## Supplementary information

## Thermal and illumination effect on PbI<sub>2</sub> nanoplate and its transformation to CH<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>3</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> perovskite<sup>†</sup>

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Fig. S1. Schematic experimental setup of the PbI<sub>2</sub> growth process



Fig.S2. Schematic of the growth of MAPbI<sub>3</sub> in dark and illumination condition

The  $CH_3NH_3I$  powders were place uniformly at the bottom of a alumina crucible. Two  $PbI_2$  samples were planced on the mask with the  $PbI_2$  facing the  $CH_3NH_3I$  powder with a 10 mm space in between. A top cover was placed on the crucible to ensure a sealed space for reaction. A window was opened at one side to allow illumination or observation

during reaction. The crucible was place on center of the heater plate preheated to 150 °C.



**Fig.S3** The AFM topography of as-prepared  $PbI_2$  sample (a) exposure with illumination and annealing at the same time(b). The comparison of the topography before and after illumination and annealing in (c)



**Fig.S4** The AFM topography (a) of  $PbI_2$  after fully reaction with MAI in dark and the line profiles changes (b) before and after reaction.



**Fig.S5** The AFM topography of as-prepared  $PbI_2$  sample exposure in MAI vapor with 20 min (a) and 90 min (b). The comparison of the topography before and after exposure in

illumination in (c); (d) the PL pectra of perovskite with different time for illumination exposure from the top surface.



**Fig. S6** (a) XRD of PbI<sub>2</sub> thin film and the as-prepared MAPbI<sub>3</sub> in dark and under illumination. (b) J-V curves of device with  $FTO/TiO_2/C_{60}/MAPbI_3/Spiro/Au$  structure. It shows very small hysteresis, showing that hysteresis comes from the interface charging at  $TiO_2/MAPbI_3$ . SEM images of MAPbI<sub>3</sub> in dark (b) and under illumination (c). Under illumination, clear PbI<sub>2</sub> peak appears. At the same time, the as-prepared MAPbI<sub>3</sub> shows smaller grain sizes and grains with layer structure (such as the areas pointed by red arrow in (d)). It imply that illumination has suppress the fully conversion of PbI<sub>2</sub> to MAPbI<sub>3</sub>.