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Ogura et al.

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(54) **QUANTUM DOT AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME; AND WAVELENGTH CONVERTING MEMBER, LIGHTING MEMBER, BACK LIGHT UNIT, AND DISPLAY DEVICE USING QUANTUM DOT**

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C09K 11/88 (2006.01)

C09K 11/02 (2006.01)

(Continued)

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CPC **C09K 11/883** (2013.01); **C09K 11/025** (2013.01); **F21V 9/30** (2018.02); **B82Y 20/00** (2013.01); **B82Y 40/00** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC C09K 11/883

See application file for complete search history.

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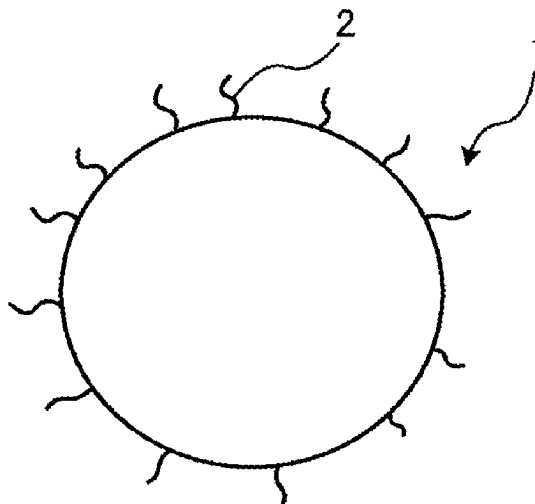
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A Cd-free blue fluorescent quantum dot with a narrow fluorescence FWHM. The quantum dot does not contain cadmium and its fluorescence FWHM is 25 nm or less. The quantum dot is preferably a nanocrystal containing zinc and selenium or zinc and selenium and sulfur. Further, the quantum dot preferably has a core-shell structure in which the nanocrystal serves as a core and the surface of the core is coated with a shell.

10 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

continuation of application No. 16/754,578, filed as application No. PCT/JP2018/038038 on Oct. 12, 2018, now Pat. No. 11,124,703.

- (51) **Int. Cl.**
F21V 9/30 (2018.01)
B82Y 20/00 (2011.01)
B82Y 40/00 (2011.01)

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FIG.1A

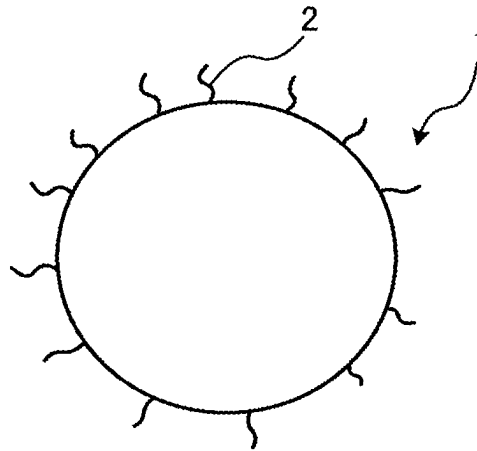


FIG.1B

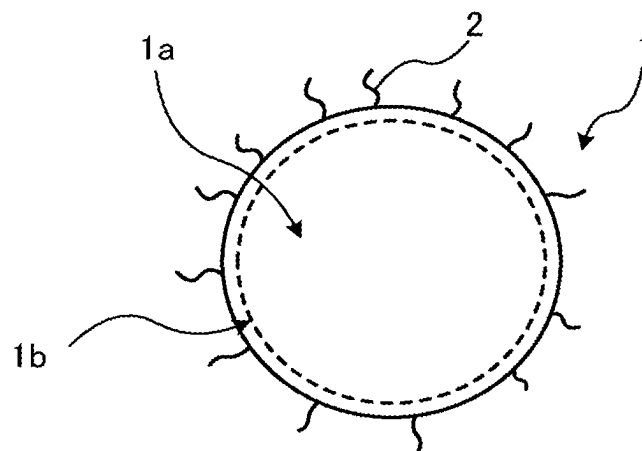


FIG. 2

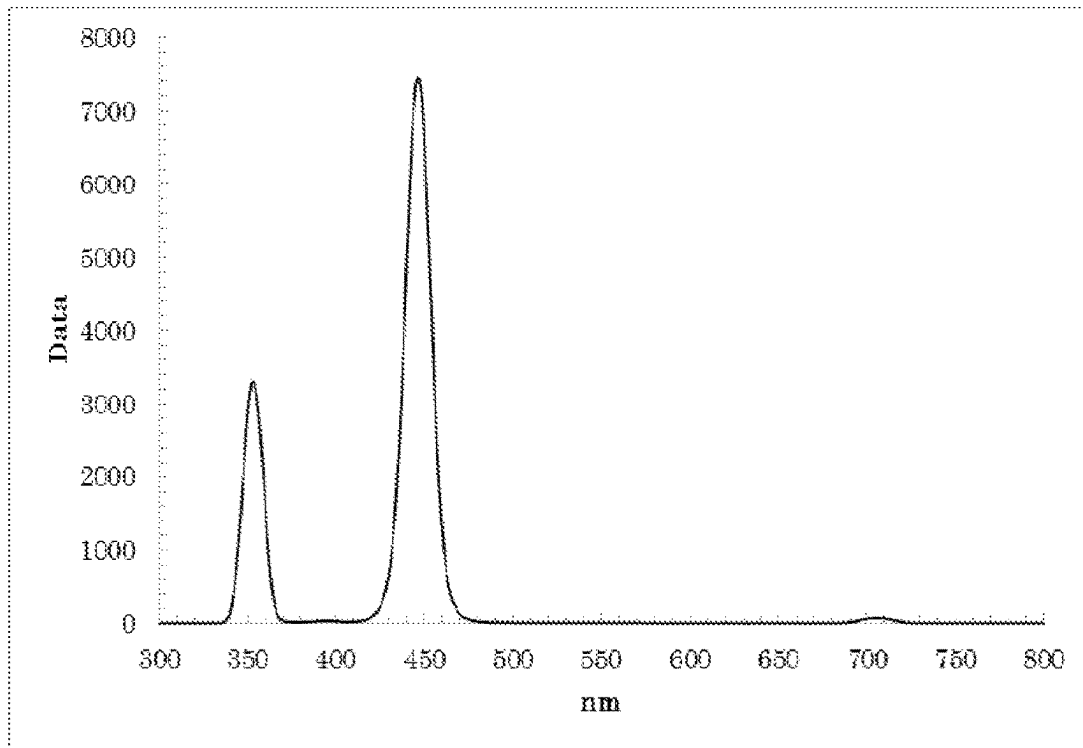


FIG. 3

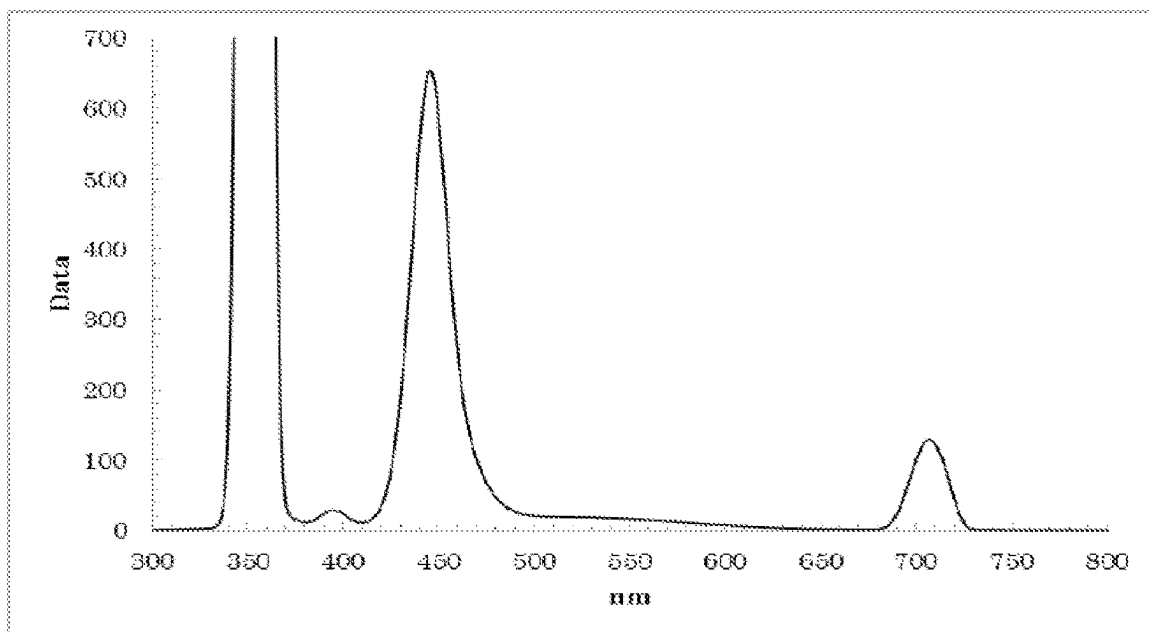


FIG. 4

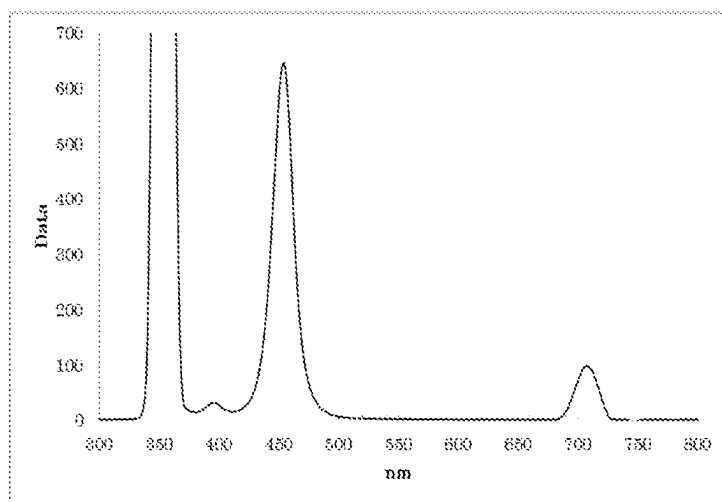


FIG. 5

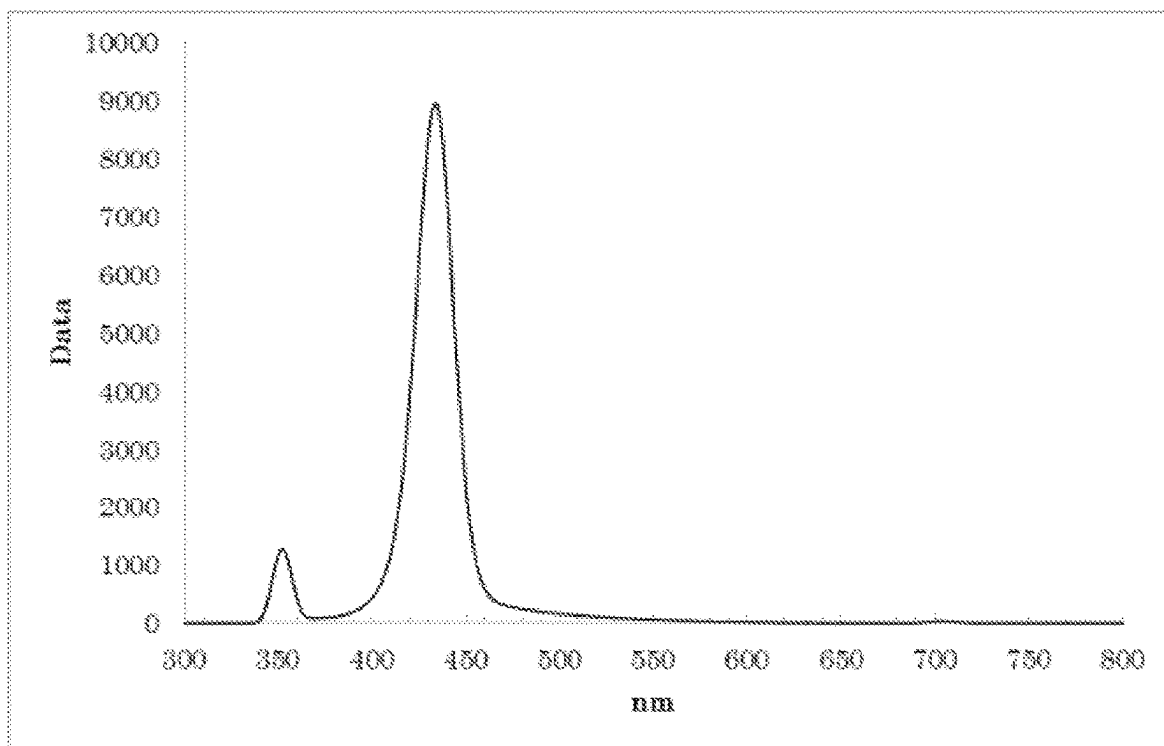


FIG. 6

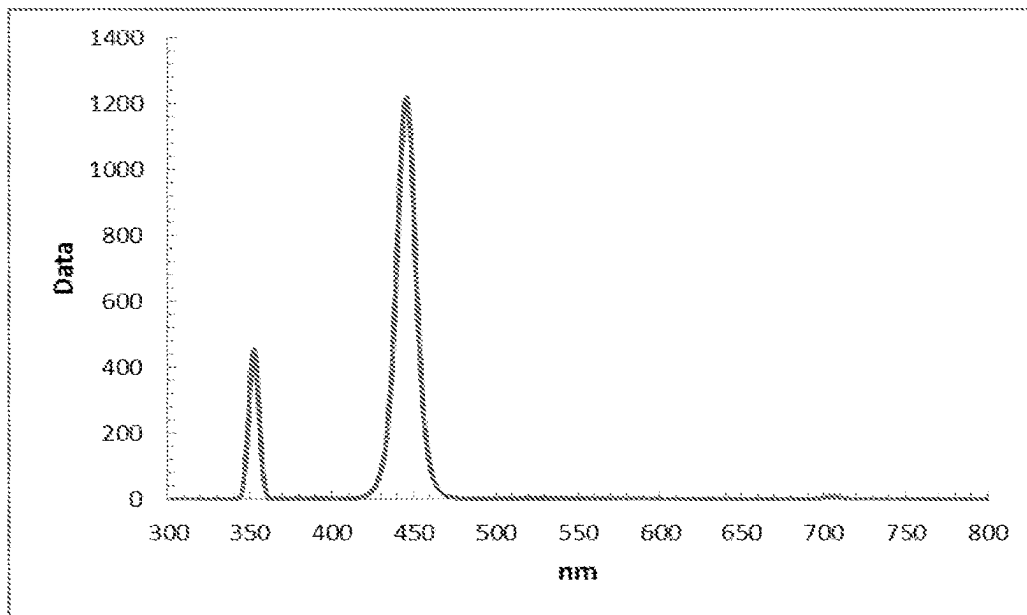


FIG. 7

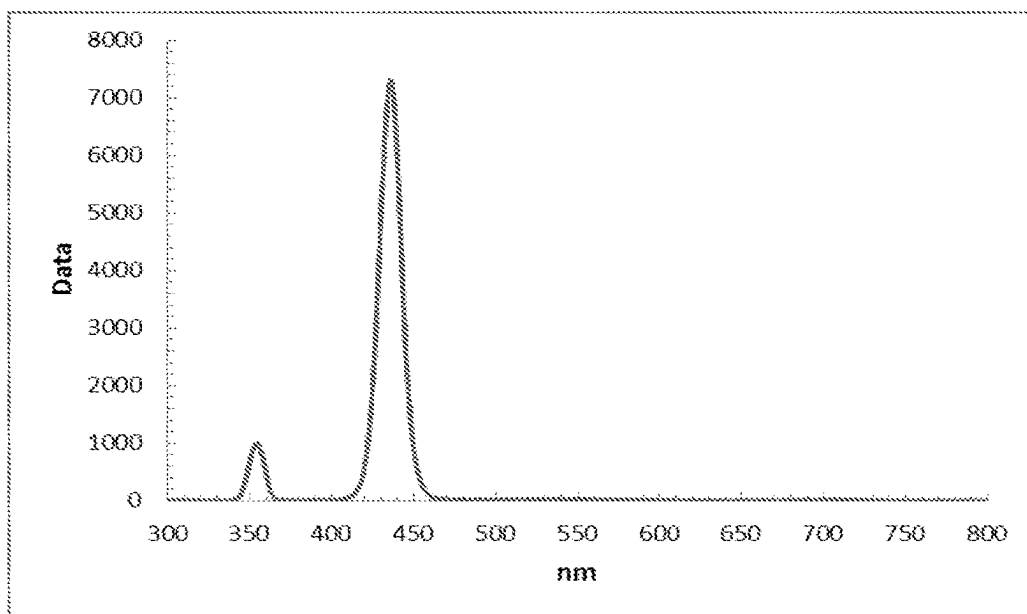


FIG. 8

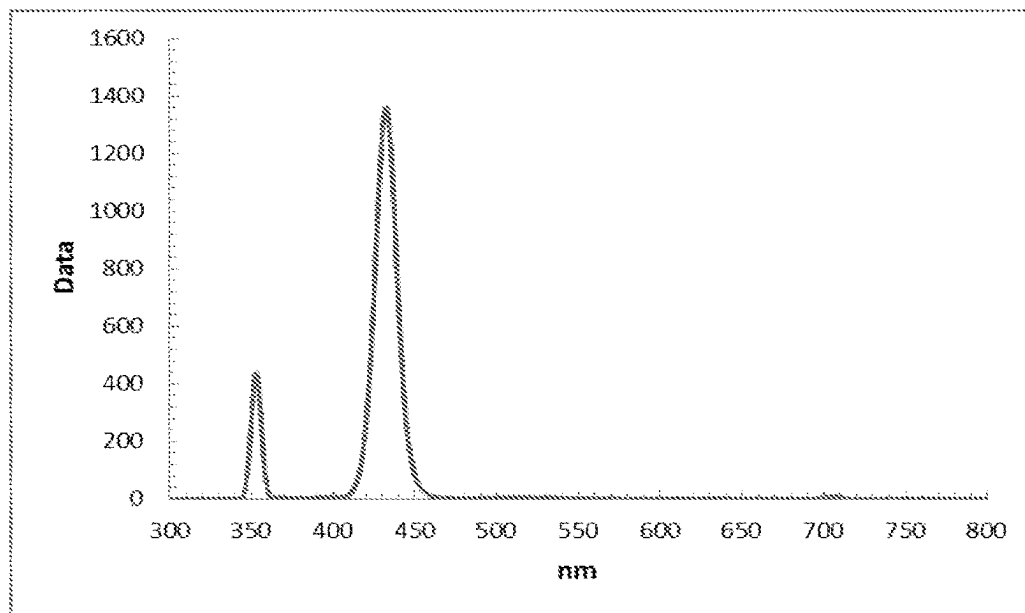


FIG. 9

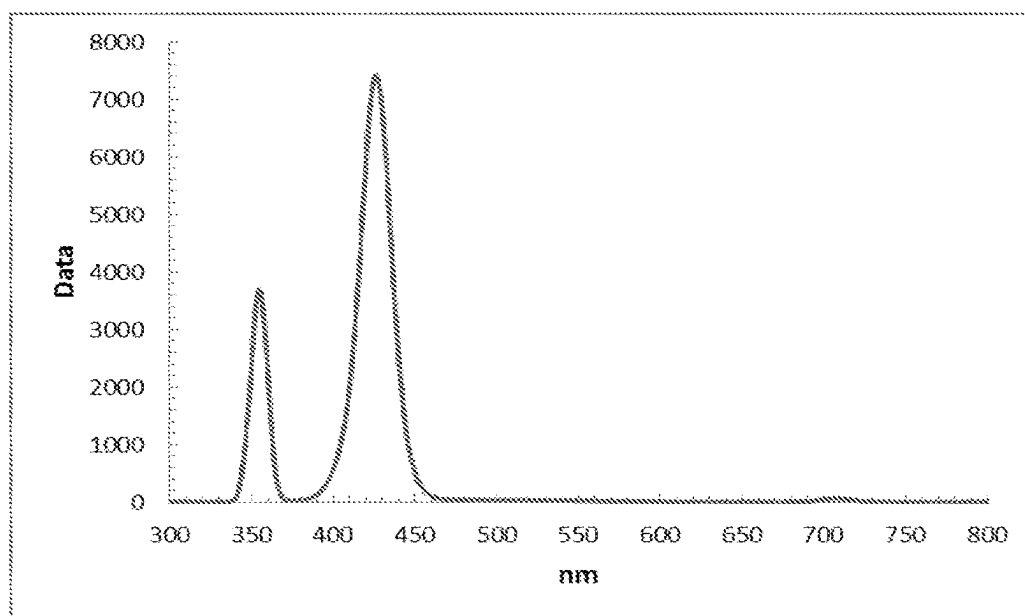


FIG. 10

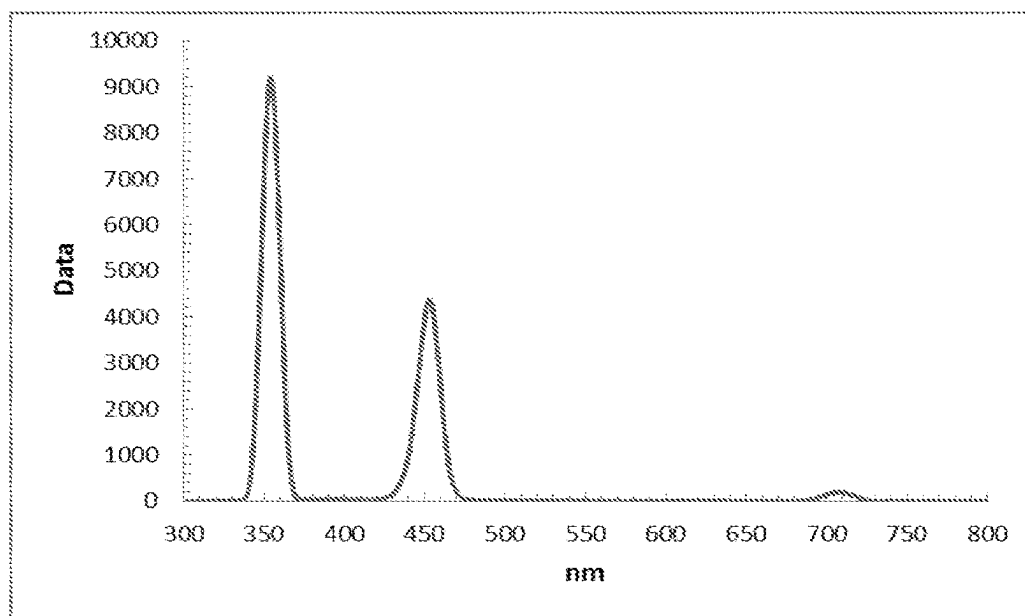


FIG. 11

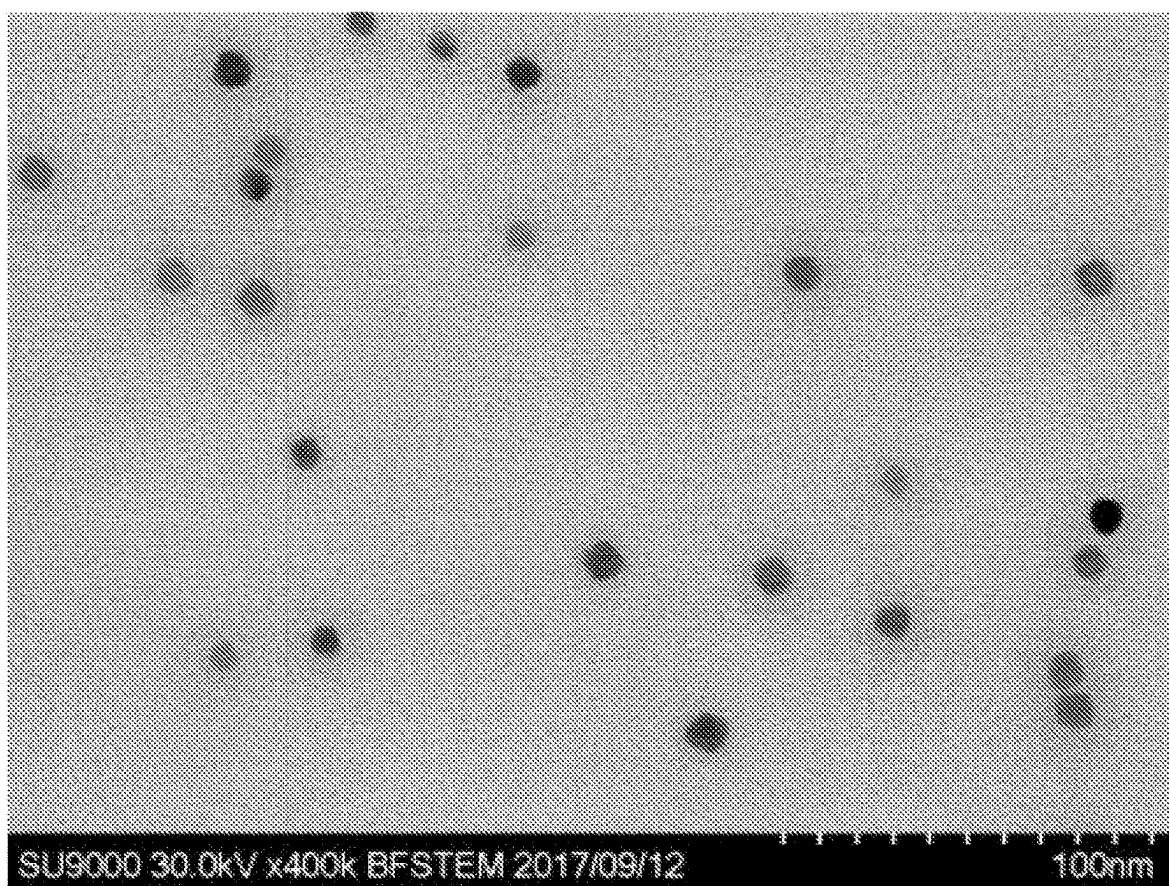


FIG. 12

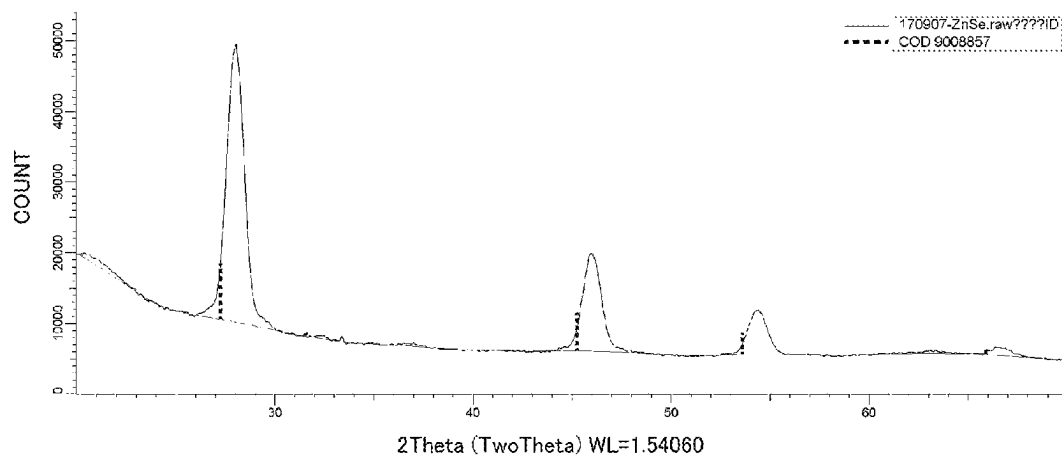
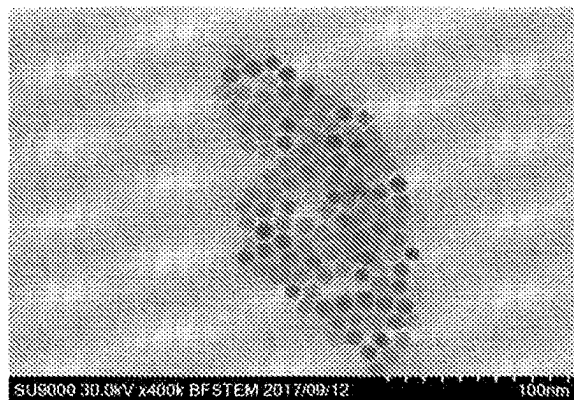


FIG. 13



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**QUANTUM DOT AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING THE SAME; AND
WAVELENGTH CONVERTING MEMBER,
LIGHTING MEMBER, BACK LIGHT UNIT,
AND DISPLAY DEVICE USING QUANTUM
DOT**

This is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/405,687, filed Aug. 18, 2021, which is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/754,578, filed Apr. 8, 2020, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,124,703, issued Sep. 21, 2021, which is a National Stage Entry of PCT/JP2018/038038, filed Oct. 12, 2018, which claims the benefit of Japanese App. No. 2017-198667, filed Oct. 12, 2017. The disclosure of each of the applications listed above is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to quantum dots and a method of producing the same; and a wavelength converting member, a lighting member, a back light unit, and a display device using quantum dots.

BACKGROUND ART

Quantum dots are nanoparticles made of around several hundreds to several thousands of atoms, each having a particle diameter of around several nanometers to several tens of nanometers. Quantum dots are also referred to as fluorescent nanoparticles, semiconductor nanoparticles, or nanocrystals. The emission wavelength of quantum dots can be variously changed depending on the particle diameter and the composition of the nanoparticles.

Examples of the properties of quantum dots include the fluorescence quantum yield (QY) and the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the fluorescence peak (hereinafter referred to as fluorescence FWHM). When quantum dots are used as a wavelength conversion material for a visible light region, the reproducibility of a wider range of colors, that is, a wider color gamut can be given as the most major feature. In terms of improving the color gamut, it is important to make the fluorescence FWHM narrow.

When photoluminescence (PL) is used for light emission of a display using quantum dots, a method of converting excitation light from a backlight using blue LEDs to green light, red light with the use of quantum dots is used. On the other hand, for example when electroluminescence (EL) is used for the emission, or for example when light emission of all three primary colors using quantum dots is achieved by other methods, quantum dots with blue emission are required. In that case, in terms of achieving a wide color gamut, the FWHM of not only green and red but also that of blue light is required to be narrow. Thus, when achieving light emission of all three colors of RGB using quantum dots, the fluorescence FWHM of quantum dots with blue emission is required to be narrow.

Typical blue quantum dots include cadmium selenide (CdSe)-based quantum dots using cadmium (Cd); however, use of cadmium is internationally restricted, and there have been significant obstacles to put into practice materials using cadmium selenide-based quantum dots.

On the other hand, chalcopyrite-based quantum dots such as CuInS₂ and AgInS₂, and indium phosphide (InP)-based quantum dots, for example, are being developed as Cd-free quantum dots that do not use cadmium (for example, see WO 2007/060889 A: PTL 1). However, such quantum dots

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currently being developed typically have a wide FWHM, and so are not suitable as blue emission quantum dots.

Meanwhile, as blue emission materials, materials having a relatively wide band gap, such as gallium nitride (GaN) and zinc selenide (ZnSe) are known. ZnSe quantum dots have been developed as quantum dots, and many examples of synthesizing blue emission fluorescent materials using ZnSe have been reported. However, there are few reports of practical ZnSe quantum dots having a wavelength and a FWHM that can serve as a substitute for conventional blue LEDs.

For example, Organic Electronics 15 (2014) 126-131 (NPL 1) describes a method of directly synthesizing ZnSe using an organic zinc compound and diphenylphosphine selenide believed to be relatively highly reactive in detail. ZnSe obtained in the paper is not suitable for practical use since it has a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 430 nm, which is less than 450 nm that is a blue fluorescence wavelength used for practical applications.

Further, Materials Science and Engineering C 64 (2016) 167-172 (NPL 2) reports a method of synthesizing ZnSe in water. Although the reaction proceeds at low temperatures, the FWHM is as slightly wide as 30 nm or more and the fluorescence wavelength is less than 430 nm. Thus, ZnSe obtained in the paper is unsuitable for use as a substitute for conventional blue LEDs to achieve a wide color gamut.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

PTL 1: WO 2007/060889 A

Non-patent Literature

NPL 1: Organic Electronics 15 (2014) 126-131

NPL 2: Materials Science and Engineering C 64 (2016) 167-172

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Technical Problem

As described above, although blue quantum dots are being researched and developed, no quantum dots having a fluorescence wavelength of 430 nm or more and a fluorescence FWHM of 25 nm or less that can be mass-produced have been obtained.

Methods for synthesizing ZnSe described above by direct synthesis include, for example, a method of using an organic zinc compound such as diethylzinc (Et₂Zn) to increase the reactivity of a raw material for zinc. However, since diethylzinc is highly reactive and is flammable in air, it is difficult to handle and store the raw material; for example, diethylzinc must be handled in an inert gas flow. Accordingly, reactions using diethylzinc also involve risks such as heat generation or combustion, so that it is unsuitable for mass production. Similarly, reactions using, for example, hydrogen selenide (H₂Se) to increase the reactivity of a material for selenium are also unsuitable for mass production in terms of toxicity and safety.

Further, in the case of reaction systems using materials for zinc or selenium that are highly reactive, although ZnSe is generated, particle formation is not controlled and the FWHM of the resulting ZnSe is wide.

Methods of synthesizing ZnSe quantum dots with a narrow FWHM have been reported; however, in the reported

methods, no blue ZnSe quantum dots with a narrow fluorescence FWHM has been confirmed to be synthesized by safe methods capable of mass production.

The present invention is made in consideration of the above, and seeks to provide Cd-free blue fluorescent quantum dots with a narrow fluorescence FWHM.

Further, the present invention also seeks to provide a method of producing the quantum dots, by which the quantum dots can be safely mass-produced.

Solution to Problem

A quantum dot of the present invention does not contain cadmium (Cd) and has a fluorescence FWHM of 25 nm or less.

In the present invention, the quantum dot is preferably a nanocrystal containing zinc (Zn) and selenium (Se), or zinc (Zn) and selenium (Se) and sulfur (S).

In the present invention, the quantum dot preferably has a core-shell structure in which the nanocrystal serves as a core and a surface of the core is coated with a shell.

In the present invention, the fluorescence wavelength of the quantum dot is preferably 410 nm or more and 470 nm or less.

In the present invention, the ligands are placed on the surface of the quantum dot.

In the present invention, the ligands are preferably comprised of one or two selected from aliphatic amines, phosphines, and aliphatic carboxylic acids.

A method of producing a quantum dot, according to the present invention preferably includes: synthesizing copper chalcogenide as a precursor from an organic copper compound or an inorganic copper compound and, an organic chalcogen compound; and synthesizing a quantum dot free of cadmium (Cd) using the precursor.

In the present invention, metal exchange between copper (Cu) and zinc (Zn) in the precursor made of the copper chalcogenide is preferably performed.

In the present invention, the metal exchange reaction is preferably performed at 180° C. or more and 280° C. or less. Further, the copper chalcogenide is preferably synthesized at a reaction temperature of 140° C. or more and 250° C. or less.

In the present invention, the quantum dot is preferably a nanocrystal containing zinc and selenium or zinc and selenium and sulfur.

A wavelength converting member of the present invention contains the above quantum dot or a quantum dot formed by the above method of producing a quantum dot.

A lighting member of the present invention contains the above quantum dot or a quantum dot formed by the above method of producing a quantum dot.

A back light unit of the present invention includes the above quantum dot or a quantum dot formed by the above method of producing a quantum dot.

A display device of the present invention includes the above quantum dot or a quantum dot formed by the above method of producing a quantum dot.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

According to the present invention, quantum dots that are similar in particle shape and size can be synthesized, which makes it possible to reduce the fluorescence FWHM, leading to the improvement of color gamut.

Further, according to the method of producing quantum dots, of the present invention, Cd-free quantum dots with a

narrow fluorescence FWHM can be safely produced by a method capable of mass production.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1A is a schematic view of a quantum dot according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 1B is a schematic view of a quantum dot according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows a fluorescence (photoluminescence: PL) spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 1;

FIG. 3 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 2;

FIG. 4 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 3;

FIG. 5 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 4;

FIG. 6 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 5;

FIG. 7 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 6;

FIG. 8 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 7;

FIG. 9 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 8;

FIG. 10 shows a PL spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 9;

FIG. 11 is a photograph of ZnSe in Example 1, taken by scanning electron microscopy (SEM);

FIG. 12 shows an X-ray diffraction (XRD) spectrum exhibited by ZnSe in Example 1; and

FIG. 13 is a SEM photograph of Cu₂Se in Example 1.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Embodiments of the present invention (hereinafter simply referred to as “embodiments”) will now be described in detail. Note that the present invention is not limited to the following embodiments, and various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

FIGS. 1A and 1B are schematic views of quantum dots according to this embodiment. A quantum dot 1 shown in FIG. 1A is a nanocrystal which does not contain cadmium (hereinafter referred to as Cd).

In this embodiment, the quantum dot 1 is preferably a nanocrystal containing zinc and selenium (hereinafter referred to as Zn, Se) or zinc and selenium and sulfur (hereinafter referred to as Zn, Se, S).

The quantum dot 1 has fluorescence properties based on near band-edge emission, and the quantum size effect is achieved when the quantum dot is a nanoscale particle.

Here, a “nanocrystal” refers to a nanoparticle having a particle size of around several nanometers to several tens of nanometers. In this embodiment, many quantum dots 1 can be formed to be approximately uniform in particle size.

Zn and Se or Zn and Se and S contained in the quantum dot 1 are main ingredients, and elements other than these elements may be contained. However, it is preferred that Cd is not contained, and phosphorus (P) is also not contained. Since an organic phosphorus compound is expensive and is easily oxidized in air, resulting in unstable synthesis; thus, the cost would be increased, the fluorescence properties will be unstable, and the production process would likely be complicated.

The quantum dot **1** of this embodiment has a fluorescence FWHM of 25 nm or less. "Fluorescence FWHM" herein refers to the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the spread of the fluorescence wavelength at half the peak value of the fluorescence intensity in the fluorescence spectrum. Further, the fluorescence FWHM is preferably 23 nm or less. The fluorescence FWHM is more preferably 20 nm or less. The fluorescence FWHM is yet more preferably 17 nm or less. Thus, since the fluorescence FWHM can be made narrow in this embodiment, the color gamut can be improved.

In this embodiment, as described below, for the reaction system for synthesizing the quantum dot **1**, copper chalcogenide is synthesized as a precursor, followed by a metal exchange reaction on the precursor. When the quantum dot **1** is produced based on such an indirect synthetic reaction, the fluorescence FWHM can be made narrower; specifically, a fluorescence FWHM of 25 nm or less can be achieved.

Many organic ligands **2** are preferably placed on the surface of the quantum dot **1**. This can inhibit aggregation of quantum dots **1**, resulting in the target optical properties. The ligands available for the reaction are not particularly limited; for example, the following ligands can be given as typical examples.

Aliphatic primary amines: oleylamine: $C_{18}H_{35}NH_2$, stearyl(octadecyl)amine: $C_{18}H_{37}NH_2$, dodecyl(lauryl) amine: $C_{12}H_{25}NH_2$, decylamine: $C_{10}H_{21}NH_2$, octylamine: $C_8H_{17}NH_2$

Aliphatic acids: oleic acid: $C_{17}H_{33}COOH$, stearic acid: $C_{17}H_{35}COOH$, palmitic acid: $C_{15}H_{31}COOH$, myristic acid: $C_{13}H_{27}COOH$, lauric (dodecanoic) acid: $C_{11}H_{23}COOH$, decanoic acid: $C_9H_{19}COOH$, octanoic acid: $C_7H_{15}COOH$

Thiols: octadecanethiol: $C_{18}H_{37}SH$, hexadecanethiol: $C_{16}H_{33}SH$, tetradecanethiol: $C_{14}H_{29}SH$, dodecanethiol: $C_{12}H_{25}SH$, decanethiol: $C_{10}H_{21}SH$, octanethiol: $C_8H_{17}SH$

Phosphines: trioctylphosphine: $(C_8H_{17})_3P$, triphenylphosphine: $(C_6H_5)_3P$, tributylphosphine: $(C_4H_9)_3P$

Phosphine oxides: trioctylphosphine oxide: $(C_8H_{17})_3P=O$, triphenylphosphine oxide: $(C_6H_5)_3P=O$, tributylphosphine oxide: $(C_4H_9)_3P=O$

The fluorescence quantum yield of the quantum dot **1** in this embodiment is 10% or more. Further, the fluorescence quantum yield is preferably 30% or more, more preferably 50% or more. Thus, in this embodiment, the fluorescence quantum yield of the quantum dot can be increased.

In this embodiment, the fluorescence wavelength can be freely controlled to around 410 nm or more and 470 nm or less. The quantum dot **1** in this embodiment is a ZnSe-based solid solution using a chalcogen in addition to zinc. In this embodiment, the particle size of the quantum dot **1** and the composition of the quantum dot **1** can be adjusted to control the fluorescence wavelength. Accordingly, the fluorescence wavelength is preferably 410 nm or more, more preferably 430 nm or more. Further, the fluorescence wavelength is preferably 440 nm or more, more preferably 470 nm or less, even more preferably 460 nm or less.

Note that, in this embodiment, the fluorescence wavelength can be controlled to blue.

The quantum dot **1** depicted in FIG. 1B has a core-shell structure having a core **1a** and a shell **1b** covering the surface of the core **1a**. As shown in FIG. 1B, many organic ligands **2** are preferably placed on the surface of the quantum dot **1**. Further, the fluorescence FWHM of the quantum dot **1** shown in FIG. 1B is 25 nm or less.

The core **1a** of the quantum dot **1** shown in FIG. 1B is the nanocrystal shown in FIG. 1A. Accordingly, the core **1a** is preferably formed of ZnSe or ZnSeS. As with the core **1a**, the shell **1b** does not contain cadmium (Cd) either. The material for forming the shell **1b** may be, but not limited to, for example, zinc sulfide (ZnS) or the like.

The shell **1b** may be in a condition of being a solid solution on the surface of the core **1a**. In FIG. 1B, the boundary between the core **1a** and the shell **1b** is indicated by a dotted line, and this means that the boundary between the core **1a** and the shell **1b** may or may not be identified by an analysis. In this embodiment, fluorescence is caused also by a ZnSe core alone.

As with FIG. 1A, the fluorescence wavelength of the quantum dot **1** shown in FIG. 1B can also be freely controlled to around 410 nm or more and 470 nm or less. Further, in this embodiment, the fluorescence wavelength can be adjusted to blue.

Subsequently, a method of producing the quantum dot **1** of this embodiment will be described.

First, in this embodiment, copper chalcogenide (precursor) is synthesized from an organic copper compound or an inorganic copper compound and an organic chalcogen compound. Specifically, the precursor is preferably copper selenide: Cu_2Se or copper selenide sulfide: Cu_2SeS .

Here, in this embodiment, a raw material for Cu used for Cu_2Se may be, but not limited to, for example, one of the following organic copper reagents and inorganic copper reagents. Specifically, for example, copper(I) acetate: $Cu(OAc)$ or copper(II) acetate: $Cu(OAc)_2$ can be used as an acetate; copper stearate: $Cu(OC(=O)C_{17}H_{35})_2$, copper oleate: $Cu(OC(=O)C_{17}H_{33})_2$, copper myristate: $Cu(OC(=O)C_{13}H_{27})_2$, copper didodecanoate: $Cu(OC(=O)C_{11}H_{23})_2$, or copper acetylacetonate: $Cu(acac)_2$ can be used as an aliphatic acid salt; and either a monovalent compound or a divalent compound, for example, copper(I) chloride: $CuCl$, copper(II) chloride: $CuCl_2$, copper(I) bromide: $CuBr$, copper(II) bromide: $CuBr_2$, copper(I) iodide: CuI , or copper(II) iodide: CuI_2 can be used as a halide.

In this embodiment, for selenium, an organic selenium compound (organic chalcogenide) is used as a raw material. The structure of the compound is not particularly limited, and for example, trioctylphosphine selenide: $(C_8H_{17})_3P=Se$ in which selenium is dissolved in trioctylphosphine, tributylphosphine selenide: $(C_4H_9)_3P=Se$ in which selenium is dissolved in tributylphosphine, or the like can be used. Alternatively, a solution in which selenium is dissolved in a high-boiling solvent that is a long-chain hydrocarbon such as octadecene (Se-ODE) at a high temperature, a solution in which selenium is dissolved in a mixture of oleylamine and dodecanethiol (Se-DDT/OLAm), etc. can be used.

In this embodiment, an organic copper compound or an inorganic copper compound is mixed with an organic chalcogen compound to be dissolved. For a solvent, octadecene can be used as high-boiling saturated hydrocarbon or unsaturated saturated hydrocarbon. Other than the above, *t*-butylbenzene can be used as a high-boiling aromatic solvent, and butyl butyrate: $C_4H_9COOC_4H_9$, benzyl butyrate: $C_6H_5CH_2COOC_4H_9$, etc. can be used as a high-boiling ester solvent; alternatively, an aliphatic amine compound, an aliphatic acid compound, or an aliphatic phosphorus compound, or a mixture of them may be used as a solvent.

Here, copper chalcogenide (precursor) is synthesized with the reaction temperature being set to 140° C. or more and 250° C. or less. The reaction temperature is preferably as

lower as 140° C. or more and 220° C. or less, more preferably even as lower as 140° C. or more and 200° C. or less.

Further, in this embodiment, the reaction process is not particularly limited; however, in order to obtain quantum dots with a narrow FWHM, it is important to synthesize Cu₂Se or Cu₂SeS of similar particle sizes.

Further, in this embodiment, in order to obtain ZnSe of a narrower FWHM as a core, it is important to mix sulfur (S) as a solid solution in the core. Therefore, it is preferred to add thiol in synthesizing Cu₂Se that is a precursor, and in order to obtain quantum dots with a narrower FWHM, Se-DDT/OLAm is more preferably used as a raw material for Se. Thiols include, but not limited to, for example, octadecanethiol: C₁₈H₃₇SH, hexadecanethiol: C₁₆H₃₃SH, tetradecanethiol: C₁₄H₂₉SH, dodecanethiol: C₁₂H₂₅SH, decanethiol: C₁₀H₂₁SH, and octanethiol: C₈H₁₇SH.

Next, as a raw material for ZnSe or ZnSeS, an organic zinc compound or an inorganic zinc compound is prepared. Organic zinc compounds and inorganic zinc compounds are materials that are stable and easy to handle even in air. The structure of the organic zinc compound or inorganic zinc compound is not limited; however, a highly ionic zinc compound is preferably used to efficiently perform a metal exchange reaction. For example, the following organic zinc compounds and inorganic zinc compounds can be used. Specifically, for example, zinc acetate: Zn(OAc)₂ or nitric acid zinc: Zn(NO₃)₂ can be used as an acetate; zinc stearate: Zn(OC(=O)C₁₇H₃₅)₂, zinc oleate: Zn(OC(=O)C₁₇H₃₃)₂, zinc palmitate: Zn(OC(=O)C₁₅H₃₁)₂, zinc myristate: Zn(OC(=O)C₁₃H₂₇)₂, zinc dodecanoate: Zn(OC(=O)C₁₁H₂₃)₂, or zinc acetylacetonate: Zn(acac)₂ can be used as an aliphatic acid salt; zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, zinc bromide: ZnBr₂, or zinc iodide: ZnI₂ can be used as a halide; and zinc diethyldithiocarbamate: Zn(SC(=S)N(C₂H₅)₂)₂, zinc dimethyldithiocarbamate: Zn(SC(=S)N(CH₃)₂)₂, or zinc dibutyldithiocarbamate: Zn(SC(=S)N(C₄H₉)₂)₂ can be used as a zinc carbamate.

Subsequently, the above organic zinc compound or inorganic zinc compound is added to a reaction solution in which the precursor of copper chalcogenide is synthesized. This results in a metal exchange reaction between copper (Cu) in copper chalcogenide and zinc (Zn). The metal exchange reaction is preferably made to occur at 180° C. or more and 280° C. or less. The metal exchange reaction is more preferably made to occur at a lower temperature of 180° C. or more and 250° C. or less.

In this embodiment, it is preferred that the metal exchange between Cu and Zn proceeds quantitatively and Cu that is a precursor is not contained in nanocrystals. If Cu that is a precursor remains, Cu acts as a dopant, and light emission is caused by a different mechanism and the FWHM is wider. The amount of Cu left is preferably 100 ppm or less, more preferably 50 ppm or less, and ideally 10 ppm or less.

Further, in this embodiment, when the metal exchange is performed, a compound that serves to help isolate the metal of the precursor in the reaction solution by coordination, chelation, etc. is required.

Compounds playing the above role include ligands which can be complexed with Cu. For example, phosphorus-based ligands, amine-based ligands, sulfur-based ligands are preferred; in particular, phosphorus-based ligands are preferred more because of its high efficiency.

Thus, metal exchange of Cu and Zn can be appropriately performed, and quantum dots having a narrow fluorescence FWHM based on Zn and Se can be produced.

In this embodiment, copper chalcogenide is synthesized as the precursor from an organic copper compound or an inorganic copper compound and an organic chalcogen compound, and metal exchange is performed using the precursor to synthesize quantum dots. Thus, in this embodiment, first, quantum dots are synthesized after the synthesis of the precursor; namely, direct synthesis is not performed. Such indirect synthesis renders it unnecessary to use reagents that are excessively reactive and so dangerous to handle, and ZnSe-based quantum dots having a narrow FWHM can be safely and stably synthesized.

Further, in this embodiment, desired quantum dots can be obtained by subjecting Cu—Zn to metal exchange by one-pot synthesis without isolating and purifying the precursor. Alternatively, the precursor copper chalcogenide may be used after being isolated and purified.

Further, in this embodiment, even if processes such as cleaning, isolation/purification, coating, and ligand exchange are not performed, the synthesized quantum dots exhibit fluorescent properties.

However, as shown in FIG. 1B, the core 1a made of a nanocrystal such as of ZnSe or ZnSeS is coated by the shell 1b, thereby further increasing the fluorescence quantum yield.

Further, in this embodiment, the core/shell structure can be synthesized in the stage of the precursor. For example, when zinc sulfide (ZnS) is used for the shell structure, copper chalcogenide of the precursor is Cu₂Se/Cu₂S. This is synthesized by continuously adding the raw material for S in one reaction vessel, followed by metal exchange of Cu—Zn, thereby obtaining ZnSe/ZnS.

Further, in this embodiment, typical raw materials for S used in the shell structure include, but not limited to, the following materials.

Thiols: octadecanethiol: C₁₈H₃₇SH, hexadecanethiol: C₁₆H₃₃SH, tetradecanethiol: C₁₄H₂₉SH, dodecanethiol: C₁₂H₂₅SH, decanethiol: C₁₀H₂₁SH, octanethiol: C₈H₁₇SH, benzenethiol: C₆H₅SH, or a solution in which sulfur is dissolved in a high-boiling solvent that is a long-chain hydrocarbon such as octadecene(S-ODE) or a solution in which selenium is dissolved in a mixture of oleylamine and dodecanethiol (S-DDT/OLAm); etc. can be used.

The uses of the quantum dot 1 shown in FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B are not particularly limited; for example, the quantum dot 1 exhibiting blue fluorescence in this embodiment can be applied to a wavelength converting member, a lighting member, a back light unit, a display device, etc.

When the quantum dot 1 in this embodiment is applied to part of a wavelength converting member, a lighting member, a back light unit, and a display device and for example, photoluminescence (PL) is used for light emission; blue fluorescence can be induced by UV radiation from a light source. Alternatively, when electroluminescence (EL) is used for the emission, or for example when light emission of all three primary colors is achieved by other methods, a light-emitting device giving blue fluorescence using the quantum dot 1 of this embodiment can be obtained. In this embodiment, a light-emitting device (full color LED) including the quantum dots 1 exhibiting blue fluorescence in this embodiment in addition to quantum dots exhibiting green fluorescence and quantum dots exhibiting red fluorescence is obtained, thus white color emission can be achieved.

A wavelength converting member is formed as a sheet or a film, or formed from a molding. For example, a molding of resin in which quantum dots are dispersed is fitted in a container having a receiving space by press fitting etc. Here,

the refractive index of the molding is preferably smaller than the refractive index of the container. Thus, part of light incident on the molding is totally reflected by an inner wall of the container. This can reduce light beams leaking out from the sides of the container. When the quantum dot having a narrow fluorescence FWHM in this embodiment is applied to a wavelength converting member, a lighting member, a back light unit, a display device, etc., the light emission properties of the device can be effectively improved.

EXAMPLES

The effects of the present invention will be described using Examples and Comparative Examples. Note that the present invention is not limited to the following examples in any way.

Raw Materials

In the present invention, the following raw materials were used to synthesize quantum dots free of cadmium.

Solvent

Octadecene: product of Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC/Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd

Oleylamine: FARMIN produced by Kao Corporation

Oleic acid: LUNAC O-V produced by Kao Corporation

Trioctylphosphine: product of HOKKO CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO., LTD.

Zinc chloride: product of Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC/KISHIDA CHEMICAL Co., Ltd.

Zinc iodide: product of Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC

Zinc acetate dihydrate: product of IKOMA chemical products Co. Ltd.

Anhydrous zinc acetate: product of Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC

Selenium (4N: 99.99%): product of Shinko Chemical Co., Ltd./Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC

Sulfur: product of KISHIDA CHEMICAL Co., Ltd.

Measurement System

Spectrofluorometer: F-2700 produced by Hitachi High-Tech Science Corporation

Ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer: V-770 produced by JASCO Corporation

Quantum yield measurement system: QE-1100 produced by Otsuka Electronics Co., Ltd.

X-ray diffraction (XRD) system: D2 PHASER produced by Bruker Corporation

Scanning electron microscope (SEM): SU9000 produced by Hitachi High-Tech Science Corporation

Example 1

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 131 mg of copper acetylacetonate: $\text{Cu}(\text{acac})_2$, 1.5 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 4.75 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 6.25 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 1.75 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.3M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{Cu}_2\text{Se}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the Cu_2Se reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the $\text{Cu}_2\text{Se}(\text{S})$ -ODE solution, 682 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 10 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.4 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To 14 mL of the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ -ODE solution, 682 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 5 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.5 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 280° C. for 120 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 2, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 446.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 16.6 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 30.6%.

Further, ethanol was added to the resultant reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. Toluene was then added to disperse the precipitate, thereby obtaining a dispersion solution in which $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ particles were dispersed.

Example 2

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 36.3 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$, 0.3 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 0.4 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.5M), and 10 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{Cu}_2\text{Se}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

After that, 273 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 3 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.1 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added to the solution, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 230° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 3, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 445.5 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 23.0 nm were obtained as optical properties.

Example 3

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 131 mg of copper acetylacetonate: $\text{Cu}(\text{acac})_2$, 1.5 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 4.75 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 6.25 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 1 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.5M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 200° C. for 10 minutes.

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To this solution, 1 mL of a S-DDT/OLAm solution (0.2M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 200° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (Cu₂SeS) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the Cu₂SeS reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. TOP was added to disperse the precipitate.

After that, 682 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂ and 0.4 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added to the Cu₂SeS-ODE solution, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 230° C. for 60 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSeS) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 4, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 454.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 19.7 nm were obtained as optical properties.

Example 4

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 1.2 mL of a solution of copper oleate in octadecene (0.2M): Cu(OLAc)₂-ODE, 3 mL of a Se-ODE solution, 0.4 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, and 3 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. This solution was heated while stirring at 200° C. for 60 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (Cu₂SeS) was cooled to room temperature.

To this Cu₂SeS reaction solution, 5 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, 1.0 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 940 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂ were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 200° C. for 20 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSeS) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 5, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 434.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 23.5 nm were obtained as optical properties.

Example 5

Into a 300 mL reaction vessel, 543 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: Cu(OAc)₂, 9 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 28.5 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 37.5 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 10.5 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.3M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (Cu₂Se(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the Cu₂Se(S) reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the Cu₂Se(S)-ODE solution, 4092 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, 60 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 2.4 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the ZnSe(S) reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

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To the ZnSe(S)-ODE solution, 4092 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, 30 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 3 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 280° C. for 120 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 15 mL of a S-DDT/OLAm solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the ZnSe(S) reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the ZnSe(S)-ODE solution, 2052 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, 36 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 1.2 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 230° C. for 60 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 6, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 445.5 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 13.3 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 52%.

Example 6

Into a 300 mL reaction vessel, 543 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: Cu(OAc)₂, 9 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 9 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 57 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 10.5 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.3M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (Cu₂Se(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 4092 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, 60 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 2.4 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the ZnSe(S) reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the ZnSe(S)-ODE solution, 6150 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, 30 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 3 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 280° C. for 60 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 15 mL of a S-DDT/OLAm solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 2052 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl₂, 36 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 1.2 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 230° C. for 60 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

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The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 7, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 436.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 15.2 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 66%.

Example 7

Into a 300 mL reaction vessel, 546 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$, 9 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 9 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 57 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 8.4 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.3M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{Cu}_2\text{Se}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the Cu_2Se reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the $\text{Cu}_2\text{Se}(\text{S})$ -ODE solution, 4092 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 60 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 2.4 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ -ODE solution, 4092 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 30 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 3 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 280° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 15 mL of a S-DDT/OLAm solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ -ODE solution, 2052 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 36 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 1.2 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 230° C. for 60 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 8, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 432.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 15.3 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 70%.

Example 8

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 72.6 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$, 0.263 mL of oleylamine: OLAm,

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and 10 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 2 mL of a Se-ODE solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 145° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (Cu_2Se) was cooled to room temperature.

After that, 546 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 5 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.1 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added to the solution, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the ZnSe reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

After that, 546 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 5 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.1 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added to the ZnSe -ODE solution, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 280° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 2 mL of a S-DDT/OLAm solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

After that, 274 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 6 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.2 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added to the solution, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 230° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 9, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 425.5 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 22.1 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 63%.

Example 9

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 182 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$, 3 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT, 9.5 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, and 12.5 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 2 mL of a Se-DDT/OLAm solution (0.5M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of 8 mL of a Se-ODE solution (0.1M), and heating was then performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{Cu}_2\text{Se}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

To this solution, 1364 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 20 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 0.8 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 30 minutes. The resultant reaction solution ($\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$) was cooled to room temperature.

Ethanol was added to the $\text{ZnSe}(\text{S})$ reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

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To the ZnSe(S)-ODE solution, 2050 mg of zinc chloride: ZnCl_2 , 10 mL of trioctylphosphine: TOP, and 1 mL of oleylamine: OLAm were added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 280° C. for 120 minutes. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, as shown in FIG. 10, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 452.5 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 16.2 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 25%.

Example 10

To the reaction solution of Example 6, 0.6 mL of dodecylamine: DDA was added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 5 minutes.

To this solution, 6 mL of a S-ODE solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of 12 mL of a zinc octanoate solution (0.1M), and heating was then performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. A process of heating and stirring the S-ODE solution and the zinc octanoate solution was performed twice in total. This solution was then heated while stirring at 200° C. for 30. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)—ZnS) was cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 436.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 14.7 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 58%.

Example 11

To 100 mL of the reaction solution of Example 6, 1 mL of dodecylamine: DDA was added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 220° C. for 5 minutes.

To this solution, 10 mL of a S-DDT/OLAm solution (0.1M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of 20 mL of a zinc octanoate solution (0.1M), and heating was then performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. A process of heating and stirring the S-ODE solution and the zinc octanoate solution was performed twice in total. This solution was then heated while stirring at 200° C. for 30. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)—ZnS) was then cooled to room temperature.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 436.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 15.1 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 48%.

Example 12-1

Ethanol was added to 10 mL of the reaction solution of Example 5 to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

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To this reaction solution, 0.75 mL of oleylamine: OLAm was added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 320° C. for 3 minutes.

After that, 0.25 mL of a mixed solution of 5 mL of a zinc oleate solution (0.4M) and 0.375 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. This mixed solution was further added, and a process of heating and stirring was performed three times in total. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)—ZnS) was then cooled to room temperature.

Further, ethanol was added to the resultant reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. Hexane was then added to disperse the precipitate, thereby obtaining a dispersion solution in which ZnSe(S)—ZnS particles were dispersed.

The resultant hexane dispersion solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 445.5 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 22.5 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 3%.

Example 12-2

Ethanol was added to 12.5 mL of the reaction solution of Example 6 to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To this reaction solution, 0.75 mL of oleylamine: OLAm was added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 320° C. for 3 minutes.

After that, 0.25 mL of a mixed solution of 5 mL of a zinc oleate solution (0.4M) and 0.375 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. This mixed solution was further added, and a process of heating and stirring was performed three times in total. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)—ZnS) was then cooled to room temperature.

Further, ethanol was added to the resultant reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. Hexane was then added to disperse the precipitate, thereby obtaining a dispersion solution in which ZnSe(S)—ZnS particles were dispersed.

The resultant hexane dispersion solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 431.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 18.0 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 9%.

Example 12-3

Ethanol was added to 10 mL of the reaction solution of Example 7 to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

To this reaction solution, 0.75 mL of oleylamine: OLAm was added, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N_2) atmosphere at 320° C. for 3 minutes.

After that, 0.25 mL of a mixed solution of 5 mL of a zinc oleate solution (0.4M) and 0.375 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. This mixed solution was further added,

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and a process of heating and stirring was performed three times in total. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)—ZnS) was then cooled to room temperature.

Further, ethanol was added to the resultant reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. Hexane was then added to disperse the precipitate, thereby obtaining a dispersion solution in which ZnSe(S)—ZnS particles were dispersed.

The resultant hexane dispersion solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 432.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 21.0 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 23%.

Example 13

Ethanol was added to 10 mL of the reaction solution of Example 7 to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. ODE was added to disperse the precipitate.

This solution was heated while being stirred in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 280° C. for 3 minutes.

After that, 0.25 mL of a mixed solution of 5 mL of a zinc oleate solution (0.4M) and 0.375 mL of dodecanethiol: DDT was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 220° C. for 10 minutes. This mixed solution was further added, and a process of heating and stirring was performed 12 times in total. The resultant reaction solution (ZnSe(S)—ZnS) was then cooled to room temperature.

Further, ethanol was added to the resultant reaction solution to cause precipitation, and centrifugal separation was performed to recover the precipitate. Hexane was then added to disperse the precipitate, thereby obtaining a dispersion solution in which ZnSe(S)—ZnS particles were dispersed.

The resultant hexane dispersion solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 430.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 16.0 nm were obtained as optical properties.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the quantum efficiency measurement system. As a result, the quantum yield was approximately 54%.

Comparative Example 1

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 0.833 mL of zinc oleate: Zn(OLAc)₂-ODE solution (0.4M) and 10 mL of a Se-ODE solution (0.1M) were charged, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 280° C. for 35 minutes.

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The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 459.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 45.2 nm were obtained as optical properties.

Comparative Example 2

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 20 mL of a Se-ODE solution (0.1M) was charged, and heating was performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere at 260° C. for 3 minutes.

To this solution, 1.67 mL of a zinc oleate: Zn(OLAc)₂-ODE solution (0.4M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 240° C. for 30 minutes.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 461.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 65.8 nm were obtained as optical properties.

Example 14

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 183 mg of anhydrous copper acetate: Cu(OAc)₂, 0.66 mL of oleylamine: OLAm, 0.64 mL of octanoic acid, and 8.7 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 2.5 mL of a trioctylphosphine selenide: Se-TOP solution (0.2M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 230° C. for 120 minutes.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 406.5 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 20.8 nm were obtained as optical properties.

Example 15

Into a 100 mL reaction vessel, 141 mg of octanoic acid zinc and 20 mL of octadecene: ODE were charged. Heating was then performed while stirring in an inert gas (N₂) atmosphere, thereby dissolving the raw materials.

To this solution, 0.2 mL of a tributylphosphine selenide: Se-TBP solution (0.2M) was added, and heating was performed while stirring at 280° C. for 30 minutes.

The resultant reaction solution was subjected to a measurement using the spectrofluorometer. Thus, a fluorescence wavelength of approximately 415.0 nm and a fluorescence FWHM of approximately 22.5 nm were obtained as optical properties.

TABLE 1

Example	Raw material for synthesis	Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
1	Cu(acac) ₂	131 mg	220° C.		
	DDT	1.5 mL	10 min		
	OLAm	4.75 mL			
	ODE	6.25 mL			
	Se-DDT/OLAm	1.75 mL	220° C.		
	ZnCl ₂	682 mg			
	TOP	10 mL			
	OLAm	0.4 mL			

TABLE 1-continued

Example	Raw material for synthesis		Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
2	ZnSe-ODE	14 mL		280° C.	446.0	16.6
	ZnCl ₂	682 mg		120 min		
	TOP	5 mL				
	OLAm	0.5 mL				
	Cu(OAc) ₂	36.3 mg	200° C.	230° C.	445.5	23.0
	Se-DDT/OLAm	0.4 mL	10 min	30 min		
	DDT	0.3 mL				
	ODE	10 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	273 mg				
	TOP	3 mL				
3	OLAm	0.1 mL				
	Cu(acac) ₂	131 mg	200° C.	230° C.	454.0	19.7
	DDT	1.5 mL	20 min	60 min		
	OLAm	4.75 mL				
	ODE	6.25 mL				
	Se-DDT/OLAm	1 mL				
	S-DDT/OLAm	1 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	682 mg				
	OLAm	0.4 mL				
	Cu(OLAc) ₂ -ODE	1.2 mL	200° C.	200° C.	434.0	23.49
4	Se-ODE	3 mL	60 min	20 min		
	DDT	0.4 mL				
	ODE	3 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	940 mg				
	TOP	5 mL				
	OLAm	1.0 mL				

TABLE 2

Example	Raw material for synthesis		Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
5	Cu(OLAc) ₂	543 mg	220° C.	220° C.		
	DDT	9 mL	10 min	30 min		
	OLAm	28.5 mL				
	ODE	37.5 mL				
	Se-DDT/OLAm	10.5 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	4092 mg				
	TOP	60 mL				
	OLAm	2.4 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	4092 mg		280° C.		
	TOP	30 mL		120 min		
	OLAm	3 mL				
	S-DDT/OLAm	15 mL		220° C.		
				30 min		
	ZnCl ₂	2052 mg		230° C.	445.5	13.3
	TOP	36 mL		60 min		
	OLAm	1.2 mL				
6	Cu(OLAc) ₂	543 mg	220° C.	220° C.		
	DDT	9 mL	10 min	30 min		
	OLAm	9 mL				
	ODE	57 mL				
	Se-DDT/OLAm	10.5 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	4092 mg				
	TOP	60 mL				
	OLAm	2.4 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	6150 mg		280° C.		
	TOP	30 mL		60 min		
	OLAm	3 mL				
	S-DDT/OLAm	15 mL		220° C.		
				30 min		
	ZnCl ₂	2052 mg		230° C.	436.0	15.2
	TOP	36 mL		60 min		
	OLAm	1.2 mL				

TABLE 3

Example	Raw material for synthesis		Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)		
7	Cu(OLAc) ₂	546 mg	220° C. 10 min	220° C. 30 min	432.0	15.3		
	DDT	9 mL						
	OLAm	9 mL						
	ODE	57 mL						
	Se-DDT/OLAm	8.4 mL						
	ZnCl ₂	4092 mg						
	TOP	60 mL						
	OLAm	2.4 mL						
	ZnCl ₂	4092 mg		280° C. 30 min				
	TOP	30 mL						
	OLAm	3 mL						
	S-DDT/OLAm	15 mL						
	ZnCl ₂	2052 mg		230° C. 60 min				
	TOP	36 mL						
	OLAm	1.2 mL						
8	Cu(OLAc) ₂	72.6 mg	145° C. 30 min	220° C. 30 min	425.5	22.1		
	OLAm	0.263 mL						
	ODE	10 mL						
	Se-DDT/OLAm	2 mL						
	ZnCl ₂	546 mg						
	TOP	5 mL						
	OLAm	0.1 mL						
	ZnCl ₂	546 mg		280° C. 30 min				
	TOP	5 mL						
	OLAm	0.1 mL						
	S-DDT/OLAm	2 mL						
	ZnCl ₂	274 mg		230° C. 60 min				
	TOP	6 mL						
	OLAm	0.2 mL						

TABLE 4

Example	Raw material for synthesis		Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
9	Cu(OLAc) ₂	182 mg	220° C. 20 min	220° C. 30 min	452.5	16.2
	DDT	3 mL				
	OLAm	9.5 mL				
	ODE	12.5 mL				
	Se-DDT/OLAm	2 mL				
	Se-ODE	8 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	1364 mg				
	TOP	20 mL				
	OLAm	0.8 mL				
	ZnCl ₂	2050 mg		280° C. 120 min		
TOP	10 mL					
OLAm	1 mL					
10	Addition to Example 6		220° C. 5 min 220° C. 20 min 200° C. 30 min	436.0	14.7	
	DDA	0.6 mL				
	S-ODE	6 mL				
	Zinc octanoate	12 mL				
	solution					

TABLE 5

Example	Raw material for synthesis		Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
11	Addition to Example 6 (100 mL)			220° C. 5 min	436.0	15.1
	DDA	1 mL				
	S-DDT/OLAm	10 mL				
	Zinc octanoate solution	20 mL				
				20 min		
				200° C. 30 min		

TABLE 5-continued

Example	Raw material for synthesis	Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
12-1	Addition to Example 5 (10 mL)		320° C.		
	OLAm 0.75 mL		3 min		
	Zinc oleate solution 5 mL		220° C.	445.5	22.5
	DDT 0.375 mL		30 min		

TABLE 6

Example	Raw material for synthesis	Cu ₂ Se Synthesis conditions	ZnSe Synthesis conditions	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)
12-2	Addition to Example 6 (12.5 mL)		320° C.		
	OLAm 0.75 mL		3 min		
	Zinc oleate solution 5 mL		220° C.	431.0	18.0
	DDT 0.375 mL		30 min		
12-3	(10 mL)		320° C.		
	Addition to Example 7				
	OLAm 0.75 mL		3 min		
	Zinc oleate solution 5 mL		220° C.	432.0	21.0
	DDT 0.375 mL		30 min		
13	Addition to Example 7 (10 mL)		280° C.		
	Ethanol		3 min		
	Zinc oleate solution 5 mL		220° C.	430.0	16.0
	DDT 0.375 mL		120 min		

TABLE 7

Example	Raw material for synthesis	Synthesis conditions	Fluo- rescence wave- length (nm)	Fluo- rescence FWHM (nm)
14	Cu(OLAc) ₂ 183 mg	230° C.	406.5	20.8
	OLAm 0.66 mL	120 min		
	Octanoic acid 0.64 mL			
	ODE 8.7 mL			
	Se-TOP 2.5 mL			
15	Zinc oleate 141 mg	280° C.		
	Zinc oleate 5 mL	30 min	415.0	22.5
	ODE 20 mL			
	Se-TBP 0.2 mL			

TABLE 8

Example	Fluorescence wavelength (nm)	Fluorescence FWHM (nm)	Quantum yield (%)
1	446.0	16.6	31
2	445.5	23.0	
3	454.0	19.7	
4	434.0	23.5	
5	445.5	13.3	52
6	436.0	15.2	66
7	432.0	15.3	70
8	425.5	22.1	63
9	452.5	16.2	25
10	436.0	14.7	58
11	436.0	15.1	48
12-1	445.5	22.5	3
12-2	431.0	18.0	9
12-3	432.0	21.0	23
13	430.0	16.0	54

As shown in Table 8, in each Example, the fluorescence FWHM was 25 nm or less. Further, it was found that the fluorescence FWHM could be controlled to 20 nm or less, and the fluorescence FWHM could be further controlled to 17 nm or less.

As shown in Table 8, the fluorescence wavelength was found to be possibly adjusted within a range of 410 nm to 470 nm. Moreover, it was found that the fluorescence wavelength could be adjusted within a range of 430 nm to 470 nm, and could further be adjusted within a range of 440 nm to 460 nm.

Further, the dispersion solution of ZnSe particles in Example 1 was subjected to measurements using the scanning electron microscope (SEM) and the X-ray diffraction (XRD) system. FIG. 11 shows the result of the measurement using the scanning electron microscope (SEM), and FIG. 12 shows the result of the measurement using the X-ray diffraction (XRD) system.

The dispersion solution of Cu₂Se particles in Example 1 was subjected to a measurement using the scanning electron microscope (SEM). The result is shown in FIG. 13.

As shown in FIG. 11 and FIG. 13, the ZnSe particles as quantum dots and Cu₂Se as the precursor were found to have been formed to be substantially uniform in particle diameter.

Further, the peak value of the XRD spectrum for ZnSe shown in FIG. 12 proved that a ZnSe solid solution was formed.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

According to the present invention, quantum dots exhibiting blue phosphorescence can be obtained. By applying quantum dots of the present invention to LEDs, back light units, display devices, etc., excellent emission properties can be obtained in those devices.

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This application is based on Japanese patent application No. 2017-198667 filed on Oct. 12, 2017, the content of which is hereby incorporated in its entirety.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of producing a quantum dot comprising: synthesizing copper chalcogenide as a precursor from an organic copper compound or an inorganic copper compound, and an organic chalcogen compound; and synthesizing a quantum dot free of cadmium using the copper chalcogenide precursor, wherein the quantum dot contains zinc and selenium, or zinc and selenium and sulfur, wherein the quantum dot has a core-shell structure containing a nanocrystal core and a shell that covers a surface of the nanocrystal core, wherein ligands are placed on a surface of the quantum dot, and wherein the quantum dot has a fluorescence FWHM of 25 nm or less and has a fluorescence quantum yield of 50% or more.
2. The method of producing a quantum dot according to claim 1, wherein metal exchange between copper and zinc in the precursor made of the copper chalcogenide is performed.
3. The method of producing a quantum dot, according to claim 2, wherein the metal exchange reaction is performed at 180° C. or more and 280° C. or less.

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4. The method of producing a quantum dot according to claim 1, wherein the copper chalcogenide is synthesized at a reaction temperature of 140° C. or more and 250° C. or less.

5. A quantum dot wherein the quantum dot does not contain cadmium, and has a fluorescence quantum yield of 50% or more, wherein a residual amount of Cu is more than 0 ppm and 100 ppm or less, and wherein a fluorescence wavelength of the quantum dot is 410 nm or more and 470 nm or less.

6. The quantum dot according to claim 5, wherein the quantum dot has a fluorescence FWHM of 25 nm or less.

7. The quantum dot according to claim 5, wherein the quantum dot comprises a nanocrystal containing zinc and selenium, or zinc and selenium and sulfur.

8. The quantum dot according to claim 5, wherein the quantum dot includes ligands placed on a surface of the quantum dot.

9. The quantum dot according to claim 8, wherein the ligands are comprised of at least one selected from a phosphorus-based ligand, an amine-based ligand, and a thiol-based ligand.

10. The quantum dot according to claim 5, wherein the quantum dot is produced by synthesizing copper chalcogenide as a precursor from an organic copper compound or an inorganic copper compound, and an organic chalcogen compound, wherein a metal change is performed between copper in the copper chalcogenide and zinc.

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