



Leibniz
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Hannover



Master's Thesis

**Camera based electroluminescence measurements of
perovskite solar cells.**

A thesis presented for the degree Master of Science.

Jonas Oberröhrmann
Institute for solar energy research Hamelin (ISFH)

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1 Introduction

lorem ipsum.

2 Theory of Electroluminescence

This chapter explains the theoretical background of Electroluminescence (EL). Starting with the rate of radiating recombination, depending on the material's band structure (see section XY). The rate depends on the carrier concentration, so section XY explains the carrier density profile. Section XY ends with the light path of the radiation out of the sample.

2.1 Rau's relationship

The basis for our discussion of EL emission is the relationship given by Rau (2007):

$$\frac{d\Phi}{d\vec{r}}(\vec{r}) = \alpha(\vec{r}) n(\vec{r})^2(\vec{r}) \Phi_{BB} u(\vec{r}). \quad (2.1)$$

Because all the volume elements $dV(\vec{r})$ contribute to the emitted photon flux we integrate the photon flux:

$$\Phi_{em}(\vec{r}_S, \Omega_S, E_\gamma) = \int T(\vec{r}, \vec{r}_S) \alpha(\vec{r}) \Phi_{BB}(E_\gamma) u(\vec{r}) d\vec{r}, \quad (2.2)$$

for the electromagnetic flux at \vec{r}_S , into spacial angle Ω_S at photon energy E_γ . Inserting Donolato's reciprocity theorem (?) for $u(\vec{r})$ yields (CITE):

$$\Phi_{em}(\vec{r}_S, \Omega_S, E_\gamma) = \int T(\vec{r}_s, \vec{r}) \alpha(\vec{r}) f_c(\vec{r}) d\vec{r} \Phi_{BB}(E_\gamma) \left[\exp\left(\frac{qV}{kT}\right) - 1 \right]. \quad (2.3)$$

2.2 The Principle of detailed balance

W. van Roosbroeck and W. Shockley presented 1954 the principle of detailed balance, showing the relation between the rate of radiative recombination and optical properties, such as the absorbtion coefficient α (CITE).

2.3 Quantum theoretical theory for the absorption and emission of light

¹ BEGIN WITH VECTOR POTENTIAL

The quantum theoretical treatment of light emission or absorption starts with the interaction of electrons with electromagnetic radiation, described by the Schrodinger Equation

$$H\Psi = E\Psi \quad (2.4)$$

with the Wavefunction Ψ , Eigenenergy E and Hamiltonian H (SOURCE):

$$H = \frac{(p + eA)^2}{2m} + V. \quad (2.5)$$

Neglecting terms of order $(eA)^2$, the Hamiltonian can be separated into the unperturbed part H_0 and the electromagnetic interaction part:

$$H = H_0 + H_i = H_0 + \frac{(eA)^2}{2m} \quad (2.6)$$

and H_0 :

$$H_0 = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V. \quad (2.7)$$

In crystals the potential is periodic in space and energy bands are formed, consisting of allowed states and energy gaps. The solution to the unperturbed Hamiltonian H_0 can be calculated approximately by ... and confirmed by experimental techniques (UPS, ...)(PICTURE). That way the Energies E_0 are known and the solution to the perturbed hamiltonian Equation 2.6 can be approximated by perturbation theory (SOURCE). This leads to interaction terms, mixing different states and allowing transistions obeing transistion rules. First order perturbation theory gives a transition propability from the initial state $|i\rangle$ to final state $|f\rangle$:

$$P_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle f | H_i | i \rangle|^2 \delta(E_f - E_i \mp \hbar\omega). \quad (2.8)$$

Inserting Equation 2.6 yields

$$P_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left(\frac{eA}{mc} \right)^2 |\vec{e} M_{fi}(\vec{k})|^2 \delta(E_f - E_i \mp \hbar\omega), \quad (2.9)$$

with $M_{fi}(\vec{k})$ being the matrix dipolemoment for states f and i :

$$\vec{e} M_{fi}(\vec{k}) = \langle f | \vec{e} \vec{p} | i \rangle = e \int \overline{\Psi_f} (-i\hbar \nabla) \Psi_i d\vec{r}. \quad (2.10)$$

To account for all possible transistions one has to integrate over all possible values \vec{k} and summing over all initial and final states, denoted by valence band v and

¹BassaniPastoriParravicini-ElectronicStatesandOpticalTransitionsinSolidsPergamonPress1975

conduction band c:

$$W(\hbar\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left(\frac{eA}{mc} \right)^2 \sum_{v,c} \int \frac{2d\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3} |\vec{e} M_{fi}(\vec{k})|^2 \delta(E_f - E_i \mp \hbar\omega). \quad (2.11)$$

Returning to the connection between transition probability and absorption coefficient α , which is defined as the ratio of absorbed energy in unit time and unit volume to incoming energy flux:

$$\alpha(\hbar\omega) = \frac{\text{energy absorbed in unit time and unit volume}}{\text{Energy flux}}. \quad (2.12)$$

The absorbed energy is the photon energy times the total transition rate $W(\hbar\omega)$. The incoming energy flux is calculated by the Poynting vector from vector field \vec{A} . This yields for α :

$$\alpha(\hbar\omega) = \frac{\hbar c 2\pi}{A_0^2 \omega n} W(\hbar\omega). \quad (2.13)$$

3 Perovskites and perovskite solar cells

This chapter gives an overview over the material perovskite, it's properties and current research, and perovskite solar cells. PSCs consist of several materials, each providing specific functionalities and need to be chosen accordingly to the perovskite.

3.1 Perovskite materials

3.2 Perovskite Solar Cells

4 Setup

This chapter presents the experimental setup for electroluminescence (EL) measurements. Successful EL measurements consist of injecting charges into the recombination layer, charges recombining and detecting the emitted luminescence. Therefore section 4.1 explains the general setup used for EL measurements. section 4.2 explains the Perovskite Cell layout and electrical contacting of the cells, which is used to inject charges into the perovskite layer. The emitted radiation is detected by a camera with the use of additional optics, explained in section 4.3. The chapter concludes with the consideration of noise and measurement errors.

4.1 General Setup

The setup is enclosed in a black housing, shielding the inside from outside light and noise (see Figure 4.1). All parts inside the chamber are painted black to minimize internal reflections and thereby the detection of stray light. A vacuum pump, voltage source, multimeter and operating table with a computer are connected to the setup from the outside, providing further utility. Inside the enclosure are the probe holder and the camera. The camera is mounted on rails and can be moved in three dimensions, enabling position according to the used optics and samples.

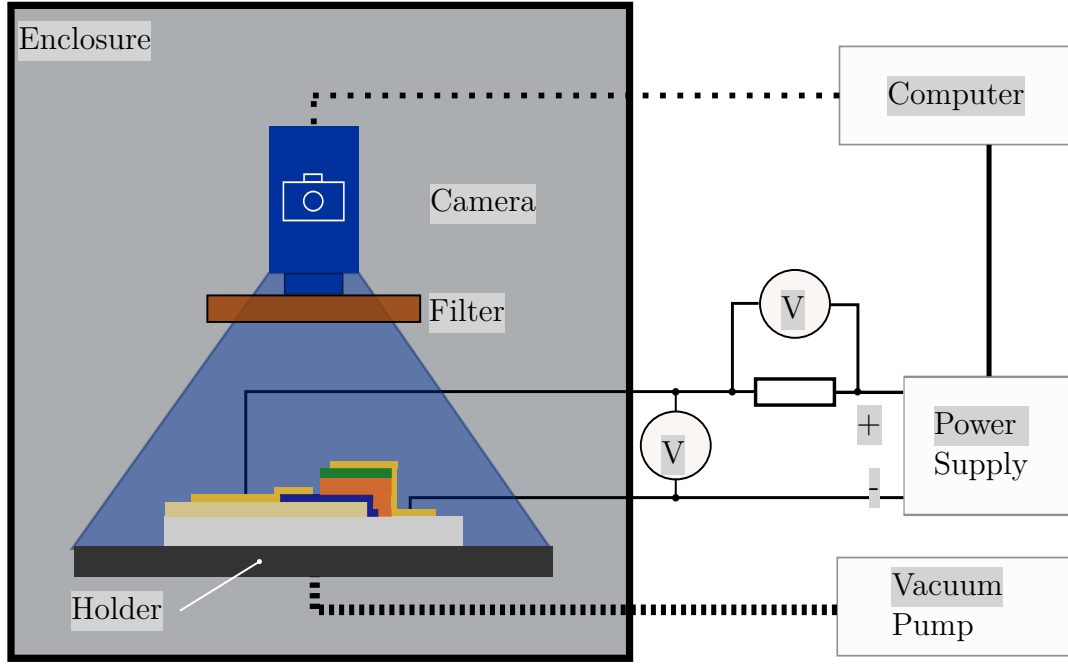


Figure 4.1: Schematic of the EL measurement setup. Camera and Probe are positioned inside the enclosure, and the computer, power supplies and measurement devices are provided from the outside. Two multimeters are used to measure the voltage drop and current sourced.

4.2 Electrical Connection

Perovskite Solar Cells (PSCs) are manufactured on 25 mm x 25 mm glass substrates (see Figure 4.2). Four cells are deposited on one substrate, each single cell having an active area of 4 mm x 3.5 mm. The cell stack consists of a 0.7 mm thick glass substrate, with a 100 nm thick layer of Indium Tin Oxide (short: ITO) deposited on top. The ITO is structured by laser ablation, isolating the individual cells from each other. On to the ITO, 10 nm of Spiro-TTB are deposited as a Hole Transport Layer (HTL), followed by 500 nm of methylammonium lead triiodide (short: MAPI) as the absorbing material. The top side of the MAPI is contacted with 8 nm of fullerene (short: C_{60}) and 23 nm bathocuproine (short: BCP), acting as the Electron Transport Layer (short ETL). In the end of the fabrication process, 100 nm Gold are deposited by thermal vapor deposition on top of the ITO, and the C_{60} and BCP. To successfully contact the PSC a holder with four pins is used. The PSC is positioned face down, with the glass substrate above, onto the holder, positioning each gold pad of a single PSC on two pins. The holder uses four pins, to source current and measure voltage by the 4 point measurement technique (CITE). In the 4 point measurement two pins are used to source the current, while the voltage is measured with the other two pins. Because of the high internal resistance of a voltmeter, only a small current flows through the wires connecting voltmeter and PSC. This reduces the error because of series resistances and results in a more accurate measurement.

The holder is electrically connected to a power supply¹, in series with a 100 m Ω

¹Kikusuki

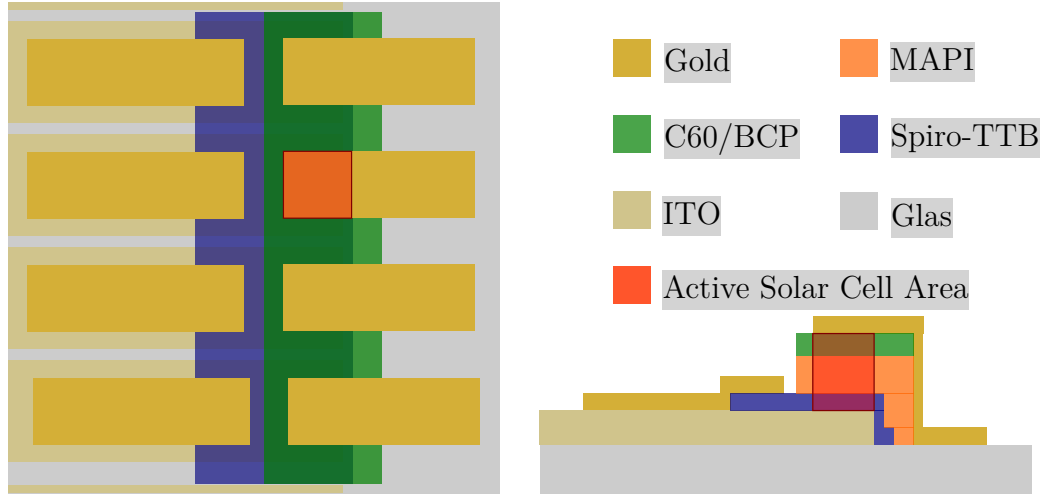


Figure 4.2: Schematic layout of the perovskite solar cell. Not to scale.

resistance, R , and two multimeters² (see Figure 4.1). One multimeter measures the voltage drop across the PSC. The other multimeter measures the voltage drop across the resistor and the flowing current I is then calculated by Ohm's law:

$$I = \frac{U}{R}. \quad (4.1)$$

The surface of the holder is structured with rills and connected to a vacuum pump, fixing the PSC on the holder by a vacuum. This ensures mechanical- and electrical contact stability throughout the measurement.

This setup enables safe contacting of the probes inside the enclosure for reliable EL measurements.

4.3 Luminescence detection

In the setup a CCD camera is used to detect the emitted electroluminescence. The camera detects radiation over a wide range of wavelengths, while the perovskite emits luminescence only at a relatively short range of wavelengths. Therefore filters are used to detect only the EL emitted radiation. Optics focus the emitted radiation at a specific distance onto the imaging sensor. This chapter explains the used components and physical processes.

4.3.1 Filters

Between probe and sensor two filters are used to filter the wavelengths reaching the detector. In filters absorption or interference are used to either transmit or reflect specific wavelengths. The filters in the setup are two highpassfilters³ and chosen

²Keithley 2000 Multimeter

³LP714, LP718

accordingly to the luminescence emission spectrum of the PSC (see Figure 4.3). This limits the detected wavelengths to above 718 nm, while limiting the detection of straylight with shorter wavelengths. The filters are part of the photoluminescence capability of the setup, where light emitting diodes (LEDs) optically generate charges in the perovskite. To only detect luminescence from the perovskite, both filters block light emitted by the LEDs.

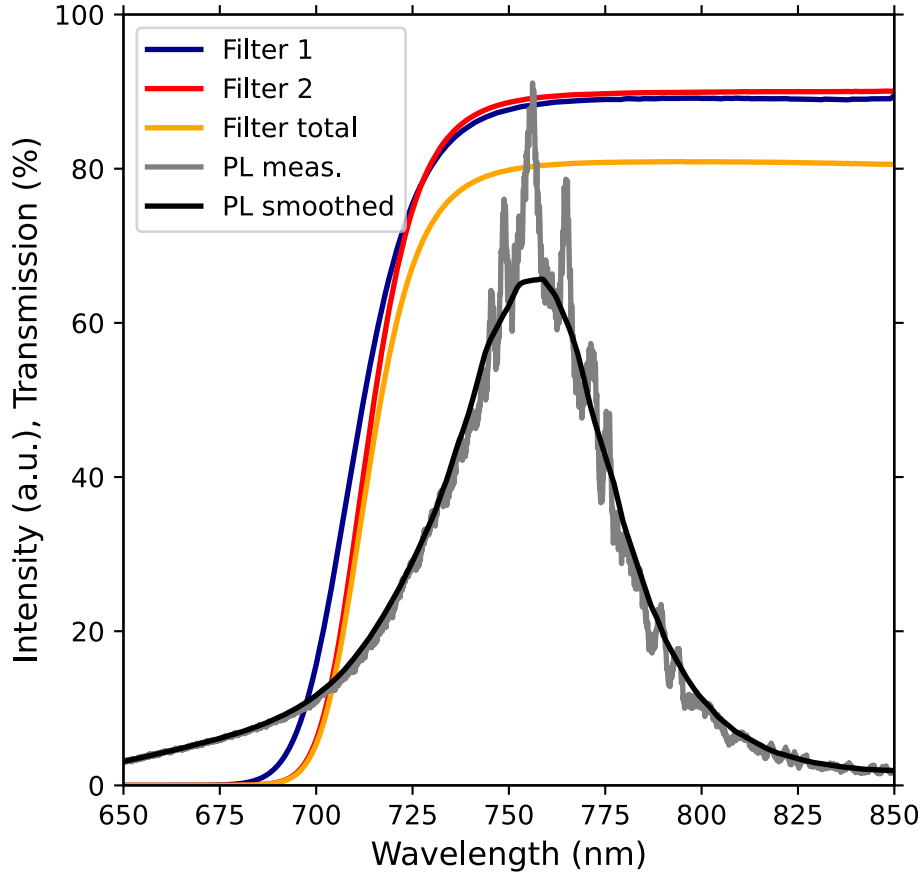


Figure 4.3: Emitted luminescence spectrum of the perovskite and transmission function of both filters.

4.3.2 Optics

Optics focus the radiation onto a charge coupled sensor (CCD). This setup uses a lens⁴ with a focus length of 25 mm and an aperture of 1.4, as listed by the manufacturer. The lens is positioned at the minimal object distance of 25 cm away from the PSC. A extender⁵ is mounted directly between camera and lens, with a C-mount, doubling the resolution, however decreasing the intensity reaching the camera.

⁴Pentax, C2514-M (KP)

⁵Brennweitenverdoppler C - Mount 2-EX / FP-EX2

4.3.3 Charge Coupled Detectors

The radiation is focused onto a charge coupled device (CCD) image sensor⁶ in a camera⁷. CCD sensors are silicon chips structured into small squares, called wells [2](see Figure 4.4). The number of wells correspond to the number of pixel in the taken picture. Incoming radiation is absorbed in the wells and generates charges, electrons and holes, and externally applied voltages separate and trap the charges in the wells. For a specific duration, called exposure time, radiation hits the sensor and charges accumulate in the wells. The amount of generated electrons per incoming photon is called the quantum efficiency (QE), and depends on the sensor material and energy of the photon. The QE is a quantity to define the sensitivity to detect a specific wavelength and peaks at 500 nm for the chosen sensor and decays for larger wavelengths (compare ??). For the wavelengths transmitted by the filter (see Figure 4.3), the QE drops to about 10 %, which limits the sensitivity of the EL setup. After the exposure time a series of voltages is applied to shift the charges from the light sensitive wells to opaque covered wells. The charges are then extracted row by row and the voltage of each well is measured. An A/D converter convertes the voltage into a digital signal, which is saved and later processed. The camera is connected to a computer by optical fibers and the acquired pictures are processed by the software LabView. The software enables an automatic control of the setup and the acquisition of multiple images in a row.

This process measures the EL distribution over the PSC surface. However several

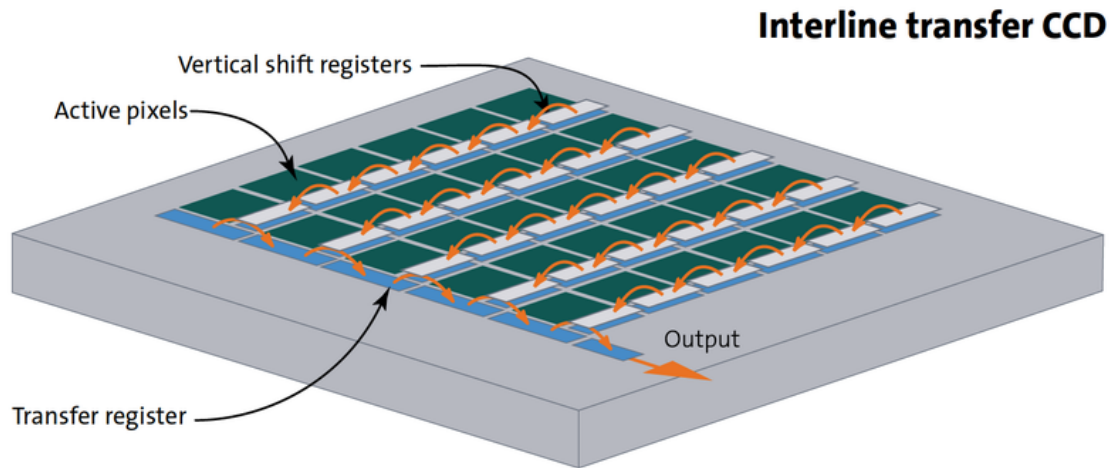


Figure 4.4: Schematic representation of a CCD sensor. Radiation generates charges in the active pixels and is transferred through vertical shift registers to the transfer register. Taken from [1].

⁶Sony ICX285-AL

⁷PCO, sensicam qe

sources of errors occur, which are discussed in the next section.

4.4 Noise and measurement errors

Several sources of errors deviate the measured signal from the physical value. Common errors in the camera image acquisition are dark noise, readout noise and hot or cold pixel (see Table 4.1). Dark noise refers to the thermal generation of electrons, depending on the temperature and the material's properties. To reduce thermal generation the CCD sensor is cooled to -12 °C. To further reduce dark noise, images without illumination or applied voltage are taken, and subtracted from the EL image.

Readout noise occurs, when the electrons are shifted from well to well. The manufacturer specifies the read out noise of 5 electrons. This relates to about two counts, with an analog to digital conversion efficiency of 2 electrons per count [3]. EL images are taken at around 3000 counts, 75 % of the possible 4096 counts, showing that readout noise can in most cases be neglected.

Furthermore the manufacturer specifies a maximum of two pixels are hot pixels, showing more than 5 electrons. These pixels show increased charge generation in the dark and thus generate a wrong signal, especially at low light intensities. This pixels can be corrected by dark image correction.

In figure XY this errors are quantitatively compared in an error budget diagram. Error XY dominates and explains, why dark image correction is import when working with CCD sensors. Errors are summed inversely by TAU's rule (CITE):

Table 4.1: Overview of the characteristic data for the sensicam qe. Specified by the manufacturer [3].

	Sensicam qe
Number of pixels	1376 x 1040
Pixel Size	6.45 μm x 6.45 μm
CCD Temperature	-12 °C
Full Well Capacity	18000 e^-
Readout Noise	4...5 e^-
A/D Conversion Factor	2 e^-/count
Average Dark Charge	< 0.1 $\text{e}^-/\text{pixel sec}$
Warm Pixels > 5 e^-	0...2
Delay sensicam LONG EXPOSURE	1 ms ... 1000 s

5 Experimental part

This chapter presents the experimental results of EL measurements on PSCs. Observed were the qualitative interpretation of perovskites, transient behaviour and the localization of defects in different materials of the PSC.

Bibliography

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- [2] Gerhard Schnell. *Sensoren in der Automatisierungstechnik*. Vieweg Verlag, 1993.
- [3] *Sensicam Operating Instructions*. PCO. 2004.