

**Supporting Information For:**

**A comparative study of recognizing G-quadruplex  
by dimeric cyanine dyes with different size of  
aromatic substituents**

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## 1. Synthesis.

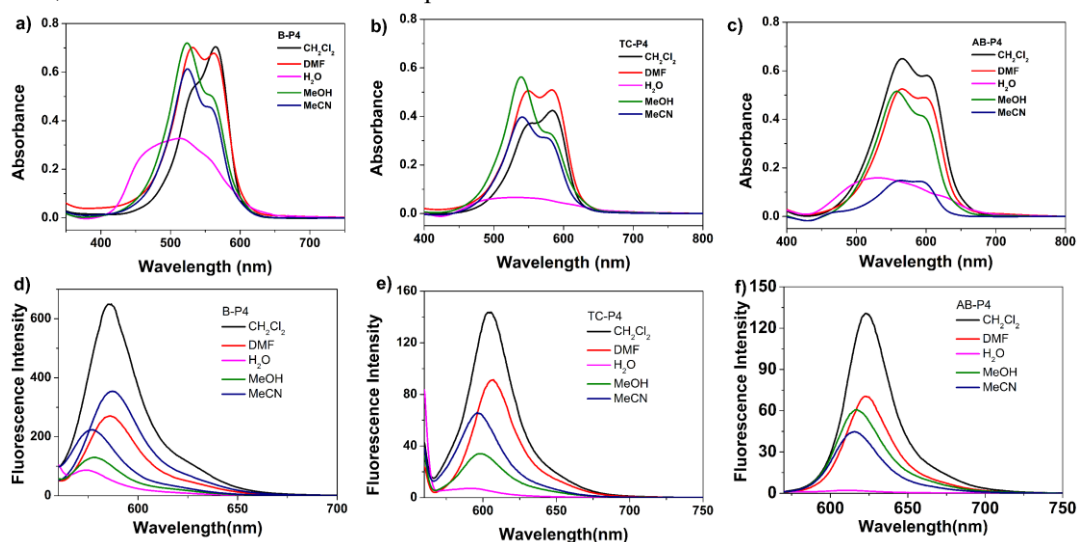
**B-P4:** 1,14-[bis-[2-[3'-[3''-(3'''-sulforpropyl)-benzothiazolium-2''-ylidene]prop-2'-en-1'-yl]-3H-benzothiazolium]]-3,6,9,12-tetraoxo-tetradecane (**B-P4**): yield 36%.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR: (500 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  165.7, 146.7, 142.1, 141.7, 131.7, 128.3, 127.9, 125.5, 125.3, 124.6, 123.3, 123.2, 117.9, 114.4, 99.6, 70.9, 70.3, 68.3, 65.5, 50.6, 48.4, 46.21. HR-MS (MALDI): Calcd for  $1085.2056(\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$ , Found 1085.2060 ( $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{10}\text{S}_6\text{Na}^+$ ).

**TC-P4:** 1,14-[bis-[2-[3'-[3''-(3'''-sulforpropyl)- $\beta$ -naphthothiazolium-2''-ylidene]prop-2'-en-1'-yl]-3H-benzothiazolium]]- 3, 6, 9, 12-tetroxo-tetradecane. yield 38.9 %.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ):  $\delta$  8.55 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 12.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 12.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 3.41 (s, 2H), 2.80 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ,  $80^\circ\text{C}$ ):  $\delta$  146.1, 130.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.6, 127.2, 125.1, 123.1, 122.3, 119.8, 114.1, 100.3, 98.9, 71.0, 70.4, 70.3, 68.0, 50.2, 48.5, 47.1. HR-MS (MALDI): Calcd for  $1185.2369 (\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$ , Found 1185.2361 ( $\text{C}_{58}\text{H}_{58}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{10}\text{S}_6\text{Na}^+$ ).

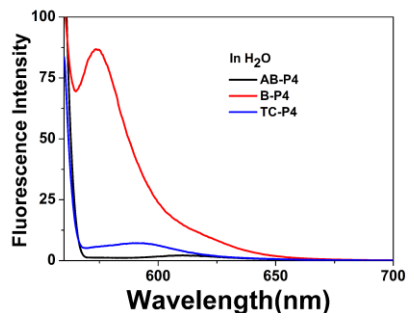
**AB-P4:** 1,14-[bis-[2-[3'-[3''-(3'''-sulforpropyl)- $\beta$ -naphthothiazolium-2''-ylidene]prop-2'-en-1'-yl]-3H- $\alpha$ -naphthiazole]]-3,6,9,12-tetraoxo-tetradecane: yield 16%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.06 (s, 1H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 5.51 (d,  $J = 12.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d,  $J = 11.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 2H), 2.06 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta$  163.5, 163.4, 144.0, 138.5, 134.5, 132.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 127.3, 127.2, 126.0, 125.1, 122.1, 121.5, 120.2, 119.5, 117.7, 111.3, 98.4, 97.3, 70.5, 69.2, 67.7. HR-MS (MALDI): Calcd for  $1285.2612 (\text{M}+\text{Na})^+$ , Found 1285.2683 ( $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{62}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{10}\text{S}_6\text{Na}^+$ ).

## 2. The affection of solution polarity to B-P4, TC-P4 and AB-P4.

Fluorescence spectra were carried out on a Hitachi F-4500 spectrophotometer in a 10 mm quartz cell at room temperature. The excitation wavelength for B-P4 was 510 nm, TC-P4 at 537 nm and AB-P4 at 550 nm. The excitation and emission slits were 10 nm, the voltage were 400 V for B-P4, TC-P4 and AB-P4 with a scan speed of  $1200 \text{ nm}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ .



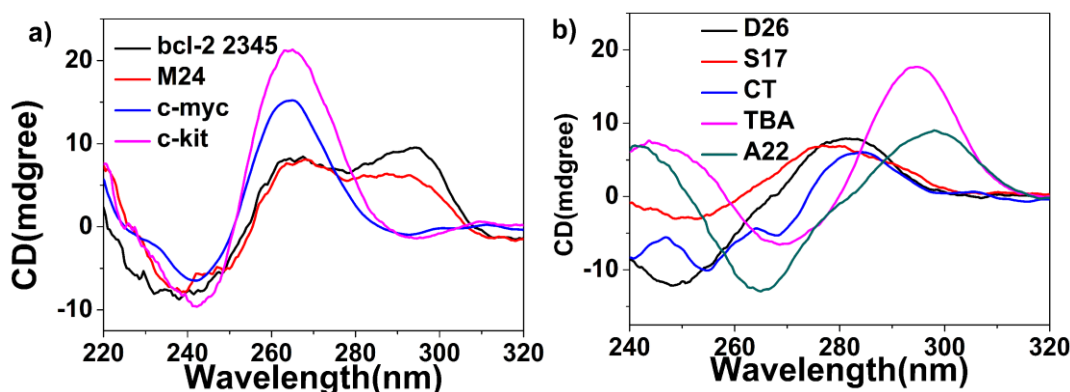
**Figure S1.** The absorption spectra of 10  $\mu\text{M}$  B-P4 (a), TC-P4 (b) and AB-P4 (c) in the presence of dichloromethane ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), dimethyl formamide (DMF),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , methanol (MeOH), acetonitrile ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ). The fluorescence intensity of 10  $\mu\text{M}$  B-P4 (a), TC-P4 (b) and AB-P4 (c) in the presence of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , DMF,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , MeOH,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .



**Figure S2.** The comparison of fluorescence intensity of 10  $\mu\text{M}$  B-P4, TC-P4 and AB-P4 in the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

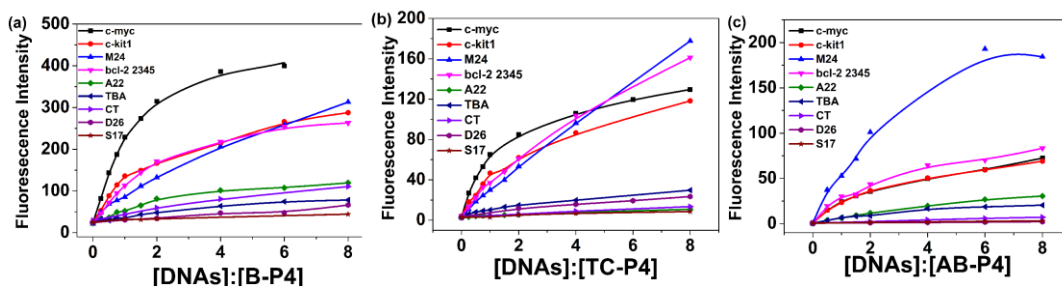
### 3. The Structure identification of 9 sequences by CD spectroscopy.

All the CD spectra were recorded on a JASCO J-815 spectrophotometer in a 10 mm path-length quartz cell from 200 nm to 320 nm at room temperature.



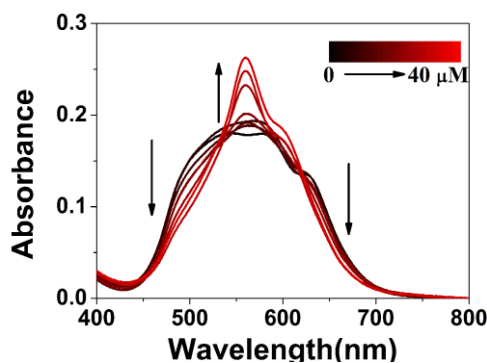
**Figure S3.** The CD spectra for c-myc, c-kit1, bcl-2 2345, M24, A22, TBA, CT, D26 and S17 in 10 mM PBS ( $\text{K}^+$ ), and A22 in 10 mM PBS ( $\text{Na}^+$ ). The sequences of c-myc, c-kit1 form intermolecular parallel G4s in PBS ( $\text{K}^+$ ). bcl-2 2345 and M24 could form hybrid G4s in PBS ( $\text{K}^+$ ). TBA present antiparallel G4s in PBS ( $\text{K}^+$ ). A22 also showing antiparallel G4s signals in 10 mM PBS ( $\text{Na}^+$ ).

### 4. The fluorescence titration of dyes with different DNA motifs.



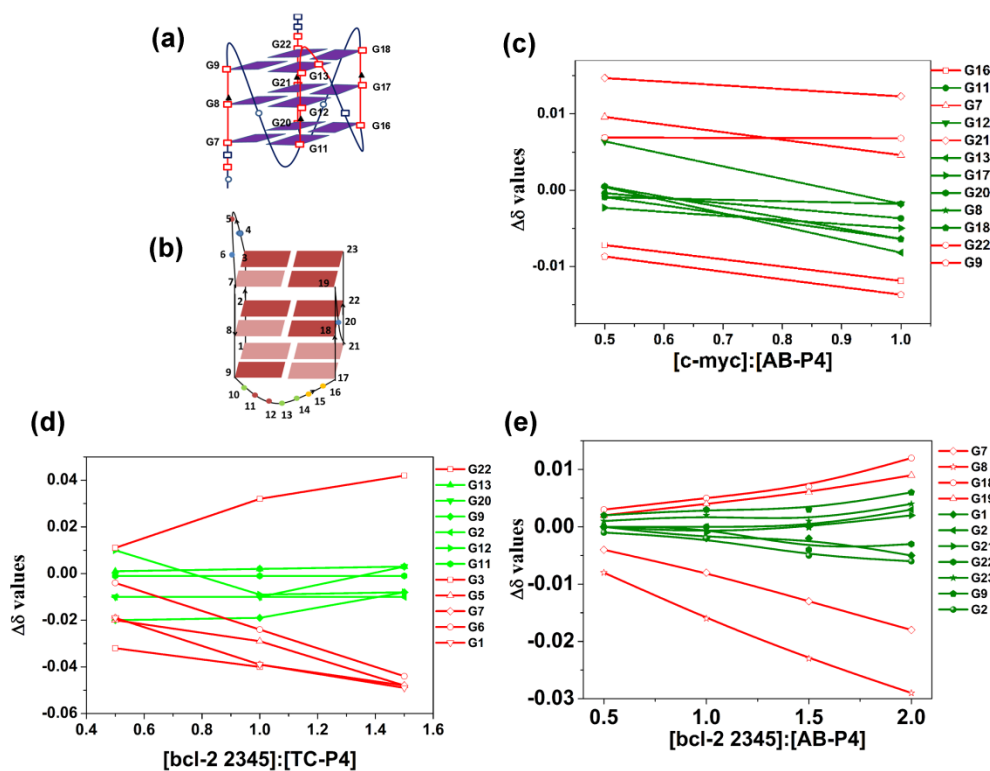
**Figure S4.** Fluorescence titration spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  B-P4, TC-P4 and AB-P4 with different concentration of DNA motifs in PBS.

### 5. The absorption titration of AB-P4 with bcl-2 2345.



**Figure S5.** The absorption titration of AB-P4 (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the various concentration of bcl-2 2345, 0  $\mu\text{M}$ , 2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ , 5  $\mu\text{M}$ , 7.5  $\mu\text{M}$ , 10  $\mu\text{M}$ , 20  $\mu\text{M}$ , 30  $\mu\text{M}$  and 40  $\mu\text{M}$ .

**6. The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR titration of dyes with different DNA motifs.**



**Figure S6.** The NMR-based folding topologies of the c-myc (a) and bcl-2 2345(b). Variation trajectories for chemical shifts ( $\Delta\delta$ ) of protons of imino region (c) on c-myc when c-myc is titrated with AB-P4 in the in 0.6 mL PBS (10 mM  $\text{K}_2\text{PO}_4/\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 70 mM KCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.4,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{D}_2\text{O}(9/1, \text{v/v})$ ), or on bcl-2 2345 when bcl-2 2345 is titrated with TC-P4(d) or AB-P4 (e).  $\Delta\delta$  values are calculated by chemical shifts of each c-myc/AB-P4 ratio minus those of c-myc, bcl-2 2345/TC-P4 or bcl-2 2345/AB-P4 ratio minus those of bcl-2 2345. Solid red lines indicate those protons shifting dramatically.