

# Deterministic Positioning of Colloidal Quantum Dots on Silicon Nitride Nanobeam Cavities

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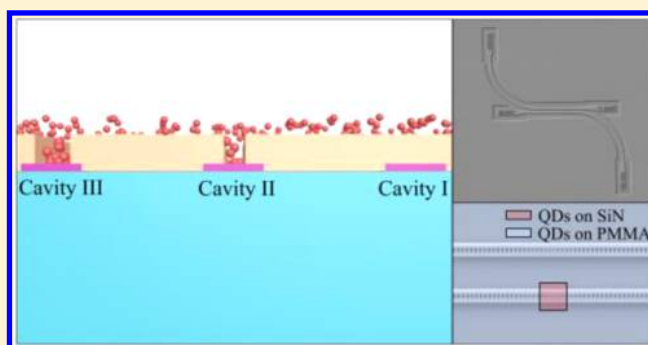
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## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Engineering an array of precisely located cavity-coupled active media poses a major experimental challenge in the field of hybrid integrated photonics. We deterministically position solution-processed colloidal quantum dots (QDs) on high quality (Q)-factor silicon nitride nanobeam cavities and demonstrate light-matter coupling. By lithographically defining a window on top of an encapsulated cavity that is cladded in a polymer resist, and spin coating the QD solution, we can precisely control the placement of the QDs, which subsequently couple to the cavity. We show rudimentary control of the number of QDs coupled to the cavity by modifying the size of the window. Furthermore, we demonstrate Purcell enhancement and saturable photoluminescence in this QD-cavity platform. Finally, we deterministically position QDs on a photonic molecule and observe QD-coupled cavity supermodes. Our results pave the way for precisely controlling the number of QDs coupled to a cavity by engineering the window size, the QD dimension, and the solution chemistry and will allow advanced studies in cavity enhanced single photon emission, ultralow power nonlinear optics, and quantum many-body simulations with interacting photons.

**KEYWORDS:** Photonic crystal cavity, colloidal quantum dots, light-matter interaction, hybrid integrated photonics



Hybrid photonic integrated circuits, comprised of nanophotonic structures and active media, have recently experienced an outpouring of diverse applications, ranging from ultralow threshold nanolasers<sup>1–5</sup> to quantum networks.<sup>6,7</sup> A key driver behind their success has been the improved engineering of the electromagnetic environment with nanoscale optical resonators, which have led to enhanced light-matter coupling and demonstrations of quantum optical effects in both the weak and the strong coupling regimes.<sup>8–10</sup> As a result, it has now become feasible to fabricate a robust array of high quality (Q)-factor cavities on the same chip, opening a possible route to building multifunctional optical interconnects<sup>11,12</sup> as well as scalable, on-chip quantum simulators.<sup>13,14</sup>

While state-of-the-art fabrication methods can yield hundreds of cavities with subwavelength precision, large-scale control over the positioning of multiple active media remains elusive. Extensive work has been carried out with self-assembled semiconductor quantum dots (QDs) to overcome their random positioning and inhomogeneous broadening, including seeding nucleation centers for site-controlled growth,<sup>15</sup> but there has been no report of multiple deterministically coupled QD-cavity systems on the same chip. Beyond semiconductor QDs, several studies looked at

deterministic creation of nanodots and single emitters using monolayer materials,<sup>16–18</sup> albeit with limited success.

A promising candidate for active media in hybrid photonic integrated circuits is solution-processed colloidal quantum dots.<sup>19</sup> Owing to their robust synthesis and straightforward application onto most substrates, colloidal QDs have generated intense interest as a novel class of light-emitting materials.<sup>20–22</sup> Optically pumped lasers and electrically triggered single photon sources based on colloidal QDs have recently been demonstrated.<sup>23–29</sup> Low threshold nanolasers and low power nonlinear optical devices have also been reported by coupling the QDs to nanocavities.<sup>2,30–32</sup> The simple drop-cast and spin-coat methods that were employed to place the QDs on the cavities, however, are probabilistic in nature, where the only control that the experimenter has is the QD density in the solution.

Recently, advanced nanopatterning technology has yielded an innovative solution to deterministic positioning of colloidal QDs.<sup>33,34</sup> The general approach is to lithographically define

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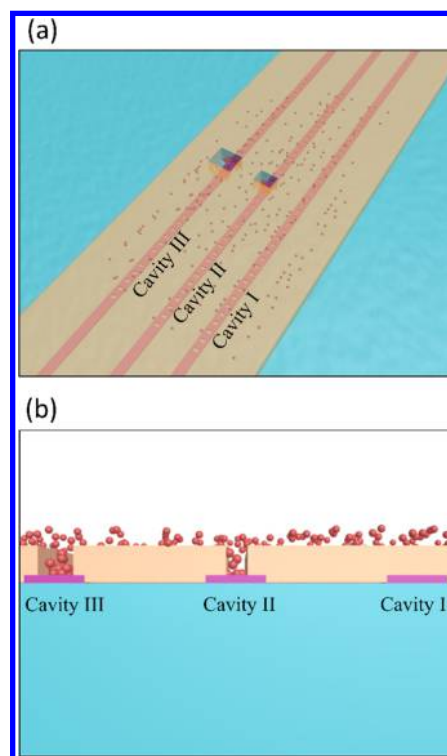
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windows in a resist layer prior to depositing the QDs. During the deposition, depending on the QD size and the chemical properties of the colloidal thin film, the QDs enter and occupy the windows, thus dramatically increasing the selective placement probability. Furthermore, the resist can be removed with a postdeposition lift-off process, taking away the QDs that have been deposited outside the windows. Combining this patterning technique with nanophotonic cavities, however, is challenging. Conventional photonic crystal (PhC) cavities operating in the visible wavelength range are suspended membranes,<sup>35,36</sup> which makes them extremely fragile during the patterning process. For instance, during sonication, an important step in the state-of-the-art QD patterning procedure,<sup>34</sup> suspended PhC cavities can easily break off. The suspended nature of most PhC cavities working at visible wavelength comes from the limited refractive index of their dielectric material. For example, silicon nitride (SiN), a CMOS compatible material with optical transparency at visible wavelength, has a relatively low refractive index ( $n \sim 2$ ). As a result, the suspended membrane is deemed necessary since the surrounding air ( $n \sim 1$ ) provides the largest possible refractive index contrast, a general route to obtain high Q-factor and low volume PhC cavities.<sup>36</sup> A recently demonstrated encapsulated SiN nanobeam cavity, however, offers an alternative and much more robust design.<sup>37</sup> The SiN nanobeam cavity maintains a high Q-factor and a low mode volume even when it is sitting on an oxide substrate and cladded with a polymer resist ( $n \sim 1.45$ ), substantially increasing its mechanical stability under the QD patterning process.

In this Letter, we experimentally demonstrate deterministic positioning of solution-processed colloidal QDs on SiN nanobeam cavities. The schematic of the devices is shown in Figure 1. The cavities follow the previously reported encapsulated design with elliptical holes<sup>37</sup> and poly methyl methacrylate (PMMA) resist cladding. After lithographically opening up fixed-sized windows in the resist, we spin-coat the chip with a uniform film of the colloidal solution, which yields an array of coupled QD cavities. While the traditional lift-off process could be applied to remove the QDs deposited outside the window, the evanescent coupling nature and the encapsulated cavity design allow one to achieve deterministic positioning simply by making the resist thick enough. For a cavity without a window (cavity I), we observe no coupling with the QDs, as the thick resist prevents any coupling between the cavity and the QD layer. For cavities with windows (cavities II and III), we observe coupling with QDs and qualitatively control the coupling by varying the size of the window. We further verify the coupling by observing Purcell enhancement and saturable photoluminescence. Finally, we demonstrate coupling between the QDs and a pair of coupled nanobeam cavities, called a photonic molecule. Our work paves the way to creating a large array of coupled cavities with each cavity containing a specified number of QDs, with potential applications in nonlinear optics, multifunctional optical devices, and on-chip, solid-state quantum simulators.

**Encapsulated Silicon Nitride Nanobeam Cavity.** We designed, fabricated, and tested the SiN nanobeam cavity following the same process as our previously reported method.<sup>37</sup> We first calculated the band structure of the unit cell (using MIT Photonic Bands) and optimized the whole cavity structure with finite difference time domain simulation (FDTD) (Lumerical). Specifically, we created the cavity by

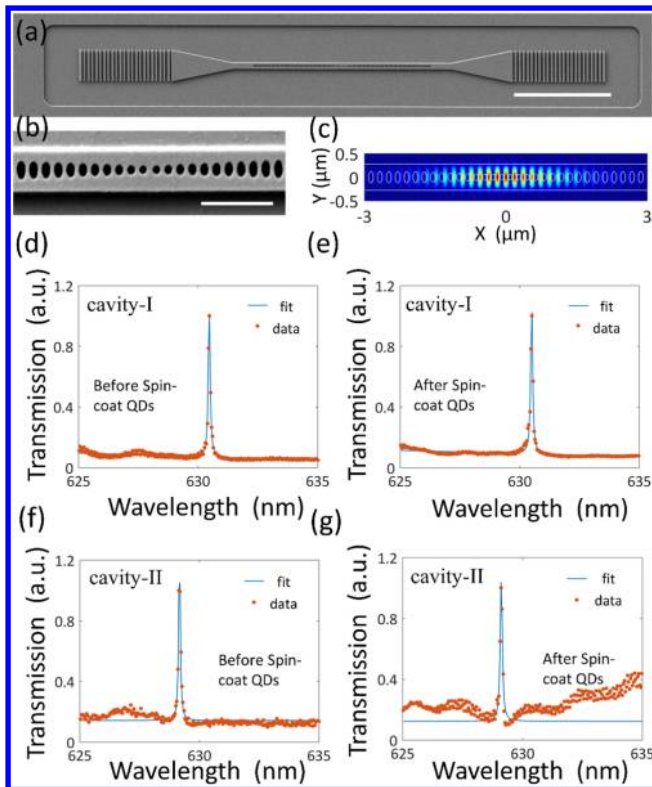


**Figure 1.** Schematics of the deterministic positioning mechanism. (a) Multiple SiN nanobeam cavities (cavities I, II, and III) could be integrated on the same chip. These cavities maintain high Q operation even under thick organic resist cladding. To deterministically position QDs, we selectively open up windows on certain areas on the chip. This is followed by spin-coating QDs where the QDs fill into the windows to interact with the cavities. For cavity I, we expect to observe no coupling with the QDs, as the thick resist will prevent any coupling between the cavity and the QD layer. For cavities with windows (cavities II and III), we expect to observe coupling with QDs and qualitatively control the number of coupled QDs by varying the size of the window. (b) The cross section of the cavities I, II, and III showing how the QDs enter the windows (cavities II and III) and couple to the cavity fields.

linearly tapering the major axis diameter of the holes and the period about the cavity center. We adapted 10 elliptical holes for the tapering region and optimized the design parameters until we found a suitably high Q-factor ( $Q \sim 10^5$ ) resonance centered at 630 nm. In the final design, the nanobeam has a thickness ( $t$ ) = 220 nm and a width ( $w$ ) = 553 nm. The Bragg region consists of 40 elliptical holes placed at a periodicity of  $a = 189$  nm. The elliptical holes have a major and a minor diameter of 242 and 99 nm, respectively. In the tapering region, the periodicity and the major diameter of the hole are linearly reduced to 179 and 112 nm, while the minor diameter is fixed. The cavity length is 72 nm. The resulting electromagnetic field has a mode volume of  $\sim 2.5 \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^3$ , on the same order as that of a previously reported suspended SiN nanobeam resonator.<sup>35</sup>

We fabricated the cavity using a 220 nm thick SiN membrane grown via low pressure chemical vapor deposition (LPCVD) on 4  $\mu\text{m}$  of thermal oxide on silicon. The samples were obtained from the commercial vendor Rogue Valley Microdevices. We spun roughly 400 nm of Zeon ZEP520A, which was coated with a thin layer of Pt/Au that served as a charging layer. The resist was then patterned using a JEOL

JBX6300FX electron-beam lithography system with an accelerating voltage of 100 kV. The pattern was transferred to the SiN using a RIE etch in  $\text{CHF}_3/\text{O}_2$ . Figure 2a,b shows



**Figure 2.** Cavity transmission characterization. (a) SEM of the silicon nitride cavity, where the nanobeam is unsuspended and sitting on the silicon oxide; scale bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . (b) Zoom-in on the cavity region; scale bar: 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . (c) Simulated cavity mode profile via finite difference time domain simulation. (d) Transmission spectrum of the cavity without a PMMA window (cavity I) before spin-coating colloidal QDs ( $Q \sim 6900$ ) and (e) after spin-coating colloidal QDs ( $Q \sim 6600$ ). (f) Transmission spectrum of the cavity with a PMMA window (cavity II) before spin-coating colloidal QDs ( $Q \sim 7600$ ) and (g) after spin-coating colloidal QDs ( $Q \sim 6200$ ). The results indicate that cavity I can still retain a high  $Q$  operation under organic polymer cladding. Due to the limited QD absorption, the spin-coating of QDs does not dramatically degrade the  $Q$ -factor of cavity II.

the scanning electron micrographs (SEMs) of the fabricated SiN cavities on thermal oxide just after etching. Figure 2c shows the simulated profile of the mode confined in the cavity. To encapsulate the cavities, we spun  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$  PMMA at 3 krpm speed and then baked the chip to remove any remaining solvent.

We then measured the transmission spectra of the cavities using a supercontinuum light source (Fianium WhiteLase Micro). The supercontinuum light was focused on one of the two grating couplers, and the transmitted light collected from the other was analyzed with a spectrometer (Princeton Instruments PIXIS CCD with an IsoPlane SCT-320 Imaging Spectrograph). The grating couplers are designed to provide high efficiency only when they are coated with resist. The use of the grating couplers to measure the cavity transmission and to collect the coupled PL of the QDs in the following experiments is beneficial for on-chip light sources to be integrated with other on-chip photonic components.<sup>38</sup> The cavity transmission spectrum is shown in Figure 2d. We

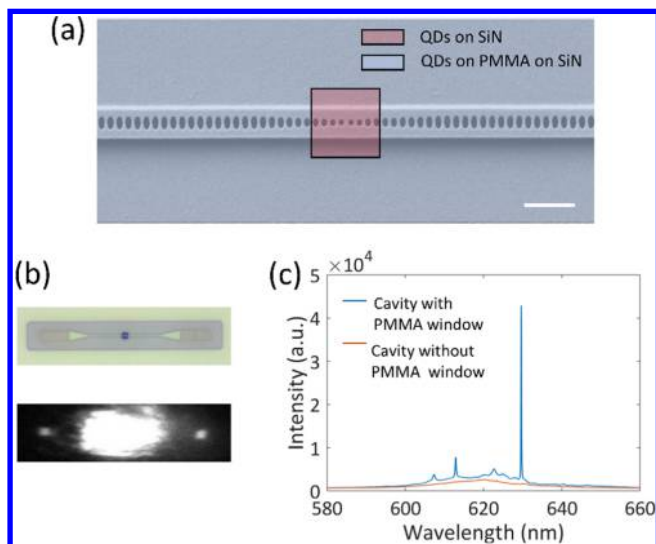
observed a cavity resonance at 630 nm with  $Q$ -factor  $\sim 6600$ , extracted via a Lorentzian fit to the measured data (Figure 2d). We note that the experimental  $Q$ -factor is significantly smaller than our simulation result, which we attribute to fabrication imperfections due to the small feature size for visible wavelength operation.

**Deterministic Positioning of Colloidal QDs on a Single Cavity.** Colloidal CdSe/CdS core-shell QDs were synthesized to have PL emission centered at 630 nm, matching the cavity resonance. The QD synthesis method and the PL spectrum of the as-prepared QDs are described in the Supporting Information. We first performed an overlay process using electron-beam lithography to define small square-shaped windows with different side lengths (1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , 750, 500, and 300 nm) in the PMMA resist that had been placed on top of the chip containing multiple nanocavities. The locations of the windows were chosen to coincide with those of the antinodes of the cavity modes. We also left some cavities inaccessible to the QDs without any PMMA window.

Following this setup, we dissolved 10 nM QD in 10:1 hexane and octane, filtered through a 450 nm polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) filter, and then spun coat the QD solution to get a uniform thin film on top of the device. From ellipsometry measurements, the QD thin film had a thickness of 80 nm and refractive index of  $\sim 1.5$ . We note that while pure CdSe has a refractive index of  $\sim 2.3$ , the whole thin film has a lower index due to the presence of organic ligands and solution residues.

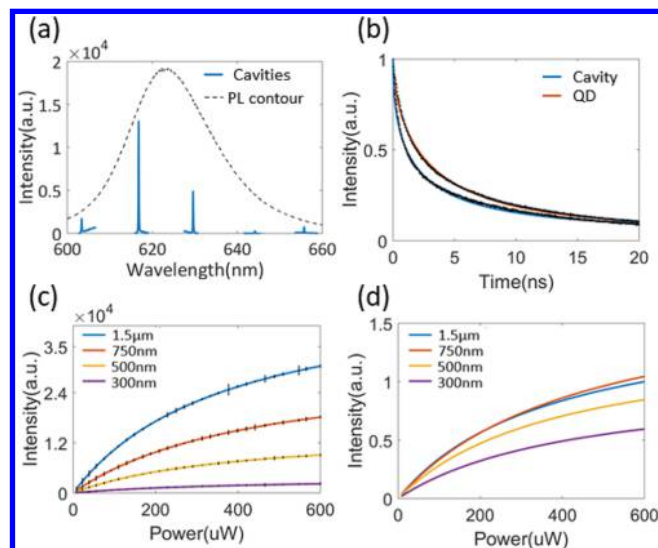
We first compared the device performance before and after the solution deposition. For cavities without PMMA windows, the  $Q$ -factor remained the same both before and after the QD deposition, indicating that the QDs did not couple to the cavities. Figure 2e is the transmission measurement result after solution deposition. For cavities with PMMA windows, the spectrum before the electron-beam exposure and solution deposition is shown in Figure 2f, with the  $Q$ -factor of 7600. The cavity resonance disappeared after the electron-beam exposure and before the solution deposition, since the change of the refractive index in the window region (filled with air) dramatically perturbed the mode and degraded the  $Q$ -factor. We confirm this via FDTD simulation. In the FDTD simulation, a cavity with a  $Q$ -factor of  $\sim 10^5$  dropped to 1200 when a 1.5  $\mu\text{m} \times 1.5 \mu\text{m}$  window is opened up in its PMMA. However, after the QD deposition as shown in Figure 1g, the cavity recovered to an experimentally verified  $Q$ -factor of 6200.

Having confirmed the robustness of the cavity resonance in the presence of PMMA windows, we performed the photoluminescence (PL) measurement. Figure 3a shows the SEM of the device with an overlaid schematic of a 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  PMMA window. Figure S2 in the Supporting Information shows the experimental setup for the PL characterization. A continuous wave (CW) green diode laser ( $\lambda \sim 532 \text{ nm}$ ) was used to pump the center of the cavity where the PMMA window was located. The laser was focused to a 1  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter beam spot by an objective lens with  $\text{NA} = 0.65$ . We also used a 550 nm low-pass filter to block the pumping light in the collection path. We first confirmed the QD-cavity coupling by pumping the QDs and observing PL coming out of the grating couplers with a CCD camera (Figure 3b). For a more detailed analysis of the light, we used a spectrometer. The compact size of our device (tens of micrometers) allows us to pump at the center and collect from the grating couplers in our home-built confocal microscope, a routine procedure in both biology and optics



**Figure 3.** PL characterization of the coupled QD-cavity system. (a) SEM of cavity II; scale bar: 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . A schematic of the outline of the opened window is superimposed with the SEM. (b) An optical microscope image showing the opening on the cavity. The image of the cavity captured in the PL measurement setup after pumping cavity II. The lighting up of the grating couplers indicates the coupling between the QDs and cavity. (c) PL spectrum. For a cavity with a PMMA window, the cavity signal (resonances at 629 and 612 nm) is clearly observed against the PL background. A new TM mode at 612 nm appears compared with the transmission measurement, originating from the slightly higher refractive index of the QDs breaking the  $z$ -directional symmetry of the cavity. For a cavity without a PMMA window, no cavity coupling is observed, as expected.

experiments.<sup>38,39</sup> Since the PL signal coming from the window location was much brighter than that coming from the grating couplers, we used a pinhole to collect the light only from the grating coupler when we were studying the cavity signal (Figure 3c). The cavity mode at 629 nm matched with our transmission measurement. We note that another mode at 612 nm appeared in the PL measurement compared to just a single mode observed for the cavity before the QDs were applied. We attribute this to the slight refractive index difference of the QDs with PMMA. The higher refractive index of the QDs breaks the  $z$ -directional symmetry of the cavity, and through numerical simulation, we confirmed it was indeed a new TM mode<sup>37</sup> (see the Supporting Information). However, as shown in Figure 3c, for a cavity with no PMMA window, when we collected PL signal from the grating, we only observed a scattered background signal and no cavity signal. We were able to observe coupling down to the smallest window (300 nm side length) on the chip, indicating our deterministic positioning mechanism is robust. Further improvement of the viscosity of the solution should allow the QDs to get into even smaller windows. In addition to tuning the spatial position for controllable coupling, we also achieved spectral control of the PL coupled to the cavity by fabricating cavities with a linear change of Bragg period on the same chip. Figure 4a shows the PL coupled with cavities with different resonances, covering the whole PL emission spectral region of the QDs. To study the repeatability of the process, we measured 10 nanobeams on the same chip before the deterministic positioning process (see the Supporting Information, S7), and we performed the deterministic positioning process on these cavities twice. We verified all



**Figure 4.** Spectral and spatial control of the QD-cavity coupling: (a) We show the cavity-coupled PL over the whole resonance spectrum by positioning QDs on cavities with a scaling geometry. The black dotted curve shows the contour of the PL. (b) Lifetime measurement. The solid red and blue curves are the fits to the time-resolved PL signal from the QDs on the substrate and the QDs coupled with the cavity, respectively. The black dots are the raw experimental data. A Purcell factor of 1.26 is measured. (c) Power series for cavities with PMMA windows with different sizes: 1.5  $\mu\text{m} \times 1.5 \mu\text{m}$ , 750 nm  $\times$  750 nm, 500 nm  $\times$  500 nm, 300 nm  $\times$  300 nm. As the size of the window grows, the cavity signal in PL increases since more QDs are interacting with the cavity. (d) Power series for cavity-coupled PL normalized by the mode area of the cavity inside the window region.

cavities coupled with the QDs, down to the 300 nm window size.

We further confirmed the cavity enhancement by performing lifetime measurements (Figure 4b). The data shown in Figure 4b show the comparison of the QDs on the same chip with and without the cavity. We fit the data with a stretched exponential decay model:<sup>40</sup>

$$I(t) = I_0 + Ae^{-(t/\gamma_0)^\beta}$$

The average lifetime is given by

$$\gamma_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\gamma_0}{\beta} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{\beta}\right)$$

The Purcell enhancement factor is given by

$$F_{\text{max}} = 1 + \frac{3\lambda^3}{4\pi^2 n^2} \frac{Q_{\text{np}}}{V} \psi(r)$$

Here,  $\lambda$  is the cavity resonance wavelength,  $Q_{\text{np}}$  is the Q-factor of the quantum dot emission line width,  $n$  is the refractive index of the cavity dielectric,  $V$  is the cavity mode volume, and  $\psi(r)$  is the ratio of the mode intensity at the emitter's location over the maximum. We note that we are using the Q-factor of the emitter but not the cavity since we are in the "bad" emitter regime, where the line width of the emitter is much larger than that of the cavity.<sup>39</sup> For our device, the line width of the QD emission was 23 nm, giving a Q-factor of 27, the numerically estimated mode volume is  $2.5\left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^3$ ,  $\psi(r)$  is 0.35 as the QD interacts only with the evanescent field of the cavity, and the refractive index of SiN is

2. With these values, the theoretically calculated Purcell factor is 1.4. We extracted a lifetime of 4.8 ns for the PL emission and 3.8 ns for the cavity-coupled PL emission, indicating a Purcell factor of 1.26. The slight discrepancy between the measured Purcell enhancement and the theory is attributed to the fact that some of the QDs were not located at the field maximum on the surface. We note that, due to our higher mode volume compared to those of suspended cavities, our Purcell enhancement factor was smaller than the largest value (4.2) reported in a dielectric resonator.<sup>30</sup> However, by further optimization, a lower mode volume resonator can be realized.<sup>41</sup> For example, by exploring a nanobeam design with a slot structure,<sup>42</sup> one could dramatically reduce the mode volume while maintaining a high Q-factor and thus a much higher enhancement factor.

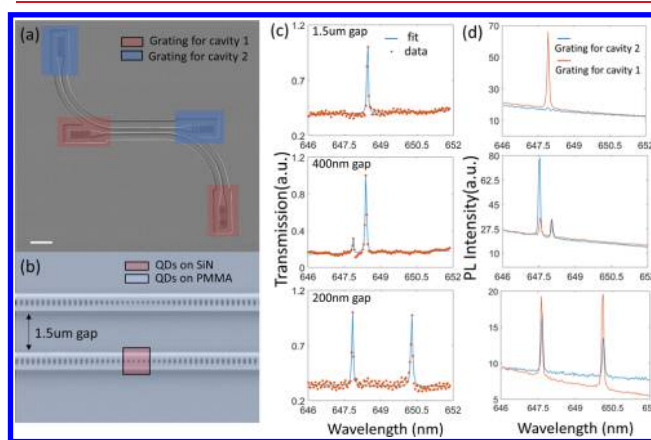
To further explore the possibility of controlling the number of QDs coupled to the cavities, we performed power series measurements of samples with different window sizes. The difference in the photoluminescence intensity was observed: cavities with larger windows had a brighter emission in general. To get a more quantitative understanding of how the size of the window affected the number of QDs coupling with the cavity, we normalized the emission intensity according to the cavity mode area exposed by the windows. From the FDTD simulation, the mode areas for the 1.5, 760, 500, and 300 nm windows are 0.23, 0.13, 0.08, and 0.03  $\mu\text{m}^2$ , respectively. We saw that the intensity curves for the 1550 and 750 nm windows almost overlapped on top of each other after the normalization. For the device with 500 and 300 nm windows, however, the intensities were lower than those with the larger window cavities, with the intensity for the 300 nm window even lower than that for the 500 nm window. We attribute this observation to the fact that as the windows become smaller, the QDs are no longer able to enter the cavities efficiently due to the surface tension of the solution. However, further surface modification and a solution with a lower viscosity could potentially allow more QDs to enter the windows. For all of the window sizes examined, we observed that the photoluminescence saturated when pumped with an increasing laser power. We fit the data and extracted saturation power  $\sim 400 \mu\text{W}$  (see the Supporting Information, S4). We did not observe a significant difference in the saturation power for different window sizes, since the intensity of the pumping light on each QD was essentially the same in all four cases.

While the simple nature of our patterning technology has been instrumental in demonstrating our novel, straightforward procedure for achieving deterministic positioning of the emitters, to push the limit further to few/single QDs, we need to explore more advanced synthesis of colloidal quantum dots. We estimate the current number of QDs coupled with the cavities and outline one possible approach toward few/single dot coupling with the cavity by using giant QDs<sup>43,44</sup> in the Supporting Information, S5 and S6. Recently, a series of works involving the Langmuir–Blodgett deposition, thin-film resist, and resist lift-off has reported successful deterministic positioning of a single colloidal QD.<sup>34</sup> This technique appears highly promising as a route to obtaining single emitters and may be combined with the encapsulated cavity design reported here to yield deterministic positioning and coupling of single QDs to multiple cavities.

#### Deterministic Positioning of QDs on a Photonic Molecule.

One promising application of our deterministic positioning method is performing quantum many-body simulations<sup>45</sup> using

QDs coupled to a cavity array. The simplest array, made up of just a pair of coupled cavities, is called a photonic molecule.<sup>46</sup> It has been shown in several theoretical studies that QDs coupled to a photonic molecule may form the basis for studying exotic phases of matter<sup>47</sup> and other cavity quantum electrodynamics phenomena such as an unconventional photon blockade.<sup>46,48</sup> However, both scalability and deterministic positioning are difficult to achieve with conventional self-assembled semiconductor QDs coupled with suspended coupled nanobeam cavities. Besides, the mode symmetric nature of the coupled cavity supermodes also precludes the reflection measurement of photonic crystals by directly pumping and collecting a laser signal at the center of the cavity.<sup>49</sup> Here we fabricate the photonic molecule with grating couplers for each cavity for transmission measurements and deterministically position the QDs to couple with the cavity super modes. Figure 5a shows the SEM of the fabricated



**Figure 5.** Deterministic positioning of QDs on a photonic molecule. (a) SEM image of the photonic molecule. Each cavity has a pair of grating couplers for collecting and extracting the QDs' PL; scale bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . (b) Schematic of the outline of the opened window superimposed with the SEM of the device. (c) Transmission measurement of the device with different separation gaps before spin-coating QDs. For cavities 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  apart, we saw only one cavity resonance in transmission, indicating no coupling between the two cavities. For cavities 400 and 200 nm apart, as the distance becomes smaller for the two cavities, the coupling strength becomes stronger, resulting in a larger spectral separation of the two supermodes. (d) PL characterization. For cavities 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  apart, we observed the cavity signal from the grating for cavity 2, since the PL signal was only coupled with cavity 1 and the two cavities were not coupled with each other. For cavities 400 and 200 nm apart, we successfully observed the coupling between the QDs and the supermodes at both gratings for cavity 1 and cavity 2.

device. Each cavity has a pair of grating couplers that allows for the measuring of transmission from each cavity independently. We fabricate two coupled cavities with different gaps between them: 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , 400 nm, and 200 nm (Figure 5b). Figure 5c shows the transmission spectrum measured via the grating for cavity 1. For cavities 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  apart, we see only one cavity in transmission, indicating there is no coupling between two cavities. For cavities 400 and 200 nm apart, we observe the two coupled supermodes. As the distance becomes smaller for the two cavities, the coupling strength becomes stronger, resulting in a larger spectral separation of the two modes.

We then opened up 750 nm PMMA windows on cavity 2 and spin-coated it with the QD solution. We adjusted the

collimation of the pumping beam so that both cavities are illuminated, and we collected PL from gratings for both cavities. The results are shown in Figure Sd. For cavities 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  apart, we only observed the cavity signal from the grating for cavity 2, since the gap was too large for the two cavities to couple. For cavities 400 and 200 nm apart, we successfully observed coupling between the QDs and the supermodes at both gratings for cavity 1 and cavity 2. This approach can be readily scaled up to an array of multiple coupled QD cavities.

**Conclusions.** In summary, by selectively opening up a PMMA window on an encapsulated SiN nanobeam cavity and performing solution-phase deposition, we have demonstrated deterministic coupling between colloidal QDs and an encapsulated silicon nitride nanobeam cavity. We have also explored the coupling between the colloidal QDs and a photonic molecule. Our results suggest several directions in future research, one of which is to tailor the size of the window as well as the QDs to create an array of coupled cavities with exactly one QD per window. Further advanced synthesis chemistry and nanopatterning technology<sup>34,43,44</sup> need to be explored to reach this ultimate goal. Our results also pave the way for future studies of colloidal QDs coupled with various photonic crystal cavity platforms, with applications in cavity enhanced single photon emission, low power nonlinear optics, and quantum many-body simulations

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.nanolett.8b02764.

Details on the QD synthesis method; UV-vis and PL spectra; PL characterization setup; Lumerical FDTD simulation of the nanobeam and photonics molecules; power series fitting; estimation of the number of QDs coupled with the cavity; approaches toward few/single QDs coupled with the cavity; process repeatability investigation; scatter plot of the wavelength and Q-factor (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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