

Are flexible photovoltaics (PVs) beyond Silicon possible?

Recent advancements for flexible photovoltaics (PVs) beyond silicon are discussed. Flexible PV technologies (materials to module fabrication) are reviewed. The study approaches the technology pathways to flexible PVs beyond Si. For the previous few decades, the photovoltaic (PV) market was dominated by silicon-based solar cells.

What is flexible PV technology?

Flexible PV technologies require highly functional materials, compatible processes, and suitable equipment. The highlighting features of flexible PV devices are their low weight and foldability. Appropriate materials as substrates are essential to realize flexible PV devices with stable and excellent performance.

Are flexible solar cells the future of photovoltaic technology?

For the previous few decades, the photovoltaic (PV) market was dominated by silicon-based solar cells. However, it will transition to PV technology based on flexible solar cells recently because of increasing demand for devices with high flexibility, lightweight, conformability, and bendability.

What are the highlighting features of flexible PV devices?

The highlighting features of flexible PV devices are their low weight and foldability. Appropriate materials as substrates are essential to realize flexible PV devices with stable and excellent performance. The optimal fabrication method to stack layers can be selected according to the substrate type [14,15].

Are ultrathin polymers a promising substrate for foldable solar cells?

In addition, the fabrication of ultrathin polymer and paper is gradually mature. Therefore, they are believed as promising substrates for foldable solar cells. To date, ITO still maintains its predominance as transparent electrodes for high-performance flexible thin film solar cells.

Can plastic substrates be used for flexible PV devices?

Among them, plastic (polymer) substrates have been widely used for conventional flexible PV devices. Plastic substrates have many advantages, such as good optical transmittance in the visible range, low cost, lightweight, and a simple design. Recently, many studies have focused on the use of plastic materials for flexible circuits [19,20].

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