

Tailoring the Structural, Optical, and Optoelectrical Properties of Innovative N-Type Ag₂ZnSnS₄ Thin Films and Investigating ITO/Ag₂ZnSnS₄/SnS/Au Heterojunction

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Abstract:

This work aims to create silver zinc tin sulfide (Ag₂ZnSnS₄) layers with various thicknesses (254, 381, 473, and 539 nm) by a simple chemical deposition technique. The X-ray diffraction data revealed that the as-prepared Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films are polycrystalline, and all films have a single Ag₂ZnSnS₄ phase with a tetragonal structure. The morphology of the Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films was investigated by FE-SEM, which refers to the surface homogeneity of the investigated Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films. Measurements of transmittance and reflectance of the Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films studied the optical properties of the chemically prepared Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films. The analysis of the refractive indices of the investigated films reveals an increase in these values occurred by enlarging the deposition time and film thickness. The energy gap calculations displayed a direct optical transition in thin films of Ag₂ZnSnS₄ that decreased from 3.53 to 3.06 eV with the growth in the thickness. Furthermore, the optoelectrical indices and nonlinear optical parameters of the Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films, such as electrical conductivity, optical mobility, and optical conductivity, were enhanced by increasing the thickness. The hot-probe experiment refers to the Ag₂ZnSnS₄ samples are n-type semiconductors. Ultimately, Ag₂ZnSnS₄ films are promising n-type semiconductors that might be used in various photovoltaic and optoelectronic applications, particularly the economic window layer for solar cells. Conversely, ITO/Ag₂ZnSnS₄/SnS/Au heterojunction was created. The solar conversion efficiency of this heterojunction device is 7.27%. The outcomes demonstrated that these Ag₂ZnSnS₄ samples can be used to thin-film solar cells as a novel window layer.