

Tuning Structural Isomers of Phenylenediammonium to Afford Efficient and Stable Perovskite Solar Cells and Modules

Cheng Liu^{1,2†}, Yi Yang^{1,2†}, Kasparas Rakstys^{3*}, Arup Mahata^{4,5}, Marius Franckevicius⁶, Edoardo Mosconi⁵, Raminta Skackauskaite³, Bin Ding², Keith G. Brooks², Onovbaramwen Jennifer Usiobo⁷, Jean-Nicolas Audinot⁷, Hiroyuki Kanda², Simonas Driukas⁶, Gabriele Kavaliauskaite⁶, Vidmantas Gulbinas⁶, Marc Dessimoz², Vytautas Getautis³, Filippo De Angelis^{4,8,9}, Yong Ding^{1,2*}, Songyuan Dai^{1*}, Paul J. Dyson^{2*} & Mohammad Khaja Nazeeruddin^{2,10*}

[†]These authors contributed equally: Cheng Liu & Yi Yang

Supplementary Methods

Chemicals required for the synthesis were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and TCI Europe and used as received without additional purification. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz on a Bruker Avance III spectrometer with a 5 mm double resonance broad band BBO z-gradient room temperature probe, ¹³C NMR spectra were collected using the same instrument at 101 MHz. The chemical shifts, expressed in ppm, were relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS). All the NMR experiments were performed at 25 °C. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on ALUGRAM SIL G/UV254 plates and developed with UV light. Silica gel (grade 9385, 230–400 mesh, 60 Å, Aldrich) was used for column chromatography. Elemental analysis was performed with an Exeter Analytical CE-440 elemental analyser, Model 440 C/H/N/. MS were recorded on Waters SQ Detector 2 Spectrometer using electrospray ionization (ESI) technique. Lead iodide (PbI₂, 99.99%), lead bromide (PbBr₂, 98%), and phenethylammonium iodide (PEAI, >98.0%) were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., LTD. Methylammonium iodide (MAI, >99.5%), cesium iodide (CsI, >99.9%), methylammonium chloride (MACl, >99.5%), formamidinium iodide (FAI, >99.5%) and Spiro-MeOTAD (>99.0%) were purchased from the Xi'an Polymer Light Technology Corp. All reagents were used as received without further purification. Synthetic route

for PDEAI₂ cations is shown in Supplementary Figure 1.

2,2'-(1,4-phenylene)diacetonitrile (1)

NaCN (1.85 g, 37.77 mmol) and 1,4-bis(bromomethyl)benzene (5.00 g, 18.94 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (10 mL) and distilled H₂O (5 mL) and refluxed for 7 hours. After cooling to RT reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 20-40% acetone in hexane. Yield 2.41 g (81%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.36 (s, 4H), 3.77 (s, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 130.48, 129.23, 117.95, 23.79. Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₈N₂: C 76.90; H 5.16; N 17.94; found: C 76.95; H 5.32; N 17.77. C₁₀H₈N₂[M⁺] exact mass = 156.07, MS (ESI) = 156.18.

2,2'-(1,3-phenylene)diacetonitrile (2)

NaCN (2.04 g, 41.62 mmol) and 1,3-bis(bromomethyl)benzene (5.50 g, 20.83 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (10 mL) and distilled H₂O (5 mL) and stirred for 1 hour under reflux. After that reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and solvent evaporated. The product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 20% acetone in hexane. Yield 2.20 g (67%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 3.77 (s, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 131.42, 130.36, 128.06, 127.82, 117.72, 23.81. Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₈N₂: C 76.90; H 5.16; N 17.96; found: C 75.78; H 5.37; N 17.65. C₁₀H₈N₂[M⁺] exact mass = 156.07, MS (ESI) = 154.96.

2,2'-(1,2-phenylene)diacetonitrile (3)

NaCN (1.85 g, 37.77 mmol) and 1,2-bis(bromomethyl)benzene (5.00 g, 18.94 mmol) were dissolved in EtOH (10 mL) and distilled H₂O (5 mL). After being refluxed for 3 hours, reaction mixture was

extracted with EtOAc and dried over Na₂SO₄ then distilled. The product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using 10% acetone in hexane. Yield 1.70 g (57%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.50 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 3.78 (s, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 130.23, 129.79, 128.57, 116.84, 21.95. Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₈N₂: C 76.90; H 5.16; N 17.94; found: C 77.65; H 5.33; N 16.93. C₁₀H₈N₂[M⁺] exact mass = 156.07, MS (ESI) = 154.99.

1,4-phenylenediethylamine (4)

1 (1.00 g, 6.40 mmol) was dissolved in THF (50 mL) and a solution of 1 M borane tetrahydrofuran complex (45 mL, 542.69 mmol) was added dropwise under argon atmosphere and refluxed for 24 hours. The solution was cooled down in an ice bath and THF:H₂O (v:v; 1:1) (50 mL) was added dropwise leading to a white precipitate. The mixture was distilled to remove THF and then EtOH (100 mL) and concentrated H₂SO₄ (1 mL) were added. The mixture was refluxed for 30 min. The solvents were removed *in vacuo*, 1 M NaOH (100 mL) solution was added to neutralize the acid. The mixture was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated, leading to a white solid. The crude was used for the next step without further purification. Yield 1.05 g (99%). C₁₀H₁₆N₂[M⁺] exact mass = 164.13, MS (ESI) = 164.50.

1,3-phenylenediethylamine (5)

To a solution of **2** (1.10 g, 7.04 mmol) in THF (50 mL), 1 M borane tetrahydrofuran complex solution (45 mL, 542.69 mmol) was added dropwise under argon atmosphere and refluxed for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled down to RT and placed in an ice bath. THF:H₂O (v:v; 1:1) (50 mL) was added dropwise to neutralize the complex, leading to a white precipitate. The mixture was distilled to remove THF and EtOH (100 mL) and concentrated H₂SO₄ (1 mL) were added. The mixture was refluxed for 30 min. The solvents were removed *in vacuo*, 1 M NaOH (100 mL)

solution was added to neutralize the acid. The mixture was extracted with CHCl_3 , dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and distilled, leading to a white solid. The crude was used for the next step without further purification. Yield 1.15 g (99%). $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2[\text{M}^+]$ exact mass = 164.13, MS (ESI) = 164.47.

1,2-phenylenediethylamine (6)

To a solution of **3** (0.85 g, 5.44 mmol) in THF (50 mL), 1 M borane solution in THF (45 mL) was added dropwise under argon atmosphere and the mixture was refluxed for 24 hours. The solution was cooled down in an ice bath and THF: H_2O (v:v; 1:1) (50 mL) was added leading to a white precipitate. The mixture was distilled to remove THF and then EtOH (100 mL) and concentrated H_2SO_4 (1 mL) were added. The mixture was refluxed for 30 min. The solvents were removed *in vacuo*, 1 M NaOH (100 mL) solution was added to neutralize the acid. The mixture was extracted with CHCl_3 , dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and distilled, leading to a white solid. The crude was used for the next step without further purification. Yield 0.62 g (69%). $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2[\text{M}^+]$ exact mass = 164.13, MS (ESI) = 164.24.

1,4-(phenylene)di(ethylammonium) iodide (*p*-PDEAI₂)

4 (1.20 g, 7.30 mmol) was dissolved in CH_3OH (60 mL) and reaction flask was placed in an ice bath. HI (57 %, 12 mL) was added dropwise under argon atmosphere. The flask was covered with foil to avoid light exposure and stirred overnight at RT. Reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* and the obtained crude was dissolved in methanol and precipitated into 20-fold excess of Et_2O . The product was filtered, washed with Et_2O and dried to yield 2.39 g of yellowish solid (77%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 7.74 (s, 6H), 7.23 (s, 4H), 3.08 – 3.00 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 4H), 2.85 – 2.81 (t, J = 9.9, 6.3 Hz, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 135.00, 128.26, 38.23, 31.98. Anal. calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{18}\text{I}_2\text{N}_2$: C 28.59; H 4.32; N 6.67; I 60.42; found: C 30.02; H 4.24; N 6.4. $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{18}\text{I}_2\text{N}_2[\text{M}^+]$ exact

mass = 419.96. MS (ESI) = 418.82.

1,3-(phenylene)di(ethylammonium) iodide (*m*-PDEAI₂)

5 (1.00 g, 6.08 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃OH (50 mL) under argon atmosphere. HI (57 %, 10 mL) was added dropwise while stirring the mixture in an ice bath. The flask was covered with foil to avoid light exposure and left to stir for 24 hours. Then the reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* and the obtained crude was dissolved in methanol and precipitated into 20-fold excess of Et₂O. Precipitate was filtered, washed with Et₂O and dried to obtain the product as yellowish solid. Yield 0.62 g (23%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.75 (s, 6H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 6.4 Hz, 4H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 6.3 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 137.53, 129.06, 128.96, 127.13, 38.89, 32.94. Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₈I₂N₂: C 28.59; H 4.32; N 6.67; I 60.42; found: C 28.9; H 4.34; N 6.6. C₁₀H₁₈I₂N₂[M⁺] exact mass = 419.96. MS (ESI) = 418.83.

1,2-(phenylene)di(ethylammonium) iodide (*o*-PDEAI₂)

6 (0.50 g, 3.04 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃OH (25 mL) and HI (57 %, 5 mL) was added dropwise under argon atmosphere while stirring the mixture in an ice bath. The flask was covered with foil to avoid light exposure and left to stir for 24 hours. Reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* and the obtained crude dissolved in methanol and precipitated into 20-fold excess of Et₂O. Precipitate was filtered, washed with Et₂O and dried to obtain the product as yellowish solid. Yield 1.00 g (78%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.78 (s, 6H), 7.26 (s, 4H), 3.08 – 2.97 (m, 4H), 2.97 – 2.84 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 135.50, 129.61, 129.40, 127.27, 45.39, 40.20, 38.89, 29.69. Anal. calcd for C₁₀H₁₈I₂N₂: C 28.59; H 4.32; N 6.67; I 60.42; found: C 30.25; H 4.26; N 6.2. C₁₀H₁₈I₂N₂[M⁺] exact mass = 419.96. MS (ESI) = 418.83.

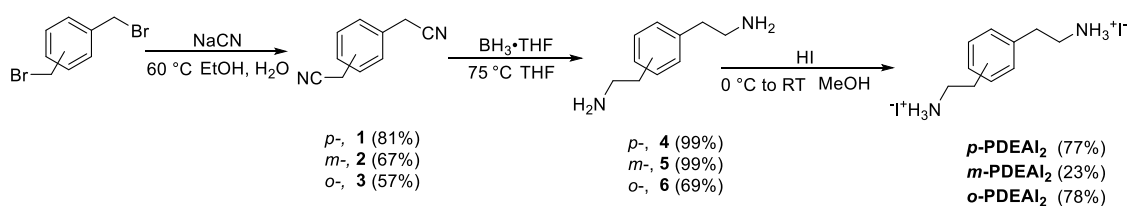
Supplementary Computational Details

First-principles calculations based on density functional theory (DFT) are carried out as implemented in the PWSCF Quantum-Espresso package¹. Geometry optimization, including dispersion correction², was performed using GGA-PBE³ level of theory and the electrons-ions interactions were described by ultrasoft pseudo-potentials with electrons from I 5s, 5p; N, C 2s, 2p; H 1s; Pb, 6s, 6p, 5d; shells explicitly included in calculations. Plane wave basis set cutoffs for the smooth part of the wave functions and the augmented density were 50 and 400 Ry, respectively. Both ions and volume were relaxed during the optimization of the bulk 2D perovskites. Formation energies ($E_{\text{formation}}$) of the bulk 2D perovskites were calculated using the following formula: $E_{\text{formation}} = E_{\text{total}} - E_{\text{Pb}^{2+}} - E_{\text{I}^-} - E_{\text{cationic-molecule}}$, where E_{total} , $E_{\text{Pb}^{2+}}$, E_{I^-} and $E_{\text{cationic-molecule}}$ are the total energy of the bulk 2D perovskite, Pb^{2+} cation, isolated I^- anion and isolated cationic molecule, respectively with the corresponding numbers of ions involves for the bulk 2D perovskites of four formula units. $E_{\text{Pb}^{2+}}$ was calculated from the energy of the bulk PbI_2 in its P_{3m1} crystal phase. Cationic molecules were optimized in $30 \times 30 \times 30 \text{ \AA}^3$ isolated box with Gamma kpoint sampling.

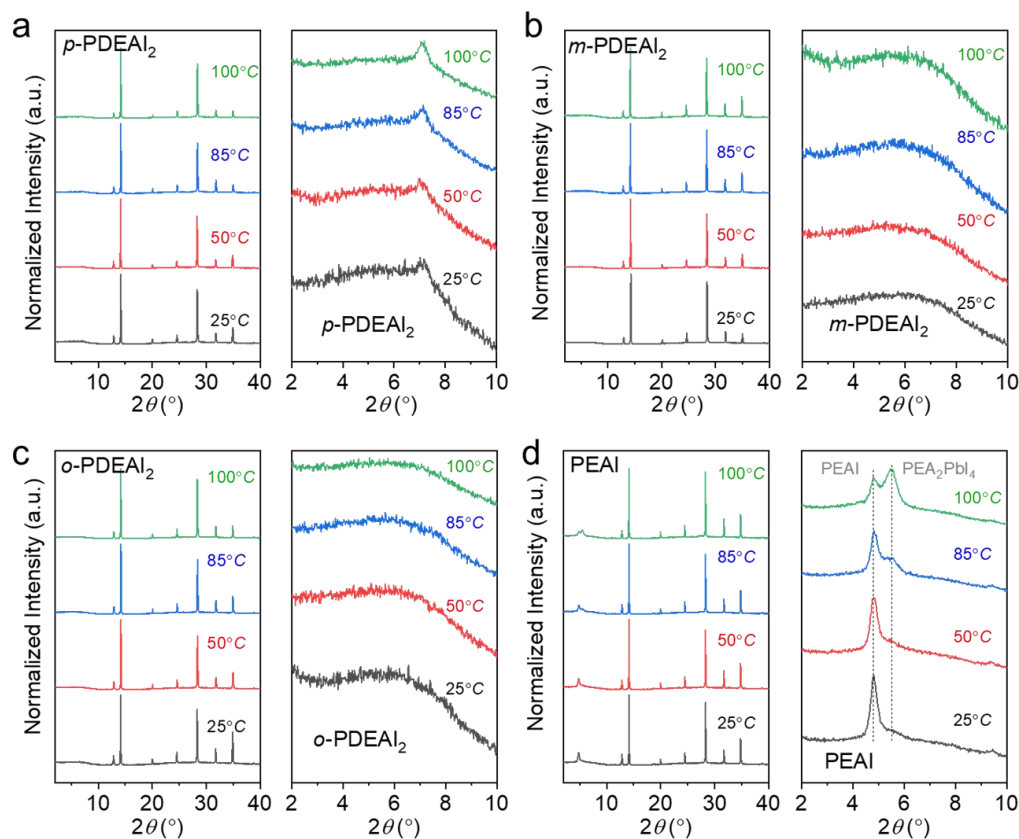
Perovskite surface was modeled by cutting 2×2 slabs from the bulk tetragonal MAPbI_3 crystal structure, which exposes MAI-terminated (001) surface. The 2×2 slabs ($a = b = 17.7 \text{ \AA}$) were optimized with Gamma point sampling. The experimental MAPbI_3 cell parameters were employed to build a periodic supercell in the x and y directions, whereas a vacuum of more than $10 \text{ \AA}$ is introduced along the surface truncation direction. The reaction thermodynamics of the cation replacement process were calculated by considering the following equilibrium: MAI-terminated slab + cationic molecule = cation inserted MAI-terminated slab + 2 MA molecules. Adsorption energy (E_{ads}) is calculated using the following formula: $E_{\text{ads}} = E_{\text{slab+cationic molecule adsorbed}} - E_{\text{slab}} - E_{\text{cationic}}$

molecule, where $E_{\text{slab+cationic molecule adsorbed}}$ represents the total energy of the adsorbed cationic molecules with the slab, E_{slab} is the total energy of the bare slab, and $E_{\text{cationic molecule}}$ is the energy of the isolated cationic molecule in a large supercell. The absolute values of the adsorption energies are large because of the adsorption of a gas-phase cationic molecule.

Supplementary Figures

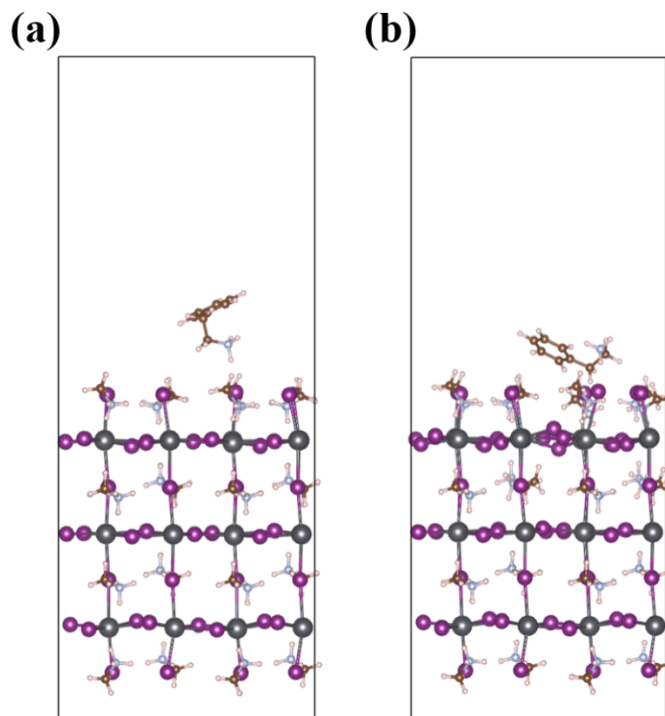


Supplementary Figure 1: Synthetic route for PDEAl₂ cations.

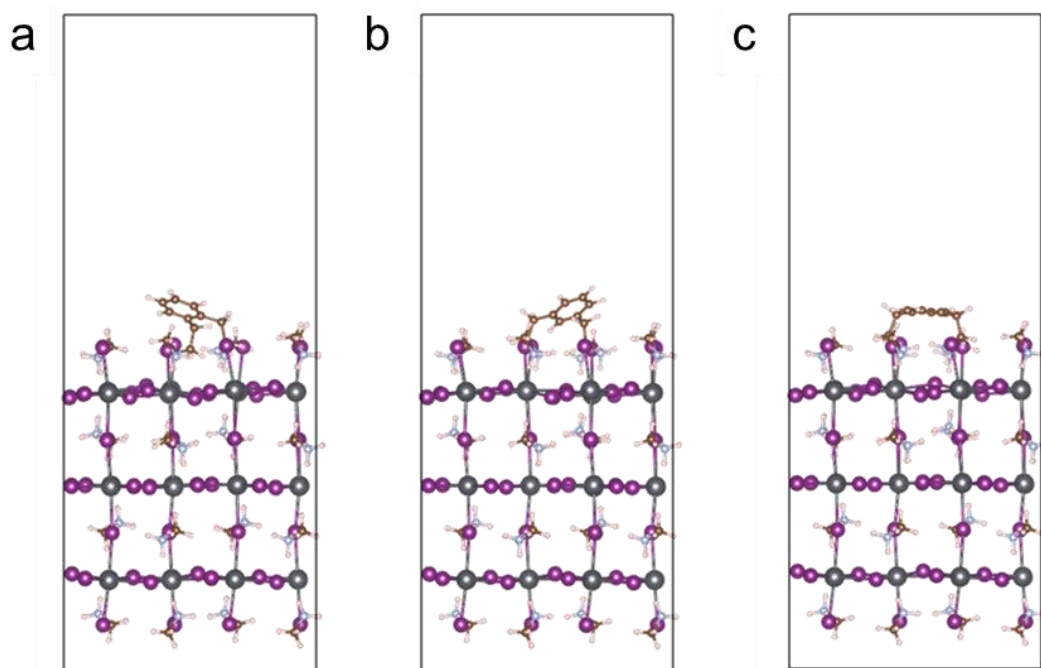


Supplementary Figure 2. XRD patterns for perovskite films with organic halide salt passivation at different

annealing temperatures. **a** *p*-PDEAl₂ passivation. **b** *m*-PDEAl₂ passivation. **c** *o*-PDEAl₂ passivation. **d** PEAl passivation.

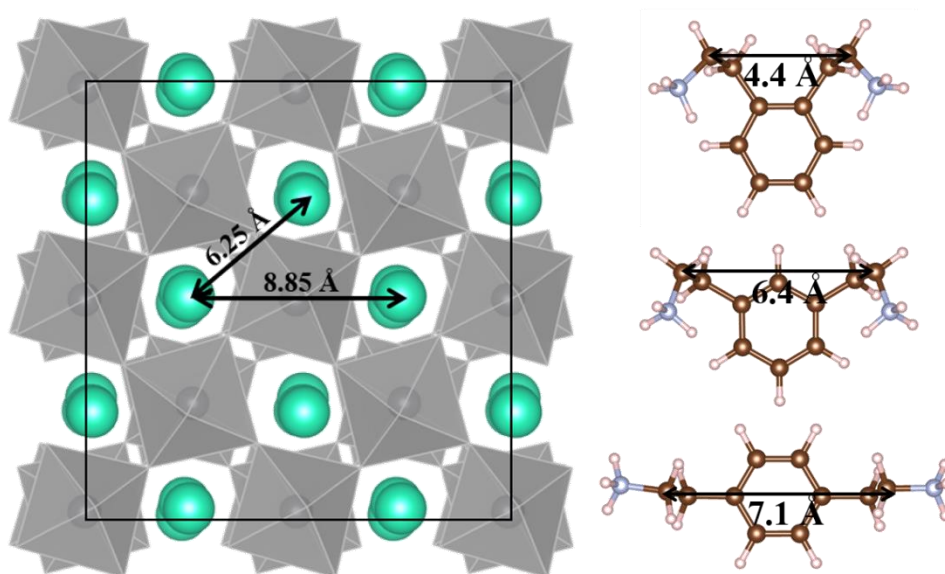


Supplementary Figure 3. Optimized structures for the adsorption of PEA cation on the perovskite surface.
Adsorption through **a** -NH_3 group and **b** through phenyl group.

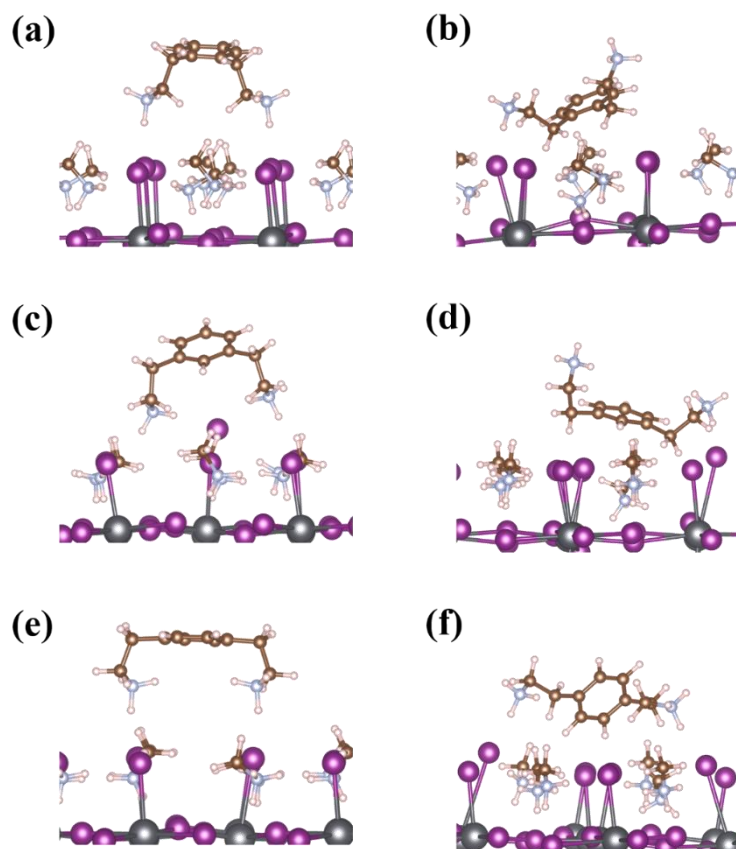


Supplementary Figure 4. The formation possibility of 2D perovskite for higher layer thickness. Optimized

structures for the insertion of **a** *o*-PDEAl₂, **b** *m*-PDEAl₂ and **c** *p*-PDEAl₂ cations by replacing two methylammonium cations of perovskite surface.

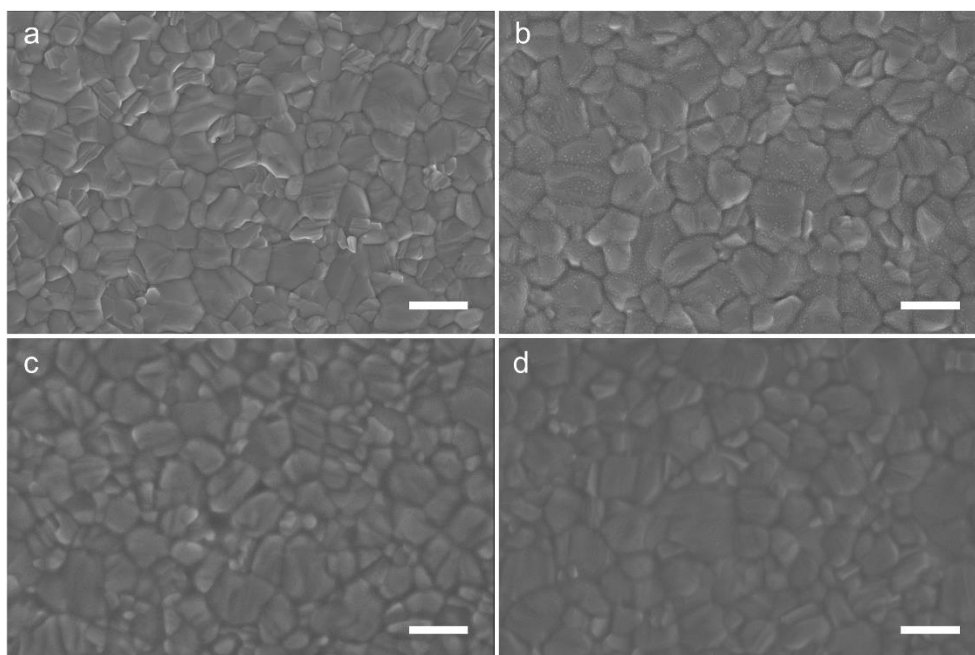


Supplementary Figure 5. Mismatching distance of PDEAl₂ and perovskite surface. Distance between the octahedra of MAI-terminated MAPbI₃ surface and the distance between the -CH₂-CH₂-NH₃⁺ groups of the 2D cations. The cyan color ball is placed on the middle of the C-N bond, thus fairly represents the distance between the octahedra.

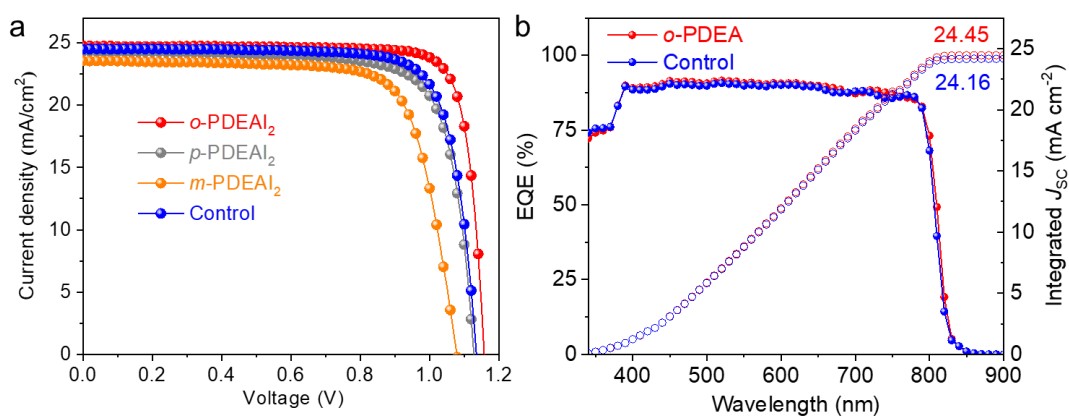


Supplementary Figure 6. Zoomed structures. Optimized structures for the adsorption of **a-b** ortho-, **c-d** meta- and

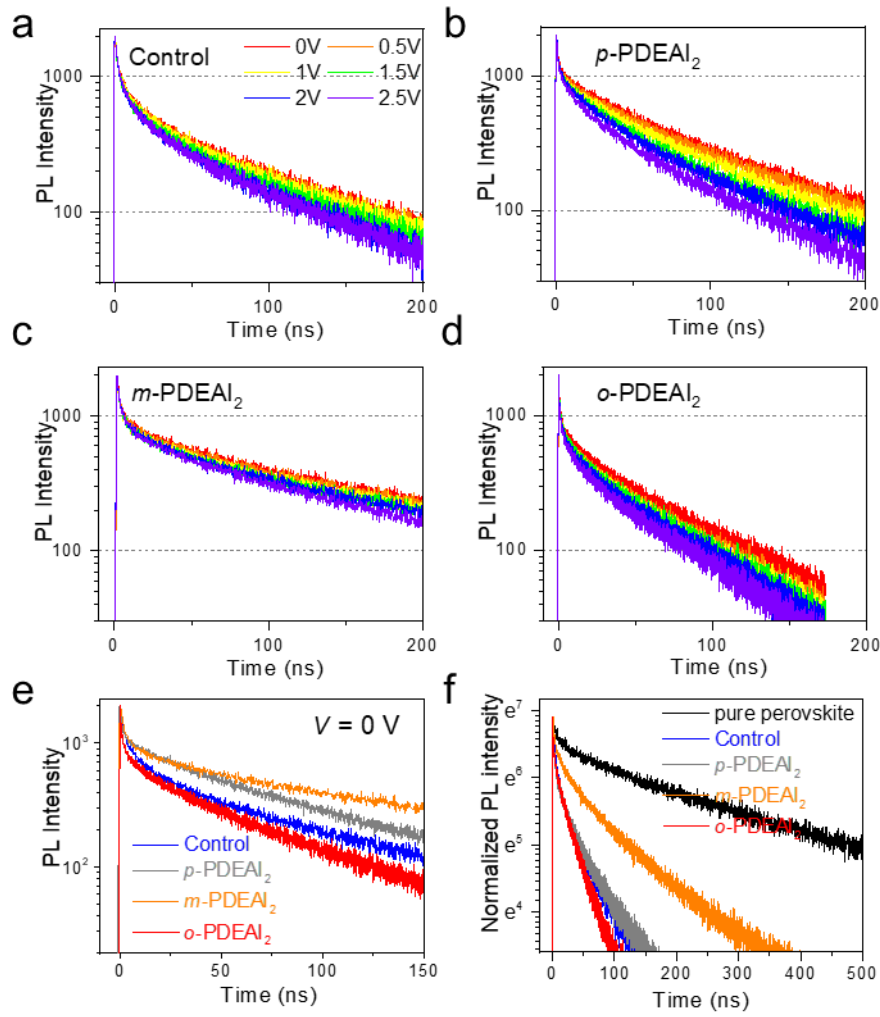
e-f para cation on the perovskite surface. Left and right panel represents the adsorption through ammonium and phenyl group, respectively.



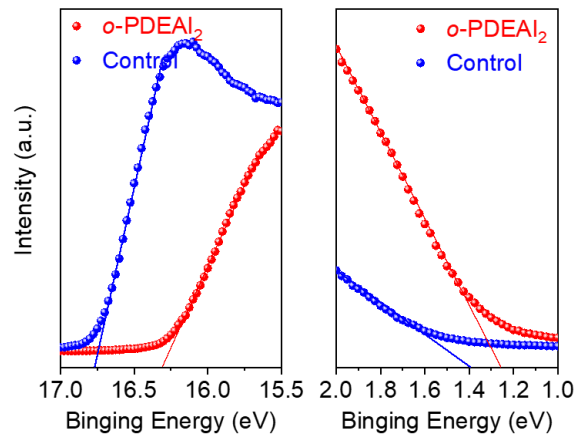
Supplementary Figure 7. Morphology of perovskite films after PDEAI₂ deposition. SEM images of the **a** pure perovskite surface, **b** with *p*-PDEAI₂, **c** with *m*-PDEAI₂ and **d** with *o*-PDEAI₂ passivation. Scale bars, 1 μ m.



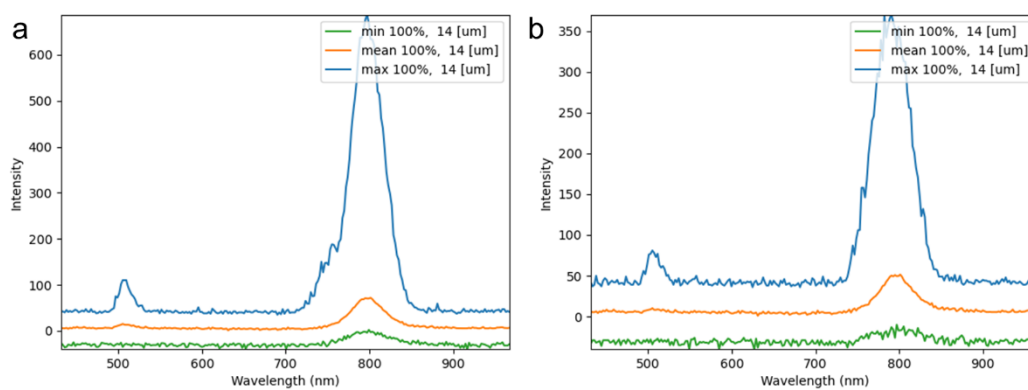
Supplementary Figure 8. Photovoltaic performance for devices with PDEAI₂ passivation. **a** *J-V* characteristics of the devices with different isomer passivation. **b** EQE spectra of the best-performing control and *o*-PDEAI₂-passivated devices.



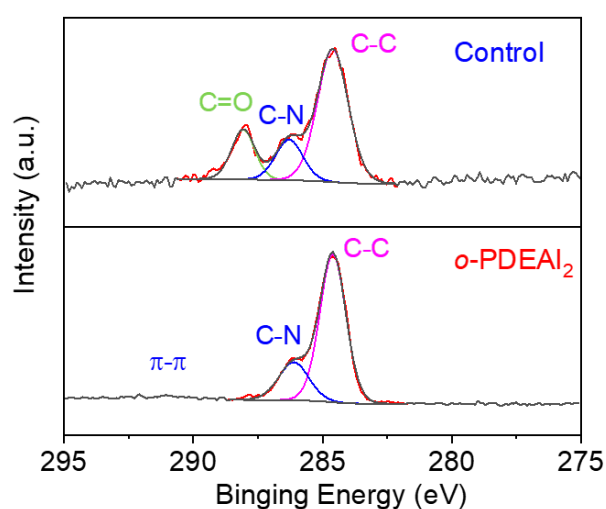
Supplementary Figure 9. Voltage-dependent transient PL and transient photocurrent investigations. a-e PL decay kinetics at different applied voltages of the control and PDEAl₂ passivated devices. f Transient PL kinetics of perovskite layers on glass substrates.



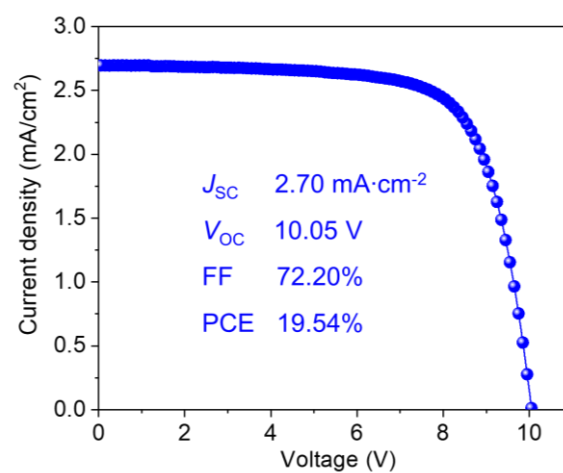
Supplementary Figure 10. Surface band structure. UPS results of the pure and o-PDEAl₂-passivated perovskite surface.



Supplementary Figure 11. Film uniformity revealed by the CL characterization. CL spectra of **a** control and **b** *o*-PDEAl₂-passivated perovskite film.



Supplementary Figure 12. The presence of *o*-PDEAl₂ on the perovskite surface. High-resolution XPS spectra of C 1s for the control and *o*-PDEAl₂-passivated perovskite film.



Supplementary Figure 13. Photovoltaic performance of perovskite solar modules. *J-V* characteristics of the control module with an active area of 26.00 cm².

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1. Formation energies of the 2D and quasi-2D perovskites.

Structures	Energy (eV)	
	2D perovskite	quasi-2D perovskite
<i>p</i> -PDEAI ₂	-7.19	-0.76
<i>m</i> -PDEAI ₂	-7.22	-0.97
<i>o</i> -PDEAI ₂	-6.41	-0.59

Supplementary Table 2. Adsorption energies of the PEA and PDEA cations on perovskite surface considering both ethyl ammonium and phenyl adsorption modes.

Structures	Energy (eV)	
	-CH ₂ CH ₂ NH ₃ ⁺	phenyl
PEA	-9.28	-9.90
<i>p</i> -PDEA	-9.76	-10.04
<i>m</i> -PDEA	-10.50	-9.51
<i>o</i> -PDEA	-10.00	-9.53

Supplementary Table 3. Summary of the device performance for the control and PDEAI₂-passivated (2 mg mL⁻¹) devices.

Condition	<i>V</i> _{oc} (V)	<i>J</i> _{sc} (mA cm ⁻²)	FF	PCE (%)
Control	1.112±0.01	24.24±0.25	0.769±0.02	20.71±0.66
Best	1.135	24.49	0.790	21.94
<i>p</i> -PDEAI ₂	1.097±0.03	24.20±0.32	0.765±0.02	20.30±0.60
Best	1.127	24.34	0.770	21.09
<i>m</i> -PDEAI ₂	0.993±0.05	23.80±0.57	0.701±0.05	16.74±1.57
Best	1.079	23.55	0.750	19.63
<i>o</i> -PDEAI ₂	1.141±0.01	24.52±0.31	0.802±0.01	22.45±0.64
Best	1.157	24.75	0.835	23.92

Supplementary Table 4. Summary of the device performance with different PDEAI₂ concentrations.

Condition	Concentration (mg mL ⁻¹)	<i>V</i> _{oc} (V)	<i>J</i> _{sc} (mA cm ⁻²)	FF	PCE (%)
Control	0	1.135	24.49	0.790	21.94
<i>p</i> -PDEAI ₂	1	1.129	24.31	0.766	21.05
	2	1.127	24.34	0.770	21.09
	3	1.131	23.90	0.767	20.70
	4	1.117	23.87	0.765	20.43
	5	1.115	23.83	0.751	19.94

<i>m</i> -PDEAI ₂	1	1.098	23.77	0.762	19.87
	2	1.079	23.55	0.750	19.63
	3	1.063	24.14	0.720	18.48
	4	1.061	23.95	0.703	17.91
	5	1.048	22.04	0.708	16.32
<i>o</i> -PDEAI ₂	1	1.147	24.64	0.822	23.23
	2	1.157	24.75	0.835	23.92
	3	1.153	24.60	0.832	23.63
	4	1.151	24.46	0.816	22.98
	5	1.148	24.37	0.799	22.36

Supplementary Table 5. Summary of the fitting parameters of the perovskite films on glass substrates.

Condition	<i>A</i> ₁ [%]	τ_1 [ns]	<i>A</i> ₂ [%]	τ_2 [ns]
Pure perovskite w/o HTL	32.5	14.3	67.5	284.4
Control with HTL	65.6	4.5	34.4	47.2
<i>p</i> -PDEAI ₂ with HTL	57.1	2.5	42.9	38.2
<i>m</i> -PDEAI ₂ with HTL	45.6	6.6	54.4	90.0
<i>o</i> -PDEAI ₂ with HTL	38.3	2.4	61.7	28.9

Supplementary Table 6. Overview of the reported perovskite solar modules so far.

Year	Ref.	Active Area (cm ²)	Designated Area (cm ²)	GFF (%)	Number of Subcells	<i>J</i> _{sc} (mA·cm ²)	<i>V</i> _{oc} (V)	FF (%)	PCE (%)
2018	4	–	33	93.4	17	1.15	18.19	72.1	15.3
2019	5	8	–	–	4	5.82	3.98	68	15.79
2020	6	–	36.1	85	10	1.77	11.19	64.91	12.85
2020	7	–	36	–	10	1.80	10.4	67.67	12.67
2020	8	7.92	–	85.7	4	5.66	4.55	76.2	19.6
2020	9	–	25.49	90.8	7	3.03	7.52	78.59	17.88
2020	10	2	–	90	6	3.43	6.35	71	15.5
2020	11	–	22.4	91	7	2.99	7.64	72.9	16.6
2021	12	8	–	–	4	5.63	4.17	71.11	16.69
2021	13	36.6	–	90.3	7	3.04	7.44	71	16.06
2021	14	42.8	–	–	14	1.50	16.05	70.89	17.05
2021	15	–	35.8	–	10	2.04	11.70	77.3	18.5
2021	16	17.1	–	–	6	3.80	6.88	78.1	20.42
2021	17	27.14	–	92	8	3.08	8.71	75.41	20.2
2021	This work	26	–	90.2	9	2.71	10.30	76.4	21.36

Supplementary References

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