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Passivation effects on spectral properties of ytterbium doped cesium lead halide perovskites

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Recently perovskites have shown to be promising materials in photovoltaics, where an efficiency of 26.1% was reached for non-tandem perovskite solar cells [1]. Doped perovskites, e.g. CsPb_{1-1.5x}Yb_xCl₃ are being explored not for the direct use in solar cells, but rather as efficient materials for luminescent solar converters. Such devices made from CsPb_{1-1.5x}Yb_xCl₃ efficiently down-converts one UV photon into two NIR photons, which has been shown to increase the efficiency of conventional Si solar cells [2,3].

In this work we apply a simple mechanosynthesis method for the preparation of ytterbium doped CsPbCl₃ powder exhibiting high NIR PLQY [4]. We also co-dope this powder with passivating ions (Mg²⁺, Zn²⁺, etc.), which should additionally improve quantum luminescence efficiency of Yb³⁺ [5]. We investigate how efficiently energy is transferred from the perovskite to Yb³⁺ ions and the influence of passivating ions by applying steady-state spectroscopy methods - fluorescence and absorption.

Co-doping was performed by mixing salts, e.g. MgCl₂, into the precursor materials or by adding it into the prepared Yb-doped perovskite powder. Prepared powder co-doped with Mg²⁺ shows slightly increased NIR PLQY, while the perovskite prepared with Yb³⁺ and Mg²⁺ shows a 20% improved NIR PLQY (Fig. 1, inset). This suggests that Mg²⁺ ions may decrease the number of vacancy defects and suppress trap-assisted nonradiative recombination. Interestingly,

perovskite co-doped with Yb³⁺ and Mg²⁺ exhibits a second photoluminescence peak that is not present in other samples (Fig. 1, orange). It is yet unclear why this occurs.

We are also exploring the effects of other passivating materials and co-doping candidates, which may improve NIR PLQY further.

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Fig. 1. Fluorescence spectra. Inset shows NIR PLQY of the samples.