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Residual Nanoscale Strain in Cesium Lead Bromide Perovskite Reduces Stability and Shifts Local Luminescence

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COMSOL simulation

The Structural Mechanics module in COMSOL was used to simulate the induced strain from cooldown during crystallization of CsPbBr₃. In the 2D simulation, a 2-µm thick and 30-µm wide CsPbBr₃ crystal sits atop a quartz slide patterned with 100-nm Pt. The crystal is positioned its midline right above the edge of the Pt. A 0.5 µm fillet was included at the corners of the crystal and the Pt edge to reduce unrealistic edge effects in the simulation. The thermal parameters of Pt and quartz from the COMSOL built-in library were used. For CsPbBr₃, the thermal parameters from the study by Rakita et al.¹ were used. The CsPbBr₃ is considered to crystallize stress free at 100°C. The temperature of the crystal and the substrate is reduced to 20°C, and the CsPbBr₃ crystal is compressed at the substrate interface due to its large coefficient of expansion compared with the substrates. A lateral strain gradient in the CsPbBr₃ crystal forms from the Pt side to the quartz side induced by the difference in coefficients of thermal expansion of the substrate materials.

Electron Backscatter Diffraction

To identify the crystal phase, electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) is measured on the crystal using an FEI Apero scanning electron microscopy and Oxford symmetry detector at 20 kV. The crystal structures of orthorhombic CsPbBr₃ ICSD # 97851, tetragonal CsPbBr₃ ICSD # 109295 and cubic CsPbBr₃ ICSD # 29073 were used to match the crystal phase.

Atomic Force Microscopy

The AFM image was obtained using a Veeco Scanning Probe Microscopy in tapping mode and scanning over a range of 50 μ m by 70 μ m at a resolution of 360 \times 512 data points.

Benchtop X-ray diffraction

Powder XRD spectra were taken by a Bruker AXS D8 Discover diffractometer in parallel beam geometry with Cu K α radiation (λ =1.5418 Å). The height alignment accessory was used for accurate strain calculation.

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Materials	CTE (10 ⁻⁶ K ⁻¹)
CsPbBr ₃ ¹	37.7
Pt ²	9.0
Quartz ³	0.55
TiO ₂ ⁴	2.57

Table S1. Coefficients of thermal expansion of CsPbBr₃, Pt, quartz and TiO₂



Figure S1. AFM of the CsPbBr₃ crystal measured by nanoXRD shows the crystal is $2-\mu m$ thick with a flat smooth surface except for one large void on the right of the crystal. The roughness Ra is around 40 nm on the crystal excluding the void.



Figure S2. (a) Simulated displacement of a 2-um thick CsPbBr₃ crystal on Pt-patterned quartz substrate. (b) COMSOL mechanical simulation of the out-of-plane strain in a the CsPbBr₃ crystal on Quartz/Pt substrate.



Figure S3. (a) Correlation Coefficient of diffraction images as a function of time under X-ray at five positions on the strained crystal indicated in Figure 2. (b) Waterfall plot of degrading diffraction patterns at positions A, B, C, D and E indicated in Figure 2.



Figure S4. (a) Correlation coefficient r of the diffraction image vs. accumulated X-ray dose shows that CsPbBr₃ (green curve) are much more stable than MAPbBr₃ (red curve). (b) Diffraction images of MAPbBr₃ and CsPbBr₃ diffraction at 1, 100 500s showing the relatively stable CsPbBr₃ under X-ray irradiation and the loss of long range order in the hybrid perovskite.



Figure S5. Example of single Gaussian fit of PL spectrum of CsPbBr₃ from µ-PL.



Figure S6. (a) Pb, Cs, Cs/Pb ratio maps in XRF. (b) Powder XRD of the CsPbBr $_3$ sample measured by nanoXRD.

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Figure S7. (a) SEM image of the CsPbBr₃ crystal measured after nanoXRD. (b) EBSD phase map of the CsPbBr₃ crystal shows the crystal is orthorhomic CsPbBr₃ with space group Pbnm. The green dots are not automatically identified as orthorhombic phase in the software, due to poorly indexed orthorhombic patterns, as shown by (c) the Kikuchi pattern of a blue point identified as orthorhombic CsPbBr₃ and (d) the Kikuchi pattern of a poorly-indexed (green) point identified mistakenly as cubic CsPbBr₃. The symmetry and pattern in (d) precisely matches that of (c).



Figure S8. Powder XRD patterns of crystals on TiO2, Quartz, Pt, scraped powder from drop casted crystals on glass slides and major peaks of CsPbBr₃ in ICSD 97851.



Figure S9. SEM image of CsPbBr₃ crystal stamped on TiO₂.



Figure S10. (a) Scattering intensity map from nanoXRD and PL intensity map from microPL on the same CsPbBr₃ crystal. (b) Scatter plot of PL intensity versus scattering intensity shows non-association. Scale bar is $10 \mu m$ in (a).



Figure S11. Diffraction patterns of two different spots on the mosaic CsPbBr₃ crystal in Figure 5. Gray lines are for eye guidance.

References

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