

Fluorescence Emission Enhancement in Crystalline Photonic Structures

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Abstract

One of the two ways that a material that has absorbed light or other electromagnetic radiation can emit light is through fluorescence. Fluorspar is a substance that can be added to welding compounds to facilitate easier flow; the word fluorescent is derived from the Latin fluere, which means "to flow." LED lights, clothing that glows in "blacklight," or light sources that contain UV or blue light, and butterflies like the swallowtail butterfly are a few examples of fluorescence. The basis of fluorescence lies in certain molecules' ability to absorb photon energy and enter an excited state when struck by one. Fluorescence emission is the photon released by the same molecule when it relaxes from its excited state. Nonetheless, there is a possibility that fluorescence plays crucial roles in coral health, UV protection and antioxidant defense, photo-acclimation, mating, signalling and communication, lures, and camouflage. exhibit the same phenomenon. Bioluminescence is among the best examples of fluorescence found in nature. The tiny bioluminescent phytoplankton in the marine water glows when it is touched.

Keyword: Fluorescent, bioluminescent phytoplankton, electromagnetic radiation, LED lights, black light

INTRODUCTION

Demonstrated photoluminescence excitation enhancement in a flexible one-dimensional photonic crystal structure made entirely of polymers that is covered in a thin layer of fluorescent organic material. It is interesting to note that in these systems, luminescence signal reinforcement is accomplished by improving pump efficiency without the use of spectral resonance to the chosen fluorophore's emission. These systems are good candidates for simple, adaptable, and affordable fluorescent sensing because of all these features.

The ability of nanostructures made of dielectric, metallic, and hybrid materials to concentrate electromagnetic fields on length scales smaller than the diffraction limit, resulting in significant field intensity enhancement, is the main focus of the study. Two strategies are described in the literature: the first looks for alternative systems with comparable high performances through dependable and affordable fabrication techniques. The second looks for alternative systems with comparable high performances through plasmonic or inorganic systems, both of which require expensive and time-consuming fabrication processes. Modern nanophotonics has as one of its main goals the manipulation of light. The main objective of the study is to investigate the ability of dielectric, metallic, and hybrid nanostructures to concentrate electromagnetic fields on length scales smaller than the diffraction limit, leading to a significant field intensity enhancement. In the literature, two approaches are discussed. The first seeks out substitute systems with comparable high performances using dependable and reasonably priced fabrication techniques. The second searches

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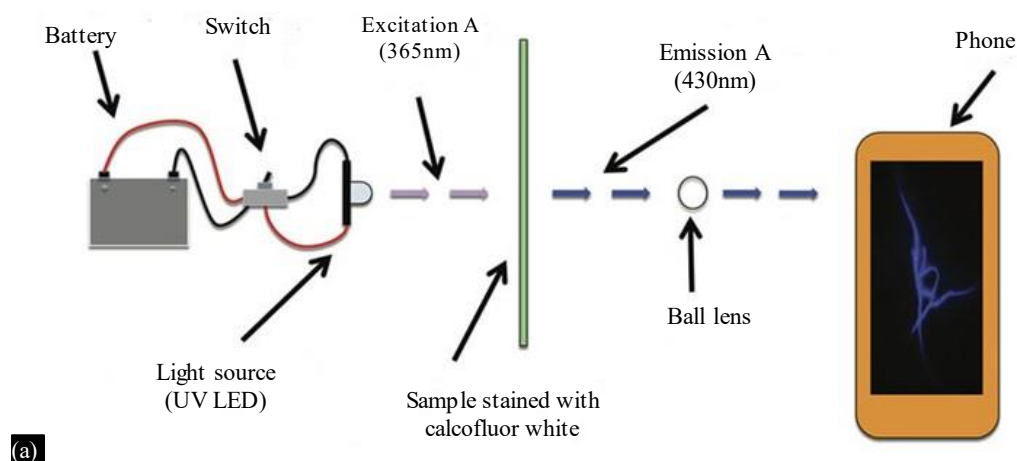
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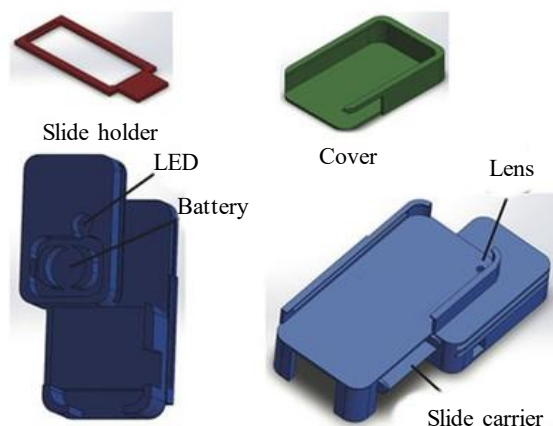
for alternative, high-performing systems using plasmonic or inorganic systems, both of which necessitate costly and drawn-out fabrication procedures. Bloch Surface Wave (BSW) are surface-based DBR propagation modes. Since light cannot pass through the periodic structure because of these modes' frequency within the photonic band gap, near-interface localization is made possible thanks to total internal reflection at the bounding medium's surface. BSWs should be used to alter the fluorescence lifetime and to spectrally and spatially reshape the fluorescence emission because they are in many ways the dielectric analogues of Surface Plasmon Polaritons. However, there aren't many papers on this topic to be found in the literature. On inorganic DBR made of SiO₂ and Si₃N₄, a study of the radiative decay engineering of fluorescence has been conducted. However, some authors have shown that inexpensive deposition methods and polymer materials can be used to produce high-quality DBR. In this work, we propose the use of all-polymer structures to enhance and manipulate the emission of a fluorescent polymer by utilizing a BSW excitation and envisaging an original application in sensor devices. Polymer photonic structures are typically used as color responsive materials [1-6].

Applications of Smartphone Fluorescence Microscopy

In Point-Of-Care (POC) testing and diagnostics, smartphone fluorescence microscopy has a wide range of uses, including the quantification of immunoassays, the detection of microorganisms, and the sensing of viruses. We also measured the detection limit of this platform using DNA origami-based brightness standards, showing that 80 fluorophores per diffraction-limited spot can be easily detected by our mobile microscope, opening up new possibilities for POC diagnostics and sensing applications in resource-constrained settings.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 1. Phone-based fluorescence microscopy

Quantitating rapid diagnostic assays and moving some of the traditional biomedical tests from the bench or laboratory to the point-of-care (POC) have both required the use of miniature optical reader devices.[7]. This lays the groundwork for utilizing these cutting-edge mobile imaging and sensing technologies to address various major global health challenges. In fact, recent developments in mobile phone-enabled technology have made it possible to diagnose a variety of infectious diseases, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and malaria, as well as to track and monitor a person's health and determine their prognosis for various chronic diseases. Additionally, single nanoparticles, viruses, and single DNA strands have all been detected using mobile fluorescence imaging tools as platforms for microscopy [8].

Modulation of Light-Matter Coupling Strength

Hybrid polaritonic states are created by the resonant interaction of localized electromagnetic field and excitonic transitions of molecules. The results demonstrate the possibility of polariton-assisted remote energy transfer being controlled and mediated by confined electromagnetic fields. The obtained results open up possibilities for quantum optical switching and other uses [9].

Transition Between Coupling Regimes: Weak, Strong, and Ultra-Strong

The FRET effect only happens when a number of requirements are met: The donor and acceptor fluorophores must be in a mutually advantageous orientation; (i) the donor emission spectrum and the acceptor absorption spectrum must overlap; and (ii) the distance between the fluorophores must not exceed the Förster limit (10 nm) due to the fact that the FRET efficiency is inversely proportional to the sixth power of the distance.

The FRET process simultaneously increases acceptor fluorescence emission and decreases donor fluorescence emission when these conditions are satisfied. In the tuneable microcavities, the strong light-matter coupling regime may act as a mediator by coupling the donor and acceptor excitonic states to the same microcavity optical mode. This mediation can ensure a seven-fold increase in the rate of energy transfer, in addition to increasing the effective distances of energy transfer to values ten times bigger than the Förster limit (to over 100 nm). This increase in energy transfer rate causes a considerable drop in donor fluorescence when the acceptor is present.

The energy transfer efficiency, which is based on the ratio of the intensities of the donor fluorescence with and without the acceptor, would consequently be greatly enhanced. Recent results suggest that under the strong coupling regime, the energy transfer efficiency could increase from 0.55 to 0.90. [10].

Influence of Grating Features on Plasmonic Modes

Plasmonic gratings are generating a lot of interest in the context of developing surface-enhanced fluorescence-based sensors. The plasmonic modes are controlled by the grating features, which has a significant impact on the fluorescence response. Within this framework, we concentrated on simulating a real measurement by using a buffer solution that flows across the grating active surface. As a result, the surrounding medium's refractive index changes, changing the resonance conditions in the process. As a result, the fluorescence emission undergoes a shift in its spectral characteristics as well as changes to its spectral weight and direction. Surface-Enhanced Fluorescence (SEF) is a result of amplifying molecules' fluorescent emission using plasmonic gratings as one of the primary tools. Dielectric meta-structures based on SEF, such as through Bloch surface waves, also represent a workable solution. Other options are provided by metallic nanoparticles or photonic systems like resonant cavities, which are used to take advantage of the strong field enhancement that localized modes cause to occur nearby.. In this case, plasmonic gratings also provide the additional benefit of combining the coupler and amplifier onto a single platform. Additionally, the spectral region with the most notable relative fluorescence enhancement is closely related to the strongest plasmonic mode signatures. This suggests that the surrounding medium's refractive index may have changed, which would have changed the resonance conditions and consequently the intensity of the enhancement. In light of this, we set out to expand on

the previous analysis by examining the alteration of the generation of fluorescent labels (ATTO700) dye's fluorescence signal and the resulting enhancement brought on by exposing the plasmonic grating to a solution of 2% ethanol (EtOH) in water. To counteract potential effects brought on by hydrophobicity, EtOH was added [11].

Nitrogen-Vacancy Centers in Diamonds: A Gateway to Enhanced Sensing and Quantum Applications

Diamonds contain Nitrogen-Vacancy (NV) centers, which are intriguing because of their unique properties that make them suitable for use as stable fluorescent sources and in quantum information processing. Furthermore, NDs with numerous NV centers show promise for high-precision magnetic field and temperature sensing applications. The connection of several NV centers in separate NDs to SPP modes supported by silver surfaces protected by thin dielectric layers and gold V-Grooves (VGs) produced by self-terminated silicon etching was investigated in Figure 2 Descriptive issue. The first example focuses on comparing the fluorescence spectra of a source ND illuminated by a pump laser and a scattering ND illuminated simply by the fluorescence-causing SPP radiation.

The potential application of nitrogen-vacancy (NV) centers in diamonds as solid-state quantum bits (qubits) has received a lot of attention. The ground-state electron-spin coherence duration of such qubits is suitably short compared to the qubit operating time. Importantly, even at room temperature, the electrical qubit state can be begun and optically read out. A single NV center provides a steady stream of single photons, and NV centers exhibit stable fluorescence. For high-precision magnetic, electric, and temperature sensors, NV centers are a practical option. It is claimed that substantial concentrations of NV centers are necessary for magnetic field sensors to perform at their peak

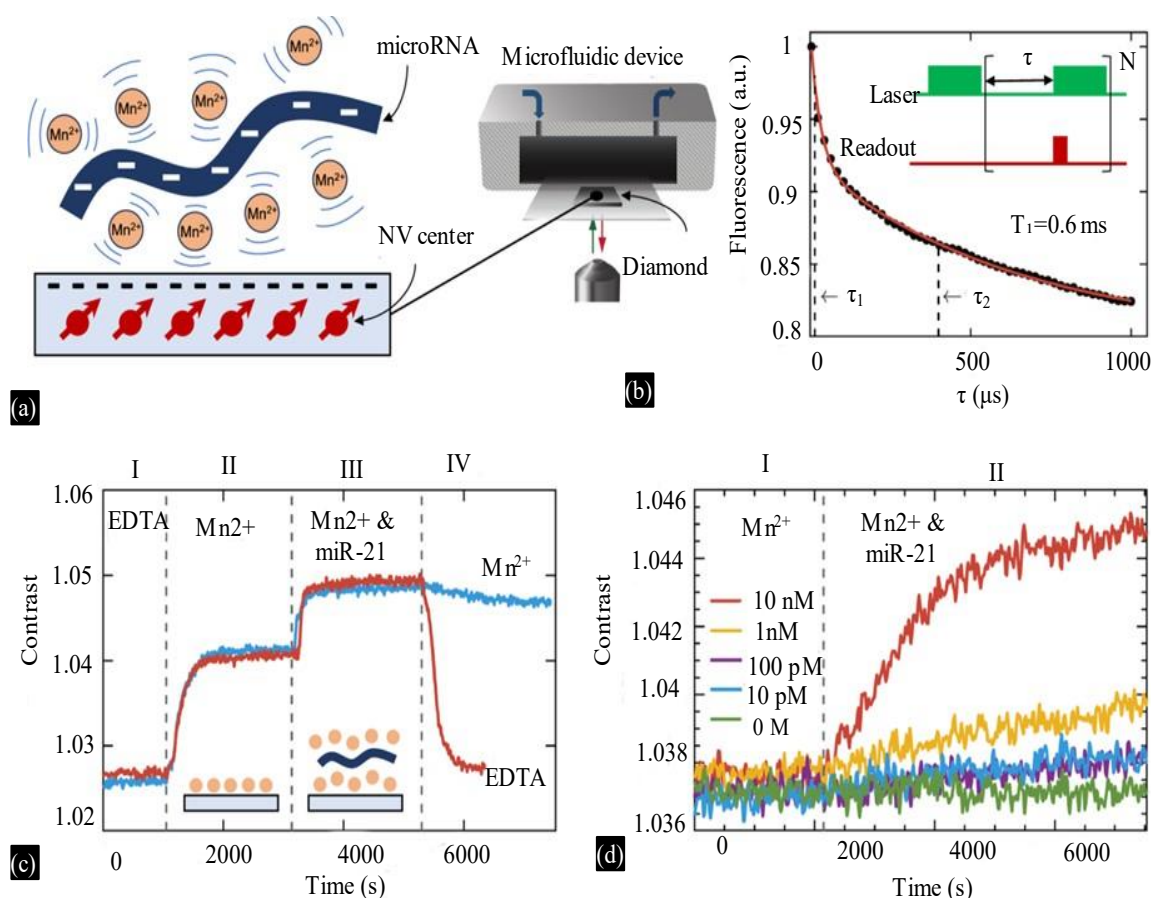


Figure 2. Quantum sensing of microRNAs with nitrogen-vacancy.

For magnetic field sensors, a large number of NV centers in nanodiamonds (NDs) can offer high sensitivity (depending on the number of NV centers in the ND) and high resolution (depending on the size of the ND) [12]. Because of their brightness and chemical neutrality, NDs with a large number of NV centers are extremely helpful as stable fluorophores in biological applications. The improvement of the fluorescence rate and the effective collection of the fluorescence from them will benefit the applications that the NV centers may enable. Numerous approaches, including coupling NV centers to diamond pillars, plasmonic nanostructures, plasmonic waveguides, dielectric waveguides, and dielectric cavities, have been suggested and researched in this direction. Plasmonic waveguides, which are waveguide configurations supporting SPP propagation, have the unusual property of guiding SPP modes with extreme confinement, well past the diffraction limit. This makes it possible to build an incredibly effective emitter coupling to these SPP guided modes. VGs sliced into metal provide channel plasmon polariton (CPP) modes, which are particularly well suited for effective coupling to emitters due to their comparatively long propagation lengths and high confinement. In contrast to conventional plasmonic waveguides, such cylindrical and wedge waveguides,

In addition to being higher for CPP modes, the so-called beta-factor—which is the likelihood that an emitter would spontaneously decay and excite the plasmonic waveguide mode—is also more evenly distributed over space (inside a VG). It has been suggested that VGs can achieve long-distance super-radiance effects, long-distance entanglement of two quantum emitters, and long-distance resonant energy transfer.

Additionally, a wide variety of devices have been demonstrated, including plasmonic circuit parts and nano-focusing components made of VGs. The effective in- and out-coupling of CPP modes and far-field propagating radiation is shown to be possible with nano-mirrors created at the VG terminations [13]

Photostability and Optical Properties of Copper(I) Oxide Nanocubes

Photobleaching causes conventional organic fluorophores to lose their fluorescence after prolonged exposure to excitation light. For this reason, studies into newly developed bright and photostable nanomaterials are becoming increasingly important for a variety of uses, including bio-imaging and tracking. Among these newly developed fluorophores, metal oxide-based nanomaterials have garnered a lot of interest as a possible multipurpose material with applications in fluorescence as well as photocatalysis and angiogenesis. Nevertheless, the majority of these uses heavily rely on the morphology, size, and chemo-physical characteristics of specific particles. We report an approach to investigate the intrinsic optical properties of single copper (I) oxide (Cu₂O) nanocubes in this manuscript. Individual nanocubes were found to emit light with peak wavelengths of approximately 760 nm when excited at 520 nm with only 11 μ W excitation energy (1.7 W/cm²). Tissue autofluorescence is conveniently low in the biological window of near-infrared 1 (NIR1). After at least two minutes of constant illumination, a brilliant and photostable fluorescence with intensities up to 487 K counts/s was seen.

Compared to the autofluorescence from a fixed cumulus-oocyte complex, this fluorescence was around four times brighter. Cu₂O nanocubes' remarkable photostability, strong fluorescence brightness, and near-IR emission make them appealing candidates for long-term fluorescent bioimaging applications.

Potential Applications and Characteristics of Cu₂O Nanoparticles

Bulk form of copper (I) oxide (Cu₂O), a p-type semiconductor, has a direct bandgap of 2.17 eV. This semiconducting material's extraordinary properties, which are achievable in nanoscale particles, have garnered a lot of attention. Numerous morphologies, including nanocubes, nanospheres, nanorods, and nanooctahedrons, have been reported in the literature and can be synthesized with low preparation costs and straightforward methods. These methods give this material a competitive edge as an oxide semiconducting material and make it suitable for scalable manufacturing. With its high absorption coefficient at approximately 438 nm in both bulk and ensemble settings, over 10% energy conversion

efficiency, and $6.6 \times 10^{-2}\%$ quantum yield when excited at 360 nm and emitting at 493 nm, copper (I) oxide is a promising material for a variety of photoelectronic applications, including photovoltaic cells and photo-capacitors. Cu₂O nanoparticle applications are also explored in the fields of photocatalysis and biological imaging.. The introduction of Cu₂O nanoparticles has been shown to alter the circular dichroism of certain proteins, including prion (PrPC) and bovine serum albumin (BSA). It has been demonstrated that Cu₂O semiconductors' morphology and the development of their crystal facets have a significant impact on their electrical and optical characteristics. Because of their distinct cubic structure and homogeneous shape, nanocubic morphologies—among the different forms of nano-copper (I) oxides—have garnered a lot of interest [14].

It has also been demonstrated that oxygen vacancies within ensembles of Cu₂O nanoparticles cause an intraband photoemission that emits light at 750 nm when excited at 532 nm. This nanoparticle is a promising candidate for bioimaging applications because of its 750 nm emission, which falls within the NIR1 biological window. Nevertheless, no research has been done on the optical fluorescent characteristics of isolated, single Cu₂O nanoparticles thus far. The creation of luminescent nanoprobes that are both photostable and intrinsically bright is necessary for the developing field of biophotonics. The method used in this study is to investigate the optical characteristics of single, isolated, monodisperse cubic Cu₂O nanoparticles. Cu₂O nanoparticles have previously been the subject of characterization and analytical investigations that have been documented in the literature. These investigations have concentrated on bulk materials or ensemble colloid solutions with widely dispersed size and morphology, leading to cumulative measurements. Figure 3 Biological samples are complex and extremely sensitive to laser radiation because strong laser beams can coagulate tissue proteins, destroying the sample. Therefore, it is ideal for a fluorescent nanoparticle to show minimal optical excitation and bright emission above any background fluorescence in the vicinity. In this work, silicon wafers that were milled with a focused ion beam to produce registration markers were used to study individual Cu₂O nanocubes. The marked substrates allow the characterization of isolated nanocubes without interaction from neighboring particles and are visible under both a confocal and scanning electron microscope (SEM). Individual Cu₂O nanocubes' optical fluorescent properties are suggested, and their performance is compared to that of currently marketed fluorescent materials with an emphasis on the material's intrinsic brightness and photostability for bioimaging applications.

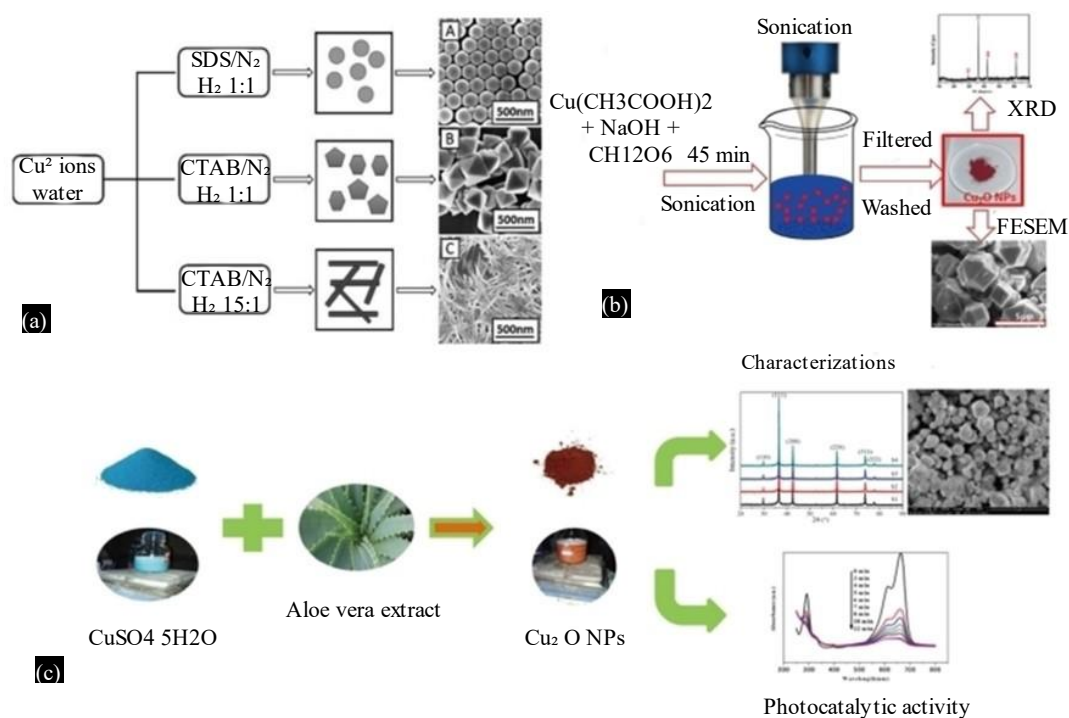


Figure 3. Synthesis of Cu₂O nanoparticles.

CONCLUSION

The investigation into the optical properties of single copper (I) oxide (Cu₂O) nanocubes highlights their potential as bright and photostable fluorescent nanomaterials suitable for bioimaging applications. With their ability to emit near-infrared light at approximately 760 nm, these nanocubes effectively minimize tissue autofluorescence, making them ideal for long-term imaging. Their remarkable photostability, coupled with high fluorescence intensity, positions Cu₂O nanocubes as strong contenders against conventional organic fluorophores that suffer from photobleaching. Furthermore, the unique properties of Cu₂O, including its p-type semiconducting behavior and diverse morphologies, enhance its versatility for various applications in photocatalysis and photoelectronics. As the field of biophotonics evolves, the synthesis and characterization of monodisperse Cu₂O nanoparticles open new avenues for the development of advanced luminescent probes that exhibit minimal optical excitation requirements while providing bright emissions. This research lays the groundwork for future studies focused on optimizing Cu₂O nanomaterials for practical use in biological imaging and other related fields.

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