

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

### **LIST OF TABLES**

### **PREFACE**

<b>Chapter I.....</b>	1
I.1 Introduction .....	1
I.2 Evolution of Solar Cell Technology.....	2
I.3 Principle of Solar Cell Operation .....	3
I.4 Solar Cell: Absorber Material .....	9
I.4.1 Wafer-based Solar Cell.....	9
I.4.2 Thin-film Solar Cells.....	11
I.4.3 Copper Indium Gallium Diselenide.....	12
I.5 Motivation .....	16
I.6 Challenges and Issues.....	17
I.7 Scope and Objectives .....	18
I.8 Organization of the Thesis.....	19
<b>Chapter II .....</b>	21
II.1 Brief History.....	21
II.2 Device Structure .....	23
II.3 Structural Properties of CuIn <sub>x</sub> Ga <sub>1-x</sub> (S, Se) <sub>2</sub> Absorber Layer .....	26

II.3.1 Crystal Structure.....	26
II.3.2 Phase Diagram .....	28
II.3.3 Defects in CuIn <sub>x</sub> Ga <sub>1-x</sub> (S, Se) <sub>2</sub> .....	30
II.3.4 Band Diagram and Interface of CIGS/CdS .....	32
II.4 Deposition Techniques for CIGS Absorber Film.....	35
II.4.1 Vacuum-based Deposition Techniques.....	35
II.4.2 Non-Vacuum (Solution)-based Deposition Techniques .....	39
II.5 Ink-based Solution Processing Routes .....	42
II.6 Concluding Remarks.....	47
<b>Chapter III.....</b>	<b>48</b>
III.1 Materials .....	48
III.2 Synthesis of wz-Cu(In <sub>x</sub> Ga <sub>1-x</sub> )S <sub>2</sub> NPs and Ink Preparation.....	49
III.2.1 Hot Injection Method.....	49
III.2.2 Schlenk Line Set-up.....	49
III.2.3 Synthesis of wz-Cu(In <sub>x</sub> Ga <sub>1-x</sub> )S <sub>2</sub> NPs .....	51
III.2.4 Nanoparticle Ink Formation.....	53
III.3 Spray Coating .....	53
III.4 Selenization.....	54
III.5 Chemical Bath Deposition .....	56
III.6 Radio Frequency Sputtering .....	58

III.7 Thermal Evaporation .....	60
III.8 Characterization Techniques.....	61
III.8.1 X-ray Diffraction and Grazing Incidence-XRD .....	61
III.8.2 Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy.....	63
III.8.3 Transmission Electron Microscopy .....	66
III.8.4 X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy .....	68
III.8.5 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy .....	69
III.8.6 Differential Scanning Calorimetry.....	71
III.8.7 UV/Visible Spectroscopy .....	72
III.8.8 Raman Spectroscopy.....	73
III.8.9 Solar Cell Characterization .....	73
<b>Chapter IV.....</b>	<b>75</b>
IV.1 Introduction .....	75
IV.2 A Review of Relevant Literature.....	77
IV.3 Experimental Procedure .....	80
IV.4 Results .....	81
IV.4.1 XRD Analysis.....	81
IV.4.2 FTIR Analysis.....	84
IV.4.3 TEM Analysis.....	91
IV.5 Discussion.....	102

IV.6 Concluding Remarks .....	106
<b>Chapter V .....</b>	<b>107</b>
V.1 Introduction.....	107
V.2 A Review of Relevant Literature .....	108
V.3 Experimental Procedure.....	109
V.4 Results and Discussion .....	109
V.5 Concluding Remarks.....	127
<b>Chapter VI.....</b>	<b>129</b>
VI.1 Introduction .....	128
VI.2 A Review of Relevant Literature .....	130
VI.3 Experimental Procedure .....	131
VI.4 Characterization.....	134
VI.5 Results and Discussion .....	134
VI.6 Concluding Remarks .....	148
<b>Chapter VII .....</b>	<b>150</b>
VII.1 Introduction .....	150
VII.2 A Review of Relevant Literature .....	152
VII.3 Experimental Procedure .....	154
VII.3.1 Wurtzite-CIS Nanoparticle Ink Preparation.....	154
VII.3.2 Processing of Absorber Layer .....	154

VII.4 Fabrication of wz-CIS and ch-CISSe Device.....	155
VII.5 Results and Discussion.....	155
VII.5.1 Absorber Layer wz-CIS and ch-CISSe .....	155
VII.5.2 Buffer Layer Deposition by CBD .....	170
VII.5.3 Window Layer Deposited by RF Sputtering.....	175
VII.5.4 CuIn(S,Se) <sub>2</sub> Device Characterization.....	177
VII.6 Concluding Remarks.....	179

**Chapter VIII.....**.....181

VIII.1 Brief Summary and Conclusions .....	181
VIII.2 Suggestions for Future Work.....	184

**REFERENCES**

**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**