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Xiaoxi Li, Weiwei Li, Mengling Xia, Chao Liu, Neng Li, et al.. Facile Melting-Crystallization Synthesis of Cs(2)Na(x)Ag(1-x)InCl(6): Bi Double Perovskites for White Light-Emitting Diodes. Inorganic Chemistry, 2022, 61 (12), pp.5040-5047. 10.1021/acs.inorgchem.1c03996. hal-03632025

## HAL Id: hal-03632025 https://hal.science/hal-03632025v1

Submitted on 15 Jun 2023

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# Facile melting-crystallization synthesis of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi double perovskites for WLEDs

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Keywords: double perovskite, WLED, melting-crystallization, STE

#### Abstract

Lead-free double perovskites (DPs) have outstanding luminescent properties, which makes them excellent candidates for wide uses in optoelectronics. Herein, a solvent-free melting-crystallization technique, which can produce kilogram-scale DP microcrystals (DP-MCs) in one batch, is invented to synthesize the Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi (x=0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1) DP-MCs. The structure and composition analysis confirmed the products are pure Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs. Affecting by Jahn-Teller distortion of AgCl6 octahedra, self-trapped excitons appear in the excited state, resulting in the broadband emission (400-850 nm) of Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs. The enhancement of the photoluminescence quantum yield (PLQY) can be realized by introducing Na<sup>+</sup> to break parity-forbidden transition in the Cs2AgInCl6 DP. Optimized Cs2Na0.4Ag0.6InCl6: Bi DP-MCs phosphors combined with commercial blue and green phosphors were coated on UV chips (365 nm) to fabricate White light-emitting diodes (WLEDs) from warm white (2930 K) to cold white (6957 K). An ultra-high color rendering index of 97.1 and a CCT of 5548 K as well as Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage color coordinates of (0.331, 0.339) have been demonstrated. This kilogram-scale synthesis technique could stimulate the industrial development of WLEDs for general lighting based on DP-MCs phosphors.

#### Introduction

WLEDs, which have the characteristics of long lifetime and low power consumption,<sup>1-3</sup> have received unprecedented attention from the entire community and are supposed to play a key role in future lighting. Many works so far have been focused on the synthesis of rare earth (RE) doped

phosphors with great progress. <sup>4-6</sup> However, RE have generally narrow emission peaks, with a full width at half maximum (FWHM) typically in the range of 20-60 nm,<sup>7, 8</sup> making it impossible to achieve high color rendering index (CRI). In addition, the scarcity of RE is also an important issue for application development. It remains challenging to find an alternative to RE doped phosphors.

Lead-free double perovskites (DPs) have received widespread attention due to their high absorption coefficient and high charge-carrier mobility.<sup>9-12</sup> Among these DPs, Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> has been intensively investigated because of its excellent moisture and light/heat stability as well as a direct bandgap of 3.3 eV.<sup>13-15</sup> Tang et al. synthesized Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> using the hydrothermal method and successfully broke its parity-forbidden transition by introducing Na<sup>+</sup>, achieving a broadband warm white emission with photoluminescence quantum yield (PLQY) up to ~86%.<sup>16</sup> Xia's group demonstrated a hot-injection synthesis of Cs2AgInCl6: Bi nanocrystals, which presented typical self-trapped excitons (STEs) broad emission with 11.4% PLQY.<sup>17</sup> Bi element could serve as the surface deactivator to promote the radiative localization, therefore adjusting the band gap. Nevertheless, acids and other organic solvents were employed through the reaction, which would cause environmental pollution. The low solubility of reactants and the finite volume of the reaction vessel limit large-scale production. Moreover, the autoclave is dangerous at high pressure. Recently, Zhao et al. implemented a traditional high temperature solid-state reaction to synthesize Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub>: Cr<sup>3+</sup> powder.<sup>18</sup> As well known, the solid-state reaction is a general technique to produce phosphors but requires that all reactants are fine powder and well mixed to make sure homogenization reaction. To produce large-scale inorganic perovskite phosphors, a low-cost, environmentally friendly, and high yield approach is needed.

In this work, a solvent-free melting-crystallization technique was invented to fabricate kilogramscale Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs. The formation energy of DP-MCs was calculated to confirm that the reaction could take place in vacuum conditions. Crystal structure and morphology of the DP-MCs were investigated by XRD, Raman spectra, TEM, and SEM. The prepared Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl6: Bi DP-MCs exhibit a warm light broadband emission (400-850 nm) and high quantum efficiency up to 73.3, allowing us to fabricate WLED with commercial blue and green phosphors to get adjustable correlated color temperature (CCT). By coating mixed phosphors with silicone on 365 nm UV-LED chips, WLED with Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (CIE) color coordinates of (0.331, 0.339) and a high CRI of 97.1 was realized.

#### **Experimental details**

#### **Raw materials**

Cesium chloride (CsCl, 99.9%), sodium chloride (NaCl, 99.9%), silver (I) chloride (AgCl, 99.9%), indium (III) chloride (InCl<sub>3</sub>, 99.9%), and bismuth (III) trichloride (BiCl<sub>3</sub>, 99.9%) were from Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd. All the chemicals were used without further purification.

#### Synthesis

Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi (with *x*=0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1) were synthesized by using meltingcrystallization method. CsCl, NaCl, AgCl, and InCl<sub>3</sub> powders with a total weight of 100 g were weighed according to the composition and ground with an agate mortar in an argon-filled glove box, with 0.005 mol of BiCl<sub>3</sub> in addition. Then the mixture was sealed in a vacuum pumped silica tube ( $\sim$ 5 × 10<sup>-5</sup> Pa) to avoid evaporation and oxidation. The closed space ensures the following reaction at a high temperature.

$$2CsCl + InCl_3 + AgCl (NaCl) \rightarrow Cs_2InAg (Na)Cl_6$$
(1)

To ensure a full reaction, the mixture was melted at 600 °C for 2 hours in a rocking furnace. Then the melting was slowly cooled to room temperature. The microcrystals were formed during the cooling process. The agglomeration was then ground into fine powders for subsequent characterization.

#### Characterization

The powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were collected on a Bruker D8 ADVANCE equipped with a Cu Ka (0.1541 nm) radiation source. The optical absorption spectrum of the powder was measured with a Shimadzu UV-3600 spectrophotometer at RT. The fluorescence spectra, PL decay curves, and PLQYs were obtained by using a fluorescence spectrophotometer (Edinburgh Instruments, FLS1000) equipped with a continuous 450 W xenon lamp as the excitation source. For measuring the temperature-dependent PL and fluorescence lifetime, the spectrofluorometer was equipped with a cryostat (Sumitomo HC-4E) to provide a continuous temperature variation from 30 K to 325 K. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was measured with an ESCALAB 250 Xi spectrometer. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) analyses were performed by using a JEOL JSM-7500F SEM equipped with a cold field-emission gun, operating at 15 kV acceleration voltage. High-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) was carried out on a JEOL JEM-2100F electron microscope operating at 200 kV. Raman spectra were recorded using laser confocal micro-Raman Spectroscopy (LabRAM HR Evolution) with a 460 nm laser. No laser-induced degradation was observed.

#### **Fabrication of WLED devices**

WLED devices with GaN-based UV-LED chips (1 W output, 365 nm peak emission) were fabricated. The Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi microcrystals were ball-milled into a fine powder, mixed

with different ratios of commercial blue (BaMgAl<sub>10</sub>O<sub>17</sub>: Eu) and green ((Sr, Ba)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>: Eu) phosphors, specific ratios of the three phosphors are illustrated in Table S4 (**Supporting Information**). Then uniformly dispersed into silicone and then coated on the UV-LED chips to form LEDs. The LED chips were driven by a Keithley 2400 source meter, and the emission spectra and intensity were recorded by the Everfine ATA-500 photoelectric analysis system. The temporal stability of the devices was monitored.

#### **Theoretical Calculations**

All total formation energy calculations were obtained from density functional theory (DFT) calculations,<sup>19</sup> as implemented in the DS-PAW program. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) of the Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE) functional was used for the exchange correlation. For the structural optimization, a  $\Gamma$ -centered k-point grid of 4 × 4 × 5 for Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi was applied to obtain the unstrained configuration and the plane wave cut offs of 80 and 400 Ry, as described above.

#### **Results and discussion**

As highly ionic compounds, DPs are usually dissolved and prepared in polar solvents<sup>20</sup> which may cause solvent pollution. As illustrated in **Figure 1a**, all the raw materials were mixed and heated to 600 °C for a melting reaction then cooled down slowly to room temperature. Using the solvent-free melting-quenching technique to synthesize the Bi doped Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>0.4</sub>Na<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs, not only avoids the use of solvent but also enables rapid and convenient preparation of kilogram scale products. As demonstrated in **Table S1 (Supporting Information**), the formation energy of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> DP is -985.46 meV/unit, which is the lowest among all the compositions. With Na<sup>+</sup> introduction into the Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> lattice, the formation energy gradually increases to -716.03 meV/unit, implying that Na<sup>+</sup> is more difficult to be incorporated. However, this composition can still be easily formed in a closed vacuum condition. The as-prepared product shows little yellowish white color under visible light and emits bright white fluorescence under 365 nm UV excitation (**Figure 1b**).



**Figure 1.** (a) Schematic diagram of the melting-crystallization synthesis for double perovskite microcrystals. (b) Photographs of the Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>0.4</sub>Na<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi powder under visible light (top) and UV illumination (bottom).

It was demonstrated in a number of studies that the Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> has a cubic structure with  $Fm\bar{3}$ *m* space group,<sup>21, 22</sup> which agrees well with the TEM result shown in **Figure 2a**. As demonstrated in **Figure 2b**, the DP-MCs have distinguishable lattice fringes with a spacing of 0.3778 nm and 0.2667 nm, corresponding to the g<sub>220</sub> and g<sub>400</sub> lattice planes of the Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub>, respectively. This is consistent with the observation from the low dose selected area electron diffraction pattern in **Figure 2c**. Differential thermal analysis (DTA, **Figure S1**, **Supporting Information**) results revealed a decomposition temperature of about 575 °C, indicating that the almost defect-free lattice and the all-inorganic components can act together to resist thermal stress.<sup>16</sup> The XRD results of the compound show that Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs have a similar face-centered cubic structure to Cs<sub>2</sub>NaInCl<sub>6</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub>, which matched well with the *Fm*3m space group (**Figure 2d**). As reported by Li *et al.*,<sup>23</sup> the exposed crystal facet of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> single crystals can be seen assigned to (111) as shown in **Figure S2 c-d** (marked in red circles). Notably, the intensity of the (111) peak (at  $2\theta$ =14.3°), which can be attributed to the ordering arrangement of B (=Na/Ag) and B' (=In) in halides double perovskites (Cs<sub>2</sub>B(I)B'(III)X<sub>6</sub>), is positively correlated with the content of Na<sup>+</sup>. In our case, as the content of Na<sup>+</sup> increases, the intensity of the (111) peak also increases, indicating the antisite defects are negligible.<sup>16</sup> The peaks located at  $2\theta$ =23.56° and  $2\theta$ =33.67° represent the (220) and (400) planes, respectively, in agreement with both HRTEM and the corresponding Fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis.<sup>24, 25</sup>

SEM images and EDS were also used to investigate the morphology and element distribution of the Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>0.4</sub>Na<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs. The magnified SEM images of the microcrystals show that it has a typical face centered cubic crystal characteristics and truncated octahedron (**Figure S2**, **Supporting Information**). To evaluate the composition uniformity of Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>0.4</sub>Na<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs, the EDS elemental mapping of a representative particle was studied (**Figure 2e and Figure S3, Supporting Information**). By analyzing the elements of Cs, Ag, In, Cl, and Na, it is found that they are all uniformly distributed in the crystal grain. Meanwhile, EDS data show that the molar ratio of Cs, Ag, Na, In, and Cl is 2.3 : 0.39 : 0.57 : 1.0 : 6.0, which is slightly different from the nominal composition (**Table S2, Supporting Information**). The doping concentration of Bi<sup>3+</sup> was lower than the detection limit of EDS.



**Figure 2.** (a) TEM images and (b) high-resolution TEM image for the representative  $Cs_2Na_{0.4}Ag_{0.6}InCl_6$ : Bi DP-MCs. and (c) A low dose SAED pattern from the red-circled region in Figure 2a. (d) XRD patterns of  $Cs_2Na_xAg_{1-x}InCl_6$ : Bi MCs (*x*=0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1) together with the reference pattern of  $Cs_2AgInCl_6$  and  $Cs_2AgInCl_6$ . (e) EDS elemental mapping of  $Cs_2Ag_{0.4}Na_{0.6}InCl_6$ : Bi DP-MCs.

To further confirm the valence of the elements in the mixed halide compound, the XPS analysis of DP-MCs was conducted. The XPS spectrum shows several characteristic peaks attributable to Cs, Na, Ag, In and Cl elements (**Figure 3a**). The dopant concentrations of Bi<sup>3+</sup> are too low to be detected by XPS. The positions of the observed peaks are consistent with the expected oxidation states (Cs<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, In<sup>3+</sup>, and Cl<sup>-</sup>) for the corresponding metal chlorides.<sup>26</sup> The high-resolution XPS results are illustrated in **Figures 3b-f**. As for Cs 3d spectrum, two peaks appear at 723.8 and

737.8 eV, which could be associated with Cs  $3d_{5/2}$  and Cs  $3d_{3/2}$ , respectively. The In 3d spectra display two peaks at 445.4 and 453.0 eV in DP-MCs, corresponding to the In  $3d_{5/2}$  and In  $3d_{3/2}$ , respectively. The Ag 3d spectra also show two peaks located at 368.0 and 374.0 eV, which can be assigned to Ag  $3d_{5/2}$  and Ag  $3d_{3/2}$ , respectively. The Cl 2p and Na 1s band demonstrated a single peak located at the binding energy of about 199.2 eV and 1072.1 eV, which can be associated to Cl  $2p_{3/2}$  and Na  $3s_{1/2}$ , respectively. This confirms that Na<sup>+</sup> is successfully introduced by replacing Ag<sup>+</sup> in Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> DP lattice.<sup>27</sup>



**Figure 3.** (a) Full XPS spectra and the typical energy regions for (b) Na 1s, (c) Cs 3d, (d) In 3d, (e) Ag 3d and (f) Cl 2p of Cs<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>0.4</sub>Na<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs

Raman spectra illustrated in **Figure S4a** (**Supporting Information**) provide a clear view of the structure information for the DP-MCs. Three peaks are observed and located at 141.9, 170.1, and  $301 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to the T<sub>2g</sub>, E<sub>g</sub> and A<sub>1g</sub> vibrations, respectively. Each peak is derived from the mixed vibration of three octahedra: AgCl<sub>6</sub>, InCl<sub>6</sub> and NaCl<sub>6</sub>. Doping with Bi introduces BiCl<sub>6</sub>

octahedra into the DP-MCs, giving two additional vibration peaks to the Raman spectra as demonstrated in **Figure S4b** (**Supporting Information**). One peak is  $T_{2g}$ , another is  $E_g$ , located at 110.4 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 253.1 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Since Ag is substituted by Na, InCl<sub>6</sub>, AgCl<sub>6</sub>, and NaCl<sub>6</sub> octahedra are working together to maintain the cubic structure symmetry of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs. However, the appearance of NaCl<sub>6</sub> octahedron still had some effect on Raman vibrational modes by creating some structure distortion. According to the literature, all three octahedra could associate with the A<sub>1g</sub> mode.<sup>28</sup> To gain more insight into influence of octahedra on Raman vibration modes, the B-Cl (B = Na, Ag, In) bond lengths of the Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP were calculated using the geometrically optimized model in the DS-PAW program. For Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub>, the bond lengths of Ag-Cl and In-Cl are 2.77 Å and 2.57 Å, respectively. Whereas in Cs<sub>2</sub>NaInCl<sub>6</sub>, the bond lengths of Na-Cl and In-Cl are 2.82 Å and 2.56 Å. The Na-Cl bond has a larger length compared to other B-Cl (B = In, Ag) bonds and vibrates more violently under the influence of external energy, indicating that the strong NaCl<sub>6</sub> octahedral vibrations are mainly responsible for the Raman active peaks.

The PL, PL excitation and absorption spectra of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs are shown in **Figure 4a**. With the FWHM of 216 nm, a broad-band emission is achieved in the DP-MCs under 385 nm excitation. Notably, the absorption peak at around 382 nm can be assigned to the electron transition between valence and conduction bands of the Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> host. Tauc plot, calculated from the corresponding absorption spectrum of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs demonstrated a direct bandgap of 3.05 eV (**Figure 4b**). The PLQYs for the Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs are tabulated in **Table S3 (Supporting Information**). The poor PLQYs of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>NaInCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs demonstrated by the parity-forbidden transition of the electronic absorption from valence band maximum to conduction band minimum.<sup>29-31</sup> Therefore, breaking the parity-forbidden

transition becomes a key step to improve the PLQYs. After Na<sup>+</sup> introduction, the PLQY of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs increased up to 73.3%. Given that Na<sup>+</sup> owns a different electronic configuration than Ag<sup>+</sup>, it is believed that the parity-forbidden transition was successfully broken by incorporating Na<sup>+</sup> into the lattice.<sup>32</sup> Meanwhile, the introduction of trace amount Bi<sup>3+</sup> can improve crystal perfection and facilitate exciton localization,<sup>33-35</sup> and works together with Na<sup>+</sup> incorporation to improve PLQYs of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs. Compared to the absorption spectrum of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi, an absorption band around 385 nm, which is due to the excitonic absorption, emerged in Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs (Figure S5, Supporting Information). A similar phenomenon was already reported.<sup>16, 36</sup> The PL decay curve of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs was also studied. As shown in Figure 4c, by fitting the PL decay curve with the biexponential equation,<sup>37</sup> the calculated average lifetime is 4.89 µs for Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs. It is found that the lifetimes of samples are less affected by the increasing Na/Ag ratio (Table S3, Supporting Information). Therefore, we have selected the representative Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MC with the highest PLQY for more detailed discussion.



**Figure 4.** (a) Normalized PL excitation (purple line), absorption (dash line) and emission (grey line) spectra, (b) Tauc plot, (c) PL lifetime, and (d) temperature-dependent emission spectra in the range of 70-290 K ( $\lambda$ =365 nm) of Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs, respectively.

It is generally believed that as the temperature increases, phonons are more likely to couple with excitons, causing non-radiative recombination and leading to a decrease in PL intensity. This is consistent with the results of temperature-dependent PL spectra of the Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi (x = 0.4, 0.7, and 0.9, in mol %) DP-MCs (**Figure 4d** and **Figure S6**, **Supporting Information**). 48.9%, 42.8% and 76.4% of the initial PL intensity at 70 K were retained at the temperature of 290 K for Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.7</sub>Ag<sub>0.3</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>, and Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.9</sub>Ag<sub>0.1</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs, respectively. By using

equation (1) based on the phonon broadening model,<sup>38</sup> the temperature dependence of FWHM can be fitted with Boltzmann distribution.

$$FWHM = 2.36\sqrt{S}h\omega_{\text{phonon}}\sqrt{\coth\left(\frac{h\omega_{\text{phonon}}}{2k_{\text{B}}T}\right)}$$
(1)

where Huang-Rhys factor (*S*) reflects how strongly electrons are coupled to phonons,  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant ( $k_B = 8.629 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV/K}$ ),  $\hbar \omega_{\text{phonon}}$  is the phonon frequency and *T* is the Kelvin temperature. By fitting the Equation (1), the phonon frequency  $\hbar \omega$  is about 29.62 meV, 29.04 meV and 28.56 meV for Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.7</sub>Ag<sub>0.3</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.9</sub>Ag<sub>0.1</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs, respectively(**Figure S7**, **Supporting Information**)<sup>28, 39</sup>. The calculated values of *S* are 23.98, 24.99 and 26.39 for Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.7</sub>Ag<sub>0.3</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.9</sub>Ag<sub>0.1</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub> DP-MCs, respectively, indicating that all three DP-MCs have an efficient STE emission. Notably, the value of *S* could reflect the STEs emission intensity, as the value of *S* decreases, the intensity of the phonon emission decreases, and the PL intensity increases. Therefore, the value of *S* may become a quality factor for evaluating the white emission from STE. The Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs have a broadband emission and small *S* value, indicating that this STE emission is likely to be caused by a strong Jahn-Teller distortion of the AgCl<sub>6</sub> octahedra. After Na<sup>+</sup> introduction, the newly formed NaCl<sub>6</sub> octahedra act as a barrier to limit the spatial distribution of STE, thereby breaking the parity-forbidden transition and increasing probability of radiative recombination.



**Figure 5.** (a) Typical EL spectra of WLEDs under 100 mA with different CCT (Insets are the images of WLEDs), (b) CIE color coordinates of corresponding WLEDs. (c) A photo of an LED with an ultra-high CRI of 97.1.

Along with cost-effective and large-scale synthesis, it is expected that these DP-MCs are promising for fabricating high-performance WLEDs. For this purpose, Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs were mixed with commercial blue and green phosphors and coated on a 365 nm UV-LED to fabricate WLEDs. As shown in **Figure 5a**, **Figure 5b** and **Table S4** (**Supporting Information**), four WLEDs, with CCT from warm white (2930 K) to cold white (6957 K), the CIE color coordinate from (0.461, 0.443) to (0.313, 0.287), and CRI from 84.8 to ultra-high 97.1 were successfully prepared by adjusting the mass ratio of the three phosphors. The specific ratios of the three phosphors are shown in **Table S4** (**Supporting Information**). **Figure 5c** shows the

photographs of the as-fabricated WLED which has ultra-high CRI of 97.1 emits bright pure white light that features CIE color coordinates of (0.331, 0.340). As shown in **Figure S8** (**Supporting Information**), the fluorescence intensity remained almost constant at different currents while CCT, CRI and CIE color coordinates are also very stable. The above results combined with the good light illumination stability (**Figure S9**, **Supporting Information**) of the Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs phosphors indicate that these lead-free inorganic perovskites phosphors are very promising for WLEDs

#### Conclusions

A facile solvent-free melting-crystallization synthesis technique was invented to produce Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs phosphors, which can be mass-produced easily. The formation energy shows that the crystal can be easily formed in a closed vacuum environment. High-quality Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>1-x</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi DP-MCs with a broadband emission from 400 to 850 nm were successfully prepared. The great increase in PLQYs means the parity-forbidden transition of Cs<sub>2</sub>AgInCl<sub>6</sub> was successfully broken by introducing Na<sup>+</sup> into the lattice. The Cs<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>0.4</sub>Ag<sub>0.6</sub>InCl<sub>6</sub>: Bi that has the highest PLQY of 73.3% has been tested as phosphor for lighting WLEDs. The WLEDs with CCT from warm white (2930 K) to cold white (6957 K), the CIE color coordinate from (0.461, 0.443) to (0.313, 0.287), and CRI from 84.8 to ultra-high 97.1 were successfully prepared by adjusting the mass ratio of this perovskite phosphor, the blue (BaMgAl<sub>10</sub>O<sub>17</sub>: Eu) and green ((Sr, Ba)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>: Eu) phosphors. This work has demonstrated an interesting way for developing low-cost, environment-friendly and high-performance inorganic perovskite phosphor for general lighting. ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **Supporting Information**

The following files are available free of charge at

Differential thermal analysis (DTA) and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) data (Figure S1), calculated formation energy data (Table S1), SEM images and EDS data (Figure S2 - S3, Table S2), Raman spectra (Figure S4), optical properties (Figure S5-S9, Table S3-S4) (PDF)

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#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work is financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (61975156), Hubei Natural Science Foundation (2020CFB641), State Key Laboratory of Silicate Materials for Architectures (Wuhan University of Technology, SYSJJ2021-01), Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (203134001). Thanks to Hongzhiwei Technology Co., Ltd. for providing technical support.

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## Table of Contents.

A novel solvent-free melting-crystallization synthesis of bright warm white emissive Lead-free double perovskites microcrystals (DP-MCs) with quantum yields (QYs) up to 73.3% is demonstrated.

