

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Electronically excited states of DNA oligonucleotides with disordered base sequences studied by fluorescence spectroscopy

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Figure ESI-1: Melting curves of the duplexes ds-11 and ds-22

Figure ESI-2: Absorption spectra of the duplexes ds-11 and ds-22

Figure ESI-3: Fits of the steady-state fluorescence spectra

Figure ESI-4: TCSPC decays of the single and double strands at three wavelengths

Figure ESI-5: TSPC anisotropies of the duplex ds-22

Table ESI-1: Fitted parameters determined for the TCSPC decays of all the studied systems

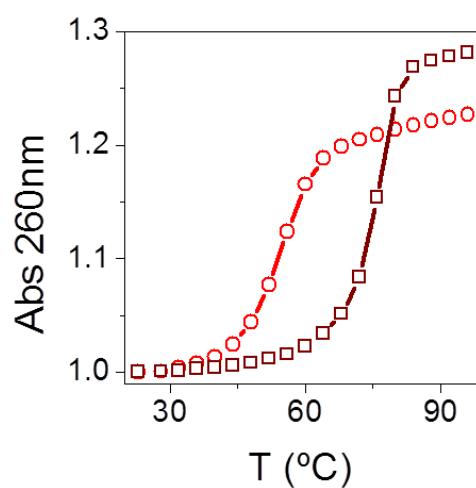


Figure ESI-1. Melting curves of ds-11 (red) and ds-22 (dark red) observed at 260 nm.

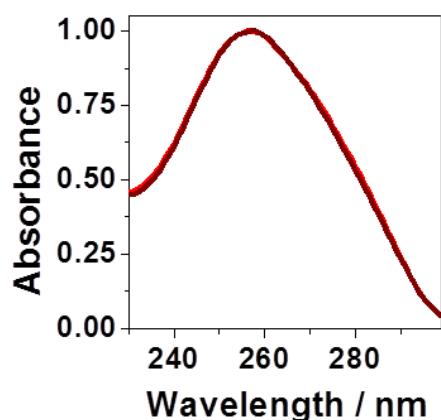


Figure ESI-2. Normalised UV absorption spectra of ds-11 (red) and ds-22 (dark red).

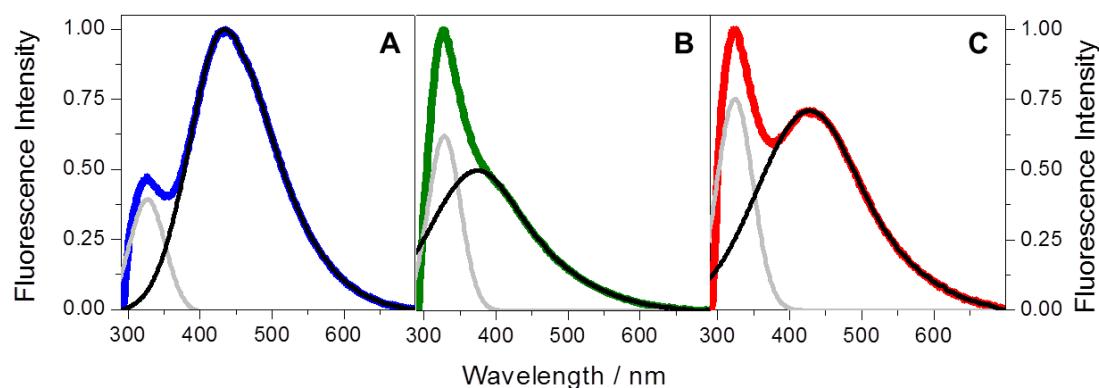


Figure ESI-3. Fits of the steady-state fluorescence spectra of ss-11a (blue, A), ss-11b (green, B) and ds-11 (red, C) with two Gaussian functions (grey and black).

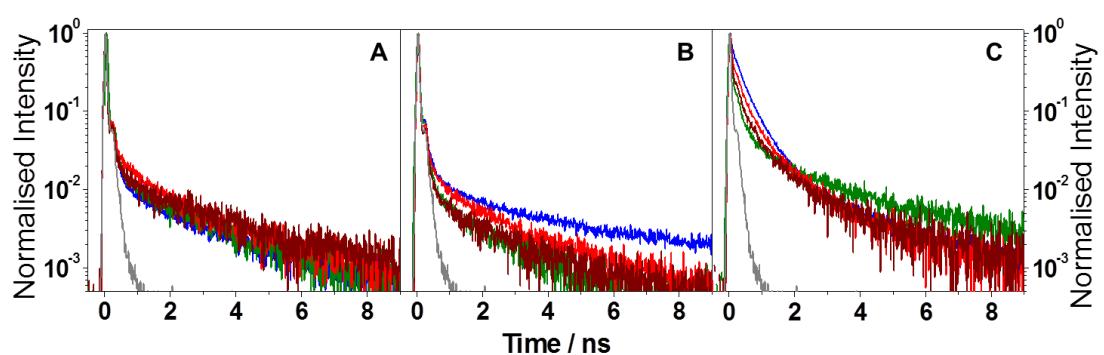


Figure ESI-4. Normalised TCSPC decays at A) 305 nm, B) 330 nm and C) 420 nm for ss-11a (blue), ss-11b (green), ds-11 (red) and ds-22 (dark red). The instrumental response function is shown in grey.

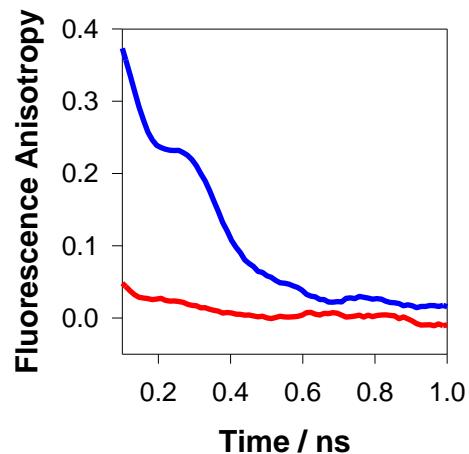


Figure ESI-5. Fluorescence anisotropy determined for ds-22 by TCSPC at 305 nm (blue) and 420 nm (red).

Table ESI-1. Parameters derived from the fits of the TCSPC decays at 305, 330 and 420 nm by tri-exponential functions:  $a_1 \times \exp(-t/\tau_1) + a_2 \times \exp(-t/\tau_2) + a_3 \times \exp(-t/\tau_3)$ . The average lifetime is defined as  $\langle \tau \rangle = a_1 \times \tau_1 + a_2 \times \tau_2 + a_3 \times \tau_3$ .

|        |        | $\tau_1$ (ns) | $a_1$  | $\tau_2$ (ns) | $a_2$  | $\tau_3$ (ns) | $a_3$  | $\langle \tau \rangle$ (ns) |
|--------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| ss-11a | 305 nm | 0.001         | 0.9987 | 1.7           | 0.0009 | 6.0           | 0.0005 | 0.005                       |
|        | 330 nm | 0.001         | 0.9975 | 1.0           | 0.0018 | 8.7           | 0.0007 | 0.009                       |
|        | 420 nm | 0.03          | 0.7227 | 0.29          | 0.2389 | 1.2           | 0.0384 | 0.13                        |
| ss-11b | 305 nm | 0.006         | 0.9983 | 2.6           | 0.0014 | 2.8           | 0.0004 | 0.01                        |
|        | 330 nm | 0.02          | 0.9977 | 1.7           | 0.0014 | 3.6           | 0.0010 | 0.02                        |
|        | 420 nm | 0.02          | 0.9521 | 0.30          | 0.0393 | 3.1           | 0.0086 | 0.06                        |
| ds-11  | 305 nm | 0.001         | 0.9954 | 1.2           | 0.0039 | 5.0           | 0.0008 | 0.01                        |
|        | 330 nm | 0.001         | 0.9964 | 1.1           | 0.0028 | 5.0           | 0.0008 | 0.008                       |
|        | 420 nm | 0.01          | 0.8857 | 0.25          | 0.0948 | 1.3           | 0.0194 | 0.06                        |
| ds-22  | 305 nm | 0.001         | 0.9963 | 1.5           | 0.0030 | 5.6           | 0.0007 | 0.009                       |
|        | 330 nm | 0.001         | 0.9972 | 1.4           | 0.0022 | 5.3           | 0.0006 | 0.008                       |
|        | 420 nm | 0.011         | 0.9252 | 0.24          | 0.0629 | 1.7           | 0.0119 | 0.046                       |