

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Detection of mismatched DNAs via the binding affinity of MutS using a gold nanoparticle-based competitive colorimetric method**

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**Experimental procedures:** The thiol-modified DNAs used for DNA-AuNP assemblies and unmodified DNAs used as competitors were purchased from Bioneer Inc. (Korea). Single stranded DNAs (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were annealed by mixing in 1:1 ratio, followed by heating to 95  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then cooling to 20  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 h. The synthesis and functionalization of AuNPs with thiol-modified DNAs were carried out using previously reported procedures with minor modifications.<sup>1</sup> *Taq.* MutS was over-expressed and purified following the literature procedures.<sup>2</sup> For  $T_m$  measurement, DNA-AuNP assemblies including a competitor (7  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and MutS (14  $\mu\text{M}$ ) was incubated for 10 min. in 14 mM Tris (pH 7.0) buffer with 85 mM NaCl and 0.6 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . Melting curves were obtained on a Cary 100 UV-Vis spectrometer (Varian) and the UV/Vis data were monitored at a scan rate of 1  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min.}$  from 25  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  to 95  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

#### REFERENCES.

- (1) J. J. Storhoff, R. Elghanian, R. C. Mucic, C. A. Mirkin, R. L. Letsinger, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1998, **120**, 1959.
- (2) M. Cho, S. Chung, S.-D. Heo, J. Ku, C. Ban, *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 2007, **22**, 1376.

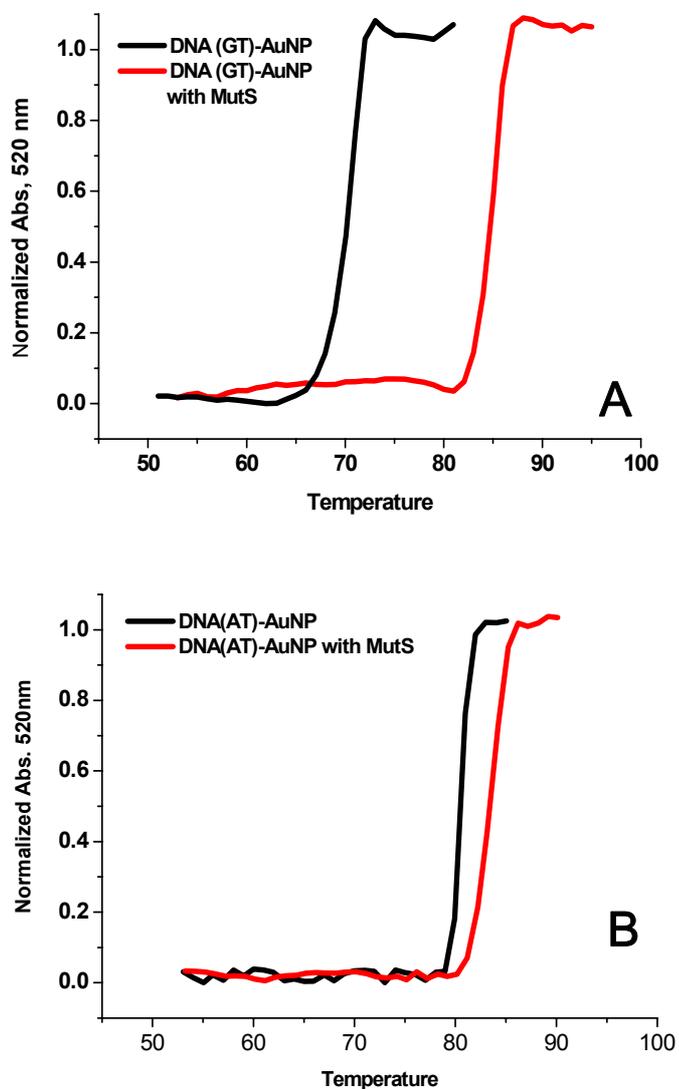
**Table S1.** Melting temperature ( $T_m$ ) according to MutS binding for DNA-AuNP assemblies in the presence of competitors and for competitors in the absence of DNA-AuNP assemblies

Competitor type	$T_m$ (°C)
Control (-) <sup>a</sup>	70.5±0.15
GT mismatch	76.1±0.23
CT mismatch	81.5±0.32
CC mismatch	83.5±0.37
AT match	85.1±0.40
Control (+) <sup>b</sup>	85.2±0.39

<sup>a</sup> Control (-) represents DNA-AuNP assemblies without any competitors and MutS.

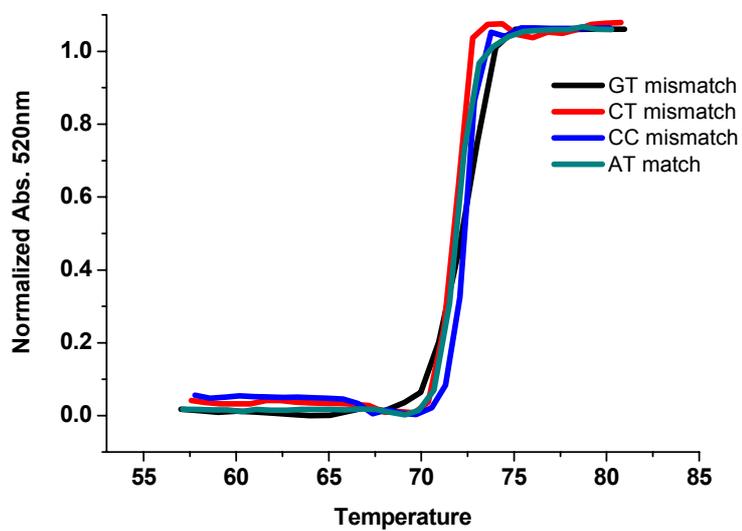
<sup>b</sup> Control (+) represents DNA-AuNP assemblies in presence of MutS without any competitors.

Figure S1.



Melting curves (monitored at 520 nm) of DNA-AuNP assemblies containing (A) GT mismatched sites and (B) AT matched sites according to binding of MutS. The binding of MutS to a mismatched site on DNA-AuNP assemblies increased  $T_m$  from 70.5 °C to 85.2 °C. The  $T_m$  of DNA-AuNP assemblies with matched sequence was hardly different from that of assemblies in the absence of MutS (from 81.3 °C to 84.1 °C).

Figure S2.



Melting curves (monitored at 520 nm) of DNA-AuNP assemblies with a competitor (GT, CT, CC and AT) according to nonspecific binding of BSA. There was no change in  $T_m$  values for different types of competitor.