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Semiconductor Electrodes

LVI. Principles of Multijunction Electrodes and Photoelectrosynthesis at Texas Instruments' p/n-Si Solar Arrays

James R. White, Fu-Ren F. Fan, and Allen J. Bard*

Department of Chemistry, The University of Texas Austin, Texas 78712

ABSTRACT

In photoelectrochemical (PEC) cells based on single junctions of semiconductors with solutions or metals, photopotentials are rarely above 0.6-0.8V. The higher photovoltages needed to drive more energetic reactions require multijunction cells involving multilaver electrodes or series connection of PEC cells. Such PEC cells are considered, and their behavior is shown to be predicted from the current-potential (i-V) behavior at each interface; the sum of the voltage drops at a given current yields the i-V characteristic of the overall PEC cell. These principles are illustrated with the Texas Instruments arrays based on silicon spheres and S1 p/n junctions contacting a solution via a noble metal layer. Reactions considered include generation of Cl_2 with reduction of O_2 or the generation of H_2 , the photobromination of phenol, and the photochlorination of cyclohexene in acetonitrile.

Liquid-junction photoelectrochemical (PEC) cells are of interest in the direct utilization of solar energy to carry out useful chemical reactions (1-4). In most liquid-junction PEC cells, the photopotential arises at the semiconductor/solution interface. The maximum (open-circuit) photopotential, which represents the driving force of the cell chemical reaction, is rarely more than 0.8V, and is often below 0.6V. This rather low driving force limits the

* Electrochemical Society Active Member.

range of possible photoelectrosynthetic reactions which can be carried out in PEC cells without the application of an external bias. Alternatively, the photoactive junction can be at a metal/semiconductor (Schottky barrier) interface with the faradaic reaction occurring at the metal (sometimes bearing an appropriate electrocatalyst). For example, PEC's with the following junctions have been described: Au'n-GaP (5, 6), PtSi/n-Si (7), and Pt/n-GaAs (8). Such cells have the advantage that the semiconductor is protected from the solution environment and show

photopotentials that are independent of the redox potential of solution species. However, again the reported photopotentials are usually below 0.6V. Related PEC's involve photopotentials that arise at a p/n semiconductor junction, again protected from the solution by a metal overlayer. The most highly developed systems of this type are probably the p-Si/n-Si junctions separated from the solution by suitable noble metal overlayers that are used in the Texas Instruments Solar Energy System (TISES) (9-11). The photopotential developed at these junctions is about 0.55V. These latter p-Si/n-Si junctions are clearly related to solid-state photovoltaic cells (e.g., involving single-crystal Si) that are used for electricity production. In the TISES system, these junctions are produced on small (0.2 mm diam) Si spheres that are embedded in glass and backed by a conductive matrix to form arrays in contact with a solution. The relative advantages of these arrays compared to solid-state devices has been discussed (10, 11).

If more energetic reactions are to be driven in PEC cells without an external bias, cells with both photoactive anodes and cathodes can be employed. These two electrodes must be matched carefully to maximize the efficiency, since two photons are used to drive a single electron through the circuit. This strategy is employed in the TISES system, where both n-Si on p-Si spheres (photocathodes) and p-Si on n-Si spheres (photoanodes) are coupled to produce a total open-circuit voltage of 1.1V. These microspheres are coated with noble metal films which act as electrolytic contacts to the solution, stabilize the substrate Si, and catalyze the electrode reactions. The TISES system has been developed specifically for the overall conversion of solar to electrical energy in a system where HBr is decomposed by sunlight to form Br₂ at the photoanode and H, at the photocathode. The Br, and H₂ are stored and subsequently recombined in a fuel cell to produce electricity.

To form systems with higher output voltages, a number of junctions must be connected in series or the PEC cells must be coupled in a suitable way. Particularly interesting structures would involve multilayer devices with several photoactive junctions, especially if semiconductors with different bandgaps are employed. Structures of this type have been proposed in solid-state photovoltaic devices (tandem or cascade cells) (12), but few examples have been given in photoelectrochemical cells for direct utilization of radiant energy in chemical reactions. In this paper, we consider the principles of semiconductor electrode devices with interior photoactive junctions and the means of coupling PEC cells to increase the available voltage to levels consistent with a particular reaction. In particular, we demonstrate the application of the Texas Instruments solar arrays to electrosynthetic reactions, e.g., in the production of chlorine and oxygen and in the bromination of phenol. The utilization of these arrays in a nonaqueous solvent (MeCN) for the chlorination of cyclohexene is also described.

Principles of Operation

We suggest the following notation for multilayer semiconductor devices

where CM represents the contact metal to the electrode (connected to an external lead), A and B represent other, often semiconductor phases, SM is the surface metal or layer contacting the solution phase, and S is the solution. As usual in electrochemical cells, a slash represents a junction; we represent an ohmic contact by //. For example, the Texas Instruments photoanode (TIA), which is part of the array used in this work, is represented as

where CM is the tantalum back contact, and SM is a surface metal (e.g., Pt or Ir) with a suitable catalyst. The photoactive junction (indicated by the asterisk) is the Si n/p junction. This can also be denoted as an L_4P_1 electrode, where *L* represents the number of layers used and *P* the number of photoactive junctions. The TI photocathode (TIC) is thus

and the array is formed by contacting CM and CM'.

The operation and current-voltage (i-V) curves of a given electrode can be understood by examining the i-V characteristics of each junction and noting that these are connected in series. Operation of the total cell can then be obtained, as is usual for electrochemical devices, by combining the i-V characteristics of each electrode. Consider the TIA shown in Eq. [2]. The electrochemical behavior is described by that of the p/n junction, either in the dark or under irradiation, in series with the SM/S interface (Fig. 1). For the p/n junction the dark behavior (curve A) is given by the Shockley Eq. [4] (13)

$$j = j_s [\exp(eV_j/kt] - 1]$$
 [4]

where *j* is the current density, j_s is the saturation current density for the junction as determined by the carrier density, mobility, and diffusion length, and V_j is the voltage drop across this junction. The illuminated p/n junction (curve B) behaves as a constant current source in parallel with the junction and the *j*-V relationship is given by

$$j = j_s [\exp(eV_1/kT) - 1] - j_1$$
 [5]

where j_{l} is the constant current produced by photogeneration of carriers in the junction. The metal/solution junction shows behavior that depends upon the nature of the metal and solution components and is governed by the typical electrochemical thermodynamic, mass-transport, and kinetic considerations (14). A representative curve is given in Fig. 1C, showing the current across this junction as a function of the potential of SM vs. a reference electrode, V_{SM} . The *i*-V behavior of the multilayer structure is given by the summation of the j- V_J and j- V_{SM} curves, assuming a series connection (Fig. 1D). At any current density, j, the voltage drop between CM and the reference electrode, V, is $V_J + V_{SM}$ (plus any iR drops within the phases). Clearly, the light driven photopotential (or the underpotential for the electrode reaction because of the p/n junction), at any value of j, is V_{J} . The behavior of the TIC shown in Eq. [3] can be obtained in an analogous manner, as shown in Fig. 2. The characteristics of multilayer, multijunction devices, e.g., containing several photoactive junctions, can be obtained in a similar way by adding the *j*-V characteristics of each junction.



Fig. 1. Representative *j*-V curves for p on n-Si junction in the dark (A) and in the light (B). Voltage scale for curves A and B represents a voltage drop, $(\Delta V = V_{\perp})$ across the p/n junction. (C): *j*-V curve for a metal/solution junction. (D); *j*-V curve for total TIA. Potentials are vs. a reference electrode.

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Fig. 2. Representative j-V curves for n on p-Si junction in the dark (A) and in the light (B). Voltage scale for A and B represents a voltage drop, $\Delta V = V_{\rm J}$, across the n/p junction. (C): j-V curves for a metal electrode; (D): j-V curve for total TIC. Potentials are vs. a reference electrode.

Single photoelectrode cells.-The behavior of the overall photoelectrosynthetic cell, e.g., TIA/S/M, where M is the conductive counterelectrode, is determined by the i-V curve of the TIA discussed above, the i-V curve of electrode M (in the cathodic region) and any iR drop in solution, under the conditions that the total anodic current at the TIA is equal to the cathodic current at M at any given cell voltage, V_{cell}. Representative curves are given in Fig. 3. The maximum current in the absence of any externally applied voltage would be i_{sc} , the short-circuit current. Clearly, for a spontaneous reaction, good overlap of the anodic and cathodic i-V curves is required. The i-V curve for a variable load resistor, R_L, across the cell, represented by V_{cell} , or with an externally applied voltage, V_{appl} , can also be obtained (Fig. 3). The maximum photocurrent under any conditions [in the absence of current doubling effect (15)] is $i_{\rm L}$, governed by the p/n junction characteristics. An analogous treatment applies for the TIC coupled in a cell with a metal anode.

Systems with two photoelectrode (dual-array PEC).— When one photoelectrode is coupled with a metal counterelectrode, the maximum open-circuit photovoltage, $V_{\rm oc}$, is limited by the potential generated at a single p/n junction, e.g., for a silicon p/n junction, 0.55V. However, if a photoanode is coupled with a photocathode, $V_{\rm oc}$ is the sum of both photoactive junction potentials. Thus, for the cell TIC/S/TIA, $V_{\rm oc} = 1.1$ V. This allows more energetic reactions to be driven without an external bias. Again, the overall cell behavior can be predicted from the individual i-V curves for the TIA and TIC. This is shown in Fig. 4.

Multiple photoarray system.—To obtain even higher potentials to drive more energetic reactions, two (or more) photocells must be coupled. For example, by suitable coupling of the photocells: TIC/S/TIA and TIC/S'/TIA an open-circuit photovoltage of 2.2V can be obtained across solution S'. In this case, cell 1 would contain a single redox couple (e.g., Br₂/Br⁻) and behaves as a photovoltaic cell which provides a bias to cell 2 and adds to the photovoltage developed in cell 2. The mode of connection of these cells and the relevant *i-V* curves are shown in Fig. 5, where a reaction involving > 1.1V (e.g., 2HCl \rightarrow H₂ + Cl₂) is carried out.

The experimental results that follow illustrate i-V curves for several redox couples at TI silicon arrays (TIA, TIC) and demonstrate several photoelectrosynthetic PEC's of the type outlined above.

Experimental

The multilayered semiconductor electrodes used in these experiments were the TISES silicon arrays pro-



Fig. 3. Representative *i*-V curves for the cell TIA/S/M. Top: curves A and B represent TIA and M, respectively. Potentials are vs. a reference electrode. Bottom: i-V_{cell} behavior when electrodes are coupled through a load resistance, R_1 . For $R_1 = 0$, $i = i_{sc}$, and V = 0; for $R \rightarrow \infty$, i = 0, and $V = V_{oc}$. V_{out} represents a voltage produced by the cell under illumination. V_{appl} represents a voltage applied to the cell.

duced by Texas Instruments. Electrodes were made by contacting a copper wire to the conductive back surface of the panel arrays with conductive silver paint. The con-



Fig. 4. Representative *i*-V curves for the cell TIA/M/TIC. Potentials are vs. a reference electrode. Curves A and B represent TIA and TIC, respectively.







Fig. 5. Schematic representation of dual cell photoarray system. Top: *i*-V curves for cell 1; (A) TIA, (B) TIC. Bottom: *i*-V curves for cell 2. (A) (---): Pt electrode in HCl. (B) (-.-.): TIA and TIC in HCl under illumination. (C) (----): as in B, under bias from cell 1.

tact was covered with epoxy cement which was insulated from solution with silicone rubber. The exposed front surface geometrical area was 0.25 cm^2 . RuO₂ films were prepared by decomposition of RuO₄ vapor, which was prepared chemically (16), onto ambient temperature substrates. XPS data showed that the binding energies for the Ru $3d_{5/2}$ line from samples prepared in this manner are in agreement with those obtained for anhydrous RuO₂ powder (17).

Voltammetric experiments were performed in a singlecompartment Pyrex cell with a volume of 50 ml. All solutions were degassed with prepurified N_2 for 15 min prior to use unless indicated otherwise. Voltammograms were recorded with a Princeton Applied Research (PAR) Model 173 potentiostat/galvanostat, a PAR Model 175 Universal Programmer, and a Houston Instruments Model 2000 X-Y Recorder. The illumination source was a tungsten-halogen lamp with a 13 cm water filter.

A dual-compartment Plexiglas cell (40 ml each compartment) was used for experiments involving multiple photoelectrodes immersed in two solutions. For the experiment involving HCl electrolysis, one compartment contained HCl while the other contained the $Br-/Br_2$ redox couple. Photoelectrodes were placed as close to the cell wall as possible to minimize absorption of light by the solution.

A Pyrex H-cell was used for the experiments in which Cl_2 was produced by reduction of O_2 (TIA/S/M). A fuel cell electrode (geometrical area, 3.1 cm²), Teflon/carbon/platinum (donated by TI), was used as a cell divider. One compartment contained 5*M* HCl, and the other was kept dry and pressurized with O_2 .

Power characteristics were evaluated with a series, variable resistance box and a digital voltameter. Short-circuit measurements were approximated by using a 15Ω resistance and measuring the corresponding voltage drop. All chemicals were reagent grade and were used without further purification. Triply distilled water was used in all

experiments. Acetonitrile was dried over molecular sieves.

Results and Discussion

Half-reactions at TIA's and TIC's.—We considered halfcells composed of a TIA immersed in different solutions (cell [2]) and compared the photoresponse of these to the i-V curves at a metal electrode.

Oxidation of chloride.- The voltammetric curves for a TIA in 10.0M LiCl are shown in Fig. 6. In the dark, curve A, essentially no current is observed, even at potentials where vigorous Cl₂ production is observed on a bare Pt electrode (curve C). Under illumination, at a light intensity of 170 mW/cm2, j-V curve B results. The limiting current density, $j_{\rm L}$, was 38 mA/cm². The open-circuit photopotential, $V_{\rm oc}$, was 0.49V, as measured from the differences between curves B and C. The platinum disk electrode operated near the reversible potential for the Cl/Cl₂ couple at low current densities. The fill factor was 0.42. The stability of the TIA for Cl, evolution was tested by holding it at ±1.0V vs. SCE under illumination of 170 mW/cm2 for 48h; voltammograms taken intermittently during this time period showed no change in j_1 or in the j-V curve. No apparent changes in the electrode surface were observed.

The effect of thin films of RuO2, a known catalyst for chlorine evolution, on the voltammetric response in Clmedia was also examined. Films about 100Å thick were deposited by chemical vapor deposition onto ambient temperature substrates. The TIA/RuO₂ electrode showed a slightly more negative onset for chlorine evolution compared to an unmodified TIA (Fig. 7). The modified TIA also showed a larger cathodic peak on the reverse scan. These results suggest that the kinetics of the Cl-/Cl2 couple are somewhat improved by the RuO, treatment. The fill factor for the RuO₂ coated anode increased to 0.48. There was, however, some attenuation of j_1 because of light absorption by the RuO₂ layer (25% attenuation in the worst case). The RuO2 modified TIA's were tested for stability by potential cycling for 1h under illumination. The films showed stable operation for solutions of pH > 2; however, for pH < 1, the *i*-*V* curves showed only resistive behavior with poor photoeffects, indicating deterioration of the surface film.

The Br-/ Br_2 couple.—This couple is of interest because photogenerated Br_2 could be employed in brominations of organics and because this couple could be used in a photovoltaic mode in the coupling of two PEC's. Typical *i*-V curves are shown in Fig. 8 for the TIA and TIC electrodes. The data pertaining to this couple are given in Table I.

Fe(III)/Fe(II) couples.—We also investigated the $Fe^{3^{+/2^+}}$ couple in 1*M* HCl medium and the $Fe(CN)_6^{3^{-/4^-}}$ couple in 0.5*M* Na₂SO₄ for use in the photovoltaic biasing cell. The



Fig. 6. *j*-V behavior for a TIA in 10M LiCl in the dark (A) and under illumination of 170 mW/cm² (B) and for a Pt electrode (C). Scan rate: 100 mV/s.

Table I. Photovoltaic parameters o	two electrode configuration	(photoelectrode vs. Pt ele	ctrode)"
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Electrolyte	Photoelectrode	$V_{\rm oc}~({ m V})^b$	$j_{1.} = j_{sc}$ (mA/cm ²) ^c	f.f. ^d	Efficiency (%) ^e
$0.5M \text{ Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{4-}$ $0.5M \text{ Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{3-}$ $0.5M \text{ Na}_2\text{SO}_4$	anode	0.48	9	0.65	4.3
	cathode	0.45	10	0.55	3.8
$2M \operatorname{FeCl}_2$ $2M \operatorname{FeCl}_3$ $1M \operatorname{HCl}$	anode	0.5	13	0.6	6.0
	cathode	0.48	15	0.6	6.7
48% HBr 1M Br ₂	anode cathode	0.5 0.5	23 25	0.5 0.55	8.8 10.5

^a Light intensity = 65 mW/cm², from tungsten-halogen lamp.

^h Open-circuit photovoltage. ^c Short-circuit photocurrent.

Fill factor

" Maximal power conversion efficiency = $(V_{oc} \times j_{sc} \times f.f.)$ /light intensity.

results are summarized in Table I. The efficiency with these couples was lower than that found with the Br-/Br₂ couple. This can primarily be attributed to lower values of j_1 (and, hence, i_{sc}). For the Fe^{3+/2+} couple, this arises because of increased light absorption by the solution, while for the Fe(CN)63-/4- couple the relatively low solubility causes j_1 to be limited by mass transfer. The latter couple also suffers from some photochemical instability (18).

The O2/OH - system .- The i-V curves for the oxidation of hydroxide ion at a TIA are given in Fig. 9. For an unbuffered solution (curve A), the *i-V* is drawn out, probably because of pH changes in the vicinity of the electrode during the oxidation as well as sluggish electron-transfer rates at the metal/solution interface. Sharper i-V curves occur in 1M NaOH (curve B); these show some hysteresis on scan direction which, perhaps, is caused by blockage of electrode surface by oxgyen bubbles. We also examined the effect of a chemically vapor deposited layer of RuO2 on the TIA. While RuO2 coating had only a small effect in the unbuffered solutions (pH = 8), for the 1M NaOH there was a significant improvement in behavior. The potential for the onset of photocurrent was shifted to more negative values and the current rose more steeply (i.e., the fill factor improved).

Single photoarray cells.—Since the total driving force for a single photoarray cell is small (0.55V), only photo-



Fig. 7. j-V behavior for a TIA (A) and a RuO,-modified TIA (B) in 10M LiCl. Light intensity: 170 mW/cm². Scan rate: 100 mV/s.

electrosynthetic reactions which have both a small positive ΔG° and good kinetics (low overpotential) are possible. An interesting reaction possibility is the photoproduction of chlorine via the reaction

$$(1/4)O_2 + H^+ + Cl^- \rightarrow 1/2 H_2O + 1/2 Cl_2$$
 [6]

At pH = 0, ΔG° is 0.13 eV. This reaction can be accomplished in a cell represented as TIA/S/M, where the metal electrode, M, is a large area (geometric, 3.1 cm²) fuel cell cathode (Pt-C-Teflon) with the i-V characteristics shown in Fig. 10A; this showed a 0.7V overpotential for O2 reduction. The TIA i-V response, Fig. 12Å, shows poor overlap with that of M; thus, large photocurrents would not be expected upon coupling the two electrodes. Experimentally, $i_{\rm sc}$ was 0.5 mA/cm² and $V_{\rm oc}$ was 0.15V; these are comparatively low values, in agreement with the prediction based upon individual i-V characteristics. While the TIA demonstrated characteristic behavior for photo-oxidation of Cl-,



Fig. 8. j-V behavior for a TIA (A), TIC (B) in 48% HBr, 1.0M Br2. 170 mW/cm² light intensity. Scan rate: 100 mV/s.



Fig. 9. j-V behavior for a TIA in 0.1M Na SO, $(\rho H = 8)$ (A) and in 1M NaOH (B). (C): RuO2-modified TIA in 1M NaOH. Light intensity: 170 mW/cm². Scan rate: 100 mV/s.



Fig. 10. *i*-V behavior for a fuel cell cathode (Pt-C-Teflon) with N_2 flow (B) and O_2 (A) in 5M HCl. Scan rate: 5 mV/s.

the cell was limited primarily because of poor kinetics for $O_{\rm z}$ reduction at the metal cathode.

Dual photoarray cells .- The coupling of two photoarrays, TIA/S/TIC, allows the generation of ca. 1.1V during force for synthetic reactions. An example of a reaction in this type of cell is the bromination of phenol (18) at a TIA, coupled with the reduction of H⁺ at a TIC. The photo-oxidation of Br⁻ in 48% HBr, has a V_{onset} shifted ca. 0.55V more negative compared to a Pt electrode (Fig. 11). On the reverse scan, a cathodic peak was observed, indicating at least some of the Br2 being produced was rereduced. Addition of 1M phenol to the cell suppressed the cathodic wave and shifted V_{onset} about 50 mV more negative (curve C). The cathodic wave was absent even at scan rates of 10 V/s, indicating that the bromination of phenol is an efficient approach to preventing back electron transfer. Experiments performed with only phenol and supporting electrolyte showed no photoanodic current, indicating that the observed behavior was not due to direct oxidation of phenol. $i_{\rm L}$ for the TIA was attenuated by 20% in the presence of phenol; however, reduction of H⁺ at a TIC, curve D, was unchanged by phenol addition. The two photoelectrodes when coupled give a V_{oc} of 0.42V with i_{sc} of 4.5 mA.

Multiple photoarray cells.—In order to drive more energetic reactions, individual photocells must be coupled to obtain larger potentials. The reaction

$$HCl \rightarrow 1/2 H_2 + 1/2 Cl_2$$

has a $\Delta G^{\circ} = 1.36$ eV (pH = 0), and would not occur in a cell of the type TIA/S'/TIC, since the maximum available



Fig. 11. *i*-V behavior in 48% HBr for a TIA (A), TIC (B), and Pt electrode (C). TIA response after addition of 1M phenol (D). Scan rate: 100 mV/s. Light intensity: 80 mW/cm².



Fig. 12. j-V behavior for TIA (A) and TIC (B) in 5M HCI. Light intensity: 170 mW/cm². Scan rate: 100 mV/s.

photovoltage is only ca. 1.1V. The coupling of two cells, TIA/S'/TIC (cell 2) and TIA/S/TIC (cell 1), where cell 1 contains a single redox couple, which provides a bias to cell 2, will produce a photopotential large enough for HCl electrolysis to occur in cell 2. The i-V curves for both a TIA and a TIC in 5M HCl are given in Fig. 12. The overlap is poor, and coupling these electrodes resulted in no observable short-circuit photocurrent. However, addition of the bias from cell 2 (coupled as in Fig. 5) did result in a net short-circuit photocurrent. For the case of cell 1 containing 1.0M $Br_2/1.0M$ KBr, the observed value of j_{sc} was 7.3 mA/cm² with V_{oc} being 2.0V with illumination intensity of 170 mW/cm². Table II gives values of j_{sc} for various conditions in cells 1 and 2. As predicted from the i-V characteristics for individual half-cells (Table I), the Br-/Br2 couple gave the best behavior. Moreover (see Table II), more acidic conditions favor the reaction, since the proton reduction reaction shifts towards more positive potentials with decreasing pH but the Cl- oxidation is invariant with pH. Efficiencies for the coupled cell arrangement are also given in Table II. The efficiency, ϕ , is defined as

$$\phi = P_c/I \tag{7}$$

where P_c is the power stored as free energy in the electrolysis products and *I* is the incident light intensity. P_c was evaluated by assuming the products are consumed in a fuel cell reaction at the same current density as that for their production. Therefore, we take

$$P_c = j_{sc} \times E^{\circ\prime}$$
[8]

where $E^{\circ\prime}$ is the standard potential for rereaction, -1.36V.

Photoarrays in nonaqueous media.—Halogenation in nonaqueous media is possible at the TIA, as demonstrated by the following results for the chlorination of cyclohexene in acetonitrile (MeCN) (19). The photooxidation of Cl⁻ at a TIA occurs with $V_{\rm onset}$ ca. 0.5V vs. SCE (Fig. 13). The cathodic wave indicates that some of

Table II. Photoelectrolysis of HCI with different coupling solutions

Cell conditions ^a Compartment A Compartment B		j _{sc} (mA/cm²)	P _c (mW/cm ²) ^h	φ(%)
11.6M HCl	1.0M Br ₂	7.3	9.9	5.8
5.0M HCl	1.0M KBr 1.0M Br ₂ 1.0M KBr	6.7	9.1	5.3
5.0M HCl	2.0M FeCl ₂ 2.0M FeCl ₃	3.3	5.4	3.2
1.0M HCl	1.0M HCl 2.0M FeCl ₂ 2.0M FeCl ₃ 1.0M HCl	2.7	3.7	2.2

" Cell configuration as in Fig. 5; illumination intensity 170 mW/cm².

^h Short-circuit conditions approximated with $R_1 = 15\Omega$.



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Fig. 13. j-V behavior for a TIA in 0.5M TBACI in MeCN(A) and after addition of 1M cyclohexene (B). Light intensity: 70 mW/cm². Scan rate: 100 mV/s. Potentials vs. SCE.

the Cl₂ produced was reduced on the reverse scan. Addition of 1M cyclohexene completely suppresses the cathodic wave, curve B, but had no effect on $i_{1,}$ as in the bromination case. The wave was also shifted in a negative direction by 50-100 mV. The direct photo-oxidation of cyclohexene does not occur until ca. 1.6V vs. SCE and, therefore, does not influence the i-V behavior in Fig. 12.

Conclusions

Multilayer semiconductor electrode structures involving several photoactive junctions, such as the Texas Instruments arrays based on Si p/n junctions, can show stable operation and produce sufficient photovoltages to promote energetic reactions, such as the decomposition of HCl to H₂ and Cl₂. The i-V behavior at the interface with the solution is an important component of the cell performance, and metal surfaces can be selected to stabilize the electrode from photodecomposition and to catalyze the desired reactions. The behavior of multijunction devices can be obtained graphically from the i-V characteristics of each junction. Multijunction structures, such as coupled TI arrays, can produce photovoltages in excess of 2V, and can drive energetic reactions. The application of these arrays to nonaqueous solutions was also illustrated.

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