Nanostructured solar cells: Problem of Hole Collector Materials

K. Tennakone^a, A.G.U.Pereraa, A.De Silva^b and G.R.A, Kamara

^a Department of Physics, Georgia State University, USA ^b Department of Physics, University of West Georgia, USA, ^c Institute of Fundamental Studies, Sri Lanka

Dye-sensitized solid-state and perovskite solar cells are heterojunctions of the configuration ntype-semiconductor/light absorber/p-type semiconductor, where the optical transparency of both nanostructured semiconductor films, ensure optimum light harvesting. Generally one film (in most cases, the n-type substrate made of an oxide semiconductor) is designed nanostructured, so that the sandwiched light absorber layer acquire a high folded surface area, optimizing the light absorption cross-section. In the ideal situation, the hole collector subsequently deposited, acquire similar nanostructure maintaining a perfect physical contact. However, in reality, it is hard to achieve a perfect contact and even if such a contact is made, it may not establish the necessary electronic coupling- enabling hole transfer- directly or via exciton decomposition. Low efficiency and instability of thin absorber solar cells owes much to the nature of the absorber/hole-collector junction. Fundamental and practical issues related to use of hole collector materials in heterojunction devices will be discussed.