Edge anchoring stabilizes perovskite quantum dots via multi-amino ligands

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Introduction

Perovskite quantum dots (PQDs) suffer from poor stability against ambient stimulus (light, heat, moisture, polar solvent and electric field), which results in degradation of PQDs during solution-based purification and storage processes, and in ionic migration and performance decline in operative electroluminescent light-emitting devices (LEDs). These stability issues severely limit the commercialization of PQDs and the relevant devices. The instability of PQDs stems in a large degree from loose binding between the inorganic QD core and their surface ligands. [1] In this work, we reported "edge anchoring" PQDs that are stabilized by a new multi-amino chelating ligand named AHDA.

AHDA-CsPbl₃ QDs

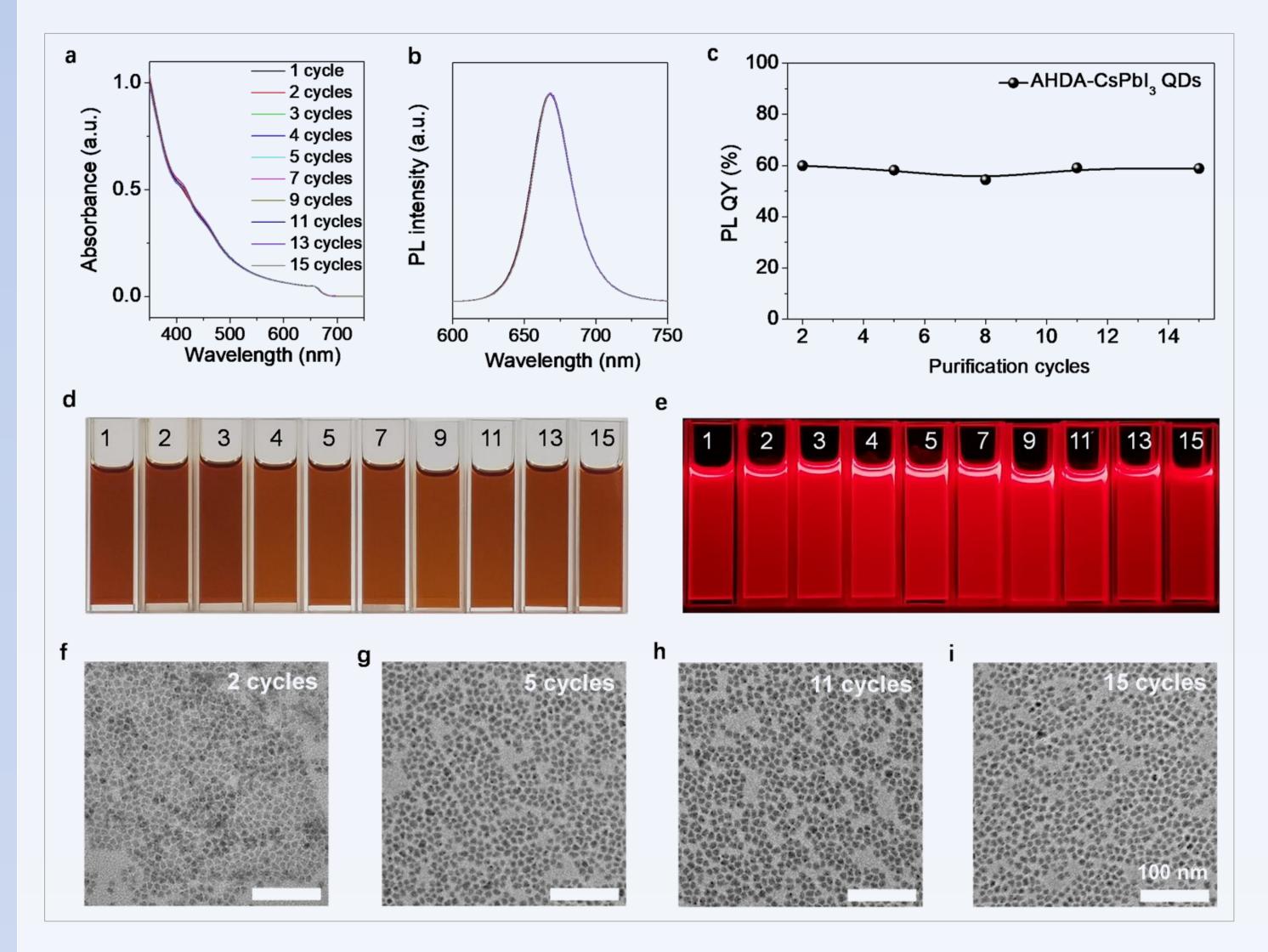


Figure 1. Record of optical properties and morphology over purification time.

OLA-CsPbl₃ QDs

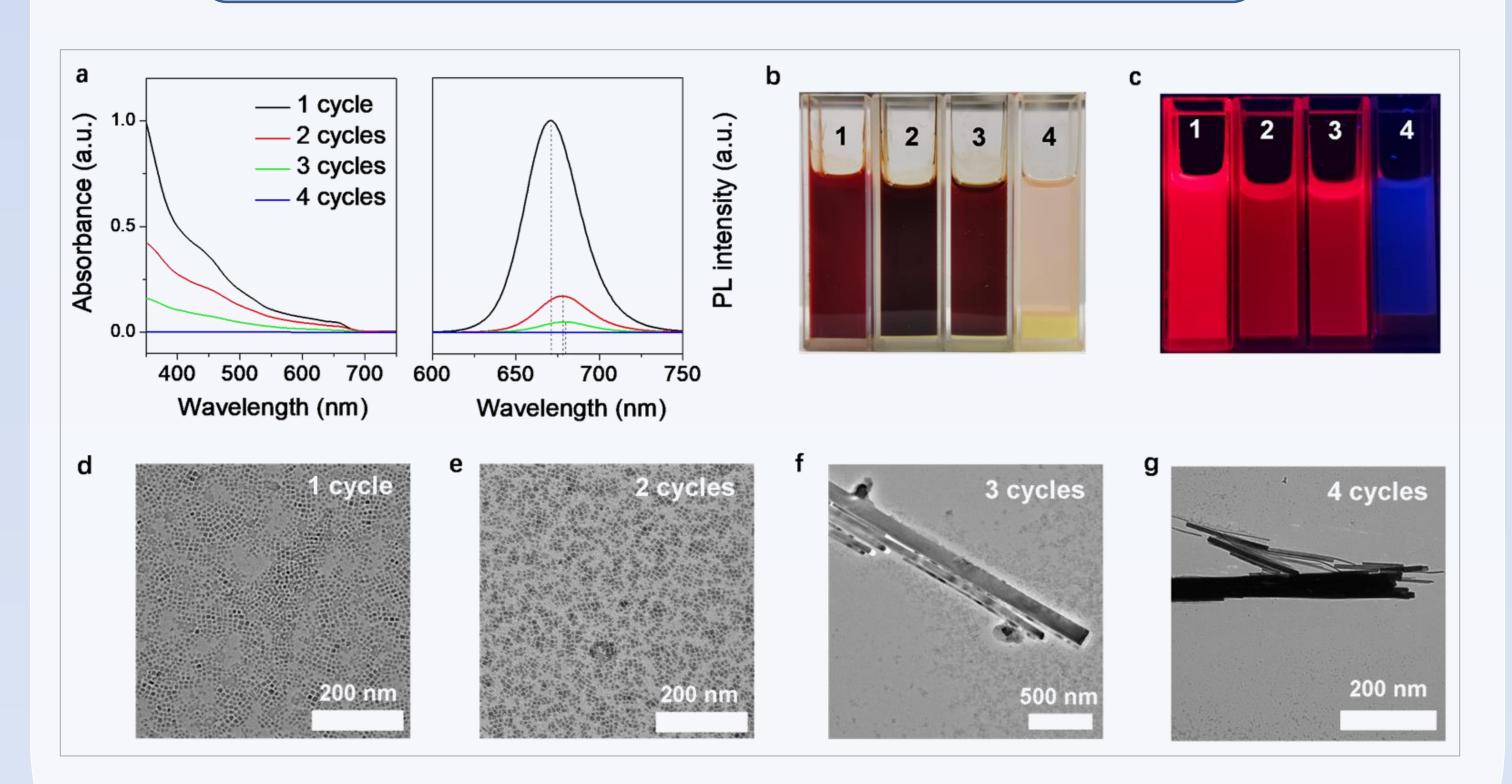


Figure 2. Record of optical properties and morphology over purification time.

Phase stability

85°C in air with relative humidity of 30-40%

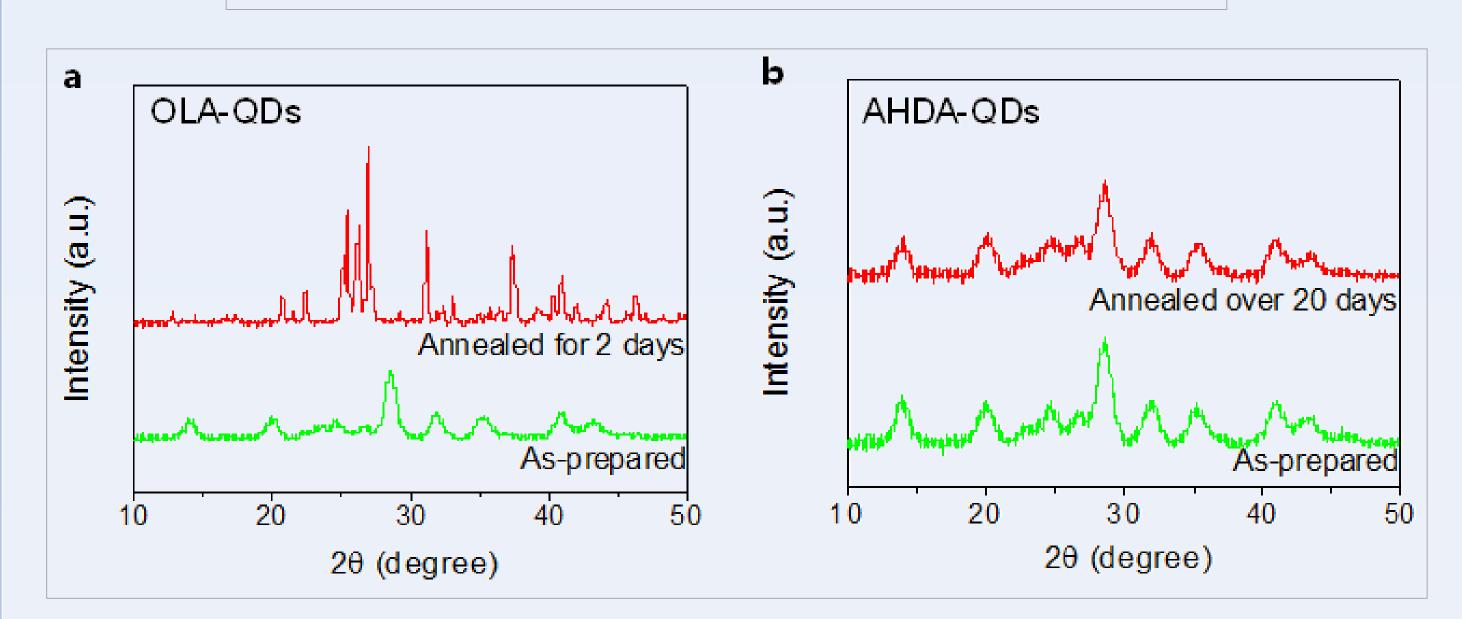


Figure 3. XRD patterns of OLA-CsPbl₃ and AHDA-CsPbl₃ QD film annealed at 85°C in air with relative humidity of 30-40%.

Stabilizing mechanism

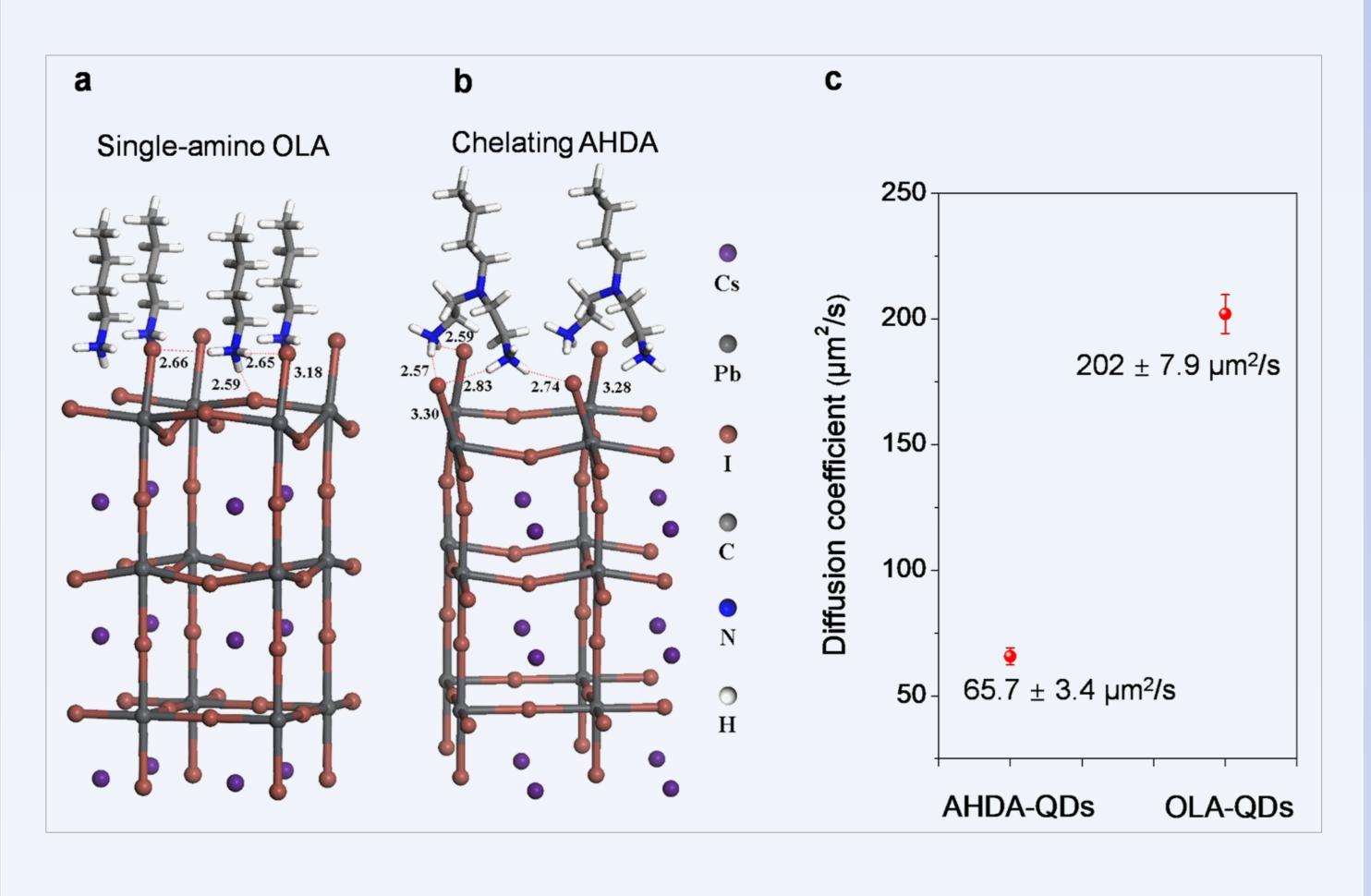


Figure 4. (a)-(b) Adsorption structures of OLA and AHDA on $CsPbl_3(100)$ surface with labeled bond lengths (unit in Å). The binding energies of OLA and AHDA on $CsPbl_3$ edge are 1.47 and 2.36 eV, respectively. (c) Diffusion coefficients of OLA and AHDA capped QDs.

Summary

The most labile CsPbI₃ QDs were used as a model system to test the effect of AHDA. AHDA can maintain the optical properties and morphology of CsPbI₃ PQDs for > 90 days, and even over 15 purification cycles. And the phase stability of AHDA-stabilized CsPbI₃ PQDs maintained for > 20 days, when annealed at 85°C in air with relative humidity of 30-40%. This robustness in CsPbI₃ PQDs is observed for the first time, indicating great potential of this ligands in preparing stable PQDs. The unprecedented stability of AHDA-QDs originates from the chelating effect allows to attach AHDA on PQD surface with high binding energy (BE) reaching 2.36 eV, much larger than typical values of 1.4 - 1.6 eV for the commercially available ligands.