## **Supporting Information**

# Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>(SR)<sub>9</sub>(dppf)<sub>4</sub> alloy nanocluster: Structural determination, optical property and photothermal effect investigation

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Figure S1. The optical microscopic image of the single crystals of the  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ,  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ ,  $Au_4Ag_{13}$  and  $Au_7Ag_8$  nanoclusters. (a)  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ; (b)  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ ; (c)  $Au_4Ag_{13}$ ; (d)  $Au_7Ag_8$ .



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**Figure S9.** Packing mode of the  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  in the crystal shown. (a) Along the a axis; (b) Along the b axis; (c) Along the c axis. All H atoms are omitted for clarity. The cluster molecules arranged in different directions show in different colors.



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**Figure S14.** Photoluminescence spectra of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  nanocluster in the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution at 300 K. (a) in 500-1100 nm range; (b) in 1100-2500 nm range.



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Figure S16. Temperature-dependent PL and UV-vis absorption spectra of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ,  $Au_5Ag_{11}$  and  $Au_4Ag_{13}$  nanoclusters in 2-MeTHF, and temperature-dependent PL and UV-vis absorption spectra of  $Au_7Ag_8$  nanocluster in acetone (from 300 K to 80 K, monitored per 10 K,  $\lambda_{ex} = 405$  nm). (a)  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ; (b)  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ ; (c)  $Au_4Ag_{13}$ ; (d)  $Au_7Ag_8$ .



Figure S17. Temperature-dependent PL spectra of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  nanocluster from 1100 nm to 2500 nm in 2-MeTHF from 300 K to 80 K ( $\lambda_{ex} = 405$  nm).



Figure S18. Simplified Jablonski diagram illustrating photophysical processes of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  nanocluster. PL: photoluminescence.



Figure S19. Time dependent images of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  solutions of different concentrations (0.1 mM, 0.05 mM, and 0.01 mM) upon laser irradiation, followed by a cooling period (arrows indicate the time to stop irradiation).



Figure S20. The photothermal stability of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  nanoclusters at different concentrations was monitored by UV-vis spectroscopy. (a) 0.01 mM; (b) 0.05 mM; (c) 0.1 mM.



**Figure S21.** Temperature change of blank CHCl<sub>3</sub> solvent. Laser irradiation: 808 nm, 1.4 W cm<sup>-2</sup>.



Figure S22. Absorption spectra of (a)  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ; (b)  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ ; (c)  $Au_7Ag_8$  and (d)  $Au_4Ag_{13}$  dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. Molar absorption coefficient  $\varepsilon$  is calculated by Beer's law:  $A = \varepsilon \cdot c \cdot l$  (A is absorbance, c is the concentration of the solution (0.1 M), and l is the light length, i.e., 1 cm).



Figure S23. Fluorescence decay profile of  $Au_4Ag_{13}$ ,  $Au_7Ag_8$  and  $Au_5Ag_{11}$  nanoclusters. (a)  $Au_4Ag_{13}$ ; (b)  $Au_7Ag_8$ ; (c)  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ .



**Figure S24.** The time-dependent temperature of the four AuAg alloy nanoclusters solutions (0.1 mM) during laser irradiation at 808 nm with different power (0.9, 1.4, and 2.1 W cm<sup>-2</sup>). (a) **Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>**; (b) **Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>11</sub>**; (c) **Au<sub>4</sub>Ag<sub>13</sub>**; (d) **Au<sub>7</sub>Ag<sub>8</sub>**. Solvent: CHCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S25.** The time-dependent temperature of the four AuAg alloy nanoclusters solutions (0.1 mM) during laser irradiation at 1.4 W cm<sup>-2</sup> with different wavelengths (808, 660, and 532 nm). (a) Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>; (b) Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>11</sub>; (c) Au<sub>4</sub>Ag<sub>13</sub>; (d) Au<sub>7</sub>Ag<sub>8</sub>. Solvent: CHCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S26.** (a) Photothermal cycling measurement of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  solutions (0.1 mM, red; 0.05 mM, cyan; 0.01 mM, black); (b) Corresponding UV-vis spectra of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$  (0.1 mM) after three cycles. Solvent: CHCl<sub>3</sub>. Laser irradiation: 808 nm, 1.4 W cm<sup>-2</sup>.



Figure S27. Photothermal cycling measurement and corresponding UV-vis spectra of Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>11</sub>, Au<sub>4</sub>Ag<sub>13</sub> and Au<sub>7</sub>Ag<sub>8</sub> nanoclusters in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. (a) and (b) Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>11</sub>; (c) and (d) Au<sub>4</sub>Ag<sub>13</sub>; (e) and (f) Au<sub>7</sub>Ag<sub>8</sub>.



Figure S28. Monitoring the stability of  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ,  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ ,  $Au_4Ag_{13}$  and  $Au_7Ag_8$  nanoclusters in CHCl<sub>3</sub> within 14 days. (a)  $Au_5Ag_{12}$ ; (b)  $Au_5Ag_{11}$ ; (c)  $Au_4Ag_{13}$ ; (d)  $Au_7Ag_8$ .

# Section 2. Supporting Table

Empirical formula	$C_{208}H_{139}Ag_{12}Au_{5}F_{54}Fe_{4}P_{8}S_{9}$		
Formula weight	6703.16		
Temperature/K	150(2)		
Crystal system	triclinic		
Space group	$P\overline{1}$		
a/Å	21.5917(4)		
b/Å	23.5980(5)		
c/Å	26.7319(5)		
α/°	95.805(2)		
β/°	110.205(2)		
γ/°	97.054(2)		
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	12533.9(5)		
Z	2		
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.776		
µ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	4.259		
F(000)	6400.0		
Radiation	Mo Kα ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)		
2@ range for data collection/°	3.806 to 61.744		
Index ranges	$-24 \le h \le 28, -29 \le k \le 33, -32 \le l \le 38$		
Reflections collected	141631		
Independent reflections	$60287 [R_{int} = 0.0664, R_{sigma} = 0.0999]$		
Data/restraints/parameters	60287/3346/2701		
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.093		
Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0736, wR_2 = 0.1863$		
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.1116, wR_2 = 0.2037$		
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	5.64/-3.93		

Table S1. The crystal structure parameters for Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>12</sub>(SR)<sub>9</sub>(dppf)<sub>4</sub>.

Au <sub>7</sub> Ag <sub>8</sub> , and Au <sub>5</sub> Ag <sub>11</sub> nanoclusters.					
Nanocluster	QY (%)	τ (μs)	$k_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm NR}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	
Au <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>13</sub>	0.19	0.51	3.73×10 <sup>3</sup>	1.96×10 <sup>6</sup>	
Au7Ag8	1.62	4.85	3.34×10 <sup>3</sup>	2.02×10 <sup>5</sup>	
Au <sub>5</sub> Ag <sub>11</sub>	11.98	7.38	1.62×10 <sup>4</sup>	1.19×10 <sup>5</sup>	

**Table S2.** The corresponding photoluminescence quantum yields (PLQY), fluorescence lifetimes ( $\tau$ ), radiative rate constants ( $k_R$ ) and non-radiative rate constants ( $k_{NR}$ ) of Au<sub>4</sub>Ag<sub>13</sub>, Au<sub>7</sub>Ag<sub>8</sub>, and Au<sub>5</sub>Ag<sub>11</sub> nanoclusters.