

**STUDY OF LA-DOPED BaSnO₃ LAYER AS
TRANSPARENT CONDUCTIVE OXIDE (TCO) FOR
SOLAR CELL**



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CONDUCTIVE OXIDE (TCO) FOR SOLAR CELL**

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**This report is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
Bachelor of Electronic Engineering with Honours**

**Faculty of Electronic and Computer Engineering
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka**

2022

BORANG PENGESAHAN STATUS LAPORAN
PROJEK SARJANA MUDA II

Tajuk Projek : Study of La-doped BaSnO₃ layer as Transparent Conducting
Oxide Layer (TCO) for Solar Cell
Sesi Pengajian : 2021/2022

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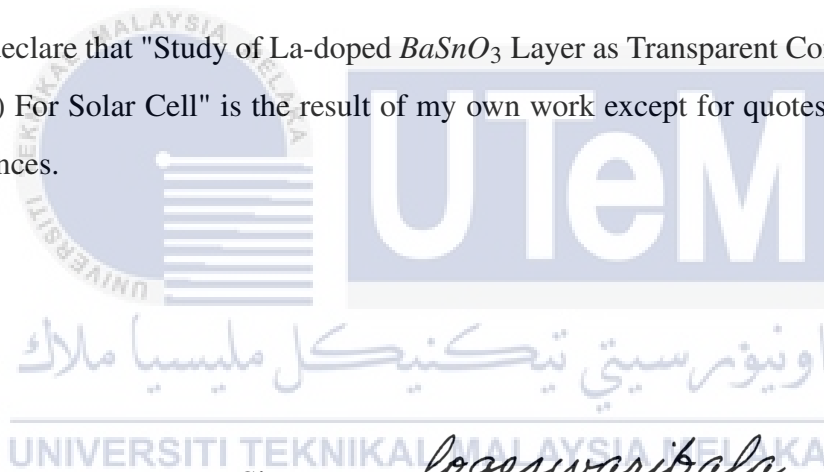
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I declare that "Study of La-doped $BaSnO_3$ Layer as Transparent Conductive Oxide (TCO) For Solar Cell" is the result of my own work except for quotes as cited in the references.



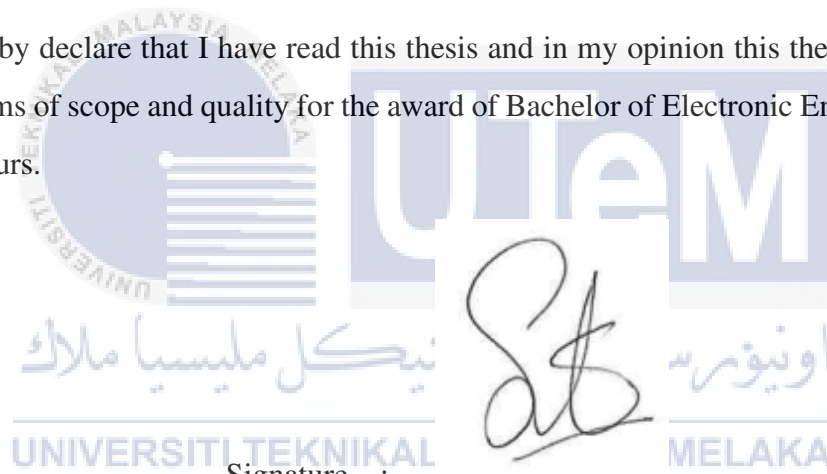
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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I want like to dedicated to my supervisor, and Dr Siti Aisah and Dr Faiz , for guiding me throughout this PSM journey. Next is my mother Revathi and my siblings, who encouraged me to believe in myself and provide financial support. Lastly, my seniors and friends for supporting me in hard times.

اونيورسيتي تيكنيكل مليسيا ملاك
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ABSTRACT

Transparent conducting oxides (TCOs) have become essential materials for a wide range of applications, including photovoltaics. Due to its high electron mobility, good heat stability, optical transparency, structural versatility, and adaptable doping stability at room temperature, perovskite lanthanum doped barium stannate ($La - BaSnO_3$), a new TCO system, is an education and outreach for realizing optoelectronic devices and monitoring based on electronic quantum states. This project researched the physical characteristics, electron-scattering process, and development of lanthanum doped barium stannate at transparent conducting oxides layer (TCO) and zinc oxide at electron transport layer (ETL) systems. Mainly, this project aimed to simulate the ZnO_2 as an electron transport layer and $La - BaSnO_3$ as transparent conductive oxide using perovskite solar cells. Moreover, to experiment with the various parameters of ($La - BaSnO_3$) such as working temperature, the effect of the defect on total density at ETL/TCO, doping density and thickness. To accomplish and optimize the parameter's value is employed to determine the maximum efficiency of PSC with $La - BaSnO_3$ at the TCO layer. This project targets synthesizing $La - BaSnO_3$ and analyzes the characteristics.

ABSTRAK

Oksida pengalir telus (TCO) telah menjadi bahan penting untuk pelbagai aplikasi, termasuk fotovoltaik. Oleh kerana mobiliti elektronnya yang tinggi, kestabilan haba yang baik, ketelusan optik, kepelbagaian struktur dan kestabilan doping yang boleh disesuaikan pada suhu bilik, perovskite lanthanum doped barium stannate ($\text{La} - \text{BaSnO}_3$), sistem TCO baharu, merupakan pendidikan dan jangkauan untuk merealisasikan peranti optoelektronik dan pemantauan berdasarkan keadaan kuantum elektronik. Projek ini menyelidik ciri fizikal, proses penyerakan elektron, dan pembangunan stannat barium doped lantanum pada lapisan oksida pengalir telus (TCO) dan zink oksida pada sistem lapisan pengangkutan elektron (ETL). Terutamanya, projek ini bertujuan untuk mensimulasikan ZnO_2 sebagai lapisan pengangkutan elektron dan $\text{La} - \text{BaSnO}_3$ sebagai oksida konduktif telus menggunakan sel suria perovskite. Selain itu, untuk bereksperimen dengan pelbagai parameter ($\text{La} - \text{BaSnO}_3$) seperti suhu kerja, kesan kecacatan pada jumlah ketumpatan pada ETL/TCO, ketumpatan dan ketebalan doping. Untuk mencapai dan mengoptimumkan nilai parameter digunakan untuk menentukan kecekapan maksimum PSC dengan $\text{La} - \text{BaSnO}_3$ pada lapisan TCO. Projek ini mensasarkan mensintesis $\text{La} - \text{BaSnO}_3$ dan menganalisis ciri-ciri.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All the blessings are from Him. Thank the Lord for Everything. Next, I want to thank my supervisor, Dr Faiz, for his genuineness and support, which I appreciate the most. This thesis would not be feasible without Dr Faiz's direction from the beginning of the research process, which allowed me to understand the subject thoroughly. I am grateful for the beautiful chances he has provided for me to progress professionally and the extraordinary experiences he has planned for me. Dr Aisah has motivated me as I struggled to complete this degree. It is a privilege to study with Dr Aisah and Faiz. I am thankful for my parents' unwavering care and encouragement, which keeps me driven and self-assured. They helped me achieve my goals and success because they believed in me. My siblings, who keep me focused, remind me of what matters in life, and are always appreciative of my endeavours, deserve my gratitude. Finally, my senior ,Omsri , is the epitome of a leader and the ideal role model.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	
Approval	
Dedication	
Abstract	i
Abstrak	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Tables	viii
List of Figures	ix
List of Abbreviations	xi
List of Symbols	xi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
1.2.1 The endangered element	3
1.2.2 Expensive costing	4
1.2.3 Toxicity stage	5
1.3 Objectives	5
1.4 Scope of Project	5
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction	7
2.1.1 Concept of Solar Cell	8

2.2	Solar Cell Generation	8
2.2.1	First Generation Solar Cells	8
2.2.2	Second Generation Solar Cells	9
2.2.3	Third Generation Solar Cells	9
2.3	Perovskite Solar Cell (PSC)	10
2.3.1	The structural of Perovskite Solar Cell (PSC)	11
2.3.2	Transparent Conducting Oxides (TCO)	12
2.3.3	Transparent Conducting Oxides (TCO) at lanthanum doped barium stannate.	12
2.3.4	Electron Transport Layer (ETL)	13
2.3.5	Barium Chloride	13
2.3.6	Tin Chloride	14
2.3.7	Sodium Hydroperoxide	14
2.3.8	Lanthanum	15
2.4	Solar Cell Parameters	15
2.4.1	Open Circuit Voltage, V_{oc}	15
2.4.2	Fill Factor	16
2.4.3	J_{sc}	16
2.4.4	Efficiency	17
2.5	Equipment	18
2.5.1	XRD	18
2.6	General Background Study	19
2.6.1	Lanthanum-doped Barium Stannate – a New Type of Critical Raw Material	19
2.6.2	Electronic Band Structure and Transport Studies of Oxide Materials	19
2.6.3	Effect of Absorber Layer Thickness and Band Gap on the Performance of CdTe/CdS/ ZnO_2 Multi-Junction Thin Film Solar Cell	20

2.6.4	Solution Processable Oxides for Inverted and Carbon-Based Perovskite Solar Cell	20
2.6.5	Inorganic Electron Transport Materials in Perovskite Solar Cell	21
2.6.6	Performance enhancement of perovskite solar cells using a La-doped $BaSnO_3$ electron transport layer	21

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	22
3.1.1	Research Methodology Flow Chart	23
3.2	Introduction to SCAPS Software	24
3.2.1	The Simulation Process using SCAPS Software	24
3.2.1.1	Parameters for working point	26
3.2.1.2	Structural formation of Perovskite, ETL and TCO layer	26
3.2.1.3	Parameter Setting	27
3.2.2	Parameters for Hole Transport Layer (HTL), Perovskite, ETL and TCO layer	28
3.2.3	The powder synthesis of $BaSnO_3$	29
3.2.4	The doping of Lanthanum into $BaSnO_3$ powder	30

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

4.1	Scaps Simulation	31
4.1.1	The analysis of $BaSnO_3$ thickness	32
4.1.2	The analysis of doping density Na	33
4.1.3	The analysis of working temperature	34
4.1.4	The analysis effect of defect on total density at ETL/TCO	36
4.2	Fabrication Result	37
4.2.1	The Result of $BaSnO_3$	37
4.2.2	The Result of $La - BaSnO_3$	38

CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSIONS

5.1	Discussion	39
5.1.1	SCAPS Simulation	40
5.1.2	Fabrication Process	42
5.1.3	Discussion based on theory $La - BaSnO_3$	43
5.2	Environment and Sustainability	45

CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION

6.1	Conclusion	46
6.2	Future work and Development	47

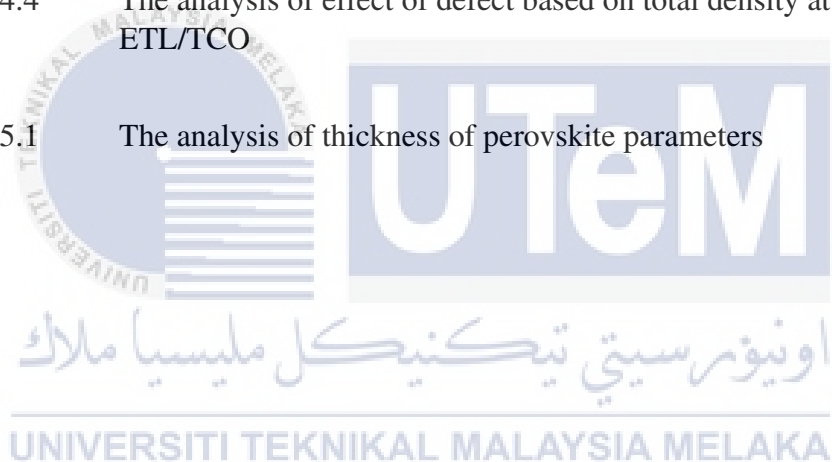
REFERENCES

48



LIST OF TABLES

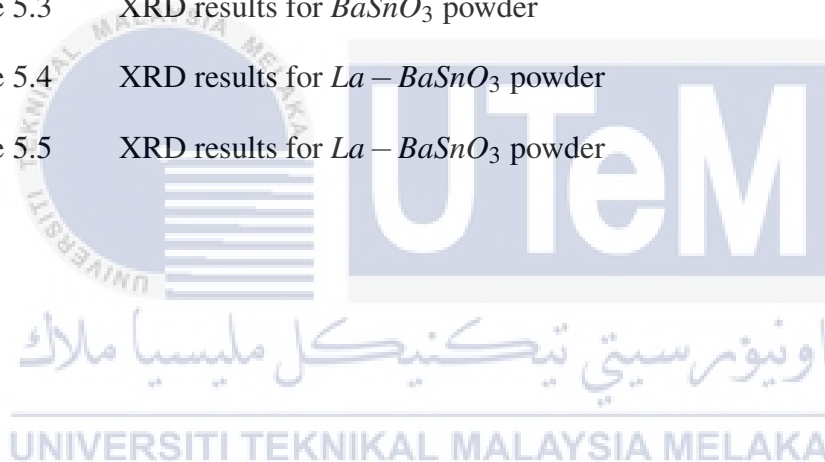
Table 3.1	The Working Panels Names	25
Table 3.2	The parameters for working point	26
Table 3.3	The parameters for HTL,PSC, ETL and TCO	28
Table 4.1	The analysis of thickness parameters	33
Table 4.2	The analysis of doping density parameters	34
Table 4.3	The analysis of temperature parameters	35
Table 4.4	The analysis of effect of defect based on total density at ETL/TCO	36
Table 5.1	The analysis of thickness of perovskite parameters	40



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	The concept of solar cell	2
Figure 1.2	The perovskite solar cell layers	3
Figure 1.3	The periodic table's endangered element based on the data 2021	4
Figure 2.1	The example of monocrystalline	9
Figure 2.2	The perovskite solar cell (PSC)	10
Figure 2.3	The crystal structure perovskite solar cell	11
Figure 2.4	The perovskite solar cell for conventional (n-i-p)	11
Figure 2.5	Setting the net current equal to zero in the solar cell equation yields an expression for V_{oc} .	15
Figure 2.6	The open-circuit voltage is shown by the IV curve of a solar cell.	16
Figure 2.7	The relationship between fill factor, V_{oc} , I_{sc} and PMP	16
Figure 2.8	The formula based on electron and hole diffusion lengths	17
Figure 2.9	The maximum power formula shows the three parameters	17
Figure 2.10	The efficiency is the overall end product.	17
Figure 3.1	The action panel of scaps-1D software	25
Figure 3.2	The layer deposition page of scaps-1D software	26
Figure 3.3	The PSC layers on Scaps	27
Figure 3.4	The parameter setting panel	27
Figure 3.5	The process of $BaSnO_3$ powder	29
Figure 3.6	The process of $La - BaSnO_3$ powder	30
Figure 4.1	The simulation results	32
Figure 4.2	The result of the Voltage Open Circuit (V_{oc}) value and efficiency of TCO layer thickness	33

Figure 4.3	The result of the V_{oc} value and efficiency of variation of doping density	34
Figure 4.4	The result of the V_{oc} value and efficiency of variation of working temperature	35
Figure 4.5	The result of V_{oc} value and efficiency result of effect of defect based on total density at ETL/TCO	36
Figure 4.6	XRD results for $BaSnO_3$ powder	37
Figure 4.7	XRD results for $La - BaSnO_3$ powder	38
Figure 5.1	The efficiency result of effect of defect based on total density at ETL/TCO	41
Figure 5.2	Based on theory XRD results for $BaSnO_3$ powder	42
Figure 5.3	XRD results for $BaSnO_3$ powder	43
Figure 5.4	XRD results for $La - BaSnO_3$ powder	44
Figure 5.5	XRD results for $La - BaSnO_3$ powder	44



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BaCl₂ Barium Chloride.

BaSnO₃ Barium Stannate.

NaOH Sodium Hydroxide.

SnCl₂ Tin Chloride.

V_{oc} Voltage Open Circuit.

ZnO₂ Zinc Oxide.

CIGS Copper Indium Gallium Selenide Solar Cell.

FF Fill-Factor.

HTL Hole Transport Layer.

JSC Short-Circuit Current.

LA(NO₃)₃·6H₂O Lanthanum Nitrate Hexahydrate.

PCE Power Conversion Efficiency.

PSC Perovskite Solar Cell.

PV Photovoltaic.

SDG Sustainable Development Goals.

TCO Transparent Conductive Oxide.

XRD Xray Diffraction.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background study

According to solar energy estimates, large surface regions of low-cost, high-efficiency solar cells could be created in places with intense sunlight, such as deserts. The total primary mass and low cost enable effective thin film manufacture, with thermal evaporation as a viable production technology. [1] Malaysia, an Asian country just north of the equator, has an equatorial climate, which means it is hot, humid, and wet all year. When highs are about 32/33 °C, and lows are around 23/25 °C, temperatures are high and consistent. As a result of being located in an equatorial zone, Malaysia has an advantage in generating solar energy. Renewable energy is provided through solar panel systems. No harmful compounds or toxins are released into the atmosphere that could harm the ecosystem or humankind. This is one of the most significant advantages. The solar energy can use in any area of Malaysia, and it is always available. Solar energy, unlike other forms of energy, is limitless. Solar energy can be used at any time. A natural tropical climate exists in Malaysia, which receives about 4500 kWh of solar radiation per square meter per day and about 12 hours of sunshine daily.

As one of the solar energy applications, electricity has gained much traction in recent years. Heating with solar energy, there is solar-powered lighting available, and it is possible to transport solar-powered and more. Many wonder about how to

trap sunlight and convert it into electricity as shown in Figure 1.1 . This is possible with the help of solar cell. A solar cell is an semiconductor-based electronic device that converts light energy into electrical energy through the photovoltaic effect (PV). Its consists of electrical characteristics such as current, voltage, and resistance. It is also known as a photoelectric cell. There are 16 types of solar cells, such as mono crystalline solar panels (Mono-Si), poly crystalline solar panels, thin-film and more. A solar cell is structured in layer form such as hole transport layer(p-type), electron transport layer(n-type), transparent conductivity oxide etc.

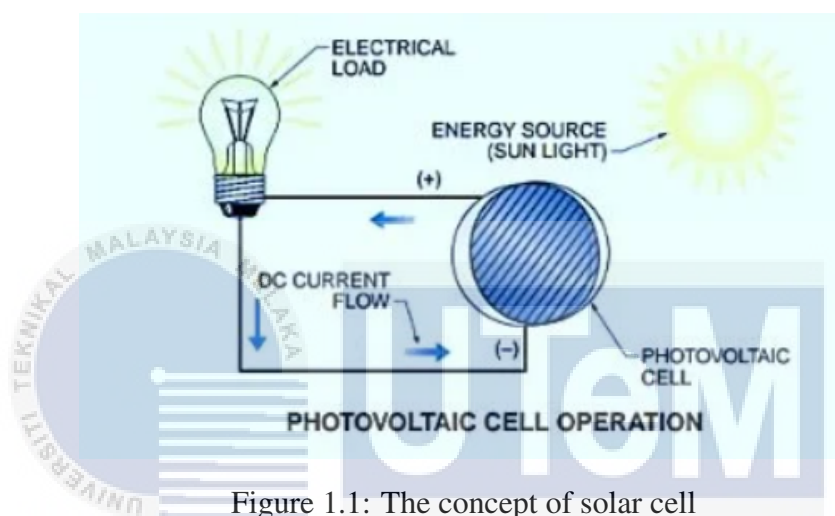


Figure 1.1: The concept of solar cell

One commonly used solar cell is perovskite solar cells (PSC). The Perovskite Solar Cell (PSC) has unique features such as high efficiency, lightweight, low cost, and thin, suitable for solar cell applications. The mineral structure of perovskite has built the capacity to absorb sunlight with less material but a similar quantity of sunlight compared to other solar cells. The perovskite solar cell structure is shown in Figure 1.2. This project is mainly about the transparent conducting oxide layer (TCO), the top layer that absorbs the sunlight. Usually, the Transparent Conductive Oxide (TCO) layer is transparent and electrically conductive, often implemented in liquid crystal display (LCD) and touchscreens. The function of TCO layers is to transport the photo generated electrons to the external device terminals and allow photons into the solar cell by an optically transparent electrode.

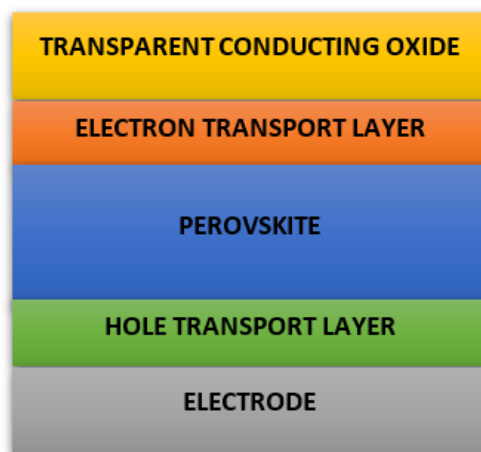


Figure 1.2: The perovskite solar cell layers

1.2 Problem Statement

One of the world's most important research fields is renewable energy. Due to their capability and sustainability, solar cells are often the most efficient source of green energy. But with a question, why are there no solar panels on every roof in the world? A few reasons have been listed down, such as endangered element, costing, and toxicity stage.

1.2.1 The endangered element

Previously, material such as indium tin oxide was extensively used for industrial purposes and interested the researcher community. The electronic properties were a continuous enhancement, making it more favourable for the developer. Unfortunately, indium is considered an endangered element. Based on the Figure 1.3, this element is predicted to be at the range of extinct elements from 2025 to 100 years. Initially, there is no evidence of this happening over the past decade. Indium is a widely requested element, but the resource on earth is not enough to fulfil the request.

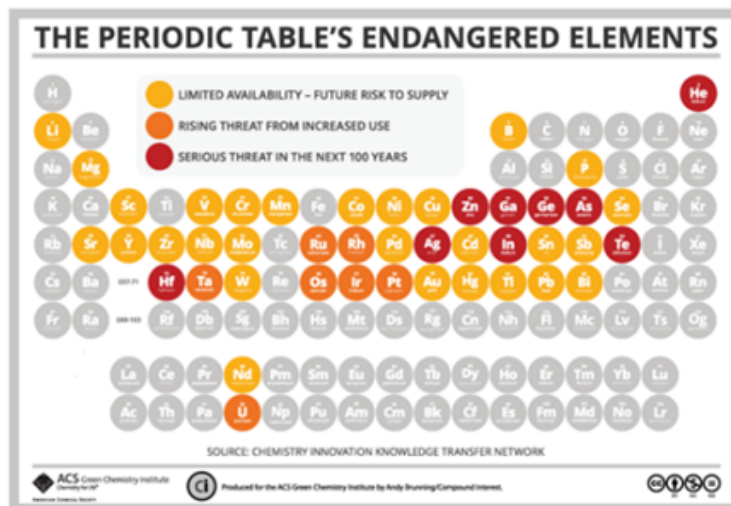


Figure 1.3: The periodic table's endangered element based on the data 2021

1.2.2 Expensive costing

Although Malaysia is blessed with 4-6 hours of sunlight, solar power is not widely used. The sunlight energy is zero costing, yet the solar panel system cannot reduce the price due to the element applied to be expensive. Since the component is running out, the manufacturers have limited the availability and increased the uses, including indium and fluorine, which gives a spike in the price. Moreover, the techniques and equipment are very costly. The main challenge is a TCO in thin-film solar cells to sustain its features at a lower cost. The element that needs to consider is: [2]

- Improving the material uniformity in large areas
- Reducing the total processing time
- Reducing the raw material consumption
- Improving the basic understanding of the material and the processes
- Assuring the long term stability under operating conditions

1.2.3 Toxicity stage

Solar panel waste can include heavy metals such as silver, lead, arsenic and cadmium that at certain levels may be classified as hazardous waste. The indium tin oxide and fluorine tin oxide contain lead substances, harmful to humankind and the environment. The photovoltaic industry uses toxic and flammable substances, although small, which can involve environmental and occupational risks. The main environmental impacts of solar panels are associated with the use of land, water, natural resources, hazardous materials, life-cycle global warming emissions etc .

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this project are:

- To simulate zinc oxide as electron transporting layer (ETL) on La-doped Barium Stannate ($BaSnO_3$) $BaSnO_3$ as transparent Conductive Oxide layer (TCO) layer using SCAPS simulation software.
- To synthesis La-doped $BaSnO_3$ layer as Transparent Conductive Oxide(TCO) Layer
- To characterise the crystallography of the synthesized La-doped $BaSnO_3$ layer using XRD.

1.4 Scope of Project

This project consists of three significant scopes: the software, hardware, and characterize. Moreover, it is based on the solar cell layers and concepts. The structure of the layer requires many limitations, and range needs to be considered throughout the development term.

Firstly, to identify the parameters of the solar cell layers, the simulation plays a significant role. Several parameters include electron mobility, bandgap, hole mobility, and more. SCAPS software is used to simulate the design based on the researched data and calculations. These data and analyses are helpful in obtaining balanced solar cell layers. Moreover, this software helps to execute the structure in 2d images where it is easier to figure out the data specification and limitations.

Next is the powder synthesis process. This project aims to synthesize the $La - BaSnO_3$ powder by using three main elements: barium chloride, tin chloride, and lanthanum nitrate. Sodium hydroxide is used as a stabilizer. The compound is blended using a magnetic stirrer using a balanced chemical equation. The substance was blended equally, and the doping amount was decided based on the project requirement. Lastly, the powder is sent to characterize the $La - BaSnO_3$ raw material. Based on the data analysis given by the XRD result, the value of the element is compared to obtain the optimized state—the characteristic of the combination of the Barium Chloride ($BaCl_2$), Tin Chloride ($SnCl_2$) and Sodium Hydroxide ($NaOH$) as TCO layer element.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter will explain the background study on perovskite solar cell theories and some of the related research done. Many sources were collected showing improved solar cell parameters over five years. The latest researcher has discussed on method and technical approach based on the efficiency of the solar cell, which was used for a reference purpose.

2.1 Introduction

Every day, the sun emits a massive quantity of energy in heat and radiation, which is referred to as solar energy. Solar energy is an infinite energy source that is free to use. Solar energy has a significant benefit over other standard power generators in that sunlight can be directly converted to solar energy using small and tiny photovoltaic solar cells. Although solar energy is available freely everywhere, there is still an initial cost for developing solar cells, panels and modules that capture this radiant energy. Due to the diminishing supply of renewable energy resources, the per-watt cost of solar energy devices has grown essential in recent years. It will become more affordable in the coming years and better technology in terms of cost and application.