

Energy Band Gap Studies of CdS-Se Semiconducting Thin Film

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ABSTRACT

Spectroscopic techniques are very useful for characterizing the semi-conducting materials. We demonstrate here how out of the three methods for computing energy gap, the method based on reflection studies is better suited than the other two methods which are based on absorption and transmission

INTRODUCTION

Study on semiconducting films required the knowledge of energy band gap of the semi conducting film. We have to search for a technique which is fast and accurate Spectroscopic techniques are the best ones. Traditionally, the transmission and reflection spectra of the film were measured by using spectrophotometer and absorbance was then computed. We have found that only reflection spectra can be used to estimate energy band gap. The three techniques for estimating energy band gap of CdS-Se composite film are, presented as under:

THEORY

For direct band gap materials the well known relation for computing energy gap by absorption coefficient is [4, 5, 10, 13]

$$\alpha = A(h\nu) - E_g)^{1/2} \quad [1]$$

where α is absorption coefficient and $h\nu$ is the incident photon energy.

α can be estimated by various ways such as

- Directly by spectrophotometer for various photon energy levels [9]
- Estimation by observing transmission and reflection spectra of the given material using the relation $\alpha = [1 + (R + T)]$ where T and R are transmission and reflection coefficients. [4, 5, 10]
- We may also estimate absorption [7] as proportional to $\ln(I - I_1)$.

Where I_1 is intensity of reflected light from the upper surface of the film only and I is the intensity of reflected light due to complete film; we have used these three methods to estimate energy band gap of the given material.[10,13]

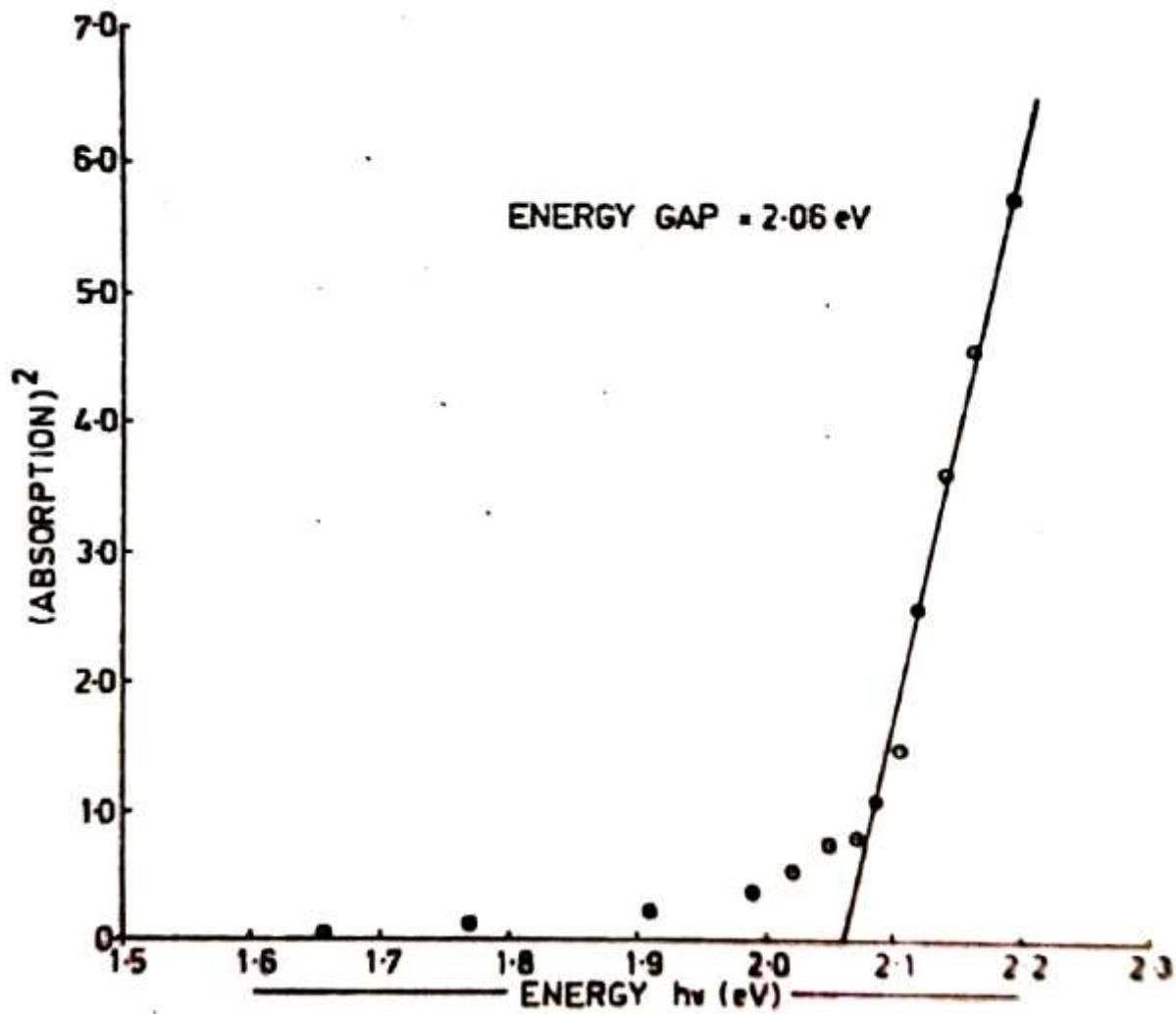


Fig 1 : Variation of α^2 Vs $h\nu$ for CdS-Se Film [4, 5, 10]

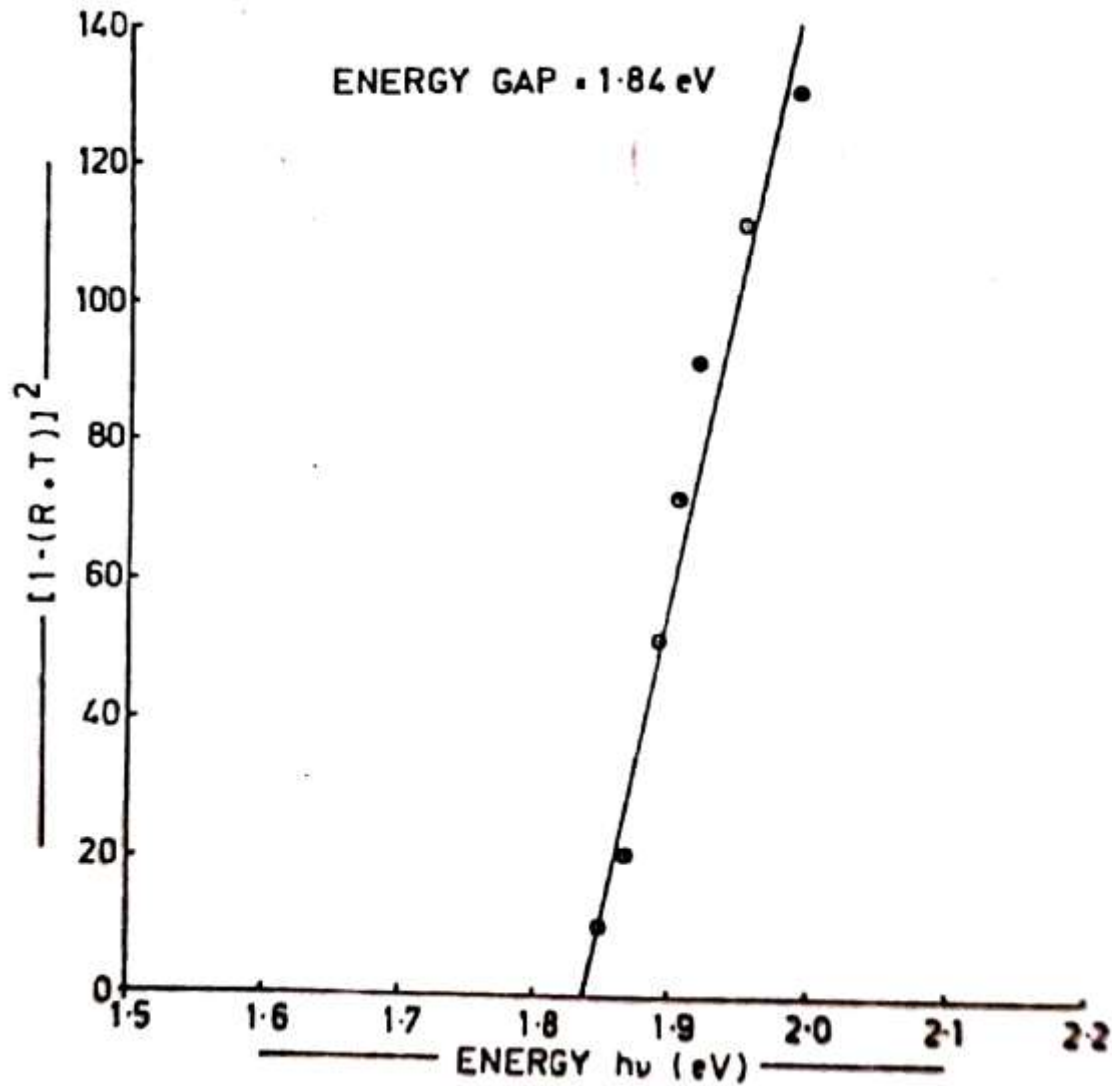


Fig. 2 : Variatin of $[1 - (R - T)]^2$ Vs $h\nu$ for CdS- Se Film [10, 13]

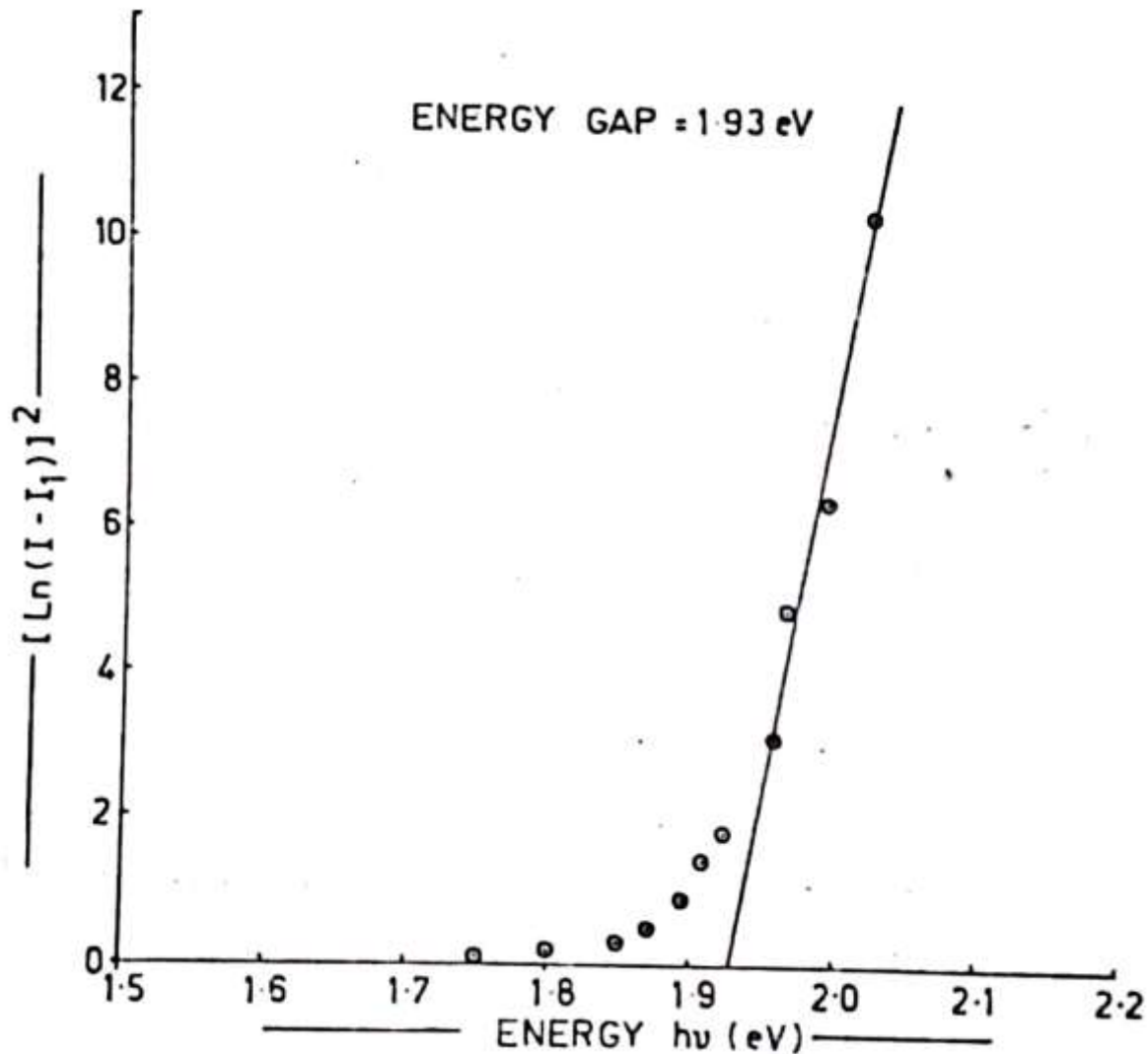


Fig. 3 : Variation of $[\ln(I - I_1)]^2$ Vs $h\nu$ for CdS-Se Film [4, 5, 10]

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

To demonstrate these methods, we have prepared thin film of CdS-Se by discrete evaporation method under vacuum of the order of 10^{-5} torr on glass substrate. The optical properties were measured by Hitach U-3400 spectrophotometer. The absorption coefficient was recorded at normal incidence and reflectance [R] measured at 5 specular reflection. [2, 10, 12]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig [1] shows the plot of α [6, 12] versus $h\nu$. The intercept of α^2 versus $h\nu$ curve extrapolated to $\alpha^2=0$ was taken as the value of the direct band gap. Fig [2] shows the band gap of the film calculated from the absorption [obtained by subtraction of (R+T) from 1] by plotting a graph between $[1-(R+T)]^2$ vs $h\nu$ Fig [3] shows the plot between $[\ln(I-I_1)]^2$ vs $h\nu$, to calculate the band gap of the film material by reflection spectra.

Here I is the intensity in the region where reflectivity falls from higher to lower value and I_1 the intensity due to upper layer [the minimum intensity after fall in reflectivity]. The band gaps of the CdS–Se film by these three graphs come out to 2.06 1.84 and 1.93 eV respectively. In the first method effect of reflection is ignored whereas in second method, reflection due to reference is ignored therefore none of these method are accurate. In the third method we have not ignored any such important factors. [4, 5, 10, 13]

CONCLUSIONS

We conclude that among these three methods the third method is a better one.

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