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(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR DETECTING POLYNUCLEOTIDES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods for detecting the presence or amount of a target polynucleotide. A polynucleotide, target nucleic acid analog, and dye are combined to form a mixture. The optical property of the dye is compared to a reference value characteristics of the rate of change in the optical property of the dye in a similar mixture containing a known amount of a target polynucleotide/nucleic acid analog hybrid to determine a relative rate of change in the optical property. The relative rate of change in the optical property of dye in the mixture is correlated with the presence or amount of the specified target polynucleotide in the sample.

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