

Design Optimization of Single-Layer Antireflective Coating for GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si Tandem Cells With $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29, \text{ and } 0.37$

Sabina Abdul Hadi, Tim Milakovich, Mayank T. Bulsara, Sueda Saylan, Marcus S. Dahlem, Eugene A. Fitzgerald, and Ammar Nayfeh

Abstract—Single-layer antireflective coating (SLARC) materials and design for GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cells were analyzed by TCAD simulation. We have shown that optimum SLARC thickness is a function of bandgap, thickness, and material quality of top GaAs_{1-x}P_x subcell. Cells are analyzed for P fractions $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29, \text{ and } 0.37$, and ARC materials: Si₃N₄, SiO₂, ITO, HfO₂, and Al₂O₃. Optimum ARC thickness ranges from 65–75 nm for Si₃N₄ and ITO to ~100–110 nm for SiO₂. Optimum ARC thickness increases with increasing GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness and with decreasing P fraction x . Simulations show that optimum GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness is not a strong function of ARC material, but it increases from 250 nm for $x = 0$ to ~1 μm for $x = 0.29$ and 0.37 . For all P fractions, Si₃N₄, HfO₂, and Al₂O₃ performed almost equally, while SiO₂ and ITO resulted in ~1% and ~2% lower efficiency, respectively. Optimum SLARC thickness increases as the material quality of the top cell increases. The effect of ARC material decreases with decreasing GaAs_{1-x}P_x material quality. The maximum efficiencies are achieved for cells with ~1- μm GaAs_{0.71}P_{0.29} absorber ($\tau = 10$ ns): ~26.57% for 75-nm Si₃N₄ SLARC and 27.62% for 75-nm SiO₂/60-nm Si₃N₄ double-layer ARC.

Index Terms—Antireflective coating (ARC), Al₂O₃, GaAs_{1-x}P_x, HfO₂, III-V on Si, ITO, Si₃N₄, SiO₂, Synopsys, TCAD, transfer matrix method (TMM).

I. INTRODUCTION

THE PERFORMANCE of solar cells can be greatly improved with optimized antireflective coating (ARC) that reduces the amount of reflected incident light. Uncoated crystalline silicon (c-Si) surface (refractive index $n \sim 3.7$) at interface with air ($n \sim 1$) is shown to reflect between 31%–48% of incident light [1]. The concepts of optimum ARC material, number of layers, layer thickness, and surface texturing are continually being studied [1]–[7]. Ideally, the ARC should be abundant material, easily deposited, transparent to most of the

solar spectrum, and compatible with materials and processes commonly used in the solar cell industry.

Single-layer ARC (SLARC) can minimize reflection at one specific wavelength [quarter-wave (QW) ARC]. However, the remaining part of the solar spectrum is highly reflected. Hence, for optimum solar cell operation, SLARC is used to minimize wavelength with highest spectral intensity. Double and multi-layer ARCs can minimize reflection for more than one wavelength of interest, but the choice of the ARC materials is more constricted, due to refractive index constraints [2]–[4]. Different materials, such as SiO₂, SiO_x, SiN_x, Si₃N₄, ZnO, ZnS, ITO, TiO₂, MgF₂/ZnS, etc., have been shown to have good ARC properties [1]–[7], but their performance depends on ARC design and solar cell application. Furthermore, reflectance can be greatly reduced by surface patterning, which is of most interest for concentrated solar cells with normal light incidence [2].

With growing development of tandem cell applications for high efficiency, ARC design specifically tuned to optimize multijunction (MJ) cell performance is needed. Subcells can be grown on top of each other, or they can be fabricated separately and mechanically bonded. Theoretically, optimal efficiency of two junction solar cell can be achieved if bottom cell bandgap E_g is 1.1 eV, while bandgap of top cell is 1.7 eV [8]. Therefore, Si ($E_g = 1.12$ eV)-based tandem cells with top GaAs_{1-x}P_x cell ($E_g = 1.42 - 2.22$ eV for $x = 0 - 1$) are an attractive area of research for low cost MJ solar cells.

Main challenges for GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cell are lattice and thermal expansion mismatch between Si and GaAs_{1-x}P_x compounds. Nonetheless, high-quality GaAs solar cells were successfully grown on Si by using SiGe step-graded buffers in order to grow virtual Ge substrate that is latticed matched to GaAs [9], [10]. Furthermore, Ge fraction in step-graded buffers can be tuned to lattice match desired GaAs_{1-x}P_x compound [11], [12]. Unfortunately, due to its optical properties and decreasing bandgap, SiGe buffer layer would absorb light intended for bottom Si cell [13]–[15]. Another successful way to grow a defect-free III-V layer on silicon is based on the use of a GaP nucleation layer, followed by GaAs_{1-x}P_x-graded buffer [16]–[19]. The method that would avoid use of graded buffer layers and its related optical losses is mechanical stacking of two subcells. In this paper, we present simulation of the structure that represents mechanically bonded GaAs_{1-x}P_x and Si cells.

For optimum performance of MJ cells, current generated in all subcells needs to match. The subcell with the lowest optically generated current limits the current flow in the tandem cell,

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decreasing its overall efficiency. Hence, ARC for Si-based MJ cells should be designed to maximize optical absorption in Si base cell but also to not impair the performance of the top cell significantly.

In this paper, we analyze the design requirements for the GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cell for $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29,$ and 0.37 in terms of optimum GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness and SLARC. Analysis is carried out for five different ARC materials, i.e., Si₃N₄, SiO₂, ITO, HfO₂, and Al₂O₃, which were chosen either based on their optical compatibility with GaAsP, their common use in a PV application, or convenience of the *in-situ* growth. Transfer matrix method (TMM) is used to estimate the range of optimum antireflective layer thicknesses, which are then analyzed by optical and electrical simulations using TCAD Synopsys [20]–[22]. Finally, results for the optimized GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cell with optimum SLARC design are compared with the equivalent cell with optimized SiO₂/Si₃N₄ double-layer antireflective coating (DLARC) [4], [23].

II. METHODOLOGY

Various ARC materials were analyzed to observe how well they satisfy QW film condition. TMM is then used to estimate SLARC thickness d with minimum reflection for Air/ARC/GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si interface with varying GaAs_{1-x}P_x thickness, without taking into consideration the light absorption in each layer. In order to account for absorption and to find optimum ARC design for tandem cell, d is further varied in TCAD simulations. Moreover, GaAs_{1-x}P_x layer thickness t is varied in order to find optimum tandem cell design with matching subcell currents. GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cell is simulated for top cell thickness t and ARC thickness d for varying GaAs_{1-x}P_x minority carrier lifetime τ in order to find an optimum tandem cell design with maximum efficiency. Moreover, the efficiency of the tandem cell is used to identify the optimum design that can be achieved. The efficiency is a performance parameter that encapsulates effects of all variables in this analysis, such as ARC material, ARC thickness, GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness, and lifetime. Finally, by means of TCAD simulations, SiO₂/Si₃N₄ DLARC is optimized for the most efficient GaAsP/Si tandem cell and compared with optimum SLARC design.

A. Selection of Single-Layer Antireflective Coating Materials

QW films are specially designed to reduce or completely eliminate reflection at the interface between two media of different refractive indexes n . In our ARC selection process, the QW condition was analyzed for Air ($n_{\text{Air}} \sim 1$)/GaP ($n_{\text{GaP}} \sim 3$) and Air/GaAs ($n_{\text{GaAs}} \sim 3.4$) interfaces, as shown in (1) below [24], since the QW condition for GaAs_{1-x}P_x compounds should fall in between

$$n_{\text{ARC}} = \sqrt{n_{\text{Air}} \cdot n_{\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x}}. \quad (1)$$

Fig. 1 shows refractive indexes of selected ARC materials, QW conditions for GaAs/Air and GaP/Air interfaces (optical properties utilized from [25]), and solar spectral irradiance AM1.5 [26]. Optical parameters of GaAs_{1-x}P_x are obtained by measurements by J. A. Woollam Co. of MOCVD grown

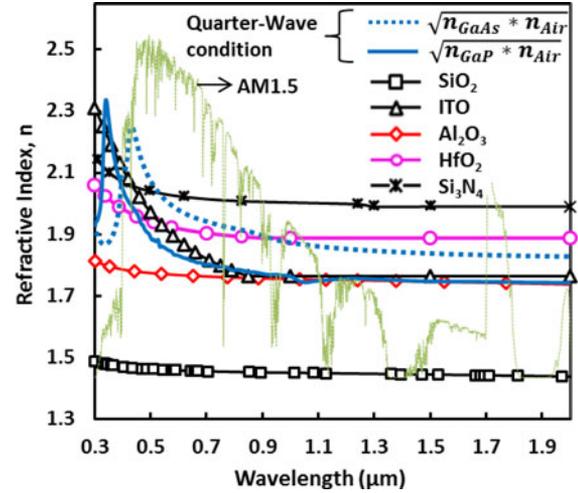


Fig. 1. Refractive indexes of analyzed ARC materials [25], in addition to QW conditions for Air/GaAs and Air/GaP interfaces and solar spectral irradiance AM1.5 (arbitrary units) [26].

2- μm -thick GaAs_{1-x}P_x layers on graded SiGe buffer [27]. In terms of reflection, SiO₂ performs poorly for the entire wavelength range, and it is included in our further study due to its good surface passivation properties and DLARC applications [4], [23]. For wavelengths with highest spectral intensity ($\lambda \sim 400\text{--}600$ nm), Si₃N₄, ITO, and HfO₂ satisfy the QW condition for GaAs_{1-x}P_x compounds the best, while Al₂O₃ is close to the QW condition of the Air/GaP interface.

B. Transfer Matrix Method

TMM is used to calculate the incident wave reflection with wavelength λ , propagating through multiple layers with refractive index n_i and thickness d_i without accounting for absorption in each medium. Wave transfer matrix used to describe propagation of the wave through homogenous i th layer is defined in (2) below, and transfer matrix describing reflectance at the boundary of two layers with different refractive indexes n_i and n_{i+1} is given in (3) below [24]:

$$M_{\text{prop-}i} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-j\varphi_i} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{j\varphi_i} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \varphi_i = n_i d_i \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \quad (2)$$

$$M_{i/i+1} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot n_{i+1}} \begin{bmatrix} n_{i+1} + n_i & n_{i+1} - n_i \\ n_{i+1} - n_i & n_{i+1} + n_i \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

Wave propagating through N layers, assuming $N + 1$ boundaries (sandwiched between two infinite media), can be described by matrix M , which is given in [24]

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} = \prod_{i=1}^N (M_{i-1/i} M_{\text{prop-}i} M_{i/i+1}). \quad (4)$$

Total intensity reflectance of wave propagation through N layers, from infinite region with n_0 to infinite region with n_{N+1} is then equal to [24]

$$R_{0,N+1} = \left| -\frac{C}{D} \right|^2. \quad (5)$$

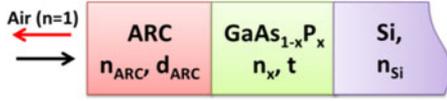


Fig. 2. Schematics of the TMM structure used in order to estimate optimum ARC for $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ tandem cell.

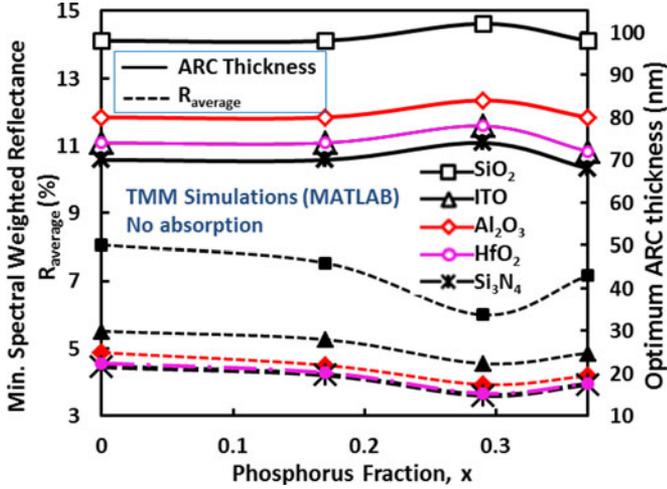


Fig. 3. Minimum average weighted reflectance, R_{average} (%) as a function of P fraction x for different ARC material. $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ thickness with minimum R_{average} shown above is equal to 2, 0.8, 2 (1.3 for SiO_2), and $1 \mu\text{m}$ for $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29, \text{ and } 0.37$, respectively.

Fig. 2 shows schematics of TMM applied to ARC optimization for $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x/\text{Si}$ tandem cell.

In order to find optimum SLARC thickness, reflectance intensity at each wavelength $R_{0,N+1}(\lambda)$, is weighted by normalized spectrum intensity $I(\lambda)$ and averaged over the spectrum, as shown in

$$R_{\text{average}} = \frac{1}{\lambda_{\text{end}} - \lambda_{\text{start}}} \int_{\lambda_{\text{start}}}^{\lambda_{\text{end}}} R_{0,N+1}(\lambda) \cdot I(\lambda) d\lambda. \quad (6)$$

The solar spectrum range from $\lambda_{\text{start}} = 300 \text{ nm}$ to $\lambda_{\text{end}} = 1100 \text{ nm}$ is taken into consideration since $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ and Si optical responsively fall within it. Analysis is repeated for varying $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ thickness and P fractions of $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29, \text{ and } 0.37$. Fig. 3 shows minimum average spectral weighted reflectance, R_{average} as a function of P fraction (x), for each analyzed ARC material. $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ thickness with minimum R_{average} varied with x and was equal to 2, 0.8, 2 (1.3 for SiO_2), and $1 \mu\text{m}$ for $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29, \text{ and } 0.37$, respectively.

When absorption is not taken into account, optimum ARC thickness ranges roughly between 65 and 85 nm for all tested fractions of x and ARC materials, with the exception of SiO_2 . HfO_2 , and Si_3N_4 , show the lowest reflectance over the analyzed spectrum range (3.6%). Si_3N_4 requires least ARC thickness to achieve minimum reflectance and is closely followed by HfO_2 .

SLARC thickness with minimum average reflectance over the entire solar spectrum is selected for further device simulations in TCAD.

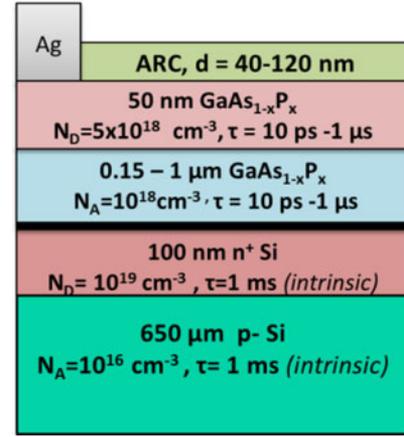


Fig. 4. Schematic cross section of $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x/\text{Si}$ tandem cell simulated in TCAD.

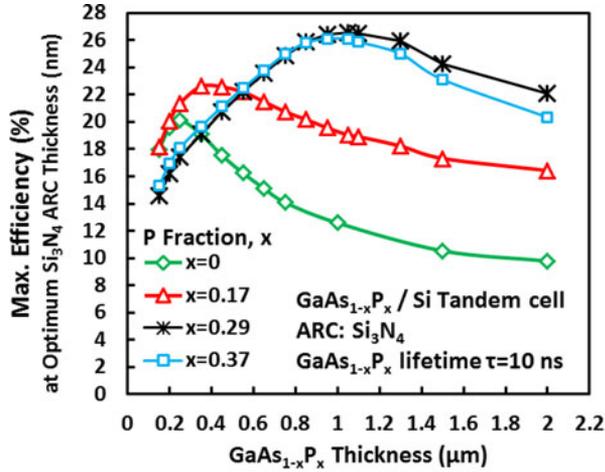
C. TCAD Simulation Model

Sentaurus TCAD by Synopsys [20]–[22] is used for electrical and optical simulation of the solar cell devices. Synopsys tools Sentaurus Structure Editor, Sentaurus Device (SDevice), and Inspect are used.

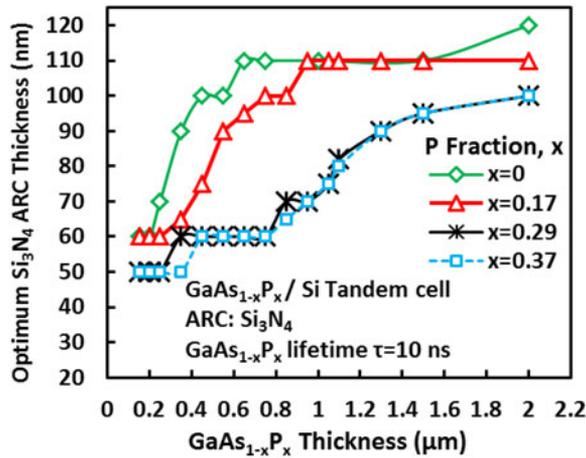
$\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x/\text{Si}$ tandem cells are simulated for different ARC materials with varying ARC and $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ thickness, as well as the $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ lifetime. Complex refractive indexes for ARC materials, GaAs and Si are used from [25], while optical parameters of $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ ($x = 0.17 - 0.37$) are obtained by measurements of MOCVD grown $2\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -thick epi layer [27].

The Si solar cell is optimized such that the absorber is $650\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -thick lightly doped p-type Si substrate ($N_A = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and the heavily doped ($N_D = 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) 100-nm -thick n-type emitter. $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ top cell is designed with variable absorber thickness and acceptor doping $N_A = 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and 50-nm thick emitter with $N_D = 5 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The lifetime τ of Si is modeled as doping dependent in the Physics section of the SDevice Synopsys tool, and its intrinsic value is set to 1 ms, which is consistent with the high-quality c-Si wafer [28]–[30]. The $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ lifetime is modeled as a fixed value, and it is varied from 10 ps to $1 \mu\text{s}$, which is the range of values reported for GaAs epi growth on SiGe-graded buffers [31] and pure GaAs materials [32]. The values for the energy bandgap for $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ are utilized from [33], while for Si and GaAs, default values from TCAD are used. The tunnel diode between two cells is simulated as a very thin highly conductive region [34]. Optical and resistive losses in the tunnel junction are not taken into consideration in these simulations. The effect of interface surface recombination is also ignored. Fig. 4 shows a schematic cross section of the simulated solar cell.

By increasing the P fraction, the bandgap of the top $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ cell increases from $\sim 1.43 \text{ eV}$ for $x = 0$ to $\sim 1.88 \text{ eV}$ for $x = 0.37$ [33], resulting in lower photogenerated current in the top cell. In order to achieve matching currents of subcells, the optimum $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ absorber layer thickness, as well as the optimum SLARC thickness, changes with increasing P fraction. Consequently, optimum SLARC thickness and



(a)



(b)

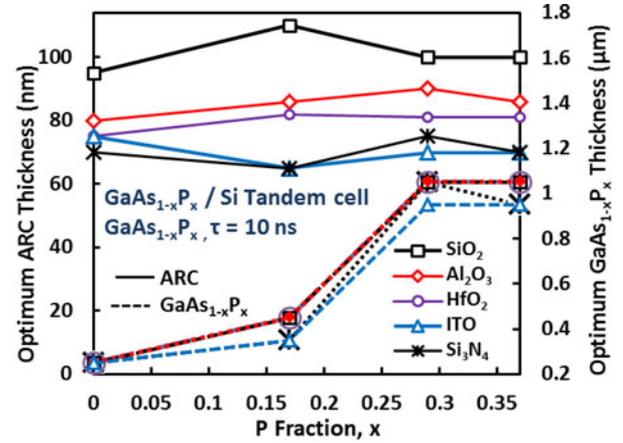
Fig. 5. (a) Maximum efficiency of GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cell. (b) Optimum Si₃N₄ ARC thickness (nm) as a function of GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness for $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29,$ and 0.37 and GaAs_{1-x}P_x lifetime $\tau = 10$ ns.

material will differ from the values estimated by TMM analysis that did not take into consideration the absorption or the tandem cell specific requirement for matching subcell currents.

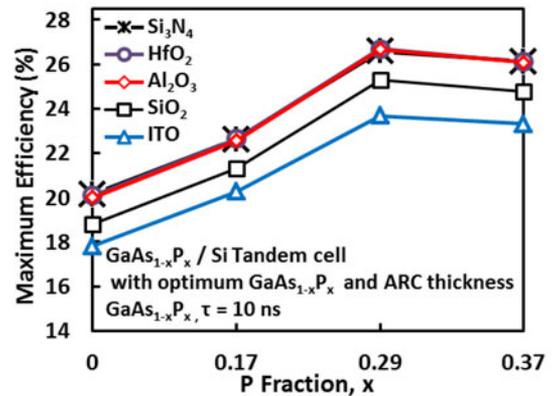
III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to show the effect of the P fraction on the optimum SLARC and GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness, TCAD simulations were carried out for Si₃N₄ as a fixed ARC material, based on TMM results (as shown in Fig. 3). Fig. 5(a) shows the maximum efficiency of the GaAs_{1-x}P_x tandem cell as a function of the GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness at optimum Si₃N₄ ARC thickness for $x = 0, 0.17, 0.29,$ and $0.37,$ with the GaAs_{1-x}P_x lifetime $\tau = 10$ ns. The GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness for maximum efficiency increases from 250 nm for $x = 0$ to ~ 1 μm for $x = 0.29$ and 0.37 . The tandem cell for $x = 0.29$ performs the best with maximum efficiency $\sim 26.57\%$, closely followed by cells with $x = 0.37$.

Fig. 5(b) shows values for optimum Si₃N₄ ARC thickness at which maximum efficiency is achieved for the varying GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness and the P frac-



(a)



(b)

Fig. 6. (a) Optimum SLARC thickness for optimum GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness for different ARC materials. (b) Maximum efficiency as a function of P fraction x for optimized GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cells with GaAs_{1-x}P_x lifetime $\tau = 10$ ns.

tion x . The maximum overall efficiency for all P fractions was achieved for Si₃N₄ thickness in the range between 65 and 75 nm. However, optimum ARC thickness increases with increasing GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness. This is due to the fact that more light is absorbed in the top cell with a thicker absorber layer, and photogeneration in the bottom Si cell needs to be enhanced by favoring longer wavelengths. Furthermore, the trend in Fig. 5(b) shows that the generally thicker ARC layer is required for cells with lower P fraction ($x = 0$ and 0.17). This is due to the fact that cells with lower bandgap absorb more of the solar spectrum; therefore, the ARC thickness needs to be tuned such that performance of the bottom cell is maximized. Similar analysis was repeated for other ARC materials. Optimum ARC thickness as a function of P fraction (x) and its corresponding optimum GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness for different ARC materials are shown in Fig. 6(a) for the lifetime GaAs_{1-x}P_x = 10 ns. Fig. 6(b) shows maximum efficiency as a function of the P fraction for GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cells with optimized ARC and GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thicknesses.

The results in Fig. 6 show that optimum SLARC thickness is smallest for Si₃N₄ and ITO (65–75 nm) and largest for SiO₂ (~ 100 – 110 nm). The optimum top absorber thickness is mostly

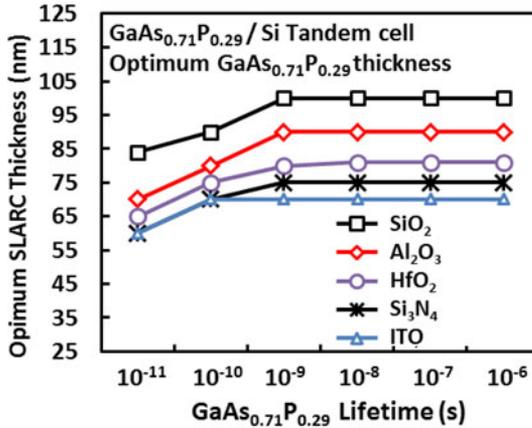
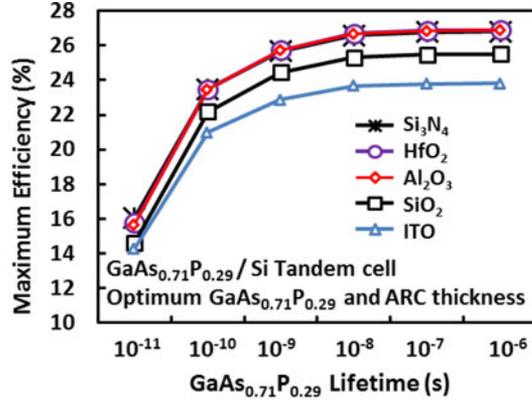


Fig. 7. (a) Maximum efficiency. (b) Optimum SLARC thickness as a function of $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}$ minority carrier lifetime τ for $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}/\text{Si}$ tandem cell with optimum $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}$ absorber thickness.

unchanged with respect to different ARC materials, with the exception of ITO that resulted in slightly thinner $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ layer. In terms of efficiency, for all P concentrations, Si_3N_4 , HfO_2 , and Al_2O_3 performed almost equally, while SiO_2 and ITO resulted in $\sim 1\%$ and $\sim 2\%$ lower efficiency, respectively. With respect to ARC performance and optimum thickness, TCAD simulations are in agreement with TMM results (see Fig. 3), except for ITO, which was outperformed by SiO_2 . This is probably the result of larger absorption in ITO compared with SiO_2 , due to its higher extinction coefficients k [25].

We have shown that optimum SLARC thickness changes with changing $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ absorber layer, because of the change in photogenerated current of both subcells. Similarly, optimum SLARC thickness changes with $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ material quality, which, in this study, is represented by minority carrier lifetime τ . Optimum SLARC and $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ absorber layer thickness were studied for $10 \text{ ps} \leq L\tau \leq 1 \mu\text{s}$. Since $x = 0.29$ resulted in highest efficiency (for $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ absorber layer thickness between $950\text{--}1 \mu\text{m}$), the effect of $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ lifetime is shown here for that specific P fraction.

Fig. 7(a) shows maximum efficiency of $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}/\text{Si}$ tandem cell with optimized top cell absorber and ARC thicknesses, as a function of τ . The advantage of Si_3N_4 , Al_2O_3 , and HfO_2

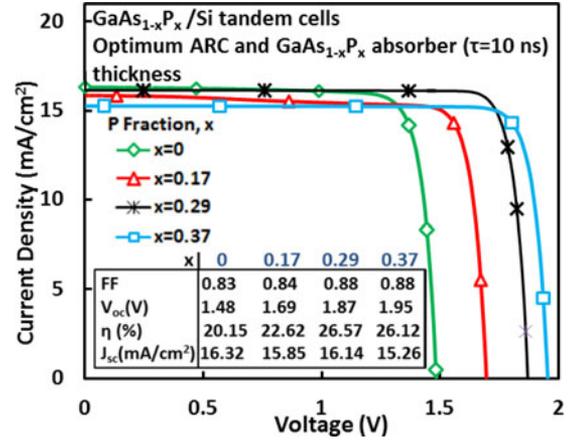


Fig. 8. J - V characteristics of $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x/\text{Si}$ tandem cells ($x = 0, 0.17, 0.29$, and 0.37) with optimum SLARC and $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ absorber layer thicknesses with $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ lifetime equal to 10 ns .

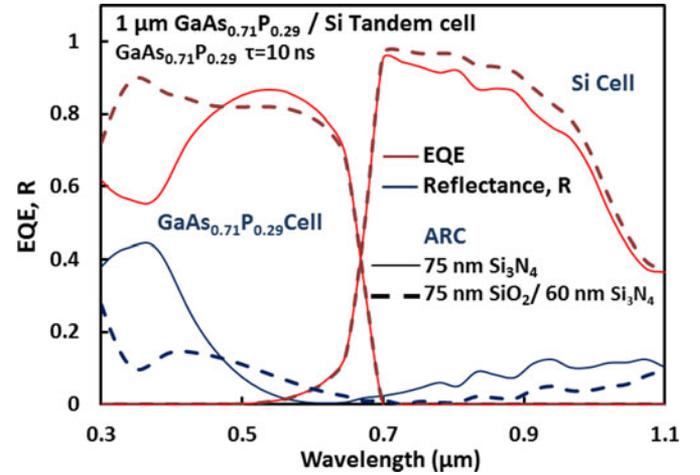


Fig. 9. EQE (red) and reflectance (blue) curves for $1\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}/\text{Si}$ tandem cell with 75-nm Si_3N_4 SLARC (full line) and 75-nm $\text{SiO}_2/60\text{-nm}$ Si_3N_4 DLARC (dashed line). The $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}$ lifetime equals 10 ns .

materials decreases with lower material quality, with efficiency gain ranging from $\sim 1.5\%$ at 10 ps to $\sim 3\%$ at $1 \mu\text{s}$ when compared with ITO. Fig. 7(b) shows optimum ARC thickness as a function of τ for $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}/\text{Si}$ tandem cell with optimum top cell absorber thickness. Optimum ARC thickness increases as the material quality of the top cell increases, in an attempt to enhance photogeneration in the bottom cell. Similarly, for poor lifetime in the top cells, ARC thickness decreases in favor of optical generation in the top cell. The same trend is observed for all ARC materials and all P fractions (not shown here).

Fig. 8 shows J - V characteristics of the $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x/\text{Si}$ tandem cells ($x = 0, 0.17, 0.29$, and 0.37) with optimum SLARC and $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ absorber layer thicknesses with the $\text{GaAs}_{1-x}\text{P}_x$ lifetime equal to 10 ns . It can be noted that the fill factor of cells with $x = 0.29$ and $x = 0.37$ is slightly higher, due to the better match between subcell currents.

The best performing cell with a $1\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -thick $\text{GaAs}_{0.71}\text{P}_{0.29}$ absorber is further improved by using the optimized 75-nm $\text{SiO}_2/60\text{-nm}$ Si_3N_4 DLARC. Fig. 9 shows a comparison of

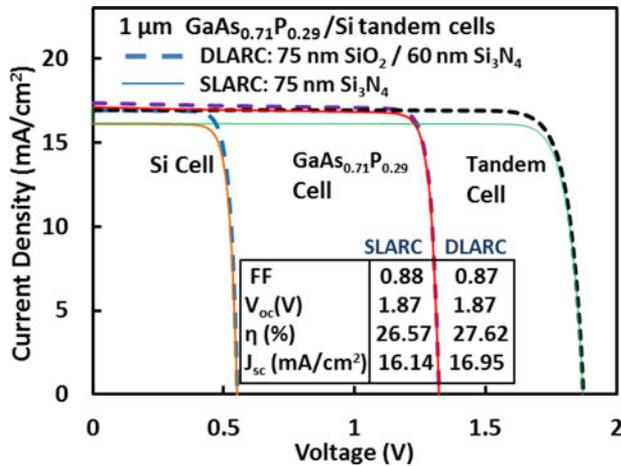


Fig. 10. J - V characteristics GaAs_{0.71}P_{0.29}/Si of top, bottom and tandem cell for 75-nm Si₃N₄ SLARC (full lines), and 75-nm SiO₂/60-nm Si₃N₄ DLARC (dashed lines). GaAs_{0.71}P_{0.29} lifetime equals to 10 ns.

reflectance and external quantum efficiency (EQE) for a 1- μ m-thick GaAs_{0.71}P_{0.29}/Si tandem cell with 75-nm Si₃N₄ SLARC and 75-nm SiO₂/60-nm Si₃N₄ DLARC. By using optimized SiO₂/Si₃N₄ DLARC, overall reflectance is decreased (for $\lambda = 300 - 450$ nm and $\lambda > 700$ nm). This results in improved spectral response of both cells, resulting in higher J_{sc} and $\sim 1\%$ efficiency gain, as shown in Fig. 10.

IV. CONCLUSION

In summary, a simulation study was carried out in order to find the optimum ARC material and thickness for GaAs_{1-x}P_x/Si tandem cells. Optimum SLARC thickness is smallest for Si₃N₄ and ITO (65–75 nm) and largest for SiO₂ (~ 100 – 110 nm). However, optimum ARC thickness increased with increasing GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness. Furthermore, a thicker ARC layer is required for cells with lower P fraction ($x = 0$ and 0.17). The optimum GaAs_{1-x}P_x absorber layer thickness increases from 250 nm for $x = 0$ to ~ 1 μ m for $x = 0.29$ and 0.37 . Maximum efficiency of $\sim 26.57\%$ was achieved for cells with $x = 0.29$ with optimized SLARC (75 nm Si₃N₄) and absorber layer thickness (~ 1 μ m). For all P fractions, maximum efficiency was achieved for 65–75-nm-thick Si₃N₄ SLARC. Finally, efficiency for the ~ 1 - μ m GaAs_{0.71}P_{0.29}/Si tandem cell is increased to 27.62% by using optimized 75-nm SiO₂/60-nm Si₃N₄ DLARC.

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