



Article

Photoelectrochemical Performance of Nanotubular Fe₂O₃–TiO₂ Electrodes under Solar Radiation

Monika Sołtys-Mróz *, Karolina Syrek *, Łukasz Pięta, Kamilla Malek and Grzegorz D. Sulka

Faculty of Chemistry, Jagiellonian University, Gronostajowa 2, 30-387 Krakow, Poland; lukasz.pieta@doctoral.uj.edu.pl (Ł.P.); kamilla.malek@uj.edu.pl (K.M.); sulka@chemia.uj.edu.pl (G.D.S.)

* Correspondence: soltys@chemia.uj.edu.pl (M.S.-M.); syrek@chemia.uj.edu.pl (K.S.);
Tel.: +48-12-686-25-73 (M.S.-M.)

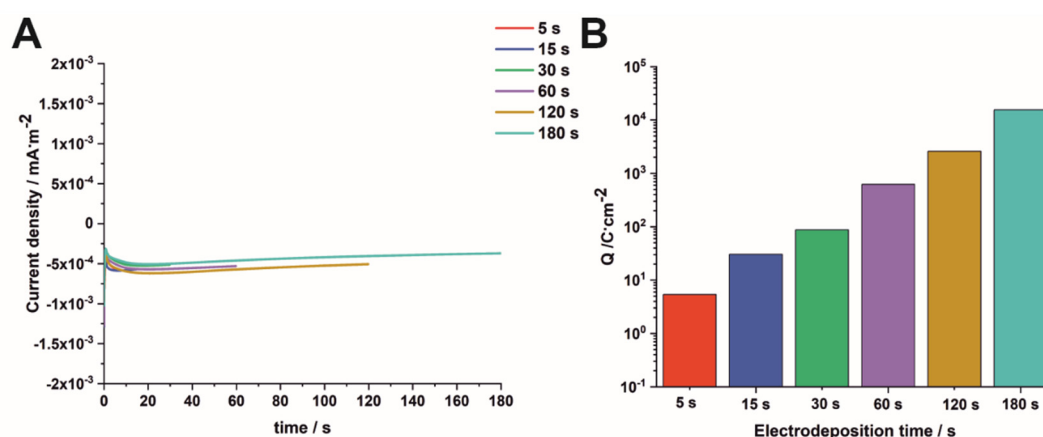


Figure S1. Current density-time curves recorded during Fe deposition at -1.3 V vs. SCE for different durations (5–180 s) (A). The corresponding total charge densities obtained from current-time transients (B).

Raman Spectroscopy

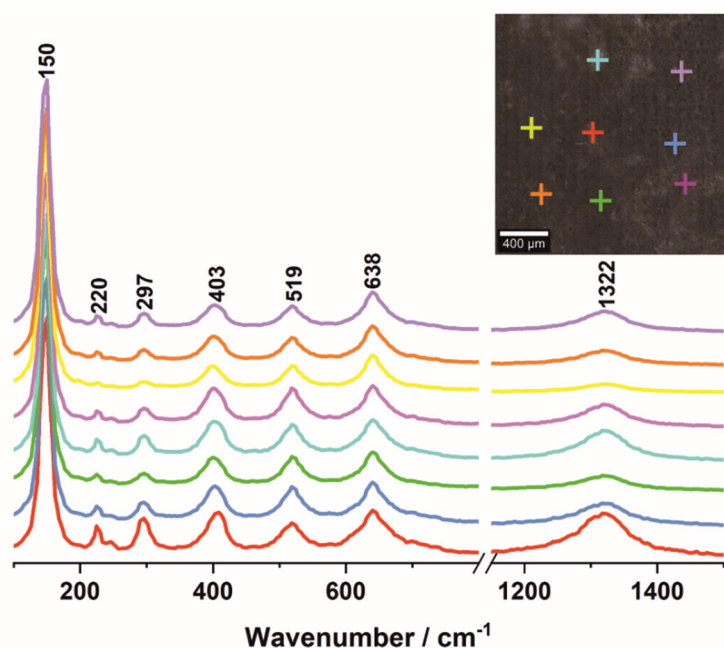


Figure S2. Raman spectra of the Fe₂O₃-TiO₂ sample electrodeposited for 60 s. The colors of different areas at the image correspond to the colors of the Raman spectra.

Semiconducting Properties

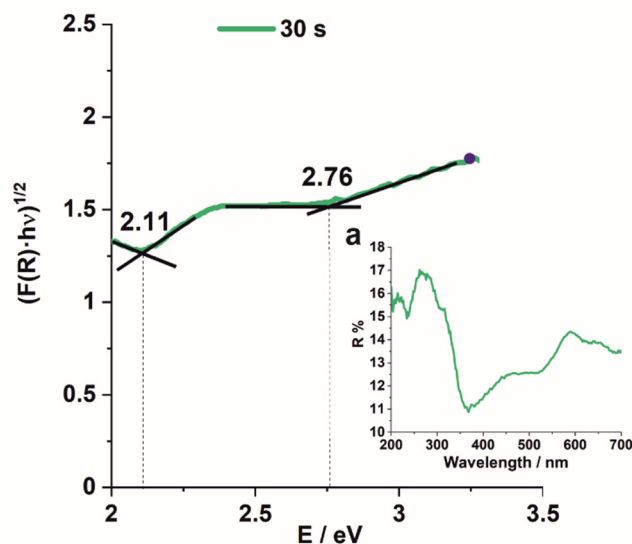


Figure S3. Example of determination of the band gap energy from UV-Vis measurements together with a diffuse reflectance plot (a).

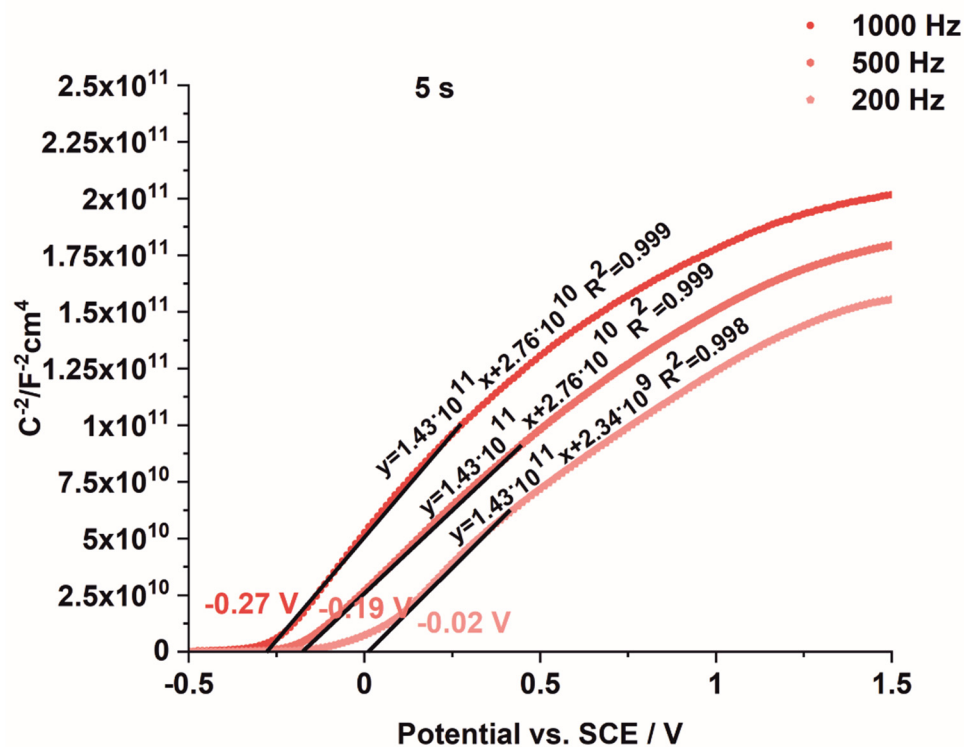


Figure S4. Mott-Schottky plots measured at different frequencies (1000, 500, and 200 Hz) for the sample electrodeposited for 5 s.

The donor density (N_d) for nanotubular TiO_2 and hybrid $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{-TiO}_2$ materials was determined as follows (S1):

$$N_d = \frac{2}{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_s A^2 e \text{ slope}} \quad (\text{S1})$$

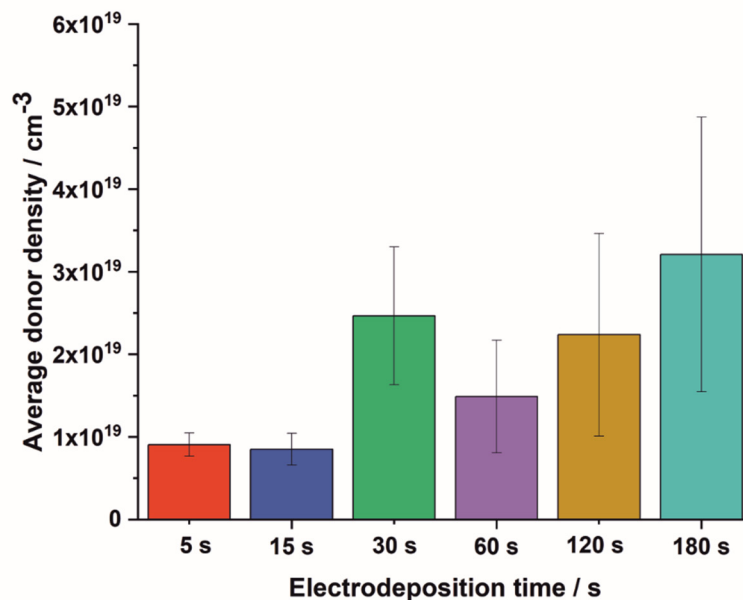


Figure S5. Average donor densities estimated for all studied materials, and for all tested frequencies.

Photoelectrochemical Measurements

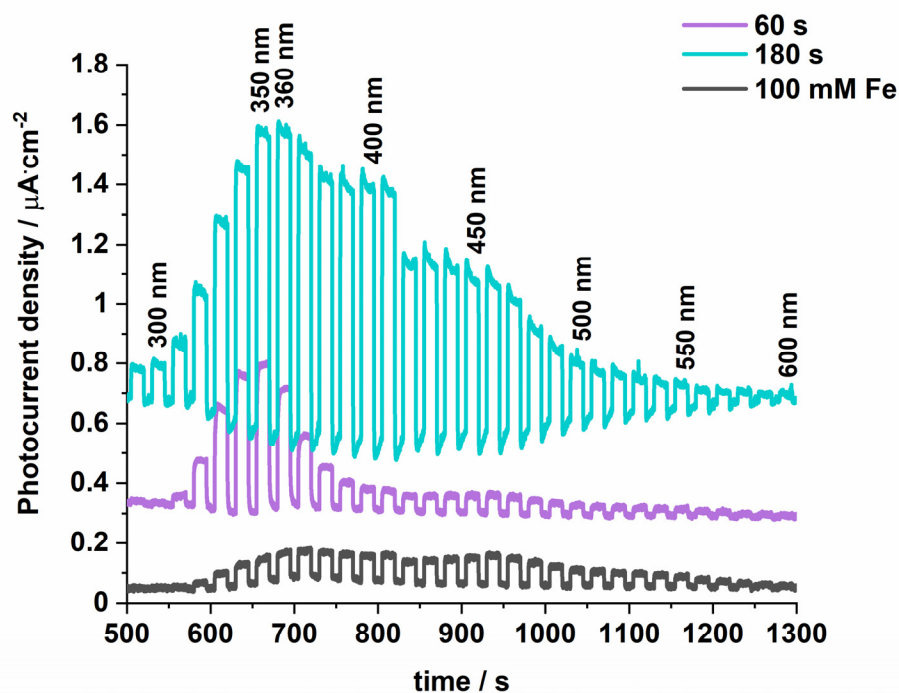


Figure S6. Photocurrent density vs. time curves recorded at 1 V vs. SCE for Fe₂O₃-TiO₂ samples obtained by electrodeposition for 60 s and 180 s as well as by impregnation method.

The Incident Photon to Current Efficiency (IPCE) was calculated based on the following formula (S2) [27]:

$$\text{IPCE} = 1240 \frac{I_p(\lambda)}{P(\lambda)\lambda} \quad (\text{S2})$$

where: 1240 is a constant (W nm A⁻¹), I_p is the photocurrent density (A m⁻²) at the wavelength λ (nm), and P is the incident power density of light (W m⁻²) at λ .

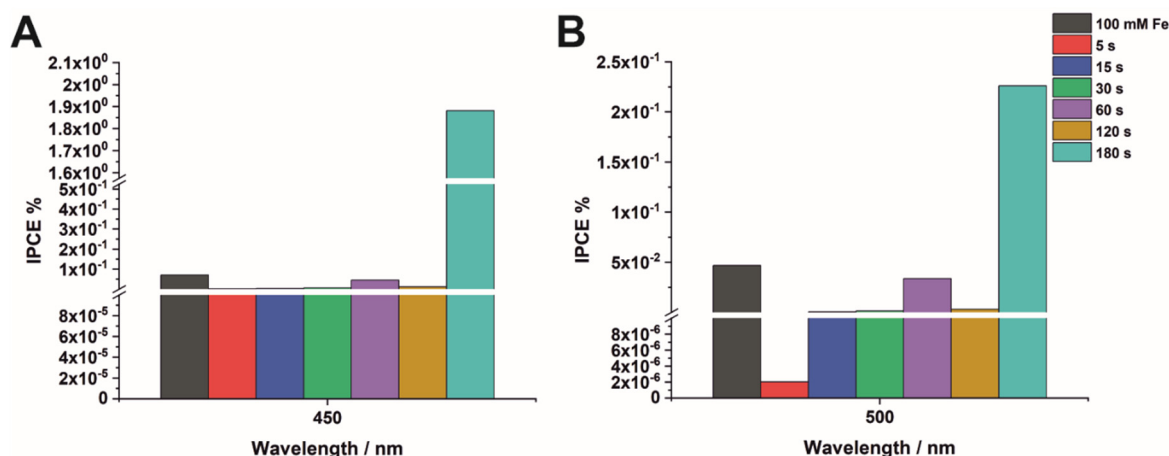


Figure S7. IPCE values obtained under monochromatic radiation for all modified samples at 450 nm (A) and 500 nm (B).

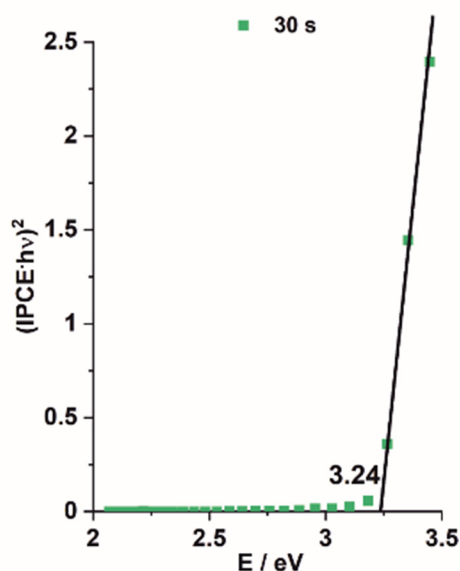


Figure S8. Example of determining the energy band gap from photoelectrochemical measurements for the Fe₂O₃-TiO₂ sample obtained by electrodeposition for 30 s.

Table S1. The comparison of PEC properties of Fe₂O₃-TiO₂ materials measured in 0.1 M KNO₃ at 1 V vs. SCE.

Samples (Electrodeposition Time or Impregnation Solution Concentration)	Photocurrent Density under Monochromatic Radiation [$\mu\text{A}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$]	IPCE %			Photocurrent Density under Solar Radiation [$\mu\text{A}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$]	Band Gap Energy [eV]
		400 nm	450 nm	500 nm		
5 s	3.9×10^0 /350 nm	2.5×10^{-1}	1.2×10^{-3}	2.0×10^{-6}	9.9×10^1	3.22 ± 0.01
15 s	1.3×10^0 /350 nm	5.9×10^{-2}	2.9×10^{-3}	4.1×10^{-4}	6.8×10^1	3.23 ± 0.01
30 s	6.0×10^{-1} /360 nm	5.4×10^{-2}	5.9×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-3}	5.0×10^1	3.17 ± 0.01
60 s	4.8×10^{-1} /350 nm	7.1×10^{-2}	4.5×10^{-2}	3.4×10^{-2}	1.3×10^1	3.12 ± 0.01
120 s	2.0×10^{-1} /350 nm	4.5×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-2}	3.1×10^{-3}	1.2×10^1	3.16 ± 0.01
180 s	1.0×10^0 /360 nm	1.1×10^1	1.9×10^0	2.3×10^{-1}	1.5×10^1	2.80 ± 0.01
100 mM	8.8×10^{-2} /360 nm	9.0×10^{-2}	7.1×10^{-2}	4.7×10^{-2}	1.7×10^1	2.73 ± 0.01

Non-Enzymatic Glucose Sensing

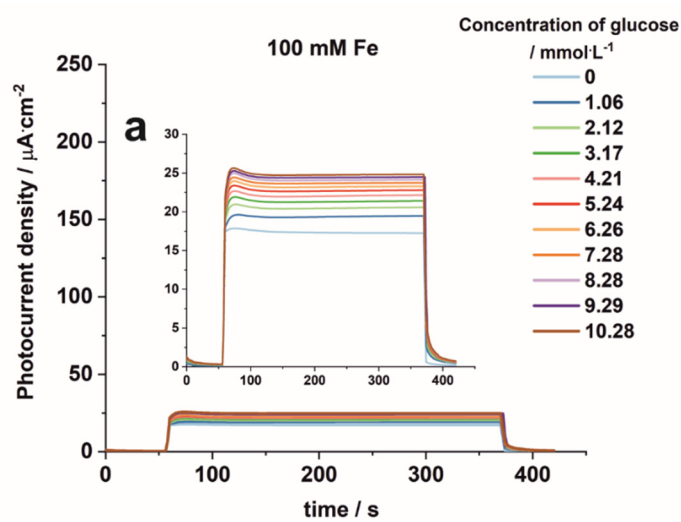
**Figure S9.** Photocurrent density vs. time curves measured at 1 V vs. SCE in 0.1 M KNO₃ containing 1.06–10.28 mM of glucose under solar irradiation of the Fe₂O₃-TiO₂ sample impregnated in 100 mM FeCl₃ with inset.

Table S2. Calculated LOD, and LOQ values for all studied Fe₂O₃-TiO₂ electrodes.

Samples (Electrodeposition Time or Im- pregnation Solution Concentration)	LOD [mML ⁻¹]		LOQ [mML ⁻¹]	
	I Concentration	II Concentration	II Concentration	II Concentration
	Range	Range	Range	Range
5 s	14.806	8.686	49.354	28.954
15 s	14.075	5.227	46.915	17.424
30 s	24.175	8.860	80.583	29.533
60 s		7.444		24.813
120 s		9.669		32.230
180 s		4.058		13.526
100 mM Fe		5.053		16.843

Table S3. Glucose-sensing characteristics of the proposed sensor compared with data in the literature.

Material	Sensitivity [$\mu\text{AmM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2}$]	Linear Range [mM]	Detection Limit [μM]	Response Time [s]	Reference
Fe ₂ O ₃ nanowires	726.9	0.015–8	6	< 6	[53]
Fe ₂ O ₃ cubes/ITO	32.3	0.2–2	0.015	-	[54]
Fe ₂ O ₃ -graphene	-	0.0005–0.01	0.5	-	[55]
Fe ₂ O ₃ films/FTO	17.23	0.05–6	0.05	< 5	[52]
Fe ₂ O ₃ NR/FTO	100.46	0.2–2.0	5.5	-	[56]
Fe ₂ O ₃ -TiO ₂ nanotubes	29.88	1.06–2.12	14810	-	This work
		3.17–10.28	8690		