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Decoupling the Effects of Interfacial Chemistry and Grain Size in Perovskite Stability

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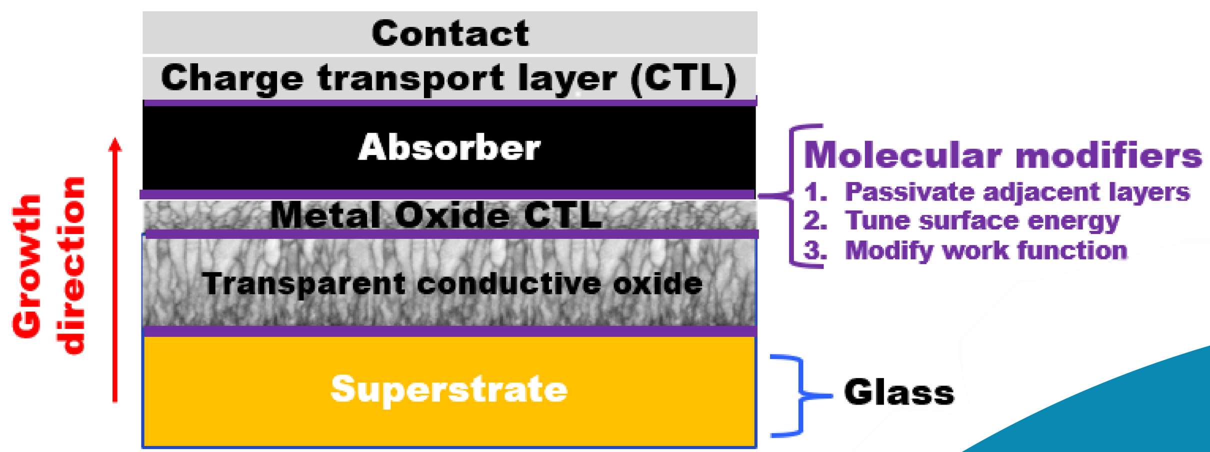
Introduction & Background

Interlayers, Film Properties, and Device Characteristics

Interfacial modification affects:

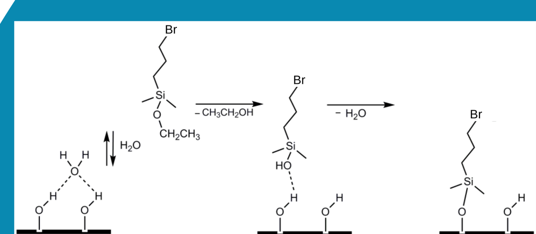
- Film uniformity
- Crystallinity
- Grain size
- Defect density



Small molecule modifiers and their positive effects on device performance. Data from references [2] and [4].

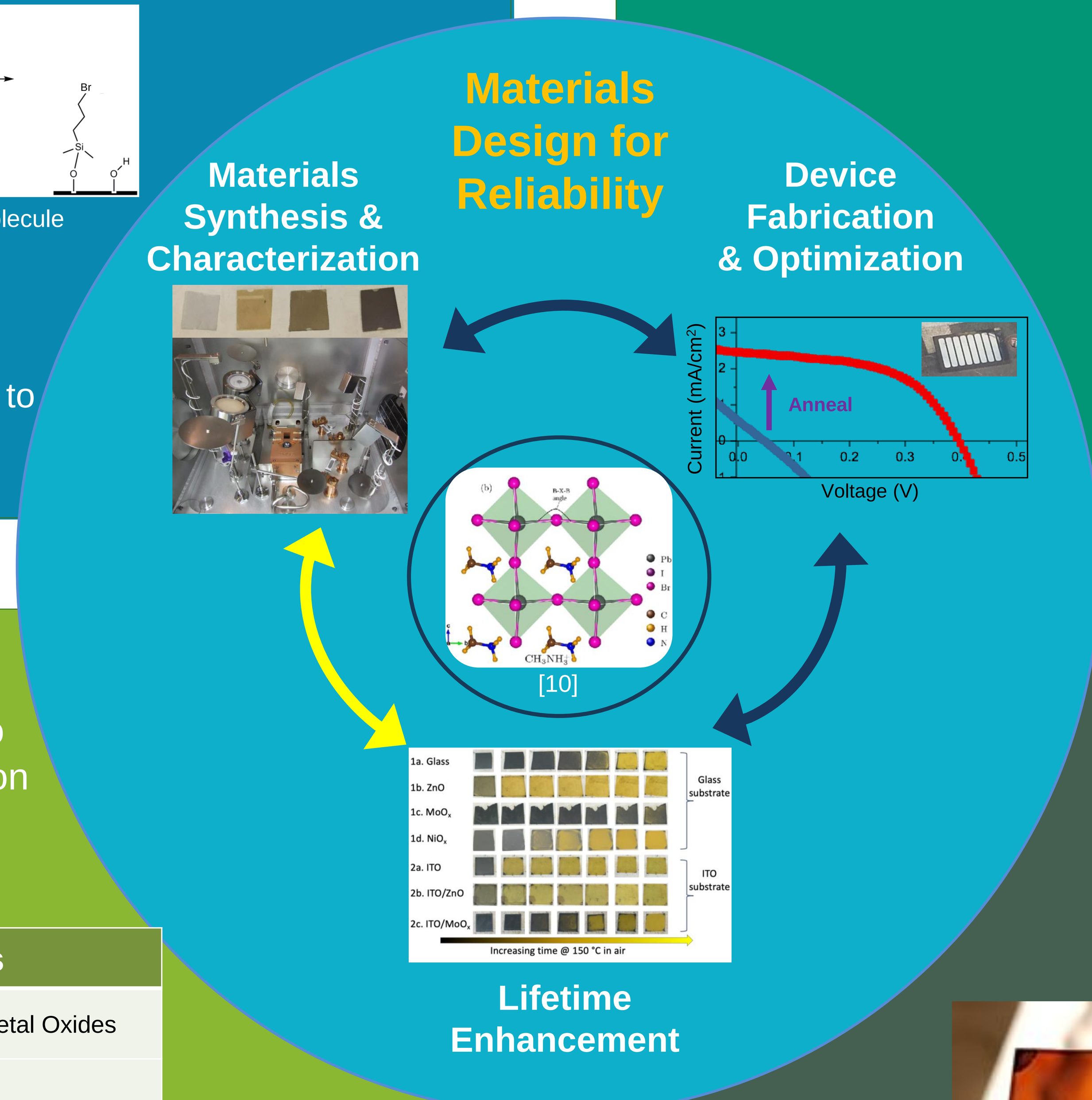
Modifier	Stack Structure	V_{oc} [V]	J_{sc} [mA cm^{-2}]	PCE [%]
Bromobenzoic Acid (*Br-BA*) [2]	ITO/NiO_x/ $MAPbI_3$/PCBM /bis-C_{60}/Ag	1.07	19.1	15.3
	ITO/NiO_x/ **Br-BA**/ $MAPbI_3$/PCBM /bis-C_{60}/Ag	1.11	21.7	18.4
(3-Aminopropyl) triethoxysilane (*APTES*) [4]	FTO/SnO_2/ $MAPbI_3$/ Spiro-OMeTAD/Au	1.065	20.84	14.69
	FTO/SnO_2/ **APTES**/ $MAPbI_3$/ Spiro-OMeTAD/Au	1.16	21.23	17.03

Goal: Improve stability of perovskite absorbers through organofunctional silane modification of metal oxide (MO) charge transport layer.



Chemical process of small molecule modification of a metal oxide.

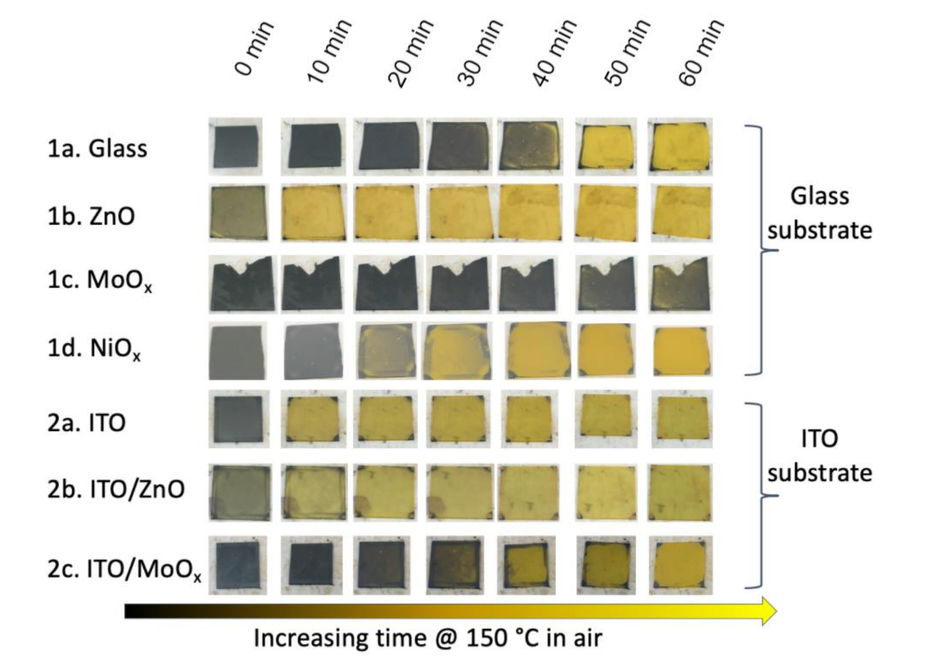
Device properties and performance are directly tied to perovskite film properties [3].



Surface Modification and Stability

Degradation Profile with Varying MOs

- Order from least to most stable is generally ZnO < NiO_x < MoO_x
- Effect of MO is compounded with addition of ITO layer (seen with MoO_x), indicating diffusion/reaction of stack species during heating

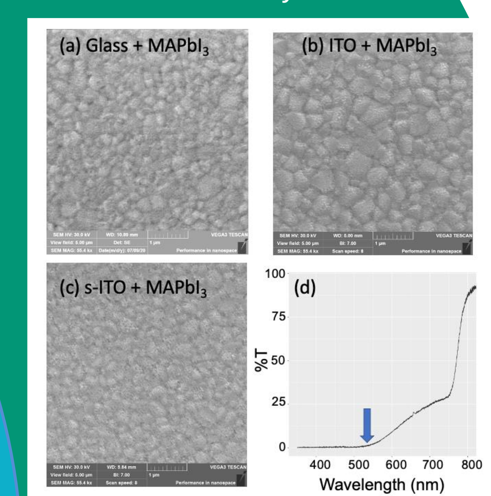


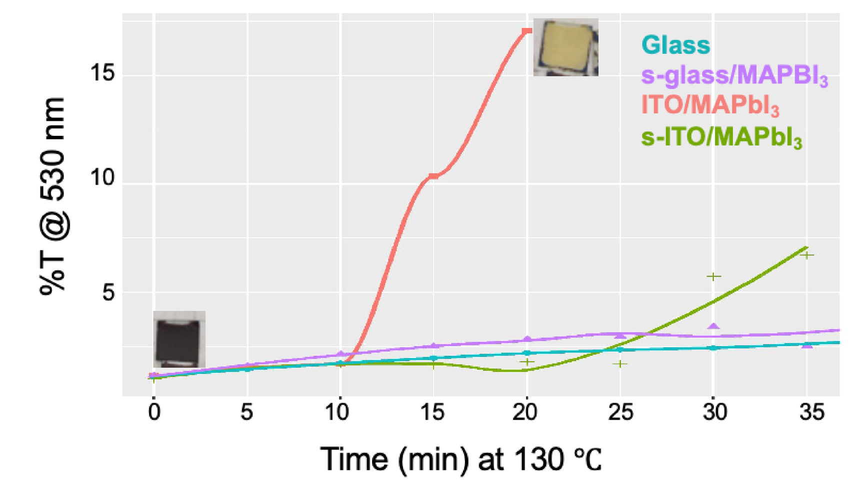
Results: MOs affect $MAPbI_3$ film degradation profile. BPTMS passivates interface and affects both film morphology and degradation.

Degradation Profile with BPTMS Modifier

- BPTMS results in smaller $MAPbI_3$ grains on ITO
- Despite decreased grain size, BPTMS improved $MAPbI_3$ stability
- Decouples effects of grain size from interfacial chemistry

- "s-" denotes inclusion of BPTMS interlayer





Modifier and Perovskite Deposition

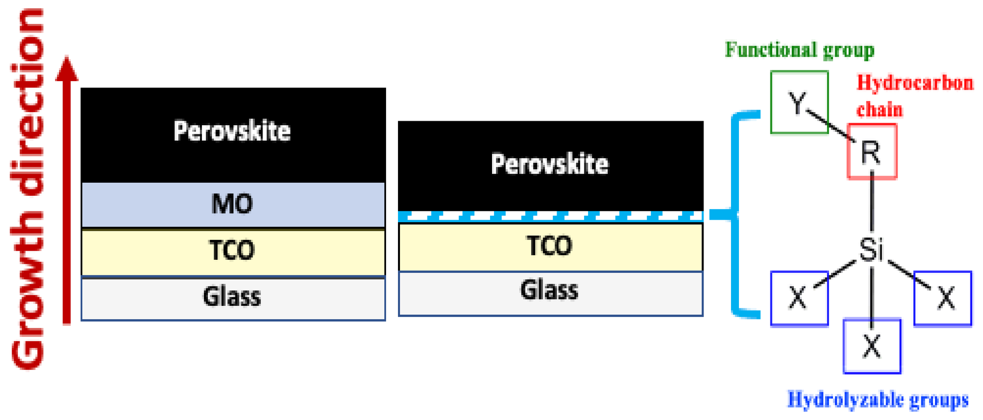
Experimental Flow

1. Clean substrates
2. Deposit organofunctional silane [7,8] or metal oxide [9]
3. Spin coat $MAPbI_3$ and anneal [6]
4. Characterization and degradation

Approach: Creation of stacks with varying MOs or molecular modifiers to investigate their effects on $MAPbI_3$ degradation.

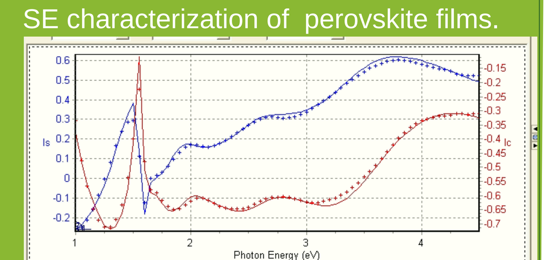
Materials	
Organofunctional Silanes	Metal Oxides
(3-bromo-propyl) trimethoxysilane [BPTMS]	ZnO, MoO_x, NiO_x

Schematic overview of film stacks



Metal oxide modified stack (left) and organofunctional silane modified stack] with general silane molecular structure (right).

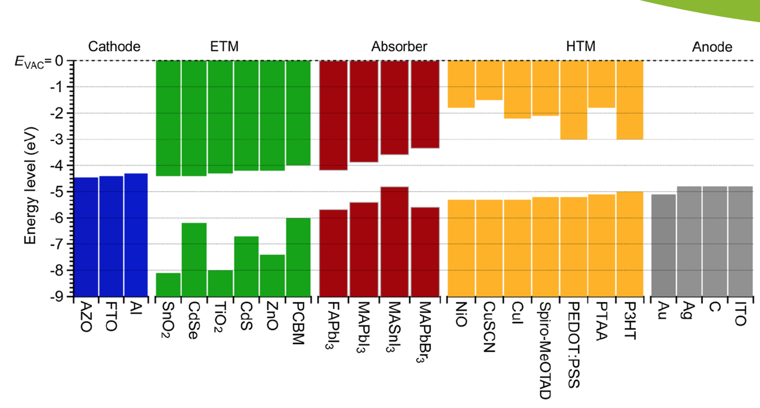
SE characterization of perovskite films.



Substrate	Thickness, Å	Contact Angle, degrees
Silicon	11 ± 1	62 ± 3
	24 ± 1	81 ± 2
	34 ± 2	84 ± 1
ITO	6 ± 1	72 ± 2

Left: Characteristics of BPTMS modified ITO and silicon. Silane thickness is modelled from spectroscopic ellipsometry measurements.

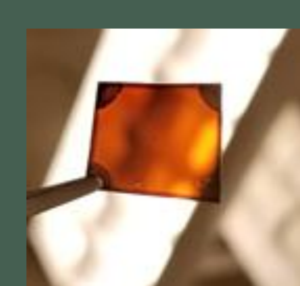
Right: Energy levels of different absorbers and charge transport materials [3].



Conclusions and Future Directions

Future Directions:

- Investigate systematically varied TCO/MO/silane combinations in half-stack degradation studies
- Select well-performing stacks for device studies



- Explore other organofunctional silanes (similar to work shown here with BPTMS)
- Further investigate silane-MO interface and its effects on the perovskite film with SE and XPS

Conclusions

- ❖ Results highlight importance of film studies under device-relevant conditions:
  - Different MOs clearly affect the degradation profile of the perovskite layer
  - Organofunctional silanes used as molecular modifiers can passivate a TCO/perovskite interface
- ❖ Interfacial modifiers have multifaceted effects on perovskite film morphology and lifetime

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