

Colloidal CdS Fluorescence Quenching by MV^{2+} Under Continuous Irradiation

Lucia Meahcov^{1,3} and Ion Sandu²

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This paper describes the photochemical behavior of the colloidal CdS/ MV^{2+} /COP system in excess of Na_2S . We determined the rate constants for all the reactions which take place in solution under continuous irradiation and put into evidence the following intermediates: the monomer radical $MV^{\bullet+}$ which dimerizes in $(MV^{\bullet+})_2$ radical and the double reduced form MV^0 of methylviologen. By this continuous irradiation technique we showed that the same reactions which take place on CdS particle surface with ultra fast rates can undergo also in bulk, but with a much slower rates.

KEY WORDS: Colloidal polydisperse CdS; continuous irradiation; MV^{2+} forms; computer modeling; rate constants.

INTRODUCTION

Interfacial photochemistry has undergone a vigorous expansion in the last. While colloidal crystallites of ≥ 10 nm diameter behave as a bulk semiconductor, crystallite ≤ 10 nm has only incomplete band structure development and excited electronic states [1–3]. In this limit the apparent crystallite (i.e. cluster) band gap and the electron and hole redox potentials, are size dependent. An excited state consists of a hole in the homo and an electron in the lumo. This excited state “exciton” can luminesce, undergo nonradiative recombination through surface states or undergo redox reactions with surface adsorbed molecules having energies inside the crystallite’s gap.

The study of semiconductor particles is very attractive because of possible applications especially for the direct conversion of solar energy into the chemical one [4]. Therefore it seems important to investigate processes such as interfacial electron transfer and electron-hole recombination occurring in illuminated semiconductor colloidal particles. Many authors have investigated this system from

different points of views. Serpone *et al.* [5] reported picosecond absorption spectra of reduced methylviologen $MV^{\bullet+}$ and claimed that the photoinduced electron transfer from CdS to MV^{2+} adsorbed on the particle occurred at the rate of 10^9 s⁻¹. Rossetti and Brus [6] reported that the life time of the $MV^{\bullet+}$ radical is between 5 ns and 20 ps from a picosecond resonance Raman scattering study, when the colloidal CdS was stabilized with polyacrylic acid (PAA). By adopting the data for the stabilizer styrene-maleic anhydride copolymer (COP) this rise life time is five time longer.

From all these studies it may be concluded that the dynamic mechanism of the photoinduced reduction of MV^{2+} on the colloidal CdS surface is the following: conduction band electrons induced by irradiation are trapped within 3 ps at some site on the surface which is like a sulphur vacancy or a surface Cd^{2+} ion. Then the trapped electron transfers to the adsorbed MV^{2+} ion in the time range between 20 ps and 0.1 ns. What happens with these species after this period is the subject of our investigations in the present paper.

EXPERIMENTAL

Colloidal CdS (8.73×10^{-4} M) was synthesized in laboratory from $Cd(SO_4)_2$ (Merck) using

¹ IDM, Sos. Orhideelor 31-33, sect. 1, 77139 Bucharest, Romania.

² National Institute for Lasers, Plasma and Radiation Physics, P.O. Box MG-36, 76 900 Bucharest, Romania.

³ To whom correspondence should be addressed.

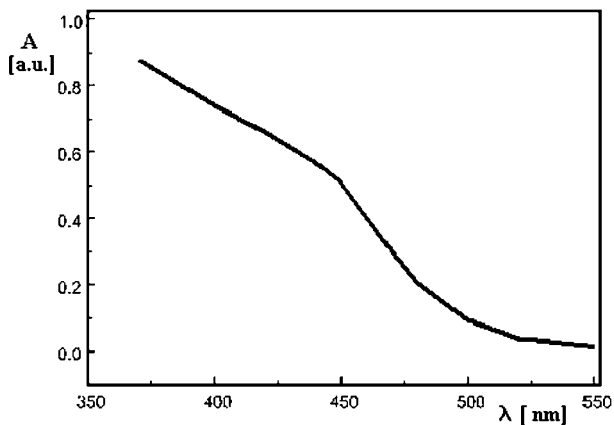


Fig. 1. Absorption spectra of synthesized CdS/COP.

Kalyanasundaram's method [7] by replacing $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{S}$ with Na_2S (Fluka) in an excess of 2×10^{-4} M, bubbling Argon during the synthesis. A styrene-maleic anhydride (1:1) copolymer prepared also in laboratory was used as stabilizer. To record absorption and emission spectra we used an Unicam α Helyos spectrophotometer and an Aminco-Bowman spectrofluorimeter, respectively. As a quencher we used methylviologen (Sigma).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We characterized our colloidal CdS by their absorption (Fig. 1) and emission spectra (Fig. 2).

Using the method of "fluorescence quenching" with methylviologen, MV^{2+} , we calculated an average particle size of about 60 Å what recommended them as nanoparticles.

We observed that if we use MV^{2+} concentration between 10^{-9} – 10^{-7} M the quenching method works, but if we increase MV^{2+} concentration from 10^{-6} to 10^{-4} M

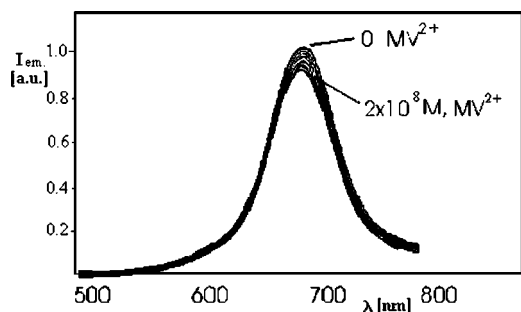


Fig. 2. Fluorescence CdS quenching with MV^{2+} .

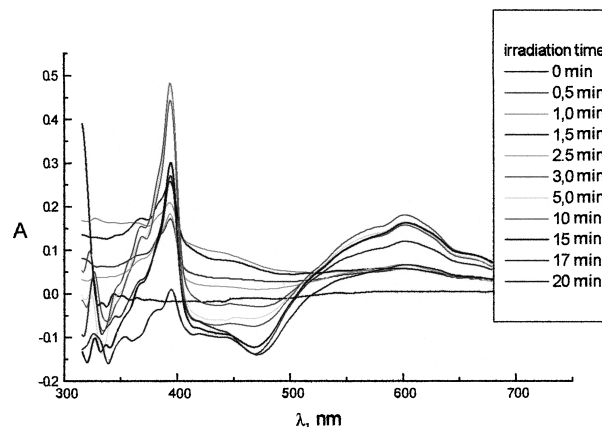


Fig. 3. Spectral evolution of colloidal CdS/ MV^{2+} /COP system at different irradiation times.

the fluorescence emission height begin to increase proportionally as well as the fluorescence maximum is shifted to longer wavelength. We ascribe this behavior to the formation of a new complex CdS/ MV^{2+} /COP and study their photochemical behavior under continuous irradiation using a home made apparatus. The continuous irradiation of the sample containing 7.56×10^{-4} M CdS and 1×10^{-4} M MV^{2+} in 2×10^{-4} M Na_2S excess stabilized with COP, bubbled with Ar, showed after different irradiation times the spectral behavior in Fig. 3.

For each irradiation time was used a new sample with the same content.

The spectrophotometric measurements were carried out versus a reference cell containing the same composition of the solution but with out methylviologen.

One observes that immediately after illumination in the first 30 s the initial yellow colloidal CdS solution becomes bluish due to $\text{MV}^{\bullet+}$ radical formation from MV^{2+} reduction, therefore the absorbance of the solution increases in both maxima of the $\text{MV}^{\bullet+}$ absorption spectrum at 603 nm as well as at 398 nm.



We calculated the rate constants for $\text{MV}^{\bullet+}$ formation, which obey a first order kinetics, and that is $k_1 = 7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\lambda = 603 \text{ nm}$ and $k_1 = 6.92 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\lambda = 398 \text{ nm}$ (Fig. 4).

After a longer irradiation, 180 s, the absorbance continues to increase at 398 nm, which shows the increase of $\text{MV}^{\bullet+}$ concentration but at 603 nm it keeps practically constant. This behavior suggests that when the $\text{MV}^{\bullet+}$ concentration takes a suitable value concomitantly with its generation its consumption also takes place with formation of the dimmer radical $(\text{MV}^{\bullet+})_2$ which

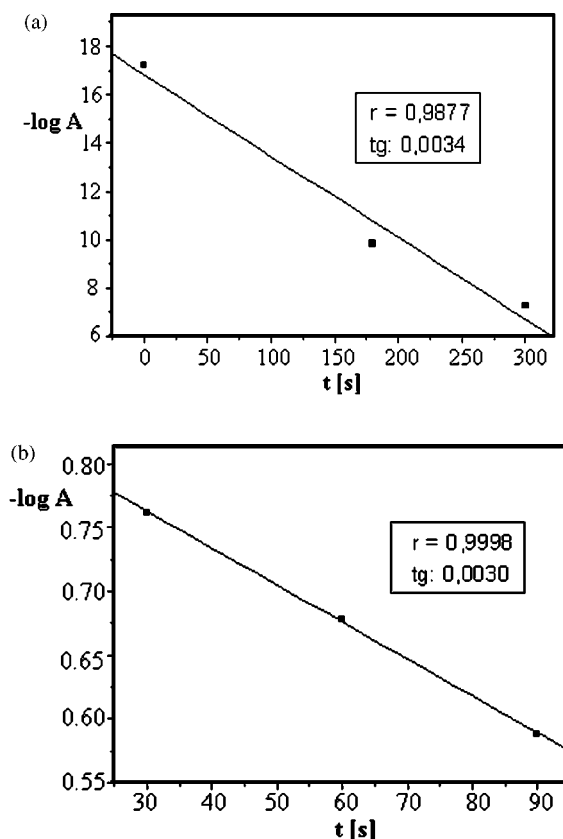


Fig. 4. First order kinetics for MV^{•+} formation at: a) λ = 603 nm and b) λ = 398 nm.

absorbs partly in the same visible region as the monomer MV^{•+}. This conclusion is supported by the increase of absorbancies below 500 nm in the absorption band of (MV^{•+})₂. We observed that the dimmer radical formation does not obey a simple second order kinetics as we see in Fig. 5.

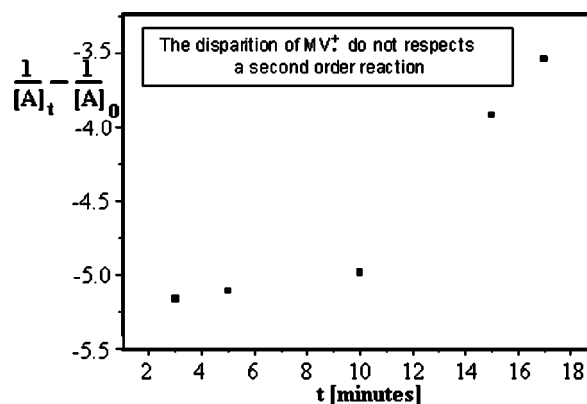


Fig. 5. Dimmer radical formation due not obey a simple second order kinetics.

As we know, for a simple second order kinetics the absorbancies must obey the relation:

$$\frac{1}{[A]_t} = \frac{kt + 1}{[A]_0} \quad (2)$$

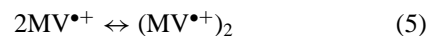
If the rate constant depends on temperature as Arrhenius equation indicates:

$$k = B \cdot e^{[-E_a/Rt]} \quad (3)$$

for our homogeneous system and small temperature variation, we could consider a linear variation temperature/time: $T = f(t)$ as $T = T_0 + \alpha t$. We obtained:

$$\frac{1}{[A]_t} - \frac{1}{[A]_0} = \{B \cdot e^{[-E_a/R(T_0 + \alpha t)]}\} \cdot t \quad (4)$$

By fitting with a suitable function we obtain a second order reaction in which k depends on temperature. Results $B = 6.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ and $E_a = 10.9 \text{ kJ/mol} = 2.61 \text{ kcal/mol}$. This small value of E_a demonstrates that our reaction takes place between radicals and is photochemical activated [8,9]. Our conclusion is in perfect mach with our presumption that the formation of dimmer radical takes place from two monomer radicals:



For a temperature of about 315 K, which we presume to have our irradiated solution, we obtain $k_{II} = 2.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M s}^{-1}$ for the dimmer formation.

By fitting with a Boltzman curve the absorbancies values for λ = 603 nm at a longer irradiation time we obtained $t = 136 \text{ s}$ which represents the time after irradiation beginning when the dimmer is form simultaneous in all solution volume (Fig. 6).

Because the absorbancies at λ = 398 nm and λ = 603 nm are both characteristic for MV^{•+} their intensities ratio must be constant.

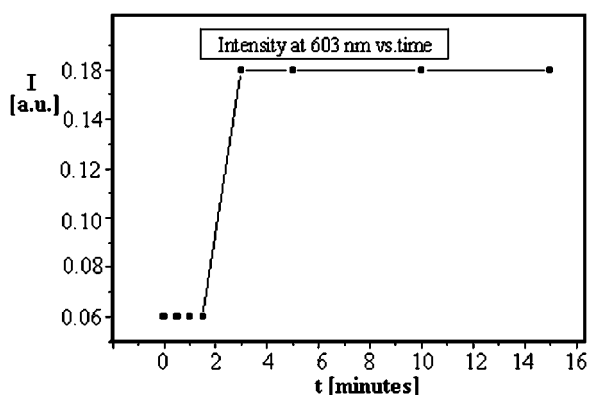


Fig. 6. Absorbancies at λ = 603 nm vs. time.

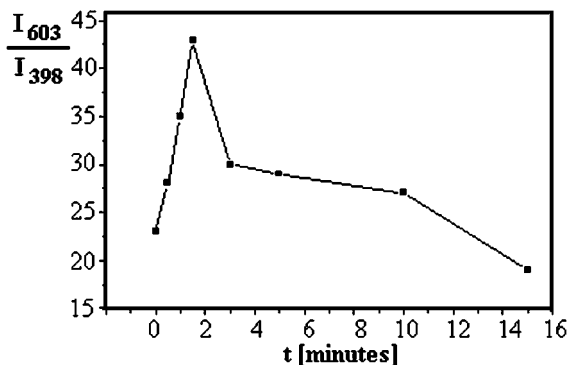


Fig. 7. 398 nm and 603 nm absorbencies ratio, proving the formation of $MV^{\bullet+}$.

The experimental values shows a variation which probes the formation of another species, which absorbs also at about 603 nm and namely $(MV^{\bullet+})_2$ (Fig. 7).

After a longer irradiation time, the absorbencies increase again in both absorption bands, $\lambda = 398$ nm and $\lambda = 603$ nm, and continue in the same manner up to 300 s irradiation. This denotes that in solution takes place the regeneration of the monomer radical resulted from the process:



with a reaction rate much slower than that on CdS particle surface.

If we calculated the ratio between the intensities for the monomer $MV^{\bullet+}$ and the double reduce form, MV^0 , we observed that after a longer irradiation time, this ratio became approximately constant, which denotes that at a longer irradiation time one reaches an equilibrium state between this three forms of methylviologen (Fig. 8).

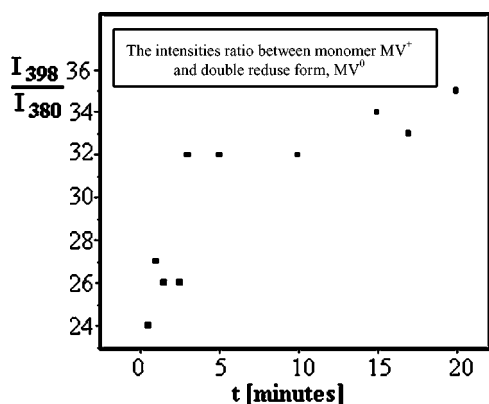


Fig. 8. The intensities ratio between monomer, $MV^{\bullet+}$ and double reduce form MV^0 .

There are some authors [10–14] who admit the idea of an electron transfer in bulk. Our experimental results confirm this, and we consider that the stabilizer COP can play the same role as an electron relay thanks to their structure, facilitating the electron transfer to MV^{2+} and $(MV^{\bullet+})_2$ species in bulk.

In the favor of this supposition we present our experiment carried out by mixing methyl viologen (8×10^{-2} M) with Na_2S (1.7×10^{-1} M) when suddenly a dark blue color appeared in the absence of the light absorbing CdS. The reduction of MV^{2+} takes place in this case only with the electrons offered by S^{2-} ions:



Then the solution becomes gradually brown because of S^- ion dimerization:



Finally brown polysulphures chains are formed.

Let us return to the irradiated CdS/ MV^{2+} /COP samples. After 20 min illumination, one observes the decrease of the absorbencies even up to negative values in the whole absorption spectrum due to the destruction of the system. Indeed on the bottom cell one observes a yellow crystalline precipitate of CdS, at the same time we also notice the appearance of an adherent colloidal S on the cell walls.

CONCLUSIONS

One studies the photochemical behavior of a complex CdS/ MV^{2+} /COP under continuous irradiation.

We put into evidence the $MV^{\bullet+}$ formation from MV^{2+} reduction, the appearance of the dimmer radical $(MV^{\bullet+})_2$ and the regeneration of the monomer radical from the dimmer reduction with MV^0 formation.

We calculated, for the first time as we know, the rate constants and Arrhenius parameters for all this reactions which take place in solution. Our experiment results confirm the presumption that the same electron transfer reactions like on CdS particle surface, but more slowly, exist in solution, the stabilizer playing the role of an electron relay.

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