

# Principle of wet etching of photovoltaic cells

What is etching process in solar cell processing?

Etching is a process which removes material from a solid (e.g., semiconductor or metal). The etching process can be physical and/or chemical, wet or dry, and isotropic or anisotropic. All these etch process variations can be used during solar cell processing.

Why is wet processing used in Si solar cell fabrication?

Wet processing can be a very high performing and cost-effective manufacturing process. It is therefore extensively used in Si solar cell fabrication for saw damage removal, surface texturing, cleaning, etching of parasitic junctions.

What is wet etching used for?

Wet etching can be used to remove residual saw damage, to texture, to polish, to clean material and/or to reveal defects in the wafers. There are three major wet etching types, see Fig. 3:

What is the etching process?

Each etching process consisted of two steps: (1) first etching carried out using a nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ) and hydrofluoric acid (HF) mixture and potassium hydroxide (KOH), (2) second etching carried out using phosphoric acid ( $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ) and a  $\text{HNO}_3$  and HF mixture.

What is reactive ion etching?

Reactive ion etching is used to edge isolate. During wet etching processes, the solid is immersed in a chemical solution (which can be either acidic or alkaline) and material is removed by dissolution. Wet etching can be used to remove residual saw damage, to texture, to polish, to clean material and/or to reveal defects in the wafers.

What is the difference between wet and dry etching?

Dry etching is predominantly anisotropic. Reactive ion etching is used to edge isolate. During wet etching processes, the solid is immersed in a chemical solution (which can be either acidic or alkaline) and material is removed by dissolution.

**ABSTRACT** Si etch processes are vital steps in Si solar cell manufacturing. They are used for saw damage removal, surface texturing and parasitic junction removal.

Nanostructured solar cells with high efficiency and low cost are being considered to meet the urgent need for third-generation solar cell applications. Recent studies have shown that silicon nanowires (SNWs) that are prepared by the vapor-liquid-solid (bottom up) and wet chemical etching approaches (top down) can be employed to enhance the

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The 5 wt% of IPA play an important role in stabilizing the rate of texturing solution as well as reduces the formation of clinging hydrogen bubble sticking on the surface during the etching process on the Si surface, which is highly useful to form uniformly random pyramids during the wet chemical etching process [40]. The tailored concentration of IPA in ...

**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 ...

In this 2 paper, we describe a bromine-based wet-etch isolation technique. First, we show that bromine-methanol solution causes the appearance of unwanted holes in the III-V structure ...

The etching of III-V alloys in GaInP/GaAs/GaInNAsSb solar cell structures by aqueous solutions containing HIO<sub>3</sub> and HCl was studied, with the focus being on the effects of temperature, agitation, etchant composition, and illumination on the etching. Depending on the etching conditions, sidewall morphologies varied from very smooth, round, and isotropic to ...

This will be beneficial for developing the Si solar cell industry. Wet etching is the mainstream method for texturing the surface morphology of Si mentioned above, but it is facing tricky problems, such as environmental ...

Abstract of an effective manufacturing process. It is therefore extensively used in Si solar cell fabrication for saw damage removal, surface texturing, cleaning, etching of paras

Isolation of III-V/Ge Multijunction Solar Cells by Wet Etching A.Turala, 1,2 A.Jaouad, 1,2 D.P.Masson, 3 S.Fafard, 3 R.Ar&#232;s, 1,2 and V.Aimez 1,2 Institut Interdisciplinaire d'Innovation Technologique (IT), Universit &#180;de Sherbrooke, Boulevard Universit &#180;e, Sherbrooke, ... solar cell structure, which suggests that the complex nature of III-V/Ge ...

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