

## Research Article

Comparison of Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectorsD. Esra Yıldız<sup>a, \*\*</sup>, Adem Kocyigit<sup>b, \*</sup>, Murat Yıldırım<sup>c</sup><sup>a</sup> Department of Physics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Hitit University, 19030, Corum, Turkey<sup>b</sup> Department of Electronics and Automation, Vocational High School, Bilecik Şeyh Edebali University, 11000, Bilecik, Turkey<sup>c</sup> Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, Selcuk University, 42130, Konya, Turkey

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## ABSTRACT

The importance of the photodetectors has grown due to their potential in the automation system and optical communications. We fabricated Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si Schottky-type photodetectors. TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers were grown by atomic layer deposition (ALD). The photodetection properties of these devices were studied and compared by *I-V* and *I-t* measurements for various light power densities and various wavelengths. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) spectra were employed to determine morphological and elemental analysis of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers. While the SEM images showed smooth surfaces, EDX spectra approved successful synthesis of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers with good stoichiometry. The diode parameters such as ideality factor, series resistance and barrier height values were calculated and compared in detail. The responsivity and detectivity of the fabricated photodetectors were determined as a function of illumination power density and wavelength. The responsivity values of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors were determined as 0.02 and 0.76 A/W, respectively. Both photodetectors exhibited good performance for visible light. However, Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector reached 173.08% external quantum efficiency (EQE) for 550 nm. According to results, Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector exhibited better detection performance than Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si.

## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, fast growing technology of automation and wireless communication needs very sensitive detectors with better performance [1–4]. Among the detectors, photodetectors are used to detection of light for various wavelengths of optical region in the electromagnetic spectrum [5]. Various materials, designs and techniques have been studied to improve performance of the photodetection [6–9]. TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO are generally used for detection of light in the UV region. Gao et al., synthesized TiO<sub>2</sub> nanorods by hydrothermal method, and used them with p-type NiO flakes layer to obtain high performance UV photodetection on FTO glass [10]. Nicolaescu et al., obtained n-TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-CuMnO<sub>2</sub> thin film by thermal oxidation of n-TiO<sub>2</sub> and doctor blade technique for p-CuMnO<sub>2</sub> to fabricate heterostructure p-n type photodetector for high responsivity performance [11]. Inamdard et al., fabricated metal-semiconductor-metal (MSM) based ZnO photodetectors by spray pyrolysis technique, and obtained photodetector exhibiting good performance at the UV-A region [12]. Liu et al., fabricated ZnO nanowires/Te nanowires heterojunction photodetector by two-step vacuum

filtration, and they achieved high responsivity and detectivity values of ~10 A/W and ~10<sup>14</sup> Jones for UV light detection, respectively. Sometimes, TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO are used as interfacial layer for Schottky-type photodetector to obtain good photodetection property for sun light [13–15]. If the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO are deposited on the Si substrate to obtain photodetector, the device exhibits good performance in UV and visible regions [16,17].

There are many techniques to fabricate interlayers of thin films such as spin coating [18], chemical bath deposition [19], spray pyrolysis [20], electrodeposition [21], atomic layer deposition (ALD) [13] etc. Among them, ALD technique has many advantages such as large area uniformity, precise thickness control, high film density, repeatability, low temperature process and good stoichiometric control [22]. The ALD technique can produce suitable interlayers for the Schottky-type photodetectors.

Schottky-type photodetectors are metal-semiconductor junctions, fabricated generally by physical vapor deposition techniques [23,24,53]. The p-type or n-type Si is generally preferred to obtain these type of photodetectors, and a metal oxide or polymer layers sometimes are

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inserted between the semiconductor and metal to control the current conduction mechanism and to passivate dangling bonds [25]. Both the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO have high dielectric constants (over 23 and 8.0, respectively) and wide band gaps, 3.1 eV for TiO<sub>2</sub> and 3.4 for ZnO [26,27]. Thus, both the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO can be used in the Schottky-type photodetector for visible light detection. Aim of this work is to fabricate Al/p-Si photodetectors using TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers and investigate their performance for different values of illumination power at various wavelengths. The interlayers were fabricated by ALD, and the detection performance of the photodetectors was investigated by *I-V* and *I-t* measurements at different illumination power densities and wavelengths.

## 2. Experimental details

One-side polished p-type Si wafer with carrier concentrations of  $7.3 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and (100) orientation was used to fabricate TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers based Schottky-type photodetectors. The wafer cleaning procedure was realized by ultrasonication in acetone, deionized water and isopropanol solvents after slicing of wafer  $1 \times 2 \text{ cm}^2$  pieces. A HF: H<sub>2</sub>O (1:10) solution was employed to remove undesired oxide layer by submerging the pieces into solution for only 30 s. 200 nm thick Al layers were evaporated on the back side of the pieces, and then the pieces were annealed at 450 °C in the N<sub>2</sub> filled oven for a couple of minutes to achieve ohmic contacts. The work functions of p-Si and Al are very close in energy and annealing is sufficient to compose an ohmic contact between Al and p-Si [28]. The pieces were separately transferred into Savannah S300 ALD system to grow TiO<sub>2</sub> (4 nm) and ZnO (4 nm) layers on the polished side of the pieces by adjusting the substrate temperature and deposition rate as 200 °C and 2 Å per cycle, respectively with titanium tetrachloride for TiO<sub>2</sub> precursor and diethyl zinc for ZnO precursor. The ALD system was used to precisely control the thickness of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO according to literature [29,30]. Both the TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and ZnO/p-Si sandwiches immediately were transferred into thermal evaporator to obtain  $7.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2$  area Al metallic contacts (100 nm) on the top of TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO layers with a hole array mask. The schematic illustration and measurement system of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors are shown in Fig. 1.

Schematic energy-band diagram of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si heterojunction photodetector under illumination of light have been illustrated in Fig. 2a and b, respectively. Here,  $E_g$ ,  $E_v$ ,  $E_c$ ,  $E_F$ ,  $E_{vac}$  and  $\chi$  indicate band gap energy, top of the valence band, bottom of the conduction band, Fermi level, the vacuum level and electron affinity, respectively. For this diagram, the band gap energy of TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO and p-Si were taken as 3.2 eV, 3.37 eV, 1.12 eV respectively [31,32]. Electron affinities were assumed to be  $\chi(\text{TiO}_2) = 4.10 \text{ eV}$  [32],  $\chi(\text{ZnO}) = 4.35 \text{ eV}$  and  $\chi(\text{Si}) = 4.05 \text{ eV}$  [31], respectively. Valence band offset ( $\Delta E_v$ ) and

conduction band offset ( $\Delta E_c$ ) of the Si/TiO<sub>2</sub> heterostructure can be calculated as 2.31 eV and 0.05 eV, respectively [33]. In the case of the Si/ZnO heterostructure, the  $\Delta E_v$  and  $\Delta E_c$  were calculated as  $\Delta E_v = 2.55 \text{ eV}$  and 0.3 eV, respectively [31].

Morphology and chemical compositions of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers were investigated by a ZEISS EVO LS10 SEM equipped with an EDX detector. *I-V* and *I-t* measurements of the photodetectors for various illumination power densities at different wavelengths were performed using a Frytronix FY-7000 solar simulator equipped with suitable filters.

## 3. Results and discussion

SEM images and EDX spectra with fast mapping images were obtained to characterize TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers. Fig. 3a and b show surface images of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers, and Fig. 3c and d shows fast mapping images. Surface morphologies of the interlayers are smooth and homogeneous. According to fast mapping of the interlayers, the atomic distribution of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers have homogeneous pattern. These interlayers can be employed for Schottky-type photodetectors. EDX spectra of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers have been shown in Fig. 3e and f, respectively with atomic ratios of the elements. The EDX spectra confirm the synthesis of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers.

*I-V* characteristics of a photodetector give information about the relation between applied voltage and induced current for reverse and forward biases. *lnI-V* graphs of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors have been illustrated in Fig. 4a and b for increasing light power density, respectively. The insets of Fig. 4a and b show normal *I-V* characteristics curves for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si. According to *I-V* characteristics, the fabricated heterostructures exhibited photodetector behavior due to increasing current under illumination at reverse as well as forward biases. The increase of the current at -3V changed from  $6.14 \times 10^{-5} \text{ A}$  to  $1.49 \times 10^{-4} \text{ A}$  by increasing of light power density from dark to 100 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector. The current increased from  $3.59 \times 10^{-5} \text{ A}$  to  $2.86 \times 10^{-4} \text{ A}$  for Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector in same condition. Thus, the photocurrents ( $I_{light} - I_{dark}$ ) of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors were obtained as  $8.76 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $2.50 \times 10^{-4}$ , respectively. These photocurrent values can be comparable with literature for Schottky-type photodetector with TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers [34,35]. Furthermore, the ratio of photocurrent to dark currents for the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors were calculated as 1.43 and 6.96, respectively.

By using of  $R_j = dV/dI$  formalism, junction resistance ( $R_j$ ) can be extracted from *I-V* characteristics, and shunt ( $R_{sh}$ ) and series resistance ( $R_s$ ) values are evaluated according to performance [36]. While the  $R_{sh}$  is obtained for reverse biases,  $R_s$  is obtained for forward biases, and high

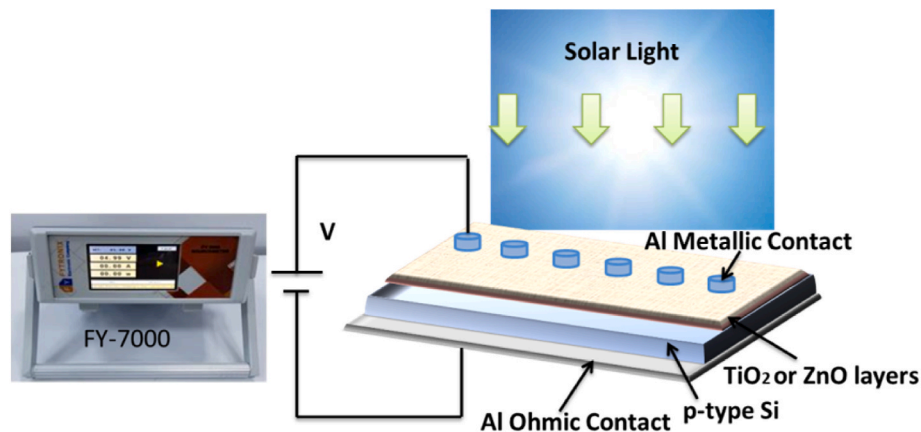


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of measurement system and structure of the fabricated photodetectors.

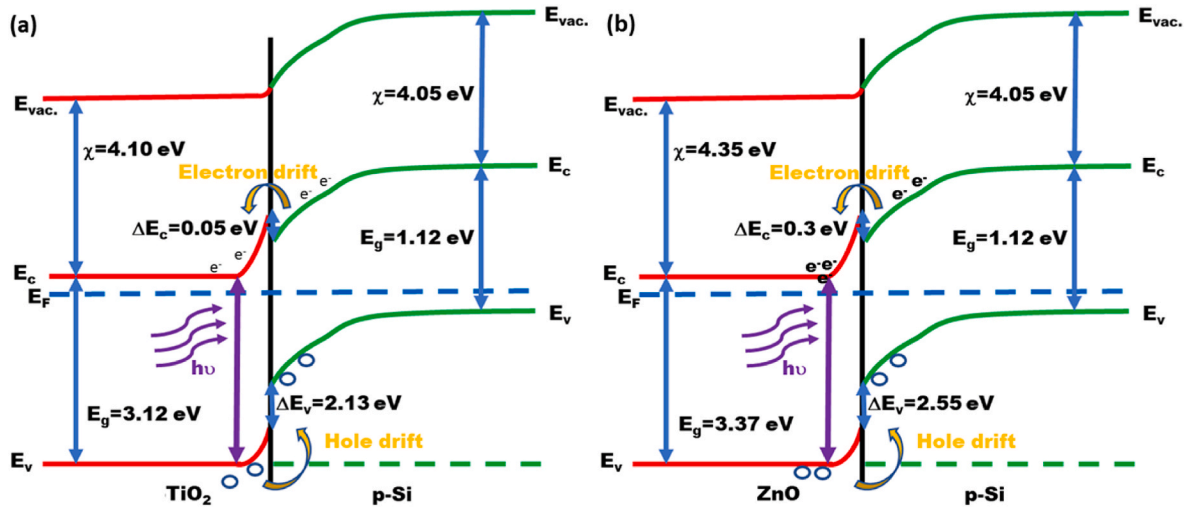


Fig. 2. Schematic energy-band diagram of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si heterojunction photodetectors under illumination of light.

$R_{sh}$  and low  $R_s$  values are desired for good performance of the optoelectronic devices [37,67]. While the  $R_{sh}$  values are around  $10^6$  for both detectors, the  $R_s$  values are around  $10^4$   $\Omega$  and  $10^3$   $\Omega$  levels for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively. Furthermore, Ocaya and Yakuphanoglu recently proposed that  $R_s$  were affected exponentially by the change of incident light with a constant rate of illumination power [38]. Our results confirmed this change by illumination power measurements.

$I$ - $V$  characteristics can help to calculate various diode parameters, which are important for the photodetection or photovoltaic performance, such as barrier height ( $\phi_b$ ), series resistance ( $R_s$ ) and ideality factor ( $n$ ). These parameters can be calculated by various approximations according to literature [39]. One of them is thermionic emission theory, and it uses second linear region of the  $I$ - $V$  characteristics for forward biases to determine both ideality factor and barrier height values. These regions were marked in Fig. 4a and b by using pointers [40]. According to this method current ( $I$ ) is calculated by following formula:

$$I = I_0 \exp\left(\frac{qV}{nkT}\right) \left[1 - \exp\left(-\frac{qV}{kT}\right)\right] \quad (1)$$

where  $I_0$  is saturation current,  $k$ ,  $q$  and  $V$  are Boltzmann's constant, charge of electron and the applied bias voltage, respectively. The  $I_0$  is given by:

$$I_0 = AA^* T^2 \exp\left(-\frac{q\Phi_b}{kT}\right) \quad (2)$$

where  $A^*$ ,  $A$  and  $T$  are Richardson constant ( $32 \text{ A/K}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^2$  for p-Si), diode area ( $A = 7.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2$ ) and the temperature, respectively. The  $n$  and  $\phi_b$  are given following equation for  $V \geq 3kT/q$  region:

$$n = \frac{q}{kT} \left(\frac{dV}{d \ln I}\right) \quad (3)$$

$$\Phi_b = \frac{kT}{q} \ln\left(\frac{A^* AT^2}{I_0}\right) \quad (4)$$

The calculated ideality factor and barrier height values have been listed in Table 1 for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors. Both photodetectors have higher  $n$  values than unity because of the large number of traps or interface states of the heterostructures [41]. These high values of  $n$  can be attributed to non-ideal diode structure, interfacial layer of TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO and barrier inhomogeneity [13]. The changes of the  $n$  and  $\phi_b$  by power illumination density have been shown in Fig. 5a and b. Both photodetectors have generally same decreasing  $\phi_b$

and increasing  $n$  profiles. The changes at the  $n$  and  $\phi_b$  values are clearly confirmed that they are function of light power density for both photodetectors.

Rectifying ratio ( $RR$ ) is the ratio of the forward bias current to reverse bias current at same positive and negative voltages [42]. The  $RR$  values were calculated for both Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors. Fig. 6a and b show changing profiles of the  $RR$  values depending on power density of illumination for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively. While the  $RR$  values of Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si almost stayed constant at about 4.0,  $RR$  values of Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector decreased to around 4.0 after  $20 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ . These results clearly revealed that both photodetectors almost have stable  $RR$  values against to increasing light power. In the literature, the  $RR$  values of Schottky-type photodetectors usually decrease with increasing light power [43,44]. However, here the  $RR$  values stayed constant by changing light power due to the fact that illumination caused an increase of current for both reverse and forward biases. This result highlighted that the fabricated devices have enough response under illumination in forward and reverse biases for same voltage value. This can be attributed to photovoltaic behavior of the devices [45].

Norde proposed another method to determine  $R_s$  and  $\phi_b$  values from forward bias  $I$ - $V$  curve [46]. The detailed explanation about the method and Norde function can be found in literature [47,48]. The Norde function is given by following formula:

$$F(V) = \frac{V}{\gamma} - \frac{kT}{q} \ln\left(\frac{I(V)}{AA^* T^2}\right) \quad (5)$$

where  $\gamma$  is minimum integer value higher than  $n$  value of thermionic emission. The  $I(V)$  is the voltage dependent current. The  $\phi_b$  and  $R_s$  are obtained by following formula after rearranging of Norde function:

$$\Phi_b = F(V_0) + \left[\frac{V_0}{\gamma} - \frac{kT}{q}\right] \quad (6)$$

$$R_s = \frac{\gamma - n}{I} \frac{kT}{q} \quad (7)$$

where  $V_0$  is minimum voltage related to  $F(V)$  function.

Fig. 7a and b display Norde function plots of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively. The photodetectors exhibited normal Norde function plots, and calculated  $R_s$  and  $\phi_b$  values were tabulated in Table 1 for both photodetectors. The obtained  $\phi_b$  values of 0.65 eV and 0.72 eV are close to  $\phi_b$  values of TE method for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si. The  $R_s$  values of both photodetectors are good agreement by  $R_s$  values calculated from  $R_j$ .

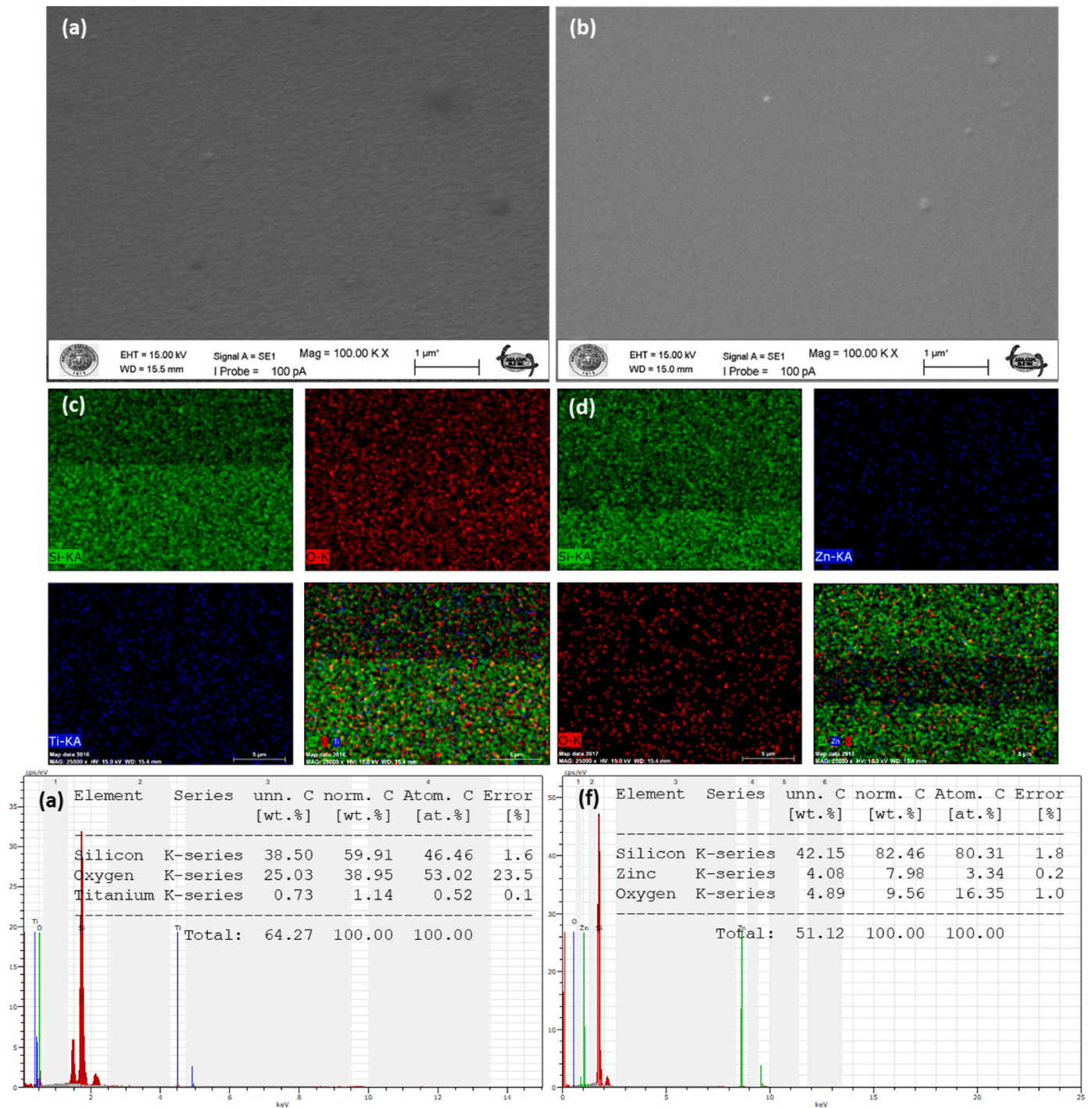


Fig. 3. SEM images of the a) TiO<sub>2</sub> and b) ZnO, fast mapping of c) TiO<sub>2</sub> and d) ZnO, and EDX spectra of e) TiO<sub>2</sub> and f) ZnO interlayers.

Cheung and Cheung introduced another method to calculate the  $n$ ,  $\phi_b$  and  $R_s$  values from  $I$ - $V$  curve [49]. Cheung method describes current by following equation:

$$I = I_0 \exp\left(\frac{q(V - IR_s)}{nkT}\right) \quad (8)$$

where  $IR_s$  shows voltage drops related to series resistance of junction. The Cheung's functions can be extracted from current and given by following formulas:

$$\frac{dV}{d(\ln I)} = IR_s + n \frac{kT}{q} \quad (9)$$

$$H(I) = V - n \left(\frac{kT}{q}\right) \ln\left(\frac{I}{AA^*T^2}\right) \quad (10)$$

where  $H(I)$  can be rearranged by following equation:

$$H(I) = IR_s + n\Phi_b \quad (11)$$

Plotting of  $dV/d(\ln I)$  versus  $I$  provides to determine ideality factor and one of the series resistance values, and  $H(I)$  versus  $I$  graph gives barrier height and another series resistance. These two separate  $R_s$  values should be close each other to confirm the accuracy of the method [50]. Fig. 8a and b show Cheung function plots of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively. The determined  $n$ ,  $\phi_b$  and  $R_s$

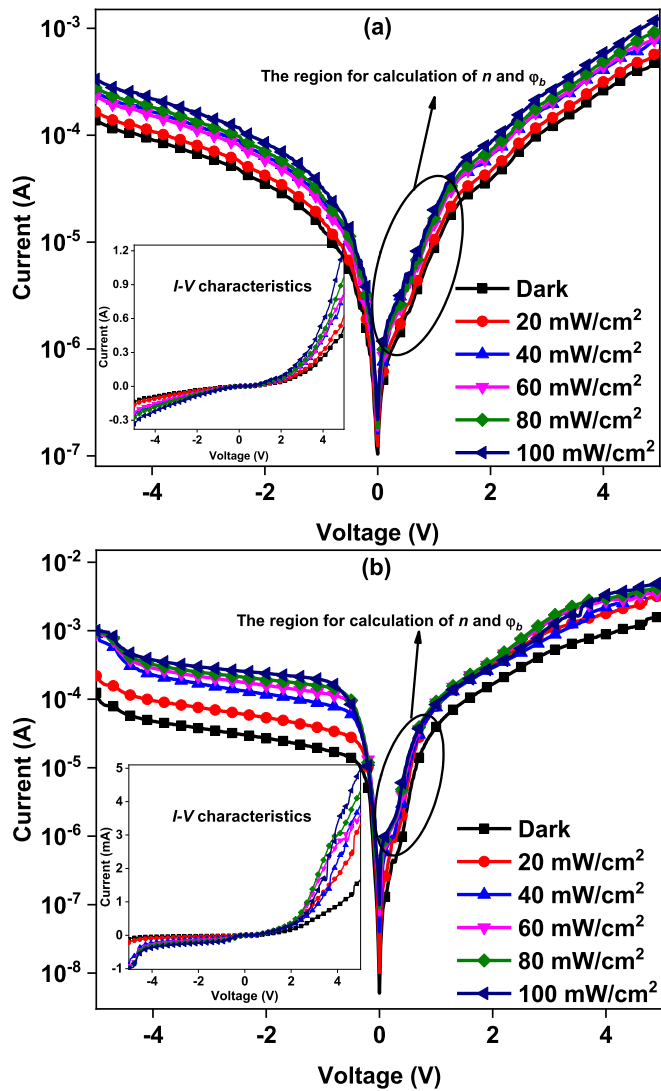


Fig. 4.  $\ln$ - $I$ - $V$  plots of the as well as  $I$ - $V$  curves (insets) of the a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors for changing light power density.

values were listed in Table 1. The discrepancy from linearity at the Cheung plots can be attributed to barrier inhomogeneity of TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers [51].

The photocurrent transient ( $I$ - $t$ ) measurements show the response speed of the photodetectors for changing light-on and light-off modes [52]. It is important to estimate responsivity, photosensitivity and detectivity characteristics as well as switching speed. Fig. 9a and b display  $I$ - $t$  plots of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively for 5 s with light-on and 5 s with light-off. Both photodetectors exhibited a linear increase of the photocurrent with illumination power. However, the Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector has higher photocurrent levels for all power density levels.

The photocurrent ( $I_p$ ), photosensitivity ( $K$ ), responsivity ( $R$ ) and specific detectivity ( $D^*$ ) formulas are given by following equations [53].

$$I_p = I_{light} - I_{dark} \quad (12)$$

$$K = \frac{I_p}{I_{dark}} \quad (13)$$

$$R = \frac{I_p}{PA} \quad (14)$$

$$D^* = R \sqrt{\frac{A}{2qI_{dark}}} \quad (15)$$

where  $P$  is the illumination power,  $A$  is the effective area of detector, and  $q$  is charge of electrons.

Fig. 10a and b illustrate photosensitivity changes of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors depending on light power density. The  $K$  values increased with increment of power almost linearly for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector. However, Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector increased up to 1744 for 60 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> and then decreased to 342 for 100 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>. These changes can be attributed to fast recombination of the carriers for ZnO based photodetector due to the large number of traps at the interface.

Fig. 11a and b exhibit light power density dependent responsivity profiles of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively. While the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector has increasing responsivity profile from 5.53 mA/W to 21.7 mA/W, the Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector has decreasing profile from 755 mA/W to 355 mA/W. Furthermore, the responsivity values of the Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector are higher than the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector.

Light power density dependent specific detectivity profiles of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors have been shown in Fig. 12a and b, respectively. The detectivity values almost increased linearly for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector, but Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector exhibited fluctuations depending on light power density. These kinds of characteristics at the photodetectors can be attributed to increasing or decreasing dark current due to defect states in the interfacial layers of TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO [54]. The Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector has higher detectivity values than Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector. Its values are high enough for a kind of Schottky-type photodetector according to literature [55,56].

The Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors were compared with previous photodetectors in Table 2 in the case of photosensitivity, responsivity and detectivity performances. It can be concluded that the photodetection characteristics of both Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors are in good agreement with the literature (references shown in Table 2). These characteristics can be improved for photodetection applications or optoelectronic devices.

Figs. 13a and b show  $I$ - $V$  characteristics of Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors for various wavelengths and fixed powers at reverse biases, respectively. The variation of the photocurrent as a function of the wavelength from UV to visible is attributed to the various absorption levels at the interface of the photodetectors [66].

Wavelength dependent  $I$ - $t$  characteristics of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors were obtained to calculate photocurrent, photosensitivity, responsivity and detectivity values. Table 3 shows calculated detectors parameters for various wavelengths for Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors. Although the two detectors present different detector parameters, both the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors have highest responsivity and detectivity values at

Table 1  
The diode parameters of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

Device interlayer	Saturation Current ( $I_0$ )	$n(TE)$	$n$ Cheung	$\phi_b(TE)$ (eV)	$\phi_b$ Cheung (eV)	$\phi_b$ Norde (eV)	$R_s$ Cheung (k $\Omega$ ( $H$ ( $I$ )))	$R_s$ Cheung (k $\Omega$ ( $d \ln$ ( $I$ )))	$R_s$ Norde (k $\Omega$ )
TiO <sub>2</sub>	$4.42 \times 10^{-7}$	12.71	12.73	0.64	0.68	0.65	5.22	4.78	3.47
ZnO	$5.32 \times 10^{-8}$	4.80	4.85	0.69	0.78	0.72	3.38	2.94	6.26

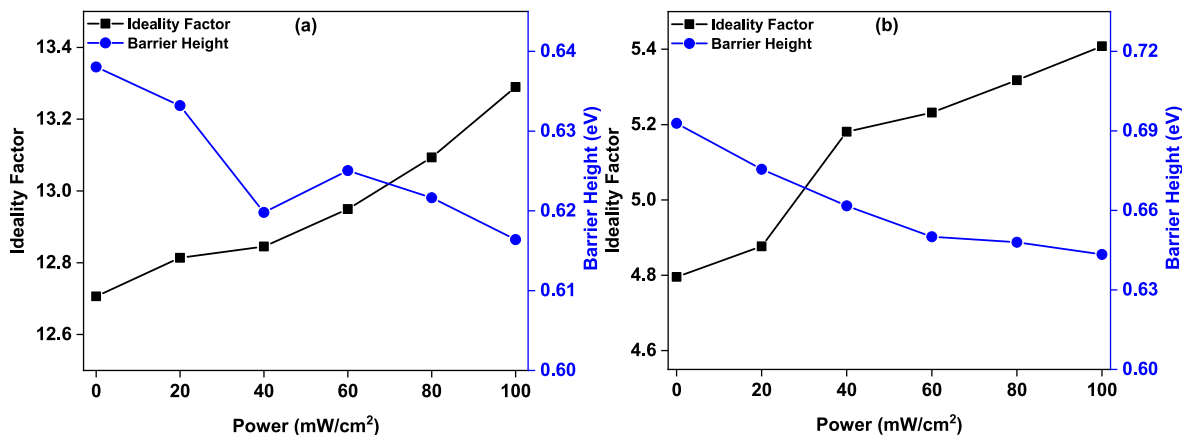


Fig. 5. Light power density dependent  $n - \phi_b$  profiles of the a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

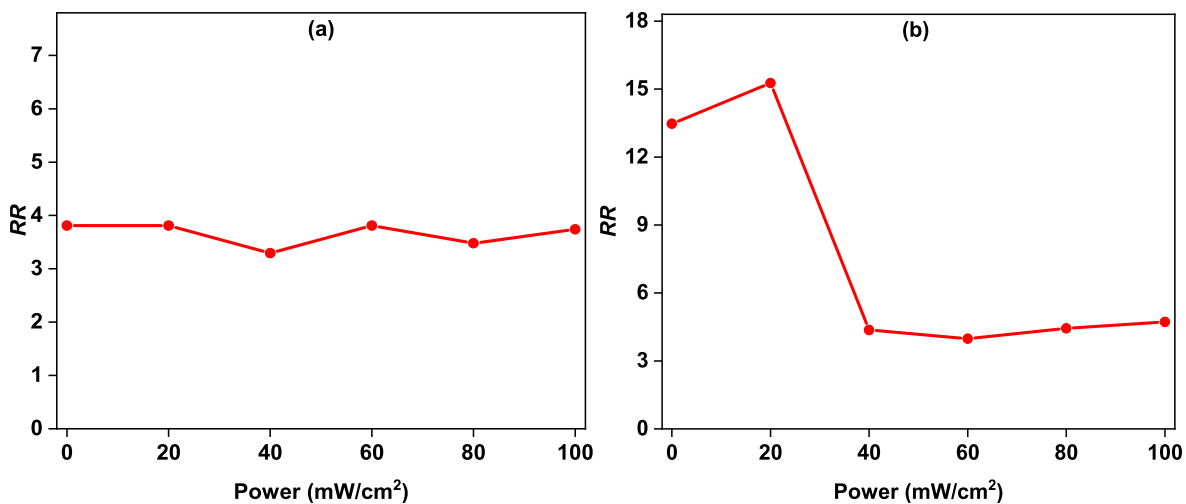


Fig. 6. RR versus light power density plots of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

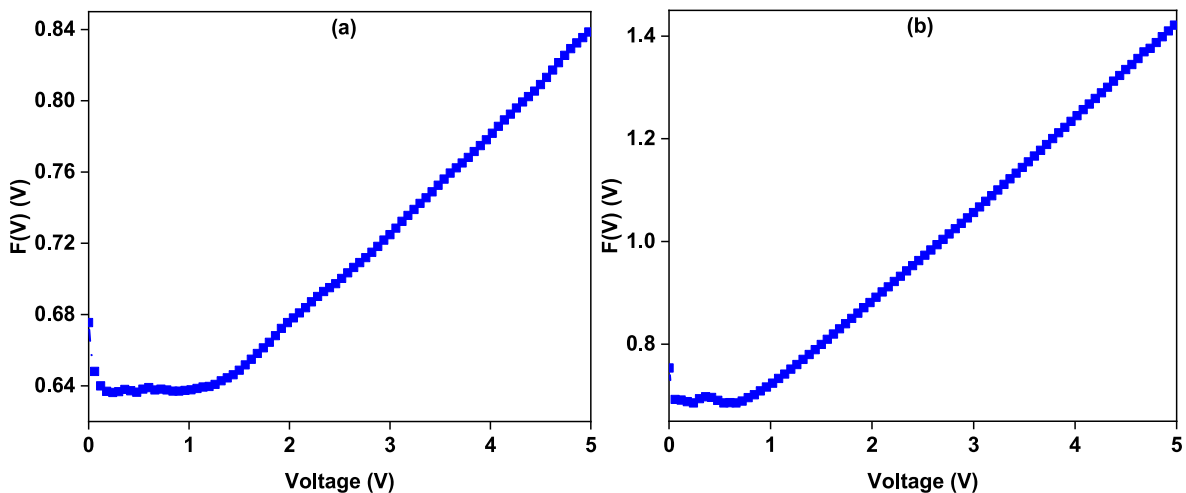


Fig. 7.  $F(V)$ - $V$  plots of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

600 nm wavelength. The Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector exhibited better detection performance than Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector.

Fig. 14a and b show EQE plots of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors, respectively for the range of 351 nm and 800 nm wavelengths from the formula of  $EQE = 1240 \times (R/\lambda) \times 100\%$ . While

the Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector reached up 173.08% maximum EQE value at 550 nm, Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector at 7.31% at 600 nm wavelengths. Both photodetectors have good response to the visible light according to EQE spectrum, and they can be used in optoelectronic applications.

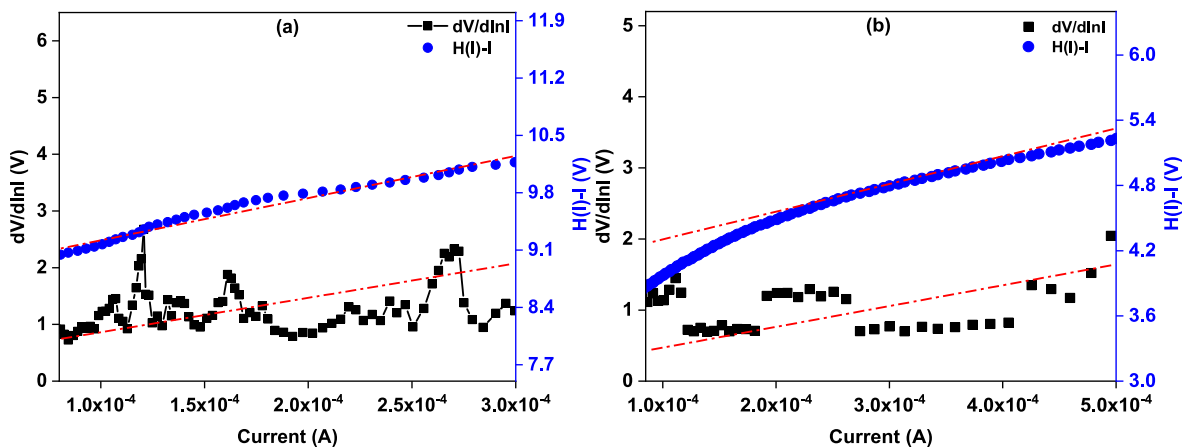


Fig. 8. Cheung plots of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

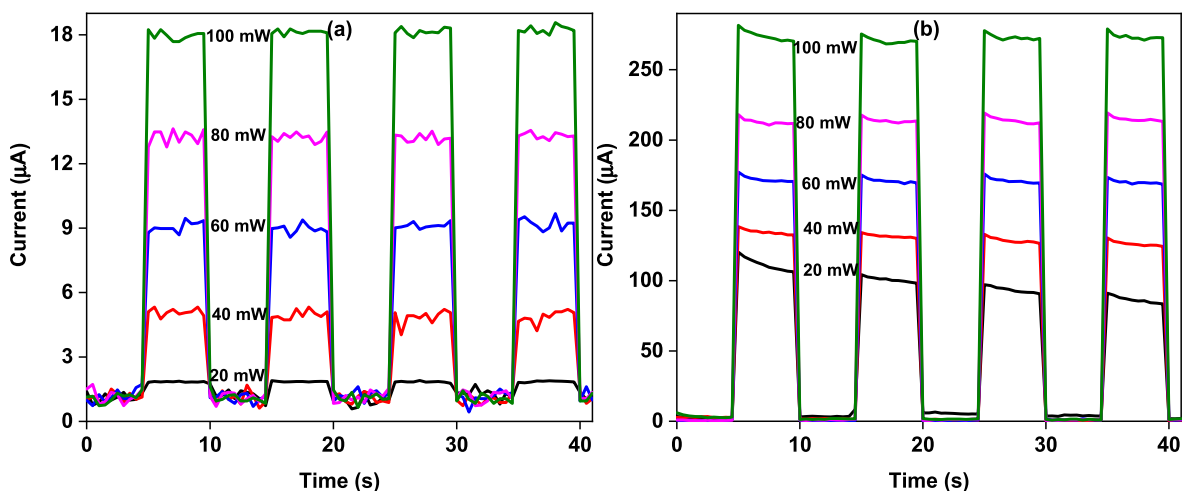


Fig. 9. *I-t* plots of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

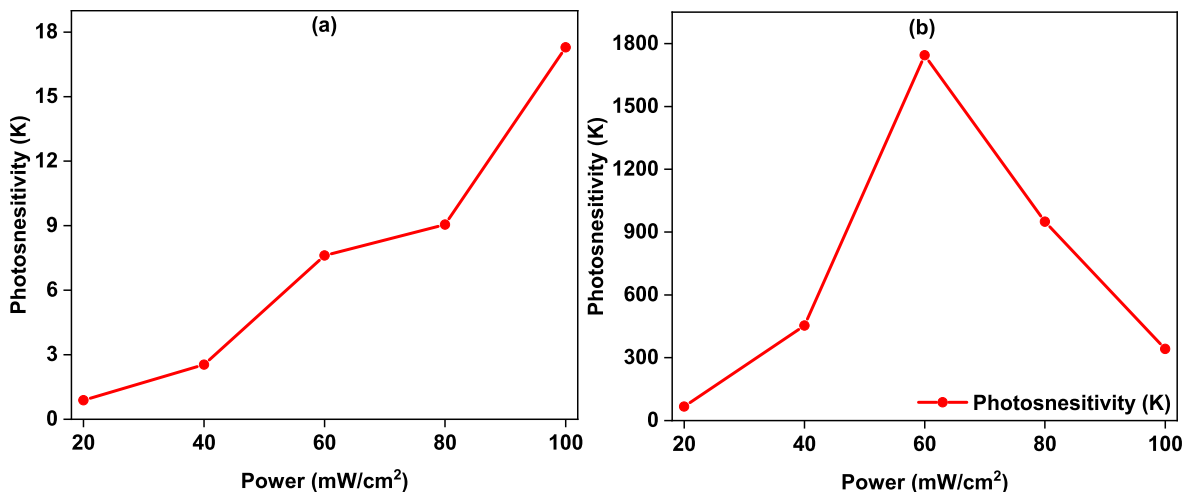


Fig. 10. Photosensitivity changes of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors for different values of light power density.

#### 4. Conclusion

TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO metal oxide interlayers were grown on p-Si by ALD technique to fabricate Schottky-type photodetectors of Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si. The fabricated photodetectors were tested by *I-V* and *I-t*

measurements for various light power densities and wavelengths. SEM and EDX analysis confirmed homogenous morphology and chemical composition of the TiO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO interlayers. The diode parameters of ideality factor, series resistance and barrier height values were determined with TE, Norde and Cheung methods. The Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/

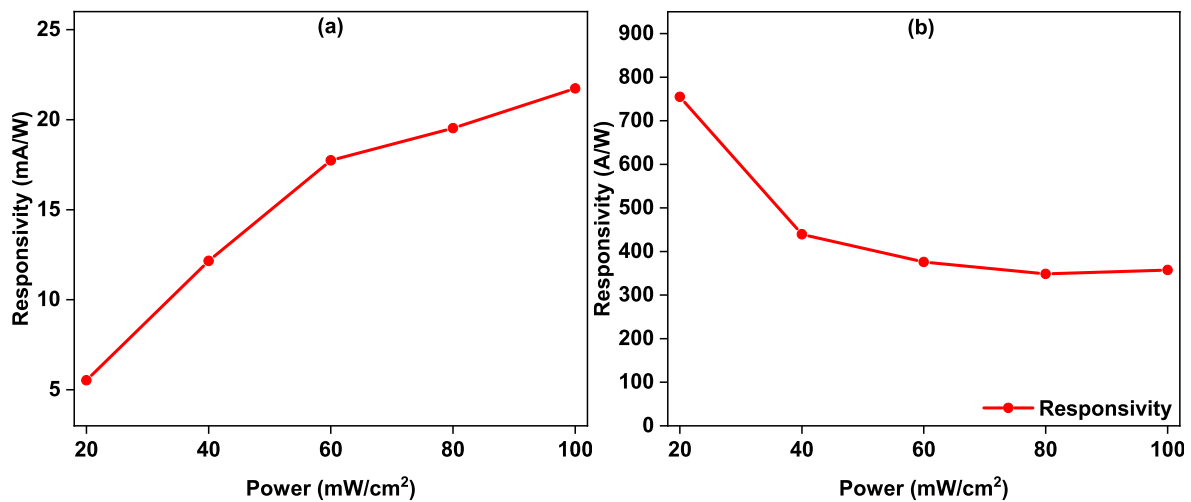


Fig. 11. Responsivity versus light power density plots of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors.

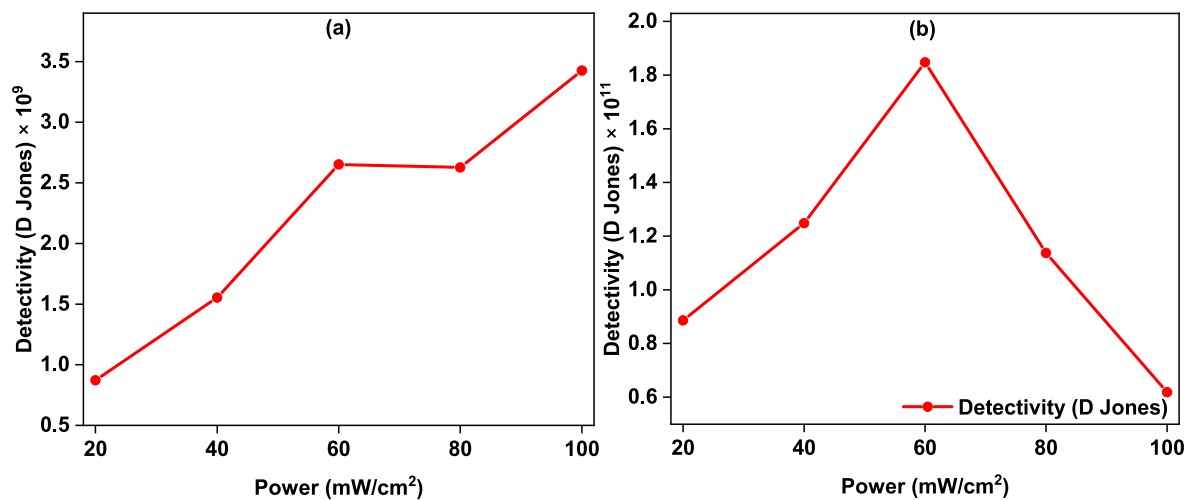


Fig. 12. Detectivity profile of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors for changing light power density.

Table 2

Comparison of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors with previous works.

Device	Device Type	Wavelength (nm)	Photosensitivity (–)	Responsivity (A/W)	Detectivity (Jones)	Reference
ZnS:Mn/p-Si	Schottky	Visible	–	$7.90 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.50 \times 10^9$	[57]
ZnS/p-Si	MSM	UV	–	$68.98 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.29 \times 10^{12}$	[58]
In doped ZnO nanorods	MSM	390	–	2.50	$1.44 \times 10^{11}$	[59]
Cu/ZnO/Cu	MSM	365	–	1.20	$5.77 \times 10^{11}$	[60]
n-ZnO/p-ZnO	p-n	376	–	12.9	$2.90 \times 10^9$	[61]
Cu/Yb@V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> /n-Si	Schottky	–	55.45	0.04	$9.97 \times 10^{10}$	[62]
Ag/TiO <sub>2</sub> /Ag	MSM	365	–	2.14	$6.01 \times 10^{12}$	[63]
Cu/TiO <sub>2</sub> /FTO	Schottky	365	–	0.90	$4.50 \times 10^{12}$	[64]
n-TiO <sub>2</sub> /p-Si	Schottky	365	–	0.10	$2.39 \times 10^9$	[65]
Al/TiO <sub>2</sub> /p-Si	Schottky	Visible	17.29	0.02	$3.43 \times 10^9$	This work
Al/ZnO/p-Si	–	–	1744	0.76	$1.85 \times 10^{11}$	–

ZnO/p-Si photodetectors have barrier height values of 0.64 eV and 0.69 eV, respectively. The photodetectors have exhibited high ideality factor values according to TE method. The photosensitivity, responsivity and detectivity values of the fabricated devices were obtained for changing light power density and wavelengths from UV to visible range of electromagnetic spectrum. While the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si photodetector have 21.7 mA/W responsivity value, the Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector have 755 mA/W responsivity. The Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetector exhibited high EQE value of 173.08%. Both photodetectors have response within the visible

spectrum. According to performance results, Al/ZnO/p-Si exhibited better photodetector performance than Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si.

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**D. Esra Yıldız:** Supervision, Writing - review & editing. **Adem Kocyyigit:** Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Murat Yıldırım:** Data curation, Methodology, Writing - review & editing.

**Table 3**

Various detection parameters of the Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors for various wavelengths.

Detector	Wavelength(nm)	Photocurrent (A)	Photosensitivity	Responsivity (A/W)	Specific detectivity (Jones)
Al/TiO <sub>2</sub> /p-Si	351	$2.70 \times 10^{-6}$	7.95	0.011	$2.98 \times 10^9$
	400	$4.05 \times 10^{-6}$	11.77	0.018	$4.92 \times 10^9$
	450	$5.06 \times 10^{-6}$	15.12	0.019	$5.13 \times 10^9$
	500	$5.56 \times 10^{-6}$	15.29	0.026	$6.81 \times 10^9$
	550	$6.22 \times 10^{-6}$	16.90	0.032	$8.19 \times 10^9$
	600	$7.22 \times 10^{-6}$	19.53	0.035	$9.12 \times 10^9$
	650	$7.48 \times 10^{-6}$	20.23	0.030	$7.67 \times 10^9$
	700	$5.47 \times 10^{-6}$	14.79	0.028	$7.18 \times 10^9$
	800	$4.55 \times 10^{-6}$	12.31	0.022	$5.74 \times 10^9$
Al/ZnO/p-Si	351	$1.17 \times 10^{-4}$	38.61	0.482	$4.33 \times 10^{10}$
	400	$1.22 \times 10^{-4}$	35.35	0.553	$4.67 \times 10^{10}$
	450	$1.31 \times 10^{-4}$	39.15	0.490	$4.20 \times 10^{10}$
	500	$1.40 \times 10^{-4}$	38.46	0.660	$5.42 \times 10^{10}$
	550	$1.51 \times 10^{-4}$	40.90	0.768	$6.27 \times 10^{10}$
	600	$1.65 \times 10^{-4}$	44.55	0.807	$6.58 \times 10^{10}$
	650	$1.69 \times 10^{-4}$	45.68	0.673	$5.48 \times 10^{10}$
	700	$1.46 \times 10^{-4}$	39.52	0.745	$6.07 \times 10^{10}$
	800	$1.38 \times 10^{-4}$	37.39	0.678	$5.52 \times 10^{10}$

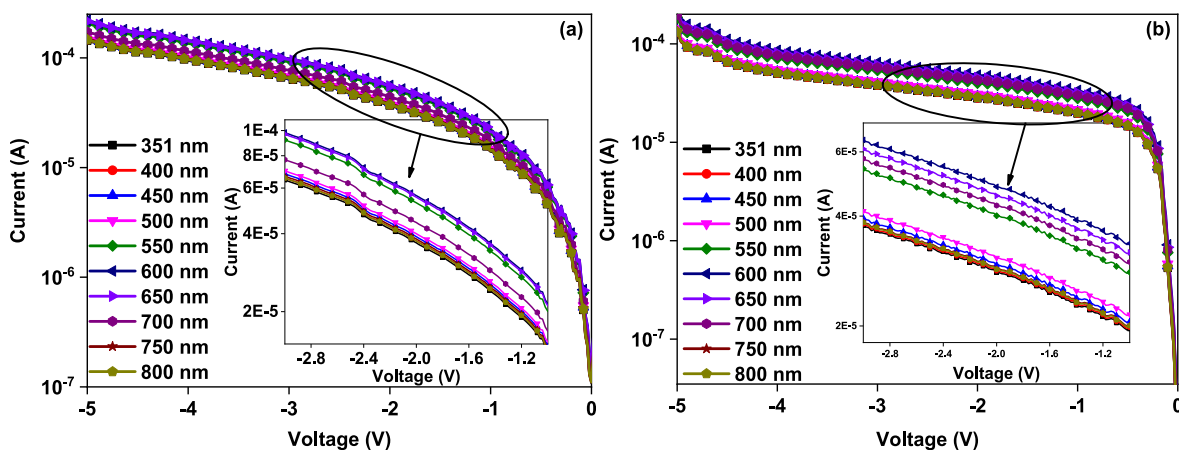


Fig. 13. I-V characteristics of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors for various wavelengths.

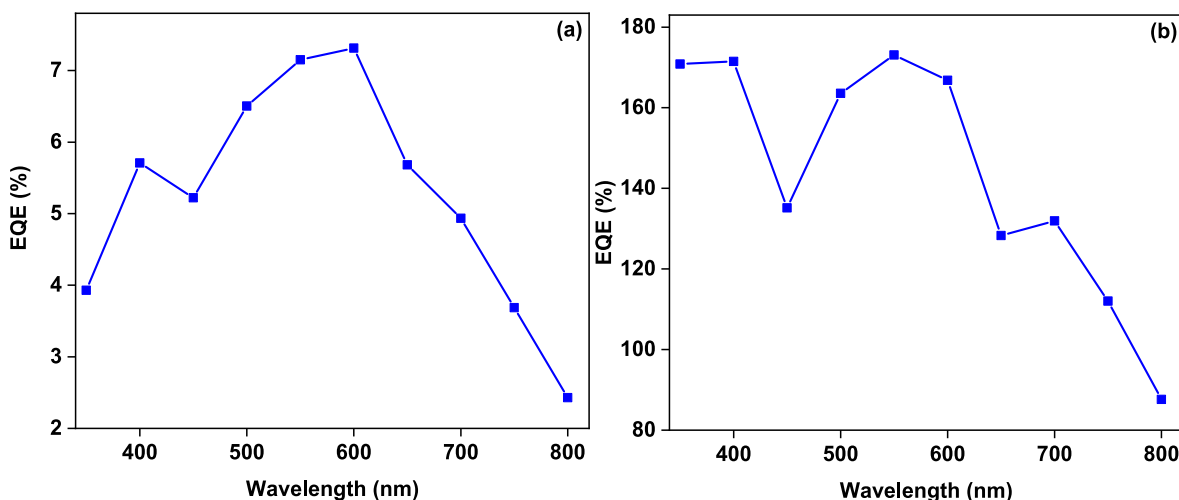


Fig. 14. EQE profiles of a) Al/TiO<sub>2</sub>/p-Si and b) Al/ZnO/p-Si photodetectors in the range of 350–800 nm.

## Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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