**Supporting Information Available**: Four additional figures are individually listed for the reference of scalar-relativistic and correlation effects. Figure 1 (non-relativistic B3PW) and Figure 2 (scalar-relativistic HF) are densities of optical transitions for the total and individual units within  $BiB_3O_6$  and illustrate the optical transition of 6s-6p within single Bi cations. Figure 3 (non-relativistic B3PW) and Figure 4 (scalar-relativistic HF) are crystal orbital overlap populations for Bi 6s-O 2p, Bi 6p-O 2p and B-O bonds.



**Figure 1** The density of optical absorptions for the total  $BiB_3O_6$  (solid line),  $[BiO_4]^{5-}$  (dash line),  $[BO_3]^{3-}$  (dot line) and  $[BO_4]^{5-}$  (dash-dot line) at non-relativistic B3PW level.



**Figure 2** The density of optical absorptions for the total  $BiB_3O_6$  (solid line),  $[BiO_4]^{5-}$  (dash line),  $[BO_3]^{3-}$  (dot line) and  $[BO_4]^{5-}$  (dash-dot line) at scalar-relativistic HF level.



**Figure 3** Crystal orbital overlap population (COOP) plots for the interactions of Bi-O in  $[BiO_4]^{5-}$  units (top), B-O in  $[BO_3]^{3-}$  (middle) and  $[BO_4]^{5-}$  (bottom) for the non-relativistic B3PW calculation.



**Figure 4** Crystal orbital overlap population (COOP) plots for the interactions of Bi-O in  $[BiO_4]^{5-}$  units (top), B-O in  $[BO_3]^{3-}$  (middle) and  $[BO_4]^{5-}$  (bottom) for the scalar-relativistic HF calculation.