

Multi-colored Emissive Carbon Dots for Generation of Pure White Light

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The rare-earth and toxic metal-free single component pure white light emitter (WLE) has been strongly required in our society due to environment point of view. But efficient direct WLE is still a grand challenge. Recently, fluorescent carbon dots (CDs) has emerged as a new class of materials that are composed mainly of C, O, H which is completely metal-free. It display emission property in entire visible spectra depend on the surface states, size and doping. The emission property is tuned by the doping centre and surface functional groups leading to multi-coloured emission. Various types of CDs have been developed with desired emission properties, through a wide range of organic precursors. The systematic investigation of the N-doping centres and surface functional groups has provided a vital role of the emission property. For example, it was predicted that, graphitic N centre triggers the red emission from the CDs. The optimized synthetic strategy enabled us to tune the N centres and lead to the broadband emission as a result direct WLE in the entire visible spectra (400 to 750 nm). The decrease or increase of the different N doped centres into the CDs led to the green to orange emission, respectively. Because the graphitic N creates mid-gap states within the HOMO-LUMO gap of the pristine CDs, as a result, the light absorption is red-shifted which gives rise to the low energy fluorescence in the visible spectrum. Rationally designed optimized the N doping centres into the CDs which controlled the emission such as way to produces the direct WLE. As synthesized CDs show direct and ideal WLE both in solution and in solid forms with CIE coordinates value of (0.34, 0.35) and high colour rendering index (CRI 92). These CDs can form transparent and efficient WLE film with long term stability, when they are mixed in the polymer matrix and excited via UV light. This study provides an important guiding principles for CDs syntheses for realizing spectrally tuned emission and single component direct WLE.

REFERENCES

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FIGURES

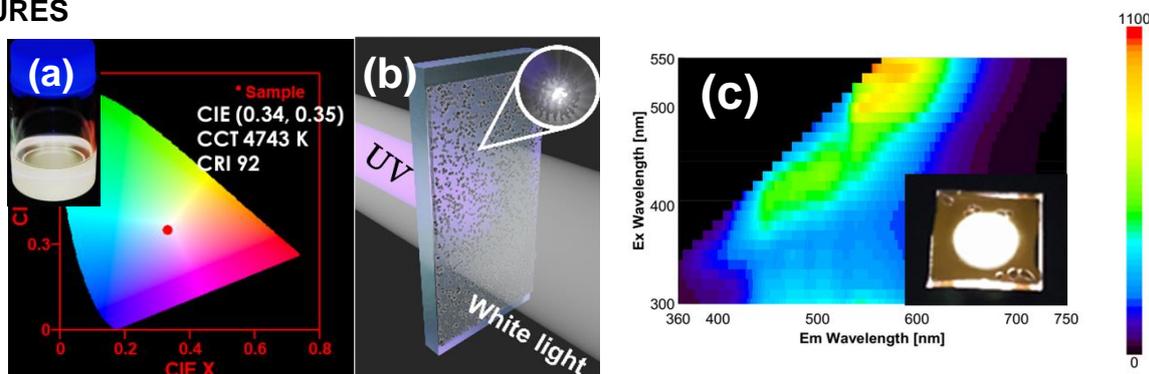


Figure 1: (a) CIE coordinates value (0.34, 0.35) of direct and pure WLE CDs. (Inset shows the WLE from colloidal CDs solution). (b and c) Schematic representation and demonstration of direct WLE from the CDs in polymer matrix.