

In this study, the polystyrene nanospheres (PS NSs) were used as the sacrificial layers onto the FTO glass substrate. Subsequently, Platinum (Pt) films were deposited onto the PS NSs via the electrochemical deposition method. After removing the PS NSs, the highly porous inverse opal nanostructure of platinum nanoshells (Pt NSLs) were obtained. The synthesized Pt NSLs was used as a stereoscopic counter electrode (CE) for dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSCs).Due to the superb porosity and the stereoscopic nanostructure of the Pt NSLs, the specific surface area could be highly increased while the electrolyte filled into the inverse opal nanostructure. The outstanding specific surface area of the stereoscopic Pt NSLs CE enhanced the catalytic ability which promoted the power conversion efficiency (PCE) of DSSCs. In combination with an N719 dye-sensitized TiO₂ working electrode and an iodine-based electrolyte, the DSSCs with the stereoscopic Pt NSLs CE showed a PCE of 7.59% under AM 1.5 (100 mWcm⁻²) illumination to achieve the high performance in DSSCs.



Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of the fabrication of the Pt NSLs. We used the pipette to set the stable capacity the solution of the PS NSs. The solution of the PS NSs self-assembly arrayed in an opal nanostructure. Platinum (Pt) films were deposited onto the PS NSs via the electrochemical deposition method. Toluene can dissolve PS NSs, therefore Pt NSLs will stay.







Table. 1 Summary of PCE and electrochemical results in different CEs.

Pt nanoshells 27.46 7.24 6.56 2.08 -0.03 -1.79 -0.22 0.19 0.73 15.92 0.68 7.59 Pt films 27.86 10.56 5.98 2.09 -0.02 -1.61 -0.22 0.20 0.72 14.69 0.63 7.16	CEs	R _s (Ω)	R _{ct} (Ω)	J_o (mA cm ⁻²)	I _{pa} (mAcm ⁻²)	V _{pa} (V)	I _{pc} (mAcm ⁻²)	V _{pc} (V)	Over potential	V _{OC} (V)	J _{SC} (mA cm ⁻²)	FF	η (%)
Pt films 27.86 10.56 5.98 2.09 -0.02 -1.61 -0.22 0.20 0.72 14.69 0.63 7.16	Pt nanoshells	27.46	7.24	6.56	2.08	-0.03	-1.79	-0.22	0.19	0.73	15.92	0.68	7.59
	Pt films	27.86	10.56	5.98	2.09	-0.02	-1.61	-0.22	0.20	0.72	14.69	0.63	7.16

We successfully fabricated superb porosity and the stereoscopic nanostructure of the Pt NSLs. The outstanding specific surface area of the stereoscopic Pt NSLs CE enhanced the catalytic ability which promoted the power conversion efficiency (PCE) of DSSCs. The PCE of the complete DSSCs was measured to be 7.59%. We demonstrated that inverse opal porous nanostructure of Pt NSLs can play a good candidate for DSSCs.

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Introduction

Summary