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(54) Title: DEGRADABLE NUCLEIC ACID PROBES AND NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION METHODS

(57) Abstract: Nucleic acid probes that are susceptible to chemical or enzymatic degradation are described herein. In addition, assays and methods using such probes in the detection of target nucleic acid sequences are disclosed. The target-specific hybridization region or target-complementary region of the degradable probes can be separated via a degradation process from the detectable region. The remaining portion of the degradable probes can be easily detected. The use of the degradable probes described herein improves the signal-to-noise ratio by reducing background specific or non-specific signal generation in assays and methods of nucleic acid detection.