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The role of Frenkel pair defects and atomic layer deposited alumina on the perovskite solar cells' stability

B. Materials for energy conversion systems: fundamentals, designs, and applications

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Abstract

Rather still poor long-term stability of the perovskite solar cells (PSCs) is the major factor limiting their mass production. In this work, I will show that the efficiency decrease of PSCs originates from the creation of Frenkel pair defects (MA⁺ and I⁻ interstitials) in the perovskite film under illumination, and their movement across the solar cell.[1-2] The stronger the illumination, the higher the number of created Frenkel defects and their release from the perovskite absorber, leading to a faster efficiency decline and more substantial hysteresis in the j-V sweeps. However, once the perovskite film is covered by few cycles of atomic layer deposited (ALD) alumina[3-4], even at room temperature, it helps to self-heal the partially degraded perovskite film by successively blocking the flow of such ions across the charge transporting layers. This fact could also explain observation why the ALD-coated perovskite solar cell does not show negligible hysteresis after long-term operations. Moreover, the ALD/perovskite-based PSCs show an increase of the initial efficiency over time, while it significantly decreases in the bare perovskite-based PSCs [6]. Therefore, the ALD process of TMA and water on perovskite may be an extremely simple, fast and inexpensive way to overcome the long-term stability issue of PSCs and bring them to the market.

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