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Photophysical dynamics in $(\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3)\text{PbX}_3$ ($\text{X}=\text{Br}, \text{Cl}$) single crystal perovskites studied by Muon-Spin Spectroscopy

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In our efforts to help the earth recover from ecological burnout we have been trying to bridle the sun's energy since 1954, when the first practical silicon solar cell was introduced. Today we are researching for ever higher efficiencies, while we try to make use of earth-abundant materials. Perovskite solar cells are promising candidates for next generation photovoltaic technology due to their energy gap tunability and significantly long carrier lifetime which leads to a high diffusion length.

This study focuses on ion diffusion in $(\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3)\text{PbX}_3$ ($\text{X}=\text{Br}, \text{Cl}$) hybrid perovskites, structures that contain moving organic cations confined in a cage structure of PbX_6 octahedra. Diffusing ions can affect the local magnetic field distribution. We employ muon spin spectroscopy (μSR) to exploit this effect by studying the relaxation of muon spin in local electronic and nuclear fields. Single crystals were studied in a 30-340 K temperature range with and without illumination. We investigate the thermally activated regions, compare the extracted diffusion rate coefficients and activation energies. However, the dynamical structure and structural transitions of hybrid perovskites make theoretical interpretations challenging. With μSR we are able to detect these structural changes and study their effect on the diffusive properties of the crystals.

Primary authors: Mr PAPAPOULOS, Konstantinos (Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-41296 Göteborg, Sweden); Ms NOCERINO, Elisabetta (Department of Applied Physics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden); COTTRELL, Stephen (ISIS Facility, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QX, United Kingdom); SUGIYAMA, Jun (Neutron Science and Technology Center, Comprehensive Research Organization for Science and Society (CROSS), Tokai, Ibaraki 319-1106, Japan); PABITRA K., Nayak (Department of Physics, Oxford University, OX1 3PU, Oxford, United Kingdom); BÖRJESSON, Lars (Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-41296 Göteborg, Sweden); Prof. MANSSON, Martin (Department of Applied Physics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden); FORSLUND, Ola Kenji (Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-41296 Göteborg, Sweden); SASSA, Yasmine (Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-41296 Göteborg, Sweden)

Presenter: SASSA, Yasmine (Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-41296 Göteborg, Sweden)

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