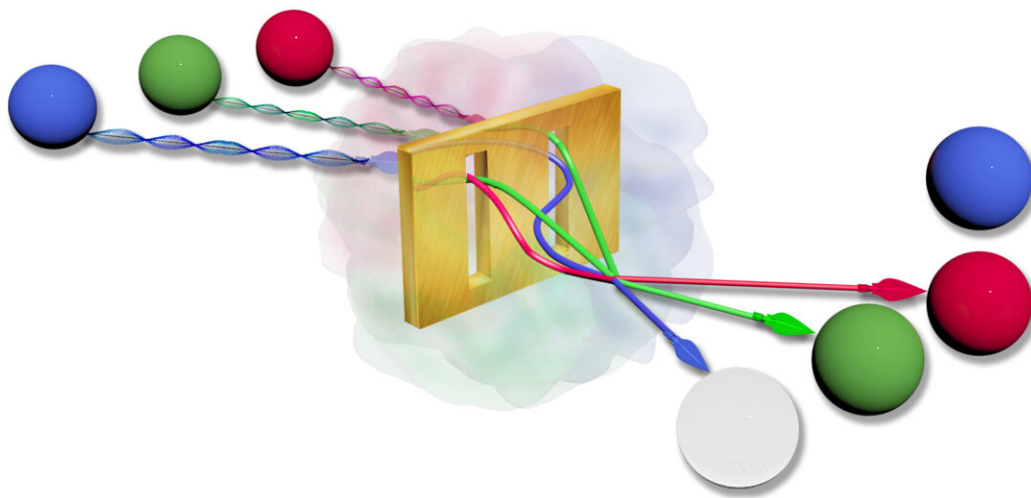


# Nanoscale systems for generating various forms of light

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Multiparticle scattering in plasmonic systems. Credit: LSU

For decades, scholars have believed that the quantum statistical properties of bosons are preserved in plasmonic systems, and therefore will not create different form of light.

This rapidly growing field of research focuses on quantum properties of light and its interaction with matter at the nanoscale level. Stimulated by [experimental work](#) in the possibility of preserving nonclassical correlations in light-matter interactions mediated by scattering of photons and plasmons, it has been assumed that similar dynamics underlie the conservation of the [quantum fluctuations](#) that define the nature of light sources. The possibility of using nanoscale system to create exotic forms of light could pave the way for next-generation quantum devices. It could also constitute a novel platform for exploring novel quantum phenomena.

In new findings published in *Nature Communications*, researchers from Louisiana State University and four collaborating universities have introduced a discovery that changes a paradigm in quantum plasmonics by demonstrating the potential of metallic nanostructures to produce different forms of light.

Their paper, "Observation of the Modification of Quantum Statistics of Plasmonic Systems," written by collaborators from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Tecnologico de Monterrey, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Iztapalapa, demonstrates that the quantum statistics of multiparticle systems are not always preserved in plasmonic platforms. It also describes the first observation of the modified quantum statistics.

Lead authors, LSU postdoctoral researcher Chenglong You and LSU graduate student Mingyuan Hong, show that optical near fields provide additional scattering paths that can induce complex multiparticle interactions.

"Our findings unveil the possibility of using multiparticle scattering to perform exquisite control of quantum plasmonic systems," You said.

"This result redirects an old paradigm in the field of quantum plasmonics where the fundamental physics uncovered in our discovery will provide a better understanding of the quantum properties of [plasmonic systems](#), and unveil new paths to perform control of quantum multiparticle systems."

Research pursued by the Experimental Quantum Photonics Group at LSU that resulted in these new findings was conducted in Assistant Professor Omar Magaña-Loaiza's Quantum Photonics Laboratory.

"We engineered metallic nanostructures, fabricated in gold, to produce different kinds of light," Hong said. "Our nanoscale platform exploits dissipative [plasmonic](#) near fields to induce and control complex interactions in many-body systems of photons. This capability allows us to control at will the quantum fluctuations of multiphoton systems."

The possibility of engineering light with different quantum mechanical properties has enormous implications for multiple quantum technologies.

"For example, our platform enables the reduction of the quantum fluctuations of multiphoton systems to boost the sensitivity of protocols for quantum sensing," Magaña-Loaiza said. "In our lab, we will exploit this exquisite degree of control to develop quantum simulations of [light](#) transport. This will enable the eventual design of better and more efficient solar cells."

**More information:** Chenglong You et al, Observation of the modification of quantum statistics of plasmonic systems, *Nature Communications* (2021). [DOI: 10.1038/s41467-021-25489-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-25489-4)

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