# Electronic Supplementary Information for Boronic Acid-modified DNA that Changes Fluorescent Properties upon Carbohydrate Binding †

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# **Experimental Section**

**General**: Unless otherwise noted, starting materials and solvents were purchased from Aldrich and Acros, and used without purification. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrophotometer in a deuterated solvent with TMS ( $\delta = 0.00$  ppm) or NMR solvent as the internal reference unless otherwise specified. <sup>31</sup>P NMR was recorded using 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as an external reference (in a insert). HPLC purification was carried out with a Zobax C18 reversed-phase column (9.4 mm×25 cm). Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu RF-5301 PC spectrofluorometer. Absorption spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-1700 UV/Vis spectrophotometer. Quartz cuvettes were used in all fluorescence and UV studies. All pH values were determined by a UB-10 Ultra basic benchtopp H meter (Denver Instruments). For all reactions, analytical grade solvents were used. Anhydrous solvents were used for all moisture-sensitive reactions. Mass spectra were recorded on a Waters Micromass LC-Q-TOF micro spectrometer or an ABI4800 MALDI-TOF-TOF mass spectrometer at the Georgia State University Mass Spectrometry Facilities.

### 1. Synthesis of Naphthalimide-based Long-wavelength Boronic Acid Modified TTP (NB-TTP):

The first three steps were carried out following published procedures.<sup>1,2</sup> Preparation of 4-aminomethylbenzyl alcohol:

4-(Hydroxymethyl)benzonitrile (1.0 g, 7.5 mmol) dissolved in dry THF (20 ml) was added slowly into a suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (866 mg, 22.8 mmol) in THF(20 ml) at RT. Foaming with bubble formation was observed while stirring. The light yellow-green suspension was refluxed under N<sub>2</sub> overnight. After cooling down to RT, MeOH (5 ml) was added to the suspension to quench the reaction. The suspension generated foams while being stirred and cooled in an ice-bath. When no more bubble formation was observed, NaOH (20%, 15 ml) solution was added into the suspension. The solution became colorless while white precipitate was observed. The solution was concentrated *in vaccuo* and the residue was suction filtered. The solid was repeatedly washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The filtrate was combined and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O. The organic phase was separated and concentrated on a rotavap. White solid was obtained as product (1.0 g, 98% yield). The product underwent prolonged drying *in vaccuo* to remove residue solvent before the next step reaction.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): <sup>6</sup> 7.31 (m, 4H), 4.67(s, 2H), 3.85(s, 2H), 1.76 (s broad, 3H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 142.7, 139.9, 127.5, 127.5, 65.2, 46.4

Preparation of 4-boc-aminomethylbenzyl alcohol:

Into the solution of 4-aminomethylbenzyl alcohol (444 mg, 3.2 mmol) and triethylamine (0.47 ml, 3.3 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) was added di-*t*-butyl dicarbonate (750 mg, 3.4 mmol) in dry THF (3 ml) dropwise. The mixture was stirred at RT overnight and then concentrated on a rotavap. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (20 ml). The solution was sequentially washed with NaHSO<sub>4</sub> solution (5%,  $\times$  1), saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution ( $\times$  1) and brine ( $\times$  1), and then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Filtration and solvent evaporation yielded a white powder product (720 mg, 94% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): <sup>6</sup> 7.27 (m, 4H), 4.92 (s broad, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 4.27 (d, 2H), 2.22 (s broad, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 156.1, 140.3, 138.4, 127.8, 127.4, 79.7, 65.1, 44.6, 28.6

Preparation of (4-boc-aminomethylbenzyl) methansulfonate (2):

Into the solution of 4-Boc-aminomethylbenzyl alcohol (700 mg, 3.0 mmol) and triethylamine (0.86 ml, 6.2 mmol) in dry THF (12 ml) in an ice bath, MsCl (0.38 ml, 4.9 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 1 h in an ice bath. The solution was concentrated on a rotavap and the residue was dissolved in 25ml of ethyl acetate. The solution was sequentially washed with NaHSO<sub>4</sub> solution (5%,  $\times$  1), saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution ( $\times$  1) and brine ( $\times$  1), and then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and solvent evaporation, a colorless oil product was obtained (896 mg, 96% yield), which turned into white crystal after prolonged drying *in vaccuo*.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): <sup>6</sup> 7.35 (m, 4H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 4.95 (s broad, 1H), 4.33 (d, 2H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 156.1, 140.7, 132.5, 129.4 128.0, 79.9 71.4, 44.4, 38.5, 28.6

Preparation of 4-amino-*N*-(4'-boc-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (3):

4-Amino-naphthalimide (820 mg, 3.85 mmol) in dry DMF (20 ml) was treated with 2 M NaOMe in MeOH (3 ml) until it became a homogenous solution with a deep red color (took several minutes). (4-Boc-aminomethylbenzyl) methansulfonate (1.21 g, 3.85 mmol) was then added. The solution was stirred for 3 h and then worked up by adding H<sub>2</sub>O (100 ml). The suspension was extracted with ethyl acetate (100 ml,  $\times$  2). The organic extractions were combined and concentrated into 100 ml. The solution was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (25 ml,  $\times$  3) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The removal of solvent on a rotavap gave an orange powder product (1.5 g, 90% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>6</sub>-DMSO):  $\delta$  8.63 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 8.44 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$  = 7.2 Hz,  $J_2$  = 0.8 Hz), 8.21 (d, 1H, J = 9.2 Hz), 7.66 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz,), 7.49 (s broad, 2H), 7.20 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.19 (s, 2H), 4.06 (d, 2H, J = 6 Hz), 1.366 (s, 9H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (D<sub>6</sub>-DMSO): δ 163.8, 162.9, 155.7, 152.9, 138.8, 136.4, 134.2, 131.2, 129.8, 129.5, 127.4, 126.9, 124.0, 121.7, 119.4, 108.2, 107.3, 77.7, 43.1, 42.2, 28.2.

MS (ESI-): m/z (%) = 430.3 (100) [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

Exact mass: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> calc. 430.1767; found 430.1778

Preparation o f4-(2-bromobenzyl)amino-N-(4'-boc-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (4):

4-Amino-*N*-(4'-Boc-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (**3**) (1.50 g, 3.49 mmol) and sodium hydride (60% dispersed in mineral oil, 306 mg, 7.66 mmol) were mixed in dry DMF (20 ml). The mixture was stirred for 5 min and then 2-bromobenzyl bromide (870 mg, 3.49 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred for 3 h before quenching with water (150 ml). The suspension was extracted with ethyl acetate (25 ml,  $\times$  3). The organic extractions were combined and washed with water (50 ml). After separation, the organic solvent was removed on a rotavap and the residue was purified on a silica gel column (ethyl acetate/hexane, 1:4). A yellow powder product (840 mg, 40% yield) was obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>6</sub>-DMSO):  $\delta$  8.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 8.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 8.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.64~7.61 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.37 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 7.6 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.6 Hz), 7.30~7.28 (m, 1H), 7.27~7.18 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 5.78 (s, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.69 (d, 2H, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 4.24 (d, 2H, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 1.43 (s, 9H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (D<sub>6</sub>-DMSO):  $\delta$  164.8, 164.2, 156.0, 149.1, 138.0, 137.2, 136.1, 134.7, 133.5, 131.6, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 129.3, 128.1, 127.8, 126.2, 125.2, 123.8, 123.4, 120.6, 111.3, 105.3, 79.6, 48.3, 44.7, 43.2, 28.6

MS (ESI+): m/z (%) = 600.5 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

Exact mass: C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> calc. 600.1498; found 600.1504

Preparation of 4-(2-dihydroxylboryl-benzyl)amino-*N*-(4'-boc-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (5): 4-(2-Bromobenzyl)amino-*N*-(4'-boc-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (4) (391 mg, 0.65 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(dppf) (160 mg, 0.20 mmol), bis(neopentyl glycolato)diboron (368 mg, 1.63 mmol) and KOAc (198 mg, 2.02 mmol) were mixed in a dry flask under N<sub>2</sub>. Anhydrous DMSO (5 ml) was injected into the mixture. The solution was heated at 80~85°C under N<sub>2</sub> for 5 h. Then the solution was cooled down to RT. Water (25 ml) was then added to quench the reaction. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (25ml,  $\times$  2). The extractions were combined, washed with water (25ml,  $\times$  2) and concentrated on a rotavap. The residue was purified on a silica gel column, and the crude product was eluted out by ethyl acetate/MeOH = 10:1. The crude product was further purified on two 20  $\times$  20 cm preparatory TLC plates (ethyl acetate/MeOH = 5:1). The orange fluorescent band (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.1~0.5) was cut out and extracted with MeOH. Orange color solid product was obtained (167 mg, 45% yield)

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (MeOD):  $\delta$  8.22 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.04 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.58 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.42 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.33~7.25 (m, 4H), 7.19~7.16 (m, 3H), 6.17 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (MeOD):  $\delta$  167.8, 166.2, 164.7, 158.7, 141.6, 139.5, 138.9, 133.6, 130.9, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.5, 126.4, 119.6, 104.0, 101.8, 80.3, 47.7, 45.0, 43.8, 30.9, 28.9 MS (ESI-): m/z (%) = 564.3 (100) [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

Exact mass: C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>BN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub> calc. 564.2306; found 564.2310

Preparation of 4-(2-dihydroxylboryl-benzyl)amino-*N*-(4'-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (**6**): 4-(2-Dihydroxylboryl-benzyl)amino-*N*-(4'-Boc-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (**5**) (390 mg, 0.69 mmol) was suspended in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (12 ml) and TFA (1.2 ml, 15.6 mmol) was added in one-shot. The mixture was stirred at RT for 0.5 h and then concentrated o rotavap. The residue was washed with a saturated K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution. Then the residue was dissolved in methanol and loaded on two 20 × 20 cm preparatory TLC plates. 100% ethyl acetate was used to develop first. Later, ethyl acetate/MeOH (5:1) was used to develop the plate. The orange fluorescent band (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.2~0.3) was cut out and extracted with MeOH. An orange color solid product was obtained (210 mg, 66% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (MeOD):  $\delta$  8.21 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 8.03 (t, 1H, J = 4 Hz), 7.58 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.44~7.37 (m, 4H), 7.29~7.25 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.16 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 5.32 (s, 2H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H),

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (MeOD): δ 167.8, 166.1, 141.6, 140.2, 138.8, 133.6, 130.9, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 127.5, 126.3, 119.4, 103.8, 101.8, 47.9, 45.5, 43.8

MS (ESI-): m/z (%) = 492.3 (100) [M-H-2H<sub>2</sub>O+2MeOH]<sup>-</sup>, 478.3 (70) [M-H-H<sub>2</sub>O+MeOH]<sup>-</sup>,464.3 (50) [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

Exact mass: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> calc. 464.1782; found 464.1796

Preparation of 4-(2-dihydroxylboryl-benzyl)amino-*N*-(4'-azidoacetyl-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (7):

4-(2-Dihydroxylboryl-benzyl)amino-*N*-(4'-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (6) (210 mg, 0.45 mmol), EDCI (170 mg, 0.90 mmol), and azidoacetic acid (91 mg, 0.90 mmol) were mixed in anhydrous DMF (10 ml). The mixture was stirred at RT under N<sub>2</sub> for 1 h. The solution was concentrated by oil pump at 35 °C. The residue was rinsed with H<sub>2</sub>O and then saturated K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution. After that, the residue dissolved in ethanol was loaded on two 20 × 20 cm preparatory TLC plates and 100% ethyl acetate was used to develop first. Later, ethyl acetate/MeOH (10:1) was used to develop the plate. The orange fluorescent band (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.2~0.3) was cut out and extracted with MeOH. An orange color solid product was obtained (241 mg, 98% yield).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (MeOD):  $\delta$  8.23 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 8.06 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.59 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.42 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.27 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.21~7.17 (m, 3H), 6.19 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 2H)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (MeOD):  $\delta$  170.1, 167.8, 164.6, 141.5, 139.3, 138.9, 138.2, 133.6, 130.9, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 127.6, 126.5, 119.8, 104.3, 101.8, 53.1, 47.5, 44.2, 44.0, 43.8, 30.9, 18.5 MS (ESI-): *m*/*z* (%) = 547.3 (100) [M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 561.3 (50) [M-H-H<sub>2</sub>O+MeOH]<sup>-</sup>.

Exact mass: C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>5</sub> calc. 464.1782; found 464.1796

Preparation of NB-TTP:

4-(2-dihydroxylboryl-benzyl)amino-N-(4'-azidoacetyl-aminomethylbenzyl)naphthalimide (7) (10 mg, 0.018 mmol) and M-TTP (10 mg, 0.017 mmol) were mixed in a flask under N<sub>2</sub>. MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1, 200  $\mu$ l) was injected into the flask later to suspend the mixture with stirring. TBTA (1.7 mg, 0.0033 mmol)

and CuBr solution (0.24 mg, 0.0017 mmol) in 50  $\mu$ l DMF were added later. The reaction mixture was sonicated for several minutes and then stirred at RT under N<sub>2</sub> for 5 h. The mixture was diluted by adding 1 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O and then centrifuged at 13.5 krpm for 15 min. The aqueous supernatant was collected and the residue was repeatedly extracted with 100 mM NH NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> buffer pH 8.0 until the extraction was no longer deep orange. The aqueous extractions were combined and purified by HPLC (C18 RP preparatory column). Elution condition: 100 mM NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> buffer pH 8.0 /CH<sub>3</sub>CN (3 ml/min), 0–10 min (CH<sub>3</sub>CN 10%), 10–30 min (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 10-100%), 30–40 min (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 100%), 40–45 min (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 100-10%), 45–55 min (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 10%). Rt = 17.5-22.5 min. The collected fraction was lyophilized into orange color powder. The product was washed with MeOH and ice-cold water to remove residual starting material. Further purification of NB-TTP could be achieved by MeOH precipitation of the saturated aqueous solution. A bright red-orange colored powder was obtained as pure product (5 mg, 25% yield)

<sup>31</sup>P-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O, internal standard: 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>): δ -5.41, -10.31, -18.60

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (D<sub>2</sub>O/MeOD = 2:1, Watergate solvent suppression):  $\delta$  8.17 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 7.7~7.5 (m, 2H), 7.1~7.5 (m, 9H), 6.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 5.95 (t, 1H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 4.3~4.0 (m, 3H), 2.94 (t, 2H), 2.47 (t, 2H), 2.16 (t, 2H)

MS (ESI-): m/z 1032.3 (100) [M-H-2H<sub>2</sub>O-HPO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 1112.3 (20) [M-H-2H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>-</sup>, 1134.3 [M-H-3H<sub>2</sub>O+MeOH]<sup>-</sup>, 1054.3 [M-H-3H<sub>2</sub>O+MeOH-HPO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup>

MS (MALDI linear mode): m/z 1112.57 (100) [M-H-2H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>-</sup>, 1032.97 (45) [M-H-2H<sub>2</sub>O-HPO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> Exact mass: [M-H-2H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>-</sup> C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>42</sub>BN<sub>9</sub>O<sub>18</sub>P<sub>3</sub> calc. 1112.1954; found 1112.1940;

#### 2. Photo stability test of boronic acid 7:

Solution of boronic acid 7  $(1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})$  in 0.1 M phosphate buffer at pH 7.4 was prepared. Using the Time Course function of Shimadzu RF-5301 PC spectrofluorometer, excitation wavelength was fixed at 490 nm. Both excitation and emission slits were set at 5 nm. The fluorescence intensity measurements were taken every 0.3 s at two wavelengths (540 and 570 nm) and the fluorescence was monitored for 3600 s [Fig. S1 (a)]. The entire fluorescence spectrum was scanned at the end point [Fig. S1 (b)]. It can be seen that the fluorescence intensity was constant at both tested emission wavelength (540 and 570 nm) and the fluorescence profiles overlap very well after constant irradiation for 1 h and 2 h.



Fig. S1 Photostablity studies of boronic acid 7

## **3. NB-TTP Fluorescence binding tests:**

Solutions of NB-TTP  $(1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})$  and NB-TTP  $(1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M})$  with D-fructose (0.1 M) were prepared in 0.1 M phosphate buffer at pH 7.4, respectively. These two solutions were mixed in ratios to give the desired D-fructose concentrations  $(10^{-3} \text{ to } 0.1 \text{ M})$ . 3 ml of each mixed solution was used to test the fluorescence intensity several minutes after mixing. Eight points were collected for the calculation of the apparent binding constant  $K_a$  assuming a 1:1 complex formation mechanism. These studies were run in triplicate.

The binding constants were determined using the following equation:

### $I_0/(I-I_0) = (\epsilon_B/\epsilon_{B-S}K_a)*1/[fructose] + \epsilon_B/\epsilon_{B-S}$

where  $I_0$  is fluorescence intensity of NB-TTP solution; I is NB-TTP fluorescence intensity upon adding sugar,  $\varepsilon_B$  is fluorescence correlation factor of NB-TTP;  $\varepsilon_B$ -s is the fluorescence correlation factor of NB-TTP-fructose complex;  $K_a$  is the binding constant; [fructose] is the sugar concentration.

#### 4. Primer extension using the Klenow fragment for MALDI-TOF-MS studies:

14-nt Primer (16  $\mu$ M), 21-nt template (6.8  $\mu$ M), Klenow (0.1 units/ $\mu$ l), TTP (0.3 mM) or NB-TTP (0.3 mM), and three other dNTPs (0.3 mM each) in total volume of 100  $\mu$ l were incubated at 37°C for an hour. The prepared DNAs were purified using Microcon YM-3 centrifugal filter (Millipore Corp.) to remove dNTPs and other low molecular weight molecules. The harvested DNA was further purified by 5M NH<sub>4</sub>OAc/ethanol precipitation (three times) as a way to replace metal ions with ammonium as the phosphate counterions.<sup>3</sup> The DNA pellet was dissolved in 10  $\mu$ l for submission for MALDI-TOF-MS analysis. The oxidative deborylated NB-TTP-DNA sample was prepared by adding 0.25  $\mu$ l of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution (100 mM) into 5  $\mu$ l of NB-TTP DNA solution. The MALDI mass spectral results with insulin as the internal standard are shown as following:







Fig. S2.2 MALDI-TOF-MS of primer extension using NB-TTP



 $H_2O_2$ 

#### 5. PAGE analysis of primer extension:

A mixture of 14-nt primer DNA (50  $\mu$ M), T4 polynucleotide kinase (0.5 units/ $\mu$ l, Biolabs, Inc.) and  $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P-ATP (0.6  $\mu$ l, from Perkin-Elmer Corp.) in 12  $\mu$ l T4 kinase buffer solution was incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. The <sup>32</sup>P-labeled DNA was purified using Microcon YM-3 centrifugal filter (Millipore Corp.) to remove low molecular weight molecules. Using a similar primer extension protocol as previously described, the <sup>32</sup>P-labeled primer alone, reaction mixture without enzyme, reaction mixture without dNTPs, reaction mixture with both enzyme and natural dNTPs and reaction mixture with NB-TTP, the other 3 dNTPs and enzyme were incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. The reactions were quenched with 2× DNA loading dye. 3 ul of samples from each reaction were taken and run on 15% PAGE at 300V for 3 h. Later, the gel was isolated, fixed and dried. The film was developed after autoradiography with the dried gel for overnight.

### 6. NB-TTP-DNA Fluorescence binding test:

1) Double stranded NB-TTP-DNA binding test:

Primer (7  $\mu$ M), Template 0~7 (7  $\mu$ M), Klenow (0.1 units/ $\mu$ l), NB-TTP (125  $\mu$ M), and three other dNTPs (0.3 mM each) in total volume of 200  $\mu$ l were incubated at 37 °C for an hour. After purification of the DNA through membrane filtration and NH<sub>4</sub>OAc/ethanol precipitation three times, the orange-color DNA pellet was dissolved in 50  $\mu$ l of H<sub>2</sub>O. 45  $\mu$ l of the NB-TTP-DNA solution was diluted by 4.5 ml 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) to make theoretical concentration of 0.5  $\mu$ M solution. D-fructose was added into the DNA solution with concentration increasing from 10<sup>-3</sup> to 0.1 M. 1 ml of solution was used to test the fluorescence intensity several minutes after mixing. Each test was triplicated (Fig. S3.1).



Fig. S3.1 Fluorescent binding tests of double stranded NB-TTP-DNA with D-fructose in 0.1M pH 7.4 phosphate buffer ( $\lambda_{ex}$ : 490 nm)

2) Single stranded NB-TTP-DNA binding test:

Primer (21  $\mu$ M), Template 0~7 (7  $\mu$ M), Klenow (0.1 units/ $\mu$ l), NB-TTP (125  $\mu$ M), and three other dNTPs (0.3 mM each) in total volume of 200  $\mu$ l were incubated at 37 °C for an hour. After purification of the DNA through membrane filtration and NH<sub>4</sub>OAc/ethanol precipitation three times, the orange-color DNA pellet was dissolved in 50  $\mu$ l of H<sub>2</sub>O. 45  $\mu$ l of the NB-TTP-DNA solution was heated at 90°C for 1 min, then quickly cooled down in ice bath and diluted by 2.5 ml 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) to make theoretical concentration of 0.5  $\mu$ M solution. 0.5 ml of NB-TTP-DNA solution was mixed with 0.5 ml of phosphate buffer (blank) or 0.5 ml of D-fructose phosphate buffer solution (0.2 M), respectively. 1 ml of NB-TTP-DNA/fructose solution was tested the fluorescence intensity several minutes after mixing. The fluorescence intensity was divided by that of the blank to calculate the increasing fold. Each test was triplicated (Fig S3.2).



Fig. S3.2 Fluorescent binding tests of single stranded NB-TTP-DNA with saccharides in 0.1M pH 7.4 phosphate buffer ( $\lambda_{ex}$ : 490 nm)

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