

# Synthesis, Crystal Structure, and Optical Gap of Two-Dimensional Halide Solid Solutions $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$

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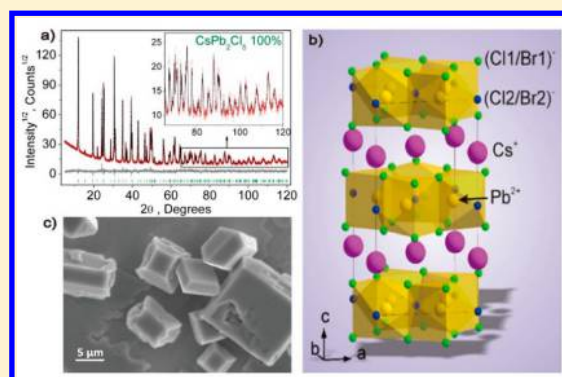
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## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Exploring new perovskite-related solid-state materials and the investigating composition-dependent structural and physical properties are highly important for advanced functional material development. Herein, we present the successful hydrothermal synthesis of tetragonal  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  and the anion-exchange phase formation of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0-1$ ) solid solutions. The  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  crystal structures, which crystallize in the tetragonal system, space group  $I4/mcm$ , with parameters similar to those of  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ , have been determined by Rietveld analysis. The optical band gap was obtained by UV-vis spectroscopy, and the band structure was further calculated by the full-potential method within the generalized gradient approximation. It was revealed that the band gap in  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  solid solutions can be tuned over the range of 4.5–3.8 eV by anion substitution.



## INTRODUCTION

The discovery of new solid-state materials for emerging applications is extremely important, and many crystals with such specific characteristics as nonlinear-optical properties, wide transparency range, low compressibility, negative thermal expansion, photoluminescence properties, and promising electronic and magnetic parameters were designed and evaluated in the past few years.<sup>1–11</sup> Recently, inorganic lead halide perovskite-related compounds have become promising functional materials for optoelectronic applications because of their remarkable spectroscopic and electronic properties, including tunable band gap and appropriate chemical stability.<sup>12–16</sup> Earlier, cesium lead halides and other closely related compounds were obtained in the macroscopic forms of thin films, powders, and bulk crystals using different

technological approaches, and many key physical properties were measured, which yields a basis for a wide comparison and selection of optimal materials for use at a nanoscale.<sup>17–22</sup> Intrinsically, the specific physical properties of lead halides originate from the  $\text{PbX}_6$  basic functional units existing in the perovskite-related crystals. From a structural point of view, on the basis of the  $\text{PbX}_6$  octahedra connection, the lead perovskite dimensionality was classified into zero-dimensional (0D), two-dimensional (2D), and three-dimensional (3D) structures. Colloidal quasi-2D semiconductor nanoplatelets are an interesting type of nanocrystal because of their unique spectroscopic properties, such as increased exciton binding

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energies, reduced fluorescence decay times, and notable optical nonlinearity.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, there are intensive investigations on the metal halides with perovskite or close-to-perovskite structures as attractive semiconductors. Among them, perovskite-related metal halide colloidal nanoplatelets are an important type of nanomaterials because they not only enrich the diversity of the available semiconducting nanomaterials, but also potentially possess a platform for exploring new photophysical properties of 2D semiconducting materials.

The present study is aimed at the hydrothermal synthesis of solid solutions  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ) and evaluation of their electronic and optical parameters as a function of the Cl/Br ratio. It should be pointed out that the end compound  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  is actively used in modern photonic structures.<sup>24–27</sup> First, the compound  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  was prepared by the ion-exchange reaction between  $\text{Cs}_2\text{PbCl}_2(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and  $\text{NaCl}$  (or  $\text{KCl}$ ) in an aqueous solution, and the tetragonal crystal structure was determined in space group  $I4/mcm$ .<sup>28</sup> The 2D structure is formed by the layers of  $\text{PbCl}_4$  tetrahedra, and  $\text{Cs}^+$  ions are positioned between the layers. To our best knowledge, information about the crystal structure of related bromide  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  is absent in the literature, although the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  cell parameters were reported recently.<sup>29</sup> On the basis of the available structural information shown in Table S1,<sup>18,29–36</sup> the same structure type can be reasonably assumed for  $\text{CsPbCl}_5$  and  $\text{CsPbBr}_5$ . The wide-range tuning of the physical properties could be possible in  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  solid solutions without phase transition singularities.

As of now, three structural types are known for lead halides with the general composition  $\text{APb}_2\text{X}_5$  ( $A = \text{Ag}, \text{NH}_4, \text{K}, \text{Rb}, \text{Cs}, \text{Tl}; X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ), and the available structural parameters are summarized in Table S1. The specific monoclinic structure was reported for  $\text{AgPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ , which is the only known Ag-containing compound with the composition  $\text{APb}_2\text{X}_5$ .<sup>30</sup> The most numerous set of monoclinic compounds includes  $\text{KPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{KPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ ,  $\text{K}_{0.94}\text{Tl}_{0.06}\text{Pb}_2\text{Cl}_{4.87}\text{Br}_{0.13}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4\text{Pb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{Tl}_{0.86}\text{K}_{0.14}\text{Pb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{Tl}_{0.96}\text{K}_{0.04}\text{Pb}_2\text{Cl}_{4.82}\text{Br}_{0.18}$ , and  $\text{TlPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ , and this family was actively evaluated in the past.<sup>18,28,31,33,35</sup> The compounds  $\text{RbPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ , and  $\text{InPb}_2\text{I}_5$  possess similar tetragonal structures, and the existence of the wide-range solid solutions  $(\text{Rb}, \text{Cs})\text{Pb}_2\text{Br}_5$  and  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}, \text{Br})_5$  seems to be possible. However, anion substitution in  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}, \text{Br})_5$  solid solutions provides giant variations of the unit cell volume, and this is an indicator of strong variations of the electronic structure and optical characteristics on the transformation from  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  to  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  (Table S1). Therefore, in this study, the crystal structures of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ) were defined by Rietveld analysis. The compounds crystallize in the tetragonal system, space group  $I4/mcm$ , with the unit cell parameters close to those of  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ . Their optical band gaps were determined by UV–vis spectroscopy, and the band structures were further calculated by the full-potential method within the generalized gradient approximation (GGA).

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**Materials and Synthesis.** All starting reagents were used without any additional purification: Cesium chloride ( $\text{CsCl}$ , 99.99%) and lead chloride ( $\text{PbCl}_2$ ; analytical reagent) were purchased from Shanghai Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd. Hydrogen chloride ( $\text{HCl}$ ; 38%) and hydrobromic acid ( $\text{HBr}$ ; 48%) were purchased from Beijing Chemical Works. The  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  solid solutions were synthesized through the hydrothermal method in a haloid acid

solution at different  $\text{HCl}/\text{HBr}$  ratios. Thus, 0.75 mmol of  $\text{PbCl}_2$  and 0.75 mmol of  $\text{CsCl}$  were placed in a poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE) reactor, and, subsequently, a mixture of  $\text{HCl}$  (5 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ , 4 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$ , 3 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_3\text{Br}_2$ , 2 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{Br}_3$ , 1 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$ , and 0 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ ),  $\text{HBr}$  (0 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ , 1 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$ , 2 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_3\text{Br}_2$ , 3 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{Br}_3$ , 4 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$ , and 5 mL for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ ) and 10 mL of deionized water was slowly added to the PTFE reactor. After the hydrothermal reaction at 453 K for 24 h, the temperature was naturally decreased to room temperature, and the final powder product was filtered and finally dried at 373 K under vacuum.

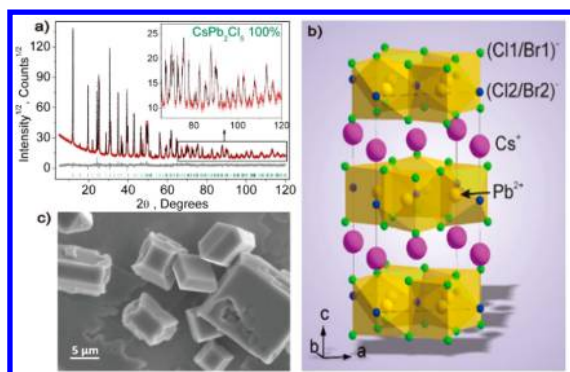
**Characterization.** Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were carried out using a D8 Advance diffractometer (Bruker, Germany) operating at 40 kV and a current of 40 mA with  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ). When the XRD patterns were measured for phase composition analysis, the scanning rate was  $4^\circ/\text{min}$ . For Rietveld analysis, the powder XRD patterns were collected using the same device, but, in this case, the  $2\theta$  step size was  $0.013^\circ$  and the counting time was as high as 1 s/step. The Rietveld refinement was performed using the package *TOPAS 4.2*.<sup>37</sup> The morphology and crystallite size of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  samples were observed with the help of scanning electron microscopy (SEM; JEOL JSM-6510). The diffuse-reflectance spectra were recorded at room temperature using a Varian Cary 5 spectrophotometer over the UV–vis–near-infrared range.

**Computational Methods.** To investigate the ground-state properties of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds, first-principle calculations were implemented using the full-potential method (*Wien2k* code<sup>38</sup>) in the GGA [Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE/GGA)] to optimize the available cell parameters and atomic positions. The Becke–Johnson potential<sup>39</sup> was applied to evaluate the ground-state properties in the relaxed structures of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds. The following parameters were used in the ab initio calculations: in the interstitial region, the basis functions were expanded up to  $\text{RMTK}_{\text{max}} = 7.0$  and inside the atomic spheres for the wave function,  $l_{\text{max}} = 10$ . The charge density was Fourier-expanded up to  $G_{\text{max}} = 12$  (atomic units,  $\text{au}^{-1}$ ). In the irreducible Brillouin zone (IBZ), the self-consistency was obtained using 1000  $k$  points. The self-consistent calculations were converged because the system total energy was stable within 0.00001 Ry. The electronic properties were calculated using 5000  $k$  points over the IBZ. The input parameters required for calculating the total and partial density of states (TDOS and PDOS) were the energy eigenvalues and eigenfunctions, which were the natural outputs of a band-structure calculation. Thus, from the band-structure calculation, the PDOS and TDOS were obtained by the modified tetrahedron method.<sup>40</sup>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Micromorphology and Structure Characterization.

The XRD pattern recorded for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  is shown in Figure 1. This complex halide crystallizes in the tetragonal structure in space group  $I4/mcm$ . The XRD patterns obtained for the Br-containing compounds with the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ) compositions are very similar to that of  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  and, respectively, the same structure type can be considered for all crystals. The crystal structures of all samples  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  were obtained by Rietveld analysis, and the related information can be found in Figure S1 and Tables S2 and S3. The main parameters of the refinements are summarized in Table 1. The updated CIFs of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ) are available through CSD. Then, it is interesting to compare the cell parameters determined for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  to the available literature data listed in Table S1. As to  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ , the cell parameters determined in the present study are considerably bigger than those reported earlier.<sup>17</sup> However, as to  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ , the parameter  $a$  refined in the present study is

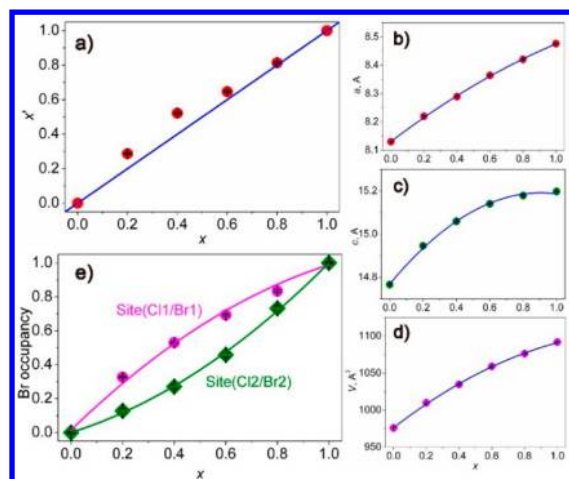


**Figure 1.** (a) Measured (black), calculated (red), and difference (gray) XRD patterns of the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  sample. (b) Crystal structure of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  halides. (c) SEM image of  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  microcrystals.

significantly lower than that obtained in ref 29. Supposedly, the cell parameters are very sensitive to the real defect structure of the crystals. Besides, it should be mentioned that the value  $a = 6.002 \text{ \AA}$  earlier obtained for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  in ref 41 is evidently wrong.

The typical  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  structure is depicted in Figure 1b. This is a 2D structure with  $\text{Cs}^+$  cations between the  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  polyhedron layers. The  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  coordination by halogen ions is not trivial. As a representative example, the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  structure can be considered by the bond-valence method.<sup>42</sup> Indeed, the bond valence sum calculated for the bond lengths  $d(\text{Pb}-\text{Cl})$  in the range of  $2.740(2)-3.222(2) \text{ \AA}$  is equal to 2.28, which is close to the 2+ formal valence state of the  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  ion. Therefore, in order to build a  $\text{PbCl}_n$  polyhedron, we should take all  $d(\text{Pb}-\text{Cl})$  bonds in the range of  $2.740(2)-3.222(2) \text{ \AA}$ , and such a construction leads to the bicapped trigonal prism  $\text{PbCl}_8$  instead of the tetrahedron  $\text{PbCl}_4$  mentioned elsewhere.<sup>28</sup> The bond valence sum for the four short  $d(\text{Pb}-\text{O})$  bond lengths gave only the value of 1.66. The  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  morphology evaluated by SEM is shown in Figure 1c. The low-resolution SEM images demonstrate the nearly uniform distribution of the particle sizes. The powder sample contains well-faceted nonagglomerated tetragonal particles with a side length of 5–10  $\mu\text{m}$  and a thickness of 2–5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Commonly, the presence of well-faceted microcrystal shapes is a robust indicator of a high structural quality of the powder samples, and this general relationship is evidently valid for the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  samples synthesized in the present study.<sup>43–45</sup>

The chemical formulas obtained from the Rietveld refinement can be written as  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_{3.57(2)}\text{Br}_{1.43(2)}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_{2.39(2)}\text{Br}_{2.61(2)}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_{1.77(2)}\text{Br}_{3.23(2)}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_{0.93(2)}\text{Br}_{4.07(2)}$ , and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ , which are close to the nominal compositions controlled by the HCl/HBr ratio in the synthesis. The refined values of the Br concentration  $x'$  per suggested nominal  $x$  values can be observed in Figure 2a. One can see that the deviation from the ideal linear function  $x' = x$



**Figure 2.** (a) Refined values  $x'$  (red circles) of the Br concentration in the samples per nominal  $x$  levels. Cell parameters (b)  $a$  and (c)  $c$  and (d) cell volume  $V$  dependent on  $x$ . (e) Occupancy values for  $\text{Br}^-$  in two anion sites in  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, \text{ and } 1$ ).

is small, and it can be concluded that the desired compounds were obtained. Moreover, the cell parameters and cell volume increases with increasing  $x$ , as can be seen in Figure 2b–d, also prove the solid solution formation because the ion radius of  $\text{Cl}^-$  is smaller than that of  $\text{Br}^-$ .

The refined values of  $\text{Br}^-$  occupancies in the two anion sites Cl1/Br1 and Cl2/Br2 are different, as shown in Figure 2e. It is evident that the Cl1 site is preferable for the  $\text{Br}^-$  ion incorporation in comparison to the Cl2 site. This effect can be explained by the bigger average bond length  $d(\text{Cl1/Br1}-\text{Pb}/\text{Cs}) = 3.32 \text{ \AA}$  than  $d(\text{Cl1/Br1}-\text{Pb}/\text{Cs}) = 3.25 \text{ \AA}$  in the initial  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  compound, and the  $\text{Br}^-$  ion prefers a bigger cage. However, because the difference between these average bond lengths is not very big,  $\text{Br}^-$  ions partly substitute  $\text{Cl}^-$  in both anion sites. To confirm the elemental uniformity of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$ , the Cs, Pb, Br, and Cl element maps for selected regions of the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{Br}_3$ , and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  samples were recorded, and the patterns are shown in Figure 3. It can be seen that the constituent element distributions are uniform over the crystal area for all three selected samples with different chemical compositions.

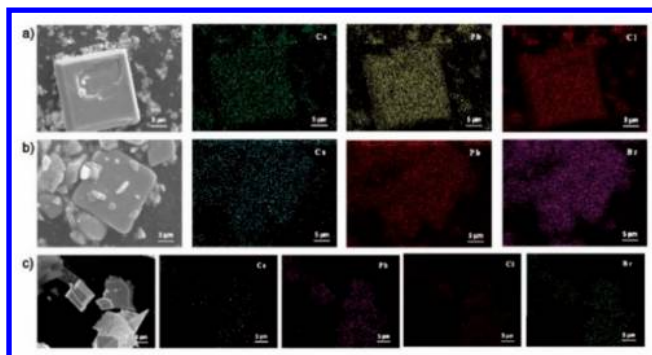
In order to investigate the optical band-gap behavior, the UV–vis diffuse-reflectance spectra of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  were determined (Figure 4a). The band gaps of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds can be estimated using the equation<sup>46</sup>

$$[F(R_\infty)h\nu]^n = A(h\nu - E_g) \quad (1)$$

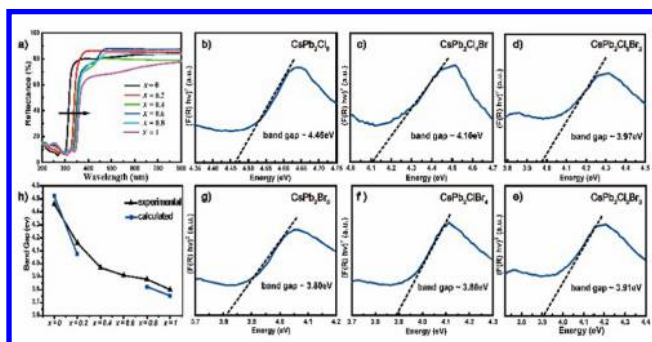
where  $h\nu$  is the photon energy,  $A$  is a constant,  $E_g$  is the band gap,  $n = 2$  for a direct transition and  $1/2$  for an indirect

**Table 1.** Main Parameters of the Processing and Refinement of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  Samples with  $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, \text{ and } 1$

$x$	$x'$ (refined Br content)	space group	cell parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ), cell volume ( $\text{\AA}^3$ )	$R_{\text{wp}}$ , $R_p$ , $R_B$ (%), $\chi^2$
0	0	$I4/mcm$	$a = 8.13020(8)$ , $c = 14.7666(2)$ , $V = 976.07(2)$	7.17, 5.47, 3.17, 1.40
0.2	0.287(5)	$I4/mcm$	$a = 8.2201(2)$ , $c = 14.9462(4)$ , $V = 1009.92(5)$	5.89, 4.61, 1.49, 1.28
0.4	0.522(5)	$I4/mcm$	$a = 8.2894(1)$ , $c = 15.0595(3)$ , $V = 1034.79(4)$	6.82, 5.21, 2.74, 1.35
0.6	0.646(6)	$I4/mcm$	$a = 8.3643(2)$ , $c = 15.1404(4)$ , $V = 1059.25(6)$	7.98, 6.13, 3.51, 1.39
0.8	0.814(6)	$I4/mcm$	$a = 8.4207(2)$ , $c = 15.1785(4)$ , $V = 1076.28(6)$	7.93, 6.14, 3.78, 1.36
1	1	$I4/mcm$	$a = 8.4765(3)$ , $c = 15.1974(6)$ , $V = 1091.95(8)$	6.10, 4.68, 3.04, 1.86



**Figure 3.** Element mapping images obtained for Cs, Pb, Cl, and Br of selected areas of the (a)  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ , (b)  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ , and (c)  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{Br}_3$  samples.



**Figure 4.** (a) Diffuse-reflectance spectra for  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  and the band-gap change map. (b–g) Tauc plots showing the characteristics of the indirect band gap of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds. (h) Experimental and calculated band-gap values of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds.

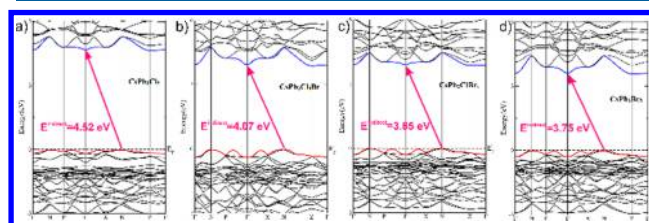
transition, and  $F(R_\infty)$  is the Kubelka–Munk function given as<sup>47</sup>

$$F(R_\infty) = (1 - R)^2 / 2R = K/S \quad (2)$$

where  $R$ ,  $K$ , and  $S$  designate the reflection, absorption, and scattering coefficients, respectively. Using the linear extrapolation of  $F(R_\infty) \times 2h\nu = 0$ , it is possible to estimate the optical band-gap value of a crystal compound. Therefore, the diffuse-reflectance and Tauc plots showing the band-gap characteristics for the solid solution  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  are shown in Figure 4a–g. In Figure 4a, the trend of the diffuse-reflectance curves for the solid solution  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  is basically the same, and the reflectivity increases with increasing wavelength until the peak is reached and it remains unchanged. As  $x$  gradually increases, the reflection curve moves toward longer wavelengths. However, the absorption onset is not quite as sharp in the diffuse-reflectance plots. We believe that this change can be attributed to the indirect optical band gap of the materials. It is mentioned in the literature that the lower-energy transition relates to excitation through the band gap, and the higher-energy features appear to be due to exciton transitions from trap states lying above the conduction-band edge.<sup>48</sup> Following this approach, to determine the band gap, we have used the lower absorbance energy onset in the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds, and the values of 4.46, 4.10, 3.97, 3.91, 3.88, and 3.80 eV were obtained for  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_3\text{Br}_2$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{Br}_3$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$ , and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$ , respectively. Thus, in the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$

compounds, the band gap drastically decreases with increasing Br/Cl ratio.

**Band-Structure Calculation.** The calculated electronic band structures of the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$ , and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  compounds are shown in Figure 5a–d. These plots



**Figure 5.** (a–d) Calculated electronic bands of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.8, \text{ and } 1$ ) at the GGA/PBE level.

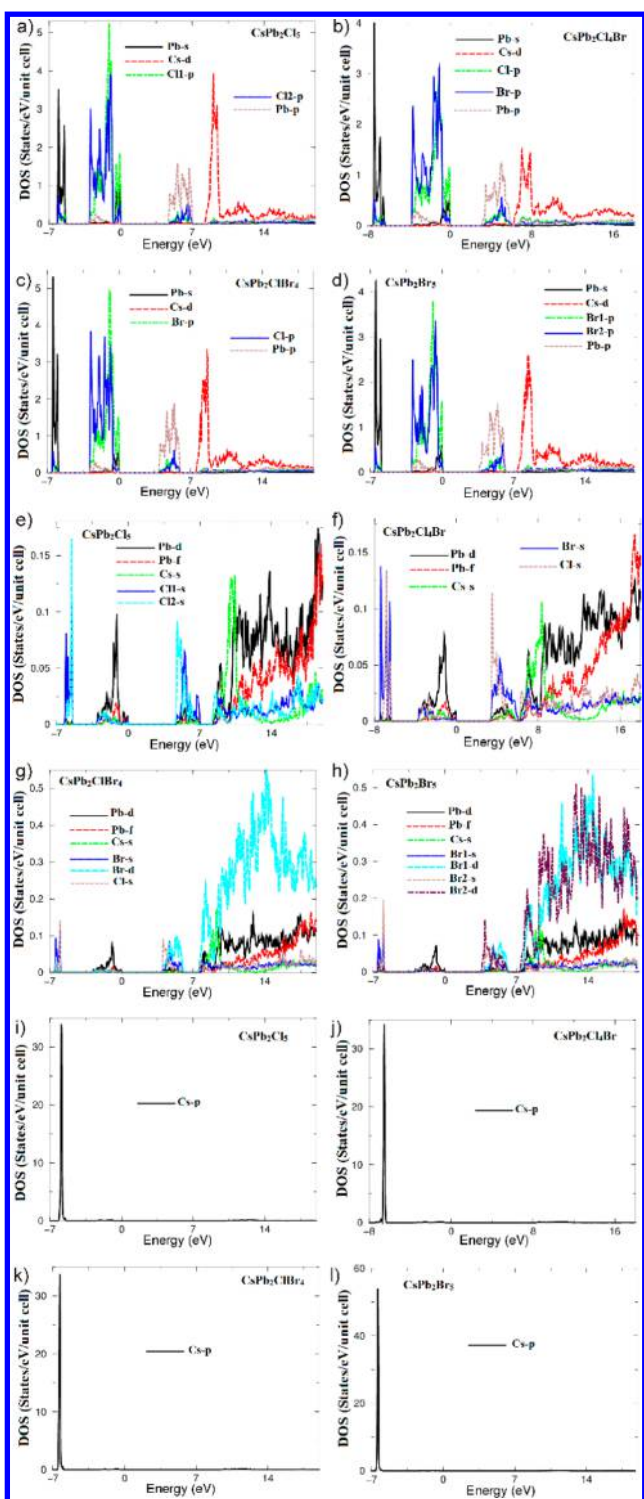
explore the influence of increasing Br content on the band dispersion. It shows that there is a significant band-gap reduction with increasing Br content. The obtained electronic band structure indicates that the investigated compounds are characterized by the indirect energy band gaps because the location of conduction-band minimum is at the  $\Gamma$  point of the Brillouin zone and the valence-band maximum (VBM) is at the N point of the Brillouin zone. We set the zero point of the energy (Fermi level, EF) at the VBM. It should be pointed out that when  $x = 0.4$  and  $0.6$ , it is difficult to accurately calculate the band gaps because of the complicated occupations of Br and Cl. The calculated band-gap values, in comparison with the experimental results, are shown in Figure 4h and Table 2. As is evident, a very good relationship between the calculated and measured values takes place.

To gain deeper insight into the electronic structure, we have calculated the PDOS for each orbital of the  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$ , and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  compounds, as shown in Figure 6a–h. The calculated DOS confirms our previous result that there is a reduction of the band gap with increasing Br content. It is clear that there is a significant influence of the Br content on the dispersion of each orbital. Also, the composition variation influences hybridization between the orbitals, as is clearly illustrated.

It is interesting to highlight that hybridization may induce the appearance of covalent bonding depending on the degree of hybridization, which is more favorable for the carrier transport than the ionic one.<sup>48</sup> We make use of the calculated PDOS to clarify the chemical-bonding character for these compounds. In the valence bands between  $-7.0$  eV and EF, we have obtained a total number of electrons per electronvolt (e/eV) for each atom orbital in  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$ , and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  as follows: Cs p orbital, 33.0, 33.0, 33.0, and 54 e/eV; Pb s orbital, 3.6, 4.0, 5.4, and 4.3 e/eV; Cl p orbital, 5.2, 3.1, and 4.0 e/eV; Pb p orbital, 1.8, 1.2, 2.0, and 1.5 e/eV; Br p orbital, 3.2, 5.0, and 4.8 e/eV; Pb d orbital, 0.1, 0.75, 0.1, and 0.09 e/eV; Cl s orbital, 0.17, 0.13, and 0.14 e/eV. Thus, following the obtained total number of electrons per electronvolt, one can conclude that some electron density from the Pb, Br, Cs, and Cl atoms is transferred into the valence band and contributes to the covalence interactions between the atoms, according to each atom contribution to the valence band. In the covalence interactions, the strength/weakness arises because of the degree of hybridization and electronegativity differences between the atoms. Respectively, the calculated DOS helps

Table 2. Experimental and calculated bandgap values of a  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  sample

	$x = 0$	$x = 0.2$	$x = 0.4$	$x = 0.6$	$x = 0.8$	$x = 1$
Experimental	4.46 eV	4.10 eV	3.97 eV	3.91 eV	3.88 eV	3.80 eV
Calculated	4.52 eV	4.07 eV			3.85 eV	3.75 eV



**Figure 6.** PDOS for each orbital of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ):  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_5$  (a, e, and i),  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Cl}_4\text{Br}$  (b, f, and j),  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{ClBr}_4$  (c, g, and k), and  $\text{CsPb}_2\text{Br}_5$  (d, h, and l) compounds.

us to analyze the nature of the bonds following the classical chemical concept.

## CONCLUSIONS

In the present study, 2D halides  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ) were prepared through the hydrothermal method. The crystal structures of Br-containing compounds were defined for the first time. The optical band gaps of the  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  compounds were studied by UV-vis spectroscopy, and it is observed that the band gap can be efficiently tuned via the chemical composition variation. The electronic band-structure calculations reveal that the investigated compounds possess indirect energy band gaps, and this is in a good agreement with the experimental observation. Furthermore, the calculated electronic band structures and DOS confirm our experimental observation that there is a band-gap reduction with increasing Br content. From the calculated PDOS, it is found that some electrons from the Pb, Br, Cs, and Cl atoms were transferred into the valence band, and they contributed to the covalence interactions between the ions. Thus, it can be concluded that the proposed algorithm of the hydrothermal synthesis is universal and it can be applied to different halide solid solutions with Cl/Br substitution, including  $\text{Rb}^+$  and  $\text{Tl}^+$  compounds. This opens a mechanism for searching new optoelectronic crystalline materials with tunable band gaps.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.inorgchem.8b01572.

Figure S1 and Tables S1–S3 (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

Further details of the crystal structures of  $\text{CsPb}_2(\text{Cl}_{1-x}\text{Br}_x)_5$  ( $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$  and  $1$ ) may be obtained from Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany [fax (+49)7247-808-666; e-mail [crystdata@fiz-karlsruhe.de](mailto:crystdata@fiz-karlsruhe.de); web page [http://www.fiz-karlsruhe.de/request\\_for\\_deposited\\_data.html](http://www.fiz-karlsruhe.de/request_for_deposited_data.html)], quoting the deposition numbers CSD 434748, 434747, 434746, 434745, 434749, and 434744, respectively.

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