# Modeling and optimization of a CZT(S,Se)-based tandem solar cell

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In this paper, we designed a two-junction (tandem) solar cell model (tandem solar cell), consisting of an top and bottom subcell with absorber layers of  $Cu_2SnZnS_4$  (CZTS) and  $Cu_2SnZnSe_4$  (CZTSe) materials, respectively, for each subcell with a ZnS buffer layer and a ZnO window layer. This model was validated using the SCAPS-1D numerical simulation program. We also optimized the performance of the tandem cell as a whole using the simulation by studying the effect of the thickness of the absorber layer of the top subcell and the thickness of the absorber layer of the bottom subcell and its doping. The results of the study gave the optimal thickness value  $X_{CZTSe}=1\mu$ m for the top subcell absorber layer, the optimal thickness value  $X_{CZTSe}=1\mu$ m for the bootom subcell absorber layer and its optimal doping value  $N_{A/CZTSe}=10^{19}$ cm<sup>-3</sup> Tandem cell characteristics corresponding to these optimal values are open-circuit voltage  $V_{oc}=1,4861V$ , short circuit current  $J_{sc}=18,59$ mA/cm<sup>2</sup>, fill factor FF=73.12% and efficiency  $\eta=20,20\%$ .

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#### 1. Introduction

Thin-film solar cells have received significant attention over the past few decades due to the increased demand for electricity and the substantial scientific advancements that have facilitated their production. Among the thin-film cells that researchers have focused on developing are CdTe cells, CuInS<sub>2</sub> (CIS) cells, and CuInGaSe<sub>2</sub> (CIGS) cells. However, there are several limitations that constrain their production and use in energy generation, including the scarcity and high cost of materials like In, Ga, and Te, and the hazards posed by some toxic materials, such as cadmium (Cd). Therefore, there is a need to find materials composed of more abundant and less toxic elements [1].

The solar cells made from the semiconductor Cu<sub>2</sub>SnZn(S,Se)<sub>4</sub> (CZTSSe) are considered excellent, low-cost alternatives because all the chemical elements in this compound are abundant, environmentally friendly, and non-toxic [1]. CZTSSe materials have good physical properties, including a high absorption coefficient exceeding 10<sup>4</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup> and a direct band gap (E<sub>g</sub>) that can be tuned between 1eV and 1,5eV depending on the Se content in the semiconductor. Additionally, even the classic CdS buffer layer in this type of cell can be replaced with a ZnS layer according to various sources. The experimental efficiency of single-junction CZTSSe solar cells has reached 12,6%, as reported in the literature [2,3].

Significant efforts are currently being made to improve the performance of this type of cell and increase its efficiency. Among the methods and techniques that could help achieve this are the fabrication of tandem CZTSSe solar cells, which are cells with two pn junctions. A tandem cell consists of two sub-cells (one placed on top of the other), each with a different energy bandgap, so that the top cell has a larger bandgap compared to the bottom cell. This design allows each cell to be more effective at absorbing photons of specific wavelengths [5,6].

In this research, a model for a tandem CZTSSe solar cell structure was designed and its feasibility was verified using the SCAPS-1D simulation program. The performance of the tandem cell structure was then optimized by studying the effect of the absorber layer thickness in both the top and bottom cells, as well as the impact of doping the absorber layer of the bottom cell.

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# 2. Materials and methods

# 2.1. Tandem solar cell structure

Based on reference [6], we propose a tandem soller cell model consisting of two thin-layer sub-cells. The window layer of both cells is ZnO, the buffer layer is ZnS, the absorber layer of the top cell is  $Cu_2SnZnS_4$  (CZTS) and the absorber layer of the bottom cell is  $Cu_2SnZnS_4$  (CZTSe). The CZTS absorber layer has a larger  $E_g$  energy gap compared to CZTSe. The two sub-cells are electrically connected in series and placed on the same optical path so that photons not absorbed by the top cell penetrate and reach the bottom cell (Figure 1).

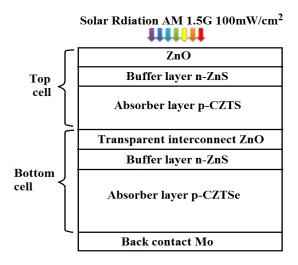


Fig. 1. Tandem cell structure.

# 2.2. Simulation parameters

The parameters of the different cell layers are listed in Table 1.

Parameter	CZTS	CZTSe	ZnS	ZnO	
	[4,7,11]	[3,8,9,10]	[3,11]	[3,11]	
Band gap E <sub>g</sub> (ev)	1.5	1	3.7	3.37	
Electron affinity (eV)	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.4	
Dielectric permittivity	10	13.6	9	9	
CB effective density of states (cm <sup>-3</sup> )	2,2 ×10 <sup>18</sup>	2,2 ×10 <sup>18</sup>	$2,2 \times 10^{18}$	2,2 ×10 <sup>18</sup>	
VB effective density of states (cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1,8 ×10 <sup>19</sup>	1,8 ×10 <sup>19</sup>	1,8 ×10 <sup>19</sup>	1,8 ×10 <sup>19</sup>	
Electron thermal velocity (cm/s)	$10^{7}$	$10^{7}$	$10^{7}$	$10^{7}$	
Hole thermal velocity (cm/s)	$10^{7}$	107	$10^{7}$	107	
Electron mobility (cm <sup>2</sup> /V.s)	100	100	100	100	
Hole mobility (cm <sup>2</sup> /V.s)	25	25	25	25	
Shallow uniform acceptor density, NA (cm <sup>-3</sup> )	$10^{17}$	$10^{17}$	0	0	
Shallow uniform donor density, ND (cm <sup>-3</sup> )	10	10	$10^{18}$	$10^{17}$	
Thickness X(μm)	0,5	0,5	0,05	0,05	
contact properties	Front cont	tact [7]	Back co	ontact [7]	
Surface recombination velocity of electron	107	$10^{7}$		$10^{7}$	
S <sub>e</sub> (cm/s)					
Surface recombination velocity of hole	$10^{7}$			$10^{7}$	
$S_h(cm/s)$					

Table 1. Tandem cell parameters.

Temperature  $\overline{T}$ =300K, parallel resistance is infinite and series resistance is zero. the incoming solar spectrum as  $AM_{1.5}$  and its power as  $P_{in}$  =100mW/cm<sup>2</sup>.

# 3. Results and discussion

First, we simulate the two sub-cells individually with the incoming solar spectrum as  $AM_{1.5}$  and its power as  $P_{in}=100 \text{mW/cm}^2$  to verify the applicability of the proposed model. The simulation results are listed in Table 2.

*Table 2. Characteristics of the two subcells under AM<sub>1.5</sub> solar spectrum.* 

	V <sub>co</sub> (v)	J <sub>sc</sub> (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF <i>)</i> %(	η <i>(</i> % <i>)</i>
CZTS cell	0,9511	25,9021	65,72	16,19
CZTSe cell	0,4891	38,5767	66,27	12,50

The characteristics of the tandem cell as a whole cannot be obtained using the SCAPS simulation program but can be calculated by simulating the top subcell as the solar spectrum reaching it is  $AM_{1.5}$  and the bottom subcell as only the portion of the solar spectrum passing through the top cell or not absorbed by the top cell.

If  $J_{sc.top}$  is the short-circuit current density of the top subcell and  $J_{sc.bot}$  is the short-circuit current density of the bottom subcell, then the tandem cell's short-circuit current density  $J_{sc.tan}$  is [12,13]:

$$J_{\text{sc.tan}} = \min \left( J_{\text{sc.top}} \text{ et } J_{\text{sc.bot}} \right) \tag{1}$$

In the case of  $J_{sc.top} = J_{sc.bot}$  then [12,14]:

$$J_{\text{sc.tan}} = J_{\text{sc.top}} = J_{\text{sc.bot}}$$
 (2)

If  $V_{\text{co.top}}$  is the open circuit voltage of the top sub-cell and  $V_{\text{co.bot}}$  is the open circuit voltage of the bottom sub-cell then the open circuit voltage of the tandem cell  $V_{\text{co.tan}}$  is [14,15]:

$$V_{\text{oc.tan}} = V_{\text{oc.top}} + V_{\text{oc.bot}}$$
(3)

The maximum power  $P_m$  and the fill factor FF of the tandem cell are given by [16]:

$$P_{m} = V_{m}. I_{m}$$
 (4)

$$FF_{tan} = \frac{V_m I_m}{V_{co.tan} I_{sc.tan}}$$
 (5)

where  $I_m$  and  $V_m$  are the current and voltage corresponding to the maximum power.

The efficiency  $\eta_{tan}$  of a tandem cell is given by:

$$\eta_{tan} = \frac{V_{oc.tan}.I_{sc.tan}}{P} FF_{tan}$$
 (6)

The J-V characteristic of the subcells and tandem cell is represented in Figure 2.

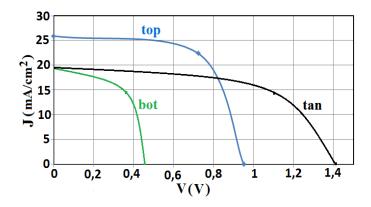


Fig. 2. J-V characteristic of the subcells and tandem cell.

The other characteristics of the two subcells and the tandem cell are listed in Table 3.

	V <sub>oc</sub> (v)	$J_{sc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF(%)	η(%)
CZTS cell	0,9511	25,9021	65,72	16,19
CZTSe cell	0,4661	18,5161	62,32	10,22
Tandem cell	1,4172	18,5161	59.82	15.70

Table 3. Characteristics of the two subcells under AM1.5 solar spectrum.

The efficiency of the tandem cell is limited to 15,70% due to the loss of current due to the large difference in the current density  $J_{sc,top}$  ( $25,9021mA/cm^2$ ) generated by the top subcell and  $J_{sc,bot}$  ( $18,5161mA/cm^2$ ) generated by the botom subcell. This large difference in the value of the Jsc current density is due to the fact that only a small percentage of photons reach the bottom subcell because most of them have been absorbed at the level of the top subcell.

In order for the tandem cell efficiency to be maximized, the current densities  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  generated by the top and bottom subcells must be equal (matching current condition), in this case the current density  $J_{\text{sc.tan}}$  generated by the whole tandem cell structure (also denoted as  $J_{\text{sc.matched}}$ ) is equal to  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  [6,17].

$$J_{\text{sc.matched}} = J_{\text{sc.top}} = J_{\text{sc.bot}}$$
 (7)

To improve the efficiency of the previously obtained tandem cell, we modify its parameters, namely the thickness  $X_{\text{CZTS}}$  of the absorbent layer CZTS of the top subcell and the thickness  $X_{\text{CZTSe}}$  of the bottom subcell, and doping it with  $N_{\text{A/CZTSe}}$ . We search for their optimal values that satisfy the condition that  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  are equal.

# 3.1. Effect of X<sub>CZTS</sub> thickness

We study the effect of the thickness of the absorbent layer of the top subcell  $X_{CZTS}$  on the properties of the top and bottom subcells and the tandem cell as a whole by simulation, changing its value from  $0.1\mu m$  to  $0.5\mu m$ . The changes in the properties of the two subcells and the tandem cell in terms of the  $X_{CZTS}$  fish are represented in the following figure.

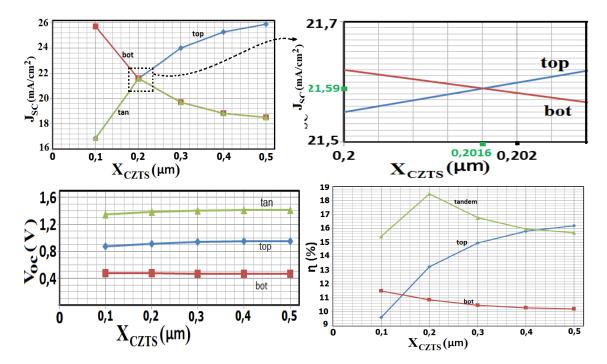


Fig. 3. Characteristic changes of the two sub-cells and the tandem cell in terms of the  $X_{CZIS}$  thickness.

For the top cell, when  $X_{CZTS}$  was increased from  $0.1\mu m$  to  $0.5\mu m$ , the open-circuit voltage  $V_{co.top}$  and the current density  $J_{sc.top}$  also increased, and as a result, the efficiency  $\eta_{top}$  also increased from 9,92% to 16,19%. The explanation for these observations is that low-energy photons (photons with large wavelengths) are absorbed by the absorber layer when the latter is thicker. Increasing the number of absorbed photons increases the number of electron-hole pairs that are generated in the CZTS absorber layer, and as a result, the  $J_{sc.top}$  current density increases and the  $\eta_{top}$  efficiency increases [18,17,7]. For a small thickness, the phenomenon of electron-hole pair generation occurs near the interfaces of the absorber layer where the high density of defects that are recombination centers for the generated electron-hole pairs, so their presence reduces the number of electrons and holes collected and the current density  $J_{sc.top}$  decreases and the efficiency  $\eta_{top}$  decreases as a result. The larger the thickness, the farther the electron-hole pair generation phenomenon is from the surface of the absorber layer and the greater the efficiency.

For the bottom sub-cell, increasing the thickness  $X_{\rm CZTS}$  did not significantly affect the open circuit voltage  $V_{\rm oc.bot}$  but caused a significant decrease in the current density  $J_{\rm sc.bot}$ , which also led to a decrease in the efficiency  $\eta_{\rm bot}$ . The explanation for these results is that a large part of the solar spectrum that could have been absorbed by the bottom subcell was absorbed at the level of the top subcell, and the thicker the  $X_{\rm CZTS}$ , the more light absorption at the level of the upper subcell, the fewer photons reach the front surface of the lower subcell, and the bottom the current density of the  $J_{\rm sc.bot}$  generated by its efficiency  $\eta_{\rm bot}$  as a result [6,17].

For a tandem cell, its characteristics are mainly related to the characteristics of the two subcells as explained above. The open-circuit voltage  $V_{\text{oc.tan}}$  is not much affected by changing the thickness  $X_{\text{CZTS}}$ , while the compartment current density  $J_{\text{sc.tan}}$ , which is the lowest of the two currents  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  generated by the two subcells, and its output  $\eta_{\text{tan}}$  change in a non-monotonic manner as:

-When the  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness increases from 0,1 $\mu$ m to 0,2016 $\mu$ m, the current density  $J_{sc.tan}$  increases from 16,37mA/cm² to 21,59 mA/cm² ( $J_{sc.tan}$  is equal to  $J_{sc.top}$  which is the smallest current in this field) and  $\eta$ tan increases from a value of 15,42% to reach its maximum value of 19,69%.

-When increasing the  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness value from 0,2016 $\mu$ m to 0,5 $\mu$ m, the current density  $J_{sc.tan}$  decreases from its maximum value of 21,59mA/cm² to 18,51mA/cm² ( $J_{sc.tan}$  is equal to  $J_{sc.bot}$  which is the smallest current in this field) and the efficiency  $\eta_{lan}$  also decreases from 19,69% to 18,51%.

From these results, the optimal thickness value that allows the condition of  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  being equal (the value corresponding to  $J_{\text{sc.matched}}$ ) and makes the two sub-cells work harmoniously is  $X_{\text{CZTS}}$ =201,6nm. At this value, the  $\eta_{\text{lan}}$  tandem cell achieves the highest efficiency (19,69%). The characteristics of the tandem cell and the two subcells are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Characteristics of	the to	andem cell	and t	the two	subcells	after	$X_{CZTS}$ th	hickness	optimization.

	Voc(v)	$J_{sc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF(%)	η <i>(</i> % <i>)</i>
Top cell ( $x_{CZTS}=201,6nm$ )	0,9165	21,59	67,18	13,30
bottom cell (x <sub>CZTSe</sub> =500nm)	0,4704	21,59	63,21	10,80
tandem cell	1,3869	21,59	65,82	19,70

In the next step, we optimize the performance of the tandem cell and increase its efficiency by modifying the  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness and  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping of the absorbent layer of the bottom sub-cell, always keeping in mind that the performance of the bottom sub-cell is also affected by the  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness, which controls and determines the part of the solar spectrum that reaches it, so we attach great importance to the  $X_{CZTS}$  value when simulating the bottom cell.

#### 3.2. Effect of X<sub>CZTSe</sub> thickness

We study the effect of the thickness  $X_{CZTSe}$  of the absorber layer CZTSe of the bottom subcell on its performance and on the performance of the tandem cell as a whole. Figure 4 represents the  $J_{sc.top}(X_{CZTS})$  curve of the current produced by the top cell (the same curve we obtained when studying the effect of  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness) and the  $J_{sc.bot}(X_{CZTS})$  curves corresponding to  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness values between  $0.5 \mu m$  and  $3 \mu m$ .

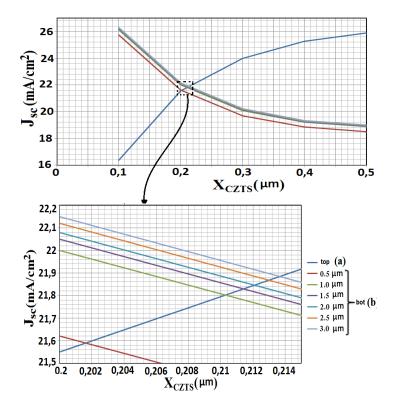


Fig. 4. (a) Changes of  $J_{sc.top}$  in terms of  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness; (b) Changes of  $J_{sc.bot}$  in terms of  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness for different  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness values.

Figure 5 and Table 5 represent the  $X_{CZTSe}$  and  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness values for which  $J_{sc.bot}$  and  $J_{sc.top}$  are equal ( $X_{CZTSe}$  and  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness values corresponding to  $J_{sc.matched}$ ), for which the top and bottom sub-cells work in harmony and the tandem cell has the highest possible conversion efficiency. The values of  $X_{CZTSe}$  and  $X_{CZTS}$  are determined by the intersection points of the  $J_{sc.top}(X_{CZTS})$  and  $J_{sc.top}(X_{CZTS})$  curves shown in Figure 4.

Table 5. Thickness  $X_{CZTS}$  and thickness  $X_{CZTSe}$  values corresponding to  $J_{sc.top}$  and  $J_{sc.top}$  isochrones.

X <sub>CZTSe</sub> (µm)	0,5	1	1,5	2	2,5	3
X <sub>CZTS</sub> (nm)	201,6	210,3	211,4	212,1	213,0	213,7

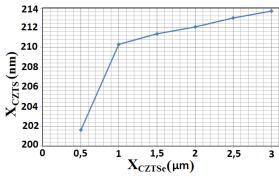


Fig. 5. Thickness  $X_{CZTS}$  and thickness  $X_{CZTSe}$  values corresponding to  $J_{sc.top}$  and  $J_{sc.tot}$  equality.

The two subcells generate equal  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  currents when  $X_{\text{CZTSe}}$  is 0,5µm thick and  $X_{\text{CZTS}}$  is 201,6nm thick. When  $X_{\text{CZTSe}}$  is increased to 3µm,  $X_{\text{CZTS}}$  must be increased to 213,7nm. In general, when  $X_{\text{CZTSe}}$  is increased by a certain amount,  $X_{\text{CZTS}}$  must also be increased by a certain amount so that the two subcells generate equal  $J_{\text{sc.bot}}$  and  $J_{\text{sc.top}}$  currents and so that the tandem cell has the highest efficiency. Figure 6 shows the changes of the tandem cell characteristics in terms of the thickness  $X_{\text{CZTSe}}$ .

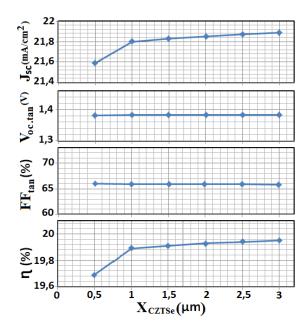


Fig. 6. Tandem cell property changes in relation to the  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness.

Increasing the  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness from 0,5µm to 1µm (corresponding to increasing the  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness from 201,6nm to 210,3nm) did not significantly affect the open circuit voltage  $V_{oc.tan}$  but increased the current density  $J_{sc.tan}$  generated by the tandem cell from 21,59mA/cm<sup>2</sup> to 21,80mA/cm<sup>2</sup>. The explanation for this result is that increasing  $X_{CZTSe}$  (and increasing  $X_{CZTSe}$  as well, which is imposed by the  $J_{sc}$  Matched condition) leads to an increase in photon absorption at the cell level and thus increases the generation of electron-hole pairs, increasing the current density  $J_{sc.tan}$  ( $J_{sc.matched}$ ) generated by the tandem cell structure and, as a result, its yield value increased from 19,69% to 19,89%.

The significant increase in  $X_{CZTSe}$  thickness from 1µm to 3µm (corresponding to the increase in  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness from 201,6nm to 213,7nm) also did not affect the open circuit voltage  $V_{oc.tan}$ , while the current density  $J_{sc.tan}$  increased slightly from 21,80mA/cm² to 21,89mA/cm², which increased the efficiency value  $\eta_{tan}$  from 19,89% to 19,95% only because the limited  $X_{CZTSe}$ =1µm thickness (corresponding to  $X_{CZTSe}$ =210,4nm) is sufficient to absorb most of the photons reaching the tandem cell structure. It is economically pointless to increase the thickness of  $X_{CZTSe}$  (more raw material for cell fabrication) for very little increase in yield  $\eta_{tan}$  [18], so we consider 1µm  $X_{CZTSe}$  to be an optimal value. The sub-cell and tandem cell characteristics for this value are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Characteristics of the tandem cell and the two sub-cells after thickness optimization X<sub>CZTSe</sub>.

	$J_{sc.matched}(mA/cm^2)$	Voc(v)	FF <i>(</i> % <i>)</i>	η(%)
Top cell (x <sub>CZTSe</sub> =1 µm)	21,80	0,9120	67,47	13,415
Bottom cell (x <sub>CZTS</sub> =201,6nm)	21,80	0,4713	63,13	11,03
Tandem cell	21,80	1,3833	65,95	19,89

### 3.3. Effect of doping N<sub>A/CZTSe</sub>

We study the effect of  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping of the CZTSe absorber layer of the bottom subcell on its performance and on the performance of the tandem cell as a whole. Figure 7 represents the  $J_{sc.top}(X_{CZTS})$  curve of the current produced by the top cell (the same curve we obtained when studying the effect of  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness) and the  $J_{sc.bot}(X_{CZTS})$  curves corresponding to  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping values between  $10^{15} cm^{-3}$  and  $10^{20} cm^{-3}$ .

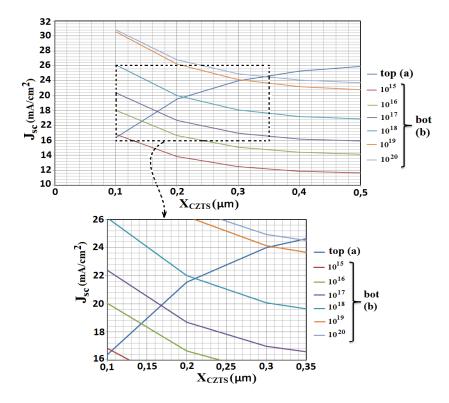


Fig. 7. (a)  $J_{sc.top}$  changes in terms of  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness; (b)  $J_{sc.bot}$  changes in terms of  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness for different  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping values.

Figure 8 and Table 7 represent the  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  and  $X_{CZTS}$  values for which the  $J_{sc.bot}$  and  $J_{sc.top}$  currents are equal, for which the top and bottom subcells are harmonized, and for which the tandem cell has the greatest possible conversion yield. The values of  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  and  $X_{CZTS}$  are determined by the intersection points of the  $J_{sc.top}(X_{CZTS})$  and  $J_{sc.bot}(X_{CZTS})$  curves.

Table 7.  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  and  $X_{CZTSe}$  doping values corresponding to  $J_{sc.top}$  and  $J_{sc.top}$  isochrones.

N <sub>A/CZTSe</sub> (cm <sup>-3</sup> )	$10^{15}$	$10^{16}$	$10^{17}$	$10^{18}$	$10^{19}$	$10^{20}$
X <sub>CZTS</sub> (nm)	343,7	306,3	210,3	167,8	142,8	106,6

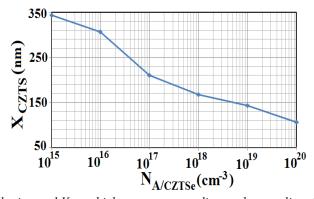


Fig. 8.  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping and  $X_{CZTS}$  thickness corresponding to the equality of  $J_{sc.top}$  and  $J_{sc.bot}$ .

The two subcells generate equal  $J_{sc.bot}$  and  $J_{sc.top}$  currents when  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  is equal to  $10^{15} cm^{-3}$  and  $X_{CZTS}$  is equal to  $0.340 \mu m$ . When  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  is increased from  $10^{15} cm^{-3}$  to  $10^{19} cm^{-3}$ ,  $X_{CZTS}$  must be reduced from  $0.340 \mu m$  to  $0.142 \mu m$ . According to these results, when  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  is increased by a certain amount,  $X_{CZTS}$  should be decreased by a certain amount so that the two sub-cells generate equal  $J_{sc.top}$  currents and the tandem cell has the highest efficiency, as each  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  value corresponds to a specific  $X_{CZTS}$  value. Figure 9 represents the changes in tandem cell characteristics when  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  changes from a value of  $10^{15} cm^{-3}$  to a value of  $10^{20} cm^{-3}$ .

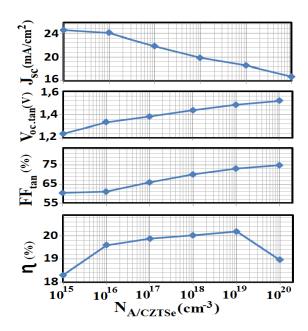


Fig. 9. Tandem cell characteristic changes in relation to  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping.

According to Figure 9, increasing  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  from  $10^{15} cm^{-3}$  to  $10^{20} cm^{-3}$  (and decreasing  $X_{CZTS}$  from 0,340µm to 0,142µm imposed by by the  $J_{sc}$  Matched condition ) Although it reduced the current density  $J_{sc,tan}$  from 24,56mA/cm² to 16,66mA/cm², it increased the open circuit voltage  $V_{co,tan}$  from 1,2350V to 1,5198V and increased the fill factor FF<sub>tan</sub> from 60,36% to 74,92%, which increased the tandem cell yield ntan from 18,31% to 20,20%.

The benefit of increasing the doping or defects in semiconductors is to increase the electrical conductivity, but it often exceeds a certain limit and becomes a loss factor, because it causes the recombination phenomenon of electron-hole pairs, the collection of free electrons generated by photoabsorption in the absorber layer decreases more and more, the current density decreases more and more, and the conversion efficiency decreases [7,18,19], so we observed the degradation of the bottom subcell efficiency and the tandem cell efficiency if the  $N_{A/CZTSe}$  doping exceeds the value of  $10^{19} cm^{-3}$ , so we consider this value as an optimal value. The subcell and tandem cell characteristics for this value are listed in Table 8.

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	J <sub>sc.matched</sub> (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	V <sub>oc</sub> (v)	FF <i>(</i> % <i>)</i>	η(%)
top cell (x <sub>CZTS</sub> =142,8nm)	18,59	0,8909	68,43	11,32
Bottom cell	18,59	0,5952	80,27	13,75
$(N_{A/CZTSe}=10^{19} cm^{-3}, x_{CZTSe}=1 \mu m)$				
Tandem cell	18,59	1,4861	73,12	20,20

The voltage-current characteristic of the tandem cell and subcells is represented in Figure

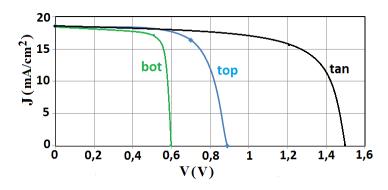


Fig. 10. J-V characteristic of the tandem cell and subcells after optimization.

# 4. Comparison of tandem cell characteristics before and after optimization

Modifying the parameters of the two sub-cells improved the performance of the tandem cell and thus increased its efficiency from 15,70% to 20,20% as shown in Table 9.

	V <sub>oc</sub> (v)	J <sub>sc</sub> (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF(%)	η(%)
Before optimization	1,4172	18,5161	59,82	15,70
after ontimization	1 4861	18.6	73.12	20.20

Table 9. Tandem cell properties before and after optimization.

#### 5. Conclusion

10.

In this study, we designed a tandem cell consisting of two subcells, the absorber layer of the top subcell is CZTS and the absorber layer of the bottom subcell is CZTSe, and the buffer layer of each is ZnS. We simulated this cell under AM<sub>1.5</sub> solar spectrum using SCAPS software. The initially obtained efficiency of the tandem cell was only 15,70% due to the large difference in the values of the current density produced by the top subcell (25,90mA/cm²) and the bottom subcell (18,51mA/cm²). Then we studied the effect of the thickness of the CZTS layer as well as the thickness and doping of the CZTSe layer with the aim of searching for their optimal values that increase the ability of the two sub-cells to convert light into electricity and make the performance of the two sub-cells consistent and achieve the matching current condition produced by each cell. The result was an increase in the efficiency to 20,20% and the matching current was 18,59mA/cm², while the open circuit voltage was 1,48V and the fill factor was 73,12% for the thickness values  $X_{\rm CZTS}$ =142,8nm and  $X_{\rm CZTS}$ =1 $\mu$ m and the doping value  $N_{\rm A/CZTS}$ =10 $^{19}$ cm³.

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