

# Supporting Information

## **Serendipitous Anion-Templated Self-assembly of a Sandwich-like Ag<sub>20</sub>S<sub>10</sub> Macrocycle-based High-nuclearity Luminescent Nanocluster**

**Kun Zhou, Xin-Long Wang, Chao Qin,\* Hai-Ning Wang, Guang-Sheng Yang, Yan-Qing Jiao, Peng Huang, Kui-Zhan Shao, Zhong-Min Su\***

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*Institute of Functional Material Chemistry, Key Lab of Polyoxometalate, Science of Ministry of Education, Faculty of Chemistry, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, 130024, Jilin, People's Republic of China. E-mail: [zmsu@nenu.edu.cn](mailto:zmsu@nenu.edu.cn); [qinc703@nenu.edu.cn](mailto:qinc703@nenu.edu.cn). Fax: +860431-85684009; Tel: +860431-85099108.*

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## 1. Synthetic procedures

**General comments:** AgS<sup>t</sup>Bu was prepared by using Et<sub>3</sub>N as organic solvent and reacted with equivalent amounts of AgNO<sub>3</sub> with HS<sup>t</sup>Bu according to the literature.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Na<sub>12</sub>[ $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>15</sub>O<sub>56</sub>]<sup>24</sup>H<sub>2</sub>O ( $\{\text{P}_2\text{W}_{15}\}$ ) was synthesized according to the literature.<sup>2</sup> Other reagents and solvents for synthesis were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification.

### {[Ag<sub>20</sub>(S<sup>t</sup>Bu)<sub>10</sub>(CF<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub>]Cl·(CF<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>7</sub>·5CH<sub>3</sub>OH} (1):

AgS<sup>t</sup>Bu (0.0598 g, 0.3035 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (20 mL) under stir at 50 °C. CF<sub>3</sub>COOH (0.1 mL) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.3 mL) were in turn added to the above solution with stir, and then Na<sub>12</sub>[ $\alpha$ -P<sub>2</sub>W<sub>15</sub>O<sub>56</sub>]<sup>24</sup>H<sub>2</sub>O ( $\{\text{P}_2\text{W}_{15}\}$ ) (0.0410 g, 0.0093 mmol) and NaCl (0.0009 g, 0.0154 mmol) were added to the mixture after several minutes. The gray-violet suspension was stirred at room temperature for 5d and then was filtered. The filtrate was evaporated slowly in air at room temperature. Complex **1** was deposited as colourless block crystals. Yield: ca. 21% (based on Ag). Elemental analysis (%) calcd for C<sub>63</sub>H<sub>110</sub>Ag<sub>20</sub>F<sub>27</sub>O<sub>23</sub>S<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>1</sub>: C, 17.75; H, 2.60; S, 7.52; Ag, 50.62. Found: C, 17.83; H, 2.51; S, 7.47; Ag, 50.58.

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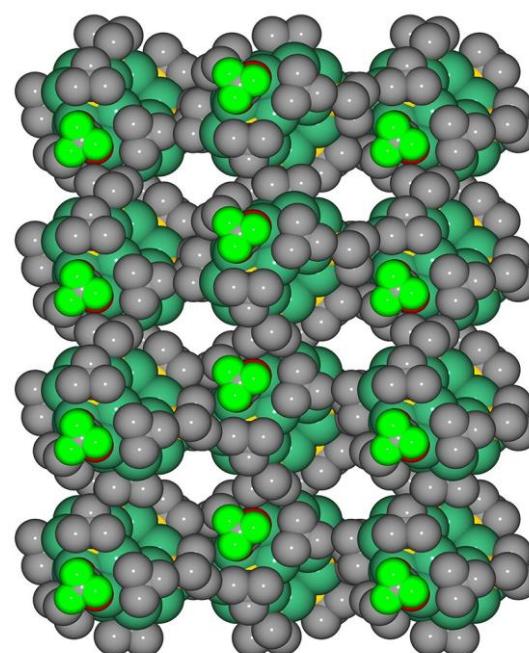
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## 2. Crystallographic studies

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for **1** was recorded on a Bruker Apex CCD II area-detector diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) at 293(2) K. Absorption corrections were applied using multi-scan technique and performed by using the SADABS program. The structure of complex **1** was solved by direct methods and refined on  $F^2$  by full-matrix least squares methods using the SHELXTL package.<sup>3</sup>

Crystal data for **1**: C<sub>63</sub>H<sub>110</sub>Ag<sub>20</sub>F<sub>27</sub>O<sub>23</sub>S<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>1</sub>; C2/c;  $a = 16.612(3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 26.014(4) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 26.372(4) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\beta = 91.580(2)^\circ$ ;  $V = 11392(3) \text{ \AA}^3$ ; Z = 4; 19314 reflns measured, 5954 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0859$ ); final  $R_1 = 0.0760$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.1900$  for 2957 observed reflections [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]. CCDC–880351 (**1**) contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif) for **1**.

<sup>15</sup> Discrete solvent molecules, such as CF<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> and CH<sub>3</sub>OH molecules in complex **1** could not been confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis, so that SQUEEZE is successfully used to identify the type and number of molecules in these large and poorly defined solvent voids by these areas of electron density. Finally, we deduce the molecular formula of complex **1** is [Ag<sub>20</sub>(S'Bu)<sub>10</sub>(CF<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub>]Cl·(CF<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>7</sub>·5CH<sub>3</sub>OH.

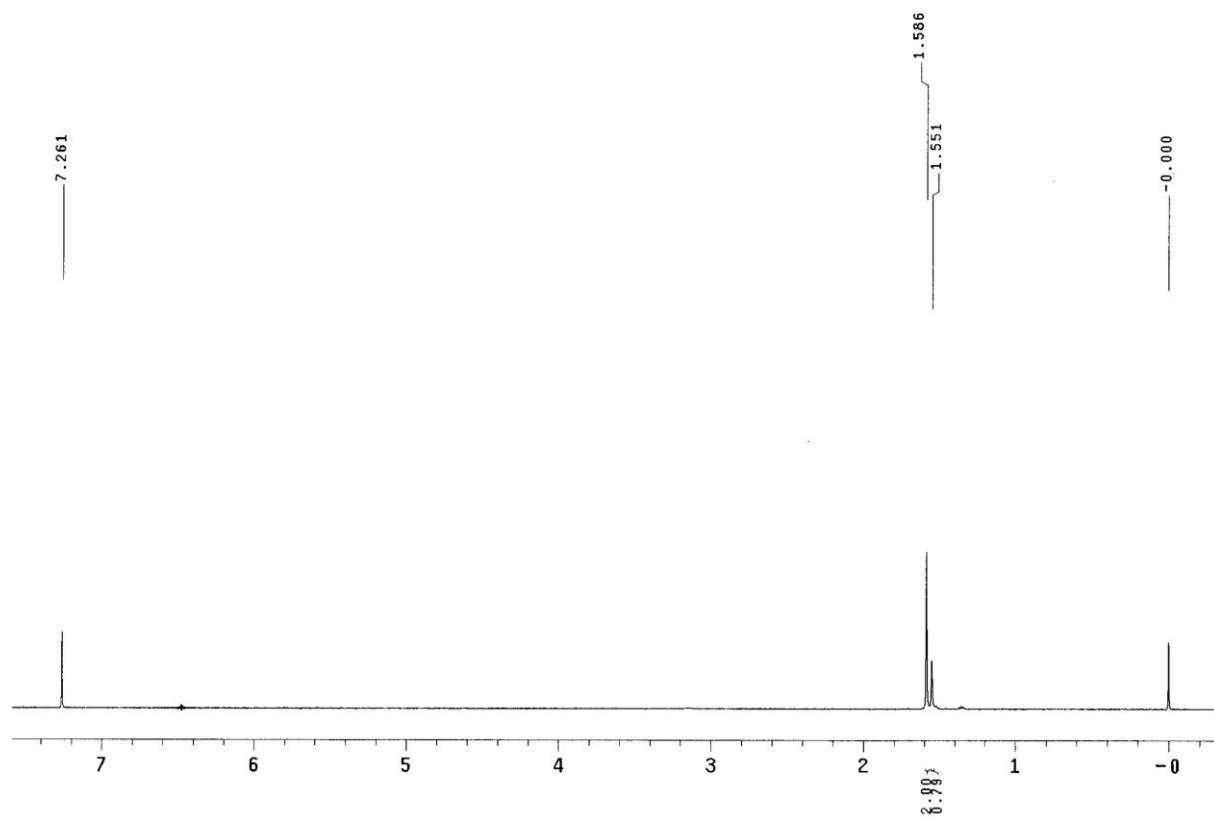


<sup>20</sup> **Fig. S1** Space-filling viewed of **1**. Hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. Color code: Ag, sea green; C, gray-50%; S, gold; O, red; F, bright green.

### 3. Physical Measurements

Luminescence was measured on an F-7000 FL Spectrophotometer. NMR data were recorded on a Bruker AV spectrometer (500 MHz). Elemental analyses (C, H, and S) were performed on an Elementar Vario EL III elemental analyzer. Ag was analyzed on a PLASMA-SPEC(I) ICP atomic emission spectrometer. The UV-vis-NIR absorption spectroscopy was measured with a U-3010 Spectrophotometer.

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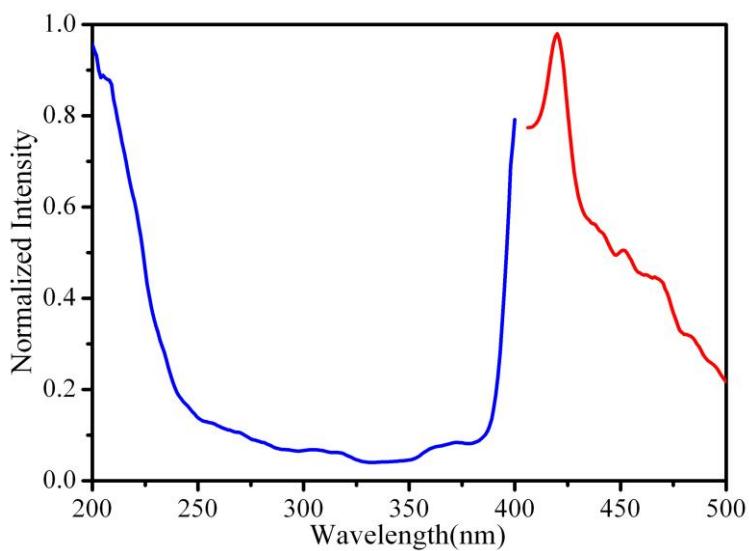


**Fig. S2** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of AgS'Bu ligand (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, RT).

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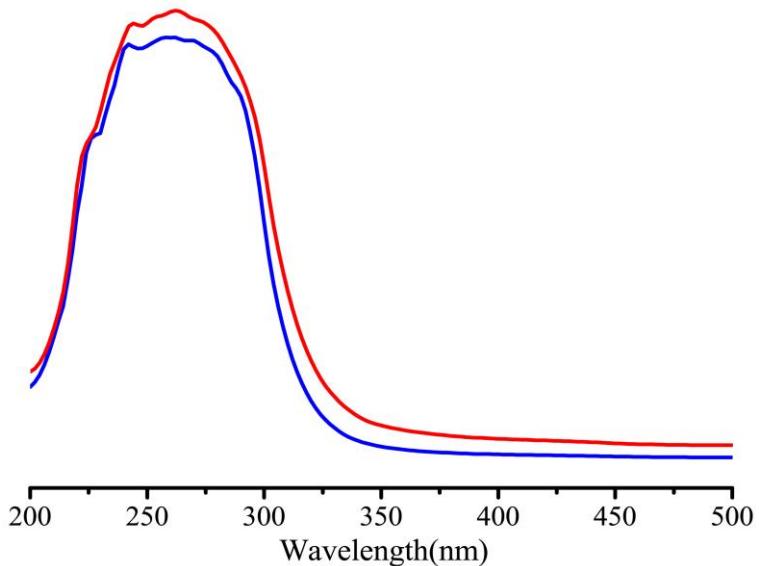
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**Fig. S3** Excitation (blue trace) and emission spectra (red trace) of  $\text{AgS}'\text{Bu}$  ligand in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  solution.

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**Fig. S4** Electronic absorption spectrum (blue trace) of **1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  solution and electronic absorption spectrum (red trace) of **1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  solution after being stored for about six months.

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**Table S1** Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and bond angles ( $^\circ$ ) for compound **1**

O(1)-Ag(1)	2.25(2)	O(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(2)	102.3(5)
O(2)-Ag(7)	2.273(19)	S(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(2)	93.04(14)
Ag(1)-S(1)	2.524(6)	S(5)#1-Ag(1)-Ag(2)	50.31(14)
Ag(1)-S(5)#1	2.538(6)	Ag(7)-Ag(1)-Ag(2)	63.02(6)
Ag(1)-Ag(7)	3.024(3)	60 O(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(4)#1	132.0(5)
Ag(1)-Ag(2)	3.132(3)	S(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(4)#1	110.32(16)
Ag(1)-Ag(4)#1	3.143(3)	S(5)#1-Ag(1)-Ag(4)#1	51.71(15)
Ag(1)-Ag(8)	3.209(3)	Ag(7)-Ag(1)-Ag(4)#1	147.77(9)
10 Ag(2)-S(2)	2.463(7)	Ag(2)-Ag(1)-Ag(4)#1	94.22(7)
Ag(2)-S(5)#1	2.469(6)	O(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(8)	159.2(5)
Ag(2)-Ag(7)	3.219(3)	S(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(8)	48.26(15)
Ag(2)-Ag(5)#1	3.248(3)	S(5)#1-Ag(1)-Ag(8)	91.46(15)
Ag(2)-Ag(3)	3.344(3)	Ag(7)-Ag(1)-Ag(8)	93.06(8)
15 Ag(3)-S(2)	2.473(6)	Ag(2)-Ag(1)-Ag(8)	89.65(7)
Ag(3)-S(4)	2.503(7)	Ag(4)#1-Ag(1)-Ag(8)	62.59(7)
Ag(3)-Ag(9)	3.135(5)	S(2)-Ag(2)-S(5)#1	157.8(2)
Ag(3)-Ag(10)	3.182(4)	S(2)-Ag(2)-Ag(1)	107.01(16)
Ag(4)-S(5)	2.537(7)	S(5)#1-Ag(2)-Ag(1)	52.28(14)
20 Ag(4)-S(4)	2.541(8)	S(2)-Ag(2)-Ag(7)	50.27(15)
Ag(4)-Ag(9)	3.052(3)	S(5)#1-Ag(2)-Ag(7)	108.93(15)
Ag(4)-Ag(1)#1	3.143(3)	Ag(1)-Ag(2)-Ag(7)	56.85(6)
Ag(4)-Ag(8)#1	3.300(4)	S(2)-Ag(2)-Ag(5)#1	152.04(16)
Ag(5)-S(5)	2.442(6)	S(5)#1-Ag(2)-Ag(5)#1	48.24(14)
25 Ag(5)-S(3)	2.465(7)	Ag(1)-Ag(2)-Ag(5)#1	91.36(8)
Ag(5)-Ag(9)	3.122(5)	Ag(7)-Ag(2)-Ag(5)#1	140.60(10)
Ag(5)-Ag(2)#1	3.248(3)	S(2)-Ag(2)-Ag(3)	47.48(14)
Ag(5)-Ag(6)	3.340(3)	S(5)#1-Ag(2)-Ag(3)	152.65(17)
Ag(6)-S(3)	2.419(7)	Ag(1)-Ag(2)-Ag(3)	137.98(9)
30 Ag(6)-S(1)	2.440(6)	Ag(7)-Ag(2)-Ag(3)	88.97(8)
Ag(6)-Ag(10)	3.214(4)	85 Ag(5)#1-Ag(2)-Ag(3)	104.98(8)
Ag(6)-Ag(8)	3.277(3)	S(2)-Ag(3)-S(4)	155.1(3)
Ag(6)-Ag(7)	3.285(4)	S(2)-Ag(3)-Ag(9)	107.2(2)
Ag(7)-S(2)	2.508(6)	S(4)-Ag(3)-Ag(9)	50.2(2)
35 Ag(7)-S(1)	2.520(7)	S(2)-Ag(3)-Ag(10)	49.88(18)
Ag(7)-Ag(10)	3.149(3)	S(4)-Ag(3)-Ag(10)	106.9(2)
Ag(8)-S(4)#1	2.425(8)	Ag(9)-Ag(3)-Ag(10)	57.35(8)
Ag(8)-S(1)	2.425(6)	S(2)-Ag(3)-Ag(2)	47.23(15)
40 Ag(8)-Ag(4)#1	3.300(4)	S(4)-Ag(3)-Ag(2)	154.81(18)
Ag(9)-S(4)	2.458(9)	Ag(9)-Ag(3)-Ag(2)	135.32(10)
Ag(9)-S(3)	2.484(8)	Ag(10)-Ag(3)-Ag(2)	87.50(7)
45 Ag(9)-Ag(10)	3.032(3)	S(5)-Ag(4)-S(4)	121.6(2)
Ag(10)-S(2)	2.470(8)	S(5)-Ag(4)-Ag(9)	102.17(16)
Ag(10)-S(3)	2.520(9)	S(4)-Ag(4)-Ag(9)	51.16(19)
50 S(4)-Ag(8)#1	2.425(8)	S(5)-Ag(4)-Ag(1)#1	51.76(14)
S(5)-Ag(2)#1	2.469(6)	S(4)-Ag(4)-Ag(1)#1	106.54(19)
S(5)-Ag(1)#1	2.538(6)	Ag(9)-Ag(4)-Ag(1)#1	134.66(9)
C(21)-O(1)-Ag(1)	128.3(16)	S(5)-Ag(4)-Ag(8)#1	89.41(14)
C(21)-O(2)-Ag(7)	121.0(13)	S(4)-Ag(4)-Ag(8)#1	46.87(18)
O(1)-Ag(1)-S(1)	113.3(5)	Ag(9)-Ag(4)-Ag(8)#1	87.79(10)
55 O(1)-Ag(1)-S(5)#1	109.3(5)	Ag(1)#1-Ag(4)-Ag(8)#1	59.68(7)
S(1)-Ag(1)-S(5)#1	128.72(19)	S(5)-Ag(5)-S(3)	151.1(3)
O(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(7)	77.8(5)	S(5)-Ag(5)-Ag(9)	102.49(18)
S(1)-Ag(1)-Ag(7)	53.11(15)	S(3)-Ag(5)-Ag(9)	51.2(2)
S(5)#1-Ag(1)-Ag(7)	113.11(15)	S(5)-Ag(5)-Ag(2)#1	48.96(15)

	S(3)-Ag(5)-Ag(2)#1	156.24(17)		S(3)-Ag(9)-Ag(4)	117.6(2)
	Ag(9)-Ag(5)-Ag(2)#1	132.98(10)		Ag(10)-Ag(9)-Ag(4)	153.95(11)
5	S(5)-Ag(5)-Ag(6)	158.71(16)		S(4)-Ag(9)-Ag(5)	97.58(18)
	S(3)-Ag(5)-Ag(6)	46.26(16)	60	S(3)-Ag(9)-Ag(5)	50.62(19)
	Ag(9)-Ag(5)-Ag(6)	86.45(9)		Ag(10)-Ag(9)-Ag(5)	95.34(10)
10	Ag(2)#1-Ag(5)-Ag(6)	111.19(9)		Ag(4)-Ag(9)-Ag(5)	67.76(9)
	S(3)-Ag(6)-S(1)	155.8(3)		S(4)-Ag(9)-Ag(3)	51.45(18)
	S(3)-Ag(6)-Ag(10)	50.8(2)		S(3)-Ag(9)-Ag(3)	95.52(16)
15	S(1)-Ag(6)-Ag(10)	107.37(19)	65	Ag(10)-Ag(9)-Ag(3)	62.11(9)
	S(3)-Ag(6)-Ag(8)	154.51(18)		Ag(4)-Ag(9)-Ag(3)	98.21(10)
	S(1)-Ag(6)-Ag(8)	47.48(15)		Ag(5)-Ag(9)-Ag(3)	94.21(9)
20	Ag(10)-Ag(6)-Ag(8)	136.70(11)		S(2)-Ag(10)-S(3)	128.9(2)
	S(3)-Ag(6)-Ag(7)	108.4(2)		S(2)-Ag(10)-Ag(9)	110.48(17)
	S(1)-Ag(6)-Ag(7)	49.57(16)	70	S(3)-Ag(10)-Ag(9)	52.17(18)
25	Ag(10)-Ag(6)-Ag(7)	57.95(8)		S(2)-Ag(10)-Ag(7)	51.30(14)
	Ag(8)-Ag(6)-Ag(7)	87.19(8)		S(3)-Ag(10)-Ag(7)	109.81(19)
	S(3)-Ag(6)-Ag(5)	47.43(17)		Ag(9)-Ag(10)-Ag(7)	142.79(10)
30	S(1)-Ag(6)-Ag(5)	154.69(18)		S(2)-Ag(10)-Ag(3)	49.97(15)
	Ag(10)-Ag(6)-Ag(5)	87.90(9)	75	S(3)-Ag(10)-Ag(3)	93.64(15)
	Ag(8)-Ag(6)-Ag(5)	107.74(10)		Ag(9)-Ag(10)-Ag(3)	60.55(9)
35	Ag(7)-Ag(6)-Ag(5)	138.67(11)		Ag(7)-Ag(10)-Ag(3)	93.18(8)
	O(2)-Ag(7)-S(2)	112.1(5)		S(2)-Ag(10)-Ag(6)	92.03(16)
	O(2)-Ag(7)-S(1)	113.9(5)		S(3)-Ag(10)-Ag(6)	48.03(17)
40	S(2)-Ag(7)-S(1)	125.5(2)	80	Ag(9)-Ag(10)-Ag(6)	90.27(10)
	O(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(1)	81.1(5)		Ag(7)-Ag(10)-Ag(6)	62.16(8)
	S(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(1)	109.07(17)		Ag(3)-Ag(10)-Ag(6)	90.41(8)
45	S(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(1)	53.22(15)		C(1)-S(1)-Ag(8)	115.2(6)
	O(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(10)	135.1(5)		C(1)-S(1)-Ag(6)	114.8(6)
	S(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(10)	50.22(17)	85	Ag(8)-S(1)-Ag(6)	84.7(2)
50	S(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(10)	107.22(16)		C(1)-S(1)-Ag(7)	111.7(6)
	Ag(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(10)	140.64(9)		Ag(8)-S(1)-Ag(7)	132.4(2)
	O(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(2)	105.6(4)		Ag(6)-S(1)-Ag(7)	83.0(2)
55	S(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(2)	49.05(15)		C(1)-S(1)-Ag(1)	113.6(6)
	S(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(2)	91.07(15)	90	Ag(8)-S(1)-Ag(1)	80.8(2)
	Ag(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(2)	60.13(6)		Ag(6)-S(1)-Ag(1)	131.1(2)
	Ag(10)-Ag(7)-Ag(2)	90.31(7)		Ag(7)-S(1)-Ag(1)	73.67(18)
	O(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(6)	158.2(5)		C(5)-S(2)-Ag(2)	113.4(6)
	S(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(6)	89.69(16)		C(5)-S(2)-Ag(10)	113.8(6)
60	S(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(6)	47.47(14)	95	Ag(2)-S(2)-Ag(10)	132.5(3)
	Ag(1)-Ag(7)-Ag(6)	91.39(8)		C(5)-S(2)-Ag(3)	114.6(6)
	Ag(10)-Ag(7)-Ag(6)	59.89(8)		Ag(2)-S(2)-Ag(3)	85.3(2)
	Ag(2)-Ag(7)-Ag(6)	87.86(7)		Ag(10)-S(2)-Ag(3)	80.1(2)
65	S(4)#1-Ag(8)-S(1)	156.7(3)		C(5)-S(2)-Ag(7)	110.3(6)
	S(4)#1-Ag(8)-Ag(1)	107.6(2)	100	Ag(2)-S(2)-Ag(7)	80.68(18)
	S(1)-Ag(8)-Ag(1)	50.93(16)		Ag(10)-S(2)-Ag(7)	78.5(2)
	S(4)#1-Ag(8)-Ag(6)	152.92(18)		Ag(3)-S(2)-Ag(7)	134.8(3)
70	S(1)-Ag(8)-Ag(6)	47.85(15)		C(9)-S(3)-Ag(6)	111.6(5)
	Ag(1)-Ag(8)-Ag(6)	88.33(8)		C(9)-S(3)-Ag(5)	112.7(5)
	S(4)#1-Ag(8)-Ag(4)#1	49.9(2)	105	Ag(6)-S(3)-Ag(5)	86.3(2)
	S(1)-Ag(8)-Ag(4)#1	108.14(18)		C(9)-S(3)-Ag(9)	119.1(5)
75	Ag(1)-Ag(8)-Ag(4)#1	57.73(7)		Ag(6)-S(3)-Ag(9)	129.2(3)
	Ag(6)-Ag(8)-Ag(4)#1	139.46(10)		Ag(5)-S(3)-Ag(9)	78.2(2)
	S(4)-Ag(9)-S(3)	135.6(2)		C(9)-S(3)-Ag(10)	115.3(5)
80	S(4)-Ag(9)-Ag(10)	112.9(2)	110	Ag(6)-S(3)-Ag(10)	81.2(2)
	S(3)-Ag(9)-Ag(10)	53.26(19)		Ag(5)-S(3)-Ag(10)	131.7(3)
	S(4)-Ag(9)-Ag(4)	53.63(19)		Ag(9)-S(3)-Ag(10)	74.6(3)

C(13)-S(4)-Ag(8)#1	109.1(6)	C(17)-S(5)-Ag(5)	111.4(6)
C(13)-S(4)-Ag(9)	121.9(6)	C(17)-S(5)-Ag(2)#1	115.1(6)
Ag(8)#1-S(4)-Ag(9)	129.0(3)	Ag(5)-S(5)-Ag(2)#1	82.80(19)
C(13)-S(4)-Ag(3)	110.7(6)	C(17)-S(5)-Ag(4)	111.0(6)
5 Ag(8)#1-S(4)-Ag(3)	86.8(2)	Ag(5)-S(5)-Ag(4)	87.5(2)
Ag(9)-S(4)-Ag(3)	78.4(2)	Ag(2)#1-S(5)-Ag(4)	133.4(2)
C(13)-S(4)-Ag(4)	113.1(6)	C(17)-S(5)-Ag(1)#1	115.8(6)
Ag(8)#1-S(4)-Ag(4)	83.2(2)	Ag(5)-S(5)-Ag(1)#1	132.9(2)
Ag(9)-S(4)-Ag(4)	75.2(3)	Ag(2)#1-S(5)-Ag(1)#1	77.41(17)
10 Ag(3)-S(4)-Ag(4)	136.0(3)	Ag(4)-S(5)-Ag(1)#1	76.53(18)
Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 -x+3/2,-y+1/2,-z+1			

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