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Reactive Optical Nanomaterial: Ongoing Developments

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Abstract

Nanostructured materials having adjustable optical characteristics in response to external stimuli make up reactive optical nanoparticles. They're commonly referred to as smart optical nanoparticles because of their distinct properties. The optical property changes of these amazing nanostructures in response to a wide range of stimuli, including local environmental changes (temperature, pH, vapors, ionic strength, depletant, humidity, solvent, and so on) as well as distant stimuli (electric field, ultrasound, magnetic field, mechanical force, gravity force, light, X-ray, etc.). Photonic crystals, plasmonic nanostructures, and photo-catalysts are some of the most well-known materials in this field. Chemists have developed numerous working principles and techniques for synthesizing smart nanostructured materials and utilizing their unique optical characteristics due to their wide applications in sensing, color display, ant counterfeiting, catalysis, and biomedicine.

Keywords: ***Photonic crystals; Plasmonic nanostructures; Photo-catalysts; Nanoparticles***

Introduction

Synthesizing responsive nanostructures and assembling them into more sophisticated secondary structures (including both photonic crystals and plasmonic superstructures) are critical in the development of these appealing optical nanomaterials. The chemical components, forms, and sizes of nanoparticles, as well as the periodicity, order, and orientation of the superstructure, all influence material performance and intelligent reactions to environmental stimuli. Because of their distinctive Localized Surface Plasmon Resonance (LSPR), which creates crisp extinction peaks and shows brilliant color corresponding to the peak position, plasmonic nanomaterial, notably noble-metal Au and Ag, have had a lot of success in this area. Previous research has shown that the plasmonic characteristics of metal nanostructures are highly dependent on their chemical composition, size, and form. Core nanostructures with metal shells, for example, have shown superior plasmonic characteristics, such as adjustable LSPR peaks and improved scattering properties. By reducing Au precursors at high temperatures, FePt–Au core-shell nanoparticles are described. This technique yields Au nanoshells with adjustable shell thickness and optical characteristics. Plasmonic nanostructures can display dynamic color-switching when built into superstructures due to plasmon interaction between adjacent particles, in addition to these inherent particle characteristics. Controlling interparticle separation in response to external stimuli can further tailor their optical characteristics. To alter Au nanoparticles, 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APTES) is used as a capping ligand and pH-responsive agent. The pH of the solution affects the condensation and breakdown of APTES on the Au nanoparticle surface, resulting in reversible assembly and disassembly of scattered Au nanoparticles.

The constructive and deconstructive interference of light generates stop bands in the optical spectrum, which give photonic crystals their distinct structural hues and diffraction peaks. Scientists are spearheading research efforts to create dependable techniques to control the order, periodicity, and phase of photonic crystals for developing optical characteristics and responses, despite the difficulties. Because of the observable color shifts of photonic crystals, colorimetric sensing and spectroscopic detection is the most appealing of their many uses. These amazing responsive materials have the potential to solve problems in a variety of disciplines, including cancer therapy, energy conversion, photo catalysis, and sensing, anticounterfeiting, and color displays. The development of smart optical nanomaterial benefits tumor imaging and therapy in addition to photo catalysis.

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