Quantum fluids of light in semiconductor microcavities

Jacqueline Bloch







A new laboratory: C2N













New Academic Buildings at Campus Paris – Saclay



C2N by numbers





 ~ 450 researchers, post-doc, PhD students, engineers, technicians, administrative staff 4 Departments: Photonics, Nanoelectronics, Microsystems & NanoBioFluidics, Materials

2,800 m² high-class clean-room facility



Bose Einstein Condensation in atoms



Cornell and Wieman's groups : condensation of Rb atoms (1995)

- $m = 10^4 m_e$
- *T_c* = 200 nK

Macroscopic wavefunction

$$\lambda_T = \left(\frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{mk_BT}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



http://jilawww.colorado.edu/bec/

Atomic condensates



http://jilawww.colorado.edu/bec/

Cornell and Wieman's groups : condensation of Rb atoms (1995)

- $m = 10^4 m_e$
- *T_c* = 200 nK

Atom laser

b

- Superfluidity
- Vortex lattices
- Insulator-superfluid transition
- Anderson localisation
- Artificial gauge fields
- Quantum simulators

Fabricate the Hamiltonian of system difficult to access

I. Bloch et al. Nature Physics 1, 23 (2005



- Spatial and temporal solitons
- Fiber solitons
- Non-linear waveguide arrays
- Bi-stability
- Optical paremetric oscillation
- Parametric down-conversion
- Photon quantum state manipulation

Non-linear optics



Development of non-linear optical media $\chi^{(2)}, \chi^{(3)}$

Macroscopic wavefunction Atomic condensates

Non-linear optics



Bose-Einstein condensation of exciton polaritons

J. Kasprzak¹, M. Richard², S. Kundermann², A. Baas², P. Jeambrun², J. M. J. Keeling³, F. M. Marchetti⁴, M. H. Szymańska⁵, R. André¹, J. L. Staehli², V. Savona², P. B. Littlewood⁴, B. Deveaud² & Le Si Dang¹

T = 10 K



Nature 443, 409 (2006)



Benoid Deveaud



Le Si Dang

Polaritons: non-linear properties

Optical Parametric Oscillation



Diederichs et al., Nature 440, 904 (2006)

Quantised vortices $a_{1}^{(2)}$ $a_{1}^{($

Lagoudakis *et al.*, Nature Phys. **4**, 706 (2008), and Science **326**, 974 (2009)

Superfluidity



AA, Lefrère *et al.,* Nature Phys. **5**, 805 (2009)

Dark solitons



A.A., Pigeon et al., Science 332, 1167 (2012)

Condensates in low dimensions



Wertz et al., Nature Phys. 6, 860 (2010)



Kasprzak et al. Nature, 443, 409 (2006)

Long-range order phases





Lai *et al.,* Nature **450**, 529 (2007) Kim et al. Nature Phys. (2011)

Bright solitons



Sich et al., Nature Phot. 6, 50 (2012)

Non-linear oscillators



Tosi et al., Nature Phys. 8, 190 (2012)

Emulation with photons

Random quantum walk



A. Crespi, Nature Photonics 7, 322 (2013)

Topological photonics



M. Hafezi et al., Nature Photonics, 7, 1001 (2013)

Strongly interacting microwave photons



A. Houck et al., Nature Physics 8, 292 (2012)

Driven-dissipative photonic Bose-Hubbard model

Interplay of photon **hopping**, **interaction**, **coherent driving**, **and decay**, leads to strongly correlated steady-state phases and instabilities.



Le Boite et al., PRL 110, 233601 (2013); PRA 90, 063821 (2014).

Review on Quantum Fluids of Light: Ciuti & Carusotto, Rev. Mod. Phys. 85, 299 (2013)

Quantum simulation with photons:

- M. J Hartmann, et al., Nature Phys. 2, 849{855 (2006). A. D Greentree, et al., Nature Phys. 2, 856{861 (2006).
 - D. G. Angelakis, et al., Phys. Rev. A 76, 031805 (2007).

Our research at C2N

Use of nanotechnology to pattern microcavities * Manipulation of quantum fluids of light

* A photonic emulator















Recent reviews



REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 85, JANUARY-MARCH 2013

Quantum fluids of light

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Outline

Lecture 1 : Introduction to cavity polaritons

- Hybrid light-matter quasi-particle: basic properties
- Confinement in microstructures
- Interactions

II Lecture 2: Polariton condensation; Quantum fluids of light Coherence; Instability; Superfluidity; Dark solitons

III Lecture 3: Polariton in lattices : quantum simulation

- > 1D Fibonacci quasi-crystals: fractal spectrum, edge states
- > 1D SSH : topological laser
- 2D Honeycomb lattice: Dirac cones, edge states



Introduction to cavity polaritons





Mixed light-matter particles

Photons confined in an optical cavity

- Very light (m=0 in vacuum)
- Very fast
- No interactions

Excitons confined in a quantum well

- Very heavy
- Very slow
- Strong interactions

Photon confinement

Distributed Bragg reflector





Photon confinement

















Observation of the Coupled Exciton-Photon Mode Splitting in a Semiconductor Quantum Microcavity

C. Weisbuch, ^(a) M. Nishioka, ^(b) A. Ishikawa, and Y. Arakawa

Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Tokyo, 4-6-1 Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153, Japan (Received 12 May 1992)







FIG. 3. Reflectivity peak positions as a function of cavity detuning for a five-quantum-well sample at T=5 K. The theoretical fit is obtained through a standard multiple-interference analysis of the DBR-Fabry-Pérot-quantum-well structure.

FIG. 2. 5-K reflectivity curves on a seven-QW microcavity structure. Various detuning conditions between cavity and QW exciton frequencies are obtained by choosing various points on the wafer, typically 0.5 mm apart. Note the line narrowing approaching and at resonance, the resonance mode splitting, and the indication of a light-hole exciton mode splitting around 1.605 eV for the lowest trace.

Claude Weisbuch PRL **69**, 3314 (1992)



$$H_{k_{//}} = \begin{pmatrix} E_X(k_{//}) & g \\ g & E_C(k_{//}) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_{1} = \frac{E_{X}(k_{\parallel}) + E_{C}(k_{\parallel})}{2} - \frac{\Delta(k_{\parallel})}{2}$$
$$E_{2} = \frac{E_{X}(k_{\parallel}) + E_{C}(k_{\parallel})}{2} + \frac{\Delta(k_{\parallel})}{2}$$

with

$$\Delta(k_{//}) = \sqrt{(E_C(k_{//}) - E_X(k_{//}))^2 + 4g^2}$$

 $| polariton > = \alpha | photon > + \beta | exciton >$

Exciton photon detuning: $\delta = Ec(k = 0) - Ex(k = 0)$

s-shaped dispersion : inflexion point



 $| polariton > = \alpha | photon > + \beta | exciton >$

Exciton photon detuning: $\delta = Ec(k = 0) - Ex(k = 0)$

s-shaped dispersion : inflexion point

Effective mass:
$$\frac{1}{M_{pol}} = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial k^2}$$

At k = 0: $\frac{1}{M_{pol}} = \frac{\alpha^2}{M_{phot}} + \frac{\beta^2}{M_{exc}}$

Beyond inflexion point: negative effective mass



Probing polariton states: Angle resolved experiments



Selective excitation and probe of polariton states

Probing polariton states: Angle resolved experiments









Measurement of Cavity-Polariton Dispersion Curve from Angle-Resolved Photoluminescence Experiments

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¹Institut de Micro- et Optoélectronique, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, CH 1015, Lausanne, Switzerland ²Laboratoire de Physique de la Matière Condensée, Ecole Polytechnique, F 91128 Palaiseau, France

(Received 11 March 1994)



FIG. 2. Series of photoluminescence spectra at T = 77 K, for an emission angle from -12° to 41° . The Fabry-Pérot at normal incidence is resonant with the quantum well exciton.







Romuald Houdré

FIG. 3. Cavity-polariton dispersion curves, deduced from angle-resolved photoluminescence measurements, for different resonance conditions. (a) Resonance at $\theta = 0^{\circ}$ (case of Fig. 2), (b) resonance at $\theta = 29^{\circ}$, and (c) $\theta = 35^{\circ}$. The continuous lines are theoretical calculations and the dashed lines are the uncoupled exciton and cavity dispersion curves. The interaction energy Ω and exact resonance position are determined from the minimum splitting between both photoluminescence lines. An external emission angle grid is drawn on (a).

Typical experimental scheme

Far field imaging: k space

Real space imaging



Cavity polaritons : an exciton-photon mixed state



Probing polariton states: Real space propagation



Probing polariton states: Real space propagation



15 MARCH 2000-

Cavity polaritons : an exciton-photon mixed state



Polariton lifetime

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 24

15 JUNE 1996-II

Time-resolved spontaneous emission of excitons in a microcavity: Behavior of the individual exciton-photon mixed states

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J. Bloch, R. Planel, and V. Thierry-Mieg

Laboratoire de Microstructures et de Microélectronique, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Boite Postale 107, 92225 Bagneux Cedex, France (Received 1 May 1995; revised manuscript received 12 January 1996)



FIG. 1. Luminescence decay curves obtained with a laser excitation resonant with the lower state for different values of the detuning: (a) $\delta_0 = E_{c0} - E_{x0} = -8.5$ meV, (b) $\delta_0 = -1.5$, and (c) $\delta_0 = 3.5$ meV. The dashed curve (d) is the luminescence decay of the reference sample excited resonantly. The dotted curve (labeled "Laser") is the instrument response function.

Polariton have a short lifetime : 1-100 ps

Cavity polaritons : an exciton-photon mixed state



Polariton spin

Spin : electron : +- 1/2 heavy hole : +- 3/2

Exciton :
$$J_z = +-1 e \uparrow h e \downarrow h$$

 $J_z = +-2 e \uparrow h e \downarrow h$

Photon have an angular momentum : +- 1



Only J=1 excitons are coupled to light **Polaritons have two spin projections:** $j_z = +1$ $\sigma +$ $j_z = -1$ $\sigma +$ $\sigma -$

One-to-one relationship between pseudospin state and polarisation degree



Optical spin Hall effect



Optical spin Hall effect





Kavokin et al. PRL **95**, 136601 (2005) Leyder et al. Nature Phys. **3**, 628 (2007).



Cavity polariton in microstructures

Use of nanotechnology to engineer the potential landscape Polaritonic circuits and quantum simulation













Polariton confinement

$$|pol\rangle = C_k |phot\rangle + X_k |exc\rangle$$
 excitonic component

Pressure induced traps Snoke's group



Balili et al., Science 316, 1007 (2007)

Polariton confinement

$$|pol\rangle = C_k |phot\rangle + X_k |exc\rangle$$
 excitonic component

Pressure induced traps Snoke's group

Fig. 1. (A) Stress geometry for the microcavity structure. (B) Upper and lower polariton energies (top and bottom traces, respectively), deduced from photoluminescence and reflectivity spectra at very low excitation density and low lattice temperature (T = 4 K), when a force of 0.975 N on the pin stressor is applied to the sample. (C) Photon fraction of the lower polariton branch as a function of position in the trap, calculated from the

coefficients.



Surface acoustic waves Santos's group **1D** 2 1st BZ 2 u=5.7 mW res Тор DBR Cavity Botton DBF -1 0 **k**_y / **k**_{SAW}

Cerda-Méndez et al., PRL 105, 116402 (2010) de Lima et al., PRL 97, 045501 (2006)



Cerda-Méndez et al. PRB 86, 100301(R) (2012)

Polariton confinement

$$|pol\rangle = C_k |phot\rangle + X_k |exc\rangle$$
 photonic component

Metal deposition



Yamamoto's group



Metal deposition

Metalic deposition

1D array



Lai et al., Nature 450, 529 (2007)

Yamamoto's group



2D square lattice



Kim et al., Nature Phys 7, 681 (2011)

Other 2D lattices



Kim et al., arXiv:1210.2153 Kusudo et al., arXiv:1211.3833

During-growth photonic trap

Deveaud's group at EPFL



k^γ (μm⁻



Post-growth etching





🔿 Quasi infinite barrier



Guttroff et al., PRE 63, 036611 (2001)

Polariton in 1D cavities



Fabrication : *E-beam lithography Dry Etching*





J. Bloch et al.. Superlatt. and Microst. 22, 371 (1998).
T. Gutbrod et al. Phys. Rev. B 57, 950 (1998).
A. Kuther et al., Phys. Rev. B 58, 15744 (1998)

1D Periodic potential



Polaritons in micropillars

Micropillars: photonic atoms



Two coupled micropillars



Michaelis de Vasconcellos et al., APL **99**, 101103 (2011)



Galbiati et al., PRL **108**, 126403 (2012)









Engineering of a 1D flat band : 1D Lieb lattice





See e.g. Hyrkäs et al., PRA 87, 023614 (2013)

Pillar diameter = 3 μm Interpillar distance= 2,4 μm

Far field emission



Polariton in honeycomb lattices: Dirac cones



Cavity polaritons : an exciton-photon mixed state



Polariton-polariton interaction

Exciton-exciton interaction

Exciton wavefunction:

$$\Psi_{Q}(\mathbf{r}_{e},\mathbf{r}_{h}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{A}} \exp[iQ \cdot (\beta_{e}\mathbf{r}_{e} + \beta_{h}\mathbf{r}_{h})]$$
$$\times \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{1}{\lambda_{2D}} \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{r}_{e} - \mathbf{r}_{h}|}{\lambda_{2D}}\right),$$

Spin : electron : +- 1/2 heavy hole : +- 3/2



Polariton-polariton interaction

Exciton-exciton interaction

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 12

15 SEPTEMBER 1998-II

Role of the exchange of carriers in elastic exciton-exciton scattering in quantum wells

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P. Schwendimann Defense Procurement, System Analysis Division, CH-3003 Bern, Switzerland (Received 15 December 1997)

Two Excitons:

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m_{e}} \nabla_{e}^{2} - \frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m_{h}} \nabla_{h}^{2} - \frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m_{e}} \nabla_{e'}^{2}$$
$$-\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m_{h}} \nabla_{h'}^{2} - V(|\mathbf{r}_{e} - \mathbf{r}_{h}|) - V(|\mathbf{r}_{e'} - \mathbf{r}_{h'}|) + V(|\mathbf{r}_{e} - \mathbf{r}_{e'}|)$$
$$+ V(|\mathbf{r}_{h} - \mathbf{r}_{h'}|) - V(|\mathbf{r}_{e} - \mathbf{r}_{h'}|) - V(|\mathbf{r}_{h} - \mathbf{r}_{e'}|), \qquad (5)$$
$$H = H_{0}(\text{exc1}) - H_{0}(\text{exc2}) - W$$



Polariton-polariton interaction

Exciton-exciton interaction

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Exc 1 Exc 1 $(1s, Q, S) + (1s, Q', S') \rightarrow (1s, Q+q, S_f) + (1s, Q'-q, S'_f).$

$$\begin{split} H^{S_{f}S'_{f}}_{SS'}(Q,Q',q) &= \langle S|S_{f} \rangle \langle S'|S'_{f} \rangle H_{\text{dir}}(Q,Q',q) & \text{Direct term} \\ &+ \langle S|S'_{f} \rangle \langle S'|S_{f} \rangle H^{X}_{\text{exch}}(Q,Q',q) & \text{Exchange of both electrons and holes} \\ &+ S^{e}_{\text{exch}}(S,S',S_{f},S'_{f}) H^{e}_{\text{exch}}(Q,Q',q) & \text{Exchange of electrons} \\ &+ S^{h}_{\text{exch}}(S,S',S_{f},S'_{f}) H^{h}_{\text{exch}}(Q,Q',q) & \text{Exchange of holes} \end{split}$$

Dominant terms

Spin dependant polariton-polariton interaction

Interactions between 2 polaritons with parallel spins :

$$e \uparrow \downarrow h e \uparrow \downarrow h \implies e \uparrow \downarrow h e \uparrow \downarrow h$$

J=1 J=1 J=1 J=1

Resonant term



Interactions between 2 polaritons with opposite spins :



Non Resonant term => much weaker



Wouters, PRB **76**, 045319 (2007) Schumacher *et al.*, PRB **76**, 245324 (2007)



Spin dependent polariton-polariton interaction

Parallel spin : resonant process: Strong and Repulsive interaction

Anti-parallel : via dark exciton intermediate states: Weaker and attractive interaction

 $|\alpha_{\uparrow\uparrow}| >> |\alpha_{\uparrow\downarrow}|$

Interactions : a tool to manipulate polaritons highly non-linear system spin dependant



Summary

- Hybrid exciton-photon quasi-particles
- Tunable properties : lifetime, effective mass
- Lateral confinement : engineering of band structure
- Optical access to all physical properties



Why so interesting ? Because of interactions, strong non-linearity

- Spin dependent polariton polariton interactions
- Repulsive polariton-exciton interactions



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