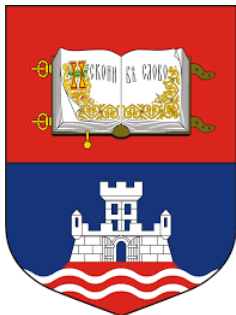


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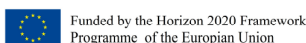
Book of Abstracts

COST MP1402 SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP

"ALD and related ultra-thin film processes for advanced devices"

Editors

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Aggregation problem of dye monolayer in dye sensitized solar cells

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Keywords: monolayer adsorption, solar cells, aggregation

Dye sensitized solar cells are photovoltaic devices which simulate photosynthesis [1,2]. Comparing to other solar cells, they cost less and are easy to manufacture. One of the most important parts of this system is dye. A monolayer of dye, adsorbed onto semiconductor surface collects sunlight, which is further being transformed into electrical energy.

Many types of sensitizers are known today: organic, inorganic, synthetic, natural[3]. Cells with synthetic ruthenium dyes have the highest efficiency of conversion sun energy into electrical. The great disadvantage of ruthenium dyes is their price. Natural pigments, on the other hand, extracted from plants, fruits and flowers are available and affordable, though they gain efficiency of conversion of only a few percent. The basic problem with using natural dyes as sensitizers is their aggregation on the semiconductor surface.

A major factor responsible for the low photoconversion efficiency of an organic dye sensitized solar cell is the formation of dye aggregate on the semiconductor surface. Such an aggregation effect can bring about significant changes in the absorption and photosensitizing properties of the sensitizing dye molecule. One can minimize aggregation effect on the semiconductor surface using dyes with particular anchoring groups[4] or antiaggregation coadsorbents[5]. Computational calculations (density functional theory(DFT), time-dependent DFT (TDDFT)) are also a convenient approach for investigation of aggregation of dye molecules [6].

Acknowledgment

This work has been funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia through the project TR32008.

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