Building Highly Content Responsive Optical Thermometer attached to the Intervalence Charge Transfer States Bridged Thermal-coupled Levels

ZHIHUA LIU,  $^{\rm A}$  DECAI MA,  $^{*\,{\rm A}}$  WENJIA WANG,  $^{\rm B}$  YUNZHONG ZHU,  $^{\rm A,C}$  SHAOPENG LIN,  $^{\rm A}$  CHENWEI XIONG,  $^{\rm A}$  AND BIAO WANG  $^{**{\rm A}}$ ,  $^{\rm B}$ 

<sup>a</sup> Sino French Institute of Nuclear Engineering and Technology, Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhuhai 519082, China.

<sup>b</sup> School of Physics, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou 510275, China.

<sup>c</sup> State Key Laboratory of Crystal Materials, Institute of Crystal Materials, Shandong University, Jinan 250100, China.

\*Corresponding author.

\*\* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: madecai@mail.sysu.edu.cn (D.C. Ma), wangbiao@mail.sysu.edu.cn (B. Wang).

**Abstract:** Optical thermometer based on the ratio of thermal-coupled levels (TCLs) has long time been suffering from the low spectral resolution and limited temperature sensitivity, which forms the major barrier for higher sensing performance. To address this problem, we have proposed a novel strategy to bridge Tm<sup>3+</sup>(<sup>1</sup>D<sub>2</sub>) and Eu<sup>3+</sup>(<sup>5</sup>D<sub>1</sub>) configurations, wherein the intervalence charge transfer states are applied to relate the blue and red emissions. Naked eye recognized photochromic variation is observed between red and blue with increasing temperature. Compared to the conventional TCLs, the relative temperature sensitivity of this proposed strategy presents violent response to the lanthanide concentration, increasing from 5.56 to 10.1% K<sup>-1</sup> with Eu<sup>3+</sup> molar concentration rising from 0.3 to 0.5 mol%. This strategy demonstrates a new path to construct TCLs crossing lanthanide elements, and sheds light on promoting the performance of optical thermometers.

Keywords: (temperature sensing, intervalence charge transfer, thermal-coupled levels, lithium niobate)