Topological effects in anisotropy-induced nano-fano resonance of a cylinder

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We demonstrate that optical Fano resonance can be induced by the anisotropy of a cylinder rather than frequency selection under the resonant condition. A tiny perturbation in anisotropy can result in a giant switch in the principal optic axis near plasmon resonance. Such anisotropy-induced Fano resonance shows fast reversion between forward and backward scattering at the lowest-energy interference. The near and far fields of the particle change dramatically around Fano resonance. The topology of optical singular points and the trajectory of energy flux distinctly reveal the interaction between the incident wave and the localized surface plasmons, which also determine the far-field scattering pattern. The anisotropy-induced Fano resonance and its high sensitivity open new perspectives on light–matter interactions and promise potential applications in biological sensors, optical switches, and optomechanics. © 2015 Optical Society of America

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Light scattering by a small particle is one of the most fundamental problems in electrodynamics and has potential applications in information processing, nanotechnologies, and engineering. For particles with a size much smaller than the incident wavelength, Rayleigh approximation can be adopted [1]. Nonetheless, recent studies show that, for a small particle incident wavelength, Rayleigh approximation can be adopted [1]. Encryption and secure communication, and plasmonic manipulation and nonlinear photonics. In this Letter, we provide a new paradigm to realize Fano resonance via the anisotropy of a single particle instead of controlling frequency. This novel resonant mechanism may be a new approach for sensitive optical identification of molecular groups, calculation of heating, radiation pressure, and trapping. The anisotropy is found to be able to tailor the surface plasmon resonance and induce additional plasmonic resonances. Thus, this Letter reveals that anisotropy-induced Fano resonance occurs to the anisotropic rod, and its radiation pattern is affected by the subtle perturbation of the rod’s anisotropy. We also look into the near field where Poynting bifurcation and vortex analysis [20] are investigated against the anisotropy-induced Fano resonant cases.

Here, we consider a homogeneous rod in air with radial anisotropy in both $\varepsilon$ and $\mu$; the constitutive tensors of the relative permittivity and permeability are expressed as $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_r r + \varepsilon_\theta \theta + \varepsilon_z z$, and $\mu = \mu_r r + \mu_\theta \theta + \mu_z z$, respectively, in cylindrical coordinates. The incident magnetic field is assumed to be along the $z$ direction (the transverse-magnetic case) with time-dependence exp($-i\omega t$). Then, the scattering of the cylinder is only related to $\varepsilon_r$, $\varepsilon_\theta$, and $\mu_z$. For convenience, we set $\varepsilon_r = \varepsilon_\theta = \varepsilon_z$ and $\mu_r = \mu_\theta = \mu_z$, where $\varepsilon_r(\mu_z)$ and $\varepsilon_r(\mu_r)$ stand for the permittivity (permeability)
elements corresponding to the electric and magnetic field vectors, which are normal to and tangential to the local optical axis, respectively, i.e., the constitutive tensors are diagonal in cylindrical coordinates with values \( e_r(\mu_r) \) in the radial \( (\vec{r}) \) direction and \( e_t(\mu_t) \) in the other two directions \( (\vec{\theta} \text{ and } \vec{z}) \). [21].

The wave equation is written as

\[
\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial \theta} \right) + k_0^2 \mu H_z = 0. \quad (1)
\]

In general, the local field solutions in the inner and outer region of the wire can be described as \( H_z^{\text{in}} = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{m_{\text{max}}} i^m \epsilon_m f_m(kr) e^{i m \theta} \) and \( H_z^{\text{out}} = \sum_{m=0}^{m_{\text{max}}} \epsilon_m f_m(k_0 r) e^{i m \theta} \), where \( k = k_0 \sqrt{\epsilon_r \mu_t} \) and \( k_0 = \omega \sqrt{\epsilon_0 \mu_0} \), and for the noninteger Bessel function index \( m' \), where \( m'^2 = m^2 \epsilon_r / \epsilon_t [22]\)

Note that the anisotropic structure used in this Letter is different from the uniaxial material considered in Bohren's book [1]. Under TE (or TM) incidence, the uniaxial material in [1] is isotropic, while our anisotropic material is defined in a cylindrical coordinate and is not isotropic under TE (or TM) incidence. To solve the scattering problem, the scattering coefficient \( B_m \) now becomes the most important issue [22]:

\[
B_m = \frac{\sqrt{\epsilon_r \mu_t} f_m(q) f_0(m, \epsilon_r, q) - \mu_j f_m(q) f_0(m, \epsilon_t, q)}{\sqrt{\epsilon_t \mu_r} H_0^1(k_0 r)} e^{i m \theta} \quad (m \geq 0),
\]

and

\[
B_m = \frac{\sqrt{\epsilon_t \mu_r} f_m(q) f_0(m, \epsilon_t, q) - \mu_j f_m(q) f_0(m, \epsilon_r, q)}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r \mu_t} H_0^1(k_0 r)} e^{i m \theta} \quad (m < 0),
\]

where the prime denotes the derivative with respect to the argument and the size parameter \( q = k_0 a \).

To explain the optical resonances numerically, let us present the amplitude:

\[
B_m = -\frac{\mathcal{R}_m}{\mathcal{R}_m + i \mathcal{S}_m}, \quad (4)
\]

by separating the real and imaginary parts. Due to the fact that \( B_{-m} = B_m \) for \( m \geq 0 \), we only consider the case of \( m \geq 0 \). Then, we have

\[
\mathcal{R}_m = \sqrt{\epsilon_t \mu_r} f_m(q) \left( \sqrt{\epsilon_t \mu_r} f_0(m, \epsilon_t, q) - \mu_j f_0(m, \epsilon_r, q) \right), \quad (5)
\]

\[
\mathcal{S}_m = \sqrt{\epsilon_t \mu_r} f_m(q) Y_0^1(q) - \mu_j f_0(m, \epsilon_r, q) Y_0^1(m, q), \quad (6)
\]

where \( Y_0^1 \) is the Neumann function. The exact optical resonance corresponds to \( \mathcal{S}_m = 0 \), which leads to \( |B_m| = 1 \). For simplicity, the material is assumed to be nonmagnetic, i.e., \( \mu_t = 1 \).

There is only one magnetic dipole [23] resonance for \( m = 0 \) at small \( q \). The perturbation of anisotropic permittivity \( \delta = \epsilon_t - \epsilon_r \) has little impact on the position of magnetic dipole resonance, and the maximum magnitude of \( B_0 \) always occurs in the vicinity of \( q \approx 2.8 \) (not shown here). However, the situation is different for higher-order modes (e.g., electric dipolar \( m = 2 \), quadrupolar \( m = 3 \), etc.); where new resonances are excited under the resonant condition \( \epsilon_t - \epsilon_r > 1 \), as is shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). Compared with the isotropic case, i.e., \( \epsilon_t = \epsilon_r = -1 \) (black lines), additional optical resonances emerge at very small \( q \) when the perturbation of anisotropy \( \delta \neq 0 \). For a small cylinder in the long-wavelength limit, the scattering coefficient \( B_1 \) has the following form:

\[
B_1 \approx -\pi q^2 / 2 \left( \sqrt{\epsilon_r + 1} / \sqrt{\epsilon_t + \delta} \right). \quad (7)
\]

From the above equation, one can see that a small perturbation will lead to a small value of \( \sqrt{\epsilon_r + 1} / \sqrt{\epsilon_t + \delta} \); thus, it requires small size parameter \( q \) to achieve \( |B_1| = 1 \). The smaller the perturbation is, the closer the resonant is to the size \( q = 0 \). This property brings forward a new prospect of designing high-sensitivity optical devices at the scale of several nanometers. Note that \( |B_1| = 1 \) is not a sufficient condition for the optical resonance. One could check this condition with the partial scattering cross sections \( Q_{m,n} \), where \( m (m = 1, 2, 3, \ldots) \) means the scattering solely comes from mode \( m \). As is shown in Fig. 1(c), the scattering resonances of dipole and quadrupole correspond to \( |B_1| = 1 \) and \( |B_2| = 1 \) at \( q < 1 \), respectively.

Figure 1(d) shows the narrow quadrupolar resonances interacting with the broad dipolar resonance, which may produce Fano resonance. For a given size \( q \), e.g., \( q = 0.3 \), the distance between quadrupolar modes and dipolar modes (marked with yellow points) does not vary much for the isotropic and anisotropic cases. What is more, the position (i.e., the size \( q \)) of Fano resonance is always in the vicinity of narrow resonance. Thus, the strength of interference of these two modes remains at the same level. Note that using anisotropy particles offers an additional degree of freedom to manipulate Fano resonance. For example, for a given small size, one could tune \( \epsilon_t \) to obtain the desired range of \( \epsilon_r \) for Fano resonance, which is suitable to use some metals such as Au and Ag. When the particle’s loss is weak, the resonances are slightly suppressed but still resemble the lossless case.

Fano resonance of individual solid structures can be observed by the differential scattering spectra, such as forward scattering (FS) or backward scattering (BS) [3, 4]. In the vicinity of Fano resonance, a tiny change in anisotropy will cause dramatic variations in far-field scattering and near-field energy variations.

![Fig. 1](image_url)

**Fig. 1.** Analysis of resonant conditions and dominant modes versus size parameter \( q \) for (a) dipole resonance \( m = 1 \) and (b) quadrupole resonance \( m = 2 \). (a), (b), and (c) New additional resonances induced by the tiny perturbation in anisotropy for high-order resonances (e.g., dipole, quadrupole, etc.) for the same \( \epsilon_r = -1 \). (d) Interactions between dipole resonance and quadrupole resonance under different \( \epsilon_t \). Dotted lines stand for the cases that satisfy \( |B_m| = 1 \) but do not correspond to optical resonances.
flow distribution. For a given particle size, further reducing the anisotropy \(|\varepsilon - \varepsilon_r|\) produces higher multipolar modes, which can interfere with the broad electric dipole mode generating higher-order Fano resonance, as shown in Fig. 2. For the lowest-energy Fano resonance (origin from the constructive and destructive interference of dipole and quadrupole), the FS and BS show typical asymmetric profiles, which can be exactly fitted by the Fano formula [24]:

\[
F(\tau) = \sigma_0 \left( \frac{(\tau + f)^2}{1 + \tau^2} + \sigma_{bg}\right),
\]

(8)

with \(\tau = 2(\delta - \delta_0)/\Gamma\), where \(\delta_0\) and \(\Gamma\) are the position and width of the resonance, \(\sigma_0\) and \(\sigma_{bg}\) are the normalized and background scattering, and \(f\) is the asymmetry parameter. For simplicity, only the Fano fit of forward scattering resonance is shown in the picture. To illustrate the interactions of dipole and quadrupole modes, we inset the strength of the two modes over anisotropy in Fig. 2(c). When the amplitudes of the dipole mode (continuum) and quadrupole mode (discrete) are at the same level, the two modes interact with each other, leading to the asymmetric profile of FS and BS.

FS and BS flip over quickly around the quadrupole resonance with anisotropy variation. The dynamic evolution of fast-switching radiation can be found in Visualization 1. On the contrary, the FS and BS in Fig. 2(d) are almost identical around the octupolar resonance, though their profiles are quite asymmetric as well. This is due to the fact that FS and BS share similar expressions around the octupolar resonance, both of which are proportional to \(|b_2 + b_3|\). The background scattering (\(\sigma_{bg} = 4.0\)) of the octupole Fano resonance is close to that of quadrupole (\(\sigma_{bg} = 4.8\)) because they share the same broad dipole resonance. Visualization 2 demonstrates the synchronous resonance along the change of anisotropy near \(\delta = -0.002506\).

In general, the interference of resonance comes from the coupling of the localized surface plasmon and incident wave. Far-field scattering and near-field energy flux can be totally reversed around the Fano resonance. Optical singularities and Fano resonance are intrinsically linked due to their identical origin of interference [2,7,25]. It is instructive to investigate the trajectory of energy flux and the topology of optical singularities. This system has two kinds of singular points: vortex and saddle points [26]. When these points get close, they could form saddle-vortex pairs and dramatically modify the power flow around them. In Fig. 3, we show the singularity distribution and streamlines of Poynting vector \(S\), which clearly reveal the magnitude and direction of the transferring rate of electromagnetic energy [27]. Four typical situations are presented: (i) no anisotropy \(\delta = 0\), i.e., isotropy case; (ii) anisotropy case at equilibrium state of quadrupole Fano resonance; (iii) and (vi) birefringent cases “before” and “after” the equilibrium resonant state. The corresponding positions are marked with yellow dots in Fig. 2(c).

In Fig. 3(a), the Poynting vector of an isotropic case for \(\varepsilon = -1\) is rather multiplicate and magnificent, due to the overlapping of multiple resonances. A unique characteristic of an isotropy cylinder is that all plasmon resonances start from the same value \(\varepsilon = -1\) at small size parameter \(q \rightarrow 0\). The situation is different when anisotropy is introduced into the system. The constructive and destructive interferences of higher-order and dipole modes can result in intensive field enhancement and the flip of optical scattering. Let us take Fano resonance near a quadrupole mode for example. Figures 3(b)–3(d) and Fig. 4 show the near fields of Fano resonance and the corresponding far field scattering, respectively.

“Below” the Fano resonance (smaller anisotropy \(|\delta|\) than that of equilibrium resonant state), four vortex points accompanied by two saddle points appear at the boundary of the particle. The four vortex points represent the localized quadrupole plasmon, while they are united by saddles points forming two
dipole-like vortex-saddle-vortex pairs. The localized plasmons interfere constructively with the incoming electromagnetic wave, exciting parallel energy flow to the incoming wave at the surface of the particle. The near-field Poynting lines are associated with Fano resonance and fast-switching radiation pattern. We assume $g = 0.1$ and $\varepsilon_s = -1$. (a) $\delta = -0.0065$; (b) $\delta = -0.0067835$; (c) $\delta = -0.0071$. Light is incident from the bottom of the pictures. Switching radiation pattern versus the change of anisotropy has been demonstrated (see Visualization 1).

In conclusion, we have proposed optical Fano resonances by anisotropy and revealed the physical mechanism of constructive and destructive interferences. The distribution of singular points and the direction of power flux around the particle can give us fresh insight on light–matter interactions. Meanwhile, Fano resonance renders nanostructures into a distinctive property; thus, small perturbations in anisotropy can induce dramatic variations in near and far fields. This inherent property is robust to loss as well. The high sensitivity can find applications in biological sensors, data storage, and optical switches.

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