All-inorganic halide-perovskite-polymer luminescent fibers for high-bitrate ultraviolet free-space optical communication

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Abstract— We demonstrate, for the first time, halide-perovskite-polymer-based luminescent fibers as a high-bitrate and near-omnidirectional photodetection platform for 375-nm ultraviolet laser-based free-space optical communication. Our demonstrations could enable future ultraviolet-to-visible optical receivers based on all-inorganic halide-perovskite nanomaterial to cater various dynamic scenarios in optical wireless communication.

Keywords—perovskite luminescent fiber, optical detectors, free-space optical communication

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the previously uncharted ultraviolet (UV)-based free space optical wireless communication, i.e., <380 nm, has received significant attention due to its higher Rayleigh scattering as compared to the visible light, that eventually leads to various demonstrations and realization of non-line-of-sight (NLOS) or diffuse-line-of sight (diffuse-LOS) modalities on both terrestrial and underwater settings [1]. While there is considerable attention on the development of UV transmitters, the receiver end suffers from various challenges in terms of the costly and time-consuming development path of large bandgap materials (i.e., III-nitride or III-oxide), and could hinder the efforts for exploring additional channel capacity beyond the visible range. Due to the high atmospheric scattering nature of the UV light, the receivers are expected to be of large field of view (i.e., omnidirectional), high modulation bandwidth, and large detection area in order to effectively capture the incoming optical signals. Luminescent fibers, utilizing the wavelength-conversion and waveguiding methods to effectively propagate the received signals, were first conceived as a high-speed optical detection platform by Peyronel et al. [2]. This method offers high optical gain that scales with the number and size of luminescent fibers, as well as eliminating the conventional tradeoff between detection area and modulation bandwidth (i.e., resistance-capacitance limit) in planar-based photodiodes, while featuring a wide field of view. While several prior works highlighted on organic dye-based luminescent fibers or concentrators, in this work, we shed light on integrating an all-inorganic-based luminescent dye using CsPbBr₃ nanocrystals with a higher conversion efficiency as compared to the organic counterparts, to form a perovskite-polymer luminescent fibers-based detection platform. Our first proof-of-concept demonstration opens up a new uncharted field of applications of halide-perovskite-based materials beyond the conventional light-emitting diodes or solar cell applications.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The schematic diagram in Fig. 1(a) illustrates the fundamental concept of luminescent fibers presented herein for high-speed optical wireless communication systems, where the luminescent dye doped within the core section of the polymer fiber emits the light signal upon an optical excitation through the cladding layer, which then propagates through total internal reflection (TIR) towards the fiber ends. The optical signals coupled out from the fibers array could be guided into a high-speed photodiode for optical-to-electrical (O-E) conversion and data demodulation. Figure 1(b) shows the transmission electron microscopy (TEM) image of the all-inorganic CsPbBr₃ nanocrystals (NCs) used in this work, where the nanocrystals are cubic shaped with an average edge length of approximately 6.4 nm, as well as the photoluminescence (PL) peak wavelength in the vicinity of ~515 nm (see the inset of Fig. 1(b)). The PL quantum yield of the sample was measured to be more than 95% and was significantly higher as compared to some other organic-based dyes, e.g. SuperYellow (60%) and Coumarin-6 (80 to 95%).

Figure 1(c) shows a photograph image of a perovskite-polymer-based luminescent fiber, having the composite of CsPbBr₃ NCs and isobornyl acrylate (IBOA) forming the core section with a refractive index (n) of 1.476, while the cladding layer consists of polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) with n of 1.436. The core layer formed by CsPbBr₃ NCs-IBOA mixture was fully cured under a 365-nm light source. As shown in Fig. 1(d), the core layer made of CsPbBr₃ NCs-IBOA with an optimized NCs concentration of 2 mg/mL is about 950 μ m in diameter. Conceived as a high-speed optical detection platform based on the proposed CsPbBr₃ NCs-polymer luminescent fiber, the radiative recombination

lifetime was also characterized to be ~ 2.96 ns, elucidating its potential as a high-speed conversion material [3]. Figure 1(e) further shows the modulation bandwidth of the perovskite-polymer luminescent fibers-based receiver measured using a 375-nm UV laser diode, where the average -3 -dB bandwidth ($f_{-3\text{dB}}$) is approximately 12.34 MHz for a 30-mm-long luminescent fiber, limited by the radiative recombination lifetime of the perovskite NCs, thereby circumventing the resistance-capacitance limit in planar detectors. The bit error ratio (BER) versus data rate plot, shown in Fig. 1(f), demonstrates that the perovskite-polymer scintillating luminescent fibers array (see inset of Fig. 1(f)) is able to support up to 20 Mbit/s, with BER below the forward-error correction (FEC) limit, based on non-return-to-zero on-off keying (NRZ-OOK) modulation scheme in a 375-nm UV-based transmission channel.

Fig. 1 (a) Schematic illustration of the concept of luminescent fibers-based optical receiver. (b) Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) image of the CsPbBr_3 nanocrystals. The inset shows the corresponding photoluminescence spectrum under 405-nm excitation. (c) Photograph image of the perovskite-polymer luminescent fibers end under UVC illumination. (d) Zoomed-in image of the perovskite-polymer luminescent fiber, where the core layer is formed by CsPbBr_3 -IBOA mixture and the cladding layer is made of PDMS. (e) Modulation bandwidth of the perovskite-polymer luminescent fiber measured across a 30-mm-long fiber. (f) Bit-error ratio versus data rate based on NRZ-OOK modulation scheme with a 375-nm laser diode as transmitter and the proposed perovskite-polymer luminescent fiber array as the receiver platform.

III. CONCLUSION

In this work, we demonstrated perovskite-polymer luminescent fibers as a high-speed optical detection platform for up to 20 Mbit/s UV-based free-space optical communication. Owing to the short transition lifetime, high photoluminescence quantum yield of the CsPbBr_3 -IBOA composite, as well as the inherent nature of luminescent fibers enabling large-area, wide-field-of-view optical detection platform, our first-of-its-kind approach based upon wavelength-tunable perovskite nanocrystals sheds light on new avenues for perovskite-based optoelectronic applications, while obviating the costly and time-consuming development path of other large bandgap compound semiconductors as a high-speed optical detection platform

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