## KYb<sub>2</sub>F<sub>7</sub>:Er<sup>3+</sup> based nanothermometers: Controlled synthesis, enhanced red emission, and improved sensitivities via crystal-site engineering

Shaoshan Su<sup>a</sup>, Wei Song<sup>b</sup>, Hongli Wen<sup>a,c,e,\*</sup>, Zhurong Mo<sup>a</sup>, Tonghua Wan<sup>a</sup>, Lin Yu<sup>a,c,e</sup>, Weiren Zhao<sup>d</sup>, Deshmukh Abdul Hakeem<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Key Laboratory of Clean Chemistry Technology of Guangdong Regular Higher Education Institutions, Guangdong Engineering Technology Research Center of Modern Fine Chemical Engineering, School of Chemical Engineering and Light Industry, Guangdong University of Technology, Guangzhou 510006, China

<sup>b</sup>Analysis and Test Center, Guangdong University of Technology, Guangzhou 510006, China

<sup>c</sup>Smart Medical Innovation Technology Center, Guangdong University of Technology, 510006 Guangzhou, China

<sup>d</sup>School of Physics and Optoelectronic Engineering, Guangdong University of Technology, Guangzhou 510006, China

<sup>e</sup>Jieyang Branch of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Rongjiang Laboratory), Jieyang 515200, China

\*Corresponding author:

E-mail addresses: hongliwen@gdut.edu.cn (H. Wen); abdulhakeem.desh@gdut.edu.cn (D. A. Hakeem)

## **Supporting information**



Fig. S1. TEM images of the KYb<sub>1.8</sub>Ge<sub>0.15</sub> $F_7$ :Er<sup>3+</sup> (2 mol%) nanocrystals prepared with different KF dose at (a) 7, (b) 7.5, (c) 8, (d) 8.5, and (e) 9 mmol, respectively. The scale bar is 100 nm.



Fig. S2. Log-Log plot of UC green and red emission of the KYb<sub>1.8</sub>M<sub>x</sub>F<sub>7</sub>:Er<sup>3+</sup> (2 mol%) (M = (a) Ca<sup>2+</sup>, (b) Ti<sup>4+</sup>, (c) Si<sup>4+</sup>, (d) Ge<sup>4+</sup>, (e) Y<sup>3+</sup>, and (f) Nd<sup>3+</sup>) nanocrystals under the 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S3. (a) Pump-power dependent UC emission spectra from  $Er^{3+}$  emission at 520, 543, and 655 nm of KYb<sub>2</sub>F<sub>7</sub>: $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) and log-log plot of green and red emission of the KYb<sub>2</sub>F<sub>7</sub>: $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) (inset in a) and KYb<sub>1.8</sub>M<sub>x</sub>F<sub>7</sub>: $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) (M = (b) Ca<sup>2+</sup>, (c) Ti<sup>4+</sup>, (d) Si<sup>4+</sup>, (e) Ge<sup>4+</sup>, and (f) Y<sup>3+</sup> nanocrystals under the 1550 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S4. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_2F_7$ :  $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) nanocrystals with 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S5. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_{1.8}Ca_{0.3}F_7$ :  $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) nanocrystals with 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S6. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_{1.8}Ti_{0.15}F_7$ :  $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) nanocrystals with 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S7. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_{1.8}Si_{0.15}F_7$ :  $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) nanocrystals with 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S8. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_{1.8}Ge_{0.15}F_7:Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) nanocrystals with 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S9. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_{1.8}Y_{0.2}F_7$ :  $Er^{3+}$  (2 mol%) nanocrystals with 980 nm laser excitation.



Fig. S10. 77-513 K temperature dependent UC emission spectra of the  $KYb_{1.8}Nd_{0.2}F_7$ :Er<sup>3+</sup> (2 mol%) with 980 nm laser excitation.