

A study on quantum dot NPs for drug delivery

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Abstract

Quantum dots (QD) are semiconductor particles with sizes of a few nm. QD emit light of a specific wavelength when a current is applied or exposed to light. Quantum dot nanocrystals are semiconductor nanomaterials with intrinsic chemical and physical properties. Quantum dots are also being used in place of organic dyes in biological research; for example, they can be used like nanoscopic light bulbs to light up and color specific cells that need to be studied under a microscope. They're also being tested as sensors for chemical and biological warfare agents such as anthrax. Quantum dots (QDs) are semiconductor particles a few nanometres in size, having optical and electronic properties that differ from larger particles due to quantum mechanics. They are a central topic in nanotechnology. Currently, quantum dots are used for labeling live biological material in vitro and in vivo in animals (other than humans) for research purposes - they can be injected into cells or attached to proteins in order to track, label or identify specific bio molecules.

Keywords: Quantum dots, Semiconductor particles, organic dyes, bioimaging, solar cells, LEDs, diode lasers, and transistors, Plasma synthesis

I. Introduction

Quantum dots are widely used for their unique optical properties, as they emit light of specific wavelengths if energy is applied to them. These wavelengths of light can be accurately tuned by changing various properties of the particle, including shape, material composition, and size. Quantum dots (QDs) are often referred to very tiny man-made semiconductor particles, whose size are normally no more than 10 nanometers. Their extremely small size renders their optical and electronic properties different from those of bulk materials. A majority of QDs have the ability to emit light of specific wavelengths if excited by light or electricity. According to existing literature, the electronic characteristics of QDs are determined by their size and shape, which means we can control their emission wavelengths by tuning their size. Typically, smaller QDs (e.g., radius of 2~3 nm) emit shorter wavelengths generating colors such as violet, blue or green. While bigger QDs (e.g., radius of 5~6 nm) emit longer wavelengths generating colors like yellow, orange or red. Their highly tunable optical properties based on their size are fascinating, leading to a variety of research and commercial applications including bioimaging, solar cells, LEDs, diode lasers, and transistors.

II. Methodology



Fig.1 Quantum dots NPs

A quantum dot is a nanometer-sized semiconductor particle traditionally with a core-shell structure. Quantum dots are widely used for their unique optical properties, as they emit light of specific wavelengths if energy is applied to them. These wavelengths of light can be accurately tuned by changing various properties of the particle, including shape, material composition, and size.

II.A Quantum Dot Production

There are various methods of producing quantum dots. The most typical is via a colloidal synthesis, which is the process of heating a solution, causing the precursors to decompose to form monomers, which then produce nanocrystals. Quantum dots produced using this method can consist of compounds including indium arsenide, lead sulfide, lead selenide, and cadmium sulfide. Colloidal synthesis is a popular method as quantum dots can be produced in batches large enough to be potentially used for commercial applications. Plasma synthesis is another popular technique for the production of quantum dots. This process enables the control of the composition, surface, size, and shape of the quantum dot, and it also reduces the challenges associated with doping.

II.B Working Principle of a Quantum Dot (QD)

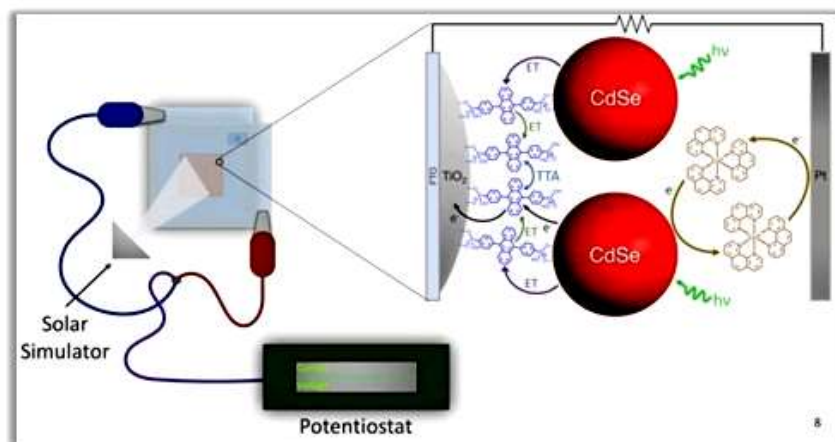
Within a quantum dot, there are confined valence band holes, conduction band electrons, or excitons. These are the particles that carry the electricity, and because of this confinement, the quantum dot has a distinct energy level. The electrons within a quantum dot have to occupy an energy level that 'fits' inside it, and when excitation occurs these electrons emit a photon. Excitation can be caused by the quantum dot coming into contact with a light or electricity source. The longest wavelengths of light (red light) are produced by the biggest quantum dots, and the shortest wavelengths of light (blue light) are generated by the smallest quantum dots.

II.C Quantum Dot Applications

Quantum dots are proving to be a very promising solution for a range of optical applications, due to their outstanding properties. One of the most typical applications is for displays, including televisions, and smart phones. Quantum dots provide greatly enhanced colors for displays due to the high level of fine-tuning possible. They also help to improve quality control of displays, reducing the risk of variations.

II.D CdSe Quantum

CD Bio particles provides cadmium selenide (CdSe) semiconductor quantum dots with size-dependent emission range. Our CdSe quantum dots are core type II-VI semiconductor materials with size dependent optical/electronic properties, uniform size distribution and high quantum yield. The outer surface coating of organic ligands of CdSe quantum dots can be changed by ligand exchange process. CdSe quantum dots can be used in highly sensitive cellular imaging, drug delivery and light emitting devices.



II.E Applications:

- Highly sensitive cellular imaging
- Photovoltaic devices
- Drug delivery
- Solar cells
- Light emitting devices
- Photoresistors

III. F How do quantum dot solar cells work?

The light rays enter through the transparent electrode of a quantum dot solar cell onto a light absorbing layer of dots in order to generate electron hole pairs. The charged particles then separate and eventually travel to their respective electrodes, producing electric current.

II.G How are quantum dots prepared?

Quantum dots can be manufactured by a number of processes from colloidal synthesis to chemical vapour deposition (CVD). The cheapest and simplest method is benchtop colloidal synthesis. Electrochemical techniques and CVD can be used to create ordered arrays of quantum dots on a substrate material.

II. H What is quantum dot sensitized solar cells?

Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cells are considered as the potential third generation solar cells due to their suitable optoelectronic properties for photovoltaic response. Quantum dot sensitized solar cells are showing power conversion efficiencies up to 12%, very close to its counterpart dye sensitized solar cells.

II.I Are quantum dots toxic?

Cell culture experiments demonstrate that quantum dots (QD) induce **cytotoxicity** via two mechanisms: (A) QD degradation with release of free cadmium and (B) Generation of reactive oxygen species. These mechanisms likely combine to cause toxicity.

II.J What do quantum dots look like?

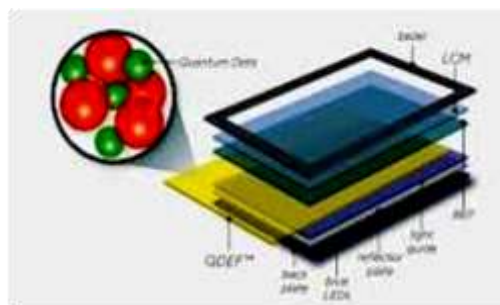


Fig. Outline of the quantum dots

Quantum dots are tiny, and their size determines their color. There are two sizes of dots in these TVs. The “big” ones glow red, and they have a diameter of about 50 atoms. The smaller ones, which glow green, have a diameter of about 30 atoms.

II.K What are quantum dots discuss any two properties of quantum dots?

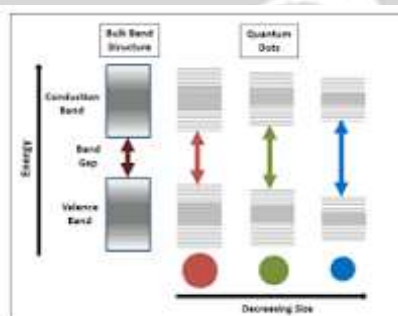


Fig. Two properties of quantum dots

The emission wavelengths of QDs span from the ultraviolet (UV) to the infrared (IR). Other properties of QDs include high quantum yield, high photostability, and high molar extinction coefficients. Their emissions are also relatively narrow and symmetrical at specific wavelengths.

III.Results and discussion

The difference is not in the size, is in the properties. All quantum dots are nanoparticles, but not all nanoparticles are quantum dots. Quantum dots (QDs) are man-made nanoscale crystals that can transport electrons. Nanoparticles (NPs) are also very small structures but larger than QDs, usually ranging from 8 to 100 nanometers. Because of this, NPs exhibit behaviors between those bulk materials and atoms or molecules. The smallest quantum dot emits blue light and the largest emits red. The peak emissions of quantum dots can be tuned to within 1 nm giving excellent control over the colour spectrum output of displays. The colour produced by quantum dots (QD) is dependent on the size of the particle ranging from 2nm to 6nm. The advantages such as better color accuracy, higher color saturation, possibly wider contrast ratio, and higher peak brightness have made quantum dot technology ideal for producing displays capable of ultra-high definition. Nanometer-sized crystals, often referred to as quantum dots (QDs), have been also intensively investigated. Typical QD sizes range between 2–20 nm [3], but according to some literature their diameter should be strictly below 10 nm [4-5]. However, the dimensions of QDs depend mainly on the material used to prepare them. We can summarize the predicted advantages of QD-lasers as [12]: 1. Emits light at wavelengths determined by the energy levels of the dots, rather than the band gap energy. Thus, they offer the possibility of improved device performance and increased flexibility to adjust the wavelength [13].

IV. Conclusions

Quantum dots (QDs) are semiconductor nanoparticles which exhibit size and composition-dependent optical and electronic (optoelectronic) properties. QDs are ultrasmall, typically falling in the size range between 1.5 and 10.0 nm. A layer of quantum dots is sandwiched between layers of electron-transporting and hole-transporting organic materials. An applied electric field causes electrons and holes to move into the quantum dot layer, where they are captured in the quantum dot and recombine, emitting photons. Quantum dots (QDs) are man-made nanoscale crystals that can transport electrons. QDs are spherical, fluorescent nanocrystals of semiconductor materials with a diameter of 2–8 nm. They exhibit distinctive properties like narrow and broad emission spectra, negligible photo bleaching, high sensitivity, and stable fluorescence with simple excitation without the need for laser [25].

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