

# Integrated Photonic and Plasmonic Nanomechanical Transducers

Vladimir A. Aksyuk



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NGT National Institute of Standards and Technology • U.S. Department of Commerce

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  - The CNST also links the external community to nanotechnology-related measurement expertise at NIST (nano@nist.gov)

# NIST & Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology

# **Optical MEMS and NEMS: Why?**

- Control light: many elements, near-zero power dissipation
  - Image projection with mirror arrays
  - Adaptive optics
  - Datacom switching
- Optical measurement of MEMS / NEMS motion
  - Fast: MHz GHz frequencies
  - Sensitive: nanometer to picometer amplitudes
  - Noncontact method
- MEMS / NEMS sensors with optical readout
  - Enhanced transduction at small scales (AFM, magnetization, etc)
  - Portability and robustness







## MEMS / NEMS + integrated photonics: Examples

- Atomic Force Microscopy probe with a photonic cavity readout
  - High performance nanoscale measurement tool
  - PTIR application
- High-Q NEMS for frequency-modulated sensing
  - Toward high bias stability and dynamic range
- Nanoscale gap plasmon NEMS phase modulator
  - Scaling of plasmonic-mechanical light control
- 100 nm scale gap-plasmon resonators coupled to NEMS
  - Precision, local motion sensing; optical modulation
  - Dynamics: regenerative oscillations and locking







#### Micro- and nano-mechanical transducers for nanoscale measurements

#### Atomic Force Microscopy **Measurement Principle:** Nanoscale physical system is coupled to a micro- or nano-mechanical device Detector and Feedback J. Chae et al. Nano Electronics Motion of the mechanical device is measured Letters 17 (2017) Photodiode Laser Low-dimensional or small systems – small transducers Geometrical confinement enhances interactions Cantilever & Tip Sample Surface Precision motion readout – local optomechanical PZT Scanner

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic force microscopy

Magnetic Vortices



C. A. Bolle et al, Nature 399, 43-46 (1999)

interaction

#### **Casimir Force**



H. B. Chan et al, Science 291 no. 5510 (2001)

#### Spin Torque



G. Zolfagharkhani et al, Nature Nanotechnology 3,(2008)

#### Nanoscale Magnetism



M. Wu et al, Nature Nanotechnology 12,(2017)

#### **Optics is great for nanoscale motion measurement**

- Power not dissipated in the transducer
- Small interaction region
  - Focal spot ~ λ (from far field)
  - Small devices can be measured
- Fast response
  - Excess bandwidth can be traded for sensitivity
- Precision at fundamental limits
  - Shot noise and backaction limited
  - No thermal noise in motion measurement
  - Standard Quantum Limit (SQL) can be reached

Sensing at fundamental thermo-mechanical limit

Thermal motion can be used and controlled



T.J.Kippenberg and K.J. Vahala, Cavity Optomechanics: Back action at the Mesoscale, Science, v. 321, p1172, 2008

V. B. Braginsky, F. Y. Khalili, *Quantum Measurement* (Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 1992).

#### **Basic optomechanical coupling**



Transmitted phase or amplitude is a function of mechanical coordinate

Different approaches are possible for on-chip transducers

#### **Optical resonance enhancement**



- A resonance increases the  $d\phi/dx$  by the quality (Q) factor
- Optomechanical coupling is increased
- Delay is introduced
- Enables gain bandwidth tradeoff
- E.g. cavity lifetime = mechanical timescale





## **On-chip nanophotonic cavities for light confinement**



Caltech -O. Painter, A. Scherer, J. Vuckovic, Kyoto University - S. Noda et al; NTT Laboratories – M. Notomi et al Specific design - K. Srinivasan and O. Painter, *Optics Express*, 2002

- •Confine field to volume  $V \approx (\lambda/n)^3$
- •Large per photon electric field strength
  - •Enhanced interaction strength with matter
  - High cavity quality factor (Q) enhanced interaction time with matter

#### Sub-wavelength confinement: plasmonics



#### Plasmonics for near-field nano-imaging and superlensing

Satoshi Kawata<sup>1,2</sup>, Yasushi Inouye<sup>3</sup> and Prabhat Verma<sup>1,3</sup>





Bowtie nanostructure with gap



Bumki Min<sup>1,2</sup>†, Eric Ostby<sup>1</sup>, Volker Sorger<sup>2</sup>, Erick Ulin-Avila<sup>2</sup>, Lan Yang<sup>1</sup>†, Xiang Zhang<sup>2,3</sup> & Kerry Vahala<sup>1</sup>

## Microscale optical transduction schemes: dielectrics

Limits in light concentration ability obscure nanometer-localized measurements

Doppler vibrometry – far field



Dielectric cavity optomechanical systems – resonance enhanced

Quantum limited sensitivity  $\approx$  am·Hz<sup>-1/2</sup>

Whispering gallery resonators

(a) → F<sub>RP</sub> ω/2π=57.8 MHz 50 μm

PRL 97, 243905 (2006)

Optomechanical crystals



Nature 459, 550 (2009).

## Sensitive transduction of NEMS motion



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DApplater Bacerbase Protitivity 5.19020914 (2009) $^{0.5}$ 



#### pr micro/nano instruments

M. Eichenfield et al, Nature, 459, 550-555 (2009)

#### **Cavity-optomechanical motion sensing**



#### Integrated cavity optomechanical sensing

- FAST: measure motion at up to 100 MHz to 1 GHz mechanical frequency
  - Optical Q: 10<sup>4</sup> to 10<sup>6</sup>
- SENSITIVE: sense  $\approx$ 1 pm motion in 1  $\mu$ s (1 MHz)
  - $g_{om} = 1$  GHz/nm to 30 GHz/nm; noise level (0.5 to 5) fm / $\sqrt{Hz}$
- Self-aligned and stable
- Compact, fiber connectorized, practical
- Electrostatic and thermo-electric actuation and tuning





#### Nanoscale cantilevers for AFM

Atomic Force Microscopy





Nanoscale Cantilever?

S

 $k=m\omega^2$ . High resonance frequency with a moderate stiffness

Larger bandwidth and faster scanning speed Smaller cross section => smaller viscous drag Fluctuation dissipation => smaller force noise

Nanoscale cantilever with integrated photonic cavity sensor

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=>

- Increase mechanical frequency while maintaining desired stiffness
- Improved force sensitivity and measurement bandwidth
  - Image acquisition rate
  - Fast force spectroscopy
  - Time-dependent forces

#### **Operational AFM probe**



#### Integration with AFM



#### Integration with AFM



#### Integration with AFM



#### Fast, low noise contact-mode nanomechanical AFM





### Fast, low noise contact-mode nanomechanical AFM



#### New science with nano-AFM probe: advanced PTIR

- Photo Thermal Induced Resonance = IR spectroscopy with nanoscale resolution Chemical mapping
- Optomechanical probe = 50x increased sensitivity for thin samples



J. Chae, S. An, G. Ramer, V. Stavila, G. Holland, Y. Yoon, A. Alec Talin, M. Allendorf, V. A. Aksyuk, A. Centrone, Nano Letters **17** (9), pp 5587–5594 (2017).

#### Measuring thermal conductivity at the nanoscale

#### Speed + precision = dynamic thermal expansion relaxation



J. Chae, S. An, G. Ramer, V. Stavila, G. Holland, Y. Yoon, A. Alec Talin, M. Allendorf, V. A. Aksyuk, A. Centrone, Nano Letters **17** (9), pp 5587–5594 (2017).

### Transducing via a mechanical frequency change

- Force, torque or motion => mechanical frequency change
- Advantages:
  - Insensitive to readout DC bias drift, 1/f noise
  - Very long averaging times for high sensitivity
  - Stable frequency/time references (e.g. vs. stable V or optical power)
  - Increased dynamic range
  - Mechanical element performance limits the transducer performance
- Applications:
  - Frequency-modulation atomic force microscopy (FM-AFM)
  - Physics: Magnetometers, Casimir force, etc...
  - Some macro- and micro-scale accelerometers



C. A. Bolle, Nature 399, 43-46 (1999)

## High mechanical *f<sub>M</sub>Q<sub>M</sub>* tuning fork



#### Nanobeam tuning forks



**Tension enhancement structure:** Beam stress of  $\approx 3.0$  GPa

for same residual (film) stress.

#### **Measured Mechanical Spectra**



#### **Compensation structures control tension in fork**

- Mechanical frequency is defined by tension
- Tension depends on
  - Residual stress
  - Differential thermal expansion
- Pre-tension structure increases tension for given residual stress (e.g. x4.4, black line)





predetermined value (reduced slope)

#### **Temperature compensation: experimental**



## Frequency stability: preliminary data



- Undriven device (thermal noise only)
- $\approx$  thermodynamic limit up to 1s
  - Q ~ 30K, T<sub>1</sub> ~ 0.1 ms
- $\approx$  1 ppm ( $\approx$  0.3 pm) bias stability

#### NATURE NANOTECHNOLOGY DOI: 10.1038/NNANO.2016.19



**Figure 1** | The frequency stability of resonators measured in the literature is on average 2.1 orders of magnitude greater than the thermomechanical noise-limited stability. For each device, both the experimentally measured

### Sub-wavelength confinement: plasmonics





owtie nanostructure with gap

#### MIM waveguides: <10nm gaps



Plasmonics for near-field nano-imaging and superlensing

Satoshi Kawata<sup>1,2</sup>, Yasushi Inouye<sup>3</sup> and Prabhat Verma<sup>1,3</sup>

- Electron charge density oscillations
  - Strong interaction with light
- Nanometer energy confinement:
  - Electromagnetic energy →
     Electromechanical energy
- Favorable interaction/loss scaling

B. Dennis et al, Nature Photonics, 9, 267-273 (2015)

### Deep sub-wavelength optical signal manipulation



#### Plasmonic nano-electro-mechanical transducer

NEMS Metal-Insulator-Metal plasmonic electrostatic transducer:



"Compact Nano-Mechanical Plasmonic Phase Modulators", B. Dennis et al, Nature Photonics, 9, 267-273 (2015)

#### Measured motion of Au nanobeams at 1 MHz



1  $\mu m$  and 3  $\mu m$  pitch suspended beams  $\approx$  4 V, 1 MHz actuation

 $\approx$  100 nm amplitude

#### **Measuring phase modulation**



Position along out-coupler slit (µm)

"Compact Nano-Mechanical Plasmonic Phase Modulators", B. Dennis et al, Nature Photonics, 9, 267-273 (2015)

### Phase modulation results

- >  $\pi$  rad phase modulation
- Excess loss below 70 %
- Optical switching Optical motion sensing

- Guided optical mode exists for gaps down to 1 nm
- Any wavelength longer than material absorption / surface plasma frequency



• Modulation vs. Loss?

"Compact Nano-Mechanical Plasmonic Phase Modulators", B. Dennis et al, Nature Photonics, 9, 267-273 (2015)

#### Theoretical: reducing device size

- Maintain constant low loss
- Length ~ Gap<sup>0.8</sup>
- Achieve π phase range?
  Yes.
- Same relative actuation

Gap: 100 nm -> 20 nm Footprint: 2 μm x 100 nm



"Compact Nano-Mechanical Plasmonic Phase Modulators", B. Dennis et al, Nature Photonics, 9, 267-273 (2015)

## **Gap plasmonic modulation**

- Nano-mechanically tunable gap plasmons
  - Large coupling large tuning with small motion
  - Scalable to very small size efficiency is maintained



- Nano-electro-mechanical plasmon phase modulators
  - >  $\pi$  range, low losses
  - $\blacksquare$  Compact: 20  $\mu m$  scalable down to 2  $\mu m$
- Path to optical devices with deep subwavelength footprint
  - Plasmonic switch model: 2.5 μm x 0.5 μm



## From 2D to 3D confinement

- Confine to smallest volume => max mechanical modulation
- NOT field enhancement at a single point but max average field
  - NOT the usual mode volume metric

#### MIM waveguides



Gap plasmons



Localized plasmon resonances

Antennas

## Localized gap-plasmon resonators

- Beneficial combination of MIM and antennas
- LGP mode is a standing-wave gap plasmon
- Reduced radiation loss vs. antennas  $\rightarrow$  higher optical Q



## Localized gap-plasmon resonators

- LGP mode is a standing-wave gap plasmon
  - 100 nm to 300 nm typical lateral size
- Mode order, shape controls radiation coupling  $\rightarrow$ 
  - higher optical Q
  - Nanoscale resonator near-optimally coupled to free space
- ~ 10 nm gaps extremely sensitive to vertical mechanical motion



## **Plasmonic-NEMS resonators**

- Plasmonic prisms embedded into nanomechanical structures
- Dynamic localized gap plasmons (LGPs)
  - Produce strong, nanometer-localized optomechanical coupling



NIST & Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Nature Comm. 7, 13746 (2016).

### The full plasmonic-NEMS (pNEMS) architecture

- Added metal layer optimized for electrostatic and thermo-mechanical
- Couple nanoscale optical resonance to mechanical, thermal, electrical DOFs



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B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

#### Localized gap plasmon resonator + nanocantilever

- Silicon nitride cantilever: (5×1.25×0.175) μm<sup>3</sup>
- Embedded gold prism: (350×165×35) nm<sup>3</sup> and (90×75×40) nm<sup>3</sup>





- B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Nature Comm. 7, 13746 (2016).
- B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

#### pNEMS: scalable platform for plasmomechanics



B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Nature Comm. 7, 13746 (2016).

B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

## **Process flow for plasmonic-NEMS platform**

#### Lithographic layers:

- Plasmonic resonator
- Mechanical device
- Actuator

#### Modes / degrees of freedom:

- Optical
- Mechanical
- Thermal
- Electrical



- Key processing features
  - Chromium sacrificial layer  $\leq$  15 nm build plasmonic resonator vertically
  - PECVD silicon nitride (SiNx) low temperature of 180 °C

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B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

## Localized gap-plasmon resonators

- LGP mode is a standing-wave gap plasmon
- LGP resonance depends sensitively on gap size



#### Shrinking gap = plasmon red shift + reduced coupling



*Measured*  $g_{om}$  up to  $\approx$  2 THz/nm; ( $g_0 \approx$  70 MHz)

#### **Electrostatic actuation provides facile LGP tuning**



NIST @ Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Ak

B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

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NIST @ Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology B. J. R

B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

#### **Electromechanical LGP resonance tuning**

•  $\Delta \lambda_{LGP} > FWHM_{LGP}$  and 40 % (4 dB) amplitude modulation



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#### Dynamic motion measurement using amplitude modulation

Modulated reflectivity >> photodiode >> spectrum analyzer



#### LGPs selectively transduce mechanical modes

#### Ambient, electrostatic drive

#### Vacuum, thermodynamic fluctuations



B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Nat. Commun 7, 13746 (2016).

# Localized interactions enable sub-λ mode mapping



# Bimorph enables Plasmomechanical Oscillators (PMOs)

 Optomechanical interactions via absorption, thermal actuation: delayed feedback



#### **Single-element Plasmomechanical Oscillators**



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B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

#### **Oscillation injection-locked onto a weak stimulus**



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B. J. Roxworthy & V. A. Aksyuk, Optica 5(1), 71-79 (2018)

## Nanoscale plasmonic NEMS

- New type of plasmomechanical platform
  - Arbitrary planar shape, small gap, vertical motion
- High-sensitivity, localized optical motion measurements
  - 40x > state of art
  - ~ 100 nm interrogation area
- Optomechanical coupling ≈ 2 THz·nm<sup>-1</sup>
  - New regime of light-motion interaction enabled
- Electrostatic actuation for excitation and strong tuning
  - Toward dynamically tunable metasurfaces
- Nanomechanical oscillators driven by individual plasmonic particles
- Engineered modes and couplings:
  - Plasmonic, mechanical, thermal, electrical
- Injection locking of nanomechanical oscillator
  - Frequency readout of week periodic stimul

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Nanophotonics Lab (CNST) PI: Kartik Srinivasan Marcelo Davanco

<u>MOF Experts</u> (Sandia) Alec Talin, V. Stavila, M. Allendorf

Nitride Tuning Forks (Worchester PI) PI: Yuxiang Liu Riu Zhang







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Seeking collaboration opportunities Postdoc positions are available