

How Does Local Strain Affect Stokes Shifts in Halide Double Perovskite Nanocrystals?

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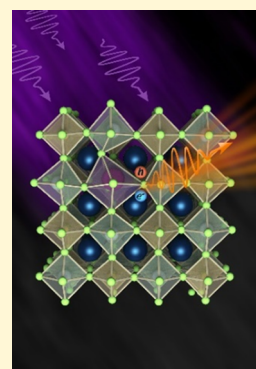


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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Lead-free perovskite nanocrystals are of interest due to their nontoxicity and potential application in the display industry. However, engineering their optical properties is nontrivial and demands an understanding of emission from both self-trapped and free excitons. Here, we focus on tuning silver-based double perovskite nanocrystals' optical properties via two iso-valent dopants, Bi and Sb. The photoluminescence quantum yield of the intrinsic $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ perovskite increased dramatically upon doping. However, the two dopants affect the optical properties very differently. We hypothesize that the differences arise from their differences in electronic level contributions and ionic sizes. This hypothesis is validated through absorption and temperature dependence photoluminescence measurements, namely, by employing the Huang–Rhys factor, which indicates the coupling of the exciton to the lattice environment. The larger ionic size of Bi also plays a role in inducing significant microstraining verified via synchrotron measurements. These differences make Bi more sensitive to doping concentration over antimony which displays brighter emission (QY \sim 40%). Such understanding is important for engineering optical properties in double perovskites, especially in light of recent achievements in boosting the photoluminescence quantum yield.



Lead halide perovskites (LHPs) APbX_3 (where $\text{A} = \text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3^+$, Cs^+ ; $\text{X} = \text{Cl}^-$, Br^- , I^-) are attracting much interest due to their potential in optoelectronic applications, such as light-emitting diodes, photovoltaic cells, photo-detectors, *etc.*¹ LHPs have major challenges, such as the toxicity of Pb and instability of the organic–inorganic LHPs.² One of the main strategies to overcome those challenges is by replacing the divalent Pb ion with altering monovalent and trivalent ions.³ The structure of double perovskite (DP) $\text{A}_2\text{B}^{\text{I}}\text{B}^{\text{III}}\text{X}_6$ is obtained, where A is Cs^+ , B^{I} is a monovalent cation (for example, Ag^+ , Na^+ , and K^+), B^{III} is a trivalent cation (for example, In^{3+} , Bi^{3+} , Sb^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , and Tl^{3+}), and X is a halide.^{4,5} Although lead-free DPs are less toxic and more stable, their photoluminescence quantum yield (PLQY) is lower compared to that of LHPs due to parity-forbidden or slow transitions; thus, further emission enhancement strategies are required.^{6,7} Some reported enhancement strategies include alloying and doping in the B^{I} and B^{III} sites.^{8–11} Jahn–Teller lattice distortion is caused by excitonic state defects, induced by alloying, and doping can break the symmetry to allow the transitions. Additional optoelectronic characteristic manipulation and enhancement strategy include lanthanide doping and codoping.¹² Using Bi doping and Na alloying in bulk $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgInCl}_6$ DP crystals, Luo et al. achieved a PLQY of 86%, and Li et al. achieved 87% with emission peaks centered around 560 nm. Emission enhancements in DP nanocrystals (NCs) have also been reported, with a PLQY of up to 64% and

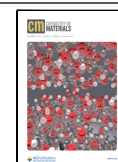
emission peaks centered around 620, 570, and 550 nm.^{9,13–16} Many of those lead-free DPs' emission is due to the self-trapped exciton (STE) mechanism.^{17,18} STEs are strongly bound excitons affected by the matrix phonons and distortion of the structure. The Huang–Rhys factor reflects the strength of exciton–phonon interaction.¹⁹ Two-dimensional (2D) LHPs also exhibit broad emission characteristics assigned to the STE mechanism because of strong exciton–phonon coupling, as well as Stokes shifts of the free excitons due to quantum confinement effects.^{20–22} However, this explanation for broad emission is currently strongly debated, citing the existence of halide vacancy trap states. Using a combined experimental–computational study, Kahmann et al. demonstrated that the broad emission in 2D LHP originates both from halide vacancies' trapped states and STE. Their claim is further supported by demonstrating no contribution of STE in iodine 2D LHP.²³ According to the STE mechanism behavior, the emission peak features a large Stokes shift and large full-width half-maximum (fwhm) depending on the Huang–Rhys factor. The large fwhm of the STE mechanism is of interest for

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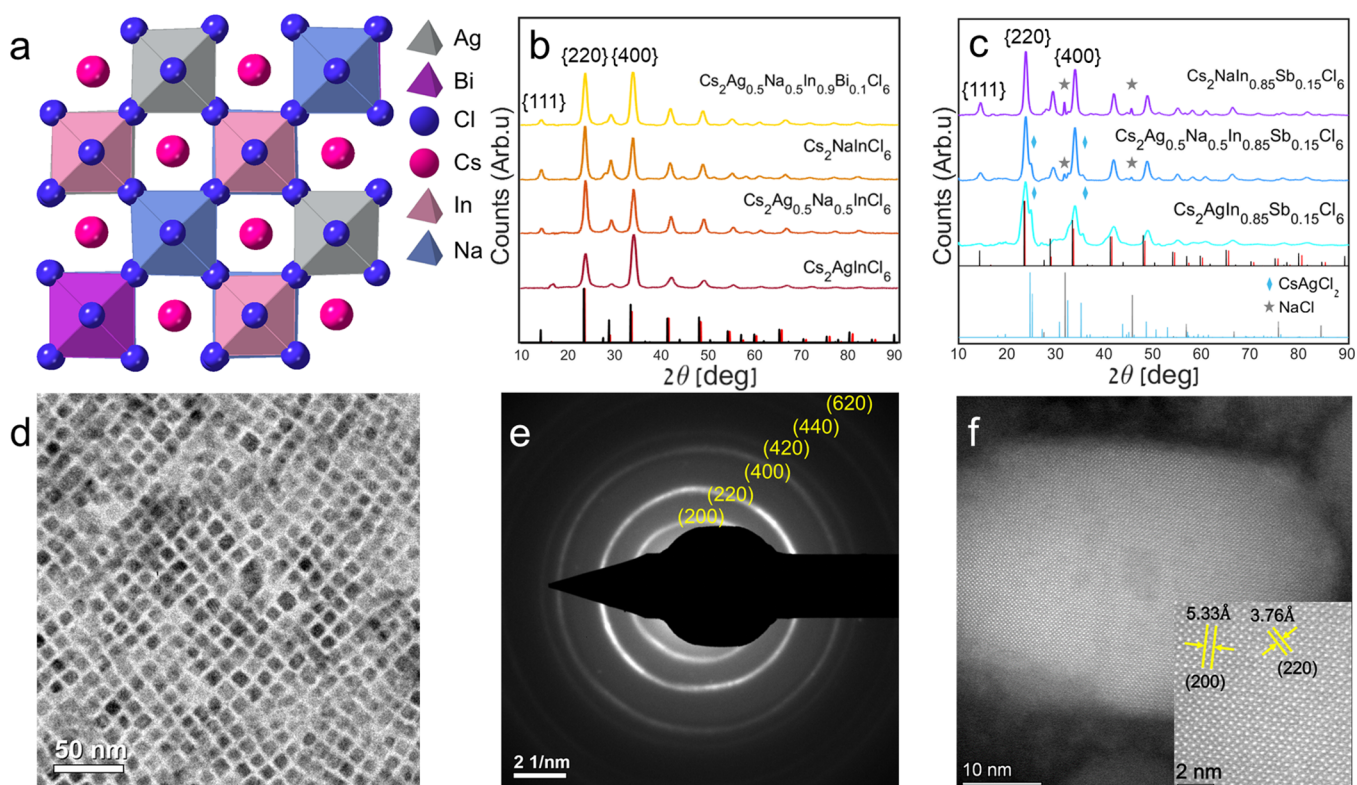


Figure 1. (a) Calculated structure diagram (using DFT, see Supporting Information) of the Bi-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ DP (graphic designed using CrystalMaker).³⁵ XRD patterns (using 1.54 Å (Cu K α) wavelength) of (b) $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgInCl}_6$, $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{InCl}_6$, $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$, and $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$ nanoparticles (theoretical red lines for $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgInCl}_6$ ICDD no. 01–085–7533,³⁶ theoretical black lines for $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$ CIF no. 4003575)³¹ and (c) $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgIn}_{0.85}\text{Sb}_{0.15}\text{Cl}_6$, $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.85}\text{Sb}_{0.15}\text{Cl}_6$, and $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{0.85}\text{Sb}_{0.15}\text{Cl}_6$ nanoparticles. NaCl peaks marked with gray stars (and theoretical gray lines for ICDD no. 04-020-4596)³⁷ and CsAgCl_2 peaks marked with a light blue rhombus (and theoretical light blue lines for ICDD Card -04–014–2739).³⁸ (d) TEM micrograph of Bi-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{InCl}_6$ NCs. (e) SAD pattern of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$. (f) HAADF-STEM micrograph of $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{0.9}\text{Sb}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$. Inset: zoomed-in micrograph with labeled d -spacings of {200} and {220}.

white light emission applications and luminescent solar concentrators.^{9,17,24} Recent works investigate the Sb-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$ DP. Sb-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$ exhibits the STE emission mechanism with a smaller Stokes shift than the Bi-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ DP.^{25–27} In the work of Gray et al., the Stokes shift was 112 nm with an emission peak centered at 455 nm and a PLQY of 79%.²⁸ Zhang et al. investigated the STE mechanism in Sb-doped 2D $(\text{PEA})_4\text{NaInCl}_8$ (PEA = phenethylamine) and $(\text{PEA})_2\text{CsNaInCl}_7$ DP with emission peaks centered at 555 and 676 nm and PLQYs of 48.7 and 29.3% according to the monolayer and bilayer, respectively.²⁹ Zeng et al. achieved a PLQY of 75.89%, with an emission peak centered at 442 nm.³⁰ Nocolak et al. investigated the alloying between Na and K in Sb-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$ DP, achieving a PLQY of 93% and an emission peak centered in the range of 440–492 nm with respect to the alloying concentrations.³¹ The work of Wu et al. expands Sb-doped to organic–inorganic hybrid systems emphasizing the STE emission mechanism.³² While those works describe the behavior of Bi-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ and Sb-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$, a further detailed comparison is needed, which is addressed in this present study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Here, we compare the Bi-doped and Sb-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ DP systems. We synthesized NCs in an ambient environment using ligand passivation to control our colloidal reactions. Using DFT methods, we calculate the

structure of alloyed and doped DP, and the structural model is presented in Figure 1a. A TEM micrograph of the DP NCs is shown in Figure 1d. To confirm the obtained structure of the NCs, X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns (Figure 1b,c), selected area diffraction (SAD), and high-angle annular dark-field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) micrographs were acquired (Figure 1e,f). The obtained experimental patterns of the DPs are compatible with the theoretical XRD patterns. Additionally, alloying between Ag and Na, as already reported by others, maintains the cubic $\text{Fm}\bar{3}\text{m}$ structure and creates a solid solution between the two DP matrixes.¹⁵ Furthermore, when alloying with Na atoms, the diffraction peak of the {111} planes appears at $\sim 14^\circ$ and the intensities of {220} and {400} diffraction peaks alter, as shown in Figure 1b. A clean XRD pattern of a single phase is obtained by doping Bi to the alloyed matrix. Chemical analysis using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) micrographs with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) was performed to validate the insertion of alloying and doping into the samples (Figure S1). In Figure 1c, the XRD patterns of Sb-doped systems are shown. Additional peaks of unwanted products are evident, including NaCl while alloying with Na and CsAgCl_2 while alloying with Ag. These unwanted minor products probably formed, while the precipitants were deposited and dried on the XRD glass substrate. The $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgSbCl}_6$ system is less stable than $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgInCl}_6$ and $\text{Cs}_2\text{AgBiCl}_6$ systems, as reported by J. C. Dahl et al.³³ Therefore, unwanted products might be obtained due to

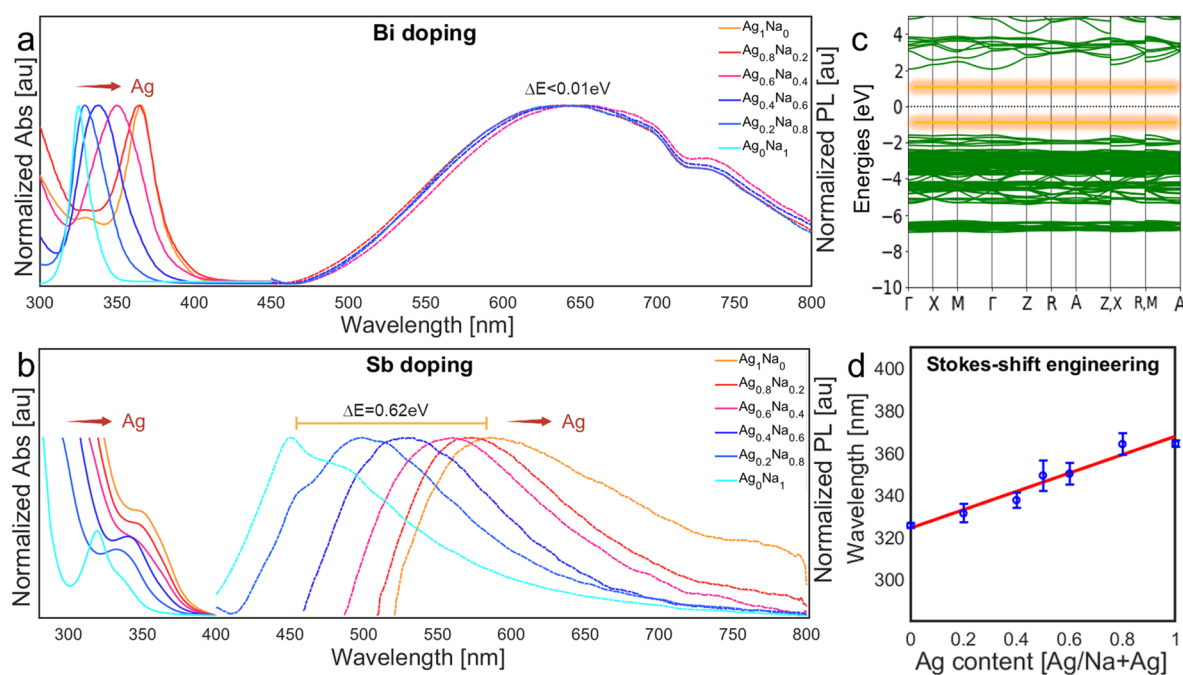


Figure 2. Normalized absorption (Abs) and PL of (a) $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$ ($y = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1$) and (b) $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Sb}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$ ($y = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1$). For emphasis, the absorption data were collected only around the peak, omitting high-level absorption. Note in (a) that there is no emission for $y = 1$. (c) Simulated band diagram of intrinsic $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.4}\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{InCl}_6$ (the graphic designed using atomic simulation environment [ASE]).⁴¹ The STE energy levels (yellow) are added by hand (not part of the DFT simulation) according to the literature.¹⁵ (d) Absorption peak position averaged on 42 synthetic reactions plotted against the Ag loading ratio in the reaction flask ($y = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1$). 0% and a 100% are without Ag addition and only Ag addition to the reaction flask, respectively. The obtained Ag ratio is calibrated using a linear fit based only on the absorption ($R^2=0.95$).

degradation of the DPs with Sb doping. For further verification of the structure of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$, SAD was taken, and the diffraction rings with the corresponding indexed lattice plane spacings are seen in Figure 1e. The area at which the SAD was acquired is presented in Figure 1d. To verify the structure of $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{0.85}\text{Sb}_{0.15}\text{Cl}_6$, the HAADF-STEM micrograph is shown in Figure 1f, including the lattice structure d -spacing (inset). The NCs of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$ present a cubic shape with an edge length of 8.1 ± 0.8 nm (see Figure S2). However, the NCs of $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{0.85}\text{Sb}_{0.15}\text{Cl}_6$ compositions present less faceted shapes, even though the crystal structure and ligand passivation are the same (see Figure S2). According to our previous work, this might be related to the role of Ag nanoparticles as nucleation sites in the DP NCs.³⁴ This could also be a surface energy consideration. As the DP's matrix is different, the energy of facets dictates different morphologies of the nanoparticles. The NCs without Ag are larger, typically 11.2 ± 1.4 nm in length.

The most apparent differences between the doping systems are the optical characteristic results. The optical band gap absorption occurs between matrix octahedra (for example, $[\text{AgCl}_6]$, $[\text{NaCl}_6]$, and $[\text{InCl}_6]$) and dopant octahedra ($[\text{BiCl}_6]$ or $[\text{SbCl}_6]$). The excited energy states and the relaxed states are determined differently according to the dopant system, as shown by the works of Locardi et al. and Zeng et al.^{15,19,30,31} In our discussion, we will refer to it as absorption between the valence band (VB) and the conduction band (CB) for simplicity. The Bi-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ absorption peak position is related to the Ag/Na ratio, as presented in Figure 2a, and in agreement with others.^{8,15} This is similar to the Sb-doped system, as seen in Figure 2b, suggesting that the absorption mechanism strongly depends on the matrix for both

systems. The Na/Ag ratio was confirmed using 42 syntheses of Bi-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{Cl}_6$ with different Na/Ag ratios to fit a linear curve for absorption peak position versus Ag concentration, as shown in Figure 2d.

The differences in the STE emission are related to the dopant identity (Figure 2a,b). The STE states of the Bi-doped DP are deep inside the band gap, as illustrated (by hand) in the calculated band diagram of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.4}\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{InCl}_6$ (Figure 2c), related to the dopant octahedrons and the Ag octahedrons.^{13,15} The STE states are not included in the DFT calculation. The states are situated (by hand) with equal distance from the zero-energy line, and with a total gap of ~ 2 eV (according to the literature¹⁵), to demonstrate the deeper energy levels of the STE. Adding the dopant and forming $[\text{SbCl}_6]$ or $[\text{BiCl}_6]$ octahedra introduces strain and electronic effects to the native perovskite, which promotes an extrinsic STE mechanism. The STEs are coupled to the matrix phonons and include vibrational modes, broadening the emission. The Huang–Rhys factor describes the excitons' coupling to the matrix. As the Huang–Rhys factor S increases, the coupling is stronger, and the Stokes shift (ΔE) is more prominent, according to

(1) $\Delta E_{\text{Stokes shift}} = 2S\hbar\omega_{\text{phonon}}$, while \hbar is the reduced Planck constant and $\hbar\omega$ the phonon frequency.^{13,39} Doping with Bi distorts the matrix octahedrons due to the large size of the Bi ions, which increases the Huang–Rhys factor, as reported by Siddique et al.¹⁹ A smaller Huang–Rhys factor of Sb-doped $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaInCl}_6$ can explain the difference in the emission peak position and fwhm (Figure 2a,b). For the Bi-doped system's normalized photoluminescence (PL), changing the matrix almost does not influence the emission peak position, contrary to the absorption, as shown in Figure 2a. However, for the Sb-doped system, the PL peak position is strongly influenced by

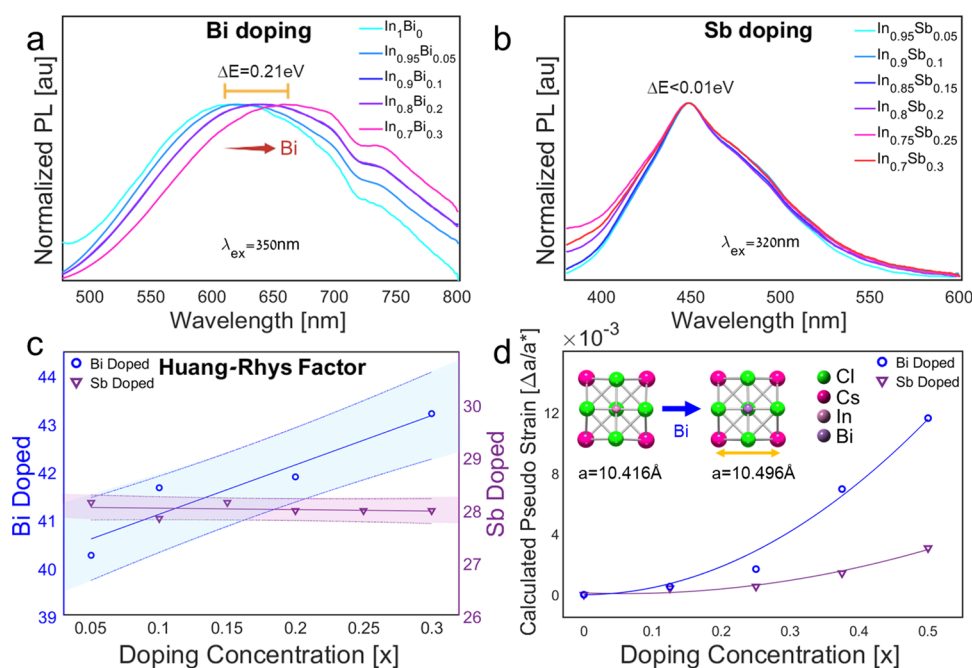


Figure 3. Normalized PL of (a) $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.4}\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Bi}_x\text{Cl}_6$ ($x = 0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3$) and (b) $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{1-x}\text{Sb}_x\text{Cl}_6$ ($x = 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3$). (c) Huang–Rhys factor and (d) calculated pseudo strain of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.4}\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Bi}_x\text{Cl}_6$ ($x = 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3$) and $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{1-x}\text{Sb}_x\text{Cl}_6$ ($x = 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3$), inset: changes of the lattice parameter with Bi doping. See the Supporting Information for the absorption and PLE of these compositions (Figures S3 and S4).

changing the matrix from 450 to 580 nm, as shown in Figure 2b. The PL peak becomes broader while increasing the Ag content. This result agrees with the reformulated Duffy's model of Philippe Boutinaud.⁴⁰ Larger atom mass in Bi^{I} sites increases the Stokes shift; thus, the Huang–Rhys factor depends on the octahedron's reduced mass μ through (2) $S = \frac{\mu}{2} \hbar \omega_{\text{phonon}}$. This model confirms the assumption that only Ag and Bi localize the holes and electrons in the Bi-doped system. This assumption explains the fixed PL position in our results (Figure 2a) while changing the Ag/Na ratio and agrees with the hypothesis¹⁵ that the Bi-doped system holes are localized in the Bi octahedra, and the electrons are localized in the Ag octahedra. Furthermore, there is no emission in the Bi-doped system without alloying with Ag atoms ($y = 1$ in Figure 2a). On the contrary, the Sb-doped system emits without alloying with Ag atoms ($y = 1$ in Figure 2b), and Sb and In localize both the holes and electrons octahedra, as depicted by Nocolak et al.³¹ According to our hypothesis, by alloying Ag atoms into the matrix, the localization of holes is mixed between Sb and Ag octahedra, and as a result, a robust change in the emission occurs, from 450 to 580 nm; thus, enhanced Stokes shift is induced.

Changing the doping concentration does not affect the absorption peak position for both systems (see Figures S3 and S4). This observation agrees with the absorption mechanism as discussed above. The absorption of undoped $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{InCl}_6$ is excluded because there is no excitonic absorption peak. We assign the fluctuations in absorption peak positions of Bi-doped samples to deviations in Ag/Na ratios between reaction batches (Figures S3 and S4). The emission peak position of the Bi-doped system is red-shifted while increasing the Bi content from 610 nm without Bi addition to 680 nm with 30% of Bi (Bi–In ratio), as shown in Figure 3a and others.¹⁹

The different influences on the emission peak position for those doped systems are related to two reasons: dopant size and electronic character. First, in terms of size, Bi is significantly larger than In, while Sb is about the same size.⁴² Therefore, the Sb system does not experience any shift in the emission wavelength with increasing dopant concentration (Figure 3b). Indeed, we measured an increase in the lattice spacing with the addition of Bi content (Figure S5). This is also supported in DFT modeling. A calculated pseudostrain comparison of Bi and Sb doping appears in Figure 3d. The larger Bi cation is reflected in a significant dependence of the Huang–Rhys factor on Bi concentration. In comparison, the Sb concentration makes little difference (Figure 3c). The Stokes shift dependence is derived from absorption and emission data, as seen in Figures 2, 3, and S3. From this, we calculate the Huang–Rhys factor using eq 1, Stokes shift values, and a phonon energy of $\hbar \omega_{\text{phonons}} = 20 \text{ meV}$ (from literature¹⁹). There might be small variations in the phonon energy with doping and alloying, but it is less significant to the calculated Huang–Rhys factor trend, shown with the Stokes shift.^{13,19,43}

To experimentally verify the dopant size effect (strain), we performed synchrotron high-resolution powder XRD (HR-PXRD) measurements on samples with increasing Bi or Sb concentrations (Figure 4a,b). We then fitted the (400) diffraction peak of each sample to a Voigt function and extracted the averaged microstrain fluctuations from the Gaussian contribution of fit using 3) $\sigma = \frac{W_G}{4\sqrt{2\ln 2} \tan \theta_B}$, where W_G is the Gaussian fwhm and θ_B is the Bragg's angle (see Figure S6).⁴⁴ The results described in Figure 4c show that for Bi doping, the averaged microstrain fluctuations are larger than that of Sb doping. Similarly, we extracted the lattice parameters from the position of the (400) diffraction peak of each sample (see Figure S7). While the lattice parameter increases linearly

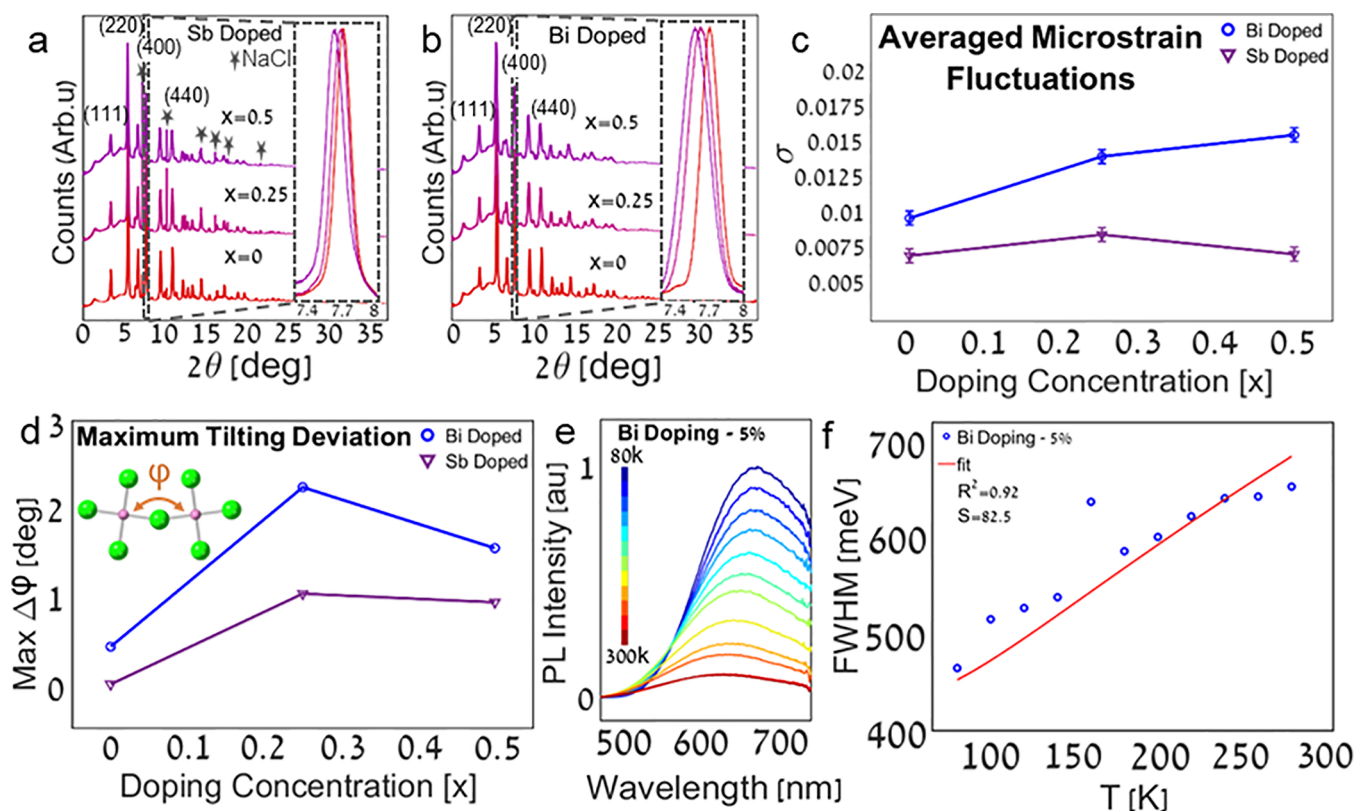


Figure 4. Synchrotron HR-PXRD ($\lambda = 0.35423$ Å wavelength) of (a) Cs₂NaIn_{1-x}Sb_xCl₆ ($x = 0, 0.25, 0.5$) and (b) Cs₂Ag_{0.4}Na_{0.6}In_{1-x}Bi_xCl₆ ($x = 0, 0.25, 0.5$); inset: normalized (400) diffraction peaks. Diffraction peaks that stem from NaCl are marked with stars (ICDD no. 04-020-4596). TEM and HRTEM micrographs of the samples could be found in the Supporting Information (Figure S10). (c) Microstrain fluctuations of Cs₂NaIn_{1-x}Sb_xCl₆ and Cs₂Ag_{0.4}Na_{0.6}In_{1-x}Bi_xCl₆ ($x = 0, 0.25, 0.5$). The microstrain fluctuations were calculated from fitting the (400) diffraction peaks to a Voigt function (Figure S6). (d) Maximum tilting deviation of Cs₂NaIn_{1-x}Sb_xCl₆ and Cs₂Ag_{0.4}Na_{0.6}In_{1-x}Bi_xCl₆ ($x = 0, 0.25, 0.5$). The tilting angles were extracted based on the DFT modeling, and the deviations were calculated from the difference from the original non tilted angles. The maximum rotation deviations can be found in the Supporting Information (Figure S8). Temperature-dependent (e) PL and (f) fwhm measurements of Cs₂Ag_{0.4}Na_{0.6}In_{0.95}Bi_{0.05}Cl₆. The Huang–Rhys factor S was extracted from the fitted model temperature-dependent fwhm ($R^2=0.92$) as described at the Supporting Information (Figure S11). SEM-EDS images of the Cs₂Ag_{0.4}Na_{0.6}In_{0.95}Bi_{0.05}Cl₆ NCs could be found in the Supporting Information (Figure S1).

with concentration for both dopants, it is more significant in the case of Bi.

The DFT results below show that the strained octahedra are tilted and rotated compared to the undoped unstrained system. This is analogous to LHPs, where significant octahedral tilting due to interstitial iodine in methylammonium lead iodide (MAPbI₃) leads to a giant Huang–Rhys factor of above 300.⁴⁵ In our case, doping with Bi or Sb introduces angle deviations from the cubic unstrained intrinsic perovskite. While the effect exists for both Bi and Sb, the maximum tilting and rotation deviations are more pronounced for Bi doping (Figures 4d and S8).

Here, a clear structure function is observed. The pronounced angle deviations for Bi over Sb doping are aligned with observed microstrain fluctuations and red-shifted emission for increased dopant concentration.

We point to a curious result. The strain seems to decrease for doping concentrations greater than 50%, for both dopants (Figure 4d). We assign this to a configurational more symmetric and therefore more stable rearrangement of dopants in the In sites for a given unit cell.⁴⁶

We now move to analyze the temperature-dependent PL for this system. Since the extrinsic STE is strongly coupled to the phonon modes of the lattice, it stands to reason that the large

fwhm of the emission will depend on the temperature. Figure 4e shows that in a Bi-doped system, there is a visible decrease in the fwhm at lower temperatures as expected for an exciton that is strongly coupled to lattice vibrations. The trend of the concentration dependence of the Huang–Rhys factor is discussed above (Figure 3c), while the pronounced effect of the temperature on the fwhm is presented in Figure 4.

We note the influence of the electronic mixing of excitonic states, which differs between Bi and Sb once Ag is added to alloy the Cs₂NaInCl₆ matrix. This ultimately affects the emission peak position. In the case of Sb doping, we see that the concentration of Ag in the matrix is critical. It significantly changes the Huang–Rhys factor and decreases the overall PLQY. This aligns with reports regarding the electronic nature of Ag/Sb electronic hybridization which supports excitons with localized holes (Figure S9).^{15,47,48} Contrary to this, the dependence of the Huang–Rhys factor of the Bi system on the Ag/Na ratio is only due to the redshifts of the absorption peak with Ag addition.

Alloying with Ag atoms significantly decreases the PLQY in the case of Sb-doping (Figure 5a). In contrast, with Bi-doping without Ag present in the matrix, there is no emission as was also observed by others.¹⁵ We suggested this outcome is related to the identity of the octahedron, which localized the

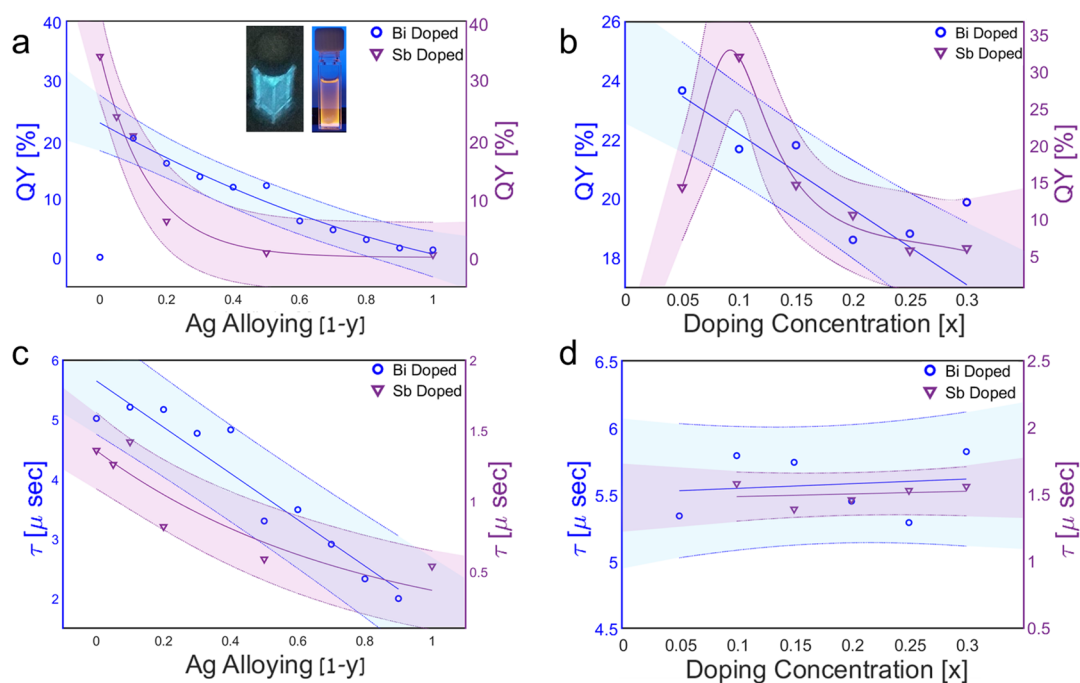


Figure 5. Comparison of alloying ratios (Ag–Na) and doping concentrations (Bi or Sb). (a) PLQY and (c) lifetime. The compositions of alloying ratios are as follows: (Ag–Na), $[\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6]$ ($y = 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1$), and $[\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Sb}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6]$ ($y = 0, 0.5, 0.8, 0.9, 0.95, 1$) and (b) PLQY and (d) lifetime for doping concentrations of (Bi or Sb) of $[\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.4}\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Bi}_x\text{Cl}_6]$ ($x = 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3$), and $[\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{1-x}\text{Sb}_x\text{Cl}_6]$ ($x = 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3$), inset: $\text{Cs}_2\text{NaIn}_{0.9}\text{Sb}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$ and $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{0.4}\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{In}_{0.9}\text{Bi}_{0.1}\text{Cl}_6$ under UV light. Note that one data point is excluded in (a) for Bi doping (no Ag alloying) because the PLQY is zero.

STE holes in each doped system. While for Bi-doping, alloying of Ag is essential for high PLQY, the Sb-doped system is different, and the highest PLQY is achieved without any Ag addition (Figure 5a). This is because, for the Bi-doped system, alloying between Na and Ag breaks the symmetry and helps with the charge localization of the STE, together with the Bi doping.

In our results, while the Huang–Rhys factor of the Bi-doped system is increased, the PLQY decreases (Figure 5b), contrary to previous works.¹⁹ This outcome might relate to the alloying of Na and Ag atoms. According to the Franck–Condon factor, a higher Huang–Rhys factor induces a lower transition probability. The vibrational overlap integral is decreased with higher distortion and Huang–Rhys factor.¹³ This explains the PLQY decrease for a higher Bi content (Figure 5b). While the large Bi^{3+} ions distort the structure and affect the Huang–Rhys factor, the structure distortion while doping with Sb^{3+} ions is negligible due to the almost similar size of the Sb^{3+} and In^{3+} ions.

The STE emission of the Sb-doped system is determined by the 5P and 5S states and related to the Sb atoms.²⁸ Increasing the Sb content does not influence the size of the octahedra nor the emission trapping states, and there is no change in the peak position since the Sb and In ions have the same size. Nevertheless, the Sb/In ratio influences the PLQY, as shown in Figure 5b. And in both the Bi and Sb cases, a high dopant concentration reduces the emission intensity (Figure 5b). To understand the effect of doping and alloying on the emission dynamics, we examine the decay lifetime for both systems. The decay lifetimes of all the examined DPs are in a microsecond scale. Longer lifetimes are observed for alloying with Na, as shown in Figure 5c. This is related to the tendency of Na to suppress nonradiative decay channels and consequently increase the lifetime.¹⁵ Lifetimes are weakly affected by the

doping concentration, as opposed to alloying between Ag and Na, as shown in Figure 5d. This result suggests that decay lifetimes are more sensitive to the matrix composition of DPs, contrary to the binding energy. For 5 and 25% Bi doping, the binding energy increased from ~ 69 meV to ~ 87 meV, respectively. This result aligns with increased phonon–exciton coupling (Huang–Rhys factor) for higher Bi doping, also reflected in increased excitonic binding energy (Figure S11).

Based on these results, it is, therefore, tempting to continue the development of the DP nanocrystals around dominantly Na–In compositions instead of Ag–In, as this work clearly demonstrates that with Na–In DP, better Stokes-shift engineering and higher PLQYs are possible.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude our study for tuning the optical properties of silver-based DP NCs via two iso-valent dopants, Bi and Sb, we can clearly state that when incorporated into a DP NC matrix, the matrix influences the dopant’s energy level and transition in a very different way for each system. In the case of the Bi-doped system, alloying of the matrix will introduce a Stokes shift, which is influenced only by absorption peak shifts, while the central emission wavelength remains fixed. In contrast, for the Sb-doped system, increasing alloying of Na concentration in the matrix leads to a decrease in the Stokes shift. This is due to the different octahedra localizing the holes and electrons. In both systems, the holes are localized by the dopant’s octahedra. In the Bi system, the electrons are localized by the Ag octahedra, while in the Sb system, the electrons are localized by both the Sb and Ag octahedra.

The situation is completely different for changing the concentration of the doping species. In the case of the Sb-doped system, the doping concentration has a negligible effect

on the Stokes shift, contrary to the Bi-doped system, where increasing the Bi concentration increases the Stokes shift. This outcome exemplifies the effect of dopants with different sizes than the ion that they generally substitute. The larger the difference, the higher the lattice straining and resulting octahedral tilting, resulting in an increased Stokes shift. A better understanding of doping effects emphasizing the difference between Bi and Sb species and other dopants will improve Stokes shift engineering of colloidal DP NCs.

METHODS

Materials. The materials used are as follows: antimony(III) acetate (99.9%, Aldrich), benzoyl chloride (99.9%, Alfa Aesar), bismuth(III) acetate (99.9%, Aldrich), cesium carbonate (99.9%, Aldrich), hexane (A.R. Aldrich or 99.9%, Fischer Scientific), indium(III) acetate (99.9%, Aldrich), octadecene (90%, Aldrich), oleic acid (90%, Aldrich), oleylamine (70%, Aldrich), silver acetate (99.9%, Aldrich), and sodium acetate (99.9%, Aldrich). All chemicals were used as purchased with no further purifications.

Synthesis of the 0.5 M Cs-oleate Precursor. 1.63 g (5 mmol) of Cs_2CO and 20 mL (63.37 mmol) of oleic acid were inserted into a 50 mL three-necked round-bottom flask and degassed under vacuum and at 100 °C for 30 min or until there were no bubbles. Then, the temperature was raised to 150 °C under nitrogen and stirred for 3 h. The product obtained was a clear yellow solution.

Synthesis of 0.25 M Sb-oleate, 0.25 M In-oleate, and 0.5 M Na-oleate Precursors. 0.7472 g (2.5 mmol) of $\text{Sb}(\text{ac})_3$ or 0.7299 g (2.5 mmol) of $\text{In}(\text{ac})_3$ or 0.4102 g (5 mmol) of $\text{Na}(\text{ac})$, and 10 mL (31.7 mmol) of oleic acid were inserted into a 20 mL glass vial. The reaction was stirred for 45 min at 90 °C in an open-air environment. The Sb-oleate and Na-oleate products obtained were slightly yellow, clear solutions. The In-oleate product obtained was a clear solution while warm and a solid white paste when cold (room temperature).

Synthesis of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Bi}_x\text{Cl}_6$ NC's. 0.24 mmol of $\text{Ag}(\text{ac})$ and $\text{Na}(\text{ac})$, 0.25 mmol of $\text{In}(\text{ac})_3$ and $\text{Bi}(\text{ac})_3$, 1 mL of 0.5 M Cs-oleate solution (0.5 mmol), 0.5 mL of oleylamine (1.52 mmol), and 4.5 mL of ODE were inserted into a 20 mL glass vial. The mixture was stirred for 5 min at 100 °C in an open-air environment. Then, 200 μL of Bz-Cl (1.72 mmol) was swiftly injected. The reaction was then cooled in a cold water bath. The solution was then centrifuged at 7000 rpm for 10 min, and the precipitation was redispersed in 5 mL of hexane and then centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 5 min. The solution was transferred to a new tube and centrifuged again at 7000 rpm for 10 min and separated from the residue.

Synthesis of $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Sb}_x\text{Cl}_6$ NCs. 0.24 mmol of $\text{Ag}(\text{ac})$ and 0.5 M Na-oleate solution, 0.25 mmol of 0.25 M In-oleate solution and Sb-oleate solution, 1 mL of 0.5 M Cs-oleate solution (0.5 mmol), 0.5 mL of oleylamine (1.52 mmol), and 4.5 mL of ODE were inserted into a 20 mL glass vial. The synthesis procedure is the same as described for $\text{Cs}_2\text{Ag}_{1-y}\text{Na}_y\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Sb}_x\text{Cl}_6$ NCs.

Optical Characterizations. The absorption, emission, and PLE characterizations were performed using a Gen5 Synergy H1 hybrid multimode reader spectrophotometer with 99-well plates. All of the measurements were performed with the products inside the hexane emulsion solution and with a reference blank well of clean hexane.

Lifetime and PLQY characterizations were performed using an Edinburgh FLS1000 photoluminescence spectrometer. All of the samples were loaded into a quartz cuvette. The lifetime measurements were performed in a multichannel scaling (MCS) mode and conducted using a variable pulse laser (VPL). The PLQY measurements were performed with an integrated sphere holder inside the spectrometer.

Temperature-dependent photoluminescence was performed using the Edinburgh FLS1000 photoluminescence spectrometer coupled to the Nikon Eclipse UPRIGHT Ni-U architecture light microscope with a THMS350 V temperature-controlled vacuum system stage with LNP95. The NC's solution in hexane was centrifuged at 12000 rpm for 10 min, and the residue was drop-cast onto p-type silicon wafer slice (10 × 10 mm²).

See the [Supporting Information](#) for information regarding characterizations and calculations.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Data Availability Statement

All data are available in the main text or the [Supporting Information](#).

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.chemmater.3c01771>.

Materials; methods descriptions, including syntheses, optical, XRD, HRPXRD, TEM, HAADF-STEM, SEM, EDS characterization, and DFT calculations; SEM-EDS spectra and data; TEM micrographs and size distribution of nanoparticles; additional absorption and emission spectra; additional XRD patterns and extracted lattice parameter; Voigt function fits of HRPXRD and data; additional DFT-calculated rotation and tilting deviation data; additional Huang–Rhys factor data; additional TEM and HRTEM micrographs; and additional temperature-dependent PL emission spectra, fwhm, and integrated intensity, including calculations of Huang–Rhys factor and binding energy (PDF)

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Notes

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