

## Supporting information

### Controllable Synthesis, Formation Mechanism and Upconversion Luminescence of $\beta$ -NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb<sup>3+</sup>/Er<sup>3+</sup> Microcrystals by Hydrothermal process

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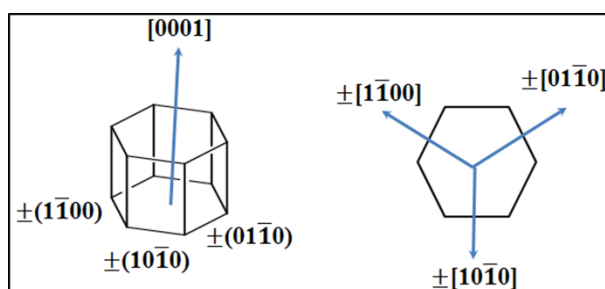


Fig. S1 Schematic diagram showing the anisotropy of the hexagonal NaYF<sub>4</sub> crystal.

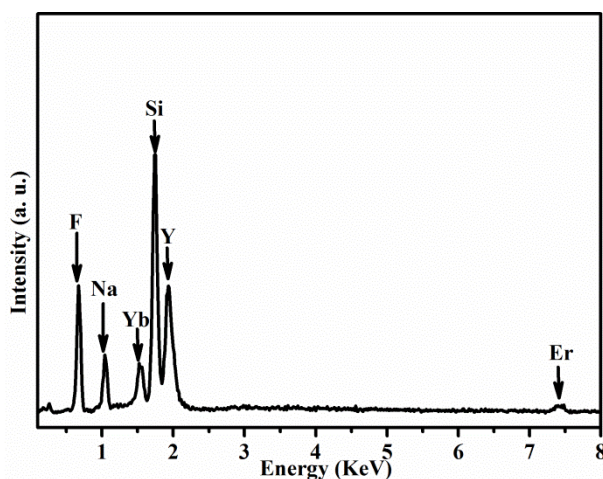


Fig. S2 Element analysis of NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb/Er nanoparticles by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy.

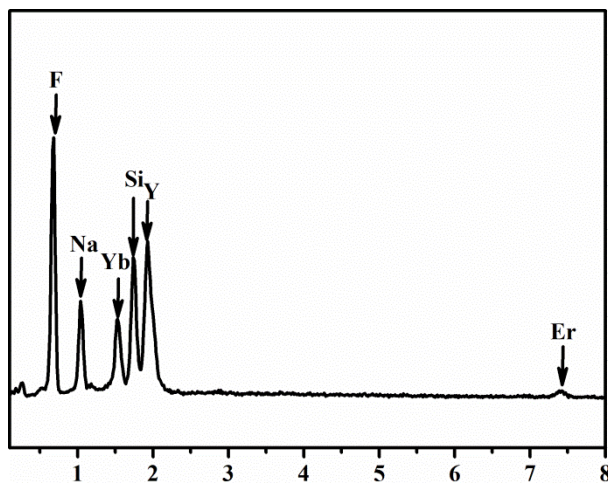


Fig. S3 Element analysis of NaYF<sub>4</sub>:Yb/Er microdisks by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy.

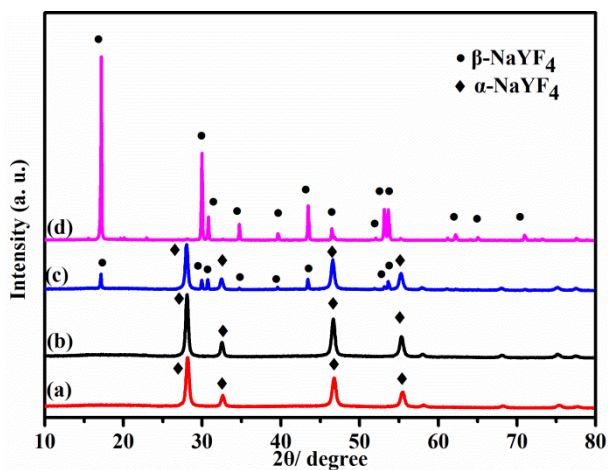


Fig. S4 XRD patterns for hexagonal NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 5$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

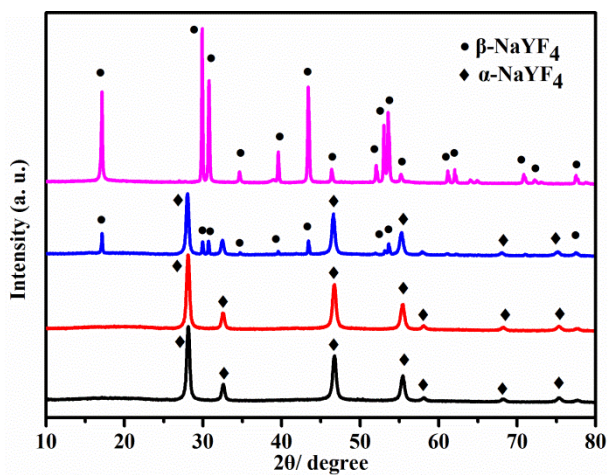


Fig. S5 XRD patterns for hexagonal NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 5.5$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

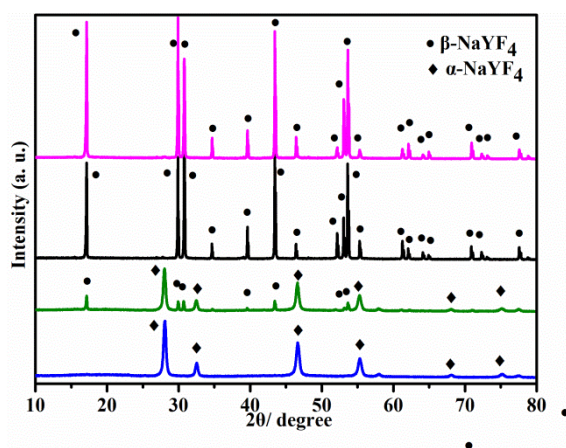


Fig. S6 XRD patterns for hexagonal NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 6$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

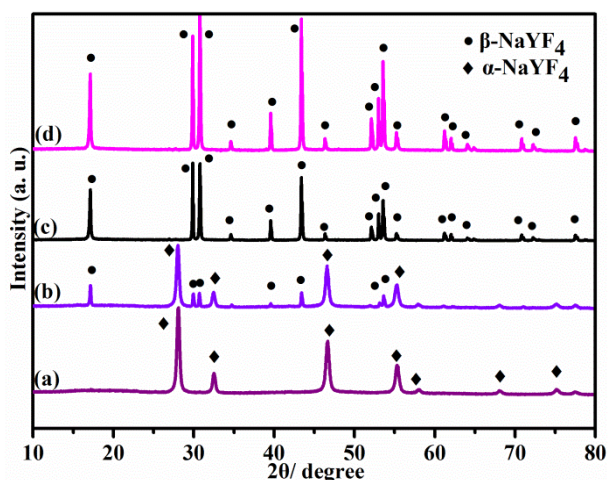


Fig. S7 XRD patterns for hexagonal NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 11$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

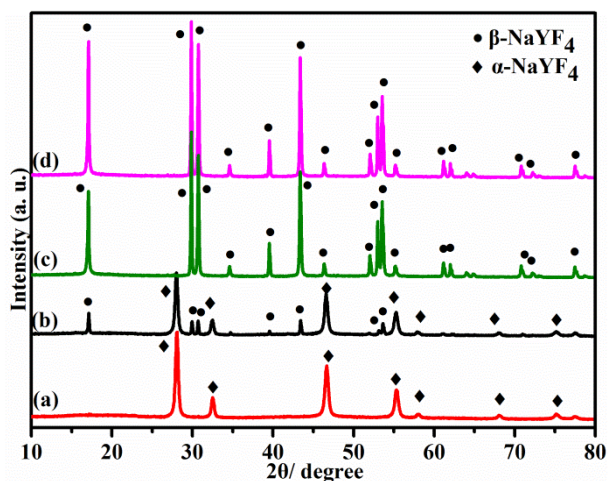


Fig. S8 XRD patterns for hexagonal NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 18$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

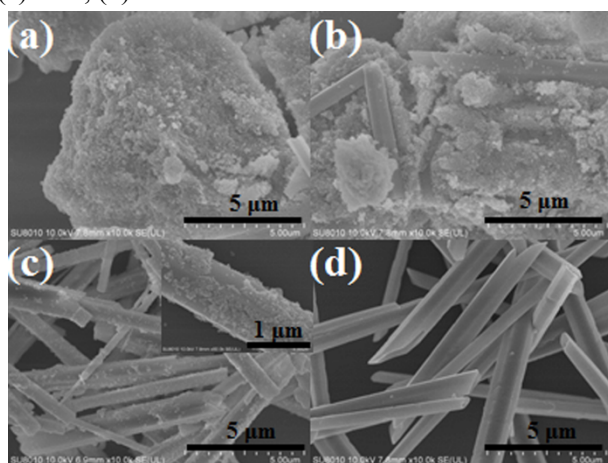


Fig. S9 FE-SEM images for NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 5$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

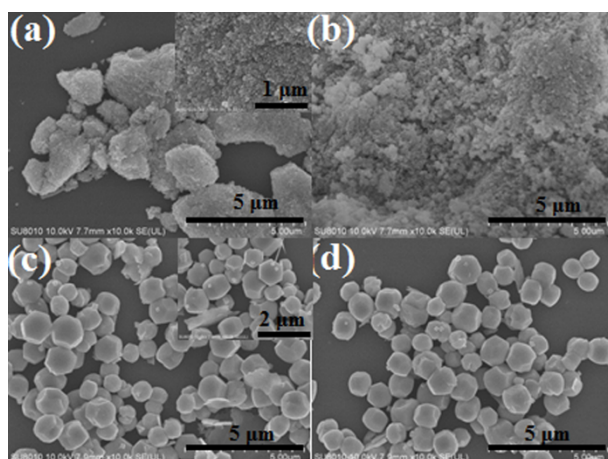


Fig. S10 FE-SEM images for NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 5.5$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

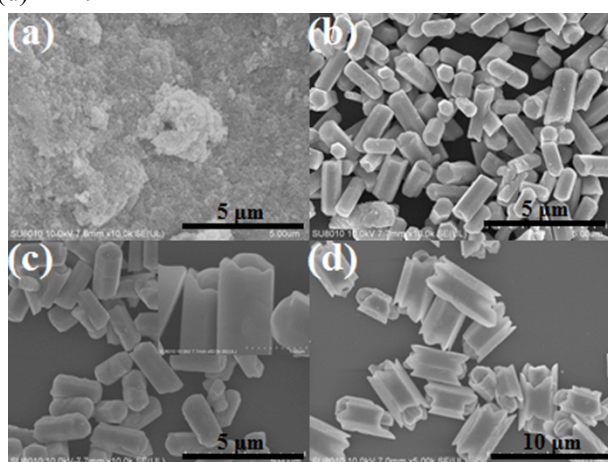


Fig. S11 FE-SEM images for NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 6$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.

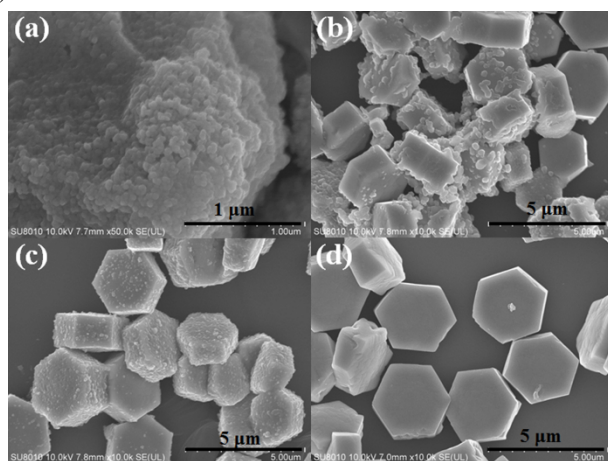


Fig. S12 FE-SEM images for NaYF<sub>4</sub> samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 11$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.



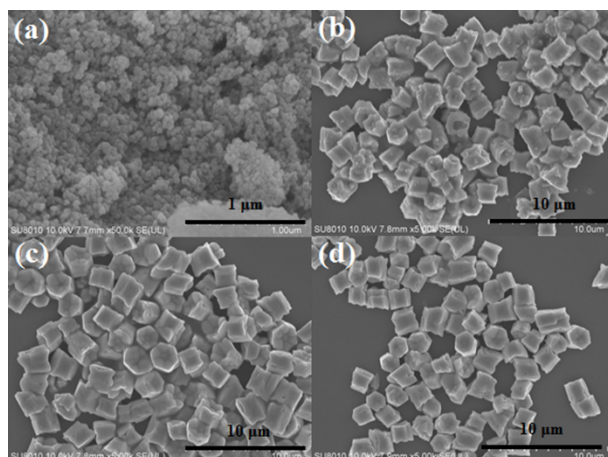


Fig. S13 FE-SEM images for  $\text{NaYF}_4$  samples ( $\text{NaF}/\text{RE}^{3+} = 18$ ) as a function of reaction time. (a) 3 h, (b) 4 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h.