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Polymer Polymer Photovoltaic Cells Photovoltaic Cells

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World Energy Supply and Demand

International Energy Agency best estimate for energy supply in 2030

MRS Bulletin, 33(4), April 2008

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Cell Efficiency

Progress of research-scale photovoltaic device efficiencies

MRS Bulletin, 33(4), April 2008

Silicon Solar Cell

̶ *Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells*

- Single crystal & Polycrystalline
- High efficiency, but high cost
- the thickness of crystalline solar cell: 0.3~0.5mm
- : to satisfy the mechanical strength
- : to absorb sufficiently the exposed light onto the surface of the cell
- Efficiency: 24% (single crystal) 18% (polycrystalline)

̶ *Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells*

- $-$ Fabrication of Silicon layer onto the substrate by injection of SiH₄ gas at high voltage
- Simple method & very low cost (compared to crystalline silicon solar cell)
- $-$ Any size and shape is possible \rightarrow the cells can be arranged compactly in the panel.
- The efficiency is decreased with time. (Intrinsic degradation)
- Efficiency: 10 12%

̶ *a-Si/poly-Si Laminated Solar Cells*

- the upper layer: amorphous Si layer
	- the lower layer: polycrystaline Si layer or wafer (high absorbance of the light in the long wave length)
- Stable & high efficiency
- Efficiency : 10 ~ 13%

Amorphous Silicon Solar Cell

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Typical Inorganic Solar Cell

The front side: arsenic (As) with a small amount : *N type* The back side: boron (B) with um thickness : *P* **type**

 \blacktriangleright This PN junction structure made the state that electron can be transported easily.

If the photons (the light of solar energy) expose in PN junction layer, positive charge and negative charge are generated by electron transporting.

At this state, negative charge is transported to N type material and positive charge is moved to P type material. Therefore, potential difference (voltage) occurs and the current can be flowed.

Polycrystal Silicon Solar Cells

Organic-Based Photovoltaics

MRS Bulletin, 30(1), January 2005

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Organic-Based Photovoltaics

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1. R.H. Friend and coworkers, Nature 376, 498 (1995) 2. M. Grätzel and coworkers, Nature 395, 583 (1998)

3. M.Grätzel and coworkers, Nature Mater. 2, 402 (2003)

̶ *Dye-sensitized nanostructured oxide cells.*

: These cells use an organic dye to absorb light and rapidly inject electrons into a nanostructured oxide such as anatase $TiO₂$. The hole is scavenged by a redox couple, such as iodide/triiodide (I⁻/I₃⁻) in solution or by a solid-state organic semiconductor or ionic medium.

To date, the solid-state approaches have not been as effective, but progress is being made in understanding the nature of the redox behavior of the organic hole transporter. These approaches are discussed in many papers by Grätzel.

̶ *Multilayer devices in which small molecule organic solar cells are deposited sequentially to form a stacked device.*

Recent progress in the reduction of the series resistance has led to increased efficiencies. This technology has the added benefit that multijunction tandem devices, which trade off current for voltage and possess higher theoretical efficiencies, can be fabricated in a straightforward manner.

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Organic-Based Photovoltaics

3) Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Solar Cell

1. A. P. Alivisatos and Coworkers, Science 295, 2425 (2002) 2. B.E. Sun, E. Marx, and N.C.Greenham, Nano Lett. 3, 961 (2003) 3. A. P. Alivisatos and Coworkers, Nano Lett., 7, 409 (2007)

̶ *Organic–inorganic composites consisting of nanocrystals of conventional semiconductors, such as CdSe, blended into a conjugated polymer matrix.*

In this case, both components can efficiently absorb light, and the bandgap of the nanocrystals can be tuned by growing them to different sizes.

The energetics of the organic–inorganic interface is crucial. Recent progress in this area is leaded by Alivisatos group

Organic-Based Photovoltaics

4) Ordered Organic–Inorganic Bulk Heterojunction Solar Cells

1. M.T. Anderson and coworkers, Nature 389, 364 (1997) 2. M.D. McGehee, and coworkers, Adv. Funct. Mater. 13, 301 (2003) 3. K.M. Coakley and M.D. McGehee, Appl. Phys. Lett. 83, 3380 (2003)

̶ *Organic–inorganic composites that combine a light-absorbing conjugated polymer as the donor and hole transporter with a nanostructured, large-bandgap inorganic semiconductor such as TiO₂ or ZnO as the acceptor and electron transporter.*

These work similarly to the bulk heterojunctions; however, the gross morphology of the mixture is determined by that of the nanostructured oxide that is grown in a self-organizing manner on the electrode. Optimization of the organic–inorganic interface is critical for these device..

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Organic-Based Photovoltaics

5) Polymer–Fullerene Bulk HeterojunctionSolar Cells

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1. N.S. Sariciftci and coworkers, Appl. Phys. Lett. 78, 841 (2001) 2. N.S. Sariciftci, Adv. Funct. Mater. 13, 85 (2003)

3. R.A.J. Janssen and coworkers, Adv. Funct. Mater. 14, 425 (2004)

̶ *Organic–organic composites in which donor and acceptor species, which function as the hole and electron transporters, respectively, are intimately mixed to produce a "bulk heterojunction."*

Among the most successful bulk heterojunction devices to date are consisted of a conjugated polymer such as poly(3-hexylthiophene) as the donor and a fullerene derivative as the acceptor. These devices are introduced by Sariciftci and Heeger.

A. P. Alivisatos and Coworkers, Science 295, 2425 (2002)

1. Advantage of CdSe

: Inorganic semiconductors have a good absorption coefficient of the solar spectrum. (Band gap of CdSe ~ 1.7eV)

2. Why Hybrid?

: Exciton dissociations occur at the interface between two materials. The high electron affinity and electron mobility of CdSe and relatively low ionization potential P3HT that make charge separation easy.

3. Why Nanostructure?

: Diffusion distances of excitions are ~10-15nm due to its low electron mobilities. -> efficient devices need to be very thin and nanostrutured interface.

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Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Solar Cell

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Current density (mA/cm²)

Figure 1. Hyperbranched nanocrystal solar cells. Hyperbranched nanocrystal solar cells combine the ease of fabrication of spin-cast hybrid devices (a) with the controlled morphology of templated
approaches (b). Defects such as islands and aggregates detrimental to the performance of conventional spin-cast hybrid cells are eliminated in hyperbranched particle composites, where blend morphology is dictated entirely by the 3-D structure of the hyperbranched nanocrystal (c).

̵ *Hyperbranched nanocrystal cell PCE = 2.18% (AM 1.5G)*

̶*The ability of prescribe dispersion and percolation characteristics of a composite device through choice of nanoparticle structure is perhaps the clearest advantage of hyperbranched nanocrystal solar cells over other hybrid architectures. Still, the efficiencies cited suggest that the CdSe nanocrystals used are far from optimal.*

A. P. Alivisatos and Coworkers, Nano Lett., 7, 409 (2007)

How can we obtain high efficiency?

(i) to increase Voc

- fabrication of structure with parallel cell connection (ex) polymer tandem solar cell
- materials with longer exciton diffusion length (ex) incorporation of nanometer size Ag particle

(ii) to increase Isc

- synthesis of conjugate polymer with low bandgap
- : Until now, conjugate polymer absorbs the light of visible region.

To absorb the light of near infrared region, the conjugate polymer with low bandgap is needed.

- materials that absorb solar radiation energy at $\lambda > 750$ nm

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Prospects for High-Efficiency Conjugated Polymer Photovoltaic Cells

Michael D. McGehee, Chem. Mater., 4533, 16, (2004)

- (a) Theoretical maximum power efficiency of a conjugated polymer-electron acceptor PV cell as a function of the polymer band gap when 1 eV of energy is lost during electron transfer.
- (b) Optimal polymer band gap and theoretical maximum power efficiency as a function of the energy loss during electron transfer.

̶ *Reaching 10-20% efficiency will come partially from better designed organic PV cell architectures, but it will also require the synthesis of new conjugated polymers with smaller band gaps, wider bandwidths, optimized energy levels, and higher carrier mobilities.*

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Thermal Annealing Effect of Polymer Solar Cells

̶ *Effects of post thermal annealing*

(i) thermally induced morphology modification (improved nanoscale morphology)

: more efficient charge generation! (ii) thermally induced crystallization (higher crystallinity & improved transport across the interface)

: charge collection at the electrodes, reduced series resistance, higher FF (Fill Factor) ̶ *High PCE (~5%) & Thermal stability*

A. J. Heeger and K. Lee, Adv. Funct. Mater., 15, 1617, (2005)

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̶ *adding small amounts of a diblock copolymer*˧ *lowering the interfacial energy between polymer and fullerene* \rightarrow *change the morphology of blended thin film*

- PCBM domain size variation

- Exciton diffusion length matching

- Advantage of charge separation from exciton

Key Concepts: 1) Increased p-n junction interfacial area 2) Every exciton can arrive at the interface before disappearance by coupling (Maximum Dissociation) 3) Good path way

Fabrication of P3HT Nano Rods and Ordered Bulk Heterojunction Solar Cell

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AAO Nanotemplates

- $-$ Hole diameter \sim 50nm \leftarrow P3HT
- Inter-pore size ~ 100nm
- Hole depth ~ 150nm

Fabrication of Conducting Polymer Nanorod; Electropolymerization

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Fabrication of Conducting Polymer Nanorod; Electropolymerization

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A : blend of D(donor) and A(acceptor) B: PPV-b-P(S-stat-C₆₀MS) D-A block copolymer

G. Hadziioannou and coworkers, Polymer, 42, 9097 (2001)

̶ *The incorporation of C60 moieties into one block of diblock copolymer was aimed at satisfying two requirements for efficient operation as a photovoltaic materials:*

(i) creating an accessible D-A interface at which dissociation of excitons into separate charge carriers is promoted, thus reducing the probability of decay along other routes, of which luminescence is one;

(ii) providing separate pathways for transport of holes (via PPV) and electrons (via C60), thus reducing the recombination probability.

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Solar Cell using Block Copolymer

(c) blend

(a),(b) Crosssectional image

(c),(d) **Surface** image

▲ Chemical structure of PvTPA-block-PPerAcr vTPA=vinyltriphenylamine,

PerAcr=acrylate unit with perylene bisimide side group.

̶ Thickness ~ 250nm

M. Thelekkat and G. Krausch and coworker, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed, 45, 3364 (2006)

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Figure 5. a) I-V-characteristics of block copolymer 8 (V) and 9e (C). The measurements were carried out under white light diammation (AM 1.5 spectral report of the state of the anti-second and the state of the state of the state of 5.00 eV is determined from a barbon basic of a larger scheme of

Solar Cells based on P3BT Nanowires

Figure 1. (a) Chemical structures of P3BT and C61-PCBM. (b) UV-vis absorption spectra: (1) P3BT solution in ODCB; (2) P3BT-rw suspension in ODCB; (3) P3BT: C_{41} -PCBM blend on ITO/PEDOT substrate; and (4) P3BT-aw/Cq-PCBM nanocomposite on ITO/PEDOT substrate. (c) Schematic illustration of nanowire network of PJBT/PCBM composites.

Figure 3. The current-voltage characteristics of solar cells with different active layers. (a) P3BT-raw(C_{62} -PCBM nanocomposite (I/I) (70 nm) (**a**) and P3BT- C_{61} -PCBM blend (1:1) (80 nm) (**a**). (b) P3BT-raw(C_{71} composite (1/0.75) (90 nm) (n), P3HT:C₇₁-PCBM (1:1) blend (120 nm) (A) . The films in panel a were dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C overnight and films in panel b were annealed in a glovebox at 110 °C for 10 min.

S. Jeneke, JACS, 130,

5424 (2008) ̶ *highly efficient polymer/fullerene (both C61-PCBM and C71-PCBM were employed) solar cells in which a 3-D network of preassembled polymer–semiconductor nanowires serves as the donor component in a sea of fullerene acceptors.*

- \rightarrow an electrically bicontinuous nanoscale morphology is realized without going through the difficult path of blend phase-separation phenomena.
- \rightarrow poly(3-butylthiophene) nanowires (P3BT-nw) as the donor and C₇₁-PCBM as the acceptor : 3.0% PCE (at 100 mW/cm2, AM1.5, 10 mm2 device area, in air) P3HT/C71-PCBM blend photovoltaic : 3.0% PCE.
- ̶ *P3BT can exhibit photovoltaic properties that are comparable to the much studied P3HT !!*

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Conclusion

̶ We fabricated hexagonal array of P3HT Nano-Rods oriented perpendicularly to the ITO glass by using AAO template. Crystalline orientation of P3HT in nanorods enhanced conductivity as much as a factor of 10 compared with the continuous P3HT film. With the increasing of interface area between donor and acceptor, PL intensity was dramatically decreased.

̶ With the increase of interfacial area and the P3HT molecular orientation, higher OPV efficiency was obtained compared with P3HT film. (~1.12%, X 6.6)

̶ Well-aligned Polypyrrole(Ppy) nanorods and CdSe nanorods were obtained using block copolylmer templates. And Ppy nanorods has higher conductivity compared to continuous Ppy film due to chain orientation of nanorods grown inside nanohole.

 \triangleright We controlled the domain size from miscibility control between PCBM and modified P3HT. The surface energy matching between PCBM and hydrophobic treat P3HT was most favorable.

► Plenty of Room for enhanced efficiency by chemical modification as well as structure (Chemical Engineering combined with Synthesis and Physics)

