

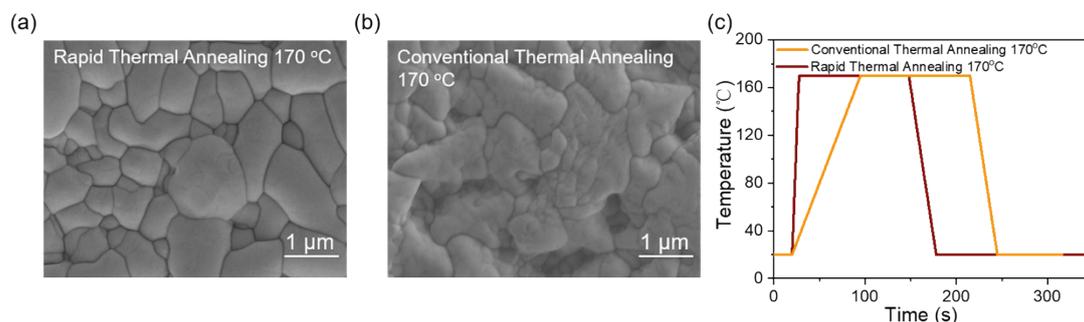
## Rapid thermal annealing process for Se thin-film solar cells

Liuchong Fu,<sup>1</sup> Jiajia Zheng,<sup>1,2</sup> Xuke Yang,<sup>1</sup> Yuming He,<sup>1</sup> Chao Chen,<sup>1</sup> Kanghua Li<sup>1\*</sup> and Jiang Tang<sup>1,2\*</sup>

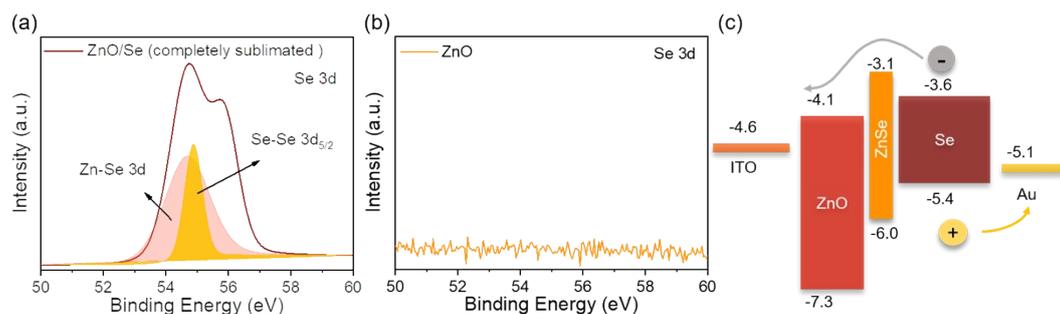
<sup>1</sup>Sargent Joint Research Center, Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics (WNLO), School of Optical and Electronic Information, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430074, Hubei, China

<sup>2</sup>China-EU Institute for Clean and Renewable Energy, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, 430074 Hubei, People's Republic of China

\*Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Kanghua Li (e-mail: [lkh5014@163.com](mailto:lkh5014@163.com)) and Jiang Tang (e-mail: [jtang@mail.hust.edu.cn](mailto:jtang@mail.hust.edu.cn))



**Fig. S1** The SEM image of Se thin films treated with (a) rapid thermal annealing (RTA) and (b) conventional thermal annealing at the same 170 °C. (c) The heating curves of the RTA and the conventional thermal annealing.

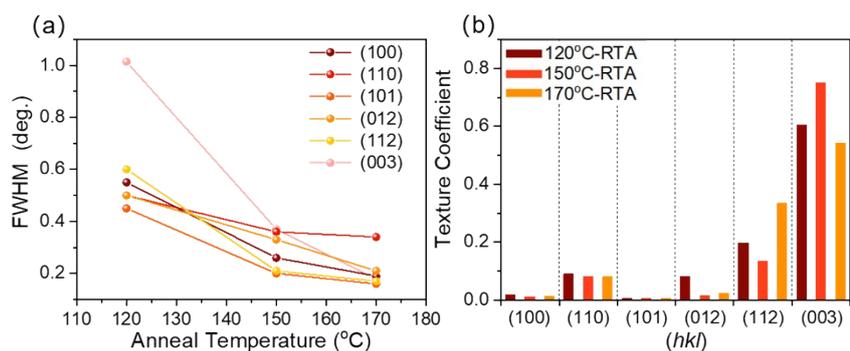


**Fig. S2** XPS Se<sub>3d</sub> spectrum of (a) ZnO/Se (completely sublimated) and (b) pure ZnO. (c) The energy

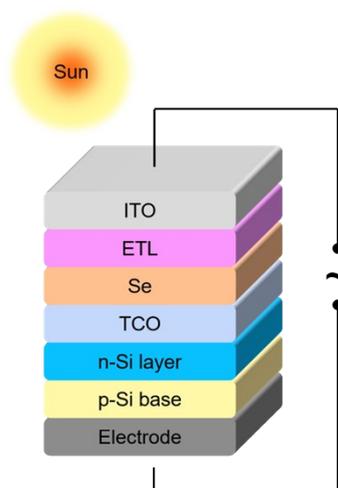
level diagram of Se solar cell considering the ZnSe at ZnO/Se interface.<sup>1</sup>

Supplementary experiment to confirm the existence of Zn-Se bonds at the ZnO/Se interface:

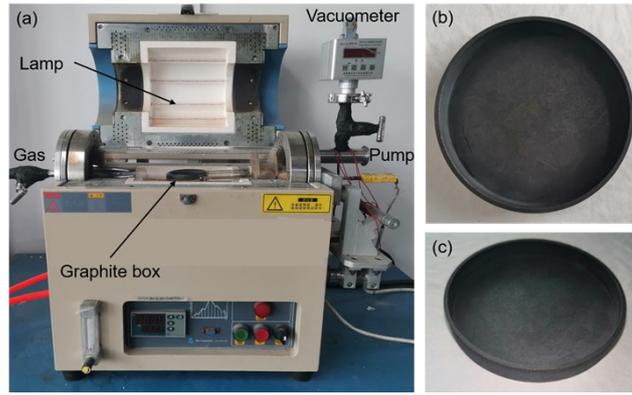
The Se film of 100 nm was deposited on a ZnO substrate with thermal evaporation. The ZnO/Se sample was treated with RTA at 220 °C for 2 minutes to ensure the Se film was completely sublimated. XPS characterization was performed on ZnO/Se (completely sublimated) and pure ZnO (Figure S2a,b) to confirm the presence of Zn-Se.



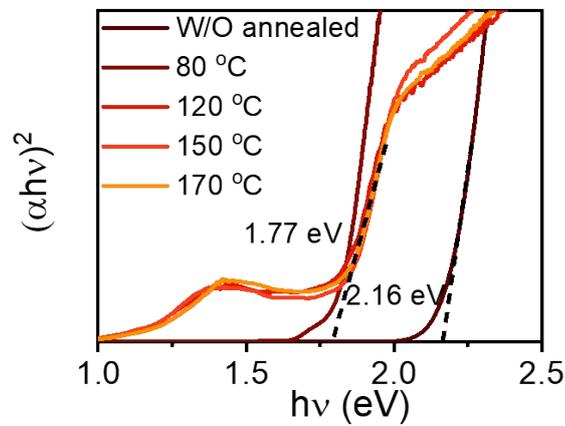
**Fig. S3** (a) FWHM and (b) Texture coefficients of [100], [110], [101], [012], [112] and [003] crystal plane of Se thin films that annealed at 120 °C, 150 °C and 170 °C.



**Fig. S4** The structure diagram of the Se solar cell integrating with a Si bottom cell.



**Fig. S5** The photographs of our RTA (a) and the graphite box from (b) the top and (c) side.



**Fig. S6** Tauc plots of Se thin films before and after RTA treatment at 80 °C, 120 °C, 150 °C and 170 °C. The optical bandgap can be determined from the Tauc plots.

**Table S1** Solar cell parameters of our Se thin-film cell, the record device<sup>2</sup> and the SQ limit.<sup>3,4</sup>

Device	PCE (%)	FF (%)	$V_{OC}$ (mV)	$J_{SC}$ (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )
<b>SQ limit</b>	23.9	92.1	1650	15.7
<b>Record</b>				
<b>ZnMgO/Se/MoO<sub>x</sub>/Au</b>	6.51	63.4	969	10.6
<b>Our cell</b>				
<b>ZnO/Se/Au</b>	3.22	50.93	639	9.9

#### Notes and references

1. C. G. Van de Walle and J. Neugebauer, *Nature*, 2003, **423**, 626-628.
2. T. K. Todorov, S. Singh, D. M. Bishop, O. Gunawan, Y. S. Lee, T. S. Gershon, K. W. Brew, P. D. Antunez and R. Haight, *Nat. Commun*, 2017, **8**, 682–690.
3. S. S. Hegedus and W. N. Shafarman, *Prog. Photovolt: Res. Appl.*, 2004, **12**, 155-176.
4. U. Rau and J. H. Werner, *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2004, **84**, 3735-3737.