

A Novel Strategy to Realize Ratiometric Detection Using Metallic Nanoparticles

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Ratiometric detection that typically measures emission intensities of fluorescent probe at two different wavelengths can provide built-in correction for environmental variations of a sample and probe intrinsic to detection systems, permitting quantitative measurements. Although localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) detection using metallic nanoparticles has proven more sensitive than fluorescence, most of LSPR-based detection mechanisms rely on random aggregation of many particles, which has been problematic for quantitative measurements. Here we demonstrate an innovative strategy to design ratiometric detection system using dimeric nanoprobe that gold and polystyrene nanoparticles are attached together. Upon exposure to an analyte, pairs of the nanoprobe can be assembled, resulting in new absorbance peak at longer wavelength. By measuring intensities of two absorbance peaks, ratiometric detection can be accomplished.