

Intramolecular Band Alignment and Spin–Orbit Coupling in Two-Dimensional Halide Perovskites

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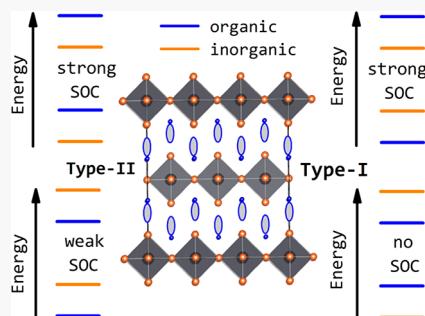
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ABSTRACT: In two-dimensional (2D) halide perovskites, four distinct types of intramolecular band alignment (I_a , I_b , II_a , and II_b) can be formed between the organic and inorganic components. Molecular design to achieve desirable band alignments is of crucial importance to the applications of 2D perovskites and their heterostructures. In this work, by means of first-principles calculations, we have developed molecular design strategies that lead to the discovery of 2D halide perovskites with favorable band alignments toward light-emitting and photovoltaic applications. The same design strategies can be extended to vertical and lateral heterostructures of 2D perovskites with selective light emissions from the organic and/or inorganic layer of constituent 2D perovskites. For each intramolecular band alignment, the charge density and binding energy of the lowest energy exciton are examined. The effect of spin–orbit coupling (SOC) on the band structures is assessed. While SOC significantly lowers the band gaps in type- I_a and type- II_a alignments, it has a negligible effect in type- I_b and type- II_b alignments.



Hybrid organic–inorganic halide perovskites have emerged as highly promising optoelectronic materials with applications in light-emitting diodes (LEDs), photovoltaics, lasers, and photodetectors, etc.^{1–4} However, three-dimensional (3D) halide perovskites are not stable and tend to degrade in the presence of light, heat, and humid air,^{5–12} which severely hampers their applications. To overcome this critical problem, significant recent attention has been paid to their two-dimensional (2D) counterparts, which have demonstrated much improved stability and water resistance.^{13–16} The 2D halide perovskites comprise inorganic metal–halide layers separated by organic spacers, and thus can be considered as quantum wells with the inorganic layers acting as “wells” and the organic spacers as “barriers”. The chemical composition and thickness of the inorganic and organic layers can be tuned independently to offer much broader structural versatility and optoelectronic tunability than 3D perovskites.^{17–21} Indeed, some of the most appealing characteristics of 2D perovskites stem from the tunability of their organic and inorganic components.^{22–26}

Band alignment is the most fundamental feature underlying the optoelectronic applications of 2D perovskites. On the basis of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) and the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) of the organic and inorganic components, four types of intramolecular band alignment (two of type-I and two of type-II) can be formed in 2D perovskites, shown schematically in Figure 1a. The type-I band alignment is usually associated with lasers and LED applications, whereas the type-II alignment is necessary for photovoltaic applications.²⁷ The presence of two distinct type-I alignments (I_a and I_b) enables selective light emission from

either the organic or inorganic layer. While the former is often associated with $\pi^*-\pi$ transitions in organic chromophores, the latter can be characterized as interband transitions in quantum dots.^{28–30} More importantly, design strategies in tuning their properties could vary significantly. For example, the exciton binding energy of the inorganic component can be tuned by 1–2 orders of magnitude by altering the thickness of the inorganic layer.³¹ However, the same approach would have much less impact on the organic component. The presence of two distinct type-II alignments allows charge carriers to be separated in different layers, e.g., electrons in the inorganic layer and holes in the organic layer for II_a alignment and vice versa for II_b alignment. Since charge carriers are much more mobile in the inorganic layer than in the organic layer, the two band alignments could yield drastically different device performances. In some special cases, the band offset in the organic or inorganic layer could vanish, forming so-called type-V or VI band alignment defined in ref 32.³²

Intramolecular band alignment also plays a crucial role in the optoelectronic properties of 2D perovskite heterostructures. While vertical heterostructures can be readily formed (or even unavoidable) in 2D perovskites,^{33–36} lateral heterostructures were realized only recently.³⁷ For a heterostructure, one can

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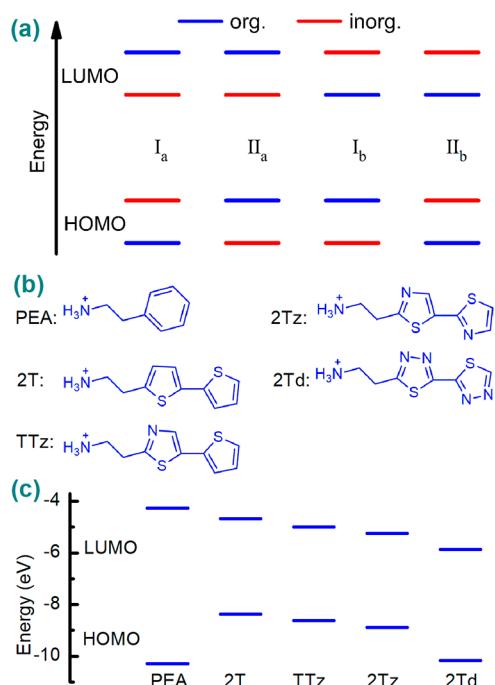


Figure 1. (a) Schematic illustration of four possible intramolecular band alignments (I_a, II_a, I_b, and II_b). The frontier energy levels belonging to the organic and inorganic component are shown in blue and red, respectively. (b) Chemical structures of PEA, 2T, TTz, 2Tz, and 2Td organic cations. (c) HOMO and LUMO levels of PEA, 2T, TTz, 2Tz, and 2Td cations using HSE/6-31G*.

infer its intermolecular band alignment from intramolecular band alignments of constituent perovskites, except perhaps near the heterojunction. For example, both (2T)₂SnI₄ and (2T)₂PbI₄ have type-I band alignment [2T = (C₄H₃S)-(C₄H₂S)CH₂CH₂NH₃⁺], and thus, their lateral heterostructure (2T)₂SnI₄-(2T)₂PbI₄ was found to exhibit two distinct photoluminescence peaks, one from each component. Similarly, (2T)₂PbI₄ and (2T)₂PbBr₄ are of type-I and type-II alignment, respectively, and as a result, photoluminescence was detected only in (2T)₂PbI₄ of the lateral heterostructure.³⁷ Hence, one can engineer the band structure of a 2D perovskite heterostructure by tuning the intramolecular band alignments of constituent 2D perovskites.

Indeed, a number of first-principles studies have been performed to examine how optoelectronic properties may be modified by molecular tuning of 2D perovskites. For example, Quarti et al. showed that the optoelectronic properties can be regulated by the alkyl chain spacers of 2D perovskites.³⁸ Liu et al. revealed that the intramolecular band alignment of 2D perovskites can be tuned by the length of π -conjugated groups in spacer cations.¹⁹ In our previous work, we have demonstrated that thermal fluctuations at room temperature could lead to variable intermolecular band alignments in 2D perovskite heterostructures.³⁶ Despite valuable insights offered by the previous works, there is no systematic study on the design strategies to yield desirable intramolecular band alignments in 2D perovskites, and our work aims to fill this gap.

It is known that spin-orbit coupling (SOC) is strong in halide perovskites containing heavy elements. And many first-principles calculations have been carried out to elucidate the SOC effect on the band structures of lead halide perov-

skites.^{39–41} While a strong SOC effect has been found in 2D perovskites with alkyl chain spacers, such as (C₄H₉NH₃)₂PbI₄ and with short conjugated organic spacers, such as (pF C₆H₅C₂H₄NH₃)₂PbI₄, it remains to be seen whether a strong SOC effect could manifest in 2D perovskites with long conjugated organic spacers (e.g., 2T cations). In this case, the frontier orbitals may originate from the organic layers with negligible SOC effect. Herein, we carry out first-principles calculations, paying particular attention to SOC, to explore design strategies for desired intramolecular band alignments, which pave the way for rational design of 2D perovskites for novel optoelectronic applications.

In this work, we start with two prototypical 2D lead halide perovskites, (PEA)₂PbI₄ (PEA = C₆H₅(CH₂)₂NH₃⁺) and (2T)₂PbI₄, whose molecular structures were obtained from experiments.^{18,42} All ground state properties of the 2D perovskites were determined based on density functional theory (DFT) as implemented in Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package.⁴³ The Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof functional⁴⁴ with an energy cutoff of 400 eV was employed to determine optimized molecular structures of the perovskites with the force convergence criterion set at 0.01 eV/Å. The pseudopotentials of the ionic cores were described by the projector augmented wave method⁴⁵ and Grimme's DFT-D2 correction was used to capture van der Waals interaction.⁴⁶ The Brillouin zone was sampled by a 4 × 4 × 1 Monkhorst–Pack grid for (PEA)₂PbI₄, and a 2 × 2 × 1 grid for other 2D perovskites. The calculated lattice parameters of (PEA)₂PbI₄ and (2T)₂PbI₄ agree well with the experimental values (Table S1 in Supporting Information).^{18,42} For band structure calculations, Heyd–Scuseria–Ernzerhof (HSE) hybrid functional⁴⁷ with 43% of Hartree–Fock exchange was adopted in conjunction with a 5 × 5 × 1 and 3 × 3 × 1 Monkhorst–Pack grid for (PEA)₂PbI₄ and the other perovskites, respectively. Linear-response time-dependent density functional theory (LT-TDDFT)⁴⁸ with optimally tuned, screened and range-separated hybrid exchange–correlation functionals (OT-SRSRSH)^{49–51} was employed to obtain the excitonic properties of the 2D perovskites.^{52–54} In particular, the exciton binding energy is calculated as the difference between the fundamental gap and the optical gap determined from the LR-TDDFT-OT-SRSRSH calculations. A brief introduction to the LR-TDDFT-OT-SRSRSH method is shown in the Supporting Information. For LR-TDDFT-OT-SRSRSH calculations, a 2 × 2 × 1 supercell was used for (PEA)₂PbI₄ and a $\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{2} \times 1$ supercell was used for the other perovskites. Due to the large supercells in the LR-TDDFT-OT-SRSRSH calculations, only the Γ -point in the Brillouin zone was sampled. We have also determined optimized molecular structures and HOMO/LUMO levels of isolated organic spacer cations using Gaussian 09 package⁵⁵ with the HSE functional (HSEH1PBE) and 6-31G* basis set.

First, we discuss design strategies to achieve type-I_a band alignment. To simplify the discussion, we start with PbI₄²⁻ as the inorganic component of 2D perovskites. To form type-I_a alignment, the organic component needs to have a larger LUMO–HOMO gap than the inorganic component PbI₄²⁻. Thus, we consider five organic cations (PEA, 2T, TTz, 2Tz, and 2Td) with relatively large HOMO–LUMO gaps. As shown in Figure 1b, each organic cation comprises a conjugated moiety, including benzene, thiophene, thiazole, and thiadiazole. Among them, thiazole and thiadiazole are strong electron withdrawn moieties, and the organic cations

containing them are expected to have lower LUMO levels, as shown in Figure 1c.

Five 2D perovskites with chemical formula of $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(\text{TTz})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(2\text{Tz})_2\text{PbI}_4$, and $(2\text{Td})_2\text{PbI}_4$ are designed by combining the five organic cations with the inorganic PbI_4^{2-} layer (their optimized molecular structures are shown in Figure S1). The band alignments of the 2D perovskites are displayed in Figure 2a. In the presence of SOC,

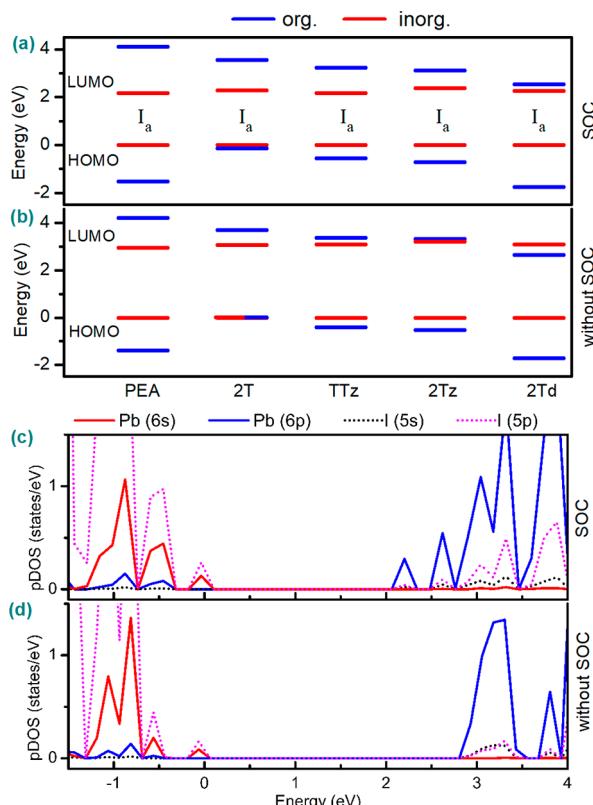


Figure 2. Band alignment of $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(\text{TTz})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(2\text{Tz})_2\text{PbI}_4$, and $(2\text{Td})_2\text{PbI}_4$ 2D perovskites using HSE+SOC (a) and HSE without SOC (b). Projected density of states of $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ 2D perovskite calculated using HSE+SOC (c) and HSE without SOC (d). The HOMO level of the inorganic layer is set to zero.

all perovskites are predicted to exhibit type-I_a band alignment, with the band gap of the inorganic component smaller than that of the organic component. With type-I_a band alignment, the lowest energy exciton is predicted to reside in the inorganic layer, while higher energy excitons are expected to relax and transfer quickly to the inorganic layer, from which light emission takes place. Similar to experimental estimates (0.2–0.3 eV),⁵⁶ the exciton binding energy is found to be quite high (~0.35 eV), which enables a strong photoluminescence from PbI_4^{2-} layer. In Figure 3a, we present the charge density of the lowest energy exciton in $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ with the electron and hole density colored in yellow and cyan, respectively. Although localized in the out-of-plane direction, the exciton is delocalized within the inorganic layer, resembling Wannier excitons in solids.⁵⁷

As shown in Figure 2a, tuning the organic layer from PEA to 2T, TTz, 2Tz, and 2Td lowers the energy offset between unoccupied levels, and for $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$, also the energy offset between occupied levels. These could have some undesirable consequences: (1) There could be resonant tunneling for

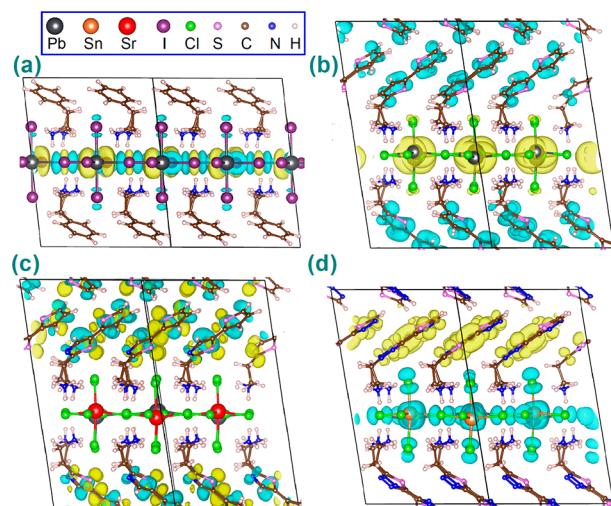


Figure 3. Charge density of the lowest-energy exciton in (a) $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$, (b) $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$, (c) $(\text{TTz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, and (d) $(2\text{Tz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$. The electron and hole densities are colored in yellow and cyan, respectively.

electrons in $(2\text{Td})_2\text{PbI}_4$ and holes in $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$ between the organic and inorganic layers. (2) Thermal fluctuations at room temperature may lead to oscillatory band alignment between type I_a and type II_a in $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$, owing to the “softness” of the inorganic layers.⁵⁸ Hence, among the five perovskites, $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(\text{TTz})_2\text{PbI}_4$, and $(2\text{Tz})_2\text{PbI}_4$ possess more favorable band alignment for LED applications, particularly the last two with lower energy offsets.

The SOC is shown to have a strong effect on the band structures of the 2D perovskites (see Figure 2a,b). In particular, the conduction band minimum (CBMs) are lowered by ~0.7 eV, while the valence band maximum (VBM) remain largely unchanged (~0.1 eV). As a result, the band gaps are reduced by ~0.8 eV. For example, the band gap of $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ calculated by HSE+SOC is 2.17 eV, consistent with previous experiments (2.28–2.35 eV),⁵⁹ while the band gap calculated by HSE without SOC correction is 2.97 eV. We can understand these results from the projected density of states (pDOS) shown in Figure 2c,d. The CBM is originated from Pb 6p orbitals while the VBM is dominated by I 5p orbitals. Since SOC is stronger in the heavier element Pb than I, the shift in CBM is much larger than that in VBM.

Panels a and b of Figure 4 display the band structures of $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ obtained from HSE+SOC and HSE calculations, respectively. A direct band gap at Γ point is observed and there is strong dispersion of the CBM and VBM bands along X– Γ –Y directions, yielding small effective masses for charge carriers in the inorganic layer (see Table 1). In contrast, there is negligible dispersion for the bands along Γ –M (out-of-plane) direction, giving rise to much lower carrier mobilities normal to the inorganic layer.

Next, we discuss design strategies to achieve type-II_a band alignment in 2D perovskites. The type-II_a alignment requires that the HOMO of the organic component be higher than that of the inorganic component. To meet this requirement, we select 2T as the organic component, which has a high HOMO level owing to its electron donating moiety (thiophene). At the same time, we need to lower the HOMO level (or increase the band gap) of the inorganic component. It is known that replacing I by Cl in lead halide perovskites could increase their

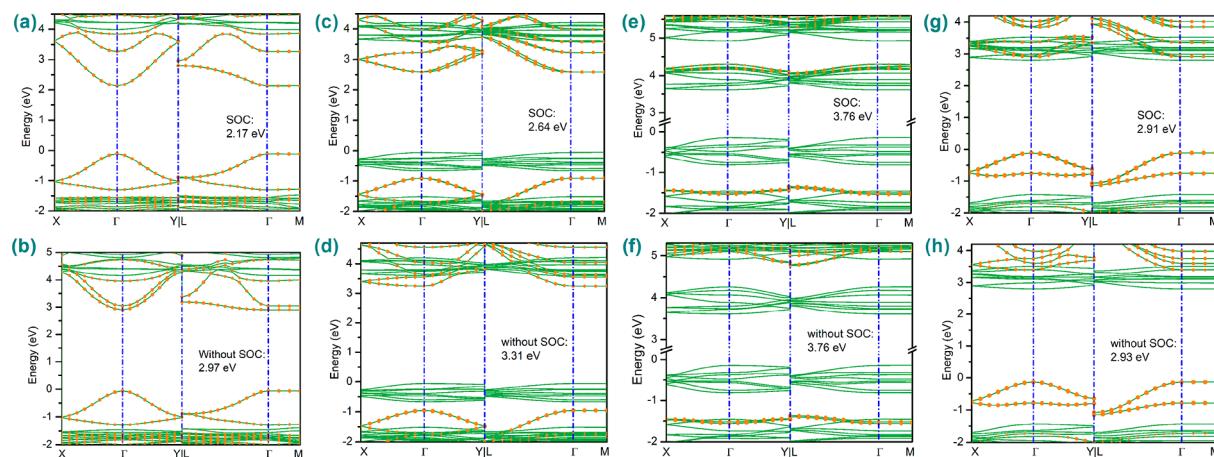


Figure 4. Band structure of (a) $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$, (c) $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$, (e) $(\text{TTz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, and (g) $(2\text{Td})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ using HSE+SOC. Band structure of (b) $(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$, (d) $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$, (f) $(\text{TTz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, and (h) $(2\text{Td})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ using HSE without SOC. The Femi level is set to zero. The high-symmetry points are labeled by Γ (0, 0, 0), X (0.5, 0, 0), Y (0, 0.5, 0), L (0.5, 0.5, 0), and M (0, 0, 0.5). The band gap values are also shown in the figure. The band contributions due to the inorganic and organic component are shown with green curves with and without orange dots, respectively.

Table 1. Effective Masses (Using HSE+SOC) Obtained by Parabolic Fitting to Figure 4 for CBM and VBM along Γ –X and Γ –Y Directions for the 2D Perovskites

$(\text{PEA})_2\text{PbI}_4$		$(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$		$(\text{TTz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$		$(2\text{Td})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$		
CBM	VBM	CBM	VBM	CBM	VBM	CBM	VBM	
Γ –X	0.26	0.30	0.56	1.23	9.12	1.15	3.40	0.35
Γ –Y	0.25	0.30	0.30	6.25	2.57	8.59	2.41	0.35

band gaps; we thus consider PbCl_4^{2-} , $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$, and $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$ as the inorganic component to form three 2D perovskites, $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$, $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, and $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$.

As shown in Figure 5a, the band gap of the inorganic layer PbI_4^{2-} , $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$, PbCl_4^{2-} , and $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$ is calculated as 2.28, 3.08, 3.50, and 5.28 eV, respectively. As a result, a robust type-II_a band alignment is predicted to form in $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$ and $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, which is necessary for photovoltaic applications. However, $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ is not a

good candidate because of its very small conduction band offset. In Figure 3b, we present the charge density of the lowest energy exciton in $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$ with the electron and hole density shown in yellow and cyan, respectively. The exciton exhibits a strong charge-transfer character, with electron confined in the inorganic layer and hole in the organic layer. Although the exciton binding energy is high (~0.30 eV), one can lower it by increasing the thickness of the inorganic layers. The strategy to lower the exciton binding energy while maintain II_a band alignment is an open question and needs to be addressed in the future. The band structure shown in Figure 4c and the effective masses in Table 1 suggest that the electrons in PbCl_4^{2-} layer have much higher in-plane mobilities than the holes in 2T layer. Once again, SOC significantly lowers the CBM of the inorganic layers (see Figure 5a and 5b). In particular, it lowers the CBM and band gap of $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$ by more than 0.6 eV.

We then discuss the strategy to form type-I_b band alignment in 2D perovskites, which requires the band gap of the inorganic component be larger than that of the organic component. To this end, we turn to $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$ as the inorganic layer because it has a wide band gap (5.28 eV) as discussed above. As shown in Figure 5a, the conduction band offset of $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ is quite small. Thus, if the LUMO level of the organic layer in $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ can be lowered, we could achieve type-I_b alignment. As indicated in Figure 1c, TTz, 2Tz, and 2Td cations have a lower LUMO level than 2T. Hence, we can combine TTz, 2Tz, and 2Td with $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$ to form type-I_b band alignment.

As shown in Figure 6a, this strategy is successful and type-I_b band alignment is achieved in $(\text{TTz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, $(2\text{Tz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, and $(2\text{Td})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ 2D perovskites, with the first two being more robust than the last. In these perovskites, the lowest (singlet) exciton is predicted to be localized in the organic layer, shown in Figure 3c with $(\text{TTz})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ as an example. Although the triplet exciton is expected to have a lower energy than the singlet exciton,⁶⁰ the detailed study of triplet excitons is beyond the scope of the present paper. The singlet exciton is found to be Frenkel type with a binding energy of 0.32 eV, which likely leads to strong light emission from the organic layer.

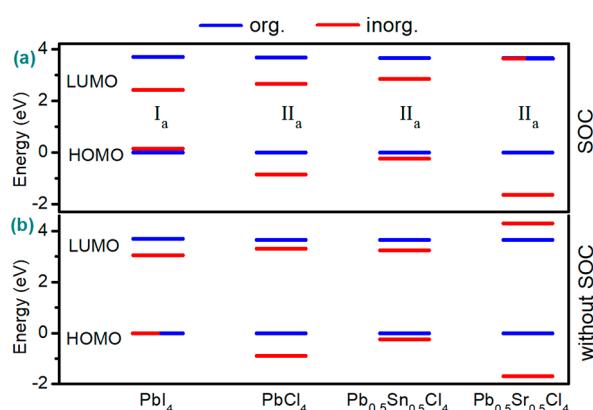


Figure 5. (a) Band alignment of $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbI}_4$, $(2\text{T})_2\text{PbCl}_4$, $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sn}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$, and $(2\text{T})_2\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4$ using HSE+SOC (a) and HSE without SOC (b). The HOMO of the organic layer is set to zero. The LUMO of $\text{Pb}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{Cl}_4^{2-}$ is slightly lower than that of the organic layer with 2T cations in Figure 5a. The optimized structures of these 2D perovskites are shown in Figure S2.

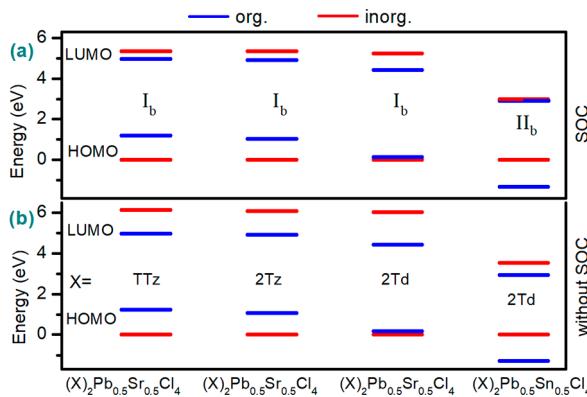


Figure 6. (a) Band alignment of $(TTz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$, $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$, $(2Td)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$, and $(2Td)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$ using HSE+SOC (a) and HSE without SOC (b). The HOMO of the inorganic layer is set to zero. The LUMO of $Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4^{2-}$ is slightly higher than that of the organic layers with 2Td cations in Figure 6a. The optimized structures of the 2D perovskites are shown in Figure S3.

Interestingly, SOC has no effect on the band gaps of these 2D perovskites (see Figure 6a,b). This is because their band gaps are determined by the HOMO/LUMO levels of the organic layers, which are not affected by SOC. As shown in Figure 4e,f, the direct band gap at the Gamma point is 3.76 eV for $(TTz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$, independent of SOC. However, the conduction band offset is reduced due to the SOC effect on the inorganic layer. The charge carriers are predicted to have large effective masses owing to the weak dispersion of the organic bands (see Table 1).

Finally, we explore the strategy to form type-II_b band alignment in 2D perovskites. Type-II_b band alignment is opposite to type-II_a, requiring HOMO and LUMO levels of the organic component be lowered. To meet this requirement, we turn to type-II_a band alignment for a clue. We note in Figure 5a although $(2T)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$ has type-II_a alignment, its valence band offset is small. If HOMO/LUMO levels of the organic component are lowered, we could switch the band alignment from II_a to II_b. Since 2Td has the lowest LUMO and HOMO levels among the organic cations examined above, we propose to replace 2T by 2Td and combine it with $Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4^{2-}$ to form 2D perovskite $(2Td)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$.

The band alignment of $(2Td)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$ is shown in Figure 6a, which exhibits type-II_b as hoped. However, its conduction band offset is too small, and its band alignment may oscillate between II_a and II_b driven by thermal fluctuations. The charge density of the lowest energy exciton is shown in Figure 3d with the electron and hole density in yellow and cyan, respectively. Although the exciton has a large binding energy of 0.31 eV, the photoexcited electron and hole are well separated at the organic and inorganic layer, respectively. The charge-transfer exciton is expected to have a longer lifetime. As shown in Figure 4g, there is a direct band gap at the Γ point, and the holes are predicted to have smaller effective masses than the electrons (see Table 1). We find that SOC has negligible influence on the band gap (2.91 eV) because it has no effect on the organic layer and negligible effect on the VBM of the inorganic layer. However, SOC can significantly reduce the conduction band offset.

Since various 2D perovskites have been designed for the four types of band alignment, we could in principle combine them

to form vertical or lateral heterostructures with appropriate band alignments. We provide an initial effort to design a lateral heterostructure with a desired band alignment. Our effort is motivated by recent experiments that demonstrated photoluminescence emissions from two separate 2D perovskites within a lateral heterostructure.³⁷ Here, we predict a new lateral heterostructure consisting of 2D perovskites, $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$ and $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$. The two perovskites have similar lattice constants (see Table S1) with less than 1% of lattice mismatch. Moreover, Sn-doped 2D lead halide perovskites are known to host self-trapped excitons, which could generate broadband emission at room temperature with a high quantum yield.⁶¹ The schematic illustration of the lateral heterostructure is shown in Figure 7a and the

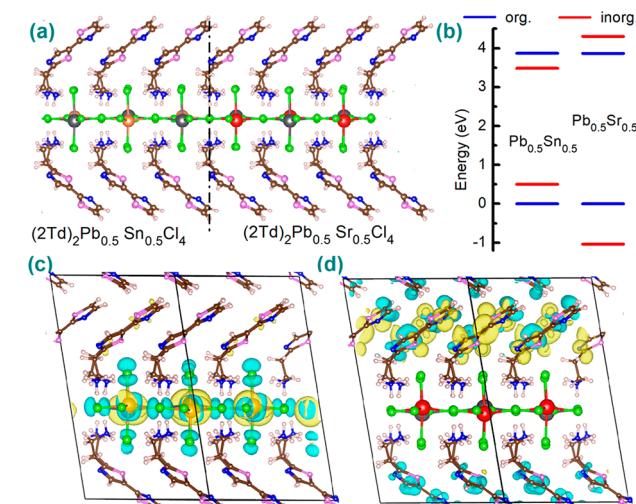


Figure 7. (a) Schematic illustration of $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$ - $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$ lateral heterostructure. (b) Intermolecular band alignment of the lateral heterostructure calculated by HSE+SOC. The HOMO of the organic layers is set to zero. (c) Charge density of the lowest energy exciton in $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$. (d) Charge density of the lowest energy singlet exciton in $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$. The electron and hole densities are shown in yellow and cyan, respectively.

band alignment (II_a-II_b) of the lateral heterostructure is shown in Figure 7b, determined from HSE+SOC calculations. This lateral heterostructure is predicted to yield photoluminescence from the organic layer in $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$ and Sn-doped inorganic layer in $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$. The charge densities of the lowest energy excitons in $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sn_{0.5}Cl_4$ and $(2Tz)_2Pb_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Cl_4$ are shown in Figure 7c,d, respectively. The exciton in the inorganic layer is of delocalized Wannier type while the singlet exciton in the organic layer is of localized Frenkel type.^{62,63}

To summarize, we have developed design strategies to achieve various band alignments in 2D perovskites based on first-principles calculations. Eight distinct 2D perovskites are predicted to exhibit either type-II_a or type-II_b band alignment, which enables light-emitting applications. Four different 2D perovskites are predicted to exhibit either type-II_a or type-II_b band alignment, which allows for photovoltaic applications. For type-II_a and type-II_b alignment, the lowest energy exciton is confined to the inorganic and organic layer, respectively. The lowest exciton is estimated to have a large binding energy (~0.35 eV), with resemblance of a Wannier exciton delocalized in the inorganic layer (for type-II_a) or a Frenkel exciton localized in the organic layer (for type-II_b). In contrast,

the type-II_a (or type-II_b) band alignment hosts charge-transfer excitons with the electrons (holes) and holes (electrons) residing in the inorganic and organic layer, respectively. We demonstrate the possibility to design 2D perovskite heterostructures with appropriate band alignments based on intramolecular band alignments of constituent perovskites. The band structure for each type of band alignment is examined and corresponding effective masses for charge carriers along different directions are estimated. SOC is revealed to have a strong effect on the conduction bands of the inorganic layers; it can lower the band gaps in type-I_a and type-II_a alignments by 0.6–0.8 eV, but it has a negligible effect on type-I_b and II_b alignments. Therefore, to estimate the band gap in type-I_b or type-II_b alignment, one can ignore SOC in the HSE calculations. Finally, this work could provide valuable insight to the development of 2D perovskites for novel optoelectronic applications.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jpcllett.0c02135>.

Brief introduction of the LR-TDDFT-OT-SRSH method, the calculated lattice parameters of the designed 2D perovskites, the optimized structures of the designed 2D perovskites ([PDF](#))

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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