

Contents

Preface IX

List of Contributors XIII

1	Applications of Electrochemistry in the Fabrication and Characterization of Thin-Film Solar Cells	1
	<i>Phillip Dale and Laurence Peter</i>	
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Electrochemical Routes to Thin-Film Solar Cells	3
1.2.1	Basic Cell Configurations	3
1.2.2	Material Requirements for PV Applications	4
1.2.2.1	Implications of Materials Requirements for the Direct Synthesis of Absorber Layers by Electrodeposition	5
1.2.2.2	Synthetic Routes Involving Deposition and Annealing (EDA)	7
1.2.2.3	Summary of EDA Routes	11
1.2.3	EDA route to p-Type Semiconductors for Thin-Film Photovoltaics	13
1.2.3.1	Electrodeposition of CdTe for CdS CdTe Solar Cells	13
1.2.3.2	Electrodeposition of CIGS for CIGS CdS ZnO Solar Cells	19
1.2.3.3	CZTS	30
1.2.4	Future	39
1.3	Characterization of Solar Cell Materials using Electrolyte Contacts	40
1.3.1	Overview	40
1.3.2	The Semiconductor–Electrolyte Junction	41
1.3.3	Photovoltammetry	42
1.3.4	External Quantum Efficiency (EQE) Spectra	43
1.3.5	Electrolyte Electroreflectance/Absorbance: EER/EEA	50
1.4	Conclusions	54
	Acknowledgments	55
	References	55

2	Tailoring of Interfaces for the Photoelectrochemical Conversion of Solar Energy	61
	<i>Hans Joachim Lewerenz</i>	
2.1	Introduction	61
2.2	Operation Principles of Photoelectrochemical Devices	62
2.2.1	Currents, Excess Carrier Profiles, and Quasi-Fermi Levels	62
2.2.1.1	Dark Current and Photocurrent	62
2.2.1.2	Excess Minority Carrier Profiles	65
2.2.1.3	Quasi-Fermi Levels	69
2.2.2	Photovoltages and Stability Criteria	71
2.2.3	Photovoltaic and Photoelectrocatalytic Mode of Operation	77
2.2.3.1	Photovoltaic Photoelectrochemical Solar Cells	77
2.2.3.2	Photoelectrocatalytic Systems	78
2.2.4	Separation of Charge Transfer and Surface Recombination Rate	81
2.3	Surface and Interface Analysis Methods	83
2.3.1	<i>In Situ</i> Methods: I. Brewster Angle Analysis	84
2.3.2	<i>In Situ</i> Methods: II. Stationary Microwave Reflectivity	87
2.3.3	X-ray Emission and (Photo)Electron Spectroscopies	90
2.3.3.1	Selected X-ray Surface/Interface Analysis Methods	90
2.3.3.2	In-System Synchrotron Radiation Photoelectron Spectroscopy	94
2.3.3.3	High-Resolution Electron Energy Loss Spectroscopy	99
2.3.4	Tapping-Mode AFM and Scanning Tunneling Spectroscopy	99
2.3.4.1	Tapping-Mode AFM	100
2.3.4.2	Scanning Tunneling Spectroscopy	101
2.4	Case Studies: Interface Conditioning	104
2.4.1	Silicon Nanotopographies	107
2.4.1.1	Nanostructures by Divalent Dissolution	107
2.4.1.2	Step Bunched Surfaces	111
2.4.1.3	Oxide-Related Nanotopographies	121
2.4.2	Indium Phosphide	130
2.4.2.1	The InP(111) A-face	131
2.4.2.2	The In-Rich InP(100) (2×4) Surface	136
2.4.3	Copper Indium Dichalcogenides	137
2.4.3.1	CuInSe ₂	138
2.4.3.2	CuInS ₂	140
2.5	Photovoltaic, Photoelectrochemical Devices	143
2.5.1	Ternary Chalcopyrites	145
2.5.2	InP Solar Cells	146
2.5.3	Nanoemitter Structures with Silicon	147
2.5.3.1	Device Development	147
2.5.3.2	Surface Chemical Analysis of the Electrodeposition Process	154
2.6	Photoelectrocatalytic Devices	162
2.6.1	Nanoemitter Structures with p-Si	162
2.6.2	Thin-Film InP Metal–Interphase–Semiconductor Structure	165
2.6.2.1	Basic Considerations	165

2.6.2.2	Device Preparation and Properties	166
2.7	Synopsis	170
2.7.1	Summary	170
2.7.2	Reflections on Future Development Routes	171
	Acknowledgments	172
	Appendix 2.A	172
	Appendix 2.B	172
	Appendix 2.C	173
	References	173
3	Printable Materials and Technologies for Dye-Sensitized Photovoltaic Cells with Flexible Substrates	183
	<i>Tsutomu Miyasaka</i>	
3.1	Introduction: Historical Background	183
3.2	Low-Temperature Coating of Semiconductor Films	184
3.3	Photoelectric Performance of Plastic Dye-Sensitized Photocells	186
3.4	Polymer-Based Counter Electrodes with Printable Materials	190
3.5	Investigation of High-Extinction Sensitizers and Co-adsorbents	197
3.6	Durability Development for Plastic DSSCs	208
3.7	Fabrication of Large-Area Plastic DSSC Modules	212
3.8	Concluding Remarks	218
	References	218
4	Electrodeposited Porous ZnO Sensitized by Organic Dyes—Promising Materials for Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells with Potential Application in Large-Scale Photovoltaics	221
	<i>Derck Schlettwein, Tsukasa Yoshida, and Daniel Lincot</i>	
4.1	Introduction	221
4.2	Electrodeposition—A Well-Established Technology	225
4.3	Electrodeposition of ZnO Thin Films	226
4.4	Sensitization of ZnO	227
4.5	Alternative Sensitizer Molecules	228
4.5.1	Porphyryns and Phthalocyanines as Alternative Metal Complexes	230
4.5.1.1	Frontier Orbital Positions	231
4.5.1.2	Photosensitization by Porphyryns and Phthalocyanines	235
4.5.2	Purely Organic Dyes	244
4.6	Electrodeposition of Hybrid ZnO/Organic Thin Films	244
4.7	Porous Crystalline Networks of ZnO as Starting Material for Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells	249
4.8	Adaptation of Electrodeposition Towards Specific Demands of Alternative Substrate Materials	252
4.8.1	Plastic Solar Cells	252
4.8.2	Textile-Based Solar Cells	253
4.9	State of the Art and Outlook	256
	References	259

5	Thin-Film Semiconductors Deposited in Nanometric Scales by Electrochemical and Wet Chemical Methods for Photovoltaic Solar Cell Applications	277
	<i>Oumarou Savadogo</i>	
5.1	Introduction	277
5.2	Materials and Composite Materials Fabrication	279
5.2.1	Fundamental Considerations	279
5.2.1.1	Chemical Bath Deposition	279
5.2.1.2	Electrodeposition	289
5.2.1.3	Sol–Gel Method	295
5.2.1.4	Other Wet Methods	299
5.2.2	Preparation of Active Materials	307
5.2.2.1	Preparation by Chemical Deposition	307
5.2.2.2	Preparation by Electrochemical Deposition	325
5.2.2.3	Preparation by the Sol–Gel Method	329
5.2.2.4	Thin Films Deposited with Heteropolycompounds	330
5.3	Systems Development	336
5.3.1	State-of-the-Art Thin-Film Solar Technology using Chemical, Electrochemical, and/or Sol–Gel Fabrication Methods	336
5.3.2	Toxicity and Sustainability Issues	338
5.4	Conclusions and Perspectives	339
	References	340
	Index	351