Supporting information

Revealing Degradation Mechanisms in 3D/2D

Perovskite Solar Cells under Photothermal

Accelerated Ageing

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Methods

Materials

FAI, MABr, BAI, OAI, PEAI, PEABr, PEASCN, BDAI_{2,} CF₃PMAI, CF₃PAI EDAI₂ and PDAI₂ were bought from Greatcell Solar Materials. PbI₂ PbBr₂, CsI were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. FPEAI, Tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane (BCF), HDAI₂, ODAI₂, DMe-PDAI₂ and DMe-EDAI₂ were purchased from TCI. PCBM was purchased from Nano-C. Poly[2,2""bis[[(2-butyloctyl)oxy]carbonyl]-[2,2':5',2":5",2"'-quaterthiophene]-5,5"'-diyl] (PDCBT) was purchased form 1-Material. PTAA, GuaI, CyMAI, Br-PMAI, ThEAI, CyDMAI₂ and PhDMAI₂ was purchased from Xi'an Yuri Solar. The $SnO₂$ nanoparticle solution was purchased from Alfa Aesar. All the solvents mentioned were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

Device fabrication

Perovskite solar cells were prepared according to previous work with some adjustment.¹ ITO substrates were cleaned with oxygen plasma for 5 min. $SnO₂$ solution was diluted with water (1:5), then spin-coated on the ITO substrates at 3000 rpm 25 s and annealed at 150 °C for 30 min. Before being transfer into N_2 glovebox, SnO_2 substrates were treated with oxygen plasma for 3 min. PCBM solution (10 mg/mL in CB/DCB 9:1) was spin-coated on substrates and annealed at 150 °C for 10 min.

1.5 M stoichiometric perovskite precursors of $Cs_{0.05}MA_{0.1}FA_{0.85}PbI_{2.75}Br_{0.25}$ (CsMAFA) or $Cs_{0.15}FA_{0.85}PbI_{2.75}Br_{0.25} (CsFA) were obtained by dissolving salts into DMF:DMSO=4:1$ (CsMAFA) or DMF:DMSO:NMP=4:0.5:0.5 solution (CsFA). Precursor was spin-coated at 5000 rpm for 50 s, and the 300 μL anisole was dropped at 25 s. The wet film was annealed at 150 °C 10 min.

Different passivators were dissolved in IPA to achieve desired concentration (such as 10 mM) and dynamically spin-coated onto perovskite and annealed at 100°C for 5 min. For example, once the substrate reached the target spin speed (4000 rpm), 50 μL of the passivation solution was quickly dropped in the middle of the substrate, and then maintained at the target spin speed for 20 seconds. In the case of $BDAI_2$ passivation, due to its low solubility in IPA/toluene (3-5 mM), after the substrate reached 4000 rpm, first droplet of saturated solution was dropped onto the substrate, wait for 2 s until the solvent evaporated and the substrate was dry again, then the second droplet of saturated solution was dropped, and keep at 4000 rpm for 20 seconds (e.g., 2-3 times of saturated solution corresponding to 10 mM passivation). In case of target-2D-di bottom sample, BDAI₂ solution (10 mg/mL, in DMF) was spin-coated on ETL and annealed at 100 °C 10 min, before the deposition of perovskite layer.

PDCBT (6 mg/mL in chloroform) and PTAA (15 mg/mL in chlorobenzene with 10 wt% BCF as dopant) were dynamically deposited on perovskite films at 2000 rpm and 4000 rpm for 25 s, respectively. After annealing at 90 °C for 10 min, films were transfer into thermal evaporator and a 40 nm Au layer was evaporated. The active area of 0.06 cm^2 is defined by the overlap between the mask and the ITO.

2D films deposition

Solution of mono-ammonium spacers and PbI_2 (mol ratio: 2:1), and di-ammonium spacers and PbI² (mol ratio: 1:1) were dissolved into DMSO with the concentration of 0.4M at room temperature. After cleaning the glass substrate with ozone-plasma cleaning, 50 μL of solution was dropped onto the glass and spin-coated at 4000 rpm for 30 s. Then samples were annealed at 100°C for 5 min.

*J***-***V* **measurement**

J-*V* characteristics were measured with a Keithley source measurement unit and a WAVELABS SINUS-70 3A solar simulator, which provides illumination with an AM1.5G spectrum and light intensity of 100 mW cm⁻². The *J-V* characteristics were performed from 0 to 1.2 V (forward scan) and from 1.2 to 0 V (backward scan) at a scan rate of 30 ms/step and a scan step of 40 mV. The light intensity was calibrated with a Si reference cell (91150V) bought from Newport.

Operational stability measurement

Devices without encapsulation were loaded into a degradation chamber flowed with N_2 flow. Light source was provided by 4 white LED (XLamp® CMA3090 LED) without using additional filter. The light intensity was controllable and adjusted to 1-sun or 2-sun equivalent intensity by measuring and matching the same or double J_{SC} value of the devices under AM 1.5G solar simulator (e.g. 21-23 mA cm-2 for 1-sun, 42-46 mA cm-2 for 2-suns). A hotplate underneath the chamber was set to desired temperature and a temperature sensor (PT100) was installed inside the chamber and put against to one of the device's corner to record the temperature trend. The *J*-*V* characteristics were measured by LabView program with different interval time (2-10 minutes in the early stages and 45-90 minutes in the later stages). Samples were loaded under either open-circuit or 0.7 V bias during ageing.

Characterization

Work function (WF) was performed with a SPS040 Kelvin Probe from KP Technology. The tip's WF was determined by using a highly oriented pyrolytic graphite (HOPG) with a WF ~4.6 eV. Photoluminescence and absorption spectra were carried out by Tecan Infinite 200 PRO. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were taken from a Panalytical X'pert powder diffractometer with filtered Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54178$ Å) and an X'Celerator solid-state stripe detector. The impedance spectra were measured by Zahner Zennium Pro potentiostat, under short-circuit and different illumination controlled by LED lamp (LSW-2, s/n LS 1858).

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was performed on an EA 125X U7 Energy Analyser from Scienta Omicron using Al *K*-alpha radiation with 1486.7 eV excitation energy, 0.05 eV step and 20 eV pass energy.

The Time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry (ToF-SIMS) depth profiles were acquired by using a Time-of-Flight SIMS IV (Ion-TOF GmbH, Muenster, Germany) equipped with a Bi+ primary ion gun working at 25 keV in dual beam mode. The sputtering was realized with 2 keV O_2 source (for positive ions) and 1 keV Cs source (for negative ions) using of active electron flooding to prevent the surface charging to increase the yield of positively and negatively charged secondary ions.

Numerical simulation

Optical simulation was done with Setfos software. Drift diffusion was done with SIMsalabim tool developed by Koster et al. (http://simsalabim-online.com).² The simulation parameters are listed in [Table](#page-33-0) S 3.

p*K***^a calculation**

The pK_a value is calculated using the pK_a calculators from Chemaxon.

Figure S 1 The operational stability of 3D/2D-mono-ammonium and 3D/2D-di-ammonium based passivated perovskite solar cells under 85 °C and 1-sun condition. (a-d) Those parameters were obtained from the *J-V* curves during degradation and normalized by the value at 0.6 hour. Each type of cell contains three individual cells and the error bars represent the standard deviation. (e) The unnormalized PCE of devices. Each color represents one individual device. (f) The recorded temperature during the stability measurement. The sharp drop of PCE at the very beginning (0 - 0.6 h) is due to the of negative temperature coefficient from around 30°C to 85°C. The small stepwise drop of PCE and $J_{\rm SC}$ around 140 h is due to the fluctuation of the light source.

Figure S 2 (a-e) The forward and reverse *J-V* curves and (f-i) statistical results of device parameters for 3D/2Dmono-ammonium and 3D/2D-di-ammonium based devices.

Figure S 3 Upper part: XRD patterns of different films formed by 2 mol mono-cation iodide and 1 mol PbI₂ (2) $AI + 1 PbI₂$) before and after ageing at 85 °C and 2-suns. Lower part: the corresponding phase (RP, near-DJ (nDJ) and no 2D phase forming (non)) together with the photograph. EA^3 and CF_3PA are labelled as "non", since their mixture with PbI² do not have corresponding characteristic diffraction peak along (100) planes in XRD patterns. HA and Br-PMA are labelled as "nDJ", since their offsets of inorganic layers are small and hence have near-DJ stacking^{4, 5}.

Figure S 4 Upper part: XRD patterns of different films formed by 1 mol di-cation iodide and 1 mol PbI₂ (AI₂ + PbI₂) before and after ageing at 85 °C and 2-suns. Lower part shows the corresponding phase (DJ, near-RP (nRP) and no 2D phase forming (non)) together with the photograph. EDA, $PDA⁶$, DMe-EDA and $PhDA^{7,8}$ are labelled as "non", as they do not have 2D (100) planes in XRD patterns. DMe-PDA, BDA and HDA are labelled as "nRJ", since their offsets of inorganic layers are large and hence have near-RP stacking^{6, 9-11}.

Table S 1 The summary of the photo-thermal stability (85°C and 2-suns) of organic-inorganic compounds formed by different spacers and PbI₂. Those, whose XRD patterns change largely or Pb⁰ peak emerge after 200 hours or color change obviously, are labelled as "unstable". Here both RP (nRP) and DJ (nDJ) refer to the n=1 case.

Figure S 5 The XRD patterns of 2D-mono-ammonium and 2D-di-ammonium perovskite (n=2 and 3) before and after ageing at 85 °C and 2-suns. For PEA based 2D, the diffraction peak emerged at around 7° can be attributed to the product of (phenethylamino)methaniminium (PEAMA⁺), suggesting the reaction between PEA and FA^{12} .

Figure S 6 The PL spectra of PEAI passivator (with 10 mM and 100 mM concentration) on 3D perovskite after ageing at different conditions for 300 hours. The wide peak at 450 nm is due to the fluorescence of the glass substrate itself.

Figure S 7 PL spectra of 3D perovskite films with different concentration of mono-ammonium passivators after ageing at light, heat, and light-heat conditions for 300 hours. The wide peak at 450 nm results from the fluorescence of the glass substrate itself.

Figure S 8 UV-Vis spectra of 3D perovskite films with different concentration of passivators after ageing at light, heat, and light-heat conditions for 300 hours.

Figure S 9 XRD patterns of 3D perovskite films with different concentration of passivators after ageing at light, heat, and light-heat conditions for 300 hours.

Figure S 10 (a)Bandgap, (b) Urbach energy and (c)absorbance change (area integration between fresh and aged samples at 650-850 nm region) are calculated from UV-Vis data ([Figure](#page-13-0) S 8). Concentration of 10 mM was shown here. The combination of light and heat has great influence on 3D perovskite.

Figure S 11 XPS spectra of 3D, 3D/2D-mono and 3D/2D-di devices after 300 h ageing at 85 °C 2-suns. The perovskite films were exposed by removing the gold electrode with scotch tape, and washing upper transport layers away with chlorobenzene.

Figure S 12 ToF-SIMS depth profiles of the aged 3D/2D-mono, 3D and 3D/2D-di devices (300 hours under 85 °C 2-suns).

Figure S 13 Operational stability under 85°C and 2-suns illumination. (a-c) Reverse *J-V* curves of 3D/2D-mono, 3D and 3D/2D-di devices at different ageing time. (d) The normalized parameters dependent on time. Each color contains 3 independent devices. (e) The unnormalized PCE dependent on time. Each color contains 3 individual devices. As there is a fast burn-in at the very beginning due to the negative temperature coefficient, data were normalized at 0.6 h when the chamber's temperature increased to 80-85°C (f).

Figure S 14 Corresponding simulation parameters (HTL doping concentration and mobile ion density) obtained at various ageing time.

Figure S 15 Trends in PCE, V_{OC} , J_{SC} and FF with different simulation parameters. It shows how *J-V* parameters (PCE, V_{OC} , J_{SC} and FF) change by only changing one or two simulation parameters at one time. The $J-V$ parameters are normalized by the initial values (3D sample at 0.6 h under 85°C and 2-suns). For example, in case of the first graph (HTL mobility), it shows that the FF loss dominates when it decreases the HTL mobility from 5×10^{-8} to 5×10^{-11} m² /Vs. In case of HTL doping concentration, when the legends change from 5e23 to -1e23 m⁻³ (from p to n type), FF loss dominates the PCE losses as well. For bulk trap density, both *J*_{SC} and FF losses are primary losses as the bulk trap density increases from 2.2e20 to 2.2e23 m⁻³.

Figure S 16 Carrier (hole) diagram from the simulation result.

Figure S 17 Capacitance versus frequency plot of samples before and after 85 °C 2-suns degradation. The impedance was carried out at short-circuit and different illumination intensities. The aged 3D and 3D/2D-mono devices exhibit high resistance and lack of frequency-dependent capacitance. The aged 3D/2D-di has 2 order of magnitude increased of low frequency response, which is likely attributed to the increased recombination rate¹³.

Figure S 18 XPS spectra of fresh device and aged 3D/2D-mono, 3D and 3D/2D-di devices at 85 °C 2-suns for 300 h.

Figure S 19 Operational stability performance of CsMAFA and CsFA devices under 85°C and 2-suns illumination: (a-e) Normalized PCE, unnormalized PCE, J_{SC} , V_{OC} , and FF. Error bar represents the standard deviation of three individual devices. Each color contains 3 samples in [Figure](#page-23-0) S 19b. As there is a fast burn-in at the very beginning due to the negative temperature coefficient, data were normalized at 0.6 h when the chamber's temperature increased to 80-85°C

Figure S 20 XRD pattern of the CsMAFA and CsFA devices before and after ageing under 85°C 2-suns for 100 hours.

Figure S 21 (a-b) CsMAFA and CsFA based devices stability under different light intensities. As there is a fast burn-in at the very beginning due to the negative temperature coefficient, data were normalized at 0.6 h when the chamber's temperature increased to 80-85°C. (c-d) Fitting the acceleration factor of light using $k_{decay} = a \times Suns^{\gamma}$, where a is constant, γ is the acceleration factor and $k_{decay} = 1/T_{80}$ or $1/T_{60}$.

Figure S 22 The PL spectra and XRD patterns of perovskite films treated by di-ammonium ligand with different concentrations (10, 20, 50, 100 mg/mL in DMF). 10 mg/mL is the optimized concentration used in operational stability testing. The wavelength of excitation light is 375 nm. There is no 2D PL peak at short wavelength region and no 2D characteristic XRD peak at around 8°. The position of (100) XRD diffraction peak does not change when different concentrations of di-ammonium ligand are introduced.

Figure S 23 The unnormalized PCE of devices based on control, 2D-mono and target-2D-di. Each color contains three independent devices.

Figure S 24 Operational stability under 85° C and 2-suns illumination. Di-ammonium ligand (BDAI₂) was introduced at bottom interface (2D-di/CsFA), at top interface (CsFA/2D-di) or at both interfaces (2D-di /CsFA/2D-di). The bottom treated devices (2D-di /CsFA) show the best stability, while the unpassivated devices (CsFA) are the worst. The 2D-di-top treatment inducing iodide interstitial near top interface is not beneficial to the stability. As there is a fast burn-in at the very beginning due to the negative temperature coefficient, data were normalized at 0.6 h when the chamber's temperature increased to 80-85°C

Figure S 25 XRD pattern of the control (CsFA-based) and target-2D-di (CsFA with 2D-di bottom) devices before and after ageing under 85°C 2-suns for 300 hours.

Figure S 26 Capacitance versus frequency plot of control and target-2D-di samples after 85 °C 2-suns degradation. The impedance was carried out at short-circuit and different illumination intensities. It shows that the target-2Ddi device has around one order of magnitude lower response at low frequency than the untreated device, indicating suppressed recombination (caused by traps) 13 .

Table S 2 Summary of operational stability under harsh conditions (>80 °C)

hours	$R_{\rm s}$ $(\Omega \text{ cm}^2)$	$\mu_{\rm HTL}$ $(10^{-8} \text{ m}^2\text{V}^{-1})$ 1_S-1)	$N_{\rm h,HTL}$ (10^{23} m^{-3})	$N_{\rm t,HTL}$	$N_{\rm t,bulk}$ (10^{14} m^2) (10^{20} m^3)	$N_{\rm ion}$ (10^{22} m^{-3})
3D/2D-mono						
0.6	2.5	5	5	$\mathbf{1}$	2.2	1.3
5	3.5	5	5	5	2.2	1.3
15	6	5	5	10	$\overline{4}$	1.3
25	9	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	10	6	$\overline{2}$
35	70	0.1	0.2	10	6	$\overline{2}$
3D						
0.6	$\mathbf{1}$	5	5	6	2.2	1.5
10	1.7	5	5	6	3.5	1.9
50	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{3}$	$\overline{2}$	6	6	3
100	6	0.8	$\mathbf{1}$	6	20	$\overline{3}$
125	70	0.1	0.2	6	20	3
$3D/2D$ -di						
0.6	$\overline{2}$	5	5	1.5	2.2	1.3
25	$\overline{2}$	5	5	1.5	2.2	1.8
75	2.5	5	5	$\overline{4}$	22	2.2
150	$\overline{3}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1	$\overline{4}$	40	2.2
200	3.5	0.7	0.7	$\overline{4}$	45	2.3

Table S 4 The parameters for simulation showed in Figure 4 and [Figure](#page-19-0) S 14.

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