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## Noise spectroscopy study of methylammonium lead tribromide single-crystal detectors: gamma spectroscopy applications --Manuscript Draft--

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## Noise spectroscopy study of methylammonium lead tribromide single-crystal detectors: gamma spectroscopy applications

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12 Abstract—Metal halide perovskites have been studied since 2016 for gamma spectroscopy applications. In this work, we 13 study devices based on methylammonium lead tribromide single crystals as gamma detectors. These detectors can measure the signal of a single gamma photon but the energy resolution is limited by the noise of the detectors. Such noise 14 15 is multicomponent and a deeper investigation was carried by measuring the noise power spectral density of the devices 16 for different bias voltages. Non-biased devices were found to behave as an idealized equivalent electrical circuit with the 17 main noise source being thermal noise. In the case of biased devices, the dominant noise source is shown to be the 1/fnoise which becomes preponderant at lower frequency (<1MHz). These results demonstrate the major contribution of the 18 19 flicker noise in perovskite detectors and lay the foundation for next developments to make them compatible with 20 spectrometric applications.

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22 Index Terms— Lead halide perovskite, gamma-ray detector, noise power spectral density.

#### 23 1 Introduction

24 Metal halide perovskites are a new type of material that has attracted the interest of the high energy radiation detection 25 community for the past few years. The reasons behind this interest are the presence of heavy atoms, such as lead, in their composition, the high charge transport properties and the possibility to grow thick single crystals in solution at low temperature. 26 27 Since 2016, studies have been conducted to measure the energy resolution of lead halide perovskites gamma detectors. An 28 energy resolution of 10% FWHM at 59.5keV was demonstrated for cesium lead tribromide (CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>) and methylammonium 29 lead triiodide (MAPbI<sub>3</sub>) single crystals using an americium source [1,2]. For the same gamma source, chloride doped 30 methylammonium lead tribromide (MAPbBr<sub>2.85</sub>Cl<sub>0.15</sub>) single crystals showed an energy resolution of 35% FWHM [3]. More 31 recently, an impressive energy resolution of 1.4% FWHM at 662keV has been demonstrated on detector based on Bridgman 32 grown CsPbBr<sub>3</sub> crystals [4]. In addition to these proofs of concepts, it is of major importance to identify the limiting factors for 33 the spectral resolution of lead halide perovskites. Noise in the detector and electronic noise in the readout circuit are important 34 figures of merit affecting the energy resolution. In that respect, noise spectroscopy is a powerful tool standardly used for 35 semiconductor detectors [5–7]. However, for perovskites single crystals, to the best of your knowledge, noise spectroscopy has only been used once, as a screening tool to differentiate samples with higher or lower spectrometric performances [8]. Here, we 36 37 propose a more in-depth study focusing on determining the main components of perovskite single crystals noise spectra.

In this work, we study devices based on methylammonium lead tribromide (MAPbBr<sub>3</sub>) single crystals crystallized from solution. The noise spectra of the devices have been analyzed as a function of applied voltages and the different root causes of noise have been identified. The aim is to understand which noise components tend to limit the gamma photon counting performances of the devices.

#### 43 2 Methods

#### 44 2.1 Crystal growth and device fabrication

The MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> single crystals were grown independently using seeded Inverse Temperature Crystallization method. The growth process is described in previous work [9]. Crystals dimensions after growth were  $4mm \times 4mm \times 2mm$  on average. Their top and bottom (100) faces were optically polished (roughness below 30 nm r.m.s) and chromium electrodes were thermally evaporated on them through a shadow mask. After polishing, the average crystal thickness was 1mm.

49 2.1.1 Gamma photon counting

50 The photocurrent induced by gamma photons with energies ranging from 59.5keV to 511keV was measured using a homemade

51 Charge Sensitive Amplifier (Junction Field Effect Transistor, JFET 2SK715, input discrete CSA) and digitized with a *Tektronix* 52 TDS220 oscilloscope. Two MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> pixelated devices were used for the measurement (pixel pitch: 600µm) to benefit from the 53 small pixel effect [10]. The measurements were carried out under ambient temperature and humidity conditions. The device was

54 placed in a brass casing, ensuring electromagnetic insulation as well as dark conditions. The minimum voltage bias required to

ensure complete charge collection can be calculated from equation 1.

$$V_{min} = \frac{L^2}{\mu\tau} \tag{1}$$

*L* is the thickness of the device.  $\mu$  is the mobility of the charge carriers and  $\tau$  is their lifetime. The average thickness of our devices is 1mm. In a previous paper, the average holes' mobility was measured at  $13 \text{cm}^2$ .V<sup>-1</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> using laser Transient Current Technique (TCT) [11]. In the same paper, the holes' lifetime was estimated to be above 10µs and the electrons' transport properties were hypothesized to be lower than the holes' transport properties. From these values, the minimum bias voltage to ensure that the majority of the charge carriers are collected is estimated at 80V for holes and should be higher to ensure complete charge collection of electrons. However, the devices were too noisy to reach this threshold and the measurements were conducted at 20V.

#### 65 2.2 Noise spectroscopy measurements

#### 66 2.2.1 Noise spectroscopy setup

The noise power spectral density (PSD) measurements were conducted on two MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> non-pixelated devices with 19.6 mm<sup>2</sup> and 5.6 mm<sup>2</sup> active surface for device 1 and 2 respectively (Table 1). The measurements took place under laboratory temperature (20°C-25°C) and humidity conditions (40%-60% RH).

Figure 1 shows the setup used for the noise spectroscopy measurements. The device to be measured was placed in a brass sample

holder. The simplest electrical equivalent circuit model for the device is a resistor in parallel with a capacitance  $(R_{dev}//C_{dev})$ . Values for  $R_{dev}$  and  $C_{dev}$  are estimated in section 3.B.1. For the measurement, the device was biased using a *Keithley* SMU 2602B

via resistor  $R_0$  (470M $\Omega$ ). The *Keithley* SMU 2602B was also used to measure the value of the dark current. The dark current of the device was amplified using a homemade charge sensitive amplifier (JFET input discrete CSA). The charge amplifier

the device was amplified using a homemade charge sensitive amplifier (JFET input discrete CSA). The charge amplifier consisted of an amplification stage ( $G_1$ ) and an impedance matching stage ( $G_2$ ). A *Teledyne LeCroy* HDO6104 oscilloscope

 $(1M\Omega \text{ input impedance})$  then measured the amplified current and calculated the output noise power spectral density (Figure 2B).

The input noise PSD (Figure 2C) is obtained by performing the ratio between the output noise PSD and the gain of the charge
 amplifier.

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## $PSD_{IN} = \frac{PSD_{OUT}}{Gain}$ (2)

The gain spectrum of the charge amplifier was measured (Figure 2A) by simulating the charge that would be produced by a 511keV photon absorbed in MAPbBr<sub>3</sub>. 511keV was used as a reference energy because it is the highest energy of the range of interest for gamma spectroscopy [12]. This allowed us to measure the gain spectrum with the highest signal to noise ratio.

 $Q = \frac{E_{ph}}{W_+} = 12fC \tag{3}$ 

 $E_{ph}$  [eV] is the photon's energy.  $W_{\pm}$ =6.9eV [eV] is the pair production energy in MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> as defined by Klein equation [13]. This charge is produced using an *Agilent* 33250A function generator and an injection capacitance  $C_{inj}$  (1pF).

$$C_{inj} = \frac{Q}{C_{inj}} = 12mV \tag{4}$$

 $V_{inj}$  [V] is the amplitude of the sinusoidal functions generated by the *Agilent* 33250A. The functions were generated for frequencies varying between 2kHz and 20MHz, the range of interest for gamma spectroscopy. However, the low cutoff frequency of the charge sensitive amplifier is 10kHz so all the spectra were analyzed between 10kHz and 20MHz.

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#### FIGURE1

Figure 1. Noise spectroscopy measurement setup

#### FIGURE2

Figure 2. A) Typical gain spectrum (feedback capacitance C<sub>1</sub>=100fF). B) Typical output power spectral density. C) Typical input power
 spectral density. D) Input power spectral density theoretical model.

#### 98 2.2.2 Theoretical model

99 The input noise PSD can be modeled using the algebraic expressions of the theoretical noise sources of the different constitutive 100 elements of the system. The two main sources of noise are the MAPbBr3 device and the charge preamplifier. 101 The device noise can be broken down into two main components: the shot noise and the flicker noise (1/f noise). The shot noise

102 is due to the discrete nature of electronic charge carriers, which are injected into a biased device by following a Poisson statistic.

103 It is proportional to the of the dark current. When represented in current spectral density units  $[A^2/Hz]$ , the shot noise is a white

noise. The flicker noise is inversely proportional to the frequency (1/f) when represented in current spectral density units [A<sup>2</sup>/Hz].

105 This 1/f noise is linked to random processes in the material. Example of which include fluctuations in the rate of generation and

106 recombination of carriers, fluctuations in effective mobility in the material as well as trapping and de-trapping phenomena.

- 107 The noise power spectral density of the device can be expressed as the sum of its shot and 1/*f* noises.
- 108  $\gamma_{device} = 2qI_{dark} + \frac{I_f^2}{f} \left[\frac{A^2}{Hz}\right]$ (5)

109 q is the elementary charge [C].  $I_{dark}$  is the dark current of the device [A].  $I_f$  is a constant linked to the 1/f noise of the device [A].

110

111 The noise of the amplification electronics is mainly related to the components located upstream of the charge preamplifier: the 112 input resistor and the input transistor. The input resistor is the parallel resistor between  $R_{dev}$  and  $R_0$ . In what follows, it will be

noted  $R_{\parallel}$ . The input resistor is a source of Johnson noise which is the noise produced by the thermal agitation of charge carriers.

114 
$$\gamma_{R\parallel} = \frac{4kT}{R_{\parallel}} \tag{6}$$

115 k [J.K<sup>-1</sup>] is the Boltzmann constant. T [K] is the temperature.

116 The noise of the input transistor has two components: the shot noise and the 1/f noise. The shot noise of the transistor is white

when represented in voltage spectral density units  $[V^2/Hz]$ . The noise power spectral density of the input transistor can be

118 expressed as the sum of its shot and 1/f noises.

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$$\gamma_{transistor} = \frac{4kT}{g} + \frac{A_f}{f} \left[ \frac{V^2}{Hz} \right] \tag{7}$$

120 g [S] is the transconductance of the amplification transistor. Its value is estimated in part 3.2.2  $A_f$  [V<sup>2</sup>] is a constant linked to the 121 technology of transistor used. 122

123 The contribution of all the noise sources mentioned leads to a global noise power spectral density (Figure 2D), expressed in 124 charge spectral unit, as follows:

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$$\gamma(f) = C^2 \times (\gamma_{transistor}) + \frac{1}{4\pi^2 f^2} (\gamma_{R\parallel} + \gamma_{device}) \left[ \frac{C^2}{Hz} \right]$$
(8)

126 C [F] is the composed capacitance of the spectroscopic chain. It is the sum of the device capacitance ( $C_{dev}$ ), the injection

127 capacitance ( $C_{inj}=1$  pF), the charge amplifier feedback capacitance ( $C_l=0.1$  pF) and the stray capacitance ( $C_s$ ). The stray

capacitance is estimated in part 3.2.2 The composed capacitance is the factor that allows the conversion of the input transistor

PSD from voltage units to charge units. The input resistors and device noise PSDs are multiplied by the factor  $1/4\pi^2 f^2$  to convert them from current units to charge units.

#### 131 **3 Results**

#### 132 3.1 Gamma photons counting

Figure 3 shows gamma photons counting for americium 241 and cobalt 57 sources. The devices were able to distinguish single gamma photons of 59.5keV and 122 keV, but the signal is highly noisy which limits the energy resolution. The noise must be finely characterized in order to define a signal shaping that would be a good enough compromise between the reduction of the noise and the ballistic deficit. Furthermore, the origin of the noise has yet to be established.

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#### FIGURE 3

Figure 3. Gamma photons counting of <sup>241</sup>Am and <sup>57</sup>Co gamma sources.

#### 140 3.2 Noise spectroscopy measurements

141 3.2.1 Devices' properties

142 Table 1 gathers the main properties of the two devices used to conduct the noise spectroscopy measurements.

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Table 1. Properties of the two devices used for noise spectroscopy measurements.

Device number	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Electrode surface (mm <sup>2</sup> )	Capacitance (pF)	Resistance (MΩ)
1	5.7	4.8	0.88	19.6	15±2.4	13±4

ſ	2	4.1	2.5	1.2	5.6	3.1±0.5	150±19

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116	The velue of the registeres of device	a 1	d using immedance	an a a trac a a n tr	accurate in a	maniona	muhlication
146	The value of the resistance of device	e 1 was measure	a using impedance	spectroscopy m	leasurements in a	previous p	publication

147 [14]. The value of the resistance of device 2 was calculated using the value of conductivity estimated from same reference.

148 The device's capacitances  $C_{dev}$  are estimated using the formula for planar capacitance.

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$$C_{dev} = \frac{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r S}{L} [F] \tag{9}$$

150  $\varepsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$  F.m<sup>-1</sup> is the dielectric constant.  $\varepsilon_r = 76 \pm 11$  is the dielectric permittivity of MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> [14]. *S* [m<sup>2</sup>] is the electrode's 151 surface of the device. *L* [m] is the thickness of the device.

#### 153 3.2.2 Estimation of the stray capacitance and the transconductance of the input transistor

The stray capacitance and the transconductance of the input transistor are estimated using equation 8 and noise PSD data measured at 10MHz without any device.

156 For high frequencies (10MHz), equation 8 can be simplified as follows.

$$\gamma(f = 10 \text{MHz}) = (C_{inj} + C_1 + C_s)^2 \times \frac{4kT}{g} \left[ \frac{V^2}{Hz} \right]$$
 (10)

158 We hypothesize that the stray capacitance does not depend on the injection capacitance. The noise PSD is measured

experimentally at 10MHz for two different injection capacitances:  $C_A=1$ pF and  $C_B=3.2$ pF. Values measured for each capacitance

are  $3.1 \times 10^{-41}$  C<sup>2</sup>/Hz and  $4.2 \times 10^{-41}$  C<sup>2</sup>/Hz respectively. This leads to an estimated stray capacitance  $C_s$ =13.4pF and an estimated

161 JFET transconductance g=110ms. The value of the transconductance was also estimated via a PSpice simulation ( $I_{drain}=10$ mA).

162 The result of the simulation gave g=67mS. In what follows, we consider that possible values for the input transistor's transconductance are in a range of 67ms to 110mS.

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#### 165 3.2.3 Noise spectroscopy measurements of non-biased devices

The noise PSD of the non-biased devices were measured and compared with the experimental noise PSD of their ideal electronic equivalent circuits ( $R_{dev}$ // $C_{dev}$ ). The ideal electronic equivalent circuit of each device were made using discrete resistors and capacitors and measured following the procedure described in part 2.3.1. The noise PSD of the non-biased devices were also compared with the theoretical model introduced in part 2.3. Figure 4 shows these comparisons. Parameters used for the models shown in Figure 4 are summarized in Table 2.

#### FIGURE 4

Figure 4. Comparison of the noise PSD of the non-biased MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> with the noise PSD of its ideal equivalent electrical circuit and the theoretical model. A) Device 1. B) Device 2.

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Table 2. Parameters	for	the	models	shown	in	Figure	4.
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Model	C (pF)	g (mS)	$A_{f}\left( pV^{2} ight)$	$R_{0}\left(M\Omega ight)$	$R_{dev}\left(M\Omega\right)$	$R_{\parallel}(M\Omega)$
Charge Sensitive Amplifier only	14.5	85	0.12	470	-	470
Equivalent circuit of device 1	32.5	85	0.12	470	13	12.7
Equivalent circuit of device 2	18.1	85	0.12	470	150	114

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Both devices (experimental data in black) behave similarly to their ideal electronic equivalent circuit (experimental data in grey, modeled data in red) and derive significantly from the baseline theoretical model of the charge sensitive amplifier noise spectrum (in yellow). There are two differences between the yellow and red models. The first is the addition of the capacitance of the device  $C_{dev}$  to the composed capacitance *C*, which shifts the spectrum upward to higher noise values. The second is the addition of the device resistor  $R_{dev}$ , which decreases  $R_{\parallel}$ , and thus increases the noise in the low frequency range (<1MHz).

184 For non-biased devices, the noise mainly comes from the input resistors and the input transistor of the CSA, with the main

185 contributions being the Johnson noise and shot noise of the input transistor respectively at low (<1MHz) and high (>1MHz)

186 frequencies. The Johnson noise is mainly due to the bulk resistance associated with thermally generated carriers ( $R_{\parallel} \approx R_{device}$ )

187 while the shot noise of the input transistor is scaled by the composed capacitance.

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#### 189 3.2.4 Noise spectroscopy measurement of biased devices

- 190 3.2.4.1 Noise spectroscopy as a function of bias voltage
- The noise PSD of both devices were measured for biases ranging between 0V and -90V using 10V steps (Figure 5). The values of the noise PSD measured at 10kHz are reported in the insert as a function of bias voltages.

# 193FIGURE 5194Figure 5. Noise PSD spectra of device 1 (A) and 2 (B) as a function of bias voltages. In inserts, noise PSD at 10kHz as a function of bias195Figure 5. Noise PSD spectra of device 1 (A) and 2 (B) as a function of bias voltages. In inserts, noise PSD at 10kHz as a function of bias196voltage. The color code for bias values of the main graphs is kept in the inserts. The solid line in each insert represents the contribution of the197shot noise of each device (which is proportional to the dark current) to the values of their respective noise PSD.

As expected from equation 8, at high frequency (f>1MHz), the noise PSD of both devices is a constant of the frequency and the bias voltage. The noise PSD only depends on the input transistor's transconductance and the composed capacitance. Similarly to the non-biased devices, the main noise source at high frequency is the shot noise of the input transistor of the charge sensitive amplifier.

At low frequency (f < 1MHz), when the devices are biased we expect to see the addition of the device noise (both shot noise and 1/f noise) to the Johnson noise that was already present when the devices were not biased.

The inserts of Figure 5 give a simplified vision by showing only the noise PSD at 10kHz as a function of the bias voltage. It

appears that the noise PSD increases with the bias voltage by following a quasi-linear trend. This trend may be expected if we consider that the dark current, from which the shot noise of the device depends, is proportional to the bias voltage. However, the spurious points seem to indicate transient phenomena. This invalidates the direct proportionality of the dark current with the bias

voltage. Nevertheless, we cannot exclude that erratic migration phenomena may appear and generate some off-trend
 measurements [14].

210 Moreover, the values of dark currents measured lead to noise PSD (solid lines) lower than experimentally measured values

211 (dots). The contribution of the shot noise from the devices to the noise PSD cannot explain the observed trend on its own.

#### 212 3.2.4.2 Frequency component analysis and modeling

213 In order to figure out the relative extent of the contribution of the shot and 1/f noise of the device to the noise PSD at low 214 frequency, we have performed a slope analysis on the noise PSD spectra shown in Figure 5. Each slope that make up the 215 experimental spectra can be associated with one or more noise components. Looking at equation 11, which is the developed form 216 of equation 8, we see that the noise components can be divided up into four categories in terms of their proportionality 217 relationship with the frequency. Firstly, the shot noise of the input transistor (in grey) is independent of the frequency. It is 218 associated with a constant slope. Secondly, the 1/f noise of the input transistor (in red) is proportional to the inverse of the 219 frequency. It is associated with a -1 slope. Thirdly, the Johnson noise and the shot noise of the device are both proportional to 220  $1/f^2$ . They are associated with a -2 slope. Finally, the 1/f noise of the device (in blue) is proportional to  $1/f^3$  so it is associated with 221 a -3 slope.

$$\gamma(f) = C^2 \times \frac{4kT}{g} + C^2 \times \frac{A_f}{f} + \frac{1}{4\pi^2 f^2} \times \frac{4kT}{R_{\parallel}} + \frac{1}{4\pi^2 f^2} \times 2qI_{dark} + \frac{I_f^2}{4\pi^2 f^3} \left[\frac{C^2}{Hz}\right]$$
(11)

The results of the slope analysis are summarized in Figure 6. Figure 6 A and B show the results for non-biased device 1 and 2 respectively. Graphs C and D show the results for biased (-20V) device 1 and 2 respectively. We notice the slope observed for biased devices were always the same regardless of the bias voltage applied.

Without biasing, both devices showed the same two main frequency components: a  $1/f^2$  slope and a constant slope. From part 3.2.3, we deduce that these components correspond to the Johnson noise and the shot noise of the input transistor respectively. For all non-zero biases tested, both devices showed the same two main frequency components in their PSD: a  $1/f^3$  slope and a constant slope. This indicates that, for biased devices, the main noise sources are the 1/f noise of the device at low frequency (<1MHz) and the shot noise of the input transistor of the charge sensitive amplifier at high frequency (>1MHz).

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#### FIGURE 6

Figure 6. Slope analysis of the noise PSD of the MAPbBr<sub>3</sub>. A) Device 1 without biasing. B) Device 2 without biasing. C) Device 1 biased at -234 20V. D) Device 2 biased at -20V.

A quantitative analysis of the noise contributions for both devices is given in Figure 7. The analysis is performed for -20V bias voltage but the results remain the same for all non-zero bias voltages. The experimental data is represented with dots while the model based on equation 8 is represented with a solid black line. The contribution of each noise sources from the model is shown with colored solid lines. The value of  $I_f$  is adjusted to fit the noise PSD at low frequency. Looking at the contribution of each noise source, it appears that the shot noise gives rise to higher modeled values than experimental ones for mid-range frequencies (50kHz<f<1MHz). This leads to a deviation of the total model from the experimental data in that frequency range. The actual 241 contribution of the dark current to the noise PSD is lower than expected.

#### FIGURE 7

Figure 7. Modeling of the noise PSD of device 1 (A) and 2 (B) biased at -20V. Experimental data are represented by dots. A black solid line represents the total model. The contribution of the noise sources to the total model are represented with colored solid lines.

A possible explanation could be the noise softening by the superficial trapping of the charge carriers [15]. The traps in the device can fragment the transit of the charge carriers. If charge carriers are trapped during their transit and then detrapped with a time constant of the order of the transit, the two portions of transit are independent. In that case, everything happens as if the charge carriers carried a charge lower than the elementary charge. This leads to lower shot noise and higher 1/*f* noise.

Figure 8 represents the modeling of the experimental data considering the hypothesis of noise softening via one superficial trapping level defined by a trapping constant  $\tau$ . This hypothesis translates into the equation of the power spectral density of the device (equation 8) by adding a multiplying factor to the shot noise of the device as expressed in equation 12.

$$\gamma_{device} = 2qI_{dark} \times \frac{1}{1 + (2\pi f\tau)^2} + \frac{l_f^2}{f} \left[ \frac{A^2}{Hz} \right]$$
(12)

The modeling is performed for -20V bias voltage but the results remain the same for all non-zero bias voltages. The experimental data is represented with dots while the model based on equations (8) and (12) is represented with a solid black line. The contribution of each noise sources from the model is shown with colored solid lines. The parameters  $\tau$  and  $I_f$  are optimized to fit the experimental data. The optimized values are  $3\mu$ s and 0.25pV<sup>2</sup> respectively. All the parameters used are reported in the legend of Figure 8. The hypothesis of noise softening leads to a more convincing fit of the experimental data in the mid frequencyrange.

#### FIGURE 8

Figure 8: Modeling of the noise PSD of device 1 (A) and 2 (B) biased at -20V using the hypothesis of the noise softening by the superficial trapping of the charge carriers. Experimental data are represented by dots. A black solid line represents the total model. The contribution of the noise sources to the total model are represented with colored solid lines.

#### 265 4 Discussion

In the context of gamma photons counting, the frequency of interest for the measurement is the frequency associated with the transit time of the charge carriers generated by the photons inside the device. We have shown previously that holes have higher transport properties than electrons in MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> [11]. In this context and as a case study, we consider a pixelated device in hole collection mode only. The maximum transit time of holes is the time necessary for a hole generated near the anode to transit through the entire thickness of the device in order to reach the cathode. The transit time depends on the electric field in the device. In the hypothesis of a constant electric field inside the device, the transit time ( $t_t$ ) can be estimated using the following equation.

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$$t_t = \frac{L^2}{\mu_h V} [s] \tag{13}$$

274 *L* is the thickness of the device, about 1mm.  $\mu_h$  is the mobility of holes which is, on average,  $13 \text{cm}^2 \text{.V}^{-1} \text{.s}^{-1}$  [11]. *V* is the bias 275 applied to the device. Ideally, this bias should be high enough for the transit time of the charge carriers to be much smaller than 276 their lifetime. However, the higher the bias applied, the higher the dark current and the higher the shot noise of the device. In the 277 case of the gamma photons counting measurements presented in Figure 3, the bias had to be limited to 20V in order to limit the 278 noise enough so that the signal induced by the photons could be measured. The maximum transit time for a bias of 20V is about 279 30µs which corresponds to 5kHz. At this frequency, the main source of noise is the 1/f noise of the device.

It is an unfavorable condition, since the frequency of interest for the measurement correspond to high values of noise. However, an appropriate shaping of the signal might still allow for a favorable signal to noise ratio. Let us consider a RC-CR filter of the second order with a time constant of 30µs and estimate the equivalent noise charge (ENC) of the thus shaped signal.

283 The power spectral density of the filter can be expressed as follows.

$$\gamma_{filter} = \frac{(2\pi f)^2 \tau_{filter}^2}{\left(1 + (2\pi f)^2 \tau_{filter}^2\right)^{n+1}}$$
(14)

285  $\tau_{filter}$  is the time constant of the filter ( $\tau_{filter}$ =30µs) and n is its order (n=2).

The ENC<sup>2</sup> is the integral of the product of the input PSD (equations 8 and 12) and the PSD of the filter (equation 13). It is expressed as follows.

288  $ENC^{2} = 2\pi n \times \int \gamma_{filter}(f) \times \gamma(f) df \ [C^{2}]$ (15)

The ENC for device 1 and 2 to have been estimated to be 132keV and 80keV FWHM respectively. This means that, even with an appropriate shaping, the noise is expected to be significant compared to energies of gamma photons equal to and below 150keV.

In order to increase the signal to noise ratio, it is mandatory to increase the charge carriers' mobility or to decrease the dark current through bulk resistivity increasing or electrode engineering [16].

293

#### 294 **5** Conclusion

295 The noise power spectral densities of MAPbBr<sub>3</sub> devices and their spectral chain were measured to uncover the main noise 296 sources that limit the energy resolution of gamma photon counting measurements. For non-biased devices, we found that the 297 main noise source is thermal noise from the resistances of the devices. However, when the devices are biased, the noise is 298 dominated by the 1/f noise of the devices at low frequency (<1MHz). To our knowledge, this is the first results that highlighted 299 the major contribution of flicker noise in thick hybrid perovskite detectors used for radiation detection. Further research will 300 need to focus on the comprehension of the physical phenomena responsible for this 1/f noise in the devices. Moreover, the 301 chosen theoretical model overvalues the contribution of the shot noise of the device to the total noise and leads to modeled 302 values higher than experimental values in the mid frequency-range. We hypothesize that this observation could be explained by 303 the noise softening via the superficial trapping of the charge carriers. Identifying and decreasing the noise of detectors is of major 304 importance to improve their performances. This study provides new elements to guide the future developments of perovskite 305 detectors for gamma-ray spectrometry.

306

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- Electronic noise limits gamma photon counting perovskite devices' energy resolution
- Low frequency noise of unbiased devices is dominated by resistance thermal noise
- Low frequency noise of biased devices is dominated by dark current 1/f noise

#### **Declaration of interests**

⊠The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

□The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: