Photon correlations permit to distinguish between classical and quantum states of light. Three types of light sources can be considered, coherent, bunched and antibunched. [1] Despite recent advances in photon statistics on nanoscale systems, obtaining correlations from individual quantum emitters (QEs) is difficult as non-classical phenomenology becomes obscured in ensemble measurements. Suppression of photons from adjacent QEs requires spatially or energetically separation between them. By contrast, it is possible to address individual QEs even at high densities if a selective excitation by charge injection is employed. This has the potential to access classes of light sources which could not be investigated otherwise. In this talk I will give a brief introduction on the experimental observation of photon (anti) bunching from individual molecular systems with atomic resolution. We have merged correlation spectroscopy with scanning tunneling microscopy luminescence (STML). By profiting from STML we can image and identify individual molecular emitters located in the nanocavity formed between a gold tip and surface. By using the tip to inject current with atomic precision we are able to excite plasmons and excitons on individual...
molecules [2] and demonstrate antibunched single photon emission from C$_{60}$ films [3]. Additionally, we have measured bunched emission from H$_2$ molecules adsorbed on gold surfaces. [4] By analyzing the photon statistics we can conclude that in the first case C$_{60}$ acts as a QE and we have a pure quantum-mechanical emission process whereas in the second case the emission stems from intensity blinking upon H$_2$ motion in the nanocavity and it is fully classical.

References