

Solar Simulators

Measuring Solar Cells and Modules up to 30 cm x 30 cm

The most important characteristics of solar cells and modules are the current(I)-voltage(V) characteristics measured under illumination and in the dark. The experimental data determined from this measurement include the open-circuit voltage V_{OC} , the short-circuit current I_{SC} , the maximum power P_{MAX} at the maximum power point (MPP), and the fill factor FF. The latter is defined as the ratio between P_{MAX} and the product of V_{OC} and I_{SC} , i. e.:

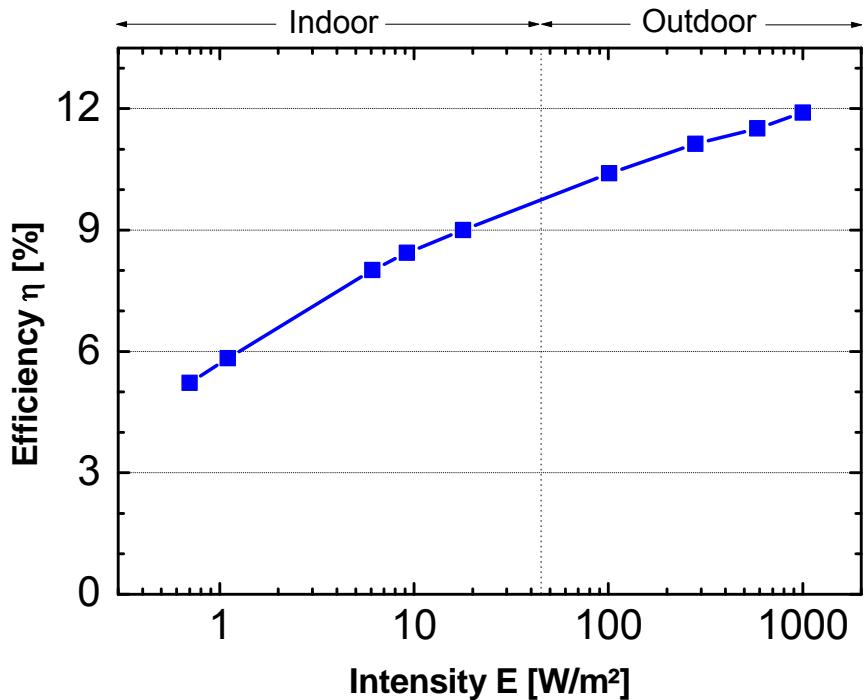
$$P_{MAX} = FF \cdot V_{OC} \cdot I_{SC}$$

The ratio of the usable electrical power at the MPP to the irradiated light power P_E finally yields the efficiency η of a solar cell or module. The reference area for η is either the total area of the module including the frame, or the aperture area, which only includes the active regions and the internal contact surfaces of the module. The standard testing conditions (STC) are 25 °C and AM 1.5 Global irradiance at 1000 W/m².

Solar Simulators	10 cm x 10 cm: 10 cm x 10 cm: 30 cm x 30 cm:	0,5 kW xenon lamp 2 lamp simulator 0,5 kW xenon and halogen lamp 2,5 kW metal halide lamp
Specifications	Temperature control: Spectrum: Homogeneity: Illumination intensity: Other features:	Temperature-controlled copper plate Filter for 1000 W/m ² AM 1.5 Global Typically +/- 2 % by optical integrators Variable • Four-point probe measurement • Spring-loaded contact manifolds • Calibration with a Si reference cell • Software for measuring I(V) characteristics • Spectroradiometer
Options	Measurements of solar cells and modules up to 30 cm x 30 cm Measurements of non-contacted or encapsulated thin-film solar modules Temperature variations from 10 °C to 60 °C Illumination intensity from indoor values up to 1000 W/m ² (AM 1.5 Global) Additional filters for AM0 und AM1 spectra	
Requirements	Sample sizes up to 30 cm x 30 cm Contact on illumination side	

Application Examples for Solar Simulators

Efficiency of a 5 cm x 5 cm CIS Solar Module
Depending on the Illumination Intensity



I/V Characteristic of a 30 cm x 30 cm CIS Solar Module

