

Photovoltaic cell with tail



AI Overview

Urbach tails in photovoltaic cells are exponential sub-bandgap states that act as traps, influencing recombination and reducing the open-circuit voltage and overall efficiency.

What Are Urbach Tails? Urbach tails are exponentially decaying densities of states (DOS) that extend from the conduction or valence band into the bandgap of a semiconductor. They arise due to structural disorder, thermal vibrations, or static disorder in the material, creating localized states that can trap charge carriers. These tail states are present in a wide range of PV materials, including thin-film CIGSe, perovskites, and organic solar cells.

Effects on Photovoltaic Performance

- Carrier Recombination:** Tail states act as trap sites, capturing electrons or holes and facilitating trap-assisted recombination, which reduces the number of free carriers available for current generation.
- Voltage Loss:** The presence of Urbach tails limits the splitting of quasi-Fermi levels, leading to a reduction in the open-circuit voltage (V_{oc}). The voltage deficit increases with higher Urbach energy (EU), which quantifies the tail's width.
- Efficiency Impact:** While the sub-bandgap absorption contributes minimally to photocurrent, the recombination through tail states can significantly reduce the power conversion efficiency (PCE), especially in high-bandgap or disordered materials.

Measurement and Characterization

Urbach tails are typically characterized using techniques such as:

- Temperature-dependent quantum efficiency spectra to extract EU.
- Photoluminescence (PL) and photothermal deflection spectroscopy (PDS) to probe sub-bandgap absorption and tail states.
- Transient photocapacitance and photocurrent measurements in thin-film solar cells to study carrier trapping and recombination dynamics.

Mitigation Strategies

- Material Optimization:** Reducing structural disorder and defects through careful synthesis or annealing can narrow the Urbach tail.
- Bandgap Engineering:** Adjusting composition (e.g., Ga content in CIGSe) can optimize the bandgap while minimizing defect formation.

Article Content

Unique Curve for the Radiative Photovoltage Deficit Caused by the ...

ABSTRACT: The photovoltage V_{oc} of high-performance solar cells such as GaAs and metal halide perovskites is affected by the exponential Urbach tail in the absorption spectrum, with an energy

Band-Tail Transport of CuSCN: Origin of Hole Extraction

Copper thiocyanate (CuSCN) is known as a promising hole transport layer in organic photovoltaics (OPVs) due to its good hole conduction and exciton blocking abilities with high transparency. Despite

The thermal cost of harvesting the solar-infrared tail in space-based ...

Counterintuitively, using both detailed-balance analysis and realistic device-level models, we demonstrate that space-based photovoltaics should avoid converting the solar-infrared tail

Effects of Tail States in Cs₂AgBiBr₆ Double Perovskites on Solar Cell ...

Effects of Tail States in Cs₂AgBiBr₆ Double Perovskites on Solar Cell Performance: A Temperature-Dependent Study of Photovoltaic External Quantum Efficiency, Open-Circuit Voltage,

Band-Tail Transport of CuSCN: Origin of Hole Extraction

As a result, the band-tail states of CuSCN play a crucial role in hole extraction enhancement. The experimental observation of band-tail states supports the intrinsic good hole conductivity and the

Unraveling Urbach Tail Effects in High-Performance Organic ...

In this paper, we report high-efficiency non-fullerene org. photovoltaic (OPV) cells with over 30% power conversion efficiency (PCE) under indoor conditions. Our results show that the

Recombination Effects of Urbach Tails as Trap States in Cu (In, Ga)Se

In this work, we explore the roles of subgap defect states in carrier trapping, in particular effects of Urbach tails in terms of the recombination mechanism, in Cu (In, Ga)Se 2 solar cells via

Unraveling Urbach Tail Effects in High-Performance Organic ...

Static disorder significantly affects the performance of organic solar cells, and suppressing it can lead to higher efficiency. The origin of Urbach energy (EU) in organic semiconductors and its effect on

Effects of tail states in Cs₂AgBiBr₆ double perovskites on solar cell ...

In this work we perform an in-depth study of the double perovskite optoelectronics with measurements performed on operating solar cells. Focussing on tail states, we measure the spectral response as a

Improved DSSC photovoltaic performance using reduced graphene

In this work, reduced graphene oxide (rGO) was produced from graphene oxide (GO) by a reduction process, which utilised hydrazine hydrate as reducing agent. GO was initially synthesised by

Influence of exponential tail states on photovoltaic ...

Then, an optoelectronic model including the effect of tail states is employed by finite element method to simulate a common structure of P3HT:PCBM organic solar cell. We investigate

Improved DSSC photovoltaic performance using reduced ...

Improved DSSC photovoltaic performance using reduced graphene oxide-carbon nanotube/platinum assisted with customised triple-tail surfactant as counter electrode and zinc oxide

How band tail recombination influences the open-circuit voltage of ...

The comparison with experimental data shows that the influence of tail states is even worse than the increase in radiative and SRH recombination predicted by our model. Our results thus

High-Efficiency Indoor Organic Photovoltaics with a Band-Aligned ...

In this work, we report high-efficiency non-fullerene organic photovoltaic (OPV) cells with over 30% power conversion efficiency (PCE) in indoor conditions. Our results show that the choice of

A review of solar photovoltaic technologies: developments, challenges ...

This review paper provides a comprehensive analysis of solar photovoltaics, covering key aspects such as the historical development of PV technology, different photovoltaic cell types,

Photovoltaic solar cell technologies: analysing the state of the art ...

Nearly all types of solar photovoltaic cells and technologies have developed dramatically, especially in the past 5 years. Here, we critically compare the different types of photovoltaic ...

Unraveling Urbach Tail Effects in High-Performance Organic ...

The origin of Urbach energy (EU) in organic semiconductors and its effect on photovoltaic properties remain a topic of intense interest. In this letter, we demonstrate quantitative information on the EU

Tail states suppression via surface-modification of wide-bandgap ...

As an essential light-absorbing material in perovskite-based tandem solar cells, wide-bandgap (WBG) perovskite has garnered extensive attention.

Combined influence of Urbach's tail width energy and ...

Mehdizadeh-Rad, H., Singh, J. Combined influence of Urbach's tail width energy and mobility of charge carriers on the photovoltaic performance of bulk heterojunction organic solar cells.

Unraveling Urbach Tail Effects in High-Performance Organic ...

Finally, we show that eliminating the structural disorder is essential to reducing voltage loss and improving photovoltaic performance in organic solar cells.

A universal Urbach rule for disordered organic semiconductors

However, these Urbach tails are often convoluted with Gaussian line-shapes induced by trap states and/or CT states, resulting in erroneous, energy-dependent, Urbach energies larger than kT A ...

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