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Alternative materials for perovskite solar cells from materials informatics

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Do Promising Alternative Materials for Perovskite Solar Cells Exist?

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An Answer from Materials Informatics

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14 **ABSTRACT**

15 Perovskite solar cells based on lead-halide perovskites have attracted significant attention as
16 prime candidates for next-generation solar cells because of their high-power conversion efficiency.
17 To avoid the toxicity of lead-based perovskites, alternatives such as tin-halide perovskite have been
18 investigated. However, the photovoltaic performance of these alternatives is relatively low, and novel
19 perovskites with low cost, low toxicity, and high performance have not yet been discovered. In this
20 study, to investigate whether promising alternative perovskites exist, a high-throughput material
21 search scheme based on materials informatics was developed and performed for novel perovskite
22 solar cell materials. Using this scheme, over 28 million $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskite-like
23 compositions were screened. Among the 24 most promising candidates identified, 5 were
24 well-known organic-inorganic tin-halide perovskites and 17 were novel sodium-, potassium-, and
25 ammonium-based tin-halide perovskites. Interestingly, two novel transition-metal-based perovskites
26 were also identified as promising solar cell materials. The pioneering material search scheme
27 reported is expected to find use in the identification of practically feasible materials for a number of
28 real-world applications.

29

30 **Introduction**

31 Organic-inorganic hybrid perovskites such as methylammonium lead iodide (MAPbI₃) have
32 enormous potential as solar cell materials because of their suitable band gaps for solar light
33 absorption [1], very small exciton binding energies [2], and long carrier diffusion lengths [3]. The
34 power conversion efficiency (PCE) of perovskite solar cells (PSCs) skyrocketed from 3.8% in 2009
35 to 23.3% in 2018 [4,5]. Therefore, PSCs are prime candidates for next-generation solar cells and are
36 expected to provide a solution to the energy problem. However, the toxicity of lead-based hybrid
37 perovskites is a serious obstacle to their practical application [6]. To avoid the toxicity of lead,
38 lead-free hybrid perovskites in which other ions are substituted for lead have been examined both
39 experimentally and using computational simulations [7–15]. However, the PCEs of lead-free PSCs
40 based on CH₃NH₃SnI₃, which is widely used as an alternative to lead-based perovskites, are
41 significantly lower than the PCEs of lead-based PSCs [5,7]. Additionally, SnI₂, which is the main
42 degradation product of tin-based perovskites, may present even greater toxicity concerns than
43 lead-based perovskites [16]. Therefore, the development of novel perovskites with high photovoltaic
44 performance is required.

45 Recently, data-driven machine learning and materials informatics have succeeded in the
46 discovery of novel materials such as solid-state electrolytes [17], organic light-emitting diodes [18],
47 shape memory alloys [19], piezoelectrics [20], and polymers for organic photovoltaics [21]. These
48 approaches have also been employed for crystal structure prediction [22–25], physical property

49 prediction [26–31], and high-throughput computational screening [32,33]. Accordingly, massive and
50 efficient material design based on machine learning and materials informatics has attracted
51 significant attention in the field of materials science.

52 In this study, we developed a massive and highly efficient material search scheme based on
53 materials informatics and applied it to the screening of over 28 million $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double
54 perovskite candidates. In this material search scheme, in addition to the semiconductor properties of
55 the candidates such as the band gap and carrier effective mass, the synthetic feasibility, toxicity, and
56 cost, which were rarely considered in previous studies, were systematically analyzed using an
57 informatics strategy based on a combination of experimental and the theoretical databases newly
58 built from our calculations. To date, many lead-free and tin-free perovskites have been reported from
59 material searches based on computational simulations [13–15]. However, there have been no
60 successful experimental reports regarding the alternative perovskites proposed from these
61 computational simulations, possibly because these previous reports used only theoretical databases
62 from first-principles calculations. In particular, it is difficult to calculate the band gaps of hybrid
63 perovskites because of the electron correlation and the strong spin-orbit coupling [34]. In this study,
64 we estimate band gaps based on the experimental databases to guide novel material searches for
65 PSCs. Through the screening of 28 million candidates, we identified alternative perovskites with
66 suitable semiconductor properties, stable cubic or pseudo cubic structures, low toxicity, and low cost
67 for use in PSCs.

69 **Methods**

70 **Machine learning models for band gap prediction**

71 To train the machine learning model for band gap prediction, a training dataset of high
72 quality is required. Past studies have employed band gap datasets evaluated by first-principles
73 calculations [35,36]. However, studies indicated that electron correlation and relativistic spin-orbit
74 coupling (SOC) play important roles in the band gap calculations of PSC materials [34]. To
75 determine the efficacy of the band gap learning model, we used an experimental band gap dataset of
76 282 perovskites. The details are summarized in Table S1 and Figure S1 (see Supplemental Material)
77 [37].

78 To define the feature vectors for each $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskite, we used atomic and
79 ionic features of the six constituent ions (A, A', B, B', X, and X') of the perovskite. For each ion, we
80 used nine elemental features (*viz.* first ionization potential, electron affinity, Mulliken
81 electronegativity, ionic radius, group number, Pettifor's Mendeleev number [38], ionic HOMO level,
82 ionic LUMO level, and ionic HOMO-LUMO gap). Therefore, an $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskite is
83 described by a 54-dimensional feature vector in the target chemical space. To determine the first
84 ionization potentials and electron affinities for organic molecules and ionic HOMO/LUMO levels for
85 all ions, density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out. The computational details and
86 features for each element and organic molecule are summarized in Table S2 (see Supplemental
87 Material).

88 Using the band gap data set and the feature vectors, we validated machine learning models
89 for band gap prediction. Figure 1 illustrates the validation process. In this process, the band gap
90 dataset was randomly split into a training set and a test set in ratios of 80% and 20%. Ten pairs of a
91 fitting set and a validation set with ratios of 60% and 40% were generated from random splits in the
92 training set. Using the fitting sets, validation sets, and test sets, the accuracy of the band gap
93 predictor was validated. As the preprocess for regression coefficient fitting and cross-validation, the
94 features were scaled by normalization, and the dimension of the feature vector was reduced from 54
95 dimensions to 15 dimensions by principal component analysis (PCA). After the preprocessing,
96 machine learning models were trained via fitting and cross-validation using the 10 pairs of the fitting
97 set and the validation set. Next, the trained machine learning models were tested using the test set. In
98 order to investigate the generality of the machine learning models, this process was iterated for 50
99 cycles with different random seeds to split the band gap data set, and the accuracies of the machine
100 learning models were assessed by averaging R^2 values for the training sets (R_{train}^2) and test sets
101 (R_{test}^2).

102 The averaged R_{train}^2 , averaged R_{test}^2 , and root mean squared errors (RMSEs) in the test set
103 for each regression model are listed in Table 1. In this assessment, we employed multiple linear
104 regression (MLR), Ridge regression, Lasso regression, support vector machine regression (SVR)
105 with a linear kernel or Gaussian kernel, and Gaussian process regression (GPR) with a Gaussian
106 kernel as regression models. These are implemented in the scikit-learn library [39]. In addition,

107 ensemble learning models such as random forest and neural network are also known as powerful
108 regression models. However, in this study, the number of data sets was insufficient to perform these
109 regressions, and they were not reasonable for this study. For linear-regression-based prediction
110 models (MLR, Ridge regression, Lasso regression, and SVR with a linear kernel), the averaged
111 R^2_{train} and averaged R^2_{test} are very low; hence, these models cannot predict the band gaps of
112 perovskites. On the other hand, for nonlinear regression-based prediction models (SVR and GPR
113 with a Gaussian kernel), the prediction accuracies are dramatically improved. This result implies that
114 nonlinear correlation between the band gap and the features is important for band gap prediction, and
115 similar perovskites show similar band gaps. In particular, SVR with a Gaussian kernel shows the best
116 prediction accuracy in our examination, and the averaged R^2_{train} , averaged R^2_{test} , and RMSE in the
117 test set are 0.89, 0.65, and 0.81 eV, respectively. We employed this SVR with a Gaussian kernel as
118 the band gap predictor. To improve the prediction accuracy, additional band gap data are required.
119 We believe that our machine learning model will be improved by an expanded band gap dataset in
120 the future.

121

122 **Computational details for first-principles calculations**

123 First-principles calculations were carried out to perform structural optimization and
124 determine the band gap, electron and hole effective mass, and exciton binding energy. For structural
125 optimization, the ion positions and cell parameters in a $2 \times 1 \times 1$ cubic-based unit cell (Figure S2)

126 were optimized with the convergence threshold for a change of 10^{-3} eV in the total energy. After the
127 structural optimizations, the direct band gap, indirect band gap, electron and hole effective mass, and
128 exciton binding energy were calculated using the optimized structure. These calculations were
129 performed using the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) exchange correlation functional with the
130 DFT-D3 method as a van der Waals correction [40,41], projector augmented wave (PAW)
131 pseudopotentials, 700-eV plane-wave cutoff, and $10 \times 10 \times 10$ sampling k-point grid in Vienna ab
132 initio simulation package (VASP) code [42,43].

133 For the most promising novel perovskites, more accurate DFT calculations were carried out
134 to evaluate the formation enthalpies, light absorption coefficients, and levels of conduction band
135 minimum (CBM) and valence band maximum (VBM). A computationally inexpensive theoretical
136 approach based on PBE + U calculations with fitted elemental-phase reference energies (FERE) was
137 used for reoptimizations of the structure and estimations of the formation enthalpy [44]. Here, the
138 values of the effective on-site Coulomb interactions (U) were taken from [44], and the most stable
139 crystal structures of each pure element were taken from the Materials Project [45]. The other
140 computational details are similar to the above calculations. Furthermore, a Heyd-Scuseria-Ernzerhof
141 (HSE06) screened hybrid functional with a $2 \times 4 \times 4$ sampling k-point grid was used to evaluate the
142 light absorption coefficients and the levels of CBM and VBM [46]. The light absorption coefficients
143 were estimated based on the calculations of the imaginary part of the frequency-dependent dielectric

144 matrix implemented in VASP code [47]. The levels of CBM and VBM were determined using
145 empirical equations [48,49]:

$$E_C = (\chi_A \chi_{A'} \chi_B \chi_{B'} \chi_X^3 \chi_{X'}^3)^{\frac{1}{10}} + \frac{1}{2} E_g \quad (1),$$

$$E_V = E_C - E_g \quad (2).$$

146 where E_C and E_V are the CBM level and VBM level relative to the vacuum level, respectively. χ_A ,
147 $\chi_{A'}$, χ_B , $\chi_{B'}$, χ_X , and $\chi_{X'}$ denote the absolute electronegativities of A, A', B, B', X, and X' atoms in
148 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskite, respectively [50], and E_g is the band gap calculated by an HSE06
149 functional.
150

151 **Results and discussion**

152 We developed a high-throughput material search for novel PSC materials. Figure 2 depicts
153 the novel AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskite search scheme. In this material search scheme, not only
154 the feasibility of the perovskite structure and its band gap but also its toxicity and cost were
155 systematically considered. First, AA'BB'X₃X'₃ compositions were generated from a library of ions.
156 For the A and A' cations, 18 cations including alkali metal, alkali earth metal, group-3 metal, and
157 organic cations were employed. For the B and B' cations, 85 cations including transition metals and
158 p-block metals were employed. For the X and X' anions, nine anions including chalcogens and
159 halogens were employed. The specific ions are listed in Figure 2 (a). From the ion library,
160 28,125,225 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ compositions were generated. These were screened in a stepwise manner
161 according to the material search scheme.

162 In the first screening step of the material search scheme, the ability of the generated
163 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ compositions to form a perovskite was evaluated using the general properties of the
164 constituent ions (*viz.* ionic valence, valence electron number, and ionic radius). A composition was
165 considered to be synthetically feasible if it met the following seven criteria: (1) its charge was neutral,
166 (2) it had an even number of electrons, (3) its tolerance factor *TF* fell between 0.8 and 1.1 [51], (4)
167 its octahedral factor *OF* was greater than 0.4 [51], (5) the ionic radii difference and ratio of its A and
168 A' cations met the criteria in eq. (3); (6) the ionic radii difference and ratio of its B and B' cations met

169 the criteria in eq. (4); and (7) its X and X' anions had the same group number. TF and OF are defined
 170 as

$$TF = \frac{r_{\bar{A}} + r_{\bar{X}}}{\sqrt{2}(r_{\bar{B}} + r_{\bar{X}})} \quad (3)$$

$$OF = \frac{r_{\bar{B}}}{r_{\bar{X}}} \quad (4).$$

171 where $r_{\bar{A}}$ is the average ionic radius of the A and A' cations, $r_{\bar{B}}$ is the average ionic radius of the B
 172 and B' cations, and $r_{\bar{X}}$ is the average ionic radius of the X and X' anions. Shannon's ionic radii and
 173 effective radii were used for atomic ions and molecular ions, respectively [52,53]. However, TF and
 174 OF were defined for ABX_3 single perovskites, and these factors do not consider the differences
 175 between the ionic radii of A and A', B and B', or X and X' in $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskites.
 176 Recently, Bartel *et al.* reported a new tolerance factor to predict the stability of $A_2BB'X_6$ -type double
 177 perovskites [54]. Even with Bartel's tolerance factor, it may be impossible to predict the stabilities of
 178 $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskites because Bartel's tolerance factor cannot consider the differences
 179 between A and A' or X and X'. Therefore, the conventional TF and OF parameters and Bartel's new
 180 tolerance factor cannot simply be applied to $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskites; additional conditions
 181 are required. The 5th and 6th conditions consider the differences in the ionic radii of A and A' and B
 182 and B', respectively, by applying the following rules:

$$0.73 \leq \frac{r_A}{r_{A'}} \leq 1.37, \quad |r_A - r_{A'}| \leq 0.45 \text{ \AA} \quad (5)$$

$$0.50 \leq \frac{r_B}{r_{B'}} \leq 2.00, \quad |r_B - r_{B'}| \leq 2.00 \text{ \AA} \quad (6).$$

183 where r_A , $r_{A'}$, r_B , and $r_{B'}$ are the ionic radii of the A, A', B, and B' cations, respectively. The 5th,
184 6th, and 7th conditions were determined from our dataset of 282 experimental perovskite compounds
185 (see Table S1 in the Supplemental Material). $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ compositions that satisfy the seven
186 criteria are expected to be able to form a perovskite structure; 128,357 such $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ were
187 identified in this step, and only these combinations proceeded to the next screening step.

188 In the second screening step, the band gaps of the 128,357 $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskites
189 were predicted using a machine learning model. Support vector machine regression (SVR) with a
190 Gaussian kernel trained on the experimental band gap data of 282 perovskite compounds was
191 employed as the machine learning model. The band gaps and compositions of 282 perovskites are
192 listed in Table S1 (see Supplemental Material). The feature vectors for the 128,357 $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$
193 double perovskites were generated from the atomic and ionic information of the constituent elements.
194 The details are summarized in the Supplemental Material. To identify novel double perovskites with
195 suitable band gaps, we set a band gap criterion of 1.4 ± 0.8 eV. The values of 1.4 and 0.8 eV
196 correspond to the ideal band gap for p-n-junction-based solar cell materials according to the
197 Shockley-Queisser limit and the error bar of our SVR, respectively [55]. Through this screening,
198 10,918 $AA'BB'X_3X'_3$ double perovskites with suitable band gaps were identified. The 10,918
199 perovskites included conventional hybrid perovskites such as $MA_2Pb_2I_6$ (=MAPbI₃), for which the
200 band gaps determined experimentally and by our SVR were 1.48 and 1.69 eV, respectively [56].

201 In many material search studies, the development of such a database of 10,918
202 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskites might be the end goal. However, to target materials with the
203 potential for practical application, we considered two additional criteria (toxicity and cost) in this
204 work. These criteria were selected because the toxicity of the widely used Pb-based hybrid
205 perovskites is a serious problem [6], and low manufacturing cost is a merit of PSCs.

206 In the third screening step, the 10,918 identified perovskites were evaluated in terms of their
207 toxicity and cost. The *Guideline for Elemental Impurities Q3D* was employed for the toxicity
208 estimation [57]. These guidelines classify elements into four classes: highly toxic Class-1 elements,
209 moderately toxic Class-2 elements, low-toxicity Class-3 elements, and low or nontoxic other
210 elements. Pb, Hg, As, and Cd are Class-1 elements, and Co, V, Ni, Tl, Au, Pd, Ir, Os, Rh, Ru, Se, Ag,
211 and Pt are Class-2 elements. In this evaluation, AA'BB'X₃X'₃ perovskites including a Class-1 or -2
212 element, such as MA₂Pb₂I₆ and other Pb-based perovskites, were rejected, and 2,146 low-toxicity
213 double perovskites consisting of only Class-3 and other elements were found. After the toxicity
214 evaluation, the cost of the remaining 2,146 double perovskites was estimated using the Chemicool
215 database [58]. This database lists the price of each element in pure and bulk form. Using this
216 database, the cost of each of the 2,146 double perovskites was estimated in US dollars (USD) per
217 mole, and the 500 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskites with the lowest cost were selected. Note that the
218 prices of each element were collected for these estimations in February 2018 and may change over
219 time. The latest prices can be seen in the Chemicool database [58]. Here, the toxicities and costs of

220 perovskites were considered in the screening scheme. However, we would suggest that this screening
221 step is not necessarily required in general material studies since the toxicities and costs are not
222 physical properties and relatively evaluated.

223 In the final screening step, first-principles calculations were performed to calculate the
224 structures, band gaps, carrier effective masses, and exciton binding energies of the 500 AA'BB'X₃X'₃
225 double perovskites. The band gaps predicted by machine learning, estimated costs, optimized
226 structures, and semiconductor properties as calculated by density functional theory (DFT) for the 500
227 candidates are listed in Table S4 (see Supplemental Material), and the computational details are
228 summarized in the Supplemental Material. From among the 500 candidates, the 24 most promising
229 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskites were identified and are listed in Table 2 along with their band gaps,
230 costs, structural properties, hole and electron effective masses, exciton binding energies, and
231 theoretical PCEs. The 24 perovskites identified meet the following criteria: (1) a cubic or pseudo
232 cubic optimized structure with Bravais lattice vector length ratios of $1.90 \leq |\mathbf{a}|/|\mathbf{b}| \leq 2.10$, 1.90
233 $\leq |\mathbf{a}|/|\mathbf{c}| \leq 2.10$, and $0.95 \leq |\mathbf{b}|/|\mathbf{c}| \leq 1.05$, and angles between the Bravais lattice vectors of
234 $89.0^\circ \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \leq 91.0^\circ$; (2) a hole and electron effective mass of less than 1.00 a.u.; and (3) equal
235 direct band gap and indirect band gap values. Of the 24 perovskites identified, five are organic
236 tin-halide hybrid perovskites such as methylammonium tin iodide (MASnI₃) and formamidinium tin
237 iodide (FASnI₃). These organic tin-halide hybrid perovskites are well-known and are already
238 employed as alternative perovskites in PSCs. Their identification reproduces the results of alternative

239 experimental perovskite searches in recent years, and suggests that our material search scheme is a
240 very reliable method. In addition, sodium-, potassium-, and ammonium-based multi-A-cation
241 tin-halide perovskites that have not been reported in previous studies, namely, $\text{KMASn}_2\text{Br}_6$,
242 $\text{KMASn}_2\text{Br}_3\text{I}_3$, KMASn_2I_6 , $\text{KNH}_4\text{Sn}_2\text{Br}_6$, $\text{KNH}_4\text{Sn}_2\text{Br}_3\text{I}_3$, $\text{KNH}_4\text{Sn}_2\text{I}_6$, and $\text{NaNH}_4\text{Sn}_2\text{I}_6$, were
243 identified. Furthermore, 10 inorganic tin-halide perovskites, namely, KSnBr_3 , $\text{K}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{Br}_3\text{I}_3$, $\text{K}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{Cl}_3\text{I}_3$,
244 KSnI_3 , $\text{NaKSn}_2\text{Br}_6$, $\text{NaKSn}_2\text{Br}_3\text{I}_3$, NaKSn_2I_6 , $\text{Na}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{Br}_3\text{I}_3$, $\text{Na}_2\text{Sn}_2\text{Cl}_3\text{I}_3$, and NaSnI_3 , are first
245 reported in this study. These perovskites contain the well-known tin-halide framework. Therefore,
246 the existence of these perovskites is easy to imagine. In addition to the tin-halide perovskites, two
247 novel inorganic perovskites were identified. One is a copper-halide-based perovskite, $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$, and
248 the other is a sulfide perovskite, CaBaMnNbS_6 . These perovskites include divalent A- and A'-cations
249 and transition metals as the B- and B'-cations. The compositions are significantly different from
250 those conventionally used in the PSC field, and they have not been investigated as PSC materials.
251 However, we expect that $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$, CaBaMnNbS_6 , and similar perovskites will show appropriate
252 properties for use as solar cell materials.

253 For the novel organic-inorganic tin-halide, inorganic tin-halide, $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$, and
254 CaBaMnNbS_6 perovskites, more detailed examinations are needed to investigate the thermochemical
255 stabilities, light absorbance, and levels of CBM and VBM. Table 3 lists the formation enthalpies
256 calculated by PBE + U with FERE, band gaps calculated by the HSE06 functional, gap types, and
257 levels of CBM and VBM relative to the vacuum level for the novel perovskite candidates. In addition,

258 Figure S3 illustrates the imaginary parts of the frequency-dependent dielectric function
259 corresponding to the light absorption spectra for each novel perovskite. Notably, the HSE06
260 functional might seriously underestimate the band gaps of $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$ and CaBaMnNbS_6 because of
261 the strong electron correlations of Cu and Mn atoms. The formation enthalpies are exothermic for all
262 novel perovskites, and the candidates discovered in this study can be thermochemically stable as
263 perovskite structures. All novel organic-inorganic tin-halide and inorganic tin-halide perovskites
264 show direct band gaps and are expected to have relatively large light absorption coefficients in the
265 visible light region (see Figure S3). However, the band gaps calculated by HSE06 are smaller than
266 those predicted by machine learning. Therefore, the HSE06 calculations might underestimate the
267 band gaps of the novel organic-inorganic tin-halide and inorganic tin-halide perovskites. By contrast,
268 for the $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$ and CaBaMnNbS_6 perovskites, the gap types are indirect band gaps, and the light
269 absorption coefficients are expected to be relatively small (see Figure S3). However, $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$ and
270 CaBaMnNbS_6 perovskites show thermochemical stability and small effective masses of electrons and
271 holes. These characteristics are related to high carrier mobility. Therefore, $\text{CaSrCu}_2\text{I}_6$, CaBaMnNbS_6 ,
272 and similar perovskites can be expected as potential candidates for photovoltaic materials, and we
273 suggest that experimental studies are needed for these novel perovskites.

274

275 **Conclusion**

276 In this study, we examined if promising alternative perovskites with low cost, low toxicity,
277 and high photovoltaic performance exist. To investigate this efficiently, a high-throughput material
278 search scheme based on materials informatics was developed and applied to the screening of
279 28,125,225 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskite candidates. This scheme systematically considered not
280 only the semiconductor properties of the candidates (such as the band gap and carrier effective mass)
281 but also the feasibility of their synthesis, toxicity, and cost, which have rarely been considered in
282 previous studies. This study used a combination of informatics strategies based on experimental
283 databases and a newly built theoretical database.

284 To accelerate the material search, the synthetic feasibility, toxicity, and cost were estimated
285 from elemental and atomic information. Furthermore, band gaps were predicted by an SVR machine
286 learning model with a Gaussian kernel. The machine learning model was trained on the experimental
287 band gap data of 282 perovskites. We believe that this dataset will be useful in follow-on studies in
288 material research. Our high-throughput material search scheme can systematically consider the
289 physical properties, toxicity, and cost, and can be modified for use in other material searches. For
290 example, it could be extended to search for novel perovskite materials for the water-splitting
291 photocatalytic reaction by simply changing the band gap screening criteria. Our work represents a
292 pioneering material search method based on materials informatics that can consider various criteria
293 with the aim of identifying materials for practical applications.

294 Through the materials search scheme, 24 promising candidates were discovered from
295 28,125,225 AA'BB'X₃X'₃-type compositions. Among the 24 discovered perovskites, 22 candidates
296 were tin-halide perovskites, five of which are already well-known and employed as alternative
297 materials for PSCs. Their identification is consistent with the results of recent experimental studies
298 [7,8,59–61] and confirmed the reliability of our material search scheme. Novel sodium, potassium,
299 and ammonium-based tin-halide perovskites were also identified. Therefore, we propose that not
300 only MA-, FA-, and caesium-based perovskites but also sodium-, potassium-, and ammonium-based
301 perovskites represent promising alternative PSC materials. In addition to the tin-halide perovskites,
302 two novel transition-metal-based perovskites, CaSrCu₂I₆ and CaBaMnNbS₆, were identified.
303 Therefore, the answer to the question, “Do promising alternative perovskites other than tin-halide
304 perovskites exist?” is “yes.” We report that there are alternative perovskites other than tin-halide
305 perovskites that show low toxicity, low cost, and high performance as PSCs from the standpoint of
306 materials informatics. This result represents valuable information to guide experimental alternative
307 perovskite searches.
308

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318

319 **Conflicts of interest**

320 There are no conflicts to declare.

321

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427

428 **Table 1.** Averaged R^2 values for training set R^2_{train} and test set R^2_{test} , and root mean squared error

429 (RMSE) in test set for each band-gap prediction model.

Regression model	R^2_{train}	R^2_{test}	RMSE
MLR	0.46	0.36	1.11
Ridge regression	0.46	0.37	1.10
Lasso regression	0.45	0.36	1.11
SVR with linear kernel	0.43	0.34	1.12
SVR with Gaussian kernel	0.89	0.65	0.81
GPR with Gaussian kernel	0.90	0.58	0.89

430

431 **Table 2.** Band gap predicted by machine learning (E_g), estimated cost, Bravais lattice vector length ratios ($|\mathbf{a}|/|\mathbf{b}|$, $|\mathbf{a}|/|\mathbf{c}|$, and $|\mathbf{b}|/|\mathbf{c}|$),
432 angles between Bravais lattice vectors (α , β , and γ), electron effective mass m_e^* , hole effective mass m_h^* , exciton binding energy E_b , and
433 theoretical PCE of 24 most promising perovskites identified.

Perovskite	E_g/eV	Cost/\$ mol ⁻¹	$ \mathbf{a} / \mathbf{b} $	$ \mathbf{a} / \mathbf{c} $	$ \mathbf{b} / \mathbf{c} $	α/degree	β/degree	γ/degree	$m_e^*/\text{a.u.}$	$m_h^*/\text{a.u.}$	E_b/meV	PCE/%
CaBaMnNbS ₆	2.18	194	1.91	1.91	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.55	0.62	0	13.6
CaSrCu ₂ I ₆	1.81	171	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.36	0.45	10	19.1
FASnI ₃	1.51	122	1.96	2.00	1.02	90.0	90.0	90.1	0.84	0.10	4	22.2
KSnBr ₃	1.92	159	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.79	0.09	9	17.4
K ₂ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	1.13	179	1.98	1.98	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.81	0.07	0	22.1
K ₂ Sn ₂ Cl ₃ I ₃	1.75	167	1.98	1.98	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.98	0.13	5	19.8
KSnI ₃	1.14	198	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.74	0.08	2	22.1
KMASn ₂ Br ₆	1.99	121	1.99	2.00	1.00	90.5	90.0	90.0	0.94	0.15	33	16.4
KMASn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	1.17	141	1.98	1.98	1.00	90.2	90.3	89.9	0.97	0.13	14	22.2
KMASn ₂ I ₆	1.16	160	2.00	1.99	1.00	90.4	90.0	90.0	0.81	0.11	9	22.2
KNH ₄ Sn ₂ Br ₆	1.97	121	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.2	90.0	90.0	0.83	0.08	1	16.7
KNH ₄ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	1.14	140	2.00	1.99	1.00	90.8	90.1	90.0	0.79	0.08	0	22.1
KNH ₄ Sn ₂ I ₆	1.12	160	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.1	90.0	90.0	0.72	0.07	0	22.0
MAFASn ₂ I ₆	1.39	122	1.98	1.98	1.00	90.1	89.4	90.0	1.00	0.09	2	23.0
MA ₂ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	1.33	103	1.99	1.97	0.99	90.4	90.0	90.1	1.00	0.13	13	22.9
MA ₂ Sn ₂ Cl ₃ I ₃	1.96	91	1.96	1.96	1.00	89.9	89.8	90.5	0.88	0.12	11	16.8
MASnI ₃	1.29	122	2.00	1.98	0.99	90.3	90.0	90.0	0.78	0.15	16	22.3
NaKSn ₂ Br ₆	1.94	126	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.78	0.07	0	17.2

NaKSn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	2.12	135	1.99	1.99	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.86	0.18	13	14.5
NaKSn ₂ I ₆	1.54	138	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.73	0.07	0	21.9
Na ₂ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	1.48	112	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.81	0.18	22	22.3
Na ₂ Sn ₂ Cl ₃ I ₃	1.92	100	1.99	1.99	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.91	0.15	8	17.4
NaSnI ₃	1.86	147	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.72	0.07	0	18.3
NaNH ₄ Sn ₂ I ₆	1.22	126	2.00	2.00	1.00	90.1	90.0	90.0	1.00	0.07	0	22.3

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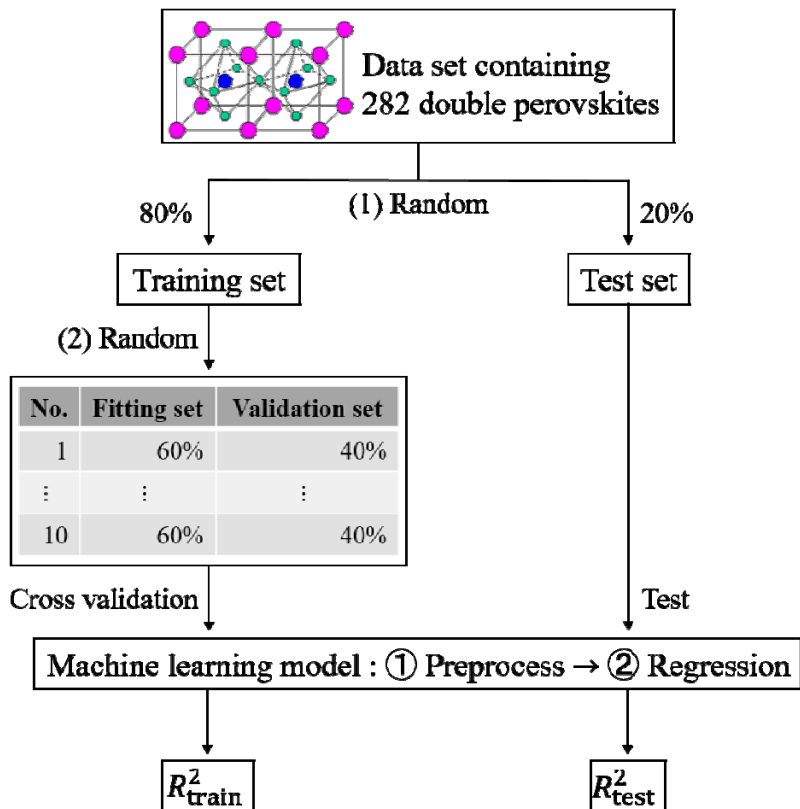
436 **Table 3.** Formation enthalpies, direct band gap, indirect band gap, gap type, and levels of CBM and VBM relative to vacuum level of 19 novel
 437 perovskites identified.

Perovskite	Formation enthalpy / kJ mol ⁻¹	Direct band gap / eV	Indirect band gap / eV	Gap type	CBM level / eV	VBM level / eV
CaBaMnNbS ₆	-1664	0.55	0.00	Indirect	-4.63	-4.63
CaSrCu ₂ I ₆	-1125	0.65	0.08	Indirect	-4.88	-4.97
KSnBr ₃	-610	0.70	0.70	Direct	-5.04	-5.74
K ₂ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	-1053	0.39	0.39	Direct	-5.01	-5.40
K ₂ Sn ₂ Cl ₃ I ₃	-1161	0.46	0.46	Direct	-5.31	-5.77
KSnI ₃	-458	0.46	0.46	Direct	-4.80	-5.26
KMASn ₂ Br ₆	-1158	0.95	0.95	Direct	-5.53	-6.48
KMASn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	-1002	0.56	0.56	Direct	-5.51	-6.08
KMASn ₂ I ₆	-878	0.54	0.54	Direct	-5.33	-5.87
KNH ₄ Sn ₂ Br ₆	-1117	0.51	0.51	Direct	-5.76	-6.27
KNH ₄ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	-960	0.29	0.29	Direct	-5.66	-5.95
KNH ₄ Sn ₂ I ₆	-828	0.32	0.32	Direct	-5.45	-5.77
NaKSn ₂ Br ₆	-1075	0.49	0.49	Direct	-5.23	-5.72
NaKSn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	-919	0.51	0.51	Direct	-5.04	-5.55
NaKSn ₂ I ₆	-785	0.37	0.37	Direct	-4.93	-5.29
Na ₂ Sn ₂ Br ₃ I ₃	-821	0.66	0.66	Direct	-5.05	-5.71
Na ₂ Sn ₂ Cl ₃ I ₃	-941	0.51	0.51	Direct	-5.27	-5.78
NaSnI ₃	-327	0.24	0.24	Direct	-5.07	-5.32
NaNH ₄ Sn ₂ I ₆	-699	0.20	0.20	Direct	-5.60	-5.80

438

439 **Figure Caption**

440



441

442 **Figure 1.** Training and test processes for machine learning models for band gap prediction.

443 Percentages in figure are split ratios for each set. Random seed for (1) Random was changed every

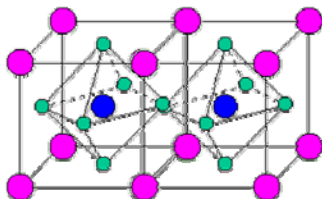
444 time in 50 iterations, and random seed for (2) Random was fixed in the iterations.

(a)

18 A & A'-cations :
Li⁺, Be²⁺, Na⁺, Mg²⁺, K⁺, Ca²⁺,
Sc³⁺, Rb⁺, Sr²⁺, Y³⁺, Cs⁺, Ba²⁺,
La³⁺, NH₄⁺, MA, FA, MFA, GA

9 X & X'-anions :
O²⁻, F⁻, S²⁻, Cl⁻, Se²⁻, Br⁻, Te²⁻, I⁻,
BH₄⁻

85 B & B'-cations :
B³⁺, C⁴⁺, N³⁺, N⁵⁺, Al³⁺, Si⁴⁺, P³⁺, P⁵⁺, Sc³⁺, Ti³⁺, Ti⁴⁺,
V³⁺, V⁴⁺, V⁵⁺, Cr²⁺, Cr³⁺, Cr⁶⁺, Mn²⁺, Mn³⁺, Mn⁷⁺, Fe²⁺,
Fe³⁺, Co²⁺, Co³⁺, Ni²⁺, Ni³⁺, Cu⁺, Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺, Ga³⁺, Ge⁴⁺,
As³⁺, Y³⁺, Zr⁴⁺, Nb⁵⁺, Mo⁶⁺, Ru³⁺, Ru⁴⁺, Rh³⁺, Rh⁴⁺, Pd²⁺,
Ag⁺, Cd²⁺, In³⁺, Sn²⁺, Sn⁴⁺, Sb³⁺, La³⁺, Ce³⁺, Ce⁴⁺, Pr³⁺,
Nd³⁺, Sm³⁺, Eu²⁺, Eu³⁺, Gd³⁺, Tb³⁺, Dy³⁺, Ho³⁺, Er³⁺,
Tm³⁺, Yb³⁺, Lu³⁺, Hf⁴⁺, Ta⁵⁺, W⁶⁺, Re⁴⁺, Re⁵⁺, Re⁷⁺, Os⁴⁺,
Os⁸⁺, Ir³⁺, Ir⁴⁺, Pt²⁺, Pt⁴⁺, Au⁺, Au³⁺, Hg⁺, Hg²⁺, Tl⁺, Tl³⁺,
Pb²⁺, Pb⁴⁺, Bi³⁺, Bi⁵⁺

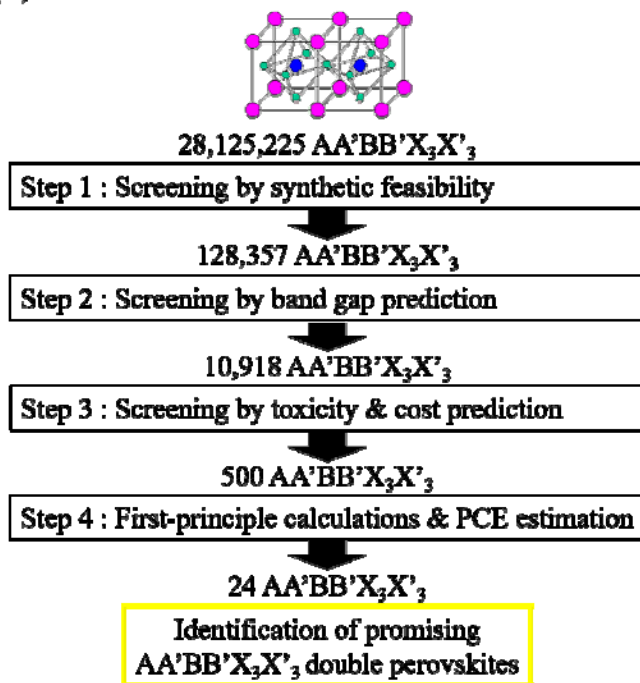


$$= ({}_{18}C_2 + 18) \times ({}_{85}C_2 + 85) \times ({}_9C_2 + 9)$$

= 28,125,225 AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskites

445

(b)



446

447 **Figure 2.** (a) Ion library for each site, and number of possible AA'BB'X₃X'₃ compositions using the

448 library. (b) Diagram of novel AA'BB'X₃X'₃ double perovskite search scheme.