

Preparation of CdSe Quantum Dots using kinetic growth method

Mekandan M*, Senthil Kumar P¹, Sarala Ruby², Ponraj vikaram³

^{*,1,3.} Department of mechanical, Anna University, Chennai – 25

² Department of Physics Vel Tech Technical university, Chennai – 54

Abstract: High quality quantum dots have been prepared with advances in the modern colloid chemistry. In the present study we have focused on preparation of CdSe quantum dots (QDs). CdSe prepared via colloidal synthesis in aqueous medium. CdSe QDs optical properties and size were characterized by ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectra, Photoluminescence spectra and DLS measurement. The result showed that the absorption spectra clearly indicate the absorption peak shift from 500 nm to 650 nm on increasing. The particle size average diameter of the CdSe quantum dot is reported as 13.36nm.

Keywords: Quantumdots, cadmium selenide, cadmium sulphide, ultraviolet-visible, Photoluminescence, dynamic light scattering.

I. Introduction

High quality quantum dots have been prepared with advances in the modern colloid chemistry^[1]. Because of the interesting size-tailored photoluminescence and strong resistance against photochemical reaction in solution, quantum dots have been widely used as bio-labels^[2-3]. However, it is still an interest of researchers to boost the quantum yield (defined as the ratio of emission to absorption photons) and, thus, reduce the number of the quantum dots needed in the experiment. The atoms on the surface of a quantum dot act as defects since they are not fully bonded. Many of these defects are removed by being passivated with organic surfactants during certain synthesis process. Although up to 10% quantum yield (at room temperature) of these capped dots has been reported^[4], it remains as a challenge to passivate both anionic and cationic sites on the surface with organic ligands. An alternative method to the use of organic molecules as surface passivation is to coat the surface with higher band gap inorganic semiconductor to form a core/shell structure. Not only are the dangling bonds of the core fixed by the shell, but the electron-hole pairs are more confined by the higher potential barriers as well^[5].

II. Experimental section

Materials used

The materials used were of the purest quality commercially available and used as received. Cadmium oxide (99.998%) and Sulphur was purchased from Nice chemicals, Trioctylphosphine (95%), Trioctylphosphineoxide (95%), Octadecene and selenium powder (Se, 98.%) were bought from Aldrich Chem. Co., and oleic acid was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Company.

Preparation of Colloidal CdSe quantum dots

CdSe nanocrystals are synthesized from CdO and elemental Se using a kinetic growth method^[8-10] where particle size depends on reaction time. A stock solution of Se precursor may be prepared ahead of time by combining 30 mg of Se and 5 ml of 1-octadecene (tech., 90%) in a 10-mL round-bottom flask clamped over a stirrer hot plate. A syringe is used to measure 0.4 mL of trioctylphosphine from its Sure-Seal bottle to the same 10- ml flask. A magnetic stir bar is added and the solution is stirred for 30 min. It is heated at 60 deg C to speed the dissolution of Se. The stock solution is stored at room temperature in a sealed container and has enough Se precursors for the preparations.

The Cd precursor is prepared by adding 65 mg of CdO to a 250-mL round-bottom flask clamped in a heating mantle. To the same flask 3 ml of oleic acid and 50 ml of octadecene are added. A thermometer capable of measuring 225⁰C is inserted, the temperature to which the flask is then heated. When the temperature reaches 225⁰C, 5 mL of the room-temperature selenium solution is transferred to the 225⁰C cadmium solution. Because the characteristics of the products depend on reaction time, one should begin timing when the selenium solution is added. A 9-inch Pasteur pipet is used to remove and quench approximately 2 ml samples at frequent time intervals (0mins, 2mins, 4mins and 6mins) as quickly as possible in the beginning and when noticeable color change is detected at later times. The set of CdSe quantum dots are shown in Fig. The samples were pipetted out within six minutes and also we can see four different colors which indicate that different sizes of CdSe quantum dots.



Colloidal suspension of CdSe quantum dots of increasing size

III. Result and Discussion

A major challenge in nanocrystal synthesis is the production of monodisperse particles. Monodisperse means the particles exhibit a relatively narrow size distribution, resulting in narrow absorbance and emission peaks. The growth of CdSe quantum dots could be identified by the color change in the UV-Vis spectra. DLS measurement also gives the size distribution and the average size of the prepared sample. The results obtained from the various measurements are discussed below. Prepared nanofibers were characterized by using Scanning Electron Microscope technique.

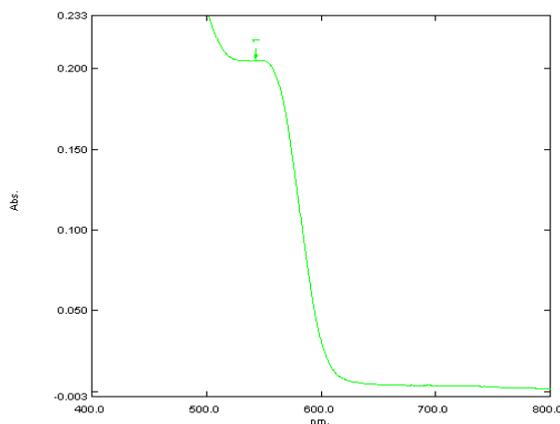
Optical absorption

UV Spectrum for CdSe quantum dots

The optical absorption wavelength was measured by using UV spectrometer and spectrum was taken for CdSe samples. The absorbance spectra of samples pipetted at different reaction times of 2mins and 6mins after injection of Se precursor is given in fig. The absorption spectrum shows striking excitonic features around 520 nm to 590 nm in the visible range. The absorption spectra clearly indicates that the absorption peak shift from 520 nm to 590 nm on increasing the particle size. It should be noted that such pronounced absorption spectrum predicts good crystallinity in the sample and also confirms that the material is a semiconductor.

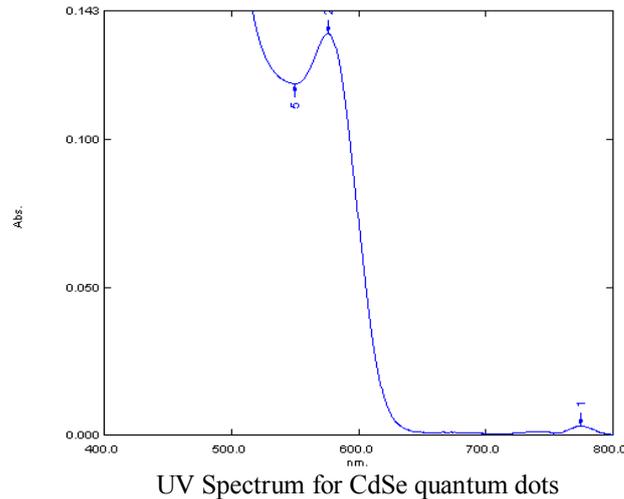
Light brownish (2mins):

Size -543.1nm & absorption -0.210



Brownish (6mins):

Size-577nm & absorption-0.137



DLS (Dynamic Light Scattering) Measurement

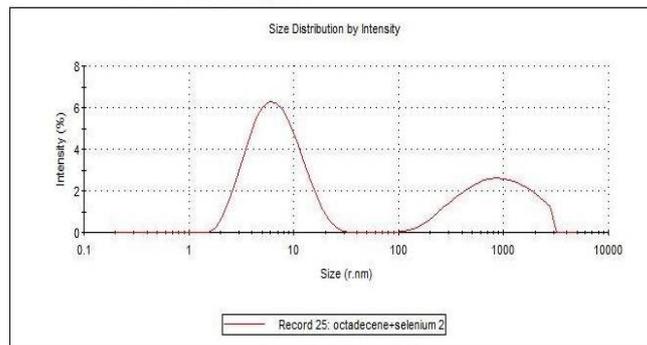
Particle size for CdSe quantum dots

Dynamic Laser Light Scattering experiments were carried out for measuring the Size of the prepared CdSe quantum dots. The average Size Distribution Report of the CdSe quantum dots samples dispersed in an organic solvent-octadecene and pipetted at different reaction times of 2mins and 6mins after injection of Se precursor is shown in the below Fig4.2.1. The average diameters of the CdSe quantum dots are reported as 10.63nm for light brownish color(2mis) and 13.88nm for brownish color sample (6mins).

Light brownish (2mins):

	Diam. (nm)	% Intensity	Width (nm)
Z-Average (r.nm): 10.63	Peak 1: 7.445	62.7	4.198
Pdl: 0.493	Peak 2: 1007	37.3	680.9
Intercept: 0.103	Peak 3: 0.000	0.0	0.000

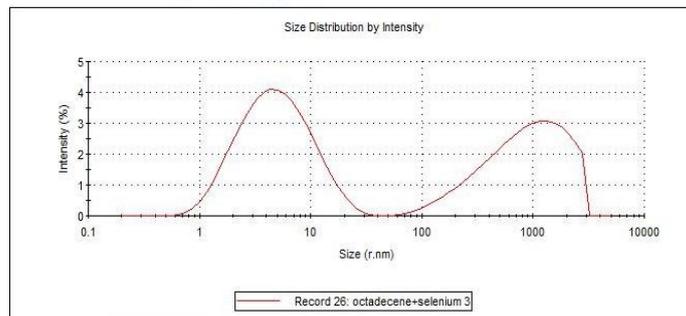
Result quality : Refer to quality report



Brownish (6mins):

	Diam. (nm)	% Intensity	Width (nm)
Z-Average (r.nm): 13.88	Peak 1: 6.020	54.4	4.587
Pdl: 0.546	Peak 2: 1067	45.6	734.3
Intercept: 0.104	Peak 3: 0.000	0.0	0.000

Result quality : Refer to quality report

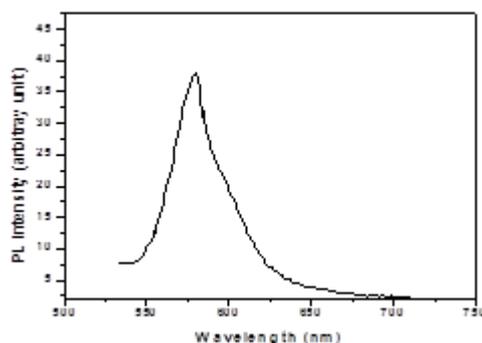


Average diameter of the CdSe quantum dots

Photoluminescence

PL Spectrum for CdSe QD'S

The photoluminescence spectra emission maximum of CdSe is at 550nm, consistent with the red shifts visible in the absorption spectra. More importantly, the intensity of the emission maximum, which is normalized to the absorption spectrum, is considerably increased in the core/shell structure as compared to the parent materials (CdSe).



Photoluminescence spectrum ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 400\text{nm}$) of CdSe

IV. Conclusions

CdSe has been synthesized from Cadmium oxide, Sulphur, Trioctylphosphine, Trioctylphosphineoxide, Octadecene, stearic acid and selenium powder precursors and their optical properties discussed. The absorption and emission spectra of CdSe structures has shown.. Particle Size Analyzer value shows prepared quantum dots are 10nm to 14nm.

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