Effect of energy transfer on the optical properties of surface-passivated perovskite films with CdSe/ZnS quantum dots

Il-Wook Cho & Mee-Yi Ryu*

Surface passivation is an effective method to protect the surfaces and improve the luminescence properties of perovskite (PS) films. CdSe/ZnS core-shell quantum dots (QDs) have been employed for surface passivation of PS films because of their size-dependent tunable bandgaps. Herein, the energy transfer (ET) behavior of CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_2$Br PS films covered with CdSe/ZnS QDs (QD/PS hybrid structures) is characterized by using photoluminescence (PL) and time-resolved PL spectroscopy. The PL decay time and the integrated PL intensity of the QD/PS hybrid structure increase compared with those of the bare PS films, owing to ET from the QDs to the PS and reduced charge traps. The ET efficiency increases from ~7% to 63% for the QD/PS hybrid structure when the core diameter of the QDs decreases from 6.5 to 2.7 nm, respectively. This can be explained by the charge transfer rate enhancement due to the control of energy level alignment of QDs. These results allow us to understand fundamental mechanisms such as ET from QDs to PS films as a function of the size of the QD.

Methylammonium lead halide perovskites (CH$_3$NH$_3$PbX$_3$, where X = Cl$^-$, Br$^-$, or I$^-$) are of great interest in optoelectronic applications because they offer many advantages such as a tunable bandgap, high absorption coefficient, high electron/hole mobility, and low-cost solution processing. In addition, the power-conversion efficiencies achieved by solution-processed perovskite (PS) solar cells are comparable to those of silicon and semiconductor thin film devices. However, solution-processed PS contains many charge traps at the grain boundaries and on the surface, leading to increased non-radiative recombination and instability of the PS film in air due to humidity. These issues need to be resolved for the successful application of such materials. Therefore, suppressing these defect states is crucial to the development of PS-based devices to ensure their superior performance and long-term stability.

Surface passivation is a common method for minimizing charge traps induced by structural defects and for protecting the surface from the moisture in air. Several researchers have reported the effect of surface passivation on the optical and electrical properties of materials and demonstrated enhanced luminescence properties by suppressing non-radiative recombination and decreasing defect states. However, elucidation of the fundamental and physical processes involved is necessary for optical properties to be similarly improved by surface passivation.

Therefore, in this study, we conducted an in-depth analysis of the surface passivation effect on the optical properties of PS films. In order to investigate the impact of surface passivation, we introduced the energy transfer (ET) phenomenon in surface-passivated PS films. The fluorescence resonance energy transfer is a non-radiative transfer process of excitation energy from a donor to an acceptor, which is affected by overlap between the emission and absorption spectra of the donor and acceptor, respectively. The charge transfer (CT) process in PS films covered with CdSe/ZnS core-shell quantum dots (QDs) (QD/PS hybrid structures) denotes the transport of photo-excited electrons and/or holes from a donor (QD) to an acceptor (PS). Additionally, the CT process has been demonstrated in coupled systems such as two-transition-metal dichalcogenides (TMDCs), organic–TMDCs, and semiconductor–nanoparticle hybrid structures. In particular, the ET process between a mixed halide PS (CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_2$Br) and CdSe/ZnS core–shell quantum dots (QDs) has been investigated as a function of the core diameter of the QDs using photoluminescence (PL) and time-resolved PL (TRPL) spectroscopy in this work. We compared the PL decay behaviour and the integrated PL intensity of this system to those of bare PS
and bare QD films and demonstrated an improved luminescence yield and an ET efficiency of 63% in the QD/PS hybrid structure for a QD of diameter 2.7 nm.

Results and Discussion

Figure 1(a) shows a schematic illustration of the QD/PS hybrid structure used in this study, consisting of PS covered with CdSe/ZnS core–shell QDs on indium tin oxide (ITO) coated glass substrates. In addition, the illustration of CdSe/ZnS QDs is shown. The thickness of the ZnS shell was 0.6 nm, and the diameters of the CdSe cores ($d_{\text{QD}}$) were 2.7, 4.2, and 6.5 nm. In order to confirm the morphology, crystallinity, and absorbance of the QD/PS hybrid structures, we performed scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) measurements (see Supplementary Information (SI), Figs. S1 and S2). The diffraction peaks at 14.3° and 28.8° in Fig. S2(a) were assigned to the (100) and (200) planes of the cubic phase of the PS, respectively.

The diffraction patterns and SEM images for the QD/PS hybrid structures were almost the same as those for the bare PS, indicating that covering with QDs did not significantly affect the crystallinity and morphology of the PS films. In addition, we acquired PL spectra of the bare QDs with various $d_{\text{QD}}$, and plotted these along with the UV-vis absorption spectrum of ITO, bare PS/ITO, and QD/PS/ITO, as shown in Fig. S2(b). The PL peak energies of the bare QDs can be seen near 2.29, 2.06, and 1.90 eV for a $d_{\text{QD}}$ of 2.7, 4.2, and 6.5 nm, respectively, which are higher than the bandgap of the bare PS.

In order to clarify the effect of QD surface passivation on the luminescence properties of the PS film, the PL spectra of the PS films covered with QDs were collected using a 325 nm excitation wavelength ($\lambda_{\text{exc}}$) at 300 K, as shown in Fig. 1(b). The PL spectra of the PS films exhibited two emission peaks near 1.68 (PC) and 1.81 eV (PT), which could be attributed to the phase segregation between bromide-rich cubic and iodide-rich tetragonal phases induced by laser irradiation. This light-induced phase segregation caused additional charge traps to form. The PL peaks for PC did not change even when the surface of PS was covered with QDs, while the PL peaks for PC for the QD/PS hybrid structure showed a blueshift compared with that of the bare PS. In addition, the integrated PL intensity for PC in the QD/PS hybrid structure became dominant upon covering the PS with QDs, which could be attributed to the prevention of light-induced phase segregation. Therefore, the discussion herein will focus on the changes in PC, because the PC is the main PL peak, and PS has a cubic phase, as seen in Figs. 1(b) and S2(a) respectively. The PL peak energies and integrated PL intensities for PC are shown in Fig. 1(c). The PL peak of the QD/PS hybrid structure showed a blueshift of approximately 14–18 meV compared with that of the bare PS. This PC blueshift is attributed to the decreased number of charge traps due to QD surface passivation. The organic ligands of QDs can also passivate the PS surface and affect charge transfer. The organic ligands cause hole trapping at the QD surface, increasing both charge separation in QDs and consequently the rate of electron transfer.

The QD/PS hybrid structure with a $d_{\text{QD}}$ of 2.7 nm exhibited the greatest PL enhancement, which will be discussed later.

Figure 2(a–c) show the energy level diagrams for the QD/PS hybrid structure with a $d_{\text{QD}}$ of 2.7, 4.2, and 6.5 nm, respectively. The valence band maximum (VBM) value for CdSe with various $d_{\text{QD}}$ was given by $E_{\text{VBM}}(d_{\text{QD}}) = E_{\text{VBM}}(\infty) - A d_{\text{QD}}^{-0.95}$, where $E_{\text{VBM}}(\infty) = -5.23$ eV, and $A = 0.95$ eV$^{-0.95}$. The conduction band minimum (CBM) values of the QDs and PS were determined using the PL peak energies for the QDs and the PS, respectively. The energy level diagrams of the QD/PS hybrid structure suggest that charge carrier transport could have occurred due to the energetic offset between the CBM and VBM of the QDs and PS. The QD/PS hybrid structures with $d_{\text{QD}}$ of 2.7 and 4.2 nm showed type-I band alignment because the CBM of the QDs was located at a higher energy than that of the PS, and the VBM of the QDs was at a lower energy than that of the PS. Thus, in the case of the QD/PS hybrid structures with $d_{\text{QD}}$ of 2.7 and 4.2 nm, both electrons and holes in the QDs were transferred to the PS layer. On the other hand, the QD/PS with a $d_{\text{QD}}$ of 6.5 nm showed a type-II band alignment because the VBM of these QDs was located at a higher energy than that of the PS; thus, the electrons in the QDs could be moved to the PS layer, while the holes in the PS layer could be transferred to the QD layer, as shown in Fig. 2(c).
In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.

In order to verify the ET process between QDs and PS, TRPL measurements were performed. Figure 3(a–c) display the PL decay curves recorded at the QD peak of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure at 300 K. The PL decay curves of the bare QDs and the hybrid structure were fitted well by a bi-exponential decay function, and the fast and slow decay times, $\tau_1$ and $\tau_2$, were estimated. The average decay time ($\tau_{avg}$) was estimated using the relationship $\tau_{avg} = \sum A_i \tau_i / \sum A_i$. The detailed decay parameters and the calculated results are provided in the SI (Tables S1 and S2). The average PL decay times of the QDs in the QD/PS hybrid structure shortened to 1.33 ns.
In addition, we obtained PL decay curves for solutions of the bare QDs (see SI, Fig. S3), and the notted for the bare QDs, respectively. The PL decay times for the bare QDs were shorter than the values found in excited by 655 nm and 375 nm owing to the electrons transferring to the PS while the holes move to the QDs, as shown in Fig. 2(c).

The TRPL spectra of the samples excited by 655 nm and 375 nm at 300 K. The PL decay curves were adequately fitted by the bi-exponential decay function. The detailed decay parameters and average decay times are listed in Table 1.

Estimated PL decay parameters and average PL decay times taken at PC for the bare PS and the QD/PS hybrid structures using a $\lambda_{exc}$ of 375 nm at 300 K.

| $d_{QD}$ (nm) | $\tau_1$ (ns) | $\tau_2$ (ns) | $A_1$ (%) | $A_2$ (%) | $\tau_{ave}$ (ns) |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| 0 (bare)     | 0.82         | 2.57         | 66.4      | 33.6      | 1.90             |
| 2.7          | 1.21         | 6.48         | 9.30      | 90.7      | 6.38             |
| 4.2          | 1.95         | 4.52         | 12.6      | 87.4      | 4.37             |
| 6.5          | 1.87         | 9.34         | 9.00      | 91.0      | 9.19             |

Figure 4. PL decay curves acquired at $P_c$ for the bare PS and the QD/PS hybrid structures at 300 K using $\lambda_{exc}$ of (a) 375 nm and (b) 655 nm. (c) Emission-photon-energy-dependent PL decay times of the QD/PS hybrid structure with $d_{QD}$ of 2.7 nm excited by $\lambda_{exc}$ of 655 nm (open circles) and 375 nm (filled circles). Additionally, the PL spectrum obtained at 300 K is shown.

Table 1.

(2.7 nm), 1.88 (4.2 nm), and 2.27 ns (6.5 nm) compared with the 3.59 (2.7 nm), 3.34 (4.2 nm), and 2.44 ns (6.5 nm) noted for the bare QDs, respectively. The PL decay times for the bare QDs were shorter than the values found in literature. In addition, we obtained PL decay curves for solutions of the bare QDs (see SI, Fig. S3), and the decay time of the bare QDs in solution was longer than that of the bare QDs on ITO substrates. The relatively short decay time for the bare QDs on ITO substrates is attributed to exciton dissociation or exciton diffusion. Using the equation $\tau_{QD/PS} = \tau_{bare} + \tau_{ET}$, we calculated the ET efficiency ($\eta_{ET}$) and ET rate ($k_{ET}$) for the QD/PS hybrid structure assuming the relationships $\eta_{ET} = 1 - (\tau_{QD/PS}/\tau_{bare})$ and $k_{ET} = \tau_{ET} = \tau_{QD/PS} - \tau_{bare}^{-1}$, where $\tau_{bare}$ and $\tau_{QD/PS}$ are the decay times for the bare QDs and QD/PS hybrid structure, respectively, and $\tau_{ET}$ is the characteristic time for the ET process. The estimated $\eta_{ET}$ and $k_{ET}$ as a function of the $d_{QD}$ are shown in Fig. 3(d). We determined a value of ~63% for the $\eta_{ET}$ of the QD/PS hybrid structure with a $d_{QD}$ of 2.7 nm. As the $d_{QD}$ increased, the $\eta_{ET}$ and $k_{ET}$ decreased due to the decline in the driving force, which predominantly depends on the difference between the conduction band energies of the QDs and PS. The band gap energy of the QDs decreased as the $d_{QD}$ increased, which led to a reduced ET rate from the QDs to the PS, due to the smaller energetic offset between the CBM and VBM of the QDs and PS, as well as reduced overlap between emission spectrum of QDs and absorption spectrum of PS, as shown in Figs. 2 and S2(b), respectively. Therefore, the highest values of $\eta_{ET}$ and $k_{ET}$ observed for $d_{QD}$ of 2.7 nm was consistent with the largest PL enhancement noted for the QD/PS hybrid structure with $d_{QD}$ of 2.7 nm, as shown in Fig. 1(c).

Figure 4(a) displays the PL decay curves obtained at $P_c$ for the bare PS and the hybrid structure using $\lambda_{exc}$ of 375 nm at 300 K. The PL decay curves were adequately fitted by the bi-exponential decay function. The detailed decay parameters and average decay times are listed in Table 1. $\tau_{ave}$ recorded at $P_c$ for the bare PS was 1.90 ns, and $\tau_{ave}$ for the QD/PS hybrid structure with $d_{QD}$ of 2.7, 4.2, and 6.5 nm were 6.38, 4.37, and 9.19 ns, respectively. The decay time at $P_c$ for the QD/PS hybrid structure was longer than that for the bare PS, which was attributed to ET from the QDs to the PS layer and reduced charge traps. Contrary to our expectation that the decay time would decrease as $d_{QD}$ increases from 2.7 to 6.5 nm, the QD/PS hybrid structure with $d_{QD}$ of 6.5 nm exhibited a considerably longer decay time. This result can be ascribed to the increased spatial separation of electrons and holes, owing to the electrons transferring to the PS while the holes move to the QDs, as shown in Fig. 2(c).
energy. Further, the PL spectrum of the QD/PS hybrid structure ($d_{QD} = 2.7 \text{ nm}$) measured at 300 K is shown. For the 655 nm excitation, which excited only the PS layer, the decay times were almost constant for the emission photon energies, while the decay times of the hybrid structure for the 375 nm excitation gradually increased from 4.17 to 6.57 ns as the emission photon energy decreased from 1.94 to 1.61 eV. This increase in the PL decay time at a low emission photon energy can be attributed to ET from the QDs to the PS layer.

**Conclusions**

The luminescence properties of surface-passivated CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_2$Br PS films covered with CdSe/ZnS core–shell QDs have been investigated using PL and TRPL measurements. The surface-passivatd PS films (QD/PS hybrid structure) exhibited enhanced PL intensity and increased PL decay times compared with those of bare PS films. This observation is attributed to ET from the QDs to the PS and the reduced defect states resulting from QD surface passivation. The greatest enhancement in PL intensity for the QD/PS hybrid structure was obtained for a core diameter of 2.7 nm. The efficiency of ET from the QDs to the PS was determined to be ~63% for the core diameter of 2.7 nm. Our results facilitate an improved understanding of crucial fundamental and physical mechanisms, such as energy transfer between QDs and PS, for evaluating the effectiveness of surface passivation to improve film stability and reduce defects. Furthermore, the observation that the ET efficiency can be controlled by the size of the QDs can be potentially applied in the fabrication of PS-based optoelectronic devices with improved performance and stability.

**Methods**

**Sample preparation.** ITO treated glass substrates were ultrasonicated for 10 min in aceton and isopropyl alcohol, sequentially, and then exposed to UV-ozone treatment for 15 min at 100 °C. Approximately 120 mg of methylammonium bromide (Great Cell Solar Ltd.), 480 mg of lead iodide (Sigma Aldrich), and 1 ml of dimethyl sulfoxide (Sigma Aldrich) were dissolved in 2 ml of N,N-Dimethylformamide (Sigma Aldrich), and the solution of PS was mixed at 60 °C for 1 h$^{14}$. The PS precursor solution was spin-coated by a two-step process on the ITO treated glass substrates: first at 1000 rpm (10 s) and then at 5000 rpm (20 s). During the second step, toluene (Sigma Aldrich) was dropped onto the film surface. Finally, the PS film was annealed for 2 min at 100 °C. 5 mg of CdSe/ZnS core–shell QD powder (PlasmaChem GmbH) was dissolved in 1 ml of toluene, and then the QD solution was mixed for 1 h at 60 °C. The CdSe/ZnS QDs precursor solution was then spin-coated at 3000 rpm (30 s) onto the PS film, and the QD/PS hybrid structure was finally annealed for 2 min at 60 °C.

**Measurement techniques.** SEM (Zeiss Supra 55VP) and XRD (Malvern Panalytical X’pert Pro) measurements were performed to examine the morphology and crystallinity of the PS and the hybrid structures. UV-vis absorption spectra were collected by a Libra S80 spectrometer (Biochrom Ltd.). The PL signals were measured using a CCD detector (Andor DV420A-BU2) with a He-Cd laser ($\lambda = 325$ nm, Kimmon) as an excitation source. The TRPL spectra were collected using a microchannel-plate photomultiplier tube (FLS 920 spectrometer, Edinburgh Instrument). Picosecond pulsed diode lasers (excitation fluence = 0.1 μJ/cm$^2$ and repetition rate = 20 MHz) were used as excitation sources for TRPL measurements, and the pulsed widths of 375 nm and 655 nm lasers were ~90 and 70 ps, respectively.

Received: 29 July 2019; Accepted: 12 November 2019;
Published online: 05 December 2019

**References**

1. Noh, J. H., Im, S. H., Heo, J. H., Mandal, T. N. & Seok, S. I. Chemical Management for Colorful, Efficient, and Stable Inorganic–Organic Hybrid Nanostuctured Solar Cells. Nano Lett. 13, 1764–1769 (2013).

2. Kulkarni, S. A. et al. Band-gap tuning of lead halide perovskites using a sequential deposition process. J. Mater. Chem. A 2, 9221–9225 (2014).

3. Green, M. A., Ho-Baillie, A. & Snaith, H. J. The emergence of perovskite solar cells. Nat. Photonics 8, 506–514 (2014).

4. Wehrenfennig, C., Eperon, G. E., Johnston, M. B., Snaith, H. J. & Herz, L. M. High charge carrier mobilities and lifetimes in organolead trihalide perovskites. Adv. Mater. 26, 1584–1589 (2014).

5. Luo, D. et al. Enhanced photovoltaic for inverted planar heterojunction perovskite solar cells. Science 360, 1442–1446 (2018).

6. Yang, W. S. et al. Iodide management in formamidinum-lead–halide–based perovskite layers for efficient solar cells. Science 356, 1376–1379 (2017).

7. Baumann, A. et al. Identification of Trap States in Perovskite Solar Cells. J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 6, 2350–2354 (2015).

8. Wetzelzrea, G. I. et al. Trap-assisted non-radiative recombination in organic-inorganic perovskite solar cells. Adv. Mater. 27, 1837–1841 (2015).

9. Shi, D. et al. Solar cells. Low trap-state density and long carrier diffusion in organolead trihalide perovskite single crystals. Science 347, 519–522 (2015).

10. Kim, M., Motti, S. G., Sorrentino, R. & Petrozza, A. Enhanced solar cell stability by hygroscopic polymer passivation of metal halide perovskite thin film. Energy Environ. Sci. 11, 2609–2619 (2018).

11. Zhang, H. et al. Efficient and Stable Chemical Passivation on Perovskite Surface via Bidentate Anchoring. Adv. Energy Mater. 9, 1803573 (2019).

12. Zuo, L. et al. Polymer-modified halide perovskite films for efficient and stable planar heterojunction solar cells. Sci Adv 3, e1700106 (2017).

13. Jiang, Q. et al. Surface passivation of perovskite film for efficient solar cells. Nat. Photonics, 460–466 (2019).

14. Cho, I.-W. & Ryu, M.-Y. Enhancement of luminescence properties and stability in perovskite hybrid structure with CdSe/ZnS quantum dots. APIE. Mater. 7, 051112 (2019).

15. Hong, X. et al. Ultrafast charge transfer in atomically thin MoS2/WS2 heterostructures. Nat. Nanotechnol. 9, 682–686 (2014).

16. Peng, B. et al. Ultrafast charge transfer in MoS2/WS2–n Heterojunction. 2D Mater. 3, 025020 (2016).

17. Zhu, T. et al. Highly mobile charge-transfer excitons in two-dimensional WS2/tetraene heterostructures. Sci Adv 4, eaao3104 (2018).

18. Tvrdy, K., Frantsuzov, P. A. & Kamat, P. V. Photoinduced electron transfer from semiconductor quantum dots to metal oxide nanoparticles. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 108, 29–34 (2011).
19. Zhao, Y., Nardes, A. M. & Zhu, K. Mesoporous perovskite solar cells: material composition, charge-carrier dynamics, and device characteristics. Faraday Discuss. 176, 301–312 (2014).
20. Yoon, S. J. et al. Tracking Iodide and Bromide Ion Segregation in Mixed Halide Lead Perovskites during Photoirradiation. ACS Energy Lett. 1, 1199–1205 (2016).
21. Slotcavage, D. J., Karunadasa, H. I. & McGehee, M. D. Light-Induced Phase Segregation in Halide-Perovskite Absorbers. ACS Energy Lett. 3, 204–213 (2018).
22. Brennan, M. C., Draguta, S., Kamat, P. V. & Kuno, M. Light-Induced Anion Phase Segregation in Mixed Halide Perovskites. ACS Energy Lett. 1, 290–296 (2016).
23. Hoke, E. T. et al. Reversible photo-induced trap formation in mixed-halide hybrid perovskites for photovoltaics. Chem. Sci. 6, 613–617 (2015).
24. Li, W. et al. In situ induced core/shell stabilized hybrid perovskites via gallium(iii) acetylacetonate intermediate towards highly efficient and stable solar cells. Energy Environ. Sci. 11, 286–293 (2018).
25. Hines, D. A. & Kamat, P. V. Quantum Dot Surface Chemistry: Ligand Effects and Electron Transfer Reactions. J. Phys. Chem. C 117, 14418–14426 (2013).
26. Jasieniak, J., Califano, M. & Watkins, S. E. Size-Dependent Valence and Conduction Band-Edge Energies of Semiconductor Nanocrystals. ACS Nano 5, 5888–5902 (2011).
27. Chueh, C.-C., Li, C.-Z. & Jen, A. K. Y. Recent progress and perspective in solution-processed Interfacial materials for efficient and stable polymer and organometal perovskite solar cells. Energy Environ. Sci. 8, 1160–1189 (2015).
28. Kawata, G., Ogawa, Y. & Minami, F. Density dependence of photoluminescence lifetime of CdSe/ZnS core-shell colloidal quantum dots. J. Appl. Phys. 110, 064323 (2011).
29. Lee, W. Z. et al. Recombination dynamics of luminescence in colloidal CdSe/ZnS quantum dots. Nanotechnol. 16, 1517–1521 (2005).
30. Weidman, M. C., Beck, M. E., Hoffman, R. S., Prins, P. & Tisdale, W. A. Monodisperse, air-stable PbS nanocrystals via precursor stoichiometry control. ACS Nano 8, 6363–6371 (2014).
31. Ji, X., Wang, W. & Mattoussi, H. Controlling the spectroscopic properties of quantum dots via energy transfer and charge transfer interactions: Concepts and applications. Nano Today 11, 98–121 (2016).
32. Robel, I., Kuno, M. & Kamat, P. V. Size-Dependent Electron Injection from Excited CdSe Quantum Dots into TiO2 Nanoparticles. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 129, 4136–4137 (2007).

Acknowledgements
This research was supported by the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (NRF-2017R1A2B4003744, NRF-2019R1A2C1086813). Field emission scanning electron microscopy analyses were performed at the Korea Basic Science Institute (KBSI). Time-resolved photoluminescence measurements were performed at the Central Lab of Kangwon National University.

Author contributions
M.-Y.R. conceived the idea presented in the text. I.-W.C. carried out all the experiments. Both authors contributed to data analysis and manuscript preparation.

Competing interests
The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information
Supplementary information is available for this paper at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-54860-1.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to M.-Y.R.

Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints.

Publisher’s note
Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article’s Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2019