

Supporting Information for

**CH₃NH₃PbI₃ films prepared by combining 1- and 2-step
deposition: How crystal growth conditions affect properties**

Muhamad Z. Mokhtar^{a,}, Mu Chen^a, Eric Whittaker^c, Bruce Hamilton^c, Nicholas Aristidou^d,*

Simko Ramadan^{a,b} Ali Gholinia^a, Saif A. Haque^d, Paul O'Brien^{a,b}, and Brian R. Saunders^{a,}*

- a) School of Materials, University of Manchester, MSS Tower, Manchester, M13 9PL, U.K.
- b) School of Chemistry, University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL, U.K.
- c) Photon Science Institute, University of Manchester, Alan Turing Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, U.K.
- d) Department of Chemistry and Centre for Plastic Electronics, Imperial College London, South Kensington Campus, SW7 2AZ

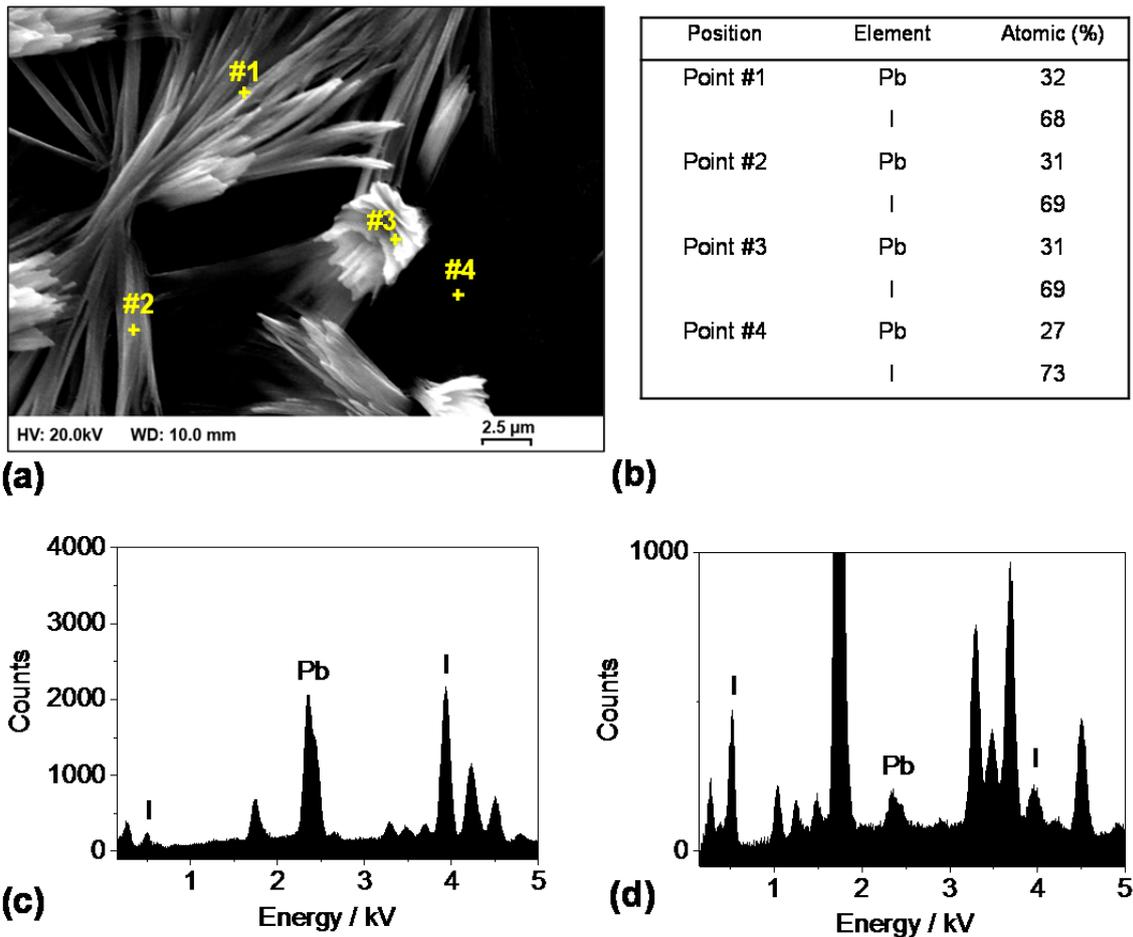


Figure S1. (a) SEM image of 1 & 2-s precursor film prepared using $x = 0.66$. The sample was analysed using EDX at the points shown. Points #1 to #3 correspond to the microcrystals. Point #4 probed the mp-TiO₂ layer containing 0.66MAPbI₃ and 0.34PbI₂ (i.e., 27.0 atomic% Pb²⁺) according to Scheme 1a. For comparison PbI₂ contains 33 atomic% Pb²⁺. (b) Table of atomic % values from the points shown in (a). EDX spectra for (c) Point # 1 and (d) Point #4. These data show that microcrystals (with nanocrystals at the surface) were Pb²⁺ rich compared to theory (27.0 mol.%) and Point #4.

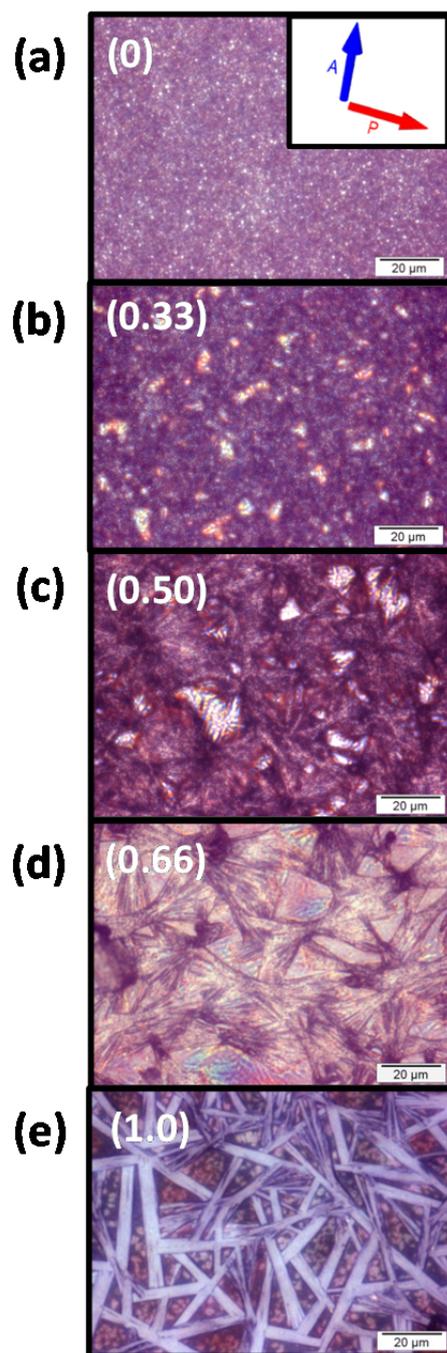


Figure S2 Polarised light optical microscopy images (a – e) for various *final* MAPbI₃ films prepared with different solution *x* values (shown). (a) and (e) correspond to 2-s and 1-s methods, respectively. (b) to (d) were prepared using the 1 & 2-s method. (See Scheme 1c) The inset for (a) shows the analyser (A) and polariser (P) directions used.

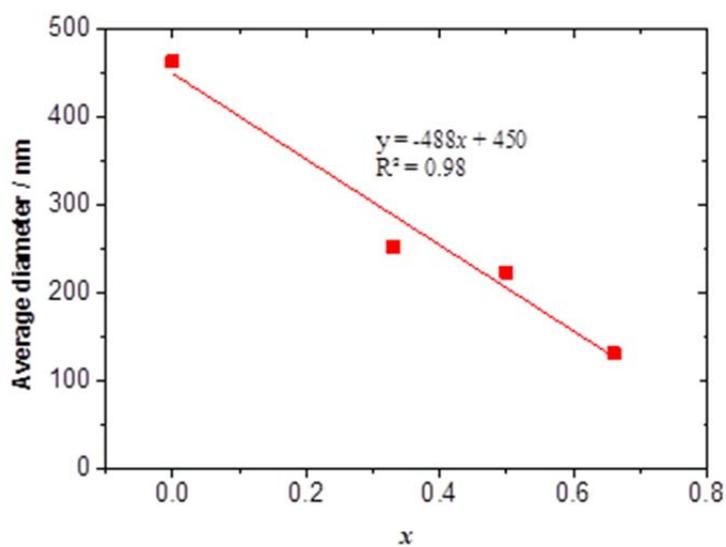


Figure S3 Effect of x for the $\text{PbI}_2 + x\text{MAI}$ solutions used to prepare the precursor films on the average meso-crystal size for the *final* MAPbI_3 films shown in Fig. 1b. The combined 1 & 2-s method used $x = 0.33, 0.50$ and 0.66 . Note that $x = 0$ corresponds to the 2-s method. Meso-crystals were not evident for the 1-s ($x = 1.0$) film.

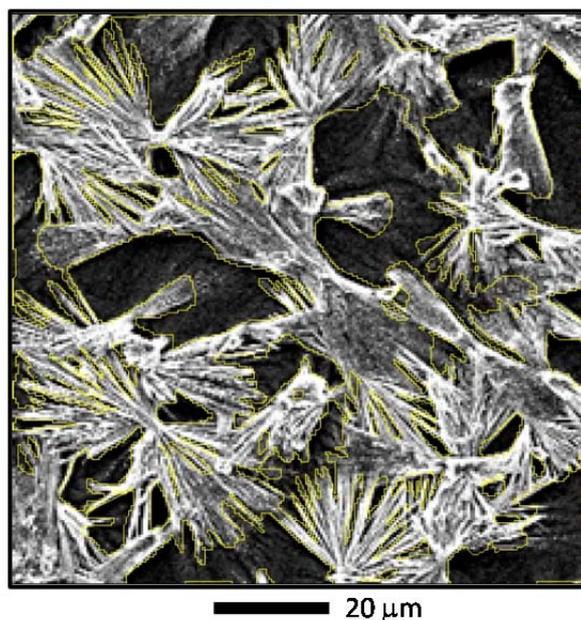


Figure S4. Example of image used for calculation of the % coverage. This SEM image was obtained for the *final* 1 & 2-s film prepared using $x = 0.66$ and is taken from Fig. 1b. The yellow outline was used to delineate the crystals from the background. The automated threshold was conducted using Image J software and included only the dark black areas (pinholes). The % coverage was determined by subtracting the total pinhole area from the total area of the image and normalising the difference with the total image area.

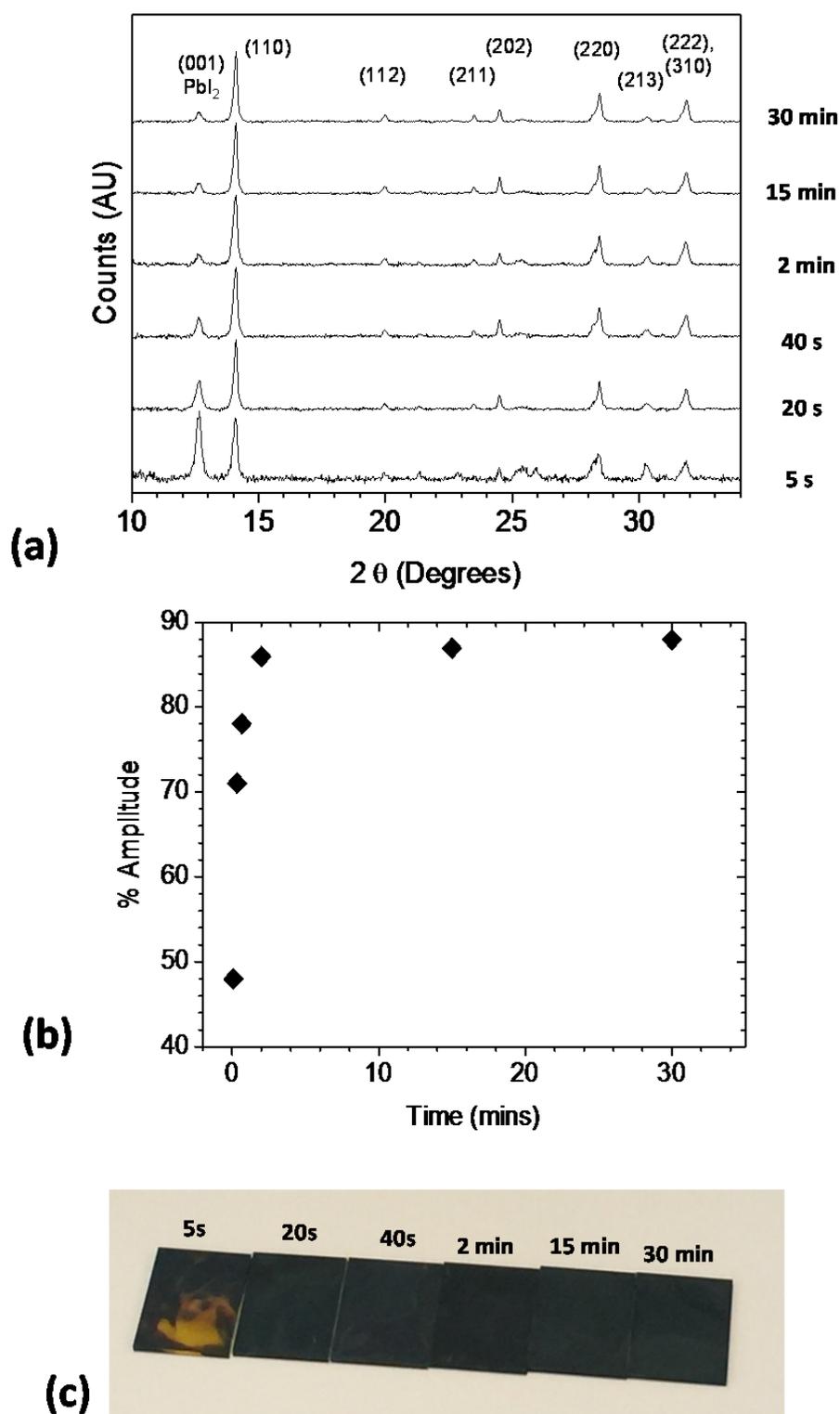


Figure S5 (a) X-ray diffractograms for *final* MAPbI₃ films prepared using the 2-s method ($x = 0$) – See Scheme 1b. The immersion time was varied as shown. (b) Variation of the % of amplitude of the MAPbI₃ (110) peak with x (see text). (c) Images of the films used for (a).

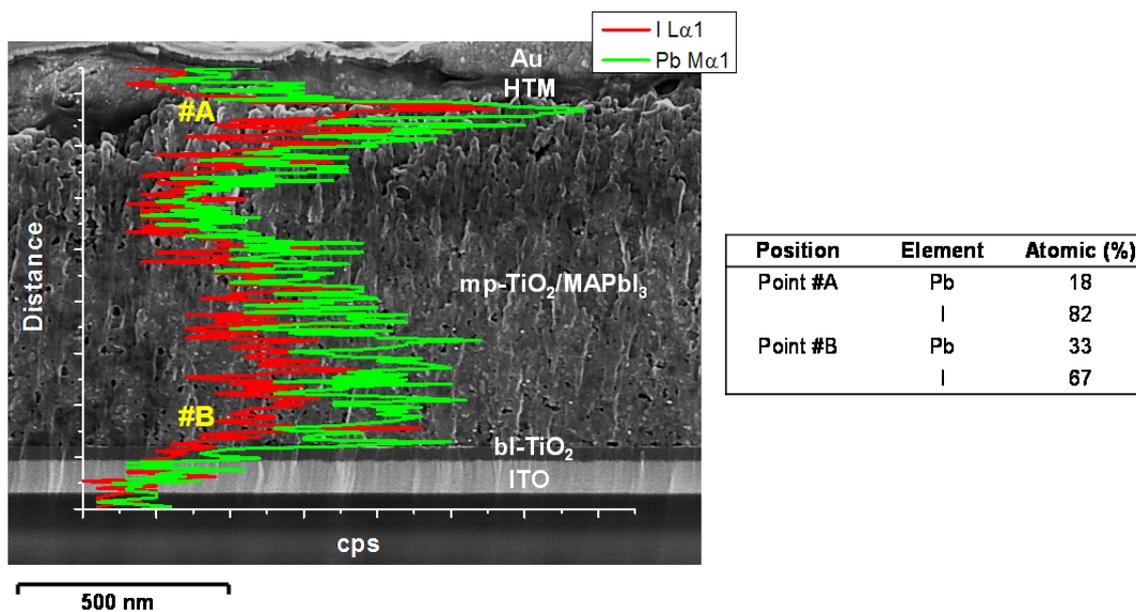


Figure S6. SEM cross section of an ITO/bl-TiO₂/mp-TiO₂/MAPbI₃/Spiro-MeOTAD/Au device that contained a MAPbI₃ photoactive layer prepared using the 1 & 2-s method ($x = 0.5$). EDX line scanning data are shown for Pb and I. The scanning was performed perpendicular to the film surface starting from the HTM. Points #A and #B probed the compositions near the surface and deep within the photoactive layer. The atomic % values measured for Points #A and #B are shown in the table.

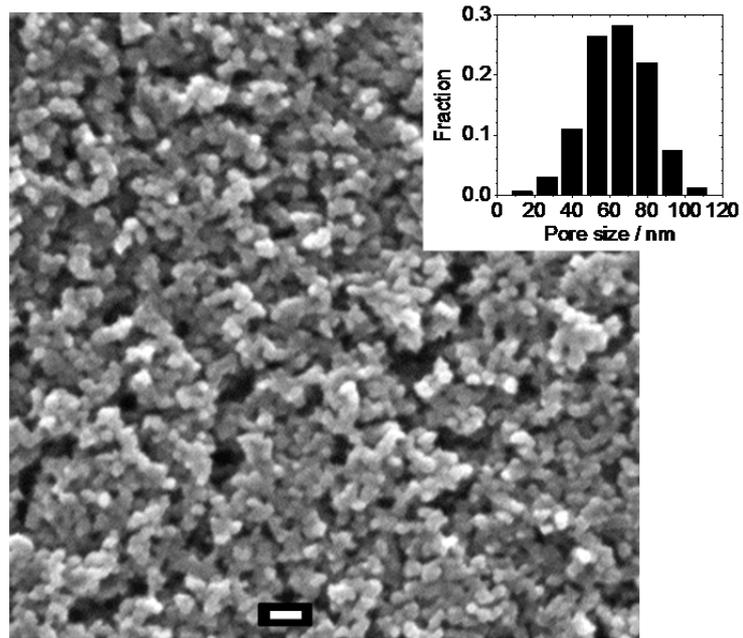


Figure S7 Representative SEM image for mp-TiO₂. The scale bar represents 100 nm. The pore size distribution is shown.

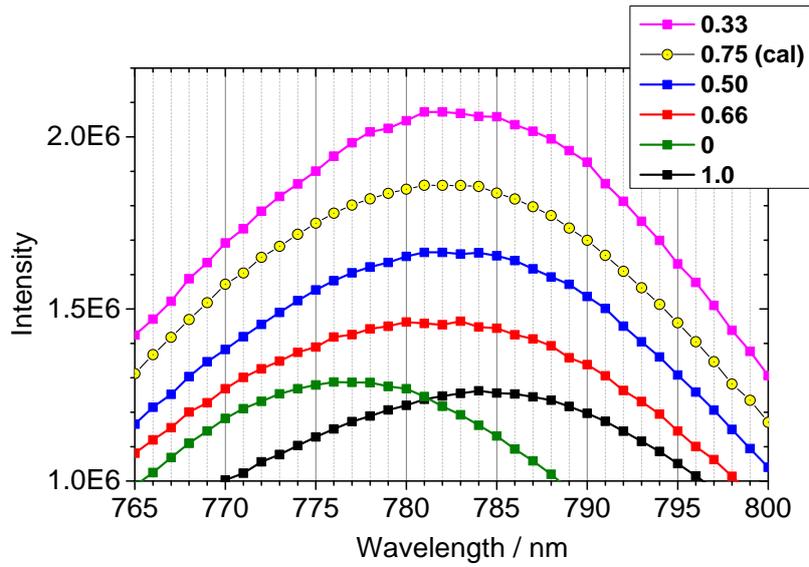


Figure S8 Expanded view of PL spectra for the final MAPbI₃ films from Fig. 5a. The values for x are shown in the legend. A calculated spectrum for $x = 0.75$ is shown which was obtained by using $F = 1.5 \times (0.25F_0 + 0.75F_{1.0})$ where F_0 and $F_{1.0}$ are the measured fluorescence intensities for the $x = 0$ and 1.0 films, respectively.

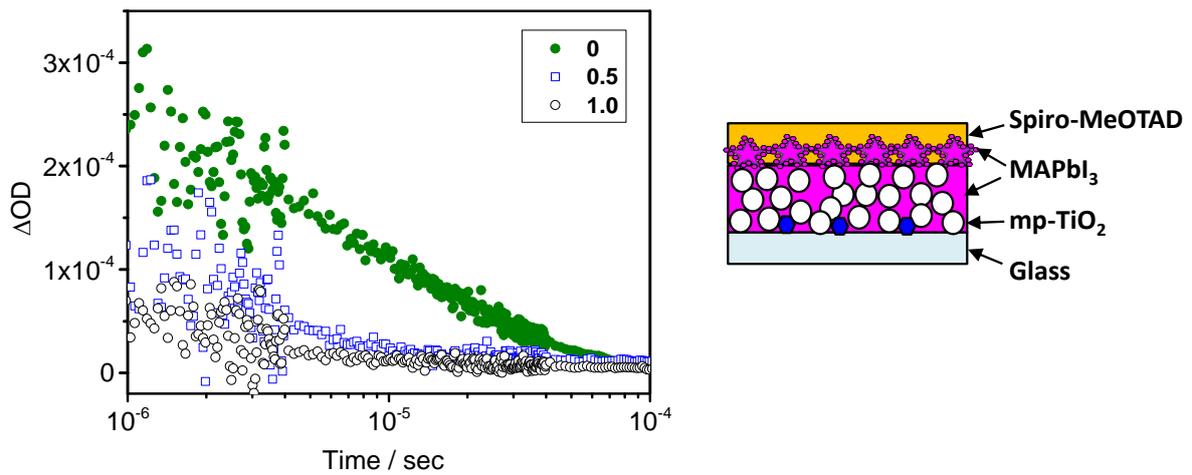


Figure S9. Transient absorption spectroscopy data for mp-TiO₂/MAPbI₃/spiro-MeOTAD. The legend shows the values for x used for the preparation of the films. The architecture of the device used for these experiments is also shown.

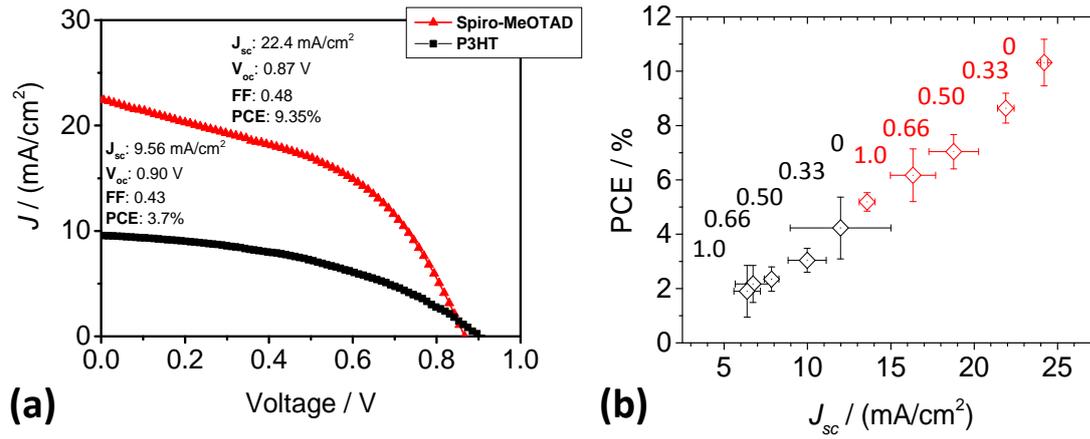


Figure S10 (a) J - V curve for the best 1 & 2-s ($x = 0.33$) cells. (b) Relationship between PCE and J_{sc} for devices prepared using P3HT (black open diamonds) or Spiro-OMeTAD (red open diamonds) as the HTM.

Table S1: Photovoltaic performance data for perovskite devices measured using the forward scan.^a

xMAI	HTM	J_{sc} (mAcm ⁻²)	V_{oc} (V)	FF	PCE (%)	Hysteresis (%)
0	P3HT	11.98 ± 3.02	0.83 ± 0.09	0.39 ± 0.09	4.23 ± 1.14	15.1 ± 1.9
0.33		9.98 ± 1.14	0.84 ± 0.06	0.37 ± 0.05	3.04 ± 0.44	8.75 ± 0.88
0.50		7.85 ± 0.44	0.83 ± 0.03	0.36 ± 0.04	2.35 ± 0.45	6.60 ± 0.73
0.66		6.73 ± 1.07	0.81 ± 0.07	0.39 ± 0.05	2.17 ± 0.68	4.33 ± 0.52
1.0		6.38 ± 0.8	0.68 ± 0.17	0.41 ± 0.09	1.90 ± 0.95	2.42 ± 0.38
0	SPIRO	24.2 ± 0.21	0.85 ± 0.02	0.51 ± 0.04	10.32 ± 0.86	16.3 ± 1.86
0.33		21.9 ± 0.50	0.86 ± 0.01	0.46 ± 0.02	8.64 ± 0.55	8.40 ± 0.70
0.50		18.8 ± 1.5	0.86 ± 0.01	0.44 ± 0.05	7.04 ± 0.63	7.43 ± 0.73
0.66		16.3 ± 1.4	0.86 ± 0.01	0.44 ± 0.02	6.17 ± 0.97	5.25 ± 0.76
1.0		13.6 ± 0.5	0.84 ± 0.01	0.46 ± 0.02	5.19 ± 0.34	3.35 ± 1.42

^a The ± values are standard deviations.