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First-principles study on optoelectronic properties of Cs₂PbX₄–PtSe₂ van der Waals heterostructures†

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In order to achieve low-cost, high efficiency and stable photoelectric devices, two-dimensional (2D) inorganic halide perovskite photosensitive layers need to cooperate with other functional layers. Here, we investigate the structure, stability and optical properties of perovskite and transition metal dichalcogenide (TMD) heterostructures using first-principles calculations. Firstly, Cs₂PbX₄–PtSe₂ (X = Cl, Br, I) heterostructures are stable because of negative interface binding energy. With the halogen varying from Cl to I, the interface binding energies of Cs₂PbX₄–PtSe₂ heterostructures decrease rapidly. 2D Cs₂PbCl₄–PtSe₂, Cs₂PbBr₄–PtSe₂ and Cs₂PbI₄–PtSe₂ heterostructures have an indirect bandgap with the value of 1.28, 1.02, and 1.29 eV, respectively, which approach the optimal bandgap (1.34 eV) for solar cells. In the contact state, the electrons transfer from the PtSe₂ monolayer to Cs₂PbX₄ monolayer and only the Cs₂PbBr₄–PtSe₂ heterostructure maintains the type-II band alignment. The Cs₂PbBr₄–PtSe₂ heterostructure has the strongest charge transfer among the three Cs₂PbX₄–PtSe₂ heterostructures because it has the lowest tunnel barrier height (ΔT) and the highest potential difference value (ΔEP). Furthermore, the light absorption coefficient of Cs₂PbX₄–MSe₂ heterostructures is at least two times higher than that of monolayer 2D inorganic halide perovskites. With the halogen varying from Cl to I, the light absorption coefficients of the Cs₂PbX₄–PtSe₂ heterostructures increase rapidly in the visible region. Above all, the Cs₂PbX₄–MSe₂ heterostructures have broad application prospects in photodetectors, solar cells and other fields.

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Introduction

In recent years, halide perovskites have attracted much attention because of their promising optoelectronic applications such as in photodetectors, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and solar cells.^{1–3} The power conversion efficiency (PCE) of the halide perovskite solar cells has increased continuously from 3.8% to 25.6%.^{4,5} Early research mainly focused on lead-based three-dimensional (3D) halide perovskite materials with a general formula ABX₃ due to their excellent optoelectronic properties. However, the instability of the 3D hybrid perovskite

perovskites in the environment with high humidity or high-temperature is a major challenge for their large-scale applications.⁶ Therefore, a substantial part of the current research efforts is dedicated to improve the stability of perovskite solar cells by searching for alternative materials with comparable optoelectronic properties with the 3D hybrid halide perovskites but high materials stability.^{7–11}

Two-dimensional (2D) inorganic halide perovskites with excellent moisture resistance and stability have been exploring for optoelectronic devices.¹² In theoretical calculations, Bala *et al.* revealed objective laws that the band gap and optical property of multilayered 2D Cs_{n+1}Pb_nX_{3n+1} (X = Cl, Br, I) perovskite vary with layer n.¹³ Swarnkar *et al.* have shown the PCE of A–CsPbI₃ quantum dots exceed 10% and they are stable under environmental conditions.¹⁴ In order to achieve low-cost, high efficiency, stable photoelectric devices, 2D inorganic halide perovskites photoactive layers need to cooperate with other functional layers.^{15–20} Two-dimensional materials, such as graphene, MXene and black phosphorus (BP) have unique electronic, thermal, mechanical and photonic properties, which are widely used as functional layers for 2D perovskite photo-electric equipment.^{21–27} Especially, two-dimensional transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) as the functional layers can significantly improve the efficiency of 2D inorganic halide perovskite optoelectronic devices.^{28,29}

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As an emerging TMDs material, PtSe₂ exhibits excellent optical, electrical, stabilized and mechanical properties. Single-crystal monolayer PtSe₂ thin films have been successfully fabricated with an indirect bandgap of 1.2 eV.³⁰ The bandgap of PtSe₂ decreases when the layer number of PtSe₂ and the thickness of PtSe₂ increase, which is an effective way to achieve the metal to semiconductor transition.³¹ The bandgap of PtSe₂ is widely tunable, so it can be effectively responsive to near-infrared light compared with that of BP.³² Therefore, PtSe₂ exhibits a promising material for optoelectronic device applications such as photo-detectors, field-effect transistors (FET) and halide perovskite solar cells.³³ For example, Zeng *et al.* revealed that PtSe₂/GaAs heterostructure has a broad sensitivity range of illumination.³⁴ PtSe₂/FA_{0.85}CS_{0.15}PbI₃ heterostructure photodetector has a wide range of optical response and photosensitive characteristics such as fast responsivity, high $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ ratio and decent specific detectivity at zero bias.³⁵ However, interface electronic transfer and band alignment of Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ (X = Cl, Br, I) heterostructures are not studied theoretically. It's worth to reveal the effect of halide elements on Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ heterostructures, which can promote the development of 2D inorganic halide perovskite and TMDs optoelectronic applications.

Herein, we constructed the 2D inorganic halide perovskite Cs₂PbX₄ and monolayer PtSe₂ heterostructures and explored optoelectronic properties, the charge transfer and band alignment *via* first-principles calculations. At first, we used DFT-D3 method to optimize the heterostructures and studied their geometric structures and stability. Then, we analysed the band alignment type and the work-function of heterostructures with different halide elements. Next, we calculated plane-averaged electrostatic potential and charge density difference to explore the charge transfer mechanism. Finally, we calculated the optical absorption coefficients of monolayer PtSe₂, Cs₂PbX₄ and heterostructures Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂. Constructing Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ heterostructures can effectively enhance the optical properties for 2D inorganic halide perovskites.

Computational details

All calculations were performed in the framework of density functional theory (DFT) implemented in the Vienna Ab initial Simulation Package (VASP) code with the projected augmented wave (PAW) method.^{36,37} Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) functional was employed treat the electron exchange–correlation interaction.³⁸ In order to optimize the atomic structure for correcting the van der Waals (vdW) interaction, we used DFT-D3 method of Grimme and chose a 3 × 3 × 1 Monkhorst–Pack *k*-point meshes for the Brillouin zone.^{39,40} The cutoff energy of the plane-wave was set to 450 eV and convergence for total energy is 1 × 10⁻⁴ eV was set in the self-consistent calculations. All atoms were fully relaxed until the total forces converge to 0.05 eV Å⁻¹. A vacuum space of 20 Å was set to avoid interaction between the model's periodic images. The Heyd–Scuseria–Ernzerhof (HSE) hybrid functional is applied for electronic structure calculation of 2D inorganic halide perovskites to correct the band gaps.^{41,42} The spin–orbit coupling (SOC) were also considered because of the existence of the heavy elements in Pb.⁴³

To study the stability of the Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ heterostructures, we calculated interface binding energy by the following formula:

$$E_b = (E_{\text{heter.}} - E_{\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4} - E_{\text{PtSe}_2})/A \quad (1)$$

where *A* represents the interfacial area of Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ heterostructures, $E_{\text{heter.}}$, $E_{\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4}$, E_{PtSe_2} are the total energy of heterostructures Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂, monolayer Cs₂PbX₄ and PtSe₂, respectively.

Plane-averaged charge density difference $\Delta\rho$ which can be quantitatively calculated as the followed equation:

$$\Delta\rho(z) = \rho_{\text{heter.}} - \rho_{\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4} - \rho_{\text{PtSe}_2} \quad (2)$$

where $\rho_{\text{heter.}}$, $\rho_{\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4}$ and ρ_{PtSe_2} correspond to the plane-averaged charge density of heterojunctions Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂, monolayer Cs₂PbX₄ and PtSe₂, respectively.

The 2D Mott–Wannier (MW) exciton binding energy (E_{eb}) equation is as followed:

$$E_{\text{eb}} = 4 \frac{13.6\mu_{\text{ex}}}{m_0\varepsilon^2} \text{ eV} \quad (3)$$

where μ_{ex} is the effective exciton mass ($\mu_{\text{ex}} = m_e m_h / (m_e + m_h)$), m_0 is the electron mass, and ε is the static dielectric constant. The effective masses of electron (m_e) and hole (m_h) are determined by the curvature of the energy band extremum.

The optical absorption coefficients are obtained from dielectric function, as the followed equation represented:

$$\alpha(\omega) = (\sqrt{2})\omega \left[\sqrt{\varepsilon_1(\omega)^2 + \varepsilon_2(\omega)^2} - \varepsilon_1(\omega) \right]^{1/2} \quad (4)$$

$$\varepsilon(\omega) = \varepsilon_1(\omega) + i\varepsilon_2(\omega) \quad (5)$$

where α , ω correspond to the optical absorption coefficient, the angular frequency and the dielectric function $\varepsilon(\omega)$ contains real part $\varepsilon_1(\omega)$ and imaginary part $\varepsilon_2(\omega)$.

Results and discussion

In recent years, 2D inorganic cubic phases of halide perovskites and 2D PtSe₂ have been successfully synthesized, which attracted much attention due to the stability compared with 3D hybrid perovskite. The calculated lattice parameter of the monolayer cubic phase Cs₂PbCl₄, Cs₂PbBr₄, Cs₂PbI₄ is 5.64 Å, 5.91 Å, 6.30 Å, as listed in Table 1, which agree well with both experimental and theoretical values.^{42,43} Firstly, we chosen the (001) surface of Cs₂PbX₄ (X = Cl, Br, I) to construct the heterostructures, because it consists of alternating superposition of neutral planes [PbI₂]⁰ and [CsI]⁰, which can effectively reduce dangling bonds.^{44,45} In addition, [CsI]⁰ interface exhibits stronger charge transferring than [PbI₂]⁰, therefore Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ heterostructures consist of the [CsI]⁰ plane of the monolayer Cs₂PbX₄.⁴² In the *Z* direction, we use a large vacuum space of 20 Å to avoid the interlayer interaction. In order to find out the effect of halogen elements on Cs₂PbX₄-PtSe₂ heterostructure, we firstly adopt the same heterostructure expansion



Table 1 Optimized lattice parameters (*a* and *b*) of monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 , configuration, lattice mismatch, interlayer distance ΔZ and interface formation energy E_b of the relaxed Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures

Heterostructures	Configuration	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>b</i> (Å)	ΔZ (Å)	Mismatch (%)		E_b (meV)	Mismatch (%)	
					<i>a</i> = <i>b</i> (Å)	<i>a</i> = <i>b</i> ^a (Å)		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2	$2 \times 2/2\sqrt{3} \times 3$	12.49	11.20	2.76	5.64	5.73	-6.32	7.25	0.03
	$\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{5}/5 \times \sqrt{3}$	18.37	13.18	2.84			-7.78	2.68	3.66
Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2	$2 \times 2/2\sqrt{3} \times 3$	12.58	11.31	2.79	5.91	6.00	-11.30	4.86	0.02
	$\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{5}/5 \times \sqrt{13}$	18.55	13.34	2.89			-46.07	0.30	1.27
Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2	$2 \times 2/2\sqrt{3} \times 3$	12.86	11.33	2.91	6.30	6.40	-16.78	1.66	5.26
	$\sqrt{8} \times 2/5 \times \sqrt{13}$	18.31	13.23	2.88			-15.34	2.69	3.67

^a Values with PBE are from ref. 39.

method, as shown in Fig. S1.† The unit cells of 2D Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 are made up of $2\sqrt{3} \times 3$ supercell of monolayer PtSe_2 and 2×2 supercell of monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 . The optimized vertical interlayer distances of the Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures calculated with vdW force are 2.76 Å, 2.79 Å, and 2.91 Å, which increase gradually with the halogen varying from Cl to I. However, the optimized vertical interlayer distances of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures calculated without vdW force are about 4 Å, so vdW force was considered in the optimization of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures.

The interface binding energy (E_b) of Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 interfaces is -6.32, -11.30 and -16.78 meV Å⁻². The three E_b values are comparable to these of $\text{CsPbI}_3/\text{MoS}_2$ (-21 meV Å⁻²) and InSe/GaSe (-18.25 meV Å⁻²), suggesting that Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are stable in energy.^{46,47} With the halogen varying from Cl to I, the interface binding energies of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures decrease rapidly and heterostructures become more stable in energy due to the lower interface binding energy.^{48,49} Above all, the interlayer distance ranging from 2.76 Å to 2.91 Å belong to vdW and small interface binding energy revealed that 2D Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are formed by vdW contact. The lattice mismatches of the 2D Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures in the *a* and *b* directions are less than 7.25%, 4.86% and 5.54%.

The lattice mismatch between two layers is usually required to be less than 5% to ensure the stability of heterojunctions, the unit cell of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are made up of $\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{5}$ cubic phases Cs_2PbCl_4 and $5 \times \sqrt{13}$ PtSe_2 , $\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{5}$ cubic phases Cs_2PbBr_4 and $5 \times \sqrt{13}$ PtSe_2 , and $\sqrt{8} \times 2$ cubic phases Cs_2PbI_4 and $5 \times \sqrt{13}$ PtSe_2 , as shown in Fig. 1. The maximum lattice mismatches of the 2D Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are 3.66%, 1.27% and 3.67%. The interface binding energy of Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 interfaces is -7.78, -46.07 and -15.34 meV Å⁻², respectively. By comparing the interface binding energy of the above six models, we find that the positive correlation between the lattice mismatch and interface binding energy. With the lattice mismatch decreases, the interface binding energy of heterostructures decreases.

Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures with smaller lattice mismatches are more stable due to the lower interface binding energy. Based on the stability, we chose the Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures with smaller lattice mismatches to study their electronic properties and optical properties.

To investigate the electronic properties and band alignments of 2D Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures, we firstly studied electronic structures of the monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 . The band gaps of the monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 are calculated by PBE, HSE, PBE with SOC (PBE + SOC) and HSE with SOC (HSE + SOC) functionals for comparison, the results are presented in Fig. S2 and Table S1.† It is shown that the band gaps calculated by HSE + SOC and PBE are very close to each other, while the band gap calculated by HSE is larger than PBE and the band gap calculated by PBE + SOC is smaller than PBE, which is consistent with earlier calculations on lead halide perovskites.⁵⁰ The band gaps of monolayer Cs_2PbCl_4 , Cs_2PbBr_4 and Cs_2PbI_4 by PBE functional are 2.59 eV, 2.18 eV and 1.84 eV, which are in good agreement with the theoretical and experimental band gaps of monolayer

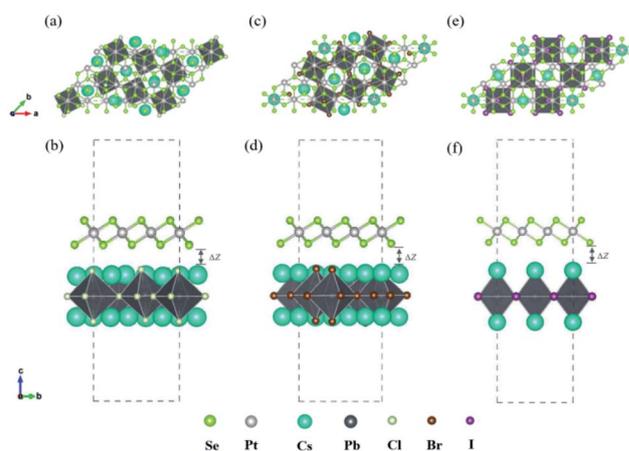


Fig. 1 Top and side views of relaxed 45° Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures. (a and b) Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure. (c and d) Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure. (e and f) Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure. The unit cell of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are made up of $\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{5}$ cubic phases Cs_2PbCl_4 and $5 \times \sqrt{13}$ PtSe_2 , $\sqrt{10} \times \sqrt{5}$ cubic phases Cs_2PbBr_4 and $5 \times \sqrt{13}$ PtSe_2 , and $\sqrt{8} \times 2$ cubic phases Cs_2PbI_4 and $5 \times \sqrt{13}$ PtSe_2 , as shown in figure.



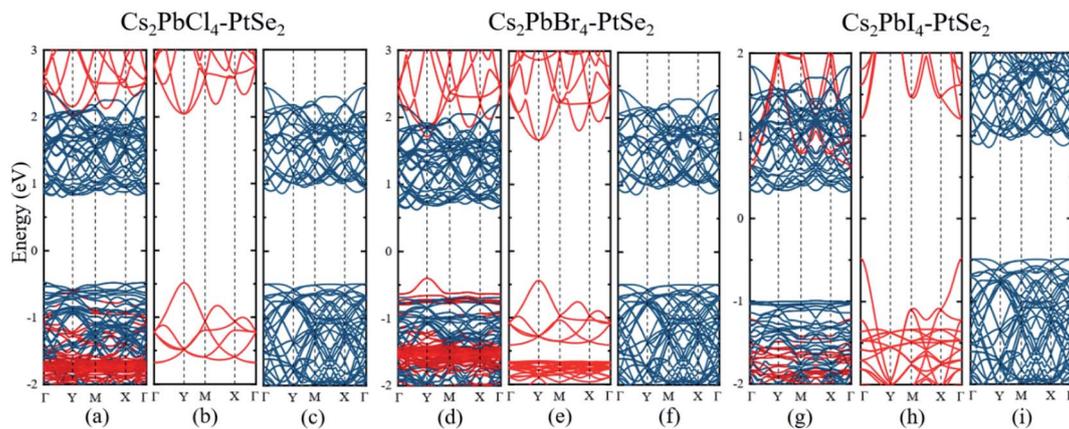


Fig. 2 Electronic band structures of $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures and corresponding monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 : (a–c) $X = \text{Cl}$; (d–f) $X = \text{Br}$; (g–i) $X = \text{I}$. The red and blue lines correspond to Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 , respectively. We calculated the electronic band structures of the $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures by PBE functional.

Cs_2PbX_4 .^{7,10,14,51} In addition, the band gap of the PtSe_2 monolayer using calculations PBE, HSE and HSE + SOC are 1.38 eV, 1.96 eV and 1.79 eV, respectively. Monolayer 1T- PtSe_2 has an indirect bandgap of 1.2 eV measured experimentally with ARPES, which is more consistent with the PBE and PBE + SOC results.^{30,52} After comprehensive consideration, we apply PBE functional for further investigation.

Next, we calculated the electronic band structures of the $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures by PBE functional, as shown in Fig. 2(a), (d) and (g). The conduction band minimum (CBM) of $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures depends on PtSe_2 , while the valence band maximum (VBM) depends on PtSe_2 for $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbCl}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ and $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbI}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures and Cs_2PbBr_4 for $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructure. The band edges of $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterojunctions are not equal to direct superposition of corresponding independent monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 , which are mainly induced by orbital coupling.⁵³ The CBM consists of d-orbital PtSe_2 and the VBM consists of p and d orbital of PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbX_4 , as shown in Fig. S3.† The $\text{Cs}_2\text{-PbCl}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$, $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ and $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbI}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures have an indirect bandgap with the value of 1.28 eV, 1.02 eV, and 1.29 eV, which approach optimal bandgap (1.34 eV) for solar cells.⁵⁴

Furthermore, the Mott–Wannier theory has been used to approximate exciton binding energies in 2D.⁵⁵ The carrier masses and MW exciton binding energy of $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures are listed in Table 2. The lower carrier masses usually mean faster carrier transport.⁴⁷ Therefore, $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructure exhibit the highest hole and electron

mobility among $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures because it has the lowest m_e and m_h . In addition, small exciton binding energy facilitates the splitting of excitons into free charge carriers, indicating that $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructure can effectively promotes the separation of excitons.⁴⁶ Therefore, $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructure exhibits the highest charge transport efficiency among $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures.

In order to research energy level arrangement of $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures, we explored energy band in monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 from precontact (before contact) state to contact state. We set the vacuum level (E_v) to zero in the precontact state and set the Fermi level (E_f) to zero in the contact state to compare energy level heights of different heterostructures.⁵⁶ In the precontact state, the CBM and VBM of monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 are both higher than that of monolayer PtSe_2 , as shown in Fig. 3(a). The electrons will diffuse from the Cs_2PbX_4 to the PtSe_2 monolayer and the holes will move from the PtSe_2 monolayer to the Cs_2PbX_4 monolayer when they contact. Correspondingly, the holes accumulate in Cs_2PbX_4 monolayer and the electrons accumulate in PtSe_2 monolayer, leading to an increase of interface electric potential in Cs_2PbX_4 monolayer and a decrease of this in PtSe_2 monolayer.^{48,49} Therefore, the band edges of Cs_2PbX_4 interface are bent upward and those of PtSe_2 interface are bent downward after the contact of monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 . The difference between the Fermi level and the vacuum level is defined as the work function, representing the binding capacity of electrons.⁵⁶ Calculated work functions of monolayers Cs_2PbCl_4 , Cs_2PbBr_4 , Cs_2PbI_4 and PtSe_2 are 4.08 eV, 4.21 eV, 4.30 eV, and 5.29 eV, respectively. Therefore, the Fermi level of all Cs_2PbX_4 perovskites moved down and this of monolayer PtSe_2 moved up after they contact each other, to keep the Fermi levels at the same level. The energy level diagram of $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbX}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructures in the contact is shown in Fig. 3(b). The $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ heterostructure is type-II level alignment which is conducive to spontaneously drive the holes and electrons generated by the photoelectricity to move forward in opposite directions.^{48,49,57} However, the $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbCl}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$ and $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbI}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$

Table 2 Carrier effective masses (m_e , m_h , and μ_{ex}), static dielectric constant (ϵ), MW excitonic binding energies (E_{eb})

Heterostructures	m_e (m_0)	m_h (m_0)	μ_{ex} (m_0)	ϵ	E_{eb} (eV)
$\text{Cs}_2\text{PbCl}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$	0.36	4.87	0.34	5.42	0.62
$\text{Cs}_2\text{PbBr}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$	0.34	0.44	0.19	5.55	0.34
$\text{Cs}_2\text{PbI}_4\text{-PtSe}_2$	0.38	4.88	0.35	5.86	0.56



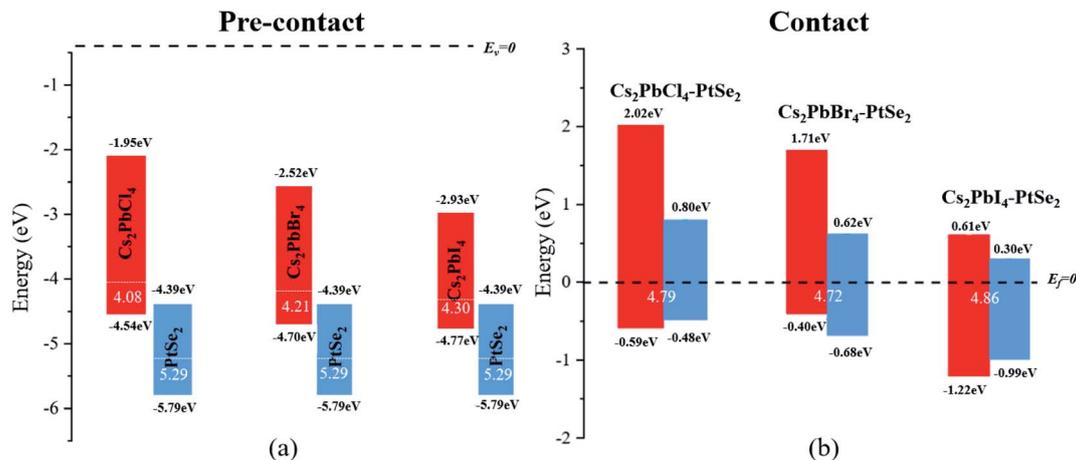


Fig. 3 Energy level graphs of the monolayer PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbX_4 in the (a) precontact and (b) contact. Red and blue rectangles represent the monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 . The bottom and top of rectangles correspond to VBM and CBM, respectively. The work function is labeled in the rectangles. In order to research energy level arrangement of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures, we explored energy band in monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 from precontact (before contact) state to contact state.

PtSe_2 heterostructures are type-I level arrangement. Due to the type-II level alignment of Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure, it is useful to charge separation and improve PCE performance of Cs_2PbX_4 solar cells.

In order to research the interfacial contact and charge transfer mechanism of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures, plane-averaged charge density difference and corresponding 3D charge density difference were computed, as shown in Fig. 4. It is shown that electrons accumulate in PtSe_2 layer which is represented by blue region and the electrons dissipate in Cs_2PbX_4 interface represented by red region, indicating that the electrons transfer from Cs_2PbX_4 monolayer to the PtSe_2 monolayer. In addition, the holes primarily accumulate in the Cs_2PbX_4 interface, revealing that the holes transfer from PtSe_2 monolayer to the Cs_2PbX_4 monolayer. Besides, the amounts of

the charge transferring in the Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures follow the order $\text{Cl} < \text{Br} < \text{I}$, indicating Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are more beneficial to interfacial charge transfer.

In order to further compare the charge transfers of the three heterojunctions, the plane-averaged electrostatic potentials of 2D Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures in the z direction are presented in Fig. 5. The electrostatic potentials drop from perovskites monolayer to PtSe_2 monolayer in the interfaces. The electrostatic potential difference values (ΔEP , marked in Fig. 5) are involved in the charge transfers. A larger ΔEP implies a powerful built-in electrostatic field which could lead to carrier dynamics and charge transfer.^{47,48} The ΔEP of Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are 19.89 eV, 19.92 eV and 19.53 eV, respectively. Therefore, the

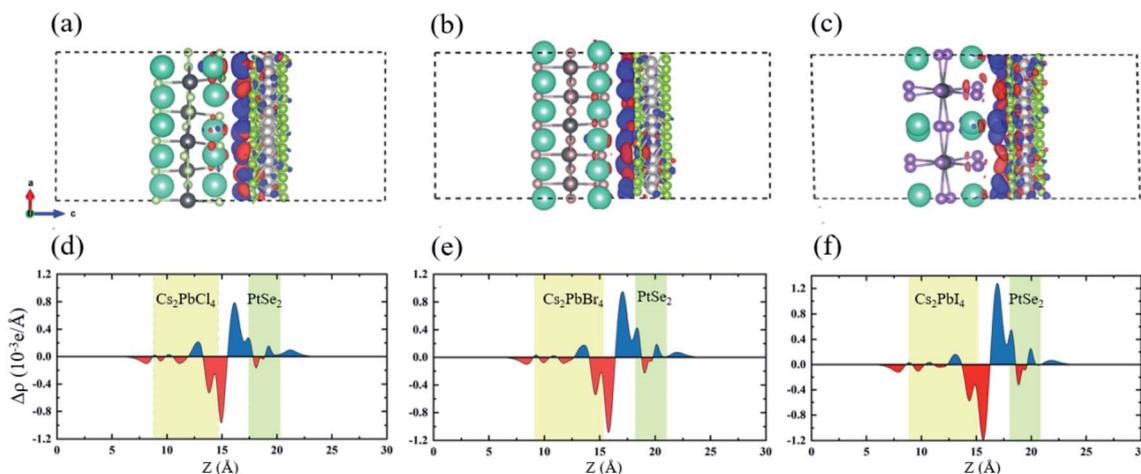


Fig. 4 3D charge density difference and corresponding planar-averaged differential charge density $\Delta\rho(z)$ of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures: (a and d) X = Cl; (b and e) X = Br; (c and f) X = I. Red and blue represent electron depletion and accumulation. The yellow and green areas represent Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 , respectively. In order to research the interfacial contact and charge transfer mechanism of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures, Plane-averaged charge density difference and corresponding 3D charge density difference were computed.



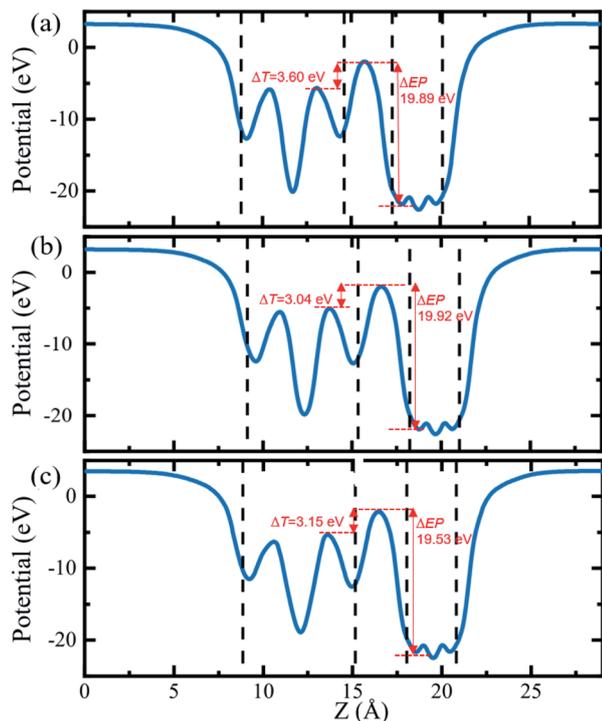


Fig. 5 The planar-averaged electrostatic potentials of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures. (a) Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure, (b) Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure, (c) Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure. In order to further compare the charge transfers of the three heterojunctions, the plane-averaged electrostatic potentials of 2D Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures in the z direction are presented in figure.

Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure has the highest charge transfers in the three Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures due to the highest ΔEP . In addition, tunnel barrier height (ΔT , marked in Fig. 6.) determines the electron transport efficiency, when the ΔT is lower, the charge injection efficiency is higher.⁴⁷ The ΔT of Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures is 3.60 eV, 3.04 eV and 3.15 eV, respectively. Tunnel barrier height of Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure is the lowest in the three Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures, so Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure has the highest charge transport efficiency. From the above, Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure has great potential for optoelectronic applications due to the highest ΔEP and the lowest ΔT .

The optical properties of perovskites have an important influence on the perovskite optoelectronic devices besides electronic structure. The optical absorption coefficients of single-layer PtSe_2 , single-layer Cs_2PbX_4 , and corresponding heterostructures were calculated, as represented in Fig. 6. The optical absorptions of all heterostructures are significantly greater than the corresponding monolayer Cs_2PbX_4 and PtSe_2 , which could be related to the interface contact of heterostructures. The light absorption coefficient of Cs_2PbX_4 - MSe_2 heterostructures is at least twice higher than that of monolayer 2D inorganic halide perovskites. With the halogen varying from Cl to I, the light absorption coefficients of the Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures increase rapidly in the visible region. In the

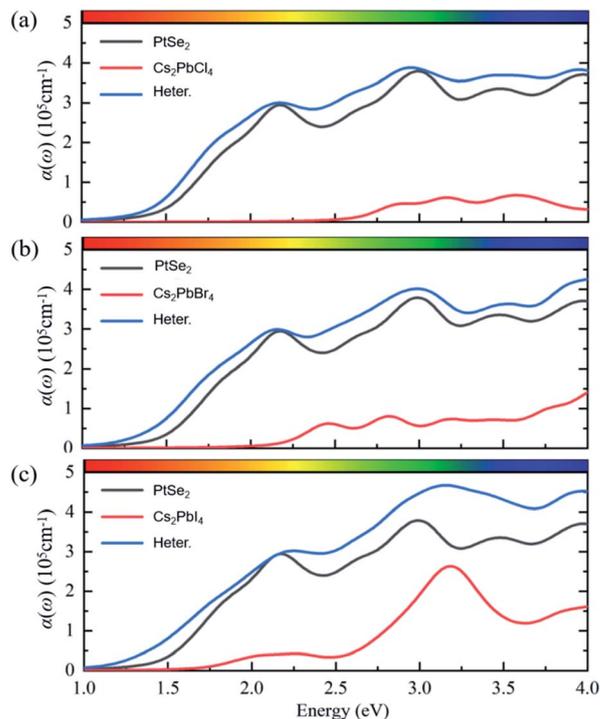


Fig. 6 The planar-averaged electrostatic potentials of Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures. (a) Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure, (b) Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure, (c) Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure. The optical properties of perovskites have an important influence on the perovskite optoelectronic devices besides electronic structure.

visible region, optical absorption spectra of Cs_2PbI_4 is highest in the Cs_2PbX_4 perovskites and the optical absorption spectra of Cs_2PbCl_4 is lowest in the Cs_2PbX_4 perovskites. The Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructure shows the maximum optical absorption in visible regions. In addition, the optical absorption coefficients of single-layer PtSe_2 are larger than those of 2D inorganic Cs_2PbX_4 perovskites in the visible and ultraviolet regions. Therefore, building PtSe_2 and 2D inorganic halide perovskite heterostructures would be an effective way to improve the optical absorption of 2D inorganic halide perovskite.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we studied the structural, stability, optoelectronic properties and charge transfer mechanism of 2D halide perovskite heterostructures Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 ($X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$). Our results represent that 2D Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures are formed by van der Waals contact. Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 , Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures have an indirect bandgap with the value of 1.28 eV, 1.02 eV, and 1.29 eV, respectively, which approach optimal bandgap (1.34 eV) for solar cells. In the precontact state, all the Cs_2PbX_4 - PtSe_2 heterostructures exhibit type-II band arrangement, which drives the spontaneous motion of the carrier. In the contact state, Cs_2PbBr_4 - PtSe_2 exhibits type-II band arrangement, while heterojunctions Cs_2PbCl_4 - PtSe_2 and Cs_2PbI_4 - PtSe_2 exhibit type-I band alignment. The charge density difference confirms that



the holes transfer from PtSe₂ monolayer to the Cs₂PbX₄ monolayer and the electrons transfer from Cs₂PbX₄ monolayer to PtSe₂ monolayer. Furthermore, the Cs₂PbBr₄-PtSe₂ heterostructure has the highest electron transport efficiency due to the highest ΔEP and the lowest ΔT. In addition, the light absorption coefficient of Cs₂PbX₄-MSe₂ heterostructures is at least twice higher than that of monolayer 2D inorganic halide perovskites. In summary, the construction of 2D inorganic halide perovskites and monolayer PtSe₂ heterostructures is a useful method to enhance the optoelectronic performance of 2D inorganic halide perovskites for optoelectronic and photovoltaic applications.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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