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Interface design of perovskite solar cells: application of molecular additives to improve the stability and the performance

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Few years after its first conception, perovskite solar cells (PSC) had shown a great evolution from the dye-sensitized device with organic halide perovskite (HaP) by Kojima et al at 3.8%¹ in 2009 to organicinorganic halide triple cation perovskite device, reaching now 25.5% of power conversion efficiency (PCE). The interface design of PSCs is a key point to control and optimize in order to develop a stable device with higher power conversion efficiency^{2,3}. Plenty of publications present interface engineering by adding a layer between the charge transport layer and the perovskite^{4–8}. The objective of this interlayer is twofold: improve the photovoltaic performance but also the stability of the cell. In our case, I am working mainly on the hole transport layer / HaP interface (top interface in n-i-p configuration) based on the organic compound adamantane, C₁₀H₁₆, and its derivatives⁹. Adamantane (AD) and its derivatives are "bulky" hydrophobic molecules, likely to behave as a protection layer to prevent humidity to degrade the absorber. Using optoelectrical characterization and XPS analysis (fig.1), the additives' effects on the device and the perovskite layer are identified. Using the application of the molecular film (fig.2), we observe a moderate improvement of the open-circuit voltage (Voc) and the fill factor (FF). Furthermore, we performed stability tests of unencapsulated devices incorporating these additives in ambient atmosphere and under illumination for 70 hours. 1-adamantanamine hydrochloride (1ADAHCI) is showcased to be the most promising additive by preserving 56% of its initial PCE compared to 22% for the reference sample without adamantane-base interlayer.



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