



## High performance printable perovskite solar cells based on $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$ in mesoporous scaffolds



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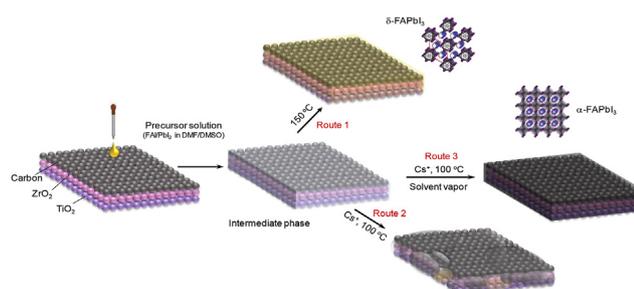
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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Printable perovskite solar cells enable efficient and low-cost photovoltaics.
- Understanding of crystal growth in constrained nanostructures is provided.
- The configuration offers a promising technical route for perovskite solar cells.

### GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



### ARTICLE INFO

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### ABSTRACT

Methylammonium lead triiodide (MAPbI<sub>3</sub>) has been investigated as the recent most exciting light absorber materials for photovoltaics. Printable perovskite solar cells based on MAPbI<sub>3</sub> in a TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub>/Carbon triple-layer mesoporous scaffold have shown simple fabrication process and impressive stability. Moving towards formamidinium lead triiodide (FAPbI<sub>3</sub>) as the light absorber, which has a bandgap of 1.48 eV that matches the optimum bandgap (1.34 eV) of a single-junction solar cell, will result in further improvement in power conversion efficiency. However, it is challenging to deposit high-quality FAPbI<sub>3</sub> in a 10- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick mesoporous scaffold due to the incomplete one-step conversion of perovskite precursors restrained in the mesoporous scaffold. Here we report printable perovskite solar cells with high-quality  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  absorber inside mesoporous scaffolds using a mixed solvent vapor assisted crystallization approach. A power conversion efficiency of 15% is obtained with a spectral response up to 840 nm. The phase transition and crystal growth of  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FAPbI}_3$  are carefully monitored in the mesoporous scaffold. This work not only opens up new methods for fabricating efficient and stable solar cells but also provides a deeper understanding of crystal growth inside constrained nanostructures.

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## 1. Introduction

Perovskite solar cells (PSCs) have attracted intensive attention in the past several years, and the power conversion efficiency (PCE) of this photovoltaic technology has dramatically increased from 3.9% in 2009 to 23.3% [1–5]. The organic-inorganic hybrid perovskites possess unique properties as a light absorber for photovoltaics, such as suitable bandgaps, defect-tolerant bandstructures, high charge carrier mobility, small exciton binding energy, and long exciton diffusion length [6–8]. PSCs are usually fabricated by solution process and potentially low cost [9,10]. The most efficient PSCs usually utilize expensive hole-transport-materials (HTMs), such as 2,2',7,7'-tetrakis(N,N-di-p-methoxy-phenylamine)-9,9'-spirobifluorene (spiro-OMeTAD) and poly(triaryl amine) (PTAA), as hole transporting layer with noble metal as the back contact [2,3,11]. Both the high material cost and energy-intensive thermal evaporation process prevent the large-scale production [8,12,13].

A hole-conductor-free printable mesoscopic PSC has recently been reported with a TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub>/Carbon triple-layer mesoporous scaffold [14–16]. Such PSCs could be fabricated using screen-printing technology [17], enabling low fabrication cost [8,18]. In addition, the hydrophobic mesoporous carbon layer protects the perovskite absorber from moisture penetration. With interface and compositional optimization [19], printable PSCs have demonstrated impressive stability under various conditions [16,20,21].

Compared with MAPbI<sub>3</sub> with a bandgap of 1.55 eV [5], formamidinium lead triiodide (FAPbI<sub>3</sub>) has a lower bandgap of 1.48 eV, which is close to the optimum bandgap of 1.34 eV for a single-junction solar cell under typical sunlight conditions (unconcentrated, AM 1.5 solar spectrum) [22,23]. Besides, FAPbI<sub>3</sub> is thermally more stable than MAPbI<sub>3</sub> [24,25]. It is therefore strongly desired to infiltrate FAPbI<sub>3</sub> [26–28] into the triple-layer mesoporous scaffold to further improve the performance. The key challenge, however, is the incomplete conversion of the perovskite precursor to  $\alpha$ -phase FAPbI<sub>3</sub>, often forming non-perovskite  $\delta$ -FAPbI<sub>3</sub> or unreacted PbI<sub>2</sub>. Formamidinium cation (FA<sup>+</sup>) possess a diameter of 1.9–2.2 Å, larger than that of methylammonium cation (MA<sup>+</sup>, 1.8 Å). Significant volume expansion occurs during the formation of FAPbI<sub>3</sub> [28,29]. To deposit high-quality  $\alpha$ -FAPbI<sub>3</sub> in the TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub>/Carbon triple-layer scaffold, we have previously reported a sequential two-step method, for which PbI<sub>2</sub> was first deposited and then a MAI/FAI solution bathing was applied [30]. It is critical to deposit a stoichiometric amount of PbI<sub>2</sub> into the mesoporous scaffold to avoid the incomplete conversion of PbI<sub>2</sub> in such two-step method. Most previous efforts to obtain high-quality FAPbI<sub>3</sub> thin films focus on the fabrication of conventional PSC architecture, which could not be directly applied to printable PSCs [28,29].

In this work, we reported printable PSCs based on high-quality perovskite Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> absorber in mesoporous scaffolds using a one-step mixed solvent vapor assisted crystallization approach. The phase transition and crystallization of FAPbI<sub>3</sub> in the scaffold could be tuned by solvent vapor annealing and printable PSCs show a PCE of 15% and a short-circuit current density of 23.63 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.

## 2. Experimental methods

### 2.1. Materials

Lead iodide (PbI<sub>2</sub>), lead bromide (PbBr<sub>2</sub>) and cesium iodide (CsI) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Methylammonium iodide (MAI), Formamidinium iodide (FAI) and methylammonium bromide (MABr) were purchased from MaterWin Technology, China. The solvents of dimethylformamide (DMF) and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) were purchased from Acros Organics. All the materials were used as received without further purification.

### 2.2. Device fabrication

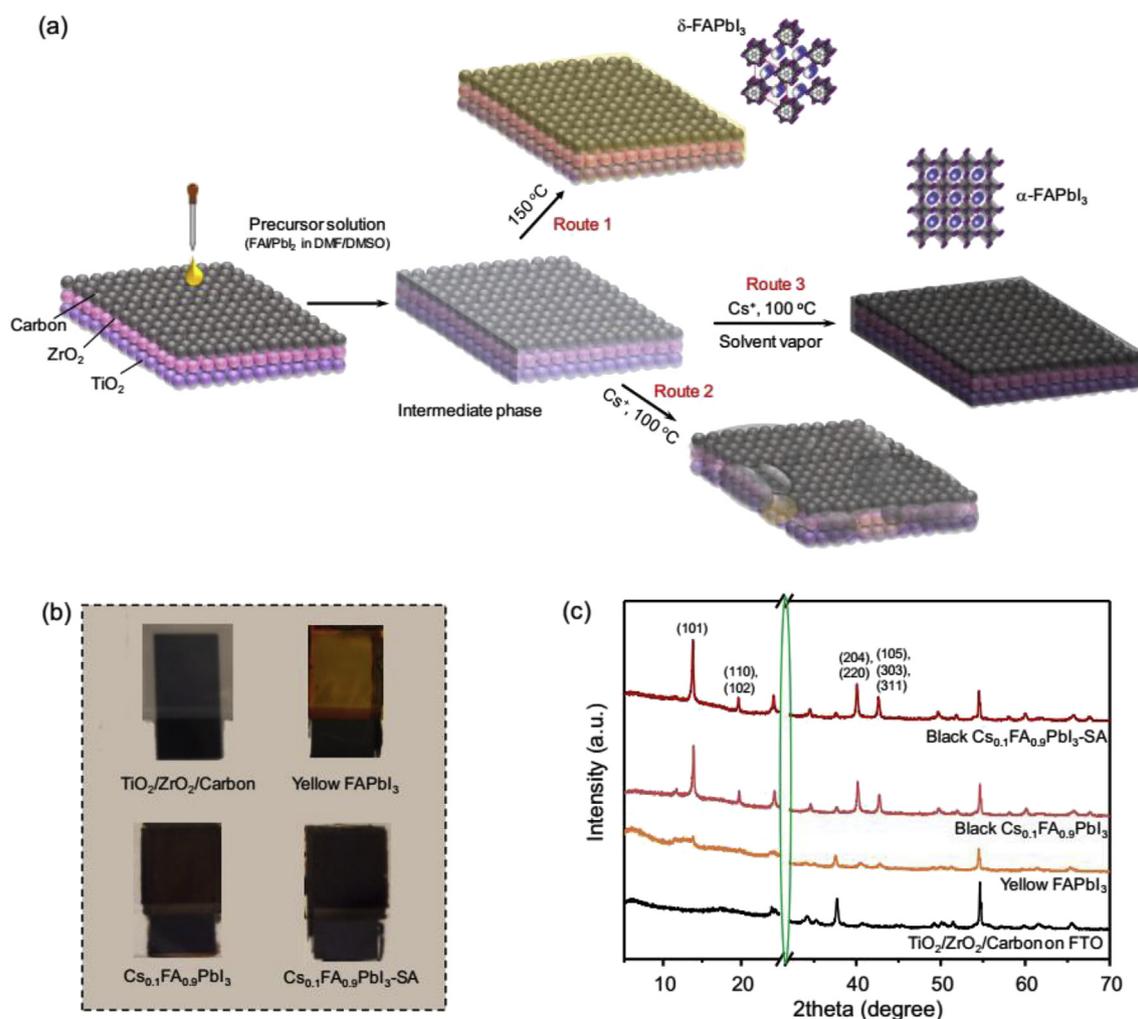
FTO glass substrates were etched with a 1064 nm laser, and then ultrasonically cleaned with detergent, deionized water and ethanol for 10 min, respectively. A compact TiO<sub>2</sub> layer was deposited on the FTO substrates by spray pyrolysis deposition with di-isopropoxytitaniumbis (acetyl acetonate) solution at 450 °C. Subsequently the mesoporous TiO<sub>2</sub> layer (particle size 18 or 30 nm, GreatCell Solar), the ZrO<sub>2</sub> layer and carbon layer were deposited by screen-printing layer by layer, which were sintered at 500 °C, 500 °C and 400 °C for 30 min, respectively. After cooling down to room temperature, 2.0–3.0  $\mu$ L perovskite precursor solution was dropped on the top of the carbon layer in ambient air or nitrogen filled glove box. After a thermal annealing (100–150 °C for 10–30 min) or a solvent vapor assisted annealing process (100 °C for 10 min), the device fabrication was finished. The compositions of the precursor solutions are presented in Table S1.

### 2.3. Characterization

Photocurrent density-voltage (*J-V*) characteristics were measured using a Keithley 2400 source/meter and a Newport solar simulator (model 91192-1000) giving light with AM 1.5 G spectral distribution, which was calibrated using a certified reference solar cell (Newport) to an intensity 100 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>. A black mask with a circular aperture (diameter 3.6 mm, area 0.1 cm<sup>2</sup>) was applied on top of the device. The scan rate is 150 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The incident photon-to-current conversion efficiency (IPCE) was performed using a 150 W xenon lamp (Oriel) fitted with a monochromator (Cornerstone 74004) as a monochromatic light source. Top-view and cross-sectional images of the perovskite films, scaffolds, and devices were measured on a field-emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM, Nova NanoSEM 450). The XRD spectra were measured with a Bruker D8 Advance X-ray diffractometer with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5418$  Å). The absorption spectrum of the perovskite films was recorded by UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer (UV-3600, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments) in the transmission mode. The optical microscope studies were conducted by metallographic microscope (DM2700M, Leica Microsystem) equipped with a CCD camera (Sony model Iris) connected to a PC. The steady-state photoluminescence spectra were carried out by LabRAM HR800 Roman Microscope. Perovskite films prepared on quartz were excited by laser beam at 532.16 nm. Time-resolved PL was measured at 760 nm using excitation with a 478 nm laser at a frequency of 4 MHz from the Horiba Jobin Yvon Fluoromax-4 fluorimeter. The lifetime was obtained by fitting the spectra with a biexponential decay function.

## 3. Results and discussion

Typical printable PSCs consist of a compact-TiO<sub>2</sub> (c-TiO<sub>2</sub>) layer, a mesoporous TiO<sub>2</sub> layer, a ZrO<sub>2</sub> and a carbon layer (Fig. 1a) [16]. The mesoporous layers are deposited by a screen-printing process with thickness of 0.6, 2.0 and 10.0  $\mu$ m, respectively. See detailed fabrication methods in the supporting information. The precursor solutions were prepared by dissolving FAI, PbI<sub>2</sub> in a single solvent of dimethylformamide (DMF) or a mixed solvent of DMF/dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The concentrations and compositions of the precursors are described in Table S1. In previous work, we found that DMSO is able to coordinate with PbI<sub>2</sub> and form intermediate phase of MA<sub>2</sub>Pb<sub>3</sub>I<sub>8</sub>(DMSO)<sub>2</sub>, inducing crystallization of MAPbI<sub>3</sub> [31,32]. In the case of FAPbI<sub>3</sub> with larger cations, similar effect was also observed as shown in Fig. S1. For the precursor prepared with DMF, it is difficult to convert the mixture of FAI and PbI<sub>2</sub> into FAPbI<sub>3</sub> even after annealing at 150 °C for 30 min, showing a pale yellow color corresponding to unreacted PbI<sub>2</sub>. When DMSO was used as a co-solvent in the precursor, the color turned from light yellow to orange, indicating the formation of  $\delta$ -FAPbI<sub>3</sub> (Route 1 in Fig. 1a). Considering the fact that MABr can stabilize  $\alpha$ -FAPbI<sub>3</sub> [11], MABr and PbBr<sub>2</sub> were added in the precursor as additive.



**Fig. 1.** Device configuration and deposition process of perovskite absorber. (a) The triple-layer scaffold of  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{ZrO}_2/\text{Carbon}$  is constructed by screen printing process, and the perovskite precursor solution ( $\text{FAI}/\text{PbI}_2$  in a mixed solvent of DMF/DMSO with or without  $\text{CsI}$ ) is drop-casted on the carbon layer. The scaffold is heated to  $150^\circ\text{C}$  without  $\text{CsI}$  (Route 1),  $100^\circ\text{C}$  with  $\text{CsI}$  (Route 2), or  $100^\circ\text{C}$  with  $\text{CsI}$  and solvent vapor (Route 3). (b) images of blank, yellow  $\text{FAPbI}_3$ ,  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  and  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3\text{-SA}$  (solvent vapor) infiltrated mesoporous scaffold of  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{ZrO}_2/\text{Carbon}$ ; (c) XRD patterns of blank, yellow  $\text{FAPbI}_3$ ,  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  and  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3\text{-SA}$  infiltrated mesoporous scaffold of  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{ZrO}_2/\text{Carbon}$ . (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

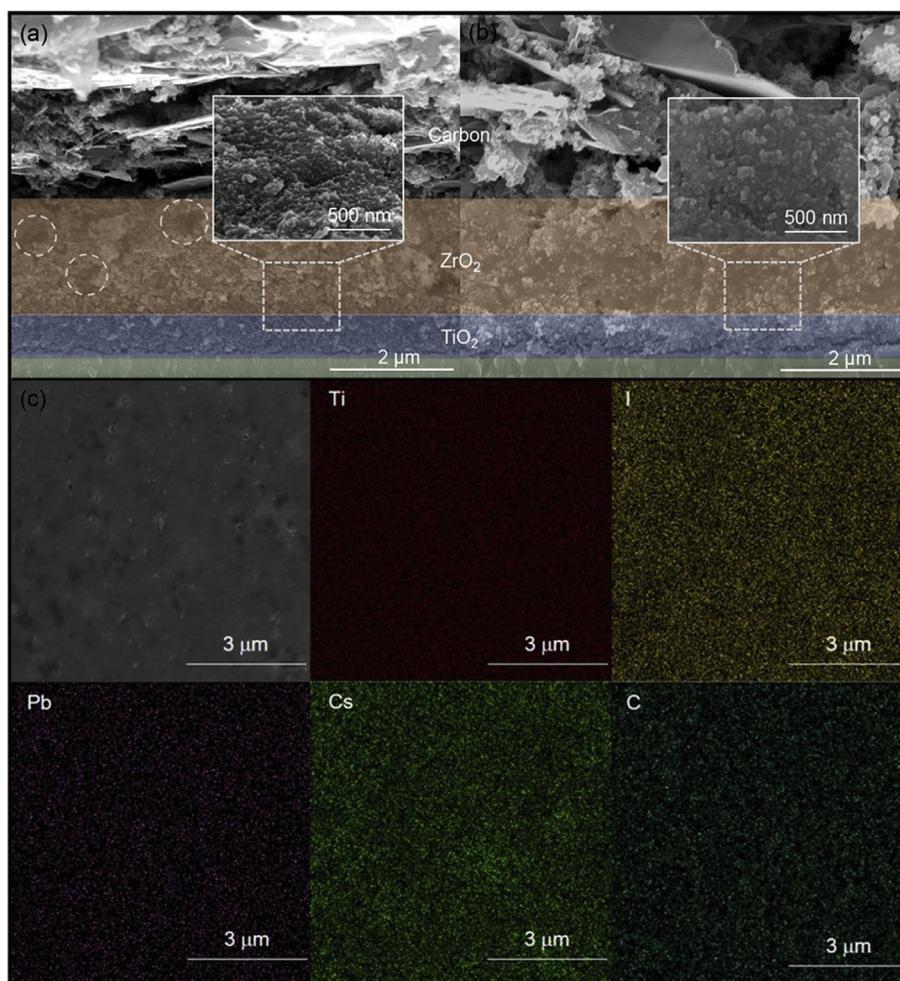
Unfortunately, this method did not work as expected (Fig. S1).

We found the challenge could be solved by incorporating  $\text{CsI}$  in the precursor solution [24], which leads to the formation of high-quality  $\alpha\text{-Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  phase inside the mesoporous scaffold (Route 2 in Fig. 1a). Fig. 1b shows the digital images of a blank mesoporous scaffold, and a scaffold with yellow  $\delta\text{-FAPbI}_3$  infiltration, confirmed by X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements (Fig. 1c) showing a tiny peak at  $11.8^\circ$ . After partially substituting  $\text{FA}^+$  with  $\text{Cs}^+$ , the precursor can be easily converted into dark brown  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  by annealing at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , showing XRD peaks at  $14.01^\circ$ . Trace amount of  $\delta\text{-FAPbI}_3$  in the sample could still be observed according to the XRD pattern. Further treatment of the  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  infiltrated scaffold with DMF solvent vapor during the annealing process (Route 3 in Fig. 1a) [33,34] could completely eliminate the undesired yellow  $\delta\text{-FAPbI}_3$  phase [33,34]. The concentrations and compositions of the precursors are described in Table S1.

It should be noted that successful conversion of the precursor to  $\alpha\text{-FAPbI}_3$  in the mesoporous scaffold not only relies on the incorporation of  $\text{Cs}^+$  cation but also is attributed to the contribution of DMSO. Fig. S2 shows the comparison of XRD patterns of  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  obtained with a single solvent of DMF and a mixture solvent of DMF/DMSO. For the precursor based on DMF, the distinct peak at  $11.8^\circ$  corresponds to  $\delta\text{-FAPbI}_3$ . While for the precursor based on DMF/DMSO, the peak at  $11.8^\circ$

( $\delta\text{-FAPbI}_3$ ) almost disappeared, indicating a close to complete conversion from precursor to  $\alpha\text{-FAPbI}_3$  crystals. For the perovskite crystal growth via solution process, considerable volume expansion may occur when organic iodides (MAI or FAI) intercalates into the  $\text{PbI}_2$  framework [35,36]. In the mesoporous scaffold of  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{ZrO}_2/\text{Carbon}$ , volume expansion is restrained due to the limited pore size, thus limiting phase transition of the perovskite absorber. It is therefore difficult to convert precursor to perovskite crystals. The two-step method has been proved an effective way to deposit perovskite in the printable mesoporous scaffold [30,37,38]. However, the ratio between  $\text{PbI}_2$  and MAI/FAI cannot be precisely controlled. Here for the precursor based on the mixed solvent, DMSO molecular can coordinate with  $\text{PbI}_2$  and form  $\text{PbI}_2(\text{DMSO})_2$  according to the ratio in the precursor [31,39]. During thermal annealing, FAI can exchange with DMSO inside the precursor. Since DMSO and FAI have similar size, this process will not lead to significant volume change, which facilitates the phase transition of  $\text{FAPbI}_3$  in the mesoporous scaffold [40].

Besides the structural characterization of the phase transition, the morphology of  $\text{FAPbI}_3$  in the mesoporous scaffold was analyzed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Cross-sectional SEM images of mesoporous scaffold  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{ZrO}_2/\text{Carbon}$  infiltrated with  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  and  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3\text{-SA}$  are presented in Fig. 2a and b. In the mesoporous



**Fig. 2. Morphology characterization of the perovskite layer.** Cross-sectional SEM images of mesoporous scaffold TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub>/Carbon infiltrated with Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> (a) and Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>-SA (b). The insets show the morphology of perovskite crystals in the mesoporous TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub> layers with high magnification. (c) the surface SEM image of Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>-SA deposited on FTO/TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZrO<sub>2</sub> substrate by spin coating, and the corresponding element distributions measured by energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS).

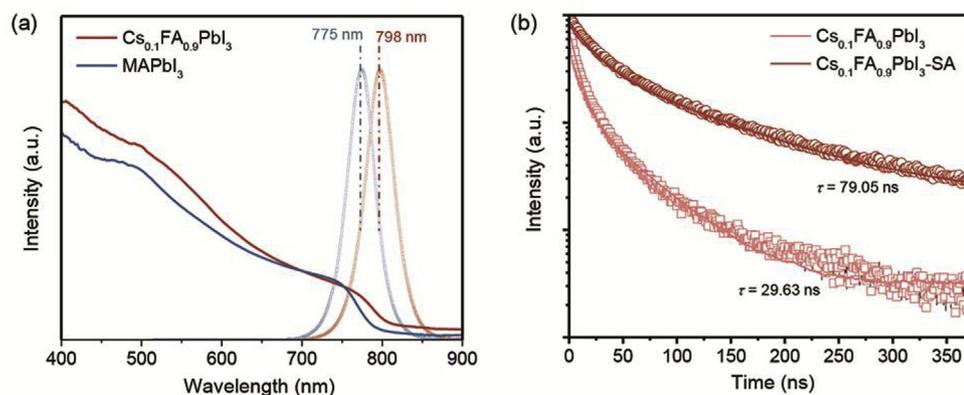
scaffold, Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> crystals were effectively deposited with interconnected morphology. Unfortunately, distinct unfilled nanopores were observed for Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> in the scaffold. When the solvent annealing process was employed, perovskite crystals could fill the pores completely and homogeneously (Fig. 2b). To confirm whether phase separation occurred for the mixed-cation perovskite, energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS) measurements were performed for Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>-SA sample (Fig. 2c). The atoms of Ti, I, Pb, Cs and C homogeneously distributed in the film, indicating well-crystallized Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> in the mesoporous scaffold. The effect of Cs<sup>+</sup> on the morphology of the perovskite films was characterized using an optical microscope (Fig. S3). The activation free energy of formation of the black phase FAPbI<sub>3</sub> can be reduced by employing Cs<sup>+</sup> [41]. Thus, the crystallization of Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> was facilitated, resulting in faster crystal growth and much smaller domain size.

UV-visible absorption spectra and steady-state photoluminescence (PL) measurements were conducted to investigate the optical properties of Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>, as shown in Fig. 3a. The samples were prepared by spin-coating at 5000 rpm, which can effectively avoid the formation of a capping layer over the mesoporous scaffold. Compared with typical perovskite MAPbI<sub>3</sub>, the absorption onset of Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> reached 815 nm, which is consistent with previously reports [24,28]. The steady-state photoluminescence (PL) peak shifted from 774 nm to 798 nm. For Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> prepared by thermal annealing and solvent annealing (SA) process, the absorption spectra did not show much

difference (Fig. S4) but an enhanced charge carrier lifetime was observed for solvent annealed sample (79.05 ns, Fig. 3b) from time-resolved photoluminescence (TRPL) measurements. These results indicated that SA process can effectively enhance crystallinity and reduce defect density of Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> crystals.

To fabricate efficient printable PSCs with well-crystallized Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>, we first compared two commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> slurries (NR-18 and NR-30, GreatCell Solar). The photovoltaic parameters of the devices fabricated with NR-18 and NR-30 TiO<sub>2</sub> layer are summarized in Table 1. Due to the smaller pore size of NR-18 TiO<sub>2</sub> layer, it is difficult to convert the precursor to perovskite Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> completely. Thus, the devices showed much lower J<sub>SC</sub> and fill factor (FF), which was related to the poor light absorption and charge transport in non-crystallized Cs<sub>0.1</sub>FA<sub>0.9</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub> mesoporous scaffolds. The series resistance (R<sub>s</sub>) and shunt resistance (R<sub>sh</sub>) of the devices are ~19.83 Ω cm<sup>2</sup> and ~1.00 kΩ cm<sup>2</sup>. For the devices based on NR-30 TiO<sub>2</sub> layer, an average PCE of 13.93% could be obtained with an average J<sub>SC</sub> of 22.92 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> and FF of 0.66. Correspondingly, the R<sub>s</sub> decreased to ~7.7 Ω cm<sup>2</sup> and the R<sub>sh</sub> increased to ~2.19 kΩ cm<sup>2</sup>.

The spacer layer of ZrO<sub>2</sub> was also optimized for better performance. The mesoporous ZrO<sub>2</sub> layer works as an insulator between TiO<sub>2</sub> and carbon layer. When the ZrO<sub>2</sub> layer is too thin, the TiO<sub>2</sub> and carbon layer may directly contact, leading to voltage loss. On the contrary, when the ZrO<sub>2</sub> layer is too thick, the charge transport in the perovskite absorber will be limited. We compared the printable PSCs with three different



**Fig. 3.** Optical properties of perovskite absorber infiltrated in mesoporous scaffolds. (a) UV-Visible absorption spectra and steady-state photoluminescence (PL) spectra of  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  and  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  on FTO/ $\text{TiO}_2$  scaffold; (b) Time-resolved photoluminescence (TRPL) of  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  and  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3\text{-SA}$  on glass/ $\text{ZrO}_2$  scaffold.

thickness of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  layer with the photovoltaic parameters summarized in Table 1. For  $\text{ZrO}_2$  layer with a thickness of 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , the devices showed an average PCE of 8.02%, with average open-circuit voltage ( $V_{\text{OC}}$ ) of only 0.87 V,  $J_{\text{SC}}$  of 16.00  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  and FF of 0.57. When the thickness of  $\text{ZrO}_2$  layer was increased to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , the average PCE was improved to 14.38% along with enhanced  $V_{\text{OC}}$  of 0.91 V,  $J_{\text{SC}}$  of 23.03  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  and FF of 0.66. For thicker  $\text{ZrO}_2$  layer of 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , the  $V_{\text{OC}}$  further increased from 0.91 V to 0.93 V, while the  $J_{\text{SC}}$  and FF both slightly decreased, leading to a significant decrease in PCE. We also attempted to employ  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  as the insulating layer in printable PSCs [42,43].  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  has a much smaller particle size (Fig. S5) and stronger insulating ability. Our results show the devices employing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  as the spacer layer result a lower average PCE of 12.24% (Table S2). With the above optimization, we fixed the triple-layer mesoporous scaffold parameters as following:  $\text{TiO}_2$  (particle size: 30 nm; thickness: 600 nm)/ $\text{ZrO}_2$  (particle size: 20 nm; thickness: 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ )/Carbon (thickness: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

The  $J$ - $V$  curve of the champion device using  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  as the light absorber is plotted in Fig. 4a, in which the typical perovskite  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  was also included as a reference. The device based on  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  delivered a PCE of 15% with  $V_{\text{OC}}$  of 0.92 V,  $J_{\text{SC}}$  = 23.63  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  and FF of 0.69. We also measured the device based on  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  as a control device. A lower PCE of 9.65% was obtained with  $V_{\text{OC}}$  = 0.88 V,  $J_{\text{SC}}$  of 17.97  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  and FF of 0.61. The device based on  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  showed broader spectral response that extended to 840 nm in comparison to that of  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  (780 nm). The integrated  $J_{\text{SC}}$  values from the IPCE spectra was 22.01  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  for  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$ , and 16.6  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  for  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  (Fig. 4b). Considering the slight hysteresis effect (Fig. S6), which could be caused by defective interface construction [44], steady-state output of the device was measured at a bias of 0.70 V to evaluate the accurate photovoltaic performance of the device (Fig. 4c). The stabilized current density was 20.71  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$ , and the corresponding PCE was 14.5%.

Considering the inspiring stability reported for the printable PSCs and moisture tolerance for the cesium containing perovskite [20,24], we performed a stability test in ambient air with a relative humidity (RH) of 30–50% at room temperature. The device was stored in the dark without encapsulation and tested every 48 h. Over a period of ~300 h, no distinct degradation of the photovoltaic parameters of the device

was observed, as shown in Fig. 5a. Particularly, the device maintained 94.2% of initial PCE value. The devices based on  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  and  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  were also heated up to 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h. It was found that employing  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  as the light absorber of printable PSCs enabled much enhanced thermal stability, for which  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  in the mesoporous scaffold showed no color change during the thermal endurance test while  $\text{MAPbI}_3$  faded after several hours and then decomposed to  $\text{PbI}_2$  after 24 h at 100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

#### 4. Conclusion

In summary, we report printable perovskite solar cells with high-quality  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  absorber inside 10- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick mesoporous scaffolds using a mixed solvent vapor assisted crystallization approach. The use of a mixed solvent and solvent annealing process effectively improved the crystallinity and reduced the defects in the perovskite absorber. Constructing  $\text{Cs}_{0.1}\text{FA}_{0.9}\text{PbI}_3$  as the light harvesting material, the photovoltaic response of printable PSCs based on  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{ZrO}_2/\text{Carbon}$  architecture was extended to 840 nm, attaining a  $J_{\text{SC}}$  of 23.63  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$  and PCE of 15%. This work paves a way for enabling high-quality perovskite crystal growth inside mesoporous scaffolds, and makes a step towards efficient printable mesoscopic PSCs using other perovskite absorbers besides  $\text{MAPbI}_3$ .

#### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

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**Table 1**

Photovoltaic parameters of printable PSCs fabricated with mesoporous  $\text{TiO}_2$  layer of different particle size, and with  $\text{ZrO}_2$  layer of different thickness.

Sample	$V_{\text{OC}}$ (V)	$J_{\text{SC}}$ ( $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$ )	FF	PCE (%)	$R_s$ ( $\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ )	$R_{sh}$ ( $\text{k}\Omega \text{ cm}^2$ )
$\text{TiO}_2\text{-NR-18}$	$0.94 \pm 0.02$	$19.77 \pm 0.10$	$0.50 \pm 0.03$	$9.35 \pm 0.80$	$19.83 \pm 0.72$	$1.00 \pm 0.28$
$\text{TiO}_2\text{-NR-30}$	$0.92 \pm 0.02$	$22.92 \pm 0.35$	$0.66 \pm 0.20$	$13.93 \pm 0.35$	$7.70 \pm 0.15$	$2.19 \pm 1.02$
$\text{ZrO}_2\text{-1.2 }\mu\text{m}$	$0.87 \pm 0.01$	$16.00 \pm 0.70$	$0.57 \pm 0.02$	$8.02 \pm 0.05$	$15.27 \pm 1.12$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$
$\text{ZrO}_2\text{-2.0 }\mu\text{m}$	$0.91 \pm 0.01$	$23.03 \pm 0.60$	$0.66 \pm 0.02$	$14.38 \pm 0.60$	$6.92 \pm 0.34$	$2.59 \pm 0.87$
$\text{ZrO}_2\text{-3.0 }\mu\text{m}$	$0.93 \pm 0.01$	$21.85 \pm 0.15$	$0.63 \pm 0.01$	$12.74 \pm 0.20$	$7.22 \pm 0.19$	$1.66 \pm 1.42$

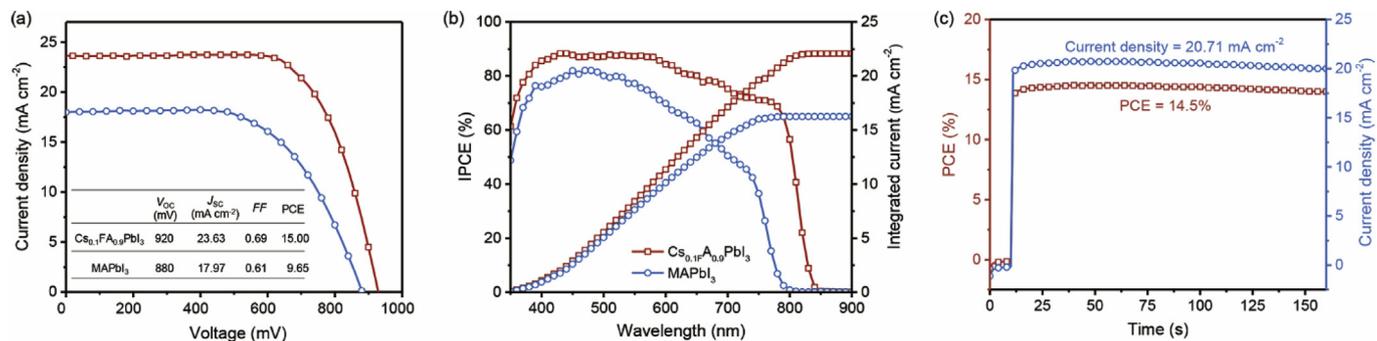


Fig. 4. Device performance characterization. (a) *J-V* curves of printable PSCs based on  $Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}PbI_3$  and MAPbI<sub>3</sub>; (b) IPCE spectra of printable PSCs based on  $Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}PbI_3$  and MAPbI<sub>3</sub>; (c) steady-state output of the device at a bias of 0.72 V.

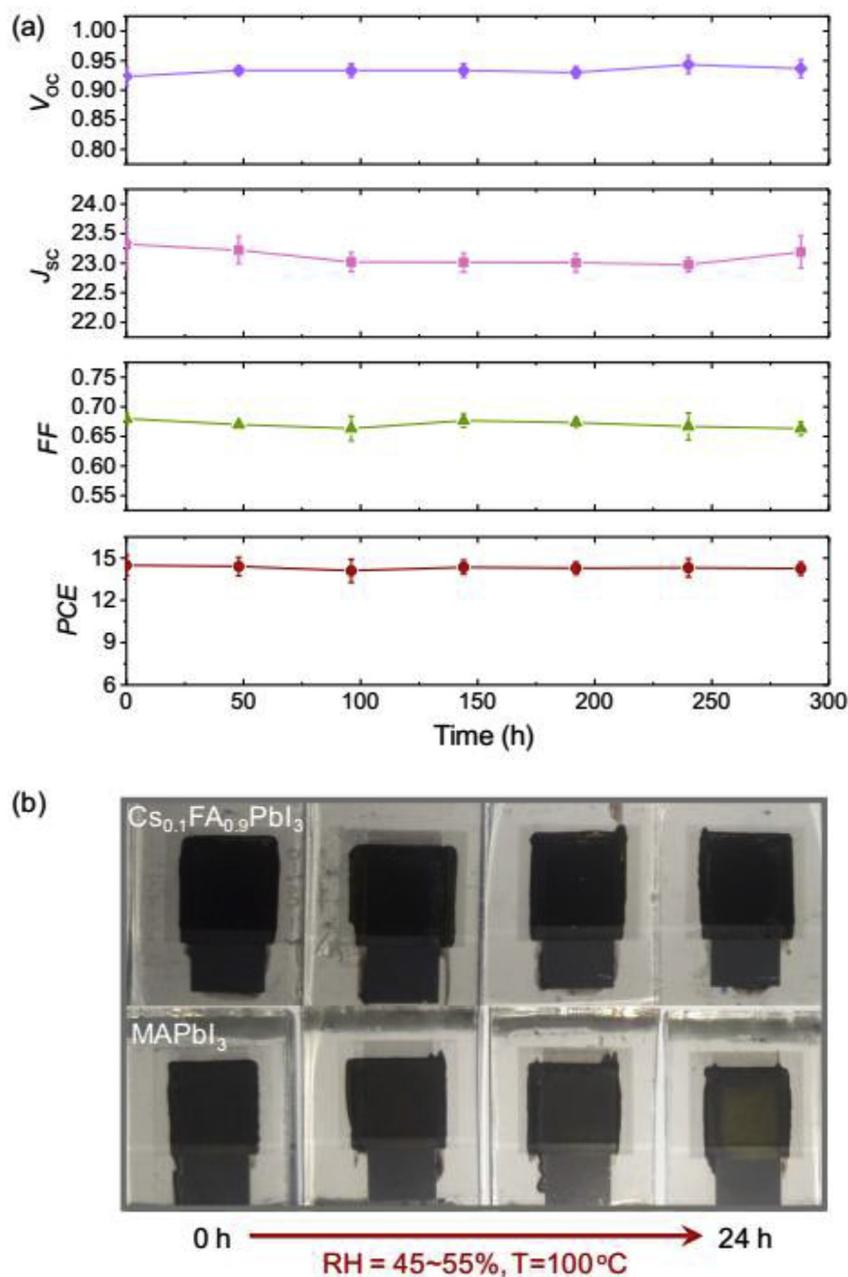


Fig. 5. Stability of printable PSCs. (a) The devices based on  $Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}PbI_3$  were stored in ambient condition with relative humidity of 30–50% at room temperature for 300 h. The Error bars represent s.d. calculated from 3 devices prepared at the same conditions. (b) The devices based on  $Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}PbI_3$  and MAPbI<sub>3</sub> were heated up to 100 °C with relative humidity of 45–55% for 24 h.

Science and Technology (HUST) for performing various characterization and measurements.

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2019.01.065>.

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