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High Work Function of AZO Thin Films as Insertion Layer between TCO and p-layer and Its Application of Solar Cells

Junyoung Kang¹, Hyeongsik Park¹ and Junsin Yi^{1*}

¹School of Electronic Electrical Engineering, College of Information and Communication Engineering, Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, 440-746, Korea

We report high work function Aluminum doped zinc oxide (AZO) films as insertion layer as a function of O₂ flow rate between transparent conducting oxides (TCO) and hydrogenated amorphous silicon oxide (a-SiOx:H) layer to improve open circuit voltage (Voc) and fill factor (FF) for high efficiency thin film solar cell. However, amorphous silicon (a-Si:H) solar cells exhibit poor fill factors due to a Schottky barrier like impedance at the interface between a-SiOx:H windows and TCO. The impedance is caused by an increasing mismatch between the work function of TCO and that of p-type a-SiOx:H. In this study, we report on the silicon thin film solar cell by using as insertion layer of O₂ reactive AZO films between TCO and p-type a-SiOx:H. Significant efficiency enhancement was demonstrated by using high work-function layers (4.95 eV at O₂=2 sccm) for engineering the work function at the key interfaces to raise FF as well as Voc. Therefore, we can be obtained the conversion efficiency of 7 % at 13mA/cm² of the current density (Jsc) and 63.35 % of FF.

Keywords: Oblique angle deposition, magnetron sputtering, AZO film, surface texture, amorphous silicon solar cell

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Over 8% efficient nanocrystal-derived Cu₂ZnSnSe₄ solar cells with molybdenum nitride barrier films in back contact structure

Hong Nhung Pham^{1,2}, Yoon Hee Jang¹, Bo-In Park³, Seung Yong Lee^{3,*} and Doh-Kwon Lee^{1,2,*}

¹Photo-electronic Hybrids Research Center, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)

²Department of Nanomaterials Science and Engineering, Korea University of Science and Technology (UST)

³Center for Materials Architecturing, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)

Numerous of researches are being conducted to improve the efficiency of Cu₂ZnSnSe₄ (CZTSe)-based photovoltaic devices, which is one of the most promising candidates for low cost and environment-friendly solar cells. In this work, we concentrate on the back contact of the devices. A proper thickness of MoSe₂ in back contact structure is believed to enhance adhesion and ohmic contact between Mo back contact and absorber layer. Nevertheless, too thick MoSe₂ layers that are grown during high-temperature selenization process can impede the current collection, thus resulting in low cell performance. By applying molybdenum nitride as a barrier in back contact structure, we were able to control the thickness of MoSe₂ layer, which resulted in lower series resistance and higher fill factor of CZTSe devices. The phase transformation of Mo-N binary system was systematically studied by changing N₂ concentration during the sputtering process. With a proper phase of Mo-N fabricated by using an adequate partial pressure of N₂, the efficiency of CZTSe solar cells as high as 8.31% was achieved while the average efficiency was improved by about 2% with respect to that of the referent cells where no barrier layer was employed.

Keywords: CZTSe, solar cell, molybdenum nitride, MoSe₂, barrier