## **CIELab Chromaticity Evolution to Measure Binding Free Energy of Non-colored Biomolecules to Gold Nanoparticles.**

R. Prado-Gotora\*, A. Jimenez-Ruiza\*, J.M. Carnereroa, E. Gruesoa, I. Villaa

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physical Chemistry, University of Seville. C/Profesor García González, s/n. 41012 Seville (Spain). pradogotor@us.es, ailjimrui@alum.us.es

## **Supporting Information**

## **Obtention of CIELab parameters**

XYZ colorimetric parameters were obtained from experimental measurements by using the following mathematical expressions:

$$X = K \sum_{\lambda} T_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} \bar{X}_{10(\lambda)} \Delta_{\lambda}$$
$$Y = K \sum_{\lambda} T_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} \bar{Y}_{10(\lambda)} \Delta_{\lambda}$$
$$Z = K \sum_{\lambda} T_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} \bar{Z}_{10(\lambda)} \Delta_{\lambda}$$
$$K = 100 / \sum_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} \bar{Y}_{10(\lambda)} \Delta_{\lambda}$$

where  $T_{\lambda}$  is the transmittance of the sample;  $S_{\lambda}$  is a coefficient which depends on both  $\lambda$  and the illuminant (in our case, a D65 illuminant was employed) and  $X_{10(\lambda)}$ ,  $Y_{10(\lambda)}$ ,  $Z_{10(\lambda)}$  are functions of both  $\lambda$  and the observer. Conversion from XYZ values to L\*a\*b\* was done directly by using white point values for the D65 illuminant and 10° observer:<sup>2</sup>

$$X_n = 94.825; Y_n = 100; Z_n = 107.38$$

L\*a\*b\* values were calculated as follows:<sup>3</sup>

$$L^* = 116 (Y/Y_n)^{1/3} - 16$$

$$a^* = 500[f(X/X_n) - f(Y/Y_n)]$$

$$b^* = 200[f(Y/Y_n) - f(Z/Z_n)]$$

where:

 $f(X/X_n) = (X/X_n)^{1/3}$ 

$$f(Y/Y_n) = (Y/Y_n)^{1/3}$$

$$f(Z/Z_n) = (Z/Z_n)^{1/3}$$

## Figures



Figure S1. Size distribution of synthesized AuNPs.



**Figure S2.** Wavelength shift ( $\Delta\lambda$ ) of the maximum intensity absorbance peak for solutions containing [AuNPs] = 3.2 x 10<sup>-10</sup> M and varying concentrations of a) lysine, b) thiourea.



**Figure S3.** a\* and b\* parameters for a series of  $[AuNPs] = 3.2 \times 10^{-10}$  M solutions containing a) lysine and b) thiourea. Green-colored points indicate negative values of a\* which account for a green tone in the CIELab color system, and are indicative of fully blue (as opposed to purple) nanoparticle solutions.



**Figure S4.** Two-state model fitting for normalized a\* and b\* (shown in the inset) parameters of AuNPs/biomolecule solutions. a) [AuNPs] =  $3.2x10^{-10}$  M; [Lysine] =  $2.5x10^{-3}$  -  $2x10^{-2}$  M, b) [AuNPs] =  $3.2x10^{-10}$  M; [Thiourea] =  $0 - 1x10^{-5}$  M.



**Figure S5.** Two-state model fit for the red (non-aggregated) deconvolution peak area for a) a series of AuNPs/lysine solutions ranging from [Lysine] =  $2.5 \times 10^{-3} - 2 \times 10^{-2}$  M and b) a series of AuNPs/thiourea solutions ranging from [Thiourea] =  $0 - 1 \times 10^{-5}$  M.



**Figure S6.** Benesi-Hildebrand fit for the normalized red peak area obtained from deconvolution procedures for a) AuNPs/lysine solutions ranging from [Lysine] =  $8.5 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $2 \times 10^{-2}$  M and b) AuNPs/thiourea solutions ranging from [Thiourea] =  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  to  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  M.



**Figure S7.** Benesi-Hildebrand fit for a\* and b\* (shown on inset) for a series of AuNPs solutions ranging from a) [Lysine] =  $6x10^{-3}$  to  $9x10^{-3}$  M and b) [Thiourea] =  $5x10^{-7}$  to  $1x10^{-5}$  M.