

The Effect of Variation of Diffusion Length on the Current Parameters in Solar Cells for Safranin-NTA System

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Abstract

In the present work, safranin has been used as a photosensitizer in solar cells as safranin-NTA systems. The short circuit current (i_{sc}) and open circuit Voltage (V_{oc}) of the photo galvanic cells were measured with the help of a multimeter (keeping the circuit closed) and with a digital pH meter (keeping the other circuit open), respectively. The current and potential value in between these two extreme value were recorded with the help of a carbon pot (log 470 K) connected in the circuit of multimeter, through which an external load was applied.

Keywords: Solar energy; Circuit voltage; pH meter; Safranin; Safranin-NTA systems

Introduction

The photogalvanic effect was first of all reported by Rideal and Williams but the iron-thionine system was systematically investigated by Rabinowitch [1-3]. Later on, it was investigated by many workers time to time [4-14]. Many workers have used different photosensitizers in different photogalvanic systems and observed a reasonably electrical output compared to iron-thionine system. Some of the photosensitizers used in solar cells are proflavine, tolosafranin, methylene blue, niboflavin, flavin mononucleotide, poly (N-acylamidomethylthionine), toluidine blue, brilliant cresyl blue etc. [15-17]. In the present work, safranin has been used as a photosensitizer in solar cells for safranin-NTA systems. The effects of variation of the different parameters on electrical parameters of photogalvanic cell were studied in detail. For many years, people have sought to overcome the energy problems by using solar radiation to produce electricity. If that could be easily and achieved at low cost, then the electricity would become the prime source of power for motor vehicles, trains, heating, lighting, industry and fuels could be reserved for the more important aspects of conversion to necessary chemical and industrial materials.

Materials and Methods

A digital pH meter (keeping the other circuit open) was used to measure the open circuit voltage (v_{oc}) whereas short circuit current (i_{sc}) (keeping the other circuit closed) was measured by micrometer. The electrical parameters in between those extreme values (v_{oc} and i_{sc}) were determined with the help of a carbon pot (log 470 K) connected in the circuit of micrometer, through which an extreme load was applied. It was observed that i-v curve deviated from its regular rectangular shape. A point in i-v curve, called power point (pp) was determined where the product of current and potential was maximum and the fill factor was calculated using the formula.

$$N = \text{fill-factor} = v_{pp} \times i_{pp} / v_{oc} \times i_{oc}$$

Where v_{pp} and i_{pp} represent the value of potential and current at power point, respectively.

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Results and Discussion

Conversion of efficiency of the cell

With the help of the current and the potential values at power point and the incident power of radiations, the conversion efficiency of the cell was determined as 0.0841% by using the formula:

$$\text{Conversion efficiency} = \frac{v_{pp} \times I_{pp} \times 100\%}{10.4 \text{ Mw/cm}^3}$$

The important observations of different systems are given in Tables 1-4 which are reflecting the overall outcome of the present studies. (saf.)= 4.00×10^{-6} M, (NTA)= 2.00×10^{-2} M, light intensity=10.4 mW cm⁻²; pH=12.6, Temp=303 K.

TABLE 1. Safranin-NTA system current voltage (i-v) characteristics of the cell.

Potential* (mv)	Photocurrent (μA)	Fill factor (n)
665.0	0.0	
610.0	5.0	
550.0	10.0	
540.0	15.0	
390.0	20.0	
350.0	25.0	0.3759
65.0	30.0	
0.0	35.0	
Note: * absolute values.		

(saf.)= 4.00×10^{-6} , (NTA)= 2.00×10^{-2} M, light intensity=10.4 mWcm⁻², pH=12.6, Temp=303 K.

TABLE 2. Safranin-NTA system effect of diffusion length.

Diffusion Length DL (mm)	Maximum photocurrent (Ma)	Equilibrium photocurrent (μA)	Rate of initial generation of current Ieq (μA min ⁻¹)
35.0	47.0	36.0	5.8
40.0	47.0	35.0	5.9
45.0	48.0	35.0	6.0
50.0	49.0	34.0	6.1
55.0	50.0	34.0	6.2

(saf.)= 4.00×10^{-6} , (NTA)= 2.00×10^{-2} M, light intensity=10.4 mWcm⁻², pH=12.6, Temp=303 K.

TABLE 3. Safranin-NTA system effect of light intensity.

Light intensity (mW cm ⁻²)	Light intensity (mW cm ⁻²)				
	3.1	5.2	10.4	15.6	26.0
Photo potential (mv)	389.0	402.0	415.0	429.0	444.0
Photocurrent (μA)	36.0	35.0	35.0	36.0	36.0
Log V	2.5899	2.6042	2.6180	2.6324	2.6473

(saf.)= 4.00×10^{-6} , (NTA)= 2.00×10^{-2} M, light intensity=10.4 mWcm⁻², pH=12.6, Temp=303 K.

TABLE 4. Safranin-NTA system performance of the cell.

Time (min)	Power (μW)
0.0	10.50
1.0	10.48
2.0	10.25
3.0	10.01
4.0	9.57
5.0	8.49
6.0	6.20
7.0	5.41
8.0	5.24
9.0	5.02
10.0	4.16
11.0	3.97
12.0	3.61

Conclusion

It was observed that in the systems i-v curves deviated from their expected regular rectangular shapes. The power point in i-v curves was determined and their fill factors were also calculated. The effect of variation of diffusion length (distance between the two electrodes) on the current parameter of the cell (i_{max} , i_{cq} and initial rate of generation of photocurrent) was studied using H cells of different dimensions. It was observed that with an increase in diffusion length, i_{max} and rate (μAmin^{-1}) both showed an increase but the i_{cq} showed a negligibly small decreasing behavior with the increase in diffusion length. So virtually, it may be considered as unaffected by the change in diffusion length. The results show the effect of variation of diffusion length on the current parameters of the cell. The performance of the photo galvanic cell was observed by applying an external load (necessary to have current at power point) after terminating the illumination as soon as the potential reaches a constant value. The performance was determined in terms of $t_{1/2}$, *i.e.* the time required in fall of the output (power) to its half at power point in dark. It was observed that the cell can be used in dark for 26 minutes.

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