ANALYSIS OF SILICON SOLAR CELL PARAMETER USING PC1D SIMULATION

NUR FATIHAH BINTI ABDUL RAZAK

Final Year Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Physics In the Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi MARA

JULY 2025

This Final Year Project Report entitled "Analysis of Silicon Solar Cell Parameter using PC1D Simulation" was submitted by Nur Fatihah binti Abdul Razak in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Physics, in the Faculty of Applied Sciences, and was approved by

Pn Siti Hajar Hohmad Salleh Supervisor B. Sc. (Hons.) Physics Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi Mara 02600 Arau Perlis

Dr. Siti Zulaikha Mohd Yusof Project Coordinator B. Sc. (Hons.) Physics Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi Mara 02600 Arau Perlis Dr. Rosyaim Afindi Zaman Programme Coordinator B. Sc. (Hons.) Physics Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi Mara 02600 Arau Perlis

Date: 25 JULY 2025

ABSTRACT

ANALYSIS OF SILICON SOLAR CELL PARAMETER USING PC1D SIMULATION

The increasing demand for renewable energy and the environmental impact of fossil fuels have led to growing interest in improving silicon solar cell efficiency, which is often limited by structural and material parameters. The effect of several parameters which are absorber layer thickness, emitter doping, anti-reflective coating (Si₃N₄) and back surface field (BSF) concentration were investigated. A simulation-based method using PC1D software was employed, allowing detailed modelling of one-dimensional solar cell structures under controlled variations of each parameter while keeping others constant. By simulating this parameter in PC1D simulation, this study aims to understand their impact on performance metrics such as short circuit current (I_{SC}), open circuit voltage (V_{OC}), maximum power (P_{max}), fill factor (FF) and efficiency (η). The results showed that the highest efficiency of 23.06% was achieved with a 74.257nm Si₃N₄ anti-reflective coating. Additionally, a 200µm absorber layer yielded 22.63% efficiency, while 2×10¹⁶ cm⁻³ emitter doping and 3×10¹⁷ cm⁻³ back surface field concentration produced 22.61% and 22.59% efficiency, respectively. These findings confirm that precise optimization of physical and doping parameters can significantly improve solar cell performance, supporting both theoretical expectations and previous literature. The simulation also highlights the effectiveness of PC1D as a low-cost, time-efficient tool for photovoltaic research, providing results that closely align with real-world behavior. Overall, this study provides valuable design insights for enhancing the efficiency of silicon-based solar cells and contributes to the advancement of sustainable and high-performance photovoltaic technologies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ABSTRACT ABSTRAK TABLE OF CONTENT LIST OF TABLES LIST OF FIGURES LIST OF SYMBOLS LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		Page iii iv v vi viii ix xi
СНА	PTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Research background	1
1.2	Problem statement	3
1.3	Research questions	4
1.4	Objectives	5
1.5	Significance of study	6
1.6	Expected outcomes	6
СНА	PTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.0	Introduction	8
2.1	Solar cells	9
2.2	Working principle of silicon solar cells	10
2.3	Parameter of solar cells	12
2.4	Photovoltaic effect	14
2.5	The effect of different parameter on silicon solar cells	
	2.5.1 The thickness absorber layer and emitter doping	16
	2.5.2 Anti-reflection coating	17
	2.5.3 Back surface field concentration	18
2.6	PC1D simulation	19
СНА	PTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1	Introduction	20
3.2	PC1D software	20
3.3	Basic parameter of silicon solar cells	22
3.4	Flow chart of the process	26

4.1	Introduction	29	
4.2	Influence of thickness at absorber layer (P-type) on silicon solar cells	29	
4.3	Influence of emitter doping (N-type) on silicon solar cells	33	
4.4	Influence of anti-reflective coating (ARC) on silicon solar cells	36	
4.5	Influence of back surface field (BSF) concentration on silicon solar cells	39	
CHAPT	TER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION		
5.1	Conclusion	42	
5.2	Recommendation	43	
		45	
CITED REFERENCES APPENDICES			
			CURRI