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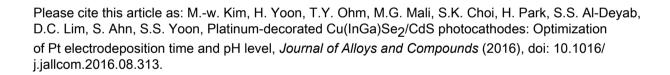
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# (R1) Platinum-decorated Cu(InGa)Se<sub>2</sub>/CdS photocathodes: Optimization of Pt electrodeposition time and pH level

Min-woo Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Hyun Yoon<sup>1,†</sup>, Tae Yoon Ohm<sup>1</sup>, Mukund G. Mali<sup>1</sup>, Sung Kyu Choi<sup>3</sup>, Hyunwoong Park<sup>3</sup>, Salem S. Al-Deyab<sup>4</sup>, Dong Chan Lim<sup>5,\*</sup>, SeJin Ahn<sup>6,\*\*</sup>, Sam S. Yoon<sup>1,\*\*\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Mechanical Engineering, Korea University, Seoul 136-713, Republic of Korea
<sup>2</sup>Green School, Korea University, Seoul, 136-713, Republic of Korea
<sup>3</sup>School of Energy Engineering, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, 702-701, Republic of Korea
<sup>4</sup>Petrochemicals Research Chair, Department of Chemistry, King Saud University, Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia
<sup>5</sup>Surface Technology Division, Korea Institute of Materials Science, Changwon, 641-010, Republic of Korea
<sup>6</sup>Photovoltaic Laboratory, Korea Inst. of Energy Research, 71-2 Jangdong, YuseongGu, DaeJeon 305-543, Rep of Korea

#### **Abstract**

Photoelectrochemical (PEC) water splitting was performed using co-evaporated Cu(In,Ga)Se<sub>2</sub> (CIGS, p-type) films as the photocathode. Pt was electrodeposited on CIGS and CIGS/CdS films. The effect of the electrodeposition time was investigated to determine the optimal deposition conditions. The CIGS film was covered with a 60-nm-thick CdS layer (n-type) using a chemical-bath deposition technique, which created a p-n junction. The effect of the Pt electroplating time was again investigated for the CIGS/CdS films; thus, the effect of CdS addition could be quantitatively investigated. The effect of the pH of 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> electrolyte was also investigated. The optimal water-splitting performance occurred at –24.16 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> at –0.7 V vs. Ag/AgCl with a Pt electrodeposition time of 20 min and pH 9. The CIGS/CdS films were characterized by X-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscopy, and focused-ion beam transmission electron microscopy.

**Keywords:** CIGS/CdS, photocurrent, platinum, p-n junction, water splitting.

Corresponding author: \*dclim@kims.re.kr, \*\*swisstel@kier.re.kr, \*\*\*skyoon@korea.ac.kr

†Equal contribution

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