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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Influence of air degradation on morphology, crystal size and mechanical hardness of

perovskite film

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**Abstract** 

Hybrid halide perovskite is attracting attention as an alternative solar cell material, but the air

instability of perovskite is still a major research problem. The current work investigates how air

degradation affects the crystal size, surface morphology, and mechanical hardness of the

perovskite. Interestingly, we found that the crystal sizes of perovskite, PbI<sub>2</sub> and I<sub>2</sub> extracted from

XRD measurements exhibited a dynamic variation with exposure to air. Particularly, it was

found that the elastic modulus and hardness of the perovskite films increased for a 20 hr

exposure to air and then gradually decreased due to chemical decomposition and formation of

pinholes in the perovskite film.

**Keywords:** perovskites; degradation; elastic modulus; hardness; crystal size

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