

Mechanisms of Lithium Intercalation and Conversion Processes in Organic–Inorganic Halide Perovskites

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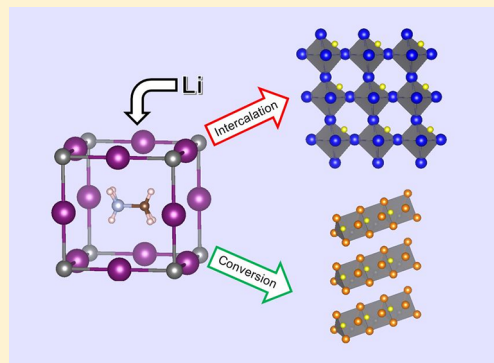
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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Organic–inorganic halide perovskites are attracting extraordinary attention in the field of energy materials. The reaction of hybrid lead halide perovskites with Li metal has recently been proposed for a number of potential applications. However, the mechanisms for Li uptake in such materials, such as intercalation and conversion, are still unknown. Using a combination of density functional theory and electrochemical and diffraction techniques, we consider Li intercalation and conversion reactions in $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$, $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$, and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$. Our simulations suggest that conversion reactions with Li are far more energetically preferable in these materials than Li intercalation. Calculations confirm the formation of Pb metal as a result of Li conversion in all three materials, and this is supported by X-ray diffraction analysis of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$. The results of this study provide fresh insights into lithium and halide perovskite reactions that will hopefully drive further exploration of these materials for a wider variety of energy applications.



Hybrid lead halide perovskites are currently attracting remarkable attention in the field of photovoltaics because of their high solar-to-electricity conversion efficiencies.^{1–4} As a result of the combination of their organic and inorganic constituents, these materials are structurally versatile, can be processed at low temperatures, and have properties that can be tuned accordingly for the desired application. However, their stability remains an issue, although recent reports of mixed-cation perovskites are very encouraging for technical use.^{5,6}

The majority of research involving hybrid perovskites has been devoted to methylammonium lead halides, $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$, where $X = \text{I}, \text{Br}, \text{or Cl}$.^{7–15} The structure of these halide perovskites is a three-dimensional framework of corner-sharing PbX_6 octahedra with organic methylammonium cations (CH_3NH_3^+) occupying the central A-site of the standard ABX_3 perovskite structure.

The use of organic–inorganic hybrid perovskites in Li-ion battery applications has only recently been proposed. Xia et al.¹⁶ used a hydrothermal method to prepare $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ for use as anode materials in Li-ion batteries. They reported good electrochemical performance for

$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ with a first discharge capacity of $331.8 \text{ mA h g}^{-1}$ at a current density of 200 mA g^{-1} . This capacity is approximately equal to that of commercially available graphite. The material has a density of 3.93 g cm^{-3} , which is almost double that of commercially available graphite, indicating significant potential volumetric energy density gains. However, despite these striking performance metrics, the mechanism through which this is achieved remains unclear, as also noted by Smith et al.¹⁷ The high first discharge capacity is approximately six times the maximum theoretical capacity for $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ ($55.96 \text{ mA h g}^{-1}$), if it is assumed that one lithium ion could intercalate per formula unit. These results suggest that a conversion reaction or another effect is taking place because six intercalating Li ions per formula unit would be required otherwise. The results for $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ were less encouraging with a first discharge capacity of 43.6 mA h g^{-1} at a current density of 200 mA g^{-1} . The reasons for these

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dramatically different electrochemical performances, however, were not explained, and no mechanistic details for Li uptake in the materials were provided.¹⁶

More recently, Li intercalation into $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ has been reported,¹⁸ with insertion of a high Li-ion molar concentration of almost three, without drastic structural alterations. It is unclear what species is reduced as a result of Li intercalation given that the Pb and Br electronic structures remain mostly unchanged and the cell assembly was carried out in a N_2 -filled glovebox.

In addition, a two-dimensional hybrid halide perovskite ($(2,2'-(\text{ethylenedioxy})\text{bis}(\text{ethylammonium}))[\text{CuCl}_4]$) was recently proposed as a cathode material for Li-ion cycling,¹⁹ showing an open-circuit voltage of 3.2 V. It was proposed that the electrochemical behavior of the system was consistent with either a conversion reaction, an intercalation mechanism, or a mixture of the two.¹⁹ Jiang et al.²⁰ reported electrochemical n-type doping of the inorganic halide perovskite, CsPbBr_3 , through Li-ion intercalation. Previous work on Li-based perovskites is dominated by the $(\text{Li},\text{La})\text{TiO}_3$ electrolyte system,^{21,22} which shows significant levels of A-site deficiency.

The impressive reported electrochemical performance, despite a poorly established reaction pathway, highlights the need for an in-depth study focused on these materials. In order to ascertain the Li uptake mechanisms and the reasons behind the different electrochemical performances reported for hybrid halide perovskites, we use a combination of first-principles, electrochemical, and powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) techniques to investigate $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$, where $\text{X} = \text{I}, \text{Br}, \text{or Cl}$. First-principles methods are well established in calculating a wide variety of electronic, structural, and defect properties of Li-ion battery materials^{23–28} and hybrid halide perovskites.^{29–36} Our simulations show that the conversion process to lithium halides (LiX) and Pb metal dominates, particularly for $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$. These findings are also supported by electrochemical measurements and PXRD. Our results help to rationalize why the electrochemical performance of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ is poor and highlight possible reasons for any differences between the three hybrid perovskites considered.

With regard to our methods, all calculations were carried out using density functional theory (DFT) with the ab initio code VASP.³⁷ A plane-wave cutoff energy of 500 eV, the projector augmented wave method,³⁸ and the PBEsol exchange–correlation functional were employed. This functional was chosen as it is considered a highly accurate GGA functional for solids, as shown by its use in many previous successful studies of hybrid perovskites for a wide variety of properties.^{30–32,35,36}

As can be seen from Table 1, the PBEsol functional accurately reproduces the experimental crystal structures,³⁹

Table 1. Lattice Parameters of Cubic $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$ (where $\text{X} = \text{I}, \text{Br}, \text{or Cl}$)

system	DFT (this work) (Å)	experiment (Å) ³⁹
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$	6.282	6.276
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$	5.914	5.931
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$	5.663	5.684

with differences of less than 0.4%. In particular, the lattice parameter for $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ is in excellent agreement with neutron diffraction studies, with a difference of <0.1%. As we do not expect the fundamental trends presented in this work to significantly differ for the tetragonal and orthorhombic hybrid

perovskite structures, we believe that our choice of the cubic phase as a representative structure is fully valid. The majority of computational studies of these materials in the literature have focused on the cubic phase. Further details of the modeling of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$ phases are available elsewhere.^{40–42}

Using well-established methodology, the calculation of Li intercalation sites and voltages by DFT has been achieved for a wide variety of Li-ion battery materials.^{23–27} Details of the voltage calculations are available in the SI.

It is well-known that the CH_3NH_3^+ cation can freely rotate in cubic $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$,⁴³ and DFT calculations have shown that the energy barriers for rotation are low.³⁵ In addition, ab initio molecular dynamics showed a preference for the $\langle 100 \rangle$ facial configuration at 300 K.³⁶ We therefore chose this configuration for the calculations in this study. Nevertheless, we note that DFT studies have reported that the CH_3NH_3^+ orientation can have an effect on the band structure properties for these materials.⁴⁴ Therefore, we carried out preliminary calculations of the effects of CH_3NH_3^+ orientation using a $2 \times 1 \times 1$ $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ supercell with one Li ion, equivalent to $\text{Li}_{0.5}\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$. The results are presented in Table S2. It is discovered that there is little difference between the intercalation voltages for the three primary orientations, $\langle 100 \rangle$ (face), $\langle 110 \rangle$ (edge), and $\langle 111 \rangle$ (diagonal) (Figure S1). The relatively small differences between the values (<0.1 eV) for different organic cation orientations justifies our approach in focusing on the $\langle 100 \rangle$ orientation.

The $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ single crystals were synthesized following the literature report.⁴⁵ A 1 M solution containing lead bromide ($\geq 98\%$, Sigma-Aldrich) and methylammonium bromide (MABr, Dyesol Limited) was prepared in anhydrous DMF (99.8%, Sigma-Aldrich). The solution was prepared at room temperature and was filtered using a PTFE filter with 0.2 μm pore size. The filtrate (20 mL) was placed in a 60 mL glass jar, and the jar was kept in an oil bath undisturbed at 90 °C. The crystals were typically grown for 8–12 h. All procedures were carried out under ambient conditions. Further details on the synthesis and electrochemical testing are given in the SI.

PXRD patterns of the pristine and discharged electrodes were acquired on a Rigaku SmartLab X-ray diffractometer with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.5406$ Å), with samples mounted in a protective-atmosphere sample holder (Kapton window, loaded in an argon-filled glovebox). The XRD measurements were carried out at room temperature.

In terms of our intercalation study, to the best of our knowledge, Li insertion in $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$ has only once been previously considered;¹⁶ however, no details on the Li concentrations in the samples or the Li uptake mechanism were given. Nevertheless, the cyclic voltammetry experiments suggest that the main oxidation/reduction processes in the $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ anodes occur at ~ 0.5 – 0.7 V. In this study, we simulate four primary Li concentrations, namely, $x = 0.037, 0.125, 0.5$, and 1.0 in $\text{Li}_x\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$, where $x = 1.0$ represents full Li intercalation. Li was inserted at all possible octahedral and tetrahedral sites (illustrated in Figure 1) in order to find the lowest-energy (most stable) intercalation sites. The calculated intercalation voltages for the lowest-energy Li-intercalated octahedral and tetrahedral sites in each material and at each concentration are listed in Table 2.

The results presented in Table 2 indicate three main features. First, our calculated voltages for Li concentrations of $x \leq 0.125$ are in good agreement with the observed values for the $\text{Li}_x\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ anode reported at around 0.5 – 0.7 V.¹⁶ The

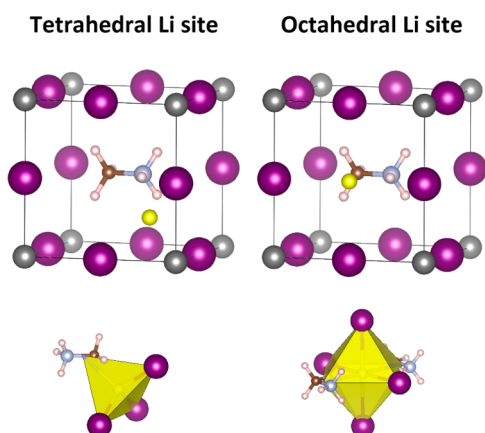


Figure 1. Cubic perovskite structures of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ illustrating the two main Li intercalation sites. CH_3NH_3^+ occupies the central A-site surrounded by 12 nearest-neighbor halide ions (purple). Pb ions are gray. The yellow spheres indicate the tetrahedral and octahedral Li intercalation sites. The local coordination environments of the Li^+ ions are also displayed.

site preference and intercalation voltage are strongly dependent on both the material and Li concentration.

Second, at low Li concentrations, insertion into $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ becomes more favorable than that for the other perovskites, in agreement with basic lattice volume arguments. Inserting Li into the larger $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ unit cell causes less distortion to the PbI_6 octahedra because of the larger Pb–Li interatomic distances than that for the equivalent octahedra in $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$.

Third, at full Li intercalation ($x = 1.0$), the PbX_6 octahedra undergo structural distortion in all three of the materials, with the distortion being particularly pronounced in $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$. The structures of the unit cells change dramatically during optimization, as illustrated in Figure 2, possibly indicating the existence of conversion or decomposition reactions when approaching full Li intercalation, a point that we return to below. The interatomic distances for the Li octahedra in these optimized structures are given in Table S3. These octahedra are also significantly distorted, leading to large distances between the intercalating Li^+ ions and organic cations.

The influence of these dramatic structural changes can be further elaborated by fixing the cell geometries of the fully intercalated structures. For $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$, $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$, and $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$, the intercalation voltages for $x = 1.0$ at the lowest-energy octahedral sites, are -0.19 , -0.51 , and -0.39 V, respectively, for fixed-cell geometry optimizations. These negative voltages clearly illustrate the difficulty in inserting

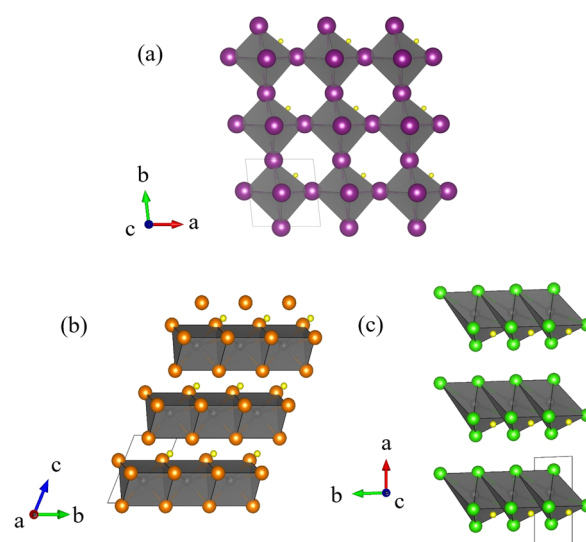


Figure 2. Optimized structures of $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$ based on $3 \times 3 \times 1$ replicated unit cell structures with the Li ions placed at octahedral sites. (a) $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$, (b) $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$, and (c) $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$. CH_3NH_3^+ cations have been omitted for clarity. PbX_6 octahedra (gray) are formed using the six closest anions to the central Pb^{2+} ions. I^- , Br^- , Cl^- , and Li^+ ions are shown by the purple, orange, green, and yellow spheres, respectively. The black lines indicate the unit cell structures.

high concentrations of Li into these materials when structural distortion and rearrangement are not allowed.

Further evidence for a conversion process in these materials at $x = 1.0$ can be found by examining the relaxed unit cell structures in Figure 2. By extending the $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ and $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$ unit cells in three dimensions, we see the formation of layered-like materials as a result of the PbX_6 octahedra effectively being pulled apart by the inclusion of Li. In the case of $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$, the Li ions occupy sites between the PbBr_6 octahedra layers that are tetrahedrally coordinated to Br ions. For $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$, the Li ions are in square-planar-like arrangements, coordinated to four Cl ions. While $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ is also distorted, it is to a far lesser extent than the other two structures, with the cubic structure mostly retained. These results illustrate the potential of layered two-dimensional perovskites as Li-ion battery materials, as noted previously.^{1,16} Details regarding the CH_3NH_3^+ orientation and Li polyhedra in these intercalated materials are available in Figure S2 and Table S3.

In order to identify the character of the reduced species in $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$ as a result of Li intercalation, we carried out analysis of the Bader charge⁴⁶ from the DFT calculations. Bader analysis has been used to investigate the Li intercalation behavior of a number of cathode and anode materials.^{47,48} The

Table 2. Li Intercalation Voltages (V) for the Lowest-Energy Octahedral (Oct) and Tetrahedral (Tet) Sites in $\text{Li}_x\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$ (where X = I, Br, or Cl)

system	$x\text{Li} = 0.037$		$x\text{Li} = 0.125$		$x\text{Li} = 0.5$		$x\text{Li} = 1.0$	
	Oct	Tet	Oct	Tet	Oct	Tet	Oct	Tet
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$	1.44	1.40	1.36	1.43	0.25	0.20	0.13	0.00
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$	0.57	0.84	0.45	0.81	0.12	0.16	SR ^a	SR ^a
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$	0.31	0.59	0.27	0.52	0.18	0.16	SR ^a	SR ^a

^aSR: $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ and $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbCl}_3$ exhibited significant structural rearrangement and disorder during geometry optimization, leading to unrealistic intercalation voltages.

percentage changes in Bader partial charges after full Li intercalation ($x\text{Li} = 1.0$) are given for the lowest-energy octahedral site in Figure 3. In all three materials, the majority of

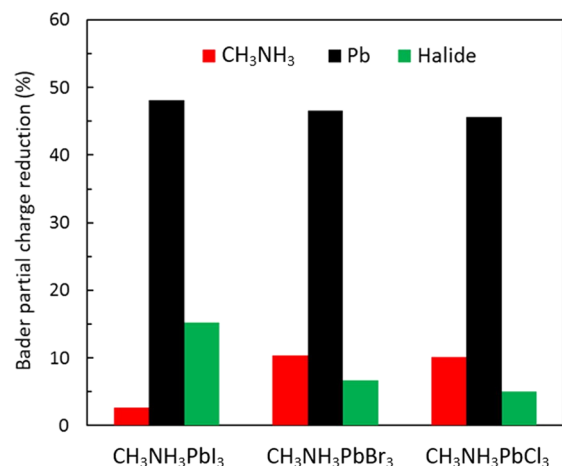


Figure 3. Percentage change in Bader partial charges after Li intercalation ($x\text{Li} = 1.0$) for the three component species in $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbX}_3$.

excess charge from Li intercalation is localized on a Pb cation. After the insertion of Li, the partial charge of the neighboring Pb is approximately halved, suggesting the existence of Pb^+ ions in these intercalated systems. Similar results were also seen for the tetrahedral sites and for different Li concentrations. In addition, spin-orbit coupling (SOC) and van der Waals (vdW) effects were also tested in order to examine their influence on the Bader charge partitioning in $\text{LiCH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$, with the results presented in Tables S4–S6. It is clear that while these effects have some influence on the Bader charge analysis, they still show the reduction of Pb as a result of Li intercalation.

To help clarify whether Li intercalation or conversion is dominant in these systems, we carried out electrochemical characterization of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ because this representative system showed the highest discharge capacity. Figure 4 shows the first discharge profile for a $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ perovskite electrode from the open-circuit voltage for the cell to 0.1 V, at a rate of 20 mA g^{-1} . A specific capacity for discharge of $134.3 \text{ mA h g}^{-1}$ is obtained.

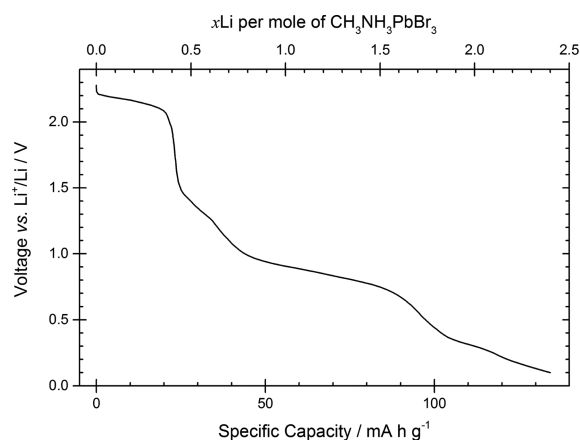


Figure 4. First discharge profile for a $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ perovskite electrode.

The charge passed during the first discharge corresponds to 2.4 Li^+ ions per mole of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$, which is beyond the 1 vacant site per mol limit available in pristine $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ necessary for an intercalation mechanism. Furthermore, the capacity observed below 1 V may contain a significant contribution from electrolyte reduction to form a solid electrolyte interphase (SEI) layer on the electrode.⁴⁹ Therefore, we cannot draw a definitive conclusion as to the charge compensation mechanism from the electrochemistry data.

To help elucidate the mechanism, PXRD patterns were collected for $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ electrodes discharged to different voltages (Figure 5). For the pristine electrode, all peaks except

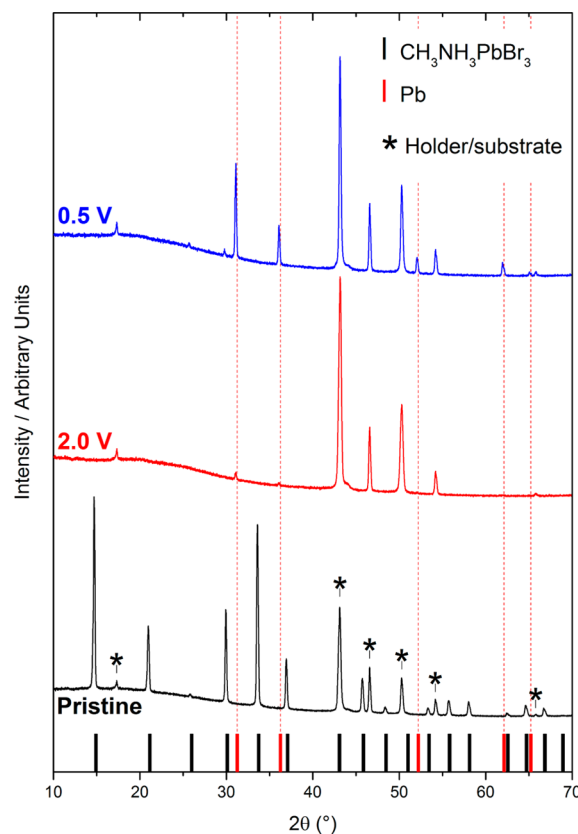
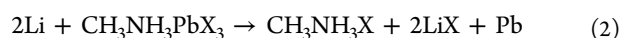
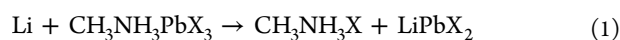


Figure 5. PXRD patterns of the pristine composite $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ electrode discharged to 2.0 and 0.5 V. The $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ can be indexed on the cubic perovskite structure (space group $Pm\bar{3}m$ and $a = 5.933 \text{ Å}$) shown by black bars.⁵⁰ Pb peaks (space group $Fm\bar{3}m$ and $a = 4.951 \text{ Å}$) are shown by red bars.⁵¹

for those corresponding to the sample holder and Cu current collector can be indexed on the $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ space group ($Pm\bar{3}m$, $a = 5.9328 \text{ Å}$).⁵⁰ The broad amorphous region in all patterns can be attributed to the Kapton film on the sample holder and residual glass fiber separator from the cell. For the electrode discharged to 2 V, the $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$ peaks are no longer present, while some new small peaks (31.2 and 36.3°) are observed that can be closely matched to Pb metal (space group $Fm\bar{3}m$, $a = 4.951 \text{ Å}$).⁵¹ The intensity of these peaks increases for the electrodes discharged to 0.5 V, with the addition of further peaks attributable to Pb (52.2 , 62.1 , and 65.2°). The growth of the Pb peak intensities suggests that if SEI film formation takes place at voltages below $\sim 1 \text{ V}$, it occurs alongside further conversion to form Pb. We cannot assign any other possible conversion/decomposition reaction species (e.g.,

PbBr₂, CH₃NH₃Br, and LiBr) to the PXRD patterns. Moreover, these are likely to be soluble in the electrolyte, in which case they would not be observed as a product on the electrode. In any case, bromide perovskite peaks are no longer present, and new Pb metal peaks are observed.

One of the major challenges facing organic–inorganic halide perovskites in commercial applications is their stability. Experiments have shown that moisture, oxygen, ultraviolet radiation, and heat all have an effect on the degradation of these materials, and various decomposition reaction pathways have been proposed in recent years.^{32,52–56} In addition to the reported finding that the measured capacity of CH₃NH₃PbBr₃ far exceeds the maximum theoretical capacity¹⁶ and the formation of layered structures discussed above, we have examined possible conversion reactions for Li and CH₃NH₃PbX₃ using the fundamental decomposition products determined experimentally. The two proposed potential conversion reactions are shown in eqs 1 and 2:



The conversion reaction given by eq 1 involves phase separation (decomposition) of the perovskite, with Li effectively being intercalated in the PbX₂ structure. Phase separation is often an issue for these materials and has even been reported to be exothermic for the room-temperature tetragonal structure of CH₃NH₃PbI₃. Similar conversion pathways (without Li) have been proposed based on the influence of oxygen and moisture on CH₃NH₃PbI₃.

An alternative conversion reaction (eq 2) also involves the formation of CH₃NH₃X, but with the addition of LiX and Pb metal as products. A recent investigation has highlighted the importance of redox chemistry in the decomposition of hybrid halide perovskites in optoelectronic devices.⁵² In the report by Zhao et al.,⁵² the Pb²⁺ ion of CH₃NH₃PbI₃ is rapidly reduced to Pb⁰ by intrinsic interfacial interactions with an Al electrode in their device architecture, not dissimilar to the effect of Li observed in this work. The conversion reaction in eq 2 is similar to reactions found in traditional battery materials,^{57–59} where the cation of a metal oxide or fluoride is reduced by Li metal to form the corresponding metal and lithium oxide/fluoride (e.g., CoO + 2Li → Co + Li₂O). We certainly do not rule out the existence of further reaction steps, for instance, the breakdown of CH₃NH₃I to HI and CH₃NH₂ or the formation of NH₃ and CH₃I gases, after these initial potential pathways.

The energies for these two reaction pathways for each perovskite material are summarized in Figure 6. All conversion reaction energies (eqs 1 and 2) are for full Li intercalation (*x*Li = 1.0). Two main points emerge from these results. First, the proposed reactions for each perovskite are exothermic, indicating that conversion is favorable. Second, the most favorable energies are calculated for eq 2 and are larger than any of the values calculated for Li intercalation at any concentration. Our results strongly suggest that conversion to form CH₃NH₃X, LiX, and Pb is the dominant mechanism in these systems, as opposed to Li intercalation. This is consistent with PXRD results in which bromide perovskite peaks are no longer present and new Pb metal peaks are observed. The trends indicate that the conversion becomes more favorable with decreasing anion size. These results help to explain why such significantly distorted structures were found for LiCH₃NH₃PbBr₃ and LiCH₃NH₃PbCl₃. The formation of

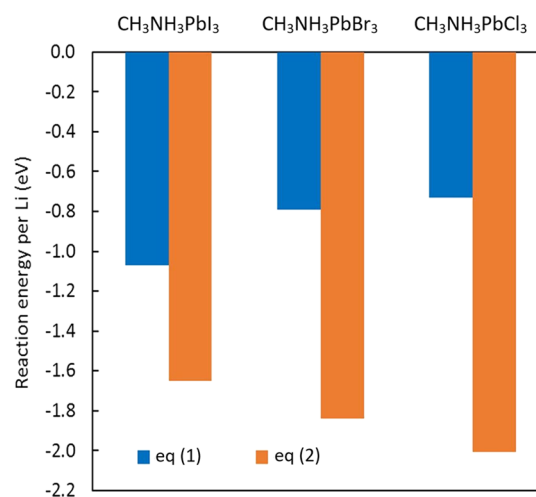


Figure 6. Calculated energies for the conversion reactions (eqs 1 and 2) for CH₃NH₃PbX₃.

stable lithium halides is also likely to be a key factor for the favorable energies of eq 2.

In conclusion, this combined computational–experimental study has examined Li intercalation and conversion mechanisms in a series of organic–inorganic halide perovskites, CH₃NH₃PbI₃, CH₃NH₃PbBr₃, and CH₃NH₃PbCl₃. A conversion process with the production of CH₃NH₃X, lithium halides (LiX), and Pb metal is found to be strongly exothermic for all three perovskites and more energetically favorable than Li intercalation. Electrochemical and PXRD measurements also support the conclusion that conversion reactions are likely to take place in CH₃NH₃PbBr₃. Our results help to rationalize the experimentally observed differences in lithium intercalation behavior for these materials and especially the poor electrochemical performance of CH₃NH₃PbI₃.

This work provides the first detailed study of the atomic scale mechanisms of Li reactions with hybrid halide perovskites, with important implications for their potential energy storage applications.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

● Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acsenergylett.7b00437.

Computational and experimental details, intercalation voltages and Bader charge analysis for LiCH₃NH₃PbI₃ with the inclusion of SOC and vdW effects, interatomic distances and optimized structures for Li octahedra in LiCH₃NH₃PbX₃, and Li intercalation energies and structures for the three primary CH₃NH₃⁺ orientations (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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