Supporting information

Size-induced variations in bulk/surface structures and their impacts on photoluminescence properties of GdVO₄:Eu³⁺ nanoparticles

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Figure S1. SEM images of the $GdVO_4$:Eu³⁺ ellipsoidal-like nanoparticles prepared at different hydrothermal temperatures: (a) 120, (b) 160, (c) 180, and (d) 220 °C for 12 h.



Figure S2. FT-IR spectra of the $GdVO_4$:Eu³⁺ samples prepared at different hydrothermal temperatures: (a) 120, (b) 140, (c) 160, (d) 180, (e) 200, and (f) 220 °C.



Figure S3. TG curves of the $GdVO_4$: Eu^{3+} samples prepared at different hydrothermal temperatures.

| Temp. | D (0/) | | χ² | Slope | Errors | Weight |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------|--------|--------|----------|
| (°C) | K _p (%) | K _{wp} (%) | | (%) | (±%) | Loss (%) |
| 120 | 8.358 | 11.059 | 1.158 | 0. 634 | 0.13 | 7.59 |
| 140 | 8.494 | 11.183 | 1.178 | 0. 568 | 0.12 | 6.76 |
| 160 | 8.625 | 11.377 | 1.165 | 0. 447 | 0.09 | 6.23 |
| 180 | 8.255 | 11.059 | 1.125 | 0. 389 | 0.014 | 3.93 |
| 200 | 8.532 | 11.487 | 1.203 | 0.307 | 0.02 | 2.89 |
| 220 | 8.743 | 11.760 | 1.273 | 0. 288 | 0.021 | 1.41 |

Table S1. The fit parameters are by Rietveld refinement.

Table S2. Colour coordinates (CIE), Judd-Ofelt (J-O) parameters (Ω_2) lifetime (τ), asymmetric ratio (I_{02}/I_{01}), integrated emission intensity (${}^{5}D_{0}{}^{-7}F_{2}$), underlying quantum efficiency (η %) and band energy (E_g) of different crystallite sizes.

| Crystallite | I ₀₂ /I ₀₁ | Ω_2 | CIE | | - (mg) | ⁵ D ⁷ E | m (0 /) | E /oV |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Size (nm) | | $(\times 10^{-20} \mathrm{cm}^2)$ | X | у | t (IIIS) | D_0 - Γ_2 | 1(70) | Eg/ev |
| 14.4 | 3.844 | 8.32 | 0.458 | 0.355 | 1.097 | 0.280 | 31.43 | 3.74 |
| 14.9 | 3.854 | 8.34 | 0.465 | 0.357 | 1.121 | 0.362 | 32.91 | 3.71 |
| 15.2 | 3.898 | 8.44 | 0.480 | 0.359 | 1.177 | 0.481 | 34.30 | 3.67 |
| 17.0 | 4.020 | 8.70 | 0.495 | 0.359 | 1.221 | 0.689 | 36.11 | 3.64 |
| 22.2 | 4.052 | 8.77 | 0.510 | 0.356 | 1.324 | 0.974 | 38.81 | 3.60 |
| 24.7 | 4.157 | 9.00 | 0.512 | 0.352 | 1.458 | 1 | 43.11 | 3.56 |

| Crystallite | Double-exponential fitting | | | | | | Single-ex | Single-exponential | |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------|--------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| Size (nm) | $\tau_{1}\left(ms\right)$ | \mathbf{A}_1 | $	au_2 (ms)$ | A_2 | τ (ms) | \mathbf{R}^2 | τ' (ms) | R ′ ² | |
| 14.4 | 1.362 | 136 | 0.598 | 71 | 1.097 | 0.9965 | 1.028 | 0.9950 | |
| 14.9 | 1.201 | 208 | 0.457 | 66 | 1.121 | 0.9981 | 1.037 | 0.9957 | |
| 15.2 | 1.271 | 295 | 0.513 | 104 | 1.177 | 0.9987 | 1.082 | 0.9973 | |
| 17.0 | 1.317 | 453 | 0.608 | 154 | 1.221 | 0.9991 | 1.136 | 0.9981 | |
| 22.2 | 1.515 | 534 | 0.896 | 402 | 1.324 | 0.9995 | 1.232 | 0.9987 | |
| 24.7 | 2.164 | 785 | 1.114 | 197 | 1.458 | 0.9995 | 1.278 | 0.9993 | |

Table S3. Lifetime values obtained after the double-exponential fitting and the single-exponential fitting to the data of $GdVO_4$:Eu³⁺ ellipsoidal-like nanoparticles of different crystallite sizes.