

Concentrating Light at the Nanoscale: Plasmonics and Nano-Optics

Jérôme Wenger



The Lycurgus cup (The British Museum) 4th century AD

→ *Reflected light*



The Lycurgus cup (The British Museum) 4th century AD

→ *Transmitted light*



The Lycurgus cup under the electron microscope

Archaeometry 32, 1 (1990), 33–45. Printed in Great Britain

RESEARCH NOTES AND APPLICATION REPORTS

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ORIGIN OF THE COLOUR OF THE LYCURGUS CUP BY ANALYTICAL TRANSMISSION ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

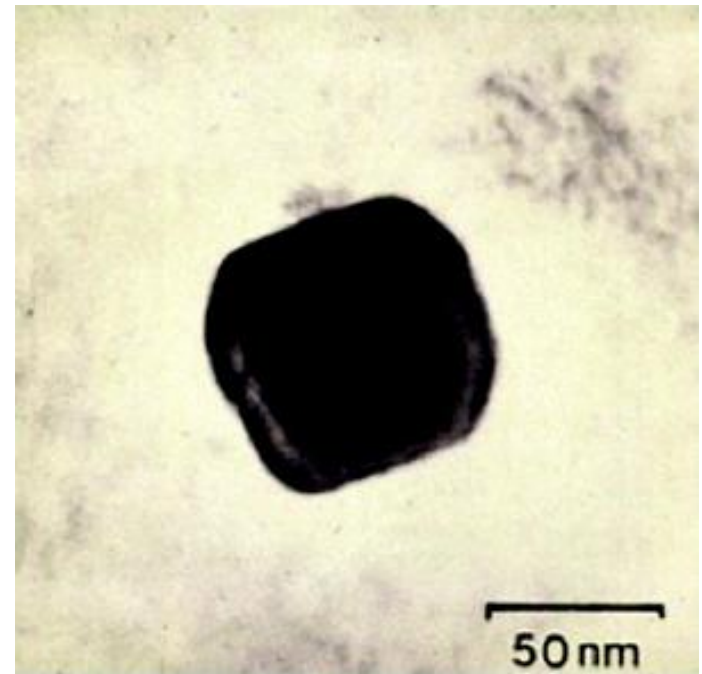
D. J. BARBER

Department of Physics, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ, U.K.

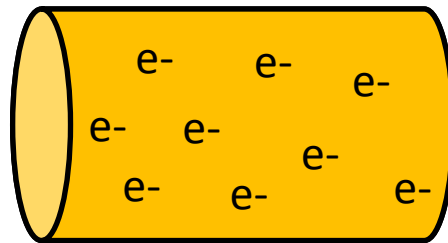
and I. C. FREESTONE

British Museum Research Laboratory, London, WC1B 3DG, U.K.

70nm alloy $\text{Ag}_{0.7}/\text{Au}_{0.3}$ nanoparticles

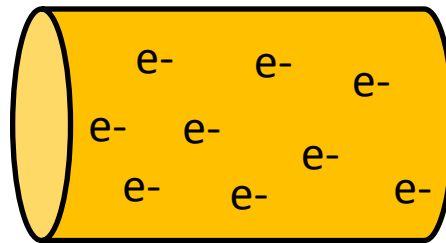


Free electrons (plasma) oscillations in a nanoparticle



Gold

Free electrons (plasma) oscillations in a nanoparticle



Gold

Free electrons (plasma) oscillations in a nanoparticle



Free electrons (plasma) oscillations in a nanoparticle



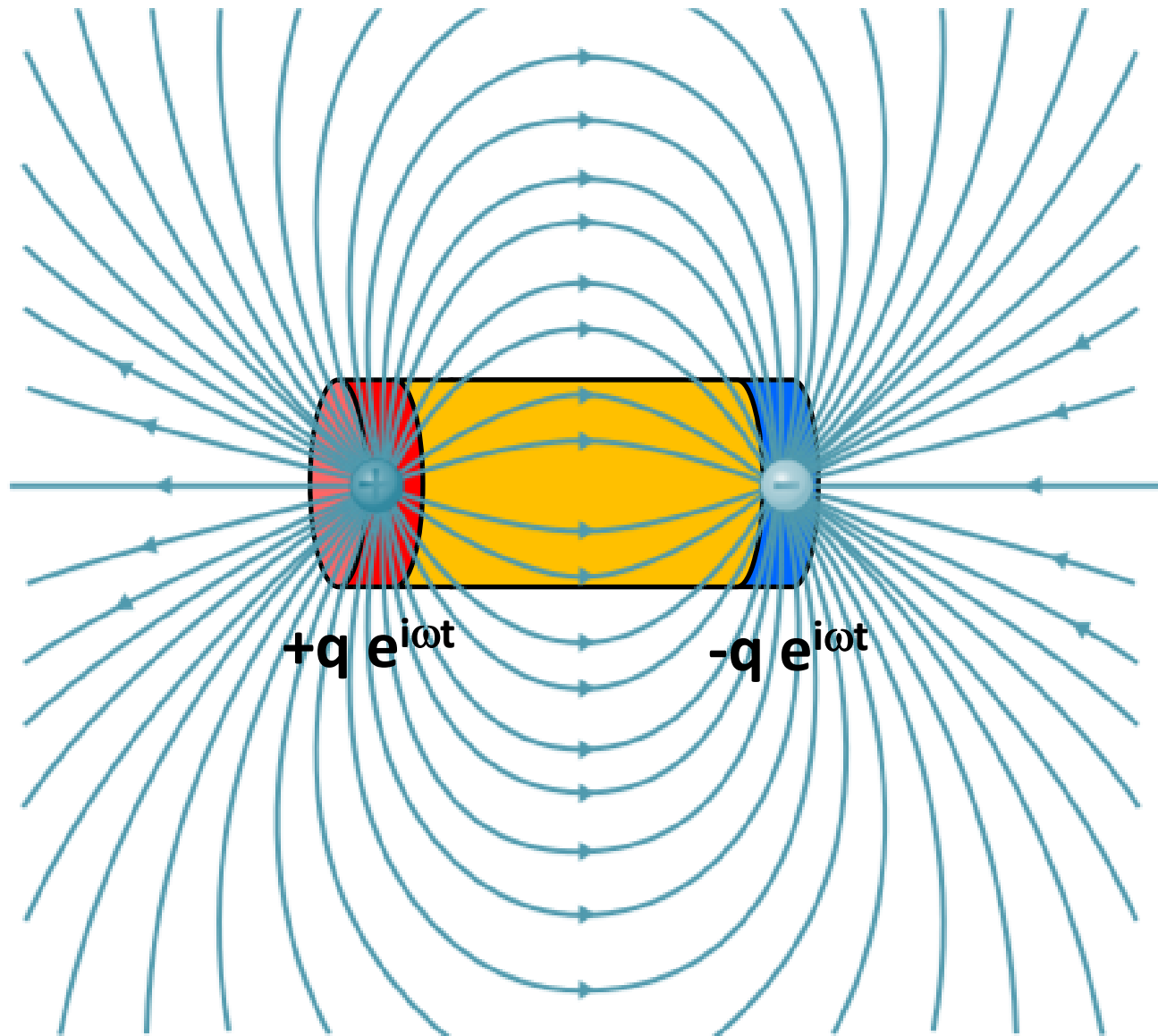
Half a period later....

Free electrons (plasma) oscillations in a nanoparticle

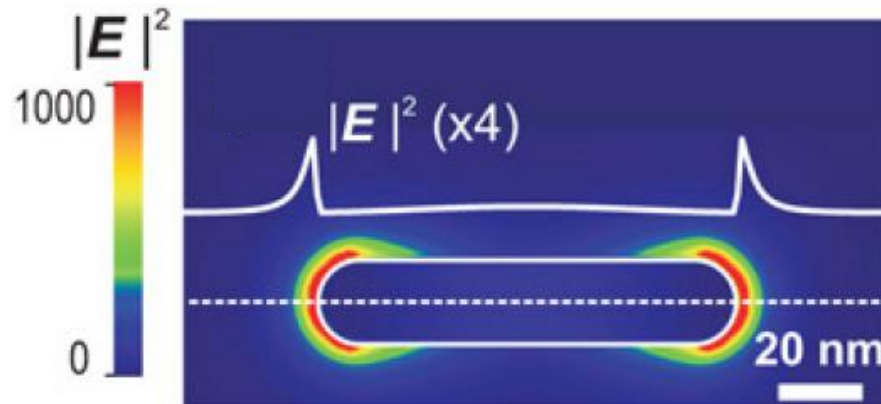


Another half a period later....

Oscillating charges in a nanoparticle at optical frequency

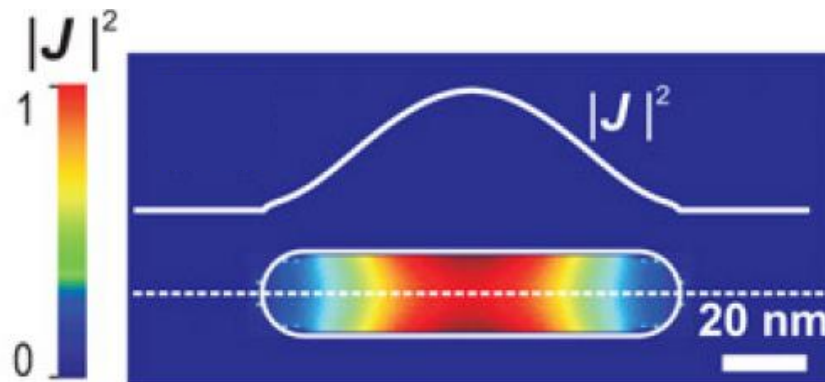


Oscillating charges in a nanoparticle at optical frequency



Intense fields

Nanoscale localization

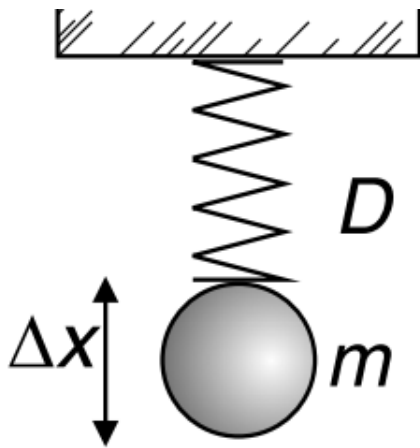


Coupling with light

Ohmic dissipation

Oscillating charges in a nanoparticle at optical frequency

Spring & mass model



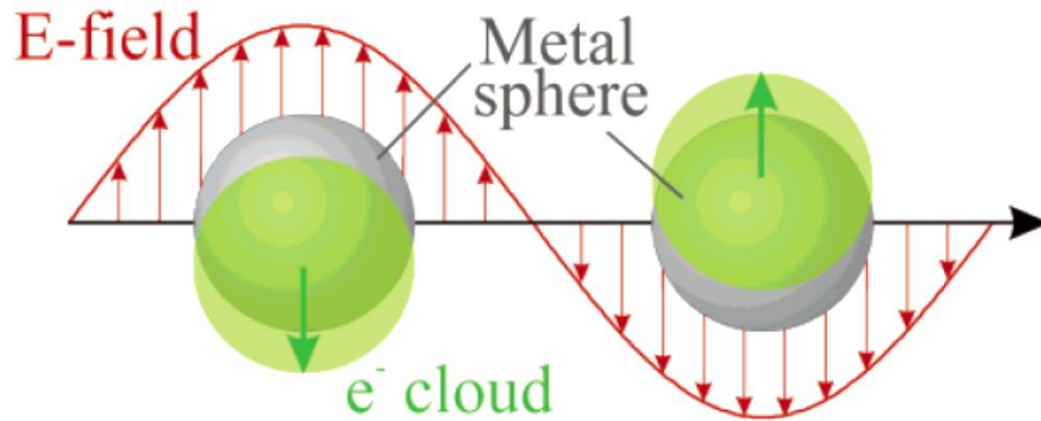
Resonance frequency

$$\omega_{\text{res}} = \frac{\omega_p}{2\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{R}$$

→ Red-shift when aspect ratio R increases

→ There is always a resonance below ω_p for any size

Polarisability of a spherical nanoparticle

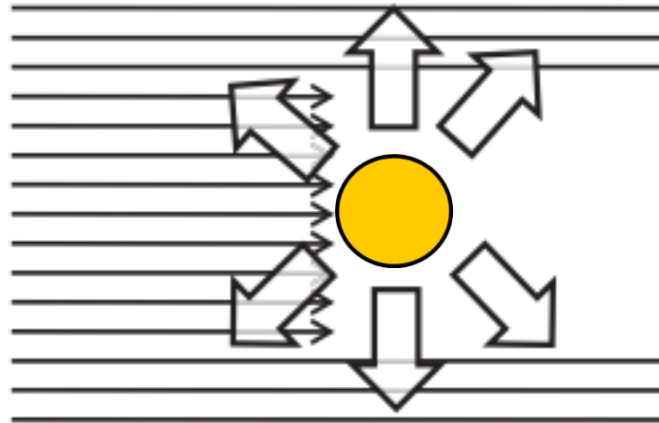


Schatz, JPCB 2003

For radius $\ll \lambda$, the quasi-static polarisability is

$$\alpha(\omega) = 4\pi\epsilon_{ref}a^3 \frac{\epsilon_{gold}(\omega) - \epsilon_{ref}}{\epsilon_{gold}(\omega) + 2\epsilon_{ref}}$$

Polarisability of a spherical nanoparticle – Optical observables



Extinction = scattering + absorption

removed from
the beam

Re-radiated into
all angles

Lost as heat in
the scatterer

Polarisability of a spherical nanoparticle – Optical observables

Absorption



$$\sigma_{\text{abs}} = \frac{k}{\epsilon_0} \text{Im} [\alpha(\omega)]$$

scales as d^3 / λ

Scattering

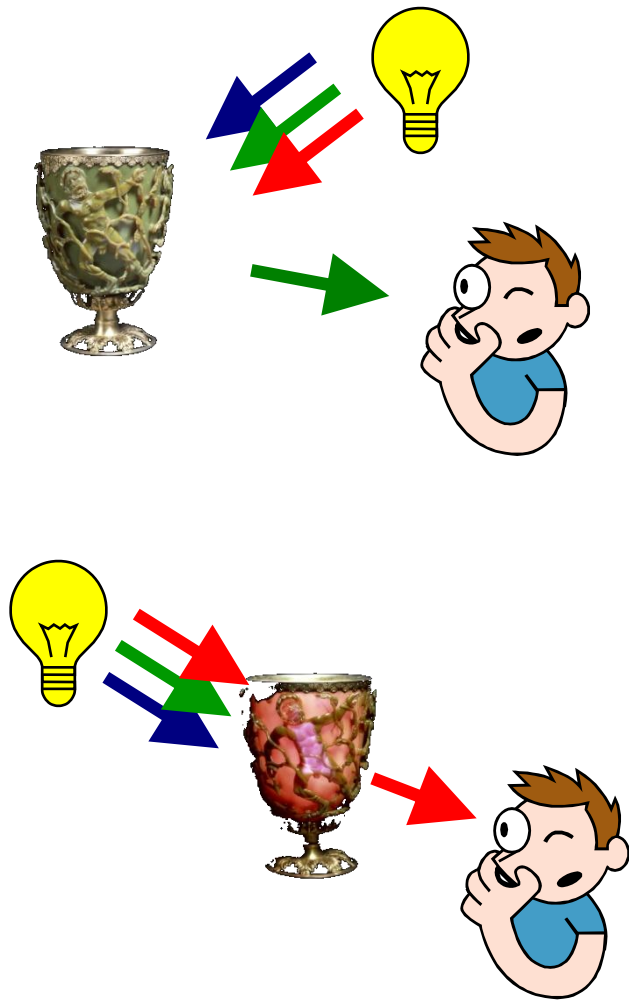


$$\sigma_{\text{scatt}} = \frac{k^4}{6\pi \epsilon_0^2} |\alpha(\omega)|^2$$

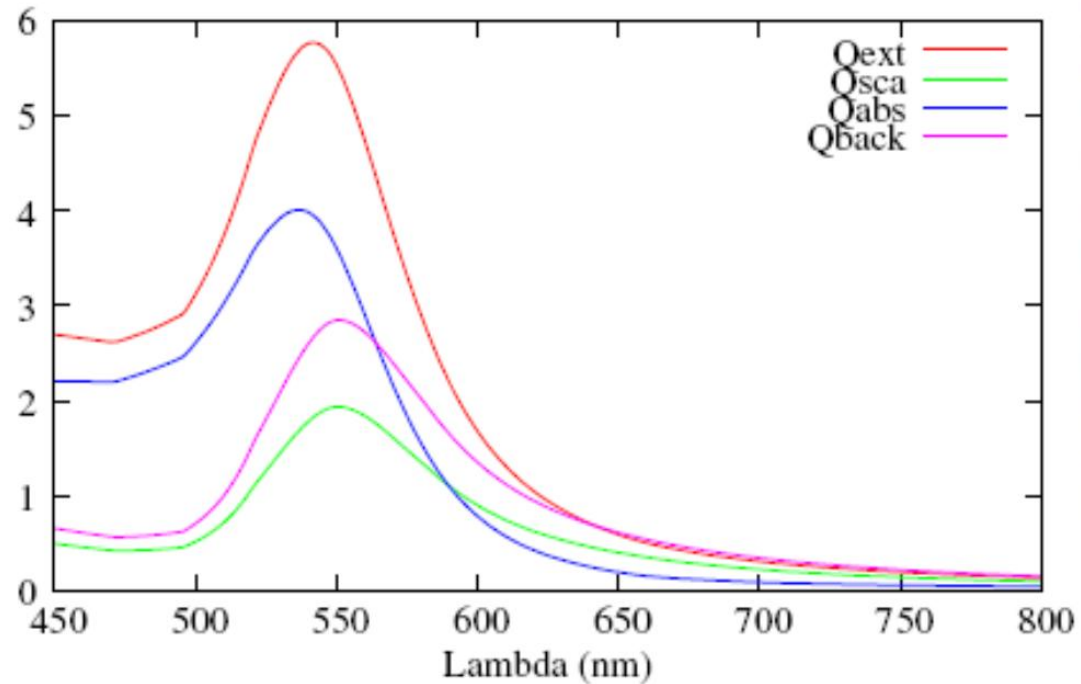
scales as d^6 / λ^4

$$\alpha(\omega) = 4\pi\epsilon_{\text{ref}} a^3 \frac{\epsilon_{\text{gold}}(\omega) - \epsilon_{\text{ref}}}{\epsilon_{\text{gold}}(\omega) + 2\epsilon_{\text{ref}}}$$

Back to Lycurgus cup

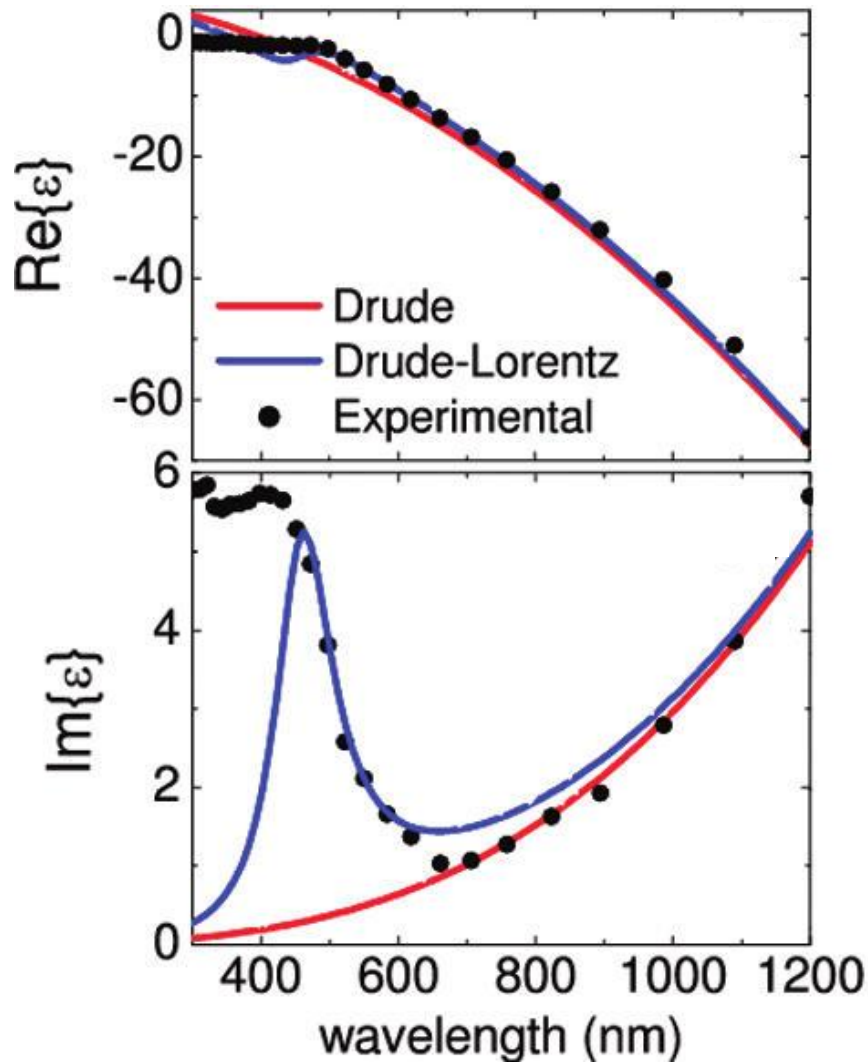


Absorption, Scattering and Extinction
of a 70nm gold sphere in glass



$$\alpha(\omega) = 4\pi\epsilon_{ref}a^3 \frac{\epsilon_{gold}(\omega) - \epsilon_{ref}}{\epsilon_{gold}(\omega) + 2\epsilon_{ref}}$$

Optical properties of real metals



$$\epsilon_{\text{Drude}}(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_{\text{p}}^2}{\omega^2 + i\gamma\omega}$$

$$\epsilon_{\text{Lorentz}}(\omega) = 1 + \frac{\tilde{\omega}_{\text{p}}^2}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) - i\tilde{\gamma}\omega}$$

- Large negative real part
- Smaller imaginary part
- Interband transitions < 550 nm
- Depends on deposition method

Optical properties of real metals → www.refractiveindex.info

RefractiveIndex.INFO

Refractive index database

[Use](#) [Get](#) [Give](#) [Talk](#) [Cite](#)

Shelf

MAIN - simple inorganic materials
ORGANIC - organic materials
GLASS - glasses
OTHER - miscellaneous materials
3D - selected data for 3D artists

Book

Au (Gold)

Page

Olmon et al. 2012 - Evaporated gold; n,k 0.300-24.93 μm

Optical constants of Au (Gold)

Olmon et al. 2012 - Evaporated gold; n,k 0.300-24.93 μm

Wavelength:

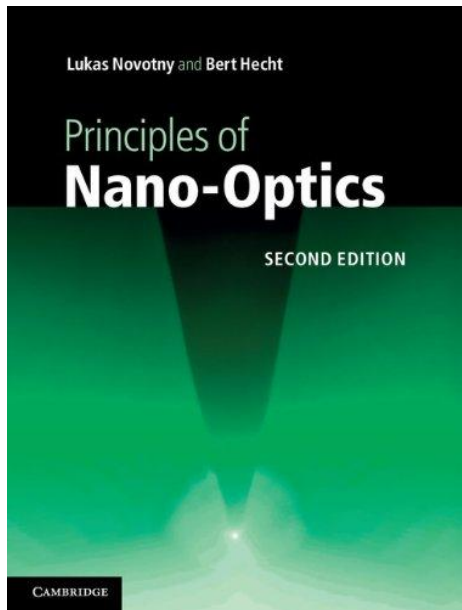


μm (3.000E-01 – 2.493E+01)

[line select](#)

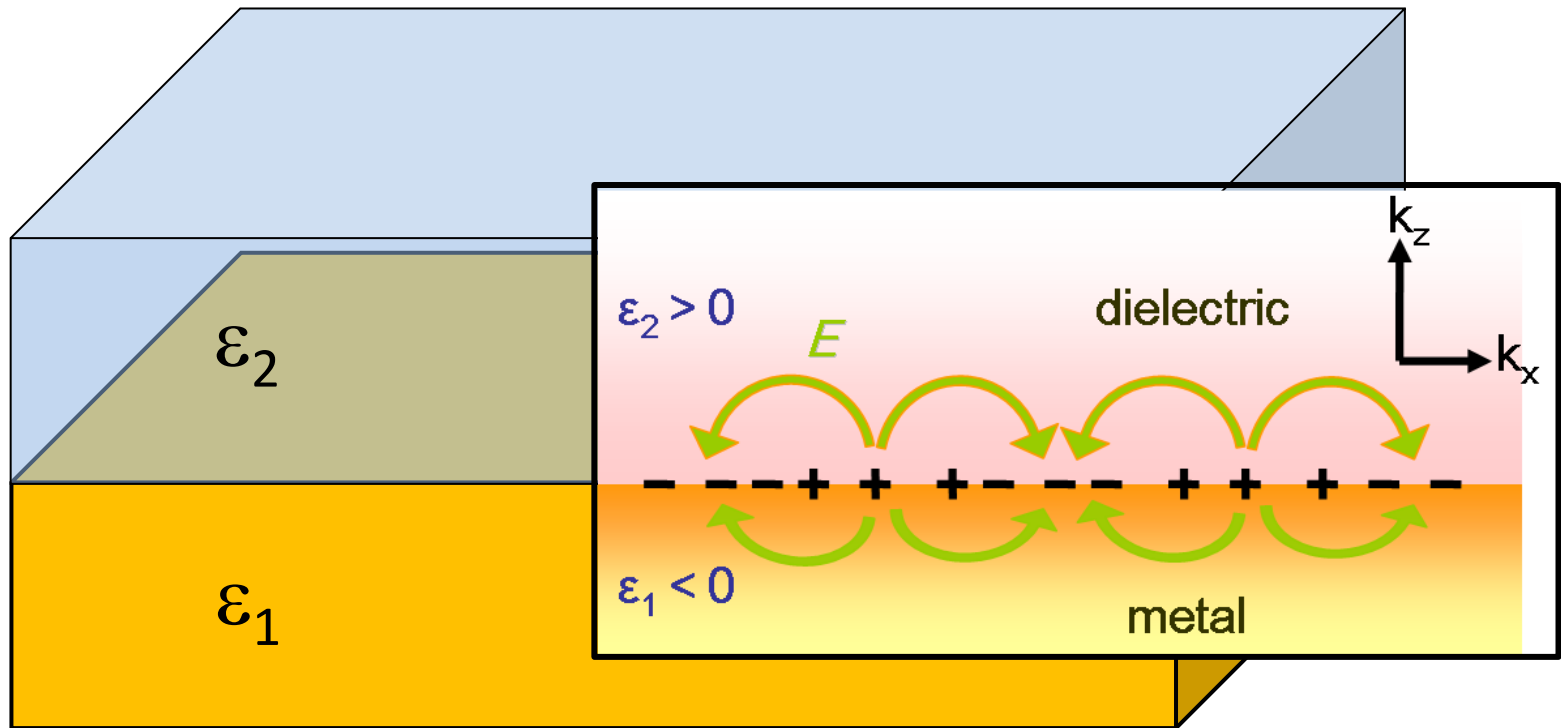
What is a surface plasmon ?

Surface plasmon polariton = quanta of surface charge oscillations
= surface mode solutions of Maxwell's equations

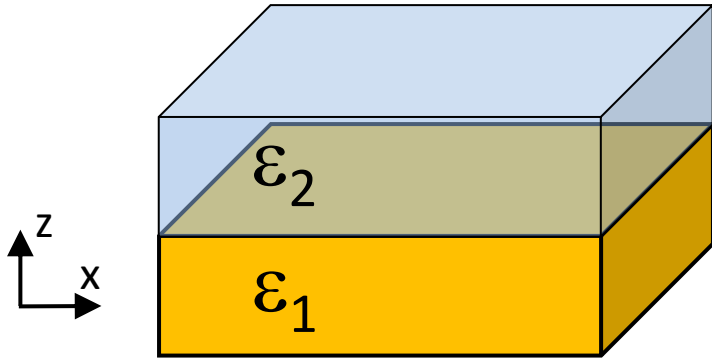


L. Novotny & B. Hecht, Principles of Nano-Optics

Surface plasmons at plane interfaces



Surface plasmons at plane interfaces



Conditions for Maxwell's equations solutions:

$$k_x^2 + k_{j,z}^2 = \epsilon_j k^2$$

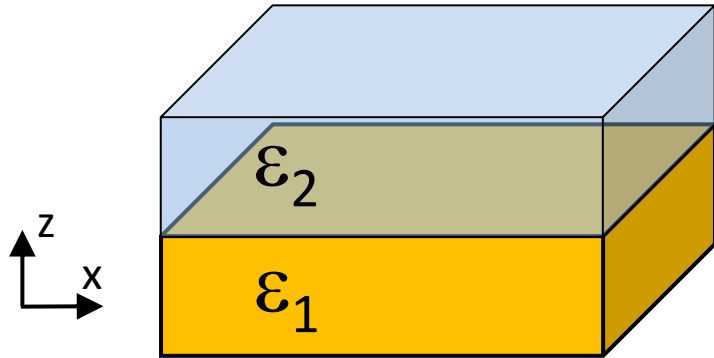
$$\epsilon_1 k_{2,z} - \epsilon_2 k_{1,z} = 0$$

$$\epsilon_1(\omega) \cdot \epsilon_2(\omega) < 0.$$

$$\epsilon_1(\omega) + \epsilon_2(\omega) < 0.$$

- Surface solution exists for metal-dielectric interface
- Only for TM polarization

Surface plasmons at plane interfaces



Complex metal permittivity $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon'_1 + i\epsilon''_1$

Dispersion relation

$$k'_x \approx \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon'_1 \epsilon_2}{\epsilon'_1 + \epsilon_2}} \frac{\omega}{c}$$

Surface plasmon wavelength

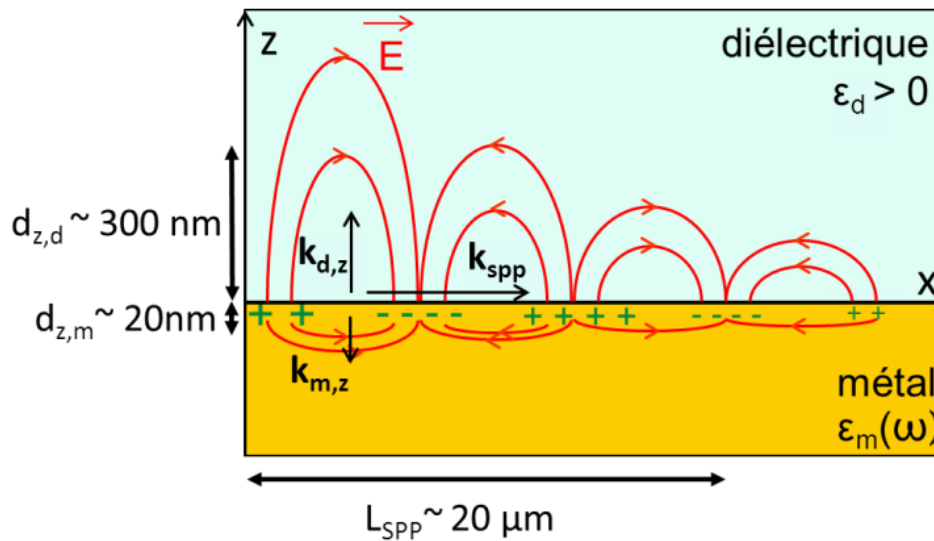
$$\lambda_{\text{SPP}} = \frac{2\pi}{k'_x} \approx \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon'_1 + \epsilon_2}{\epsilon'_1 \epsilon_2}} \lambda$$

Attenuation distance

$$k''_x \approx \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon'_1 \epsilon_2}{\epsilon'_1 + \epsilon_2}} \frac{\epsilon''_1 \epsilon_2}{2\epsilon'_1 (\epsilon'_1 + \epsilon_2)} \frac{\omega}{c}$$

Typical values for air/metal interface @ $\lambda = 633$ nm

	Gold	Silver
Permittivity	$\epsilon = -11.6 + 1.2i$	$\epsilon = -18.2 + 0.5i$
Propagation length	10 μm	60 μm
Decay into metal	28 nm	23 nm
Decay into air	330 nm	420 nm



Excitation of surface plasmons at interfaces

Momentum conservation :

$$k_x^2 + k_{j,z}^2 = \epsilon_j k^2$$

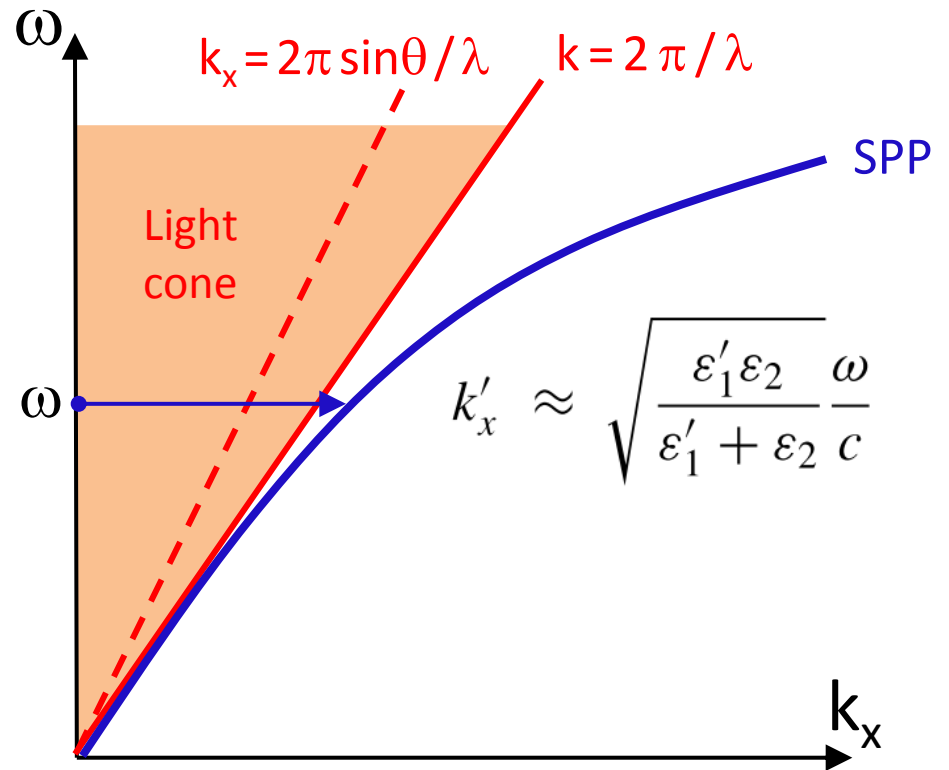
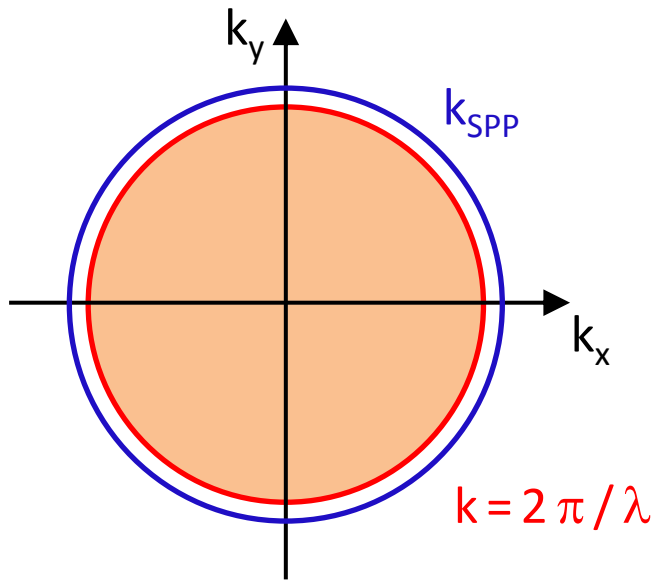
greater than $2\pi/\lambda$!
No direct coupling to light

< 0
evanescent
 k_z imaginary

constant
 $2\pi/\lambda$

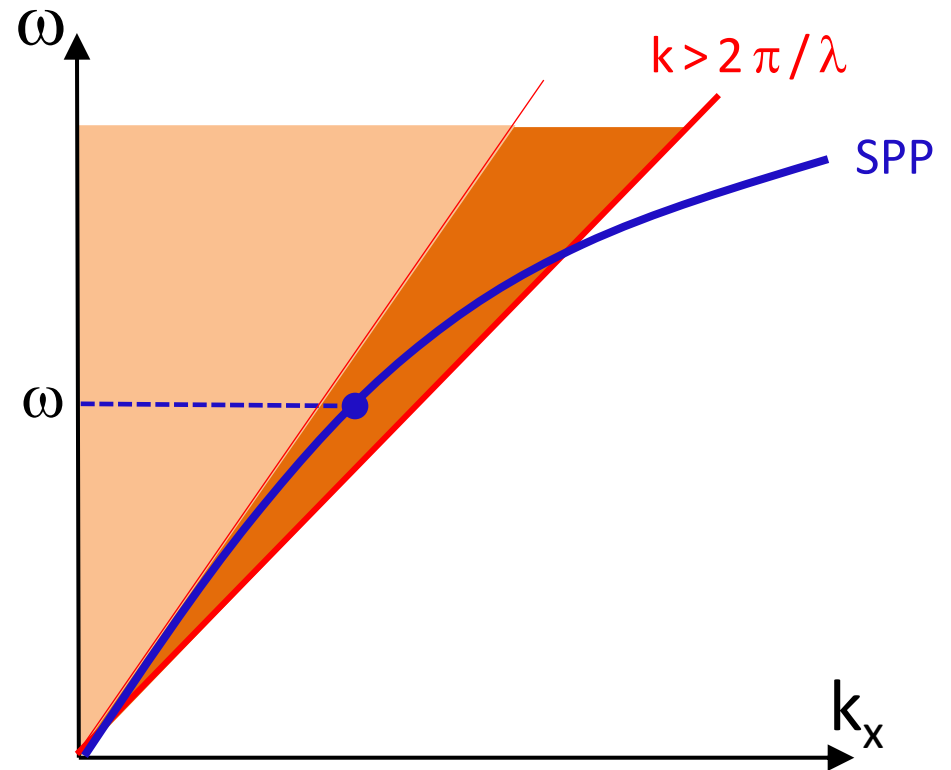
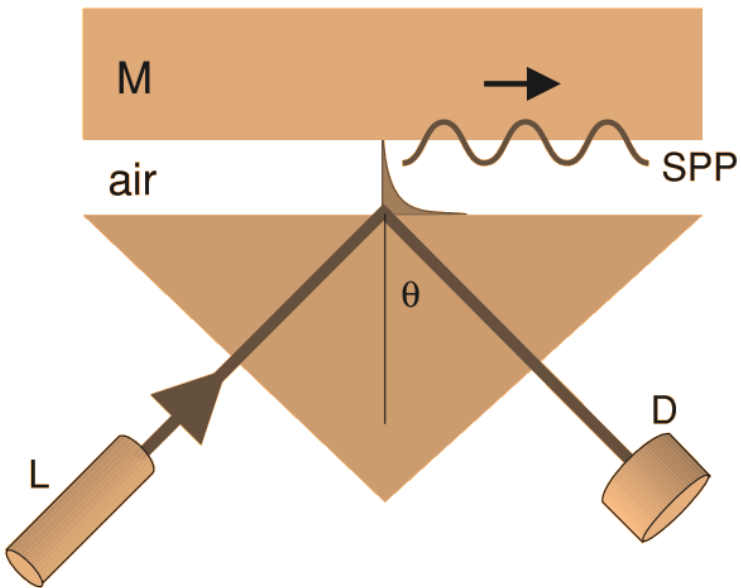
Excitation of surface plasmons at interfaces

Momentum conservation : $k_x^2 + k_{j,z}^2 = \epsilon_j k^2$



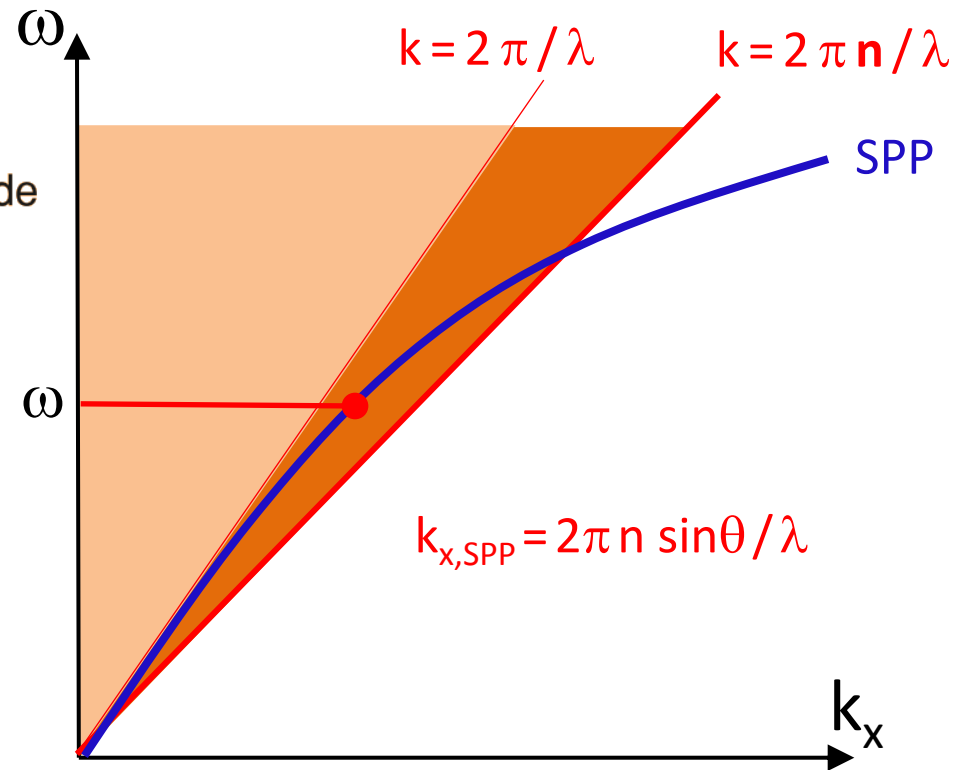
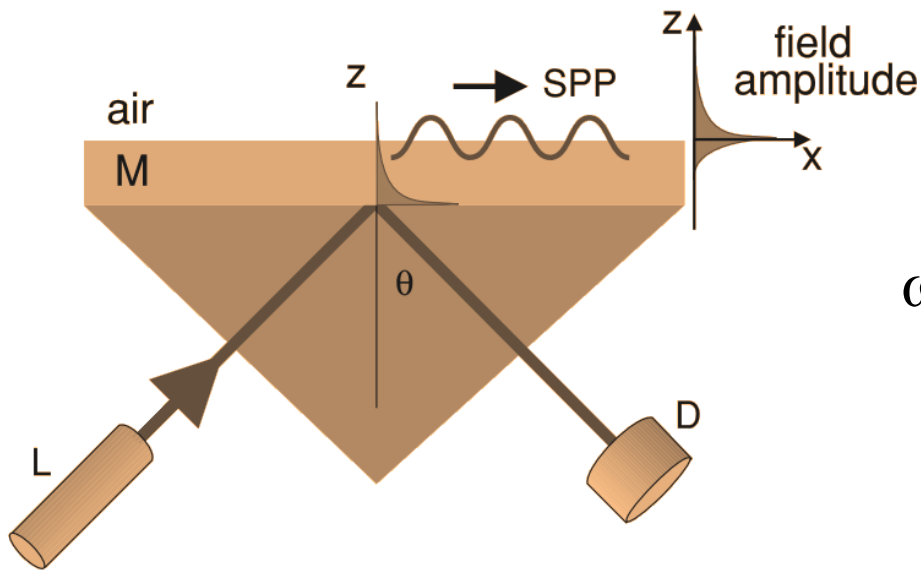
Solution #1: evanescent wave coupling via prism

Otto configuration



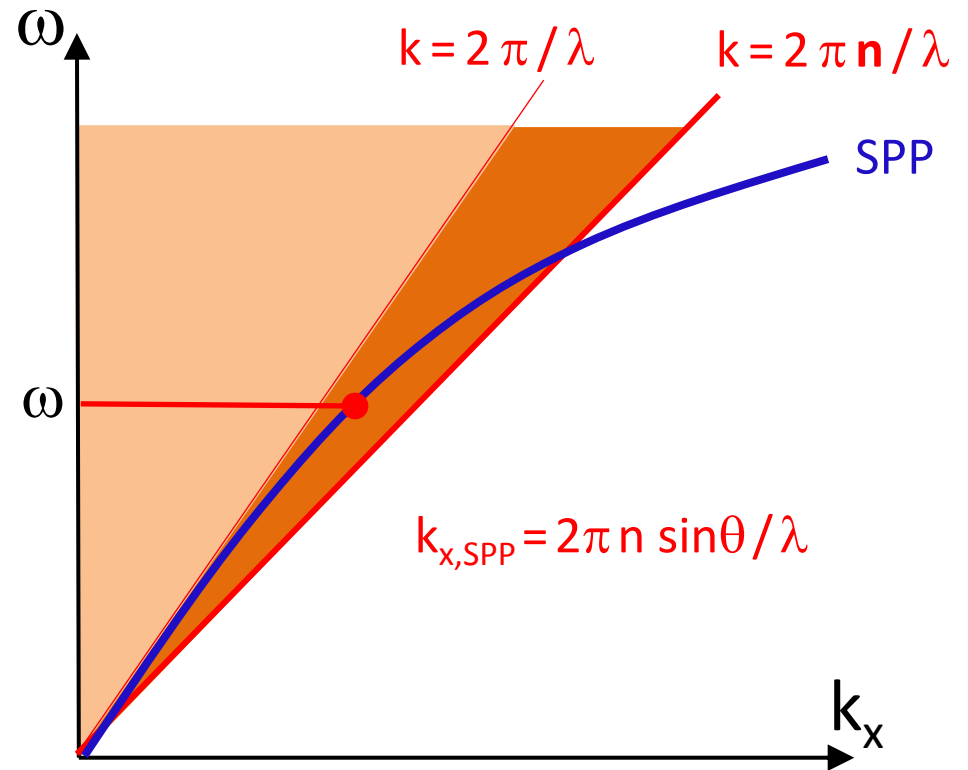
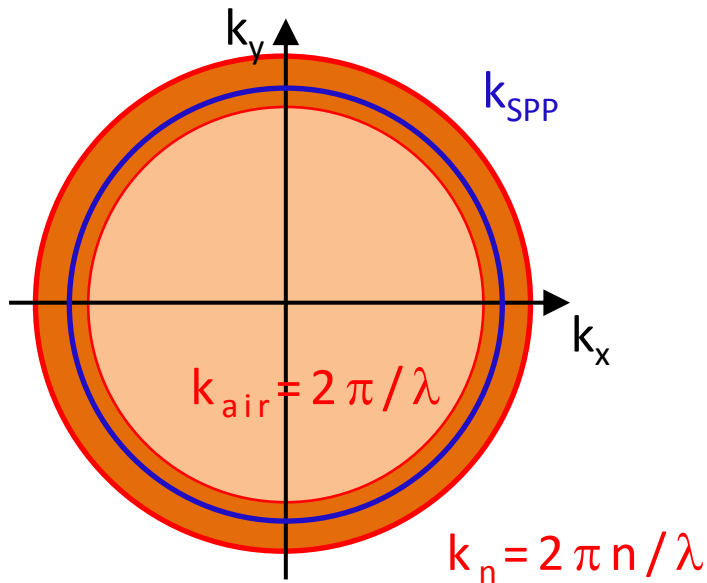
Solution #2: coupling via high refractive index substrate

Kretschmann configuration



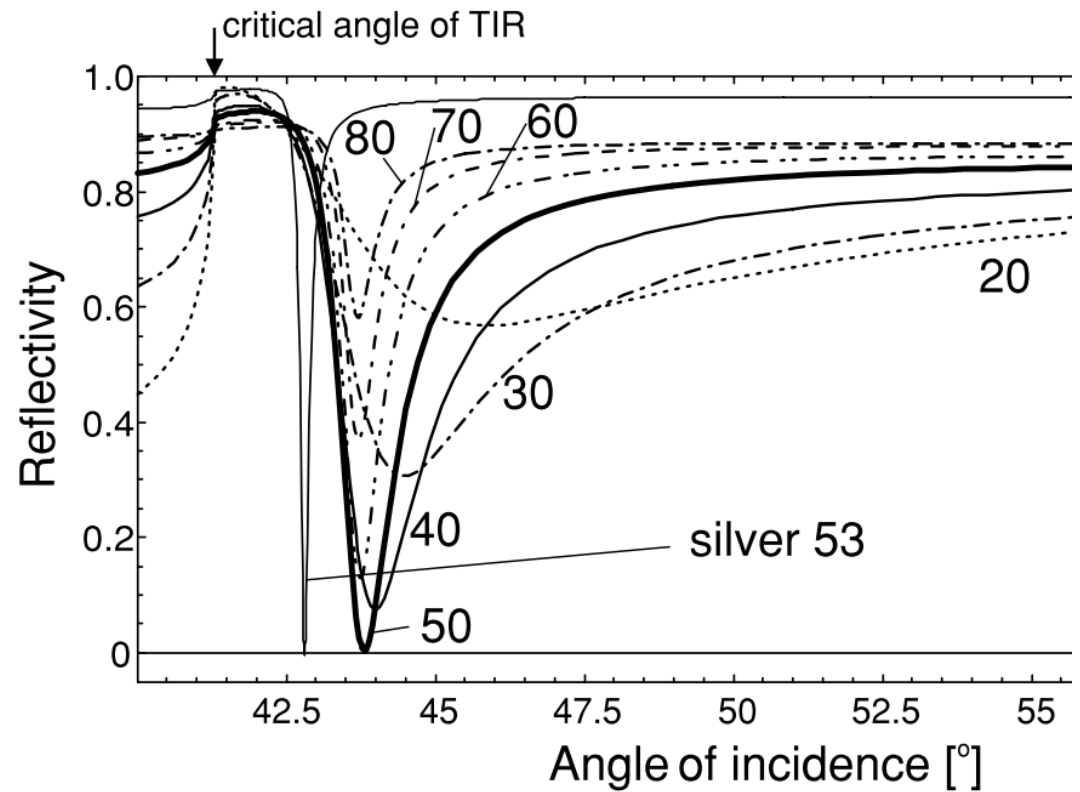
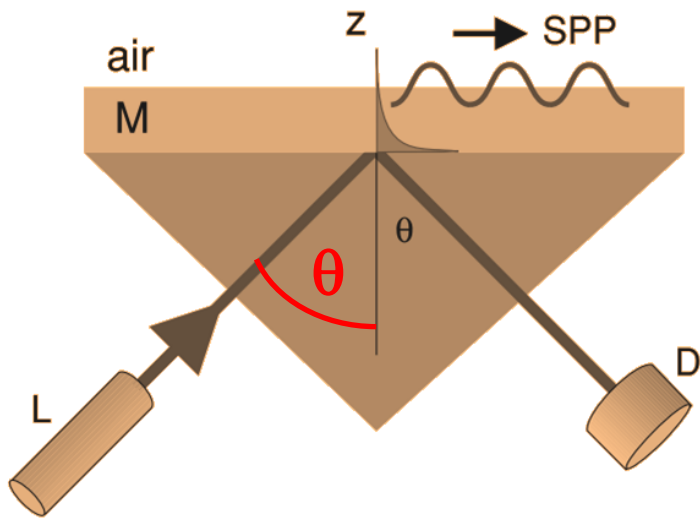
Solution #2: coupling via high refractive index substrate

Kretschmann configuration

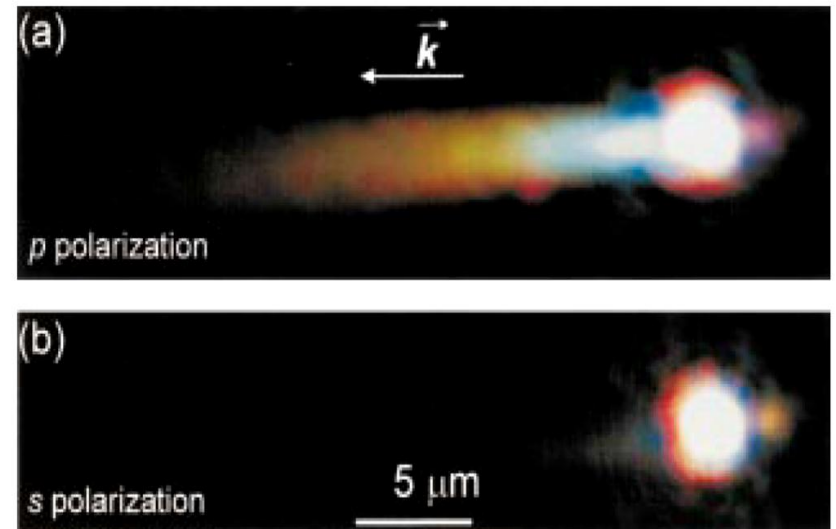
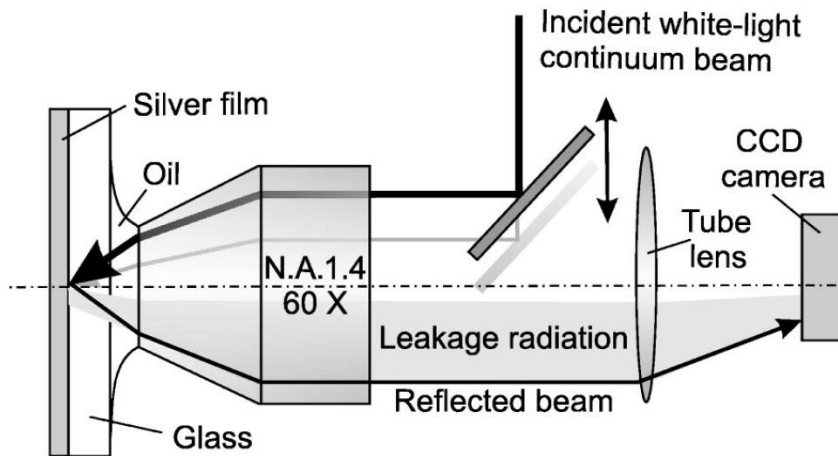


Solution #2: coupling via high refractive index substrate

Kretschmann configuration

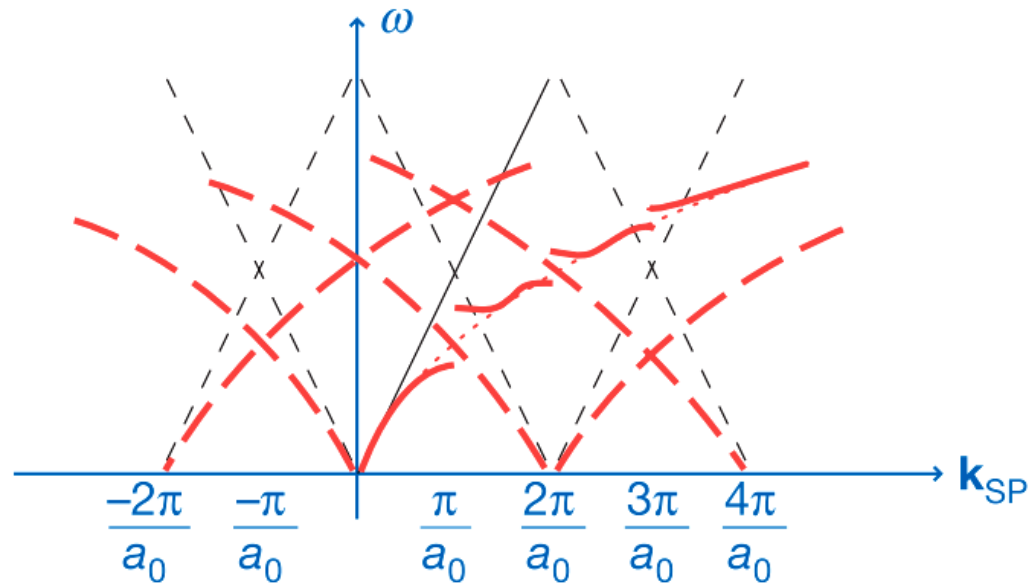
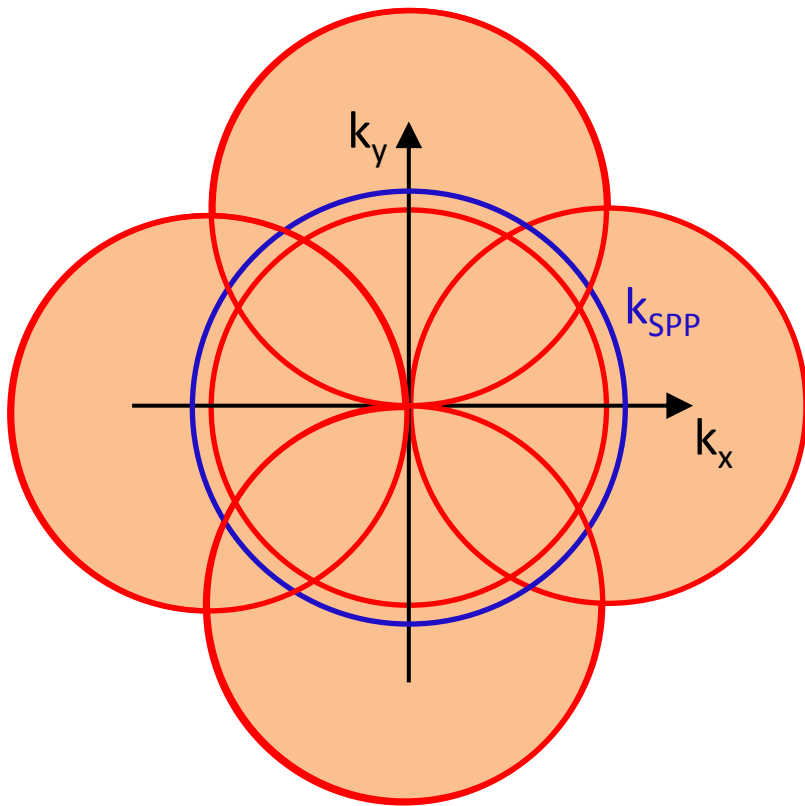


Solution #2: coupling via high refractive index substrate



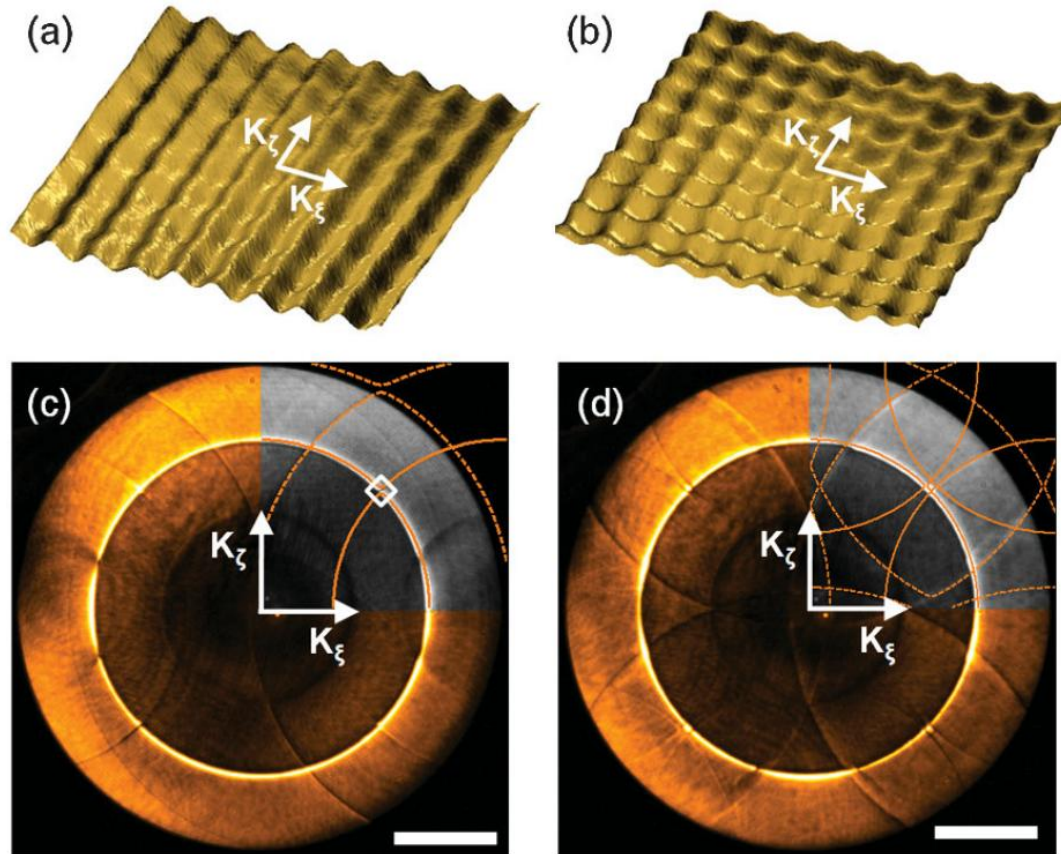
Solution #3: coupling via a grating

Extra momentum from grating lattice $k'_x = k_x + 2\pi n/a$



Genet *et al*, Nature 445, 39 (2007)

Solution #3: coupling via a grating



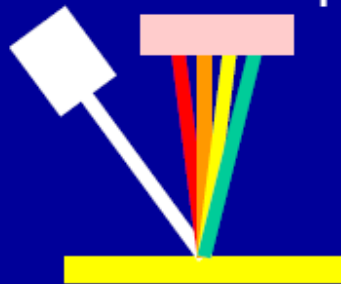
Solution #3: coupling via a grating

« One of the most interesting problems
that I have ever met with »

R.W. Wood, 1902

Incandescent
lamp

Spectrometer

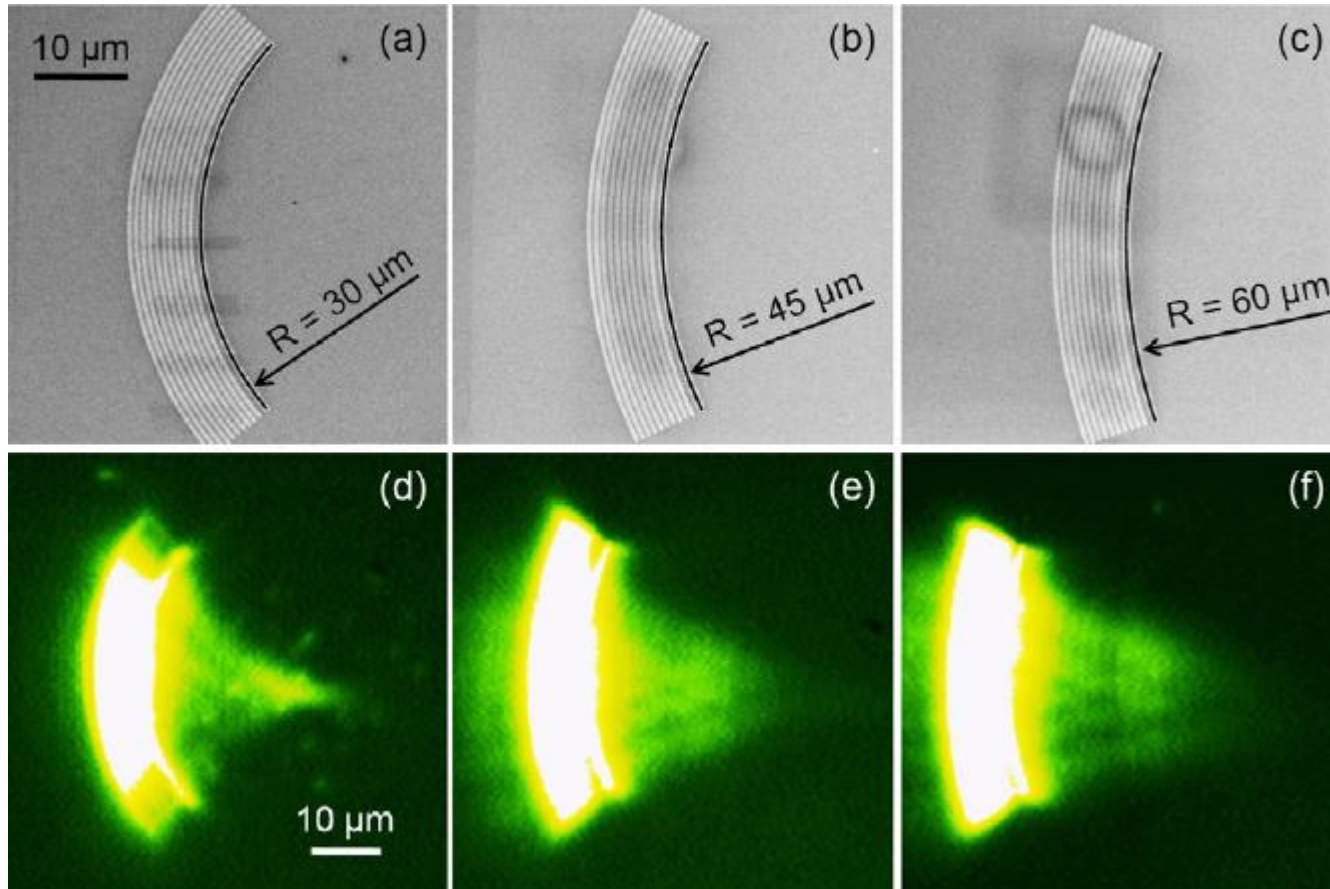


Ruled grating

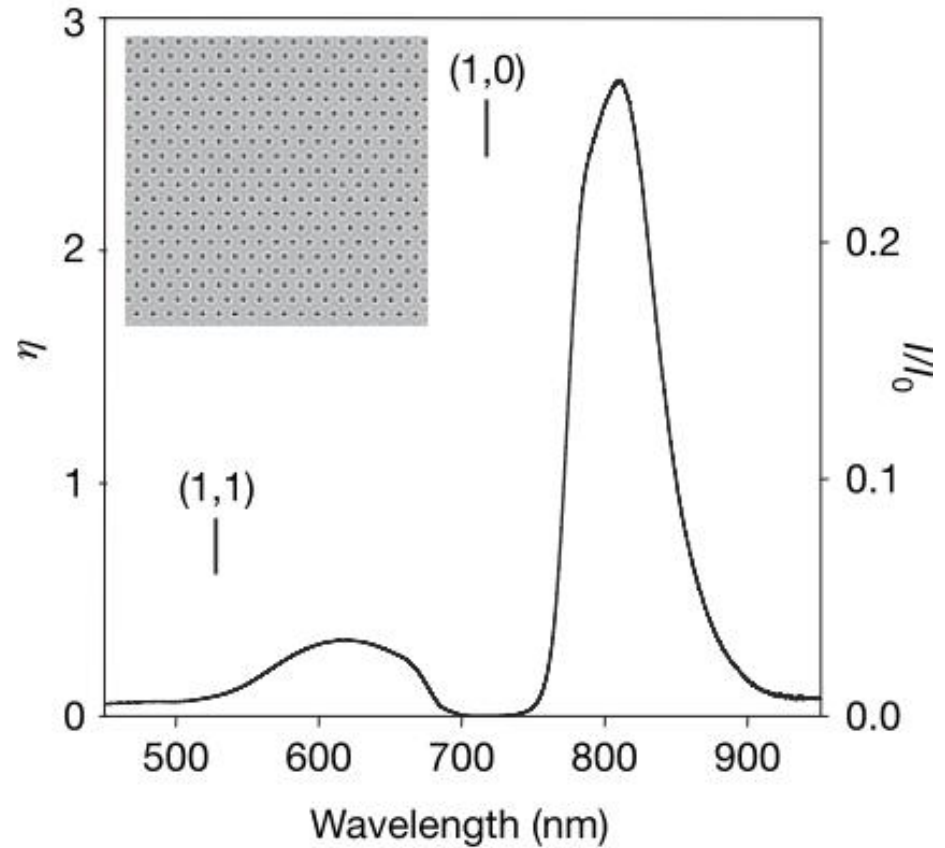
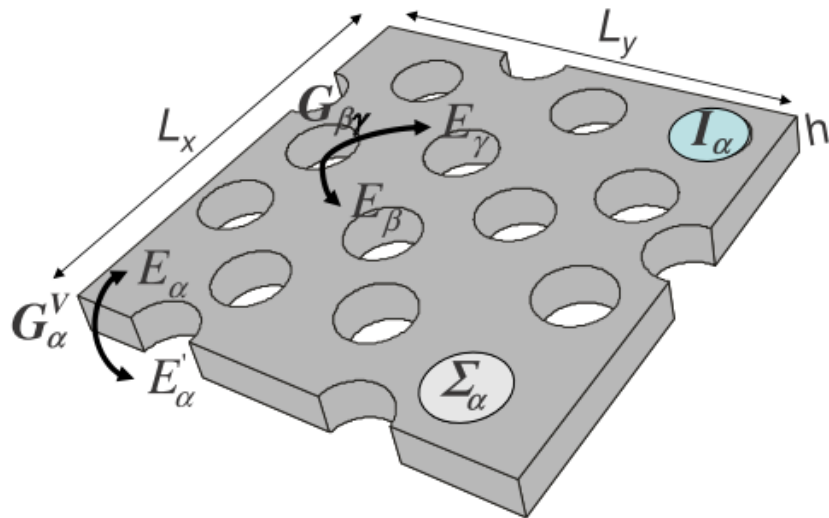
« I was astounded to find that under certain conditions, the drop from maximum illumination to minimum, a drop certainly of from 10 to 1, occurred within a range of wavelengths not greater than the distance between the sodium lines »

« The singular anomalies were exhibited only when the direction of electric field was at right angle to the ruling »

Solution #3: coupling via a grating



Extraordinary optical transmission through aperture arrays



Ebbesen *et al*, Nature **391**, 667 (1998)

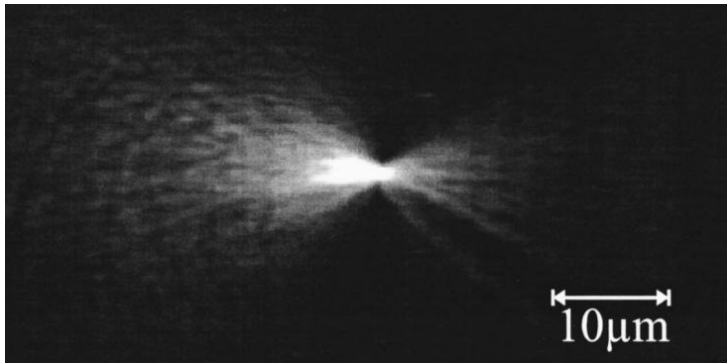
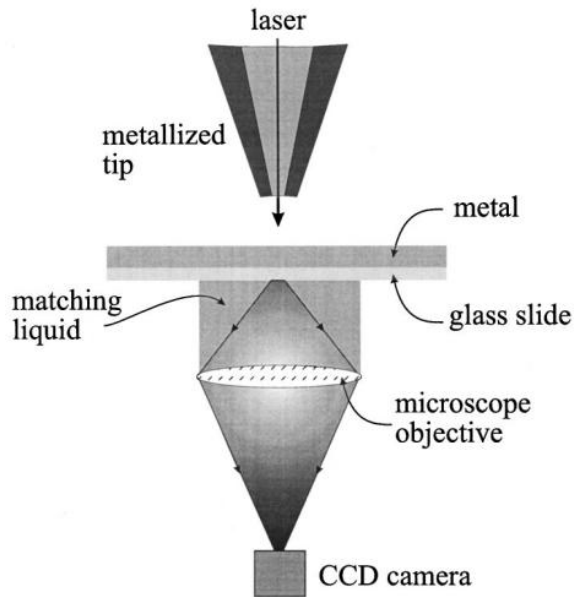
Genet *et al*, Nature **445**, 39 (2007)

Garcia-Vidal *et al*, Rev Mod Phys **82**, 729 (2010)

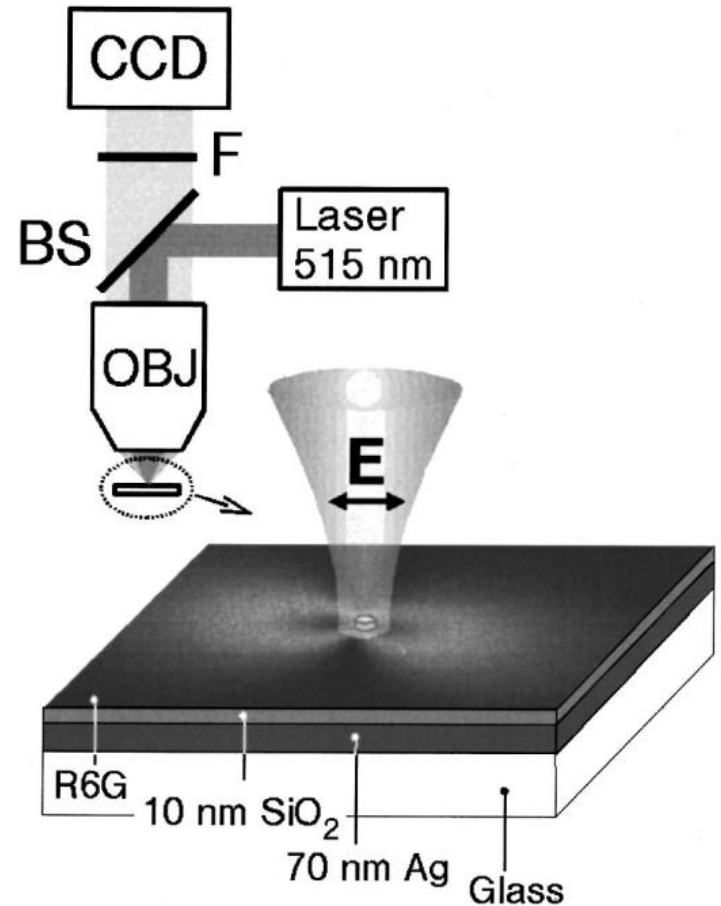
$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{P}{\sqrt{\frac{4}{3}(i^2 + ij + j^2)}} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_m \epsilon_d}{\epsilon_m + \epsilon_d}}$$

Solution #4: using sub- λ scatterer

NSOM probe, nanoparticle, hole, molecule...

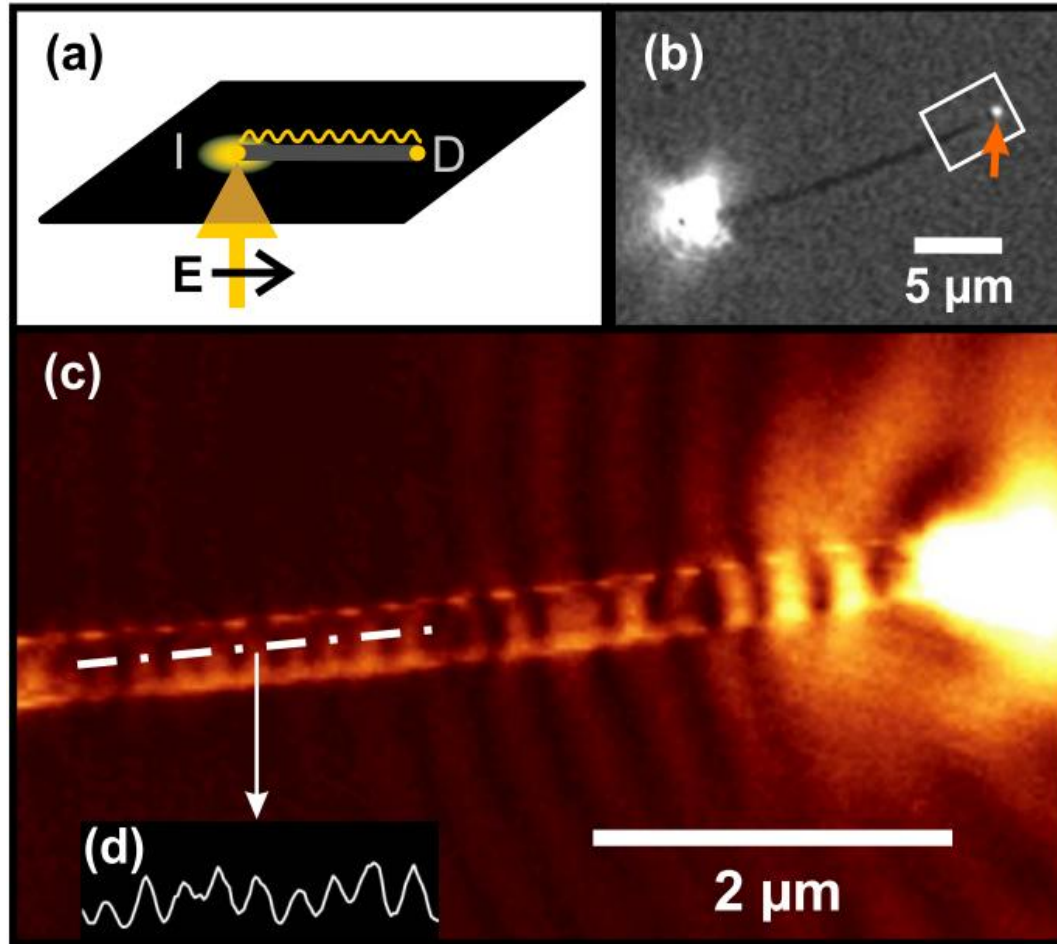


Baida, JOSA A 18, 1552 (2001)



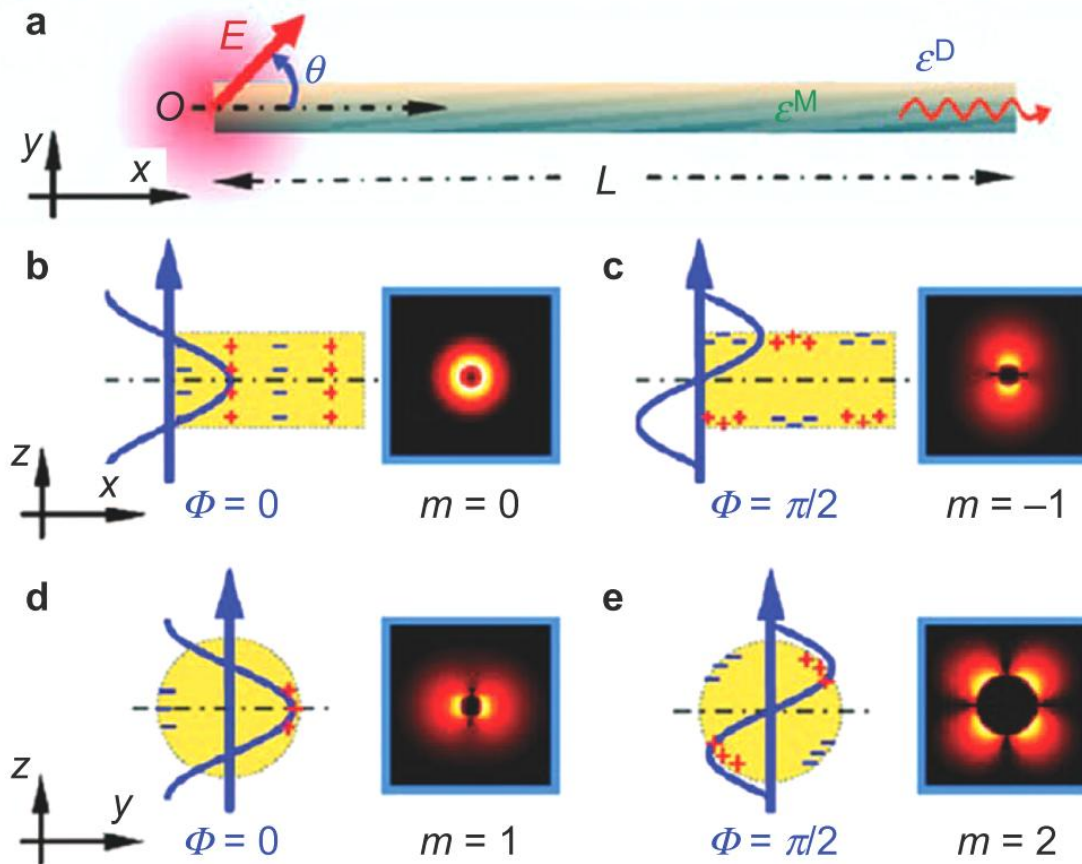
Ditlbacher, Appl Phys Lett 80, 404 (2002)

Plasmons on nanowires



Ditlbacher, Phys Rev Lett 95, 257403 (2005)

Plasmons on nanowires

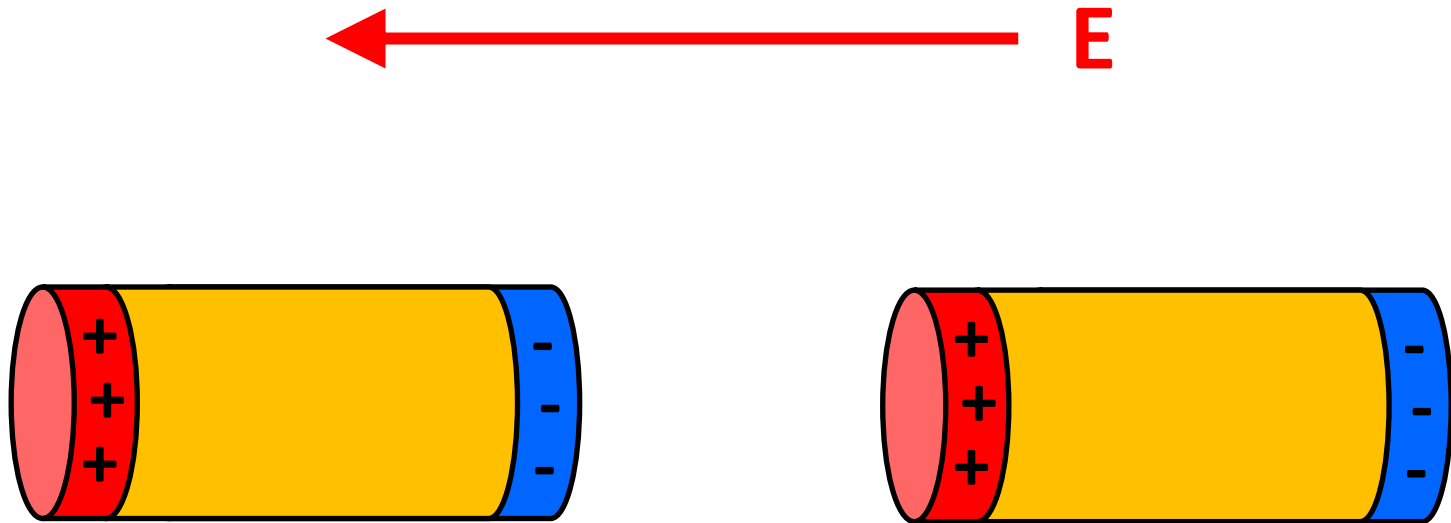


Zhang, Phys Rev Lett 107, 096801 (2011)

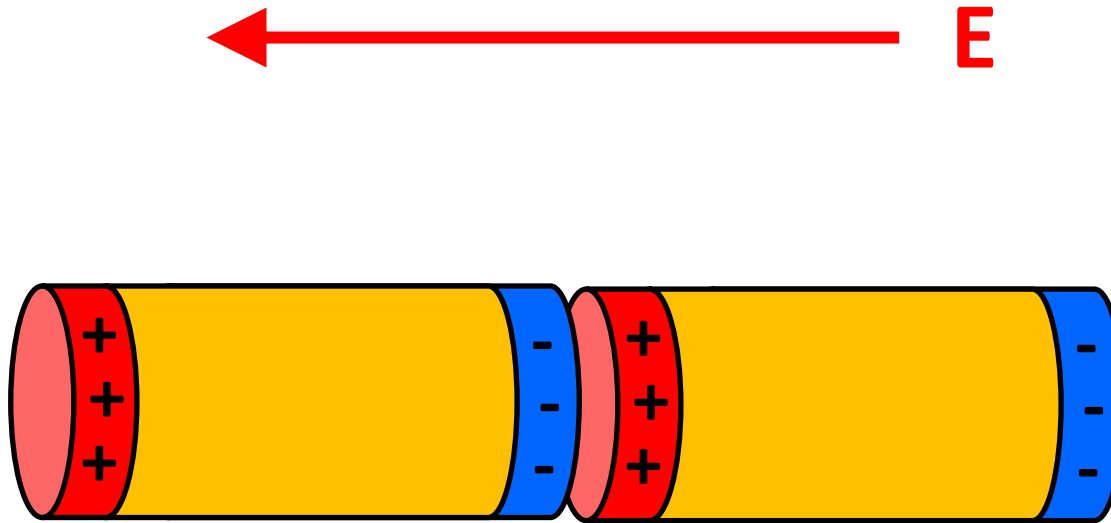
Local surface plasmon in a nanoparticle



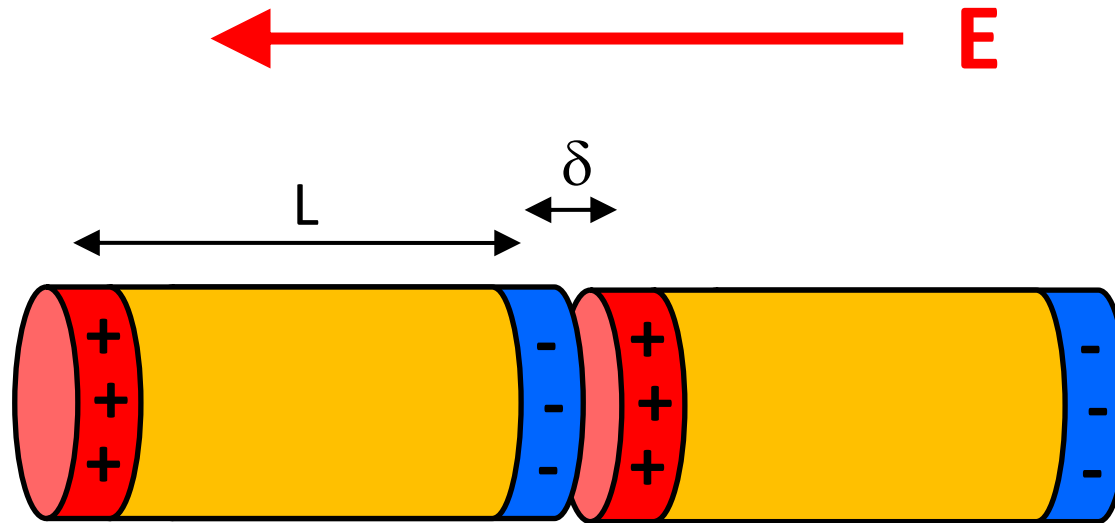
Local surface plasmon in two nanoparticles



Coupling between nanoparticles



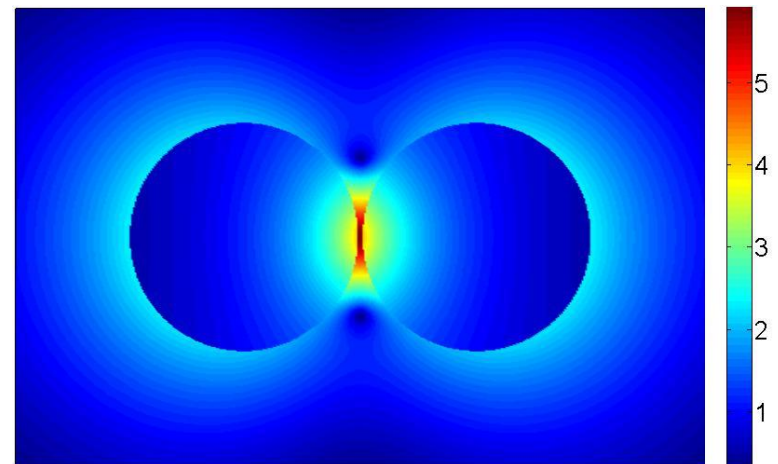
Coupling between nanoparticles



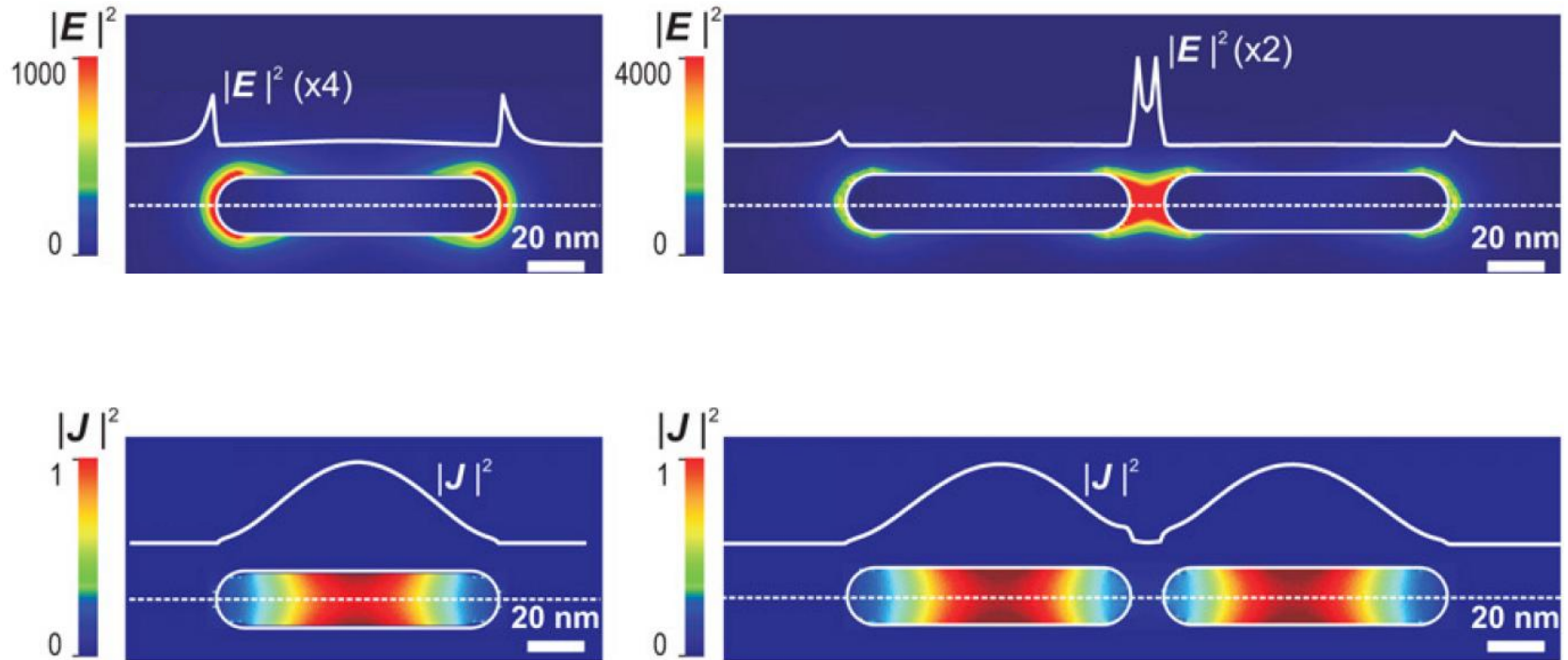
Local electric field enhancement:

$$\frac{E_{loc}}{E_o} = \frac{-\text{Re } \varepsilon}{\text{Im } \varepsilon} \frac{2L + \delta}{\delta} \sim 500$$

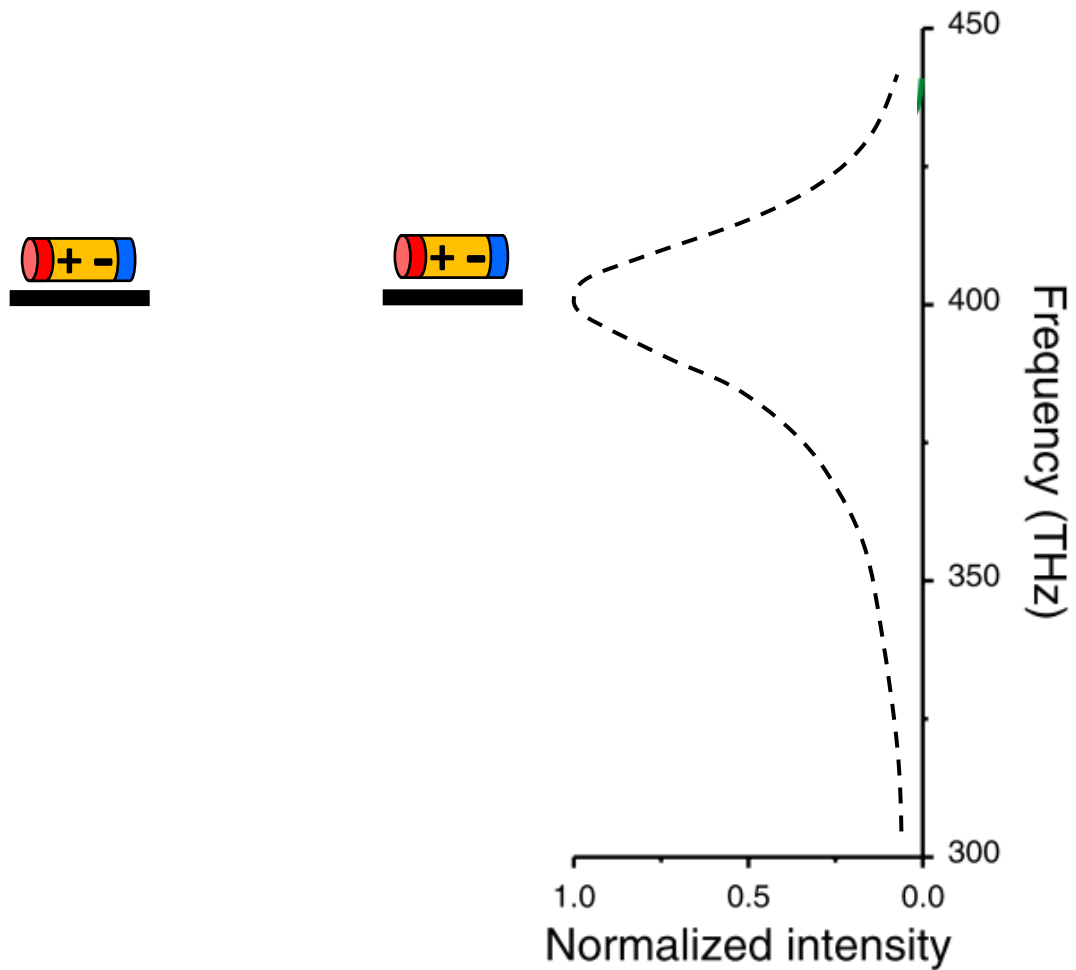
Intensity gain $\sim 2 \cdot 10^5$



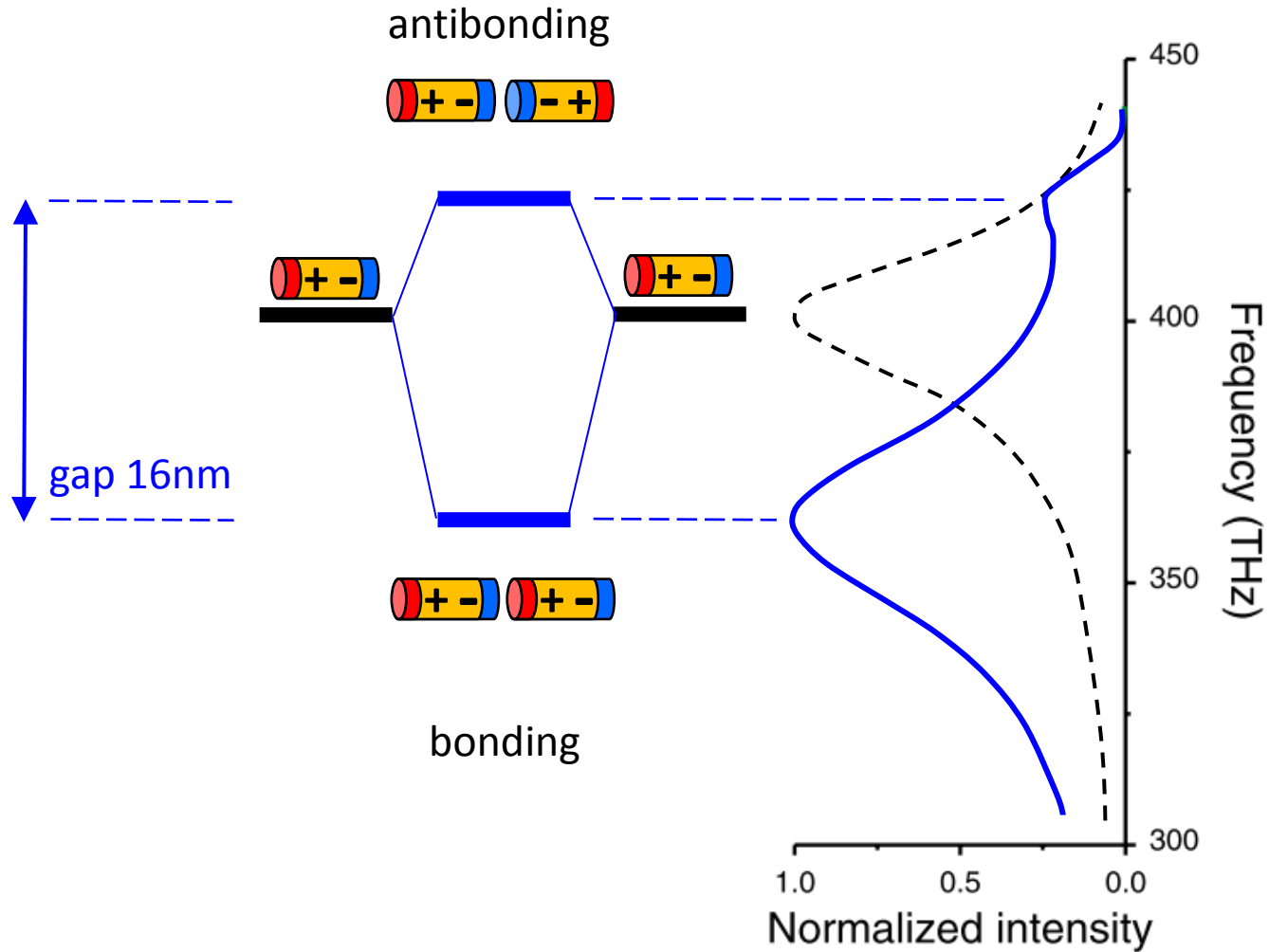
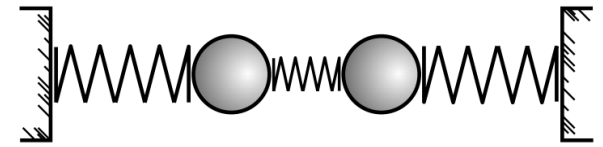
Intensity enhancement in coupled nanoparticles



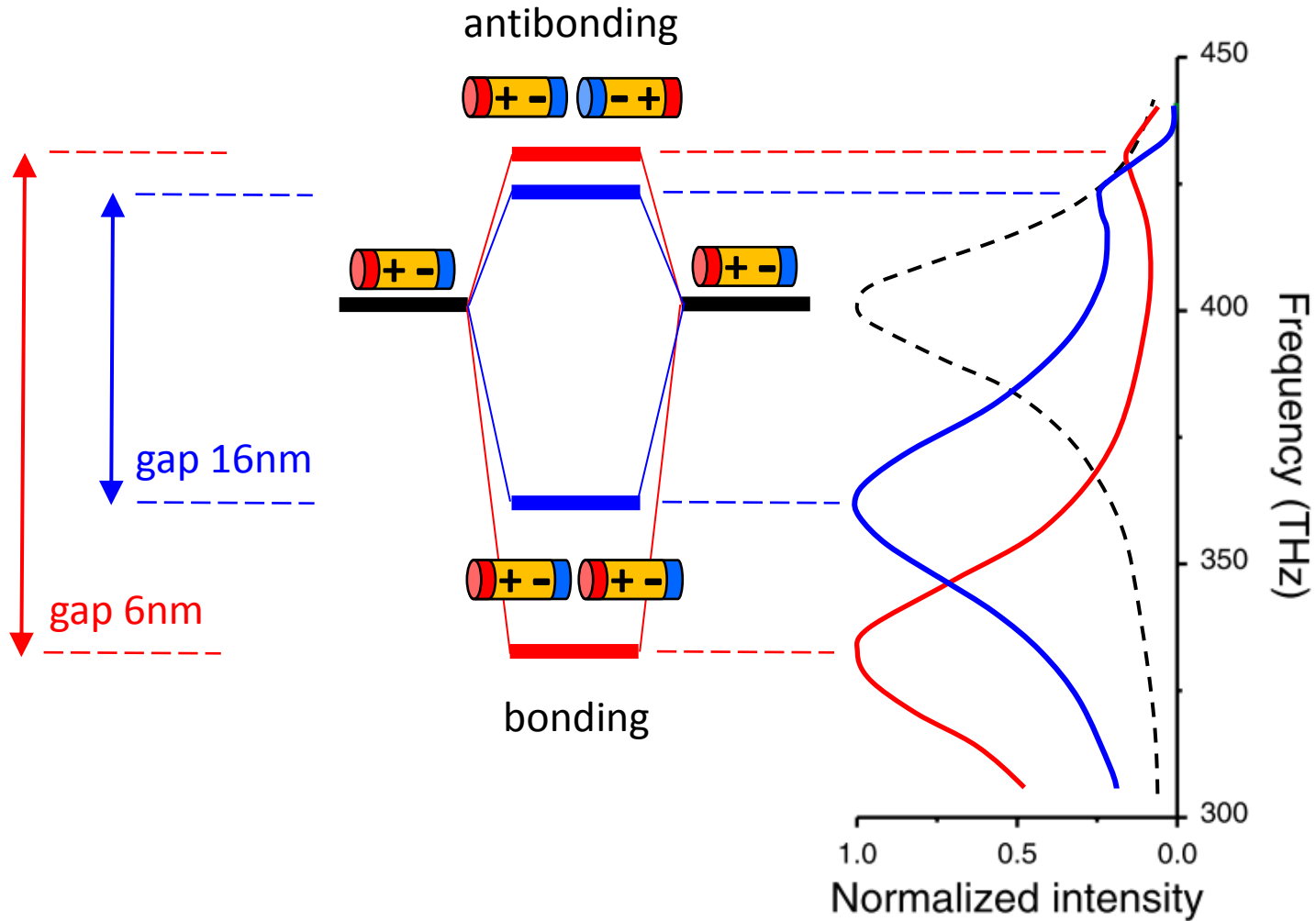
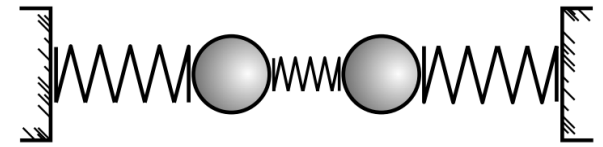
Spectral resonances in nanoparticle pairs



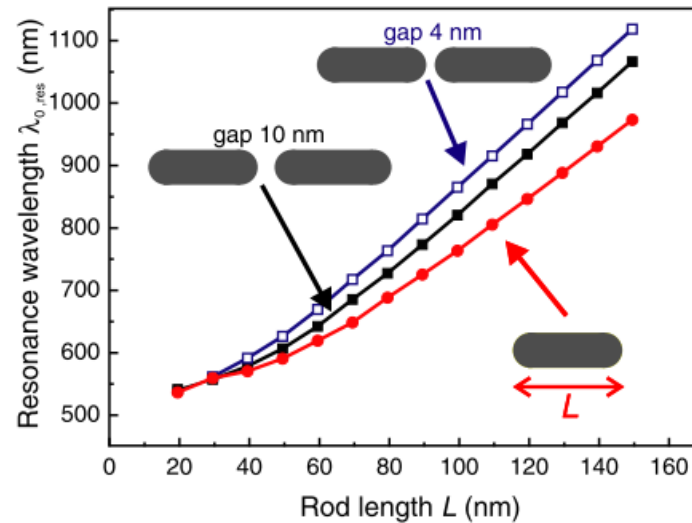
Spectral resonances in nanoparticle pairs



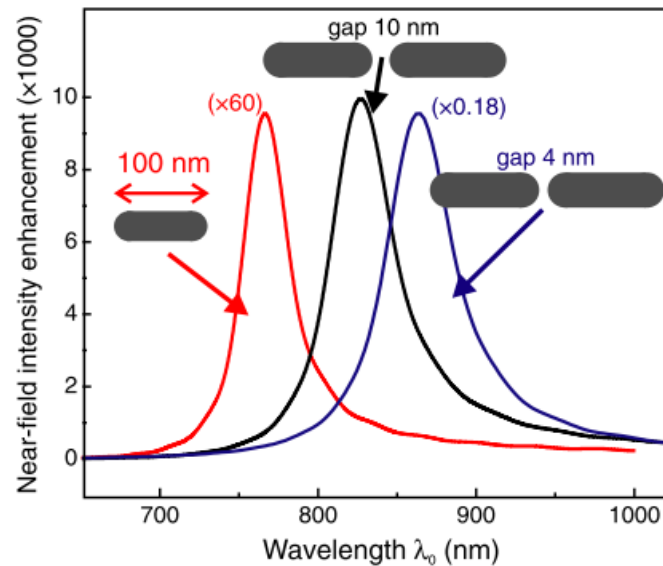
Spectral resonances in nanoparticle pairs



Interacting plasmonic nanoparticles



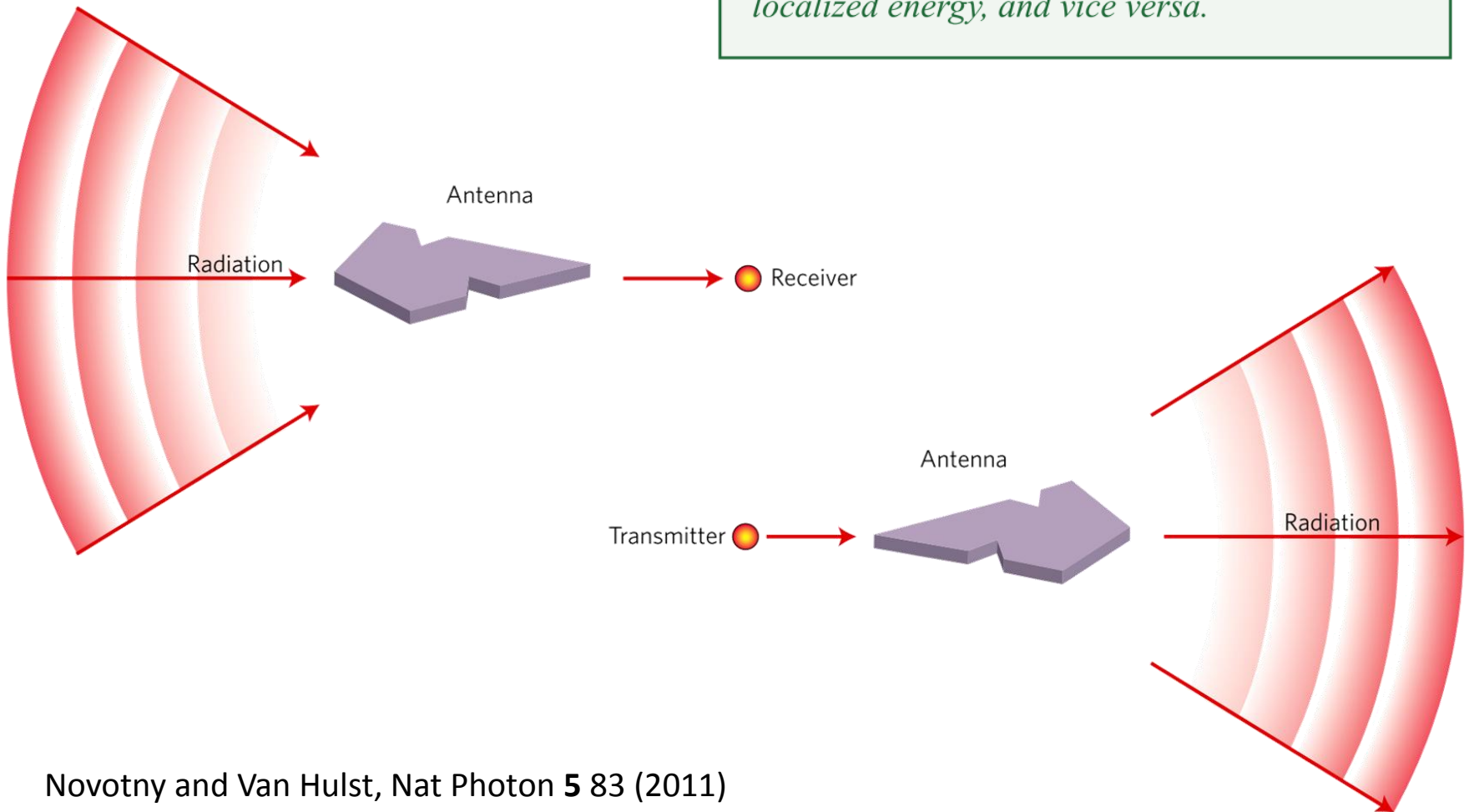
- Red-shift when length increases
- Red-shift when gap decreases



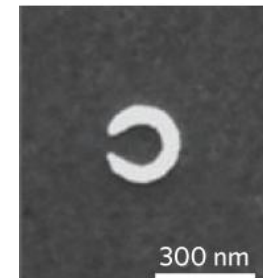
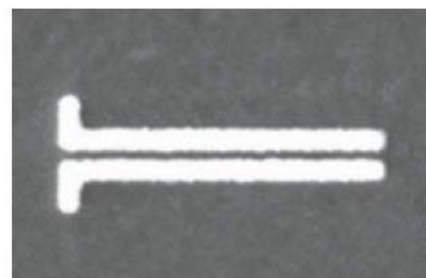
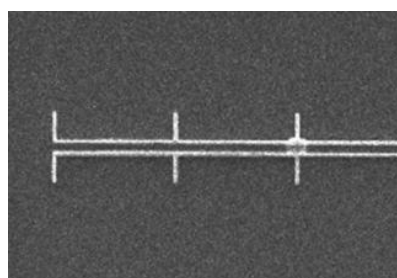
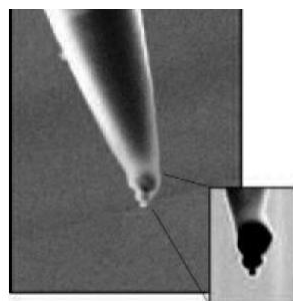
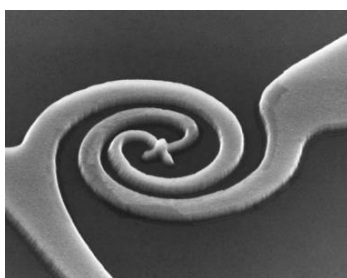
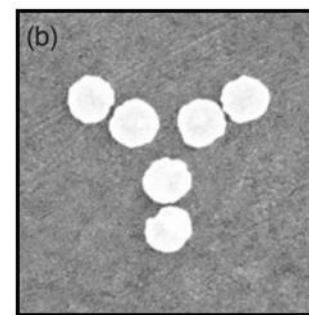
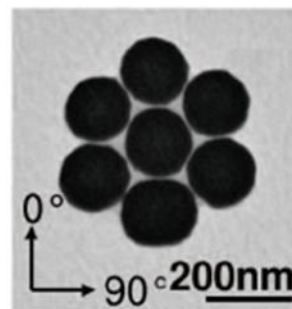
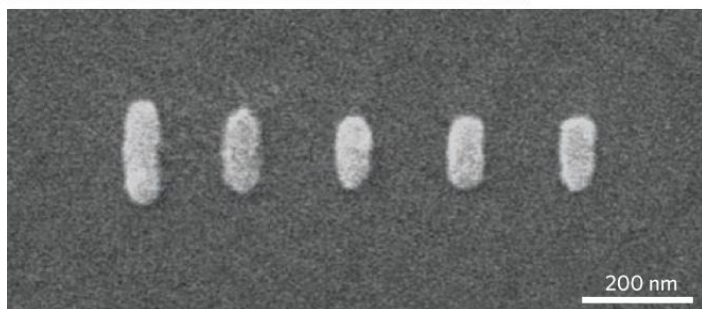
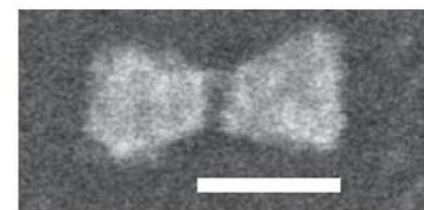
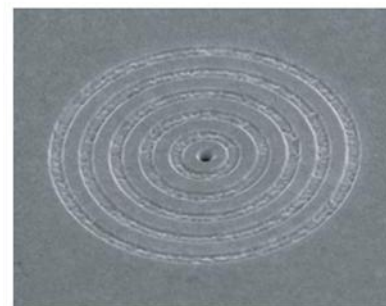
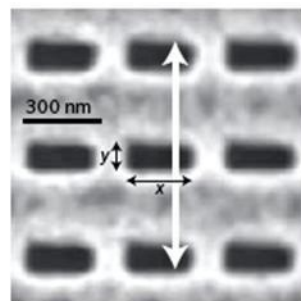
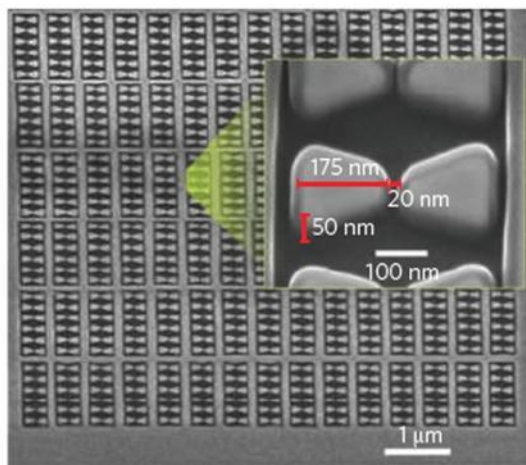
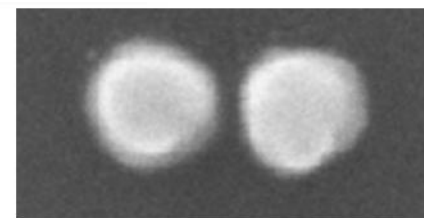
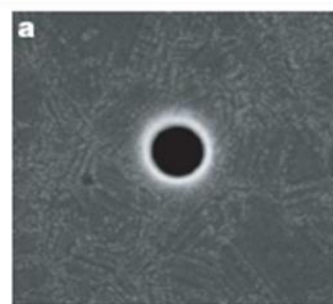
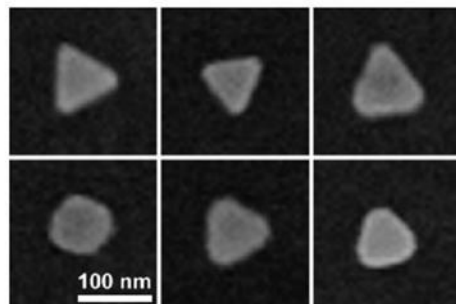
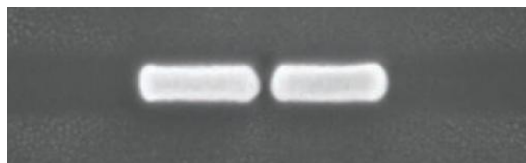
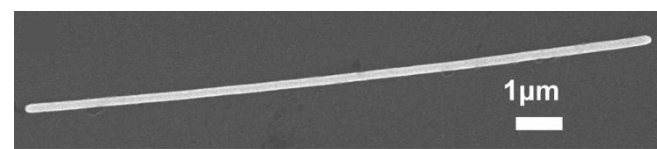
- Intensity increase when gap decreases

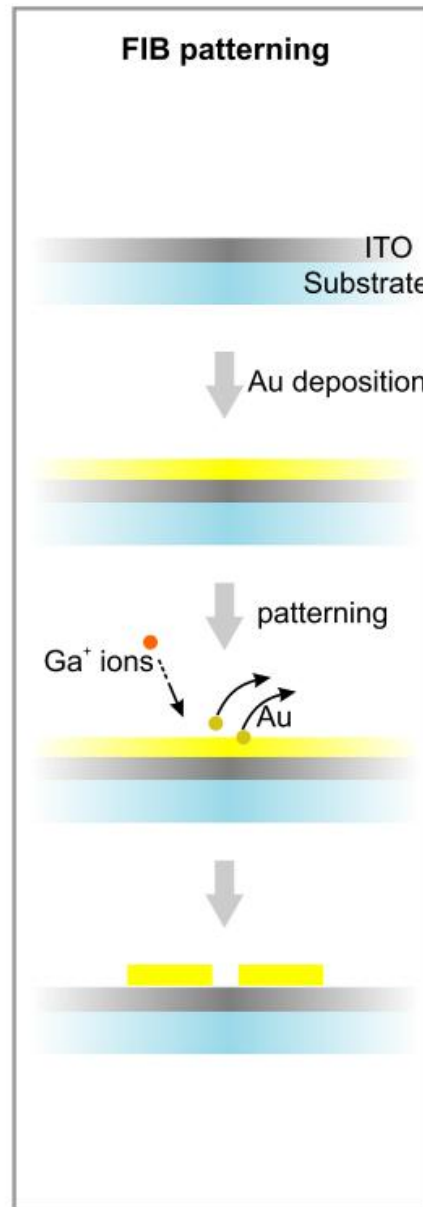
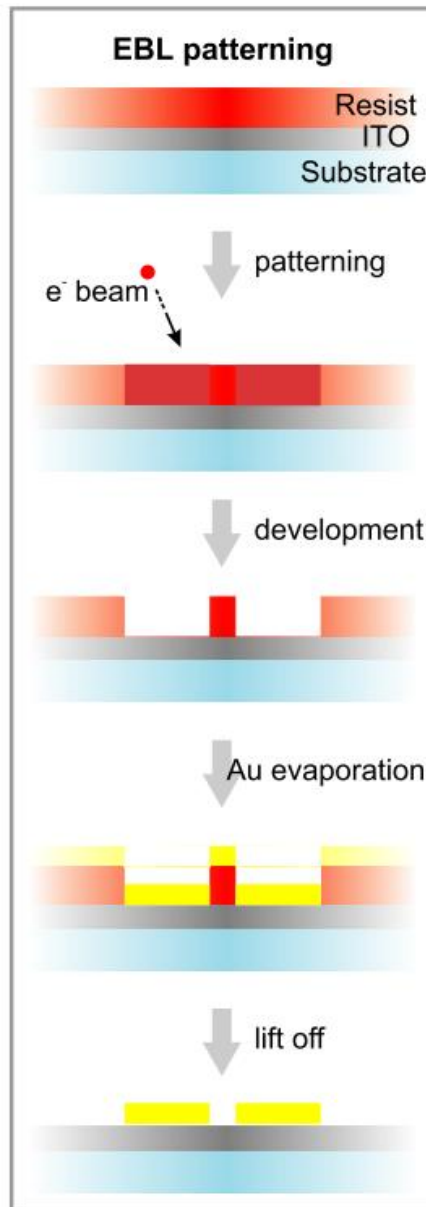
Plasmonic optical antennas

Optical antenna: a device designed to efficiently convert free-propagating optical radiation to localized energy, and vice versa.

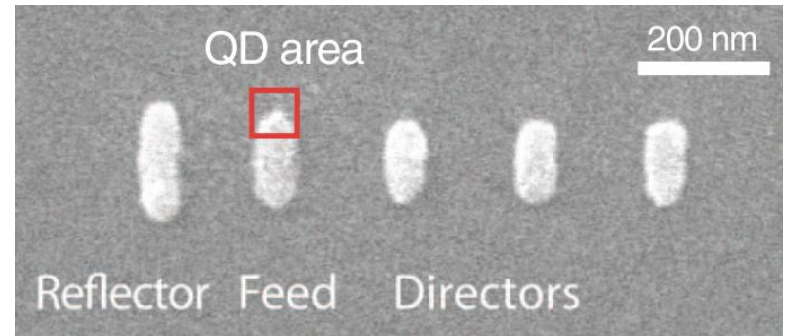
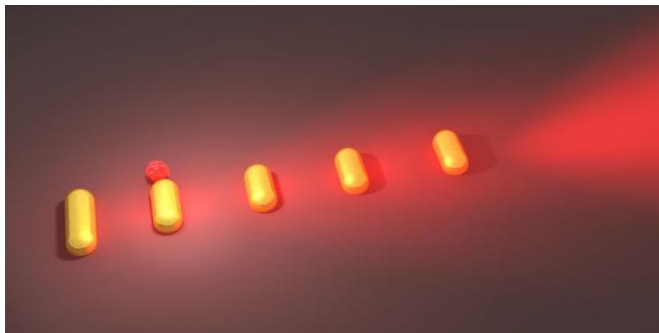
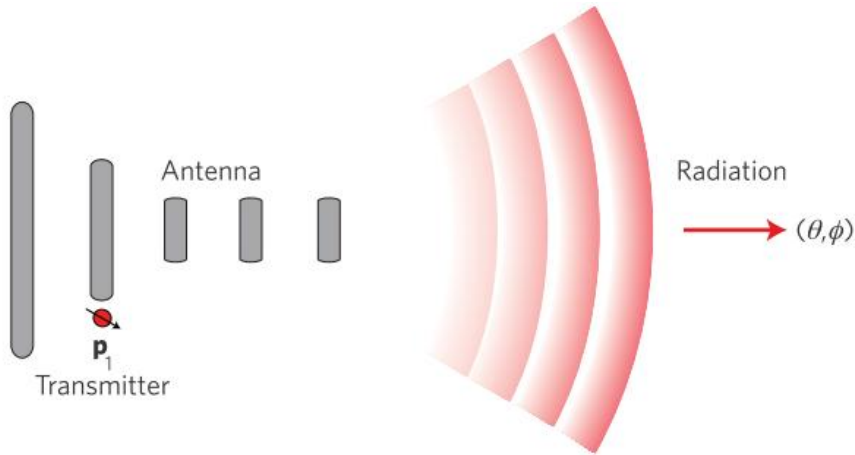


Plasmonic Optical Nanoantennas

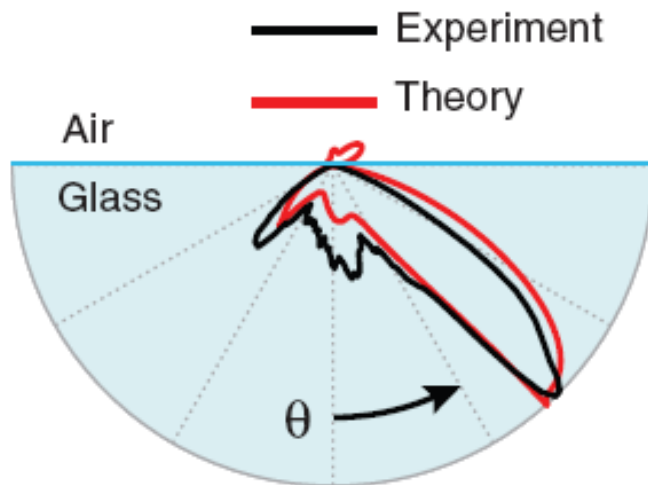
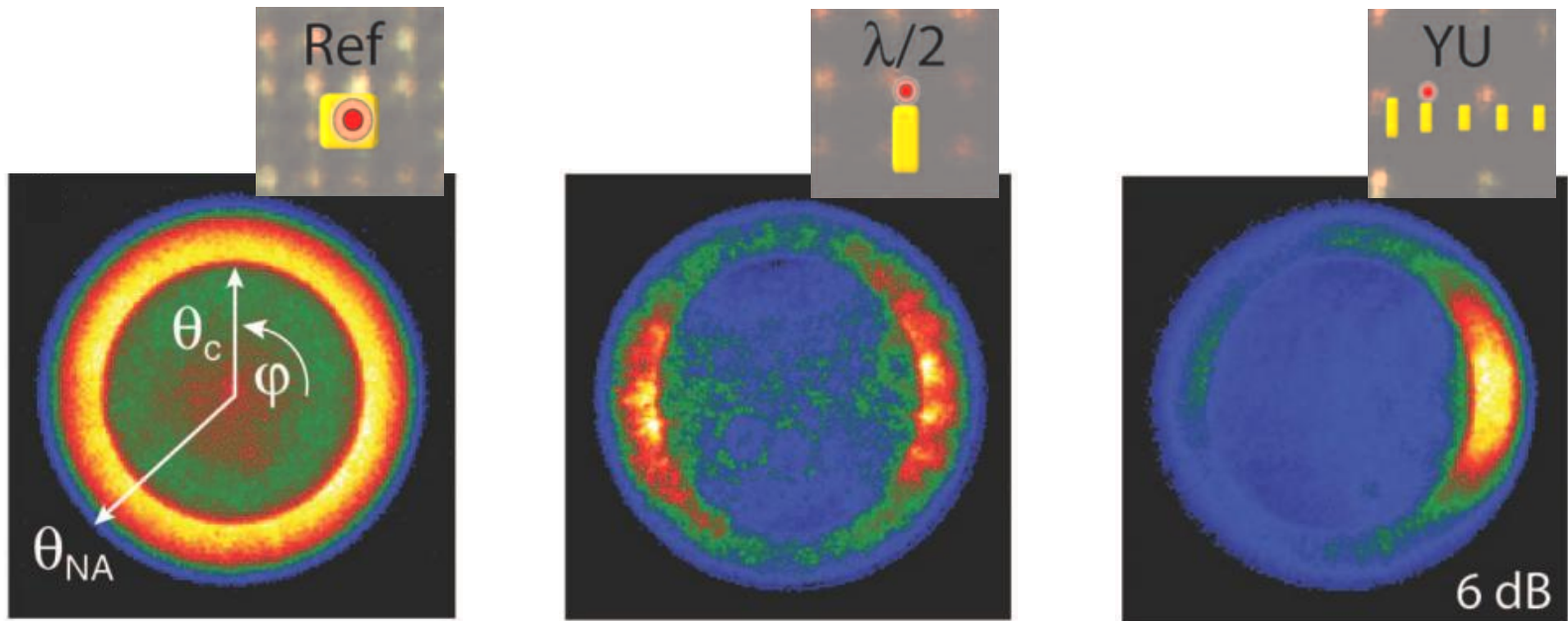




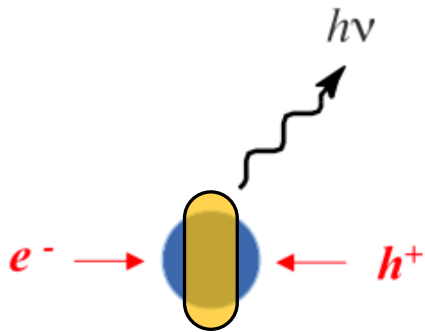
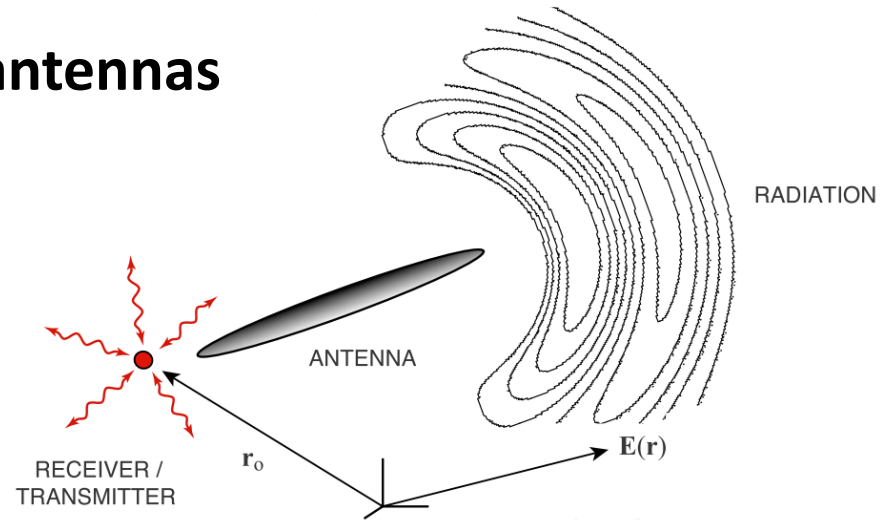
Yagi-Uda antenna: directional emission from single emitter



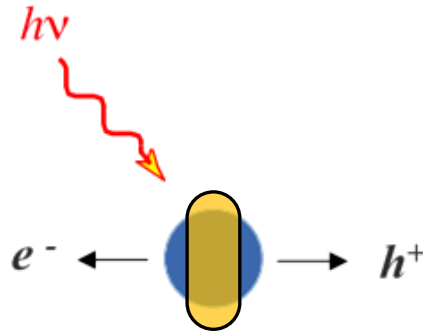
Yagi-Uda antenna: directional emission from single emitter



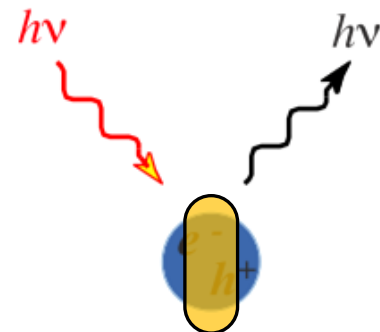
Plasmonic Nanoantennas



LED

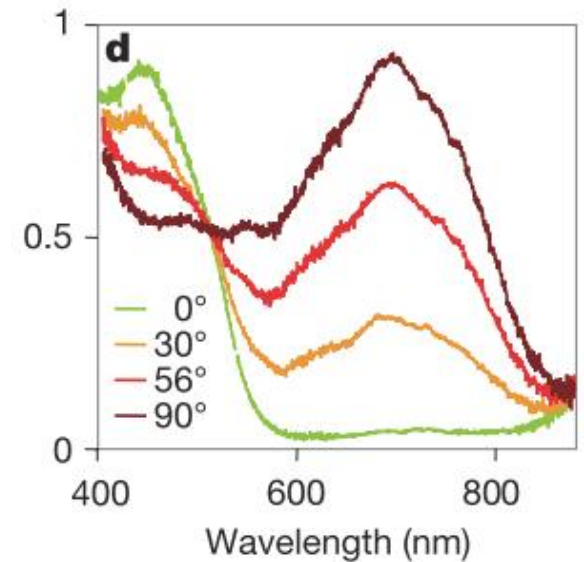
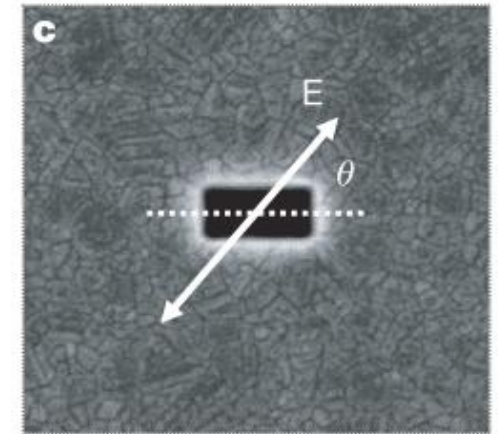
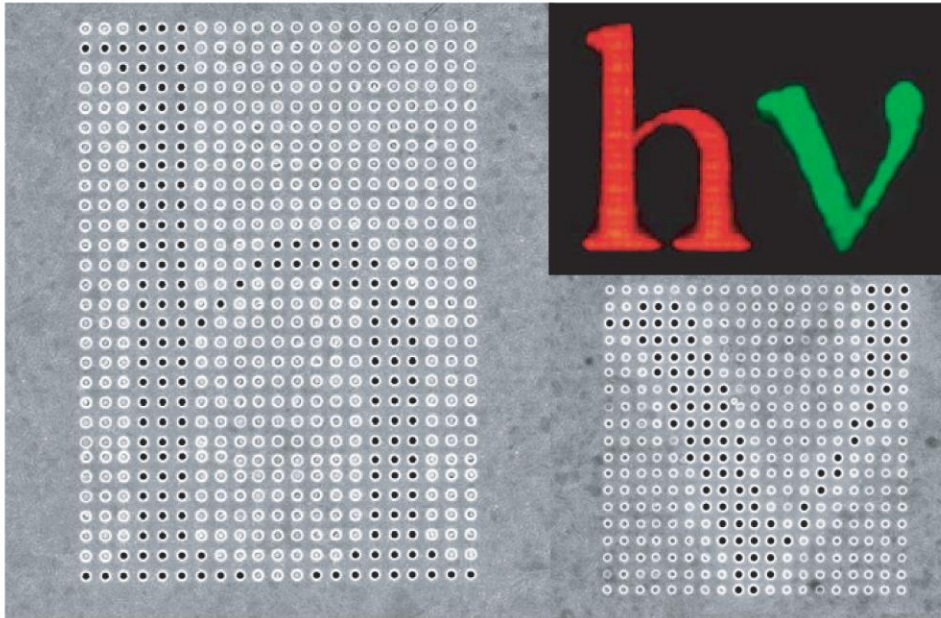


Photovoltaics

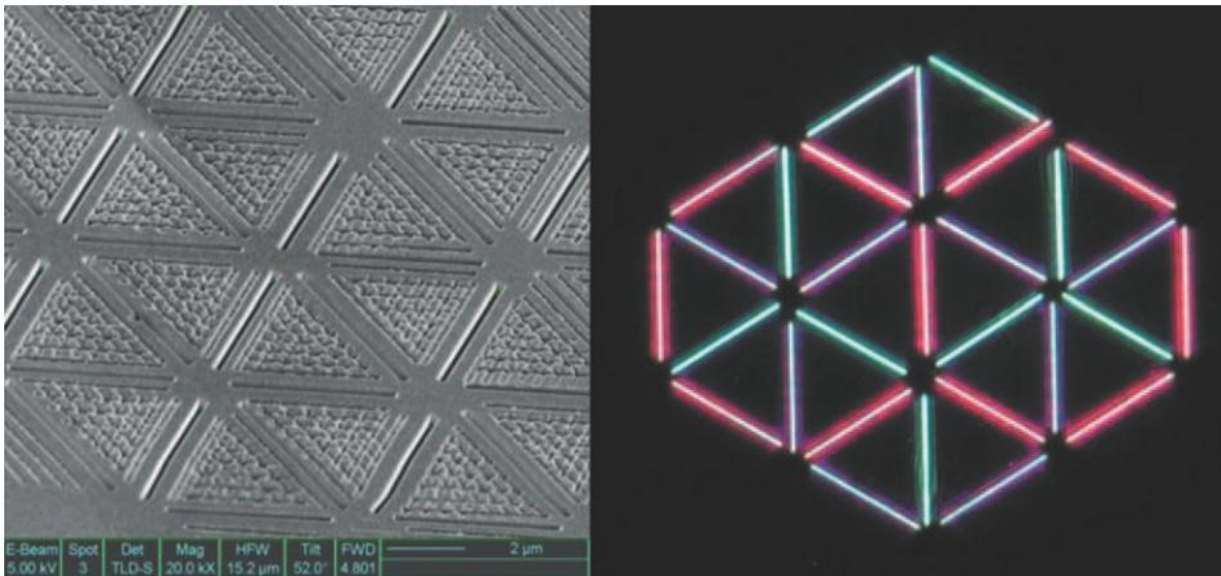


Spectroscopy

Optical filters



Genet *et al*, Nature **445**, 39 (2007)
 Garcia-Vidal *et al*, Rev Mod Phys **82**, 729 (2010)



Plasmonics = metal nano-optics



- Nanoparticles
- Metal-dielectric interfaces
- Nanowires
- Optical antennas
- Arrays & metasurfaces

Plasmonics for Biophotonics

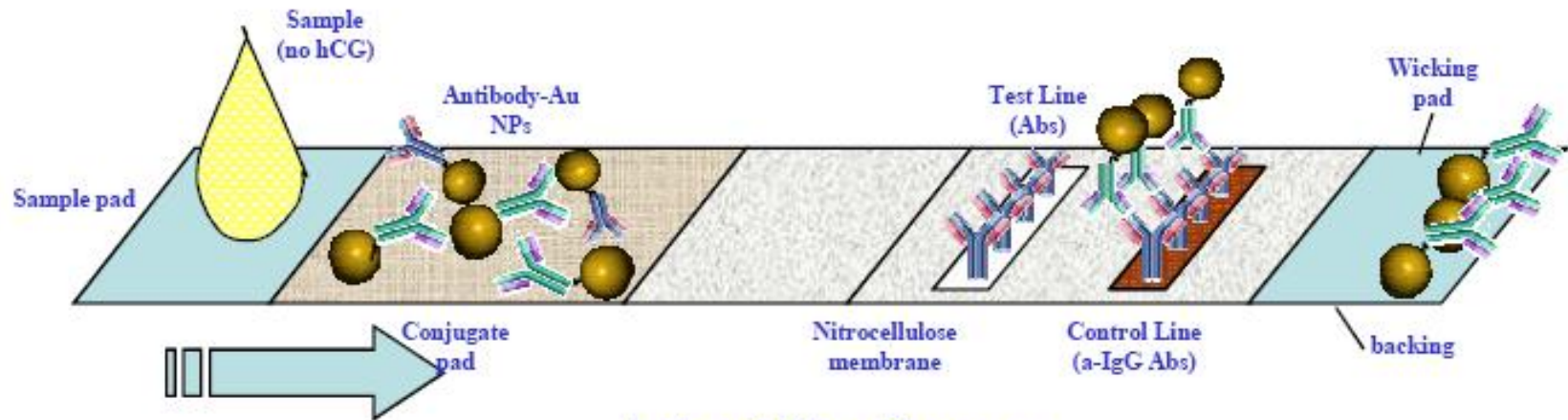
- Sensors
- Enhanced photoemission
- Thermoplasmonics
- Optical Tweezers

Plasmonics for Biophotonics

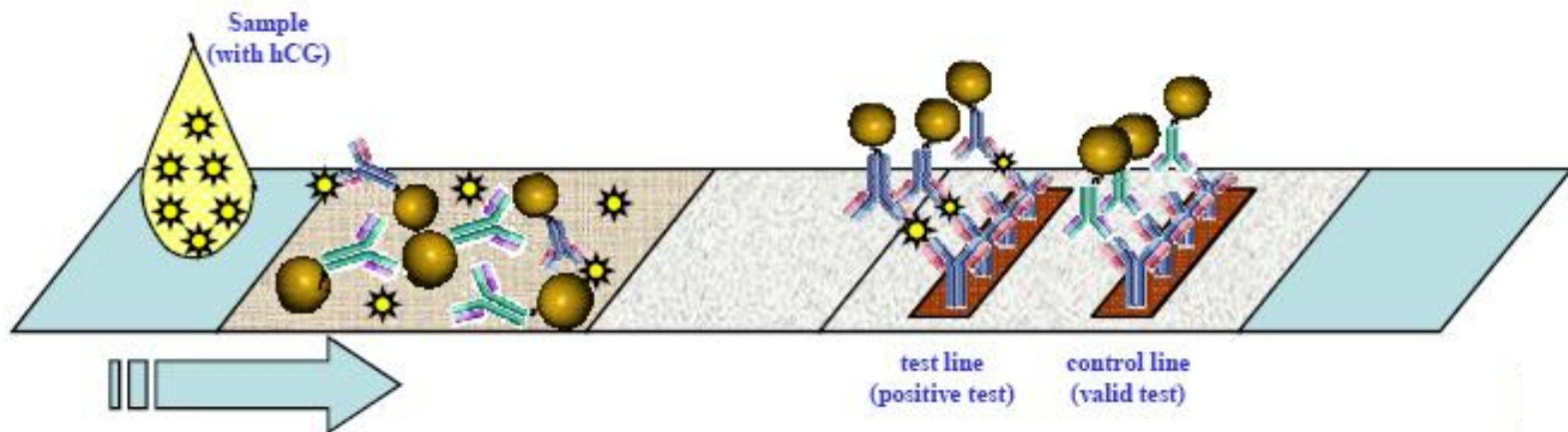
- **Sensors**
- Enhanced photoemission
- Thermoplasmonics
- Optical Tweezers

Pregnancy test:

Bioplasmonics best-seller



Lateral Flow Process



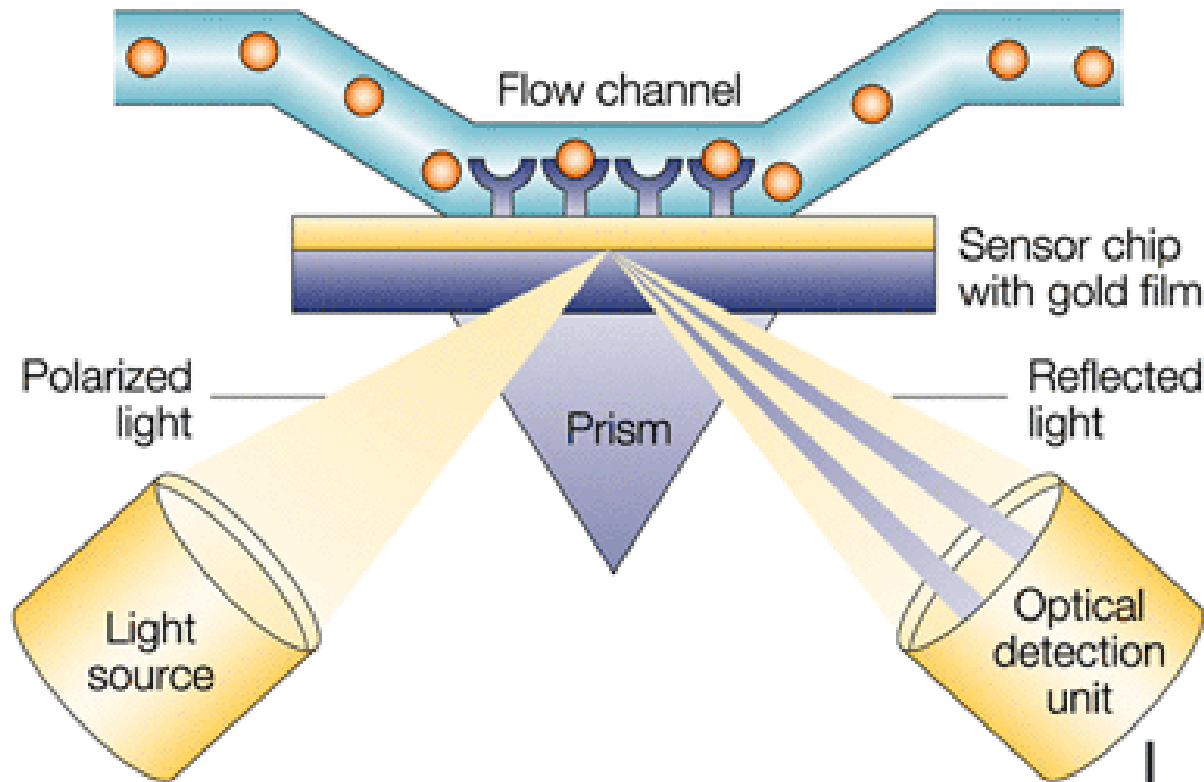
Lateral Flow Process

Surface plasmon resonance sensors



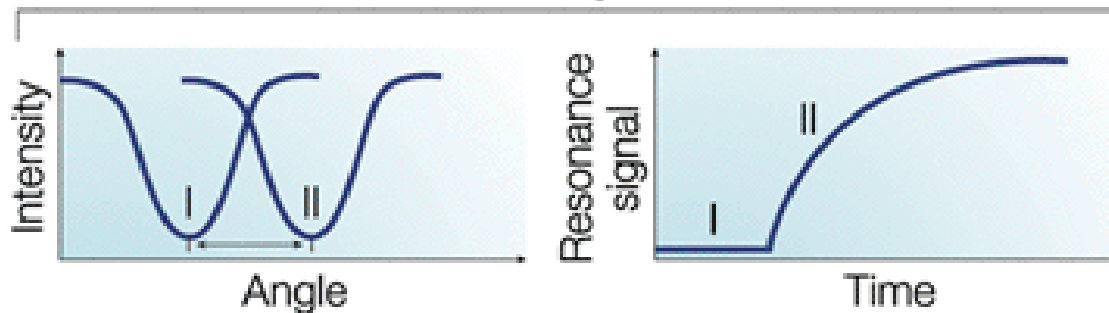
- Label-free molecular detection
- Real time
- Selective binding of biomolecules on gold surface

Surface plasmon resonance sensors



$$k_{x,SP} = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_m \epsilon_d}{\epsilon_m + \epsilon_d}}$$

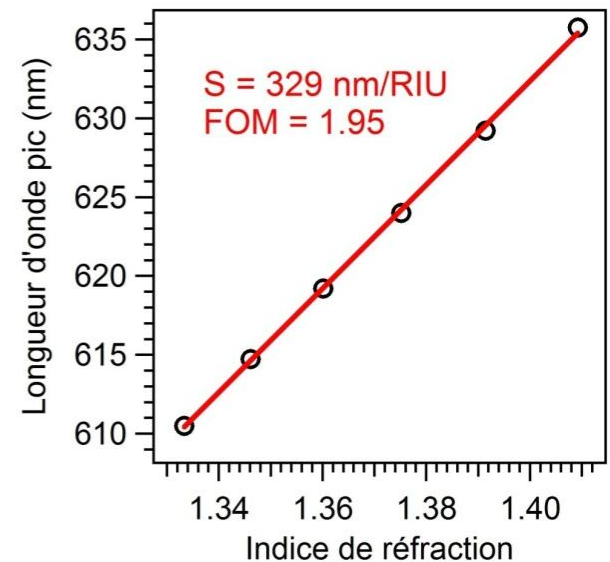
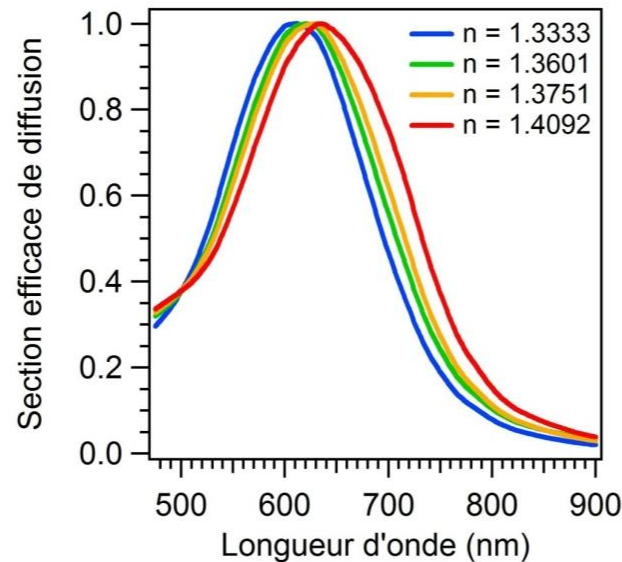
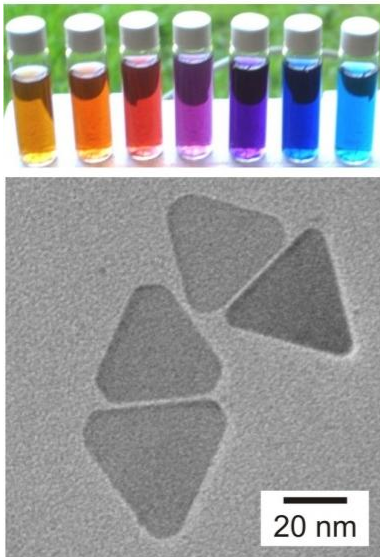
Sensorgram



Local Surface Plasmon Resonance Sensor

Single colloidal nanoparticles

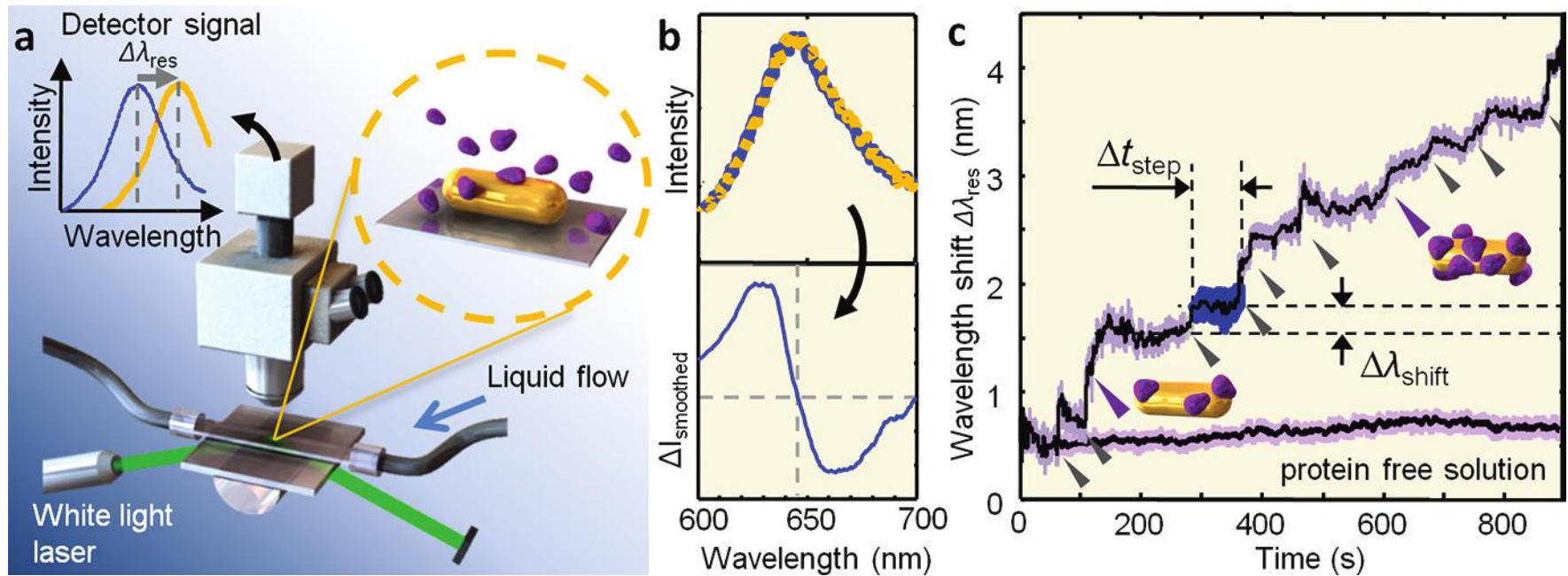
- Stronger localization of EM field on surface
- Ease-of-use



$$\alpha(\omega) = 4\pi\epsilon_{ref}a^3 \frac{\epsilon_{gold}(\omega) - \epsilon_{ref}}{\epsilon_{gold}(\omega) + 2\epsilon_{ref}}$$

Local Surface Plasmon Resonance Sensor

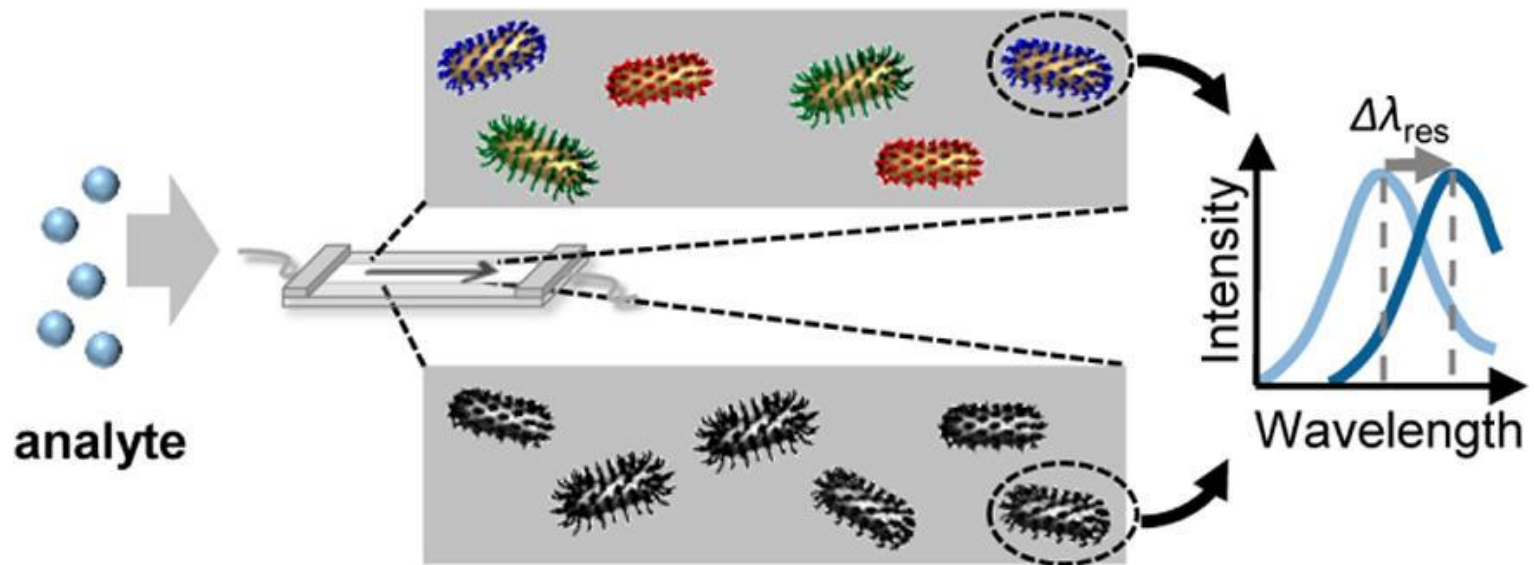
Single molecule detection with gold nanorods



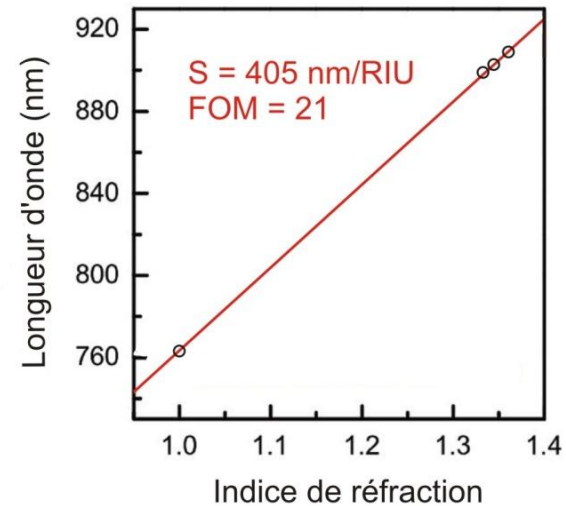
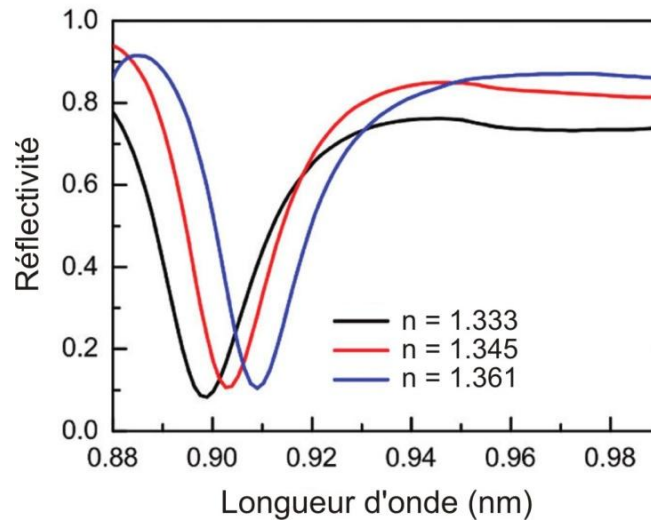
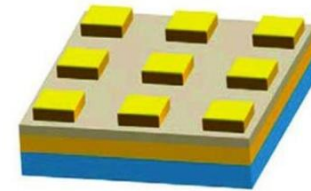
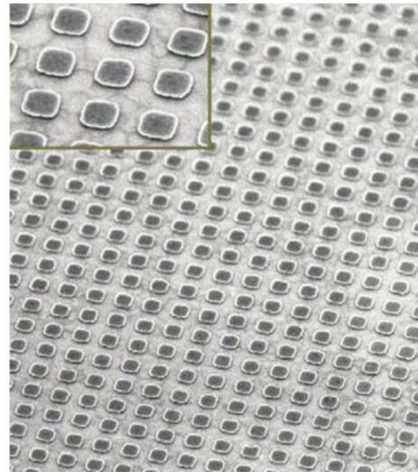
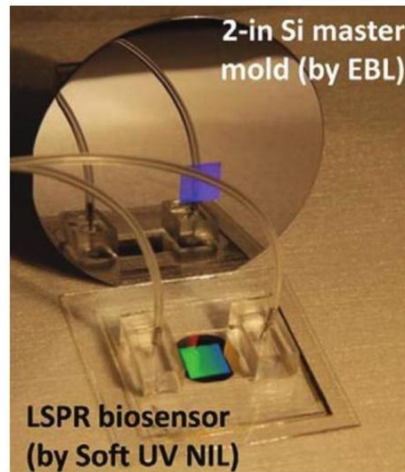
Local Surface Plasmon Resonance Sensor

Current challenges

- Multiplexing / high throughput
- Recycling substrates
- Increasing speed



Combined structures – soft imprint lithography



Plasmonics for Biophotonics

- Sensors
- **Enhanced photoemission**
- Thermoplasmonics
- Optical Tweezers

A few typical figures...

Size of a molecule ~ 1 nm

Cross-section ~ 1 nm² = 10^{-14} cm²

for fluorescence $\sigma \sim 10^{-16}$ cm²

for Raman scattering $\sigma \sim 10^{-30}$ cm²

Excitation intensity : 1 mW = $2.5 \cdot 10^{15}$ photons per second

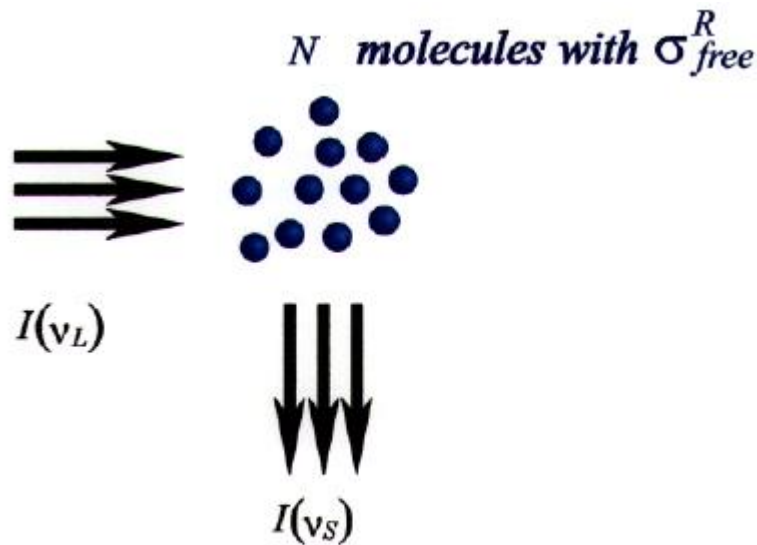
Focus on a 500nm diameter spot : $I = 10^{24}$ phot/s/cm²

Max. single molecule fluorescence : $\sigma I = 10^8$ phot/s = 40 pW

Max single molecule Raman signal : $\sigma I = 10^{-6}$ phot/s = ...

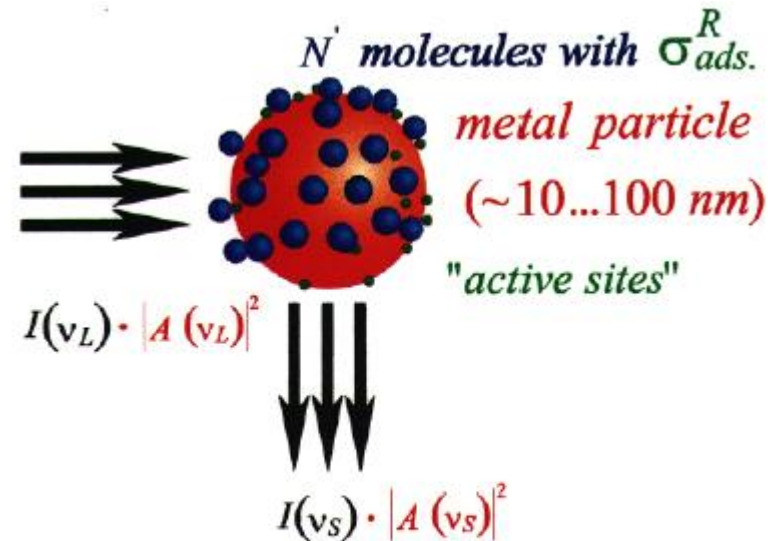
SERS : Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering

Free Molecules



$$I_{NRS}(\nu_S) = N \cdot I(\nu_L) \cdot \sigma_{free}^R$$

Molecules on SERS clusters



$$I_{SERS}(\nu_S) = N' \cdot I(\nu_L) \cdot |A(\nu_L)|^2 \cdot |A(\nu_S)|^2 \cdot \sigma_{ads}^R$$

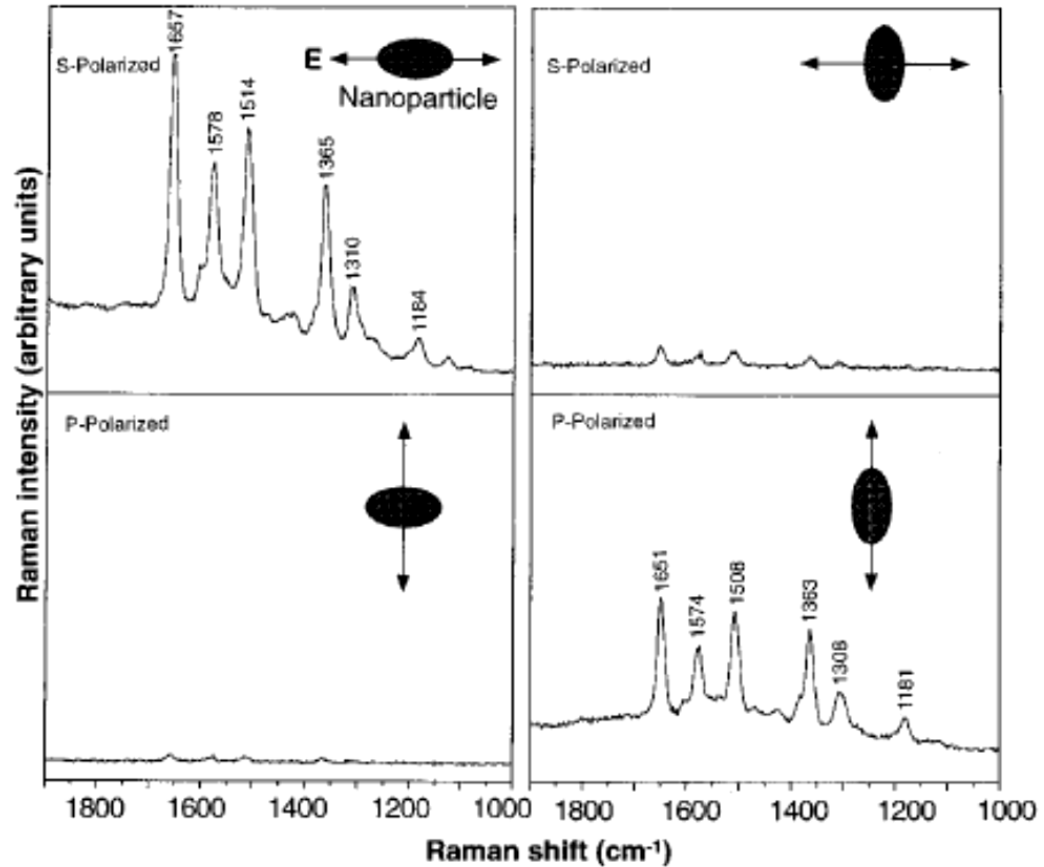
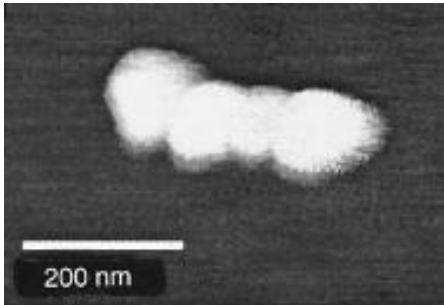
Enhancement of the excitation field

Enhancement of the signal field

Enhancement of the absorption cross section

SERS : Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering

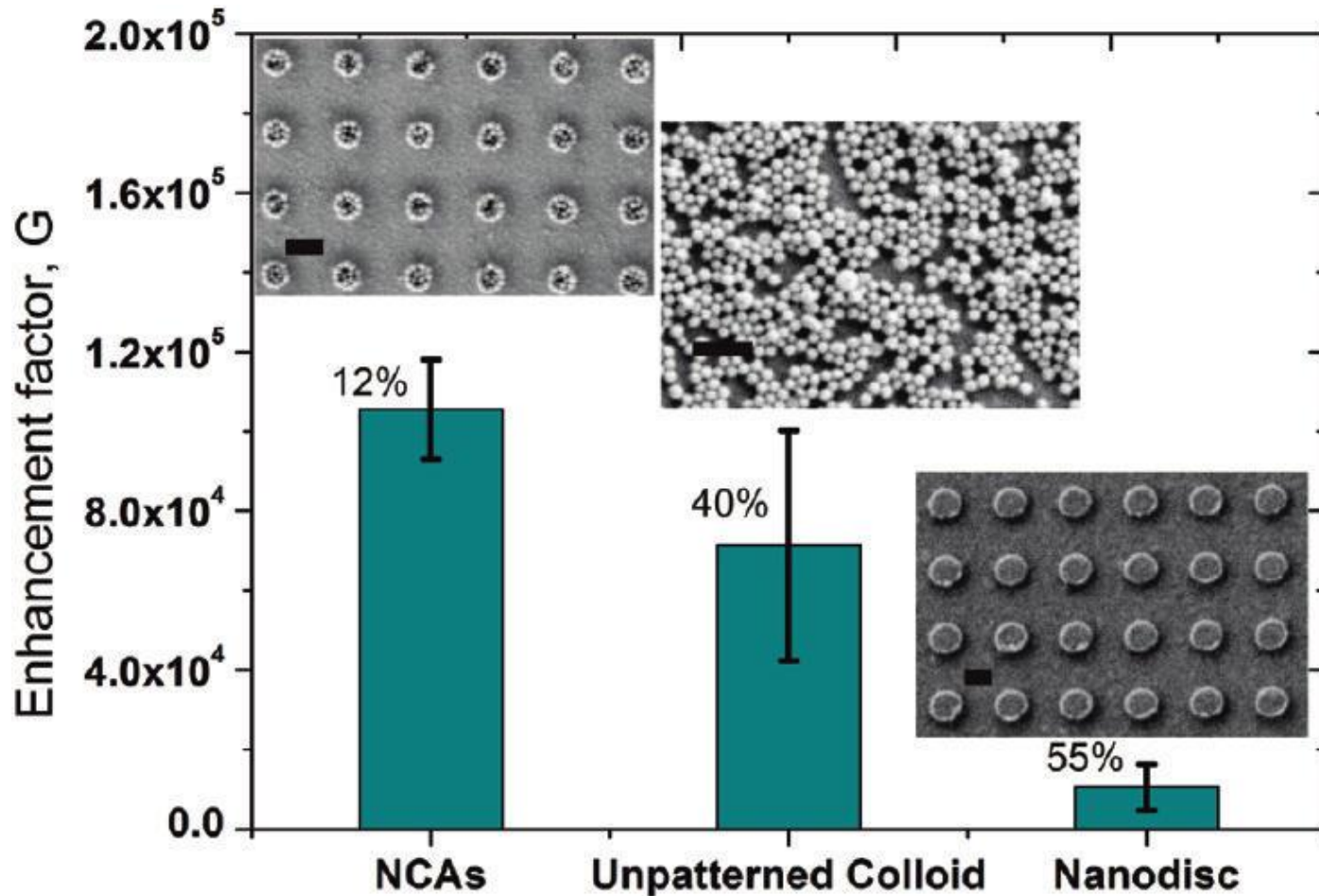
Electromagnetic enhancement → *towards single molecule detection*



Nie and Emory
Science **275** 1102 (1997)

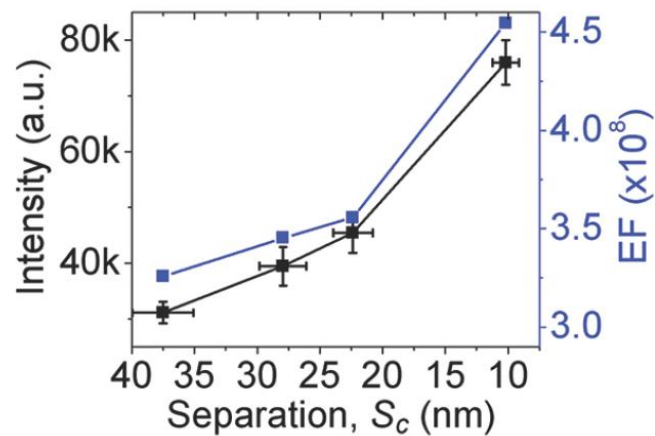
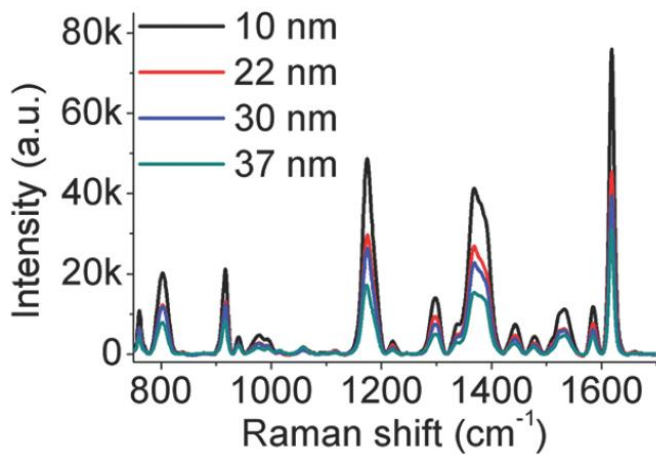
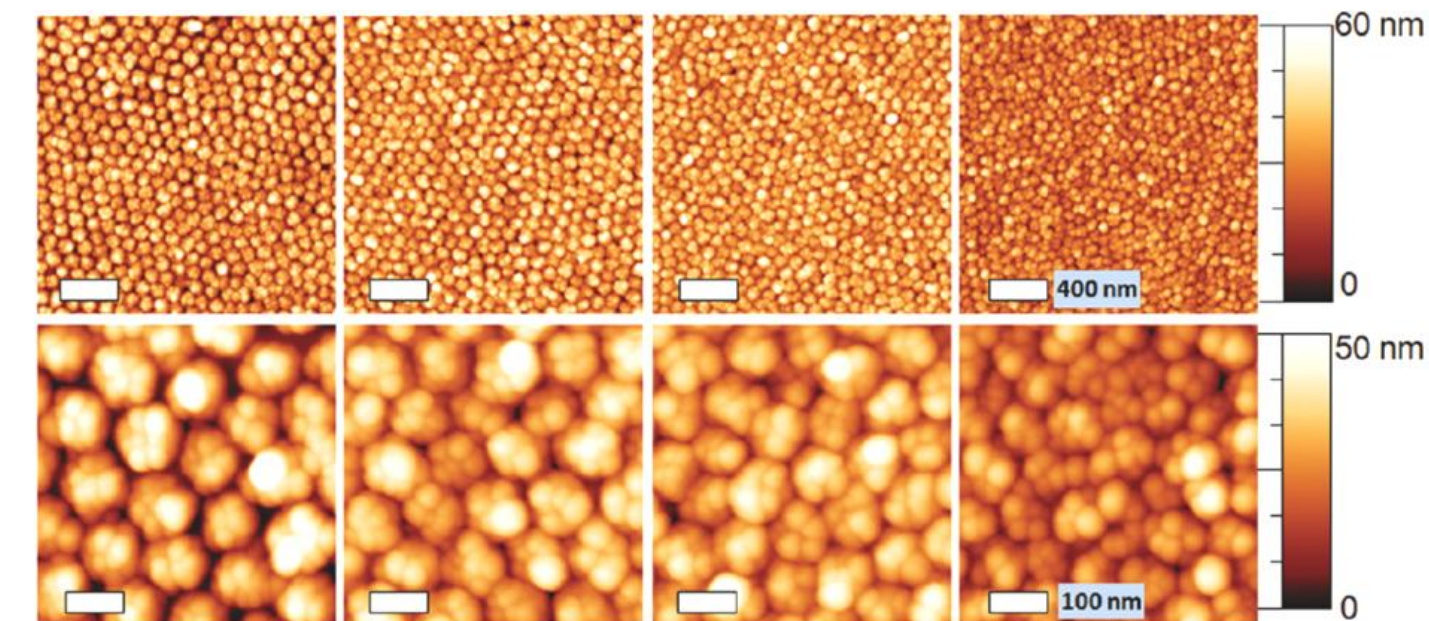
SERS : Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering

Reproducible substrates

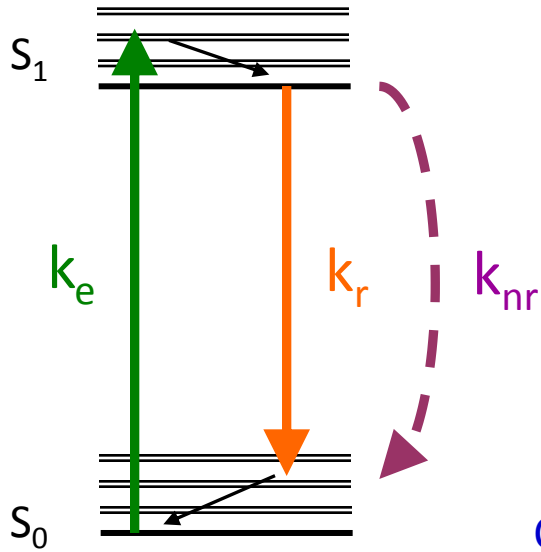


SERS : Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering

Reproducible substrates



Fluorescence



Detected fluorescence

$$F = \kappa k_r N_1$$

$$= \kappa \frac{k_r}{k_r + k_{nr}} \frac{k_e}{1 + k_e / (k_r + k_{nr})} N_{\text{tot}}$$

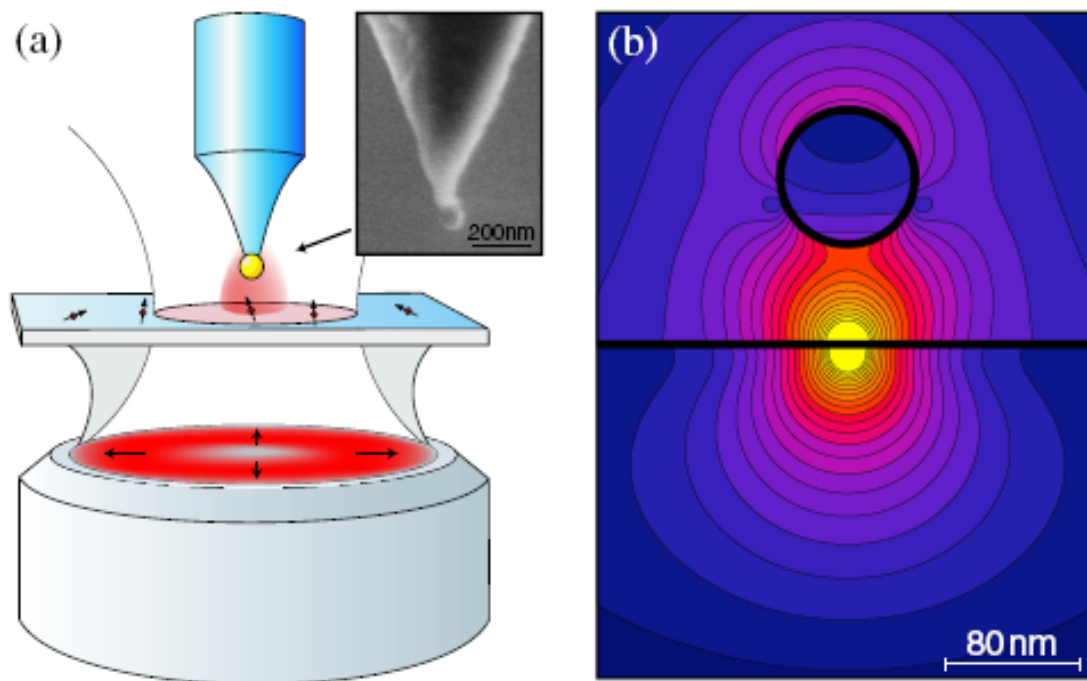
Collection efficiency

Quantum yield

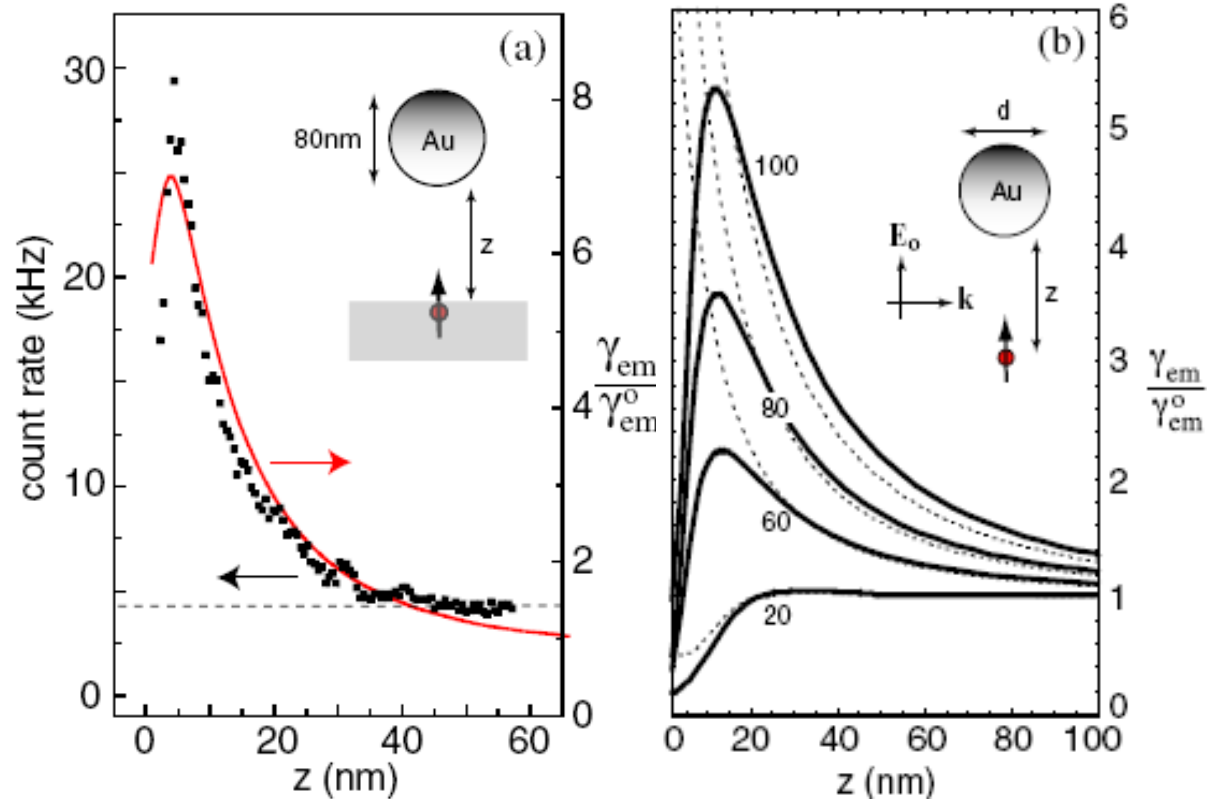
Excitation intensity

Affected by plasmonic structure

Single molecule fluorescence enhanced by a single gold nanoparticle

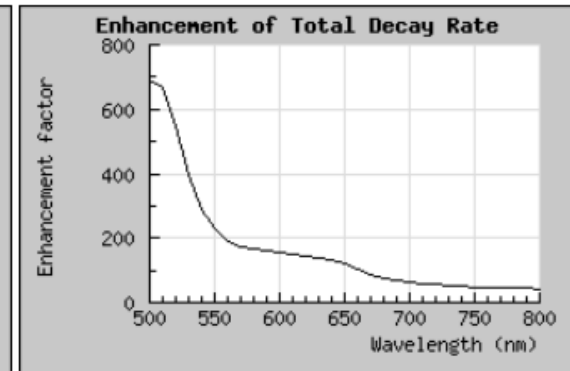
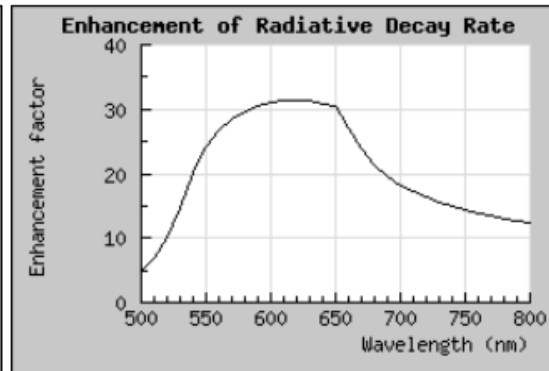
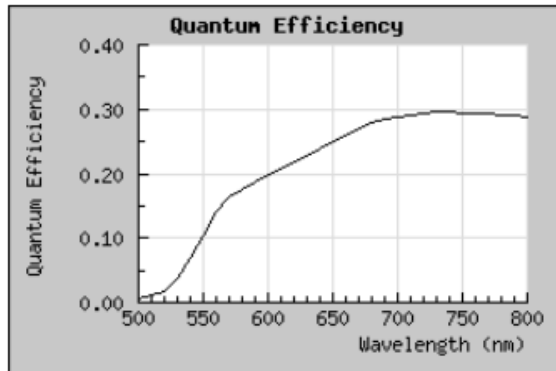


Single molecule fluorescence enhanced by a single gold nanoparticle



Single molecule fluorescence enhanced by a single gold nanoparticle

Plasmon-enhanced luminescence



[download results](#)

100nm gold NP in water, perfect emitter @ 5nm

This applet calculates the modifications of the radiative decay rate, the total decay rate, and the quantum efficiency of an optical emitter in close proximity to a prolate-shaped metal nanoparticle. The applet can be used to get a flavor on how the luminescence properties of the emitter depend on the large number of parameters that are involved.

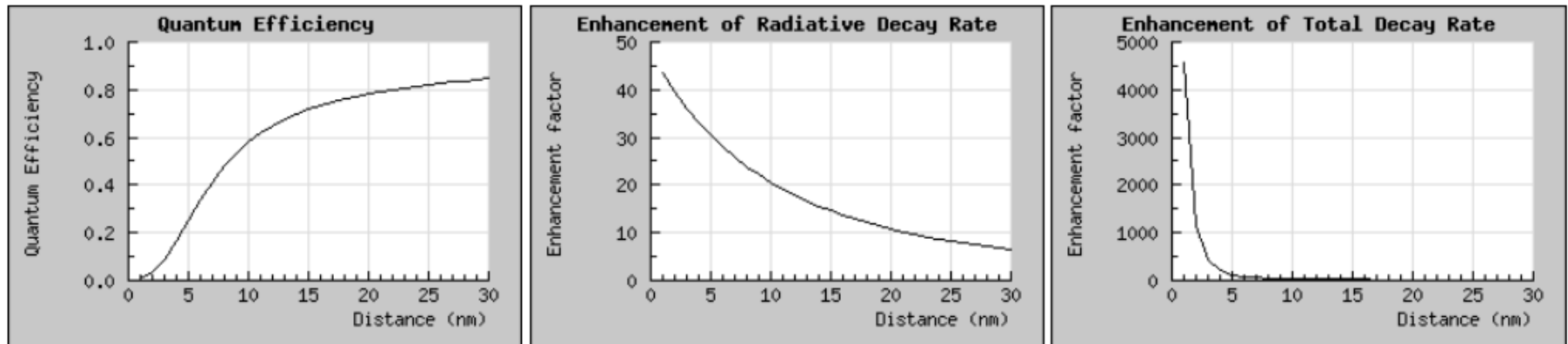
For information on the parameters, click the question mark.

For more information on the calculation methods and for an analysis of how metal nanoparticles should be designed to optimize decay rate modifications, see our recent paper ([Mertens et al, Phys. Rev. B 76, 115123 \(2007\)](#)) and our [new manuscript](#).

Applet at

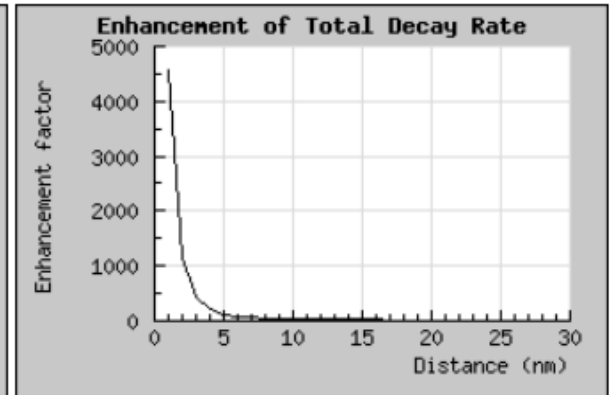
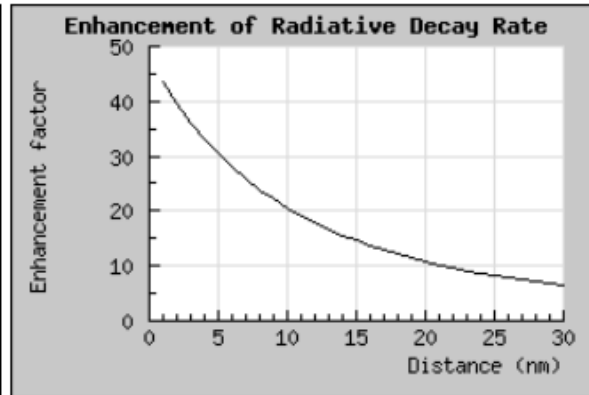
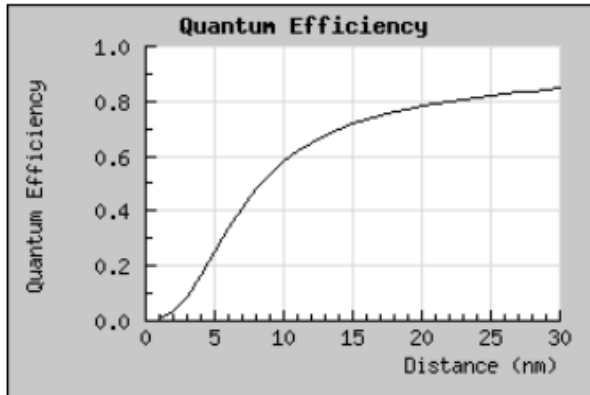
www.erbium.amolf.nl

Single molecule fluorescence enhanced by a single gold nanoparticle

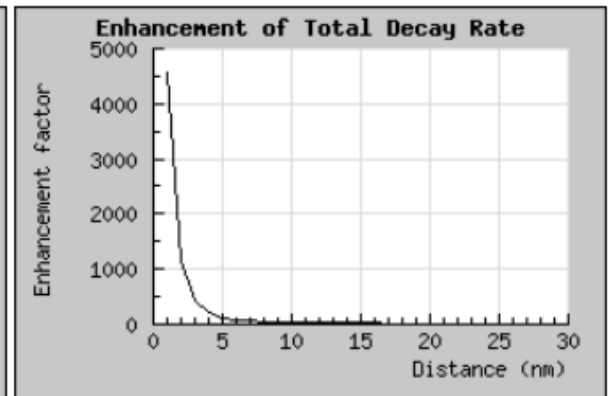
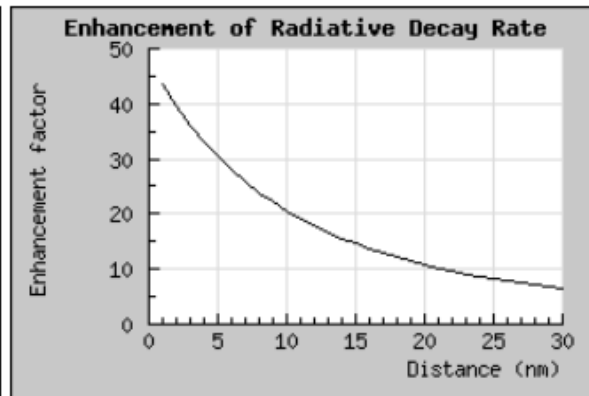
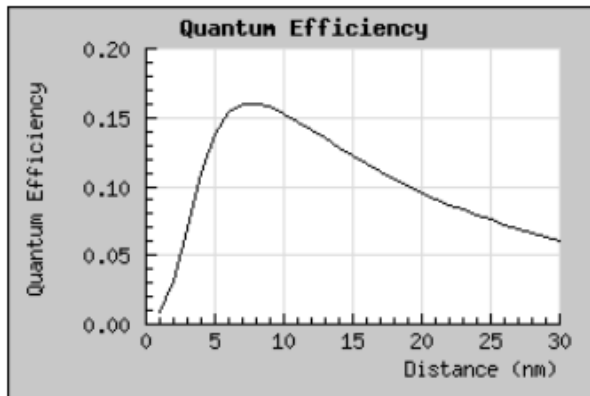


100nm gold NP in water, perfect emitter, parallel orientation, λ 650nm

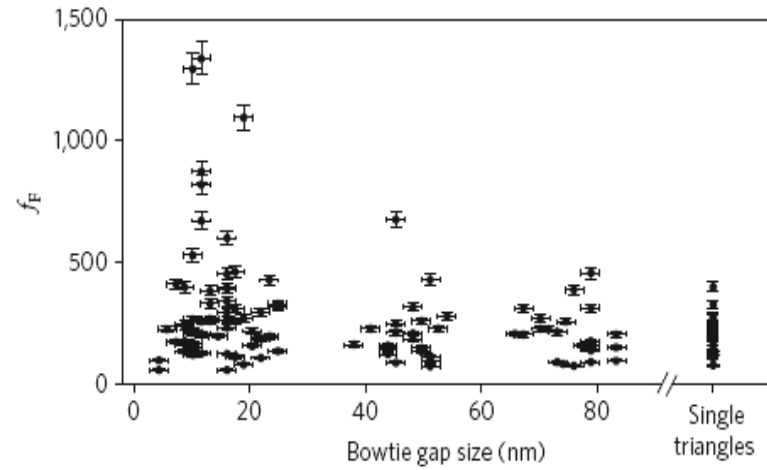
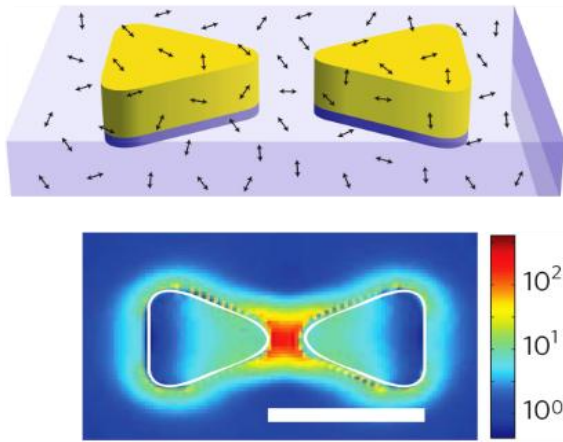
Single molecule fluorescence enhanced by a single gold nanoparticle



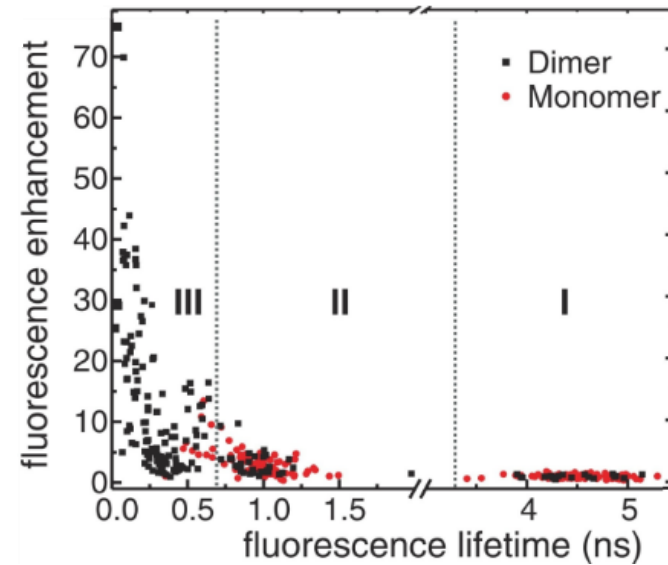
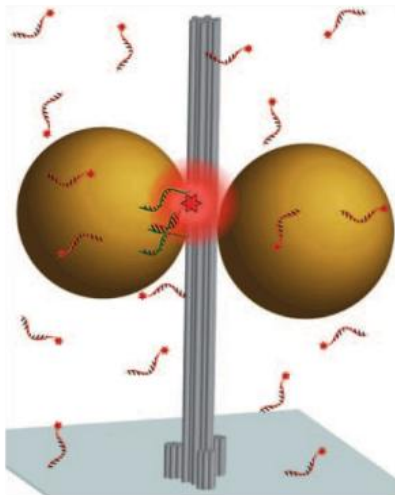
100nm gold NP in water, **perfect emitter**, parallel orientation, λ 650nm



100nm gold NP in water, **quantum yield 1%**, parallel orientation, λ 650nm

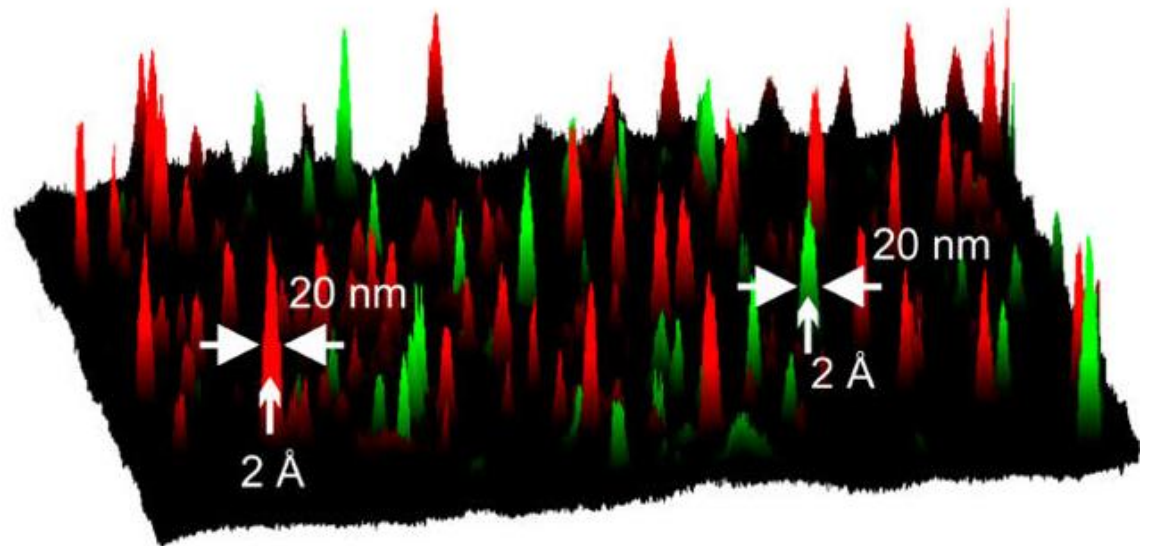
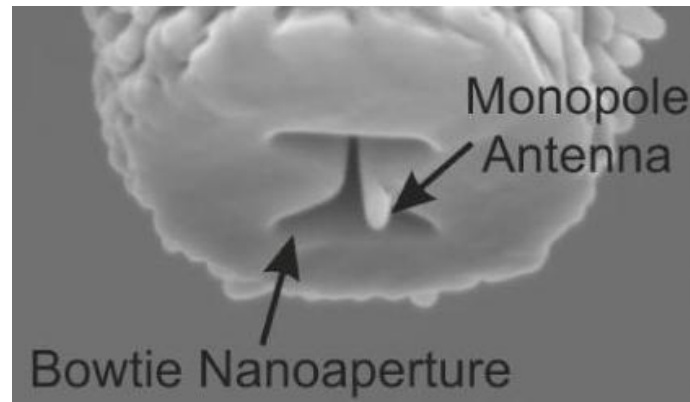
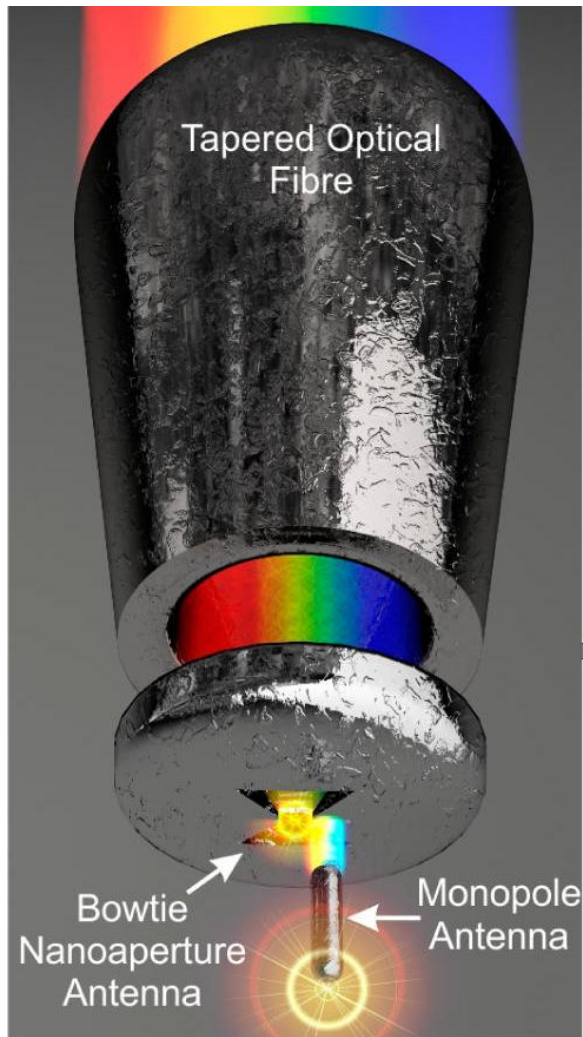


Kinkhabwala *et al*, Nature Phot. **3**, 654 (2009)



Acuna *et al*, Science. **338**, 506 (2012)

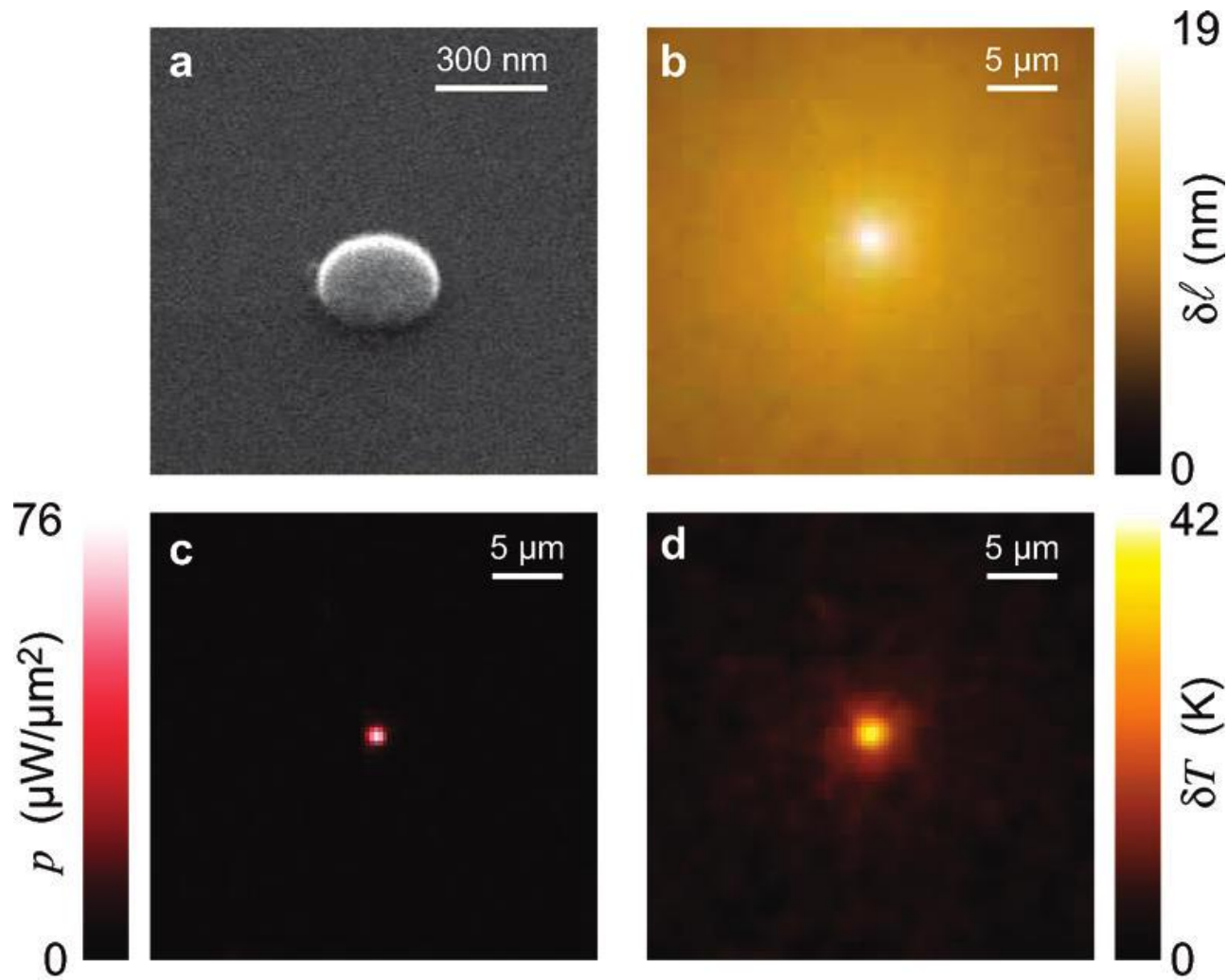
Nanoantennas combined with NSOM probes



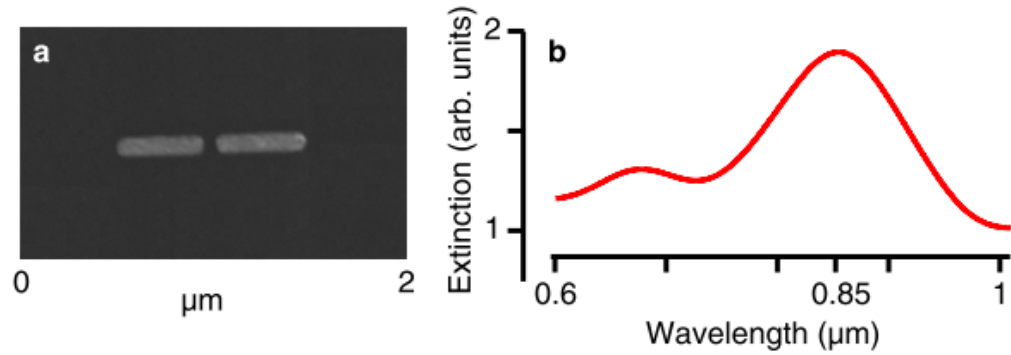
Plasmonics for Biophotonics

- Sensors
- Enhanced photoemission
- **Thermoplasmonics**
- Optical Tweezers

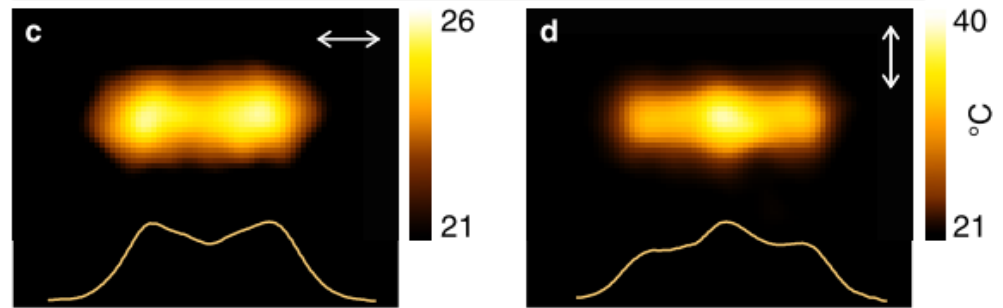
Nanosources of heat



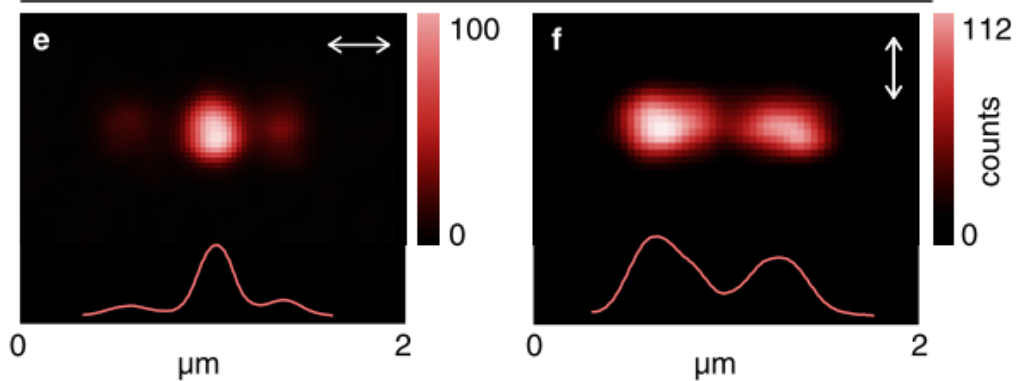
Nanosources of heat



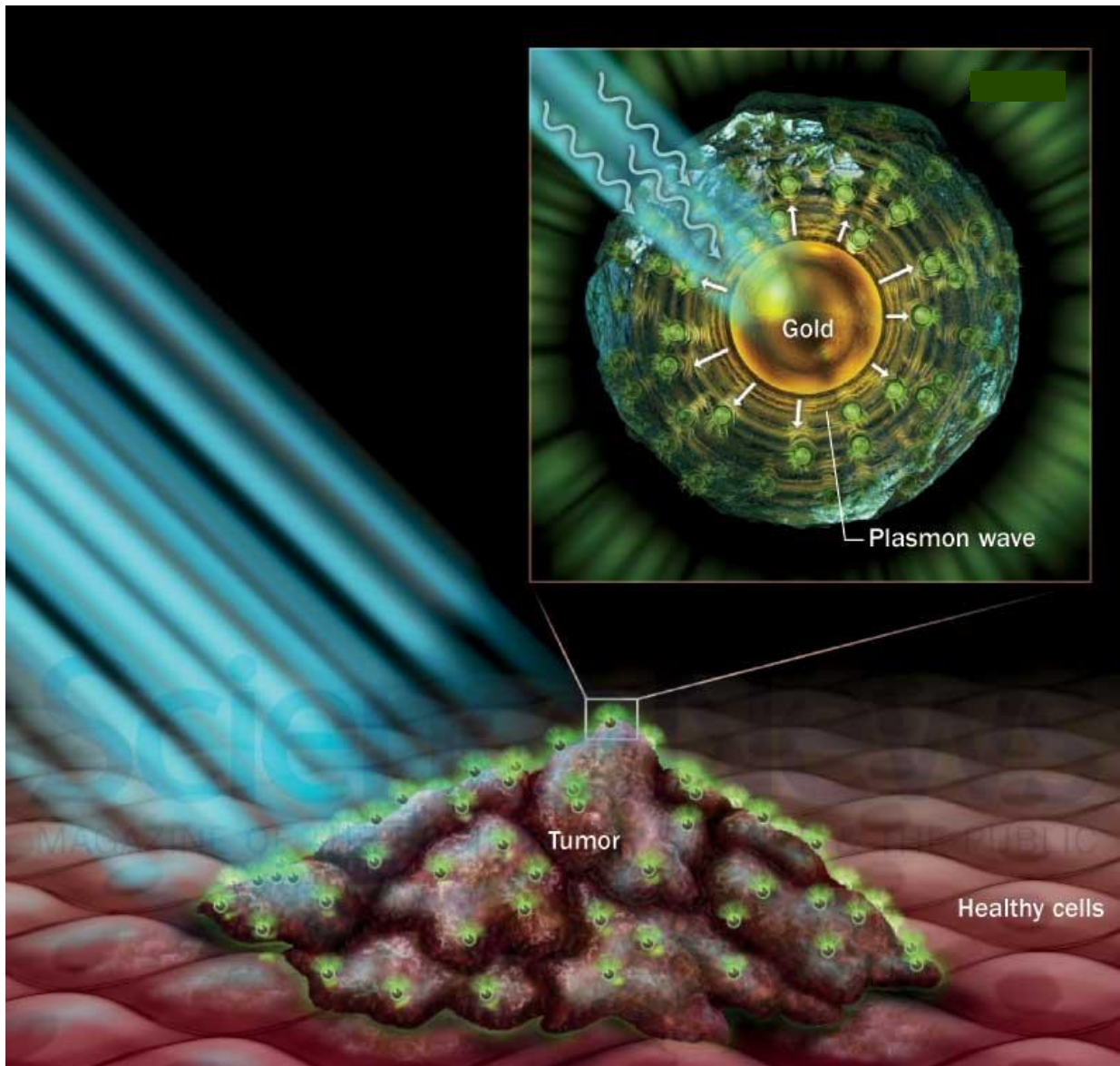
Heat source density $h(r)$



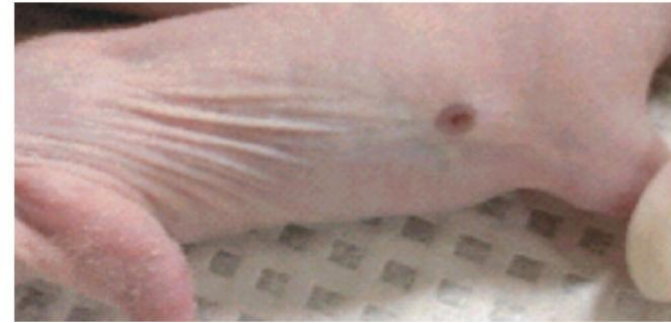
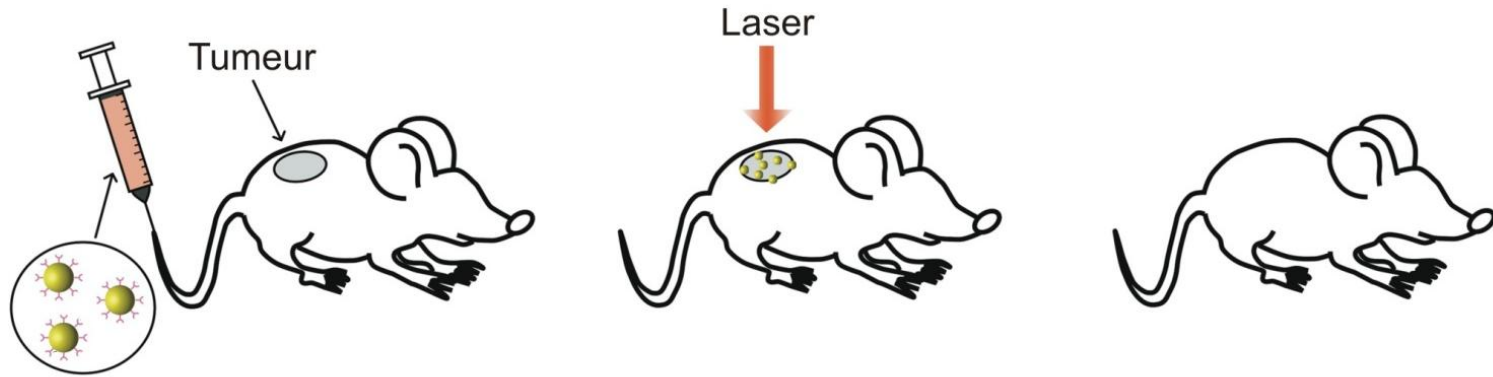
Two-photon luminescence



Cancer photothermal treatment



Cancer photothermal treatment

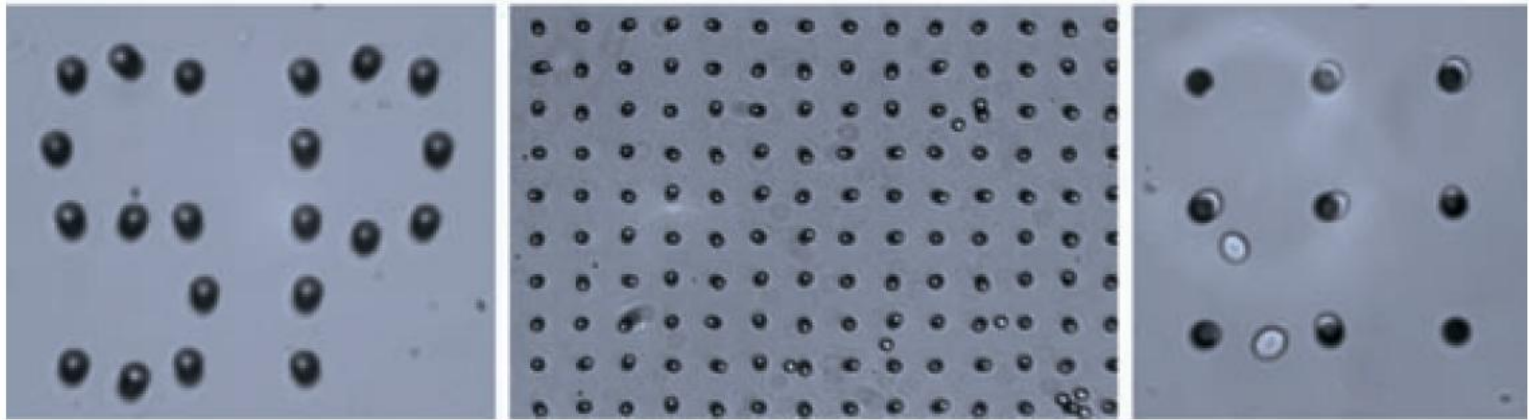
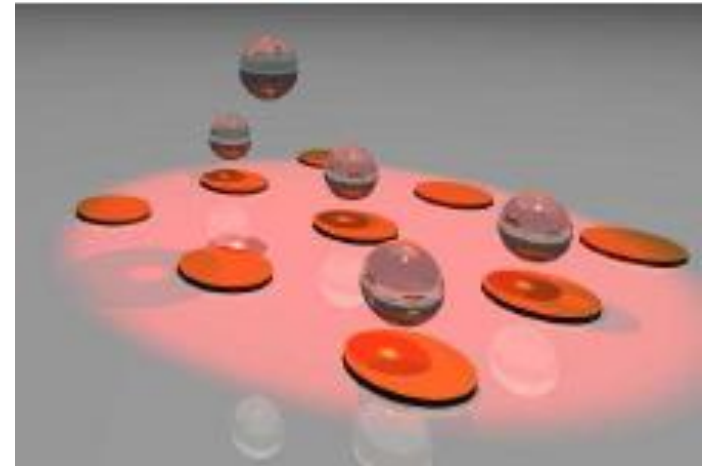
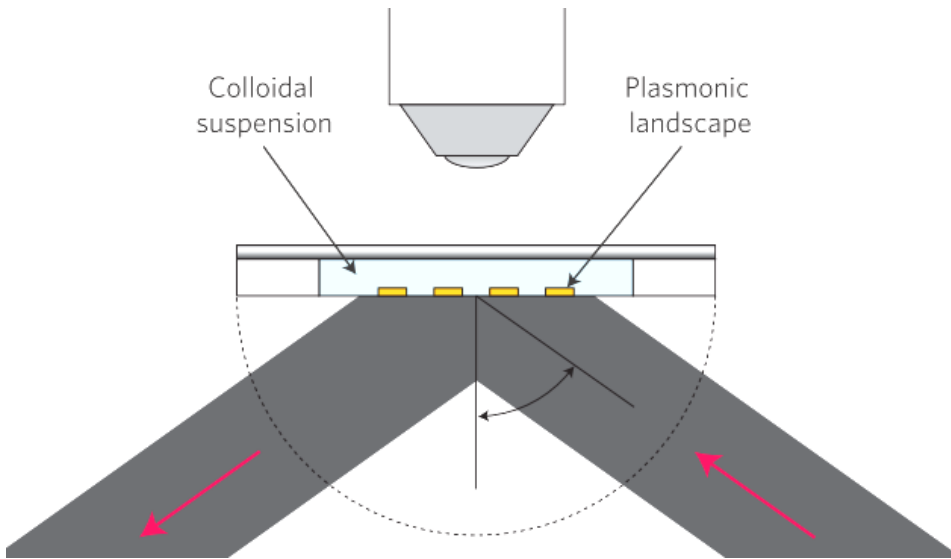


Stern et al, J Urol. **179**, 748 (2008)

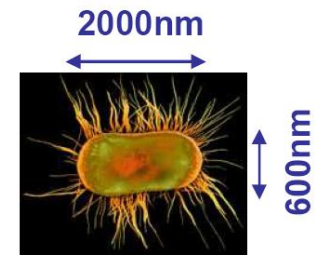
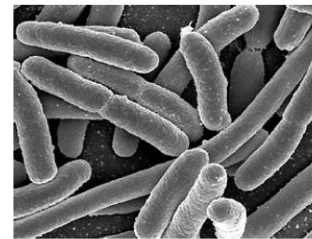
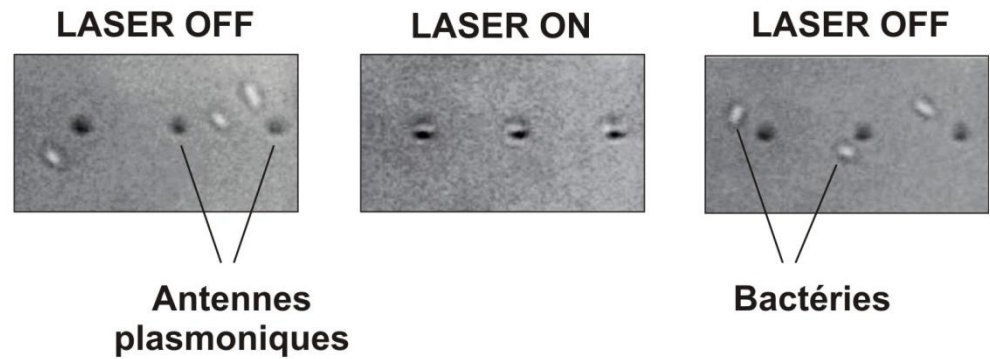
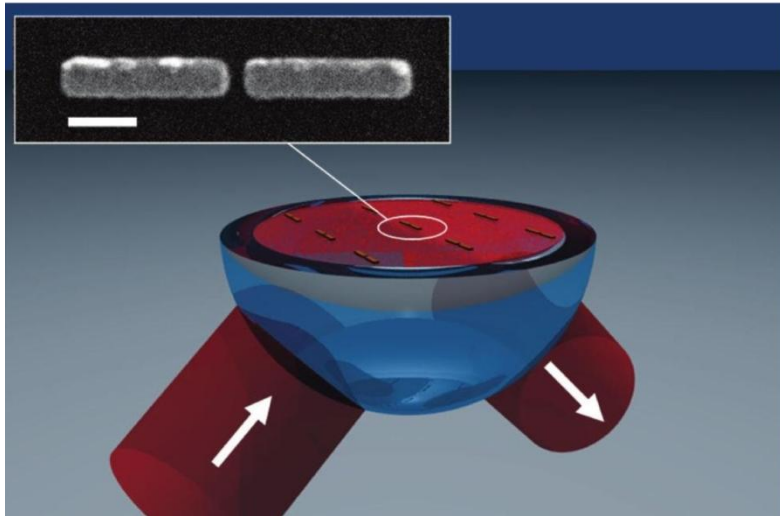
Plasmonics for Biophotonics

- Sensors
- Enhanced photoemission
- Thermoplasmonics
- **Optical Tweezers**

Local surface plasmon nano tweezers

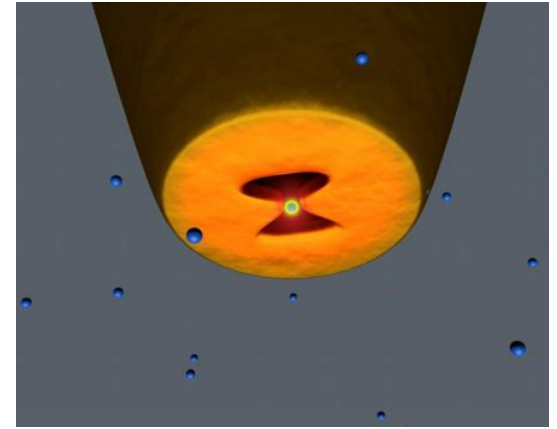
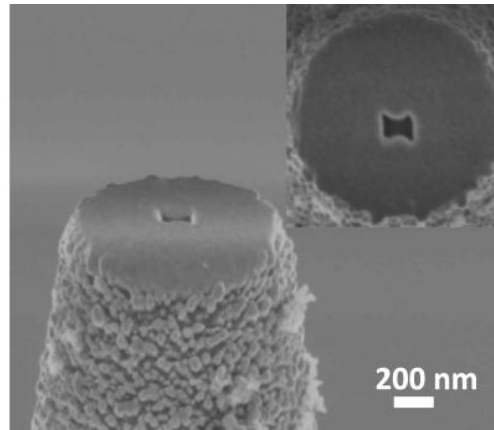


Bacteria trapping with nanoantennas

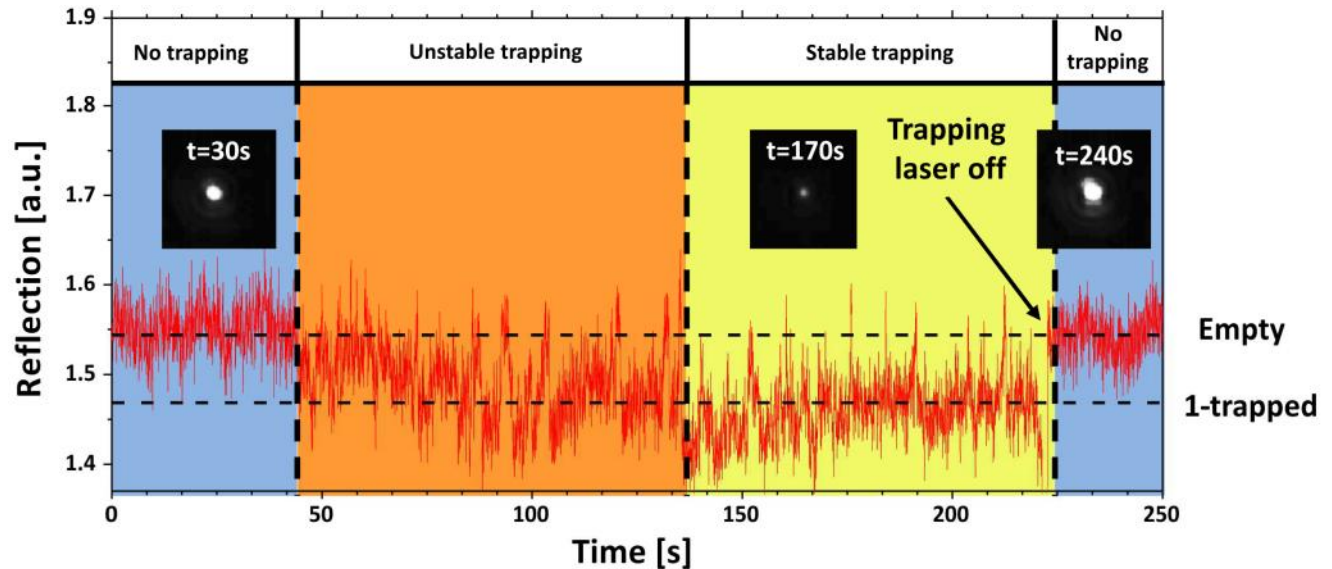


3D displacements with NSOM tweezers

Bowtie aperture at coated fiber tip

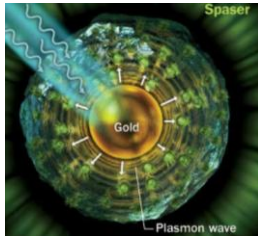


Trapping 50nm dielectric nanoparticles



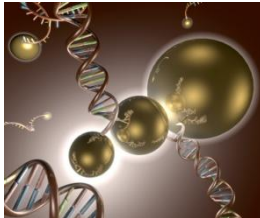
Plasmonics for Biophotonics

Main properties and applications :



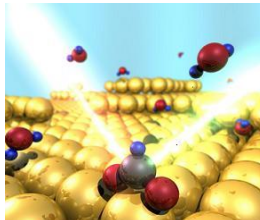
Confining light

→ trapping, photothermal effects



Intensity enhancement

→ enhanced optical emission



Sensitivity to local refractive index

→ label-free biosensors