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## **Supporting Information**

LiYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup> Upconverting Submicro-Particles: Synthesis and Formation Mechanism Exploration

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**Figure S1.** (a) SEM images of LiYF<sub>4</sub>: 20 mol% Yb, 2 mol% Er micro-octahedrons and (b) XRD patterns of LiYF<sub>4</sub> micro-octahedrons and r-GO/LiYF<sub>4</sub> submicro-crystals obtained before and after annealing for 2 h at 500 °C. The standard peaks in the pure tetragonal LiYF<sub>4</sub> (JCPDS file number 17-0874) are used as a reference.



Figure S2. TG-DSC curves of LiYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup>/r-GO submicro-composites.



Figure S3. FTIR spectra of tetragonal LiYF<sub>4</sub>:20 mol% Yb, 2 mol% Er microoctahedrons (a) and r-GO/LiYF<sub>4</sub> submicro-crystals with (c) and without (b) annealing at 500 °C for 2 h.



**Figure S4.** Upconverting emission spectra of LiYF<sub>4</sub>: 20 mol% Yb, 2 mol% Er microoctahedrons with and without sintering at 500 °C for 2 h. The wavelength of excitation is 977 nm.