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Germanium-based nanostructure synthesis guided by amphiphilic diblock copolymer templating

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Latest research in the field of hybrid photovoltaics focuses on the benefits of inorganic and organic materials. Flexibility, low cost and large-scale production are the most valuable properties of organic components whereas the inorganic components add chemical and physical stability. So far thin films based on titanium dioxide are well investigated, whereas less is known about germanium-based compounds. In this work, we analyze thin films with optical, electrical and morphological measurement techniques to understand and control the corresponding properties. An amphiphilic diblock copolymer templating with polystyrene-b-polyethylene oxide (PS-b-PEO) and a metal-semiconductor precursor are used to prepare thin films via sol-gel synthesis. The copolymer templating results in nanoporous foam-like germanium-based thin films. In the present study, thin films with different polymers with varied molar weights of polystyrene and polyethylene oxide are prepared and analyzed. As the major technique for real-space imaging in this research field, SEM can only provide information about the surface. Therefore grazing incidence small angle X-ray scattering (GISAXS) experiments are carried out and have to be validated with grazing incidence small angle neutron scattering (GISANS) to understand the formation of the inner structure morphology.

Primary authors: WEINDL, Christian L. (TUM Physik); MÜLLER-BUSCHBAUM, Peter (TU München, Physik-Department, LS Funktionelle Materialien); Prof. FÄSSLER, Thomas F.; FAJMAN, Christian

Presenter: WEINDL, Christian L. (TUM Physik)

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