

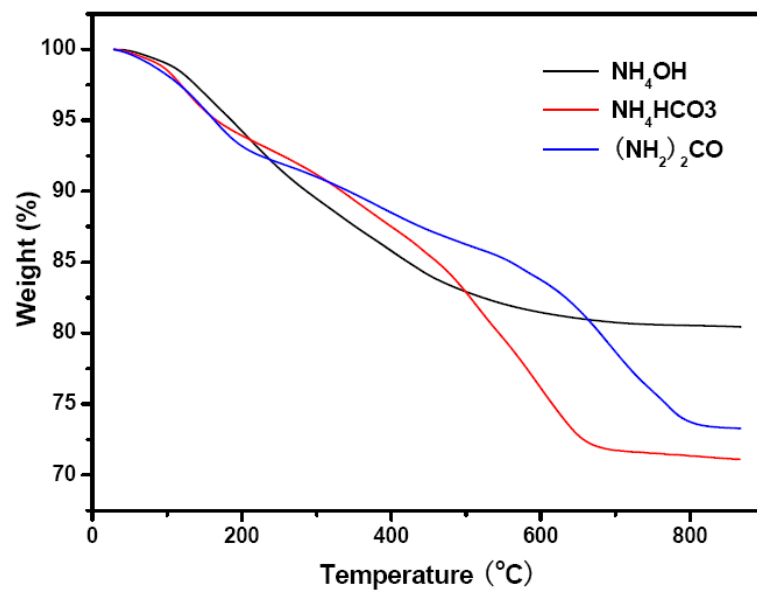
Supporting Information

**Controllable Synthesis and Size-dependent  
Upconversion Luminescence Properties of  
 $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}/\text{Er}^{3+}$  Nanospheres**

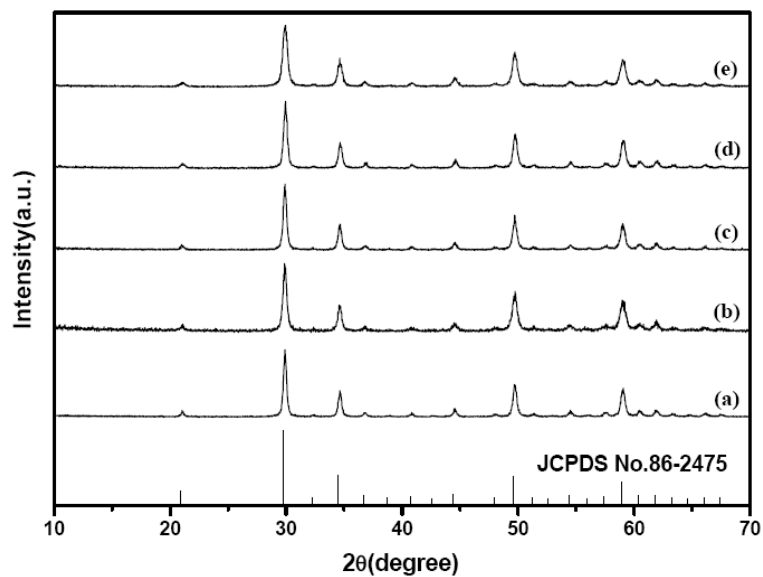
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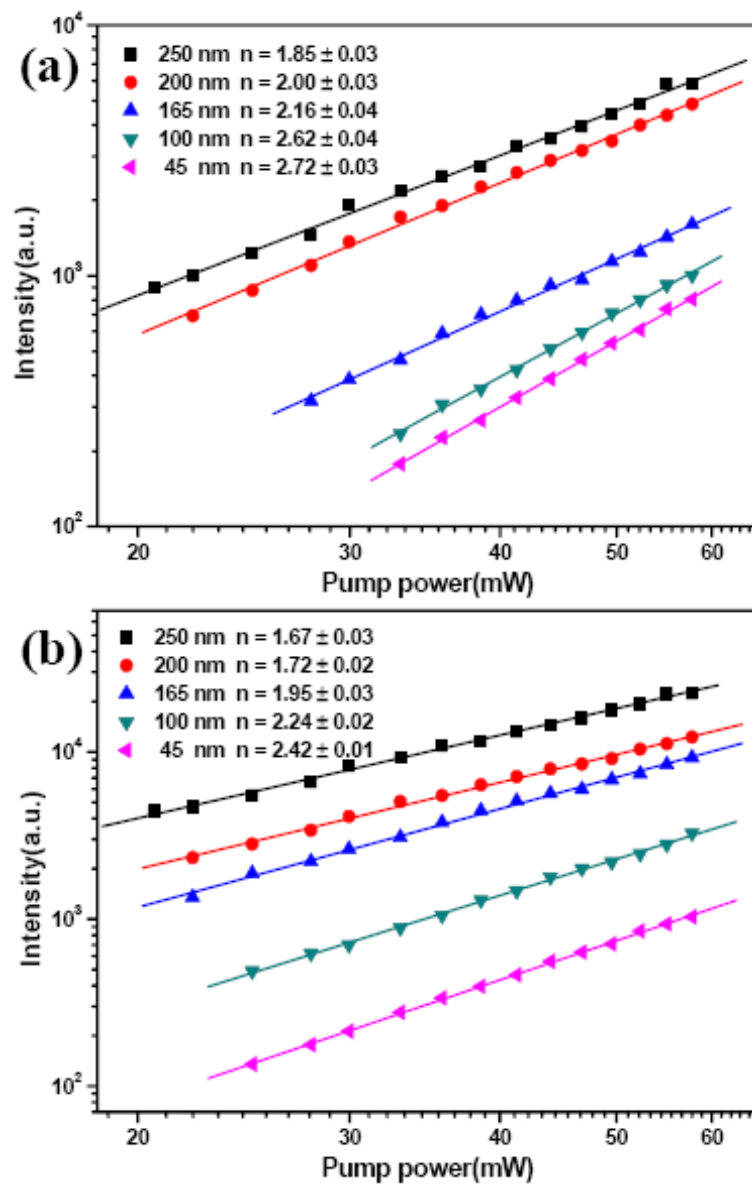
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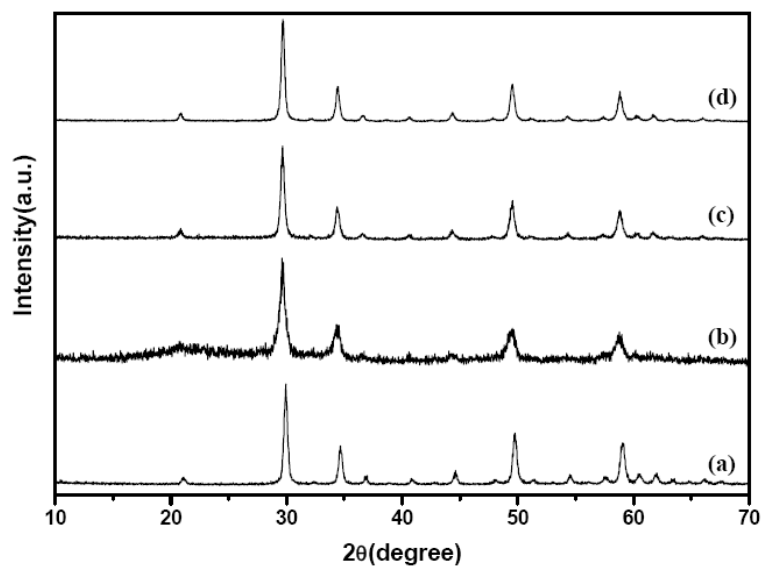
**Fig. S1.** TGA curves of the precursor samples synthesis with  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$ , and  $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$  precipitants.



**Fig. S2.** XRD patterns of  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}/\text{Er}^{3+}$  nanocrystals prepared by using different molar ratios of  $\text{RE}^{3+}/(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$ .  $[\text{RE}^{3+}]/\text{urea} = 2.5 \times 10^{-2}$  (a);  $1.25 \times 10^{-2}$  (b);  $9 \times 10^{-3}$  (c);  $3 \times 10^{-3}$  (d);  $7.5 \times 10^{-4}$  (e). The standard data for cubic  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3$  (JCPDS No.86-2475) is also presented in the figure for comparison.



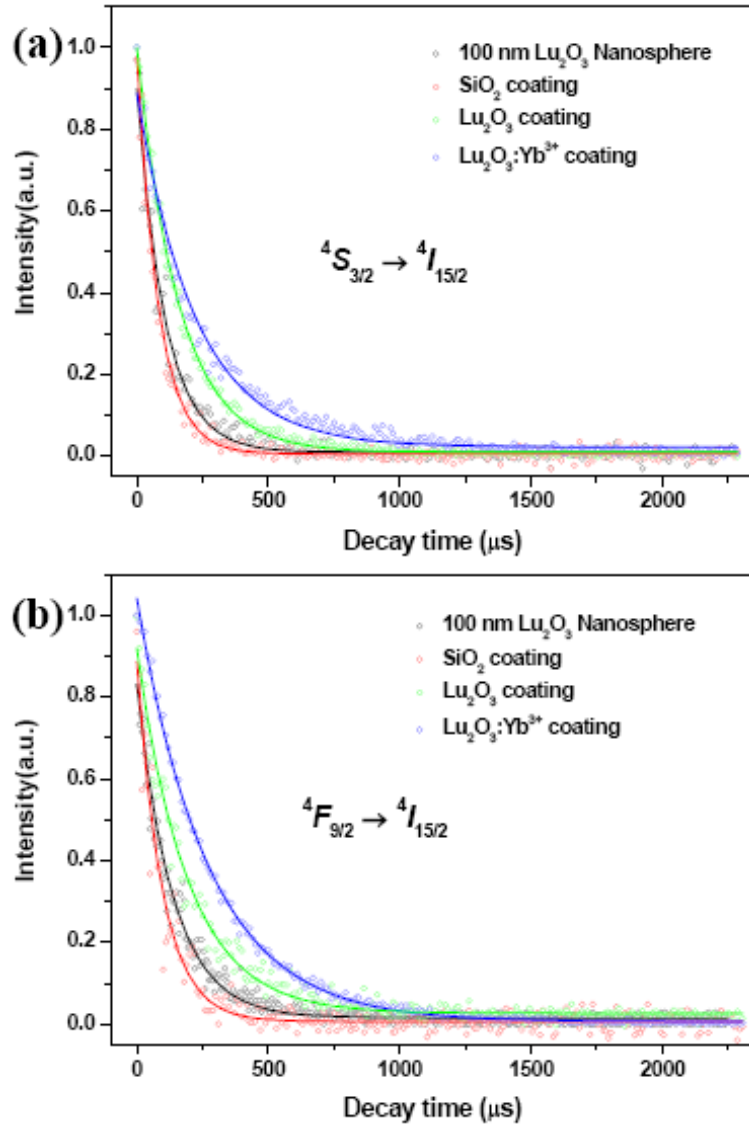
**Fig. S3.** Power dependence of UCL intensities of  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}/\text{Er}^{3+}$  nanocrystals with different sizes. (a) green UCL; (b) red UCL.



**Fig. S4.** XRD patterns of  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}/\text{Er}^{3+}$  nanospheres with different surface coating.

(a) pure  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}/\text{Er}^{3+}$  nanocrystals; (b) coating with  $\text{SiO}_2$  shell; (c) coating with

$\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3$  shell; (d) coating with  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}$  shell.



**Fig. S5.** Luminescence decay curves of  $\text{Er}^{3+}$  in  $\text{Lu}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Yb}^{3+}/\text{Er}^{3+}$  nanocrystals with different surface coating. Open circles: experimental data; solid lines: fitting results by  $I(t) = I_0 \exp(-t/\tau)$ . (a)  ${}^4S_{3/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{15/2}$  transition; (b)  ${}^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^4I_{15/2}$  transition.