



A Study of the Influence of Temperature on Electron Transfer of an Ruthenium Complex Donor in Contact with ZnS Semiconductor in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell

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Abstract: In this paper, a theoretical study has been presented on influence of temperature on process of charge transport reaction based on the quantum transition from the donor excited state of ruthenium to the conduction band in zinc sulfide (ZnS) semiconductors. This study uses reorganization energy to evaluate the transport properties of four types of polar solvents, including ethanoic acid, dimethoxyethane (DME), propanol, and methyl alcohol, around a ZnS device contacting a ruthenium N3 heterojunction, for dye-sensitized solar cell (DSSC) applications within continuum energy levels. Calculations include momentum energy, coupling strength, atomic density, concentration vector, and polarity properties related to the dielectric constant and refractive index of the solvent and ZnS. Charge transfer rate analysis of ruthenium N3-ZnS using four solvents reveals that ethanoic acid and dimethoxyethane exhibit favorable polar media for efficient charge transfer from the excited ruthenium N3 dye to the conduction band of ZnS semiconductors, compared to propanol and methyl alcohol.

Keywords: Electronic Transport, Ruthenium Complex, ZnS, Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, relentless pursuit of sustainable and renewable energy sources has become crucial to meet the world's growing energy needs, while at the same time mitigating environment impacted was associating with conventional energy generated method [1]. Since Michel Grätzel and colleagues introduced the first photovoltaic (PV) cells in 1991, research in the field of dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSCs) has gained interest and achieved some notable breakthroughs due to, cost-effective, simple and scalable raw material-based manufacturing methods [2]. The operation of DSSCs is based on the electron transfer principles, i.e., the conversion of photon light energy into electricity using light-absorbing dye molecules, which play main role in initiating the electronic transport process [3]. First, light absorbs by sensitizing dye excited an electrons, which moves to conduction band of semiconductor, leaving a positive dye. Electrons then diffused through semiconductor to reach conductive surface to collect current. Further, the ions were forming by oxid diffusion through short distance from electrolyte to cathode and the regeneration cycle. Finally, the ions travel to photoanode and are oxidized back to an ion by transfer an electronic back to sensitizing material, ready to return to its neutral state [4]. The electron transfer is of great importance in various fields of science and electronic technology in addition to the DSSCS solar cell. However, in charge transfer no chemical bond is formed or broken during the transfer process besides small change in bond and angle [5]. Electron transport occurs in different heterostructured devices in many different technological devices [6]. Classical theory of Marcus represents basis to understand the dynamics of the electron transport process between a state at the donor and state at the acceptor when interface between them, that occurred in various electronic technology [7]. In recently, Marcus developed a semiclassical theory for the electron transfer rate equation, and Gürtner presented it based on quantum mechanics. A non-adiabatic electron transfer reaction is considered to occur between two electronic states within the Franck-Condon approximation, which is the probability of an electron transfer from the donor to the acceptor [8]. A quantum theory of charge transport QTCT is challenged and have a main attention is being paid to effect of barrier on the rate of electronic transport between donor and acceptor states [9], it is shown in figure .1

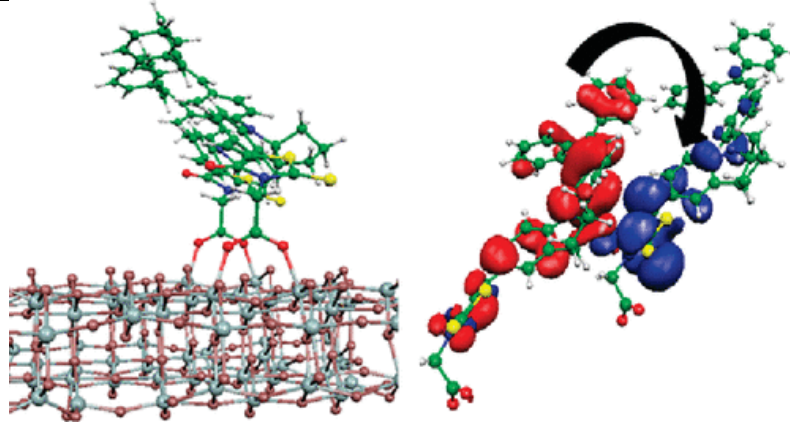


Figure 1: Schematic connection of Ruthenium complex dye contact with ZnS interfaces

In many applied electronic devices involving electron molecules, semiconductors and metals, various electron transfer processes have been found, where electrons move from the donor state to the final acceptor state [10]. However, charge transport can occur in different heterogeneous structural devices in various types of solar cells, as well as technological devices [11]. The classical Marcus theory was introduced as a basis for understanding the dynamics of electron transfer between donor and acceptor states, which occurs in various devices [12]. Based on Hadi et al.'s theory, the transition energy is a fundamental and important factor in the electron transfer process, and it is necessary for the device to redirect the energy levels before transferring electrons in the devices [13]. QTCT was challenging and gained most attention for the effect of potential barrier on the charge transport rate for transfer of charge from donor to an acceptor states [8]. Many researchers are enhanced the charge transport theory based on theoretical analytical or experimental methods beside the computer simulation methods [14]. In this work, a theoretical study temperature effected on charge transport transition was summarize for ruthenium complex dye contact with zinc blend ZnS semiconductor in dye sensitized solar cell device .

II. THEORY

The coefficient of charge transport rate from initial donor dye state to final acceptor conduction band state can be utilized with [15].

$$K_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle|^2 \rho_{i \rightarrow f}(E) \quad (1)$$

Where \hbar is Planck constant, $\mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f}$ is the coupling constant matrix element of donor acceptor overlapping and $\rho_{i \rightarrow f}(E)$ is density of electronic state in system, it can be written as [16].

$$\rho_{i \rightarrow f}(E) = \rho_{ef} \mathbf{l}_{ef} \left(\frac{6}{\pi}\right)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \quad (2)$$

Where ρ_{ef} is effective density in donor-acceptor system, \mathbf{l}_{ef} is effective length in semiconductor. The Eq. (2) together Eq.(1) leads to .

$$K_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle|^2 \rho_{ef} \mathbf{l}_{ef} \left(\frac{6}{\pi}\right)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \quad (3)$$

However, the effective density can compute using [17].

$$\rho_{ef} = \rho_D(E) \rho_{at}^{-2/3} \langle \hat{\rho} \rangle \quad (4)$$

Where $\rho_D(E)$ is the density of electrons in excited donor, ρ_{at} is the atomic density of semiconductor and $\langle \hat{\rho} \rangle$ is measurement of density in donor-acceptor system given by.

$$\langle \hat{\rho} \rangle = \frac{e^{-\frac{(\lambda_A^D + \Delta V^0)^2}{4\lambda_A^D k_B T}}}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda_A^D k_B T}} \quad (5)$$

Where $\lambda_A^D(eV)$ is the reorganization energy, ΔV^0 is drive energy force, k_B is Boltzman constant as well as T is temperature. Reorganization energy $\lambda_A^D(eV)$ of the donor-acceptor around new equilibrium of system is [18].



$$\lambda_A^D (eV) = \frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon^0} \left[\frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right] - \frac{1}{2D_{D-A}} \left[\left(\frac{n_A^2 - n^2}{n_A^2 + n^2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{n^2} \right) - \frac{\epsilon_A^2 - \epsilon^2}{\epsilon_A^2 + \epsilon^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \right] \right] \quad (6)$$

Where e^2 is electron charge, $\epsilon \cdot$, r and D_{D-A} are permittivity, radius of the materials in system, and distance between donor and acceptor, n is refractive index of solvents and ϵ is dielectric constant, n_A is refractive index and ϵ_A is dielectric constant of donor. The radius donor or acceptor can evaluate from spherical approach formula [19].

$$r(nm) = \left(\frac{3}{4\pi} \frac{M}{N\rho} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad (7)$$

Where M , N are molecular weight and Avogadro number, and ρ is density of material. Insert Eq. (5) and Eq. (4) into Eq. (3) using Fermi distribution function $F(E)$ and integrated over all energy to produce.

$$K_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{h} \int |\langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle|^2 \rho_D(E) \rho_{at}^{-2/3} \frac{e^{-\frac{(\lambda_A^D + \Delta V^0)^2}{4\lambda_A^D k_B T}}}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda_A^D k_B T}} \mathbf{l}_{ef} \left(\frac{6}{\pi} \right)^{-\frac{1}{3}} F(E) dE \quad (8)$$

The constant term in Eq. (8) split out integral and simplified to

$$K_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{h} |\langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle|^2 \rho_{at}^{-2/3} \frac{e^{-\frac{(\lambda_A^D + \Delta V^0)^2}{4\lambda_A^D k_B T}}}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda_A^D k_B T}} \mathbf{l}_{ef} \left(\frac{6}{\pi} \right)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \int F(E) \rho_D(E) dE \quad (9)$$

The integral in Eq. (9) reduces to concentration of charge transfer in acceptor final state

$$\int F(E) \rho_D(E) dE = [C] \quad (10)$$

Substituting Eq. (10) into Eq. (9) to obtained.

$$K_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{h} |\langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle|^2 \rho_{at}^{-2/3} \frac{e^{-\frac{(\lambda_A^D + \Delta V^0)^2}{4\lambda_A^D k_B T}}}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda_A^D k_B T}} \mathbf{l}_{ef} \left(\frac{6}{\pi} \right)^{-\frac{1}{3}} [C] \quad (11)$$

III. RESULTS

To evaluate the effect of temperature on the charge transport process from energy state in Ruthenium complex dye to conduction band in ZnS semiconductor based dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSCs), was systematically study and investigated over] ranging from 25°C to 45°C. The effect of temperature on electron transport for all types of electrons in dyes, semiconductors, and electrolytes was studied and calculated using the density of states and quantum transition rate, and the characteristics of the reorganization energy in the steady state and the continuum state were calculated. In the first step, assuming charge transport from donor to an acceptor, the charge transfer rate coefficient calculated based on reorganization energies, which usually plays a most important to limit charge transport from the sensitized excited ruthenium complex to ZnS.

Reorganization energy $\lambda_A^D (eV)$ has been studied to evaluate used Eq. (6) taking into account the radius of the complex ruthenium dye and zinc sulfide (ZnS) with refractive index aa well as dielectric constant of solvent and zinc sulfide (ZnS). Radii of complex ruthenium dye and ZnS calculate using Eq.(7) with taken the molecular weight ($M=705.64\text{g/mol}$ with density $1.36 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3}$) for ruthenium complex using table (1), $M= 97.46\text{g/mol}$ and $\rho = 4.079 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^3}$ [20]) for ZnS, results are $6.499A^0$ and $2.117A^0$ for both ruthenium dye and ZnS respectively.

Table (1): Main physical properties of Ruthenium N3 dye [20-21].

Ruthenium N3 dye	
Name	Cis-bis(isothiocyanato-bis(2,2'-bipyridyl-4,4'-dicarboxylato) ruthenium(II)
synonym	Ruthenium N3
Molecular form	$C_{26}H_{16}N_6O_8RuS_2$
Molar Mass (g/mol)	705.64
Density (g/cm ³)	1.36
Melting point (C ^o)	> 300
HOMO(eV)	-5.39
LUMO(eV)	-2.79
solubility	C_2H_5OH
classificate	Ruthenium, Bipyridyl-ligands, Dye-sensitized solar cells, Energy materials, donor



Calculated radius	6.499 Å
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Table (2): he properties of ZnS [22,23].

Properties	ZnS
Molecular Weight	97.46
Groups	Zinc(12)
	Sulfur(16)
Structure	Cubic Crystal
Lattice Constant(Å)	5.4093
Dielectric Constant	8.9
Band Gap(eV)	3.54
Density(g/cm ³)	4.079
Melting Point (°C)	1850
Refractive Index	2.356
Radius (Å)	2.116

The reorganization energy λ_A^D (eV) was derived using Equation (6) with the input of both the dielectric constant and refractive index of the solvents from Table (3) and ZnS from Table (2), and the results show in Table (3).

Table (3): The reorganization energy λ_A^D (eV) for charge transfer from ruthenium dye to ZnS

solvents	Formula	Dielectric constant (ϵ)[25]	Refractive index (n) [25]	λ_A^D (eV)
Ethanoic Acid	CH ₃ COOH	6.15	1.372	0.303
Dimethoxyethane DME	C ₄ H ₁₀ O ₂	7.2	1.380	0.434
Propanol	CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	20.33	1.384	0.438
Methyl Alcohol	CH ₃ OH	32.7	1.330	0.476

Understanding charge transfer upon contact of ruthenium dye with zinc sulfide (ZnS), its effect on temperature, and its relationship to DSSC efficiency through simulations is based on a theoretical model. These simulations typically include alignment of power levels, routing, manufacturing methods, and optimization to achieve good efficiency. These processes typically involve determining the direction and adjusting the alignment by calculating the charge transfer rate $K_{i \rightarrow f}$. That can be calculated by applied a expression in Eq. (11) by insert the conduction band (3.66eV) , temperature from of 25°C, 35°C and 45°C ,carrier concentration [C]($1.4 \times 10^{20} m^{-3}$), effective length $l_{ef} = 3 \times 10^{-10} m$ [24], atomic density $5.81 \times 10^{18} \frac{1}{m^3}$, strength coupling ranging ($7.25 \times 10^{-6} \geq |\langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle|^2 \geq 1.25 \times 10^{-6} |eV|^2$) and taken the Electrochemical potential $\Delta V^0 = 3.45 eV$ with reorganization energy from table (3) using (MATLAP) software, results summarized in the Tables (4) (5) and (6) at temperature 25°C, 35°C and 45°C .

Table (4): Results of rate of charge transport calculated for RutheniumN3- ZnS at $\Delta V^0 = 0.21 eV$ at 25°C.

solvents	λ_A^D (eV)	$K_{i \rightarrow f} \times 10^{13} (cm^2 / sec)$						
		$ \langle \mathcal{M}_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle ^2 \times 10^{-6} eV / state$						
		1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25	5.25	6.25	7.25
Ethanoic Acid	0.303	1.764	3.321	4.448	5.1455	6.644	7.689	8.167
Dimethoxyethane	0.434	2.713	3.256	4.358	4.697	5.396	6.698	7.676
Propanol	0.438	0.896	1.2876	1.678	2.191	2.5940	3.145	3.438
Methyl Alcohol	0.476	0.828	1.264	1.387	1.456	1.657	1.897	2.234

Table (5): Results of rate of charge transport calculated for RutheniumN3- ZnS at $\Delta V^0 = 0.21 eV$ at 35°C



solvents	$\lambda_A^D(eV)$	$K_{i \rightarrow f} \times 10^{13} (cm^2 / sec)$						
		$ \langle M_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle ^2 \times 10^{-6} eV / state$						
		1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25	5.25	6.25	7.25
Ethanoic Acid	0.303	3.687	5.254	7.456	9.296	11.321	13.156	15.197
Dimethoxyethane	0.434	3.214	4.789	6.456	7.981	9.698	10.181	12.945
Propanol	0.438	1.765	2.257	3.244	3.943	4.756	5.142	6.398
Methyl Alcohol	0.476	1.098	1.512	1.997	2.478	3.114	3.494	2.191

Table (6): Results of rate of charge transport calculated for Ruthenium N3- ZnS at $\Delta V^0 = 0.21 eV$ at $45^\circ C$.

solvents	$\lambda_A^D(eV)$	$K_{i \rightarrow f} \times 10^{13} (cm^2 / sec)$						
		$ \langle M_{i \rightarrow f} \rangle ^2 \times 10^{-6} eV / state$						
		1.25	2.25	3.25	4.25	5.25	6.25	7.25
Ethanoic Acid	0.303	4.698	7.108	9.564	11.956	14.645	16.433	18.982
Dimethoxyethane	0.434	4.118	6.270	8.357	10.672	12.562	14.659	16.328
Propanol	0.438	1.989	3.140	4.016	5.115	6.211	7.230	8.329
Methyl Alcohol	0.476	1.376	2.031	2.571	3.321	3.983	4.667	5.785

Figures (1), (2), and (3) show the calculated electron transfer rate of ruthenium N3-ZnS at temperatures $T=25^\circ C$, $35^\circ C$, and $45^\circ C$. Charge transfer rate can reveal important information regarding its potential use in solar cell applications.

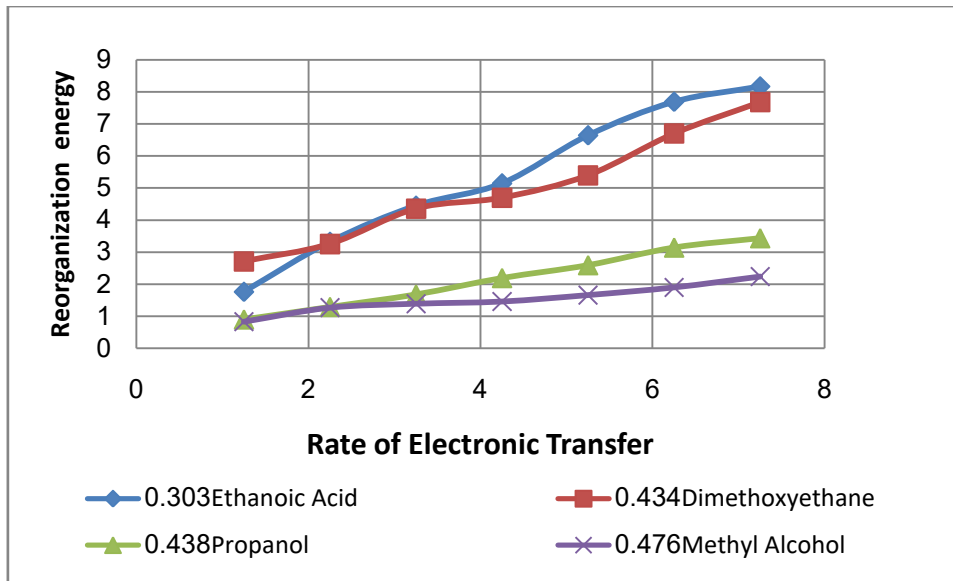


Figure (1): The rate of charge transport for Ruthenium N3- ZnS at $25^\circ C$

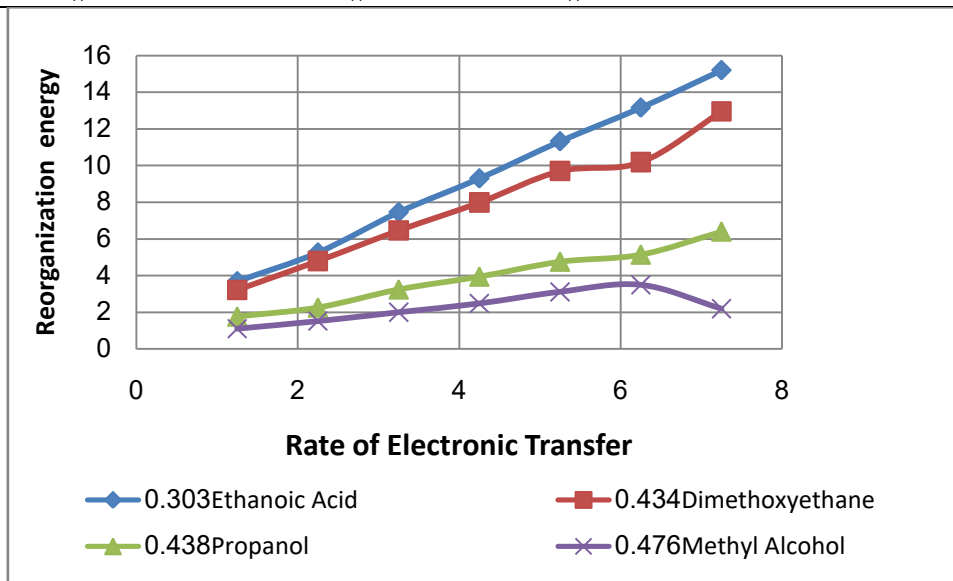


Figure (2): The rate of charge transport for Ruthenium N3- ZnS at 35°C.

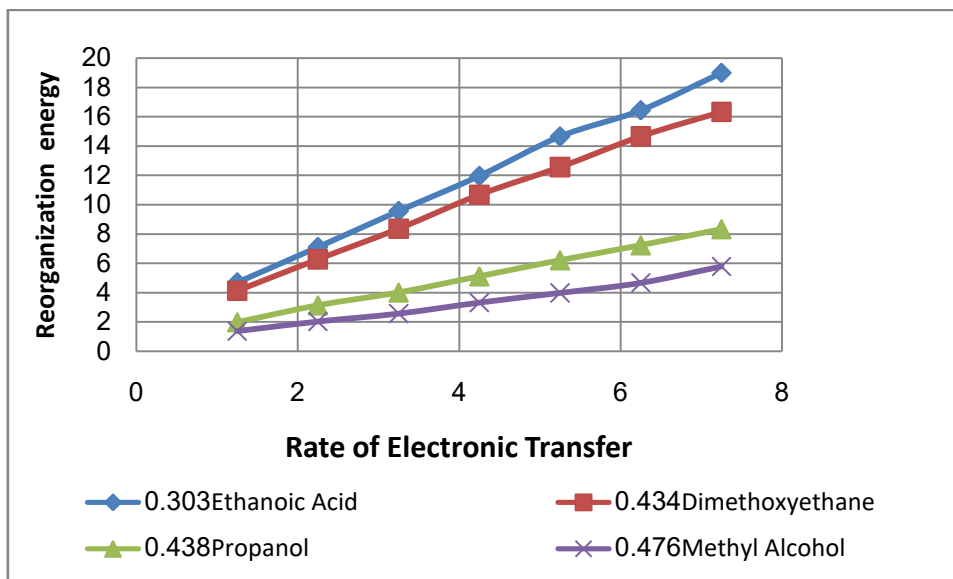


Figure (3): The rate of charge transport for Ruthenium N3- ZnS at 45°C.

IV. DISCUSSION

The results showed reorganization energy and temperature dependent behavior in the main charge transfer rate coefficients and interface charge transfer dynamics. The reorganization energy is influenced by solvent polarity. Table (3) indicates the main results that highlight a clear dependence on the forced reorganization energy of both the refractive index and the dielectric constant of the solvents. The reorganization energy of the system using methyl alcohol solvent (0.476 eV) is higher than the reorganization energy of ethanoic acid (0.303 eV), DME (0.434 eV), and propanol (0.438 eV) solvents, indicating that the device requires more energy for orientation, which means a lower probability of charge transfer. However, the device containing ethanoic acid solvent has a low reorganization energy of 0.303 eV and results in a high $K_{i \rightarrow f} (\text{cm}^2 / \text{sec})$. The calculated rate $K_{i \rightarrow f} (\text{cm}^2 / \text{sec})$ under finite temperature showed significant changes in the reorganization energy with increases in dielectric constant and decreased in the refractive index. Calculated charge transport rate under a limited temperature showed significant changes and reorganization energy-dependent behavior with increasing dielectric constant and decreasing refractive index. As shown in Tables (4), (5), and (6), the best charge transfer rate increased at (T = 25, 35, and 45) °C, with a minimum reorganization energy of 0.303 and a significant improvement with decreasing dielectric constant and more polar media. This improvement has been attributed to improved charge injection as well as reduced the resistance of charge.



However, the charge transfer rate results, derived from theoretical calculations (see Figures 1, 2, and 3), show a decrease in $K_{i \rightarrow f} (\text{cm}^2 / \text{sec})$ at the interface between ruthenium N3 and zinc sulfur, with the reorganization energy decreasing with decreasing refractive index of the solvents. There are changeable common behaviour of the relation of electronic transfer rate with reorganization energy and temperatures, the more stable of which are in figure (3). As shown in the figure(3), for the ruthenium N3-ZnS as-assumed in this study, the 45oC is dominated the increases rate of electron transfer .The results in Table (3) showed an increase in the reorganization energy of the ruthenium N3-ZnS contact system with four kinds of solvents from 0.303 with ethanoic acid to 0.476 with methyl alcohol.The rate $K_{i \rightarrow f} (\text{cm}^2 / \text{sec})$ of ruthenium N3-ZnS in Tables (4), (5) and (6) with decreasing reorganization energy depends on solvents polarity due to the refractive index as well as dielectric constant of the solvents.

The main results highlight a clear dependence on the force coupling of both the charge transfer rate and the total reorganization energy, according to the expression in Eq. (11).As expected, the charge transport in Tables (4), (5) and (6) increased with increased force coupling and decreased reorganization energies at the same temperature.Moreover, the rates results in Tables (4) to (6) for N3 dye sensitized using ZnS devices with ethanoic acid solvent were higher than with methyl alcohol solvent due to the reorganization energy.The charge transfer rate increases with increasing force coupling from [1.25 to 7.25] and the reorganization energy decreases from 0.476 eV to 0.303 eV for four types of solvents with limited driving energy (0.21 eV).

At lower temperatures (25°C), the rate and overall charge transfer reaction were relatively modest because they attributed to reduced transition energy, which limited the transfer of charge and slows down the injection of charges from the donor ruthenium N3 dye into the conduction band of ZnS. On the other hand, the charge transport will be increased alternatively with increased in the temperature from 25°C, 35°C, to 45°C.As result, higher rate of the device at 45°C indicates that charge has transferred in most of the potential cross-linked heterojunction devices as the temperature increases.

Charge transfer rate data confirmed an increase in the charge transfer interaction at the ruthenium N3 dye/zinc sulfur (ZnS) interface when increased temperature from 25°C to 45°C for reaction in devices, indicating high charge separation efficiency between the two surfaces.

In fact, the charge transport rate reaches to maximum values at 45°C with lower reorganization energy , ranging $\sim 4.698 \times 10^{13}$ (to $\sim 18.982 \times 10^{13}$), while at 25°C, it decreased significantly to $\sim (1.764 - 8.167) \times 10^{13}$. Indicating improved charge transport of ruthenium N3 –ZnS device largely with increased temperature and reach maximum values with all solvents at 45oC.However, this indicates that the device performance is affected by temperature rise, which is limited by recombination losses or thermal instability of the dye layer.As the temperature increased to about 45°C, the charge transfer rate in the ruthenium N3-ZnS devices improved significantly. This indicates improved charge transfer kinetics and increased velocity of charge carriers within the ZnS semiconductor matrix with a lower reorganization energy.

V. CONCLUSION

Electron transfer rate and reorganization energy calculations were performed on zinc sulfide (ZnS) sensitized with ruthenium N3 dye, to understand charge transport mechanism through the sensitized dye with increasing temperature to develop performance of solar cells sensitized with simple organic dyes. The effect of temperature on the electron transfer rate in dye-sensitized solar cells was studied. Analysis of these calculations indicates a decreasing effect of the reorganization energy in all solvents as the reorganization energy increases and the temperature decreases. Zinc-based solar cells were studied, sensitized using an organic dye ruthenium N3 and five solvents. The electron transport velocity and reorganization energy were studied at different temperatures to understand the electron transport and charge transport mechanism in ruthenium N3-ZnS device. The electron transfer rate of ruthenium N3 dye sensitized at 45°C using ethanoic acid solvent is higher than other solvents, while the carrier rate of ruthenium N3 dye sensitized at 25°C using methyl alcohol solvent is lower compared to other solvents due to the effect of reorganization energy.The electron transport properties of ruthenium N3-Zns show that low reorganization energy and high temperature modification improve electron transport, which is explained by the alignment energy levels and high polarity mechanism.Of the four solvents, ethanoic acid performs best as a sensitizer for ruthenium N3 with ZnS, while methyl alcohol solvent yields the lowest electron transfer rate in ZnS-based solar cells.

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