

Varies aspect of Fano resonance

Shyamal Guchhait

October 2021

Abstract

The magneto-optical effects in hybrid magneto-plasmonic systems have been important because of their potential for building non-reciprocal nanophotonic devices as well as fundamental physics, for application need the large magneto-optical effects. Here, we unravel different physical origins of the giant enhancement of Faraday rotation and ellipticity in a hybrid magneto-plasmonic system, namely, waveguided magneto-plasmonic crystal for excitation with transverse electric (TE) and transverse magnetic (TM) polarized light. With TE polarization excitation, quasi waveguide mode is dominated. Here, the natural weak value amplification is the dominant cause of the enhancement of Faraday effects appearing due to the spectral domain interference of Fano resonance. For TM polarization excitation, waveguide-plasmon strong coupling and its universal manifestation of avoided crossing play an important role, leading to the Faraday effects enhancement near the avoided crossing regime.

The valley degree of freedom possessed by electronic excitations in transition metal dichalcogenides is providing new opportunities for information processing and optoelectronics. Valley contrasting polarization selection rules present unique opportunities for optical control in valleytronic devices. Critical to devices leveraging the valley degree of freedom is the ability to tailor optical valley polarizability and its degree of coherence. The existing valley coherence measurement method itself adds decoherence to the system. We are trying to measure valley coherence in metal dichalcogenides systems using spectral interference methods because interference is the primary method of measurement of coherence. For interference measurement, there is no additional decoherence. Therefore, this method measures the high valley coherence for the metal dichalcogenides system.

1 Introduction

1.1 Magneto-plasmonic system

Hybridization of magneto-optic (MO) materials with plasmonic nanostructures enables magnetic-tuneable multifunctional nano-devices that is capable of providing precise control over its plasmonic and magnetic properties. Moreover, such systems are also known to exhibit giant MO effects (Faraday, Kerr

effect etc.) Note that the nonreciprocal nature of the MO effects is crucial for developing optical isolators, modulators, and optical-magnetic data storage devices etc. Usually, the weak MO effects of the available materials are a major stumbling block towards their applications in nano scale devices. Significant efforts have therefore been delivered in the last few years to demonstrate enhancement of both the magneto-optical Kerr effect and the Faraday effect in magneto-plasmonic nanostructures. Earlier approaches for increasing the MO activity of the systems were mostly based on the excitation of surface plasmons, where the near field enhancement associated with the surface plasmons leads to substantial enhancement of MO responses of samples. In this regard, a recent study that has demonstrated giant enhancement of Faraday rotation in a waveguided magneto-plasmonic crystal (WMPC) system, has attracted a lot of attention. Subsequently, some other related studies have reported even larger enhancement of Faraday rotation in various magneto-plasmonic systems using similar approach. In most of these studies, the enhancement of MO effects is attributed to either the surface plasmon-induced near field enhancement or to the coupling of the waveguide-plasmon-polariton. For both the cases, the enhanced MO effect is related to the excitation of the surface plasmon resonance, which in case of the investigated planar structures can only be excited using transverse magnetic (TM) polarization of light. In contrast to this understanding, our recent investigation demonstrated a large enhancement of both the Faraday rotation and ellipticity in a Fano resonant WMPC system for incident TE polarized light where no surface plasmons were directly excited. This observation indicated possibility of another important mechanism of the enhancement, namely, the natural weak value amplification (WVA) of Faraday rotation and ellipticity due to spectral domain interference of Fano resonance. Proper understanding of the different mechanisms of enhancement of the MO effects in hybrid magneto-plasmonic system and their dependence on the various physically accessible parameters of the system and of excitation light is of paramount importance for both fundamental and applied interests.

The concept of weak measurement and WVA was introduced by Aharonov, Albert, and Vaidman. This special measurement process involves three steps, quantum state preparation (preselection), a weak interaction, and post-selection on a final quantum state that is nearly orthogonal to the initial state. The outcome of such measurement, the so-called weak value, may not only become exceedingly large and lie outside the eigenvalue spectrum of the observable but can also assume complex values. The quantum mechanical concept of WVA can be understood within the realm of wave optics and thus most of the experiments on weak measurements are performed in classical optical setting. The WVA concept can be interpreted as near destructive interference between the eigenstates of the measuring observable as a consequence of mutually near orthogonal pre and post selections of the system states. Based on this simple interferometric philosophy of WVA, we had initially shown that a similar situation arises in the spectral domain interference of Fano resonance that leads to natural WVA of small Faraday rotation and ellipticity in WMPC, which acts as the weak interaction in this scenario. An analytical model for natural WVA in Fano resonance

demonstrating the amplification of small polarization anisotropic effects around the Fano destructive point was given in our previous publication. However, in the context of the WMPC, such a model was derived for a restricted case where the resonance frequencies for the TM and TE quasiguided modes are the same. Yet, it is important to investigate a more general scenario of natural WVA of Faraday effects in Fano interference, which is expected to provide a better understanding about the role of WVA in the enhancement of the MO properties in magneto-plasmonic crystals. Here, we have therefore addressed this issue by adopting differences in the resonance frequencies for the TE and the TM waveguide modes. This enabled us studying the dependence of the WVA of Faraday effects in Fano resonance (with TE polarization excitation) on the resonance frequencies of the TM and the TE modes and their varying extent of spectral overlap that can be tuned by changing the geometrical parameter of the plasmonic crystal system. In contrast to the TE polarization excitation, for the TM polarization excitation, the underlying physical mechanisms for the enhancement of the MO effects are expected to be rather complex and are more interesting due to simultaneous involvement and coupling of the waveguide mode and the plasmon mode in such hybrid system. As there appears to have different possible mechanisms of the enhancement of MO effects in magneto-plasmonic crystals including the one of natural WVA, the question arises whether there is a common physical origin of the enhancement irrespective of the input polarization state or are there different mechanisms that contribute with varying strengths depending upon the excitation polarization and the geometrical parameters of the WMPC. The main purpose of this work is to address this important question and to shed light upon the competing roles of the different contributing mechanisms, namely, the natural WVA and the purity of Fano resonance, near field enhancement effects due to the excitation of the surface plasmons, resonance enhanced cross coupling between the TE and TM polarization, the waveguide-plasmon strong coupling, and the related phenomenon of avoided crossing and so forth on the giant enhancement of magneto-optical effects (Faraday rotation and ellipticity). The results of our study establish that while for TE polarization excitation, the natural WVA of Faraday effects due to Fano resonance is the dominant cause of the enhancement, for TM polarization excitation, the waveguide-plasmon strong coupling plays the leading role in the enhancement of the MO effects. This study also provides quantitative understanding on the observed giant enhancement of magneto-optical effects and provides potentially useful information on optimizing plasmonic crystal structure for its potential applications in nanoscale devices.

1.2 Valley coherence in metal dichalcogenides system

Nanoscale materials have attracted much attention in recent years for their potential to enable optoelectronic device architectures. Among these are monolayer transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDC). Monolayer TMDCs are direct bandgap semiconductors that support stable room-temperature excitons (binding energy of 0.3–0.5eV). The broken inversion symmetry and strong spin-

orbit interaction give rise to pronounced optical selection rules at two energy-degenerate valleys. The two valleys, K , and K' , can be activated by circularly polarized light with opposite handedness. As a result of the previous, the binary valley pseudospin index has been identified as a potential information-bearing degree-of-freedom (DOF), giving birth to the field of valleytronics. Recent work has demonstrated the potential to realize cavity polaritons based on TMDCs. It has been discovered that TMDC polaritons inherit the valley DOF and exhibit enhanced valley polarization at elevated temperatures. In this work, we measure the valley coherence on the monolayer tungsten diselenide (WSe2) using the Fano resonance method and compare it with the traditional photolumination (PL) measurement.

2 Theory & Methods

2.1 Theoretical framework of natural WVA of Fara-day effects in a Fano resonant WMPC

Our natural weak value amplification (WVA) formalism is founded on a simple but intuitive model of optical Fano resonance that uses coherent interference of a narrow resonance mode described by a complex Lorentzian with a frequency-independent continuum (or broad) model^{1,2}. It has been observed earlier that similar simple model can capture the near field mode coupling and the Fano interference effect in various optical systems including the plasmonic crystals³⁻⁸. The resultant Fano scattered electric field is given by

$$E_s(\omega) \approx \left[\frac{q - i}{\varepsilon + i} + B \right] = \left[\sqrt{\frac{q^2 + 1}{\varepsilon^2 + 1}} e^{i\Psi(\omega)} + B \right] \quad (1)$$

The total phase difference between two interfering modes $\Psi(\omega)$ is

$$\Psi(\omega) = \arctan \frac{q - \varepsilon}{1 + q\varepsilon} \quad (2)$$

The resulting expression for the transmitted intensity of electric field described in Eq. 1 can be obtained as

$$I_S(\omega) = |E_S(\omega)|^2 = B^2 \times \left[\frac{(q^{eff} + 1)^2}{\varepsilon^2 + 1} \right] + \frac{(B - 1)^2}{\varepsilon^2 + 1} \quad (3)$$

The parameter B is the relative amplitude of the continuum with respect to the field of the narrow resonance and determines the contrast of the spectral domain interference. For the ideal situation of $B = 1$ the perfect destructive interference occurs at the Fano frequency $\omega_F = (\omega_0 - \frac{q\gamma}{2})$ corresponding to $(\varepsilon = -q, \Psi(\omega_F) = \pi)$ Here we are proposing a generalized model of Fano interference in the WMPC by considering different resonant frequencies for TE and TM waveguide modes. The resultant polarized field can be expressed as

$$E_s(\omega) \approx \left[\frac{q-i}{\varepsilon(\omega)^{TE} + i} (\cos(\alpha) \cos(\chi) - i \sin(\alpha) \sin(\chi)) \hat{y} + \frac{q-i}{\varepsilon(\omega)^{TM} + i} (\sin(\alpha) \cos(\chi) - i \cos(\alpha) \sin(\chi)) \hat{x} + B \hat{y} \right] \quad (4)$$

Here, $\varepsilon(\omega)^{TE} = \frac{\omega - \omega_0^{TE}}{\frac{\gamma}{2}}$, $\varepsilon(\omega)^{TM} = \frac{\omega - \omega_0^{TM}}{\frac{\gamma}{2}}$ where ω_0^{TE} and ω_0^{TM} are the resonance frequencies of the TE and the TM waveguide modes respectively and γ is the width of the resonance, which is assumed to be of similar magnitude. The q parameter is related to the coupling of the modes and determines the characteristic asymmetry of Fano spectral line shape. In this model, the spectral domain interference of the modes can be understood through the phase difference between them, which is very important for our weak value analysis

$$\Psi(\omega)^{TE} = \arctan \left[\frac{q + \varepsilon^{TE}}{1 - q\varepsilon^{TE}} \right] \quad (5a)$$

$$\Psi(\omega)^{TM} = \arctan \left[\frac{q + \varepsilon^{TM}}{1 - q\varepsilon^{TM}} \right] \quad (5b)$$

$\Psi(\omega)^{TE/TM}$ is the total phase difference between the waveguide mode (TE/TM) and the broad continuum. For an ideal continuum ($B = 1$) the exact destructive interference occurs at the Fano frequency $\omega_F = \omega_0^{TE} - \frac{q\gamma}{2}$ corresponding to $\varepsilon^{TE} = -q$. Note that ω_F is the frequency of exact destructive interference, where the phase difference between the TE quasiguided mode and incoming broad continuum becomes $\Psi(\omega_F)^{TE} = \pi$ and the ratio of the amplitudes between them is unity $a(\omega_F) = 1$. At close vicinity of ω_F , near destructive spectral interference takes place between the two modes with simultaneous small amplitude offset ($\epsilon_a(\omega)$) and phase offset ($\epsilon_p(\omega)$). It is this near destructive spectral interference between the two modes that mimics the near orthogonal pre and post-selections of states (small overlap of states $\epsilon(a/p)$) in conventional optical WVA. It's important to note that, in the general case, the amplitude and phase offset parameters for TE ($\epsilon_{a/p}$) and TM ($\epsilon'_{a/p}$) interfering modes will differ owing to their different resonance frequencies, which can be expressed as (expression is given in Eq. 2 and Eq. 3 of the manuscript).

$$\epsilon_a(\omega) \approx \frac{\left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^2 + 1}{q^2 + 1}}\right)}{\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^2 + 1}{q^2 + 1}}\right)} \quad (6a)$$

$$\epsilon_p(\omega) = \pi - \Psi(\omega) = \pi - \arctan \left(\frac{q - \varepsilon}{1 + q\varepsilon} \right) \quad (6b)$$

However, in the general case, the amplitude and phase offset parameters for TE ($\epsilon_{a/p}$) and TM ($\epsilon'_{a/p}$) interfering modes will differ owing to their different resonance frequencies, which can be expressed as

$$\epsilon_a(\omega) \approx \frac{\left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^2+1}{q^2+1}}\right)}{\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^2+1}{q^2+1}}\right)} \quad (7a)$$

$$\epsilon_p(\omega) = \pi - \Psi(\omega)^{TE} = \pi - \arctan\left(\frac{q - \varepsilon}{1 + q\varepsilon}\right) \quad (7b)$$

$$\varepsilon(\omega) = \frac{\omega - \omega_0^{TE}}{\frac{\gamma}{2}} \quad (7c)$$

$$\epsilon'_a(\omega) \approx \frac{\left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^2+1}{q^2+1}}\right)}{\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^2+1}{q^2+1}}\right)} \quad (8a)$$

$$\epsilon'_p(\omega) = \pi - \Psi(\omega)^{TM} = \pi - \arctan\left(\frac{q - \varepsilon}{1 + q\varepsilon}\right) \quad (8b)$$

$$\varepsilon(\omega) = \frac{\omega - \omega_0^{TM}}{\frac{\gamma}{2}} \quad (8c)$$

Now the WVA of polarization rotation α and ellipticity χ will depend on both the offsets $\epsilon_{(a/p)}^{TE}, \epsilon_{(a/p)}^{TM}$. Using the framework of WVA considering two different amplitude and phase offsets, the resultant Fano scattered electric field described in Eq. 1 can be written in terms of simultaneously varying offset parameters ($\epsilon_{(a/p)}, \epsilon'_{(a/p)}$). In this complex WVA scenario it can be written as

$$E_s(\omega) = [(1 + \epsilon_a)e^{i\epsilon_p}\{(\cos(\alpha)\cos(\chi) - i\sin(\alpha)\sin(\chi))\hat{y} + (1 + \epsilon'_a)e^{i\epsilon'_p}(\sin(\alpha)\cos(\chi) - i\cos(\alpha)\sin(\chi))\hat{x}\} + (1 - \epsilon_a)e^{-i\epsilon_p}\hat{y}] \quad (9)$$

Here ϵ_a and ϵ_p are the amplitude and phase offsets of the TE waveguide mode and the ϵ'_a and ϵ'_p corresponds to the offsets of the TM waveguide mode which can be calculated using Eq. 3 of the manuscript. The simultaneous real and imaginary WVAs of polarization rotation α and ellipticity χ are manifested in the $\epsilon_{a/p}$ and $\epsilon'_{a/p}$ dependent large observed polarization vector orientation angle ψ (determined from the U and Q Stokes parameters¹⁰), and the circular (elliptical) polarization descriptor 4th Stokes vector element $\frac{V}{I}$. As the TE and TM waveguide modes moves away from each other one cannot approach a

very small value of amplitude and phase offsets for both the waveguide modes ($\epsilon_{a/p}^{TE} \rightarrow 0, \epsilon_{a/p}^{TM} \rightarrow 0$) simultaneously, which is very much desirable for optimal weak value amplification. Consequently, the maximum achievable amplification of polarization rotation α and ellipticity χ gets limited. In contrast, for the ideal WVA scenario ($\omega_0^{TE} = \omega_0^{TM} = \omega_0$) the conditions of getting very small offsets are met for both the waveguide modes ($\epsilon_{a/p}^{TE} \rightarrow 0, \epsilon_{a/p}^{TM} \rightarrow 0$) around the Fano dip ω_F leading to the maximum achievable amplification. Some results are presented below using Eq. S4 and Eq. S6 demonstrating the behaviour of natural WVA with varying overlap between the TE and TM waveguide modes.

2.2 Valley coherence theoretical model

Interference is the basic measurement of the coherence of light. Photo lumination (PL) is a traditional method of valley coherence. Fano resonance is a type of resonant scattering phenomenon that gives rise to an asymmetric line shape. Spatial interference between two resonant scattering modes produces an asymmetric line shape. In our model, we used metal dichalcogenides on top of the glass surface. We used metal dichalcogenides like MoSe2, WSe2, etc. this type of material has valley coherence. The broad light spectrum incident on this material due to the valley gets a very narrow resonance. This narrow resonance interference with the refraction light from the glass surface forms an asymmetric line shape. The Fano resonance equation for this system is

$$I_0 = \frac{(\eta\sqrt{x}q + \epsilon)}{\epsilon^2 + 1} + \frac{q^2(1 - \eta^2x) + 2(1 - \eta\sqrt{x})}{\epsilon^2 + 1} \quad (10)$$

Here q & ϵ are the Fano asymmetric parameter and reduce energy respectively. η & x are the coherence of the incident beam and degree of polarization (valley coherence) respectively.

Condition for minimum intensity (I_{min}) is $\epsilon = -q$

$$I_{min} = 2(1 - \sqrt{x}\eta) \quad (11)$$

Condition of the maximum intensity I_{max} is $\epsilon = \frac{1}{q}$

$$I_{max} = 1 + q^2 \quad (12)$$

Visibility (\mathcal{V}) is

$$\mathcal{V} = \frac{(q^2 + 1) - 2(1 - \sqrt{x}\eta)}{(q^2 + 1) + 2(1 - \sqrt{x}\eta)} \quad (13)$$

Here $x = \eta_{valley}$ and the $\sqrt{x}\eta$ is η_{net}

$$\eta_{net} = \sqrt{x}\eta \quad (14)$$

$$\mathcal{V} = \frac{(q^2 + 1) - 2(1 - \eta_{net})}{(q^2 + 1) + 2(1 - \eta_{net})} \quad (15)$$

3 Result & Discussion

3.1 Enhancement of MO effects in WMPCs for TE polarization excitation as a manifestation of interferometric natural WVA in Fano resonance.

The WMPC system comprises of a periodic array of noble metal nanostructures on top of a dielectric waveguiding layer, which is made of MO materials that exhibit Faraday rotation and ellipticity. The coupling of the spectrally broad surface plasmon mode in the metallic nanostructures or the photon continuum (depending upon the excitation polarization of light) with the narrow quasiguidded photonic modes in the waveguiding layer leads to Fano resonance. We used finite element method (FEM) for simulating the polarization resolved transmittance spectra from such system (see Methods). A schematic illustration of the FEM simulation of transmission and MO spectral responses of the WMPC is presented in Fig. 1

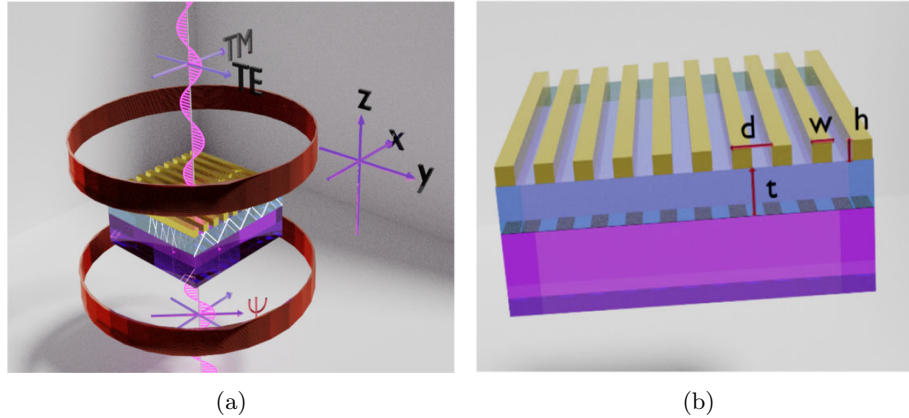


Figure 1: **The waveguide magneto-plasmonic crystal (WMPC).** (a) schematic illustration of the WMPC system. The direction of the transverse magnetic TM (x) and transverse electric TE (y) polarized light electric fields are perpendicular and parallel (respectively) to the axis of the Au gratings in the WMPC. (b) the WMPC system comprises of gold (Au) gratings on top of a thin yttrium-bismuth iron garnet ($Y - BIG$) film and the substrate is taken to be quartz. The thickness of the Y-BIG film (t) and the periodicity (d), width (w), and height (h) of the Au gratings are marked.

The WMPC system investigated in this study consists of gold (Au) grating on top of a thin yttrium-bismuth iron garnet ($Y-BIG$) film and the substrate is taken to be quartz. The MO active Y-BIG film serves as the waveguiding layer and also exhibits Faraday effect in the presence of an external magnetic field (see Methods). The simulated transmittance spectra ($E = \hbar\omega$ 0.83 to 2.067

eV) and Faraday rotation and ellipticity for varying geometrical parameters of the WMPC with TE polarization excitation are summarized in Fig. 2. The transmission spectra (Fig. 2a), the spectral variation of the observed Faraday rotation ψ (Fig. 2b) and the observed net ellipticity ξ (Fig. 2c) of the WMPC are shown for varying periodicity d of the *Au* grating. Several observations can be made. Prominent signatures of Fano resonance with asymmetric spectral line shape are observed in all the transmission spectra with TE polarization excitation (Fig. 2a). Here, the surface plasmons are not directly excited and hence the Fano resonance arises due to the interference between the spectrally narrow quasiguided resonance mode with an ideal photon continuum. Importantly, giant enhancement of Faraday rotation (Fig. 2b) and ellipticity (Fig. 2c) are observed around the Fano spectral dip ($E = \hbar\omega_F$) for all the geometrical parameters of the WMPC. In agreement with previous reports, the Fano spectral dip is observed to gradually move towards shorter frequency (or energy $E = \hbar\omega$) with increasing periodicity (d) of the grating (Fig. 2a). The magnitudes of the enhanced Faraday rotation ψ (Fig. 2b) and ellipticity ξ (Fig. 2c) exhibit an interesting trend with varying d — these increase to a maximum value for a certain value of periodicity and then follow a gradual decrease. The maximum magnitudes of the enhanced Faraday rotation ($\psi \sim 1.551$) and ellipticity ($\xi \sim 1.559$) of the WMPC are obtained for a value of $d = 550\text{nm}$ (Fig. 2b), as compared to the corresponding average bare film rotation and ellipticity of 0.28 and 0.1; respectively. The spectral variation of the transmitted TM polarization intensities with TE polarization excitation are also plotted for each of the varying geometrical parameters of the WMPC (Fig. 2d). In general, the TM polarized intensities are considerably weak and approach their respective minima near the Fano spectral dip where maximum magnitudes of Faraday rotation and ellipticity are observed. This rule out the possibility of the role of the resonance enhanced cross-coupling of the TE and the TM quasiguided modes in the enhancement of the Faraday effect. The observed enhancement of the Faraday rotation and ellipticity around the Fano spectral dip corresponding to near destructive spectral domain interference between the quasiguided mode and the photon continuum is thus indicative of the prominent role of the natural WVA of Fano resonance for TE polarization excitation. This aspect is therefore investigated in further details by studying the dependence of the Faraday effect enhancement on the periodicity of the grating and through its natural weak value interpretation. As we proceed further, we note that we have also provided the near field distribution of both the TE and the TM polarizations around the Fano spectral dip, which confirms the dominance of the TE polarized field and the waveguiding nature of both the TE and the TM polarized fields around the Fano dip.

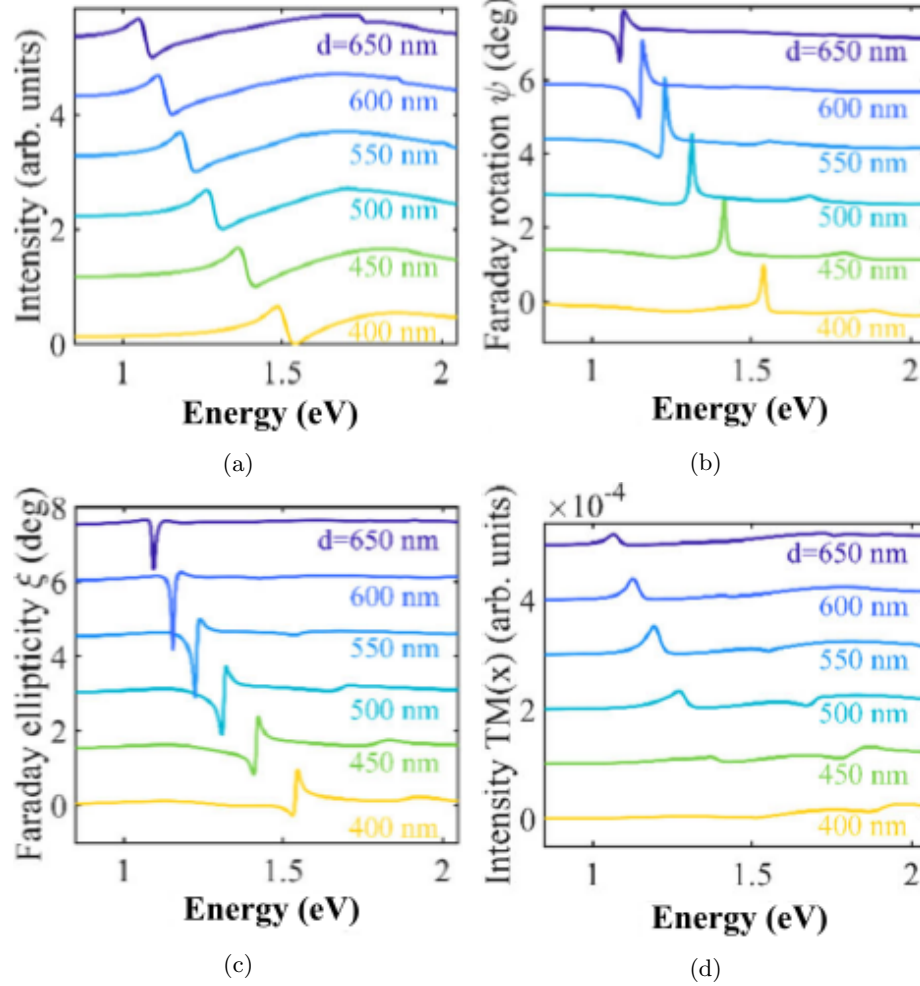


Figure 2: **The finite element method (FEM) simulated transmission spectra.** The spectral variation of the Faraday rotation ψ , ellipticity ξ , and the transmitted transverse electric (TE) polarization intensities of the WMPs with varying periodicity (d) of the gold (Au) gratings (shown for $E = \hbar\omega = 0.83$ to 2.067 eV), here \hbar is the reduced Planck's constant and ω is the frequency. The Fano resonance with asymmetric spectral line shape (figure 2a), enhancements of the Faraday rotation (figure 2b) and ellipticity (figure 2c) are observed around the Fano spectral dip ($E = \hbar\omega$) for all the periodicity parameters. The periodicity (d) parameter of the grating is varied from 400 nm to 650 nm with a step size of 50 nm, keeping fixed width ($w = 120$ nm) and height ($h = 100$ nm). In order to maintain clarity in the figures, the baseline magnitudes of Faraday rotation ψ and ellipticity ξ are shifted by $\sim 1.5^\circ$ consecutively for each sub-plot with varying periodicity of the Au gratings.

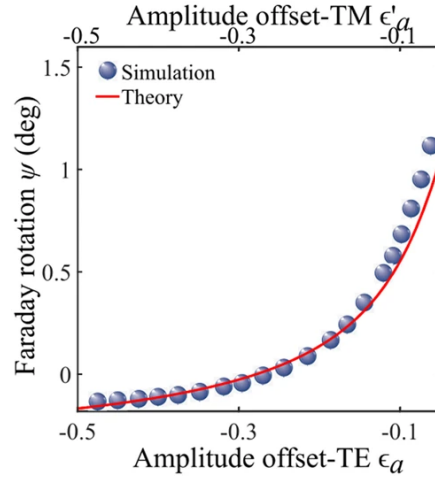


Figure 3: **Natural weak value amplification result** . The variation of the Faraday rotation ψ as a function of amplitude offset parameters ϵ_a of TE and ϵ'_a of TM waveguide modes (gray metallic balls) and the corresponding theoretical predictions of natural WVA (red solid line). The ϵ_a and ϵ'_a parameters are shown in the lower and upper X-axes, respectively.

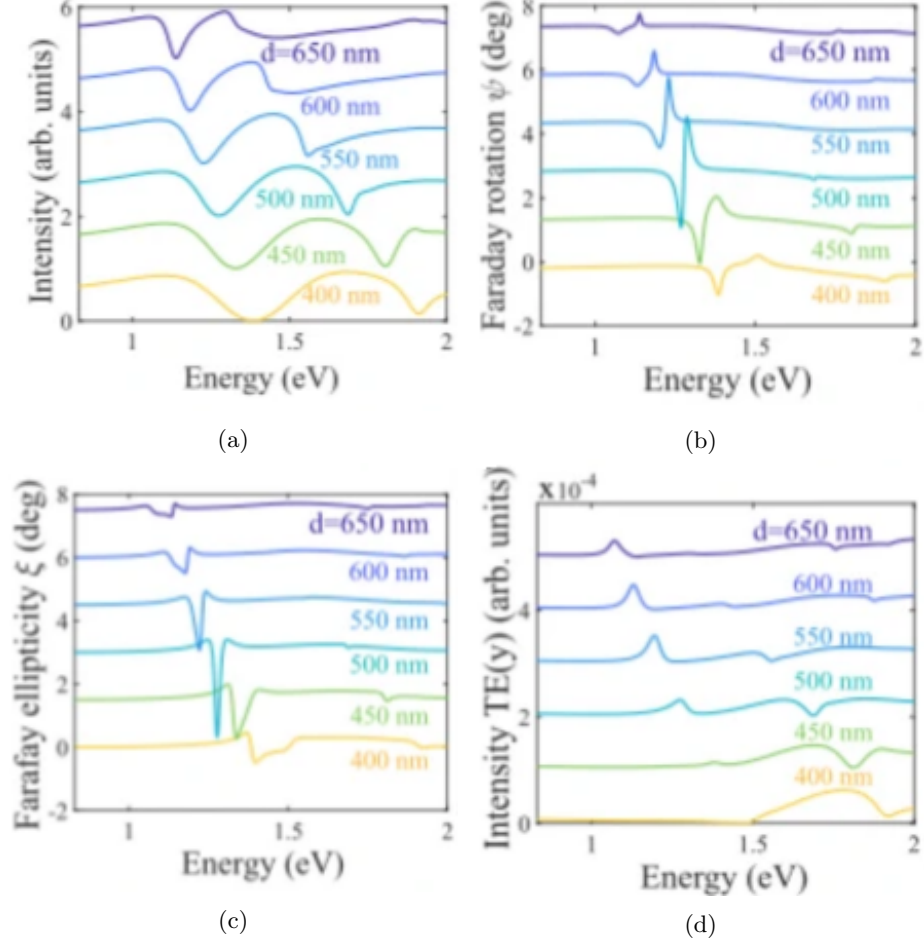


Figure 4: **The finite element method (FEM) simulated transmission spectra.** The spectral variation of the Faraday rotation ψ , ellipticity ξ , and the transmitted transverse magnetic (TM) polarization intensities of the WMPs with varying periodicity (d) of the gold (Au) gratings (shown for $E = \hbar\omega = 0.83$ to 2.067 eV), here \hbar is the reduced Planck's constant and ω is the frequency. The Fano resonance with asymmetric spectral line shape (figure 4a), enhancements of the Faraday rotation (figure 4b) and ellipticity (figure 4c) are observed around the Fano spectral dip ($E = \hbar\omega$) for all the periodicity parameters. The periodicity (d) parameter of the grating is varied from 400 nm to 650 nm with a step size of 50 nm, keeping fixed width ($w = 120$ nm) and height ($h = 100$ nm). In order to maintain clarity in the figures, the baseline magnitudes of Faraday rotation ψ and ellipticity ξ are shifted by $\sim 2.0^\circ$ consecutively for each sub-plot with varying periodicity of the Au gratings.

4 Discussion

In summary, our studies have unraveled different physical origins for the enhancement of Faraday rotation and ellipticity in magneto-plasmonic crystals with TE and TM polarization excitation. Natural WVA of weak Faraday effect that arises due to near destructive spectral domain interference in Fano resonance of the plasmonic crystals is identified as the primary mechanisms for enhancement with TE polarization excitation. The results also showed that the enhancement of the MO effects are maximum for those geometrical parameters of plasmonic crystals which exhibit a strong spectral overlap of the TE and TM quasiguided modes, in which case an ideal WVA takes place. In contrast for TM polarization excitation, electromagnetic near field enhancement associated with the surface plasmons and the strong coupling of the waveguide-plasmon modes plays the dominant role in the Faraday effect enhancement. The enhancement is strongest near the avoided crossing regime where the waveguide-plasmon modes are spectrally the closest and the splitting is the minimum. These results are of both fundamental and applied interests. The quantitative understanding gained on the different physical mechanisms for the enhancement of the MO effects provides a useful recipe and a systematic approach for the optimization of the geometrical parameters of the WMPC towards achieving maximum enhancement of Faraday effects and for controlled tailoring of the MO responses of such hybrid systems. The different mechanisms for the enhancement of MO effects for the TE and the TM polarizations also indicate that the choice of input polarization state may provide an extra degree of freedom to optimally combine the two different mechanisms for the enhancement of MO response of such hybrid magneto-plasmonic systems. These may lead to optimized development of multifunctional nonreciprocal photonic nano-devices which potentially enhance their applications in optical isolation, modulation, rotation, magnetic field sensing, and so on. We also envisage that the understanding of the underlying mechanisms may also open up interesting direction of research. For example, the observed enhanced Faraday effects in the absence of plasmon resonances may open up a new avenue where the “near destructive interferometric origin” of enhancement can be used to observe significant enhancement of Faraday effects in all-dielectric nanostructures. This may be of practical interest as unlike the conventional metal-based magneto-plasmonic systems, these all dielectric hybrid MO systems are expected to have much lesser loss yielding high quality factor resonances for practical applications. Moreover, the interferometric origin of natural WVA of Faraday effect also opens up the possibility of extending the philosophy to other interesting wave phenomena like electromagnetically induced transparency (EIT) and absorption (EIA), extraordinary optical transmission (EOT), which have common origin in fine interference effects. We are currently expanding our investigations in the aforementioned directions.