Ultra-high-$Q$ resonances in plasmonic metasurfaces

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Resonant cavities play a crucial role in many aspects of science and engineering$^{1,2}$. A resonator with a large quality-factor ($Q$-factor) is essential to many applications in photonics, such as filtering$^3$, delay lines and memories$^4$, lasing$^5,6$, switching$^7,8$, spectroscopy$^9$, sensing$^{10-13}$, and nonlinear optical processes$^{14}$, among others$^{15-18}$. Recently, the rapid development of nanofabrication technology has increased the appeal of nanostructured metasurfaces$^{19}$. A metasurface with a large $Q$-factor could be used as a cavity for an ultra-flat nano-laser with a large transverse mode size$^{20,21}$, or to increase light-matter interactions$^{22-27}$ (e.g., for THz-wave generation$^{28}$, entangled photon-pair generation$^{29}$, or deterministic single-photon sources$^{30}$). However, to date, experimental demonstrations of metasurface nanoresonators have yet to produce $Q$-factors in excess of the order of $10^2$, even for low-loss dielectric platforms$^{31-34}$. In this Letter, we report the experimental observation of a metasurface nanoresonator with a $Q$-factor of 2400 in the telecommunication C band. This value is an order of magnitude higher than the previously reported values for any metasurface platform, and is enabled by surface lattice resonances aided by the proper choice of nanostructure dimension, large array sizes, and the use of a strongly collimated light source. Moreover, it was achieved with an array of plasmonic nanostructures, usually considered too lossy to support high $Q$-factor resonances due to high optical absorption in metals. Our results demonstrate that surface lattice resonances provide an exciting and unexplored method to achieve ultra-high-$Q$ resonances in metasurfaces, and could pave the way to flexible wavelength-scale devices for any optical resonating application.

The core building blocks of plasmonic metasurfaces are metal nanostructures of sub-wavelength dimension$^{19,35}$. These nanostructures exhibit localized surface plasmon resonances (LSPRs), where electromagnetic fields couple to the free-electron plasma of a conductor at a metal-dielectric interface$^{36,37}$. An incident light beam induces a material polarization within the nanostructure, scattering light according to the moment of the nanoparticle. Thus, depending on its shape, an individual nanoparticle may act as a lossy dipole antenna$^{38}$ with many applications ranging from nanolasing to nonlinear optics$^{19,39,40}$. However, these LSPRs typically exhibit low $Q$-factors (e.g., $Q < 10$) due to the intrinsic absorption loss of metals. As the $Q$-factor is related to the light-matter interaction time as well as to enhancements to the electric field, it is typically desirable to maximize this quantity$^{18}$. Low $Q$-factors therefore hinder the potential applications of plasmonics-based metasurface devices, and alternative methods of obtaining large $Q$-factor resonances in a metasurface have long been sought after.

In recent years, plasmonic metasurfaces supporting resonances arising from periodically arranged nanostructures have been a topic of intense study$^{32,41-48}$. Such resonances are called surface lattice resonances (SLRs). Here, the individual responses from the surface plasmons of many individual nanostructures couple to in-plane diffraction orders of the periodic array to form a collective response$^{41,42}$. As a consequence, a relatively high-$Q$ resonance can emerge at an optical wavelength $\lambda_{SLR} \approx nP$, close to the product of the
Fig. 1 | High-$Q$ metasurface nanocavities using arrays of plasmonic nanostructures. 

a, Schematic of the metasurface consisting of a rectangular array of rectangular gold nanostructures. Here, $L_x = 130$ nm, $L_y = 200$ nm, $t = 20$ nm, $P_x = 500$ nm, and $P_y = 1060$ nm. b, Numerical (FDTD) and semi-analytic (LSA) calculations of the transmission spectrum of this metasurface for $x$-polarized light. Both the LSPR and the SLR are observed in these results. Inset, The simulated magnitude of the electric field $|E|$ for the entire unit cell of both LSPR and SLR modes. The colorbar indicates the relative magnitude when normalized to the incident plane wave. 

c, Zoomed plot of the highlighted region in (b), exhibiting the narrow linewidth SLR ($Q \sim 3000$). d, Helium ion microscope image of the fabricated metasurface prior to cladding deposition. 

e, Measured transmission spectrum. f, Zoomed plot of the highlighted region in (e). The red line is a Lorentzian fit, yielding a linewidth of $\Delta \lambda = 0.66$ nm, corresponding to $Q = 2400$.

Inspired by this discrepancy, we have performed a detailed investigation to determine the three mitigating factors that most drastically affect the observed $Q$ of an SLR-based metasurface: the nanostructure geometry, the array size, and the spatial coherence of the light source. Using the results of this study, we demonstrate a plasmonic metasurface capable of supporting high-$Q$ SLRs. The metasurface in consideration consists of a rectangular array of rectangular gold nanostructures embedded in a homogeneous glass environment (Fig. 1a). The overcladding is carefully matched to the substrate material to ensure a symmetric cladding index, as it has been shown that the $Q$ of an SLR may be affected by the homogeneity of the environment. As shown by the numerical predictions in Figs. 1b – c, for an $x$-polarized beam, this metasurface is expected to support an LSPR at $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}} = 830$ nm and an SLR around $\lambda_{\text{SLR}} = 1550$ nm. The SLR linewidth is substantially narrower than that of the LSPR, corresponding to a much higher $Q$-factor. Incidentally, the inset field profiles in Fig. 1b also reveal that the SLR provides a more significant field enhancement, with $|E_{\text{max}}(\lambda_{\text{SLR}})| \sim 3|E_{\text{max}}(\lambda_{\text{LSPR}})|$. Figure 1d shows an image of the fabricated device with dimensions matching those of the simulations. The measured transmission spectra are presented in Figs. 1e – f, closely matching the predicted spectrum. Notably, the full width at half-maximum of the linewidth is only $\Delta \lambda = 0.66$ nm, corresponding to a record-high quality factor of $Q = 2400$. This value is in very close agreement with semi-analytic calculations performed...
using the Lattice Sum approach, where $Q \sim 3000$ (see Methods for details). In order to observe this value for the $Q$-factor, both the metasurface and the measurement apparatus needed to be arranged with a few considerations in mind which we describe in greater detail below.

First, the individual structures need to be engineered to exhibit the appropriate response at $\lambda_{\text{SLR}}$. The optical response of a nanostructure can be described using the polarizability of a Lorentzian dipole,

$$\alpha(\omega) = \frac{A_0}{\omega - \omega_0 + i\gamma},$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where $A_0$ is proportional to the oscillator strength, $\omega_0 = 2\pi c / \lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$ corresponds to the nanoparticle resonance frequency, and $\gamma$ is the damping term. These quantities all depend on the particle geometry (here, the length $L_y$ and width $L_x$ of a rectangular bar). The contribution of the particle lattice to the polarizability can be introduced using the lattice-sum approach\textsuperscript{50–52}:

$$\alpha^*(\omega) = \frac{\alpha(\omega)}{1 - \varepsilon_0 \alpha(\omega) S(\omega)},$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

where $\alpha^*(\omega)$ is known as the effective polarizability of the entire metasurface, and $S(\omega)$ corresponds to the lattice sum. This latter term depends only on the arrangement of the lattice. An SLR appears approximately where $S(\omega)$ exhibits a pole, at $\omega_{\text{SLR}} = (2\pi c / \lambda_{\text{SLR}})$. At this spectral location, the individual responses of all of the nanostructures contribute cooperatively\textsuperscript{52}.

Equation (2) may be used to predict the optical response of the entire metasurface, including the behaviour of its many resonances, as a function of the geometry of its nanostructures (see Methods): changing the geometry of the nanostructures\textsuperscript{53} acts to change their individual resonance wavelengths $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$, oscillator strengths $A_0$, and damping constants $\gamma$. In turn, adjusting these values changes the polarizability of the nanostructures throughout the spectrum, including at the surface lattice resonance wavelength $\alpha(\omega_{\text{SLR}})$, and therefore the response of the entire metasurface $\alpha^*(\omega_{\text{SLR}})$. By contrast, the spectral location of the SLR wavelength is dictated mainly by the lattice period and the background index $\lambda_{\text{SLR}} \approx n \lambda_{\text{SLR}}$\textsuperscript{45,49,50}. In other

![Fig. 2](image_url) **Coupling to a surface lattice resonance.** The colors in parts (a) through (d) are consistent, corresponding to the same type of nanoparticle. (a) The imaginary part of the individual particle polarizability for various nanostructures with increasing resonance wavelength $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$, holding both the oscillator strength $A_0$ and the damping term $\gamma$ fixed. (b) Simulated broadband transmission spectra for gold nanostructure arrays as a function of tuning $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$. By tuning the LSPR wavelength, the extinction factor of the SLR is observed to change near $\lambda = 1542$ nm. While $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$ changes dramatically, the SLR wavelength $\lambda_{\text{SLR}}$ does not change much. (c) Zoomed in plot of the SLR in (b). (d) The $Q$-factor of the surface lattice resonance as a function of $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$ for various oscillator strengths $A_0$. The optimal LSPR wavelength for a high-$Q$ SLR changes as a function of $A_0$. The squares indicate the $Q$ values extracted from the curves in (c).
words, the lattice geometry governs the presence of the SLR, and the nanostructure geometry dictates its coupling efficiency to free space. Indeed, some recent theoretical studies in this platform have predicted \( Q \)-factors on the order of \( 10^3 \) by properly selecting the dimensions of the individual nanostructures\(^{33,44,47,48} \).

We reproduce this dependence in this platform explicitly by plotting the calculated transmission of a metasurface (see Methods) as a function of nanostructure geometry (Fig. 2). (The dependence of the SLR behaviour on particle dimensions is also demonstrated using full-wave simulations in Sec. S1: Dependence of SLR behaviour on particle dimensions.) Here, we hold the oscillator strength \( A_0 \) and damping term \( \gamma \) constant and slowly increase the nanoparticle resonance wavelength \( \lambda_{\text{SLR}} \). In Figs. 2b – c, the SLR wavelength does not change substantially from its location around \( \lambda_{\text{SLR}} = 1542 \text{ nm} \); however, the extinction ratio \( \Delta T \) and the linewidth \( \Delta \lambda \) of the resonance change dramatically. In Fig. 2d, we plot the extracted \( Q \)-factors for these SLRs, and for other values of \( A_0 \), as well (see Sec. S2: \( Q \)-factor extraction for the fits). We find that for every given value of \( A_0 \), there is a corresponding \( \lambda_{\text{SLR}} \) for which light couples optimally to the lattice resonance at \( \lambda_{\text{SLR}} \) and produces the highest \( Q \)-factor. The optimal conditions are therefore found in the balance between increasing \( \alpha \) relative to \( P_v \) (i.e., increasing coupling strength), and maintaining a large spectral gap between \( \lambda_{\text{SLR}} \) and \( \lambda_{\text{SLR}} \) (i.e., limiting Ohmic losses associated with metallic nanoparticles). The trade-off between coupling and loss is a traditional one for optical resonators and is reproduced in this platform\(^{54} \).

Next, we study the dependence of the \( Q \)-factor on the array size. For certain metasurfaces, it has already been shown that larger array sizes lead to better device performance\(^{31,55,56} \). Indeed, a few theoretical works have suggested that increasing the array size of a metasurface could be the dominant factor for increasing the \( Q \)-factor of an SLR\(^{33,55} \). This dependence makes some intuitive sense — since high-\( Q \) operation requires low absorption losses, we are required to operate the device far from the LSPR. However, at a sufficiently far operating wavelength, the scattering cross-section is also small, resulting in each antenna scattering very weakly. Consequently, far from the LSPR, one requires a sufficiently large number of scatterers to build up the resonance. Equivalently, the standing wave mode in an SLR consists of counter-propagating surface waves; therefore, a larger array provides an expanded propagation length in the cavity to support these modes.

To examine the dependence of \( Q \) on the number of nanostructures explicitly, we fabricated and characterized a series of devices of increasing array size Figure 3 shows the resulting transmission spectra, as well as their corresponding semi-analytic predictions. The observed \( Q \)-factors increase monotonically as a function of array size (Fig. 3b – see Sec. S2: \( Q \)-factor extraction for the fits). In the smallest array (300 \( \times \) 300 \( \mu \)m\(^2\)), the SLR is almost imperceptible. This trend might help explain the relatively low \( Q \) values observed in previous studies\(^{19,42,43,55} \) where array sizes were typically no larger than 250 \( \times \) 250 \( \mu \)m\(^2\), likely due to the relatively slow write-speed of the e-beam lithography process necessary for fabrication\(^{34,41,48} \). By contrast, our devices have array sizes reaching up to 600 \( \times \) 600 \( \mu \)m\(^2\) (see Sec. S3: Image of the device).

Fig. 3 | Effects of array size and spatial coherence of light source. a, Calculated and measured (using coherent and incoherent sources) transmission spectra for identical metasurface arrays of varying size (from top to bottom: 300 \( \times \) 300, 400 \( \times \) 400, 500 \( \times \) 500, and 600 \( \times \) 600 \( \mu \)m\(^2\), respectively). The spectra are offset for clarity, and each vertical division corresponds to an increment of \( \Delta T = 0.2 \) in transmittance. b, The \( Q \)-factors extracted from Lorentzian fits to the calculations and to the measurements shown in (a). An increase in the number of nanostructures in the array results in an increase in the estimated \( Q \)-factors. Additionally, the observed \( Q \)-factor is globally larger for each array when measured using the coherent source.

Finally, it is of critical importance to consider all aspects of the characterization system in order to get an accurate measurement of the \( Q \)-factor. In particular, we have found that the spatial coherence of the probe beam was critical to obtaining a clean measurement of the dip in transmission indicating a resonance. A
Additionally, our device follows simple design principles that can be easily expanded upon, making this
Therefore, the light collected from the metasurface array could be isolated with a smaller pinhole in the
References
the capabilities of the ultra-thin metasurface platform for many optical applications.
Q hypothesized by others, may have been the cause for the low
dimensions, a small array size, or poor spatial coherence of the source illumination; we hypothesize that one
have found that the observed \( Q \)-factor could also perhaps be improved using
dielectric particles; however, these materials would necessitate much larger particle sizes in order to match
the scattering strength of plasmonic nanostructures. Additionally, dielectric materials possess smaller optical
nonlinearities, which is undesirable for nonlinear optical applications. Finally, the metasurface shown here
can be combined with other established methods to enable multiple simultaneous resonances in order to fully
tailor the transmission spectrum of a wavelength-scale surface.\(^{26,51,57}\)
Before concluding, we take a moment to place our results in the appropriate context. To the best of
our knowledge, our work represents the first experimental demonstration of an ultra-high-\( Q \) metasurface
nanoresonator in any material platform, presenting an order-of-magnitude improvement over even low-loss
dielectric implementations (see Sec. S4: Literature survey). Here, we would like to emphasize that this
assessment does not include waveguide-coupled devices such as whispering gallery mode resonators,
microring resonators or photonic crystals, where \( Q \) factors for the type of device presented here could be further increased by considering larger
arrays, or by further optimizing the nanostructure dimensions — instead of rectangles, a more intricate
nanostructure shape could tailor \( A_0, \lambda_{\text{SPR}}, \) and \( \gamma \) more independently, or could increase coupling to more
neighbouring particles using out-of-plane oscillations\(^{30}\). The \( Q \)-factor could also perhaps be improved using
dielectric particles; however, these materials would necessitate much larger particle sizes in order to match
the scattering strength of plasmonic nanostructures. Additionally, dielectric materials possess smaller optical
nonlinearities, which is undesirable for nonlinear optical applications. Finally, the metasurface shown here
can be combined with other established methods to enable multiple simultaneous resonances in order to fully
tailor the transmission spectrum of a wavelength-scale surface.\(^{26,51,57}\)
To summarize, we have fabricated and experimentally demonstrated a plasmonic metasurface nanoresonator with an unprecedentedly high \( Q \)-factor which is in excellent agreement with numerical predictions. We
have found that the observed \( Q \)-factor obtained from an SLR may be limited by a poor choice of nanostructure
dimensions, a small array size, or poor spatial coherence of the source illumination; we hypothesize that one
or many of these factors, and not necessarily the material absorption or fabrication imperfections as has been
hypothesized by others, may have been the cause for the low \( Q \)-factors reported in previous experiments
featuring SLRs. This result highlights the potential of SLR-based metasurfaces, and dramatically expands
the capabilities of the ultra-thin metasurface platform for many optical applications.

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Author Contributions MSBA, OR, and MJH conceived the basic idea for this work. OR and MSBA performed the FDTD simulations. MJH, MSBA and OR performed the lattice sum calculations. OR and GC fabricated the device. MZA and MJH designed the preliminary experimental setup. MSBA and YM carried out the measurements. OR, MSBA, and YM analysed the experimental results. JU, BS, JMM, MJH, RWB, and KD supervised the research and the development of the manuscript. MSBA and OR wrote the first draft of the manuscript. All co-authors subsequently took part in the revision process and approved the final copy of the manuscript. Portions of this work were presented at the 2020 SPIE Photonics West conference in San Francisco, CA.

Data and code availability The data that support the plots within this paper, the code used to analyze the data, the related simulation files, and other findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

Methods

Simulations

FDTD: Full-wave simulations were performed using a commercial three-dimensional finite-difference time-domain (3D-FDTD) solver. A single unit cell was simulated using periodic boundary conditions in the in-plane dimensions and perfectly matched layers in the out-of-plane dimension. The structures were modelled using fully dispersive optical material properties for silica\(^{62}\) and for gold\(^{63}\). Minimal artificial absorption (Im(\( \epsilon / \epsilon_0 \)) \sim 10^{-4}) was added to the background medium to reduce numerical divergences.

LSA: The lattice sum approach (LSA) is a variant of the discrete-dipole approximation (DDA) method\(^{64}\). It is a semi-analytic calculation method that has been found to produce accurate results for plasmonic arrays\(^{24, 26, 50–52}\). The main assumption in LSA when compared to DDA is that of an infinite array of identical dipoles\(^{50}\). It has the capability to model finite-sized arrays with an arbitrary number of nanostructures. Its rapid simulation time makes it a good tool for iterating many simulations to study trends and behaviours of entire metasurfaces, especially for finite array effects.

Using the LSA approach, the dipole moment \( \vec{p} \) of any particle in the array is written as

\[
\vec{p} = \frac{\epsilon_0 \alpha(\omega) \vec{E}_{\text{inc}}}{1 - \epsilon_0 \alpha(\omega) S(\omega)} \equiv \epsilon_0 \alpha^*(\omega) \vec{E}_{\text{inc}},
\]

where the effect of inter-particle coupling is incorporated in the lattice sum \( S \), and \( \alpha^* \) is the effective polarizability. This equation produces Eq. (2) in the main text. The calculations presented in this work also incorporate a modified long-wavelength correction\(^{65}\):

\[
\alpha(\omega) \rightarrow \frac{\alpha(\omega)}{1 - \frac{2}{3} i k^3 \alpha(\omega) - \frac{k^2}{\pi} \alpha(\omega)},
\]

where \( k \) is the wavenumber in the background medium \( k = (2\pi n/\lambda) \) and \( l \) is the effective particle radius. Also here, minimal artificial absorption (Im(\(n / \epsilon_0 \)) \sim 6 \times 10^{-4}) was added to the refractive index \( n = 1.452 \) of the background medium to reduce numerical divergences associated with the approach when considering large arrays\(^{52}\). We set \( l = 180 \text{ nm} \) for all calculations. For a planar array of \( N \) dipoles, the lattice sum term \( S \) is

\[
S(\omega) = N \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{\exp(ikr_j)}{\epsilon_0 r_j} \left[ k^2 + \frac{(1 - ikr_j)(3 \cos^2 \theta_j - 1)}{r_j^2} \right],
\]

where \( r_j \) is the distance to the \( j^{th} \) dipole, and \( \theta_j \) is the angle between \( \vec{r}_j \) and the dipole moment \( \vec{p} \).

The optical transmission spectra can be obtained by using the optical theorem, Ext \( \propto k \text{Im}(\alpha^*)\)\(^{66}\):

\[
T(\omega) = 1 - \frac{4\pi k}{P_x P_y} \text{Im}[\alpha^*(\omega)],
\]

where \( P_x \) and \( P_y \) are the lattice constants along the x and y dimensions, respectively.
To produce the plots in Figs. 1a – c, we performed an LSA calculation using the following parameters for the single dipole: $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}} = 830 \text{ nm}; A_0 = 2.98 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}, \gamma = 1/[2\pi(2.1 \text{ fs})] \approx 7.6 \times 10^{13} \text{ s}^{-1}$. LSA parameters were determined by matching to FDTD data. The lattice constants were $P_x = 500 \text{ nm}$ and $P_y = 1060 \text{ nm}$. The total array size was $600 \times 600 \mu\text{m}^2$, corresponding to $N_x = 1200 \times N_y = 567$ nanostructures, respectively. The LSA calculations in Fig. 3 used these same parameters, but varied the total number of nanostructures.

To calculate the figures in Fig. 2a – c, we performed a series of LSA calculation using the following parameters for the particle: $A_0 = 3.98 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}, \gamma = 1/[2\pi(2.1 \text{ fs})] \approx 7.6 \times 10^{13} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The dipole resonance wavelengths $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$ were 800, 833, 866, 900, 933, 966 and 1000 nm, respectively. The lattice constants were $P_x = 500 \text{ nm}$ and $P_y = 1060 \text{ nm}$, respectively. The total array size was $600 \times 600 \mu\text{m}^2$, corresponding to $N_x = 1200 \times N_y = 567$ nanostructures, respectively. To obtain Fig. 2d, a series of LSA calculations were performed for many values of $\lambda_{\text{LSPR}}$ ranging from 800 nm to 1000 nm, and the $Q$-factors were extracted from the results using a fit to a Lorentzian. The curves in (d) come from repeating this procedure with oscillator strengths of $A_0 = 3.98 \times 10^{-7}$, $4.38 \times 10^{-7}$ and $4.77 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$.

**Device details**

We fabricated different metasurface devices with array sizes of $300 \times 300 \mu\text{m}^2$, $400 \times 400 \mu\text{m}^2$, $500 \times 500 \mu\text{m}^2$, and $600 \times 600 \mu\text{m}^2$, with a corresponding number of participating nanostructures of $600 \times 284, 800 \times 378, 1000 \times 472$, and $1200 \times 567$, respectively. The lattice constants of the rectangular arrays are $P_x = 500 \text{ nm} \times P_y = 1060 \text{ nm}$. The dimensions of the rectangular gold nanostructures are $L_x = 130 \text{ nm} \times L_y = 200 \text{ nm}$, with a thickness of $t = 20 \text{ nm}$. The lattice is embedded within a homogeneous background $n \approx 1.46$.

**Fabrication**

The metasurfaces are fabricated using a standard metal lift-off process. We start with a fused silica substrate. We deposit a silica undercladding layer using sputtering. We then define the pattern using electron-beam lithography in a positive tone resist bi-layer with the help of a commercial conductive polymer. The mask was designed using shape-correction proximity error correction to correct for corner rounding. Following development, a thin adhesion layer of chromium (0.2 nm thick) is deposited using e-beam evaporation, followed by a layer of gold deposited using thermal evaporation. Lift-off is performed, and a final protective silica cladding layer is deposited using sputtering. The initial and final silica layers are sputtered using the same tool under the same conditions to ensure that the environment surrounding the metasurface is completely homogeneous. Before characterization, the surface of the device is then covered in index-matching oil. The backside of the silica substrate is coated with an anti-reflective coating to minimize substrate-related etalon fringes.

**Characterization**

See Sec. S5: Experimental setup for a schematic of the experimental setup.

**Coherent light measurements:** To measure the transmission spectra, we flood-illuminated all of the arrays in the sample using a collimated light beam from a broadband supercontinuum laser source. The wavelength spectrum of the source ranges from $\lambda = 470$ to $2400 \text{ nm}$. The beam comes from normal incidence along the $z$-direction with light polarized in the $x$-direction. The incident polarization is controlled using a broadband linear polarizing filter. Light transmitted by the metasurface is then imaged by a $f = 35 \text{ mm}$ lens, and a 100 $\mu\text{m}$ pinhole is placed in the image plane to select the desired array. The transmitted light is collected in a large core (400 $\mu\text{m}$) multimode fiber and analyzed using an optical spectrum analyzer, and is normalized to a background trace of the substrate without gold nanostructures. The resolution of the spectrometer is set to 0.01 nm.

**Incoherent light measurements:** Here, the experiment goes as above, but the samples are excited using a collimated tungsten-halogen light source (ranging from $\lambda = 300$ to $2600 \text{ nm}$) and a 400 $\mu\text{m}$ pinhole.
Supplementary Information

Below is the supplementary information for *Ultra-high-Q resonances in plasmonic metasurfaces* by M. Saad Bin-Alam, Orad Reshef, Yaryna Mamchur, M. Zahirul Alam, Graham Carlow, Jeremy Upham, Brian T. Sullivan, Jean-Michel Ménard, Mikko J. Huttunen, Robert W. Boyd, and Ksenia Dolgaleva. Section S1 shows the dependence of the SLR behaviour on the particle geometry, produced using FDTD simulations. In Sec. S2, we present supporting material for Fig. 2d. In Sec. S3, we present a representative image of a fabricated device. In Sec. S4, we present a literature survey for experimentally reported high-$Q$ metasurfaces. In Sec. S5, we describe our experimental setup.

**S1 Dependence of SLR behaviour on particle dimensions**

To explicitly demonstrate how changing the dimensions of the nanoparticle may affect the properties of the SLR, we perform full-wave simulations in FDTD using a series of particle geometries. Figure S1 depicts the simulation results. Not only the $Q$-factor, but also $\lambda_{SLR}$ and the extinction ratio are all affected by changes in the particle dimensions.

![Fig. S1 | Particle dimension sweep.](image)

**Fig. S1 | Particle dimension sweep.** Quality factor $Q$ (left), resonant wavelength $\lambda_{SLR}$ (center), and minimum transmission as a function of particle dimensions $L_x$ and $L_y$, extracted from full-wave simulations performed with FDTD.

**S2 $Q$-factor extraction**

Figure S2 shows Lorentzian fits (red curves) to a series of LSA calculations (black curves) with varying $\lambda_{LSPR}$ (see Methods for values). The $Q$-factors extracted from these fits are used to produce the black curves in Fig. 2d. In Fig. S3, we reproduce the fits to the measurements that produced the values for Fig. 3b.

![Fig. S2](image)
S3 Image of the device

Figure S4 shows a typical optical image for one of the devices taken with a bright field microscope. Surrounding the device are large aluminum alignment marks to help locate the device in the experimental setup.

Fig. S4 | Optical image of a 600 $\times$ 600 $\mu$m$^2$ array.

S4 Literature survey

Table 1 contains a short survey of the literature on metasurface nanocavities. Other than the reported $Q$-factors, we have included, when available, information that is relevant to compare their work against ours, such as the operating wavelength, the material platform, the array size and the type of light source used.
| Mechanism          | $Q$  | $\lambda$ (nm) | Material    | Light source            | Array size ($\mu$m$^2$) | Reference |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| SLR               | 2400 | 1550          | Au NPs     | Supercontinuum           | 600 x 600               | This work |
| LSPR              | <10  | 700           | Au NPs     | Tungs.-Halogen lamp      | 3000 x 3000             | 44        |
| SLR               | 25   | 930           | Au NPs     | Collimated source       | 135 x 135               | 68        |
| SLR               | 30   | 850           | Au NPs     | Tungs.-Halogen lamp      | 3000 x 3000             | 44        |
| SLR               | 60   | 800           | Au NPs     | Tungs.-Halogen lamp      | 35 x 35                 | 41        |
| SLR               | 150  | 764           | Au NPs     | Tungs.-Halogen lamp      | N/A                     | 69        |
| SLR               | 230  | 900           | Au NPs     | Laser                   | $\sim 10000 \times 10000$ | 70        |
| SLR               | 300  | 1500          | Au nanostripes | Tungs.-Halogen lamp     | 300 x 100               | 22        |
| SLR               | 330  | 648           | Ag NPs     | Tungs.-Halogen lamp      | 2500 x 2500             | 24        |
| Mirror Image      | 200  | 5000          | ITO nanorods | Collimated source   | N/A                     | 71        |
| EIT               | 483  | 1380          | Si         | Tungs.-Halogen lamp      | 225 x 240               | 31        |
| Fano Resonance    | 65   | THz           | Al Particles | THz laser               | 10000 x 10000          | 72        |
| Fano Resonance    | 100  | THz           | Au Assym. NPs | FTIR                   | 150 x 150               | 73        |
| Fano Resonance    | 350  | 1000          | Si         | N/A                     | N/A                     | 33        |
| Fano Resonance    | 600  | 1000          | GaAs       | N/A                     | N/A                     | 33        |
| BIC               | 200  | 930           | AlGaAs     | Laser                   | N/A                     | 74        |

Table 1. Summary of experimentally obtained $Q$-factors in metasurfaces. $Q$, quality-factor; $\lambda$, resonance wavelength; NP, nanoparticle; SLR, surface lattice resonance; LSPR, localized surface plasmon resonance; EIT, Electromagnetically induced transparency.

**S5 Experimental setup**

A broadband source is collimated and is polarized using a broadband linear polarizing filter. A first iris is optionally placed to help align the sample in the center of the beam. The beam is then passed through the sample. The surface of the device is imaged using an $f = 35$ mm lens, and a pinhole is placed in the image plane to select the desired array. The transmitted light is collected in a large core (400 $\mu$m diameter) multimode fiber and is analyzed using an optical spectrum analyzer.

![Experimental setup diagram](image-url)