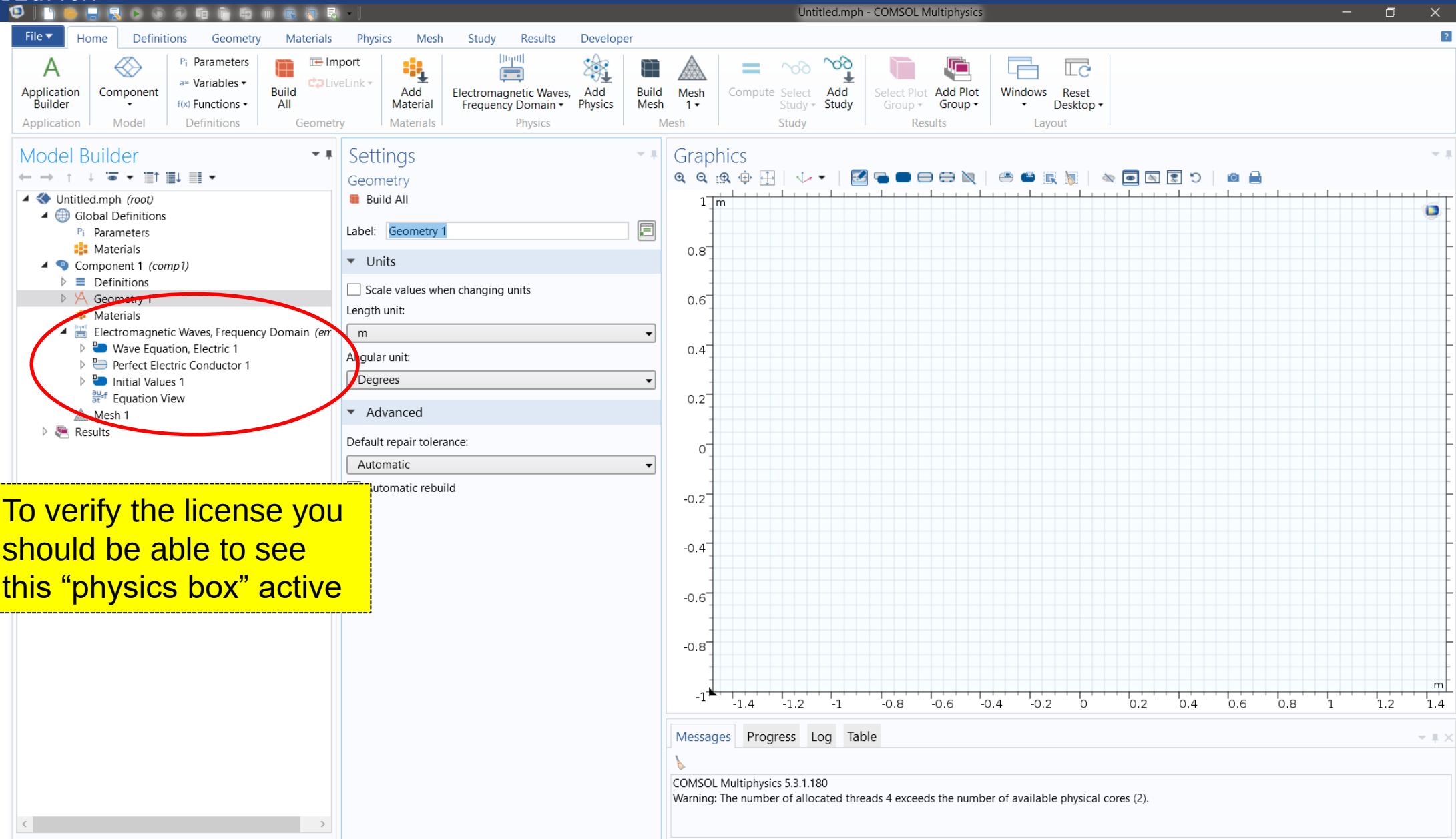
type: «comsol» into the terminal











File Home Definitions Geometry Materials Physics Mesh Study Results Developer

Application Builder Component Parameters Variables Functions Import Build All Add Material Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain Add Physics Build Mesh Mesh Compute Select Study Add Study Select Plot Group Add Plot Group Windows Reset Desktop Layout

Model Builder

- Untitled.mph (root)
  - Global Definitions
    - Parameters
    - Materials
  - Component 1 (comp1)
    - Definitions
    - Geometry 1
      - Materials
      - Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain (em)
        - Wave Equation, Electric 1
        - Perfect Electric Conductor 1
        - Initial Values 1
        - Equation View
      - Mesh 1
    - Results

Settings

Geometry

Build All

Label: Geometry 1

Units

☐ Scale values when changing units

Length unit: m

Angular unit: Degrees

Advanced

Default repair tolerance: Automatic

Automatic rebuild

Graphics

Messages Progress Log Table

COMSOL Multiphysics 5.3.1.180

Warning: The number of allocated threads 4 exceeds the number of available physical cores (2).

PointSource.mph - COMSOL Multiphysics

File Home Definitions Geometry Sketch Materials Physics Mesh Study Results Developer

Application Builder Model Manager Component 1 Add Component Parameters Variables Functions Import Build All LiveLink Part Libraries Add Material Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain Add Physics Add Mathematics Build Mesh Mesh 1 Compute Study 1 Add Study Electric Field (emw) Add Plot Group Add Predefined Plot Windows Reset Desktop Layout

**Model Builder**

Type filter text

- PointSource.mph (root)
  - Global Definitions**
    - Parameters 1**
    - Build Model Input
  - Materials
  - Component 1 (comp 1)
    - Definitions
    - Geometry 1
      - Simulation Space (sq 1)
        - Point Source (pt 1)
      - Circle 1 (c 1)
      - Form Union (fun)
    - Materials
    - Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain (emw)
    - Mesh 1
  - Study 1
  - Results
    - Datasets
    - Derived Values
    - Tables
    - Electric Field (emw)
    - Polar Plot Group 2
    - Export
    - Reports

**Settings**

Label: Parameters 1

Parameters

| Name | Expression | Value         | Description |
|------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| wl   | 600[nm]    | 6E-7 m        |             |
| f0   | c_const/wl | 4.9965E14 1/s |             |
| n    | 1          | 1             |             |
| L    | 3[um]      | 3E-6 m        |             |

**Graphics**

16  $\times 10^{-7}$  m

-16  $\times 10^{-6}$  m

-3.5 -3 -2.5 -2 -1.5 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5

**Messages** Progress Log Table

COMSOL Multiphysics 6.2.0.278  
[Feb 25, 2025, 10:56 AM] Opened file: D:\Xinzh\PointSource.mph

1.08 GB | 1.08 GB

Add parameters in  
Global scope

The screenshot displays the COMSOL Multiphysics 6.2.0.278 interface. The top toolbar includes icons for File, Home, Definitions, Geometry, Sketch, Materials, Physics, Mesh, Study, Results, and Developer. The left sidebar shows the Model Builder tree, where the 'Domain (sq 1)' object under 'Geometry 1' is highlighted with a red circle. The central Settings window shows the configuration for the 'Domain' object, including its type (Solid), size (Side length: L), position (Base: Center, x: 0, y: 0), rotation angle (Rotation: 0), and layers. The right Graphics window shows a 2D plot of a square domain on a grid, with axes ranging from -3.5 to 3.5 on the x-axis and -16 to 16 on the y-axis. A yellow text box with a dashed border is overlaid on the Graphics window, containing the text: 'Draw the geometries to simulate in Component->Geometry'. The bottom status bar shows the file name 'PointSource.mph - COMSOL Multiphysics' and the system tray with the date and time '11:00 25.02.2025'.

PointSource.mph - COMSOL Multiphysics

File Home Definitions Geometry Sketch Materials Physics Mesh Study Results Developer

Application Builder Model Manager Component 1 Add Component Parameters f Functions Pi Parameter Case Build All Import LiveLink Part Libraries Add Material Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain Add Physics Add Mathematics Build Mesh Mesh 1 Compute Study 1 Add Study Electric Field (emw) Add Plot Group Add Predefined Plot Windows Reset Desktop

Model Builder

Type filter text

- PointSource.mph (root)
  - Global Definitions
    - Parameters 1
    - Default Model Inputs
    - Materials
  - Component 1 (comp 1)
    - Definitions
    - Geometry 1
      - Domain (sq 1)
      - Point Source (pt 1)
      - Form Union (fin)
    - Materials
      - Material 1 (mat 1)
    - Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain (emw)
    - Mesh 1
  - Study 1
  - Results
    - Datasets
    - Derived Values
    - Tables
    - Electric Field (emw)
    - Polar Plot Group 2
    - Export
    - Reports

Settings

Material

Label: Material 1

Name: mat1

Geometric Entity Selection

Geometric entity level: Domain

Selection: Manual

1

Override

Material Properties

Material Contents

| Property                                                             | Variable  | Value | Unit | Property group   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refractive index, real part      | n_iso...  | n     | 1    | Refractive index |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refractive index, imaginary part | ki_iso... | 0     | 1    | Refractive index |

Graphics

16 x 10<sup>-7</sup> m

14

12

10

8

6

4

2

0

-2

-4

-6

-8

-10

-12

-14

-16

-3.5 -3 -2.5 -2 -1.5 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 x 10<sup>-6</sup> m

Messages Progress Log Table

COMSOL Multiphysics 6.2.0.278

[25, 2025, 10:56 AM] Opened file: D:\Xinzh\PointSource.mph

[25, 2025, 11:00 AM] Formed union of 1 solid object and 1 point object.

[Feb 25, 2025, 11:00 AM] Finalized geometry has 1 domain, 4 boundaries, and 5 vertices.

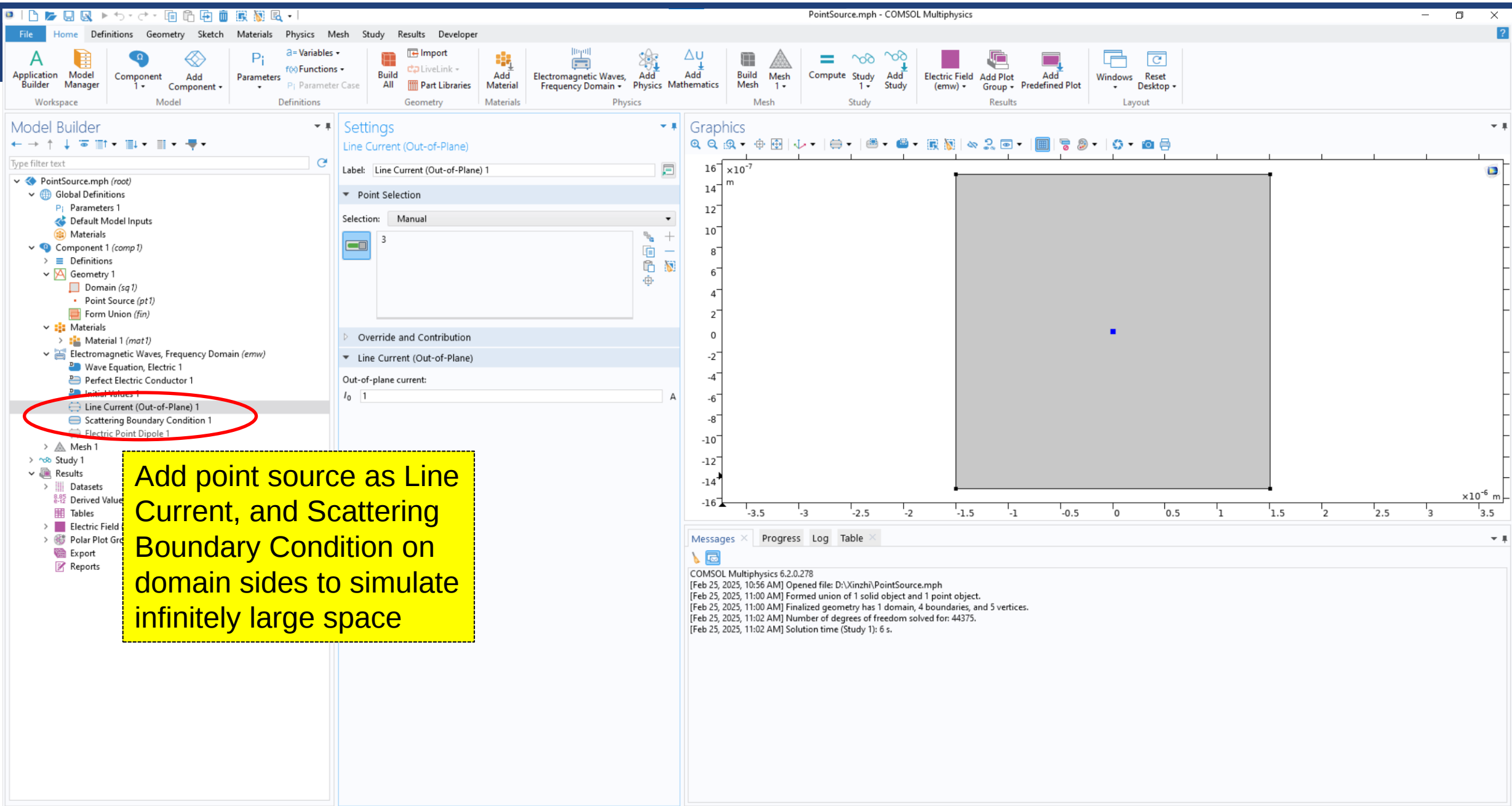
1.21 GB | 1.2 GB

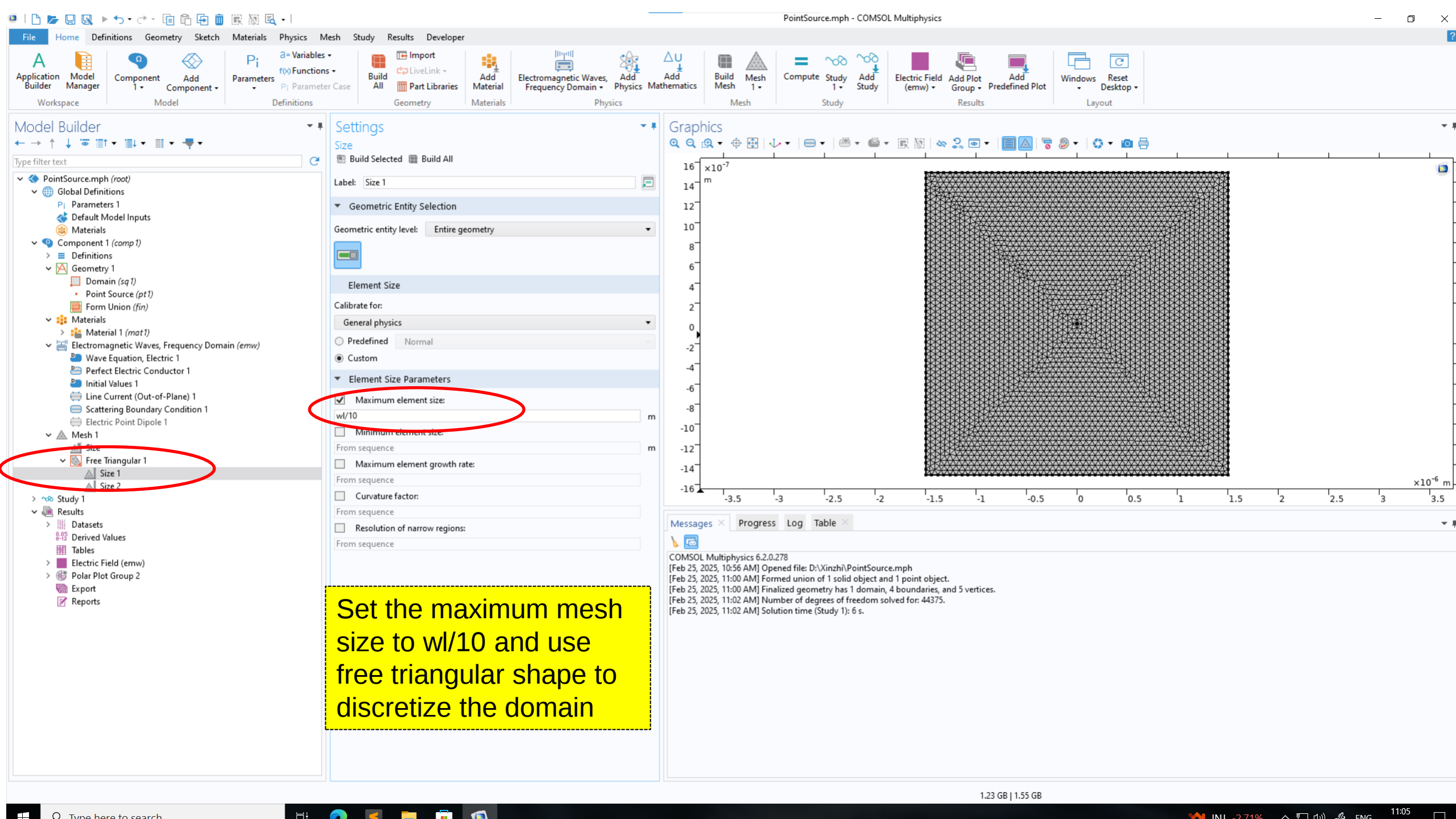
Type here to search

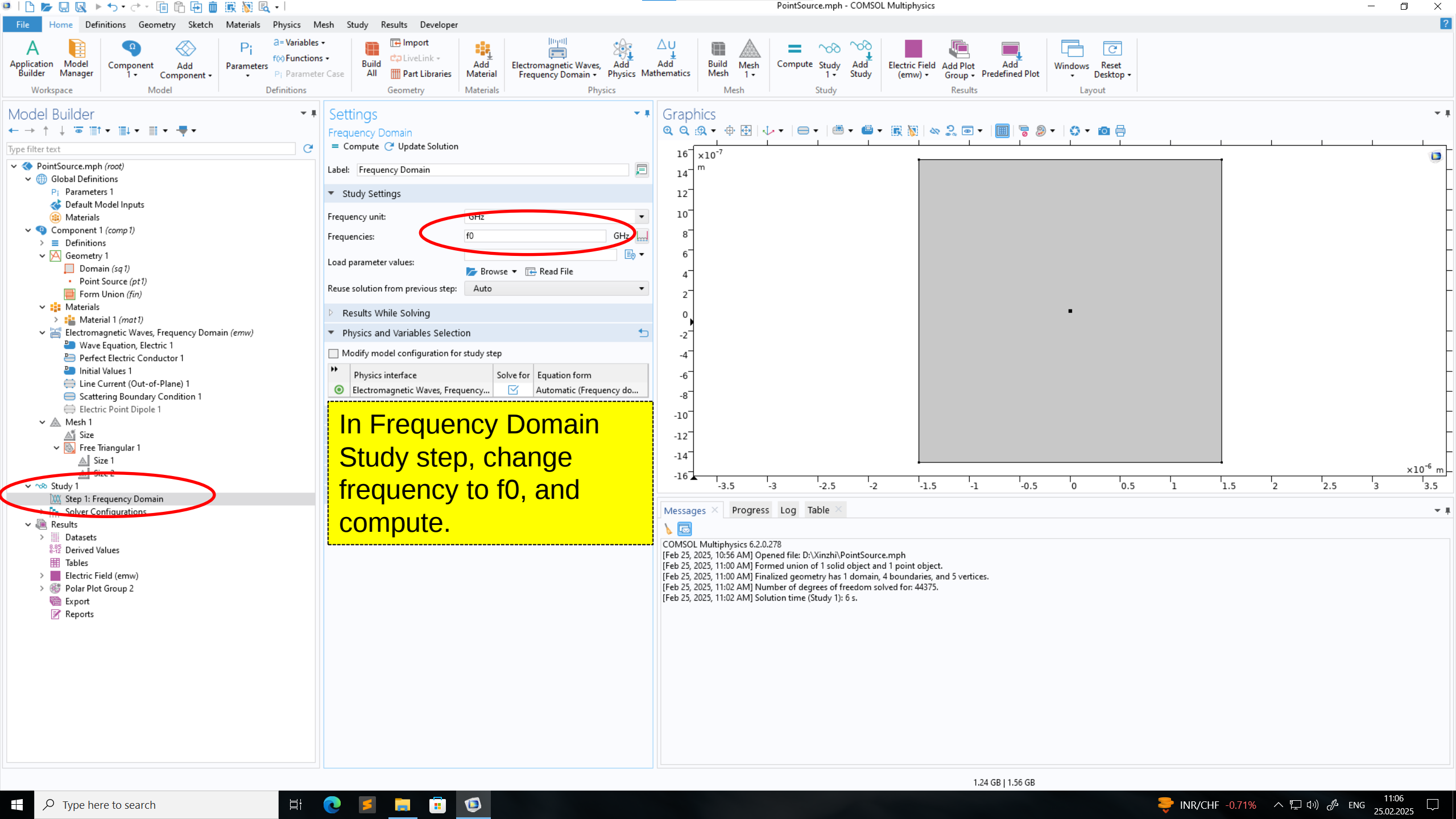
LLY +1.28%

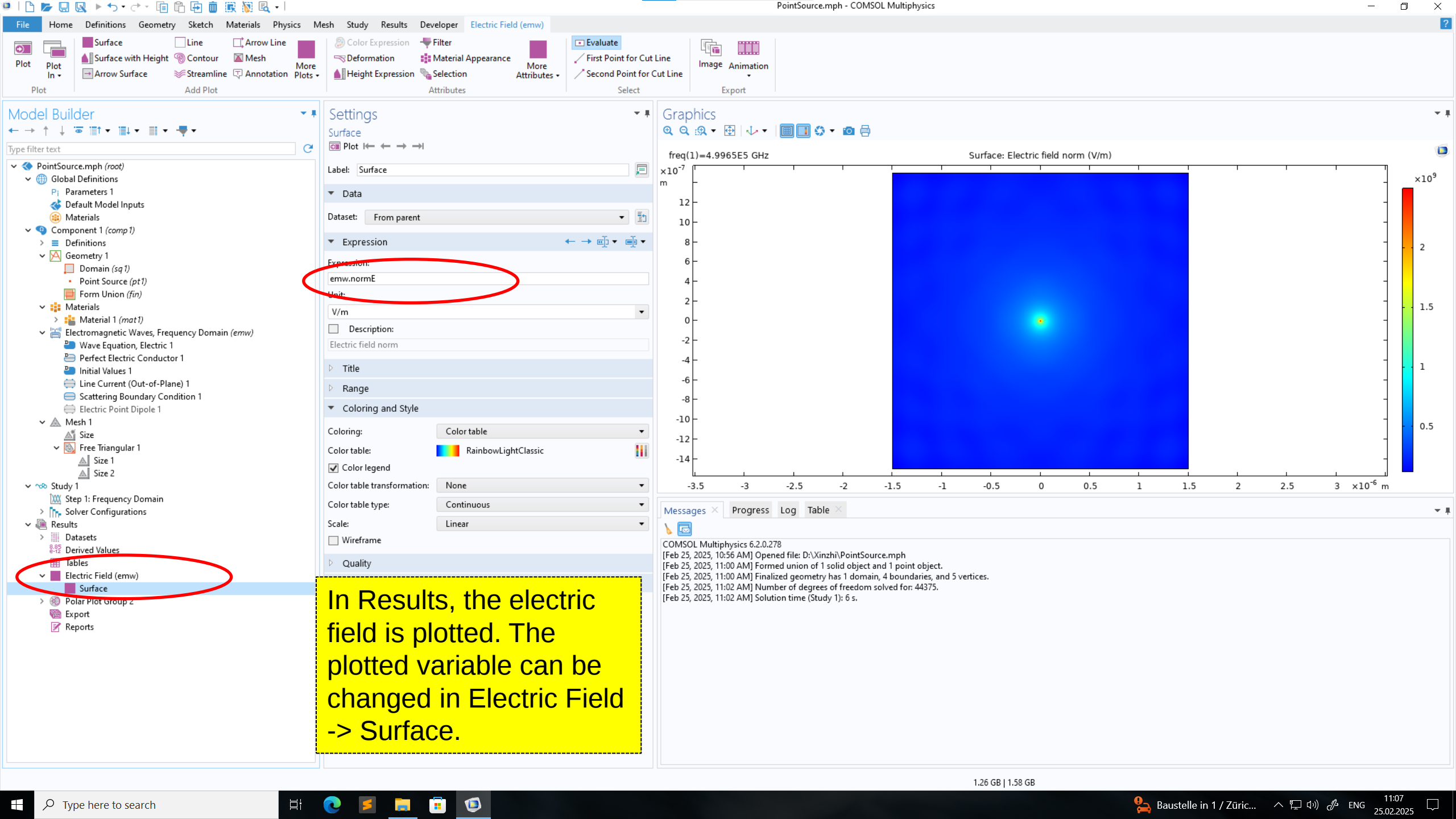
ENG 11:01 25.02.2025

58



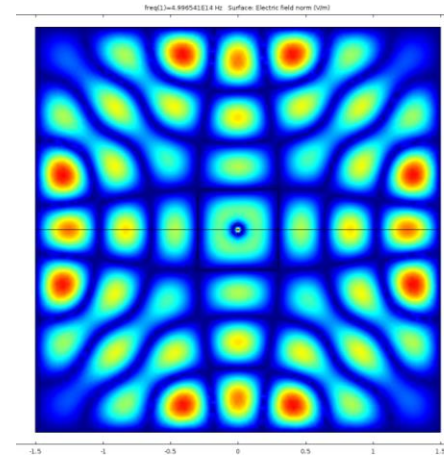




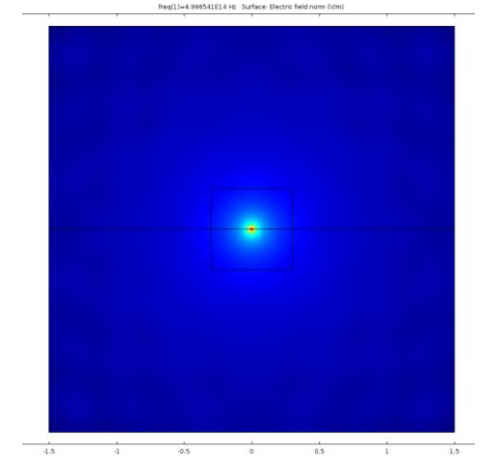


# COMSOL: Boundary Condition

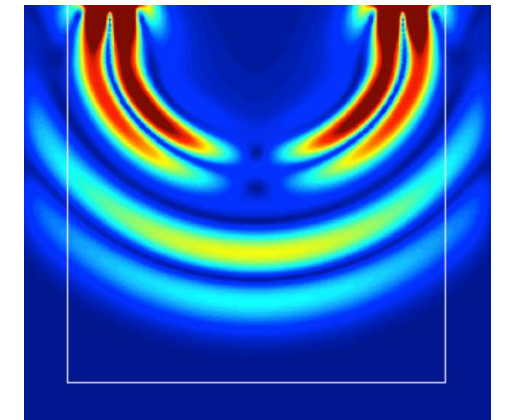
- Purpose of boundary conditions → define simulation domain
- Types of boundary conditions in COMSOL
  - Perfect Electric Conductor (PEC)
  - Perfect Magnetic Conductor (PMC)
  - Scattering Boundary Condition
  - Periodic Boundaries Condition (PBC)
  - Perfectly Matched Layer (PML)



PEC Boundaries



Scattering Boundaries



PML Boundaries

Reminder:

Please log out from the Linux server after simulation is finished.