



SOLAR ENERGY CONVERSION AND STORAGE POTENTIAL OF PHOTSENSITIZING DYE IN PHOTOGALVANIC CELL

DR. AYUSHI SHARMA ¹

¹ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (VSY), GOVT. COLLEGE JAITARAN, DISTRICT - PALI (RAJ.)

ABSTRACT:

Photo galvanic cell are electrochemical cells based on photo galvanic effect, which are used for converting solar energy into electrical energy and its storage. In the present study Naphthol Green B – Ascorbic acid –NaLS, Victoria Blue R – Ascorbic acid –NaLS, Methanal Yellow – Ascorbic acid –NaLS, were used for experimentation. Nephthol Green B, Victoria Blue R and Methanal Yellow were used as photo sensitizers, ascorbic acid was used as reductant and Sodium lauryl sulphate was used as surfactant. Maximum conversion efficiency of 1.0614% was evident in case of VBR-Ascorbic acidNaLS system, followed by 1.0288% in case of NGB-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system and 1.0069% in MY-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system. Photo potential of 818 mV, 815 mV and 810 mV and power of 107.0 μ W, 110.39 μ W and 104.72 μ W was reported in the three types of photo galvanic cells respectively.

KEYWORDS:

PHOTOGALVANIC CELL, PHOTOGALVANIC EFFECT, NAPHTHOL GREEN B, VICTORIA BLUE R AND METHANAL YELLOW, CONVERSION EFFICIENCY, STORAGE.

INTRODUCTION

There are two types of energy sources that are commonly used for different activities and tasks: renewable and non-renewable. The former includes natural gas, coal, oil, and nuclear energy, which are resources that can't be replaced. On the other hand, renewable energy sources are those that are able to provide energy for a specific purpose. Humans are heavily dependent on them for their energy supply, and this is a major issue for the global population. Renewable energy sources include various types of natural resources such as wind, solar, tidal, and wave energy. These resources are known to be carbon neutral.

Through photo galvanic effect solar energy can be utilized efficiently. This chemical or physical phenomenon occurs when light interacts with a material and produces an electric current. High energy components are created through this process and utilized as a reservoir of energy. In a solar device, the energy from sunlight is converted into electrical power. This process has been regarded as a potential solution to the energy crisis. It has been studied by scientists and engineers all around the world. These types of photo galvanic batteries are useful in providing stable and reliable energy sources.

In 1839, Becquerel while experimenting first observed the flow of current between metal electrodes in sunlight (Becquerel, 1839). The photo galvanic effect was first systematically experimented and reported by Rideal and Williams (Rideal and Williams, 1925). However it was Rabin witch in 1940, who designed the first photo galvanic cell using the iron-thionine system (Rabinowitch, 1940). The Photo galvanic cell may be defined as the "dye sensitized photo electrochemical cell chargeable in light for solar power generation and storage". A photo galvanic

cell consists of H-shaped glass tube containing two electrodes dipped in solution of dye, reductant, NaO Hand surfactant, if used (Koli, 2014).

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

The present research study was designed to assess the solar energy conversion and storage potential of certain photosensitizing dye in photo galvanic cell. Combination of Naphthol Green B – Ascorbic acid –NaLS, Victoria Blue R – Ascorbic acid –NaLS, Methanal Yellow – Ascorbic acid –NaLS, were used for experimentation.

Various scientists and researchers have been working on this concept. Some significant work which has contributed in this field is summarized here:

Dube et al., 1997 studied the photo galvanic effect for azur B-NTA (Nitrilo-tri-acetic acid) system. They used azur B as a sensitizer and NTA was used as a reductant. The effect of various factors on the electrical parameters and current voltage characteristics of the cell were studied.

Gangotri and Lal, 2005 assessed the photo galvanic effect in a photo galvanic cell consisting of Ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid as reductant. They used methylene blue and thionine as photo sensitizers. They reported a conversion efficiency of 0.43 per cent and the maximum output of cell of 67.68 mW. They also stated that the cell could be used for thirty minutes in the dark.

Habeb et al., 2007 carried out their study on photo galvanic cell using rhodamine B as photo sensitizer, EDTA as reductant, and sodium lauryl sulphate as surfactant. They reported an electrical output of 210 mV and 70 μ A and storage capacity 20 min in dark after 55 min of illumination of the cell. Various aspects for example pH,

temperature, light intensity, concentration of dye, concentration of EDTA, and concentration of NaLS were also considered.

Meena et al., 2008 performed their experiments on thymole blue as photo sensitizer and ascorbic acid as reducing agent. The photo potential and photocurrent observed were 810.00mV and 150.0 μ A, respectively and reported a conversion efficiency of 0.8038%. Maximum power of cell was 82.06 μ W. They also observed the storage capacity of 54.00 minutes in dark for the experimental cell.

Neival and Gangotri, 2011 used ascorbic acid as reducing agent and bismark brown dye as photo sensitizer to assess the solar energy conversion and storage of the photo galvanic cell. They observed 810.0 mV, 175.0 μ A and 70.0 of photo potential, photocurrent and power. They also reported a conversion efficiency of 0.6646%.

For the present study, in the photo galvanic cell systems Victoria Blue R, Naphthol Green B, Methanal Yellow (LobaChemie, Mumbai), ascorbic acid (Ases Chemical, Jodhpur), NaLS (Sisco Research Laboratories, Mumbai) and NaOH (RFCL, New Delhi) were used. The stock solutions of ascorbic acid (1.4×10^{-3} M), Victoria Blue R (2.8×10^{-5} M), NaLS (1.6×10^{-3} M) and sodium hydroxide (1M) were prepared in doubly distilled water and kept in amber coloured containers to protect them from sun light. A mixture of solutions of dye (Victoria Blue R), reductant (Ascorbic acid), surfactant (NaLS) and sodium hydroxide taken in a blackened H-Shaped glass container to keep the total volume of reaction mixture always 25.0 ml. A platinum foil electrode (1.0×1.0 cm²) was immersed in to one limb of H-shaped glass container and Saturated calomel electrode (SCE) was immersed in another limb.

The whole system was first placed in dark. When stable potential (mV) was obtained in dark, it was measured. Then limb containing platinum foil electrode was exposed to a tungsten lamp of different wattage. A water filter was placed between the light source and cell to cut off infra-red radiations. The pH of the system was adjusted by adding the desired volume of standard NaOH solution. pH of the reactive system was measured by a digital pH meter (Systronics model 335). Similarly experiments were set up for Naphthol Green B – Ascorbic acid –NaLS and Methanal Yellow – Ascorbic acid – NaLS systems. Photo potential and photocurrent generated by this system were measured by a digital pH meter and micro ammeter (Nucon) respectively. Current-voltage (i-V) characteristics of the cell were studied using an external load resistance (log 470 K) in micro ammeter circuit

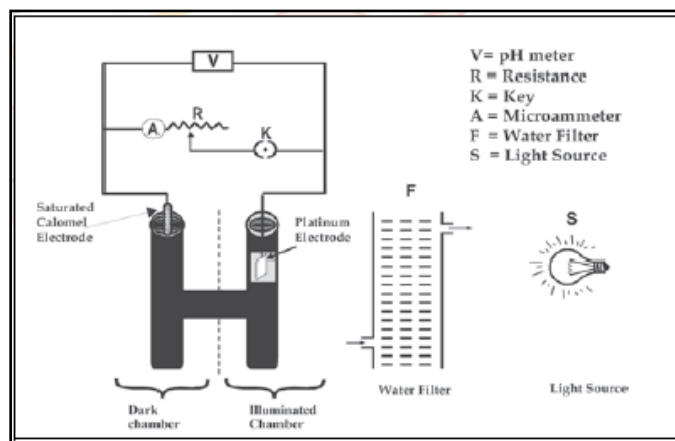


Fig: Experimental Set up of a Photogalvanic cell (Source: Gangotri and Lal, 2005)

OBSERVATION TABLE

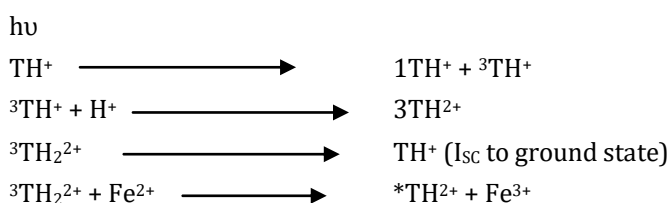
S.No.	Electrical Parametrs	Observed Values		
		NGB Ascorbic acid- NaLS System	VBR-Ascorbic acid- NaLS System	MY- Ascorbic acid- NALS System
1	Open Circuit Voltage, VOC (mV)	1050.0	1045.0	1020.0
2	Photo potential, ΔV (mV)	818.0	815.0	810.0
3	Maximum Photocurrent, i_{max} (μ A)	446.0	445.0	390.0
4	Short Circuit current, i_{sc} (μ A)	365.0	360.0	335.0
5	Equilibrium Photo current, i_{eq} (μ A)	365.0	360.0	335.0
6	Current at power point, i_{pp} (μ A)	200.0	190.0	220.0
7	Potential at Power point, V_{pp} (mV)	535.0	581.0	476.0
8	Power at Power Point (μ W)	107.00	110.39	104.72

9	Rate of generation of current (A min ⁻¹)	16.07	15.89	12.19
10	Charging Time (min.)	120.0	130.0	140.0
11	Fill factor (η)	0.2791	0.2934	0.3889
12	Conversion Efficiency (%)	1.0288	1.0614	1.0069
13	t _{1/2} (minutes)	160.0	140.0	110.0

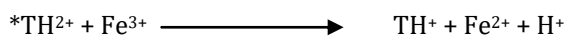
ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT

In the present research investigation, a photo potential of 818 mV, 815 mV and 810 mV was observed for NGB-Ascorbic acid-NaLS System, VBR-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system and MY-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system respectively. Power of 107.0 μW, 110.39μW and 104.72μW was observed in the three experimental systems. Maximum photocurrent was 446 μA, 445 μA and 390 μA. Maximum conversion efficiency was evident in case of VBR-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system i.e. 1.0614%. It was followed by 1.0288% in case of NGB-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system and 1.0069% in MY-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system.

Mechanism- Both singlet and triplet excited states of dye are involved here, but triplet state being relatively more stable than singlet state has role in storage capacity. The main electro active species are the leuco or semi dye and the dye in the illuminated and the dark chamber, respectively. However, the reductant and its oxidized product act only as electron carriers in the path. Light energy is converted in to chemical energy by driving a suitable redox reaction against the potential gradient. The thionine-Fe (II) aqueous photo galvanic system is shown as:



(Semi - thionine radical formation)



(Back thermal reaction)



(Anode Reaction at illuminated electrode)

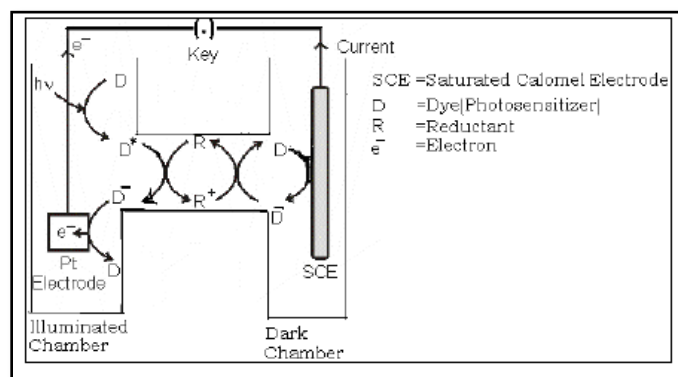


(Dark electrode)

Where TH⁺ was dark thionine oxidized form. Illuminated chamber: On irradiation, dye molecules get excited. The excited dye molecules accept an electron from reductant and converted into semi or leuco form of dye, and the reductant into its excited form. At platinum electrode the semi or leuco form of dye loses an electron and gets converted into original dye molecule.

Dark Chamber: At calomel electrode dye molecule accepts

an electron from electrode and gets converted into semi or leuco form. Finally leuco/semi form of dye and oxidized form of reductant combine to give original dye and reductant molecule. This cycle of mechanism is repeated again and again leading production of current continuously. The scheme of mechanism is shown in Figure



Inside the cell, there is only diffusion controlled motion of ions in solution. Therefore, photo galvanic cell requires that incident light be absorbed close to the light electrode in order to enable the electron-rich species to reach the electrode by diffusion within its lifetime. It is intended to be achieved by blackening H-cell externally and keeping a small window for illumination of platinum electrode. Further, the higher diffusion retards energy wasting reverse reaction (electron transfer from Pt electrode to dye, and from dye to reductant in illuminated chamber) and increases isc leading to improvement in overall performance of the cell (Gomer, 1975; Shiroishiet al, 2002).

World is facing energy crisis in present time and to meet the increasing energy demand is a challenging task. There is an urgent need to search a renewable device which can be used for energy conversion and storage for maximum time. An effort has been made through this work by experimenting with three dyes (Naphthol Green B, Victoria Blue R and Methanal Yellow) in photo galvanic cell systems and appreciable results have been obtained. The electrical parameters of three systems were observed using reducing agent (Ascorbic acid). The effect of pH and concentration of reductant, surfactant, dye and effect of diffusion length, temperature, light intensity on electrical parameter were studied in detail. On the basis of results obtained it may be concluded that efficient photogalvanic

cell can be fabricated with the use of VBR-Ascorbic acid-NaLS system in view of conversion efficiency.

REFERENCES

1. Becquerel, E. (1839) On Electric Effect under the Influence of Solar Radiation. C.R. Acad. Sci., Paris, 9, 561.

2. Dube, S., Sharma, S. L., & Ameta, S. C. (1997). Photo galvanic effect in azur B-NTA system. Energy conversion and management, 38(2), 101-106.

3. Gangotri, K. M., & Lal, C. (2005). Use of mixed dyes in photo galvanic cells for solar energy conversion and storage: EDTA-methylene blue and thionine system. Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part A: Journal of Power and Energy, 219(5), 315-320.

4. Gomer, R. (1975). Photo galvanic cells. ElectrochimicaActa, 20(1), 13-20.

5. Habeb, H. A., Al-Taweel, S. S. J., & Abed-Al-rudha, N. A. (2007). Generation of Photocurrent using Rhodamine B Dye and visible Light. Iraqi National Journal Of Chemistry, 27, 474-482.

6. Koli, P. (2014). Solar energy conversion and storage: Fast Green FCF-Fructose photo galvanic cell. Applied energy, 118, 231-237.

7. Meena, R. C., Kumar, V., & Singh, G. (2008). Use of dyes in photo galvanic cells for solar energy conversion and storage: thymol blue and ascorbic acid system. Int. J. Chem. Sci, 6(3), 2008, 1438-1448.

8. Nenival, N. R., & Gangotri, K. M. (2011). Study on effect of reductant in photo sensitizer for solar energy conversion and storage, bismark brown-ascorbic acid system. J Chem Pharm Res, 3, 553-61.

9. Rabin witch, E. (1940). The photo galvanic effect I. The photochemical properties of the thionine-iron system. The Journal of Chemical Physics, 8(7), 551-559.

10. Rideal, E. K., & Williams, D. C. (1925). Photo galvanic effect. J. Chem. Soc, 127, 258.

11. Shiroishi, H., Kaburagi, Y., Seo, M., Hoshi, T., Nomura, T., Tokita, S., & Kaneko, M. (2002). Virtual Device Simulator of Bipolar Photo galvanic Cell. Journal of Chemical Software, 8, 47-54.