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# Double-side 2-dimensional/3-dimensional heterojunctions for inverted perovskite solar cells

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### 1 Double-side 2-dimensional/3-dimensional heterojunctions for inverted

#### 2 perovskite solar cells

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#### 20 Abstract

Defects at the top and bottom interfaces of three-dimensional (3D) perovskite photo-absorbers 21 diminish the performance and operational stability of perovskite solar cells (PSCs) due to charge 22 recombination, ion migration, and electric-field inhomogeneities.<sup>1-5</sup> Here, we demonstrate that 23 long alkyl-amine ligands can generate near-phase pure two-dimensional (2D) perovskites at the 24 top and bottom 3D perovskite interfaces and effectively resolves these issues. At the rear-contact 25 26 side, we find that the employed alkyl-amine ligand strengthens the interactions with the substrate through acid-base reactions with the phosphonic acid group from the employed organic hole-27 transporting self-assembled monolayer molecule, thus regulating the 2D perovskite formation. 28 29 With this, inverted PSCs with double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions achieved a power conversion 30 efficiency (PCE) of 25.6% (certified 25.0%), retaining 95% of their initial PCE after 1000 hours of 1-sun illumination at 85 degrees Celsius in air. 31

#### 32 Main

Engineering of perovskite interfaces is essential to enhance the performance and stability of 33 perovskite solar cells (PSCs). Two-/three-dimensional (2D/3D) perovskite heterojunctions have 34 shown particular promise towards this end.<sup>6-16</sup> Usually, such heterojunctions are formed by post-35 treating an as-deposited 3D perovskite film with a solution that contains 2D ligands to reconstruct 36 through cation exchange the 3D perovskite surface into a 2D perovskite.<sup>7-9,12,14</sup> However, this 37 strategy is only applicable at the top surface of 3D perovskite films. Moreover, it usually results 38 39 in a 2D perovskite consisting of a mixture of multiple dimensionalities such as n = 1, 2, 3, etc. with random crystal orientations, where *n* refers to the number of subsequent corner-sharing octahedral 40 [PbI<sub>6</sub>]<sup>4-</sup> inorganic slabs.<sup>8,12,14</sup> Unfortunately, such mixed dimensionality may induce interfacial 41 energetic inhomogeneity and could impede charge transfer through band misalignment when such 42 a 2D/3D heterojunction is integrated into a charge-selective contact stack.<sup>7,8,12,14</sup> In contrast, phase-43 pure 2D perovskite passivation can substantially reduce the charge-trap density and ion migration, 44 leading to significantly improved device performance and stability.<sup>10,11</sup> Hence, it is imperative to 45 narrow the distribution of the different n layers in 2D perovskites.<sup>10,11,16</sup> Yet, achieving phase-pure 46 2D perovskite passivating contacts with a proper crystal orientation is experimentally 47 challenging.<sup>10,11,16</sup> 48

Integrating 2D/3D heterojunctions at the buried bottom interface is desirable too, but has rarely 49 been reported to date.<sup>17-19</sup> The primary difficulty here is to avoid the dissolution of the pre-50 51 deposited 2D layer or the organic ammonium-based ligands during the subsequent 3D perovskite deposition.<sup>17-19</sup> Indeed, most organic ammonium ligands are readily dissolved into the highly polar 52 aprotic solvents typically used in 3D perovskite precursor inks such as dimethyl formamide (DMF) 53 and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).<sup>11,20,21</sup> Hence, one approach for minimizing the dissolution of 2D 54 ligands during perovskite solution casting is to strengthen their interaction with the substrate. This 55 56 allows for immobilizing 2D ligands prior to perovskite deposition, and forming a 2D perovskite underneath the 3D perovskite film through cation exchange and intercalation of the 2D ligands 57 into the perovskite film, post deposition. 58

#### 59 **2D/3D** heterojunction at the bottom interface

60 We developed inverted (p-i-n) PSCs with a hole-collecting contact (p-type) that is formed by 61 anchoring 2PACz, a self-assembled monolayer (SAM), onto the transparent bottom electrode,

consisting of indium-tin oxide (ITO). To resolve the challenge of 2D/3D heterojunction formation 62 at the bottom of the perovskite film, we mixed the HBzA ligand into the 2PACz SAM solution, 63 which was then coated onto the ITO bottom electrode. Here, we hypothesized that the amine head 64 of the HBzA molecule would react with the phosphonic acid (-PO(OH)<sub>2</sub>) group of the 2PACz, 65 forming an ionic bond, resilient against subsequent processing. This acid-base reaction is favorable 66 with the lower values of the negative log of the acid dissociation constant for the first proton  $(pK_{a1})$ 67 of the phosphonic acid (~2.5) and the negative log of the base dissociation constant ( $pK_b$ ) of alkyl-68 amines (~3.6).<sup>22,23</sup> We note that only the first proton transfer is favorable between 2PACz and 69 HBzA, owing to a higher p $K_{a2}$  value of the second proton (~8.5).<sup>22</sup> We experimentally verified that 70 the abovementioned reaction takes place in the mixture of 2PACz and HBzA, as discussed in 71 72 Extended Data Fig. 1a-b. Moreover, the -OH group from HBzA can form hydrogen bonds with -PO(OH)<sub>2</sub> and ITO, thus strengthening the attachment further.<sup>24</sup> The detailed explanation of all 73 these mechanisms is in Fig. 1a. 74

We then investigated the chemical properties of HBzA and 2PACz molecules on ITO using X-ray 75 photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS). The high-resolution spectrum of the carbon region (C1s) of 76 77 HBzA shows the presence of C=C, C-N, and C-OH bonds that correspond to the aromatic ring, amine head, and the phenol group of HBzA, respectively (Extended Data Fig. 1c). Further, C1s 78 spectra of 2PACz feature the signature of C-P bonds, corresponding to its -PO(OH)<sub>2</sub> group. These 79 identical features of 2PACz and HBzA were also found after their mixture was coated on ITO, 80 indicating the presence of both molecules. To strengthen our hypothesis, we also did a washing 81 test on the ITO/HBzA and ITO/(HBzA+2PACz) samples with a highly polar aprotic DMF/DMSO 82 solvent mixture that can easily solvate HBzA molecules by forming strong hydrogen bonding. We 83 observed that if only HBzA layers are anchored on ITO, they could be easily washed away. 84 However, the presence of 2PACz significantly enhances the attachment of HBzA onto the ITO 85 surface, as indicated by a qualitative analysis of the marginal reduction of the atomic ratio of 86 87 nitrogen to indium (N/In) after washing (Supplementary Table 1). This supports our hypothesis that HBzA and 2PACz form an ionic bonding through proton transfer from phosphonic acid to the 88 amine group. This bonding facilitates their adherence to the substrate during perovskite processing 89 90 and assists in the formation of a 2D perovskite layer beneath the 3D perovskite layer.

After successfully attaching HBzA ligands on the ITO/2PACz surface, we deposited the 3D 91 perovskite ink via spin-coating. The HBzA ligands are liberated after 3D perovskite deposition, 92 93 initiating the 2D perovskite formation at the bottom interface through cation exchanges between HBzA<sup>+</sup> and formamidinium (FA<sup>+</sup>) or caesium (Cs<sup>+</sup>) of the 3D perovskite ink. This cation exchange 94 process is completed during the thermal annealing of perovskite films at 120 °C for 30 min to 95 crystallize the 2D/3D perovskite film. To prove this mechanism, we completely removed the 96 resulting perovskite layers from the ITO/2PACz/2D-HBzA/3D-perovskite structure by washing 97 the samples with a DMF/DMSO solution and measured the work function (WF) of the resulting 98 structure using kelvin-probe-force microscopy (KPFM). We noted that the WF of bare 99 ITO/(2PACz+HBzA) sample remained similar before and after washing with DMF/DMSO (5.08 100 eV, Extended Data Fig. 2a-c). However, after the perovskite film deposition and subsequent 101 removal of the HBzA ligands, the WF of ITO/(2PACz+HBzA) is shifted to 5.42 eV, closer to the 102 WF of pristine ITO/2PACz (5.40 eV) with identical conditions (Extended Data Fig. 2d-e). This 103 indicates that DMF/DMSO alone was not sufficient to remove HBzA molecules. Rather, the 104 removal was facilitated by the 3D perovskite deposition, corroborating our hypothesis that 2D 105 106 ligands are released only after perovskite film formation.

107 The cross-sectional high-resolution scanning transmission electron microscopy (HR-STEM) images in Fig. 1b reveal the formation of a discontinuous 2D perovskite layer at the bottom 108 109 interface between ITO/2PACz and 3D perovskite layers. The discontinuity of 2D perovskite layers might be related to their complex formation mechanism, such as random distribution of HBzA 110 molecules and their release during cation exchange. We further analyzed the 2D/3D perovskite 111 heterojunction at the bottom-side interface by photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy and observed 112 distinct PL emission peaks for 2D perovskite at ~570 nm and ~520 nm corresponding to n = 2 and 113 n = 1, respectively (Fig. 1c).<sup>12</sup> The significantly high PL emission intensity of n = 2 indicates the 114 dominant formation of near-phase pure 2D perovskite layers. In addition, we performed PL 115 116 mapping at ~570 nm with different concentrations of HBzA ligand and observed discontinuities for 2D perovskite crystal PL emission at the bottom interface (Supplementary Fig. 1), in 117 accordance with HR-STEM results. 118

We further analyzed the structural properties and chemical composition of 2D perovskite at the bottom-side interface by gently separating the bottom-side 2D/3D perovskite film from the ITO/hole-selective surface using the lift-off technique following previous report.<sup>25</sup> This approach 122 preserves the chemical and structural integrity of the film (see the schematics of the process in Supplementary Fig. 2a). We then characterized the bottom-side perovskite film by scanning 123 124 electron microscopy (SEM) and XPS measurements. SEM top-view images of the lift-off samples show no distinctive morphological damage to the control and 2D/3D heterojunction samples 125 (Supplementary Fig. 2b). However, we note that the crystal grain-sizes of perovskite of 2D/3D 126 samples are larger (1.64  $\pm$  0.31 µm) compared to control perovskite (0.93  $\pm$  0.20 µm), indicating 127 that 2D perovskite formation at the bottom interface also regulates the crystallization of the 128 overlying 3D perovskite film.<sup>26</sup> Further, the XPS analysis of 2D/3D samples revealed the presence 129 of C-O and C-N bonds at 286.5 and 285.6 eV, associated with HBzA ligands (Supplementary 130 131 **Fig. 2c**).

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#### 133 **3D/2D** heterojunction at the top interface

For the 3D/2D heterojunction at the top interface, we developed a simple two-step hybrid method to form phase-pure 2D perovskite layers. This process initially involves depositing the PbI<sub>2</sub> layer with controlled thickness via vacuum evaporation on top of the as-prepared 3D perovskite film (see **Fig. 2a**, step (*i*)). This is then followed by dropping the HBzA salt or mixture of HBzA salt+FAI solutions on top of perovskite/PbI<sub>2</sub> film in step (*ii*). Finally, the samples are thermally annealed to form a 2D perovskite layer with controllable dimensionality and phase purity in step (*iii*).

Fig. 2b shows the normalized PL spectra of 3D/2D perovskite films for two conditions. First, when 141 coating the HBzA salt cation-only solution, the 3D/2D perovskite sample shows a single emission 142 peak at a low wavelength ~520 nm (corresponding to n = 1).<sup>8,12,27</sup> Second, the sample based on the 143 mixture of HBzA salt+FAI also shows a single emission peak but at a higher wavelength (~570 144 nm), which corresponds to  $n = 2^{8,12}$  These results confirm the success of our method to control 145 the phase-purity and dimensionality of 2D perovskites, which to date remained a challenge.<sup>7,8,12,14</sup> 146 In contrast, the conventional method by direct coating of HBzA salt solution on top of 3D 147 perovskite followed only steps (*ii*) and (*iii*) (with the absence of PbI<sub>2</sub> deposition) forms a mixture 148 of multiple dimensionalities of 2D-perovskite (n = 1, 2, and 3; Supplementary Fig. 3), consistent 149 with previous works.<sup>8,12</sup> We note that a higher dimensionality of the 2D perovskite (n > 1)150

passivation layer is critical, owing to a higher conductivity by having less bulky-organic cations
 interfaces.<sup>8,11,12</sup>

Next, we identified the crystal orientation and dimensionality of the 2D perovskite layers through 153 grazing-incidence wide-angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS) measurements. Fig. 2c shows the 154 diffraction map of GIWAXS of the 3D/2D sample with strong diffraction peaks at lower  $q_z$  (0.31) 155 Å<sup>-1</sup> and 0.64 Å<sup>-1</sup>) representing the (002) and (004) planes of 2D perovskite (n = 2), respectively, 156 with a layer spacing d of ~20.3 Å<sup>-1</sup> and ~9.8 Å<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>13,14,28,29</sup> Interestingly, strong and more discrete 157 Bragg spots at a higher  $q_z$  (~1.5 Å<sup>-1</sup> and ~1.7 Å<sup>-1</sup>) were observed in the 3D/2D sample. This 158 indicates the improved orientation of the 2D perovskite corresponding to the (282), (121), and 159 (082) planes, formed with perpendicular orientation to the 3D perovskite underneath, as 160 highlighted with oval dot lines.<sup>30,31</sup> In contrast, we do not observe the diffraction peaks at lower  $q_z$ 161 and discrete Bragg spots in control perovskite samples (Supplementary Fig. 4a-b). This result is 162 also consistent with the X-ray diffraction pattern of phase-pure 2D perovskite thin film, as shown 163 in Supplementary Fig. 4c-d. Further, we visualize the 2D perovskite formation and orientation 164 at the top-contact using cross-sectional HR-STEM in Fig. 2d, with a predominantly perpendicular 165 orientation. In addition, a thin layer of 2D perovskite does not change the morphology of 3D 166 167 perovskite underneath (Supplementary Fig. 5), suggesting the robustness of our hybrid method to form perovskite heterostructures. 168

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#### 170 Device performance and characterizations

After successfully completing the near-phase pure 2D perovskite passivation layers at the bottom 171 172 and top 3D perovskite interfaces, we adopted them to PSCs with a structure of ITO/2PACz/2D-173 perovskite/3D-perovskite/2D-perovskite/C<sub>60</sub>/BCP/Ag (Fig. 3a). We first tested various alkylamine-based 2D ligands with different concentrations with respect to the ratio between 2PACz 174 175 SAM and 2D ligands at the bottom-side 2D/3D passivation, as shown from the statistical analysis 176 of devices performance in Extended Data Fig. 3a-b. The device results revealed that the optimum 177 concentration of the 2D ligand at the bottom contact is around a 1:1 molar ratio with 2PACz SAM. 178 The higher concentration of 2D ligand at the bottom interface leads to a thicker 2D perovskite 179 layer, lowering the FF of devices. This is likely due to the nature of higher resistance of long-alkyl ligands in parallel orientation to the 3D perovskite layer, which can inhibit charge transport.<sup>32</sup> 180

Interestingly, among the five alkyl-amine ligands tested, the HBzA ligand gives the highest performance, potentially due to the addition of an –OH group that could form a hydrogen bond with –PO(OH)<sub>2</sub> and ITO or coordinate with 3D perovskite at the 2D/3D interface.<sup>33,34</sup> The longer 2D ligand (*i.e.*, hexylmethylamine) results in the lower performance, potentially due to a higher charge transfer resistivity induced by long-alkyl ligand. This suggests the critical roles of additional functional groups and the design of the proper size of 2D ligands for bottom passivation.<sup>8,16</sup>

188 Next, we fabricated the top-side 3D/2D heterojunction using the abovementioned hybrid method. Here, we deposited PbI<sub>2</sub> with different thicknesses (7, 15, and 25 nm) and found the thickness of 189 2D perovskite will depend on the initial thickness of the inorganic PbI<sub>2</sub> layer. Based on the device 190 results, it is found that 15 nm-thick PbI<sub>2</sub> film results in 35 nm-thick 2D perovskite layer, which is 191 192 optimal for top-side passivation (Extended Data Fig. 3c). In contrast, a 25 nm PbI<sub>2</sub> film forms 193 thicker 2D perovskite (around 55 nm, see cross-sectional SEM image in Supplementary Fig. 6), which slows down the charge transfer/extraction rate at the perovskite/C<sub>60</sub> interface. It is consistent 194 with the decreased FF values from these devices, as indicated by the transient PL measurement 195 and differential lifetime analysis in Supplementary Fig. 7. 196

We then investigated the relation between the 2D perovskite orientation and charge transfer and extraction rates. For this, we compared the charge transfer and extraction rates between the 3D perovskite and  $C_{60}$  when a 35 nm-thick 2D perovskite layer prepared by hybrid and solution posttreatment methods is inserted between them. It should be noted that the 2D perovskite layer prepared with solution post-treatment method has a parallel orientation to the 3D perovskite surface, which significantly hinders charge transport, and limits the thickness of the 2D layer.<sup>8,11,12,16,35</sup>

The charge transfer and extraction at the interfaces also depend on the energetic alignment between 3D perovskite and charge-selective contacts (**Extended Data Fig. 4a**). With the two-step hybrid method, the secondary electron-cut-off of 2D perovskite shifted to lower binding energy (**Extended Data Fig. 4b**). As a result, the conduction band minimum (CBM) of top-side phasepure 2D perovskite (n = 2) prepared by the hybrid method was deeper compared to the previously reported mix-phase of 2D perovskite top-contact passivation using the conventional solution posttreatment method, which resulted in dramatically minimizing the electron barrier.<sup>8,12,16</sup> Further, the slightly deeper valence band maximum (VBM) of the bottom-side 2D perovskite compared to

the control 3D perovskite is favourable for hole transfer at the ITO/2PACz contact interface

#### 213 (Extended Data Fig. 4c–d).

We then adopted double-side 2D/3D heterojunction passivation to our inverted PSCs and 214 demonstrated a maximum PCE of 25.63% ( $V_{OC} = 1.19 \text{ V}$ ,  $J_{SC} = 24.94 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ , and FF = 85.9%, 215 see Fig. 3b) under reverse scan and stabilized PCE of 25.1% using triple-cation 216 Cs0.025MA0.075FA0.90PbI3 perovskite with a bandgap of 1.53 eV (Supplementary Fig. 8). This 217 218 result represents an absolute ~2.3% PCE enhancement compared to control devices (PCE around 23.3%) and >1% to only top- or only bottom-side 2D/3D heterojunction with PCE around 24%.<sup>8,10-</sup> 219 <sup>12</sup> Fig. 3c shows the statistical analysis results of the PCE,  $V_{OC}$ , and FF values from 25 devices for 220 each condition. We demonstrated the universality of our approach by testing various hole-221 222 transporting SAM molecules (i.e., 2PACz, MeO-2PACz, and 4PADCB) and other perovskite compositions of Cs0.05FA0.95PbI3 (~1.54 eV) with PCEs reaching up to 25% for each condition, as 223 shown from the statistical analysis of devices in Supplementary Figs. 9 and Extended Data Fig. 224 5, respectively. We also confirmed the high process robustness of our approaches by showing less 225 than 1% PCE deviation from person-to-person, performed by three different researchers 226 227 (Supplementary Fig. 10). The performance of the double-side 2D/3D heterojunction passivated solar cells were verified by an independently accredited testing center by presenting a PCE of 228 25.00% ( $V_{OC} = 1.17 \text{ V}$ ,  $J_{SC} = 25.00 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ , and FF = 85.7% under reverse current-voltage scan, 229 Supplementary Fig. 11). This result represents one of the highest certified efficiencies in inverted 230 231 PSCs in current literature (Supplementary Table 2).

Notably, the  $V_{OC} \times FF$  value of our double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions-based device was around 232 91% with respect to the Shockley–Queisser limit, one of the highest values among PSCs with only 233 top-side or bulk passivation (Supplementary Fig. 12). The high  $V_{\rm OC}$  and FF values of the devices 234 can be associated with the low charge recombination and traps at the top and bottom interfaces.<sup>15,36</sup> 235 First, we measured the PL quantum yield (PLQY) to demonstrate the quality of perovskite film 236 before and after 2D perovskite passivation. The substantially improved PLQY of the double-side 237 2D/3D passivation (6.67%  $\pm$  0.58%) confirms the high quality of 2D/3D/2D perovskite film 238 239 compared to control perovskite sample (1.84%  $\pm$  0.63%) and one-side 2D/3D passivation sample only (Extended Data Fig. 6a). Even after adding the C<sub>60</sub> layer, the maintained a high PLQY value 240 of double-side 2D/3D perovskite (5.78%  $\pm$  0.33%) versus the control sample (significantly 241

dropped around  $0.19\% \pm 0.06\%$ ), demonstrating the improved optoelectronic quality of perovskite layer with the full stack of devices. This suggests that the 2D perovskite passivation layer can efficiently suppress the charge recombination at these interfaces. These results are also consistent with the longer Shockley-Read-Hall lifetime of double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions (2.69 µs), around three and two times longer versus control (0.97 µs), and only one-side passivation (1.34 µs and 1.73 µs for the bottom- and top-side only passivation, respectively), as shown in **Extended Data Fig. 6b**.

249 We also determined the trap states for control and double-side 2D/3D passivation of perovskite 250 films using space-charge-limited-current (SCLC) and thermal admittance spectroscopy (TAS) analyses.<sup>12,37</sup> For the SCLC, we fabricated the electron-only (ITO/SnO<sub>2</sub>/perovskite/ $C_{60}$ /BCP/Ag) 251 and hole-only (ITO/SAM/perovskite/PTAA/MoO<sub>x</sub>/Ag) devices to estimate the trap densities of 252 253 perovskite films. The trap-filled limited voltage (V<sub>TFL</sub>) of double-side 2D/3D passivation samples was more than 2-fold lower than control samples for both electron- and hole-only devices 254 (Extended Data Fig. 6c-d), indicating reduced trap density states (Nt) for both electron- and hole-255 only devices (see Supplementary Note 1). This result suggests reduced negative and positive 256 257 defects at both interfaces with 2D perovskite passivation. It should be noted that the SCLC analysis 258 has limitations in extracting the exact value of  $N_t$  due to the presence of mobile ions in perovskite materials.<sup>38</sup> Therefore, we also performed TAS analysis to quantify the  $N_t$  of perovskite films 259 relative to their energetic defect levels.<sup>12,37</sup> Overall, the  $N_t$  of double-side 2D/3D perovskite 260 passivation-based devices has lower Nt values in all energetic defect levels, suggesting sufficient 261 passivation of shallow and deep levels of defect in perovskite film by 2D perovskite passivation 262 (Extended Data Fig. 6e). 263

Further, the defects at the interfaces of perovskite films can affect to charge accumulation and 264 electric-field inhomogeneity of perovskite devices.<sup>1,3-5,37</sup> We then analyzed the capacitance-265 voltage under various light illumination intensities to evaluate charge dynamics at the interfaces 266 (Supplementary Fig. 13). The shift in peak-potential ( $V_{peak}$ ) under reverse bias with respect to the 267 illumination intensity reflected the degree of interfacial charge accumulation, which was due to 268 interfacial charge trapping.<sup>37</sup> Marginal shifting of the V<sub>peak</sub> in the double-side 2D/3D device 269 270 indicated a reduced charge accumulation (less charge trapping) compared to the control device (larger  $V_{\text{peak}}$  shifting), consistent with the above results. Interestingly, from the cross-sectional 271 KPFM mapping (Fig. 3d and 3e), stronger electric-field differences after 2D perovskite insertion 272

at the perovskite/ $C_{60}$  contact further prove a lower interfacial defect density.<sup>39</sup> We note that the 273 electric-field extended further into the perovskite film, more effectively repelling holes and thus 274 suppressing recombination at the perovskite/C<sub>60</sub> interface.<sup>40</sup> We note that a similar electric-field 275 strength difference is observed at the 2PACz/perovskite contact for both control and double-side 276 passivation devices, presumably due to the higher dipole of 2PACz SAMs.<sup>39</sup> However, a uniform 277 electric-field is observed after 2D perovskite insertion at 2PACz/perovskite contact, as indicated 278 by a single peak. Consequently, this aids in charge transfer/extraction and leads to enhance Voc 279 and FF values of devices. 280

281

#### 282 Stability and ion migration analyses

We evaluated the long-term stability of encapsulated PSCs under light and thermal stresses. First, 283 Fig. 3f shows the stability under the open-circuit condition at 1-sun and 85 °C of the devices in air 284 (with a relative humidity of  $\sim$ 50%). The double-side 2D/3D heterojunction devices delivered a 285 relative PCE loss of only 5% after more than 1000 h. In contrast, the bottom- and top-side 286 passivation-based devices retain around 75% and 86% from their initial PCEs, respectively, versus 287 the control devices (without any 2D/3D heterojunction) retain around only 35% under identical 288 289 conditions. This result indicates the importance of passivating perovskite film's top and bottom interfaces to improve their stability. Further, we measured the operational stability of double-side 290 2D/3D heterojunctions device under maximum-power-point tracking (MPPT). Around 90% of 291 their original PCE was retained after the PCE tracking for over 1000 h under 1-sun at 40 °C (Fig. 292 **3g**). 293

The degradation of perovskites under illumination and thermal stress can be related to defect-294 induced ion migrations.<sup>1,25,37,41</sup> First, the defects related to iodine generation and migration were 295 296 investigated under 1-sun illumination at 85 °C. It has been reported that the significant release of iodine compound from perovskite film during light soaking at elevated temperature is mainly due 297 to interstitial iodide or PbI2 defects.<sup>25,41</sup> Passivating those defects by double-side 2D/3D 298 passivation suppresses the iodine generation/migration in perovskite films. This is proved by the 299 300 lowering intensity of UV-vis absorption spectrum of iodine at the maximum peak of wavelength around 500 nm after immersing the perovskite films into toluene solution to light and heat 301 (Extended Data Fig. 7a-b).<sup>25,41</sup> 302

303 Finally, the activation energy for ion migration was obtained to reveal the ion-induced migration

304 character in 2D/3D and control 3D perovskite films using temperature-dependent conductivity

measurement.<sup>37</sup> The activation energy value of the control 3D perovskite was fitted to be 0.27 eV,

in agreement with a previously reported value. In contrast, the activation energy value for the

double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions film is increased to 0.47 eV (Extended Data Fig. 7c). This

result indicates that the double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions have a significantly boosted energy

- 309 barrier for ion migration, which might also improve the perovskite crystal stability.
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- 418

#### 419 Figure legends

420 Fig. 1: 2D/3D heterojunction at hole-selective bottom interface | a, Scheme showing the mechanism of 3D-perovskite formation on ITO/2PACz+HBzA and cation exchange at the bottom 421 422 interface (left-hand-side); 2D/3D heterojunction on ITO/2PACz bottom-contact (right-hand-side). b, Cross-sectional High-angle annular dark-field (HAADF)-STEM image of near bottom HTL 423 424 contact with zoom-in of the area showing the parallel 2D perovskite layers. Fast Fourier transform (FFT) shows 2D inter-planar spots (002) and (004) are matched with the dominant phase of n = 2. 425 c, Normalized PL spectra of bottom-side 2D/3D from low to high wavelengths with different 426 excitation directions from the glass-side and top perovskite surface film using 405 nm excitation. 427

Fig. 2: 3D/2D heterojunction at electron-selective top interface | a, Sketch explaining two-step
hybrid process to form 3D/2D heterojunction perovskites. b, Normalized PL spectra of each film
with light direction from the top perovskite surface film. c, GIWAXS maps of top-side 3D/2D
heterojunction at a low incidence angle (0.2°). d, Cross-sectional HAADF-STEM image of near
top C<sub>60</sub>-contact with zoom-in of the area showing the perpendicular orientation of 2D-perovskite.

Fig. 3: Device performance and stability analyses | a, Sketch of the fabricated single-junction 433 PSC. b, Representative J–V curve for control, bottom, top, and double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions 434 PSC. c, Statistics parameters of PCE, Voc, and FF (from top to bottom) values of PSCs. The box 435 and whisker plots indicate the statistical distribution: the center line represents the average value; 436 the bottom and top of the box represent the 25% to 75% percentiles; the small square represents 437 438 the mean; the whiskers represent outliers. d, e, Electric field distribution through both interfaces from C60-ETL to glass/ITO side acquired via KPFM cross-section scans. We mapped the photo-439 voltage of the cells illuminated by an LED light. Note that we break the hole- and electron-selective 440 441 peaks for better visualization. f, Stability of encapsulated control bottom, top, and double-side 2D/3D passivation-based devices under 1-sun illumination at 85 °C and open-circuit conditions. 442 Five cells were used to construct the statistic, with the average represented by the symbol and the 443 standard deviation by the error bar. g, MPPT of an encapsulated double-side 2D/3D passivation-444 based device under 1-sun illumination at 40 °C. 445

- 446
- 447 Methods

Materials 448

Dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.8%, anhydrous), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO, 99.9%, anhydrous),
potassium chloride (KCl, 99.9%), 4-Hydroxybenzylamine (HBzA, C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO), benzylamine,
phenethylamine, butylamine, hexylmethylamine, and cesium iodide (CsI, 99.9%) were all
purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Formamidinium iodide (FAI) and methylammonium chloride
(MACl) were purcahsed from Xian-Polymer. Lead iodide (PbI<sub>2</sub>, ultra-dry) was purchased from

- 454 Alfa Aesar. 4-Hydroxybenzylammonium salts were purchased from Alfa-chemical. 2PACz ([2-
- 455 (9H-carbazol-9-yl)ethyl]phosphonic acid, >98.0%) and MeO-2PACz were purchased from TCI.
- 456 4PADCB (4-(7H-dibenzo[c,g]carbazol-7-yl)butyl)phosphonic acid) was purchased from
- 457 Dyenamo.  $C_{60}$  (>99.5% purity) and bathocuproine (BCP, >99%) were purchased from Ossila Ltd.

#### 458 **Device fabrication**

Glass/ITO substrates were washed in first acetone and then isopropyl alcohol for 20 min of each. After washing, the substrates were dried and treated with UVO prior to use for 10-20 min. The hole-transporting SAM (1 - 2 M) or mixed SAMs+2D-ligands (1:0.5, 1:1, 1:1.5, and 1:2 molar ratio) were dissolved in ethanol. Then, the solution was spin-coated onto glass/ITO at 5000 rpm for 30 s in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. After thermal annealing at 100 °C for 10 min, the holeselective layer coated ITO was cooled down and washed by ethanol by dynamic coating at 5000 rpm for 30 s to remove unbounded molecules.

A perovskite precursor solution (~1.5 M) of Cs0.025MA0.075FA0.90PbI3 was prepared by mixing FAI, 466 MAI, CsI, and PbI<sub>2</sub> with a molar ratio of 0.90:0.075:0.025:1 and then dissolving them in a mixed 467 468 solvent of DMF and DMSO (4:1 vol. ratio). 15 mol% of MACl was also added. For Cs<sub>0.05</sub>FA<sub>0.95</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> was prepared by mixing FAI, CsI, and PbI<sub>2</sub> with a molar ratio of 0.95:0.05:1 and 469 470 then dissolving them in a mixed solvent of DMF and DMSO (4:1 vol. ratio) to get ~1.5 M. Then, around 10 mol% of MACl and 2 mol% of KCl were also added in the mixed perovskite solution. 471 The mixture of precursor solutions was shaken by a vortex shaker overnight at room temperature 472 until fully dissolved. 473

474 The perovskite precursor solution was spin-coated at 2000 rpm for 40 s and 6000 rpm for 10 s. At 475 the 10th s, 200 mL of anisole was dropped onto the films by the end of the spin-coating process. 476 Then, the films were annealed at 120 °C for 30 min to form the perovskite layer. For 2D perovskite passivation at the top side, at the first step,  $PbI_2$  beads were thermally evaporated (10<sup>-6</sup> Torr) at an 477 evaporation rate of 0.5 Å s<sup>-1</sup> to get thickness around 7, 15, and 25 nm. The second step is dropping 478 479 HBzA salt solution or mixture HBzA salt: FAI solution with 1:1 molar ratio (in mixture IPA and DMF, 98:2 vol%) and then spin-coated at 2000 rpm for 30 s, followed by thermal annealing at 480 100 °C for 10 min. After this process, the perovskite films were stored overnight in vacuum 481 482 condition. All the process is done under N<sub>2</sub>-glovebox with O<sub>2</sub> level was <10 ppm and H<sub>2</sub>O level 483 was <0.1 ppm. Then the samples were transferred into a thermal evaporator for the C<sub>60</sub> (25 nm)

and BCP (3 nm) deposition. For the final step, a 120 nm thick Ag layer was evaporated at low pressure ( $<10^{-6}$  Torr) with an area of  $\sim 0.1$  cm<sup>2</sup>. A  $\sim 120$  nm MgF<sub>2</sub> was also evaporated at the glass side to minimize the reflection losses from the glass substrates.

#### 487 **Device Analysis**

The J-V curves were recorded using a Keithley 2400 source unit under AM 1.5 G (100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>). 488 illumination with an Abet Technologies Sun 3000 solar simulator. The spectral mismatch was 489 calibrated using a KG-5 filter-covered mono-silicon standard cell (Newport). All devices were 490 491 measured in nitrogen filled glovebox for a sweep mode of reverse and forward scans with a scanning rate of 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup>. The stabilized output of the devices was acquired by recording the power 492 output of the illuminated device at a constant voltage near the MPP extracted from the J–V curve. 493 External quantum efficiency spectra were obtained by passing the output of a 400 W Xenon lamp 494 495 through a monochromator and filter. Calibration was performed with a 603621 Calibrated Silicon and Germanium Reference Detector. Activation energy measurement of ion migration. Electrical 496 497 poling was performed by applying different biases to the devices for 1 min in the dark; currentvoltage were measured with a Keithley 2401 source. Temperature dependence was measured with 498 499 a CTI cryogenic probe station with an attached Lakeshore 331 temperature controller under vacuum ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$  Pa). The temperature was monitored using a thermocouple placed in contact with 500 the sample. During the measurement, devices were first cooled to 10 K for 10 min and then heated 501 502 to adjust the temperature. The temperature was stabilized for 5 min prior to recording the current for each step. Cross-section KPFM measurements were carried out using a home-built system 503 504 based on Bruker Dimension Icon atomic force microscope. The sample preparation and 505 measurements were conducted inside an Ar-filled glovebox. We used a Pt-Ir coated silicon probe 506 (PPP-EFM) and operate in tapping mode. The mapping was performed with 1024 pixels in the fast-scan axis and more than 32 lines in the slow-scan axis, at a scan rate of 0.35 Hz. To ensure a 507 508 flat surface and expose all layers of the device, the cell was directly cleaved without polishing or 509 ion-milling. We then mapped the surface potential at the same location under dark and LED 510 illumination, with the LED providing white light of approximately 1 Sun intensity. To reduce the noise level, we averaged the electrical potential profiles from all slow-scan lines. Next, we 511 512 subtracted the dark potential from the illuminated condition and calculated the first derivative to obtain the electric field distribution across the device. 513

#### 514 Sample Characterization

Field-emission SEM images were obtained with a JSM-7610F device (JEOL Ltd.). The PL 515 emission was spectrally resolved using collection optic. For STEM based study, cross-sectional 516 electron-transparent lamella was prepared in focused ion beam (FIB) equipped SEM-FIB Helios 517 G4 DualBeam, FEI with help of an EasyLift nanomanipulator and Ga ion source. First protect the 518 region of interest during FIB, two types of protective coatings were deposited: a 0.5 µm layer of 519 520 Pt coating deposited by the e-beam, followed by a 3 µm layer of Pt coating deposited by the ion 521 beam for final protection. Step by step ion beam milling procedure with beam current (2.4, 0.44, 0.26, 0.045, 0.025 nA for 30 to 5 kV) was carried out by cutting and thinning down lamella to 60 522 523 nm, while decreasing beam current (till 0.025 nA at 2 kV) to avoid ion beam damage. Additionally, low current cleaning process (5-2 kV, 81-28 pA) was performed to remove any potential 524 525 contamination. STEM based experiments such as HAADF-STEM were performed in Cs Probcorrected ThermoFisher Titan 60-300 Cubed TEM microscope operating at 300 kV.TEM data 526 processing was performed using Gatan<sup>™</sup> Digital Micrograph and Thermo Scientific<sup>™</sup> Velox 527 suites. For TEM and PL characterizations, the perovskite film samples preparation used 1:2 molar 528 ratio of SAM and 2D ligand to help observation of 2D perovskites. 529

GIWAXS was conducted in the PLS-II 6D UNIST-PAL beamline of the Pohang Accelerator 530 Laboratory (PAL), Korea. The energy of X-rays from the bending magnet was monochromatized 531 to 18.986 keV (0.6530 Å) using a double-crystal monochromator. The 2D charge-coupled device 532 detector (MX225-HS, Rayonix, LLC, USA) was used to record the 2D GIWAXS pattern, and the 533 534 GIWAXS sample chamber was equipped with a 5-axis motorized stage for fine sample alignment. The sample-to-detector distance was 242.58 mm, and the diffraction angles were calibrated using 535 NIST SRM660b, lanthanum hexaboride (LaB6). Incidence angle of ~0.2° was used for the 536 GIWAXS measurements to obtain crystallographic information on the perovskite films used in 537 this work. 538

539 XPS/UPS measurements were performed in a UHV chamber (ScientaOmicron) operating at a 540 pressure of 5 x  $10^{-10}$  mbar. UPS measurements were carried out using a 21.2 eV vacuum UV 541 source (focus). The sample was biased by 10 eV to observe the low kinetic energy cutoff. The 542 photoelectrons were collected at an angle of 80° between the sample and analyzer, with a normal 543 electron take off angle. The constant analyzer pass energy was 5 eV for the valence band region

and for the secondary electron cut-off. XPS was carried out in the same spectrometer, equipped 544 with a monochromatic Al Ka X-ray Omicron XM1000 X-ray source (hv = 1486.6 eV) operating 545 546 at a power of 390 W. The high-resolution spectra were collected at a CAE of 15 eV. The spectra were analyzed with Casa XPS software. The individual peak envelopes were fitted by a Gaussian 547 -Lorentzian (GL30) using a Tougaard based background function. Fourier-transform infrared 548 spectroscopy (FTIR) was conducted using Cary 600 Series FTIR Spectrometer (Agilent Tech.) 549 550 equipped with PIKE GladiATR geometry using diamond crystal in transmission mode. Samples of powder were first dissolved into ethanol solvent and dried in a vacuum, then annealed at 100 °C 551 under N<sub>2</sub>-glovebox for 10 min to completely remove the solvent. The dried powder samples are 552 spread uniformly above the crystal surface of FTIR. The spectral resolution was set to 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 553 obtained by averaging 20 scans of each measurement. Transient PL decay and PLQY were 554 recorded using a spectrofluorometer (Fluoroma-Modular, Horiba Scientific). The 520 nm 555 calibrated pulse laser was generated from a picosecond laser diode (PicoQuant) equipped band-556 557 pass 650 nm filter to collect 795 nm emitted light. The fluence is estimated to be around ~10 nJ/cm<sup>2</sup>. For PLOY, an integrating sphere (Fluorolog, Horiba JobinYvon) was used and compared 558 559 with different tools using a JASCO FP-8500 spectrofluorometer equipped with an ILF-835 integrating sphere with the same procedure. It is noted that the results were consistent from two 560 different setups and measurements, confirming our reliability results as given in the statistical 561 PLOY values with a small deviation standard in Extended Data Fig. 6a. 562

#### 563 **Device stability testing**

For the stability test, ~10 nm layer of tin (IV) oxide and an 80 nm layer of indium zinc oxide were 564 deposited on top of the  $C_{60}$  sequentially, by atomic layer and sputtering depositions, respectively, 565 to replace the BCP layer. The operational stability tests were carried out at the MPPT for the 566 encapsulated devices under 1 sun in ambient air (RH >50 %) at ~40 °C. The voltage at the MPPT 567 was automatically applied, and the power output of the devices was tracked. For the open-circuit 568 light soaking test, the devices were kept under full 1 sun illumination and constant temperature at 569 570 85 °C on hotplate in ambient air (RH above 50 %). The devices then measured periodically until 571 1000 h. The devices were encapsulated with simple glass and epoxy method. All processes were 572 done in N<sub>2</sub> glovebox.

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#### 583 Author contributions

R.A. conceived, directed the research, and wrote the original draft. R.A., D.S.U., I.F.I, and A.P. 584 fabricated the solar cells. B.V. conducted FIB and TEM measurements and analyses. A.M.R. 585 586 performed the GIWAXS measurement and analysis. R.A. and A.M.R. performed PLQY measurement and analysis. S.Z. contributed to conceptualizing the idea of 2D perovskite and 587 discussion at the bottom contact. P.D. performed XPS, IPES, and UPS measurements and did data 588 analysis. R.A., D.S.U., and E.U. performed optical spectroscopy measurements and data analysis. 589 D.S.U. performed SEM measurements. A.P. performed the top-surface KPFM measurement and 590 did data analysis. R.A. performed and analysed the electronic characterization of the devices. F.C. 591 592 performed cross-section KPFM and analysis. D.U. and A.A.S. performed the FTIR and analysis. I.F.I. helped to synthesized and characterized 2D perovskite layers. I.F.I. and A.A.S. performed 593 the XRD measurement analysis. A.R.P. fabricated the aperture mask and determined the area. 594 A.A.S. and A.S.S. helped to review the manuscript. E.A. contributed to reviewing and writing the 595 manuscript. S.I.S. and C.X. supervised the project. S.D.W. supervised the overall project and 596 secure the funding. All authors contributed to the manuscript. 597

#### 598 Conflicts of Interest

599 The authors declare no competing interests.

#### 600 Data availability

The data sets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

#### 603 Extended Data Figure legends

Extended Data Fig. 1: Chemical analysis of SAMs and HBzA ligand. a. Photograph of the 604 mixture 2PACz:HBzA (1:1 molar ratio) compound after drying under vacuum for a few days and 605 606 then annealed at 100 °C in a nitrogen glovebox to completely remove the solvent. The yellow precipitated powder indicates the protonation between the first P–OH of the phosphonic group of 607 2PACz and the amine of HBzA molecules, forming an ionic bond. b, FTIR peaks of HBzA. 608 609 2PACz, and mixture (2PACz:HBzA, 1:1 molar ratio) in solid-state powder. The shifting peaks of P–OH at ~950 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~1033 cm<sup>-1</sup> to the higher wavenumber of the mixture compound indicate 610 stronger bonding due to deprotonation of the first P-OH group of the phosphonic acid of 2PACz. 611 Consequently, the additional new peak associated with the P–O bond at 1105 cm<sup>-1</sup> is formed. In 612 contrast, N-H bending peaks of the amine group (HBzA) at ~1530 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1620 cm<sup>-1</sup> are shifted 613 to the lower wavenumber with enhanced intensity in the mixture compound, presumably due to 614 the protonation of  $-NH_2$  to  $-NH_3^+$ . These results successfully confirm the acid-base reaction 615 between the  $pK_{a1}$  of the phosphonic acid and the  $pK_b$  of alkyl amines, as illustrated in Fig. 1a. c, 616 XPS analysis of 2PACz on ITO film. High-resolution spectra of C1s of 2PACz, HBzA, and a 617 mixture of 2PACz+HBzA onto ITO after washing with DMF/DMSO. 618

619 Extended Data Fig. 2: SKPM mapping images and distributions of WF. a, ITO/2PACz+HBzA sample before and after washing. The DMF/DMSO solvent mixture was used to wash the 620 ITO/2PACz+HBzA sample. The minor WF shifting of the ITO/2PACz+HBzA sample before and 621 after washing with DMF/DMSO indicates a strong attachment of HBzA molecules onto 2PACz 622 molecules, consistent with XPS results. b, ITO/2PACz sample after washing. c, Bare ITO. d, 623 SKPM mapping images of ITO/2PACz/perovskite and ITO/2PACz+HBzA/perovskite samples 624 625 after washing with DMF/DMSO. e, Distributions of WF of both samples from KPFM measurement. After the perovskite film deposition and subsequent removal of the HBzA ligands, 626 the WF of ITO/2PACz+HBzA is shifted back to the WF of pristine ITO/2PACz (~5.40 eV), 627 confirming our hypothesis. 628

**Extended Data Fig. 3: Statistics of PCE,**  $V_{OC}$ , and FF of PSCs. a, Bottom-side 2D/3D with different molar ratios of 2PACz: HBzA. b, Bottom-side 2D/3D with various 2D ligands (benzylamine, BzA; phenethylamine, PEA; butylamine, BA; hexylmethylamine, HMA) for bottom-side 2D/3D heterojunction with a 1:1 molar ratio of 2PACz. c, Top-side 3D/2D with PbI2 thickness variation for top-side 3D/2D heterojunction. The statistics are obtained from 10 to 20 cells for each condition from different batches. It is noted that the perovskite used here is based on Cs<sub>0.05</sub>FA<sub>0.95</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>.

**Extended Data Fig. 4: Energetic alignment analysis. a**, Energy level scheme for 2PACz anchored on ITO, 3D-perovskites, 2D-perovskites on top and bottom interfaces, and C<sub>60</sub> layers extracted from UPS data. The VBM was obtained as  $hv - (E_{cutoff} - E_{VB, min})$ . The position of the CBM with respect to the VBM was defined by extracting  $E_g$  (~1.53 eV) from EQE in Supplementary Fig. 8 for 3D-perovskite and by IPES for 2D-perovskite with n = 2 ( $E_g = \sim 2.1$  eV). **b**, **c**, Secondary electron cut-off and valence spectra plots from UPS measurement. **d**, IPES spectra of the 2D perovskite film with n = 2 using the hybrid method.

**Extended Data Fig. 5: Device performance with double-cation perovskite. a**, Representative J-V curve for control and double-side 2D/3D heterojunctions perovskite solar cells with

645  $C_{s_{0.05}}FA_{0.95}PbI_3$  perovskite, achieving a maximum PCE of 25.2% under reverse scan. Statistical 646 parameters of (b) PCE, (c)  $V_{OC}$ , and (d) FF values of PSCs. The statistical parameters are obtained

- 647 from 50 cells for each condition from different batches.
- 648 **Extended Data Fig. 6: Passivation and trap analysis. a**, PLQY results, and (**b**) transient PL 649 decays of perovskite films on various 2D/3D heterojunctions. **c**, **d**, SCLC plots for control and
- double-side 2D/3D heterojunction-based devices of (c) electron-only and (d) hole-only devices. e,
- TAS analysis of control, bottom-side, and double-side 2D/3D passivation-based devices.
- **Extended Data Fig. 7: Stability and ion migration analysis. a**, **b**, UV-vis absorbance spectra evolution of iodine in toluene solution for the control (**a**) and double-side passivation of perovskite films (**b**) at different aging times. Inset is a photo of the sealed vials with the control and 2D/3D perovskite films, taken after 100 h of light and heat exposures. **c**, Temperature-dependent conductivity of control and double-side 2D/3D perovskite films.
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#### Mechanism of 2D ligand formation and release from the ITO/2PACz surface а

Bottom-side 2D/3D perovskite







Extended Data Fig. 1





Extended Data Fig. 3



Extended Data Fig. 4



Extended Data Fig. 5



Extended Data Fig. 6

