Contents

		page
Abstract		i
Acknowledgements		iii
Contents		v
List of Figures		ix
List of Tables		xi
List of Symbols		xii
List of Abbreviations		xiii
Chapter 1: Introduction		
1.1	Photovoltaic Process and Photovoltaic Cell	1
1.2	Evolution of Photovoltaic Cells	1
1.3	Conventional Photovoltaic Cells and Excitonic Solar Cells	2
1.4	Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cells	3
1.5	Carrier Multiplication in Semiconductor Quantum Dots	4
1.6	Objective	5
1.7	Outline of Thesis	6
Chapter 2: Review of Literature		
2.1	Evolution of Solar Cells in Generations	8
2.2	Building Blocks of a Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cells	11
	2.2.1 Excitonic Absorber	*11*
	2.2.2 Electron Transport Material	*13*
	2.2.3 Sensitization Schemes	*14*
	2.2.4 Hole Transport Material	*15*
	2.2.5 Counter Electrode	*16*
2.3	Theoretical Efficiency of Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cells	17
2.4	Summary	17
Chapter 3: Adopted Methodology		
3.1	Sensitization of Mesoporous Electrode	19
3.2	Transition Metal Doping in Cadmium Sulfide Quantum Dots in QDSSCs	21
3.3	Photoelectrode Material for Efficient QDSSCs	22
3.4	Detailed Balance Efficiency Calculation for QDSSCs	23
Chapter 4: Experimental details		
4.1	Fabrication and Synthesis Techniques	25
	4.1.1 Fluorine Doped Tin Oxide (FTO) Substrate Preparation for Photoelectrode Material Deposition	*25*
	4.1.1.1 FTO Cleaning	*25*
	4.1.1.2 Titanium Chloride Treatment of FTO	*25*
	4.1.2 Photoelectrode Material Preparation and Deposition over Treated FTO Substrate	*25*
	4.1.2.1 Zinc Titanate Photoelectrode Material Preparation	*25*
	4.1.2.2 Photoelectrode Material Paste Preparation for Deposition over Treated FTO	*26*
	4.1.2.3 Photoelectrode Paste Deposition over FTO and Mesoporous Electrode Preparation	*26*
	4.1.3 QDs Synthesis Techniques, Sensitization of Mesoporous Electrode and Surface Treatment	*26*
	4.1.3.1 Hydrothermal Synthesis of QDs and In-Situ Sensitization	*26*
	4.1.3.2 Successive Ionic Layer Adsorption and Reaction Sensitization	*27*
	4.1.3.3 ZnS Surface Treatment for Sensitized Mesoporous Electrode	*28*
	4.1.4 Polysulfide Electrolyte Preparation	*29*
	4.1.5 Counter Electrode Preparation	*29*
	4.1.5.1 PbS/Pb Counter Electrode Preparation	*29*
	4.1.5.1 Cu2S/Brass Counter Electrode Preparation	*29*
	4.1.6 Assembling of Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cell (QDSSC)	*29*
4.2	Characterization techniques	29
	4.2.1 Structural Characterization and microstructural characterization techniques	*29*

4.2.1.1 X-ray Diffraction Characterization Technique 30
4.2.1.2 Scanning Electron Microscopy 31
4.2.1.3 Atomic Force Microscopy 32
4.2.2 Optical Characterization 33
4.2.2.1 Ultraviolet Visible Spectrometer 33
4.2.2.2 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer 34
4.2.2.3 Fluorescence Spectrometer 35
4.2.2.3 High Resolution Transmission Electron Spectroscopy 35
4.2.3 Electrical Characterization 36
4.2.3.1 Photovoltaic Performance Characterization 36
4.2.3.2 Impedance Spectroscopy Characterization 36

Chapter 5: In-situ Hydrothermal Sensitization of Mesoporous Electrode
5.1 Introduction 39
5.2 Experimental Procedure 40
5.2.1 Mesoporous Electrode Preparation 40
5.2.2 Mesoporous Electrode sensitization and surface treatment 41
5.2.3 Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cell Preparation 41
2.2.4 Mesoporous Electrode and sensitized mesoporous electrode characterization 41
5.3 Results and Discussion 42
5.3.1 X-ray Diffraction Analysis 42
5.3.2 Microstructure and Surface roughness analysis 42
5.3.3 HR-TEM analysis of sensitized mesoporous electrode 44
5.3.4 Optical characterization 45
5.3.5 Photovoltaic characterization 46
5.4 Concluding Remarks 49

Chapter 6: Transition Metal Doping Investigation in TiO2/CdS
6.1 Introduction 51
6.2 Experimental Procedure 53
6.2.1 Mesoporous TiO2/CdS Photoelectrode Preparation 53
6.2.2 QDSSC Preparation and Characterization 53
6.3 Results and Discussion 53
6.3.1 X-ray Diffraction Analysis 53
6.3.2 Microstructure and Surface Roughness Analysis 54
6.3.3 Optical Properties Analysis 56
5.3.4 Photovoltaic Characterization of QDSSCs 56
6.4 Concluding Remarks 60

Chapter 7: Zinc Titanate as a Photoelectrode Material for Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cells
7.1 Introduction 61
7.2 Experimental Procedure 62
7.3 Results and Discussion 62
2.2.1 X-Ray Diffraction Analysis 62
2.2.2 Investigation of Electronic Properties of Zinc Titanate Nano Powder 64
2.2.3 Investigation of Microstructural Properties of Zinc Titanate Electrode 65
2.2.4 Investigation of Optical Properties of CdS Sensitized ZTO Electrode 66
2.2.5 Investigation of Photovoltaic Properties of CdS/ZnS Sensitized ZTO Electrode 67
7.4 Concluding Remarks 69

Chapter 8: Limiting Efficiency of Quantum Dot Sensitized Solar Cells: A Detailed Balance Study
8.1 Introduction 71
8.2 Calculation of Ultimate Efficiency 72
8.3 Calculation of Ultimate Efficiency with Carrier Multiplication 73
8.4 Calculation of Detailed Balance Efficiency for QDSSCs 75
8.5 Calculation of Detailed Balance Efficiency for QDSSCs with Carrier Multiplication 77
7.4 Concluding Remarks 79

Chapter 9: Conclusion 81

Annexure A : MATLAB code for detailed balance study

A.1 MATLAB Code to Generate Ultimate Efficiency in Ideal Case and Limited Ediff Case 83
A.2 MATLAB Code to Generate Staircase Internal Quantum Efficiency 84
A.2.1 MATLAB Code for Unit Step Function 85
A.3 MATLAB Code to Generate Finite Slope Internal Quantum Efficiency 85
A.4 MATLAB Code to Generate Ultimate Efficiency with Ideal Voc and Finite Voc Approximation with Staircase Carrier Multiplication 86
A.5 MATLAB Code to Generate Ultimate Efficiency with Ideal Voc and Finite Voc Approximation with Finite Slope Carrier Multiplication 88
A.6 MATLAB Code to Generate Photovoltaic Performance Parameter with Detailed Balance Consideration with Ideal Voc and Limited Voc Case 90
A.7 MATLAB Code to Generate Photovoltaic Performance Parameter with Detailed Balance Consideration with Ideal Voc and Limited Voc Case with Carrier Multiplication 92

References 95