

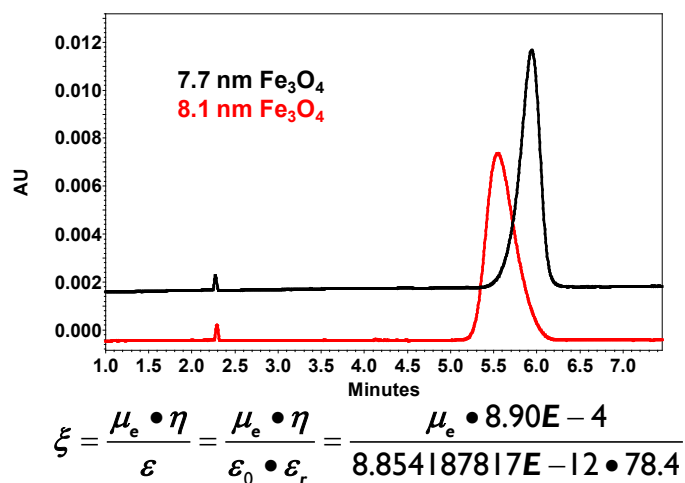
# Protein Binding for Detection of Small Changes on Nanoparticle Surface

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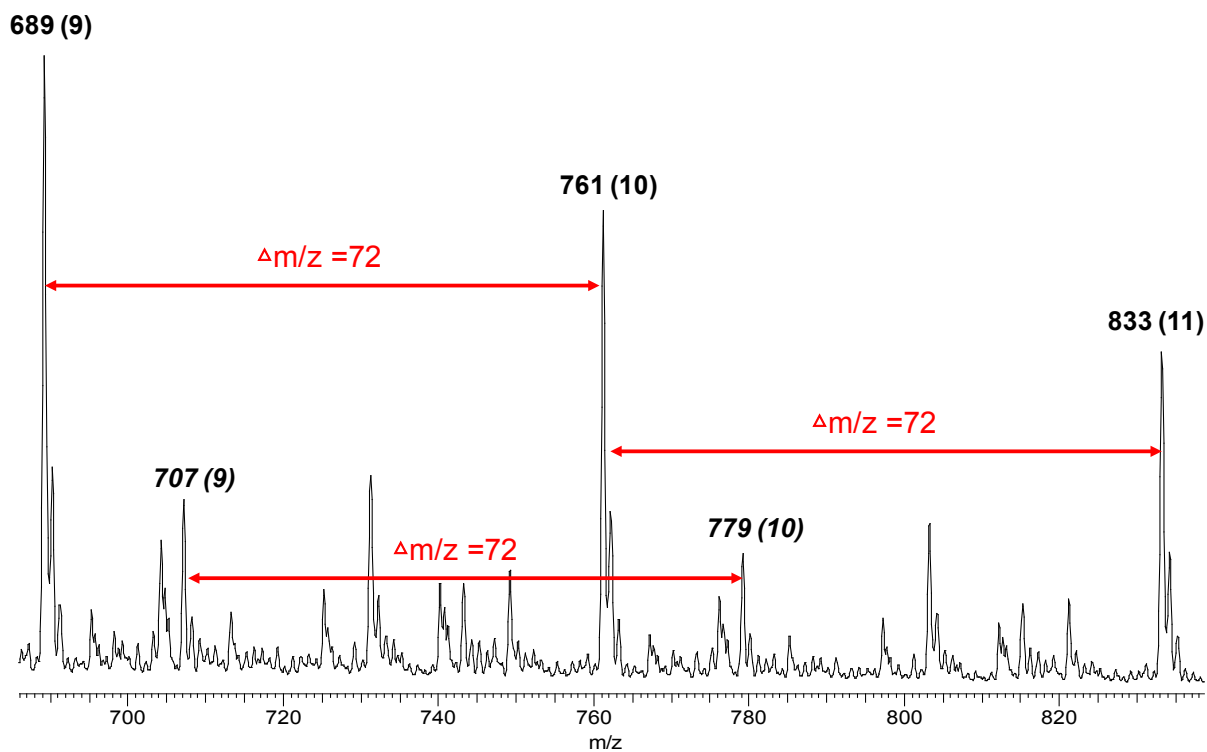
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## Supporting information

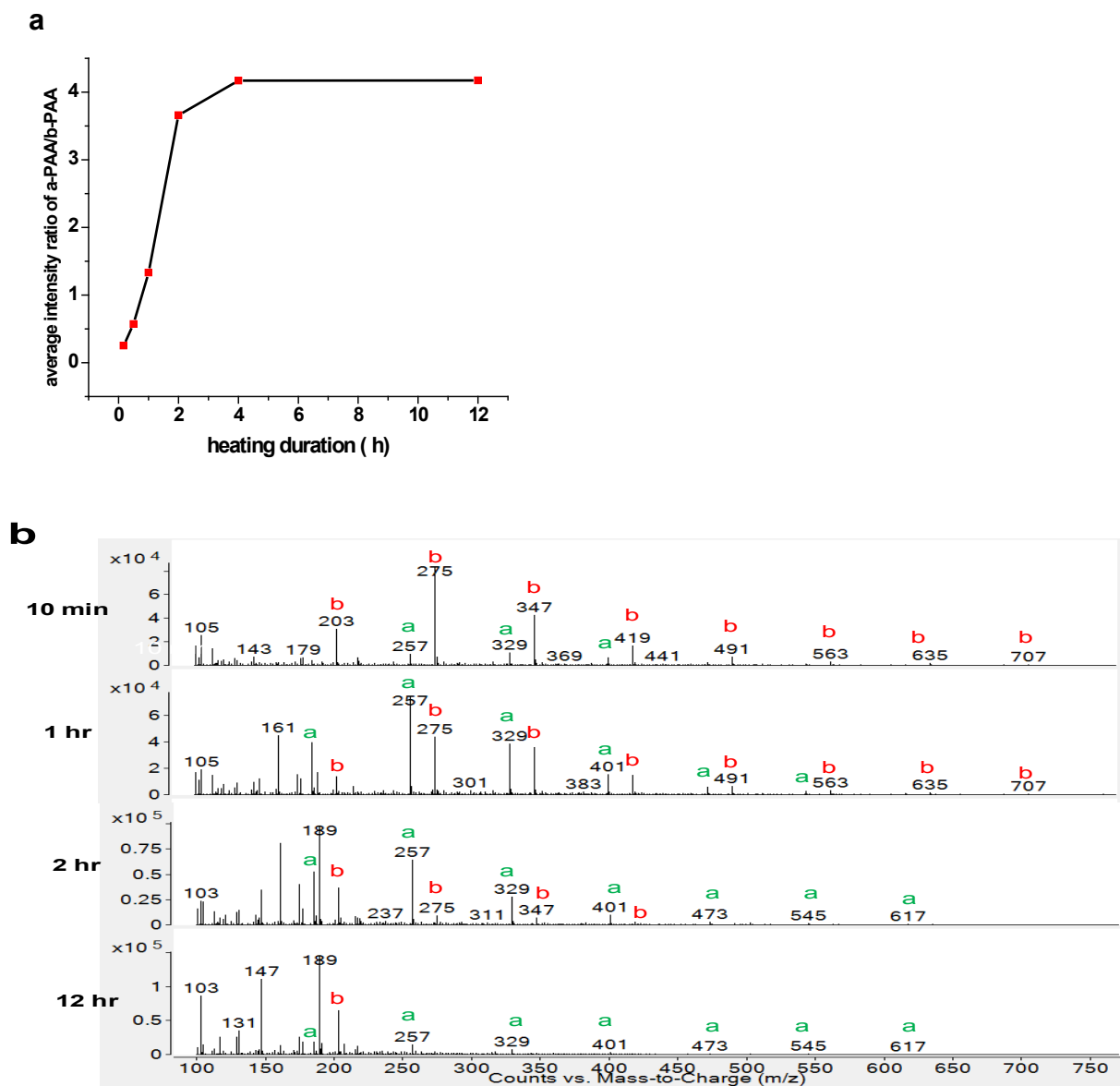
**Figure S1.** The electropherograms of PAA-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles for zeta-potential measurement and calculation.



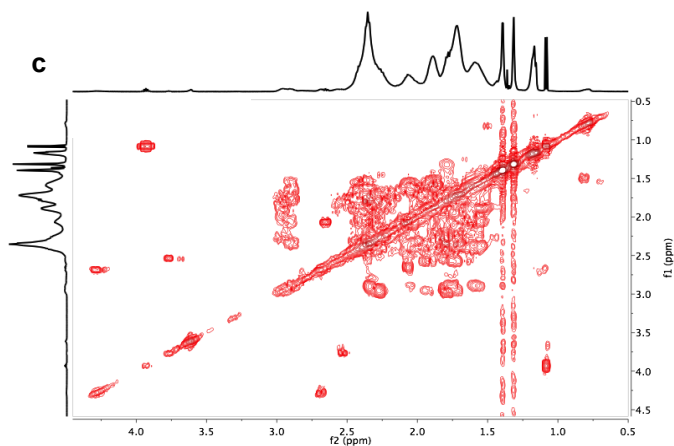
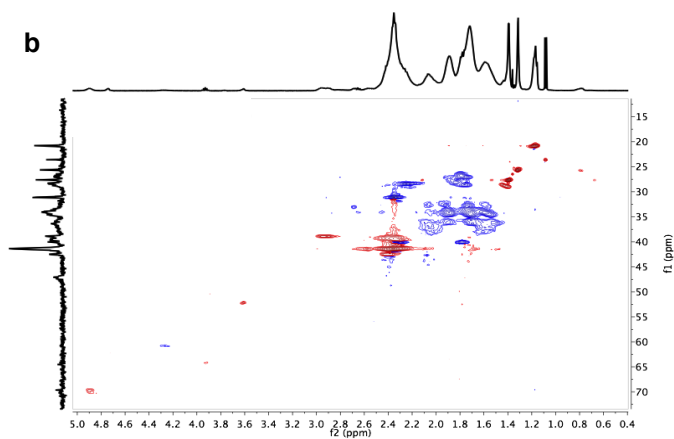
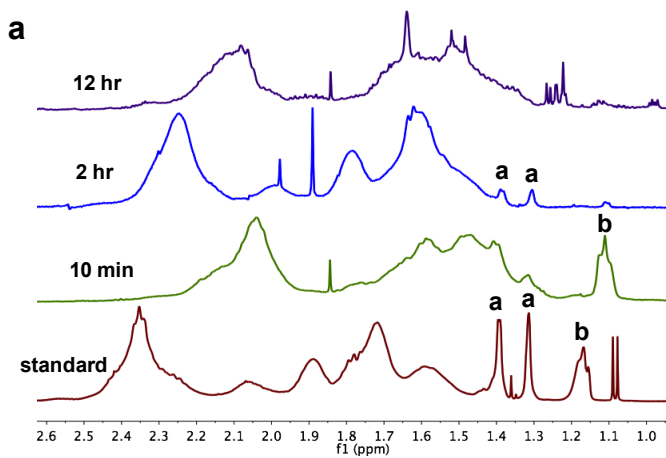
**Figure S2.** The mass spectrum of standard PAA obtained by ESI-LTQ-MS. The A series PAA is shown in regular front, while the B series PAA is in italic. The  $m/z$  range 680-850 is selectively shown to display details.



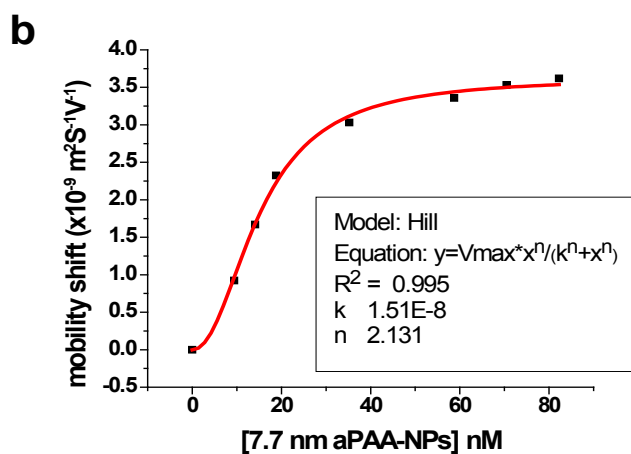
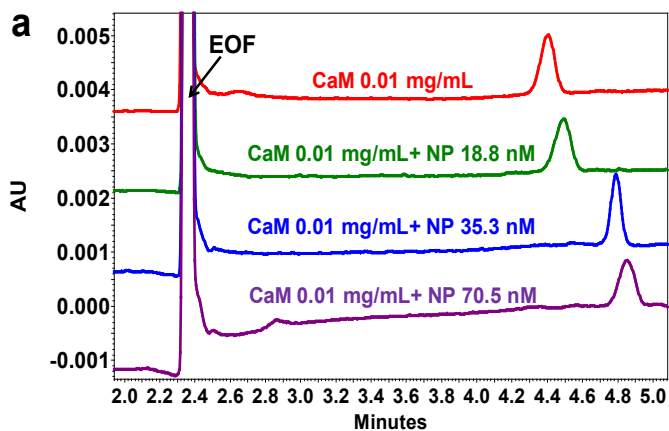
**Figure S3.** a) The intensity ratio of PAA series (a/b) measured on an Agilent 6210 multi-mode liquid chromatography-time of flight-mass spectrometer (LC-TOF-MS). Sample ionization was performed under the conditions of ESI and atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization. The ratio changes with heating duration; b) the mass spectra for hydrolyzed PAA obtained by ESI-TOF-MS. Four time points are selectively shown to demonstrate the trend.



**Figure S4.** a)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for standard and hydrolyzed PAA; b) HSQC and c) COSY NMR spectra for standard PAA.



**Figure S5.** a) The electropherograms and b) the affinity curve fitted by Hill equation for the interaction between calmodulin (CaM) and 7.7 nm PAA-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs measured by affinity capillary electrophoresis in 17.5 mM phosphate buffer.



**Table S1.** Calculated energy of HGA and HGB to the default binding cavity of calmodulin.

| <b>polymer fragment</b> | <b>binding free energy (kcal/mol)</b> | <b>vdw energy (kcal/mol)</b> | <b>electrostatic energy (kcal/mol)</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Head group A            | -3.79                                 | -6.34                        | +0.76                                  |
| Head group B            | -1.52                                 | -3.59                        | -0.02                                  |

**Table S2:** Calculated binding free energy of HGA and HGB to selected proteins.

| <b>polymer fragment</b> | <b>Binding free energy (kcal/mol)</b> |                  |                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                         | <b>Cytochrome c</b>                   | <b>Myoglobin</b> | <b>HSA site 2</b> |
| Head group A (HGA)      | -8.29~ -10.1                          | -5.42~ -6.46     | -8.4~ -9.28       |
| Head group B (HGB)      | -6.14~ -7.88                          | -3.34~ -4.64     | -6.24~ -7.34      |