

# Supporting Materials: Facile Synthesis of Multi-Emission Nitrogen/Boron Co-doped Carbon Dots from Lignin for Anti-Counterfeiting Printing

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## Calculation of Fluorescence Lifetime

The time-resolved photoluminescence (TRPL) decay curves are fitted by a multiexponential function  $R(t)$  (eq. (1)) and the average lifetime ( $\tau_{avg}$ ) can be calculated according to eq. (2). [1, 2]

$$R(t) = B_1 e^{-t/\tau_1} + B_2 e^{-t/\tau_2} \dots + B_n e^{-t/\tau_n} \quad (1)$$

$$\tau_{avg} = (B_1 \tau_1^2 + B_2 \tau_2^2 + \dots + B_n \tau_n^2) / (B_1 \tau_1 + B_2 \tau_2 \dots + B_n \tau_n) \quad (2)$$

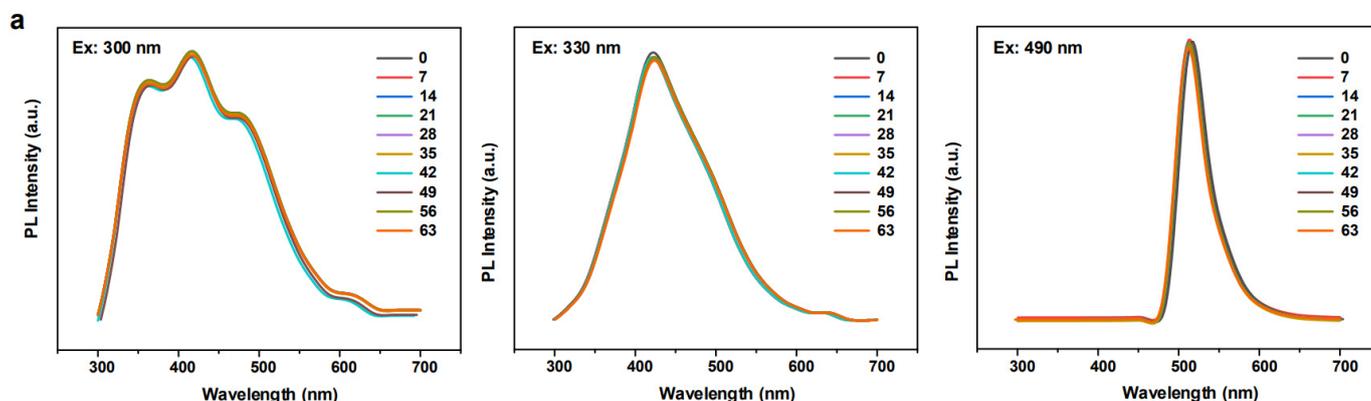
Here,  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \dots \tau_n$  represent fluorescence lifetimes and  $B_1, B_2 \dots B_n$  represent percentages of  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \dots \tau_n$ , respectively.

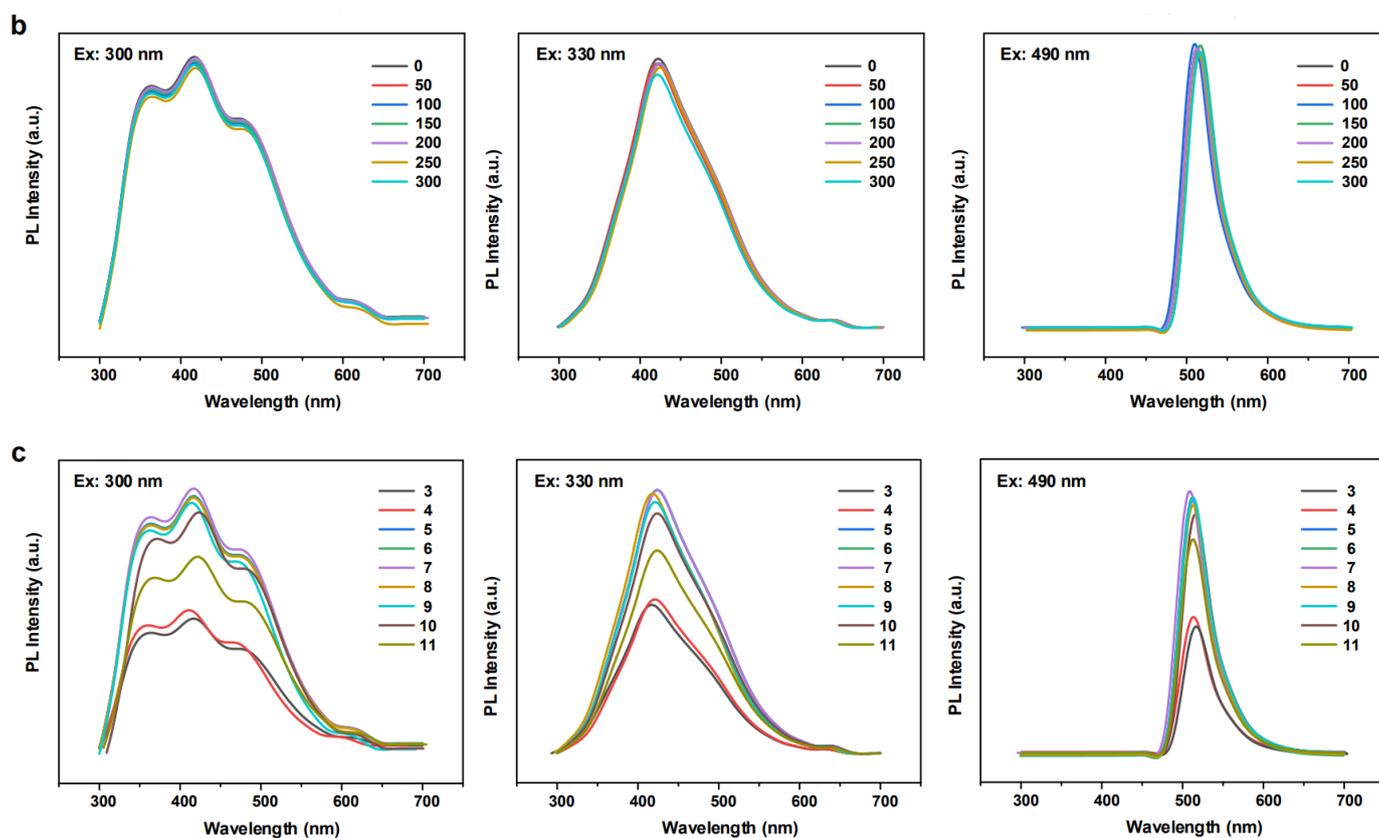
## DFT Calculation

All the calculations are carried out using Gaussian 09 suite of program. The ground-state geometries of QDs were firstly optimized by DFT2-3 B3LYP (Becke's three-parameter hybrid function with the non-local correlation of Lee-Yang-Parr5) method with the Pople 6-31G(d) basis set (B3LYP/6-31G(d)). [3] The dangling carbon bonds are passivated by hydrogen atoms. The molecular orbits of possible moieties were imported at the B3LYP/6-31 G (d, p) level based on optimized ground-state geometries. [4, 5] Multiwfn is used for post-processing of computed resulting images. [6]

**Table S1.** The quantitative analysis results of XPS.

Sample	C(%)	O(%)	N(%)	B(%)	O/C(%)	N/C(%)	B/C(%)	QY1(%)	QY2(%)	QY3(%)
CDs-1	57.60	41.33	0.93	0.14	0.72	0.02	0.00	0.36	0.23	0.17
CDs-2	57.21	40.53	1.91	0.35	0.71	0.03	0.01	0.21	2.92	0.75
CDs-3	58.31	37.11	3.82	0.76	0.64	0.07	0.01	0.10	7.40	4.66
CDs-4	55.67	41.06	2.84	0.43	0.74	0.05	0.01	0.22	3.21	3.89





**Figure S1.** Stability test of CDs-3. Variation of PL intensity of CDs-3 aqueous solution (a) stored at room temperature from 0 to 63 days, (b) heated at different temperatures from 0 to 300 °C for 30 min, and (c) dispersed at different pH values from 3 to 11.