

Photodetection and nano-photonics of graphene and heterostructures of 2d materials

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The interaction of light with graphene and heterostructures of related 2d materials embodies a wide variety of physical processes such as ultra-fast photoconversion, strong light-matter interactions and highly confined plasmons, with strong potential for disruptive opto-electronic technologies. In this talk, several examples of the ultra-fast opto-electronic and nano-photonics capabilities of novel 2d material heterostructures are being addressed.

We argue that graphene encapsulated in hexagonal boron nitride (h-BN) is a material system with remarkable nano-photonics properties. First, we find that it is an excellent host for extremely strongly confined light with reduced plasmon losses. We identify experimentally and theoretically the main damping channels. Second, h-BN itself is an interesting optical material as it shows natural hyperbolic behaviour, meaning that the in- and out-of-plane component of the permittivity have opposite signs in the reststrahlen frequency bands. This implies that h-BN supports deep subwavelength slow-light phonon polariton modes within those bands. Combining h-BN with graphene gives rise to unconventional plasmon-phonon hybridization and this hybrid system can be used for tailoring novel subwavelength metamaterials.

Next, we address recent photovoltage generation experiments with unprecedented time resolution, applied to graphene and heterostructures of 2d materials. We control and study the underlying carrier-carrier interactions and charge carrier transfer dynamics.

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