Hybrid plasmonic nano-emitters: on the interest of controlling the spatial distribution of the active medium

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In microscale optoelectronics, the possibility to precisely control the spatial distribution of the active medium leads to optimization of systems and devices. At the nanoscale, this issue still constitutes a challenge, especially within the frame of hybrid plasmonic nano-emitters based on coupling between quantum emitters and metal nanocavities [1].

We studied and exploited the controlled nanoscale spatial positioning of semiconductor quantum emitters in the close vicinity of metal nanostructures. This control relies on plasmon-assisted nano-polymerization [2,3] of a photosensitive formulation that hosts nano-emitters [4,5]. In addition to offering a promising platform for nanochemistry, this approach enables the design of the symmetry of the medium surrounding plasmonic nano-antenna.

Through selected examples, it is shown that this approach has opened many new avenues and concepts, such as

- Polarization-sensitive photoluminescence [6] (see Fig. 1 as an illustration)
- Polarization-driven color selection [3]
- Life time engineering [7]
- Rationalized plasmon-assisted donor-acceptor energy transfer
- Single photon switch that is driven by polarization [6]

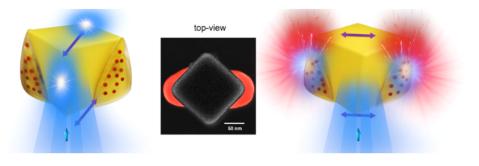


Fig. 1 Example of hybrid plasmonic nano-source made of a gold nanocube and two polymer lobes containing quantum dots. Left: system shined with an incident polarization perpendicular to the lobes (emitter off). Middle: colored top-view SEM image of the hybrid nano-system. Right: system shined with an incident polarization parallel to the lobes (emitter on).

References

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