

Thin film microcrystalline silicon is the most promising material for large area PN junction solar cells. As microcrystalline silicon is a heterogeneous material composed of two phases (amorphous silicon tissue from which crystalline grains of micrometric dimension grow). The Raman spectra are commonly used to determine the crystallinity of mixed phase silicon thin films by analyzing the contributions of amorphous and crystalline phase to TO phonon band. Many different empirical or semi-empirical methods of evaluating crystallinity from the Raman spectra exist. In this master's thesis the microcrystalline Raman spectra were studied and a better way of evaluating crystallinity was searched for. The decomposition of the microcrystalline spectra of the series of the samples, where a single deposition parameter was changing, by fitting them with Gaussian bands was performed. We also report on the development of a special software for the band decomposition by non-linear least-squares fitting based on Marquardt-Levenberg algorithm and demonstrate its use for a series of films with structure changing from amorphous to fully microcrystalline.