

Preparation of SnO₂ as Electron Transport Layer for Organic and Inorganic Perovskite Solar Cells: A Review.

ABSTRACT

The fascinating behavior of electron transport in halide perovskite solar cells has piqued the interest of designers of semiconductor SnO₂ nanoparticles (PSC). The goal of this research is to look at several techniques for manufacturing semiconductor SnO₂ films for use as electron transport layers in PSC. To comprehend the link between the quality of nanostructured SnO₂ films and the performance of solar cells, special attention is devoted to the production and properties of the SnO₂ particles/films. The spin-coating deposition of SnO₂ nano fluids generated by surface modification of SnO₂ nano-colloids has been one of the key techniques for obtaining SnO₂ layers. It has also been reported that preparing SnO₂ nanoparticles using Tin (IV) salts results in a smooth SnO₂ film. A light-to-electricity conversion efficiency of about 20% has been claimed in many PSC papers. One benefit of adopting SnO₂ materials is that they have substantially greater conductivity than TiO₂. This work also discusses the production of SnO₂ nanoparticles, a different method of generating SnO₂ electron transport materials that may be accomplished by the freeze-drying of Tin (IV) precursors. SnO₂ crystal formation may be regulated at temperatures as low as 60°C.

Keywords: [TiO₂, SnO₂ Nanoparticles, Electron Transport, Perovskite Solar Cells } (*Arial, inclined, 10 font, justified*)

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last several decades, there has been a decrease in the supply of fossil fuels and an increase in global energy demand, resulting in increased environmental damage. This has accelerated the development of renewable energy sources, with solar power being one of the leading possibilities owing to the sun's ability to give the ultimate answer to the dilemma of sustainable energy supply. Solar cells and passive/active solar thermal systems are the two most common ways to create solar electricity. When it comes to solar cells for electric power production, there are many methods for harvesting solar energy, the most popular of which are traditional solid-state solar panels. The disadvantages of these silicon-based solar panels include their high manufacturing costs and bad environmental effects. Different types of solar cells have appeared in recent years, each promising cheap manufacturing costs, minimal environmental impact, and great efficiency, such as perovskite solar cells (PSC) [1] and dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSC) [2]. One of the electrodes in these solar cells is made of nano-crystalline material such as TiO₂ and/or SnO₂, creating the semiconductor layer for the photon-electron transfer process. The nano-crystalline substance is often used. To put over a clear conducting glass to create a high surface coverage of light-absorbing materials, which is required for high-performance devices.

Tin (IV) oxide (SnO_2) has recently been investigated as a possible electron transport material as an alternative to TiO_2 . SnO_2 has been extensively explored, for example, concerning perovskite solar cells (PSCs), owing to their advantageous properties such as high electron mobility ($100\text{-}200\text{ cm}^2\text{ V}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$) and a broad bandgap of 3.6 eV compared to

3.2 eV for TiO_2 [3]. The high mobility may facilitate quicker electron transit, lowering the likelihood of photoinduced electron recombination. Furthermore, SnO_2 creates a homo-junction with the FTO substrate, which eliminates the high contact resistance reported in hetero-junctions created with other oxides such as TiO_2 . Despite the obvious benefits over TiO_2 , there are several problems about utilizing SnO_2 as an electron transport layer, the primary one being that it degrades at higher temperatures. Much research has been conducted to demonstrate that the efficiency of solar cells may be boosted even further by employing SnO_2 instead of TiO_2 . This study describes important breakthroughs in the fabrication of SnO_2 thin films, as well as the unique properties of SnO_2 as electron transport layers in PSCs (Tables 1 and 2).

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Synthesis of Tin oxide layer and perovskite solar cells applications

Table 1. Overview of the usual SnO_2 film deposition process and PSC performance. MA and FA are abbreviations for Methylammonium and Formamidinium ions, respectively.

| Deposition technique of SnO_2 | Perovskite | $J_{sc}(\text{mA}/\text{cm}^2)$ | $V_{oc}(\text{V})$ | FF | η (%) | Ref. |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|------------|------|
| Sol-gel process (Spin-coating of Tin salt, Annealing) | $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ | 22.83 | 1.11 | 0.64 | 16.02 | [4] |
| Deposition of SnO_2 colloidal solution (Spin-coating)+Annealing | $(\text{FAPbI}_3)_{0.97}(\text{MAPbBr}_3)_{0.03}$ | 24.87 | 1.09 | 0.74 | 20.27 | [5] |
| Deposition of SnO_2 colloidal solution (Spin-coating)+Annealing | $\text{FA}_{0.95}\text{Cs}_{0.05}\text{PbI}_3$ | 24.57 | 1.11 | 0.79 | 21.60 | [6] |
| Deposition of SnO_2 colloidal solution (Spin-coating)+Annealing | $(\text{FAPbI}_3)_x(\text{MAPbBr}_3)_{1-x}$ | 24.1 | 1.1 | 0.78 | 21.30 | [7] |
| Sol-gel process (Spin-coating of Tin salt, Annealing) | MAPbI_3 | 22.66 | 1.07 | 0.72 | 17.61 | [8] |
| Deposition of SnO_2 colloidal solution (Spin-coating)+Annealing | MAPbI_3 | 24.28 | 1.15 | 0.76 | 21.38 | [9] |
| Electrodeposition (Tin salts)+Annealing | $\text{MAPbI}_3\text{-xCl}_x$ | 18.65 | 1.02 | 0.79 | 14.97 | [10] |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------|------|------|-------|------|
| Deposition of SnO ₂ colloidal solution (Spin-coating)+ Annealing | CH ₃ NH ₃ PbI ₃ | 20.11 | 1.11 | 0.64 | 14.36 | [11] |
| Magnetron sputtering | CH ₃ NH ₃ PbI ₃ | 21.94 | 0.99 | 0.67 | 14.63 | [12] |
| Atomic layer deposition | Cs _{0.05} (MA _{0.17} FA _{0.83}) _{0.95} Pb(I _{2.7} Br _{0.3}) | 22.1 | 1.07 | 0.75 | 17.80 | [13] |

High-temperature processed TiO_2 was commonly employed as the electron transport layers in high-performance lead halide perovskite solar cells. Ke et al. [14] published one of the first investigations on SnO_2 -based perovskite solar cells, suggesting that low-temperature solution-processed nanocrystalline SnO_2 might be an effective alternative to TiO_2 . SnO_2 was synthesized in this work using a solution technique, i.e. spin-coating of SnCl_2 precursor, which may be manufactured at room temperature. This was followed by 1 hour of thermal annealing in air at 180°C . Before Perovskite deposition, the thin films were exposed to UV-ozone for 15 minutes. The film was composed of nanoscale grains, according to SEM and TEM examination, and the SnO_2 was crystallized. When the FTO substrate was coated with the SnO_2 nanocrystalline film, atomic force microscopy pictures revealed that the surface grew smoother. When tested using a reverse voltage scan, the top performing perovskite cell with a 60 nm-thick SnO_2 , $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ (600 nm), and Spiro-OMeTAD attained a PCE of 17.21 % (V_{oc} : 1.11 V, J_{sc} : 23.27 mA cm^{-2} , and FF: 0.67). The PCE for a forward voltage scan of the same cell was 14.82 %, V_{oc} was 1.11 V, J_{sc} was 22.39 mA cm^{-2} , and FF was 0.60. The hysteresis of the perovskite solar cells with the SnO_2 layer was minimal. They concluded that the improved charge transfer (a faster electron injection process) at the SnO_2 /perovskite interface might account for some of the reduced hysteresis found in the PSC. This work opened the door for improved performance of lead halide perovskite solar cells.

Jiang et al. [5] exhibited improved electron extraction of SnO_2 for high-efficiency planar-structure $\text{HC}(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{PbI}_3$ -based PSC. Commercial SnO_2 colloid precursor (tin (IV) oxide, 15% in H_2O colloidal dispersion) was spin-coated onto ITO substrates and baked for 30 minutes on a hot plate in ambient air at 150°C . The SnO_2 film's mobility was predicted to be $1.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$. The perovskite layer was synthesized using a two-step spin coating process after the SnO_2 electron transport layer was deposited. PbI_2 in dimethylformamide (DMF) was spin-coated before being annealed at 70°C for 30 minutes. Second, an FAI:MABr:MACl solution in isopropanol was spin-coated onto the PbI_2 . Under reverse scan, the top performing device utilizing SnO_2 nanoparticles generated a V_{oc} of 1.09V, J_{sc} of 24.87 mA cm^{-2} , FF of 74.77 %, and PCE of 20.27 % (Spiro-OMeTAD was used as a hole-conductor.). The identical device had a V_{oc} of 1.09V, a J_{sc} of 24.88 mA cm^{-2} , an FF of 75.73 %, and a PCE of 20.54 % during forward's scan. When compared to $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$, the optical response edge has been extended to 820 nm. The scientists also showed that SnO_2 -based devices outperformed TiO_2 -based devices in terms of photostability, however the mechanism remained unclear.

The use of surface modified tin oxide (SnO_2) has also been shown to be an efficient method for high-efficiency PSC. Yang et al. recently described a planar-type perovskite solar cell (PSC) with SnO_2 modification utilizing a chelating chemical, EDTA [15]. In deionized water, EDTA was dissolved.

Separately, the SnO_2 aqueous colloidal dispersion was made to eliminate leftover solvent. The EDTA and

SnO₂ solutions were combined in a volume ratio of 1:1, and the milky-white 'E-SnO₂' colloidal solution, i.e. SnO₂ nanofluid, was created using a hot plate at 80 °C. Finally, the E-SnO₂ films were produced by spin-coating followed by 30 minutes of drying in a vacuum oven at 60 °C. AFM scans of the SnO₂-coated ITO substrates indicated that the E-SnO₂ film had the least roughness of 2.88 nm. The alignment of energy bands in perovskites and SnO₂ was also established. The Fermi level of E-SnO₂ was discovered to be quite near to the conduction band of perovskite. The authors demonstrated that SnO₂ films have a high average transmittance in the visible range. Furthermore, the electron mobility of E-SnO₂ was 2.27103 cm²V⁻¹s⁻¹, much greater than that of unmodified SnO₂ (9.92104 cm²V⁻¹s⁻¹). FAPbI₃ was employed as an active light absorber because of its suitable band gap, with a little quantity of Cs added to increase phase stability. It was discovered that continuous pinhole-free films were formed when perovskite films were deposited on SnO₂ substrates. Notably, with the E-SnO₂ substrates, the average perovskite grain size increased to about 828 nm. The EDTA-based device had a PCE of 16.42 %, J_{sc} = 22.10 mA cm⁻², V_{oc} = 1.08 V, and FF = 0.687. The device with an unchanged SnO₂ substrate has a PCE of 18.93%, J_{sc} = 22.79 mA cm⁻², V_{oc} = 1.10 V, and FF = 0.755. When E-SnO₂ was used as the ETL, the PCE rose to up to 21.60 % (the J_{sc}, FF, and V_{oc} were increased to 24.55 mA cm⁻², 0.792, and 1.11 V, respectively). The greater J_{sc} and FF were attributed to SnO₂-enhanced electron mobility, which may efficiently extract electrons. The higher V_{oc} might be explained by the lower energy level of E-SnO₂ and perovskite.

The passivation impact of a fullerene derivative with 2-hydroxyl anchoring groups on the performance of the SnO₂ electron transport layer in PSC has been reported by Liu et al. . Through coordination to Sn, the hydroxyl groups at the end of the long alkyl chain in C9 were introduced to passivate the oxygen vacancies on the surface of SnO₂. In other words, the fullerene-modifying layer might effectively passivate the SnO₂ layer surface flaws. Using a water-based SnO₂ colloidal solution, a thin coating of SnO₂ nanoparticles was spin-coated on the ITO substrate and annealed at 150 °C for 30 minutes. The C9- fullerene derivative was soaked in chloroform and spin-coated onto the SnO₂. In a N₂ environment, the Perovskite film was further spin-coated. The perovskite precursor solution was placed over SnO₂, spin-coated, then annealed for 10 minutes at 150 °C. A configuration of ITO/SnO₂/C9- fullerene /(FAPbI₃)_x(MAPbBr₃)_{1-x}/spiro-OMeTAD/Au was studied using Spiro-OMeTAD as a hole-transport layer. The highest PCE of the C9-fullerene modified devices was 21.3 % with low hysteresis, which was greater than the control devices of bare SnO₂ (PCE: 20.0%). Fullerene derivatives with anchoring hydroxyl groups were shown to be useful in the materials interface engineering of SnO₂-based PSCs in this study.

Bilayer SnO₂ has also been shown to be an efficient electron transport layer for PSC [8]. Yi et al. formed a bilayer structure by filling the pinholes in the sol-gel SnO₂ layer with SnO₂ nanoparticles. For ETL, a sol-gel SnO₂ precursor solution containing Tin (IV) chloride pentahydrate was spin-coated on ITO within an N₂ filled glovebox and annealed at 200 °C for 60 minutes at ambient temperature. SnO₂ colloid dispersion was spin-

coated on a UVO-treated substrate and annealed for 30 minutes at 150 °C. The methylammonium lead iodide perovskite films ($\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$) were made in a single process. The surface of the SnO_2 top layer (bilayer structure) had an amorphous-like shape and no pinholes were seen, while only sol-gel SnO_2 had visible pinholes in the film. The rough surface of double layered SnO_2 ETL was 1.69 nm as measured by AFM. The average PCE of the Bilayer SnO_2 -based PSC has been enhanced from 12.97 % to 16.84 % with thin-layer SnO_2 nanoparticles. The biggest cause was the 23.7 % increase in FF. The disclosed bilayer SnO_2 ETL is likely to offer new avenues for the development of highly efficient PSC.

The approach of Liu et al. [9] was used to reduce the hysteresis of I-V curves for SnO_2 -based PSC. By stirring at room temperature, the aqueous SnO_2 colloidal dispersion was combined with NH_4Cl to generate the $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl-SnO}_2$ precursor. The $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl-SnO}_2$ layers were created by spin-coating them onto clean ITO substrates and then annealing them to remove the solvent. On top of SnO_2 was placed the MAPbI_3 perovskite coating. ITO/ SnO_2 /perovskite/Spiro-OMeTAD/Ag was used in the devices. The perovskite solar cells containing NH_4Cl -induced coagulated SnO_2 colloids generated a PCE of 21.38 % with minor hysteresis, while the reference solar cell produced a PCE of 18.71 % with hysteresis. They also said that the device's stability may be greatly enhanced.

Ko et al. demonstrated that SnO_2 electrodeposition on FTO may be employed in planar heterojunction perovskite solar cells [10]. Using a three-electrode system (working electrode: FTO, counter electrode: platinum plate, reference electrode: Ag/AgCl electrode) and a water-based solution of $\text{SnCl}_2\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and nitric acid, a chrono-voltammetry approach was designed for the electrodeposition of Sn nanospheres on FTO substrate. The nanospheres were heated in air for 30 minutes at 400 °C to convert to SnO_2 . TiCl_4 treatment was also used, using a TiCl_4 solution at 70 °C for 30 minutes and the substrates drying in air at 150 °C. In a glove box, a combination of PbI_2 and PbCl_2 diluted in N, N-dimethylformamide was spin-coated on the SnO_2 -coated FTO and dried at 70 °C to form the perovskite layer. A methylammonium iodide solution was spin-coated and then annealed in the ambient atmosphere for 75 minutes at 105 °C. The HTM was a poly[bis(4-phenyl)(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)amine] solution. After 150 seconds (about 2 and a half minutes) of deposition, the device's PCE was 9.11 %, with short-circuit current density, open-circuit voltage, and fill factor of 17.84 mA/cm^2 , 1.03V, and 0.496, respectively. Despite increasing the deposition time to 180 s, the better J_{sc} resulted in a higher PCE of 10.0 %. The adoption of a 210-second deposition period reduces the PCE (8.22 %).

Aside from the previously reported solution-processed SnO_2 film deposition, Li et al. demonstrated the impact of UV treatment of low-temperature processed SnO_2 on the performance of PSC [11]. They created a dense layer by spin-coating a water-based SnO_2 precursor and then treating it with UV ozone. The SnO_2 thin films were made by spin-coating the SnO_2 precursor solution (concentrations of 10, 15, 20, and 30%) on ITO substrates and drying them at 50 °C. The substrates were then cleaned using an ultraviolet ozone cleaner for

60 minutes at 60 °C. Each layer of solar cells was manufactured at temperatures below 90 °C. The device architectures were ITO/SnO₂/MAPbI₃/Spiro-OMeTAD/Au planar hetero-junction PSC. The performance was optimum when the concentration of SnO₂ was 20%, with Jsc of 20.11 mA/cm², Voc of 1.11 V, FF of 0.643, and PCE of 14.36 %.

Sun et al. [12] also reported a vacuum produced SnO₂ film. They produced the film satisfactorily using radio frequency reactive magnetron sputtering at room temperature. The resulting SnO₂ thin films had reduced surface roughness than the FTO substrate, which improved the interface morphology with the perovskite layers. The roughness of the FTO glass without sputtering was 31.8 nm, whereas the roughness of the sputtering sample was 30.2 nm. The sputtering method smoothed and uniformed the perovskite coating, minimizing flaws in interfacial contact. Due to weak Jsc and FF, planar perovskite cells based on bare FTO exhibited a PCE of just 5.08 %. PCE of the device was 12.02 % when reactive sputtering was used to deposit an electron transport layer (Jsc: 20.20 mA/cm², Voc: 0.95, and FF: 0.62).

Kuang et al. reported on plasma-assisted atomic-layer SnO₂ deposition for PSC [13]. At 200 °C, tetrakis (dimethylamino)tin (TDMASn) was used as a

precursor to form a SnO₂ film with a low electrical resistivity of 1.8 10¹³ cm, a carrier density of 9.6 10¹⁹ cm³, and a high mobility of 36.0 cm² /V s. As substrates, ITO layers were employed, and SnO₂ layers with a thickness of 15 nm were deposited at temperatures ranging from 50 to 200 °C. Prior to perovskite deposition, the SnO₂ layers were pretreated with O₂ plasma at ambient temperature. Planar PSCs of Cs_{0.05}(MA_{0.17}FA_{0.83})_{0.95}Pb(I_{2.7}Br_{0.3}) were created. The top performing devices utilizing 50 and 200 °C-processed SnO₂ attained PCEs of 17.5 and 17.8 %, respectively.

Scientists recently shown for the first time that crystalline SnO₂ nanoparticles may be created using a low-temperature approach utilizing a dry-freezing technique. At less than 30⁰ C, SnCl₂ was adopted for dry freezing as a starting material to generate the precursor solution of water and methanol combination. This approach efficiently dehydrated the amorphous Sn (II)-containing precursor, resulting in crystalline SnO₂ nanoparticles [16]. On the Transmission Electron Microscope, nanoparticles as small as 5 nm were visible. The XRD pattern revealed that SnO₂ nanocrystals were produced during the dry freezing procedure. Device applications using SnO₂ as an electron transport layer in PSC are currently being developed.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Perovskite solar cells with tin oxide/titanium oxide hybrid layers

Table2. Examples of SnO₂/TiO₂ film deposition techniques and PSC performance.

| Deposition technique of SnO ₂ /TiO ₂ | Perovskite | J _{sc} (mA/cm ²) | V _{oc} (V) | FF | η (%) | Ref. |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|------|
| TiO ₂ nanoparticles coated by an amorphous SnO ₂ (Spin-coating) | CsI +(FAPbI ₃) _{0.87} (MAPbBr ₃) _{0.13} | 22.51 | 1.168 | 0.776 | 20.40 | [17] |
| Three-step chemical bath | (FAPbI ₃) _{0.3} (MAPbI ₃) _{0.7} | 23.38 | 1.122 | 0.778 | 20.40 | [18] |
| Magnetron sputtering (TiO ₂)/Deposition of SnO ₂ colloidal solution (Spin-coating)+ Annealing (SnO ₂) | Cs _{0.05} (MA _{0.17} FA _{0.83}) _{0.95} Pb(I _{0.83} Br _{0.17}) ₃ | 23.28 | 0.980 | 0.670 | 15.39 | [7] |

Tavakoli et al. [17] described a mesoscopic oxide double layer (SnO₂/TiO₂) used as an electron selective contact for PSC. This electron selective layer was made up of TiO₂ nanoparticles that were covered with amorphous SnO₂. SnO₂ precursor solution was used to modify the surface of mesoporous-TiO₂ (SnCl₂ dissolved in ethanol). This solution was spin-coated on top of mesoporous-TiO₂, then the films were annealed at 180 °C. SEM tests revealed that the grain size of perovskite film generated on amorphous SnO₂ was somewhat greater than that of perovskite film formed on top of the bare mesoporous-TiO₂ layer. This meant that the number of nucleation sites for amorphous SnO₂ was decreased, resulting in greater perovskite grain size. The XRD measurements revealed that the spin-coated SnO₂ film was amorphous at 180 °C and was transformed to crystalline SnO₂ after annealing at 450 °C. FTO glass covered with a compact TiO₂ layer, a 150 nm-thick mesoporous-TiO₂, a thin layer of SnO₂, a 300 nm-thick perovskite film, a 150 nm-thick spiro-OMeTAD, and gold contact comprised the device. Hysteresis in device I-V curves was reduced, and carrier recombination was also slowed. Consequently, the PCE of mesoporous-TiO₂/amorphous SnO₂ was 20.4 % (J_{sc}: 22.51 mA/cm², V_{oc}: 1.168 V, and FF: 77.6 %). The PCE of the reference cell, which used bare mesoporous-TiO₂, was 19.14 % (J_{sc}: 22.21 mA/cm², V_{oc}: 1.098 V, FF: 78.5 %). They

Ding et al. [18] observed that irradiation of UV light SnO₂ nanoparticle modified TiO₂ as the ETL in PSC prevented UV degradation of the PSC, keeping 97 % of the original PCE after 60 hours. The SnO₂@TiO₂ layer was created using the chemical bath described below. First, a SnCl₂ ethanol solution was produced and kept in the freezer at 5 °C. The aqueous TiCl₄ solution was made by combining TiCl₄ with water at 0 °C and then freezing it at 5 °C. The FTO substrate was immersed in a 2M aqueous TiCl₄ solution. At 70 °C, the glass container was dry. The FTO substrate was washed with ethanol and water before drying at 120 degrees Celsius. After that, the substrate was treated at 70 °C with a solution made of 2M aqueous TiCl₄ solution and water (the molar ratio was 1:100). The FTO substrate was soaked in the solution made by combining 2M SnCl₂ ethanol with water after it had been chemically coated with TiO₂ nanoparticles (the molar ratio was 1:50). The glass was cured at 70 °C. Finally, the substrate was annealed at 140 °C. Perovskite solar cells performed well, with average PCEs of 21.27 %, 19.79 %, 17.21 %, and 16.31 % for active surfaces of 0.10 cm², 1.13 cm², 5.25 cm², and 10.56 cm², respectively. Their findings showed that the SnO₂@TiO₂ ETL may considerably improve electron extraction and reduce trap states. They also said that their low-temperature processability and lack of a spin-coating process would pave the way for PSC commercialization.

Liu et al. developed a TiO₂/SnO₂ bilayer as an electron transport layer for a carbon counter electrode-based planar-heterojunction PSC. Radio frequency magnetron sputtering was used to create a TiO₂ layer. Sputtering might completely cover the FTO substrate's surface, passivating the FTO surface flaws and decreasing recombination. The

SnO₂ layer was formed by spin-coating a SnCl₂ ethanol solution and then heating it at 195°C. The TiO₂/SnO₂ bilayer had the lowest RMS roughness of 9.3 nm, which was advantageous for the deposition of high-quality perovskite films. As a hole transport layer, they employed a Cs/MA/FA perovskite film coupled with Cu- Phthalocyanine (CuPc) [19]. The device achieved a PCE of 15.39 % and maintained good stability over 1200 hours.

4. CONCLUSION

Fundamental research of SnO₂ nanoparticles has advanced towards the development of renewable energy technologies, particularly as the main material in PSC. Recent improvements in the manufacture and properties of SnO₂ particles/films were reported in this work to explore the link between the quality of nanostructured SnO₂ films and the performance of PSC. Spin-coating deposition of SnO₂ nanofluids generated by surface modification of SnO₂ nano-colloid precursors has been one of the keyways in producing SnO₂ layers. Several studies have shown that PSC has a light-to-electricity conversion efficiency of about 20%. The greater conductivity of SnO₂, which is substantially higher than TiO₂, is a benefit for achieving high efficiency. Furthermore, quick electron injection at the perovskite/SnO₂ interface may minimize hysteresis. Compared to those of TiO₂ nano-crystalline systems for PSC, the design methods of SnO₂ nanoparticles comprising the chemical synthesis and thin-film generation have not been fully established so far. For future development, one study avenue would be a clearer knowledge of the link between microstructures of SnO₂ nanoparticles and device performance. As a fresh strategy towards the synthesis of semiconductor nanoparticles, our dry-freezing process may generate diverse metal oxides at low temperatures. In addition to the improvement of SnO₂ nanoparticle manufacturing, it is also necessary to optimize materials interfaces of SnO₂ layers in the PSC. Controlling SnO₂ crystal formation will explore options in the low-cost manufacture of high-efficiency perovskite solar cell modules.

REFERENCES

1. Jena, A.K., A. Kulkarni, and T. Miyasaka, *Halide perovskite photovoltaics: background, status, and future prospects*. Chemical reviews, 2019. 119(5): p. 3036-3103. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemrev.8b00539>
2. Hagfeldt, A., et al., *Dye-sensitized solar cells*. Chemical reviews, 2010. 110(11): p. 6595-6663. <https://doi.org/10.1021/cr900356p>
3. Banik, A., M.S. Ansari, and M. Qureshi, *Efficient energy harvesting in SnO₂-based dye-sensitized solar cells utilizing nano-amassed mesoporous zinc oxide hollow microspheres as synergy boosters*. ACS omega, 2018. 3(10): p. 14482-14493. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsomega.8b02520>
4. Ke, W. and M.G. Kanatzidis, *Prospects for low-toxicity lead-free perovskite solar cells*. Nature communications, 2019. 10(1): p. 1-4. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-08918-3>
5. Jiang, Q., et al., *Enhanced electron extraction using SnO₂ for high-efficiency planar-structure HC (NH₂)₂PbI₃-based perovskite solar cells*. Nature Energy, 2016. 2(1): p. 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nenergy.2016.177>
6. Asare, J., et al., *Effects of substrates on the performance of optoelectronic devices: A review*. Cogent Engineering, 2020. 7(1): p. 1829274.
7. Liu, K., et al., *Fullerene derivative anchored SnO₂ for high-performance perovskite solar cells*. Energy & Environmental Science, 2018. 11(12): p. 3463-3471. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311916.2020.1829274>

8. Yi, H., et al., *Bilayer SnO₂ as electron transport layer for highly efficient perovskite solar cells*. ACS Applied Energy Materials, 2018. 1(11): p. 6027-6039. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsaem.8b01076>
9. Liu, Z., K. Deng, J. Hu, and L. Li, *Coagulated SnO₂ colloids for high-performance planar perovskite solar cells with negligible hysteresis and improved stability*. Angewandte Chemie, 2019. 131(33): p. 11621-11628. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ange.201904945>
10. Ko, Y., et al., *Electrodeposition of SnO₂ on FTO and its application in planar heterojunction perovskite solar cells as an electron transport layer*. Nanoscale research letters, 2017. 12: p. 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11671-017-2247-x>
11. Li, F., et al., *UV Treatment of Low-Temperature Processed SnO₂ Electron Transport Layers for Planar Perovskite Solar Cells*. Nanoscale Research Letters, 2018. 13: p. 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11671-018-2633-z>
12. Sun, W., et al., *Reactive-Sputtered Prepared Tin Oxide Thin Film as an Electron Transport Layer for Planar Perovskite Solar Cells*. Coatings, 2019. 9(5): p. 320. <https://doi.org/10.3390/coatings9050320>
13. Kuang, Y., et al., *Low-temperature plasma-assisted atomic-layer-deposited SnO₂ as an electron transport layer in planar perovskite solar cells*. ACS applied materials & interfaces, 2018. 10(36): p. 30367-30378. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsami.8b09515>
14. Ke, W., et al., *Low-temperature solution-processed tin oxide as an alternative electron transporting layer for efficient perovskite solar cells*. Journal of the American Chemical Society, 2015. 137(21): p. 6730-6733. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.5b01994>
15. Manseki, K., et al., *Current Advances in the Preparation of SnO₂ Electron Transport Materials for Perovskite Solar Cells*. ASTFE Digital Library, 2020. DOI: [10.1615/TFEC2020.sol.033235](https://doi.org/10.1615/TFEC2020.sol.033235)
16. Ethridge, C., et al. *Growth Control of SnO₂ Nanoparticles Using a Low-Temperature Solution Process*. in ASTFE Digital Library. 2020. Begel House Inc. DOI: [10.1615/TFEC2020.sol.033127](https://doi.org/10.1615/TFEC2020.sol.033127)
17. Tavakoli, M.M., F. Giordano, S.M. Zakeeruddin, and M. Gratzel, *Mesoscopic oxide double layer as electron specific contact for highly efficient and UV stable perovskite photovoltaics*. Nano letters, 2018. 18(4): p. 2428-2434. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.nanolett.7b05469>
18. Ding, B., et al., *Low-temperature SnO₂-modified TiO₂ yields record efficiency for normal planar perovskite solar modules*. Journal of Materials Chemistry A, 2018. 6(22): p. 10233-10242. <https://doi.org/10.1039/C8TA01192C>
19. Liu, Z., et al., *15% efficient carbon based planar-heterojunction perovskite solar cells using a TiO₂/SnO₂ bilayer as the electron transport layer*. Journal of Materials Chemistry A, 2018. 6(17): p. 7409-7419. <https://doi.org/10.1039/C8TA00526E>