PERSPECTIVES

Perovskite/silicon tandem solar cells–compositions for improved stability and power conversion efficiency

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Abstract

Perovskite/Silicon Tandem Solar Cells (PSTSCs) represent an emerging opportunity to compete with industry-standard single junction crystalline silicon (c-Si) solar cells. The maximum power conversion efficiency (PCE) of single junction cells is set by the Shockley–Oueisser (SO) limit (33.7%). However, tandem cells can expand this value to ~45% by utilising two stacked solar cells to harvest the solar spectrum more efficiently. 33.9% PCE has already been achieved with PSTSCs. This perspective analyses recent advances in PSTSC technology, with an emphasis on optimal perovskite composition, the problem and mitigation of light-induced halide phase segregation, self-assembled hole transporting monolayers and additives that can improve and stabilise the perovskite. Top-performing compositions show three cationic components (Cs^+, FA^+, Pb^{2+}) and three anionic (I−, Br−, Cl−) with a bandgap between 1.55 and 1.77 eV and a theoretical maximum of 1.73 eV (717 nm). Anionic additives such as (Br₃)[−] and SCN[−] reduce trap states and segregation. 2D-perovskite grain boundary interfaces are created with cationic alkylammonium additives such as methyl-phenethylammonium (MPEA) and result in improved performance. 2-, 3- or 4-terminal devices with a (partly) textured silicon heterojunction (SHJ) bottom cell are ideal. An ultra-thin interfacial recombination layer (~ 5 nm) of indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO) containing a carbazole-based hole transporting self-assembled monolayer (Me-4PACz) is used for optimal 2-terminal tandem devices.

Graphical Abstract

Perspective Topical Collection in honor of Prof. Dr. A. M. (Fred) Brouwer and hiscontributions to science.

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Keywords Solar energy conversion · Charge generation · Lead halide perovskite · Formamidinium · Additives · Alkylammonium

Abbreviations

1 Introduction

As the global human population continues to grow and living standards rise, the demand for energy is increasing faster than ever before. To date, our energy demands have primarily been met with fossil fuels, however, owing to their contribution to climate change and their fnite nature, our future energy demand must be linked to clean, renewable resources. Among the renewable energy sources being increasingly adopted, such as wind, hydroelectric and geothermal energy, solar photovoltaic (PV) energy in particular offers abundant clean energy, utilising sunlight as the energy source [[1\]](#page-15-0). As a result, photovoltaic devices are being adopted to an increasing extent for large-scale energy production [[2\]](#page-15-1).

Commercial solar cells predominantly use silicon (Si) as the semiconducting material, comprising 95% of the market $[3]$ $[3]$. However, the power conversion efficiency (PCE) of single junction solar cells is restricted to 33.7% by the Shockley-Queisser (SQ) limit [[4\]](#page-15-3), but realistically is limited to 29.4% when taking Auger recombination into account [[5](#page-15-4)]. In reality, crystalline silicon (c-Si) solar cell PCE has plateaued at around 26–27% for the past decade, with the current record at 26.1% for single crystal Si (non-concentrated sunlight) and 26.8% for Si heterostructures (HIT: Heterojunction with Intrinsic Thin-flm) (Fig. [1](#page-2-0)) [\[6](#page-15-5)].

Tandem solar cells (TSCs) offer a route to increasing the PCE by stacking solar cells to capture more of the incident **Fig. 1** Best research cell efficiencies of crystalline Si cells (blue) and emerging PV technologies (red) compiled by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) [[6](#page-15-5)]. This picture is best viewed on-screen or on the NREL website. Inset shows the 32.5% PCE device of HZB (Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin)

sunlight and convert it into electrical power. By stacking two solar cells with diferent bandgaps, the theoretical limit is raised to ~45% PCE $[7-9]$ $[7-9]$. The cell on top should have a wide bandgap to absorb high-energy photons, while transmitting low-energy photons to the bottom cell. Perovskite solar cells (PSCs) have emerged as a popular top cell. Any material with a suitable bandgap can be employed as a bottom cell and a variety of materials are being researched as such $[10, 11]$ $[10, 11]$ $[10, 11]$ $[10, 11]$. of these, silicon is the most promising owing to its widespread use in commercial solar cells, robust nature and natural abundance. Figure [1](#page-2-0) shows the rise in PCE of PSCs (yellow circles) in a short period in time, taken over by the increasing PCE in perovskite/silicon TSCs (PSTSCs) (purple triangles). PSTSC research has shown remarkable progress in the last few years, owing primarily to the rise in efficiency of single junction PSCs.

This work will focus on the prospects and recent advancements in PSTSC technology. First, relevant background information on single junction PSCs and Si cells will be presented, followed by an explanation of the working principal of TSCs. The main components will be discussed with reference to the key requirements for an efficient and stable cell. The diferent confgurations of TSCs will be introduced, and the benefts and challenges associated with each type will be explored.

The main body of this work will discuss reports in the literature (primarily since 2020, published until 28 September 2023) with an emphasis on methods employed to overcome key challenges and improve efficiency. Particularly, the focus is on fne-tuning the perovskite composition to minimise detrimental effects on the stability, such as halide phase segregation, while maintaining an appropriate bandgap for optimal performance and PCE. Important main components of the perovskite top cell will be elucidated, including the efects of changing the perovskite composition, particularly on the bandgap and the stability, as well as the efects of additives on defects [\[12](#page-16-3)] and segregation. The benefts and drawbacks of n-i-p vs. p-i-n architectures will also be treated (see Fig. [2\)](#page-3-0). Various aspects of the silicon bottom cell will be explored, including the type of silicon used, the treatment applied to it, and the efect of texturing the surface to improve light harvesting. The interface between the two sub-cells will also be examined. The typical charge transport layers (CTLs) and their associated benefts and drawbacks, and the transparent conductive electrodes (TCOs) will be discussed. Finally, the fndings will be summarised, the future prospects and the state-of-the-art of PSTSCs will be evaluated and avenues for future research will be presented.

2 Background information

The term 'perovskite' was frst used to describe the mineral calcium titanite, with a formula $CaTiO₃$. The term has since been used to describe any compound with the generic formula ABX_3 , with a crystal structure as shown in Fig. [2](#page-3-0)a. In 2009, the frst perovskite solar cell (PSC) was reported, using $CH_3NH_3PbI_3$ and $CH_3NH_3PbBr_3$ perovskite nanocrystals to

Fig. 2 a Diagram of the crystal structure of perovskite. **b** General schematic of a PSC, both with conventional n-i-p architecture and inverted p-i-n architecture [\[19\]](#page-16-15). Note that in the p-i-n architecture the hole transport layer (p) is on the transparent conductive oxide. The perovskite is the intrinsic layer (i) and the electron transport layer (n) is similar to an n-doped material

sensitize $TiO₂$, building on the principle of dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSCs). This cell was able to convert sunlight into electrical power with a PCE of 3.8% [\[13](#page-16-4)].

Since this frst reported PSC, the record PCE has grown remarkably to 26.1% in 2023, which is almost as high as the single junction Si record PCE of 26.8% [[6](#page-15-5)]. The current state-of-the-art PSCs use thin flm crystalline perovskites, generally using an organic (methylammonium–MA, or formamidinium–FA) or alkali metal (Cs or Rb) cation in the A position, lead (or tin) in the B position, and halides in the X position. In early PSCs, mesoporous $TiO₂$ would act as a scafold for perovskite crystals and extract electrons, with holes being extracted by a liquid iodine-based electrolyte, however, these latter materials were soon replaced with discrete CTLs [\[14](#page-16-5)], as shown in Fig. [2](#page-3-0)b. The majority of PSCs use an n-i-p, or 'conventional' architecture, with 2,2′7,7′-tetrakis(*N*,*N*-di-*p*-methoxyphenyl amine)-9,9′ spirobifuorene (spiro-OMeTAD) as the hole transport layer (HTL) [[15\]](#page-16-6), and $TiO₂$ or SnO₂ as the electron transport layer (ETL) [[14\]](#page-16-5). For 'inverted', or p-i-n devices, the HTL may be a polymeric structure such as PEDOT:PSS [\[16](#page-16-7)] or PTAA [\[17](#page-16-8)], or an inorganic oxide such as NiO [\[18](#page-16-9)], while the ETL is typically fullerene (C_{60}) or a derivative such as PCBM. [\[14\]](#page-16-5).

While the growth of PSCs over the past decade is remarkable, the PCE of these cells is still fundamentally limited by the SQ limit of 33.7%, which is an intrinsic limit to single junction solar cells [[4](#page-15-3), [20](#page-16-10), [21\]](#page-16-11). To further push the PCE of solar cell towards this limit and beyond, solar cells with multiple junctions must be developed. For a hypothetical cell with infnite junctions, the SQ limit can rise to 68% for unconcentrated sunlight [\[22](#page-16-12)], but for practical applications, a two-junction TSC with a limit of 44.8% [[7,](#page-15-6) [23\]](#page-16-13) could represent $a \sim 30\%$ increase in energy yield compared to single junction solar cells. This upper limit is calculated on the basis of a free choice of bandgap. Ideally, the bandgap of the bottom cell should be 0.96 eV (mainly absorbing near-IR photons), and the top cell 1.63 eV (mainly absorbing UV–Visible photons). While any two semiconducting materials can be employed as top and bottom cells in a TSC, c-Si is an ideal bottom cell, owing to its market dominance and an appropriate bandgap of 1.12 eV. With this bandgap, the ideal top cell bandgap is 1.73 eV, giving a theoretical efficiency limit of 44.3% [[23](#page-16-13)]. The top cell absorbs high energy photons and converts their energy into power, while lower energy photons are transmitted to the bottom cell to be absorbed and converted. As such, transparency is a key requirement for PSTSCs, and all top cell layers must have adequate transparency to allow photons to reach the Si bottom cell.

The two sub-cells of the TSC can be connected in a number of diferent ways. The most commonly reported confguration is the two-terminal (2 T) confguration, sometimes referred to as a monolithic TSC. In this confguration, the perovskite sub cell is deposited directly on top of the c-Si cell, and two electrodes, one at the top and one at the bottom, are used.

In 2 T tandems the two cells are connected in series and therefore can be victim of current limitation. If sub-cell currents are not matched, the lower current dominates (the voltages are added). In principle, power matching conditions of the two cells give optimal output, but this can be simplifed by current matching, due to the series connection.

Alternatively, the two sub-cells can be manufactured separately, and then mechanically connected in a four-terminal (4 T) confguration, using four electrodes; one each on the top and bottom of the PSC, and one each on the top and bottom of the c-Si solar cell. Maximum power point tracking can be applied to a 4 T confguration, for each sub-cell. There are benefts and drawbacks to each confguration. The 2 T confguration requires less material, lowering the cost, however, this configuration is subject to current matching, limiting the current to the sub-cell with the lower current, and restraining the choice of top cell bandgap (Fig. [3](#page-4-0)) [\[24](#page-16-14)]. If the bandgap of the perovskite is too high, then it will absorb fewer photons, limiting the current, adversely afecting the bottom cell due to the current matching constraint. Conversely, if the bandgap is too low, then the perovskite will absorb photons that should have been transmitted to the bottom cell, and the current of the silicon sub-cell will be reduced, causing a detrimental cumulative efect to the top cell. The 4 T confguration is not constrained by current matching, however, more materials are required, and in particular, it requires three transparent electrodes rather than one in the 2 T confguration, increasing optical losses.

Fig. 3 Basic schematic of 2 T, 3 T and 4 T TSC confgurations, with the maximum theoretical PCE as a function of the bandgap of the perovskite (with a c-Si bottom cell bandgap of 1.12 eV). Reprinted with permission from ACS Appl. Energy Mater., 2020, 3, 1381– 1392. Copyright 2020 American Chemical Society [[24](#page-16-14)]

4 T devices are also more expensive on the systems level, requiring more peripherals. A third confguration using three terminals (3 T) is also possible, but far less investigated than 2 T or 4 T confgurations. The third terminal removes the restraint imposed by current matching while allowing for monolithic fabrication reducing optical losses. This confguration typically employs an interdigitated back contact (IBC) to serve as the second and third electrodes; while a middle third electrode is possible, it is seldom employed, especially in PSTSCs, due to increased optical losses [\[25](#page-16-16)]. In both the 4 T and 3 T systems, the lack of a current matching requirement means that a deviation from the ideal bandgap is less detrimental as there is no cumulative (knock-on) effect on the bottom cell's performance.

One of the major advantages of perovskite materials is the tunability of the bandgap. The most common perovskite used in single junction PSCs, $MAPbI₃$, has a bandgap of 1.55 eV [\[26\]](#page-16-17), while replacing the iodide with bromide widens the bandgap to 2.3 eV [\[27](#page-16-18)]. By mixing bromide and iodide, the bandgap can be tuned closer to the ideal value, however, doing so causes stability issues. The issue of stability is one of the key challenges facing PSCs and PSTSCs, owing to their sensitivity to environmental water and oxygen (which can be mitigated by encapsulation) [[28,](#page-16-19) [29\]](#page-16-20), but also owing to the intrinsic instability of the perovskite material, along with other layers in the cell, particularly in high-temperature working conditions $[30]$ $[30]$. One of the key issues arising is the phase segregation of iodide and bromide within the perovskite, leading to the generation of trap states causing charge carrier recombination. This is especially pronounced when the bromide ratio is above 20% [\[31](#page-16-22)]. Methods to reduce this efect, including incorporating chloride, and using mixed A site cations, will be explored in this work.

c-Si is an ideal choice for the bottom cell. The bandgap of 1.12 eV is close to the ideal bottom cell value of 0.96 eV. Various diferent types of c-Si exist for use as a single junction solar cell and for use in a PSTSC. This work will explore the benefts and drawbacks of diferent types of c-Si cells used as bottom cells, and particular attention will be paid to the efect of texturing the front of the bottom cell, which can improve light harvesting but leads to issues depositing the perovskite top cell.

3 Challenges to overcome

PSTSC research continues to push the PCE higher, tackling major challenges such as improving transparency and reducing optical losses, optimising both the top perovskite and bottom silicon cells, and optimising the various other layers required (including the CTLs, TCO electrodes and interfaces, buffer layers and light management layers). These optimisations have sought to improve both the optical properties and the intrinsic stability, primarily of the top perovskite cell, and will be discussed in this work. Nevertheless, while the PCE continues to be improved, producing PSTSCs with sufficient stability to compete with commercial single junction silicon solar cells (which have a lifetime of approximately 25–30 years) [[7,](#page-15-6) [30\]](#page-16-21) remains challenging. Few longterm stability tests have been performed [\[32\]](#page-16-23), however, a 2023 review suggests that an 8–10 year lifetime for PSTSCs is achievable in the near future [[30\]](#page-16-21). It should be noted that proper hermetic encapsulation (preventing moisture ingress and outgassing of decomposition products) has been shown to be very benefcial for single-junction perovskite devices, allowing them to pass the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 61,215:2016 Damp Heat and Humidity Freeze tests [\[33](#page-16-24)]. In contrast to GaAs-based technology [[34,](#page-16-25) [35](#page-17-0)] (e.g. Alta-Devices with 31.6% PCE tandem in 2016) [[6\]](#page-15-5) the perovskite Si tandem cells do not need to disrupt the current giant Si industry (like David and Goliath), but their manufacture can be integrated into current Si technology (if you can't beat them, join them!). This is manifested by the current activities of e.g. Oxford PV, Meyer Burger, Q-cells / Hanwha and LONGi.

4 Perovskite/Silicon tandem solar cell composition

This section will analyse the composition of the perovskite top cell, and the silicon bottom cell used for PSTSCs. The various efects of adjusting the composition will be discussed, with an emphasis on minimising destabilising efects. Materials used for the various other layers will also be mentioned, but the main focus of this work will be the composition of the lead halide perovskite, and the silicon bottom cells.

5 Early perovskite/silicon tandem solar cells

The frst experimental example of a 2 T PSTSC was reported in 2015 by Mailoa et al. [[36\]](#page-17-1). This early tandem cell (Fig. [4\)](#page-5-0) utilised a MAPbI₃ perovskite with a bandgap of 1.61 eV deposited on a homojunction n-type c-Si cell with a p^{++} Si emitter, with an n^{++} Si tunnel junction ($^{++}$ implies high doping) as the interface between the two cells. A mesoporous $TiO₂ ETL$ was used, however, they noted substantial optical losses. The same can be said for the spiro-OMeTAD HTL. Following Ag nanowire electrode deposition, a LiF antirefection layer was added. The PCE was 13.7%.

Consecutively, the same group fabricated the frst 4 T configured PSTSC [[37](#page-17-2)], also using $MAPbI₃$ as the perovskite, citing instability observed in bromide-containing perovskites, specifcally caused by light-induced halide segregation [\[31](#page-16-22)]. Similar to the 2 T cell, the ETL and HTL were mesoporous $TiO₂$ and spiro-OMeTAD respectively. They opted to use a low-quality 'upgraded metallurgical-grade' multi-crystalline Si (mc-Si) in an effort to test the viability of low-cost silicon for use in a tandem cell. They reported a PCE of 17%, noting that the low-quality mc-Si achieved only 11.4% PCE as a single-junction cell. Nevertheless, the efficiency only improved to 17.9% when a higher-quality silicon bottom cell (with a 17% PCE) was employed.

Shortly after these frst reports, Albrecht et al. reported a 2 T PSTSC using a silicon heterojunction (SHJ) as the bottom cell [[38\]](#page-17-3). In terms of the top cell, citing the SHJ's lowtemperature tolerance, they replace the mesoporous $TiO₂$ with a planar $SnO₂$ layer for the ETL. This has added benefit since it allows a planar perovskite deposition. The focus of this work was to fabricate a PSTSC with a SHJ bottom cell, and as such, the perovskite composition is not a main focus, only being briefy referred to in the experimental section, but contains a mix of MA and FA in the A position, and a mix of iodide and bromide in the X position. This cell achieved a PCE of 19.9%, already a substantial improvement on the frst 2 T PSTSC, pointing to the merits of both SHJ bottom cells and mixed A ion perovskites.

The previous examples discussed featured cells in a 'conventional' n-i-p architecture. This was by far the prevailing architecture for single-junction PSCs [[23\]](#page-16-13). In a single junction PSC, the transparent front electrode can be placed

either on top of the HTL or ETL no matter the architecture, however, in a 2 T tandem cell, the ETL in a n-i-p architecture contacts with the silicon bottom cell, and the HTL (almost exclusively spiro-OMeTAD) faces the Sun. Spiro-OMeTAD is well known to cause parasitic absorption, and is unstable at temperatures above 85 °C [\[39](#page-17-4)[–41\]](#page-17-5). As such, Bush et al. fabricated a PSTSC in an inverted p-i-n architecture, where the ETL faces the sun instead of the HTL [[42](#page-17-6)]. This device utilised a mix of Cs, FA, I and Br in the lead-based perovskite, with the formula $Cs_{0.17}FA_{0.83}Pb(Br_{0.17}I_{0.83})_3$. The HTL was NiO_x, which they noted achieved higher voltage and stability than PEDOT:PSS. The latter was the more commonly employed HTL for p-i-n PSC devices at the time [[43\]](#page-17-7). The ETL comprised of LiF/PCBM/SnO₂/ZTO. In the following years, research has focused on elucidating the degradation mechanisms of the perovskite, and methods to mitigate this degradation.

6 Halide phase segregation

Halide phase segregation (Fig. [5\)](#page-6-0) has been a known issue with perovskite materials used for solar cells since PSTSCs began to emerge [[31](#page-16-22), [44](#page-17-8)].

It was observed that upon illumination, perovskite materials containing a mix of bromide and iodide would segregate and trap states would form, photocarriers would therefore be funnelled to the lower bandgap, iodide-rich phases, reducing the $V_{\rm oc}$ [\[27,](#page-16-18) [46,](#page-17-9) [47](#page-17-10)]. This effect was especially pronounced when the bromide proportion was greater than 20% of the halide composition [[31](#page-16-22)]. In particular, the 'soft' nature of the perovskite lattice facilitates halide migration [\[48\]](#page-17-11) induced by oxidation of I^- to I_2 in precursor solutions to generate I vacancies [[45](#page-17-12), [49](#page-17-13)].

A recent study used time-resolved photoluminescence spectroscopy and transient absorption spectroscopy to indicate that these trap states that cause nonradiative recombination mainly reside at the perovskite/ETL interface (in a p-i-n type cell). These trap states can be suppressed by adding a MgF₂ layer between the perovskite and the C_{60} ETL

Fig. 5 Depiction of halogen phase segregation creating halogen vacancies. Reprinted from Small 2022, 18 (38), 2,203,319 with the permission of Wiley Publishing [[45](#page-17-12)]

[[50\]](#page-17-14). Another study identifed positive iodide interstitials (I_i^+) as the dominant deep charge-trapping defect. Bromide's smaller size leads to an increase in the concentration of I_i^+ formation upon increased bromide content. This is related to the Pb-Br-Pb angle, which is 13° wider than the Pb-I-Pb angle, leading to increased Br-Br and Br-I distances compared to I-I [[51](#page-17-15)]. This was confrmed by measuring the trap density of states with and without bromide present, which confrmed trap states at 0.12 eV and 0.35 eV. The state at 0.35 eV (I_i^+) increased with increased bromide content, consistent with previous studies [\[52](#page-17-16), [53\]](#page-17-17). The A cation was previously ruled out as the cause [\[54](#page-17-18)]. Crucially, phase segregation more commonly occurs at the grain boundaries, due to localised tensile strain occurring there [[55\]](#page-17-19). As such, methods to passivate phase segregation can include altering the bulk composition of the perovskite, or incorporating additives that remain at the grain boundaries.

7 Tailoring the perovskite to maintain stability

Methods to supress phase segregation include altering the perovskite composition itself, or by including an additive to prevent halide migration.

Phase segregation is prone to occur with increasing bromide concentration. Therefore, one method is to simply reduce the bromide amount, and increase the bandgap by tailoring the A cation instead. A 2020 review by Zhang et al. compared the PCE of various diferent A cation confgurations (Fig. 6) [\[56](#page-17-20)].

MA has been one of the most commonly reported A cations used in perovskite absorbers, however, it is known to be unstable, especially compared to FA [\[57](#page-17-21)]. However, attempting to incorporate Br^- into $FAPbI_3$ in order to suffciently widen the bandgap for tandem applications also causes instability by causing the formation of an amorphous phase. This reduces the charge-carrier mobility and difusion length [\[58](#page-17-22)]. In line with this, Zhang et al. noted that no mono-cationic FA-based PSTSCs have been reported [\[56](#page-17-20)].

The use of $Cs⁺$ as a dopant is commonplace, as it improves structural, thermal and optical stability by inhibiting the transition to the photoinactive yellow perovskite phase. It stabilises the structure [[59,](#page-17-23) [60](#page-18-0)], while also widening the bandgap $[61]$ $[61]$ $[61]$. While $Cs⁺$ improves the crystallinity and reduces trap state density, excess $Cs⁺$ can result in poor flm morphology and reduced electrical properties due to induced stress $[57, 62]$ $[57, 62]$ $[57, 62]$ $[57, 62]$. Additionally, excess $Cs⁺$ can also contribute to halide phase segregation [\[63](#page-18-3)].

 $Rb⁺$ has also been explored for use in perovskites, as it can also stabilise the structure against thermal and optical instability $[64]$ $[64]$, however, it is difficult to incorporate into the lattice, limiting its use to a maximum of 5% [[65\]](#page-18-5). Moreover,

Fig. 6 Reported PCE values versus A cation confguration in **a** 2 T PSTSCs and **b** 4 T PSTSCs. Note that the formulas located at the top of each column refer to the highest reported PCE containing that A cation confguration, and the stoichiometries and X anion com-

CsMA

A cation in ABX_3

CsFA

CsFAMA RbCsFAMA

MA

FAMA

several non-photoactive side products, specifically $RbPbX_3$ formed during synthesis and $RbPb₂I₄Br$ formed from exposure to humid air, are formed, which reduce light absorption, and reduce the bandgap by extracting Br ions [[66](#page-18-6)].

Tailoring the halide composition is a common technique to adjust the bandgap in PSTSC perovskite layers. However, if the bromide content is above 20%, phase segregation is more likely to occur [[46](#page-17-9), [47](#page-17-10)]. The use of chloride in PSTSCs has not garnered much attention until recently (Zhang et al.'s 2020 review collated over ffty PSTSC examples in a table, of which only one contained chloride) [[56\]](#page-17-20). This is perhaps due to the difficulty in incorporating chloride into the perovskite bulk [\[67,](#page-18-7) [68](#page-18-8)], and its minor efect on the bandgap (which is likely related to its poor incorporation) [\[69](#page-18-9)]. Nevertheless, chloride has been found to have a stabilising effect on the perovskite $[70]$ $[70]$, and improves crystallinity $[67]$ $[67]$. A triple halide PSTSC containing Cl− was fabricated, and the charge-carrier mobility and photocarrier lifetime was improved, and a PCE of 27% was reported [[71\]](#page-18-11). It was found that $Cs⁺$ and $Br⁻$ act as a bridge to improve $Cl⁻$ solubility by shrinking the lattice parameter, allowing a Cl− proportion of up to 15%. Overall, the inclusion of Cl− improves the photostability and optoelectronic properties, paving the way for triple halide perovskites for PSTSCs [\[72–](#page-18-12)[75\]](#page-18-13).

Other additives (Fig. [7](#page-13-0)) have been shown to help suppress phase segregation. The same study that identifed iodide interstitials as the main defect utilised tribromide ions to suppress this effect $[51]$ $[51]$. Using trimethyl phenyl-ammonium tribromide (TPABr₃) at a concentration of 0.2 mol% relative to Pb, the trap density was reduced, the V_{oc} was increased and no efect on the morphology or bandgap was observed. Additionally, as the authors fabricated the device on textured

position of the other entries may difer (data in tabulated form in Table [1](#page-8-0) of ref [\[56\]](#page-17-20)) Reprinted from Adv. Funct. Mater. 2020, 30 (38), 2,001,904 with the permission of Wiley Publishing

silicon, they required a thicker than usual perovskite layer of 1 µm, in contrast to perovskites deposited on planar silicon which are generally kept below a thickness of 600 nm. While $TPABr₃$ -free perovskites exhibited lower PCE at thicknesses above 660 nm due to reduced FF and J_{sc} , the inclusion of $TPABr₃$ showed greater tolerance to increasing thickness, suggesting reduced charge recombination and increased carrier difusion lengths. A champion PCE of 28.6% and FF of 78.5% was achieved with a 1 µm thick perovskite composed of $Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.2}MA_{0.7}Pb(I_{0.85}Br_{0.15})_3$, with 0.2 mol% TPABr₃ on a textured SHJ bottom cell.

The issue of I^- oxidation to I_2 in the precursor solution can be mitigated with the addition of benzylhydrazine hydrochloride (BHC) (0.83 mg ml⁻¹ in a 1.37 M solution), and, furthermore, residual BHC was found to improve the perovskite stability in single-junction p-i-n type PSCs [\[49](#page-17-13)]. Alternatively, ammonium diethyldithiocarbamate (ADDC) can be used for this reduction process, and when employed in a 4 T PSTSC, a PCE of 30.24% was achieved [\[45](#page-17-12)]. In both of these cases, the cells retained>90% of their initial efficiency after 500 h.

Pointing to the stabilizing effect of ionic additives in single junction PSCs (namely theophylline [\[76](#page-18-14)], imidazolium [[77\]](#page-18-15) and piperidinium [\[78\]](#page-18-16)), particularly at grain boundaries where a signifcant amount of charged defects occur, Liu et al. utilised carbazole derivatives to passivate deep charge traps, enhance performance and suppress phase segregation [[79](#page-18-17)]. This was achieved via interaction with the halides through H-bonds, specifically at the grain boundaries as the carbazole molecules are too large to be incorporated into the bulk. A PCE of 28.2% was achieved, and after a 43-day outdoor test in hot and dry conditions, 93%

of the original PCE was maintained. We highlight that a number of high efficiency p-i-n type PSTSCs use a carbazole-derived self-assembling monolayer (SAM) as the HTL, specifcally Me-4PACz (achieving 29.15% PCE with a Cs_{0.05}(FA_{0.77}MA_{0.23})_{0.95}Pb(I_{0.77}Br_{0.23})₃ perovskite) [[80](#page-18-18)], and 2PACz (27.9% PCE with an optimised Si bottom cell) [\[81](#page-18-19)]. In Table [1](#page-8-0) devices containing a SAM with even higher PCE can be found.

2D perovskites (Fig. [8\)](#page-13-1) represent another method to passivate the grain boundaries. By using a variety of ammonium cations, researchers have generated 2D perovskite layers at the grain boundaries of 3D perovskite crystals, which has been shown to passivate defects. While molecules such as butylammonium(BA) [\[83,](#page-19-0) [84](#page-19-1)] and thiophene derivatives (including thiophene-methylammonium (TMA) [\[85\]](#page-19-2) and thiophene-ethylammonium(TEA) [[85,](#page-19-2) [86\]](#page-19-3) have been used

Table 1 Recently reported PSTSCs sorted by PCE. Clearly, the rise in efficiency is mainly controlled by a rise in voltage, indicating improved carrier management

	PCE (%) Perovskite Composition	Band gap (eV)	Si cell	Chemicals used and Additives	V_{oc} (V)	\mathbf{J}_{sc} $(mA cm-2)$	FF (%)		Year Refs
33.9						1.966 20.76		83.0 2023 [6]	
33.7						1.974 20.99	81.3	2023	[6]
33.2						1.962 20.97	80.7	2023	[6]
32.5	$\text{Cs}_{0.05}\text{FA}_{0.8}\text{MA}_{0.15}\text{Pb(I}_{0.755}\text{Br}_{0.255})_{3}$	1.68	$(2 T)$ SHJ, n-text	2PACz		1.948 20.90	79.8	2023	$[92]$
32.5	Cs_xFA_{1-x} $Pb(I_vBr_zCl_{1-y-z})_3$	1.68	$(2 T)$ SHJ, text. (b)	Me-4PACz, PI		1.980 20.24	81.2		2022 [75] [91]
31.3	$Cs_{0.18}FA_{0.82}Pb(I_xBr_{1-x})_3$	1.70	$(2T)$ SHJ, text	Me-4PACz, FBPAc	1.91	20.47			79.8 2022 [93] [91]
30.3	$Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}$ $Pb(I_{0.9}Cl_{0.1})_3$	1.55	$(4T)$ SHJ, text	4-MPEACI				2023 [89]	
30.24	Cs_xFA_{1-x} $Pb(I_y Br_z Cl_{1-y-z})_3$	1.77	$(4 T)$ SHJ, text	ADDC				2022 [45]	
29.8	$\text{Cs}_{0.05}(\text{FA}_{0.79}\text{MA}_{0.21})_{0.95}\text{Pb(I}_{0.79}\text{Br}_{0.21})_{3}$	1.66	$(2 T)$ SHJ n-text		1.92	19.56			79.4 2022 [6, 94]
29.5					1.884	20.26		77.3 2021 [91]	
29.15	$\text{Cs}_{0.05}(\text{FA}_{0.77}\text{MA}_{0.23})_{0.95}$ Pb(I _{0.77} Br _{0.23}) ₃	1.68	SHJ, pol	Me-4PACz	1.90	19.23			79.4 2020 [6, 80]
28.7	$Cs_{0.22}FA_{0.78}Pb(I_{0.85}Br_{0.15})_3$	1.68	TOPCon PERC	2PACz _{,,PI} MACl, PbCl ₂		1.904 19.49	78.3	2022 [95]	
28.6	$Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.2}MA_{0.7}Pb(I_{0.85}Br_{0.15})_3$	1.65	SHJ. text	TPAB r_3 0.2 mol%	1.92	19.00		78.5 2022 [51]	
28.6	$Cs_xFA_{1-x}Pb(I_vBr_{1-v})_3$	1.68	SHJ. text	MA $(Cl_{0.5}SCN_{0.5})$	1.85	19.80		78.9 2023 [96]	
28.51	$Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}$ $PbI_{2.74}Br_{0.16}Cl_{0.1}$	1.626	SHJ. text	TEABr		1.849 19.35		79.6 2022 [86]	
28.2	$\text{Cs}_{0.05}\text{FA}_{0.8}\text{MA}_{0.15}\text{Pb}(I_{0.75}\text{Br}_{0.25})_3$	1.68	SHJ, text	2PACz		1.865 19.60		78.4 2021 [79]	
27.9	$\text{Cs}_{0.05}(\text{FA}_{0.77}\text{MA}_{0.23})_{0.95}$ Pb(Br _{0.23} I _{0.77}) ₃	1.68	SHJ, pol	2PACz	1.92	17.80		80.9 2021 [81]	
27.2	$FA_{0.83}MA_{0.17}$ $(PbI3)0.83(PbBr3)0.17$		SHJ. pol			1.819 18.10		82.4 2023 [97]	
27.04	$Cs_{0.22}(FA_xMA_{1-x})Pb(Br_{0.15}I_{0.82}Cl_{0.03})_3$	1.67	SHJ, pol			1.886 19.12		75.3 2020 [71]	
26.7	$\text{Cs}_{0.15}\text{FA}_{0.65}\text{MA}_{0.2}\text{Pb}(I_{0.8}\text{Br}_{0.2})_3$		SHJ. pol	PEA $(I_{0.25}SCN_{0.75})$		1.756 19.20		79.2 2020 [87]	
25.7	$\text{Cs}_{0.05}\text{FA}_{0.8}\text{MA}_{0.15}\text{Pb}(I_{0.75}\text{Br}_{0.25})_3$	1.68	SHJ, text	1-butane-thiol		1.787 15.88		74.5 2020	[98]
25.1	$Cs_xFA_{1-x}Pb(I_vBr_{1-v})_3$		PERC, text			1.738 19.50		74.1 2019 [99]	

Chloride components appear important for highest $30⁺$ % PCE. Italic values are derived. Combining the highest values (underlined) gives a projected 34.5% PCE. "text." is textured, "pol." is polished, n-text. is nano-textured. (b) implies texturing of the back of the cell only. PI=piperazinium iodide. Me-4PACz=[4-(3,6-Dimethyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)butyl]phosphonic Acid. FBPAc=2,3,4,5,6-pentafuorobenzylphosphonic acid. $2PACz = (2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)ethyl)phosphonic acid. See also Figs. 7 and 13 for structures$ $2PACz = (2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)ethyl)phosphonic acid. See also Figs. 7 and 13 for structures$ $2PACz = (2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)ethyl)phosphonic acid. See also Figs. 7 and 13 for structures$ $2PACz = (2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)ethyl)phosphonic acid. See also Figs. 7 and 13 for structures$ $2PACz = (2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)ethyl)phosphonic acid. See also Figs. 7 and 13 for structures$

for single junction PSCs and PSTSCs, phenethylammonium (PEA) derivatives have emerged as the front-runners for PSTSC use [\[87](#page-19-12)[–89](#page-19-7)].

The use of TEA-Br in a PSTSC on textured c-Si and using a $Cs_{0.1}FA_{0.9}PbI_{2.74}Br_{0.16}Cl_{0.1}$ perovskite was shown to improve the V_{oc} by 100 mV compared to a control without TEA-Br, and a PCE of 28.51% was achieved with no significant decay occurring after 500 h of 1-sun illumination under encapsulation. Scaling this cell up from 0.5 to 11.9 cm² retains an efficiency of 25.13% [[86](#page-19-3)]. The use of BA⁺ was examined in a 4 T PSTSC using IBC c-Si and a $Rb_{0.05}Cs_{0.095}MA_{0.1425}FA_{0.7125}PbI_2Br$ perovskite to achieve a PCE of 27.7%. However, this featured a 2D perovskite at the surface, giving a negative effect on grain size and crystallinity when incorporating into the bulk [\[84\]](#page-19-1).

Unlike BA^+ , the inclusion of PEA-I resulted in improved crystallinity as concentration increased towards 10 mol% in a (FAPbI₃)_{0.85}(MAPbBr₃)_{0.15} perovskite single-junction PSC. In this case, the PCE, J_{sc} and FF decreased due to the insulat-ing nature of PEA⁺ [[90](#page-19-15)]. Nevertheless, V_{oc} increased, and greater stability was observed compared to a control device. PEA⁺ was later incorporated into perovskites for PSTSCs, but this time incorporating mixed SCN⁻ and I⁻ anions. With greater electrical conductivity due to the presence of SCN⁻, the J_{sc} and FF were improved, and ultimately a PCE of 26.7% was reported for a $(FA_{0.65}MA_{0.2}Cs_{0.15})Pb(I_{0.8}Br_{0.2})_3$ perovskite in a 2 T tandem cell. The PEA⁺ composition was optimised to $PEAI_{0.25}SCN_{0.75}$ [\[87](#page-19-12)].

2 mol% 4-methyl-PEACl was found to form quasi-2D perovskite layers at the grain boundaries of an MA-free perovskite. The 4-MPEACl additive was found to enhance hole extraction at the surface of the perovskite, and promote homogeneous nucleation leading to larger crystal grains. As the FAPbI₃/CsCl-based perovskite has a relatively low bandgap for a PSTSC top cell of 1.55 eV, a 4 T confguration was used, which is much less sensitive to varying bandgap compared to the 2 T confguration (Fig. [3](#page-4-0)), and a PCE of 30.3% was achieved, of which 98% was retained after a 42 day/ night cycle stability test [[89\]](#page-19-7).

8 Tailoring the perovskite towards higher power conversion efficiency

Table [1](#page-8-0) compiles a number of recently reported high PCE PSTSCs. These include those discussed so far in this work, as well as some of the recent records reported by NREL. A number of these are missing key data points, in particular, some of the recently certifed record-holders have not disclosed their compositions, and only the PCE, V_{oc} and FF have been reported on the NREL website [\[91](#page-19-5)]. Other reports have not disclosed the exact compositions of their perovskites, only mentioning the ions contained within. In these cases, the focus of the research was on other components of the PSTSC, such as the bottom cell, the CTLs or the efect of an additive.

The data in Table [1](#page-8-0) indicates that a textured SHJ bottom cell, combined with a perovskite material containing 5 to 15% Cs, no MA, only FA, and iodide together with a substantial amount of chloride leads to the best TSCs. An amount of bromide (up to 20%) can then be used to tune the bandgap towards to optimal 1.73 eV. It should be noted that "Perovskite Composition" in Table [1](#page-8-0) reports (mainly) the composition of the precursor solutions used. The exact composition of the perovskite thin solid flm is rarely determined and can strongly deviate from the precursor solution composition. Considering the data in Table [1,](#page-8-0) we do not anticipate that single halide perovskites [[100\]](#page-19-16) nor all inorganic perovskites [\[101](#page-19-17)] will play a dominant role in this feld.

9 Composition of the bottom silicon cell

The two main categories of c-Si solar cells (Fig. [9\)](#page-13-2) are homojunction solar cells, which utilise only c-Si as the semiconducting material, only with diferent dopants, and heterojunction solar cells, which utilise hydrogenated amorphous silicon (a-Si:H) as a bufer/passivation layer [[102\]](#page-19-18). In recent years, passivated emitter rear cells (PERC), a type of homojunction solar cell, have led the increase in PCE of single junction c-Si solar cells [\[103](#page-19-19)–[105\]](#page-20-0), and are expected to have a market share of $>70\%$ by 2030 [\[106\]](#page-20-1). Alternatively, silicon heterojunction (SHJ) cells make up a smaller market share of 15% [\[106](#page-20-1)], however, according to a 2022 review, the majority of reported PSTSCs with a PCE greater than 25% have employed an n-type SHJ as the bottom cell [\[32](#page-16-23)].

Fu et al.'s 2022 review provided a comprehensive overview of the types of Si used thus far [\[32](#page-16-23)]. The advantage of PERC cells lie in their market dominance as single-junction cells, and their higher temperature tolerance which allows for the sintering of efficient ETLs such as $TiO₂$ and $SnO₂$. [[107](#page-20-2), [108](#page-20-3)]. Despite this, adaptations are needed to facilitate use in PSTSCs. In particular, the dielectric $\text{SiN}_{x}/\text{AlO}_{x}$ layer for surface passivation/antirefection is insulating in nature, and must be either replaced with a TCO, which causes a drop in V_{oc} , [\[109](#page-20-4), [110](#page-20-5)] or openings in this layer can be created using photolithography followed by deposition of a conductive material [[108\]](#page-20-3). Utilising this method in a PSTSC resulted in a PCE of 22.5% (in 2017). These prior examples used n-type PERC substrates, but p-type substrates can also be used. In 2019, a p-type cell, with front texturing, was reported with a SiO_x and phosphorus-doped $SiC_x(n)$ front contact, with a p-type nanocrystalline $nc-Si(p)$: H as a recombination junction with the perovskite. This confguration, together with an unspecifed p-i-n type perovskite layer, achieved a PCE of 25.1%, which represented a 2.5% increase

from the PCE of the same silicon cell as a single-junction device [\[32](#page-16-23), [99](#page-19-14)]. In 2022 a PCE of 28.7% was reported with a PERC bottom cell [\[95](#page-19-9)]. This improvement is mainly due to a 170 mV increase in the V_{α} , indicating better charge management. A small FF increase can also be noted (from~0.74 to \sim 0.77). The use of a SAM composed of 2PACz and PI as ETL are hereby identifed as an important aspects of this improvement.

Many high-efficiency PSTSC's with a PCE above 25.1% have been fabricated using SHJ bottom cells. These cells contain typically n-type c-Si passivated by intrinsic doping and p-doped a-Si:H on the surface. As a single junction cell, they utilise a TCO with Ag metal as electrodes, which can be adapted to form a recombination junction. They exhibit higher V_{oc} compared to PERCs [\[111\]](#page-20-6), and excellent NIR absorption $[112]$ $[112]$ $[112]$, but suffer from a low-temperature coeffcient (temperature resilience), limiting the fabrication to low-temperature perovskite deposition processes, caused by H effusing out of the a-Si:H, losing passivation and restricting the ability to withstand high temperatures above 250 °C [\[113](#page-20-8)]. SHJ's lack in popularity compared to PERCs, as a single-junction cell, is due to their lower photocurrent caused by parasitic absorption of blue light by the a-Si:H and the TCO, but this is not an issue with PSTSCs as the perovskite top cell now absorbs this part of the spectrum [[114\]](#page-20-9).

TOPCon-technology [[115\]](#page-20-10) based on high-temperature passivating contacts (HTPC) can produce 4 cm^2 tandem devices with 28.25% PCE. TOPCon stands for tunnel oxidepassivating contact and is also used by Q-cells/Hanwha in Si technology.

The actual c-Si wafer is typically one of two kinds: 'foatzone' (FZ) or 'Czochralski' (Cz), refecting the type of process used in manufacturing. FZ Si is purer, higher quality silicon, but its production method limits wafer size to around 150 mm, while Cz Si is of lower quality, but can be made to larger wafer sizes and is cheaper [[116](#page-20-11)]. As researchers tend to aim for higher efficiencies, higher-quality FZ Si tends to be more frequently used. However, a 2021 study comparing the two types in PSTSCs found a PCE diference of only 0.26% between 100 µm Cz and 280 µm FZ bottom cells, indicating that Cz Si is viable for use in industry [[81\]](#page-18-19).

10 Texturing silicon

Texturing of silicon solar cells (Fig. [10](#page-14-0)) is standard practice in the industry to improve light trapping, but the majority of PSTSCs have been produced on fat, polished silicon surfaces. This is due to the difficulties in depositing the perovskite by a solution process (primarily spin coating) onto a textured surface [[73\]](#page-18-20). The frst successful example produced in 2018 achieved a 25.2% PCE, and the top cell was deposited on the textured Si by a two-step method, wherein PbI_2

and CsBr are co-evaporated onto the Si bottom cell (with the HTL thermally evaporated) followed by spin-coating of FABr and FAI [[117](#page-20-12)].

The previous example utilised textured pyramid sizes of around 5 μ m, similar to the industry standard for singlejunction Si cells. However, this was achieved with a top cell comprising only the basic perovskite precursors. Additives are normally incorporated to aid stability and performance. This process thereby becomes more complex and difficult to achieve a conformal coating. However, solution processing on fully textured SHJ cells aided by 1-butanethiol can give 25.7% PCE perovskite on silicon tandem cells [[98\]](#page-19-13).

As such, further research in this area looked towards more mildly textured Si, with pyramid sizes ranging around 1 μ m. For example, Chen et al. developed a blade coating process to deposit a perovskite top cell onto a Si bottom cell with sub-micron texturing [[118\]](#page-20-13). Unlike the previous thermal evaporation method, this method retains the benefts of a solution-based process while also ensuring complete coverage of the Si pyramids and allowing the use of additives. A PCE of 26% was achieved.

More recently, a study was conducted on the effects of Si texturing on the structural and optoelectronic properties of the perovskite top cell [\[119\]](#page-20-14). Spin-coating was applied as a deposition method. It was found that the main impact of texturing lied in the photoluminescence (PL) spectra, which showed a shift from 1.67 eV of the $Cs_{0.05}MA_{0.14}FA_{0.81}Pb(I_{0.8}Br_{0.2})$ ₃ perovskite on flat Si, to 1.65 eV on textured Si. This implies that a less optimal perovskite bandgap is obtained on a texture Si surface for an identical perovskite composition. The effects of temperature and halide distribution were ruled out, and the thickness of the perovskite was found to be the main contributing factor, with a test carried out with 250 and 900 nm thick perovskites on fat Si showing a similar PL shift. As previously mentioned in this work, the carrier difusion length can be increased and the perovskite's tolerance to thickness can be improved by the use of a TPAB r_3 additive [\[51](#page-17-15)]. Clearly, compatibility of the Si surface (fat vs textured) with the perovskite deposition method is essential for industrial applications. In this regard, co-evaporation methods are promising [[120,](#page-20-15) [121\]](#page-20-16).

The addition of anionic additives, specifically Cl[−] and SCN[−] was found to improve the crystallisation of the perovskite on textured Si, reducing the trap density and aiding in achieving conformal deposition [\[96\]](#page-19-10). A 50:50 ratio of MACl and MASCN added to the FAI/FABr precursor solution was found to perform best, with too much SCN leaving the Si pyramid tips exposed, and too much Cl not having a noticeable effect (Fig. 11). The addition of the anions enabled larger grain sizes and suppressed light-induced halide segregation by reducing trap densities, achieving a PCE of 28.6%. Moreover, this technique was shown to be scalable,

with a 16 cm^2 device exhibiting a PCE of 25.1%, and in both cases, encapsulation retains 80% of the efficiency after 2000 h. It is worth noting that MA was not included in the control sample, only FA was used.

A refector with a dielectric bufer layer, comprising of $SiO₂$, located at the rear of the bottom cell between the TCO and the Ag electrode can be utilised together with a nanotextured front side with a sinusoidal nanostructure with 300 nm dimensions. This achieved a PCE of 29.8%, which was record-breaking at the time. As the addition of the refector increased the current density of the bottom cell, to maintain current matching conditions, the bandgap of the perovskite was shifted from 1.68 eV to 1.66 eV, which was achieved by reducing the amount of bromide and increasing the amount of FA (from a composition of $(Cs_{0.05}(FA_{0.77}MA_{0.23})_{0.95}Pb(I_{0.77}Br_{0.23})_3$ to $CS_{0.05}(FA_{0.79}MA_{0.21})_{0.95}Pb(I_{0.79}Br_{0.21})_{3})$ [\[94](#page-19-8)].

All aspects considered the concept arises that a fat interface between Si and perovskite (with a textured Si backside) is more advantageous than texturing on both Si sides. Especially if SAM formation on the thin (ITO) interface layer is an important aspect of the design, this makes sense, since self-assembled mono-layers form more compact, organized and homogeneous layers on (atomically fat) surfaces. However, optimization of the texturing of tandem cells is still needed, by for instance comparing diferent options in one experimental test (keeping all other factors constant and taking into account the cost factors). The deposition method is also an essential aspect of this factor, as well as the type of structuring (micro- or nano-structuring). Important options can be defned: i) only fat surfaces, ii) only fat interface, iii) textured silicon but flat perovskite surface (e.g. when blade- or spin-coating is applied) and iv) textured silicon and textured perovskite (with conformal perovskite deposition by using co-evaporation or hybrid deposition). It can be noted that the 32.5% PCE device (see also Table [1](#page-8-0)) incorporates only a textured back.

Nano-texturing both sides of the silicon by using etching procedures not only containing KOH but also K_2SiO_3 has been reported [[122\]](#page-20-17) and can induce sub-micrometer features $({\sim}500 \text{ nm}).$

11 Interface layer between silicon and perovskite

In a 2 T PSTSC, the two sub-cells must be connected monolithically, typically requiring the use of a tunnel junction (TJ) or recombination layer (RL) as an interface. This layer requires high optical transparency, and good out-of-plane conductivity for efficient hole and electron transport and low voltage loss while having low in-plane transport to prevent shunting channels. Typically, this layer is a TCO, such as ITO [[98](#page-19-13)] or ZTO [\[110\]](#page-20-5) with a thickness below 20 nm to reduce shunting channels and optical losses [\[71](#page-18-11)]. However, other materials such as a-Si $[42]$, nc-Si $[123]$ $[123]$ $[123]$ or nc-SiO_x [\[124](#page-20-19)] have also been reported. An example of a PSTSC with homojunction Si without the need for an additional interface also exists. It utilises the intrinsic interface between the SnO₂ ETL of the top cell with the $p+$ +emitter of the bottom cell [[125\]](#page-20-20).

As the interface becomes thinner, less parasitic absorption occurs, and trap states for carrier recombination are reduced. As such, Zheng et al. reported an ultra-thin ITO interlayer with a thickness of 1.7 nm (Fig. [12](#page-15-8)) [[97\]](#page-19-11). While achieving a PCE of 27.2% PCE, the FF of 82.4% is the highest of a PSTSC reported to date. Moreover, this was shown to be scalable, with cells of sizes 11.8 cm^2 and 65.1 cm^2 fabricated, exhibiting PCEs of 24.2% and 21.1% respectively.

As discussed earlier, the ITO interface layer can be functionalized with a self-assembled monolayer (SAM) using phosphonic acid derivatives (see also Table [1](#page-8-0)). Especially carbazole derivates are suitable for this purpose, which act as a hole transport layer (HTL). Me-4PACz has been applied in various tandem devices, combined with other active components such as ionic liquid $PI^{[[75]]}$ $PI^{[[75]]}$ $PI^{[[75]]}$ (as an extra electron transport layer, ETL, with electron donor–acceptor character) and combined with FBPAc [\[93](#page-19-6)] (infuencing crystal growth). The molecular structures of these active components of high-efficiency tandem devices are given in Fig. [13.](#page-15-7)

Clearly, phosphonic acids and ionic liquids are excellent candidates for ultra-thin functional layers in tandem cells. Whereas chain length optimization has been obtained for Me-4PACz, further carbazole functionalization as well as exchanging the counter ion of PI for (I_3) ⁻ or (Br_3) ⁻ present further avenues to explore.

Substituted carbazole derivates containing carboxylic acid groups as well as phenothiazine systems with phosphonic acid tails incorporated directly in the perovskite precursor solution have been shown to lead to surface functionalization of ITO [[126](#page-21-0)]. SAM formation and perovskite deposition can be accomplished in one procedure.

To clarify the use of these organic molecules as active components in perovskite-silicon tandem solar cells, the stack structure of the 32.5% PCE device is schematically represented in Fig. [14](#page-15-9). Additional information on (optimized) layer thickness, properties and function is inserted. It can be noted that PI layer thickness is not specifed (but the concentration of solution for spin coating is). The perovskite layer thickness is an estimate extracted from the supporting information of ref [\[75](#page-18-13)].

Current matching of both sub-cells at the maximum power point of the tandem can be approximated by the matching of their short circuit currents if individual fll-factors are identical. For optimal performance, equal amounts of positive charge carriers from the top cell and negative charge carriers from the bottom cell (or vice versa) should arrive at the recombination layer (per time unit). Identical fll-factors indicate equal charge loss and thus current matching implies absorption of equal amounts of photons for the two sub-cells [\[127](#page-21-1), [128](#page-21-2)].

The multi-layered stack structure can be used to exemplify the function of the recombination layer (RL): positive charge carriers (holes) photo-generated within the perovskite layer have to transport to the RL (through the HTL) and recombine with an equal amount of negative charge carriers (electrons) photo-generated in the Si layer, thereby enhancing the output voltage at current matching conditions. Negative charge carriers (electrons) photo-generated in the perovskite layer will move (through the ETL) to the top contact. Positive charge carriers (holes) photo-generated within the Si layer will move to the bottom contact.

High-efficiency devices $(32.5\%$ PCE) can also be obtained by using an alternative recombination layer of 5 nm thin IZO covered by a SAM of 2PACz as a hole transport layer [[92\]](#page-19-4).

12 Discussion and conclusion

PSTSC technology has made astounding progress in only a few years, with record PCEs surpassing the practical limit for single-junction Si cells and expected to rise even further (Table [1](#page-8-0)). This progress has been achieved primarily through optimisation of the perovskite top cell, with key challenges such as light-induced halide phase segregation being identifed and addressed. The tandem feld benefts from the perovskite single junction solar cell research. Recent single junction work on alkylammonium additives (25.73% PCE with propylammonium chloride, PACl) [\[129](#page-21-3)] and a zinc(II)based interface layer (23.25% PCE) [[130\]](#page-21-4) may bring the feld even further, providing an interesting link to earlier work [\[131–](#page-21-5)[133\]](#page-21-6) performed in Amsterdam that focussed on CPACl (chloropropylammonium chloride) and Zn(II) doping. Synergy between such additives can lead to fne-tuning of the power conversion efficiency.

Composition In terms of the perovskite composition, it has been tuned to include multiple cations and anions to not only tailor the bandgap but to also improve stability. For the A cation, reducing the MA amount has been shown to improve stability, while doping with small amounts of $Cs⁺$ (below 15%) has also been shown to improve stability and widen the bandgap. $Rb⁺$ has also been tested as a dopant, but cannot be used above 5% as it causes stability issues. Relatively few reports utilise Rb^+ , and the highest PCE PSTSCs omit the element.

To date, no suitable replacement for Pb has been found for use in top cells. Sn has been reported for single-junction PSCs and as a bottom cell for all-perovskite TSCs. As Sn reduces the bandgap signifcantly below 1.5 eV, it is not suitable for use as a top cell in TSCs.

A mix of halides has been found to work best for the X anion, in particular using Br− to widen the bandgap, and also Cl− to aid stability. In order to combat light induced halide phase segregation, the Br− content should be limited to below 20%, although higher content has been reported using stabilisation strategies to suppress phase segregation. Cl[−] solubility has been an issue, however concentrations up to 15% have been reported to be incorporated into the perovskite when used in combination with Br[−] and Cs cations.

Additives The use of additives that are not incorporated in the bulk has been found to further aid the stability of the perovskite. In particular, the formation of 2D perovskites by using alkyl-ammonium cations has shown promise in suppressing phase segregation at the grain boundaries. Furthermore, PEA has shown great promise in this area, but more research is required to optimise both the amount, and also the substituents on the phenyl ring (which should be electron-donating in nature). Other additives can be utilised to prevent iodide vacancies, including $(Br_3)^-$ (which can also allow for thicker perovskite layers needed for deposition on textured silicon) and reducing agents such as BHC and ADDC to reduce I_2 to I⁻. Note that (I_3) ⁻ as well as formate anions (Fo−, see Fig. [7\)](#page-13-0) have been shown to optimize single junction devices leading to 22^+ and 25^+ % PCE devices, respectively [\[134,](#page-21-7) [135\]](#page-21-8).

Bottom cell As for the silicon bottom cell, SHJ is certainly the preferred type over homojunction cells, with all highefficiency PSTSCs being fabricated with SHJ bottom cells [[136\]](#page-21-9). In terms of optimizing the bottom cell, the only main challenge is to fabricate a PSTSC with industrially textured Si with pyramid sizes greater than 1 μ m, while still allowing for solution-processed perovskite deposition. Nevertheless, results from mildly textured Si are promising.

Future In terms of future research, a comprehensive analysis of the perovskite composition should be performed, with all other cell components being kept consistent. While reviews have been conducted on cell composition, in many cases, these feature examples from across the literature and feature diferences in other components, such as the CTLs, TCOs or Si bottom cell. As such, it would be benefcial to design a device where the other components are fxed, and the effect of altering the perovskite composition can be independently examined. These experiments could include varying the $Cs⁺$ doping to find the optimum, optimising the FA:MA ratio or even total elimination of MA. Also, probing the efects of adding Cl− and optimising its ratio compared to the other halides, and the efect of adding multiple additives. For example, adding both PEA molecules for 2D perovskite formation and (Br_3) ⁻ for phase segregation suppression and enhanced tolerance to thickness.

Fig. 7 Molecular structures of some constituents and additives featuring in this treatise. Shown are: methylammonium (MA⁺), formamidinium $(FA⁺)$; cationic additives: propylammonium $(PA⁺)$, butylammonium $(BA⁺)$, phenethylammonium (PEA⁺), 4-methyl-phenethylammonium (MPEA⁺), thiopheneethylammonium ($TEA⁺$), trimethylphenylammonium $(TPA⁺)$, benzylhydrazinium $(BH⁺)$; anionic additives: tribromide $(Br_3)^-$, triiodide $(I_3)^-$, thiocyanate (SCN⁻), diethyldithiocarbamate (DDC−), $\text{formate} = \text{Fo}^- = (\text{HCO}_2)^-$

Fig. 8 a Diagram showing 2D perovskites forming at the 3D perovskite grain boundaries, **b** illustration of 3D perovskite and 2D perovskite separation induced by n-butylamine and **c** by n-butylammonium iodide Reprinted with permission from J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 2018, 9 (3), 654–658 Copyright 2018 American Chemical Society [[82](#page-19-20)]

Fig. 9 Comparison between p-i-n type PSTSCs using a) SHJ and b) homojunction Si as the bottom cells. Reprinted from Appl. Phys. Rev. 2021, 8 (4), 041307, with the permission of AIP Publishing [\[23\]](#page-16-13)

For such an experiment, SHJ is an obvious choice for the bottom cell. For the top cell, a p-i-n architecture has shown greater promise and would be a good choice to build upon, with a Me-4PACz HTL and a $PI/C_{60}/SnO_2$ ETL, as together these components have contributed to passing the 30% PCE boundary [[94\]](#page-19-8). As for the perovskite composition, a double or triple mixed cation with double or triple halide has shown great promise. The MA content should be minimized (similar to the development in the single junction feld) as MA has been shown to cause instability. The MA content should be less than 25%, lower seems better. Cs^+ doping should be limited to a maximum of 15%. As for the halide ratio, the bromide should be kept below 20%, even if phase segregation-suppressing additives are used. The incorporation of chloride has proven difficult and has been limited to a maximum of 15%. In a broader context, optimization of the perovskite composition combined with integration into the Si solar wafer production process (with fat or textured surface) with an optimal (atom efficient) perovskite deposition method will be crucial for the realization of tandem products.

There is a strong advancement in understanding the stability issues of the perovskite top cell, in particular light-induced phase segregation (as well as of the optimized PCE). Research continues to elucidate the causes of this phenomenon, and a number of promising solutions

Fig. 10 a Schematic representation of SHJ tandem cell. **b** SEM images of a bifacially textured silicon bottom cell with a perovskite cell deposited on top. **c** I/V curves of PSTSC cell with picture of cell and PCE values. **d** EQE spectra of PSTSC with double-side textured silicon together with 1-R plots showing refection losses. Note the matching currents. Reprinted from Adv. Mater., 2023, 35, 2,207,883, with the permission of Wiley Publishing [\[96\]](#page-19-10)

Fig. 11 SEM images of perovskites on textured Si with varying Cl− and SCN− additives. Note that as SCN− concentration increases, the grain size becomes larger, and that when 100% SCN− is used, the

to suppress this efect have been presented. The SHJ bottom cell has emerged as the choice material owing to its high V_{oc} and NIR absorption. Efforts to scale up the size of PSTSCs have been promising, with cells larger than perovskite does not completely cover the Si tips. Reprinted from Adv. Mater., 2023, 35, 2,207,883, with the permission of Wiley Publishing [[96](#page-19-10)]

10 cm² being developed with efficiencies approaching and surpassing the PCE of single junction c-Si cells. For small tandem cells in the research feld, a PCE of 34.5% appears to be within reach (see Table [1\)](#page-8-0). The future is bright, for

Fig. 12 Bright Field TEM image of a PSTSC featuring an ultrathin ITO interface. Reproduced from Energy Environ. Sci., 2023, 10.1039. D2EE04007G, with permission from the Royal Society of Chemistry[\[97\]](#page-19-11)

Fig. 13 Molecular structures of active components used in tandem cells. $Me-4PACz=[4-(3,6-Dimethyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)butyl]phos$ phonic Acid. FBPAc=2,3,4,5,6-pentafuorobenzylphosphonic acid, P^+ = piperazinium (used as iodide salt PI). (See also Table [1](#page-8-0))

silicon tandem solar cells, with perovskite. Especially when diferent additives can operate in a synergistic mode of action [[137\]](#page-21-10).

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Declarations

Conflict of interest There are no conficts of interest to declare.

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Fig. 14 Schematic representation of the stack structure of the 32.5% PCE device (See also Table [1\)](#page-8-0). Layer thicknesses are indicated as well as function and band gap (as extracted from ref [[75](#page-18-13)].). Note that the perovskite layer is sandwiched between 4-MePACz and PI (see Fig. 13 for their structures). ARC=anti-reflection coating; ETL=electron transport layer; HTL=hole transport layer; SAM=self-assembled monolayer; TCO=transparent conductive oxide; RL=recombination layer; RDBL=refector with dielectric buffer layer. Top illumination and textured bottom. See reference [[75](#page-18-13)] for more details

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