## On the decay time of upconversion luminescence

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Figure S1 UCL decay profiles under short-pulse upconversion excitation with different  $\tau_2/\tau_3$ , given that (a)  $\tau_5 = 100 \ \mu s$ , (b)  $\tau_5 = 200 \ \mu s$ , (c)  $\tau_5 = 1000 \ \mu s$ , and (d)  $\tau_5 = 2000 \ \mu s$ 

Table S1 Summary of constant parameters used in the simulations studying the effect of the

## doping levels of activator ions

$\sigma$ (cm <sup>2</sup> )	$n_{S(\text{cm}^{-3})}$	$\tau_2 (ms)$	$\tau_{3}$ (ms)	$\tau_{5}$ (ms)	$W_{1} (cm^{3} s^{-1})$	$W_{2} (cm^{3} s^{-1})$
1.5×10 <sup>-20</sup>	1.5×10 <sup>21</sup>	1.32	0.2	1.32	2.5×10 <sup>-18</sup>	5×10 <sup>-17</sup>



Figure S2 Upconversion luminescence decay profiles under short pulse excitation with different doping levels of activator ions



**Figure S3** Transmission electron microscopic images of (a) NaYF<sub>4</sub>:2% Yb<sup>3+</sup>, 5% Er<sup>3+</sup>, (b) NaYF<sub>4</sub>:6% Yb<sup>3+</sup>, 5% Er<sup>3+</sup>, (c) NaYF<sub>4</sub>:20% Yb<sup>3+</sup>, 5% Er<sup>3+</sup>, (d) NaYF<sub>4</sub>:50% Yb<sup>3+</sup>, 5% Er<sup>3+</sup>, and (e) NaYF<sub>4</sub>:80% Yb<sup>3+</sup>, 5% Er<sup>3+</sup> nanorods