

ADVANCED FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS

Supporting Information

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Radiation Hardness and Defects Activity in $\text{PEA}_2\text{PbBr}_4$ Single Crystals

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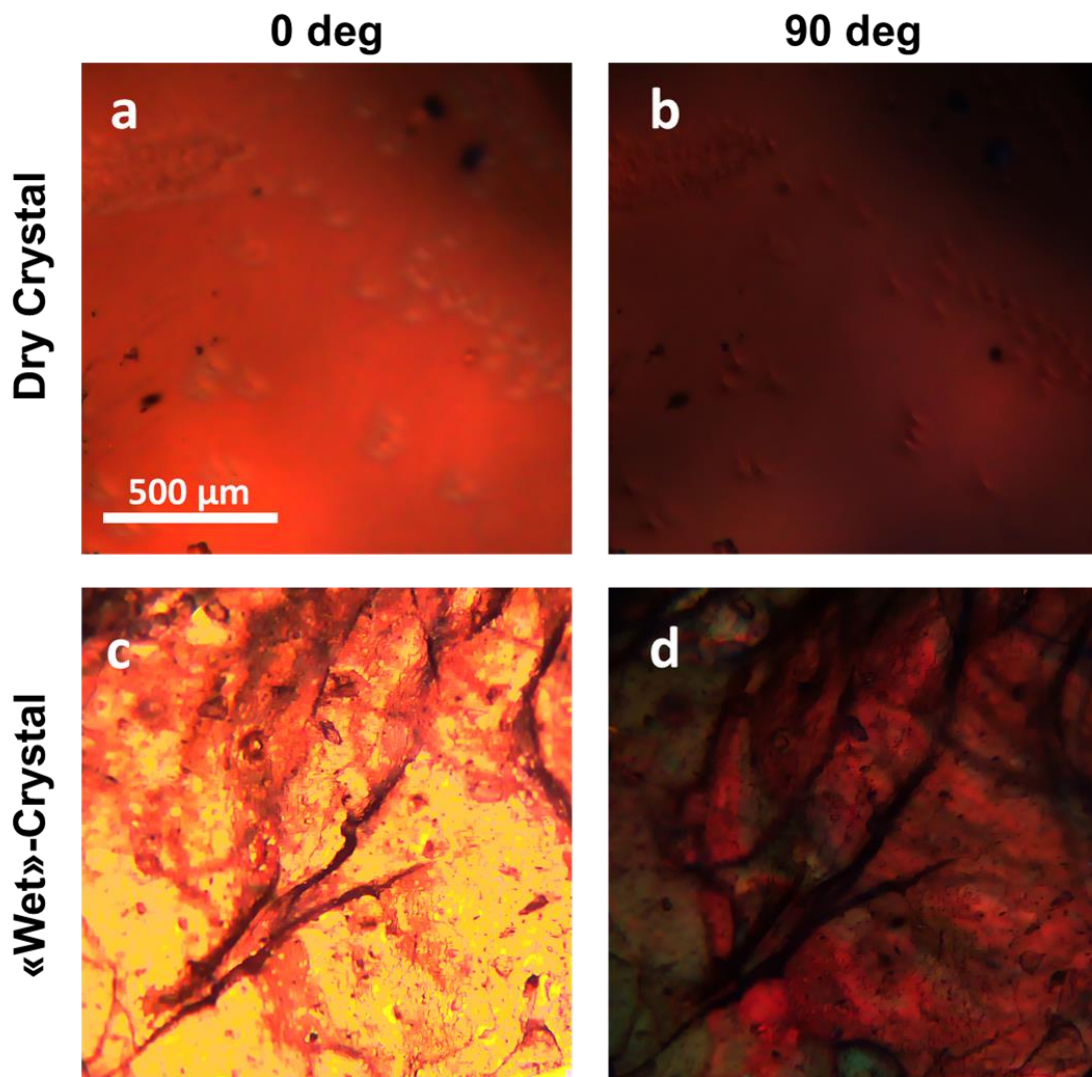


Figure SI 1. Optical microscopy images under polarized light of the surface of *dry* crystal (*sample 2* – a, b) and *wet* crystal (*sample 3* – c, d).

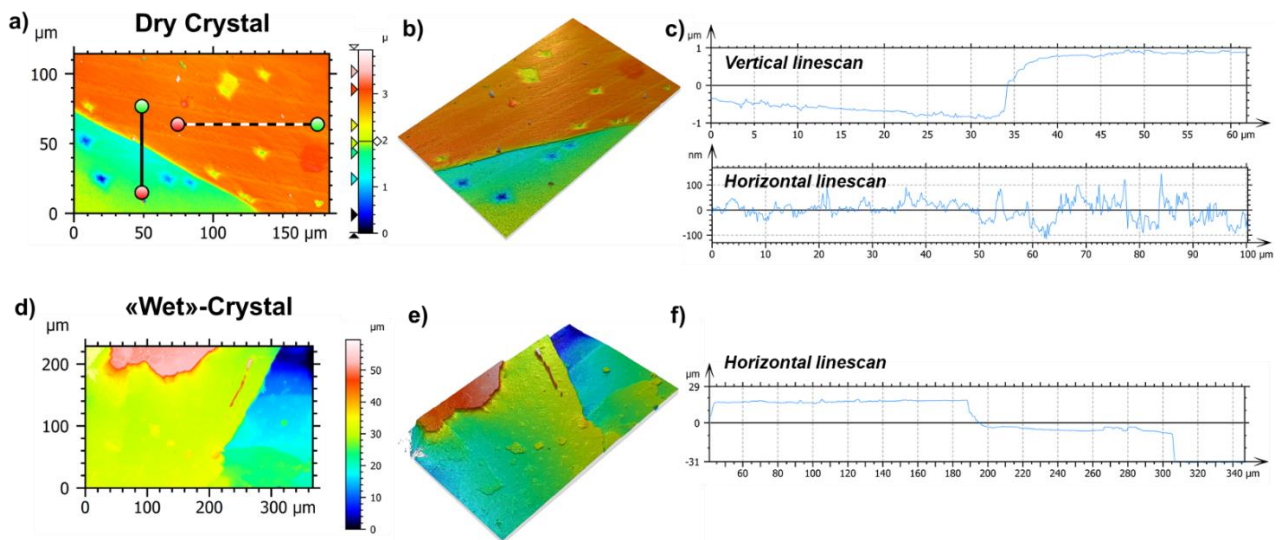


Figure SI 2. Optical WLI interferometer images and profiles. Surface colormap (a), 3D map representation (b), vertical and horizontal linescans (c) of *dry* crystal. Surface colormap (d), 3D map representation (e), horizontal linescan (f) of *wet* crystal.

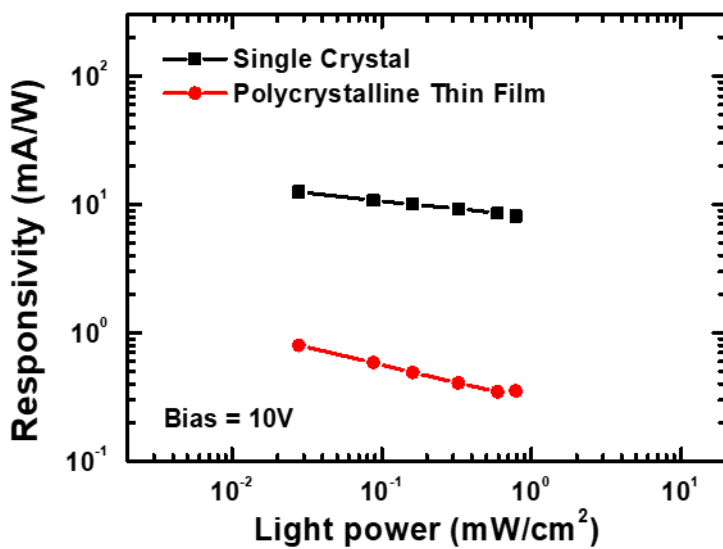


Figure SI 3. Responsivity comparison between free-standing single crystal and spin-coated polycrystalline film.

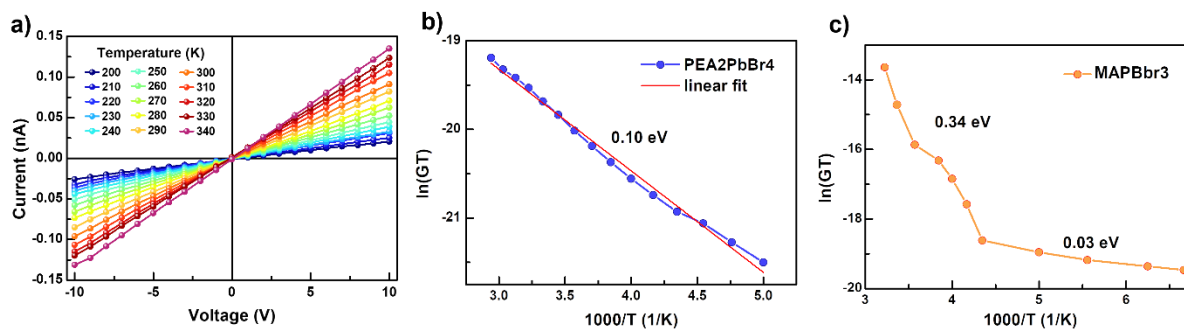


Figure SI 4: Temperature dependence of electrical conductivity. a) Current-Voltage characteristics in dark and under vacuum in the temperature range spanning from 200 K to 340 K. 10K step between each plot. b,c) Logarithm of electrical conductivity vs. $1/T$ showing the linear behaviour of Nernst-Einstein equation for 2D perovskite PEA₂PbBr₄ (b) and 3D perovskite MAPbBr₃ (c).

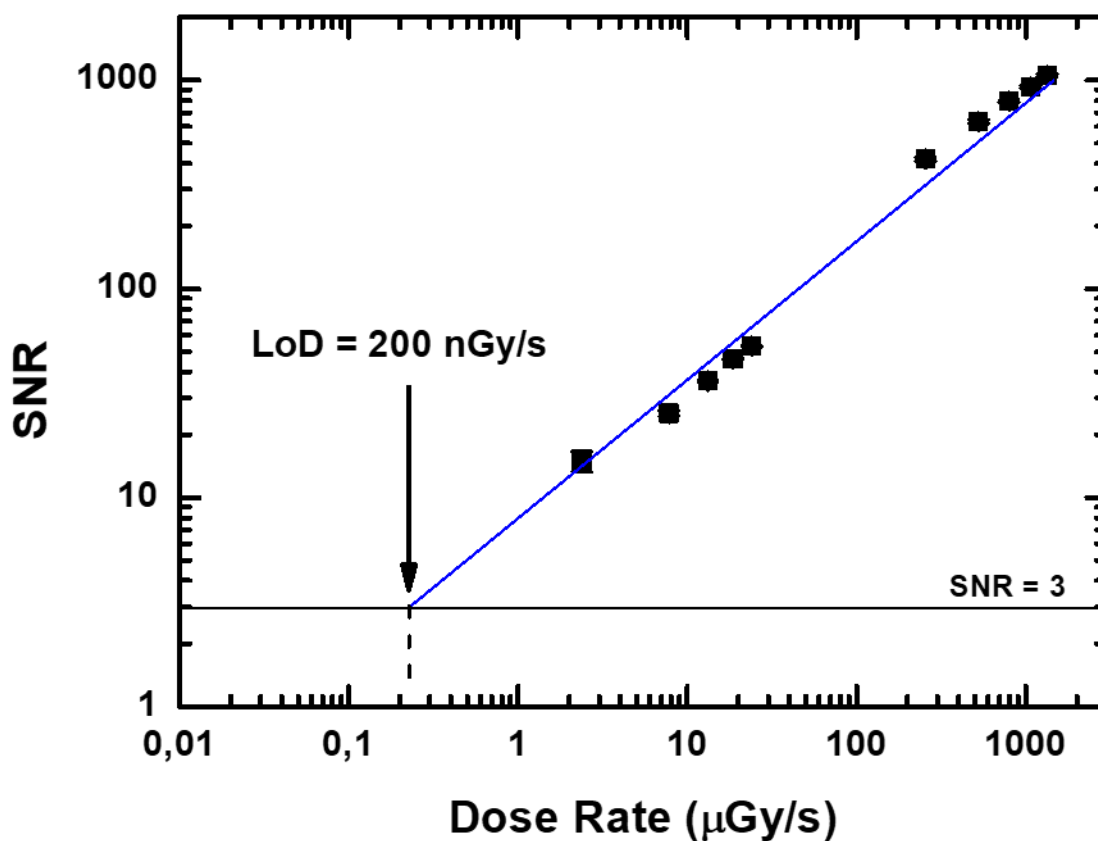


Figure SI 5. Signal-to-noise Ratio (SNR) at low dose rates to calculate the Limit of Detection (LoD) under X-ray irradiation. Bias of 10V.

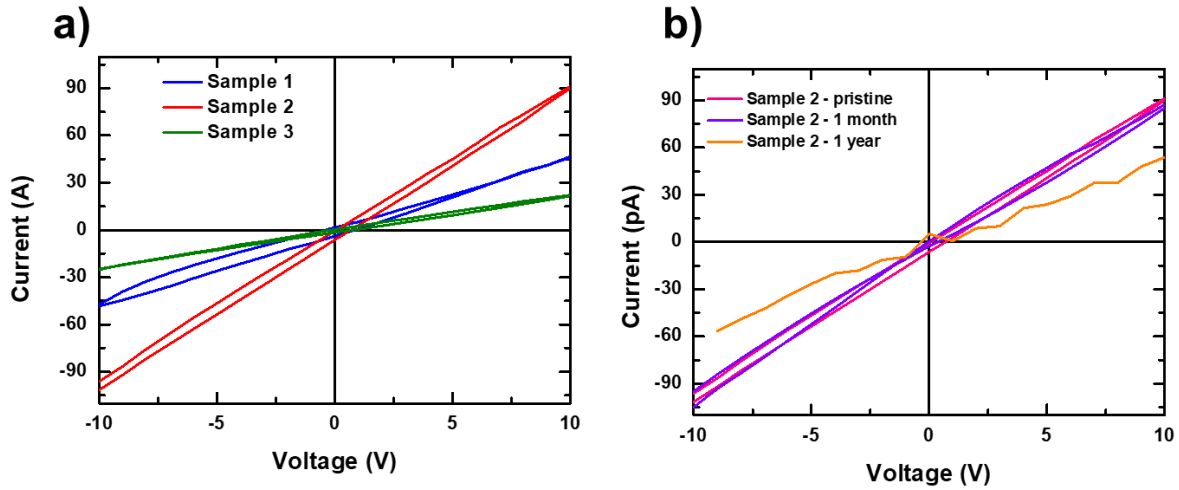


Figure SI 6. A) I-V graph of all the three samples showing the ohmic behaviour. b) the I-V plot of *sample 2* showing no changing of dark current after 1 month, and small degradation after 1 year.

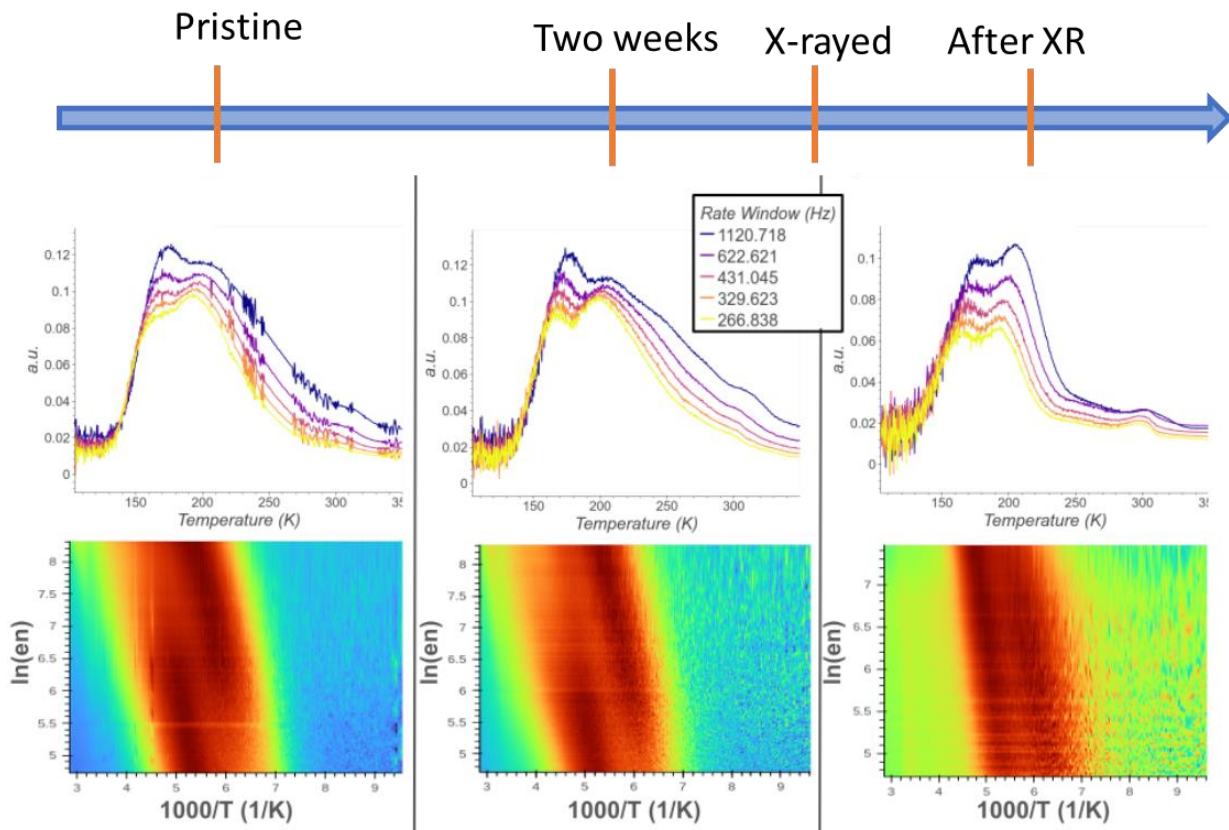


Figure SI 7. PICTS spectra and color maps of sample 1: pristine, 2 weeks old and after X-ray irradiation .

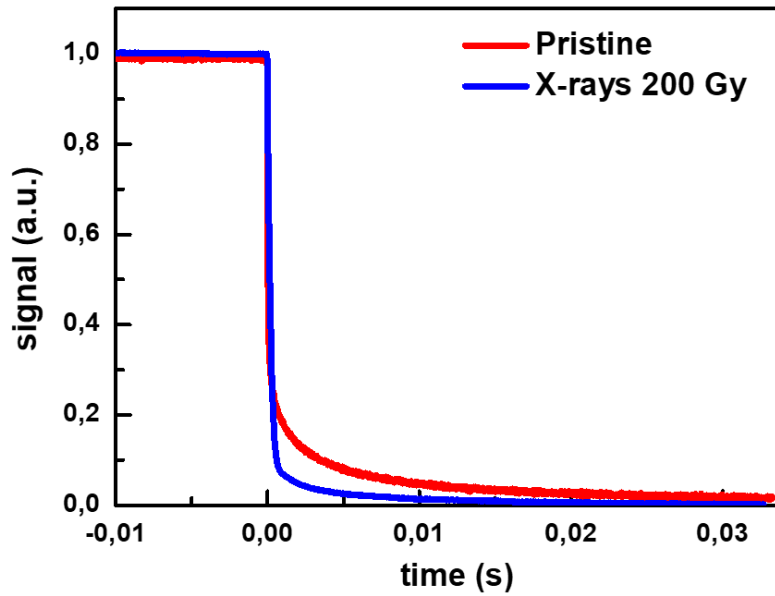


Figure SI 8. Collection of current transients as the temperature changes, compared before X-ray exposure and after X-ray exposure.

	Resistance (Ω)	ΔI (nA) @10V	Responsivity (mA/W)	D^* (Jones)
As-grown				
Sample 2 – dry	$(1.5 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{11}$	2.44	2.3×10^{-2}	3.2×10^8
Sample 3 - wet	$(1.7 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{13}$	15.9	15×10^{-2}	5.1×10^{10}
2 years				
Sample 2 – dry	$(6.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{11}$	3.05	2.9×10^{-2}	1.1×10^9
Sample 3 - wet	$(1.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{13}$	0.22	0.2×10^{-2}	2.4×10^7

Table SI 1. Optoelectronic properties of *sample 2* and *sample 3* as-grown and after 2 years.

Technical Note 1

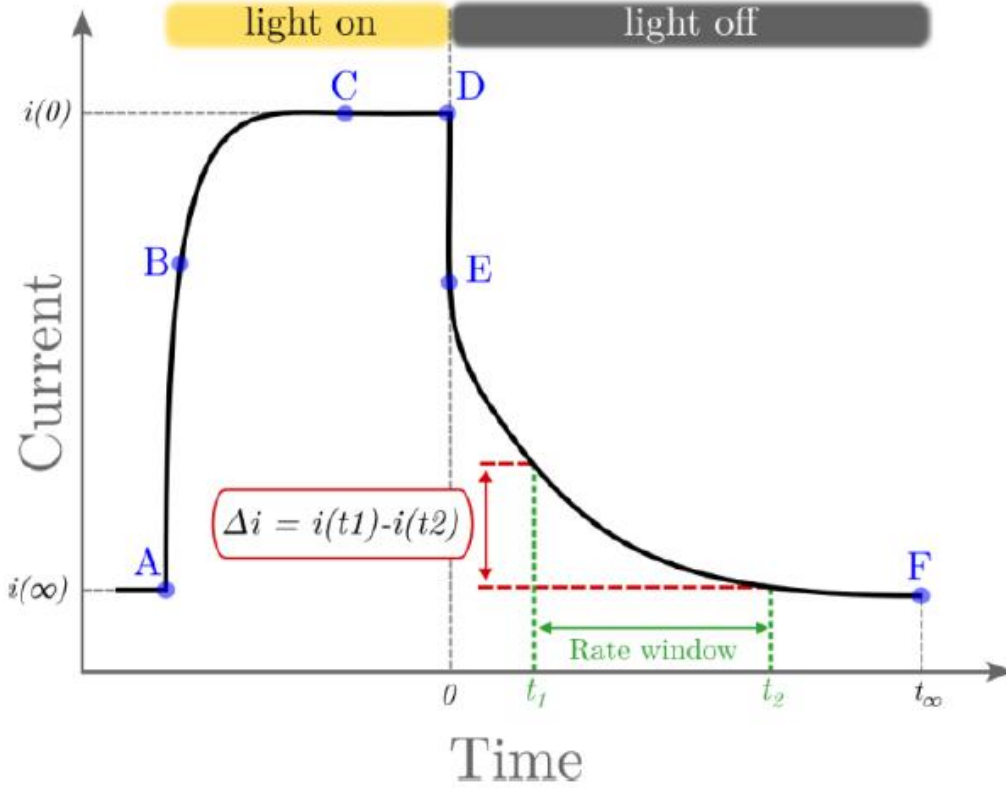


Figure SI 9. Schematic representation of the double-gate rate window method on an ideal photocurrent transient. Points A, B, C, D and E represent the key points in time where different phenomena take place, as described in the text.

As expressed by Equation (1) the emission rate from a single trap state has an exponential behaviour with the temperature. The relevant trap parameters that can be extracted by PICTS are the activation energy of the defect E_a and its capture cross section σ . Expressing the temperature dependence of νn and N_c allows to formulate the expression that is key for defect level characterization, as it defines the so-called *Arrhenius plot*.

$$\ln\left(\frac{T^2}{e_t}\right) = \gamma\sigma + \frac{E_a}{kT} \quad (1)$$

where γ contains universal constants and the effective mass of the semiconductor under study. In this work we analysed the photocurrent decay transients with the method called “rate window” method, which is a numerical one, that does not rely on fitting. The method is based on the work of Balland et al. ^[1,2]

We make use of the double-gate method, schematized in **Figure SI 9**. It consists of choosing two-time instants t_1 and t_2 , called *gates*, that define a rate window of duration $t_2 - t_1$. The PICTS signal for such rate window is defined as the difference between current at time t_1 and time t_2 , calculated as a function of temperature $\Delta i(T) = i(t_1, T) - i(t_2, T)$ (see Equation 2). It can be shown that the $\Delta i(T)$ shows a maximum at temperature T_m , which, through Equation (1), corresponds to a specific

emission rate $e_t(T_m)$. The condition for the maximum can be found by maximizing the $\Delta i(T)$ function, which yields:

$$e_t(t_2 - t_1) = \ln \left(\frac{e_t t_2 - 1}{e_t t_1 - 1} \right) \quad (2)$$

where e_t is calculated at temperature T_m . The last Equation is key for relating theory (through e_t) and experiment (through t_1 and t_2). Indeed, once the rate window is chosen by setting t_1 and t_2 , the corresponding emission rate is fixed by this equation. This is a transcendental equation and can be solved numerically to find e_t .

The theory reported above assumes that the mobility μ_n and lifetime τ_n of carriers are temperature-independent. This is often not the case, and such dependence may introduce artefacts in the spectra. To overcome this issue, we normalised all the transients by the photocurrent value, i.e. $i_{norm}(t) = \frac{i(t) - i_\infty}{i_0 - i_\infty}$. This procedure removes from $i(t)$ the dependence from $\mu\tau$ product. Then, the double-gate analysis as described above can be applied to $i_{norm}(t)$. In this work, all PICTS spectra were obtained with the normalized double-gate method, since all samples showed a temperature dependence of the mobility-lifetime product.

Technical Note 2

The broadening of the peaks in transient spectroscopy methods is generally associated to a distribution of multiple trap activation energies, due to disorder in the material. This effect has been described by Das et al. (Semicond. Sci. Technol. 3 (1988) 1177-1183). Briefly, they discriminate between “weak disorder” where the correction to activation energies are negligible; and “strong disorder” where the activation energies extracted by the Arrhenius plot are overestimated. The parameter σ/E_0 is used to separate the weak disorder ($\sigma/E_0 \leq 0.1$) from strong disorder ($\sigma/E_0 > 0.1$). It is possible to evaluate the disorder regime of each peak by considering the phenomenological relationship connecting the FWHM (ΔT), the peak temperature (T_m) and σ , by Murawala et al. [Phys. Rev.B, 1984, 29, 4807].:

$$\Delta T/T_m = 0.1 + \sigma/E_0 \quad (3)$$

Below the fraction evaluated for T1, T2 and T3.

	T_m	ΔT – FWHM	σ/E₀
T1	~ 156 K	24 K	0.05
T2	~ 190 K	58 K	0.21
T3	~ 309 K	57 K	0.08

Table SI 2. Temperature of the peak maximum (T_m), FWHM of the peak (ΔT) and the corresponding σ/E_0 as calculated by the Muralawa relationship.

Technical Note 3

Commonly used Hecht formula foresees localized charge density generation close to one of the electrodes [3]. Thus, low penetrating radiations (UV-VIS light or α -particles) are used to fulfil the requirements in vertical sandwich-like detectors. However, the charge collection in detectors with absorption-limited sensitivity [4] and with uniform absorption through the volume (e.g. thin detectors, highly penetrating γ rays) [5,6] has been studied. The volumes are sliced into thin layers assuming uniform carrier's generation in each layer. Then, the collection efficiency $\eta(x)$ from every slice could be calculated using the position dependent Hecht formula [6]:

$$\eta(x) = \frac{N_{coll}(x)}{N_{gen}} = s_h/d \left(1 - e^{-\frac{d-x}{s_h}}\right) + s_e/d \left(1 - e^{-\frac{x}{s_e}}\right) \quad (4)$$

Where,

x is the distance from the anode to the charge generation position;

$N_{coll}(x)$ are the collected charges at position x ;

N_{gen} is the total generated charges;

d is the distance between electrodes;

$s_{h,e} = \frac{\mu_{h,e}\tau_{h,e}V}{d}$ is the *schubweg*;

The total collected charges above uniform carrier generation could be found by integrating the above expression:

$$N_{coll} = N_{gen} s_h/d \int_0^d \left(1 - e^{-\frac{d-x}{s_h}}\right) \frac{dx}{d} + N_{gen} s_e/d \int_0^d \left(1 - e^{-\frac{x}{s_e}}\right) \frac{dx}{d} \quad (5)$$

$$N_{coll} = N_{gen} \left[x_h \left(1 + x_h \left(e^{-\frac{1}{x_h}} - 1\right)\right) + x_e \left(1 + x_e \left(e^{-\frac{1}{x_e}} - 1\right)\right) \right] \quad (6)$$

Where $x_{h,e} = \frac{s_{h,e}}{d} = \frac{\mu_{h,e}\tau_{h,e}V}{d^2}$.

The case of uniform linearly generated carriers in co-planar geometry is similar to the one illustrated above, thus, considering single carrier transport the photocurrent ΔI vs voltage V is:

$$\Delta I = C \cdot N_{coll} = I_{sat} \frac{\mu\tau V}{d^2} \left(1 + \frac{\mu\tau V}{d^2} \left(e^{-\frac{d^2}{\mu\tau V}} - 1\right)\right) \quad (7)$$

Equation 7 above have been used to fit the experimental data in Figure 2c.

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