

Supplementary Materials:

Controlled growth of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbI}_3$ nanowires in arrays of open nanofluidic channels

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Materials and Methods

Preparation of MAPbI_3 solution

MAPbI_3 single crystals and polycrystalline powder were prepared by precipitation from a concentrated aqueous solution of hydriodic acid (57 w% in H_2O , 99.99 % Sigma-Aldrich) containing lead (II) acetate trihydrate (99.999 %, Acros Organics) and a respective amount of CH_3NH_3^+ solution (40 w% in H_2O , Sigma-Aldrich). A constant 55-42 °C temperature gradient was applied to induce the saturation of the solute at the low temperature part of the solution. Besides the formation of hundreds of submillimeter sized crystallites several large MAPbI_3 crystals with 3x5 mm silver-grey mirror-like facets were grown after 21 days. The saturated solution (≈ 50 w%) of MAPbI_3 was prepared by dissolving the as-synthesized sub-millimeter

sized single crystals as well as the polycrystalline powder in 550 μl of dimethylformamide (DMF, Sigma-Aldrich).

Microchannel fabrication

A high resolution positive e-beam resist (ZEP520A) was spin-coated on the target substrate (Si, SiO₂-thermal evaporated, TiO₂, SiO₂-quartz) that was previously heated for 5 min at 180 °C. The sample was subsequently baked for 5 min at 180°C. The nanofluidic channels were patterned by e-beam lithography with a Vistec EBPG5000 operating at 100 kV and 1 nA, with a dose of 300 μCcm^{-2} . After exposure the resist was developed for 1 min in Amyl-Acetate, rinsed in a solution of MiBK:IPA (90:10) and dried with a nitrogen blow gun. Well-defined nanofluidic channels on the Si and SiO₂ substrate were fabricated by reactive ion etching with an Adixen AMS200 and a gas mixture of Ar and C₄F₈.

Graphene growth

Graphene was prepared on copper foil via a Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) method. Details of the synthesis, the transfer process and micro-texturing by e-beam lithography can be found in our recent work (11).

Nanofluidic-assisted perovskite nanowire synthesis

1 μl of saturated solution was dropped on top of the nanofluidic channels. Capillary forces drove the liquid inside the channel. After the solvent evaporation, the substrate was heated at 80 °C for 60 seconds in order to facilitate the crystallization of the nanowires. The sample was then immersed in chloroform for 1 min to remove the ZEP520A resist, leaving the elongated crystallites of MAPbI₃ in the predefined locations.

The same procedure was applied to grow MAPbI₃ nanowires in well-defined nanofluidic channels on the Si and SiO₂ substrate

SEM characterization

Scanning Electron Microscope images were acquired with a MERLIN Zeiss electron microscope. The samples were held at a working distance of 3-4 mm and images were taken with an accelerating voltage of 3 kV and a beam current of 73 pA.

Optical Imaging

Videos of the nanowires growth and corresponding images were taken with a DSLR camera body (type Canon EOS 5D Mark III) mounted to an optical microscope (Olympus BL-2) with a magnification of 80x.

Optical microscopy and photoluminescence measurements

Optical microscopy images of perovskite nanowire bundles as well their corresponding photoluminescence spectra were obtained using a customized inverted biological epifluorescent microscope (TC5500, Meiji Techno, Japan), which was combined with a commercially-available spectrofluorometer (USB 2000+XR, Ocean Optics Inc., USA). This setup enabled us to simultaneously record microscopic images and acquire photoluminescence spectra of MAPbI_3 deposits on glass microscope slides under visible light illumination, as well as under excitation with the monochromatic incoherent light at 470 nm and 546 nm wavelengths.

SEM characterization of micro-fabricated periodic array

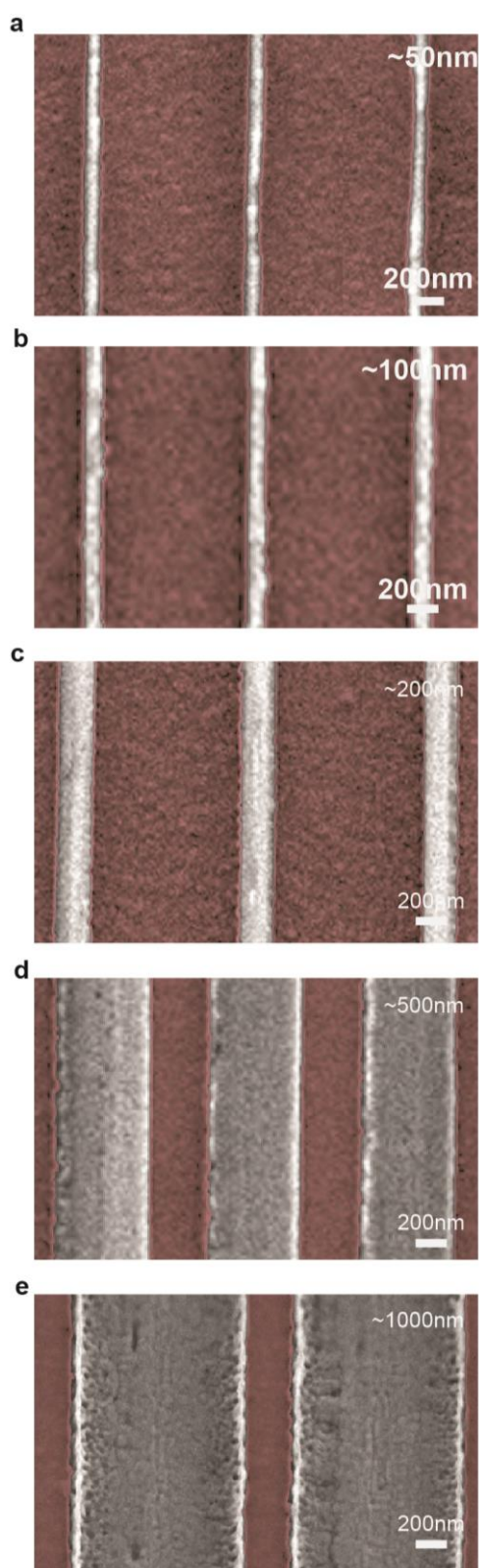


Fig. S1. Colored SEM micrographs of a series of MAPbI₃ nanowires (grey color) grown in ZEP520A channels (purple color) with altered periodicity and channel width. The channel width was set to 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 nm respectively. (a-e)

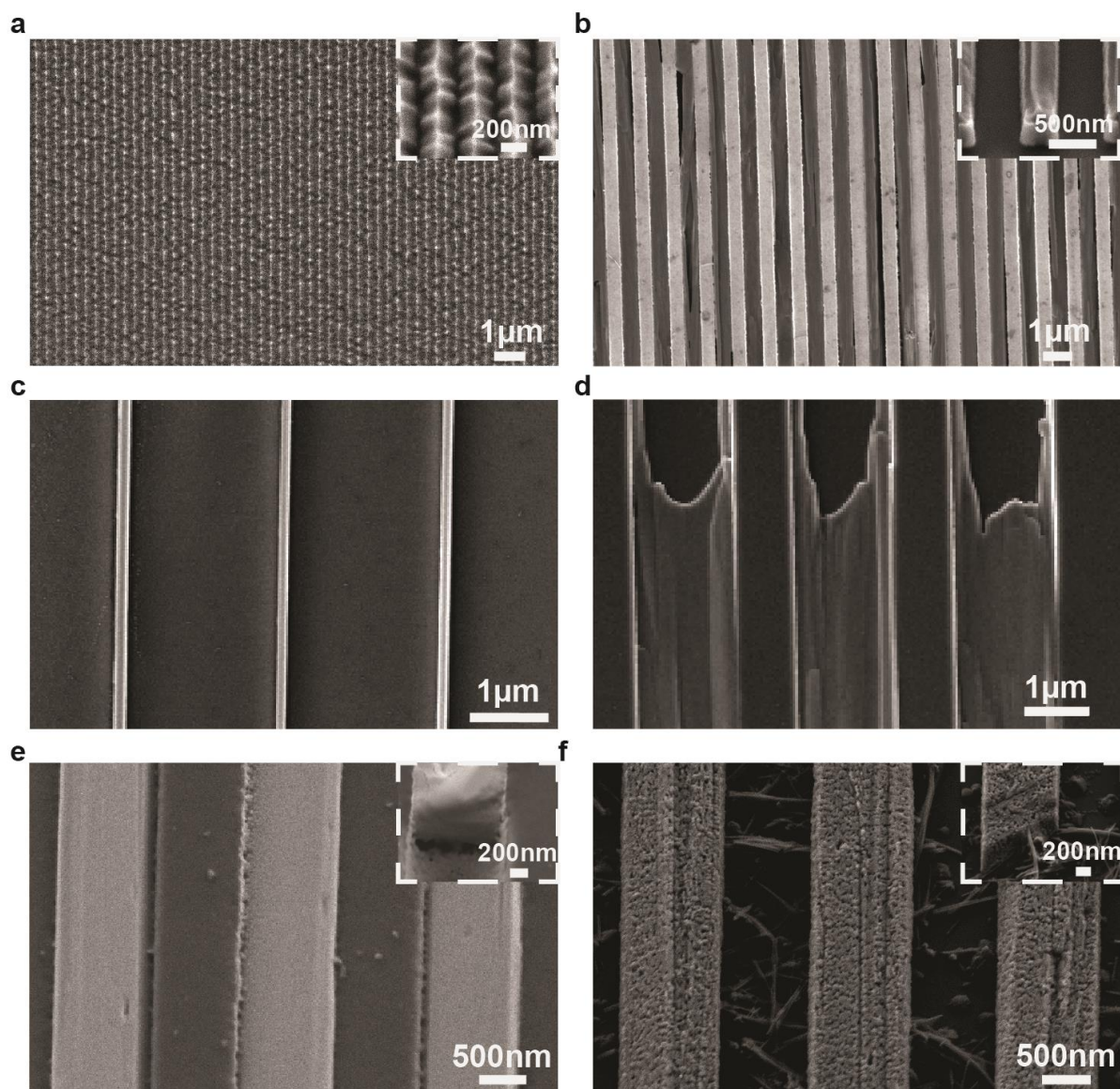


Fig. S2. SEM micrographs of a dense series of nanochannels with triangular (a) and rectangular (b) cross sections fabricated on ST-cut quartz. The perovskite nanowires fill the nanofabricated channels, adopting their shapes and aspect ratios. Because of the heterogeneous nucleation, larger channels have a higher probability of yielding bunches of nanowires (d) than narrower ones (c). The nanowires grow both on flat TiO₂ surfaces made by ALD (e) and rough substrates made by spin-coating TiO₂ nanowires on the ALD deposited TiO₂ (f).

EDX analysis

Scanning Electron Microscope images were acquired with a MERLIN Zeiss electron microscope. The elemental composition of the MAPbI₃ crystallites was analyzed by EDX. Samples were mounted on Al pucks with carbon. Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) measurements were done with an X-MAX EDS detector mounted at a 35 degree take-off angle with a SATW window. EDS spectra and map were obtained at a working distance of 8.7 mm with 10 keV accelerating voltage and a current held at 200 pA. 1024 channels were used for acquisition, corresponding to energy of 10 eV per channel. The EDS map was taken at a magnification of 5687x corresponding to a map area of 20.2x15.2 μm² with a resolution of 2048x1536 pixels. Spectra were acquired over 74 seconds of live time with detector dead time averaging of 4% and a dwell time per pixel of 10 μs. Quantitative EDS analysis utilized AZtec software provided by Oxford Instruments Ltd. The Pb:I ratio in the as-synthesized filiform nano crystallites and single crystals is found to be ~3, which is consistent with the formula of MAPbI₃.

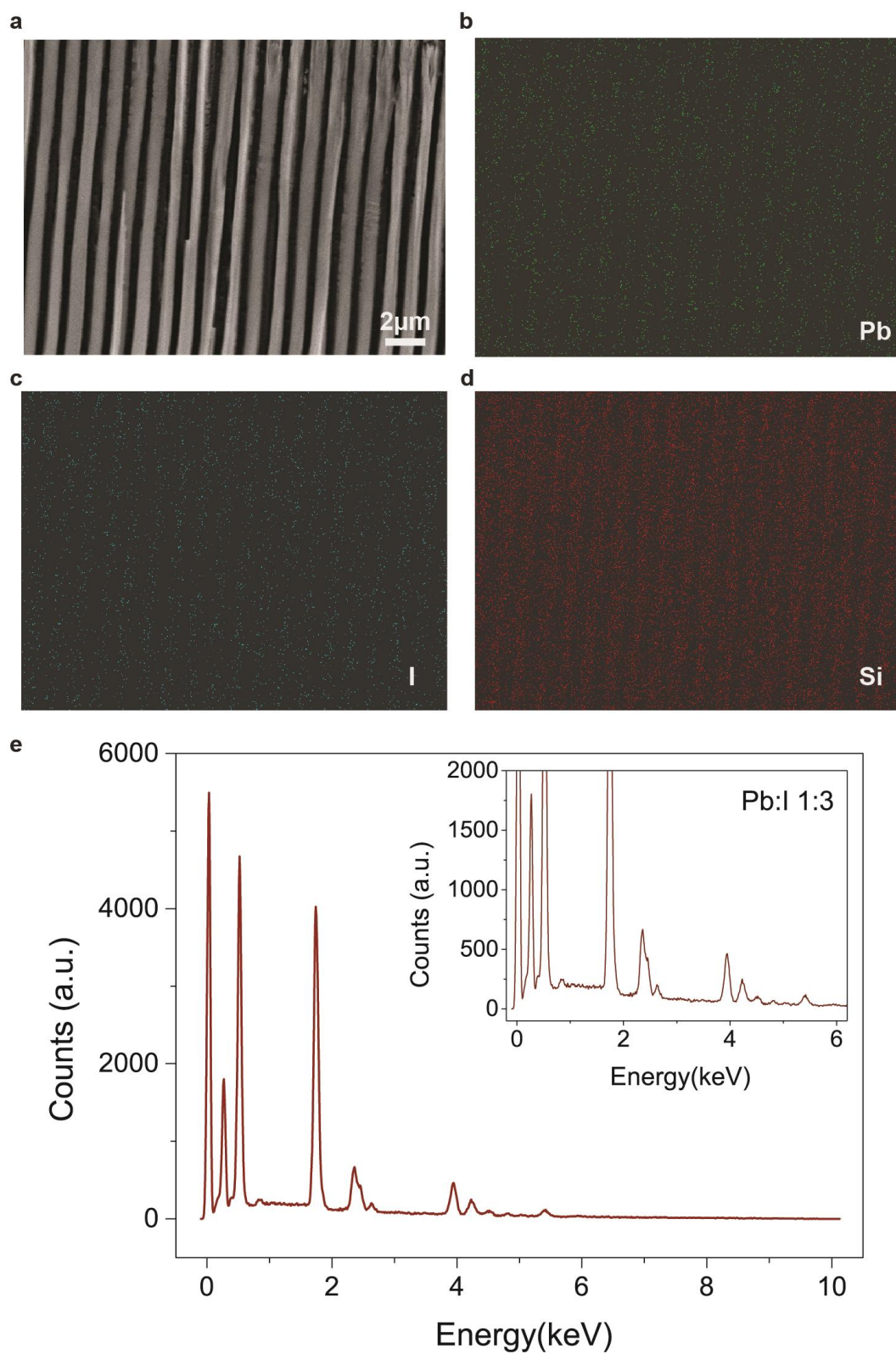


Fig. S3. SEM micrograph of set of MAPbI₃ nanowires synthesized in quartz nanogratings (a). EDX window integral maps of Pb (b), I (c) and Si (d). Note that the majority of signal characteristic to the elements of Pb and I were detected from the grooves filled with MAPbI₃ nanowires. The low-intensity signal detected on the

“uncovered area” is related to the presence of small isotropic MAPbI₃ crystallites generated from the solution overflow from the nanofluidic channels. EDX sum spectrum calculated from the data acquired from all the pixels in the secondary electron image (e).

Fluorescence Microscopy

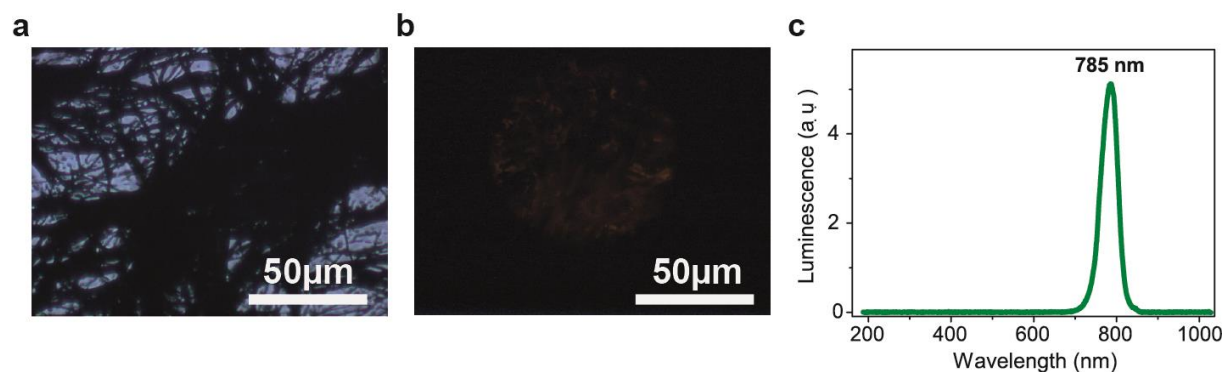


Fig. S4. The optical microscopy image of perovskite nanowire bundles (a), the corresponding fluorescence image obtained upon excitation with green monochromatic incoherent light at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=546$ nm (b), and the photo-emission spectrum of perovskite nanowires acquired upon excitation at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=546$ nm, having the peak intensity at 785 nm and matching well the characteristic emission of MAPbI₃ at ~ 1.58 eV (c).

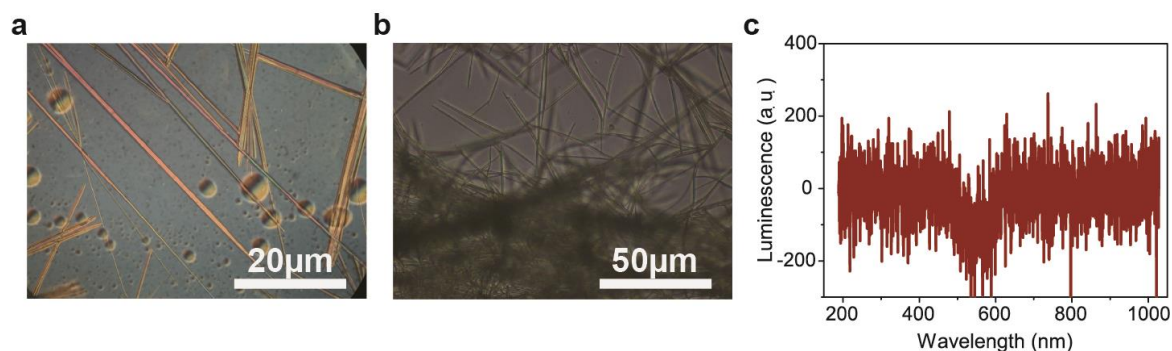


Fig. S5. The optical microscopy images of perovskite nanowire MAPbI₃-DMF bundles in solvatomorph phase with DMF (a, b). The corresponding photo-emission spectrum of perovskite nanowire solvatomorph acquired upon excitation with green monochromatic incoherent light at $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=546$ nm (c). Note the total absence of the characteristic photo-luminescence of MAPbI₃ (peaking around 785 nm) in the spectrum depicted in c.

MAPbI₃ nanowires dissolution

We conducted *in-situ* nanowire dissolution experiments. The nanowires for this study were prepared on a glass microscope slide by the standard slip-coating process. Here, we add excess of polar aprotic solvents (DMF, DMAc and DMSO) to dissolve the MAPbI₃ nanowires. The dissolution experiment revealed some fascinating behavior of MAPbI₃ nanowires etching in their mother liquor. As it can be seen in Fig S6 the dissolution of elongated MAPbI₃ is highly anisotropic. In contact with excess of DMF the dissolution starts and rapidly advances from both ends of the wires (the same planes as during growth). Only minor dissolution was observed on the sidewalls, the facets perpendicular to the growth facets. This suggests that through careful control of the experimental conditions selective etching of perovskite nanowires is feasible.

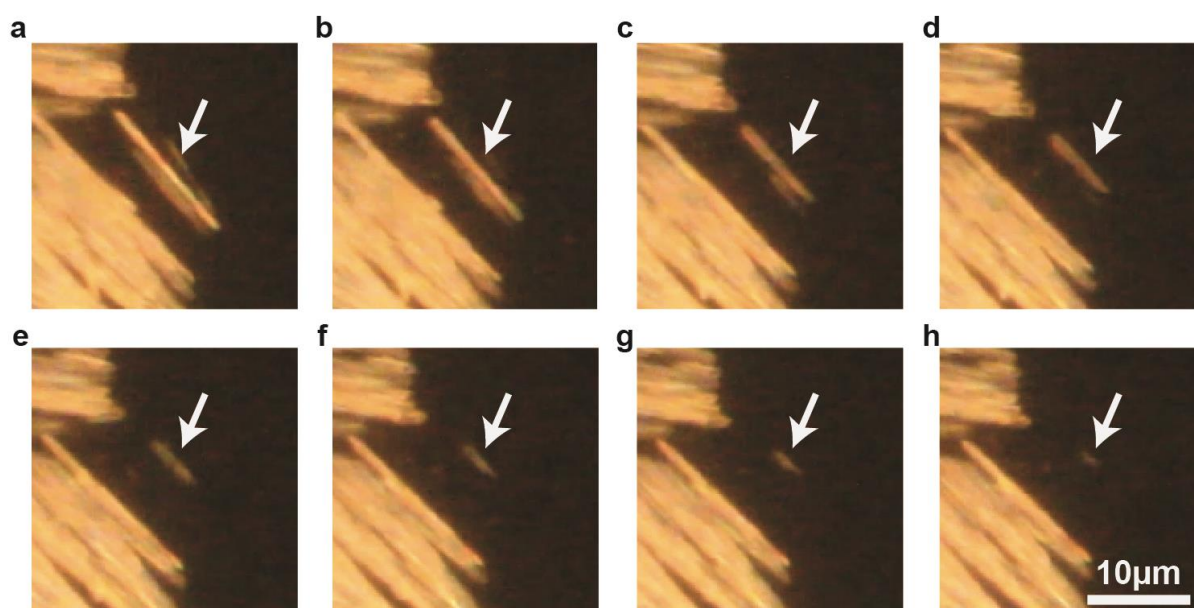


Fig. S6. Snapshots (a-h) from a video showing the dissolution of the MAPbI₃-DMF solvatomorph NWs in their mother liquor (DMF). The nanowire dissolution is highly anisotropic. The dissolution starts and rapidly advances from both ends of the wires. Only minor dissolution was observed on the facets perpendicular to the growth facets.

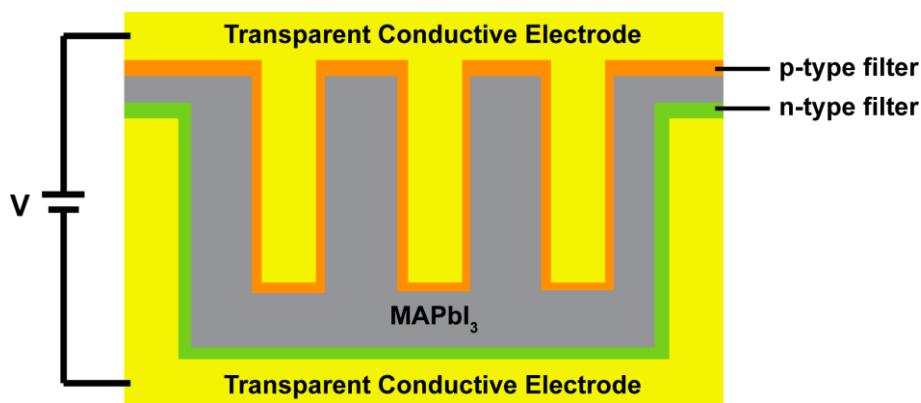


Fig. S7. Top view schematics of a conceptual interdigitated perovskite solar cell architecture. The planar heterostructure used nowadays could be replaced by an interdigitated configuration where the higher surface-to-volume of the nanowires, their crystallinity and the improved charge collection efficiency due to the reduced distance of the electrodes could lead to higher solar-to-electric conversion efficiencies. Additionally, the absence of the top transparent conductive electrode would reduce the absorption/reflection losses.

Video S1. This video, recorded in an optical microscope with a Canon EOS 5D Mark III, shows the real-time growth of MAPbI_3 nanowires grown on a dense array of Si grooves. Each groove is 500 nm wide, as is their spacing. The array extends over 2 mm. Once the saturated MAPbI_3 solution is dropped onto the array, capillary forces drive the liquid inside the open nanofluidic channels.

Video S2. White light directed at different angles on the surface a Si chip containing series of MAPbI_3 nanowires grown in ZEP520A channels with altered periodicity and channel width. The ZEP520A was subsequently dissolved after the graphoepitaxial growth. The intense blue, green, orange and red colors are due to the interference pattern of millimeter long periodic perovskite nanowire arrays grown on the surface of a Si chip. The video was recorded with a 150 mm macro lens (Sigma 1:2.8 APO MACRO DC HSM) mounted on the body of a Canon EOS 5D Mark III full frame DSLR camera.

Video S3. This video, recorded in an optical microscope with a Canon EOS 5D Mark III, shows the growth of MAPbI_3 nanowires grown on a glass substrate covered with 100 nm thick gold coating. The most important parameter determining the nanowire diameter might be the size of the nucleation center. Once the nanowire growth starts, the cross-section remains constant over ~cm length scales. The video was speeded up 8 times.

Video S4. This video, recorded in an optical microscope with a Canon EOS 5D Mark III, shows the growth of MAPbI₃ nanowires grown on a glass substrate covered with 100 nm thick gold coating. This video shows the growth of nanowires grown from multiple nuclei resulting in the formation of crystallographically-fused parallel aggregates of perovskite nanowires. Once the nanowire growth starts, the cross-section remains constant over ~cm length scales. The video was speeded up 8 times.