## Kinetics of base stacking-aided DNA hybridization

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## **Oligonucleotide sequencess**



Oligonucleotides were synthesized by TaKaRa Biotech (Dalian, China). The hairpin forming sequences were designed to fold to form via self-complementation a hairpin structure with a poly-T, a 16 bp stem and a single-stranded 6, 11 or 22 nt single-stranded overhang. The capture oligonucleotides were either labeled at the 5' end or at the middle of the loop with a biotin as illustrated below.

## Oligonucleotide labeling and immobilization



Biotinylated capture oligonucleotide was immobilized on CM5 sensor chip (BIAcore, Sweden) via biotin-streptavidin interaction using a BIAcore X optical biosensor (BIAcore, Sweden) (24). Streptavidin was coupled to the carboxy-methylated dextran coating using the Amine Coupling Kit (BIAcore, Sweden) according to manufacturer's instruction. 60  $\mu$ l of 50 nM biotinylated oligonucleotide in HEPES buffered saline (HBS, 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 0.15 M NaCl, 3.4 mM EDTA, and 0.005% (v/v) surfactant P20) was injected at 20  $\mu$ l/min into one flow cell resulting in a capture of about 100 to 200 RU of oligonucleotide.

## Measurement

Measurements were carried out at 25 °C on a BIAcore X optical biosensor (BIAcore, Switzerland) and extraction of kinetic parameters was performed as previously described (24). For each sensorgram recording, sensor chip was regenerated with an injection of 5  $\mu$ l of 20 mM NaOH at 30  $\mu$ l/min followed by equilibration with the HBS buffer. Hybridization was initiated by injecting 45  $\mu$ l of target oligonucleotide at 20  $\mu$ l/min followed by flow of HBS. Both the association and dissociation phase was recorded and simultaneous signal from a blank cell was subtracted as background. For each measurement, sensorgrams of five injections of different concentrations of target oligonucleotide were recorded. The dissociation rate constant  $k_d$  was first extracted by globally fitting the dissociation phase and the association 3.0 software supplied by the manufacturer of BIAcore and the built-in Langmuir binding model.