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Tunable Luminescence in Hybrid Cu(I) and Ag(I) Iodides

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ABSTRACT: Hybrid materials are increasingly demonstrating their utility across several optical, electrical, and magnetic applications. Cu(I) halide-based hybrids have attracted attention due to their strong luminescence in the absence of rare-earths. Here, we report three Cu(I) and Ag(I) hybrid iodides with 1,5-naphthyridine, and additional triphenylphosphine (Ph₃P) ligands. The compounds are built on (Cu/Ag)-I staircase chains or on a rhomboid Cu₂I₂ dimer and display intense and tunable luminescence. Replacing Cu with Ag, and adding the second kind of organic ligand (Ph₃P) tunes the emission color from red to yellow and results in significantly enhanced quantum yield. Density functional theory-based electronic structure calculations reveal the separate effects of the inorganic module and organic ligand on the electronic structure, confirming that bandgap, optical absorption and emission properties of these phosphors can be systemically and deliberately tuned by metal substitution and organic ligands cooperation. The emerging understanding of composition-structure-property relations in this family provides powerful design tools towards new compounds for general lighting applications.

INTRODUCTION

White light-emitting diodes (wLEDs) are capable of converting electricity to light effectively, thus considerably reducing overall electrical consumption worldwide.¹⁻⁴ Presently, high quality white light from wLEDs is predominantly produced by combining a blue-emitting InGaN/GaN chip with single or multicomponent blue light excitable phosphors.^{5,6} Almost all current commercially employed phosphors in wLEDs are rare-earth (RE)-containing inorganic compounds, raising issues of supply, cost, and environmental damage.^{7,8} Besides, their synthesis is generally energy intensive, requiring high temperatures and not permitting solution processing.⁹⁻¹¹ To tackle these issues, developing new types of RE-free, energy efficient, and solution processable phosphors is a significant endeavor.

With impressive structural diversity and great potential in optical, electrical, and magnetic applications, inorganic-organic hybrid materials are evolving into an important class of functional materials.¹²⁻¹⁷ Among them, Cu(I) halide based hybrids have attracted attention due to their luminescence properties, and are regarded as promising for next generation lighting technologies.¹⁸⁻²⁵ Since the discovery of zero-dimensional Cu₄I₄(pyridine)₄, which

is one of the most widely studied compounds, extensive research involving the varying of the inorganic modules and organic ligands has been carried out.²⁶⁻³⁵ Combining the experimental results with density functional theory (DFT) calculations, it has been suggested that generally Cu(I) iodide based hybrids containing electron-donating organic ligands have higher quantum yields (QYs), pointing to the ability to tune optical properties by choosing suitable organic ligands.²⁰ In analogy to Cu(I), the closed-shell d¹⁰ electronic configuration enables structural diversity in Ag(I) compounds, including clusters, chains, and layer motifs.³⁶⁻⁴⁰ Recently, highly luminescent tunable white-light emitting phosphors through the replacement of Cu by Ag in iodide based hybrids have been reported.⁴¹ Nevertheless Ag(I) halide based hybrids are relatively less investigated compared to the related Cu(I) analogues.

With the aim of studying the effects of the metal and organic ligand on crystal structure, and to gain insights into composition-structure-property relations, we report three Cu(I) and Ag(I) semiconducting hybrid compounds obtained through judicious selection of metal cations and organic ligands. We report the preparation and characterization of three new compounds, 2D-Cu₂I₂(L) (**1**), 2D-

Ag₂I₂(L) (**2**), and 1D-Cu₂I₂(Ph₃P)₂(L) (**3**) (L= 1,5-naphthyridine, Ph₃P = triphenylphosphine). The compounds are built on (Cu/Ag)I staircase chains or on the rhomboid Cu₂I₂ dimer, and are intensely luminescent with tunable properties. Replacing Cu with Ag and incorporating a second kind of organic ligand (Ph₃P) in **1** not only tunes the emission color from red to yellow, but also results in enhanced quantum yield. DFT calculations point to the influence of the inorganic modules and organic ligands on the electronic structure, confirming that the bandgap, optical absorption and emission properties of these phosphors can be systemically and deliberately tuned by metal substitution and altering the organic ligand. The mechanism of photoluminescence is proposed based on their electronic structure and the interactions within the inorganic cluster. This work provides the foundations for understanding how metal substitution and ligand effects impact electronic structure and luminescence properties, helping in the rational design of functional hybrid phosphors for general lighting applications.

METHODS

Materials. CuI (98 %), AgI (99 %), triphenylphosphine were purchased from Spectrum Chemical and used as received. 1,5-naphthyridine (> 97 %) was purchased from Fisher Scientific and used as received.

Synthesis of 2D-Cu₂I₂(1,5-naphthyridine) (1**).** Single crystals of **1** were obtained by the layer method. CuI (38 mg; 0.2 mmol) was dissolved in a saturated aqueous KI solution (2 mL) which was placed in the reaction vial as the bottom layer. 1,5-naphthyridine (13 mg; 0.1 mmol) dissolved in ethanol (2 cm³) was placed as the top layer. A mixture of deionized water (1 cm³) and ethanol (1 cm³) was used as the middle layer to separate the above two solutions. The reaction mixture in the closed vial was kept at room temperature to obtain orange plate-like crystals in 2 days. The crystals were collected by filtration, washed with ethanol and deionized water three times, respectively, and dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C for 12 h.

Synthesis of 2D-Ag₂I₂(1,5-naphthyridine) (2**).** Single crystals of **2** were obtained by the layer method. 1,5-naphthyridine (13 mg; 0.1 mmol) in ethanol (2 mL) and AgI (47 mg; 0.2 mmol) in saturated aqueous KI solution (2 cm³) were interlayered by 2 cm³ mixture of deionized water (1 cm³) and ethanol (1 cm³). The vial was kept open at room temperature for 2 days to obtain yellow crystals. The crystals were collected by filtration and washed three times with ethanol and deionized water, respectively. The sample was dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C for 12 h.

Synthesis of 1D-Cu₂I₂(Ph₃P)₂(1,5-naphthyridine) (Ph₃P = triphenylphosphine) (3**).** Single crystals of **3** were synthesized by starting from compound **1** with a solvothermal method. **1** (51 mg; 0.2 mmol) was dispersed in 5 cm³ ace-

tone and Ph₃P (65 mg, 0.25 mmol) dissolved in 1 cm³ toluene was added slowly to the above solution. After stirring with a magnetic bar for 6 h, the mixture was heated at 160 °C for 12 h in a 23 cm³ Teflon-lined autoclave in an oven. The autoclave was allowed to cool to room temperature which yielded orange crystals and powders of **3**. The sample was collected by filtration and washed with acetone and deionized water three times, respectively, and dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C for 12 h.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction (SCXRD) and powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD). SCXRD data were collected at room temperature on a Bruker KAPPA APEX II diffractometer equipped with an APEX II CCD detector using a TRIUMPH monochromator with an Mo K α source ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) and MX Optics. Crystal structures were solved using direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F² using the SHELXL-2014 program package.⁴² PXRD patterns were collected using a PANalytical Empyrean powder diffractometer equipped with a Cu K α radiation source ($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$).

Diffuse reflectance optical spectroscopy. A Shimadzu UV3600 UV-NIR Spectrometer was used to perform optical diffuse reflectance measurements. Data were collected in the wavelength range of 220 nm to 800 nm using BaSO₄ as the reference of 100 % reflectance. The Kubelka-Munk function was used for converting the reflectance spectra to optical absorption.

Computational details. Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed using the Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package⁴³⁻⁴⁵ (VASP), version 5.4.4. The Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof⁴⁶ (PBE) functional and projector-augmented wave^{47,48} (PAW) pseudopotentials were used with a plane-wave cutoff energy of 500 eV. PAW potentials were chosen following the version 5.2 guidelines. Automatic *k*-mesh generation was used with a length parameter (*R_k*) of 40. Structure relaxation was performed using the DFT-D3 method⁴⁹ with Becke-Johnson damping.⁵⁰ For band-structure calculations, an appropriate *k*-path was generated using AFLOW^{51,52}, and band-structures were plotted and analyzed using Sumo.^{53,54} Density of states (DOS) and crystal-orbital Hamilton population (COHP) analysis of pairwise bonding interactions were performed using the Local Orbital Basis Suite Towards Electronic-Structure Reconstruction (LOBSTER) package.⁵⁵⁻⁵⁸

Photoluminescence and internal Quantum Yield (QY) measurements. Photoluminescence emission (PL) and excitation (PLE) spectra, and QYs of powder samples were obtained on a Horiba FluoroMax-4 equipped with an integrating sphere using a 150 W continuous Xe arc lamp as excitation source at room temperature. All the PL and PLE spectra were calibrated by built-in correction files.

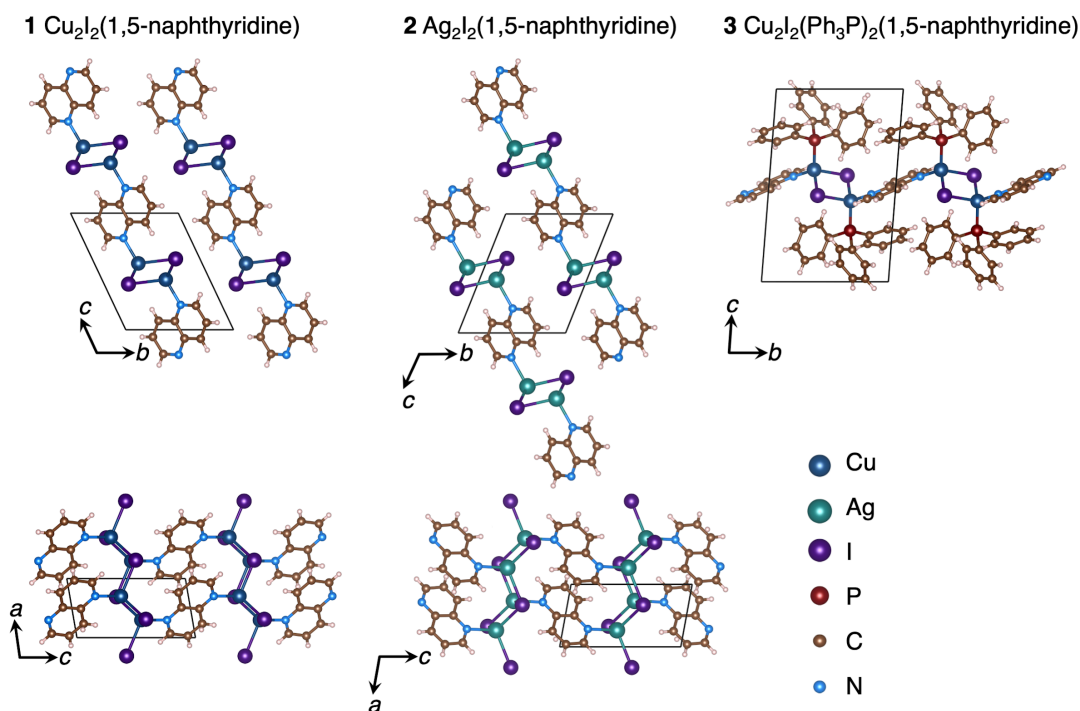


Figure 1. 2D crystal structures of **1** and **2** viewed along 2D layers (top) and same structure of **1** and **2** emphasizing one of the layers (bottom). 1D crystal structure of **3** viewed along the *a* axis, depicting one of the chains.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

All hybrid compounds presented here crystallize in the triclinic space group $P\bar{1}$. Crystallographic and structural refinements data are listed in Table 1 and S1-S7. **1** and **2** are built on one-dimensional Cu and Ag-I staircase chains, respectively. The adjacent 1D chains are further connected by two N atoms in 1,5-naphthyridine via Cu-N bonds in the case of **1** and Ag-N bonds in the case of **2**, forming two-dimensional layered structures (Figure 1). The metals (Cu or Ag) are tetrahedrally coordinated to one nitrogen atom of 1,5-naphthyridine and three iodine atoms. The shortest Cu-Cu and Ag-Ag distances are 2.7093 Å and 2.9277 Å in **1** and **2**, respectively.

Compound **3** was obtained from the reaction of **1** with triphenylphosphine. The addition of triphenylphosphine breaks the 1D Cu-I staircase into 0D rhomboid Cu_2I_2 motifs. The Cu_2I_2 motifs are further interconnected by 1,5-naphthyridine through Cu-N bonds forming a 1D chain structure, as illustrated in Figure 1. Cu is tetrahedrally coordinated to one N of 1,5-naphthyridine, one P atom of Ph_3P and two I of the inorganic motif. The shortest Cu-Cu distance is relatively longer (3.4524 Å) in this compound compared to **1** and **2**.

In regard to the dimensionality of the structures, we employ the I^nO^m classification scheme proposed by Cheetham *et al.* to describe the nature of the extended connectivity in these compounds.⁵⁹ The basis for the classification is the dimensionality of the connectivities *n* and *m* of the inorganic *I* and organic *O* components in the structure. **1** and **2** have infinite inorganic chains: $n = 1$, and the inorganic components are connected through the organic linker along *c* so $m = 1$, and these compounds are formally 2-dimensional ($n + m = 2$) with the classification I^1O^1 . In contrast, the structure of **3** is characterized by Cu_2I_2 moieties linked back-to-back in chains by the 1,5-naphthyridene ligands, giving it the classification I^0O^1 .

The phase purity of the bulk powder samples was examined by PXRD analysis, as shown in Figure 2. **1** and **2** are confirmed to be pure phases. For **3**, the additional peak at 10.6° originates from a small quantity of residual **1**.

It has been suggested that Cu-I based hybrid compounds have promising potential as alternative phosphors for wLEDs.^{22,23} Studies have revealed that their photoluminescence can be attributed to one of three mechanisms: (i) halogen-to-ligand charge transfer (XLCT), (ii) metal-to-

Table 1. Crystallographic and structural refinements details for **1-3**.

compound	1	2	3
identification code	Cu ₂ I ₂ (1,5-naphthyridine)	Ag ₂ I ₂ (1,5-naphthyridine)	Cu ₂ I ₂ (Ph ₃ P) ₂ (1,5-naphthyridine)
empirical formula	C ₄ H ₃ NCuI	C ₈ H ₆ N ₂ Ag ₂ I ₂	C ₂₂ H ₁₈ NPcui
formula weight	256.52	599.69	517.78
temperature	294(2) K	110(2) K	293(2) K
wavelength	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å
crystal system	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
unit cell dimensions	<i>a</i> = 4.311(4) Å <i>b</i> = 7.751(7) Å <i>c</i> = 9.098(8) Å α = 113.771(15) ° β = 93.734(15) ° γ = 102.296(15) °	<i>a</i> = 4.592(2) Å <i>b</i> = 7.819(4) Å <i>c</i> = 9.325(4) Å α = 107.798(8) ° β = 104.368(8) ° γ = 101.968(8) °	<i>a</i> = 8.355(2) Å <i>b</i> = 9.828(2) Å <i>c</i> = 14.196(4) Å α = 79.162(6) ° β = 73.252(6) ° γ = 65.168(5) °
volume (Å ³)	267.9(4)	293.9(2)	1010.0(5)
Z	2	1	2
density (calculated)	3.180 g/cm ³	3.457 g/cm ³	1.703 g/cm ³
absorption coefficient	9.688 mm ⁻¹	8.547 mm ⁻¹	2.694 mm ⁻¹
F(ooo)	234	268	508
Crystal size (mm ³)	0.100 × 0.100 × 0.100	0.150 × 0.150 × 0.100	0.100 × 0.100 × 0.100
θ range for data collection	2.482° to 27.374°	2.434 to 26.421°	1.502° to 27.356°
reflections collected	2669	2230	9035
Independent reflections	1209 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0311]	1210 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0204]	4286 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0246]
Completeness to θ = 25.242°	99.8 %	99.8 %	99.1 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.7455 and 0.4419	0.7454 and 0.5658	0.7454 and 0.6867
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²		
data / restraints / parameters	1209 / 0 / 64	1210 / 0 / 64	4286 / 0 / 235
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.017	1.088	0.992
final <i>R</i> indices	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0319,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0367,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0306,
[<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)]	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0698	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0872	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0577
<i>R</i> indices [all data]	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0428,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0472,	<i>R</i> ₁ = 0.0450,
	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0750	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0951	<i>wR</i> ₂ = 0.0629
largest diff. peak and hole	1.181 and -0.779 e.Å ⁻³	1.972 and -0.920 e.Å ⁻³	0.533 and -0.393 e.Å ⁻³

ligand charge transfer (MLCT), and (iii) Cu(I) d^{10} - d^9s^1 cluster centered (CC) transitions resulting from Cu–Cu interactions, especially when the Cu–Cu distance is shorter than 2.8 Å.²³ In order to gain insights into the compounds reported here and investigate their photoluminescent mechanisms, it is of significant importance to understand their optical and electronic properties. As shown in Figure 3, the estimated bandgaps of **1-3** are 2.28 eV, 2.92 eV, and 2.30 eV, respectively. To understand the influence of the structures and compositions on the electronic structures, DFT calculations were performed on all compounds. Figure 4 and Table 2 summarize the results of the band structure calculations. As expected, based on their structural similarities, **1** and **2** have qualitatively similar band structures, with the main difference being the significantly larger bandgap of **2**. This feature supports what was observed experimentally in the UV-vis absorption experiments. The difference in the bandgaps for **1** and **2** is likely derived from the fact that the

valence band for **2** is much lower in energy than that of **1**. In the band structure for **3**, the calculated bandgap also qualitatively matches what was observed experimentally for this compound, in that it has a bandgap in between those of **1** and **2**. For all the structures, the states comprising the conduction band have a very narrow dispersion, resulting in very flat bands, which makes it difficult to judge direct versus indirect bandgaps in these materials. As expected for the PBE functional, the calculations significantly underestimate the value of the experimental bandgap. The Δ -sol method⁶⁰ was applied to the extended inorganic compounds **1** and **2** in order to better calculate their bandgaps. We can see that for **1** and **2**, the Δ -sol method does increase

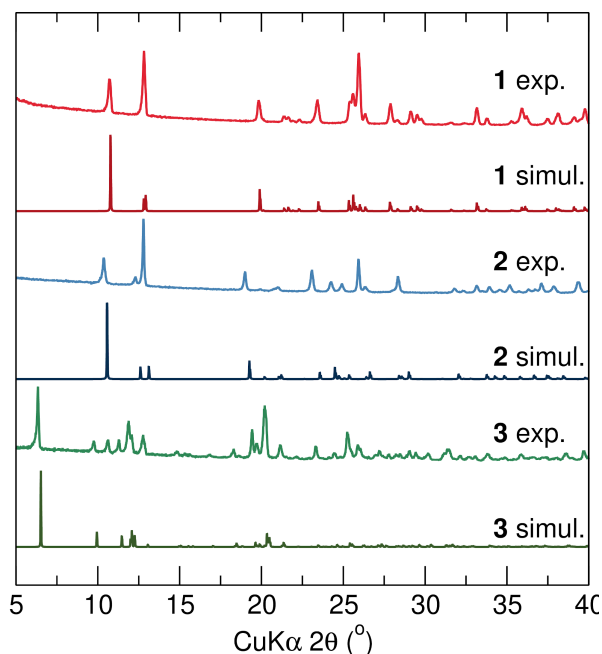


Figure 2. Simulated and experimental PXRD patterns of **1-3**. The additional peak at 10.6° in the experimental PXRD pattern of **3** originates from a small quantity of residual precursor **1**.

the calculated bandgap to yield values very close to what was observed experimentally. This method was not used for **3** due to the molecular nature of the structure, which is also seen in the extremely small dispersion of the bands.

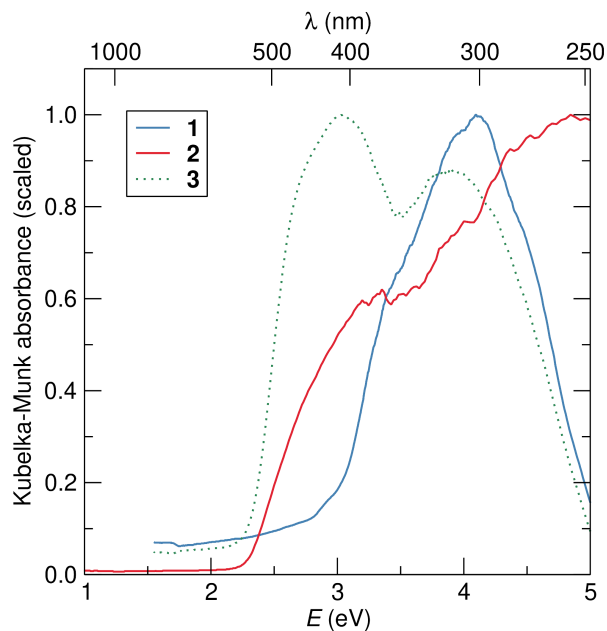


Figure 3. Optical absorption spectra of **1-3**. The estimated bandgaps of **1-3** are 2.28 eV, 2.92 eV, and 2.30 eV, respectively.

As shown in Figure 5, the densities of states for these compounds reveal features similar to what has previously been observed in related systems.²⁰⁻²² In all compounds, the valence band maxima are dominated by contributions from the iodide 5p orbitals and metal d orbitals, with some small contributions from the nitrogen and carbon 2p orbitals, and phosphorous 3p orbitals in the case of **3**. The larger band gap of **2** over **1** is then explained by the lowered position of the d band of Ag compared with Cu. Additionally,

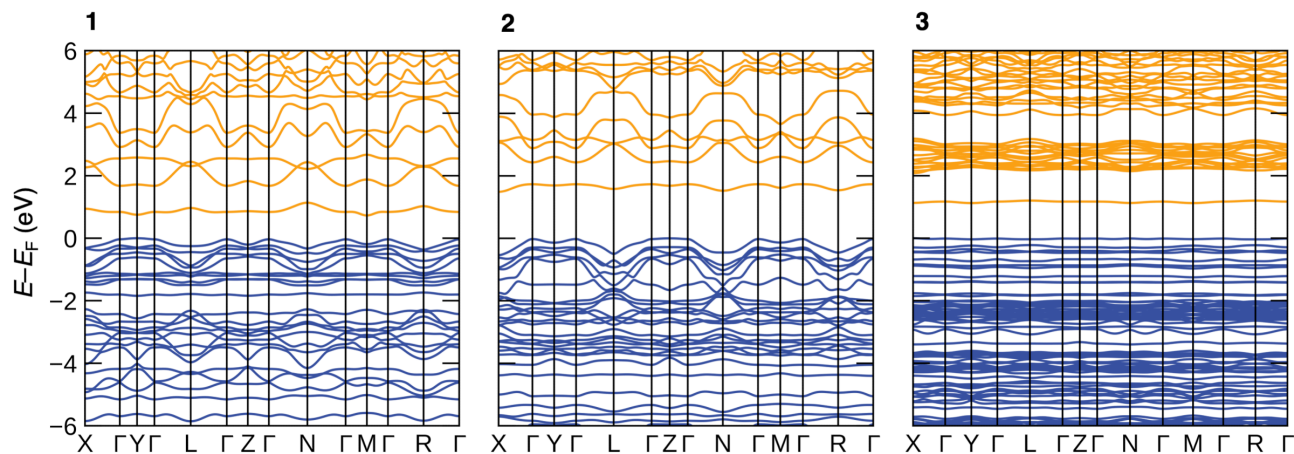


Figure 4. Panels depicting band-structures for **1**, **2**, and **3**, respectively, following a k -path through the high symmetry points in the Brillouin zone. **1** and **2** have similar band structures with the main difference being the significantly larger bandgap of **2**; **3** has a bandgap in between those of **1** and **2**.

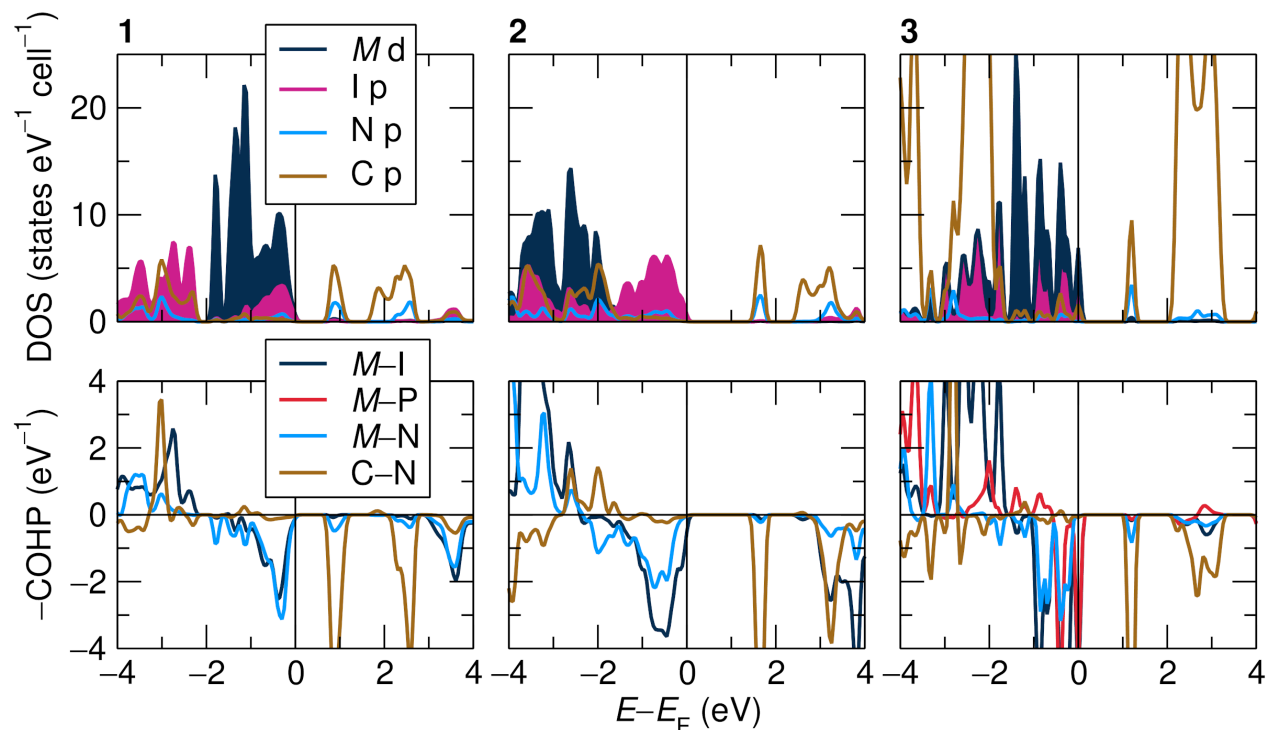


Figure 5. Top panels show the DOS for **1**, **2**, and **3**; Bottom panels show COHPs for **1**, **2**, and **3**. In all compounds, the valence band maxima are dominated by contribution from the iodide 5p orbitals and metal d orbitals, while the conduction band minima are composed of nitrogen and carbon 2p orbitals.

in all three cases the conduction band minima comprise nitrogen and carbon 2p orbitals. Therefore, judiciously selecting the metal and the organic ligands allows us to systematically tune the bandgaps of the resulting hybrids, and consequently their absorption and photoluminescence. The calculated DOS was also used for a COHP analysis. This method uses the DOS reconstruction in order to predict the amount of bonding or anti-bonding character present in different states. In the plots shown in Figure 5 (bottom), states that have positive values correspond to those

that have more bonding character, while those with negative values will have more anti-bonding character. Using this analysis, we can see that the valence bands are mainly comprised of metal-iodide and metal-nitrogen antibonding interactions in **1** and **2**. In **3**, there are also metal-phosphorous antibonding states near the top of the valence band. In the conduction band, most of the states originate from carbon-nitrogen antibonding interactions, with some contribution from metal-nitrogen antibonding interactions.

Table 2. Summary of the band-structures for **1-3**.

Compound	Indirect gap (eV)	Direct gap (eV)	VBM (eV)	CBM (eV)	Δ -sol bandgap (eV)	Experimental bandgap (eV)
1	0.728	0.752 (Y)	2.920 (0, 0.48, 0)	3.648 (M)	2.26	2.28
2	1.489	1.687 (Z)	1.962 (0, 0, 0.48)	3.451 (X)	2.80	2.92
3	1.123	1.129 (X)	1.287 (X)	2.410 (M)	-	2.30

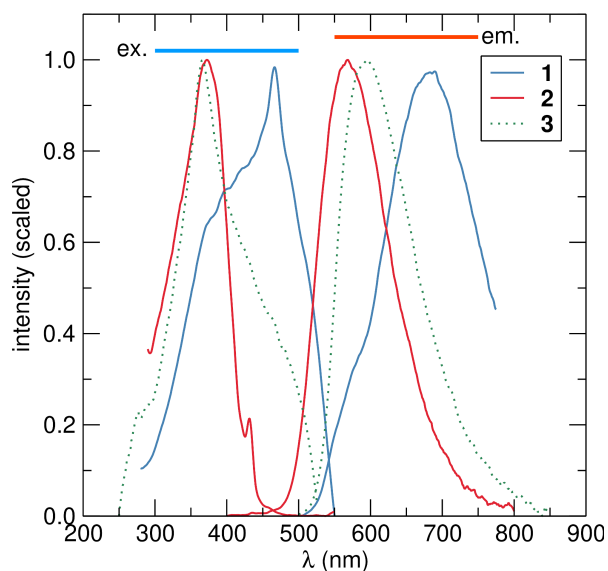


Figure 6. Photoluminescence excitation (PLE) and photoluminescence (PL) spectra of $\text{Cu}_2\text{I}_2(1,5\text{-naphthylidene})$ (**1**), $\text{Ag}_2\text{I}_2(1,5\text{-naphthylidene})$ (**2**) and $\text{Cu}_2\text{I}_2(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_2(1,5\text{-naphthylidene})$ (**3**).

The room temperature photoluminescence excitation (PLE) and photoluminescence (PL) spectra are shown in Figure 6. The PLE spectra of all the compounds monitored at their optimum emission wavelength exhibit broad band ranging from UV to blue light. The sharp peak at 467 nm in PLE spectrum of **1** is originated from the intensity fluctuations in Xe arc lamp. **1** shows a broad band emission peaked at 680 nm with a shoulder at 580 nm. **2** and **3** show single broad bands peaked at 566 nm and 595 nm, respectively. The emission colors of these hybrid compounds range from yellow to red. Detailed excitation energies and the corresponding emission peaks are listed in Table 3. Based on their electronic structures, and considering the short Cu–Cu ($< 2.8 \text{ \AA}$) and Ag–Ag ($< 3.4 \text{ \AA}$) distances,^{22,61,62} we propose that the luminescent mechanism of **1** and **2** is a combination of XLCT, MLCT and CC transitions. For **3**, the shortest Cu–Cu distance, 3.4524 \AA , is far longer than the sum of van der Waals radii of the two Cu atoms (2.8 \AA), which points to the absence of a CC transition resulting from interactions within the inorganic cluster. Therefore, we suggest that the luminescence mechanism of **3** is a mixed XLCT/MLCT transition. The luminescence mechanisms for the compounds reported here resemble those that have been observed previously for CuI chain-based, Cu_2I_2 dimer-based, and Cu_4I_4 tetramer-based hybrid structures.²³ Compared with **1**, the emission bands of both **2** and **3** are blue shifted. For **2**, the replacement of Cu with Ag lowers the energy of the valence band and therefore increases the bandgap (Table 2), which tunes the emission

Table 3. Optical properties of **1-3**.

Compound	λ_{ex} (nm)	λ_{em} (nm)	Emission color	QY (%)
$2\text{D-Cu}_2\text{I}_2(1,5\text{-naphthylidene})$ (1)	370	680	red	1
$2\text{D-Ag}_2\text{I}_2(1,5\text{-naphthylidene})$ (2)	370	566	yellow	15
$1\text{D-Cu}_2\text{I}_2(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_2(1,5\text{-naphthylidene})$ (3)	365	595	yellow	19

color from red to yellow. For **3**, the Ph_3P incorporation lowers the energy of the valence band more than that of the conduction band, resulting in a greater bandgap (Table 2), which leads to the blue shift of the emission color. As a consequence, either Ag substitution or Ph_3P incorporation allows tuning of the valence band by controlling the dominant metal-main group bonding interactions, realizing tunable luminescence.

1 has a relatively low QY of 1 %. For **2**, QY is improved to 15 % through replacing Cu by Ag. The observation of higher QYs for Ag complexes than the Cu analogue is not unusual and has been reported in several compounds, such as in $(\text{Ag}/\text{Cu})_2\text{I}_2(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_2(4,4'\text{-bipyridine})$.^{41,63} It has been suggested that the high QY (100%) of $\text{Ag}(\text{dbp})(\text{P}_2\text{-nCB})$ [dbp = 2,9-di-n-butyl-1,10-phenanthroline, and $\text{P}_2\text{-nCB}$ = nido-carborane-bis(diphenylphosphine)] is due to the presence of higher singlet excited states close to the S_1 excited states, which are also emitters.⁶⁴ On the basis of computation, Carbonell-Vilar *et al.* proposed that these states were not near to S_1 in $[\text{Ag}(\text{Xantphos})(4,4'\text{-(MeO)}_2\text{-2,2'-bipy})]\text{BF}_4$ [Xantphos: 4,5-bis-(diphenylphosphino)-9,9'-dimethylxanthene], and attributed the enhanced photoluminescence property of the Ag complex compared to its Cu analogue to the presence of non-emitting low-lying excited states with the Cu–O bonds, which do not exist in the Ag complex.⁶⁵ Consequently, the higher QYs for Ag complexes compared with the Cu analogues may be a consequence of the differences in excited states. However, from the DFT calculations presented here, it could also be suggested that the higher QY of **2** over **1** could arise due to the larger band gap, thereby avoiding some of the excitation being lost into the conduction band to non-radiative processes.

Adding the second ligand Ph_3P achieves the highest QY of 19 % for **3**, which can be attributed to its different inorganic module: the Cu_2I_2 dimer. This phenomenon is consistent with prior studies which showed that compounds built around the Cu_2I_2 rhomboid dimer or Cu_4I_4 cubane tetramer generally have higher luminescence efficiency than those built on CuI 1D chains.⁶⁶ This may result

from the more condensed structures of the Cu_2I_2 dimer and Cu_4I_4 tetramer, which typically reduces non-radiative processes and thereby achieves relatively higher quantum efficiencies. Our results show that both replacing Cu with Ag and adding a second kind of organic ligand (Ph_3P) can not only tune the emission color from red to yellow but also achieve higher QYs, thereby demonstrating two strategies for tuning the optical properties of CuI-based hybrid compounds: (i) metal substitution and (ii) ligand cooperation.

CONCLUSIONS

We report the preparation of three hybrid phosphors based around new 1D and 2D structures of Cu(I) and Ag(I) iodides with (Cu/Ag)I staircase chains or rhomboid Cu_2I_2 dimers. The compounds emit in the useful, yellow-red region with QYs ranging from 1% to 19%. Three types of luminescence mechanisms are proposed, depending on their electronic structures and interactions within the inorganic clusters. We have experimentally demonstrated that replacing Cu with Ag or adding the second spacer organic ligand (Ph_3P) can not only tune the emission color from red to yellow but also achieve higher QYs. DFT calculations further reveal the effects of the inorganic module and organic ligand on the electronic structures, confirming that the bandgaps and optical absorption and emission properties of these phosphors can be systemically and deliberately tuned by metal substitution and organic ligand cooperation. The realization of these new RE-free, solution-processable phosphors and the ability to tune their photoluminescence properties further improve our understanding of composition-structure-property relationships, and provide design tools for next-generation lighting applications.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Crystallographic details for Compound 1-3. The Supporting Information is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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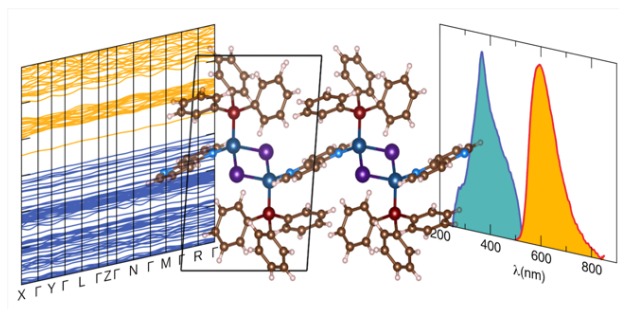
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For the Table of Contents



The brightly luminescent compound $\text{Cu}_2\text{I}_2(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_2(1,5\text{-naphthyridine})$ (Ph_3P = triphenylphosphine) has a structure comprising neutral Cu_2I_2 moieties that form chains through coordination with the 1,5-naphthyridine.

Supporting Information for

Tunable Luminescence in Hybrid Cu(I) and Ag(I) Iodides

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Table S1. Selected Bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **1-3**.

1		2	
Label	Bond length (Å)	Label	Bond length (Å)
I(1)-Cu(1)	2.6407(18)	Ag(1)-N(1)	2.322(6)
I(1)-Cu(1)#1	2.699(3)	Ag(1)-I(1)#1	2.8371(13)
I(1)-Cu(1)#2	2.741(2)	Ag(1)-I(1)	2.8399(12)
Cu(1)-N(1)	2.061(5)	Ag(1)-I(1)#2	2.9149(15)
Cu(1)-I(1)#1	2.699(3)	Ag(1)-Ag(1)#3	2.9277(16)
Cu(1)-Cu(1)#1	2.709(2)	I(1)-Ag(1)#4	2.8371(13)
Cu(1)-I(1)#3	2.741(2)	I(1)-Ag(1)#2	2.9149(15)
Label	Bond angle (°)	Label	Bond angle (°)
Cu(1)-I(1)-Cu(1)#1	60.97(4)	N(1)-Ag(1)-I(1)#1	110.29(15)
Cu(1)-I(1)-Cu(1)#2	106.44(7)	N(1)-Ag(1)-I(1)	108.41(15)
Cu(1)#1-I(1)-Cu(1)#2	82.08(4)	I(1)#1-Ag(1)-I(1)	107.96(4)
N(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)	111.91(14)	N(1)-Ag(1)-I(1)#2	106.45(15)
N(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#1	112.50(14)	I(1)#1-Ag(1)-I(1)#2	118.83(3)
I(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#1	119.04(4)	I(1)-Ag(1)-I(1)#2	104.40(3)
N(1)-Cu(1)-Cu(1)#1	138.16(15)	N(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(1)#3	128.18(15)
I(1)-Cu(1)-Cu(1)#1	60.58(7)	I(1)#1-Ag(1)-Ag(1)#3	60.72(4)

I(1)#1-Cu(1)-Cu(1)#1	58.46(5)	I(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(1)#3	123.12(4)
N(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#3	107.21(15)	I(1)#2-Ag(1)-Ag(1)#3	58.10(4)
I(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#3	106.44(7)	Ag(1)#5-I(1)-Ag(1)	107.96(4)
I(1)#1-Cu(1)-I(1)#3	97.92(4)	Ag(1)#5-I(1)-Ag(1)#2	61.18(3)
Cu(1)#1-Cu(1)-I(1)#3	114.40(7)	Ag(1)-I(1)-Ag(1)#2	75.60(3)
C(1)-N(1)-Cu(1)	118.5(4)	C(1)-N(1)-Ag(1)	118.0(5)
C(2)-N(1)-Cu(1)	123.4(4)	C(2)-N(1)-Ag(1)	124.0(5)

3

Label	Bond length (Å)	Label	Bond angle (°)
I(1)-Cu(1)	2.6929(7)	P(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)	107.23(3)
I(1)-Cu(1)#1	2.7004(7)	N(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#1	114.68(7)
Cu(1)-N(1)	2.101(3)	P(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#1	110.58(3)
Cu(1)-P(1)	2.2380(11)	I(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)#1	100.39(2)
Cu(1)-I(1)#1	2.7003(7)	C(5)-P(1)-Cu(1)	112.83(11)
	Bond angle (°)	C(11)-P(1)-Cu(1)	115.45(11)
Cu(1)-I(1)-Cu(1)#1	79.61(2)	C(17)-P(1)-Cu(1)	116.82(11)
N(1)-Cu(1)-P(1)	118.22(8)	C(1)-N(1)-Cu(1)	116.20(19)
N(1)-Cu(1)-I(1)	103.54(7)	C(2)-N(1)-Cu(1)	126.3(2)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms for

1: #1 -x+1,-y+1,-z+1 #2 x-1,y,z #3 x+1,y,z

2: #1 x+1,y,z #2 -x+1,-y+2,-z+1 #3 -x+2,-y+2,-z+1 #4 x-1,y,z

3: #1 -x+1,-y+1,-z+1

Table S2. Atomic coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **1**. $U(\text{eq})$ is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U^{ij} tensor.

	x	y	z	U(eq)
I(1)	3113(1)	7740(1)	6078(1)	30(1)
Cu(1)	7027(2)	5917(1)	4307(1)	39(1)
N(1)	7027(12)	6187(7)	2145(6)	30(1)
C(2)	4886(13)	4931(8)	745(7)	24(1)
C(3)	2365(14)	3443(9)	769(8)	33(1)
C(1)	9312(15)	7580(9)	2072(7)	33(1)
C(4)	307(15)	2197(9)	-615(8)	35(1)

Table S3. Atomic coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **2**. $U(\text{eq})$ is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U^{ij} tensor.

	x	y	z	$U(\text{eq})$
Ag(1)	7137(2)	8413(1)	4481(1)	49(1)
C(1)	2594(17)	4460(10)	1927(9)	39(2)
C(2)	5774(15)	5752(9)	740(8)	31(1)
C(3)	8314(17)	7212(10)	835(9)	37(2)
C(4)	9096(17)	7113(10)	-483(9)	39(2)
I(1)	2973(1)	8240(1)	6269(1)	43(1)
N(1)	4917(13)	5849(8)	2063(7)	36(1)

Table S4. Atomic coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **3**. $U(\text{eq})$ is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U^{ij} tensor.

	x	y	z	$U(\text{eq})$
I(1)	7772(1)	3896(1)	4479(1)	38(1)
Cu(1)	5053(1)	6536(1)	4189(1)	35(1)
P(1)	4762(1)	6671(1)	2652(1)	30(1)
N(1)	5818(3)	8126(3)	4539(2)	32(1)
C(2)	4662(4)	9486(3)	4922(2)	27(1)
C(5)	2721(4)	8234(3)	2406(2)	32(1)
C(10)	2330(5)	9626(3)	2724(2)	38(1)
C(11)	6602(4)	6948(3)	1664(2)	32(1)
C(17)	4647(4)	5029(3)	2285(2)	33(1)
C(1)	7574(5)	7828(3)	4306(3)	39(1)
C(3)	2789(4)	9867(3)	5184(2)	35(1)
C(15)	9824(5)	6070(4)	947(3)	50(1)
C(18)	5394(5)	4540(4)	1346(3)	41(1)
C(16)	8371(5)	5964(4)	1689(3)	42(1)
C(12)	6334(5)	8040(4)	894(3)	44(1)
C(4)	1666(5)	11209(3)	5573(3)	39(1)
C(6)	1501(5)	8131(4)	1971(3)	50(1)
C(19)	5275(5)	3287(4)	1113(3)	52(1)
C(9)	762(5)	10843(4)	2615(3)	48(1)
C(14)	9529(5)	7166(4)	180(3)	53(1)

C(8)	-448(5)	10710(4)	2203(3)	53(1)
C(13)	7790(5)	8156(4)	164(3)	55(1)
C(7)	-86(5)	9364(5)	1873(3)	59(1)
C(22)	3795(7)	4214(4)	2988(3)	63(1)
C(20)	4405(6)	2516(4)	1813(3)	62(1)
C(21)	3666(7)	2964(5)	2750(3)	75(2)

Table S5. Anisotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **1**. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:

$$-2 \pi^2 [h^2 a^{*2} U^{11} + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U^{12}]$$

	U^{11}	U^{22}	U^{33}	U^{23}	U^{13}	U^{12}
I(1)	26(1)	31(1)	31(1)	12(1)	3(1)	6(1)
Cu(1)	41(1)	48(1)	29(1)	19(1)	8(1)	10(1)
N(1)	35(3)	31(3)	25(3)	13(2)	9(2)	9(2)
C(2)	28(3)	24(3)	23(3)	12(2)	5(2)	10(2)
C(3)	31(3)	41(4)	32(3)	20(3)	7(3)	12(3)
C(1)	39(3)	30(3)	29(3)	13(3)	4(3)	7(3)
C(4)	36(3)	35(3)	39(4)	23(3)	2(3)	4(3)

Table S6. Anisotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **2**. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:

$$-2 \pi^2 [h^2 a^{*2} U^{11} + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U^{12}]$$

	U^{11}	U^{22}	U^{33}	U^{23}	U^{13}	U^{12}
Ag(1)	42(1)	53(1)	38(1)	7(1)	13(1)	3(1)
C(1)	40(4)	43(4)	40(4)	14(3)	19(3)	16(3)
C(2)	26(3)	34(4)	32(3)	10(3)	9(3)	10(3)
C(3)	35(4)	33(4)	35(3)	6(3)	10(3)	6(3)
C(4)	33(4)	39(4)	47(4)	18(3)	17(3)	7(3)
I(1)	38(1)	56(1)	49(1)	27(1)	23(1)	22(1)
N(1)	31(3)	41(3)	30(3)	10(3)	8(2)	9(3)

Table S7. Anisotropic displacement parameters ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$) for **3**. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:

$$-2 \pi^2 [h^2 a^{*2} U^{11} + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U^{12}]$$

	U^{11}	U^{22}	U^{33}	U^{23}	U^{13}	U^{12}
I(1)	37(1)	26(1)	43(1)	-4(1)	-1(1)	-8(1)
Cu(1)	43(1)	33(1)	34(1)	-7(1)	-10(1)	-15(1)
P(1)	34(1)	30(1)	28(1)	-4(1)	-6(1)	-16(1)
N(1)	33(2)	25(1)	36(2)	-5(1)	-6(1)	-11(1)
C(2)	34(2)	24(1)	25(2)	-1(1)	-8(1)	-12(1)
C(5)	35(2)	35(2)	26(2)	-2(1)	-1(1)	-17(1)
C(10)	44(2)	37(2)	37(2)	-6(2)	-6(2)	-19(2)
C(11)	37(2)	33(2)	31(2)	-8(1)	-6(1)	-18(1)
C(17)	42(2)	33(2)	32(2)	-5(1)	-12(2)	-19(1)
C(1)	38(2)	27(2)	44(2)	-11(1)	-1(2)	-10(1)
C(3)	39(2)	28(2)	41(2)	-2(1)	-11(2)	-16(1)
C(15)	35(2)	57(2)	56(3)	-13(2)	-4(2)	-17(2)
C(18)	49(2)	41(2)	39(2)	-7(2)	-5(2)	-24(2)
C(16)	43(2)	42(2)	43(2)	-4(2)	-9(2)	-19(2)
C(12)	41(2)	48(2)	39(2)	-1(2)	-8(2)	-16(2)
C(4)	29(2)	32(2)	51(2)	-4(2)	-3(2)	-10(1)
C(6)	52(2)	47(2)	57(3)	-16(2)	-22(2)	-15(2)
C(19)	64(3)	50(2)	47(2)	-22(2)	-7(2)	-24(2)
C(9)	51(2)	36(2)	44(2)	-4(2)	0(2)	-12(2)
C(14)	47(2)	68(3)	42(2)	-10(2)	7(2)	-31(2)
C(8)	40(2)	47(2)	49(2)	-1(2)	-6(2)	-1(2)
C(13)	51(3)	63(2)	41(2)	11(2)	-4(2)	-26(2)
C(7)	44(2)	68(3)	67(3)	-9(2)	-25(2)	-13(2)
C(22)	107(4)	67(3)	36(2)	-10(2)	-1(2)	-63(3)
C(20)	97(4)	49(2)	63(3)	-7(2)	-29(3)	-43(2)
C(21)	134(5)	79(3)	48(3)	0(2)	-11(3)	-83(3)