

# White Light Emission from 2D Layered Perovskites: Self- Trapped Exciton Mechanism

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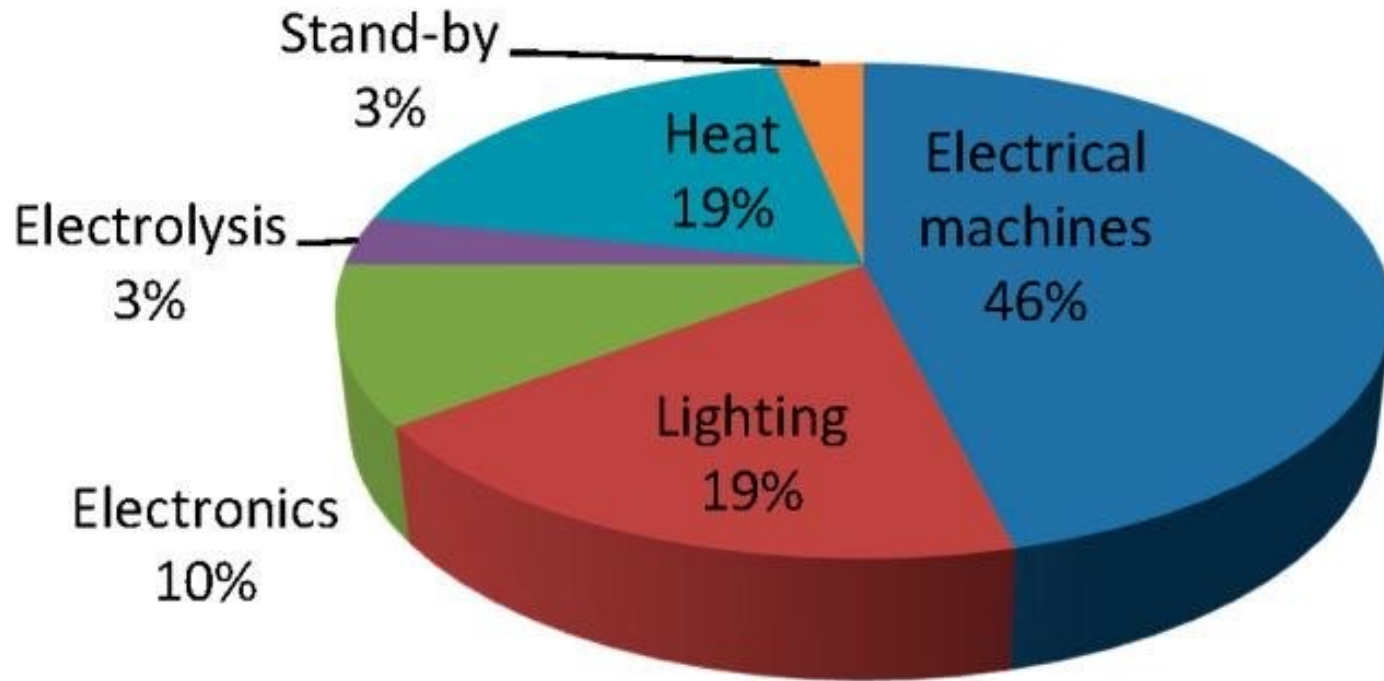
BS/MS Chemistry/Materials Science

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# Ongoing Challenges in LED Lighting Industry

Producing **white light** is particularly challenging



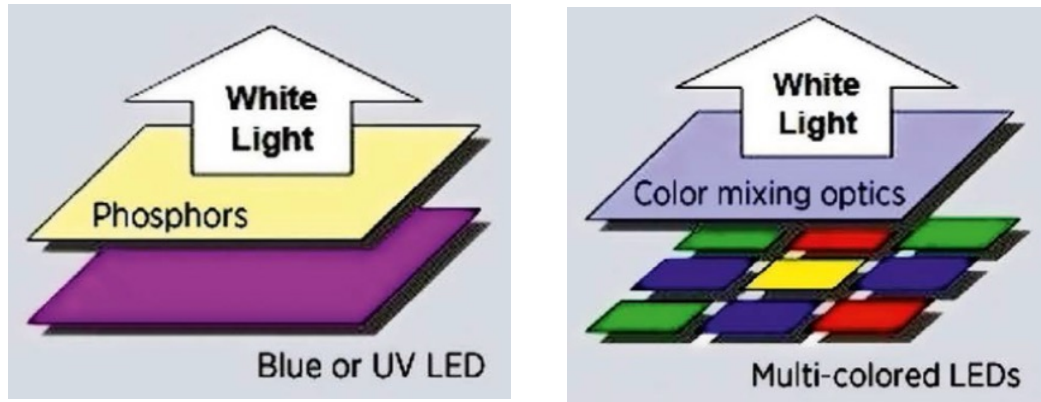
1. Efficiency

2. Color tone

3. Stability

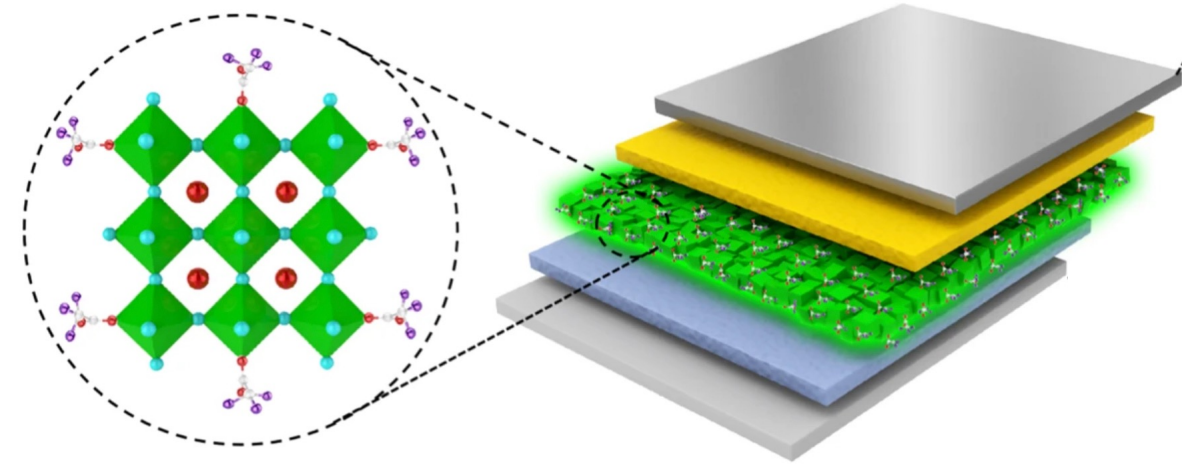
# Techniques for Producing White Light

## Current LED sources of white light



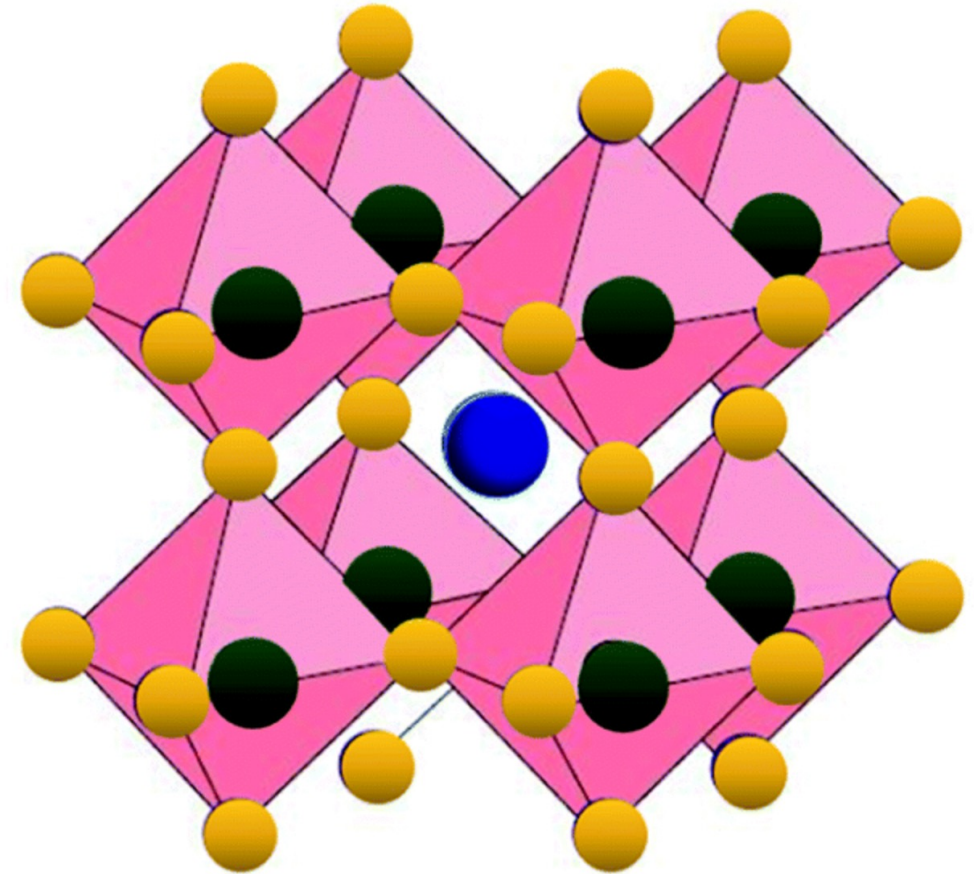
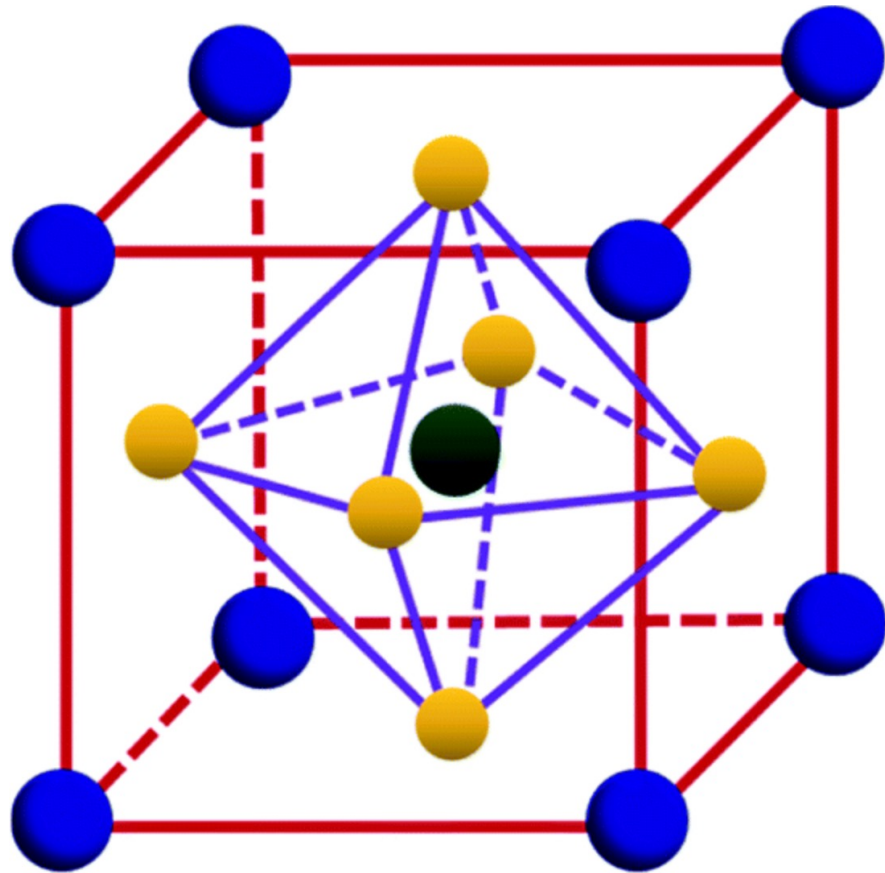
1. Poor color quality
2. Lowered efficiency

## Alternative intrinsic sources of white light



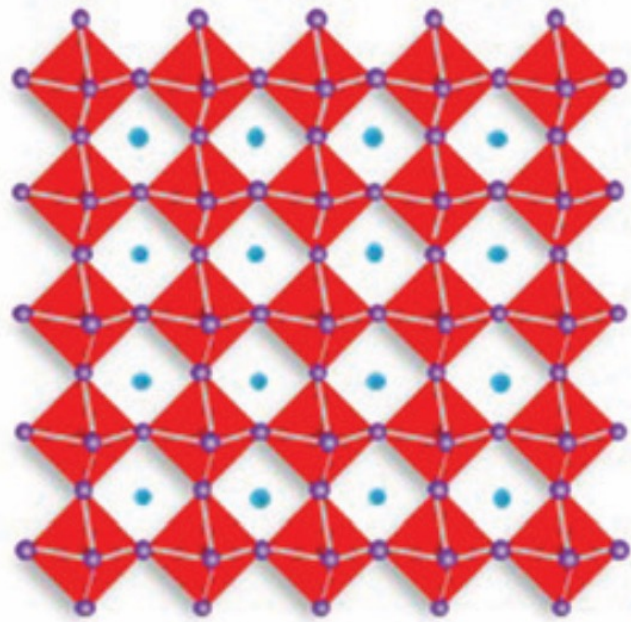
**2D hybrid metal halide perovskites** are a prime candidate

# Structure of a 3D Perovskite

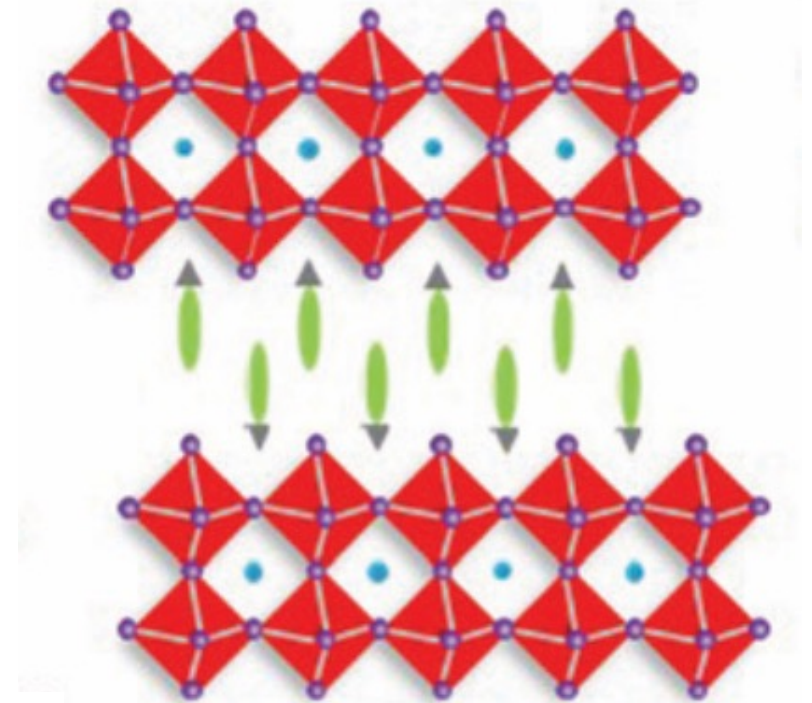
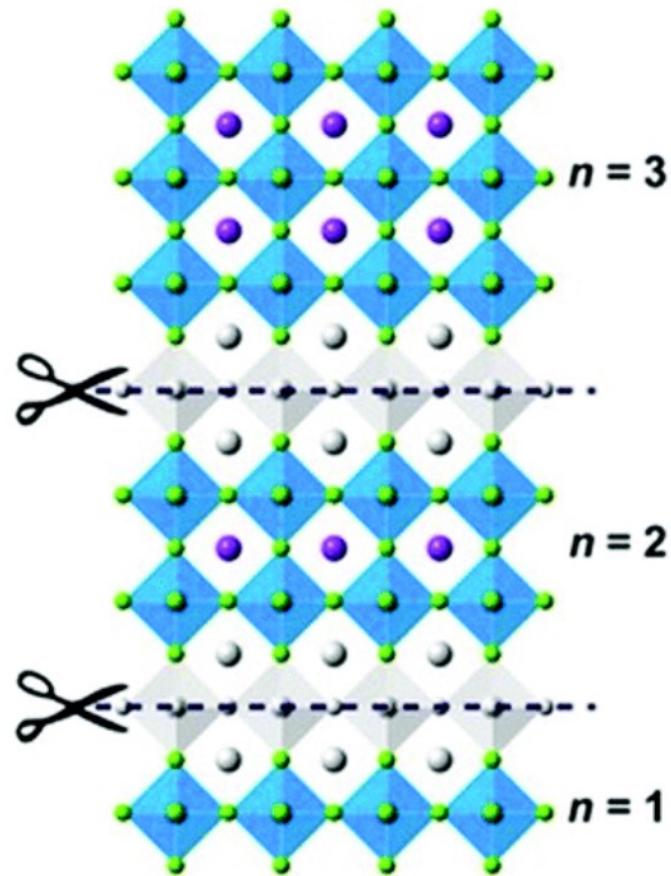




# 3D Perovskite vs. 2D Layered Perovskite

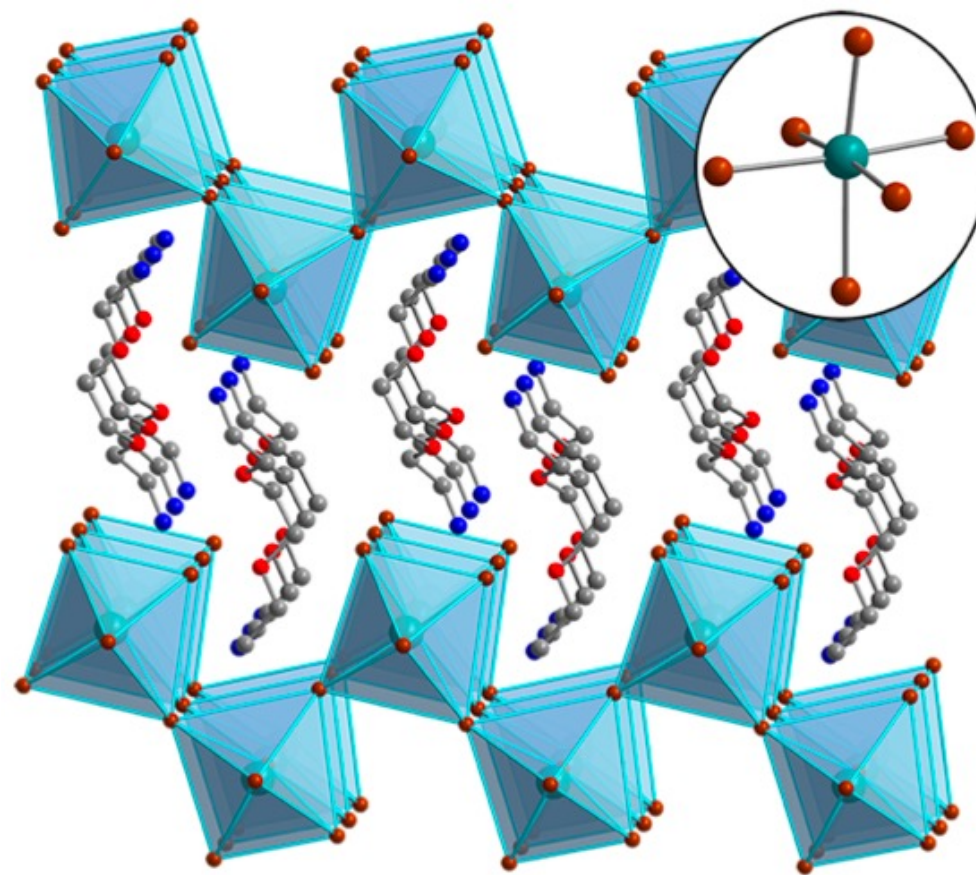
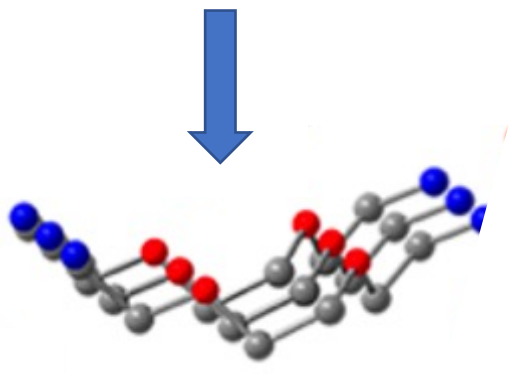
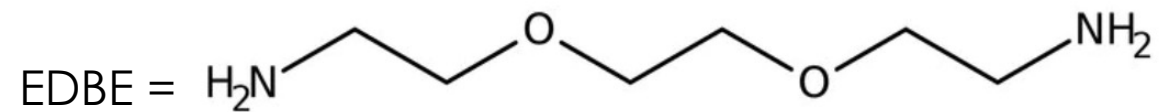


ABX<sub>3</sub>



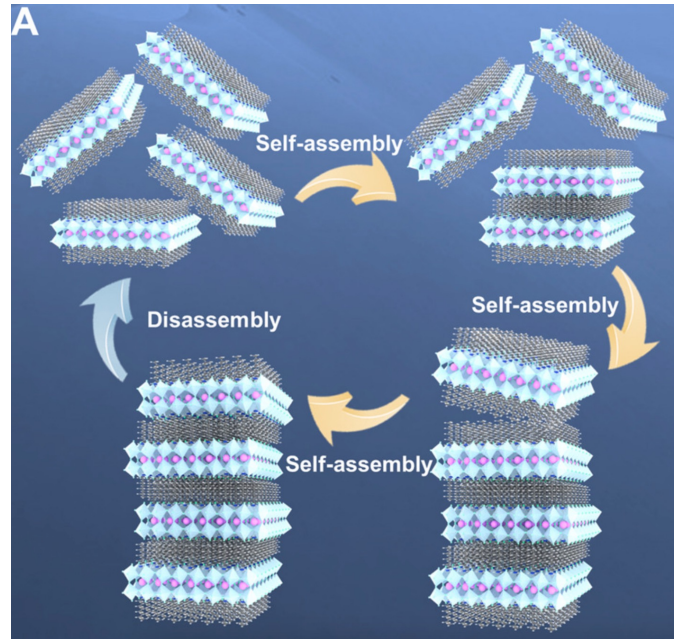
(A')<sub>m</sub>(A)<sub>n-1</sub>B<sub>n</sub>X<sub>3n+1</sub>

# Structure of 2D Hybrid Halide Perovskites



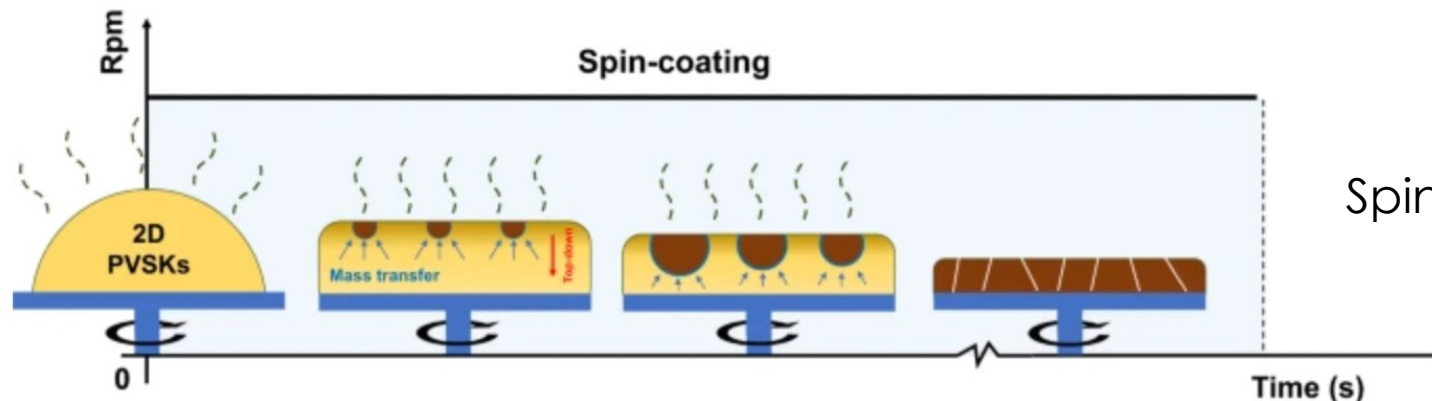
(EDBE)PbBr<sub>4</sub>

# Synthetic Route to Layered Hybrid Perovskites



2D layered perovskites self-assemble

- **Hydrogen bonding** interactions



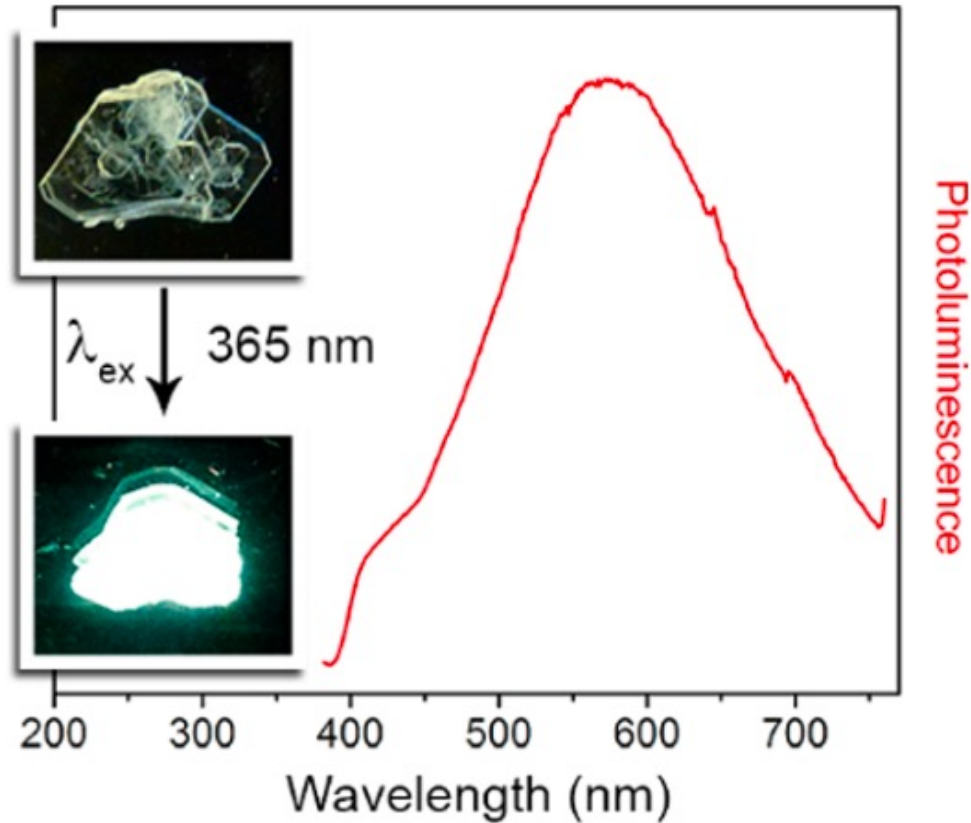
Spin coating self-assembly for thin films

Figure 1: Liu Y et al. "Self-Assembly of Two-Dimensional Perovskite Nanosheet Building Blocks into Ordered Ruddlesden-Popper Perovskite Phase" *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 141,33, 13028-13032 (2019)

Figure 2: Yan, Y et al. "Implementing an intermittent spin-coating strategy to enable bottom-up crystallization in layered halide perovskites", *nature communications*, 12, 6603 (2021)



# 2D Hybrid Perovskites Produce Broadband Emission



Emission spectra of (EDBE)PbBr<sub>4</sub>

Proposed Mechanism for Broad Emission:  
Formation of **self-trapped excitons**

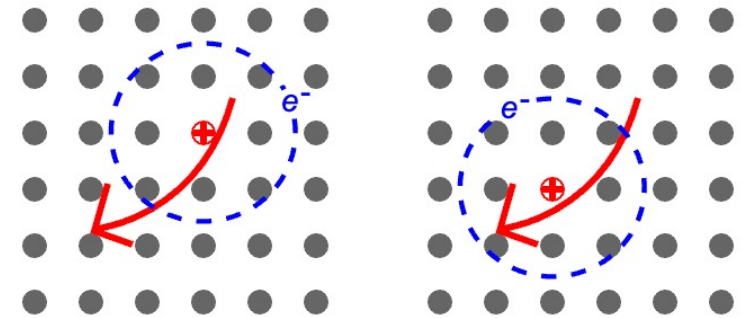


# Distinguishing Between Excitons

**Exciton:** Bound state of an electron and hole that forms upon excitation

**Free Exciton:** Delocalized exciton that can move through the crystal

- Typically associated with narrow emission



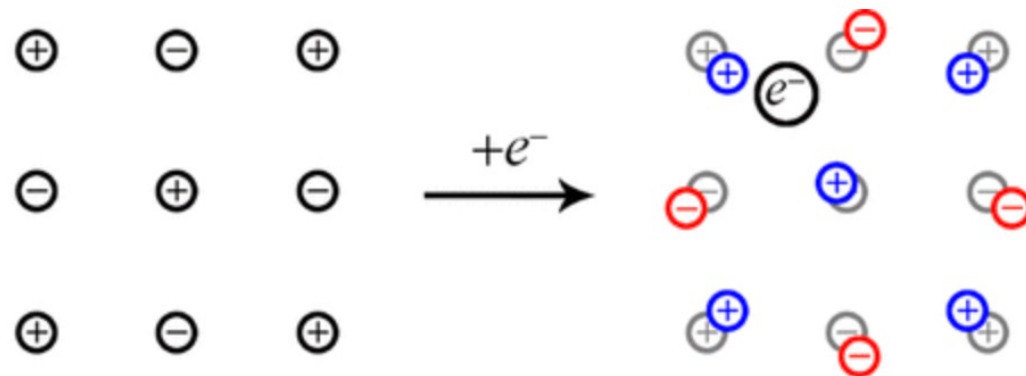
**Trapped Exciton:** Exciton trapped in a low potential well by local lattice distortions

- Lattice distortion can be transient or permanent defect in lattice
- Often associated with broad emission

# Excitons Can Cause Lattice Distortions

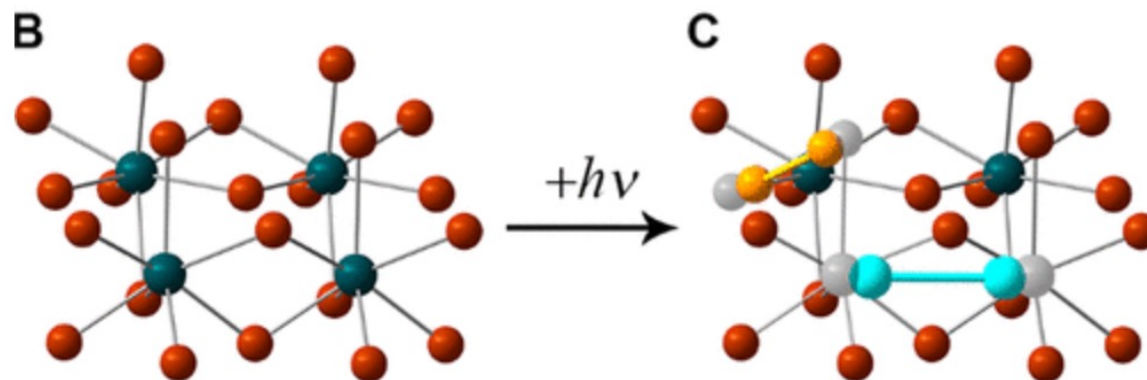
STEs behave like small **polarons**

Polarons: charge carriers that displace neighboring ions in the lattice



Excitons can also displace lattice:

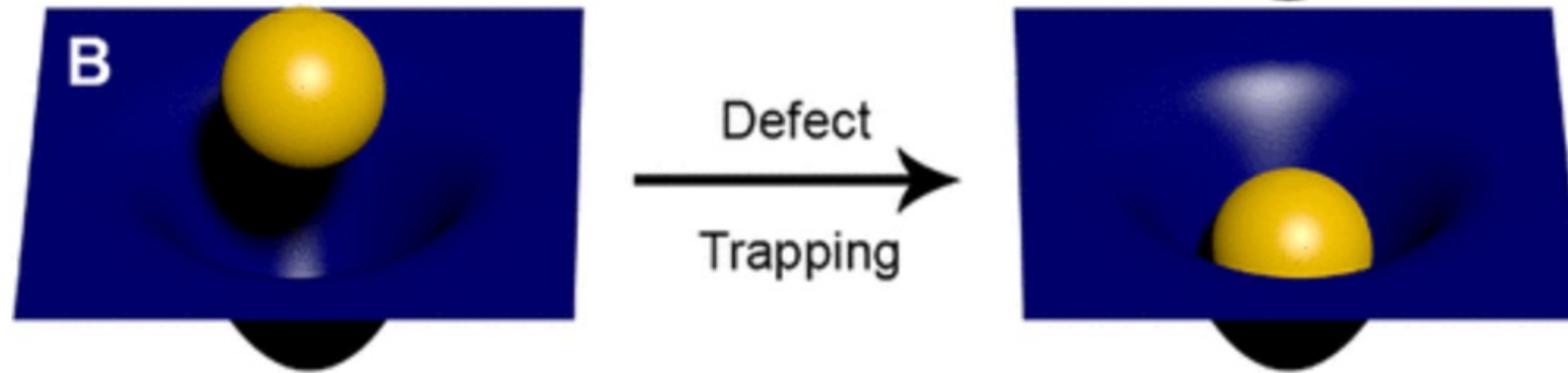
- In 2D perovskite, organics create "softer lattice"
- More susceptible to distorting



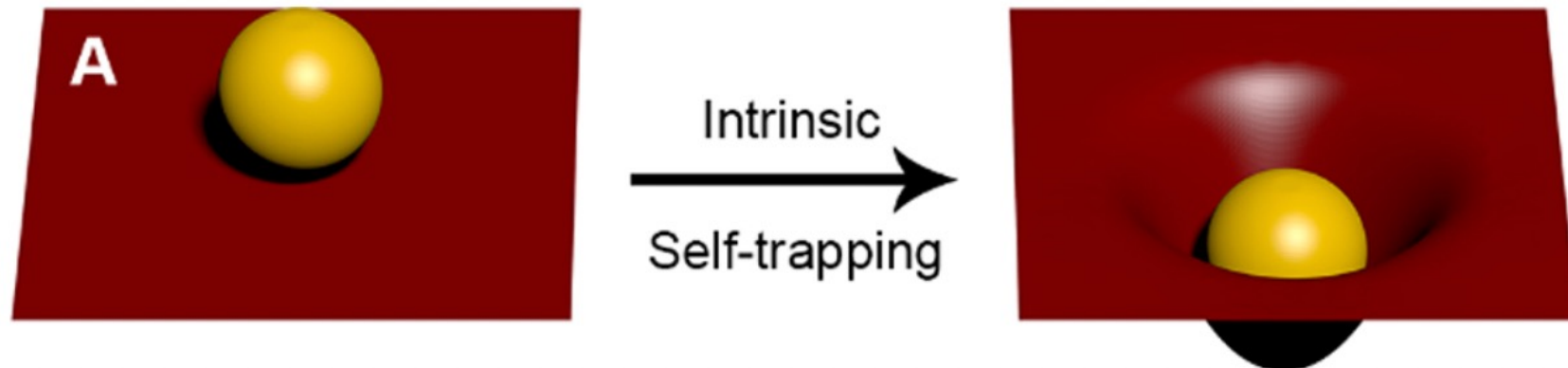
PbBr<sub>4</sub> lattice

# Defect Trapping vs Intrinsic Self-Trapping

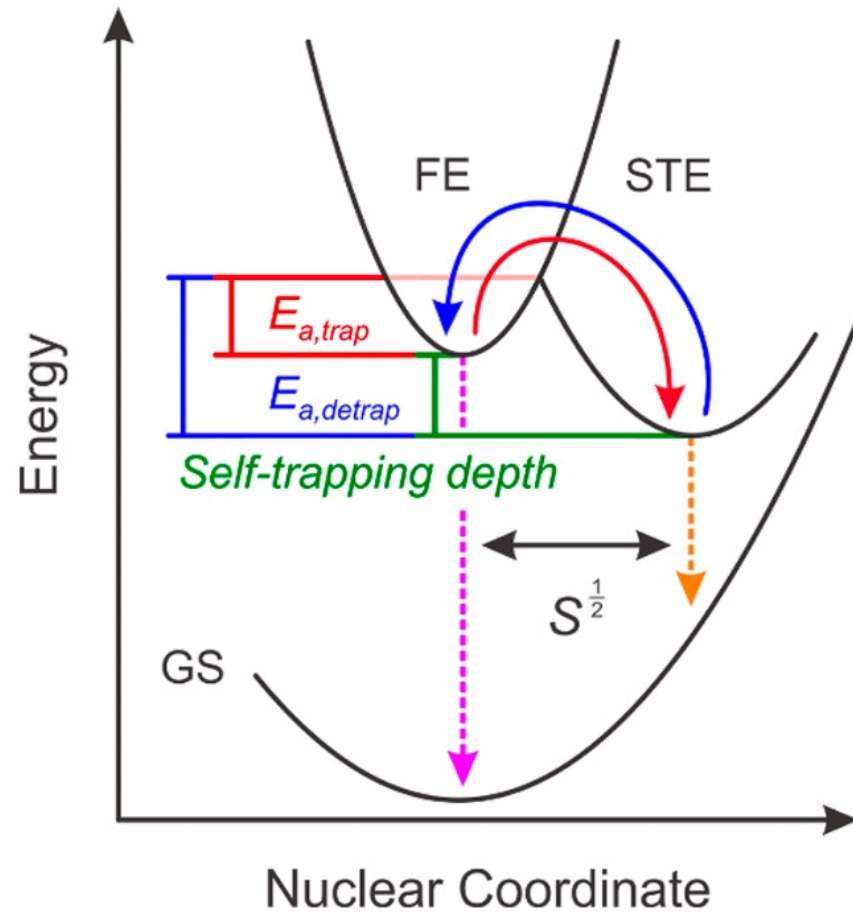
**Defect Trapping:** Exciton is trapped in a low potential state by a permanent defect in lattice



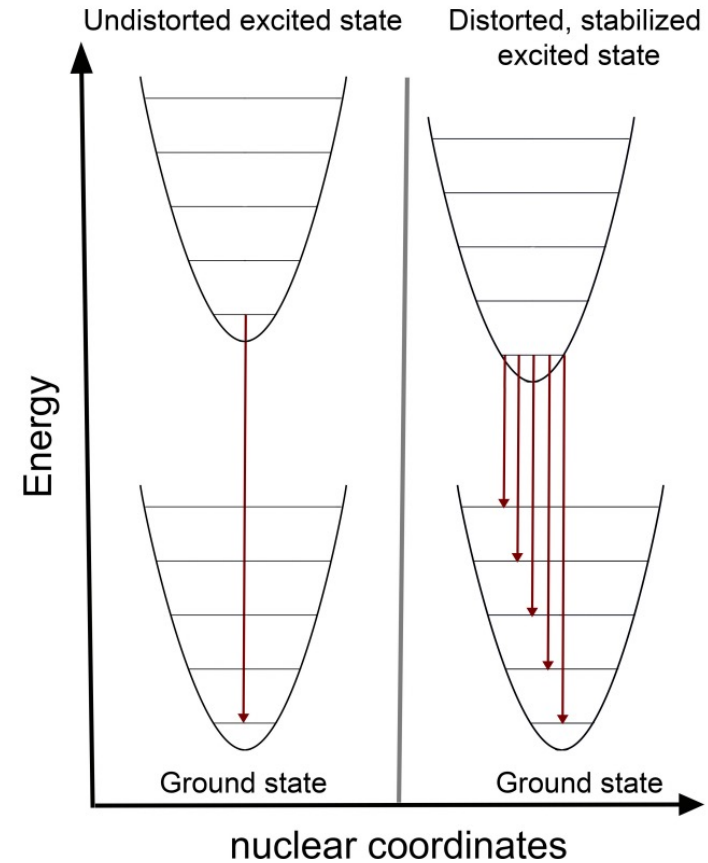
**Self-Trapping:** Exciton formation causes lattice distortion and then becomes trapped in a low potential state by the distorted lattice



# Self-Trapped Excitons and Broad Emission



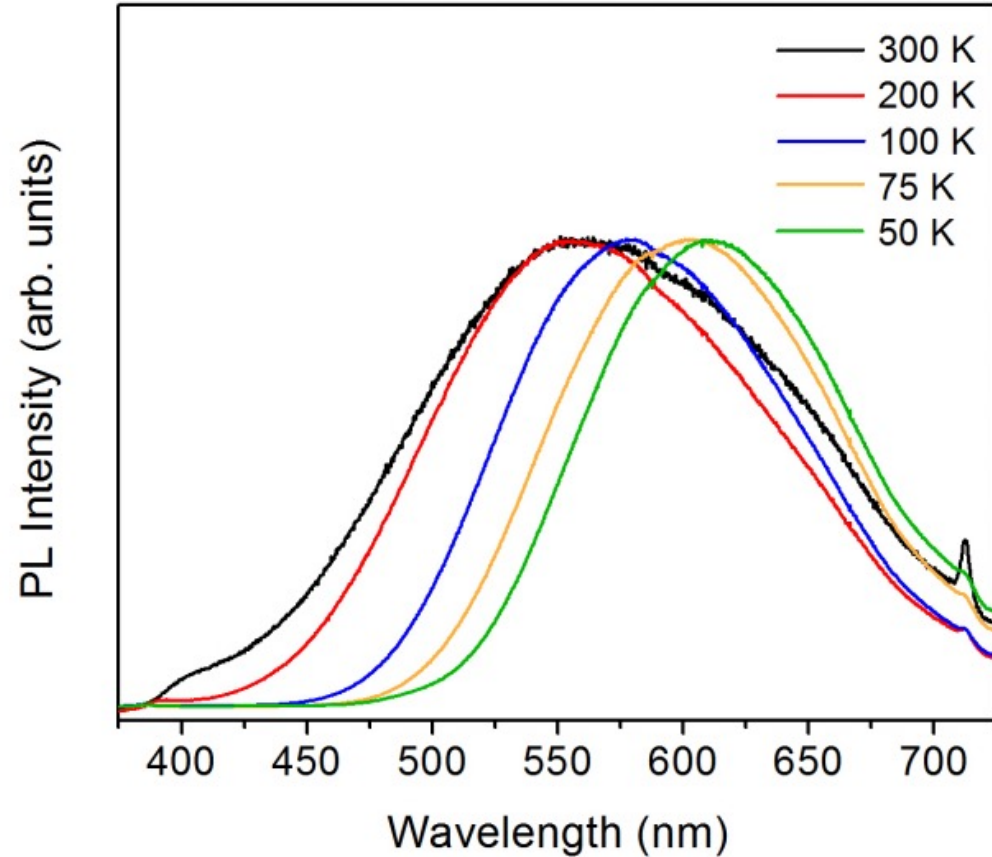
Self trapped exciton state is distorted from free exciton state



Distorted state results in range of emission wavelengths



# Evidence for Self-Trapped Exciton Formation



PL spectrum of (EDBE)[PbBr<sub>4</sub>]

- Decrease in temperature = more narrow emission
- Due to decrease in vibrations and less phonon coupling

Evidence is not complete...

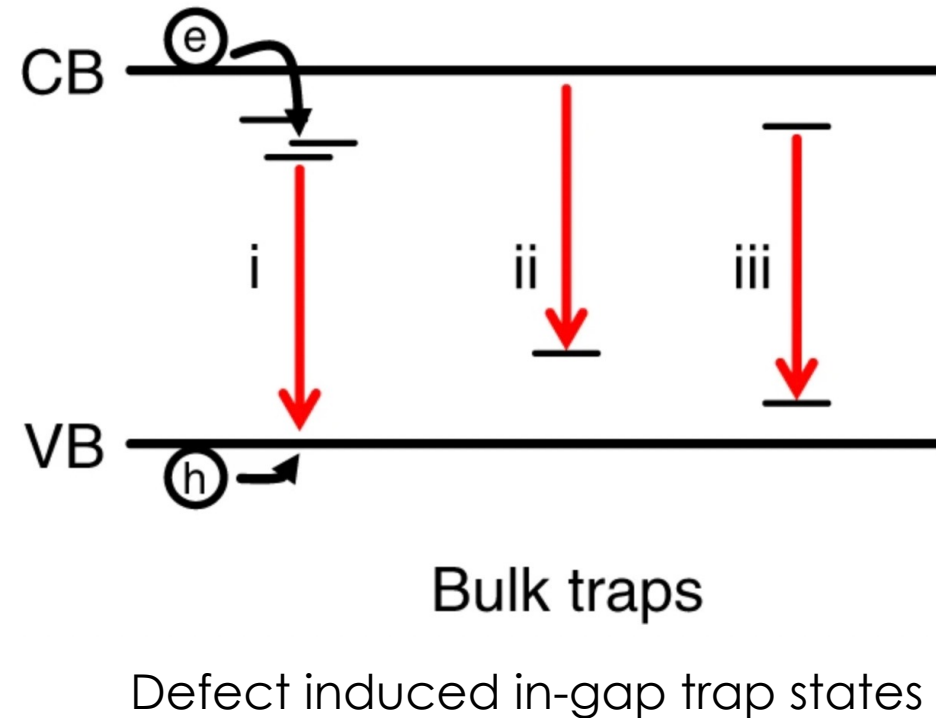
# Defects May be Responsible for Broad Emission

$(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ :

**Iodine vacancies** cause broad emission

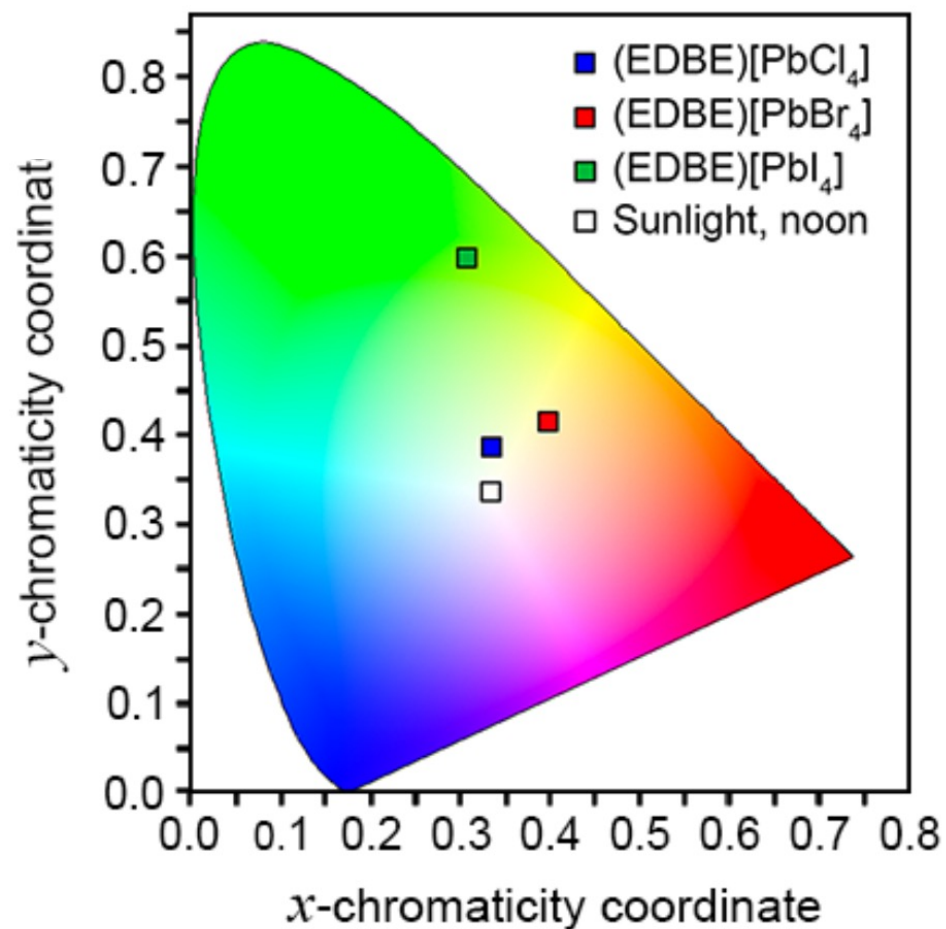
Evidence:

- Broad emission not observed for different synthetic routes



# White Light Emission is Highly Tunable in 2D Perovskites

Altering halogen component shifts wavelength of light on spectrum



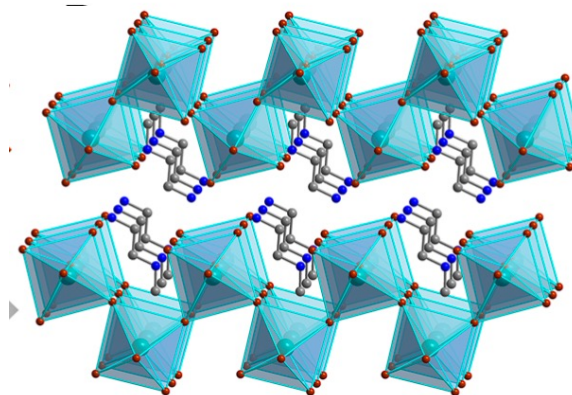
Sunlight (0.33,0.33)

- More electronegative halides = higher energy emission
- Chlorine compound is more blue-shifted

# Efficiencies Need to be Improved

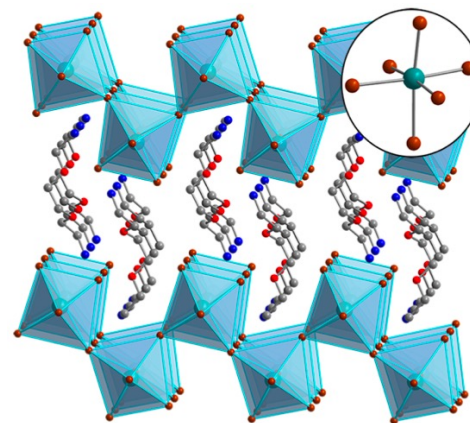
$$\text{PLQY} = \frac{\text{number of photons emitted}}{\text{number of photons absorbed}}$$

Generation 1 2D Hybrid Halide: (N-MEDA)[PbBr<sub>4</sub>]



PLQY = 1.5%

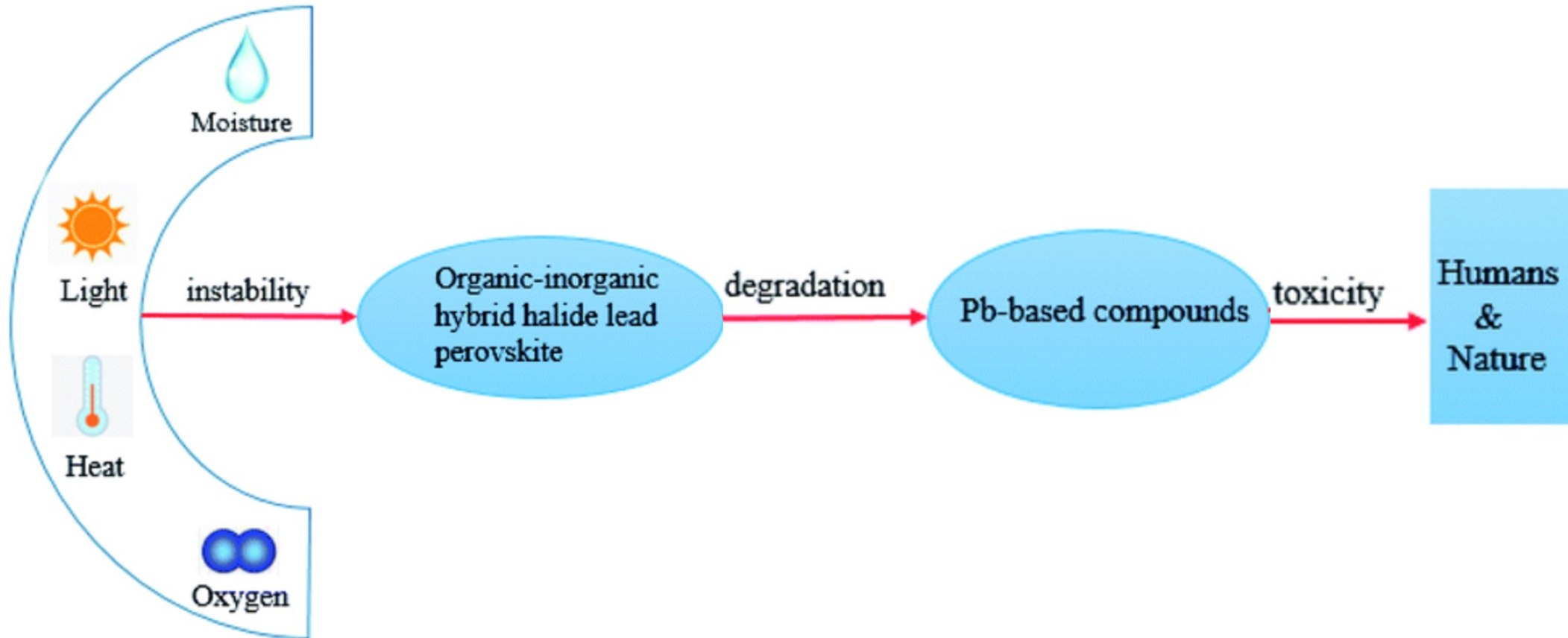
Generation 2 2D Hybrid Halides: (EDBE)[PbBr<sub>4</sub>]



PLQY = 9%



# Other Concerns with Hybrid Lead Halide Perovskites



# Key Takeaways

- 2D hybrid structure promotes exciton-phonon coupling and self-trapped exciton formation
- Broad emission is generally attributed to self-trapped excitons
- Intermediate trap states or extrinsic defects could also cause broad emission in certain 2D materials
- 2D Layered perovskites require a higher efficiency and improved stability to be practical.

# References

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**Questions?**