

## SUPPORT INFORMATION

### Effects of alkali and transition metal-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> hole blocking layers on the perovskite solar cells obtained by two-steps sequential deposition method in air and vacuum

U. Nwankwo<sup>a,b,c,d</sup>, Siphelo Ngqoloda<sup>e</sup>, Agnes C. Nkele<sup>a</sup>, Christopher J. Arendse<sup>e</sup>, Kenneth I. Ozoemena<sup>f</sup>,  
A.B.C. Ekwealor<sup>a</sup>, Rajan Jose<sup>g</sup>, Malik Maaza<sup>c,d</sup>, Fabian I. Ezema<sup>a,c,d1\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Nigeria Nsukka Nigeria*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Physics/Geology/Geophysics, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, Nigeria*

<sup>c</sup>*Nanosciences African Network (NANOAFNET), iThemba LABS-National Research Foundation, 1 Old Faure road, Somerset West 7129, P.O.Box 722, Somerset West, Western Cape Province, South Africa*

<sup>d</sup>*UNESCO-UNISA Africa Chair in Nanosciences/Nanotechnology, College of Graduate Studies, University of South Africa (UNISA), Muckleneuk ridge, P.O. Box 392, Pretoria, South Africa*

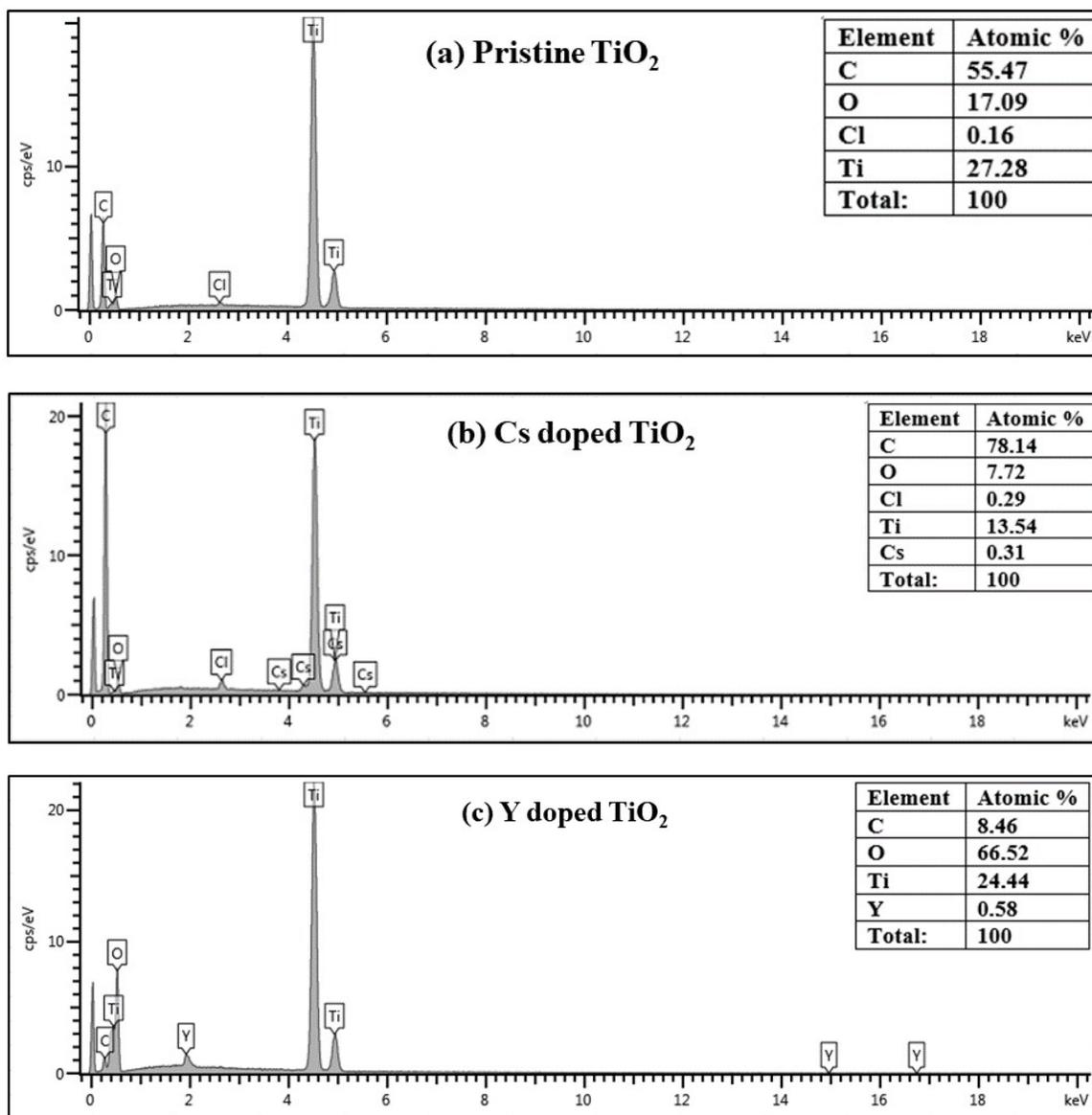
<sup>e</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag XI7, Bellville, 7535, South Africa*

<sup>f</sup>*Molecular Sciences Institute, School of Chemistry, University of the Witwatersrand Private Bag 3, P O Wits, Johannesburg 2050, SOUTH AFRICA*

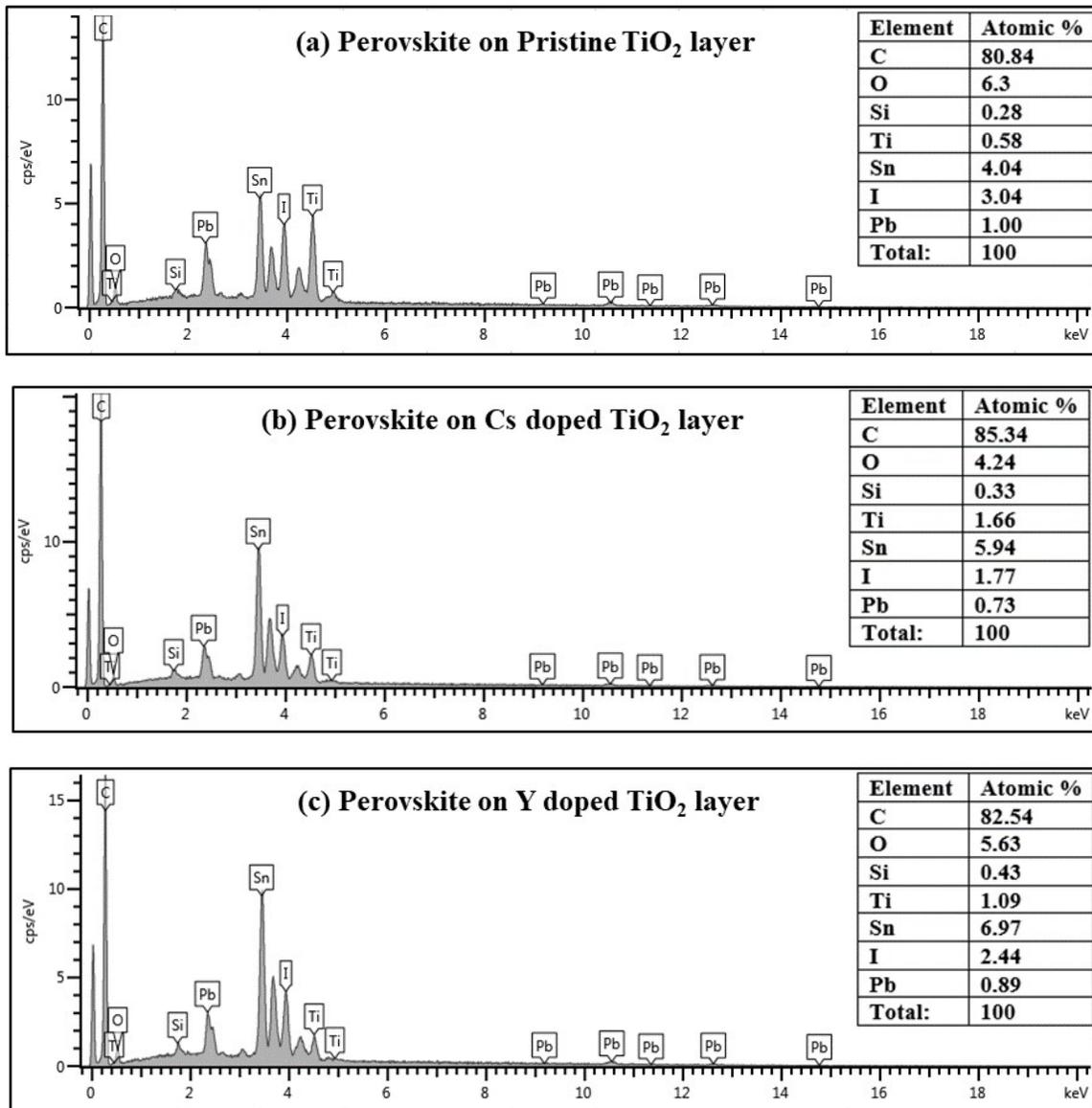
<sup>g</sup>*Nanostructured Renewable Energy Materials Laboratory, Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 26300 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia*

---

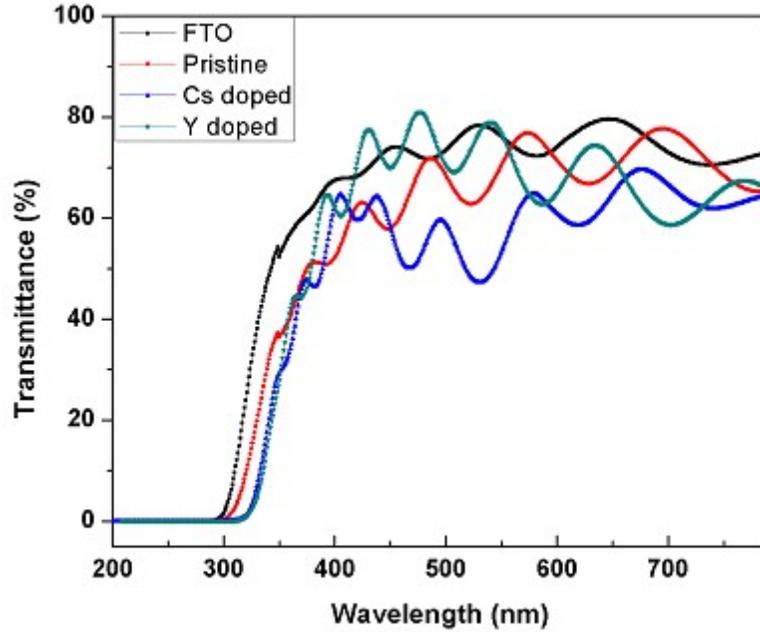
\*Corresponding author: F.I. Ezema; [fabian.ezema@unn.edu.ng](mailto:fabian.ezema@unn.edu.ng)



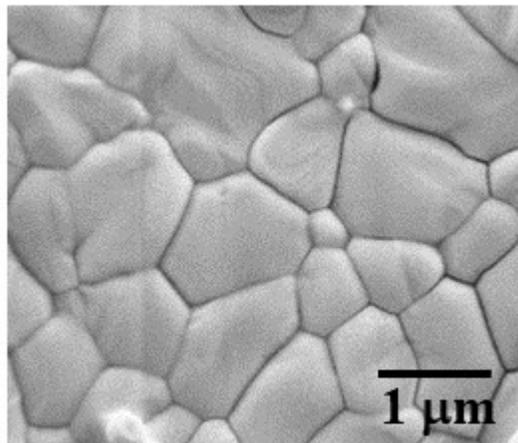
**Figure S1:** EDX Spectra of (a) Pristine TiO<sub>2</sub> (b) Cs-TiO<sub>2</sub> and (c) Y-TiO<sub>2</sub>. The EDX measurements were performed along with the SEM imaging for the pristine, Cs- and Y-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> and the elemental composition of the dopant was confirmed in the material.



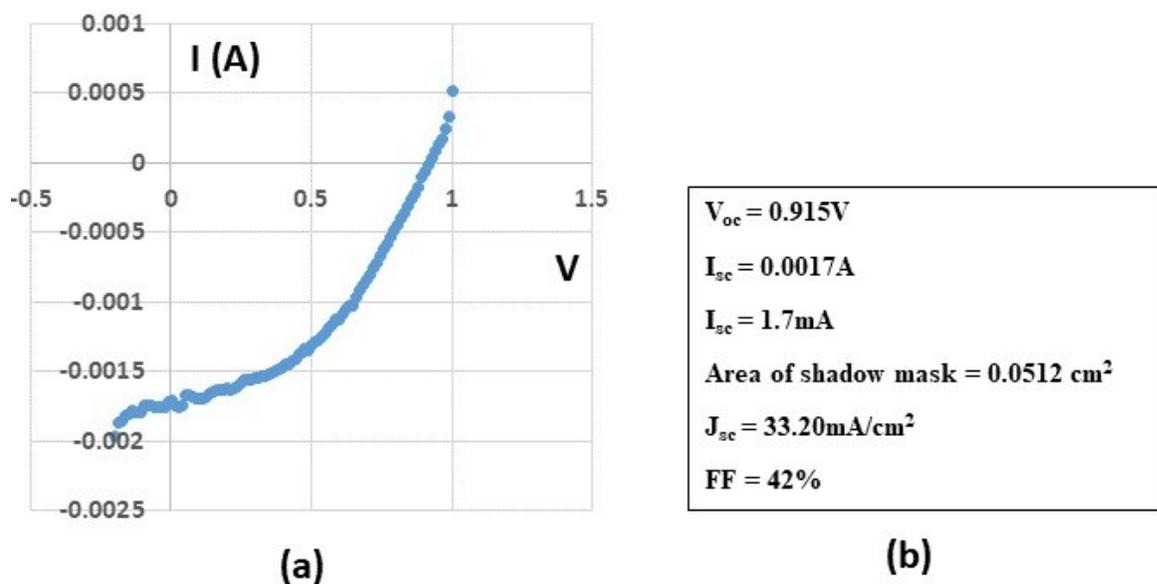
**Figure S2:** EDX Spectra of perovskite material on (a) Pristine TiO<sub>2</sub> (b) Cs-TiO<sub>2</sub> and (c) Y-TiO<sub>2</sub>. The EDX measurement was performed along with the SEM imaging for the perovskite absorber layers grown on pristine, Cs- and Y-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> and the elemental composition of the dopant and perovskite material were confirmed in the spectrum.



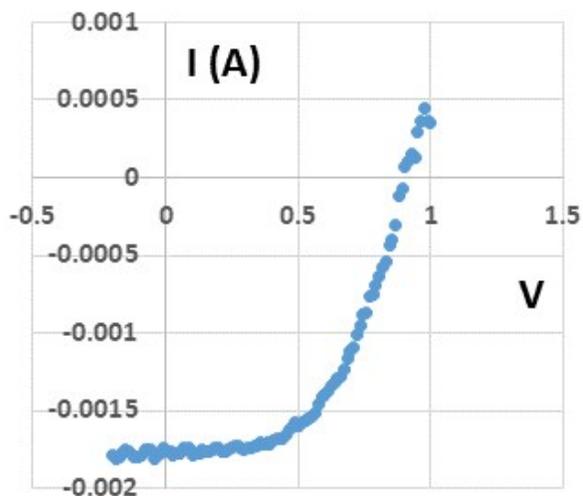
**Figure S3:** Optical transmittance spectra of the pristine, Cs-doped and Y-doped TiO<sub>2</sub>. The optical transmittance spectra for Bare FTO substrate (black), Pristine TiO<sub>2</sub> (red), Cs-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> (blue) and Y-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> (green) measured in the UV-vis region of the electromagnetic spectrum prior to the deposition of the perovskite absorber layers.



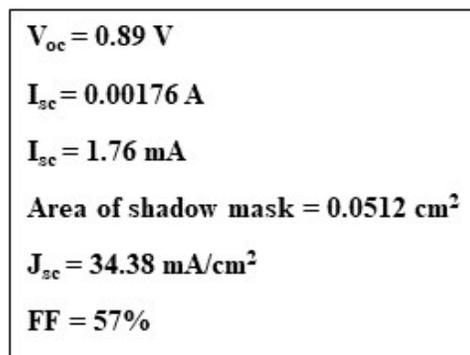
**Figure S4:** SEM image of Perovskite layer grown by CVD. The SEM image show a larger grain size compare to the perovskite layer grown by spin coating. The estimated average grain size of the perovskite layer grown by CVD is  $0.857 \pm 0.012 \mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure S5:** (a) Current -voltage (I-V) curve for perovskite layer deposited on Y-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> for vacuum processed (b) Estimated perovskite solar cell photovoltaic parameters for perovskite absorber layer on Y-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> with high short-circuit current densities ( $J_{sc}$ ) exceeding 25 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>. This cell was measured along with the cell presented in the manuscript. The current-voltage (I-V) characteristics was measured with Keithley 2420 source meter under standard simulated solar irradiation of 100 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> and AM 1.5 at room temperature. The active area of the solar cell was 0.0512 cm<sup>2</sup> as defined by the shadow mask used for the solar testing.

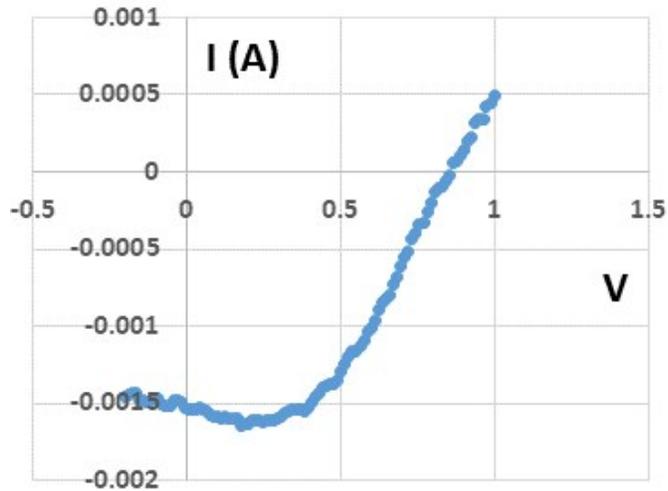


**(a)**

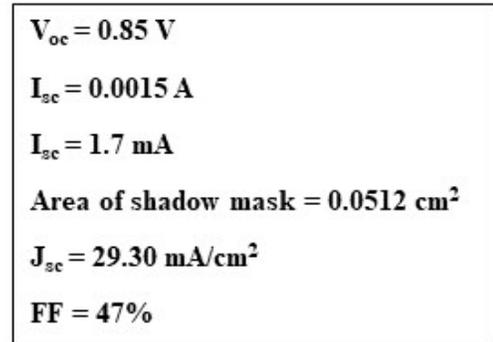


**(b)**

**Figure S6:** (a) Current -voltage (I-V) curve for perovskite layer deposited on Y-doped  $\text{TiO}_2$  for vacuum processed (b) Estimated perovskite solar cell photovoltaic parameters of another perovskite absorber layer grown on Y- $\text{TiO}_2$  layer. Measurements repeated on another to perovskite solar cell grown with the growth condition to compare with the short-circuit current density ( $J_{sc}$ ) value presented in the main manuscript.

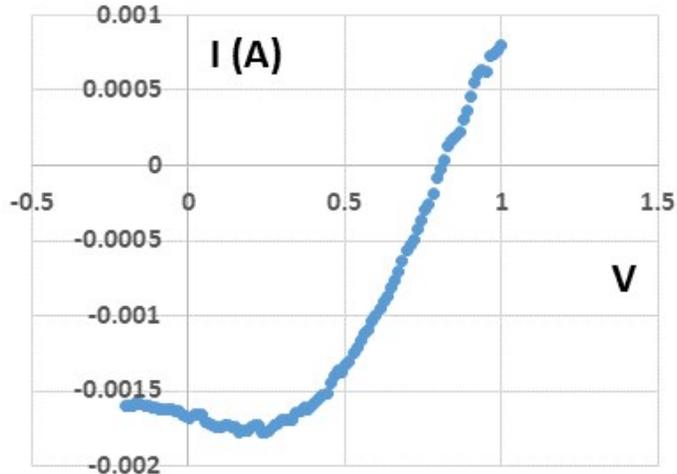


**(a)**



**(b)**

**Figure S7:** (a) Current -voltage (I-V) curve for perovskite layer deposited on Y-doped  $\text{TiO}_2$  for vacuum processed (b) Estimated perovskite solar cell photovoltaic parameters of another perovskite absorber layer grown on Y- $\text{TiO}_2$  layer.



**(a)**

$V_{oc} = 0.80 \text{ V}$   
 $I_{sc} = 0.00166 \text{ A}$   
 $I_{sc} = 1.66 \text{ mA}$   
 Area of shadow mask =  $0.0512 \text{ cm}^2$   
 $J_{sc} = 32.42 \text{ mA/cm}^2$   
 $FF = 54\%$

**(b)**

**Figure S8:** (a) Current -voltage (I-V) curve for perovskite layer deposited on Y-doped  $\text{TiO}_2$  for vacuum processed (b) Estimated perovskite solar cell photovoltaic parameters of another perovskite absorber layer grown on Y- $\text{TiO}_2$  layer. Measurements repeated on another to perovskite solar cell grown with the growth condition to compare with the short-circuit current density ( $J_{sc}$ ) value presented in the main manuscript. Fig. S4 - S7 show that the short-circuit current density for all the perovskite absorber layer used in this work are high than  $25 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ .