

# Four-wave mixing signal enhancement and optical bistability of a hybrid metal nanoparticle-quantum dot molecule in a nanomechanical resonator

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**Abstract:** We investigate theoretically four-wave mixing (FWM) response and optical bistability (OB) in a hybrid nanosystem composed of a metal nanoparticle (MNP) and a semiconductor quantum dot (SQD) coupled to a nanomechanical resonator (NR). It is shown that the FWM signal is enhanced by more than three orders of magnitude as compared to that of the system without exciton-phonon interaction, and the FWM signal can also be suppressed significantly and broadened due to the exciton-plasmon interaction. As the MNP couples strongly with the SQD, the bistable FWM response can be achieved by adjusting the SQD-MNP distance and the pumping intensity. For a given pumping constant and a fixed SQD-MNP distance, the enhanced exciton-phonon interaction can promote the occurrence of bistability. Our findings not only present a feasible way to detect the spacing between two nanoparticles, but also hold promise for developing quantum switches and nanoscale rulers.

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**OCIS codes:** (190.4380) Nonlinear optics, four-wave mixing; (190.1450) Bistability; (160.4236) Nanomaterials; (240.6680) Surface plasmons.

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## 1. Introduction

Significant research efforts are now being devoted toward the investigation of the impact of exciton-plasmon interaction on the optical properties of metal-semiconductor hybrid nanosystems [1–6]. Recent studies have shown that the exciton-plasmon interaction can drastically modify the optical properties of metal-semiconductor hybrid nanosystems, such as

nonlinear Fano effect [7], two-photon-enhanced three-photon absorption [8], optical Stark effect [9], second harmonic generation [10,11], ultrafast excitonic population inversion [12], optical bistability [13–15] and intensity-dependent enhancement of saturable absorption [16]. Moreover, strong exciton-plasmon interaction allows us to modulate emission polarization of semiconductor quantum dots (SQDs) [17], control electromagnetically induced transparency [18], improve the diffraction efficiency of the grating [19], and suppress quantum decoherence [20].

Four-wave mixing (FWM) response, as an exciting nonlinear optical phenomenon, has been extensively studied in the same complex nanostructures. It is reported that optical FWM can be used to excite surface plasmon polaritons on a metal film [21], and surface plasmon polaritons can be used to enhance the FWM as well [22,23]. Based on plasmonic effects, the FWM response of the nanosystem can be effectively modified. Recently, Zhu et al. demonstrated that the FWM response in a coupled SQD-metal nanoparticle (MNP) system can be enhanced greatly arising from the exciton-plasmon interaction [24]. That is quite different from the FWM enhancement in the gold nanoparticles nanosystem [25]. Paspalakis et al. obtained single-peaked and three-peaked FWM spectra by adjusting the spacing between the MNP and the SQD [26]. Xiong et al. reported that the FWM response of the SQD coupled to the MNP can be enhanced remarkably by changing the geometrical parameters of the system and the polarized direction of the electric field [27]. Li et al. showed that highly efficient four-wave parametric amplification can be achieved by adjusting the frequency and the intensity of the pump field and the distance between the SQD and the MNP [28].

Besides, another interesting nanostructural material is the nanomechanical resonator (NR), which holds promise for scientific and technical applications because of its environment, high-Q factor and small size [29]. Some NR-based nanosystems can be used to explore nonlinear optical and quantum effects [30–33]. When a hybrid SQD-MNP complex embedded in a NR was subjected by a weak pump field, the accreted mass landing on the NR can be measured according to the frequency shift in the probe nonlinear absorption spectrum [31]. However, the FWM response of the MNP-SQD-NR system in a strong pump field modulated by the exciton-phonon interaction and the exciton-plasmon interaction was never further explored. In this paper, we study the FWM response of the MNP-SQD-NR system arising from two interactions. We show that the FWM signal can be enhanced dramatically due to the exciton-phonon interaction, and such signal can also be suppressed significantly and broadened arising from the exciton-plasmon interaction. Moreover, we reveal that the FWM signal exhibits bistable properties by modulating the SQD-MNP distance and the pumping intensity. We also address that, for a given pumping constant and a fixed nanostructure, the enhanced exciton-phonon interaction can promote the occurrence of bistability.

## 2. Model and formalism

We consider a nanosystem consisting of a MNP of radius  $a$  and a SQD of radius  $r$  coupled to a NR. The center-to-center distance between the MNP and the SQD is  $d$ , as shown in Fig. 1(a). The nanosystem is subjected to a strong pump field and a weak probe field.  $E_{pu}$  ( $E_{pr}$ ) is the amplitude of the pump field (probe field), and  $\omega_{pu}$  ( $\omega_{pr}$ ) is the frequency of the pump field (probe field). The MNP is fixed to an optical fiber tip, which can be moved and stabilized by using an atomic force microscope (AFM) [34]. It is necessary to point out that the optical fiber tip is only used as an auxiliary component in our system, so we neglect the effect of the tip to the system. By choosing the direction of the pump field to be either perpendicular or parallel to the axis of the hybrid system, we in turn only excite one of the three excitons in the SQD [15]. In these cases, the SQD can be treated as a two-level system consisting of a ground state (no exciton)  $|0\rangle$  and the first excited state (single exciton)  $|1\rangle$ , which is characterized by the pseudospin operators  $\sigma_{01}$ ,  $\sigma_{10}$  and  $\sigma^z$ . The physical situation is illustrated in Fig. 1(b).

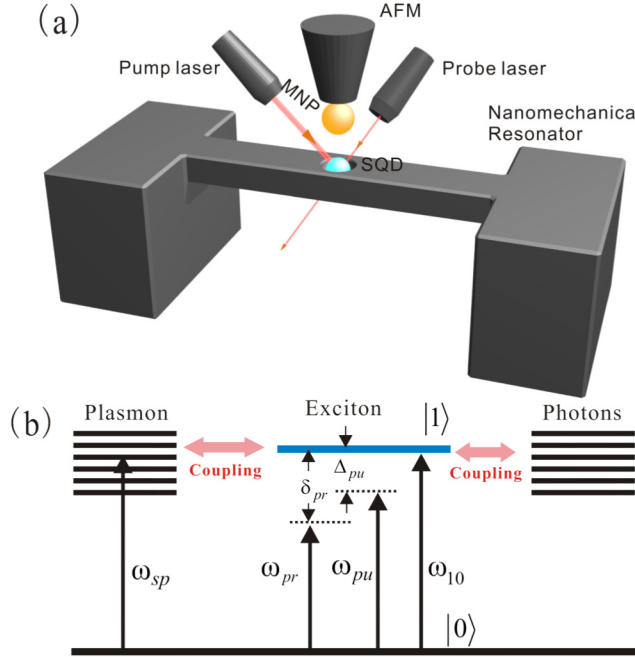


Fig. 1. (a) Schematics of a single metal nanoparticle coupled to a semiconductor quantum dot embedded in a nanomechanical resonator [34]. The system is subjected to a strong pump field and a weak probe field. (b) The level scheme of an exciton interacts with phonons and plasmons.

In a frame rotating at the pump field frequency  $\omega_{pu}$ , the Hamiltonian of the MNP-SQD-NR system can be expressed as [35]

$$H = \hbar \Delta_{pu} w / 2 + \hbar \omega_n b^\dagger b + \hbar \omega_n g w (b^\dagger + b) / 2 - \mu (\tilde{E}_{SQD} \sigma_{10} + \tilde{E}_{SQD}^* \sigma_{01}), \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta_{pu} = \omega_{10} - \omega_{pu}$  refers to the frequency detuning between the exciton and the pump field,  $w = 2\sigma^z = \sigma_{11} - \sigma_{00}$  denotes the exciton-population inversion,  $\omega_n$  denotes the mode frequency of the NR,  $b^\dagger$  and  $b$  represent the phonon creation operator and annihilation operator of the NR mode, respectively. We set  $P = b^\dagger + b$ .  $g$  refers to the coupling constant between the SQD and the NR.  $\mu$  is the dipole moment of the exciton.  $\tilde{E}_{SQD} = AE_{pu} + AE_{pr}e^{-i\delta t} + B\mu\sigma_{01}$  is the total field felt by the SQD with  $A = (1 + S_a\gamma(\omega)a^3/d^3)/\epsilon_{eff}$ ,  $B = S_a^2\gamma(\omega)a^3/(\epsilon_b\epsilon_{eff}d^6)$ , where  $\epsilon_{eff} = (2\epsilon_b + \epsilon_s)/(3\epsilon_b)$ ,  $\gamma(\omega) = (\epsilon_m(\omega) - \epsilon_b)/(2\epsilon_b + \epsilon_m(\omega))$  [36,37].  $A$  arises from the field from the MNP which is induced by the pump field.  $B$  arises as the applied field polarizes the SQD, which in turn polarizes the MNP and then produces a field to interact with the SQD. Therefore, this can be regarded as the self-interaction of the SQD, because this coupling to the SQD depends on the polarization of the SQD [15].  $\delta = \omega_{pr} - \omega_{pu}$  is the frequency difference between the probe field and the pump field.  $S_a$  is polar factor for electric field polarization and  $S_a = 2$  corresponds that the polar direction is along the major axis of the system.  $\epsilon_b$  and  $\epsilon_s$  refer, respectively, to the dielectric constants of the background and the SQD.  $\epsilon_m$  is the dielectric constant of the MNP [38].  $\Omega = \mu E_{pu}/\hbar$  is the Rabi frequency of the pump field and  $G = \mu^2 B/\hbar$  is the feedback (self-action) parameter for the SQD.

By applying the Heisenberg equations of motion and the commutation relation  $[\sigma^z, \sigma^\pm] = \pm \sigma^\pm$ ,  $[\sigma^+, \sigma^-] = 2\sigma^z$  and  $[a^\dagger, a] = 1$ , we can obtain the generalized optical Bloch equations as follows:

$$\dot{\sigma}_{01} = -[\Gamma_2 + i(\Delta_{pu} + \omega_n g P)]\sigma_{01} - iA\Omega w - \frac{i\mu}{\hbar} AE_{pr}e^{-i\delta t} w - iGw\sigma_{01}, \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{w} = -\Gamma_1(w+1) + 2i\Omega(A\sigma_{10} - A^*\sigma_{01}) + \frac{2i\mu}{\hbar}(AE_{pr}e^{-i\delta t}\sigma_{10} - A^*E_{pr}^*e^{i\delta t}\sigma_{01}) - 4G_I\sigma_{01}\sigma_{10}, \quad (3)$$

$$\ddot{P} + \gamma_n\dot{P} + \omega_n^2P = -\omega_n^2gw, \quad (4)$$

where  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  denote the exciton relaxation rate and the exciton dephasing rate, respectively.  $G_R = \text{Re}[G]$ ,  $G_I = \text{Im}[G]$ ,  $A_R = \text{Re}[A]$  and  $A_I = \text{Im}[A]$ .

In order to solve the above equations, we make the ansatz  $\sigma_{01} = \sigma_{01}^{(0)} + \sigma_{01}^{(1)}e^{-i\delta t} + \sigma_{01}^{(-1)}e^{i\delta t}$ ,  $w = w_0 + w_1e^{-i\delta t} + w_{-1}e^{i\delta t}$  and  $P = P_0 + P_1e^{-i\delta t} + P_{-1}e^{i\delta t}$  [39], where  $\sigma_{01}^{(0)}$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $P_0$  are the steady-state solution of Eqs. (2)-(4).  $|\sigma_{01}^{(0)}| \gg |\sigma_{01}^{(1)}|, |\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}|$ ;  $|w_0| \gg |w_1|, |w_{-1}|$ ;  $|P_0| \gg |P_1|, |P_{-1}|$ . We can obtain the analytical solution of  $\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}$  in the appendix. The FWM signal in the steady state is given by

$$FWM = \left| \sigma_{01}^{(-1)} / (\mu E_{pr}^* \hbar^{-1} \Gamma_2^{-1}) \right|, \quad (5)$$

The exciton-population inversion in the steady state  $w_0$  is determined by a third-order equation

$$\Gamma_1(w_0+1) \left[ (\Gamma_2 - G_I w_0)^2 + (\Delta_{pu} - \omega_n g^2 w_0 + G_R w_0)^2 \right] + 4|A|^2 \Omega^2 \Gamma_2 w_0 = 0. \quad (6)$$

### 3. Results and discussion

We perform numerical calculations for a realistic coupled system including an InAs QD, a gold MNP and a GaAs NR. For the InAs QD, we take  $\varepsilon_0 = 1$ ,  $\varepsilon_s = 6\varepsilon_0$ ,  $\mu = 40$  D,  $\Gamma_1 = 0.3 \text{ ns}^{-1}$  and  $\Gamma_2 = 0.15 \text{ ns}^{-1}$  [35]. For the Au MNP,  $a = 5 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\varepsilon_\infty = 9.5$ ,  $\hbar\omega_p = 8.95 \text{ eV}$ ,  $\hbar\gamma_p = 0.069 \text{ eV}$  [40]. For the GaAs NR,  $\omega_n = 1.2 \text{ GHz}$  and  $Q = 3 \times 10^4$  [30,31,35], where  $Q$  is the quality factor of the NR,  $\gamma_n = \omega_n/Q$  is the damping rate. Before we discuss the nonlinearity of the hybrid system, we have to explain that we are only interested in a narrow frequency region near by the SQD resonance, so it is reasonable to neglect the frequency-dependence of the polarization of the MNP.

To study the FWM response of the MNP-SQD-NR system, in Fig. 2, we show how  $|\sigma_{01}^{(-1)} / (\mu E_{pr}^* \hbar^{-1} \Gamma_2^{-1})|$  changes with the probe-exciton detuning  $\delta_{pr}$  for various pump field intensities  $I_{pu}$  and exciton-phonon coupling constants  $g$  as  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ . As shown in Fig. 2(a), we find that the peak value of FWM signal increases as  $I_{pu}$  increases and the enhanced peak for  $I_{pu} = 100 \text{ GHz}^2$  is almost  $10^2$  times larger than that for  $I_{pu} = 1 \text{ GHz}^2$ , which suggests that the system undergoes a linear hybrid response. The physics behind this enhancement can be understood as follow: as the pump-field intensity  $I_{pu}$  increases, the number of photons becomes increased, so the SQD will be excited more easily. In Fig. 2(b), one can see that the two sharp peaks locate at  $\delta_{pr} = \pm 1.2 \text{ GHz}$  matching with the NR frequency  $\omega_n$  very well, which provides a new way to measure the vibrational frequency of the NR [30].

To further reveal the physical properties of two sharp peaks corresponding to the resonance amplification (left peak) and absorption (right peak) of vibrational mode of the NR, in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d), we should note that, with the increase of exciton-phonon coupling constant  $g$ , the amplification peak becomes sharper and the peak intensity is enhanced significantly. More precisely, the amplification peak for  $g = 0.18$  is almost three orders of magnitude times larger than that for  $g = 0$ . The absorption peak exhibits identical enhanced behavior. This implies that strong exciton-phonon coupling will promote the exciton-population inversion and enhance the absorption of the SQD, leading to the enhancement of FWM signal.

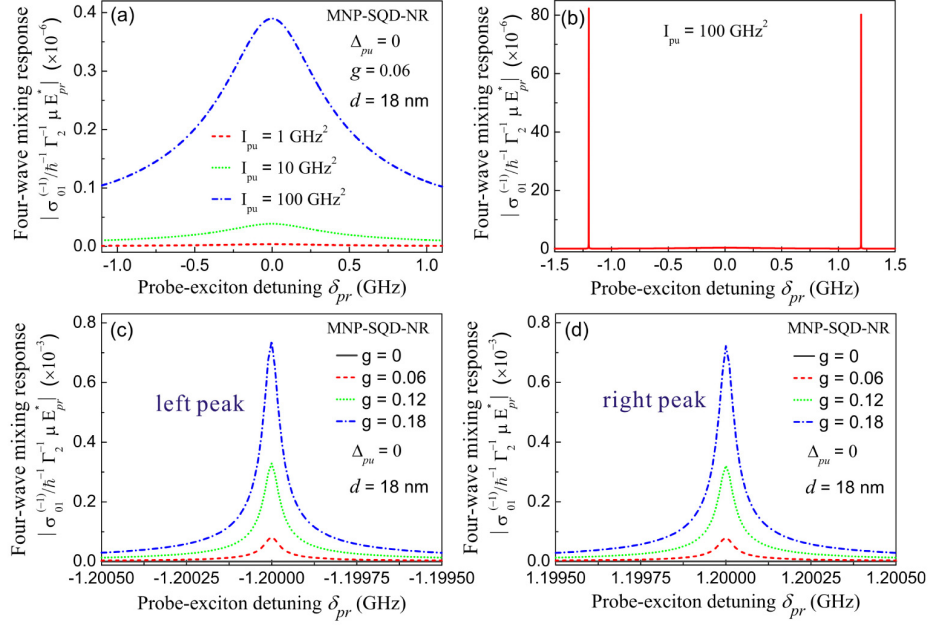


Fig. 2. (a) Four wave mixing signal as a function of probe-exciton detuning  $\delta_{pr}$  for different values of pump-field intensity  $I_{pu}$ . (b) Four-wave mixing signal as a function of  $\delta_{pr}$  in a relatively wide region for  $I_{pu} = 100 \text{ GHz}^2$ . The amplified left peak and right peak are shown in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d) for different coupling constants  $g$ , respectively. The other parameters used are  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$  and  $d = 18$  nm.

It is interesting to track the role of exciton-plasmon interaction in the FWM response of MNP-SQD-NR system with a given exciton-phonon coupling constant  $g$ . In Figs. 3(a-c), for  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ , the magnitude of the peak of the FWM response increases as the SQD-MNP distance  $d$  increases from 12 to 18.09 nm, while the peak value decreases as  $d$  further increases from 26.33 to 30 nm. Moreover, the FWM peak reaches a maximum at  $d = 26.33$  nm, which is slightly larger than that in the SQD-NR system. It's worth mentioning that there is a bistable region  $d \in [18.1, 26.32]$  nm. The results in Figs. 3(d-f) show that, as the frequency of the pump field increases ( $\Delta_{pu} = -0.5\omega_n$ ), the bistable region becomes narrower, and the magnitude of the FWM peak is almost 2.5 times larger than that in the SQD-NR system, which is attributed to the plasmon enhancement effect. The case of  $\Delta_{pu} = -1\omega_n$  in Figs. 3(g-i) is quite different. Here, the bistable region will disappear. The FWM signal is suppressed significantly in the strong exciton-plasmon interaction region with  $d \in [12, 26.4]$  nm, however, a large enhancement of the FWM signal will appear in the weak exciton-plasmon interaction region with a larger  $d$ . Specifically, the magnitude of the FWM peak for  $d = 27.86$  nm is almost 18.9 times larger than that in the SQD-NR system, and the plasmon enhancement effect for the FWM response will be weakened with a larger  $d$ . It is not difficult to find that, compared with the FWM signal in the absence of the MNP, the crossover from exciton-plasmon dominant regime to exciton-phonon dominant regime can be exhibited clearly in Figs. 3(a-i). In order to further reveal the suppression effect of the FWM response coming from the exciton-plasmon interaction, we plot the FWM spectrum with and without MNP in Fig. 3(j). The results indicate that, due to the exciton-plasmon interaction, the full width at half maximum of the FWM peak will be broadened about 2 times and the magnitude of this peak will reduce to 1/590 times than that without MNP. Such plasmon-suppressed behavior for the FWM response is compatible with that of a previous study [26]. In our system, such large suppression arises from a combination of exciton-phonon interaction and exciton-plasmon interaction.

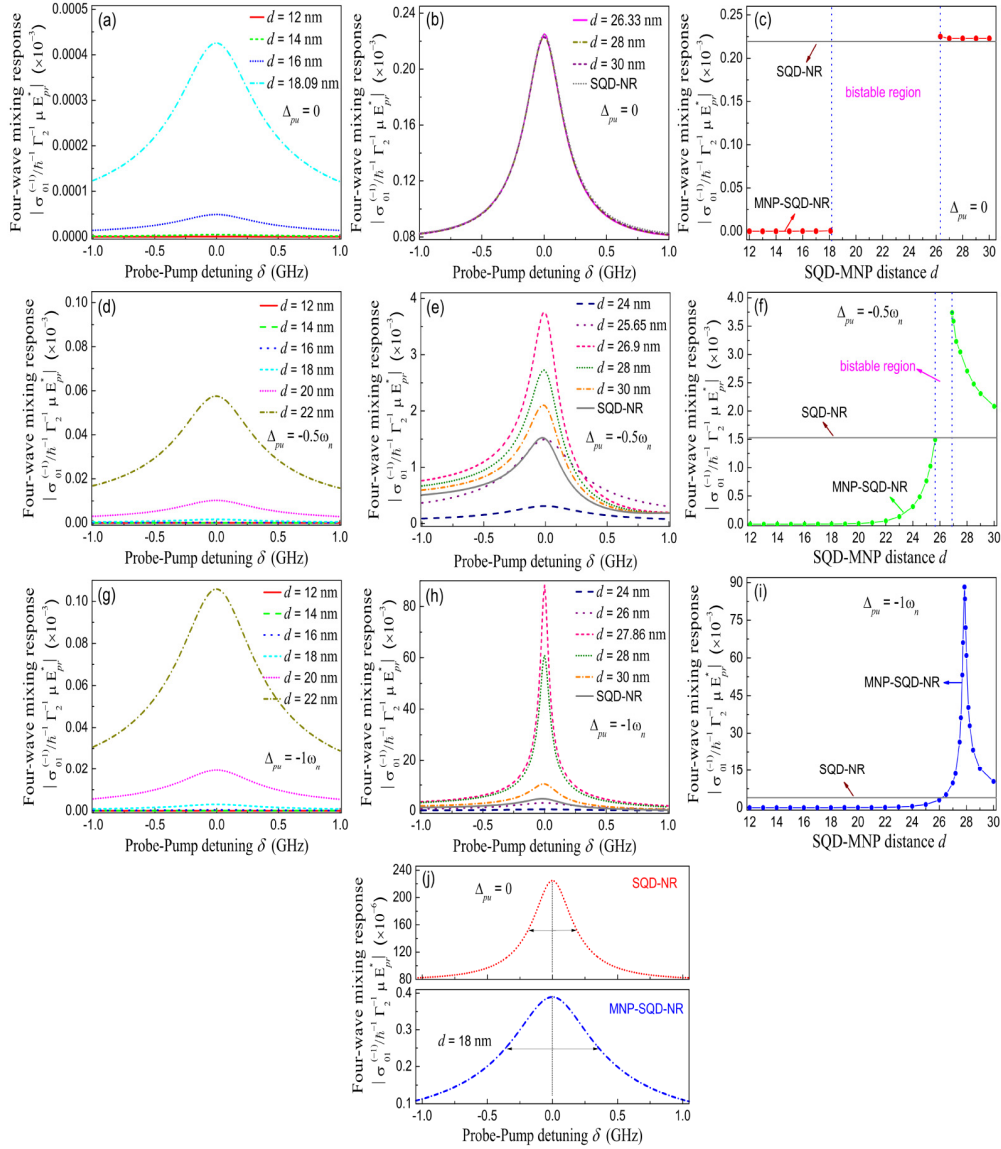


Fig. 3. Four-wave mixing signal as a function of probe-pump detuning  $\delta$  for different SQR-MNP distance  $d$  when  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$  (a, b),  $\Delta_{pu} = -0.5\omega_n$  (d, e),  $\Delta_{pu} = -1\omega_n$  (g, h).  $d$ -dependence of four-wave mixing signal when  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$  (c),  $\Delta_{pu} = -0.5\omega_n$  (f),  $\Delta_{pu} = -1\omega_n$  (i). (j) Four-wave mixing spectrum with and without the MNP for  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ . The other parameters used are  $g = 0.06$  and  $I_{pu} = 100 \text{ GHz}^2$  (corresponding to  $I_{pu} = 33.19 \text{ W/cm}^2$ ).

Next, we will explore the optical bistable response of the hybrid MNP-SQR-NR system. Figure 4 shows the variation of  $w_0$  as a function of  $I_{pu}$  for different detunings  $\Delta_{pu}$ . In Fig. 4(a), we can see that, when the pump field is exactly resonant with the SQR, a prominent bistable response emerges in the hybrid system, while a strong saturable absorption appears in the SQR-NR and SQR systems. As it is well known, the exciton-population inversion will be enhanced as the pump field intensity  $I_{pu}$  increases, which induces the naked SQR and SQR-NR systems easy to reach saturation. In other word, the saturated absorption behavior will be suppressed at a certain extent when the interaction of the exciton and plasmon becomes strong. In our nanosystem,  $G_R \gg G_L$ , which implies that the bistability mechanism is similar to that in a two-level atoms thin film, whose feedback comes from the local field [41]. In Fig.



4(b), we further study the  $w_0$ -dependent FWM response. As  $\Delta_{pu} > 0$  ( $\omega_{10} > \omega_{pu}$ ), the SQD is easy to reach resonance with the pump field under the steady-state condition  $-1 < w_0 < 0$ . Compared with the case of resonance ( $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ ), as  $\Delta_{pu}$  increases, the bistable thresholds move towards the direction with a smaller  $I_{pu}$ . As  $\Delta_{pu} = \omega_n$ , the NR begins to oscillate coherently, which leads to a Stokes-like scattering of the pump light via the exciton in the SQD. This scattering will effectively modify the bistable behavior. Moreover, there is interference between the pump field and the local field [7,15]. As  $I_{pu}$  increases, the role of the pump field in the interference will change and then influence the OB of FWM response.

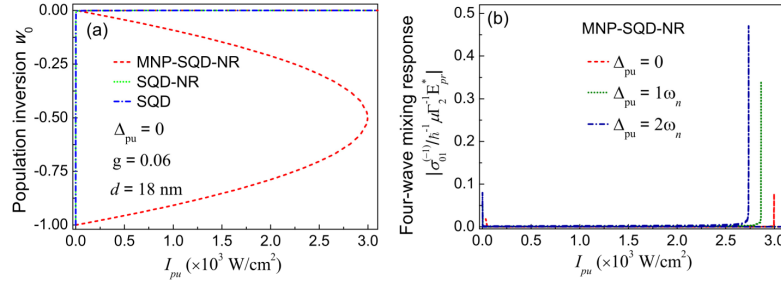


Fig. 4. (a) Steady-state population inversion  $w_0$  as a function of  $I_{pu}$  in three different systems for  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ . (b) Four-wave mixing signal  $\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}/\mu E_{pu}^* \hbar^{-1} \Gamma_2^{-1}$  as a function of pump field intensity with three different detunings  $\Delta_{pu}$ . The other parameters used are  $g = 0.06$  and  $d = 18$  nm.

Kalkbrenner et al. presented a way to attach a MNP to the end of a sharp tip of AFM [34]. We can utilize this method to detect the distance between the SQD and the MNP according to the optical response of the hybrid system. For this reason, in Fig. 5(a) we plot the curves of  $w_0$  versus  $d$  with different detunings  $\Delta_{pu}$ ,  $I_{pu}$  is kept as a constant ( $I_{pu} = 66.37$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>). As  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ , the bistable thresholds  $d_{b1}$  and  $d_{b2}$  ( $d_{b1} < d_{b2}$ ) are equal to 16.03nm and 24.83nm, respectively. With the increase in  $\Delta_{pu}$ , the bistable thresholds  $d_{b1}$  and  $d_{b2}$  will be reduced and moved to the direction with a stronger dipole-dipole interaction. As shown in Fig. 5(b), the FWM signals exhibit a series of sickle-shaped bistable curves. The physical origin of such behavior can be understood as follow: as  $d$  reduces, the Coulomb interaction between the SQD and the MNP will become stronger, an enhancement of the local field will arise, and the feedback of the SQD will be enhanced, promoting the occurrence of bistability. In Figs. 4(b) and 5(b), the hysteresis loops are difficult to be observed, because the upper and lower branches of bistable curves almost overlap together. Moreover, our system can act as a quantum switch by dynamically tuning the distance between the SQD and the MNP. For  $d_{b1} \leq d \leq d_{b2}$ , the quantum switch is turned on, and the bistable effect will occur; for  $d \leq d_{b1}$  or  $d \geq d_{b2}$ , the switch is turned off, and the bistable effect will disappear. These effects provide a novel way to detect the spacing between two nanoparticles.

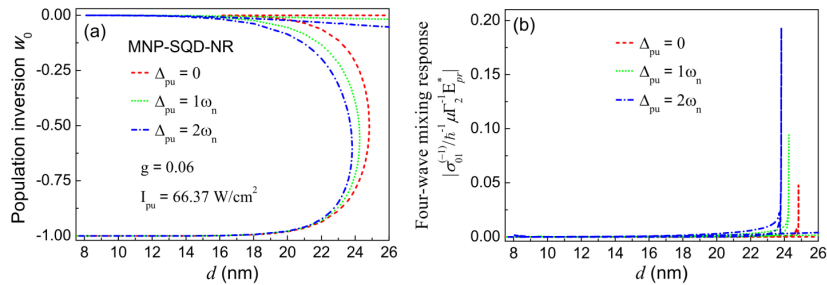


Fig. 5. Steady-state population inversion  $w_0$  (a) and four-wave mixing signal  $\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}/\mu E_{pu}^* \hbar^{-1} \Gamma_2^{-1}$  (b) as a function of the SQD-MNP distance  $d$  with three different detunings  $\Delta_{pu}$ . The other parameters used are  $g = 0.06$  and  $I_{pu} = 66.38$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> (corresponding to  $I_{pu} = 200$  GHz<sup>2</sup>).



To clarify the impact of the exciton-phonon interaction on the bistable FWM response, in Fig. 6, we study the dependence of FWM response on the exciton-phonon coupling constant  $g$ . We note that the numerical solutions of Eq. (6) change slightly with  $g$ . The magnitude of  $g$  depends strongly on the material and structure of NR [35]. For a constant pumping  $I_{pu}$  and a fixed spacing  $d$ , a bistable behavior appears in the FWM signal. When  $g$  increases, the lower branch of the bistable curve lies near the line  $w_0 = -1$ ; when  $g$  sweeps back, the upper branch of the bistable curve stays near the line  $w_0 = 0$  (see inset in Fig. 6). The physics behind the bistable FWM response discussed in the previous section can be explained by the feedback providing by the exciton-plasmon and exciton-phonon interactions. These interactions result in a self-action of the SQD via the MNP and the NR. The feedback effect can be tuned by adjusting the SQD-MNP distance, the pumping intensity and nanostructural parameters.

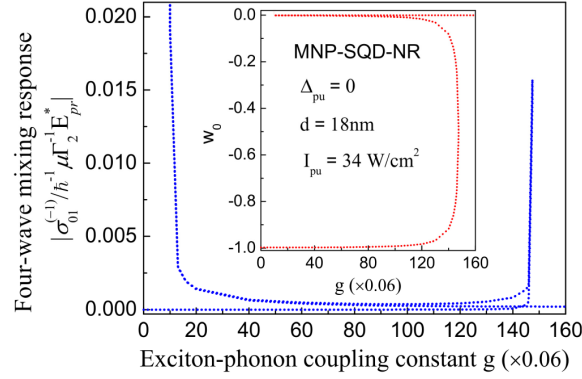


Fig. 6. Four-wave mixing signal  $\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}/\mu E_{pr}^* \hbar^{-1} \Gamma_2^{-1}$  as a function of the exciton-phonon coupling constant  $g$ . The other parameters used are  $\Delta_{pu} = 0$ ,  $d = 18$  nm, and  $I_{pu} = 34$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>. The inset shows the  $g$ -dependence of steady-state population inversion  $w_0$ .

#### 4. Conclusion

We deduced theoretically the analytical formulas of the FWM signal by means of the method of density matrix, and explored the FWM and OB in the hybrid MNP-SQD-NR system. We illustrated that the FWM signal can be enhanced dramatically due to the exciton-phonon interaction, and the FWM signal can also be suppressed and broadened arising from the exciton-plasmon interaction. We also showed that the bistable FWM response can be realized by adjusting the SQD-MNP distance and the pumping intensity. For a given pumping constant and a fixed SQD-MNP distance, the enhanced exciton-phonon interaction can promote the occurrence of bistability. Our findings provide a feasible way to detect the spacing between the SQD and the MNP in terms of the dynamical evolution of the bistable thresholds, and hold promise for developing quantum switches and nanoscale rulers.

#### 5. Appendix: the solution of the optical Bloch equations

In order to solve the equations (2)-(4), we make the ansatz  $\sigma_{01} = \sigma_{01}^{(0)} + \sigma_{01}^{(1)} e^{-i\delta t} + \sigma_{01}^{(-1)} e^{i\delta t}$ ,  $w = w_0 + w_1 e^{-i\delta t} + w_{-1} e^{i\delta t}$  and  $P = P_0 + P_1 e^{-i\delta t} + P_{-1} e^{i\delta t}$  [35], where  $\sigma_{01}^{(0)}$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $P_0$  are the steady-state solution of Eqs. (2)-(4).  $|\sigma_{01}^{(0)}| \gg |\sigma_{01}^{(1)}|, |\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}|$ ;  $|w_0| \gg |w_1|, |w_{-1}|$ ;  $|P_0| \gg |P_1|, |P_{-1}|$ . On substituting these expressions into equations (2)-(4), and working to the lowest order in  $E_{pr}$ , but to all orders in  $E_{pu}$ , we can obtain in the steady state

$$-(\Gamma_2 + i\Delta_{pu})\sigma_{01}^{(0)} - i\omega_n g P_0 \sigma_{01}^{(0)} - iA\Omega w_0 - iGw_0 \sigma_{01}^{(0)} = 0, \quad (7)$$

$$-(\Gamma_2 + i\Delta_{pu})\sigma_{01}^{(1)} - i\omega_n g (P_0 \sigma_{01}^{(1)} + P_1 \sigma_{01}^{(0)}) - iA\Omega w_1 - \frac{i\mu}{\hbar} A E_{pr} w_0 - iG(w_0 \sigma_{01}^{(1)} + w_1 \sigma_{01}^{(0)}) = -i\delta \sigma_{01}^{(1)}, \quad (8)$$

$$-(\Gamma_2 + i\Delta_{pu})\sigma_{01}^{(-1)} - i\omega_n g (P_0\sigma_{01}^{(-1)} + P_{-1}\sigma_{01}^{(0)}) - iA\Omega w_{-1} - iG(w_0\sigma_{01}^{(-1)} + w_{-1}\sigma_{01}^{(0)}) = i\delta\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}, \quad (9)$$

$$-\Gamma_1(w_0 + 1) + 2i\Omega(A\sigma_{01}^{(0)*} - A^*\sigma_{01}^{(0)}) - 4G_I\sigma_{01}^{(0)}\sigma_{01}^{(0)*} = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$-\Gamma_1 w_1 + 2i\Omega(A\sigma_{01}^{(-1)*} - A^*\sigma_{01}^{(1)}) + \frac{2i\mu}{\hbar}AE_{pr}\sigma_{01}^{(0)*} - 4G_I(\sigma_{01}^{(0)}\sigma_{01}^{(-1)*} + \sigma_{01}^{(0)*}\sigma_{01}^{(1)}) = -i\delta w_1, \quad (11)$$

$$-\Gamma_1 w_{-1} + 2i\Omega(A\sigma_{01}^{(1)*} - A^*\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}) - \frac{2i\mu}{\hbar}A^*E_{pr}\sigma_{01}^{(0)} - 4G_I(\sigma_{01}^{(0)}\sigma_{01}^{(1)*} + \sigma_{01}^{(0)*}\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}) = i\delta w_{-1}, \quad (12)$$

$$P_0 = -gw_0, \quad (13)$$

$$P_1 = \frac{\omega_n^2 g}{\delta^2 + i\gamma_n \delta - \omega_n^2} w_1 = g\zeta w_1, \quad (14)$$

$$P_{-1} = g\zeta^* w_{-1}, \quad (15)$$

By solving the equations (7)-(15), we can obtain the solution for  $\sigma_{01}^{(0)}$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $P_0$ ,  $\sigma_{01}^{(1)}$ ,  $w_1$ ,  $P_1$ ,  $\sigma_{01}^{(-1)}$ ,  $w_{-1}$ ,  $P_{-1}$  in the appendix. The four-wave mixing signal is given by

$$FWM = \left| \sigma_{01}^{(-1)} / (\mu E_{pr}^* \hbar^{-1} \Gamma_2^{-1}) \right| = \hbar \Gamma_2 (D_1 w_0 - D_2 \sigma_{01}^{(0)}) / \mu D_0, \quad (16)$$

where

$$\sigma_{01}^{(0)} = [(A_I - iA_R)\Omega w_0] / [(\Gamma_2 - G_I w_0) + i(\Delta_{pu} - \omega_n g^2 w_0 + G_R w_0)].$$

$$D_0 = C_1 C_5 C_7 - C_2 C_4 C_7 + C_1 C_6,$$

$$D_1 = C_{30} C_4,$$

$$D_2 = C_1 C_{30},$$

$$C_1 = (\Gamma_2 - G_I w_0) + i(\delta - \Delta_{pu} + \omega_n g^2 w_0 - G_R w_0),$$

$$C_2 = (A_I + iA_R)\Omega + (G_I + iG_R + i\omega_n g^2 \zeta^*)\sigma_{01}^{(0)*},$$

$$C_3 = C_{30} E_{pr}^*,$$

$$C_{30} = \mu(A_I + iA_R) / \hbar,$$

$$C_4 = -(4G_I\sigma_{01}^{(0)} + 2A_I\Omega) + 2iA_R\Omega,$$

$$C_5 = i\delta + \Gamma_1,$$

$$C_6 = 2A_I\Omega + 4G_I\sigma_{01}^{(0)*} + 2iA_R\Omega,$$

$$C_7 = [\Gamma_2 + i(\delta + \Delta_{pu} + G w_0 - \omega_n g^2 w_0)] / [(A_I\Omega + G_I\sigma_{01}^{(0)}) - i(A_R\Omega + G_R\sigma_{01}^{(0)} + \omega_n g^2 \zeta^* \sigma_{01}^{(0)})],$$

$$\zeta = \omega_n^2 / (\delta^2 + i\gamma_n \delta - \omega_n^2).$$

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