

Self-Powered Circularly Polarized Light Detection Enabled by Chiral Two-Dimensional Perovskites with Mixed Chiral–Achiral Organic Cations

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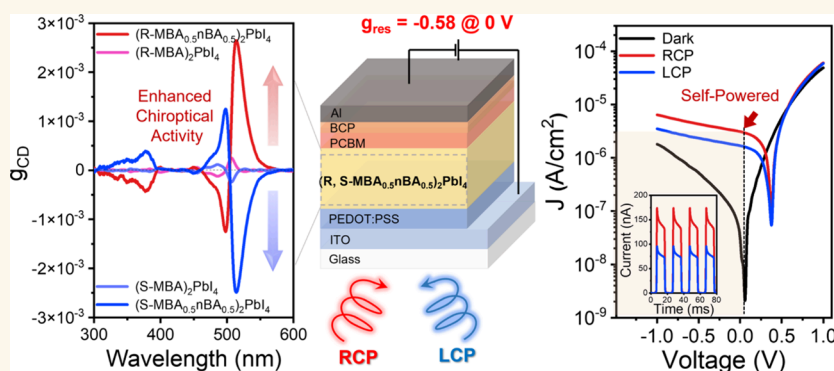
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ABSTRACT: Direct detection of circularly polarized light (CPL) holds great promise for the development of various optical technologies. Chiral 2D organic–inorganic halide perovskites make it possible to fabricate CPL-sensitive photodetectors. However, selectively detecting left-handed circularly polarized (LCP) and right-handed circularly polarized (RCP) light remains a significant challenge. Herein, we demonstrate a greatly enhanced distinguishability of photodiode-type CPL photodetectors based on chiral 2D perovskites with mixed chiral aryl (R)-(+), (S)-(–)- α -methylbenzylammonium (R,S-MBA) and achiral alkyl *n*-butylammonium (*n*BA) cations. The (R,S-MBA)_{0.5}(*n*BA)_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites exhibit a 10-fold increase in circular dichroism signals compared to (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ perovskites. The CPL photodetectors based on the mixed-cation perovskites exhibit self-powered capabilities with a specific detectivity of 2.45×10^{12} Jones at a 0 V bias. Notably, these devices show high distinguishability (g_{res}) factors of -0.58 and $+0.54$ based on (R,S-MBA)_{0.5}(*n*BA)_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites, respectively, surpassing the performance of (R-MBA)₂PbI₄-based devices by over 3-fold and setting a record for CPL detectors based on chiral 2D *n* = 1 perovskites.

KEYWORDS: circularly polarized light detection, self-powered, chiral two-dimensional perovskites, chirality, mixed cations

INTRODUCTION

Circularly polarized light (CPL) represents an electromagnetic wave, with the electric field vector undergoing circular rotation during its propagation through space. CPL has found diverse applications, including satellite communication and 5G technologies,¹ quantum computing,^{2,3} spin-optical communication,⁴ drug screening,⁵ information security,⁶ and remote sensing.⁷ To efficiently detect external CPL signals, specialized CPL-sensitive photodetectors are essential and capable of converting CPL signals into electrical ones. Due to the absence

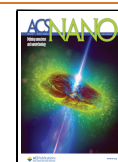
of inherent chirality in inorganic semiconductors such as Si and InGaAs, a quarter-wave plate and a linear polarizer are typically attached to conventional photodetectors for the detection of

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CPL. However, this configuration results in a significant loss of sensitivity and resolution within the light detection system, adds complexity to the design, and increases overall costs. To achieve device miniaturization, chiral-sensitive materials are employed to construct CPL-sensitive photodetectors capable of distinguishing between left-handed circularly polarized (LCP) and right-handed circularly polarized (RCP) light. In this context, chiral organic–inorganic halide perovskites have emerged as promising candidates for CPL-sensing materials due to their outstanding attributes, such as high absorption coefficients, tunable band gaps, and favorable charge-carrier mobilities.^{8–11}

Chiral perovskites typically have reduced dimensional structures, such as Ruddlesden–Popper two-dimensional (2D) perovskites, in which the corner-shared metal halide octahedron inorganic frameworks are separated by large chiral organic cations.^{8–11} The general formula for chiral 2D perovskites is A'_2BX_4 , where A' is a bulky chiral organic monoammonium cation, B is a divalent metal cation, and X is a halide anion. The chiroptical properties observed in chiral 2D perovskites are attributed to the chirality transfer from the A' -site chiral monoammonium cations to the achiral $[BX_6]^{4-}$ inorganic frameworks.^{12,13} The NH_3^+ groups of the chiral A' -site cations penetrate into the corner shared $[BX_6]^{4-}$ inorganic frameworks, forming asymmetric hydrogen bonding with the X -site halides, which triggers the asymmetric tilting distortion of $[BX_6]^{4-}$ octahedra and ultimately results in chirality transfer. Consequently, the chiroptical phenomena observed in chiral 2D perovskites occurs at the first excitonic state of the distorted inorganic framework, which is distinct from the excitonic state of A' -site chiral organic cations.¹⁴ Moreover, the degree of chirality transfer emerges as a critical factor in the chiroptical activity exhibited by chiral 2D perovskites.

Several chiral organic cations, such as (R)/(S)-methylbenzylammonium ((R)/(S)-MBA⁺),^{14–21} (R)/(S)- β -methylphenethylammonium ((R)/(S)-MPA⁺),^{22,23} and (R)/(S)-1-naphthyl-ethylammonium ((R)/(S)-1-NEA⁺),^{13,24} have been utilized as the A' -site chiral cations to demonstrate the effect of chemical structure of organic cations on chirality transfer. Additionally, the approach by mixing cations with different chemical characteristics has also been explored for augmenting the chiroptical properties of chiral 2D perovskites, attributed to the stronger asymmetry in tilting distortion of $[BX_6]^{4-}$ and the hydrogen bonding interactions.^{25,26} Yan et al. demonstrated both signal inversion and a 2-fold increase in amplitude of the circular dichroism (CD) spectra by blending chiral (R)/(S)- β -methylphenethylammonium ((R)/(S)-MPA⁺) with achiral (propylammonium or butylammonium) spacer cations in a 1:1 molar ratio. The anisotropy factors of circular dichroism (g_{CD}) at the exciton peak for pure R and S chiral systems are -1.2×10^{-4} and 1.3×10^{-4} , respectively, while the mixed-cation perovskites exhibit doubled g_{CD} values of 2.5×10^{-4} and -2.7×10^{-4} , respectively.²⁵ Lee et al. reported a nearly 2-fold enhancement in g_{CD} values, increasing from 5.7×10^{-4} to 1×10^{-3} , by adding 10 mol % urea into (R-MBA)₂Pb(I_{0.7}Br_{0.3})₄.²⁶ Additionally, Zhu et al. mixed (R)-MPA⁺ with achiral ethylammonium spacer cations to form (R-MPA_{0.5}EA_{0.5})₂PbBr₄, yielding a g_{CD} of 2.5×10^{-3} .²⁷

Propelling by the success of making chiral 2D perovskites, efforts have been devoted to developing photodetectors for direct CPL detection with different device architectures.^{8–11,28} The first work of the CPL photodetector adopted a phototransistor design featuring (R/S-MBA)₂PbI₄ microplates

and achieved a distinguishability (g_{res}) of 0.09 and a specific detectivity (D^*) of 2.2×10^{11} Jones at 518 nm with a bias of 3 V.²¹ Transitioning to a photoconductor (PC) architecture by incorporating an exfoliated (R/S-MBA)₂PbI₄ microplate improved both the distinguishability and detectivity to a g_{res} factor of 0.23 and a D^* value of 3.06×10^{11} Jones at 520 nm with a bias of -3 V.¹⁸ An advantage of PC-based CPL photodetectors is their self-power capability, eliminating the need for an external bias and significantly broadening their potential applications. Recently, Zhu et al. reported a self-powered PC-based CPL photodetector with (R-MPA_{0.5}EA_{0.5})₂PbBr₄, achieving a g_{res} factor of 0.42 at 0 V bias, marking the highest reported g_{res} of PC-based CPL photodetectors using chiral 2D perovskites.²⁷ Self-powered CPL photodetectors utilizing a photodiode (PD) architecture have also been explored.^{26,29,30} Wang et al. reported a self-powered PD-based CPL photodetector using (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ and achieved a g_{res} factor of 0.1 at 0 V bias.²⁹ Recently, a self-powered PD-based CPL photodetector utilized (R-MBA)Pb(I_{0.7}Br_{0.3})₄ with the inclusion of 10 mol % urea as the active layer and demonstrated a g_{res} factor of 0.27 and a D^* value of 6.02×10^{12} Jones at 475 nm with 0 V bias.²⁶ Using (R-MBA)₂Pb_{0.9}Sn_{0.1}I₄ as the active layer, a g_{res} factor of 0.44 was achieved, which was the highest reported g_{res} of the PD-based CPL photodetector using chiral 2D perovskites, along with a D^* value of 1.63×10^{11} Jones at 500 nm with 0 V bias.³⁰ It is worth noting that the maximum g_{res} factors of -2 or $+2$ would be produced upon pure RCP or LCP light detection in an ideal system. Therefore, further advancements in developing CPL photodetectors rely on the enhancement of the chirality of chiral 2D perovskites to increase the distinguishable generation of electron–hole pairs upon RCP/LCP light illumination and the careful design of photodiode architectures to efficiently separate, transfer, and collect RCP/LCP photogenerated charges within the devices.

In this work, we develop photodiode-type CPL detectors based on chiral 2D perovskites with mixing chiral aryl cations ((R)-(+), (S)-(–)- α -methylbenzylammonium, (R)/(S)-MBA⁺) and achiral alkyl cations (*n*-butylammonium, *n*BA⁺) in the organic layer and demonstrate a high distinguishability. *n*BA⁺ is selected because it has a similar molecular length as R,S-MBA⁺, which could lead to a similar penetration into the inorganic framework to form hydrogen bonding and, meanwhile, to reduce the van der Waals gap between two organic layers. Additionally, *n*BA⁺ lacks π -conjugation, making the alkyl tail flexible to interact with aryl R,S-MBA⁺, which could lead to “maximizing” the influence on hydrogen bonding and, thus, chirality transfer. The optimized morphology and thickness of chiral 2D (R,S-MBA_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskite thin films result in a significantly enhanced g_{CD} of 2.89×10^{-3} , which is a 10-fold enhancement in chirality amplitude compared to (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ containing pure chiral aryl cations. The enhanced chirality of (R,S-MBA_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites can increase the distinguishable generation of electron–hole pairs upon RCP/LCP light illumination. Furthermore, the (R-MBA_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskite films exhibit a preferred crystallographic orientation, facilitating charge carrier transport within the perovskite films. To effectively transport and collect charge carriers generated by RCP/LCP light and reduce dark current, we design the p-i-n-structured photodiode-type detectors with the hole and electron transport layers as well as the electrodes to have the energy levels aligned well with those of the active layer. The designed CPL detectors with the

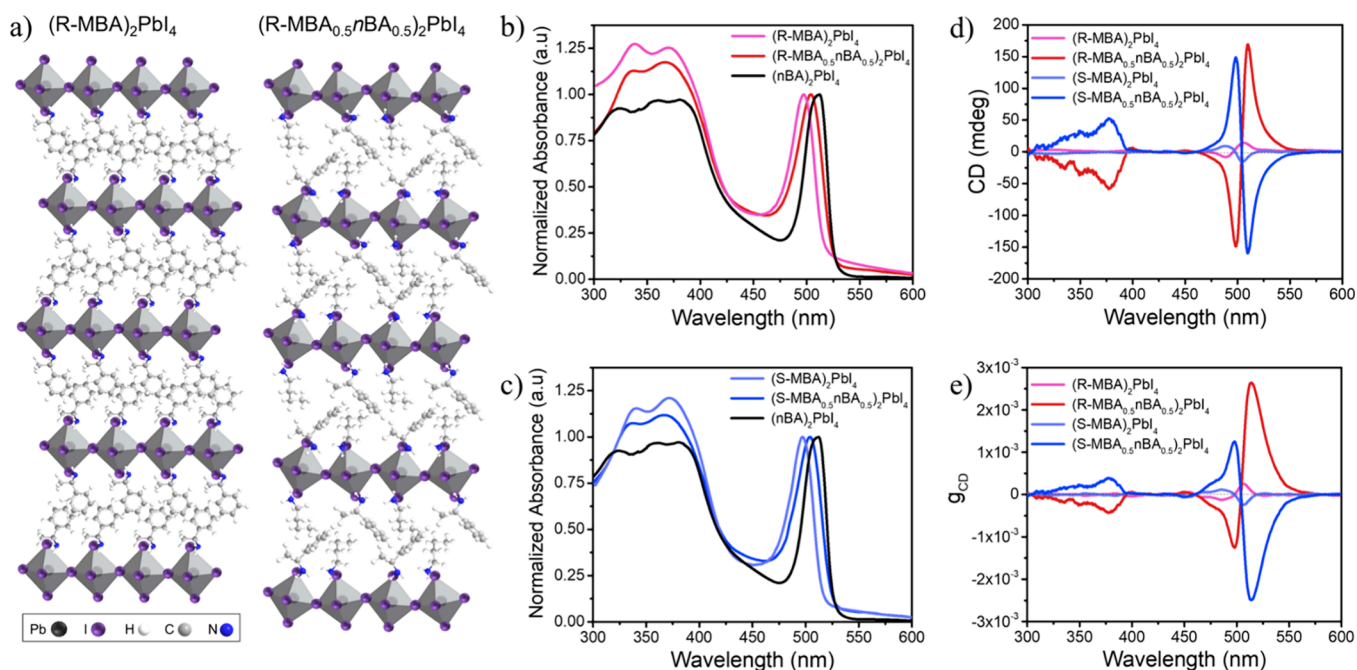


Figure 1. (a) Schematics of the crystal structures of (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄. (b, c) Normalized UV–vis absorption spectra, (d) circular dichroism (CD) spectra, and (e) calculated anisotropy factor (g_{CD}) of the 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄, (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄, and (nBA)₂PbI₄ thin films.

optimal active layer thickness of (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ display self-powered capability with a specific detectivity D^* of 2.45×10^{12} Jones at 0 V bias. Moreover, these CPL detectors exhibit high g_{res} factors of -0.58 and $+0.54$ at 0 V bias, respectively, surpassing the value for devices based on (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ by over 3-fold. Notably, this value surpasses the reported highest g_{res} factors of the CPL detectors based on chiral 2D perovskites.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We made chiral 2D perovskite thin films via a one-step solution process. To manipulate the chirality, we blended chiral organic cations R-MBA⁺ and S-MBA⁺ with achiral cations nBA⁺ to form the organic spacers composed of pure chiral aryl cations, mixed chiral aryl and achiral alkyl cations, and pure achiral alkyl cations. Using precursor solutions with a concentration of 0.3 M for Pb²⁺ and varied amounts of chiral/achiral ammonium halide salts, we obtained thin films of chiral 2D perovskites (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and achiral 2D perovskite (nBA)₂PbI₄. The schematic diagrams of the crystal structures of (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ are shown in Figure 1a. The linear optical properties of the films are investigated through UV–vis absorption spectroscopy. As shown in Figure 1b,c, all 2D perovskite films exhibit typical features of a lower-energy exciton peak due to strong dielectric confinement in $n = 1$ 2D perovskites and a high-energy continuum absorption edge with two humps, corresponding to the transitions in the inorganic frameworks.³¹ The exciton peak was observed at 497 nm for (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ and redshifted to 504 nm for (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and further to 513 nm when all the (R)/(S)-MBA⁺ cations were substituted with nBA⁺ cations. This redshift aligns with the results of chiral 2D perovskites with mixed alkyl–aryl cations,²⁵ which could be either due to a reduced band gap or increased exciton binding energy induced by the inclusion of nBA⁺ cations in the chiral 2D perovskites.

In contrast, the two humps in the high-energy continuum absorption range were blueshifted from 338 and 370 nm for (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ to 335 and 366 nm for (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄. Density function theory (DFT) calculations show that the valence band maximum (VBM) is formed by the antibonding between the s orbital of metal (B) and the p orbital of halide (X) and the conduction band minimum (CBM) is composed by the nonbonding between the p orbital of metal and the p orbital of halide.^{32,33} Therefore, any change in B–X bond length or X–B–X bond angle can lead to the shift of energy level of VBM and CBM and, thus, the band gap. The absorption peak shifts observed in the (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films compared to the (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ films indicate that the X–B–X (here I–Pb–I) bond angles could have changed due to the octahedral tilting induced by mixed cations. The photoluminescence (PL) spectra show exciton emission behavior (Figure S1a). The excitonic PL peak of the (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites positioned between those of pure chiral (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and achiral (nBA)₂PbI₄ perovskites, which is consistent with the absorption spectral trend.

We further investigated the chiroptical activity of our chiral 2D perovskites by circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy. As shown in Figure 1d, all chiral 2D perovskites exhibit CD signals in the range between 450 and 550 nm, while the CD signals are in the range between 220 and 300 nm for the R,S-MBAI thin films (Figure S1b), confirming the transfer of chirality from the chiral organic cations to the [PbI₆]^{4−} inorganic frameworks. Additionally, the CD spectra of the chiral perovskite films exhibit characteristic zero-crossing features at wavelengths corresponding to their exciton peaks, which is known as the Cotton effect. This phenomenon originates from the exciton resonance splitting in the excited states induced by the presence of chiral cations.³⁴ The CD signal of (S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (S-MBA)₂PbI₄ perovskites shows distinct opposite polarity compared to (R-

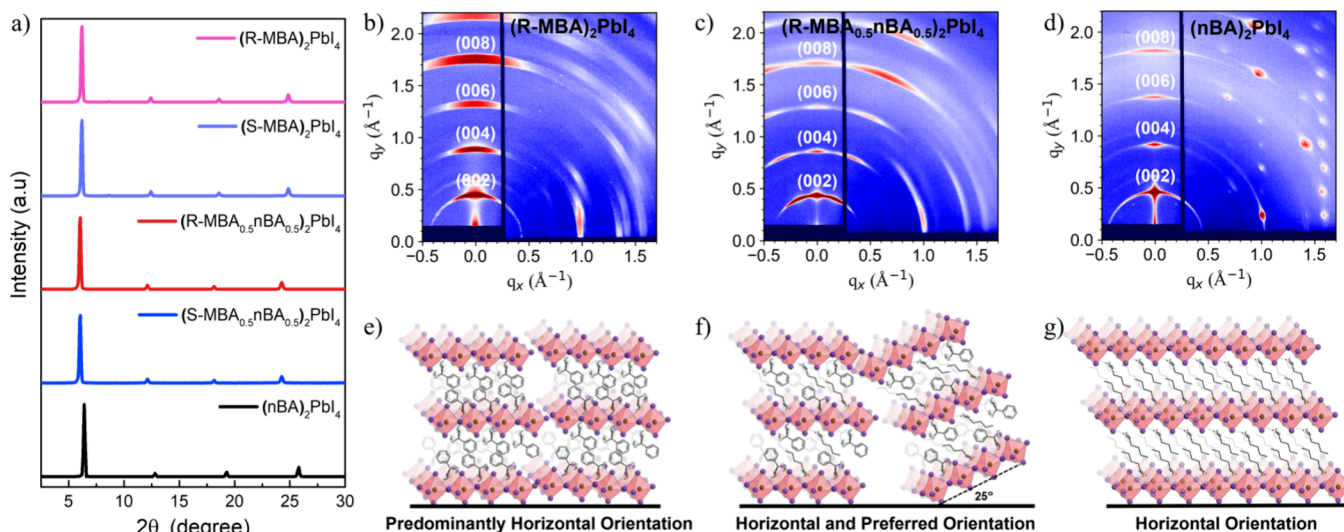


Figure 2. (a) X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of the 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄, (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄, and (nBA)₂PbI₄ thin films. (b–d) GIWAXS patterns with the incident angle of 0.2° and (e–g) schematic illustrations of crystalline orientation of the 0.3 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄, (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄, and (nBA)₂PbI₄ thin films.

MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄, corresponding to the opposite handedness of the chiral ligand used. Moreover, (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites show a significantly enhanced CD signal ($\sim \pm 170$ mdeg), with a magnitude about 10 times greater than that of (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄. Additionally, the CD signals were unchanged when the measurements were conducted from the front and back sides of the chiral 2D perovskites thin films (Figure S1c,d), indicating the absence of the antisymmetric linear dichroism and linear birefringence (LDLB) effect that originates from macroscopic anisotropy.^{35–37} This confirmed that the notable enhancement in chiroptical responses of (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ is attributable to the influence of the mixed aryl, chiral and alkyl, achiral cations rather than the antisymmetric LDLB contribution.^{35–37}

To further quantify the impact of mixing chiral and achiral cations on the chiroptical activity of chiral 2D perovskites, the anisotropy factor (g_{CD}) was calculated with the following equation:³⁸

$$g_{CD} = \frac{CD[\text{mdeg}]}{32,980 \times \text{absorbance}} = \frac{\Delta A}{A} \quad (1)$$

where ΔA is the difference between the absorbance of left-handed (A_L) and right-handed (A_R) CPL. As shown in Figure 1e, the g_{CD} values of (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ were calculated to be 2.48×10^{-4} and -2.37×10^{-4} , respectively. In contrast, the (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films show 1 order of magnitude higher g_{CD} values of 2.64×10^{-3} and -2.49×10^{-3} , respectively, which are comparable to those reported 2D chiral perovskites.^{20,24–27,30} This significant g_{CD} enhancement further demonstrates that the incorporation of achiral nBA⁺ cations in chiral 2D perovskites amplifies their chiroptical properties.

We then confirmed that all perovskites adopt a layered structure with chiral/achiral cations located between [PbI₆]^{4–} frameworks by X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis. As shown in Figure 2a, all of the samples show sharp periodicity diffraction peaks, implying that the chiral 2D perovskites preferentially grow parallel to the (002) l planes. Specifically, the XRD pattern of chiral (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ exhibits diffraction peaks at 6.19°, 12.38°, 18.58°, and 24.82°, corresponding to the (002),

(004), (006), and (008) planes of 2D perovskites, respectively, with an interlayer spacing ($d_{(002)}$) of 14.26 Å. The achiral (nBA)₂PbI₄ exhibits diffraction peaks at 6.4°, 12.8°, 18.98°, and 25.76°, assigned to the (002), (004), (006), and (008) planes, respectively, corresponding to a $d_{(002)}$ of 13.79 Å. In contrast, (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ displays the (002) diffraction peak at 6.05°, indicating an expanded $d_{(002)}$ of 14.7 Å, followed by the (004) peak at 12.1°, the (006) peak at 18.16°, and the (008) peak at 24.27°. This expansion in interlayer distance can be attributed to the packing conformational differences of the phenyl ring moiety due to the insertion of alkyl cations.²⁵ As shown in Figure 1a, the packing conformation could change along the out-of-plane direction by mixing alkyl-aryl cations. This leads to asymmetric hydrogen bonding between NH₃⁺ on the alkyl and aryl monoammonium cations and I[–] on the equatorial and axial position of octahedra and enhances asymmetric distortion of the inorganic framework, thereby amplifying the chirality.

To further elucidate the crystalline orientation of the chiral and achiral 2D perovskites, we conducted grazing-incidence wide-angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS) measurements with an incident angle of 0.20°. As shown in Figures 2b–d, the q values of the (002) l Debye–Scherrer rings and Bragg spots agree well with the XRD results where q is the scattering vector for the diffraction features. Specifically, the (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (nBA)₂PbI₄ films (Figure 2b,d) exhibit strong diffraction signals for (002) l planes predominantly in the out-of-plane direction, while the (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ film exhibits segments on the Debye–Scherrer rings for (002) l planes with the preferred crystallographic orientation (Figure 2c). The azimuthal GIWAXS patterns and the azimuth angular distribution of the (002) planes of all perovskites are shown in Figure S2a–c,d, respectively. Due to rotational isotropy around the substrate normal, the scattering is symmetric in the azimuthal angle. The distribution from 0° to 90° provides comprehensive information about the orientation distributions, while patterns between 90° and 180° indicate symmetric diffractions.³⁹ As shown in Figure S2d, the azimuth angular distributions of the (002) planes of both (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (nBA)₂PbI₄ reveal peak positions at 90°, confirming that the

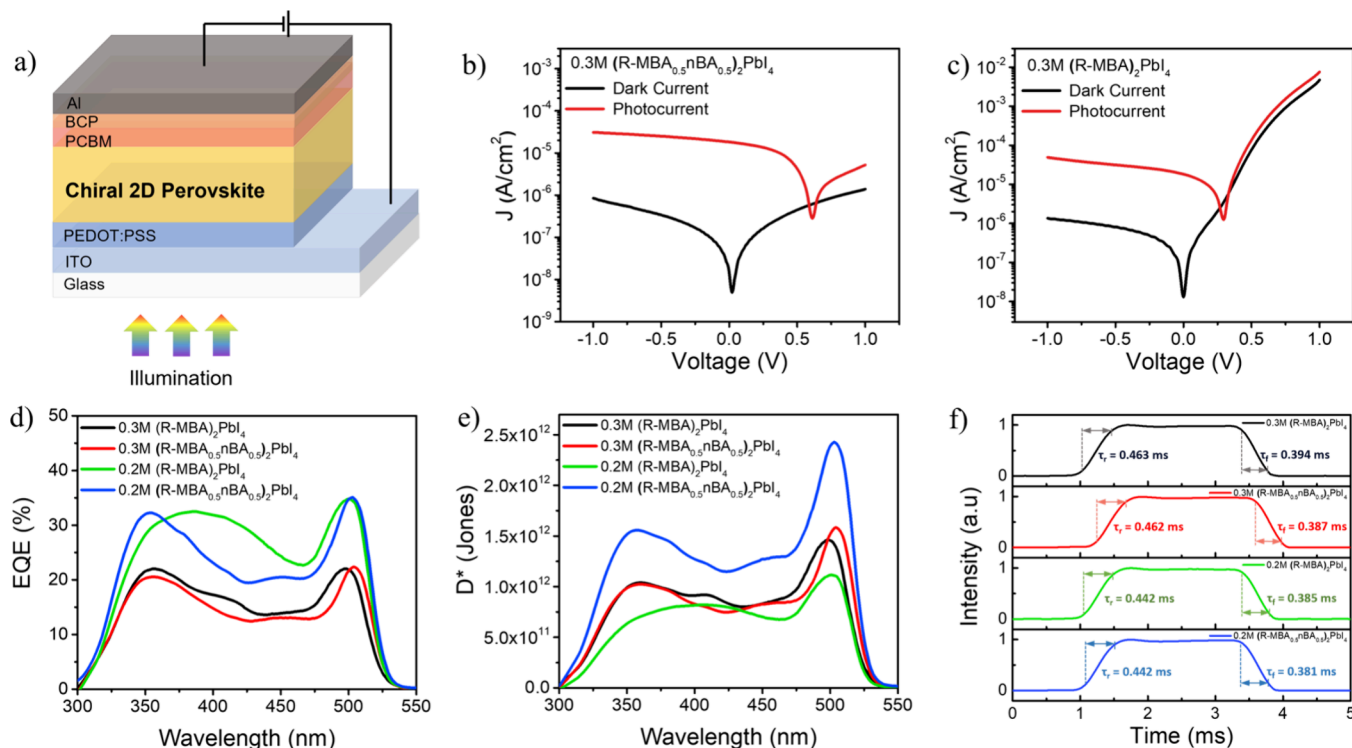


Figure 3. (a) Schematic diagram of a chiral perovskite-based photodetector. (b, c) J - V curves of the photodetectors with the 0.3 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films, respectively, measured in the dark and under monochromatic unpolarized light illumination at 500 nm and 1.0 mW cm⁻². (d) EQE, (e) specific detectivity D^* , and (f) response speed of the photodetectors with the 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films under 0 V bias.

layer structures of the (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (nBA)₂PbI₄ films are horizontally orientated to the substrates as schematically illustrated in Figure 2e,g, respectively. The full width at half-maximum (fwhm) values of the azimuth angular distributions are 32.1° and 12.2° for the (002) planes of (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (nBA)₂PbI₄, respectively. This reduced fwhm of (nBA)₂PbI₄ indicates a decrease in the misorientation of the (002) crystallites, suggesting highly crystalline structure features. Notably, we observed two preferred orientations represented by three strong peaks in the orientation distribution of the (002) plane of (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ (Figure S2d). One is located at an azimuthal angle of 90°, and the other two are around 65° and 115°. These stacking patterns indicate that (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ exhibits two dominant orientations—one parallel to the substrate and the other with 2D inorganic frameworks lying against the substrate at 25°, as illustrated in Figure 2f. The impacts of the crystalline orientation on the surface morphologies of these films can be clearly observed in the scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images (Figure S3). The possible mechanism guiding this favored crystal stacking involves the manipulation of the crystal stacking orientation using mixed alkyl-aryl cations, particularly with the highly crystalline characteristics observed in (nBA)₂PbI₄. This manipulation reveals different crystal orientations in term of microstructural arrangements, contributing to the observed preferred crystallographic orientation.⁴⁰ This preferred orientation is considered to regulate the charge transportation in the perovskite films, potentially leading to enhancements in the performance of corresponding optoelectronics,⁴⁰ as discussed later.

For a CPL photodetector, an optimal chiral perovskite layer thickness is essential for efficient CPL photodetection. The

relationship between chiral perovskite thickness and its ability to distinguish between LCP and RCP light is described by the following equation:⁴¹

$$\frac{\Delta c}{c} = \frac{2(c_L - c_R)}{c_L + c_R} \approx \frac{\Delta \alpha d}{\exp(\alpha_L d) - 1} \quad (2)$$

where Δc is the difference between the carrier concentration generated by LCP and RCP light illumination ($\Delta c = c_L - c_R$), c is the average carrier concentration ($c = (c_L + c_R)/2$), $\Delta \alpha$ is the difference between the absorption coefficients for LCP (α_L) and RCP (α_R) light, and d is the thickness of the chiral medium. It is important to note that the distinguishability of LCP and RCP of a photodetector, g_{res} , is equal to $\Delta c/c$ only when the conversion and collection efficiency of absorbed photons to electron-hole pairs are the same. Accordingly, increasing the thickness of the chiral perovskite leads to a decrease in the CPL response.⁴¹ Therefore, we varied the thickness of the chiral perovskite films to investigate the film thickness effect on the distinguishability between the LCP and RCP for photodetectors.

Chiral (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites were fabricated via a one-step solution process with precursor concentrations of 0.2 and 0.3 M Pb²⁺ under the same conditions and achieved the film thicknesses of ~220 and ~330 nm, respectively (Table S1). Both the 0.2 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films show lower absorbance and CD signal compared to the 0.3 M counterparts because of the reduced film thickness while maintaining the same exciton peak and CD signal positions (Figure S4a,b). Impressively, the 0.2 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films show a g_{CD} value of 2.89×10^{-3} , surpassing the g_{CD} values of the 0.3 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ film (2.64×10^{-3}) and the 0.2 and 0.3

M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films ($1.40\text{--}2.48 \times 10^{-4}$) (Figure S4c). This g_{CD} enhancement further demonstrates that introducing achiral $n\text{BA}^+$ cations in the chiral 2D perovskites amplifies the chiroptical properties, even in thinner films. Additionally, this slightly larger g_{CD} of the thinner film than that of the thicker film suggests that the symmetric LDLB interaction is minimal in the (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films.^{35,36} (More discussion is given in Figure S1 in the Supporting Information.) We confirmed by XRD (Figure S 4d) that the 0.2 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites exhibit identical (002 l) periodicity diffraction peaks as the 0.3 M counterparts, indicating that the interlayer spacing remains unchanged. The crystalline orientations were also investigated through GIWAXS measurements with an incident angle of 0.20° (Figure S5a–g). Like their counterparts of the thicker films, both the 0.2 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (*n*BA)₂PbI₄ films have 2D crystalline domains with the inorganic frameworks oriented in parallel to the substrate. The 0.2 M (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ film has the 2D crystalline domains with the inorganic frameworks orientated either in parallel or 25° to the substrate but with less amount of the tilt-orientated domains as seen in the lower intensity at $65^\circ/115^\circ$ for the azimuth angular distribution of the (002) planes, as illustrated schematically in Figure S5h, owing to its lower thickness.

To realize direct CPL detection, we fabricated photodiode-type photodetectors based on chiral perovskites (R,S-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄. The chiral 2D perovskite layer is sandwiched between a transparent indium tin oxide (ITO) anode and an Al cathode, where poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)-poly(styrenesulfonate) (PEDOT:PSS) serves as the hole-transport layer (HTL), [6,6]-phenyl-C61-butyric acid methyl ester (PCBM) is the electron-transport layer (ETL), and bathocuproine (BCP) works as the hole-blocking layer (EBL), for a full device structure of ITO/PEDOT:PSS/chiral 2D perovskites/PCBM/BCP/Al (Figure 3a). The energy diagram for each layer in the fabricated devices is shown in Figure S6a. The highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO, -6.7 eV) and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO, -2.5 eV) levels of R-MBA were determined by cyclic voltammetry (Figure S7). Taking the values of -3.3 and -5.7 eV of the conduction band minimum (CBM) and valence band maximum (VBM), respectively, of the [PbI₆]^{4−} inorganic layers,^{42,43} (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ chiral 2D perovskites have a type I band alignment. The type I band alignment would be retained for (R,S-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ because of the even larger band gap of the organic layer due to the insulating nature of *n*BA. Such device design ensures low dark current J_{D} , high photocurrent, and diode-rectifying behavior as shown in Figure S6b–e for the device working mechanism.

We first evaluated the performance of the chiral photodetectors under unpolarized light illumination to identify the optimal devices and to ensure no performance difference based on R- or S-chiral 2D perovskites. The current density–voltage (J – V) characteristics of the chiral photodetectors with different film thicknesses of (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ in the dark and under monochromatic unpolarized light illumination are shown in Figure 3b,c and Figure S8a,b. The chiral photodetectors with 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films show the dark current J_{D} values of 1.78×10^{-6} and 8.21×10^{-7} A cm^{−2} at -1 V bias, respectively, while those with 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films show the J_{D} of 1.06×10^{-5} and 1.36×10^{-6} A cm^{−2}, respectively. The

lower J_{D} exhibited by the thicker film photodetectors is attributed to the lower electric field under the same bias and increased diffusion distance due to the thicker active layer. Considering that alkyl cation-based perovskites typically display stronger exciton–phonon coupling and lower exciton diffusivity in comparison to aryl cation-based perovskites,⁴⁴ the lower J_{D} values exhibited by the photodetectors with (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ can be attributed to the presence of the *n*BA⁺ spacer, which impedes the exciton diffusivity, resulting in the lower J_{D} of the devices. On the other hand, the photocurrent density (J_{P}) is around 1 order of magnitude larger than the J_{D} at -1 V bias for both (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ photodetectors. Moreover, the asymmetrical electrode configuration of the photodiodes generates a built-in potential that allows the photodiodes to function even without an external bias voltage, resulting in a self-powered condition. Specifically, the photodetectors based on 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ exhibit stronger built-in potentials of 0.65 and 0.61 V, respectively, in comparison to 0.36 and 0.29 V of the counterparts based on 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄. This enhanced built-in electric field can be attributed to the presence of the *n*BA⁺ spacer that induces slightly unbalanced carrier mobilities and trap densities, which will be discussed below. The higher built-in potential can effectively promote the separation and extraction of the photogenerated electron–hole pairs under illumination.⁴⁵

We then conducted the space charge-limited current (SCLC) analysis to gain the charge carrier mobility and trap state density of 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films using the fabricated electron-only and hole-only devices with the configuration of ITO/SnO₂/chiral 2D perovskites/PCBM/Ag and ITO/PEDOT:PSS/chiral 2D perovskites/MoO₃/Ag, respectively (Figure S9).⁴⁶ The dark J – V characteristics of the electron-only and hole-only devices display three regions: an ohmic region at low bias with a linear relationship between the current and the electric field, a trap-filled limited region at intermediate bias showing a sharp increase in current, and a trap-free space charge-limited-current (SCLC) region at high bias.⁴⁷ In the trap-filled limited region, trap density levels are progressively filled, reaching full saturation at the trap-filled limit voltage (V_{TFL}). The carrier trap density and charge carrier mobility, N_{trap} and μ , can be calculated using the following equation:⁴⁸

$$N_{\text{trap}} = \frac{2\epsilon_r\epsilon_0 V_{\text{TFL}}}{qL^2} \quad (3)$$

$$J_{\text{D}} = \frac{9\epsilon_r\epsilon_0\mu V_{\text{TFL}}^2}{8L^3} \quad (4)$$

where ϵ_r is the relative permittivity of perovskites (~ 4),⁴⁹ ϵ_0 is the vacuum permittivity (8.8×10^{-12} F m^{−1}), q is the elemental charge, L is the thickness of the chiral 2D perovskites, V_{TFL} is the trap-filled limit voltage, and J_{D} is the dark current density at V_{TFL} . The results are summarized in Table S2 and plotted in Figure S10. With comparable thickness, (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films show higher $N_{\text{trap,e/h}}$ and lower $\mu_{\text{e/h}}$ than (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films. Due to the decreased diffusion distance of the thinner films, the thinner films of both (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ exhibit lower $N_{\text{trap,e/h}}$ and higher $\mu_{\text{e/h}}$ in comparison to their thicker counterparts. The differences in $N_{\text{trap,e/h}}$ and $\mu_{\text{e/h}}$ between the 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA)_{0.5}*n*BA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films are not as

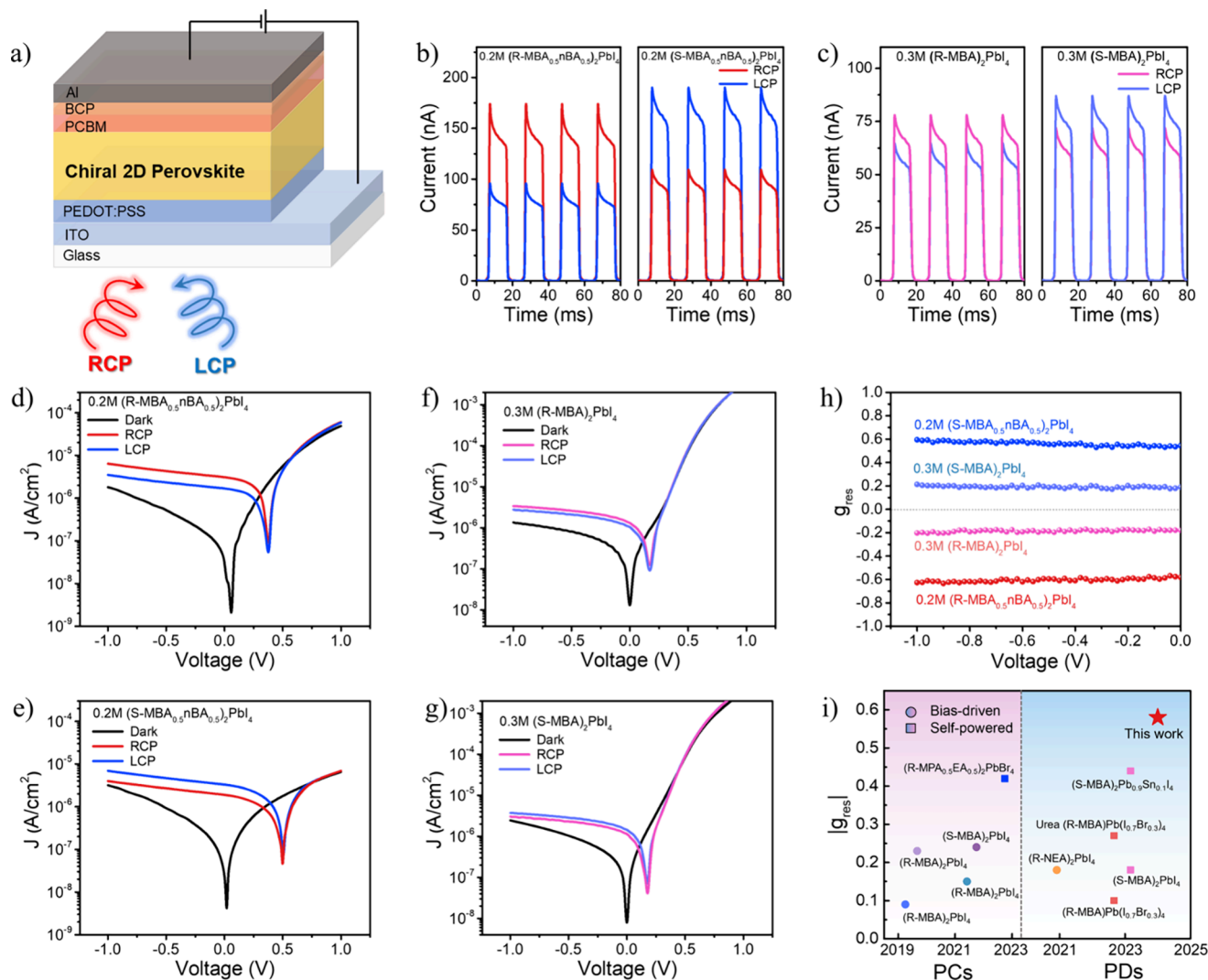


Figure 4. (a) Schematic illustration of RCP and LCP light detection of the chiral 2D perovskite-based photodetectors. (b, c) Photocurrent density-dependent time (J - T curves) at 0 V bias and (d-g) J - V curves of the photodetectors with the 0.2 M (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ films measured in the dark and under monochromatic RCP and LCP light illumination of 0.5 mW cm⁻² at 510 and 505 nm, respectively. (f) Calculated distinguishability (g_{res}) of 0.2 M (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ devices over the bias range of -1.0 to 0 V. (i) Summary of g_{res} asymmetry factors of some reported CPL detectors based on 2D chiral perovskites.

significant as the counterparts of (R-MBA)₂PbI₄. This phenomenon can be contributed to the higher degree of preferred orientation in the 0.3 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskite (Figure 2f and Figure S5h), resulting in the relatively enhanced out-of-plane charge transport ability. These carrier mobilities and trap densities explain the trend of dark current densities observed in the photodetectors. We also notice a slightly increased unbalanced hole and electron mobilities ($\mu_h > \mu_e$) and trap densities ($N_{\text{trap,h}} < N_{\text{trap,e}}$) of (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films. Therefore, the photogenerated electrons in (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ have a greater tendency to be trapped and accumulated close to their interface with transporting layers. Under forward bias, the electron trapping at the (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄/PEDOT:PSS interface induces band bending of (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄, thus reducing the Schottky junction thickness and facilitating the hole injection, which lead to larger built-in potentials upon illumination compared to devices based on (R-MBA)₂PbI₄. Moreover, the unbalanced hole and electron mobilities and trap densities diminish for the thicker films, which could lead to the reduced

built-in potentials observed in the photodetectors with thicker 2D chiral perovskite films.

The external quantum efficiency (EQE) of the devices is defined as the ratio of charge carriers collected to incident photons. As the self-powered chiral photodetectors, the EQE spectra were measured under unpolarized illumination with different wavelengths of light at a 0 V bias, as shown in Figure 3d. Corresponding to the absorption of (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ perovskites, all devices show an EQE response from 300 to 550 nm. Comparable EQE peak values are shown for the photodetectors based on (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ with similar thicknesses at 503 and 498 nm, respectively, which correspond to their exciton peaks. For the wavelength below 500 nm, the (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ photodetectors consistently exhibit lower EQE values compared to the (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ counterparts with similar thicknesses. This difference is attributed to the lower electron and hole mobilities in the (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films (Table S2). Additionally, the photodetectors with thinner 2D chiral perovskite films show

Table 1. Summary of Representative CPL Photodetectors Based on Chiral 2D Perovskites

device type	chiral 2D perovskite	CD (mdeg)	g_{CD}	D^* (Jones)	$ g_{res} $	ref.
PCs (photoconductors)	(R-MBA) ₂ PbI ₄	~50	-	3.06×10^{11}	0.23	18
	(R-MBA) ₂ PbI ₄	~20	-	1.15×10^{13}	0.15	19
	(S-MBA) ₂ PbI ₄	~10	3×10^{-4}	3.9×10^{12}	0.24	20
	(R-MBA) ₂ PbI ₄	~130	-	2.2×10^{11}	0.09	21
	(R-MPA _{0.5} EA _{0.5}) ₂ PbBr ₄	~30	2.5×10^{-3}	-	0.42	27
PDs (photodiodes)	(R-NEA) ₂ PbI ₄	~50	3×10^{-3}	-	0.18	24
	(R-MBA)Pb(I _{0.7} Br _{0.3}) ₄	~12	4×10^{-4}	6.10×10^{12}	0.1	26
	urea (R-MBA)Pb(I _{0.7} Br _{0.3}) ₄	~30	8×10^{-4}	6.02×10^{12}	0.27	26
	(S-MBA) ₂ PbI ₄	~160	1.8×10^{-3}	-	0.18	30
	(S-MBA) ₂ Pb _{0.9} Sn _{0.1} I ₄	~150	1.6×10^{-3}	1.63×10^{11}	0.44	30
	(R-MBA _{0.5} nBA _{0.5}) ₂ PbI ₄	~170	2.9×10^{-3}	2.45×10^{12}	0.58	This work

significantly higher EQE values (~35.3% at 503 nm) than those (~22.6% at 498 nm) of the counterparts with thicker films. Despite the lower light absorption efficiency of thinner chiral 2D perovskite films, their lower $N_{trap,e/h}$, higher $\mu_{e/h}$, and higher internal electric field collectively enhance the charge transport and facilitate the extraction of carriers from energy barriers, leading to higher EQEs.

The chiral photodetectors were also evaluated in terms of their responsivity R and specific detectivity D^* . The responsivity R in the unit of A/W, which is defined as the ratio of photocurrent to intensity of incident light, can be calculated from the EQE according to eq 5:

$$R = \frac{EQE \cdot e}{h\nu} \quad (5)$$

where h is the Planck constant, ν is the photon frequency, and e is the elementary charge. Figure S11a shows that the 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ photodetectors exhibit the R values with maxima of 0.142 and 0.091 A/W at 503 nm under 0 V bias, respectively, overperforming the (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ counterparts of 0.14 and 0.088 A/W at 498 nm.

The specific detectivity D^* in the unit of Jones, which indicates the ability of a photodetector to detect low levels of incident power, can be calculated through eq 6:

$$D^* = \frac{R\sqrt{A}}{i_{noise}} \quad (6)$$

where R is the responsivity, A is the active area of the device, which is 0.05 cm² in this work, and i_{noise} is the noise current spectral density. Here, i_{noise} was calculated from the fast Fourier transform of the measured dark current versus time. The D^* and i_{noise} values are summarized in Table S3. Figure 3e shows that the 0.2 and 0.3 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ photodetectors exhibit D^* values with maxima of 2.45×10^{12} and 1.59×10^{12} Jones at 503 nm under 0 V bias, respectively, surpassing the (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ counterparts of 1.12×10^{12} and 1.46×10^{12} Jones at 498 nm. The highest D^* exhibited by the 0.2 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ photodetector could benefit from the preferred orientation of (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ perovskites, enhancing their out-of-plane charge transport while also realizing the low i_{noise} . The lowest D^* exhibited by the 0.2 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ photodetector is largely due to the high i_{noise} , which could be related to the relatively lower film quality shown in GIWAXS results (Figure S5a).

The response speeds of the chiral photodetectors were measured under unpolarized light at 500 nm (1.0 mW cm⁻²) with 0 V bias. The responses of all of the chiral photodetectors show stable and reproducible current–time curves, as shown in

Figure S11b. The rise time (τ_r) of the transient photocurrent corresponds to the duration in which the output signal increases from 10 to 90% of its saturated value, with saturation occurring as excitons reach equilibrium. Subsequently, upon switching off the illumination, the decay of the photocurrent is characterized by a fall time (τ_f). The values of τ_r and τ_f are summarized in Table S3. The photodetectors with thicker films show both slower τ_r and τ_f values compared to their thinner counterparts (Figure 3f), attributable to the increased diffusion distance in thicker films. Notably, the photodetectors with the similar thicknesses exhibit comparable τ_r , while the τ_f of the (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ photodetectors, particular the one with a thicker film, is faster than that of (R-MBA)₂PbI₄. This phenomenon can be contributed to the larger built-in potential of (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ under illumination, effectively promoting the separation and extraction of photogenerated electron–hole pairs,⁴⁵ leading to a faster fall time.

Given the optimal device performance exhibited by the chiral photodetectors based on 0.2 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ films, we also fabricated the chiral photodetectors based on 0.2 M (S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (S-MBA)₂PbI₄ films. These devices exhibit similar values and features of J – V curves, EQE, R , and D^* compared to their enantiomer counterparts (Figure S12a–e), indicating the photodetectors based on R- and S-chiral 2D perovskites performing no difference in detecting unpolarized light.

To assess the performance of these optimal chiral photodetectors in distinguishing the polarization states of RCP and LCP photons, we measured the photocurrent density of the devices under illumination of RCP and LCP light (Figure 4a). Based on the CD spectra, the monochromatic RCP and LCP lights at 510 and 505 nm (0.5 mW/cm²) were selected for 0.2 M (R,S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄, respectively. As shown in Figure 4b,c, the photodetectors based on 0.2 M (R-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (R-MBA)₂PbI₄ show higher photocurrent densities under RCP light illumination than those under LCP light illumination, while the photodetectors based on their enantiomer 0.2 M (S-MBA_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (S-MBA)₂PbI₄ show the reverse trend, demonstrating the selectivity of spin-polarized carrier transport. To quantify the capability of the devices in selectively detecting on handedness light over the other, we calculated the distinguishability of response to the LCP and RCP light (g_{res}) according to the following equation:

$$g_{res} = \frac{2(J_L - J_R)}{(J_L + J_R)} \quad (7)$$

where J_L and J_R represent the photocurrent density under LCP and RCP illumination, respectively. The g_{res} factor ranges from -2 to $+2$, which stands for pure RCP or LCP light detection, respectively, whereas 0 indicates no distinguishability between LCP and RCP light. At 0 V bias, the photodetectors based on 0.2 M $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ exhibit high g_{res} factors of -0.58 and $+0.54$, respectively (Figure 4b), surpassing the highest g_{res} reported for 2D perovskite CPL detectors based on a photodiode device architecture (Table 1 and Figure 4i). However, the g_{res} factors of the photodetectors based on 0.3 M $(\text{R,S-MBA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ are -0.18 and $+0.19$, respectively (Figure 4c), about three times lower than the photodetector base on 0.2 M $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$. We further applied external bias to enhance spin transport and consequently increase the photocurrent anisotropy. The J - V curves of the photodetectors with 0.2 M $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ and 0.3 M $(\text{R,S-MBA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ show stable g_{res} factors under the operating bias from 0 to -1 V (Figure 4d–g). The zoomed-in J - V curves over the bias range of 0 to -1 V are shown in Figure S13. All of the chiral photodetectors exhibit an $\sim 10\%$ higher value of g_{res} when a -1 V bias is applied (Figure 4h), which facilitates faster spin transport and highlights the excellent CPL detection ability of $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$.

The increase in the thickness of the 0.3 M $(\text{R-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ film leads to a slight decrease in the g_{res} factor to -0.51 of the CPL response at 0 V bias (Figure S14a). This reduction can be attributed to the decreased difference between the carrier concentrations (Δc) generated by LCP and RCP light illumination in thicker films, consistent with the conclusion drawn from eq 2.⁴¹ This reduced g_{res} factor of the 0.3 M $(\text{R-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ film can also be explained by the higher g_{CD} of thin 0.2 M $(\text{R-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ films compared to that of the thick 0.3 M $(\text{R-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ films. Moreover, the g_{res} of CPL response is 2 orders of magnitude larger than the g_{CD} of the chiral perovskite thin films, which is attributed to the spin-dependent carrier generation, transport, and collection for chiral perovskites under CPL excitation.⁵⁰ The non-optimal photodetector based on the 0.2 M $(\text{R-MBA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ film shows a much lower g_{res} factor of -0.08 at 0 V bias (Figure S14b), which is due to the significant reduction in g_{CD} and inefficient carrier collection.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we fabricated chiral 2D perovskites with mixed aryl, chiral and alkyl, achiral organic cations and deployed them to the photodiode-type CPL photodetectors. The chiral 2D perovskite with the formula of $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ exhibits a g_{CD} of 2.89×10^{-3} , which is a 10-fold enhancement in chirality amplitude compared to the chiral 2D perovskite fabricated with pure aryl, chiral organic cations with the formula of $(\text{R,S-MBA})_2\text{PbI}_4$. The photodiode-type CPL photodetectors fabricated with 0.2 M $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$ (~ 220 nm thick) exhibit high g_{res} factors of -0.58 and 0.54 , respectively, surpassing the highest reported values for CPL detectors based on chiral 2D perovskites. Moreover, the fabricated CPL photodetectors show self-powered capability with a D^* of 2.45×10^{12} Jones at 0 V bias. This work demonstrates that mixing aryl, chiral cations with alkyl, achiral cations in 2D perovskites offers an effective way to amplify the chirality and makes it possible to develop CPL-selective photodetectors for potential applications in polarization-sensitive imaging systems, information encryption, and drug discovery.

METHODS

Chemical Materials. Lead(II) iodide (PbI_2 , 99.99%), N,N -dimethylformamide (DMF, anhydrous, $\geq 99.8\%$), diethyl ether ($\geq 99\%$), N,N -dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, anhydrous, $\geq 99.9\%$), ethanol ($\geq 99.5\%$), chlorobenzene (CB, anhydrous, $\geq 99.8\%$), hydroiodic acid (57 wt % stabilized with 1.5% hypophosphorous acid), organic amine (\pm)- α -methylbenzylamine (rac-MBA, $>98\%$), (R)-(+)- α -methylbenzylamine (R-MBA, $>98\%$), (S)-(-)- α -methylbenzylamine (S-MBA, $>98\%$), [6,6]-phenyl C61 butyric acid methyl ester (PCBM, $>99.9\%$), and bathocuproine (BCP, 99.99%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, Missouri). Butylammonium iodide (BAI) was purchased from GreatCell Solar (Queanbeyan, Australia). A poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)-poly(styrenesulfonate) (PEDOT:PSS) solution (Clevios P VP AI 4083) was purchased from Heraeus (Hanau, Germany). The SnO_2 nanoparticle (15% in H_2O colloidal dispersion) was purchased from Alfa Aesar (Haverhill, Massachusetts). Aluminum and silver pellets of 99.999% purity were purchased from R. D. Mathis (Long Beach, CA). All of the purchased chemicals were used without further purification.

(R)/(S)-MBAI Synthesis. (R)/(S)-MBAI was synthesized by dissolving (R)/(S)-MBA (5 mL) in 30 mL of ethanol in an ice bath. A hydroiodic acid aqueous solution (5.8 mL) was added dropwise to the flask with vigorous stirring. After the addition of hydroiodic acid, the mixture was allowed to stand in an ice bath for 1 h. The crude product was obtained by slowly evaporating the solvent under reduced pressure. The white precipitate was then redissolved in ethanol and recrystallized with diethyl ether. The small crystals were further washed with diethyl ether several times before being dried in a vacuum oven.

Chiral 2D Perovskite Thin Film Fabrication. Plain glass substrates (Fisher Scientific) were cut into $15 \text{ mm} \times 15 \text{ mm}$ sizes and cleaned via ultrasonication for 15 min in detergent in soapy Millipore deionized water, Millipore deionized water, acetone, and isopropanol in sequence. The cleaned substrates were treated with oxygen plasma at 100 W for 10 min. The substrates were transferred to a N_2 -filled glovebox to make chiral 2D perovskite films. To prepare the precursor, synthesized (R)/(S)-MBAI and nBAI were dissolved in DMF/DMSO along with PbI_2 at designated ratios to satisfy the chemical formulas of $(\text{R,S-MBA})_2\text{PbI}_4$ and $(\text{R,S-MBA}_{0.5}\text{nBA}_{0.5})_2\text{PbI}_4$. Specifically, the mole ratio between the total amount of organic ammonium cations and the amount of PbI_2 was 2:1. Additionally, DMSO was added to the solutions, and the ratio of DMSO to lead cations was 1:1. Then, DMF was added to the solutions to make the Pb^{2+} concentration in the solutions to be 0.2 or 0.3 M. The resulting solutions were spin-coated onto a glass substrate at 1000 rpm for 10 s and 3000 rpm for 30 s. Chlorobenzene as an antisolvent was dripped during the spin coating process. The substrate was then heated at 100°C for 10 min.

Chiral Photodetector Fabrication. Chiral photodetectors were fabricated with the configuration of ITO/PEDOT:PSS/chiral 2D perovskites/PCBM/BCP/Al. ITO-coated glass substrates were cleaned by the same methods as described above. The PEDOT:PSS solution was filtered through a $0.45 \mu\text{m}$ nylon syringe filter and spin-coated onto a cleaned ITO/glass substrate at 5000 rpm for 40 s, followed by annealing at 150°C for 20 min. The chiral 2D perovskite layer was fabricated as described above. A 20 mg/mL PCBM in chlorobenzene solution and a 0.5 mg/mL BCP in isopropanol solution were prepared. The substrates were respectively spin-coated with PCBM at 1000 rpm for 40 s and BCP at 4000 rpm for 40 s. The devices were completed by depositing a 100 nm Al layer onto their surfaces through a shadow mask, defining an active area of 0.05 cm^2 .

Electron-Only and Hole-Only Device Fabrication. Electron-only photodetectors were fabricated with a configuration of ITO/ SnO_2 /chiral 2D perovskites/PCB/Ag. ITO-coated glass substrates were cleaned by the same methods described above. A SnO_2 layer was coated by spin-coating a diluted aqueous solution of 2.5 wt % SnO_2 nanoparticles onto a cleaned ITO/glass substrate at 3000 rpm for 30 s, followed by annealing at 150°C for 30 min. The chiral 2D perovskite and PCBM layer were fabricated as described above. The

devices were completed by depositing a 100 nm Ag layer onto their surfaces through a shadow mask, defining an active area of 0.05 cm². Hole-only photodetectors were fabricated with a configuration of ITO/PEDOT:PSS/chiral 2D perovskites/MoO₃/Ag. ITO-coated glass substrates were cleaned by the same methods described above. The PEDOT:PSS and chiral 2D perovskite layers were fabricated as described above. These devices were completed by depositing a 10 nm MoO₃ layer followed by a 100 nm Ag layer onto their surfaces through a shadow mask, defining an active area of 0.05 cm².

Thin Film Characterization. Ultraviolet–visible (UV–vis) absorption spectra were collected by using a Varian Cary 5000 UV–vis–NIR spectrophotometer. Steady-state photoluminescence (PL) measurements of the thin films were captured by using an Edinburgh FLS1000 spectrometer with an excitation wavelength of 400 nm. The transmission circular dichroism (CD) data of the thin films were collected by using a CD spectrometer (J-1500, JASCO). Two-dimensional X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected with a Rigaku SmartLab X-ray diffractometer using Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.5405$ Å). The grazing-incidence wide-angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS) measurements were conducted at the Complex Materials Scattering (CMS, 11-BM) beamline of National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS-II) at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The X-ray beam has a size of 200 μ m (horizontally) \times 50 μ m (vertically), a divergence of 1 mrad, and an energy of 13.5 keV with a resolution of 0.7%. The perovskite films were deposited on 1.5 cm \times 1.5 cm ITO glass and were measured with an exposure time of 5 s at incidence angles of 0.20° with respect to the substrate plane. The scattered data were collected with a customized Pilatus 800K area detector (Dectris, Switzerland), which consists of 0.172 mm square pixels in a 1043 \times 981 array, placed 0.260 m downstream with respect to the sample position. The collected 2D-scattering patterns were visualized and analyzed by a custom Python script developed by the authors. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images were acquired using an FEI Sirion SEM operated at 3 kV to analyze surface morphology.

Chiral Photodetector Characterization. Unpolarized light was then converted to CPL by using a quarter-wave plate (Thorlabs, AQWP05M-580) and two linear polarizers (Thorlabs, LPVISA050). J – V curves, EQE, and response speed in the dark and under unpolarized illumination and circular polarized illumination were measured with a QE-RX system (EnliTech).

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsnano.4c02588>.

Chiroptical and structural properties of the 0.2 and 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ and (R,S-MBA)_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ films; energy diagram of the chiral photodetector, electron-only, and hole-only devices; illustrations of the charge injection, generation, and transport in a device; SCLC measurements, carrier charge mobility, and carrier trap density based on the electron-only and hole-only devices; J – V curves, EQE, responsivity, specific detectivity, and response speed spectra of the photodetectors under unpolarized light based on 0.3 M (S-MBA)₂PbI₄ and 0.2 M (S-MBA)_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄; J – V curves under RCP and LCP light illumination of the photodetectors with the 0.2 M (R,S-MBA)_{0.5}nBA_{0.5})₂PbI₄ and 0.3 M (R,S-MBA)₂PbI₄ films (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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