

THIN FILM SOLAR CELLS BASED ON COPPER-INDIUM-GALIUM SELENIDE (CIGS) MATERIALS DEPOSITED BY ELECTROCHEMICAL TECHNIQUES

Table of Contents

List of abbreviations and symbols	5
List of figures.....	7
List of tables	11
Acknowledgements	13
Dedication	15
Abstract	17
Resumen (Castellano)	21
Resum (Valencià)	23
Chapter 1 Introduction	
1.1 Energy	27
1.1.1 Solar energy	27
1.2 Photovoltaics	28
1.2.1 Different Generations of (Photovoltaic) Solar Cell Technology.....	29
1.2.1.1 First PV Generation	29
1.2.1.2 Second PV Generation	30
1.2.1.3 Third Generation PV Full Spectrum Utilization	31
1.3 Advantages of Photovoltaic thin films Technology	31
1.4 Thin-film Solar Cells technology	32
1.5 Cu(In,Ga)Se ₂ thin-film solar cells.	33
1.6 physics of solar cells	34
1.6.1 Fabrication of Cu(In,Ga)Se ₂ thin-film solar cells.....	35
1.6.2 Energy band diagram of Cu(In,Ga)Se ₂ thin-film solar cells.....	36
1.7 Electronic properties of materials	38
1.8 Direct and indirect bandgap semiconductors	40
1.9 Thesis objective and organization	41
Chapter 2 Experimental, Techniques and Characterization	
2.1 Electrodeposition	45

2.2 Chemical Bath Deposition (CBD).....	46
2.3 Annealing and Sulfurization process	47
2.4 UV- Visible Spectroscopy.....	48
2.5 X-ray Diffraction analysis (XRD)	49
2.6 Field -emission Scanning Electron Microscopy analysis (FESEM).....	50
2.7 Energy-dispersive Spectroscopy analysis (EDS).....	51
2.8 Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM).....	52
2.9 Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis.....	53
2.10 Photo electrochemical analysis.....	55
2.11 Current-Voltage (JV) Measurements.....	56
2.12 External quantum efficiency measurement.....	58
Chapter 3 Synthesis and characterization of Cu(In,Ga)(Se,S)₂ thin films	
3.1 introduction	61
3.2 Substrate cleaning	62
3.3 preparation of Cu(In,Ga)(Se,S) ₂ thin films	63
3.3.1 Cyclic voltammetry of the Cu(In,Ga)(Se,S) ₂ thin films	64
3.3.2 Electrodeposition of the Cu(In,Ga)(Se,S) ₂ thin films	65
3.4 Post deposition heat treatments	65
3.5 Engineering of Bandgap by Ga addition and sulfurization.....	66
3.5.1 Sulfurization process of CuGaSe ₂ thin films	67
3.5.2 Chromium doped with CuGaS ₂ thin films.....	67
3.6 Characterization techniques Cu(In,Ga)(Se,S) ₂ thin films.....	68
3.6.1 X-Ray diffraction (XRD) analysis	68
3.6.2 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis	70
3.6.3 Energy Dispersive Microscopy (EDS) analysis	71
3.6.4 Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) analysis	74
3.7 Optical analysis of Cu(In,Ga)(Se,S) ₂ thin films	75
3.7.1 Absorption..	75
3.7.2 Transmittance	75
3.7.3 Energy bandgap of CuGaSe ₂ , CuGaS ₂ thin films	76
Conclusion	78

Chapter 4 Buffer layer Synthesis and characterization of CdS and CdZnS thin films	
4.1 Introduction of Cadmium sulfide (CdS) and Cadmium zinc sulfide (CdZnS) thin films	81
4.1.1 Cadmium sulfide (CdS)	81
4.1.2 Cadmium Zinc Sulfide (CdZnS)	82
4.1.3 Mechanism of $\text{Cd}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{S}$ thin films formation.....	83
4.2 Preparation of $\text{Cd}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_x\text{S}$ thin films	84
4.2.1 Chemical bath deposition (CBD) process	86
4.2.2 X-ray diffractograms characterization	86
4.2.3 Scanning electron microscopy characterization.....	87
4.2.4 Atomic Force Microscopy characterization	88
4.2.5 Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) Analysis	90
4.2.6 Optical characterization	92
4.2.7 Photo electrochemical analysis (PEC)	94
Conclusion	95
Chapter 5 Simulation studies of CuGaSe₂, CuGaS₂ doped by different Cr at%	
5.1 Introduction	97
5.2 Preparation of CuGaSe ₂ , CuGaS ₂ thin films	98
5.2.1 X-ray diffractograms characterization	99
5.2.2 Energy dispersive spectroscopy characterization	101
5.2.3 Optical analysis of the CuGaSe ₂ , CuGaS ₂ and CuGaS ₂ :Cr thin films	102
5.3 Intermediate band concept and model.....	103
5.4 Numerical simulation of solar cells based on CuGaS ₂ :Cr absorbers	105
5.4.1 Energy band diagram of Mo/CuGaS ₂ /CdS/ZnO thin films solar cell	106
5.4.2 External Quantum Efficiency (EQE) of CuGaS ₂ :Cr solar cell	107
5.4.3 Current and Voltage characteristics of CuGaS ₂ :Cr thin film solar cells....	108
5.4.4 Current and Voltage characteristics of CuGaS ₂ :Cr thin film solar cell with different neutral defects	109
Conclusion.....	111
Chapter 6 Conclusions and future work outlook	113

Summarizes the work presented here and the overall, additionally possible future guidelines in applying the research capabilities and building from the significant results described in this dissertation.

References **117**