

Highly stable green and red up-conversion of $\text{LiYF}_4:\text{Yb}^{3+},\text{Ho}^{3+}$ for potential application in fluorescent labeling.

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The development of novel phosphors with stable and efficient green and red up-conversion (UC) emission is important for many applications such as fluorescent labeling, color display and anticounterfeiting. In this work, we report a stable and efficient green and red up-converter of $\text{LiYF}_4:\text{Yb}^{3+},\text{Ho}^{3+}$ octahedrons obtained by modified hydrothermal method. The UC emission and luminescence decays of $\text{LiYF}_4:\text{Yb}^{3+},\text{Ho}^{3+}$ with various Yb^{3+} and Ho^{3+} ion concentrations were studied systematically under 976 nm LD excitation. The Yb^{3+} and Ho^{3+} ion concentrations were optimized to be 20 mol% and 1 mol% respectively, for efficient green and red UC emissions. $\text{LiYF}_4:\text{Yb}^{3+},\text{Ho}^{3+}$ presents not only controlled morphology of monodisperse octahedrons with length of $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$ and width of $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$, but also performs efficient green and red UC emissions, which is about four times stronger than that of $\beta\text{-NaGdF}_4: 20 \text{Yb}^{3+}, 0.5\text{Ho}^{3+}$ ($\text{NaGdF}_4: 20 \text{Yb}^{3+}, 0.5\text{Ho}^{3+}$). More importantly, the stable UC emission with variation of green intensity ratio $\Delta G\%$ ($G\% = I_{520-570\text{nm}}/I_{500-700\text{nm}}$, $\Delta G\% = (G\%)_{\text{max}} - (G\%)_{\text{min}}$) and red intensity ratio $\Delta R\%$ ($R\% = I_{625-685\text{nm}}/I_{500-700\text{nm}}$, $\Delta R\% = (R\%)_{\text{max}} - (R\%)_{\text{min}}$) $< 1\%$ was found over 976 nm LD excitation power density (PD) ranging from 1.0 to 5.6 W/cm^2 . Whereas, their variations of $\sim 6\%$ and 25% are observed at the same excitation PD for $\text{NaGdF}_4: 20 \text{Yb}^{3+}, 0.5\text{Ho}^{3+}$ and commercial $\beta\text{-NaYF}_4: 20 \text{Yb}^{3+}, 2\text{Er}^{3+}$ ($\text{NaYF}_4: 20 \text{Yb}^{3+}, 2\text{Er}^{3+}$), respectively. The mechanism of green and red UC emissions in $\text{LiYF}_4:\text{Yb}^{3+},\text{Ho}^{3+}$ as a consequence of energy transfer processes has been briefly discussed taking into account the UC emission kinetics. The highly stable intensity ratio of G% and R% combined with the efficient green UC color hints the potential application of $\text{LiYF}_4:\text{Yb}^{3+},\text{Ho}^{3+}$ in fluorescent labeling and color display.

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