Unveiling Mechanism of Temperature-Sensitive Self-Trapped Exciton Emission in One-Dimensional Hybrid Organic-Inorganic Tin Halide

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Lead-free hybrid metal halides showing self-trapped exciton (STE) emission have been recently explored for thermography due to their strong temperature dependence of photoluminescence (PL) lifetime (τ) ,^{1,2} however, the underlying mechanism governing the thermal quenching of STE remains elusive. Herein, we investigated a homogeneous one-dimensional ODASn₂I₆ (ODA, 1,8-octanediamine) nm-scale thin film exhibiting efficient STE emission. The PL decay shows a strong temperature dependence from 275 K ($\tau \sim 1.31 \mu s$) to 350 K ($\tau \sim 0.65 \mu s$) yielding a thermal sensitivity of 0.014 K⁻¹. By employing temperature-dependent transient absorption spectroscopy, we obtained a detailed detailed information about the relaxation processes prior to the STE formation (See below Scheme). Simultaneous analyses of steady-state and time-resolved spectroscopies lead to a self-consistent model where a thermally activated phonon-assisted nonradiative pathway explains the temperature dependence of the PL lifetime via a conical intersection between the ground state and STE potential energy surfaces. These findings offer a deep understanding of temperature-dependent STE dynamics in low-dimensional metal halides.



Scheme: The mechanism summary illustrating the dynamics of temperature-sensitive STE in nm-scale ODASn2I6 thin film.

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