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spectra were measured in 1.0-cm path-length cell. For metal complex-containing melting assays, the same concentration of corresponding metal complex aqueous solution was used as the reference solution. Absorbance changes at 295 nm versus temperature were collected at a heating rate of  $0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ . Before measurement, the DNA samples were heated at  $95\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min, and gently cooled from  $95\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to room temperature. The concentration of the DNA used for UV melting experiments was  $2\text{ }\mu\text{M}/\text{strand}$ .

**CD Spectroscopy:** CD spectra were recorded on a JASCO J-810 spectropolarimeter. CD spectra were recorded from 320 to 220 nm in 1 nm increments with an average time of 2 second and three scans were accumulated and automatically averaged. The various concentration of enantiomer was scanned as a control and subtracted from the spectra of metal complex/DNA mixture to eliminate its influence on DNA CD signal. The concentration of the DNA used for CD experiments was  $2\text{ }\mu\text{M}/\text{strand}$ .

**Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC):** ITC assays were performed on a NANO ITC System (TA Instruments Inc., New Castle, DE, USA). Titrations were performed in 10 mM Tris buffer (pH = 7.2) containing 100mM KCl. Injections of  $10\text{ }\mu\text{L}$  of 0.448 mM ligand was added from a computer-controlled microsyringe at an interval of 600 s into Z-G4 ( $20\text{ }\mu\text{M}$ ) solution with stirring at 400 rpm at  $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The experimental data were analyzed with Nano Analyze software (TA Instruments Inc.) and were fitted to an independent model concurrently with a blank constant model to adjust for the heat of dilution. All measurements were from 25 injections of 0.448 mM M-0 into  $1400\text{ }\mu\text{L}$  of DNA in 10 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM KCl, pH = 7.2 buffer at  $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Each heat burst

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curve was the result of a 10  $\mu$ L injection of M-0 into the Z-G4 solution.

**Gel electrophoresis:** Native gel electrophoresis was carried out on acrylamide gel (15 %) and run at 4  $^{\circ}$ C, 1 $\times$ TB buffer containing 10 mM KCl and was silver stained. DNA was heated at 95  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 min in 10 mM Tris buffer containing corresponding cation ( $K^{+}$  or  $Li^{+}$ ), and gently cooled from 95  $^{\circ}$ C to room temperature, following by incubation at 4  $^{\circ}$ C overnight. To prepare the final loading sample, the corresponding metal complexes were added to the annealed DNA samples and incubated at 4  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 hours.

**NMR Spectroscopy:** samples for NMR were incubated in 10mM Tris-100 mM KCl buffer (pH 7.2) at 25  $^{\circ}$ C with 10%  $D_2O$  added. The final concentration of Z-G4 was 120  $\mu$ M. The enantiomer was incubated with Tel22 at 25  $^{\circ}$ C before measurement. NMR experiment was carried out on a Bruker 500 MHz AVANCE NMR spectrometer equipped with a triple-channel cryoprobe at 5  $^{\circ}$ C.

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Table S1. Thermodynamic Parameters for the Interaction of P-0/M-0 with Z-G4.

	P-0	M-0
n	1.5±0.3	1.1±0.2
$\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}(\text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1})$	-5.9±0.6	-8.9±0.4
$\Delta H^{\circ}(\text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1})$	-11.0±0.8	-20.1±0.6
$T\Delta S^{\circ}(\text{kcal}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1})$	-5.1±0.7	-11.2±0.3

All data were derived from ITC experiments.  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  and n (stoichiometry) were directly obtained from ITC.  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$  was obtained from the relation  $\Delta G^{\circ} = -RT\ln K_a$ .  $T\Delta S^{\circ}$  was obtained from the relation  $T\Delta S^{\circ} = \Delta H^{\circ} - \Delta G^{\circ}$ . The values are the average of two independent measurements.

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Table S2. Stabilization temperature ( $\Delta T_m$ ) of Z-G4 by the enantiomers (1 $\mu$ M) of  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^0]^{4+}$ ,  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^3]^{4+}$  and  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^5]^{4+}$  in 10 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.2) containing 100 mM KCl. The concentration of the Z-G4 was 1 $\mu$ M/strand.

Compound	$\Delta T_m(^{\circ}\text{C})$	
	P	M
$[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^0]^{4+}$	0	6.1
$[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^3]^{4+}$	0.2	0.2
$[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^5]^{4+}$	0.2	0

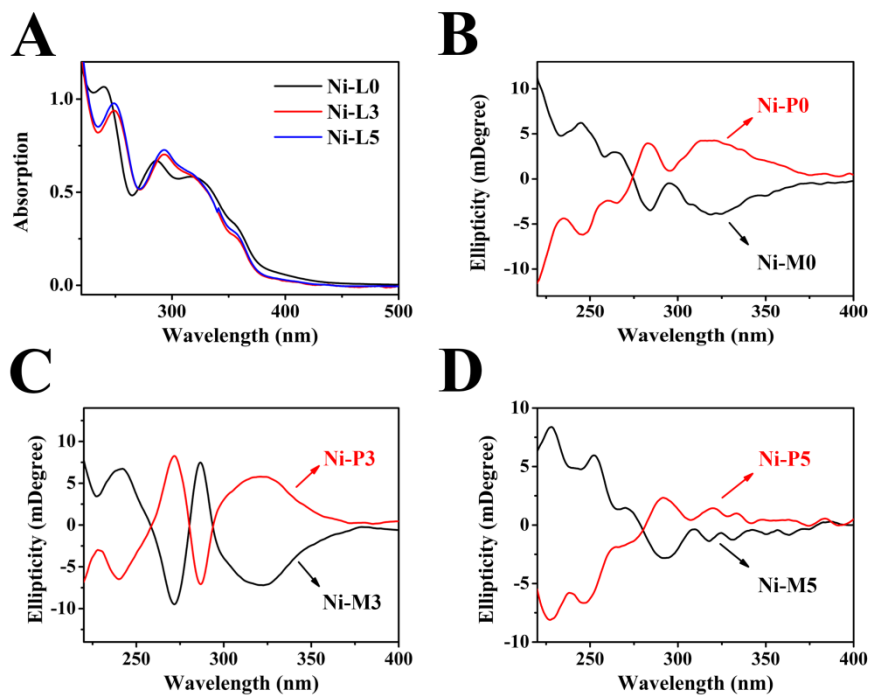


Figure S1. (A) UV/Visible absorbance spectra of racemic  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^0]^{4+}$  (black),  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^3]^{4+}$  (red), and  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{L}_3^5]^{4+}$  (blue). CD spectra of M-0 and P-0 (B), M-3 and P-3 (C), M-5 and P-5 (D).

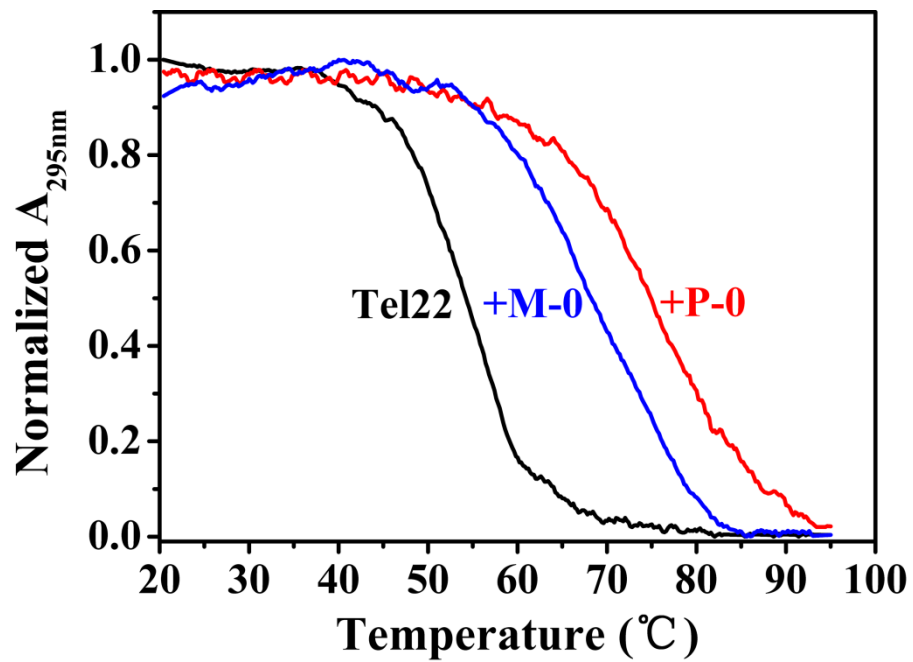


Figure S2. Melting spectra of Tel22 G-quadruplex in the absence and presence of equivalent amount of P-0/M-0 in 10 mM Tris buffer containing 100 mM K<sup>+</sup>, pH 7.2.

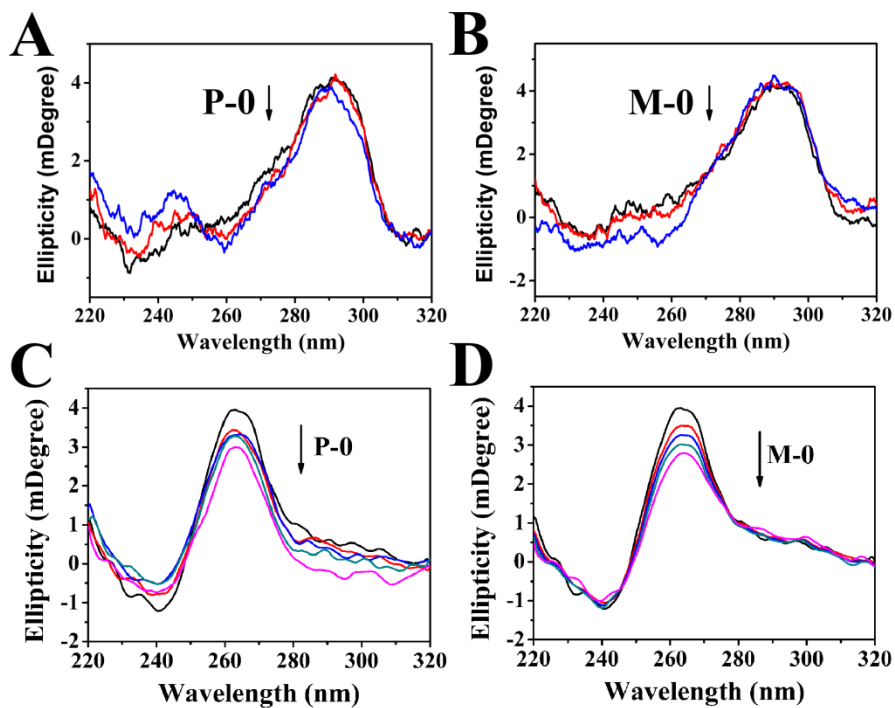


Figure S3. CD titration of Tel22 G-quadruplex with P-0 (A) and M-0 (B) in 10 mM KCl, 10 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.2). The concentration of the enantiomer was varied from 0  $\mu$ M to 2  $\mu$ M. CD titration of AS1411 G-quadruplex with P-0 (C) and M-0 (D) in 100 mM KCl, 10 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.2). The concentration of the enantiomer was varied from 0  $\mu$ M to 2  $\mu$ M.



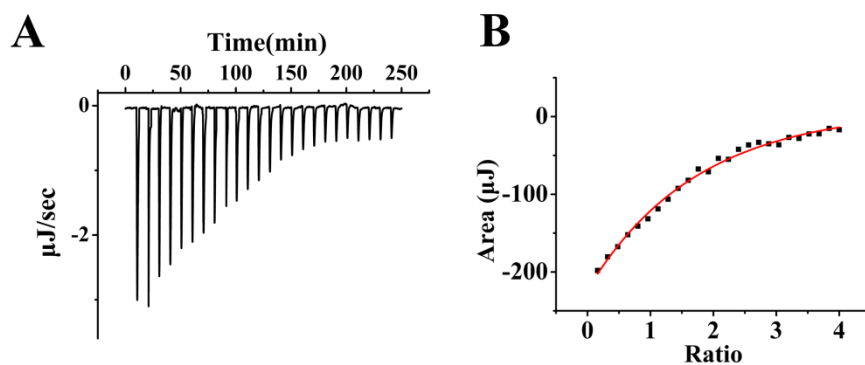


Figure S4. (A) ITC spectrum for the titration of P-0 into the solution of Z-G4. (B) Corresponding normalized heat signals versus molar ratio obtained from A.

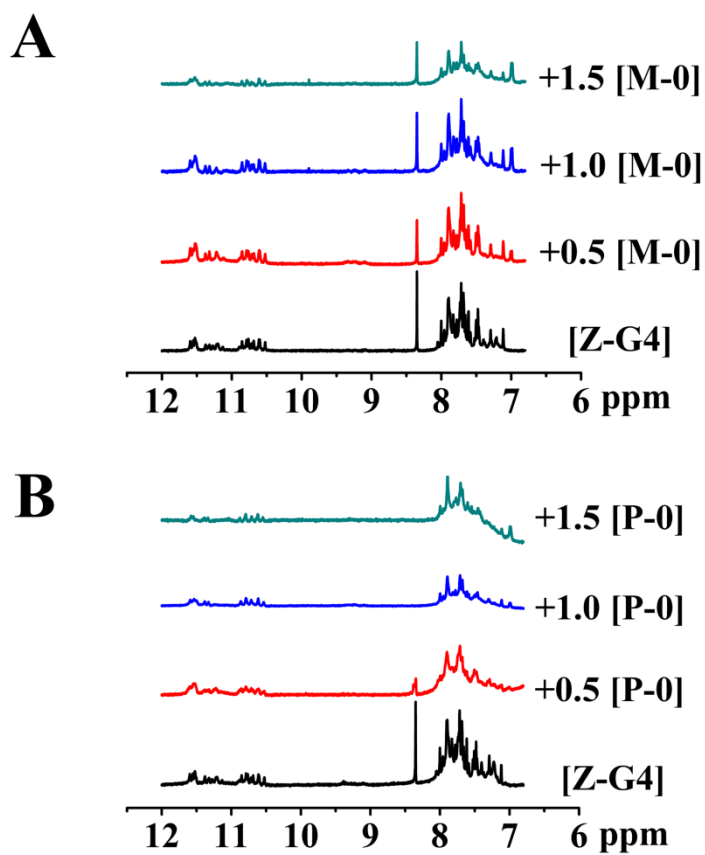


Figure S5. NMR titration of Z-G4 with Z-G4 with M-0 and P-0 at various [Ligand]/[Z-G4] ratios.

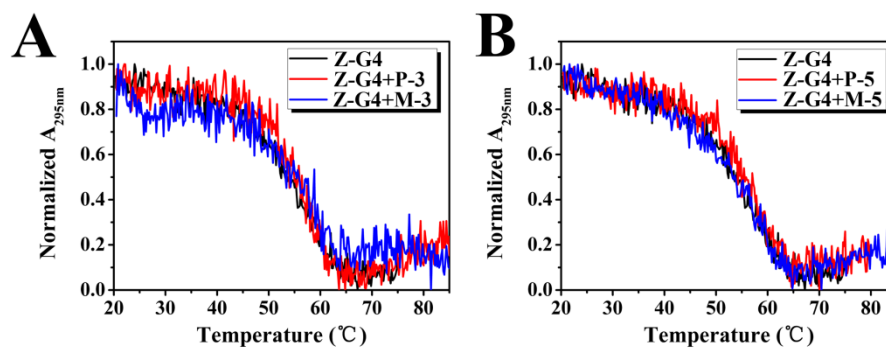


Figure S6. UV melting profiles of the Z-G4 G-quadruplex in the absence and presence of P-3/M-3/P-5/M-5 in 10 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.2) containing 100 mM  $K^{+}$ .

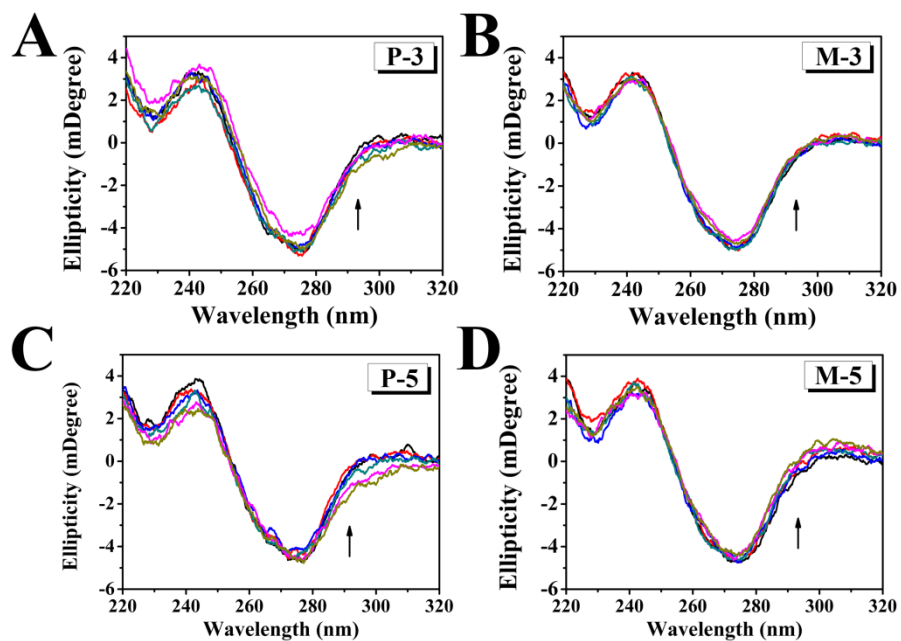


Figure S7. CD titration of Z-G4 G-quadruplex with P-3 (A)/M-3 (B)/P-5 (C)/M-5 (D) in 100 mM KCl, 10 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.2). The concentration of the enantiomer was varied from 0  $\mu$ M to 6  $\mu$ M.