

Supplementary Information

Experimental disclosing the composition- and structure-dependent deep-level defect in photovoltaic antimony trisulfide materials

Weitao Lian¹ Chenhui Jiang¹, Yiwei Yin¹, Rongfeng Tang¹, Gang Li¹, Lijian Zhang¹, Bo Che¹ and Tao Chen^{1*}

¹Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale, CAS Key Laboratory of Materials for Energy Conversion, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, School of Chemistry and Materials Science, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230026, P. R. China

*E-mail: tchenmse@ustc.edu.cn

Supplementary Table 1 Characterisation of the element composition of Sb-rich and S-rich films deposited on soda-lime glass via energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS).

Films	Sb at%	S at%	S/Sb	S/Sb (average)
Sb-rich	43.70	56.30	1.29	1.28
	43.90	56.10	1.28	
	43.30	55.90	1.29	
	43.80	56.20	1.28	
	44.10	55.90	1.27	
S-rich	38.40	61.60	1.60	1.55
	39.80	60.20	1.51	
	38.20	61.80	1.62	
	39.90	60.10	1.51	
	39.80	60.20	1.51	

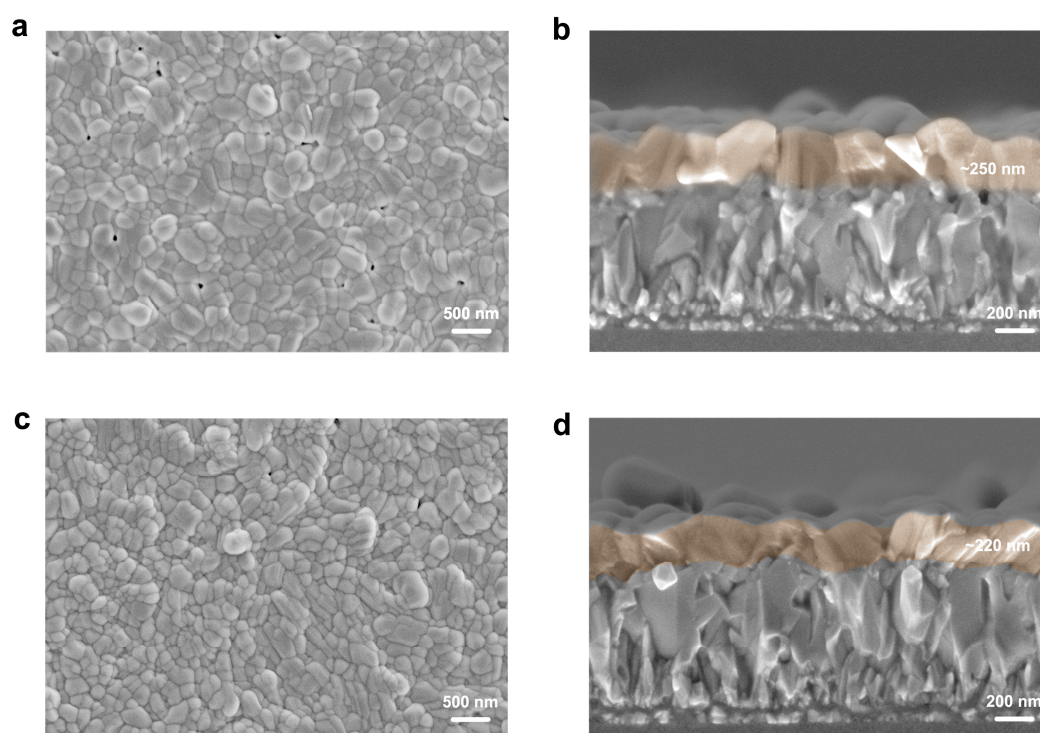
Supplementary Table 2 Fitting results of TAS monitored at 545 nm wavelength.

Films	A_1	$t_1(\text{ns})$	A_2	$t_2(\text{ns})$	$\tau(\text{ns})$
Sb-rich	0.40	0.31	0.60	3.99	3.8
S-rich	0.09	0.38	0.91	18.69	18.7

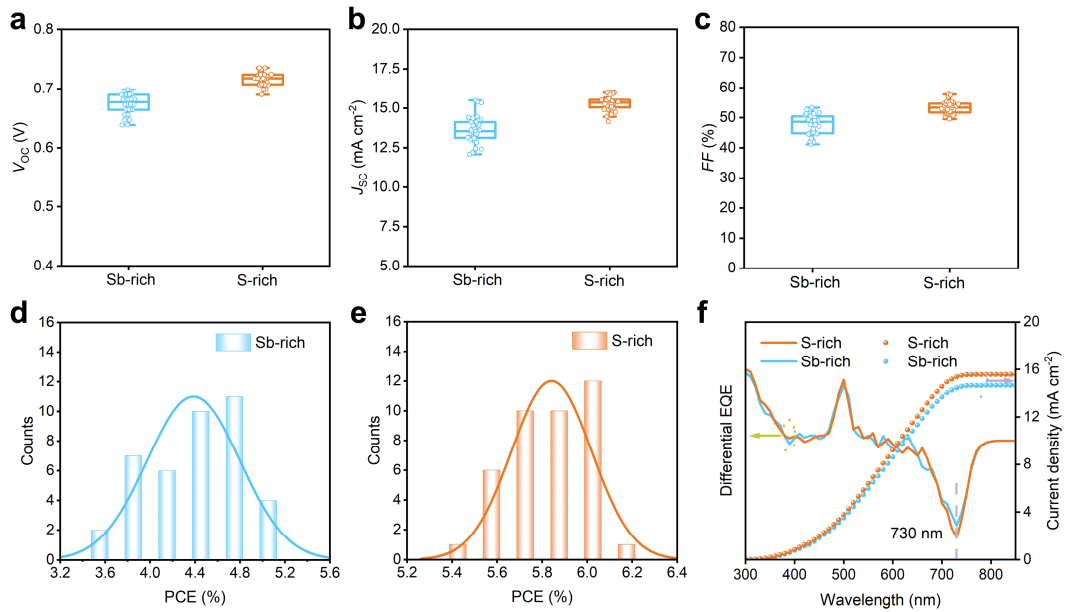
Supplementary Table 3 Photovoltaic parameters of optimal Sb-rich and S-rich Sb₂S₃ devices.

Devices	V_{oc} (V)	J_{sc} (mA.cm ⁻²)	FF	η (%)	R_s (Ω)	R_{sh} (Ω)
S-rich	0.74*	15.6	52.9	6.1	106.3	6184.6
	0.72	15.9*	54.3*	6.2*	100.4	6677.5
Sb-rich	0.68	15.4	47.6	5.0	116.5	1509.3

(* indicates the champion parameters.)



Supplementary Fig. 1 Films morphology characterizations. **a, b**, Surface and cross sectional morphology of Sb-rich Sb₂S₃ film. **c, d**, Surface and cross sectional morphology of S-rich Sb₂S₃ film.



40

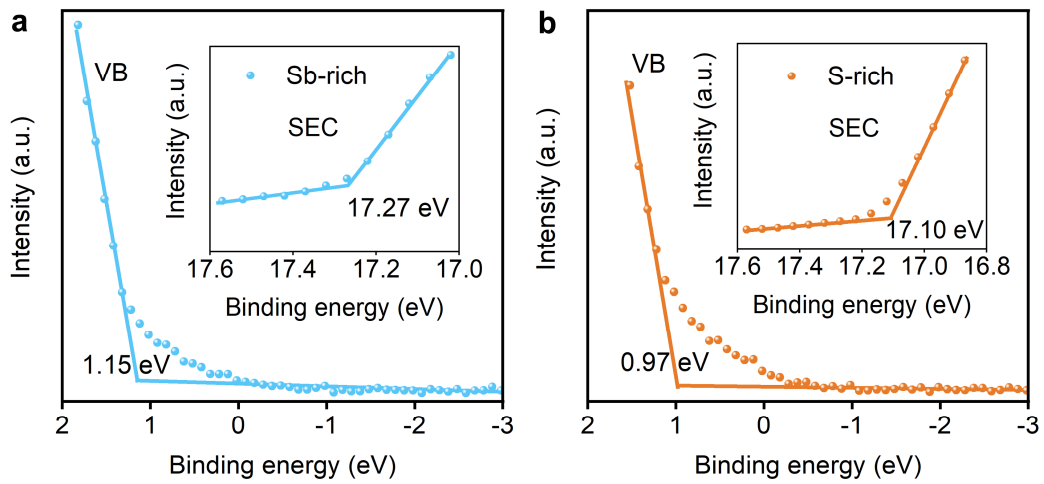
41 Supplementary Fig. 2 Device photovoltaic performance characterizations. **a-c**, Statistic
 42 V_{oc} , J_{sc} and FF based on 40 individually fabricated Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 devices.
 43 **d, e**, Statistic PCE distribution of 40 Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 devices. **f** Differential
 44 EQE and integral current density of optimal Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 based solar cells.

45

46 Supplementary note 1. Ultraviolet photoelectron spectroscopy.

47 To investigate the dependence of stoichiometry on the work function (Fermi level, E_F)
 48 and band structure of Sb_2S_3 films, we carried out ultraviolet photoelectron spectroscopy
 49 (UPS) characterizations. According to the secondary electron cutoff (SEC) and valence
 50 band (VB) position (Supplementary Fig. 3a and b), we calculate the E_F which are -3.95
 51 eV and -4.12 eV, respectively for Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 . Furthermore, we find that
 52 Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 share an identical band gap of 1.70 eV corresponding to 730
 53 nm absorption onset (Supplementary Fig. 2f). Hence, the CBM and VBM are

determined to be -3.39 and -5.09 eV for S-rich Sb_2S_3 . The CBM and VBM of Sb-rich Sb_2S_3 are -3.40 and -5.10 eV, respectively. Particularly, it is noted that the introduction of S has no impacts on the band structure and band gap but E_F solely. Regarding the downshift of E_F , we attribute it to some reduced shallow donor dopants accompanying with S addition¹. Specially, it is worth noting that the S-rich Sb_2S_3 is still an n type semiconductor even if the E_F shift downward a little after S supplement.



Supplementary Fig. 4 Band structure characterizations. **a, b**, Secondary electron (SEC) cutoff edge and valence band (VB) position of Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 films.

Supplementary note 2. DLTS measurement background.

We conduct deep-level transient spectroscopy (DLTS) to detect the deep-level defects properties. Arrhenius plots obtained from DLTS are shown in Supplementary Fig. 4. The active energy (E_a , $E_C - E_T$ or $E_T - E_V$) and capture cross section of electron traps and hole traps can be calculated by the Arrhenius equations (1) and (2)²,

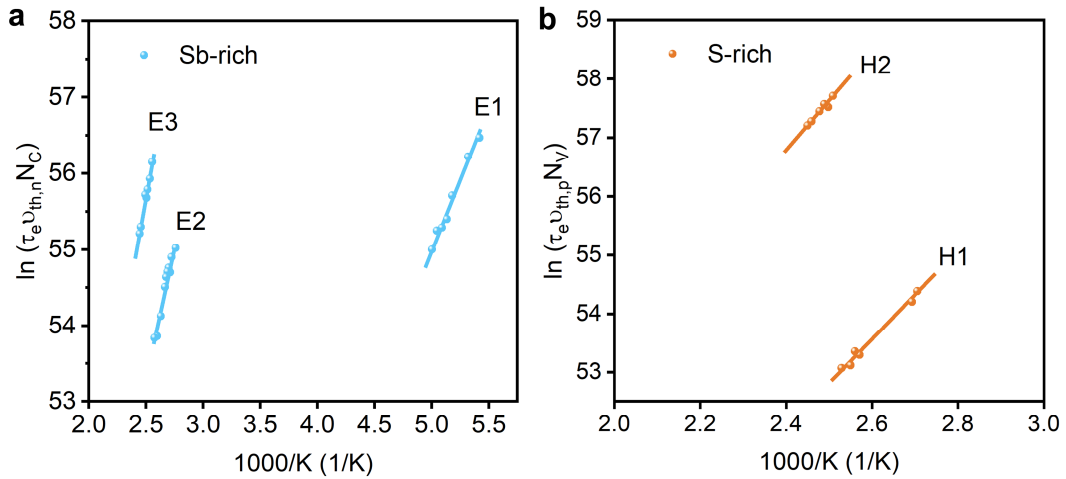
$$\ln(\tau_e v_{th,n} N_C) = \frac{E_C - E_T}{k_B T} - \ln(X_n \sigma_n), \quad (1)$$

$$\ln(\tau_e v_{th,p} N_V) = \frac{E_T - E_V}{k_B T} - \ln(X_p \sigma_p). \quad (2)$$

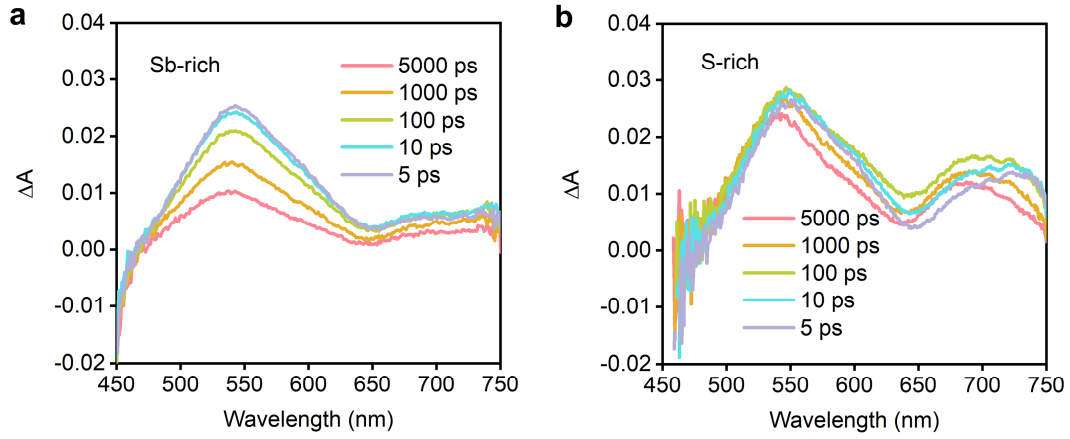
where τ_e , N_C , N_V , E_C , E_T and E_V are emission time constant, conduction band state density, valence band state density, conduction band, trap energy level and valence band, respectively. $v_{th,n/p}$, $X_{n/p}$ and $\sigma_{n/p}$ represent thermal velocity, entropy factor and capture cross section for electron and hole, respectively. Hence, the E_a and σ can be extracted by the slope and y-axis intercept, separately. In addition, the trap density (N_T) could be obtained by equation (3)²,

$$N_T = 2N_S \frac{\Delta C}{C_R}. \quad (3)$$

where N_S is the shallow donor concentration, C_R is the capacitance under reverse bias, while ΔC represents the amplitude of transient capacitance.



Supplementary Fig. 4 Arrhenius plots obtained from DLTS for Sb-rich (a) and S-rich (b) Sb₂S₃.



Supplementary Fig. 5 Carrier transport kinetics. **a, b**, TAS for Sb-rich and S-rich Sb_2S_3 films on soda-lime glass tracked at 5, 10, 100, 1000 and 5000 ps after pulsed excitation at 400 nm.

Supplementary reference.

1. Yin, Y. et al. Composition engineering of Sb_2S_3 film enabling high performance solar cells. *Sci. Bull.* **64**, 136-141 (2019).
2. Lang, D. Deep-level transient spectroscopy: A new method to characterize traps in semiconductors. *J. Appl. Phys.* **45**, 3023-3032 (1974).