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"DELIBERATE MODIFICATION OF THE BEHAVIOR

OF N-TYPE CADMIUM TELLURIDE/ELECTROLYTE INTERFACES BY

SURFACE ETCHING: REMOVAL OF FERMI LEVEL PINNING"

by

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Deliberate Modification of the Behavior of N-Type Cadmum Telluride/Electrolyte Interfaces by Surface Etching: Removal of Fermi Level Pinning ۷

Shinichi Tanaka, 1 James A. Bruce, and Mark S. Wrighton*

Department of Chemistry Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

-suh <u>Abstract</u>: Single crystal, n-type CdTe (E_q^{λ} = 1.4 eV) has been studied with respect to barrier height, E'_B , when contacting a liquid electrolyte solution containing a fast, one-efectron, outer-sphere redox reagent. We approximate E_{R} as equal to the photovoltage measured by cyclic voltammetry of various redox couples at illuminated n-CdTe vs. a reversible electrode. \mathcal{A} (**۱**, γ N-CdTe surfaces pretreated with an oxidizing etch give an E_B of $0.5 V \pm 0.1 V^{+}$ in $H_20/0.1 \text{ M} \text{ NaClO}_A$ or $CH_3CN/0.1 \text{ M} [\underline{n}-Bu_AN]ClO_A$ that is independent of the ${f f}_{{f Q}}$ of the added redox couple. A reducing etch pretreatment gives an ${f E}_{R}$ in either of the electrolyte solutions that depends on E_{Δ} of the redox couple in a manner consistent with a nearly ideal semiconductor. The reduced CdTe exhibits an $E_{\rm R}$ of up to 0.9 V for a redox couple having $E_{\rm L}$ near 0.0V vs. SCE, whereas couples having E negative of \mathcal{G} -1.0 V vs. SCE give zero photovoltage. Auger and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy of the reduced and oxidized surfaces are qualitatively different. The reduced surface exhibits signals for Cd and Te in relative intensities that are consistent with a close to stoichiometric (1/1) surface. The oxidized surface exhibits little or no detectable Cd signal and the Te signal is consistent with a thick overlayer of elemental Te. The data are consistent with the conclusion that the CdTe/Te interface is Fermi level pinned (Ep independent of contacting medium); the semimetallic Te overlayer behaves as a metal contacting CdTe and the CdTe/Te interface energetics are therefore not influenced by changes in the contacting medium.

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Results from this laboratory were recently reported² showing that n-type CdTe photoanodes give an open-circuit photovoltage, E_{γ} , of -0.5 V independent of the electrochemical potential, E_{redox} , of the contacting electrolyte solution. Certain aspects of the results were independently reported.³ A nearly constant barrier height, E_{B} , has been found⁴ for n-CdTe contacted by metals having different work functions, :. The value of E_{γ} is generally close to E_{B} at high illumination intensity. The finding of a constant E_{B} for n-CdTe, independent of E_{redox} or 4, leads to the conclusion that n-CdTe is Fermi level pinned.^{2,5}

We take the term "Fermi level pinned" to refer to a semiconductor that is measured to have a constant E_B , independent of the contacting medium for a wide range of E_{redox} or ϕ . The origin of a constant E_B can be attributed to surface states situated between the top of the valence band, E_{VB} , and the bottom of the conduction band, E_{CB} . The density and distribution of surface states can control the value of E_B as a function of E_{redox} or ϕ .^{5,6} When the region between E_{CB} and E_{VB} is free of surface states, E_B of an n-type semiconductor is expected to vary with E_{redox} according to equation (1)⁷ for E_{redox} situated between E_{VB} and E_{CB} where

$$E_{V} \approx E_{B} = |E_{redox} - E_{FB}|$$
(1)

 E_{FB} is the electrochemical potential of the semiconductor, E_{f} , when there is no band bending. When $E_{f} = E_{FB}$ there is no accumulation or depletion of the majority charge carrier at the surface and $E_{B} = 0$. But even for surface-state-free semiconductors, equation (1) may not apply for all E_{redox} between E_{CB} and E_{VB} . It is possible that for E_{redox} sufficiently close to E_{VB} for an n-type semiconductor that the charge carrier distribution at the surface can be "inverted" giving more holes than electrons in the surface region. This results in a situation like that for a semiconductor

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having surface states: additional positive movement of E_{redox} will not cause variation in E_B , rather additional potential drop across the interface will occur in the Helmholtz double layer in the electrolyte solution.^{8,9}

For n-CdTe the origin of the constant E_B is most consistent with surface states rather than carrier inversion, since the range of E_{redox} where E_B is constant includes redox couples with E_{L_2} as negative as -2.0 V vs. SCE where carrier inversion would be very unlikely.² We use measured E_V values to approximate the formal potential of redox couples used in this study. When surface states are invoked it should be possible to manipulate the surface properties by surface chemical treatments.^{5,10,11} Such treatments could include oxide formation, reversible adsorption of chemical species, covalent attachment of reagents, and other surface chemistry. We show in this paper that we can alter the behavior of n-CdTe from the Fermi level pinned situation to one where nearly ideal behavior, equation (1), is found by using a different surface pretreatment than used in the earlier studies of n-CdTe.

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Experimental Section

<u>CdTe and Electrode Fabrication.</u> Oriented single crystals of n-CdTe, (111) plane exposed, 0.2 - 30 Ω cm, were obtained from Cleveland Crystals, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. The crystals were polished first with 20 μ m alumina and then with 10 μ m alumina on a polishing glass. The crystals were finished with 0.3 μ m alumina on a polishing cloth (Politex Supreme PS, Gros Corp., Stamford, CT), fixed onto the glass. Ohmic contact was made to the CdTe by rubbing Ga-In eutectic onto the back of the crystal. A Cu wire was attached using conducting Ag epoxy. The Cu wire was encased in a 4 mm Pyrex tube and all surfaces but the exposed front surface of CdTe were sealed with ordinary epoxy. The exposed surface of the CdTe was the (111) face. Just prior to use all electrodes were etched and cleaned as described below.

Etching Procedures. Two different types of etchants were used, oxidizing and reducing. An oxidizing etch was one of the following: (i) 4 g $K_2Cr_2O_7$, 10 ml concentrated HNO₃, and 20 ml H₂O;¹² (ii) 1/1/1 by volume saturated solution of $K_2Cr_2O_7$, concentrated HCl, and concentrated HNO₃;¹³ (iii) 3/2/1 by volume solution of 48% HF, 30% H₂O₂, and H₂O and then briefly rinsed with concentrated HCl;¹⁴ (iv) 3/2/1/0.01 by volume of concentrated HNO₃, concentrated H₂SO₄, glacial aceiic acid, and concentrated HCl; (v) 2/1/1 by volume solution of 48% HF, concentrated HNO₃, and glacial acetic acid.¹⁵ For an oxidizing etch the CdTe electrode was immersed in the etchant for 30 s at 25°C. After etching the electrode was rinsed liberally with distilled H₂O.

For a reducing etch the electrode was first etched with oxidizing etchant (i) above for 30 s, rinsed with distilled H_20 and then immersed into a boiling solution of 2.5 <u>M</u> NaOH and 0.6 <u>M</u> $Na_2S_20_4$ for 3 min. The electrode was then rinsed liberally with distilled H_20 .

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<u>Chemicals.</u> Spectrograde CH_3CN was freshly distilled from P_2O_5 prior to use. [<u>n</u>-Bu₄N]ClO₄ from Southwestern Analytical Chemicals was vacuum dried at 70°C for 24 h prior to use, and NaClO₄ was obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Triply distilled H_2O was used for solvent in aqueous electrolyte systems.

Redox reagents were generally obtained from commercial sources; TMPD was purified by sublimation; K_4 Fe(CN)₆, $[Ru(NH_3)_6]Cl_3$, $Fe(n^5-C_5H_5)_2$, EuCl₃, and 9,10-anthraquinone-2-SO₃⁻ were used as received. Other redox couples are those used and purified in this laboratory previously.^{2,16} Abbreviations for redox couples are $MV^{2+} \equiv N, N'$ -dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium; $TQ^{2+} \equiv N,N'-trimethylene-2,2'-bipyridinium; TMPD \equiv N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-$ <u>p</u>-phenylenediamine; and AQ = 9,10-anthraquinone-2-SO₃. The $E_{\frac{1}{2}}$ values are from cyclic voltammograms at Pt or Hg electrodes. The ${\rm E}_{\rm L}$ value was taken to be the average position of the anodic and cathodic peaks. Electrochemical Equipment and General Procedures. Electrolyte solutions were generally $H_2O/0.1 \text{ M} \text{ NaClO}_4$ or $CH_3CN/0.1 \text{ M} [\underline{n}-Bu_4N]ClO_4$. The non-aqueous electrolyte solution was passed through anhydrous neutral Al₂O₃ just prior to use to insure dryness. In the case of $[Ru(NH_3)_6]Cl_3$ the supporting electrolyte was 0.1 \underline{M} KCl because $Ru(NH_3)_6^{3+}$ is not sufficiently soluble in 0.1 <u>M</u> NaClO_A. AQ in aqueous solution was studied in H_2O buffered to pH = 8.6 using borax/HC1. All electrochemistry was carried out under a positive pressure of pure Ar.

Cyclic voltammograms were obtained using a PAR model 173 potentiostat driven by a PAR model 175 programmer. Data were recorded on a Houston Instruments X-Y recorder. The electrochemical cell was a single compartment cell consisting of a working electrode of n-CdTe, Pt, or Hg, a Pt counterelectrode, and a reference electrode. For aqueous electrolytes the saturated calomel reference electrode (SCE) was used. A 0.1 \underline{M} AgNO₃/Ag/0.1 \underline{M} [<u>n</u>-Bu₄N]ClO₄/ CH₃CN reference (+0.35 V vs. SCE) was used in CH₃CN solutions. All E_B determinations are from cyclic voltammograms at 100 mV/s.

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For cyclic voltammograms redox reagents were added to solution at $\sim 1 \text{ mM}$ concentration in all cases. The n-CdTe electrodes were illuminated using a beam expanded He-Ne laser from Coherent Radiation, providing $\sim 50 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ at 632.8 nm. This is sufficient light intensity to insure that photocurrent for $\sim 1 \text{ mM}$ solutions of redox reagent is limited by diffusion, not excitation rate (light intensity).

<u>XPS</u> and Auger Studies. Auger spectra were obtained on a Physical Electronics model 590A scanning Auger spectrophotometer. A 5 KeV electron beam with a beam current of 0.6 to 1 μ A was used as the excitation source. The samples were mounted by attaching the Cu wire lead to the sample holder to insure electrical grounding. A Physical Electronics model 04-303 differential ion gun was used to produce a 2 keV Ar⁺ ion beam for sputtering. The pressure was maintained at ~3 x 10⁻⁸ torr in the main vacuum chamber and 1.5 x 10⁻⁴ torr of Ar in the ionization chamber, while sputtering.

X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) were obtained on a Physical Electronics model 548 spectrometer with a magnesium anode. The broad scans (0-1000 eV) were recorded with a pass energy of 100 eV and the narrow scans with a pass energy of 25 eV. The peak energies at the Cd and Te peaks were referenced to the Cls binding energy (284.6 eV) to correct for charging. Samples were mounted as above and sputtering was done with a 5 keV Ar⁺ beam, after introducing Ar into the vacuum chamber to bring the pressure to $\sim 7 \times 10^{-5}$ torr.

Elements detected by Auger and XPS were identified by reference to data previously reported using these techniques.^{17,18}

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Results

a. Determination of E_V vs. E_{redox} for n-CdTe. Scheme I illustrates the interface energetics for n-type CdTe in equilibrium with a redox couple in an electrolyte solution where $E_B = 0.5$; E_g is the band gap for CdTe, 1.4 eV.



Scheme 1. Representation of n-CdTe/liquid electrolyte interface energetics when the barrier height, $E_{\rm B}$, is 0.5 V.

In the previous studies,^{2,3} the value of E_B was determined for $(m_3(N))$ electrolyte solutions and for CdTe etched with an oxidizing etch. *de* have extended these studies to aqueous solution and to CdTe etched with a reducing etch. The important finding is that the reducing etch results in an E_B that depends strongly on E_{redox} whereas the oxidizing etch gives an E_B that is independent of E_{redox} in either H_20 or OH_3CN . We now detail the procedure used to determine E_B vs. E_{redox} and the data that have been collected in OH_3CN and H_20 for "oxidized" surfaces and "reduced" surfaces of n-CdTe.

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1. Procedure for Determining E_B and the Classification of Redox Couples Referring to Scheme I and equation (1), the maximum photovoltage, E_{y} , from the photoanode is equal to E_B . That is, when the $E_f = E_{FB}$ the bands are no longer bent and E_f is E_B away from E_{redox} . We^{2,16} and others^{9,19} have . cyclic voltammetry of redox reagents at low concentration to measure ${\rm E}_{\rm B}$ conveniently and rapidly for a wide range of redox couples. Generally, we choose fast, one-electron, outer-sphere redox reagents to avoid complication from adsorption, such as S^{2-} on CdS^{20} or I⁻ on MoSe₂, and to insure that the energetics, not kinetics, dominate the measurement of the E_B. The procedure involves comparing the position of the peak of the photoanodic current, E_{PA} , $E_{$ voltarmogram for the illuminated anode relative to the anodic current peak at a reversible electrode, e.g. Pt, for the redox couple under consideration The anodic current peak gives the approximate electrode potential, E_{f} , where there is a 1/1 ratio of oxidized and reduced forms of the redox courie. The extent to which the peak at illuminated electrodes is more negative than at the reversible electrode is the photovoltage, ${\sf E}_{V}$. And for sufficient: high light intensity this approximates the maximum open-circuit voltage possible. Thus, we take equation (2) to give the value of $E_{\rm B}$ within 100 $^{-1}{\rm err}$

$$E_{B} \approx E_{V} = |E_{PA,Ft} - E_{PA,n-Cdie illum}|$$
(2)

At the very least, the procedure gives excellent relative values of $E_V vs$. E_V values for the redox couples when the reduced form is added at the same concentration and the light intensity is the same.

Depending on the observed behavior of the redox couple at the semiconductor, we class the redox couples into one of five classes according to the following criteria: ^{16a}

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- Class $I = E_1$ is sufficiently negative that reversible behavior is observed at the semiconductor; E_1 is more negative than ECB and there is no photoeffect.
- Class II- E_{L} is near E_{CB} but slightly positive of it so that dark oxidation is observed but rate is poor and is improved by irradiation with a small negative shift of the anodic current peak.
- Class III- no dark oxidation of the reduced form of the couple; EB depends on E_{redox} such that EB is proportional to $E_{i_2} = E_{FB}$ for E_{i_3} between E_{FB} and E_{VB} .
- Class IV- no dark oxidation of the reduced form of the couple but E_R independent of E_R .
- Class V redox couples having EL sufficiently negative or positive that decomposition current for electrode is too great to allow study of the redox couple.

2. t_B in CH_3CN and H_2O vs. E_{redox} for Oxidized CdTe. Figure 1 and Table I summarize $E_{\rm M}$ determinations for a number of redox couples in H_2O and in CH_2CN for n-CdTe that was etched using an oxidizing etch. Generally, the oxidizing etches (i), (ii), or (iv) (see Experimental) give a value of $E_{\rm L}$ that is roughly independent of $E_{\rm L}$ for the redox couples used. The data in Figure 1 and Table I for CH₃CN solution are from the previous work in this laboratory² and results for other oxidizing etches accord well with these data. The data for H_20 solutions represent new information and illustrate that ${\rm E}_{B}$ is essentially independent of ${\rm E}_{i_{\rm c}}$ for a wide range of $E_{\rm L}$'s. Study of redox couples in H_0 with $E_{\rm L}$ more positive than +0.3 or more negative than -1.4 V vs. SCE is preduded by photoanodic or cathodic decomposition currents, respectively. In CH₂CN the range is somewhat greater, consistent with the fact that it is well known that solvent can profoundly change the energetics for anodic and cathodic decomposition processes.²² Except for the Class V couples, all of the redox couples studied at n-CdTe treated with the oxidizing etch belong to Class IV.

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As reported previously,^{2,3} the n-CdTe surface is not durable and the data given in Table I are for freshly etched surfaces for the first one to three cyclic voltammograms (100 mV/s) for a given redox couple. The positive potential limit was generally no further than 100 mV beyond the photoanodic current peak. Nonetheless, the photoanodic decomposition is a serious contributor to error and the values in Table 1 and Figure 1 represent the average of results of a number of determinations. The cyclic voltammetry of 1 mM Fe(CN)₆⁴⁻ in H₂O/0.1 M NaClO₄ is illustrative of the quality of the data, Figure 2. The Fe(CN)₆^{3-/4-} couple is durable and fairly reversible in H₂O at Pt, but the oxidation of Fe(CN)₆⁴⁻ is blocked in the dark at n-CdTe. Upon illumination of the n-CdTe with $\geq E_g$ light Fe(CN)₆⁴⁻ is oxidized and the Fe(CN)₆⁴⁻ + Fe(CN)₆³⁻ current peak is ~0.6 V more negative than at Pt. Note the large amount of photoanodic current just beyond the peak for the Fe(CN)₆⁴⁻ + Fe(CN)₆³⁻; this current is attributable to the decomposition represented by equation (3).^{23a,b}

$$CdTe + 2h^{+} \longrightarrow Cd^{2+} + Te$$
 (3)

Such decomposition can likely lead to sufficiently thick layers of elemental Te that the surface properties are significantly altered, <u>vide infra</u>. The main point is that the data regarding E_B need to be obtained within one to three cyclic voltammetry scans after etching to insure that the data reflect the properties of the freshly etched surface. At the deliberately low redox reagent concentrations needed to obtain mass transport limited oxidation currents there is simply not enough reducing agent to completely suppress the photoanodic decomposition. In order to exploit the n-CdTe in sustained photoelectrochemical energy conversion applications high concentrations of the redox reagent would be employed.

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3. E_B in CH₃CN and H₂O vs. E_{redox} for Reduced CdTe. Figure 1 and Table 11 summarize the E_B determinations for n-CdTe that has been treated using the reducing etch. There is a remarkable difference in the set of data for the reduced CdTe vs. the oxidized CdTe. For reduced n-CdTe, unlike oxidized n-CdTe, the E_B depends on the E_b of the contacting redox couple. The dependence is nearly that expected for an ideal semiconductor, equation (1), where $E_{FB} = -1.0$ V vs. SCE + 0.1 V in CH₃CN or in H₂O, in accord with an E_{FB} value determined from capacitance measurements in CH₃CN.³ Importantly, the CdTe that has been treated with the reducing etch is essentially a reversible electrode in the dark for sufficiently negative redox couples unlike CdTe that has been treated with the oxidizing etch. No available redox couple is reversible in the dark at n-CdTe that has been etched with the oxidizing etch.

Figure 3 shows the cyclic voltammetry for the $TQ^{2+/+}$ and $TQ^{+/0}$ couples in $CH_3CN/0.1$ M [n-Bu₄N]ClO₄ for the reduced CdTe surface. The more positive $TQ^{2+/+}$ wave is shifted negative (relative to the position at Pt) at the illuminated CdTe to a larger extent than is the $TQ^{+/0}$ wave. For an oxidized CdTe each wave is shifted negative by 0.5 V relative to their positions at Pt. The small shift for the $TQ^{+/0}$ wave is consistent with the fact that the $E_{i_2}(TQ^{+/0})$ is close to E_{FB} = -1.0 V vs. SCE. Couples having is more negative than -1.0 V vs. SCE can be in Class 1 at the reduced cdTe but cathodic decomposition, equation (4) limits the negative range that can

$$CdTe + 2e^{-} \qquad Cd + Te^{2-} \qquad (4)$$

be examined, vide infra. Couples such as $TQ^{2\Psi^+}$ and $TQ^{+/0}$ where E_B varies with E_V are in Class III. All redox couples in the region positive of ~-0.9 V appear to belong to Class III but the positive limit to the range of E_V 's that can be tested is again determined by the potential onset for photoanodic decomposition, equation (3).

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Figure 4 illustrates the difficulty that results from the competing photoanodic decomposition. A freshly etched (reduced) n-CdTe photoelectrode exhibits a photoanodic current peak for $Fe(n^5-C_5H_5)_2$ + $Fe(n^5-C_5H_5)_2^+$ at ~-0.3 V vs. SCE and when the scan is not extended too far beyond the peak the scan is fairly reproducible. However, when the first scan is extended to a positive limit of +0.6 V vs. SCE. the second scan reveals a photoanodic current peak that is shifted 0.3 V more positive. Apparently, the photoanodic decomposition current results in surface chemistry that alters the value of E_{p} . Interestingly, it appears that the photoanodic decomposition of the reduced n-CdTe results in a surface that gives a value of $E_{\rm p}$ that is similar to that for the oxidized n-CdTe from the oxidizing etch. In fact, it appears that the E_B that can be obtained for reduced n-CdTe using the $TMPD^{2+/+}$ couple is controlled by the photoanodic decomposition that occurs, since the $E_{k}(TMPD^{2+/+})$ is so positive. When scanning the reduced n-CdTe in a CH₃CN/0.1 M [n-Bu₄N]ClO₄/TMPD solution the E_R with respect to the TMPD^{+/O} couple is larger than with respect to the $\text{TMPD}^{2+/+}$ couple on the first scan, but on the second scan the E_{B} is found to be the same, within 100 mV, for the two couples, Figure 5. Accordingly, the two most positive redox couples used in CH_3CN give smaller than expected photovoltages. Further, the ${\rm E}_{\rm B}$ on the second scan is the same as that found for the oxidized n-CdTe from the oxidizing etch. The point is that $E_{\rm B}$ is very sensitive to the extent to which n-CdTe is oxidized after the reducing etch. Redox couples that have $E_{\mathbf{k}}$ more positive than +0.4 V vs. SCE clearly suffer from the photoanodic decomposition and are borderline Class V couples. Photoanodic decomposition is even more severe in H_2O than in CH_3CN and couples positive of +0.1 V vs. SCE are Class V.

Figure 6 illustrates the behavior of the TMPD^{+/O} system at the reduced n-CdTe in H₂O/0.1 H NaClO₄ solution. This redox couple gives the largest observed value of $E_{\rm B}$, -0.9 V. This large value of $E_{\rm B}$ compared

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to that for the oxidized n-CdTe and the establishment of redox couples that give zero and near-zero values of E_B establish a clear difference between the oxidized and reduced n-CdTe prepared via the etching procedures. For either surface it appears that the E_B vs. E_b is independent of whether the solvent is CH₃CN or H₂O. However, in H₂O the potential onset for photoanodic decomposition current is more negative than in CH₃CN, consistent with previous findings for CdS and other photoanode materials.²²

b. Cyclic Voltammetry of n-CdTe in the Absence of Redox Couples. The n-CdTe electrodes exhibit current-potential properties that are consistent with an important influence from a redox labile CdTe surface in the E_B determinations. Figure 7 shows the cathodic current in $H_20/0.1$ M NaClO₄ for n-CdTe electrodes pretreated in various ways. As illustrated, an oxidized n-CdTe from the oxidizing etch exhibits a large cathodic current in a potential region where the reduced n-CdTe exhibits none. For all five oxidizing etchants we find dark cathodic currents where the reducing etchant gives none or little. However, a reduced n-CdTe electrode that has been photoanodized in one positive scan does exhibit a large cathodic current. These data illustrate that the oxidized surfaces do behave in a manner that is different compared to the reduced surfaces. However, the nature of the reducible surface species is not clear. It is attractive to conclude that the reduction current is attributable to processes such as that represented by equation (5), since

 $CdTe_n + 2e^- \longrightarrow CdTe_{n-1} + Te^{2-}$ (5) it appears that oxidation of Te^{2-} is the process that occurs in photoanodic

The reduction according to equation (4) appears to occur at \sim -1.6 V vs. SCE, Figure 7. The reduced n-CdTe exhibits a large cathodic current at sufficiently negative potentials and a return sweep shows surface oxidation

decomposition, equation (3).

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presumably corresponding to the oxidation of Cd back to Cd^{2+} and/or Te_x^{2-} to a higher oxidation state. Similar processes have been observed for CdS.^{23c,d}

The irreversible oxidation and reduction of the n-CdTe in the potential range where CdTe has been evaluated with respect to E_B is clearly responsible for the changes in E_B that occur with successive cyclic voltammetry scans. Unfortunately, it does not appear that it is possible to electrochemically repair damage that results from photoanodic decomposition. Nor does electrochemical reduction of oxidized n-CdTe from the oxidizing etch change the surface to that generated by the reducing etch procedure. Both the surface electrochemistry and the surface redox chemistry involving the etch solutions is complicated and it does not appear that complete characterization is possible by using only electrochemical techniques. In the section below, we describe surface analyses by XPS and Auger that confirm the rough chemical expectations from an oxidizing vs. reducing pretreatment of CdTe.

c. X-Ray Photoelectron Spectra and Auger Analysis of n-CdTe. Figures 8 and 9 show the XPS and Auger spectra for representative samples of reduced and oxidized CdTe. The spectra show qualitative differences for the oxidized and reduced CdTe. From the oxidizing etch it is logical to conclude that the surface is rich in some form of Te. Previous workers have shown that a Te film can be formed on the surface, and Auger and XPS spectra of CdTe surfaces treated with $HNO_3/H_2O/K_2Cr_2O_7$ solutions are consistent with the formation of a rather thick, Te-rich overlayer.²⁴⁻²⁶ As the earlier workers found, we find that the oxidizing etch yields a surface that does not exhibit a significant signal for Cd. A surface that has been reduced exhibits a strong Cd signal in both the Auger and XPS spectra. Other important features of the spectra are given below.

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The reducing etch yields a surface that has a number of impurities that would appear to derive from the etch solution: S. Na, and Cl are present in addition to the ubiquitous C and O. The expected signals for the elements Cd and Te are easily detected and appear as important features in Auger and XPS. Sputtering the surface of either the oxidized or reduced CdTe yields a clean spectrum for CdTe which, excepting for selective sputtering, is probably the spectrum of Cd and Te very close to the 1/1 stoichiometry of CdTe. The XPS of the reduced CdTe in the Cd region, Figure 9, show the Cd signals to be at nearly the same binding energy as for the sputtered surface. However, the signals in the Te region provide evidence for at least two types of Te. One of the sets of signals in the Te region is likely due to Te^{2-} , matching the binding energy for the sputtered surface. The higher binding energy set of Te peaks is logically due to an oxidized form of Te. In fact, the samples are exposed to air and it is likely that the Te signals are the same as those obtained from air oxidation of a cleaved crystal. Others have assigned the air oxidation product to TeO_2^{25} and the observation of an O signal is consistent with such a conclusion. But the main point is that both Cd^{2+} and Te^{2-} are easily detectable from the reducing etch.

Use of Ar^+ sputtering can result in surface chemistry to change the oxidation level of the surface species.²⁷ However, the Cd signals for reduced CdTe are at the same position as for the sputtered sample suggesting that Ar^+ does not affect the Cd²⁺ presumably present. Further, sputtering the reduced surface removes the set of higher binding energy Te signals consistent with the removal of the more oxidized Te material leaving Te²⁻. Thus, we believe that surface damage due to the sputtering technique is relatively unimportant.

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The oxidizing etch of CdTe shows impurity signals C, O, and Cr in the electron spectroscopies. The C and O are omnipresent; the Cr logically comes from the use of $K_2Cr_2O_7$ in the etch solution. The Cr is unequivocally detected in the Auger spectrum, Figure 8; the XPS spectrum is equivocal because the Te and Cr binding energies are very similar. The ~580 eV binding energy region for the oxidized CdTe, Figure 9, is very different than the reduced Cdle. Two, relatively broad signals are observed whose peak positions do not match any of the signals for reduced CdTe. Inasmuch as Cr is detectable in the Auger of the same sample and the Cr XPS signals are about as intense as those for Te,¹⁸ it is likely that some of the intensity in the ~580 eV region is due to some form of Cr. But, since Te is observable in the Auger, some of the intensity is due to some form of Te. Photooxidation of the reduced CdTe or treatment of CdTe with Br2/MeOH yields a high ratio of the lower energy to the higher energy Te peaks than the ratio observed for reduced CdTe. Thus, the pair of lower binding peaks are logically a combination of Te $_x^{2-}$ and Te $_x^{2-}$ consistent with the insensitivity of the binding energy to changes in x in Te $x^{2-.18}$ The higher binding energy Te peaks are likely due to TeO_2 .²⁵ Interestingly, the oxidizing etch of Br_2 in CH_3OH does not yield a surface that is as Te-rich as we find for etch (i). 24,25 In fact, the Br_2/CH_3OH etch appears to yield a Cd/Te element ratio that is close to that for the sputtered surface. The Br₂ must be capable of oxidatively removing elemental Te that is initially formed by the oxidation of the surface such that the Te²⁻ layer is qualitatively thinner than with etch (i). The oxidizing etch used for most of our work produces a very Cd-deficient surface, and we associate the difference in photovoltaic response of reduced and oxidized CdTe with the difference in the amount of Te^{2-} at the surface.

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Discussion

In electronic device applications and energy conversion applications the surface chemistry of materials can be an important limiting parameter. For CoTe, a material having nearly optimum response to the solar spectrum, photovoltaic devices could give high efficiency. However, the fermi level pinning yields a relatively low output photovoltage. We have demonstrated that the surface pretreatment associated with the use of several oxidizing etchants results in a Te-rich (Cd-deficient) surface. We associate the Fermi level pinning with the overlayer of Te-rich material. A reducing etch for the CdTe generates a surface that is close to the expected Cd/Te stoichiometry, and in this case the CdTe behaves as a nearly ideal semiconductor with an output photovoltage of up to ~0.9 V using the TMPD^{+/O} redox couple. The ~ 0.9 V output photovoltage exceeds the photovoltage from the Fermi level pinned system by 0.3 - 0.4 V. However, the removal of Fermi level pinning results in zero photovoltage for redox couples that have $E_{\rm L}$ more negative than ~ -1.0 V vs. SCE, while the Fermi level pinned CdTe gives 0.5 V for such couples.

The demonstration that Fermi level pinning can be manipulated by surface chemistry is an important finding inasmuch as the phenomenon of Fermi level pinning seems to be fairly common for small band gap materials. If the pinning results in a large photovoltage relative to E_g as in the case of p-InP²⁸ there may be no advantage in removing pinning, but when the photovoltage is a small fraction of E_g the pinning is a serious drawback. The removal of Fermi level pinning for n-CdTe does not alter the extreme susceptibility of n-CdTe to photoanodic decomposition at sufficiently positive potentials. However, our results suggest that examination of the Schottky barrier, n-CdTe/metal, behavior using the reducing etch to pretreat the CdTe would be worthwhile. It may be possible to prepare durable

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n-CdTe/metal interfaces that give good photovoltages. Previously, it was determined that a photovoltage of 0.68 V could be obtained for Schottky barriers using CdTe;^{4a} our data suggest that the reducing etch pretreatment could improve this value.

If we take the Te-rich overlayer on oxidized CdTe to be a layer of elemental Te we can understand the Fermi level pinning of the CdTe to be due to the contact of the underlying CdTe by the Te layer. Support for the conclusion that the overlayer is in fact elemental Te comes from the original literature concerning the oxidizing etch.^{12b} Elemental Te is known to have significant conductivity and can be regarded as semimetallic.²⁹ Contacting the outer Te layer with either metals or a liquid electrolyte will not alter the CdTe/Te interface energetics.⁵ Thus, the photovoltage is fixed to the value associated with the Colle coated by a relatively thick Te overlayer. We should emphasize that this may not be the only mechanism for Fermi level pinning of CdTe. For example, the CdTe/metal barrier height changes by only ~0.2 V for a 1.5 V change in ; for the contacting metal⁴ where CdTe is pretreated with the Br_2/CH_3OH etch that yields a near stoichiometric Cd/Te surface.²⁴⁻²⁶ The pinning in this instance may be due to interface states associated with a much thinner layer of Te on the surface. If a sufficient density of interface states results from reaction with a metal contact the prospects are not good for improving photovoltage for the CdTe/metal system by using a reducing pretreatment for CdTe. In this connection it is noteworthy that two earlier studies 3 of n-CdTe/liquid interfaces report the use of the Br₂/CH₃OH pretreatment and claim some results that parallel our findings for the reducing etch. However, photovoltages were not as high as those obtained here and greater difficulty with reproducibility was apparently encountered. It may be that the most efficient devices would then be those based on liquid electrolyte contacts, but the lack of durability remains a major hurdle to the achievement of any useful photoelectrochemical device from exploitation of a reducing etch procedure for n-CdTe. The results, though, do establish that a reproducible surface pretreatment can yield reproducible photovoltage

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measurements. Further, the finding that Fermi level pinning can be removed establishes that the extent of ionic vs. covalent bonding in the series CdS, CdSe, and CdTe does not control the value of E_B or its dependence on ϕ or E_{redox} .^{4b} Rather, the presence of a layer of semimetallic Te on CdTe can rationalize the earlier observation² of a constant E_B vs. E_{redox} for n-CdTe. This work thus establishes one mechanism for Fermi level pinning. Preserving the integrity of the reduced CdTe surface is now the object of our future studies using n-CdTe photoanodes.

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Fedna Couple (Class). = ^b	ن	solvent	FpA,pt	ErA,n-Cdfe,illum.	E _V , V (+100 rV)
TMPO ^{2+/+} (IV), 1	+0.70	CH ₃ CN	+0.72	+0.13	0.59
TMPD ^{+/O} (IV). 2	+0.10	CH 3CN	+0.14	-0.45	0.59
Fe(⁻⁵ -C ₅ H ₅) ^{+/0} (IV). 3	+0.40	CH ³ CN	+0.43	-0.19	0.62
Fe(⁻⁵ -C5 ² *e ₅) ^{+/0} (IV). 4	-0.12	CH ₃ CN	-0.07	-0.62	0.55
H1/ ^{2+/+} (IV), 5	-0.45	cH ³ CN	-0.41	-0.93	0.52
MV ^{+/0} (IV),6	-0.85	CH 3CN	-0.82	-1.32	0.50
Ru(bpy) ₃ ^{2+/+} (IV), 7	-1.34	сн ₃ си	-1.29	-1.77	0.48
Ru(bpy)(IV), 8	-1.49	CH ₃ CN	-1.48	-1.99	0.51
Ru(bpy) ₃ 0/- (IV),9	-1.73	CH 3CN	-1.71	-2.32	0.61
Anthracene ^{0/-} (IV)	-1.99	CH ₃ CN	-1.95	-2.24	0.29
Fe(CN) ₆ ^{3-/4-} (IV), 1	+0.21	Η ₂ 0	+0.30	-0.31	0.61
TMPD ^{+/0} (IV),2	+0.02	н ₂ 0	+0.06	-0.43	0.49
Ru(NH ₃) ₆ ^{3+/2+} (IV),3	-0.19	H20	-0.12	-0.64	0.52
AQ ^{0/2-} (IV), 4	-0.56	H ₂ 0	-0.40 ⁶	-0.93	0.53
MV ^{2+/+} (IV), 5	-0.61	H ₂ 0	-0.54	-1.07	0.53
TQ ^{2+/+} (IV), 6	-0.81	н ₂ 0	-0.7F	-1.15	0.38
^a Conditions for etching a Data for CH ₃ CN are from ^b = refers to data points o	nd cyclic v ref. 2. Al n plots in	voltammetry an 11 potentials, figure 1. Fo	e given in the E ₁ , E ₂ A, rt, E ₁ Dr Class defini	Experimental unless othe PA.n-CdTe.illum. are giv tions see text.	en in volts vs. SCE.

^CMeasured at Hg working clectrode.

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Barrier Height Determinations for Reduced n-CdTe by Cyclic Voltammetry for Various Redox Couples in $\rm CH_3CN$ or $\rm H_2^{0.3}$ Table II.

E_B, V (<u>+</u>100 mV) C.74 0.18 0.48 0.57 0.72 0.62 0.24 0.00 0.00 0.8 0.56 0.26 -1.AR (dark or light) -l.29 (dark or light) EpA,n-CdTe,illum. -0.53 +0.22 -0.26 -0.69 -0.76 -1.00 -0.79 0.70--1.03 . . . $\mathbf{D} \neq \mathbf{refers}$ to data entries on plots in Figure 1. For Class definition see text -0.77^c EpA, pt +0.79 +0.48+0.19 -0.07 -0.52 -0.82 -1.29 -1.48 +0.07 -0.14 -0.54 solvent сн₃си CH 3CN CH 3CN сн₃си cH₃cN сн ₃си сн₃си CH₃CN н20 Н20 н₂0 н**2**0 ^aConditions as in Table I and Experimental +0.10 -0.12 -0.89 +0.70 +0.40 -0.59 -1.34 -1.49 +0.02 -0.19 -0.64 -0.81 щ "Г Fe(n⁵-C₅H₅)₂^{+/0} (III,V), 2 Fe(n⁵-C₅Me₅)₂^{+/0} (III), 4 Redox Couple (Class), =^b Ru(NH₃)₆^{3+/2+} (III), 2 TMPD^{2+/+} (III,V), 1 Ru(bipy)₃^{2+/+} (1) TMPD^{+/0} (III), 3 Eu^{3+/2+} (III), 3 Ru(bipy)₃+/0 (I) TMPD^{+/0} (III), 1 τq^{2+/+} (111), 5 TQ^{2+/+} (III), 4 τQ^{+/0} (111), 6

² refers to usual suffites un proces in rigure 1. Tor views using C Measured at Hg working electrode.

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Figure Captions

Figure 1. Plots of photovoltage for n-CdTe treated with either the reducing or oxidizing etch as a function of the E_{redox} of the solution. Data are determined by cyclic voltammetry as described in the text and in the Experimental. The numbers for the individual data points are keyed to the redox couples in Tables I and II.

Figure 2. Representative data for cyclic voltammetry of the $Fe(CN)_6^{3-/4-}$ couple at a Pt electrode and an oxidized n-CdTe electrode.

Figure 3. Cyclic voltammetry for the $TQ^{2+/\frac{1}{2}}$ and for the $TQ^{\frac{1}{2}/0}$ couples at Pt and at reduced n-CdTe.

Figure 4. Cyclic voltammetry on the left compares the response of $Fe(-5-C_5H_5)_2^{+/0}$ at Pt and reduced n-CdTe. The data on the right illustrate the consequences of photoanodic decomposition of n-CdTe by a positive excursion beyond the photoanodic current peak for the $Fe(-5-C_5H_5)_2^{+/0}$ couple. Scan 1 is the first scan and scan 2 is the second scan under the same conditions as the data on the left for n-CdTe.

Figure 5. Cyclic voltammetry for $TMPD^{2+/+}$ (positive peak) and $TMPD^{+/0}$ (negative peak) at illuminated (reduced) n-CdTe on the first scan, 1 (----), and second scan, 2 (----), from an initial potential of -1.0 V vs. SCE.

Figure 6. Comparison of cyclic voltammetry for TMPD at Pt and reduced n-CdTe showing almost 0.9 V more negative TMPD \rightarrow TMPD⁺ peak at illuminated n-CdTe compared to Pt. The dashed curve for n-CdTe is the dark response.

Figure 7. (Left) Dark cathodic current of n-Cdle in H₂O/0.1 M ha(16₄ at 5 mV/s. (a) n-CdTe etched with etchant (i) in the Experimental. (b) n-CdTe etched with the reducing etch; (c) reduced n-(dle scanned once from -1.4 to +0.35 V vs. SCE at 100 mV/s under illumination (50 mW/cm²) in CH₃CN/0.1 M [n-Bu₄N]ClO₄ to oxidize the surface. In each case the initial potential is 0.0 V vs. SCE. (Right) Dark current wolfa. curve of n-CdTe etched with the reducing etch in $H_2O/0.1$ M ha 1/4 at the The cathodic limit for (a) (----) is -1.9 V vs. SCE and significant oxidation current results on the return sweep. A freshly reduced electrode scanned to -1.4 V vs. SCE, (b) (----), shows mether in d + is the oxidation nor reduction current. The initial potential or cutters with the initial potential or cutters.

Figure 8. Left three spectra are XPS spectra iscale in a second to the right three spectra are Auger spectra. The top spectra are the right three spectra are Auger spectra. The top spectra are to right the middle spectra are for right stream the oxidizing etch (i), and the bottom spectra are for right of the second term of the other three spectrum of the sputtered ample of the term of the other two.

Figure 9. XPS spectra of Te, $3d_{3/2}$ and $3d_{5/2}$ stanais. Set a state protocond CdTe (scale = 1000 counts/div); (b) n-CdTe etched as not reduce to the (scale = 300 counts/div); (c) n-CdTe etched using obtaining etchest to get (scale = 300 counts/div). XPS spectra of (d, $3d_{3/2}$ and $3d_{3/2}$ an







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