# **Supplementary Information for**

# **De-templated crystallization in 2D Perovskites for Enhanced**

# **Photovoltaic Efficiency**

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### **Methods**

#### **Materials**

Formamidinium iodide (FAI, 99.99%), lead iodide (PbI<sub>2</sub>, 99.99%), and organic spacers including Hexylamine Hydroiodide (HAI), phenylethylammonium iodide (PEAI), and thiourea (TU) were purchased from TCI. Methylammonium chloride (MACl, 98%), and 2,2',7,7'-Tetrakis [N, N-di(4-methoxyphenyl) amino]-9,9'-spirobifluorene (Spiro-OMeTAD) was purchased from Borun New Material Corp. Bis-(trifluoromethane) sulfonimide lithium salt (Li-TFSI) and 4-tert-butyl-pyridine (tBP) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. A colloidal dispersion of tin (IV) oxide (SnO2, 15%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. All solvents, including N, N'-dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.8%, anhydrous), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO,99.8%, anhydrous), and chlorobenzene CB (>99.8%) were sourced from Sigma-Aldrich. The Indium-tin Oxide (ITO) glass and Fluorine-doped Tin Oxide (FTO) glass were purchased from Advanced Election Technology Co., Ltd.

#### **Perovskite precursor solution**

For the conventional two-step method (TTSD), the  $PbI<sub>2</sub>$  (1.0 mol) was dissolved in a solvent mixture of DMF and DMSO solution, while the FAI, HAI, and MACl (6 mg/ml) were dissolved in the IPA solution. The modified TTSD method with TU in the first step was defined in ATSD. The modified TTSD with HAI preponed to the first step was defined in STSD. In the SATD spin-coating method, a mixture containing HAI, FAI, and PbI<sub>2</sub> at the same stoichiometric ratio of  $n=4$ , HAI and PbI<sub>2</sub> were prepared, and TU added to the PbI<sub>2</sub> precursors at concentrations ratio of PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU=1:0.5, 1:1 and 1:2, and 1:2 in the DMF and DMSO solutions (volume ratio 9:1), respectively. The FAI and MACl (6 mg/ml) were dissolved in the IPA solution. PEAI and ThDMA-based 2D FA perovskite films were prepared by dissolving these compounds along with TU and PbI<sup>2</sup> in mixed solvents of DMF and DMSO (volume ratio 9:1). FAI and MACl (6 mg/ml) were dissolved in IPA solution, maintaining a stoichiometric ratio of 2:3:4 (*n*=4). HAbased 2D FA perovskite films with different layers (*n*=2 and *n*=3) were prepared by a stoichiometric ratio of 2:1:2 ( $n=2$ ), and 2:2:3 ( $n=3$ ), by dissolving HAI, TU, and PbI<sub>2</sub> in mixed solvents of DMF and DMSO. Similarly, FAI and MACl were dissolved in IPA solution, respectively.

### **Device fabrications**

The production of perovskite solar cells commenced with the preparation of ITO glass with the pre-patterned substrates. These substrates underwent a cleaning regimen, involving ultrasonic baths of detergent, deionized water, ethanol, and acetone, followed by a UV Ozone cleaning process, with each stage lasting for 15 minutes. Subsequently, a  $SnO<sub>2</sub>$  colloidal dispersion (diluted to 15% with deionized water at a ratio of 1:5) was coated onto the substrates at a spin speed of 3000 rpm for 30 seconds and underwent an annealing process at 150 °C for 30 minutes. The creation of one-step perovskite films involved depositing a precursor solution onto the substrates at a spin speed of 4000 rpm for 30 seconds, with an anti-solvent of 300 µL chlorobenzene introduced 15 seconds before the end. The two-step method involved depositing a metal halide precursor solution onto the substrates at a spin speed of 3000 rpm for 30 seconds in the first step and spin-coating IPA solution of organic cations at a spin speed of 5000 rpm for 30 seconds in the second step. These films were then subjected to thermal annealing at 150 °C on a hotplate for 30 minutes to finalize their structure. Following this, a Spiro-OMeTAD solution was spin-coated over the perovskite layer as a hole-transport material at 3000 rpm for 30 seconds. This solution was prepared by dissolving 73 mg of Spiro-OMeTAD in 1 ml of chlorobenzene, with the addition of 17.5 µL Li-TFSI (520 mg/ml in acetonitrile) and 28.8 µL of 4-tBP as dopants. The fabrication concluded with the thermal evaporation of 60-nm thick gold electrodes, ensuring a robust electrical connection for the cells.

# **Characterization of perovskite films**

UV-Vis absorption measurements of perovskite films were conducted using a Shimadzu UV 2450 spectrometer. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were obtained using Rigaku Dmax 2600 diffractometer via using Cu *Kα* radiation with a Nickel filter. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was performed on the AXIS Ultra DLD (Kratos) spectrometer. Grazing incidence wide-angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS) data were collected at beamline BL14B1 of the Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility (SSRF) using X-ray with a wavelength of 1.2398 Å. Transmission Electron Microscopic (TEM) was used FEI Themis-Z Double-corrected 60-300Kv S/TEM. The perovskite films were scratched off from the substrate and dispersed in toluene by sonication for 10 min, followed by being dropped on a Cu grid for characterization. Photoluminescence (PL) Measurements were performed using an FLS1000 spectrometer (Edinburgh Instruments) with 470 nm excitation wavelength, and the PL mapping was collected on a Leica TCS SP8 STED 3X super-resolution system. Timeresolved photoluminescence spectra (TRPL) were obtained by using the same spectrometer as that for the steady PL experiments. Both the top-view and crosssectional scanning electron microscopy (SEM) measurements for perovskite samples were conducted using Tescan Maia3 Gmu (model 2016). Kelvin probe force microscopy (KPFM) measurement data were obtained using a Dimension Fast Scan Bio Atomic Force Microscope. Elemental Analysis (EA) was conducted on a Thermo Fisher Flash Smart elemental analyzer.

#### **Device characterization and Stability measurement**

Current density-voltage (*J-V*) curves were obtained using a Keithley 2400 source-meter under AM 1.5G 1-sun illumination from a 3A simulator (Newport, Oriel® Sol3A™, 94023A). The system was calibrated using a standard silicon reference cell (Newport, Newport Oriel 91150-KG5). Measurements were conducted on devices with active areas of 0.08 cm<sup>2</sup> and 1.02 cm<sup>2</sup>. Incident photo-to-electron conversion efficiency (IPCE) spectra measurements were characterized using monochromatic incident light of  $1 \times 10^{16}$  photons cm<sup>-2</sup> with the alternating current mode. Accelerated aging tests were conducted at 25° and a relative humidity (RH) of 50-60%. Heat stability was assessed by placing non-encapsulated PSCs on a hotplate within an aging box maintained at 85°C, and PCE evolution was monitored through periodic *J-V* measurements. Longterm operational stability was tested on the solar cell light resistance testing system of Model BIR-50. Long-term operational stability was evaluated using a Model BIR-50 solar cell light resistance testing system. The stability of the unencapsulated photovoltaic devices was measured under continuous one-sun illumination in an  $N_2$ filled glove box. For all stability tests, the hole transport layer was modified by ionexchanged PTAA, details of which are described in previous work<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Computational method**

All the first-principles density functional theory (DFT) calculations  $2$  were performed as implemented in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP)<sup>3</sup>. The DFT-D3 scheme of Grimme was adopted for describing van der Waals (vdW) interactions<sup>4</sup>. Projector-augmented wave (PAW) pseudopotentials were used to model the valence states and the interactions between core and valence electrons<sup>5</sup>. The Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE)<sup>6</sup> form of the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) was employed for describing the exchange and correlation function, and the spin-orbit coupling (SOC) was included. Plane-wave functions were expanded with an energy cutoff of 500 eV and the Brillouin zone was sampled using a Monkhorst–Pack sampling of 4\*4\*4 k-point grid. All the geometries were fully relaxed until the forces on each atom were less than 0.01 eV/Å. The system of interest is isolated molecules. The binding energies of the compound  $(E_b)$  relative to its isolated molecules were calculated

using the following method, where  $E_b = E_{total} - \sum E_{isolated \ molecules}$ , Where  $E_{total}$  and

 $\sum E$ <sub>isolated molecules</sub> is the total energy of the compound and individual isolated molecules. Regarding the calculation and mapping of ESP, we used Gaussian for calculating the ESP of the molecular structure. The stabled wavefunctions were calculated using Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE0) hybrid functional, with mixed pseudopotentials and basis sets (6-311G\* for light elements and SDD-MWB for Pb, I, respectively). The results are corrected with D3 version of Grimme's dispersion with Becke-Johnson damping. After that, the electrostatic potential was then mapped onto the van der Waals surface of the molecule to visualize the charge distribution.



**Supplementary Fig. 1.** Fabrication flowchart of 2D perovskite films based on different two-step deposition methods. **a)** traditional two-step sequential deposition method as defined in TTSD method (PbI<sub>2</sub>; FAI+HAI), **b**) a modified additive-assisted two-step sequential deposition as defined in ATSD method (PbI<sub>2</sub>+TU; FAI+HAI). **c**) a modified spacer-cation-preponed two-step sequential deposition as defined in STSD method (PbI2+HAI; FAI+HAI), **d)** Target spacer-cation-preponed additive-stabilized two-step deposition (SATD) method (PbI<sub>2</sub>+TU+HAI; FAI), respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 2.** High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy (HRTEM) images and corresponding Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) analysis of 2D perovskite film produced using the SATD strategy.



**Supplementary Fig. 3**. (a) PL spectra of the resulted SATD film excited from the front side (film side) and back side (glass side). (b) XRD patterns of the resulted 2D perovskite films and powders, respectively. PL measurements were conducted from both the front and back sides of the film. The front-side PL spectrum predominantly exhibits emission from the 3D-like perovskite phase, whereas the back-side spectrum reveals, in addition to the bulk phase signals, a distinct emission around 650 nm range corresponding to the 2D phase (n=4). This observation indicates that 2D perovskite is primarily distributed near the back of the film, close to the substrate, while the 3D phase is more concentrated on the surface. This is consistent with our crystallization theory, where the 3D-like phase guides the crystallization of 2D perovskite after the deposition of FAI. The XRD for the resulted SATD film revealed strong out-of-plane diffraction of the perovskite, indicative of vertical orientation of 2D micro-crystals. To confirm the 2D phase, we performed XRD for perovskite powders that directly scraped from the substates, eliminated the orientation effect. The results clearly shown (400) diffraction peak of the 2D  $HA_2FA_3Pb_4I_{13}$  perovskite. This further confirms the presence of the 2D phase within the film and demonstrates that our SATD strategy effectively promotes vertical orientation.



**Supplementary Fig. 4** Optical photo of wet perovskite film after the first deposition step using **a)** TTSD method and **b)** target SATD method, the SATD sample exhibited nearly colorless compared to the yellow  $PbI<sub>2</sub>$  films.



**Supplementary Fig. 5.** XRD patterns of 2D FA-based perovskite films after annealing, with different deposition methods as shown in Supplementary Fig. 1 (the asterisk  $*$ represents the 0*k*0 crystal plane).



**Supplementary Fig. 6.** Integrated diffraction intensity along the out-of-plane direction of GIWAXS patterns for the TTSD 2D perovskite films. The calibration of diffraction peaks is based on the literature 7-9.



**Supplementary Fig. 7.** FTIR spectra of the TU and that interacted with different perovskite components (FAI, HAI, and PbI2), respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 8.** Calculated possible molecular configurations between (a) FAI and TU, **b**) HAI and TU, **c**) PbI<sub>2</sub> and HAI, **d**) FAI and PbI<sub>2</sub>, respectively, the binding energy *E*<sup>b</sup> was also calculated based on DFT.



**Supplementary Fig. 9.** Molecular structures and calculated electrostatic potential (ESP) mapping profiles of TU, PbI2, HAI, and FAI, respectively, and the interacted complexes between these components. The ESP color bar ranges from -0.07 to 0.07 for a clear comparison.



**Supplementary Fig. 10.** (a-b) AFM images of 2D perovskite film using TTSD and SATD strategy, respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 11.** (a) Top-view scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images of TU-treated 2D FA perovskite films with different incorporation ratios: (a) PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU: =1:0,5; (b) PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU =1:1; (c)PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU =1:2, and (d) Ref sample, respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 12.** TRPL of the TTSD and the SATD perovskite films and carrier lifetimes are summarized in **Supplementary Table 1.** The TRPL decays were fitted using the equation:  $y = A_1 \exp(-t/\tau_1) + A_2 \exp(-t/\tau_2)$ , where  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are the amplitudes,  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  are the PL decay times.



**Supplementary Fig. 13.** Corresponding PL peak shift (excited from front side) and FWHM variation of 2D FA perovskite films with different TU incorporated ratios, from PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU: =1:0.5 to PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU =1:2, respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 14.** XRD patterns of 2D FA perovskite films treated by TTSD and SATD strategy, respectively. **a**) HA  $(n = 2)$ , **b**) HA  $(n = 3)$ , **c**) PEA  $(n = 4)$ , and **d**) ThDMA  $(n = 4)$ .



**Supplementary Fig. 15.** Comparison of TRPL of 2D FA perovskite films treated by TTSD and SATD strategy, respectively. **a**) HA ( $n = 2$ ), and **b**) HA ( $n = 3$ ), **c**) PEA ( $n =$ 4), **d)** ThDMA (*n* = 4). The charge carrier lifetime is summarized in **Supplementary Table 2.**



**Supplementary Fig. 16.** Cross-section scanning electron microscopy (SEM) image of PSC fabricated based on **a)** the TTSD method and **b)** the target (SATD) method, respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 17** *J–V* curves (under forward and reverse scanning direction) of TU-treated 2D FA perovskite films with different incorporation ratios, control sample, PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU: =1:0.5, PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU =1:1, and PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU =1:2, respectively. The main parameters of the best devices are summarized in **Supplementary Table 4**.



**Supplementary Fig. 18.** *J–V* curves (under forward and reverse scanning direction) of the optimized FA-based 2D PSCs based on TTSD, ATSD, and STSD methods, respectively. The main parameters of the best devices are summarized in **Supplementary Table 5**.



**Supplementary Fig. 19.** Statistical distributions of *J*sc, *V*oc, and *FF* for both TTSD and SATD based 2D perovskite solar cells, and the corresponding parameters of each device are summarized in **Supplementary Table 7.**



**Supplementary Fig. 20.** *J–V* curves (under forward and reverse scanning direction) of 2D FA-based PSCs based on SATD strategy and traditional one-step method of adding TU, respectively. The main parameters of the best devices are summarized in **Supplementary Table 8**.



**Supplementary Fig. 21.** (a) *J–V* curves (under forward and reverse scanning direction) of 2D FA-based PSCs with the active area of 1.02cm<sup>2</sup> , based on TTSD and SATD strategy, respectively. (b) and corresponding optical image of device. The main parameters of the best devices are summarized in **Supplementary Table 9**.



**Supplementary Fig. 22** The certificated I-V curve of the FA-based 2D PSCs, by Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology, Chinese Academy of Science (SIMIT).



**Supplementary Fig. 23.** MPP tracking test of the devices based on SATD and TTSD strategy under continuous 1 Sun illumination (AM 1.5G) in  $N_2$ , respectively.



**Supplementary Fig. 24.** The comparative stability of unencapsulated 2D PSCs employing TTSD and SATD strategy. **a)** Thermal endurance tested at a sustained temperature of 85 °C (dark condition, RH~30±5%), and **b)** Photo-stability of the devices exposed under AM 1.5 G illumination at 25°C.

<b>Mass ratio</b>	$N[\%]$	$C[\%]$	$H[\%]$	$S[\%]$
Sample $1#$	42.6	45.4	12.2	< 0.10
Sample $2#$	43.1	44.4	12.0	< 0.10
Sample $3#$	43.5	44.7	12.1	< 0.10
Average	43.1	44.8	12.1	< 0.10
Mole ratio	1.00	1.21	3.90	

**Supplementary Table 1**, The C, H, N and S content of resulted 2D perovskite film  $(C_6H_{16}N_1)_2$   $(CH_5N_2)$ ) <sub>n-1</sub>Pb<sub>n</sub>I<sub>3n+1</sub>) via Elemental Analysis test.

**Supplementary Table 2.** The charge carrier lifetime of the 2D perovskite film based on different spacer cations, such as ThDMA, PEAI, and HAI  $(n = 4)$  2D perovskite films, and HA-based 2D perovskite films with different thickness of QWs prepared by the TTSD and SATD strategy.

		<b>TTSD</b>		<b>SATD</b>
2D PVSK	$\tau_1$ [ns]	$\tau_2$ [ns]	$\tau_1$ [ns]	$\tau_2$ [ns]
$HA(n=3)$	9.78	89.03	18.37	109.71
$HA(n=2)$	5.73	47.20	8.45	60.77
$ThDMA(n=4)$	18.65	144.83	26.35	212.01
$PEA(n=4)$	9.79	91.58	23.06	153.12
$HA(n=4)$	6.38	221.41	88.59	932.42

**Supplementary Table 3.** Main parameters of the best devices of various FA-based 2D perovskites films based on different spacer cations, such as ThDMA, PEAI, and HAI  $(n=4)$  2D perovskite films, and HA-based 2D perovskite films with different thickness of QWs prepared by the TTSD and SATD strategy.



HA	<b>TTSD</b>	1.005	13.05	70.98	9.31
$(n=2)$	<b>SATD</b>	1.038	13.39	72.07	10.02
HA	<b>TTSD</b>	1.038	18.79	73.59	14.36
$(n=3)$	<b>SATD</b>	1.060	20.04	75.03	15.94
<b>PEAI</b>	<b>TTSD</b>	1.061	21.77	73.02	16.87
$(n=4)$	<b>SATD</b>	1.081	23.16	78.26	19.58
<b>ThDMA</b>	<b>TTSD</b>	1.079	22.47	71.97	17.45
$(n=4)$	<b>SATD</b>	1.106	22.97	78.18	19.86

**Supplementary Table 4.** Main parameters (obtained in the forward scanning and reverse scanning) of the best devices of various FA-based 2D perovskites based on the ratio of PbI<sub>2</sub>: TU= 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:1.5, 1:2 using SATD strategy, respectively.

<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Direction</b>	$V_{oc}$ (V)	$J_{\rm sc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF(%)	Efficiency $(\% )$
Control	Forward	1.025	22.49	75.08	17.31
	Reverse	1.021	21.94	78.28	17.53
1:0.5	Forward	1.054	21.97	78.29	18.13
	Reverse	1.066	21.95	78.67	18.41
1:1	Forward	1.126	23.71	79.25	21.16
	Reverse	1.122	23.65	79.05	20.98
1:2	Forward	1.059	22.68	79.66	19.13
	Reverse	1.073	22.65	79.03	19.20

**Supplementary Table 5.** Main parameters of the best devices of various FA-based 2D perovskites films based on different methods, respectively.





**Supplementary Table 6.** Summary of the representative low-n 2D PSCs with small

areas  $(< 0.1$  cm<sup>2</sup>).





**Supplementary Table 7.** The corresponding parameters of each device in the reproducibility measurements.





**Supplementary Table 8.** Main parameters (obtained in the forward scanning and reverse scanning) of the best devices based on traditional one-step method of adding TU and SATD methods.

	<b>Direction</b>	$V_{\text{oc}}$ (V)	$J_{\rm sc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF(%)	Efficiency $(\% )$
One-step	Forward	1.084	23.12	79.49	19.93
Method	Reverse	1.072	23.05	79.03	19.53
<b>SATD</b>	Forward	1.126	23.71	79.25	21.16
	Reverse	1.122	23.65	79.05	20.98

**Supplementary Table 9.** Main parameters (obtained in the forward scanning and reverse scanning) of the best devices of various FA-based 2D perovskite films at the active area of 1.02cm<sup>2</sup>.



**Supplementary Table 10.** Summary of the representative 2D PSCs with large areas (≥  $1 \text{ cm}^2$ ).



<sup>a</sup> Designated layer thickness of QWs.



**Supplementary Table 11**. The initial average PCE of the devices for stability tests using PTAA as HTL.

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