

WOODHEAD PUBLISHING SERIES IN ELECTRONIC AND OPTICAL MATERIALS



# QUANTUM DOTS: EMERGING MATERIALS FOR VERSATILE APPLICATIONS



Edited by  
N. THEJO KALYANI  
SANJAY J. DHOBLE  
MARTA MICHALSKA-DOMAŃSKA  
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ABDUL KARIEM AROF

Woodhead Publishing Series in Electronic and  
Optical Materials

# Quantum Dots

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Applications

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# Quantum dots-based solar cells: Futuristic green technology to accomplish the energy crisis

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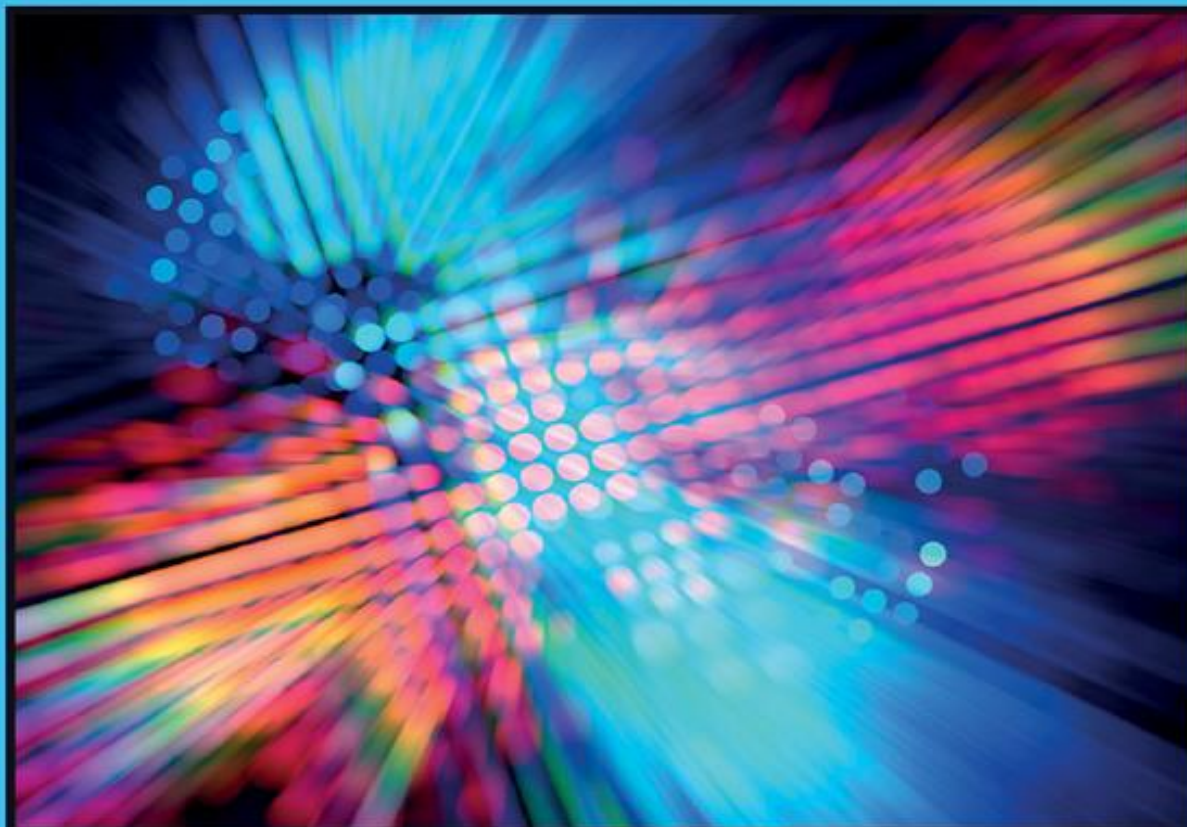
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## 6.1 Introduction

For the past few decades, quantum dots (QDs) have received much attention among the research community due to its interesting physical and chemical properties. QDs are basically fluorescent semiconductor nanoparticles with an average diameter of 2–10 nm. The size of QDs may influence many properties, such as optical, electrical, structural, etc. [1–4]. QDs are also known as artificial atoms because of the presence of same number of electrons and atoms, demonstrating their movement in three dimensions with narrow electronic energy level [5]. QDs offers various interesting features, such as (1) QDs resist to degradation as compared to other materials; this property allows to use in bio-imaging applications [6], (2) QDs are 10–20 times brighter and have longer photo stability in comparison to organic dyes [7], (3) QDs have stable fluorophore because they are made up of inorganic semiconductor materials [8], (4) QDs possess large surface area [9], (5) QDs are feasible for surface modification, which makes them suitable for various applications [10], (6) they can be easily fabricated into variety of shapes, size and coatings with other materials [11], (7) QDs are chemically inert and can encapsulate both hydrophilic and lipophilic surfaces [12], (8) Because of the modification in shell of QDs various changes occur such as charge, size and solubility [13] and (9) QDs have low cost, good stability, good flow ability and narrow size distribution [14]. They exhibit narrow and sharp peak with broad excitation spectra. These advantages make QDs more interesting and widely used in great potential applications, like bio-imaging, sensing, solar cells (SC), forensic, magnetic resonance imaging, etc. [15–19]. Generally, the quantum confinement effect is caused due to the splitting of energy levels in QDs; causing increase in semiconductor band gap with decrease in size of the nanocrystal. Basically, QDs can be categorized into three main types [20]—(1)

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# Quantum dot-based security ink and fluorescent flexible films: Preparation, characterization, and applications to multiple anti-counterfeiting and cell imaging

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## 19.1 Introduction

For the past few decades, counterfeiting of banknotes, goods, fuels, coatings, medicine, and labels has become a global issue, which imbalances the economic condition, human health, and scientific development [1–3]. Hence, the progress of anti-counterfeiting (AC) technology, especially the design and development of high-security AC materials with various colors and complex and multiple authentication technologies, is absolutely needed to combat counterfeiting in various fields [4]. A survey on “anti-counterfeiting” by searching keyword in the scholar Web sites in last two decades revealed a substantial surge, particularly in 2018 and 2019 (Fig. 19.1). The obtained output demonstrated the considerable increase in the necessity of AC materials [5]. Therefore, developing versatile AC technique is highly demanded to prevent forging.

Till date, significant research on AC techniques has been performed to distinguish original and counterfeited products, namely bar codes, QR codes, security inks, simple markers, radio frequency identification, laser holograms, optical watermarks, etc. [6,7]. Among them, only few techniques are quite upright in the present scenario because some of them may soon be out-of-date and/ or can be easily replicated by forgers. In particular, luminescent based AC technology has been paid

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# Fluorescent quantum dots as labeling agents for the effective detection of latent fingerprints on various surfaces

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## 20.1 Introduction

The human fingertip has characteristic complex patterns consisting of raised papillary ridges and depressed furrows [1,2]. The papillary ridge patterns are completely distinguished and differ from one individual to another as well as one finger to another [3]. When finger touches the surface of the substrates, aqueous ectocrines (sweat) and oily substances (sebum) are transferred onto the surfaces, leading to the formation of a fingerprints (FPs) [4,5]. Hence, FPs are considered as most significant evidences for personalization, due to its uniqueness, stability of the ridge features as well as complexity [6,7]. From late 19th century, FPs have become most-established criminal investigation tool for personal identification during crime investigation [8,9].

For many decades, a significant attempt has been performed by the research community, and investigators have developed a unique technique for personal identification. Till date, several methods have been established, namely DNA matching, Bertillion method, facial recognition and FPs (Czarnecki, 1995) [10–13]. Among them, the Bertillion method of anthropometry was mostly used technique for personal identification for about two decades [14]. Furthermore, this method has its own limitations when two individuals with most analogous anthropometrical details were interrogated during investigation and hence FPs comparison led to the identification of real convict [15]. Henceforth, FPs science gained much attractiveness and recognition over the Bertillion method. Since then, FPs have been considered and