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## Surface Plasmons – considerations about losses in cavities and in the quantum regime

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The Leverhulme Trust







## Plasmonics group at Imperial - 2008





Yannick Sonnefraud



The boss: Stefan Maier



## Plasmonics group at Imperial - 2009





Yannick Sonnefraud



The boss: Stefan Maier



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## **Plasmonics** group at Imperial - 2011















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- 1. Losses in plasmonic cavities
  - Super/subradiant modes
  - Fano resonances
- 2. Losses in waveguides in the quantum regime
- 3. Non related bonus (if time avails)









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LSPR – tuning



- Enhanced scattering/absorption at resonance
- Easy to tune position by changing dimension



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LSPR – lineshape?



## > How to change lineshape?





LSPR – sources of

damping



## Damping sources:

Electron – electron scattering

Electron – phonon scattering

Electron – surface scattering



hω

Radiation damping Imperial College London



LSPR – sources of

damping



**Damping sources:** 



Radiation damping



## Concept of hybridisation





 Creation of 'plasmonic molecules'

• The plasmonic resonances of the 'atoms' hybridise to create new states in the 'molecule'

E. Prodan, P. Nordlander et al., Science 302, 419 (2003)



Extinction (arb. u.)

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Y. Sonnefraud et al., ACS Nano 4, 1664 (2010)



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Disks and rings, hybridisation – sims





Y. Sonnefraud et al., ACS Nano 4, 1664 (2010)



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Disks and rings, hybridisation - exp.











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## Symmetry breaking – Fano resonances





- Non concentric cavities
- Disk dipole couples to ring dark modes
- Fano resonance appears

F. Hao et al., ACS Nano **3**, 643 (2009)



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## Symmetry breaking – Fano resonances





Fano resonances in disk and rings systems:

## experimental demonstration

N. Verellen *et al.*, *Nano Letters* **9**, 1663 (2009)

Y. Sonnefraud *et al.*, *ACS Nano* **4**, 1664 (2010)











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- Quantum cryptography
- Quantum computing
- Limited by diffraction
- Possibility to use plasmonics?
- Enhanced non linearities, quantum gates...



Quantum Plasmonics?



P1

P2

A2

1300

1100

006 Counts

700

-15

Demonstrations of quantum properties of photons preserved when converted into SPPs -Transmission entangled photons Altewischer et al., Nature 2002 Moreno et al., PRL 2004 HWP BBO - Energy-time entanglement Fasel et al., PRL 2005 - Quantum superposition Fasel et al., New J. Phys 2006 -Wave-particle duality 15 Kolesov et al., Nature Phys. 2009 10 - On-chip single plasmon detection (Lurl) 5 Heeres et al., Nano Lett. 2010 - Etc... 15 - Quantum degree of freedom 'number state" Di Martino et al., Nano Lett. 12, 2504 (2012)

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15

0

t (ns)



Experiment – single photons



Heralded single photons: type-I spontaneous parametric down conversion



Conditioned detection, "heralded" single photons

➤ Generation rate~10<sup>5</sup>/s



Experiment – single photons



- Heralded single photons: type-I spontaneous parametric down conversion
- **Measurement g<sup>2</sup>(\tau)** with Hanbury-Brown and Twiss interferometer





Experiment – single photons



- Heralded single photons: type-I spontaneous parametric down conversion
- **Measurement g<sup>2</sup>(\tau)** with Hanbury-Brown and Twiss interferometer





Experiment – microscopy



Excitation of quanta of leaky SPPs in thin waveguides





Experiment – microscopy



**Excitation of quanta of leaky SPPs** in thin waveguides **Measurement g**<sup>2</sup>( $\tau$ ) with Hanbury-Brown and Twiss interferometer





Results –  $g^2(\tau)$ 





28



Results –  $g^2(\tau)$ 







Results –  $g^2(\tau)$ 







#### Zambra & al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 2005, 95, 063602.



- Source output and detected SPPs are found to be in a nearly pure number state:  $|1\rangle$
- Reconstruction from SPPs excited with an **attenuated laser** is consistent with a coherent state of mean excitation number  $\langle n \rangle \sim 1$

Zambra & al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 2005, 95, 063602.



- Decay length measured with single photons identical to measured with laser excitation
- g<sup>(2)</sup>(0) **unchanged** with stripe length
- Consistent with a linear uncorrelated Markovian loss model



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Di Martino et al., Nano Lett. 12, 2504 (2012)

34







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Willig et al., *Nature* **440**, 935 (2006) Imperial College London



Sivan et al., ACS Nano 6, 5291 (2012)



NP-STED



• At constant power, improvement of the resolution







NP-STED



• At constant power, improvement of the resolution

 Reduction of the power needed to achieve a given resolution

cheaper lasers, easier to implement

Sivan et al., *ACS Nano* **6**, 5291 (2012) Imperial College London





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### Sonnefraud et al., Laser and Phot. Rev. 6, 277 (2012)

Hao *et al., Nano Letters* **8**, 3983 (2008) Hao *et al., ACS Nano* **3**, 643 (2009) Verellen *et al., Nano Letters* **9**, 1663 (2009) Sonnefraud *et al., ACS Nano* **4**, 1664 (2010)



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Di Martino et al., *Nano Lett.* **12**, 2504 (2012)





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#### Sivan et al., ACS Nano 6, 5291 (2012)



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## Use sub-wavelength **slits** in gold film to **excite SPP**

### Observation in **leakage** radiation microscopy

Sonnefraud et al., Opt. Express 20, 4893 (2012)



SPP launch – slits and directionality



Experiment reproduced by a simple analytical model Trade-off size coupler - directionality

