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Investigation of Optimum Transparent Conductive Oxides (TCOs) for CdS:O/CdTe Thin Film Solar Cells (TFSCs) from Numerical Analysis

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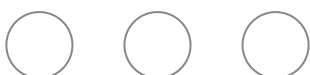
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Abstract and figures

Transparent Conductive Oxides (TCOs) are an increasingly important component of solar cells, where they act as front electrode elements. The structural templates, diffusion barriers and their work function controls the open circuit voltage (Voc). In this paper, various transparent conductive oxide materials have been studied which are used as the front surface contacts of CdS:O/CdTe based thin film solar cells. Various electrical and optical parameters like work function, thickness, temperature etc., of some common transparent conductive oxides materials such as ZnO, FTO, SnO₂ etc., are studied. The main idea was to find an optimum conductive oxide layer for CdTe solar cell which shows the great potential in thin film area of solar cell. All the analysis was done by using the widely used simulator Analysis of Microelectronic and Photonic Structures (AMPS 1D). It was observed that both SnO₂ and ZnO show similar performance under various conditions. Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) has shown the worst performance among them in all conditions. Fluorinated Tin Oxide (FTO) looked promising match for CdTe solar cells in some conditions.



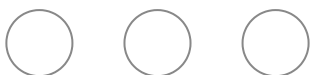
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Investigation of Optimum Transparent Conductive Oxides (TCOs) for CdS:O/Cd (TFSCs) from Numerical Analysis.

M S Sadek.

Dept. of Information and Communication Engineering, Southeast University.

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*Corresponding Author

M S Sadek.

Transparent Conductive Oxides (TCOs) are component of solar cells, where they act as structural templates, diffusion barriers and their open circuit voltage (V_{oc}). In this paper, various materials have been studied which are used as CdS:O/CdTe based thin film solar cells. Various parameters like work function, thickness, temperature transparent conductive oxides materials such as studied. The main idea was to find an optimum CdTe solar cell which shows the great potential. All the analysis was done by using the widely Microelectronic and Photonic Structures (AMPS) both SnO₂ and ZnO show similar performance. Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) has shown the worst performance conditions. Fluorinated Tin Oxide (FTO) looked solar cells in some conditions.

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Introduction: -

Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) is a promising material for solar cells as it has an ideal energy band gap and larger absorption coefficient ($>5 \times 10^5/\text{cm}$) [M. Hadrich et al., J. Britt et al.]. The potential to be the best-suited hetero-junction n-type partner with p-type CdTe absorber for CdS/CdTe cells already achieved efficiency of 16.5% in laboratory and commercial modules 10% [X. Wu et al.]. CdTe solar cells use Transparent Conductive Oxides (TCO) as optically transparent and electrically conductive materials. [Hecht, D. S et al.]

Major considerations in the choice of the TCO for the solar cell, besides the conductive electronic compatibility with the adjacent layers in the cell, processing requires environmental conditions. A carrier concentration on the order of 10^{20} cm^{-3} or higher at 3eV are usually for high conductivity. As with all transparent conducting films, a trade-off between conductivity and transparency, since increasing thickness and the carrier concentration increases conductivity, but decreases the transparency.

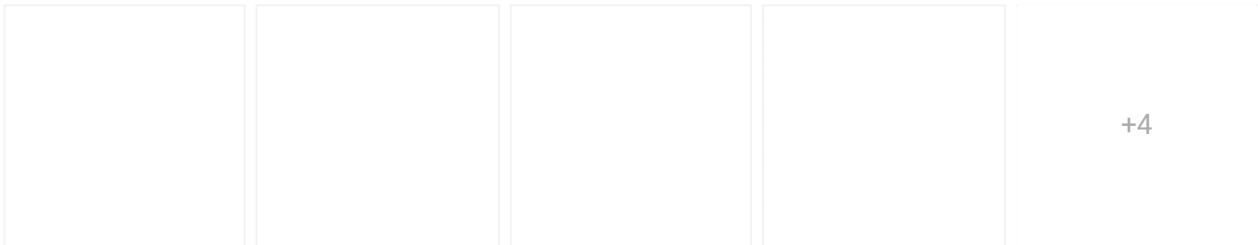
Features of TCO: -

TCO for solar cell applications have been fabricated from both inorganic and organic materials.



- High transparency in visible light and more than that to enhance efficiency.
- High conductance.

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Photovoltaic (PV) energy is one of the significant renewable energies with free and permanent resource. Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) is from group II-VI of compound polycrystalline semiconductors. The CdTe solar cell material can be produced in thinness of film; hence, it is very appropriate for thi...

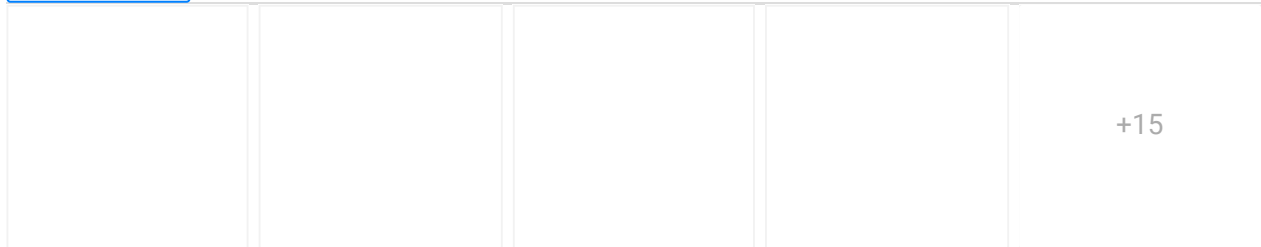
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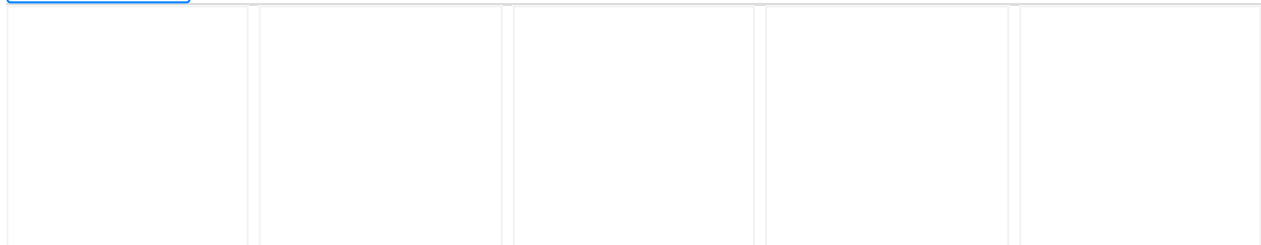
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In this paper, a modified structure for CdTe thin film solar cell was proposed by numerical analysis with an addition of a novel ZnO buffer to improve the conversion efficiency. The CdS window layer was reduced to 50 nm together with the insertion of zinc oxide (ZnO) as the buffer layer to prevent...

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