

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Improvement efficiency of thin-film solar cell by plasmonic properties of silver

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PII: S0030-4026(16)30611-8

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.ijleo.2016.05.158>

Reference: IJLEO 57784

To appear in:

Received date: 7-4-2016

Accepted date: 31-5-2016

Please cite this article as: M.Faramarzi Nezhad, N.Shahtahmassebi, M.Behdani, Improvement efficiency of thin-film solar cell by plasmonic properties of silver, *Optik - International Journal for Light and Electron Optics* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijleo.2016.05.158>

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Improvement efficiency of thin-film solar cell by plasmonic properties of silver

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Abstract

Thin-film silicon solar cells need light trapping mechanisms to enhance the efficiency due to silicon's weak absorption of light. In this paper, by use of rigorous coupled-wave analysis (RCWA), we propose and simulate a light-trapping quasi-photonic crystal plasmonic thin-film silicon solar cell consist of an anti-reflection coating (ARC) with refractive index $n_{AR}=1.9$ and thickness ($T_{AR}=0.06 \mu\text{m}$), a silicon active layer with thickness $T_c =0.45\mu\text{m}$, a grating surfaces composed of silver and a one-dimensional quasi-photonic crystal composed of SiO_2/Si layers. Results show that for proposed structure the cell efficiency arrive to 14.3% for TM with $p=0.181\mu\text{m}$ and 11.71% for TE mode with $p=0.42\mu\text{m}$ which has a significant increase compare usual and similar thin-film silicon solar cells.

Keywords: Thin film solar cell, silver Nano grating, anti-reflection (AR) coating, plasmonic effect.

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