

CONTENTS

	LIST OF TABLES	vii
	LIST OF FIGURES	viii-x
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1-8
1.1	Alternate Energy Source.	1
1.2	Solar Photovoltaic (PV).	3
1.2.1.	Crystalline Silicon (c-Si) Solar Cell.	5
1.3	The objective of the work.	8
CHAPTER 2	CARRIER LIFETIMES IN SILICON AND THEIR MEASUREMENT	9-28
2.1	Carrier Lifetime.	9
2.1.1	Recombination Lifetime	9
2.1.1.1	Bulk recombination through defects	11
2.1.1.2	Auger recombination	11
2.1.1.3	Radiative recombination	11
2.1.1.4	Surface recombination	12
2.1.1.5	Effective lifetime	12
2.1.2	Generation lifetime	12
2.2	Methods for measurement of carrier lifetime	13
2.2.1	Impedance Spectroscopy Technique	13
2.2.1.1	Basic principle of Impedance Spectroscopy	14
2.2.1.2	Impedance spectrum of passive components and their networks	16
2.2.1.3	Experimental set-up	20
2.2.1.4	Advantages and limitations of IS	21
2.2.2	Microwave-Photoconductive Decay (MW-PCD) Technique	22
CHAPTER 3	LITERATURE REVIEW	25-28

CHAPTER 4 DEVICE FABRICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION 29-40

4.1	Induced structure	29
4.1.1	Device Fabrication	30
4.1.1.1	Resistivity measurement	30
4.1.1.2	Wafer Cleaning	31
	(a) Polishing	
	(b) Piranha Cleaning	
4.1.1.3	Induced (p ⁺ -p-n) device	33
4.1.1.3.1	Electron-beam Evaporation	33
4.1.2	Device Characterisation	34
4.1.2.1	Impedance measurements	35
4.1.2.2	Validation of the system using passive components	38
4.1.2.3	Dark current-voltage (I-V) measurement	39
4.1.2.4	Capacitance-voltage (C-V) measurements	39

CHAPTER 5 RESULT AND DISCUSSION 41-66

5.1	Impedance Measurement on induced (p ⁺ -p-n) structure	41
5.1.1	Effect of forward and reverse bias on impedance spectrum	41
5.1.2	Equivalent circuit of the induced (p ⁺ -p-n) device under dark	45
5.1.3	Generation lifetime measurement by impedance spectroscopy	46
5.1.4	Recombination lifetime measurement by impedance spectroscopy	50
5.1.5	Capacitance-Voltage (C-V) measurement	56
5.1.6	Current-Voltage (I-V) measurement	58
5.1.7	Measurement by MW-PCD technique	60

5.2	Impedance measurement on solar cell	62
5.2.1	Capacitance-Voltage (C-V) measurement	64
5.2.2	Illuminated current-voltage (I-V) measurement	65
CHAPTER 6	CONCLUSION	67-68
	REFERENCES	69-72

List of tables

Table No.	Table Name	Page No.
Table 4.1	Comparison of actual and measured values of the network components.	37
Table 5.1(a)	The values of R, C and R_s at different reverse bias (V_r) conditions obtained in sample(S-1)[resistivity, 10 Ω -cm] from the best fit with the measured impedance spectra. τ_g is calculated generation lifetime.	49
Table 5.1(b)	The values of R, C and R_s at different reverse bias (V_r) conditions obtained in sample(S-2)[resistivity, 1 Ω -cm] from the best fit with the measured impedance spectra. τ_g is calculated generation lifetime.	50
Table 5.2(a)	The values of $R_1, C_1, R_2, C_2, R_3, C_3$ and R_s at different applied forward bias (V_f) conditions obtained in the sample S-1 [resistivity 1 Ω -cm] from the best fit with the measured impedance spectra. τ_{r1}, τ_{r2} and τ_{r3} are the calculated lifetime corresponding to R_1C_1, R_2C_2 and R_3C_3 .	53
Table 5.2(b)	The values of $R_1, C_1, R_2, C_2, R_3, C_3$ and R_s at different applied forward bias (V_f) conditions obtained in the sample S-2 [resistivity 1 Ω -cm] from the best fit with the measured impedance spectra. τ_{r1}, τ_{r2} and τ_{r3} are the calculated lifetime corresponding to R_1C_1, R_2C_2 and R_3C_3 .	53
Table 5.3	Doping density (N_B) obtained from the C-V and from the resistivity and barrier height values measured from the C-V curve.	58
Table 5.4	Different parameters (R_s, R_{sh}, n, V_{bi}) obtained by C-V and I-V.	60
Table 5.5	An effective lifetime value obtained by IS and on the un-passivated wafers prior the device fabrication by MW-PCD technique.	61
Table 5.6	Different electrical parameters obtained on the silicon solar cell.	62
Table 5.7	Best fitted R,C and R_s values of the solar cell at different forward bias.	64

List of Figures

Figure No.	Figure name	Page No.
Figure 1.1	Physical potential of different renewable energy sources (Source: www.setfor2020.eu).	2
Figure 1.2	Crystal lattice structure of Silicon.	4
Figure 1.4	(a)Schematic of typical p-n junction c-Si Solar Cell structure,(b)p-n junction showing electron-hole drift and diffusion.	7
Figure 2.1	Recombination mechanisms: (a) SRH, (b)Radiative, (c)direct Auger and (d)trap-assisted Auger.	10
Figure 2.2	Generation mechanisms (a) optical, (b) impact ionisation and (c) multi-phonon generation via G-R centres.	12
Figure 2.3	Impedance spectra of passive (capacitance, resistance and inductance) components.	16
Figure 2.4	Impedance Spectra of series passive networks.	17
Figure 2.5	Impedance spectra of parallel passive networks.	19
Figure 2.6	Schematic of experimental set-up used for the measurement.	20
Figure 2.7	Photograph of the experimental set-up (Gamry Instruments, Potentiostat Reference 600).	21
Figure 2.8	(a)Structure of integrated head of MW-PCD (Semilab WT-2000 PV) apparatus.(b) Photograph of Semilab, WT-2000PV.	23
Figure 4.1	Energy band diagram for p-type semiconductor substrate for the conditions of (a) accumulation, (b) depletion,(c) inversion.	30
Figure 4.2	(a) Induced p ⁺ -p-n device (b) Photograph of Silicon wafer after formation of induced structure.	32
Figure 4.3	(a)Schematic diagram of electron beam evaporation unit.(b) Photograph of the electron-beam evaporation unit.	33
Figure 4.4	(a) Schematic view (b) Photograph of the sample holder used in experimental set up.	35
Figure 4.5	Impedance spectrum of passive components used for equivalent circuit modeling in Impedance Spectroscopy.	36

Figure 4.6	Model circuit to calculate R, C and Rs with impedance spectroscopy	37
Figure 4.7	Current –voltage characteristics of a p-n junction	38
Figure 5.1	Impedance spectra of induced structures (a)S-1and (b)S-2 respectively at different reverse biases ($V_r = 0$ to -0.5). Inset (left) show Z' vs. f and (right) Z'' vs. f curves for the above biasing, where. The points (experimental) and the lines are the best fitted lines.	42
Figure 5.2(a)	Impedance spectra of induced structures for S-1 at different forward biasing ($V_b = 0$ to $+0.5V$) . Inset (left) shows Z' vs. f and (right) Z'' vs. f curves for the above biasing. The points (experimental) data and the lines are the best fitted curves.	43
Figure 5.2(b)	Impedance spectra of induced structures for S-2 at different forward biasing ($V_b = 0$ to $+0.5V$). Inset (left) shows Z' vs. f and (right) Z'' vs. f curves for the above biasing. The points (experimental) data and the lines are the best fitted curves.	44
Figure 5.3	(a) ac equivalent circuit of an induced structure [C_d , and C_t are diffusion and transition capacitances respectively; and resistive components (R_d , R_{sh} and R_s) related with minority carrier recombination, shunt and series resistance respectively] (b) simplified view of equivalent circuit of solar cell structure.	45
Figure 5.4(a)	Impedance spectra (Z' vs. Z'' complex plane curves) at different reversed bias (0 to $-0.5V$) conditions for sample S-1 (1Ω cm). The symbols show the experimental points and the lines are the best fit curves.	47
Figure 5.4(b)	Impedance spectra (Z' vs. Z'' complex plane curves) at different reversed bias (0 to $-0.5V$) conditions for sample S-2 (1Ω cm). The symbols show the experimental points and the lines are the best fit curves.	48
Figure 5.5(a)	Impedance spectra at different forward bias (0 to $+0.5V$) conditions for sample S-1(1Ω cm). The symbols show the experimental points and the lines are the best –fit curves.	51
Figure 5.5(b)	Impedance spectra at different forward bias (0 to $+0.5V$) conditions for sample S-2(1Ω cm). The symbols show the experimental points and the lines are the best –fit curves.	51
Figure 5.6	The model for the forward bias conditions consisting of (A) One RC circuit (B) two RC circuits in series (C) two RC circuits in parallel (D) Two RC circuits in parallel and one in series (E)Three RC circuits in	52

parallel (F) Three RC circuits in series and all the circuits are lumped with a series

Figure 5.7	Impedance spectrum at forward bias of + 0.1 V for the sample S-1. The symbols show the experimental points and the lines are the theoretical curves obtained for different combinations of RC networks. The overlapping curves A and B denotes the one RC and two RC in series with R_s respectively. The curve C represents the three RC networks connected in series lumped with R_s .	54
Figure 5.8	Impedance spectrum (Z' vs. Z'') at forward (V_f) bias of + 0.5 V for the sample S-1. The symbols show the experimental points and the lines are the theoretical curves obtained for different RC values and their combination. The curve in blue represents the spectrum generated for the R_2C_2 .	55
Figure 5.9	The measured capacitance as a function of bias (reverse and forward) voltage in the induced structure for S-1 and S-2. The curve has been plotted on semi-log scale that shows two regions having markedly distinct slopes dominated by transition and diffusion capacitances which have been used to determine ideality factor (using Region II data) and reverse saturation current.	56
Figure 5.10	$1/C^2$ vs V curves for S-1 and S-2 respectively.	57
Figure 5.11	Dark I-V plot of the of induced (p^+ -p-n) structure for sample S-1. The inset shows the semi-logarithmic J-V characteristics of the induced structure.	59
Figure 5.12	Carrier lifetime map obtained by MW-PCD (Semilab, WT-2000PV).	61
Figure 5.13	Impedance spectrum of the silicon solar cell at different (0 to V_{oc}) bias under dark. The points are the experimental and the lines are the best fit curves.	63
Figure 5.14	C-V of the silicon solar cell at different (0.0, V_{oc}) bias under dark .Inset: shows the C^2 -V curve of the solar cell. The points are the experimental and the lines are the best fit curves.	65
Figure 5.15	Illuminated I-V characteristics curve of the solar Cell.	66