# Effective passivation of quasi-2D perovskites enabled by $\pi$ -conjugated planar molecules

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### Introduction



#### **Defect passivation**

Effective passivation of the undercoordinated Pb<sup>2+</sup> ions is the quintessential priority to boost stability and to allay non-radiative recombination of an exciton

### Introduction



#### Problem

- Recently, owing to their excellent carrier mobility, passivating agents with π-conjugation have been highlighted as flawless alternatives.
- However, there have not been general rules for anticipating the passivation capability of a planar molecule



### Goal

This work aims to reveal the design strategy of planar molecules that may exhibit good passivating capability, thereby enabling efficacious discovery

#### **Observation**

Photoluminescence intensity was increased upon 46-DBDB treatment and changed diminutively upon 28-DBDB addition while absorption spectra showed marginal change.



#### **Observation**

46-DBDB in perovskite film showed diminished C-Br stretching peak intensity compared to the pure molecule while 28-DBDB in perovskite film showed the same absorption profile as the molecule *per se* 



#### **Observation**

The C-Br peak of the 46-DBDB molecule disappears when it comes into quasi-2D perovskite



#### **Hypotheses**

- 1. 46-DBDB somehow was not included in the perovskite film
- 2. 46-DBDB underwent hydrolysis and *in-situ* furnished HBr molecules.
- 3. 46-DBDB effectively passivated halide vacancies in the film

### Hypothesis 1

46-DBDB somehow was not included in the final perovskite film



J. Mol. Struct. 380.1-2 (1996): 1-14.

### Hypothesis 2

46-DBDB underwent hydrolysis and lose C-Br bonding





- In general, aromatic sp<sup>2</sup> C-Br hardly undergoes hydrolysis
- No O-H peak was observed
- $\rightarrow$  Structural change in the 46-DBDB would be negligible

# **Mechanistic scrutinization**

### **Proposition 1**

Ascended PL intensity is attributed to the geometrical effect.







 $\rightarrow$  The geometrical effect is insufficient to fully explain the difference

# **Mechanistic scrutinization**

### **Proposition 2**

Potential passivating moieties should contribute to the HOMO of the molecule.



28-DBDB

46-DBDB

# **Mechanistic scrutinization**

#### Alternative explanation

Electrostatic potential (ESP) would play a crucial role in passivation capability

#### Positive



→ The ESP-based narrative cannot duly explain the superiority of the 46-DBDB over the 28-DBDB

### **HDT demonstration**



Wavelength (nm)

600

600

### One more thing: Additive amount



#### **Observation**

- There exists a 'HDT content window'
- Under excess HDT content, the passivation effect was

compensated by other factor(s)

## One more thing: Additive amount

#### **Observation**

Excess HDT aggravated structural homogeneity and ultimately resulted in stability mitigation



### **Device demonstration**

#### **Observation**

Excess HDT aggravated the performance of light-emitting diodes



### Conclusion

### Effective passivation with planar molecules would require the following:

- HOMO located at the atoms that may interact with the perovskite surface
- Those atoms spaced by the proper distance dictated by the crystal structure
- An appropriate amount that would not damage the structural integrity

### Thank you for your attention

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### Appendix I: Oxygen atom effect



J. Mol. Struct. 380.1-2 (1996): 1-14.

### Appendix II. PPE and ABN: Geometrical effect



### Appendix III: More on the geometrical effect



# Appendix IV. Hydantoin demonstration



