Up converting Quantum dots

Quantum dots (QDs) have attracted great attention in recent years due to their promising applications in bioimaging. Compared with traditional ultraviolet excitation of QDs, near-infrared laser (NIR) excitation has many advantages, such as being less harmful, little blinking effects, zero auto fluorescence and deep penetration in tissue. Composing QDs with upconverting properties is promising to enable NIR excitation. This article provides a review of QDs with upconverting luminescence and their applications in bioimaging. Based on the mechanisms of luminescence, discussion will be divided into four groups: nano heterostructure/mixtures of QDs and upconverting nanoparticles, graphene quantum dots, lanthanide-doped QDs, and double Qds.

Properties

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Tunable color Emission

The emission frequency from QDs can be tuned to say arbitrary point from ultraviolet to near infrared wavelength range by changing particle size and/or chemical composition.

Highly Pure Color Emission

The emission spectra from QDs are narrow, symmetric, and without red-tail.

High Efficiency

To date, the quantum from efficiency (QY) of QDs can reach up to more 90%, some QDs have the QY nearly 100%.

Highly Bright

The emission intensity from single QDs is several hundred times higher than that of a single organic fluorescent dye

Easy Excitation

Qds have broad and continuous excitation spectra, allowing using a single source excitation to simultaneously excite multicolor Qds.

Large Stokes Shift

QDs Differ from organic fluorescent dyes by having large stokes shifts, avoiding the emission and excitation overlap during signal detection.

High Stability

Unlike Organic Fluorescent dyes, QDs have strong resistance to photo-bleaching rate quickly, thus can be used for bio-imaging and photo-electronic devices.

Biocompatible

Through surface modification, QDs can be made to have low cytotoxicity and less harmful to organisum and biological living tags.

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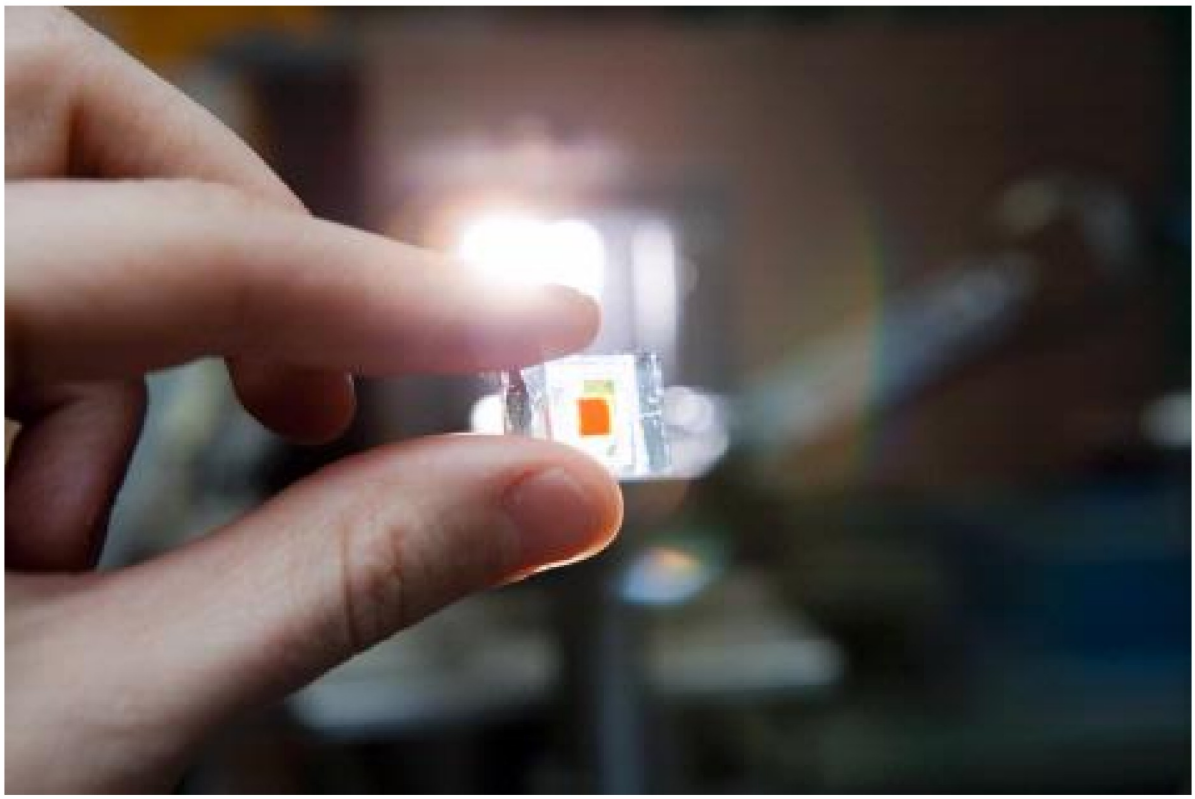
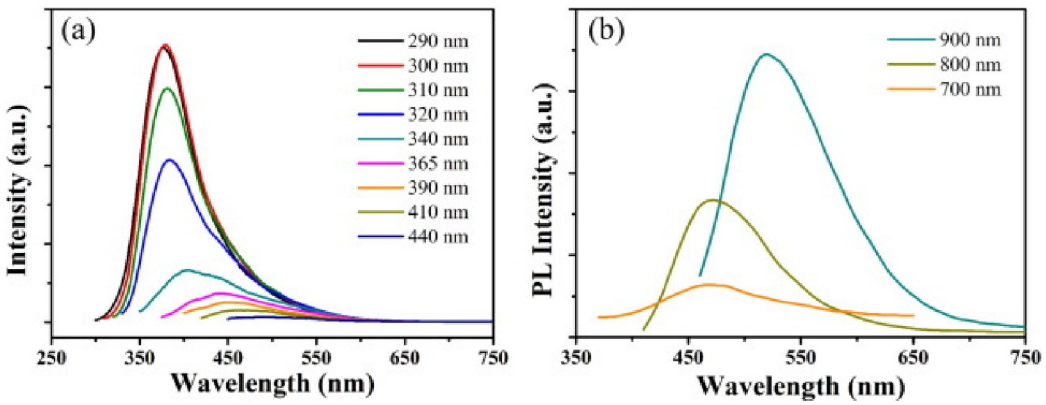


Technical Specification

Stock No.	Purity	Quantum Yield	Emission Peak	FWHM	Solvent
NS6130-12-000127	99.9%	Polymer-COOH	800nm	980nm	Toluene
NS6130-12-000128	99.9%	Polymer-COOH	445nm	980nm	Water or Organic solvents
NS6130-12-000129	99.9%	NaYF4(Er/Tm,Yb)/NaYF4	800nm	980nm	Water or Organic solvents
NS6130-12-000130	99.9%	NaYF4(Er/Tm,Yb)/NaYF4	655nm	980nm	Water or Organic solvents
NS6130-12-000209	99.9%	NaYF4(Er/Tm,Yb)/NaYF4	545nm	980nm	Water or Organic solvents
NS6130-12-000210	99.9%	NaYF4(Er/Tm,Yb)/NaYF4	475nm	980nm	



Applications

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Bioimaging

The latest generation of quantum dots has great potential for use in biological analysis applications. The small size of quantum dots allows them to go anywhere in the body making them suitable for biological applications such as medical imaging and biosensors. They are widely used to study intracellular processes, tumor targeting, in vivo observation of cell trafficking, diagnostics and cellular imaging at high resolutions. Various kinds of organic dyes have been used in bioimaging for decades. However, with the advancement of nanotechnology, QDs have been considered to be superior to traditional organic dyes in many respects. For bioimaging applications, the fluorescent probes have to remain well-dispersed and stable in the aqueous medium with a wide range of pH and ionic strengths. Fortunately, numerous approaches have been developed to make the QDs water-dispersible. Up until now, great efforts have been devoted to employing QDs for in vitro and in vivo imaging, which are expected to be important to the diagnoses of many diseases, the understanding of embryogenesis, and lymphocyte immunology.

Photovoltaic devices

Because of the tunable of the absorption spectrum and high extinction coefficient, QDs are desirable for light harvesting, is beneficial for photovoltaic devices. QDs have the potential to boost the efficiency of silicon photovoltaic cells and lead to reduced costs. Quantum dots can offer a significant increase in efficiency, by using dots of varying sizes top of each other with the largest band gaps on top. Incoming photons will be transmitted until reaching a layer with a band gap smaller than the photon energy. With enough layers each photon will excite an electron with a band gap close to its own energy and thus waste a small amount of energy.

Light emitting devices

QDs are promising for light emitting devices and may improve the performance of light-emitting diode (LED), leading to the new design of "Quantum Dot light Emitting Diode". QDs are very useful for display devices considering their unique optical properties. They are capable of presenting visibly more accurate and outstanding colors.

Quantum computing

Quantum dots have paved the way for powerful 'supercomputers' known as quantum computers. Quantum computers operate and store information using quantum bits or 'qubits', which can exist in two states – both on and off simultaneously. This remarkable phenomenon enables information processing speeds and memory capacity to both be greatly improved when compared to conventional computers.

Solar cell

A quantum dot solar cell (QDSC) is a solar cell that uses quantum dots as the captivating photovoltaic material. It is used to replace bulky materials such as silicon, or copper indium gallium selenide. Quantum dots have band gaps that are adjustable through a wide array of energy levels by changing the size of the dots. Because the band gap of the quantum dots can be adjusted, quantum dots are desirable for solar cells. Frequencies in the far infrared that are characteristically difficult to achieve with traditional solar cells can be obtained using lead sulfide colloidal quantum dots. Half of the solar energy reaching the Earth is in the infrared region. A quantum dot solar cell makes infrared energy as accessible as any other.

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