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## **Supporting Information**

## Ratiometric fluorescence method based on silver nanoclusters for sensitive

## detection of β-galactosidase activity

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| Method      | Probe material     | Linear range<br>(U/L) | Detection<br>limit<br>(U/L) | Reference |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Colorimetry | Au-Pt NCs          | 15-55                 | 5.2                         | S1        |
| Fluorimetry |                    | 2.5-25                | 1.2                         |           |
| Fluorometry | Si NPs             | 2-120                 | 1.36                        | S2        |
| Colorimetry |                    | 6-120                 | 1.07                        |           |
| Fluorimetry | NIR probe (TMG)    | 0-200                 | 0.86                        | S3        |
| Fluorimetry | BPQDs              | 0-200                 | 0.76                        | S4        |
| Fluorimetry | β-CD-CQDs          | 1.9-70                | 0.6                         | S5        |
| Fluorimetry | Copper nanocluster | 3.3-91.8              | 0.45                        | S6        |
| Fluorimetry | HBT-Gal            | 0-25000               | 0.19                        | S7        |
| Fluorimetry | AgNCs              | 0.2-50                | 0.031                       | This work |

Table S1. Comparison of methods for the determinations of  $\beta$ -Gal activity

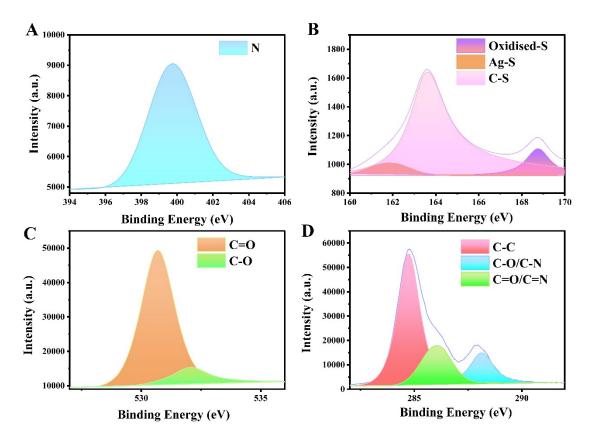
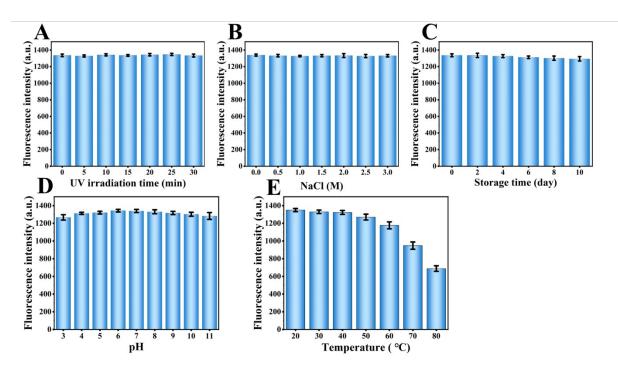


Fig. S1. High-resolution XPS spectra of (A) N 1s, (B) S 2p, (C) O 1s, and (D) C 1s of AgNCs.



**Fig. S2**. Influence of (A) UV irradiation time, (B) ionic strength, (C) storage time, (D) pH, and (E) temperature on the fluorescence intensity of AgNCs.

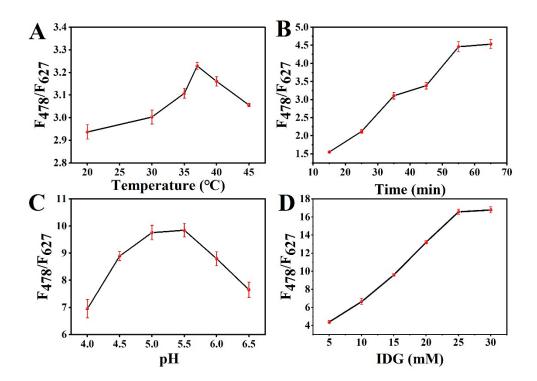


Fig. S3. Influence of (A) reaction temperature, (B) reaction time, (C) reaction pH, and (D) concentration of IDG on the fluorescence intensity ratio of  $F_{478}/F_{627}$ .

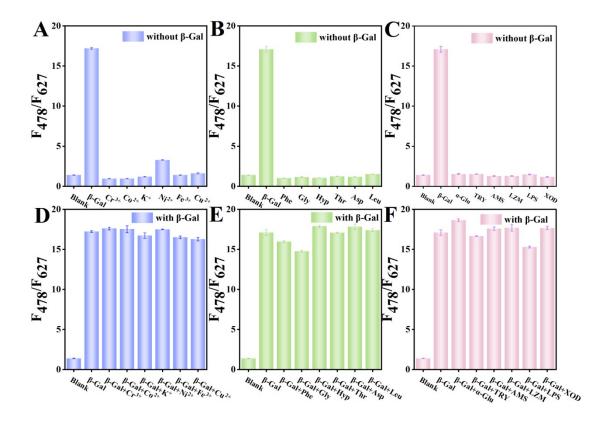


Fig. S4. (A-C) Selectivity of AgNCs/IDG system and (D-F) anti-interference of AgNCs/ $\beta$ -Gal/IDG system for  $\beta$ -Gal activity analysis, respectively. The concentrations of metal ions, amino acids, and biomolecules were 0.01 M, 10 mg/mL, and 10 U/mL, respectively.

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