

# Photovoltaic effect defined

What is photovoltaic effect?

The photovoltaic effect is the generation of voltage and electric current in a material upon exposure to light. It is a physical phenomenon. The photovoltaic effect is closely related to the photoelectric effect. For both phenomena, light is absorbed, causing excitation of an electron or other charge carrier to a higher-energy state.

What is the difference between photoelectric effect and photovoltaic effect?

The main distinction is that the term photoelectric effect is now usually used when the electron is ejected out of the material (usually into a vacuum) and photovoltaic effect used when the excited charge carrier is still contained within the material.

Where does the photovoltaic effect occur?

The photovoltaic effect occurs in solar cells. These solar cells are composed of two different types of semiconductors - a p-type and an n-type - that are joined together to create a p-n junction. To read the background on what these semiconductors are and what the junction is, [click here](#).

What is a photovoltaic current used for?

This current can be used to measure the brightness of the incident light or as a source of power in an electrical circuit, as in a solar power system (see solar cell). The photovoltaic effect in a solar cell can be illustrated with an analogy to a child at a slide.

How do photovoltaic panels work?

This effect is mainly activated by sunlight, although it can be triggered by natural or artificial light sources. However, in practice, the vast majority of photovoltaic panels use exclusively sunlight as an energy source.

Does photovoltaic effect produce a direct current?

The motion of the electron, like that of the child, is in one direction, as can be seen from the figure. In short, the photovoltaic effect produces a direct current (DC)--one that flows constantly in only a single direction. See also photoelectric effect. This article was most recently revised and updated by William L. Hosch.

Photovoltaic cells convert sunlight into electricity. A photovoltaic (PV) cell, commonly called a solar cell, is a nonmechanical device that converts sunlight directly into electricity. Some PV cells can convert artificial light into electricity. Sunlight is composed of photons, or particles of solar energy. These photons contain varying amounts of energy that correspond to the different ...

4.1 Photovoltaic effect. The word "photovoltaic" immediately indicates the connection between light (phot- greek) and electricity (volt, unit for electric potential). The key property of a photovoltaic material is to convert light energy to electric current. ... This required amount of energy to excite an electron is defined as band gap. Band ...

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Photovoltaic effect definition: the phenomenon in which the incidence of light or other electromagnetic radiation upon the junction of two dissimilar materials, as a metal and a semiconductor, induces the generation of an electromotive force.. See examples of PHOTOVOLTAIC EFFECT used in a sentence.

The photovoltaic effect is both a chemical and physical phenomenon discovered in 1839 by Edmond Becquerel in which electricity is produced when light strikes a special type of semiconducting material and excites an electron into a higher-energy state. In other words, when sunlight strikes a solar panel it causes the electrons within the ...

3.2.5 Photovoltaic Effect. As explained in Sect. 3.2.4, the electron-hole pairs in the depletion region due to the absorption of photon (solar radiation) are driven by the internal electric fields producing a photocurrent ( $I_L$ ). The direction of the photocurrent is in a direction opposite to the forward dark current as shown in Fig. 3.3b.

Key learnings: Solar Cell Definition: A solar cell (also known as a photovoltaic cell) is an electrical device that transforms light energy directly into electrical energy using the photovoltaic effect.; Working Principle: The working of solar cells involves light photons creating electron-hole pairs at the p-n junction, generating a voltage capable of driving a current across ...

Electrons; The photovoltaic effect, very similar in nature to the photoelectric effect, is the physical phenomenon responsible for the creation of an electrical potential difference (voltage) in a material when exposed to light. The photovoltaic effect in semiconductors permits the usage of solar cells as current-generating devices. While the photoelectric effect involves light photons ...

Photovoltaics (often shortened as PV) gets its name from the process of converting light (photons) to electricity (voltage), which is called the photovoltaic effect. This phenomenon was first exploited in 1954 by scientists at Bell Laboratories who created a working solar cell made from silicon that generated an electric current when exposed to sunlight.

Define photovoltaic effect. photovoltaic effect synonyms, photovoltaic effect pronunciation, photovoltaic effect translation, English dictionary definition of photovoltaic effect. n the effect observed when electromagnetic radiation, esp visible light from the sun, falls on a thin film of one solid deposited on the surface of a...

The photovoltaic effect is a complicated process, but these three steps are the basic way that energy from the sun is converted into usable electricity by solar cells in solar panels. A PV cell is made of materials that can absorb photons from the sun and create an electron flow. When electrons are excited by photons, they produce a flow of ...

Voltage is generated in a solar cell by a process known as the "photovoltaic effect". The collection of light-generated carriers by the p-n junction causes a movement of electrons to the n-type side and holes to

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the p-type side of the junction. Under short circuit conditions, there is no build up of charge, as the carriers exit the device as ...

The photovoltaic effect is a process that generates voltage or electric current in a photovoltaic cell when it is exposed to sunlight. These solar cells are composed of two different types of semiconductors--a p-type and an n-type--that are joined together to create a p-n junction. Joining these two types of semiconductors, an electric field is formed in the region of the ...

photoelectric effect, phenomenon in which electrically charged particles are released from or within a material when it absorbs electromagnetic radiation. The effect is often defined as the ejection of electrons from a metal plate when light falls on it. In a broader definition, the radiant energy may be infrared, visible, or ultraviolet light, X-rays, or gamma rays; the ...

The photovoltaic effect is the process by which sunlight is converted into electricity. This phenomenon was first observed in 1839 by French physicist Edmond. ... Photovoltaic Effect - Definition & Detailed Explanation - Solar Energy Glossary Terms. April 7, 2024 by admin-cleanenergybusinesscouncil. Table of Contents

The photovoltaic effect was experimentally demonstrated first by French physicist Edmond Becquerel. In 1839, at age 19, he built the world's first photovoltaic cell in his father's laboratory. ... The power conversion efficiency of a solar cell is a parameter which is defined by the fraction of incident power converted into electricity. [56]

The photovoltaic effect can be defined as being the appearance of a potential difference (voltage) between two layers of a semiconductor slice in which the conductivities are opposite, or between a semiconductor and a metal, under the effect of a light stream. From: Smart Textiles and their Applications, 2016

A photovoltaic cell is an electronic component that converts solar energy into electrical energy. This conversion is called the photovoltaic effect, which was discovered in 1839 by French physicist Edmond Becquerel. It was not until the 1960s that photovoltaic cells found their first practical application in satellite technology. Solar panels, which are made up of PV ...

1839: Photovoltaic Effect Discovered: Becquerel's initial discovery is serendipitous; he is only 19 years old when he observes the photovoltaic effect. 1883: First Solar Cell: Fritts' solar cell, made of selenium and gold, boasts an efficiency of only 1-2%, yet it marks the birth of practical solar technology. 1905: Einstein's Photoelectric Effect: Einstein's explanation of the ...

The photovoltaic effect was discovered in 1839 by the French physicist, Alexandre Edmond Becquerel. While experimenting with metal electrodes and electrolyte, he discovered that conductance increases with illumination. ... The efficiency of a solar cell is defined as the ratio of the photovoltaic-generated electric output of the cell to the ...

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Energy resources and their utilisation. S.C. Bhatia, in Advanced Renewable Energy Systems, 2014 1.15.7 Photovoltaics. Photovoltaics (PV) is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity using semiconductors that exhibit the photovoltaic effect. Photovoltaic power generation employs solar panels composed of a ...

The photovoltaic effect can be defined as the potential difference generated or the electric current generated in a material when it is exposed to sunlight. 3.1.5 Photovoltaic Cell Materials In the year 1939 Russell Ohl built the first photovoltaic device by using a Si p - n junction diode.

Photovoltaic Effect: Photovoltaic effect is the process in which two dissimilar materials in close contact produce an electrical voltage when struck by light. Electron Emission. Photoelectric Effect: Electrons are emitted in photoelectric effect. Photovoltaic Effect: Electrons are not emitted in photovoltaic effect. Electric Current

The photovoltaic effect is defined as the process of converting light energy into electricity in solar cells by exciting electron-hole pairs using incident photons and separating them under a built-in electric field. AI generated definition based on: Materials Today, 2023.

The photovoltaic effect is a fundamental phenomenon in the conversion of solar energy into electricity is characterized by the generation of an electric current when two different materials are in contact and exposed to light or electromagnetic radiation.. This effect is mainly activated by sunlight, although it can be triggered by natural or artificial light sources.

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