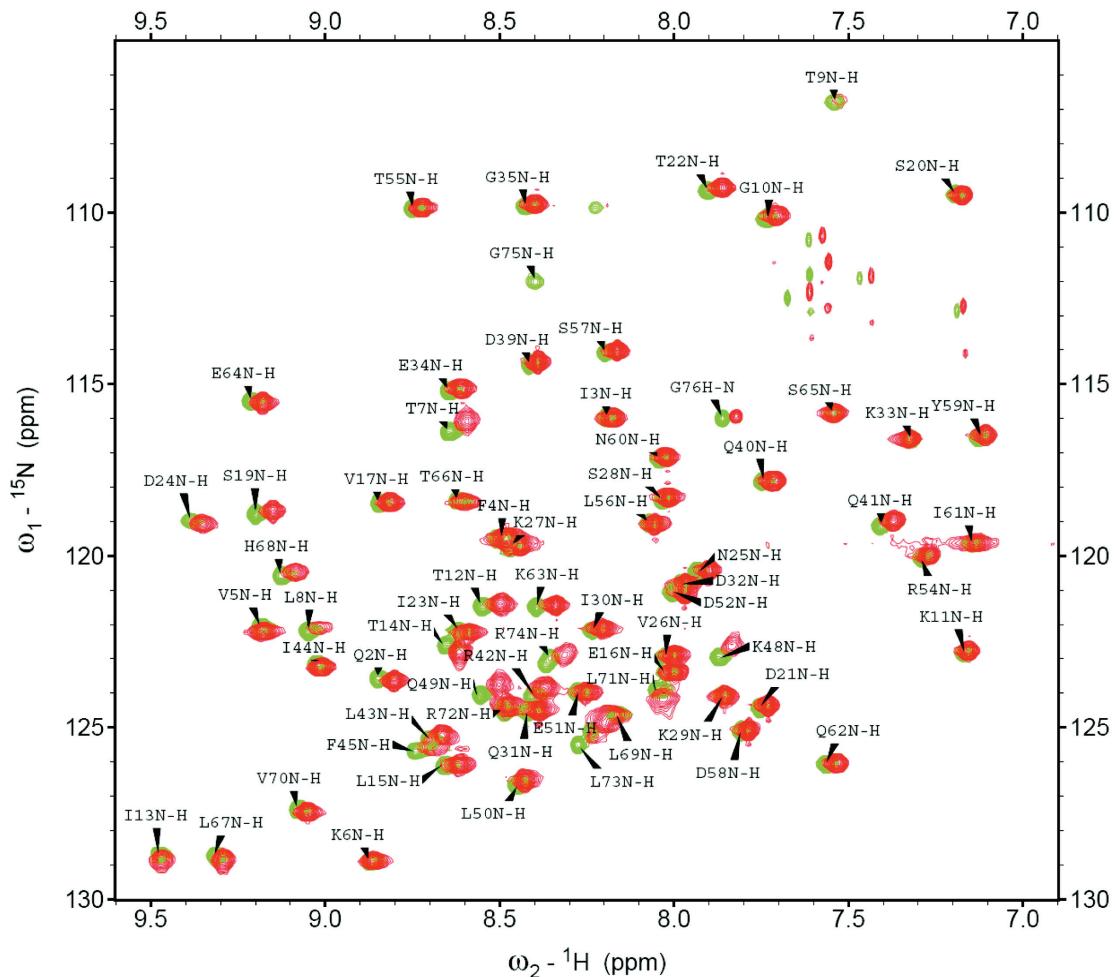
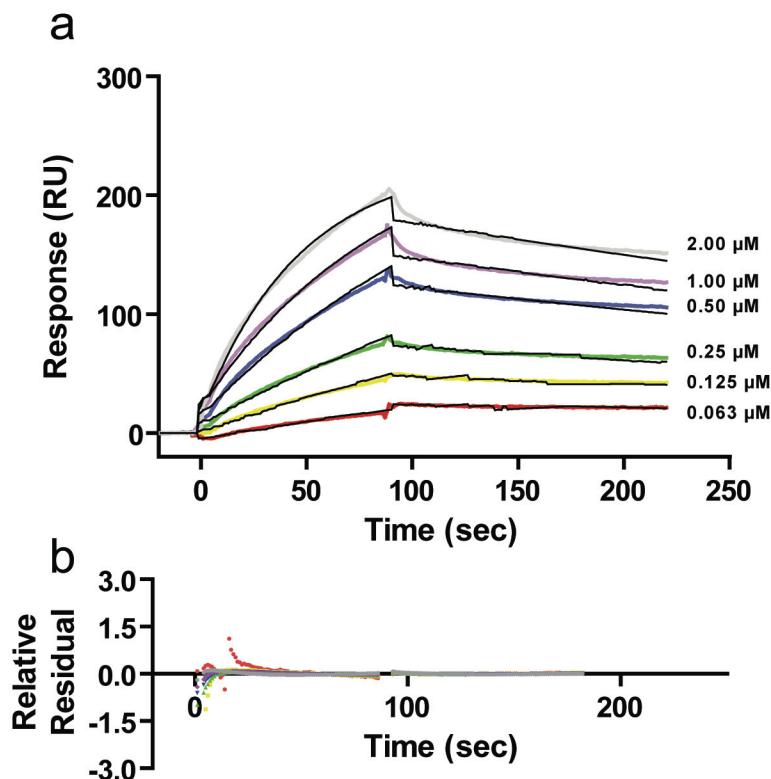


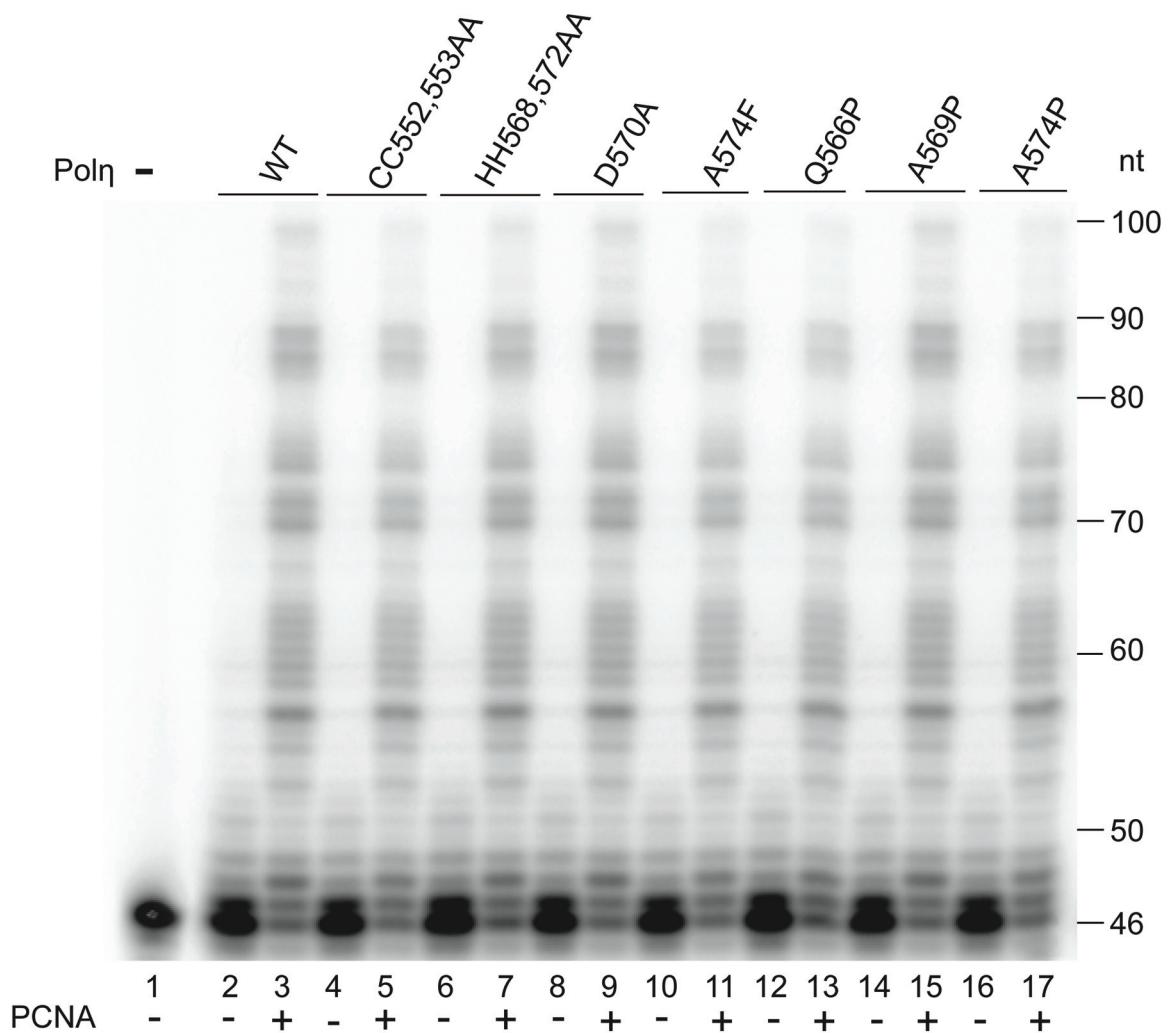
## Supplementary information



**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{15}\text{N}$  TROSY of  $^{15}\text{N}$ -labeled ubiquitin alone (green) or in complex with GST-UBZ (red). A close inspection of the spectra revealed that the resonances for residues T7, T12, T14, S19, R42, F45, K48, Q49, K63, L71 and L73 were significantly perturbed.



**Fig. S2.** Kinetic analysis of the wild-type C-term Pol $\eta$  binding to ubiquitin by surface plasmon resonance. (a) The fitting of sensorgrams to a 1:1 binding with mass transfer model. The fitted lines are shown as black. A  $\chi^2$  of 5.12 was obtained for the global fitting. (b) Distribution of residuals for both the association and dissociation phases showing the goodness of fit.



**Fig. S3.** The full-length Pol $\eta$  UBZ mutants retain normal DNA synthesis activity in the presence of PCNA and RFC. DNA synthesis by WT or mutant full-length Pol $\eta$  CC552,553AA, HH568,572AA, D570A, A574F, Q566P, A569P and A574P was assayed by using single-stranded M13mp18 DNA primed with  $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P-labeled 46mer primer. The reaction was carried out in the presence or absence of PCNA as indicated. Lane 1 is the  $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P-labeled 46mer primer. We observed similar primer extension for the wild-type and mutant full-length Pol $\eta$  in the presence of PCNA, suggesting that the mutation in UBZ does not affect Pol $\eta$ 's normal function in DNA synthesis.