

**DESIGN AND SYNTHESIS OF SEMICONDUCTOR  
NANOCRYSTALS TO MODIFY THEIR OPTICAL AND  
ELECTRONIC PROPERTIES**

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FEBRUARY 2018**

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NANOCRYSTALS TO MODIFY THEIR OPTICAL AND  
ELECTRONIC PROPERTIES**

by

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**Department of Chemistry**

Submitted

In fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

to the



**Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**

**February 2018**

*Dedicated to*  
*My Parents*

# CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “**DESIGN AND SYNTHESIS OF SEMICONDUCTOR NANOCRYSTALS TO MODIFY THEIR OPTICAL AND ELECTRONIC PROPERTIES**” being submitted by me, **Mr. VIKAS ARORA**, to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** in Chemistry, is a record of bonafide research work carried out by me.

**Mr. VIKAS ARORA** has worked under my guidance and supervision. He has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of this thesis, which to my knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Sameer Sapra, for his continuous guidance and support during my research tenure. He has always supported me as a guide and has been a source of inspiration throughout my research work. It has been always been a great working experience in his group during my tenure in IIT Delhi. I could not have imagined having a better guide for my Ph.D. He has always motivated me in each and every situation and I wholeheartedly appreciate his assistance towards my entire thesis work.*

*I would also like to thank all my committee members, Prof. A.Ramanan, Dr. Pramit Chowdhury and Prof. B. R. Mehta for always being supportive and encouraging my research work. Without their guidance and direction this would not have been possible.*

*I would also sincerely extend my gratitude to Prof. B. Jayaram under whose guidance; I learned the essential courses of research in IIT Delhi. I would also like to convey my humble and sincere thanks to Prof. A. K. Ganguli, Dr. B. D. Gupta, Prof. H. Singh and Dr. R. Srivastava for providing me with numerous facilities which have contributed greatly towards my research work.*

*I express my heartiest gratitude to all my fellow lab members who have contributed their continuous support to complete my thesis. I would like to thank Indu and Vaishakhi, for being my initial research partners and friends in lab, Udit for being such a supportive friend always, Anuushka, Razi, Sushma, Mona, Mamata, Gurpal, Aditya, Neelam, Puspanjali, Arpita, Samim and not to forget Jyoti, Shuchi, Rakesh, Ankur, Rusha, Manzoor, Preeti, Sulekha, Sajan, Amitrajit, Suraj, Meenu, Apurba, Khushboo, Vivek, Prateek, Bhavana, Neeraj, Baristar, Arindom, Ashish, Naveen, Shambhavi, Hema, Shantanu, Shivani, Siddharth and Pallavi.*

*I gratefully acknowledge my friends Manu, Om, Raj, Rahul, Rishi, Sandeep, Sudeep, Vinod, Ashima, Ashish, Bharat, Dharendra, Dinesh, Gaurav, Gyaneshwar, Hemant, Kamal, Kamalakanta, Manoj, Mukesh, Maroof, Pradeep, Pramod, Priyanka, Rewa, Sudhanshu, Sunil and Vineet Soni in IIT-Delhi towards their support and encouragement at each and every moment during this period.*

*I would like to extend my genuine gratitude to all the office and administration staff, instrumentation lab staff who have supported and provided me all the facilities I required during my thesis and with their support, I managed to smoothly and conveniently finish my research work.*

*I would also like to thank and acknowledge the financial assistance received from “CSIR” which has made my Research work possible here in IIT Delhi.*

*My family members were the continuous support during my work and they not even supported me but also stood by me during all the times. I am very fortunate to have the blessings of my grandparents Late Shri Nand Lal Arora and Smt. Vidhyawanti Arora. My mother, Smt. Rita Arora is the one who always blesses me with the shower of her care and love. My father, Shri Narendra Kumar Arora from whom I have learned to be motivated and has imparted me with high moral values to face any challenge in the entire*

*life. I sincerely owe my thanks to them, also my wife, Sneha Arora and my sister Liza, who has always been caring, supportive and loving in each and every moment.*

*To conclude, I would like to sincerely thank each and every person who was important towards the successful completion of my thesis, and also would like to extend my apology to any member whom I have unintentionally missed to express my thanks.*

**Vikas Arora**

## ABSTRACT

Semiconductor nanocrystals have become a significant class of materials with large potential for application varying from medicine to electronic and optoelectronic devices. Quantum dots are a class of semiconductors, which are composed of periodic groups of II-VI, III-V, or IV-VI materials (like CdSe, CdS, CdTe & ZnSe) with size below 10 nm showing size-dependent chemical, optical and electronic properties. Modification of nanocrystal surfaces, doping and deposition of other semiconductor materials alters the optical and structural properties; the key focus of work in the present thesis. The present thesis is primarily focused on the synthesis of new types of semiconductor nanocrystals and controlling their optical and electronic properties by modifying their surfaces. The detail of the research work is as follows:

**Chapter I** of the thesis is focused on the literature survey of past and present research work on semiconductor nanocrystals. It summarizes in general on the variety of protocols used in the synthesis of nanomaterials, doped nanomaterials and diverse techniques for surface modification of these nanomaterials.

In **Chapter II**, protocols used for the synthesis of nanocrystals and their further modifications are discussed. Brief accounts of the absorption spectroscopy, fluorescence spectroscopy, Time resolved fluorescence spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction and Transmission electron microscopy used to characterize the synthesized nanomaterials are discussed.

In **Chapter III**, the control of optical properties of CdS nanocrystals by altering the capping ligands during their synthesis was studied. It was found that addition of a little amount of

CdCl<sub>2</sub>:Phosphonic Acid (PA) at the end stages of the synthesis, results in complete elimination of the surface state emission from these nanocrystals and also increases the quantum yield of band edge emission.

In **Chapter IV**, the growth of Cu<sub>2</sub>ZnSnS<sub>4</sub> semiconductor nanocrystals via a colloidal route at lower temperatures by the introduction of cationic surfactant cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) was monitored. The synthesized nanocrystals were uniform and single crystalline and their size can be tuned by heating them at various temperatures thereby making them suitable candidates in future for application in photovoltaic devices.

**Chapter V** discusses a new approach by involving the introduction of manganese in (CZTS) semiconductor nanocrystals via a colloidal route and also the synthesis of CMTS nanocrystals. These nanocrystals show optical absorbance in the visible region thereby making them suitable candidates for application in photovoltaic devices. The mechanism of charge transfer in these nanocrystals was further confirmed by dye-degradation studies, showing the possibility of ambient day light photocatalysis.

In **Chapter VI**, the electron-transfer process from CdSe/3ZnS/nCdSe (where n=2, 3, 4, 5) quantum dots to the Au tips as a function of the shell thickness was monitored. Studies show that as the shell thickness increase, the process of charge transfer decreases due to the variation in energy gap between the conduction band of the CdSe shell of dual emitter nanocrystals and gold particles. A combination of steady state and time-resolved photoluminescence studies establish the mechanism of charge transfer in these nanocrystals which can further be used as photocatalysts.

## सार

सेमीकंडक्टर नैनोक्रीस्टल सामग्री के एक महत्वपूर्ण वर्ग बन गए हैं जो चिकित्सा से लेकर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और ऑप्टोइलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों के लिए अलग-अलग आवेदन के लिए बड़ी संभावनाएं हैं। क्वॉंटम डॉट्स सेमीकंडक्टर्स का एक वर्ग है, जो 2-VI, III-V, या IV-VI सामग्री (जैसे सीडीएसई, सीडीएस, सीडीटीए और जेएनएसई) के आवधिक समूह से बनाये गये हैं, आकार के आधार पर 10 एनएम नीचे आकार के आधार पर, ऑप्टिकल और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गुण नैनोक्रीस्टल सतहों के संशोधन, अन्य अर्धचालक पदार्थों के डोपिंग और बयान ऑप्टिकल और संरचनात्मक गुणों को बदलते हैं; वर्तमान थीसिस में काम का मुख्य फोकस वर्तमान थीसिस मुख्य रूप से नए प्रकार के अर्धचालक नैनोक्रीस्टल्स के संश्लेषण पर केंद्रित है और उनकी सतहों को संशोधित करके उनके ऑप्टिकल और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गुणों को नियंत्रित करते हैं। अनुसंधान कार्य का विवरण इस प्रकार है:

थीसिस का अध्याय I अर्धचालक नैनोक्रीस्टल पर अतीत और वर्तमान अनुसंधान कार्य के साहित्य सर्वेक्षण पर केंद्रित है। यह नैनोमिटेरियल्स के संश्लेषण में प्रयुक्त विभिन्न प्रोटोकॉलों पर सामान्य रूप से सारांशित करता है, इन नैनोमिटेरीज के सतह संशोधन के लिए ड्रैपड नैनोमिटेरियल्स और विविध तकनीकों का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है।

अध्याय II में, नैनोकॉटल के संश्लेषण के लिए प्रयुक्त प्रोटोकॉल और उनके आगे संशोधनों पर चर्चा की जाती है। अवशोषण स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी के संक्षिप्त विवरण, प्रतिदीप्ति स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी, समय का समाधान प्रतिदीप्ति स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी, एक्स-रे विवर्तन और संचरण इलेक्ट्रॉन माइक्रोस्कोपी संश्लेषित nanomaterials को चिह्नित करने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

अध्याय III में, उनके संश्लेषण के दौरान कैपिंग लिगेण्ड्स को बदलकर सीडीएस नैनोकस्ट्रीस्ट के ऑप्टिकल गुणों का नियंत्रण अध्ययन किया गया। यह पाया गया कि संश्लेषण के अंत चरण में सीडीसीएल 2: फॉस्फोनिक एसिड (पीए) की थोड़ी मात्रा के अलावा, इन नैनोक्रीस्टल्स से सतह के राज्य के उत्सर्जन का पूरा उन्मूलन और इसके परिणामस्वरूप बैंड के किनारों के उत्सर्जन की मात्रा बढ़ जाती है।

अध्याय IV में,  $Cu_2ZnSnS_4$  अर्धचालक नैनोकॉस्टल का विकास कैथिक सर्फेटेक्ट सीटीएलटीमथिलमोनियम ब्रोमाइड (सीटीएबी) की शुरुआत से कम तापमान पर एक कोलाइडयन मार्ग के माध्यम से किया गया था। संश्लेषित नैनोक्रीस्टल एकसमान और एकल क्रीस्टलीय थे और उनके आकार को विभिन्न तापमानों पर उन्हें गर्म करके ट्यून किया जा सकता है जिससे उन्हें फोटोवोल्टिक उपकरणों में आवेदन के लिए भविष्य में उपयुक्त उम्मीदवार बनाते हैं।

अध्याय V एक कोलाइडयन मार्ग के माध्यम से सेमीकंडक्टर नैनोकॉस्टल (सीजीटीएस) में मैंगनीज़ की शुरुआत और सीएमटीएस नैनोक्रीस्टल के संश्लेषण के द्वारा एक नए दृष्टिकोण की चर्चा करता है। ये नैनोकस्ट्रीस्टल दृश्यमान क्षेत्र में ऑप्टिकल शोषक दिखाते

हैं जिससे उन्हें फोटोवोल्टिक उपकरणों में आवेदन के लिए उपयुक्त उम्मीदवार बनाते हैं। इन नैनोकॉस्टल्स में चार्ज अंतरण की व्यवस्था को डार्क-डिग्रेडेशन अध्ययनों से भी पुष्टि की गई, जो कि परिवेशी दिन के प्रकाश फोटोकैलेटिसिस की संभावना दिखाते हैं। अध्याय छठी में, सीडीएसई /  $3ZnS / nCdSe$  (जहां  $n = 2, 3, 4, 5$ ) से इलेक्ट्रॉन हस्तांतरण की प्रक्रिया को एयू युक्तियों में खोल मोटाई के एक समारोह के रूप में निगरानी की गई थी। अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि खोल मोटाई में वृद्धि के रूप में, दोहरी एमिटर नैनोकॉस्टल्स और सोना कणों के सीडीएसई खोल के प्रवाहकत्व बैंड के बीच ऊर्जा अंतर में अंतर के कारण प्रभार हस्तांतरण की प्रक्रिया कम हो जाती है। स्थिर राज्य और समय-समाधान किए गए फोटोल्युमिनेसिस अध्ययनों का एक संयोजन इन नैनोकॉस्टल में चार्ज अंतरण के तंत्र की स्थापना करता है, जिसे आगे फोटोकैलेटिसिस के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है।

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## GLOSSARY OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	percent
$\nu$	frequency
Å	angstrom
Abs	absorption
a.u.	arbitrary unit
$\mu\text{L}$	microlitre
ca.	calculated
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	degree centigrade
EDX	energy dispersive X-ray analysis
FWHM	full width at half maximum
g	gram
h	hour
Hz	hertz
i.e.	that is
eV	electron volts
M	molar
mmol	millimole
mol	mole
mL	milliliter
m.p.	melting point
nm	nanometer
SNCs	semiconductor nanocrystals

TEM

transmission electron microscopy

HR

high resolution

PXRD

powder X-ray diffraction