

光学学报

二硫化钼量子点的一步水热法制备与光学性能研究

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摘要 二硫化钼量子点(MoS_2 QDs)因具有尺寸可控、量子限域效应强等优异的物化特性,故在传感、荧光检测和光催化等领域中具有潜在的应用价值。以钼酸铵为钼源,以谷胱甘肽为硫源,采用一步水热法合成水溶性好、尺寸均一的 MoS_2 QDs(MoS_2 QDs-1)。为探究不同硫源对 MoS_2 QDs尺寸和光学性能的影响,又以钼酸铵和L-半胱氨酸分别为钼源和硫源,通过相同方法制备 MoS_2 QDs(MoS_2 QDs-2)。研究了 MoS_2 QDs-1和 MoS_2 QDs-2样品的结构和光致发光性能。结果表明,与 MoS_2 QDs-2样品相比, MoS_2 QDs-1样品的平均晶粒尺寸更小(3.88 nm)、平均晶粒高度更低(4.75 nm)、光学带隙更小(3.65 eV)和荧光量子产率更高(10.8%)。

关键词 量子光学; 二硫化钼量子点; 水热法; 光致发光; 光学带隙

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1 引言

二硫化钼(MoS_2)是一种典型的二维过渡金属硫化物,具有类石墨烯结构。层状 MoS_2 由S-Mo-S层堆叠而成,钼原子镶嵌在上下硫层之间,与硫原子通过M—S共价键结合,相邻层间利用弱范德瓦尔斯力连接^[1-3]。块体 MoS_2 为间接带隙半导体,带隙为1.29 eV^[4]。当 MoS_2 尺寸减小到10 nm及以下时,可形成零维 MoS_2 量子点(MoS_2 QDs)。在 MoS_2 QDs中,Mo原子3d轨道的自旋耦合作用使其由间接带隙转变为直接带隙,带隙宽度可通过层数和尺寸进行调控^[5-6], MoS_2 QDs具有高比表面积、大量不饱和键、悬挂键和边缘活性位点。同时, MoS_2 QDs受量子限域效应的影响,表现出强光致发光特性。研究表明,随着层数的减少,垂直于层方向的层间势垒降低,使得电子的跳跃更加容易^[7-8]。因此,控制 MoS_2 QDs的层数可有效提高材料的导电性,更利于析氢催化反应过程中的电荷传递,这使得 MoS_2 QDs在光催化制氢领域中大放异彩。Yu等^[8]研究发现,二硫化钼每增加一层,析氢催化活性就会降低约4.47倍。由于 MoS_2 QDs具有上述优异的性能,故被广泛应用于催化制氢^[7-8]、传感器^[9]、光电探测器^[10]、光伏器件^[11]、高性能电极^[12]和痕量分析^[13]等领域中。此外, MoS_2 QDs具有良好的

生物相容性、弱毒性和强荧光性^[14],在荧光探针^[15]、肿瘤细胞成像^[16]和核糖核酸(RNA)序列检测^[17]中也展现出了巨大的应用潜力。

自2010年Splendiani等^[5]首次通过微波剥离技术制备薄层荧光 MoS_2 QDs以来,多种制备工艺相继被报道。目前关于 MoS_2 QDs的制备方法主要包括锂离子插层法^[18]、液相辅助超声剥离法^[19]、水热法^[15-16, 20]和化学气相沉积法(CVD)^[21]等。其中,水热法具有耗能少、工艺简单、反应条件可控和合成过程绿色环保等优点。张浩翔^[22]采用水热法制备 MoS_2 QDs的研究表明,不同硫源的选择对 MoS_2 QDs的形貌和尺寸具有影响,但还未深入地探究其对结构和光致发光性能的影响。本文采用一步水热法,以钼酸铵作为钼源,分别以谷胱甘肽(还原型)和L-半胱氨酸作为硫源,在200 °C下水热反应24 h制得 MoS_2 QDs,并系统研究了两种不同硫源制得的 MoS_2 QDs的光致发光性能。

2 实验部分

2.1 主要试剂

分析纯谷胱甘肽(还原型)和L-半胱氨酸购于上海麦克林生化科技有限公司。分析纯 $(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 和氨水购于天津市致远化学试剂有限公司。

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2.2 MoS₂ QDs的制备

将0.0468 g (NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O溶于2.5 mL的去离子水中，并用质量分数为10%的氨水将溶液pH值调至6.5。将0.254 g 谷胱甘肽与上述溶液一起加入10 mL离子水中(摩尔比为Mo:S=1:3)，搅拌8 min直至完全溶解。将混合溶液转移到50 mL聚四氟乙烯不锈钢高压反应釜中，密封后置于200 °C烘箱中反应24 h，之后在空气中自然冷却至室温。将反应所得溶液置于砂芯过滤器(滤膜孔径为0.22 μm)中过滤掉颗粒悬浮物，在4 °C、10000 r/min条件下离心15 min后收集溶液上清液^[23]。将该上清液在透析袋(透析袋的截留分子量为10000 u)中透析24 h，收集溶液并储存于4 °C的冷藏柜中，标注为MoS₂ QDs-1。

采用相同的方法，称取0.0983 g 钼酸铵作为钼源，0.200 g L-半胱氨酸作为硫源(摩尔比为Mo:S=1:3)^[16]，制得MoS₂ QDs-2。

2.3 表征方法

采用UitimaTV(CuK α 源)型X射线衍射仪(XRD)分析MoS₂ QDs的结晶状况。采用K-Alpha X型射线光电子能谱仪(XPS)分析MoS₂ QDs的元素价态。采用JEM-2100型透射电子显微镜(TEM)测试样品的晶粒尺寸。采用SPA400型原子力显微镜(AFM)测试晶粒高度。采用FTIR-2000型傅里叶变换红外光谱仪(FT-IR)分析样品结构。采用UV-3600

型紫外分光光度计(UV-vis)和F-4500型荧光光谱仪(PL)测试样品的光学性能。

3 实验结果与讨论

3.1 MoS₂ QDs的X射线衍射谱分析

结晶动力学中的经典成核理论认为MoS₂ QDs的合成主要经历了晶核形成和外延生长两个阶段^[20]。当MoS₂中的小晶面处于原子紧密排列且不饱和约束数目时，其表面能较低，结构稳定。在此基础上，通过调节溶液浓度可有效控制晶粒团聚，并可利用外延生长获得晶粒尺寸均一的MoS₂ QDs。**图1(a)**为2H相(100)晶向的MoS₂晶体结构图。晶胞为六方晶系，S-Mo-S构成单层MoS₂。**图1(b)**为不同样品的XRD谱图，其中2θ为衍射角度。两种MoS₂ QDs均在14.4°、32.9°和33.7°处出现衍射峰，分别对应(002)、(100)和(101)晶面(PDF#37-1492)，其中：(100)晶面的衍射峰最强，表明该特征峰是2H相MoS₂的特征吸收；(002)晶面的衍射峰较弱，说明制备的MoS₂ QDs为少层结构^[24]。58.4°处的衍射峰源于溶液中残留的钼酸铵。此外，其他晶面的衍射峰基本消失，这是因为MoS₂ QDs的小尺寸效应导致其结构高度剥落，缺乏层与层之间的相互作用力，从而大部分晶面消失^[25]。

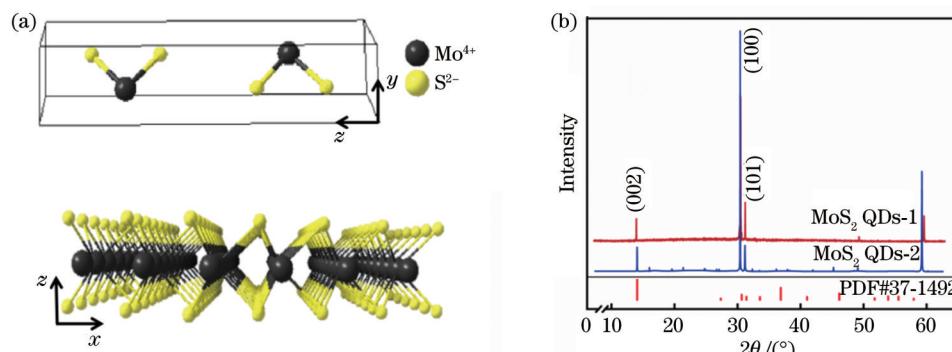


图1 MoS₂的晶体结构示意图与表征。(a) 2H相MoS₂晶体结构和单层MoS₂结构示意图；(b) MoS₂ QDs XRD谱图

Fig. 1 Schematic diagram and characterization of crystal structure of MoS₂. (a) Schematic diagrams of 2H-phase MoS₂ crystal structure and monolayer MoS₂ structure; (b) XRD pattern of MoS₂ QDs

3.2 透射电子显微镜分析

两种MoS₂ QDs的晶粒形貌和尺寸如**图2**所示。**图2(a)、(d)**中不规则片状黑色点为MoS₂ QDs，**图2(a)**中部分MoS₂ QDs(白色圆圈)发生了轻微团聚，两个约40 nm的大尺寸纳米点为透析纯化不彻底而遗留下来的杂质。**图2(c)、(f)**分别为MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2的晶粒尺寸分布统计图。可以发现，MoS₂ QDs-1的平均晶粒尺寸为3.88 nm，MoS₂ QDs-2的平均晶粒尺寸为6.48 nm，这表明MoS₂ QDs-1的平均晶粒尺寸更小。二者的高分辨TEM(HR-TEM)图谱如**图2(b)、(e)**所示。MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2都具有

清晰的晶格条纹，其晶格间距d分别为 2.78×10^{-10} m和 2.15×10^{-10} m，对应于MoS₂ QDs的(100)晶面和(006)晶面，这与XRD的分析结果匹配。插图为对HR-TEM图像进行快速傅里叶变换(FFT)分析后的结果，表明MoS₂ QDs为六方晶型结构。

3.3 原子力显微镜分析

通过AFM测试对MoS₂ QDs的形貌和高度进行了表征，**图3(a)、(d)**中均匀分布的白色凸点为MoS₂ QDs，颜色越亮，表明其厚度越大。选取区域内部部分MoS₂ QDs(白色直线)对其晶粒高度进行分析。如**图3(b)**所示，MoS₂ QDs-1样品的测试高度从左至右分

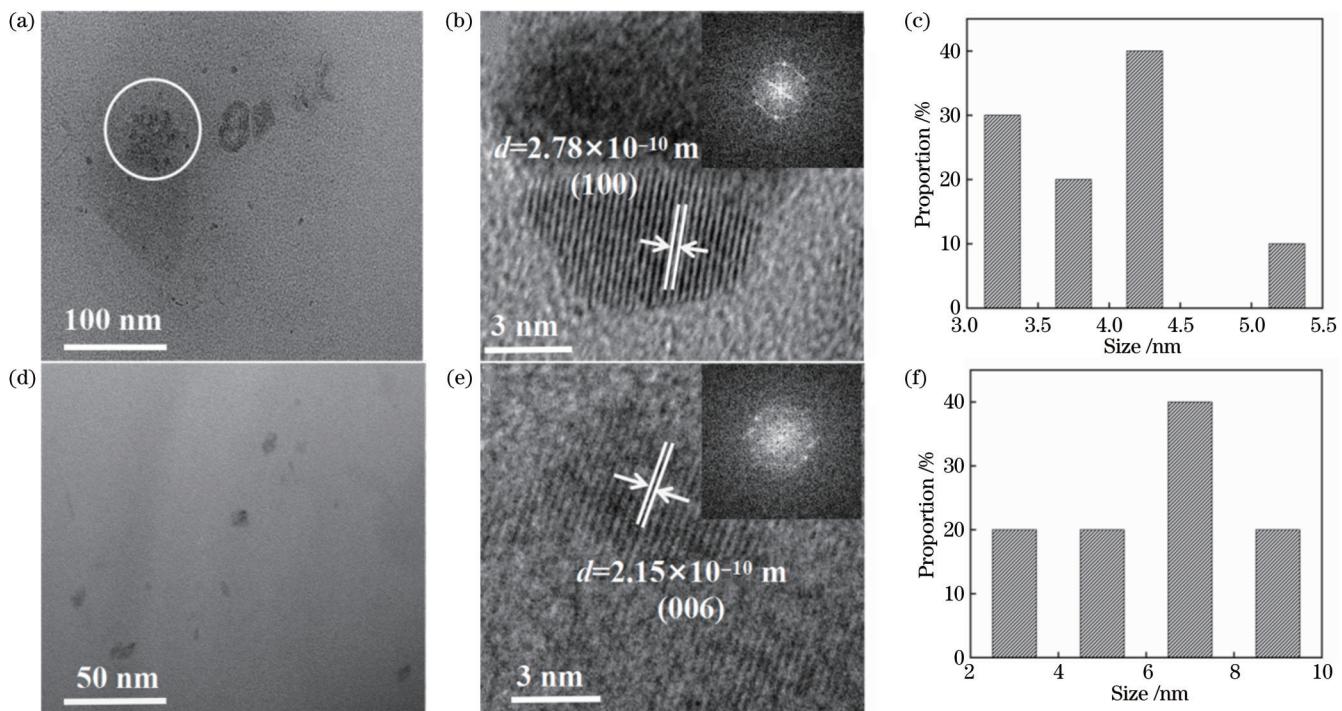


图2 MoS_2 QDs的TEM图、HR-TEM和粒径统计图。(a) MoS_2 QDs-1的TEM图;(b) MoS_2 QDs-1的HR-TEM图;(c) MoS_2 QDs-1的粒径统计图;(d) MoS_2 QDs-2的TEM图;(e) MoS_2 QDs-2的HR-TEM图;(f) MoS_2 QDs-2的粒径统计图

Fig. 2 TEM images, HR-TEM images and particle size statistics of MoS_2 QDs. (a) TEM image of MoS_2 QDs-1; (b) HR-TEM image of MoS_2 QDs-1; (c) particle size statistics of MoS_2 QDs-1; (d) TEM image of MoS_2 QDs-2; (e) HR-TEM image of MoS_2 QDs-2; (f) particle size statistics of MoS_2 QDs-2

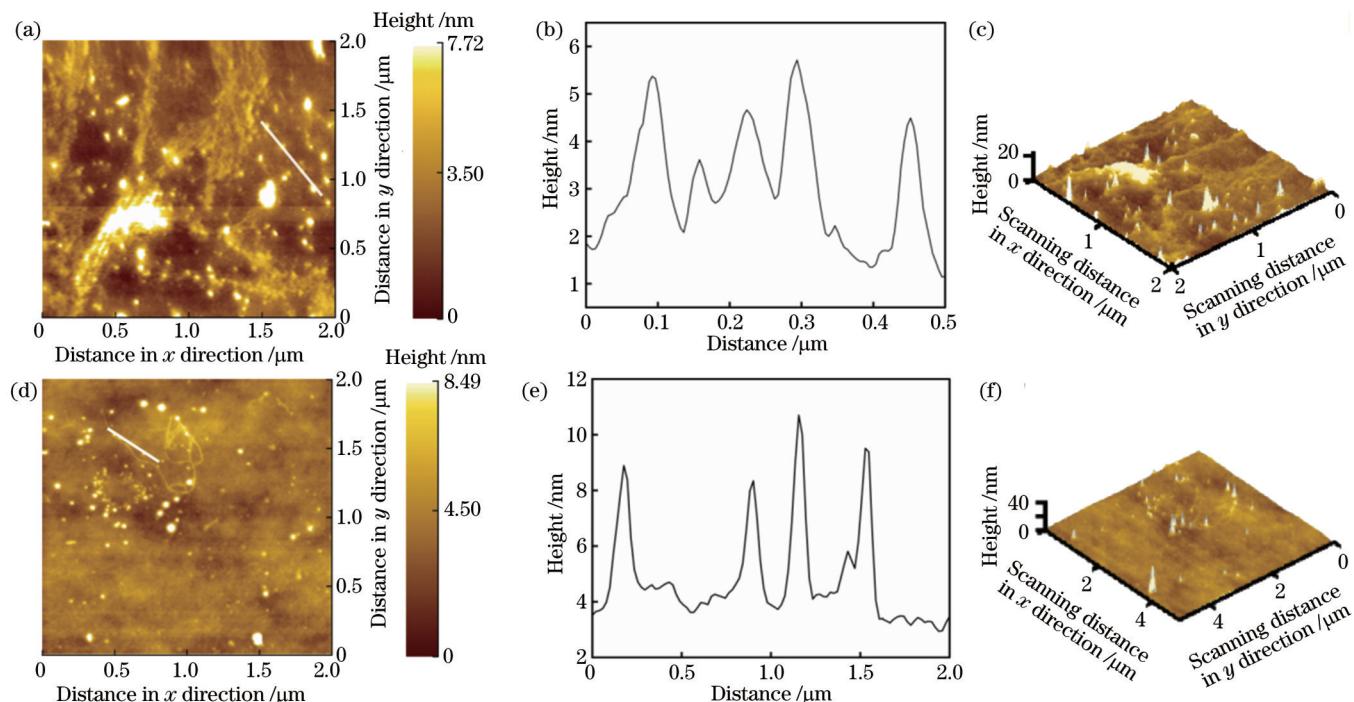


图3 MoS_2 QDs的AFM图、高度分析图和AFM三维图。(a) MoS_2 QDs-1 AFM图;(b) MoS_2 QDs-1高度分析图;(c) MoS_2 QDs-1 AFM三维图;(d) MoS_2 QDs-2 AFM图;(e) MoS_2 QDs-2高度分析图;(f) MoS_2 QDs-2 AFM三维图

Fig. 3 AFM images, height analysis images and AFM three-dimensional images of MoS_2 QDs. (a) AFM image of MoS_2 QDs-1; (b) height analysis image of MoS_2 QDs-1; (c) AFM three-dimensional image of MoS_2 QDs-1; (d) AFM image of MoS_2 QDs-2; (e) height analysis image of MoS_2 QDs-2; (f) AFM three-dimensional image of MoS_2 QDs-2

别为5.36、3.62、4.64、5.67、4.45 nm,平均晶粒高度为4.75 nm。单层MoS₂厚度约为0.7 nm^[26],表明制备获得的MoS₂ QDs-1为少层结构(约为6层)。MoS₂ QDs-2样品的测试高度从左至右分别为9.0、8.0、10.4、9.2 nm,平均晶粒高度为9.15 nm,计算得到MoS₂ QDs-2约为13层,如图3(e)所示。对比可知,采用谷胱甘肽作为硫源(MoS₂ QDs-1)的样品可以获得层数更少的MoS₂ QDs。

3.4 傅里叶变换红外光谱和X射线光电子能谱分析

利用FT-IR和XPS测试进一步研究了两种MoS₂ QDs的表面化学成分和元素价态分布。由图4(a)可知:位于3375、2069、1647 cm⁻¹处的峰分别对应于N—H、S—H和C=O的伸缩振动峰^[27];665 cm⁻¹处的峰对应于MoS₂的特征吸收峰^[20]。这些结果表明了MoS₂

QDs的存在,并且MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2的表面均含有N—H、C=O和S—H等基团。图4(b)所示的MoS₂ QDs的XPS全谱图中MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2均出现了Mo 3d轨道和S 2p轨道的特征峰,C 1s、N 1s和O 1s轨道峰可能是由未纯化彻底残留下的谷胱甘肽造成的。在图4(c)所示的Mo 3d分谱中,Mo 3d轨道自旋裂分成了三个轨道峰,分别在结合能227.63 eV、230.0 eV和232.84 eV处,分别对应于MoS₂的Mo 3d_{5/2}、MoO₂的Mo 3d和MoS₂的Mo 3d_{3/2}。在图4(d)所示的高分辨率S 2p分谱中,在结合能163.31 eV和164.52 eV处出现了两个轨道峰,分别对应于MoS₂的S 2p_{3/2}和S 2p_{1/2}。此外,在168.22 eV和169.34 eV处出现的轨道峰是由反应过程中表面S—H化学键发生了轻微氧化^[12, 23]造成的。

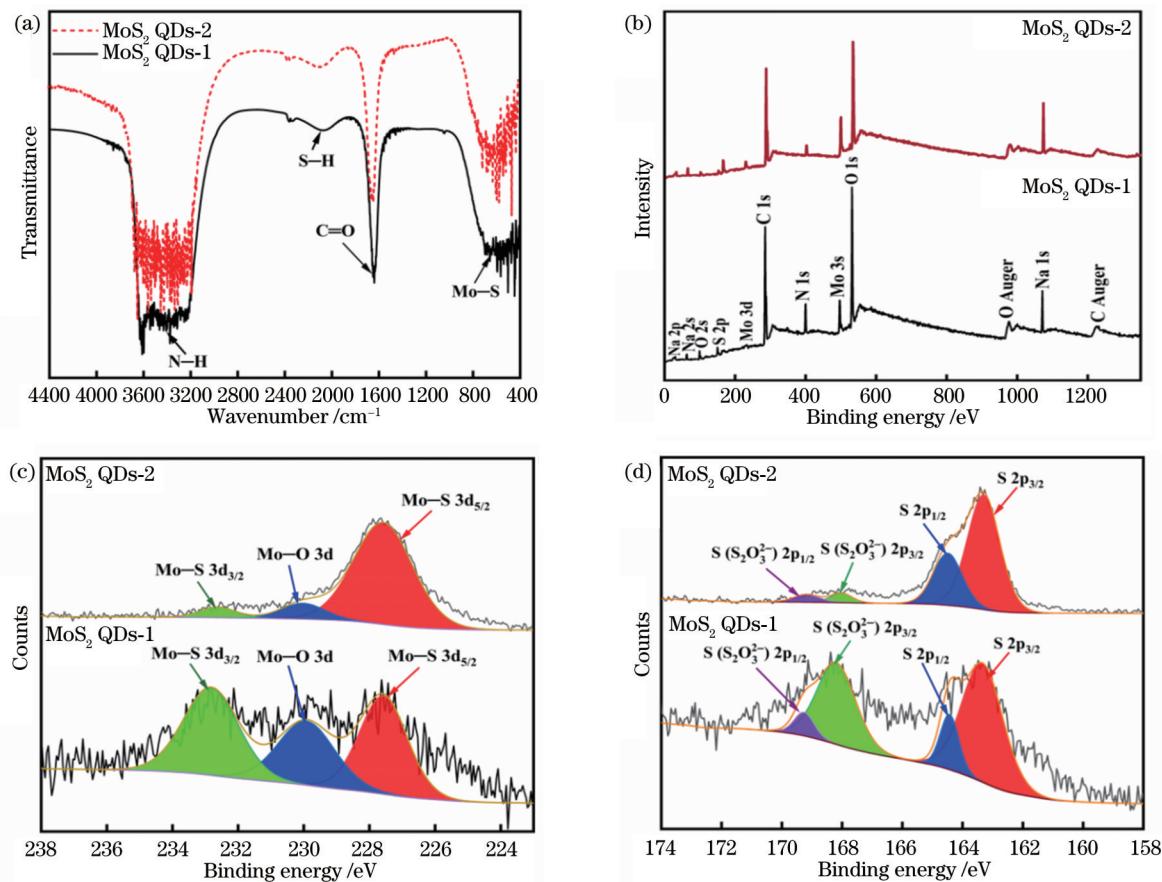


图4 MoS₂ QDs的FT-IR图和XPS谱图。(a) MoS₂ QDs FT-IR图;(b) MoS₂ QDs XPS全谱图;(c) MoS₂ QDs XPS Mo 3d分谱图;(d) MoS₂ QDs XPS S 2p分谱图

Fig. 4 FT-IR images and XPS spectra of MoS₂ QDs. (a) FT-IR image of MoS₂ QDs; (b) full spectrum of MoS₂ QDs XPS; (c) Mo 3d spectrum of MoS₂ QDs XPS; (d) S 2p spectrum of MoS₂ QDs XPS

3.5 紫外-可见吸收光谱分析

图5(a)、(b)分别为MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2在200~800 nm波长范围下的紫外-可见吸收光谱。MoS₂ QDs-2样品在230、309 nm处出现了两个肩峰,而MoS₂ QDs-1样品在209、230、306 nm处出现了三个肩峰,这些峰均为MoS₂ QDs的特征激子峰,表明MoS₂ QDs在紫外波段中有较强吸收,与文献报道一

致^[28-29]。图5(a)、(b)中的插图为吸收能量的平方与E的关系图,其中 α 是吸光度,E是光子能量。MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2样品的带隙 E_g 分别为3.65 eV和3.67 eV,相比于间接带隙的块状MoS₂($E_g=1.2$ eV)和直接带隙的单层MoS₂($E_g=1.9$ eV)^[30],MoS₂ QDs的带隙明显变大。由图5(c)、(d)可知:MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2样品在激发波长

$\lambda_{\text{ex}}=310 \text{ nm}$ 时均存在荧光发射峰(虚线);MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2分别在 $\lambda_{\text{em}}=430 \text{ nm}$ 和 $\lambda_{\text{em}}=420 \text{ nm}$ 处

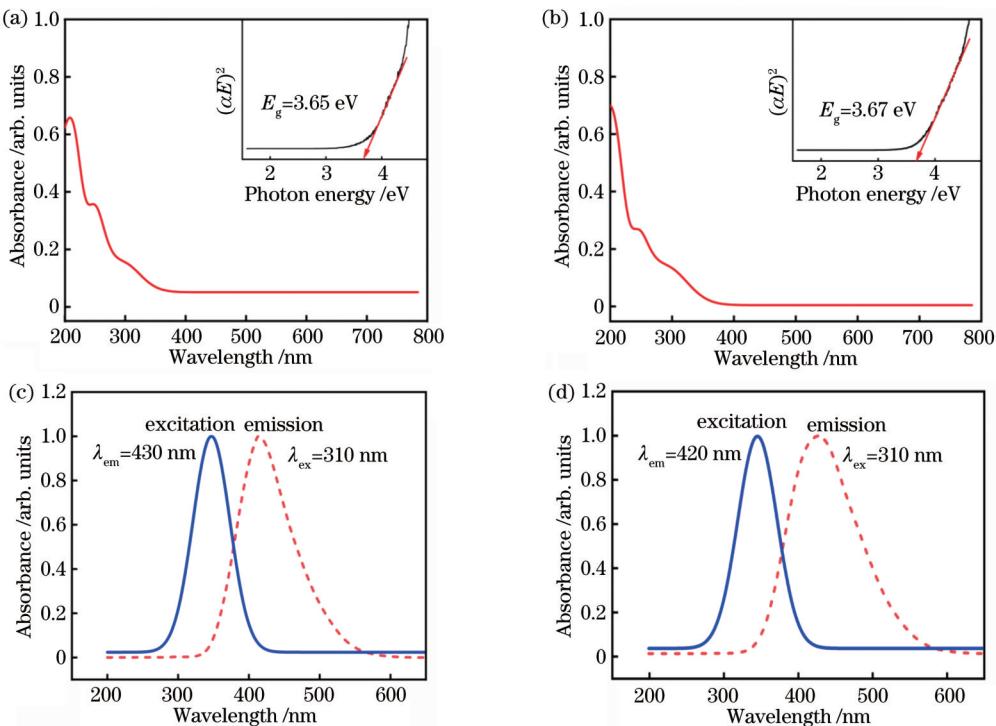


图5 MoS₂ QDs的UV-vis吸收光谱和荧光激发与发射光谱图。(a) MoS₂ QDs-1的UV-vis吸收光谱;(b) MoS₂ QDs-2的UV-vis吸收光谱;(c) MoS₂ QDs-1荧光激发与发射光谱图;(d) MoS₂ QDs-2荧光激发与发射光谱图

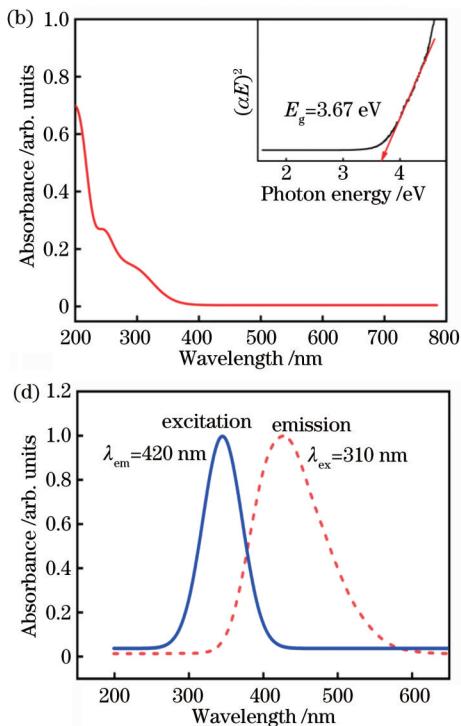
Fig. 5 UV-vis absorption spectra and fluorescence excitation and emission spectra of MoS₂ QDs. (a) UV-vis absorption spectrum of MoS₂ QDs-1; (b) UV-vis absorption spectrum of MoS₂ QDs-2; (c) fluorescence excitation and emission spectra of MoS₂ QDs-1; (d) fluorescence excitation and emission spectra of MoS₂ QDs-2

3.6 荧光发射光谱分析

图6(a)、(b)分别为MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2的三维PL谱图。可以发现,所有样品均表现出强的光致发光效应。对于MoS₂ QDs-1样品:当激发波长从270 nm增至360 nm时,其发光强度呈现先增大后减小的趋势;当发射峰在424~480 nm范围内时,出现明显红移现象(能量范围为2.92~2.58 eV,等高线所在位置);310 nm激发时发光强度最高,对应的发射峰位置为430 nm。在相同波长激发下,MoS₂ QDs-2样品表现出相似的规律。这种发射峰红移的现象,可能源于MoS₂ QDs布里渊区中K点的热荧光性质和多分散性^[31],或者在荧光激发过程中MoS₂ QDs本身发生了一些变化,如团聚现象。图6(c)、(d)分别为MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2的1931 CIE图,最强发射域分别在(0.16,0.15)和(0.16,0.16)。1→4反映了MoS₂ QDs发光颜色随激发波长的变化规律(270~360 nm,步长为30 nm),表明MoS₂ QDs具有光致多色发光的特性,这在显示、照明和信息储存等发光器件中具有潜在的应用价值。

MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2的荧光量子产率(Φ)的公式^[16, 32]为

存在激发峰。



$$\Phi = \Phi_R \cdot \frac{I}{I_R} \cdot \frac{A_R}{A} \cdot \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta_R} \right)^2, \quad (1)$$

式中: Φ 为待测物质MoS₂ QDs的荧光量子产率; Φ_R 为参比物质硫酸奎宁(QS)的荧光量子产率(溶于物质的量浓度为0.1 mol/L的H₂SO₄中, $\Phi_R=0.54$); I 为MoS₂ QDs的荧光发射光谱积分强度; I_R 为QS的荧光发射光谱积分强度; A 为MoS₂ QDs的吸光度值; A_R 为QS的吸光度值; η 为MoS₂ QDs的折射率; η_R 为QS的折射率,其值为1.33。

通过计算可得,MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2的荧光量子产率分别为10.8%和7.2%,表明MoS₂ QDs-1具有更高的荧光量子产率。MoS₂ QDs-1荧光量子产率更高可能是受到了尺寸和层数的影响。

4 结 论

以钼酸铵为钼源,以谷胱甘肽和L-半胱氨酸分别为硫源,通过一步水热法成功获得了分散均匀的MoS₂ QDs-1和MoS₂ QDs-2样品。采用XRD、TEM、XPS和PL等对样品的结构和光学性能进行表征。结果表明,MoS₂ QDs-1样品相比于MoS₂ QDs-2样品具有更小的平均尺寸(3.88 nm)、更低的平均高度

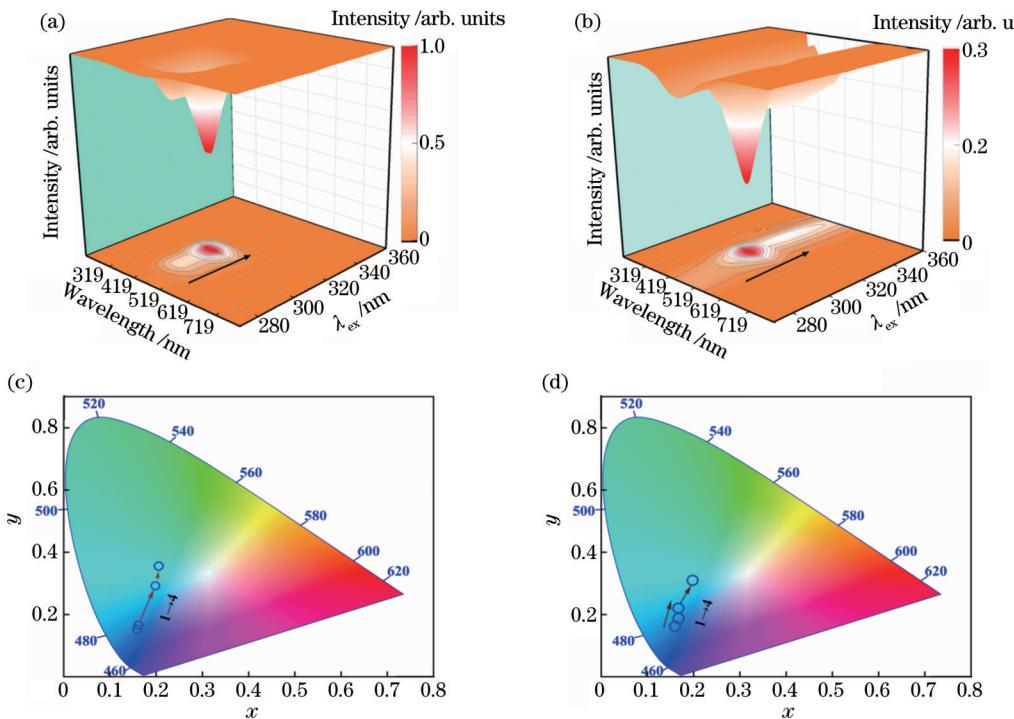


图6 MoS₂ QDs的PL谱和1931 CIE图。(a) MoS₂ QDs-1在不同激发波长下的发射三维PL谱图;(b) MoS₂ QDs-2在不同激发波长下的发射三维PL谱图;(c) MoS₂ QDs-1在270~360 nm激发下的1931 CIE图;(d) MoS₂ QDs-2在270~360 nm激发下的1931 CIE图

Fig. 6 PL spectra and 1931 CIE images of MoS₂ QDs. (a) Three-dimensional PL spectra of MoS₂ QDs-1 at different excitation wavelengths; (b) three-dimensional PL spectra of MoS₂ QDs-2 at different excitation wavelengths; (c) 1931 CIE image of MoS₂ QDs-1 under excitation wavelengths of 270–360 nm; (d) 1931 CIE image of MoS₂ QDs-2 under excitation wavelengths of 270–360 nm

(4.75 nm)、更小的光学带隙(3.65 eV)和更高的荧光量子产率(10.8%)。因此,在本实验条件下,MoS₂ QDs-1样品的结构和光学性能更佳。谷胱甘肽(C₁₀H₁₇N₃O₆S)的碳链比L-半胱氨酸(C₃H₇NO₂S)的碳链长,故巯基更容易析出,有利于纳米晶的成核。谷胱甘肽除了可以提供硫源外,还可作为表面活性剂,抑制晶核的生长。因此,与L-半胱氨酸相比,谷胱甘肽作为硫源更易获得平均尺寸更小和平均高度更低的MoS₂ QDs,而MoS₂ QDs的光学特性和光致发光性能会受到其尺寸和层数的影响,其中MoS₂ QDs-1的平均尺寸小、层数少,故拥有更小的光学带隙和更高的荧光量子产率。

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Study on One-Step Hydrothermal Preparation and Optical Properties of Molybdenum Disulfide Quantum Dots

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Abstract

Objective Molybdenum disulfide quantum dots (MoS₂ QDs) have potential applications in the fields of sensing, fluorescence detection, and photocatalysis due to their excellent physicochemical properties such as controllable size and strong quantum confinement effect. The performance of MoS₂ QDs is closely related to their size and number of layers.

How to obtain MoS₂ QDs with controllable size and number of layers is still a difficult problem. In this study, the MoS₂ QDs with a small average grain size and few layers are synthesized by a facile and energy-intensive hydrothermal method. The effects of different sulfur sources (glutathione and L-cysteine) on the photoluminescence properties of MoS₂ QDs are systematically studied. The MoS₂ QDs prepared with glutathione as the sulfur source have a smaller average grain size, fewer layers, and better photoluminescence in comparison to L-cysteine-based MoS₂ QDs. We hope that our basic strategy and findings can be helpful on the design of high-quality MoS₂ QDs.

Methods Firstly, 0.0468 g of (NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O is dissolved in 2.5 mL of deionized water, and its pH value is adjusted to 6.5 with 10% mass fraction of ammonia water. Then, 0.254 g of glutathione and the above solution are added to 10 mL of ionized water (molar ratio of Mo : S=1 : 3) and stirred for 8 min until complete dissolution. Next, the mixed solution is transferred to a polytetrafluoroethylene stainless steel autoclave with a size of 50 mL and placed in an oven at 200 °C for 24 h. Then, the solution obtained from the reaction is placed in a sand core filter (0.22 μm) to filter out suspended particles, and the solution supernatant is collected after centrifugation at 4 °C and 10000 r/min for 15 min. Finally, the supernatant is dialyzed in a dialysis bag (the interception molecular weight of the dialysis bag is 10000 u) for 24 h, and the solution is collected and stored in a refrigerator at 4 °C and labeled as MoS₂ QDs-1. Similarly, we weighes 0.0983 g ammonium molybdate as molybdenum source and 0.200 g L-cysteine as sulfur source (molar ratio of Mo : S=1 : 3) to prepare MoS₂ QDs-2.

Results and Discussions The X-ray diffraction (XRD) results show that the diffraction peak of the (100) crystal plane is the strongest, which indicates that all MoS₂ QDs are 2H phase MoS₂. The as-prepared MoS₂ QDs-1 has better crystallinity and smaller average grain size of 3.88 nm than MoS₂ QDs-2 (Fig. 2). In addition, the number of layers for MoS₂ QDs-1 is about 6, and that for MoS₂ QDs-2 is about 13 (Fig. 3). These results indicate that MoS₂ QDs-1 has fewer layers. Since the average grain size and the number of layers for MoS₂ QDs-1 are better than those of MoS₂ QDs-2, the band gap and photoluminescence properties of MoS₂ QDs-1 are better than those of MoS₂ QDs-2 by the quantum confinement effect. The ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectra show that the optical band gap of MoS₂ QDs-1 is 3.65 eV [Fig. 5(a)], and the fluorescence photoluminescence (PL) spectra reveal that the fluorescence intensity of MoS₂ QDs-1 is stronger than that of MoS₂ QDs-2 [Figs. 6(a) and 6(b)]. When the excitation wavelength is increased from 270 nm to 360 nm, the positions of the emission peaks of MoS₂ QDs-1 and MoS₂ QDs-2 show an obvious red-shift phenomenon. The luminescence intensity of MoS₂ QDs-1 and MoS₂ QDs-2 are the highest when excited at wavelength of 310 nm, and the corresponding emission peak positions are at 430 nm and 420 nm, respectively. This red-shifted emission peaks may originate from the thermal fluorescence properties and polydispersity of K-points in the Brillouin zone of MoS₂ QDs, or some changes occurred during the fluorescence excitation process in the MoS₂ QDs themselves, such as agglomeration. The 1931 CIE images of MoS₂ QDs-1 and MoS₂ QDs-2 show their strongest emission domains at (0.16, 0.15) and (0.16, 0.16), respectively [Figs. 6(c) and 6(d)]. In addition, we use quinine sulfate as the reference material, and the fluorescence yield of MoS₂ QDs-1 (10.8%) is significantly higher than that of MoS₂ QDs-2 (7.2%) through the calculation formula of fluorescence quantum yield.

Conclusions In this study, homogeneous dispersed MoS₂ QDs are successfully obtained by a one-step hydrothermal method using glutathione and L-cysteine as sulfur sources respectively. Among them, the MoS₂ QDs-1 sample has a smaller average size (3.88 nm), a lower average height (4.75 nm), a smaller optical band gap (3.65 eV), and a higher fluorescence quantum yield (10.8%) in comparison to MoS₂ QDs-2 sample. Therefore, the structural and optical properties of the MoS₂ QDs-1 sample are better under these experimental conditions. The carbon chain of glutathione (C₁₀H₁₇N₃O₆S) is longer than that of L-cysteine (C₃H₇NO₂S), which is beneficial to the nucleation of nanocrystals. In addition to providing a sulfur source, glutathione can also act as a surfactant to inhibit the growth of crystal nuclei. Consequently, compared with L-cysteine, MoS₂ QDs with a smaller average size and lower average height are more easily obtained from glutathione as a sulfur source, and the optical properties and photoluminescence properties of MoS₂ QDs are affected by their sizes and number of layers. The average size of MoS₂ QDs-1 is smaller than that of MoS₂ QDs-2. Meanwhile, MoS₂ QDs-1 has fewer layers. Therefore, MoS₂ QDs-1 has a better optical band gap and higher fluorescence quantum yield.

Key words quantum optics; molybdenum disulfide quantum dots; hydrothermal method; photoluminescence; optical bandgap