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ABSTRACT

Fluorescence polarization methods for detection of nucleic acid amplification. A fluorescently labelled oligodeoxynucleotide probe is converted from single- to double-stranded form in a target dependent manner during amplification of the target sequence. This conformational change is accompanied by an increase in fluorescence polarization values. The iincrease in fluorescence polarization can be measured on a transient-state fluorometer in real-time during the amplification reaction without any physical manipulation of the sample. The inventive methods therefore provide a closed, homogeneous system for both amplification of target sequences and detection of amplification. Alternatively, amplification may be detected in the fluorometer after the amplification reaction is completed.